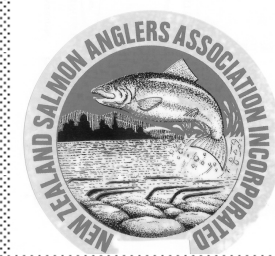


# **NZ Salmon Anglers Newsletter**

**February 2016 Number 116**



**Get your entries in for the  
WAIMAKARIRI RIVER  
SALMON FISHING COMPETITION  
Saturday 12 March 2016  
(Details inside)**



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

**NEW ZEALAND SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (INC)  
2014-15 OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE**

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<b>Vice President</b>	Dennis Long	352 2874	dennislong@xtra.co.nz
<b>Secretary &amp; Treasurer</b>	Heather Saunders	323 8118	ianandh.s@ihug.co.nz
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	Pam Ellis	383 0900 021 2113293	npellis@clear.net.nz
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	James Parbery	03 312 8229	welshflyfishnz@yahoo.co.nz
	Warren Windelburn	027 2110418	
<b>Honorary Auditor</b>	Trevor Hayes		

**Committee Meetings**

The Committee meets on the first Monday each month (except January) at 7.30 pm. Members and supporters are welcome to attend these meetings. (Meetings are currently held at a private residence, so please check this with the Secretary if you wish to attend.)

**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

February 2016

Greetings and belated best wishes for the New Year.

The good news is that we were salmon caught especially in the Rakaia after an early season fresh. Let's hope that it is a good sign for the rest of the rivers. Some fish were caught at MacIntosh's before the New Year after a short fresh and encouraging reports of early February catches. Using Colin Eaton's survey it appears that the fin clipped fish dominate the early season and the wild fish appear later in February and March.

If the El Nino keeps to form we should be in for a hot dry summer. If this is the case then the irrigation problem will only get worse. ECAN are being criticised lately and so they should be as our water situation is literally a mess. They have not done as promised, unless you're a farmer, that is.

NZSAA last year took out full membership of the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers. At its 2015 AGM five new South Island executive members were elected, including NZSAA committee member Larry Burke/ Congratulations Larry on this appointment which will strengthen our efforts and advocacy in preserving and enhancing the salmon fishery.

Thanks to some keen committee members we have put up a Face Book page to share photos so have a look and enjoy.

The most important forthcoming event is our annual Waimakariri River Salmon Fishing competition. The date for this year's event is Saturday, March 12 and it is open to all licensed anglers including juniors. It's a bit earlier than last year but the date was chosen to hopefully provide the best fishing time.

Entry forms are available at most fishing stores. See details in this newsletter.

Make sure you get your entry in early as NZ Post is on reduced times. For the late deciders the River Mouth parking-lot bus will accept late entries on the day until 9am. To help this year we have set up entry drop off centres at Hunting and Fishing Tower Junction, Blackwells in Kaiapoi and as usual the Kairaki Camp office.

The sponsors are listed on the entry form so please support these businesses as they make the competition possible. There is the usual good lineup of prizes so all we need is good weather and plenty of fish on the day.

For our members only, we again have the NZSAA competition for salmon caught during the season, with trophies and vouchers for overall heaviest any river, and heaviest Waimakariri and Rakaia Rivers. Entry form in this newsletter.

Your Committee is also very aware that publication of our newsletter has been infrequent over the past couple of years. To some extent, the website and the recently introduced Facebook have taken over the role of publishing up to date news and events. On the other hand we know that many of our members do like to receive the emailed or postal copy of the printed newsletter.

So we will try and improve the frequency of the newsletter. However the success of this publication is also dependent on the contribution of interesting information by members and supporters of the salmon fishery. So let's have your stories, photos, articles, jokes etc. to help us produce an interesting newsletter.

Your committee has recently been holding meetings in the residence of a committee member, pending more permanent premises for Fish & Game.. NZSAA members are always welcome to attend our meetings and, if you want to do so, please check first with our Secretary to find out where to go.

In the meantime enjoy your fishing and the time out on the water. All the best for the remainder of the season and tight lines.

