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HEAT KILLS EELS UP NORTH ...

95 words

9 January 1998

The Dominion

1

English

(c) 1998 The Dominion, INL .

Eels in an eastern Bay of Plenty river are dying as the water warms up, according to the regional council Environment BOP. A significant rise in water temperature and drying up of the **eels'** habitats on the side of Waimana River was thought to be causing the deaths. Water temperature in the main river flow had reached 25 degrees celsius and was even higher in isolated pools and eddies, a council spokesman said. "At these temperatures young **eels** become stressed and often die," he said.

(c) The Dominion, INL 1998.

Document domn000020010923du1900qgz

TERMINATE THE TROUT.

108 words

1 January 1998

The Dominion

8

English

(c) 1998 The Dominion, INL .

Sir, - Of course Maori people should not have to pay a licence fee to fish for trout. The upokororo (grayling), a native freshwater fish, was wiped out by the trout.

I see the trout as being akin to the European rat and every other noxious pest that was irresponsibly and arrogantly introduced by the Pakeha. Acclimatisation people even had the cheek to advocate the extermination of **eels** in Aotearoa.

It all makes the fiscal envelope look ridiculous. Exterminate the trout and reintroduce the grayling from Australia - that would be the logical and sensible thing to do.

G. POTONGA NEILSON

Wanganui.

(c) The Dominion, INL 1998.

Document domn000020010923du1100mvl

BOYS ADMIT ATTACK.

131 words

2 December 1997

The Christchurch Press

6

English

(c) 1997 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

The police have spoken to two boys over the attack last week on the tame **eels** at Bencarri Farm Park at Takaka.

Constable Stuart Chalmers said boys aged 12 and 14 had admitted the attack, citing boredom.

"When people find out who the boys are, it's really going to stir this community up," he said. "The boys' parents are absolutely distraught."

Bencarri Farm owner Mathew Bengé said concerned parents had been phoning him over the weekend after hearing of the attack from their children, who had talked to the offenders at school. The boys allegedly told friends they used an airgun to attack the eels, pushing nails inside the barrel and firing at the eels when they came up to feed.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1997.

Document thepre0020011003dtc2002sc

TOXINS NO MAJOR HEALTH RISK, HEARING TOLD.

340 words
27 November 1997
New Zealand Press Association
English
(c) 1997 New Zealand Press Association

Rotorua, Nov 27 - The moderate digestion of dioxins contained in **eels** taken from the Tarawera River is not a huge health risk, an Environment Bay of Plenty special hearings committee was told yesterday.

The committee is considering a resource consent application by Tasman Pulp and Paper Mill which wants to continue discharging industrial waste into the river.

Yesterday toxicology expert Dr Michael Bates gave evidence on the effects on human health of organochlorines contained in industrial waste poured in the river. He said long-term consumption of eels or fish from the river was not a potential health hazard.

Animal tests showed sub-lethal doses of dioxins caused a general "wasting" of the body while tetrachlorodibenzo dioxin - the most toxic dioxin - was known to cause birth defects in animals. However, whether dioxins caused cancer in humans was still a controversial issue, Dr Bates said.

It was generally agreed that chloracne, a severe form of acne, was a common effect of human exposure to dioxins, he told the hearing.

He described a study he had undertaken, focusing on direct contamination of river food. Based on current evidence, there was no cause for alarm about the likely levels of exposure to dioxins from eels and fish from the river, Dr Bates said.

His study concluded that other chemicals polluting the river, including pentachlorophenol (PCP) and trichlorophenol from timber treatment, posed few risks to humans.

In his submissions on behalf of Greenpeace New Zealand yesterday, solicitor Duncan Currie said the committee had to consider the river's national significance in considering the resource consent application.

The committee's decision had to recognise and provide for the protection and preservation of the coastal environment, protect areas of significant native vegetation and wildlife, and the relationship between local Maori and the lands, water and other treasures, Mr Currie said.

The river could not sustain the continued emission of toxic wastes, he said.

Submissions from Greenpeace were to continue at the hearing today.

(C) 1997 New Zealand Press Association.

Document nzpa000020011002dtbr000qh

AQUARIUM OPENS IN SQUARE TODAY.

