

NZ Salmon Anglers Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2007 Number 89



*Salmon redd in Hacketts Creek with stock protection fence
erected by property owner Bevan Mehtens
(see story on page 20)*

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

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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, John Healy, Ken Hughey, Ross Lightfoot, Athol Price, Stephen Sparrow



PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL

Time is ripping by and your new season's licence can be put to good use. It has certainly motivated me, so I made a trip to the store of one of our regular advertisers with two objectives: one, to get new line for my reels and, the other, to try out some new breathable waders.

The options are just fantastic and technology provides this. Last year the salmon that I caught seemed more attracted to my reel with the lighter line on, so this season I decided to go that way and get line with maximum strength but minimum diameter, so it would move well in the water. The decision process was difficult in spite of the professional advice offered, so I took a punt and ended up with a choice that should well do the job and an option I have never tried before.

Next was the waders and after some good discussion I ended up settling with a pair of Gortex fabric, breathables with neoprene socks. They are so light and offer great comfort, so it will be interesting to see how they perform. Here again the variety available to select from is considerable, but I settled for a mid price range pair, comparable in price to 5mm Neoprene. The assurances and warranty given by the shop owner gave me great confidence in my purchase and I am assured that if any problems arise they will ensure satisfaction, plus there are good service agents available. It's great dealing with someone that knows you and will be there next time, plus it was rewarding dealing with a business that

supports our Association in a number of ways.

The last of our Scotty Boxes have been lifted, with indications of excellent results. We are now moving into a planning phase for the coming season and will be working closely with Fish & Game to have the best options available.

Interestingly, I did a very conservative calculation on our voluntary and volunteer effort this last season and costed our contribution to the ova planting programme to be in the order of \$30,000. This is based on converting man-hours into \$'s and estimating vehicle kilometres and believe me my costing figures were certainly not in the commercial range.

So it's a massive thanks to the generosity of all concerned who took part, in particular the unceasing efforts of John Hodgson and Douglas Roy supported also by Edgar (Rusty) Russ.

This season is the first expected return of Scotty Box-released salmon and I have been reliably informed that of the first fish to be caught only those that assisted with the planting of these boxes will be able to catch and land one of these special fish. You will immediately recognise it as having being raised in a Scotty Box, as the head will have a slight octangular influence from the shape of the box cells! We rather hope some of these fish will return to the release site, but they may not as their option may be to build a redd elsewhere.

If you are successful catching any salmon this month can you please let one of our committee know, as we are keen to get the feeling and the number of fish about.

And, of course, as usual take some scale samples and record on an envelope the size, gender, fork-length and place of capture. We will distribute some envelopes to members next month.

We are grateful to the Fisherman's Loft for once again sponsoring our NZSAA salmon competition for the current season. The entry form is included towards the end of this newsletter.

We are inviting our regular advertisers to tell us about new fishing gear and products that should interest anglers. Jeremy Burke from Ballingers has provided an article in this month's newsletter. Please support our advertisers because they support NZSAA.

We are still in need of an editor for this newsletter to ensure its continuance after December this year. Although some limited assistance has been offered, it requires a person who can co-ordinate and publish the news material. So if you have any suggestions on how this could be achieved, please let us know. Time is running out.

Quote for the month

*" I know I'm getting better
at salmon fishing because I'm making
fewer birds nests".*

Tight lines, keen hooks and unbroken knots.

Ron Stuart
PRESIDENT

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 (Inc) or the Editor.



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Committee Highlights & News in Brief

The Committee met on 5th November and not too many sparks were flying!

Ova Planting Programme

We had a good discussion on the ova planting programme in preparation for a meeting with Fish & Game. This meeting was held on 7 November when future strategies and sites were discussed. Some suggestions for suitable ova-planting streams were received and these will be checked out in the months ahead.

Central Plains Water

We continue to support the efforts of the Malvern Hills Protection Society in their challenges and opposition to the Central Plains Water scheme. Unfortunately, the Environment Court has awarded \$26,000 costs against the Society for its recent legal challenge. As MPHS says: "It is clear this is all about winning in the Court of public opinion."

The NZSAA Committee has agreed to give the Society a donation of \$100 as a small token of support. We hope some individual members may also feel able to assist with a donation.

Bereavement

We observed with sadness the death of NZSAA member David Bashford. His obituary is published in this newsletter.

