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# Mussel farm plastic debris

## - a huge environmental problem!



Photos depict plastic products from the mussel farms after a beach cleanup  
Polymers showing plastic loops that break off into ocean.

Fishing and aquaculture has so corrupted this country you could compare the fishing industry to the Italian mafia. They have the bankroll and think they can own everybody. This very thing has been shaping governments for years and New Zealand is no different.

Some of those protecting their industry from the top down; believe it is their right and what they have done and got away with for years and years. Political donations get there way and buy favour. The simple fact is that mussel farms are made of plastic; it is essentially a floating plastic assortment of ropes and floats. When the mussel lines get damaged by wear and tear, the broken lines, loops, ties and minute pieces of mussel rope end up in the ocean. New Zealand has signed up to the UN-led "Clean Seas" campaign. With over 150 million tonnes of plastics in the ocean, this movement aims to engage all sectors of society to protect marine reserves by increasing waste minimization efforts and turning the tide on plastics. Few people have any idea of how a mussel farm is constructed.

By design, these different forms of plastic are made to be strong, hard wearing polypropylene/polymers that are tough enough to withstand the forces of nature while being placed under extreme pressure when the mussel lines are loaded with tonnes of product. Plastic is a man-made catastrophe when it comes to the ocean and has become a major worldwide problem with its long lasting ability to kill a variety of marine creatures including sea mammals and birds. Another example is the Aquaculture in the Coromandel booklet distributed by the TCDC and CoromFMA, where no mention is made of the B-catch effect or lack of beach cleanups. The focus of the booklet appears to be the social and economic benefits to the communities of Coromandel Township, Manaia and Whitianga where the majority of sector employees live and work. Coromandel Town is one small town reliant on the larger industries to employ locals. These people are completely disgusted with the fact that they are sworn to secrecy on what happens on board the mussel harvesters and know that they will lose their jobs should they go public. These are the very folk that have stood up and advised us of what is going on below decks and under the waterline. How can industry and Councils project social and economic benefits yet cast the huge environment issues aside? Aquaculture and Mussel Farming in particular, is of vital importance to our district. Many of us love our seafood and aquaculture contributes hugely to that love affair and our food-basket in the sea. Aquaculture also enhances the recreational catch for fishing folk who hang out on the water by the mussel farms, in boats or kayaks, with a line or two over the side. Tourism, employment and recreational pursuits are all boosted by our aquaculture industry, so the potential to have a great industry is there but it is being eroded by greed, laziness and denial. Service industries within our local communities thrive on the additional spin-off from the provision of engineering and other necessities, such as ropes and buoys, for the industry. The industry says that it is constantly looking at how to improve what it does, to ensure

that our environmental footprint is minimized. Yet some equipment is imported from overseas rather than use the more expensive better constructed local product just to save money at the expense of the environment. Keeping engaged and informed, and developing relationships is an essential component for any council in support of industries within our region. For us that means taking advantage of opportunities that add value to aquaculture in our waters," says Thames Mayor Sandra Goudie. What Mayor Goudie fails to mention anywhere is the huge environmental effect mussel farms play on the Gulf or maybe she is turning a blind eye. Is she really serious in her ability to ignore this issue? As the Gulf is hammered by more and more storms these environmental issues will become more frequent and the damage greater. Beach clean-ups are not working. The TCDC's and Environment Waikato's lackadaisical approach shows that they have little regard to the potential effects of plastic in the Gulf. These are the very people that are charged with protecting our foreshore and seabed. Yet when a beach clean-up occurs they don't do any checks and only beaches bordering reserves have beach clean-ups. The industry puts on a BBQ for a school to do some beach clean-ups on an ad-hoc basis. Yet when you go for a walk along any beach in the Hauraki Gulf it's pretty obvious that is not enough. The industry promotes itself as a truly sustainable industry and for the best part, most of them are but like any industry there are a few bad eggs. If you farm in a natural public water space with plastics as structure you must be prepared to clean up your waste. Within weeks on beach clean-ups the beaches are littered with mussel plastic again. **The beach clean-ups are not working.** They set their own standards and that standard is not high enough especially as the industry grows. The industry is self-policing and the Councils are not doing their jobs as they are using ratepayer's money to support the mussel industry rather than spending taxpayer's cash on essential services. Aquaculture is becoming more and more important to this country due to the dishonesty of commercial fishers - so they need to do better. What happens to the mussel lines is that when the lines are loaded with mussels and the farm is hit by a big storm, the floats can explode and the lines sink to the bottom which happens on a regular basis. When the harvesters are stripping

the lines a huge percentage gets dumped over the side of the boat, e.g.: a recent harvester was seen dumping seventy ton of unwanted mussel's straight back into the water. This has been occurring on a regular basis as the mussels are killed by the higher water temperatures. They have to be harvested and it is too expensive to land them and utilise in other industry like fertilisers and chicken feed. Members from the Coromandel Mussel Farmers Association have been telephoning our advertisers complaining about our articles regarding the environmental damage the farms are doing to Hauraki Gulf beaches and the seafloor.

For them to stoop this low shows that our articles must be rattling a few cages. They have been caught out. Rather than deal with the issues in a practical way the mussel farmers have decided, to approach our advertisers questioning the authenticity of the articles. In the past we have approached and had meetings with the CEO of the Coromandel Mussel Farmers Assn and they have completed refuted our arguments rather than spend a dollar to fix the issues. We're sure our advertisers would not agree with the large amount plastics on beaches and the environmental damage under the water surface.



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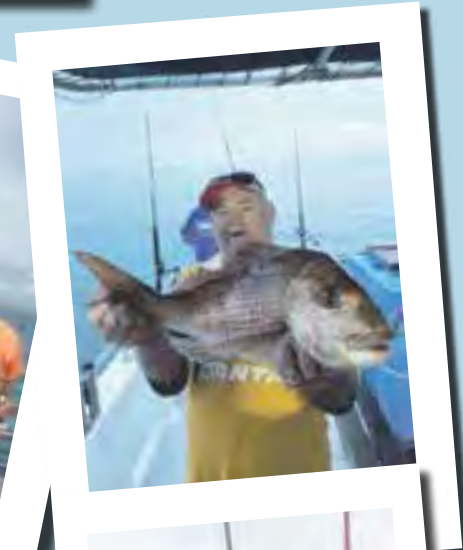
Cory Scott successfully defended the Sports Fly Fishing New Zealand National Rivers championships with these two giant redwoods taking 2nd Dan Comer and 3rd John Gummer.



< Wellingtonian Barker Carroll with a 32lb kingfish he caught fishing from the shore at Oriental Bay in Wellington. Barker and his brother Digby caught several other smaller Kingies the same morning - returning one of them to water even though it was 5cm over the legal limit.



< High Country opening day on a South Island river with Bryan Searle. 23lb without the tail. While retrieving her she was attacked by 2 trout, a brown and a rainbow of around half her size. They tore her tail off, so no hope for her if she was returned. Anyone seen that before?



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# Keep us informed

We are a fishing and hunting newspaper focusing on the issues that affect our environment, hunting and fishing throughout New Zealand, which include the poor management of some of our estates by council and government departments. The waste of ratepayer funding, corruption and collusion within some of these departments is beyond belief and needs to be exposed. Many of these departments have agendas that are focussed on destroying our fishing and hunting rights, but require public consultation. This consultant can be a meeting where they pre-

sent what they propose to do. If many cases public opinion is ignored. We need your continued support to bring some of the issues to the public and our readers. WE ASK YOU to keep us informed of issues and newsworthy happenings in your area so you are kept on the map, so please don't forget to send in your articles and stories. Accompanying photos provide the evidence. If you want confidentiality we are more than happy to oblige. Remember we are not a warm fuzzy fishing and hunting magazine.

# Protection critical for power cables



Transpower said that a recent prosecution over fishing activity in the Cook Strait Cable Protection Zone (CPZ) highlights the importance of protecting the High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Cook Strait Cables. The CPZ protects critical submarine electricity and telecommunications cables that link the North and South Islands. Fishing and anchoring are prohibited in the CPZ to ensure the cables are not accidentally disturbed or damaged. These activities – which include fishing using nets, pots, lines and diving – present risks to the inter-island flow of power and data that forms part of New Zealand's infrastructure backbone. Penalties for breaching the Submarine Cables and Pipelines Protection Act 1996 include fines of up to \$250,000 and forfeiture of the vessel responsible. "The CPZ is in place to ensure that this important piece of national infrastructure is kept safe," said Ricky Smith, HVDC & Power Electronics Manager at Transpower. "We encourage people to familiarise themselves with the location and restrictions of the CPZ before fishing in the Cook Strait, and to also ensure that their navigational tools onboard are sufficient," he said. This reminder comes following a

recent case in the Nelson District Court where the judge considered the master of a fishing vessel had been seriously careless in allowing fishing equipment to be dragged into the CPZ by tides. While no damage was detected to the cables, this was considered serious offending and a fine was imposed. Smith said that there have been previous incidents where trawling equipment, other fishing gear and anchors have caught on the undersea cables and caused damage. "Repairing these cables can cost millions of dollars and cause significant disruption to power and communications systems for New Zealand. We are lucky no damage occurred in this incident, and we caution those using the Cook Strait for recreation or for commercial fishing to be aware of the CPZ boundaries." Transpower is keen to help educate those fishing or boating in the Cook Strait to ensure the cables are protected, and provides information in a number of ways. Contact information, and a summary of information for mariners, fishers, divers and the public can be found at <https://www.transpower.co.nz/cook-strait-cpz-cable-protection-zone>.

# New Mountain man videos

Jamie Carle has recently set up a YouTube channel <https://youtu.be/fMV-9VMsGU4s> which he intends to integrate with his recreational hunting website [www.mountainman.co.nz](http://www.mountainman.co.nz) If you are interested in watching

some of his remote adventures and subscribing to the channel feel free and enjoy the clips. This is only just the beginning as he takes up filming and hunting as a hobby.

An Auckland policeman spots a huge black guy dancing on the roof of a Ford Sierra car.  
He radios for backup. "A big black guy is dancing on the roof of an old Ford car."  
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# China fishing plundering abroad

China is making big claims about the improved state of its domestic fisheries but are less concerned about sustainable fishing practices amongst its long-distance fleet, which has a heavy global footprint. Having instituted a nationwide crackdown on overfishing over the past few years, including fishing moratoriums and aggressive policing, China is claiming success in its efforts to repopulate its severely depleted domestic fisheries. In enforcing its annual moratorium, Chinese authorities impounded 7,000 vessels and seized 400,000 nets. A 2017 campaign dubbed the Liang Jian – or "Flashing Sword" campaign, in English – led to 10,343 arrests and 1,369 defendants being brought to court for various fisheries-related violations. A separate campaign aligned with a government scheme to reduce the size of the trawling fleet in domestic waters resulted in 16,000 inspections of 1,709 boat yards and 20,000 vessels to ensure they were being dismantled or converted. China has brought nearly none of this effort or enthusiasm to cleaning up its fishing presence overseas. Rather, its priority is to seek a domi-

nant position in global fishing waters before considering anything like the conservation and restoration the country's various domestic campaigns are apparently achieving at home. China appears to be sensitive to that critique. There are just 1,329 Chinese vessels operating abroad, just six percent of the global total. These vessels collectively pulled in a 1.32 million-ton catch, representing a 12 percent share of the global total. Zhang's Fishery Administration Office did not clarify whether Chinese-owned vessels flying a flag of another country are counted in this figure, and did not provide vessel sizes against which the Chinese fleet can be measured to put the six percent estimate into context. Environmental group Greenpeace has different estimates for China's fishing impact. The nonprofit estimates there are around 2,500 Chinese-owned fishing vessels operating in international waters, giving it the world's largest fleet by far. According to data compiled by Global Fishing Watch Chinese vessels spent 17 million hours of fishing in international waters in 2016 and easily exceeds the rest of the top 10 countries in the ranking's combined hourage.