117 words

27 September 1997

The Christchurch Press

2

English

(c) 1997 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

The Southern Encounter aquarium in Cathedral Square opens to the public today after an official opening ceremony yesterday, marked by the delivery of Seamore, a seahorse, by helicopter.

Southern Encounter, in the former Regent Cinema building in Cathedral Square, is equipped with 25 tanks containing marine life, including octopuses and **eels**, and one large 92cu m marine tank containing sharks, stingrays, and other Southern Ocean species.

Other tanks contain freshwater species such as trout, salmon, perch, and a variety of invertebrates.

General manager Shelly Peebles said the aquarium was also designed as an interactive family attraction where visitors could experience the outdoors of the South Island.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1997.

Document thepre0020011003dt9r0072m

AQUARIUM ENCOUNTER.

145 words

4 September 1997

The Christchurch Press

5

English

(c) 1997 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

Fish from Wanaka and the Marlborough Sounds have taken up residence in central Christchurch.

Trout, salmon, **eels**, and a variety of South Island marine fish now grace the aquariums at Southern Encounter, the city's newest tourist attraction, taking shape beneath the Regent on Worcester cinema in Cathedral Square.

Marine fish including butterfly perch and marble fish were added to the 92cu m marine aquarium yesterday afternoon. Some 150 trout were added to the freshwater aquariums earlier in the day.

The Logan Brewer-designed attraction is the South Island in miniature and includes the range of aquatic life found throughout the island, beech trees, a fishing lodge, electronic skeet shooting range, waterfall, and cinema which will show specially-commissioned natural wildlife films.

General manager Shelley Peebles said Southern Encounter would open to the public on September 27.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1997.

Document thepre0020011003dt9400atf

TROUT SPEARED 'ACCIDENTALLY'.

178 words

29 April 1997

The Christchurch Press

17

English

(c) 1997 Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News

A man caught by a wildlife ranger with speared trout told the ranger he was trying to catch eels and had not realised he was spearing trout until it was too late, the Christchurch District Court heard yesterday.

Deon Wayne Roberts, a shearer, pleaded guilty to charges of taking sports fish from a spawning area, disturbing spawning grounds, and taking sports fish without a licence.

Judge John Strettell fined Roberts a total of \$600 plus \$290 costs.

The court heard that on September 25 at Lake Lyndon a ranger had caught Roberts with a spear and two speared trout. Roberts had said he had accidentally speared the trout while eeling.

Roberts said in his own defence he was "trying to get a feed" while on the way to a farm at which he was working. He did not know the stream he speared the fish in was a spawning stream.

Judge Strettell said he considered Roberts had been honest in his explanation, but nevertheless he had still committed offences.

(c) The Christchurch Press, INL 1997.

Document thepre0020011003dt4t00dgr

Eel study after chemical spill stopped.

107 words

26 January 1990

New Zealand Herald

4

English

(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

The Conservation Department will not analyse **eels** picked up from the Piako River near Morrsville after a chemical spill.

The aluminium sulphate spill happened nearly two weeks ago when a pipe carrying the chemical burst on the Fernz Corp industrial site in Morrsville.

The spill killed almost all fish life immediately downstream and the department collected dead eels for analysis at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Ruakura.

However, the department's Waikato protection/use manager, Mr John Greenwood, said yesterday that the Ruakura work had been stopped because the eels had been dead too long to get accurate autopsy results.

Document nzhld00020011127dm1q002t5

"Nature" ends river problem.

168 words

18 January 1990

New Zealand Herald

12

English

(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

A chemical sludge which has killed hundreds of fish in the Piako River over the past week has all but disappeared.

Almost 150 tonnes of aluminium sulphate leaked from a broken pipe into the river from a Morrinsville fertilising plant last Thursday, killing hundreds of eels and threatening to kill more as it moved downstream.

However, as Waikato Regional Council workers prepared yesterday morning to pour thousands of litres of sodium hydroxide from a helicopter to neutralise the sludge, someone noticed an unusual but welcoming sight.

Downstream from the confluence of the Waitoa and Piako rivers, the waters were running normally. Over the last 45km, the chemical, used to extract impurities from the water, had been turning the river crystal clear and killing all fish life.

