

NZ Salmon Anglers Newsletter

February 2018 Number 122



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**Enter Now
Waimakariri River
Salmon Fishing Competition
17 March 2018**

*"Everyone should believe in
something; I believe I'll go
fishing."*

Henry David Thoreau

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

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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, Trevor Hayes, John Healy, John Hodgson, Ken Hughey, Dennis Long, Stephen Sparrow.



EDITORIAL

February 2018

Greetings to you all and all the best for 2018.

Let's hope that this season will be better than past years. We're well into the premium times for salmon fishing but the weather again has intervened with strange patterns. The start of the season in the southern rivers was encouraging but has quietened down at time of writing.

We should see bigger and better conditioned fish this season as it's now three and four year fish that should be returning. Last there were a lot of two year fish hence the small size.

I'm going to focus on the positive. The change in government seems to have had a very positive swing in a lot of respects. There is now hope that the concerns voiced about water use and water quality in past years will actually now be heeded. From the media it seems as if all of a sudden people are taking the whole issue of water more seriously.

Why should we be concerned about our salmon fishery? Why not? Fishing isn't just about food gathering, particularly salmon fishing. It has a culture of its own that is unique. Salmon are a treasured

fish. There is nothing like catching a salmon, especially a large one.

Where else do you find people going to the river knowing that they may not catch a fish. The enjoyment of salmon fishing is one of the most personal things. Some people enjoy the camaraderie of the river mouth and like the idea of being in first, so to speak, in the surf. Others prefer the solitude of a newly found hole or run up the river. Yes, a large proportion of salmon anglers are older. That's great. Would you rather be sitting at home watching TV or the like or enjoy being outdoors with friends

There's always something to yarn about or have a laugh about what happened yesterday on the river. The shared pleasure of a cuppa during a break is always welcome.

There is a lot pleasure from salmon fishing, from netting a fish for somebody to seeing an angler catch their first salmon. Why the need to preserve our fishery?

You think of your pleasure in our sport and enjoy 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.

There have been two shelters constructed by the Council at Mackintosh's on the Waimakariri on behalf of the Weeber family. Mrs Weeber lost both her husband and son Dave who both fished at the Waimakariri river. Each seat has a plaque to that effect. We thank the family for this thoughtful gift in remembrance of our late friends.



There are several events in the next few weeks that should be on your calendar:

Fin clipping weekend at Montrose Saturday and Sunday 17 and 18 February: This is a fund raising event for NZSAA and so we would really appreciate your support. Everyone is welcome (bring your friends) - you will be shown what to do. Work at the hatchery is for your angling benefit, so please support this event. Come one day or both – a barbecue lunch will be provided. Full information on the opposite page.

NZSAA's annual Waimakariri River Salmon Fishing Competition Saturday 17 March: Details are included later in this newsletter together with an entry form. Again this year, Hunting and Fishing stores are our principal sponsors. They have provided a generous array of prizes so please support these retailers when shopping for your fishing requisites.

NZSAA Members Annual Competition for salmon caught during the season: This is open to NZSAA financial members only and is free. There are trophies and prizes for salmon caught at the Rakaia and Waimakariri Rivers and for the overall heaviest salmon (any NZ river) during the season. Entry form is inside the back cover of this newsletter.

And in conclusion; our newsletters frequently contain articles on water issues - river flows, water quality, water quantity, pollution etc. While we have concerns on things we observe, it is not often that we take any action to follow up on them. Knowing where to go and who to contact in the various government and local authority organisations is a daunting task at the best of times.

But there is an helpline available:

Snap Send Solve is the free App that allows you to use your Smartphone to photograph a problem, and instantly send it to the relevant authorities in NZ. Most of them are utilising this facility, so download it - you never know when you will need it.

I look forward to seeing you on the river or at one of the upcoming events.

Tony Humphreys
PRESIDENT

**Fin Clipping Weekend at Montrose
Club Fundraising Event, 2 days
Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 February 2018**

Urgent Volunteer Assistance Needed!

Hatchery staff are already juggling stocks and flows attempting to hold oxygen levels in an effort to avoid having to release non marked smolt which are smaller than recommended, and not monitorable in our fishery.

Part 1 of the annual fin clipping program was held in early December with volunteers clipping 50,000 smolt weighing 4 grams. Part 2 of the program will take place at the Montrose hatchery commencing at 8.30am Saturday 17 February and will involve 2 days with a good team finishing on Sunday.

