



# NZFFA July 2021 Newsletter

## Welcome to Your Newsletter

### FISH & GAME REPRIEVE



We are extremely pleased to learn that, despite the Fish & Game NZ Council pushing for it, the decision to reduce the number of regions and number of elected Councillors will not take place this side of the next Fish & Game Councillor elections. In practice this should mean another three years of unpaid, committed and selfless Councillors representing the interests of F&G licence holders, without paid Government appointees.

The NZFFA has been opposed to the recommendation to reduce the number of regions simply because there has never been a reasoned, fact based foundation for doing so – it appears to be a whimsical notion from a lifelong civil servant.

Similarly, we oppose the recommendation of reducing the number of elected F&G Councillors as we believe it reduces participation in the democratic process, the opposite of what F&G should be pursuing.

Most importantly and at the risk of repeating ourselves, we urge the F&G NZ Council and Chair to ask its paymasters, the licence holders, what they want.

**The NZFFA submitted on the Natural and Built Environment Bill (Exposure Draft) as it has a number of concerns over the draft Bill as follows:**

1. Overall we are pleased to see the replacement of the RMA. As it stands the RMA favours those with deep pockets who can afford lawyers and expert witnesses to act on their behalf. It is a case that those with the most money will always prevail in a consent, a commissioner's or Environment Court hearing.
2. We also support the proposal to move away from effects based legislation to one founded on hard environmental limits and attributes, as the latter are far more objective and rely less on expert witnesses, offering their paid opinion.
3. There are some concerns however:
  - (a) The Bill talks of 'Te Oranga o te Taiao' with no explanation or quantification of what this is. We caution against legislation that relies on narrative and/or animist concepts rather than facts.
  - (b) The Bill promotes renewable energy, in practice in NZ this means HEP schemes. We have over 100 of these currently not one of which has a functioning salmonid fish pass, many have devastated the river ecosystem and many do not enable native fish migrations.
  - (c) We note that the hard work in establishing National Policy Statements, National Environment Standards and Water Conservation Orders, should not be lost when the new Bill is drafted as these have contributed to water quality.
  - (d) There is an over emphasis on protecting indigenous species only, whereas we believe our ecosystems are mixed (native and introduced) and that this is not always a bad thing and should be recognised as such.

*Submissions have now closed, but you can read more on the Ministry Website [HERE](#)*

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**In Other News:-**

The NZFFA has applied for funding from the Rakaia Catchment Environmental Enhancement Fund to organise and operate drinking water testing for the rural women of Canterbury, particularly those who are pregnant. Federation secretary, David Haynes, said " Given the success of our voluntary water testing service we have offered throughout Canterbury over the last two years and that the science indicates foetuses and babies are at greater risk of the impact of nitrates in drinking water, we are keen to offer this service as a one year trial."

The NZFFA has teamed up with Rural Women NZ and University of Otago (Wellington) to deliver this service

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### **And Finally:-**

We are pleased to announce that the Richmond A&P Show have kindly donated a stand to the NZFFA so we can offer drinking water testing to attendants, using our NICO Trios Spectrometer.

The show takes place at the Richmond Racecourse, near Nelson, on 21-22 November 2021.

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### **WV (Whitlock Vibert) Box**

In the early 1950's, Dr. Richard C.E. Vibert, a French fisheries

researcher, developed the original Vibert Box for stocking streams with trout and salmon eggs. In the 1970's American fisheries advocate Dave Whitlock and the Green Country Flyfishers of Oklahoma significantly changed the design of the Vibert Box. A more effective nursery area was added and the overall size of the box was enlarged. The improved box was named the Whitlock-Vibert Box (WVB). Size: 14 x 6 x 8.5 cm

### Construction

The WV box is a lattice box made of sturdy plastic. It consists of two chambers. The upper, smaller chamber is designed to accommodate already fertilised trout eggs, which are then buried with the whole box in the river. The lower chamber serves the trout hatchlings hatched from the eggs as a shelter. The basic idea for the creation of the WV box was that it was looking for a way to bring fertilised egg material into a body of water while protecting it from natural predators. If one simply dumped fertilised trout eggs into a body of water, the danger of drifting through water currents would be very great. Also, some spawning predators would certainly keep to the tasty bites. To prevent this, the protective WV box was developed.

### Use of the WV box

Fertilised trout eggs, which should already be in the eye-point stage, are placed in the upper chamber of the WV box a few days before hatching (about 400-500 eggs per box). The WV boxes are then placed on the bottom of the river and fastened by means of a steel nail punched into the ground. Then the boxes are covered with approximately plum-sized, washed gravel. Hatching happens naturally! When used correctly, the first broodlings should emerge from the eggs for a short time after being introduced into the water. These then fall from the upper chamber into the lower protection chamber. Only when the broodlings are free-floating, and once they have eaten up the

reserves of their yolk sac, they can then leave the box through the longitudinal grid of the protective chamber. Then they will start their life in the river as wild fish!

