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The MPI is no more Rec fishers celebrate great change



Stuart Nash MP, Minister of Fisheries

What can we say, but congratulations to Jacinda and her new administration. Over the last four years we have taken the industry captured MPI and the National government to task over the demise of the inshore fishing and their inept management or lack thereof, of fisheries. The level of

corruption under Nathan Guy was so serious that it would have collapsed the National Government, had the full extent of it been revealed by mainstream media. Revealing some of the atrocities that the captured MPI orchestrated or covered up in collaboration with their partners the Seafood Industry, has been an absolute pleasure in spite of the continued denials by industry and MPI. Industry have shown the lengths will go to, to curry favour, inasmuch as large donations to certain political parties. But the tide has turned and we now look forward to an improved recreational fishing experience, as it was before National created their captured monster, the MPI. This newspaper and readers look forward to working with the new government to achieve its fishery policy goals, especially in respect to our inshore fisheries that every kiwi looks forward to over the summer months. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern surprised many with her announcement, dismantling the Ministry for Primary Industries - with fishing going to Stuart Nash - saying there were a "range of issues and dysfunction within the fishing industry". She did not provide more specifics, but for the Prime Minister to take this far reaching step, suggests she

the public and parliamentarians: "MPI are shelving the video paper. I did bring it up to date with MPI media references to using the video information to detect undersize dumping, but Dave Turner [Director of Fisheries Management] insists the paper be buried." The report revealed that the cameras on fishing boats could not determine the size of snapper and consequently could not be used for prosecutions, contrary to MPI's former minister Nathan Guy and the MPI's assertions. Clearly they misled and lied to the public. Worryingly the tone of the email suggests that burying reports is a normal part of MPI's culture. Recreational fishers and even actual commercial fishers are celebrating the coalition between Labour and NZ First as both parties along with the Greens have extremely good policies that will benefit the inshore fishery and see the return of our younger generations being able to catch a feed of fish. Appointing David Parker as the Minister for the Environment is a masterstroke and shows how seriously this new government is taking the environment. After all, for New Zealand it goes hand in hand with economic development, something that national failed to understand. Both party's policies were

and her administration were also deeply troubled about MPI. So much so that they were left with no other choice. A remarkable proving of her mettle.

Her timing could not have been better as the corruption and deceit within the industry was at an all-time high. It was only a few months ago that the MPI deliberately buried the Bremner Lane report 'Measuring snapper from video footage: A forensic perspective', in spite of it being complete. An email between MPI officials shows the lengths they will go to deliberately mislead and lie to

neatly reflected in Winston Peters' comments that 'capitalism has destroyed our country.' This is the first time in NZ's political history that a political party has gone all the way through the election and gained cabinet positions, with a 12nm trawl exclusion zone in their fishing policy. Setting a 12 mile recreational inshore fisheries zone that prohibits trawling and other bulk commercial fishing methods from inshore areas, including areas of high juvenile abundance, is laudable. What past governments have conveniently neglected is the public good and what is best for the fish. We expect to see this NZ First policy implemented given the cabinet positions NZF hold and given that five years ago NZ First recognised the wasteful indiscriminate practices of trawl vessels, which have no place in the inshore fishery. Government must put aside the colours of their jackets and focus on the implementation of effective public good policies, to give kiwi's the change they voted for. Whilst the QMS was instigated to make the inshore fishery sustainable the abuse by commercial fishers has seen its further demise to the effect that many areas are depleted. This economic greed has seen the almost extinction of the Maui dolphin. An easy one is to kick all net and trawl fishing methods off the North Island's West Coast out to the 100 metre depth line to protect the Maui Dolphin from extinction. NZ First have it in their policy, the Greens have world wide support for this and at the very least Labour must want to protect the clean green image that has now become crucial to our primary industry exporters. The clock is ticking because in September the U.S. declared the Maui and Hector's Dolphin endangered. Unless, decisive steps are taken, the U.S. will eventually refuse exports of seafood taken from Maui habitats, because that is exactly what they did to Mexico for failing to protect the Vaquita Porpoise. National's free-market dogma has almost cost kiwis the ability to go fishing with their children at popular fishing spots around the country. Their policies or lack thereof have almost destroyed some of our most lucrative inshore fishing spots. The level of greed and corruption in the Seafood Industry is reprehensible. Former MPI Minister Nathan Guy refused to listen to recreational fishers and instead listened to the proven lies and deceit put forward by his bureaucratic bunglers in MPI, resulting in the moving on of Andrew Coleman, Scott Gallagher, David Turner, and others.

The new Fisheries Minister must implement a wide ranging royal commission of enquiry into Fisheries Management, as well as implement the policies of the two parties. Anything less will strongly indicate that the new Minister has also been captured by the seafood industry. The challenge for Minister Nash will be combating industry's capturing tactics that have been refined, tested, and proven over several decades. Labour will work with industry and other stakeholders to develop a national seafood branding and certification programme to add value to New Zealand's seafood exports. This is a pledge from Labour's fishing policy but does not seem to consider the plight of the Maui dolphin. Labour will facilitate the development of aquaculture within clear environmental standards. This sounds very good but they obviously have no idea of the size of the mess Aquaculture is in. The Aquaculture industry has had the full support from the National Government over the past nine years and took full financial advantage of that. But, the Aquaculture industry has disregarded its environmental responsibilities and has been caught

red handed by environmentalist groups with huge amounts of bottom fouling under its farms and thousands of tonnes of plastic mussel farm waste washing up on the beaches, while Councils sit back and do nothing. Nick Smith told the Aquaculture industry at their own conference that they had lost their social licence and this would seriously hamper the future growth of the industry. The new coalition must work from the bottom up to correct the imbalances that has been created by the national government, in their quest to double the value of the exports by 2025. This can be achieved by keeping their promises and fully implementing their fisheries policies, particularly those mentioned above including an inquiry into fisheries management. A good start, would be removing trawling from the inshore zone, fully protecting the Maui Dolphin from extinction, and ensuring that Aquaculture cleans up the environmental mess it has made. Overall, this new government needs to ensure the industry stops cheating, if it is to secure a social licence to operate.

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ISSN 1179-5034

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2018 NZ Masters Games



The Otago Community Trust New Zealand Masters Games will be held in Dunedin from the 3rd to the 11th of February 2018. Attracting over 5000 competitors, they

will come from Otago, other regions of New Zealand and overseas. The Masters Games goal is to encourage participation in sport where camaraderie and competition are

equally celebrated. People compete for various reasons whether it is to stand on the podium, improve their personal best, catch up with friends and enjoy the social atmosphere. Salt Water Fishing is one of the 63 events on the schedule for 2018. Held on the 4th of February the event is open to Masters competitors aged 35 years and over. Gold, silver and bronze medals are up for grabs in the competition categories of heaviest salmon from a boat, heaviest salmon caught land based and the heaviest barracouta, shark, cod, trumpeter, grouper. A briefing will be held at the Tautuku Fishing Club at Tomahawk on the day prior to update all competitors on the event. To compete in the Masters Games go to www.nzmg.com and enter now.

New Products

- OverBoard and Luci Lanterns



OverBoard, world leaders in 100% waterproof cases and waterproof bags for tramping, fishing, boating and everything in between. There will be a wide range of products available to suit the needs of adventurous Kiwis including waterproof backpacks, duffels and dry bags, ensuring the things you need the most are kept dry and protected, no matter the activity or weather. The products are very functional, highly featured, rugged, dependable and of course 100% waterproof. All products are tested in the field as well as in the factory, so you can be confident of the quality and usability.

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pack during the day to charge in the sun before expanding to provide off-the-grid light at night. The range also includes the Luci EMRG, a pocket-sized lantern, flashlight and emergency light all-in-one. The emergency setting flashes a red/white Morse code SOS, and as it only needs sunlight to stay charged, it shines reliably through any emergency.



ABOUT MEN

One day a housework-challenged husband decided to wash his Sweatshirt. Seconds after he stepped into the laundry room, HE SHOUTED TO HIS WIFE, 'WHAT SETTING DO I USE ON THE WASHING MACHINE?'

'It depends,' she replied. 'WHAT DOES IT SAY ON YOUR SHIRT?'
He yelled back, 'MANCHESTER UNITED!'
And they say blondes are dumb....

'It's just too hot to wear clothes today,'
Jack says as he stepped out of the shower,
'honey, what do you think the neighbours would think if I mowed the lawn like this?'
'Probably that I married you for your money,' she replied.

Q: What do you call an intelligent, good looking, sensitive man?
A: A rumour

Q: Why do little boys whine?
A: They are practicing to be men.

Q: How do you keep your husband from reading your e-mail?
A: Rename the email folder 'Instruction Manuals'



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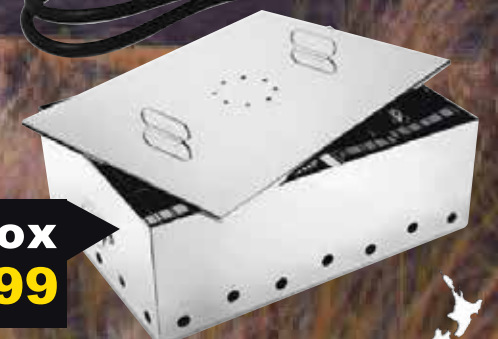
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Investors shy away from aquaculture

Aquaculture is a risky business and investors need to “be prepared to lose a lot of money,” according to Rabobank, at the 2017 Global Aquaculture Alliance’s GOAL Conference in Dublin, Ireland. Discussions were held on how to make wise investments in innovative technologies and services that enable the responsible growth of the aquaculture industry. Acknowledging that aquaculture investment requires considerable knowledge of the arena in order to reduce risk, panelists agreed that there is long-term value to be gained from investing in environmental sustainability.

Better transparency and understanding of failures is vital to attract more investors. Fish dying is a powerful deterrent, and too many failures have left a legacy of caution. At present they are seen as too unpredictable, and too reliant on people who may not be reliable, whereas we understand technology, and there is much work to be done there. Offshore farms have the potential to be a game-changer for the marine finfish industry, but such developments are also new, with technological problems and licensing issues still to be overcome, the panel agreed.

However, growing fish in open waters has been shown to have beneficial biological implications, which was welcome news to potential investors. Solutions for two specific problem areas need to be found – pest management and feed sustainability – which would greatly boost confidence in aquaculture. More urgency is needed for work to be done in these fields, but more importantly breakthroughs and a greater understanding of the cost implications would be most beneficial along with more sources of EPA and DHA from innovative sources.

Race for Life making dreams come true



Sometimes it’s the help we get from others that makes all the difference. Gordon Smith has been a keen fisho since he was a boy and introduced his family into fishing from an early age. All mad keen fishos they like to get out together and make fishing a family affair. The camaraderie jokes and leg pulling added to the family fun day, with bets on the heaviest fish at the forefront. The competition against each other was as fierce as the frivolity and at the end of the day it could have been any one’s fish as the boys congratulated each other on a great trip. The occasion was organised by Race 4 Life Trust that fulfils the wishes of Palliative Care Patients, those who are dying by arranging an event that helps their families retain fond memories. “My wish was to take my family fishing together at one time”

says Gordon which was a difficult task with his current health issues. Gordon lives in Hamilton with his grandsons Chad Dean-Rua and Hoani Dean; and son Loius Dean living close by. He has just had a recent diagnosis of cancer spine which unfortunately and he doesn’t have much time left. So the good people of Coromandel stepped up and made these dreams come true with accommodation at Pat’s Place; meals at the Success café and food from the Coromandel Four Square. With the able assistance of Mitch the skipper Smokin Reels Fishing were able to turn on a trip the family will never forget as they went hard out catching some nice snapper. Formally Coromandel Barge Fishing, Smokin Reels Fishing Charters has had a name and ownership change. They are Mitch and

Hannah Green, your hosts on Smokin Reels Fishing Charters. They operate out of Hannaford’s Wharf on Te Kouma Road, 7km south of Coromandel Township. They offer half and full day fishing charters around the beautiful Coromandel and cater for all fishing levels, from the beginners to the most experienced. It was pretty easy to see the boys shared a passion together as they helped each other out, catching good sized fish and easily filling the chilly bins. Smokin Reels Fishing specialize in ‘five hour’ charters. This can involve an early morning excursion, or an evening fish. The trips are more than just going out fishing – it’s more about going out for the adventure and to catch the various species available. Once the bins are full of snapper and with time permitting Mitch is more



than happy to chase other species. To Book your Charter call Mitch at Smokin Reels Fishing on Phone: 0211144485 or info@smokinreelsfishing.co.nz. It’s great to see fishers finally using salt ice to look after their catch as the salt ice ensures the catch is fresh when filleted. Smokin Reels Fishing work in unison with Salty Towers Bait and Tackle shop who offer a fish filleting service along with supplies of salt ice, bait, berley and tackle supplies and they have fresh mussels available to take home as well. Salty Towers generously filleted the catch and vacuum packed the fillets ready for the family to take back to Auckland. Accommodation was provided at Pats Place which is well set up for fishing groups.



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Aquaculture Enhances Recreational Fishing

Many people think aquaculture enhances recreational fishing. Agencies need to provide more research opportunities to identify both the benefits and effects of aquaculture and these agencies need to support the aquaculture industry to be in the right place and doing the right thing by the environment. In the Firth of Thames, the main landing facility for mussel harvest is the Sugarloaf Wharf at Te Kouma in the southern part of Coromandel Harbour. This brings employment to areas with fewer other opportunities. Employment in processing is about 3-4 times higher than in the farm based operations and is located in towns and cities with sufficient population to provide a reliable source of employees and the necessary infrastructure (water supply, wastewater facilities and transport links). Mussels and oysters grown in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park are processed in Whitianga, Tauranga, Warkworth and South Auckland. The Coromandel facility is closed. There is the potential for the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park to become a hub of aquaculture excellence, supported by research and innovation relating to all aspects of aquaculture activity including environmental enhancement projects.

The future growth of aquaculture can support increased benefits if it is done and managed correctly. There is growing demand for seafood, both domestically and internationally, so that the value derived from aquaculture production in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park has the potential to significantly increase. To date, there are 1480 ha of consented space for mussel farms and 210 ha for intertidal oyster farms. National forecasts suggest that by 2035, mussel farming may seek to grow by an additional 920 ha and intertidal oyster farming by 145 ha. Growth in aquaculture will create additional employment opportunities and will lead to subsequent growth in associated sectors. As a first step, support for increased productivity in the existing farms, and incremental increases in areas around existing farms, should occur where a net benefit is achieved. This will likely result in cost efficiencies and the minimisation of additional impacts on the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park’s environment. However, in some existing locations, expansion may not be appropriate due to environmental constraints. Although these measures will provide some increased capacity, there will almost certainly be demand for new areas of marine space to

be made available for aquaculture as markets expand and new marine farming technology develops. Aquaculture of new species, not currently farmed in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, could also play a role in increasing the value derived from aquaculture. Value of salmon farming vs. other agriculture and aquaculture. Whilst growing finfish is an extremely efficient way of producing protein, there are serious ecological impacts including the amount of fish food needed which should be considered. Finfish farming returns more dollars per hectare than many other forms of agriculture and aquaculture. For example, the New Zealand salmon industry returns 2000 times as much money per hectare as beef and sheep meat. It also contributes most of the ecological harm.