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

North Canterbury Fish and Game invite members of the New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association, the Canterbury Lurefishing Association to undertake the adipose fin clipping of approximately 180,000 salmon smolt at the site. These smolt stocks are destined for release in July into Silver Stream, Otukaikino, Rakaia, Coleridge, Kaikoura, Clarence, and the West Coast.

Members of the public are also invited and they will be adopted by the clubs and be included on the daily registration list. So invite your friends and children to enjoy the camaraderie of anglers on this social and educational outing.

It is very important that we achieve the fin clipping target of 180,000 on this weekend. So please rally any help you can to make it happen. 40 volunteers are needed each day to complete the work, but many hands make light work so numbers of around 60 each day will make it easier and an early finish. Fish and Game will provide a barbecue lunch on the day. Warm clothes, wet weather gear and gumboots or waders are advised.

The car pool meeting point is the Yaldhurst Hotel car park at 7.30am Saturday. Volunteers who have not been to the Montrose hatchery before are advised to meet at Blackford Road which is the first road on the right after crossing the Rakaia Gorge bridge, on the south side of the river. The entrance to the property is 6 kms up the road from the turn off.

Members of the public please contact Dirk as below. NZSAA members please contact Secretary Heather on 323 8118

**Dirk Barr,
Fish and Game Hatcheries Manager - 021 221 8378**



Douglas Roy

7 August 1938 - 14 October 2017

With sadness we record the passing of Douglas Roy, respected NZSAA Life Member and fishing friend. We extend our heartfelt condolences to wife Florence and family members.

Doug Roy was an office-holder and a tireless volunteer worker on the recovery and enhancement of the salmon fishery. He joined NZSAA in 1979 and was elected to the Committee in 1987. Doug was elected Patron in 1996 and held this office until 2007. He was awarded Life Membership in 2009.

Doug's portfolio responsibilities were varied including water right consent issues, particularly on the Waimakariri, ova planting, stream improvement, Montrose hatchery and newsletter production for a period of years up to 2005.

Doug was associated with Montrose since its establishment being particularly involved with the design, installation and maintenance of the automated feeding and hatching systems and keeping meticulous records of salmon ova production and raising of salmon for release. Doug was an enthusiastic promoter and participant in the Association's efforts to restore the salmon fishery in our rivers.

The Waimakariri River was an area dear to Doug's heart both for salmon fishing and advocating on matters affecting the health of the river and the salmon fishery. He was actively involved in the submissions and hearings that culminated in the Waimakariri Ocean Outfall project.

Doug had a huge knowledge of technical and electronic matters and an eagerness and ability to learn new skills mainly through his own research and self instruction. In particular he became an expert on computer technology and was NZSAA's "guru" in this area for many years. When our newsletter was earlier produced at considerable cost by commercial printers, Doug took over, and designed and produced the newsletter from his own computer for many years. His basic format is still being used today.

In recent years Doug struggled with failing health and he succumbed to one final illness in October 2017. He was always closely supported by his wife Florence and family and in typical practical manner Doug's final journey was in a coffin handmade by his son, and engraved with a salmon and bearing a rod. Fittingly he departed to Louis Armstrong's song *Gone Fishin'*

Tight Lines, Doug.

GONE FISHIN'

**You gone fishin'
Well there's a sign upon your door...**

**Gone fishin'
You ain't workin' anymore ...**

**There's your hoe out in the sun
Where you left a row half done
You claim that hoein' ain't no fun
You ain't got no ambition**

**Gone fishin' by a shady wady pool
I'm wishin' I could be that kind of fool
I'd say no more work for mine
On my door I'd hang a sign
Gone fishin' instead of just a-wishin'**



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

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

Take a Kid Fishing 2017

Take A Kid Fishing was held on Sunday 15th October 2017, the last weekend of the school holidays.

The event aims to introduce children to fishing through specially stocked lakes at the Groynes Junior fishery, made easier by also supplying free fishing gear, bait, tuition, fish cleaning, certificates, photographs and cooking demonstrations.



Attendance was estimated at about 5000-6000, comparable to last year. All kids were covered by a free fishing license issued by Fish & Game for the day. Fish & Game were also on hand to issue licenses for children that wished to return to fish on other days or to fish other waters.

