

**STOP POISONING OUR FOOD BASKET**

# Outdoors

New Zealand Outdoors Party

Image by Alan Simmons. Copyright 1985 onwards

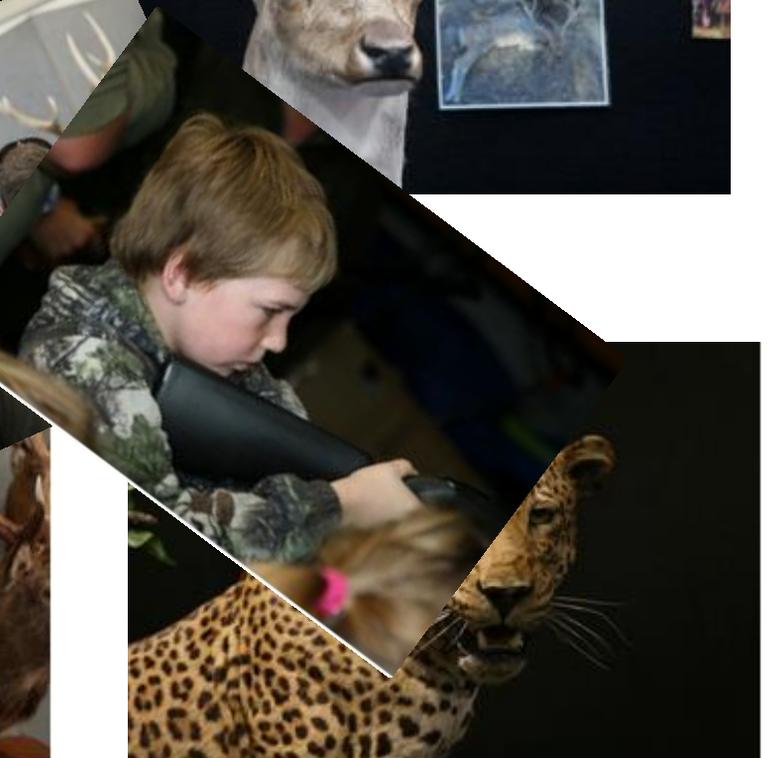
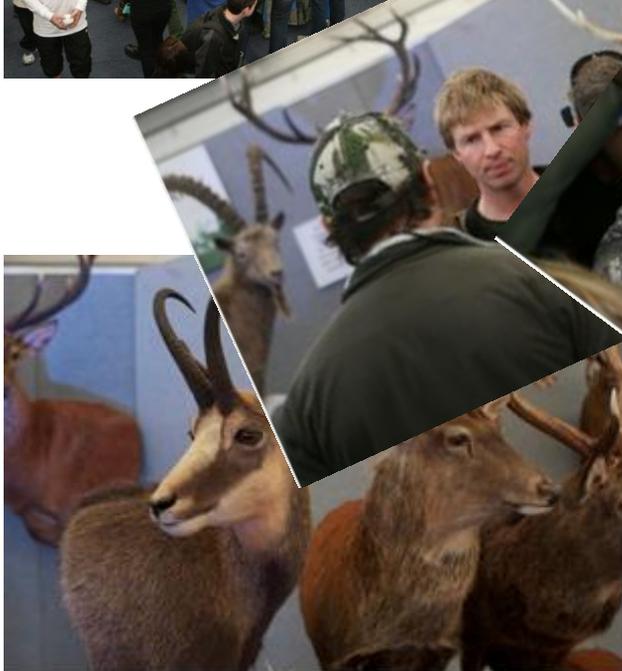
*Newsletter September 2018*

**WE'RE AT THE SIKA SHOW!**

**Come say hello and have a chat**

Saturday, September 29 & Sunday, September 30, 2018 at the Great Lake Centre, Taupo. Open: 9.00am – 4.00pm.

We are at stand #3-23



## BAD NEWS EDITION



*By the time you read this, these Tahr will have been shot and left to rot by DoC*

We are now seeing the first round of eco-fundamentalism playing out care of Eugenie Sage, Minister of Conservation.

Our hunting and sports fishing culture and heritage are being attacked in the name of the *all-native-good-all-introduced-bad* mantra:

The Indigenous Freshwater Fish Amendment Bill (Conservation Act) seeks to give DoC prime decision making over any trout and salmon fishery it chooses

The Tahr cull, as planned, will likely spell an end to sustainable bull Tahr hunting and the 1080 debate is now firmly in the hands of politicians and media relations wonks.

A tourist enterprise has applied for exclusive access to Whirinaki Conservation Park, which may lead to excluding recreational hunters and anglers.

