



Consultation Summary

Exploring Regulatory Changes to Increase Sea-Run Salmon Spawning

February 2026

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Consultation Summary

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February 2026

North Canterbury Fish & Game
Central South Island Fish & Game

Executive Summary

- Between 2 December 2025 and 31 January 2026, Central South Island and North Canterbury Fish & Game Councils ran a consultation period, asking for feedback from anglers and members of the public on potential changes to the regulations of the sea-run salmon fishery.
- Fish & Game received more than 1,000 responses.
- Respondents were asked to rank their preference between five possible regulatory changes and indicate the most important month to their personal fishing experience.
- On average, anglers ranked ‘temporarily close the sea-run salmon fishery’ and ‘reduce season length’ as their most preferred options for regulatory change.
- Anglers also demonstrated a stronger preference for a temporary closure of the fishery over other regulatory measures as the hypothetical spawning percentages declined.
- Nearly half of all anglers ranked February as the most important month to their personal sea-run salmon fishing experience. April was the least selected month.
- Comments provided by anglers expressed concern regarding a number of other factors which may contribute to the declining sea-run salmon population. Increased communication regarding the steps Fish & Game is taking to address some of these concerns may be useful going forward.

Introduction

Over the 2025/26 summer season, Fish & Game sought feedback on potential regulatory changes that could be implemented to increase the relative size of the spawning salmon population and support the potential of the sea-run salmon fishery to recover while the fishery remains within the Severe population management band, subject to a one fish season bag limit. Fish & Game surveyed sea-run salmon anglers and members of the public for feedback on several potential regulatory changes including:

- Reducing season length
- Limiting fishing areas
- Implementing a catch-and-release fishery (0 bag limit)
- Implementing a temporary season closure

The consultation was specific to proposed regulatory changes which could be implemented within the context of the existing framework - while spawning salmon numbers are within the severe management band per the Fish & Game Joint Sea-run Salmon Adaptive Management Strategy¹.

Feedback from this consultation will be integrated into fishery management planning and provided to Fish & Game Councils and the Minister of Hunting & Fishing to support future decision making, in combination with data from monitoring efforts and expert advice.

Objective

To gauge angler and public preference for various potential changes to sea-run salmon regulations and provide an opportunity for feedback from anglers and the general public.

Survey Methods

A consultation survey was conducted between 2 December 2025 and 31 January 2026. This consultation consisted of an online survey (via Survey Monkey) in addition to the opportunity to provide comment. The consultation was split into two segments: an initial randomised survey, and an open consultation period.

The use of a random survey allows staff to estimate how well the sentiments collected during the survey reflect those of the salmon angling population at large. A random sample

¹ Webb, M, and S. Terry. 2020. [Adaptive management strategy for setting North Canterbury and Central South Island sea-run salmon fishing regulations](#). New Zealand Fish & Game.

of salmon anglers was selected from all anglers who have held a salmon bag card since the 2023/24 fishing season. The sample was limited to anglers who consented to receiving information from Fish & Game and provided a valid email address when purchasing their licence. Staff selected 3,000 anglers who fit the survey criteria, with the intention of successfully surveying 1,000. Anglers were contacted initially via email and were given a month to complete the survey. Anglers who had not yet completed the survey received a follow-up email two weeks after the initial email, and the day before the survey period closed. The random survey was conducted from 2-31 December 2025.

Following the random survey, the consultation was opened to the public. All anglers who have held a salmon bag card since the 2021/22 fishing season, consented to receiving information from Fish & Game, and provided a valid email address received an email inviting them to participate in the survey. Additionally, the consultation period was advertised on social media, in the fishing report, and through articles in the media. Any member of the public could participate in the consultation via a link on the Fish & Game website. The broad consultation was open from 1-31 January 2026

The survey portion of the consultation consisted of a series of questions to gauge angler preference for various potential regulation changes, subject to varying levels of spawning. Detailed information regarding the ongoing challenges faced by sea-run salmon in New Zealand was provided to anglers in the form of an information packet, which was included in contact emails, linked in the body of the survey, and provided on the Fish & Game website. The information packet also detailed the anticipated impact of each potential regulation change on harvest and a discussion of pros and cons of each method. The information document and full survey questionnaire are enclosed can be located on the Fish & Game website ([view document here](#)).

During this survey, participants were asked to rank their preference for 5 potential regulation changes under 3 potential thresholds of the sea-run salmon spawning population: spawning numbers of between 10-20% of the historic average, 5-10% of the historic average, and less than 5% of the historic average. Participants were instructed to rank their preference for regulatory action from 1-5, with 1 representing the most preferred option and 5 representing the least preferred option.

Additionally, all participants were given the opportunity to provide comment. Comments were collected in response to the question: Are there any other factors that Fish & Game should consider when thinking about implementing regulations aimed at reducing sea-run salmon harvest? Feedback from the comment portion of the consultation can be located in Appendix I.

Data Analysis

The final consultation consisted of three sets of survey responses: random survey responses, responses from broad salmon angler emails, and responses from the public survey link. Responses from the consultation were cross referenced with the sea-run salmon licence database and sorted into two categories: sea-run salmon anglers and the general public. For the purposes of analysis, the general public category included any submission that supplied a contact email address that could not be associated with a sea-run salmon licence.

We compared the results of the random survey responses to sea-run salmon angler responses during the broad consultation using a Mann-Whitney U test to compare the ranked scores for each potential management action. Because results were so similar between the three population thresholds, we chose to use the 10 to 20% threshold to evaluate differences between angler responses during the random survey and the broad consultation.

As of 10 September 2025, 25,160 anglers had purchased a sea-run salmon licence since its introduction in 2021/22. Desired sample size is dependent on the desired margin of error, calculated according to the formula:

$$\text{Margin Of Error} = Z \times \frac{(\sqrt{p(1-p)})}{\sqrt{n \times (N-1)/(N-n)}}$$

In which N represents the number of salmon anglers (25,160), n represents sample size, Z represents the z-statistic associated with the desired confidence interval (1.96 for 95% CI) and p represents the hypothesized standard deviation (typically 0.5).

According to this calculation, the margin of error for this sample is approximately 3%. In the context of this style of survey, the margin of error is interpreted as the 95% confidence interval around the proportion of anglers who selected a given response. For example, if 50% of respondents reported that they supported a given action, we can report with 95% confidence that the true proportion of salmon licence holders that support the given action is between 47-53%.

Comments were categorised into 9 main themes, which were identified during initial review of comments from the randomised survey. Comments were reviewed and categorised by two Fish & Game staff, independently, to limit the introduction of unconscious bias into the categorisation process. Comments provided outside the survey process were not included in thematic analysis, but are provided in Appendix II.

Results

Between 2 December 2025 and 31 January 2026, we received 305 submissions to the random survey, 742 submissions to the broad consultation by sea-run salmon anglers, and 63 submissions by members of the general public.

We found that there was no difference between the two salmon angler response groups for any of the 5 potential management actions (Figure 1, Table 1), and as a result were able to combine responses for a total sample size of 1,047 salmon anglers.

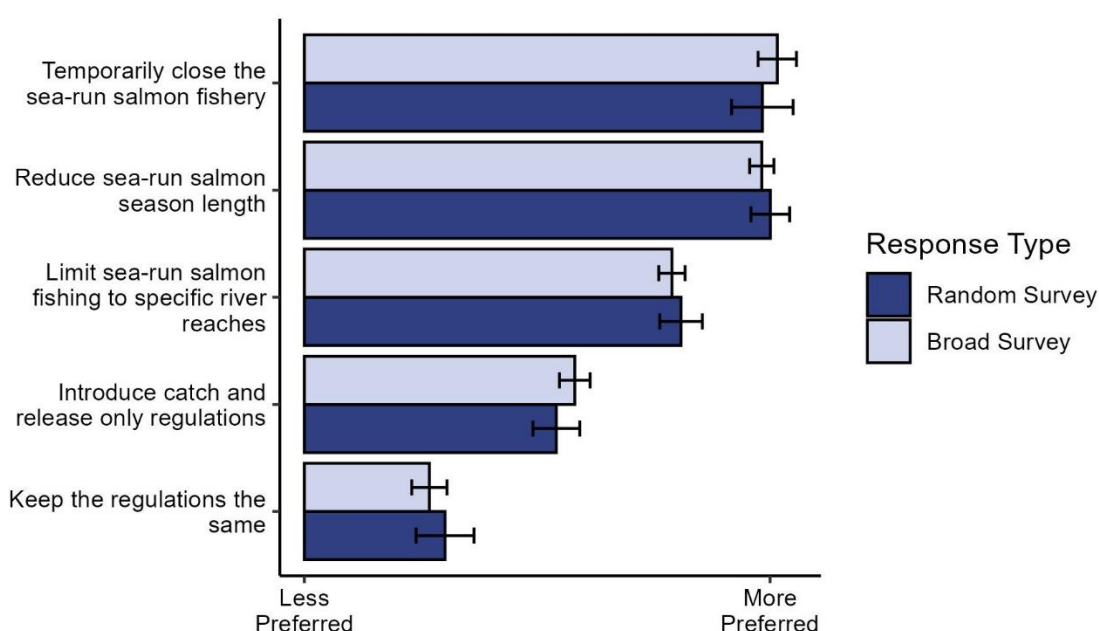


Figure 1. The mean preference scores for each of the five potential regulation changes included in the 2026 sea-run salmon consultation for sea-run salmon anglers who responded to the random survey and the broad consultation, with error bars depicting the 95% confidence interval.

On average, temporarily closing the sea-run salmon fishery was the regulation change with the highest preference rank, followed by reducing the season length, limiting fishing to specific river reaches, introducing catch and release only regulations, and keeping the regulations the same (Figure 2). The order of rankings was consistent across population thresholds, with one exception. Under the 10 – 20% threshold, there was no difference between the mean rank of temporarily closing the fishery and reducing season length ($p = 0.37$).

Table 1. Results of the Mann-Whitney U test comparing ranked scores for each potential regulation change included in the 2026 sea-run salmon consultation between sea-run salmon anglers who responded to the random survey and anglers who responded to the broad consultation. A p-value of < 0.05 indicates a measurable difference between the two groups.

Potential Regulation Change	p-value
Temporarily close the sea-run salmon fishery	0.41
Reduce sea-run salmon season length	0.36
Limit sea-run salmon fishing to specific river reaches	0.41
Introduce catch and release only regulations	0.23
Keep the regulations the same	0.28

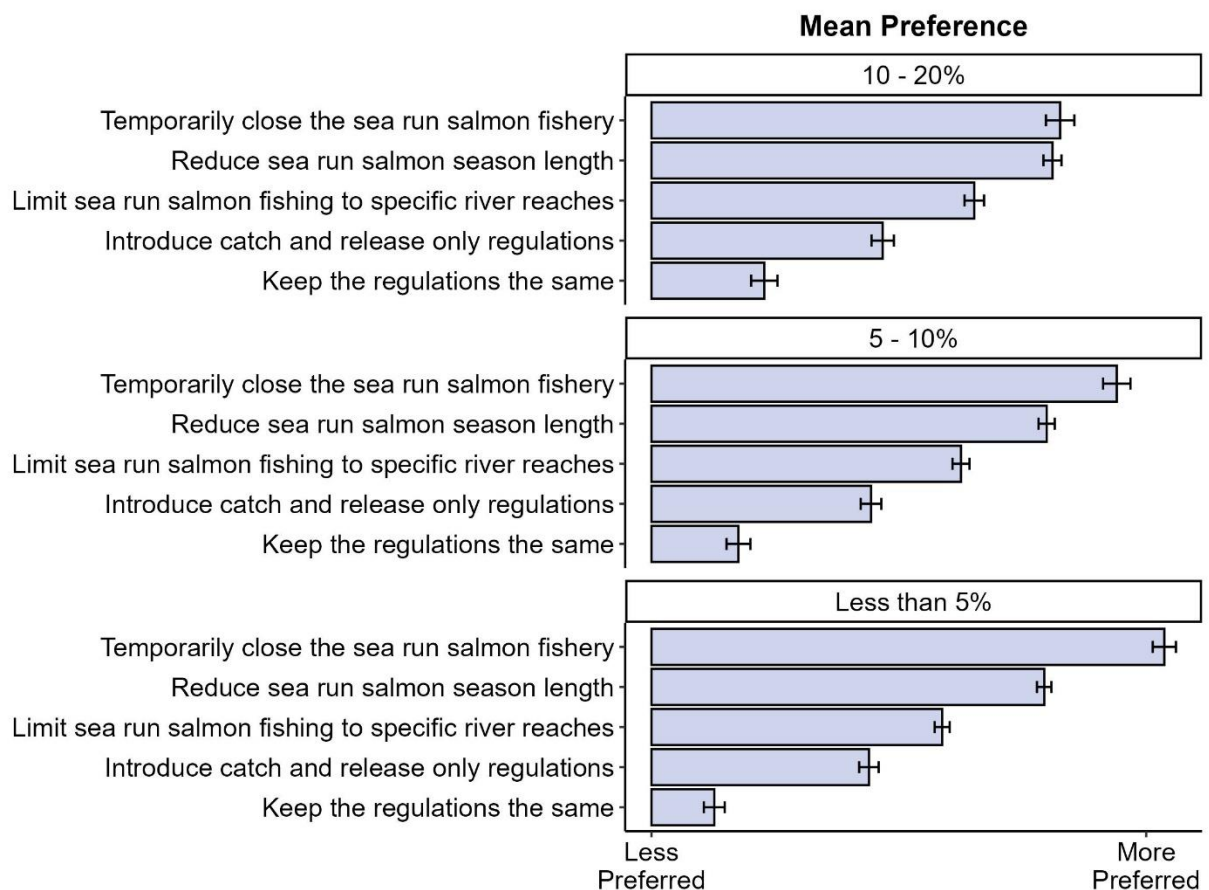


Figure 2. The mean preference scores of **sea-run salmon anglers** for each of the five potential regulation changes included in the 2026 sea-run salmon consultation by 3 potential spawning population thresholds, with error bars depicting the 95% confidence interval.

Under a spawning population of 10 - 20% of the historic average, 50% of anglers selected temporarily closing the fishery as their most preferred regulation change, 68% of anglers under a spawning population of 5 - 10%, and 80% under a spawning population of less than 5% (Figure 4). The second most preferred regulation change was a reduction of season length, with both the second most selected as the most preferred option under each threshold (21%, 12%, and 7% respectively), and the most commonly selected as the second most preferred under each threshold (42%, 54%, and 59% respectively). On the opposite end of the spectrum, keeping regulations the same was most commonly selected as the least preferred option under each threshold (69%, 75%, and 81% respectively). However, more anglers selected keeping regulations the same as their most preferred regulation change under each population threshold than selected catch and release fishing or limiting fishing reaches.

When asked to select the most important month to their personal fishing experience, 46% of anglers selected February, followed by March (25%) and January (18%). April was the least selected month, selected by only 3% of anglers.

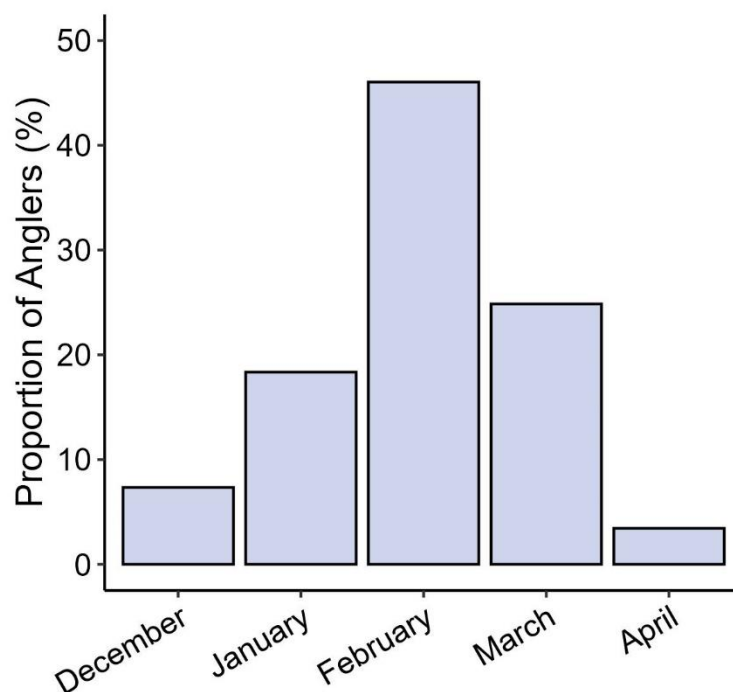


Figure 3. The proportion of anglers who selected each month as the most important month to their personal sea-run salmon fishing experience.

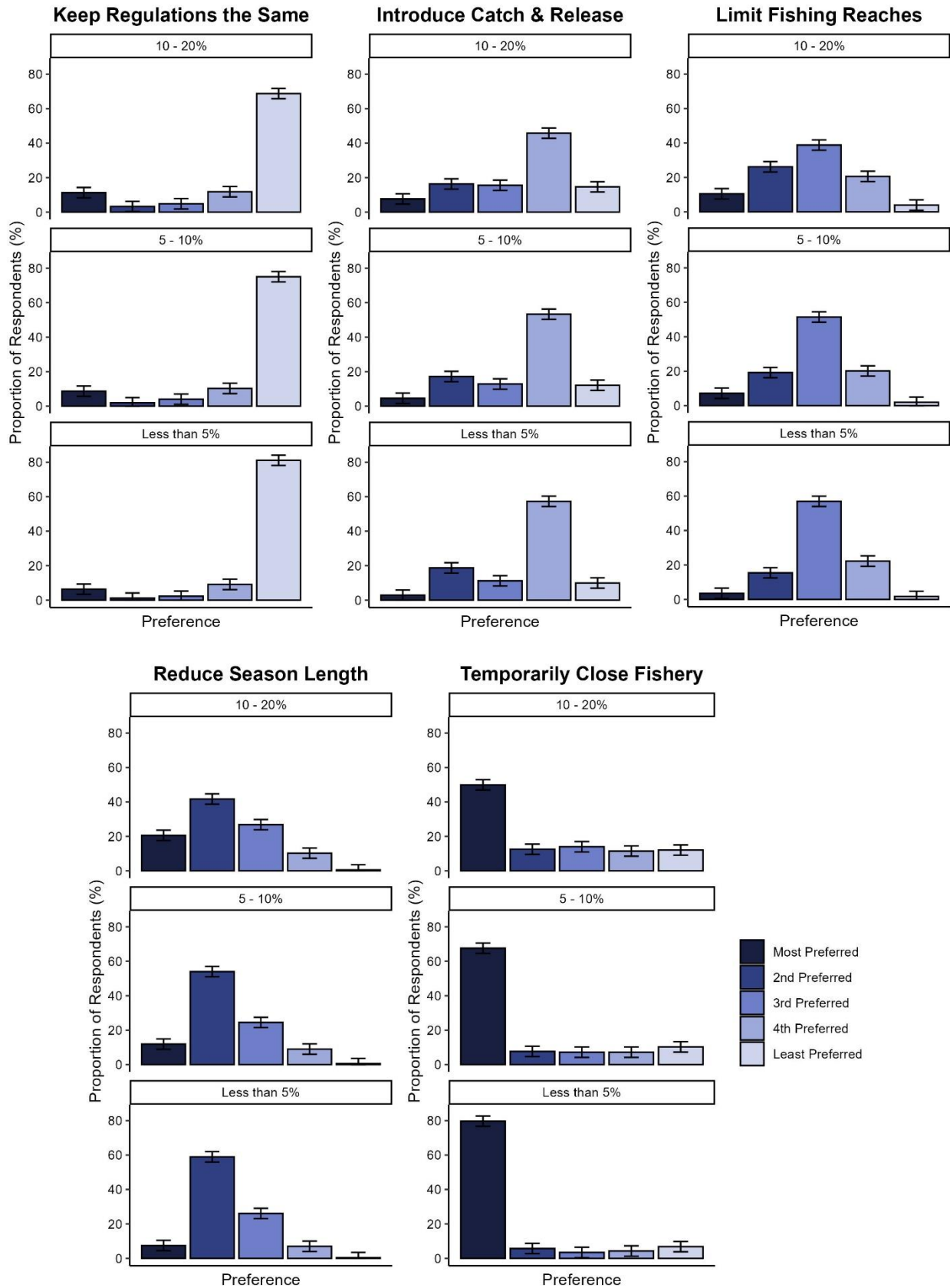


Figure 3. The proportion of salmon anglers who selected each level of preference for the five possible regulation changes included in the 2026 sea-run salmon consultation for spawning population decline to between 10-20% of the historic average, 5-10% of the historic average, and less than 5% of the historic average. Error bars depict the 95% confidence interval.

Public Survey

The responses of submissions from the general public were largely similar to those of sea-run salmon anglers. On average, temporarily closing the sea-run salmon fishery was the regulation change with the highest preference rank, followed by reducing the season length, limiting fishing to specific river reaches, introducing catch and release only regulations, and keeping the regulations the same (Figure 5). However, small sample size has resulted in relatively large confidence intervals.

