

# NZ Salmon Anglers Newsletter

**May 2021 Number 127**



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**Make a note in your diary:**

**NZSAA Annual General Meeting  
Tuesday 25 May 2021  
At 7.00 pm**



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

**NEW ZEALAND SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (INC)  
2019-20 OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE**

<b>President</b>	Larry Burke	0274 916409	the.burkes@outlook.com
<b>Vice President</b>	Colin Eaton	027 2080063	colinanddieaton@xtra.co.nz
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Tony Humphreys	021 02375746	tonyhumphreys6@gmail.com
<b>Patron</b>	Pam Ellis	021 2113293	pam.ellis41@hotmail.com
<b>Acting Secretary-Treasurer</b>	Tony Humphreys	021 02375746	tonyhumphreys6@gmail.com
<b>Committee</b>	Mike Ager	021 02951190	
	Phil Ball	021 2656133	jeanettephilball@xtra.co.nz
	Kevin Belcher	021 625306	kbel209@gmail.com
	John Hodgson	351 5825	jmhodgson@xtra.co.nz
	Paul Hodgson	021 1965676	paul@ pjslawnmowingandgardening.co.nz
	Dave Leigh	0272862865	rae.dave92@gmail.com
	Dennis Long	352 2874	dennislong@xtra.co.nz
	Russell Mackay	021 02798628	russhaz@outlook.co.nz
	Greg Terras	0274 341737	gjterras@gmail.com

**Honorary Auditor** Trevor Hayes

**Committee Meetings**

The Committee meets on the first Monday each month (except January) at 6.30 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.

<p><b>Disclaimer:</b> The opinions expressed in any letters and articles in this newsletter are the authors' own and are not necessarily those of the New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association (Inc) or the Editor.</p>
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## EDITORIAL

### May 2021

Welcome to our 48th Annual General Meeting. Next year, 2022, is 50 years since the inaugural meeting to form NZSAA on 18 April 1972 and subsequent Incorporation on 19 May 1972. Preliminary planning is already underway for a special AGM next year. If any members have salmon stuff and memories of our organisation that you would like to share, please feel free to contact us. Further details will be announced as preparations come together.

Meanwhile, the just-closed season has seen mixed results for salmon anglers, with some rivers seemingly doing better than others and a preliminary look again shows the Waimakariri to have done better. However there is also an interesting change in how anglers are reporting their catch - that is by saying nothing, which is strange and slightly understandable as we are really in uncertain times with our salmon fishery.

The spawning counts and angler surveys underway will hopefully shed a little light on the numbers. North Canterbury Fish and Game are this year doing three counts as opposed to one last year. We have also convinced NCF&G to do a Waimakariri lowland count which volunteers will be doing over the next month or so.

We have also been able to do some spawning stream enhancement work in the Kaiapoi system.

However a sad thing is that there have been some young locals poaching spawning fish. Two groups have been caught in the act by concerned anglers, F&G rangers and the police so hopefully it will stop. I think we need to educate the young ones on what damage they are doing and that it could mean they will not have salmon to catch in three years.

On a brighter note salmon smolt have all season been making their way down the rivers in numbers and still are. With being spread over a longer time frame it means a greater survival chance at sea and some of these smolt have been up to eight inches (20cm) long and that is a good sign.

Meanwhile the F&G review was released April 27<sup>th</sup>. It is interesting reading, all sixty pages. Whatever happens there is going to be change and we anglers need to stand up and be counted if we want our voices to be heard. Some proposed changes look good, others not so much. I was personally disappointed that the funding issue did not rate too much in it, but we shall see.

We are still looking for more committee members. If you want to get more involved with NZSAA please put your name forward. We have some interesting projects about to happen that will need dedicated volunteers to help fix our salmon fishery.

Meanwhile I wonder how many of you are, like me, already planning for next season. Guess that is the addiction of salmon fishing.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM on 25 May.

*Larry Burke*

**PRESIDENT**

## **Annual Subscriptions 1921-22 Now Due**

NZSAA subscriptions are now due for the current year that commenced 1 April 2021 (no increase from last year).

<b>Adult membership</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>Family membership</b>	<b>\$30</b>
<b>Junior membership (under 18 years)</b>	<b>\$10</b>

Payment can be made by:

- Mail to NZSAA P O Box 1113 Christchurch 8140; or
- Direct Credit to NZSAA Westpac account 03 0802 0099970 00 (Please include your name on the DC payment details); or
- To the Treasurer at the AGM on 25 May 2120

## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**The 48th Annual General Meeting of  
New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association (Inc)  
will be held on Tuesday 25 May 2021 at 7.00 pm**

**Upstairs at the Canterbury Softball Headquarters  
220 Pages Road (behind Cowles Stadium) Christchurch**

### **Business for the Meeting**

1. Apologies
  2. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM 17 July 2020
  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 presentation
  10. Guest Speakers:
    - Hylton Lewis, General Manager, Salmon Smolt NZ Ltd
    - Rex Gibson
  11. General Business
- A raffle will be run during the evening and supper served at the conclusion.

