

NZ FEDERATION OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS INC.



October 16th, 2018

To: The Environment Committee
New Zealand Parliament

Submission on the

CONSERVATION (INDIGENOUS FRESHWATER FISH) AMENDMENT BILL

The New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers (Inc.) would like to make the following submission on this Bill. The Federation represents anglers and angling clubs from throughout New Zealand and overseas. The Federation (NZFFA) works to protect, enhance and foster the sport and interests of the freshwater anglers of New Zealand. Further 'that as anglers we wade the water and see the effects of surrounding land-use on water quality and aquatic habitat'.

The Federation submits that this Bill is bad law, badly written. We note that this sentiment is shared by such diverse people as a Queens Council, The NZ Treasury, Statutory Resource Managers, and Politicians from a variety of Parties in the House. It was not produced following established Ministerial protocols, and either by accident or design, actually enables the very things that it purports not to do.

Some of those things, which the NZFFA strongly objects to, include:

- Removing the ability of the Statutory Managers to manage the freshwater sports fisheries as currently defined under the Conservation Act
- Excluding fish farming from the freshwater sports fisheries provisions of the Conservation Act, and
- Excluding Treaty Settlement parties from the freshwater sports fisheries provisions of the Conservation Act.
- That the position being taken by the Minister is not supported by the legal opinion from Sir Geoffrey Palmer dated August 30, 2018.
- That there was no consultation with the Statutory Managers Fish and Game NZ who manage the freshwater sports fisheries as currently defined under the Conservation Act.

It is our submission that it should not be the function of Parliamentary Committees to rewrite poor legislation that cannot achieve its stated intentions.

We submit that this Bill should be withdrawn from the House, given to someone competent who can actually draft proper legislation, and resubmitted to the House when it is fit for purpose.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Graham Carter'.

Graham Carter
President
New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers (Inc.)