The presence of marine farms can also support other sectors, in particular charter fishing boats and recreational fishing (as mussel farms attract snapper and other fish), and tourism and seafood restaurants. Aquaculture also makes seafood more available to everyday consumers.

Duck calling quacks it again



Hunter Morrow with his winning trophy.

The reigning New Zealand duck calling champion Hunter Morrow has held onto his title at the national duck calling championships. Hunter, who is from Otago, continued his dominance with a clean

sweep of all the categories he had entered, including the Open Duck title. He also became the inaugural winner of the Rod and Rifle Waterfowl Cup. Duck Calling Championship organiser Adam Rayner says Hunter Morrow will now represent New Zealand at the world championships. “Hunter will head to the world champs in Maryland in the U.S. to represent New Zealand – it is a great achievement and he will do us proud on the world stage,” says Mr Rayner. But it might be the last time. “Given his achievements, Hunter is now retiring from the Open Duck category but will continue to give back as a judge in future years.” Adam Rayner says it was great to see so many finalists competing fiercely against one another, “so

much so that there was more tied scores than we’ve ever had before.” It was pleasing to see the number of new competitors such as Daniel and Vince Chin from Auckland, who finished 9th and 10th respectively. Last year’s junior winner Ben Schell placed 8th competing in his first open event, and topped his weekend off with a first placing in the Team Goose category alongside Hunter Morrow. “Veteran Geoff Irvine pulled out his goose call to show the young field how to do things, and provided advice to his duck calling champion daughter Holly Irvine, who finished fourth in Open Duck.” The results were: Junior: 1. Kellan Galloway; 2. Kruz-Parker-Munn; 3. Quinn Foley Smith. Open Duck: 1. Hunter Morrow; 2. Callum McKenzie; 3. William Tannock; 4. Holly Irvine. Live Goose: 1. Hunter Morrow; 2. Ben Schnell; 3. Sam Harrington. Team Duck: 1. Holly Irvine and Hunter Morrow; 2. Hunter Morrow and Callum McKenzie; 3. Ben Schnell and Sam Harrington. Team Goose: 1. Hunter Morrow and Ben Schnell; 2. Hunter Morrow and Geoff Irvine; 3. Ritson Galloway and Sam Harrington’

Trout Fishers’ Federation Welcomes Government Change

A national trout fishing organisation, the New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers, has welcomed the formation of the NZ First, Labour and Green parties government, and the relegation of the National-led government to the opposition benches. “The outgoing government’s policies were disrespectful of the public’s concern for the environment; particularly as regards the crucial state of the countries, rivers, streams and lakes” said the federation’s president Graham Carter.

The formation of the coalition has stopped the National Party from forming another government and continuing its environmentally damaging agenda which saw many rivers drying, or silting, up and becoming health hazards. Environmentally it is hoped the political landscape has changed. Graham Carter said other issues such as climate change and the ridiculous obsession with free market approaches to it. Foreign farm and high country sales had also created concerns

among the trout fishing public. “We hope for a restoration of the integrity of the RMA with rivers given a goal of maximum health,” he said. Other issues of concern that he identified were the National-led government’s state control grab of ECan, in Canterbury, and widespread use of aerial 1080 poison. “We look to take up dialogue with the new Minister of Conservation and spell out some issues that need immediate remedial action,” said Graham Carter.

A man is seeking to join the NZ Police force.

The Sergeant doing the interview says: “Your qualifications all look good, but there is an attitude suitability test that you must take before you can be accepted.” Then, sliding a pistol and a box of ammo across the desk, he says: “Take this pistol and go out and shoot six illegal immigrants, six drug dealers, six extremists, and a rabbit” The man being interviewed asks, “Why the rabbit?” “Excellent” says the Sergeant. “When can you start?”

Today’s Short Reading From the Bible...

From Genesis: “And God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the earth.”

Then He made the earth round...and He laughed and laughed and laughed

Spring Fishing is some of the best



Chris from Turangi with one of his many nice snapper



Brian and Chris from Turangi

The skipper Jason told us that the fishing had been quite hard, but putting his experience and local knowledge to the test he took us to a prime sport where a couple of boys from Turangi filled their bins in no time along with the rest of the fishos. The Ruben Jack and Joint Venture are both 51foot West Coaster boats powered with a 600hp engine and they can carry from 10 to 22 people for fishing and up to 32 people for scenic cruises or functions. On board you will find a BBQ that passengers are free to use, and a conventional toilet, kitchen, inside and outside seating with tables and partial shelter on the deck to protect you from the sun. For Hauraki Gulf fishing you can join one of their half day or full day trips or hire the boat for a private function, scenic tour or special occasion. The relatively sheltered, smooth waters and close proximity to the shore makes for a pleasurable time to be had by all. Their fishing charters are suitable

for everyone and anyone, experienced or novice and the boats have well equipped that caters for wheel chair fishos with little difficulty. They would like to encourage all wheelies and families with younger children to come aboard. So contact them for any special needs that you may require as they will endeavour to provide any services that you may need. Jordan the skipper has lived in Coromandel Town all his life and has previously been a crew member on the Joint Venture boat for the last two and a half years and skipper for the last twelve months, so he knows the area like the back of his hand. Just a quick phone call will see



Ken Cook from Matamata

your fishing party booked to enjoy one of Coromandel's prime fishing charters and they would be happy to answer any questions. Coromandel Fishing Charters work in unison with Salty Towers Bait and Tackle shop who offer a fish filleting service along with salt-ice, berley, bait and tackle supplies and they have fresh mussels available to take home as well.

Fishos are still going out without salt ice to chill down their catch. People don't seem to realise that chilly bins are not fridges and fish go off pretty quick left in a plastic bag. If you are going to spend mon-

ey on a charter don't waste your trip by not taking salt ice along to look after your catch. Coromandel Fishing Charters offer more than a fishing experience as there is a lot more to the

Hauraki Gulf than people imagine. To Book your Charter call Tom or Lorraine on 0800 267624 or 027 8668001 or the office at 07 8668928. Email: corofishing@gmail.com

Park n Ride – on hold



Was in Coromandel Town and heard that the TCDC after two and a half years have put the 'Park and Ride' drama on hold until after Christmas. While they are dilly dallying around and mucking the locals around congestion is rife at Hannafords Wharf where the Parking Compliance Officer was seen busy handing out tickets to cars parked in the 'no park' areas. Interestingly enough he parked his own ute blocking one ferry bus in and caused the other ferry bus to block the road. This is how you inspire tourists and visitors to return give them a parking fine instead of having someone on the spot showing them how to park properly and avoid the areas which cause disruption. Is this bureaucracy at its best or what?

Over previous years the local Charter Boat Organisation employed their own Parking Warden and it worked well but as soon as the TCDC got involved and took over it has been a complete fiasco. This coming season the TCDC and Charter Boats are working together to manage the car parking as best as they can with the limited parking space available. A better way to encourage tourists and visitors to return to the

town, is to have someone on the spot showing them how to park properly and avoid the areas which cause disruption. The Hamilton City Council has just learnt the error of its ways by instigating a 2-hour park free zone around the city after driving customers away through their heavy handed tactics over recent years. Currently the Hannaford's wharf area is the only option for charter boats that share the wharf with the Auckland ferry. The boat ramp at the Sugarloaf is used primarily for the Mussel Farmers when they unload/load the mussel harvesters and there is limited parking for rec trailers. Dredging the entrance area to Jacks Point Creek has been a botched affair. The TCDC need to focus on spending money wisely to implement a plan to either improve Jacks Point or to put an improved carpark area in at Te Kouma with a pontoon jetty, instead of wasting thousands on Consultants.



Coromandel FISHING CHARTERS
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150th anniversary of brown trout



The 150th anniversary of the introduction of brown trout was recently celebrated, a species which has become culturally, environmentally and economically important to New Zealand over that time. Brown trout are native to Europe and were first introduced into New Zealand in 1867 from British stock which had been established in Tasmania only three years earlier. But the survival rate was low, with only three trout hatching from the 1200 eggs which had been shipped from Tasmania. New research by historian Jack Kos shows the first trout to hatch in New Zealand was a brown in Christchurch's Hagley Park on October 10, 1867. Jack Kos, who has just finished his PhD on the introduction of brown trout, says the lone fish was followed a few days later by a further two. "So, by mid-October 1867, New Zealand had brown trout – only three of them but trout nonetheless," Jack Kos says. From that small beginning, brown trout have become widely established in both

the North and South Islands. In the process, they have become a culturally valuable New Zealand species and one that has been a catalyst for protecting the environment, water quality and some of the country's most outstanding wild rivers, lakes and streams. Trout are important because they act as an umbrella species, safeguarding the environment because they are critical indicators of high water quality. They are the canary in the mine – if water quality is deteriorating to the point that trout can't survive, then native species, which have a higher tolerance for poorer water quality, will also become more threatened. As a result, 12 of the country's 15 Water Conservation Orders have been secured because of the high quality of their trout fisheries. Brown trout have also provided the foundation for a multi-million dollar tourism industry. New Zealand's brown trout fishery here is rated as one of the best on the planet, attracting anglers from all over the world. Some of these are high-spend-

ing international travelers who are happy to pay significant sums of money to pursue trout. This cash provides a valuable boost to regional economies through not only fishing guides but also food, travel and accommodation. Trout fishing is also popular with New Zealand anglers, with more than a hundred thousand licences sold every year. Trout anglers come from right across society – on a river, everyone is equal. Skill, love of the outdoors and love of fishing are what brings them together, not money or privilege. The impact of trout angling isn't confined to recreation – it has also provided the basis of a dedicated manufacturing industry. New Zealand makes very good fishing rods, outdoor clothing and boats, along with other fishing equipment such as trout flies, all of which provide jobs and a boost to the national economy. All this flowed from the hatching of a single brown trout in Hagley Park 150 years ago today.

Biggest fish caught in Lake Okataina



Allan Vain from Te Awamutu holds up two of the four fish he caught fishing on his own in Lake Tarawera.



Fish & Game Officer Matt Osborne weighs a trout from Lake Tarawera.

Lake Okataina produced the biggest fish on the first day of the new fishing season, a 3.7kg rainbow trout, but Lake Rotoiti offered the "best conditioned" fish, according to Fish & Game. Fish & Game officers, helped by honorary rangers and other volunteers, staked out boat ramps to quiz anglers and measure their catches on Rotorua's three lakes, Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina. Fish & Game Officer Matt Osborne has released a "snapshot" of anglers' fortunes on Opening Day, from an initial analysis of some of the data gathered. More than 600 anglers were surveyed at the three lakes with anglers' catches weighed and measured as they returned to boat ramps. Lake Okataina provided the best fishing but the catch rate was better in Lake Rotoiti and the fish were longer. Anglers who put safety first couldn't fish where they wanted in comfort. On Lake Tarawera, while anglers on the lake early caught some good fish harling, a high number of fish

were returned to the water by fishers who considered them too skinny to keep. "We know the lake is going through tough times but steps are being taken to investigate the reasons behind this, and see if we can turn things around," Mr Osborne says. But he says they have limited tools for the job, notably making changes to bag limits and seasons, or their fish release programme, and the state of the fishery reflects complex environmental factors. "Anglers sometimes say things like 'there's no smelt around' but we are dealing with complex ecosystems that go through cycles and available food is only one factor among many in determining fish survival and growth," Mr Osborne says. On Lake Tarawera, the fish were smaller than last opening, with two-year old trout (the age most commonly caught on opening) averaging 481mm and 1.20kg. This was down from last year on average by 10mm in length and 160g in weight. A high number

of legal-size fish were returned to the lake by anglers. The largest fish tipped the scales at 3kg. Lake Rotoiti produced the best conditioned two-year olds (just ahead of Okataina) measuring 494mm in length and weighing 1.43kg. Weather had an impact with a westerly powering down the length of the lake. The largest fish caught weighed 3.6kg. Lake Okataina two-year old fish were slightly larger than Rotoiti at 496mm but not in quite as good condition at 1.42kg on average. The biggest fish caught on the day was 3.7kg. Disappointingly, and perhaps a reflection of the challenging weather conditions, no pink tagged Fish for Gold trout were caught on the day, Mr Osborne says, but there are still some small "second chances" prizes on offer (subject to conditions).

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What is a “Native Species?” – A feral stray Australian?

By Rex N. Gibson

The reality is that the destruction of so-called native habitats is the primary cause of endangered species plight. Almost all habitat destruction has been in the interests of farming. The “Pest Free NZ” initiative is a deliberate diversionary tactic to deflect criticism from farming practices.

Many of the environmental concerns of anglers and hunters hinge around the preoccupation of DOC, and other government agencies, in preserving “native species” (often at the expense of acclimatised species), and the methodologies used. These attempts to recreate mythical year 1769 (Cook’s arrival), or c1220 (Maori settlement), ecosystems are often based on the belief that ecosystems are static entities. Many fishers and hunters bristle when “chardonnay conservationists”, and some farming hierarchy, blame trout for the demise of “native” species (or even for waterway pollution). The whole basis of “ecology” is that it involves a whole raft of biological systems in dynamic equilibrium. In simple English, all species within biological systems are constantly changing and adjusting to both environmental variations, and to changes within interacting species, to produce a new temporary equilibrium. Trout today fill part of the niche of the extinct native grayling, but for 150 years now have been in “dynamic equilibrium” with the other (native) freshwater species. The rapid demise of graylings was already occurring before trout were introduced. Habitat clearance is usually seen as the cause. The grayling also occurs in Australia and as an amphidromous species could well have swum the Tasman to get here. Trout are also amphidromous, capable of spending part of their life in each of salt, estuarine and fresh water habitats. Given time it is not impossible for Australia’s brown trout to cross the Tasman Sea and

and sea currents of the Tasman Sea are primarily from the west to east. They bring us numerous surprises. In 2012 Australian pelicans were reported from Northland to Taranaki; up to 18 at a time. This phenomenon of uninvited Australian immigrants is not unusual, but once here they become “natives”. Their favourite food is listed as the native kahawai. Other 21st Century refugees from Australia include plumed whistling ducks, royal spoonbills, and gull-billed terns. In the 1970s spur-winged plovers appeared in Southland following strong trans-Tasman winds. They spread rapidly throughout the country pre-dating on many small bird species, including natives. They are now major bird-strike worries for our airports. The common white/silver/wax-eye first made an appearance on the West Coast after a period of high winds in the 1800s. It obviously thrived and is now a nationwide native. Our iconic swamp hen, the pukeko, has only been here about as long as Maori. The first colonists supposedly rafted across on flood debris from South East Australia where it is quite common. Remnants of a ship which ran aground, was abandoned in S. E. Australia in 1855, and then floated across the Tasman Sea ended up at Ship Creek on the West Coast. The pukeko’s potential rafting journey is thus not too unreasonable. There may well have been several such pukeko introductions. They arrived in Australia from New Guinea about a thousand years ago. This species is also present in a wide range of Pacific Islands and some Maori tribal traditions, including Aotea, claim that they introduced it to NZ on the Horouta Waka. Despite the lack of clear evidence either way it is classed as a native. Its presence on the Kermadec and Chatham Islands poses interesting questions however. The native long finned eel is also present in Australia. Several of our other

freshwater species have very close relatives across the ditch also, as do many arthropod species. This brings us back to the definition of a native. Is it just a feral stray Australian refugee? In recent years many species have “hitched”

a ride here and become established. Some came attached to ships, planes, etc., and some in imported goods. None of them asked to come here. Why are the actions, and their consequences, of humans classed as unnatural? Does this go back to the old creationist religious doctrine that man was created in God’s image so is somehow extra special? Tell that to the next great white shark who happily eats a human. Perhaps this is why “pest control” is often pursued with such a “religious fervour”. In 1824 the flax trading (and former convict transport) brig “Elizabeth Henrietta” ran

aground on Ruapuke Island in Foveaux Strait. The ship’s mice scrambled/ swam ashore. They may only have swum a few metres, rather than the whole Tasman Sea, but they were not placed there by man. It was our first recorded introduction of mice. Ship rats probably swam ashore from Cook’s ships in 1769 and Norway rats from the first whalers in the Bay of Islands only a decade or so later. These species are blamed for the decline of some native plant and



