

NZ Salmon Anglers Newsletter

MARCH 2010 Number 102



Committee Rules Supreme

(See story on page 14)

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

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Committee Meetings:

The Committee meets on the first Monday each month (except January) at 7.30 pm in the Fish & Game premises, 3 Horatio Street, Christchurch. Members and supporters are welcome to attend these meetings.

Honorary Auditor: Trevor Hayes

Life Members: Lindsay Dell, Pam Ellis, Tim Ellis, Brian Foley, Trevor Hayes, John Healy, Ken Hughey, Ross Lightfoot, Athol Price, Doug Roy, Stephen Sparrow



PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL

Greetings fellow anglers and congratulations to those of you that have already bagged salmon. I had expectations of greater returning fish numbers at this point, based on my season experience to date on the Waimak, but reports of catches in other rivers give rise to a feeling of anticipated expectation.

My personal opinion leans towards our requirement to increase hatchery raised fry for release as the option of reliance on high country spawning is not flicking into gear with higher returns of salmon to our rivers, given the intensive effort with enhancement programmes over the last five years.

The influence of water abstractions, chemicals from numerous sources getting into the waterways, destruction of spawning habitat through stocking or livestock pressures and factory farming methods over dairying, aquaculture, horticulture and agriculture must be having a dramatic influence.

At least we did something and the graph of returns has had an upward influence and we are still seeing fish being caught so that's the positive and I have confidence we will see much more positivity with the initiatives being taken where it counts.

It is important at this point that we support any initiative that will enhance the fishery and those that are doing it. I was encouraged, when attending a recent

Fish & Game Council meeting and observed the steps that are being taken and enthusiasm from the group of councillors and staff.

As an example of steps in this direction, last December we were called upon to assist with fin-clipping at Montrose a sample group of 3.5gm average fry from some 100,000 which are to be released as up to 7gm fish in the high country waters. There was a fantastic turnout of volunteers and we managed to clip our way through around 30,000. When they return in three years or so there will be a good benchmark sample to gauge the success of this raise and release method.

The Waimakariri Salmon Fishing competition, sponsored by New Brighton Sports and Kilwell, attracted much interest and a good number of entries for a first-time event. Entries were accepted up to the morning of 5 March as we guessed the slow salmon returns held some competitors back.

The after function and prizegiving at the Kaiapoi Club was a great event even though it was necessary to cancel the special evening meal option in favour of the Club's bistro meal. We especially acknowledge the very generous sponsorship of the competition by New Brighton Sports and Kilwell. The range of sponsored prizes was impressive. Members are asked to support these sponsors when purchasing their fishing or other sports equipment.

We were also encouraged that quite a few competitors joined NZSAA when sending in their entries. The competition has obviously raised an awareness of our Association and indicates that this is an activity that members and supporters will enjoy in future.

In this issue I have provided an update on the proposed Wheelchair Fishing Platform and carpark at McIntosh's which has achieved a long-awaited approvals breakthrough and fantastic support which has been fee free or through voluntary contributions.

During the period since our last newsletter I made contact with Environment Canterbury and had a response from Angus McKay, Councillor. The matter raised was the amount of measured water at the Rakaia Gorge, the gauged flow at the mouth, the requirements of the Water Conservation Order and the variance of water quantity between the Gorge and the mouth. The WCO states that the amount should be the same or consistent throughout the river and specifies cumecs. It is obviously not and, when this question was put, he stated that all water abstractions stop when the river level gets below the WCO requirements. If not, ECan will prosecute any offender and he invited us to supply any such information.

Councillor McKay advised having evidence that there is a natural decline in water quantity through absorption into aquifers or the water travelling underground as it travels to the coast.

Another thought or idea he had was better use of water from Lake Coleridge and that apart from using it as an energy source for power it be piped down through the Plains and replace run of the river abstractions.

I leave you to form your own opinions as I am not of a predictive mood or influence at this time.

With the Waimak competition behind us and a financial contribution towards our Salmon Enhancement Programme this season, our attention turns to topping up the larder with a couple more salmon and being prepared for salmon stripping and later ova planting.

Footnote: The biggest salmon I've witnessed this season was a fraction off 30lb and the smallest 2.2kg or under 5lb.

Cheers



Ron Stuart
PRESIDENT

Disclaimer

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

Notices

Annual General Meeting

Preliminary Notice

The NZSAA Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 May 2010
7.30 pm.
in the Horticultural Hall South Hagley
Park, Riccarton Rd, Christchurch

Make a diary note now.

