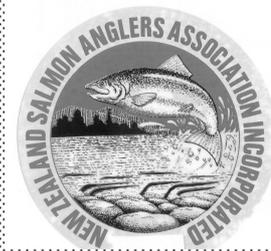


# NZ Salmon Anglers Newsletter

**DECEMBER 2012 Number 111**



## *Quotation*

*“Volunteers are not paid -- not because they are worthless,  
but because they are PRICELESS”*



*Our priceless volunteers at Hacketts Creek on 9 June 2012  
One of several days spent planting salmon ova in high country spawning streams.  
Story and pictures on page 12*

**Official Newsletter of the New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association Incorporated  
P.O. Box 1113, Christchurch 8140  
[www.nzsalmonganglers.co.nz](http://www.nzsalmonganglers.co.nz)**

**NEW ZEALAND SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (INC)  
2012-13 OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE**

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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.

**Life Members**

Lindsay Dell, Pam Ellis, Tim Ellis, Brian Foley, Trevor Hayes, John Healy, John Hodgson, Ken Hughey, Ross Lightfoot, Dennis Long, Athol Price, Doug Roy, Stephen Sparrow

<p><b>Disclaimer:</b> 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.</p>
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## EDITORIAL

December 2012

### **Introducing Bruce Moody**

Greetings to all members and supporters of NZSAA. Writing this editorial (with some help from my friends) is one of the first official duties as your President. Newsletters have been few this year but I hope you will find something of interest in this issue as we recap activities during the past months and let you know of future events.

You will read in the AGM report that NZSAA was without a President when Ron Stuart did not stand for re-election and nobody was willing to take on the job. After some months as “caretaker Chairman”, I agreed to take up the reins as President. Many will know me as a frequent figure at the Kairaki Beach Camp area and angling for salmon in the Waimak River. This year also I will be wearing two official hats: that of NZSAA President and also Fish & Game Ranger.

I have been on the NZSAA Committee for a number of years and my particular interest is the ova planting programme where I have been involved in developing new incubation methods.

### **Past President Ron**

We must record here our appreciation of Ron Stuart’s leadership of NZSAA over the past five years since May 2007.

Ron has a passion for retaining and enhancing the salmon fishery and an enthusiasm to get things done and to try out new ways of achieving these goals.

That the committee did not always agree with him or move as quickly as he would have liked, was sometimes a frustration to Ron’s eagerness to achieve more for NZSAA. However there is no doubt of his desire and commitment to achieve more for the salmon fishery. He was and still is particularly active in the salmon enhancement programme of ova planting in our high country spawning streams and it was during his term that members of the ova planting team developed some new incubation and hatching methods and explored new territory.

Ron’s organisational flair saw him managing the pool of volunteers required for ova planting, stream preparation and hatchery work, fish release, any other work, often at short notice. Ron also forged some useful links with external kindred organisations and developed a good working relationship with Fish & Game. Thank you Ron for all your good works and leadership of NZSAA during five years of growth and activity. We look forward to your continued involvement with the Association’s activities.

### **Late Lady Isaac**

We record with sadness the passing of Lady Diana Isaac. Lady Diana was a generous supporter of NZSAA long before the Isaacs hatchery facilities became available to F&G for salmon and trout raising. Many a time there was a

call advising that surplus salmon were available for NZSAA to release. These gifts of salmon were extremely generous and were just another example of Lady Diana's enduring contribution to sustaining and retaining the salmon fishery and our environment.

#### **Upcoming events**

**NZSAA members' annual salmon competition** will be held again this year despite very low entries in recent years. To encourage members to weigh in their catches, two new weighing locations have been introduced. These are at the Rakaia River Holiday Park (Robyn and Ross Jackson) and the Kairaki Beach Motor Camp (Alan and Bronwyn Waters). NZSAA have purchased and calibrated scales at both these locations. As previously, weigh in can also be made at any premises with Government tested scales (i.e. fish shops, grocer, etc.). The entry form is in the inside back cover of this newsletter. Forms will also be available at Rakaia and Kairaki.

So, let's have your catches entered this year and make a keen competition for good prizes.

**The Waimakariri Salmon Fishing Competition**, open to all, will be held on Saturday 16 March 2013. It will be on similar conditions to last year but there will be no reserve day if river conditions are unsuitable. If this happens, all prizes will be awarded on 16 March in a raffle-type draw from entrants. The preliminary poster is on page 21.

We are excited to announce that the major prize for the Waimakariri competition is a three-day big game fishing trip for four persons out of Tutukaka, Northland, sponsored by John Healy, NZSAA Life Member, who is now living in Tutukaka.

The trip includes accommodation and fishing on the charter boat *Cobra*. Travel to and from Tutukaka and food is additional and some special conditions will apply. The value of this prize is over \$2500 alone.

So diary Saturday 16 March for NZSAA's competition and a chance to win this wonderful prize. Competition entry forms will be available soon.

