



# *THE FLYFISHER NEWSLETTER*

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April 2023

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## **IN THIS ISSUE**

Page 1 -	Presidents Report
Page 2 -	Fishing Report
Page 3 -	What's Happening – Club Nights / Events
Page 8 -	Club Trips
Page 11 -	Auckland / Waikato Fish And Game March Reel Life
Page 13 -	Eastern Fish And Game March Reel Life
Page 16 -	Pro Tips: 3 Ways To Improve Your Approach
Page 17 -	Regional Council Must Act On Deadly Botulism Outbreaks
Page 20 -	Help Us Defend Our Rivers In Court
Page 24 -	NZ's Lakes And Rivers In 'Appalling' State
Page 27 -	Editor's Note
Page 29 -	General Club Information Plus Committee Members Contact Details

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2022/2023 YEAR**

Although I find it hard to believe, our club is now 20 years old having been established initially by a group of like-minded fly fishermen in 2003! Many of those founding individuals are still active members and we are still recruiting new anglers to our ranks regularly. Long may that continue. It would be particularly heartening to welcome more women and junior members and in that regard, I would encourage all of you to think about friends and relatives who you think might like to discover the joys and pleasures gained from the gentle art of fly fishing.

Following the “covid induced” interruptions of the last couple of years, we are now back into a more normal state of affairs with our regular monthly meetings at the Birkenhead RSA which, for the majority of members, is a convenient and comfortable venue. By contrast, the ability of the committee to conduct meetings on-line, means that club business can be well managed remotely even when personal timetables might clash.

Club trips, on the whole, have been well patronised over the last 12 months reflecting a mix of both seasoned and new attendees while the establishment of an “inter-club” competition between NSFF Club and the Auckland Fly Fishers Club ( AFAC ) was conducted very successfully earlier in the year with the next being planned for mid-2023. Dates, times, etc. will be published in the club newsletter. That publication is one of, if not the best of its type in the country and it is reflective of the skill and dedication of our Vice President, Duncan Frew. Duncan has produced the newsletter for more years than I can remember and he deserves our undying thanks for that monumental effort. However, as I have said in the past, we all have stories, memories and images of fishing exploits so you can all help Duncan from time to time by forwarding him some “good copy”.

I would also like to thank all of our other committee members for their unstinting service. Barrie Barnes, who apart from being an extremely competent treasurer, is now also Chair of the National Fish and Game Council. Barrie’s I.T. skills are well recognised from creating the club website to running the club projector.

Mike Martindale, our secretary, continues to record diligently and accurately, club business matters while both Maurice Parlane and Neil Smit bring their significant skills and contributions on your behalf.

There still remains room for further representation on the club committee so if you feel that you might like to offer your time and any particular skill, an opportunity will be made at the AGM to receive nominations from the floor.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the meeting on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April.

Dave Symes - President.

## **FISHING REPORT**

### **Auckland / Waikato**

No reports from our ‘local’ waters unfortunately.

## **Rotorua**

A recent visit to the Ngongotaha resulted in a solid days fishing with good numbers of Trout coming to the net, all on either Hare and Copper nymphs or Glo Bugs. The Trout themselves were predominantly stale fish that had been in the river quite a while but there was the odd fresh run rainbow being caught as well. This river is still running at normal mid-winter levels and seems to be permanently carrying a bit of colour. The colour is probably due to a variety of small slips all through the river where bare earth is constantly being eroded away and the silt flowing downstream.

The shore based lake fishing has just had a very encouraging start with one angler landing a 13pd monster from Lake Rotoiti.

## **Taupo**

The Tongariro is still flowing at 'natural' higher levels and as a result the down and across wet fly anglers have been getting the best results. This is an interesting time of year, with no major runs of fresh fish taking place, but still reasonable numbers in the Big River. Catching them on the other hand...

The fishing at Lake Otamangakau has been very patchy but if you strike it right you can have an absolute ball. Our own Ron Blair managed a 12pd Brownie there on last month's Club Trip, a very happy man!

## **Saltwater**

No reports here unfortunately. If you have been out and amongst them let us know how it went at next week's Club Night.

