

NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS (INC.)



The Honourable Eugenie Sage
Minister of Conservation
Private Bag 18888
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

18 September 2020

Is Fish & Game NZ Council Fit for Purpose?

Dear Minister

We refer you to the minutes from the NZ Council Meeting No. 147 of 21-23 August 2020 where two recommendations were made as follows:

1. Endorsing the amendment of the Wildlife Order 2019 by Order in Council to remove its expiry date. Pheasants and red-legged partridge would then remain listed on Schedule 3 when on game preserves until such time as the Order was revoked by Order in Council.
2. Agree to reassess Fish and Game's opposition to trout farming based on further independent research establishing the risk profile of different types of trout farming systems.

We would be most grateful if you could respond to the questions below in respect of the above two decisions:

- a) Do you believe these recommendations are contrary to S26Q(1) of the Conservation Act 1987 (*The functions of each Fish and Game Council shall be to manage, maintain, and enhance the sports fish and game resource **in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters***)?
- b) What is the validity of the NZ Chairman's decision to allow a Councillor to vote on item 1 despite that Councillor declaring a conflict of interest in commercially run pheasant preserves?
- c) Do you support the right of F&G licence holders to access fish and game bird species as a public resource without payment to private concerns?

- d) Would you consider asking NZ Council to explain recommendation 1 above, in the light of the following?
- it negates equitable access to the resource,
 - it reduces income of F&G as no licence is required to shoot on commercial preserves,
 - it sets a precedent for access to other sports fish and game species to be privatised,
 - it is contrary to S23 of the Wildlife Act 1953.
- e) Can the Minister confirm her opposition to commercial trout farming which risks the vitality of our freshwater resource by the potential introduction of non-species specific fish diseases and poaching should trout become monetised?
- f) Will the Minister consider these two NZ Council decisions when she decides any changes to be made as a result of the F&G governance review currently underway?

On behalf of the NZFFA I would like to thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Haynes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Haynes
Spokesperson & Executive Committee Member
New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers