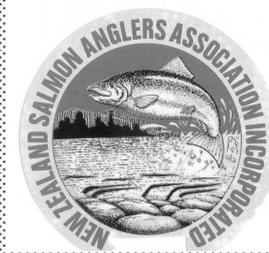


NZ Salmon Anglers Newsletter

September 2016 Number 118



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Make a date in your diary:

NZSAA Members' Night

at

Hunting & Fishing

Clarence St

Tower Junction

Monday 26 September

From 6pm onwards

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

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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, Trevor Hayes, John Healy, John Hodgson, Ken Hughey, Dennis Long, Athol Price, Doug Roy, Stephen Sparrow.



EDITORIAL

September 2016

Dear Anglers

Have we had the Golden Years of salmon fishing in New Zealand? Looking at all the evidence of water extraction, over allocation, degraded water quality etc. it appears our efforts to keep a thriving salmon fishery may be coming more and more difficult. Sorry to be pessimistic but the pressure on water supplies is increasing daily. Will the Hurunui scheme be approved for example? Will there be more water bottling plant issues? The press is publishing more and more instances of demands for water. Was the recent Hawkes Bay area water contamination a result of poor water management or simply an overload of bacteria laden leachates getting into bores? Watch this space as they say.

ECan seems to in a bit of a mess with its usual spin about water and aquifers and the dry winters causing streams to dry up. Surely the last couple of years haven't been the only dry years in the last century. There seems to be a state of denial in the organisation. Maybe the introduction of some elected members will cause some change of thinking. We all live in hope.

The next few weeks are your opportunity to vote for those who will be elected to govern our City and Region and make decisions on our behalf for the next three years. NZSAA openly supports candidates who will campaign to protect and maintain our freshwater resources to ensure the future of the salmon fishery in New Zealand.

In the following pages we include an article from Ken Sims spokesman for NZ Federation Freshwater Anglers on the state of waterways and fisheries as an election issue.

We also include statements from Rod Cullinane and Nicky Snoyink both of whom are seeking election to Environment Canterbury on this environmental platform: Rod is well known to us as General Manager of North Canterbury Fish & Game, and Nicky is the daughter of NZSAA members Jules and Rosalie Snoyink who have campaigned tirelessly over many years on river and water issues.

Your vote is important - don't waste the opportunity to exercise it.

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.

It's undeniable that there is climate change. We used to have regular nor'westers over the summer but alas they seem to be rather infrequent nowadays. The name Waimakariri means "cold water" and that's why our fishery was so good with the regular floods in summer. Salmon prefer cooler water. That's probably why the run was later this year with some big fish arriving at Silverstream when the water cooled enough to suit them.

Marlborough District Council has recently approved consents to use a site at Okiwi Bay in Croisilles Harbour to operate a research fin-fish facility particularly for the purposes of establishing the most productive mix of feeds for various finfish, but initially focussing on king salmon. The applicant is a major international company under Dutch ownership which supplies a substantial portion of the fish food supplies to the Chinook salmon farms operated in New Zealand. NZSAA made a submission and our Patron John Hodgson spoke at the hearing. With the strong local objections, submissions were nearly all environmentally based and NZSAA'S was the only salmon based one. Disappointingly, no mention was made of this in the Commissioner's decision. Hugh Barr from CORANZ also gave evidence on recreational issues. There was no submission by Fish & Game NZ.

The decision doesn't look promising for the local residents and their objections. However a group of determined objectors, Friends of Okiwi Bay Incorporated, has lodged an appeal against the decision. This is a huge financial undertaking and they are seeking all support possible.

Is this just another example of "big business" trampling on the rights of little people? We will watch the appeal outcome with interest.

On a more positive note I'd like to thank Colin Eaton and the field team for their work with volunteers with the egg planting this year. We hope that these efforts will keep a few more fish in the system.

Tony Humphreys

NZSAA PRESIDENT

Fish & Game - just off the press:

The Environmental Defence Society and Fish & Game New Zealand are going to the Environment Court to challenge the way Horizons Regional Council is implementing its One Plan. The One Plan is designed to manage natural resources throughout the Horizons' region of Whanganui and Manawatu, with particular emphasis on tackling pollution, improving water quality and preserving environmental diversity.

The concerns are that Horizons hasn't been implementing its regional plan lawfully, particularly when dealing with resource consent applications for intensive farming and dairy conversions.

One Plan is considered to be nationally precedent-setting because it shows how farming can be both economically and environmentally sustainable while maintaining water quality for New Zealand's longer term future. EDS and Fish & Game have had several discussions with Horizons' staff over recent months in an effort to get the One Plan properly implemented but without success.

Another one to watch with interest.

***A Special Night out for
NZ Salmon Anglers Association Members***

Come along to

Hunting & Fishing

75 Clarence Street, Tower Junction, Christchurch

On Monday 26 September

From 6pm onwards

- Need some new gear for the coming fishing season?
(Silly question, everyone needs new fishing gear!)
- See what's new on the market.
- Chat about the prospects for your salmon catches.
- Tom and Dave from Hunting & Fishing will share some of their fishing tips.
- The shop will be open for purchases with some 'on the night' special prices from Jeremy and the staff.

Note: This night is open to NZSAA Members only



Sunday 16 October, 2016

**The Groynes picnic grounds
off Johns Rd, Belfast, Christchurch**

A free morning event for all children - it's on wet or fine.

The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust has once again generously donated hundreds of salmon which will be released into the lakes at the Groynes. Come and enjoy a fun kids' fishing day. No registration or fishing licence necessary (Fish and Game provide a whole-of-site licence for the day). Adults may assist but are not permitted to fish. Caravans on site with food and drinks for sale.

9am to 1pm

Take a Kid Fishing is for children **12 years and under**, with one lake especially for the under-8s where each child has a short one-on-one session with an expert angler (there is sometimes a queue for this).

We have some rods, tackle and bait for loan in the morning, so don't worry if you don't have any gear. At all four lakes, skilled anglers from fishing clubs will be there to give advice and help.

1pm to 7pm

All children (under 18 years old) can fish, but from 1pm will need their own gear.

Learn to clean and cook your catch

Phil Keen, our "Executive Chef", will be there with his hot plate and some brilliant ideas for quickly turning your fish into a tasty dish. Phil also does filleting demonstrations.



Every year since 1989 volunteers, fishing club members and many kind businesses, organisations and individuals have worked to put on Christchurch's Take a Kid Fishing.

The Kids Fishing Charitable Trust (Charity #2168069) is our funding and governance body and we would be pleased to speak to anyone about donations.

For more information, please contact Trust Chair Dave Denton by email at dmdenton@xtra.co.nz

The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust is the principal sponsor of Take a Kid Fishing. Information about this trust and its conservation activities can be viewed at www.isaacconservation.org.nz

Hunting & Fishing

Christchurch Region Stores

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

Taking Rivers to the Forthcoming Local Body Elections

by Ken Sims, spokesman NZ Federation Freshwater Anglers

Do you have an issue with your rivers and lakes? Are they polluted, over-extracted, diverted, or over-utilised by industry? Are you sick of having their beds clogged up, stifling insect life, by sediment running off forestry clear felling, or washing off slips from hill country devoid of trees and riparian strips? Do you still see cattle with uncontrolled access to waterways, despite knowing the damage that does? Do you despair at finding that your favourite rivers only have a fraction of the flows that they once had, or that they dry up completely? Perhaps you are fuming at discovering that willows and gravel are being ripped out of your favourite fishing spots, or that whole sections of their beds are being cross-bladed or channelled unnaturally? Does the fact that the local freezing works, milk factory, or industrial area continue to pour their waste into our waterways with impunity, make you mad? How about town and city sewage works and stormwater doing that as well, again with seeming impunity?

The bad news is that most of those activities are controlled by regional government. The good news is that every once in a while, you get the opportunity to do something about it – and this is one of those times.

Local body elections are coming up, and you can, and should participate. There are a number of ways you can do that. Firstly, and most importantly, you can make sure you vote. But you can go further.

Secondly, hold those people already on local body councils accountable. Find out what their positions are on matters that affect our waterways. More importantly, find out how they voted on the decisions that have already directly affected them. The currently degraded state of our waterways is the single biggest environmental issue that the public want addressed. Have the existing councillors supported or opposed projects that will help fix this, or have they supported projects that will worsen it? Ask them direct questions, and if they won't answer them, ask them through letters to the editor and other media. Publish the results so that other club members and anglers will know as well.

Thirdly, make those people who are standing accountable in the same way. Ask the same questions of them too. Publish and disseminate those results as well. There is an unfortunate tendency in politics these days, or candidates to say one thing prior to being elected, and doing something completely different after they get elected. But at least you can hold the promises and positions they made up as a mirror if they do.

So if you care about the perilous state of our waterways and freshwater fisheries, as most New Zealanders do, get involved. These local body elections are your chance to make yourselves heard, and to make a difference. Let's demand that waterways and fisheries are an issue that is addressed, not swept back under the carpet. And you can be part of that difference.



Nicky Snoyink

ECan Candidate for Mid Canterbury Constituency

Twenty years working in the international and domestic nature tourism sector has shown me that a healthy, safe natural environment is necessary for promoting healthy economies.

I grew up roaming Canterbury's rivers and lakes, and enjoyed swimming when water was clean and abundant. My vision is to promote change so future generations also have this opportunity. Safe water for drinking and food gathering, better air quality and improved connectivity are part of that change.

