Make a Date in Your Diary:

NZSAA Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 24 May 2011 at 7.30 pm

Keynote Speaker: Hon Peter Dunne, MP for Ohariu, Minister of Revenue & Associate Minister of Health.

Peter Dunne has a special interest in the environment and fisheries, so come along with your questions and ask what can he do for us at election time.

Sorry, he cannot now be present.
NEW ZEALAND SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (INC)

2010-11 OFFICE HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE

Patron
Athol Price 332 7698

President
Ron Stuart 358 9082 cquityron@xtra.co.nz
021 216 3901

Vice Presidents
Tim & Pam Ellis 383 0900 npellis@paradise.net.nz
021 363140 Tim
021 2113293 Pam

Secretary & Treasurer
Heather Saunders 388 5718 ianandh.s@ihug.co.nz

Committee
Phil Ball 349 5993 jeanettephilball@xtra.co.nz
021 256 133
Richard Chettle 357 4982 rchettle@xtra.co.nz
Brian Foley 352 8972
Gene Klein 03 312 8929 EAK1023@hotmail.com
Dennis Long 352 2874 Fax 352 3708
James Parbery 03 312 8229 welshflyfishnz@yahoo.co.nz
Warren Mackie 348 3368
Bruce Moody 980 1065 brucemoody@paradise.net.nz
027 229 6302
Warren Windelburn 027 211 0418

Committee Meetings
The Committee meets on the first Monday each month (except January) at 7.30 pm in the Fish & Game premises, 3 Horatio Street, Christchurch. Members and supporters are welcome to attend these meetings.

Honorary Auditor: Trevor Hayes

Life Members
Lindsay Dell, Pam Ellis, Tim Ellis, Brian Foley, Trevor Hayes,
John Healy, Ken Hughey, Ross Lightfoot, Athol Price, Doug Roy, Stephen Sparrow

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.
From my observations, the salmon season appeared better than the previous with greater numbers of fish being caught. The number of freshes in the rivers gave opportunity for good passage and salmon travelled rather than holding up in the lower reaches. Indications at the hatcheries show better returns than last year with over 300 into Montrose, reports of over 700 to Rangitata with the exception of less than 40 at this stage back to Silverstream. With the number of fry/smolt released from this hatchery over previous years, greater numbers are expected and it gives rise to thinking there is either poaching or excessive catches in the waters leading to the hatchery.

Unfortunately we were required to cancel the Waimakariri Salmon Fishing Competition scheduled for Saturday 12 March for a number of reasons, mostly quake related. But it was with regret that our major sponsor New Brighton Sports had to withdraw as they suffered severe damage at the shop and were required to deploy their resources to recovery support. In hindsight it was as well we cancelled as the effects of the Japanese Tsunami on the Waimak River made it an unattractive place to be and the fish also seemed to be shy in these conditions.

Apologies to members who paid their entry fees - we were locked out of our postal box and could not get to our mail. Heather has since managed to address the problem and refunds arranged.

Most, if not all, of our sporting and angler suppliers have suffered a downturn of trade as a consequence of the quake. We still want them around in future so I urge you to go to your favourite retailer/sports shop and buy locally. These are also the guys that support or give sponsorship for angling events or competitions and in the long run you will find the true value of your purchase and back-up service.

Isaacs Salmon Hatchery is now well established and our team has been in three times to do the cleaning, feeding and maintenance duty which is a relatively straightforward activity taking approximately two hours. It’s a great project to be involved in and offers an important contribution to the salmon enhancement programme. Two raceways are now operating which is a good indication that the fry are growing. The potential of this hatchery to develop greater numbers of salmon and trout is exciting and will offer depth to our Canterbury fishery and regions beyond. Thanks also to the 70 volunteers that turned out for fin clipping on the Saturday and Sunday - a great effort and a very acceptable result was achieved.

During April I attended the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers conference/AGM in Wellington. This organisation, to which we hold membership, is a great advocate and lobbyist for all matters associated with fish in fresh water, angler access or foreshore issues.

We retain membership of NZFFA as the information and contributions we receive offers great support and an extension to our own organisational effectiveness.
Guest speakers at the conference certainly gave encouragement associated with the causes we see best for the waterways and their protection. One of the more colourful speakers was Peter Dunne MP and his perspective on the environment and associated issues certainly ranked merit particularly when he negotiates coalition agreements prior to forming the next Government and gets agreements established for law or regulation changes.

During April I attended the Fish and Game initiative, Salmon Management Committee, which plans forward requirements for enhancement, breeding targets, hatchery progress, environment and developments. The direction formulated as policy by this committee gives value for your licence investment and the progress made to establish better breeding and fishery protection is most encouraging, particularly when made by regular anglers with the same interest as you and me. Considerable gains have been made with new initiatives for the protection of high country breeding streams with fencing and stock protection, as one example.

We have excellent speakers organised for our AGM on Tuesday 24 May at the Horticultural Hall, Hagley Park, including Peter Dunne, MP for Ohariu and Ric Cullinane from the Walking Access Commission. So organise your diary and bring along any information/ideas/suggestions that may add improvement to our Association. Fish & Game will also be available for a question/panel discussion. Good time also to introduce new members.

Already we have confirmation of two serious salmon anglers willing to stand as fresh blood for the committee and they’ve both got brown hair still! If you have access to items for raffle prizes on the night please bring them as the coffers need a boost to make good the printing costs for the Waimak competition.

It is now time to put forward changes for licensing regulations, so if you have any passion for changes please submit them. I am happy to take any suggestions forward. My future goal is not a regulation change but to see a voluntary catch and release policy, once the angler has achieved a target number, as the fish you release will multiply several times over to support returns in future.

I appreciate we’ve all been touched in some way by recent events, but it’s just great to get out on the river or visit a hatchery to gain a stimulating diversion and act abnormal again (I mean just like a normal fisherman!!)

On Saturday 30 April, a group of five travelled to One Tree Swamp near the Mount White Bridge in the Arthurs Pass region, to view the salmon spawning grounds. The weather was fantastic and the reward was seeing three salmon on redds. They may well have been jacks waiting for hens to come through. From the number of redds instream, indications were that reasonable spawning took place last season. Further up the Waimakariri, view from a bluff above Cora Lynn, we saw a pod of 120+ salmon waiting to move up to spawn. There were more salmon in another pod under the overhanging trees that we could not get a count on. My impression - it’s looking good.

