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27 May 2022

The Hon David Parker
Minister of Oceans and Fisheries
Parliament Buildings
Wellington.

Tēnā koe e Te Minita,

Please accept this letter as the formal request from Taranaki Iwi as defined by the Treaty Settlement legislation for a Temporary Closure under s186A of the Fisheries Act 1996.

The purpose of the request is to seek both the recognition of and statutory support for the rāhui imposed by hapū of Taranaki Iwi over the mataitai resources within our rohe moana.

Background to Ngā Hapu o Taranaki Iwi request

On the 6th of September 2016, Te Kāhui o Taranaki Trust agreed to a Deed of Settlement with the Crown, settling the historic claims of Taranaki Iwi. The Deed of Settlement notes that Taranaki Iwi are tangata whenua, descended from the earliest voyagers to the Taranaki region.

Recognising and supporting customary practices of Taranaki Iwi

The extensive cultural redress offered to Taranaki by the Crown included a Fisheries Protocol issued by the Ministry for Primary Industries. The Protocol makes provision for recognising and supporting the right of Taranaki Iwi to manage their customary fisheries according to their customs and traditional practices within the Protocol area.

Protocol

In paragraph 13 of the Protocol it makes specific reference to recognition by the Crown of rāhui as a traditional practice of Taranaki iwi and how the customary practice of rāhui might be supported by the Crown under the s186A Temporary Closure mechanism.

“As far as reasonably practicable the Ministry undertakes to consider the application of section 186A of the Fisheries Act 1996 to support a rāhui proposed by Taranaki Iwi over their customary fisheries for purposes consistent with the legislative requirements for the application of section 186A of the Fisheries Act 1996, noting these requirements preclude the use of section 186A to support rāhui placed in the event of a drowning.”

Details of the rāhui

A rāhui was placed by Taranaki Kaumatua over the area of coastline extending from Rāwa o Turi in the south to Herekawe/Onuku Taipari in the North and extends a distance of 2 nautical miles or 3.704 kilometers seaward (refer Appendix 1 for a map of area).

The effect of the rāhui has been to prohibit the excessive harvesting of pāua and all other shellfish including crayfish that have been seriously depleted to critical levels by these unsustainable harvesting practices. (refer Appendix 2 for a list of species, many of which are now threatened on the Taranaki coast).

The Kaumatua of Taranaki iwi believe a traditional rāhui is the best method for providing time for the pāua and other tāonga species, being overfished, the opportunity to regenerate. The addition of a s186A Temporary Closure will give legal effect to the customary rāhui and strengthen the potential for our kai taonga to regenerate to levels of sustainability which would ensure their continuing survival for the benefit of future generations.

Support for the rāhui

The rāhui is supported by all Taranaki iwi, hapū, marae, who together with local communities rely on mataitai as a valued food source. A sample of media reports for this are attached as Appendix 3.

The extent of the request for s186A Temporary Closure

Ngā hapu of Taranaki are seeking a closure for the full 2 years provided for in s186A of the Fisheries Act 1996. The objective of the closure will be to prohibit harvesting within the closure area of all species of shellfish, including koura, octopus, all species of crab and seaweed known to Māori as traditional food which can be identified if requested.

It is the stated intention that Traditional Permits will not be issued during the period of a rāhui.

All requests for further information regarding this request for closure should be directed to the Hon. Mahara Okeroa at maharaokeroa@hotmail.com or 0274469710

Ngā mihi,



Hon. Mahara Okeroa
for and on behalf of ngā
hapū o Taranaki

Date : 27th May 22.