Thank you once again to all the volunteers that who have contributed to our salmon enhancement programme. With summer now here, it is hard to remember how cold and bleak the conditions were on some of this year's ova planting expeditions. The photos in later pages of this newsletter are a stark reminder. We look forward to seeing you in the next ova planting season.

The fishing season is now well underway as the salmon return to our rivers. I wish you angling success but urge you to take only what you need for your personal consumption. Keep safe when angling, boating or driving on the rivers, riverbeds and river mouths and be aware of the wildlife that lives in this environment.

With best wishes to you and your families this Christmas and holiday time.

**Bruce Moody**  
**PRESIDENT**

## Ron Stuart Honoured

At the recent North Canterbury Fish & Game AGM, NZSAA Past President Ron Stuart was presented with the Ian “Mac” McCrory Trophy, for voluntary services to the organisation. The award was recognition for his tireless work on the enhancement of the fishery and his efforts as a volunteer over the last 10 years.



Martin Clements (pictured above left), Council chairman for North Canterbury Fish & Game, said Ron had done a huge amount. He had been influential in ova planting, an advocate for salmon angling in the region and its habitat and was a friend of Fish & Game.

### **“COBRA” FISHING CHARTERS OUT OF TUTUKAKA, WHANGAREI**



#### **Skipper John Healy, NZSAA Life Member**

For details and rates contact John at  
71 Motel Road, Tutukaka RD3, Whangarei 0173  
Phones 09 434 4475 or 027 433 4511  
Email: [jhealy@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jhealy@xtra.co.nz)

## **39th Annual General Meeting**

Attendance at the AGM in May was a little down on previous years but this was not unexpected given the wintry weather and personal circumstances of so many as a result of the earthquakes.

We were treated to an excellent address by Karl French, Manager of the Silverstream Hatchery. His scientific background and extensive knowledge of the salmon fishery will undoubtedly be put to effective practical application in his management of the Silverstream hatchery.

Ron Stuart did not stand for re-election as President this year and nobody else was willing to take on the job at the AGM. The position was left vacant and the Committee empowered to make an appointment. Tim Ellis and Dennis Long were appointed Vice Presidents.

Athol Price also stepped down as Patron after four years. We thank Athol for his contribution to this office and his continuing interest in all matters affecting the salmon fishery. John Hodgson was appointed as the new Patron.

Committee members re-elected were Phil Ball, Pam Ellis, Gene Klein, Dave Leigh, Warren Mackie, Bruce Moody, James Parbery, Maurice Ward and Warren Windelburn. Heather Saunders continues as Secretary and Treasurer.

## **Barry Craig Earthquake Memorial Trophy**

The trophy was awarded for the first time at this year's AGM "to the angler that had participated consistently and enthusiastically through the salmon fishing season by fishing responsibly, is seen by fellow anglers as a good role model, participated in enhancement projects and contributed towards ensuring a healthy and sustainable environment".

Worthy recipient of the trophy for 2012 is Warren Mackie who has demonstrated all the above attributes in his involvement with NZSAA as an angler, volunteer and committee member.

The trophy, which had been purchased from the donation received from employees of Marsh NZ Ltd, was presented to Warren by Todd Lynch, employee of Marsh and work colleague of the Late Barry Craig, and NZSAA member.



## 2011-12 Salmon Fishing Competition Results

NZSAA'S Annual Salmon Fishing Competition attracted only 9 entries which did give your committee cause to consider whether it is worth continuing with this event. We have a generous sponsor but cannot expect future support if members do not enter. We hope that the addition of two new weighing-in points will encourage entries this season.

The trophies and \$50 vouchers from Fisherman's Loft were presented to the winners at the 2012 AGM , as follows:

### **Heaviest Salmon Overall - Aquarius Trophy**

Clarrie Wright: 8.2 kg salmon from the Rakaia River at McGuinness on 2.3.12

### **Heaviest Salmon Waimakariri - Fisherman's Loft Trophy**

Kristine McKey: 7.5 kg salmon from the Waimakariri River Mouth on 18.2.12

### **Heaviest Salmon Rakaia - Alty Roscoe Memorial Trophy**

Keith Gallagher: 4.38kg salmon from the Rakaia River Mouth on 12.2.12

### **Lucky Draw**

Robert McKey: 4.03kg salmon from the Waimakariri River Mouth on 24.3.12

## **Ain't Love Grand?**

Kristine McKey, winner of the Heaviest Salmon Waimakariri trophy, let us into the secret of her angling success. She wrote:

*"I would like to thank you for my trophy and sorry I was unable to make it to the Annual Meeting. In a way I was pleased that Mick went up and received it for me as he looks after all my gear. Every weekend he takes home my one and only reel and cleans it , also checks my line, cleans and polishes my zedeeds and makes sure all the hooks are sharp.*

*He is the one who organises everything while I just go along and fish. He even tells me where is the right place to go - mind you I don't always listen as I am sometimes having a nice natter to whoever I'm standing beside.*

*When you hook into a fish you have no idea if it's going to be big or small, just happy to get it on your hook and then land it. Mick also has to tail them out and hit them on the head. However I do touch them when getting my photo taken with them. So for that I am happy Mick received the trophy for me as he does so much and I'm thankful for all that he does."*

(Kris, what a catch - Mick, that is, not the fish!)