Ron Stuart
PRESIDENT

We have excellent speakers organised for our AGM on Tuesday 24 May at the Horticultural Hall, Hagley Park, including Peter Dunne, MP for Ohariu and Ric Cullinane from the Walking Access Commission. So organise your diary and bring along any information/ideas/suggestions that may add improvement to our Association. Fish & Game will also be available for a question/panel discussion. Good time also to introduce new members.

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Photos at One Tree Swamp.
The lower photo shows a pod of fish to the right of a shingle fan which look like dots in the water and redds
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of
New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association (Inc)
will be held on Tuesday 24 May 2011 at 7.30 pm. in the
Horticultural Hall, South Hagley Park, Riccarton Rd, Christchurch

Business for the Meeting

1. Apologies

2. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM 25 May 2010

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. General Business

10. Guest Speakers: Hon Peter Dunne, MP for Ohariu, Minister of Revenue
    and Associate Minister of Health.
    Advocate for retention of outdoor heritage and common right of
    access to unpolluted freshwater fisheries for recreational use.

    Ric Cullinane, Operations Manager,
    NZ Walking Access Commission

11. Other Speakers: Fish & Game: Update and Questions and Answers

A raffle will be run during the evening and supper served at the conclusion.
Please bring this agenda, reports, accounts etc with you to the meeting.
President’s Report
for the Year Ended 31 March 2011

In salmon talk it was rather a lesser year of significance with limited enhancement opportunity due to poor returns and restricted ova and, whilst this fishing season has seen some improvement, we are looking for more and that’s what drives us.

The September earthquake affected the ability of Montrose to function at normal capacity and February’s shake put the fishery under more pressure only to be relieved by the start-up of Isaacs Peacock Springs Salmon and Trout Hatchery. The official opening of this hatchery was in November with an initial stocking of some 200,000 salmon fry.

With increasing hatchery facilities, we are looking forward to increased enhancement opportunity for our region and locally we continue to get support from the Silverstream Hatchery with its established salmon returns. They (Silverstream) generously donated close on 80,000 eyed ova during the season which were planted in the stream alongside the hatchery and, with cooperation of Fish & Game, we will have continued ova collection opportunity for enhancement stream planting in our rivers.

Involvement with Fish & Game continues to add strength to the salmon fishery where we can assist with operational matters and provide support to enhance their activities, and this has developed a healthy relationship which is the envy of a number of other regions. Compliments must also go to Fish & Game for the success they have achieved with some of our High Country farmers in getting recognition for stream protection by fencing programmes and habitat plantings to enrich natural salmon breeding.

NZSAA volunteer response has been most encouraging with excellent overall turnouts when the call is made. This makes a tremendous difference and for organisers at the coal face it is most encouraging to know the support is there. Another positive is this support has continued even though we have had a temporary decline in returning fish numbers.

Two acknowledgements are required on outstanding personnel that have contributed or influenced our Association. The first is that of Ian McCrorry’s passing, an outstanding supporter, an ally when promoting the benefits of our objectives, and a great servant of the salmon fishery. The other outstanding contributor to the fishery has been Edgar (Rusty) Russ, recently retired from F&G Council. His enthusiasm, drive and commitment is unparalleled and advanced our world of salmon here in Canterbury to a level of pioneered excellence. Thank you men, we appreciated your efforts.

Your committee has innovated with the approval of our very own web-site, the establishment of which was driven by the enthusiasm of Bruce Moody who managed its establishment and now almost every day is adding information or pictures and servicing the site to provide increasing online intelligence to interested parties and our own membership. At this stage a section of the web-site is reserved for members only so that we can privilege you with exclusive information and for those online members we will be emailing our newsletter to save on increasing printing and postage costs, plus deliver higher quality production.

The Committee has been working on revisions to the Constitution which we consider are necessary to keep the document up to date and reflect changes in the culture of the salmon fishery. This will require approval by members at a general meeting to be arranged in the coming months.
Also your Committee has taken a review of the Fishing Licensing Regulations and has put forward our recommendations to Fish and Game. Details of these recommendations are in the current Newsletter.

In my term of office as President my objective is to promote this Association with positive creditability and gain acceptance as a reliable commentator or contributor. Through this philosophy we have enjoyed the opportunity of making contributions to Fish and Game Council and shared in development ventures, gained recognition and support with Environment Canterbury, shared opinion with the development of Porters Height Ski Field, had input into the Hurunui–Waiau Irrigation development scheme, published editorial articles to The Fishing Paper and gained access to Government through rapport development with Minister Kate Wilkinson. We also enjoy positive membership with CORANZ (Council for Outdoor Recreation Associations of NZ) and NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers, and through these organisations our reputation effectiveness is multiplied many times over.

We were disappointed over the cancellation of the Waimakariri Salmon Fishing Competition but acknowledge this was the best decision under the circumstances. The setup costs reflect as an expense in our financial records but we still retain the opportunity to continue next season and have already set the date. The change of prize giving venue to the Waimakariri Sailing Club offered a new approach and will be much more convenient to all competitors and supporters.

From within our Association I make the following acknowledgements for outstanding service contribution:

Dennis Long for his loyal attendance and support for any activities we are involved in. Pam Ellis for her support, guidance and publication of our Newsletter. Heather Saunders for the professional manner in which she conducts her responsibilities as Secretary and Treasurer.

We have a group also that are rated as shining stars because they go well above expectation and give dedicated service to our Association and the interests of the fishery. They are: Warren Mackie, Colin and Diane Eaton, Robin Cumming, Wayne Henwood, John Hodgson and Bruce Moody.

Also I thank everyone of you that has volunteered your support for our range of field activities - you all make this Association so worthwhile.

My theme for 2012 and beyond is **Catch and Release** once you’ve achieved your personal larder requirements, and that is within the 5–10 salmon taken range. Every salmon released is the potential of several hundred more. Let’s start encouraging a voluntary policy and avoid regulation demands and don’t give your surplus away - put them back where they are appreciated.

