

# Te Ohu Kaimoana

## celebrates a successful year and looks to the future

Peter Douglas, Chief Executive at Te Ohu Kaimoana – the Maori Fisheries Trust – considers the year ending 30 September 2006 was pretty successful for the Trust and iwi around the motu. "We were very happy to report a net profit of \$19.9 million and a greater-than-expected 35 iwi approved as mandated iwi organisations (MIOs)," he said.

Over 60 percent of the fisheries assets have been allocated, amounting to more than \$350 million of assets spread through the 35 mandated iwi organisations and effectively increasing the potential for iwi economic development.

Two more iwi have been mandated since the annual report was published, with more in the pipeline. The focus for the coming year is on the remaining 20 iwi to go through the MIO process. "We will do everything we can to ensure these iwi are mandated and receive their assets before the end of the 2007 year," Peter says. "But, that means a major commitment is required from them and their members."

As allocation and transfer progresses, Te Ohu Kaimoana wants to emphasise its increasing role in working with iwi, for iwi. There are challenges ahead for fisheries management and ensuring the settlement is safeguarded for all Maori.

Peter says Te Ohu Kaimoana is committed to ensuring all our work with iwi, industry and central government influences policy makers to enhance, rather than undermine, the settlement.

One recent proposal of major concern to Te Ohu Kaimoana and iwi alike is the Government's so called 'shared fisheries' policy. Among other things, it is proposed that the recreational fishing sector's take be increased through reducing the amount available to the commercial sector.

"It is difficult to see how these proposals will provide a sounder basis for management of our New Zealand fisheries. They could have a significant and detrimental effect on the fishing industry and, as a consequence, the Maori fisheries settlement."

Te Ohu Kaimoana staff have analysed the proposals and provided information to iwi for comment and discussion at a workshop held earlier this month. A response to the 'Shared Fisheries' discussion document is now being finalised to meet the submission deadline of 28 February.

Iwi and their members have an important role in helping to protect the value of the settlement assets. There are opportunities to have input to submissions and take part in hui set up by Te Ohu Kaimoana, such as the shared fisheries workshop and those held last year on aquaculture and fisheries management. Increased iwi involvement with industry groups, including representation on commercial stakeholder organisations (CSOs), will also raise the bar on managing the settlement assets now and into the future.

*"Thirty-five iwi mandated"*

*"Sixty percent of assets allocated"*

The first full year of operation for the Takutai Trust, the organisation through which the Maori aquaculture settlement will be delivered to iwi, has been a very busy one.

While the first aquaculture management area (AMA) has yet to be created, and therefore the first 20 percent of that AMA distributed to iwi, good progress is being made in Northland where iwi and the regional council have worked together on a regional aquaculture strategy.

Takutai is represented on industry bodies and contributed to the Aquaculture Sector Strategy to ensure it reflects the interests of iwi. In November 2005, it held a workshop that gave Maori marine farmers, iwi members, coastal planners, scientists and industry leaders a valuable opportunity to start networking and exploring collaborative approaches to the development of aquaculture in New Zealand.

"As we move through 2007, we will be working hard to achieve our goal of having the fisheries settlement in iwi hands," Peter says. "At the same time, we will continue to work for and with Maori on a wide range of issues that affect New Zealand's customary, recreational and commercial fisheries."

To view copies of Te Ohu Kaimoana's Annual Report 2006 and other documents, go to [www.teohu.maori.nz](http://www.teohu.maori.nz).

*"Shared fisheries proposals may be detrimental to the settlement"*

## New directors for Te Ohu Kaimoana

Te Kawai Taumata, the committee formed to make appointments to Te Ohu Kai Moana Trust, recently announced that Rikirangi Gage, chief executive of Te Runanga o Te Whanau a Apanui and Ngahiwi Tomoana, chairman of Ngati Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated (NKII), were new appointments to the board. Their positions are effective from the beginning of February 2007 for a four-year term.

Two existing directors were also re-appointed for a four-year term. The committee chose to retain the leadership of current deputy chairman Archie Taiaroa and board member Hon Koro Wetere.

Te Kawai Taumata deputy chair Naida Glavish paid tribute to retiring director Dame Georgina Kirby and thanked her for her valuable contribution in helping take Te Ohu Kaimoana through some important work during her term.

Ngahiwi Tomoana



Rikirangi Gage

