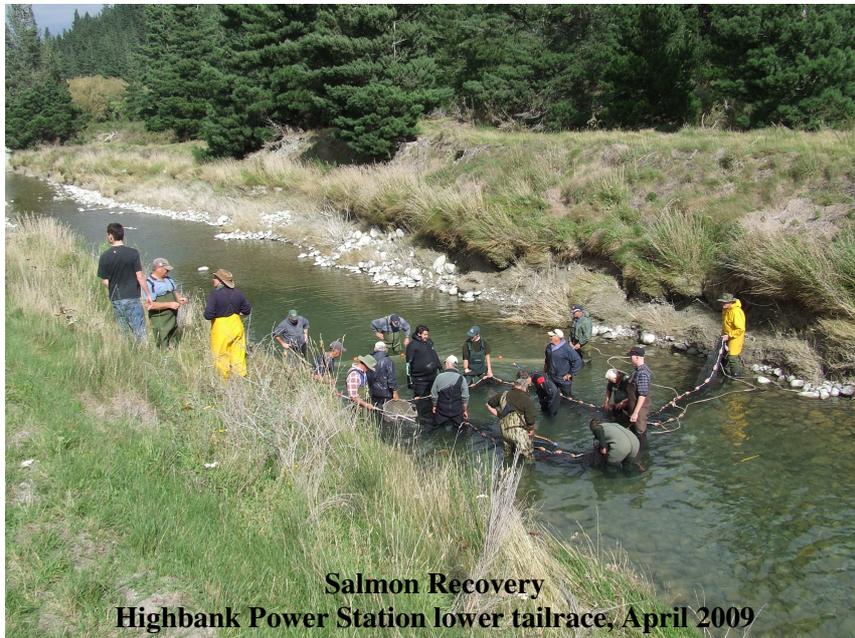


NZ Salmon Anglers Newsletter

APRIL-MAY 2009 Number 99



**DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING ON TUESDAY 19 MAY 2008**

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

**NEW ZEALAND SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (INC)
2008-09 OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE**

President	Ron Stuart	358 9082 021 216 3901	cquityron@xtra.co.nz
Vice President	Neville (Tim) Ellis	383 0900 021 363 140	npellis@paradise.net.nz Fax 383 0900
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
	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	welshflyfishnz@yahoo.co.nz
	Bruce Moody	980 1065 027 229 6302	brucemoody@paradise.net.nz
	Warren Windelburn	027 211 0418	
Patron	Athol Price	332 7698	

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, Tim Ellis, Brian Foley, 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 the New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association (Inc) or the Editor.



PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL

The season is drawing to a close, particularly for those fishing the lower river reaches. However the condition of some recently caught salmon may demonstrate that there could still be fish to come into the system.

Reports and catches indicate that it has been a reasonably good season overall, with perhaps indications of lesser numbers for the Waimak.

To keep a positive spin I have the opinion that good numbers of fish will be available for spawning in all rivers, even though some anglers report spending countless hours on the river and not sighting fish.

I have observed quite a variation in angler catches this season, with the seasoned angler down in bag numbers but on the other hand anglers without a return for some years have caught a fish or two.

Then there is the typical novice - jandals, shorts, a throw type cast - and whack, they hook up.

For the anglers that played the game to its fullest and came up empty, take this on board – *not all rugby players score a try, even though they occasionally get to touch the ball.*

We are just starting to get requests to assist with salmon stripping, and preparation work at the hatcheries. This will be followed some weeks later with ova planting. This is a great opportunity to get involved and gain some real satisfaction of being a contributor. Justification from my point of view is the numbers of clipped fish caught, added to which there is the returning enhancement fish, when combined must be making up to 60% –70% of the returns.

Many thanks to the volunteers that assisted Fish & Game clear the 620 odd salmon trapped in the Highbank tailrace. This situation should not have happened, but the best laid plans can go amiss. In any event it was a heap of fish and greater than 40% were fin-clipped. Likewise a number of our members volunteered for fin clipping at Montrose - thanks.

On the subject of Montrose, it is a credit to Dirk Barr and his team how they present the hatchery and commendations to Dirk for capturing over 6000 wild salmon and rainbow trout fry and growing them on in a special tank for later release in our lakes. These immature fish would surely have perished.

Our river conditions continue to worsen, with reduced water flows and increasing nutrient content. In spite of indications from the Hearing Commissioners relating to the storage dam not being approved for the Central Plains scheme, you can bet your short and curlies that the excessive water take will continue and conditions in the rivers will worsen. Abstraction from the aquifers must be affecting the river water levels, as I have observed several norwester alpine rainfalls that have never made it down the river.

Members of your committee continue to represent our views on water matters and particularly Tim Ellis fronting hearings. We have also corresponded to consent authorities in writing where representation by personal appearance is not possible. It really hacks you off that we and others have to spend so much time fighting legal matters when in fact our interest should be focused outside that concrete jungle and paper wars.

We have produced a new NZSAA member badge and hope that members will purchase it and wear it with pride. See details on later pages.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM on May 19, as we have some critical matters to put to the meeting and will appreciate your views and input.

Ron Stuart

PRESIDENT

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscription notices have been mailed to members with this newsletter.

Payment of subs at the AGM will be gratefully received

EMAIL ADDRESSES

On this year's subscription notice we have asked members to update their contact details. In particular, we would like to receive as many email addresses as possible. If we can compile a substantial email list, it will enable us to efficiently contact members for volunteer work and save the tedious telephoning and the risk of missing someone who really wants to help.