## **President's Report to the NZSAA 48th Annual General Meeting for the year ended 31 March 2021**

I think the year since our last AGM has been a little more settled than the previous one as we are more used to the stuff around the virus and its ups and down. However it has not had much effect on the salmon fishing and that is important.

We got two months back to our salmon fishing season, but not April as the Government has still not signed off on the four fish per season. Fish & Game are hoping to hear before the next Regulation booklet is due for printing, I believe there could be a consultation on regulations before then.

So what have your committee been up to since the last AGM? The good news is that RDR Irrigation has decided not to take up the consent for the extra 10 cumecs of water they were granted on the Rangitata River. Thank you to Paul Hodgson for all his work on this consent process and also on the Statutory Plan for the river which has been presented to Environment Canterbury. We await an answer to it. Paul and I have also been attending regular meetings on Canterbury water, dealing with fish screens. We are starting to see a slightly brighter light at the end of the tunnel on this. For one thing it appears that no new consents or renewal of old ones will be able to use rock bunds as a fish screen. There is a lot of other stuff going on that is not yet to be made public but it seems that ECan is moving in a positive way as far as compliance is concerned and that is a good thing but it is slow going.

We have had meetings with Fish & Game around a large project on the Rakaia River that will be made public soon. We have also finally got F&G stating that that the lowland spawning on the Waimakairi is important which has led to the counting of lowland spawning numbers in the Kaiapoi river system, the Styx river and the Otukaikino.

Also thanks to the work of committee member Kevin Belcher who keeps an eye on what is happening on Silverstream - as well as filming the action, Kevin invited ECan staff and F&G to have a look and got permission for some volunteers to go in and stir up the shingle etc in known salmon spawning spots, removing silt and hopefully making it easier for the salmon to spawn. Well done Kevin.

Because of doubts over COVID and availability of fish, Take a Kid fishing was doubtful last year. However at short notice sponsorship was obtained and some salmon were released in July 2020. The event attracted a good number of children who had a good time. NZSAA provided some volunteers on the day managing the issue and return of rods, and gutting the salmon caught by the children. We are hopeful it will happen again this year.

Our Waimakariri Salmon Fishing Competition was held on 13 March 2021. It attracted 169 entries comprising 123 adults and 46 juniors and children. Two salmon were weighed in and congratulations are due to the winner Paul McNeil (5.18 kg) and runner up Ethan McClimont (5.10 kg).

Thank you to all our sponsors: there was over \$6000 value in prizes and it seems everyone had a good day especially when you saw the reactions and smiles from the junior and child winners.

So how did the season pan out? It seems it was again very mixed with the Waimakariri appearing to be the best. Colin Eaton's numbers for McIntoshs, done with the help of Neil Mclean, totalled 129. My numbers which covered a wider area give 165 verified fish and at least 60 what I call unverified fish. That information has come from a reliable source which gives a total 235 which again is an underestimation. Size of the 63 fin clipped salmon ranged from 5.5lb(2.5 kg to 21lb (9.55 kg) with an average weight of 12.11lbs (5.50 kg) and un-finclipped salmon 11.62lbs (5.27kg) which I think was heavier than the previous season.

The Governance Review of Fish & Game has been released with some radical changes proposed in its 60 pages. It makes interesting reading with some things, I am sure, anglers will not agree with. We now wait and see how the changes will be implemented.

Also of interesting reading is a paper from F&G written by Steve Terry titled Addressing Poor Salmon Returns to Canterbury rivers. An abridged copy is in later pages of this newsletter.

Our Association is in a good financial position as our audit shows again. Thank you to Trevor Hayes for his dedication in auditing our finances year after year.

The membership is currently standing at 170 plus our eight Life Members.

One committee member resigned during the year and we acknowledge and thank Neil McLean for his three years of valuable service to the committee and advocacy on behalf of the members. We wish him well for the future.

My thanks are due to the NZSAA committee who have supported me during the year and worked so hard on our events, ongoing projects, and the ever-increasing complex issues affecting our salmon fishery.

We also acknowledge the passing during the year of two NZSAA members Richard Bruce and Neville Keast. I will ask you all to stand at the AGM for a moment's silence in remembrance of Richard Bruce and Neville Keast.

**Larry Burke**

**PRESIDENT**

**NZSAA monogrammed lapel badges and headwear  
available for purchase at the AGM**

*Caps, Bucket Hats and Beanies - \$20 each*

*Lapel Badges - \$15 each*

**N.Z. SALMON ANGLERS ASSN INC.**  
**STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE**  
**FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

<b><u>31.3.20</u></b>	<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b><u>Y/e 31.3.21</u></b>
180.00	Subscriptions	3425.00
283.50	Donations	80.00
861.85	Interest Received	623.11
223.00	Raffle	273.00
7.74	Profit on sale of stock	39.69
750.00	Fin Clipping	-
<u>628.00</u>	Waimakariri Competition Profit	<u>2474.45</u>
<u>934.09</u>		<u>6915.25</u>
	Fishing Levies previous years not now payable	1499.00
	CORANZ sub written back	350.00
		<u>\$8764.25</u>
	<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>	
782.06	Newsletter and Postage	542.46
530.00	Secretary/Treasurer Honorarium	1780.00
712.26	Office Expenses	920.09
655.19	AGM Costs	371.76
694.39	Depreciation on Assets	1198.84
151.85	Salmon Enhancement	169.07
350.00	Subscriptions/Donations/Levies	50.00
-	Sundry Expenses	84.00
114.88	RDR Expenses	-
<u>138.00</u>	Website Expenses	<u>139.00</u>
128.63		5255.22
<u>805.46</u>	Excess income over expenditure	<u>3509.03</u>
<u>934.09</u>		<u>\$8764.25</u>