NZSAA Salmon Competition

For NZSAA members to enter their salmon catches during the 2009-10 season. Entry form on page 27.

Sponsored by Fisherman's Loft.

Subscriptions Reminder

Have you paid your subscription?

Our financial year ends at the end of March so another year's subscription will be due from 1 April. If you are paying at this stage, please include next year's sub as well.

NZSAA Website

Your Committee has decided to go ahead with developing a website for New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association. This will enable us to promote the aims and objects of the Association and be a readily searchable source of information on our salmon fishery to visitors and prospective members. It will also contain current news in a "members' only" section.

We do not have anyone on the Committee who has the expertise in setting up and maintaining a website and we will need to engage professional commercial assistance to do the work. However, if there is a member or anyone else reading this newsletter that has the skills and desire to assist us in this project we would love to hear from you.

Please contact President Ron Stuart on phone 358 9082 or drop him an email on cqurityron@xtra.co.nz.



New Brighton Sports-Kilwell Waimakariri Salmon Fishing Competition

On 6 March the first event of its kind took place on the Waimakariri River embracing the entire river from the main road rail bridge to the mouth. In excess of 120 anglers participated in this event including juniors under age 16. The juniors entered free with, where required, Fish & Game sponsored licences.

The day started off with threatening weather, which soon turned to brilliant clear skies and fishing conditions without the harsh coastal winds. All the desirable locations on the river were packed with anglers on the banks and boaties out in the stream. I must admit that some anglers, to their sorrow, were not entered into the competition. For those that were, the air of expectation remained on high alert all day, fishing the tide down with everything being favourable except a good flush of salmon.

Four salmon and four kahawai were registered in the competition prize pool and we are happy to say the prize pool was so generous that all registrants received prizes.

The biggest registered salmon was 7.2kg caught by NZSAA member Keith Gallagher, followed by Roy Blunt's 5.9kg salmon and Dean Austin coming in third place with a handsome 4.45kg attractive fish.



A very happy Keith Gallagher with his prizewinning salmon

Peter Cooper bagged the smallest salmon which tipped the scales at 2.2kg - a good pan cooking fish.

The kahawai have been superb this year and in great condition so Tim Gilmore pulled in a 4.1kg fish. (President Ron says kahawai is great smoked or soaked in milk then crumbed and fried - can't tell the difference between this and snapper!)

The prize pool resulted in heaviest salmon receiving some top Kilwell and New Brighton Sports fishing equipment valued at around \$1500, then it scaled down for second and third. A special bonus prize was awarded for the smallest salmon. On top of this Kairaki Beach Motor Camp (Alan Waters) and City Drainage owner, Richard Chettle, donated generous fish sports store vouchers, won by Stuart Grant and Tim Gilmore. Then to add to the prize pool, Warren Pender expert net maker, donated a salmon landing net with a lucky draw going to Bruce Moody.



*Dean Austen 3rd prize winner
"landing" his catch*

No salmon were registered for the junior section, and the prizes were allocated by a barrel draw with Trent Simpson, Ben Healey and Michael Ward being the lucky recipients. All juniors went away with a gift of value courtesy New Brighton Sports.

Pete Hart of New Brighton Sports and Simon Emmerson, Kilwell representative, presented the major prizes and stated how pleased they were to be involved in this event. So were the competition organisers, NZ Salmon Anglers Association, as funding raised from the event will go a long way to assisting this season's salmon enhancement programme. Not only did the sponsors provide the prize pool but through their generosity supported the salmon fishery. This was a friendly, low-key type of event that attracted the genuine salmon angler and, at the same time, developed an air of camaraderie and unchallenged rivalry amongst a very friendly crowd synonymous with the courtesy of fishing the Waimak.

The Kaiapoi Workingmen's Club was the venue for the Happy Hour and Prizegiving, which provided a great atmosphere for the presentations and hospitality opportunities as well as top class restaurant facilities.

All comments received have been positive for a continuation of this event and NZ Salmon Anglers Association is keen to support its promotion as so much benefit will go to the fishery to support a keen volunteer group for this season's salmon enhancement programme.

