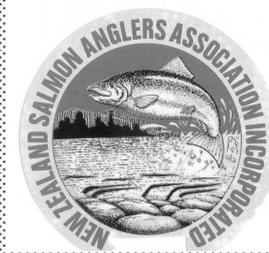


NZ Salmon Anglers Newsletter

May 2016 Number 117



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Make a date in your diary:

**NZSAA
Annual General
Meeting
Tuesday 24 May
2016
At 7.30 pm**

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

**NEW ZEALAND SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (INC)
2015-16 OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE**

President	Tony Humphreys	383 9141 02102375746	tonyhumphreys6@gmail.com
Vice Presidents	Dennis Long	352 2874 Fax 352 3708	dennislong@xtra.co.nz
	Dave Leigh	980 2623 0272862865	rae.dave@paradise.net.nz
Secretary/Treasurer	Heather Saunders	323 8118	ianandh.s@ihug.co.nz
Patron	John Hodgson	351 5825	jmhodgson@xtra.co.nz
Committee	Mike Ager	327 9283 02102951190	
	Phil Ball	349 5993 0212656133	jeanettephilball@xtra.co.nz
	Kevin Belcher	327 6163 021625306	kbel209@gmail.com
	Larry Burke	389 8839 0274916409	the.burkes@clear.net.nz
	Colin Eaton	352 3890 027 2080063	colinanddieaton@xtra.co.nz
	Pam Ellis	383 0900 0212113293	npellis@clear.net.nz
	James Parbery	03 312 8229	welshflyfishnz@yahoo.co.nz
	Greg Terras	03 3136861 0274341737	gjterras@gmail.com
Honorary Auditor	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.



EDITORIAL

May 2016

Dear Anglers

While some people are bemoaning the lack of fish let's put it in perspective. When in England my grandfather started me fishing. We caught roach and perch in muddy pits. I graduated to trout fishing in Cumbria and used to look enviously at the pictures of salmon in magazines. Fishing for them was expensive if you could afford it. A friend of my father paid a thousand pounds for a week's fishing on a beat in Scotland. He caught nothing.

When our family moved to Canada in 1959 my chances of catching a salmon improved. It wasn't until 1968 when travelling in British Columbia that I caught my first salmon, a 9lb spring. My first Waimak salmon in 1981 was 18lbs.

I can catch bigger fish on average in New Zealand than my high school friend who lives in BC. My oldest son's first salmon (while a teenager) was a touch under 20lbs, and the youngest (at 11) got his first salmon at the McIntosh on his second cast (tinny little bugger).

I'd hope we can keep the fishery for future generations. We have a world class fishery, or we had one.

When people used to catch 6 salmon a day did they think of the future? Probably not. When they could catch 4 salmon a day did they think of the future? Again probably not.

Now we can catch 2 fish a day. I've managed that once in 40 years fishing but others seem to do it regularly.

We are trying to maintain a fishery with smolt releases and egg planting and it helps to some degree. Perhaps the problem lies with us, the fishermen (and women). Yes, climate change and irrigation have added to the problem but we have to look at ourselves. How many fish do you need? In 1996 I caught 7 salmon average weight 20lbs. I've never done that since. I had so much smoked salmon it filled my freezer.

Yes we have some good years. The last in 2013 was a ripper but we can't expect that every year.

So what do we do? Reduce the limit to one fish a day, shorten the season, have tags with your licence to limit fish catch? I don't know the answer. Maybe you can help.

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.

I'm sorry to end the season on a glum note but something must be done if we want to preserve and enhance what's left of our fishery.

Come along to the AGM on 24 May and share your thoughts. Better still, offer to help out on the NZSAA committee or volunteer some time to our ova planting and salmon enhancement programme.

There has been much said recently on the state of our waterways, as to quantity and quality. There is no doubt this topic will be pursued with government and regional/local authorities for some time yet by recreational and other freshwater users.

NZSAA is undertaking its own investigations and gathering information on river conditions, particularly as to flow levels and water temperatures that can critically affect the salmon fishery. To this end, we have purchased three meters that will measure the dissolved oxygen levels in the water, another critical factor to survival of salmon. It is initially intended to use these instruments at three locations in the Rakaia River to obtain readings at different times of the day and thus give more accurate information on the state of the river at particular times.

In September we will be having a members' evening at Hunting & Fishing's store at Tower Junction. The date will be confirmed later and this will be a great opportunity to check out new angling gear for the next season.

Tony Humphreys
NZSAA PRESIDENT

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

NZSAA Annual Subscriptions for the year commenced 1 April 2016 are now due (no increase from last year).

