



THE FLYFISHER NEWSLETTER

September - 2020

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We are certainly living in “interesting times” at the moment with an extension of our level 2.5 limitations and continuing daily reports of covid19 cases within the community. As a result, it will mean that next Tuesday's club meeting will be “on-line” once again. Given the uncertainty, it is not a situation where we can responsibly arrange for a speaker

especially when we have no control over the chance of a last minute cancellation. In the meantime, we should all just do our best to stay healthy and look forward to the time when we can once again all get together at the Birkenhead RSA. At least we have the summer coming along and daylight saving is close at hand.

Onto more pleasant things, I have been in touch with the proprietors of Tongariro Holiday Park to confirm that firstly, they remain in business (which they do!) and second, to book accommodation for our annual club trip to Lake Otamangakau. I have reserved 8 cabins for the nights of December 3, 4 and 5 which can be increased if there is a “rush” of interest. Please contact me if you are interested. My contact details are on the last page of this newsletter. Reports from the “big O” are very encouraging with good numbers of fish recorded through the traps while during the winter, Genesis Energy lowered the lake level to expose the weed banks to frost which hopefully, will have created more angling areas.

While compiling this month’s article, I have been looking out of my office window at the Hauraki Gulf which today, is mirror calm or as one of my oldest fishing buddies would say, “molten lead!”

It reminds me of the times when I have visited Rarotonga, one of my favourite tropical destinations and while it currently remains out of reach due to the corona virus, we actually have many saltwater fly-fishing places to visit in our own “backyard”. Rarotonga is the place where I caught my first flounder (Peacock) and trevally (Bluefin) but most significantly, they were both caught on “shrimp flies”. Those flies were commercially tied “Bob Popovics” tan ultra-shrimp in size 4 but since then, I have tied up some shrimps of my own which look pretty “real”. In fact, I have caught some nice trevally at Devonport Wharf but the flounder still remain elusive.

Another marine and slightly “off the wall” species we could target, is the local Broad Squid. At this time of the year, they are generally of pretty good size and sometimes up to 1 kilo and they are voracious feeders. Night-time is when you would target them and any small smelt-type fly incorporating some luminous material (eg. aurora skirt), should do the trick. I would also suggest tying up some with a double or treble hook and make sure to have a landing net because while they might appear to be well hooked, their soft flesh can tear quite easily. They generally hide out during the day in weedy areas and emerge at night to feed and can be found all around the foreshore edges and if you visit Devonport Wharf during the day, you will see black ink stains all over the concrete where they have been landed by the “night-shift” anglers.

In the meantime, make sure all of your gear is in tip-top condition for the epic summertime battles ahead.

Dave Symes - President

FISHING REPORT

Auckland / Waikato

Stand by for Dry and Dropper season, only 24 more sleeps until all sorts of neat smaller rivers and streams in the Coromandel and Waikato areas open up again, and I for one can't wait!

Don't forget, we will be organizing day trips to some of these spots over the next few months so keep an eye out for news about this.

Rotorua

Again only 24 more sleeps until all the Rotorua Lakes open up to fishing again, but don't forget, the rivers are still closed until December 1st.

There are still the odd reports of nice fish being taken from the shoreline by fly fishers but this fishing seems to be getting harder and harder as the lake spawning seasons wind down.

Taupo Region

Go To Turangi Now! The fish are big, there are plenty of them and they are biting hard.

A visit last weekend saw a variety of fish taking the fly in a variety of water. As a general rule go to the Glo Bug during the early morning, until the sun warms up, and again after the sun has gone behind the mountains. The rest of the time Pheasant Tails, Prince Nymphs, and Hare and Coppers (all in a size 14 – 16) were working well. Also, if nymphing let your flies swing around at the end of the drift as a number of fish were taking at the end of the swing.

Each day from around 12pm until 3-4pm there was a distinct hatch and during this time the Prince Nymph and the Pheasant Tail Nymphs really came into their own. A quick examination of the underside of a few rocks explained why, they were covered in Caddis and Mayfly larvae.

With any rain or a barometric drop the following information may be made inaccurate but that is fishing:

Hatepe – LOTS of Trout but mostly 'stale' fish that had been in the river quite a while.

Tauranga Taupo – A mix of fresh and stale fish.
Waimarino – Fresh run fish.
Waiotaka – A mix of fresh and slightly stale fish.
Tongariro – LOTS of Trout. A mix of fresh run and stale fish.



New Club Member Ryan Schierhout with a fantastic 7pd Tongariro Rainbow taken from water under 3 feet deep. Photo courtesy of Ryan Schierhout.

Saltwater

Simon and Johan have been tearing it up at the Pt Chev secret spot, (not so secret as there were at least 10 other 'swoffers' out at Meola that day). They were landing Kahawai, Snapper, Trevally, and Parore, all from the same location and on the same fly.

Fishy Tales

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

NSFF SUBS ARE NOW DUE FOR 2020~21 YEAR

The annual subs for the year, 2020 ~ 21, for the North Shore Flyfishers Inc are now due. Please pay to:

North Shore Flyfishers Incorporated - A/c: 12-3209-0190179-00.

Please ensure your surname is in the Payment Details.

The subs are as below and discounted if paid by 31st July 2020.

Adult \$80.00 discounted to \$40.00 if paid by 31st July 2020

Family \$90.00 discounted to \$70.00 if paid by 31st July 2020

Junior \$30.00 discounted to \$20.00 if paid by 31st July 2020

REMEMBER

To get the discount the subs must be paid by the 31st July 2020

LAST CLUB NIGHT

Last month we had a social get together online due to the lock down restrictions.