**Ron Stuart**

**PRESIDENT**
## N.Z. Salmon Anglers Association (Inc)
### Statement of Income & Expenditure
#### For Year Ended 31 March 2011

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Y/e 31.3.10</th>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>Expenditure</strong></td>
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<td>Subscriptions</td>
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<td>Interest Received</td>
<td>Office Expenses</td>
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<td>Dividends</td>
<td>Meeting and Travel Expenses</td>
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<td>Raffle</td>
<td>AGM Costs</td>
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<td>Advertising</td>
<td>Depreciation on Assets</td>
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<td>Profit on Sale of Stock</td>
<td>Sundry Expenses</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Legacy</td>
<td>Salmon Enhancement</td>
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<td></td>
<td>McKinlay Visit reimbursement</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Waimakariri Competition Loss</td>
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<td>7048</td>
<td>6670.00</td>
<td>2596.00</td>
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<td>Excess income over expenditure</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>$6638.03</td>
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Total Income: $11764  
Total Expenditure: $8097  
Excess Income over Expenditure: $6638.03
# N.Z. SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (INC)
## BALANCE SHEET
### AS AT 31 MARCH 2011

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Y/e</th>
<th>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Balance as at 1.4.10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plus Excess Income over Expenditure</td>
<td>6638.03</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plus Profit on revaluation of shares</td>
<td>350.40</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$32880.99</strong></td>
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### THESE FUNDS ARE REPRESENTED BY

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<td>508</td>
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<td>Term Deposit with Westpac Trust</td>
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<td>1256</td>
<td>Shares in Sandford Ltd</td>
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### CURRENT ASSETS

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<td>6985</td>
<td>Westpac Trust Bank Account</td>
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<td>355</td>
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<tr>
<td>802</td>
<td>Stock</td>
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### TOTAL ASSETS

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### LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES

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<td>300</td>
<td>Sundry Creditors</td>
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### NET ASSETS

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<tr>
<td>$25893</td>
<td><strong>$32880.99</strong></td>
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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, 40% on the written down value of the computer and printer, 30% on the written down value of the fax machine, 15% on the written down value of the storage shed, 33% on the written down value of the emergency beacon and 50% on Website cost for a part year.

   (ii) Subscription Debtors: included at amount expected to realise of $550.00.

   (iii) Shares owned in Sanford Ltd. have been included at market price.

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

AUDITOR'S REPORT TO MEMBERS

I have obtained all the explanations and information I have required. In my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Association insofar as appears from my examination of those books. In my opinion, according to the best of my information and the explanations given to me and as shown by the books, the accounts, Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account are properly drawn up and give the information required by the Incorporated Societies Act 1908. The Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account give a true and fair view of the state of the Association’s affairs as at 31 March 2011 and of the operation of the Association for the year.

Christchurch        T.G. HAYES C.A. (Retired)
23 April 2011
MINUTES OF THE 37th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
NEW ZEALAND SALMON ANGLERS’ ASSOCIATION (INC)
Held at the Canterbury Horticultural Society Hall, Hagley Park, Christchurch,
Tuesday 25 May 2010 at 7.30pm

PRESENT
Approximately 70 members and invitees were present at the meeting, chaired by the President, Ron Stuart.

APOLOGIES
Apologies were received from Ken Paterson, Bruce Moody, John Connelly, Dennis Falgar, Alan Waters and Peter Hart. These apologies were accepted on a motion from Athol Price seconded by Jerry van der Krogt.

REMEMBRANCE
The meeting stood in silence in remembrance of members who had died during the year: Ken Cowie, Owen McLachlan and Garth Taylor.

MINUTES
The minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association (Incorporated) held on 19 May 2009, as circulated to members, were approved and adopted as a correct record on the motion of Brian Foley and seconded by Phil Ball. Carried.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT
Ron Stuart moved that the President’s Report for the year ended 31 March 2010 as circulated to members be adopted. He spoke of the Don MacKinlay visit and changes in aspects of the Salmon Enhancement action plan; the future direction of the NZSAA in getting smarter, co-operation, conciliation and recognition of good progress made by whomever. He acknowledged the co-operation and support for the Association from Fish & Game North Canterbury at council, management and staff levels. He paid tribute to the work of the committee and volunteers who had given their time to NZSAA’s salmon recovery programme. The motion to adopt the report was seconded by Pam Ellis. Carried.

FINANCIAL AND AUDITOR’S REPORTS
Auditor, Trevor Hayes, moved that the audited financial report, accounts and balance sheet for the year ended 31 March 2010 be received. Seconded by Athol Price and carried. Ron Stuart extended a vote of thanks to Trevor for once again undertaking the audit.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE
The following were nominated and duly declared elected: Moved/Seconded
Patron Athol Price R Stuart/J van der Krogt
President Ron Stuart D Leigh/J van Hout
Vice Presidents Pam Ellis R Stuart/S McNeill
Tim Ellis R Stuart/S McNeill
Committee Warren Mackie P Ellis/W Windelburn
Bruce Moody P Ellis/A Price
Richard Chettle R Stuart W Henwood
Dennis Long P Ellis/R Stuart
Brian Foley A Price/J van Hout
James Parbery W Windelburn/S McNeill
Phil Ball P Ellis/J Ball
Warren Windelburn R Stuart/P Ball
Gene Klein J Parbery/P Hodgson
Secretary–Treasurer Heather Saunders R Stuart/P Ellis
Honorary Auditor Trevor Hayes N Simons/W Windelburn

GUEST SPEAKERS

Murray Rodgers, Chairman, Water Rights Trust
Murray has fly fished in Canterbury for many years. He talked of the importance of the value of New Zealand’s natural resources, including our waterways. He said that major changes in attitudes and farming practices are needed to reduce contamination of surface and ground waters across the region and that stringent compliance monitoring for some farmers is essential. Water taken from the Rakaia is having a major impact on flows in the lower reaches of the river and river mouth. The demand for irrigation by farmers is unrelenting. There are water quality and quantity issues. There is concern about nitrates in the water. It is estimated that 500,000ha of land is being irrigated now and that the rural sector want that extended to 850,000ha. The Canterbury Water Management Strategy can be viewed at canterburywater.org.nz

Steve Terry, Fish & Game Officer
Steve talked of his trip to Canada in September 2009 to visit hatcheries and habitat restoration projects there. He said that Japan and Russia were releasing billions of salmon and that there was concern the oceans are overstocked leading to the decline of some salmon species. He also spoke of the Don MacKinlay visit. Locally, he said the Hatchery Program was sound. He also spoke about the intense farming near rivers, that a future objective should be increased monitoring and continued research.