Adult membership \$25

Family membership \$30

**Junior membership
(under 18 years) \$10**

Formal accounts will be sent out but it will greatly assist the Treasurer if payment can now be made by

- Mail to NZSAA P O Box 1113 Christchurch 8140; or
- Direct Credit to NZSAA Westpac account 03 0802 0099970 00; or
- To the Treasurer at the AGM on 24 May

**Thank you for your continued
support of NZSAA**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The Annual General Meeting of
New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association (Inc)
will be held on Tuesday 24 May 2016 at 7.30 pm
at Canterbury Softball Association premises, Cuthberts Green
Sports Park, 220 Pages Road, Christchurch**

Business for the Meeting

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM 19 May 2015
3. Matters arising from Minutes
4. President's Report
5. Auditor's Report and Adoption of Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet
6. Election of Officers and Committee
 - Patron
 - President
 - Vice Presidents (2)
 - Committee (6)
 - Secretary/Treasurer
 - Honorary Auditor
7. Fishing Competition Results and Awards
8. Athol Price Plaque presentation
9. Barry Craig Memorial Trophy: NZSAA Salmon Angler of the Year
10. Guest Speakers
12. Fish & Game Update and Questions/Answers

A raffle will be run during the evening and supper served at the conclusion.

Please bring this agenda, reports, accounts etc with you to the meeting.

President's Report to NZSAA 43rd Annual General Meeting for the Year Ended 31 March 2016

It hardly seems a year since the last AGM but maybe time goes faster the older you get. This last year has been as usual a busy one. The current fishing season has been a strange one. After the early promise of a fair season it reverted to much the same as before. Some rivers fished well early but tailed off dramatically. The Waimakariri provided some interesting statistics as shown by Colin Eaton's report on the McIntosh hole. As expected the fin clipped fish predominated early on at some 60%. Then the expected wild fish arrived in March in numbers and of good size. The percentage of fin clipped dropped to 15% and the wild fish added much more than the 65% over the last couple of years. They provided great sport and interest. What can we deduce from these figures? Only time will tell.

Getting on to our regular activities of egg planting and fin clipping, all sessions went well and thanks to the volunteers who helped in these. My thanks to Colin Eaton for his fieldwork and the BBQ at sessions.

The Take a Kid Fishing day was great except for the nor'wester that sprang up in the afternoon. It was most interesting at our rod loan station to hear adults admit they knew nothing about how to set up a rod etc. Overall it was a successful day and again thanks to all who helped on the day and with daily security after the fish were put in the lakes.

Our annual Waimakariri salmon fishing competition on 12 March was a great day. The only problem was a lack of fish - only four for the day compared to 16 last year. Again it's important to thank all our sponsors and particularly our principal sponsors Hunting and Fishing for their support. We had some new ones this year, notably Repco, and we thank them for their donations. It was most heartening to see the record number of young anglers taking part. Thanks also to committee members and others for their part for making it a great day.

We are continuing our pressure on Environment Canterbury over the Rakaia River situation. When is a low flow a low flow? It seems it's not such a simple answer. My thanks to John Hodgson for his continuing efforts in keeping an eye on them. We have agreed to purchase three oxygen meters to help John in his work. The response by ECan on a number of matters seems to be rather puzzling. They have many compliance breaches but few prosecutions. They might have to alter their approach if people are to have more faith in their operations. Perhaps a little democracy via upcoming elections would help.

Water seems to be the main concern nationally at the moment. It's not just the recreation and fishing groups but environmentalists and the general public are voicing concerns and hopefully putting pressure on the local MPs.

It's about time that water use and the need for clean water was such an issue for public debate. Ask your local MP what they think.

What's going to become of our fishery? I've made my thoughts known in my editorial in the May magazine. Now it's up to all of us to make some decisions as to what we want to happen. Granted climate change and irrigation are major concerns but we need to do some things for ourselves to show that we are doing our bit to help.

Finally I'd like to thank the committee for their support. There's also a whole group of wives, friends and others who have helped over the year and their contributions are also valuable. We can't do everything ourselves and we appreciate any help we can get. Thanks also to Fish and Game for their continued cooperation in various matters.

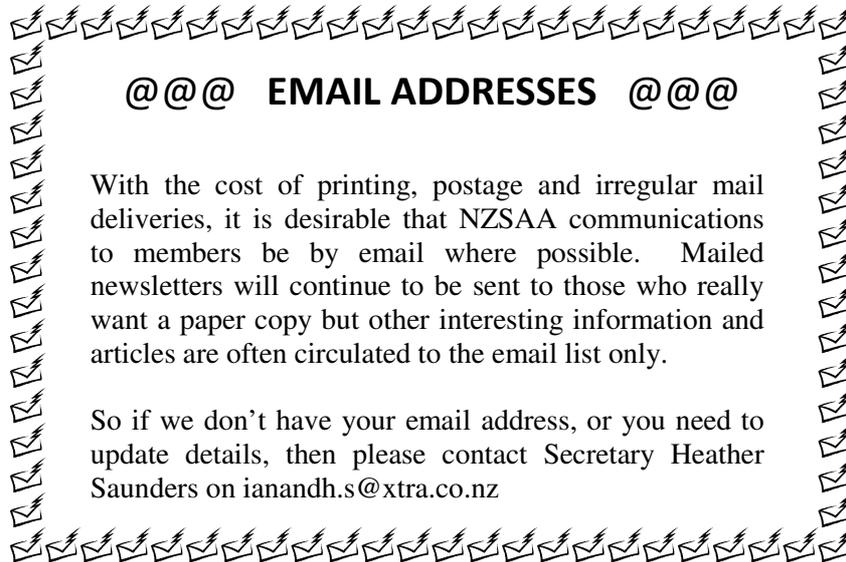
My very special thanks go to our Secretary Heather Saunders who keeps all our records and finances up to date. She does a great job organising the competition entries, prizes and lots of other aspects of the day. She's also great at keeping me on task and keeping things ticking over nicely.