Wax-eye

animal species, but how different is that from the introductions of pukeko (which possibly displaced both takahe and kakapo), or the spur winged plovers, or even the long



Pukeko

finned eel? Current concern is with myrtle rust affecting pohutukawa trees, but it is a natural introduction carried on the trans-Tasman winds. Does that not make it a “native”? The dynamic equilibrium of 1769 is interesting in that Maori had already been in residence for over 500 years. As cohabiters they had the kiore (Polynesian rat) and the kuri (dog). Both rats and dogs are blamed for the decline of many native birds, yet kiore and kuri had reached a balanced equilibrium with native species by this time. Most bird species now classed as endangered did not decline rapidly until Europeans arrived. Maori, and the kiore and kuri, had done most of their damage several hundreds of years earlier. The comparison between c1220 and post 1769 is interesting in itself. Several publications have covered studies comparing the browsing of Moa, prior to their disappearance in the 15th century, with the current browsing by deer. Moa browsing can be determined by their coprolites (fossilised faeces). Plant species consumed by deer and Moa are almost identical. A logical conclusion is that the plant species regime in the NZ bush from c1500 to 1769 changed dramatically after the removal of the Moa and that deer have simply reversed that change. This is simplistic but has a huge element of logic and evidence to support it as an example of the dynamic equilibrium. Most government funded pest control programmes, including the current fixation with 1080 drops, are built on the premise that their target pests are solely responsible for the decline of the endangered species. Kiore are being actively exterminated from their few remaining habitats; mainly offshore islands; probably because rodents do not excite feelings of “cuteness”. After 800 years they perhaps deserve honorary native status somewhere. The reality is that the destruction of so-called native habitats is the primary cause of endangered species plight. Almost all habitat destruction has been in the interests of farming. The “Pest Free NZ” initiative is a deliberate diversionary tactic to deflect criticism from farming practices. We need to be vigilant about every attempt to demonise trout; and many other introduced species. Such demonising actions are diversionary. The decline of whitebait, tuna (eels), mud fish, and other aquatic mahinga kai is primarily the result of habitat destruction. Trout predation is only a factor in habitats so degraded by farming activities that they are at a tipping point. If we took trout out of an aquatic ecosystem today we would trigger another round of dramatic species composition adjustments. Bullies and

aquatic invertebrates would benefit. The losers would be native eels, terns, gulls, koura and cormorants, etc., that feed on juvenile trout. So when can a species be considered native? To say “never” if it is human assisted,

is to ignore the values of the current reasonably stable ecosystems. New Zealand needs to seriously consider its preoccupation with pre c1220 environments and look more at focussing on preserving species

with cultural values (Maori and Pa-keha) or of biodiversity importance, whether they be “native” or not.

Taupo Bird Rescue Team

A Ruru was recently found near the banks of the Waitahanui River. Unable to fly the Ruru was in dire need of help. The Taupo Bird Rescue response team swung into action within 45 minutes. They had this beautiful bird in the hands of Shelley Brown who is one of their great bird rescue people. This is the second this year

that has been saved and the quick action of the rescuer gives it more of a chance. The Ruru now has some medication to help it recover. The Taupo bird rescue team are permitted to handle protected birds on behalf of DoC, for the time it takes to rehab these birds and work with them to (hopefully) be able to release them where they come from.



Salmon and their history in NZ

What do salmon anglers do in the off season? Plenty. While most people think that the fishing season’s over at the end of April it’s just a quick rest for the NZSAA. Time in May is spent checking that our Scotty boxes are all OK and making any repairs as necessary. We also check that the alevinator, in a river somewhere in Canterbury, is ready for the salmon eggs. The alevinator is a specially converted refrigerator that can take up to 27,000 eggs. The Scotty boxes are more complex. They can take small trays of 100 eggs and put together in a block and then in the alevinator. This operation, sometime in June, is done by NZSAA members and volunteers. The progress of the eggs can be monitored and a hatch count can be quite accurate. This year’s hatch rate is 93%, which is very good. Let’s hope some come back to spawn naturally. The eggs are provided by F&G with whom we have a good working relationship in our enhancement programme.

The other method we use is the barrel technique. We have some bottomless barrels that we use. The method is simple but quite effective. At a selected steam our teams of members and volunteers dig hole in the stream bed and remove some rocks. The barrel is put in around the hole and then some eggs are gently sprinkled amongst the stones. More stones are put on top of the eggs, carefully so as not to injure them, and then more stones build up the artificial redd. The barrel is then carefully removed and if necessary more stones are put around to complete the job. What’s left is a passable imitation of a redd and we leave nature to do its thing and hope that the eggs hatch. During our “down time” in winter we often speak to other outdoor groups about what we do and the history of salmon fishing in New Zealand. It’s quite amazing how little people know about salmon and their history in NZ. It takes people by surprise when I say that I can catch bigger salmon here

than my friend who lives in Victoria BC. More of that in a later article.



F&G and a group of volunteers rescue 49 adult trapped salmon when an irrigation canal was shut down on the Waimakariri River with no notification. These fish were chanced upon by a couple of anglers unfortunately of 12 others in another part of the system 9 died before rescue a few days ago.



Brown trout,

get established here, thus becoming “natives”. Perhaps they already have? New Zealand agencies define native species as those which have evolved from their Gondwanaland ancestors or have self-introduced since the “continental break up”. No assistance by man is other aspect of their definition.



Grayling

Deliberate introductions by humans include trout, rye grass, wheat, Pinus radiata, blackbirds, sparrows, chickens, goats, sheep, cattle, deer, opossums and mustelids (ferrets, stoats and weasels), etc., therefore can never get “native” status. The protected colony of white herons in South Westland is not a unique remnant of a population that once roamed widely, but a relatively recent “invasion” from Australia; like many of our native birds. The strong winds

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How come when we were at school time dragged on something terrible ? now is gone in a flash. So enjoy every minute of whatever your pursuit is in our case fishing the Tongariro, which has been incredible all year actually, with seemingly constant but not to heavy rainfall through winter, the Lake level high the reason we have seen good quality fish and good numbers of fish in our system Hine, TT, Tongariro etc probably. Currently there are large numbers of Jacks in the Tongariro, along with good numbers of large Rainbows, a few days ago anglers reporting hooking, loosing, or seeing fish upwards of 8lb, several I saw were on a mission heading up river and they were big!. Large articulated flies seem to be the current new trend, suspect night time and if you can get close enough to a stream mouth would work well. The Blue pool road is now closed due to logging operations so up river fishing is via the Red Hut. I have no doubt when the upper

river opens the fishing will be phenomenal so book with either rafting company early or get yourself an inflatable (and a lifejacket). Take a look at online Catch Magazine, a great fly fishing photo and video web site? Lighter longer fly rods very common now 4 to 5 weight consider Czech nymphing rods, double as dry fly and wet line in particular those rods which are extendable from 9ft thru 11ft, I favour Hanak rods which I have been using for a couple of years now catching Trout, Alaskan Salmon and Pike they are very much up to the job, most of my fishing is in fast water. Looking thru a couple of Tisdall fly fishing catalogues 1937, 38 would be keen to get hold of some of their fly rods Tisdalls TURANGI, ARATIATIA or ORETI Rods not wanting to sell them but add to a collection in the Creel Tackle shop being New Zealand’s oldest Tackle shop. Wanting gift ideas Antler Handle landing net or Wading stick one only Tye Wheel see their web site, Sunray micro and ultra-thin fly lines or Fishy Fingers soap? 07 386 7929. Summer fishing on the Tongariro, many anglers still think there are only fish in it during winter, well not



so get rid of the waders, don your shorts and take a look, we should be seeing large Browns very soon.

See attached articles from Tidalls catalogue.

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Burn Kids – will you ‘Sponsor A Child?’



Andrea King's son Dukie is a 75% total body surface area survivor. He was 23 months when he had his accident. When Dukie was 4 years old he attended a Kindergarten in Wairoa and his specialist teacher phoned Andrea when Dukie drew a picture of himself as a monster. They got together had a tangi then decided to search for anyone on the net that may know of other burn survivors in Aotearoa that Dukie could meet so that he could relate to other people who have the same injury as him. As luck would have it Andrea came across the Burn

Support Group Charitable Trust facebook page and did a wee write up and they were invited the next camp. The kids spend valuable time at an established camp, each year in a different location. The camp was for 7 year olds and up, but because of Dukie's story and extensive burns they allowed him to attend. The camp has been instrumental in Dukie's emotional well-being when he was transitioned into school. His confidence and attitude towards his injury after camp has been amazing and without their camp programme to boost these attributes Andrea is sure it would've been hard for him and his family to cope on their own. The Burn Support Group offers other services to parents to help

them cope as well and share stories about their children and how the accident affected them and gives us tools on how to think positively about the future. Lots of information about care and support from services such as ACC, Burns management and the latest techniques in plastic surgery and products available. Also charity work to help fund equipment for the burns units in our hospitals, yearly camps and resources for communities in the prevention of burn injuries. If you are interested in helping some kids go camping and having fun in the outdoors call Michele on Michele@burns.org.nz or 021 863670.

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Big Brother is watching



Hide your fishing rods folks you are being spied on. The former MPI have contracted NIWA to survey this fishery between 1 October 2017 and 30 September 2018, to estimate the recreational catch of snapper, kahawai, tarakihi, trevally, and red gurnard. The purpose of the survey is to estimate the recreational catch, because unlike commercial fishers, recreational fisheries are not required to report their catch. It is important to understand how much fish is being taken by each sector if we are to

sustainably manage fish stocks for future fishing. To even consider that this brainless exercise is likely to even come close shows how shallow and pathetic they really are. The second component is an interview survey of fishers returning to 20 of the busiest boat ramps spread between Mangonui in the North, and Whakatane/Ohope in the Bay of Plenty. Boat ramp interviewers are present at these ramps throughout the day, and they use the data they collect to tell us about changes in levels of fishing effort throughout the day, and about the catch of each species landed at the ramp throughout the day. We believe that they can combine these two sources of information to estimate the number and

weight of each species caught in the survey area on each survey day, and hence throughout the year. There are two components to NIWA's survey and these will both take place on 47 days spread throughout the 12 month survey period; on both midweek days and weekend days. The first component is a four plane aerial survey of coastal waters, which will usually occur between 10 am and 2 pm. These flights give us a snapshot of the level of fishing effort occurring during the time of peak fishing effort. They will also have people on 20 boat ramps at the same time asking about your catch over 47 days throughout the year weather permitting. Have the former MPI



Why recreational fishing licence fees are unnecessary

Export earnings from commercial wild capture fisheries were down by 3 percent to \$1.3 billion in the year ending June 2017 – that's if you believe industry's self-reported figures. This figure was mainly driven by a 5 percent decrease in export quantities due to "inherent fluctuations in catch volumes of key species". MPI claim this was a cyclical downturn, but failed to offer any science to support this. Rather the truth may simply be declining stocks due to overfishing, as evidenced by the state of the CRA2 (Area 2 Crayfish) fishery, where according to marine scientists from eCoast and the University of Auckland, crayfish have become functionally extinct. MPI in their September 2017 Situation and Outlook for Primary Industries report, state that their 'Future of our Fisheries programme', will provide accurate, timely and verified information to inform fisheries management. Yeah nah; after several years MPI's future for fisheries programme has yet to see the light of day, having become dysfunction-

al under MPI's Andrews Hill's inept management. Now that he along with the rest of his team have been made redundant by the new government, progress is finally in the wind. The truth is that had it not been for Aquaculture and Crayfish, seafood wouldn't be such an important primary industry. The reason for this is the big fishing companies are still selling the vast bulk of what they catch, as either cheap raw material for reprocessing in Asia or as cheap supermarket products. The industry is under pressure to move into higher value products. That's why the corporate stake holders of the fishing industry are desperate to get their hands on as much of the high value better tasting inshore fishery species as they can. The commercial fishing industry supports recreational fishing licences and the monitoring that goes with it, as it will allow them to take the high value fish from the inshore fishery, not caught by rec fishers. It's this type of selfish thinking that

has led to the sorry state of NZ's inshore fisheries, to the point of total collapse in some areas. There is much more value to be gained from leaving the fish in the sea to grow our fisheries to abundant levels. The attempt by the commercial fishing industry and MPI to brain wash recreational fishers into agreeing with a recreational fishing licence will only be an expensive red tape nightmare for the recreational fishers and their families. As it stands the recreational fishing sector and the commercial industry each contribute about \$1.7b to NZ's economy. The commercial industry contributes mainly through export dollars, exporting about 85% of what they catch, while the recreational fisher's contribute entirely to the local economy but only catch 2.7% of NZ's total catch. In contrast to commercial, nearly all recreational landed fish is of high value. However the commercial fishers are able to claim all their costs as a tax deduction, while recreational fish-

ers cannot claim anything as it's a sport and not a commercial activity. Therefore every cent that the recreational fisher spend has a non-deductible GST component and a tax element that goes straight into Government coffers. The tax contributed by the recreational fisher's alone is vastly more than MPI needs to manage the inshore fishery and therefore there should never be a cost to the recreational fisher to go fishing as they have already contributed and it is a 'PUBLIC GOOD'. Recreational fishing licence fees are unnecessary. What's needed is for the new Fisheries Ministry to focus on the health of inshore fisheries. For years, LegaSea, recreational fishers, this paper, and other NGOs have been calling for a change to the way fisheries are managed. With the dismantling of industry captured MPI that time has come. Customary and recreational fishers deserve much better, and ultimately the wider economy will reap the benefits of wise and informed management.

A Victory for Transparency in Peru

The government of Peru followed through on its commitment to make its national vessel tracking data publicly available by signing a Memorandum of Understanding. The signed Memorandum will start the process to make Peru's Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) data publicly available through Global Fishing Watch, which provides the first global view of commercial fishing activity. This commitment matters because Peru, one of the most globally significant fishing nations and

home to an enormous anchovy fishery (historically the world's largest), has committed to making its fishing fleet truly transparent. This action will make it easier to identify, track and stop illegal fishing in Peru's oceans and empower the government to enforce its laws effectively. Created by Oceana, SkyTruth and Google and launched in September 2016, Global Fishing Watch uses public broadcast data from the Automatic Identification System (AIS), collected by satellite and

terrestrial receivers, to show the movement of vessels over time. Global Fishing Watch uses this information to track vessel movement and classify it as "fishing" or "non-fishing" activity. While AIS is required for the largest vessels that catch a disproportionately large amount of fish, adding VMS data, which is required by some governments, to the Global Fishing Watch platform will provide the world with an even clearer view of fishing activity on our oceans. Currently NZ

fishing vessels are able to drop off our AIS monitoring networks and disappear for long periods of time. Global Fishing Watch is free and available to anyone with an internet connection. A healthy ocean could provide more than a billion people with a healthy seafood meal, every day, in a way that is truly sustainable. To manage our oceans responsibly, we must know what fishing activity is taking place over the horizon.

