



NATIONAL SEA RUN SALMON COMMITTEE

Second meeting, Tuesday June 19, 2018
Fish & Game New Zealand Office, Wellington

Minutes

Present:

Committee members: Martin Taylor (NZ Council), Carey Cudby (Nelson/Marlborough F&GC), Matthew Hall (Central South Island F&GC) Bruce Erickson (West Coast F&GC), Paul Hodgson (NZ Salmon Anglers Association), Alan Brooks (South Canterbury Salmon Anglers Association).

1. Apologies: Rick Boyd Otago Fish and Game
2. Identify Conflicts of Interest against items on this meeting's agenda:
Completed see attached form.
3. Minutes of previous meeting: Moved Matthew Hall. Second Paul Hodgson.
Passed
4. Acknowledgement of Matthew Hall's Royal Honour. The Committee congratulated Matthew on his Royal Honour all agreeing it was well deserved.
5. Reviewed Strategic Outcomes discussion from previous meeting. See below:
National Sea Run Salmon Committee Strategic Outcomes Updated on June 19 2018.
6. It was agreed to put up existing material on Salmon Symposium website.
7. Agreed to a meeting sometime in the last week of July.

Actions from this meeting:

- A. Send a letter to Councils that sets out strategic goals and asks them to:**
 - a. Complete tables on Wild and Hatchery Fish**
 - b. Give feedback on the Strategic Outcomes in 4.**
 - c. Give feedback on regulatory actions to stop decline.**
 - d. Give feedback on voluntary actions to halt decline.**

National Sea Run Salmon Committee
Strategic Outcomes Updated on June 19 2018

1. Committee: We believe we can affect the sea run salmon fishery.

2. Problem Definition:

The sea run salmon resource has declined and no longer supports a great fishery.

- No fish
- Declining numbers of salmon
- Rapid decline since 2000, gradual decline since 1980
- Decline of spawning stream productivity
- Poorly screened abstraction in stream
- Unacceptable decline of fish returning to rivers
- Decline of fish coming down rivers

3. Timeframe

The committee has set a goal of achieving its strategic outcomes in three cycles of three years.

4. Strategic Outcomes.

- a. Stop the decline.
- b. Improve Habitat
- c. Restore to acceptable levels self-sustaining wild fish spawning numbers.
- d. Establish an acceptable level of hatchery fish harvest.

A - Stop the Decline

Decisions to date:

- Agree to focus on six rivers. Added Wairau to Waimakariri, Rakaia, Rangitata, Waitaki, Clutha.
- Agree the methodology of setting targets be shared with Councils who may wish to adopt for other rivers (see tables below for a format).
- Agree that the baseline measurement be 2018 season returns and harvest on the six rivers.
- Agree that we have two focuses Wild Fish and Hatchery Fish
- Agree develop tables in consultation with regions on wild fish spawning and harvest and hatchery fish released and harvest.
- Agree the tables to have three x 3 years cycles on the goals for spawning returns, and harvest as set out below.

- Agree the harvest of wild fish needs to be reduced

Actions to stop decline

Agreed the following actions need to be instigated immediately by Councils to halt the decline in wild fish spawning returns:

1. Close upper river (leave councils to decide start point on river)
2. Reduce Salmon season
3. Have stages in the salmon season
4. Stop night fishing

It was also to ask Councils to consider the following voluntary measures which could become mandatory if the changes above do not reduce the wild salmon catch:

1. Single barbless hook
2. 1 fish per day
3. Maximum 4 fish per year
4. Stop hand retrieve
5. No jet boat fishing.

It was agreed to write to Councils setting out the actions above saying that the goal is to:

1. Have more wild fish return to spawn
2. Get fish numbers back up
3. Ask councils to make recommendations on numbers of fish they have spawning and wish to see spawning, and what regulations they support.

WILD and HATCHERY FISH BASELINE AND GOALS

WILD			
River	Wild Fish Spawn	Wild F Harvest	Harvest Chance From 2018 %
Waimakariri			
2018	385	200	0
2021	500	100	-50%
2024	700	200	0
2027	900	300	50%
Rakaia		100	
2018			
2021			
2024			
2027			
Rangitata			
2018			
2021			
2024			
2027			
Waitaki			
22018			
2021			
2024			
2027			
Clutha			
2018			
2021			
2024			
2027			

HATCHERY			
River	Hatchery Fish (released)	Hatchery F Harvest	Percentage Chance From 2018 To 2021
Waimakariri			
2018	0	0	0%
2021	100,000	100	
2024	200,000	200	
2027	400,000	1000	
Rakaia			
2018			
2021			
2024			
2027			
Rangitata			
2018			
2021			
2024			
2027			
Waitaki			
2018			
2021			
2024			
2027			
Clutha			
2018			
2021			
2024			
2027			

B. Strategic Outcome – Improve Habitat

Agreed the following options

1. Address Fish Screens
2. Protect Flows
3. Improve water quality
4. River enhancement
5. Predation
6. Irrigation
7. Abstraction

Agreed the following Options

8. Fight to stop any more abstraction
9. Fight to increase flows
10. National level policy which regions must adhere to on abstraction, flows, fish screens.
11. Secure spawning streams by advocating for them not buying them.

C. Outcome C - Restore to acceptable levels of self-sustaining wild fish spawning numbers.

Agreed the following options

1. Hatchery reared wild stock must be an option
2. Doing nothing is not an option
3. Must have access to wild stocks if want to rear in hatchery

D. Outcome D - Establish an acceptable level of hatchery fish harvest.

Agreed the following options

1. Increase hatchery supported put and take
2. Put and take on all six South Island east coast rivers
3. Must develop a put and take fishery to take pressure of wild fish
4. How much can we spend?