Good luck and best wishes for the next season.

Tony Humphreys

President

May 2016



@@@ EMAIL ADDRESSES @@@

With the cost of printing, postage and irregular mail deliveries, it is desirable that NZSAA communications to members be by email where possible. Mailed newsletters will continue to be sent to those who really want a paper copy but other interesting information and articles are often circulated to the email list only.

So if we don't have your email address, or you need to update details, then please contact Secretary Heather Saunders on ianandh.s@xtra.co.nz

**N.Z. SALMON ANGLERS ASSN INC.
STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

Y/e 31.3.15	Income	Y/e 31.3.16
4665.00	Subscriptions	4405.00
175.00	Donations	190.00
1030.18	Interest Received	933.93
62.49	Dividends	-
250.00	Raffle	32.00
20.00	Advertising	90.00
12.35	Profit on sale of stock	1.71
750.00	Fin Clipping	900.00
3011.25	Waimakariri Competition Profit	2651.83
<u>9976.27</u>		<u>9204.47</u>
	 Expenditure	
492.50	Newsletter and Postage	560.00
1980.00	Secretary/Treasurer Honorarium	2160.00
356.05	Office Expenses	933.30
416.86	Meeting & Travel Expenses	-
926.97	AGM Costs	673.80
533.80	Depreciation on Assets	755.30
146.38	Sundry Expenses	-
1529.57	Salmon Enhancement	1172.94
<u>830.00</u>	Subscriptions	<u>350.00</u>
7212.13		6605.34
<u>2764.14</u>	Excess income over expenditure	<u>2599.13</u>
<u>9976.27</u>		<u>9204.47</u>

**N.Z. SALMON ANGLERS ASSN INC.
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MAR 2016**

<u>Y/e 31.3.15</u>	<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>		<u>Y/e 31.3.16</u>
37781.23	Balance as at 1.4.15		40705.97
2764.14	Plus Excess Income over Expenditure		2599.13
160.60	Plus Profit on revaluation of shares		335.80
<u>\$40705.97</u>			<u>43640.90</u>
	<u>THESE FUNDS ARE REPRESENTED BY</u>		
	Office Equipment	33.50	
33.50	Less Depreciation for Year	<u>6.70</u>	26.80
	Computer	124.10	
124.10	Less Depreciation for Year	<u>124.10</u>	-
	Container (cost)	3031.70	
3031.70	Less Depreciation - 6 months	<u>454.70</u>	2577.00
	Shed	92.00	
92.00	Less Depreciation for Year	<u>92.00</u>	-
	Emergency Beacon	196.50	
196.50	Less Depreciation for Year	<u>64.80</u>	131.70
	Website	76.00	
76.00	Less Depreciation	<u>38.00</u>	2773.50
	<u>INVESTMENTS</u>		
22375.45	Term Deposits with Westpac Trust	23289.52	
1416.20	Shares in Sanford Ltd	<u>1752.00</u>	25041.52
	<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
4550.83	Westpac Trust Savings Account	5190.53	
7241.67	Westpac Trust Bank Account	10002.78	
300.00	Subscriptions in Arrears	50.00	
872.09	Sundry Debtors	832.44	
3113.92	Stock	<u>2287.13</u>	18362.88
<u>\$43423.96</u>	<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>		46177.90
	<u>LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>		
405.00	Subscriptions in Advance	260.00	
<u>135.99</u>	Sundry Creditors	<u>100.00</u>	360.00
	<u>LESS RESERVE FUND</u>		
2177.00	Barry Craig Memorial		2177.00
<u>\$40705.97</u>	<u>NET ASSETS</u>		<u>\$43640.90</u>

Note.

1. Since Balance Date a payment of \$4850.64 has been made to Technolab Marketing for oxygen meters. Further charges including GST to follow.
2. Our computer was thrown out. Orion donated 2 laptops at no cost to us.
3. Our shed was disposed of.
4. Currently we are unable to deposit Sanford share dividends.

**N.Z. SALMON ANGLERS ASSN INC.
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016**

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. General Accounting Policies

The general accounting principles as recommended by the N.Z. Society of Accountants for measurement and reporting of income and expenditure on an historical cost basis have been applied.

2. Particular Accounting Policies

The following particular accounting principles which materially affect the measurement of profit or the financial position have been applied -

- (i) Depreciation has been charged at 20% on the written down value of office equipment, 15% on the container, 33% on the Emergency Beacon and 50% on the Website.
- (ii) Subscription Debtors - included at amount expected to realise of \$50.00.
- (iii) Shares owned in Sanford Ltd. have been included at market price.

3. Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies that have a material affect in the current year or may have a material effect in subsequent years.

AUDITOR'S REPORT TO MEMBERS

I have obtained all the explanations and information I have required. In my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Association insofar as appears from my examination of those books. In my opinion, according to the best of my information and the explanations given to me and as shown by the books, the accounts, Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account are properly drawn up and give the information required by the Incorporated Societies Act 1908. The Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account give a true and fair view of the state of the Association's affairs as at 31 March 2016 and of the operation of the Association for the year.