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EPA WRONG ON ROUNDUP

The recent foray by EPA's Chief Scientist into the debate of glyphosate's role as a cause of cancer did nothing to stop the decline in credibility of the regulatory authorities but provided a smokescreen to hide the fact that not only is glyphosate a probable carcinogen it has greater effect in many other areas of concern being an antibiotic, an endocrine disrupter, a neuro-toxin and an enzyme disrupter. Glyphosate chelates minerals (the original use was to remove scale from pipes etc.) like Manganese which is essential for the early stages of the Shikimate enzyme system, hence the direct effect on all biological systems except mammalian (but bacteria, fungi etc. in mammals are affected so the effects of glyphosate are indirect but no less drastic). Essential amino acids are produced and deficiencies caused by the effects of glyphosate are widespread indeed, including death of plants, the herbicide effect. In addition, some adjuvants and wetting agents have been shown to be more toxic than glyphosates but less toxic than the commercial product, the Trade Named Product (TNP) Roundup is but one brand of a glyphosate based herbicide (GBH); more recently introduced brands include the Weedmaster TS 540 range "registered" in 2013. Both are but one of 628 pesticides "registered" under the ACVM Act of 1997 since 2008.

Apart from the question of why the hell do we need all these toxins at all, there is the question of the rigour of the so-called registration of them by EPA and MPI who administer the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines ACT 1997 (ACVM ACT 1997). The fact is, there is no rigour because although the Act states that the Trade Named Product must be assessed and all relevant data must be made available neither condition is met. From information in replies to OIA requests and from company data sheets (neither EPA nor MPI do any safety testing, only review company data), the following facts emerge:- In the case of Weedmaster TS 540 "...data provided is for active ingredient not named product" and those data were "...supplied by the applicant Nufarm Ltd. Other data was supplied was supplied by Monsanto". "The identities of the other components have been withheld". With regard to the adjuvants etc., in the case of Weedmaster TS 540's tallow amines, "The EPA has not been provided with any LD50 (death causing) data for this component by this or any other applicant." So the TNP has not been assessed and all relevant data have not been provided; so why is this product on the market at all? There has been a huge increase in the use of GBHs particularly in the

last few years and particularly in GE crops grown overseas which are imported into this country as animal feed; so when you add the recent rise in GBH's use for crop desiccation, including grass for silage, the potential source of pollution to soils and waterways has also increased. Another source of increased pollution of water systems is the conversion of forestry land to dairy, the pollution being sediment from soil contaminated by pesticides used in land preparation and phosphates, nitrates, cadmium and fluoride from fertilizers. Very recent research from Europe has shown glyphosate remains adhered to soil particles for up to 1 year particularly in fine soils; therefore the Waikato catchment area is heavily prone to this increased pollution. Where is the data for research done in NZ? The whole food chain, from soil microbes to aquatic life to human gut microbes are all vulnerable to the effects of glyphosate action as an antibiotic, endocrine disrupter, chelator of minerals, neurotoxin and disruptor of enzymes systems and we are suffering the consequences of ill health in all systems. It is therefore paramount that our so-called guardians of the environment, public health and our trade carry out their duty in a legal manner; at the moment it is argued that they are not doing so.

Credible Research Vital to Sensibly Managing Fisheries

Marlborough recreational fishers want urgent research into Marlborough Sounds blue cod spawning so the fishery can be soundly and accurately managed. "Knowledge of the population dynamics of individual saltwater fish species is vital to implementing sound and effective management of the sea fisheries," said Peter Watson, president Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association and a former commercial fisherman. The Marlborough Sounds blue cod fishery and rules implemented by the Ministry of Primary Industries that discriminated against the recreational public have been a hotbed of controversy since Labour's fishery minister Jim Anderton put a ban on recreational fishing in 2007. "The original research Anderton made his decision on was poorly done and poorly timed," said Peter Watson. The NIWA survey was carried out in September when long time commercial fishers say blue cod move from the Sounds to Marlborough's east coast to spawn. "So they did their poorly sited cod potting samples, when mature cod had moved out. Thus it showed a lack of

good mature fish. It was a false picture." Peter Watson said that in ten years the Ministry had done little if any credible research. Attempts by the Marlborough Recreational Fishers Assn., to talk to the National-led government's succession of fisheries ministers were met with procrastination and delays in getting appointments and then except for the first minister Phil Heatley, with indifference. "So-called management has been based on guesswork and not knowledge and facts," said Peter Watson. In the ten years the Ministry and Ministers Carter and Guy introduced a slot rule where only cod in the 30-35cm range could be taken by recreational fishers. "It was a disaster and resulted in deaths of thousands of cod that had to be released and forced anglers to kill breeding females that are invariably in the 30-35cm range. It was irresponsible management," he said. Currently a ban on all blue cod fishing - except for customary - for the Marlborough Sounds now applied to the months of September to December 20. The months of August and September and perhaps to October 20 would make much, more sense,

for a closure, unless credible research defines exactly when and where blue cod spawn said Peter Watson. "And if they do spawn off the east coast and not in the Sounds then is a ban for the Sounds justified at all?" He said the local economy was suffering with heavy handed unnecessary restrictions on recreational blue cod and the dire state of the scallop fishery due to corporate company plundering of beds. The association was a strong advocate for conservation of stocks and an eye to tomorrow. A closed season August to October 20 - until sound, credible research gives that vital knowledge - should remain. "The history that in ten long years, the Ministry has no significant greater knowledge is an indictment of the mismanagement, not deliberately necessarily but out of ignorance of facts," he added. The association was optimistic that with a new government, a new minister of fisheries in Labour's Stuart Nash and the recently announced decision to reinstate the Ministry of Fisheries from the mega MPI bureaucracy, would result in a new ministry culture and a willingness to do urgent research.

Politics Election Coalition Win for Outdoors/Environment?

by Rupert Pye

The final stage in the election result with NZ First going into coalition with Labour and supported by the Greens, is a win for the outdoors and environment. Any government going into an election has no alternative but to go to bat on its performance. To be candid, National's performance over the last nine years has been woeful and worrying. For example the sorry state of our rivers, depleted in flow and water quality, mismanagement of sea fisheries, gutting of the RMA's democratic procedures, top-dressing public lands with toxins (e.g. 1080) and 'rubber stamping' the wholesale selling of farm land to foreigners were issues which probably occupied the minds of voters. Yes, there were the housing issues and immigration. Immigration is a thorn in the growing public concern about population and the drain on our health system. Many New Zealanders are also concerned about the "treaty gravy train".

If National's Bill English is disappointed he has only himself to blame. He and finance minister Steven Joyce showed a shocking lack on integrity when with no economists support, the duo claimed an \$11 billion fiscal hole in Labour's policy. Voters live in hope that politicians will be honest and not blatantly insincere and not up to "jiggery pokery." Bill English should also look at his ministers. Nick Smith snarling sermons about biblical plagues of rats and the need for more 1080, was a bad look. Conservation Minister Maggie Barry proclaiming the virtues of 1080, was so inept and ignorant as to be embarrassing to any government. Nick Smith constantly denied dirty rivers. Smith wanted full control from Wellington over 1080 drops removing the people in regions right to submit their concerns. Both Smith and Barry made a mockery of their respective portfolios of Environment and Conservation. Minister Chris

Finlayson coldly rolling treaty handouts through was to blame as well. Winston Peters came out with enhanced status. The long protracted NZ First caucus meeting on the Thursday before the final decision was significant. One source suggested there was a battle between one group led by leader Winston Peters and deputy leader Ron Mark versus a group fronted by Tracy Watkins and Shane Jones. Remember Shane Jones took a plum job from the National-led government to travel around the Pacific fisheries scene? Did he feel loyalty to Bill English? Can he be trusted? The challenge for Labour and NZ First will be to rein in the Green's wackier side such as their obsession for 1080 and hypocritical hatred of introduced species like deer and trout. The near future will reveal policy lines. From the environment angle the following should feature in a welcome departure from the Bill English government.

Acap on annual immigration to 10,000; No sales of farm land or businesses to foreign ownership; Restored democratic procedures of RMA; Independent commission of enquiry into tradeable quota system (QMS); overhaul of Ministry Primary In-

dustries with separate Ministry of Fisheries restored; Restoration of rivers. Pull back of dairying development and instead "added value" approach to the commodity of milk; Cease aerial 1080 before more

ecosystem damage is done. If I can add one to the list above, it would be for a Ministry of Population and Futures to set a population policy in train. Do we want for our children's sake, 10 million people?

Lost Election Opportunity by Fishers and Hunters


by Andi Cockroft

Council of Outdoor Recreation Assn NZ (CORANZ) Should a government dictate to the public or should the people tell the government what to do? If you believe the government should be fearful of the wrath of the public and a subsequent backlash at election time, well you are out of step with political moods of the last few decades. Political indifference or as it's called apathy, seems to have become common since 1984 and the emergence of arrogant politicians such as Roger Douglas and Richard Prebble in that 4th Labour government. Arrogance and deceit has now become the norm for politicians. Deception knows no bounds. Witness the election campaign and the "\$11 billion" fiscal hole lie. The voting public swallowed it. It is possible the people can deal to arrogant politicians and deceitful governments at election time. But is there the will? The last two general elections saw a million New Zealanders not vote or were even too disinterested to register as voters. Those one million are selfish. They do not care about tomorrow and the legacy they leave to their children and grandchildren. They are short-sighted because they only live for today and not tomorrow. But there was a glimmer of hope when in the 2015 Northland by-election; NZ First's Winston Peters took the traditional National seat from government. From the outdoors perspective the result has stymied plans of government to gut the Resource Management Act and turn its emphasis dominantly in favour of economic development - and relegate

the environment to a low ranking. Chief target would be rivers both flowing and underground - the latter known as the aquifer - in order to increase the corporate style dairy farms. Remember water from the aquifer will deplete "above the ground" water flows i.e. rivers and streams. But the loss of Northland to Winston Peters did not deter National as the main party in government. It moved to gut the RMA and take away the democratic voice for the public in regions. It is ironic the Environment Minister Nick Smith is a front line mover to gut the RMA, at the expense of the environment. His advocacy has made a mockery of the portfolio Minister for the Environment. But who is going to challenge the government or Nick Smith? Not the public it seems. National was cock-of-the-hoop on 2017 election night. Nick Smith not liked by the electorate at large because of his abrasive, bullying manner and actions was returned by the Nelson electorate with his big majority hardly tarnished. Fish and Game NZ seemed mesmerised by government and Nick Smith's tirade in 2014 when he was Minister of Conservation, allegedly threatening to tighten the hand screws on the organisation. Fish and Game out of duty to its license holders, should have stood up to Smith at election 2017 and advocated strongly. Of course Fish and Game is by its Act, duty bound to the Minister of Conservation. Fish and Game were naive when the Act was framed to allow that stranglehold. Consequently it was no surprise but very disappointing, that statutory organisation Fish and Game NZ was

low key in the run-up to the election. Other national groups did little or nothing, except for the Council of Outdoor Recreation Assns., of New Zealand (CORANZ) which produced an election charter comprising 17 key questions relating o the environment and outdoor recreation threats. National did not respond. After deadline a reminder was sent and still the response was nil. I can only assume they have no respect for your rivers, your forest parks, your inshore fishing and for ownership of the countryside. Sadly National's policies involve depleting and dirtying rivers, aerically spreading eco-toxins on public lands, letting foreign corporate mineral and oil companies explore the public's parks, allow corporate fishing companies to overfish stocks and to continue to rubber-stamp foreigners wanting 'bunkers' in NZ in case of nuclear holocausts in the Northern Hemisphere. So what went wrong at election time? Before seeking an answer, think about how many outdoor recreation participants there are. Collectively the outdoor recreation public numbers hundreds of thousands. Some have put it at a million. Either way it's massive. The answer comes back to the indifference. The average fisher and hunter just does not care about tomorrow. It is selfishness in the extreme. One day your son or grandson might ask a question, "Why?" I hope your conscience will be clear in answering. **Footnote:** Andi Cockroft is co-chairman of the Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of NZ (CORANZ)

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"ODE TO 1080"

by BILL AXBEY

No more pork calls
No harrier soars
No falcon stoops to kill
The deadly rain has fallen
The birds no longer trill
Look at what we've done
The risks are almost nil?
A dead one here a dead one there
He used the phrase "1080 will be ill
But never mind, the moneys fair
We have a job for life
So dump it on them from the air
Its worth a little strife

Bill Axbey....Some called him our
'Greatest Conservationist'.
He used the phrase "1080 will be
NZ's own Agent Orange"
<https://www.abebooks.com/book-search/author/bill-axbey/>



NZ Falcon - nzbirdsonline

What will Bird of the Year look like - If we keep aerial dropping 1080 on our native birds?

Each year, thousands of people vote for which bird deserves to be crowned Bird of the Year. But what many people don't realise is that our native birds are in crisis. Many are at serious risk of going extinct. Yet Forest and Bird support DoC's blatant mission of destruction in its quest to eradicate every native species in our forests under the guise of their abysmal 'Predator Free' programme. You really have to wonder how stupid our bureaucrats and politicians are when they support these poisons programmes. No poisoning programme has ever worked well anywhere in the world, just look at what we eventually found out about the government supported DDT poisoning. DDT is an Organochlorine pesticide which was applied in pelletised form to agricultural pastures to control grass grub from the late 1940's until 1970, when it was banned in New Zealand. DDT concentrations were very high in human milk. Because of the

effects on our environment and animals there were many other effects that DDT had on humans, due to the flow of contamination and direct contamination. The fish are affected by DDT and birds eat fish. Forest and Bird were hypocritically asking for votes in this year's 'Bird of the Year' competition, when then state that sixty-eight per cent of our birds are in trouble and 1 in 3 are at risk of becoming extinct. This includes the hoiho (yellow-eyed penguin), which could go extinct on the mainland within 50 years due to habitat loss, introduced predators, climate change, and the overfishing of their ocean environments. They forgot to mention the aerial droppings of poison. Is this because they support the aerial dropping of 1080. HELLO. Many areas of our forests are now completely bird free, nothing, nil, zero. All have been killed and many are close to complete eradication as they dump tons of 1080 on our forests but the areas around our rural roads where many stoats,

rats and weasels live are ignored. There are many alternative methods for pest eradication and plenty of people willing to help, but they are being ignored by the government and DoC. Forest & Bird supporters do so much work to protect and restore our local wildlife and wild places through predator control, plantings, ecosystem restoration, and advocacy. Sure Forest and Bird are doing great work like along Wellington's southern coast they are protecting little blue penguins with predator control, plantings, and by providing nest boxes for them to call home. Forest & Bird also led New Zealand to victory in the Supreme Court to protect the Ruahine Forest Park from being flooded, ensuring that conservation land belongs to all of us, and to nature. They have successfully saved thousands of hectares of native forest and protected areas on land and in the sea.