Waitaki River and Meridian Energy

The hearing for Meridian Energy's North Bank Tunnel concept concluded in October. The Commissioners have indicated that they intend to hear all other applications to take water from the Waitaki before issuing any decisions. It is unlikely therefore that decisions will be issued before mid-2008.

New Public Campsites for Families

The Department of Conservation has drawn up a list of around 100 possible locations on land it administers, where low impact campgrounds could potentially be developed or existing camping sites expanded, to compensate for private motor camps closing.

Hugh Barr, spokesman for the Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of NZ, said: "There are great accessible and scenic coastal sites, and lake, river, mountain and forest sites available all over our public lands. These new campsites should encourage families to take the kids out there and let them get a taste of the outdoors. The new campsites complement the Minister's initiative of waiving DOC hut fees on Great Walks and other huts, starting next year."

South Island sites include the following:

Nelson/Marlborough: Wairau Bar, Cobb River, Marfells Beach, Kenepuru Head.

Canterbury: Quail Island Lyttelton, Woolshed Creek Mt Somers, Cave.

West Coast: Cape Foulwind, Copland Valley, Gillespies Beach

Otago: Clutha (Beaumont & Roxburgh), Alexandra (Manuherikia, Chatto Creek & Manorburn Dam), Hyde, Naseby, Nevis Valley, Lower Lindis River, Tarras (Lindis Hotel site) Ranfurly, Lake Wanaka (Te Peka Karara Is), Lake Hawea (Dingleburn River Mouth).

South Island High Country: at least six further camping opportunities.

Further information can be obtained from Hugh Barr, Secretary CORANZ, Phone 04 934 2244 or 027 686 0063, or email hugh@infosmart.co.nz

Didymo: Rakaia River & Rangitata Diversion Race

As reported in our last newsletter NZSAA wrote to Biosecurity NZ and others requesting that the discharge of Rangitata Diversion Race water into the Rakaia River be stopped because of the risk of didymo infection.

RDR Management Ltd and the other water users have now applied to Biosecurity for a permit to enable RDR to transfer didymo legally in the event of the Rangitata River becoming infested with didymo. Didymo is currently in the lower Rangitata River but not at or above the inlet to the RDR. If however didymo does get to the inlet to the RDR, the transfer of water is likely to also infect the Hinds, Ashburton and Rakaia Rivers.

A report prepared by Biosecurity NZ notes that *“The Rakaia and Ashburton Rivers are premium fishing rivers and if didymo was to establish its presence would severely downgrade the value of the rivers as sports fishing rivers. The impact of didymo on the fish and its habitat are uncertain. However didymo is likely to prevent fish access to and from the substrates, sub-surface shelter and spawning sites in some sections of some rivers.”*

Biosecurity is recommending approval of the permit to RDR on certain conditions. NZSAA and Fish & Game were both given opportunity to make submissions to these draft conditions. NZSAA’s submission emphasised its earlier request to cease the terminal discharge of RDR water through the Highbank tailrace to the Rakaia River. F&G submitted that the report exaggerated the risk of recreational users spreading didymo as it

was most likely that RDR and its users would cause didymo to infest the Hinds, Ashburton and Rakaia Rivers. F&G also asked that Biosecurity assess alternative mitigation options to reduce the risk of didymo spread via water at each RDR discharge point.

Biosecurity’s “near final draft” permission now includes a proposal for RDR to assist with the operation of cleaning stations at Peel Forest and Lake Clearwater by working with a community action group to ensure the maintenance and provision of detergents and signage to target all recreational users of the Rangitata River.

The recommendations have largely ignored the submissions from NZSAA and Fish & Game.

NZSAA has responded to Biosecurity NZ with (copies to the Ministers for Biosecurity, Fisheries and Environment) and our letter is set out here for the information of our members:

“Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the revised draft of the proposed permit for RDR Management Limited and other water users to move water that may contain didymo. We also acknowledge receipt of the response to our earlier letter from Barry O’Neil, Assistant Director General (Biosecurity).

“We are disappointed that the proposed permit has largely ignored the positive suggestions from the North Canterbury Fish & Game Council and the New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association (NZSAA).

“From our reading, the only obvious amendment is assistance to the community action group in targeting recreational users of the Rangitata River. This is a useful preventative action and NZ Salmon Anglers Association and other fishing groups will continue to preach the Check, Clean and Dry message to its members and recreational anglers.

