

NZ Salmon Anglers Newsletter

April 2007 Number 82



Phil Strangman, Grand Prize Winner
at the Rakaia Salmon Fishing Contest 26 February 2007

**Official Newsletter of the
New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association Incorporated
P.O. Box 1113, Christchurch 8140**

**NEW ZEALAND SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (INC)
2006-07 OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE**

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Committee Meetings: The Committee meets on the first Monday each month (except January) at 7.30 pm in the Fish & Game premises, 3 Horatio Street, Christchurch. Members and supporters are welcome to attend these meetings.

Honorary Auditor: Trevor Hayes

Life Members: Lindsay Dell, Ron Dougherty, Trevor Hayes, Ken Hughey, Ross Lightfoot, Athol Price, Stephen Sparrow

<p>Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in any letters and articles in this newsletter are the authors' own and are not necessarily those of the New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association Incorporated or the Editor.</p>
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PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL

Very nearly the end of the salmon season again and from all accounts it was a better season than last year, with more fish and most in good condition and size. I hope next year is even better and will continue improving in the coming years.

When we went up to the Hurunui River last September to recover the Scotty Boxes after the ova hatching, one of the Boxes was missing and, although we looked downstream for some distance, we couldn't find it. One of our committee members was fishing in the lower reaches of the River below the main highway bridge a few weeks ago, when his friend picked up a green box and asked James if he knew what it was. James said he knew exactly what it was and took possession of it and brought it back. It was slightly damaged but the body was substantially intact and will be used again. I was amazed that after some 40 miles of being rolled down river in a flood or very high water it hadn't suffered more damage and amazingly the nuts on the plastic bolts could still be undone by hand. Nine months in the river hadn't done it a lot of good but it certainly shows that they are very strong.

We have a busy month ahead for hearings on water issues – the farming community continue their thirst for taking water from the rivers, at no cost. I suggest they would not be so keen if they had to pay for the water taken. When did a consent application ever get declined?

24th April is the public hearing on submissions to F&G's Salmon Management Plan. NZSAA made a detailed written submission to the consultative draft and will speak to it at the hearing. Fish & Game received 30 written submissions of which only five have asked to be heard. Interestingly, three of the five submitters are the energy companies Contact Energy, MainPower and Meridian Energy all of whom are focussing on a requirement of the Conservation Act for the Plan to "have regard to the impact on other natural resources and other users of the habitat concerned". Mainpower also argues that the SMP inappropriately elevates the interests of salmon anglers above other river/water users and, in particular, the farming community and businesses reliant on the use of the region's water resources.

17th April is the P&E Limited hearing on their application to take water from the Waimakariri at Darfield for irrigation. Not a large take but it is significant cumulatively with other Waimak consents.

Also on 24th April is the DB & JG Hayes hearing of an application to take water from bores for irrigation of 365 hectares of crops and pasture on Darrochs Road, between the Rakaia River bed and Rakaia Tce, Te Pirita.

We have also received the preliminary decision consenting to Robindale Dairies taking water from the Rakaia River at the end of Steeles Road for development of an irrigation scheme for 6000 hectares of land on the north bank of the river. The decision, 59 pages long, contains the proposed conditions which are now open for further submissions. The Commissioners consider that the proposed abstraction won't have any significant effect on angling but they did agree that fish screening required review. However the whole matter is the subject of an Environment Court challenge from Central Plains Irrigation and Ashburton Water Trust who claim that their application has priority over Robindale's. Considerably more water yet to go under the Rakaia Bridge on this one.

The Angling Regulations are to be reviewed this year and the F&G Working Party meets on 6 June to consider proposed changes. One of the matters to be considered is the set net regulations, particularly in the lower Waimakariri River. Anglers in this area have recently petitioned F&G for an extension of the set netting ban from between the white posts at the mouth of the Kaiapoi River to the Waimak river mouth during January, February and March. From information given to your NZSAA Committee, it seems that the majority of set netters are acting lawfully and responsibly and the problems are isolated to a few people who are illegally setting nets at the river mouth. These people are well known to the Rangers and the Police who are working to apprehend the offenders. NZSAA recognises that the river is a shared recreational resource and does not want to unfairly penalise one group. We did not therefore sign the petition but wrote to F&G urging them to co-ordinate with Ministry of Fisheries and Police in vigorous surveillance, licence checks, etc by rangers/officers to apprehend offenders and stop illegal set netting.