Game Trophy Export

Levy labelled treachery
The Game Animal Council Act 2013 made provision for the Council to derive revenue from the export of game animal trophies from NZ. Within the Act, this was the primary, mandated funding stream provided, says Don Hammond, Chair of Game Animal Council During 2016 and early 2017, a

proposed levy system was developed and put out for public consultation. A total of 114 individual submissions were received and these were used to modify the proposal as appropriate. This is treachery!!! What they are trying to do is get the NZ hunter to pay which is a veiled way to bring in a deer hunt-

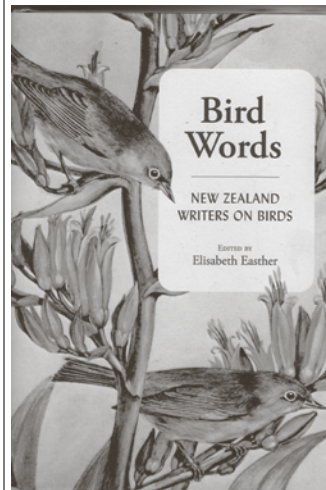
ing licence one way or the other. A recommendation was then made to the Associate Minister of Conservation (Hon Peter Dunne) with a formalized proposal yet to be formally considered by Cabinet. Now the election is over, the Council will engage with the incoming Minister around progressing sustainable funding, including potential next steps for the levy proposal and/or consideration of alternative funding streams as soon as possible. This is setting the grounds for a hunting licence, probably underneath this is the firearms control issues and why DoC are eradicating wild pigs and deer from many traditional hunting areas. This means that for overseas hunters and commercial operators who support them, the proposed levy on exported trophies which was anticipated to be in place in early 2018 has not yet been approved. This baloney should be stopped as it completely unnecessary and a money grab by the GAC. In its cry for more funding (promised under the Act) the GAC says that until the Government reaches a decision, the Council will have insufficient resources to begin full implementation of its work plan to improve opportunities for all sectors of the hunting community. The only improvements the GAC are likely to make are salary increases for themselves.

A Wife asks her husband, "Could you please go shopping for me and buy a carton of milk and if they have avocados, get 6. A short time later the husband comes back with 6 cartons of milk.
The wife asks him, "Why did you buy 6 cartons of milk?"
He replied, "They had avocados." If you're a woman, I'm sure you're going back to read it again.
Men will get it the first time.

He must pay!

Husband and wife had a tiff. Wife called up her Mum and said, "He fought with me again, I am coming to live with you." Mum said, "No darling, he must pay for his mistake. I am coming to live with you."

Book reviews

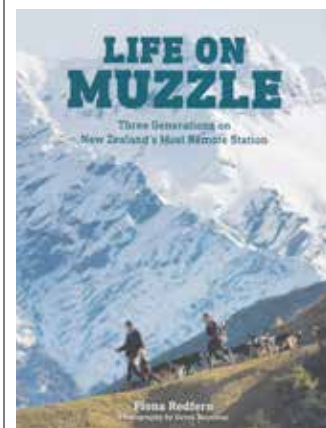


"Bird Words"

by Elisabeth Easther
published by Penguin Random House, price \$35.
Reviewed by Tony Orman

New Zealand native birds have always fascinated from the days of Captain Cook 1769 who mentioned in his diary the wondrous bird song

he heard in the Marlborough Sounds. Predators are blamed for the decline in bird numbers but it's food for thought the Maori migrants in the 14th century introduced the kiore rat. So James Cook heard wondrous bird song, 400 years later. Today predators are blamed for the demise of birds but what has been the role of chemicals more particularly eco-system poisons like 1080 and brodifacoum? But to examine the causes is not the intent of this book. It is a celebration of New Zealand birds through the eyes and writings of a variety of Kiwi personalities. Writers like Frank Sargeson, Owen Marshall, Philip Temple, Denis Glover, Marion Day, Richard Holdaway and others are there along with columnists like Karl du Fresne and Steve Braunias either in prose of poetry. Richard Holdaway's "Haast's Eagle" is intriguing for it was the giant eagle with an incredible three metre wing span that preyed on moa. The collection mixes mythology, whimsy, humour, fact and poetry. Selected contributions are excellent, tribute to Elisabeth's Easther's judicious selection. Strongly recommended.

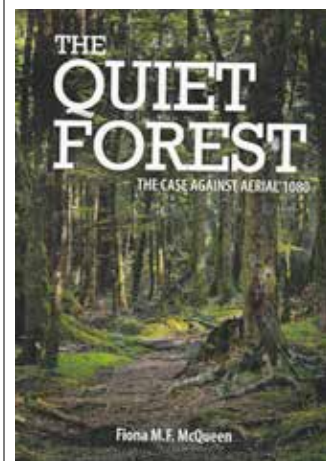


"Life on the Muzzle"

by Fiona Redfern published by Penguin Random House.
Price \$45. Reviewed by Tony Orman

This is the story of a Kaikoura region high country sheep station The Muzzle. written by Fiona Redfern, the daughter of Colin and Tina Nimmo

who spent many years farming the rugged and isolated block. Isolated in the extreme, the station is tucked away in to the west of the Clarence River and loomed over by the stark Kaikoura Range skyline. As the kea flies the station is not too far from Kaikoura township. Consequently travel by air, fixed wing or helicopter is by far the quickest - just 15 minutes. Vehicular travel is in contrast, rugged with 25 small river crossings that can become raging torrents in adverse weather and then there's the Clarence River, a daunting challenge. Then once across the Clarence it's a three hour drive. Fiona and husband Guy farm the legendary station. Fiona's writing is excellent, nicely laid back, sensitive and expressive. A feature of the book are the often stunning photos by Derek Morrison. There's little hunting and fishing in the book but it's an intriguing story and give a grand insight into the South Island high country life. Highly recommended - a great absorbing read.



"The Quiet Forest" subtitled "The Case Against Aerial 1080"

by Fiona McQueen, price \$35. Available from Paper Plus or direct from Tross Publishing (www.trosspublishing.co.nz)
Reviewed by John McNab.

Alone among the world's countries, New Zealand allows itself to be satu-

rated with the deadly poison 1080 which indiscriminately kills all life that require oxygen. Author Fiona McQueen graduated from Otago University's School of Medicine in 1980 and has had a distinguished career in health and international academic world too. A passionate tramper she knows well the alpine areas of the South Island. She in very fair objective fashion, as befitting a highly qualified background, examines all the pros and cons to the 1080 debate and says 1080 has resulted in the wild ecosystem sagging at "half mast". "All the green 1080 pellets have achieved nothing" she says. "Lots of creatures have died painful lingering deaths to no avail. The birds are not thriving anymore. And the rats will be back in big numbers sooner rather than later." Her parting shot is "I hope senses will prevail here too and this futile battle will eventually be abandoned." This is a very good book, meticulously researched and well written. If you care go get a copy for just \$35. It's packed with powerful ammunition to speak up and stop the eco-destruction.

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Letter to editor

Buck Off Big Business

Dear Editor,
Thank you for your paper which unlike others, dares to expose the goings-on and in the case of the NZ Business Initiative, big business. Your paper is a veritable watch-dog. Your expose of the NZ Business Initiative will alert all recreational sea anglers. Legacy is an organisation we should be thankful for. It is on the case so as to speak. Mr Randall Bess, former Ministry Fisheries employee by the way, is promoting an Australian model for New Zealand. His "excuse" is that recreational fisher's needs "management". At this stage, Mr Editor, allow me to explain to readers the NZ Business Initiative is the former Business Roundtable, notorious during the 1980's Rogernomics upheaval for grabbing public assets at bargain prices put up by two of its cohorts Roger Douglas and Richard Prebble. Older readers will recall the saga. Anyhow Mr Bess says anglers are catching too much. He is wrong. Recreational fishing represents less than 3% of the total harvest and less than 10% of total harvest from the inshore fisheries. Most other inshore fish stocks are dominated by commercial harvest. Travelling with Mr Bess speaking in support of the NZ Business Initiative is a former president NZ Recreational fishing council. Where does NZRFC stand? Anglers must be alert to further developments by the NZ Business Initiative.

*J van Zwart
South Island*

Does DOC Conspire?

Dear Sir
The recent veiled accusations by DOC that the anti-1080 public may be to blame for loosening wheel nuts on DOC contractors vehicles and placing 1080 poison baits in a DoC letter box address, is typical of the usual bureaucratic tactics. It wasn't that long ago when 1080 poison protesters were accused attempting to poisoning babies by contaminating baby formula and hundreds of known protesters were visited by police and subjected to these accusations. It turns out it was an ex government employee, one of the poison "industry, who is now in jail, Jeremy Kerr. I was at the Kea Conservation Trust meeting at Arthurs Pass earlier this year where DOC boss Lou Sanson spoke, with his first breath he waded into those of us opposing the indiscriminate use of 1080 poison saying they had reached new lows by slashing tyres, as it turned out it was

not 1080 protesters slashing tyres but a few youths with nothing better to do not 1080 protesters at all. But DOC bureaucrats never give up trying to frame the anti-1080 public. It would seem to me those supporting the use of this toxin are seeking to maximise publicity in their favour by condemning the actions of the innocent before getting the true facts. Perhaps if I was a conspiracy theorist I could accuse the vehicles owners of loosening the wheel nuts themselves to place blame on 1080 protesters so as to gain sympathy for their cause. But then Man was conspiring back in Roman Times when Julius Caesar, Brutus and Cassius were plotting.

*Lewis Hore
Oamaru*

Introduction of unpopular recreational fishing policy

Dear Sir
As always the Fishing and Outdoors newspaper is a good read. Thanks for your advocacy highlighting the poor performance of MPI and continuous degradation of our fishing stocks. I was recently at the NZSFC AGM in Tauranga when Randle Bess spoke together with Dr Andrew Rowland from the West Australian Recfishwest. I struggled to see the relevance of why Randle Bess had Recfishwest/Andrew Rolland, present. Rolland's assertions of their relevance in WA are that Recfishwest, provided a buffer/'whipping boy' for the politicians to introduce unpopular recreational fishing policy. Arguing that following consultation with Recfishwest the politicians were entitled to introduce damaging policy to rec fishing as due process was followed and Recfishwest signed off on the policy. In the current NZ environment – I see NZSFC & Legasea as being highly effective advocates, their science and independent advocacy to date is impeccable. They are probably too effective in continually provided research/science based arguments that continually expose PMI & Industry's selective and often misleading submissions into Fisheries Management. I clearly see why MPI/Industry need such a skilled advocate (NZSFC/Legasea) silenced and removed. The argument that I see should become your publications continuous unrelenting message is:

Inshore	Rec	fishing
a. Less than 3% of total harvest from NZ marine waters*		
b. Less than 20% of total harvest from NZ inshore fisheries*		
*A Review of The Future		

Catch report. Legasea www.legasea.co.nz 29 Aug 2017
With this 3% of total resource

- 700,000+ people fish in NZ every year
- Spending \$946 million dollars
- And generate \$1.7 billion dollars in economic activity
- @.65 million fishing days year
- Rec fishing 5th most popular recreational activity
- 8100 full time jobs
- Generate \$136 million GST revenue
- \$53 million personal Income tax
- 100,000 tourists fish while visiting NZ
- 39,000 tourists hire charter boats
- \$89 million spent by fishing tourists
- 1,100 full time jobs supported by fishing tourism

Ref: Recreational Fishing in NZ - A billion dollar Industry – New Zealand Marine Research Foundation, Mar 2016
Therefore this 3% recreational catch must:

- Be recognised as an integral part of NZ's heritage and Kaitiakitanga
- be protected.
- And be enshrined in legislative protection
- enjoy proactive best management processes to ensure all major species are returned to BMSy50

This 3% rec fishery is too valuable too integral as underpinning NZ'ers connection with the sea to be risked/squandered not to be venerated.

*Name withheld
Bay of Plenty*

NZDA Not my Rep!

Dear Sir,
NZ Deerstalkers Association president had the audacity to recently say NZDA wanted a mandate to represent "recreational hunters generally." I find this to be impertinent. NZDA may claim a membership of 9,000 or so I have heard. This is inflated by family membership. Even accepting 9,000 that would be about one seventh of the total number of recreational hunters. I have become disillusioned and disappointed with NZDA over it's lack of fortitude and fight when NZ hunters find the country being blitzed with 1080 drops for no reason. NZDA have been silent. In cases like the Wakatipu whitetail herd, NZDA branches have been appeased by deer repellent use. The truth is deer repellent does not work. Who will guarantee DOC or OSPRI put it in with the poison anyhow? A letter in the last issue "Publication So Informative" by Christine Chapel was on the mark. I find "Fishing and Outdoors" valuable in informing me of the issues and happenings just as a true (news) paper should.

*Ex-NZDA Member
Christchurch*

Rivers no longer serve anglers

Dear Sir
In our Ohinemuri district, the following rivers do no longer serve the fresh-water anglers, being....the "Ohinemuri", the Waitewhata, the Waitekauri, and the big Waihou, south of the Puke Bridge at Paeroa. We succeeded in asking for some re-stocking the Ohinemuri, some 5 months ago. I assisted our Auckland/Waikato fish Ranger, in liberating 200 one-year old hatchery trout, all clearly banded with yellow plastic markers, however up till now, some 6 months afterwards not one marker has been returned to the fishery-ranger. We ourselves, living at and near-by this river, continued our very regular sightings, plus fishing attempts, without any results. The same applies to the other 3 rivers mentioned above, apart

from "no further liberation of fish", as the lack of success on the Ohinemuri, was stopped further liberations, you can imagine. The Waitewhata and the Waitekauri rivers, run mainly through farmland, into the Ohinemuri river which finally runs into the big Waihou. The Waihou river (at its start near whites road Putaruru - entry, is absolutely clean, and usually young trout are present there. When it actually passes (the Waihou) here at the Paeroa - Puke bridge, the water is far from clear, you can imagine, and as retirees, me and my mate continue to visit it, mainly due to our age-related limited mobility, while the jetty provides safe seating, and it continuous to "get.us-out-of the house". However, whereas the Auckland fly-fishers used to have a yearly competition on our Ohinemuri river, they stopped coming some years ago, obviously for the aforementioned lack of actions. We can only hope for a change in government, which will hopefully start with a genuine "clean-water-programme", as promised trust this info is of some use to you....

Gus.V.

Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game would like to thank Gus for his long and tireless commitment to protecting the rivers in the Paeroa area. Gus is absolutely correct in terms of his description of the poor state of our lowland rivers including the Waihou. The issues Gus has described are not unique to the Waikato and New Zealand needs meaningful water quality standards if we expect future generations to recreate in rivers. The lack of land use regulations at a regional council level have left many of our rivers in an awful state. Hopefully the Waikato Regional Council will be successful in cleaning up the Waikato and Waipa Rivers through the Plan Change 1 process and the lessons learnt can be applied to the rest of the region. The good news is that due to the cool weather last year fish numbers

in the Ohinemuri are up. Sport Fly Fishing New Zealand recently held the Auckland Regional Championships on the Ohinemuri River with 8 anglers catching nearly 90 fish in a day with an average length of 30 cm.

*Dr Adam Daniel
Fisheries Manager
Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game*

Politics and Election

I read with interest, Rupert Pye's comments on the election result.. I particularly focused on his comment questioning "where were the fishing and hunting and environmentally minded New Zealanders at the polls. Frankly too many are selfishly apathetic. Apathy is commonplace. It's plain to see. Take a look at the last two Fish and Game elections where in many regions not enough nominations were received to fill the council seats. The voting turnout by shooters and anglers was woefully low. But hey - is the public awakening? The last government got away with environmental murder. It's bizarre that the Environment Minister Nick Smith is in the front line to gut the RMA, at the expense of the environment. His advocacy has made a mockery of the portfolio Minister for the Environment. What about organisations who you might expect to have some grunt? But who is going to challenge the government or Nick Smith? Fish and Game NZ is bound by statute to the Minister of Conservation and government. Sadly it seems a toothless tiger. The Department of Conservation is government-run. Besides it advocates for massive 1080 poison drops at the expense of the native birds and invertebrates. Does DOC care? DOC seems disinterested in river flows yet those rivers are habitat for native fish and trout. DOC manages the Taupo trout fishery by law. It is by law, entrusted to look after native aquatic life. But it stands lamely by, turning a blind eye to the fate of the public's rivers.