As always with an event like this there was a band of willing workers in the background ensuring the success of the day. Special thanks must be extended to President Ron Stuart who had the vision to promote the competition and obtained the generous sponsorship from New Brighton Sports and Kilwell. Secretary Heather Saunders undertook all the administration tasks of preparing conditions and entry forms, processing entries and results and, together with “Uncle Dennis” (Long), stationed themselves as Admin HQ all day on the river bank in Dennis’s motorhome. Thanks also to Ian McCrory and the team of rangers who manned the weighstations and patrolled the fishing areas.

And the final and most important word: the competition would not have been possible or so successful without the sponsorship of New Brighton Sports and Kilwell. NZSAA members are asked to support these sponsors when purchasing their fishing or other sports equipment.



Weighmasters Ian McCrory and Pat Golan



Right: Simon Emmerson (Kilwell), Pete Hart (New Brighton Sports), Keith Gallagher winner heaviest salmon.

Below: Pete Hart and Tim Gilmore, winner heaviest other species.



NEW BRIGHTON SPORTS

Pete Hart

Pierside - 10 Beresford Street, New Brighton, Christchurch.
Ph. 03 388 8251 Fax. 03 382 5122

“At Last, a Reality”....

Wheelchair Fishing Platform

Waimakariri River – McIntosh’s

Twelve months ago, NZSSA President Ron Stuart, commenced a project to build a wheelchair fishing platform and a wheelchair carpark on the Waimakariri River. The approval for this project went down an interesting but predictable path of bureaucracy because the Waimakariri District Council and other authorities, including some high office boffins in Wellington, were naturally cautious of this new and innovative idea. We are now thrilled to advise that the Waimakariri District Council has approved this project, with the support of a qualified engineer’s design and construction producer review statement and Environment Canterbury’s approval to use the land.

Here is the plan:

An initiative to establish a platform which is wheelchair friendly has been designed and planned for location on the northern bank of the Waimakariri River just to the seaward side of where the mouth of the Kaiapoi River enters the Waimakariri, known as McIntosh’s, a renowned location for catching sea-run salmon as they migrate upstream to spawn from November through to April. Every day of the fishing season there are a regular group of anglers fishing here, at times reaching up to 150 at this popular location.

Throughout Canterbury there is no suitable location where a person confined to a wheelchair is able to fish for salmon, unless they have a care-minder to assist. In fact this situation applies across the whole of New Zealand, so the development of this proposed facility will be unique worldwide. The objective established for this project was to provide an option for a person confined to a wheelchair for mobility to be able, independently, to get themselves to the riverside and successfully cast a line for salmon on equal terms to all other licensed fisherman.

For this purpose a fishing platform on the riverbank has been designed capable of accommodating three wheelchairs along with a three-vehicle carpark and sealed 100 metre roadway from the Ferry Road entrance leading up over the stopbank to the platform. This provides complete independence for the wheelchair fisherman and consultation with potential users confirms it to be a very exciting option providing opportunity for 100’s of new fisherman, and have a meaningful purpose and equality with other able-bodied persons. Current user potential 100–150 wheelchair anglers.

Consultation with Parafed, Burwood Spinal Unit, Environment Canterbury, Waimakariri District Council, Fish & Game and community service organisations have total praise for this facility and advise that it will provide excellent options for a large number of wheelchair people.

The project objective is that the Wheelchair Fishing Platform be for sole use of persons reliant on a chair for mobility. The project does not allow options to accommodate other users and entry through the carpark will be only to approved users, otherwise other users would be able to take advantage of the facility and disadvantage the intended use.



The budget cost for this project is around \$25,000 which will include asphalt on the carpark and roadway over the stopbank and installation of the platform. The final steps in this project are to engage an engineer to provide specifications for the platform and compliance with Environment Canterbury's flood control requirements.

Credits for the achievement to date and voluntary/fee free contribution go to Andrew Lill of Lill Consulting for his platform design and specifications, Steve McNeill for his specifications for the roadway and carpark, Colin Pullan Waimakariri Dist Council for approval to proceed, Gregory Byrne, Brian McIndoe and Leigh Skerten of ECan for resource approval and use of land, Tony Marshall Department of Building and Housing for their breakthrough decision. Even though this process took over 12 months of intensive negotiations and research the result has been worthwhile as well as being a bench mark breakthrough. Thanks go to this team, for which we are extremely grateful.

