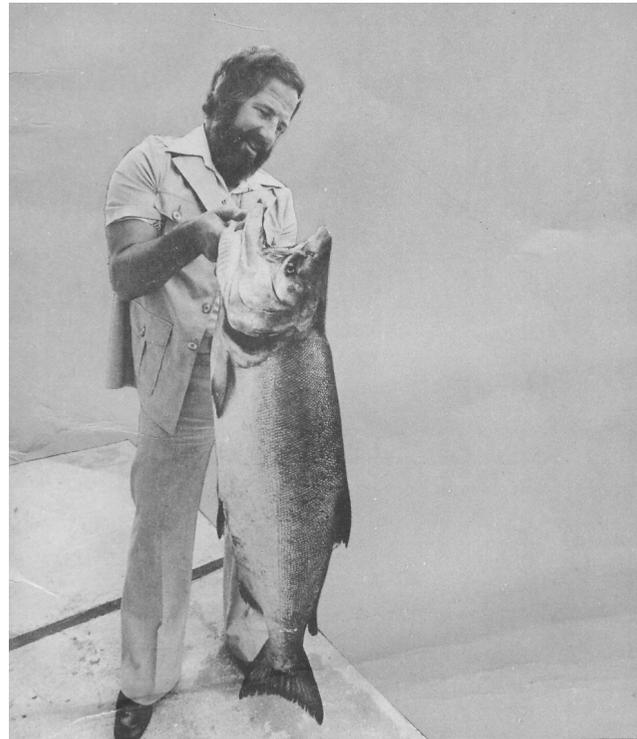


# **NZ Salmon Anglers Newsletter**



**MARCH 2008 Number 92**



*Cover Photo: Ross Lightfoot with 19.5 kg (42.9lb) salmon  
he caught at the Ashburton River mouth 1978.  
Courtesy Christchurch Star*

**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**

<b>President</b>	Ron Stuart	358 9082 021 216 3901	cqurityron@xtra.co.nz
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Neville (Tim) Ellis	383 0900 021 363 140	npellis@paradise.net.nz Fax 383 0900
<b>Vice President</b>	Ron Dougherty	338 2479	
<b>Secretary &amp; Treasurer</b>	Pam Ellis	383 0900 021 211 3293	npellis@paradise.net.nz Fax 383 0900
<b>Committee</b>	John Healy	03 318 8216 0274 334 511	jhealy@xtra.co.nz Fax 03 318 8190
	Phil 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	
	Athol Price	332 7698	
	Robert & Kristine McKey	338 4777	krismick@xtra.co.nz
	Bruce Moody	980 1065 027 229 6302	brucemoody@paradise.net.nz
<b>Patron</b>	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.

**Disclaimer:** The opinions expressed in any letters and articles in this newsletter are the authors' own and are not necessarily those of New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association (Inc) or the Editor.



## PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL

It has been a good month with reports of expected catches coming in across all the major rivers, although the comments from Waimak anglers are that they are still waiting for a good run. Most anglers I have been in contact with have bagged salmon and their tallies are an improvement on last season, so I guess that says something for our fishery. The tallies of approx 200 salmon caught during the Rakaia Competition was encouraging and should indicate good numbers of fish still to make it up to the spawning grounds.

It has been interesting to observe the river flows in Canterbury and it would seem to me that given the volume of rain we had in the Alps we should have expected a greater volume of water down the rivers. In some instances the effect has not initiated non fishing conditions and in others the rivers have recovered in less time to fishable conditions. Is this a seasonal situation or are we experiencing the effects of Aqua Water abstraction and the bulk of the river water is going directly into the ground. An example was the Selwyn, 25cumecs at the top, Coes Ford still a trickle.

We acknowledge the most unfortunate incident being experienced by Ross Millichamp and have on behalf of all Salmon Anglers sent a card for his speedy recovery. Our last report was he was still in intensive care, but there are indications of some improvement. We certainly hope so and direct our thoughts to him and his family. It is appropriate to mention that some bad rumours were circulating, mostly without fact and substance.

Fish & Game called for volunteers mid March, to go into Montrose and fin clip the current batch of salmon fry for release later this season. Turn out was not fantastic, being that it was prime fishing time. But the enthusiastic bunch of adults and younger people made a big dent in the numbers of clipped fish and another day should see the job completed. It was encouraging to see the younger enthusiasts turn up and how well they worked throughout the day. As a lay observer I was greatly encouraged by the condition of the fish in the raceways and compliment Rusty and his crew for their fantastic work. One keen angler and F&G councillor also gave up his day and was rewarded with a fresh salmon on Sunday and a limit bag on Monday, so karma does work.

