

# Te Atiawa ki te Upoko o te Ika a Maui Potiki Trust

## MANDATED IWI ORGANISATION

News Sheet: *Te Iti me te Rahi*



Tena koutou katoa

This is the first of a series of newsletters that are designed to keep you informed on the strategies being applied to protect and advance our collective tribal fisheries assets.

This newsletter will briefly discuss the following:

1. Mandated Iwi Organisation (MIO) & Te Ohu Kaimoana
2. Structure
3. Assets and deliverables
4. Strategy Forward
5. Registration
6. Voting
7. Legal challenge

### **Mandated Iwi Organisation**

The initial trustees to oversee and govern your iwi fisheries assets have successfully completed all the steps necessary to become a Mandated Iwi Organisation (MIO).

This has been a demanding task and much of this has been done by the initial trustees voluntarily.

Your trust has had to work closely with Te Ohu Kaimoana and we are pleased to announce we managed to navigate, in full accordance with the Maori Fisheries Act 2004, and under the careful eye of Te Ohu Kaimoana. This achievement was done in record time too.

### **Structure**

There are 9 initial trustees, representing our three marae in Wellington and the Hutt. Three from each marae.

The initial trustees are:

<b>Marae</b>	<b>Representatives</b>
Te Tatau o Te Po	Johnny Warren Wayne Mulligan Morrie Love
Pipitea	Bill Nathan Kara Puketapu Ngatata Love
Waiwhetu	Anania Randall Teri Puketapu Neville Baker

Bill Nathan is the chair and Johnny Warren is the deputy.

The trust will also have six (6) associate trustees; this is part of a succession and development programme.

The trust does not manage the fisheries assets, the legislation requires a separate holding company and the majority of directors are to be independent - i.e. not trustees.

### **Assets and Deliverables**

The Trustees have received the first tranche of iwi fisheries **quota** for Te Atiawa in Wellington.

Due to our low population and relatively small coastline our asset package is one of the smaller packages.

The trustees however are determined to ensure the assets are protected. We will look to optimize our quota, it is important to make it absolutely clear that some of our quota is very small. We aim to work collaboratively with other iwi and businesses to provide maximum return to all beneficiaries.

### **Strategy Forward**

Our strategy forward is twofold:

1. Set the organizational foundations so that we can attract our talent, and enable them to maximise our fisheries assets in the coming years.

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2. Set in place sound business systems and relationships with credible fisheries organizations.

It should also be noted that it will require considerable work to implement that above strategies. One such task is we will be arranging meetings with our neighbouring iwi, Ngati Toa and Ngati Kahungunu to discuss and finalise coastal boundaries.

We the initial trustees are committed to the above strategy and will report on this at the first AGM. Also to occur at the first AGM will be the election of three trustees' positions. More on this in the next newsletter.

## Registration

Although most of you are registered with the Port Nicholson Block Claim you also have to register specifically with the Te Atiawa ki Te Upoko o Te Ika a Maui Potiki Trust.

You and your whanau can do this by filling in the registration form held at the marae, Wellington Tenth and the Runanga offices or write to:

**Te Atiawa ki Te Upoko o Te Ika a  
Maui Potiki Trust  
PO Box 5304  
WELLINGTON**

Please note that: You need to select **one** of the three marae only, they are: **Pipitea, Te Tatau o Te Po or Waiwhetu.**

## Voting

When it comes to voting for trustees at the AGM you will vote in one of these marae hui. On the registration form is a box for you to identify which marae you wish to exercise your voting right. Each member shall only be able to choose one of these three marae.

## Legal Action

Whilst we have much good news to communicate, it is also important for your trustees to inform you that there has been a challenge to the Trust receiving the assets from Te Ohu Kaimoana.

Kathy Ertel, representing Martha Hineone Gilbert, has filed a claim in the High Court seeking an injunction against the Trustees from

exercising any powers conferred on an MIO under the Fisheries Act 2004. Initially, two claims were filed. One has been withdrawn and the other has been changed.



Your trustees have indicated that we will vigorously defend the collective assets and seek costs.

## Costs

To date even before the matters have got to Court legal costs on your assets are in excess of \$20,000 and those for Te Ohu Kaimoana will be of a similar or greater amount.

This is iwi settlement money that trustees are obliged to use. This money could have gone into marae development, to improve our stake in the fisheries industry, and/or to develop programmes to benefit our beneficiaries.

These are the actions of a few who are subjecting the trust to costly Court action.

## Final Word

The trustees are focusing on the positives and getting the organisation prepared so that it can be successful.

We will keep you informed on:

1. implementing the strategy;
2. information for the AGM and elections;
3. defending the trust's right to receive the assets from Te Ohu Kaimoana;
4. recovering the costs of the legal action we have been drawn into.

We take our trustee obligation seriously and see this process as providing a platform for building a better future, working together and for the first time having our three marae working collaboratively for the benefit of all - *te iti me te rahi*.

Kia ora.