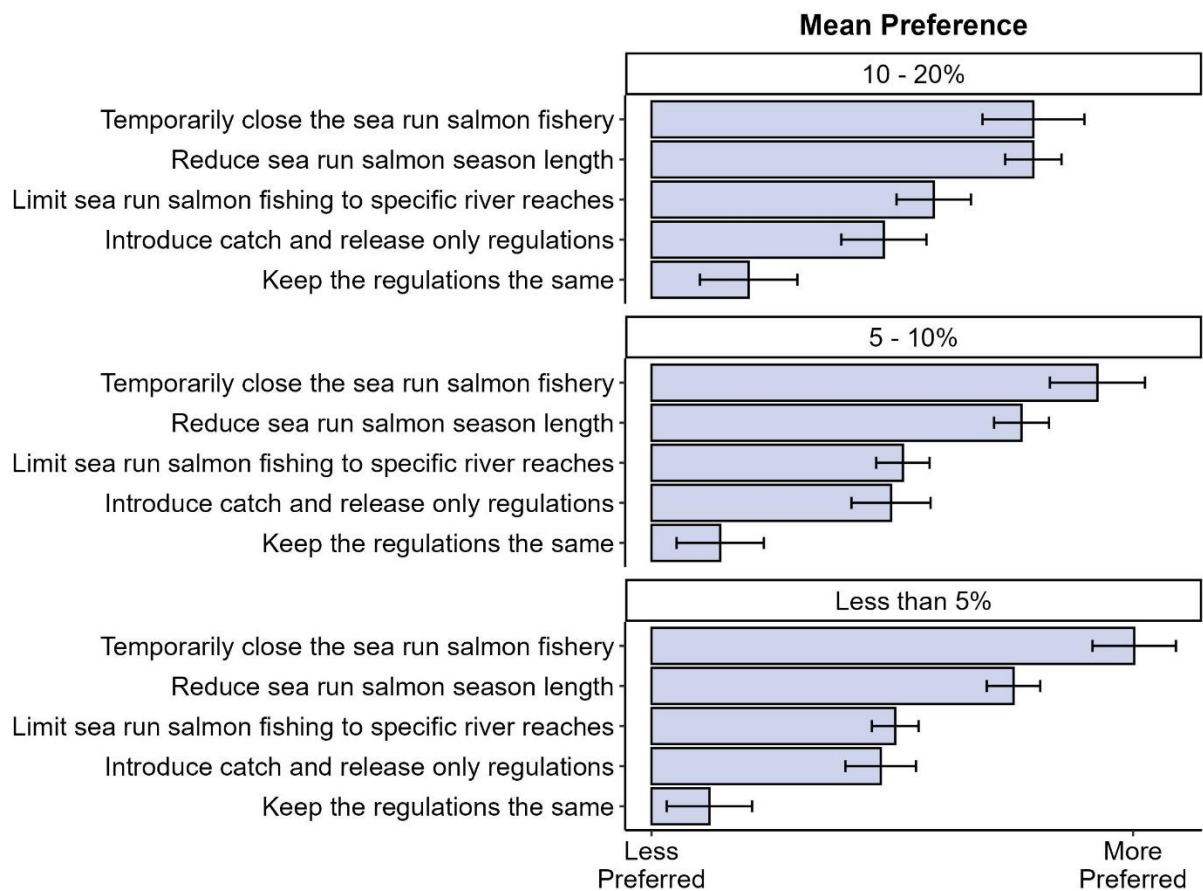


Figure 5. The mean preference scores of respondents from the **general public** for each of the five potential regulation changes included in the 2026 sea-run salmon consultation by 3 potential spawning population thresholds, with error bars depicting the 95% confidence interval.

Comments

Comments were provided in response to the question: Are there any other factors that Fish & Game should consider when thinking about implementing regulations aimed at reducing sea-run salmon harvest? A total of 568 respondents provided comment to the question posed during the survey process. Generally, the opportunity to provide comment was not used to comment on regulations and harvest considerations, but to provide broad commentary on sea-run salmon management considerations. Comments were categorised into nine themes (Table 2). While some comments did not fall into any of the identified themes, others aligned with multiple themes.

The primary theme included in comments provided during this survey was concerns about environmental conditions – including concerns about ocean conditions, river conditions, and spawning habitat conditions (Figure 6). Nearly a quarter of respondents listed at least one environmental concern in their comment. Nearly 21% of comments expressed a desire to see increased use of hatcheries to supplement the salmon run, and 18% expressed concerns about the impact of ocean catch.

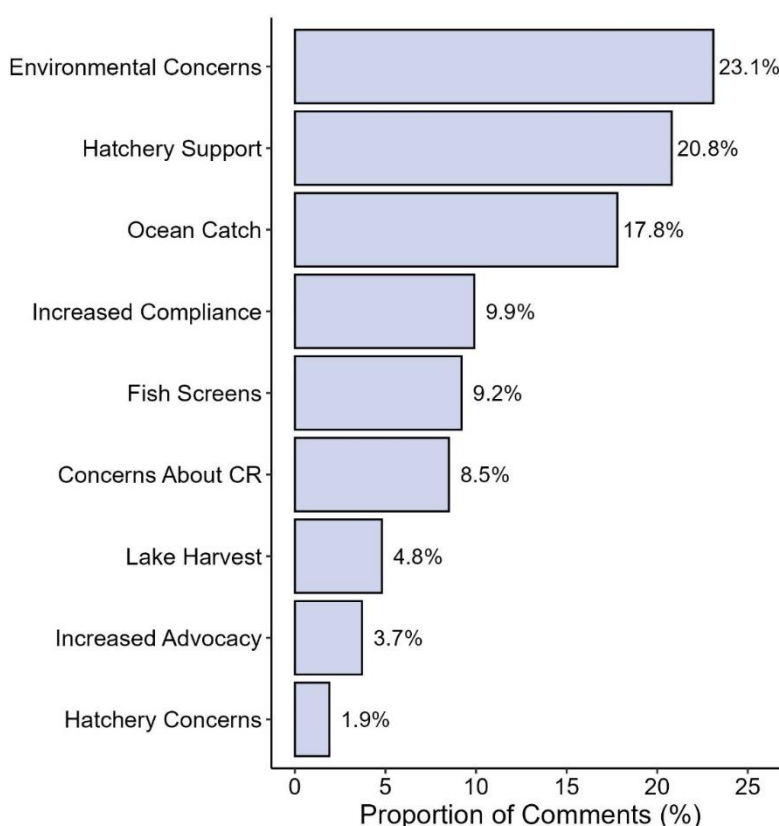


Figure 6. Summary of results of thematic analysis of comments provided during the 2026 sea-run salmon consultation process.

Table 2. The categories used for thematic analysis of comments provided during the 2026 sea-run salmon consultation process.

Theme	Definition
Hatchery Support	Expressed support for hatcheries or the introduction of new salmon species/genetics
Hatchery Concerns	Expressed concerns about the use of hatcheries or the introduction of new salmon species/genetics
Fish Screens	Expressed concern over fish screening/juveniles getting lost in irrigation schemes
Ocean Catch	Expressed concern over ocean trawlers, ocean anglers, or commercial bycatch
Environmental Concerns	Expressed concern for river conditions, ocean conditions, or spawning habitat conditions - or expressed support for increased habitat restoration
Lake Harvest	Expressed concern for harvest of sea-run salmon in lakes
Concerns About Catch & Release	Expressed concern for the use of Catch & Release - includes suggesting shift to less damaging tackle (e.g. barbless hooks/single hooks)
Increased Compliance	Expressed concern about non-compliant salmon anglers
Increased Advocacy	Expressed a desire for Fish & Game to lobby other organisations or the government for improved river conditions for salmon

Discussion

Anglers, on average, indicated a widespread preference for two potential regulatory changes: a temporary closure of the sea-run salmon fishery, or a reduction in season length. Further, as the hypothetical spawning population declined, anglers demonstrated a stronger preference for a temporary closure of the fishery over other regulatory measures.

In addition to being less popular options, a number of anglers expressed concern in the comment section regarding catch and release fishing and limiting the river reaches that are open to fishing. Anglers who opposed catch and release fishing cited concerns over the potential increased mortality of captured salmon, while those who opposed limiting river reaches expressed concerns of overcrowding and a sense of unfairness towards anglers who live near and fish the areas considered for closure.

When making decisions regarding season length, Fish & Game staff must consider the impact of the season on both harvest and angling activity. An angler's most personally valued month for sea-run salmon fishing may be when they are able to spend the most time fishing for sea-run salmon, when they have had the most success sea-run salmon fishing, or when they are able to spend time fishing with family and friends. Anglers selected February as their most valued month for sea-run salmon fishing. This was consistent across all three survey classifications. Meanwhile, April was the least selected month for personal importance.

The themes consistently raised in the comment section of the survey demonstrated anglers' concerns regarding many factors that may be contributing to the decline of the sea-run salmon population. However, there was also a common misconception that regulatory changes to reduce legal harvest are the only actions being taken by Fish & Game to support the fishery. Further, a number of comments expressed frustration that Fish & Game seemed to be asking anglers what management actions to take rather than making decisions based on expert advice – indicating a misunderstanding of the purpose of the consultation. Staff should consider increasing communications with anglers to showcase other management activities aimed at supporting the sea-run salmon population. Additionally, staff should consider more clearly outlining the role of consultation in the decision-making process in communications regarding future consultation processes.

Appendix I: Comment Submissions

Randomised Survey Respondents	
Respondent	Comment
Aidan Suckling	make the fishery grow...people need to appreciate the fishery... begin by reducing season length and then close it entirely the next year and then slowly increase the season length again to allow for better fishery health
Alan Bonner	finding ways to limit trawler catch rate..
Alex Scotchbrook	We need hatcherys its simple . Southbridge salmon should have to release hundreds and thousands and smelt and they right there by the rakaia too hatcherys are the only answer private or commercial. Id love to be part of it cheers
Alistair McDowell	Please act quickly and decisively.
Allan Gardiner	Research effect of irrigation over spawning season
Andre Cheremnov	Bring back stocking of rivers and natural lakes. Every angler out there would rather catch a 8 to 12lb salmon each time they go spend a day on the river as to nothing at all. The cost of rod reel line lures fuel food time for no fish...what's the point
Andrew Johnson	Open up hatcheries again
Andrew Hill	I think we should be considering temporary halting salmon fishing for up to 3 consecutive seasons now. We need to do something drastic before it is too late.
Andrew Riddle	0 bag limits & closure of the salmon season / and or rivers would show total failure of fish & games management in enhancing salmon numbers. This also has and will result in the loss of keen and dedicated anglers who care about the salmon. Since they implemented the new regulations in 2021 -- the results have been disastrous and are getting worse and with no signs of improvement. Time to change direction in planning.
Anthony Mort	1) Introduce corporate fishing licences for Fishing Lodges etc to facilitate sport fishing, rather than require every fisher to carry a personal licence. 2) Consider closing commercial inshore fish harvesting by boat within a predetermined distance from selected river mouthes during Sea-run Salmon seasons, thereby giving the fish a chance to safely arrive at their home river during runs.
Armand Flies	We are at the edge of a precipice. The time for worrying about genetics has passed. Now the only biable option is mass stocking of hatchery fish to try to re-establish populations
Bain McDonald	I have a neighbour who once showed me photos of spawning salmon they chased around in a shallow river pool, thinking they were clever catching them by hand but of course they were inadvertently destroying many thousands of eggs - they were trampers, not anglers and had no idea what damage they were causing to the fishery - is it possible that this type of event is contributing significantly to population decline ?
Benjamin Clark	Allow hatcheries to participate in increasing salmon numbers
Bill Fraser	What impact does the commercial fishery have on wild salmon.

Randomised Survey Respondents	
Respondent	Comment
Bill Horsley	If you don't opt to close the fishery temporarily I would suggest both b and c ie start the season later --in January maybe -- and close off fishing above the gorges at the very least -- maybe even at SH1. A later season start is important because the early salmon are often the biggest and best -- the ones we need to encourage to spawn. From discussions I have had on the river there seems to be a strong feeling among anglers that the wild salmon fishery is already gone -- and fishing interest is consequently waning. One way to keep salmon anglers interested would be to support the call to use the Silverstream hatchery to induce a salmon run into the lower Waimak. It would be localised so perhaps the positives would outweigh any negatives?
Bill Kelly	Temp close of the season would appear to be the best option in all scenarios.
Brett Adams	No one wants to loose the fishery and if catch and release is adopted do away with the treble hooks in our rivers.
Brian Hodges	Ban salmon fishing above the Rakaia Gorge Bridge
Brian Lepper	As I am only able to fish December or January most years and have never actually caught a sea run salmon, I have no problem with a total ban. If hatch rates are monitored for 2 or 3 years with a total ban in place and start to show an increase then reinstating fishing with a bag limit when the 3 or 4 year old fish start to return would hopefully maintain stocks and improve catch rates
Bruce Macdonald	None of these measures will make any difference unless Fish & Game reopen the hatcheries and start releasing young salmon in all our North Canterbury rivers again
Bruce Ramage	Close the complete season for a period of time eg 2 years allowing the hatcheries to recover.
Bryan Sait	If salmon were originally introduced successfully the method used should be employed to take/tax a percentage of the farmed salmon populations and use these fish to boost wild populations
Bryce Marshall	A total closure for 3-5 years
Bryn Hetrick	Do more to improve river and spawning location conditions
Carl B	Close the salmon season down completly to help boost the population, I only by a salmon license in case I accidently catch a salmon when I'm trout fishing. Bite the bullet and shut it down.
Charlie Willcox	Although Anglers should take accountability and take steps to protect this resource, F&G need to ensure all other river users do the same e.g. ECAN. Anglers alone cant save this species and it will take a collective approach. If we do not get support, they will be lost forever and that's on F&G.
Cory Quinn	How about you implement regulations on trawler bycatch to zero. You might find you have a fishery back at some stage
Craig Feaver	The fisheries need to be closed for a period of 5 years . All rivers , monitored data collected, then make a decision.
Craig Pethig	Bring back Hatchery's, and reduce water take
Dave Barker	Health of the fishery
David Hope	Commercial fishing bycatch survey.

Randomised Survey Respondents	
Respondent	Comment
David Barrell	I can't see there's been any meaningful change in the river environment (especially spawning headwaters) during the decline period (except the Opihi - Opuha Dam removing half the spawning catchment and the Waitaki - Hakataramea increased irrigation water abstraction limiting access to the only good spawning water). I have seen with my own eyes that salmon fishing pressure is way less than it was in my youth (1970s-80s), so I can't see harvest as a notable factor. Sea run trout presence at river mouths has dropped similarly to that of salmon. I consider one or more factors in the marine environment is likely a main cause. Ongoing rise of seal and sea lion populations is the most significant factor I can see, that wasn't present between acclimatization and the 1990s. But I appreciate any action on marine mammal factors is no-go, socially or politically. I think there needs to be an immediate 3-year shutdown of sea run salmon fishing, otherwise we have to accept the fishery is over. The other question is whether there is some genetic malaise arising from the long-standing isolation of the population, compared to native North America native populations. Is the introduction of fresh genetic stock a possibility?
David Kirkness	Fish and Game should be very concerned about central government limiting the advocacy work of F&G, and the role that salmon and trout play in clean water legislation. The salmon fishery, or the hope for its survival or resurgence, needs to be kept alive, as there are some who would like to see it disappear completely, and diminish or remove F&G as opposition to their environmental exploitation and degradation.
David Parker	Most anglers barely even catch a salmon during the season. The main problem is the holding ponds for irrigation are full of sea run salmon. It reduces water flows in rivers making them to warm. Salmon smelt end up in the holding ponds on there migration down stream not making it to the ocean. They travel down the side braids ending up in the irrigation system resulting in very few fish even having a chance to make the ocean let alone return to spawn. This should be top of your priority before anything else. You are more than aware of this issue. Take a net and sweep through the ponds and reintroduce the salmon back to the rivers and fix this issue from even happening. Anglers are not the cause of decline!!
David Wills	Extend the catchment for where the regulations come into effect. Beach fishing within 500 meters of a river should be regulated.
Dean Stotter	I have not fished for salmon so my response is really more as a bystander. I believe it is wise to be very conservative and if necessary close or restrict the season further for the longterm success of the fishery. We are fortunate to have this resource and need to care for it.
Dietmar Behrens	Close it and start hatchery operations again to stock the rivers.
Dirk Van Garderen	I believe drastic measures need to be taken. That means closing the fishery for at least three years and also carefully monitoring by-catch numbers by sea-based fishers
Don Patterson	Please consider introducing a more robust salmon specie, along with opening a hatchery or two

Randomised Survey Respondents	
Respondent	Comment
Dougal Robertson	No, because you are not doing anything to really enhance the fishery as it is. All you do is check licences. We told you last year to can the Rakaia salmon competition because of the lack of fish, yet it still went ahead. You do not use hatchery reared smolts anymore to improve salmon numbers in our rivers, but are quite happy to use them for lake enhancement. Smacks of double standards
Duncan Grant	Look at seeding the fisheries
Dwight Parlane	Would a sea-run salmon endorsement still be required with a 0 bag limit? It may be hard to sell the endorsement if no fish can be kept.
Eddie Smolinski	Greater awareness of sea run salmon by-catch from commercial nets etc.
Edsant Obillo	More game warden presence on key rivers will do it.
Emmanuel De Guzman	Yes I agree implementing regulations aimed at reducing sea-run salmon harvesting
Geoff Allott	Decision makers need to ensure that we truly understand ALL aspects required to improve the fishery. There needs to be a coordinated approach with all stakeholders of the rivers, lakes (where appropriate), and sea to ensure that the most comprehensive plan is in place during those times when drastic/protective action is required. Questions that need to be answered include; 1) do the rules relating to Salmon caught in the sea compare to those caught in the river (ie while the salmon fishery is recovering are there any ways for this to include the Salmon being caught in the sea.....eg surely it doesn't make sense being able to still catch 1 salmon per day in the sea but not being able to catch any in the river....it will lead to an onslaught on anglers focusing on sea methods and our problems will simply move to another area. It needs to be an 'all-water' strategy and not just a 'river' strategy. 2) With improved technology, is it possible to complete more research to discover the main areas fish congregate in the sea before the spawning run occurs, so that anglers (both recreational and commercial) can be restricted taking the Salmon (ie particularly in seasons where it is deemed necessary to take protective action)? 3) Information about the impact of the lakes have been left out of the study and it would be great to have it confirmed that there is absolutely no chance of any impact to young Salmon spending time in lakes before moving down the river system into the sea. If there is any evidence that some do spend time in the lakes then the regulations of those lakes MUST be consistent. 4) While the perfect solution is to have a sustainable wild fishery, some of the numbers from the past (ie pre 90's) involved a lot of hatchery fish. How damaging (or not) is this to the wild fishery and should it be considered as a supplementary option to build up numbers (especially initially to help the system recover), so long as the changing river conditions can handle the extra numbers?? Finally...the main point here is that we must all understand that we must play our part to ensure the fishery remains available for generations to come, and not just simply take a short term approach, even if this means our fishing seasons are affected. All of us would prefer an open season, but how satisfying would it be to have played a small part in helping this to become an example of collaboration and voluntary commitment to (re)create a world class sustainable, and importantly, intergenerational salmon fishery for everyone to enjoy!

Randomised Survey Respondents	
Respondent	Comment
George Mannering	Taking away people's opportunities to try and fix something that is already very broken seems wrong. Their numbers have not declined due to the over harvest from recreational anglers but they are the ones paying the price in literal terms with both increased licence fees and lack of opportunities due to the decline. Very few people still actively chase these fish due to the lack of numbers so the pressure on the resource from the angler is no greater even with a lower number returning. If F&G want people to continue contributing towards the fishery maybe they should be looking to introduce a new species to help keep the sport alive.
Glen Kavanagh	I think fish n game should make every 3rd or 4th year a catch and release only no harvest at all for that year.
Glenn Wilson	Close all irrigation outlets during Dec to march
Graeme Plank	Consider policing illegal harvesting and remove salmon as a commercial bycatch. Addressing issues of river water quality/flow and fish screen design. There are more factors involved in spawning rate decline than effects of a changing climate. License fishers will reduce dramatically in numbers if they see no meaningful work done by F&G other than reducing access to the salmon fishery, no doubt at an increased cost. I am very sad to see the current state of the fishery and the broad clean rivers we used to enjoy exploring.
Graham Belcher	Reduced numbers and reduced sizes suggests that there is reduced feed or more competition for feed when the salmon are offshore. Is this something that can be researched - ie aside from warming ocean temperatures, could human activity be affecting salmon success offshore. Is the marine ecosystem being affected in ways that are not currently understood. Funding would presumably be the issue
Graham Parnell	Review the possible implementation of supporting the fishery by opening up areas where hatcheries were operating to support fish population increase.
Grant Coulter	how about releasing some salmon again the attempt to have only a "wild" population has been a complete collapse of the fishery
Grant Pearce	Close fishery for full life cycle 3 to 4 years and ban salmon by catch at sea.
Hamish Mitchell	I think enforcing better fish screens on water takes would make a lot impact. Also reducing season length and restricting fishing in lower reaches of rivers together would have better outcomes- eg Waimak below SH1 bridge.
Harry Graham-Samson	It should be fly fishing only above the SH1 bridge. Another option is you can only harvest fish up to a certain size length e.g. any fish caught over 70cm must be released immediately. That way only smaller fish are getting harvested and this means that the bigger fish are getting to the spawning waters.