The strength and competitiveness of China's international fishing fleet is central to the country's self-identified role for itself as a so-called "Great Ocean Power" – and to the success of its New Silk Road, or "One Belt, One Road" plan to bolster its international trade. At a World Trade Organization summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in December 2017, China said it would limit its international fishing fleet to its 2016 level, around 3,000 vessels but the policy will not affect the Chinese fleet's move toward greater efficiency and "international competitiveness." That "international competitiveness" is aided by China's fuel subsidies, which frequently make the difference between a profitable and unprofitable fishing trip for many of China's large fishing firms – many of which would not survive without the subsidies checks sent to them each year by the finance ministry in Beijing. China is having an outsized impact on the world's fisheries, especially in areas where there's no significant local fleet to compete and where artisanal fishermen are being squeezed out of their livelihoods. And China is poised to take an even larger share of the global catch moving forward.

# What is a coarse fish?

Perch, tench and rudd are designated as sports fish under the Act and Regulations and are part of the Fish and Game licencing system and have been for years, this also varies by region. So they are a recognized coarse fish which should be acknowledged as they are a beautiful freshwater fish. Perch have often been the part of a bag in Lake Wairarapa and Lower Ruahungahunga, but like everything, they seem to have declined over the last 15 years. Perch are a good table fish, often found in large shoals and the fishing could be fast & furious. Perch were also seen in Lake Waiholo south of Dunedin and in some of the

dredging areas round Alexandra, as well as being prevalent in the Waikato river system and many adjoining lakes. While not personally enamored by tench and rudd, perch are a much neglected sports fish, and some are good eating too. To change the status quo would require changing the Act. And given the Forest and Bird derived nonsense labeling trout as 'stoats of the waterways' which are the sole reason that native fish are imperiled, coupled with a Minister that Forest and Bird seem to have in their pockets, the general public that seems to swallow this rubbish without question.

However the key point of note is that a NZ freshwater licence allows you also - in addition to 'sports fish' (such as trout and salmon) to fish for what is defined as 'coarse' fish which includes perch, tench and in the Auckland/Waikato Region Rudd. Some traditional trout fishers argue that this definition could allow for a distinction of difference and have it that coarse fish are not sports fish and that they should be classified as pest fish - along with carp? The freeing of perch fishing in NZ from any restrictive regulations appears to be long overdue, however Carp should never be allowed to be included or recognized as a sports fish. They are and will ever be a pest fish.



## Coromandel Fishing fills the chilly bins

Looking for a charter that will fill your chilly bin? It can never be guaranteed of course but the skippers know there stuff and in eight years of participating in these charters only once have I come close to missing out but still went home with fish. Currently some good sized snapper have been caught on a regular basis with some charters going home an hour early as the limits were nailed. There is also plenty of kingfish around with some good kingies being caught. Many fishers are still going out with old bait and no ice. It should be second nature now to fill your bin with good quality salt flake ice so

that by the time you get around to filleting your catch it's Salty Towers Bait and Tackle Shop on Tiki Road sell fresh Coromandel mussels. You can guarantee that when you call into see Hank he will ask you where you're going and offer some free advice on where to go to catch a feed and how to use the bait. Some places fish well in the morning or afternoon than others but he wants the fishos to get their share of the abundance of Hauraki Gulf snapper. It's good for Coromandel and good for the fishos. Salty Towers offer a fish filleting service and for those who enjoy smoked fish this can be done and the bounty couriered when done or

you can pick it up the next day, along with any bait and tackle supplies. Coromandel Fishing Charters are taking bookings for small and medium sized groups to fill up each charter so if you have a couple of mates but are a few short of a boat load don't worry just give Tom and call and he'll help you out. 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 or Christmas function call Tom or Lorraine on 027 8668001, or email: [corofishing@gmail.com](mailto:corofishing@gmail.com)

## Government inaction is killing Dolphin



A recent protect march in Auckland highlighted the broken pre-election promises to protect Maui and Hector's dolphins, the Labour-led government is now considering cancelling video monitoring

of NZ commercial fishing fleet. When video camera monitoring was trialed on boats out of Timaru, footage caught images of fish dumping of undersize and non-target fish, and the capture and

disposal overboard of two Hector's dolphins. None were reported. Recently five Hector's dolphins were caught in a commercial set net and the MPI is investigating. The installation of video monitoring on fishing vessels in Australia led to a 700% increase in reported by-catch. It's expected that in NZ improved monitoring will expose more of the same indiscriminate catch and disposal of non-target species. The very limited observer coverage on the NZ fishing fleet, already reveals waste and destruction of tonnes of fish. Maui and Hector's dolphins, as well as sea lions, penguins and sea birds are all threatened with extinction. Common, Dusky, Bottlenose dolphins, and even Orca are regularly killed by set nets and trawlers. What price is dolphin protection? When the fishing companies donate large sums to political parties it is a serious conflict of interest.

## Fisheries operation nets non-compliance



Fishery officers patrolling the waters on the North Island's east coast

A multi-agency fisheries compliance operation along the North Island's east coast has uncovered a range of offending including non-reporting of commercial crayfish. The Ministry for Primary Industries-led operation involved resources and personnel from the New Zealand Police and the National Maritime Coordination Centre (NMCC) and focused on at-sea inspections of recreational and commercial vessels within the coastal waters of New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Eight fishery officers and six staff from New Zealand Police were

involved in the patrol from Auckland to Whanganui and back, covering 2,000 nautical miles and totalling 15 days at sea. The patrol also covered 6 marine reserves in the area. MPI chief compliance officer for Hawkes Bay/Wairarapa, Brent Smith, says the operation covered a large area of coast around the North Island including some isolated and remote areas that are usually difficult to reach by normal patrol methods. "The operation was a good opportunity to check compliance of both recreational and commercial vessels fishing in the area over the

summer period," Mr Smith says. "More than 150 commercial and recreational vessels were inspected during the patrol, and approximately 300 people, including divers, were spoken to. "We detected a small number of alleged offences including one incident of unreported crayfish by a commercial vessel in the Coromandel and undersized fin fish on an amateur fishing charter vessel. "Follow-up action is being taken by MPI. "The level of compliance was very good overall and it was great to see that the majority of people were doing the right thing. "Joint operations like this with the Auckland Police Maritime Unit are an invaluable way in which to raise compliance levels. The fact we're out there together sends a very strong message that any incidents of non-compliance will be taken very seriously and those who are caught offending will attract the relevant penalties. "This ultimately supports sustainable fisheries management, which is the aim of these patrols," says Mr Smith.

## Snappa Bill strikes again

All the way from the windy city Snappa Bill at a young age of 74 has been out with Coromandel Fishing Charters over the past two weeks breaking all sorts of records (best fun, best service, best weather.) What a great experience for anyone who loves places like the Coromandel. Snappa Bills advice for April –

don't forget your salt flake ice. Have respect for your catch and treat it the way you would expect to be treated. Putting your catch on ice will ensure it stays fresh and makes it easier to fillet. See you all next month for shore!!



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# World Fly Fishing Championships

The 4th FIPS Mouche World Fly Fishing Masters Champs 2018 are to be held in Asturias Spain from the 24th to 30 April 2018. Countries that have confirmed their presence are: Ireland; Belgium; Czech Republic; Italy; South

Africa; Finland; New Zealand; France; Spain; USA and Holland. The FIPS Mouche has chosen Trentino, Italy, for the 38th World Fly Fishing Championships to be held from 17th to 23rd September 2018. Set in the heart of the Alps, in an ex-

ceptional environment where nature is the protagonist, and with over 2000 km of water streams, almost 300 lakes and alpine lakes, over 800 sq km of natural parks, Trentino is ready to welcome fishermen from all over Europe.

## Bridges need some environmental advice

Simon Bridges national's new leader was boldly blowing his trumpet recently and said: "We're New Zealanders, and we represent nearly one in two of them in Parliament, we care passionately about the environment." But how passionate is Mr Bridges himself? He believes his record is strong on the environment. But what do his past actions tell us? Bridges signed off mining access to DoC land at Victoria Forest Park near Reefton, stating: "Mining has been a mainstay on the West Coast for the last 150 years, and long may it continue." Bridges has cuddled up with offshore oil companies, and opened up the endangered Māui dol-

phin habitat for oil exploration with only 68 left world-wide. Bridges introduced a new law designed to suppress protests at sea against oil exploration. If Mr Bridges and the National Party really want to be taken seriously on the environment, genuinely wanting to turn over a new leaf, he seriously needs some new direction. Stop all oil and gas exploration. Support the roll out of solar generation to provide the power for the electrification of transport, and stop off fossil fuel generation. Stand up against the conservative farming lobby and help put agriculture into the Emissions Trading Scheme. Stop subsidising agriculture

to the tune of \$500m per year. Support a shift away from industrial agriculture by ending irrigation, PKE imports, chemical fertiliser, over stocking, and investing in better ways of farming. Support efforts to control the fishing industry. Educate Judith Collins on the value of wetlands. A new political leader looking to build environmental credibility does need to know what's happening with greenhouse gas emissions in his own country. Bridges has no excuse to consistently attack the environment - he needs to show some backbone and change direction for the sake of our next generations of kids.

## Taupo Fishing Club's annual trout tournament

The Taupo Fishing Club's annual trout tournament was held from March 23 to 25 with a strong number of entries from anglers of all ages. The event is a real family affair, with dozens of families getting involved, all vying to be in the prizes and hoping to land an ever-elusive trophy trout. Saturday dawned slightly breezy, with 15 knot north easterly winds making life tricky for those who had ventured to the Western Bays. Things had eased slightly on Sunday, with anglers sticking close to town presented with flat conditions, while those south of Taupo

still had a slight wind to contend with. Anglers spread themselves over the fishery, with most rivers being fished and plenty of boaties heading out on to Lake Taupo, the only lake in the fishery that could be fished for the competition. Of the 202 fish weighed over the weekend, with 106 caught on Saturday and 96 on Sunday, the biggest was Karl Sawyer's 3.910kg brown trout, securing him the trophy for heaviest brown, with Ricky Mallasch's 2.488kg rainbow beating out dozens of others to take the 2018 honours

for biggest rainbow trout. Karl must have found a good spot, as a 3.258kg brown he weighed in also landed him a prize for the third-heaviest brown. Craig Woolacott took this year's honours for best condition factor with a tidy 59.61 for his catch. For the younger anglers, Charlie Sangster's condition factor of 54.39 helped him win the junior 4-10 years best condition trophy and Cody Blake won the junior 11-17 years trophy with a 54.91 condition factor. Charlie also had the third best condition fish weighed in his category and took third



place with a 49.75 condition factor. While not everyone could take home a prize for their catch, generous sponsorship from a range of retailers and businesses meant a large number of entrants walked away with a spot prize. The Taupo Fishing Club is grateful to

those who supported the tournament and to all the generous sponsors who generously supplied spot prizes and assistance to run the competition.

**Tournament Results:**  
 Early Bird Draw: Jayden Adern.  
**Adults,** Heaviest Brown Trout: 1 Karl Sawyer, 3.910kg; 2 Bevan Geye, 3.632kg; 3 Karl Sawyer, 3.258kg.  
 Heaviest Rainbow Trout: 1 Ricky Mallasch, 2.488kg; 2 Daniel Cumming, 2.390kg; 3 Brian Webster, 2.304kg.  
 Best Condition Factor: 1 Craig Woolacott, 59.61; 2 Phil Andrews, 56.5; 3 Brandon Sawyer 55.55.  
 Average Weight (1.446): 1 Hugo Lotta 1.446; 2 Malcom Burr; 3 Linda Arderne.  
 Unlucky Angler: John Wall.  
 Lucky Angler: Sean Anderson.  
**Junior, Junior 4-10 Best Condition:**



1 Charlie Sangster 54.39; 2 Ashley Fraser 50.12; 3 Charlie Sangster 49.75.  
 Junior 11-17 Best condition: 1 Cody Blake 54.91; 2 Billi Roa Rhind 49.35; 3 Warren Hemopo 49.13.  
 Junior Overall Average Weight (1.343): Tamati Pitiroi 1.342kg.  
 Junior Overall Unlucky Angler: Brandon Yates.

