

# THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER

Newsletter of the Hutt Valley Angling Club Inc



Photo of the month "Morning Delight" taken by Ross Goodman

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## **Editorial**

This month's newsletter has a strong environmental slant.....not a fad for the month, but a reminder about an issue that runs to the core of what we do. Contributors this month include Jamie Morton, Dr Mike Joy and Dan Waechter who have each written articles giving their perspective on the issue of the environment and water quality.

Also this month, something new:

Well-known Southland authors and anglers Dave Witherow and Brian Turner give their unique environmental perspective via you tube videos. Just go to you tube and enter the URL address.

Enjoy!

*Chris Kuchel*

## **President's Piece**

At our last 2 club nights we have had the opportunity to listen to Strato and Tony and have been given an insight into their fishing adventures. One thing I have picked up while being a controller at the regional and national fly fishing championships is how well these guys are organised. They are fishing to strict time controls and are seeking to make the most of the water that has been allocated to them. It is a learning experience to watch these guys analyse the water and then choose what techniques to use.



Most of us go to the water with no pre-set plan and then start fishing with limited success. It is something for us to bear in mind the next time we venture out fishing. Take some time to consider the conditions, water and time of the year. What worked last time may not be what is needed today.

At this time of the year we should be getting ready for the season ahead. As Trevor mentioned to me at the last casting clinic, the lads seem to be suffering from cabin fever. Instead of casting on the grass they couldn't resist going down to the river even though it was very coloured and a strong wind was blowing.

Preparation now will pay benefits when October arrives and it is good to get out on the water or grass if need be and get some casing practice in and making sure that the rest of the gear (and the aging body) is in working order.

At our next club night on Monday the 14th of September we are proposing to have a workshop covering the use the club walkie talkies, tying a new knot, reel maintenance and that age old question of what fly to use. These are to assist and add to your enjoyment of fishing.

Fish and Game have introduced a new licence structure which is worth having a look at and deciding what one works best for you.

The whitebait and beginning to appear in the lower reaches of the Hutt River which is a good sign. The smelt flies come into play as trout seek out the whitebait. It is also the time when white baiters appear on the riverbank. Give them some space as the season is limited and they have been waiting a while for it to come around.

The club is in a good financial situation at present but we don't want to see a drop off in club membership. If you know someone who is thinking of letting their membership lapse, have a chat with them and explain the benefits of being a member and perhaps that will encourage them to stay with us.

The 40th anniversary dinner is on the horizon which will be a great opportunity to catch up with some past members and celebrate the achievements of the club make plan for the future.

*Ross Goodman*

## **September Activities**

- 9<sup>th</sup> Rise Fly Fishing Film Festival — Lighthouse Cinema 8.00pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting — King Lion hall 7.30pm
- 20<sup>th</sup> Casting Clinic — Belmont Domain 9.30am
- 15<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting — Community House 7.30pm
- 25<sup>th</sup> Copy deadline for October newsletter
- 26<sup>th</sup> Gibbs Shield Handicap Competition
- 30<sup>th</sup> Fly tying — community House 7.30pm

## **Club News**

**Club Night** — Monday 14 September at 7.30pm in King Lion Hall, King Street, Upper Hutt.

This month's meeting is all about preparing for the new season. Experienced members will give their tips on equipment maintenance, early season fly selection, useful knots and other practical advice. The club has recently purchased walkie-talkie sets for members' use. Their operation will be demonstrated and explained.

**Casting Clinic** — Sunday 20 September weather permitting. Arrive from 9.30am ready for a 10.00am start.

The coordinator is Ian Lawson. If you want to attend, please sign up on the clipboard at our monthly meeting or register on the website. Registration allows us to have instructors available for all attendees and who we contact if there is any change in meeting arrangements.

**Gibbs Shield Handicap Competition** — Saturday 26 September.

The competition will be held over one session of 3 hours continuous fishing on the Hutt River. This is a fly only competition. Competitors will measure their fish and record the size on the scorecard. Fish must measure at least 18cm to qualify.