NEXT CLUB NIGHT – 15th SEPTEMBER 7.30 PM

This month we will be having another social online get together as gatherings greater than 10 are still banned. More information on this to follow via email.

WHY WE FISH

People hunt and fish for a thousand different reasons, but I suspect for many of us with feet planted in both indoor and outdoor realms, it should not be a case of either/or, but both/and.

DeMott

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 .

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...

Name	Availability	Contact Details
Ron Blair	Anytime, has a 14.4 Marco with 60hp etc Evenrude for serious fishing Salt or Fresh	home 09 834 8841 mobile 0275 006 336 ron.blair@xtra.co.nz
Les Rose	Retired and is happy to take another person fishing during the week. Has a small 2 person boat.	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 email-lloyd@skysupply.co.nz
Matt Meikle	Available both week days and Weekends	09 908 1909 027 285 7521
John Rust	Anytime. Keen to give it a crack. joan10@live.com	021 648 991 09 415 4919
Barry Schultz	Has a 551 MacLay with a 90hp	09 4159692

merc used mostly for SW fishing. e-mail bardot@xtra.co.nz

Also a 6.5 mtr motorhome that provides transport, accommodation & meals etc. whilst camped riverside or beach front, plus is currently being fitted out to carry a three person inflatable with a 4 hp motor.

Prefer weekdays or multi day trips away in the motorhome.

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

gd.bolstad@gmail.com

So, if you are keen to find someone to share the cost and the fun of a fishing expedition with, then send in your details and we will get it all started. Send details to iconpromote@gmail.com

022-379-3070, and my best email address is gd.bolstad@gmail.com.

CLUB TROPHIES

Brown Trout Trophy – This is awarded to The Heaviest Brown Trout caught by a Club Member during the year – May 1st to 30th April. Current holder is **Simon Hoole**.

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.

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 – 1st May to 30th April. Current holder is **Russell Nelson**.

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 **Simon Hoole**.

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



Stephen Charles with another Turangi bar of silver. He recently spent some time down there, catching a lot of Big fresh fish every day. Photo courtesy of Stephen Charles.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

I may seem quiet and reserved to you, but if you mess with me while I am fishing I will break out a level of crazy that will make your nightmares seem like a happy place.

U.N. Known

“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 May 1st to April 30th. Prize awarded at AGM in May. Winner's name and weight of fish to be published in June club newsletter.

NORTH SHORE FLY FISHERS 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 May in one year to 31st April 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

FLY TYING INSTRUCTION

This will be running again on the 1st Tuesday of next month. Stay tuned for more details on how to log in and what Fly will be tied via an email from Barrie.

This is going well and all who participate seem to be enjoying it greatly. Easy to follow, easy to connect, and easy to hear. Reports from the Members receiving the interactive instruction were equally positive.

A big credit and thank you to Johan Kok, our instructor, and to Barrie Barnes for setting it all up.

If you would like to see the videos of the Flies being tied just click go to <http://www.nsff.org.nz/> .

CLUB TRIPS 2020

February – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes
March – Whanganui River – Club Competition Trip 2020
March – Lake Otamangakau
May – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes JUNE 2020
July – Tongariro and Tauranga Taupo JULY 2020
November – Lake based Club Competition Trip – NOV 2020
November – Tuition weekend (Held if enough ‘novice’ anglers are interested)
December – Lake Otamangakau – DEC 3rd 4th 5th 2020

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.

THE FRENCHMAN’S FLY

Article generously allowed to be printed by Dave McLellan.

It was the first time that a New Zealand team had been invited to participate at the world fly fishing championships, which were held in England in 1987. Although it was against the rules to fish any of the competition waters for several months prior to the start of the event, we soon realised that we were at a distinct disadvantage.

Not only had we arrived just a few days before the event was due to start with our five-man team tired and jetlagged, but the twelve pages of competition rules had only just arrived a few days before our departure.

There were twenty two teams taking part, most of whom had been in England for a few weeks. This had enabled them to at least visit the competition waters and talk to local anglers regarding the best methods of fishing and which flies were working etc. Most of the teams had been practicing on similar waters, while others had even fished the competition venues at this exact time the year before and so had a greater understanding of what was required.

Our first day of competition was to be held on Grafham Reservoir, fishing from drifting boats, the boat would be shared by an angler from an opposing team with a boatman in the middle who would not only control the boat, but act as adjudicator.

A ballot would be held the night before to establish who would fish with whom and from which boat. We quickly realised that this could possibly be to our advantage, especially if

you were partnered with an angler who knew the water well. All you would have to do is have a good look at his tackle and fly choice as you were getting into the boat and copy their selection and the their technique. Also each angler would have half of the allotted time to act as skipper, advising the boatman where and how they would like to drift.

It was the night before our first event and all the teams had gathered in the hotel lounge to await the result of the ballot that would determine who would partner them on this important first day. Shortly after the results had been posted a very animated young Frenchman headed for our table calling my name. I stood up and offered him my hand only to have it brushed aside so that he can get close enough to plant a kiss on each cheek. “We fish together” he informed me “and we will catch many trouts for I know this lake and how the fish it. You should let me be skipper all day and I will show you how to catch many fish”. For one horrible moment I thought the words “arrogant French bastard”, were actually going to come out of my mouth, but managed to bite my bottom lip hard enough to prevent this from happening. Instead it was agreed that it would be good for him to be the skipper since my knowledge of the water was limited to what I had read in books.

