



THE FLYFISHER NEWSLETTER

July 2025

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

During committee discussions regarding club trips, the venue of Lake Aniwhenua has come up recently. It is certainly a fishery that would appeal to many of our members and while many of the “old hands”, including myself, have enjoyed great success there, I am certain that our newer members would benefit immensely from an organised club trip. It is now on the “drawing board”.

Lake Aniwhenua is a hydro lake behind a dam on the Rangitaiki River in the eastern Bay of Plenty. More specifically, in an area called Galatea on the north-western side of the Urewera Forest Park. The true right bank of the lake is generally adjacent to farm land while the opposite side mostly adjoins the Kaingaroa Forest.

The lake carries good numbers of both brown and rainbow trout and is open all year round to holders of a Fish and Game licence. There is no minimum fish size but in order to maintain the quality of the fishery, the daily bag limit is 2 fish. This “mirrors” the regulations applying to Lake Otamangakau in the Tongariro region and reflects the “trophy” status of the fishery. In fact, for many years, particularly during the 80’s and 90’s, the two lakes were often referred to as the “Big O” and the “Big A”.

For many years, Lake Aniwhenua was “plagued” with a type of net weed, a 3 dimensional algae that was a menace to the hydro penstocks but conversely, lead to some enormous trout being caught. As a result of its structure, the weed provided shelter and nutrition for vast numbers of aquatic invertebrates on which the trout simply “grazed”. On one weekend in October 1994, a mate and I caught and released 37 trout which all weighed between 4.5kg’s and 5.5kg’s. Our intention had been to keep one small trout for a dinner but in the end we had to do a quick run up the road to the Kopuriki Takeaways or end up surviving on salad!

Another very memorable occasion was in November 1999. After a quite hectic day, the two of us decided to try some night fishing from the bank. Initially, things were a bit quiet but in the darkness what sounded like an approaching shower of rain, turned out to be thousands of grass-grub beetles taking to the wing from the nearby pasture and ending up on the lake surface. The subsequent “boil-up” was amazing and once we had found the appropriate flies, the contact and battles were unbelievable!

I’ll finish off with a final recollection from around the same time. Another buddy and I were fishing in the company of a couple of very well-known fishermen, John Eichelsheim and Mark Kitteridge who both worked for the publication, “The Fishing News”. We had all been fishing at a spot known as “the fence” where an old farm fence ran down to the lake edge and where a build-up of gravel had created a spawning area. Three of us had stepped out of the water with the intention of returning to our huts at Ryder’s Lodge and Mark called out; “just one more cast!” We all watched his indicator drifting down in the slow current when it ducked under and Mark struck! A furious tussle ensued and Mark finally netted a magnificent 14lb jack rainbow in full spawning colours. John took a couple of snaps on his rather impressive camera and the next month one of those shots became the front page of that edition of their magazine.

While these experiences could well be prefaced by “back in the day”, those days are really never over. All it takes is a well constructed plan, some research and a modicum of good luck. Tight lines everyone.

Dave Symes
President.

CLUB FACEBOOK PAGE

Some of you will already know that the Club has a Facebook Page. It has been underutilized for a while and this is just a reminder to those who already know and information for those who didn't know until now. The link is below, and also on the Clubs Website <https://nsff.org.nz/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/217979378948826/members>

Please do join the page and post away, it really is a case of every post will encourage others to post and before we know it the Club will have a thriving online presence.

FISHING REPORT

Auckland / Waikato

A lot of water has closed now for the winter spawning season, However, there is still a lot of great water available to fish all year round. From the Stillwater - Waiuku Lakes, the Pupuke Quarry, to the running water - the Karangahape Gorge or the Waihou River.

There is fun to be had all over the place. Just make sure you check on the Fish and Game website what water is closed and what is open all year.



The water in this photo is open all year and can provide fun dry and dropper action even in the middle of winter.

Rotorua

Well, it's all over for the upper sections of the Rotorua tributaries until they open again on December 1st, but the good news is that the lake edge fishing is going well with some absolute monsters being taken just off the shore.



