

NZ Salmon Anglers Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2007 Number 87



The "TUHOE" sailing at the mouth of the Waimakariri River. It's a bit of a rare sight to see the ol' girl out and about and it needs high water to sail.

**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**

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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



EDITORIAL

No, President Ron Stuart has not changed his appearance or resigned through the stresses of NZSAA Presidency! Far from it - Ron is away enjoying the warm climes of the Sunshine Coast in Oz so, in his absence, Tim Ellis, Immediate Past President, will report briefly this month - hence the photo above.

I had an unexpected trip to the cardiac ward at Christchurch Hospital recently and came home a week or so later with some new heart plumbing in place. Thanks for the messages of support - these were most appreciated. I'm feeling pretty fit now, hitting a mean golf ball, and looking forward to the fishing season.

The local authority elections are coming up early in October and this is your chance to cast your vote for candidates on Environment Canterbury, Christchurch City Council, Selwyn District Council and any others who will have the powers to make decisions affecting our precious Canterbury waters, whether river, stream, or underground supplies. Read the prospective politicians' handouts, attend their meetings if you can, or give them a phone call and ask them what their stance is on matters affecting water in our region, especially Central Plains Water. This is your only opportunity for the next three years to influence the voting on candidates, so don't waste your vote.

NZSAA continues to be vigilant on applications for consent to take water. One of our recent significant submissions

was in respect of the resource consent applications by Ashburton Community Water Trust to construct a hydro-electricity generation scheme beside the Rakaia River. This involves abstracting water from the Rakaia River approx 5 km below the Gorge, conveying the water by canal up to the top of the river terrace near Barrhill before being delivered to a power station and finally discharged back to the River. The water will be held in a 35 hectare storage pond having a capacity of 1.5 million cubic metres. Some pond!

NZSAA's submission expressed concerns that the proposed scheme is contrary to the intent of the Water Conservation Order "*to protect the outstanding characteristics of the Rakaia River and retain natural waters in a natural state.*" We consider that the scheme will change or modify the natural braided river because, to get continuity of water supply to the intake, the natural flow and shape of the river will be permanently changed. The huge amount of water applied for assumes takes at flood times with silt laden water. To take it at any other times would seriously affect the natural flows and probably contravene the minimum flows prescribed by the WCO. At the other end, discharges of sediment-laden water to the Rakaia will affect the colour and clarity of the River resulting in a permanently dirty river. Further, proposed emergency discharges at a rate of 40 cubic metres per second will endanger anglers, jet boaters and other river users.

We submitted that the proposed scheme will have detrimental effects on the salmon fishery which, in its current state, cannot withstand a further threat from manmade structures and water extraction. We believe that the intake and discharge structures present an unacceptable detriment to both the spawning run going upstream and to vulnerable young salmon proceeding downstream. We now await the hearing on these applications.

And sometimes our efforts are rewarded: a recent application to reduce minimum flow levels to allow water to be taken from the Cam River was declined by the Environment Canterbury Commissioners. The decision took into account submissions made by NZSAA and Fish & Game on the importance of the Cam River system in providing significant habitat for trout and salmon.

At the time of writing this, the Scotty Boxes have not yet been uplifted from the various streams so a full report on likely hatch rates is not available. However, we

do know that at the Thomas River an extreme rainfall event and snow and ice in early July destroyed some of the rock weirs and uprooted and swept away a number of Scotty boxes. Ground conditions were earlier too hazardous to search for the boxes but hopefully some will be recovered. So results from this site are unlikely to be encouraging.

The sun is shining, the days are getting longer and hopefully lots of salmon are getting the scent of their spawning waters and on their way back. High Country opening day is only a few weeks away, so get out the gear and polish it up for the new season.

Tight lines (nearly)!

Tim Ellis

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

SALMON ANGLERS CAPS



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Buy a Cap**



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.**

Committee Highlights

Your Committee met on 6 August and 3 September.

We formally co-opted Bruce Moody and Robert and Kristine McKey to the Committee and their mug shots and contact numbers are shown below.

These three members have extensive fishing experience over all our Canterbury Rivers and Lakes, so their contribution will be greatly valued in the ensuing period ahead. Welcome aboard.