About 150 fish were caught, a few less than previous years because of the weed growing in the lakes that restricted access and fishing spots. Bright sunshine drove the salmon to deeper water later on in the day but shaded areas continued to fish well. A number of large rainbows (up to 14lb) that had been released were also caught.

Volunteers from fishing clubs and service groups were involved for on-the-day field roles. NZSAA members managed the loan of the fishing gear that was made available free of charge with names and phone numbers recorded. Sadly a group targeted the event this year with five sets of gear not returned. When phone numbers were called they turned out to be false or inaccurate. The theft of 5% of the rods and reels stock is abhorrent and identification systems and security will be ramped up next time.

Take A Kid Fishing is an event managed by the Kids Fishing Charitable Trust. The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust is a generous supporter and the principal sponsor of Take A Kid Fishing.



Norway & Japan Deploy Salmon Fishing Tech

Japan Times, October 2017

Projects are underway in Norway and Japan to raise salmon in large numbers in big offshore pens, by adopting next-generation aquafarming technology. Offshore farming aims to avoid sea lice infestations that often plague conventional small and overcrowded coastal farms, as well as water contamination caused by leftover feed.

At the Tsukiji fish market in Tokyo, Norwegian Atlantic salmon prices continue to climb year after year. Poor catches and the growing popularity of sushi in the U.S., Europe and Asia outside Japan have contributed to the global increase in salmon prices. Moves to increase the production are therefore gaining momentum.

In Norway, major exporter of cultured salmon, production was halved in 2015 after a sea lice epidemic hit some 30 coastal farms. The Norwegian government launched a program that year to develop environment-friendly next-generation farming technology that prevents outbreaks of sea lice. Under the program, salmon farmers authorized by the government after screenings are allowed to use farming waters free of charge for up to seven years to conduct experiments and commercialise farming operations.

SalMar ASA, a Norwegian fish farmer with a foothold in Japan, secured a license from the government and will build a floating pen 20 kilometres off Trondelag, a central region of Norway, to raise 10,000 tons of salmon per year.

To minimize the risk of sea lice, SalMar will raise salmon at depths of 100 to 300 metres in the floating pen, which will have a manned control room at the centre to feed fish by monitoring their movements via an underwater camera. The pen will measure 110 metres in diameter, holding 250,000 cubic metres of water. The company plans to begin harvesting the cultured salmon from the farm in the second half of 2018.

Norway aims to increase its annual production of cultured salmon to 5 million tons by 2050 from 1.3 million in 2016, according to Sandberg. To reach this goal, “we have to do some regulations” to ensure that production will increase “in a sustainable way,” he said.

In Japan, Nippon Steel & Sumikin Engineering Co. launched a demonstration experiment on offshore farming in a pen some 3 km off Sakaiminato, Tottori Prefecture, in December 2016 in cooperation with leading Japanese marine products company Nippon Suisan Kaisha Ltd. Using an automated feeding system, the project is raising coho salmon at a depth of 15 metres. With feed provided through a pipe from a silo on the sea by remote control, feed needs replenishing only about once a week and there is almost no need to sail in rough weather. The pen utilizes technologies that the engineering company built up through the construction of offshore oil pipelines and steelmaking plants.

The project represents Nippon Steel & Sumikin Engineering’s first entry into the primary sector of industry and they hope to sell the next-generation aquafarming technology in Japan and other countries where sites for coastal farming are becoming saturated. Coho salmon were harvested from the pen in March for the first time.

October 2017

Saturday 17 March 2018
WAIMAKARIRI SALMON FISHING
COMPETITION

Competition Area

All river below Railway Bridge, excluding Kaiapoi River

Start Time: Daybreak **Finish Time:** 3.30pm

Weigh Station Located at river mouth Kairaki. Open 8.00am. Close 4.00pm

Major Sponsor: Hunting & Fishing stores - Lots of Prizes

Christchurch: Tower Junction & North Canterbury: 305 Flaxton Rd, Rangiora

Entry Fees (include Fish & Game levies)

Adult \$30

NZ Salmon Angler member \$25

NZSAA \$25 membership + entry fee \$50

Junior (16 yrs or under) \$5

Social Event and Prizegiving

5.00pm: Prizegiving Kairaki Beach Camp Hall

BYO drinks and \$2 sausage sizzle BBQ. Partners and friends welcome.

