



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Importation of Trout Meat and Trout Products

**Portfolio**                      **Conservation**

On 5 July 2021, following reference from the Cabinet Economic Development Committee, Cabinet:

- 1        **noted** that the importation of trout and trout products in any form for sale is generally prevented by the Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order 2018, which expires at the close of 29 September 2021;
- 2        **noted** that if imports and sale of trout or trout products are allowed, there could be risks to the recreational trout fishery and supporting businesses if the fishery declines as a result of impacts from illegal poaching of trout;
- 3        **noted** that there will be ongoing restriction in consumer choice, and there may be [REDACTED] **OIA s.9(2)(d)**, if the trout import prohibition continues;
- 4        **noted** that some Māori have interests in wild trout fisheries and some are interested in commercial farming of trout, and that wide consultation would therefore be appropriate before changing the status quo;
- 5        **noted** that a Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order 2021 may be made under section 96 of the Customs and Excise Act 2018 only if the Minister of Customs considers the prohibition is necessary in the public interest;
- 6        **noted** that any Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order can, if required, be revoked by a subsequent Order;
- 7        **agreed** that it is in the public interest to continue the prohibition on the importation of trout and trout products for an indefinite period, and **acknowledged** that the mechanism available under the Customs and Excise Act 2018 is the only available statutory vehicle;
- 8        **agreed** that the import prohibition no longer apply to petfood containing trout that is commercially prepared and packaged for direct retail sale, is labelled as petfood, and is in its original sealed packaging on arrival in New Zealand;

- 9 **invited** the Minister of Customs to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to draft an Order in Council giving effect to the above decisions, to come into effect on 30 September 2021.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

*Secretary's Note: This minute replaces DEV-21-MIN-0143. Cabinet amended paragraph 7.*

Released by the Minister of Conservation