**N.Z. SALMON ANGLERS ASSN INC.**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2021**

<u>Y/e 31.3.20</u>	<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>			<u>Y/e 31.3.2021</u>
35398	Balance as at 1.4.20			37203.46
1805	Plus Excess Income over Expenditure			<u>3509.03</u>
<u>37203</u>				<u>\$40712.49</u>
	<b><u>THESE FUNDS ARE REPRESENTED BY</u></b>			
	Office Equipment	10.99		
11	Less Depreciation for Year	<u>2.20</u>	8.79	
	Container	1345.22		
1345	Less Depreciation	<u>201.78</u>	1143.44	
	Oxygen Meters	1348.84		
1349	Less Depreciation for Year	<u>404.65</u>	944.19	
	Emergency Beacon	26.55		
26	Less Depreciation for Year	<u>8.76</u>	17.79	
	Scotty Boxes	1581.66		
1582	Less Depreciation	<u>521.94</u>	1059.72	
	Flags and Base	238.05		
<u>238</u>	Less Depreciation	<u>59.51</u>	<u>178.54</u>	3352.47
4551				
	<b><u>INVESTMENT</u></b>			
26591	Term Deposits with Westpac	27406.13		
<u>5120</u>	McIntosh Bequest Term Deposit	<u>5213.13</u>		32619.26
	<b><u>CURRENT ASSETS</u></b>			
8159	Westpac Bank Account	10517.57		
200	Subscriptions in Arrears	150.00		
569	Accrued Interest	372.66		
<u>2121</u>	Stock	<u>1950.66</u>		<u>12990.89</u>
47311				
	<b><u>TOTAL ASSETS</u></b>			48962.62
	<b><u>LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</u></b>			
180	Subscriptions in Advance	205.00		
<u>3631</u>	Sundry Creditors	<u>655.00</u>		860.00
	<b><u>LESS RESERVE FUNDS</u></b>			
2177	Barry Craig Memorial	2177.00		
<u>5120</u>	McIntyre Bequest (Rakaia/Waimakariri Rivers)	<u>5213.13</u>		<u>7390.13</u>
<u>\$37203</u>	<b><u>NET ASSETS</u></b>			<u>\$40712.49</u>

**N.Z. SALMON ANGLERS ASSN INC.**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

**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, 50% on the Website, 30% on the Oxygen Meters 33% on the Scotty Boxes and 25% on Flag and Base.

(ii) Subscription Debtors - included at amount expected to realise \$150.00.

**3. Changes in Accounting Policies**

There have been no changes in accounting policies that have a material effect 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 2021 and of the operation of the Association for the year.

Christchurch  
19 May 2021

**T.G. HAYES, B.Comm.**

**MINUTES OF THE 47th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
NEW ZEALAND SALMON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION (INC)  
Held at the Canterbury Softball Headquarters, Pages Road, Christchurch  
Friday, 17 July, 2020 at 7.00pm**

**PRESENT**

Approximately 40 members and invitees were present at the meeting, chaired by the President, Larry Burke.

Larry welcomed those present and asked that they exit via the stairs in an emergency. He also asked people to sign the attendance sheet.

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from: Roger Williams, Sharon McKay, Dianne Eaton, Helen Duncan.

These apologies were accepted on a motion from Mike Ager and seconded by James Parbery. Carried.

**REMEMBRANCE**

The meeting stood in silence in remembrance of a member who had died during the year: Keith Gallagher, Keith Miller, David O'Neil..

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the 46th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Salmon Anglers' Association (Incorporated) held on 28 May 2019, as circulated to members, were approved and adopted as a correct record on the motion of G Terras and seconded by Mike Ager. Carried

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Larry Burke moved that the President's Report for the year ended 31 March 2020 as circulated to members be adopted. Report attached. This was seconded by D Leigh. Carried. Report attached.

**FINANCIAL AND AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Trevor Hayes said the NZSAA is very well off especially with term deposits totalling over \$31,000..