**A PULL-OUT ENTRY FORM IS ENCLOSED WITH THIS
NEWSLETTER ON PAGES 12 & 13**

Full competition details and entry forms also available from:

NZ Salmon Anglers Association committee members or
website www.nzsalmonanglers.co.nz

Ballingers Hunting & Fishing, 73 Clarence St Tower Junction, Christchurch

North Canterbury Hunting & Fishing, 305 Flaxton Rd, Rangiora

Kairaki Beach Camp Office

Anglers Warehouse, 42 Maces Rd, Bromley

Fisherman's Loft, 359 Lincoln Rd;

Complete Angler, Unit 4, 484 Cranford St

Smiths City, Colombo St

Early Entry Prize Draw closes 5.00pm Saturday 3 March 2018

Other entries received up to 9.00am Saturday 17 March 2018

Hunting & Fishing

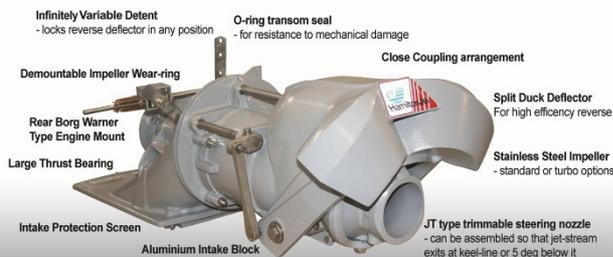
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75 Clarence Street, Tower Junction, Christchurch: Phone 03 3430212

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

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HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION WEST- LAND

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:** \$120 per night (up to 4 people) \$20 per extra person
 Bruce Bay & Neil's Beach \$100 per night

For more information and bookings please contact Nelson or Cindy:

*The Hokitika Angling Club
C/o Hokitika Cycles & Sportsworld
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Chev 350 and Hamilton 212 jet unit.
Transplanting from existing boat is also an option.

Suppliers of...







Water Pollution

by NZSAA member Steve McNeill



In May 2017 the former Environment Minister, Nick Smith, suggested that ‘city-dwellers needed to "take a look in the mirror" and check their own contribution to water quality instead of criticising farmers about freshwater’. This led to a concerted effort to divert the wider community from the rural water pollution issues.

The Federated Farmers website stresses the need for water quality requirements to be applied ‘equally to urban and rural waterways’ while ignoring the fact that dairy farm compliance is still well below par in Canterbury and elsewhere in New Zealand.

It is true that urban rivers are often as polluted as the rural rivers and streams and they have been for more than a hundred years. City residents and industry owners, as well as farmers and the owners of rurally-located factories, all need to get themselves off their backsides to protect our waters – the waters above and below ground.

In my lifetime I have witnessed huge changes in water quality – improvements in the city and general deterioration in the country. The thought that today’s polluted urban rivers are in better shape than they were previously may be surprising to some. This is largely because they were massively polluted in the 1950s and 1960s.

It is not that long ago that the waters of the Heathcote, Avon and Waimakariri were subjected to incredible abuse.

In the 1970s the Waimakariri River ran red from freezing works blood at the mouth of the South Branch. The discharges below Dickey's Road allowed the creation of a commercial eeling business, and floating fats and grease meant the lower Waimakariri through to Kairaki was beyond unpleasant.

The Belfast sewer system discharged partially treated human waste into the Waimakariri River system, and this was added to by the Kaiapoi town wastewater discharge plus a freezing works in Kaiapoi, and wool-scour wastes. All these discharges combined to pollute the water column as well as the bed of the river and the Brooklands lagoon sediments.

Today the Belfast wastewater discharges are connected to the city system and Kaiapoi and Rangiora are connected to the Kaiapoi ocean outfall. The Waimakariri River is a lot cleaner. The foul stench evident up until the last few years has gone.

Unfortunately the last city-based industrial threat to the Waimakariri continues to exist. The freezing works pipeline to the river is still in place, with the discharge points visible on the old road bridge. After witnessing salmon and trout die from a "human error" freezing works discharge into the Waimakariri I am still wary of it happening again at some point in the future.

(Continued on page 14)

In the more highly populated areas of Christchurch, the Heathcote River had a tannery, fellmongery, and the Woolston wool-scour on its banks from as long ago as the 1870s. Belfast also had freezing works, fellmongery and a wool scour from the 1880s and some businesses are still there today. A wool scour also operated on the Avon River in the now “red zone” loop opposite Medway Street. The wool scour on the Heathcote operated right in the river in the early days. We can only imagine the lack of treatment and stench from these industries as well as septic tank and other waste water flows. Other industries such as fish processing factories and milk factories also contributed to the pollution of the city’s rivers.