But, when the chemical spill hit the murky waters of the Waitoa, it was fully absorbed.

"Fortunately, the Waitoa River is so dirty, it diluted the chemical. Nature took care of the problem herself," said one field officer.

Document nzhld00020011127dm1i001r0

FARMERS FERTILISER Deadly CHEMICAL spill blamed on accident.

449 words

16 January 1990

New Zealand Herald

2

English

(c) 1990 The New Zealand Herald

The company responsible for a chemical spillage which killed almost all fish life in a section of the Piako River last week may not be prosecuted.

****FULL_TEXT** Hundreds of eels have been killed by a spillage of aluminium sulphate from the Farmers Fertiliser plant near Morrinsville.

The chemical is used to extract impurities from water but has now polluted a stretch almost 12km long, turning the usually muddy Piako River crystal clear.

However, the Waikato Regional Council divisional manager of resource management, Mr Lex Rennes, said last night that the spillage appeared to have been "a genuine accident".

Under the Water and Soil Conservation Act 1967, prosecution depends largely on whether the party responsible knowingly caused a discharge or was negligent.

Mr Rennes said on that basis "there probably wouldn't be a case for a successful prosecution" but that it was up to the council to make the final decision.

Should the region council decide to take legal action, it will be strongly supported by the Auckland Acclimatisation Society.

The society executive officer, Mr Doug Emmett, said yesterday that the spillage had been an "absolute disaster".

"The dirty, muddy Piako River is so clear it's almost blue but when you look a little closer the dead fish tell a different story.

He agreed that prosecution would be difficult if the spilled proved to be a result of an accident.

Samples of the dead eels were yesterday taken to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries at Ruakura for autopsy and analysis.

A Department of Conservation manager, Mr John Greenwood said his office would wait to see what exactly killed the eels before considering any action.

"Although unlikely", he said there was a chance that the eels could have been killed by spray or an other form of contamination and that the department would remain open-minded until the autopsy results were known.

The manager at the fertilising plant, Mr Ian Kindred, last night attributed the river deaths to a pipe rupture.

"It was a complete accident and certainly not intentional."

He said the chemical leaked from the pipe and "slid across the ground" before eventually making its way into the stormwater drains last Thursday.

At that time the plant had a skeleton staff because of the holiday period and the spillage happened in a remote area of the plant.

When discovered, the flow was immediately stopped and that area "has now been isolated and will not be used until repaired."

Mr Kindred and his staff were working closely with the regional council to clear the waterways and settle "a most regrettable situation."

Farmers Fertiliser is part of Fernz Corp.

Document nzhld00020011127dm1g001f0

Water board in losing battle with polluters.

833 words

14 November 1989

New Zealand Herald

9

English

(c) 1989 The New Zealand Herald

ENVIRONMENT / BY LOUISE MATTHEWS.

The recent death of 50 eels in a Glen Eden stream highlights more than just a pollution problem for the Auckland Regional Water Board.

The incident in the Tangutu Stream on October 27 was the regions first big "fish kill" resulting from pollution for some time, says the board manager, Mr Kerry Connolly.

And as the most serious of 31 water pollution problems in the board's monthly report, it demonstrated a "lack of awareness" in people which the board was trying hard to overcome.

Surprisingly, the eel kill was not the result of some big industrial spillage, but almost certainly due to a careless Glen Eden resident pouring a toxic household substance down a stormwater drain.

Some of the dead eels were big adults suggesting they were up to 40 years old, with others estimated to be up to 15 years old.

They were the visible evidence of the damage done.

The Tangutu Stream which drains an entirely residential area, flows on into the Whau River on the Waitemata Harbour and water board officers shudder to think of the damage to the rest of the stream life and the estuary once the pollutant reaches it.

"Most people are aware that stormwater drains run directly into natural water, but they don't stop to think when they're doing up the car next to one or tipping paint down it," said Mr Connolly.

"Prevention is the answer to pollution problems and we are working hard to pass on our environmental knowledge and concern to the population to raise their awareness.

"The state of the Manukau Harbour and our action plan has helped to make a lot of people aware of the problems.

"Unfortunately they seem to think it's the only place affected, but the problem is region-wide.