# The Collapse of Canterbury's Salmon Fishery

by Paul Farrow

2nd term Fish & Game Councillor



Following my election on to the F&G Council in 2009 I became aware as to the true state of the salmon fishery in Canterbury. Most salmon anglers are aware of the decline in both the numbers and the size of salmon in recent years

A number of factors have lead to the current situation, be it historic, environmental or man-made. The indisputable fact is that the salmon fishery is in a perilous state at present.

The responsibility for the salmon fishery lies with North Canterbury Fish and Game and the Salmon Management Committee. The Ten Year Plan and the Salmon Management Plan provide the framework to ensure the long-term prospects for the fishery. Whilst a lot of work has gone into the creation of the plan, that in itself will not solve the problem. The key is to take those ideals and implement the intention.

So why is the Canterbury salmon fishery continuing to fail and what can F&G do to save it?

## 1. Failure to Perceive Impending Failure

The commercial extinction of the Atlantic cod fishery in 1992 was largely attributed to over exploitation of the fishery and a failure to regulate the harvest rate. A report at the time concluded that no evidence could be found that environmental change had contributed to the decline.

Salmon runs tend to fluctuate from year to year and the management strategy seems to be "Don't intervene and hope that it will come right". Given the current state of the fishery, what can we expect in 3 years time for the 2015-2016 season?

This year was one of the worst on record for returning salmon to the hatchery at Montrose. It has also been revealed that due to the monitoring process, the salmon spawning numbers in the Rakaia and the Waimakariri may have been over estimated for the last 12 years. Given the current data, the worst possible scenario is that the fishery could totally collapse and that the fishery may have to be closed for an indefinite period.

It should be noted that that under emergency orders the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers have have been closed this season to king salmon. This includes catch and release due to the mortality rate associated with the practice. What has the current Council done in the last 3 years to prevent this from occurring?

Is there a strategy in place should the current trend continue?

If there is something we have learnt about living in Canterbury in the last 2 years - anything that can happen will happen.

## **2 Condoned Rational Bad Behaviour**

The current Regulations of two fish per person, per day, does not prevent overfishing. In fact it legitimises it. In recent years we have seen the harvest rate on the Rakaia river reach 59%. On the Waimakariri River it may in fact exceed 60% for this past season.

The mind set “If I don’t catch that fish someone else will and besides it will be dead in a few weeks anyway.” Many anglers lay siege to an area, going back day after day taking salmon, knowing full well their actions may be detrimental to the salmon fishery and denying the opportunity for other anglers to catch a fish.

“It’s the guys in the jet boats”, “It’s the fisherman at the mouth”, “It’s the by-catch from trawlers.” It’s always the fault of something or someone else that is causing the decline in salmon numbers.

The harvest rate of the top four salmon fishermen would exceed the entire by-catch for the 2011-2012 season

As long as we have these current Regulations we can expect this current harvest rate to continue and in fact possibly increase.

It is in the common interest of all fishermen (and the next generation) to refrain from over-fishing the Canterbury salmon fishery.

## **3 Failure to Educate Salmon Fishermen**

The current Council has failed to inform salmon anglers as to the true state of the fishery. The newly elected Council should inform all stakeholders as to the current situation and should educate anglers to fish in a manner that is not detrimental to the fishery.

## **4 Bad Decisions**

All organisations and committees will, from time to time, make bad decisions. What can lead to the implementation of a bad (or lack of a) decision is when councillors put their self-interest or those interests of a lobby group before the wellbeing of the fishery.

Within the salmon anglers community you can have a dedicated group of volunteers that will work tirelessly to enhance the resource and yet an outspoken minority will continue to pillage and exploit the fishery. This vocal group can influence the overall objectivity of a group. If a committee fails to make a decision to protect a resource, then it is complicit in its decline.

## **5 Failure to Implement Possible Solutions**

Staff at F&G and with the help of volunteers have ensured the restoration of spawning areas, established Scotty boxes, challenged water rights issues, run two hatcheries etc. Whilst a lot of work has gone into restoring the fishery, a key management component is continually being overlooked. To effectively manage the fishery it’s not enough to regulate, where or when you can fish, you have to be able to control the harvest rate.

The wild salmon is important to the genetics of the overall fishery; given the serious decline in wild salmon spawning numbers the current harvest rate cannot be allowed to continue.

The newly elected Council will have the authority, if it chooses to do so, to change the Regulations to prevent overharvesting and to educate the salmon angler to adopt fishing practices that will insure the long term viability of our salmon fishery during the good and bad seasons that lie ahead.

