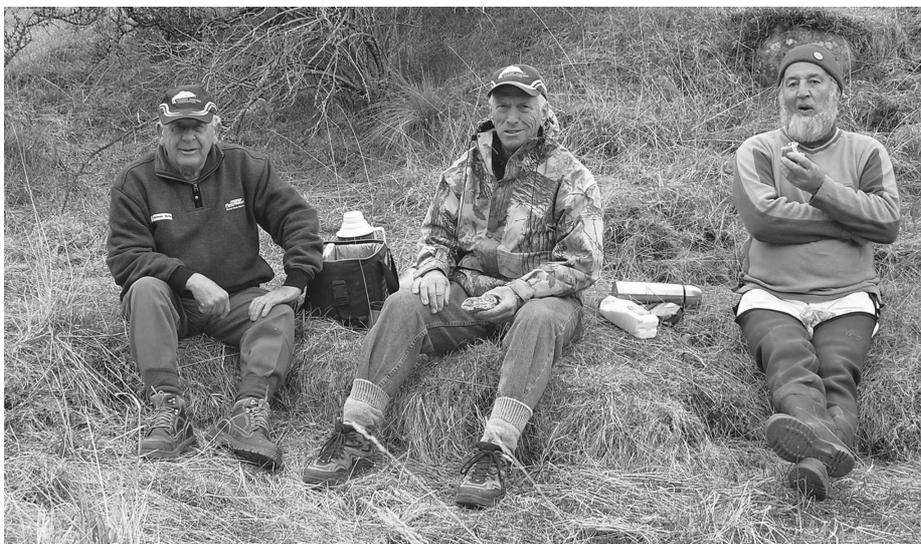


NZ Salmon Anglers Newsletter

OCTOBER 2007 Number 88



**Three Wise Men? Yes, but also the three most recent Presidents of NZSAA
enjoying lunch at the Porter River
Tim Ellis, Ron Stuart (current President), Ron Dougherty**

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

**NEW ZEALAND SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (INC)
2007-08 OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE**

President	Ron Stuart	358 9082 021 216 3901	cqurityron@xtra.co.nz
Immediate Past President	Neville (Tim) Ellis	383 0900 021 363 140	npellis@paradise.net.nz Fax 383 0900
Vice President	Ron Dougherty	338 2479	
Secretary & Treasurer	Pam Ellis	383 0900 021 211 3293	npellis@paradise.net.nz Fax 383 0900
Committee	John Healy	03 318 8216 0274 334 511	jhealy@xtra.co.nz Fax 03 318 8190
	Phill Ball	349 5993 021 256 133	
	Brian Foley	352 8972	
	Dennis Long	352 2874	Fax 352 3708
	Alf Long	385 8651	
	James Parbery	03 312 8229	
	Ken Paterson	338 3115	
	Athol Price	332 7698	
	Robert & Kristine McKey	338 4777	krismick@xtra.co.nz
	Bruce Moody	980 1065 027 229 6302	
Patron	Douglas Roy	352 8564 021 173 6435	dfroy@xtra.co.nz Fax 352 8564

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

The season is starting to hot up and cheque books or credit cards being dusted off to get new gear or your licence. Some of our stalwarts have been flogging the whitebait with some reasonable reports of success. Others will be into the trout gear and plying skills dreamt about over the winter months. I always enjoy the pre-season philosophies developed whilst lying in bed of how I'm going to apply my techniques for the new season. Tell me, do they always work?

We have commenced lifting our Scotty Boxes and coffins out of the streams following the ova planting programme and, for the number of eggs we planted, there will be good numbers of alevin, fry or smolt going through the habituation process within the streams and emerging into the rivers or in fact some may be close to entering the sea. We accept the fact that with the volume of eggs planted some of the fish will cannibalise others, or provide food for other species, but this is part of the process and so we are ever hopeful of hitting a limit bag this season.

The next phase in our Committee planning is to commence stream evaluation and select locations for the coming season's ova planting programme and estimate the number of eggs we would like to plant and where, given the opportunity of whatever conditions are available to us. This will certainly involve liaison with Fish and Game management and staff and other key personnel with historical experience to guide us through another successful season of events.

Water, water, everywhere and still we have a drop to drink. Seems strange that we pursue our rights to clean water when we can in fact turn the tap, set off the lawn sprinklers, wash the car, or fill a swimming pool. Most importantly we can turn the tap and drink straight from the glass without an after-taste. Yes, but for how much longer? After a recent period in Oz, my task each morning was to fill the jug and boil it off before we had a drink. Often the boil-up would take place the night before and again before using the water. Why? Because it tasted of chlorine and stunk. Was it a pleasure coming home and drinking straight from the tap !

