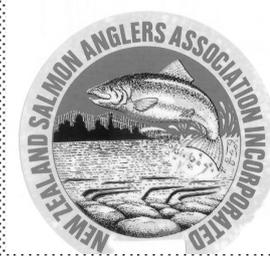


NZ Salmon Anglers Newsletter

January 2011 Number 106



Dave Leigh with a Rakaia Beauty

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

**NEW ZEALAND SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (INC)
2010-11 OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE**

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	Warren Mackie	348 3368	
	Bruce Moody	980 1065 027 229 6302	brucemoody@paradise.net.nz
	Warren Windelburn	027 211 0418	

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

January 2011

With a view from my caravan window:

Yes, here I am sitting in our caravan at Tahuna Beach Camp and it's early January, but already my view is out of the window to see some changes for 2011.

We are under pressure to see restrictions introduced for salmon catch numbers and suggestions are to reduce the bag limit to one fish per day, close the season early or introduce a tag system issue with each licence purchase and the angler be restricted to the total number of salmon landed in a season. (Each salmon landed would be required to have a tag attached and once all your tags are used no more fishing.)

Personally I'm not in favour of any such restrictions, as the majority of anglers catch only one or two fish a season. We've got the die-hard experts that land more, but then what do they do with them? We are in a situation where last season was one of the less productive for a couple of decades. We do need to do something to have more fish opportunity returns to the spawning grounds. Habitat protection moves are being made to improve the spawning grounds and moves are in place to improve hatchery production numbers for ova planting or fry release, so that aspect has some mobility.

Here is my suggestion – what can you do if you personally land more than 5 salmon during the season, the larder is full, the freezer has more than enough and you've

run out of jars. What's more there is still some of last season's uneaten fish still on the shelf. If you are fortunate to catch more than 5 salmon, do you start giving some of your catch away and, if so, does it go to someone that says "thanks this is fantastic" and they struggle to process your gift. I say bugger giveaways, if someone can't catch a salmon or better still buy a licence and contribute, then they do not deserve a fish!! **YOUR OPTION** – catch and release, you can still go for tally, but your generosity in releasing your catch will give that salmon the opportunity of reaching the spawning grounds to breed and return many other salmon in three years' time. This is called **self motivated voluntary supportive enhancement**.

What do you now do? Once you or any other angler catches their fifth salmon, go onto single hooks and if landed release their catch to live on. If you see another angler and you know they've caught more than five for the season, put peer pressure on them to release **"come-on mate be a sport, release this one."** In this way we can overcome licensing changes, we can ensure more fish back to the spawning grounds and you can certainly make a worthwhile contribution to the fishery.

Now here is my second view of brilliance: for years we have purchased a licence that enables us to fish anywhere in New Zealand, except Taupo, for a one-off fee. No matter who, we all pay the same fee for our licence. Yet an angler can

jump in a helicopter or travel the length of NZ and fish where and when they like or be a one-time opportunist taking advantage of our efforts. I do not like this system. In the first instance I'm looking for a reduction in my licensing fee to fish in my own province as I have invested in this area, but if I go to another province I am happy to pay an additional fee for that privilege. It need only be a small sum, say 25% of the original licence. If I want to fish all of NZ then there are 11 other provinces so I pay that additional margin for each region. Why, because I can afford that privilege.

Now here is another situation: one of us old fossils has been fishing for years, purchased a licence every year, but now it's a bit of a struggle to front with \$100+ licence fee. Maybe they could find half that - after all we encourage Juniors to fish with a substantially lower fee. So, why not reward our pensioners and structure the fee at half the annual cost so they can afford to continue to fish. After all it's been their money that's supported the fishery over the last 50/100 years, so let's show some compassion, generosity and reward. Fish & Game would get a much greater response to this than endeavouring to entice kids to fish that lose interest after ¼ hour, because salmon and trout fishing is not instant catch.

Correctly structured, our annual licensing fees could generate more interest and reward to Fish & Game, yet give more encouragement to the supportive angler and gain greater revenue from the travelling angler or guided tourist that can afford to contribute to our costs.

Generally I believe we get a good deal for our licence fees, but I really think it could be a whole lot smarter and more cost efficient.

What's the view from your window? Is it great enough to say she'll be right M8, or do you believe we need some changes, as no longer can we expect the authorities to make changes. They come from you, so start off 2011 with attitude, if you've got the burley!!

Saturday 12 March is the date of NZSAA's second Waimakariri River Salmon Fishing Competition - details and entry form on pages X and .X This year promises to be another great event: our sponsor group has expanded over last year and the entry fee has been reduced which should attract more competitors. Even with more competitors, the prize values well exceed any entry fee, so it will be a good investment.

Our sponsors are:

New Brighton Sports (Pete Hart), Kilwell Sports, Kairaki Beach Camp (Alan & Bronwyn Waters) and City Plumbing (Richard & Judy Chettle).

It would be appreciated if you could support them with any business or product choice.

Funds raised through the competition will be dedicated to the Salmon Enhancement Programme and some competition costs.

The prizegiving and sausage sizzle BBQ at the Waimakariri Sailing & Power Boat Club at Kairaki will be a great time to share stories and opportunity for spot prize draws, of which there are several.

A big thank you to all the volunteers that will have assisted in organising and running the competition on the day.

Have a great year, may the fish be with you.

Ron Stuart
PRESIDENT



New Website for NZSAA

New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association has launched its new website:

www.nzsalmonanglers.co.nz

Go into this site and have a look at what we have done so far. It is very much under construction but we will continue to add newsletters, photos, events and notices.

NZSAA financial members can register to view the members-only sections.