The competition will commence at 9.00am and end at 12.00pm.  
Anglers will return to Silverstream Bridge car park by 12.30pm.  
\$2 entry fee is payable before fishing commences.



## Club Championship

All results will count (minus scoring allowance) towards the club championship.

A different system will be applied this year where points will be awarded for placing in each of the handicap competitions.

1<sup>st</sup> place gets 5 points

2<sup>nd</sup> place gets 3 points

3<sup>rd</sup> place gets 2 points

4<sup>th</sup> place gets 1 point

All other entries 0 points

For the club championship an angler's best 3 competition results will be counted to give their total score in the championship.

In the unlikely event of a tie for first place, then a count back will be made of the total number of fish caught across the three competitions and the first placed competitor with the highest total will be awarded the championship.

## Fly Tying Meeting – Wednesday 30 September at 7.30pm.

Upper Hutt Community House off Logan Street beside Upper Hutt medical centre.

This month's theme will be favourite nymphs, where members can bring their favourite nymph to the meeting and we will tie several patterns.

## Library News



### HOW TO USE THE LIBRARY

Select your Book, DVD or Video.

Take it / them to the Librarian (Maureen).

Maureen will take the card from inside the Book, put your name and the date on it.

You then have it for **One Month** until the next Club Night.

When returning the item please hand it back to the Librarian so she can check them back into the Library.

There are so few opportunities to borrow these items, if you forget to return the item, it's one more month the next person has to wait.

Keep enjoying the Library!

## **Last Month's Club Meeting**

At Augusts' club night, our guest speaker was Tony Houpt, who gave a clear and detailed overview of his fishing methods and also answered questions from club members over a range of topics. Tony's experience and depth of knowledge made for a valuable and inspirational session for club members, particularly with the start of the new season approaching. There is no doubt that everyone present took away something they can apply to their own fishing. Just another example of the benefit that members can gain through belonging to a club such as ours.



## **Fish of the month**

Congratulations to Mike Nansett for another fine effort in July, with a 2lb 8oz Hutt River brown. Mike's success has continued in August with a fine 5lb Hutt River brown, which you can read about in his report in this newsletter.

## **Raffle Winners in August**

Congratulations to Bill Shkopiak for winning the Green Trout Guiding entry.

Winner of the fly box was Steve Doughty, with John Millar taking home the \$20 Hunting and Fishing voucher.

Monthly winners of the Green Trout Guiding raffle go into the annual draw for a fantastic trip with Jim Rainey. You've got to be in to win, so make sure you buy your ticket each month at club meetings.

## **Annual Subscriptions**

Internet banking is the preferred method of payment direct to the Hutt Valley Angling Club account number 02-0528-0246578-000 but Mike Nansett will happily accept your cheque at this month's club meeting.

Renewal fees are:

Family: \$55 Senior: \$45 Super annuitant: \$35 Junior: \$10

Add \$10 if you want to receive a printed copy of the monthly newsletter.

## **HVAC 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dinner Update**

Initial response to the proposed Birthday Dinner has been very positive. A provisional booking has been made for the private function lounge at the Upper Hutt Cossie Club for Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October. If you (and your partner) would like to attend, please contact John Millar if you have not done so yet. It should be a memorable night.

## HVAC Formation

In the early part of 1975 Keith Tourell met with other keen anglers, Barry Dunkley, (President of WAS), Mort Midgley, Ron Bickerstaff, Fred Norman and Bill Auld to discuss the possible formation of a club. As a result an advertisement was placed in "The Upper Hutt Leader" for a public meeting to be held on 30 September in the Woman's Division of Federated Farmers hall (now known as The King Lion Hall).

It was attended by 36 persons and an inaugural committee elected.

President: Keith Tourell Secretary: Ian McDougal Treasurer Gordon Sage

Committee: Peter Clarkson, Terry Bramwell, Ron Jenkins and Mike Newman.

The Senior subscription was set at \$5.

## Newsletters from Other Angling Clubs

Members may be unaware that monthly newsletters from other NZ angling clubs are available for viewing on the HVAC website. Just follow the links on the homepage. Many thanks to Steve Doughty for the great effort he puts in to keeping the website interesting, up-to-date and relevant.