“The failure of our salmon fishery is primarily due to increasing harvest rates in response to incessant pressure for a greater harvest, this will inevitably lead to a population collapse”

### **Paul Farrow**

PS: Any criticism in this article is not a reflection of F&G staff or management. They can only be guided by the elected Council. I would also like to acknowledge the Chairman of F&G who has endeavoured to keep a steady hand on the tiller during this debate.

I would like to note that Ron Stuart the immediate past president of the NZ Salmon Anglers Association challenged all members “That having caught a few fish, to adopt catch and release policy,” and to turn their back on the bad behaviour of previous years. Whilst I applaud the edict I do not believe it is a policy that will be adopted by those who currently choose to exploit the fishery. There is also evidence that there is a mortality rate associated with catch and release. <http://peninsulaclarion.com/news/2012-06-19>

### *Reference Material*

Acknowledge resource material Jared Diamond author of Collapse Management of Fisheries and Marine Ecosystems: Science July 1997

Canadian Journal of Fisheries Vol 51 Issue 9



## **HORNBY SPORTS & OUTDOORS** (Peter Hart)

**47 Carmen Road, Hornby, Christchurch**  
**Phone: 349 7484**  
**email: [hornbysports@yahoo.com](mailto:hornbysports@yahoo.com)**

### **This is how it WAS.....**

NZSAA member, Olive Tinker, with the 40lb salmon she caught at the Rakaia Mouth some years ago.

She says “It took some getting in”!



### **And this is how it IS.....**

I want to share my excitement in catching a salmon at this time of year, caught in Rakaia “somewhere” between Mouth and Main Road bridge, at 3pm 3 December. I was the only fisherman there at that time, my 3rd time there. The salmon weighed in at 7.8kg after gilling and gutting. Has been a few years since I have caught one before Xmas.

From a happy NZSAA member, Clarrie Wright ( Halswell).



# OVA PLANTING 2012

by John Hodgson & Ron Stuart

The salmon eyed-ova placements this year:

## One Tree Swamp & Porter River

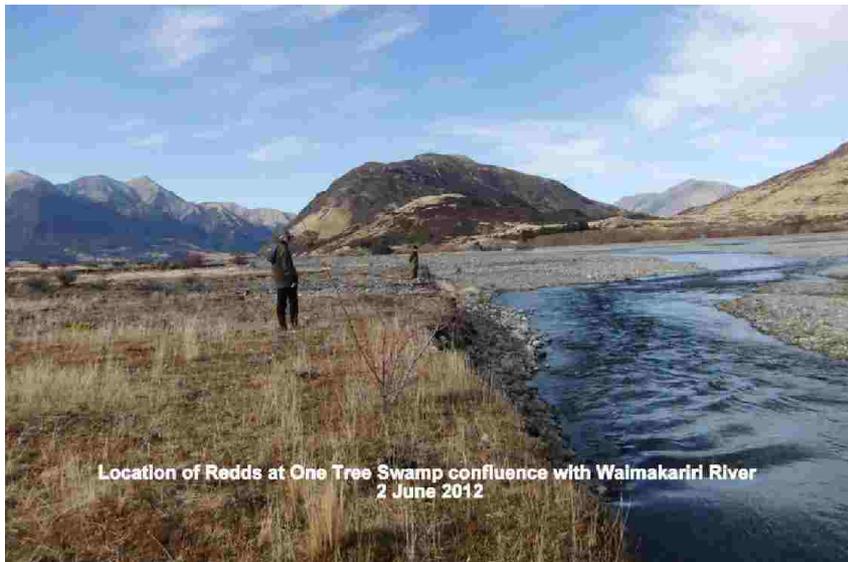
This location is west of the Hawdon River at the junction into the Waimakariri upstream of the Mount White bridge. (John remembers when there was only one willow tree 60 years ago.)

As usual, a small team went up on 5 May and put the RUSSI boxes back in the side stream which is adjacent to the main stream. We sighted several salmon on this trip.

On Saturday 2 June, again a small team of 5: we approached the main spawning area with caution and were surprised at how many redds had been created, including several multiple ones where the stream bed enters the Waimakariri River. It didn't take long to place approximately 30,000 eggs into the RUSSI boxes. Another 400-700 metres along the upstream section, we were amazed how far along the redd building activity was occurring. This is the fourth year of our ova planting in this area and, while not claiming a result, this year is the greatest activity of salmon spawning we have ever seen.

We did view the Cora Lynn Stream from the hillside but the north-west breeze put a ripple on the water. Several salmon were observed making their way upstream.

By 2pm we had arrived back to the side stream of the Porter River to the RUSSI boxes which were put in place the same time as the One Tree Swamp ones were. We have three boxes here and, after discussion, it was decided to put the 22,244 eyed ova into only two boxes and to keep number three box in reserve.



