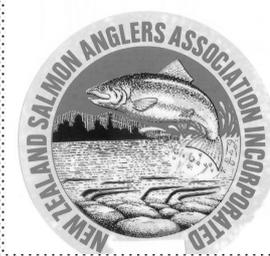


NZ Salmon Anglers Newsletter

October 2010 Number 105



*Take a Kid Fishing 2010
Thomas McDonald, age 6, gets a hand landing a 6 pound salmon*

**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

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

October 2010

Greetings one and all. After 2 months away from Canterbury I'm as perky as a prize cock in a coop of hens - easy to say when we've avoided the rock-n-rolls, but it's a fact of life and my optimism tells me much better is ahead.

We have the opportunity of making recommendations to Fish & Game for licensing changes, **so if you've got any good suggestions** then get them to us for committee consideration and we'll put them forward. I'm really keen for a restructure of our licensing fees and believe visitors could pay more of a premium and locals should get greater home benefit to fish their own patch. What I am saying is that I'm more than happy to pay for the service we get, because we work for this, but for someone to cruise in and get the same benefit I think is worth more.

Our Association is a member of CORANZ (Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of New Zealand) and this organisation is very politically aware of any legislation or law changes/recommendations that are being planned or taking place. (Tim Ellis attended the AGM recently.) Also we have association with the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers who follow a similar path of representation. With these organisations we do not have many issues but, by association, our organisation is being voiced on a broad front of issues. What I am saying is that your

membership greatly supports a voice within the ranks and our overall representation keeps working while we are in the hands of some very skilful people working to maintain balance and justice. So if you ever feel you are not doing anything about an issue you can bet your socks that these organisations are out there batting for us and we are being heard. That's what membership of NZ Salmon Anglers Association gives us the ability to do.

Our Scotty boxes have been recovered from Hacketts Stream on the Mehrtens property and John Hodgson reports a great hatch rate, along with Warren Mackie verifying that the planting method we used this last season gave greater opportunity for relatively clean hatching, given the high rainfall, high plankton and silt deposits in the water. All boxes were recovered and the recovery crew cleaned them up on the property before bringing back to F&G storage.

I inspected the effects of the quake on the Kaiapoi River boat ramp by the BMX track and also the popular fishing location of MacIntosh's - not pretty, and a lot of work is needed to restore safe access. Our wheelchair platform was to be installed in September and thankfully it wasn't otherwise it would have been history before a line was cast. The Kairaki Motor Camp was also another disaster site. Much restoration work has been done with a lot more still to be completed.

The signs of spring thus far are indicative of a productive period ahead, with prolific blossom on trees, healthy emerging growth, early season seed-strike and active growth of wintered through plants. I predict this will extend into the fishery as signs I've seen in other locations point to upward trends, so be prepared. An experienced whitebaiter recently observed a run of bait in the Styx that was enormous and the best seen in a number of years. The signs are healthy, fish are regenerating somewhat, so expect something better than the last couple of seasons.

While I've got a captive audience, I want to pass on some critical information I gathered whilst in Oz. Dental Association President Martin Webb has stated that increased use of energy drinks represents "decay in a bottle" with their high acidity overriding the mouth's natural defences. 68% of students are showing signs of at least one tooth showing erosion. They also see the degree of erosion caused by large quantities of sports drinks, orange juice or black cola drinks and fit young tri-athletes with teeth of 50 year olds. The caution for us if we use these drinks is to ensure our mouths are well rinsed with fresh water after drinking. How often do we use such refreshments during a long day on the river?

I recently had the privilege of sitting in on a Fish & Game Salmon Management meeting and I was impressed with the progress made by key members of Fish & Game in respect of stream restoration by having sections of high country streams fenced off or reaching agreement with land holders to eliminate stock from breeding stream locations. If you think your licence fees are a bit steep, you've got it completely wrong as there are budgets of \$1000's for this work to

protect our future salmon returns. Most of the funding is through sponsorship or donations and it is amazing the amount of support that has been generated. Frankly I got a bit lost on the extent of the work scheduled to be done as it was coming out faster than I could note it down, to tell you in detail. But be assured every major salmon breeding location has been explored and steps are planned or actioned for restoration. Watch this space as we may need volunteers for manual work with slashers or chainsaws to clear some areas. This aspect of salmon enhancement is as important as other measures like ova planting or fry release.

Isaacs Salmon Hatchery is coming on-stream and is almost ready for receiving salmon and trout fry for growing on. It's great the progress made at this facility and the timing has been absolutely precise given the "Quake" and destruction to the main raceways at Montrose. For those of you who have visited Montrose the upper pond is now a 5-section holding area for all the remaining mature stock, whilst the shed stainless tanks are buzzing with grow-ons. Credit is due for some fantastic work at the Isaac facility led by key people like Edgar Russ and Doug Roy, plus other valued members who work quietly in the background but form a valuable link of support and guidance.

Our new website is almost ready to come on line, so many of you will be able to access photos, newsletters, coming events and links with other organisations of relativity to our Association. We are joining the important link of growing technology and also you will be able to post your stories or photos to share with our members and others. But to read the newsletter it will only be available to us, that's what a sub fee does as a privilege.

Remember to enter our Salmon Competition again this season. Entries in the past few seasons have been disappointingly low, so when you are lucky enough to catch a salmon this season just take a little more time to have it weighed and fill in the competition form. There are good prizes to be won - details are at the back of this newsletter.

Also we are making representations on resource consent applications by Porters Ski Area Limited who are developing access which will cause run off into the streams we use for ova planting. So in conjunction with Fish & Game we will be making submissions to avoid pollution, contamination, siltation and stream quality changes.

The angling and hunting fraternities are saddened at the recent death of Ian McCrory (see page 6). We also record the passing of Pam Long, wife of NZSAA member Alf Long . Our condolences are extended to both families.

The quake has been a catalyst for future direction, we have much to work for and to bring continued development and understanding. My philosophy is it can only get better – but that boils down to personal attitude – eh!!

Cheers

Ron Stuart
PRESIDENT



Email Addresses Wanted



NZSAA Secretary Heather Saunders is updating her membership database and compiling an email address book that can be used for quick and easy communication to members on NZSAA activities, subscriptions and other membership matters.

Heather has some email addresses but is sure there are many more out there, as most of our members will have computers with email and internet connections.

“Snail Mail” is too slow when we want to inform members of short-notice ova-planting and similar activities. Delivery of the newsletter by email and via our website currently under construction will also produce a quality coloured publication and save on ever-increasing postage costs. However to those members who do not have internet or email access, or who just wish to receive printed publications, please be assured that communication by mail will continue if you want it .

To make this work, would all members please take a moment to email Secretary Heather Saunders to advise, or confirm, email addresses.

Heather’s email: ianandh.s@ihug.co.nz

Ian McCrory (Mac)

17 March 1946 to 11 October 2010



Salmon anglers throughout Canterbury and beyond are the beneficiaries of the work and contribution made by this man and it is sad that he has moved on after tragic illness. For those that had the benefit of attending his funeral it was an absolutely wonderful tribute and acknowledgement of his greatness.

In life he was a great character and managed to raise a laugh or bring brightness into daily situations. On behalf of members of the New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association we pay tribute to Ian and offer our sincere sympathy to Judith and family.

Here is a wonderful poem from the funeral service

NO MORE DAYS BY THIS RIVER

No more days by this river,
I'll spend,
For my days as a fisherman
have come to an end,
No more will I sit on the
bank and wait,
For the elusive Big-one to
take my bait.
I can only remember the
things I have seen,
Like the crystal clear water,
of a mountain fed stream,
The dew on my rod as dawn
gave way to light,
And the sun on my back as
the day turned to night,
But I will remember my
friends new and old,
And all of the fishy tales
they told,
Of the wily ten pounder who
took hook, line and all,
Or the great catch that now
hangs on the country
pub wall,
By the waters edge, the
willow trees grow,
And the rustling leaves all
seem to know,
That my heart is heavy and
filled with pain,
Because I can never come
here again.
But you will come here
again, my friend,
And you will fish at my
favourite bend,
You will see the things I've seen
As you walk where I have been.
And you will love this river
I love,
For as sure as God is up above,
You will come here to fish
one day,
And catch the one I let get
away.

NZSAA Membership Cards

Enclosed with this newsletter is a Membership Card for those who have paid their subscription for the current 2010-11 year. The card comes with support from New Brighton Sports who will give members 20% discount on goods you purchase from them. Just make yourself known to Pete Hart and produce your membership card to obtain the discount. Pete is a generous supporter of NZSAA and sponsored our Waimakariri Salmon Fishing Contest earlier this year. Please support New Brighton Sports in return.

The card is printed both sides, folded for wallet size and looks similar to this (colours may vary):



NEW ZEALAND SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION INC	
MEMBERSHIP NUMBER	A.00000
EXPIRY DATE	31 March 2011
NAME	A N. Angler
ADDRESS	000 River Side, Anywhere
MEMBER SIGNATURE.....
NZ SALMON ANGLERS ASSN.....Date.....

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Earthquake stories.....

Earthquake throws Fish & Game volunteers into action

Rivers changing their course, sewage discharges and ejection from tanks were just some of the indignities that fish had to put up with as a result of the Christchurch earthquake.

At Fish & Game dedicated volunteers rallied to the cause. The 7.1 earthquake struck at 4.30am and by 6.30am Fish and Game volunteer Edgar Russ (Rusty) had made it from his house in Bromley, Christchurch, to the Fish & Game hatchery in the Upper Rakaia. "I'm off to Montrose" was all his wife heard as he rushed off to inspect the damage. When he arrived he found fish on the floor of the hatchery and one drained raceway.

A split in one of the two main raceways allowed 40 thousand yearling rainbow trout and 150 to 200 thousand 1-2gram salmon to escape into a small creek that runs into the Rakaia. Hatchery Manager Dirk Barr said it was unlikely many of the salmon would survive as they would be prematurely washed out to sea, but had higher hopes for the rainbows as they were bigger and more able to fight flood flows. Since the quake Dirk has been helped by an amazing crew of volunteers who clocked up roughly 80 volunteer days - a big pat on the back to those who helped out.

The fatalities to salmon in the Fish in Schools programme varied depending on the school. At Kaiapoi School for example, all of the salmon died as they were without power and running water for too long, whereas in adjacent Rangiora a roof tile landed on the fish tank but didn't bother the 100 fish. Many other schools had tidal waves that ejected the unlucky guys from the tank.

As far as the future implication of the earthquake on the fishery, a lot remains unknown. Some rivers have had drastic changes: for example a fault bisecting the Hororata River led to a change in ground levels and the movement of the river from its original course. Meanwhile the Halswell River experienced narrowing of its banks and build up of silt from liquefaction. Significant damage has occurred along the banks of the Waimakariri River particularly on the north side in traditional salmon angling areas.

Doctor's exotic fish survive

NZSAA member, Dr Richard Haythornthwaite, does some locum work and the doctor he was helping recently told him that some six hours after the initial big earthquake he went to his surgery to survey it for any damage. He found the display fish tank with its exotic fishes, all in a mess of glass and water and fishes on the floor. He was about to flush them down the loo when he felt one wriggle in his hand. Whereupon he put them in a bucket of water and, to his surprise, all were still not only alive but seemed none the worse for their experience and are quite happily swimming around in their replacement tank. It was a cool morning and that with the wet of the carpet apparently was enough to keep them going.

Most surprising.

Mackintosh's on the Waimakariri River

The photos show the earthquake damage along the berm at Mackintosh's. Environment Canterbury plan to undertake repairs this by Christmas.



Monster aroused from the deep?

NZSAA members Gene Klein and wife Cathy are on holiday overseas. Here is their story:

“Shortly after departing NZ for the South Pacific by a few days, the earthquake hit in the wee hours while our "house sitters" were asleep, like most everyone else. The epicentre was a half hour drive south from our small farm and though we seem to have avoided any serious damage to our recently completed repaired "leaky home," (pending closer inspection when we return to NZ), we apparently had an unusual occurrence.

“Though the folks in our home were awakened by the typical rocking and rolling, they also say that a terrible loud and sustained unfamiliar noise was coming from our large pond. We can only guess that the water in the pond would have been sloshing around like a giant washing machine or bathtub. Is it possible that the sea monster that we once thought we saw, could have been disturbed?

Beach Access - Northern Pegasus Bay

River-mouth anglers and beach users should be aware of access changes and restrictions in the Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2010 that has been introduced by the Waimakariri District Council. Some of the changes are summarised as follows:

Vehicle Access on the beach at Ashley River Mouth

- Vehicle use prohibited on the beach between Woodend and Waikuku.
- Seasonal access to south side of the Ashley River mouth.
- Locked gate at the Ashley River Mouth Reserve and permit system for all motor vehicle access south of the Ashley River/Rakahuri Mouth.
- Permits and keys available from 15 August to 30 November each year. Refundable bond required. No vehicle access outside of these dates.

Vehicle Access on the beach at Kairaki

- The Council will request Environment Canterbury to erect a fence and vehicle barrier with open gate access at the Waimakariri River mouth access route at Kairaki. This will channel vehicle access to the beach through a central point. The beach access will be reviewed within a two year period to assess its effectiveness in improved driver behaviour, pedestrian safety and ecological impact on the sand dunes and the beach between Woodend and Kairaki. If, on review, this is not judged to be effective, further public consultation will take place on a permit and key system to provide vehicle access to the beach.

Vehicle Access North of the Ashley River mouth

- Vehicles are permitted access (below high tide line only) on the area of the beach north of the Ashley River to the northern boundary of the Waimakariri District (Ashworth Spit).

The Ashley Estuary

- All vehicles are prohibited except for seasonal use of the marked access track and other authorised uses.

Horses and Dogs

- Horse riding is permitted along the beach between the Waimakariri River Mouth and the Waimakariri/Hurunui District boundary including the area between Woodend and Waikuku beaches.
- All dogs must be kept on a leash in the prohibited area around the Ashley/Rakahuri estuary (exceptions are allowed during the gamebird hunting season).

Te Kohaka O Tuhaitara Trust Land (Coastal Forest)

The bylaw prohibits trail bikes and all other vehicles from entering Te Kohaka O Tuhaitara Trust land and sand dune areas along the beach.

For full information about the Bylaw changes, visit website www.waimakariri.govt.nz/publications/bylaws/beaches/ or email: betterbeaches@wmk.govt.nz



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 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.



One Man's Vision

by Paul Stewart

During our winter sojourn north (to Alaska) this year, we came across the Macaulay Hatchery just out of Juneau. Established after record low salmon returns in 1974, Ladd Macaulay, a biology teacher and self-educated fish culturist, having spent time visiting hatcheries, studying at the library and other activities to learn about the steps needed to set up a private non-profit hatchery, received \$500 from a commercial salmon trollerman and told to get this thing moving.

Along with some State funding, members of the soon-to-be 'DIPAC' Corporation (Douglas Island Pink and Chum Inc) were asked to give \$500 each with no expectation of ever receiving a return on this investment, to make the dream a reality. By 1979, 30,000 salmon returned to the hatchery creek that had not seen one salmon in the previous seven years. In 1987, construction began on a new hatchery using water from a hydro-electric dam at a cost of \$7.5 million (the same cost as the purchase of Alaska from Russia).

Currently the Macaulay Hatchery releases 125 million fry with returns averaging 8%! Of those returning salmon, 60% will be harvested by regional commercial fisheries, and 40% will be harvested by DIPAC for cost-recovery.

Ladd Macaulay was killed by a drunk driver in 2000 while visiting hatcheries in south-central Alaska. DIPAC remains a shining example of how one man's dream became a major influence on the state of Alaska's phenomenal fishing industry, economy and way of life.



Salmon queuing up to get "Home" at the Macaulay Hatchery, Juneau, Alaska

The Facts:

The Chinook salmon, *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, is Alaska's state fish. It is also the largest of the Pacific salmon. The largest Chinook salmon ever documented, a 126 lb fish, was caught in a fish trap near Petersburg, Alaska in 1949. A 97 lb Chinook was caught on sport tackle near Admiralty Island in south east Alaska.

Extracted from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Precursor to the 2010-11 Season

by Derek Binnie

We were jigging for cod just off the rocks in South Bay Kaikoura on Saturday 2nd October with a small old ticer on the bottom and two small flies. I hooked up to a small cod and was hauling it in when the line got struck and the reel screamed out. We all said "Bugger, another pesky barracouta" but after a 10 minute fight trying to save my gear, this beauty was sighted and changed the atmosphere in the boat real quick.

So, a great start to the 2010 season - they are out there!



Derek Binnie's first salmon of the season

Hacketts Stream - 25 September 2010

by John Hodgson

These notes are a continuation of the President's report on eyed ova planting in the Hacketts Stream, Newsletter 104 July 2010.

With the wet weather conditions this year, I was concerned about the Scotty boxes. On Wednesday 11 August, Doug Roy came with me and we walked from the bottom of the terrace road across the muddy paddock and were pleased to see everything intact, although two boxes had become uncovered. It was very obvious that the stream had been in flood several times.

Because of the earthquake problems, Warren Mackie and I decided to have a small team to recover the Scotty boxes. The team was Paul and John Hodgson, Colin Eaton, Warren Mackie and Garry Smith. At 9.15 am the work started and by 10.15 am we were at Bevan Mehrtens' woolshed waterblasting the boxes and this was completed by 12.15 pm. This is the second year now that Bevan has let us use his waterblaster, power and water. For me, it is a great help not having to get a power generator, hoses and electrical cords, etc.

The eyed ova this season were of excellent quality. Some of the Scotty boxes when opened showed about 95% hatch. While some had a silt problem, it is estimated that overall it was 80-85% hatch. This is commendable considering the rain aspects. It always amazes me how much stream life enters the boxes and, if they die, this also catches silt.



Decisions at planting time – 19 June



*The team loading
the Scotty Boxes*

*Box removal
25 September*



*Washing the plates at the Wool
Shed*

Boxes reassembled



Oh Nonot another Braid article!!

By *Bernie Jackson*

Well sort of.....

I'm not going to write about the 'virtues' of braid and pontificate on its superior hook setting advantages etc, or try and dispel the many negative myths that have grown up around the line. Instead this article is directed at those who have tried braid and for one reason or another have gone back to mono or fluorocarbon lines. I use the term braid as a universal name for the superlines. There is of course the fused lines as well as the true braided lines.

By rod length, salmon fisherman can be divided into two types: surfcasters and those who use the shorter rods of seven feet and eight foot plus.

I am not a surfcaster so the problems that these fishermen have are those that have been related to me by word of mouth. In order to solve some of these surfcasting problems I have had to go to a couple of fishing forums on the internet and ask questions. This is especially true of the windknot issue which I will cover further into this article. The answers that I have received are, I believe, from experienced surfcasters and I have no reason to view that their solutions are not in keeping with their own experience.

For my part, I have been using braid since it first came on the market and many of the issues that other salmon fisherman have had I too have experienced. So on that basis I have a 'smidgen' of knowledge of these lines and hope to offer some ideas on how to use these lines with a minimum of disruption.

First and foremost the braided lines need to be maintained in much the same way as a fly line does. The line leaves the factory with a water-proof coating. As well as preventing water from soaking into the line this coating also assists in the prevention of the coils catching as the line peels out off the reel. In time this coating wears thin and eventually will wear out all together. Some brands cast better straight out of the box, others need to be 'run in.' The Americans have a saying with braid: "*Love it for a day. Hate it in a week.*" I'm sure many readers can equate with these sentiments. I hear similar comments from salmon fishermen here.

The Americans are great users of line dressings. These products are formulated for this purpose alone. There are no products as far as I know available here in NZ and as such most users of superlines do not dress the line. The result is that in time the factory dressing wears off and the line becomes waterlogged and, in addition, fine micro particles of grit get trapped in the weave causing friction against the preceding coil and 'enhancing dig in problems.'

To get around this issue I use a product called Jay-el. This is a very soft beeswax. It's actually a leather dressing and can be purchased from most shoe shops. Don't let the leather dressing put you off. Just smear the beeswax on the piece of thick cloth and place the line so that it runs in between your thumb and forefinger as you reel in. This will put a small amount of wax on the line and prevent water and grit adhering to the line.