Randomised Survey Respondents	
Respondent	Comment
Henry Holderness	I am an experienced salmon fisherman, in the Hurunui, Waimak, Rakaia and Rangitata rivers. I harvested an average of about 2 salmon per season between 2006/07 and 2023/24. But I no longer fish for sea-run salmon. I did not buy a licence endorsement this season. The contribution of excessive angler harvest has not been properly acknowledged by the salmon fishing community. All other possible reasons for the decline in salmon numbers (climate change, dairy farming, fish screens not working, hatchery dilution of genetic stock, etc, etc) are vociferously blamed, but angler harvest is always downplayed - especially by older/retired anglers who tend to have the opportunity to fish more often when the conditions are good. As someone who knows how many other salmon anglers approach harvest (ie, taking as many fish as possible per season), it seems absurd to me to deny that this has been a major contributing factor to the decline. In short, too many salmon fishermen have been too greedy for too long. Fish & Game should have got onto this at least 10 years ago. I would have supported significant restrictions on harvest even back in the 2010-2015 period when the runs were still OK (just). Now, the only responsible step is for all salmon fishing in North Canterbury/CSI “ including at Birdlings flat, Akaroa harbour, the coastline between Timaru and Dunedin, Lake Heron, etc - to be temporarily closed unless and until the runs improve to a sustainable level. It may be too late already, but if we are to have any chance of saving the fishery then there needs to be 100% closure for at least 5 consecutive spawning seasons. If Fish & Game does not take drastic action now then the fishery will almost certainly die out, and there will be no sea-run salmon at all for people of my children’s age and younger. I really hope F&G will do the right thing.
Ian Brill	With the population so low Why aren't you releasing from hatcheries?
Jackson Meecham	I am submitting these comments as an angler, not a Fish and Game employee. I think that all rivers should be managed as independent systems, not all three relying on a management system of all rivers. I think Lake Heron should be treated the same as Lake Sumner, completely closed to salmon fishing. I think that the use of ‘single hooks’ on lake heron will have little to no impact on fish mortality, if people catch a salmon they like, they will kill it. The percentage of fish released into a lake that die from poor handling. I would like to see regulations that shift with changing runs.
Jahaan Ormandy	Salmon harvest is needed to maintain customer satisfaction in your organisation If there’s no salmon to harvest or you close the season you may aswell look for new jobs and your role will no longer be needed Time to realise how well the hatchery support actually as and reinstate them asap
James Pearce	Iclude lake heron juevenile salmon in the regulations. They are the key for the future of salmon fishing, especially if the future requires salmon that need to adjust to higher sea temperatures. The bag limit for these juevenile salmon needs to be zero, if the population has any chance to survive. Proposed changes to trawler regulations are likely to regatively impact salmon populations at sea, hopefully fish and game submitted against this!? Anecdotaly I have heard that commercial harvest has had a big impact. King fish predation is likely having a negative impact. What research is being done to try and understand these things?

Randomised Survey Respondents	
Respondent	Comment
Janes Christie	I think the numbers are down a lot in the last 5 years is king fish are in big numbers now I think they are eating the salmon at a young age also tuna are about aswell
Jansen Travis	Act now
Jared Lewis	Reopen the salmon hatcheries in canterbury as all the fishermen and woman volunteered to do this work that's why numbers are down.
Jason Cochrane	I don't think it's a case of reducing the harvest, rather implementing mechanisms to increase the available stock to harvest. If you look at the Nth American rivers that face or have closures are soon forgotten. Rivers need friends to protect them and when people stop visiting the rivers, the same thing will happen here - little or no participation, people will stop caring about the waterway or the creatures that inhabit them.
Jim Hoskins	Post plenty of notices that the river is closed for salmon fishing
John Craig	With current regulations and low fisher/catch numbers it's pretty much self regulating
John Hamilton	With catch and release there will be potential for mortality, there is potential for some anglers to take fish. The stock is greatly reduced, going hard and sooner rather than later should have the best results. With reduced seasons some will "trout" fish. The closed and shorter season should be easier to police
John Maclean	What has affected the volumes of fish, is it the off shore fishing. Very few anglers are catching Salmon so is a reduction in season or limited areas going to have any real affect.
John McNamar	The east coast salmon fishery should be closed indefinitely until fish stocks recover.
John Raymond Hey	No Salmon fishing above the gorge bridges.
John Smitheram	I think the question is more why the salmon numbers are so depleted. It's not water, if it was water, either quantity or quality the bigger rivers would still be fishing well. I believe it's either lack of food available at sea, or the trawlers have depleted the numbers. If we can't improve this part of the salmon fishery, regulating recreational fishing is only going to help a very, very small amount.
Jonathan William Arps	Regulations wise I don't know if there really is a whole lot. If you're only allowed 1 or 2 per season then apart from closing it, what will regulation changes really improve. Open hatcheries again maybe. Try boost that population. Smaller salmon are better than no salmon. Has to be more to it though. River health? I don't know. It's tough. I didn't bother with the endorsement this season as I've been releasing any I catch as by catch up the waimak. I can't bring myself to kill them.
Jos Deans	close fishing below high tide mark open january february only 2 fish no catch and release as with 3 hook barb they bleed out and die or shut fishing salmon for 3 years no competitions
Julian Clark	Once the Salmon are past the Gorge bridges let them go. To many Jet Boats are raping the Salmon stock
Karl Krauze	Stop / disallow anymore water takeoff from all major spawning rivers and from what I have seen is your fish ladders are a waste of time (inadequate)

Randomised Survey Respondents	
Respondent	Comment
Kenneth Gerken	It should not be the Angler that has to sacrifice all the time, the farmer taking water from the rivers need to have better and more compliant fish screens in place, to many small fry fish are getting pumped onto paddocks.
Kent Allison	Education around kahawai fishing (same methods and same locations as historical salmon fishing)
Kerry Power	What about the Hurunui, Waiau Rivers????? Fish and Game are very area specific in Canterbury, as can be seen by this survey. Hence no licence purchased this fishing season. I can harvest and sell whitebait for free, but need a licence to catch pests. Its all fkd up chaps.....
Kevin Barrow	Sea harvests commercially either as main catch or by catch
Kevin Flower	no was im not really up to speed on this subject
Klaus Wagmann	I propose a total ban for some Years, and see if the Salmon do recover. Though it's probably not very popular with Fish and Game who wants to sell licenses. Catch and release does more damage for Salmon. To be honest. No good!.There's also environmental factors to have a impact. I have been Salmonfishing for 30 years, I believe I do know a bit about it, and most people I talk to it support the Idea of a ban. For the sake of the Salmon.
Lance Ryan	I personally dont believe in a catch and release policy, 10% of anglers would actually understant how and when its acceptable. But the general amount of anglers will not make sure the release and optimal health of caught fish is maximize. I have done alot of catch and release fishing for trout on fly and the untold true by most is that some times the fish isn't fit for release after a long technical fight. To flow on from that, thats the sport in our fresh water introduced species, why compromise the quality of a potential spawning salmon just for sport in our already suffering catcments. I would appreciate your feed back on my comments Regards Lance Ryan 0273275972
Laurie Bennett	if the aim is to rebuild stock from natural spawning then the season must be closed. Catch and release harms fish and reduces survival. The other options are just palying around at the margins :)
Lindsay Prattley	Yes. From memory spawning counts are done to a calendar date, perhaps some more time needs to be spent to study if salmon have moved with season times as they do not use calendars
Luke Nickless	Bring back hatcherys
Lyn Baggott	Single hooks. No tri hooks. More sporting and less damage to Salmon.
Mark Brown	I don't believe that this drop off in salmon is in any way related to recreational fishermen, more needs to be done to limit the damage due to irrigation and commercial fisheries. Both outside fish and games control!
Mark Puddle	Further restrict extraction of water and of whitebait in order to maintain the fishery overall.
Martyn Wheeler	That there is a fishery to have later in yrs
Matthew Hall	Realising that regulating harvest by anglers is not the way to manage the fishery
Matthew Mcclintock	Try releasing hatchery fish again! Doing something that is going to benifit your customers! Why would anyone buy a license when there is no fish in the river! Bring back the fish and the anglers will come! Hatchery fish is your only option when there is cows wallowing in the salmons spawning ground!

Randomised Survey Respondents	
Respondent	Comment
Maurice Bootherstone	Any actions affecting a river should be made.for all at the same time otherwise pressure will be increased in those not regulated..
Mauritz Victor	Keep in mind that school holidays are the time families actually have time to spend outdoors and enjoying activities like fishing together. Catch and release still give you the thrill of catching a fish without having an effect on the fishing population. Yes some fish might not make it but it's the exception not the rule. Closing some areas to fishing is just robbing the public the right to enjoy the recourses and freedom of our beautiful country.
Michael Bakker	Closed season should be implemented 5 years ago but good to see it is on the table now. Artificially raising of the spawning population should be considered, mass smolt releases to jump start better population growth.
Michael Elliott	There is no Salmon fishery any more. Inept mismanagement of the fishery has destroyed it. As a result I do not buy a Freshwater licence any more. Nor do businesses benefit from costs associated with Salmon fishing such as tackle suppliers, accomodation suppliers etc.
Michael Fransham	Trying to get a handle on the amount of bycatch from the commercial fleet. That is, what effect does that have on the fishery?
Michael Rogers	Don't close the hatchery's. Bring them back!!!!!!!
Mick Kidd	Research into why the population numbers have reduced so dramatically.
Mike De Kwant	Full ban on all fishing for sea-run salmon including commercial fishing around river mouths, over several years
Nik Behrens	I would strongly suggest closing the fishery for a number of years so recovery can take place, alongside mitigations be it land use issues impacting river quality, upgrades to fish screens and potentially rebuilding the fishery through managed releases.
Oliver Bromley	There's hardly any around anyway
Paul Crossley	Reinstate the rule that a licence is required when using tackle that could be deemed to be being used to catch Salmon within 400m of a river mouth , I recall this used to be the rule, I personally fish the Waimakariri Mouth and I understand that is arguably the most heavily fished spot in NZ, who knows how many Salmon are being taken illegally over the course of the season
Paul Leary	How about trying to improve the fishery, not just regulating the hell out of it
Paul McOscar	Essential to close the fishery even for 2 years.
Paul Smits	Stronger control in the trawler based by catch';stronger boundary control at river deltas with the commercial fishing community
Paul Titheridge	Stop referring to the salmon catch as a harvest....it's not !!! It may be trendy jingoistic new catch-phrase but it also implies there is plenty for the taking. There isn't !! They may be an introduced species it they have become a 'taonga'a treasure, certainly not on the thought level as a crop of spuds for 'harvest'. We entrust afish & Game as our guardians of this treasure....not crop overseers. Think about it !! Fish & Game are our
Peter Oakley	No bait fishing on the Waimak
Peter Bullock	Other avenues such as increased hatchery investment, water quality monitoring and public engagement ought also be considered.
Peter Hampton	Look at world wide issues affecting king salmon population declines

Randomised Survey Respondents	
Respondent	Comment
Peter Robinson	Nostalgia and hope can't be strategies to "maintain boots on the river" We have to deal with the fishery as it is, not the way we wish it was. Why will it come back? The wild sea run trout and salmon fishery is lost. Look to a climate and habitat change present and future. Where can I take my grandchildren sport fishing locally to maintain the angling tradition, buy a licence and catch a fish? Is it timely for aquaculture to play a part? Along with landowners with suitable irrigation ponds we could have allies in the aquaculture industry eager to provide support for angling and gain social licence with the sport fishing fraternity.
Phil Keene	You are literally up the creek without a paddle as the current government is not mitigating climate change nor degradation to freshwater. 37000 more cows in Canterbury.....This Government has also knee capped F and G in terms of it's freshwater responsibilities and local judgement, exacerbated by the current CEO and Board.
Philip Watts	How much by-catch taken at sea by commercial fishermen. Degradation of rivers/spawning streams by intensive agricultural practices.
Phillip Williams	The full closure of lake Heron to all juvenile salmon take, this will allow these fish to migrate to the sea when ready, these fish are our purest chinook salmon in New Zealand and have higher return rates. lake heron juvenile salmon should fall under the seasonal bag limits. !!! not !!! four fish per day !!! these fish are wild salmon not landlock. lake heron should also be placed under north canterbury fish and game, not CSI fish and game. these fish in the lake Heron are Rakaia fish.
Rajiv Siram	Close the salmon fishery for a couple of years in all rivers and head water lakes. During these 2 years let the hatcheries start releasing salmon molt.
Rex Gibson	F&G need to realise that salmon do not buy licences, anglers do. The efforts to save the so-called original genetic strain have had 3 generations and have clearly failed. A repeat of the 1900 Hakataramea and post-war Glenariffe hatchery efforts (probably near Kaiapoi this time) is needed. Anglers do not check out the genetics of their catch. They just want a catch. Admit that the current policy is wrong and move on. F&G's role is to provide anglers with fish; not to allow costly pure science experiments, at anglers expense, to rob them of their heritage. The current policy is strangling the golden goose. Aesop must be shaking his head in incredulity.
Rex Youngman	Maybe you should consider global warming and the culling of a large number of their predators like the seals along our coast
Richard Holland	stop fishing competition and stop catch release
Richard O'driscoll	Ease of enforcement should be considered.
Richard O'keefe	Licence holder sales revenue should not be considered when making decisions around protecting the salmon fishery. Before considering the option of closing certain parts of the river, the following question first needs to be asked - are more salmon being caught per angler day in specific parts of the river? Where is the fishing pressure?

Randomised Survey Respondents	
Respondent	Comment
Richard Reynolds	Cancel all commercial fishing for salmon off the coast of NZ until stocks recover to pre-2000 levels. Restart hatchery programs using current knowledge to make it better, perhaps using fish from some landlocked salmon populations in some way to help. Focus on river clean up and maintaining water flows, reducing irrigation draw and runoff from intensive farming.
Rick Wills	Police the harvest happening out side of river mouths (by catch)
Rob Clark	If you are looking at Catch and Release all terminal tackle must be single hook for ease of release, the damage done when taking out a treble is too great. There must be a no take in Lake Heron (for a period of time) and again single hooks
Rob Hutchison	more rangers to check on unlicensed fishermen during peek run
Rob Stock	continue dialogue with anglers ,continue research into reason salmon are dissappearing.
Robert Ashford	I think a multi season closure should be implemented and breeding stocks checked to check the trend.
Robert Houghton	It's not got anything to do with harvest in the rivers! All rivers have reduced numbers and all rivers are producing smaller fish than ever before so it's has to be their food source at sea! Not to mention the huge abundance of kawai that smack the returning smalt!
Robin Eddy	Catch and release depletes the energy of the salmon in it`s run up river to spawn. By catch at sea and the lack of food do not help.
Roger Inwood	NO fishing above Rakaia and Waimakariri gorge bridges and Rangitata SH1 bridge.
Roget Brott	Should be based on returns.Close the entire fishery until the returns reach a sustainable level.
Roland Babonnick	stop trawlers netting at the mouth while salmon are waiting for a fresh, I have seen them do it.
Russell Frank	Hugely increase in stream and riparian efforts coupled with considered restocking of either ova, fry or smolt. I fear reducing anglers ability to fish for salmon will only further erode interest and effort from anglers in salmon and their rehabilitation.
Russell Wood	Work more closely withDOC to control the use of nets in the estury and lower reaches of the rivers
Ryan Rolston	Fish and game needs to consider why anyone would purchase a fishing licence when there are no fish left. This is the first time in 35 years when i have not bought a licence and none of the options would comple me to do so in the future. How do you propose to differentiate between people targeting salmon vs kawai or trout fishing? Clarity of regulations should also be considered. They are already too complicated and having more regions and different regions for different species is not supported. The season card system is impractical because noone wants to take a pen, scales or ruler while fishing. Any option that removes this is supported.
Sam Wells	give it a long close - 5 years. that should provide reasonable data. we can not carry on as we are.

Randomised Survey Respondents	
Respondent	Comment
Scott Ammerman	An increased presence of officials to ensure that regulations are being adhered to. While the vast majority of anglers may be fully compliant, there are always those that don't care.
Sean Mooney	Close the season for a few years, see how the numbers change. This is the hard truth many anglers must acknowledge. Our environment is changing and sea water temps getting warmer. If to stay open, have you considered a ballet system to enable some anglers to still fish while significantly reducing total catch. You also need to consider a greater management plan for the Waimak Mouth and estuary, there are plenty of "unreported" salmon being caught there, many by people without a license
Shane Robertson	Make every second or third season closed.
Simon Arthur	Restart hatchery on Rakaia river, put pressure on having efficient fish screens on water intakes so smolt reach the lagoon and sea.
Simon Mechen	Stop the trawlers from pillaging the fish at sea, this is the real reason there are not many wild salmon left. I personally saw cases of Salmon on the Lyttelton wharf in the early 80's, all around 20-30lb fish, now all they can catch are the tiddlers they've reduced the fishery to. No amount of seasonal closures will fix the problem, I was discussing this with some customers today, they both said that they aren't buying a fishing licence because of no salmon, I'm the same. So until Fisheries New Zealand man's up and releases juveniles-which they won't, the fishery will continue to decline until there are none left. Is the commercial sector reducing their catch??? No would be the answer!
Simon Worthington	There is a greater need for enforcement with regular checks on the amount of fish anglers take. There are anglers in North Canterbury taking salmon without a licence and exceeding their limits
Sonia Devery	Review fishing license cost especially if we have more restrictions put on salmon fishing. Many salmon released under catch and release provisions still die.
Stephen Harris	Reducing the licence cost pro rata to season restrictions
Steve Allan	Had licence for sea run salmon. But haven't gone out fishing for over four years due to personal circumstances so happy with outcome of survey
Steve Gray	I don't think the harvest is the issue. If the harvest is reduced or season closed this indicates a complete collapse of the fishery. Which in turn will reduce license sales. The anglers want to see fish and game trying to fix some of the issues . Perhaps spending some money on the hatcheries .
Stu Lawrence	more boots on the ground at Waitaki mouth for unlicensed people who drag kawawai from the water, but also keep salmon at the same time hidden in the catch. Close the season to just 1 month, keeping the season limit at just 1. I have fished a week in March / April each year for the past 4 years and havent caught one, hardly see any caught.
Stu Marsh	should only be able to catch salmon up to the first marker post, 2 salmon per year min, not one, find out were the salmon are going at sea and who is targeting them /catching them, you should have got your shit together years ago , so incompetent. older people have bought batchers in sea side community's just to go salmon fishing that is there hole life, what they have left.

Randomised Survey Respondents	
Respondent	Comment
Stuart Logan	You have ruined the fishery under your watch. I have seen it disappear in my lifetime , 30 years of neglect. No commercial bycatch - thats where they all went to start with. Irrigation ponds - where all the fry go Cattle in all our spawning rivers. The Hacker being sucked dry , no spawning Gary Rooney , the biggest problem in South Canterbury. Probably to little to late , there is no point starting another run unless we stop the commercial take at sea for ever , back to the old rules , land a salmon you lose your boat , stop fry going into irrigation ponds and get some spawning creeks.
Tim Witham	More effort to police unlicenced fishers, I've been checked twice in 30 years, Hurunui fishermen boast about catching season limit then buying another licence, Kaikoura Beach fishing for salmon is completely unchecked even though most are caught within the boundary of the Lyell creek mouth, Reducing the harvest appears to be ineffective on its own, more smolt need to be introduced.
Tony Hurring	As much as it would pain a lot of anglers including myself, I believe for the fishery to be given the full opportunity to replenish, I firmly believe the angling pressure must be withdrawn for a number of years. The only issue I see with this is anglers still trout fishing and catching salmon as bycatch. Not sure how that could be policed sufficiently to ensure a safe passage for salmon.
Wally Steven	By catch at sea
Walter Fielding-Cotterell	The sheer high numbers of anglers lining the river mouths and the gauntlet that salmon have to run to access the river in the first place. Prohibit salmon fishing in the higher reaches of the rivers particularly near spawning streams. Enhancing salmon spawning streams.
Wayne Ward	Yes, ensure that no sea run salmon are caught at sea by commercial fishing boats. Lobby the salmon farming industry for help increasing spawning of farmed or wild Chinook Salmon for release. Consider the use of spawning landlocked Chinook Salmon for release in depleted rivers. Lobby Government and the Hydro industry for fish passes on the Waitaki and Clutha catchments to increase scope and spawning range of wild searun salmon. Re-INVESTIGATE the introduction of other salmon species like King and Atlantic Salmon with help from the salmon farming industry and tourism NZ. Lobby central Government for a levy on all water right applications or renewals. Completely close a select number of Esat Coast rivers to help evaluate the actual effect of angling take on spawning populations. Consider a tag purchase system so those who take more pay more, perhaps \$10 per fish taken. Catch and release included in license fee Conduct trial releases of salmon smolt into Fiordland rivers where conditions include deep sheltered sounds.
Wilfred Van Slooten	In reality for every reduction made to angler harvest so far the returning salmon numbers continue to drop. The root causes of the decline need to be understood. Difficult but imperative. To date nothing has helped and a reduction in angler harvest is unlikely to make much or any long-term difference. Real science with real solutions. All these ideas are just window dressing.