The RUSSI (remote unattended salmon spawn incubators) boxes have one key advantage over other methods of placement of eyed salmon ova: the task can be done whether snowing, rain or coloured water.

Each of our three techniques - barrel, Scotty boxes and RUSSI boxes - have a place according to the conditions on the day.

The Alevinators are a method all of their own. One prime factor is that we receive the eggs and our responsibility is to put them in place within 24 hours.

### **Hacketts Creek 9 June 2012**

This stream meanders through Bevan and Kathy Mehrtens' farm and enters the Waimakariri River system upstream of the Kowai River where that enters the Waimakariri River. On Wednesday 6 June we had the snowfall and there was .5 metre fall in Springfield. The question arose, should we postpone the planting because the volunteers' safety is paramount. Dirk Barr advised that if we waited another week we could possibly have 150,000 eggs to deal with and it would be a guess about the weather. However after checking conditions on Friday, we decided to go ahead.

On Saturday at the Yaldhurst Hotel carpark it was great to see so many helpers arrive - 35 all told - and we set off on our intrepid journey in 10 vehicles. When we were ready to go down the long incline, all our previous worries disappeared when, in front of us the snow had receded and the day was going to be good. The alevinator team was given 15,000 eggs and they did their work further upstream. The ladies did not take long to set up and were well ahead with the Scotty box loadings while the men rebuilt the weirs.

All of the 79,450 eggs were placed in Scotty boxes. Some of the helpers had not been with us before this day. It was a great team, a great day, and one to be remember.



### **Hurunui River 16 June 2012**

Once again the weather prospects were not good but, as we had earlier decided that we would barrel plant in the Dove Stream this season, we decided to go and hope the water was clear enough. A good team of nineteen volunteers arrived on time at the car yard of the Peg Hotel at Belfast and several other helpers joined us en route.

On arrival at Island Hills Station the team waited while the track down to the stream was checked for safety. Several vehicles took the equipment down and the rest of us walked down. Fortunately there was only a small amount of ice under the snow on the down track. To those who can remember what the area looked like eight years ago, it is now very different.

A short discussion for helpers that are new to barrel planting and then everything got going to place the 60,750 eyed ova into about 21 barrel redds spread over approximately 200 metres of stream bed. The job was completed by 12.45pm and then it was time for lunch. Dave Weeber cooked up some bacon on the tray of his vehicle and it was delicious with a slice of bread which he also supplied. Thanks Dave.



### **Porter Side Stream No. 2 - 23 June 2012**

Once again we had a good team of 17 helpers arrive at the Yaldhurst car park. The weather prediction was for strong west winds which was correct, but we ended up with very unpleasant conditions with driving rain and wind. It needed determination to exit a warm car and don waders, coats, etc while standing in the rain.

Ron Stuart returned from looking at the stream to report that it was clear with a reasonable flow. Having 135,213 eyed eggs in the transporter we needed to give it a go. As the photos show, it was going to be a testing time. One of the main tasks was to find extra stones from under the snow. We did not want to disturb the stream bed more than necessary. Many of the helpers said that it was warmer to have hands in the water than in the wind.

Altogether 27 barrel redds were created but, near the end, there were still six bags of eggs to go and the weather was getting worse. Fortunately the team got the planting completed and we packed up quickly and headed for home. The odd part of the day was that when Sheffield was reached it was a dry road. For the day we placed approximately 100,000 eggs and, of these, 15,000 were placed in the spare RUSSI box in the other Porter side stream by three brave souls who went down the hill in the snow. As predicted the first placement of eggs were starting to hatch at the calculated time.

The effort put in today was superb. Thanks to you all - all of this was done with no morning tea or lunch because of the conditions. Of note, the main Porter River was rising and coloured with a temperature at 5.4°C and the side stream was 7.4°C and would be the only water that was usable this day. Also a tray of six bags of eggs (30,000) were returned to Dirk Barr and were placed in the Rakaia River system on Sunday 24 June.



#### **Rakaia River/Whiskey Creek 30 June 2012**

70,000 ova were planted in Scotty boxes and 25,000 in barrels at the mouth of the discharge race. This activity combined with members from Rakaia River Promotions.

### **The Hatch**

Approximately a month after ova planting at One Tree Swamp, Porters and Hacketts we did an inspection. The results were fascinating: at One Tree we had the cleanest Instream Incubators with a 60–75% estimated hatch rate; moving back to Porters, inspection of a barrel plant redd showed outstanding results with probably up to 80-90% hatch; then moving onto Porters' incubators, we had a 90% hatch in the first narrow incubator and around 80% in the other two; at Hacketts we lifted one Scotty box with a 90% hatch and two Alevin doing a wriggle and it was interesting to see one wriggle out of the hole. This season's ova plant is one of the best results we've have seen in 7 years. At One Tree we counted 60 wild salmon redd clusters up to where we put the incubators. Further upstream there were more. Only one salmon was sighted on a redd protection, several carcasses sighted. What a great day result.