I am standing down from Presidency at the next AGM although I will still be involved with the Committee. I have asked my vice-president to take the position and he is considering it. I have enjoyed my period as President over the past five years and hope that whoever takes over will stamp their mark on the Association and see it go forward from strength to strength. We also need more committee members so if you have the time please put your name forward. One meeting a month is the basic requirement and you can put in as much time as you wish with some interesting hearings that you can take part in. If you wish to give further time and if you have the ability and the desire to get more involved then there is plenty of scope.

Finally, I would like to thank all our members for their support and encouragement during my time as President. To my successor, I extend best wishes for an enjoyable and rewarding term in office.

Neville (Tim) Ellis

PRESIDENT

PRELIMINARY NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The Annual General Meeting
of the New Zealand Salmon Anglers Assn (Inc)
will be held on Tuesday 15 May 2007 at 7.30 pm.
in the Horticultural Hall South Hagley Park,
Riccarton Road, Christchurch**

The meeting will include the usual formal proceedings plus presentations of trophies and prizes to the fishing competition winners and the Athol Price Plaque recipient.

A guest speaker, yet to be confirmed, will also make a presentation to the meeting.

A raffle will also be run during the evening and supper served at the conclusion.

Full formal notice and agenda will be published next month.

Subscription notices for 2007-08 will also be sent out with the next newsletter and payment will be welcomed at the AGM.

The Annual General Meeting is your opportunity to voice your thoughts and concerns regarding the salmon fishery and other river matters, and to tell us how well (or badly) the Association is representing its members. We look forward to a good attendance of members at the meeting. Bring along some friends and encourage them to join the Association.

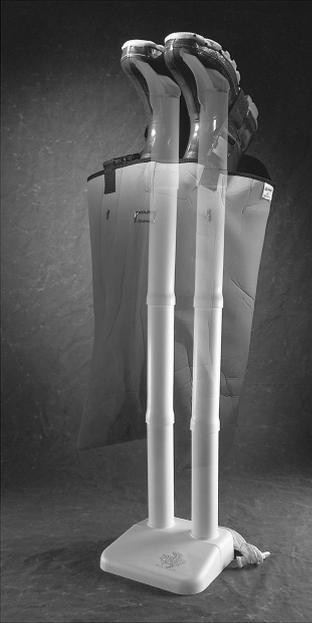
Please also give some thought to offering your services as a member of the Committee. If there are matters that are of particular interest or concern to you, why not put your name forward? We meet formally once a month (except for January). Our current team needs your continued assistance both at a voluntary and professional level.

WADER DRYER RAFFLE

As well as the usual small raffle that we run at the AGM, we will be running another raffle for a special prize: an electric wader dryer donated by Peet Shoedryer Company. Peet Shoedryer Company is owned by Chris and Barbara O'Meara who are members of NZSAA. See the advertisement that follows on this page.

We had hoped to run this raffle in conjunction with the seminar proposed last October but unfortunately the seminar did not go ahead due to lack of member interest. We will now be selling tickets for this special raffle in the period up to and including the Annual General Meeting on 15 May 2007. The draw will be made at the AGM.

Tickets will be limited to 500 and will sell at \$2 each, obtainable from the Secretary or Committee members. Proceeds will go towards the Salmon Recovery Programme.



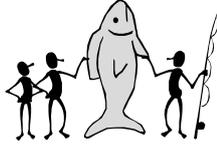
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SALMON TALES

A Tale of Two Halves

On a great Waimak mouth day when the salmon were running well, Caleb hooked into a nice weight salmon that bent his rod and immediately raised a heightened excitement for this young angler, as this was his first fish for the season. Like a true pro he kept his cool and played the fish in the appropriate manner with many zealous onlookers.

Another guy in the picket fence line of some 100+ anglers also hooked into a fish.

In unison they worked together playing their respective fish. Their fish at the end of their lines seemed to move in the same direction, like they were a mated pair. In true fashion they played out their catch, moving the line, keeping constant pressure on the line and allowing the rod to bend and flex.