As mid Canterbury's Regional Council representative, I will work to build relationships with communities from the mountains to the sea, which promote understanding, communication and full public participation, which puts fresh water first.

"The environment is the backbone of the economy" Dan Steele, Blue Duck Station.

For further information, please follow me on Facebook @NickyforECan2016 or contact me at email nickyforecan2016@gmail.com or phone 0211659658



Rod Cullinane

ECan Candidate for Christchurch Constituency

Water means life and after seeing all that is happening to our waterways and aquifers Rod Cullinane is standing up to be counted and to help protect our water for future generations.

Rod is standing for Election as an ECan Councillor because of what he believes is the unwillingness of ECan to deal effectively with the ongoing deterioration of our freshwater resources and habitat. He is concerned the requirement to maintain the quality of our lakes, rivers and streams is not given the priority it deserves. To achieve this goal he wants ecological and recreational values to be truly first and second order priorities respectively, under the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

Aside from being General Manager, North Canterbury Fish & Game, Rod is a qualified lawyer and accountant, with wide experience as a senior executive in the business world.

He says ECan is focused on further unsustainable intensification of land use in many parts of the region. The freshwater resource is diminishing and in some areas running out. Pollution in sensitive freshwater areas is continuing with little or no enforcement.

The impact from intensifying land use and the over allocation of water resources and consents are the most important environmental issues in Canterbury. The levels of toxicity in waterways which have been set are inappropriate and can only lead to even further long term and in some instances irreversible damage.

The severely reduced flows of water in our rivers are not simply the result of a lack of rainfall as claimed. Instead, the allocation of water take consents is excessive, being greater than the recharge rate of the underground aquifers and not adaptive enough in the face of climate change. There is also no account taken of seasonal variation in ground water recharge.

Many of our inner city waterways have run dry for the first time – a function of the aquifers not having the resilience to cope with increasing takes and a drier climate.

Many of our lowland waterways are so choked with weed and silted up that fish numbers have declined to record lows – and continuing. The pollution of two of our major lakes – Te Waihora / Ellesmere and Forsyth has worsened under Ecan’s watch. It is not good enough to admit defeat by stating that these lakes should not be required to meet national standards.

Current and future generations expect our fresh waterways to be swimmable, and not polluted to the extent they are only wade-able; or toxic to the extent they kill fish and other aquatic and land-based animals. To suggest that we should accept such a standard is outrageous.

ECan has all but admitted it has failed to enforce compliance with the consents it has granted. It has failed to adequately fund compliance and ecosystem health investigations and enforce stock pollution complaints in Canterbury waterways.

Rod will demand that compliance monitoring is given greater priority, and that future decisions made by ECan will better take all ecological and recreational interests into account, and those resources will be allocated in a sustainable and inter-generational manner. Only by doing so will it be possible to slow the degradation being witnessed and set Canterbury’s freshwater management back on a pathway that puts people before economic growth.

More of the same from ECan is both inappropriate and unacceptable.

Election Timetable:

16-21 September: Voting documents delivered to households. Electors can post the documents back to electoral officers as soon as they have voted

8 October: Polling day — The voting documents must be at the council before voting closes at 12 noon.

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.

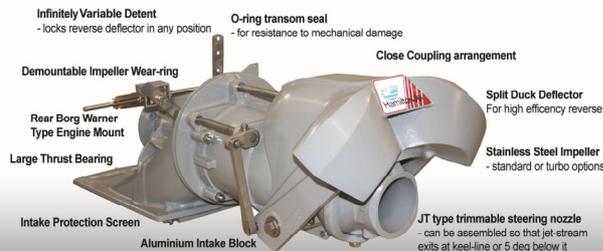
You need to supply all disposable items including wood/coal for the Yunka type fire (except Kaniere, electric heating), linen etc. Upon leaving bach must be left clean, tidy and all rubbish removed.

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
 C/o Hokitika Cycles & Sportsworld
 Phone 03 755 8662 (9am—5pm)
 Email: hokicycle.sport@paradise.net.nz
www.hokitikasportsworld.co.nz*

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2016 Awards & Prizewinners

NZSAA Members Salmon Competition 2015-16

Aquarius Trophy
for Heaviest Fish Overall

Dennis Long - 6.90kg salmon

Cromb & Merritt/Fishermans Loft Trophy
Heaviest Salmon Waimakariri River

Colin Eaton - 6.45kg salmon

Alty Roscoe Memorial Trophy
Heaviest Salmon Rakaia River

Paul Hodgson - 5.65kg salmon

Barry Craig Earthquake Memorial Trophy NZSAA Salmon Angler of the Year

Steve McNeill

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

Steve is a worthy recipient of the Barry Craig Memorial Trophy for Sportsmanship for 2016. He has demonstrated a lifelong passion for salmon and trout fishing and has been very active in giving back to a pastime that has given him much pleasure over the years.