Bruce Moody

980 1065
027 648 7442



Kristine McKey

338 4777



**Robert (Mick)
McKey**

338 4777

We welcome two new members: Kevin Gates and Bruce Hitchens.

Sadly, we also farewelled deceased members P E Keen and C Bax.

John Hodgson gave a talk at the August meeting on the progress of our ova planting to date this season with some good reports of progress. The exception was the ova planting in the Thomas River. At this location our little part of paradise had been subject to exceptional rainfall causing unprecedented flooding with a result we had some of our Scotty Boxes washed out of the stream and approximately 15 boxes washed away. So if later in the season you see any green boxes on the river bed downstream please grab them so we can recover them. On top of this severe weather a large snowfall froze the contents of some of the exposed boxes that lay above the stream bed.

In all probability this is not a bad result as this is our first real loss in 3 years, but early days yet as we are yet to do a final survey with the lifting of the Scotty Boxes soon.

A good percentage of our correspondence dealt with environmental matters and water consents. This creates quite a work load for our committee representatives Tim Ellis and Ron Dougherty. In fact Ron was not at our meeting as he attended the AGM of the Lower Waitaki Management Society in Timaru. Pam Ellis with her background experience keeps an eye on the progress of all documentation and ensures we are on track.

New initiatives are being worked through in an effort to attract new members, as we need these to support our objectives when dealing with environmental matters and also a healthy membership assist our funding situation.

One of our future objectives is to have access to salmon hatchery facilities closer to Christchurch so that time spent attending the requirements can be more conveniently productive. This is not to be viewed as an alternative for Montrose but an option that can support our enhancement programmes. So if any of our members hear of any prospective opportunities we would like to follow up.

The question was explored in relation to rewards or recompense for some of our more active volunteers and whilst we like to cover any material costs it is sometimes appropriate to make an ex-gratia payment. On occasions when this has been offered the intended recipient refuses to take the offer as they get their reward out of the work they do and the contribution made. From our Association point of view our subs are kept at a minimum and our finances call for prudent management, so we are reliant on our member generosity and know that rewards will come from other benefits, as a result of your generous input.

Thanks team for your fantastic support.

Members may, or may not, be aware that NZSAA is a member body of the Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of NZ (CORANZ) and, as such, we have three representatives on the Executive. Their AGM was held on 2 September 2007 in Wellington and our 3 nominations for executive were NZSAA President Ron Stuart, Immediate Past President Tim Ellis and Vice President Ron Dougherty. CORANZ does a

tremendous amount of work on issues affecting outdoor recreationalists, and they have some influential contacts in Parliament and Government departments.

Access to Waimakariri at Kaiapoi Island

Access controls have been installed at points in the Waimakariri River Regional Park so you may need to obtain a key from Environment Canterbury if you want to fish some locations.

Recently installed are two riverbed access night gates on the North Bank of the Waimakariri at Kaiapoi Island:

Browns Ramp Twin Gates (western side of the Old Main North Road Bridge, near Wrights Road)

Taylor's Road River Berm Gate

The gates are closed between

7.00 pm and 4.30 am winter hours

10.00 pm and 4.30 am summer hours

(Timings change between winter and summer coinciding with daylight saving.)

These hours are the same closing times as the other night gates installed some time ago at Coutts and McLeans Islands. The exception is the 4.30 am opening time which has been tentatively set to allow whitebaiters an early start.

Both the above gates are Anglers Access keyed. Legitimate anglers may obtain a key by completing a form at ECan, paying a \$30 deposit, producing a current fishing licence, one other form of identification and vehicle registration. The locks will be changed annually.



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Didymo

NZSAA recently wrote to the Ashburton District Council, Environment Canterbury and BioSecurity NZ regarding the possible (probable?) risk of didymo entering the Rakaia River via the Rangitata Diversion Race discharge at Highbank power station tailrace.

Regrettably we know that the Rangitata River is now infested with Didymo and any water sourced from the Rangitata, including the Rangitata Diversion Race, will almost certainly contain Didymo at some time in the future. The proposed Ashburton Community Water Trust power generation scheme on the Rakaia adds a further risk as it also proposes to discharge through the Highbank tailrace.

NZSAA therefore requested 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.