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The 2011 Season, so far.....

by John Hodgson

Each season that we fish for salmon is always different from the previous year. This 2011 year is repeating what happened in the late 1960s when most rivers were more than coloured through the Christmas period and into January. I well remember the Ashburton: by Thursday night the report was that it was clearing and it would be fishable at the mouth by Saturday and so, for eight weeks in a row, we arrived at the SH1 bridge at daybreak to find that the river had come down with another fresh. In general, back home to Christchurch in time for another breakfast.

As we are all aware, there has not been much happening as yet. The Rangitata started to show signs late November, also an odd day or two at Rakaia. There is always a chance while the snow melt is keeping the river temperature down and the salmon will travel at below 13°C. The river temperatures are now such that you will have to be in proximity of the sea to stand a chance (although Dave Leigh might refute that theory with his Rakaia catch!)

The Hurunui River mouth has shown more possibilities if you can get there across the lagoon or along the beach from the Blythe River bed. On my first day there, six salmon were caught and nine the day before. A week later, son Paul and I returned: excellent conditions, only one salmon - not a big one (about 14lb) but in perfect condition. I did get some scales off it. Paul went back the next morning and the sea was too dangerous to even try. On the day the six salmon were taken, it all happened before we got there at 9am. One was being cleaned in the lagoon side, a good specimen of about 19lb. It seems that these first lot of Hurunui fish are 4-year-olds and would relate to our eyed-ova planting in the Dove River. Only scale samples will answer this question.

This year, to save time and energy, I intend to only fish for salmon according to river conditions at any of the river mouth areas. February: from 3rd to 7th, then 10th to 13th. March: from 5th to 12th and perhaps to 15th dependent on river temperature being below 19°C. These times are directly associated with the fact that the sea temperature is higher than the 24 hour temperature of the respective river you intend to fish.

Once the salmon become committed to the river, fish any time provided the water near the edge of the flow is below 19°C and, remember, that at this time of the year there is a 5°C variation of water temperature on a fine day between sunrise and sunset and 3°C variation on an overcast day.

Waimakariri Christmas-time flood: the ECan computer graph showed the river flow was near its peak. At 7pm we went to have a look. Crossing the bridge, we saw the water was well past the boat ramp, past the access roads and nearly to the north side stopbank. In a pool of water beside an information sign way back on the bank, there were spouts of water rising 200mm above the water level. An old aquifer must have been underneath. Unfortunately, I forgot the camera that day and the photo opposite is a day and a half later at midday at the near the boat ramp. The temperature of the floodwater at midday was 16.3°C.

John Hodgson



The Waimakariri River Flood, December 2010

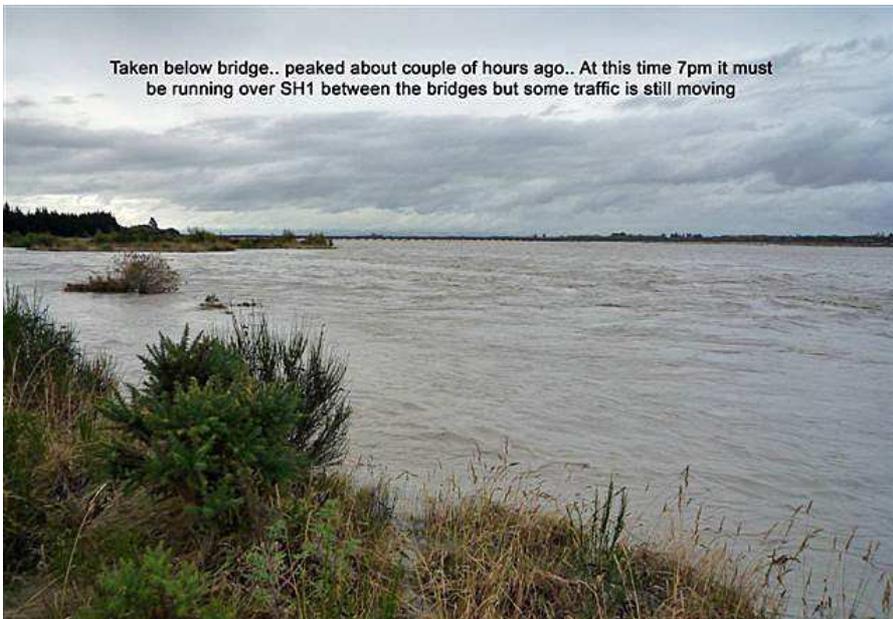
Above: Big water at the Mouth taken from the Kairaki side

Below: A day and a half after peak flow at the boat ramp near SHI Bridge.



The Rakaia Flood 28 December 2010

Photos supplied by Ray Watts, Rakaia



Rakaia Top Gun Scores..... (after the flood)

Dave Leigh is a regular camper at the Rakaia Camp, a member of N Z Salmon Anglers Association and enthusiastic volunteer with the salmon enhancement programmes. Here is his account of a rewarding trip on Sunday 9 January:

“A salmon-fishing acquaintance of ours at the Rakaia Holiday Park suggested that when the wind changed from the howling nor’wester to the southwest on Sunday afternoon we should take the opportunity of getting on the river for a couple of hours as we were pretty confident that the river would be unfishable by the following morning and it would be a shame to waste a fishable river. Geoff Kidd, a long time salmon fisherman and Rakaia camper, had found a nice piece of water any up-river salmon fisherman would die for. He and his wife Jo both had a salmon out of this hole in the past week. It was only accessible by jet boat so off we went full of anticipation that Geoff, Bill or I would be successful.

We saw a couple of salmon in the hole not long after we got there and I was fishing in the middle of the other two guys when I felt my line stop during the swing of the zeddy. It’s a great feeling when that initial strike by the fish is felt, as most salmon fishermen (or fisherwoman in the case of Jo Kidd) will tell you.

The fish went deep and did not show itself, indicating to us that it was most probably a good size salmon. After a very lack-lustre fight, a jack salmon of 20lb was landed much to my delight.”