Grafham Reservoir was not at all what we had expected, for a start the water was the colour of milky tea, with a strong wind creating white capped waves that crashed into the jetty where fifty or so row boats bounced and crashed into each other. Chaos was the order of the day as anglers and boatmen crowded the narrow jetty seeking their allotted boat. The fact that they all eventually managed to find the correct boat, boatman and angling partner without someone falling in, or tackle being broken was remarkable. My new found friend was already in our boat talking to Jack the boatman, who was trying hard to look interested. Everyone had their rods made up with their three fly casts already attached, but alas most of their flies had a small piece of tin foil carefully folded over them. So my plan of looking at their choice of flies was well and truly foiled.

The rules stated that our flies could not be larger than size ten, which to me seemed extremely small, especially in these conditions with the water being so murky. Clambering into the boat I noticed that my opponent’s flies were uncovered and that he had selected very bright coloured flies, obviously aware of the conditions. His tail fly in particular caught my eye, a small version of a Muddler Minnow pattern, with a fluorescent lemon body and strips of silver tinsel. Under normal circumstances a fly like that would do no good all, but in this dark troubled water it might just work. Unfortunately there was nothing like it in my own fly box, so my only hope was that the fish would find it as unappealing as the user. At five-minutes to eight all the outboard engines were started and on the hour a hand held foghorn signaled the start of my adventure into the fascinating world of competitive fly- fishing.

We headed straight into the gale until we reached the lee shore, then slowly motored along towards the dam breast where a large hawthorn tree had managed to gain a foothold in the stony ground. We drifted out from the tree, dragging a large drogue to help slow us down and keep the boat side on to the waves. When we were about 100 yards offshore the Frenchman suddenly struck hard, his rod bending as he set the hook. "This is a big fish" he informed us proudly, just before his line went slack, followed by a series of profanities, of which a Glasgow dock worker would have been justifiably proud. On retrieving his line he discovered that his tail fly was missing and would require replacing. From my position at the sharp end of the boat I could see him select another of the bright lemon flies and quickly tie it on. Then something else caught my eye, there was an unmistakable wry smile on the boatman's face.

At this point in my story it is important to know that the rules stated that the boatman could not offer any advice, but could only respond to questions put to them by the angler. This proved extremely frustrating, because this was Jack's local water, which he admitted knowing well and fishing often. We had several more fruitless drifts out from the tree, before Kermit as Jack now called him, hooked and landed a nice Rainbow Trout of about two pounds.

On the next drift a strange thing started happening. Jack started to make funny hand movements patting his knee in an up and down motion and was obviously attempting to shield this action from Kermit. Thinking the poor man had some unfortunate tick I politely turned away, but the more an attempt was made to ignore him the more vigorous the patting became. Slowly it dawned on me that he was trying to tell me something. "Perhaps a fast sinking line would be worth a try" I suggested looking at Jack quizzically for some reaction. His eyes rolled back and his eyebrows were raised in the expression people get when trying to explain something fairly simple to a complete idiot, my line was quickly changed.

Half way into the next drift there was a tug on my line and on striking there was a reassuring wriggle of a good fish, a Rainbow of about one and a half pounds. Jack was pleased! A few more drifts without another fish and with almost half of our allotted time used up, the Frenchman decided to move.

The question was put to Jack, "if you are fishing today where would you go?" He pointed to a small promontory farther along the same shore where a grassy field sloped gently towards the water. The wind was still offshore and Jack started the drift very close to the bank. We were only about 20 yards from the shore when Kermit hit and landed another fish. Jack was not pleased! As we drifted farther out my retrieve was slowed in attempt to get the flies to sink, but this seemed to upset Jack, who was once again spurred into action. It was obvious he was trying to tell me something, but this time his hand movements were horizontal rather than vertical. To be honest this action looked slightly rude to me,

especially as the movement seemed to get faster when he realised that he had my attention. Perhaps he was so uninspired with my angling prowess that he was, in some subtle way trying to tell me that I must have abused myself as a youth. But then, in a flash of inspired logic, I blurted out that perhaps my retrieve should be a little faster. This produced a sympathetic head nod followed by an exasperated sigh.

Five more yards of fly line were peeled off the reel and a wind assisted cast of about 25 yards was easily made. The flies were given plenty of time to sink, before a much faster retrieve brought them back towards the boat. Then just as the flies started to come up out of the deep there was a savage strike and a nice fat two pound Rainbow was quickly brought to the net. A few more drifts over the same spot failed to produce any more fish and with only half an hour left, Kermit decided to return to the hawthorn bush for a final drift.

We are about 100 yards from the shore when there was a steady drag on my line, but it felt strange, just a heavy weight with none of the tell-tale wriggle associated with a fish. A steady pressure was put on the line and something seemed to give, so my rod was pointed down the line and by applying a slow steady retrieve brought whatever it was up towards the boat. Eventually a mud and weed covered tree branch came to the surface and was pulled into the boat. It was while my fly was being untangled from this mess that I noticed a bright lemon fly with silver tinsel stuck to one of the twigs. The fly was unhooked and discreetly shown to Jack, while in a hushed voice I explained that it was the Frenchman's lost fly. 'What should I do with it?' I asked. Jack explained that it was almost certainly a sign from the big angler in the sky and that it would be sacrilegious not to put it on my line. So, not wishing to argue with a higher authority, it was quickly tied on, cast well out and allowed to sink.

Jack advised us that there was only five minutes left before the official end of the contest. As we drifted towards the spot where my flies had landed, the line had to be slowly retrieved, not enough to prevent the flies from sinking, but just enough to stay in contact with them. Suddenly my line shot forward almost pulling the rod out of my hand, there was no need to strike, whatever it was, was well and truly hooked. After a few minutes hard fight a nice three pound Rainbow Trout slid over the edge of the landing net, just before Jack announced that the contest was over.