It was moved by Trevor Hayes, that the audited Financial Report, and Accounts & Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 March 2020 be received. Seconded by Fred van Slooten. Carried. Larry extended a vote of thanks to Trevor for once again undertaking the audit, his 37<sup>th</sup>.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

### **Officers and Committee:**

The following were nominated and duly declared elected:

		Moved / Seconded
<b>Patron</b>	Pam Ellis	Colin Eaton/ Mike Ager Carried
<b>President</b>	Larry Burke	Greg Terras/Phil Ball Carried
<b>Vice President</b>	Colin Eaton	Dave Leigh/Mike Ager Carried
<b>Committee</b>	Phil Ball, Dave Leigh, Dennis Long, Kevin Belcher, Mike Ager, Greg Terras, John Hodgson, Russell McKay, Paul Hodgson, Neil McLean	
	To save time the entire committee agreed to stand again. Moved Larry Burke, seconded James Parbery. Carried	

**Secretary / Treasurer** Tony Humphreys agreed to stay as temporary Secretary/ Treasurer but please look for somebody else as he would be overseas at times in the coming year Covid depending. Moved Kevin Belcher/Greg Terras. Carried

**Honorary Auditor** Trevor Hayes said he would stay on but he would be grateful if a new person was found to do the job. Moved Larry Burke/Fred van Slooten. Carried

## **SPEAKER**

### **Rex Gibson: NZSAA member & Fish & Game North Canterbury Council member**

The main theme of Rex's talk was the controversial way in which National Fish & Game distributes the national subs for each council. The key point being that North Canterbury F&G is one of the largest regions but receives less return of the "Pie" percentage-wise than other regions. He gave the example of Northland having just less than 200 registered anglers received a substantial return and has over half a million dollars in reserve. North Canterbury has no reserves yet has almost 10,000 anglers to service. There are genuine inequities in the system. The Government is about to conduct a review of F&G and its operations. The standout point will be its financial systems.

The local F&G councils have a varied standard of compliance and North Canterbury's situation is dire to say the least. The most interesting point is that the South Island provides F&G with the bulk of its funds but receives less from the national office. How to solve the problem is going to be interesting to say the least.

Rex was thanked by Larry for his presentation and given a bottle of wine.

### **ATHOL PRICE PLAQUE**

#### **Awarded for outstanding service to the salmon sports fishery.**

This plaque is awarded annually by the NZSAA to a person or an organization who has contributed outstanding service to the Salmon Sports Fisheries. This year's recipient has certainly done that. You name it and he has been involved in it for all things involved with salmon. To name a couple he has been the major drive behind the RDR appeal and the extra 10m<sup>3</sup> of water they are wanting, Fish screen programme compliance for all water takes and his effort on the Selwyn Water Zone committee and is also a committee member for the NZSAA just to name a few.

I am pleased to announce that this year's recipient for the Athol Price Plaque is Paul Hodgson.

### **BARRY CRAIG EARTHQUAKE MEMORIAL TROPHY**

#### **Awarded to the Salmon Angler for showing great sportsmanship**

This year's recipient has done that with a great effort in providing video footage of salmon spawning in our local rivers. One place is on his doorstep at Silverstream and these videos have been seen all over the world via YouTube, In addition he has done all of this at his own expense travelling and editing. As well he has even been checking on fish screen compliance with some very useful photos.

This is certainly a worthy candidate and I'd like Kevin Belcher to come forward and receive the Barry Craig Trophy for 2020.

### **NZSAA FISHING COMPETITION**

This is open to all financial NZSAA members.

#### **Aquarius Trophy – Heaviest Salmon Overall**

Wayne McCartney with 4.46kg salmon caught at McIntosh Hole, Waimakariri.

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

Colin Eaton with a 4.26kg salmon caught at the McIntosh Hole, Waimakariri.

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

Dave Leigh with a 3.95kg salmon.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

Kevin Belcher reminded members that there is an phone app, Snap Send Solve, which is useful for noting infringements out in the field. Snap and send to ECAN.

Larry reminded people that we had caps, bucket hats, beanies all \$20 and NZSAA badges \$15 for sale. Also to check our Facebook page.

### **Acknowledgements and Close of Meeting**

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

Ballinger's Hunting & Fishing  
Fisherman's Loft  
Wondercast  
NZ Salmon Anglers Assn

President Larry Burke 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 9:00pm and was followed by supper served by Adrienne Dougherty and her daughter Sarah and the drawing of raffles.



**Left: Paul Hodgson**  
**Recipient of the Athol Price Plaque for 2019 for outstanding service to the salmon sports fishery.**

**Right: Kevin Belcher**  
**Recipient of the Barry Craig Earthquake Memorial trophy for showing great sportsmanship.**

**Trophy winners of the 2019-20 NZSAA members' competition,  
presented at the 2020 AGM**



**Left to Right: Wayne McCartney (Aquarius Trophy);  
Colin Eaton (Cromb & Merritt/Fisherman's Loft Trophy);  
Larry Burke (President);  
Dave Leigh (Alty Roscoe Memorial Trophy)**



**Guest Speaker  
Rex Gibson**

## NZSAA Salmon Fishing Contest Waimakariri River 2021

Our annual contest held on Saturday 14 March attracted 169 entrants, made up of 123 adults and 51 junior, child and tiddler sections. Total entries were slightly up from last and it was pleasing that the junior sections again had good numbers.