NZ Deerstalkers seemed absent. I didn't hear a squeak out of them. Apathy is a major worry. Consequently the world has become ruled by top-down, dictatorial, often arrogant governments. But one country stands as an exception - France. As political commentator Chris Trotter recently put it, "French governments are frightened of the French people." "Any perceived threat to their rights---is met by the French people, with action - on the streets." In the outdoors the 1972 New Zealand election - 43 years ago - was a landmark one for action. The National government wanted to destroy Lake Manapouri in the "people's national park" to give cheap, heavily discounted power to a corporate foreign consortium. The people rose up in anger and formed "Save Manapouri." The government then wanted trout farming. Anglers rose up in wrath. The government did a deal with a rich American to sell public land in Te Anau's Upukerora valley for a luxury lodge to exploit fishing and hunting and lock Kiwis out. The NZ Deerstalkers' Association rose up in wrath. The 1972 election saw the National government dumped in favour of Norman Kirk's Labour one. Kirk significantly loved fishing and hunting and the outdoors. The Kirk government banned trout farming, Manapouri was saved from drowning and the Upukerorora deal collapsed. Fast forward 43 years, to 2015. Chris Trotter ended his recent column with "it would seem the habit of revolution and the knack of frightening governments, are forgotten at the people's peril." Yes at the outdoor sector's peril too. Yet that outdoor sector is potentially politically powerful with towards a million Kiwis going fishing, hunting, tramping and other outdoor recreation. When it does wake up - if it can rouse itself, it will be too late. Are you awake or dozing?

*Tony Orman
Marlborough*



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Twenty Years on

By Ken Sims and Graham Carter

October 1 marks the 20th anniversary of the release of The State of New Zealand's Environment report, New Zealand's first major environmental review which was published in 1997. It took five years to produce, and was the first attempt to chronicle the state of New Zealand's environment. It even ranked the threats to freshwater, based on a survey of regional authorities. It concluded agriculture was the biggest threat, followed by urban sewage. "Agriculture outranks other sources of pressure on water largely because of the scale of pastoral farming," it said. It is obvious from nitrate-nitrogen concentrations... that many of our rivers probably exceed the guideline and are at risk of developing nuisance algae," the 1997 report said. Let's fast forward through 20 years of agricultural intensification. Speaking of the implementation of Horizons One Plan (which remember took 7 years of arguing to agree on), Sir Jeffery Palmer said: "the council had failed to adequately protect the water quality, was in breach of the Act and had even failed to properly follow its own promulgated plan. The illegality of the council's decision-making is quite stunning. : "... it is unlawful, invalid and in contravention of the RMA." F&G NZ, in conjunction with the Environmental Defence Society, was forced to initiate legal action against the council. Bryce Johnson, chief executive of Fish & Game New Zealand, commented on the recent election by saying: "Unfortunately, election campaign meetings in Manawatu and Wairarapa had seen alarmist claims being thrown around that were carefully calculated to strike fear into the hearts of voters.

The language was emotive – political candidates had talked about towns being "smashed" and farmers "ruined". The source of this doom and destruction was apparently Horizon Regional Council's precedent-setting effort to protect the environment, the One Plan. The One Plan was designed to manage natural resources throughout the Whanganui and Manawatu regions and in particular, tackle pollution, improve water quality and preserve environmental diversity. The plan's successful implementation will protect the region's resources and ensure not only that the environment is protected, but also that its economy is preserved. The reality is that New Zealand cannot continue down the path of ruining our environment for temporary economic gain. We cannot go on rewarding polluters and punishing sustainable, efficient operators. New Zealanders are tired of having to pick up the repair bill for the damage caused by pollution." It is interesting to contrast that with a statement issued on the same day by Bruce Gordon, Chairman of Horizons: "Another aspect of land management (by Horizons) is ensuring that nutrient leaching levels are kept at a level where they are not having a detrimental environmental impact on our waterways. The One Plan is a policy document that outlines nutrient leaching limits for certain catchments. While the implementation of this document has recently been questioned, Horizons is committed to finding a way forward and will be undertaking informative community meetings throughout the Region to discuss the next steps." If you call being found to be acting unlawfully by the Environment Court, 'being questioned'. That doesn't imply a whole lot of ownership of the prob-

lem to us. We also understand that Horizons has been unable to come up with a lawful way of implementing its own plan, and is taking about redrafting the whole thing from scratch. Does that mean another 7 years of prevarication while our public waterways, which Horizons are charged with managing, continue to deteriorate? Twenty years since the publication of the original The State of New Zealand's Environment report, when taxpayers money is being used to both subsidise agricultural intensification, and clean up the resultant mess; when private individuals have to fund legal challenges to regional authorities, just to get them to obey the law and their own rules on pollution; when industry, regional authorities and environmentalists are still talking past each other about blame, while both the science and the legal responsibilities are quite clear; it is difficult not to be cynical about the future of our public waterways. We all knew it was coming, and we exacerbated rather than prevented it. The pity is that after twenty, often bitter, years, the landing (if we can affect one) is likely to be hard, rather than soft. The OECD's report on New Zealand's environmental performance is crystal clear. New Zealand's 100% Pure reputation is at immediate risk from the degradation of many New Zealand lakes and rivers. International media, buyers of New Zealand products, tourism interests and public opinion polls have all been ringing alarm bells, and now the OECD itself has joined the uproar. As the report notes, "fresh water is a fundamental asset underpinning New Zealand's economy", in primary production as well as tourism and many other industries.

While leaders in national and local government and primary production have tried to shut down freshwater scientists and others warning about the damage to New Zealand's waterways, they can't ignore this message from the international community. Decisive action to enhance the state of many springs, streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, groundwater and aquifers across the country must be taken. Although much was hoped from the Land and Water Forum, which for almost a decade has brought key stakeholders together to agree on ways of taking care of New Zealand's water courses, the government has not listened to most of the Forum's recommendations. If charging for the commercial use

of fresh water is ever introduced, it is imperative that this income flow is not privatised. All New Zealand citizens have a stake in the country's waterways, and if water charges are introduced, this funding should be dedicated to improving fresh water quality for the benefit of all. While the government cites William Blackstone (an early authority on English common law) to the effect that "no one owns the water", Blackstone was equally adamant that no water user has the right to pollute, foul, corrupt or divert and stop waterways in ways that deprive others of their "lawful enjoyment". This might be news to many dairy farmers, foresters and developers in New Zealand. The legal rights of all citizens to en-

joy waterways across New Zealand should underpin the work of a Waterways Commission. It is vital that the application of national standards for fresh water is nationally monitored by an independent body, to ensure that the management of waterways and any funding from water rights are not hijacked by private interests. The OECD's report is a call to action. Declining standards for fresh water in New Zealand must be decisively tackled. A Waterways Commission – one that is truly independent and well resourced, reconciles the rights and responsibilities of iwi with those of other citizens, and takes good care of our waterways – would bring urgency and national oversight to this task.

Turning the Tide on Salmon decline

Fish & Game is organising a two-day symposium, Turning the Tide, to discuss the South Island's troubled wild salmon fishery, to be held at the Hotel Ashburton on the weekend of November 11 and 12. Ashburton not being an easy venue for non-Cantabrians to attend is likely to stop many from coming along. The salmon – known as the King, Chinook or Quinnat – is found mainly on the West Coast, Canterbury, Otago and Marlborough. The species spends much of its life at sea and is highly valued by freshwater anglers, who target the fish during its migratory spawning runs up many of the South Island's major rivers. The salmon season draws tourists and anglers from overseas and nationally from all walks of life and all corners of the country. But in recent years, salmon runs have declined. The myth that you could catch plenty of salmon is another drawcard as during some seasons the fishing used to be good, and some

not so good. Sometimes fishers would get only 2 or 3 fish a season. "Where anglers could once each catch plenty of salmon every season, the runs have dwindled to a shadow of their former glory. What there did use to be was a "picket fence" of anglers up each side of the mouth, tangling lines and bitching at each other. Still, the whole fishery is now pretty stuffed, from loss of returning fry that get sucked into irrigation off takes to reduced flows and freshes to get fish in and up the river. It's a whole system problem where some locals are even critical of F&G handling of the matter. The North Canterbury region's chair Trevor Isitt says it will provide a real opportunity for concerned anglers and other stakeholders to have their say. "There is a real desire by anglers to get to the bottom of what is causing the runs of wild salmon to drop from their historic highs. "While there is a lot of speculation and a wide range of theories,

the exact reasons remain elusive. "We want the symposium to help develop a solid and realistic action plan which will aim to see the magnificent runs of salmon restored to their past glory," Mr Isitt says. Overseas and New Zealand experts such as Tom Quinn, Dave Willis, Rasmus Gabriellsson, Mike Joy, Tony Threadwell, Duncan Grey and Fish & Game staff like Mark Webb, Tony Hawker, Jayde Couper, Dirk Barr and our new Chief Executive Martin Taylor are to speak at the symposium. There will be workshops for anglers to contribute to formulating the action plan. Mr Hall says the symposium will bring the strongest focus on the sea-run salmon fishery for some years and the aim is to give provide participants with the opportunity to be part of managing the fishery into the future. "Having anglers at the symposium is of course vital as their experience and observations are invaluable," Mr Hall says.

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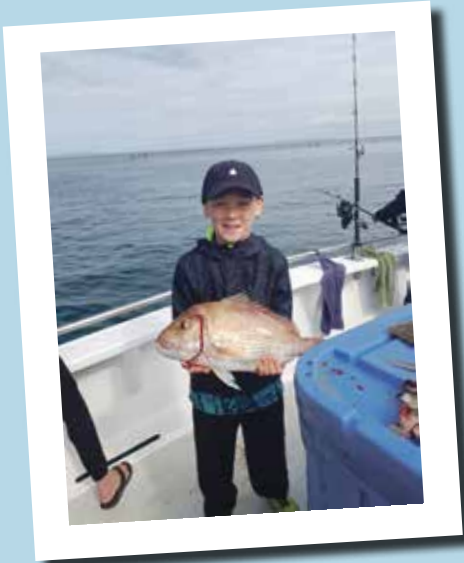
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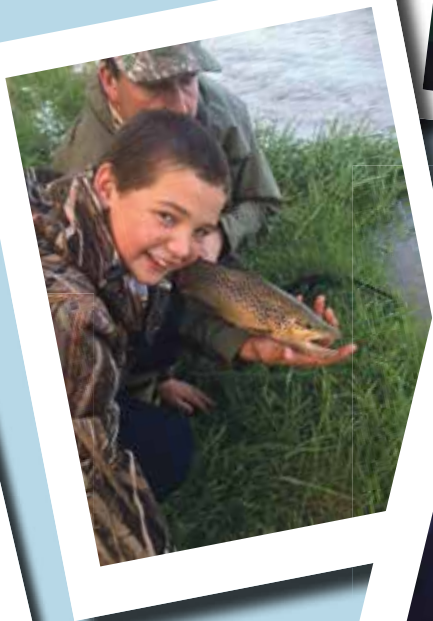
Cooper 4 years old, went fishing with dad and caught his first keeper! He enjoyed eating it just as much as he did catching it!-->



<--Conner Kennedy age 10 (from Hamilton) with his snapper caught recently with Coromandel Fishing Charters. He surprised us all with this fish. He just pulled it up without saying anything. It's the biggest snapper he's caught so far and he can't wait to get out and catch some more. Thanks heaps Fishing and Outdoors he is one happy kid.

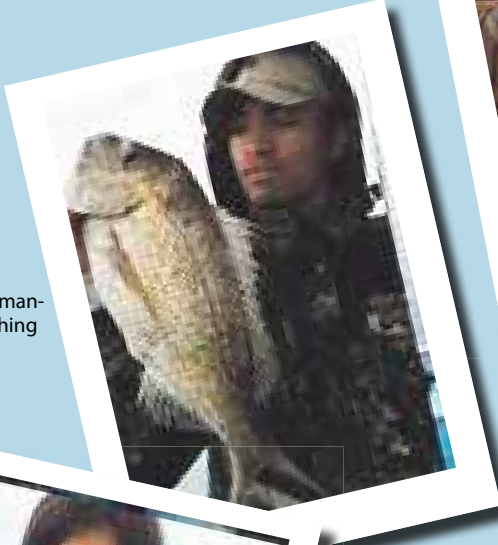
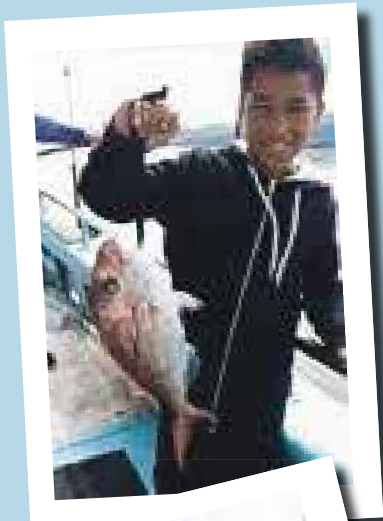


One of the Brown trout caught by Dylan Farrar in the Waikato River Trout fishing competition that ended 15th October 2017. Dylan is 9yrs old and has this year started tying his own flies, one of his flies he made caught this Brown trout in the Rangiriri area on the river this year. The smaller trout was released again. Very proud moment for dad 'Steve Farrar. -->



Dylan Farrar with another nice Snapper caught in Coromandel, he helped his dad Steven Farrar fill the bin and can't get enough of fishing!

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<-- Lori with Janine's catch of the day

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haul in your catch you use a 2.5kg electric game reel powered by a lithium battery strapped to the rod so you can move along the beach freely. The Aerokontiki is a highly intelligent machine, and has many built in safety features e.g. on start-up it will fly straight up and then forward. From this moment onwards, it will stay within 20m to 60m above ground and maintain this position until it returns to base. It's intuitive battery management system monitors battery charge and if it reaches a critical level that would put it at risk of not having enough charge to return back, it will take over controls from the user, then drop the fishing line and return back to base automatically. If you have disabilities or cannot carry heavy items but have good hand control the Aerokontiki will make long line fishing a viable and effective option for you. Aerokontiki an opportunity to take surf casting to a new and exciting level. Testimonials: Sheryl Monk - Christchurch "This is Amazing!!! Kyle is very helpful and very knowledgeable and I will be heading home feeling very confident that I can fly this. and I'm a 60 + nanna" Les Viskovich - Epsom, Auckland, New Zealand "The training, the follow up, the communication, the quality of the

products have all been excellent and my expectations have always been exceeded every step of the way. The AK is by far the best form of Kontiki fishing I have ever experienced. The catches are significantly higher because I have more hooks in the fish zone for longer than any other system. This is particularly so when fishing in big rips as I do quite often on Muriwai beach. With the AK in a 3 hour period I can do three sets with the hooks in the zone for 40 minutes per set (totaling 120 mins) whereas with the torpedo I would be lucky to do 2 sets with hooks in the zone for about 20 mins per set (totaling 40 mins) before the line gets washed up on the beach. Also, the AK is a lot more fun. I have probably done 30 or 40 sets so far and even now I get as big a thrill seeing the line being taken out as I did the first time I used it. Overall as you can see I am very impressed with the whole system and would certainly encourage anyone interested to give it a go" - Les Viskovich If you are interested and would like the opportunity to get a 50% discount on our trace board designed for launching your baits visit our web page www.aerokontiki.co.nz and submit an enquiry before 30/11/17. Ph: 09 2746293, Phil Evans on 021749881 or Shima on 0221265503 Visit our Facebook site to see our Aerokontiki community.