### **The Volunteers**

This year's ova planting was undertaken by NZSAA volunteers and supporters of the salmon fishery. Many were present on all occasions. We record our appreciation of the contribution of time and effort by the following (with apologies for any omissions):

Warren Mackie, Wayne Henwood, Nathan Henwood, Lara Henwood, Jules Snoyink, Steve McNeill, Mrs McNeill (Senior), Peter Robinson, Graeme Williams, Ben Williams, Karl French, Owen ?, Russell and Sharon McKay, Ian McKay, Maurice Ward, Luke Price, Graham Brown, Mike Ager, Dennis Long, Henry Holderness, Diarmuid Towman, Damien Towman, Craig Fitzgerald, Phil Walsh, Eric Archibald, James Parbery, Paul Stewart, David Weeber, Larry Burke, Dave Leigh, Colin and Diane Eaton, Larry Burke, Jacques Botha, Graham McLeod, Ben Wright, Kelvin Wright, Kevin Belcher, Wayne Eastwick, Bruce Moody, John Hodgson, Paul Hodgson, Ron Stuart

### **Total Programme**

From the efforts of these dedicated volunteers, around 400,000 ova were laid to grow in our rivers. This is only a part of the total programme as Rakaia Promotions planted out other batches in the Rakaia River and Fish & Game are growing hatchery fry for release as 50g fish and 7gm fish into North Canterbury Region rivers. These programmes give our fishery fantastic support. In one location, following 5 years of ova planting, our team reported a record number of wild salmon returning to their place of birth and laying down redds. We believe this is conclusive evidence that what we are doing helps. You too can help by encouraging "Catch-N-Release" once an angler has taken a reasonable number of salmon for the season.

We are pleased with the hatch rates of all the ova planting this year with the exception of the Dove Stream which experienced two major floods.

This year's ova planting expeditions were supported by Diarmid Towman with his camera producing some fantastic video footage. Go to our website <nzsalmonganglers.co.nz> to view these outstanding videos or visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P6nNuLmw5Zs> You will be absolutely amazed!



Steve McNeill and Pete Robinson in the snow loading Scotty boxes for the alevinator

## *WANTED: Metal Lockers*

In their former life, the RUSSI (remote unattended salmon spawn incubators) boxes which are used for ova planting were mostly modified old metal lockers traditionally used in schools or staff facilities. The current boxes are now several years old and six of these will require replacement at One Tree Swamp. We therefore need to obtain some old lockers and get these ready for the new season.

If anyone knows where we could obtain some old lockers, please contact President Bruce Moody, phone 980 1065 or email [brucemoody@paradise.net.nz](mailto:brucemoody@paradise.net.nz)



## **Fish & Game Programme 2012**

Hatchery work has continued to focus on sourcing adult salmon brood stock for harvest. Montrose had a lower than normal return of only 100 adults but Silverstream had 247 which boosted numbers considerably. It is likely that the new early-closure regulation has made this difference to the Kaiapoi return. Ova was also harvested from 80 hens at McKinnons Hatchery, Rangitata. Another stream showing promise is the Otukaikino where the trap captured thirteen 2-year old and one 3-year old salmon in early May. These had returned from a minimal release two years ago. F&G have since intensified releases here and good results are likely in future.

This year's ova harvest was of exceptional quality and quantity and approximately 1 million eyed ova have been produced to cover F&G releases, Contact Energy order and volunteer enhancement programmes.

Following is a summary of F&G North Canterbury's annual release of Chinook salmon:

60,000 x 50g smolt from Montrose into the Rakaia River.

30,000 x 50g smolt imprinted for one month and released from Silverstream Hatchery.

30,000 x 50g smolt released from Isaacs to the South Branch of the Waimakariri River.

150,000 x 50g smolt grown for the Clutha River purchased by Contact Energy.

15,000 smolt for release into Lake Coleridge tributaries.

50,000 x 7g smolt from Montrose into the Rakaia River.

50,000 x 7g smolt from Isaacs into the Waimakariri River via the South Branch.

3000 x 750g two-year-olds grown for young angler programs.

2000 x 750g two-year-olds grown for sale to other F&G regions, commercial sales etc.

600 x 750g two-year-olds - Isaac Take a Kid Fishing (TAKF) sponsorship.

Surplus ova for ova planting.

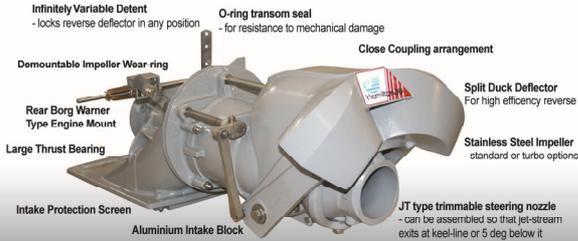
## **Otago Enhancement**

A total of 120,000 salmon smolt were released by F&G Otago into the lower Clutha River in August as part of a clause in Contact Energy's consents to operate hydro dams on the river. The fish were raised in North Canterbury Fish and Game's Waimakariri hatchery and transported to the Clutha in three trips in a specially designed tanker. This is the third year the partnership between Contact and Fish and Game has released fish into the river. The aim is to boost the salmon population to a run of 5000 returning adult fish per year, though only 1% of the released fish are expected to survive.

