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Advocating for Anglers

Greeting from the NZFFA <<Club Contact - First Name>>,

For your info;

This Sunday morning 9am on TV1 Q+A see the Minister for the Environment outlining how he's going to fix up our waterways...

Hopefully this will be of interest to us anglers!

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Do you have a passion for our freshwater resources, are you interested in a part time job, or do you know of someone who may suit the position?

The NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers Inc is looking for a hungry and energetic business executive/salesman, more than an enthusiastic angler!

We are seeking a full or part-time Funding and Communications Manager to join the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers.

Applications are sought with proven Communications skills that can develop our customer base, assist in national campaigns.

Be proficient in Excel, Word and maintain Social Media platforms, and the website; Research and general office work.

A detailed knowledge and experience in the various aspects of Freshwater Fishing would be an advantage.

Applicants must be self-motivated, ambitious and have the ability to build good customer relationships.

The successful applicant will become a member of a very dedicated team that has a clear focus on water quality.

If you possess these skills and a positive attitude, send your written application, along with CV to info@nzffa.co.nz

The NZFFA has been involved in submission recently, copied below is one to the Christchurch City Council, and over the past week have been involved with the hearings for the RDRs new fish screen and water take.

New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers Inc. – Submission CCC (Verbal)

Tena koutou katoa nga Kawena ki te tikanga kaitiaki o Otautahi – Greetings

The Federation is pleased to have the opportunity to submit on the Christchurch City Council Long Term Plan.

The Federation's Executive represents the concerns of many of the over 80 freshwater fishing clubs of New Zealand.

There are 74,000 freshwater fishing licence holders in New Zealand. Of the resident anglers up to 10% are involved with fishing clubs or either receive or access clubs' digital media or communications. Fishing is listed by Sport NZ, from their surveys, as second only to walking in popularity as an outdoor recreational activity in NZ.

Over 27% of all of New Zealand's freshwater fishing licence holders (almost 20,000) are from the North Canterbury region; the overwhelming majority are resident in Christchurch City Council area.

We wish to speak further to two main areas within the report and to add a third point.

1. The lack of clarity on its commitment to maintaining the fishing ponds at The Groynes. These are used by 5,000+ people on the Take-a-Kid Fishing days (TaKF) supported by around 200 volunteers from our affiliated clubs. A further 200 people per day use the ponds on summer weekends (Figures from Fish & Game).

The issue of concern comes from the lack of maintenance in recent years which has resulted in the infill of sedimentation in some ponds; the encroachment of willows to 80% of the perimeter of another, and the choking of all ponds with invasive water weeds.

The clubs affiliated with the Federation have had a long term commitment to the TaKF programme. Members assisted in the removal of some of the weed prior to the TaKF day last October, but one seven foot dingy and a set of forks and rakes were not enough to provide a long term remedy. We were assisted in the disposal of the weed by a group of P.D. boys, so you can imagine the jokes that flew around about spending the morning "harvesting weed".

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The situation is now so bad that releases of trout and salmon from both Fish & Game North Canterbury and the Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust have ceased. There is unlikely to be any recommencement of releases until this situation is remedied.

Despite constant trolling through the LTP we have been unable to find any commitment to the Groyne's Lakes remediation and maintenance, despite it being a feature in the original Groynes Concept Plan adopted by CCC in 2003, and operated very successfully until the last few years.

Our members are concerned at the ingrained bias by Parks and Recreation towards team sports. A bias that sees football and cricket pitches maintained on a very regular basis, i.e. mowed, marked, resown, sprayed, etc.; often for the use of just 22 players, once, on a weekend. We would like to see a clearer commitment from the CCC to recreational activities, such as the Groynes fishing ponds, which are family oriented.

I refer you to the four summary points in the original submission.

2. Our second concern relates to any suggestion that the waste water management system could be sacrificed for any other consideration. Our affiliated clubs' members have been active for many years over the Belfast meat works discharges into the Waimakariri and I can assure you that they will bring the same energy to any other "compromise" decisions.
3. Additional point for consideration. Many of our members have also enjoyed sea fishing in the past. Like the CCC they are concerned with the negative impression left by many recent users of the New Brighton Pier. We see a solution as lying in the greater availability of access to wharves in the CCC owned Port of Lyttleton. In many New Zealand ports the wharves not currently in use by shipping are open to the public. This is not so at Lyttleton which resembles more a concentration camp than a public owned facility. The wharves greater availability would take much of the pressure off the Pier.

Rex N. Gibson QSM

M.Sc. (Distinction), Dip Ed. Man., Dip Tch.

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Executive Member, and Regional Freshwater Issues Spokesperson
New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers Inc.



Opinion

Overcrowded Waterways,

This has been a topical issue recently, and there are rivers which appear to be under immense pressure, and something surely needs to be done to address this issue. What we need though is a considered approach that protects the rights of the individual licence holder and their rights to part take in the sport. Regulation for the sake of it, based on perceptions without the cold hard facts provided by usage data can end up causing as much harm as it is supposed to be relieving.

According to a recent press articles 'Fishing licence sales had not moved significantly in the last 20 years, averaging 74,000 licence equivalents per year with a peak of 80,000 in the 2014-15 financial year'

Yet some area's are reported to be experiencing substantial increases in pressure that

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suggest it's the patterns of usage that is more likely the problem, compounded by a reduction in available fisheries through environmental changes limiting the options and the spread of angler efforts

What exactly to do about it will continue to polarise angler opinion for sometime

Some light reading;

[International Piscivore](#)

If you regularly eat fish then the dictionary tells us you are a *Piscivore*. I usually enjoy being a piscivore. I grew up when take-aways were largely restricted to fish & chips, or "shark and tatties". The only marine variety came from cod, gurnard and trevally caught off the wharf....

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The May Issue is out, Click on the pic to read;



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Kind Regards

Steve Gerard

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Mission;

***To protect, enhance and foster the
sport and interests of the freshwater
anglers of New Zealand***

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PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS

STOP THE SPREAD OF FRESHWATER PESTS

CHECK

Remove all plant material from items that have been in the water.

CLEAN

Soak or scrub all items for at least one minute in a 5% solution of detergent.

DRY

If cleaning is not practical, dry items completely and then leave for at least 48 hours.

See www.biosecurity.govt.nz/cleaning for more ways to Check, Clean, Dry. If you restrict your activity to a single waterway there is no need to Check, Clean, Dry.

[New Zealand Government](#)

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



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