## **Fishy Tales**

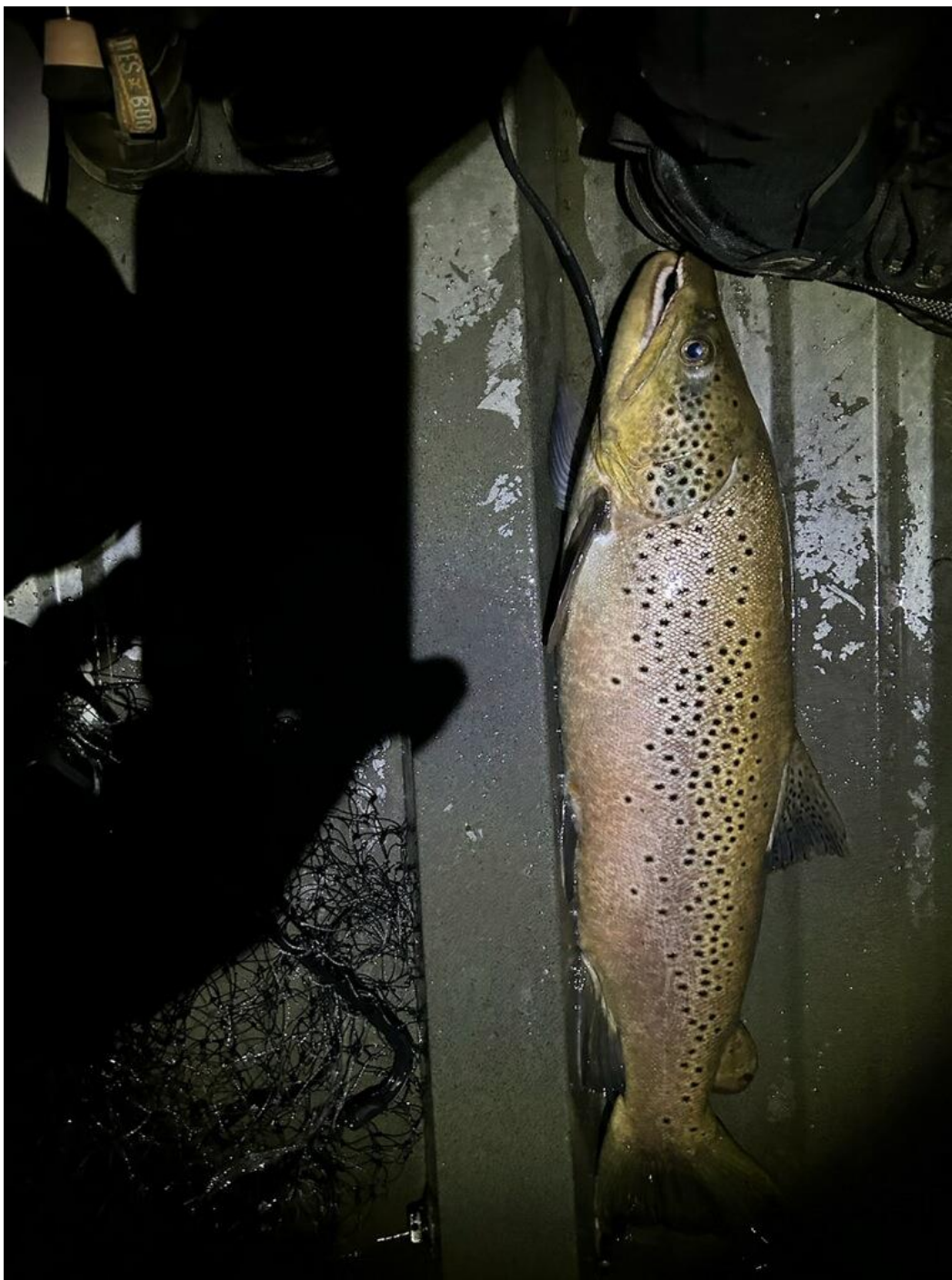
- If you do have a report, success story, or anecdote to share then just send it to [iconpromote@gmail.com](mailto:iconpromote@gmail.com) . Happy Fishing and Tight Lines – Freddy Da Fish.

## **LAST CLUB NIGHT**

Last month we had an enjoyable Video Night.

## **NEXT CLUB NIGHT – 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL 7.30 PM**

This month we have our AGM. It is always valuable to have as many Members come along to this as possible, so it would be great if you could attend.



*I don't have a pic of Ron's 12 pounder but this 'little' 10pd fish of Fikrits should give you an idea of what a whopper Ron's fish was. Photo courtesy of Fikrit Chinassi.*

## **WHY WE FISH**

*I always thought a fly fisherman was the ultimate optimist; anyone who believes he can trick a wary wild fish with a concoction fashioned from feathers and fur can't be a pessimist.*

*David Klausmeyer - Editor*

## **CHANGES TO CONTACT DETAILS**

Committee members organising club trips and similar events are finding that the phone and email information that we hold for some members has become out of date. If you have changed your address, landline number, mobile number or email address in the last year or so and have not passed the new details on to NSFF, could you please advise Barrie Barnes by email, his email address is [barrie@flyfishinginxs.kiwi](mailto:barrie@flyfishinginxs.kiwi) .

## **FISHING BUDDIES SOUGHT**

The intention is to display a list of names of Club Members that are keen on finding a 'buddy' to go fishing with, either on a regular basis or just for a day. In essence it's a fly-fishing dating service...

<b>Name</b>	<b>Availability</b>	<b>Contact Details</b>
Ron Blair	Anytime, has a 14.4 Marco with 60hp etec Evenrude for serious fishing Salt or Fresh	home 09 834 8841 mobile 0275 006 336 <a href="mailto:ron.blair@xtra.co.nz">ron.blair@xtra.co.nz</a>
Les Rose	Retired and is happy to take another person fishing during the week.	home 09 4183634
Graham Carter	Lives in Hamilton, keen on weekday / mid-week trips.	021 026 00437 07 855 1833
Lloyd Altham	Has 12' Pontoon boat /15 HP Honda. Available most time, but prefer weekdays.	Mob. 021 0295 9167 Home 09 420 3120 <a href="mailto:email-lloyd@skysupply.co.nz">email-lloyd@skysupply.co.nz</a>
Gary Bolstad	Keen to get out Stream, Lake or even Saltwater fly-fishing. Has both Fish & Game and Taupo season licences so keen to go almost anywhere. Retired so free to go most of the time.	Mobile 022 379 3070 <a href="mailto:gd.bolstad@gmail.com">gd.bolstad@gmail.com</a>

Derek Robinson

Retired available most times keen to do  
Waikato streams and most other things.

Ph 4437311

Mob: 0212 595 371

[pamanddek@outlook.com](mailto:pamanddek@outlook.com)

## **CLUB TROPHIES**

**Brown Trout Trophy** – This is awarded to The Heaviest Brown Trout caught by a Club Member during the year – 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March. Current holder is **Fikrit Chinassi**.

**Chain Snore Trophy** – A fun award given immediately after any Club Trip to the person who has done the ‘funniest’ thing over the weekend. If nobody has had anything like this happen it may be awarded to the worst snorer. Current Holder is **Russell Nelson!**

**Ian Hunt Memorial Trophy** – Heaviest Trout caught fly-fishing by a Club Member during the Pupuke Challenge Competition. A competition run every year to promote the Lake Pupuke fishery. This was not held this year due to Covid lock down. Current holder is **Lucas Bathurst**.

**I Love Flyfishing Trophy** – Awarded to the Club Member who has caught the most species of Saltwater fish fly-fishing over the year – 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March. Current holder is **Johan Kok**.

**Rodd And Gunn Trophy** – This is the Club Competition which takes place over two days. One Day on a Lake and one day on a River. Current holder is **Johan Kok**.