“However, as pointed out by Fish & Game previously, it is most likely that RDRML and associated users will cause didymo to infest the Hinds, Ashburton and Rakaia Rivers. You state that “there are few other practical measures to effectively slow the spread of didymo”. We disagree. NZSAA requested in its letter of 3 August 2007 that all discharges from the Highbank power station tailrace, containing RDR water, be discontinued until further notice to minimise the risk of didymo entering the Rakaia River from this source. We understand that this can be effectively and practically achieved by closing off the end of the RDR at the top of the Rakaia terrace before it drops down to the Rakaia River.

“Unfortunately such a measure will not assist the Hinds and Ashburton Rivers if didymo enters the RDR system. However our main concern is with the Rakaia River which is a salmon fishery of national importance and worth every possible practical step to preserve and protect the river environment.

“The Rakaia River is protected by the National Water Conservation Order 1988 because of its outstanding characteristics and features, including wildlife habitat and fisheries. The WCO contains provisions to preserve and protect these features including prohibition of water rights and general authorisations for discharges that would breach specified

standards for the Rakaia waters. We believe that Biosecurity NZ, and other consenting authorities, have a legal responsibility to take all possible preventative measures to maintain these standards - in this instance, to stop discharge of terminal RDR water to the Rakaia River is possible and reasonable.

“We repeat our earlier submission noting that the salmon fishery is only now beginning to recover from recent years of decline. This recovery is largely due to a programme undertaken by NZSAA in conjunction with Fish & Game to restore and enhance the Rakaia salmon fishery by operation of a salmon hatchery, annually raising and releasing juvenile salmon and planting of fertilised ova in spawning streams. All this work is undertaken voluntarily involving many hundreds of hours and travel during each year. A similar programme is in place on the Rangitata River by NZSAA South Canterbury members and supporters.

“It would be a tragic waste of years of volunteer efforts in improving the salmon fishery for want of one proactive measure that might reduce the risk of spreading didymo. We urge you to consider inclusion of a permit condition preventing the terminal discharge of the RDR to the Rakaia River.”

Fact

The time for water to travel the approx 67 kilometres from the RDR inlet to the Rakaia River is 12 hours.

But, let's do our best:
CHECK, CLEAN & DRY



David “Dave” Bashford

7 May 1930 - 5 October 2007

Obituary written by John Hodgson

We record with sadness the sudden death of NZSAA member, Dave Bashford, on 5 October 2007 while out whitebaiting on his favourite fishing ground, the Waimakariri River.

Dave was a long term supporter of NZSAA right back to when we put banners on the sides of our cars and went convoy into the City to gain support for the conservation order for the Rakaia River.

For me, Dave was also a friend for 60 years, the beginning being in 1947 when we were plumbing apprentices and attending night school. We both worked for the Christchurch Drainage Board in later years. Dave’s time with the Board started as a plumbing and drainage inspector and finished as chief inspector, the last before amalgamation of Christchurch local authorities in 1989. During this period, he always listened to what was being said and, after due thought, gave an answer for the problem and the work was carried out according to requirements. He was a good administrator and was respected.

We enjoyed many good years of fishing during the mid 1960s when Ross Lightfoot (a former President of NZSAA), Dave, and myself, fished the Steeles Road area of the Rakaia River. He was also very successful when fishing the Waimakariri.

Dave was a competitive angler, winning NZSAA’s salmon competition trophies on several occasions. However he also

put something back into the salmon fishery. Dave was a willing helper in all of NZSAA’s efforts to improve the fishery and was always at the top of the phone list for volunteers.

At the Montrose hatchery, Dave helped at the first stripping of fish for eggs and many other times, such as broom-sweeping the raceways and planting of eyed ova in the various spawning streams.

Dave’s last contribution was on Thursday 2 August 2007 to walk down the Thomas Stream to the floodgate which is approximately 300 metres before entering the Porter River. It was an arduous hour and a half walk along the stream bed and we found only two of the Jordan Scotty boxes that had been washed out from upstream by the flood of 29 June 2007



Farewell Dave. It has been good to have known you.

John Hodgson



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Fish & Game News



Salmon At Sea Verifiers

Volunteers with good sea legs wanted:

Do you have good sea legs and a good eye for detail, a positive personality, love confined space and smell of fish? Can you spare one to four days away from home on short notice? Have you always wanted to try your seamanship on a proper fishing vessel but never had the chance? If this sounds like you please give Davor at Fish & Game a call (03 366 9191).

