

## **Pānui ki te iwi**

### **Kai Hau Kai – “It is ‘need’ rather than ‘want’ that is the driver**

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3 April 2020 Edition

*Ngahiwi Tomoana – Chairman, Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated*

Tēnā koutou katoa e te iwi,

The Covid-19 Coronavirus has forced us to rethink many ways of doing things and in this particular case the way the Iwi allocate customary fish. Previously it has been only to tangi through a commercial koha of 10kgs of fillets. No birthdays, unveilings, weddings, reunions, etc qualified because these were usually planned months or years ahead and kaimoana could get stored over time through hapū permits or amateur takes.

Today with the support of hapū kaitiaki and with advice and support from the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), Ngāti Kahungunu has entered a new phase of Kai Hau Kai currently known as customary fishing. This is by providing fresh nutritious fish previously available in our fish shops which have been closed, especially to the kaumātua and the needy under severe pressure from the massive economic downturn and self-isolation.

Takitimu Seafoods Limited is the commercial Fisheries arm of Ngāti Kahungunu and was to celebrate its 1st Anniversary on April 4th with a seafood festival this weekend but that all turned to custard when the virus hit our country. Instead we focussed on customary fishing to ensure our poorer Māori communities were well served here again due to the forced closure of our fish retail stores in Hastings and Napier.

One of our partners who is a commercial skipper and vessel owner Mike Terry volunteered his time and effort to catch customary fish as he saw the kaupapa and value in what our aims were. When hapū kaitiaki were canvassed for their support, there was immediate agreement and permits along the coastal waters that were issued accordingly. MPI were then approached for their advice which was given openly and enabling.



*Figure 1 Crew- Mike Terry and Mike Terry jnr and Tony.*

The weather packed up for a few days meaning permits were adjusted and finally on the evening of March Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup>, the Atlantic Dawn set off for the Kairakau - to Pouterere area to trawl for fish about 5kms offshore and beyond. After a days fishing they decided to go further south around Tautane Station (also owned by the Iwi) and here they turned and headed home with 140 bins of a mixed variety of fish for Kai Hau Kai offerings. It took 10 hours to steam home and they landed in Ahuriri at 7am Friday 3rd of April 2020. Mike Terry Jnr skippered with his crewman Tony.

Mere Tomoana, Sandra Mauger (MPI) and I observed the unloading. Every bin was tagged CUSTOMARY. Every bin was well iced. The fish was very fresh and in great condition. The crew had done a superb job.



*Figure 2 Sandra Mauger from MPI observes the whole process.*

Back at the Takitimu Seafoods factory the fish was weighed, recorded and ready for filleting, bagging and packing. These areas were cordoned off and clearly labelled as CUSTOMARY PROCESSING to avoid any ambiguity with the commercial operations. The fillets, heads and frames (normally the heads and frames are discarded for fertiliser) will be packed in KAHUNGUNU CUSTOMARY boxes and chilled for distribution over the weekend.



*Figure 5 Back to the Factory*



*Figure 3 Polys for fish packing.*

Taiwhenua staff at each of the 6 hubs will ensure the most needy, who we are calling our 'pounamu' whānau, our 'treasures' will be first priority and so on down the line. It is 'need' rather than 'want' that is the driver.

This process can be repeated once all the checks and balances are in place and evaluated. On reflection customary fishing, Kai Hau Kai finally provides a symmetry with our commercial aspect which is entirely market driven, while Kai Hau Kai remains whanau led.

This has been an ambition of Ngāti Kahungunu leaders for over 30 years now and I'm pleased I'm still here to see this significant step.



*Figure 4 Crew and unloaders in their bubbles.*

Takitimu Seafoods and Kai Hau Kai are in the same bubble today and long may it stay that way.

Tihei Mauri Ora!

Ngahiwi Tomoana – Chairman

**Representing the Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated Board**

#### **Video links**

<https://youtu.be/U4adrp0M9RA>

<https://youtu.be/4cOVP4h29WA>

<https://youtu.be/vHpCyWnl41o>

<https://youtu.be/5ink5Eetwyg>