The Lake part of the competition has its own Trophy, the **I Love Flyfishing Stillwater Trophy**. Current holder is **Meinrad Roehrs**.

## **QUOTABLE QUOTES**

*The temper and sharpness of my fly's Japanese hook might have surprised Roman Emperor Diocletian, who retired from office to spend his golden years fishing a private trout stream, but the pattern itself would have been as familiar as a wine jug."*

*James Babb - "A Theory of Evolution"*



## **“BROWN TROUT TROPHY” COMPETITION RULES**

Winning fish will be determined by weight.

Verification by partner where possible and/or by photograph.

Details to be provided to any committee member.

Competition period April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> . Prize awarded at AGM in April.

Winner's name and weight of fish to be published in May club newsletter.

## **NSFF CLUB SALT WATER FLY FISHING COMPETITION RULES**

The “essence” of the competition is to encourage club member participation and in the process, to award a winner's trophy to the individual who catches the greatest number of salt water species. It will run from 1st April in one year to 31st March in the next year with the trophy awarded at the following AGM. For the full rules please refer to the Club Website [www.nsff.org.nz](http://www.nsff.org.nz)

### **NORTH SHORE FLYFISHERS DVD LIBRARY**

*Over the years the Club has purchased some videos and been very fortunate in having a number more donated for Club Members use. There is almost certainly something there that will appeal to you. So if you would like to borrow one just let any Committee Member know (contact details are on the back page of this Newsletter).*

#### **Club Videos**

Flyfishing with Dave McLellan June 2015 (15 DVD's)  
New Zealand FlyTying (with John Giacon) A Tight Lines Ltd Presentation (2 DVD's)  
Tie A Fly with John Morton The Master Fly Tier  
Blue Water Fishing Techniques (ITM Fishing Show) Matt Watson  
New Zealand Trophy Waters (Volume 6) Bruce Masson A Deep Stream Production  
New Zealand Trophy Waters (Volume 7) Bruce Masson A Deep Stream Production  
Running Down The Man A Felt Soul Media Production  
Advanced Fly Casting Doug Swisher Essence of Fly Casting  
Chasing Silver (Tarpon fishing in Florida) Howard Films. Com  
How to Succeed on Reservoirs Part 1 Boat Tackle, Tactics and Flies  
How to Succeed on Reservoirs Part 2 Boat Tackle, Tactics and Flies  
How to Succeed on Small Stillwaters Part 2 Stalking Patterns and Techniques  
NZ Fly Fishing Adventures Going Remote Mike Kirkpatrick  
NZ Fly Fishing Adventures Going Remote Volume I Nelson District-Mike Kirkpatrick  
NZ Fly Fishing Adventures Going Remote Volume 2 West Coast-Mike Kirkpatrick  
NZ Fly Fishing Adventures The Distant Browns of Emerald-Mike Kirkpatrick

The Manic Guide to Fly Casting Rene Vaz  
 Fly Fishing in NZ  
 Stealth with a Fly-NZ Wilderness waters Dean Bell Fly Fishing  
 SoulFish 2 Global fly fishing Adventures with April Vokey and others  
 Gulf Harbour Outdoors with Geoff Thomas NZ fly fishing for Trout and Salmon  
 Salt Water Fly Fishing Game Fishing  
 Bugs of the Underworld Lisa Cutter  
 NZ Fly Fishing MP4s Youtube Video's (4 discs)  
 Snapper Secrets (vol 2)  
 Fly Fishing in NZ (fishing Clips from Mobil Sport on TV3)  
 How to Fish Rapala Lures  
 Essential Patterns with Oliver Edwards Vol 1  
 Fly Fishing For Reservoir Trout (at Pitsford) Bob Church  
 Trout Secrets with Geoff Thomas  
 Fishing in Fiordland  
 Wee Wets and Small Drys

### **CLUB TRIPS 2022 – 2023**

February –Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes – FEB 2024  
 March – Lake Otamangakau – MAR 2024  
 May – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes –MAY 2023  
 June – Tongariro – Club River Fishing Competition – JUN 2023  
 July – Tongariro and Tauranga Taupo – JUL 2023  
 November – Lake based Club Competition Trip –NOV 2023  
 December / January – Tuition weekend (Held if enough 'novice' anglers are interested)  
 December – Lake Otamangakau – DEC 2023

The NSF committee arrange various Club Trips over the year to different parts of the country. If you would like to be involved, or have an idea for a trip please let one of your committee know.

### **MAY CLUB TRIP TO NGONGOTAHA AND ROTORUA AREA**

This May Trip to fish the Ngongotaha River and the Rotorua region is on the weekend of Friday 26<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February. We will again be staying at the Paradise Valley Lodge. Costs will be \$115.00 each, which will cover 2 nights' accommodation in the lodge and a BBQ on Saturday evening. If you want to come down on the Thursday, as many of us do, then simply add \$50 to make it \$165.00.



Also, a variety of private rooms are available as well.

If you are keen just let me know which nights you can make asap and then pay your money to the Club in any of the normal ways.

- internet banking to the Club's bank account: North Shore Flyfishers Incorporated ASB A/c #: 12-3209-0190179-00 (please include your name and the word Ngonga as a reference);
- Or by Cash on the March, April, or May Club Nights

Duncan – 021 648 956 – [iconpromote@gmail.com](mailto:iconpromote@gmail.com)



*Teamwork gets the results. Taken on a previous Club Trip to Ngongotaha.*

## **CLUB COMP TRIP TO TURANGI**

This will probably take place in late June but the exact dates are yet to be determined.

This Trip doubles as both a Club Trip away to have some fun fishing the Taupo area as well as the Club River Competition. It is a very relaxed competition and only takes place on the Saturday of the Trip.

Last year we married the Competition together with a friendly inter Club Competition with the Auckland Freshwater Anglers Club. Lots of fun, lots of laughs, and even the odd fish or two caught, not a bad weekend away by anyones standards.