Tony Humphreys

**PRESIDENT**

## Otago NZSAA News

Otago continued to enhance the southern fishery with the release of 20,000 smolt into the water of the Leith and Lindsay Creek during 2015. The smolt were between 40 and 100 grams weight.

They also commissioned a new tanker trailer so were able to release the smolt into various pools around the catchment, therefore spreading the load on the river system.



Salmon have been caught in Otago harbour since mid October, the early ones being around 3 to 4kg but larger ones around 6kg being caught later, including from the wharves around Dunedin.

The annual Otago Harbour Salmon Fishing competition will be held on the 27 and 28 February 2016.

NZSAA Otago is also on Facebook. Check out their latest activities.

Peter Coory  
Secretary Treasurer  
NZSAA Otago

**Major Sponsor to the  
2016 Waimakariri Salmon Fishing Contest**

# **Hunting & Fishing**

**NEW ZEALAND**

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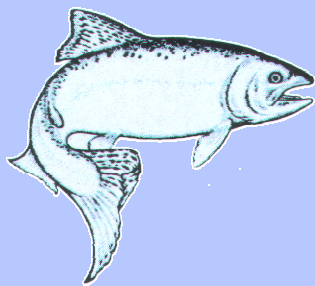
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Fax 03 3430213**

**Hunting and Fishing  
Christchurch City Centre  
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Phone 03 3775090  
Fax 03 3775095**

**North Canterbury Hunting and Fishing  
305 Flaxton Road  
Rangiora  
Phone 03 3131313**

**Saturday 12 March 2016**

## **WAIMAKARIRI SALMON FISHING COMPETITION**



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

**START TIME:** First Light  
**FINISH TIME:** 3.30pm

**WEIGH STATION**  
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Open 8.00am. Close 4.00pm

### **\$6000 PRIZE POOL**

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North Canterbury: 305 Flaxton Rd, Rangiora

**ENTRY FEES**

Adult \$25  
NZ Salmon Angler member \$20  
NZSAA \$25 membership + entry fee \$45  
Junior (16 yrs or under) Free

**SOCIAL EVENT & PRIZEGIVING**

5.00pm: Prizegiving Kairaki Beach Camp Hall  
BYO drinks and \$2 sausage sizzle BBQ  
Partners and friends welcome.

**ENTRY BY OFFICIAL ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE FROM:**

**NZ Salmon Anglers Association** committee members or website  
[www.nzsalmonanglers.co.nz](http://www.nzsalmonanglers.co.nz)

**President Tony Humphreys** - phone 383 9141  
[tonyhumphreys6@gmail.com](mailto:tonyhumphreys6@gmail.com)

**Secretary Heather Saunders** - phone 323 8118  
[ianandh.s@ihug.co.nz](mailto:ianandh.s@ihug.co.nz)

**Hunting & Fishing** Tower Junction & 575 Colombo St, Christchurch,  
& 305 Flaxton Rd, Rangiora;

**Kairaki Beach Camp Office;**

**Anglers Warehouse,** 42 Maces Rd, Bromley;

**Fisherman's Loft,** 359 Lincoln Rd;

**Complete Angler,** Unit 4, 484 Cranford St;

**Blackwells Kaiapoi**

**Hornby Sports & Outdoors,** 731 Main South Rd, Templeton;

**Smiths City,** Colombo St

**Early Entry Prize Draw closes 5.00pm Sat 27 February 2016.**

**Other entries received up to 9.00am Sat 12 March 2016**

**Competition organised by  
NZ Salmon Anglers Association  
PO Box 1113  
Christchurch 8140**

## NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers

The 2015 Annual General Meeting was held in Christchurch. Reported highlights of the meeting were:

- The election of a re-invigorated executive with 5 new South Island representatives and 4 new North Island representatives and a new life member (Sandy Bull from Gisborne) .
- Listening to outstanding presentations demonstrating the many positive things being done to protect and enhance freshwater ecosystems and to promote angling:
  - The tremendous involvement of volunteers working to enhance the salmon fishery of the east coast of the South Island, in Canterbury and Otago especially.
  - The North Canterbury Fish & Game “Fish in Schools” initiative now spreading beyond Canterbury and engaging large numbers of children and their families in salmon and trout angling.
  - The “Future Rivers Trust” campaign aimed at protecting trout and salmon spawning waters in the region eg. Deep Stream in Central South Island
- Participation in vigorous debate on issues such as:
  - Riparian planting - good for trout but often making access difficult - do we need a riparian planting code of good practice?
  - Felt-soled footwear - time for a Fish & Game re-think?
  - The damage done to freshwater habitats as a result of pine monocultures & poor harvesting regimes outlawed in other parts of the world
  - The proposed Ngati Tuwharetoa, DoC, and Office of Treaty Settlements agreement for the harvesting of trout
  - Water storage schemes - need to be assessed for merit on a case by case basis - some have created good habitat and productive angling
  - Angler access to waterways - total opposition to exclusive capture
- Establishment of renewed liaisons with Canterbury angling clubs such as NZ Salmon Anglers Association, ChCh Fishing & Casting Club, Canterbury Anglers Club, NZ Professional Fishing Guides Association, all of whom made presentations to the meeting.
- Revitalising the constitution to rejuvenate membership and participation

In summary, the NZFFA is an organisation of passionate anglers volunteering their time and effort to protect freshwater ecosystems across the country, enhance the trout and salmon populations of those waters and maintain good angler access for recreational purposes. In short, it is a nationally representative organisation working hard for the interests of anglers and therefore deserving the support of all clubs and licence-holders throughout the country.



## HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION WESTLAND

Lake Kaniere via Hokitika

Neil's Beach, Jackson Bay via Haast

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

All baches self-contained with pots/pans, cutlery, power, shower, washing machine, fridge, freezer, or fridge/freezer. All baches sleep 8 people.

You need to supply all disposable items including wood/coal for the Yunka type fire (except Kaniere, electric heating), linen etc. Upon leaving bach must be left clean, tidy and all rubbish removed.

Rates: **Kaniere:** \$130 per night (up to 4 people) \$20 per extra person  
**Bruce Bay & Neil's Beach** \$80 per night

*For more information and bookings please contact Nelson or Cindy:*

*The Hokitika Angling Club  
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[www.hokitikasportsworld.co.nz](http://www.hokitikasportsworld.co.nz)*

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# Alaskan Fishing Adventure 2015

by Darryl French, NZSAA member

Last June I realised a lifetime dream to travel to Alaska to fish for the five species of Pacific Salmon that populate the state. This trip had been 25 years in the dreaming so in June 2014 my wife Simone and I decided not to put it off any longer and actually book it.

As you can imagine over the 25 years I had had plenty of time to research the area. My dream had always been to go there and catch a really big King Salmon on the Kenai River, home to the largest king ever caught on a rod and reel. Unfortunately after talking to a lot of people both in New Zealand and Alaska the likelihood of catching that prize would require a lot of time and money and even more luck due to intense angling pressure and a reduction in the size of the fish and the run in recent years.

After considering this I decided that quantity over size was the go for our trip so I organised a trip through Cabela's to do a fly out fish camp on the Nushagak River for five days with Alaska Kingfishers. The Nushagak is a large system located in Bristol Bay and it boasts the largest run of King Salmon in Alaska with fish averaging between 20-30lb with some 30-45lb caught regularly.

We touched down in Anchorage on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2015 and after a couple of days sightseeing headed out to Dillingham, a small fishing village in Bristol Bay about a one and a half hour flight from Anchorage. We stayed the night in a traditional log cabin which was very comfortable before being picked up for our float plane trip out to the fish camp on the Nush the next morning.



After a very scenic flight we touched down at Alaska Kingfishers. After meeting everyone and stowing our gear Simone and I were out on the river with our guide Ethan. We headed up river about 4km and set up ready to drift back down the river.