"If anything, the Tamaki Estuary is in an even worse state, as our studies have shown," Mr Connolly said.

New legislation is demanding that the board, like other public bodies, produce a statement of corporate intent and it is expected environmental concern will feature heavily.

With 54 staff, of whom 45 are engaged in technical work, and using the services of overseas experts, the board is at the forefront of advances in controlling water and soil quality.

The board has done "nationally significant" research in areas of stormwater and silt, both of which can make a wide impact on the environment, says Mr Connolly .

"Here our stormwater - and everything in it, including heavy metals from metal roofs - runs directly into streams and harbours.

"In the United States artificial wetland areas are created in the middle of each housing development to take the stormwater and while the earlier ones were a bit of an eyesore, it is now an advantage to have a house overlooking one.

"It is a big job to tackle here. We would have to start of making new developments incorporate such a scheme as a condition for, say, water rights.

"Then we would have to start on existing developments. At the moment we're lagging behind here on such legislation."

Mr Connolly says developers and others need educating about the problems of silt.

A 5.6 ha urban earthwork site creates 50 tonnes of silt a year which pollutes water in a number of ways.

It clouds the water, smothers stream, estuary and harbour beds killing off parts of the food chain and spawning grounds, shuts out light to water plants and blocks channels.

Usually it carries other major pollutants, whether toxic chemicals or pathogenic micro-organisms.

It also represents the loss of another valuable resource, soil, which the btries to help conserve.

Board officers tackle rural land erosion by giving advice to farmers who are not obliged to take it even less so after the loss of Government grants which helped with control measures.

In spite of legislation being "against" the environment, the board has managed to haul some big industrial polluters through the courts.

"But the burden of finding evidence weighs very heavily against us," said Mr Connolly.

"We have been pressing for on-the-spot fines, if just to save the immense cost of going through the courts."

Mr Connolly says it does not look as if such fines will be featured in the new Resources Management Bill due to be introduced into Parliament in December.

Court action is often a last resort, except in sudden cases of bad pollution, after water board staff have offered advice to farmers, industry and others, which some do not want to take.

But at the end of the day, says Mr Connolly, much comes down to each person in the regions who uses its water.

"We can test, suggest and prosecute, but at the end of the day if people are not aware of the effects of what they have done, then we are stuck with the very difficult job of cleaning up pollution, which has already done its damage."

Document nzhd00020011130dlbe001q0

Pulp makers test for dioxin. (2 of 2)

317 words

23 March 1989

National Business Review

2

English

(c) 1989 The National Business Review

Combining the findings of all the chlorinated compounds into a 2,3,7,8-TCDD "toxic equivalent", the results ranged from 0.46ppt to 4.6ppt.

"Although the levels of dioxin contamination detected are well below the United States and Canadian recommendations for dioxin in fish for human consumption, Tasman has nevertheless initiated a far more comprehensive sampling programme of **eels** and aquatic life, which is aimed at establishing the source of the contamination as soon as possible."

Fullerton said it was believed the dioxin was formed during the chlorination stage of bleaching and there were several ways of reducing the amount of chlorine needed to produce white pulp.

One of the best ways was that being adopted by Tasman in which oxygen was used to pulp wood before the chlorine stage. This meant less chlorine, therefore less dioxin.

Another method was to use more chlorine dioxide, which reacted differently and did not produce dioxin but still gave the desired high brightness in paper products. Tasman has relatively high chlorine dioxide substitution in its No 2 bleach plant and is introducing oxygen bleaching with its pulp mill modernisation programme.

At Kinleith, on the Waikato River, NZFP Pulp and Paper is testing all the mill's potential outputs, including products, effluents and sludges, but is awaiting DSIR results.

Company environment project manager David Campin said indications were the dioxin levels would be safe, based on an assessment by the Pulp and Paper Research Institute of Canada on dioxin outflows from mills.

Kinleith's No 1 bleach plant, opened in the late 1950s, uses five-stage chlorine bleaching. The 1974-completed No 2 plant uses a mixture of chlorine and chlorine dioxide.

Campin, who will soon visit the Canadian researcher who uncovered the dioxin in cartoned milk, said it was a happy coincidence Kinleith had been using processes producing less dioxin.

Document natbr00020011129dl3n0062c