



## NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS

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### NZFFA Newsletter

March, 2010

#### AGM Time

• Trout Farming

• Power of Pen

#### Notes:

• Minutes of the annual general meeting may be perused in full at the Federation's web site [www.nzffa.net](http://www.nzffa.net)

• Material may be reprinted in club newsletters from the Federation newsletter. A credit line for material used, would be appreciated

• Opinions expressed from time to time, may not necessarily reflect NZFFA's views.

• Editorial contact:  
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## It's AGM Time!

The 2010 AGM will be held in TURANGI

When? Saturday the 17th & Sunday 18th April 2010.

Start Time? 9.30am

Venue: The Bridge Lodge, TURANGI

Apart from annual report, remits etc., the theme will be :-  
'The TAUPO FISHERY – the management, utilization and conservation of this great fishery'

Contributors to this session (which is open to everyone) will include;

Glen McLean, DoC's Programme Manager, Technical Support together with Dr. Michel Dudual, Fisheries Scientist and others from the operations side of DoC Turangi. Dr. Mark Cosgrove and Eric Wilson of 'The Advocates for the Tongariro' about their work on this great river and we will also hear from Frank Murphy of 'NZPFGA' (NZ Professional Fishing Guides Assn.)

The opportunity will also be taken to discuss issues such as; 'Trout Farming'; the stocking of NZ's trout and salmon rivers; commercial exploitation of the Conservation Estate; angler access; the introduction of 'Overseas Visitors Licences' and other pertinent matters.



## Trout Farming Rears its Head Again!

Federated Farmers New Zealand has made an ill-judged call for government to allow trout farming. In reaction, Prime Minister John Key, also Minister for Tourism, rejected the call.

Claims were made by Federated Farmers NZ that Chile has a highly successful trout farm industry. However research by the Federation strongly suggests otherwise.

## **E-MAILS PLEASE!**

The Federation is very keen to progress its news to the Clubs via Website and E-mail and there currently is a list of some 30 Club email addresses.

**ALL CLUBS are urged to forward their e-mail addresses to the Federation of Freshwater Anglers' Secretary please at his e-mail:  
sghodder@xtra.co.nz**

**NZFFA Logos** are available to stitch onto your fishing vest or hat. Price: \$6 for Clubs to purchase - for resale to members at \$8.

Send order with cheque to Selwyn Hodder, 12 Galloway Cres, Farm Cove, Manukau City 2012.

Here are three examples:-

### **July, 2009, An Alarm Rings at Trout Farms headline from "The Oregonian"**

"It was only a matter of time before disease began sweeping through Chile's over crowded, poorly designed and maintained salmon and trout farms. For years now Chilean fish farmers have jammed millions of fish into pens and poured antibiotics to keep them "healthy". Now strains of bacteria have built immunity and a deadly virus-infectious salmon anaemia, known as the Isa virus-is killing off fish in a total of 200 different "cultivation centres" in Chile---"

### **October, 2009. Headline: Investigation. How farm fishing boom in Chile threatens eco-disaster --"the disastrous consequences of intensive fish farming along Chile's once pristine coastline--- many farms are plagued by disease and pollution."**

"By the middle of this decade Chile had become the world's second largest producer of salmon and trout-after Norway- with a business worth more than \$1.2 billion a year.

With labour and energy costs a fraction of those in Norway, Scotland and Canada -average workers in the Chilean fish farming industry earn less than 5,000 pounds a year-Chiles' Pacific Coast was making big corporations huge profits."

"What followed was disaster. In July 2007----(was) its first case on the South American continent of infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA), a virus deadly to fish"

"For months the industry ignored the threat---allowed the disease to spread--- one study showed Chilean salmon had 5,000 times more anti-biotics than Norwegian salmon---an indicator of how drugs were used to try to keep the fish disease free. Within a year, ISA had taken a huge toll--wiping out huge numbers of salmon."

"Almost overnight the industry has been brought to its knees with thousands of workers laid off, fish farms lying empty and local waters polluted."

**"Time" magazine 2002: Is Fish Farming Safe?** "To see fish farming at its worst, travel to Chile---a film of feed leftover made of fish oil, animal fat and transgenic soybean oils floats on the water around salmon farms."

Professor of fisheries at University of British Columbia Daniel Pauly has calculated it takes 2-5 lbs of anchovies, sardines, menhaden and other oily fish that comprise fish meal to produce 1 lb of farmed salmon, which he says makes no sense in a world trying to increase the amount of available protein.

"Disease is always a problem when fish are raised in close quarters. After a 1999 outbreak of ISA in fish farms in Scotland, all farm grown fish within 25 miles were slaughtered. A similar ISA outbreak in Maine--led to the destruction of more than 2.5 million fish---"

":Some of the antibiotics that fish farmers give their stock to minimize disease pass easily into the surrounding environment and some are highly toxic."