When casting my vote this year for the local body elections, I surveyed all candidates on their views in respect of water quality, quantity and attitude. The importance of getting it right now is so central to any issue but alas we are already seeing/experiencing effects of unrestricted abuse that our future will be affected. Don't kid yourself that we are OK - water and its purity is a major issue wherever you go and all users consider their rights have precedence over others

I was encouraged that when we were recovering our Scotty boxes from the Thomas River we had the privilege of talking with the farm manager of Castle Hill Station. He related how successful their wintering through had been with the health of the stock, so much so that instead of culling off the old ewes they put them to the ram and scan testing

revealed 120% lambing potential. That's bonus territory. Their farming practice has been so good that they have more than doubled the quantity of baleage harvested this past season off the same land harvested last year, so it's "lookin' real good" for one of N Z's highest alpine farming units – and all this without factory farming methods, aqua pumps, irrigation and booms. Congratulations Castle Hill and their good results spread over all the stock units. This may well auger a good indicator for our salmon season - let's be positive now.

Our team has been active preparing fishing accessways to the Rakaia River, starting with the Acheron where Fish & Game obtained permission to enter the property to get to the river on foot. Our team supported by Air NZ fishing club members, built a turnstile and marked the pathway with marker guides. Fish & Game will be putting up an Angler Access sign. Thanks to Ken Paterson for his organisation and the team of volunteers that assisted on the day. Also our gratitude goes to the property owners for their generosity in providing the access opportunity.

This work carries on through the month with track clearing on various locations on the river, particularly those tracks we were advised that needed some attention.

Continued representation on environmental matters has been carried out by Pam Ellis, Tim Ellis and Ron Dougherty. They spend many hours

preparing submissions, attending meetings and ensuring our views are represented. Without their efforts many applications would be unchallenged and Ron Dougherty recounts the number of hearings he has attended and changed the course of the outcome by presenting facts the others had overlooked and the prospective decision altered in favour of common sense.

We are going to be faced with increasing costs to keep our Association in a healthy position. This is in spite of the work carried out by volunteers at their own expense. At recent meetings we have revised our membership invitation publication in an effort to more actively portray our intentions. You will see the result of this work in future publications. I ask you to canvass your fishing buddies to join NZ Salmon Anglers Association as the weight of numbers will add strength to our financial ability to continue at today's modest fees.

Don't forget Take a Kid Fishing at the Groyne on Sunday 14 October. Take the kids or grandkids, and mum to learn some tips from Jo Seager on cooking the catch. If you can come along and help the kids rig their rods and cast a line, that would be much appreciated.

The hibernation is over - pick up thy rod and go forth!

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 Incorporated or the Editor.

Committee Highlights

The meeting on 1 October had almost full attendance of committee members with only two apologies.

For some time we have been working on the acquisition of an emergency locator beacon to accompany our volunteers or other personnel going into areas where cellular coverage is not available. This is in the interests of safety and early rescue if we are faced with an accident or other emergency.

We have been successful with Meridian Energy agreeing to sponsor the purchase of an Aquafix 406 EPIRB Personal Locator Beacon. When activated in an emergency our device will summon the Rescue Helicopter and with its onboard GPS they can trace the activation within metres. However the Committee is unhappy at the constraints imposed by Meridian on our acceptance of their funding. The committee decided to write to Meridian and advise that we could not sign off on all their requirements and ask them to reconsider some options. Otherwise we cannot accept their funding.

In the correspondence, Fish & Game sought volunteers to go out on fishing vessels as Salmon Catch Verifiers. If any members would like some good sea ventures this is a great opportunity. Ron Dougherty has been out on frequent occasions.

Part of our environmental activities included correspondence with Biosecurity NZ and others relating to the Rangitata RDR discharging water into the Rakaia system. We had requested that this activity stop because of the risk of Didymo infection. The responses to date

from BioSecurity, Environment Canterbury and Ashburton District Council have been less than positive. Your Committee has therefore resolved to write to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries reminding him that the Rakaia Water Conservation Order was put in place to protect the outstanding characteristics and features of that river, including wildlife habitat and fisheries, and that all efforts should be made to conserve these features, including the prevention of spread of didymo where possible. The Committee considers that it is not necessary to discharge the RDR to the Rakaia and it would not be difficult to seal the gate at the top of Highbank thus mitigating the risk of didymo infection.

Celebrations and recognition are developing for the celebration of 100 years for the first salmon caught in New Zealand which was at the Rakaia. More to come on this. If any member has information on the details of this first catch - exactly when and where and by whom - this would be appreciated.

On matters of finance, subs are still coming in and we are maintaining a reasonable and projected level of funding.

Applications for membership were approved from Carey Cudby, Richard and Jill Milczarski. Welcome to NZSAA. One honorary member, Gavin James, has retired from his employment with NIWA. Gavin has been a loyal supporter of NZSAA over many years and we wish him well in his retirement.

Planning phases were initiated for next season's ova planting programme, as we are required to put a submission before Fish & Game for approval to place ova in

specific locations. This is important as we are not the only users of some river/stream locations and a co-ordinated process is required.

The remaining coffins placed in the upper reaches of the Hurunui river catchments will be removed from the streams later this month and our remaining Scotty boxes will be uplifted from Hacketts Stream. This will conclude a successful part of that section of the salmon enhancement programme for this season.