John and Paul Hodgson
John spoke of egg planting past and future. We are using Scotty and Russi boxes and are currently using these for eyed ova. Alevinators are starting to be successfully used. In the future they would like to see spawning stream rejuvenation, and identify and access to new sites. John acknowledged that the support, knowledge and effort of members have got us this far.

NZSAA FISHING COMPETITION

Heaviest Salmon Overall - Aquarius Trophy
Richard Chettle, Christchurch,
9.00kg salmon from the Waimakariri at McIntosh’s on 2 January 2010

Heaviest Salmon Waimakariri - Cromb & Merritt/Fisherman’s Loft Trophy
Dianne Eaton, Christchurch,
7.795kg salmon from the Waimakariri at McIntosh’s on 25 February 2010
**Biggest Fish Rakaia - Alty Roscoe Memorial Trophy:** No entries.

**Lucky Draw:** Peter Morgan

**ATHOL PRICE PLAQUE**

This plaque is awarded each year by our Patron Athol Price to recognize exceptional effort in helping to maintain the recreational salmon fishery. This year it was awarded to Bevan and Kathy Mehrtens who for the past twenty years have supported the NZSAA in our efforts to save and improve the salmon fishery by allowing access to Hacketts Stream on their Springfield farm and have gone out of their way to support the NZSAA by undertaking stream works to assist our ova planting.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

- **Montrose**  
  Ross Millichamp, Fish & Game, looked at getting more help at Montrose especially in the brown trout area as they are the ‘bread & butter’ for them.

- **Salmon Management Committee**  
  Paul spoke of the small number of salmon and asked for support of six salmon per angler per year.

- **Wheelchair Platform**  
  Details and plans for this are progressing well.

- **Website**  
  The NZSAA has launched its new website. Photos, events, newsletters and events will continue to be added to this and NZSAA financial members can register to view the member-only section. Go to [www.nzsalmonanglers.co.nz](http://www.nzsalmonanglers.co.nz)

- **Waimakariri Salmon Fishing Competition**  
  This inaugural event took place on 6 March 2010 with 118 entries (including 17 juniors). The biggest registered salmon was 7.2kg caught by Keith Gallagher, 2nd a 5.9kg salmon caught by Roy Blunt and 3rd a 4.45kg salmon caught by Dean Austin. Peter Cooper bagged the smallest salmon at 2.2kg. Tim Gilmore bagged a 4.1kg kahawai and as there were no salmon caught by registered juniors, Trent Simpson, Ben Healey and Michael Ward were awarded lucky prize draws. Thanks went to Peter Hart of New Brighton Sports and Simon Emmerson of Kilwell Sports, sponsors and presenters of the major prizes. Richard Chettle (City Drains) and Alan Waters (Kairaki Beach Motor Camp) also donated generous fish sports store vouchers. All comments received have been positive for continuation of this event.

**Acknowledgements and Close of Meeting**

Ron Stuart thanked members for their attendance and asked them to encourage friends and fellow anglers to join the NZSAA.

Ron also thanked the raffle prize sponsors for their support: New Brighton Sports, Richard Chettle City Drains, Hamills, Smiths City Market, Wondercast, Ballingers & Phil Ball

Trevor Hayes thanked Ron Stuart for the way he conducted the AGM.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm and was followed by supper and raffle draws.

Signed as a correct record…………………………Chairman     24 May 2011
Fish & Game News

Waste Discharge by Silver Fern Farms to Waimakariri River
F&G was originally consulted on a new consent that SFF were seeking for a term of five years to continue pumping into the Waimakariri. At the end of that term they were to have completed plans to discharge to the Christchurch City Council’s wastewater treatment plant at Bromley. However they decided against this in the end and pursued an extension to their existing consent to discharge to the Waimakariri. Environment Canterbury agreed to an extension after requesting a “timeline” from SFF. The timeline specifies that constructing the works needed to pipe the waste to Bromley will be finished by May this year. ECAN has given SFF an extension based on this information and have specified that discharges to the Waimakariri must cease by the 31 July 2011.

Central Plains Water Appeal
Staff have had ongoing discussion with Central Plains Water in relation to fish screens. CPW have come up with a fish screen design that looks OK from F&G perspective. There are still discussions ongoing about conditions around fish screen monitoring and some mitigation including maintenance of a spawning braid. The expectation is that F&G can settle with CPW on the fish screen issue out of court. The other aspect of the appeal with CPW is the flow regime which has yet to be heard.

Hurunui Water Conservation Order
F&G have officially withdrawn from the WCO. This has been on the cards since introduction of the ECAN Act which changed WCO legislation and criteria. The final reason for withdrawing was that the NRRP decision contained a prohibition for damming on the North Branch of the Hurunui and non complying status for damming on the South Branch. (This means that for a consent to be granted the effects of the dam would have to be no more than minor). This outcome is very similar to the outcome of the original WCO decision.

F&G efforts are now going into the Canterbury Water Management Strategy which has targets that prohibit damming the mainstems of rivers and protects a list of salmon spawning sites (of which South Branch is one). This offers even more security. F&G are now putting their efforts into defending ECAN’s position in the NRRP against the HWP appeal. Both are significantly more cost effective to pursue than a WCO.

Highbank Salmon Salvage
In April, F&G staff and volunteers salvaged 150 salmon from Trustpower’s Highbank Power Station. The salmon entered the tailrace because the volume of water released from the power station imitates a significant braid in the Rakaia where it joins the other channels. Salmon are attracted to this large volume of water and mistakenly swim up the tailrace on their way to the high country spawning streams, only to come to a dead end at the power station.