"In the long run, wild fish stocks may face an even greater threat from captive fish escaping and competing with or consuming native fish, or cross-breeding with them and diluting the (wild)genes --"

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## Opinion

### Put Down the Rod - Take Up the Pen!

William Shakespeare once wrote, "The power of the pen is mightier than the sword." He was right!

Writing a letter to a political party leader, a Cabinet Minister, the prime Minister, an MP or to an editor is relatively easy and a very effective way in getting a viewpoint to either the decision-makers and/or the many thousands of readers of a daily newspaper.

Letters to the editor are a very effective way to communicate your concern to a large number of people. The audience may be large. In the case of a metropolitan paper of 150,000 copies printed, the potential readership is about 450,000! The letters to the editor section is widely read, probably far more than any other section.

Government departments, politicians and agencies, regularly peruse the letters to the editor columns to gauge public thinking. Press clipping services are used to note relevant subject areas for clients. Your letter to the editor will sooner or later end up on the desk of a cabinet minister or department.

Let me illustrate with one case that was quite amazing.

It was nothing to do with trout fishing. It was in fact the economy and in particular real interest rates whereby the figures compared New Zealand's interest rates with those of other OECD countries. My letter, quoting the figures, was published in the "Marlborough Express", a regional paper of modest circulation numbers. The letter pointed out New Zealanders were being ripped off by the banks charging excessive interest rates.

Two days later my phone rang. It was the Reserve Bank from Wellington.

"Good morning, Mr Orman. It's Mr Boondoggle (fictitious) of the Reserve Bank. Um, aaarr, well we've noted your letter in the Marlborough Express on Monday."

There was a pause. My mind flicked to the thought, "Oh, no I'm in for it now!"

The voice of Mr Boondoggle resumed.

"Ah, yes Mr Orman," the bureaucrat said gently in a tone that suggested to my apprehensive mind, it was the lull before the storm. "I wonder if you could tell me where you got the figures from?"

There was no storm. It was a polite enquiry. Amazingly the Reserve Bank did not have the figures that I had procured from an MP. There were two significant aspects to that incident:-

- The "experts" did not have the information I had.
- My letter had arrived "in a flash" on the desk of the Reserve Bank.

Another example. In the autumn 1994 issue of "New Zealand Hunting and Wildlife" (published by the New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association", I wrote an editorial "The Spiker Was Lucky".in which I told of taking a spiker sika from an area, due to be drenched with an aerial drop of 1080 poison by the Animal Health Board. In the editorial I argued the quick death by a bullet was preferable to a slow, lingering death from 1080 poison. The reaction was immediate.

The head of the Animal Health Board, phoned, berating me for the editorial.

Then the phone rang again. It was a Ministry of Agriculture officer involved with possum control. He also took me to task, for the editorial and on top of that flew to Blenheim to see me in an endeavour to set my thinking straight. Both were invited him to write to the editor (me) but neither took up my offer.

There is no doubt, the written word in a newspaper or magazine carries a fair impact.

A few points to note:-

- Not all letters get published. An editor usually has the right without reservation to publish or not publish a letter. Nevertheless a letter to the editor has a better chance if it is succinct and lucid. Metropolitan papers are difficult to get letters published but don't neglect the small provincial papers. Remember my example of the letter to the "Marlborough Express"?
- Keep your letter brief. A six line letter may pack more impact than two dozen lines. Certainly short letters are read by readers more than long letters. Most papers/magazines have a word limit of perhaps 200 or 250 words.

- Try to get the main thrust of your letter summarised in the first sentence. For example a letter on trout farming might begin with "Trout farming would be a retrograde step!"
- Use your name for publishing. Most newspapers will not accept non-de-plumes (e.g. "Angry Hunter").
- Preferably type in double space or print your letter.
- Print on the top "Letter to Editor For Publication."
- Sign the letter with your signature plus name, phone number and address.
- Post, fax or best of all e mail the letter.

Do not neglect writing to an MP or even the Prime Minister. There is a good tactic of writing to the top and letting the letter bounce down the pecking order onto the relevant desk.

Any letter to an MP, party leader or prime minister can be addressed to that person c/o Parliament Buildings, Wellington - and no stamp is required.

E mails to the MP, for example

John.Smith@parliament.govt.nz

It takes ten minutes, perhaps 15 minutes to write a letter. Surely, that's not too much to ask of you to stand up for your rivers and trout fishing?



**-Tony Orman**

**Footnote:** Concerning trout farming proposals by Federated Farmers, it is suggest clubs and individuals write to their local MP, newspaper and other publications telling of the folly of trout farming and the inherent dangers to New Zealand's wild trout fishery.