Steve served as a Fish & Game councillor from 2006 to 2015 and continues to play an active role in working to protect our highly valued fishery. Many of you would have read his letters to The Press. He is also active in meeting the ECan Commissioners.

His father Malcolm, was also an accomplished angler and was the originator of the Rangers Competition and the winner's trophy is in his memory. For many years Steve has released his first salmon of the season in memory of his late father, a truly sporting gesture.

Thank you Steve for all your dedication and work to the salmon fisheries.



*Steve receiving his trophy from
President Tony Humphreys
at the AGM in May*

Athol Price Plaque

Kathy Carson

The Athol Price Plaque is given in recognition of outstanding service to the salmon fishery and we were pleased to award this to Kathy Carson.

On looking at the attendance record for the salmon enhancement programme, Kathy has been one our regulars over a number of years as a volunteer for NZSAA's activities.

As a keen salmon angler, mainly at McIntosh's at the Waimakariri, Kathy has always given outstanding support to Colin Eaton, being a willing helper with fin clipping and especially with egg planting and dealing with the Scotty boxes by just knowing what is required and Colin knowing that these tasks will be carried out diligently.

We congratulate Kathy on her valuable contribution to the salmon fishery.



*Kathy receiving the Plaque
From President Tony.*



359 Lincoln Road, Christchurch
Phone (03) 338 3131 Fax (03) 338 3535

Email: info@fishermansloft.co.nz
Website: www.fishermansloft.co.nz

George Tepania's Story on winning the 2015 Waimakariri Fishing Competition

MacIntosh's 21 March 2015

It's just after 3pm and things don't look so good at MacIntosh's. I have been fishing since 7am that morning and have only seen other people catching fish. Rumours are circulating that the biggest fish to be weighed in so far that day was caught about 9:30 am from a boat just anchored off in front of me. I had been casting all around him that morning but no luck.

I was slowly realising that time was running out and it was going to be another of those "Oh well, the worst day's fishing is still better than etc. etc. etc."

Suddenly my fishing rod dipped down and a splash of a tail and I was hooked up. A fish took my lure and the fight was on.

"Fish on" from all those around me and after 10 really nervous minutes it's netted and on the bank.

Lots of backslapping and hand shaking but I had to pack up and get to the weigh station before it closed.

It eventuated that I had caught the heaviest fish on the day, a 5.73kg salmon, and was the recipient of a 3-day deep sea fishing trip for four, out of Tutukaka.

I suddenly had more friends than I realised.....



George with the salmon that won him the fabulous trip to Tutukaka

Tutukaka

We flew to Auckland and drove north to Tutukaka. The crew had been sorted and some of my new found friends are not speaking to me anymore. We arrived at our destination and met John Healy owner and skipper of the 'Cobra' a 50ft launch.

We had the use of John's downstairs flat so it was early to bed and really early to rise.

On Day One the weather was picture perfect as we left Tutukaka and headed out directly east for about 30 minutes towards the Three Kings Islands and put out the fishing gear. There were two outriggers and three lures behind the boat. We took 15 minute turns in the chair between the four of us. It was a beautiful day and very flat seas.

It was about 5pm and my friend was in the chair with about 8 minutes to go on his watch when the reel literally screamed out. My friend insisted on giving me the rod as it was my good luck that got us there. The crew got the harness on me by which time there was over a kilometre or more of line out. Bit by bit I got settled in for a long fight. The deck crew had cleared the rest of the gear to give me clean sea.

It was about 30 to 40 minutes and I was shattered by the weight of the fish on the line. Nobody else was allowed to touch the reel while I was playing it. We also put up a flag to show we were playing a fish. It jumped once along way out and four times in close. It was duly subdued and tied along the diving platform at the back of the boat. We then put up a different flag to show we had a fish on board - a 70kg striped marlin.

We had to do all kinds of paperwork to officially register the fish. Plus the gear was examined to make sure all was in order. The photo says it all. We had a quiet but satisfying celebration. The fish was cut up for a few fresh pieces for the BBQ and the rest smoked and vacuum packed. The cost of \$60 each for the smoking was a great deal.

We tried for a marlin again the next two days but were unsuccessful, losing five hookups. We suspect one was tuna. I kept the beak of the marlin and I plan to make an ornamental knife with it.



I thank John Healy and his team for a wonderful time. Also a big thanks to the NZSAA for making the trip possible through their competition.

George Tepania

Ova Planting 2016

18 June – One Tree Swamp, Broken River and Hacketts Creek

An excellent effort of 31 volunteers completed the task of distributing 40,000 salmon ova in a morning's work at the following locations: 10,000 to One Tree swamp, 5,000 to Broken River and 26,200 at Hacketts Creek using Scotty boxes. Not all 31 were involved at all locations but the majority worked at Hacketts Creek. It was a wonderful day but a crisp start at Broken River with a -3°C welcome. The water temperature at Hacketts creek was 8.4°C . James Parbery walked the Hacketts Creek and found 7 redds mainly at the mouth of the Creek.