More info on the Trip will be in next months Newsletter but in the meantime if you might be interested in this Trip contact Maurice - 021 650 692 [maurice.p@newwayz.co.nz](mailto:maurice.p@newwayz.co.nz) or Barrie 021 925 006 [barrie@iloveflyfishing.kiwi](mailto:barrie@iloveflyfishing.kiwi)



*A great example of the benefits of 'Swinging' in Turangi. Photo courtesy of Simon Hoole.*

## **JOKE OF THE MONTH**

Paddy and Murphy are working on a building site.

Paddy says to Murphy, "I'm gonna get the day off. I'm gonna pretend I've gone mad!"

He climbs up the rafters, hangs upside down and shouts "I'm a lightbulb, I'm a lightbulb!"

Murphy watches in amazement.

The foreman shouts: "Paddy, go home. You've gone mad."

So Paddy leaves the site. Murphy then starts packing his kit up to leave as well.

"Where do you think you're going?" asks the foreman.

"Well, I can't work in the friggin dark!" said Murphy

## **AUCKLAND / WAIKATO FISH AND GAME MARCH REEL LIFE**



*Above: Viktoriia Levchenko after seeing a large Awakino rainbow.*



## **Drift Dive Confirms Most Waikato Fish Survived The Storm**

Although large floods don't often kill fish, catastrophic 100-year events can wipe out lowland fisheries.

Staff have been able to squeeze in some late drift dives in the upper Waihou, Mangatutu and Awakino.

The results have been promising, considering the horrible weather we have had this summer.

All of our rivers are far colder than normal with many rivers sitting at 12-14°C when we would expect them to be upwards of 18°C.

This is great for fish growth but not for getting a representative fish count.

Most of our drift dive locations are in the upper catchment where water clarity is good prior to being degraded by agricultural inputs.

Staff normally conduct drift dives when air and water temperatures are high forcing most of the fish into our monitored river reaches.

Due to the cold water this year, fish could be spread out throughout the river system likely reducing the number of fish we count.

The Mangatutu water temperature was below 13°C, so fish that would have normally been pushed up from the lower river and the Puniu were likely spread out over a much larger area.

As a result, we counted less fish than normal, but the river was not physically impacted by the floods, and there were ample small fish.

Similarly, the Awakino was also unseasonably cold with fewer large fish and more small fish than normal.

We have produced a video of the [Awakino drift dive](#) if you would like to check it out.

## Fishing Report



### *The Muddy Mangatutu Track.*

Fishing reports have been good to moderate likely due to the cold water spreading fish out similar to what you would expect in late May.

There are plenty of fish around; the biggest difference we have seen in our

drift dives has been habitat use.

Staff count most of the fish in our rivers in deep pools in the summer with some pools on the Whakapapa holding 20 fish.

During the colder drift dives we have conducted post-cyclone, we have seen a lot less fish in pools and more in runs and bolder gardens.

So, if you are into Euro nymphing, the shift in habitat use should suit you well.

Staff hope to drift dive the Waitawheta next week as there were reports of extreme flooding and low fish numbers post-cyclone.

Tight Lines - Adam Daniel, Auckland Waikato Fish & Game

## **EASTERN FISH AND GAME MARCH REEL LIFE**

Cooler mornings have indicated the start of autumn, and while few of us are actually looking forward to the cold of winter, it is a time when trout are in prime condition.

Shoreline fishing for returning spawners at the Rotorua lakes will begin to come on from April. Any stream mouth or [hatchery release point](#) or shoreline where lake-edge spawning takes place will produce results with mornings and evenings through to midnight being the best times. Wet weather - as if we haven't had enough of that - is very stimulating to mature rainbows so pick your fishing days by keeping a close eye on the forecast. The very best time is when the rain starts and after a clear, fine period. Spawning runs will occur up to at least the end of August on the stocked Rotorua lakes traditionally peak in June and July.



If you haven't fished the shoreline for spawners before, the setup isn't too complicated. A floating or intermediate line is the best choice, a leader of about 9' and 3kg breaking strain, or 4-5kg at night. Traditional night flies like a Craig's night time still work well after dark, and these are usually used in tandem with a lumo doll fly or something tied with a touch of lumo to enhance its fish attracting power!

The Ngongotaha stream, although having received its share of high water, has been fishing well. Use small nymphs and glo bugs when clearing and large wet flies (streamers), such as Wolly Buggers when dirty. Brown trout migration for spawning commences in April and will go on for several months. The big Ngongotaha browns aren't



easy to temp, and we often receive comments of fish being 'doggo' in the bottom of pools. Keep putting nymphs in front of their noses but make sure you are at the right depth. If you're not touching the bottom occasionally, then you aren't getting deep enough. If you can't get a reaction, leave them to settle for a while and come back to them – if they are spooked, it's amazing how well a little rested time will change their mindset. Leaders

need to be sturdy because browns don't fight fair! Wise brown trout can be leader shy, so experiment with tippet weights until you find what produces results but enable you to land fish. Generally, I'm not a big fan of fluorocarbon, but its hard exterior surface when compared with that of monofilament can help on big toothy brown jacks.



The Rotorua lakes summer shoreline fishing wasn't up to its usual high standard because of the cool, wet conditions however the Waiteti stream mouth has fished exceptionally well during March. Expect the other stream mouths to produce opportunities right through winter.

Rotoiti fish have been solid and present between 20 and 35m. Hatchery-reared 2¾-year-old fish (Lp and Lpad fin marks) are coming in at up to 3kg,

hungry and packed with smelt as they put on even more condition before spawning. Tarawera and Okataina have also both been producing quality fish.

### **Hatchery Fish Releases**

Our autumn liberations are now well underway. We released over 5,000 fish to Rotoiti, Tarawera and Okataina in March. Further liberations will be carried out in April and May.