Our Editor for the monthly Newsletter, Pam Ellis, gave notice that she will be unable to continue with this task after December because of commitments with another sporting activity and an executive appointment forthcoming. This will be a sad loss to the Association because of the fabulous job she does. We will need to find another Editor to undertake this task, which can be supported by our own computer publisher programme and Committee participation.

Recognition was given to the Yaldhurst Hotel for use of their car park as an assembly point for our volunteers going out on field activities. If you pop in for a refreshment in this establishment mention you are from our Association and pass on our thanks and gratitude.

The hearing of submissions to Meridian Energy's North Bank Tunnel Concept on the Waitaki River have just concluded. NZSAA Otago Branch joined with Fish & Game in making submissions in opposition to the scheme and this is reported on later in the newsletter.

Environment Canterbury consent issues dealt with at the meeting included the following:

- Resolved to make a submission in opposition to Electricity Ashburton

Ltd's applications in respect of the taking of water from the Rakaia River for irrigation and electricity generation.

- Variation 8 to Canterbury Natural Resources Regional Plan, Chapter 5 Water Quantity: resolved to make a submission supporting the application by Fish & Game and others to put a Water Conservation Order on the Hurunui River, because present plans have insufficient protection for the headwaters, particularly in the lakes and gorges.
- Ron Dougherty also reported that he had been involved in the consultation and satisfactory agreement on conditions that will apply to the discharge consent for McVicar Timber Group activities at Hornby.

Next meeting Monday 5 November 2007.
(What a cracker this will be!)



SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you haven't yet paid your sub, please let us have it soon.

This can be done by direct credit to the NZSAA Westpac account 03082 0099970 00 (Please ensure that you put your name on the bank transfer so we know who it is from.)



Washers
Dryers
Refrigeration
Dishwashers
Ovens
Cookers
Freezers

MURRAY SPIERS

- ◆ 26 Years Experience
- ◆ Personal Service
- ◆ Prompt Attention
- ◆ Guaranteed Workmanship

Contact: Murray 027 221 3134 383 2093 A/H

HEALTH & SAFETY SYSTEMS LTD

LEIGH TOBECK

Health and Safety Consultant



AND fisherman

Phone 03 313 9114 or 0274 365 972

www.healthandsafetysystems.co.nz



Salmon at Sea Verifiers



Would you like a day at sea on a fishing trawler?

Fish & Game is managing verifier placement on the fishing vessels operating in the Salmon Exclusion Zone (SEZ) as per the Salmon By-Catch Agreement with the Ministry of Fisheries and fishing industry representatives.

In the recent past Fish & Game relied on paid verifiers and in the last two seasons they contracted the services of a biology student. The number of trips to the SEZ 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 negligible salmon by-catch, Fish & Game is trying to go back to utilising volunteers as verifiers for the programme.

NZSAA has therefore been asked if it could help in recruiting volunteers. Fish & Game is seeking names of at least ten people who would be willing to participate. The verifier programme starts on 7 December 2007 and finishes on 14 February 2008 with a break for Christmas (21 December to 10 January). Ideally volunteers would specify the dates they would be available to help.

NZSAA Vice President, Ron Dougherty, has previously made verifier trips and he says that he is willing to do so again. Ron says that the trip is undertaken over a 24 hour period on the larger trawlers, leaving from the Port of Lyttelton usually in the afternoon and proceeding out to the fishing grounds. Take your sleeping bag (and a pillow is recommended) though sleep might be limited because trawling starts in the early morning hours. Meals are provided on the boat but if you bring along a bit of home baking this is sure to sweeten up the skipper! Alcohol is not allowed on most working boats.

So, if you want to see at first hand how many salmon end up in the trawl, have a stomach for the ocean, and would like to experience something a bit different, why not give a day or more to the salmon verifier programme.

To register your interest or get more information please contact:

Davor Bejakovich
Senior Fish & Game Officer

Fish & Game NZ, North Canterbury Region
3 Horatio Street, Christchurch
Phones: Office 366 9191 Cell 021 221 8332 After Hours 325 3358
Fax 365 0612
Email dbejakovich@fishandgame.org.nz

Fish & Game News

Salmon Spawning Streams Monitoring Proposal for the 2008-09 Operational Work Plan

Report by Davor Bejakovich, Senior Fish & Game Officer, North Canterbury Region

Fish & Game staff have conducted a spawning stream monitoring programme for a number of years. This involves a visual assessment of potential impediments to successful salmon migration to the spawning streams (e.g. obstacles such as eroded mouths of the streams, fallen logs, excessive willow encroachment etc) as well as potential threats to spawning (e.g. excessive numbers of cattle in the river) during the first aerial count of the season. In 2007 staff noticed potential negative trends occurring in some spawning streams that might indicate deterioration in spawning habitat in those streams. Reaches which had been previously utilised for spawning were unoccupied which was unexpected considering the size of the run. During the last year, changes in land use around some of our most significant spawning streams in the Rakaia River catchment have been observed. Tenure review settlements appear to be reducing the amount of land available for production on high country stations. This is likely to result in the intensification of land use in the remaining land. Changes towards increased beef production were observed in the areas previously stocked with sheep. Similar observations have been made by ECan staff.