The reply we received from the Chief Executive of Ashburton District Council was less than helpful and patronising. He believes that we “*are confusing two issues*” and notes that “*all of our rivers are at risk and it is apparent that the spread is from recreational contact rather than generation/irrigation scheme operation.*” ADC advised that BioSecurity NZ was considering this matter along with the operation of the RDR.

No, Mr Chief Executive, we are not confused and do not accept that didymo is or is likely to be spread only by recreational contact. All water users have a responsibility to take preventative measures.

The matter that is being considered by BioSecurity NZ is an application by Rangitata Diversion Race Management Ltd and associated water users (irrigation groups) for a permit under section 52 of the Biosecurity Act to “*communicate, release or cause didymo to be released if it was present in the Rangitata inlet to the Rangitata Diversion Race.*”

While not responding directly to NZSAA’s request to cease RDR discharges to the Rakaia, BioSecurity did send us a copy of their draft report on the above s52 application for our comment. The report concludes, among other things, that there is a likelihood of didymo transfer at some time in the future from the Rangitata River to the Rakaia, Hinds and Ashburton Rivers and that the consequences of the transfer of didymo by the RDR to these rivers could be serious. Even so, the report contains the recommendation that the water users be permitted to continue to use the waters of the Rangitata River if didymo was found to be present, on condition that certain mitigation measures are taken.

NZSAA’s response to BioSecurity NZ is, in part, as follows”

“Your assessment of the s.52 permit application clearly acknowledges that didymo would survive through the irrigation and stock water systems and would inevitably affect other rivers if it was present in the RDR and that the consequences of didymo infestation would have serious impacts on the fisheries and river users. The Rakaia River is an important salmon fishery that in recent years has been in some decline.”

“For some years now, the NZ Salmon Anglers Association, in conjunction with Fish & Game NZ, has been undertaking an extensive programme to restore and enhance the Rakaia salmon fishery by operation of a salmon hatchery and annually raising and releasing juvenile salmon and planting of fertilised ova in spawning streams. All this work is undertaken voluntarily by members and supporters of NZSAA involving many hundreds of hours and travel during the year.

The results of this programme are only now starting to become apparent with increased returns of spawning salmon to the Rakaia River. A similar programme has also been put into 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 measure that might prevent or mitigate the transfer of didymo.

We recognise that equally didymo could be transferred to any rivers by individual use and other recreational users. We accept that as a real possibility. However, to our way of thinking, that is not a valid reason to ignore another preventative measure, i.e. ceasing discharge from the RDR to the Rakaia River at Highbank.

NZSAA is opposed to the grant of a permit that will allow discharge of RDR water to the Rakaia

River. Once didymo is in the RDR, as it inevitably will, it is then too late to take any further mitigation measure to prevent flow through to the Rakaia.”

Fish & Game (North Canterbury and Central South Island Regions) have also made a submission to BioSecurity NZ opposing the permits in their current form. They have asked for further information including an assessment of possible mitigation options, for each discharge to surface water in the Hinds, Ashburton and Rakaia Rivers, that would effectively reduce the risk of didymo transfer via the discharge of water at each point.

We hope that BioSecurity NZ will act on these suggestions.

In the meantime, as responsible anglers, don't forget to do your part in preventing the spread of didymo:

CHECK

CLEAN

DRY

Trading Water Permits

Your NZSAA Committee has had concerns at the increasing publicity and apparent activity in the selling and/or sharing of water rights.

While consent holders hold the right to take the water, they do not currently pay anything for the actual water and the concept of “selling” this same water is unacceptable in our view.

This ability to trade water rights would indicate that the water allocated to consent holders is surplus to their requirements, either seasonally or permanently, and should therefore be surrendered to Environment Canterbury and their consent conditions reviewed.

In this time of extreme demand for water, we look to Environment Canterbury to manage the allocation of water in a fair and sustainable way and not allow over-allocation and competitive trading of this public resource.

We therefore wrote to Environment Canterbury asking for their comments and policy on this matter. We asked that if surplus water was being traded, under what lawful authority was this allowed and what conditions, if any, were being applied?