Also, this could enable the distribution of the newsletter electronically to those with the facility, which would be a huge saving in postage, printing and physically folding and stuffing over 300 envelopes every month or so.

Please let us have your email address if you have one. Either fill in the subscription notice if you are posting, or send the Secretary a message to

npellis@paradise.net.nz

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The Annual General Meeting of
New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association (Inc)
will be held on Tuesday 19 May 2009 at 7.30 pm.
in the Horticultural Hall South Hagley Park, Riccarton Rd,
Christchurch**

Business for the Meeting

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM 20 May 2008
3. Matters arising from Minutes
4. President's Report
5. Auditor's Report and Adoption of Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet
6. Election of Officers and Committee:
 - Patron
 - President
 - Vice Presidents (2)
 - Committee (6)
 - Secretary/Treasurer
 - Honorary Auditor
7. Fishing Competition Results and Awards
8. Athol Price Plaque Presentation
9. General Business
10. Guest Speaker:

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

Please bring this agenda, reports and annual accounts with you to the meeting.

President's Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2009

Foremost in my mind has been this Association's objective to continue with the enhancement of our fishery, by supporting any opportunities for the pro-active development of salmon numbers and any increase in annual returns. To the best of our ability this has been achieved, given the resources available and the co-operation of other parties and dedicated individuals.

We will watch with interest, this year's report by Fish & Game, to calculate the numbers of salmon caught, survey the high country for spawning numbers and count hatchery returns. We are confident this will confirm the results of enhancement efforts and management of conditions.

For sure we face many future challenges if we are to continue with a fishery reminiscent of previous abundant years, given the current state of our rivers and the potential outcome of yet further decisions to further minimise flows and river health. For these reasons our activity must remain focussed on continued enhancement programmes with assisted breeding and the continuation of hatchery facilities on our principal rivers, with expansion to encompass a hatchery facility within the control of angler organisations on the Waimakiriri.

An initiative has been taken by Fish & Game Council, supported by management and staff, to acquire the services of an expert in salmon breeding to visit and appraise our facilities and programmes, and view the natural spawning areas. From information gathered and research conducted, Don MacKinlay of Canada has the credentials to fulfil this role and will be here during late April and early May for 10 days. NZSAA has made a financial contribution towards this visit, along with other organisations, as the importance was such that rather than delay the visit until F&G could make a budget provision next year, it was in all our interests to have immediate support.

On matters internal or associated with our Association, we can draw a comparison with the state of the salmon fishery in that if we do not give attention to further enhancement it will die. Like returning salmon, we do not have sufficient renewable membership to continue the support it deserves. We have a wealth of great knowledge and fishery history, but that is of little use if it is not supported and furthermore the initiatives we need today are dissimilar to previous years and conditions put the whole game on a different platform.

For a start our membership equals about 3% of licence holders, we have been unable to attract a Secretary/Treasurer to replace Pam Ellis, we have committee

members unable to undertake any field work because of age or health, we do not have an Editor to put our monthly newsletter to print and it has been like pulling teeth to get consensus for development projects. And yet the importance of our Association is such that we must continue to be represented and be a voice where it counts. If you want a salmon legacy for future generations then you must be more pro-active or another form of Salmon Anglers representation will step up and take over and NZSAA as we know it will die.

For the immediate future your committee may be required to make alternative arrangements regarding meeting frequency, administration and representation.

Looking for a positive spin we do have brighter outlooks, with initiatives to build a wheelchair fishing platform and carpark at McIntoshes on the Waimak and to conduct a one-day salmon fishing competition on the Waimak followed by a prizegiving and social event. We anticipate this will encourage membership and give opportunity to attract funds for enhancement work.

There has been growing interest in the media coverage by articles contributed to *The Fishing Paper*, which has helped get information out to a whole bunch of anglers and others interested in the salmon fishery. Through this source we have had some new members who have read about our work and been stimulated to join up.

The death of Ron Dougherty was extremely sad and he has been recognised by every angler and a large number of organisations. We pay tribute to the work and effort he put into the salmon fishery. His dedication will cause a wave of support and wash over many future generations of activities and decisions. We have witnessed a personal contribution unsurpassed by any other over such a lengthy period and he will remain with a respectful thought as to how could one man make such a massive contribution in a lifetime. Tight lines Ron, and thank you for spending some of your life with us.

Thank you to all volunteers that stepped up and assisted during the year. Your efforts are indeed appreciated and I feel great pride in our organisation when you reward it with your personal efforts. Outside of our Association there are also a number of others that make excellent contributions that reflect on NZSAA and we thank them and acknowledge the wonderful contributions made. To Pam Ellis we owe her many many thanks, as her efforts and passion have kept us afloat - she just rocks on and has been an absolute fantastic supporter.

For me, I have enjoyed my term of office and have gained so much by way of eventual satisfaction, comradeship, direction and purpose. The future is in our hands, bring them forward and let's see what we can really do.

Ron Stuart

PRESIDENT

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Transplanting from existing boat is also an option.