Although Trustpower installed a salmon exclusion barrier two years ago this was not functioning as well as Fish & Game had hoped. 150 fish make up a significant portion of the Rakaia salmon run and F&G will be meeting with Trustpower to discuss how the system can be improved.
Salmon Hatcherries
Silverstream

From the Waimakariri River leading up the Kaiapoi you eventually arrive at Silverstream. For years this facility has at its own cost supported the salmon fishery with releases of salmon fry and contributions of eyed ova. Now in the hands of Salmon Smolt NZ Ltd and managed by Ben Divett it still gives support by cooperation with Fish & Game and makes generous contributions of growing-on fry for release and, where appropriate, eyed ova for stream planting.

Around this time of the year there is an expectation of around a hundred salmon coming through their trap as returns to their place of origin, but alas this season has seen only 40 salmon back. Previous returns were 350–450 salmon, giving a great supply option of choice ova for breeding and a valued source of fish with genetic origins. (Refer to the chart where statistics show interesting results over almost 10 years to 2008 but with graphic declines.) If we add the 2009–11 figures to this graph, the picture shows further decline to the worst ever records recorded and less than 100 salmon back last season.

Why is this happening? If only we knew. The proximity of the hatchery to the sea is similar to Rangitata which has experienced great results and provided excellent angler opportunity and hatchery returns. Yet the decline continues even though I am optimistic that this season will be better than last judging by runs of fish up the Waimakariri and reports of numbers in the Kaiapoi.

Silverstream Returns

![Silverstream Returns Chart](chart.png)
When making a comparison of salmon numbers with counts of Albatross there is a correlation of similar declines since year 2000, so is it food supply at sea? Who knows, and the only answer is for us to keep consistent with our Salmon Enhancement Programmes and continue to rely on support from Fish & Game and, where it is still possible, contributions from our generous friends at Silverstream and other hatcheries, including Tentburn, Montrose and Isaacs. Thanks Ben and team.

**Rangitata Bumps up Salmon Catch**

Rangitata River salmon anglers would have faced a bleak season if it were not for hatchery fish returning to the river. While the numbers caught are on a par with last year, the majority of salmon landed have been those released from the McKinnons Stream hatchery on the Rangitata. It is estimated that 85% of those fish recorded had come from the hatchery. The lack of wild salmon was put down to spawning grounds being washed out in heavy floods in April and May three years ago. *(Source: The Timaru Herald)*

A most recent report states that over 700 salmon, some up to 30lbs, have now returned to McKinnons Creek Hatchery with more expected to come. The eggs were in good condition and 250,000 ova have been taken for hatchery raising.

**Montrose**

The past months have been challenging ones at Montrose due to the raceways being out of commission following the September earthquake. Repairs were undertaken in February. In addition to this, a lot of digger work has taken place revamping water sources to the hatchery and cleaning the creek bed.
New Range of NZSAA Headwear

We have extended the NZSAA monogrammed headwear with a brimmed bucket hat and warm beanie. The original peaked cap is also still available.

The beanie: navy blue warm knitted material, with blue and silver monogram.

The brimmed bucket hat: navy blue cotton material, with silver salmon and orange lettering.

Traditional cap: navy blue with white & gold stripes, silver salmon and orange lettering.

All the same price: $20 (plus $3 postage & packing)

Each cap you purchase includes a small donation to the Salmon Recovery Programme.

Available at the Annual General Meeting
or by post from NZSAA, P O Box 1113 Christchurch 8140
or phone the Secretary, Heather Saunders, on 388 5718
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Fishing Licence Regulation Changes 2011

The NZSAA Committee has taken a review of the Fishing Licensing Regulations and has put forward the following to Fish and Game:

- We believe in the promotion of a catch and release voluntary policy with a target range of 5–10 fish, but accept that some anglers may retain a trophy fish caught when their target for release was achieved. We imagine this would follow similar trends with its introduction as did the concept for trout. It is appreciated that initially this would not get the “meat hunter” but, over time, peer pressure may have some effect. Recent evidence indicates that released salmon recover/survive to continue to their spawning option.

- It is recommended that the daily bag limit remain the same, whilst being aware of the effects on potential salmon saved, with altered bag limits. At this point we would encourage greater enhancement facilities/projects with the objective of increasing fish returns. An example of success is the Rangitata Hatchery programme. With anticipation we expect to see some positive results come out of the Isaacs Peacock Springs hatchery. Another point of recognition is the river conditions over the last couple of years which has encouraged fish to congregate in the lower reaches and not travel. This season has been different as river flows have provided more fish opportunity.

- Discussion centred on some anglers catching large numbers of salmon for the season and most comment was directed towards fisherman in the Kaiapoi and maybe this had some effect on the poor recent returns to Silverstream. The recommendation is to close fishing for salmon in the Kaiapoi by 31 March from the mouth of the river where it joins the Waimakariri. It was even suggested that this river could be declared as a breeding stream and subject to more stringent conditions, but then again we should be providing opportunity not killing it.

- The season for salmon in the Waimakariri be limited 1 October–31 March above the Staircase Stream confluence. In fact we would have no problem accepting that this season limit demarcation is bought closer down the river to the Gorge Bridge.

- Salmon catch tagging: The Committee was divided on this subject: whilst recognising the benefits, the deterrent factor was cost of scheme and enforcement.

- A Pensioner category should be introduced within the fee structure to provide cost advantage. Fishing licence fees are in need of review to modernise application and take account of non-resident margins.

- Some recognition needs to be given for the tourist angler paying a premium to fish for salmon or trout.

- Waimakariri South Branch: no fishing for salmon above the Dickies Road Bridge in the South Branch Stream, with the exception that continuation of regulations apply for Junior fishing in the Groynes Lakes. (This rule change will offer protection for salmon returning to the Isaac Hatchery)

- A principal factor emerging out of our discussions was the imposition of introducing more restrictions and the effect on anglers to participate and this would have more serious consequences on revenue resources. Already we have had a decline in licence
sales for whatever reason and volunteer enthusiasm should be encouraged to continue. To reduce opportunity further is like destocking a shop and not offering a range of product creating a tailspin effect when, in fact, we need a proactive approach to develop continued enthusiasm.

The NZSAA Committee greatly appreciated the visit to our April 4 meeting by Councillor Paul Farrow and Staff Emily Moore. Their presentations were stimulating and provided an enlightened overview of opinion of the salmon fishery and implications of change.