Despite good weather and ideal river conditions, only two salmon were caught by adult entrants, and no salmon but several kahawai in the junior sections. Winners results were:

Adult 1st Heaviest Salmon: Paul McNeil (5.18kg) and winner Percy Whyte Trophy

Adult 2nd Heaviest Salmon: Ethan McClimont (5.10kg)

Junior Biggest Kahawai 1<sup>st</sup>: Tanne Jones, (2.89kg) landed at Waimakariri Mouth

The prizegiving at the close of the competition day was enjoyed over refreshments and sausage sizzle (barbecue food generously donated by Russell MacKay) and many also went home with one of the lucky draw prizes that had been donated by other supporting businesses:

Amazing Baits, Anglers Warehouse, Belfast Engravers, Caltex Hornby, Complete Angler, Fisherman's Loft, Industrial Radiators, Kaiapoi Alignment & Tyre Services, Kairaki Beach Camp (Alan & Bronwyn Waters), Pinnacle & Co Ltd, Repco, Rivers to Ranges, Rangiora, NZSSA, Moulin & Woods (Early Bird draw), Torpedo 7 (mountain bike and scooters draw for Junior, Child & Under 5 years)



Paul McNeil, winner  
Adult Heaviest Salmon, & Percy Whyte Trophy.

Shown with NZSAA President Larry Burke,  
Percy Whyte, and  
sponsor Jeremy Burke of Hunting & Fishing





**Ethan McClimont**  
Adult second heaviest salmon



**Tanne Jones, Junior Winner,**  
Biggest Kahawai

## Hunting & Fishing

**Major Sponsor**  
**Waimakariri Salmon Fishing Competition**

**Christchurch Region Stores**  
75 Clarence Street, Tower Junction, Christchurch: Phone 03 3430212  
North Canterbury, 305 Flaxton Road, Rangiora: Phone 03 3131313



Winners All! from the Junior, Child & Tiddlers sections

# Otago Harbour Salmon Fishing Competition

From Peter Coory, Otago Branch NZSAA  
and Extracts from NZ Herald

More than 200 people entered the Otago Salmon Anglers' Association fishing competition, held over the weekend 6 and 7 March 2021 but not a single salmon above the 45cm lower size limit was caught,

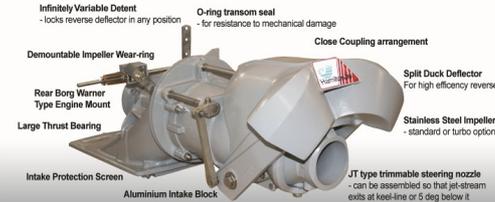
There had been one other time in the annual competition's history, about eight years ago, when no-one caught a salmon.

In the competition, there were also prizes for the heaviest kingfish and kahawai. Several kahawai were caught — the heaviest being described as a "pitiful and embarrassing" 0.68kg. Unfortunately, no kingfish were caught either. Because there were no salmon or kingfish caught, the prizes went into a hat and were drawn at random.

Association president Colin Williams believed the salmon drought was caused by the warming waters of Otago Harbour.

There were a number being caught from Christmas up until the week before the competition. They were the ones Otago NZSAA released in mid 2019 as they were all fin clipped. They were all around 10lbs.

**Hamilton Jet 212 JET UNIT + the NEW 151 MODEL HULL**



Labels for the diagram include:  
- Infinitely Variable Detent - locks reverse deflector in any position  
- O-ring transom seal - for resistance to mechanical damage  
- Close Coupling arrangement  
- Demountable Impeller Wear-ring  
- Split Duck Deflector For high efficiency reverse  
- Rear Borg Warner Type Engine Mount  
- Large Thrust Bearing  
- Stainless Steel Impeller - standard or turbo options  
- Intake Protection Screen  
- Aluminium Intake Block  
- JT type trimmable steering nozzle - can be assembled so that jet-stream exits at keel-line or 5 deg below it

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**Jetboats Waterjets Service and Support**

Two articles by Colin Eaton, NZSAA Vice President

## Enhancement work at Silverstream

This is the first enhancement report for some time for work carried out by NZSAA in the Silverstream reserve on the 8th, 9th, and 14th April 2021. The work was carried out in the Silver Stream reserve making better conditions for salmon returning this year to spawn. The work generally involved digging the gravel in the stream bed by shovelling and raking the shingle, All of this work was pre approved by both ECan & Fish & Game.

All in all about 30 sites of 5m<sup>2</sup> areas throughout the stream has been significantly improved for spawning and hopefully the salmon enjoy our hard work this year.

A big thank you must go to Kevin Belcher who was the main organiser and of course all the other individuals who made themselves available to carry out the work. The team consisted of: Kevin Belcher, Greg Terras, Dave Leigh, Brendon Topp, Mike Ager, Emily Moore F&G, Tony Humphreys, Larry Burke and Tyler McBeth,

For the record the following can be used to show how our effort is important for the work we do.

1st day of work = 4 hours work x 5 people = 20 hours of work carried out.

2nd day of work= 3 hours of work x 6 people =18 hours of work carried out.

3rd day of work = 3.5 hours of work x 5 people = 17.5 hours of work.

Total hours worked by the team = 55.5 hours.

16 persons involved. That's equivalent to 1.38/40 hour weeks worked carried out by one person, but this effort was carried out over three part days by NZSAA.

The following is a link to a short video of the work carried out to about 30 potential or regular spawning sites. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQt0D1jhl4g>

## Salmon caught at McIntosh's over last 8 years

This table is updated to show how it fished this year at Mackintosh's on the Waimakariri River, A very disappointing season.