Fish & Game is managing verifier placement on the fishing vessels operating in the Salmon Conservation Area (SCA) as per Salmon By-catch agreement with Ministry of Fisheries and fishing industry representatives. In the past several seasons we relied on paid verifiers. Due to a range of circumstances the number of trips to the SCA was lower (seven in 2005-06 and four in 2006-07 season) than in the past and very few salmon were caught. Due to the relatively few trips and minimal salmon by catch F&G are trying to go back to utilising volunteers as verifiers for the programme. We need angler help in recruiting volunteers. The verifier programme starts 7 December 2007 and finishes 14 February 2008 with a break for Christmas (21 Dec till 10 Jan).

Silverstream Hatchery

The F&G Council has given further consideration to the possible purchase of the Silverstream property but has concluded that it is likely to be too expensive given the interest from salmon farming companies. It would also require F&G to be involved in commercial aquaculture which is not its core business.

F&G has therefore decided it will not tender for Silverstream but would support the facility being transferred to any party prepared to maintain/protect North Canterbury F&G's existing arrangements with NIWA, i.e. that F&G continue to have the option of purchasing 30,000 yearling smolt from the facility at a reasonable price; and F&G have sole access to the sea run salmon which return to the Silverstream trap in order to propagate future releases.

F&G have had discussions with the Silverstream Hatchery Cooperative consortium which has indicated that if they are the successful tenderer they would continue with the NIWA arrangements. F&G have therefore supported the consortium's tender.

Where To After the Last River?

From CORANZ NewsWatch 12.10.17

Fish & Game New Zealand is encouraged by statements made by the Minister of Energy, David Parker, during the launch of the New Zealand Energy Strategy.

"The Strategy seems a pragmatic approach that recognises what is special about New Zealand, our spectacular environment," said Bryce Johnson, Chief Executive Fish & Game New Zealand. "Government's recognition that "we don't need to dam lots more rivers" recognises that hydro is a not "renewable" generation option. Sure, the water itself is renewable, but the rivers themselves are not. David Parker's comment that, "...our unmodified rivers are a finite resource" recognises the immense value to New Zealanders of our natural free flowing rivers."

“In damming a river, we lose the natural free flowing nature of that river forever. A river is more than a drainage canal. A river is a living thing. It has its own ecology and complex and wide ranging interrelationships with the wider environment. Further, a natural free flowing river has immense value beyond pure ecological values, including cultural, spiritual, recreational and community values.” “As Jim Anderton said himself last year, “Our rivers, lakes, streams and wetlands are precious to our way of life. Look at our cultural expression - our paintings and poems - and our natural environment is a theme running through the soul of our national identity”. Each time we dam one of our rivers, we lose these values.”

“As local government assumes their part in delivering on these strategies, they too must recognise that rivers are finite and of great importance to communities in their natural state. An aggressive pursuit of energy efficiency and conservation, and a close linkage between economic growth and energy demand are essential.”

“To those who say, “we need the clean energy that hydro provides!” the obvious question is, “What will we do after the last river is used up?” Many respond with, “We’ll think of something else when we get there.”

“I suggest that we think of something else now, and retain the “soul of our national identity” for our children and grand children.”

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of North Canterbury Fish & Game Council will be held on Wednesday 5 December 2007 at 7 pm at F&G office, 3 Horatio Street, Christchurch.

Salmon Centenary 2008

In response to NZSAA’s request for information on the first salmon catch in the Rakaia River, we have received the following information from Life Member, Athol Price:

The first certified salmon landed in the Rakaia River was caught by Christopher Denby who was fishing with his brother-in-law (a minister of the Church - which Church is unknown), at the end of Jollies Road, north side of the Rakaia where the boat ramp owned by The Little Rakaia Boat Club is situated.

After being broken off by a large fish, Mr Denby cycled to Southbridge and caught the train to Christchurch where he purchased some piano wire from Chas Begg’s piano and music shop. He then travelled back to the Rakaia to continue fishing, this time landing a fish which, when examined by Fisheries experts, was confirmed to be a quinnat salmon.

Athol has also supplied us with a newspaper article by W (Bill) Elson published on 22 July 1972 regarding the introduction of quinnat salmon to New Zealand. We will reprint this next month.