This is ECan’s reply:

“We appreciate your concerns about the issue of trading water permits. However since the inception of the Water and Soil Conservation Act in 1968, water permits, or their predecessors water rights, have been traded. There are many circumstances where we feel sure people would not have any concerns about the trading of water

permits. For example, water permits are normally traded when a property changes hands.

“Other circumstances when water permits are traded include situations when a newcomer with a high value land-use essentially purchases the whole or part of a water permit from a neighbour and the neighbour reverts to land use that uses less irrigation water.

“Environment Canterbury does ensure that when a water permit is granted it is only for sufficient water that is needed for the specific activity for which a consent is sought. We are acutely aware that there is potential for some water permit applicants to consider the possibility of endeavouring to “bank” water. You can be assured that staff are aware of this potential issue and use various methods to ensure that as far as humanly possible “banking” of water does not occur.

“You will appreciate that before any person can transfer a water permit they have to go through the formal process specified in the Resource Management Act which is essentially the same as for processing a resource consent application. Therefore any such application is scrutinised in the same way as any resource consent application. Through that process, Environment Canterbury must be satisfied that the proposed transfer would result in reasonable and efficient use of water.”



SUNDAY 14 OCTOBER 2007
AT
THE GROYNES, CHRISTCHURCH
From 9 a.m. until 1 p.m
for young people under the age of seventeen years

The fish-out ponds will be stocked with salmon and experienced anglers will be on site to give tuition and supervision.

If you have access to small fishing rods and tackle, bring these along, but there will be loan equipment available for those requiring it. There will also be some equipment for sale. Hot food and drink will be available to buy.

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.



Report on My Trips to the Waitaki River (and the reasons for them)

By Ron Dougherty, NZSAA Vice President



I was absent from the AGM and the last Committee meeting as I was at the Lower Waitaki River Management Society's meetings, one for a special meeting about the Meridian Energy North Bank Tunnel project and the Hunter Downs Irrigation Scheme resource consent applications, jointly applied for.

There has been enough information released to the media and you should be sufficiently informed.

There are a few pertinent points that you will not have been told:

Meridian's proposal is to only release 150 cumecs at the Waitaki Dam and to retain ownership of all additional waters inside the pipeline and this could be up to 650 cumecs.

They propose to "flatline" the Waitaki River to where the power station will release the waters back into the Waitaki River, below Clarkes Field and above the Stone Wall above Ikawai (where the road that followed alongside the North Bank of the Waitaki turns off and heads towards Waimate).

All the released water will then be directed across the Waitaki riverbed towards the irrigation intakes at Blacks Point on the South Bank to ensure that water will be there for the parcel of water rights.

The water will then be directed back towards the North Bank, above Ikawai, to fulfil the water rights consent on the North Bank.

That parcel of water that Meridian released, having fulfilled the existing water rights, will then be made available to the Hunter Downs Irrigation scheme (as part of the North Bank Tunnel project's joint parcel of consents. Meridian claims ownership of that water that went down the Tunnel.

The leavings, less other water rights, will be left in the river.

If Meridian doesn't get the right to reduce the flow to 150 cumecs at the Waitaki Dam, they will accept no other figure and the whole concept will not proceed.

There is already some 53.2 (? + or -) cumecs of consented water rights from the Waitaki River, so that will leave less than 100 cumecs.

Having spent a whole fishing season on the Waitaki River in 1965-66, I cannot see the Waitaki surviving on such a reduced flow.

Meridian Energy is still negotiating a regime of "flushing flows" to be released from the Waitaki Dam. Duration and magnitude of the flows is still to be fixed. How they will tell all the people that may, or may not know, that a man-made flow can come out of a low-flowing river on a fine clear summer's day, has not been explained.

Meridian Energy's attitude is almost as bad as they were during the public relations fiasco of Project Aqua.

I will keep you informed.

Some Other Observations on the Trips Down and Back

The high flows over the winter in the Waitaki have washed a tail off the training groyne above the Main Road Bridge on the south side. This has threatened the end of the Main Road SH1 Bridge. Remedial work is to be undertaken. The large rocks required will be trucked down from Timaru. At the moment, launching a jet boat from the long-established launching pad below the rail bridge is not easy, so don't go being stupid in the river until it's fixed.