I do this about every two to three hours and with the last cast of the day. That way the line is dressed for the next day's fishing. I keep the cloth in a small plastic bag in my vest pocket. If you 'dress' your line you will definitely notice a smoother cast.

There are a couple of bonuses with dressed line. One: you will not get spray wafting all over the place with a waterproof line at the start of the cast as you do with mono. Two: if you do birdsnest a waxed line is far easier to unravel than one that is wet and gritty.

Most salmon fisherman who try braid are competent fishermen and can adjust their reels with some skill. The problem arises when first purchasing superline they get the same breaking strain as they would for mono. The line is much thinner and the marketing hype is that you can cast further. Well, yes you can.....until your first birdsnest. Two things need to be addressed to prevent this. You will in all probability need to increase the breaking strain of the line and therefore the line diameter. It's not a bad idea to get a line that is close to the mono diameter that you have been using. Secondly you may need to tighten the spool breaking just a 'smidgeon.' This will create a little more tension on the spool and should the line catch on the preceding coil the extra tension, along with a waxed line, will allow that nano of a second for the line to free itself before the over run occurs.

My first purchase of braid was at the same breaking strain as the mono I was using. This as I recall was 20 lb test. My reel setup was identical to mono. I used two brakes of the Calcutta leaving the other four off. The tension control was much the same too. Most casts were ok but then for no apparent reason I would birdsnest.

Since then I have upped the breaking strain to 30 lb. After trial and error I now have 'four' brakes working on the Calcutta instead of two and with the spool tension knob set a tad tighter. I lose a little distance but gain in knowing that I will have less birdsnests.

Many of the superlines behave differently from each other. What works for one will not work for the other. Unless you like experimenting with different braids, once you get one that works for you stick with it.

Windknots: I have only met one surfcaster who has this problem. Just how widespread this issue is I am uncertain. Windknots are caused by a slack line and with spinning reels.....line twist. As most surfcasters use baitcasters I shall dispense with the line twist problem and deal solely with baitcasting reels.

As mentioned earlier I am not a surfcaster so my solution to the windknot issue is based on information that I have received via internet fishing forums. The first thing that needs addressing is lack of lure weight. Most surfcasters use from sixty grams up to ninety and above on some occasions. However in the right conditions the lighter weights used in surfcasting may well contribute to the windknot problem.

Too light a weight will to some extent contribute to the problem by causing the line to billow excessively. If the lure is not heavy enough to keep tension on the line, as the lure sinks the 'billow' will settle on the water 'slack.' Both wind and wave action can cause the line to double on itself and when you reel in and place tension on the line a wind knot may well be the result. If on the other hand the retrieve starts as soon as the lure hits the water, tension will be placed on the line (billow) before any windknots can develop.

(Continued on page 18)

I'm speculating on this but it may well be that the wind knot develops while you wait for the lure to sink, before beginning the retrieve.

The second, and in my view and others that I have been in communication with, suggests that the most likely cause of windknots is the lack of body in the line. In other words, the line is too light (too thin) which equates to using much the same breaking strain as mono. Secondly according to my American source who once worked for a line company, true braided lines tend to windknot easier than 'fused' lines. According to him it's the body, the number of strands, that the line has, that will determine how well the line behaves in this respect. Fused lines tend to have more strands than braids and the addition of the bonding agent adds additional body to the line but again this is very much dependent on brand and is by no means gospel. So on this basis, if windknots have been, or still are a problem, up the breaking strain. A fuller body line should reduce this problem.

Leaders: Most tangles occur in the lower sections of the line close to the lure. There are of course exceptions but, under normal line contact in the water, braid will not harm mono. One of the myths is that braid will cut through mono. This is simply not true but the same cannot be said should lines tangle. Mono will come out second best every time. To reduce damage to mono lines in the picket line it pays to use a leader as most tangles occur down towards the lure. If you are going to use a superline in the picket line there is an onus on the braid user to ensure that their line does not cause any unnecessary damage to other fishermen.

The length of the leader should in most cases be no longer than the rod. I tie mine just up to the rod's fore-grip. If you use a reel that has a line guide and the knot is wound onto the spool there is every chance that with the next cast the knot will 'connect' with the casting thumb. With the speeds that the spool develops at the start of the cast it will not take long before you have a serious blister. However having said that I have a CD Graphcast which if memory serves me is about 9'10". I use this rod with a Diawa Sealine. As the reel has no line guide I can place the leader onto the spool (two or three coils) with the knot to the side of the spool and up against the reel's shoulder. As my thumb is 'centered' on the spool the knot never comes into contact with my thumb. This technique allows for less strain on the knot although to be fair the appropriate leader to braid knot should not fail if tied correctly.

I can offer no guarantee that my solutions will work for you. They have however worked for me and on that basis I can recommend them. The three most important solutions are to 'up' the line diameter and by default the breaking strain, use a line dressing (Jay-el) or similar and, if necessary, increase the spool tension.

If you have any queries or comments on this article, I can be reached by email.