Dave Leigh

Photo of Dave Leigh with his 20-pounder



Canterbury's Water

by Murray Rodgers

Chairman of the Water Rights Trust



The following is a letter that Murray Rodgers recently sent to Dr Nick Smith, Minister for the Environment, and John Key, Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism:

“Dear Nick and John

“Farmers must come into line to protect our clean water. The Press, 11 November 2010, carried an article pointing out the continuing decline of Canterbury lakes, arising from farming practices. Canterbury continues at full steam ahead on the track towards destruction of our marvellous pure water reserves. Year by year, our lowland streams and groundwater resources continue to decline. Contaminants that are still pouring onto our soils now will take decades to leach through to our aquifer systems.

“The Water Rights Trust first drew attention to this issue in 2002 in the expectation that people in authority would be motivated to act to prevent a preventable catastrophe. Our efforts may have contributed to more people talking about the issue but, so far, little has been done on the ground to fix it. The techniques for controlling leaching of contaminants into rivers, streams and lakes and into ground water, and keeping stock out of waterways are well known. Many farmers are concerned to do the right thing and have made some of the necessary changes. But many blithely continue on as they always have done. Why? Because no-one has told them they must do things differently. Fonterra has not done its job in ensuring our region is protected from the environmentally profligate actions of many of its members. One would have hoped it had learnt something from its experience over the San Lu disaster whereby it subsequently made a commitment to “make sure the systems are in place to ensure it can never happen again”. A similar commitment with equivalent urgency is needed to reverse the decline of our region's waters.

“Federated Farmers stand aside from the Land and Water Forum and the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS), maintaining the freedom to assert the rights of their constituents. Dairy NZ are guarded in their support, waiting to see what processes in train will deliver, clearly implying that any adjustments that affect their dairy farmer constituents adversely would be resisted. Our continuing calls for a moratorium on issuing new consents to take water as the main means of curbing growth in contaminating farming practices have been ignored. We are now approaching the crunch point - the party has to end, because water is running out. Farmers want new water from storage dams in foothills valleys. Well that is simply not on because they haven't looked after that which they have already been given, and there is no assurance that they will change their ways. At present, giving more water to farmers equals more contamination down-country. Most Cantabrians will not stand for that.

“Your Government has done half the job in setting in place the structure to lead us all towards sustainable management of our water resources. If we are to succeed in reversing the decline of our waters, the environmental imperatives that are being addressed by the Zonal Committees under the CWMS must be directly reinforced by the Government, drawing attention to the primacy of maintaining our clean image as a country, and the primacy of clean water to achieving that. The environmental targets defined in the CWMS must not be compromised because they are “too hard”. Major changes across the rural sector, with likely impact on return on investment capital for many is inevitable if we are to get this right. Half way measures won’t do - indeed, that would leave us in a kind of no-man’s land where much effort and money is being expended but contamination continues to grow. If that is the best we can do, we might as well continue as before, accept responsibility for donating dirty water to our grandchildren, and keep our communal foot hard down on the ‘growth-at-all-costs’ accelerator and be done with it.

“That, however, is not the Canterbury I and a great many others choose to live in. Stringent penalties for non-complying farmers, including withdrawal of consents for water, should be implemented forthwith. Simple, black and white. Of course, there would be political consequences and the present Government would lose voters who have traditionally supported them. But it would gain a new group of supporters who appreciate the courage needed and the critical importance to our future generations of demonstrating it. And these voters will increasingly outnumber those recalcitrant farmers who must be brought into line.

“When we know what the optimum mix of land-use is that a catchment can sustain under best practice farming techniques, then we will know how much water is needed to support maximum environmentally-sustainable economic return. It is putting the cart before the horse to try at this stage to define how much water each catchment needs and how that water would be sourced without first having solved the contamination and efficiency issues, and what is needed to get all farmers locked into environmentally-sustainable performance for their properties and catchments.

“The charm of Canterbury as a great place to live has been significantly diminished through the loss of so many of our lowland streams. But that is only part of what we stand to lose over the next decade or two if we don’t act now to reverse the degradation. The economic and social consequences of continuing to run down our environment must be avoided at all costs. The time is long overdue for the whole farming community to accept what over four decades of science has been telling them and get in behind all efforts to clean up our waterways and keep them that way. Only then will Cantabrians support their pleas for more water. Otherwise, we will stand and fight against any further exploitation of this vital resource.”

Murray Rodgers

Chairman, Water Rights Trust

106 Soleares Avenue
Christchurch 8081

Exclusive Capture

Written by Jim Hale, President NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers

Exclusive capture is where the access to rivers and lakes has been closed off to ordinary licensed anglers who wish to fish those areas without cost, other than transport to reach such fishing water. These waters cannot be reached because one cannot access them to fish unless one pays a lodge, helicopter company, or guiding-individuals extra payment as the land occupier has closed off access to other anglers.

Exclusive capture started about twenty years ago in the high country in the mid-North Island, and has ever slowly been increasing since. It is practised by those who have captured these trout fishing waters for their own financial benefits, even though the running water and the fish within do not belong to them.

Prior to Christmas, a sporting shop's advertising brochure caused a major controversy when it seemed to be advertising to purchase exclusive capture for hunting and fishing rights from land occupiers. The response of freshwater anglers and hunters, who took umbrage to the written article, was swift and strong - strong enough to cause the ownership of the franchise and a travel agent, who organised topshelf hunting and fishing and other outdoor activity tours, to quickly make written apologies and disclaimers. The company claimed that a serious mistake had been made in the proof reading of the wording in the advertising brochure and it did not sanction exclusive capture of any kind and indeed supported open and free access within New Zealand to all hunters and fishermen. Nevertheless, the response has been so strong against exclusive capture and exclusive access that the New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers has decided to place a stick in the sand and fight the ever increasing cancer of this insidious capture of some of New Zealand's best trout fishing waters.