**Christchurch
8 May 2016**

T.G. HAYES, C.A (Hon.Retired)

**MINUTES OF THE 42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NEW ZEALAND
SALMON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION (INC)**

Held at the Canterbury Softball Headquarters, Pages Road, Christchurch

Tuesday 19 May 2015 at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Approximately 40 members and invitees were present at the meeting, chaired by the President, Tony Humphreys.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from: Paul Stewart, Peter Morgan, Dave Leigh, Wayne Henwood, Graham Long, Dianne Eaton, Neil & Pat Hartland & Gary Smith. These apologies were accepted on a motion from Warren Windelburn and seconded by James Parbery.

REMEMBRANCE

The meeting stood in silence in remembrance of a member who had died during the year: Tim Ellis – Life Member, committee member & Past President.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the 41st Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Salmon Anglers' Association (Incorporated) held on 20 May 2014, as circulated to members, were approved and adopted as a correct record on the motion of Tony Humphreys and seconded by Colin Eaton. Carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Tony Humphreys moved that the President's Report for the year ended 31 March 2015 as circulated to members be adopted. This was seconded by Dennis Long. Carried.

FINANCIAL AND AUDITOR'S REPORT

It was moved by Tony Humphreys on behalf of the Auditor, Trevor Hayes, that the audited Financial Report, and Accounts & Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 March 2015 be received. Seconded by Warren Windelburn. Carried. Tony extended a vote of thanks to Trevor for once again undertaking the audit.

Trevor encouraged us to spend the money to benefit being part of the salmon enhancement. He also noted that we only had two Newsletters last season.

JOHN HODGSON - NZSAA PATRON

John spoke of his ongoing correspondence with Environment Canterbury, on behalf of the NZSAA, regarding breaches of the Rakaia Water Conservation Order 1998. He urged everyone to read the copy on the ECan website – only the Rakaia is talked about, not the Wilberforce. It is a complex document to administer.

His son, Paul helped with the overhead projector showing flows and temperatures of rivers which included the Wairau, Hurunui, Waimakariri, Rakaia, Otarama & Kaiapoi rivers. John is taking twice daily readings of water flows and temperatures. He says “Manage the resource or kill the river. The time is now, not tomorrow”.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Officers and Committee:

The following were nominated and duly declared elected

		Moved/Seconded
Patron	John Hodgson	T Humphreys/L Burke
President	Tony Humphreys	D Long/M Ager
Vice Presidents	Dennis Long	T Humphreys/P Ellis
	Dave Leigh	T Humphreys/ L Corbett
Committee	Pam Ellis	T Humphreys/J Parbery
	Phil Ball	T Humphreys/S McNeill
	James Parbery	T Humphrey /P Ball
	Colin Eaton	T Humphreys/W Mackie
	Larry Burke	T Humphreys/A Bell
	Kevin Belcher	C Eaton/J Taylor
	Mike Ager	C Eaton/W Windelburn
	Greg Terras	C Eaton/L Burke
Secretary/Treasurer	Heather Saunders	T Humphreys/T Hayes
Honorary Auditor	Trevor Hayes	F van Slooten/J Parbery

GUEST SPEAKERS

Steve Terry - North Canterbury Fish & Game Field Officer

Steve received a 2014 New Zealand Fish & Game staff scholarship which enabled him to study salmon harvest and management for two weeks in Alaska. The salmon fisheries there are dominated by large glacier fed rivers and there are comprehensive rules for each river. There were five species of salmon They have extensive sampling programs, and Steve found the modern technology in their hatcheries mind boggling. There is a strong salmon fishing culture in Alaska and commercial & charter boats are a big industry, with lots of float planes. Although there are no farming fences, they value the habitat and the water quality is good over there. There is a Chinook fishing ban – it was unknown why the numbers were down. Steve found the experience totally different, and on a much larger scale from what we do here in New Zealand.

Dirk Barr

North Canterbury Fish & Game Hatchery Manager

Dirk gave numbers of hatchery returns around the traps in 2015: McKinnon's Creek – 140; Montrose Stream – 130; Otukaikino River – no trap but fish evident; Silver Stream – 70 approx; Low Country / Waimak – 100 approx. He said they have been disappointed at the returns, and as yet didn't know why these numbers were low. 60,000 is the target stock release in July at Montrose, where they have a new stripping shed.

Ova Planting Prospects:

Total green ova harvest 6000,000.

Hatchery on growing requirements 450,000.

Available to the NZSAA & RRFP – probably 150,000

Unlikely to be additional ova this year, which would usually be hatched and released at button-up stage.

Whiskey Creek release continuing – 30,000 at release site.

Fin Clipping: Over three days in 2015, 210,000 were clipped and payment was made to the NZSAA & Canterbury Lurefishing Club for this. These are social and educational days for anglers which play an important part with the Fish & Game hatcheries and salmon enhancement programs. Anglers reported catching a high proportion of fin clipped salmon in the lower Waimak in 2014, calculated as a 29% hatchery ratio – returns this season are likely close to 20%.