The North Canterbury F&G Council has agreed to celebrate 2008 as the Year of the Salmon, highlighting the salmon and its importance as a recreational fishing resource to the South Island and New Zealand; and also to highlight the importance of the conservation of water resources as a means of safeguarding the salmon run. They plan to have a series of events during the year.

The Rakaia Fishing Contest will also celebrate the centenary and NZSAA will put together a display for this event.

Salmon Gear for the New Season

by Jeremy Burke

I received a phone call on Tuesday 6 November reminding me that it's time to sort out my salmon gear for the new season. The main part of the phone call that caught my attention was an 18lb salmon at the mouth of the Rangitata.

Here is a list of products that may give you an edge this coming season:

Fluoro Carbon

Fluoro carbon line for shock leader in the surf or using on your lure rod as leader section to your fly.

There are two major advantages in using fluoro carbon: The first is visibility. Fluoro carbon has a similar UV index to water (much lower visibility). The second is abrasion resistance. Most fluoro carbon lines have at least twice the abrasion resistance of standard nylons.

The new Stren fluoro is one to look out for at \$24.99 per spool.

Braided Line

Braided lines are also becoming popular with many anglers, finding the low stretch and extra sensitivity a huge advantage with detecting takes and setting hooks. There are specific types of braid for both free spool reels and fixed spool reels.

The price ranges from \$39 to \$99 depending on amount and quality.

Chemically Sharpened Trebles

I highly recommend trying chemically sharpened trebles this season if you haven't before. The prices range from \$9.99 to \$23 with Owner, Gamakatsu and VMC being the most used. Sometimes a sharp hook can mean the difference between a successful hook-up and just a touch.

Bladed Spinners

Over the last few seasons, more anglers have been successfully experimenting with blade spinners such as the Veltic lure. Generally used in low or clear waters, unweighted, or with a small lead in heavier flows.

Good luck to all the anglers heading out this season. Keep in mind it doesn't hurt to try something just a bit different.

Jeremy Burke

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Rates: **Kaniere:** \$70 per night up to 4 people. \$20 per person above this.
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Transplanting from existing boat is also an option.

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The Outing at the Groynes 14 October 2007

The weatherman forecast heavy rain and gale force winds for the day, and they still came. The moms, dads and the kids, many little tots in their gumboots and jackets all ready to go.

It was cold but the storm held off till 11 a.m. In the first two hours there were lots of salmon caught, many around half to three quarters of a kilo plus some of the 60 odd whoppers, up to 5 kilo's. There were kids five and six year old about ten feet tall and a smile to match in possession of some really good sized salmon. Our grateful thanks to Isaac Salmon for such beautiful fish



Our team of about 50 helpers soon had things up and running, shade tents erected, 10,000 worms put into canisters ready for the kids to use, car marshals to the car park, display signs, etc ready for the 9 a.m. start, then off to help the kids catch a fish.

This year we stepped up in a number of areas. Jo Seagar joined our team with her chef Phil Keen. They were amazing: they demonstrated easy methods of preparing and cooking salmon, they gave out tasting samples of Isaac salmon that were delicious. Interested fishers, young and old crowded to watch how it's done and to pick up Jo's recipes and cooking suggestions.



We replaced about half our loan rods and reels with new and now have around 80 good rod and reel sets for loan. For the first time we hired a good sound system - what a difference. We could talk to the people and tell them who our sponsors are, announce notices and have Jo Seagar talking live. We also replaced the old certificates with a new fishing award for the kids who caught fish.



At 11a.m. the storm hit and the people scattered, but by 11.30 the worst was over and people started returning, many fishing for the rest of day. The morning was limited to kids up to 12 years of age, two lakes were restricted to kids up to 9 years. After 1 p.m. all kids up to 17 years could fish the lakes. Fish & Game issued a fishing licence that covered all kids for the day. It was a happy and relaxed atmosphere and great to see families enjoying the outing. Attendance was around 3,000 (862 cars) which is good considering the weather.