Mitch managed to get down for the last weekend of fishing in the Rotorua tributaries and he had a ball. Lots of fish and perfect conditions. Photo courtesy of Mitch Blackburn.

Taupo

The Turangi area has been taking a battering with the weather. They have had at least 4 good floods already this winter and a lot of time with the rivers up and coloured. This has restricted fishing opportunities for many but it has also brought good numbers of nickel silver Fat Rainbow Trout into every Taupo tributary.



The 'North Shore Crew' on last month's joint North Shore / Auckland Club Trip to the Whanganui and Whakapapa Rivers. They had a ball! Photo courtesy of Andrew Todd.

The flies that have been getting the best results for the Nymphers, Slushies and Glo Bugs. Also, with the higher water levels and extra colour the wet liners / swingers have been having a great time!

Saltwater

Unfortunately I can't give you a report but we are having a Day Trip to fish Browns Bay on Saturday and hopefully there will be some great stories to tell on Wednesday night at the Club Meeting.

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.

LAST CLUB NIGHT

Last month we had Brian Wilson talking to us. It was a very informative evening and thank you once again Brian.

NEXT CLUB NIGHT – 16th JULY 7.30 PM

This month we have a Quiz Night. This went down very well last year and so we have decided to do it again.

This is sure to be an enjoyable night and we look forward to seeing you there.

WHY WE FISH

"As the evening sky faded from a salmon color to a sort of flint gray, I thought back to the salmon I caught that morning, and how gray he was, and how I named him Flint."

Jack Handey

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 etec Evenrude for serious fishing Salt or Fresh	home 09 834 8841 mobile 0275 006 336 ron.blair@xtra.co.nz
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
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
Derek Robinson	Retired available most times keen to do Waikato streams and most other things.	Ph 4437311 Mob: 0212 595 371 pamanddek@outlook.com

CLUB TROPHIES

Brown Trout Trophy – This is awarded to The Heaviest Brown Trout caught by a Club Member during the year – 1st April to 31st 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 **Steven Burgess!**

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. 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 April to 31st March. 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. The Winner this year is **Duncan Frew**.

The Lake part of the competition has its own Trophy, the **I Love Flyfishing Stillwater Trophy**. The winner of this year's event is **Duncan Frew**.

The winner of this year's River section is **Duncan Frew**.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Grant me the Serenity to accept the size of the fish I catch, the Courage not to lie about it, and the Wisdom to know that none of my fishing buddies would believe me anyway."

Fisherman's Prayer

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 1st to March 31st. 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



Andrew T. and Jaco in action on the recent joint with the North Shore Club and the Auckland Club to fish the Whanganui and Whakapapa Rivers. Photo courtesy of Andrew Todd.

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 Dries

CLUB TRIPS 2025 - 2026

February –Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes –FEB 19th 20th 21st 2026
 March – Lake Otamangakau – MAR 2026
 May – Ngongotaha River and Rotorua Lakes –MAY 21st 22nd 23rd 2026
 July – Tongariro and Tauranga Taupo – JUL 18th 19th 20th 2026
 August – Tongariro – Club River Fishing Competition – 15th 16th 17th AUG 2025
 September – Tauranga Taupo – SEP 11th 12th 13th 2025
 November – Lake based Club Competition Trip – NOV 2025
 December / January – Tuition weekend (Held if enough 'novice' anglers are interested)
 December – Lake Otamangakau – 27th 28th 29th NOV 2025

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.

JULY CLUB TRIP TO TURANGI

This year's Turangi Club Trip is again being organized by Maurice Parlane and will take place on Friday 18th , Saturday 19th July and return on Sunday 20th July.

The Club has booked out several units at Tongariro River Motel and costs will be \$115 per person. This will include 2 nights accommodation on a shared unit basis and a slap up BBQ dinner on the Saturday night. There are fish cleaning facilities, an electric overnight smoker, multiple BBQ's and a quick hot smoker.

Also, a number of people choose to come down on the Thursday night (17th July) as well. If you do this just add \$50 to the cost.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Trip please contact Maurice ASAP as this is always a popular weekend. Maurice's contact details are as follows: mobile 021 650 692, or e-mail to: maurice.p@newwayz.co.nz

If you are a definite starter just let Maurice know which nights you can make ASAP and then pay your money to the Club.