The One Tree Swamp team (Russell Mackay, Warren Mackie, Liam Mackay and Roy Bunt) planted the 10,000 salmon ova into instream incubators. Access across the Hawdon River was easy on this occasion, with just a short walk to the spawning stream. It was a brilliant high country day, the frost had thawed and air temperature was 11°C . In a stroll alongside the stream they observed many salmon. Some appeared to be still spawning, and also quite a number of carcasses were seen. It was really fantastic to see that so many fish had returned. The size of some of the redds was truly impressive and some of the fish were equally so.

But equally important was that the complete stream and the surrounding area was being fenced off. The work was nearly complete and appeared to be stock-proof already as sheep and cattle were observed in the immediate area but none inside the fenced area.

The day's work was finished with a BBQ and a chat with all the teams. A huge thanks to Diane Eaton for organising the lunch - her salmon quiche went down a treat! This was a much appreciated effort by all and it was nice to see some of the group brought family especially children.



The happy group of volunteers after the day's work and lunch



Hacketts Creek:

Left: loading the Scotty Boxes with ova

Below: placing the Scotty Box into the Alevinator

25 June - Porter River

A small team put 15,000 ova in instream incubators (also known as “old school lockers”!!) in the Porter River, tributary of the Waimakariri River.

3 July – Dove Stream, Hurunui River

The team of Peter Morgan, Wayne Henwood, Graham McLeod, Greg Terras, Paul Hodgson, Kevin Belcher, Roy Blunt and Colin Eaton planted 19,000 ova using barrels. The day was fine but frosty with the water temperature just 5.2°C.



Left: Preparing the river shingles for barrel planting at Dove Stream

Summary

Total salmon ova distributed by our teams over three weekends was around 75,200.

Looking back over the last seven years NZSAA has planted over a million salmon eggs in the North Canterbury Fish and Game Region, at Hacketts Creek, Kowhai River, One Tree Swamp, Porter River, Broken River, Thomas Stream, Rakaia River, Hurunui River/Dove Stream and Silver Stream. We were also involved in live releases from time to time.

Year	Eggs	Trips
2009	196 000	3
2010	36 000	1
2011	195 000	2
2012	270 000	4
2013	10 000	1
2014	179 000	4
2015	85 805	3
2016	75 200	3



One Tree Swamp: placing ova in locker



New fencing at One Tree Swamp



Scotty Box loaded with "eggs"

Don't count these chickens before they hatch!

Fish & Game report on Chinook Salmon Eyed Ova Planting 2016

Volunteers from the New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association, and Rakaia River Fishing Promotions, were once again actively involved in the annual eyed ova planting program throughout North Canterbury in the month of June. In addition to these organisations, volunteers from the South Rakaia Huts also planted ova in their local stream Bully Creek.

Many volunteers gave their time and labour over the three designated planting weekends, and as a result around 120,000 eyed ova were successfully buried amongst the spring creek gravels around our region.

Ova planting is an important Chinook salmon enhancement tool as it assures the success of imprinting. This is something that is not always assured with some smolt releases with in the program.

It is the general opinion of staff that more may not be better. Numbers of ova per site are now strategically considered relating to how many adult broods are already in the stream and how many we estimate the stream can sustain to a smoltified age, before being forced to exit into the main stem river prematurely.

18 June 2016	One Tree Swamp Waimak	10 000	Silver Stream Ova	NZSAA
18 June 2016	Broken River Waimak	5 000	Silver Stream Ova	NZSAA
18 June 2016	Hacketts Creek Waimak	26 200	Silver Stream Ova	NZSAA
19 June 2016	Whisky Creek Rakaia	7 000	Montrose Ova	RRFP
19 June 2016	Koopmans Creek Rakaia	10 000	Silver Stream/Mt Cook Ova	RRFP
25 June 2016	Porter River Waimak	15 000	Silver Stream Ova	NZSAA
26 June 2016	Bully Creek Rakaia	10 000	Mt Cook Ova	South Rakaia Hut Holders
26 June 2016	Double Hill Stream Rakaia	19 000	Montrose Ova	RRFP
3 July 2016	Dove Stream Hurunui	19 000	Silver Stream Ova	NZSAA

North Canterbury Fish and Game would like to thank all the volunteers for their dedicated hard labour, and ongoing support, towards the enhancement of our precious Chinook Salmon fishery.