Before being returned to the water Jack showed the fish to Kermit, who reluctantly acknowledged that it was indeed a good fish. After returning the Rainbow safely to the water, Jack turned to me with a smile on his face and a wink in his knowing eye.



Glo Bug o'clock. With the sun setting a visit to a smaller Turangi river produced some great fun for Andrew. Trying to land fish like this in a narrow part of a small stream can be a challenge and a half! Photo courtesy of Andrew MacPherson.

AN EXTRA BIT OF HUMOUR

Money can't buy you happiness.... But it does bring you a more pleasant form of misery -
Jimmy Durante

Until I was thirteen, I thought my name was SHUT UP! - *Spike Milligan*

LAKE OTAMANGAKAU RESEARCH

Summary of a presentation from Taupō fishery scientist Dr Michel Dedual for Taupō Fishing Club. Date: 28 August 2020

Background

Dr Dedual was invited by the Taupō Fishing Club in July to speak about recent research findings, including a major piece of work focused on Lake Otamangakau (Lake O).

Recent angler reports of dead trout sighted at Lake O during hot, dry summer conditions was a real concern for the Taupō fishery team. We know from research carried out by international colleagues that warm water with low dissolved oxygen is a lethal combination for trout (>20°C is the key figure).

Such warm conditions are not unusual at the surface of Lake O, particularly during dry hot summers when cool water flowing into the lake from the western diversion of the Tongariro Power Scheme is reduced. However, water temperature is not uniform throughout the water column. Cooler temperatures are found in deeper parts of the lake which normally provide sanctuary for trout, even during extended hot weather. So, what is causing the recent increase in trout deaths and what can we do about it?

Investigation

To better understand exactly what is going on at Lake O we introduced monitoring equipment to record temperature and dissolved oxygen levels at varying depths and locations within the lake. In addition, we set up an automated monitoring system to quantify angling pressure. Finally, we ran a ‘catch-and-release’ survival study to capture the impact of this increasingly popular fishing approach. The results from this work were also combined with results from regular ongoing angler surveys and previous spawning trap data.

Previous Research

Before we consider the results from recent studies it’s valuable to look back at previous work and consider what we already know.

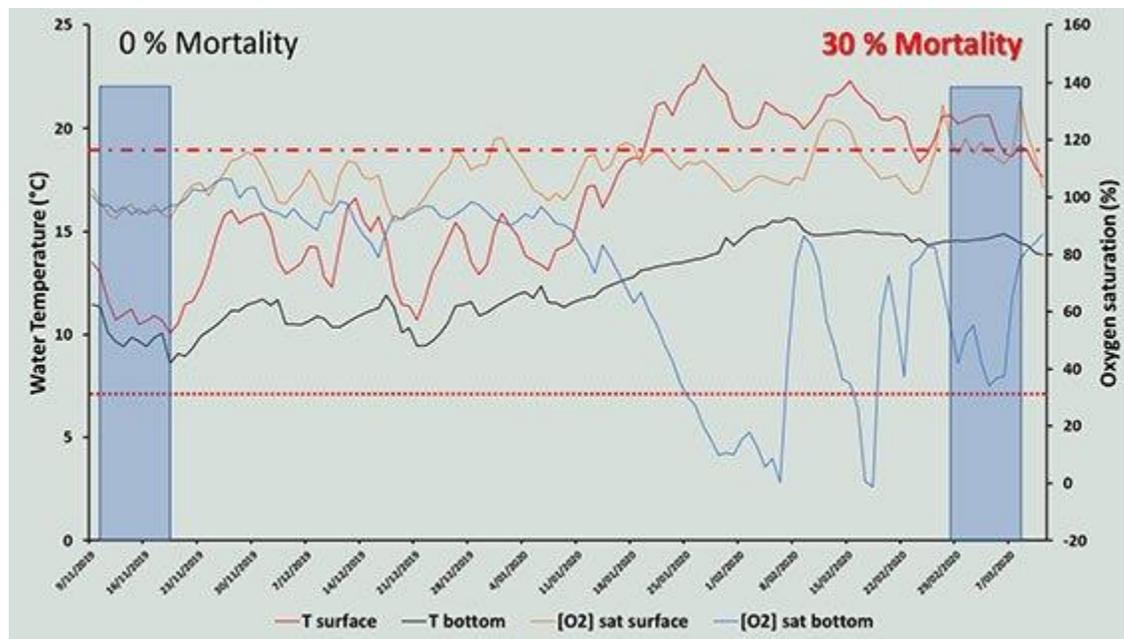
Ongoing angler surveys tell us that voluntary catch-and-release has become increasingly popular, particularly at Lake O. In recent years between 80% and 90% of anglers adopted this approach at Lake O compared to an average of 60% to 70% in Taupō rivers and approximately 30% in Lake Taupō.

From spawning trap data gathered between 1995 and 2013 we know the trout population size in Lake O has increased significantly over time. Over the same period the number of very large trout decreased. For example, in 1996 there were 92 fish over 4kg recorded in the fish trap - which equates to 12% of the spawning run. By 2009 that figure was down to 1 fish over 4kgs and 0.03% of the run. As expected, the increased trout population resulted in a higher catch rate for anglers but the chances of hooking a very large fish (over 4kgs) diminished.