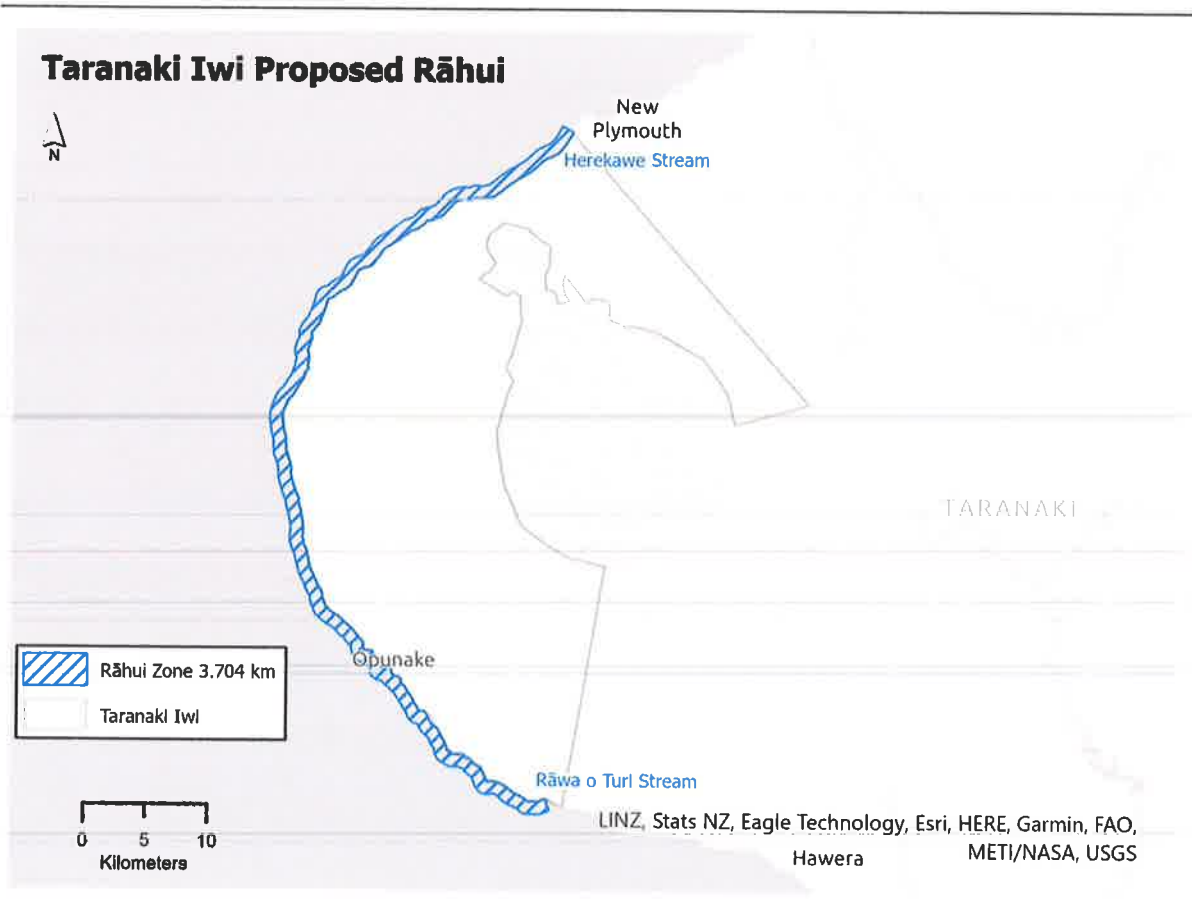


Jacqui King
Chair Te Kāhui o Taranaki Iwi
Trust

Date : 27 May 22

APPENDIX 1

Taranaki Iwi rohe – Rāwa o Turi Stream in the south to Herekawe/Onuku Taipari in the north



APPENDIX 2

Known species which are now threatened on the Taranaki coast

1. *Kotoretore – Gray sea anemone*
2. *Kina – Common Sea urchin or sea egg*
3. *Kuku – Common Mussel*
4. *Kuku Pahau – Mussel Beard*
5. *Paua – Black abalone*
6. *Hihiwa, korako paua – Taranaki Silver Abalone*
7. *Karaka toitoi Ngaruru – Cooks Turban*
8. *Korama – ataata – Cats eye*
9. *Mitimiti – Black nerite*
10. *Karikawa, hopetea – White Rock Shell*
11. *Pupu waiporoporo – Dark Top shell*
12. *Parakihi – Fragile limpet*
13. *Pa-kihikihi – Encrusted Limpet*
14. *Kihi -Tahamangu – Black edged limpet*
15. *Ngakihikihi or Ngakihi – Radiate Limpet*
16. *Pokerekere Papaka – Large shore crab*
17. *Purere or Purerehua Papaka – Large red crab*
18. *Pāpaka – Paddle Crab*
19. *Te Weke – Common Octopus*
20. *Pukaurua – Stingray*
21. *Rori or Rorirori – Shield shell*
22. *Ngoio – Conger Eel*
23. *Koura – Crayfish*
24. *Karengo/Parengo – And all Seaweed*

APPENDIX 3

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/ldr/463368/taranaki-rahui-sparks-council-kaimoana-probe>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/300497473/taranaki-hap-places-rahui-to-protect-pua-on-12km-stretch-of-coast>

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/stratford-press/news/final-taranaki-hapu-close-on-shellfish-rahui-decision/XFGQUCRNQQASLJA4QVZA4TDNFI/>

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/ldr/462971/taranaki-hapu-want-legal-kaimoana-ban-for-at-least-two-years>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/local-democracy-reporting/300542164/taranaki-rahui-sparks-council-kaimoana-probe-by-taranaki-regional-council>

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/first-up/audio/2018842215/ldr-taranaki-kaimoana-rahui-extended-to-70-km-of-coast>