**Yours Thankfully and Tight Lines to All,
North Canterbury Fish and Game, Staff and Council.**

The Rivers of Tears

by Rex N Gibson

Member Canterbury Anglers Club and NZSAA

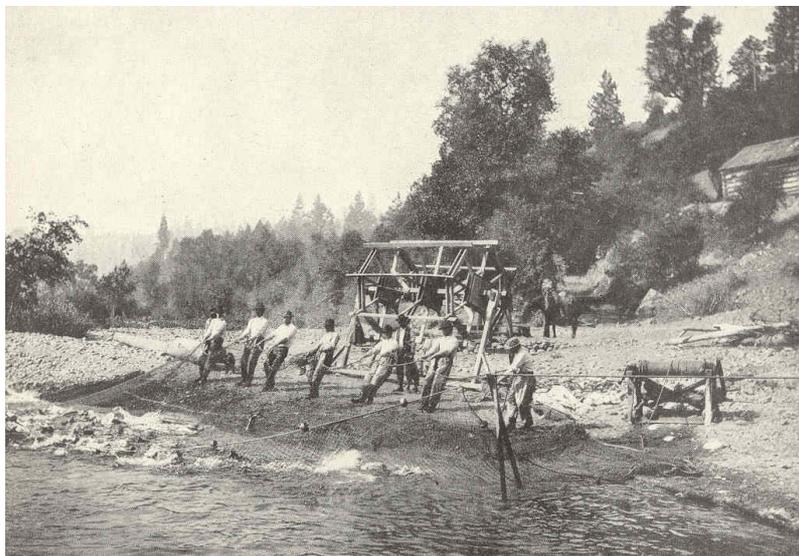
This article was written by Rex for the Canterbury Anglers Club magazine. They have kindly agreed to reproduction of this excellent article in the NZSAA newsletter.

In May 2010 Canterbury received a visit from 27 members of the Winnemem Wintu. They are a Native American tribe from the McLeod River in northern California. Local fundraising efforts had paid for their trip to search for their version of “The Holy Grail”.

They were hosted by Te Runanga O Ngai Tahu and The North Canterbury Fish and Game Council. Their purpose was to reconnect with a sacred treasure of their past, *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*. Also known to them as Chinook, and to us as Quinnat, and too many others as King salmon.

Although the Acclimatisation Societies of the past, and the Marine Department, had largely failed in their attempts to establish Atlantic salmon, from the UK, into New Zealand waters, the Californian Quinnat salmon now occupy a wide niche around the mainland’s coast, coming into its rivers to spawn.

These salmon came from the traditional waterways of the Winnemem people. Fertilised ova were sourced from fish stripped of their milt and ova at the Baird Station hatchery on the McLeod River (a tributary of the Sacramento River), and “hatched” at the Hakataramea fish hatchery between 1901 and 1907.



Salmon trapped for stripping at the Baird Hatchery (McLeod River)



Stripping salmon Hakataramea early 1900s

Their initial spectacular success in the Waitaki, Ngai Tahu's sacred river, and up and down the South Island's east coast rivers in particular, is now history.

Ever since the Waitaki dam was completed in 1934 the salmon fishery there has been fragile. The dam saw the annual spawning numbers drop 90%, from 100,000 to just over 10,000. Recent years have also seen an early closure to the season to try and assist the spawning success.

About a decade ago the lower Hakataramea changed its course and by-passed about a kilometre of crucial traditional spawning river bed. Upstream draining of swamps and droughts have also greatly affected the autumn flows. The "Haka" is one of only two major spawning tributaries for the Waitaki. Its degradation is a real blow to the fishery

Today the upstream lakes and canals of the Waitaki catchment are major sports fish fisheries by national standards. For the sea-run salmon however that is of little consequence. Like the mahinga kai of Ngai Tahu; long-finned eel, the kokopu, several galaxids, and the lamprey, they have been casualties of the hydro schemes. The 48 metre high Waitaki dam is also dwarfed by the newer Benmore and Aviemore dams, and fish ladders are out of the question. The original on the Waitaki dam was a failure.

The Waitaki dam construction (1928–1934) employed over 1,200 men in 350 houses and 700 huts. It was the last dam built by pick, shovel and wheelbarrow; mainly to soak up the unemployment of that era. It cost 11 lives adding poignancy to the word "**Waitaki**" – meaning "**the river of tears**". They are Aoraki's tears; and that is another great story.

The dam building also fermented the Social Security policies of the Labour government which swept into power just a year later, in 1935. Future cabinet ministers Dr David McMillan and the Rev Arnold Nordmeyer had serviced the workers medical and spiritual needs in Kurow and wrote their political policies in the evenings.

On completion of the dam the locals "had a field day" scooping some of tens of thousands of Quinnat and Sockeye salmon from the dam base over the next 2 – 3 years as they circled below the dam, fatally frustrated in their passage to their former spawning grounds above Lake Ohau.