Thanks to everyone who helped make the day possible. It was pleasing that TV1, TV3 and Canterbury TV screened the outing and helped acknowledge the following organisations that support “Take a Kid Fishing”:

Lady Isaac and Isaac Salmon Farm - Fish & Game N.Z. - The Groynes Picnic Ground - Anthony Runacres & Associates and N.Z. Insurance – Seagars Cook School & Café - Clearwater Fishing – Fishing Essentials - Fisherman’s Loft – Frontiers Outfitters - Hirepool - Kaiapoi Lions - Mikes Fishing - Sport Service Centre - Thompson Walker Ltd - Wondercast Baits - anonymous donor - Fishing Clubs: Canterbury Anglers Club - Canterbury Fly Fishing Club – Christchurch Fishing & Casting Club - Canterbury Lure Fishing Association - N.Z Salmon Anglers Association - Richmond W.M.C



Thank you everyone.

Dave Denton

Teaching People to Fish

A view by Ron Dougherty

In my opinion, when teaching people to fish in a big river, the first requirement is to let them “feel the fish” on the end of the line. To do this, as soon as possible after hooking a fish, you pass the rod (fish at the end of the line) over to the learner. This can be done, provided tension is maintained, and there is always a hand on the reel handle.

From then on it is easy to stand behind the learner and give assistance and tuition. But you must not be too critical if the line breaks or the fish gets off. They’re learning.

It was quite helpful, when fish were more plentiful than they are now (and that wasn’t so long ago either!!) to find a “learner’s hole” which was always good for a first cast by a learner. There was one such piece of water in the Upper Rakaia: a hole that always had fish but one that was full of line traps and gear-grabbing snags. The hole was formed from a huge rock slide coming down from the side of a mountain, its toe in the river bed. There were masses of jagged rocks, some huge, and a virtual underwater jungle of washed out kowhai trees, matagouri, and other wiry native shrubs. The salmon lurked amongst this mess.

One evening, instead of going fishing, I took my Polaroid glasses and binoculars to above the hole and sat on the high cliff above and did nothing but watch the water and the fish. I sat there for hours, shifted around and looked at the hole from different angles and “worked it out”. The next night I went to the access above the hole, climbed down into the river bed, waded the first river braid and walked down the long tongue of shingle to where it disappeared into the big hole, but still above where I wanted to fish. Stood on the end of the shingle bar, with my back to the salmon hole, and cast as far out and as far across the braid as I could. As soon as the gear hit the water, I closed the bail and recovered all the slack, let the current wash the gear downstream into the hole, continually turning to face the line.

Soon hooked a salmon. How to play out and land this fish with nowhere to play it out, and nowhere to land it? Held the rod up as high and as straight as I could, never altered the tension of the reel, and stepped backwards along the shingle spit one step at a time. The salmon, still in the deep water and the swift current, obediently followed upstream like a dog on a lead until I was in the slack water of the salmon hole and away from the swift and snaggy waters, and played the fish out and landed it.

The actions of the fish, plus myself suddenly coming visible to the other salmon, emptied out the hole and no other fish were catchable. So I left the hole. At the end of the evening’s thereafter unproductive fishing, I stopped at the hole on my way back to the road. Same method as above. Fish Number Two.

Therefore this hole, if undisturbed, was very quickly good for ONE fish. Every visitor, and some total strangers (new chums) who had never caught a salmon were taken (by myself) to this hole and the hole almost always gave them a fish or at least a good “loan” of one, provided the hole had not been disturbed, and always under assistance.

Across the waters and under the steep cliff was constantly fished but I never heard of any fish being caught there. So much gear and line was lost “under the cliffs” that the hole became known as Smiths Sports Hole.

Miracles of miracles, the hole remained virtually unchanged right through the fishing season, through all the autumn, winter and spring floods, to be there for the next fishing season, so the Teaching People to Fish lessons ran for two seasons. Then the Rakaia took it away. Access to the hole wasn’t easy. It was quite a long walk, fording the braid was quite daunting for a new angler, and they really needed to be shown the ropes. But children as young as 7 years caught their first salmon there. The 7 year-old’s fish was a 17 pounder. He was brought to me and taken away by jet boat - too dangerous for a kid.

A wonderful hole such as this could only ever be fished if it was understood that only learners ever fished there and if no-one else was watching. It was a credit to all the learners that they never talked and never returned to it on their own, as far as I was aware. Maybe it was the fact that getting there was bad, but having to do the same piece of water wading upstream was far worse!

I like to see people catching a fish for their first time, hence my involvement with Take a Kid Fishing. Sometimes it is better not to fish!!