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Lack of Local Trade fish allow Pāua poacher lucrative business

Pāua poacher banned from fishing for 3 years and ordered to serve home detention. A member of a Wellington-based pāua poaching operation has been banned from fishing for 3 years and ordered to serve 7 months home detention after earlier pleading guilty to more than 20 charges under the Fisheries Act. Thirty-nine-year-old Sonny Gilbert Wairau from Brooklyn was sentenced for his part in a black market operation when he appeared in the Wellington District Court on Friday. The operation involved 3 main offenders that called themselves

The Pāua Corporation. Over a 7 month period, the men illegally took 257kg of greenweight pāua and 31kg of sea cucumbers from around the Wellington coastline and then illegally sold the pāua and sea cucumbers. The value of the pāua, if sold legitimately, was more than \$17,000. Ministry for Primary Industries spokesman, Steve Ham, says the men acted jointly as well as separately in contravention of the Fisheries Act. "At the time of offending, Wairau was a prohibited fisher due to past offending and so also faced 10 charges of contravening a prohibition order.

"This was an elaborate operation that saw large amounts of pāua and sea cucumbers taken and then sold unlawfully. This sort of offending, especially around the Wellington region, has a serious effect on the sustainability of the stock and it deprives future generations of a resource that they are legitimately entitled to enjoy and consume." Various items of fishing gear that Wairau used in the commission of his offending was forfeited to the Crown. The other 2 offenders are currently also before the court.

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Blue Springs Controversial application pulled

An online petition which gained more than 70,000 signatures opposing NZ Pure Blue's application for resource consent to extract water from a spring near Putaruru has seen the company withdraw its application. The company NZ Pure Blue Springs Ltd is the same one that due to public pressure had their Ashburton application in 2016 turned down (1.4 billion litres

of artesian water per annum). South Waikato District Council mayor Jenny Shattock said the council was disappointed it had fallen over as one of its main focuses was on growing the economy and creating new jobs which shows the Council is less interested in environmental issues and would rather collect the revenue generated by the company. The power of public opinion is

important and its time that Councils stood up and protected our environment, it is our responsibility to direct this and make sure it happens in the voting booth. The much used 'reason for supporting ventures such as this' being growing the economy and jobs' is real in the minds of many and - rather than taking into account long-term sustainability.

Rethink required on waterway fencing requirements

New research on keeping stock out of rivers and streams requires an urgent and radical rethink of the current national riparian fencing strategy. At the moment, streams wider than a metre and deeper than 30cm must be fenced to keep stock out of them, but this rule doesn't apply to smaller waterways. However, New Zealand scientific research just published in the international magazine Journal of Environmental Quality questions the current approach. The research by Dr Richard McDowell has found the smaller, exempt streams actually account for the majority - 77 per cent - of the contamination load in a catchment. Dr McDowell's research says as a result, not requiring smaller streams to be fenced may simply be undermining efforts to stop declining water quality. Dr Richard McDowell is the principal scientist for AgResearch-Invermay's Environment Group, Lincoln University Professor and Chief Scientist for the National Science Challenge. McDowell's research paper makes for sobering reading and calls into question the dairy industry's claim that it is fencing 90 per cent of the country's waterways. Dr McDowell's research proves

beyond question that this figure no longer stands close scrutiny. The dairy industry is only talking about 90 per cent of larger waterways which have to be fenced anyway - not the critically important smaller ones where most of the pollution is occurring. This extremely important piece of research depicts the science to show what we have long suspected - small waterways are crucially important to the environment and need to be properly protected from contamination. These smaller streams are vital to the environment - they flow into the bigger streams and rivers and Dr McDowell's research shows that by the time they join up with bigger streams, much of the pollution has already occurred. Protecting these small streams need to be an urgent priority as these smaller waterways are the capillaries of our lakes and rivers and provide essential habitat and breeding areas for a range of species. The current approach means they can be treated like farm drains for animal effluent and farm run-off. This has to change. If the farming sector is serious about reducing its impact on water quality and restoring rivers to be swimmable, then it has to exclude

stock from all water bodies - regardless of size - and create more extensive riparian buffer zones.

Farming leaders recently admitted the country's rivers are not in good condition and promised to restore them so people could once again swim in them. They now have the science showing what they need to do, so there is no need to wait any longer to act on that promise. New Zealanders are becoming increasingly upset by the decline in water quality and the impact that is having on their favourite rivers, lakes and streams. They want waterways to be swimmable, fishable and safe for food gathering. New Zealand's wealth relies heavily on clean fresh water. The country's two biggest income earners - tourism and agriculture - cannot survive without it. This latest research shows that urgent action is required to protect New Zealand's internationally unique point of difference and fencing all streams will play a significant role in preserving that heritage. Note - Dr Richard McDowell's research paper can be found here: <https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/jeq/articles/46/5/1038>



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Commercial eeling – MPI ignoring complaints

Freshwater eel populations around the world are in steep decline, yet in New Zealand, although longfins are still one of the most common and important freshwater fish, there are concerns about the methods and practices used by commercial fishers. Longfins are easy to catch and overfish. Over the last decade in New Zealand, eels - especially longfins - have turned from being considered a pest that preyed on newly established exotic trout, into a species that is in «gradual decline». Eels are highly valued and fished for customary Maori, recreational, or commercial purposes. The longfin eel is only found in New Zealand, while the shortfin is found throughout New Zealand, southeastern Australia, and the Pacific Islands. Recent initiatives by MPI to support its 'double the export value mandate' have supposedly sought to provide a better basis for managing the sustainable use of shortfin and longfin eel resources, yet with almost no policing commercial fishers can pretty much do what they like. Complaints of malpractices seem to be ignored and like the marine sector few if any prosecutions have followed. Commercial catch limits for eel were introduced across the country between 2000 and 2004. These limits have allegedly reduced the commercial harvest of both shortfin and longfin eels, and the eel fishing industry rationalised the number of fishers and processors. But this has introduced the greed factor and abhorrence at following the rules much like the problems caused by quotas in the marine industry. Commercial fisheries in New Zealand are managed under a Quota Management System (QMS), allowing a quota owner continued rights to catch a certain quantity of fish. A minimum size of 150 gm was introduced in 1981 (this was increased to 220 gm in 1992), with part-time fishers being excluded from the industry in 1984, and a moratorium on the issue of new fishing permits in 1988. A consensus amongst fishers saw the size increased to 300 gm which after a time became mandatory. Total limits for commercial longfin eel fishing were last reviewed in 2007, resulting in a 60 per cent cut from 193 tonnes to 81 tonnes a year to provide further confidence that the status of shortfin and longfin stocks would improve over the medium term. Freshwater eels are an important part of the freshwater ecosystem in New Zealand, however wetlands are still being drained, new flood banks, flood gates and pumping stations continue to be installed, and waterway channelisation and bankside vegetation removal is ongoing, all with little concern for the resulting loss of eel habitat. In 2013 a 7000-signature petition calling for a moratorium on the catching of native longfin eels was presented to Parliament to highlight the plight of the longfin, which is in danger of extinction. Longfin eels have been classified by the Department of Conservation as "at risk and declining" but not "threatened or endangered. They are a threatened species and they're an endemic species and commercial fishing is just finishing them off. However the MPI does not classify the eel as threatened, as it is being held to ransom by the commercial fishing industry. In 2007, a 4 kg maximum limit for freshwater eels was introduced to all commercial fisheries in New Zealand, with the requirement that eels larger than this must be released. This was designed to protect a proportion of longfin females, as these eels are particularly vulnerable to capture. With the exception of small quantities of eels caught for research purposes, it is not legal in New Zealand to catch glass eels or any eel weighing less than 220gm. The Eel Enhancement Company represents the interests of North Island eel quota owners and includes individuals, private companies and Maori entities. They catch eels at Karapiro Dam when they migrate up the Waikato river and release them on other dams up river. Both male and female longfin are

caught in the commercial fishery - but because male shortfin eels are almost always smaller than the minimum commercial size of 220 gm, the shortfin fishery is based almost entirely on female eels. Many Māori are opposed to the QMS concept of continued (perpetual) ownership, as they regard resources as common rather than private property. Iwi control or hold approx. 50% of North Island eel quota. Flyke netting is used by most commercial eel fishermen, with 100% of the total catch being caught in this way. These nets are extremely efficient at catching eels, and regulations govern the size of mesh used in nets and the size of escapement tubes placed in nets to allow undersized (<300 gm) eels to escape. But the positioning of these escapement tubes is important as some commercial fishers have discovered that the placement these tubes means less eels are able to escape. With almost no policing of the waterways by MPI these crooks can decimate the fishery with little to no consequences. Numerous complaints to the MPI have been ignored with only a few warnings given out. It appears that the MPI are condoning the blocking off of the drains as it allows these crooks to take undersize smaller fish which the factories are accepting. It also shows that the MPI are not doing their job in policing these fishers. Almost every net our cameraman found was blocking a channel. This means that the fishers are so confident they won't be caught they blatantly block the waterway. There is a huge high value market for smaller eels throughout Asia which makes this a lucrative business and there are many commercial fishers blatantly breaking the rules by blocking drains and channels with their nets knowing the MPI will do nothing about it. Commercially, New Zealand has been exporting eel products valued between \$NZ 4.9 and 9.9 million per year (Free On Board values) during the last 15 years (SeaFIC, 2010) to markets in Belgium, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Republic of Korea, Netherlands, Taiwan, United States of America and the United Kingdom there is demand for New Zealand eels, which may be processed into various forms, frozen, or sold as live eels. There is also a domestic market

where the eels are sold mainly as a live product in fish shops.

In Japan, freshwater eels are considered a delicacy and importing eels has become increasingly valued in light of declines in Japan's domestic eel catch.



Our cameraman found it easy to find illegal netting in most Waikato eel habitat. A series of photos showing a number of eel nets in different locations all blocking water channels clearly show that the MPI and Doc are not doing their jobs.



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Didymo Dave

LAKE SNOW

No, Lake Snow is NOT Didymo or Rock Snot, it is another diatom. It's been in New Zealand for a few years but only recently been DNA linked to a lake in Washington State, USA meaning we now regard it as an incursion. Currently it is known to be in some South Island lakes, in particular Lake Wanaka and Wakatipu and in Lake Waikaremoana in the North Island. So what's it like? Well I'm not a scientist and if you are looking for the real science on this horrible stuff there is plenty of information online. But basically the algae forms a sticky mass that hangs in the water secreting a glue like slime and it's the slime that is causing problems, particularly in Lake Wanaka. I've contacted plumbers in the Wanaka area and I'm getting the same story from them all. The slime gets through the town water filter system and starts blocking up washing machine filters, shower mixers and other household filters resulting in many people having to install a filter system at their own cost between the toby and their house. That water filter needs cleaning according to some residents every 2 weeks during the summer period. Out on the lake it's the headline troll-

ers that are having the most problems with the sticky crap sticking to their lines. There are also some reports of people competing in swimming events in Lake Wanaka noticing a slimy feel on the faces when exiting the water. Compliance to the Check Clean Dry programme is essential in stopping the transfer of Lake Snow to any other lakes, which reinforces the message that we need to Check Clean Dry to stop all freshwater pests as I discussed in last month's article. But with a word of warning, Lake Snow and Didymo can both be transferred as single cells but Lake Snow is stickier than Didymo so it needs a bit of a scrub ok? Which brings me to my biggest concern with Lake Snow. There is signage at the 2 Mile Bay boat ramp in Taupo and the boat ramp by the Harbourmaster's office but there is nothing in between. Now multisport athletes coming out of Lake Snow positive Central Otago lakes with their



wetsuits and flying into Taupo to compete in the Taupo Half Iron-man in December are a real risk. Why? Because currently they can check into their accommodation, put their wetsuits on, and head straight into the lake they go between the signage. So recently I've tried to stir a few things up like contacting elected officials, Taupo Town Centre, local businesses, newspaper articles, facebook posts and sitting on the side of the road with my sign trying to raise some awareness about this issue. And to be honest, I'm struggling a bit, but rest assured, as someone said to me the other day, it's a bit of a David and Goliath fight.....well we all know who won that one!!!

Sika deer release a likely hoax

You have to ask who are DoC trying to kid. Where in God's name would anyone find 50 Sika? Much less liberate them, Sika have been steadily moving west for years, Sambar too! More like Sanson trying to move heat off DoC in Whitianga where one of DoC's minions is facing charges of assault, also DoC having their 1080 stored right in the township! The bias against introduced wildlife species such as deer, trout, even possums and other crea-

tures liberated by the first European settlers needs burying. There have been pleas in past years to ditch the doctrine. There are strong anti-feelings against deer and even sports fish such as trout "in some quarters such as the Forest and Bird Society and within the Department of Conservation". Dr Smith who once said something positive wisely pointed out the selective hypocrisy in the anti-introduced dogma, saying it

was undeniable New Zealand had benefited from introduced species from farmed animals such as sheep, dairy cows, cattle and deer as well as fruit trees and vegetables. Doc, after peddling the fictitious 70 million possum figure for decades, has recently reluctantly revised that to about 35 million - probably still far-fetched. But accept the 35 million figure and possums would consume only 3.5% of new foliage. Is that a forest pest?