## FishScene Annual Interclub Fly Tying Competition

We have been advised that the Kapiti Club will host this event on the evening of Monday 26 October. We are awaiting further news from the host club.

## Up-coming Trips

All trips are weather dependent with early bookings essential. To confirm a place on a trip email Damian c.bengree@paradise.net.nz

2015 --2016	Destination	Degree of difficulty: high 5 - 1 easy	Dates
September	Tukituki river	2 to 3	Fri 11 to Sun 13
October	Rivers around Turangi	3 to 4	Fri 9 to Sun 11
	Kapiti & HVAC (day trip)	1 to 2 (Max of 8 )	TBC
November	HVAC & Hastings Club	2 to 3 (Max of 8 )	Fri 6 to Sun 8
December	Mohaka or Puketirti river	4 to 5	Fri 4 to Sun 6
January	Wairarapa Camping	1 to 2	Sat 23rd
February	Rivers around Taihape	4	Fri 19 to Sun 21
March	Rivers around Pahiatua	2 to 3	Fri 11 to Sat 13
April	Tongariro river	3 to 4	Fri 15 to Sun 17
May	TBC		

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## **Meet the member- Caleb Martin**



Hi all I'm Caleb,  
I'm a real estate agent for Harcourts Upper Hutt. I've been in the fishing, hunting and diving trade for nearly 10 years but decided a change was long overdue and with a sudden change in my work situation, I made the plunge in to real estate. In my spare time I'm an honorary Fish & Game ranger and spend a bit of time talking to fishers or casting a line myself.

I fish fresh and salt water, from shore and boat and will have a crack at just about anything. As well as that I enjoy diving, and getting out deer hunting when I can find the time to get away.

In 2013 my wife Vanessa and I made the trip to Aitutaki in the Cook Islands to target bonefish and GT's (Vanessa is adamant it was a wedding anniversary holiday although I'm not too sure!) during which we both picked up double figure bonefish and a heap of small GT's up to around 8-9kg. That same year we also travelled through Europe seeing 21 countries over three months. And at the end of 2013 we bought a home that backs on to the Hutt River (that wasn't a coincidence!) in Totara Park so in summer I'll often chase a few fish around on the fly or spin after work.

I'm really looking forward to getting to know a few other fisho's and getting a bit more into fly tying.

*Caleb*



### **Green Trout Guiding**

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## Late August Hutt River Success –

A report from Mike Nansett

A few guys have been doing well on the Hutt the past few days. J Olds got a couple of nice fish over three pounds and Ross Goodman got a couple on Sat, but cannot remember the weights.

TJ and I went for a look yesterday afternoon. I got one fish of 2½lbs then 30 minutes later TJ hooked up a nice fish and had it on for a while but he dropped it. We were about to go home then TJ hooked up into a nice fish about 30 metres below me, then I hooked up.



Both with nice fish.

TJ landed his fish at 4½lb. My fish decided it preferred the strong current and took me down to TJ. After a few false netting attempts as the fish darted to the safety of the faster water he came to the net and his weight in the net showed 5lbs. I was rapt, my biggest on Fly (previous was 4¾lb rainbow) and great to get it on the Hutt.

I thought he may have gone 4lb but he was very wide across the shoulders and thick in the tail. So magic fishing at the moment.

Both taken on #16 unweighted. This is the point fly with a #14 gun metal tungsten bead with soft hackle and brown tying thread for the body and black wire and a touch of dubbing. TJ got all his hits on this fly. Its looks like stick caddis.

What I was pleased about is that they are both on barbless hooks.

*Mike*

## **Grave Warning for NZ's Freshwater Life**

This article by Jamie Morton, was first published in the NZ Herald on 12 August and is reproduced here with his kind permission.



The Government has set out core priorities and objectives to improve freshwater management.

Photo of the Upper Taieri River near Paerau/iStock

More needs to be done to reverse the plight of New Zealand's dwindling freshwater species, researchers say.

The Society for Conservation Biology's new report, titled *Diagnosis and Cure*, examines the decline of species living in our fresh waterways and suggests solutions, including a law overhaul and improvements to policy, monitoring and management.