Ron Dougherty

Scotty Box Recovery Hacketts Creek 27.10.07

by Ron Stuart, NZSSA President

A southerly Saturday, quite bleak, so extra clothing for this time of the year was required. In a convoy of 3 vehicles we set off up the West Coast Road towards Springfield and made our way to Bevan Mehrtens' property. You need a guide to get there as we duck along this road and turn down that one, but our leaders are competent and have the area well sussed. Once into the farm property we make our way through the paddocks and down the Waimak River Terrace embankment onto the river flats and Hacketts Stream.

Our planting site is fully intact with the weirs still in place and an excellent flow of good clear water. There is a bit of weed apparent, but this does not raise any matters of concern as the ova would have been well matured and hatched before this became of any significance. Bevan said the stream had been subject to a flood but this did not happen until well after we had planted and the silt would have caused minimal or no damage.

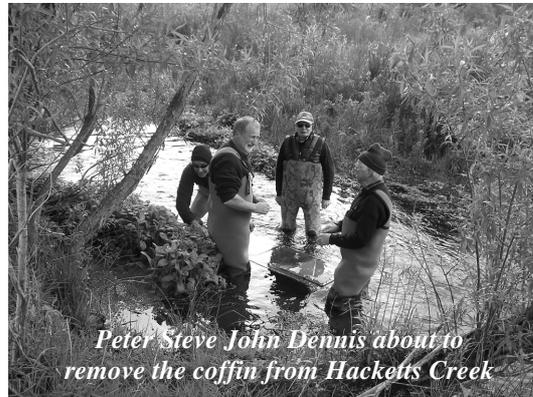
When we lifted the boxes they were, in the main, relatively clean with some weed and silt. Upon separating the boxes the success of the hatch was evident as the number of remaining dead eggs was insignificant. I estimate we would have achieved a better than 97% hatch rate.



As per our normal routine the boxes, once separated were water blasted to remove any debris and sanitised in a detergent solution to remove any indications of algae or other possible infections. These boxes are later subject to another cleaning process back at F&G base, before packing and storage. In these final tasks we were grateful for the assistance given by trainees from the Salvation Employment Plus Security Course.

Further downstream a "coffin" had been planted and an expedition after lunch was formed to go and remove this from the stream. On the way we observed several salmon redds from natural spawning and in one instance in an exposed situation. Bevan Mehrtens had erected a temporary fence to stop stock walking through the redd. (See the cover photo.) We were all delighted to see he had taken this initiative to protect the stream redd and offer our compliments for this action. Wherever we have planted ova the property owners have given us great co-operation and they form an integral part in the recovery process of our salmon enhancement activity.

When lifting the coffin out of the stream it had minimal dead eggs inside and in fact was quite clean. In the relatively short period it had been in the water we were amazed at the marine growth and other habitat making this there home. This is in fact a very healthy stream, which is attractive as a breeding base.



Our volunteer team included: Steve McNeil, Peter Robinson, Dennis Long, Doug Roy, Athol Price, Ron Stuart, Ron Dougherty, John Hodgson, Paul Hodgson & family support, Robert (Mick) McKey. Without exception everyone did their share of work and co-ordinated the day's activity to a productive outcome. The other key aspect was that the Scotty boxes came out of the water with no apparent physical damage, so this put the whole exercise in the plus category.

With the ova plantings carried out this season by NZ Salmon Anglers and Rakaia River Promotions we are assured of increasing salmon returns for anglers in the years to come. The volunteer effort that has come out of these two groups often receives little direct recognition but, be assured, there are many who put their time and efforts into this programme and seek no recognition or reward. But as one of our serving members said today "I have been doing this for well over 40 years and you can be bloody well assured if I didn't enjoy it I would have packed it in years ago." Like a returning salmon, we are fortunate to have people serving the fishery that have the strength and commitment to carry on. Thank you, your efforts are appreciated.

An emerging opinion among our team is that when we plant the ova we do not know what the eventual success outcome will be. We have formed a conclusion that whatever we do it must provide enhancement to the recovery system. Some of the hatched when going into the migration chain will provide a food resource for other fish, but for every egg we have planted it will save the extinction of another, be it natural spawning or enhanced. In some instances our plantings have taken us into virgin territory that feeds into the main river system. Does this indicate we have opened a window of new opportunity or will it mean those survivors will naturally spawn where their instincts take them? The pitch we play on today has different boundaries than previously - at least we can play a part in the process.