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Email: info@fishermansloft.co.nz

**N.Z. SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (INC)
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR YEAR ENDED 31MARCH 2009**

Y/e		
31.3.08	Income	
7519	Subscriptions	7417.50
569	Donations	680.00
1235	Interest Received	1095.32
64	Dividends	67.16
615	Raffle	215.28
575	Advertising	550.00
83	Profit on Sale of Stock	150.15
-	Salmon Enhancement: F&G contribution	1098.16
	\$10660	\$11273.57
	Expenditure	
-	Advertising	157.50
5642	Newsletter and Postage	3087.17
1332	Secretary/Treasurer Honorarium	1260.00
594	Office Expenses	409.36
475	Meeting and Travel Expenses	130.00
187	AGM Costs	208.54
1212	Depreciation on Assets	856.05
594	Sundry Expenses	824.59
423	Salmon Enhancement	1264.59
	\$10459	\$8197.80
	\$201 Excess income over expenditure	\$3075.77

N.Z. SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (INC)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2009

Y/e			
31.3.08	ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
19153	Balance as at 1.4.08		19106.51
201	Plus Excess Income over Expenditure		3075.77
(248)	Plus Profit on revaluation of shares		408.80
<u>\$19106</u>			<u>\$22591.08</u>
	THESE FUNDS ARE REPRESENTED BY		
160	Office Equipment	159.90	
	Less Depreciation for Year	<u>32.00</u>	127.90
29	Fax Machine	29.00	
	Less Depreciation for Year	<u>8.70</u>	20.30
1410	Computer	1410.00	
	Less Depreciation for Year	<u>564.00</u>	846.00
305	Shed	304.95	
	Less Depreciation for Year	<u>45.75</u>	259.20
623	Emergency Beacon	623.00	
	Less Depreciation for Year	<u>205.60</u>	417.40
			1670.80
	INVESTMENTS		
11276	Term Deposit with Westpac Trust	12197.78	
1212	Shares in Sandford Ltd	<u>1620.60</u>	13818.38
	CURRENT ASSETS		
1668	Westpac Trust Savings Account	1846.48	
1585	Westpac Trust Bank Account	3644.68	
180	Subscriptions in Arrears	242.50	
913	Sundry Debtors	1024.17	
605	Stock	<u>1072.35</u>	7830.18
<u>\$19966</u>	TOTAL ASSETS		<u>\$23319.36</u>
	LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		
207	Subscriptions in Advance	280.00	
653	Sundry Creditors	<u>448.28</u>	728.28
<u>\$19106</u>	NET ASSETS		<u>\$22591.08</u>

N.Z. SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (INC)
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. General Accounting Policies

The general accounting principles as recommended by the N.Z. Society of Accountants for measurement and reporting of income and expenditure on an historical cost basis have been applied.

2. Particular Accounting Policies

The following particular accounting principles which materially affect the measurement of profit or the financial position have been applied -

- (i) Depreciation has been charged at 20% on the written down value of office equipment, 40% on the written down value of the computer and printer, 30% on the written down value of the fax machine, 15% on the written down value of the storage shed and 33% on the written down value of the Emergency Beacon.
- (ii) Subscription Debtors - included at amount expected to realise of \$280.
- (iii) Shares owned in Sanford Ltd. have been included at market price.

3. Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies that have a material affect in the current year or may have a material effect in subsequent years.

AUDITOR'S REPORT TO MEMBERS

I have obtained all the explanations and information I have required. In my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Association insofar as appears from my examination of those books. In my opinion, according to the best of my information and the explanations given to me and as shown by the books, the accounts, Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account are properly drawn up and give the information required by the Incorporated Societies Act 1908. The Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account give a true and fair view of the state of the Association's affairs as at 31 March 2009 and of the operation of the Association for the year.

Christchurch
18 April 2009

T.G. HAYES C.A (Retired)

**MINUTES OF THE 35th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
NEW ZEALAND SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (INC)**

**Held at the Canterbury Horticultural Society Hall, Hagley Park,
Christchurch, on Tuesday 20 May 2008 at 7.30 pm**

PRESENT

63 members and invitees were present at the meeting, chaired by President Ron Stuart.

APOLOGIES

Apologies received from Garth Taylor, Peter Lee, Dirk Barr, Jeanette Ball, Alan Waters, Trevor Hayes, Patricia and Neil Hartland, I E Woodford and Brian Dungey. Resolved on the motion of Tim Ellis, seconded Warren Windelburn, that these apologies be accepted.

REMEMBRANCE

The meeting stood in silence in remembrance of members who had died during the year: Colin MacNab, Dave Bashford, P E Keen and C E Bax.

MINUTES

The minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association (Incorporated) held on 15 May 2007, as circulated to members, were approved and adopted as a correct record on the motion of Jim Chisholm, seconded Kristine McKey. Carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ron Stuart moved that the President's Report for the year ended 31 March 2008 (copy attached and circulated to members), be adopted. Ron said that it was an honour to be President and he was encouraged by the enthusiasm and support of members and volunteers. He paid tribute to the work of the committee and volunteers who had given their time to NZSAA's salmon recovery programme. The motion to adopt the Report was seconded by Athol Price and carried.

FINANCIAL AND AUDITOR'S REPORTS

In presenting the financial report, accounts and balance sheet (as attached), the Treasurer noted that there had been a small excess of income over expenditure of \$201.18. All costs for salmon enhancement last year had been written off, except for the newly purchased emergency locator beacon that would be written

off in future years. The \$1211.90 depreciation of assets included a significant write-down on the computer. Honorary Auditor, Trevor Hayes, had noted that they were routine accounts and he considered that NZSAA was in a sound financial position to go forward in much the same way as present. On the motion of Peter Morgan, seconded by Dave Leigh, it was resolved that the financial report, accounts and balance sheet as presented and audited for the year ended 31 March 2008 be received. The Chairman extended a vote of thanks to Trevor for again undertaking the audit.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

Patron

The meeting was informed that Doug Roy was not seeking re-election as Patron this year. President Ron Stuart paid tribute to Doug for his service to NZSAA during his term of office and, in particular, for the tremendous work he had undertaken at Montrose and on the ova planting programme. While he was retiring as an officer of the Association, Ron expressed the hope that Doug would continue to share his special knowledge and experience in the recovery of the salmon fishery. The meeting showed their appreciation by acclamation.