The larger scale freezing works at Belfast and Islington have downsized or disappeared, and apart from a building name, the Heathcote thankfully no longer has a tannery, wool scour or fellmongery.

The Avon and the Heathcote both have variable water quality today. The gross pollution sources producing the bulk of the industrial discharges - are gone. The city council has a tighter hold on trade waste disposal and most industries are able to comply at all times.

Some human waste overflows occur in wet weather, and mishaps at industrial sites also happen from time to time. These unplanned events are unwelcome at the very least, and should not be happening in our so-called modern times.

Our urban waters in Christchurch are still not perfect. They are far better than last century, or even 5 years ago, but there are pollutants from vehicles, house roof materials, ducks and geese, and dogs. There are also legacy pollutants held in riverbed and estuary sediments from decades of abuse.

A lot of the industries associated with the processing of farm produce have gone from the city, along with the jobs they created. Now located in rural areas these industries still create massive amounts of waste which must be disposed of. Maybe, like the river sediments in the city, there will be legacy pollutants which are reaching ground water today, only to be discovered decades later.

The Canterbury Regional Council (“brand” names Environment Canterbury or ECan) has known about the probability of pollutants from areas west of Kaiapoi and Rangiora leaching under the Waimakariri River and into the city’s groundwater aquifers near Belfast since the early 2000s. Nearly 20 years later they are starting to investigate the issue. This is hardly a rapid environmental response from ECan. Perhaps ironically the proposed water bottling plant in Belfast is on the path of these legacy pollutants from north of the river.

Today’s major rural factories at Darfield and throughout mid and south Canterbury are creating a similar waste stream to that of the earlier urban farm processing industries in the towns and cities. Each farm in Canterbury is an industrial entity to some degree, and each has a mix of chemical use including fertilisers, weed killers or animal treatment products, as well as animal waste disposal issues for those intensively farming animals.

Canterbury’s underground aquifers are not fully understood - particularly following the earthquakes - and past and present farming practices are influencing the surface and ground water quality in our province.

Not all farming or industry is bad - but some of it is very messy. Not all urban activities are bad – but some are also messy.

I don't think we should necessarily follow Nick Smith's politically-charged 'look in the mirror' advice.

But do look in the river to see what condition the water is in, and do what you can to stop water abuse wherever you see it.

Steve McNeill

2 February 2018

News from Otago

Dunedin Community Salmon Trust

The Dunedin Community Salmon Trust has suffered recent vandalism, the last occasion in January when an aerator on its salmon tank was turned off. This resulted in the loss of over 200 mature salmon valued at \$30,000. These salmon were the brood-stock to provide the eggs for next year's release of salmon into the Otago harbour.

The Trust operates the salmon hatchery in Sawyers Bay, Dunedin. Salmon are reared for release into the Dunedin harbour to create a self-sustaining salmon fishery, freely available to all. In the 2014-15 year the Trust successfully reared and released circa 500,000 salmon smolt into the harbour. The Trust is a non-profit organisation that relies upon donations to provide the money needed to rear these salmon. The feed for the salmon must be imported from either Chile or Melbourne at a cost approaching \$20,000. They are all volunteers that are doing this for the benefit of Otago residents and visitors alike.

The Trust is seeking donations to assist with the purchase of a security system for the hatchery and to replace the losses the Trust has recently suffered. A Give a Little fund has been set up and if you wish to make a donation to help the Trust, go to the website givealittle.co.nz/org/dunedin-community-salmon-trust

NZSAA Otago Salmon Anglers Competition cancelled this year

The closure of two Dunedin wharves and the review of a third has led to the cancellation of a this year's Otago Harbour salmon fishing competition. Port Otago has cited issues of risks to public safety around business activity at the wharves and adjacent stores.

Otago Salmon Anglers president Colin Williams said it would be unfair to land-based competitors that many of the prime fishing spots would be closed putting undue pressure on the remaining areas available.

In lieu of the competition, the association would put up a cash prize for the heaviest salmon caught and weighed before March 31.