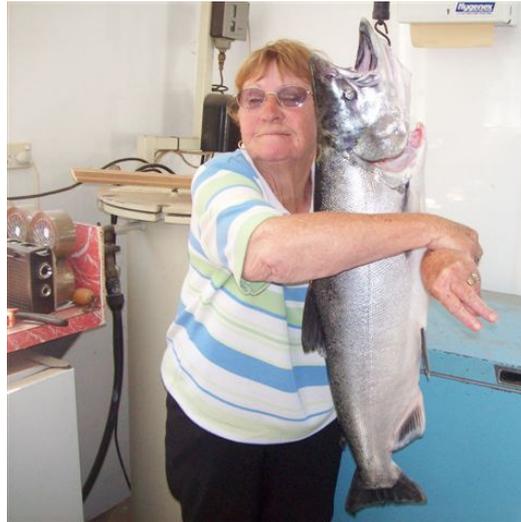
We are seeking sponsorship for this project and see this as a fantastic opportunity for a facility that will provide decades of use for wheelchair fisherman and give them other options of fishing for herrings, trout, kahawai, whitebait and other resident fish species. Can you imagine the delight of a Wheelie, who's just got out of bed / Burwood Hospital going and catching a fish or see them being caught.

Although the project is under the auspices of NZ Salmon Anglers Association, the concept is President Ron's brainchild and he has undertaken all the investigation, design, consultation and approval procedures himself. It is now up to the rest of us to assist Ron in completing this worthwhile project. There is still a lot to do, particularly in raising the money to construct the platform. If you are able to offer practical assistance or, most importantly, suggest possible sources of financial support, this would most be gratefully appreciated. Naming rights will also be available.

Any enquiries should be directed to Ron Stuart at New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association cqurityron@xtra.co.nz or 021 21 63901.

Persistence pays off.....

Mary Corsbie has every reason to cuddle this 19lb salmon which she caught recently in the Rakaia River. It is her first (salmon, that is) for seven years.



Mary and Tony Corsbie are long-time caravanners at the Rakaia River Holiday Park and, since retirement, have adopted a permanent caravan life, travelling gypsy-style around the country but always back to Rakaia for October 1 through to the end of the fishing season.

You have to admire this lady: in the past few years, she has endured and survived several occasions of serious ill health and been airlifted off the Waimakariri River after a crash in the jet boat. The lure of the river was dulled for quite a while after this last event. However, while you won't now see them on the river in the little yellow jet boat, fishing is back on the agenda and at a more sedate pace from a utility 4WD.

So persistence has paid off with Mary's 19-pound catch. No doubt there has been great celebration and storytelling at Happy Hour in the Rakaia Camp. Should be a worthy winner of the monthly Camp prize for the heaviest fish.

Can't imagine where all the salmon will be stored in the caravan, but no doubt suitable arrangements will be made.

Congratulations Mary. (Isn't there always some bugger around with a camera and a big mouth!)

"Anon"

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Committee Members Rule Supreme - NZ Salmon Anglers Rewarded

(Cover picture story)

On this day (mid March) the fishing had been slow at the mouth of the Waimakariri, the tide was almost out and catches for the day not brilliant then, at the tide-turn, it was “fish on”. In fact it happened four times. But it was not just four fish taken, it was three NZSAA committee members and one other. Yes, Warren Mackie landed a 4.36kg., followed by Bruce Moody with a 7.38kg salmon and the master of the fishery, 82 year Dennis Long, pulled in a 4.70kg beauty. All fish were shining silver!!.

Let’s talk about the personalities, as these three men put far more into the fishery than they could take out in a life time:

Warren is a dedicated trout and salmon fisherman but, in saying this, he is a valued committee member and whenever there is a project on for volunteer work he’s first in the queue.

Dennis has served his apprenticeship, his masters and whatever else. His life has been salmon and even at the young age of 80+ he gives 120%. (So much so that a little dicky -bird told the editor that in a recent pursuit of a salmon on the Rakaia River, Dennis got his 4WD well and truly stuck and had to spend precious fishing time walking out to get help.)

Bruce is dedicated to fishing but since joining NZSAA at committee level he has projected the Alevinator hatchery method which uses fridge bodies for raising ova to alevin release.

These three people do so much for the fishery and if they each caught 20 fish a year they’d still be in the good-books credit for effort in returns out. Great work guys and sincerely well deserved catches.