NZSAA FISHING COMPETITION

The 2013-2014 NZSAA's Annual Salmon Fishing Competition attracted 11 entries. This is open to all financial NZSAA members.

Aquarius Trophy – Heaviest Salmon Overall

Dave Leigh: 6.47kg salmon caught 12 March 2015 at the Lagoon, Rakaia

Cromb & Merritt/Fisherman's Loft Trophy – Heaviest Salmon Waimakariri

Keith Gallagher: 5.10kg salmon caught on 17 January 2015 at Waimakariri River

Alty Roscoe Memorial Trophy – Heaviest Salmon Rakaia

Dave Leigh: 5.6kg salmon caught on 17 January 2015 at Dobbies, Rakaia.

Lucky draw for remainder of entries

Denis Long

ATHOL PRICE PLAQUE

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

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 Hackett’s Creek.

**BARRY CRAIG EARTHQUAKE MEMORIAL TROPHY
NZSAA SALMON ANGLER OF THE YEAR**

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

Peter Robinson.

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. 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.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Trevor Hayes was concerned that there were not many places with access to rivers for cars as opposed to SUVs.

Acknowledgements and Close of Meeting

Grateful thanks were made to the following sponsors of raffle prizes:

- Fisherman’s Loft
- Hunting & Fishing
- Wondercast

Tony thanked all members and guests for their attendance and encouraged members to check out our website and that any new stories or photos would be appreciated.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm and was followed by supper served by Adrienne Dougherty and the drawing of raffles.

Signed as a correct record.....Chairman 24 May 2016.

Hunting & Fishing

Christchurch Region Stores

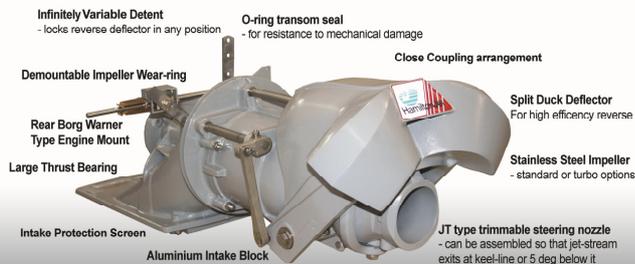
Major Sponsor
2016 Waimakariri Salmon Fishing Competition

75 Clarence Street, Tower Junction, Christchurch: Phone 03 3430212

Christchurch City Centre, 575 Colombo Street: Phone 03 3775090

North Canterbury, 305 Flaxton Road, Rangiora: Phone 03 3131313

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NZSAA SALMON FISHING CONTEST WAIMAKARIRI RIVER 2016

Another successful competition was held on Saturday 12 March at the Waimakariri River. There were 206 competitors of whom 34 were juniors. The winner was Tolovae Tuilaepa with his 11.92lb salmon caught at McIntosh's, his first one ever! Although the weather was fine and the river conditions good, there were only 4 salmon caught during the day which was disappointing. Unfortunately none were caught by a junior, although several kahawai were landed. Compare these results with the Otago Harbour competition that is reported on the following pages.

At the prizegiving at the Kairaki Beach Motor Camp, the BBQ was kept busy with the sausages that went down well with a few beers and stories of the day

Along with all the prize winners, there were heaps of spot prizes, so there were plenty of smiling faces that went home that day. Thank you to all who took part to help make it such a great day.

The majority of our winner prizes and spot prizes were donated by Hunting & Fishing NZ, so please support their three stores as they contributed in a huge way to our competition. The Super Draw prize generously donated by Repco kept everyone in attendance for the lucky number at the end of the prizegiving.

Major prizewinners were

1st	Tolovae Tuilaepa	11.92 lb salmon	McIntosh's
2nd	Greg Terras	11.6 lb salmon	Banana Hole
3rd	André Kaal	9.36 lb salmon	South Waimak Mouth
4th	Stuart Grant	8.97 lb salmon	McIntosh's

Junior Prizes -Largest Other Species

1st	Harper Robinson	4.54 lb Kahawai	Brooklands
2nd	Keegan Gray	4.38 lb Kahawai	North Waimak Mouth

Early Bird Draw: Neil Hartland



Unfortunately, we don't have a complete pictorial record of our winners as our roving photographer has proved to be rather elusive but at least we managed to snap NZSAA committee member, Greg Terras, with his second placed 11.6 lb salmon caught at the Banana Hole.



The happyTogia Family who didn't catch any salmon but had a great day out, taking home several spot prizes and some Kahawai given to them by other anglers.

Otago Harbour Salmon Fishing Competition

By Peter Coory, Secretary-Treasurer, NZSAA Otago

The 2016 competition was held on 27 and 28 February. With 320 entries including 53 juniors, this was one of the biggest competitions for many years. One of the reasons for the interest in the competition this year was a lot of publicity around the harbour salmon fishery in December and January. There were a lot of big fish being caught around this time with plenty of food in the harbour and it seems to have got a lot of people trying there luck.

As happened last year, by the time the competition came around the bonanza salmon run seemed to have dwindled a bit. We think this could be due to the waters warming into February as the surface temperature of the water in the harbour was reading 17.6 degrees on my fish finder during the competition. At this temperature the fish tend to lay low and slow down on their feeding.