Our field activity members are all volunteers and anglers. Their purpose is to provide more fish catch opportunities. In so doing we are fortunate with the support, administration and regulation of Fish & Game, their staff, rangers and Council, for the use of the volunteer vehicle and trailer and for their forbearance while their car park was turned into a washdown and sort-out area, twice.

Here's to a great 2008 season !

King Salmon buys into Cambrian

By TINA LAW - The Press | Tuesday, 9 October 2007

New Zealand King Salmon (NZKS) will add value to its bottom line by becoming a shareholder and supplier to a new Malaysian company extracting omega-3 oils from its fish. The Nelson company has paid about \$2 million for a 26 per cent share in Cambrian and will increase its share to 36% during the next 18 months.

NZKS chief executive Paul Steere said the company had spent about two years working with food scientist Kee Tan, who was a majority shareholder in Cambrian, to develop a method and confirm the efficacy of the extraction process.

Cambrian believed it could generate \$8m in annual sales from the omega-3 extracted from NZKS's salmon by-products, which now end up in low-value products including pet food. Steere said the value of the by-product increased 30 times by selling it as omega-3 capsules.

"This new venture provides for substantially raising the value of the material by extracting the oil and providing a natural product." Steere said Cambrian was hoping to increase its omega-3 sales, but NZKS was not able to supply any more by-product because water space for its salmon was limited. "That's the maximum we can provide in the next year or so. We're very keen to get more space but due to the current procedures applicants are prohibited at this time."

NZKS, which is owned by Malaysian

family group Oregon Group, employs more than 400 people throughout New Zealand including 14 at its primary hatchery at Tentburn near Southbridge. It has four salmon farms in the Marlborough Sounds and a fifth is about to begin operating in the next few months.

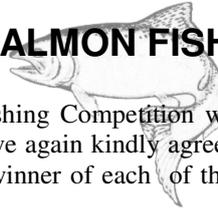
Steere said he hoped the venture would increase the company's \$75m annual turnover, but he would not say by how much.

Cambrian will extract the omega-3 oils, put them into capsules and sell them under the NZKS banner initially throughout Asia and then to Australasia, North America and Japan as it gains regulatory approvals.

Sales and marketing general manager Don Everitt said New Zealand's pure and natural environment and NZKS's reputation for natural food without using chemicals, antibiotics or vaccines was seen as positive by Asian consumers. "Analysis has shown New Zealand King Salmon product has the highest content of the extremely advantageous long chain omega-3s of any salmon available – it makes compelling commercial sense to advantage that."

Cambrian executive chairman Kee Tan said locating the extraction and encapsulation process in Kuala Lumpur provided a range of benefits not available in New Zealand. It was able to have the procedure up and running within six months of applying for approval and it was in the middle of the target market.

NZSAA ANNUAL SALMON FISHING COMPETITION



The NZSAA Annual Salmon Fishing Competition will be run for the current 2007-08 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 (one trophy per person):

- 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 2008.

COMPETITION RULES

1. Entrants must be financial members of NZSAA and hold a current sport fishing licence.
2. Fish must be caught in accordance with current Fish & Game regulations.
2. A scale sample must be provided.
3. All fish must be gutted and gilled with the head on. Frozen fish not permitted.
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 2 May 2008.
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 ...
and a scale sample is attached.**

Signature of Angler



**YOU'RE INVITED
JOIN**

NZ Salmon Anglers Association (Inc)

- ▶ YOUR SUPPORT WILL ENSURE CONTINUATION OF OUR SALMON FISHERY.
- ▶ PROTECT OUR WATER RESOURCES
- ▶ ENSURE APPROPRIATE LICENSING REGULATIONS
- ▶ ASSIST BREEDING PROGRAMS



**Post To: N.Z. Salmon Anglers Association (Inc)
P. O. Box 1113 Christchurch 8140 New Zealand**

I wish to become a member of the NZ Salmon Anglers Association Inc
and agree to be bound by the Rules and Constitution of the Association

Name _____

Address _____

Contact details _____ Email _____

Available to assist with volunteer work weekdays/weekends?

Subscription enclosed

- Adult membership \$25pa
- Family membership \$30pa
- Junior membership (under 18yrs) \$10pa

Signature of Applicant _____