- 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 Turangi as a reference);



Come on this Trip and you could well be catching the above...3 prime eating Rainbows taken from a smaller Taupo tributary on last years Club Trip. Photo courtesy of Peter Schierhout.

TURANGI INTERCLUB COMPETITION TRIP - AUGUST

The Club Competition Trip for River Fishing and the Interclub Competition with the Auckland Fly-fishing Club is scheduled for August 15th 16th 17th August. This is a fun competition and the Trip is open to everyone, regardless of whether you want to compete or not.

More information about this will be forthcoming closer to the event but if you would like to know more now please contact Allen French 021 1018 838 or a_bfrench@hotmail.com



Lewis in action and hooked up with Simon about to do the netting during the Club Comp last year. Photo courtesy of Johan Kok.

KERERU LODGE TAURANGA TAUPO TRIP – SEPTEMBER

This is a fantastic Trip and will be booked out quickly, so if you are keen let Maurice know asap. We will be staying at the Kereru Lodge at the top of the Tauranga Taupo River, just out of Turangi. The Lodge is based near the upper winter limit pools on the river and is often booked out a year in advance. Thank you to Maurice Parlane for organising this again!

There are 12 beds available in shared accommodation and the costs will be \$82.50 per night each and we have the ability to stay for 3 nights.

The dates are the nights of Thursday 11th Friday 12th Saturday 13th September and out on Sunday the 14th.

Maurice is running the Trip so if you are interested contact him on Mob: 021 650 692 or email: maurice.p@newwayz.co.nz and let him know. But do so quickly.



The lads from last years Trip, enjoying a good meal and good company. Photo courtesy of Jaco du Preez.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Tommy is a young boy, just potty trained. When he goes to the bathroom though, Tommy manages to hit everything but the toilet. So his mom has to go in and clean up after him.

After two weeks, she has had enough, and takes Tommy to the doctor.

After the examination, the doctor said, "His unit is too small. An old wives' tale is to give him two slices of toast each morning, and his unit will grow so he can hold it and aim straight."

The next morning Tommy jumped out of bed and ran downstairs to the kitchen. There on the table, are twelve slices of toast.

"Mom!" Tommy yells. "The doctor said I only had to eat two slices of toast."

"I know." said his mother. "The other ten are for your father."

TIPS AND TRICKS

At an earlier Club Meeting we had a session all about Tips and Tricks that we might choose to use with our fishing. With that in mind we will use this section for any helpful little Tips that anyone may have that can benefit us all. So, if you have a quick Tip that you are happy to share just let me know on iconpromote@gmail.com.

- 1) If you are doing some night fishing try putting a dab of UV Glue onto your fly-line at the point that when you feel the little lump with your fingers as you are retrieving you will know it will be time to cast again.

ANGLERS PUMPING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS INTO NEW ZEALAND'S GDP

By ONE News Reporters – 20 June 2025 – Taken from the <https://www.1news.co.nz> website.

Freshwater fishing is big business, with anglers here and overseas spending millions of dollars in New Zealand pursuing the sport.

Each year, Fish & Game sells 100,000 freshwater angling licenses, resulting in a million days of fishing.

Anglers here and overseas have spent an estimated \$113-\$139 million per year on their fishing trips, according to research from the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER). The spending contributes \$66-\$81 million to New Zealand's GDP.

Hunting and Fishing Minister James Meager said spending "a couple hundred dollars on a fishing license that allows you to fish anywhere you like in the country" represents "huge value for money".

"As long as we're making sure we're not putting pressure on fisheries, we would welcome more overseas visitors to come and to spin a reel or to drop a line in and see what they can catch."

From guides and helicopter pilots to boat operators and fishing stores, angling also supports as many as 1168 jobs nationwide.

Hunting and Fishing Queenstown's Henry McCook said he's seen "huge change" in the number of people flocking to the tourist hotspot.

"We've seen a lot more domestic tourism and international tourism. Kiwis are getting out and about more after experiencing all that during the Covid lockdown."