## The most destructive fishing method

The Trawl method of harvesting fish is and always has been the most destructive and wasteful method of fish harvest known to man. Whatever country allows any method of commercial fishing harvesting where the net is recovered mechanically is in danger of having their natural fishery overfished to extinction. The only way to stop a fishery being fished to extinction by these trawl monsters are the managers of the fishery, who must only consider one thing. And that is to sustain the fish stocks at a level that allows the fishery to thrive with healthy breeding stock sufficient in size and number to sustain after a fishing year has concluded. In NZ our fishing season starts on the first of October. This means if a commercial fisher catches his quota of fish in September of say 20 ton of Snapper and gets another 20 ton on October the first then there has been 40 ton of Snapper taken from that area in two months, not 24 months. When this is caught by a bulk trawl harvester

then the fish stock of snapper has been overfished quite legally. The inshore fishery has been plundered by the commercial fishers in this way since the introduction of the QMS. The big companies send big boats in to catch the finish of last year's quota and the first of the next year's quota while the large vessel is in the area. This can wipe out an area leaving nothing behind for recreational/customary and the small local commercial operators in an area. As a testament to this if we compare the fish stock levels of snapper in the inner Hauraki Gulf to the fish stock of the Bay of Plenty, the inner Hauraki Gulf has huge stocks of good snapper and has the highest population of recreational fishers in the country. That should not be possible, yet it is. The Bay of Plenty has a bigger water area and dismal stocks of Snapper with a very small recreational fishing population compared to the Hauraki Gulf. The answer is very clear; the inner Hauraki Gulf does not have a fleet of fish-killing monster trawl-

ers in the area and hasn't done since the introduction of the QMS. The Bay of Plenty has had a fishery disaster with every fish stock in the area because the commercial fishers have overfished the area since the QMS was introduced. The new management team in Fisheries now must consider only the sustainability of the dwindling fish stocks and forgo any advice to support the fishing industry with financial policies. The actions of NZ First in this regard have been disgusting. The party has disregarded its fishing policy and gone back to the gutter politics of the 1980's, but then I guess that's how Winston Peters and Shane Jones learnt their trade, behind closed doors with scotch whiskey and secret handshakes. All trawl type vessels must go out past the 12nm as it was promised in the NZ First fishing policy and when they get there they should have cameras above and below deck because we don't trust their trawl methods anywhere.

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## NZFirst has turned its back on the recreational and customary fishers of NZ

The recreational and customary fishers of NZ are in a position that many recreational fishers worldwide wish they were in. There are currently two political parties in power that made substantial promises through their fishing policies to the recreational and customary fishers of NZ. The Labour Party and the New Zealand First party have well-balanced fishing policies aimed at the sustainability of the fishery rather than the financial gain of the wild fish harvest. The two parties fishing policies must have been well thought out because in the long term should the policies be introduced as they were promised the fish stocks would boom and the commercial exporters would benefit most from an abundant fishery. At the moment the commercial fishery is in serious trouble as Quota cuts that are needed to rebuild many of the depleted fish stocks should be introduced by the Labour Fishery Minister Stuart Nash. What the new Minister of Fishery may not grasp because of his inexperience is that his scientific guidelines for sustainability are incorrect. The guidelines of soft and hard limits were set mostly on records of catch by commercial fishers who misreported their discard and sea mammal deaths for 30 years or more. The evidence is clear when a Minister sets a quota for a fish species and it collapses in a short-term without any natural cause. This means the cause of the fishery collapse was un-natural most likely because somebody lied about how many fish were caught and only recorded the fish they landed. The inshore fishery, in particular, will have its very ownership questioned by recreational and customary fishers in the next three years because of the constant fishery offences committed against the fishery by the commercial fish exporters that have left the locals and

holidaymakers of our coastal areas without seafood on their tables. The recreational and customary fishers have had a gut full of watching big trucks taking their inshore shallow water Kia Moana to the airport. MPI don't want to hear that local seaside dwellers, holidaymakers and customary fishers think the seafood export industry sucks and would be happier never to see another commercial cray pot, trawler or longliner in their lives, but then it's not MPI's business anymore because the fishery is now supposed to be a stand-alone Ministry, or has the public of NZ been misled. The solutions are in the Labour and NZF fishing policies. NZF appears to have thrown their fishery policy in the rubbish bin and with it any recreational or customary fisher's party vote. The National party will never be an option for the recreational or customary fisher party vote for four reasons. They broke their promise of recreational only reserves three times in three elections and each time they had a clear conflict of interest with their party president being a major commercial fishing stakeholder. The recreational and customary fishers have now aligned through different advocacy groups and are now willing to combine their party vote to regain their inshore Kai Moana. They will achieve this by supporting Labour if they do enough in their term in power while they have the opportunity to do so. Or they will en masse support a coalition party of their choice who will work with the election winner and negotiate through coalition the inshore fishery back where it belongs with the people, not the exporters.

It would seem that although NZF has turned its back on the recreational and customary fishers of NZ. What they have done is shown

these groups and the country how an MMP government is formed and how an old-fashioned party like NZF with an old-fashioned leader like Winston Peters can push forward into law major changes as a minority party as part of a coalition agreement. When you consider that there are two party's in power that did not win an electoral seat the reality becomes more clearer. To this end it means that the party vote now has a real significance in the next election. Now that the recreational fishers who don't have their recreational reserves as promised combine with the customary fishers who have lost shallow water Kia Moana to exporters including their own IWI quota holders are combining in a bid to preserve the inshore fishery for our next generations. What has also happened is that more recreational groups have asked to join the alliance. The freshwater fishers are upset that and are keen to get their sport recognised as having significant benefit both recreational and financially to NZ. The hunters are worried for their sport and their safety as they head for the roar this year and hope that the Stag they shoot this year didn't eat 1080 two days ago a will put their family in a comma. We have also had talks with a strong growing lobby group of locals and beach residents who are sick of the beach closers because of the council's sewage and storm-water systems being inadequate in a shower of rain, causing spill over into the sea in clear breach of the resource management act. These groups all want results and it will come through the support of a coalition party of this government. It comes down to courage, does Labour have the courage to do what its voters were promised or should we expect more broken promises from a politically correct party full of excuses, we shall see.

and ignoring new innovation. The reputation of the industry and fishing corporations is shattered and

trust the so-called social contract to operate is diminished. Put simply, a negative public view of an industry

will not only affect bottom lines - it also influences government policy.

## The Hauraki Gulf is biodiversity lost

For years all the Commercial Industry could do was rant and rave over the huge snapper stocks in the greater Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. There's plenty of fish for everyone. Then when stocks became depleted they blamed recreational fishers. Recently the Hauraki Herald published an article to the effect that the fish stocks in the Hauraki Gulf were depleted. Not sure which planet they were on but the charter boat I was on recently binned out in under two hours and there were five charter boats from Te Kouma doing the same. Sadly snapper are a pelagic species and take over when other stocks become scarce or depleted and drive any remaining away from their feeding grounds. Warnings have been given on the depletion of other species, kahawai, terakihi and Pink Mao Mao. But do they listen – not a chance their paid scientists are able to show unequivocally that fish stocks are healthy. Commercial interests have overruled what is really happening and customary and recreational has been side shafted by both Government and Councils who have both failed to act. Councils have the power under the resource management act to protect the environment and do something but fail even when written to they have pretended it's not their

problem when clearly it is., e.g.: Danish Seine, Trawlers, Scallop dredging all destroy the sea floor and habitat. Councils are responsible for the seabed, eco-systems and activities out to the 12nm chart line from any coast under its jurisdiction. But unfortunately money prevails and they choose not to challenge the MPI and their strategy, going along with the Seafood Industries and MPI's PR gimmick that everything is fine plenty of stock etc. The MPI has also failed to act by continuing to allow outdated 19th century practices to continue. Our commercial fishing industry still use diamond mesh net when other countries have chosen sustainable netting practices and changed to the T90 square mesh net, which allows small fish to escape. Then MPI reduce the commercial size of snapper to 25cm and increase the rec size to 30cm with a reduction in daily limit to 7. Danish seine methods and the diamond mesh net system kill all species as bycatch which has been dumped over the side dead, with nothing returned alive fact. Then they talk about biomass and rebuilding the fisheries. Until someone kicks Commercial out past the 12nm line along with other measures to enhance water quality as well as constraints on

shellfish it's all headed downhill.

The one and only reason that the snapper fishing is good inside the no trawl line on the inner Hauraki Gulf is because the trawlers are not allowed to fish there. Compare that to the other areas in the Gulf where trawlers are allowed and the fishing is dismal at the best of times. Dr Evelyn Pinkerton gave a great speech at an Auckland Symposium on what was achieved in British Columbia by tackling their local authority. You cannot blame all this on climate change. The answer is that the Seafood Industry are entirely to blame, with decades of ripping the guts out of the seabed, killing everything they catch, all by catch is returned dead ....fact and truth ....sucking it up and control of all Governments policies by Commercial .....bribed with donations and threats to those that do not agree.... Now we have Shane Jones and Winston Peters trying the same old tricks as they are both joined by the hip to Commercial fishing, and have the balance of power over the PM Jacinda Ardern. There are far too many people being paid and funded to control the fishing policies around everything and anything the commercial industry do.

## NZ Government State Corruption

It appears that the judicial system, government departments and the NZ Police have stooped to all-time lows of corruption with respect to this case. A complaint to the Independent Police Conduct Authority received a refusal to act. Further complaints to the Minister of Police, Police Commissioner and the Department of Conservation and Minister of Justice were all refused and the Ombudsman is not able to investigate Police corruption. Why are the Police protecting a Police Officer who failed a member of the Public? It would appear that we are now in a Police State where the Police can do anything they like and get away with it. On 17 October 2017 Graeme Sturgeon was assaulted by a person posing as an DoC security guard although unlicensed in a completely unprovoked attack. The judge dismissed the case, and no costs were awarded, but Graeme and his wife Julie went through what they say is "the worst three months" of their lives, and have a massive legal bill to show for it. It should also be remembered that without the security footage showing what happened, Graeme would more than likely have been convicted. DoC were legally obliged to supply that footage within 21 days. It

took them three months to do so. Until virtually the last minute before the two day trial they would only supply six seconds of the 15 minute footage, showing Graeme flailing his arms at the security guard (but not connecting), in an attempt to show Graeme was attacking guard Lane. This delay in getting much needed evidence on Graeme and his lawyer's part added hugely to the financial burden. Effectively Graeme was assaulted, and then robbed of a large amount of money - by our government's actions. In fact the government has "robbed us all!" This is an extremely interesting, impressively honest memorandum and very sobering. Graeme Sturgeon has then re-

ceived legal advice from his barrister about ways forward. Permission to make this public has been granted. Please note an excerpt from Option 2 - "Par for course in this situation DOC, armed with lots of resources, would try and "burn you off" by taking every procedural step available, appeal every procedural step if possible and protract the proceedings so that you cannot bear the costs of continuing the same." It is a blight on this country where Justice depends on who has the biggest bank balance and Government departments can use taxpayers money to cover their fraudulent activities.

## The perils of perception

The Ministry for Primary Industries recently released a report on New Zealanders' views of the primary sector. The report repeated the questions asked in a benchmark study in 2008 that explored urban and rural New

Zealanders' views of the agriculture, horticulture, forestry, food, aquaculture and fishing industries. Fishing did not fare well, with both urban and rural respondents having the least positive view of fishing compared to all other surveyed

industries. Only 40 percent of rural respondents and 39 percent of urban respondents held positive views about the fishing industry. No comparison on the previous study is available as fishing was not included in 2008 but the findings are no surprise. And nor were the reasons why. They believe we overfish, have a 'poorly-managed' quota management system, and have high rates of bycatch. To combat this negative reaction Seafood New Zealand is in production for year two of the Industry's Promise television PR campaign, which was specifically designed to address the public perception of the industry, gain trust and grow reputation. Sadly the first PR campaign failed because while the industry advocates change and sustainable practices the reality is nothing has changed. The industry continues to overfish, under report and falsify documents as well as refuting the need for transparency through the introduction of cameras

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## A picture is beginning to emerge

NZ's so called "pure, clean and green" image so intensively sold overseas is just a joke! Eventually NZ is becoming the modern killing fields, a shining example of how not to behave, which will eventually cause our country severe harm. It seems that Ospri, TFree and Doc are completely out of control. Remember DDT? Well that was banned then we had the horrid myxmatosis; calicivirus now the K virus 1080! The whole food chain in nature has been upset, owls and hawks eat mice for food, e.g., so if the owls and the hawks die then the mice increase. The aerial dropping of 1080 will do nothing for the environment other than destroy it. How far are we willing to go with all this poison in the country and all the cruel suffering of all animals before we start to see the light and stop using this toxic stuff! This is not the way forward. We need to start using real humane alternatives without poisons, and viruses. One day it will morph into something uncontrollable and hideous! It just keeps getting more and more insane - isn't it interesting the more we look into these government funded poison industries the more we find no oversight, a fragmented system where no one tests the food, or incidents of catastrophe. The MPI and Damien O'Connor don't know how much poison is actually dropped anywhere and the manufactures warnings and instructions to keep it out of water and remove dead bodies is totally ignored for the only reason that if they followed

them they couldn't aerially drop it. They seem to forget the statute: Contamination of water supplies and sources 69 Contamination of raw water or pollution of water supply (1) Every person commits an offence who does any act likely to contaminate any raw water or pollute any drinking water, knowing that the act is likely to contaminate or pollute that water, or being reckless as to the consequences of that act. (2) Every person who commits an offence under subsection (1) is liable on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years, or to a fine not exceeding \$200,000, or both. Anyone had their water tested for sodium monofluoroacetate. While various DHB have no understanding of how these poisons are affecting people whose water supplies are poisoned nor do they have much knowledge of how these poisons manifest in the body of humans. A picture is beginning to emerge of such utter incompetence of a totally out of control systematic poisoning of this countries waterways and pristine ecosystems that is second to none in the world and the biggest shocker of all - NZ exports this insanity to the rest of the world - with equally dire consequences. You have several environmental groups - Forest and Bird, Fish and Game amongst others supporting the widespread use of this toxin and the question needs to be asked - why? There are no instances worldwide where the widespread use of any poison has been beneficial to plants

or animals. So why do we do it?