The authors noted that three quarters of the country's native freshwater fish, mussel and crayfish species were now listed as threatened with extinction, something they blame on excessive nutrient run-off from over-intensive agriculture, extraction of water, river engineering, and human and industrial waste discharged to waterways.

The researchers also cited commercial exploitation and exportation of many threatened and endemic species.

One of the authors, Dr Mike Joy of Massey University's Institute of Agriculture and Environment, said the problems would be exacerbated by Government plans to increase agricultural production.

"There are even plans to increase development of our rivers and wetlands, exacerbating these problems," he said.

"It [fresh water quality] is a taonga of paramount importance and valued for its contribution to biodiversity, recreation, the economy and the overall wellbeing of New Zealanders."

Co-author Dr Emily Elston said New Zealand could implement some "real changes" which would "not only improve the freshwater environments for the species living in them, but also for us by providing clean water and wonderful places for fishing".

"We have to do something about the increasingly poor state of our rivers, lakes and groundwater resources. Business as usual is no longer an option."

The Government has set out core priorities and objectives to improve freshwater management in the new National Policy Statement (NPS) for Freshwater Management. This introduced new minimum or "bottom line" requirements that must be achieved so the water quality was suitable for ecosystem and human health, and included a range of other actions for regional councils.

The authors argued the NPS did not go far enough and laid out six priorities to tackle the issue:

- Change legislation to adequately protect native and endemic fish species and invertebrates, including those harvested commercially and recreationally
- Protect habitat critical to the survival of New Zealand's freshwater species
- Include river habitat to protect ecosystem health in the National Objectives Framework for the National Policy Statement on freshwater
- Establish monitoring and recovery plans for New Zealand's threatened freshwater invertebrate fauna
- Develop policy and best management practices for freshwater catchments which includes wetlands, estuaries and groundwater ecosystems
- Establish, improve and maintain appropriately wide riparian zones that connect across entire water catchments.

However, a Ministry for the Environment spokesperson said three of the six identified priorities had been addressed in part in the NPS, which was being expanded.

The additions would address sediment for lakes and rivers, and consider what attributes were appropriate for wetlands.

### **What other scientists say**

Dr John Quinn, the National Institute for Water and Atmosphere's chief scientist for freshwater and estuaries, agreed with the "broad direction" of the proposed priorities and was optimistic that work around the NPS would advance some of them.

"It's when we start looking at how we can get there that things get more challenging," he said.

"Knowledge about critical habitats is crucial to successful action to enhance biodiversity, but we still have many important knowledge gaps that policy will have to deal with."

Dr Quinn pointed out it had only been in the last two years that NIWA researchers had identified the critical spawning habitats of two of our largest freshwater native fish,

lamprey and giant kokopu.

Professor Jenny Webster-Brown, director of the Waterways Centre for Freshwater Management run by University of Canterbury and Lincoln University, felt the National Objectives Framework would go "some way" to reaching the priorities, but she added this was a work in progress.

"Even if all currently confirmed actions of the NOF could be implemented immediately, it would still be many years before inevitable weaknesses and inadequacies come to light through the monitoring data, and can be addressed through revision of the framework."

That said, more needed to be done right now to actively protect our aquatic ecosystems, and reports like this helped "to keep our eye on the ball" she told the Herald.

"It reaffirms that unless we actively take steps to protect all interconnected parts of the freshwater environment, from all of the activities that threaten native and endemic species in this environment, we will lose many more of these species."

President of the New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Society, Professor David Hamilton of Waikato University, said while the information in the report was "not especially new" - the decline of freshwater quality and biodiversity had been known for some time - the synthesis in the document was useful.

"The report is also useful in identifying aspects of freshwater that New Zealanders value - the fauna and flora - and going beyond the generic term 'water quality' when describing recent declines in freshwater systems in New Zealand."

However, Dr Hamilton made several criticisms about the report.

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment had already identified how land use and nutrient pollution affect water quality, Dr Hamilton said, but did not make any comment about guidelines to protect freshwater biodiversity, as claimed in the report.

