



### **Ocean protection**

I recently watched *The Last Ocean*. I was not prepared for the nightmarish account of greed and the environmental rape of the Ross Sea.

I was outraged and ashamed of our Government's role in the annihilation of the toothfish, a large slow-growing, previously unknown fish scientists know little about.

Why is the toothfish so prized? Because there are (or were) plenty of them, and they make good money as a delicacy in the finest restaurants. This is not fish to feed the masses; it is a piscine delicacy to delight the affluent.

The area around the Ross Sea has been protected since 1961, but can be fished. And thanks to our Government, the extent of over-fishing is having dramatic consequences.

As the toothfish disappears, the effect on the food chain becomes even more critical – penguins, sea lions, fish species, whales. The Ross Sea is the last untouched ocean on the planet, and the race to stop fishing there is on.

*Margaret Forsyth, Hamilton.*