***“The Treble Hook”
Bruce Moody, Dennis Long, Warren Mackie***

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A Drive to an Alaskan Fish Camp

by Peter Talbot

While more and more Kiwi anglers are travelling to Alaska to catch salmon, very few recreational anglers get a chance to go to a genuine professional Alaskan fish camp. Because we knew a family member, we were fortunate to be invited to spend a night in their camp.

Always remote, always dangerous, and run by people with a rifle handy who were not past shooting out other fishers' buoys if they felt they were doing too well. It was 21 miles along the high water mark to get there. We travelled in a convoy of three very rusty, hotted-up pickups and one rotted-out Subaru. Winches on the front and rifles in the cab, they went in with one ton bins filled with ice and came out the next tide with bins full of salmon.

With the need to run the beach track between tides, bears and the fierce competition between fishermen, these camps are no place for the meek.

The fishermen put out long nets from the shore at low tide. They watch to see splashing and then clear the nets from aluminium dinghies. And the fish they were catching were mainly king salmon, sea fresh and big! Some would be record size if caught on a line.



47lb King Salmon



Fish Camp transport

Our evening meal was bycatch flounder cooked in foil over an open fire sitting amongst the driftwood on the beach watching the nets in the long twilight. There is no real night to slow proceedings so, as soon as the tide drops, there is a rush to get the nets back in safely and head for the canneries.

The uncertainty of access means the whole camp must be made secure each trip although one hardy woman in the next camp stayed for up to three weeks at a time - and did she have some bear stories!

Fishing is strictly regulated. The authorities advise by radio when fishing is allowed and for how long. Their airplanes patrol the whole coastline and the penalties are enormous. But the rewards are good. Each pickup takes at least one ton of fish to the cannery. A permit on the other hand is worth many thousands if you can persuade a family to sell one. And you must be Alaskan. They are considered heirlooms and just don't change hands.

We went in with ten family members, all of whom had tasks to do. They are some of the most hard working self-reliant people you can imagine. They operate right on the edge of safety where there is limited help if things go wrong. These folk do not take kindly to strangers or anyone they think might be interested in their fish. However, they made us very welcome, shared their food and camp with us, and explained that the door to the hut was wobbly because a bear had pushed it in and spent a night or two.

Peter Talbot

NZSAA member

pdtalbot@xtra.co.nz

Overseas News

Winnemem Wintu Tribal Leaders to ask Salmon to Come Home

By Jesse McKinley, New York Times

On 19 March more than two dozen Native Americans embarked on a spiritual mission to New Zealand where they will ask their fish to come home to California. The unusual journey centres on an apology to be relayed to the fish on the banks of the Rakaia River through a ceremonial dance that tribal leaders say has not been performed in more than 60 years.

The fish is the Chinook salmon, native to the Pacific but lately in short supply in the rivers of Northern California, home to the Winnemen Wintu, a tiny, federally unrecognised and poor tribe supported by some social security payments, a couple of retirement plans and the occasional dog sale.

As the Winnemem see it, the tribe's troubles began in early 1940s, with the completion of the Shasta Dam, which blocked the Sacramento River and cut off the lower McCloud River, obstructing seasonal salmon runs, and according to the tribe, breaking a covenant with the fish. "We're going to atone for allowing them to build that dam," said Mark Franco, the tribe's headman. "We should have fought harder."

As luck would have it, the United States government once bred millions of Chinook eggs from the McCloud and shipped them around the world in hopes of creating new fisheries, including a batch that went to the South Island of New Zealand, where the fish thrived.

And so it is that the Winnemem - who have used their spiritual powers in the past to try to stop dam construction, heal the sick, and sway the votes of a US Senator - are on an 11,000-mile vision quest whose itinerary, according to the tribe's chief, came to her from a higher plane.

"The spirits came into the fire area here," said the chief, Caleen Sisk-Franco, referring to the tribe's circular, open-air meeting room. "And they said, 'You've got to get it done.'"



Caleen Sisk-Franco, chief of the Winnemem Wintu tribe

About 30 tribe members live in trailers and small houses on the hilly compound outside Redding, California, which is also home to 10 horses, dozens of dogs bred for sale, and a traditional bark house, which is used for puberty ceremonies. A murky, frog-filled pond comes and goes depending on rainfall, and bits of

obsidian, a volcanic glass, litter the dirt and gravel. Big chunks of the glass also sit behind the meeting hut used by tribe's younger generation to practice making arrowheads. "They're not very good at it," said Mr. Franco, who is married to Ms. Sisk-Franco.

