

18 Whiringa-aa-nuku 2007

Dolphin Threat Management Plan  
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Teena koe

## **Te Ruunanga O Ngaati Ruanui submission on the Hector's / Maui's Dolphin Threat Management Plan.**

This document provides a summary point of view on the Hector's / Maui's Dolphin Threat Management Plan 2007.

### ***Recommendations***

- 1) Status Quo management options for all fishing methods included in the Dolphin Threat Management Plan (DTMP).
- 2) The Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) and the Department of Conservation (DoC) work with Ngaati Ruanui to implement a Dolphin Threat Management Plan that does not adversely affect Ngaati Ruanui customary commercial and non-commercial fishing interests.

### ***Summary***

- 3) Dolphins are a taonga species for Ngaati Runau.
- 4) Ngaati Ruanui has DoS Protocols with MFish and DoC that describe the relationship between the respective groups. MFish and DoC failed to regard how the proposed DTMP will affect Ngaati Ruanui customary commercial and non-commercial fishing interests. MFish and DoC did not inform Ngaati Ruanui of the DTMP prior to public consultation. MFish and DoC did not include Ngaati Ruanui in the development of proposed management options that affect our commercial and non-commercial fishing interests.
- 5) Ngaati Ruanui commercial and non-commercial fishing occurs in North Taranaki waters. The region affected by the proposed management options is of particular importance to Ngaati Ruanui. Ngaati Ruanui fishing interests contribute towards Ngaati Ruanui social and economic development.

- 6) Ngaati Ruanuitanga is about sustainable fisheries management with a community focus. Under the DTMP Kaitiaki will remain the only fishers able to legally set-nets and trawl using customary permits in areas where legislation prevents these fishing methods. The proposed management options alienate Kaitiaki and have the potential to create conflict between Ngaati Ruanui customary fishers and recreational and commercial fishers, setting back relationships that have taken a lot of time and hard work to build.
- 7) There are numerous spatial restrictions in the marine environment around the Taranaki region, including a no trawl or set-net area, Paraninihi Marine Reserve, Pohokura Corridor, Telecommunication line, Ngaa Motu Sugar Loaf Marine Protected Area, Tapuae Marine Reserve, Maui Pipeline, and the Kupe Pipeline. The proposed marine mammal sanctuary for the Taranaki region would further reduce the space available for fishing and increase the likelihood that potential Ngaati Ruanui customary fisheries management tools (e.g., maataitai reserve) would fail an MFish spatial prevention test.

### ***Solutions***

- 8) Ngaati Ruanui supports status quo management options for each fishing method included in the proposed DTMP.
- 9) Ngaati Ruanui encourages MFish and DoC to include all affected groups in the development and implementation of management measures to prevent fishing related mortality of Maui's Dolphin in the Taranaki region.
- 10) Currently, no photographic or aerial survey evidence points to the Maui's Dolphin home range extending south of the Mokau River. One anecdotal sighting off Ngaa Motu is the only record to suggest otherwise (Ngaati Ruanui note that this type of sighting would no longer be acceptable for the current Maui's Dolphin sightings record). Ngaati Ruanui believes more information on the distribution and abundance of the Maui's Dolphin is required before management measures in the Taranaki region are decided – Quality information leads to quality management decisions.
- 11) Ngaati Ruanui support future funding initiatives to improve information on the Maui's Dolphin population (e.g., satellite tagging projects and aerial surveys). Ngaati Ruanui believes the use of satellite tags would provide robust scientific information on the Maui's Dolphin distribution and decisions regarding use of set-nets and trawling could then be made with complete certainty.
- 12) Ngaati Ruanui believes recreational and commercial fishers can be instrumental in providing sighting information for MFish and DoC. Information on how to submit appropriate sighting information (e.g., photographic evidence, time, date, GPS) can add to the Maui dolphin-sighting database.

Tēnā rawa atu koe

Te Ruunanga O Ngaati Ruanui