### **Datawatch Tagged Trout**

Tagged trout can now be entered online. Entries go into the draw to win one of 20 free whole-season fishing licences: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QCH5ZR6>

### **Eastern Region Fishing Diaries – All Lakes And Streams**

Fill in your fishing diaries here to help us manage the Eastern Fish & Game region. Participants go in the draw to win a \$100 voucher from Kilwell: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QRSD7D3>

Tight Lines - Mark Sherburn, Eastern Fish & Game officer.



## **PRO TIPS: 3 WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR APPROACH**

Written By: Craig Fellin, [Big Hole Lodge](http://BigHoleLodge.com)

Copied from the [www.orvis.com](http://www.orvis.com) website.

Approaching trout with care is one of the easiest aspects of fly-fishing to get right, yet it's also one of the most commonly neglected. The fact that novices can't often see the trout gives them a false sense of security that the trout can't see them either, but in fact, these fish have excellent vision that covers a surprisingly wide angle—not to mention an extremely acute sense for vibrations thanks to their lateral lines. Here are three tips to keep in mind that will help you to spook fewer trout and hook more of them:

### **1. Look Before You Leap**

Before you even step into the water, look for trout in the shallows right beside the near bank. This area frequently holds some of the largest trout in the river, providing them with a valuable opportunity to escape the current without having to stray too far from the safety of the nearby depths. Many experienced anglers—and even some guides—will scratch their heads in amazement when they see a 4-pound trout basking in six inches of water just off the bank, but anglers who are used to looking for them know how common a sight they really are.



*A large rainbow trout takes shelter under a fallen tree along the bank.*

*Photo by Big Hole Lodge*

## 2. Walk Softly

Try to keep your feet below the surface of the water when you wade, in order to limit splashing that can alert fish to your presence. I almost shuffle my feet on the bottom, being careful not to dislodge too many insect-sheltering rocks, which could disrupt the ecology of the stream. I'd recommend not moving more than 6 feet at a time when you change positions. By wading cautiously in this manner, you'll be less apt to spook trout, and you'll cover water much more efficiently as you work your way upstream.

## 3. Spread Out Your Casts

When it comes time to start casting, keep your line short (15 to 20 feet) and make a series of upstream presentations, starting with one as close to the near bank as you can manage, then working outward toward the middle of the river from there. I like to try to land each successive cast about two feet farther out from the bank than the last one, until I'm casting out toward the middle. At that point, I'll walk upstream about 6 feet (as mentioned above) and fan out another series of casts using that same pattern, starting close to the bank and moving outward. By approaching the water in this slow and methodical manner, you'll improve your chances of catching trout dramatically.

*Craig Fellin is founder and owner of [Big Hole Lodge](#) in Wise River, MT.*

## **REGIONAL COUNCIL MUST ACT ON DEADLY BOTULISM OUTBREAKS**

Source: Fish and Game NZ

An outbreak of avian botulism in Waikato's Whangamarino wetland that has killed thousands of waterfowl including some rare indigenous species is yet another wake-up call for urgent action, says Fish & Game New Zealand.

The latest outbreak of the deadly bacteria, which produces a toxin that can paralyse and kill birds, follows multiple and increasing outbreaks during summers in and around the Waikato region over the past decade.

Poor water quality and changes to water flows as a result of human activities contributes to low oxygen levels, creating the perfect growing conditions for this bacteria. This results in fish dying, followed by birds before the botulism spreads to other surrounding wetland environments.

Covering almost 7,000 ha in Waikato, Whangamarino wetland is recognised by the Ramsar Convention as a significant global wetland worthy of protection and conservation.

It is the second largest freshwater wetland in the North Island and was chosen as one of three nationally significant wetland sites in the Department of Conservation's Arawai Kākāriki wetlands restoration programme.

Fish & Game New Zealand Chief Executive Corina Jordan says the outbreak is an appalling situation.

"This has had a massive impact on fish and bird populations in these wetlands, and we have grave concerns for the welfare of the wider bird populations in the area.

"Parts of this wetland have been without oxygen for the best part of three months, leading to massive aquatic deaths of even the hardiest freshwater species such as eels. This isn't normal in healthy freshwater wetland systems.

"There have been long-term systemic failures in freshwater policies and a lack of implementation that has caused severe degradation in our freshwater ecosystems. Lake Waikare, one of the Southern Hemisphere's most polluted lakes, has also been diverted into the wetland as part of the flood control scheme, which is adding even more nutrients to the wetland.

"While there's no quick fix, the Waikato Regional Council needs to take a really hard look at how the system is managed and limit discharges into these waterways to help decrease the likelihood and severity of these incidents continuing to occur in the future."

Degradation of waterways and associated environments, coupled with predictions of longer hotter summers, means these types of botulism outbreaks are likely to become more common, says Ms. Jordan.

David Klee, Fish & Game's southern game bird manager for the Auckland/Waikato region, says the situation is grim.

"Botulism is symptomatic of severely degraded ecosystems and this area is being adversely impacted by human activity to the point where its resilience is severely compromised.

"Fish & Game, the Department of Conservation, Mana Whenua, and hunter volunteers, in conjunction with contractors, have recovered close to 1,500 dead birds and rescued hundreds of sick ones from the wetland, an important step in trying to minimise the size and scale of the outbreak.

"We are doing what we can with the limited resources available but it's a 7,000 ha wetland area, many parts of which are inaccessible. A massive thanks goes out to those volunteers who have assisted us. It is an appalling situation both in terms of animal welfare and the environmental impact.

"It also affects the wellbeing of everyone involved in the response. This is an internationally significant wetland supporting an array of habitats and life, but it's been soul-destroying to be surrounded by death and decay.

"It really is ambulance at the bottom of the cliff stuff. Until we see a huge paradigm shift in how we treat our freshwater environments, these situations will continue to occur.

"Whilst the flood events this summer have exacerbated the issues in Whangamarino, this is not an isolated incident and they are increasing in ferocity."

Ngati Naho Trust CEO Haydn Solomon has been assisting in the clean-up operations and is concerned by the lack of action being taken.