Their fish drew closer to the river bank, which increased their heightened excitement and drew greater anticipation from the waiting anglers keen to get their lures back in the water. A fish splashed, concern with excitement increased and reading the anglers' minds was the developing question 'Am I going to beach this one' as they drew their prey closer into the shoreline.

In an instant they realised that they were both playing the same salmon. Wow, what a coincidence, so they worked together to bring in their fish. But really whose fish was it: Caleb's or the other person's? Whose hook was in the salmon's mouth and where was the other hook? Tension increased and expert comments from onlookers started to drift to our champions.

Upon beaching their prey they discovered both lures were firmly embedded in the salmon's mouth. It could not be determined whose hook was the first into the salmon's mouth and yet both hooks were legally set.

An equitable conclusion was reached so they cut the fish in half and thus shared the prize catch (see photo of Caleb with his half). This then raised the question that if either angler caught another fish could they fish on or was this their lot and really they would only have 1½ salmon when the limit is 2. The other option was if they fished on and caught another 2 salmon would they legally have to cut one in ½ and return one half to the water, as they legally would have 2½ salmon.

We consulted Canterbury's leading Ranger, Pete Morgan, for an opinion and his first response was "Buggered if I know."

In this instance and working on the goodwill of the law we agreed (that is amongst the best experts on the bank) that they should go for it and if possible go home with 2½ fish and the very best of luck.



Caleb Taiulu with his ½ share of the "catch of the day"

Caleb is a new generation salmon angler, still completing his College education and, according to his Dad 'Moli', he'd sooner chase the salmon at this stage than the girls. When he does get *aroundtoit* I bet he won't want to hook a bird and have to go half share with some other turkey!

Caleb and Moli both participated in the Rakaia competition and Moli had the good fortune of landing one salmon and the misfortune of losing another. Hey guys, thanks for supporting our salmon fishery and very good luck with your future fishing. Tofa Samani Tautai

Addendum to the story:

Here is the other half of the Tale: on the following Saturday, Caleb got his limit bag. Someone does look after us after all !!!"

*Presented by Ron Stuart
for NZ Salmon Anglers Association*



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More Tales.....

Scale Samples Unlimited

One of our very respected lady members - for the purpose of this story we will call her "Florence"- is an experienced salmon angler who is frequently seen fishing at the mouth of the Waimakariri. Florence closely observes salmon catches and when this happens she approaches the lucky angler to obtain a scale sample to send to NZSAA for reading and records.

On this particular day last month, on seeing a good sized fish being landed, she approached the angler and asked if she could have a scale sample. To her disappointment, he said "No, I don't think so." When she asked the angler if there was a particular reason why he didn't wish to give a scale sample, he replied "Yes, I don't think you want scales from this one – it's a kahawai!"

But it was a very fine specimen of a kahawai, wasn't it. Good one, Florence. Keep up the good work.

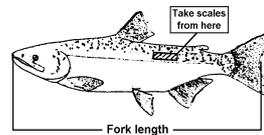
An Act of Kindness

On a recent fishing trip, Life Member Athol Price, had the misfortune to break his rod. A fellow fisherman observed his plight and immediately approached Athol with an offer to lend him a rod so that he could continue his fishing day.

This was an act of kindness the likes of which Athol had never experienced in 70 years of salmon angling. He was most appreciative of the offer. We don't know the name of this good Samaritan, but we do know that he is a member of NZSAA. We think this act of kindness and sportsmanship is worth reporting.

Let's Hear if You Catch a Salmon with the Adipose Fin Missing

The work at Montrose depends on knowing what fish are caught. If you do catch a salmon, have a look to see if the adipose fin is missing which indicates it was of Montrose origin. Then please provide details (weight, length from nose to the fork of the tail, sex, to Fish & Game (phone 366.9191) or any NZSAA Committee member.



Please also take a scale sample and send to NZSAA, P O Box 1113, Christchurch.

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OPEN SEVEN DAYS

FISH AND GAME NEWS



Salmon Monitoring

Staff have carried out the first aerial salmon count in the Rakaia and Waimakariri Rivers. Numbers appear to be significantly improved on 2006. Staff have also conducted a pre-season assessment of key spawning grounds and found the streams to be in excellent condition.