He pointed out how the report recommended the protection of habitat critical to the survival of New Zealand's freshwater species, notably river habitat to protect ecosystem health in the National Objectives Framework.

"In fact the Resource Management Act (1991) included provision for the preservation of the natural character of rivers and their margins," he said.

"What has not occurred is a consistent approach by councils to protect these habitats under the powers vested in them under the RMA.

"In this respect the report has correctly identified that river habitat should be a critical area of concern in the next iteration of the National Objectives Framework, so that there is a consistent approach to protection of rivers at the national scale."

While the report discussed the establishment of monitoring and recovery plans for

New Zealand's threatened freshwater invertebrate fauna, it provided no guidance as to what the recovery plans should entail, he said.

Commenting on the final priority flagged in the report - the need to establish wide riparian zones that connect across entire catchments - reflected the need to create freshwater biodiversity corridors and connect these across different ecosystem types such as groundwater aquifers and wetlands, he said.

"The current situation in New Zealand is characterised by major time and economic investments in riparian planting and retirement being made by government, community groups and other stakeholders at local level, but with limited overview and synthesis to evaluate their effectiveness at a catchment scale.

"The National Science Challenges, such as New Zealand's Biological Heritage and Our Land and Water, need to provide underpinning research and synthesis to ensure that these efforts represent best value for money and support whole-of-system restoration."

## **Environmental Perspective via Youtube**

From Southland authors:

Dave Witherow "Home waters"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5cF9WbUGiI>

Brian Turner "Audiostorium Reading"

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/thereading/collections/readings/into-the-wider-world>

## **Where Are the fish?**

By Dan Waechter

Where are the fish? A good question to ask at an angling club and one you hear at least once at any meeting. An equally important question seldom if ever asked is; where do you want the fish to be? Part of the answer to both questions lies in 'reading the water', the dark art of knowing where the trout are to be found in a river, stream, or lake.

Although the answer is basically the same for both questions, and most of the study and experience required to answer each question in turn can apply to the other, different methods are required in answering each question.

Where are the fish? In helping answer this question

- You can ask other anglers

- You can read. A good start would be 'Reading The Water' by Dave Hughes
- And you can spend time on the water observing and fishing.

Through acquired knowledge and experience you will soon discern where trout are likely to lie, be it in riffle, pool, or run.

Where do you want the fish to be?

Obviously in the riffle, pool, or run where knowledge and experience tells you they should be. To insure this is the case you need to once again read the water, albeit from a different perspective. In the previous question the trout are making the choices, but in this question, the angler makes the choices. So you begin by looking at the water from a wider perspective, selecting where the riffles, pools, and runs the trout chose to occupy are located. But how do you accomplish this?

- By talking to other anglers
- By reading. A good start would be the Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region
- And by making a submission ensuring you and the trout can be in the riffles, pools, and runs where you both want to be.

Why bother?

I hear this question quite frequently too. There are many answers to this question, but two come readily to mind.

1. Other people and organisations WILL be making submissions that will compromise anglers interests, making the choice of where and even if we fish for us. From personal experience, I have found no one interested in trout but anglers, and only we as individuals or groups, can express our interests and objectives in the political process. To me, not to participate in any process such as the Natural Resources Plan shows a lack of respect for those in the past who worked on our behalf; shows a lack of appreciation for what we currently have; and total contempt for the future of our sport. We and the trout lose our riffles, pools, and runs a step at a time, but lose them we do by complacency. We can also reverse that loss by taking action one step at a time.
2. Make the assumption there is plenty of fishing around at your peril. A case in point is the Taupo fishery. World class and fish it you must, but a long term concern for me is at what cost to our local rivers. I suspect many fish it exclusively, ignoring local rivers. Ignore something and you can soon lose it. Diversity is essential, you never know when a fishery may collapse. So the more water we can keep as viable fisheries the more options available to us, a form of insurance really. Change is constant and whether it be political, environmental, or personal. It may only be those ignored rivers available for you to fish. John McInnes said at a club meeting once 'fish where you are' and I would suggest that is an ability to precious to lose.