Key Results From The Study

Our latest studies confirmed Lake O receives very heavy angling pressure - from October 2019 to March 2020 it received 2,487 visits representing 13.8 angler days/hectare. As a comparison Lake Taupō is estimated to receive only 1.1 angler days/hectare. The distribution of angling pressure at Lake O is also a concern, with the largest concentration of angler visits coinciding with the warmest weather in January.

The catch-and-release investigation gave a clear indication that warm surface water has a considerable impact on trout survival rates at Lake O. The early season sample, which was collected during cooler water conditions in November, delivered a 100% trout survival rate. The later sample collected during hot summer conditions in February/March revealed a mortality rate of around 30%. The graph (figure 1) captures this information along with key environmental conditions.



Summary of Lake Otamangakau mortality research data - [view larger \(JPEG, 157K\)](#)

Fishery Management

Any potential changes to the Taupō fishery regulations must be based on robust evidence. The combination of our own primary data collected at Lake O and the data generated by other members of the scientific community, provides a firm platform for change.

Water temperatures above 20°C and the associated drop in dissolved oxygen levels can easily kill trout. Under these warm conditions catching and releasing a trout at Lake O effectively draws the fish away from the safety of cooler water, into the dangerous conditions found near the surface. Approximately 1 in 3 of these fish will die. High angler pressure encountered during warm water conditions in January and February adds to the problem.

Some form of restriction on fishing is required to protect trout at Lake O when surface water temperature exceeds 20°C. We are currently evaluating options. From a technical perspective we are looking at modelling that considers environmental conditions, angling pressure, catch rates, and potential trout mortality. We are also mindful of the angling community and want to ensure any changes are fair and enhance the long-term recreational fishing opportunities at this venue.

A draft management plan for Lake Otamangakau will be generated and shared with the Taupō Fishery Advisory Committee (TFAC) - made up of representatives from a cross section of angler interest groups and fishery stakeholders. Feedback will be sought in response to the draft management plan.



*Big, Fat
and
Powerful.
A
beautifully
coloured
Jack.
Photo
courtesy of
Meinrad
Roehrs.*

JOKE OF THE MONTH

A pastor entered his donkey in a race and it won. The pastor was so pleased with the donkey that he entered it in the next race, and it won again.

The local newspaper read:
PASTOR'S ASS OUT FRONT.

The Bishop was so upset with this kind of publicity that he ordered the pastor not to enter the donkey in another race.

The next day, the local newspaper headline read:
BISHOP SCRATCHES PASTOR'S ASS.

This was too much for the Bishop, so he ordered the pastor to get rid of the donkey. The pastor decided to give it to a nun in a nearby convent.

The local paper, hearing of the news, posted the following headline the next day:
NUN HAS BEST ASS IN TOWN.

The Bishop fainted. He informed the nun that she would have to get rid of the donkey, so she sold it to a farmer for \$10.

The next day the paper read:
NUN SELLS ASS FOR \$10.

This was too much for the Bishop, so he ordered the nun to buy back the donkey and lead it to the plains where it could run wild.

The next day the headlines read:
NUN ANNOUNCES HER ASS IS WILD AND FREE.

The Bishop was buried the next day.

The moral of the story is:

Being concerned about public opinion can bring you much grief and misery and even shorten your life. So be yourself and enjoy life. You'll be a lot happier and live longer!

TROUT AFTER DARK

By Tony Orman – NZFFA Website

I recently came across a short article on the internet about brown trout after dark. The writer said “Leave it to the French to coin a nifty phrase for dusk: *entre chien et loup*, “between the dog and the wolf,” the transition zone between day and night, between furry family pet Fido and dagger-toothed predator.”

Big trout can come on the feed at dusk and into the night. It’s a favorite time for me to be on the river. It goes back to my teenage years when in the USA “Field and Stream” I read an article “Pig Boat on the Furnace.” The “Pig Boat” was a super-duper fly, the “Furnace” was the local river, the author fished after dark. I remember he wrote of after nightfall, big splashes like someone throwing railway sleepers in a pool.

Back then it fired my imagination to go listen and fish after dark in the Manawatu River. Yes, I heard railway sleepers being tossed in. Big trout were feeding.

Bigger trout are the lure for an angler. But there’s intangible bonuses to be got too.

The encroaching darkness is comfortable. The sun lowers and slides behind the mountains and both water and air cool and any wind usually whispers away to make casting easier. It’s somehow more peaceful and any “busy-ness” of the day and the bullshit quotient from the evening’s TV news is instantly forgotten as you adjust to the dark and focus on fishing. Focus is a key attribute, for night fishing demands concentration.

“Touch” Vital

The eyes amazingly adjust to the night. “Touch” becomes a greater sensation in fishing after dark. You feel the fly via the line between the fingers to detect a trout’s quiet take.

The trout at night may sometimes slash but I find it’s more likely to be a quiet, almost imperceptible take. Trout under cover of night probably feel more secure, not nervous and not so easily spooked. In a hot dry summer it makes sense for trout to feed at night when its cooler especially after 33 degree scorchers.

I’ve been tying up a few flies such as the late John Morton’s Hobnail Boot which has become a favourite of mine for nocturnal fly fishing. It’s tied using black possum fur and important to keep it sparse.

A point to note. Bright moonlight puts trout down. So you need to pick the moon phase to suit.

Sure, I delight in daytime fishing with the nymph or dry fly but night fishing has a special sort of magic to it too.

SHOULD WE CONTINUE TO STOCK LAKE PUPUKE?

Fish and Game Reel Life Newsletter

Auckland Waikato Fish & Game staff are seeking your feedback on the future of the Lake Pupuke fish release.