Tim Ellis moved that Athol Price be elected as Patron for the ensuing year. Seconded by Warren Windelburn and carried. In accepting the appointment, Athol said that this was the 35th AGM he had attended and, although he had fished with more enthusiasm than success, he had experienced more fun with NZSAA in those years than with any other organisation. He noted there had been knockers along the way but NZSAA was still in good heart with a great team of volunteers and supporters committed to preserving the salmon fishery.

Officers and Committee

The following were nominated and duly declared elected:

President	Ron Stuart	Moved /Seconded Dave Leigh/Ken Paterson
Vice Presidents	Ron Dougherty & Tim Ellis	Athol Price/Florence Roy
Committee	Phil Ball , Brian Foley, John Healy Dennis Long, Alf Long, Bruce Moody, Kristine McKey, Robert McKey, James Parbery, Warren Windelburn	Tim Ellis/Ron Stuart
Secretary-Treasurer	Pam Ellis	Ron Stuart/W Windelburn
Honorary Auditor	Trevor Hayes	Ron Stuart/Steve McNeill

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The President said he was honoured to propose Tim Ellis and Brian Foley for Life Membership of NZSAA in recognition of their long and distinguished service to the Association.

Tim Ellis had been a member of NZSAA since 1980 and rose through the Committee ranks to President in 2003, serving four years in that capacity. Tim's particular interest was in water resources and the issues arising from the ever-increasing demands and environmental damage to our rivers. He became knowledgeable in the Resource Management Act and in preparation and presentation of submissions to hearings on applications affecting the salmon rivers. Some of the significant matters addressed, some of which were still proceeding, include the Rangitata Water Conservation Order, Central Plains Water and Project Aqua on the Waitaki.

Tim was an inaugural member of the Lower Waitaki Management Society set up following Project Aqua and he and Ron Dougherty had travelled many thousands of kilometres to represent NZSAA on this group.

The Rakaia River was Tim's favourite hunting ground and he spent many leisurely days fishing, boating and camping in this area. But he was always the watch-dog and reporter of breaches of the water consent conditions he knew so well, to the sorrow of some would-be wrongdoers.

Brian Foley had been a member of NZSAA since the early 1980s and on the Committee for most of that time. Brian's efforts had in the past concentrated on stream improvement work to ensure the best possible conditions for spawning salmon and for anglers' access to their favourite fishing grounds.

Brian had always had an affinity with the West Coast and spent some time living there on a business venture. He established a valuable liaison with local fishing groups and kept NZSAA well informed on the state of the West Coast salmon fishery. However, in typical West Coast style, some fishing spots and seasonal runs remained "State secrets" at certain times no doubt intended to prevent a gold-rush from the townies over the east side of the South Island!

Despite some years of ill health, Brian had retained his enthusiasm and remained on the Committee. Following recent successful surgery, Brian could look forward to full participation in NZSAA's activities and enjoyment of his salmon fishing.

The appointments as Life Members were carried with acclamation.

GUEST SPEAKER

John Morton, master fly-tyer and successful fisherman of local and world fresh and salt waters, thoroughly entertained the meeting with his exploits, expertise and wicked sense of humour. He shared some innovative techniques and methods of hooking up salmon and other fish species, and presented a portfolio of intriguing lures and flies.

OTHER SPEAKERS

Alan Brooks addressed the meeting on the initiatives that led to the establishment of the salmon hatchery at McKinnons Creek on the Rangitata River and the formation of the Rangitata Salmon Enhancement Trust. He expanded on progress to date and potential for a similar trust structure here in Christchurch.

Martin Clements, Chairman Fish & Game Council, touched on the welfare progress of Ross Millichamp, Montrose Hatchery tenancy and developments at Silverstream Hatchery.

Davor Bejakovich, Senior Fish & Game Officer, detailed permit restrictions by Dept of Conservation re transfer of eggs, ova or fish species and the requirement for water testing each and every time for Didymo infections. Davor detailed the survey process used of fish species Laser Chemical analysis for determination of origin and an update on progress with CPW Hearing proceedings.

Steve Terry, Fish & Game Field Officer gave a captivating photo and video presentation of the helicopter survey of salmon spawning locations and in-stream fish on the move. We were spellbound with the number of salmon in various pods that darkened the river bed for several metres: absolutely hundreds of salmon.

John Hodgson gave a demonstration of his coffin/lockers for ova planting and the techniques employed. A very innovative man with contributions of immense value.

Ian McCrory, Senior Ranger explained the current restructure of Ranger requirements, training and protocols. He also paid tribute to Athol Price and the honour bestowed by his Patron appointment.

NZSAA FISHING COMPETITION

The Chairman advised that 15 entries had been received (list appended to the minutes). The winners were presented with trophies and a \$50 voucher from Fisherman's Loft as follows:

Aquarius Cup for Heaviest Salmon Overall:

Phil Walsh of Woodend, 8.425 kg salmon, Waimakariri River Mouth on 16.1.08

Alty Roscoe Memorial for Biggest Fish Rakaia:

Clarrie Wright of Christchurch, 8.350 kg salmon, Rakaia River at Main Road bridge on 30.1.08.