These factors lead us to believe that more detailed monitoring of our primary spawning streams is necessary to enable F&G to mitigate potentially negative effects taking place in the future.

Methodology

Chinook salmon spawn in moderately swift, flowing water with a coarse, loose, gravely bottom and moderate depth. The critical factors for successful spawning are water depth, substrate structure, water velocity and water quality (clean, well oxygenated and cold water) (Table 1). Good sub-gravel flows are necessary for egg survival.

Table 1. Chinook Salmon Spawning Habitat

	Range	Optimal
Water Depth	0.05 – 7 m	0.3 – 1.2 m
Water Velocity	0.1 – 2 ms ⁻¹	0.4 - 0.6 ms ⁻¹
Gravel Size	3 – 35 mm	10 – 25 mm
Redd Depth	0.1 – 0.8 m	0.1 – 0.3m

It is proposed that surveys be conducted of salmon spawning streams and the following characteristics be documented:

- State of the stream/braided river confluence and any potential obstacles for fish passage.
- Length of the stream used by spawning salmon (based on the spawning helicopter surveys).
- Available spawning habitat (area and characteristics of suitable substrate, water depth and velocity).
- Prime spawning sites (will be initially marked during spawning helicopter surveys and later mapped and characterised).
- Record of the potential risks to the spawning habitat (impediments for salmon passage, willow encroachment, stock access and damage, siltation and others).
- Water Quality: In the past, high country streams have not been part of the ECan water quality monitoring programme as they were regarded as being in a “natural” state. There is a strong possibility that ECan will co-operate with F&G in the selection of streams to be regularly monitored as a part of their water quality programme.
- Land Use: Changes in the land use and any signs of intensification will be monitored and recorded. Any appropriate remedial actions will be negotiated with the landowners including fencing of the stream banks, the stocking regime and others. F&G will be in better position to negotiate remedial actions with the landowners in the Rakaia River catchment with the implementation of the ECan Natural Resources Regional Plan as salmon spawning primary habitats are specifically protected.

The proposed programme would eventually cover all of the primary and secondary spawning streams in the North Canterbury Region. The programme would be implemented over a two to three year period with annual monitoring thereafter. Priority would be given to the primary spawning streams in areas where land use intensification is likely in the near future (e.g. the Rakaia River catchment). In addition to F&G staff time, external GIS support and an upgrade to our current mapping software will be required for successful completion of the programme (40h @ \$45 = \$1,800).

Year 1: The Rakaia River Catchment

Glenariffe Stream – 2 staff @ 24h

Double Hill Stream – 2 staff @ 16h

Manuka Point Stream – 2 staff @ 16h

Hydra Waters – 2 staff @ 24 h and helicopter / jet boat

Lower Goat Hill Stream – 2 staff @ 8h

Year 1 Contd *The Waimakariri River Catchment*

Winding Creek – 2 staff @ 16h

Cass Hill Stream – 2 staff @ 16h

Cora Lynn – 2 staff @ 8h

Poulter River – 2 staff @ 32h and use of 2x4WD motorbikes
(significant as likely to stay in “natural state” due to the
high level of protection as a part of the Arthur’s Pass National Park)

Year 2: The Rakaia and Waimakariri River secondary spawning streams.

Year 3: The Hurunui and Waiau spawning streams.

The North Canterbury Fish & Game Council, at its meeting on 15 August, approved the following:

- That the proposed detailed spawning stream surveys be approved for inclusion in the Operational Work Plan in 2008-09.
- That the preliminary studies and preparation be undertaken in the 2007-08 financial year.
- That streams also be surveyed for their suitability for enhancement.

Montrose Coordinator Funding/Silverstream Hatchery

The Fish & Game Council has discussed future hatchery needs with uncertainty existing surrounding Montrose, Silverstream and Lake Coleridge. The Council has agreed to register an expression of interest in acquiring Silverstream and to postpone a decision on a Montrose Coordinator. To assist the Silverstream interest, investigations will be made into the history surrounding the transfer/sale of Silverstream from the North Canterbury Acclimatisation Society to the Crown.

Salmon By-Catch Levies

Ray Voller of the Ministry of Fisheries attended the Council meeting in August and explained that the return to Fish & Game of the small amount of levies recovered from salmon by-catch was possible. Regional Manager, Ross Millichamp, is to write a proposal for the Salmon at Sea Group to consider.

Fish & Game /NZ Salmon Anglers Association Submission to the Hearing on Meridian's North Bank Tunnel Concept on the Waitaki

from a report by David Bruce of the Otago Daily Times

Central South Island Fish & Game Council has come out fighting in defence of a Waitaki catchment water allocation plan created 2 years ago by a special Government-appointed board. Along with the NZ Salmon Anglers Association, it says the Waitaki Catchment Water Allocation Board's plan, is unique, nationally important and provides certainty for the future of the river.

Environment Canterbury, which is implementing the plan, and the Government, which passed special legislation to enable it to be prepared, have not defended the plan during a hearing in Timaru at which Meridian Energy Ltd wants to change some of its provisions. Meridian wants to build a new power scheme, the north bank tunnel concept (NBTC) on the lower Waitaki River, and has applied for four water-only resource consents for the scheme.