There are two methods used in the boats on the Nush: "Back Trolling" and "Bobber Dogging". We opted for Bobber Dogging which is basically drifting down the river sideways with a float (bobber), a weight and a metre long leader attached to a single hook, which either had a Spin and Glo or, as we did, a cluster of Salmon eggs which had been cured. Now I always thought that Salmon, particularly Kings (which are the same as our NZ Salmon) don't feed when they enter the fresh water. This was quickly dispelled on our first drift as Ethan explained that the Kings are attracted to the scent of the eggs and will bite repeatedly much like bait fishing. So a couple of minutes into our first drift we watched as our bobbers got repeated bites until finally the bobber stayed under. We were then instructed to reel into the fish until the weight was felt before striking. At that point all hell broke loose. Simone was the first to hook up. Now Simone is an experienced angler having caught Kingy's and Snapper in NZ and Barramundi and

Marlin over here in Australia but her first Salmon took her completely by surprise with the power and speed it exerted on its first run. Once hooked the fish tend to run straight downstream past and sometimes under the boat. This fish was no exception and Simone had to reel frantically to keep line pressure on it. It then shot across the river and headed back upstream. Ethan ended up chasing it with the boat and after some tricky manoeuvring Simone ended up getting some semblance of control before the fish slugged it out beneath the boat. Fifteen minutes later a fat 28lb King lay in the bottom of the boat. Simone was rapt with her first ever Salmon and what a fish to start with.



We met the rest of the guests and guides that night at dinner. The camp caters for 16 anglers per four day trip which meant we weren't tripping over each other. Each boat fishes four anglers. We headed outside for after dinner drinks on the banks of the river and watched Salmon porpoising and splashing around in front of us. You can fish off the bank if you wish but after catching as many fish as we had that first day we just sat and enjoyed the sunset. By the way it doesn't actually set this time of year it just travels above the horizon at night. We had twenty four hours of daylight so needed sleep masks to sleep.

Alaskan Fish and Game have strict regulations on bag limits, closing rivers at times until enough fish have got through. On the Nushagak the limit for the season is four King Salmon. On other rivers like the Kenai it is only one. We had decided before coming to the Nush that we would only keep two fish which would see us through our month in Alaska. The final tally for that first afternoon was eight for me and Simone seven fish ranging between 18 and 28 lb. We had a ball.

Next day we were up at 6am for a hearty breakfast before heading out with our fishing companions for the day, Bob and Budge from Montana. These guys were retired firemen and the nicest guys you would want to meet. We had a ball with them. Our guide for the day was Danny who hailed from Washington State. He was a very knowledgeable young guide and had us onto fish straight away.

Double hook-ups were common and we even had a triple at one stage. We had had a big morning and by lunch time were ready for a break. We stopped for a toilet stop and some lunch where we took in the scenery and wildlife that is all you'd expect Alaska to be including fresh bear prints on the beach where we pulled up. The afternoon was a little slower but we still caught plenty of fish including a nice 34lber for Bob. The tally for the day was 43 fish for our boat ranging in size from 14lb to 34lb. It was two tired Kiwis that rolled into our beds that night.



Day three was another huge day for us. The run was in full swing that day and all boats reported great catches with one boat having the record fish for the week at 38lb. We weren't outdone though: I managed my second 28lber and Simone landed her biggest for the trip just under the magical 30lb mark. I ended up with 12 for the day and Simone 9. As you can imagine the fishing stories were running hot in the mess tent that night with stories of the big ones that got away. We were starting to feel a little down as we knew the next day was our last day.

Day four the weather took a turn for the worse with strong winds and rain squalls. Luckily we were prepared for this as Cabela's had provided us with a list of clothing and equipment to bring. The fishing also slowed on day four as the run had a breather. We spent a lot of time trying to locate the tail of the first run and then travelled a fair way downstream to try and locate the beginning of the next run. We still ended up with a good day numbers wise but I think we had been spoilt by the previous days fishing.

Next day we said our goodbyes to our hosts and guides and to the fellow anglers we had made friends with over the last four days. It was a sad day for me leaving that special place. My dreams had definitely been fulfilled and I vowed to go back there some day. For the four days Simone and I had landed 72 Kings and hooked and lost numerous more including some brutes that we couldn't stop.