The good news? The Game Animal Council has been granted a reprieve.

We hope you enjoy reading this and **remember, it's your party and your voice** so keep in touch and always let us know the issues and policies you think we should be addressing.

### *In this edition:*

- Indigenous Freshwater Fish Amendment Bill analysis.
- Tahr Cull – facts and figures.
- 1080 – a ten year aerial operations analysis.
- Tarakihi decline.
- Exclusive access submission for Whirinaki Conservation Park.
- Game Animal Council – Stay of Execution Granted



*Under the proposed Indigenous Freshwater Fish Amendment Bill, DoC will have the unilateral right to remove all trout from rivers they determine are important to native fish*

# Indigenous Freshwater Fish Amendment Bill - Analysis

Thanks to Fish & Game for the following information:

The Bill seeks to provide better protection for indigenous freshwater fish, such as galaxids, eels and bullies. That's fine, but not if it is at the expense of trout and other freshwater sports fish, nor the more than hundred thousand anglers who value these fish for the recreational, cultural and economic benefits they provide.

The fish-hooks in the Bill are:

## Clause 5:

- DoC's freshwater fisheries management plans have priority over Fish & Game's fish and game management plans, including a **national** freshwater fisheries management plan DoC can impose.
- It would allow DoC to remove all trout and salmon from particular rivers or lakes, even if those waterways have been identified as significant trout and salmon habitat.
- The Bill reduces Fish & Game's right to be consulted as managers of sports fish to the same level as any member of the public.

## Clause 6:

- Anyone authorised under Treaty settlement legislation **is exempted** from restrictions on taking, possessing or selling sportfish.
- Allows the Crown and iwi to set aside present rules as part of a Treaty settlement.
- Allows the removal of present bans on the sale of fishing rights.
- . Allows the removal of present bans on the sale of sports fish.



## *Last chance to fish?*

- Removes the requirement for occupiers of land to comply with trout fishing rules and regulations, although they would still need a licence.
- Gives potential for direct conflict between Treaty settlement legislation and sports fishing.

## Clause 17:

- Revokes several existing regulations allowing Fish & Game to manage trout and other sports fish.
- Does away with the need for Fish & Game's consent for release of fish or ova, or transfer of sports fish and ova between the North and South Islands.

The Bill reduces Fish & Game's right to be consulted as managers of sports fish to the same level as any member of the public.

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*This is a plain and simple numbers game, the more objections to the Bill, the less likely it will succeed. You have until **25 October 2018** to make a submission. Please help stop this lunacy by going [HERE](#) to make a submission.*

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## Tahr Cull – Facts & Figures

*Many thanks to NZ Deerstalkers Association  
for the following information*

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Tahr numbers have exceeded those agreed under the Himalayan Tahr Control Plan 1992, produced by DoC in accordance with the Wild Animal Control Act. The HTCP sets a maximum sustainable number of Tahr at 10,000 and defines an allowable range where they can exist.

DoC has estimated Tahr numbers at 35,600 using faecal pellet counts – a controversial method that DoC admit has an error rate of  $\pm 9,000$  i.e up to 25%

Solely on this estimate DoC has commenced a massive culling operation which will see the herd reduced to 10,000 animals. NZDA's bottom line of DO NOT CULL mature bulls (they take 8 years to reach maturity) has been ignored.

This may leave an estimated 5,000 bulls. Given that hunting guides and private shooters each take around 1,500 each year with heli-hunters and WARO operators taking many more, the results of this slaughter may be the end of the Tahr hunting in New Zealand.

The culled animals will be left to rot on the hills –valuable game meat which could feed families is being left to pollute our pristine environment and all in the name of conservation.

Eugenie Sage, Minister of Conservation is acting unilaterally without consultation with NZDA and other interest groups.

Hunters and DoC can work together for positive outcomes for both recreational hunters and conservation. However, DoC have once again chosen to ignore all attempts at consultation and collaboration in their obsession to re-create a Gondwana Land that accords with their view of what is the right and wrong sort of flora and fauna.

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*Poisoning of game animals by aerial toxin operations – is this now acceptable in the name of conservation?*

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### **OSPRI - 10 Years of 1080.**

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Co-Leader, David Haynes, has just completed a six month statistical analysis of aerial 1080 drops completed by OSPRI since 2008.

In 2007 a review of aerial poison operations was undertaken by the Environmental Risk Management Agency (now the Environmental Protection Agency – EPA).