Fish and Game and NZ Salmon Anglers want the consents declined.

The NBTC scheme does not comply with the plan because it wants to use more water than the plan's minimum flow of 150cumecs would allow. Meridian wants a variable monthly minimum flow of between 110 and 150cumecs to make the scheme viable.

Legal counsel for the Fish and Game Council and NZ Salmon Anglers, Camilla Owen, said the Waitaki plan was not a "regular plan". It was, and is, of national significance. Its creation was unique. It was produced after an unprecedented

amount of public consultation, including 1200 submissions. The plan was prepared by a five-member board which had considerable experience and knowledge. "Water allocation in the Waitaki region had become an issue of national interest and there was no regional plan to regulate this," she said. The board's express purpose was to create a binding regional plan for the Waitaki catchment.

"The many interest groups and communities which thought the plan would bring certainty to the allocation of water in the Waitaki region," she said. Granting Meridian's resource consents for the NBTC scheme undermined the certainty of the plan.

The public had an expectation the plan would not be undermined at the first hearing of consent applications under it.

Ms Owen also warned granting the consents could create a precedent for others applying to take, divert and use water on the lower river, including the joint Meridian-South Canterbury Irrigation Trust's Hunter Downs irrigation scheme to be considered starting next month and 56 others recently notified.

"The plan's minimum flow of 150cumecs should be upheld, unless the environmental effects were minor. That was not the case with the NBTC scheme. The effects of the scheme would be significant and proposed mitigation was inadequate."

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION WESTLAND

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

Bruce Bay: Half-hour Drive South of Fox Glacier

All baches 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:** \$70 per night up to 4 people. \$20 per person above this.
 Bruce Bay & Jackson Bay: \$65 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)

jet boat base

Unit 3 - 1055 Main North Road, Chaney's Corner, Christchurch. Ph: 03 323 9040



The Home of...

RAPID RUNNER

BOATS LTD

ALLOY FAMILY ADVENTURE JET BOATS

- engine building
- tuning
- trouble shooting
- hull repairs
- impeller rebuilds
- protective stripping
- jet boat modifications
- second-hand parts
- trailer repairs
- stockists of Endurant Batteries
- new & second hand jet boats

popular turnkey packages include:

Mercury sports jet 175, 210 or 240HP
Lexus 4.0L Alloy V8 and Scott junior 2 stage jet unit.
Chev LS6/Ls 1 All alloy V8 and Scott 2 stage jet unit.
Chev 350 and Hamilton 212 jet unit.
Transplanting from existing boat is also an option.

Suppliers of...





SUNDAY 14 OCTOBER 2007

**At the Groynes Picnic Grounds
Johns Road, Belfast**

This is a kids' fishing day - all young anglers are welcome. Adults may assist but are not permitted to fish. The Groynes lakes will be stocked with salmon donated by Isaacs Salmon.

Bring all the family and enjoy a fun kids' fishing day. Free for all children including the fishing licence for the day. Only trout fishing tackle permitted. (No surf or salmon equipment.)

9 am until 1 pm for kids 12 years and under

Skilled anglers from fishing clubs will be there to help at all four lakes. Limited loan rods available for the morning. One lake reserved for children 8 years and under where an expert angler will assist for a while, tackle supplied.

1 pm until 7 pm for kids 17 years and under

All kids 17 and under are permitted to fish. Own fishing tackle required.

Jo Seager Cooking Demonstration - See How to Cook your Catch

10 a.m. - 10.30 am - 11.00 am

We would welcome any NZ Salmon Anglers Association members who are available on the day to assist with tuition and supervision of the young anglers. It's a great family outing and a great opportunity to encourage young people to participate in recreational fishing.

Hundreds of salmon, 10,000 worms and thousands of optimistic young anglers will come together again in north Christchurch this month thanks to the efforts of about 80 volunteers and the kindness of many local businesses.

Take a Kid Fishing has been running for 18 years in Canterbury, one of the region's most popular and keenly anticipated family outings. Last year, the organisers estimated that 4500 children took part and the record attendance was about 6000 young anglers.

The idea began with United States President Ronald Reagan who asked his staff to come up with an idea that would stop young people going bad. In various forms around NZ and the world, Take a Kid fishing continues to run and attract volunteers, young people and their parents and caregivers.

It's all organised and run by volunteers. Some, like convenor Dave Denton, have been helping pull together this annual event from the beginning and have noticed a number of changes.

"One of the things that have been noticeable over the years is the changes in families," Dave says. "I remember realising that there were now lots of kids there who only had mums and those mums were trying really hard to give their children a different experience. More recently, we realised that the worried look on some parents' faces was there because they didn't know what to do with a fish that had just come out of the water.

"So we started having some of the volunteers show the kids and the parents how to clean a fish, how to prepare it for cooking. Even more recently we've found that a lot of people don't have much experience of cooking whole fish. We talked to Jo Seagar about it and she's very kindly agreed to come down from Oxford and give some demonstrations about how to simply prepare a good meal from the catch.