*(Continued on page 4)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

Whilst the trap has been installed there was no evidence of returning fish at this point in time.

Confirmation and approval of our Salmon Ova Planting Programme is still to be ratified and some discussion is on the agenda with the Fish & Game Council for their next meeting. An insight into prior discussion will raise some interesting points and it is obvious that we need an enhancement programme as one bit of research indicated that hatchery raised returning fish into one river accounted for an average of 25% of the total returns. Given this known factor we do not know what additional percentage originated from the Alpine Ova Planting programme, but it seems essential for this work to continue and be well supported for the future of our fishery.

Go hard - the season has only several weeks to run and with the earliest Easter for over 100 years there should be some good Easter Salmon Bunnies for your bag. Easter won't be this early again for another 200 years so make the best of it.

Cheers and come on Ross ,

Ron Stuart

President

## **WHERE ARE ALL YOUR ENTRIES FOR NZSAA'S ANNUAL SALMON COMPETITION?**

**With good catches, we should be getting dozens of entries. Instead, at present, we have so few entries that everyone will probably get a prize voucher of \$50.**

**We have a generous sponsor but if members aren't interested in the competition, then we will certainly not be asking for sponsorship next year.**

**SO, USE IT OR LOSE IT!!!**

## FITTING REWARD FOR THE “FATHER OF FISHING”

Doug Roy – a salmon angler for several decades, Patron NZ Salmon Anglers Association, Management Team and Volunteer Montrose Salmon Hatchery, Guardian of the Waterways, Research and Statistical Data Collector for the Salmon Fishery and a man of many other talents.

This salmon weighing in at close on 12kg is Doug’s third for the season and it is rewarding to see him land his fish as year round he is working towards ensuring we have salmon to return to our rivers. This is frequently at his own personal cost, so his investment in the fishery has been enormous. Whenever there is an activity to do with salmon, Doug is always in the front line.

At the Montrose Hatchery in the upper Rakaia region, Doug is a regular visitor to the site and is instrumental in the building of electronic controls for the feeders and other equipment used on a daily basis as well as carrying out regular maintenance and volunteer duties associated with the site. His talents have minimised a great number of man-hours on location by the automation of site equipment.

A fitting catch on this day as he goes home with a “Trophy Fish” on his wife’s (Florence) birthday. Florence or more identifiably know as “Flo” is also a keen angler and frequently supports field activities associated with the Salmon Enhancement Programme.

Good catch “Father Doug”. May you be blessed with many more salmon as your contribution has been and still is **HUGE**.



## THE WAY IT USED TO BE



*Washing the morning's catch! Tony Crowe - limit by 9.30a.m., one each for two others, 1978.*

**We haven't been overwhelmed with responses to our plea for volunteers to do**

### **Midweek Montrose Hatchery Inspections**

**It would be easy to combine a fishing trip to the Rakaia with a brief visit to Montrose to do a quick check of the site?**

In addition to the weekly trips by volunteer teams to undertake cleaning of the Montrose races, there is a need for another general inspection visit during the week. This includes a general inspection of the site, to check the feeders, note dead fish, and measure the oxygen levels in the water. These weekly visits are necessary through to July when the fish are due to be released.

The Fish & Game volunteer vehicle is available for the purpose and a stopover to do a bit of fishing nearby in the Rakaia would be acceptable, providing you advise F&G of your planned trip and timetable.

The tasks are not onerous or time consuming and would take some of the load off the one or two hardworking volunteers who give a lot of time and travel each week to check on the Montrose hatchery. If you could assist, please phone one of the following:

Doug Roy 352 8564 Edgar Russ 980 1537 Fish & Game (Steve Terry) 366 9191 NZSAA: President Ron Stuart 358 9082 Secretary Pam Ellis 383 0900

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### ***Here's something to think about.***

*I recently picked a new primary care doctor. After two visits and exhaustive Lab tests, he said I was doing 'fairly well' for my age.*

*A little concerned about that comment, I couldn't resist asking him, "Do you think I'll live to be 80?"*