One of the resulting recommendations was that all such operations must be reported to EPA in accordance with, Section 77(A) of the Hazardous Substances and Noxious Organisms Act 1977. This sets out the minimum information to be provided once a drop has been completed. Part of that information, albeit non-statutory (according to the EPA) is monitoring of the effectiveness of the aerial poison operations.

DoC, regional authorities (Councils), private operators and AHB/TBFree/OSPRI must all comply with this reporting requirement.

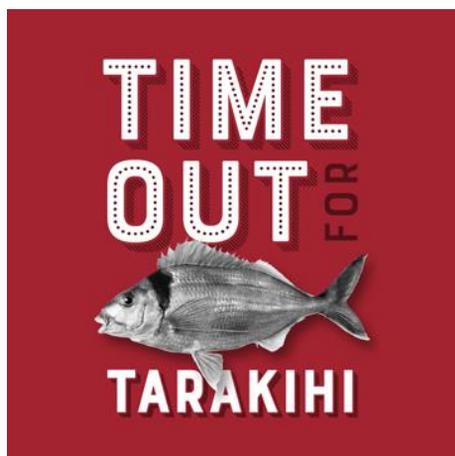
David analysed 222 aerial 1080 operations performed by OSPRI from 2008 to 2017 and reported to EPA and is finalising his report.

Some of the output of this analysis is being launched at the Sika Show September 28-29 in Taupo. The output from the research will be made available shortly to all Outdoors Party paid up members.

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## Tarakihi – Another Collapsed Fishery

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*Thank you to Legasea for the logo above*

The Tarakihi population on the east coast (TAR2) is estimated, by Fisheries New Zealand (MPI) to be at 17% of what it would be if it was unfished.

Total Allowable Catch is currently at 2082 tonnes per annum, split as follows:

**Commercial - 88%**  
**Recreational - 7%**  
**Customary – 5%**

The stock is now deemed to be at a level where recovery is unlikely without serious cuts to how much is harvested.

The Minister of Fisheries, Stuart Nash, has a statutory obligation to rebuild the stocks within 10 years. A number of options have been put out for consultation and a decision will be announced 1 October 2018.

Those options are all based on cutting commercial and recreational catch allowances, some tougher than others. In all cases proposed allowances for “mortality to the stock caused by fishing” are increased substantially by between 399% to 440%.

Our analysis of these options suggests Fisheries NZ is trading off reduced commercial allowances against increased allowances for mortality – effectively legalising fish dumping and high-grading. (dumping small fish and re-trawling for bigger ones).

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## QMS - The Bottom Line

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The Quota Management System has great intentions – set how much fish can be harvested, monitor that and adjust as necessary. A text book case of Adaptive Management.

The problem is that the data used to assess stocks is provided by those who have most to lose by having that data assessed – commercial fishers.

Added to this is the problem of who is allowed to catch each species – the Annual Catch Entitlement. This entitlement allows private commercial fishers to “own” a natural asset – the fish in the sea. It is bought and sold as a commodity with most ACE being owned by the larger corporate fisheries.

Tarakihi are often caught as by-catch when trawling for John Dory, snapper, gemfish, gurnard, barracouta, red cod, flatfish and blue warehou (FNZ source).

As for most QMS species, fishers who catch a species for which they have no ACE are faced with a stark choice:

1. Dump it overboard, the majority of the fish will be dead.
2. Land it and pay penalties in the form of “deemed value” to Fisheries NZ.
3. Try and buy more ACE and be at the mercy of an asymmetrical bargaining agreement.

Another flaw in the QMS system is that Fisheries NZ’s mandate has been inherited from MPI i.e. to maximise economic returns, defining “sustainable” in economic, rather than ecological terms. FNZ is conflicted.

The NZ Outdoors Party supports a full restructure of the QMS and Fisheries Act to recognise:

- ***Our sea fishery belongs to the people of NZ***
- ***Only ecological sustainability can confer economic sustainability.***
- ***Our inshore fishery should be managed by and for the benefit of recreational fishers.***

## Whirinaki Conservation Park – Public Resource or Private Asset?



Manaaki Group Holdings have a current concession to operate multi-day guided walks through Whirinaki Conservation Park.

They have applied to the Department of Conservation for a concession to build a private lodge in the Park and to have exclusive access to this.

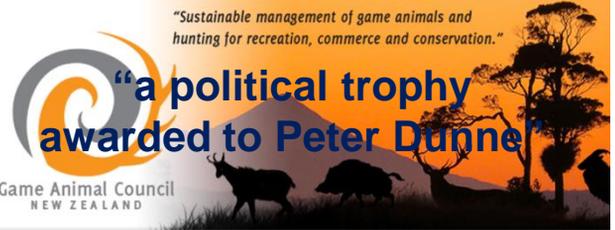
In addition they are proposing to employ a hunter to cull red deer hinds to oil their concession application.