"As the numbers grew we had to organise it to make sure the younger children got a fair go, so we set the mornings aside for the under-13s and made one pond just for the under-9s," Dave says. "Another change was having to get security staff for The Groyne for the day or so that the fish are in the lakes before the event to discourage people from helping themselves."

Isaac Salmon Farm Ltd provides hundreds of fish for the event each year. The bait comes from worm farmer Russell Marsh. "Russell packs the worms into two polystyrene packs and I collect them the day before," Dave says. "The trick on the day is for a small team wearing rubber gloves to repack them all into film canisters so they can be handed out.

"It's quite an undertaking but we seem to get there every year," Dave says. "Fish and Game's people give a lot of their time, they help out by providing the tanker to transfer the fish from the salmon farm and providing photocopying services for the publicity fliers we send out all over the region. Isaac Salmon are really wonderful. About 80 volunteers come from fishing clubs from all over Canterbury. They'll give advice and help children learn how it's done, and others show them how to clean the fish."

Take a Kid Fishing is an enduring community success. Dave says the volunteers and businesses involved would keep doing their bit just to see the enjoyment children get out of it. "But it would be really great too," he says, "if all these people who pitch in could get a bit of recognition for what they do. That would be great."

Anglers Reminded To 'Check, Clean, Dry'

With the fishing season started on 1 October, MAF Biosecurity New Zealand and Fish & Game are reminding anglers, and other recreational freshwater users of the importance of cleaning their equipment between waterways.

"Before leaving a waterway, people should check items and leave any debris they find at the waterway," said Chris Bicknell, MAFBNZ Didymo Response Manager. All items should then be cleaned for at least one minute with a five percent solution of dishwashing liquid or nappy cleaner.

"The application method is equally important, as water absorbent materials such as felt-soled waders and boots require longer soaking times to allow thorough saturation," said Mr Bicknell.

Felt-soled waders require soaking for at least 40 minutes in hot water kept above 45°C or soaking for 30 minutes in hot water kept above 45°C containing five percent dishwashing detergent or nappy cleaner.

"We recommend anglers use rubber-soled footwear instead, which are easier to clean and dry and represent less of a risk to spreading didymo."

If cleaning an item was not practical, it should be allowed to dry. Once touch dry it should be left dry for another 48 hours. Freezing any item until solid will also kill didymo.

If cleaning or drying is not practical, restrict equipment to use in a single waterway.

Fish & Game New Zealand manager Steve Smith asked anglers to make a big effort to comply with the cleaning requirements. "We have been frustrated in the past with the number of anglers who know about didymo but still do not clean their equipment. I would ask every angler this season to think how they can ensure that they do not put our fisheries at risk. It is not a big effort to clean your equipment, but it is very necessary, not just for didymo but other aquatic pests as well."

More information about didymo and cleaning instructions is on the MAF Biosecurity New Zealand website www.biosecurity.govt.nz

**For
Sale**

Boat Accessories

- ◆ One 15hp Mercury outboard 2-stroke motor with 25 litre tank. Low hours use \$2,500
- ◆ One 12 volt 264 watt trolling motor \$400
- ◆ Two adult Hutchwilco life jackets \$30 each
- ◆ Two 2kg anchors with chain \$20 each
- ◆ Two heavy anchors, no chain \$20 each
- ◆ One trailer lighting board with stop, indicator, rear lights, cable and plug \$60

Phone (03) 352 8564 or 021 173 6435

WANTED

NZSAA Newsletter Editor

Do you have some computer skills in the Publisher program, or do you know someone who does and who is able to give some time each month to put together this newsletter?

It will be extremely difficult for the present Editor to continue after December this year so, if you do appreciate receiving this newsletter each month and want it to continue, please give some serious thought to how this can be achieved. Some assistance can be given to supplying articles for printing.



PEET SHOEDRYER COMPANY

The Solution for Wet Cold Footwear

Electric Wader Dryer

**Dries All Shoes, Boots, Gumboots,
Including Chest Waders
Silently and Safely Overnight
Suitable For All Types of Footwear
Materials**

Ph 04 564 5349

Fax 04 564 5348

sales@peetshoedryercompany.co.nz

P O Box 43131, Wainuiomata 5048

BALLINGERS

Hunting & Fishing

173 Montreal Street, PO Box 8475, Christchurch, New Zealand

Phone (03) 366 7445 Fax (03) 366 3918



Jeremy Burke will be well known to Canterbury anglers through his passion for fishing and the positions he has held in other prominent Christchurch retail stores. Now he complements his expertise with the buying power & focus on quality that all Hunting & Fishing NEWZEALAND™ staff bring to this franchise. Catch Jeremy at Ballingers – Christchurch.

OPEN SEVEN DAYS



From Overseas

Great salmon escape could turn wild fish into ‘couch potatoes’

They are an identical species, but while one is lean and incredibly fit, the SAS of the fish world, the other is an obese, idle creature, a couch potato with fins. When the two interbreed, the results can be a genetic disaster.

Such a disaster looms, according to experts, after the escape of more than 100,000 farmed Atlantic salmon over the past 6 months on the West Coast (Scotland).