"Our Whanau want answers from authorities, not excuses. We are tired of the hui with consultants that lack follow-through or hollow speeches from our leaders or mayors that go nowhere. Our waterways are getting hammered. Our wetlands, lakes, rivers and springs are at breaking point, yet nothing substantive and meaningful is done ."

#### CONTACT:

Fish & Game Chief Executive, Corina Jordan - 021 426 350 [cjordan@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:cjordan@fishandgame.org.nz)

#### WHAT IS FISH & GAME?

Fish & Game manage trout, salmon and game birds to provide healthy recreation for Kiwis. We work to protect the environment that anglers and hunters have enjoyed as a tradition for over 150 years.





*A dinghy full of dead birds.*

### **HELP US DEFEND OUR RIVERS IN COURT**

*New Zealand Federation Of Freshwater Anglers*

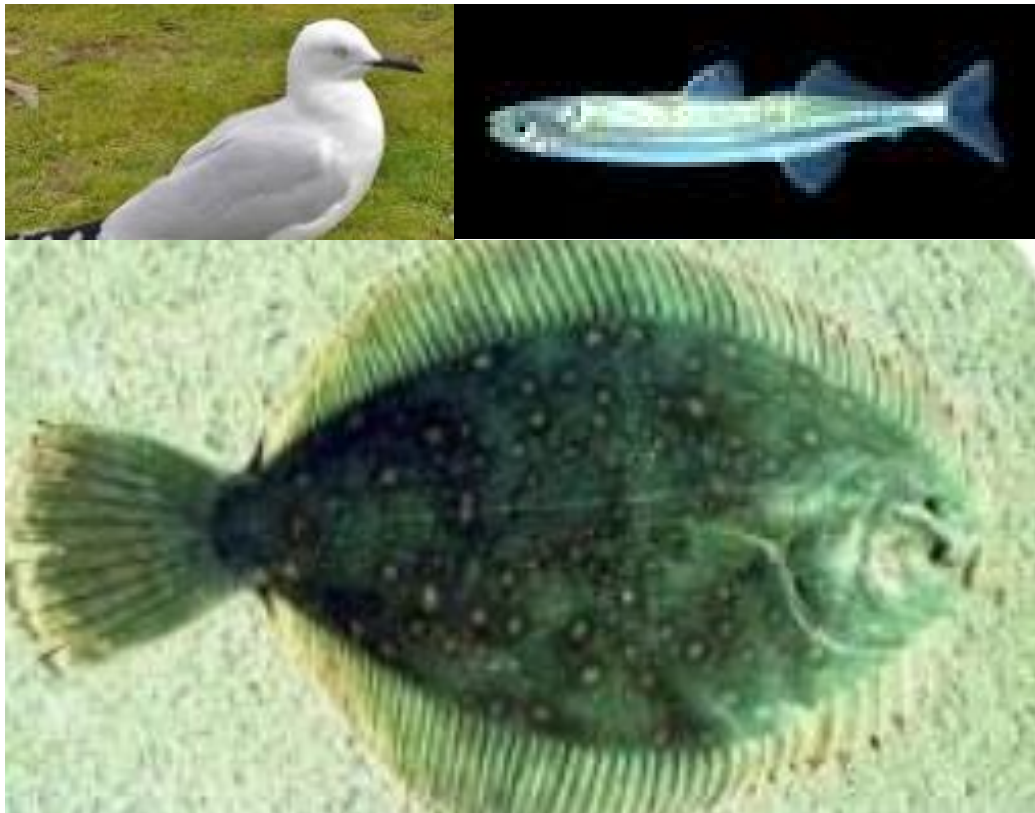
Earlier this year Canterbury Regional Council (ECan) asked the Environment Court to rule on a declaration they submitted which asks that they;

‘have no statutory duty to enforce the provisions of the National Water Conservation (Rakaia River) Order 1988 (WCO)...’ beyond ensuring any resource consents are not contrary to its purpose.

North Canterbury Fish & Game (F&G) and the Environmental Defence Society (EDS) responded by asking the court to declare otherwise and that it is most definitely ECan’s role to uphold the WCO.

Both the NZ Salmon Anglers Association and the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers have joined this Environment Court case as 'interested parties'. This means we get to present evidence and information in support of F&G and EDS and so hope the court obliges ECan to start taking responsibility enforcing the WCO for the Rakaia River.

For over a decade, river users have reported how reduced flows at the lower river have resulted in once ephemeral braids becoming vegetated islands, deposition of silt and sediment on to once clean gravels, river bed armouring, river mouth contraction and increased flood events as a result.



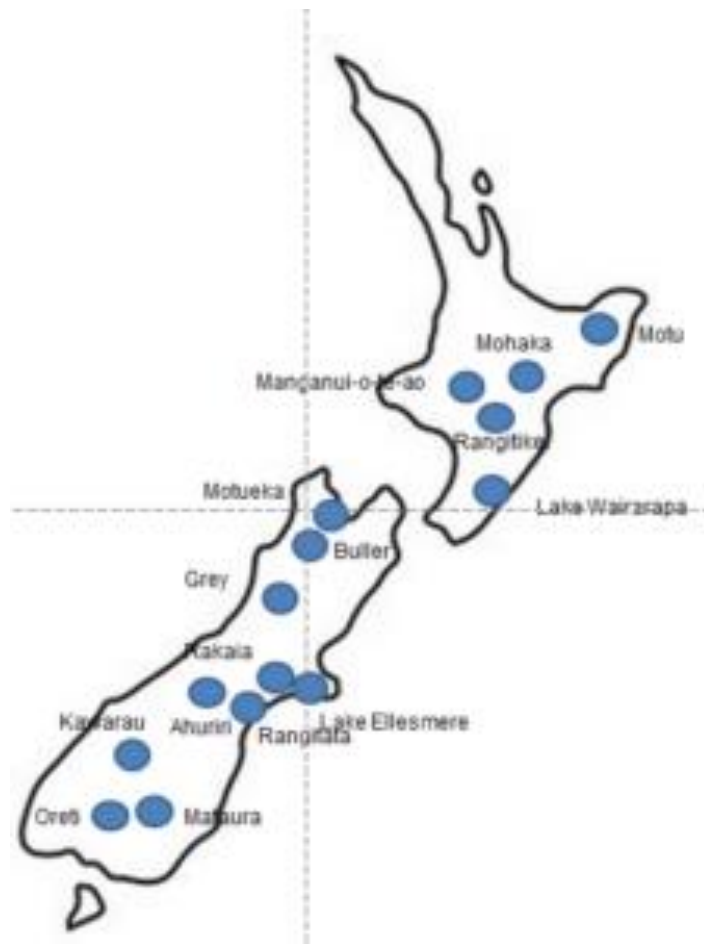
There has been a collapse of once prolific populations of, black flounder, black billed gulls and Stokells Smelt.

