

**NATIONAL SEA RUN SALMON COMMITTEE**

Sixth Meeting, 5 February 2019

10am Start Time, 4.00pm Finish Time

North Canterbury Fish & Game Office, 595 Johns Road

**AGENDA**

**Committee members**: Martin Taylor (NZ Council), Ben Sowry (Nelson/Marlborough F&GC), Matthew Hall (Central South Island F&GC), Philip Musson (North Canterbury F&GC) Rick Boyd (Otago F&GC), Rob Roney (West Coast F&GC), Paul Hodgson (NZ Salmon Anglers Association), Alan Brooks (South Canterbury Salmon Anglers Association).

**Others present**: Richard Cosgrove (South Island Communications Adviser NZ Council) as minute taker.

**Welcome**

1. Apologies -Rick Boyd, Rob Roney, Alan Brooks – Matthew Hall notes reminder of the need to send alternates to the meeting.
2. Identify Conflicts of Interest against items on this meeting’s agenda - Done
3. Confirm Minutes of previous meeting – Moved Phil Musson Seconded Paul Hodgson - Carried
4. Chairperson’s introductory remarks – progress a bit glacial, need to discuss outcomes for next year otherwise no merit in committee continuing; Paul Hodgson want to see some outcomes otherwise no point; Matthew Hall no link between this committee and CSI in driving change or getting feedback, need staff representation, and an issue of resourcing – who do we get to do stuff? Have a good look at ourselves to do better; Paul Hodgson we have to do something and make decisions
5. Martin Taylor based on this feeling we need to address the questions and make decisions.
* At what point do we close fishery?
* What point do we cut harvest? Paul Hodgson no point mucking around we need to declare salmon an endangered species in Canterbury. We have tough choices and tough realities out there need to be told to the anglers; we need put and take fishery to give anglers some hope. Matthew Hall salmon fishery in crisis, we can only manage catch, what’s the process to reduce wild salmon catch; Paul Hodgson Why don’t we just say reduce catch from two to one; Matthew Hall need a percentage reduction in each river; Martin Taylor if we take a river by river approach are, we leaving it to the councils to decide? Paul Hodgson, we need to make a decision, or we are not going to have a fishery; Martin Taylor if we went to one fish a day across all rivers it is not enough to reduce the harvest? Matthew Hall 2 to 1 will not have an impact; Paul Hodgson reducing the catch from 2-1 will not have an impact; Ben Sowry it will make a slight impact; Phil Musson will not have an impact; Steve Terry on its own no but needs to be part of a package; Paul Hodgson it makes no difference where you catch the fish it’s still caught, we have to make it fair everybody has to sacrifice - meeting resolves
1. Need to agree to following statements to progress: refer steps below:
	* 1. Wild salmon fishery is in crisis
		2. We want more wild fish spawning
		3. We must reduce harvest of wild fish
		4. Must set regulation to reduce harvest by river
		5. Achieve this by: reduce bag limit: reduce season: reduce river lengths available for fishing: See recommendations below:

Waimakariri: One fish per day; no fishing above SH 1 bridge; Dec- March season length

Hurunui: One Fish per day; no fishing above SH 1 bridge; Dec- March season length

Waiau: One fish a day; No fishing above SH 1 bridge; Dec- March season length

Rakaia: One fish per day; no fishing above Rakaia gorge bridge; Dec- March season length

Rangitata: One fish a day; no fishing above Klondyke (Middlestream confluence of Rangitata River); Dec- March season length

Waitaki: One fish a day; No fishing above SH 1 bridge; Dec- March season length

**Agree to suggest to NC and CSI that these regulations covering six rivers should be adopted for the 2019/2020 season.**

1. Messaging to anglers and councillors should be:
2. We are in crisis
3. Because - returns of the last three years against historical averages reasons: ocean/ fish screens/ habitat/ abstract
4. Don’t have a lot of data of timing/location/harvest but we can only influence what we have under our control
5. So we have to be conservative
6. We have to reduce harvest substantially
7. We have recommendations for six rivers
8. We acknowledge there is significant impact, a loss of licence sales and a loss of opportunity for anglers
9. Long term aspirations otherwise the next step is closure
10. We need to establish put and take fisheries, so anglers have something to catch:
11. Agree it has a place
12. Accept variability
13. Accept it has a cost
14. Accept Dave Willis’s paper on how to do it (Steve Terry uncomfortable with using wild fish for hatchery in a year of low wild returns)
15. Focus on Rangitata, Rakaia, Waimakariri and Waitaki Rivers initially
16. Aim for 100,000 fish released per river
17. Agree this would support a harvest of 300-500 hatchery fish at each river mouth (100,000 fish released divided by .5% return gives 500 fish and a goal of 400 these fish being caught)
18. Current release stocktakes: Waimakariri-45,000 released Rakaia 105,000 released Waitaki 0 released Rangitata 60,000 release
19. Do we have a release strategy? Accept we have had no strategy to date –

**Agreed: Working group of CSI/NC and Otago staff to put together a Release Strategy by May 2019**

1. Do we have a Breeding Strategy? No –

**Agreed: Working group of CSI/NC and Otago staff to put together a breeding strategy – URGENT by mid-March 2019.**

Working Group to follow:

1. Set targets 400,000 fry
2. What brood stock do we use? (refer Rick Boyd’s paper) order of priorities (if not x than y)
3. Where to raise the fish? most efficient across the region?
4. Insurance policy for brood stock? A stocktake of what brood stock we have now; what percentage to keep and where?
5. Ensuring genetic robustness and switching between rivers
6. **NOTE:** We need a breeding, production and release strategy that needs to dovetail into each other. Do not currently have.
7. Hatchery best practice guidelines – Martin Taylor noted a contestable funding bid was being presented to NZ Council which would have funding for the guidelines.
8. Survey Questions for Salmon Anglers – Ask questions from anglers on perceptions of the fishery and on options identified to address i.e. based on recommendations above.

**Next Meeting**

1. Set time and place for next meeting: 27th March 2019

**Action list:**

* Formally invite via chair to chair for a staff representative to attend the next meeting and cc the Regional Manager