The sustained period of controlled flows in the Waitaki has resulted in a build-up of material in a wide strip down the centre of the River from almost the tip to the bottom. Consequently the Waitaki is zig-zagging from side to side across the entire width and tearing hell out of the banks on either side wherever it touches them.

Considerable bank (farmland) erosion is taking place, and you may not believe this, but there is a great shortage of large willow trees available to be pulled out and wire-roped in for bank stabilisation purposes.

The views of the Southern Alps and the foothills have never been clearer than they are at the moment. For at least the last 100 years! (The pine trees have gone - or are still going - and the plantations are mostly gone too.)

All of the cleared land in the Red Zone between the Selwyn/Rakaia Rivers (which has had all its consents "called in") is currently showing the rapid growth of colossal steel irrigators - one or two new ones on each trip south. Either they will get consented water or Environment Canterbury will get a big court case.

From Hinds South to the Rangitata River is another area of clearances. At one place it is possible to get a glimpse of the sea.

Fonterra's Clandeboye Plant is visible for miles at night in either direction - extremely well lit. I hope that the lights have been chosen of the right spectrum and light wavelength not to attract night insects.

NZ Dairy Foods has almost completed its new complex at Studholme. The building looks to be at least seven storeys high.

A Warning: Should you be driving north or south, be very aware that the demise of the pine trees as shelter belts or plantations has opened up clear passages from the foothills to the coast which will funnel the nor'westers across the Main South Road and allow the Old Man Sou'Westers easy passage inland. Be very careful if towing a boat or a caravan and look out for other vehicles being blown around.

A quotation I found recently in the National Geographic (February 2005):

"In the West, water flows uphill towards money."

Admittedly, this refers to California's Salton Sea but it is equally adaptable to all of Canterbury in the present irrigation scheme.

Ron Dougherty

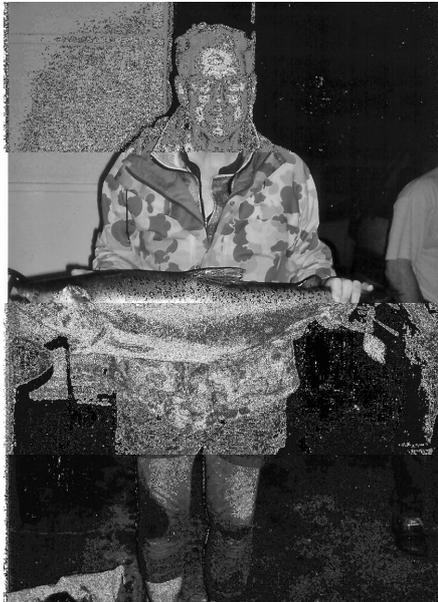
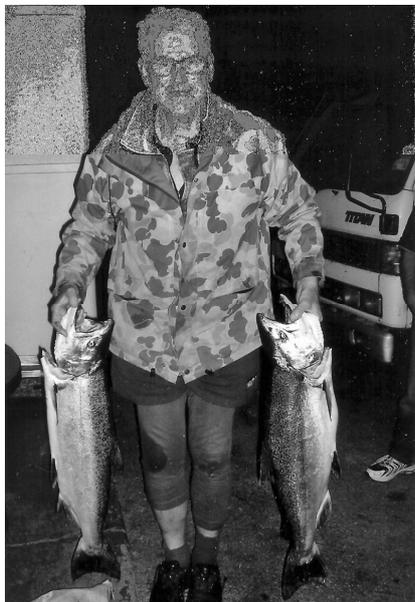
A Friend from the South Jerry Walton

Jerry Walton, longstanding member of NZSAA and resident of Dunedin, is passionate about his salmon fishing particularly around the Waitaki River. The Waitaki fished well this last season and the photos below show Jerry with his first limit bag in some years (21lb and 17lb) caught on 22 March 2007. The 21 pounder on the right was a “great fish” says Jerry.

The limit bag is just reward for the strenuous efforts that Jerry has put into submissions and hearing appearances over recent years on the various matters affecting and threatening the Waitaki River and its fishery: firstly Project Aqua and the Water Allocation Plan and now Meridian’s North Bank Tunnel concept and the Hunter Downs irrigation scheme.