And it's not just the economy that's benefiting.

People who fish regularly are nearly 17% less likely to report mental health concerns compared to those who fish less often, according to research from the UK.

"Almost 90% of anglers say relaxation and unwinding is the cause for why they go fishing," Fish & Game acting CEO Richie Cosgrove told 1News.

Among them is Cantabrian Harry Graham-Sampson, who said the sport gives him a sense of calm.

"No one can contact you and it's just you and the water and the fish in front of you, depending on how you're fishing," he said.

"It's just good to get out and it's good to do it with mates as well."



As Kerry says, occasionally it is just time to take a break and have a wee nap in the car while you wait for the others to get back from the river. Photo courtesy of Faith Moon.

FISH AND GAME LINKS

Fishing access maps

If you are travelling around the country or even if you are staying close to home, Fish & Game has updated our online access maps.

You can check out the links on this [page](#) for where you intend to fish this season. We have loads of locations for anglers around the country for you to get in a bit of fishing. Have a look; you might be surprised to find a spot close to you that you never knew existed.

Trout fishing made easy

Our [YouTube channel](#) has heaps of helpful videos that will help you catch fish.

We have everything from [Five Quick Tips for River Fishing](#) to [Lake Fishing](#) and our popular [boat fishing video](#). There are also many other videos on lures, soft baits and fishing locations that can provide tips and tricks for anglers of all skill levels.

CLUB DAY TRIPS, FLYTYING, AND CASTING PACTICE

We have set up 4 Whats Ap Groups for Freshwater Day Trips / Salt Water Day Trips / Casting Practice / and Flytying. We have had several Day Trips, Fly Casting sessions and Flytying sessions already.

If you are keen to join these groups just let us know.

Contact Mike secretary@nsff.org.nz or Duncan iconpromote@gmail.com

TAUPŌ FISHERY FOCUS

Excitement is mounting on the Central Plateau, with a new Taupō fishing season just around the corner. Good numbers of trout are already taking advantage of increased river flows to begin their winter migration, and early signs suggest we could have a good season ahead.

The new 2025/26 season kicks off on Tuesday 1 July, so anglers will need a new Taupō fishing licence. As usual Season licences will go on sale a week before the season begins, allowing anglers to hit the ground running. Head over to our online fishing licence store and pick up your new 2025/26 Season licence from Tuesday 24 June. Shorter duration, week and day licences will become available once the new season gets underway.

Taupō District online fishing licence store: www.doc.govt.nz/FishingLicence

The licence sales platform has been totally overhauled to offer anglers a more intuitive, stable and secure online experience. There are other benefits too that you can read about below. In a change from previous seasons, Taupō licences can now only be purchased from the online store. This means retail outlets and other licence agents will no longer sell licences.

This edition of Taupō Fishery Focus also includes data from the Waipa fish trap located on an important spawning tributary of the Tongariro River, and the first information from the Te Whaiiau trap at Lake Otamangakau.

We hope you have a great start to the new Taupō fishing season.

Tight lines - James Barnett

LAKE OTAMANGAKAU, TE WHAIAU TRAP OPERATIONAL.

As part of the regulation changes introduced in 2022 Taupō Fishery Managers committed to a programme of ongoing monitoring. This included reinstating a trapping programme on the Te Whaiiau Stream - the most important spawning tributary for trout in Lake Otamangakau.

This year trapping got underway in May. Brown trout turned up in good numbers and unsurprisingly for Lake Otamangakau, there were some impressive specimens amongst them. Rangers processed 115 browns (69 hens and 46 jacks) with the heaviest being a 4.32 kg (9.5lbs) hen that measured 700mm. She had spawned previously but there were no fin clips evident, so it was her first time through the trap. Another 4.2kg (9.2lbs) hen had a scar on one fin showing she was a repeat spawner and had been through the trap before in 2023. The longest brown was a jack measuring 725mm and weighing 3.64 kgs.

Rainbows were not as numerous with 49 fish processed for the month of May (17 hens and 32 jacks), but their size was outstanding, including the biggest fish recorded for the month - a rainbow jack that pulled the scales down to 4.92kgs (nearly 11lbs) and measured 730mm long.