In the latest incident, 30,000 maturing 2.5kg (5.5lb) fish escaped from their cage in West Loch Roag, off the coast of Lewis, after a seal attack.

The escape comes at a time when wild salmon are approaching the rivers to spawn, meaning that there could be intermingling and genetic dilution of the wild fish. These are extremely fit creatures, swimming thousands of miles across oceans, then battling their way upstream.

If they spawn with the flabby, cage-reared fish, it is claimed that the offspring can be genetically weak and the wild salmon population, which is recovering after some very bad years, could be threatened.

The Association of Salmon Fishery Boards and the Rivers & Fisheries Trusts of Scotland are now preparing a formal complaint to the European Commission.

They say that the latest escape occurred next to the Langavat Special Area of Conservation, and close to the mouth of

the Grimestra salmon river. The area is described in EU Habitats Directive as “the best salmon system in the Western Isles”.

Andrew Wallace, of the association, said: “This could not have happened at a worse time for us, or in a worse place. The escape comes at the end of a long summer of discontent on the escapes front.”

There have now been four escapes from fish farms in the Western Isles within the past six months. The first was in March, when 18,500 fish escaped in East Loch Tarbert, off Harris, as a result of equipment failure. It is believed that a cage sank and another 25,000 fish died.

In May, 52,000 fish escaped near Lochportain, on North Uist, through a hole in a net; and in July more than 1,000 escaped from West Loch Roag.

Mr Wallace said: “How sophisticated multinational companies can afford to lose such valuable stock and continue to play Russian roulette with wild stocks is beyond comprehension. This is the fourth escape from salmon farms in the Western Isles since May and the sheer numbers involved – this latest escape being over 30 per cent of the entire Scottish rod catch – means that these incidents must be viewed with utmost seriousness.”

Roger Brook, of the Rivers and Fisheries Trusts, said: “At a time when the Scottish Salmon Producers’ Organisation has a stated intent to increase production in Scotland its members have once again shown themselves to be incapable of containing their livestock.

(Continued on page 20)

“This latest release is being blamed on seals, but it is the responsibility of the fish farmers to make their containment systems capable of resisting the native wildlife. It is equally their responsibility to ensure their equipment can resist the weather and conditions that are experienced off the coasts of Scotland. These continual releases of farmed fish lead me to the conclusion that all aquaculture should be brought ashore.”

The escape marks the low point in a relationship which has always been uneasy. The salmon farming industry is an important part of the Scottish economy, supporting 8,500 jobs in remote areas. Scotland is the third largest salmon producer in the world, with approximately a 10% global market share, and the industry puts more than £197 million into the economy every year.

But for the salmon fishing industry, itself worth £113 million a year and the employer of 2,800 people, such success can come at too high a price. The wild salmon population is much smaller than it used to be, but is on an upward trajectory.

Sid Patten, the chief executive of the Scottish Salmon Producers’ Organisation, said: “The industry regrets all breaches of containment and we would like to reassure wild fishery interests that effective containment remains a priority.”

Scale of the problem

Wild Atlantic salmon are lean and incredibly fit, having swum thousands of miles across the ocean. They have the drive and energy to battle upstream and spawn. In genetic terms, they represent the survival of the fittest. Estimated population: 3.5 million, half what it was 30 years ago.

Farmed Atlantic salmon are the same length as the wild fish, but much heavier, flabbier, rounder and more heavily spotted. They are farmed selectively to get fat. They are not adapted to the wild and their fins are worn from being in a cage. 70 million smolts have been put into sea cages in past two years.

Source: Times database



SALMON ANGLERS CAPS

Promote your Association Buy a Cap

The caps are navy blue, with a silver/grey salmon, orange print and white and gold stripes. Cost \$20.

Each cap you purchase includes a small donation to the Salmon Recovery Programme.

Order by mail from 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.**

Scotty Box Recovery 29 September 2007

Contributed by President, Ron Stuart

On Saturday 29 September our team consisting of Ron Dougherty with the F&G volunteer vehicle and trailer, Doug Roy, John Hodgson, Tim & Pam Ellis, Colin & Diane Eaton, Steve McNeill, Peter Robinson, Ken Paterson, Warren Mackie and Ron Stuart, set off from the Yaldhurst Pub car park at 8 o'clock heading for the Thomas and Porter Rivers to uplift our Scotty boxes.

We made the journey with the first recovery objective being the Thomas River and there we were joined by Paul Hodgson and a couple of his family. So we had a great team all fired up and enthusiastic about getting started, which lead to the starting cuppa being ignored and we got straight into the job. This was after all our gear had been sprayed and washed down with detergent to avoid any didymo contamination - our team is quite religious about this practice and set a good example.

The Thomas River had been subjected to a first in 8–10 year flood and this had shifted some of our boxes in the stream. So much so that on a previous trip by John Hodgson they recovered boxes several hundred metres downstream and, alas, some 15 lost to the environment. Hard to believe when you see the photo of this benign little stream.