*He asked, "Do you smoke tobacco, or drink beer or wine?"*

*"Oh no," I replied. "I'm not doing drugs, either!"*

*Then he asked, "Do you eat rib-eye steaks and barbecued ribs?"*

*I said, "No, my former doctor said that all red meat is very unhealthy!"*

*"Do you spend a lot of time in the sun, like playing golf, sailing, hiking, or bicycling?"*

*"No, I don't," I said.*

*He asked, "Do you gamble, drive fast cars, or have a lot of sex?"*

*"No," I said*

*He looked at me and said .... "Then, why do you care."*



## NYLON – v – BRAID A SALMON ANGLER'S PERSPECTIVE

This season I invested in a spool of “Sufix Performance Braid” at \$85 cost for 300M 25lb breaking strain, dia 0.20mm. This is the latest technology available in braid and to quote the manufacturer’s spiel “*Sufix performance Braid is the next generation of microfilament technology. The most cutting edge Digital Y6 Braiding machines make the smallest diameter, longest casting, and quietest braided fishing line ever produced. This line was bred in the harsh conditions of saltwater and fine tuned for freshwater tournament applications. Performance Braid has every characteristic that a serious tournament angler demands for the rigors of competition*”

I loaded this onto my Ambassador 6501c Reel and because it is such a fine line, backing nylon was required on the reel to bring the braid up to a good casting level.

My first casts were perfect and I thought this stuff is the bee’s knees, man, and I’m in for a good time. After 1 day’s use the trouble started. Using a Zeddy lure tied directly onto the line I had 2 casts with the line snapping. I could not detect why so I attached a 2m nylon 20lb leader. This worked well for a few casts and bang. I thought the joint knot may have been catching on the rod rings in the early stages of a cast, so I attached a 4m leader and in a short time another break when casting. The 25lb braid was breaking not the 20lb nylon. By this stage 4 sets of gear lost and at \$5.50 per Zeddy I was becoming brassed off.

Another cast and I’m onto a snag, it would not come free so I locked up the reel and gently pulled back. On about ½ pressure the braid snapped – 5<sup>th</sup> set of gear.

Back to the Retailer and they were very interested and surprised with my results and could offer no explanation, given this stuff was perfect with all the characteristics for the serious Tournament Angler. There may be a fault with the line so they generously and without cost replaced the 25lb braid with 30lb and attached a leader approx 4m in length of high quality nylon.

I was keen to get back to the river and try out this upgrade. While the braid was new I had some good casts, very smooth with good distance. Then thump during a cast and a bird’s nest like you aint seen before. After 2 long sessions of unpicking I had to resort to surgery and cut away around 40m of line. My

*(Continued on page 9)*

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impression was that there may have been too much braid on the reel so now we would be OK.

A few more casts and thump, the leader had cleared the rod rings and somehow the braid lassoed the 3<sup>rd</sup> ring down the rod and crack the leader was snapped off with yet another Zeddy @ \$5.50. Plus I had a hell of a mess on the reel spool that required further surgery to remove approx 50m of braid. Some of my fishing colleagues were now seriously getting at me over my new technology. Also another fault that occurred approx 3 times was the braid burying itself on the spool and jamming when casting.

At another outing I decided to load my reel with a 50 metre nylon leader over the braid and use my surf caster rod. Good results and great casting, running all the nylon out and up to 50m of braid. Until a subsequent cast with a ticer attached and for no apparent reason the nylon snapped at the joint point while the braid was still running out through the rod rings.

My fishing conditions are not harsh at the Waimak River Mouth. I am reverting back to nylon only and I am sure my companions on the Picket Fence will all be pleased, as they are not happy campers getting tangled in braid.

I believe this product is not suited for salmon fishing. \$85 for the braid and 7 sets of gear at \$5.50 a time, cheaper playing golf. I must say The Tackle retailer, who is a great supporter of NZ Salmon Anglers Assn, offered to compensate my losses and supply other line at no cost. I declined this generosity as it was my original choice and I know they will look after me in the future.

Ron Stuart



### **SALMON ANGLERS CAPS**

#### **Promote your Association - 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 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.**

## KING OF THE RIVER

King Dick, Richard the Great, King Richard, Richard the 11th, King of the River, or just plain Richard Chettle, Plumber Extraordinaire. Hey he's on his 11th bagged salmon and this photo follows immediately after he landed this prize at the Waimak Mouth using his surf caster, a nice fresh 6Kg fish.

Richard is a keen angler, a member of NZ Salmon Anglers and is frequently seen early mornings at McIntosh's or at the river mouth.