Salmon By-Catch

The F&G salmon verifier programme finished on 14 February. Only two trips were made to the Salmon Exclusion Area. The F&G verifier went on four trips in total, lasting 11 days, and recorded only two salmon as by-catch.

Montrose

Staff and volunteers fin-clipped all the salmon early in March. F&G again thank NZ King Salmon for their continued support of this programme with the donation of food for both the trout and salmon. As of early April, adult salmon are beginning to enter the trap.

Angling Regulations

The Angling Regulations are due for review this year. The Angling Regulations Working Party meeting will be held at 7 pm on 6 June 2007 7 pm at F&G office.

A petition has been received from anglers concerned about salmon being caught in nets in the lower Waimakariri. This is an issue that F&G is already working on (principally through surveys of set nets in the Rakaia Lagoon) with a view to seeking changes to the set net regulations.

Salmon Management Plan

F&G received 30 written submissions on the consultative draft of the SMP. The public hearing of submissions will be held on 24 April at North Canterbury F&G boardroom. The Hearing Panel comprises F&G Councillors Martin Clements, Edgar Russ, Matthew Hall, together with staff Ross Millichamp and Mark Webb

Fish Screens Working Party

Progress has been made towards the introduction of screen standards with NIWA completing an independent report on fish screen design criteria. The report supports the design criteria proposed by F&G and DoC.

Young Angler Training

400 large salmon (1-3kg) donated by NIWA were transferred from Silverstream to the Groyne in early March. On 23 March staff and volunteers organised a fishing trip at the Groyne for special needs students from Allendale School. For most of the students this trip was their first contact with fishing.

Landowner Liaison

Steve Terry and a number of F&G North Canterbury councillors visited high country landowners in the upper Rakaia Valley during the last eight weeks.

From Central South Island Region

The salmon season is now closed in the Central South Island rivers, which includes Waitaki River and its tributaries, Rangitata River and its tributaries, Ashburton River and its tributaries, Lake Stream, Ohapi Stream, Opihi River, Orari River and tributaries and Temuka River and its tributaries. It has been reported to F&G CSI that some anglers have been pushing their luck, continuing salmon fishing using a jetboat to access unseen locations on the Waitaki River. Their names have been supplied so if this continues, with some diligence on F&G's part and continued information from trout anglers, they will be apprehended. They will have no excuse and there will be no sympathy from fellow anglers who "play the game". Despite the early closing not being popular with everyone, most can see it's being done for the right reasons.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION WESTLAND

Lake Kaniere via Hokitika **Jackson Bay** via Haast

Bruce Bay: Half-hour Drive South of Fox Glacier

All baches are self-contained with pots/pans, cutlery, power, shower, fridge, washing machine and freezer (except Kaniere, no freezer). All baches sleep 8 people.

You need to supply all disposable items including wood and coal for the Yunka fire (except Kaniere, electric heating), sheets, pillowcases, sleeping bags, etc. On leaving, a clean and tidy bach would be appreciated for the next people.

Rates: **Kaniere:** \$65 per night up to 4 people. \$20 per person above this.
 Bruce Bay & Jackson Bay: \$50 per night

For more information and bookings you can call:

The Hokitika Angling Club
C/o Hokitika Cycles & Sportsworld
Phone 03 755 8662 (shop hours)

Otago Harbour Salmon Fishing Competition



Dean Roma with his prizewinning salmon

NZSAA Otago Branch conducted this competition over the weekend 17-18 March 2007, attracting 500 entrants. President, Wayne Olsen, said the weather was a bit rough which probably stirred up the water and made it harder for the fish to see the bait and whatever else the fishermen were throwing at them. But they were thrilled with the whole weekend. The total of 47 fish caught was the same as last year but the size of the catches this year was much greater, Wayne said.

Te Kuiti fisherman, Dean Roma, caught the heaviest salmon (7.53kg) hooked from the Fryatt St wharf. Mr Roma won a bag of prizes including a fishing rod, reel and watch, for his efforts. And his tip for catching big salmon in Otago Harbour - "pilchards....and patience."