The competition itself went well with lots of entrants camping out on the wharves around the harbour for the whole weekend.

The boating fraternity turned out in good numbers as well although more spread out this year. There were a lot of boats trying around the Dunedin Wharves and mouth of the Leith in the upper harbour then motoring on to Port Chalmers, half way down the harbour and having a go there.

A total of 17 fish were caught in the competition. There were 9 fish caught by boat and 8 fish caught off the wharves. Weights ranged from 9.5kg to 1.3 kg.

Seasoned fisherman Dave Taylor won 1st prize with a very respectable fish of 9.50kg. Pictured right.

Second went to Ly Sok with another good fish of 8.835kg.

1st Ladies prize and went to Jorja Hutton with a fish of 5.695kg.

1st Junior went to Jordan Pearson with 2.055kg. Jordan was one of two anglers to catch 2 fish for the competition, the other being Poemun Sem.



This was another successful competition for the Otago Salmon Anglers Association which will enable us to carry on our release programme to provide a viable salmon sports fishery into the future.



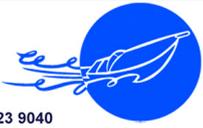
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The Pictures Tell a 1000 Words.....

There were quite a few pithy words on 21 March this year when NZSAA committee man and leader of our ova planting programme, Colin Eaton, lost his vehicle in the Kaiapoi River off the boat ramp. In a moment of inattention to secure his vehicle when launching his boat, the vehicle took off with trailer still attached into the river.

Colin says it is a timely reminder to all boat owners that this could happen to anyone when you are in a hurry and don't have your mind on the job. Shit happens.

The end result was that the vehicle was written off and nobody got hurt except Colin's pride was severely dented.

The photos are a little blurry - probably a combination of the air that was blue and Colin's tears!

Happy and safe boating to all
Reards
Colin Eaton



Salmon Catches at Waimakariri McIntosh's

by Colin Eaton

The following is a count of salmon caught at McIntosh's on the Waimakariri River this season 2015-16. These figures are my best endeavours of accuracy as I cannot be there all the times that fishing is allowed. Also not all anglers are familiar with what fin has been removed to represent a fin-clipped salmon - however I have my spies keeping me advised and up to date.

The period of count was 12 December 2015 to 31 March 2016. The reason for closing it off at 31 March is that South Canterbury is closed so we can have a similar date.

December 2015 = 12 landed of which 7 were fin-clipped

January 2016 = 21 landed of which 9 were fin-clipped

February 2016 = 66 landed of which 11 were fin-clipped

March 2016 = 153 landed of which 10 were fin-clipped

(It is interesting that of the total 252 salmon caught, 153 were caught in March alone.)

Total salmon caught 252 Total fin-clipped caught 37 = 14.6% of total

Ova Planting Preparation

By Colin Eaton

Hacketts Creek: On 4 April, Wayne Henwood and Colin Eaton went up to Hacketts Creek to inspect and clean out the alevinator. It was in need of cleaning as there was about 50mm of silt in the bottom.

Both intake boxes were also overcome with algae and water cress and we replaced one box which was starting to break down with age.

Water flow from the alevinator checked out at 25 litres per minute and the temperature was 12.1 degrees Celsius.

All in all, a worthwhile trip to get things ready for the coming egg planting season.

One Tree Swamp: Colin Eaton, Wayne Henwood and Nathan Henwood went up to One Tree Swamp on Tuesday 10 May for the purpose of putting the boxes into the stream ready for salmon eggs this season. Some of these boxes have been used for eight seasons and were in bad need of repair, so that was our first job. With the weather showing some signs of deteriorating over the next week, urgent action was important.

The day was overcast and threatening to rain all day but luck was on our side. The water temperature in the stream was a cool 8.5 degrees Celsius and plenty of sand flies. In addition I brought back from One Tree Swamp the small half box and placed it in at Broken River as a second option if need be.

We left home at 8.15 am and arrived home at 6.15 pm after a full day's work and happy to have completed the job.

Fish & Game - Candidate for ECan Council and Winter Fishing Ban

**As reported by Chris Hutchings
National Business Review, 2 May 2016**

A Fish & Game member is expected to put up a candidate in the next local body elections for Environment Canterbury, the regional council. An announcement is expected in the next week or two when the candidate will reveal him/herself. It will be the first election for five years. Half the members will be elected and half will continue to be chosen by the government.

Fish & Game is understood to be deeply concerned at what it sees as over allocation of water in the region.

A number of extensions to various irrigation schemes in Canterbury are on the drawing board. Greenpeace has taken full-page newspaper advertisements objecting to the second phase of the Central Plains Water scheme. Others on the drawing board involve the Waitaki and Hurunui Rivers.

The move comes just as Fish & Game confirms winter trout fishing is closed in the lower reaches of North Canterbury rivers from the beginning of May. The closure is aimed at preserving the fishery which has suffered from years of environmental degradation Fish & Game says. The new rules apply to all sports fishing, including trout and salmon, in waterways east of, or downstream of, State Highway One anywhere in the North Canterbury F&G region, between 1 May and September 30.

