

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A fishy business

Clive Barker's letter [*Express*, July 1] wanting to impose a fishing licence fee on saltwater anglers is as draconian and crazy as can be.

Labour candidate Janette Walker floated an idea to be discussed. That was it. It is obvious something has to be done rather than the current "system".

Minister Nathan Guy has his ideas, or his ministry has told him what to do. He's jumped to their bidding and now wants to dump the Blue Cod Management Group of recreational fishers and have an iwi-recreational-commercial group. The problem with the blue cod group is it was made ineffective by ministry gagging. Ministry chaired. Ministry says who will be on it. Ministry forbids members to speak outside.

The Sounds is largely a recreational area so why would Guy want a mixed group now?

The answer may be that Guy and the ministry hope the three sectors will have cross exchanges and different opinions, so he can say "there is no agreement so we cannot make a decision".

It's the same old story - procrastinate, delay, defer and not make a decision.

Meanwhile, the stupid slot and transit rules and picking on the recreational public will carry on. The fishery suffers with dead released fish and Picton's economy suffers, too.

Funny thing, the commercial catch I understand has increased by about 50 per cent. So if there are that many cod that commercial can "up" their catch, what is Clive Barker talking about in rebuilding the fishery?

DES MITCHELL
Picton

Just a jumbled mess

What nonsense Clive Barker wrote [letters, *Express*, July 1].

He reckons recreational fishos aren't investing in a fishery. What planet is he on?

Fishos make investments through taxes to have the Government and the minister manage things.

The Fisheries Act says the Government should manage the fishery for recreational, customary and commercial. I think the wording is "social, cultural and economic".

There is no need for a licence if the Government did its job.

That goes back to 2008 when Labour brought the cod and set net ban in. Bad mark.

National have done a jumbled mess of muddly rules. An eight-month recreational season, while commercial have 12 months a year.

National put in a slot rule (30-35cm) which is killing breeding females.

The transit and other rules are stupid, too. Good management? Yeah, right. Well I say to Clive, governments have failed, not the recreational fishos.

The Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association is doing research while the minister Nathan Guy plays games and delays and delays.

My party vote is going to NZ First, who say "no licensing for recreational saltwater anglers", "sustainable fishing with guaranteed access for recreational fishers and the protection of existing game species". Makes more sense than Minister Guy's "ducks and drakes" games.

NEIL WILSON
Blenheim

Sheer hypocrisy

Ted Bason [letters, *Express*, June 30] hit the nail on the head over slanted (right bent?) political commentators trying to politically exploit a letter David Cunliffe signed 11 years ago.

[What about] John Key's convenient amnesia over his TranzRail shares, Ian Fletcher and GCSB etc of just a few weeks or days ago, and now John Key's efforts to whip up a storm in a teacup?

It smacks of sheer hypocrisy.

After all, I can't remember what I did last Friday morning.

Can you?

TONY ORMAN
Blenheim

So that's politics

John Key and his band of merry men are about as cunning as the proverbial s...t house rat.

They say they are fiscally responsible and are not offering election bribes.

All the while announcing new spending on everything from additional elective surgery to rubella mitigation and new road works.

(The Grove Rd bridge was not even on the radar two weeks ago).

They are very careful to choose spending that the Opposition would look bad criticising.

So that's politics.

Is it any wonder that *Readers Digest's* annual "most respected" poll places politicians at or near the bottom every time.

I wonder which is greater?

The people's contempt for their politicians or the politicians' contempt for the people?

STEPHEN YEALANDS
Grovettown