His first catch was in November and there has been a steady flow of fish through the ensuing weeks, his best bag being a 14kg salmon. At the time of writing, Richard's tally is the best of any reported angler fishing the Waimak, for the season to mid Feb. A commendable effort when in previous seasons 80% of salmon anglers catch none or 1 fish.

On Waitangi Day over 130 anglers were on the north side of the river mouth and 15 fish were landed on the falling tide. Around 10% angler success.

Given these stats Richard must carry the title "King of the River". What makes him successful? Persistence and patience.

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Please don't leave line on  
the  
river or the beach



## UNUSUAL FIND ON THE BEACH

These are the pictures that Tony Mottashed (one of our Rangers) took of a dead sand shark that was washed up on the beach at the Rakaia mouth at the end of January.

Obviously bit off more than it could chew.

Regards,

*Ian McCrory.*

Captions please to  
NZSAA  
PO Box 1113  
Christchurch.



## SEP: MAKING FISH MAKE FISH

*Reprinted from Wildlife Review, Canada. February 1979*

**by S. Michael Neufeld**

Noticed any peculiar activity going on around our lakes and streams lately? If you have, you probably have been witness to the most massive fisheries undertaking ever embarked upon in Canada; an undertaking that could cost up to \$400 million over the next 30 years and that—if successful—will set us right back to where we were in the pre-1900's.

An odd sort of goal, wouldn't you say, to spend so much money to put things back the way they used to be?

Not really, especially if the project is successful. And by all appearances in its second year of operation there is little question that it will be. It is called the Salmonid (sal-MON-id) Enhancement Program (SEP) and its purpose is to halt the decline in the production of salmonids—salmon and steelhead (sea-going rainbow trout)—and nurture it back to what it was in its prime in the pre-1900's. That means twice as much salmon—from 145 million pounds current annual commercial production to at least 300 million pounds—and steelhead for commercial fisherman and sport anglers alike.

The potential benefits of such a program could be revolutionary. If production were to be returned to its full potential, gross commercial fishing revenues could be increased from the \$194 million annually that it was in 1976 (the last year before SEP got underway) to \$468 million annually in the year 2007. That could mean a direct increase in income in the salmon industry of about \$230 million a year and an indirect increase in income from secondary impacts of at least that amount.

It also would mean about 9,000 new jobs for workers in B.C. by that same year. And it would provide additional fishing income, food fishing, shoreworker income and new employment opportunities for the native Indians of the province.

SEP is a joint effort between the federal and provincial fisheries departments. Constitutionally, the responsibility for fisheries comes under the jurisdiction of the federal government. But B.C. controls the land and water rights and use. Cooperation between the two agencies therefore would seem essential. According to biologist Dr David Narver, provincial coordinator for the project, there have been times in the past that the two agencies have worked side by side in similar projects in the same stream, yet totally independent of

*(Continued on page 13)*

each other. Through SEP, they are pooling their resources (so to speak), to the mutual benefit of both. The program is dividend into two phases, with a long-term goal of increasing salmonid production by up to 190 million pounds per year. The first phase has the objective of increasing production by about 50 million pounds per year within five years, by applying a mixture of low, intermediate, and high or advanced technology. This stage is expected to cost approximately \$150 million. About \$30 million has been spent so far, of which B.C. had contributed about \$900,000.

The second phase, beyond the first five years, will have various annual production targets based on attainment of government's current economic and social objectives.

One hundred and seventy separate enhancement projects have been identified, along with a number of small stream improvements, to reach this potential.

What kind of technology are they using? How do you make fishes make more fishes? Not by providing soft lights and music. Each of the several thousand eggs spawned by a single Pacific salmon in the gravel of a freshwater stream must survive from egg to alevin, alevin to fry, fry to smolt, and smolt to another spawning adult to make the full cycle. Less than one percent usually make it. So the aim of SEP is to use technology that will reduce the hazards and provide conditions that are favorable to the survival of greater numbers.

This can be done in several ways. One is to provide fishways past obstructions that impede up-stream migration, by-passing strong rapids and small waterfalls with a series of stepped pools, or by slowing the water by baffled channels to a velocity easily negotiated by the fish.

Another way is to control the water temperature. In the summer, for instance, waters are cooled by piping in cold water from other sources.

Keeping the flow of the water at a standard level is another means. This is done by damming a stream to create a storage reservoir and hold back flood waters for release at a later, more desirable time.