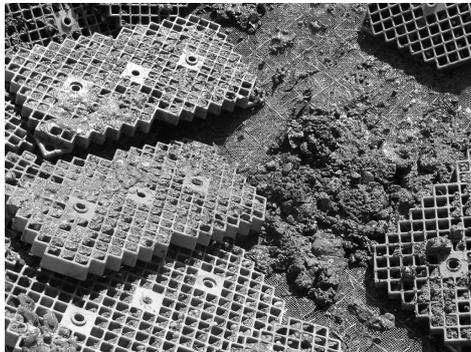


Retrieving Scotty Boxes from Thomas River

The other effect of this flood is that it clogged the boxes with shingle and mud and in some cases obstructed the hatching eggs or alevin from escaping into the stream.

Also the water temperature in this stream was very cold and in a number of instances when we opened up the boxes they contained live alevin. It was interesting seeing these fish being put back into the stream and how quickly they gained refuge in the stony stream bed, so I guess a survival rate is well possible and the increasing warmth would assist their development





Muddy boxes from Thomas Stream

We had pressure water-blasting equipment (compliments John Hodgson), a generator and a detergent bath, so the cleaning up of the boxes was a relatively easy task, except many of them had shingle wedged in the orifices and it was necessary to manually poke this stuff out.

We will reassess our planting in this location as our hatch rate was not up to expectations. Some of the so-called experts later said “I could have told you this is not a good area to plant in”, but my response to that is “Why not front and put your lot in when it counts as we can all criticise after the event and be a so called wise one”. Our members did some vital research before hand and it was deemed a suitable site, so we learn as we go and a valid attempt is better than none at all.



Cleaning up

Next, after a cuppa, we moved on to the Porter River stream and, in spite of a steep descent to the stream bed and climb back up the hill again, this site was paradise. The boxes and our weirs were still all in place. The hatch rate was close on 100%. The boxes were so clean and free of sludge or debris that they hardly needed a clean. The only disadvantage was a bloody cold northerly blowing, so we buggered off as quickly as possible and headed for the Porter River road bridge and took refuge in that area to do final box dismantling and have lunch.



We saw it as important to clean up our boxes in the location of origin and sanitize them with a detergent wash.



Retrieval at the Porter

At the Porter River we had placed two coffins downstream of our boxes. These had around 80,000 eggs and when we opened them up for removal the hatch result was most pleasing for a backup system. One coffin had quite a number of dead or egg remnants, but I think this was a result of a marginal batch of eggs that urgently needed a home. In any case the effort was worthwhile and a successful result was evident.



Coffin and some remnants



Clean as a whistle from the Porter

The coffins came out of the water in relatively good condition, but our coffin box expert (“The Undertaker”?) can see a couple of minor tweaks to further improve their effectiveness for the next planting and he will be busying himself over the summer.

When fishing the upper reaches of the Waimak this season be on the lookout for some of our escaped Scotty Boxes as around 15 are somewhere on the river bed. They are green in colour and as soon as you spot one you’ll know what it is. Tell any of your mates in the 4WD club or jet boaties to also be on the lookout.

We got back into town around 3:00pm with a full trailer of boxes that needed a final wash down and sanitizing. On the Tuesday an able team (Pam Ellis, Kris McKey, Dennis Long, Doug Roy and Ron Dougherty) unloaded the trailer at Fish & Game in Horatio Street and high pressure blasted all the individual box compartments, checked for breakages, dried them in the sun, reassembled the units and packed them in cartons. The boxes are stored in our lock-up shed at Fish & Game warehouse and it’s great to have this secure storage.

Thanks teams for your fantastic support. You have made many little fish so happy (and future anglers hopefully).

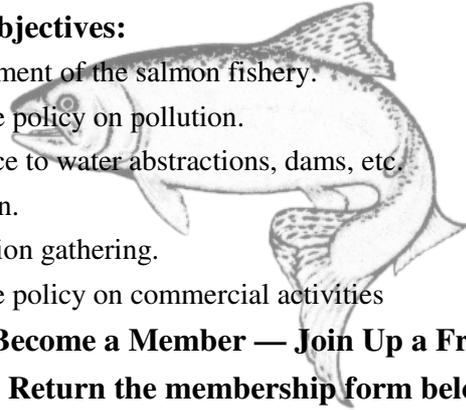
Ron Stuart

NEW ZEALAND SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (INC)

HELP US TO HELP YOUR FISHERY

NZSAA Objectives:

- Enhancement of the salmon fishery.
- Hard-line policy on pollution.
- Resistance to water abstractions, dams, etc.
- Education.
- Information gathering.
- Hard-line policy on commercial activities



Become a Member — Join Up a Friend
Return the membership form below.

To: New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association (Inc)
PO Box 1113,
Christchurch 8140, New Zealand

I wish to become a member of the New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association (Incorporated) and agree to be bound by the Rules and Constitution of the Association.

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone (Home).....(Work).....(Cell).....

Fax..... Email.....

Available to help with stream improvement work? Weekdays / Weekends

Subscription enclosed: Adult membership \$25 p.a.

 Family membership \$30 p.a.

 Junior membership (under 18 yrs) \$10 p.a.

 (Date of Birth.....)