Anglers believe loss of the latter is directly related to the disappearance of the healthy sea-run trout fishery they once enjoyed.

In 2013 Trustpower successful won an amendment to the WCO which allowed it to divert the Wilberforce and Harper Rivers into Lake Coleridge and 'store' water which was allocated but not used for irrigation for later release down the river on order from irrigators, such as Central Plains Water.

This WCO change is effected by massive river bed bulldozer works, industrial scale irrigation abstractions and the practice of large pulses of 'stored water' from Lake Coleridge being released down the Rakaia for irrigation takes. Anglers strongly believe this paradigm change in water control is responsible for this degradation.

The outcome of this case will have implications on every single WCO in New Zealand





This Environment Court case has national implications so other local authorities will be watching closely. Should the court rule in ECan's favour then it means they too have no responsibility to uphold the other 14 rivers with WCO's.

We have engaged legal counsel to support us in the court case and this, of course will cost money.

We are asking all our members and all anglers to please dig deep and donate to the NZFFA so we can mount a detailed and credible court case to help protect our Water Conservation Orders.

### Become a Member – It's Free

First name

Last name

Email

**SUBSCRIBE**

### All Donations are Gratefully Received

**DONATE**

You can donate by visiting our home page [www.nzffa.com](http://www.nzffa.com) and clicking on the DONATE button in the membership pop up screen, or directly here **DONATE**  
Thank you and we'll keep you all informed of our progress via our monthly newsletter.

David Haynes  
Secretary & Treasurer. NZFFA



## **NZ'S LAKES AND RIVERS IN 'APPALLING' STATE, NEW GOVT REPORT PAINTS BLEAK PICTURE AS SCIENTIST ACCUSES LABOUR OF BROKEN PROMISES**

By

[Michael Neilson](#)

12 Apr, 2023 – Copied from the New Zealand Herald website –

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/>

### **Key points:**

- 45 per cent of lake monitoring sites worsened between 2011 and 2020, with just 36 per cent improving.
- 45 per cent of New Zealand's total river length is unswimmable, according due to risk of bacterial infection.

- 48 per cent of the country's river network is at least partially inaccessible to migratory fish.
- About two-thirds of freshwater native bird species were either threatened with extinction or at risk of becoming threatened in 2021.
- More than 4200 reported wastewater overflows in the 12 months from July 2020 to June 2021.

Scientists are accusing Labour of broken promises on improving the dismal state of the country's lakes and rivers with the latest stocktake painting an "appalling" picture with most measures worsening despite nearly six years in Government.

*Our freshwater 2023*, produced by the Ministry for the Environment and Statistics NZ, shows while there have been some minor improvements, on most measures the country's freshwater sources are becoming increasingly polluted, further threatening native species on the verge of extinction and causing more people to become sick.

The report, part of a monitoring series produced every three years, found 45 per cent of lake monitoring sites between 2011 and 2020 had become more polluted with nutrients and algae, and 45 per cent of the country's entire river length was deemed unswimmable due to risk of bacterial infection over the period 2016 to 2020.

The report noted the increasing pressures from changing land use, including still increasing levels of fertiliser being used, intensification of farming - more livestock in smaller spaces - alongside thousands of urban wastewater discharges.

Freshwater scientist and Victoria University senior researcher Dr Mike Joy said Labour had campaigned on turning around the country's water woes yet had failed to tackle the heart of the problem.

"A lot of people say [freshwater water issues] is what won them the 2017 election, or at least helped National lose.

"Well nothing has improved, because nobody wants to tackle the source of the problem."

Joy said Labour's attempts to fix the country's water woes equated to putting towels around a pot to stop it boiling over.

"Nobody is turning the gas down, and the gas is intensive farming.

"The number one impact on water quality is way too much fertiliser, way too much cattle."

Joy likened it to the difficulties in getting action on climate change with the economy so tied in with fossil fuels.

“As long we ignore the source nothing is going to change.”

The report itself does shy away from that fact, noting Aotearoa has experienced one of the highest rates of agricultural land intensification over recent decades internationally.

Between 1996 and 2018, almost 60,000 hectares of exotic grassland was converted from low-producing to high-producing land - an area 2.5 times the size of Abel Tasman National Park.

Urban land swallowing up previously highly-productive land had also contributed to an increase in intensive farming on remaining land.

Dairy cattle numbers increased by 82 per cent nationally from 3.4 million to 6.3 million between 1990 and 2019.

Irrigated land doubled between 2002 and 2019, with around 73 per cent of this increase attributable to dairy intensification.

Dr Tim Chambers of Otago University’s Department of Public Health said the report outlined the “core pressures” that led to the degradation of freshwater, and with it the serious economic, socio-cultural and health implications.

The national ground water monitoring programme shows that 68 per cent and 19 per cent would fail the drinking water standards for bacterial and nitrate contamination, respectively.

For bacterial contamination, 82 per cent of all sites were either getting worse (50 per cent) or showing no improvement (32 per cent). For nitrate, 51 per cent were either getting worse (35 per cent) or not improving (16 per cent).