Jerry is a prolific correspondent, well-known to the editors of Otago Daily Times and Press newspapers and to Ministers of the Crown. He does his research thoroughly and puts well-reasoned and accurate arguments. How he fits all this in with a busy professional practice, is incredible.

Keep up the good work, Jerry, and take plenty of time out in the coming season to continue the successful salmon angling.



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
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Fish & Game News



Lake Coleridge Trout and Salmon

Salmon spawning count at the Lake Coleridge main spawning streams:

- *Hennah Stream:*
Live = 0; Dead = 14; Redds = 68
- *Ryton River:*
Live = 0; Dead = 0; Redds = 9

These are on par with past counts.

Salmon Enhancement Programme

Of the 150,000 salmon ova hatched at Montrose recently, 60,000 have been transported to the lower Rangitata. 10,000 6-gram salmon have been transferred from Montrose to Lake Coleridge.

Resource Consents

Central Plains Water/Ashburton Community Water Trust:

A submission has been lodged by F&G opposing resource consent applications associated with the ACWT off-river hydroelectricity scheme which would divert 40 cumecs into an intake at Happy Valley. This intake is the same one Barrhill Chertsey (BC) is planning to use for its proposed hydro scheme.

BC were granted consent to take 17 cumecs in 2001 but have yet to exercise it. It is understood BC have teamed up with Electricity Ashburton (EA) to lodge further consents for a hydro scheme using much the same infrastructure as ACWT, including a discharge via Highbank tailrace. The interrelationship between the proposed ACWT and BC is quite complex and it is not yet clear what commercial arrangements have been

agreed, and whether Trustpower is agreeable to allow the tailrace to be used as proposed.

Cam River

Jason Holland gave evidence at a recent hearing where an existing irrigator sought to lower the minimum flow of the Cam River to 800 l/s. The operative Waimakariri River Regional Plan sets the minimum flow for the Cam at 1000 l/s so, when the river drops below this point, all irrigation must cease. Jason showed that the irrigator already enjoyed a very acceptable 95% reliability during the irrigation season. He also expressed concerns at the environmental effects of reducing the minimum flow and precedent set.

As reported earlier in this newsletter, the hearing commissioners decided to decline the application.

Hurunui River Flow Regime

The draft environmental flow regime for the Hurunui River mainstem prescribes minimum flows for each month of the year that vary between 12-15 cumecs. The draft regime also sets A and B block allocation limits for abstractors.

To an ECan panel, Jason Holland submitted that a 20 cumec minimum flow would be desirable for every month of the year but that a 15 cumec all-year minimum flow combined with a higher minimum flow of 40 cumecs for B block abstractors could also meet with F&G's approval. These suggested flows would ensure abstraction did not adversely affect salmon passage, would provide a suitable minimum level of adult trout habitat, and

would extend the duration of salmon fishable flows.

The panel also heard from a range of conservation and irrigation groups all seeking amendments to the draft regime. Despite the pleas from the various groups, it is understood that ECan is likely to recommend that the draft regime proceed intact as a future variation to the Canterbury proposed Natural Resources Regional Plan.

Hurunui River

An application for a Water Conservation Order has been lodged by F&G and NZ Recreational Canoeing Association. The application is mostly focussed on the Upper Hurunui River and lakes which are presently unaffected by dams or water takes. F&G considers this area to be an outstanding natural environment and a WCO is both appropriate and necessary to protect this environment for future generations. The application would have little effect on existing irrigators and does not restrict further abstraction from the lower river or rule out water storage.

Fish Screens

F&G staff attended a meeting of the Fish Screen Working Party to discuss the final guidelines document compiled by NIWA. The independent review of the literature and current best practices supported the findings of F&G and DOC and proposed criteria for the effective fish screen design. F&G staff found the views of some participants very disconcerting as they appeared to be unconcerned about the impacts that ineffective fish screens might have to fish populations in Canterbury rivers.

Angler Access

F&G were asked to help DOC organise a GIS catalogue of various access points to

rivers and recreation sites. Dirk Barr worked with DOC to pinpoint all of the North Canterbury Region angler access sites and, as a result, F&G have obtained an electronic database and GIS map of the access locations in our region.