Although water quality in Lake Pupuke has shown signs of decline, the lake is still clean enough to support a healthy trout population and compared to the appalling condition of most Waikato lakes, Pupuke is in good shape.



Spectators enjoying the 2018 Lake Pupuke fish release

Lake Pupuke was an exceptional fishery until perch were released by the notorious Stewart Smith in the late 1960's, and by the 1970's the trout fishery had collapsed.

Currently there is no means of removing perch from the lake, so the trout fishery will not recover to its former glory any time soon.

The annual fish release of 1,200 two-year-old trout in Lake Pupuke is expensive compared to the supplemental stocking of Lake Arapuni, where 2000 one-year-old trout are released.

Lake Pupuke costs licence holders over ten times as much per angler compared to the region's other liberations.

The Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council is considering cancelling future releases and is seeking your feedback.

If you have comments concerning the future of Lake Pupuke trout releases, please email them to aucklandwaikato@fishandgame.org.nz with the subject Lake Pupuke.

(The original message said 12,000 but this was a typo and it is actually 1.200 – Ed)

FISH AND GAME DEMOCRACY BACKED BY CORANZ

NZFFA Website – www.nzffa.com

The Fish and Game organisation that administers and manages the public's trout and salmon fishing and game bird shooting and currently subject to a government review, has been given a "thumbs up" from an outdoor recreation council.

Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations' chairman Andi Cockroft in a submission to the review panel said the council fully supports the democratic structure of Fish and Game whereby representatives are elected by licence holders.

"It's user pays, user says," he added.

The Council of Outdoor Recreation Associations of New Zealand (CORANZ) is an advocate for the common interests of "the million plus" New Zealanders who fish, shoot, hunt, tramp, ski, canoe, climb, walk, mountain bike, botanise, photograph or relax in New Zealand's great outdoors. An important sector being fish and game licence holders.

He said governments had tried to gain control of fish and game and its predecessor acclimatisation societies, on several occasions over a century or more. To be under state control via a department would be totally wrong and draconian.

It should be totally independent of government departments and particularly in the case of the Department of Conservation, conducting the review.

“Indeed in terms of any review, DoC is an agency needing searching scrutiny as to its policies and tendency to ideological bent as regards so-called introduced species like trout and game animals,” he said.

Nevertheless CORANZ said there a number of areas where Fish and Game could improve its performance such as remedying a lack of open communication with license holders and fairer allocation of licence money to regions.

The review is timely and welcomed, he said.



Kent Chalmers with a prime example of what the Big O can produce. He was out in Guide Graeme Dean's boat that day and they had a ball. Photo courtesy of Garry Roberts.

WHO WILL PAY TO RESTORE NEW ZEALAND'S FRESHWATER RESOURCE – THE POLLUTERS OR THE PUBLIC?

Opinion by Dr Peter Trolove - President NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers

The Problem

It is generally accepted that 95 % of New Zealand's freshwater pollution can be attributed to intensive farming practices – practices such as dairying and commercial vegetable production. “Point source pollution” from sources such as factory waste and sewage pipes is readily identified and managed. Diffuse pollution from modern intensive farming is less visible and more problematic.

The Politics

Politicians make decisions with a short term perspective. Short term gains in GDP trump long term generational losses from the resulting environmental damage.

Decisions are influenced at central and local government level by donations, self-interest, and pressure from powerful lobby groups. Many local government representatives have farming connections.

Cattle duffers on a jury may be honest men enough, but they're bound to visit lightly sins of those who cattle duff. Melbourne Punch 15 July 1888

Ecosystem Services

The Resource Management Act (RMA) and similar environmental legislation is intended for society to exploit natural resources in a sustainable manner in order that the rights of future generations are protected. Aquatic ecosystems have a finite limit in their ability to accommodate both water abstraction and pollution.

A monetary metaphor might suggest we can live on the “interest” provided by our natural systems but not “interest and capital”.

Recent reports of NZ's ecosystem health confirm we are taking more from our freshwater resource than it can sustain.

Pollution Is Profitable

Privatising public water for private profit has created wealth for those landowners and speculators who have benefited from Government policy and subsidies.

As the New Zealand agricultural industry grows its economic base and infrastructure on the back of environmentally unsustainable practices it becomes unpalatable to reverse the situation. The result has seen a massive public relations campaign by farmers who recognise they are fast losing their social licence to continue to plunder and pollute our aquifers, rivers and streams.

Who Pays?

The question for all New Zealanders has now become who should pay to mitigate/restore the damage to our freshwater resource – the polluters and beneficiaries of the previous National Government’s largesse or the disenfranchised public who involuntarily funded ill-advised irrigation schemes and are now left with their polluted legacy?

Thanks to short term policies and self-interest of central and local government representatives, restoring New Zealand’s freshwater has become a politically charged high stakes game.

Inevitably there will be a cost to farmers and the public.

NZFFA FRESHWATER POLICY

A Litany of Broken Government Promises

Freshwater is the life blood of our planet. Without clean water our ecosystem, economy and society would be functionally extinct.

Despite numerous reports over the last two decades on the declining condition of our freshwater resources and what’s causing it, from the Ministry for the Environment, and despite countless commitments from politicians on all sides of the debate to address this, water degradation continues unabated.

Successive governments have all failed to address our worsening freshwater despite a clear mandate from the majority of New Zealanders that it is a national priority. Governments, past and present, continue to promote and subsidise private irrigation schemes and allow overseas interests to extract and export our groundwater.