This is a trip that I would highly recommend.

The staff, guides and facilities at Alaska Kingfishers are first rate. We have made lifelong friends along the way. If anyone is interested in looking at a trip here is the website with everything you need to know. <https://alaskakingfishers.com/>

*I have also made a short movie which is on YouTube at [https://youtu.be/9ju5Th\\_fHqc](https://youtu.be/9ju5Th_fHqc)*

You can also contact me at frenchds@hotmail.com if you have questions.

Simone and I spent another 3 weeks tripping around the Kenai Peninsula in an RV. I got to fish the Kenai which was disappointing and also the Kasiloff River where I landed another small King out of a drift boat. I also went Halibut and Salmon fishing out at sea which was enjoyable but those are stories for another day





## 2015 Awards & Prizewinners

### Barry Craig Earthquake Memorial Trophy NZSAA Salmon Angler of the Year

This is given to a dedicated salmon angler seen as showing outstanding sportsmanship.

The 2015 winner was Peter Robinson who received the trophy at the 2015 AGM.

Peter caught his first salmon when he was 11 years old. He has been active on the fishing scene for many years and has been involved with many projects and activities and his enthusiasm for the salmon fishery has been invaluable. He first joined the NZ Salmon Anglers Association in 2003, has been a North Canterbury Fish & Game Councillor since 2006 and has been a New Zealand Fish & Game Council member. As the Youth Programme Co-ordinator at Fish & Game, his involvement with the Fish in Schools programme has fitted very nicely with his teaching background. His enthusiasm to inform children about our vital fisheries is a valuable instrument to ensure future generations enjoy the same opportunities that we have done.



### Athol Price Plaque

This is awarded for outstanding service to the salmon sports fishery.

The 2015 winner was Graham McLeod.

Graham supports the NZ Salmon Anglers Association in many ways by being fully engaged with all aspects of salmon enhancement at Silverstream, Isaacs, fin clipping at Montrose, egg planting either using scotty boxes or the barrel method and including stream cleaning at places like Hacketts Creek.

Graham was presented with the Plaque at the 2015 AGM.



## **NZSAA Members Competition 2015**

### **Aquarius Trophy for Heaviest Fish Overall**

Dave Leigh      6.47kg salmon      Rakaia River

### **Cromb & Merritt/Fishermans Loft Trophy Heaviest Salmon Waimakariri River**

Keith Gallagher      5.10kg salmon

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

Dave Leigh      5.60kg salmon



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## **Fish & Game Critical of “Weak” Government Response to Poor Water Quality**

*Published on Sunday, February 21, 2016*

Fish & Game is critical of the government’s just-released consultation document on fresh water, saying overall it will weaken not strengthen existing environmental protection and is a smokescreen to hide backdoor efforts to undermine the Resource Management Act and Water Conservation Orders. The consultation document puts forward more than 20 proposals the government says will improve New Zealand’s freshwater quality. Public submissions are now being invited. Fish & Game says the document falls well short of what is need to address the growing threat of falling freshwater quality.

Fish & Game chief executive Bryce Johnson says it is an attack on the environment and the value of natural freshwater. “When you look beyond the rhetoric, this document is all about furthering water-based development at the expense of the environment. There is no solid reference to recreation, food gathering or making rivers swimmable,” Mr Johnson says. Bryce Johnson says the consultation document is a win for agriculture and a defeat for the environment. And Mr Johnson says the time frames to exclude stock from waterways are completely out of step with public sentiment. “Cattle don’t have to be fenced out of water until 2030. Dairy cattle aren’t completely excluded from our waters until 2025. This will just create a water pollution legacy for future generations. The recent public and media outcry over cattle in Lake Taylor clearly demonstrated New Zealanders’ thinking on this issue. Surely it is time the government made agriculture fully accountable for its adverse effects on the environment”.

