

been silent on the issue,  
which is obvious to so many taxpayers.

**Terry Ford, Blenheim**

## Greed led to salmon decline

King Salmon's announcement of their intention to import frozen salmon from overseas makes sad reading.

Several years ago, the Marlborough Recreational Fishers Association told the Environmental Protection Agency hearing that was considering additional company farms that: 1. Temperatures in Tory Channel in summer reached levels sufficient to kill salmon, particularly those stressed through crowding, 2. Better alternatives were available at that time, either to site the farms in open water, with cooler temperatures while faeces and uneaten food were diffused in the current. Another alternative is land-based Recirculating Aquaculture Systems in closed cycles, where parameters are controlled, and can generate additional income streams.

Furthermore, MRFA argued a positive outcome would result in greater opportunities in employment for skilled technologists and graduates. These options are being pursued elsewhere. Occupation of private space and the despoliation of the benthos (habitat on sea floor) in enclosed bays is an unacceptable activity in the beautiful Marlborough Sounds, especially when more ecologically friendly solutions are available.

King Salmon's single-minded pursuit of profit has led to predicted situations where mass deaths of mature salmon and destruction of the benthos has been aided and abetted by Government. In light of current biosecurity disasters, surely Government is alert to risks of imported fish bringing with them diseases of salmonoids, i.e. salmon and trout?

**Peter Watson, President Marlborough Recreational Fishers Assn.**

*Maui Express 4/6/18*