There is no incident register of occurrences. How is it possible that those responsible for signing off the use of this toxic poison can be allowed to get away with no register? All almost every instance Workplace Safety demands stringent controls of workplaces yet nothing for the poison industry! Clearly farmers TB levies are being used to fund drops on conservation land for conservation purposes and nothing to do with TB or TB infected farm stock as there are none nearby. What monitoring of the possum population has been done and how many TB infected possums have been found in the past couple of years. After the recent OSPRI drop on Molesworth it wiped out the Chukar and Quail populations which had survived previous drops. The question was had the bait strength been increased for this drop? We know that a large number of deer and goat populations were poisoned and this could be explained by stronger baits. If this is true then the focus was not on possums at all but on the larger introduced species. These OSPRI poison operations are a complete con. OSPRI has become corrupt in their actions and need to be held to account. Yes farmers are partly to blame for allowing this corruption to continue and the likes of Fed Farmers are too busy licking government butt to ask any questions so it's left to the concerned tax payers.

Whiting-O'Keefe (MD, Mathematics), Ba (Chemistry) summed up the situation recently when commenting on the case of the poisoned Indians when he said "In all, this case represents the triumph in New Zealand not only of irrational denial over reason, but of vested interests

over recognition of the obvious risks we that we are taking. These risks could certainly be justified were there reasonable scientific evidence that they were necessary to achieve a known benefit, but such evidence does not exist."

## Poisoning the Coromandel

It's mind-boggling how much 1080 has been dropped across vast areas of the Coromandel Peninsula despite their own district council asking for residual toxins not to be used there. It's mind-boggling how much water has been poisoned, despite the manufacturer's label saying 1080 should be kept away from water. Now we hear that the RHDV1 K5 calicivirus has been spread around the Coromandel area without approval from WRC Councillors.

Waikato Regional Council staff presented no information about this to councillors in either the Integrated Catchment Committee or at full council meetings. Staff made the decision to introduce this virus. They gave no risk information to Council. The consortium of council staff has been planning this virus release for years and yet no one has done a workshop or made it a full council item agenda. Pet rabbit owners are urged by

Council to talk to their veterinarians about a vaccination plan. How seriously do you think Council takes consulting with the public when they don't even consult with their councillors? Please make a complaint to the Medical Officer of Health in your area if your water supply was poisoned. Look at these maps showing the helicopter flight lines for a number of areas that have recently been poisoned. <https://www.tv-wild.com/toxin-distribution-charts>

## Who funds 1080 poisoned food?

Three companies in particular are responsible. Beef + Lamb NZ Ltd, Dairy NZ and Deer Industry NZ, all meat marketing organisations or owned by meat producers. Together they are the shareholders of OSPRI NZ Ltd which is short for Operational Solutions for Primary Industries. The military overtones of their name hint at the \$1 Billion a year plus war they wage with animal rights activists, environmentalists, dog owners, wild food gatherers and other common sense kiwis that used to enjoy our wild places without the stench of rotting carcasses, the threat of poisoned dead bodies and the fear of drinking poisoned and polluted water. The meat companies war is fought in the public relations arena first, where they make up a story to suit each of their paramilitary wings. TB Free is their main fairy tale, where they ignore the fact that Bovine TB is predominantly a disease spread by immune compromised cattle who have had their pastures and water troughs blanket sprayed with MCPA, glyphosate and other immune killing herbicides. TB is also spread by some large scale, ignorant farmers who think movement control doesn't apply to them as it is "too much paperwork" and TB is also spread by Government agencies pretending to be studying how TB spreads, by injecting

possums in the feet with the disease, and then letting them go in our vast wild places. So, you're asking why would they do all this? Money. The wild food gatherers mentioned above are a direct threat to the 3 poisoning outfits and their shareholders income streams, not just because the wild pet food, wild venison, pork, chevron, Kai Moana etc are "free" to be gathered, but also because they are superior in quality and organic. Better and cheaper, who can compete with that? Well, they can by poisoning it. I mentioned \$1 Billion plus a year. That is just for the red meats harvested, and this figure was established thru a survey that was run from of hunters on how many kg's of meat they brought in each year. Now to the Govt agencies and why would they fund it? Partly because farmers have big political and financial sway, but specifically MPI's minister and the minister of finance are shareholders in the poison factory Animal Control Products on Heads Rd in Whanganui. So we can guess that MPI - Ministry for Primary Industries would be there for meat producer interests to help eliminate competition, and of course the minister of finance is there because if \$1 Billion of free meat is being harvested a year that equals about \$200 million in lost income tax alone because people

didn't have to work to make that \$1 Billion first, and then another \$150 Million is "lost" by them in GST each year on lost meat sales. So what about DOC? They are just a tool for the other two Govt agencies to push the fallacy that poisoning all the animals is great for the environment. Hence why we have bird numbers in serious decline tracking with the serious uptick in poison use. DOC try to fool us by staging photos of possums eating boiled eggs (are these laid by a particular bird? WTF? and by starving possums and putting dead baby birds in their hands to try and frame them for bird demise caused by 1080) DOC also sit on a lot of "new" land that needs depopulating for farming, forestry and mining, and because 1080 kills all the insects, birds and other creatures, it is perfect for depopulation and to destroy the conservation value is to render that land ripe for the pickings. After all, "reserves" are only reserved for future use. You can help by contacting the three shareholders of OSPRI to voice your concerns about their crimes against animals such as 1080 taking 80 hours to kill pigs, during which time they vomit 13.6 times on average before death. Deer take 30 hours, possums up to 126 hours to die, dogs up to 14 hours and horses up to 4 days to die.

## Deceit and Deception Shrouds 1080

by Frank Schumaker

A disturbing lack of truthfulness is apparent in the ways departments and government agencies are dealing with the controversial 1080 poison - with the result that the public are being deceived and duped says a South Canterbury conservationist. Lewis Hore of Oamaru cited several examples. One was the statement from the Ministry of Primary Industries that anglers only need to avoid eating trout for 7 days after a 1080 operation, in which food baits laced with the toxin were spread from helicopters across land and streams. "The statement is based on an extremely limited study commissioned by the Department of Conservation (DoC) that was inconclusive, with high levels of 1080 remaining in the trout at 5 days when the study ended," said Lewis Hore. Another case was Indian fam-

ily members in Putaruru becoming severely ill last November after eating wild pork. Toxicology Professor Ian Shaw of the University of Canterbury, said the investigative process "seemed somewhat awry" because it focussed narrowly on possible botulism poisoning when the symptoms were not at all consistent with botulism, rather they indicated 1080 poisoning. Lewis Hore said he was shocked at a recent Coromandel incident when a senior citizen was charged with assault. "He was fighting a strange and frightening battle in court - security camera video evidence and witnesses saved him from a charge of assaulting a security guard, laid by the police and DoC, after he was dragged from his car by the guard and left bloodied and bruised." The senior citizen Graeme Stur-

geon had driven into a Liquorland car park in downtown Whitianga, where DoC had a clandestine 1080 storage operation underway. Lewis Hore said he also found strange claims by "our supposedly independent" Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (PCE) in 2011 that 1080 is safe in water and that "we do not need more water samples". "Yet government's Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) had identified water issues as lacking information, and said these issues remain unresolved. This included the unreliability of the concentrations of 1080 measured in stored samples and in samples taken under field conditions." Another mistruth told by the PCE in her report was that 1080 was "moderately humane". The reference she cited (Beausoleil et al., 2010) stated nothing of the sort. The report actually said that the word "humaneness" should be replaced with "animal welfare impact" and that 1080 had a severe to extreme impact lasting for hours. Anticoagulants such as brodifacoum (which has a severe to extreme impact for days to weeks) was the worst. "Sadly the PCE's irresponsible interpretation has led to erroneous claims by the poisoners that that 1080 is humane," said Lewis Hore. He said NZ's Biosecurity Act conferred enormous powers to agencies aerially poison any person's land to control possums. Possums were blamed (without scientific evidence) for transmitting bovine Tuberculosis to livestock. "No monitoring is required at all prior to poisoning and documents obtained through the Official Information Act show that even if monitoring is carried out, results indicating no need for control can be ignored and the poisoning proceeds anyway. This action has been documented for both TFree's possum control and DoC's rat control and demonstrates that the poisoning is an end in itself to these organisations." Lewis Hore questioned how it was that NZ's people and envi-

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## Government agencies advice on 1080 in trout flesh – false, corrupt and understated

Most New Zealand freshwater anglers like to take a trout every now and then to feed their family. Many, including campers and guided overseas tourist anglers, enjoy fresh-caught trout cooked on the riverbanks. In 2016 the Ministry for Primary Industries released a warning to trout fishermen, not to eat trout from 1080 poisoned rivers for at least 7 days. However, that MPI warning echoed by DOC and other agencies) was based on incomplete and false information. To help them form this statement the MPI used data was used from a 2014 Cawthron Institute Study Report No 2611 on rainbow trout. Brett Power an engineering surveyor spends much of his time checking scientific data for major projects and shows in the attached video clip that the MPI and Cawthron Reports are dangerously flawed. The aims of the Cawthron Study were to develop a model to predict the uptake and fate of 1080 in trout flesh; and to investigate the uptake and elimination of a known dose of 1080 in trout following ingestion of 1080 to validate the model.

Brett Power establishes some serious flaws in the Cawthron report and anomalies which show that the risk of 1080 poisoned trout is much greater than has been declared. Cawthron's own report shows that throughout the experiment, 1080 levels in the flesh of exposed trout were above the maximum allowed residual level, at times up to 3,800 times this limit. Both the MPI and Cawthron have stated that there was an excessively high loading of 1080 loading in the experiment which is clearly not true as clearly portrayed in the report. The truth is that the loading were in fact miniscule. The fact that trout are not susceptible to 1080 is not the problem. The problem is that they do carry 1080 in their flesh and can pass this on to humans. This then becomes a very, very big problem. In fact a dangerous health risk to all anglers and their families. And the experiment simply did not establish how long 1080 stays in trout - it is still completely unknown. With recent reports of 1080 becoming a problem in trout this has caused alarm bells in many ar-

eas including the desire to risk taking a trout or eel home to smoke. We have organisations like Fish and Game, the Federation of Freshwater Anglers and then the government through the Ministry of Primary Industries putting out severe warnings against eating trout caught in areas where 1080 has been dropped. The effects this has had on families is abhorrent – mothers will not let their children fish because of the high risk of coming into contact with the poison let alone bringing fish home for the dinner table. Anglers are also being denied the benefits of the freshwater sports fish they pay to manage. This reckless and cavalier behaviour and attitude by the Department of Conservation, OSPRI and TBFree NZ must stop. <https://youtu.be/vEUqWYUyTM> Further studies must be commissioned with the utmost urgency on the long term persistence and effects of 1080 in trout, koura, fresh water invertebrates and eels, and the risks of ingestion by humans and other mammals before some untoward event forces this on the government.