Note:

(1) The patented WVB is only available through Fly Fishers International (USA).

(2) Tony Oman comments: - Somehow trout miraculously survive high floods, but their spawning redds may have been smothered in shingle and ruined. It's after such winter floods, that perhaps some thought could be given to spring liberations?

However, any liberation should be judicious in matching the genetic character of the wild trout already there. Other questions arise. Should liberations be fry or fingerlings? Or the Vibert box way of planting eyed ova - the nearest of liberation methods to wild fish - has merit?

Back in the late 1950s, in Hawkes Bay, local deerstalkers assisted the Acclimatisation Society to plant Vibert boxes in the tributaries of upper reaches of rivers. In the following years the fishing was fantastic which I happened to experience when I moved to Hawkes Bay in 1961. Was the bonanza just a coincidence or as a result of the planted ova?

*Editor's note: Thanks to Marlborough Freshwater Anglers Club for this article*

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## Postings From the Website

Some of our more recent posts from the website (see

<https://nzffa.com>)

### **Kahawai and Estuary Trout Love Whitebait**

by Tony Orman Whitebait in couple of months, will be coming into river mouths and running up river to spawn. Predatory fish such as kahawai often home in on the...

**Read more...**

### **A Tip for Late Winter/Spring Trout**

by " Matuka" I always look sideways at fly fishers who say "I don't care if I catch any fish or not, it's just nice to get out there." Sure...

**Read more...**

### **E-Mail to ECan Councillors**

Dear Councillors Please find the link below to our latest press release highlighting that Canterbury nitrate pollution has extended beyond environmental pollution to potentially threatening human health

**Read more...**

### **Canterbury's Ticking Time-bomb Over Water Nitrate Levels**

New Zealand Federation Of Freshwater Anglers (Inc.) Press release Canterbury's Ticking Time-bomb Over Water Nitrate Levels A trout and salmon angling advocacy group has issued a stern warning over Canterbury's...

**Read more...**

### **The Canterbury Regional Council's (Ecan's) Annual Goundwater Quality Survey 2020.**

Groundwater quality survey released | Environment Canterbury (ecan.govt.nz) The 2011 – 2020 ten year trends in Canterbury's groundwater quality, released by Ecan in July 2021, show no evidence that Ecan...

**Read more...**

### **Why Ecan's approach to freshwater management is doomed to fail**

At the recent Braid Conference at Lincoln University, a retired hydrologist of 60 years' experience recently summed up the reason why Ecan is unable to manage Canterbury's freshwater; It is...

**Read more...**

### **New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers (NZFFA) Nitrate Testing Two Years On:**

August 2019 to July 2021 Background to the testing Battle lines drawn over Canterbury's nitrates (msn.com) Having previously been asked to help Dr Mike Joy obtain water samples from private...

**Read more...**

### **Rifle, Rod and Gun Public Have Lost To "Omnipotent Moral Busybodies"**

Opinion by Dr. Charlie Baycroft and Tony Orman Born in Belfast, Ireland, Clive Staples Lewis (1898–1963) was one of the intellectual giants of the twentieth century and arguably one of the most...

**Read more...**

### **Politics and the Environment - Cause and Effect**

Opinion by John B Henderson The late John B Henderson was national president of the NZ Deerstalkers Association, a

### **NZFFA Survey - Interim Results**

The NZFFA survey is still ongoing, and results to date are presented graphically below. These results carry a 95% Confidence Level with  $\pm 4\%$  Margin for Error. To complete the

very competent trout fly fisherman. and  
saltwater angler He wrote many editorials in  
NZDA's...

survey...

**Read more...**

**Read more...**

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### **The Federation's Executive:**

President: Peter Trolove (Rakaia)

Treasurer: David Haynes (Nelson)

Secretary: David Haynes (Nelson)

Committee:

Steve Gerard (Central South Island), Andi Cockroft (Wellington), Larry Burke (NZ Salmon Anglers), Zane Mirfin (Nelson), Brett Bensemann (Otago), Casey Cravens (Otago), Colin Taylor (Nelson), Grant Henderson (Auckland), Rex Gibson (Canterbury)

Life Members, Tony Orman, (Marlborough), Sandy Bull (Gisborne), Ian Rodger (Auckland) and Ken Sims (Manawatu) are automatically on the committee

Co-opted: Alan Rennie (North Canterbury)

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### **Disclaimer**

The opinion pieces and submitted articles are provided for your interest and information. They do not necessarily represent the views of all of the Executive members but are seen as vital to promote active debate around the issues that fit the aims and objectives of the Federation.

If you have not already done so feel free to comment on any of the articles on our website. The discussions always open up many valid points.



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