The data for June has yet to be collated but some fine fish have been weighed and measured, confirming the status of Lake Otamangakau. Once the trapping season is complete, technical staff will review all the data and compare the information with previous years. They will also reference creel and satisfaction surveys, as well as information about angling pressure, to determine how the fishery is tracking. This in turn will provide an evidence-based platform for future fishery management decisions, including any potential regulation changes.



Fikrit did some end of season fishing at the Ohau Channel and these were just a couple of the fish he caught. The bigger one tipped the scales at 11lbs! Photo courtesy of Fikrit Chinassi.

A NEW ONLINE LICENCE STORE FOR A NEW SEASON.

Anglers will notice a few changes when buying a Taupō fishing licence for the 2025/26 season.

The old licence platform was launched nearly a decade ago and served anglers well. When introduced it marked an important shift to online sales, allowing anglers greater freedom to buy fishing licences. Since then, technology has moved on and the aging system needed to be updated.

A new modern online licence sales platform has been developed, reflecting the increasing demand for online services. The new system extends the functionality of our online store, bringing additional benefits to anglers including an improved user interface and greater stability.

At its core, the new online store will offer the opportunity to create a 'user profile' which will make managing fishing licences easy. This works well for people who want to keep track of multiple short-term fishing licences (week or 24-hour) or season licence holders who want an easy way to purchase each year. People who hunt and fish can also benefit, with a facility to manage their hunting permits and Taupō fishing licences from the single profile page.

For anglers who prefer a simpler approach, they can choose to buy their licence using a 'guest' function.

Taupō fishing licences will now only be available through the online store, offering anglers 24-hours a day, 7 days a week convenience. As part of the changes the licence agent option has been discontinued. This means shops and other outlets will no longer be selling Taupō fishing licences.

The cost of including agent functionality within the new system was prohibitively expensive. It would have doubled the cost of the project, which in turn would have placed significant cost pressure on our fishing licence fees, potentially leading to increased costs to anglers. We strive to make fishing in the Taupō District as affordable as possible, so we tightly manage operating costs, to keep licence fees low.

We hope you enjoy using the new online store. For anglers that need additional help with the new system we have developed a simple 'how to guide'.

ROD BUILDING CLASSES

The following was received from Ian at the Auckland Club and looks very interesting...

Ian from AFAC Committee here. My colleague [@Graham Singer](#) and I are hosting some rod building classes in August/September and wanted to extend the invite to your club to join in. We had a successful class last year with 5 people building mostly Epic rods in 5 and 6 wt, with one also building a 3wt Euro rod. We are working on dates but provisionally we are looking at August 25th and September 1st, but this is subject to change.

There will be a small cost to cover the use of the hall in Mission Bay bowling club, our new home. In terms of what to build, we have been in touch with CTS who are going to help us with creating an AFAC rod building kit in our colours - you might look to do the same. They are also supporting us with a discount.

Let me know if this may be of interest so that we can get an understanding of the number of people who may be interested.

Cheers, Ian

Ph: Ian Scott - 021 83 44 69



A very happy Andrew with a fantastic Rainbow taken on the joint Auckland / North Shore Trip to the Whanganui / Whakapapa. Photo courtesy of Andrew Todd.



The Rise Fly Fishing Film Festival is back again. It is in Auckland on the 12th and 14th August. For the full schedule and to buy tickets go to:
<https://flyfilmtour.com/schedule/2025-new-zealand-schedule/>

WHY WE ADVOCATE – WORKING IN YOUR INTERESTS

Taken From The Fish & Game NZ Website



Under our current legislation, Fish & Game has a legal responsibility to advocate for hunters' and anglers' interests.

We work to maintain and enhance public access to rivers, lakes, and wetlands for fishing and game bird hunting, and to protect the habitats of trout and salmon.

This advocacy happens at both local and national levels: regionally, we submit on policy and resource consent processes, while nationally, we respond to government-led policy development, new legislative proposals, and changes to national planning frameworks.

Our licence holders tell us this is important to them.

In 2023, research on licence holder perceptions and attitudes towards Fish & Game identified '*working to improve public access*' as the most important area for the organisation to focus on.