## EPA Approves Population Control Vaccine For Deer

The Environmental Protection Agency is using vaccines to thwart deer fertility in communities where deer populations have exploded. The immunocontraceptive vaccine, called Zonastat-D, is supposed to replace sport hunting. The Zonastat-D vaccine will compromise the deer's ability to have offspring. It will block fertilization by way of antibodies which bind to the protein envelope surrounding the egg, according to the Humane Society. The EPA believes the long-term effect will be the gradual depopulation of the deer community. They claim this to be a non-lethal method of achieving the goal of reducing the herd. According to the Humane Society, depopulation via vaccines has been in the works since 1993.

The Humane Society has traveled a long road with its partners to reach this point. Field studies on deer that provided the foundation for this registration stretch back to 1993, when scientists from the Science and Conservation Center in Billings, Montana, and the University of Toledo joined Humane Society staffers to administer the first PZP-filled darts to deer at Fire Island National Seashore in New York. The Zonastat-D vaccine is considered "safe for the animals" by researchers. The Humane Society believes that fertility vaccines are the future of wildlife management. Our government and DoC are out of control. The people in power, the money people have become so distanced and out of touch with nature. The interconnection between hunter

and hunted that has always been and how it works they seem to fear it and in there insecurity want to control and manipulate it to suit their own in many cases sad states of mind. Once people lived with and in harmony with nature and respected it. Now they see it as nuisance, a barrier to their agendas, something distant and apart from them and when they die and leave there money behind what then of their phobic resentment, disrespect of the natural world of fur and flesh and tooth and claw of prey and stalker of bird song and call. Money, we all want it, need it but for many becomes there god and they think there money puts them above all other life but just like all life not for long they will be just dust again of little consequence.

## The perfect murder weapon

With the issue surrounding the incompetence and deliberate mis-handling of the Kochummen case by MPI, Doc and the Waikato District Health Board one has to wonder if 1080 is the perfect murder weapon. It would appear that no testing for 1080 is done on any suspected poisoning cases. When four doctors suspected that the poisoning of the Kochummen family from Putaruru was 1080 their alarm was quashed and a misleading trail to botulism was orchestrated by the DHB. What if the Kochummen's had died? The coroner would also be implicated in a cover-up? The MPI supposedly carried out tests but won't disclose what their findings were. A cover-up or total corruption? DoC have stated that 1080 is relevantly safe and that a person would need to consume 4 to eleven pellets before they could be poisoned. They have now changed this to 1-2 pellets. People have reported into hospitals around the country believing that they have had or been close to 1080 dust. They have had symptoms of 1080 poisons yet doctors and nurses have scoffed and laughed at them, with no tests being conducted. Wild pigs can eat several 1080 pellets as they are able to sniff them out and it doesn't appear to immediately affect the pig but the flesh is tainted making the pig a lethal toxic murder weapon should anyone de-

liberately give some freshly caught wild pork to an unsuspecting enemy. In the case of the Kochummen case the pig hunter that gave the Putaruru people the wild pork has not been interviewed by the Police to ascertain if in fact he had an issue and deliberately gave the wild pork to them. Was it attempted murder? Probably not but it does raise the question. Could someone else do the same? Always possible especially given that the authorities do not test for 1080 poisoning and are quick to refute the possibility. If the MPI, DoC, the DHB's and the Police do not test for 1080 as they believe it impossible to kill a person through consuming tainted poisoned meat then it effectively makes it the perfect murder weapon. Another simple fact is that NIWA, Cawthron and other 1080 testing facilities have deliberately avoided testing for 1080 and brodifacoum in freshwater fish and invertebrates as they say it is too complicated. Yet their so-called knowledgeable scientists clearly state koura and other freshwater fish cannot be poisoning or cause secondary poisoning. Our democracy is being thwarted because the bureaucrats are keeping the information from Councilors and Politicians as they know that the truth in many of these matters will cause widespread alarm. These bureaucrats are making decisions behind the back of our elected watchdogs who in

many cases are being conned or deliberately misled by Council and government department staff. A link to a Register of Unintended Poisoning Events caused or suspected to be caused by 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) and/or brodifacoum pest control poisons. [https://docs.google.com/document/d/18c9NXa4NsZp5bzEm4WM8aP\\_Us41DjXXMuxkHHcqap3U/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/18c9NXa4NsZp5bzEm4WM8aP_Us41DjXXMuxkHHcqap3U/edit?usp=sharing)

This register has been prepared by a group of citizens, and supported by Waikato Regional Councillor Kathy White, Ursula Edgington, Michelle Read and Sue Grey. They have undertaken this significant project due to concern about the until now mainly hidden risks to human and environmental health, clean water, food safety and integrity and New Zealand's "Clean Green" image from the use of these poisons, and the apparent failure of poisoners or other decision-makers to review their use, or collate or consider incidents of harm arising from their use. The register of 1080 poisoning incidents was recently presented to parliament and to date has been completely ignored by our elected government.

## Recreation fishers welcome Minister's actions on CRA 2

Minister of Fisheries Stuart Nash has reduced the allowable catch for crayfish in the Hauraki Gulf and Bay of Plenty, known as the CRA 2 region. The Minister has set the new limits for commercial fishing at 80 tonnes per year, set aside a recreational allowance of 34 tonnes and an allowance for Maori customary fishing at 16.5 tonnes. Evidence of the collapse of the fishery put the stock at an historic low, with only 5% of male and 18% of the female population in the water. Concerns about the state of the cray-

fish fisheries were completely ignored by former Minister Guy for a number of years under the National governments support for the pillage of the fishery. The National Rock Lobster Management Group previously advised the minister that there was "no evidence of 'sustainability issues' with the CRA2 fishery" while recreational and customary divers have all said the same thing that the fishery is devastated, and decisive action is urgently needed. During recent harvest surveys researchers found that 73% of all recreational

fishers in CRA 2 returned with none, one or two crayfish. Less than 17% took their 6-per day limit. The fishery must always in every case be put first. The decision to reduce the total allowable commercial catch by 60% and the recreational allowance by 75% appears large on paper. However, the commercial catch limit and recreational allowance have not been caught for several years and the actual catch reduction from last year's catch is about 30%.


## Fishing Company catch spawning Salmon

Fishing Company Sanford's, is being praised for halting trawling operations near Banks Peninsula to avoid catching salmon, while other fishing companies have yet to respond. Sanford is believed to have instructed its skippers not to fish in the Salmon Conservation Area (SCA) near Banks Peninsula because there are too many salmon there. The fact that they already know this fact which is incidental to the fact that they fish there anyway, targeting other species while the salmon are gathering for their spawning runs. They have done that for many years. Sanford's say that their decision was prompted after one of its vessels caught nearly 400 salmon as by-catch recently. Some of the salmon were had believed to have escaped from salmon farms and others were wild bred fish. Sanford's vessel was targeting red cod and barracouta within the Salmon Conservation Area and illegally landed the salmon as by-catch. Why they were targeting these species during the salmon spawning is ridiculous and quite unnecessary.

In previous seasons when the by-catch has been relatively high, so has the return of salmon to rivers to spawn. So, from that respect, this big by-catch suggests anglers might look forward to good runs of salmon back to the rivers over coming months. Sanford's decision to stop fishing in the area comes amid increasing concern over the state of New Zealand's wild salmon. The salmon live at sea for most of their life before returning to spawn in the rivers where they hatched. Anglers prize wild salmon, and during their summer spawning runs, flock to Canterbury's braided rivers in the hope of catching one.



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# Letters to editor

## An Exotic Freshwater Fish

Dear Sir  
Waikato Federated Farmers Andrew McGovern needs to get over his anti-introduced phobia when he terms trout as "an exotic freshwater fish" as destructive to bio-diversity. Brown and rainbow trout have been here for about 150 years. McGovern's condemnation of trout reveals double standards in that farm stock are introduced and for that matter so are all humans by way of migration. A great adverse impact on native fish has been the growth of dairying particularly in low rainfall areas such as Canterbury and the Mackenzie basin. Rivers such as Canterbury's Selwyn and Irwell, once revered fly fishing rivers are now in summer dry riverbeds with occasional slimy pools. Note I specified "low rainfall areas". I add to that corporate dairying as distinct from the traditional Kiwi family farm. Profit-obsessed corporate dairying does not give a toss about rivers, bio-diversity etc., Of course we need some dairying in rainfall blessed districts but not mad-capped growth and to hell with environmental consequences. Similarly trout are a recreational asset and economically a multi-million dollar earner in international and domestic tourism, the latter benefitting regions. McGovern's rant does Federated Farmers no credit. No wonder its membership is a fraction of Kiwi farmers.  
Andi Cockroft  
Co-chairman  
Council of Outdoor Recreation Assn of NZ

## Cattle not safe to eat

This bovine disease has been going on for a long time now, and is just getting worse and being spread to more and more farms. Well this is obviously a very sad disease especially for the cattle and is a very painful death to these animals. While this is in the small thousands, over the last 60 years, millions of our native birds including wild and domestic stock as well as dogs have suffered a painful and agonizing death through 1080 while they die. But do DoC, MPI, politicians care about all this wild pain and suffering. No, not a toss. They are all nothing but inhumane. Now here is the reason I have written this letter. If these MPI and such idiots think this meat from bovine dying cattle is perfectly OK to eat by us humans they must be joking. How can this meat be classed as 100% per clean and green meat, these pure 100% pure idiots want hanging by their toes. I will never eat any of this meat. I will always check with my butcher before buying.  
Dick Featherstone  
Thames

Dear Sir

It is really distressing to see what is happening to the planet... it is not just New Zealand... but I suppose because NZ was touted for so long as "100% Pure NZ"...and I did know it as such. I have been coming here for 35 yrs, my partner for longer. We come here for the purity of the spring creeks...the amazing brown trout...the environment. We come

from Hawaii, in itself another kind of paradise...but mainly for the trout...fly fishing in the old style. We sight fish. We read the trout, the bugs. We go far away from the crowds, where we rarely see another angler. It's all about fishing...the purity of flyfishing, in a spring creek...we stalk the fish we are going to catch... we may spend days just observing, knowing their beat, watching... watching. Doing stream checks at all times of day...waiting for the hatch... waiting for the wind to die down... using our knowledge for a fair fight. We don't come for just a few days...a week...we come for 3 months...not in a hurry when we see the prize...But...what has happened? So many places we go, we see signs...DANGER, WARNING, POISON, TRAPS..1080.....The spring creek we have fished is now full of weeds...a product of dairy, fertilizers. We spent time around Twizel for a month before coming here to the West coast. I witnessed the canal fishing, the trout on steroids...the sockeye salmon run in the Twizel River. Both of these un-natural. I see a dying art... flyfishing in the 'old style'...I see the population dying, the trout being poisoned. I know the canal fishing is great for some (for Fish and Game they sell a lot of fishing licenses), perhaps I have become a bit of a purist...but catching a trout on steroids, in a canal, is akin to me like a "canned hunt" where the game is enclosed, and you pay your money to go out and catch it, within fences. The 'planted' sockeye salmon were put in the Twizel for what? I was having a great time getting to know the river...watching, making a plan, knowing where to fish.... and the they showed up...and shut everything down. Oh well...they

ad nutrients to the system. Now, I watch I wait...this time last year there were bugs...there were more trout...there were less weeds.....Will I come back next year?...Don't know. This next fact is not so significant.... but again to the economy of NZ it might be....but we probably infuse \$20,000 to \$30,000 for our stay every year to the NZ economy...gladly. We have even proposed a higher fee for our non-resident fishing license...hoping that it would aid the NZ Fish and Game more funds to fight for the environment...protect the rivers and the streams. We love NZ, the people, the rivers and streams. But we are wondering if NZ knows what they are losing....when they lose the trout....trout are truth..... somebody better start listening.  
Golde Wallingford,  
Big Island, Hawaii