As smoke from a manzanita log drifted out a hole in the ceiling, Ms. Sisk-Franco said the tribe and the salmon were intrinsically linked. "What happened to the salmon happened to us," she said. "The fish have been diminishing in numbers, and so have we."

The group had to scrape to raise the \$60,000 for the trip by selling trinkets, soliciting help from richer tribes, and using a Facebook page. The tribe had hoped to ship their drum, but FedEx wanted \$600 for that. So they checked it in at the airport, along with several manzanita logs, a container of sacred water and a collection of ceremonial weapons, including spears and bows and arrows.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service denied the tribe permission to take much of its ceremonial regalia, including hawk, woodpecker and vulture feathers, though its eagle headgear was approved.

Such battles are commonplace for the Winnemem, whose population once numbered more than 14,000. Their conflicts with the federal government date to 1852, when Congress refused to ratify a treaty that would have given the tribe and more than a dozen other Indian groups a 35-square-mile reservation along the McCloud.

Another insult came in 1985, when the tribe lost its federal recognition from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

While the Winnemem hold on to tradition, they have not been shy about using more modern means. The Francos regularly commute to Sacramento to lobby policy makers at the Capitol. They also recently donned their regalia to protest a proposal by Senator Feinstein that they felt would loosen restrictions from the Endangered Species Act to allow more water for farmers south of the capital.

Last year, the tribe also sued the federal government for protection of a variety of sacred sites, and a copy of the lawsuit sits in the fire room where the tribe meets for religious ceremonies. "We pray for our lawsuit all the time," Ms. Sisk-Franco said.

The trip to New Zealand is not the first time the Winnemem have turned to ancient methods to try to change policy. In 2004, while fighting a proposed plan to raise the Shasta Dam 18 feet, the tribe staged a war dance, a four-day, round-the-clock ceremony carried out by their dwindling numbers of warriors. "We were exhausted," Mr. Franco said. But in the end, the dam was not raised.

While in New Zealand, the Winnemem have met with local Maori leaders and will stage a four-day ceremony starting March 28 that will culminate with the rare "nur chonas winyupus," or middle water salmon dance.

The Francos have asked NZ Fish and Game if they can bring back some of New Zealand's salmon eggs, once of California stock, back to the McCloud.

"We have to do more than pray," Ms. Sisk-Franco said. "We have to follow through."

The lesson of the rare trout and lust for gold

Reprint of an opinion by Chris Trotter published in the Otago Daily Times on 26 February 2010. The lesson has frightening parallels with the salmon fishery.

The expression on the face of aquatic ecologist Zeb Hogan said it all. The host of the National Geographic Channel's television series *Monster fish* had been chasing the elusive taimen - the world's largest species of trout - in the pristine headwaters of Mongolia's Eg River, and now he was confronting a vast alluvial gold-mining operation on the Urr River, many miles to the south.

A huge machine, three or four storeys high, had dug its metallic snout into the earth along the river's banks. Using its waters to wash the rock, shingle, sand and soil away from the previous gold, the colossal contraption then spewed the tailings back on to the ravaged countryside. Hectares of black sand and shingle marked the passage of this behemoth. Zeb surveyed the damage in grim silence, letting the images speak for themselves.

A fellow of the World Wildlife Fund, Zeb had been working with the Mongolian Government to protect the taimen. By charging wealthy American fishermen \$US5000 (\$NZ7255) for a chance to catch and release these extraordinary fish, eco-tourist entrepreneurs were offering Mongolians living along the Eg the opportunity to do well by doing good.

Can the Eg and its massive (up to 2m long) trout be saved?

It's a slim hope.

As of 2005, there were 135 alluvial gold mines operating across Mongolia. Lured by the prospect of massive direct foreign investment (Mongolians sit upon vast

deposits of coal and fluorite as well as gold), their Government, like so many of its counterparts in the developing world, has been eager to profit from industrialised countries' insatiable demand for minerals.

Still, the mining of Mongolia's pristine rivers and the threat posed to rare species like the taimen are both very remote from New Zealand. What has Zeb Hogan and his monster trout to do with us?

More than you might think.

Thanks to The Standard blogsite, it's been revealed that Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully owns shares in a company called Widespread Portfolios which has an investment in King Solomon Mines Ltd - a company exploring for gold in Chinese Inner Mongolia. Widespread Portfolios - described as a "mining sector venture capital investor" - also has a stake in a number of New Zealand-based mineral-prospecting operations.