Bernie Jackson

bernjack@paradise.net.nz

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Take a Kid Fishing - Sunday 17 October 2010

Report from the Kids Fishing Charitable Trust

This is our 22nd year and each year seems to get better. The weather was generally fine, a little blustery with the odd shower.

For the past two years this event had become so popular that overcrowding was beginning to spoil certain aspects of the day. Reduced advertising resulted in a smaller number, close to 4000, that allowed a better fishing experience and was more manageable and enjoyable for the team of helpers. Families started arriving at 7.30am to get a good fishing spot. Many considered this to be one of TAKF's best years because of the quality service provided.

Thanks go to all the helpers: the anglers from local fishing organizations (including NZSAA), BNZ team for marquee and food stall, Fish & Game officers and rangers, Kaiapoi Lions, fish cleaning station people, and professional chef Phil who entertained the crowd by demonstrating how to fillet and cook salmon. Lady Isaac and Pacifica Salmon donated 400 well-conditioned salmon and provided the certificates given out to the successful anglers.

Fish & Game delivered a tanker full of large rainbows, including some double-figure weight fish. Free licences were also supplied to cover all kids fishing on the day.

Morning fishing was restricted to two lakes for those up to 8 years of age and another two lakes for those up to 12 years of age. After 1pm anyone up to 17 years could fish all the lakes. As the day

progressed, the crowd eased and it was good to see families enjoying fishing and picnicking in a happy and relaxed atmosphere at the water's edge. It was a great day for everyone, all provided free of charge due to the wonderful team of supporters.

The Kids Fishing Charitable Trust for *Take a Kid Fishing* thanks everyone who supported and helped make the day possible.



*Angela Crutchley, age 7,
with her 1 pound salmon,*



Xavier Marshall, age 8, with his 7 pound salmon

The Groyne Fishing Lakes are now designated an all year Junior fishery and still have lots of fish left to catch. However, Fish & Game stresses that it is an offence to fish these ponds if you are aged over 17 years. From Christmas until the end of April, Fish & Game will be routinely stocking the 'Fishing Lakes' at the Groyne with 2 year old rainbow trout. Fish & Game also have fishing rods and tackle available for loan to children who don't have fishing rods and would like to try it.

A good way to introduce kids to fishing is to get them started with bait fishing. Use a float and a worm, or a small pink shrimp as found in your local supermarket.

If you are spin fishing, use a small spinner with line under ten pounds and remember the golden rule, dark day, dark spinner, bright day, bright spinner. If you are float fishing and haven't got a float, use an empty film cannister with a little bit of water in it to enable casting and clamp it over your line about a metre from your hook. Use a hook about the same size as your thumb nail.

For more information, or to borrow children's fishing equipment, contact Fish & Game on 03 366 9191.

Fish & Game News



Central Plains Water

F&G has met with CPW in relation to fish screening and CPW will come back with design options. F&G sought further advice from John Hayes for a flow regime proposal that would let more freshes go through and this will be presented to CPW soon. Staff met with the owners of Mt. Hutt Station to discuss irrigation on the property and plans to dam a valley above Montrose with unknown consequences to the water flow at the hatchery. Mainpower staff also attended with plans to generate electricity from the dam.

Rakaia River Mouth Opening

The North Rakaia Huts Committee has asked Selwyn District Council to allow them to artificially open the Rakaia Mouth at the southern end of the spit when the North Huts are threatened by flooding. F&G staff had minor concerns with the proposed opening site, but not with the concept.

Natural Resources Regional Plan

The long awaited NRRP was released on 11 October. F&G staff are now reviewing this 6,000 page decision document. At a glance there seems to be some strong provisions around stock access to streams, protective rules around salmon spawning streams and a no-damming provision on the Hurunui from the Mandamus to Lake Sumner.

Hurunui Water Conservation Order

F&G with Whitewater NZ have submitted an amended application to ECan. The submission period closed on 8 October. It is noted that Ngai Tahu is now submitting in opposition to the WCO.

Salmon Spawning Habitat

Staff met with ECan and DoC staff at Winding Creek to discuss fencing possibilities on both Craigieburn and Flock Hill Stations. The Salmon Committee met to discuss a number of salmon management issues in the region. The Habitat Enhancement Trust was also formed and given charitable status. Staff have been investigating options for cattle nose pumps for pumping water without electricity in the high country.

Fishing Regulations

F&G will soon be reviewing the Anglers Notice for the 2011-12 season. If you want to have your say you must make a submission to F&G no later than 30 April 2011.

Harrisons Bight Track at Lake Heron to Re-open

The above track will be reopened for public vehicle use in November. However those wishing to use this track will need to be briefed and issued with a permit. Briefings and permits are available from Dept of Conservation (Geraldine) or Central South Island F&G (Temuka) from Monday 18 October 2010 to Friday 18 March 2011.

Annual General Meeting

F&G North Canterbury Region AGM will be held on Wednesday 8 December 2010 at 7 pm in the F&G offices, 3 Horatio Street, Christchurch. Copies of the Annual Report will be available by the end of November at F&G offices.