On the following pages is an article written by Paul Farrow regarding the salmon fishery.
The Value of Salmon
by Paul Farrow

Canterbury is the Salmon Capital of New Zealand, the Waimakariri, Rakaia and Hurunui Rivers being the most popular of the salmon fishing rivers. Since the demise of the Acclimatisation Societies they are currently managed by North Canterbury Fish and Game Council.

Over recent seasons there has been a decline in the salmon fishery in Canterbury, culminating in one of the worst seasons ever over the 2009-2010 season. The decline is based on fish numbers from Fish and Game angler surveys, from spawning fish counts and from the number of returning fish to the hatchery at Montrose on the Rakaia River. The return rate of spawning fish at Montrose has systemically dropped from over a 1000 four years ago to 109 this year, the lowest ever. To maintain the hatchery programme, 350 spawning fish are required to continue the self-sustaining salmon rearing operation.

Possible cause of the decline could be due to a combination of factors, including the decline in high country-spawning habitat, conditions at sea, water extraction for irrigation, lack of fish screens at irrigation extraction sites, didymo and the high harvest rate by anglers.

Whilst every effort is being done to enhance the salmon fishery through restoration of spawning areas the closing of some head waters, ova planting, hatchery releases etc the harvest rate regulations remain essentially unchanged.

Overseas evidence suggests there has to be a large number of salmon needed to die in the headwaters to provide nutrition for future generations of wild spawning salmon. In North America, despite the fact there are millions and millions of returning fish, local regulations only permit 2 Quinnat (King) Salmon per angler each season. Example the Kenai and Situk rivers.

The angler catch rate for both the Rakaia and the Waimakariri has been in steady decline since 1994 yet, despite this steady decline in fish returns, the average percentage of fish being caught is actually increasing. This year’s figures are at a historical high of 60%. With this continuing high harvest rate of over 40% each year since 1994 of these two rivers, the number of returning fish to the hatchery and the high country spawning areas is being compromised. In the past, salmon only had to run the gauntlet at the river mouth. Nowadays with quad bikes and four-wheel-drive vehicles, access to the river is greatly enhanced. Salmon do not get any respite over the length of the river especially with jet boats systematically going from hole to hole.

Following this decline in the salmon fishery there have been calls for a reduction in the cost of a fishing licence or, at least, little to no support for this year’s proposed increase. The catch phase is “Why should we pay more for less?”

So what is the salmon fishery and a salmon worth? And are we getting value for our licence?

Under the current regulations it is possible to take two salmon per person per day over the 7-month fishing season. An informal poll conducted through various fishing clubs revealed two salmon anglers’ catch rates:
Example 1
Salmon Angler A has caught 27 salmon this season and 57 the previous season. This is a total of 84 fish over two seasons. Given that the average weight of a salmon is 6 kilograms this equates to 504 kilograms of salmon, over half a tonne, for the last two years. A recent trip to the local supermarket had whole salmon selling for $29.90 a kilo. Applying this value to Salmon angler A’s total, this value equates to $15,069 of salmon. Furthermore smoke the salmon and pack it into 50gm packs: the retail value is currently $5.55 and, at this value, Angler A has caught $55,944 worth of salmon in two years. Based on the first valuation a salmon on the riverbank is worth $179 or based on the second value $660.

Example 2
Angler B has caught 35 fish in the last season. That equates to approximately 210 kilos at a value of $6,279 ($23,100 on the 2nd valuation) for the cost of 1 season’s fishing licence, or $2.85 per fish.

This is not a criticism of the two anglers in question as under the current regulations it is perfectly legal

The cost to Fish and Game to enable this fish to be caught is in excess of $300 per fish (hatchery fish). Assuming that the cost of an annual fishing licence is going up to $108 and that if you are lucky or skilled enough to catch one salmon for the season you will have come out in front financially. Based on the market value of each fish and the cost of this fish to F&G clearly there is no justification for a reduced licence fee.

Example 3
A regular North Island angler makes a one-week annual pilgrimage to Canterbury for salmon fishing. Over the last 5 years he has caught two salmon, average cost per trip $800, equating to $2,000 per fish. These two salmon figure predominantly as framed photos in the office.

Examples 1 & 2: is it systematic of the early colonial attitude of “take all that you can”?
Example 3: this is a truly valued fishing experience. This represents two different values towards the fishery by two different anglers.

With the high market value of salmon and the knowledge that the fish is going to die anyway, it is likely only a small minority of salmon anglers will ever adopt the practice of catch and release.

In recent years we have seen the over fishing of blue cod in the Marlborough Sounds to such an extent the fishery had to be closed. Orange Roughy quota was reduced considerably due to over allocation of quota and it may take decades to recover. Subsequently when the Bluff oyster existence was affected the fishery was shut down. Closing the salmon fishery is clearly not a realistic option to Fish & Game but parallels to the over allocation of quota as with the Orange Roughy are evident.

Historically we know the salmon fishery is prone to cycles: a poor season can be followed by a bumper season. However, when or if the fishery recovers, do we want the numbers of Anglers A&B to multiply twenty-fold and to possibly jeopardise future bumper seasons due to a high harvest rate?

If the guardians of the fishery are to hand over the fishery to future generations, there needs to be a change in the current regulations and the mind set of anglers.
The Canterbury salmon fishery and the salmon are clearly undervalued. It is one of Canterbury’s major recreational assets and it should be restored to its place as an outstanding sporting experience. On a list of New Zealand’s most valued freshwater fishing resources, the Canterbury salmon fishery would come in third after Taupo and Rotorua.

The trip by the North American Indians to the Rakaia River only served to confirm the spiritual, cultural and economic value that the Quinnyat salmon once had for these people. It is easier to restore and enhance our existing fishery than for the Winnemem Wintu Indians who will have to reestablish their salmon fishery from scratch.

It is my proposal, along with like-minded anglers that share the same concerns, that the time has come to consider a season limit on salmon. Limiting the catch rate is a strategic management option for the fishery. Its implementation would be similar to overseas systems. Tags would be sold to anglers recording name and licence number. Tags would be immediately attached to the salmon through the gill rack or around the tail. Alternatively, it could be detachable stamps noting the time and place of the catch. Recording angler name and number on the tags or stamps would prevent illicit sales. Color would vary from season to season. A fish on the bank without a tag or stamp would be subject to the same fine as fishing without a licence.