New Zealand has a mere 1,500 water quality monitoring sites for over 425,000 kilometres of rivers and 4,000-plus lakes. Despite recommendations from NIWA for additional sites back in 2014 this inadequate network persists.

Previous governments spent \$500M(4) subsidising mega-irrigation schemes, principally for intensive dairy farm operations and a further \$500M of tax payers' money cleaning up the resultant freshwater pollution. As a result of these subsidies, over half of all consumed freshwater is used to irrigate the Canterbury plains, once a tussock plain now replaced by intensive dairy farming.

The current Labour/Green/NZ First government is doggedly pursuing National's policy of subsidising freshwater polluters by promising \$700M of tax payers money to clean up polluters' mess. Like National it is also subsidising private dams and irrigation schemes through the Provincial Growth Fund.

Despite election promises to stop the continued degradation of our irreplaceable freshwater resource, once again the issue has been kicked down the road for the next generation to suffer.

Pollutants once confined to surface (rivers and lakes) water are now showing up in our groundwater. One tenth of bore water samples in the Canterbury area exceed the World Health Organisation upper limit for nitrates (11.3mg of NO₃ per litre). New Zealand now has the highest rate of colorectal cancer (caused by nitrate ingestion) in the world.

In another broken election pledge, the Greens and NZ First signed a supply agreement with Labour to introduce royalty payments from foreign companies who take and export our freshwater.

What little clean water is left has been given, not sold, to Chinese water companies who pump up BILLIONS of litres every year from the ground, put it in plastic bottles and export it for sale in China.

Finally, access to our rivers has been impeded as a result of fencing and lack of management of riparian strips. In many lowland streams these strips have become little more than weed choked dumping grounds.

It's Time To Implement A Robust Freshwater Policy:

Policy 1: Monitor: Massively ramp up freshwater quality and flow monitoring systems so we can monitor the whole of all rivers passing through modified land (urban and rural).

Policy 2: Manage: Create a national Commission to manage our national interest in freshwater and to direct local Councils who have failed to protect our freshwater resource.

Policy 3: No More Pollution: Stop subsidising irrigation schemes, dams and polluting practices. Regulate all domestic, farm and industrial chemicals that end up in our waterways, either directly via sewage systems or indirectly via leaching, ensuring anything that enters our lakes and rivers does not degrade the aquatic ecosystem.

Policy 4: Keep Rivers Unmodified: Unless there is a risk of damage to infrastructure, Councils must maintain the natural character of rivers, provide for rivers to change and meander – prohibit further rock walling, cross-blading, dams, gravel shifting and diversions.

Policy 5: Storage: Prioritise on-farm water storage systems that collect excess rain or floodwater without denuding river flows and character. Such storage schemes being conditional upon land-use activities that do not pollute or degrade rivers and lakes.

Policy 6: Implement a Water Act – Water Belongs to Everyone: No property rights, rental, payment or trading of water. Rescind the rights of overseas interests to take, bottle, export and profit from our freshwater.

Policy 7: Polluters Pay: No more bailing out polluters with tax payers’ money. Those who profit from pollution will bear the full cost of fixing it.

Policy 8: Keep Rivers Full: Implement a national environmental standard on minimum flows for all rivers in NZ, below which no abstraction is permitted, which should include at least the following:

Rivers with mean flows ≤ 5 m³/s – 90% of the mean annual low flow (MALF).
Rivers with mean flows > 5 m³/s – 80% of MALF.

Policy 9: Keep Rivers Clean: Revise the National Policy Statement – Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) to set standards and attributes to maximise the health of freshwater ecosystems including the following National Bottom Lines:

Maximum dissolved inorganic nitrogen (DIN) at 1mg/litre.
Macroinvertebrate Community Index (MCI) at 100

Policy 10: Establish and maintain esplanade strips and reserves along all rivers and streams to ensure enduring and practical access for the public.

(For a full list of references in relation to the above article please go to <https://nzffa.com/nzffa-freshwater-policy/>)



Sometimes fishing with a buddy and taking turns casting can be as much fun as fishing yourself. Watching the drift of the indicator, anticipating the strike, sharing jokes and laughter. Here John D and John C are fishing the Tongariro on Julys Club Trip to Turangi.

2020 KAI IWI LAKES TROUT FISHING COMPETITION

Northland Fish & Game have decided to cancel the 2020 Kai Iwi Lakes Trout Fishing Competition this year due to level 2 restrictions in place for Covid-19. The competition was going to be held on the 2-4th October 2020.

The government will announce on Monday 14th September on what level New Zealand will go to in the coming weeks. It is very hard to organise a competition when certain levels of restrictions are in place and only a certain number of people can be in one place at a time.

All tickets that have been purchased will be refunded. I will contact the licence holders who have purchased their tickets separate from this email.

Again we are sorry to cancel this competition as we know a lot of people enjoy the comradeship and camaraderie.

The team at Northland Fish & Game hope to organise another competition next year at the Kai Iwi Lakes.

Please contact the office if you have any queries.

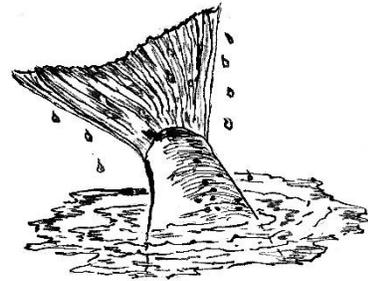
Regards
The Team at Northland Fish & Game Council

P +64 9 438 4135

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HUGH CREASY'S COLUMN

Winter flies are stored away – those big, fluffy things that imitate small fish and the eggs of spawning hens. A couple of balls of moth-killer in a plastic bag will preserve them until next year.