The public nature of fishing and shooting is enshrined in law such as Section 23 of the Wildlife Act and Section 26ZN of the Conservation Law Reform Act. Section 23 of the Wildlife Act states that the sale of game and the sale of shooting rights is prohibited and Subsection (2) states that "No person shall sell or let for fee or reward any right to hunt or kill game on any land or water or any adjoining land". Section 26ZN of the Conservation Law Reform Act states that "Every person commits an offence against this Act who sells or lets the right to fish in any freshwater".

One must realise that the majority of guides do not practise exclusive capture and indeed are affected by it. Also many land occupiers treat anglers with respect, as we do them, and allow us on their properties if we follow the Walking Access Commission Code of Conduct. But, as already stated, Exclusive Capture has become a creeping cancer within the New Zealand Freshwater Angling scene, as many try to take advantage to make profit out of what does not belong to them.

We need the help of all freshwater anglers to stop the spread of this insidious capture of the New Zealand trout fishing waters. Failure to do so will mean the loss of the best trout fishing waters for future generations of fellow anglers. It is that serious. The Federation appeals for the help of all anglers to let us monitor and record where-ever this is

occurring within New Zealand. We need to know where any angler has been refused access, because of exclusive capture. If we fail to do this we are giving tacit approval to those who would have the fishery shut up for their own gain. We either protect the fishery or lose it. We as a Federation will work with National Fish and Game New Zealand, and any other body, when and where we deem it necessary.

Exclusive access (that is, charging the ordinary licensed angler for access to a river or lake) is another matter and is covered by recent Walking Access Act. It should be reported to and dealt with by the Walking Access Commission. The NZFFA will also be working closely with the Walking Access Commission to ensure that the purpose of the Act (“... to provide free, certain, enduring and practical access to and along rivers..”) is achieved.

The Federation of Freshwater Anglers will be setting out in the New Year to battle this ever increasing problem of New Zealand anglers being shut out of trout fishing waters that belong to all anglers who purchase a licence to fish within New Zealand. Again I appeal to all anglers. The Federation is prepared to battle for your right to fish free of charge all waters within New Zealand, other than the purchase of a Fish and Game licence (using a guide if you wish). As already stated, failure to act on this issue, will see the best trout fishing water tied up in the hands of those practising exclusive capture for personal profit. The Federation will be in touch with all member clubs detailing how you can best help us fight this issue, once a strategy to battle this ever-increasing issue is formulated.

4 January 2011



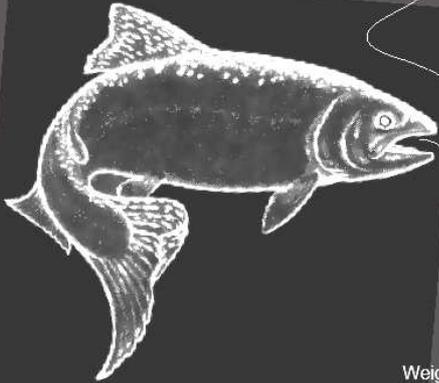
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Saturday 12 March 2011

WAIMAKARIRI SALMON FISHING COMPETITION



**(Optional day Saturday
26 March if river
conditions unfavorable)**

COMPETITION AREA:
All river below Railway Bridge,
excluding Kaiapoi River
(refer competition rules)

START TIME: First light
FINISH TIME: 4.00pm

Weigh stations located river mouth both sides and McIntosh's
Open 9:00am – close 4:15pm

Competition entry salmon must be presented for weighing
immediately after being caught and landed

ENTRY FEE

- \$15 — per competitor
- \$10 — NZ Salmon Angler member competitors
- free — juniors 16 years or under
- \$35 — NZSAA membership and entry fee
- \$5 — late entry fee in addition to above

SOCIAL EVENT AND PRIZE GIVING

Partners and friends welcome.

5:00 pm Prize giving Waimakariri Sailing
and Power Boat Club
65 Featherston Ave Kairaki Beach

BYO Refreshments and \$2 Sausage Sizzle BBQ.



\$3000 PRIZE POOL



**NEW BRIGHTON
SPORTS**

KILWELL SPORTS

ENTRY BY OFFICIAL ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE FROM:

NEW BRIGHTON SPORTS: Pier Side, New Brighton
NZ SALMON ANGLERS ASSN.: Committee Members or contact
RON STUART: cquiltyron@xtra.co.nz Ph 021 216 3901
HEATHER SAUNDERS: ianandh.s@ihug.co.nz Ph 388 5718
FISH & GAME OFFICE: 3 Horatio Street, Christchurch
KAIRAKI BEACH CAMP OFFICE: Kairaki

ENTRIES CLOSE 5 March 2011
(Late Entry Fee applies after this date)

Project organised by **NZ SALMON ANGLERS ASSN,**
PO Box 1113, CHRISTCHURCH 8140

Competition Programme

Saturday 5 March 2011	5.00pm:	Entries & Early Entry Draw close
Thursday 10 March 2011	5.00pm:	Late Entries close
Saturday 12 March 2011	Day Break:	Competition begins
	4.00pm:	Competition ends
	9.00am:	Weigh stations open
	4.15pm:	Weigh stations close.
	5.00pm:	Prizegiving at Waimakariri Sailing & Power Boat Club, 65 Featherston Ave, Kairaki Beach.
		BYO refreshments & \$2 sausage sizzle BBQ
Saturday 26 March 2011		Optional Day if river conditions unsuitable

Pull-out entry form on page 16. Competition Rules and information booklet can be obtained from those listed on the poster opposite, or on the NZSAA website www.nzsalmonanglers.co.nz Rules will also be supplied with entry registration.



NEW BRIGHTON
SPORTS

Pete Hart

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



WAIMAKARIRI SALMON FISHING COMPETITION

Saturday 12 March 2011
(Optional Day 26 March)



Organised by NZ Salmon Anglers Association (Inc)

Principal Sponsors



ENTRY FORM

Full Name

Address

.....