Club Relations

The Regional Manager and Chairman of F&G have met with NZ Salmon Anglers Association President, Ron Stuart, regarding the 2007 ova planting programme.

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.

You've seen Derek the Chef on Gone Fishin' - well, here's one from our very own Ron the Chowder Chief.....



SEAFOOD SOUP (Can only be made if you catch a Salmon)

This is an absolute winner, when you catch your fish then have it smoked. When getting it smoked ask the "Smoker" to save the head and frame and smoke them as well.

Get a large pot, like a **big big** one, and $\frac{3}{4}$ fill with water and boil up the smoked frame and head. (I had mine sitting in the freezer for a couple of months, maturing I suppose) The boil-up is best done in the garage or outside as it stinks. You will end up with a pot of stock full of good omega etc. Remove the head and frame, pick off all the good bits and leave in the stock and dump the rest. If you've cooked it long enough the head and frame start to break up.

Preparing the soup:

Chop up some onions and celery and fry up in a pan until light golden colour

Get a couple of fillets of white fish and cut up into small pieces

Cook and mash up several spuds - the number depends on how thick you want your soup

Mix up to taste some curry powder, garlic, salt, mustard and any other items that tickle your taste buds

500ml fresh cream

Cup of sherry

Cooked Prawns (approx $\frac{3}{4}$ kg)

Cooked shelled mussels (approx $\frac{3}{4}$ kg), cut in half if they are too big

Parsley

Put all this into your fish stock and heat to nearly boiling point and serve.

Amongst the people I fed we had some fussy buggers who didn't like mussels, so they picked them out. A couple didn't like fish but, after the "good", "delicious", and "fantastic" comments coming from the mob, they decided to try some and both ended up with a plate of the soup without any of the good lumps floating around.

If you want something unique this is a winner. It must have been, as several of my mates had 3 platefuls and a couple of the girls made some good offers. Don't get too excited as you gotta catch your fish first! ! What made it even better, my fish was one that returned from our enhanced breeding programme, so it is working. **Also under no circumstances give this secret recipe to any fisherman that is not a member of our Association.**

Ron (Stuart) the Chef



**NZSAA
2007-08
SUBSCRIPTIONS**

There are still a good number of subscriptions outstanding for the current year.

We do need these to support the printing and mailing of the newsletter and do a few other things to hopefully improve the salmon fishery for your enjoyment.

So, if you haven't yet paid the 2007-08 sub, we would appreciate receiving it soon.

For ease of payment, if you prefer, 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.)



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OPEN SEVEN DAYS



From Overseas

Wild Pacific Salmon v Farmed Atlantic Salmon

Article by Ken Olsen

from "Trout" (the Journal of Coldwater Fisheries Conservation, Canada)

This past Fall, Trout Unlimited did something unprecedented for a group of catch-and-release anglers: it published a wild salmon recipe booklet. Six well-known chefs contributed to "*Have Your Salmon and Eat it Too*", and their delicious recipes underscored TU's central message: eating wild Pacific instead of farmed Atlantic salmon is one of the most effective ways to ensure plentiful wild salmon runs well into the future.

Eat the fish to save them? It sounds like a paradox at first but, as one chef is fond of saying, the best way to demonstrate that you want healthy, wild Pacific salmon runs is to "vote with your fork" for wild fish at restaurants and supermarkets. Doing so, creates an economic incentive for government and industry leaders to protect and improve wild salmon habitat, curtail salmon farm pollution, and minimise the negative effects of dams and hatcheries.

Since 1980, farmed Atlantic salmon has gone from just 2% of the world salmon market to 60%. Huge salmon farms in British Columbia, as well as Europe, Chile and Washington State, spread disease and parasites to wild fish and dump hazardous chemicals and raw sewage into estuaries. Fish escaping from salmon farms compete with wild salmon

and steelhead and threaten to dilute the genetic diversity of famed fisheries such as those in BC's Skeena River system.

Fed a steady diet of food pellets, antibiotics and pigments, these farmed fish have fewer health benefits and more dioxins and PCBs than wild fish. But what they lack in quality and taste, they make up for in abundance - the flood of farmed fish has driven down prices and undermined the value of wild salmon. Local fishers and fisheries, their well-being tied to the wild salmon market, now struggle to survive.