## Game bird hunting will be history



Throughout the country huge numbers of wetlands have been created over the last 30-years. In the Wairarapa alone well over 60 have been created and most are protected by QEII National Trust Covenants - including 25 created by a good friend of ours. He also planted over 30,000 trees and all these wetlands used to have huge numbers of mallards - but now there are none! (a photo of one of these wetlands in attached) Many of the Wairarapa natural wetlands have predator control programmes operating - and there are NO mallards, but there are large numbers of all other waterfowl! The Hayes & Associates website has considerable info about the mallard demise! In addition NZ Guns & Hunting has published volumes about the demise of mallards! Fish & Game got into bed with DoC at least a decade ago and in essence all game bird hunting and trout fishing will eventually be history!  
Neil Hayes

## Hunting and Fishing public lethargic

Dear Sir

The lead story on the front page of the March issue Fishing and Outdoors shows how desperate DoC is to carry on their systematic poisoning of NZ's once great outdoors - which is public property. It would appear even the NZ police have tainted themselves being coerced by DoC into wrongfully prosecuting Graeme Sturgeon. DoC's spin machine with the use of taxpayer money, has convinced most of the NZ public as well as visitors to this country into believing the myth of "invasive pests." The general public and visitors know nothing of the damage caused by the systematic blanket poisoning with the super toxin 1080 that it is supposedly the saviour of our wildlife. In fact it's the ruin of our wildlife. OSPRI, TB Free or Animal Health Board is in cahoots with DOC. It represents a bloated bureaucracy, spinning lies to farmers and public about the mythical Tb story. TB could be eradicated overnight if proper testing was done. In anywise NZ has been Tb-free by international standards for a decade. Still OSPRI juggernaut grinds on. Inflated salaries and bureaucratic empires are at stake. It is no wonder the DoC and its supporters will go to any lengths to protect its destructive ways by straight out lying. It is a monstrous gravy train built around lies. However too many of the Hunting and Fishing public are lethargic. They are apathetic, lazy and selfishly not interested. They need to get rid of that. If more good honest kiwis such as Graeme Sturgeon stood up and

were counted, this systematic poisoning of NZ would come to an end. Apathy has to stop and the many more that know and enjoy the outdoors in lots of different ways have to stand up and be counted.  
G.E.T. Smart  
North Otago

## It's time to stop being "nice"

Dear Sir  
Has Police Minister Nash backdoored (i.e. shafted) the hunting and shooting fraternity? Hawkes Bay hunters put him on the mat last year prior to the elections and he promised to be fair. Main stream media has been blatantly misreporting facts about firearms by presenters that clearly show their ignorance. Here we go again! Cahill, no doubt egged on by his mate O'Connor in Parliament, are scare-mongering again! They know, as we ALL do, that if firearms were banned from private ownership tomorrow - only criminals would have them! Or perhaps the secret focus is on disarming the masses as Australia did a few years ago because the government is seriously concerned about a civil war. When 1/2 billion \$'s worth of meth can come across 90 mile beach, and only two of every 10 containers coming into NZ are x-rayed, God knows how many foreign boats that can come in close to our shores and drop off GPS'd packages of drugs & firearms. NZ will never be free of criminals having possession of illegal firearms (or drugs!!). I have said this before; but security of information in police databases and the very possible likelihood of this info getting into criminal hands is of some concern to me (and should be to us all!) No databases are totally secure and there are some very clever crims out there too!!! A recent incident of the theft of a large quantity of C cat firearms from a local collector's 10mm thick safe, which took the local police two hours to attend, the 10mm thick safe did not deter the crims at all. If they know you have got them, they'll go in with the tools to get them! It is interesting to speculate how long and how many cars would attend a Bank Alarm actuation? As a matter of comparison, I can get from my home to my alarmed business before even the security firm gets there, and never in 20+ years have the police ever turned up, even though the notification to them of my alarm actuation is in the security coy's action plan! The crims would love to get their hands on the valuable loot in my shop!!!! Firearm theft doesn't seem to be a police priority?? But bank cash is? This O'Connor/Cahill/Nash team effort is undoubtedly building up to a very carefully planned attack (again) on NZ's Firearm Laws and we have to stop pussy footing around by being "nice". The Govt (particularly this current Marxist/Communist one) is hell bent on obeying their UN masters and joining their agenda to disarm all law abiding civilians! The question needs to be repeatedly asked: "How will these law changes prevent criminals from getting possession of illegal firearms?"  
Dave M  
(strong supporter of COLFO and SSANZ)

## Outdoor Sports Privatisation

Mark Reason's excellent column (5 March) "NZ Turning Into Little America" relative to golf courses, clicking turnstiles and locked gates is only part of the story of sport in the wider context. Access to outdoor sports such as trout fishing and others such as bona fide hunting and tramping etc, has been diminished by foreign purchases of farms and high country stations once owned by Kiwi families. You cannot blame the foreign purchasers. They are doing nothing illegal, well in 90% cases. The blame rests squarely on governments who naively sell out and also on the weak-kneed Overseas Investment Office. The overseas culture predominantly is private estates, locked gates and expensive trout and salmon fishing fees. NZ was founded on an egalitarian concept of equal opportunity for all regardless of wealth or ethnic background. That is embodied in laws forbidding charging fishing or shooting rights. The outdoor sporting public is watching the urgency of the new coalition government's three parties all who pledged a crackdown on foreigners buying farm land.  
Graham Carter  
President  
NZ Federation Freshwater Anglers

## Tangled 1080 Web

Dear Sir

OSPRI are due to poison the Timaru Creek valley draining into Lake Hawea in May. Frankly this is a complete and irresponsible waste of public money. Possum populations are very light. Besides it has been proven possums do not carry TB to the extent of spreading it among cattle. OSPRI are ignoring previous Agriculture Minister Nathan Guy who told Parliament in response to a question from NZ First MP Richard Prosser that 9830 possums autopsied, none had TB. NZ has been TB free for at least 10 years having been well under the international yardstick for infection rates on cattle slaughtered. The deceit and arrogance by OSPRI is outrageous. OSPRI is guilty of misleading farmers and taxpayers. Farmers pay levies on cattle slaughtered to finance OSPRI and its big hoax. Taxpayers do too. When is a government going to clobber the shameful practices of OSPRI.? DOC is guilty too because they could refuse OSPRI permission to poison. But DOC is on the poison gravy train too. Native birds and insects get killed by 1080. 1080 was first developed as an insecticide. It is a broad spectrum poison killing everything that breathes oxygen and ingests the toxin. So why doesn't government move on shutting this ecologically destructive and waste of money down? Because government owns the 1080 company. It is an State Owned Enterprise. The quote "Oh! What A Tangled Web We Weave When First We Practice To Deceive" describes the hoax fine. When is Federated Farmers going to wake up instead of supporting the drop. What about Fish and Game NZ? For some strange reason it is

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Central Otago

### TB herds has not diminished

Dear Sir  
I wonder what the farmers think of millions of their Tb dollars being invested in scientists to streamline the business of distributing 1080 baits from the air. Here are TBfree scientists being paid by OSPRI and AHB before them supposedly to help rid us of Bovine Tb. Not one of the TB outbreaks over the last 30 years has been credited to the possum and yet here is a massive research effort, costing millions of farmer dollars every year, being devoted to poisoning possums with 1080 baits. The number of TB herds has not diminished over the last 15 years. Each new outbreak has been credited to stock movement. Despite the very costly NAIT system there has been no improvement in the control of this stock movement. With the parallel eruption of M Bovis we have seen the complete lack of management of the NAIT system and the bewilderment of the managers. The 1080 scientists regularly account for the greatest contribution to the cost of aerial 1080. When the threat to poison baby formula was made to Fonterra it came from Connovation, a company formed by a group of Landcare scientists to make private profit. Charles Eason was the chief 1080 scientist at Landcare and he was the co-founder and chief scientist of Connovation. When Fonterra assigned thousands of baby formula samples for testing the contract went to the Cawthron Institute. This testing took \$20 million dollars and added another \$27 per hectare to every hectare of aerial 1080 during that season. By this time the CEO of the Caw-

thron Institute was Charles Eason. The 1080 science has long been a monopoly and has long been paid for by farmers. Here (attached) are the Crown Research Institutes awarding themselves honours for TB research. This research has nothing to do with improving the control of stock movement, nor with possum control as such. The award goes to the "refinement" of the process of aerial 1080. This refinement has aimed at cheapness. However, as we see from the article attached, that cheapness has been limited to the private enterprise sector of the aerial 1080 business: the helicopter and the transport companies. Transport and helicopter companies have been encouraged to compete with each other, undercutting each other's quotes by as much as 50%. This has led to cutting corners and the disregard of many safety features once considered vital to ensure human health. The government side of aerial 1080, the manufacture of the 1080 baits, has not been cheapened, in fact the cost of the 1080 baits has been steadily rising. Firstly the scientists invented the idea of "pre-feed" so the government bait-making factory would not lose income when the volumes of toxic baits were reduced. The baits have taken most of the scientists' attention. They have added attractants, and developed repellants, they have messed with the compound in numerous ways and the bait costs may now be more than the helicopter costs. Many of these additions, such as the deer repellants, have not worked. Nevertheless they have awarded themselves for having a go. And the farmers keep paying. Please find out why the farmers so willingly support these scientist's livelihood with no possible improvement to our present Tb situation.  
John Veysy

### Wallabies Waimate

Dear Sir  
I was watching the late news on TV3 Friday March 10th. In the 1960's my mate and I shot a lot of jock wallabies on Rangitoto Island and Motutapu Island walking around the rock edges as well as from boats close to the rocks, now there wallabies are smaller than the Waimate wallabies. The documentary on TV3 stunned me in that to me they were playing right into NZ crazy 2050 pest free dream. The government has also played into DoC's hands saying 'we normally shoot 60-70 on our day and night shoots', but they said we are 'now getting 200 plus', well that's leaving the door wide open for DoC, to rush in with either 1080 on choppers with shotgun shooters on board. Well that's the end of sport shortly for a lot of people well who the wants that? I wouldn't mind flying down and having a go myself sometime. There's more, one farmer said they eat as much grass as 3 sheep, which is rather odd as a wallaby is about the size of half a sheep, so that was a total lie. The programme also said there were hundreds of thousands of wallaby crawling around the countryside around Waimate. I rang Timaru Hunting and Fishing shop which is close to Waimate and the obliging fellow there who said there was maybe 60,000 down there. He said the main issue was that farmers wouldn't let shooters on their properties because of past incidents re stock being shot. I understand fully where the farmers are coming from. I want game around for years to come but we don't want idiots giving our government and DoC any ammo to tale it away from us  
Dick Featherstone  
Thames

## Consultation Tongariro River for Works Programme



Compare the "before & after" images of inspecting new vehicle access leading into the Braids in 23 June 2006 which lasted all of two days before it was washed away...

The Integrated Catchment Management team at the Waikato Regional Council holds a Resource Consent to undertake management works within the flood scheme on the Tongariro River. Part of the conditions for this consent is to notify interested parties of our

address any concerns parties may have. Proposed works scheduled for the upcoming season primarily consist of gravel island vegetation control, and gravel island management. These works are focused on relieving erosional pressures and reducing flood potential. Other works may include

annual works plan. The purpose of this consultation is to: Identify proposed works and how they will be managed in accordance with the conditions of consent; Allow parties to consider whether the proposed works will impact on specific sites and/or species of significance; and Identify solutions to address any concerns parties may have. Proposed works scheduled for the upcoming season primarily consist of gravel island vegetation control, and gravel island management. These works are focused on relieving erosional pressures and reducing flood potential. Other works may include routine maintenance and ecological restoration such as revegetation/de-vegetation and stopbank top-ups (generally permitted activities). It is important to note that there is a 20 day consultation window before works can formally start. On past performance we perceive this invitation as an opportunity for WRC to announce and push their latest plans. They already know what they want to do, regardless of objections or constructive input from users. However this is how they mitigate public response by offering an opportunity which (in the past) they have totally ignored!! There have been numerous failed efforts by the WRC at taming the lower Tongariro over the years, which confirm the futility of the WRC's "flood control" measures, when the lake is being held too high by the power companies (to feed their turbines?).

A blonde goes into a nearby store and asks a clerk if she can buy the TV in the corner. The clerk looks at her and says that he doesn't serve blondes, so she goes back home and dyes her hair black. The next day she returns to the store and asks the same thing, and again, the clerk said he doesn't serve blondes. Frustrated, the blonde goes home and dyes her hair yet again, to a shade of red. Sure that a clerk would sell her the TV this time, she returns and asks a different clerk this time. To her astonishment, this clerk also says that she doesn't serve blondes. The blonde asks the clerk, "How in the world do you know I am a blonde?" The clerk looks at her disgustedly and says, "That's not a TV – it's a microwave".

