

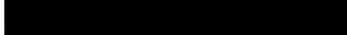


NGATI KUTA ME PATUKEHA KI TE RAWHITI  
TE KUPENGA O TE RAWHITI

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020



Ministry of Primary Industries

Email: 

Tena Kotou Katoa,

Re: Maunganui Bay Temporary Closure

Ngati Kuta me Patukeha wish to re-affirm a request to roll-over the Maunganui Bay rahui or temporary closure of Maunganui Bay under section 186 of the fisheries act for a further 2 years. We make this submission to continue re-building fish stocks in Maunganui Bay. Our surveys conclude bio-diversity improvements are working but are not yet at a sustainable level. The resident stocks of kingfish, snapper and demoiselles are hanging around the ex-HMNZS Canterbury in Maunganui Bay as it continues to play its role as an artificial reef.

Maunganui Bay was always an important fishery for our coastal Hapu in the Bay of Islands. Extraction was always closely monitored by seasonal harvesting and Ngati Kuta and Patukeha kaitiaki would open and close the fishing seasons. These stories are recorded in the 1905 and 1910 Native Land Court Minutes. Today this fishery has been fished down from years of extraction and we want to get back to its former state as a productive resource.

Support for rahui by the Bay of Islands public, recreational fishing and tourism groups is noted and who respect and support the rahui and advocate for it's role as part of the wider eco-system. These eco-systems must be allowed to play their part in a productive fishery. Fish feed and breed and breaking their migration patterns affects their reproduction. Harvesting has to be contained within survival limits and which we can only measure from the baseline data we capture coupled with local knowledge and tradition.

Consideration for the economic viability of this fishery as the backbone of the Northland economy is understood. Without fish there is no economy so we must balance what this fishery can provide to sustain itself. Maunganui Bay is only one

part of a complex network of eco-systems which is precious to Maori. We have presented our Fish Plans as acceptable baselines to support our traditional customary fishery. We collaborate with neighbouring Hapu to enable them to consider the importance of the Bay of Islands fishery and how to manage it collectively and sustainably. We look forward to your assistance in allowing the rahui in Maunganui Bay to continue.

Nga mihi nui

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Willoughby', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Willoughby  
Taiwakaenga

Moka Puru – Kaumatua Te Patukeha  
Matutaera Clendon – Kaumatua Ngati Kuta