Early Bird Bait & Tackle Report



Early Bird Bait & Tackle Report By now everyone should be settled back into work after the Labour Long Weekend. I think for most people that ventured out on the sea the fishing was pretty good but I was still getting reports that it was hard going. Again the boat ramps were pretty busy and that means a lot of boats and noise from the motors. Amazingly this does deter fish from feeding unless of course you have a diesel engine when the reverse seems to happen and the fish come on the feed. We think this is because the mussel barges are like floating McDonald's to the fish and they always end up getting a smorgasbord of berley delivered straight to them (who wouldn't turn their nose up at that?). This of course doesn't mean that you have to rip the motor out of the old Ute that's been sat around in the back yard. However it does say a lot for using berley and especially around the mussel farms. For the un-educated population of 'Fishos' who venture out on the Firth and have never fished on the mussel farms, when the harvester is working everyone heads to the massive berley trail that it causes and sometimes it can be absolutely chaotic and dangerous. If you take a little time and look around for the mussel buoys that are riding high out of the water, then this could be your lucky day. When they are riding high, this means that the mussels on them where harvested recently

and most of the waste and broken shell is littering the bottom. This area remains a feeding ground for at least a week and putting a berley bomb down can only increase your chances. Over the past month a lot of John Dory have been caught along with some very big Gurnard. Both of these species move around

in families, especially the Jds. If you are lucky enough to have some live bait on-board, send it down to about one metre from the bottom and the chances are that one of these beautiful fish will grab it. Even after the first fish, try again because there will be more of them in the area. There are plenty of Snapper about and most of the reports I have had tell me that most fish are well over 40 cm and have plenty of Roe in them. Also the Kingfish are in abundance on and around the farms although not of great size so are at present mainly a pest. You will still get the big ones swimming around your boat but your chances of hooking them on a piece of bait are zero; "they're too clever for that old trick". Some guys carry a fishing bow but something that is much easier is a small spear gun. I have decided to stock a few of these to see how they live up to their name, so if you want one, come and speak to me. A few guys have been out getting scallops and have been rewarded with some big, fat ones from around the islands just out from Coromandel. This area always pays off dividends at this time of year and its not too far to travel. There are plenty of work-ups out there and I was told of another pod of Dolphins doing their rounds of the Firth. I haven't been told of any Orcas' about

but they will be around with their calves, chasing the stingrays which are abundant at the moment. Shore fishing has been difficult recently due to the persistent westerlies, although perseverance has been rewarded with some nice Snapper and Kahawai. Pillies and Sardines seem to be the outstanding bait at the moment (as they normally are) followed by Squid. If you are out on your boat drifting, then you should try one of the Sliders or Jitterbug type lures as they seem to do a fantastic job in catching the fish. I keep getting told that the hooks are too small on them but that is how they are designed so don't give us your excuses and get on with it. I have all of this in stock along with special Gurnard Rigs, Surf Rigs, Ledger Rigs, Strayline Rigs, Puka/Bluenose Rigs and much more. I'm always late opening on Friday night until at least 9pm so if you are coming through, look out for the flashing orange beacons (my shop). As most people know I encourage youngsters (and the odd adult) to get out there and catch



some good fish. Well; three young children and mum came and got their bait and had the morning fishing onboard Legionnaire and came back with some very nice fish (see photo). From left to right, Triton Taituha, Galaxie Taitua and Phoenix Taitua – three youngsters who enjoyed there morning out, while mum baited up all their hooks for them "well done mum". Also two more photos of my regular customers and their different types of fishing; Hannah with a nice 22lb Rainbow Trout from the Tekapo Canal (SI) and Liam with a nice Snapper from the Firth. If you want to catch them you have to be out there. You all know my opening hours 5am weekdays and 4am weekends. I have the biggest range of bait and berley on the Coromandel including Baby Octopus (food grade) which is perfect for the big Snapper. Until next time guys Tight Lines.



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WIFE: "I tell you the car has water in the carburetor."
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Dead Penguins

Did you ever wonder why there are no dead penguins on the ice in Antarctica?
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If a penguin is found dead on the ice surface, other members of the family and social circle have been known to dig holes in the ice, using their vestigial wings and beaks, until the hole is deep enough for the dead bird to be rolled into, and buried.

The male penguins then gather in a circle around the fresh grave and sing:
"Freeze a jolly good fellow." "Freeze a jolly good fellow."

Proposed rec licencing’s hidden agenda

Recreational fishing is a common law birth right of all New Zealanders. The ‘public right of fishing’ was agreed to by King John in the Magna Carta, which remains a cornerstone of the Westminster system. Just over 600 years later his successor again confirmed this right in the Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi). After Magna Carta the public right of fishing was gradually generalised by the courts and in English common law became an obligation to protect and enforce today’s public right of fishing. Nonetheless, the Magna Carta continues to be a potent, international rallying cry against the arbitrary use of power. In the common law - developed from early Roman law - fish belong to the category of wild beasts, which, until capture, are *res nullius* (no one’s property). This Roman idea carried through to the game laws of England, which holds that while fish were swimming, the common-law concept of the capture of wild things *ferae naturae* (not subject to absolute ownership) applied. Since the decimation of inshore stocks by the fishing industry in the early 1980s and the introduction of the

Quota Management System (QMS) in 1986 to control commercial fishers, the industry has been trying to overturn the public right of fishing. Under the quota management system a total allowable catch (TAC) is set for each species of fish. From a TAC allowances are made for customary catch by Māori, recreational fishing and other mortality caused by fishing, e.g. from illegal fishing. The remainder is the total allowable commercial catch (TACC), which is divided among the quota owners in the form of Annual Catch Entitlements (ACE). The Seafood Industry and their captured associates seek to turn the recreational allowance into quota, which in effect will change the recreational allowance to a property right, contrary to common law. It will also limit recreational catches to a fixed proportion of the TAC, unless additional quota can be bought from commercial fishers. Alternatively, as the population grows, reducing bag limits and quota busting will be endemic features of the recreational experience, and that’s to say nothing of rapid increase to fish prices.

Unless, cameras and electronic monitoring is mandated on all commercial vessels increased commercial catches means increased dumping and more fraudulent reporting. The nub of the issue is that a generation ago, the population was close to half the size it is now. As the population increased so too did recreational allowances, while commercial TACC’s decreased. Yet, Dr Randall Bess from the NZ Initiative strongly urges that fishing for fun is under pressure, and “needs to change”. The real question is under pressure from whom? It can’t be customary fishers who mostly fish under their recreational rights, as recreational fishers total catch amounts to only 2.7% of the total take. Commercial being the rest. Clearly, as Bess is not from New Zealand he does not understand New Zealand’s cultural birth right of fishing nor Te Tiriti o Waitangi. His naive and insensitive views have only angered Māori, who have said “we must fight this!” Bess looked overseas for inspiration on how to tackle fisheries management problems, but didn’t bother to visit England and read the Mag-

na Carta, nor understand all that flowed from it. Instead he went to Canada, USA, Mexico, and Australia. After speaking to a few insiders he seems to have hatched his plan. As a means to an end Bess proposes a peak body and recreational licencing, under the guise of better management and monitoring. He suggests industry owned FishServe can collect and manage recreational data and information. Ultimately, its envisaged industry will catch the fish not caught under the recreational quota allocation and provide industry with a very profitable exit strategy by selling their quota to recreational fishers.

This is the hidden agenda and the reason behind this deplorable idea. Some ‘fishing advocates’ have been completely sucked into the idea with the promise of funding for recreational management.

Bess’ newly proposed system of recreational fishing licences and monitoring is nothing more than a trap that enables the commercial industry to get their hooks into public fisheries. Now recreational and

customary fishers have to fight for their rights – to fish for subsistence. Considerable funds have been thrown at creating Bess’s proposal, which includes a futile attempt to brainwash recreational fishers about the need for a Western Australian Recfishwest style peak body. Bess seems to have forgotten that recreational fishers already have a peak body with 122 members spread throughout New Zealand – it’s called Parliament. Bess, singing the praises of the Western Australian Recfishwest, recommends that a NZ recreational peak body would have fully funded service level agreements similar to those of Recfishwest. But, this paper got different opinions about Recfishwest in Western Australia:

“I think that as time has gone on they are more about making money than the true voice of the rec fisher” and “I have many differences of opinion when it comes to what and how they lobby on our behalf, as they are paid by the Govt, so I feel they are reluctant to bite the paying hand too hard, if you know what I mean.”

South Australia has a very similar recreational system, but it has been a disaster for recreational fishers as recreational fisheries management has been infiltrated by commercial fishing advocates. It would be the end of recreational fishing as an enjoyable relaxing experience and would be turned into an un-necessary headache of red tape and rules enforced by officials who would spend more time on paperwork than enforcement. LegaSea has proven to be an effective advocate for recreational fishers in the Hawkes Bay, yet has been mostly ignored by the MPI. LegaSea has also produced science based research which has informed their policies and exposed MPI’s and industries selective and often misleading submissions on fisheries management. Trying create a new peak body is nothing more than an attempt to silence and remove LegaSea, an able and competent recreational advocate.

Bycatch responsible for sea lion decline

Getting caught in fishing nets is a major cause of death for the increasingly endangered New Zealand sea lion, according to new research from the University of Otago, Massey University and the University of Toronto. Scientists from the three universities have analysed government data of the New Zealand sea lion population and fisheries bycatch to investigate the role commercial fishing has played in the near 50 per cent decline of the species. Their conclusion, published in the international journal *PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America)*, is that, despite measures since 2001 to protect New Zealand sea lions from being killed in fishing nets, commercial fishing continues to affect their numbers. The authors believe the current management of sea lion bycatch in the arrow squid fishery around the subantarctic Auckland Islands places the population at risk of extinction, because the New Zealand government assumes fishing is not a major threat to the species. Lead author and population ecologist Dr Stefan Meyer, an Otago Department of Zoology PhD graduate, says the study presents a major breakthrough in understanding why New Zealand sea lions are declining at their main breeding colonies on the Auckland Islands. “Several threats, such as disease

and fisheries bycatch, have been postulated as causes of the sea-lion decline. However, until this research, studies have been unable to link these threats to the decline.” Associate Professor Bruce Robertson, of Otago’s Department of Zoology, says since 2001 sea-lion exclusion devices have been used in the arrow squid fishery to stop them drowning in the trawl nets. While the observed bycatch has declined, he says unfortunately there is no firm evidence the devices have successfully removed the bycatch threat. “What information is available raises concerns that the devices may be hiding sea-lion deaths by allowing dead sea lions to fall out of the nets at sea or causing injury that reduces life expectancy or reproductive ability.” Dr Meyer adds: “We now know that sea-lion exclusion devices have, despite all assumptions, obscured bycatch of New Zealand sea lions and that this factor posed a significant and ongoing impact to the population. Our findings are therefore a game changer in New Zealand sea lion management.” Professor Martin Krkosek, from the University of Toronto, says the findings are unique in global bycatch research. “Given what we have found in this case study, we urge a wider assessment of bycatch exclusion de-

vices used in global trawl fisheries.” In the recently released New Zealand sea lion threat management plan (TMP), published by the DoC and the MPI, the Government committed to halting the species’ decline within the next five years, aiming for a stable or growing population within the next 20 years. The current focus of the New Zealand TMP is on reducing pup deaths; fishing impacts are, incorrectly, thought to be only minor. Associate Professor Louise Chilvers from Massey University and Associate Professor Robertson have been researching New Zealand sea lions for almost 20 years. They question the downplaying of the role of commercial fishing in the sea-lion decline. “The *PNAS* study shows that the impact from the squid fishery is likely a key driver of the NZ sea-lion decline,” Associate Professor Robertson says. “With fishing threats being ignored in sea-lion management, it is hard to see how the Government’s goals to increase the population will be achieved. “We hope that our study will lead to meaningful management. The good news is there are a range of options open to the government to reduce the impact of fishing on the sea-lion population, while still allowing commercial fishing in the New Zealand sub-antarctic.”

they believe the world’s oceans have areas which can be exploited without doing any harm to ecosystems, making it possible to increase global fish catch to 200 to 250 million metric tons (MT) per annum

– more than double the roughly 100 million MT caught in 2016. Besides greater exploration of polar areas, Shestakov suggested global catches could be sustainably increased by catching more

mesopelagic fish and oceanic squid. So with China increasing their South Pacific fishing fleet and with Russia likely to come down here to fish our oceans increasing pressure will ultimately affect our fishery.

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China promises jobs - training for fisheries access

Make no bones about it China wants access to the South Pacific fishing areas and with the previous National Government who did everything in their power to make it happen. China needs our food resources and will do and promise anything and everything to get it. We as a nation are being sucked in by our bent and corrupt politicians who plan to accept these one sided trade deals. China’s top fisheries official has promised Fiji major investments in processing and training in

return for access to its waters. Speaking to officials at Fiji’s Ministry of Fisheries in Navu, Yu Kangzhen told his hosts, “We have huge potential for cooperation,” and promised China would create employment locally in processing, warehousing, and research facilities. Yu promised Chinese fishing companies would adopt a “sustainable approach” to fisheries in Fiji, in remarks reported by the propaganda department at the Agriculture Ministry in Beijing, where Yu is a vice minister in charge of fisheries.

During his visit to Fiji, Yu also met with the crews of locally docked Chinese vessels. While his office has pledged to police the activities of Chinese vessels operating in international waters, Yu has also in the past year vigorously defended China’s fishing fleets from what he’s termed as unfair criticism by Western governments and NGOs. And guess what they have already built the Silk Highway into the Northern Pacific and we are next.

Russian fisheries to double seafood haul

The chairman of Russia’s Federal Agency for Fisheries, Ilya Shestakov has said that the world’s oceans can yield twice as much catch of fish as is currently caught. In his remarks at the opening of the International Seafood Forum, held in Saint Petersburg, Russia, in

September, Shestakov said great potential lies in underexploited and under-researched areas, such as areas in the Arctic and Antarctic seas. Shestakov said Russia will also focus its upcoming fishing efforts on using national quotas to a fuller extent, adding that Russian fisher-

men caught 4.7 million MT of fish in 2016, but existing quotas allow for an increase in output by 40 percent. Shestakov challenged the opinion that an increase in global seafood output can be achieved only via development of aquaculture. The Russian attitude is such that

"catch fish... not cables"

There are a number of international submarine cables which come ashore in the Auckland area. These cables supply international communications for both New Zealand and Australia to the rest of the world.

New Zealand is a very isolated nation and as such is extremely reliant upon global communication via submarine cables. Here in New Zealand over 95% of all international communication is carried via submarine fibre optic cables. These cables are a key component of New Zealand's infrastructure and play a significant role in our everyday lives, the general economy and future growth of New Zealand.

These cables are laid in three submarine cable corridors in the greater Auckland area where anchoring and fishing is prohibited under the Submarine Cables & Pipelines Protection Act.

These areas are:

- **Muriwai Beach** out to the 12 mile territorial limit where both anchoring and fishing is prohibited.
- **Scott Point to Island Bay** in the upper Waitemata Harbour where anchoring is prohibited.
- **Takapuna Beach** this runs from Takapuna Beach in the south to just north of the Hen & Chicken Island (opposite Taiharuru Head) where anchoring and fishing is prohibited.

Note: These protected areas are monitored by sea and air patrols.

Symbols Relating To Submarine Cables

	Submarine cable
	Submarine cable area
	Anchoring prohibited
	Fishing prohibited

Figure 1.

These are some of the penalties

- A maximum fine of \$20,000 for a non-commercial vessel.
- A maximum fine of \$100,000 for a commercial vessel.
- A maximum fine of \$250,000 for damaging a submarine cable.

Additional to the fine for damage, the cable owners would inevitably pursue the recover of costs associated with repairs, this could be up to \$750,000 plus a day; a typical repair can take up to two weeks (around \$10 million).

Be Aware

These international submarine cables carry up to 10,000 volts to power the system repeaters along the cable.



Spark
New Zealand



For more detail refer to appropriate marine charts.

What should you do?

- If you are going into any of these areas, be sure to check your marine charts and/or GPS plotter so you know the exact locations of the prohibited zones. The relevant charts are NZ53, NZ5322, NZ532, NZ522, NZ52, NZ42 and NZ43. The symbols used to mark the zones are detailed in Figure 1.
- If you suspect you have snagged your anchor or fishing gear on a submarine cable in one of these areas, don't try to free it. Note your position, abandon your gear, then call 0800 782 627.

What happens outside the prohibited areas?

These cables are covered by the Submarine Cables and Pipelines Protection Act regardless of whether they are inside or outside a prohibited area. Beyond the confines of the "anchoring and fishing prohibited" areas, the cables are clearly marked on the appropriate marine charts.

Considering possible positioning inaccuracies and repaired cable section deviations, fishermen are advised to keep a minimum distance of one nautical mile from either side of charted cables.

Note this number:

For any queries regarding submarine cables call: **0800 782 627**

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