Season	Total Landed	Fin Clipped	Percentage
2013-14	497	85	17.0
2014-15	253	46	18.0
2015-16	252	37	14.6
2016-17	225	51	22.6
2017-18	46	6	13.0
2018-19	78	13	16.6
2019-20	128	45	35.1
2020-21	127	62	48.8

If you looked back over the last few years the records speaks for itself . It would appear that this year has been the best year for finned clipped returning over the past 8 years. This is the importance of keeping records.

# **Addressing Poor Salmon Returns to Canterbury Rivers**

**by Steve Terry, Fish & Game Officer (Abridged report)**

At present, fishery managers only have a limited number of options to try and ensure adequate salmon numbers reach their spawning grounds each year. The key tool which Fish & Game (F&G) have direct control over is the reduction in angler harvest through regulations to ensure sufficient numbers return to the spawning streams to sustain the salmon fishery.

There is an acceptance by F&G councils that we need to significantly reduce the harvest of wild salmon, in order to increase the numbers of fish returning to the spawning streams and rebuild the fishery. While we do not know the minimum number of spawning salmon required to sustain the population in each spawning stream or catchment, we do know that in the last decade salmon returns have steadily declined to record low levels.

A number of regulations to incrementally reduce harvest have been put in place since the 2019/20 season, however introduction of a seasonal catch limit has been recommended by scientists as the least harmful regulation to further reduce harvest and rebuild spawning numbers. It has been noted that it is possible that life history, genetic diversity and population resilience may be adversely affected by shortening the season and areas anglers can fish over long time periods.

Moving towards an adaptive salmon management strategy, identifying minimum escapement targets at river or sub-catchment levels and implementing a model for setting harvest regulations aims to rebuild the fishery, requiring a long-term commitment to quality monitoring. In addition to designing, funding and conducting robust total run size surveys, there is also a need to continue high quality salmon harvest monitoring across F&G regions.

## **Salmon Spawning & Rearing Habitat**

Preserving the pristine state of our spring fed streams and wetlands is critical to ensure ecological values of these areas are protected. In recent years, staff have placed more emphasis on the overall ecological health of the high-country salmon spawning streams, including the wetlands and riparian zones surrounding them. A gradual decline in in-stream and riparian habitat on some of the streams is likely to have reduced the spawning and rearing habitat quality.

Considerable F&G staff time is also spent each year ensuring sustainable environmental standards are included in local and regional plans, to best protect the variables on land that F&G can have influence over, however many of the factors and variables that are likely to influence salmon survival in fresh water are beyond our control. These include variables such as increased water abstraction, ineffective fish screens and the long-term degradation of habitat and water quality.

Environment Canterbury (ECan) and F&G completed a three-year study in 2017, looking at the differences in instream habitat between various salmon spawning streams in the Waimakariri, Rakaia & Rangitata rivers, investigating whether there were any adverse

effects from farm intensification on significant salmon spawning streams. The project included recording in-stream habitat in key spawning streams along a gradient of intensification, recording substrate composition, invertebrate sampling, macrophyte and algae monitoring, along with collection of water samples for chemical analysis. Most streams show near pristine habitats, however this data provides an essential baseline for reference in future years.

Joint monitoring of key streams has been ongoing since then, which should determine what, if any modifications to plans are needed to achieve desired environmental standards. Monitoring also provides a valuable opportunity to involve the landowners when gathering data, enabling long term data sets to be collected for greater understanding of the issues. This helps ensure that local changes to land use can be suggested when required. The relationships that have been carefully developed with these landowners are critical to achieving changes in land management practice that we are increasingly realising will be required to improve and aid salmon recovery.

ECan published a report on this monitoring in August 2018, “High country spring-fed streams: effects of adjacent land use” (<https://ecan.govt.nz/data/document-library/> type in the keywords “high country”). The report indicates that farming has an impact on stream health even when riparian buffer zones exist, by showing that detrimental effects on some of the stream invertebrate and periphyton communities can occur with only small elevations of nitrates and sediment.

Early indications show that while most streams are in their natural and pristine states, some are showing early signs of habitat and water degradation. A decline in riparian habitat on some of the streams has reduced the rearing habitat. This is likely to have resulted in reduced spawning success (lower % of fry hatch / emergence survival). Reduced ecosystem health and food (invertebrate) abundance may also stimulate premature migration of many juvenile fry from the relative safety of these streams. During most years, major spring floods are common, and therefore most of the salmon that are forced to migrate out of the spring creeks earlier than desirable. Here they are not strong enough to swim against the currents and they are forced downstream and out to sea before they smoltify at around seven grams, the size at which they need to be to make the salt-water transition, subsequently dying.

This habitat protection continues to be a key focus for F&G and a number of stream protection projects have already been completed, including;

## **1. Winding Creek**

Winding Creek is an important salmon spawning stream for the Waimakariri River salmon fishery. The Winding Creek Restoration Project was a collaborative effort between F&G, ECan and lessees to protect a large wetland and stream margin. It was project managed by F&G.