Over 300 nōhanga have been identified along the river. These are traditional Ngai Tahu food gathering campsites. The Waitaki catchment has been a major fishing and birding location for around 700 years. It famously features many rock art sites and shelters which pre-date Ngai Tahu's arrival. It was no wonder the prophet and teacher, Te Maiharoa of Waihao Marae near Waimate, led a 150 person "sit in" by local Maori, for several months in 1877, a few kilometres downstream from Te Ao Marama (today's Omarama).

The actions of wealthy sheep farming squatters had prompted the sit-in. They had poisoned all the weka and fired on “trespassing” Maori who were fishing or birding up-river. They then enlisted local politicians to round up every “god fearing man and boy” in Oamaru who had a gun, to remove them. Led by some constables, the group charged up the valley keen for a chance to “shoot some Maoris”, like their equivalents had done in the North Island. Te Maiharoa’s mana and manner prevailed however, and ensured the dignified and peaceful return of the protesters to his “*Wanaka*” (school of learning) at Korotuaheka near the current south-side camping ground at the Waitaki Mouth. Their point had been made. The rag tag army from Oamaru went home tired, hungry and disappointed.

Thankfully the salmon were well established elsewhere by the time the dam was completed. The Rakaia River has been the main Turangawaewae of *O. Tshawytscha* ever since then. It was the logical location for the Winnemem Wintu to visit.

For millennia the Winnemem had performed a particular dance and song, each year, to welcome the salmon back to their lands. In the 1940s the government erected a large dam downstream from their territory. The salmon faced the same dilemma as those in the Waitaki. They could either move away or fail to spawn successfully.

The Winnemem performed those sacred salmon welcome rituals on the banks of a Rakaia tributary as the salmon arrived in 2010. At Rakaia it was their first performance in over 60 years. They wept openly as they apologised to the salmon for letting their “cousins” in the McLeod River die.



Winnemem salmon welcoming “war dance” 1870s

The plan was to eventually repopulate the McLeod from Rakaia River salmon's fertilized ova. First, however, they needed a canal linking their river to the Sacramento, to by-pass the dam. North Canterbury Fish and Game are still in dialogue with the Winnemem Wintu on the ova transfer process. There are numerous protocols to be overcome, but the desire of the native Californians will still be strong. It is their heritage.

The importance of salmon to the Winnemem was summed up in a 2010 interview where their spokesperson stated, "It is like the canary in the mine. When the canary dies, so do the people. For us it is the salmon. When they died so did the spirit of the people". Many moved away. This is why their delegation wept alongside Rakaia's spawning streams.



Winnemem salmon "war dance" 2015

Since then the Californian governor has excluded them from water rights consultations and is planning to raise the dam, thus flooding much of their remaining traditional land. Their lives are now absorbed in protests about this land loss and unsustainable water issue plans on their territory.

The on-going battle by Kiwi fisherfolk, including the Federation of Freshwater Anglers, to save our rivers from access capture and loss, dams, nitrogen and phosphate poisoning, and excessive extraction, will result in the same shedding of tears if Kiwis lose much more control of their waterways to 'corporate greed'. It is now easy to sympathise with the frustrations of Te Maiharoa's whanau when denied access to their traditional fish and game. Only our vigilance can avoid more "rivers of tears".

Rex N Gibson

Tagging Along on an Ocean Migration: Scientists Track Salmon on First Swim to Sea

**National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
Alaska Fisheries Science Center**

The first year in the ocean is thought to be the most critical time in the life of a salmon, and largely decides how many will live and be available to harvest as adults or return to their natal rivers to spawn. Yet little is known about what salmon do during that critical first year at sea. “We know when they leave the rivers, where they are caught, and when they return, but much of what happens in between is a mystery,” says NOAA research biologist John Eiler of the Alaska Fisheries Science Center.

Salmon are an important part of traditional subsistence lifestyles and support valuable commercial and recreational fisheries throughout Alaska. Other interactions with human activity are causes for concern. Salmon are caught incidentally as bycatch in other fisheries, including the Bering Sea walleye pollock fishery, one of the most valuable in the world. Concern that bycatch is contributing to the decline of salmon populations in Alaska has resulted in fishing restrictions and closures. These actions can have a major economic impact on local communities. Information on the movements of salmon and pollock can help minimize bycatch and better manage marine fisheries.

Understanding the migration patterns of salmon now is also important to establish baseline information, so that they can monitor the effects of a changing ocean environment on salmon and the people who depend on them.

This spring, salmon swimming to sea for the first time in Southeast Alaska will not go quietly. Tagged with acoustic transmitters, they will signal their location as they begin their migration.

The study, led by Eiler, is a cooperative project between NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Geological Survey. In April the team tagged 60 juvenile Chinook salmon with small acoustic transmitters.