An estimated 45 per cent of our river length was not suitable for swimming due to bacterial contamination. In 2017, 1200 people got sick after reporting contact with recreational water.

“The report does clearly show that further action is required to protect our freshwater for our physical and economic wellbeing,” said Chambers.

Joy said while the report did not shy away and “unflinchingly identifies the appalling state of lowland freshwaters of Aotearoa”, he was disappointed with the statistical reporting quality.

The latest data it uses is from 2020, despite 2023 data existing. He also said it failed to take a more holistic approach, which the authors themselves identified as a data and research gap.

The Government has signaled the new legislation replacing the Resource Management Act (RMA) will help address freshwater pollution issues, which Environment Minister David Parker has likened to “death by a thousand cuts” due to its piecemeal approach.

The [new Natural and Built Environments Act](#) would set environmental bottom lines, along with moving from an effects-based approach to one based on outcomes.

Joy said he didn’t think this would have much of a difference as it still ignored the root cause of the pollution.

“It’s the same with Three Waters reforms, none of it tackles the real problem. Dairy is like a religion in this country.”

Ministry for the Environment spokeswoman Natasha Lewis said while freshwater ecosystems and water quality were improving in some places and for some measures, others were worsening.

“Many lakes, rivers and other water bodies are under pressure, mostly due to the way we’re using land and water, and from the changing climate,” she said.

Statistics NZ spokesman Jason Attewell said the report provided evidence-based data to enable informed decision-making and prompt discussion about the present and future.

## **EDITORS NOTE**

Fastest way to catch more fish?

The new HOT Fly?

Supa dupa new flash tippet material?

That new fly rod that costs more than a weeks wages?

Fantastic new polaroids that can ‘see through’ water?

That new technique that all the ‘pros’ are using?

NO.

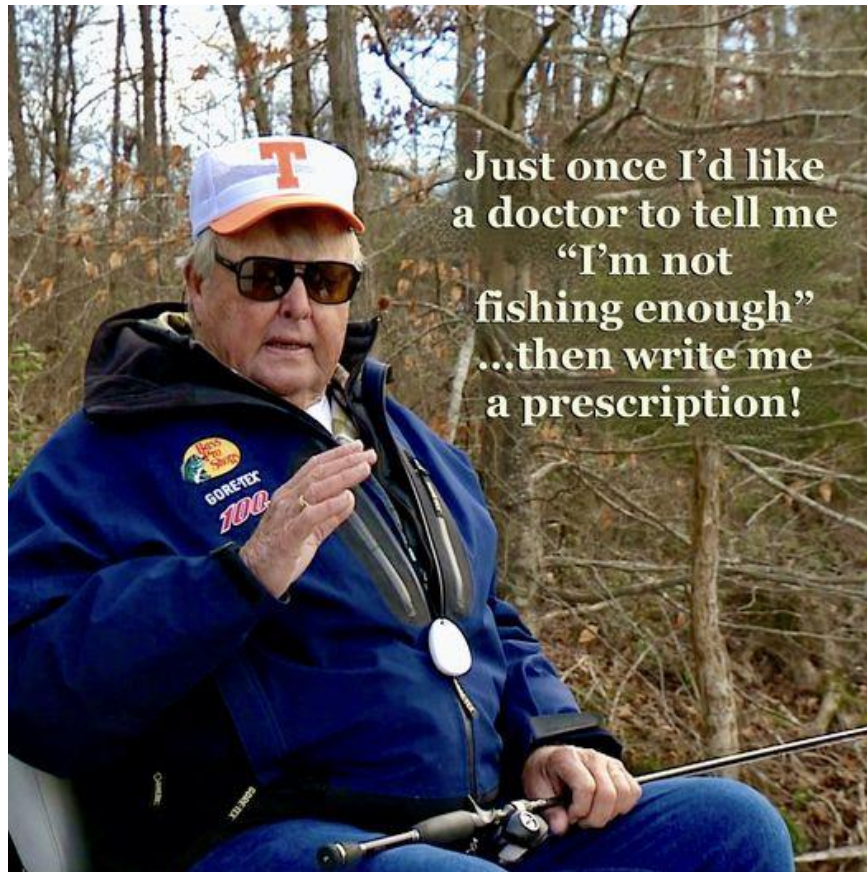
All these things will help, some a lot more than others, but the one thing that you can do that will help you catch more fish is improve your casting. And it won't cost you a cent.

**Consistently putting your flies where you want them to land will increase your chances of a hook up immensely.**

You can have the Hot Fly, the Hot Fly Rod, and the best newest Tippet Material but if you land your Flies in the wrong place the fish will never even see them.

So head down the local park and practice your casting, and if any smart arse asks what you're fishing for just keep a straight face and tell them Grass Carp.

### **FISHING FUNNIES**



(Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of North Shore Flyfishers Incorporated)

## **MEMBERS FEEDBACK**

We, your committee, are always trying to give you what you want.

## **But are we??**

In order for us to do our job properly we need to have your feedback, positive or negative. For example, have you been on a club fishing trip? Did you enjoy yourself? What would you change, if anything? Club nights – what would you like to see more of? Less of? In short, talk to us.

The contact details of all your committee members are listed at the end of every newsletter. So if you have something on your mind let us know.

Thank you - Your committee

## **NSFF CLUB MERCHANDISE**

Cap – \$15.00 Inclusive of GST

Green or Beige, one size fits all, with embroidered badge.

Embroidered Cloth Badge - \$7.50 Inclusive of GST

Brushed Brass Metal Pin Badge - \$12.50 Inclusive of GST

If anyone is interested in purchasing these products please either place an order at Club Nights.

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**Meetings held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm:**  
Birkenhead RSA, Recreation Drive, Birkenhead, North Shore City

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## **NORTH SHORE FLYFISHERS EXECUTIVE**

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**Secretary** - Mike Martindale    489 1082    Takapuna

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**North Shore Flyfishers Incorporated**