

Introduction

It was a mild autumn morning when the hunga kainga [home people] of Oturei Marae welcomed around 39 people to their rohe. This was the second occasion the Hokianga Accord, the mid north regional iwi fisheries forum, has visited Oturei Marae on the northern shores of the Kaipara Harbour. Representatives from Ngapuhi, Ngati Whatua and other iwi and hapu, environmental and amateur fishing interest groups were in attendance.

Following the powhiri [welcome] respects and prayers were offered in acknowledgement of the recent passing of the Accord's co-chairman Judah Heihei.

Surviving co-chairman Raniera T (Sonny) Tau encouraged the group to settle in for two days of intense discussion, debate and hoped-for consensus on a number of issues.

Many of the Pakeha in attendance had not been on a marae before and they were welcome to enjoy the special Kaipara hospitality.

Having a smaller group would enable more focused discussions and ample opportunity for everyone to participate. There was a comprehensive range of subjects on the agenda however, due to unforeseen circumstances some topics would be presented by alternative speakers. (Appendix Twelve.)

Awaiting this korero [talk] were representatives from Ngapuhi, Ngati Whatua, Ngati Kahu, Ngati Rehia, other iwi and hapu, NZ Sport Fishing, option4, Greenpeace, the Environment Conservation Organisations of Aotearoa New Zealand (ECO), Kaikoura Boating Club and various individuals.

Apologies and expressions of support were relayed from various organisations and people. Several updates would be presented on behalf of those who could not be present at the hui. Other people were due to arrive at the hui over the course of the day.

Flight delays meant the Ministry of Fisheries officials would not be arriving for several hours. A mihi was given on the arrival of John Beaglehole, Manager of the Office of the Chief Executive (Wayne McNee's office), Ben Dalton, Deputy Chief Executive Treaty Partnership and Obligations to Maori, Natasha Clarke and Otene Rewiti of the Customary Relationship team. It was a special moment for the kaumatua and hunga kainga [home people] of Oturei to welcome Ben Dalton [Ngapuhi, Ngati Porou] to his home Marae in the Kaipara rohe.

Jill Bradley, the Managing Director of AgriSea NZ and Tim Haggitt, a seaweed expert and researcher, were both due to give an in-depth presentation on the sustainable management of seaweeds, including a physiological, environmental and scientific perspective of harvesting this important taonga [treasure].

A local priority was the environmental impacts from installing underwater power-generating turbines at the Kaipara Harbour entrance. Ngati Whatua's John Retimana and Mihi Watene of Te Uri o Hau were both due to give the hui a brief history of the consent process and explain the current situation regarding this Crest Energy initiative.

Feed-fish farming and recent aquaculture reform proposals were due to be discussed by various people at the hui. Clive Monds of ECO would be outlining specific concerns related to aquaculture and land-mining reforms.

Of particular interest was the pending management review of kahawai by MFish. The evening discussion on how the Hokianga Accord would respond to possible proposals was awaited with interest.

An ongoing subject of concern was the inexplicable delay in achieving Ministerial approval for Te Puna Mataitai. Aro Rihari was at the hui to represent Ngati Rehia's interest and explain the latest developments

from the perspective of Te Komiti Whakature I Nga Taonga a Tangaroa. Te Komiti is a collective of 14 hapu/marae from the northern Bay of Islands.

Representation of recreational fishing interests was a hot topic prior to the hui. Given Maori's broad interest in fisheries this was of particular relevance, as the majority of fishing for food to feed the whanau is classified by the authorities as 'recreational' fishing. The hui would be given an update on the latest developments, including a report of the recent Auckland meeting where organisers refused entry to both Ngapuhi and Ngati Whatua representatives.

Expected updates would cover the Hokianga Accord's submission to MFish on the draft North Island West Coast Finfish Fisheries Plan, recent meetings of the regional recreational fisheries forums and progress of the Guardians of Hawke Bay Fisheries local management initiatives.

Following the announcement at the last hui that the Hiwi the Kiwi Goes Fishing education project was underway a further 170 primary schools have booked the Minstrel's show. This programme is designed to inspire children to look after the coastline, the fresh waterways and fish, so there is abundance for their mokopuna. Evan MacKay, Vice President of NZ Sport Fishing, would update the hui on the latest news.

Throughout this and other Hokianga Accord reports recreational fish/fishers/fisheries are referred to as amateur or traditional. The Hokianga Accord does not accept the word 'recreational' as reflecting the true nature of traditional fishing or food gathering to feed the whanau.

Hui participants were supplied with a variety of material, including:

- ⇒ Previous Hokianga Accord hui reports;
http://www.option4.co.nz/Fish_Forums/hokianga.htm#reports
- ⇒ Bladder kelp submissions, September 2009 and April 2010 (Appendices Two and Three);
http://www.option4.co.nz/Fisheries_Mgmt/bladderkelp.htm#sub10
- ⇒ Maunganui Bay (Deep Water Cove) s186A closure support submission, December 2009 (Appendix Seven);
http://www.option4.co.nz/Marine_Protection/documents/Hokianga_Accord_submission_s186A_closure_1209.pdf
- ⇒ Draft North Island West Coast Finfish Plan submission, October 2009 (Appendix Six);
http://option4.co.nz/Fisheries_Mgmt/documents/Joint_NIWC_Fish_Plan_submission_1009.pdf
- ⇒ More Fish in the Water II strategy, July 2009 (Appendix Five);
http://www.option4.co.nz/Fisheries_Mgmt/documents/More_fish_in_the_water_2.pdf
- ⇒ A briefing paper, *Perspectives on Non-commercial Fishing Interests*, developed for the Minister of Fisheries by the Hokianga Accord Working Group, option4 and the New Zealand Big Game Fishing Council, December 2008; and
http://option4.co.nz/Fish_Forums/documents/NoncommercialperspectivesforMinister.pdf
- ⇒ Fisheries Amendment Bill submission to Primary Production Committee, August 2008.
http://option4.co.nz/Fisheries_Mgmt/documents/Hokianga_Accord_section_13_submission_FINAL.pdf