.....

Phone Cell.....

Email

Fishing Licence Number.....

N Z Salmon Anglers Association Membership Number

Junior Entry Date of Birth

Entry Fees for Contestant

Adult	\$15.00
NZ Salmon Anglers Association Member	\$10.00
Junior - 16 years and under	Free
Adult entry plus NZ Salmon Anglers Assn membership (Please fill in membership form attached.)	\$35.00
Late Entry - 6 March to 5.00pm 10 March 2011	\$5.00

	Payment Enclosed	_____



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What value do you place on your life?

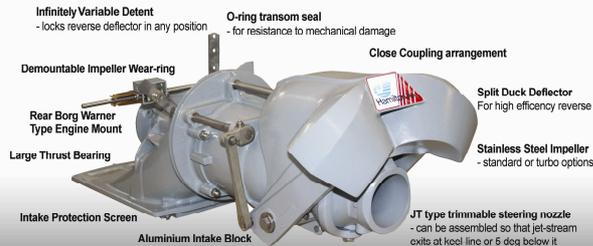
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Trivia Files.....

Cell Phones

Never have your cellphone on you or near you whilst filling your vehicle fuel tank. In fact for real safety it should be turned off and remain inside your vehicle, particularly during the warmer weather.

Shell Oil has issued warnings after three incidents of cell phones igniting fumes during fuelling operations: cellphone on trunk lid rang, answering a call whilst fuelling, cellphone ringing from the owner's pocket. The result serious personal burns, vehicles burning and damage beyond repair/recovery. There are also hundreds of other incidents of fuel ignition at the pumps, so be careful out there.

Anything that can cause a spark, however minor it may seem, will result in disaster and your cellphone is one of the biggest risks. So is any other electronic equipment that has automatic activation. Even static electricity can ignite fumes so never open your vehicle door whilst fuelling or if someone exits the vehicle stay in touch with metal surface to discharge spark potential.

Plastic Bottle Top Use - How to Seal a Bag and make it Airtight

No more spilled dried beans, macaroni, etc. A very good tip to pass on and you won't have to be saving all those twist ties or grapple with rubber bands that are tied too tightly. The guy who first thought of the idea must be given an award for originality!!!

Cut up a disposable water bottle and keep the neck and screw top as in the photo.

Insert the plastic bag through the neck and screw the top to seal.

The bottle is made to be air-tight such that water will not leak. The secret lies with the top and screw.

Good for us and the environment too.



The Waimate Advertiser

One Hundred Years of Publishing (Part 14)

When your newsletter editor was recently sifting through old files, she came across this little gem of a publication containing delightfully written news items during 1919-1920.

In September 1919 *“a young man was charged with unlawfully ringing the firebell but was fined only 5s because it was peace day (Signing of the Treaty); in the same month “the Waimate Borough Council considered complaints regarding the action of the nightsoil contractor in removing nightsoil, carting it up to his own place for the garden and leaving the hole open for hours so that the neighbours had to leave their places”;* In July 1920 it was reported that *“Mr H B Reid, the Clerk of the Court, has so far failed to secure a house and has had to resort to a camping system which is, to say the least, not in keeping with the dignity of the Justiciary’.*

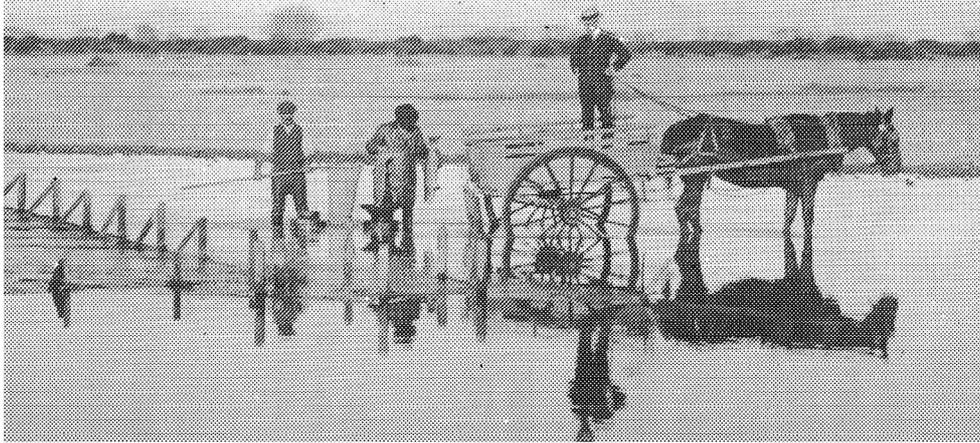
Very amusing, you might say, but absolutely nothing to do with salmon. However the next article in the publication , dated April 15 1920, certainly is:

Quinnat Salmon - “Another Disappointing Season”

“Beginning in 1874, various attempts were made to introduce salmon into New Zealand. Up to 1889, ova of Atlantic salmon to the number of 474,000 had been imported and the fry liberated in the Aparima and other rivers considered suitable in the South Island, but no salmon have been caught in those rivers. Similarly, quinnat salmon fry were liberated in the Waitaki and a few other rivers from 1875 to 1880 but, up to 199 none of the fish had been caught. Beginning with 1901, several more shipments of quinnat ova were imported by the Government and at length, in 1905, several specimens of this fish were taken in the Waitaki River, as well as in Oamaru Bay. Every season since 1905 the quinnat salmon have returned to the Waitaki in increasing numbers and they are now firmly established as an adjunct to the Dominion’s freshwater fisheries. Last year, which was an exceptionally poor one in this respect, only 77,000 quinnat ova were collected, the localities being the Hakataramea and Dobson Rivers. The fish have now extended along the the coast as far as the Waiau-ua River in the north and the Taieri in the south.”