All well and good. Providing such investments are properly registered by our representatives, there's surely no reason to worry? And yet, I cannot help but worry that New Zealand, deeply enmeshed in the global economy and financially dependent upon the generosity of financiers and industrialists eager to lay their hands on what remains of our nation's untapped natural resources, might feel as obliged to respond to "economic realities" as Mongolia.

As someone who's had (and as far as we know retains) a financial stake in the

quest for those resources, Mr McCully is well placed to advise his cabinet colleagues on the rewards that lie in store for countries which assist in the discovery and exploitation of mineral deposits. No less than the Mongolians, New Zealanders could benefit hugely by opening their wild and pristine environments to the world's mining companies.

Maybe so. But wealth comes in many guises. Gold, oil and coal can make a nation rich, but so can wild, free-flowing rivers and forest-clad hills. The wonder inspired by mega-fish like the Mongolian taimen or by birds believed to be extinct but found again, like New Zealand takahe - these too, are a king of wealth.

We live in a part of the world as remote, in its way, as the headwaters of the Eg River in northwest Mongolia and it is only in such far-flung places that the unblemished face of Planet Earth remains visible.

It would surely be a tragedy if one day in the not-too-distant future New Zealanders find themselves, like Zeb Hogan, standing in tight-lipped silence before the reeking wreckage of some mining company's waste-spewing behemoth, and meditating upon the awful bargain that a government desperate for overseas funds was willing to strike.

The ancient historian Tacitus famously observed that "Rome made a desert - and called it Peace". Will the historians of the future (if there are any) say of us: "Human beings turned the wild places of the earth into slag-heaps, and called it wealth."

Chris Trotter
Editor, NZ Political Review



NZSAA Member's Badge

This attractive blue enamel and silver badge is 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

Available from NZSAA,
P O Box 1113
Christchurch 8140
or
phone the Secretary,
Heather Saunders,
on 388 5718

Although the following article is dated Spring 2006, this salmon restoration project is continuing in 2010 by the Tributary Mill Conservancy.

Salmon Restoration: try this at home

There is exciting news for salmon restoration in the lower Connecticut River's tributaries, thanks to innovative volunteers Sandra and Jim Tripp of Old Lyme. They received a Christmas present from Connecticut's Kensington State Salmon Hatchery of 73,000 salmon eggs, which they will be incubating, hatching, and tending for four months until the fry are ready for release into local streams around April 20. The Tripps are the first in the Connecticut River watershed to build their own experimental stream-side hatchery for Atlantic salmon – and it's in their house, a converted former grist mill built in 1667 on Mill Brook, a tributary of the Lieutenant River.

Mill Brook runs through the Tripp's basement where they constructed the hatchery. Jim, a sculptor, carpenter, and electrician designed and built the elaborate pipe and filtration system for the incubators with the help of his brother, an underwater engineer. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP) loaned them incubator trays and provided guidance. Sandra, a marine biologist with a degree in veterinary science and a deep commitment to environmental protection, manages the daily care of eggs and fry.

The Tripps began this project in 2004, originally to help researchers at Yale and CT DEP with studies on alewives. Mill Brook has a strong alewife run and eggs can be captured naturally

in the sluiceway of their mill dam, so they harbored the eggs to increase survival rates until the eggs hatched and fry were released. Last year they added salmon to their repertoire and encountered a variety of design challenges but still managed to have a good survival rate. This year, after having solved last year's problems of silt deposition,

system instead of disinfectants and highly regulated water and feeding regimes. The Tripps' fry, therefore, will be stronger and better adapted to fluctuating stream conditions.

The project marks a turning point in salmon restoration. With declining support for state fishery programs throughout the watershed and debates about whether federal funding should continue for salmon restoration, the best path in the long run may be to decentralize restoration efforts. The Tripps' hatchery covers all the stocking needs for the Eight-mile River watershed plus some tributaries of the Salmon River in East Haddam. That is a lot of territory, and the hope is to have more stream-side hatcheries in ecologically important areas based on the Tripp prototype, which would increase both statewide hatchery capacity and public involvement.