Stage 1: Winding Creek Wetland Fencing

Stage 2: Winding Creek springs and stream riparian fencing

## **2. Lake Pearson/ Craigieburn Stream Restoration Project**

A collaborative project between DOC, Fish & Game and Flock Hill Station to protect the lakefront of Lake Pearson and Craigieburn Stream. It was project managed by Fish & Game.

## **3. Glenariffe Stream Restoration Project**

An ongoing project to protect a spring-fed system that contains important salmon spawning grounds. Many projects have already been completed and many are in the pipeline. Fish & Game have worked with landowners and ECan on these projects as well as landowners.

On Glenariffe Station

Stage 1: Fencing of the true left of the Glenariffe mainstem

Stage 2: Fencing of true left of the Glenariffe main stem

On Glanaan Station

The Glanaan Project involved establishing stock exclusion fencing around two wetlands and spring-fed streams in in the Glenariffe spring-fed system. A protective covenant was placed on the protected areas by QE11.

## **4. One Tree Swamp**

In 2016 Fish & Game obtained funding from the Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee to fence off One Tree Swamp. Fish & Game as well as the landowners put some funding into to the project which was expanded to fence off a section of the true left of the Waimakariri River.

## **5. Otukaikino Restoration Project**

This was a collaborative project led by Fish & Game that involved funding from DOC, QE11 Trust and ECan. It involved fencing out stock, planting natives, weed control and the establishment of a QE11 Covenant.

## **6. Wairarapa Stream Wand**

Fish & Game, in a joint project with the University of Canterbury, obtained funding from Pub Charity and ECan to buy a machine that clears silt from the stream and carried out an initial project on the Wairarapa Stream.

In addition to the above projects managed and partially funded by F&G, a number of landowner funded projects have also been completed through negotiations with landowners including:

Fencing/retiring and protecting a 250ha wetland, The Hydra Waters, in the Rakaia headwaters.

Fencing/retiring and protecting a 70ha wetland in the Glenariffe Stream in the Rakaia headwaters.

Destocking of Manuka Point Stream in the Rakaia Headwaters.

Fencing and destocking a 5ha wetland in the headwaters of Cora Lynn Stream in the Waimakariri River catchment.

## **Commercial Fishing**

F&G often gets complaints from anglers blaming commercial trawlers for catching salmon. In the 1980s this was a significant factor, with large numbers of salmon caught at sea as by-catch on large commercial trawlers targeting red cod and barracouta. This resulted in conflict with amateur anglers and in 1988 the government responded by closing the Salmon Conservation Area (SCA, the main area off Banks Peninsula where salmon congregate before returning to East Coast rivers to spawn) to large commercial trawlers from early December to mid-February.

In 1991 the "Salmon at Sea Agreement", an agreement between the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI), F&G and the commercial sector was reached, which has taken the profit out of specifically targeting salmon, with 80% of the money from the sale of salmon caught at sea taken as a levy by MPI and paid to F&G. The result of this is that commercial operators now regard salmon as an unwanted by-catch. The number of salmon caught by trawlers has now become insignificant and is only a minor concern for F&G Councils.

Trawlers are now also required to GPS plot each trawl they make, with records supplied to MPI and many of the boats are now required to have monitoring cameras on board.

In years when salmon are more abundant, trawlers do catch greater numbers, however, in both good and bad years, this catch is now reported to us and is considered to be a very small proportion of the total salmon run on the East Coast.

Contrary to popular belief, boats seen trawling past river mouths rarely catch salmon, as they are trawling too slowly, and are targeting other species such as elephant fish and flatfish. It is only the larger boats trawling at greater speeds that have a real chance of catching salmon and even then, usually only in specific areas at certain times of the year, with key areas now under restriction.

People often also assume that foreign trawlers are coming in at night and catching the salmon. There were reports of this occurring many years ago, but modern technology now allows accurate monitoring of who is fishing in the New Zealand economic fishing zone.

F&G often receives anecdotal reports that large quantities of wild salmon have been caught off the Canterbury coast and landed by commercial trawlers. In the 2018/19 season, there were a few tonnes of salmon landed by the commercial sector, however, investigations showed a large number of salmon had escaped from a commercial salmon farm in Akaroa Harbour that season and from their uniform size and fin wear from nets, it was easy to determine that these were the salmon being landed.

There are only a limited number of boats allowed to fish for salmon in the SCA, where there is a maximum of 5,000kg salmon by-catch permitted each year amongst the parties who originally signed the Salmon at Sea Agreement.

Since the 90's there has been a continued decrease in the number of vessels operating in the SCA. 32 vessels historically reported salmon catch, however, in the last few years only six vessels have.

Reports from the commercial fishing operators show that the last few seasons have been very poor seasons for red cod, barracuda and blue warehou, the three main quota species which tend to have similar abundance patterns as salmon, with commercial operators pointing to ocean temperatures as a strong indicator, which has been 2 – 3 degrees warmer than usual in recent years.

### **Salmon loss from rivers through ineffective fish screens**

There is a high demand for in-stream flows in Canterbury to be diverted for irrigation and continuing development of new irrigation schemes requiring increasing quantities of water.