N.Z Official Year-Book for 1919

The photos accompanying the article are shown opposite. They depict salmon stripping operations on the Hakataramea River during 1918. The scanned quality is not high but hopefully good enough to show that, while the basic salmon stripping seems much the same as today, the sartorial splendour of the operation indicates a somewhat more gentlemanly operation: the boater and bowler hats (bottom right you might be able to see the hat on the fencepost), collar and tie, waistcoat and jacket. Perhaps the fellas with their hands in their pockets are the local acclimatisation society officials. And the four-legged four-wheel-drive in the top picture is excellent at river crossings and very fuel efficient!



Salmon stripping operations on the Hakataramea River



Salmon Hatchery Official Opening Isaacs at Peacock Springs

by Ron Stuart

On Friday 19 November invited guests assembled at this new location to witness weeks of planning, labour, expense and dedicated love for the development of a future resource to support our Salmon and Trout Fishery.

The importance of the occasion was marked with the distinguished guests of Lady Isaac. Kate Wilkinson Minister of Conservation, Mayor Bob Parker & Joanna, MP Nicky Wagner, MP Amy Adams, Martin Clements Chair F&G Council, Ross Millichamp Regional Manager F&G and approximately 30 other guests, including F&G staff, that had made significant contribution to the establishment of the facility or in other ways had a strong association.

The opening ceremony consisted of speeches lead by Ross Millichamp, then Kate Wilkinson expressed the significance of the development. Lady Isaac spoke of her desire to support any activity of benefit to the community and fishing opportunity for young people. Martin Clements summed up the speakers with thanks and acknowledgement of the magnificent effort and volunteer time of a selected group, including Edgar Russ, Rodger Tobin, Rex Russell, Doug Roy, John Hodgson and several others (forgive me not being able to list all their names). He paid tribute to Lady Isaac for her generosity in making available the facility for development and use of their resources.

F&G Hatchery Manger Dirk Barr had been busy during the week, along with assistance, transferring nearly 200,000 fingerling fry down from Montrose to this new growing-on home. Around 12,000 fry were held over in the transporter which was attached to a pipe shoot and at the appropriate time, Kate Wilkinson with support of Lady Isaac, opened up the transporter tank to release these fish into the raceway hatchery to mark the official opening of this important facility.

Following the release guests and officials proceeded to one of the Peacock Springs houses for a delightful afternoon tea..

The Peacock Springs Hatchery will perform an important role in support of salmon and trout enhancement programmes. At Montrose the conditions are ideal for hatching ova of rainbow and brown trout and salmon, not only for Canterbury waters but other locations. The conditions at Montrose after the earthquake, plus demands on water volume and raceway space, have determined that another growing-on facility is required and that's just where the Peacock Springs Hatchery comes in, as the site has developed raceways and is in close proximity to Christchurch for servicing.

Congratulations for all involved in getting this project off the drawing board and into reality and thanks to Fish & Game North Canterbury for their initial funding and support.



The opening ceremony dedication release of 12,000 fingerling salmon fry
Left to Right: Nicky Wagner MP, Martin Clements Chair F&G North Canterbury Council, Lady Diana Isaac, Kate Wilkinson Minister of Conservation, Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker & wife Joanna, Roger Tobin & Mystery Hands.

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Fish & Game News



Resource Consents

CPW: Fish and Game have attended a pre hearing conference for the appeals against the CPW decision. Dates are being set for court run mediation in the first quarter of 2011. Dialogue is ongoing with CPW in relation to fish screening.

Porter Ski Field: Fish and Game submitted in opposition to Porter Ski Ltd for their plans to develop a village and ski fields in the Porter Valley. The plans will increase nitrates in the stream due to a discharge of sewage effluent.

Local Plans

Regional Policy Statement: North Canterbury and Central South island staff prepared a joint submission on the RPS . This is the over arching document that will determine the direction of water management in Canterbury for the next decade.

NRRP: After the decision was released in October, six appeals were made to the high court, two of which have relevance to F&G values. HWP appealed the no damming provision on the Hurunui and Meridian appealed the definition of damming and wanted to seek relief that a weir would be exempt. F&G have decided to join those appeals.

Canterbury Water Management Strategy: Staff and Martin Clements met with Jen Bestwick (Acting director of the Water Executive) to raise concerns over some of the implementation phases of the CWMS. Staff also met with commissioners Peter Skelton and David Caygill. They will continue to attend regional and zone meetings.

Staff attended a meeting with Trustpower to discuss their Coleridge scheme. Staff had significant concerns with their proposal. Details on environmental effects were light. Trustpower has since presented some flow information to the CWMS Regional Committee. Trustpower indicated that they planned on lodging an application to change the WCO on the Rakaia in February.

Staff have also had input into strategic assessments by URS for Hurunui/Waiau storage options and the AECOM assessment for Lees Valley storage.

Waiau Moratorium

A moratorium has been introduced on the Waiau River. The moratorium will be lifted on the same date as the Hurunui. This is in an effort to consider flow and allocation regimes on both catchments in a strategic manner. It is thought now that the integration of both these rivers for flow regimes and irrigation could take pressure from mainstem storage in the upper Hurunui catchment.

Jet Boating Regulations Review

Staff made a submission to a review of navigation and safety rules being conducted by Environment Canterbury. Staff requested closure of sections of salmon spawning streams to jet boating (in particular the lower reaches of the Hydra waters) to protect spawning and rearing habitat.

Hurunui Water Conservation Order

Fish and Game have been meeting with HWP to try and negotiate an outcome to resolve the WCO situation and their appeal on the NRRP. Those discussions are ongoing.

Salmon Spawning Habitat

Staff met with Conservation Volunteers management to discuss possibilities of future liaison and tree planting once high country streams have been fenced. Trustees of Craigieburn Station have approved fencing of Winding Creek and the associated wetlands. An application has been made for CWMS funding. Staff applied for funding for the fencing of the south end of Lake Pearson and the true left of Craigieburn stream.