It is acknowledged that a change to limit the catch rate will not be supported universally. The older generation of salmon angler remembers the halcyon days of salmon fishing and lives in hope of next season will be a bumper. A successful season would ensure bottled salmon for the following year. It is evident that the fishing resource can no longer sustain the fishing practices of the past. A season limit concept for many salmon anglers is as foreign as catch and release policy was to trout fisherman twenty years ago. Any change has to come from the stakeholders themselves and this will only occur when anglers genuinely want to conserve and not exploit the fishery.

Where are the ethics of continually taking fish when the situation is in such a critical stage? Countless hours by dedicated Fish and Game staff and volunteers along with hundreds of thousands of dollars go into sustaining the salmon fishery in Canterbury. It is hoped that the new rearing ponds at the Isaac hatchery will stem the decline in the fishery and ensure that we can hand over this fishing resource to the next generation of anglers.

In conclusion Fish and Game North Canterbury has an asset in the salmon fishery that is the envy of many other regions. If these major rivers are to survive from intense demands from the farming sector it has to be managed effectively to obtain the best return for all present and future stakeholders. It should also be noted that under the present Fish and Game Salmon Management Plan 5.3 it is the obligation of Fish and Game North Canterbury to protect sensitive fisheries from over harvest and to ensure a fair distribution of fishery resources to all anglers.

Paul Farrow
Fish and Game Councillor
Poachers and Polluters

by Ron Stuart

This season has probably not been an exception, but there have been several reports of poaching and excessive pollution outside of quake affected locations. Poachers have been active in the Hurunui at locations where salmon and trout have been congregating prior to entering spawning areas or where they are attracted by water flow, particularly at the Balmoral Forest Intake and also at the outfall of Highbank on the Rakaia. Another aspect of poaching in my opinion is in-effective fish screens on water intakes.

Be aware and get time, date, location, and photo evidence.

In a couple of these instances the poachers have made threatening action against the person approaching them and then scarpered in a cowardly manner. We ask you where possible to get vehicle registration numbers, photos or any other identifying features, but do not put yourself at risk.

The thing which really pisses off genuine anglers is that these scumbags are targetting spawning fish that are past their best for consumption. They are also disturbing genuine spawning attempts or, in fact, trampling redds and in the current situation we really need all resources to add to fish opportunity numbers.

An example of recent pollution was above the Main Road bridge in the Waimakariri where diggers were extracting shingle from the main flow riverbed. By consent this is not permitted but, in spite of total cooperation and investigation by Environment Canterbury, no action was taken against the offenders. Why? Because we could not give them sufficient identifying evidence. So in these circumstances if possible take photos, get vehicle rego number or identification.

We can help ourselves a lot, we can help the authorities even more, and in today’s environment anything that can be done to help the fishery is an advantage.

If you are unsure about the reporting procedure then go directly to Fish & Game or give the details to any of our NZ Salmon Anglers Committee or other fishing club executive. Be sure to tell all your fishing mates and let’s get real.

New Website for NZSAA

Have a look at New Zealand Salmon Anglers Association website:

www.nzsalmonanglers.co.nz
Disaster and Reward

It’s a Friday. What is Pete Hart doing fishing at the mouth of the Waimakariri on this day, when he’s normally selling fishing tackle in his New Brighton shop? Well, he’s got no shop to go to as it’s all in the hands of his insurer and his business building is to be demolished. So, to take the positive, Pete took the opportunity of having a day on the river and joined the picket fence at the river mouth where he was one of 12 anglers for the day that landed this beautiful specimen salmon weighing in around 7-8 kg.

Pete is the owner operator of New Brighton Sports which also distributes The Fishing Paper, but in the February quake his business and premises were totally munted.

The day after Pete caught his salmon, the Waimakariri River Salmon Fishing competition was to take place and New Brighton Sports was the major sponsor but had to withdraw because of the businesses losses sustained. The competition was subsequently cancelled because of competitor personal losses, river and sea sewerage pollution, property and road access damage at Kairaki, entry forms trapped in the Central Post box in the City red zone, no sponsorship opportunity, and respect to keep road traffic to a minimum in that location.

The prizegiving venue for the Competition was to have been the Waimak Sailing Club rooms but, coincidentally on this day, the Japan quake caused most unfavourable river conditions with tsunami surges and exceptional river level movements. Up to 60 anglers were at the mouth on this day, and 5 salmon were landed but by 3:00 pm most had got off the river mouth for personal safety as river conditions could be described as being spooky causing high anticipation. At 4:30pm the river had twice as much water back in it than was evident at 3:00pm yet low tide was 5:00pm. Water surges were very very exceptional and thankfully the observations of anglers ensured no tragedy.

In summary, no Salmon Competition, and exceptionally unusual conditions in the river but are we pleased Pete got his fish - good one mate and we’re all wishing you good luck and looking forward to seeing you back in business soon, serving the Canterbury fishing community.
Lady and Sir Salmon Anglers

Dedicated anglers Diane and Colin Eaton bag a pair of salmon (10 and 12 lbs) at McIntosh’s on the Waimakariri.

They landed their respective fish within a short time of each other and, being a gentleman, Colin let Di catch hers first. Colin is now on his sixth fish for the season whilst Diane is running with two.

Why does this couple deserve to land salmon? Well, they are first up when it comes to volunteering assistance with NZ Salmon Anglers and Fish & Game salmon enhancement programme by assisting with salmon stripping, ova planting, hatchery maintenance, cleaning the raceways, filling automatic feeders, fin clipping etc. Plus you can find them as regular visitors to McIntosh’s on their favourite spot with a host of mates all thrashing the water. The fish they caught could well have been from a batch of eggs planted in 2009 in the alpine streams.

The next day they did the same thing again and now sit on Lady Di with three salmon and King Colin with seven. This is the third Royal Flush they have had this season, so we must tip our hats to their success and offer respect to being Queen and King of McIntosh’s.

McIntosh’s was severely damaged during the September earthquake with embankments and rock protection slipping into the river and cracks in the river bank 2–3 metres wide and deep. Environment Canterbury repaired all this damage only to be faced with more repair work after the February quake. Since then they have filled in all the quake cracks and restored the rock formation protection to the river bank.