Cromb & Merritt Trophy for Heaviest Salmon Waimakairi:

Kristine McKey of Christchurch, 8.030 kg salmon, Waimakariri River Mouth on 13.1.08

Lucky Draw from Remainder of Entries:

Wayne Chaney of Christchurch, 7.360 kg salmon, Waimakariri River Banana Hole on 23.3.08

Thanks were extended to Fisherman's Loft for donation of the winners' vouchers.

ATHOL PRICE PLAQUE

Athol Price announced that Gerry Van Der Krogt was this year's recipient of the Athol Price Plaque for outstanding service to the salmon sports fishery through his untiring and continuing voluntary work, particularly at the Montrose Hatchery. Gerry could not accept the award this evening as he was overseas on holiday but the Plaque would be presented to him at an appropriate occasion on his return.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Montrose: Doug Roy informed the meeting of statistics on numbers of eggs, hatching, etc. at Montrose.

Acknowledgements and Close of Meeting

Ron Stuart thanked members for their attendance and asked them to encourage their friends and fellow anglers to join NZSAA.

In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked the raffle prize sponsors, Wondercast, Anglers Warehouse, Parklands Tavern, Smiths City, Ballingers, Veges Direct and Bruce Moody.

The meeting closed at 10.30 pm and was followed by supper and raffle draws.

Signed as a correct record:.....Chairman 19 May 2009



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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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Phone 03 755 8662 (shop hours)

Observations on the Current State of the Salmon Fishery and NZSAA

A personal view from NZSAA member John Hodgson

After 50 years of salmon fishing I have the following observations on changes I have seen over the years for my fellow members. As I start to write this article, knowing that I will offend some members, I pause and consider, is this sensible? On the other hand, it is equally wrong that matters are not spoken about to help the salmon fishery recover.

Involvement

Without doubt the biggest problem facing the salmon fishery is the lack of active involvement of anglers, and rank and file salmon anglers, in issues affecting the salmon fishery.

This is reflected in a small number of core people involved in the committee and NZ Salmon Anglers Association projects. The average age on some activity days is over 75. Shame on the younger members for not actively forwarding their names and days available. (Yes, I understand that there are people working and have family commitments. But families could be involved in fin clipping, stream clearing and egg planting.) These are activities that can be safely completed by all ages. How many days/activities have you been involved in over the last year? Have you phoned up the committee requesting to be put on the list to help on the next project that requires manpower or are you leaving it up to the 80+ year olds?

Information

The second issue facing the salmon fishery is the lack of clear and concise information relating to the local fishery and issues affecting it.

This can be seen in the debates over egg planting in the high country and the controversy surrounding wild vs hatchery fish/eggs. It was interesting to look on the stunned faces as the 20+lb fin-clipped salmon were removed from the Highbank tail race recovery on 27 March. There are also significant returns to the Porter River and to Montrose. Sooner or latter a pragmatic common-sense approach needs to be adopted so that where influence can be exerted over the salmon fishery anglers are given the opportunity to be involved.

Water

There is less water in the rivers and the water temperature may be increasing which appears to reduce the chance of catching salmon

Water extraction exacerbates this further causing the temperatures of the rivers to be far too high for the salmon's requirements. One of our members has good records of Waimakariri salmon catches extending over 30 years and these indicate that the runs are becoming later and later in the season. The other aspect is, with late runs, will salmon come straight in and proceed rapidly up stream?

More research is required on the relationship between water temperature and catch rates of salmon. Anecdotal evidence has been detailed in previous articles but we require more members to take notes and temperature readings of the river and observations of whether the salmon are being caught or not.

In summary the best temperature to catch salmon appears to be less than 17°C (the cooler the better), 17-19°C marginal, and with few being caught over 19°C. The best spawning streams appear to have water temperature between 5°C to 10°C, clean stone areas for redd making, non serious flood streams, which are generally spring fed side streams. These conditions are to be found in the high country. The home river has to be of suitable temperature before the salmon start to come in from the sea and there are many more requirements for successful runs, such as memory imprinting. Imprinting is little understood and more research is required. All this contributes to the salmon's homing instinct to return to the rivers where they came from.

Early Days

Very low numbers of salmon reaching the headwaters after 2000 brought home the fact that the fishery was in a serious state. It is a personal opinion that the fishery in North Canterbury was saved from extinction by the efforts of NZSAA members who have been doing eyed ova planting for a long time.

There has been a salmon recovery programme since the disastrous returns of 2001. This programme has continued to grow and additional resource is required to build/renovate long boxes, Scotty boxes etc, prepare planting areas, complete planting on the day, and then recovery of the long boxes/Scotty boxes. Where are you prepared to help with the increased work load?

Does egg planting make a difference?

Yes, it does, but it's not the total answer, merely part of the answer to help increase salmon numbers. After a stream in the Hurunui had not had any salmon in it for 20 years, salmon have been observed in it after 3 years of egg planting.

Spawning streams should have regular maintenance to ensure that the most productive spawning possible can take place. It looks like the spawning streams have changed over the years.

The late Bill Elson was a NZSAA member and Wild Life Ranger. His diaries from 1965 to 2001 describe the late runs and the difficulties that go with them.

Extracts from these books are half completed and then begins the task of interpreting the information.

Whether the eyed ova could be either of hatchery origin or wild origin is of no consequence. The fact that they hatch in the highland water is where they get the best memory imprinting of where as adults they need to return to. Imprinting is little understood and more research is required.