Fishing licence retailers will also be contacted so that anyone buying a fishing licence will be made aware of the changes, and F&G will take advertisements in newspapers.

Regional manager Rod Cullinane points the blame at regional council policies and granting of water consents which he says have been over allocated. Mr Cullinane cites reports about water bores in Westmelton drying up as well as several small streams in the city, some of them feeding into the Avon River. He says the decision to close rivers is supported by the region's anglers at a recent public meeting where more than 110 people attended and gave unanimous support.

The regional council is giving support to recharge experiments which involve taking water from deep bores to replenish depleted rivers, and the opposite - taking water from irrigation canals to recharge depleted aquifers. Details are available in zone committee reports on the ECan website.

Chris Hutchings

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Atlantic Salmon is all but Extinct as a Genetically Eroded Version of Farmed Salmon has Taken Over

**Reprinted in part from EcoWatch article
by Kathleen McKeoghain, Alternet**

Atlantic salmon, the native salmon that used to inhabit the northern Atlantic Ocean, rivers and seas, is a species now represented by an impostor: farmed salmon. Also known as cultured salmon, farmed salmon comes from hatchery genetic stock and unlike its native ancestors, lacks wild genetic variation. The wild fish our ancestors ate is gone. What appears on our dinner plates is a substitute copy, a genetic dilution of a once mighty fish, the adaptive king of the sea and a significant food for coastal humans since prehistoric times.

Genetic erosion, simply defined as the loss of genetic diversity over time, eliminates the potential of a species to adapt to new environments and leads to extinction. The swamping-out effect by farmed salmon has been one eroding genetic force working against wild salmon. We human predators have overfished, toxically farmed, illiterately stocked, dammed and blindly released, by millions, farmed and unfit Atlantic salmon fishes into the wild. The hatchery stock has bred with and overrun the native species, one that had been evolving for hundreds of thousands of years and which is now genetically eliminated, all in the quick human feeding frenzy of the last century.

Surviving a Frozen World

We know that the ancient, wild Atlantic salmon faced and survived Holarctic glaciation, for their genes also left a fingerprint of their biological survival gear in their molecular patterns. Well studied in northern Europe, there likely existed one or more refugia under the Weichlesian glacial plates, bodies of fresh water in which the prehistoric salmon survived as the rest of its world froze over, unable to migrate to sea.

Isolated in its clans, separated by distance and geological formations, in different rivers, breeding with no outsiders and accumulating differences, the ever-adaptable wild salmon colonies were diverse enough to self-populate over long periods of time, being naturally fit and self-sustaining. Meanwhile, saltwater clans were successfully breeding in the ocean. As the glaciers remained, the separated salmon clans accumulated and passed on those unique fitness differences for best survival in their different environments.

Then the glacial ice retreated upon the warming Holocene, about 12,000 years ago. The oceans rose and fingered inland into fjords and rivers as glaciers melted and individuals from refuge salmon clans began to spread into fresh territory. Some pioneered the newly opened, post-glacial rivers, challenging distance and falls, spawning further upstream again and again, as the case may be, until all of the available rivers of the north Atlantic islands, eastern Russia, the Baltic Sea and their appurtenant inland flows were filled with unique, wild salmon, a literal natural spectrum of glorious natural diversity.

In the lands abutting the northeastern Atlantic Ocean, this distribution and range included every river in and out of the sea coasts from the north of Spain to the Arctic latitudes and in North America from the Connecticut River northward. Here lived and bred the “wild type” Atlantic salmon, adaptive king of the sea and the “leaper,” the muscled fish of power, grace and fortitude. Meanwhile, our own species experienced an upturn during the advent of agriculture, about 10,000 years ago and spread around the globe. As far as the wild salmon was concerned, all was kept in checks and balances until our epoch of genetic erosion, the superseding Anthropocene, which began c.1950. Ours is an historic epoch physically characterized by the plastic geological layer now forming as a permanent record in the crust of human industrial ways.

Today’s Salmon

The salmon has taken a fatal series of genetic blows. Its “old growth forest” was set on fire by a human feeding frenzy that began with overfishing and was fed by industrial aquaculture. The genetic erosion is shocking and steep.

Today, 99.5 percent of all native Atlantic salmon has disappeared from the wild. In Europe, Scandinavia and around the Baltic Sea, native indigenous salmon has vanished from the Russian rivers Neva and Narva, the Luleälven and Umeälven of Sweden, from the Odra and Wisla in Poland and the Vilia of Belarus. In fact, only 10 of the many rivers which empty into the Baltic arm of the northern Atlantic Ocean sustain wild salmon populations any longer and the wild Baltic salmon genome is the only one with natural resistance to the destructive *Gyrodactylus salaris* parasite.

Around the British Isles, in Ireland and across the pond to North America, wild salmon populations are extinct or endangered or threatened. The Kola Peninsula of Russia is known to be a current refuge for wild type Atlantic salmon, yet is also known to harbor military and radioactive waste at ecologically harmful levels. The grand Torneälven of Sweden, called Tornionjoki where it traverses Finland, is one of the last rivers to host wild Atlantic salmon in the world.