Spawning channels—man-made streams providing the best possible environment for spawning and incubation—and rearing channels—similar to spawning channels but using more of the natural environment—are two of the more intermediate methods.

Another completely man-made method is using incubation boxes, sort of miniature hatcheries, where fertilized eggs and selected gravel are placed in alternating layers, with a special plumbing system forcing water up through the gravel.

*(Continued on page 14)*

Actual hatcheries—facilities in which man fertilizes and incubates fish eggs, then rears the resultant juvenile fish for variable lengths of time—are the ultimate in technology. These range from the concrete buildings and ponds of Capilano or the new Fraser Valley Trout Hatchery at Abbotsford to the frame structures and naturalistic rearing channels of Big Qualicum.

Other methods include clearing obstructions from streams, replanting protective forest greenstrips at streamside, cleanup of local pollution, lake fertilization, transplanting fish into lakes suitable but previously barren, and in-stream feeding of fry—similar to feeding them at rearing channels, but using their natural habitat instead of a man-made stream.

By combining all these methods in a massive joint undertaking, and with cooperation and, often, volunteer assistance from the public, federal and provincial officials hope to provide the fishing industry with a more stable supply of salmon, sustained and in greater volume. If all goes as planned, it will increase employment and strengthen the economic base of the coastal communities, and improve Canada's balance of payments through export trade.

It also will make for some pretty good sport fishing and eating for the rest of us.

## **PRELIMINARY NOTICE OF AGM**

**The Annual General Meeting  
of New Zealand Salmon Anglers Assn (Inc)  
will be held on Tuesday 20th May 2008 at 7.30 pm.  
in the Horticultural Hall South Hagley Park, Christchurch**

Usual format including guest speaker, raffle and supper. Make a note of this date in your diary and please give some thought to offering your services on the Committee. We need some fresh ideas from members who share the desire to maintain and enhance the salmon fishery for all to enjoy their angling experiences.



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*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.*

## 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.

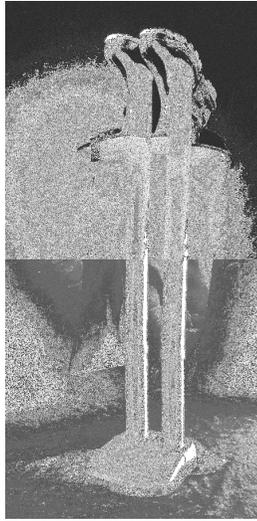
You need to supply all disposable items including wood and coal for the Yunka fire (except Kaniere, electric heating), sheets, pillowcases, sleeping bags, etc. On leaving, a clean and tidy bach would be appreciated for the next people.

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:

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- Transplanting from existing boat is also an option.

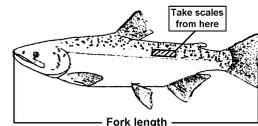


## Collection of Scale Samples from Salmon

NZSAA seeks the assistance of its members and other anglers in collecting scales and returning them for reading. To create a continuous and meaningful record of salmon origins and returns to our rivers, it is necessary that scales are collected from as many catches and locations as possible on a seasonal basis. The more samples received, the better the accuracy of the results.

### Instructions for Taking Scale Samples:

1. Fill in the details on the scale envelope before taking the sample, as this avoids having to write on a wet envelope. The essential items are the date, river and approximate location, the sex of the fish (if known) and the fork length. The ungutted weight of the fish is not essential but is useful.
2. Scales should be taken from the flank of the fish slightly behind the top (dorsal) fin and just above the lateral line. Try to avoid any areas where there are old scars or other damage to the skin.
3. To dislodge the scales, take a sharp knife and gently scrape along the skin towards the head of the fish. Transfer the scales to the envelope. Only 6 scales from each fish will be used but it doesn't hurt to provide more.
4. Sample envelopes have been distributed to members and further supplies are available if needed. It would be appreciated if anglers could carry a couple of envelopes in their fishing bag to collect samples and to spread the word among others who catch salmon. Please do not however use plastic bags or packets as plastic disintegrates scale samples.



Please then return the sample to NZSAA, P O Box 1113, Christchurch, or give us a call (03 383 0900) and we will arrange for them to be collected. We appreciate your assistance in creating this continuing information base.



◆ ANGLERS OUTFITTERS ◆

**359 Lincoln Road, Christchurch**

Phone (03) 338 3131 Fax (03) 338 3535

Email: [info@fishermansloft.co.nz](mailto:info@fishermansloft.co.nz)

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