Randomised Survey Respondents	
Respondent	Comment
Will Herbst	See if we can advocate for better control of salmon fishing grounds. Try and keep river flow as close to natural as possible. Understand there is a balance here between economic growth of agriculture etc. Just need to see if we can manage this some how better by implementing a long term plan.
William McKnight	In my opinion false information and promises from irrigation companies along with poor management from Ecan, in particular regarding suitable fish screens.
Yufeng Lin	I would like to see the consultation address not only harvest reduction but also the factors affecting the source of sea-run salmon productivity. Current challenges describe ocean warming, river health, and environmental pressures, but do not clearly quantify the impact of angler harvest on the returning spawning population. While regulation changes can reduce the number of salmon caught, they do not directly improve the underlying conditions that determine run size. I encourage Fish & Game to explore additional strategies aimed at increasing the fundamental productivity of the salmon population”for example, improving river habitat quality, advocating for more effective fish screens and flow management, protecting headwater spawning habitats, and expanding monitoring of juvenile survival rates. Reducing harvest is only one part of the solution; long-term recovery will require actions that address the environmental factors limiting recruitment.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Adam Clark	I think the harvest of 1 fish a season is more than enough, fish stocks need to be enhanced to give the fishery the best chance of recovering, closing the season will cause an absolute up roar from people like myself who have spent a lifetime fishing for salmon, catch and release is a great option to keep the fishery open but a lot advice on correct fish handling would have to be put out to ensure the released fish actually survive.
Adam Kreisel	Water take on our rivers during summer months when levels are low, storage ponds are there for a reason. Shorten the length when this occurs, will result in more flows and cooler water temps.
Aiden Bettridge	People aren’t honest about catching sea run salmon at river mouths, increase the fine or allow people to check for sea run salmon license to keep anglers honest as rangers aren’t always present. Drop young salmon into rivers and close the fishery down to allow numbers to increase naturally.
Alan Peacock	Seek to understand if increased nitrate levels in Canterbury Water is a contributing factor into the decline of the fishery and if so oprosecute Environment Canterbury will all tools possible.
Alby Cuthill	I would like to see research done into why they don't come back from the sea and when they do why are they so small and slabby? What is attacking their food supply?
Alistair Climo	More Seeding of fish,release fingerings etc,
Allan Dawson	Saving the Salmon Run is the most important goal - do not be swayed by popular opinion (survey results) - leadership is needed - if you do not act NOW the Salmon Run will be gone in 5 years

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Allan Gill	Is there any chance that salmon is being caught in commercial fishing waters and is that being monitored?
Allan Wilson	Temporary closure of fishing for sea run salmon makes most sense because it is hardly worth going fishing at the moment due to the lack of fish.
Amen Shaheen	define sea runs as a protected speci untill the percentage of 50 is reached
Andrew Grant	I think this panic response is being approached from a "moving chairs around on the Titanic" basis. We need to clearly understand why the fishery has declined then look at options. I suspect the reasons for the salmon fishery decline are water quality and water quantity. There is also a very good correlation between the decline and closing the salmon hatchery (releasing salmon). I guess you must ask yourselves "do we really know why the salmon run in Canterbury has declined?", If you can definitively say "yes" we do and we have the data to show this then let's look at this and work out the best way forward. I am pretty confident you cannot answer the question, and you don't have the data - the only data you present is trend data.....useless! this is no basis to work out a solution. Back to the drawing board I think before the "Iceburg" which with this approach is inevitable.
Andrew Howard	Reintroducing hatchery fish and closing waterways for salmon fishing for 5 years
Andrew Munro	-closing river areas to be fished will be unfair to some that have made life choices to live where they do, to enjoy the fishing catchment, also there will be uneven representation for voting on what areas to be closed by anglers voting with their own personal interests. Eg: higher percentage of anglers fishing the mouth to the anglers fishing upstream. - rivers require a higher presence from rangers at known fishing areas/launch sites to ensure anglers are being honest and to catch the blatant disregard for new regulations.
Andrew Orr	Start releasing salmon again, the salmon fishing is a waste of time now.
Andrew Padawer	Fish first (survival/ health of run), fishermen second.
Andrew Palmer	Please consider. Salmon fishing is self regulating. When fish numbers and fish condition is poor, the number of Fishermen targeting salmon reduces exponentially. As proven over the last decade. Closing sections of rivers unfairly effects those whom have spent large amounts of money on batches at river mouths or jet boats for upper reaches. Salmon numbers/condition are mostly dictated by the ocean environment.
Andrew Richardson	F and G actions will probably have a minimal effect on the salmon population when it seems the biggest factor in the decline happens at sea. The number and decreasing size of fish support this view. The damage was done in the 80s and 90s when anglers were taking up to 100 fish per season When considering your possible course of action, please consider the Waitaki river which has a later run than the other rivers outlined
Andrew Young	1. The impact of ocean acidification on marine food chains was missing from the document. 2. I think the trend (downwards!) is more important than than the absolute number (~20%). Drastic action is well supported by the trend in the available data.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Angus Borrell	I believe we should look to Terrace BC for a model to base off. Season closure based on previous returns or anticipated returns based off sampling should be considered. More comprehensive Consent condition compliance for irrigation companies should be sought regarding intake screening. Barbless single hooks should be implemented to avoid damage to gills and foul hooking. December is the best month for me as I return to Canterbury for Xmas to see family, otherwise I would say February when I usually take a week off to fish the rivers. Season closure region wide should be implemented otherwise the pressure will be applied to anything remaining open. Rehabilitation of wetlands in the lower reaches of the catchments should be prioritised, so juvenile fish have an improved food source in the lower reaches before heading to sea. Liaising with fisheries for bycatch management at sea should be a priority. Funding and donation by irrigation companies should be encouraged for buy in to rehabilitation.
Anthony Hill	More work is needed to reduce Dairy herd population adjacent to many of our Salmon rivers to help the spawning process. All of the Salmon run rivers pass through over populated dairy farms. Stop the greed from these farmers and impose heavier fines for allowing stock to still wander through these rivers and catchment. I am 77 years old and have fished the Rakaia and Waimakariri rivers since the early 1960s. The dairy industry is solely to blame for the decline in these rivers. We never saw Didymo or any of these contaminants in our rivers until the dairy industry over fertilized and poured liquid cow manure back onto the land that has underground aquifers running parallel to these rivers. As long as dairying is allowed to continue at the current rate, our game fisheries will never be sustainable again in our lifetime.
Antony Tucker	Improvement of irrigation intake screening
Arthur Edmondston	A fishing licence to be held when fishing on any fresh water rivers
Arthur Mead	I believe catch and release would be detrimental too the Salmon population
Barrie Wood	Sea run salmon in the Canterbury region (specifically Waimakariri south to the Waitaki) needs time to heal, help with minimising pollution of river and groundwater, plus improving mean river flows especially the Rangitata and Opihi to lessen the effects of silt loading in times of flood. Personally, I voluntarily stopped fishing for sea run salmon 8 years ago because of the effects intensified agricultural demands placed on habitat values. When ECAN was first created, I really thought that organisation would care for our natural heritage but all I can see is a money making machine "clipping the ticket" with every consent issued.
Bart Arnst	I struggle to see that recreational fishers are the cause of this problem. Water quality needs to be addressed.
Basil Ivey	fish screens on all water takes 2 fish in irrigation ponds returned to water of origin 3 water entry to intakes on right side of current
Blair Daniel	If you look at studies in BC where I spend a lot of time, you will find that the healthy release of chinook is not great. I don't believe in catch and release for chinook if we want to actually help those fish. They are for meat and subsequently have stopped targeting them in any country, let alone our depleted rivers. Not your fault via poor management, keep up the good work. Thanks

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Bonnie Ede	What is happening in the ocean, temperature, commercial fishing etc. propose a licence and bag limit requirement for taking salmon from the beach further than 500m from the mouth.
Brennan Edwardes	Police the river mouths and ensure commercial fishers are not catching them as bycatch at sea.
Brent Regaldo	Bring back the hatcheries as egg boxes are obviously not working
Brett Biddle	It is great to be included in this process, so thank you. I favor reducing the season and ending 1st March. If general consensus differs, I ask that F&G select the most effective method based on current knowledge. So change as we learn more. Let's at least continue to find a balance that avoids a season closure.
Brett Colgan	I would be extremely disappointed if the approach by F&G is to limit the angler once again thinking that this will "save" the Salmon. There is absolutely no data to support closing seasons will boost our stocks back to 5,000 fish and have a healthy fishery. The rivers are empty of anglers now, your role is to get them back not shut the door on them with your "hope" that stocks will recover. You have stated in your own data that the Salmon card has reduced Harvest by 20%-30% - well wheres the returning fish then? We should be seeing them by now. F&G took credit for the Salmon card when we had a strong run in 21/22 - wheres the credit now? Were down to 1,000 fish from the 24/25 season. This isnt a fishery. This isnt going to get new anglers buying licences. I applaud F&G for progrssing with the ocean study. This will tell you everything you need to know about how to manage and improve a fishery. Doing surveys now asking about "closing seasons" is absolute rubbish. Restricting, catch & release, closing seasons will not recover stocks. What are we doing? Protecting the last 3 salmon?? 21/22 season has impecible ocean conditions and this is why we had a good return. Those returnig fish shouldve been there in their thousands last season, but they werent. So this shows there is no correlation between runs at all. Its all ocean driven. If you close the season for 5 years, and during this time we have good ocean conditions you will say "see its working" open it back up with poor conditions and we get 400 fish back. Thats not enhancing the fishery, thats not governing for anglers. Its the cheap way out. Plus youve just lost all your conservationists who are your eyes and ears on those waterways. You lose them and you lose a whole lot more. Your plan and vision should be how do we get the hundreds shoulder to shoulder back at the river mouth? Not how do we protect the last 3 Salmon. The ocean study will tell you everything, are they doomed, is there hope for a boomer season 1 in every 8, will the peaks be disastrous as in 200 fish back due to how bad the ocean is. If the outlook isnt great then we have to look at what else will work and what else will get hundreds / thousands of anglers back on the banks, being your eyes and ears and looking after the waterways we truly love. I think this survey is very worrying and if this is the way F&G are going to manage this crisis then I am very concerned. These questions shouldn't even come up in conversation about how to manage our fishery. Salmon card - you know that even with 10,000 salmon running your not guaranteed to catch one.) The salmon card should be 4 Salmon, with absolute minimum of 2, not 1 I fish a lot, but I have never caught 4 Salmon a season and will not keep 4 Salmon a season <i>(continued on next page)</i>

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Brett Colgan	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> Psychologically you would have anglers buy in if you left it at 2 Your not going to catch 2 salmon when there's only 80 returning up the Rangitata This whole defence strategy and limit the angler each and every time hoping it will fix populations has to stop. Again the ocean study will tell you everything we need to know about where we go from here. I expect F&G to be proactive on the where we go from here and show some leadership as anglers are frustrated. F&G didn't cause the decline but you aren't proactively managing a recovery of a fishery either.
Brian Hodges	No fishing for salmon above the Rakaia Gorge bridge
Brian Halkett	Yes stop the young salmon going down the irrigation outlets Problem solved
Brian Kilday	Licence only to keep Sea-run Salmon caught outside the 500 metre regulation,ie caught surfcasting at likes of Kaikoura,Birdlings Flat.
Brian Sharpe	close harvest of sea fishing during November to April ie no trawlers closer to rivers from Kaikoura to Timaru
Bruce Barnes	Close the season for 3 years. Annual redd counts should the give an indication if recreational fishing for salmon is a problem.
Bruce Osman	Clean water is the most valuable resource we have. Without quality water there is nothing on this planet. Pure and simple!
Bruce Wells	Start breeding program to boost population for next 20 years
Bruce Baldwin	More policing of our rivers and tougher fines. Commercial Guided fishing is only allowed to catch and release at all times.
Bruce Brown	Until the irrigation streams are screened the smolt will be bird food for ever. All salmon caught above the gorges must be catch and release.
Bruce Kelly	While not a game changer, at least in fairness the salmon in Lake Heron should be subject to the same regulations of Rakaia River fishery. I'm not confident that any of the proposed regulation changes will make any difference unless sea conditions change, which seems unlikely and which sound as though they will only get worse in terms of warming. Salmon in reality are a salt water species more than a fresh water one and unless we can do something about that environment we are doomed. Global warming is also warming the river water which is not helping. I know that there is a theory that salmon will evolve to cope with the increased temperatures, I'm not sure that will happen, evolution takes hundreds of years while we only have tens of years. I don't intend to purchase a salmon license this year.
Bruce Kirkman	hopeless data gathering. Maybe you could have had some radio buttons for possible interventions like Hatchery releases. Much has also been talked about Lake Heron recently also, stop the harvest of one year fish in the lake..
Bruce Roy	More regulations are harsh but for the betterment of the sea-run salmon, regulations are necessary

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Bruce Selbie	I have fished multiple years in Alaska for salmon in the Kenai Peninsula area and have noted that for a number rivers that when spawning numbers collapse Fish and Game in Alaska are very fast to limit fish take or stop completely. The other issue is the loss of young fish lost through the irrigation system take off system and inefficient fish screens. I have not fished for sea run chinook salmon in New Zealand for over 6 years, on principle, knowing we need much greater fish numbers spawning in our rivers.
Bruce Wallace	Having just completed your questions the most important area to protect is all the 3 gorges of our main fishery ,Rangitata,Rakia ,Waimak. The fish that reach these areas deserve to be protected until their end of life.Giving the maximum spawning ,these areas could be trout fishing only but salmon must be returned safely still giving everyone a chance to fish.There is more than enough river to catch salmon prior to the gorges that you don't need to fish in the nursery where they are easy targets.In the last few years the catching of salmon has been a case of self preservation as the number of fishermen on the rivers has dropped dramatically.All fishermen need to take part some way or another to restore the fishery.F&G should also be exploring what is happening at sea eg- the krill quota in respect to the by -catch ,are our salmon being harvested in the south . This year saw 630,000 ton of krill were harvested -the most on record but was the total allowable catch .This has to be a factor way our salmon are small ,pale colour and returning early .There are lots of other variables but we could go on about all day what's happening at sea- sea temps-Bycatch-food-etc.But we have to start somewhere ,Good luck with the process to make this fishery mighty once again .
Bryan McCormack	Review all problems in the North Canterbury region. The region has been affected by poor management for years and we are seeing the results now. Maybe more action and less talking.
Bryan Searle	The commercial by-catch. Reports indicate that no monitoring is now carried out of the activities of foreign trawlers within our coastal waters. If this is the case, it needs to be remedied. Commercial entities have no scruples and are all about profit at any cost. They must be policed.
Bryce Buddle	Catch and release may result in salmon mortality.
Charles Smith	The Waitaki river data needs to be taken into account for the overall salmon run data, To enforce regulation regarding appropriate lures for salmon fishing. For example treble hooks should be banned, to promote a less harmful method. Barbless single hook policy should be mandatory for salmon fishing. The lake heron 'land locked salmon' fishery should be closed' As a contributing source of the Rakaia river salmon run.
Chris Fox	For long term management of fishery it should be closed season until population recovers, this could be multiple years

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Chris Kime	I have never been in favour of you hitting licence holders with extra cost to fish for salmon. I think that approach is shortsighted and greedy. I have always thought that there are too many anglers, who have no fishing morals and that these are the licence holders that you somehow need to target by changing their attitude towards catching too many salmon. Your approach to preserving the salmon fishery is a blanket one, which penalises the true recreational angler like myself. The golden age of salmon fishing was enhanced and over inflated by the millions of smolt releases made by M.A.F. and other parties pre 2000s. These releases created exaggerated adult salmon returns for many years. Strays from these releases benefited the wider fishery as they entered lesser recognized salmon waters such as the West Coast rivers and smaller East Coast rivers. Too many anglers are unaware of this. Water extraction, farming, and global warming have contributed in a major way to further salmon return decline. Your approach to managing the salmon fishery has been poor, in my opinion. The answer to increasing salmon numbers, I believe, is to resume salmon smolt releases, not charging more money to fish for them, or ban fishing for them. Responsible angler attitude can play it's role too. We are stuck with the farming and water extraction policy, which is likely to intensify if anything. I note the information you provide in this survey refers to our three main East Coast salmon rivers. Your figures are honest hopefully. No mention of any other river. I would be in favour of some sort of seasonal temporary fishing moratorium on a particular riveryou are already doing this with the upper reaches of the Hurunui, so why not the three rivers your survey quotes? I would be most happy to talk to you in person, should you want to call me. Thank you.
Chris Putt	I realise that there are many factors involved in the decline of our fishery but I think F&G need to consider every aspect of the problem and rank them in order.
Chris Roberts	The problem dates back to fishing trawlers pulling tons of fish at sea in the 80's and 90's, the data and graphs are there when you go back before 1995. Once the numbers fell so much the equilibrium between the trout (still in good numbers), who eat salmon eggs and smelt became out of balance and the population could not recover. Either the reduction of trout numbers in the upper reaches or restock rivers with large fingerlings at the lower reaches of all rivers maybe the only way to help recovery. F&G will need to look at the financial repercussions of many license holders who only salmon fish not buying licenses v spending money of restocking rivers. Just waiting for numbers to increase is not an option and has not worked. Members will continue to support F&G if they make an effort restock. Further restrictions will only end in membership reduction.
Christopher Van Der Wielen	Limit water take. Protect salmon spawning areas from farmers Remove stop banks Zero tolerance for commercial fishing boats taking salmon at sea Stop damming our rivers Make Fish & Game a nongovernmental agency Stop Fish @ Game from using our license fees for anything other than looking after and enhancing spawning areas The fishing of Dalmatia not why the fisheries has completely failed it is the changing river environment
Colin Beach	Sponsor farmed Salmon release into SI canal fisheries and lakes (Like Tekapo) to take pressure of Wild Run.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Colin Dunn	Have proper fit for purpose fish screen designs on irrigation inlets. Work with the farming community to be able to retrieve all fishes including natives and eels which have got into their ponds/lakes and returned to the river they would have come from. Use these lakes like fish raising tanks.
Connor Timms	Is there a way to get the eggs from where they are laid and hatch the eggs and raise the young till they go to the sea to increase the initial numbers going into the sea therefore coming back to the river in a few years. But I most support temporary closure of the sea run salmon fishing then when bringing it back keep it too limit of one fish preseason and only go higher than that if populations are around the peak levels but still only 2-3 for the season.
Corey Hastie	We should be looking at restocking the fishery like it used to be done.
Craig Price	Beyond the necessary defensive response of regulatory control (and I am supportive of closing the salmon fishery for a period of a few years), which has now become necessary due to Fish & Game's failure to date to satisfactorily manage the fishery, Fish & Game need to support the salmon fishery by additive methods such as the introduction of hatchery bred fish.
Damian Sugrue	Examine the amount of nitrates in the rivers affected and find out is there salmon going into irrigation ponds on private land
Daniel B	I think the fishing of sea run salmon should stop for now it's an all time low of sea run salmon and we don't want to lose it all together
Daniel Chesmar	First, the need to improve river condition, depth, and reduce the water take is important. Until this is done and the commercial take of salmon at sea is reduced the river fisheries will never recover.
Daniel Stanley	fish and game & ecan need to work together to open hatchery's again
Danny Grace	Should completely stop fishing for salmon for at least 2 years I'm 61 years old many people I see over the years don't stick to the rules very frustrated with the system just shut it down for that period lots of factors 90 % river conditions due to water take not good especially waimak I spend a lot of time up the waimak in my hovercraft and if the salmon take the wrong turn I've seen in person salmon trapped and dying cos river to low and hot and also fishing boats at mouth of rivers when I owned a batch at mouth of rakaia seen this happening a lot there's lots more to say you get the point
Darryl French	I think that Fish & Game should be putting more pressure on the regional Councils to ensure that all water abstraction sites on our salmon rivers are fitted with appropriate and effective fish screens, and that these are properly maintained and functioning as intended. Equally important is the strict policing and enforcement of minimum river flow requirements. These minimum flows exist to protect the ecological health of our rivers and the survival of salmon populations, and they must be consistently monitored and adhered to. Where breaches occur, timely and effective enforcement action is essential. Protecting salmon habitat requires robust oversight and enforcement. If we can't protect the Salmon smolt travelling downstream to the sea we can't expect to get improved returns.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Dave Dockery	Review Youtube Complete Angler Fishing Matters #05 with Malcolm Bell and Dr Robin Holmes (NZ Salmon all things about it). Covers off everything that needs to be done to return the river back to before dairying and high water usage from our rivers (30 years ago). As salmon will die out and it's not just the fisherman causing the decline
David Catherwood	Introduce salmon restrictions for Lake Heron. Stop the harvest of salmon from this lake.
David Chambers	If closing of headwaters after end of February for salmon there should be no jet boats anywhere in gorge
David Hay	River pollution. The higher concentration of nitrates in rivers plus other pollutants do I suggest have a significant part to play alongside the stated scientific and anecdotal evidence. In the Rangitata even the trout have disappeared from long stretches of the river.
David Keen	As A Rangitata fisherman, fished since the 1980s I have seen the best and worst of the fishery. It was me who recommended and submitted to Fish and Game to lower the bag limit to 2 a season back when that happened. What ever Fish and Game do with this now must penalise all anglers in the same manner. clarification-It would be very wrong if F&G Penalised one group fisherman that fish one area and not another. We all need to be in this together. Regardless if a Salmon is caught at the River Mouth or in the upper river area it is still the same Salmon. I do wish to speak on behalf of what I have written here and more please. Regards David
David Leigh	Make fish screens a priority when irrigation consents are made There has been no action for years on implementing successful solutions
David Millichamp	More science is needed around what happens at sea to juvenile fish help from the sea fishing industry is needed in trying to predict future runs. this is vital time to work together.the last 20 years tells the story if a big run returns and surprises us all fish and game will be to slow to make flexible changes which is needed season by season,some question in my mind about angler catch percentages? Already we've protected headwaters and experience tells us a large percentage of fish don't bite. I remain cautiously optimistic
David Parker	Get hatcheries producing huge quantities of smolt and fast! restore spawning grounds Ban any trawler bycatch! Implement effective screening of irrigation intakes! Work with DOC to restore our waterways which are now totally devoid of aquatic life! Cull the seal population! Stop dairy farm development on marginal land that leaks nitrates into ground water.. the urine patch from a dairy cow is equivalent to 1000kg / ha of elemental nitrogen this is a problem as no 'catch crops' are capable of utilising this - if you go down the Waitaki lagoon to the north you will see green runoff water pouring out of the cliff face .. there is no aquatic life in there tidal reaches now eg cockabillies.. STOP BLAMING THE ANGLER .. oh I could go on '!
David Price	I do not believe that catch and release is a viable option for salmon as the energy reserves used in a fight will impact on spawning condition as they do not eat in fresh water and have no option for recovery.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
David Wise	We purchase a fishing licence each year which covers us to fish anywhere and all types of fish. We do not need special licences and other red tape and cards to fill in as our licence has always covered that. Stop the admin costs and concentrate on education and catching poachers as the average fisherman is sick of all this crap. The lower reaches of the waimak is getting thrashed by bait fishermen and they are catching trout and salmon without licences as a bycatch and getting away with it and you never see F&G rangers in that area.
Derek Baxter	These proposed measures are commendable but are like the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. Fish and Game also need to increase their advocacy for salmon habitat protection. This should include litigation and collaboration with organisations that have the same goals where applicable.
Derek Camm	Close the Sea Run Salmon completely for 3 years and see if this increases the numbers. I would rather not fish for Salmon for 3 years to then be able to have the bag limit of 2 per day back.
Derek Kinley	Fish and Game are charged with managing, maintaining and enhancing the fishing and their habitats in the best interests of the anglers. For some time now I do not think that they have done this. The elephant in the room is the abstraction of vast volumes of water from these main salmon rivers and the degradation of the quality of the water. Fish and game should regularly test water quality in the main salmon rivers and stand up to Government over the indiscriminate granting of water takes
Dirk Barr	Spend more time on ocean smolt investment instead of regulating to the detriment of anglers and their angler satisfaction, when we know that angler harvest is not the cause of the decline of salmon stocks. Focus on recruiting more salmon smolt into the ocean, and that may negate the perceived "and in my opinion face value need" to regulate and penalise against anglers and their potential salmon fishing experiences . Why do that when you know historically that angler harvest is not the reason for the decline of salmon spawning stocks. Don't just manage our salmon fishery with regulations that make it seem if something viable or positive is being done, when it is not. We all know that we could close the fishery completely with a 0 salmon harvest, and still end up with the worst spawn counts ever. SMOLT RECRUITMENT is the most important factor in my opinion. Taking anglers away from the river, or discouraging them from fishing at all is not the answer. If the changing environmental factors are now too great for the wellbeing of salmon then none of the proposed regulation changes will stop the decline of salmon numbers, or the physical condition of the stocks that do return. In my opinion, If we want a salmon fishery future we have to invest more salmon into the ocean bank! Yes that has a financial cost! Its not what we want to do but I dont think we have a choice if we want a viable salmon fishery.
Don Paton	Aim at getting sea catches of returning salmon reduced on east coast of South Island and further afield to allow more returning fish into our east coast rivers for spawning by lobbying Government