Licence holders also rated Fish & Game's environmental activities highly important, including '*monitoring and researching for improved water quality and species health*',

‘protecting the natural values of lakes, rivers and wetlands’ and ‘establishing water conservation orders to legally preserve the natural values of lakes and rivers’.

Fish & Game operates a contestable pool funding system to support our involvement in legal and planning cases that align with our statutory advocacy role, particularly those aimed at preventing the degradation of freshwater.

Regional Fish & Game Councils can apply for funding, with applications assessed and approved by the New Zealand Fish & Game Council.

We are currently engaged in 20 such cases, many of which are complex and ongoing.

Our cases specifically look at environmental issues aimed at:

- The protection of the habitat of trout and salmon.
- Maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coast, lakes, wetlands, and rivers where sports fishing and game bird values exist.
- Preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment, wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins where sports fishing and game bird values exist.
- Recognition and provision for freshwater angling and game bird hunting.

The protection of the habitat of trout and salmon has been part of New Zealand’s environmental protection framework for over 55 years.

Parliament’s decision to protect the habitat of trout and salmon through the inclusion of section 7(h) in the Resource Management Act (1991) reflected both:

- The historic place and value of trout and salmon within New Zealand culture, and
- The benefits of the protection of their habitat for native freshwater species, due to the need for high quality and abundance of cool, clear water for

Last year, 26 per cent of licence fees went towards habitat protection, and a portion of that funding was used on our advocacy work.

Some 13 per cent of your licence fee goes towards our access and participation funding, which overlaps with the access advocacy we do.

Where does your money go



New Zealand’s scientific literature provides compelling evidence that both native fish and trout and salmon populations are in significant decline across the country.

The key factors behind this decline are land-use intensification, increasing water pollution, and more water being taken from rivers, streams, and wetlands.

Right now, national policy and legislation governing access and our natural environment are changing at pace.

For example, the proposed standards for wastewater treatment could see an increase in water degradation caused by point-source discharge, and the proposal to go back to the 2017 National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management includes a “wadable” rather than a “swimmable” standard for freshwater.

Do you think that this is an acceptable level of protection for our freshwater?

Fish & Game is concerned that the proposed “re-balancing” will not balance the competing interests. Instead, it risks further tilting the scales in favour of the industries that take and discharge to water.

We are already seeing the impact of degraded waterways across many regions. Rather than supporting restoration, the proposal could undermine current efforts and lead to even more unhealthy rivers and streams.

Fish & Game has advocated for the ecological health of the water body to be safeguarded before other uses of the water are considered.

This does not mean we are calling for a pristine or untouched state of freshwater.

It means we want to leave enough water in rivers and streams to sustain a healthy range of habitats and natural flow patterns to allow freshwater species to thrive, support the replenishment of land and wetlands during high flows, and ensure that all New Zealanders can continue to enjoy rivers for recreation, physical, cultural and spiritual wellbeing.

To help us and others understand what our aims are, we developed policy with Forest & Bird and Choose Clean Water on a range of topics that relate to the health of our waterways.

You can check it out here: waigoodpolicy.org.nz. This site provides information on topics ranging from protecting natural form and character, protecting and restoring wetlands, setting instream nutrient outcomes and environmental flow setting.

To see our national submissions, check out the 'About Us/Corporate Documents' tab on our website.

For regional work, please visit the specific region's page on our website or contact our regional staff directly.

The Fish & Game team is passionate about hunting, fishing, and our natural environment.

To fulfil our legal responsibilities and meet our commitment to protecting New Zealand's freshwater for everyone, we advocate to protect outstanding water bodies and public access to them, to stop further pollution, and to restore degraded rivers, streams and wetlands.

We do this because our licence holders expect us to. We do this within a strong scientific and legal framework. And we do it because we believe New Zealand should be known for its clean and healthy water, exceptional fishing and game bird hunting, and world-class opportunities to experience nature.

By Helen Brosnan & Ami Coughlan

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 place an order at Club Nights.

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

NORTH SHORE FLYFISHERS EXECUTIVE

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