Before the Roxburgh Dam was built in the 1950s, the salmon run was estimated to be about 50,000 returning fish per year but that reduced to 300-400 as the fish were cut off from their spawning grounds, such as the Matukituki and Hunter rivers.

Otago Branch of NZ Salmon Anglers and members of the Dunedin Community Salmon Trust released another 15,000 salmon smolt with a weight range of 125g to 200g into the Leith Stream as part of the seeding process to enhance the Otago Harbour recreational salmon fishery. This gave the 2012 rearing season over 100,000 smolt released. 185,000 fertilised ova (ex McKinnons Creek, Kaitangata and Leith) have been produced at the Sawyers Bay Hatchery for rearing and release in 2012.

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# Catch-N-Release

by Ron Stuart

The salmon season for catching is off to a good start: some of us have a fish, some are striving to get their first for the season, whilst others may have the intention to keep harvesting well beyond their personal needs and rape the fishery.

Several anglers, last season, have reported their Catch-N-Release success. They had bagged their personal requirements - for some this is 5 salmon, for others they like 10 and one chap I talked to needed 15 as half of this was for his Mum who ate salmon every week and could no longer do this as her husband had passed away, so son took over the role. Fair enough.

Many fish released have turned up at the hatchery of origin and these have been tagged to prove their survival. Other salmon at the hatchery have arrived with hook torn jaws, embedded lures and signs of being hooked up and escaping. So never delude yourself, a released salmon will survive as our experience is much in favour of this. One Angler released a salmon that had swallowed the lure so deep it could not be released, so he cut the nylon and set it free. Another angler actually caught 6 salmon on Colorados from a pool and released the lot because they were becoming too ripe for harvest. Now there is a Salmon Angler of the Year. Many fish returning to the hatcheries show signs of being caught and released.

On the other side, there are those that catch 20, 25, 30 or more salmon a season. Why, what happens to their fish? Do they give it away, do they sell it or do they compost last season's uneaten catch? Some justify their actions by saying "I'm supporting a Charity or Home". Yeah, give me another TUI !!! Whatever, in these times those anglers are nothing short of being outright selfish bastards without a thought for the salmon enhancement recovery. If you see such a person say "Come on mate, release that fish as it could go and spawn and provide 3000 fry to challenge the environment and maybe 300 will return."

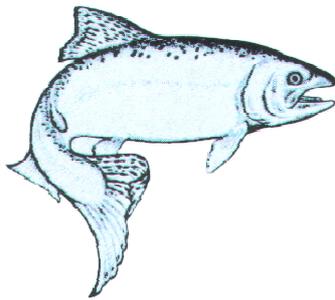
We spend many hours doing ova planting in its various forms, \$k's are being invested to improve high country spawning grounds, F&G have invested \$K's to breed hatchery fish and improve the fishery. Yet some anglers see it as macho to rape the fishery and in some instances secrete their catch away with guilt.

This is no longer acceptable and shame is the game, so tighten up and get real. We are better to have our own self imposed limits or licensing rules will set limits which will really take the scope off your fishing. It's better to be free and choose than be regulated and moan.

**Strong message: CATCH-N-RELEASE, use crimped barbs on your hooks, convert to single hooks, play in your catch with care, release without handling and use your long nose pliers or cut off the lure and let the fish go. Then when you've done that reach up and pat yourself on the back well done buddy !!!!!**

**Saturday 16 March 2013**

**WAIMAKARIRI SALMON FISHING  
COMPETITION**



**COMPETITION AREA:**  
All river below Railway Bridge,  
Excluding Kaiapoi River

**START TIME:** First Light  
**FINISH TIME:** 3.00pm

**WEIGH STATIONS:**  
Located river mouth & Macintosh's.  
Open 7.00am. Close 3.00pm.

**MAJOR PRIZE**

3-day big game fishing trip  
for 4 people out of Tutukaka, Northland

**ENTRY FEES**

Adult \$20  
NZ Salmon Angler member \$15  
NZSAA membership + entry fee \$40  
Junior (16 yrs or under) Free

**ENTRY FORMS  
AVAILABLE EARLY  
JANUARY**

**SOCIAL EVENT & PRIZEGIVING**

3.30pm: Prizegiving Kairaki Beach Camp Hall  
BYO drinks and \$2 sausage sizzle BBQ.  
Partners and friends welcome.

Competition organised by NZ Salmon Anglers Assn  
PO Box 1113 Christchurch 8140



## Fish in Schools

Southbridge School participated in the Fish in Schools programme this year, with Community Two looking after a salmon tank. Here are photos and comments from the children:

“As they grow we had a lot of fun, we had a few dead fish but still had a lot of fun releasing them.”