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Don White	The time to close the fishery was 10 years ago, continuing to fluff around with the limit when allowing fishing from the river mouth to the upriver spawning streams has achieved what exactly? and this is from someone who used to catch between 20 and 30 Salmon a year. of those i only ever kept 10, the balance being released long before that was required. i even went to single hooks to aid in the health of the released fish. i'm not sure you will ever save the salmon now but to pretend the fishery can recover without closure just for the potential to sell a few licenses is ludicrous.
Donald Gilkison	Yes - the price of a fishing licence should be reduced significantly - at the moment it costing me \$138 for 1 salmon if I'm lucky enough to catch one. It's time you got on top of where the real problem lies and that is commercial by catch and dirty dairying.
Duncan King	I dont fish anymore as licence is so expensive and I feel fish and game are fighting farmers to much rother than trying to work with them change your attitude and I might get interested again
Eddie Pearson	The closure of all salmon fishing in lake Heron!!! You guys have enough information from otolith bone study's in the last few years that show a large run of early Rakaia Salmon make it into lake Heron. These salmon are extremely important to the survival of the species as they are a lot bigger when they return to sea, which you will know. F&G have duty to protect these amazing fish and you have to power to close the lake to salmon fishing regardless if they are considered 'lake type fish'. In terms of reach closures I believe all our salmon rivers should be closed at the start of the gorges. Yes people will say, why not close the mouth BUT in my 35years salmon fishing I believe Salmon get more aggressive and easier to catch the higher up in the river system and are in fact harder to catch in the mouth/lower reachers. Salmon fishing has been a huge part of my life and has been enjoyed by my family for atleast 50 plus years and I would love to carry on that tradition with my 4yo son.
Erik Vanderzwet	Also remember that you could be loosing a lot more in license sales and Sea run supplements/ license sales . Also now that there Are less salmon to go around high country fishing is also suffering .
Ernest Smolej	Unlicensed fisherman harvesting salmon last year at Waimakariri mouth. No point having regulations if there is no enforcement locally
Ethan Bowmar	There is interesting data from US conservation programmes regarding the reduced survival rate of fish after catch-and-release. I am worried that while the policy is well-meaning, promoting catch-and-release only of salmon will still harm the population. I suspect better enforcement of the current rules (I.e. targeting fisherman without licenses chasing kahwai at or along river mouths accidentally catching salmon, who do not tend to follow season limits due to cultural differences), as well as reducing the shoulders of the season; dropping off upto December and after March are better policies to implement, as well as more aggressive restocking of salmon into the headwaters.
Fletcher Stewart	Hatcheries need to be restarted and we need to start restocking our rivers with the best salmon genetics we can get our hands on.
Floyd Lister	Closure on salmon fishing lake heron

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Fraser Gallagher	We all know that 10% of the anglers catch 80% of the salmon - they have the time to be there on the right days to achieve the task. The runs are diminishing- it's not deniable it's a fact and we are moving or sorry have moved from a world class exciting fishery to what we have now. I back a closure in the hope of the runs recovering for future generations but frankly I am unsure if that will really help the matter, there must be a bigger picture - global fishing - deep sea netting or similar affecting the numbers of salmon able to return
G B	Unless the by-catch of salmon by trawlers/fishing boats is controlled/stopped, you are wasting your time doing anything at all. Ultimately eventually, there will be no salmon to catch. The salmon population will become unsustainable.
Gareth Munro	More on river policing of people not sticking to the limit bag Last choice for me is to close sections of the river. Unfair on people's life choices to live/fish where they enjoy/ holiday where the do is unfair.
Gareth Shaw	Seriously consider a 5-year closure of salmon fishing to give stock a chance to build up again and re start salmon farms to release of healthy stock
Gary Anderson	Close all the rivers for salmon fishing,there are salmon left with pure dna as the farms and hatchery's have destroyed that. Do a proper survey not this bull
Gary Batchelor	The state of river habitat, and climate warming at sea and in rivers, are major factors for salmon migration... most of which are not in F&G's ambit. Playing with the catch rate is just that.
Gary Dix	The only reasonable chance of saving the fishery is to stop taking salmon for a period of time. I fear that the environmental conditions will never be right for a complete recovery.
Gary Knudsen	Investigate all other reasons as to what is happening during the 3 years at sea especially when they return to enter the rivers Comprehensive studies into the life cycle of the Salmon so we can establish real facts as to the decline of numbers at the spawning grounds. Example...what effect do the Black Shags have on the smolt heading down the river. Shag numbers have dramatically increased on the Waimak river over the past 10years, does anyone research this? What effect does the flooded silty water have on the Salmon once in the river. To date 2nd Jan '26 writing this survey reply the Waimak has been dirty since 22nd July 25', what impact does this have on the returning Salmon? It's easy to lay blame on the fisherman but there are so many other factors that need to be investigated. The fishing trawlers get paid for their 'by-catch' maybe if they stopped getting paid we might see more Salmon in the rivers.
Gavin Dann	I would like to see a chart of river volume flows over the years compared to catch numbers. Intensification of farming, fertiliser run-off are factors to be considered also in terms of the fishes reproduction.
Geoff Rowe	BAN FISHING AT RIVER MOUTH
Geoff Skilton	I would like to see more ranger activity on the river enforcing the current regulations.
Geoff White	I think the measures should be taken not or should have already levels are already at all time lows, we need to understand why but we also need to give them the best chance to recover while getting that understanding.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Geoffrey Ackerley	I believe focusing on harvest only is not appropriate and that more innovative measures need to be considered. In this respect the questionnaire is biased and does not provide the opportunity for lateral thinking. The effects of the harvest options are likely to be the last nail in the coffin for anglers, resulting in them giving up with this leading to even less F&G income and restricted ability to implement change. For example limiting fishing to certain reaches will remove the ability to fish in traditional waters and concentrate numbers of anglers to sections of the river; this will not enhance the fishing experience. Catch and release will put huge numbers off angling completely; if you are serious about this then the introduction of single barbed hooks is a must. The fact is that it is too late for such measures to solve the salmon fishery crisis. The level of the crisis is such that possible solutions will require departure from existing legislation, this should not be a barrier, rather an obstacle to overcome. One option is to make better use of hatchery infrastructure that is currently available. For example McKinnon's Creek could be used for a programme to introduce large numbers of fish into the upper Rangitata River. There are not enough wild fish in the system for this to be a concern. Another option is the introduction of different species, the obvious candidate being sockeye salmon. We have stock in the country, their diet is more suitable to the effect of climate change and in other countries they have proven to be successful with respect to achieving a sustainable population that is more resistant to climate change.
George Stephen	look into commercial fishing off river mouths during salmon season
Glenn Maguire	Ban trawlers from taking Salmon off the coast in a greater distance from river mouths, and any by catch cannot be legally sold for retail purposes. Any sea run salmon sold by trawlers should result in a loss of quota for a few months. This would really make the think twice.
Glenn Rankin	No point restricting season length and catch limits, when river quality continues to reduce as well as flow rates. On top of this more needs to be done on identifying causes of mortality at sea, especially around commercial fishing ventures. To maintain a salmon fishery more hatchery fish need to be released too, and ensure more of these fish get to the sea - a cull on rising shag numbers and seals in estuaries should be considered. Overall it is a number of factors that need to be considered collectively, and without addressing them in their entirety means one of two measures such as in this survey will undoubtedly fail.
Graeme Aldridge	Stop fishing lake heron there rakaia salmon you all no this its not going to fix problem strait away but sure its gota help to give them best chance to return to sea.and why do they not need to purchase salmon catch card when i do to catch1 in the river.its same,same !
Graeme Bishop	Why isn't Fish and Game stocking the rivers ?
Graham Wilford	Stop the Rakaia fishing competition
Grant Hay	Enhance programs to release hatchery fish releases an all key salmon rivers, or selected few ... make it a serious policy not a whim ...
Grant Ivey	The quality of water in each river
Grant Mckenzie	Strictly enforce current regulations particularly in regards to licensing and catch limits

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Grant Shanks	Petition Govt/MAF/Fisheries to legislate no trawl zones close to the mouths of known salmon rivers.
Greg Hume	Close season for 10 years
Greg Phillipson	Stop all salmon fishing above gorge bridge on all rivers. Get hatcheries back up and running.
Hamish Mackey	Catch and release will hurt at least some fish. Closing sections of river is likely just to move the % catch to another river reach and put pressure on more limited fishing spots. It would be great to understand how much impact the sport fishing has on numbers Vs commercial fisheries operating off the coast.
Hamish Pauling	Close all salmon takes in Lake Heron Indefinitely.
Henricus Van Tongeren	Partner with Fisheries to ensure the correlation between onshore and offshore catch data reflects a true reflection of the action.
Hunter Lill	Heavier consequences for law breakers
Ian Baylis	Close the fishery for 5 to 10 years to see if a major increase in spawning is achievable. Do not take into account personal intrinsic values.
Ian Berry	Closing the sea 100 meters each side of the river mouth. This will stop people who harvest kawha, catch salmon
Ian Heaphy	Close the salmon fishery and return any bycatch for 4 years.
Isaac Main	Improve fish screens, control water take.
Ivan John Holloway	Water quality at spawning source is critically important as is the commercial harvesting at sea. That needs limiting also.
Jacques Botha	You need to open the hatcheries again! Catch rate and spawning rates have dropped since you closed them. Consult with NZSAA. They have data and facts that support this. Start listening instead of charging extra for a salmon licence. This issue will not go away by closing seasons, and regulatory changes.
Jake Creech	I think we need to consider what is happening out at sea as the time the salmon spend in the river is a small portion of their life cycle. I personally think anglers are a small percentage of the problem as when you look at the weight decline as an indicator that there is a bigger problem in the life cycle. Also the water quality does need to be improved to increase their spawning success.
James Bowater	Close the season and allow the fish to recover.
James Cochrane	Hi personally I think all your options are close to the right ideas but you need some real data to make decisions. I think you need sonar on the state highway bridge and you don't open the season (below the bridge) until there are sufficient salmon past . Then you open the fishing from the mouth to the bridge. And then once you have sufficient numbers again go past you open above the sh1 bridge to Gorge bridge but no fishing above the gorge bridge as this is the spawning ground. Also I think we need to consult with getting the trawler exclusion zones extended as this will be having an impact on the salmon returning also. Personally I hardly go fishing and I've never caught a salmon but but a license most years because I feel that my money may help the fishery but with you current suggestions I feel you won't get any buy in from fishermen as they will feel you are just eroding the value they pay for a license. think big and let's make the Rakaia a salmon fishing river for kiwis to enjoy for ever. These ideas could be replicated on the Waimakariri and Rangitata also. Cheers

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
James McKnight	Bring back Hatcheries, the size and quantity hasn't improved since closing them.
James Whipp	The mortality rate from catch and release requires in depth consideration around its adverse effects. A number of scientific studies from overseas that I have read come to the conclusion that the mortality rate particularly when the fish are under stress from environmental factors such as high water temperatures can be as high as 40 percent. This I consider is a major issue with the present regime and a potential cause of it's failure to make a noticeable difference over that last few seasons with the more successful fishermen inadvertently potentially killing a number of the fish that they released. I have personally seen this with fish released at the mouth of the Rangitata found washed up on the beach the next day. Lastly and perhaps most controversially I am not convinced that the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff approach currently being put forward will have any viable or worthwhile effect without treating the root causes of the decline. Think. Non compliant fish screens. Over extraction and de-powering of waterways. Degradation of spawning habitat. Negligent or ill informed hatchery practices past and present. Negligent or ill informed / intensive farming practices. Please advise when and where the in person consultations around these proposed regulations will be held to enable further discussion as at present and as has happened previously it seems that fish and games stakeholders are again paying the price for the price for bad decisions made by others.
Jamie Gray	Fish screens don't work, place a catch net/trap past the screens on one to find out
Jamie McFadden	Apply the same rules to all rivers, rather than have one river with less rules to an extent that river gets hammered with fishing pressure. Salmon run is so poor now, I am not averse to closing the fishery for a couple of years to see if that helps. We need to think of the fishing experience of future generations, not get hung up on our rights to fish now.
Jamie Scannell	I have caught 22 salmon in the Rangitata in the Last 4 seasons and only one fish has been over 10lbs. Nearly all were released. The majority of the fish have been lean and in poor condition. More research is required to learn about their life in the ocean. I also do not think the mckinnons hatchery on the Rangitata is enhancing the fishery at all and needs to be shut down. Whilst I take my hat off to volunteers I believe this time and money is better used into other areas. thirdly water extraction and lack of good fish screens is killing the Rangitata, this river is meant to have a WCO but I believe the water extraction is too much in favour of the agricultural sector. The Rangitata was running at 40 cumecs last year for much of the salmon season, yet the RDR was still sucking water out at Klondike. The minimum flows must be made higher Thanks
Jason Leary	allowing the by catch of salmon in the ocean by boats i believe doesn't help. If the fishery is stopped to anglers the BY catch must be ceased also.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Jason Wilson	I think fish and game have let anglers down and need to invest in the salmon hatchery, not only is the effect of limited fish returning because of stopping the hatchery, but the belief that hatchery fish spawning with wild fish was a bad thing is absolutely absurd, not only is the angler missing out but the fishing stores must also be finding this tough, by reducing the number of fish you can catch and then having to pay more for a fishing license doesn't make any sense, the value of a fishing license should be reflected on the catch and this again is beyond belief you have done this I haven't fished for 4 years now because of this
Jayden Tuffley	Ensuring the spawning grounds of the Upper Pomahaka are monitored for people harvesting. Google earth shows some clear cut tracks to very nice spawning grounds. I myself know some big salmon travel up that river. Well they used to, im not local to Tapanui anymore so struggle to follow the run
Jayson Potts	As a Canadian who is continually concerned about salmon conservation we hope that NZ will take a more aggressive position on protecting salmon. Too many people up here do not respect the regulations, protect your runs, make the rules simple, enforce the rules.
Jean Brossard	A single barbless hook must be used at all times to reduce mortality rate for a catch and release zone or fishing period.
Jeandre Van Schalkwyk	I would highly recommend closing the entire fishery for a year or two to allow the fish stocks to bounce back. Additionally some hatchery stock could assist and finally more presence of F&G wardens to stop the illegal fishing.
Jeff Stratton	If you reduce the season limit to 0 there is no point buying a licence. Reduce the cost of buying a licence instead
Jerry Walton	Could an approach be used to be like some overseas fisheries?. That is monitoring the season as it progresses and changing the regs as required. More work I know but more realistic decisions could be made!. And more work still if this is river specific! I am mainly a Waitaki fisherman but fish the Rangitata a bit.
Jhan Ferigo	I think that no matter what you do it will cause controversy and you'll get people mad at you. I think what they did with the whitebait is the greatest solution. Shutting it down for a couple years allows them to recover untouched. This along with ensuring they aren't interfered with by irrigation. This could boost the numbers and then you could slowly open the season again (from a couple months, back into the normal amount). This won't be easy and it will be a long process but I believe it is for the best. I have never experienced sea run salmon fishing because of the low numbers. I have tried but haven't been successful as it is only recently I've started doing it due to only being young. I am happy to provide a more detailed plan if you wanted but I'm pretty sure you're just wanting initial thoughts. Thank you for the opportunity.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Jim Greeks	Well, you could always allow anglers to fish, but ban using lures with hooks, for example, by substituting a small pad of tooth catching cotton floss, attached to the lure by a lightweight thread. The angler could then experience the satisfaction of knowing her technique had been good enough to fool a salmon, but would shortly thereafter lose the fish by virtue of the lightweight attachment - say 1 or 2kg b/s max. The salmon could then proceed on its way with minimal inconvenience, and since they don't feed in fresh water, they are unlikely to be disadvantaged with any material remaining caught in their teeth. I am also considering the possibility of all-year round duck hunting; all it would require is mandating the use of blanks only during what is now classified as the closed season. Good luck with your deliberations.
John Barlow	Trawlers are the problem as far as we are led to believe , if so regulate them ,not us
John Whitford	I live close to and had a bit to do with the salmon hatchery at Tentburn. The sharp decline coincides directly with massive releases of juvenile salmon into the ocean. It appears that these millions of fish have finished and probably extinguished the marine feedstock to such a level as not to sustain a salmon fishery. It would be best to do nothing for the foreseeable future as it the marine ecosystem is beyond control. With luck it may reestablish but who knows. No basking sharks around now disappeared same era
John Belcher	Putting money towards hatcheries.
John Campbell	Whilst not against reducing the harvest it seems F&G are concentrating on this whereas there are numerous other factors/possibilities mentioned in this document as to cause. Simply reducing harvest may not achieve anything given other factors.
John Collins	As the governance body for all of NZ's fisheries I feel you should be able to make the necessary & relevant decisions to protect the quality of fishing and fish species for the future benefit of all fishermen. You will never please everybody but you are in the best position to know what the data, environment and seasonal impacts and have my backing to take whatever action you see necessary.
John Conaglen	Only Available for NZ Citizens. All foreigners to be banned
John Cooper	1: The salmon hatcheries at the upriver Rakaia were closed in January 2000 to supposedly protect the wild sea-run salmon fishery. Based on the evidence of Figure 1 in the information packet, this closure has had no positive effect - and may likely have contributed too the decline in spawning fish. PLEASE REINSTATE THE HATCHERIES! 2: The rapid conversion of previous arable Canterbury land to dairy farming has resulted in reduction in river flows, increased fertiliser use, and increased nitrate run-off. Canterbury has reputedly the highest ground water nitrate levels in the country. This must have a negative effect on fish, let alone spawning fish. EFFECTIVELY LOBBY THE GOVERNMENT TO LIMIT THE INTENSITY OF DAIRY FARMING AND FOOD PRODUCTION FARMING IN CANTERBURY - AND MONITOR THE EFFECTS. IT IS REALISED THAT THIS IS NOT A REGULATION THAT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED DIRECTLY BY FISH & GAME - BUT CLEARLY ECAN ARE NOT EFFECTIVE AS CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND AND WATER OF THE REGION. IT MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE TO HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT. <i>(continued on next page)</i>