For some time, F&G has expressed concerns to ECan and local bodies about the state and effectiveness of existing fish screen designs and their operation in Canterbury, as well as their maintenance and compliance with consent requirements. Appropriately designed fish screens are necessary to prevent the loss of sports fish such as chinook salmon, brown trout and rainbow trout to water diversion schemes.

A review of fish screens in North Canterbury by F&G in 2004 identified a number of issues with the majority of operating fish screens. The review confirmed F&G's view that the design and maintenance of almost all of the operating screens did not conform to current best international practice.

Most of the fish screens in Canterbury were designed and installed prior to the completion of overseas scientific work on fish screen design and the subsequent development of guidelines and standards, with a full set of guidelines produced by NIWA & F&G for ECan in 2006.

Even on screened intakes (e.g. Amuri scheme), fish rescue operations yield in excess of 1,000 sports fish each year. The design of any fish screen should be such as to enable migrating and resident fish, safe passage past the structure. A successful fish screen requires various criteria to be taken into account at the design stage, with all individual parameters required to ensure the effectiveness of the screen.

F&G has continued to work with ECan to ensure their compliance and monitoring staff are familiar with the various parameters required for fish screens to work effectively. This has however not resolved the issue of the majority of existing screens, with most consented water takes continuing to operate inefficiently, with ECan struggling to comprehend how to legally address the consents with varying conditions imposed.

More recently during the 2019/20 irrigation season, ECan staff monitoring 30 of the significant screens in Canterbury against the NIWA guidelines, alongside consent conditions. The monitoring shows nearly all screens failed to meet the NIWA guidelines and were ineffective at screening salmon and returning them to their source river. \

**Steve Terry**

**F&G North Canterbury**

## **Fish & Game Ministerial Review**

Response to Regions by Ray Grubb, F&G National Council Chairman

There are lots of media and other pieces circulating about the Ministerial Review, and I am certain we are all concerned about the uncertainty. We have been flat out giving answers to enquirers, and I apologise for taking a few days to provide you with an update and some hard information.

When we first received the Review, we argued that F&G had to lead and control the implementation rather than, as the report suggested, the Department of Conservation. The Minister of Conservation agreed (it is her Ministerial Review, of course) and, to create the essential link to NZ Council and all of Fish & Game, I was asked to head the implementation team. As my Otago Council know well, (and I am looking forward to meeting with them), I am a passionate advocate for our Regions and Fish & Game as a whole.

In summary, the report says:

- what we do well.
- what we don't do well.
- what we hardly do at all.

It has been more than 30 years since the last changes to Fish & Game, and that was quite similar; 24 Acclimatisation Society Regions reduced to 12. Nowadays we get our results in the Regions with National Office providing co-ordination, and there is no proposal to change that. We will remain a major force in protecting habitat and the environment, and it is clear Government respects that role. However, as the Review says, some modernisation will be good for us and make us more effective. But it is not a DOC takeover. We will, as licence holders, remain in control of our Fish & Game.

An Implementation Steering Group has been convened. At this stage, the group is:

Ray Grubb, as Chair

Brian Anderton, from NZC

Mervyn English, from the Department of Conservation; we will access DOC legal and policy people for law drafting when that time comes.

The Implementation Steering Group will be working closely with Regional and NZC Staff and Governors to get your expert advice and support on how to make the future of Fish & Game work and how we put the key features of the Review in place. We intend to get around all the Regions over the next few weeks to hear what you have to say. The visits will be relatively informal with Governors and Staff rather than Council meetings;

From the initial couple of meetings, it is clear that we are all in agreement we want to preserve the independence of Fish & Game so that we can properly represent our licence holders' interests.

How do we do that?

The recommendations are divided up; some can be achieved under the current legislation, some require law changes and will go through the usual Parliamentary process of Select Committee etc. Both groups of recommendations in the Review Report need to have clear-sighted advice from you as the heart of Fish & Game to find the best way to future proof our roles. However, we need to remember that we are constituted under an Act of Parliament. Ultimately, our Minister and Parliament will have the final say - so our advice needs to be generally consistent with the Minister's intentions.

Finally, the Reviewers went way outside their brief in interviewing nearly everyone in Fish & Game. As they say in the report, they could not find a consensus. There were simply too many different views. I know they did not put in the report everything I wanted, and I bet everyone interviewed or who submitted feels the same.

So out of all that, we now have concrete proposals and a new structure to adopt and work on. There is work to do. Let's get on to it.

The implementation team welcome all suggestions on how to make the implementation work. These can be emailed to [fgreview@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:fgreview@fishandgame.org.nz)

I look forward to catching up with you as we work our way around the country. In the meantime, you can get a copy of the Review report and the Minister's comments at: <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/ministerial-review-fish-game-released>

**Ray Grubb**  
**National Chairman**

## **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:** \$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  
Phone 03 755 8662 (9am—5pm)  
Email: [hokicycle.sport@paradise.net.nz](mailto:hokicycle.sport@paradise.net.nz)  
[www.hokitikasportsworld.co.nz](http://www.hokitikasportsworld.co.nz)*



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- ▶ 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?

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