The tagged fish were released in a fjord off Chatham Strait in mid-May to begin their ocean migration at the same time as other young Chinook salmon. An array of 23 stationary acoustic receivers, supplemented by mobile tracking from small boats, were used to follow their progress.

Acoustic telemetry studies help scientists collect information that is difficult to obtain using other methods. Fish tagged with acoustic transmitters can be located repeatedly without having to be recaptured, providing a detailed record of their movements. Traditional tagging tells only where a fish was released and where it was caught, with no information in between. Even telemetry studies using stationary receivers or boats have limitations. In a related study, Eiler's team and researchers from Rutgers University are investigating the possibilities of tracking marine animals including salmon using an autonomous underwater vehicle.

Research will help determine whether large-scale telemetry studies of juvenile salmon are feasible, but even this preliminary study is providing new and valuable information. The stationary receivers were recovered to retrieve the data, which held a few surprises. The fish moved rapidly into deep water, with most leaving the small "nursery" bay within 12 hours. The fastest fish left the area just 8 minutes after being released. And although the conventional wisdom is that juvenile salmon travel north through the inside waters of Southeast Alaska's Inland Passage, a number of the tagged fish were also recorded travelling south from the release site. “

No one really knows where the fish go from here," Eiler says, "but this study will give us some initial clues about this critical stage of their life history.”

Are the days of didymo numbered?

by Doug Stevens www.nzfishing.com

Unbeknown to most anglers, some research by a Kiwi and two Canadian scientists has the potential to be the silver bullet we have been looking for to control and possibly remove didymo from our waters.

Didymo became the scourge of many waterways in New Zealand over a decade ago. While it is not known where it originated from, it suddenly bloomed in many rivers (and now lakes) making the angling experience less than optimal to say the least. No other organism has been such a disaster to our fishing as the appearance and rapid spread of didymo.

What we know about didymo makes it highly unusual. Didymo is an algae that prefers clean water with low nutrient levels – often the most pristine rivers and lakes we like to fish. It multiplies rapidly yet is a fragile organism easily killed by dilute concentrations of such things as bleach or even dishwashing liquid. And it can be spread by a single drop of infected water.

Yet there are some strange aspects to didymo. It cannot survive in spring creeks and has never been found in any North Island river.

Itinerant anglers have long been blamed as the main agents of its spread. A large scale bio-security “Check, Clean, Dry” campaign was launched in 2004 and abandoned in 2008 when it became apparent that stopping the spread was not feasible. Felt soled boots were able to harbour didymo for weeks and so were banned. And wardens were stationed at the interislander ferry terminals (but not airports) to ensure no infected gear crossed Cook Strait. It is doubtful that these haphazard responses were effective and no angler (or kayaker, 4-wheel drive enthusiast or hiker) did not bring some infected gear to the North Island.

So why is didymo not in the North Island? The short answer is the presence of phosphorus in the water. If a river has more than 2 parts per billion (and yes that is billion not million) of phosphorus present, didymo will not bloom. The North Island which has a large percentage of volcanic soil has a high level of natural phosphorus

resent.

The South Island which has limited volcanic soils and low natural phosphorus levels so can sustain didymo. (Banks Peninsula is an exception being of volcanic origin and the rivers and streams there are didymo free).

Ah, I hear some of you exclaim – but what about the super-phosphate the farmers put on their soil? Surely that contains phosphorus that will leach into the waterways and so inhibit didymo. This is true – where super phosphate does leach into the waterways didymo is inhibited. But where rivers and streams exit a clean lake (e.g the Buller, Clutha, Gowan and Waitaki) didymo flourishes. Lakes allow phosphorus to settle out so when they flow into the headwaters of a river there is usually very little phosphorus present.

Cathy Kilroy from NIWA, one of the foremost researchers into didymo, states that didymo cannot become established in the North Island. The naturally occurring phosphorus present in the water in the North Island stops it. The Tongariro and other such waters are safe. And if a way could be found to allow the diffusion of phosphorus into infected waters in the South Island, then there is a good chance that waters in the South Island could at the very least, have didymo controlled to a manageable level. Cathy does sound some warnings however and for further information we suggest you read the summary of her findings on www.nzfishing.com.

But I am sure all anglers will agree that this is great news and worth celebrating. We need to support the scientists such as Cathy Kilroy at NIWA and encourage them to continue this valuable research. We at www.nzfishing.com are putting forward a petition to have Fish & Game's Council consider revoking the felt sole ban for the North Island in the first instance. And if it is found that didymo can be controlled, we will also be pushing for this ban to be extended across the country. If you wish to read more about this

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NZSAA ANNUAL SALMON FISHING COMPETITION (MEMBERS ONLY)

The NZSAA Annual Salmon Fishing Competition will be run for the current 2016-17 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 2017.

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 2017.
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**



**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**

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Contact details _____ Email _____

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- Family membership \$30pa
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Signature of Applicant _____