“The present plan is nothing more than continuing the environmental subsidy to farmers by leaving taxpayers and ratepayers to pick up the hefty bill to clean up agriculture’s mess. The industry has to be made accountable for damaging the environment and should be required to cover these costs, not dump them on the wider public. Fish & Game is shocked by the government’s plan to weaken Water Conservation Orders. Water Conservation Orders are the equivalent of National Park status for waterways, but the government wants to change the law to make them subservient to regional planning processes, the very process WCOs were created to sit above. This proposal would be the beginning of the end for Water Conservation Orders, completely reversing the hierarchy of the present law.”

Bryce Johnson says the government consultation document shows the NZ public is being ignored. “We believe there is a growing frustration among New Zealanders that the clean water they once took for granted is disappearing. They are increasingly angry that their birth right of being able to swim, drink and gather food from their rivers and lakes is being taken away from them. The public didn’t give permission for this to happen and the government would do well to listen to the people and work on protecting freshwater and the New Zealand way of life,” Mr Johnson says.

“With the demise of the dairy industry, the government needs to refocus on strengthening the New Zealand “clean and green” brand, and put the natural environment first. It should not be undermining it for further agricultural intensification to produce products we are struggling to sell in markets which are supplied by cheaper producers.”

# Fall Chinook Continue to Set Records on the Snake River

Reprinted article by Jeremy FiveCrows | Feb 4, 2016

## Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

For the third year in a row, fall chinook returning to the Snake River have set a new record. Data released by the Nez Perce Tribe shows that a new record of 9,345 redds, or gravel nests, were built by returning adults in the Snake River Basin between Lower Granite and Hells Canyon dams last year. The previous record was set in 2014 when 6,714 redds were counted. This new record coincides with the third highest adult Snake River fall chinook return (59,300) since the four lower Snake River dams were completed in 1975.

The success of the Snake River fall chinook program is the direct result of efforts to supplement existing Snake River fall chinook with biologically appropriate hatchery-reared fish.

## Brought to the Brink of Extinction

In early 1900's, Snake River fall chinook were widely distributed from the mouth of the river upstream to Shoshone Falls in southern Idaho, more than 900 miles from the ocean. As late as the 1930's, fall chinook returns in the Snake River numbered 500,000 adults.

The construction of dams on the Snake River, beginning with Swan Falls in 1901 and continuing with the Hells Canyon Dam Complex in the 1950's and Lower Snake River dams in later years, eliminated or severely degraded 530 miles – or 80% – of the historical habitat. The most productive of that habitat was upriver from the site of Hells Canyon Dam, which has no fish passage. A precipitous decline of Snake River fall chinook followed with only 78 wild adults observed at Lower Granite Dam in 1990.

NOAA's response to the listing of Snake River fall chinook under the Endangered Species Act in 1992 threatened the tribal fall season fishery—the last remaining tribal commercial fishery at the time. In 1994, NOAA sought to restrict the tribal fishery under the ESA setting the stage for a potential landmark conflict between tribal treaty rights and the ESA. With the stage set, U.S. District Court Judge Malcolm Marsh warned the parties that while he was willing to hear this case, not everyone would like the outcome. The tribes were risking rights guaranteed in their treaties signed in 1855 and the federal government was risking the Endangered Species Act. Taking his warning to heart, the parties began negotiating.

The agreement brought together the Nez Perce Tribe, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to restore fall chinook salmon above Lower Granite Dam. One outcome of this agreement was the authorization for the Nez Perce Tribe to develop a cutting-edge hatchery program to supplement natural chinook populations with hatchery-reared fish of the same stock.

The agreement also spurred the development and issuance of Secretarial Order #3206 by the secretaries of Interior and Commerce, which sought to harmonize the federal government's duties to the tribes and the ESA.

Now, 21 years after the program began, the Nez Perce Tribe annually releases 450,000 yearling fall chinook and 2.8 million sub-yearling fall chinook from tribal facilities. Together with the other parties and partners, a total of 5 million fish are put back into the system each year. These releases into the Snake and Clearwater rivers have increased the number of adult fall chinook returning above Lower Granite Dam. Many of which spawn naturally and are key to increasing natural-origin returns.