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# Didymo Dave

## A Massive Tragedy

Often I hear fishermen talking about the lower Waitahanui River and pools they have caught fish in and referring to maps etc. I get a real feeling of sadness when I hear these comments, because unless you fished the Waitahanui River before around 1980 you don't know what it was like! So let me tell you what it was like and then what happened. My Dad was a keen fly fisherman and as a family through the 1960's and 70's we holidayed and had weekends at Waitahanui from May through to August each year, coinciding with the spawning runs of trout up that world famous river. All the fishing in those days was with heavy sinking wetlines and what fun it was to fish this magnificent river. Let me take you on a journey down the lower river starting at the Cliff Pool. There were 3 main pools in what is known as the Cliff Pool area, the top pool was difficult to fish and the middle pool was so deep I don't remember anyone ever getting a fish out it. You could see them in there when the sun was shining on the right angle but they were deep. The bottom pool was deep as well, very deep, deep enough that one day I was standing on the Cliff with my friend Greg Oke and decided that today was the day and jumped off the Cliff into the river. Goodness knows how my Mother found out but she hit the roof when she did. Out of the Cliff Pool and under the bridge and down Hutts Reach the river ran over the diagonal lip and into the depths of Poi Pool. Around a right hand bend and over another lip and into Ladies

Pool which I know was deep because I tried to get to the bottom with a snorkel and mask on one day. Then down to the Fence Pool which was an absolute magnificent holding pool for trout and the favourite Pool of the late Jack Ram. Next was Lanes Reach which had a nice pool at the top on the right hand side and a lovely long lie on the left hand side further down. At the bottom was an interesting pool that had a few snags in it but my mate Mark Ayre landed a lovely 8lb hen out it one day. Then around a couple of bends and over another diagonal lip into Colonels Bend which was a crescent shaped pool, deep throughout and the right bank covered in blackberries. You could easily spend a couple of hours fishing your way through Colonels Bend. Some interesting water followed before Schoolmasters Pool which again was a magnificent holding pool. Whenever I walk past Schoolmasters Pool I think of Ray Oke of Fielding, it was his favourite pool. So many times I remember walking down the river and seeing him standing at the top of the pool with his favourite hat on working his favourite fly on the end of 30 yards of deep sinking line through goodness knows how many trout used to lie in that pool and he certainly caught his share! A long straight, couple of bends of nice water and we arrive at De Latour's Pool and words fail me to describe that pool, it was simply magnificent and I don't believe even with the best of sunglasses and the sun in the right angle anyone ever saw the whole bottom of the pool. Have a read of what O.S. Hintz wrote in his classic book

Trout at Taupo about this pool. So what happened? Well in the mid 1970's the decision was made to plant forestry in the upper Waitahanui River valley. So bulldozers crushed the scrub which disturbed the soil, the rain washed sediment into the river and the pools silted up, that's what happened! You see rivers like the Tauranga - Taupo and the Tongariro Rivers have large catchments and when heavy rain falls they flood and scour and wash sediment out into Lake Taupo. But the Waitahanui River isn't like that, sure it has some catchment but it's mainly a spring fed river which is why it's known as the last to colour and flood of the eastern tributaries so large amounts of sediment in the river are not going to be washed out, they will silt the river up. Simple. Torri Marama was a Waitahanui local and he was smart enough to realise this and in the mid 1970's he tried everything to stop the forestry to protect this beautiful river but sadly, no one listened or helped him. So today, the lower reaches of the Waitahanui River are, after 45 years of forestry, in my view a silted up disaster. The Cliff Pools, Poi's, Ladies, Fence, Colonels Bend, Schoolmasters, De Latour's are all gone. Sure some people may claim they fish those pools, but believe me, they are puddles compared to the magnificent pools they were. So we can't change what happened, but I believe it's important we learn and be prepared to stand very strong against any other half-baked idea that could affect a beautiful river or lake.

## Lake Arapuni Fishing Contest



The anglers are Tyler Dellow winner of the junior section with his 3.342kg



Adam McGrath winner of the adult section 2.408kg

Once again fine settled weather greeted anglers entering the Te Awamutu Fish and Game annual lake fishing contest held on Lake Arapuni over March 17-18. The contest attracted 99 entries 34 being juniors (12yrs and under). 52 trout made it to the scales, 15 being caught by junior anglers, this is down on last year's total of 75, although there were a record

12 brown trout weighted in 24 fin clipped and tagged rainbows and 15 wild rainbow (fish naturally spawned in the lake) made up the balance. Junior anglers managed to weigh in enough rudd and goldfish to fill a 20 ltr bucket 1½ times. The heaviest other fish saw a number of eels weighed in and most of these were released back in the lake. Results, Junior trout section: 1 Tyler Dellow 2.342kg brown jack; 2 Kyle Holmes 2.134kg brown jack; 3 Brayden Hoyes 1.960kg rainbow hen f/clip; 4 Emily Smart, 1.702kg rainbow jack f/clip; 5 Addison Phillips 1.700kg rainbow jack f/clip; 6 Emily Smart 1.658kg brown hen. Heaviest rudd: Finlay Harvey. .489kg rudd. Heaviest bag of 5 rudd: Charlotte Davey 1.098kg. Heaviest other fish: Brayden Hoyes 1.158 eel. Adult trout section: 1 Adam McGrath 2.408kg Brown jack; 2 Glen Streeter 2.198kg rainbow hen w/fish; 3 Neil Hoyes 2.121kg rainbow jack w/fish;

4 Hayden Holmes 2.070kg brown jack; 5 Brad Gillespie 2.028kg brown jack; 6 Samson Ward 2.006kg rainbow hen f/clip. The winner of the Bill Sullivan Memorial cup for the heaviest overall lake fish went to Adam McGrath

## Salmon carcasses being dumped in landfill



Salmon carcasses being dumped in landfill

Fishers in the Pelorus Sound are having a good time catching plenty of good sized snapper. Rumour has it that they were released two years ago from a fish farm in Beatrice Bay, because they did not grow enough on the feed they were given. A year ago locals were catching tiny undersize snappers, but this year most are just over the limit. On the Marlborough Sounds salmon farms the MPI has changed the CAN. It now allows for the dumping of the dead salmon in landfill. The link is: [https://www.mpi.govt.](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/salmon-response/)

nz/protection-and-response/responding/salmon-response/ The only hint in the CAN is that the signature date is now February 2017. Then on the page before last is the following: i. Movement of dead Chinook salmon out of a contained zone provided that: a. all dead salmon taken from marine farm sites within Contained Zone A are transported within fully sealed containers and landed at Havelock; b. all dead salmon taken from marine farm sites within Contained Zone B are transported within fully sealed containers and landed at Picton; c. subject to conditions a) and b) above all dead salmon landed to either Havelock or Picton are transported directly within fully sealed containers to either: i. NZ King Salmon's processing facilities at Nelson to be processed for human consumption, or;

ii. Processing facilities operated by Kakariki Proteins Ltd, Feilding to be rendered into fish meal, or; iii. Any landfill for the purposes of disposal. So if you are a bureaucrat you can sneak in changes to official documents, hoping no-one will notice. I guess this is better than dumping the salmon at sea as what has occurred previously. NZKS is also looking to optimise being in cooler spots next year. It makes me wonder where that will be? Are they talking to MDC about "emergency locations" in the Outer Sounds somewhere for their salmon farms in summer? <https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/101918481/new-zealand-king-salmon-cautious-despite-rising-profits>. I guess that dumping the salmon is better than as previous dumping them at sea – but if the water is too warm for them, lets get rid of salmon from the Sounds altogether. As the disease will affect other fish in due course. The cages are wide open for disease to spread. The two farm locations the salmon relocation panel has advised in the Pelorus are further in from Cook Strait and south of the farms where the fish are dying now, so even less suitable for salmon farming temperature wise. It is smart of the Minister to wait making any decisions until the 2nd half of 2018, when the scale of the "cooked salmon disaster" should be known.



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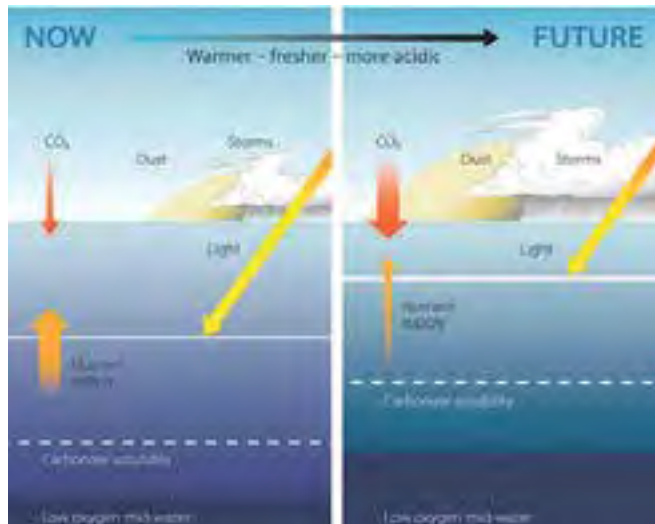
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The paper reports that one of the most affected areas for nutrient decline will be the Chatham Rise to the east of New Zealand, which currently provides about 60 per cent of the country's commercial fish catch. Another vulnerable area is the sub Antarctic waters to the south of New Zealand which is also home to some commercial fisheries. "All regions will see a reduction in food supply, because of a decrease in particulate material sinking from the surface - and that is what links climate change to our fisheries." The fishing industry may need to think about being more agile in terms of the species it catches and where it catches them, Prof Law said. "For example, if fish go deeper to maintain their temperature, they will have to adjust their practices to account for that." Acidity in the ocean will increase by 130 per cent by the end of the century which will cause changes to shellfish. "For example, we can speculate that shells of paua and mussels may be affected - it doesn't mean that we lose them from our ecosystems, just that they might become smaller in response to their diversion of energy to maintain their shells."



Changes in species in New Zealand waters could include more invasive species and possibly new diseases that could affect local ecosystems. However, there may also be an upside. Tuna could be more plentiful in our waters because they prefer warmer waters and other fisheries may also benefit. "In New Zealand we're on the border between the warmer water, where things are moving from, and the cooler water, where things are moving to. Therefore, we won't be as hard hit as some of the islands in tropical regions where continual warming will reduce numbers of fish and plankton."

## Warming ocean to affect fisheries

Rapid warming of the ocean near Tasmania may provide a good indication of how the water around New Zealand will change as the planet warms, say NIWA scientists. In a recent paper, published in the New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research, the scientists have used two Earth System Models and four climate change scenarios to project how New Zealand waters will be affected by 2100.

Lead author and NIWA marine biogeochemist Professor Cliff Law says the best-case scenario involved a cessation in the production of carbon dioxide in the next few years, with the worst-case being business as usual in which carbon dioxide levels keep rising. "The average warming around New Zealand is 2.5°C by the end of this century, which will affect how the ocean mixes and the nutrients available for plankton growth, with knock-on effects on the foodweb and fisheries."

Prof Law says that the surface ocean has a "density step" between the surface water and the lower, deeper water where the nutrients come from, which acts like a physical barrier to nutrient movement between the layers. "With further warming, there's a stronger density step and less nutrient supply for the surface waters so phytoplankton doesn't grow so well and productivity drops down."