In contrast, the wild Pacific salmon are hatched by wild salmon in cold, clean waters of Pacific Northwest, California, Canada and Alaska. They ride the spring snowmelt up to 900 miles downstream to the Pacific. They spend up to 7 years at sea, a steady diet of zooplankton, squid, shrimp and small fish naturally turning their flesh its distinctive pink colour. They store the nutrients and energy from their food in their fat.

Adults return to natal streams to spawn and die. They are an important food source for 137 flora and fauna, from orcas to bald eagles to bears.

(Continued on page 22)

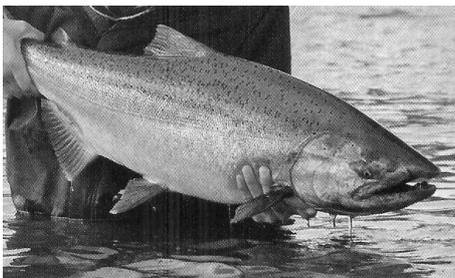
Line-caught by a troller or harvested by gillnet or seine, the wild salmon are cleaned, chilled and taken to a processing plant on-shore where they are graded, packaged and shipped to market fresh, frozen, canned or smoked. The process provides thousands of jobs for local communities in Alaska, British Columbia, the Pacific Northwest and California.

Wild Pacific salmon contains lean protein and Omega-3 fatty acids. Studies link

eating wild salmon to decreased risk of heart disease, Alzheimer's and certain cancers.

For all these reasons, TU encouraged its members to choose wild Pacific over farmed Atlantic salmon. "Nature perfected the art of producing salmon over the course of 40 million years", says TU's Pacific salmon director. "We must do everything possible to allow that to continue."

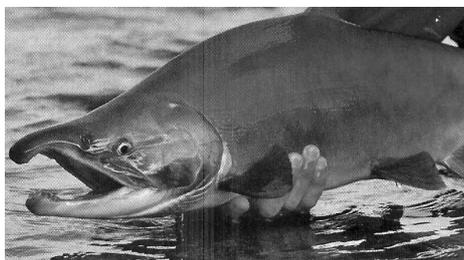
Know your Pacific Salmon



Chinook, King

The largest and least abundant of the Pacific salmon. Most are sold fresh or frozen, and have a rich flavour owing to their very high oil content.

Coho, Silver
Second largest salmon and very desirable for both table use and smoking because of its size, colour and high fat content.



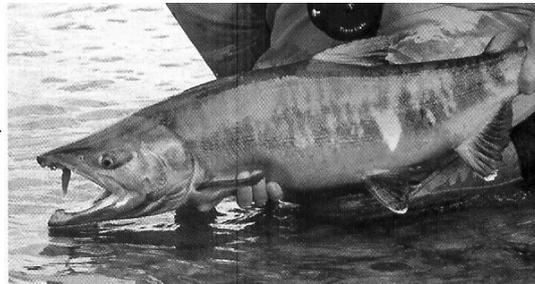
Sockeye, Red

Its flavour and uniquely deep red flesh have made the fresh and frozen sockeye the most sought-after salmon species in recent years.



Pink, Humpback

The smallest and most abundant of Pacific salmon. While most pinks are canned, more are being sold as fresh and frozen.



Chum, Silverbrite

Of moderate size and sold in all forms: canned, fresh, frozen and smoked.

Ain't it the Truth

"Gone fishin' - be back at dark-thirty."

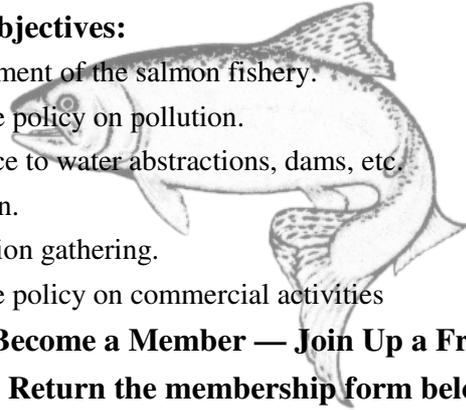
"A salmon angler's biggest worry is that when they die, their partner will sell their fishing gear for what they said they paid for it"

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- 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



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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.

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

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