

From: [Rex Gibson](#)
To: [Mailroom Mailbox](#)
Subject: "Plan Change 7 to the LWRP Submission"
Date: Monday, 9 September 2019 5:43:32 PM

Dear Colleagues

RE: Plan Change 7 to the LWRP

I am concerned that the proposal specifically aims to assist the "safe passage" of indigenous fish but also aims to exclude undefined "pest fish".

There is a suggestion of "anti-exotic phobia" around some species in New Zealand ecosystems which are "introduced". In terms of fish, this includes trout and salmon which by law are very much public sports fish and governed and protected by a statutory authority (Fish & Game).

It is wise to pause and think that introduced species 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 exploitative influences such as water abstraction, nitrate leaching and pillion generally. The freshwater 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. A situation that was largely in ecological balance until the rapid expansion of dairy farming and related irrigation from the 1990s.

Predator-prey relationships have become established and are two way. For example trout and salmon, especially their juveniles, are preyed on by the native cormorants, other wading birds, gulls and eels. I consider the proposals should be reworded:- "Structures enable the safe passage of indigenous fish, trout and salmon", in order to clarify that ECan is not proposing excluding these species from protection.

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