We were informed of the application by Thames Valley Deerstalkers Association, the details of the concession application are [HERE](#).

**Submissions on the application are open until 28 September 2018.**

Our concern with this sort of application is that a private enterprise is seeking to have a private and exclusive access to a piece of public conservation land. Added to this is the concern that the public may then be denied the opportunity to hunt and fish in the area around Moerangi Stream/Roger's Hut.

The Conservation Management Strategy for Whirinaki is clear in its objective - encouraging public access for conservation and recreation purposes but also makes reference to Treaty obligations, encouraging Iwi to broaden their opportunities in the park and the importance of managing "pests" – or deer to rational folk. It is to these objectives that the application by Manaaki Group Holdings plays.



Unquote Eugenie Sage on the 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of the Game Animal Council (GAC) Bill back in November 2013, the words, unsurprisingly, came from her close friends and advisers in Forst & Bird.

On 14 August 2018 she said she was looking at the Council's role as a stakeholder liaison group and whether it had been effective.

Now, on 18 September, she made the following announcement:

No review of the Game Animal Council is planned, Conservation Minister, Eugenie Sage said today.

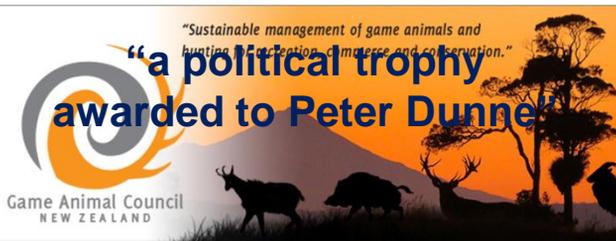
The Minister rejected claims made by National MP Sarah Dowie that the Game Animal Council was being reviewed.

"Since taking office I have met with a range of groups and organisations across the hunting sector to understand their concerns and interests, and the role they can play in helping support New Zealand's conservation work," Eugenie Sage said.

"A review of the Game Animal Council and its legislation is not something I have chosen to progress. Right now many groups including the New Zealand Deer Stalkers' Association, the Game Animal Council and commercial Wild Animal Recovery Operators (WARO) are working with the Department of Conservation (DOC) as it examines WARO permits and works to bring a significantly the expanded tahr population under control.

"Given this level of engagement, I have asked DOC officials to work with the Council on the scope of its work plan and how it can better contribute to hunting sector engagement."

**IT WORKS – LET'S KEEP THE PRESSURE  
ON**



Public nominations for five positions on the Game Animal Council have been advertised recently.

“I am providing \$200,000 in funding for the Council in 2018 and its future is secure.

“While there are range of complex challenges between hunting and conservation, DOC will continue working with hunting organisations and the Game Animal Council on how their work can assist the environment and conservation and how they can help bring tahr numbers under control.”



**AS YET UNVERIFIED BUT INCREDIBLE LETTER BELOW HAS BEEN PREPARED BY DOCTORS WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT 1080 POISON BEING DEPOSITED IN DRINKING WATER**

*Open letter to the Government, Friday, 21st September 2018.*

As doctors, we are extremely concerned about the health risk of depositing poisoned bait over 22,500 hectares of the Hunua water catchment area. Specifically, we are concerned about Sodium Fluoroacetate (SMFA / 1080), a known deadly poison which is known to cause sub-lethal effects on reproduction and is classified as a teratogen, having potential to contaminate the Auckland water supply.

There is no effective antidote for 1080 poisoning in humans.

We are extremely concerned that public officials are not adopting a far more precautionary approach to the safety of the Auckland water catchment, especially when the effects of 1080, a highly soluble poison, is not quantifiably able to be tested on how it affects the health of humans.

Studies show that 1080 affects the reproductive organs, the cardiac system, and respiratory system in mammals. There is no safe minimal level known and water testing and sampling after aerial 1080 application cannot prudently protect the public from risk of exposure from this poison. As doctors, we are responsible for the health of individuals and communities. Therefore, we ask the government to immediately stop the usage of sodium fluoroacetate which has potential to contaminate the New Zealand water supply.

**Signed,**

Dr Ulrich Doering MBChB, Dipl O+G, FRNZCGP  
Dr Roger Leitch MBChB, FRNZCGP  
Dr Mogens Poppe FRNZCGP FRACGP  
Dr Janine Budden MBChB, FRNZCGP  
Dr Caroline Wheeler MBChB  
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