Spring brings promise of sunshine and evening rises of mayflies and caddis. There will be fish freshly recovered from spawning and fighting fit after feasting on whitebait and the riches the thaw in the tops brings down to the reaches and runs brightly flowing.

Size 8s are replaced by 16s, and the largest flies imitate mayflies and stoneflies and maybe a Dobson fly on a long-shanked 10.

When the waters are low Dobson fly larvae or toebiters can be captured and used for bait where it is legal. They last longer than worms on the hook, and cast into the heads of pools using a half-filled bubble float, they can be deadly. Just turn over a few large stones at the river's edge and you will be surprised at how numerous they can be, this early in the season.

In the beech forests, mice will be breeding and feasting on seeds, and in a few weeks they will leave their nests, adolescents expelled by their parents to fend for themselves – easy prey for falcons and mustelids.

It is in the spring that we begin to realise the sheer quantity of insect life that a river holds. Smuts and sandflies cloud the evening air, pursued by swallows and fantails, then come the midges and their bloodworm larvae, followed by the prettiest of insects, the mayflies.

Stoneflies hatch in darkness, and the papery husks of their hatching blow in the morning breezes. Caddis skate over the water, looking for solid ground to expand their wings and take to the air in mating dances. In the shallows backswimmers and water boatmen dart about, protecting tiny territories and preying on anything smaller than themselves.

The watery world is a savage place, survival relies on good fortune and skilled instincts. The weak rapidly become prey.

Freshwater crayfish scavenge the shallows, attracted by decaying flesh, and where the river nears the sea, shrimps prowl the shallows, busily grooming the stones.

Inanga come from the sea, and in areas of virgin forest they shoal in vast numbers. Galaxids form a vital part of the whitebait catch, and while trout feast on their plenitude, habitat loss is the main contributor to their falling numbers.

On any warm day in winter there are hatches of midges, but when the weather warms in spring they burst from the water in vast numbers, providing a feast for nesting birds and a dietary boost for fish recovering from the rigours of winter and the breeding season. Damsel flies and dragon flies hum over still water, almost miraculous in their aerobic displays. Their nymphs are prodigious predators in the margins and shallows.

Rivers bloom with life, and the volume of insects signals the health of a river. Even those short-run flows from the Alps, fast though they are, carry terrestrials from the forests through which they flow, enough to grow fish of prodigious size, though not in great numbers. There is not enough holding water and pools to support great populations.

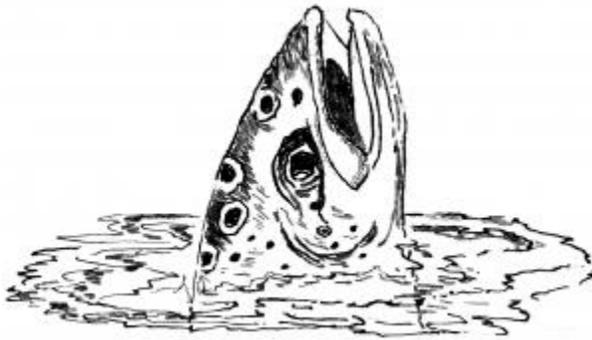
Into this cornucopia, comes the angler, eager to pit his wits against nature's great survivalists. Equipped with everything humanity's industrial prowess can provide, and with brains gigantically bigger than any of his prey he approaches the riverside, cogitating over a conundrum: what fly to use.

Observation will answer the question, but it takes time, and the angler, fuelled by accumulated adrenalin, rushes to the waterside and ties on a general pattern of fly or spinner that or may not work and flails the water in his efforts to attract a fish. It's a bit like a pointing dog on opening day. It rushes about, running over good scent, blind to the obvious, until the adrenalin rush is spent and it settles down to serious hunting.

Luck often comes to the aid of the angler, and he or she indulges in self-congratulation at having conquered a beast of little brain. The super-fit will race through run and pool, casting as they go, sure-footed and blind to discomfort. We of advanced age and

accumulated infirmity, advance at a slower pace. But a little patience and the use of reason will increase the odds in the angler's favour.

Backwaters often show signs of overnight hatchings, with husks of insects floating in the scum that accumulates behind boulders, and brown trout especially will follow a beat as they circle a pool. View upstream for any disturbance that will signify a rise, especially in holding water behind boulders. On sunny days, fish cast shadows and on sandy bottoms, a moving shadow may signify a fish higher in the column of water. If you see a fish, stalk it, just as any predator stalks its prey. Use cover, lower your profile and don't wave a rod around when a fish is swimming towards you. Often, if you remain completely still, a fish will pass within metres of you without being put down, but twitch a finger and it's gone.



Insects in the air may indicate what a trout will take. Even blowflies from a half-sunk animal carcass can attract a following, and with lambing and calving in full swing, blowies are numerous.

Observation is everything. Angling is a skilled form of hunting and skill increases with practice.

We have the benefit of amazing equipment, from carbon fibre rods to polarizing sunglasses. Add to that an oversize brain and its a wonder there are any fish left in the rivers.

EDITORS NOTE

Earlier in the Newsletter Fish and Game Auckland / Waikato have asked for your opinions on continued stocking of Lake Pupuke. Please take the time and respond to their request.

Personally I am a big fan of continued stocking of Lake Pupuke. It is an easily accessed Lake right in the heart of our biggest city and is open to all types of freshwater fishing. Yes, recently there have been some water quality issues raise their head, but for me we should be encouraging more research into these issues, their cause and their likely longevity, before we start throwing away such a great fishing resource.

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.

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

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