General Habitat

Staff have obtained approval from Island Farm to fence part of the Otukaikino.

Landowner Liaison

Staff have met with the owner and manager of Mt Algidus Station to discuss the review of jet boating regulations in the Hydra Waters, salmon habitat and possible re-opening of the Hydra Waters to trout fishing.

2009/10 Salmon Management Report (North Canterbury Region)

(This is an abridged version of the report written by Steve Terry. The full report including graphs and tables is on the F&G website: [www.fishandgame.org.nz/Site/Regions/North Canterbury](http://www.fishandgame.org.nz/Site/Regions/North%20Canterbury).)

Last season, North Canterbury salmon anglers experienced one of the worst salmon fishing seasons on record. Both the angler catch and total run were well down on the previous season, similar to the 2000/01 and 2006/07 runs which were the worst on record. Other East Coast salmon rivers showed similar trends. In an effort to further understand some of the many variables associated with the highly variable and unpredictable salmon returns to East Coast salmon rivers, staff from North Canterbury Fish & Game spent three weeks in Canada looking at the various aspects of salmon management, habitat protection and restoration projects. Staff also attended a conference on the "Ecological interactions between hatchery and wild salmon" in Portland, Oregon.

In recent years, angler harvest rates have been approaching levels regarded as concerning by North American Fisheries Managers and Scientists. The North Canterbury Fish & Game Council are in the process of discussing options to address this issue.

Concerns raised in 2009 by Canadian Fisheries Biologist Don MacKinlay regarding the riparian habitat health around some of our key spawning streams is being addressed with fencing projects currently underway on both the Rakaia and Waimakariri Rivers.

All of the key spawning streams were intensively monitored and a number of secondary streams had one-off spawning counts at the peak of the spawning run, with low numbers of salmon seen in the secondary streams again this year. These secondary spawning streams are not regularly monitored as their overall contribution to the total run is usually minor. This was very apparent in last season's observations with the vast majority of salmon spawning in the primary streams.

Rakaia River

The total run in the Rakaia was down to almost half that of the previous season. Angler catch and spawning escapement showed similar proportions. The total catch was not given a boost by the Montrose hatchery returns with the hatchery conservatively accounting for around 6% of the returns to the river.

Waimakariri River

Waimakariri angler catch was down on the previous two years and never really showed signs of improving during the season. Anglers' general perceptions of a poor season were well justified with spawning numbers totalling only 1,408 salmon (hatchery numbers excluded). The Poulter River again accounted for 50% of these salmon. Returns to the Silverstream hatchery were the lowest on record; only 60 salmon returned to the trap.

Angler Catch in Rakaia & Waimakariri Rivers

Both these rivers had significant decreases in angler catch over the previous two seasons to sit close to long term low levels of angler catch for each river. The angler catch as a percentage of the total run was 46% in the Rakaia and 59% in the Waimakariri. If it is determined that residency times are longer than thought, the percentage of the total run caught by anglers is likely to increase to over 50% in the Rakaia. It should not increase significantly in the Waimakariri River as angler catch is already a very high proportion of the run and the residency times have already been increased to 21 days in the Poulter River, thereby any increase to this residency time is likely to be small and therefore have less impact on increasing the percentage of the run caught by anglers in the Waimakariri.

Natural Spawning

Wild returns to the Rakaia headwaters were less than half observed in the previous two years. They were close to the two record lows seen in the last ten years. However, the Waimakariri spawning numbers increased slightly to 1,408 on last year's records.

Hurunui / Waiau River Salmon Returns

The total run is not calculated for the Hurunui or Waiau Rivers as the 'area under the curve' model cannot be used when only one aerial count is conducted. The aerial trend count of these rivers was conducted on the 11th of May. 192 salmon were counted in the Upper Waiau and 58 in the Hurunui. These figures are well below average and in line with those in the Rakaia and Waimakariri Rivers. However the Hurunui count showed very poor returns considering the positive angler catch estimates and reports from anglers who had fished this river throughout the season.

The angler catch survey seemed to confirm the positive reports anglers had for the Hurunui, with an estimated 415 salmon caught. None of the anglers surveyed caught salmon in the Waiau and there is therefore a large degree of error associated with the angler catch calculations for these two rivers. Whilst the estimate of angler catch varies from year to year, actual angler harvest and spawning numbers will more likely have followed trends similar to the Waimakariri and Rakaia Rivers. Other than the number of salmon returning to a river, angler catch is affected by the number of days the rivers have been fishable which is influenced by the frequency and duration of floods. All the main salmon rivers on the East Coast tend to mirror each other in these aspects.

Central South Island Region Salmon Returns

Salmon returns for the Rangitata and Waitaki Rivers showed very similar characteristics to the North Canterbury Rivers with below average returns last season. The hatchery at McKinnon's Creek in the lower Rangitata had around 300 salmon return from a release of 60,000 smolt two years ago.

The North Canterbury angler catch survey calculated that North Canterbury anglers caught an estimated 226 salmon in the Rangitata River.

Angling Pressure

After eighteen years of monitoring angler catch and spawning escapement using current methods, we still have very little ability to predict future returns and are unlikely to ever be able to. With salmon returns in 2010 again at very low levels, the North Canterbury Fish & Game Council are concerned that the percent of salmon caught by anglers may be unsustainably high, especially for the Waimakariri River where angler catch often accounts for 60% of the returning salmon. This has been the topic of much debate amongst salmon anglers for some time. Following these concerns and concerns expressed by North American experts, angler harvest surveys from the last six years have been analysed to look at the effect of individual angler annual seasonal catches across all North Canterbury rivers. Options to address this are being investigated and anglers will be consulted before if regulatory changes are eventually proposed.