Many of our retired members have memories of the good years of abundance, little angling pressure, pre 1980, and the stream cleaning and tree branch removal of the upland spawning areas that was carried out. Some of the changes since then are the introduction of the Resource Management Act and the creation of Fish & Game as the authority of the fishery.

The rainfall patterns have changed:

There have not been many heavy rainfalls to move the shingle along the stream beds (early autumn time) and some very intense rainfalls are occurring between redd making and hatching of the eggs.

Sluicing of the river bed would loosen up the gravel and make it easier for the fish to create redds. How important is this? Last year on a spawning stream that shall remain nameless for obvious reasons, the first part of the stream that salmon spawn in was the part where the farmer drove his truck through the stream loosening up the gravel. Fortunately the farmer noticed that the redd was there and stopped driving through the stream. Underwater sluicing is a very practical technique and could cost about \$3,000 to purchase the right pump and the use of two quad bikes. I hope to prove it this year if finance can be found.

Objective

For some years there has been a “them-and-us” attitude with Fish & Game. This has not been good. When all is said and done, we both have the same objective - the enhancement of the fishery. Our differences are how we go about it. As a result of this, a number of valuable years of egg-planting and stream work was not undertaken.

A turning point was achieved when Fish & Game gained the use of the Montrose hatchery and from 2004/5 we have had a reliable supply of eyed ova in addition to gifted ova from Silverstream etc. The situation from this time has been covered by our newsletters.

A point to remember is that Fish & Game has the authority and obligation to administer the fishery on behalf of the anglers but lacks some manpower. NZSAA has the knowledge and people resources but no authority. Having said this, both parties now understand the other’s situation better and, as matters and problems are put to one side, we have a working relationship that will help the salmon recovery programme.

Another factor that has helped both sides is the united effort in making submissions to the Central Plains Water and Water Conservation Orders of the main salmon rivers. Members' fees contribute to the costs incurred with these projects but do not cover all the costs for activities that are carried out on behalf of all members.

Of necessity, the next question is, what is being achieved by NZSAA?

To start with, the hatchery at Montrose triggered the alteration to the traditional activities of NZSAA and this had a very sharp learning curve on how to strip fish, fertilise the eggs, oxygen control and many other factors and heaps of do's and don'ts.

There are a number of members who doubt the benefits of the hatchery but, for us, it is by far the best source of eyed ova. It is the placement of the ova that is the key to the survival of the salmon fishery to preserve the 3 to 4 year cycle. As I understand, Jordon Scotty box use, barrel use and long Russi boxes are the only practicable methods available to NZSAA at the present for eyed ova planting.

The planting of the eyed ova in the selected streams balances out the years when the salmon are not able to return to their natal streams. This occurs because of many factors such as no entry possible to a spawning stream, delayed progress up the main river because of floods or low flows and high river temperatures so, at times, spawning takes place in the main river because nature dictates they must spawn, the time has come.

As I see NZSAA, the future needs to be, that we prepare some sections of known spawning areas by loosening the stone beds and maintain the egg planting.

Conclusion

All of the aforementioned leads to this next section: I would like to mention the names of all the people who have been involved in the many activities over the years. There are so many, it would be unfair to name just a few because each has contributed according to their time and ability.

However, being an entirely voluntary organisation, it is not good that we work the executive beyond reasonable responsibilities. Please realise that three of the committee are in their mid eighties and I am asking you to put your name forward, or someone you know, and gain an insight as to how it all works.

John Hodgson

22 April 2009

NEW



NZSAA MEMBERS' BADGES

This attractive blue enamel and silver badge is now available for purchase by members. The badge is about the size of the RSA badge, designed to wear on a lapel or hat.

Price \$10



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,**

Both items available from NZSAA, P O Box 1113 Christchurch 8140
or phone the Secretary on 03 383 0900

Salmon Recovery

Highbank Power Station Tail Race

A two day recovery of stranded salmon 27-28 April 2009

By John Hodgson and Pam Ellis

Although the power station is not operating at the present time, there is a small flow of water passing through. On Friday 27 March 2009 a team of 28 people gathered together for the rescue of some 600 salmon stranded in the tail race of the Highbank Power Station on the Rakaia River. There were a number of Rakaia people, Fish & Game staff and rangers and NZSAA members.

While looking at the salmon swimming around and around, it is hard to estimate their numbers or condition. It was an awesome sight - brought joy to the heart of a luckless salmon angler just to see all these fish. But they had to be removed from their present location.



Shoaling salmon in the tailrace at the entry to the Power Station building

The rescue operation was effected by dropping nets from the power station building down into and completely across the tailrace water and dragging the nets down to the shallows where the volunteers captured the salmon in scoop nets one by one (sometimes two by the strong fellas) and lifted them by chain gang up the bank into the two F&G tankers. They were then taken to the Rakaia River and released into a good flowing channel.

This all sounds a straightforward procedure but it took a little while for the volunteers to develop the knack of scooping the salmon in the water. A bit like herding cats!

Five or more of the F&G personnel were kitted out in diving gear. These guys did a great job in and under the cold water, putting the net in, dragging it down the race and holding it in place while the recovery proceeded.



Dragging the net downstream, enclosing the salmon

Once the lifting of the salmon began, it was amazing to see the size and good condition of most of them, a good estimate of weight being 11 to 15 lbs and a few probably 18 to 20 lbs. There were about 12 runts and about 8 small salmon.