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
John Cooper	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> 3: Why should sport fisherman bear the brunt of restrictions which are likely caused by others? Since 1990, Canterbury's dairy herd has increased by about 1000 per cent. Fish & Game is a Government department - LOBBY THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION TO FORCE FARMERS TO FOLLOW ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE PRACTICE - AND STOP FURTHER DAIRY CONVERSIONS. 4: It appears that Fish and Game intend that sport fishermen should take responsibility for damage done to the Canterbury rivers by other practices (i.e. increased crop and dairy fertilisation). Fish and Game seem to have no voice in Government. Is this the case? We have seen nothing to indicate otherwise. PLEASE BECOME AN EFFECTIVE VOICE TO SUPPORT OUR CAUSE.
John Ell	Without prohibiting fishing for salmon in waters above each gorge bridge any measures will be a waste of time. Without preventing the plunder that goes on by pacific islanders at the mouths of both rivers for all fish species then any measures will be a waste of time and unfair to genuine anglers who are generally great conservationists Without serious culling or having shags declared a noxious bird that can be destroyed at any time of the year then salmon smolt returns to the sea will remain in serious jeopardy and any measures introduced without this problem being addressed will only penalise anglers The decimation of salmon and trout at river entrances by fur seals is real and has been left unchecked hence the explosion in fur seal numbers and failure to address this issue will mean any measures taken will be pointless and penalise anglers only
John Gamblin	The declining salmon caught numbers issue needs more intervention from man than your survey gives potential scope for improvement. It's unlikely to recover in my lifetime unless there are other options than reducing the one fish a year to zero fish a year. You need to start rearing and releasing hatchery reared salmon before there are no salmon going up the rivers to act as donors. It is very disappointingly this option isn't mentioned in your survey to gauge members opinions.
John Goulding	Reintroduce releasing salmon into the rivers to increase numbers. Lobby for cancellation of commercial salmon fishing. Lobby for reduced nitrate and other pollutants being allowed into rivers
John Hayes	1. Season limit of 1 or 2 fish. Depending on population level. As currently applies. NB: do not drop this regulation! 2. Legislate cease fishing after an angler catches 2 salmon per day, 1 of which can be killed and the other caught and released. This is for: a) equitable sharing of the catch, and b) limiting adverse effects on fish of catch and release. 3. Encourage catch and release and educate anglers to avoid the temptation of returning small salmon and killing large salmon, when a harvest limit is in place. This is attempt to mitigate size selective harvest and its adverse effects on genetic diversity.
John Kent	You have outlined a number of important factors but in my opinion global warming and sea warming severely affect salmon food. (plankton and krill)
John Moore	Limiting trawler quota, to assist the fishery's recovery. Otherwise what we do will have little effect.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
John Murray Doig	lake stream and lake Heron should be closed from Salmon fishing. fishing above the gorge bridges should be stopped.
John Owers	Restrict fishing from boats and trawling around river mouths during spawning season
John Preece	We need to know what proportion of the salmon run is harvested, and whether harvesting makes any difference to the next years run before these decisions are made.
John Schurink	Get back to breeding and releasing fish from traditional areas. Get Ecan to check all fish screens on all irrigation intake sites regularly and ensure back flow access to main rivers are in place.
John Skinner	Give the public more accurate information regarding salmon numbers in all rivers ie: your fly over counting of the salmon that are actually in all the rivers (example... one fly over on the Waitaki River is not sufficient data collection).
John Tillson	Increase the number of hatchery salmon being released.
John Trotter	Closing the take of salmon completely will hopefully enable the fishery to recover to allow a resumption of fish take . A catch and release policy will unfortunately kill more fish, whilst the benefits are difficult to see other than a bit of chest beating and maybe a photo or two.
John Wedlake	I suspect that a fair number of salmon are taken illegally each year as a bi-catch by people ostensibly fishing for species such as kahawai at the river mouths. So perhaps banning spin fishing in the river mouths during Dec-April might help.
Jonathan Battson	Protection of fish first and foremost. Rules aren't followed without enforcement
Jonathon Strange	Close lake heron to all fishing for a salmons life cycle.
Josh Wilson	Close lake heron salmon take !
Joshua Jordan	Prioritize protecting known spawning tributaries and stop any keeping of fish caught in nursery lakes such as the Ashburton Lakes
Jules Snoyink	If F&G chooses not to close fishing for the season no salmon fishing should be allowed past the Waimakiriri and Rakaia Gorge bridges and the Rangitata Gorge. I prefer the salmon season be closed entirely for a three year cycle. The 3 year closure time should be used to improve the natural spawning areas.
Julie McCleery	Bring in new stock from overseas
Justin Mace	There are many factors that have reduced the sea-run salmon numbers, the best chance that us as fishermen can give them is by a temporary closure of the fishery. I would be happy to leave them alone for 5 years if it means their numbers can recover and there is still a sea-run salmon fishery for my kids to enjoy.
Justin Solomon	No wild salmon fishing except at river mouths or in the river
Karl Mullan	Implementing investigation to determine if salmon by -catch by fishing boats is contributing to the decline in the fishery
Katie Hall	Introduce Sockeye salmon into Waimakariri River. Maybe Rakaia and Rangitata too.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Kelly Smith	Push for much more severe penalties for those who breach regulations to ensure recovery of fisheries if new regulations are put in place.
Kelvin Wright	I have no idea on how you propose to implement any changes as you have no way of predicting seasonal changes. You can only implement changes once the season is finished and spawning counts are done, therefore any changes to next season makes very little sense. The old argument on up river or mouth fisherman is decades old. Everyone has their preferred area's. Likes of the Rakaia and Waimak the white posts give many kms of river for fish to rest with no pressure. The mouth during low flows, with salmon congregating can be a high harvest area. I fish on the west coast a bit now and the one thing I've noticed is a very high presence of rangers on the lakes during the time the salmon are there. Sort out irrigation take offs for a start. Ocean conditions must be a big part in the lack of salmon as well. Whatever you do don't let the hatchery fan's remove wild smolt or adult salmon from the spawning streams. AND DONT PUT COMMERCIAL RAISED SALMON INTO OUR RIVER SYSTEM.
Ken Hughey	I think you are trying really hard to address really hard wicked environmental problem issues. Potentially the only hope is that salmon will slowly adapt - some likely already are. To provide for this opportunity we need to do our best to protect what we have, ie, sustain a significant spawning run which maintains a significant genetic pool from which adaptation may occur. Your approach is the right one and needs to err on the side of strong precaution. Thanks Ken Hughey, former president and life member NZSAA
Ken Lloyd	I find the survey both narrow and lacks fortitude from fish and game, you have the advantage of the science and trends in salmon management and sent the former CEO to a National symposium in 2024 the council has been elected to manage this is not a popularity exercise, the fact you are abdicating your responsibility to make decisions in the best interest of the fishery shows you are not suitable to be on council, some of the options ignore best practice that occurs in both Europe and North America which again demonstrates naivety
Ken Winsloe	We urgently need a temporary closer to the sea run salmon season to allow numbers to increase. This works in sea fisheries with other species and is the proven best method to increase fish numbers.
Kevin Hunter	I believe that as no regulation changes so far have improved our salmon fisheries. Aiming more restrictions on recreational fishing appears to be the wrong approach as the results of this method have seen salmon populations decline even further. I believe more resources need to be applied to the river conditions especially minimum flows and water quality. Although the proposed regulations are inevitable.
Kevin Kiernan	The way you have closed hatchery and allowed to be a buy catch for trawlers make me tempted not to get another licence season as I can buy 2 for the same cost
Kevin Allan	refuse competitions no leaded lures enforce ecan to monitor fish screens, when I see terns feeding on paddocks it means there are fish there it is good you are talking but twenty years too late

