To whom it may concern

The New Zealand Salmon Angler Association Inc feel that the intention of the Water Conservation Order of the Rakaia River is not being complied with to the detriment of the salmon fishery. The NZSAA is now establishing a recording programme to assess the changing daily available oxygen (mg/L) level in the Rakaia. The NZSAA have already made recommendations to ECAN to set a maximum river temperature of 19C and a minimum of 9mg/L of dissolved oxygen. If either of these conditions are not met then water removal by irrigators should stop.

NZSAA intend to have record sites at the Gorge bridge, the State Highway bridge and the main stream above the lagoon on the Rakaia river to start with. The data collected at the different sites will help to track the health of the river over a fishing season. Initially the recordings need to be taken before 8am and after 8pm at each site on the same day. If people wish to take additional readings at different sites, different parts of the day, and on different days then that would be great. At this stage we think that Saturday could be a starting point but this may change after talking to the people who will be recording the data.

A drop in water temperature increases oxygen availability. And an increase in water temperature decreases oxygen availability. Obliviously the lower flows in the Rakaia river lead to the river temperature increasing at a higher rate. By conducting our programme we will establish if a problem exists or there is nothing to be concerned about.

It is very simple to do and only takes about 5 mins to do. You turn the meter on, swish the probe around in the water and after about 3 mins take the reading. Record the reading in the note book.

**DO NOT PUT YOURSELF AT RISK TRYING TO TAKE THE READING AT ANY STAGE** its just not worth it.

If there are any problems contact

John or Paul Hodgson Ph 03 3515 825 or 021 196 5676

Thanks

John Hodgson

NZSAA Patron