The high angler harvest in the Waimakariri River is likely in part due to persistent angling pressure in the lower reaches of the river due to its proximity to Christchurch and relatively few freshes which limit the timing for salmon to head upstream. These prolonged periods with low flows force the salmon to congregate in the lower reaches of the river for long periods of time allowing anglers plenty of opportunity to catch them, and with the increasing pressure by users to abstract even more water from the river, this problem is likely to get worse in the future.

If anglers are consistently catching a larger than sustainable proportion of the returning salmon run, there is a real need to ensure the angler harvest is reduced significantly enough to ensure the maximum sustainable yield. The question is how to achieve this. Most anglers either do not catch a salmon for the season, or only catch one for the season. Given that the old analogy that 10% of anglers catch 90% of the fish is probably true, regulation changes such as reducing the daily bag limit from two to one will likely have little impact on reducing the overall harvest.

Enhancement Programmes

A recent review of North Canterbury salmon enhancement confirmed that the current enhancement programmes are not likely to have any adverse impact on the wild fishery and is therefore sustainable. Concerns seen in North America over the impact hatcheries have on wild salmon populations are largely avoided in New Zealand and enhancement plans for the future look sound with only minor changes likely. There is continuing strong volunteer support for the hatchery at Montrose and enhancement of secondary spawning streams in both the upper Rakaia and Waimakariri Rivers through ova planting. The recent addition of raceways at Isaacs Salmon Farm to the enhancement program should further enhance the Waimakariri run for anglers in the lower river, with a release program similar to the Silverstream releases planned for the future.

Don McKinley's advice was that the fry rearing habitat available in our key spawning streams is likely to be limited and saturated by even small numbers of spawning salmon. Therefore, unless spawning falls to such low levels that habitat is not saturated, the release of fry into spawning streams is unlikely to be successful. In fact, it is more likely

to be at the expense of wild fry survival as wild fry are likely to leave the stream prematurely due to competition with hatchery released fry. In order to survive in salt water, salmon need to be at least seven grams, therefore salmon forced out of the safe stable spawning streams are more than likely to encounter significant flood events before they reach seven grams and mortality is likely to be very high. Therefore maximising the holding capacity and fry retention time in the spawning streams is critical to ensuring adequate salmon survive to 7grams before heading to sea. Ensuring there is maximum freshwater rearing potential then provides adequate salmon entering the ocean each year to take advantage of years with favourable ocean survival and subsequent bumper returns in following years.

Another area of concern raised in North America is that of the timing of salmon releases. Research suggests that the timing of smolt releases into headwater areas needs to be carefully considered, especially when releasing large smolt (e.g. 50–60g) at times when they are likely to encounter small wild fry where predation is then high. However, releases into mid/low country reaches appear to pose fewer problems, as fry present in the lower reaches are already likely to have high natural mortality when they enter the ocean before smolting. Research also suggests that the greatest amount of competition between hatchery and wild salmon occurs when releasing hatchery fry into places where wild fry are living, i.e. headwater spawning streams. In this situation hatchery fry tend to have a numerical advantage over wild fry and tend to occupy a large percentage of the available habitat.

Ecological Health of Spawning/ Rearing Habitat

Following the staff visits to North America, more emphasis is being placed on the overall ecological health of North Canterbury's high country spring creeks, including establishment and protection of riparian zones surrounding these streams. Historically we have been more concerned with the impact of stock on the substrate of stream beds, rather than the overall health of the stream and surrounding riparian habitat. Recently, the High Country Stream Restoration Trust has been established in North Canterbury with a focus on habitat protection and restoration, as this is one of the areas fisheries managers have the ability to make the greatest impact; many other variables being outside our control.

The main focus for the Trust is to continue to work collaboratively with high country landowners, local government and fishery stakeholders to find solutions that protect and restore these critical habitats. Finding common ground is fundamental in any restoration project as a first step in developing consensus about how to restore stream health, whether the problem is declining salmon runs, stream habitat degradation or water quality. The solutions will likely include fencing marginal strips along the spring creeks, replanting marginal strips, ongoing salmon enhancement of these fisheries with salmon where appropriate and addressing recreation harvest rates where there is concern.

Creating riparian areas around streams is often an appropriate starting point for improving stream conditions. These areas critically influence stream conditions by buffering the impacts of neighbouring land use, such as erosion, loss of shade through removal of riparian vegetation and increased flood intensity. In similar projects overseas, improved riparian management has been found to significantly improve aquatic habitats.

These projects include changing livestock grazing regimes, constructing fencing for livestock control, the re-vegetation of riparian areas and relocating stockwater sources away from streams. These projects are likely to take some time to complete and are more likely to be an ongoing process rather than a quick fix. In order to succeed with habitat restoration we need to maintain a long-term perspective.

It can be assumed that the proportion of salmon caught will be the same for Montrose hatchery fish as for wild run Rakaia fish and therefore 45 percent of the Montrose salmon returning to the Rakaia River will have been captured. This brings the angler catch of Montrose salmon to 90 and the total return of Montrose salmon to the Rakaia River to around 0.3% percent or 200 salmon (110 hatchery and 90 caught), of the initial 60,000 released. A significant percent of Montrose salmon are likely to have been caught further south in the Rangitata and Opihi Rivers. However with the McKinnon's Creek hatchery also releasing fin-clipped salmon, these are indistinguishable and are assumed to be from their hatchery for management purposes.

Ocean conditions excluded, habitat degradation is the greatest concern for the salmon fishery. During aerial flights around the high country spawning streams in 2009, Don MacKinlay expressed concern that some of our key streams were at a catastrophic level of degradation and even our best streams were in less than ideal condition. This is likely to be a major reason for the decline in the salmon fishery over time. As a species, Chinook salmon appear to be in trouble around the world. For example, at the conference in Portland we heard that the Yukon River Chinook population appeared to be collapsing despite it being remote and not subject to the same pressures as other Chinook fisheries.

**Steve Terry,
Fish & Game Officer**

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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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