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Kevin Belcher	Catch and release is a risky strategy adding to losses due to unforeseen and unsurvivable stress and injuries and targets more fish overall. Once salmon reach the gorges they should be left alone as this is where they hold up in pools to ripen before the final run to the spawning areas, therefore easier targets. I personally consider that any loss of migrating smolt into irrigation intakes and channels is a form of harvest due to ineffective fish screens. Fish and Game should be actively implementing actions and promote awareness of losses of migrating salmon smolt to the Minister of Hunting and Fishing, Ecan and the Irrigation companies.
Kevin Brown	I believe in decisions being made by QUALIFIED persons not Joe public's often ill informed opinions
Kevin Grimwood	Have more rangers at the rakaia river mouth, as when I stayed at the huts campground, the same people were bringing back 2-3 salmon each day from the river mouth. Was there 4 days and didn't see one ranger, just 'fishermen' taking all they could get without any recourse.
Kevin Thomson	close rivers until there is a complete recovery
Kevin Wilson	Stop the salmon fishing period.
Kriss Baker	Salmon fishing and trout fishing has been in my families blood for generations, my Grandfather was a dedicated ranger and fishermen as with my uncles and father, which has been passed down, I've seen the decline in salmon returns over different salmon seasons and also some great salmon runs over the years, which matches the different returns with some salmon returning after 2 years at sea and others anywhere from 3, 4 and even some at 5 years. Having a closed salmon fishing season for a couple of years first would be more beneficial for salmon populations than any catch and release due to the huge stress put on the fish when caught, which put catch and release at the bottom of the list even maybe of the list, it's the same as 1 salmon per season and catch and release all salmon up to the one that's finely kept, we need the highest number of healthy fish to reach their spawning areas. After the closed period open under a shorter season for possibly another 3 years to give the 2 year closed season fish every possible chance of having the highest numbers return to spawn. Before the seasons are closed promote and restock the hydro canals, this would let fish and game promote new people to the sport. This would create two benefits, first our dedicated salmon fishermen old and new would still be able to get out and do what they love and maybe get a lot less push back for closing the salmon seasons for a period. Second it would/could work in favor of keeping a lot of those that would illegally fish for salmon during the closed seasons and create less strain on our Rangers and resources having managing and monitoring the closed seasons. These ideas and thoughts are obviously my own opinions, coming from the last 50 years of salmon fishing and my families decades of fishing knowledge and experience. We can't afford to do a half job with managing this valuable resource for all New Zealanders current and future generations.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Lars Moller	Frequent dispatch of field officers in affected areas, not just to enforce the restrictions, but also to maximize contact with the fishing community.
Laurence Burke	F&G for a start need to stop blaming anglers for the loss of salmon instead do something about the loss of smolt down irrigation raceways through fish screens that don't work instead of ignoring it. The easy solution is to something about the salmon trapped in farm storage ponds remove them back to the river. something that has been raised at NCF&G council several times and also ignored. The survey questions have only what F&G want to do not what anglers want which is more involvement in the solution instead of being talked down to.
Leigh Garner	Nothing to do with reducing harvest, but how about increasing supply - hatcheries.
Leo Doller	I would like to see that sea trawler near the main river mouths are baned and that there overall by catch of sea run salmon is also reduced and taken in account the help restock our rivers .I have fished most of my life and have always enjoyed going afther this great fish.How ever i have seen through out my years the number fall.There is a lot of money in gear spend each season. Being able to get only one fish for a whole season now is almost no longer worth pursuing as the cost is getting to much for one fish.I have seen many trawlers near river mouths as the fish get ready to come in .it saddens me to see this as I as many people and family's are on the brink of just giving it up for good.I belief in saving this sport and yes even if I can only fish for two months.But please reduce and even penalise trawlers that take big numbers in one run agross the mouth of our rivers ..thank you
Leon Hendren	I would question if there is any real benefit to fishers or the fishery in a catch and release only strategy.
Leonard Potter	Enforcement of any regulations will be needed to ensure maximum compliance. Deterrence with significant penalties for those who fail to comply.
Lindsay Barnes	Spey or fly fishing areas only.
Luke Simpson	Close the season for a couple years
Marc Reveley	Other options need to be considered rather than just reducing salmon harvest. The current salmon management strategy based on this alone has not worked. Hatcheries and ova planting etc need to be considered . Continuation of the current strategy will be the death of the salmon fishery.
Marcel Blackgrove	How about relocating the sea lion colony from the Waitaki mouth to prevent them from being harmed by humans and they're the reason no one caught salmon last year
Mark Dingle	Act now for a sustainable future.
Mark Fairhall	Keep the regulations the same as they were 10 years ago do the same with trout,all you are doing by restrictions is looking after the commercial operators,the average fisherman doesn't get a fear go.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Mark Preston	1/ Fish & Game has already expressed in this consultation document a lack of desire to close the Salmon fishery and are seeking stakeholders opinions to help with their decision. Stand up Fish & Game and let your managers and elected council make the hard decision! Recognize a total fishery collapse with potential extinction possible. Remove all harvest, cease all hatchery intervention and rely on the genetic strength of the species to re-instate over time. 2/ In the event of a Salmon fishery closure, will education and enforcement be available to the consistent presence of legally unlicensed spin fisherman at the river mouths and lower Waimakiriri ?
Martin McCarron	As the person who fought the Salmon Bi Catch on behalf of F&G /salmon anglers etc . The Salmon will look after them selves they have proved that time and time again . You need to fight irrigation/water flow , increase water flow you reduce water temperatures yup dilute nutrients, you increase the chance for Salmon reaching the spawning grounds. You reduce light penetration of the water by increasing depth of water . As things go at the moment closing all or part of fishery is a waste of time if the Salmon do not have water flow and water quality . It's so simple . Regards a Salmon Fisher conservationist . X NCF&g councillor x NZ F&G councillor x president NZSA ass .
Martin Shaw	Salmon fishing is a thing of the past.
Marty Black	The Salmon Fishery in my opinion is in serious trouble hence positive action needs to be taken to assist in it's recovery ie total closure must be considered!!! Further investigation into Hatchery's should undertaken also to support the fishery's recovery. I now live at the Hurunui River Mouth Village, for the past two years despite spending many days at the mouth I have not seen nor landed a Salmon.
Marty Hewlett	Introduce bag limit to one fish per day, then catch and release remainder
Martyn Britt-Foy	Fish & Game need to also ask MPI what the salmon stock numbers are like out at sea around NZ coast line. If so, why are the numbers high in open water and not returning or going back up rivers.
Matt Jones	0 bag limit Salmon in Lake Heron
Matt Nesbit	Salmon populations are at a point where you must take action, and I applaud the way in which you are going about it. The salmon of New Zealand experienced a good run, pun intended, due to favorable conditions and reduced levels of water abstraction. Now, conditions have been less than favorable across the board and populations have tanked. I feel as though a salmon monitoring program that sought to communicate the nuts and bolts of the current state of affairs to the general public would be well received. Monitoring through all stages of the life cycle and evaluating available habitat suitability/availability/use/improvement would go a long way towards bolstering support for the uphill battle that you will be fighting forevermore. The more people know, understand and respect the work you are doing for them, the more they will stand alongside you in solidarity and support. Keep up the good work.
Matthew Hardyment	Look at how many fish are being caught at sea, by Recreational and Commercial methods.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Matthew McLellan	Reducing harvest numbers of almost non-existent fish is somewhat perverse, the rivers these fish return to have an eco- system that has collapsed all the way from silveries that are never seen now, to a searun trout fishery that is no longer and finally a salmon fishery that has almost gone. It would seem that an introduced species is going to need re-stocking to recover.
Matthew Moore	A family licence should be more than 1 fish’ particularly when 4 or more members of a family
Meghan Creech	Suspending commercial fishing of these species in the ocean near to rivers (within several kilometres) would have far more impact than changing regulations for anglers. I support regulation of all areas impacting fish numbers proportionally to the impact they have. Least priority should be given to those profiting from our natural resources for commercial gain. It is performative and ineffective to change rules for anglers without addressing the main cause of the decline in fish. Decrease in water quality also needs to be addressed in connection with fish decline.
Michael Bruce	Look at what’s happening at sea first. It’s easy to blame the rivers here and the farming community. It’s a problem in Alaska too is it a food source missing or temperature rise at sea. The rivers have enough water to go down and have you actually tested fish screens properly or are you still using mixed vegetables!!!
Michael Carr	overseas anglers should not be able to fish for salmon while the numbers are so low in the North Canterbury region.
Michael Radford	I am 75 years old and may not have many more years to enjoy Salmon Fishing. Fish and Game have already closed the area’s I most enjoyed fishing. Introducing a closed season because spawning was down to me is ridiculous because one would have to close season for at least 3 years to measure accurately the effect. In my life time I have seen bag limit go from 6 per day to one per year and now we are talking 0 per year. Introducing single hook for trout and salmon alike over the whole of the South Island may well be a permanent fix and may even improve the west coast runs where we do not appear to have rules penalise the angler who pays licence fees. ‘Do not bite the hand that feeds you’ ² . I no longer have contacts in fishing companies but I know by the reported catches processed a 6 or more years ago they had to be having an effect. A black market is much easier since Salmon Farms were introduced. May be the average size is reducing because a large number of 3, 4 and 5 year olds are taken out and sold before they reach the rivers. This leaves a disproportionate number of 2 year olds entering our rivers which affects the average catch size, It appears to me that the angler is the one who takes the penalty with toughening of legislation when they are not the ones at fault. At least leave the rules the same or take a couple of months off the season. The season bag limit and the poor returns are reducing fishing pressure anyway. The numbers of Salmon Anglers on the river that I have seen this year would indicate there only about 5 % of Salmon Anglers to what we had in the 1990’s and possibly only half of what we had last year.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Michael Rooney	Closing mid to upper reaches of rivers to fishing close to spawning time
Mike Swann	Monitor licensing harder
Mike Singleton	Stick to the science, and ignore the conspiracy theorists
Mike Wessels	Unfortunately the damage has been done in my opinion, the fishery probably can't be saved unless commercial by catch and dairy irrigation are reduced
Miles Craighead	It would seem the situation is beyond control at the moment which suggests an underlying environmental factor such as rise in sea temperature and loss of food source? Closing the fishery temporarily gives more time to think through the costs and benefits. Also it allows those Chinooks that are adapting to changed environment to reproduce without interference perhaps provided a new better adapted gene pool over time or until conditions revert. Are the Chinooks are still running in the colder waters/humbolt off Chile eg Rio Puelo south of Puerto Montt, I get the impression they may be? Also should we consider whether we are flogging a dead horse and put the resources into better managing what we do have? That survey option was not provided.
Mitchell Robertson	To take pressure off the sea run salmon fishery, is there a possibility to investigate stocking the irrigation canals of CPW etc used to supply farmers so we can potentially have a fishery similar to that of the hydro canals but closer in location for those anglers that don't have the resources to make the trip down to the hydro canals regularly
Morgan Cummins-Hussey	Restrict fishing methods. i.e trolling vs moored boat vs shore only and spinning vs. fly fishing This could be implemented as a form of a reduced season length. For example Fly Fishing from Shore could be allowed all season, whilst trolling from a boat is limited to one or two months
Murray Trowbridge	when numbers are low no jet boat fishing or competitions
Murray Hodgson	Police the fishing areas a lot more than what you are doing.
Nathan Barrett	Rules and regulations will only be followed by law abiding people. Without adequate monitoring and enforcement, and substantial penalties for offenders, there will always be the minority that spoil it for the majority. Perhaps a total closure for fishing for salmon or trout within say 1 km upstream of the river mouth (i.e. no fishing at all) for 1 (or 2) years will allow more fish a chance to get up-river and spawn. Such a rule would also be easier to monitor.
Nathan Buxton	One feels that those with boats either on rivers or at sea are most exploitative of flaunting the regulations without being prosecuted. I support stringent measures to limit the locations fished when the salmon population is low. I also wonder if increased seal populations are having a large impact.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Nathan Roberts	Hi There It is really difficult to have consultation in this manner that the answers are pre determined in all of the earlier questions. I am from canadas east coast where we have had many problems with atlantic salmon numbers. It is very interesting approach to various rivers and comparing outcomes. In essence this survey isnt addressing many of the factors we know have caused problems for the chinook in nz. While there are some agriculatural impacts many have been mitigated and many have been around for a long time. The historic impact of by catch from commercial fishing has had a massive impact on numbers of returning spawners. MAny of these rivers have good spawning habitat and fishing has been limited there to encourage it. Hatcheries have had a positive impact overseas for many salmon(chinook/atlantic) with the right (local genetic broodstock) Here we have some advantages as they have been introduced. It does not appear to me that seeing season changes/limit changes will have much impact on a recovery when there are problems at sea and insufficient numbers leaving and returning. We need to keep a good perspective on what we want to achieve. Many fishermen are good stewards. All of us want historic runs to return. We do need to put an effort into this. It will require a good emphasis on stewardship. Having people on the river is healthy and important. stopping or limiting this will impact interest, culture and resources. There are many opportunities to increase salmon returns. Im not sure this survey will have a positive impact. Thanks for your time -Nathan Roberts
Nathan Thompson	Talking to friends we feel that closing a river each year and have a cycle that for example the Waimakariri is closed this year, then is reopened the following season and close the Raikia, then the Rangitata and so on. So in essence one river is closed each year for the betterment of a better future for our salmon.
Neal Williams	Commercial take
Neil Baxter	The stat of NZ salmon fishing is appalling and the allowance to over fish for Salmon for so long by so many and the illegal over fishing has led to this point. Close off sea run salmon fishing for 5 years, let the fishery recover and introduce strong determinants to rule breakers. If you have not got the backing to impose on rule breakers this is only a bandaid solution.
Neil Cameron	Close it til they recover and irrigators must have better screening
Neil Wilkinson	Focus on sustainability
Neville Johnson	The Elephant in the room, is not so much over fishing, but the fact that since the early 1990's more nitrates have entered the waterways, and water take has reduced the times that fish can run thru the river due to lower levels. This has meant the fish tend to run when a fresh occurs making it much harder to catch a fish. My suggestion would be to limit fishing to within a small area close to the sea for angling, and reduce upstream areas to fish.
Nicholas Demarais	Mortality rates of catch and release. Other measures that can be taken to increase numbers outside reducing recreational fishing pressure.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Nicholas Lyons	Close Lake Heron to salmon fishing
Nico Van Der Zwet	Hi, I think there is a lot of other work we can do to help bring Salmon back from where we are now. Please consider my thoughts. My personal view is the majority of loss is due to: 1. The small Fry are being drawn into the all the water take schemes. Once in these water races there is no return. There goal is to return to sea, but sadly there is no sea at end of the road. Maybe a serious attempt at capturing these juveniles from the races and holding/storage ponds and releasing them below the last water take of the river. This is the mode important to me and are willing to help to achieve this goal. 2. Improved water and habitat quality. This would help the spawning and bring back micro organisms and aquatic life to feed these fish while on there journey back to sea. And lastly, number, 3. Introduction of sockeye. With the abundance of sockeye in the Benmore system. Why not introduce these fish into other systems, eg Lakes, Heron. Pearson and Sumner, all of which have ways for the fish to return to sea. We all know they too need a couple of years at sea to grow. Although they are filter feeders and hard to catch, they can be caught, and increase the chances to us Licence Holders
Norm Bennett's	Waitaki River needs to be restocked with salmon eggs from Canada as was done many years ago. That's the only fix as 30 yrs ago the salmon were 30 lbs or more , the last two season's they were 7 = 8 lbs . 7lb salmon only breeds 7lb salmon.
Norm Trebilcock	Helicopters, Jet boats & 4*4 trucks dominate our rivers to target our fishery
Oliver Ryan	The sustainability of the resource is critical. There are too many underlying forces against it (climate, dairying etc) to not close the fishery NOW and keep it CLOSED until it is sustainable. To suggest that this would mean becoming disconnected from the intrinsic and cultural values of sea-run salmon clearly demonstrates that management continues to have their head in the sand (they are responsible for the horrendous management of the fishery) and do not rate the sustainability of the resource as their key responsibility. My first fish was 10kg in the Rakaia in the 1970's - sadly an experience of the past - PLEASE SAVE THE FISHERY
Ondrej Misar	More rangers checking the rivers. Asians around waimak river mouth go crazy sometimes.
Owen Cassidy	I cannot think of any apart from climate change.
Patrick Jones	Just close the fishery. Take any grief on that comes as a result and hope it does the job. Loss of opportunity for a few years is better than no fishery left at all in the future
Paul Kershaw	I don't support catch and release due to mortality risk, reducing fishing areas, to below gorges only, a good option. Shorter season to allow early runs to go through Unhindered, I believe this occurs in the US and Alaska
Paul Van De Loo	Stop commercial fishing period they take more fish than sport fishing
Paul Cary	Massively reduce the amount of water being taken out of all Canterbury rivers that is used for farm irrigation. River levels in March 2025 were so low and water temperatures were so high that no right minded salmon would attempt to migrate upstream to spawn. Salmon are COLD water fish.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Paul Dawber	Keep fishing boats coming close to shore lines
Paul Evers	1) I think to give salmon the best chance to recover to close the season for a minimum of 3 to 5 years after we would have to see an improvement! Still harvesting fish means less fish potentially making it to spawning grounds Catch and release my least favored option poor fish handling etc could see even more fatalities and compound the problem even more as people could keep on fishing over the whole season As much as it saddens me not to fish for salmon ,I decided last year as this season to still buy my license with my contribution going towards the management and hopeful recovery of salmon in our beautiful rivers, not to target salmon to give them the best possible chance to recover ! In my opinion a small price to pay for me and future generations In saying this, are salmon being targeted commerciall in Pegasus bay? If so i would like to see a robust plan to be implemented to manage salmon entering the Pegasus bay being targeted by commercial fisheries ,I would like to see data published on Catch rates for the Pegasus bay Everyone will have to play their part to give salmon fishing the best possible outcome for survival Regards Paul Evers
Paul Farrow	I note that in the data chart of returning Salmon from 1995-2025 one major factor is missing. The dates of closure of Glenarife, Montrose & the Issac hatcheries. This must have had a significant impact on returning fish, and yet it has been totally ignored in the charts. I note in the information pamphlet. It states F&G's role is to maintain and enhance (I repeat enhance) the fishery. One has to ask of the direction of F&G over recent years. Gone is the vision of The Acclimatistion Society to establish a fish and game resource, Now the role seem to be advocates for environmental and consultation. How much of the licence revenue has been fritted away on advocacy, education and outreach programs instead of the core issue of enhancing the fishery. My thoughts are not only towards the state of the Salmon fishery, but are relevant to the Trout fishery as well. signed Paul Farrow ex F&G Councillor.
Paul Hartnell	I think that you can implement regulations,ie 1 per season, catch and release, no fishing areas BUT there needs to be more enforcement. . I know of some fishermen that took way more than allowed, etc. Because the odds of being caught or checked were virtually nil.Theres no checking of cards or bag or boats or car boots etc. And now that there are less anglers on the rivers, theres no policing by concerned anglers. Another thing . Theres quite a fad of mini jets/ small jets that love exploring up small streams and filming it.I think spawning streams should be no boating areas.perhaps liase with NZJBA or canterbury jet boating and put out the ‘protect’ info.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Paul Hodgson	Close lake heron Ban jetboats / boats for fishing from and transport to which will create a series of salmon reserves on the length of the river that Anglers can't get to. Action mitigation to reduce constraints for salmon. Replace all ineffective fish screens on the main salmon rivers. Ask for all the salmon removed from rivers to be returned on a monthly basis by irrigators and farmers. Restart whiskey creek hatchery for loss of habitat or return money to contact energy and oppose the stored water at lake Colledge. Ask Contact Energy to install an effective fish ladder to restart the salmon run on the waitaki. Ask Contact Energy to pit more water in the Haka so it flows and allows salmon to migrate and spawn up it again. Seek mitigation from power companies and irrigators for loss of habitat. Take irrigators to the environment court lay a complaint for every ineffective fish screen they have identified on the main salmon rivers. This is a fantastic construct created by. FG to decide on the future of the salmon fishery. Its absolutely appalling that you are with holding documents from anglers preventing them from making informed decisions on the questions presented to them. Why dont you concentrate on developing a plan based on science for the benefit of Anglers. Unfortunately it must be pointed out the the seasonal bag limit is a regulation not a plan
Paul Ratford	Protect the fishery. Catch and release can still damage the Salmon.Open up again every 3rd year
Paul Ravenwood	What controls can be placed on commercial fishermen's by-catch? Let the fish at least get to the river!
Paul Sumner	Close salmon fishing in Lake Heron do a few years and other similar spots
Paul Van Empel	I think the decline is largely the result of habitat loss, reduced water flow, warming river and sea temperatures, nitrates from town and rural areas causing excessive algae (and depleted oxygen levels). Please keep up the good work on trying to improve habitat and water quality ! Thanks team.
Paul Van Kuppevelt	Catch and release does not effectively work, a high % of fish do not recover after release. This should not be an option.
Pete Brett	The fishery should be closed to provide the most protection and best opportunity for the salmon to regenerate. I used to salmon fish every season, I won't going salmon fishing now as every fish matters. I'm sure declining fish numbers is matched by declining angler numbers, so closing the fishery would not be a big deal. If the fish population does not come back then the decline is due in a large part to other factors beyond F and G's control. Accept that and focus on other things.
Pete Ebsworth	When Implementing Family licenses, Think about Married Couples with No Children, & Don't Have Grand Children.
Pete Hart	Any hatchery stock should be from that river, ie Montrose for the RKai, Silverstream for the wsimak, dont mix them.
Pete Hart	Historical return periods, close the season.
Pete Shaws	Educating migrant workers as their responsibilities as to fishing regulations. ie one rod per person. Fishing ethics and edicate. Having experience, from observations the conduct of these people whilst fishing at river mouths and lakes.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Peter Mitchell	If regulation makes it not possible to fish, unfortunately no income for fish and game from fishing licences
Peter Anderson	The Waitaki river
Peter Bell	From my experience, despite data presented from commercial fishing vessels, penalising recreational fishers hurts - so penalties or restrictions for commercial vessels must be real and be managed! Also, if closing rivers temporarily to let stocks recover is the desired option, seed other fisheries with imported salmon stock. That's how our fishery began!!
Peter Boyes	Close the salmon fishing season for 4 years. Then review runs and consider opening again with appropriate restrictions if, and only if stocks show significant recovery.
Peter Burney	! fish per year
Peter Gillard	Campaign on the need to stop the over allocation of irrigation consents and increase minimum flow requirements - droughts are going to get worse and irrigation takes need to be reduced dramatically across Canterbury
Peter Haugh	Total closure of the fishery for 3 years Is it feasible to have hatchery fish released into the rivers with only fin clipped fish being kept and all wild fish non fin clipped be returned to the river to spawn
Peter Jones	There are far too many salmon taken in the Rangitata Gorge and above, if a fish is able to make it that far it should be left to spawn.
Peter Mcauliffe	With catch and release there is the chance some anglers will keep the salmon, so I have put this as the lowest option. Many people fishing in the surf near the river mouth and gut (Opihi especially) say they are fishing for Kahawai, but use same tackle as for salmon. I also question whether these anglers have a licence. Whilst I have once seen a ranger at Opihi mouth, I believe many don't have licences so there should be more checking by rangers. My understanding is anyone who uses tackle normally associated with salmon should have a licence, regardless of what species they say they are targeting.
Peter McCaw	Re-open the Glenariffe hatchery to build base numbers. Limiting fishing to just specified reaches would be very confusing and difficult to monitor while maintaining riverbed signage would be near impossible in our flooding rivers. Priority to maintain some vestige of fishing interest to garner support now and in the future. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.
Peter Trolove	First I am having difficulty using the survey templates. To all 4 initial questions I believe salmon numbers are so low that it is time to close the salmon fishery. I have evolved to end my "catch and release" angling. I have observed sufficient damage and mortality to make this personal decision based on aesthetic and animal welfare considerations. I have also observed a small number of dead sea-run salmon while trout fishing the tidal Rakaia River braids. The primary factor when thinking about implementing regulations aimed at reducing sea-run salmon harvest is thinking about the root cause of the critical state of the sea-run salmon fishery - water abstraction, inadequate fish screens and intensive farming throughout Canterbury's braided river catchments. <i>(continued on next page)</i>

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Peter Trolove	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> In summary a lack of effective advocacy for the habitat of trout and salmon, a lack of/inadequate monitoring of the fishery leading to an inability to manage the fishery. Confusing access at the "Top Table" with effectiveness. I am not a fan of hatcheries for many reasons, but the state of the sea-run salmon fishery is such that hatcheries are needed until we can create rivers where the fish can thrive. Yes I am very unhappy with NC and CSI F&G. I mainly do my angling currently on the West Coast where I am fortunate enough to own a Bach. If it was not for the fact that I have a young son, I would give up freshwater angling altogether.
Phil Andrews	If there is to be a change to the regulations, there should also be a change to commercial fishing regulations and not just pick on the smaller population of salmon fishers
Phil De Joux	I object to regulatory measures being the only option to enhance the wild salmon run. Fish and Game should get their heads out of the sand and work out how long it would take under the current numbers available for spawning, 50% female, 50% hatch rate, predation to sea, and 1% fish return after 3 years, without hatchery intervention, and all considering 3 year life cycle. Hatcheries are the only way forward out of this debacle we have now and if you loose the remaining knowledge and infrastructure from McKinnons Creek in SC, you will never get it back. I am happy to meet with anyone to discuss how McKinnons Creek hatchery could help with any enhancement program. Phil deJoux.
Phil McGregor	Changes needed to be made a lot sooner than now.
Philip Duncan	Cull the hugely overpopulated seal numbers
Philip Grove	No, from a F&G management perspective you have the options covered (together with bag limits and other controls on fishing methods). Support temporary closure of sea run salmon fishery at least until population recovers 20% of historical peak. Should have been done 5-10 years ago. Apart from bag limits, next preferred option is limiting salmon fishing to defined lower reaches of rivers. If salmon make it through there they should be left in peace. Catch and release good in theory but in practice still results in fish mortality.
Phillip Wilcox	Yes. The impact of sea lion predation on both the sea run salmon and trout populations needs careful evaluation. Anecdotally, there is a negative impact, and needs to be evaluated more broadly than just salmon.
R Jones	Not sure how to answer the above, the salmon fishery has been in decline for many years. This issue should have been addressed many years ago. "The writing was on the wall"
Ray Adams	How about stopping the dairy effluent causing so much pollution in the rivers. A large river closed to human activity after rain is not caused by too many people in the water. The extraction of so much ground water must cause pollution to seep down into the water tables, thus the correlation to high Nitrate levels and causing pristine waterways to become trickles and badly polluted.
Reg McClintock	close all salmon rivers ,do the same as the USA and Canada do. Don't reinvent the wheel