## Book review



**Black Magic**  
By Ayden Anagnostellis-Carter

'Do not fear death, Nicholas, for it has given you purpose, it has given you meaning. Without death, you would not fear for the lives of your family and you would not be trailing this tyrant. Even if you fail, let it be known that you fought for those you care for in

**Dark Forest Deep Sea**  
by Richard Hall,  
published by Makoro Press, price \$38.

Richard Hall finds hunting irresistible, but with a difference. It goes beyond the hunting itself and the likely killing of an animal, to the deeper experience. This is not a book comprising so much recollection of hunting trips, but a book with a deeper meaning that delves into the feelings and sensations at the heart of the wilderness experience. From catching eels in a river on a moonlit night to spearfishing on a

this world – your sacrifice is not in vain.' Enveloped in a ring of flames, Nicholas Rigil stands alone – confronting an enemy who wields a supernatural weapon of unparalleled force. Caught amidst a clash for an object of godlike power, unassuming Nicholas must unite with a mysterious organisation known as the Vanguard if he is to have any chance of saving his family. But when there is no distinction between those who would save him and those who would destroy him, who can he trust? Will he succeed in finding the truth, or will his efforts be in vain? Having a vivid imagination is one thing but putting it into words and making a great fictional book is quite the other. Ayden has captured the reality of life as young boy and transformed this into a modern day science fiction novel with same flair. His perception of what makes a good book different to a great read is indicated in the manner in which he has constructed the plot and bought this together. A very enjoyable read. Suitable for all ages. Available for \$7.00 plus p and p - message me for payment details.

single breath, to hunting deer in dark, dank forests, catching a trout in a wilderness river, Richard Hall captures with nice, descriptive writing, the very essence of being out there and doing it. Richard Hall is a hunter, scientist and writer, who work as a virologist in Wellington. The author writes well, dare I say with delightful descriptions that capture the feelings and emotions and of nature's moods. "Ancient trees leered over us, some wobbled at drunken angles —After the first 200 metres we felt like we'd been in a brawl —" Richard Hall revels in just being there and escaping the modern world with



its stresses and pressures. "There is an arbitrary moment on any walk into the forest when I realise 'I am there' no longer under the pressure of the human world but in nature." A couple of minor grizzles.

## Pesticide makes birds lose their way

The world's most widely used insecticide may cause migrating songbirds to lose their sense of direction and suffer drastic weight loss, according to new research. The work is significant because it is the first direct evidence that neonicotinoids can harm songbirds and their migration, and it adds to small but growing research suggesting the pesticides may damage wildlife far beyond bees and other insects. Farmland birds have declined drastically in North America and Europe in recent decades and pesticides have long been suspected as playing a role. The first evidence for a link came in 2014 when a study in the Nether-

lands found that bird populations fell most sharply in the areas where neonicotinoid pollution was highest, with starlings, tree sparrows and swallows among the most affected. "The reason our new study is special is this is not a correlation – it is actual experimental evidence," said Prof Christy Morrissey, at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, who said the results shocked her. "The effects were really dramatic. We didn't anticipate the acute toxicity, because the levels [of neonicotinoid] we gave them were so low." Three neonicotinoids were banned from use on flowering crops in the European Union in 2013 due

to unacceptable risks to bees and other pollinators and a total outdoor ban is being considered. Canada is also considering a total ban. Neonicotinoids now pollute the environment across the world and pressure is growing to slash pesticide use. The new research, published in the peer-reviewed journal Scientific Reports, analysed the effect of the neonicotinoid imidacloprid on white-crowned sparrows that migrate from the southern US and Mexico to northern Canada in summer. Birds were given doses equivalent to less than a single corn seed and within hours became weak, developed stomach problems and stopped eating. They quickly lost 17-25% of their weight, depending on the dose, and were unable to identify the northward direction of their migration. "Basically, these birds became lost," said Morrissey. Control birds that were not exposed to the insecticide were unaffected. "Everything from pheasant to blackbirds, house sparrows, deer,

raccoons, bunnies, mice, squirrels. Lots of different animals are coming to the spills," said Roy. A spokesman for Bayer, which makes imidacloprid, said: "Scientific evidence shows that imidacloprid has minimal environmental impact when used according to the label, including ingestion by seed-eating songbirds. We take the safety and environmental impact of our products seriously." He said that songbirds typically remove the seed hull, which is where the insecticide is applied, and suggested that birds would therefore be unlikely to reach the dose levels tested. He added that studies of caged birds indicated a lack of interest in treated seeds if other food sources were available. Morrissey said scientists were only just beginning to understand the harm neonicotinoids cause birds: "Pesticides have long been speculated as being one of the drivers of farmland bird declines, but we are only just barely touching the edge of that and understanding how pesticides can affect birds."

### Here's how to cleverly avoid speeding fines

1. Look closely at the signs on the road that show you the speed limit. The number indicated is the maximum speed you can travel. Whether you're on foot, bike or car.
2. Try to locate your car's speedometer. You normally find it somewhere in front of the driver's seat, on the dashboard. It has an arrow pointing to the number that reflects the car's speed. On newer cars, the speed is sometimes displayed digitally, with numbers.
3. This last point is also the hardest. Adjust your speed according to the number shown on the road sign. The police cannot fine you if you do not drive over this number.  
*Strangely, there seem to be surprisingly too few who are aware of this simple yet genius trick. And best of all, if you stick to it, you'll never have to pay a speeding fine ever again. Even better — the road will become much safer for everyone!*
4. If you wish to travel at a speed slower than the speed signs allow let other traffic pass by pulling as far left as practicable and if you come to a passing lane carry on at the same speed as you have been travelling. If you speed up when you come to a passing lane you are an inconsiderate arsehole.

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- Live local bands*
- celebrity Chef : Derek the Chef*
- demonstrations with local chefs*
- food stalls*
- fish filleting demonstration*

**Facebook page: Coromandel Seafood Fest**

**For further enquiries call:**

**Festival Organizers: 07 8668797**

**e-mail: [coroseafoodfest@gmail.com](mailto:coroseafoodfest@gmail.com)**



# A disconcerting fishing experience

By Rex N. Gibson



River about this time in 2017. The main road bridge (State Highway 8) became a real vantage point for tourists. The downside of sockeyes as a sports fish is that they are very hard to catch. Their

In late February I decided to terrorise the fish in the Mackenzie Country; well that's how I always feel at the start of a fishing trip when confidence is boosted by anticipation/adrenalin (or is it testosterone?). Staying at Omarama gave me the opportunity to easily access both arms of Lake Benmore as well as Lakes Ohau, Aviemore and Waitaki. The Ahuriri and Tekapo rivers were high and silt laden. This affected the river outlet areas, but the lakes all act as giant sedimentation ponds. There is always plenty of clearer water. These lakes all hold good numbers of fish; rainbows, browns, landlocked salmon; and in Benmore, especially, there are the sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*). The name sockeye comes from an Anglicisation of its Native American name. The sockeyes spawn earliest. There are some fantastic You Tube clips showing them aggregating prior to, and during, spawning in the Twizel



diet is primarily zooplankton; very hard to replicate with a fishing lure! The commercial catch in the northern hemisphere is mostly netted although one farm operates in British Columbia on the "flow through" model". Presumably natural plankton from the river pass through the cages and the faeces flush out the other end. I note that industrial and farming "run off" from upstream is of concern; sound familiar? There is a part of the Haldon arm delta (Lake Benmore), between the outlet of the Ohau canals and the Tekapo River mouth, which has been my "go to" spot for 20+ years. As I worked my way around I started to notice dead fish. After the first one I assumed it was one of the "catch and release" victims which had been "overplayed", one of favourite "hates". Then I spotted another a little further along, and so on. By session end the count was at least nine. I was wading through a Salmonid morgue! For a fly fisherman/conservationist it was like watching a horror movie. The gentle easterly breeze wafted a handsome six pound salmon, probably not a sockeye, right up to my wading position. There were "tell-tale" spots of fungal growth on its body reminiscent of the salmon carcasses that I have often encountered in the past on the Upper Hurunui and the Hakataramea Rivers from "spent" (post-spawning) salmon. As most fishers know the salmon only spawn once and then hover around the pool "waiting for

god". A somewhat morbid characteristic called "semelparous" behaviour. The difference is that the sea-run salmon in the upper Hurunui are a minimum of ten pounds in weight. The carcasses on the edge of Lake Benmore were mainly about 1.5 - 2.5 lbs (similar to many trout). As a person who is primarily a trout fisherman these encounters with dead Salmonoids are somewhat disconcerting. It seems such a waste. Even as biologist I know the reason why the sportsman in my feels despair. I first experienced carcass overload well over a decade ago whilst fishing the Tekapo River. On first glance they looked like their close relatives, the rainbow trout. The males turn red on the back when in spawning mode but the females still resemble trout. Walking amongst dead vertebrates is not a common experience for hunters and fishermen except where



man has intervened. I am a loss to think of many other mainland New Zealand vertebrates that die after reproducing for the first time. It is a characteristic however of many anadromous fish (including our various white-bait species, and salmon). Our smelt are even more versatile; some being diadromous (flitting between fresh and salt water), others are solely estuarine, and a few are even solely freshwater. The carcasses of whitebait in our river beds are generally inconspicuous, and the eel species in New Zealand do the opposite trick. They spawn in the ocean, where they die, and live their long lives in our freshwaters.

A point also lost on some people is that under the Conservation Act it is an offence to disturb spawning fish (including sockeyes); including walking up stream beds where they are spawning (and thus damaging their redds). There were two visiting fishermen casting away all day on a long pool in the lower Twizel River when I was there. I am sure that they did not realise that the fish were more focussed on reproduction than noticing their flies. Sockeyes were established in the Waitaki River catchment from a single release in 1901 from British Columbia. Hydro development from 1930 killed their sea run options, although there is some

thought that they had already given up their seaward migration tendencies before the first dam was built at Kurow. Landlocked populations also occur across the North American continent. The various land-locked sockeye populations of the Mackenzie catchment rarely grow bigger than 1 kg before spawning. They seem, however, to have found ways to spread their home range in recent years. In the 1980s they were thought to have become extinct but are a regular part of the catchment's fauna. One report quotes a thousand sockeyes seen in a tributary of Lake Pukaki; traditionally the most barren of the lakes when it comes to Salmonoids. Just for the record; I caught good



fish (rainbows and browns) in all four lakes and enjoyed the great company of my three travelling colleagues. I was fishing solely with dragon fly and damsel fly imitations. The fishing conditions were great and the weather forecasts were wrong every single day!

## Hollyford 1080 drop wipes out native birds

Results from the Department of Conservation show that not all their employees agree with their poisoning ways. The recent 1080 drop in the Lower and Upper Hollyford Valleys in Fiordland, 5-6 October, 2017 has been an unmitigated disaster and the area had never been 1080 poisoned before. For many years, there has been a volunteer trapping programme in place around Gunn's Camp on the Hollyford Road. Ninety-eight traps are set along approximately 20 kms of the Hollyford Road, back into the bush. These traps are set approximately 200 metres apart, and they are cleared every three weeks, weather permitting. For years, these traps have averaged a total of 6 to 12 rats every three weeks, all up. After the 1080 drop, the next couple of trap clearances yielded very little. This is what one would expect immediately after an aerial 1080 drop. Five months on and a rat plague of triple and even quadruple previous rat numbers has started. This tallies with Landcare Research studies that show following 1080 drops, rat numbers soar from survivors and within 3-4 years are up to

4 times greater than before poison. Female rats can bear litters at six weeks of age with litters up to 10 or more. A female rat can have several litters a year so a female rat is capable of producing a conservative 70, 80 or more young a year. Possums on the other hand are slow breeders with mostly one "joey" a year. Three weeks ago the traps were cleared and contained 32 rats. Interestingly, some of the traps had two rats in them, which is apparently unusual. Last weekend's tally was 24 rats. That equates to 54 rats in a period of 6 weeks, whereas prior to the drop one could have expected, at the most, 12 to 24 rats to be caught in that time. Rats have never been caught here in these numbers before! Add to this the fact that the rats being caught recently are all young rats, this means that a veritable rat plague is on its way. The Hollyford used to be a Kaka haven. Twenty to forty Kaka were regularly seen there, and as many as fifty were counted on one relatively recent occasion and Moreporks (Ruru) abounded. There has not been a Morepork

or a Kaka seen or heard since the 1080 drop five months ago. Fantail numbers have taken a major dive, as the insect population has, of course, decreased and consequently the fantails are short of food. A local helicopter company has had reports, recently, from hunters it transports into hunting areas that deer numbers are 'low to non-existent' since the drop. It is reported that a big pond in the Hollyford River, above Gunn's Camp, which always had trout, now has none. "This strongly suggests that DoC's policy is get rid of every deer. They've bowled a lot with 1080 in a very cruel fashion and then they try to mop up survivors with 1080," said one long time NZDA member when asked. What is NZDA (Deerstalkers Assn) and Fish and Game doing about this? Forest and Bird and Eugenie Sage have been interestingly quiet on this given their support for saving the native birds. How are the Kaka and Ruru going to come back from a nil population?

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