



NZFFA September 2020 Newsletter

Welcome to Our New Look Newsletter

Is it possible to lose the plot?



YES! The National Council of Fish and Game has decided to open up shooting and angling to privatisation.

We refer members to also read the detailed the article below by the Piscator group.

The National Council of Fish and Game at their August 2020 meeting voted to advise the Minister of Conservation to approve changes to the Wildlife Act to legalise private Pheasant Preserves according to minutes forwarded to members of our Executive.

This was against the advice of their Chief Executive (CE). I quote from draft unconfirmed minutes supplied to NZFFA "*CE stated that if the NZC agree to let a discrete group set rules they want on a particular game bird we are giving away Fish and Game's control and that precedent has the chance to flow through to other areas*".

He further stated that "*it is the thin end of the wedge if you allow a small group of people to continue this and allow people to charge for access to a game bird*". In case licence holders think this is just a pheasant issue they should note the

words of former chairman Lindsay Lyons (Eastern) who suggested *“this is one of the most significant decisions this council will ever make”*. He noted that **this has the potential to impact all fishing and hunting resources where there is a requirement to cross private land**. That private land will potentially include all of the hydro canals which are now owned by the power generation companies. **Clearly they do not rate the advice of their CE.**

The Fish and Game governance manual states *“Fish and Game are opposed to the commercial use of the wild sports fish and game resource”*. We need to look at the flow on effects from this as this is a keystone moment for the commercialisation of sports fish and game birds. Dave Harris (Southland) states on the F&G website that “I see a need to act against capture of the fishing and hunting resources for private gain at the expense of the general public. I also see a need to ensure that fishing access is still available to New Zealand anglers”. At the meeting he reportedly further warned that pheasant preserves will be viewed differently to other hunting from a social licence perspective and are a grave threat to Fish and Game. When a councillor supported changing the legislation to allow such privatisation the Chief Executive went on to remind them that F&G do not control the process DOC does and ***“if it goes to parliament we would have to argue to a select committee why a trout or a duck is different to a pheasant in terms of a recreational resource.”***

Noel Birchall (Northland) reportedly noted that this issue goes back to the whole premise of how acclimatisation societies started; because people coming to NZ wanted to have access to the species that were only available to the elite or with fee in their home country. He suggests this debate is not about licence income but our standing with licence holders that recognise how this organisation started. Lindsay Lyons went on to suggest that the ‘wedge’ started to form when preserves wanted to move on to mallard ducks and that the next thing will be trout.

Despite all this wisdom the council went on to vote for changes in the wildlife and Conservation Acts that open up the sports of angling and game bird shooting to privatisation.

Furthermore a councillor who had declared a conflict of interest in preserves was still allowed to vote. The result was a five to five tie. It came down to the Chairman’s casting vote. The minutes state that the Chairman Paul Shortis (Wellington) went against established convention, of the chairman’s vote supporting the status quo, and voted to change the legislation thus allowing privatisation. Is that not grounds for censure?

The same meeting then went on to consider Fish and Games’ stance on trout farming. An absolute no to trout farming has always been a fundamental foundation principle for the Federation of Freshwater Anglers. We are completely committed to detailed and extensive dialogue between the National Council and anglers right across the country, not just regional councils, before any softening of the stance is even considered.

In the agenda of the meeting, on page 101, the CE provided the council with a list of recommendations para 29(1-4) and para 30(1-4). We understand that after a show of hands the council agreed to bypass the recommendations in para 29 which the CE stated were two fundamental issues that underpin the whole debate.

Sadly however the NZC appeared to be unwilling to endorse unanimously 29(1) and 29(3). ie **that game birds and fish don't attach to land title and that no-one shall charge for access.**

However, had they reinforced these two basic principles of Fish and Game it would have been difficult to vote for anything other than option 1 when it came to voting in para 30. This agenda, all 230 pages, is available on the F & G website. We ask members to email the National Council and give your "vote" on:

1. Whether you support their decision to seek amendment of the governing Acts of Parliament to allow Pheasant Preserves. Noting it opens the door for parliament to do the same with ducks and trout.
2. Whether you would vote for the continued opposition to trout farming.

The email addresses are: nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz, Chairman paulshortis55@gmail.com, and Chief Executive mtaylor@fishandgame.org.nz.

The Federation has filed an Official Information Request with the National Council of F & G for the notes taken at that meeting. We will keep you informed of the outcome.

Rex N. Gibson

Secretary, NZFFA.

Some extracts from the website <https://nzffa.com>



NZFFA Freshwater Policy

NZFFA Freshwater Policy A Litany of Broken Government Promises Freshwater is the life blood of our planet. Without clean water our ecosystem, economy and society would be functionally extinct. Despite...

[Read more...](#)



NZFFA To Eugene Sage - Expiry of Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order 2018

The Honourable Eugenie Sage Minister of Conservation
Private Bag 18888 Parliament Buildings Wellington 6160 2 September 2020 Expiry of Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order 2018
Established in 1974, the NZFFA is an affiliation of...

[Read more...](#)



Who will pay to restore New Zealand's freshwater resource – the polluters or the public?

Opinion by Dr Peter Trolove President NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers
The Problem It is generally accepted that 95 % of New Zealand's freshwater pollution can be attributed to intensive farming practices...

[Read more...](#)



Sharron Murdoch Nails It

From Stuff: Sharon Murdoch has worked as a “pooper-scooper” at dog shows; spent seasons hay-baling, steam-cleaning railway wagons, and did one memorable stint in bottling factory where she got herself...

[Read more...](#)



National Shows Ignorance and a Lack of Conscience over Freshwater

The National Party appears to show no concern nor conscience about the deterioration in New Zealand's water resource and the public's lakes, rivers and streams says a nationwide trout...

[Read more...](#)



Fish and Game Democracy Backed by CORANZ

The Fish and Game organisation that administers and manages the public's trout and salmon fishing and game bird shooting and currently subject to a government review, has been given a...

[Read more...](#)



Has Fish & Game's National Council Lost the Plot?

An opinion piece. By Piscator 44. In recent weeks licence holders and many councillors have been left bemused, confused, astounded, and often angered by the incredulous actions of their National...

[Read more...](#)



Many a True Word is Said in Jest

[Read more...](#)

[Modify your subscription](#) | [View online](#)

The Federation had its AGM in July the results were

Elections for the Executive:

President: Peter Trollove (Rakaia)

Treasurer: Strato Cotsilinis (Wellington)

Secretary: Rex Gibson (Christchurch)

Committee:

Steve Gerard (Central South island), Andi Cockroft (Wellington), Larry Burke (NZ Salmon Anglers), David Haynes (Nelson), Malcolm Francis

(Kapiti), Zane Mirfin (Nelson), Michael Gregg (Marlborough), Brett Bensemann (Otago), Casey Cravens (Otago).

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

Co-opted: Alan Rennie (North Canterbury)