The Baltic salmon extinctions were largely enabled by human destruction of migration routes for spawning, upon the building and operation of hydroelectric dams. Further molecular DNA studies of the hatchery stock salmon from this exemplary sea have demonstrated a genetic “homogenization.” Stock salmon populations constitute more of a weak puree than a chunky soup, in terms of “population genetic structure,” another statistical measure of diversity. This is why the actual number of wild salmon living within the extant areas is quite small at around 0.5 percent.

We have learned to overlay DNA diversity upon geography and geologic history, in a relatively new field called landscape genomics. The important data is not just in the maps or the numbers of fish, but in the genetic quality and the relationships of the individual salmon that comprise the families, clans and populations. An apparent abundance by numbers does not mean a population is healthy, self-sustaining and diverse.

In Ireland, the release of farmed salmon has not only caused genetic erosion, but has disrupted the capacity of wild populations to adapt to warmer waters. This is a problem for salmon across its geographical range for the obvious reason of climate change. Strong and well founded recommendations for saving the remaining wild salmon include

cessation of stock salmon releases and re-establishment of native spawning grounds. The future effects of warming waters, however, are unknown and not hopeful.

We can tell you a similar story about the Pacific salmon, the *Oncorhynchus* species - the chum, coho, sockeye and Chinook salmon, which are also extinct or endangered or threatened and which are also genetically eroded. The destruction of the 10-million-a-year run of wild salmon on the Columbia River is unfortunately historic. The Pacific salmon had populated its portion of the Holarctic range simultaneously with the Atlantic salmon. Recent research has verified that Pacific hatchery stock salmon differs genetically from wild salmon and does so from the first generation of breeding. (Scientists at Oregon State University recently conducted a study published in the journal *Nature* that shows there is DNA evidence that salmon hatcheries cause significant and rapid genetic changes). The fish are raised in overcrowded, concrete tanks, eat an artificial, supplemented diet and live in polluted water that is released into the environment whether farmed inland or off coast.

Genetic variation is the key to survival. With variation, if the environment changes, those individuals with the right variation in their genes will be most able to survive, to adapt and to regenerate a population. That is why it is important to sustain a lot of different, varied individuals in the population, in the clan, in the tribe. Genetic diversity for living organisms is the biological foundation for long term survival, for adaptation to environmental changes and is essential to species for sustaining fit populations for future generations. Genetic diversity is essential for all life on earth to survive climate changes.

The old-growth forest of Atlantic salmon was the entire set of all native salmon genes required for response and adaptation to new environments, the genetic set encompassing all salmon diversity, before the beginning of overfishing and the industrial era of *H. sapiens sapiens*. This forest of genetic diversity stood, so to speak, in wild swimming, individual, native salmon genomes (not laboratories!) and was acquired over millennia of biological and environmental changes by natural selection. The old-growth forest contained the wild genes of each fish, a reliable molecular network, co-adapted, set like jewels in a biological filigree, fitness genes in a pedigree of clans that salmon had naturally conserved among themselves, to sustain themselves and to protect their own kind from and for environmental changes and to adapt, to diverge and to explore new places in their niches of the living ecosystem of our planet. The old-growth forest was everything genetically needed for wild salmon survival.

Stock salmon cannot survive without human intervention. The overcrowded hatchery conditions in which it grows cause numerous fish body abnormalities and require nutritional supplementation to cover for shortfalls in bone development and other physiological problems.

Protect Whatever Remains

Human cultures rose around the salmon, which has and continues to feed a lot of people. In the wild, its orange flesh color comes from its consumption of shrimp and krill and the absorption of these carotenoids into its tissues. These natural pigments may actually have a protective effect for the salmon, as well as nutritional value for its consumers, humans and bears alike. Pellet-fed, farmed salmon must be supplemented to obtain its pink color.

Native, indigenous, wild Atlantic salmon, its distinguished clans and tribes, did not need human help to survive and yet we have lost the salmon to our anthropogenic ways, to overfishing, fish farming, dam construction, inbreeding, poor stock management and environmental degradation. And from these genetically eroded hills has been created a hatchery-dependent, diluted salmon, an inflexible, non-diverse and certainly not wild, genetic copy of salmon that we fish, farm, release and eat and even feed to our pets every day.

More than 99 percent of Atlantic salmon, *Salmo salar* L., live only as genetically eroded, hatchery stock fish today. That is a most sobering statistic considering the engineering of the Pacific Chinook salmon growth hormone into the Atlantic salmon genome. Whatever remnants still exist of our wild salmon populations must be protected without exception, especially given the potential introduction of a new, genetically engineered salmon to our frankly fragile food web.

Salmon has been swimming upstream against the depleting force of “genetic erosion” for at least a century, a force that has claimed its wild genome, its clans and its tribes, its genetic diversity and which has nearly eliminated a once self-sustaining, powerful ocean species. Now, salmon cannot live without us.

Atlantic salmon is essentially extinct because we have demanded too much of this natural resource through over-consumption and environmental exploitation. The wild gene forest that once lived, the old trees, the towering antiquarians of genetic variation, are gone, lost in the fire of a rapid, wholesale, industrial *Homo sapiens* taking, consumed in an anthropocentric fire we could even see burning, when one looks at the timeline of scientific data.

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