South Island Salmon Symposium

The two Canterbury Fish & Game regions (North Canterbury and Central South Island) hosted the symposium in Ashburton on 11 and 12 November 2017 in response to concerns that the salmon runs are declining.

The 120 or so anglers who attended heard from a mix of experts from NZ and North America about possible causes for the decline. There was also a workshop where members of the public suggested possible solutions, or areas where more research were needed.

Fish & Game NZ Chief Executive Martin Taylor told delegates he was committed to halting the decline. “The big issue is not what caused the salmon population fall but what is now preventing its recovery. We need solutions and my promise is that I will be doing my best to deliver on them. If that means challenging the status quo and upsetting some people, then so be it.”

One of the symposium organisers Matthew Hall said anglers need to stop talking and start taking action. “We are fighting a last-ditch battle to save our wild salmon. We need to go hard.”

The new Conservation Minister Eugenie Sage won applause from symposium delegates when she promised to improve water quality, boost DOC funding and restore democracy to ECAN. Watch this space!

North American salmon expert David Willis said climate change had caused falls in salmon populations across the Pacific and action to halt that decline needed to start now. And he warned that anglers will have to make sacrifices if salmon numbers are to recover.

New Zealand experts told delegates water quality, sedimentation, irrigation and lack of fencing around spawning streams are all having an impact on local salmon numbers.

While the full report of the proceedings and planned action is awaited with interest, F&G officer Tony Hawker has noted three important things from the symposium:

Anglers expressed a strong desire to see a Salmon Committee established and for the two Canterbury regions to work more closely together. He says that those two outcomes are already in progress.

The third point was that incremental changes in smolt survival making the journey down our rivers can make a significant difference to the amount of returning adults, despite what is happening out at sea.

Hawker says that improvements in smolt survival can be made by improving some of our spawning habitat (fencing and silt removal), and enhancing the design of fish screens on irrigation takes. Both of these solutions are achievable with cooperation from landowners and agencies such as Environment Canterbury.

More on fish screens....

As reported in our October newsletter, NZSAA is taking a keen interest on safe fish passage and poorly designed fish barriers. The Symposium debated the issue and F&G has recognised that enhanced fish screen design is necessary to improved smolt survival.

Concerns on lack of compliance around water consent conditions, particularly as to fish barriers, and new consent applications under consideration, has led your NZSAA Committee to adopt the following as its standard. All the consenting conditions and compliances should ensure that this standard is met and maintained:

- All native fish, salmon and trout must remain in the river.
- Any fish that are removed from the river must be returned to the river unharmed.
- Any fish not returned must be replaced.

From the Internet

UK Chalk Stream Salmon

Salmon from the chalk streams of southern England are genetically unique, researchers have discovered. The fish are classified as Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), but research by the University of Exeter and the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust shows their genes are distinctly different from others of the species. Some salmon return to the exact river where they were born, but genetic evidence suggests that may not be the case for chalk-stream salmon. They fit the criteria for being a sub-species – they are a genetically unique group with a well-defined distribution, associated with a distinctive habitat.

Monster Chinook Salmon

Volunteer fishermen with a hatchery in central B.C. found themselves with one big salmon last month. The Percy Walkus Hatchery caught the massive chinook along the Wannock River, about 80 kilometres southwest of Bella Coola. It weighed more than 50 pounds. The whole Rivers Inlet area is famous as a hotspot of giant fish. Even so, this salmon was particularly monstrous.

Volunteers harvest the semen along with eggs from the strongest broodstock fish, which are fertilized and planted in the nearby hatchery.

Continued on page 20



Ted Walkus, one of the hereditary chiefs of the nearby Wuikinuxv First Nation, helps with the egg take. The embryos are released once they've grown to about 5 grams.

It's a win-win situation for fish and humans. The caught salmon get a guaranteed chance to pass on their genetic material, fishery stocks are boosted and local people can feast on mountains of salmon without disrupting the breeding cycle.

Incredibly, this year's 50-pound monster isn't even close to the largest Chinook ever caught in the area. That record belongs to an 83.3-pound Chinook caught by a catch-and-release angler in 2012.

With files from CBC Vancouver News at 6

Quarter of Scottish Farmed Salmon Thrown Away

The Scottish fish farming industry has admitted that it threw away up to ten million salmon last year, nearly a quarter of its stock, because of diseases, parasites and other problems. Official figures reveal the tonnages of dead fish that had to be disposed of has more than doubled from 10,599 in 2013 to a record high of 22,479 in 2016. Most are transported and burnt at an incinerator in Widnes near Warrington in northwest England.