"The continued success of the Snake River fall chinook returns over the past 5 years strengthens the argument for carefully managed hatcheries as a tool in salmon recovery," said Anthony Johnson, Chairman of the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee. "This program highlights the success of salmon restoration programs and demonstrates our potential when we focus on rebuilding abundance."

#### **On the Road to Recovery**

Adult fall chinook salmon returns to Lower Granite Dam have increased from fewer than 1,000 adults to Lower Granite Dam annually from 1975-1995 to record counts of 56,565 adults in 2013 and 60,868 in 2014. These returns include record numbers of natural-origin fish returning to the spawning grounds, including 21,142 wild fish in 2013, 14,172 in 2014 and a preliminary estimate 16,212 in 2015. This equals approximately 28 percent of the 2015 return to the area.

The continued increase in returns of Snake River fall chinook allowed co-managers to open a fall chinook fishery in the Snake River in 2009. This was the first fall chinook fishery on the Snake River in 35 years and the fishery has occurred each year since.

"The success of the Snake River fall chinook is something this region can really be proud of," said Paul Lumley, Executive Director for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. "Over the last 20 years, we've moved from the courtroom to supporting fisheries while putting a substantial number of returning adults on the spawning grounds. This type of program should be replicated throughout the Columbia River Basin, not limited."

#### ***CRITFC Mission & Vision***

*The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission coordinates management policy and provides fisheries technical services for the Yakama, Warm Springs, Umatilla, and Nez Perce tribes.*

*CRITFC's mission is "to ensure a unified voice in the overall management of the fishery resources, and as managers, to protect reserved treaty rights through the exercise of the inherent sovereign powers of the tribes."*

# Salmon Enhancement Programme

**A diary of the 2015 ova planting programme as recorded by team leader Colin Eaton**

## **2 May**

All in-stream incubators in place ready for delivery of ova at Porter River and One Tree Swamp. Little water in the Hawdon and Russell Mackay able to drive his vehicle all the way to the swamp area. Concern at the large number of cattle in the river and swamp.

## **28 May**

Hacketts Creek visited to check and clean the alevinator prior to ova planting and to look for signs of returning spawning salmon. Although the stream entry was good, there was no evidence of any redds or fish so probably too early. Water temperature 5.8°C.

*Photo: Cleaning the alevinator*



## **13 June**

40,000 eggs planted as follows: One Tree Swamp 25,000, Broken River 3,000 and Porter River 12,000. Given the very cold weather leading up to the weekend it was touch and go whether we would be able to get across the Hawdon River or even Porters Pass but the day was brilliant and the original plan achieved. At One Tree Swamp there were several live fish in the spawning stream and fresh redds and fresh fish at the Waimakariri entrance. The water temperature ranged from 6.2°C to 8.5°C at the three locations.

## **20 June**

18 volunteers went ova planting at Hacketts Creek despite the terrible weather beforehand and plenty of snow still on the property of Bevan and Kathy Mehrtens. 27,625 eggs were planted in 32 Scotty boxes in the alevinator which had a cool water temperature of 5.2°C. The day managed to climb to 8.6°C. The day finished with a barbecue and another 4WD venture over snow laden paddocks. This trip will undoubtedly remain in the minds of the volunteers for years to come.

## **27 June**

Again 18 volunteers braved a morning barely above freezing to plant 18181 salmon ova. The original plan was to go to Dove Stream in the Hurunui but as there was still half a metre of snow on the ground, plan B came into effect. The ova were planted at Silverstream adjacent to Kevin Belcher's property and all was completed by morning tea time on a sunny Canterbury day. Stream temperature 9.9°C , air temperature 1.2°C !

### **12 July & 14 July**

A small team went to Hacketts Creek to remove the Scotty boxes on 12 July. Lambing was in full swing on the property so cooperation with the Mehrtens' farming operations was paramount. Another visit was made on 14 July to check on hatching progress in the alevinator. Quite a lot of silting but thousands of little red critters alive and kicking on the bottom.