The Big Fisherman

NZSAA member, Tony Orpwood was very satisfied with quality rather than quantity with his first fish of the season, a 25 pounder from “somewhere up the Waimak River”.

The Big Fisherman
Just Reward

Wayne Henwood is a very keen salmon angler and can be found at the river mouth or at his favourite fish spot most days in the season. But he firmly believes in putting back resources by assisting with enhancement into the salmon fishery as a NZSAA member volunteer.

As an example of his volunteer support, he turned out on a recent Saturday to assist with the raceway cleaning and attending the needs of 200,000 salmon fry at the Isaacs Peacock Springs Hatchery. This took away some of his valued fishing time, but when you give there’s always a reward.

So here is the reward - on his first day out and his first cast he hooked into this wonderful fish and played like a true sportsman. It was the first fish caught at the mouth for the day and as it turned out the only fish landed. What a justification reward for his volunteer effort to catch the first, best and only fish for the day. And what’s more what a great story as its mostly true because it was April 1.

My Wife is Priceless -
She’s Done it Again

Carole's done it again. Two years ago Carole took up salmon fishing after a 25 year break and caught a 14 lb salmon at McIntoshes on dodgy fishing gear (dodgy in that it was unreliable). Husband Stan gave her a rod that he won a couple of years ago in the Rangers Waimak Salmon competition. Carole decided to change from an eggbeater to a Corvalus baitcaster reel. Stan had some trepidation as he could see himself assisting with a lot of knitting instead of fishing.

Last year she had no luck. 2011 was a new salmon season and after earthquakes and monotonous dirty rivers Carole at last decided to grab the chance to fish on Monday February 14 for the first outing of the season. But a howling southerly welcomed the morning so it was put on hold until later in the day.

Stan's into more gentlemanly fishing hours anyway. They arrived at McIntoshes about 2pm in their tinny and over time saw one salmon lost on the north bank and the boat
above them caught one. Stan decided by 4 o’clock it was time to go home but Carole said “No, wait till 4.15pm”. Stan agreed as it was Valentines Day and Carole was enjoying the fishing.

Right on queue at 4.15pm, Carole hooked a salmon. There was some drama as Carole had never played a salmon on a baitcaster and Stan could not convince her that the brake was too light because there was no ratchet sound. Anyway after several runs under the boat near the anchor rope and dangerously close to the outboard motor the fish was netted.

Happy Valentines Day, Carole !!

One Good Turn Deserves Another

John Crawley called in to a reasonably popular upriver Waimak fishing hole during his lunch hour a few of weeks ago to find only one car in attendance, as against the fleet that's often been there. Rather than stop, he thought he’d just head back to work as it looked like the best spot was taken.

However a yell from over the rock bank alerted him that all was not well. On investigating he found a lovely gentleman of Scottish descent "walking the dog" in the pool with a salmon that he had been entertaining for some 40 minutes due to his net being left in the car. They quickly scooped it out but, of course, there's a lesson here for all of us, isn't there!!”

Yes, one good turn deserves another, and we are sure John Crawley will be blessed with a limit bag in three years’ time for saving a lost soul.

Salmonella or Salmonitis Disease?

by John Hodgson

Both of these illnesses are gut wrenching but salmonella is the easier one to get rid of. After 50 years since first infection with salmonitis, I still get the pain in early November and on and off until late April. The pain is much less during wet weather but seems to return at the new moon.

Salmonella is controlled with doctor's advice and antibiotics. Salmonitis is difficult to proscribe for and home remedies seem to be the answer. You obtain the ingredients from the fishing tackle shop. Usually the first prescription is a silver capsule called a ticer and the alternative is a z-spinner, and so on.

Another pain reducer is being prepared with all of the pain-reducing necessities. Personally, $980 for TRXx300 maintenance, then a new battery $120 and finally $80 for a solenoid.

However the best pain reliever is the first fish of this season, caught at 5.40pm on Saturday 20 March from above the pylons near Orana Park. It was near 14lbs gutted and gilled, a jack fish with very small testes.

John Hodgson’s 14lb “Prescription”
"Extinct" Salmon Discovered in Japanese Lake

A Japanese salmon thought to have been extinct for 70 years has been discovered in a lake near Mount Fuji. The kunimasu salmon, also called the black kokanee, is a subspecies of sockeye salmon that's found only in Japan. Unlike true sockeye, which migrate between freshwater and the oceans, the many types of kokanee salmon live and reproduce entirely in lakes.

The kunimasu was believed to have been wiped out in the 1940s after a hydroelectric dam raised acidity levels in the fish's only home, Lake Tazawako in northern Japan's Akita Prefecture. Salmon are sensitive to water's acidity, and drastic changes in pH can affect young salmon's survival.

A seemingly unsuccessful 1935 program to release kunimasu eggs in Lake Saiko, in the foothills of Mount Fuji, had been forgotten—until recently, when the head of a local fishing association sent an odd sample to a Japanese television personality who is obsessed with fish.

The kunimasu salmon is very close in appearance to the common himemasu salmon, a species of landlocked sockeye salmon, except that kunimasu is green and black instead of the more common silver colour of the himemasu.

"Extinct" Salmon Not That Tasty

Further studies at Lake Saiko revealed four distinct characteristics that marked the kunimasu salmon apart from other close relatives in the fish world. The first indicator was that the kunimasu spawns in March, while the himemasu spawns in the fall. The newly rediscovered species also spawns at a depth of between 98 and 131 feet (30 and 40 meters), a behaviour not seen in other species in Lake Saiko. The final clues came from the number of gill rakers—bony, fingerlike projections on the gill arches of filter feeders—and the structure of the pyloric caeca, finger-shaped stomach pouches that secrete digestive enzymes.

The experts now think that some ten thousand kunimasu salmon inhabit Lake Saiko, which is fed by underground water from Mount Fuji, keeping its deepest reaches at the constantly cold temperatures the salmon prefer.

People living near Lake Saiko had long caught the "extinct" fish, but the himemasu tasted better than the kunimasu, which was often thrown back.

The Japanese government is now in the process of removing the kunimasu from its list of extinct species.
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P. O. Box 1113 Christchurch 8140 New Zealand

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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 ____________________________