Campaign groups warn that the industry is facing an "environment catastrophe", is "haemorrhaging cash" and "shames Scotland". Companies accept that they have been plagued by disease and sea lice, and that their businesses have suffered.

Unwanted mortalities at salmon farms have long been a problem, but in the last 3 years they have risen to record levels. Latest figures for the months up to June 2017 show another another 7,700 tonnes of dead salmon discarded, suggesting that the problem is not going away. There are also thought to have been significant mortalities in the Western Isles since then.

Critics estimate the total number of dead, discarded salmon last year to have been between 10m and 20m. But the industry says it sustained losses of "between 6 and 10 million fish, depending on their size".

Scottish Government figures show that in 2016 the total number of smolts put into fish farm production in Scotland was just under 43 million. Total salmon production was 162,817 tonnes.

The Scottish Salmon Think-Tank, a new group of fish farm critics, accused the industry of failing to address "appalling" collateral damage. "Self-regulation is simply not working," said the group's Lynn Schweisfurth. "The whole salmon farming business model is broken and far from sustainable as it claims to be. These worrying figures are the hallmarks of an industry in crisis and it's our rural communities that will suffer as the problems continue."

Dr Richard Luxmoore, senior nature conservation adviser for the National Trust for Scotland, described the disposal of huge amounts of rotting fish as "stomach churning" and a waste of good food. "It is the sign of an environmental catastrophe," he said.

"The salmon farming industry has lost the ability to control fish diseases and this results

in escalating quantities of toxic chemicals being poured into the sea in an increasingly fruitless attempt to control them. It also inevitably leads to the release of an infectious soup of disease organisms into our coastal waters.” He called for the industry to shift to a closed containment system” that would protect the fish and the marine environment.

The same demand was made by the wild fish campaign group, Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland. He called for the industry to shift to a “closed containment system” that would protect the fish and the marine environment. The same demand was made by the wild fish campaign group, Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland.

“Disease and mortalities on Scottish salmon farms continue at shocking levels,” said the group’s Guy Linley-Adams. “What concerns us is that the Scottish Government has almost no idea what the effects are on wild salmon and wild sea trout in Scottish sea lochs.”

Don Staniford from the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture warned that plans to double the salmon farming business by 2030 were “environmental lunacy”. “Infectious diseases and lice infestation are crippling the Scottish salmon farming industry which is hemorrhaging cash,” he claimed.

The Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO), which represents the industry, accepted that there had “unfortunately” been losses. “Last year saw some problems which resulted in the loss of between 6 and 10 million fish, depending on their size,” said SSPO chief executive, Scott Landsburgh. “This is something which the industry takes very seriously and is working hard to minimise. Disposal of mortalities is managed in line with the government’s approved methods and legislation.”

Marine Harvest insisted it had been “very transparent” about the issues it had been facing with sea lice and amoebic gill disease (AGD). “We would clearly prefer if we had not had this level of mortalities,” said the company’s business support manager, Steve Bracken. “But what is more positive is that the picture is changing. We are making strong progress in reducing the sea lice levels and tackling the challenge of AGD.”

The Scottish Salmon Company agreed it had faced “biological challenges and unprecedented mortalities” in 2016. “We have taken decisive action to tackle these challenges,” said a company spokesperson.

The Scottish Government pointed out that fish and shellfish farming contributes £620m to the Scottish economy every year, supporting more than 12,000 jobs. “We have a duty to protect Scotland’s marine environment and the health and welfare of farmed fish is of utmost importance,” said a spokesperson. “The Scottish Government is committed to working with the aquaculture sector to develop a strategic health framework that ensures we make progress in tackling major problems, including emerging disease and sea lice.”