Michelle Kerseboom won the women's section with a 4.17kg salmon, and Connor Scoullar took the junior section with a 5.24 kg salmon.



SALMON ANGLERS CAPS



**Promote your Association
Buy a Cap and Wear it on the River**

The caps are navy blue, with a silver/grey salmon, orange print with white and gold stripes. Cost \$20. Each cap you purchase includes a small donation to the Salmon Recovery Programme.

**Order by mail from the NZSAA by sending \$20, plus \$3 for postage,
to P O Box 1113, Christchurch 8140,
or call the Secretary on 383 0900 to pick one up.**

NZSAA Computer for Sale

NZSAA has purchased a new computer - the Secretary is delighted with this new acquisition which is fast and has up to date programmes. Makes the newsletter publication a breeze (ALMOST!). And so we have the old model (not the Secretary) for sale.

Specifications:

Make: Gateway.

Purchased July 2001

Operating System: Microsoft
Windows Millenium Edition

128 RAM

Keyboard and two speakers

CD and floppy disk drives



This is a good basic computer for home use for someone who doesn't have complex program requirements. We have an asking price of \$250 but would consider all offers. If you are interested, please phone the Secretary, Pam Ellis, on 383 0900.

NZSAA SALMON FISHING COMPETITION

REMINDER

Last day for entries is Friday 4 May 2007

Fill in the entry form and include a scale sample
and forward to NZSAA P O Box 1113, Christchurch.

NEWS FROM OVERSEAS



Tough GM salmon lose their nerve in the 'wild'

Some genetically modified fish appear to undergo a personality change when they leave laboratory conditions for a more natural environment, according to new research.

Transgenic fish that behave ferociously in a bare tank, appear meek under more natural conditions, meaning it will not be easy for biologists to predict the ecological consequences of escaped GM animals.

Salmon genetically engineered to overproduce growth hormone can put on up to 25 times the weight of wild salmon and could provide "aqua-culturists" with a faster way to raise fish to market size. However, lab tests suggested that transgenic fish are more aggressive predators than wild salmon, raising concerns that they could harm native fish if they escape into the wild.

Fredrik Sundström and colleagues at Canada's Center for Aquaculture and Environmental Research, Fisheries and Oceans, in Vancouver, tested whether the GM fish would have the same superiority in more natural conditions.

When they raised the fish in stream tanks complete with gravel, large rocks, logs and natural food items, they found that the GM fish still grew a little faster and ate a little more than unmodified fish, but their advantage was much smaller than when the fish lived in a simple metal tank and ate food in pellet form.

That does not mean escaped GM fish would not cause ecological damage, says Sundström, only that biologists will need to work harder to answer the question. "You can't use fish reared in the lab to predict what will happen in nature," he says.

Journal reference: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences

Duke goes to court to 'save his salmon'

The Duke of Devonshire is taking legal action against the Irish government amid fears that its conservation policy will ruin his lucrative fishery on one of Ireland's finest salmon rivers.

The dispute between the duke, a close friend of the Prince of Wales and a major Anglo-Irish landowner, concerns the River Blackwater, a mecca for anglers which has been fished by Tiger Woods and Jeremy Paxman.

Dublin has demanded the removal of a weir owned by the duke, arguing that it is restricting the habitat for migratory fish and preventing the movement of salmon and trout upstream to their spawning grounds.

As well as owning the Clondulane weir, which used to power a nearby corn mill, the duke owns the rights to the Careysville fishery, where anglers pay up to £2,000 a week per rod to stay at a luxurious guesthouse owned by the Devonshires. Those at Careysville House can enjoy one and three quarter miles of double bank fishing downstream from the weir. The Careysville fishery is recognised as one of the best salmon fisheries in Ireland and one of the few for spring salmon.

The estate was taking legal action in an attempt to retain the weir and was seeking a judicial review of the department's proposal. It is feared that dismantling the weir will wreck the well-defined salmon pools that have been created on the Blackwater. The estate has argued that salmon can get through the fish passes built into the weir at all times and taking it down would destroy a pool where salmon rest and spawn. Other fisheries have warned that the move would cause flash flooding and damage farmland.