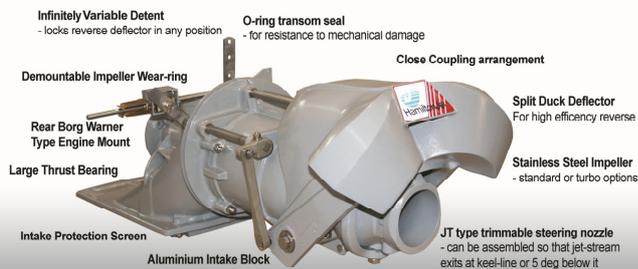
Anglers: Tread Carefully on our Riverbanks

Canterbury's braided rivers, including the Waimakariri and Rakaia Rivers, are an important breeding ground for many species of threatened native birds, such as the black-billed gull, black-fronted tern, banded dotterel and wrybill, which nest on bare shingle areas in the rivebeds.

These nests are vulnerable to predators, weed growth, and disturbance by people, dogs and vehicles. Some birds, such as black-billed gulls, nest in large colonies and their nests are easy to spot, but it's virtually impossible to see the nests and eggs of other birds such as wrybills.

If you are out walking or driving on the rivers, look out for birds sitting on the ground. Move away quickly if the birds become agitated because exposed eggs and chicks can die within five minutes. Please also keep dogs under close control to avoid disturbance of nesting birds.

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Our Land - Our Rivers - Our Fish

A story of co-operation between Farming and Salmon Enhancement

(written for The Fishing Paper and reprinted for NZSAA)

by Ron Stuart

Focus is often given to poor farming practices and how this affects our rivers and streams. Some of the information I have read puts blame squarely on “Farmers” full stop. This is unfair as the majority of farmers are just as interested in the rivers and streams as they are in the land they work. Many polluters of our waterways come from the practice of other groups or sources and these practices have been condoned by councils and Government.

What I want to tell you is a good story about a great sheep, cattle and cropping farmer on the upper reaches of the Waimakariri River at Springfield on the Christchurch side of Porters Pass. Farmers Kathy and Bevan Mehrtens were this year awarded the Athol Price Trophy, by NZ Salmon Anglers Association, for their most outstanding contribution over a many years by giving unlimited access through their property for salmon enhancement schemes and their ecological approach in providing a conducive environment for spawning salmon in the Hacketts Stream running through their property.

In the scheme of things the Mehrtens’ property plays a significant role in the welfare cycle of salmon for the Waimakariri River as a number of fish return annually to the stream running through the farm to build their redds and continue the cycle of life. NZSAA also share the waterway with the natural breeding salmon and apply enhancement methods of assisted breeding, to support the potential numbers of Salmon for future returns.

For many years now NZSAA has accessed the Mehrtens’ farm during the salmon spawning season for the stream planting of eyed ova in Scotty boxes and in more recent times run a trial scheme with the Alevinator, which is an adapted deep freeze cabinet sitting streamside, piped with a water supply and ova placed inside for hatching and later release into the system. With the assistance of the Mehrtens the natural breeding and enhancement programmes have and continue to make an essential contribution to the survival of our salmon species.

This is a great example of conciliation and co-operation between the farmer and the fisherman. These are the stories we want to read as this is the best way forward for our land, our rivers and our fish.

“Nothing, perhaps not even climate change, will matter more to humanity's future on this planet over the next century than the fate of our rivers.”
Fred Pearce, When the Rivers Run Dry.



*Mehrtens Farm from the top terrace
overlooking the Waimakariri River and Hacketts Stream*



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News from Otago

2010 Otago Harbour Smolt Release

This year, NZSAA Otago purchased 15,000 salmon smolt from the Silverstream Hatchery and these smolt were released into the Otago Harbour in June.

In addition, NZSAA paid the Dunedin Community Salmon Hatchery Trust \$11,000 towards the first batch of salmon smolt raised at the Sawyers Bay Hatchery since it has been under new management. It is the intention of NZSAA Otago Branch to put their resources into supporting the Sawyers Bay Hatchery. This gives them better control over releasing smolt under the right weather and tide conditions and even allows for the option of releasing quite big numbers of smolt into the Leith Stream when water flows there are ideal.

The cost of purchasing smolt is another factor that has to be considered. When purchased from commercial sources, each smolt costs \$1.40 and then the cost of transport has to be added. This adds approximately \$2500 to each batch of 15,000 smolt purchased. By rearing the smolt at Sawyers Bay, releases can be carried out in stages over two or three weekends when the conditions for releasing the fish are ideal. This can only enhance chances of better returns of adult salmon to the Harbour.

NZSAA Otago was fortunate this year when the Gardens Tavern closed and the owner kindly donated a 1300 litre stainless steel beer tank for conversion into a fish transporter. Plans and specifications are being drawn up and the new tanker will be capable of transporting up to 13,000 smolt weighing an average of 100 grams each. The new tanker will have water oxygenating capability which will make it suitable for transporting fish over a long distance with safety. It will fit on any braked tandem 8'x4' trailer and any 4x4 utility will be capable of towing it loaded. This will make releases easier and less stressful on the smolt being transported as well as giving NZSAA Otago more options with its release programme. Once the plans and specifications are completed, quotes for the conversion of the tank will be obtained and then a grant sought to cover the costs.