Final analysis of the Hacketts Creek ova planting:

Total ova supplied 27625; dead eggs 5829; total loss 21.10%; total hatch 78.9%

The results as to dead eggs in the Scotty boxes within the alevinator are only indicative percentage-wise because an extra 4 boxes had to be used. The difficulty was caused by some of the eyed ova being bigger than usual and did not sit well within the loading trays. Repositioning the boxes within the alevinator overcame the situation resulting in quite a remarkable spread of percentage of dead eggs.

### **12 November**

Trip to remove the in-stream incubators at One Tree Swamp and check up on the alevinator at Hacketts Creek.

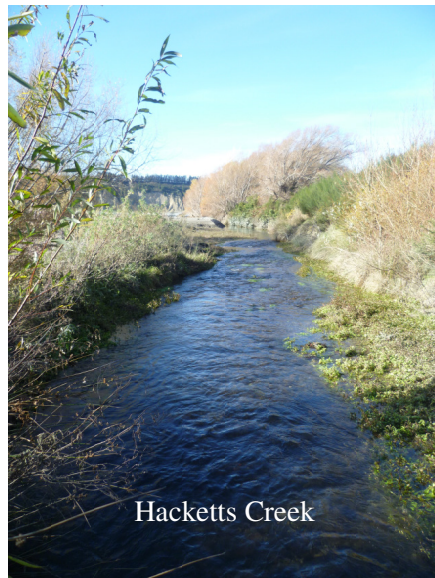
The 7 boxes were all removed at One Tree during a rather wintery snowy day with the water temperature at 8.4°C. During our time at One Tree we also measured water temperature at the Mount White Bridge in the Waimak at 9.7°C. The Hacketts Creek unit was running ok but there were still two salmon in the alevinator accompanied by a cockabully. Water temperature at Hacketts was 13°C and again it was snowing during our time there.

Many of the lockers at One Tree Swamp need replacement. If anyone knows a source of old school-type lockers that are no longer required, please let us know.

We acknowledge and thank all those NZSAA members and supporters who so willingly gave their time to assist this year's ova planting and salmon enhancement activities. Air, ground and water conditions were extremely cold on most occasions and it says so much for the enthusiasm and dedication of these volunteers in their efforts to preserve the salmon fishery for the future.

Thank you all for a job well done.

**Colin Eaton**



## Fin Clipping Weekend at Montrose Club Fundraising Event

The annual Chinook salmon smolt fin clipping was undertaken at the Montrose hatchery on Saturday and Sunday 13 and 14 February 2016.

This important task of marking Chinook salmon for the purpose of identification within the fishery is one of the most essential fisheries management tools we have.

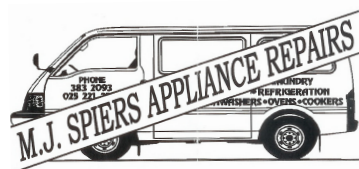
North Canterbury Fish and Game invited members of the New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association, the Canterbury Lurefishing Association and members of the public to assist with the task of adipose fin clipping approximately 130,000 salmon smolt at the site. These smolt stocks are destined for release into Silverstream, Otukaikino, Rakaia, Coleridge, Kaikoura, Clarence, and the West Coast in July.

On Saturday some 85 people had clipped 85,000 by 12.30pm. It was decided to leave the rest for the Sunday group as many had indicated they could only participate on Sunday. It was a lovely day and we then enjoyed a BBQ lunch provided by F&G..

On Sunday the group was very much less with 22 people. We proceeded to clip the rest and the task was completed by 12 noon. Again a BBQ lunch was provided and the day was beautifully fine.

In total some 120,000–125,000 salmon smolt are ready to be released in the various locations. I, along with the Fish & Game staff, thank everyone who participated and thank you for a job well done. It's when you see the efforts shown on the weekend past it makes you feel grateful for volunteers of the fishing clubs.

Colin Eaton



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## **NZSAA ANNUAL SALMON FISHING COMPETITION (MEMBERS ONLY)**

The NZSAA Annual Salmon Fishing Competition will be run for the current 2015-16 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 2016.

### **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 1 May 2016.
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  
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# **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 \_\_\_\_\_