So where do you want the trout to be?

As quoted in 'The Trout Bohemia' by Derek Grzelewski, There are three kinds of anglers, three kinds of people really;

those who make things happen,

those who watch it happen,

and those who ask what happened?

The choice is yours!

## **Our Rivers**

By Dr. Mike Joy, first published March 2015 and reproduced here with his kind permission.

The fact that healthy clean freshwater is very important to New Zealanders was confirmed by the latest survey of perceptions to the environment. Freshwater came out as the number one environmental issue and the majority of respondents considered freshwaters were being impacted. National water quality monitoring data confirm these fears of impacts and the declining state of water. But the strongest indicator of the poor state of rivers and lakes is the 74% of native freshwater fish species now listed as threatened. These fish are the freshwater 'miners canaries' and this statistic reveals New Zealand is among the worst in the world and this figure has gone up from around 30% threatened in the 1990s.

International perceptions of New Zealand's environmental performance have also been taking a beating lately with global comparisons not looking good. While the Yale University environmental performance indicator ranked New Zealand the 14th best in the world, it omits our three worst impacts - biodiversity loss, water quality and non CO2 greenhouse gas emissions. When two of these biodiversity loss and water quality were included in a study from the University of Adelaide New Zealand ranked about 120th of 180 countries. It could have been worse because like the Yale study it did not include non CO2 emissions which are high and mostly come from agriculture.

At home New Zealanders are repeatedly told that they must accept the many evident environmental impacts resulting from intensive agriculture because it is the "backbone of the economy". Implicit in this message is that it's the economy or the environment.

But, it is simply not true that environment impacts are inevitable, in fact it's the opposite - the most economically viable farms have smallest impacts and in reality the economy is dependent on a health environment not vice versa. Furthermore, recent studies have shown that productivity from agriculture, especially dairy is decreasing because the use of imported feed and fertiliser is outstripping growth in production, suggesting the environment limits to production have been reached.

The biggest impact on waters from intensive agriculture is nutrients escaping from

farms. Obviously this is not economically or environmentally viable. Especially as the nutrients that are leaking from the farms and damaging waterways are not replaceable. The nitrogen fertiliser is synthetic, produced using fossil gas rather than fixed from the atmosphere by plants as it has been for millennia. Around one third of the nitrogen comes from the Taranaki gas fields but most is from the Middle East and phosphate is mined from fossil rock and comes mainly from Morocco.

To be environmentally sustainable is simple, nutrients must be cycled back into growing food and not allowed to leak out and destroy lakes, rivers and contaminate groundwater and drinking water. If nutrients are kept on farms there is no requirement to bring them in from half way around the world. This is known as 'closing the nutrient loop' it is how we must proceed and is happening in dairy production in other parts of the world.

These impacts we now see in waterways from intensive farming reflect decades of unregulated intensification. This lack of regulation has incentivised poor practice. When there is no cost on pollution then there is no economic gain from limiting it. This lack of reward for limiting pollution has driven increasing dependency on inputs sourced off-farm, and largely off-shore. Looking back, what happened was totally predictable; in a market environment with no cost on externalities the most polluting industry naturally becomes dominant.

While New Zealand leads the world in milk production, not much of it is indigenous production. To achieve this amazing level of output we also have the world's highest per-capita consumption of nitrogen and phosphorous, and we import more palm kernel than any other country.

These three big inputs behind our impressive milk production; synthetic nitrogen, fossil phosphate and palm kernel highlight just how unsustainable the industry has become. What this means is we are neither, ingenious nor efficient, rather we are simply world leading purchasers of non-renewable inputs in order to be world leading producers of low value milk powder.

There are many downsides to this because most of the external costs are borne by all New Zealanders not by the dairy industry. There is no doubt that the dairy industry is a large contributor to GDP, but if all the costs were included intensive dairy production would be shown to be economically marginal at best.

Intensive dairy farming is far from the only impact on New Zealand's freshwaters but it is clearly now the major issue, consequently the demand from central government for agriculture to double its revenue in the near future is bad news for the environment.