*from Baylie Harrision*

“It was awesome looking after the fish and it was cool cleaning up the food. When we released them we had to put them in bowls and then used the clicker to count how many there was, then we put them into Rakaia huts river.”

*from Lily Hutchinson*

“It was fun looking after them and especially releasing them. All together we had 132 fish.”

*from Merryn Wellby*

“It was fun and it was quite funny when we released the salmon as they pretty much kept coming back.”

*from Brie Arnold*

“They really enjoyed themselves. Thank you.”

*Bonnie Ngawaka*

Teacher at Southbridge School





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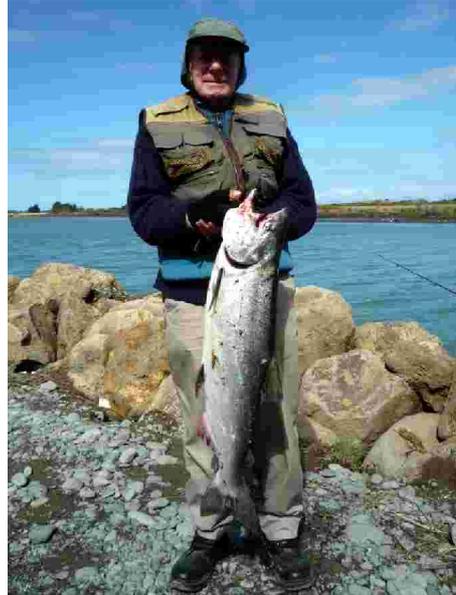
**Mobile:** 0274 349 704

**Email:** [darren@lexingtonlegal.co.nz](mailto:darren@lexingtonlegal.co.nz)

## Waimak Snaps 2011-12 Season from Tony Humphreys



*After being red-zoned in Christchurch and moved to Rangiora, Nicky Madden thought fishing would be a great way to recuperate. A 9lb salmon, her first, on her second day out at McIntosh's was a great pick me up.*



*NZSAA Vice President, Dennis Long, with his first of the 2011-12 season - a nice 13lb at McIntosh's.*



*Tony Humphreys with his 5lb brown trout*



*McIntosh regular, Rex Thorne of Rangiora with his 16lb salmon.*

**More than just great fishing!**

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**Robyn and Ross Jackson**



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**Lake Kaniere via Hokitika**

**Jackson Bay via Haast**

**Bruce Bay: Half-hour Drive South of Fox Glacier**

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

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

Rates: **Kaniere:** \$70 per night up to 4 people. \$20 per person above this.

**Bruce Bay & Jackson Bay:** \$65 per night

*For more information and bookings you can call:*

*The Hokitika Angling Club  
C/o Hokitika Cycles & Sportsworld  
Phone 03 755 8662 (shop hours)*

## NZSAA ANNUAL SALMON FISHING COMPETITION

The NZSAA Annual Salmon Fishing Competition will be run for the current 2012-13 season. 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 2013.

### 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. All fish must be gutted and gilled with the head on. Frozen fish not permitted.
4. Fish must be weighed at premises where Government tested scales are in use, or at the Rakaia River Holiday Park, or at the Kairaki Beach Motor Camp.
5. Declaration form must be completed and forwarded to reach the Secretary, NZSAA, P O Box 1113, Christchurch 8140, no later than 3 May 2013.
6. All panels on the entry form must be completed and the declaration signed.
7. In the event of a dispute the final arbitrators will be the NZSAA Committee. No correspondence will be entered into regarding the results.

### ENTRY FORM AND DECLARATION

Name.....

Angler's Address.....

Licence Number.....Date Fish Caught.....

Weight of Fish (Gutted and Gilled with Head On).....kg.....gms

River and Location where Caught.....

Premises Where Weighed.....

Name and Signature of Person Weighing.....

**I certify that all the above information is correct,  
and that I am the Angler who caught this fish**

.....  
Signature of Angler



**YOU'RE INVITED  
JOIN**

# **NZ Salmon Anglers Association (Inc)**

- ▶ YOUR SUPPORT WILL ENSURE CONTINUATION OF OUR SALMON FISHERY.
- ▶ PROTECT OUR WATER RESOURCES
- ▶ ENSURE APPROPRIATE LICENSING REGULATIONS
- ▶ ASSIST BREEDING PROGRAMS



**Post To: N.Z. Salmon Anglers Association (Inc)  
P. O. Box 1113 Christchurch 8140 New Zealand**

I wish to become a member of the NZ Salmon Anglers Association Inc and agree to be bound by the Rules and Constitution of the Association

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact details \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Available to assist with volunteer work weekdays/weekends?

*Subscription enclosed*

- Adult membership \$25pa
- Family membership \$30pa
- Junior membership (under 18yrs) \$10pa

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