300 metres further down the raceway there were another 51 salmon holding in slightly deeper water in the raceway. These fish were in an excellent condition and were also salvaged for return to the river. (See cover photo.)

Tallyman, John Hodgson, was kept busy at the top of the bank counting the salmon into the tanks. Keeping a tally of the salmon being placed in the transfer tankers is not as simple as it might appear, particularly when several of the landing nets had more than one fish in them and everyone likes to know “How many so far?” It is for this reason the tally for the day of 421 was actually 391.

A further complicating factor in the count was noting the fin-clipped salmon, but John Hodgson is confident that the following facts are correct. This was a rare opportunity to assess the proportion of fin clipped to the wild stock.

There were 15 tanker loads for the first day's effort, a total of 391 salmon and 165 of these were fin clipped. Giving a fin clipped percentage of 42.7%.

On the Saturday, most of the remaining salmon were lifted out by another group of volunteers and to estimate the percentages, an average was calculated from the first 15 tanker loads and the results are 206 fish, so 85 would be fin clipped.

A grand total of 597 fish and of these 250 were fin clipped = 41.87%

It was a cold nor'west wind and overcast. By mid afternoon it cleared and was excellent. The water temperature was 12.6°C.

Sadly, we have to report that at the downstream end of the concreted portion of the raceway from the power house were some dead salmon and some had died because of shotgun pellets in their heads!

The seriousness of the situation was evident by the swift arrival on Friday morning of senior personnel from the Power Company and enforcement staff from Environment. How and why the salmon came to be stranded in the tailrace in such a large number was the subject of on-site discussions between these authorities and Fish & Game. We understand that F&G will receive full cost recovery for the two days operations. However, let's hope that management of the tailrace and associated structures will prevent recurrence of such a large salvage in future.

We don't know whether any anglers upstream of the release site were suddenly delighted by lots of salmon sightings or catches. Rather, we think the salmon would be travelling deep and fast on their journey, with a sniff of the nor'west indicating a rising river.

A great cooperative effort by Fish & Game staff and volunteers.

John Hodgson

Pam Ellis

30 April 2009

Footnote:

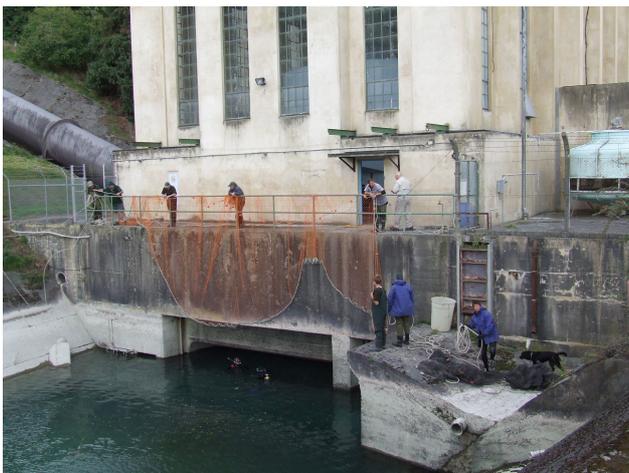
Thanks to John Hodgson for the photos. (Dopey Pam Ellis managed to delete 60 photos in downloading from her camera to the computer! If there is a forensic computer expert out there, let's hear from you.)



The Chain Gang



Catch of the Day! One of the largest salmon rescued.



Dropping the net into the tailrace at the power station.
Note the divers in the water at the outlet.

Waimakaririan Scoops the Rakaia 26th Annual Salmon fishing Competition

Contributed by Ron Stuart

Alan Waters, a keen salmon angler and frequent competitor in the competition, this year scooped the pool with the Heaviest Salmon Overall, earning some \$6000 worth of premier prizes. Not only did he win the best Fish of the Day but his luck was in this weekend with a choice lucky draw prize of a trip to Moeraki to fish with Sirocco Fishing Charters (Martin & Sharon Finnie) with a prize value of approx \$1500 sponsored voucher.

Hey, when you're hot you're hot – great one Alan, and its good to see the prize going to a competitor who is a keen fisherman, a keen sponsor of the sport and one of the contributors to others fishing, whitebaiting and recreation with the operation of Kairaki Beach Camp, the home of many successful anglers, each season. Bronwyn & Alan have been the proprietors of the Kairaki Beach Camp for nearly 30 years. Their pricing structure supports a facility within the range of keen angler-campers, along with whitebaiters and other recreational users. Many permanents make this base their home. Weekend or holiday campers find the atmosphere and facilities great and an excellent refuge from the city hustle and bustle.

In 2001 Alan & Bronwyn's son Matthew won the Junior section of the Rakaia Competition with a 5.73 kg salmon. Alan's prize fish this year clocked the scales at 7.924kg and was landed in a pool off Griggs Road at Rakaia. When the fish hooked up Alan knew he had a fight on his hands as it hit the fast water and over the next 15–20 minutes took Alan 500 metres downstream. On the rod it felt really good and one commentator watching said at the time, judging by the size of a tail splash, you've got a good one this time Alan. Once he managed to beach the fish it was a fair struggle to release the hooks from its mouth as they were quite distorted. When describing the fish Alan was of the opinion it had been in the river awhile and may have shed up to 2kg, as it was colouring up with that mature pigmentation.

