

**National Sea Run Salmon Committee**  
**Strategic Outcomes Updated on July 25 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 juvenile salmon reaching the sea
- 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

**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.
- e. Restoring numbers of juvenile salmon reaching the sea.

**Strategic Outcome 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.
- 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 three years cycles on the goals for spawning returns, and harvest.
- Agree the harvest of wild fish needs to be reduced.

## **Actions to stop decline**

***If the spawning returns (escapement) are equal to or less than the average of the last two seasons, then the wild fishery shall be closed.***

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.

## **Strategic Outcome B – Improve Habitat**

***Have a national advocacy strategy on Canterbury water quality and its impacts on the fishery.***

Agreed the following options

1. Protect Flows
2. Improve water quality
3. River enhancement
4. Predation

Agreed the following Options

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

**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 subject to science
2. Doing nothing is not an option
3. Must have access to wild stocks if want to rear in hatchery

**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

**Outcome E – Restoring numbers of juvenile salmon reaching the sea**

1. Address failed Fish Screens
2. Enforce minimum flows
3. Enforce fish passage standards