New Zealand's geographic isolation makes it crucial that we are perceived overseas as unique, sustainable and clean not just for all primary producers but the tourism industry also. Unfortunately though, just one sector - dairy has almost singlehandedly jeopardised overseas perceptions of New Zealand both environmentally and in the food safety arena. The problem for all other primary producers and the tourism industry is that they are tarred with the same brush so we must do everything possible to get dairy sustainable and clean starting now. Instead of the weakening environmental protection with legislative changes revealed in the latest National Policy on Freshwater we should be strengthening environmental protection so we can live up to our clean green claims. Having a pristine conservation estate is not enough we must halt the decline in lowland areas as well, this is where we will be judged.

## **What Actually Threatens Native Fish**

Press Release June 17, 2014



The New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers (NZFFA) is asking DOC to get their own house in order before identifying trout as the scapegoat for loss of native fish. DOC's recent review of threatened fish identified three species of native fish found only in Otago which are 'nationally critical' and Pete Ravenscroft, DOC's freshwater ranger for Otago, stated that trout are having the 'most devastating impact' on these fish. (Otago's native fish more threatened - <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories>

PO1406/S00140/otagos-native-fish-more-threatened.htm) "To suggest that trout have a greater adverse impact on freshwater life than irrigation, abstraction, dairy pollution, untreated sewage discharge by Councils and sediment run off from clear-felled forestry land is unqualified emotive bunkum." said David Haynes, President of the New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers. "I think it highly unlikely that there is even one iota of evidential data to support this outburst and it smells of the 'all native is good, all introduced is bad' fundamentalism we hear all too often coming from DOC." said Haynes.

He continued "Carnivorous behavior is not the sole domain of trout, - big fish, unsurprisingly, eat smaller fish, whether it be native long fin eels preying on bullies or native kahawai devouring smelt, this is nature – red in tooth, claw and fin".

DOC's press release states that streams of less than one metre width (where the threatened fish typically live) 'provide no recreation benefit to anglers'.

"Where do DOC think trout spawn - on the moon?" asked an incredulous Ken Sims, a Federation executive life member.

The Federation believes that instead of seeking to paint trout as the reason for the

decline in our native freshwater fish, DOC would be better positioned to put their energies into fighting for our rivers to be maintained in their natural state. "I find it hypocritical that DOC purport to care about native fish yet failed to bother joining the Federation and Fish & Game in the protection of the Makororo River from the Ruataniwha Dam, took \$20M from TrustPower in lieu of submitting against diverting two thirds of the Wairau river into a canal and didn't submit against a dam on the Nevis River, home to a native galaxid only found in that river."

The NZFFA advocates for the protection of the natural environment of New Zealand and, in particular, its freshwater ecosystems.

END

David Haynes

President, New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers

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## CLUB CONTACTS

President	Ross Goodman	(04) 233 0087
Vice President		
Past President	Steve Doughty	(04) 527 7799
Secretary	Gary Jacobsen buskernz@gmail.com	(04) 563 8689
Treasurer	Mike Nansett	(04) 586 5659
Committee	Damian Bengree	(04) 938 3372
	Maureen Burgess	(04) 238 2304
	Ajit Jogi	021 235 9168
	Chris Kuchel	021 036 7639
	Ian Lawson	(04) 563 5486
	John Millar	(04) 563 6491
	Rob Winwood	(04) 566 1817
Buddy Programme Coordinator	Ross Goodman rgoodman@globe.net.nz	(04) 233 0087
Casting Coordinator	Ian Lawson lawsieig@gmail.com	(04) 563 5486
Librarian	Maureen Burgess	(04) 238 2304
Newsletter Editor	Chris Kuchel chriskuchel357@gmail.com	021 036 7639
Newsletter Publisher	Grahame Kitchen grahame2@paradise.net.nz	(04) 971 6696
Fishing Diary Holder	John Millar john.millar@xtra.co.nz	(04) 563 6491
Club Web Site	www.huttvalleyangling.org.nz	
Club email address	huttangler@hotmail.com	
Club Mail address	PO Box 40135, Upper Hutt, 5140	

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