The prize pool for the Heaviest Salmon was sponsored by Hamill's Fishing & Hunting Specialists, Stony Creek and Rakaia River Fishing Promotions. Included in the prize pool was the trophy for the Heaviest Salmon Overall and any angler would be proud to have it grace their trophy collection. As for the range of sponsored prizes, absolutely magnificent is how it is described, with the array of rods, reels, equipment, waders, and jackets etc. It would make a professional's mouth water and forever be an amateur's dream.



Alan Waters with all his prize “loot” from the Rakaia Competition

Given Alan & Bronwyn’s commitment 24/7 as hosts of the Kairaki Camp, I asked the question what they did for a break away from the Camp and what other interests did they have? The response was a quick one as there is also a passion for salt water fishing with snapper being choice on top of the list, along with tasty blue cod and some scallops for entrée. Where does this happen? At their holiday home at Havelock, the retreat away from it all and not a busman’s holiday either. Not sure what Alan does with his best mate, a prize Alsatian, and its friend Buck the Rabbit: perhaps he leaves them to keep guard at the Camp, while they are away.

What a great weekend for the Water’s household and a thrill to experience. Alan’s \$6000 prize pool will support his fishing and shooting interests for many years as the quality and choice of product and equipment are absolutely tops.

When you’re hot you’re hot and now the best dressed and equipped for years to come.

Ron Stuart

News from NZSAA Otago Branch

2009 Otago Harbour Salmon Fishing Competition

NZSAA Otago Branch's annual harbour competition was held over the weekend 21-22 February, with \$10,000 of donated prizes up for grabs. Ticket sales were down slightly on last year but this could be attributed to the very wet weather leading up to and continuing over the weekend of the competition. However, feedback from those who went out and braved the conditions was very positive.

27 salmon were weighed in, the winner being Craig Peat of Invercargill with his 5.11kg salmon. Craig apparently travelled to Dunedin for the weekend to visit some old school mates and they took him fishing! Craig returned to Dunedin to try his luck again the following weekend with his son who also landed a salmon. Needless to say, Craig is adamant that he is returning for the 2010 competition.

NZSAA Otago Branch encourages young people to try their luck in fishing. They are encouraged to see a good number of parents taking their children either down to the wharf or out in a boat on the harbour and teaching them to fish. As part of the annual harbour fishing competition, Junior angler prizes were available and this year 8 year old Jamie McIvor caught two respectable sized salmon, showing that he can foot it with his adult counterparts.

Waitaki River

Environment Canterbury has approved the water consents applications by Meridian Energy for the purpose of building the proposed North Bank Tunnel Scheme. All is not lost, however, as a number of groups have appealed the ECan decision and the matter will now be subject of an Environment Court Hearing.

Otago Harbour Smolt Release

In November 2008, NIWA sold Silverstream Hatchery at Kaiapoi to Salmon Smolt NZ Ltd which is owned by a consortium of commercial salmon farmers. NZSAA Otago has purchased smolt from Silverstream for at least the past 5 years as it is the only hatchery in the country that supplies smolt in winter. Scientific research has established that to achieve best possible returns to the Otago Harbour, best results will be achieved by releasing large smolt in May to August. Past experience has shown earlier releases lead to virtual extermination of smolt by predators such as barracuda and shags. For this reason, large smolt are purchased in May or June when there are no predators in the harbour.

This year, Otago NZSAA has worked extremely hard to raise in excess of \$45,000 to purchase 30,000 smolt and pay the transport costs to deliver them safely to the harbour. The smolt release will take place in the second or third week of June and will be done in two shipments.

Otago Branch visits South Canterbury NZSAA

On 28 March eight members of the Otago Branch travelled through to the Rangitata River Mouth and spent the late afternoon trying their luck to catch a salmon. The team stayed overnight at the South Canterbury Branch hut and next morning travelled to the McKinnons Creek Hatchery. Here they joined in on a well-organised operation to fin-clip 57,000 salmon smolt readying them for release in August. Approximately 120 people turned out to net, fin-clip, record numbers and carry out regular checks of oxygen levels to ensure survival of smolt during the operation.

An inspection was also undertaken of the downstream fish-trap where a dozen good sized salmon were netted and transferred to a holding pen to join 35 other salmon which were being held to mature pending stripping of eggs and milt to supply next season's smolt for release.

Last Ride for Atlantic Salmon

Source: F&G News



The last remaining stock of Atlantic Salmon have been released from the Wanaka Hatchery ending two chapters of Fish & Game history simultaneously.

The Atlantic Salmon had been held at the hatchery for over twenty five years in the hope that an opportunity to establish a wild populations might arise. However the small number remaining and the limitations of the original stock meant they were of limited use as brood stock. With no practical value as a commercial species in New Zealand and little potential to establish, or re-establish as a self sustaining fishery the decision has been made to dispose of them. The last remaining stock have been liberated into Lake Henry near Te Anau and a small number are on display at the popular Lions Club trout viewing area in the township where they will hopefully provide a spectacle for anglers for years to come. The parent stock was apparently gained from the upper reaches of a Lake Te Anau tributary so it seemed fitting that they be returned to as close as possible to that site.

The liberation of these Atlantic Salmon, which was the last of the sportfish housed at the Wanaka hatchery, ends a 60 year history of raising trout and salmon at the site. During its heyday, the hatchery could raise a million fry per year and was responsible for stocking many waters in the Otago region and included a few waters on the West Coast. With most of the regions sports fisheries self sustaining and a small annual need of 6000 yearlings to maintain the regions Put-and-Take fisheries (which can be handled by the Macraes Hatchery in North Otago) the large and aging facility can finally be closed down.



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