Angling is an important source of income for the estate and castle, which was once the home of Sir Walter Raleigh and has been in the Devonshire family since 1753. The 8,000 acre estate serves as an Irish retreat for the family when they are not at their 175-room Chatsworth House in Derbyshire.

"Careysville is a prolific spring salmon fishery and they (the estate) are worried about that," said the chief executive of the southern regional fisheries board – a government fishing agency. "But our job is to make sure that there is a safe negotiation of salmon up the river. We have said that weirs, which are redundant, should be removed." He said that the proposal was mooted following a very poor year for salmon in 2003 when the water level on the Blackwater was low.

A government spokesman said a report from a study into the Blackwater last year found that the river is one of Ireland's most important salmon rivers and the weirs significantly delay the free and uninterrupted migration of salmon. The spokesman said a directive was issued ordering removal of Clondulane Weir .

By Tom Peterkin, Telegraph, Ireland Correspondent

Editor's Note: *Anyone got a spare dollar for the poor old Duke's fighting fund? I hope not, because this is the type of exclusive fishing rights that amateur anglers don't support in New Zealand.*

Didymo Update

From NIWA National Centre for Aquatic Biodiversity & Biosecurity

New Zealand scientists continue to lead the world in didymo research. In recent months, NIWA has continued delimitation surveys across the country for Biosecurity NZ, made good progress on developing a control biocide, and verified the conditions that will allow didymo to survive on recreational equipment.

Trials in artificial streams showed that Gemex™, a chelated copper-based formulation, was very effective at killing didymo cells without harming juvenile rainbow trout. Preliminary results of these trials indicated only moderate effects on invertebrates. Field trials of Gemex™ got underway in February to further test its safety and effectiveness against didymo. The formulation has been deliberately designed to be effective against didymo but with low toxicity to other aquatic organisms.

Environment Southland, the Environmental Risk Management Authority, and local iwi have approved small stream trials in a tributary of the Mararoa River, Southland. Preliminary results should now be available although further monitoring will take place for at least 3 to 4 months.

In the meantime, ensure that you CLEAN, CHECK AND DRY all fishing equipment and boats. And don't use gear from one watershed in another for at least 48 hours and without first having sterilized it, using one of the approved methods on the Biosecurity handout.

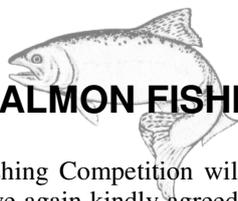


◆ ANGLERS OUTFITTERS ◆

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Email: info@fishermansloft.co.nz



NZSAA ANNUAL SALMON FISHING COMPETITION

The NZSAA Annual Salmon Fishing Competition will be run for the current 2006-07 season. The Fisherman's Loft have again kindly agreed to sponsor the contest and a \$50 voucher will be awarded to the winner of each of the following categories:

- Heaviest Salmon Overall - Aquarius Trophy
- Heaviest Salmon Rakaia - Alty Roscoe Trophy
- Heaviest Salmon Waimakariri - Cromb & Merritt/Fisherman's Loft Trophy
- Lucky Draw from Remainder of Entries

Trophies and prizes will be awarded at the NZSAA AGM in May 2007.

COMPETITION RULES

1. Entrants must be financial members of NZSAA and hold a current sport fishing licence.
2. A scale sample must be provided.
3. All fish must be gutted and gilled with the head on.
4. Fish must be weighed at premises where Government tested scales are in use.
5. Declaration form must be completed and forwarded to reach the Secretary, NZSAA, P O Box 1113, Christchurch 8140, no later than 4 May 2007.
6. All panels on the entry form must be completed and the declaration signed.
7. In the event of a dispute the final arbitrators will be the NZSAA Committee. No correspondence will be entered into regarding the results.

ENTRY FORM AND DECLARATION

Name.....

Angler's Address.....

.....

Licence Number.....Date Fish Caught.....

Weight of Fish (Gutted and Gilled with Head On).....kg.....gms

River and Location where Caught.....

Premises Where Weighed.....

Name and Signature of Person Weighing.....

I certify that all the above information is correct

and that I am the Angler who caught this fish:

Signature of Angler