Sunday Herald - Edinburgh, Scotland October 2017

Nostalgia - Rods and Reels from the 1960s

Angling equipment and materials have changed significantly over the years. Here are samples of rods and reels from a New Zealand 1963 catalogue:

SURF AND SALMON RODS

- MITCHELL "COMPANION" GLASS ROD**—Finest American "Conolon" tubular fibre glass. One-piece 11 ft., double hand cork grips, screw reel fitting, stainless steel rings. One-piece gives perfect action and easier casting. Price £10/19/6
- THE "NEPTUNE" GLASS ROD**—A two-piece 10 ft. 6 in. salmon and surf rod. Made of American Conolon fibre glass. Light and powerful. Price £11/15/-
- THE "COASTER"**—American Conolon glass, 10 ft. 6 in., with detachable butt. Large rings. Price £10/9/6
- LUXOR "POWER STREAM"**—A 9 ft. two-piece solid glass rod. An ideal rod for surf or salmon fishing. Large rings for threadline work. Price £4/17/6
- "SOUTH BEND"**—American two-piece steelhead rod. 14 in. shaped cork handle. 8 ft. or 9 ft. Price £8/19/6
- "RODDY"**—American, two-piece "Epoxy" fibre glass rod. 8 ft. Price £4/19/6
- "SHAKESPEARE"**—American two-piece fibre glass rods. Powerful but light and fast actioned.
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|-----------------------|---------------|
| Model 71. 8 ft. | Price £8/12/6 |
| Model 72. 8 ft. 6 in. | Price £9/13/- |
| Model 73. 8 ft. | Price £9/15/- |
| Model 75. 9 ft. | Price £9/15/- |
- THE "ADMIRAL"**—Two-piece, solid fibre glass rod. Special long cork handle. 9 ft. Price £6/12/6
- THE "OTSEE"**—A German made solid fibre glass rod. Two piece. Length 8 ft. Price £3/7/6
- THE "NORDSEE"**—Another good German rod. Longer and more powerful than the "Otsee." 9 ft. Price £3/19/6
- THE "T.T.50" SOLID GLASS ROD**—A two-piece 8 ft. 6 in. glass rod that is certain to be popular for salmon fishing. Price £5/17/-
- THE "ATLAS 50"**—A 9 ft. two-piece tubular glass rod. Price £7/19/6
- THE "SURF KING" GLASS ROD**—A 10 ft. 6 in. two-piece solid fibre glass rod. Reinforced, serrated ferrule; extra large stainless steel rings throughout. This is the ideal surf-fishing rod, light yet exceptionally strong and is capable of handling weights up to 6 ozs. with ease. Price £7/17/6

First with the Latest in Fishing Gear

PENN "LEVELINE"—A precision made reel, free spool; star drag; positive automatic level-wind control which works only on the retrieve. Price £12/2/-

THE "OCEAN CITY 250"—The well-known Inductor model with magnetic casting control. A precision engineered reel. Price £13/10/-

THE "OCEAN CITY 981"—Low-priced, high-quality reel for trolling or spinning. Capacity 250 yds. 20 lb. monofilament. Price 88/6

THE "OCEAN CITY 982"—Well-constructed trolling or spinning reel. Close tolerance drum for nylon monofilament. Capacity 300 yds. 20 lb. nylon. Price £5/7/9

PENN "SEA BOY" REEL—An excellent all-round reel at a very moderate price. Star drag brake adjustment. Price £3/6/-

SURF AND SALMON REELS

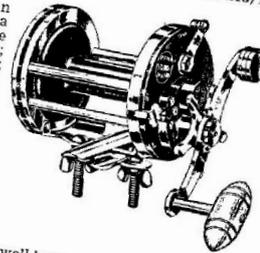
TIER IV. LIGHT GAME FISH REEL—One of the most exotic in the North Island for kingfish and tuna trolling. Is the ideal reel for fishing for heavy schnapper from a capacity 450 yards, 35 lb. line. Price £14/12/6

DER III—350 yards 35 lb. line. Price £13/2/6

"SEA KING"—A well-made, free spool, star drag reel. Simple take-apart. Clutch operates automatically on thumbing necessary. The Mechanical Thumbler operates line is running out, the retrieve is free from any Price £9/8/6

DER—One of the best of all the surf reels; free control for trouble-free casting; quick take-apart. With metal spool. Price £13/17/-

MASTER—An angling reel at a price with all the quality of a free spool; Price £9/8/-



NZSAA ANNUAL SALMON FISHING COMPETITION (MEMBERS ONLY)

The NZSAA Annual Salmon Fishing Competition will be run for the current 2017-18 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 2018.

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 2018.
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
JOIN**

NZ Salmon Anglers Association (Inc)

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



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

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

Name _____

Address _____

Contact details _____ Email _____

Available to assist with volunteer work weekdays/weekends?

Subscription enclosed

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

Signature of Applicant _____