Waitaki River Enhancement

Salmon angling enthusiast Jack Chandra has been elected president of the newly formed Waitaki Riparian Enhancement Society.

The decision to form the Society followed the establishment of a steering committee to look at riparian enhancement of the Waitaki River. That followed a public meeting at Glenavy in January, where various proposals to boost salmon numbers in the Waitaki River, including a hatchery, were discussed. The objective of the society was to promote riparian and environmental enhancement of the river. One of the tasks would be to look at what could be done to improve the dwindling number of salmon.

Mr Chandra, who is a life-member of the Otago Branch of NZSAA said there was a lot of interest in the project. Funding was now required to get it off the ground. He was excited about the prospect of "better days ahead" for anglers and while it was a big task, if successful, then future generations would reap the benefits, he said.

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION WESTLAND

Lake Kaniere via Hokitika

Jackson Bay via Haast

Bruce Bay: Half-hour Drive South of Fox Glacier

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

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

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

For more information and bookings you can call:

*The Hokitika Angling Club
C/o Hokitika Cycles & Sportsworld
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A Morning at the New Hatchery - Isaacs

by Ron Stuart

Rusty put out the call for volunteers to come to the hatchery at Isaacs on Saturday 30 October to put the final touches on the site ready for transfer of salmon and trout fry from Montrose.

Fifteen eager beavers turned out and assisted with the cleaning of the main header raceways, putting sealant around joints within the wet areas, sweeping up any debris and fitting the automatic feeders.

The foresight of those involved to get access to this facility and develop it to its present state is a credit to all. It gives the salmon and trout fishery a valued enhancement option which already has proved its worth with the earthquake damage at Montrose.

For the future, volunteers attending the facility for supportive assistance will be rewarded by the automation and ease of operation, and be able to participate in a futuristic project that will prove its worth and value in our changing fishery survival. The other bonus is the opportunity to admire rather handsome rainbow trout in the adjacent feeder stream. To me, this is another paradise and so close to our home base.



Adjusting the Feeders



Volunteers on the Day:

***Wayne, Lara & Nathan Henwood, Bruce Kelly, Edgar Russ, James & Tom Parbery,
Peter Robinson, Ron Stuart, Paul Stewart. Warren Mackie, Colin Eaton,
Matthew Findlay, Rex Breading and John Hodgson,***

Congratulations to all who have contributed to date. There is however further regular work required to maintain this facility. Enclosed with this newsletter is a flyer asking for volunteers to join teams to share a range of maintenance tasks during November to July. Please give this consideration and let us know if you want to be involved.

Ron Stuart

Things you probably never knew your mobile phone could do

Here are a few things that can be done in times of emergencies. Your mobile phone can be a lifesaver or an emergency tool for survival. Check out the things you can do with it:

Emergency

The emergency number worldwide for mobiles is 112. If you find yourself out of the coverage area of your mobile network and there is an emergency, dial 112 and the mobile will search any existing network to establish the emergency number for you. Interestingly, this number 112 can be dialled even if the keypad is locked. Try it out.

Have you locked your keys in the car?

Does your car have remote keyless entry? This may come in handy some day. Good reason to own a cell phone. If you lock your keys in the car and the spare keys are at home, call someone at home on their mobile phone from your cell phone. Hold your cell phone about a foot from your car door and have the person at your home press the unlock button on the spare key, holding it near the mobile phone on their end. Your car will unlock. Saves someone from having to drive your keys to you. Distance is no object. You could be hundreds of miles away and, if you can reach someone who has the other "remote" for your car, you can unlock the doors, or the trunk.

Editor's note: I have it on good authority that it works fine! The contributor of this hint has tried it out and it unlocked his car over a mobile phone.

Hidden battery power

Imagine your mobile battery is very low. To activate, press the keys *3370# Your mobile will restart with this reserve and the instrument will show a 50% increase in battery. This reserve will get charged when you charge your mobile next time.

How to disable a stolen mobile phone

To check your mobile phone's serial number, key in the following digits on your phone: * #06# A 15-digit code will appear on the screen. This number is unique to your handset. Write it down and keep it somewhere safe. If your phone is stolen you can phone your service provider and give this code. They will then be able to block your handset so, even if the thief changes the SIM card, your phone will be totally useless. You probably won't get your phone back but at least you know that whoever stole it can't use or sell it either. **ATM - Pin Number Reversal**

If you should ever be forced by a robber to withdraw money from an ATM machine, you can notify the policy by entering your PIN # in reverse, e.g. if your PIN number is 1234, then you would enter 4321. The ATM recognises that your PIN is backwards from the ATM card you placed in the machine. The machine will still give you the money but, unknown to the robber, the police will be immediately dispatched to the location.

This information was recently broadcast on CTV by Crime Stoppers. However it is seldom used because people just don't know about it. Please pass this on.

NZSAA ANNUAL SALMON FISHING COMPETITION

The NZSAA Annual Salmon Fishing Competition will be run for the current 2010-11 season. The Fisherman's Loft have again kindly agreed to sponsor the contest and vouchers 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 2011.

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 6 May 2011.
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



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Contact details _____ Email _____

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- Junior membership (under 18yrs) \$10pa

Signature of Applicant _____

