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I am concerned that the proposal specifically aims to assist the “safe passage” of indigenous fish but also aims to exclude “pest fish” whatever they might be. There is a suggestion of "anti-exotic phobia" based around that some species in the 21st century ecosystem are introduced. In terms of fish this includes trout and salmon which by law are very much public sports fish.

The term “anti-exotic phobia” of course is ideological rather than factual. It’s wise to pause and think of introduced species that range from sheep and cows to potatoes and petunias, and of course all humans are introduced by way of migration.

I have noted Fish and Game are to the front line in protecting the habitat, namely rivers, lakes and streams from degradation from exploitive influences such as water abstraction, nitrate leaching and pillion generally. This habitat is vital to native fish species **and** trout and salmon.

It should be noted that trout have been NZ for over 150 years and co-exist with native fish species. Predator-prey relationships have become established and are two way. For example trout and salmon, especially juveniles, are preyed on by the native shags and also eels.

I consider the proposals should be reworded:- “Structoures enable the safe passage of indigenous fish and trout and salmon” in order to clarify.

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