The Tripp family's original intent was to develop public awareness after they realized their neighbors and local students were unaware of nature's patterns, such as the alewife run in the community's backyard. By using video cameras under- and above-water to capture the daily cycles of the fish and other local wildlife, they, along with videographer Adam Briasco, are planning to produce a nature program for the schools. They have also created the Tributary Mill Conservancy, and you can reach them online at www.tributarymillconservancy.org.



Sandra Tripp demonstrates their incubator. One tray is open to show more than 4500 eggs. Photo by Megan Hearne

major temperature fluctuations, and beaver and raccoon activity at the pipe intake, they expect an excellent survival rate. The design improvements also mean that, instead of spending six to eight hours each day, Sandra works only about five hours a week keeping the system clean and running consistently with the help of the Tripp sons, aged six and seven.

Bruce Williams of CT DEP expects a 90 percent hatch rate for the Tripps' eggs and much better survival for fry than at conventional hatcheries because this stream-side hatchery uses the elements of a natural aquatic

Researcher Extraordinaire - John Hodgson

NZSAA member, John Hodgson, is currently the most knowledgeable person in the salmon fishery on recordings of water temperatures measured all over our main rivers throughout the year.

Here he is captured at the mouth of the Waimakariri taking readings. On this March day the water was 16.6°C and later, out in the mouth stream at 5 metres, it was 16.1°C, which goes to show the variation was not great.

John is researching the most favourable conditions for fish to travel upstream given the opportunity of circumstance. He also follows this theory through to ova planting and ensures the salmon ova are going into comparable water temperatures.



Distance to the Horizon

By Ron Stuart

I have often stood on the beach and wondered how far it is to the horizon, so I did a bit of research and come up with this information

If your line of sight is:

- 1.0 metre from sea level it is approximately 3.92 kms
- 1.5 metres from sea level it is approximately 4.8 kms
- 2.0 metres from sea level it is approximately 5.55 kms

Another example is if you are on top of a 50 foot tower and you are 6 ft. tall your observation point would be 56 ft. The square root of 56 ft is 7.48. Add 22.5% to 7.48 and your answer is 9.16 miles or 14.75 kms.

The moral of the story, in reverse, is if you have been washed out to sea or your boat breaks down, you'll have an idea how far you've gotta swim home!

Another thing to ponder is what breaks when it achieves 2/3rds of its width in height? So simple. (For the answer turn to page 25.)

BALLINGERS

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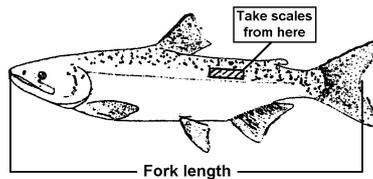
popular turnkey packages include:

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



Scale Samples

NZSAA is collecting scale samples again this season for statistical records. Please take a sample from salmon that you catch and ask other lucky anglers if they would give a scale sample.



Envelopes have been distributed to members but any paper envelope will do - do not use plastic or cling film as it has an effect on the scale sample. Just record the angler's name, date of catch, river and location, weight and gender of salmon, enclose the sample, and post it off to NZSAA, P O Box 1113, Christchurch.



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.

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

Price \$20, plus \$3 for postage,
Available from NZSAA, P O Box 1113 Christchurch 8140
or phone the Secretary, Heather Saunders on 388 5718

What breaks when it achieves 2/3rds of its width in height? Answer: a WAVE!

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION WESTLAND

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

Bruce Bay: Half-hour Drive South of Fox Glacier

All baches self-contained with pots/pans, cutlery, power, shower, fridge, washing machine and freezer (except Kaniere, no freezer). All baches sleep 8 people.

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

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

For more information and bookings you can call:
The Hokitika Angling Club
C/o Hokitika Cycles & Sportsworld
Phone 03 755 8662 (shop hours)



◆ ANGLERS OUTFITTERS ◆

359 Lincoln Road, Christchurch

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

Email: info@fishermansloft.co.nz

NZSAA ANNUAL SALMON FISHING COMPETITION

The NZSAA Annual Salmon Fishing Competition will be run for the current 2009-10 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 2010.

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.
3. A scale sample must be provided.
4. All fish must be gutted and gilled with the head on. Frozen fish not permitted.
5. Fish must be weighed at premises where Government tested scales are in use.
6. Declaration form must be completed and forwarded to reach the Secretary, NZSAA, P O Box 1113, Christchurch 8140, no later than 7 May 2010.
7. All panels on the entry form must be completed and the declaration signed.
8. 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

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 _____