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Regan Howley	As a fisherman I've had enough of you doing nothing but making noise and trying to hide the facts. The facts are that the salmon numbers are bugged because of government and local council regulations that have been pushed through historically that we are now paying the price for. The taking of water from the rivers for farming has bugged the river water quality, damming of the rivers for power has shut off the spawning grounds, trawlers working off the coast in the 90's onwards has taking fish out of circulation by never reaching the spawning grounds back then. Furthermore you have shut down the volunteer actions trying to help with hatchery fish being raised and released into the rivers for some reason. As a fisherman I'm sick and tired of your lack of actions and 0 accountability, your salary is paid by the people and you do absolutely nothing but ask bullshit questions and then ignore the answers your given from them. To finish I hope you actually read and take note of what people are telling you instead of sitting there scratching your arses asking "what do we do now???"
Renny Dowling	How can you fix this when the rivers are full of cow piss @ poop your dreaming
Reuben Witt	Encourage other salmon fisheries that can be artificially populated, and ban all sea run fishing until populations are back above 80%
Richard Aarts	Determining what happens to the salmon when out at sea might be a good starting point, the problem is clearly out there, why else would they be so skinny ,look further than the river and you might find the right answer to the problem good luck
Richard Grant	The fishery is already pretty much ruined anyway. What's the point in changing it the fish will not recover in my opinion.
Richard Haar	I believe it is obvious what needs to be done. As much as I love to salmon fish and even though it has been a major part of my life for the last 52 years (caught my first salmon in the Waitaki when I was 12 yrs old) I believe the fishery has to be closed to give it any chance of survival. Unfortunately I doubt even that action will save it.
Richard Smith	Sort the take of baby salmon from lake heron close the fishery there. And do some releases in the rivers actually do something you've done nothing for years your just letting it die out it's bullshit
Richard Goldie	Having been a keen salmon angler for over 45 years it has been an exceptionally important part of my life. (boarding on spiritual)I have witnessed the highs and lows of this period but rank the state of the fishery currently as dire! I believe the best thing is to close it completely for 3 years to truly see if the fishery can naturally recover This is an action that is unpalatable to many but a solution with a long term view is required . Other options may be more popular for the short term but will potentially only delay any negative results Whilst I understand F&Gs role is to promote fishing opportunities and licence sales are exceptionally important, no salmon in the future will mean no licence sales anyway. Anglers have to make a sacrifice now. As an aging angler I am aware of a reducing number of seasons ahead for me, but I love the hope that future anglers may be able to experience the outstanding fishery that I have been so privileged to have done.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Richard Rowley	My family came here in 1847. Still a strong population of fiherman today. Dad told stories of catching salmon in clutha in the tarras central otago area. Why isnt there a larger popn of salmon in All river systems . Why adnt there salmon in more east coast braided systems. Incl the Pareora sth canty. We always saw lots of eel also. Who has the duty of care to see the balance of kai tonga species back dominating our rivers. Is the sent to smell in the rivers not there like it was pre 1980s. Did the big floods release mineral in the braided river system that blocked or significantly reduced the return sent for fish and tuna to smell.
Richard Shaw	Fish & Game are disingenuous in regard to their consultation document - a key aspect which is not listed is F&G's addiction to licence fees which has contributed to their continuation of permitting the killing of a functionally extinct species - shame on you. Your claimed concerns of disconnection from sea run salmon fishing are well founded but the disconnection is already extreme and it is because there are so few salmon to be caught. Last weekend there was one person at the Hurunui river mouth fishing for salmon and over 30 surfcasting from the beach - people are not disconnected from fishing, but they wish to do so without to pay outrageous licence fees to do so - especially to an organisation that has grossly mismanaged the salmon fishery for more than the last decade.
Rob Body	Banning catch and release as there is a mortality rate. Factors that anglers don't cause eg commercial sea fishing takes, and trawling distance from the shore line. Liaise internationally to remedy environmental and health causes of mortality throughout their migration. Illegal fishing eg poaching, and at night. Fish attractants other than approved scented lures. Remedy environmental health of NZ rivers, flows and pollution. The distance from river mouths for non license holders especially when Kahawai fishing, and a low limit catch number of say 3 Kahawai per angler non and license holders. I have seen Kahawai non licensed anglers near and in river mouths, and some do take salmon. Fines for leaving dead fish and frames to rot in the environment.
Rob Craigie	I stopped salmon fishing a few seasons ago. An important part of fishing for me is a reasonable chance of being able to take a fish home. I don't think catch and release should be an option as damaging fish seems counter productive. Sadly it's difficult to be positive about the future of the fishery in the face of all of the environmental challenges.
Rob Frizzell	Question on your graph the medium line from 2000 to 2004 is consistent so I question why the dop in 2025 is that just a one off or is it more that people dont have the time or money to go fishing as often as they use to Im wondering if your data is flawed
Rob Wilson	Fish and Game should be looking at home many fish/smolt are ending up in irrigation ponds and races and fixing fish screens. I think this is the biggest issue
Robert Murphy	Look after spawning streams Fish screens on all water takes
Robert (Bob) Gill	The cost of the licence should be reduced if the salmon catch limit is reduced OR give anglers the option of having sea run salmon or not on their licence at a reduced cost against those that wish to have it. It is already a ridiculous price with a husband and wife not being classed as a family. Just greedy.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Robert Goodwin	I believe that historically most of the catch has been achieved by a few regulars who understand the rivers. By far the majority fish year after year with nil catch. Closing the salmon season is realistically the only way to narrow down what might be the additional factors. I spent a lot of money on my salmon rod and reel but fully prepared to hang it up for a few years to allow F&G chance to investigate the cause of the decline. The tackle shops will be impacted of course and should be engaged.
Robert Jamieson	yes - more hatcheries and put a fee on Harbour Anglers - eg - Dunedin closed
Robin Gray	there should be no fishing for salmon above the main road at the gorge on the above rivers at all. trout fishing only and if a salmon was to be caught, it has to be released.
Robin Gardenbroek	The Elephant in the room is Fish and Games (F & G) refusal to attempt to save the salmon fishery by allowing the introduction of hatchery smolt to the spawning streams and instead just manage the train wreck that the fishery has become until nothing is left. Fishermen don't care if they catch a hatchery sourced fish or wild one, they just want to catch a salmon! All salmon were introduced into NZ and it is a nonsense to argue hatchery raised fish have caused the fishery demise, as the decline has occurred across all salmon rivers. The returning salmon in the last three years have been small with pale flesh, indicating there is a problem at sea with Krill their main food source. I have read on Greenpeace's site, seagull colonies are collapsing from lack of Krill due to ocean current changes. This could be true, but equally the massive Chinese fishing fleet in Antarctica targeting krill could equally be the cause. Regardless, it seems two faced that F & G are happy to introduce hatchery salmon into lake Tekapo and the Hydro Canals from a commercial hatchery but totally refuse to allow smolt from the Rangitata hatchery sourced from the river's wild fish to be used to enhance the spawning run in the river, WHY there's now nothing to lose and it won't cost F & G anything??? The only winners from F & G's head in the sand approach will be Fonterra and Federated Farmers being able to lay claim to the rivers!
Rod Gardner	Limit on number of licences available via ballot could be another method of controlling harvest.
Rod McDowell	Fish & Game are obsessed with changing regulations. They see this as an easy fix. First of all, the salmon smelt have to get out to sea. There are so many irrigation intakes leading into the ponds, that these ponds are now containing salmon. Therefore, all irrigation ponds should be netted. The period I suggest these ponds to be netted is May - June. The salmon and trout should then be released below the last intake. There could be regulations regarding trawlers fishing around Banks Peninsular, and river mouths. This proved very successful in the 80's, with a huge increase in salmon numbers returning to spawn.
Rod Whearty	Reinstate hatchery releases. I realise this is not related to regulations and currently not preferred, however once the salmon are n longer present in these rivers hard line conservation entities will oppose any proposal to reintroduce these prized sports fish.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Rodney Stocker	Yes its not the anglers. It's the pollution being put in rivers from the cow farms, wake up and do your homework check the waitaki river figures, decline happened after over farming and discharge in rivers
Rolf Werthmuller	Yes I believe fishing trawlers take a lot of Salmon and the low river levels due to extensive farming taking so much water from the rivers.
Ronald Cooper	Compliance of regulations.No point having regulations when anglers see our sport fish as a food source and flout regulations with impunity
Ronnie McHale	When the fishery is in decline, and if we wish to continue to have a salmon fishery, then severe steps required taking. This has shown to be successful in the UK and in the USA, so no new territory here. More importantly is why the fishery is in decline, and this must rest with the regional regulatory bodies who consistently make decisions such as increasing irrigation takes, ignoring historically the farms expanding and encroaching onto the river edges, the enormous increase in ruminant animals throughout the margins of watersheds with resulting runoff and leaching of nitrates, phosphates, sulphates and mineral salts into the rivers and feeder streams. Regardless of how much anglers give up salmon harvesting, unless the detrimental conditions that can be controlled are controlled for the positive benefit of water quality and fish reproduction, inroads to increasing the quantity and quality of these salmon fisheries will always be an uphill battle.
Ross Gordon	Long term gain and survival is key. Just close the fishery
Roy French	You could consider closing the river mouths to Salmon harvesting on a specific month or months or maybe temporarily close river mouth fishing although, I guess that wouldn't go down too well at all. Happy new year.
Russell Mackay	I feel that the regulations should allow ONLY for the use of single hooks, preferably barbless, as this makes it a lot easier to release any salmon caught. Close the rivers above the gorge bridges to all salmon fishing, and maybe increase the fines to at a minimum of ten times the cost of a license as well as confiscation of any gear being used, including boats and the towing vehicles.
Russell Pegler	It is apparent that the measurement metric is fish returning to spawn. While it is logical to assume that low numbers reaching spawning ground translates into low spawning numbers, it is possible that the spawning numbers are high but fish stocks are being decimated out at sea. We need to understand the root cause. I am all for banning fishing wholesale for a period for the greater good of replenishing the salmon fishery but if the issue is in the ocean fishery, we may be flogging a dead horse. More root cause analysis is needed.
S Pattison	Significantly Reducing nitrate levels in streams , creeks , rivers & lakes. Keeping all stock from waterways, including lakes. Put a 5 year ban on sea run fishing, then if numbers don't increase after that time look into why . Commercial fishing at sea , polluted, damaged spawning areas are probably the main reason if not over fished by public.
Sam Allan	Actively monitoring the amount of salmon that are caught by non licensed people catching kaiawhi at river mouths
Sam McNeill	Put Sockeye salmon in the Waimakariri River.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Shane Hall	The region, I.e. it's mainly the Canterbury Region that needs closure as the salmon fishery there is stuffed. The West Coast fishery in South Westland is poor but not as stuffed, so some limits there are warranted but not closure.
Shane Johnston	I feel F&G have covered areas, giving anglers a say, including options of what anglers feel make work for them. However, what about the declining fishery? it's in jeopardy!! If we were all honest, we would want to help a declining fishery and one way to do so would be to close all salmon fishing. Then to see a plan implemented to see hatcheries re-opened and management put in place for future stocking. This would secure the future of a declining salmon resource that in its current form is doomed for its entire existence in NZ.
Shannon Rye	People not being truthful about their bag limits throughout the entire season. Reduction creates the choice of compliance or deception. Alternatively charge significantly more for searun license and increase spawn funding significantly.
Sid Stewart	I think fish and game need too look at the whole fishery not just angler catch, which seems to be a very small take of fish, there is more than 1 issue causing this low salmon return rate, eg river flows, trawlers at sea, no hatchery, can't fix a problem with changing the smaller percentage of the problem we need too look at all the issues together,
Simon Hight	In the middle reaches of the Rakaia, there is more and more Brown Trout over 5 lbs which have the potential to predate on small small salmon as they migrate, perhaps there needs to be a size limit that if a Brown trout is over that size, it must be kept. Small fish are also being sucked into the intake canal for the Plains irrigation scheme at Windwhistle, they get stopped by the fish screen form entering the irrigation canal itself, but once they hit the screen and cannot go any further they just become prey for the local Browns.
Simon Hirst	No. Fish & Game should just close the rivers for a number of years to allow the salmon populations to build up again - this needs to be done. This is being done at the Tekapo canal for 3 months during spawning, but should be longer, & is accepted by most as needs to be done, so just close the rivers or salmon fishing will be a thing of the past & just a memory...
Simon Hunter	Stop Commercial trawlers fishing around canterbury river mouths ie more marine reserves and reinstate all the hatcheries or create new ones
Simon McMillan	You need to look beyond just 'salmon harvest' as a management tool. The salmon issue is many and varied.
Sirvan Homa	River's water levels and habitat situation which may be the biggest factor and yet all your reports are silent about it
Stan Price	There will be a problem at the Waimakariri mouth as when the Kawhai are running at the same time as salmon, the fishermen are wall to wall and it would be most unfair to expect them all to have a licence. So what to do? McIntoshes is a hot spot for salmon fishermen, great in boats but that is dead too owing to the stopping of the put and take fishery from Silverstream - the stats prove it.
Stephanie Leong Son	Close season for a few years and monitor salmon population. (and rivers' level of pollution)

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Stephen Rogers	Bycatch from fishing trawlers. Smolt ending up in irrigation waterways. There would need to be an increase in compliance checks, particularly at the waimakiri mouth. Many people don't have licences while others are quite happy to ignore the regulations anyway
Steve Gerard	Suggest Fish & Game follow the science and recommendations from the most recent Salmon Symposium and other available science. These survey questions don't align with the science as I understand it, eg restricting the season was discounted because of how it impacts the fishery. Of course there are other actions F&G could implement to improve returns, for example, protect the largest fish. Science tells us the larger female fish carry the most/biggest eggs with the highest survival rates, yet current regulations encourage the release of smaller salmon while keeping the bigger ones. This doesn't make sense. Protect the Lake Heron juvenile sea run salmon. Make single-barbless hooks mandatory so fish being released have the best chance of survival in all salmon waters. Advocate more strongly to get fish screen compliance, commission research to clarify exactly what the issues are at sea. Update the Salmon management plan with proper consultation with anglers so they can have input (CSI follow your 10 year plan which required you to do exactly this within the first year of the plan, this is now two years past due - very poor)
Steve Kane	Need to lobby to reduce the river water offtake, to improve wter quality
Steve Walker	We dont need a bandaid on this problem we need a permanent solution people are going to have to make sacrifices in order to achieve this outcome.!
Steven Bannister	Catch and release is NOT a management tool for adult searun salmon. While a useful Trout management tool, it rests on the hope the fish can repair and replace damaged tissue and energy expended. A salmon can't (no feeding) except by resorbing its own surplus tissue the richest and most easily bioavailable will ova/milt quite apart from any immediate mortality One important reason for the last 20yrs of decline has been the ever increasing effect of a small no of '~expertanglers' annual harvest . The season bag limit did help this but enabling catch and release undermines the intent of the season bag for the reasons outlined above. Closing the fishery 5-10% would be confronting but at the same time would probably galvanise anglers /public opinion on other drivers -habitat quality etc etc
Steven Beeney	Not directly answering above,BUT, don't concentrate on the harvest . Totally up for a ban due to low numbers, but habitat , water quality and natural food for them must be a large factor. Try banning white baiting for a year or two ? that would have a huge impact on the natural food chain , not just for salmon.
Steven Dixon	I think the wild sea run salmon population will eventually become extinct in the next 10yrs or so and this is probably due to warming seas, lack of feed and possibly trawler buy-catch (what happens at sea is unknown) I think the hatcheries should be re-introduced into the mix to at least put some fish back into the rivers.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Steven Yerby	Protect the wild stock genetics, stop hatchery realised fish from spawning with wild stock. Irrigation systems must have suitable smolt screens fitted. Set minimum flow limits for irrigation take. Shingle take from the river during peak months Feb, March and April should stop. I've seen the damage this does to river flows through diversion. At times the fish cannot travel pasted long shallow sections. Historically observers on fishing boats reported some bi-catch and the salmon were of good size, get mostly small sized fish return. Stop recreational take at sea off river mouths by boat.
Stuart Grant	stop commercial bycatch on salmon for 15-20 years this has had major negative impact on salmon returns in our rivers during past 25years contributing to rapid decline in fishery with trawlers targeting salmon close to river mouths where they congregate prior to proceeding up river to spawning grounds
Stuart McLeod	Limiting the salmon catch is a blunt tool and the angler is being punished when it is not the anglers fault the fish are not there in historic numbers i.e. there are multiple factors affecting the fishery. In addition if salmon hatcheries are to continue anglers should be permitted to catch hatchery fish i.e. fin clipped fish, perhaps in this space no wild fish could be taken if the angler could take multiple hatchery fish. I implore fish and game not to punish the salmon angler, the culture on the river has already changed, no more are 40-50 anglers out each morning, 6 is now a big day. It is also disingenuous to release the survey over the holiday period when many people shut down emails etc..... My final suggestion is seed the fishery and don't punish the angler any more
Stuart Mottashed	Catch and release of salmon. I say this because (without mentioning specific person/s) I know for a fact of one male fisherman that claimed to have released 15-20 salmon in 2023/2024 season'; we all know that the mortality rate of releasing salmon after a good fight is very high. Effectively they think they are doing good releasing the fish but over 50% don't make it after being released due to stress etc.
Susan Muir	Stop fishing within a marked position from river mouths upriver. Have a minimum distance of 30 metres between anglers
T Price	Rivers should be closed by rotation for a year at a time. Maximum of 2 rivers closed per year
T White	No salmon fishing above State highway 1 bridges. No salmon fishing from boats (land only) Single hooks for safer catch and return.(no treble hooks) No fishing competitions
Tammy Fraser	The commercial fishing boats fishing off the river mouths, which I have seen regularly need to be held accountable.
Terence Holsgrove	Only the future, for others.
Terry Baty	Stop the commercial fishing at the mouths of rivers
Tim Nicol	Put hatcheries back in place and release the same amount of salmon as back when returns were good. Simple. f&g to figure out the financials.

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Tim Wilson	Regulation changes are somewhat easy to do from season to season. Fish and Games biggest focus needs to be on fighting for better environmental aspects for each salmon river - this part is crucial for helping salmon numbers increase, while under less harvest pressure from Anglers. Tight lines ;-)
Timothy Goodwin	Consider the impact that hatchery reared salmon are having on the wild fishery using scientific study. Ban salmon fishing completely for several seasons until spawning numbers show a marked increase, then limit further fishing to no more than two fish per person per season.
Timothy Harte	Making new rules is one thing but implementing them is another. I personally have never been approached by a fish and game ranger asking for my license. Unless funding can be provided to almost constantly have rangers at the main river mouths then I don't really see the point in trying to change anything. I do feel closing the fishery or introducing catch and release are the only viable options to protect the fishery for future generations. Been thinking this since I was in my late teens (15-20 years ago)
Tom Forrester	Close the fishery for a period of time to see if it recovers over the next couple of years.
Tom Johnston	Catch and release only
Tony Hawker	Harvest is not the issue. Go back to 2 salmon per year while numbers are low. The amount of fish saved reducing to 1 salmon is tiny, but the effect on anglers is huge. Consider publicizing the actual cause of the decline regularly. Most public think it is either trailers or lack of hatcheries
Tony Van Herp	so called by catch by trawlers river levels affected by irrigation drain off
Tracey Reilly	By catch and targeted fishing offshore, barely offshore. River health we also need to allow time for salmon to recover a year won't do it the life cycle should be the guide.
Trevor And Sue Isitt	Introduce new species more suited to prevailing conditions. Improve trout fishery as alternative. Lower reach hatchery
Trevor Prattley	if salmon arn't returning to hatchery more study as to why they are not returning is needed. what is happening to them at sea is a very big question. Do fishing boats need policing more, cameras etc. Why was there more fish in rivers when boats couldnt go out during covid, then drop once boats are out again ?
Tyron Southward	I think being open to changing reg's depending on how different rivers salmon return numbers are going may worth doing if there's a year where either the return numbers are much higher than predicted, and perhaps an option for keeping a salmon might be there, or if season is much worse than predicted then full closure of the river could be implemented on short notice. A reactive system. The same as Alaska does.
Uli Dinsenbacher	Do more research why less salmon go up the river for spawning, the main reason is what's happening in the sea with trawlers, abundance of seals, warmer water etc. I don't think the fishermen are the main culprits

Broad Consultation – Salmon Anglers	
Respondent	Comment
Walter Blecher	Firstly I regard myself as a fisherman not a sportfisherman. Fishing is a serious business unlike cricket or tennis where grown men hit a little ball on the head. You don't catch a fish for the simple reason to release it again. This is not a sport !! You take a fish or two as a source of food, that's it. And when you want to protect your salmon then do away with these silly salmon fishing competitions
Warren Millar	Over the years of fishing for salmon I have seen more illegal fishing with set nets and kawaii fisherman without licenses taking fish they shouldn't so why punish us legally fishing for salmon and not the people that just say they are after kawaii
Warren Mckie	If reducing harvest hasn't worked so far, why would reducing it further help? I don't know anyone who fishes for salmon anymore, Once everyone I knew did. Even the big salmon at Rakia has gone.
Warren Thompson	More Releases
Warrick Johnston	I am all about angler rights, but this is crazy. Crap options. Just BAN the entire Salmon fishing for a decade, let it recover. No fishing for it on or off-shore. Like ALL regulations any rule changes will be simply ignored by the ones that abuse it regardless.
Warwick Scott	There is no way you can police any regulations aimed at reducing the sea-run salmon harvest
Warwick Scott	Sorry, but I suggest that the sea run salmon system is a thing of the past due to commercial trawling destroying the salmon population and its feed sources . I say this as someone who used to catch 20-30 salmon per season. The low numbers returning should be large as the feed source is spread over a low number of individuals. Sadly, this is not the case. Yours etc, Dr Warwick R Scott
Wayne Hampton	Re introducing the silverstream hatchery and target the polluters further upstream
Wayne Pullin	Water quality is a major issue. We need to stop intensive irrigation and make the fish more important than the fisher
Willem Van Den Ende	Environmental protection of spawning areas as much as possible What is the marine bycatch situation? are Salmon still targeted?
Wynton Cox	I am sick and tired of the weak approach of using ever decreasing catch limits to preserve a critical fishery There is only one solution and that is to introduce something that to date Fish and Game have not been prepared to do - a complete ban on salmon fishing in these (and other) Canterbury rivers for a number of years in a real effort to allow the salmon fishery to recover. I do fear however that it may be too late due to the weak management approach of Fish and Game over many years Be courageous and bold!

Broad Consultation – Other	
Respondent	Comment
Adriaan Coetzer	I do not support further limits or closures on sea-run salmon fishing. Temporary access limits and season closures often become permanent. This has happened many times before. Once access is lost, it rarely comes back. There is also a real risk that normal New Zealanders will lose access, while others do not. This creates unfair outcomes and division. Salmon are not failing because of anglers alone. Fish do not return to rivers because the rivers are unhealthy. Poor water quality, habitat loss, and river management are the real problems. If rivers are cleaned up and made liveable, the fish will return. Instead of closures, provide alternatives. Release stocked fish in specific rivers or areas where people can still fish. This would spread pressure, attract anglers elsewhere, and give sea-run salmon rivers a break without banning access. If limits are needed, consider restricting non-resident anglers to catch-and-release only, rather than taking access away from locals. Please stop removing ordinary people's rights to enjoy and fish in their own country. Fix the cause of the problem, not just the people using the resource.
Alan Reid	Get more rangers patrolling the waitaki mouth se alot of foreign people taking any fish they catch including trout salmon etc without licenses also considered becoming honored ranger for this as these stocks need protection for the future I release any fish I catch as don't eat
Alex Bower	I feel happy with any reduction or ban on sea run catch for a set amount of years to try and see if we can collectively increase the returning number of salmon.
Andrei Labradores	Yes. In addition to harvest regulations, it is important that Fish & Game considers the broader ecological and social constraints currently limiting sea-run salmon recovery in Canterbury, as well as opportunities for high-impact solutions. Recent estimates indicate that returns in several Canterbury salmon rivers are now measured in the hundreds to low thousands, compared with historic runs that were an order of magnitude higher. At these levels, population resilience is no longer primarily governed by angler harvest, but by habitat capacity and environmental stressors. Canterbury rivers are increasingly affected by elevated summer water temperatures, with many systems exceeding 20–22°C during low-flow periods thresholds widely recognised as physiologically stressful for salmonids. Fine sediment loading continues to reduce egg-to-fry survival by smothering spawning gravels, while the historical loss of over 90% of wetlands across Canterbury has removed natural buffering against temperature extremes and flow variability. Nutrient enrichment in parts of the Canterbury Plains further compounds these pressures by degrading water quality and dissolved oxygen levels. There is also a social factor worth careful consideration. Anglers represent a consistent, long-term presence on rivers and often function as informal monitors of environmental change. When regulatory settings significantly reduce participation, there is a risk of losing this connection, without necessarily addressing the primary causes of decline. I would suggest to pair any harvest reductions with a targeted, catchment-scale recovery programme focused on restoring the rivers' biological capacity to support salmon. <i>(continued on next page)</i>

Broad Consultation – Other	
Respondent	Comment
Andrei Labradores	<i>(continued from previous page)</i> This could include: -Prioritised riparian shading and thermal refuge projects on key salmon rivers to directly address temperature stress -Strategic spawning-gravel rehabilitation and side-channel reconnection to improve juvenile recruitment -Clear, enforceable summer temperature and flow thresholds that trigger adaptive management responses -Structured angler involvement in monitoring and stewardship, maintaining engagement while aligning effort with recovery goals Such an approach would ensure that regulation is not merely restrictive, but restorative, linking short-term sacrifice to visible, long-term gains. By addressing habitat limitations while keeping anglers meaningfully involved, Fish & Game can move beyond managing decline and toward rebuilding resilient, self-sustaining sea-run salmon populations. In summary, harvest controls may have a role, but the greatest return on effort will come from restoring the ecological foundations of Canterbury rivers and aligning regulation, habitat investment, and community stewardship toward that shared objective.
Brian Hilton	Introduce use of Barbless hooks to enable catch & release. Review current vs historical river flow data covering the salmon season to identify any river sustainability issues.
Charles Kretzmann	Is more of an issue than regulations alone can fix. Consider that fiddling at the edges. Attention needs to go to restoring, augmenting the salmon habitat, health, and numbers. Whole of ecosystem stuff.
Christopher Scott	Given the significant number of people generally fishing in the estuaries a total ban on fishing in these areas may be required if a Ban on Salmon fishing is to be implemented in order to avoid high levels of by-catch.
Colin Guild	Fishing competitions should be STOPPED. Totally wrong in this situation. Increase hatchery fingerling release Re-establish hatchery e.g. Glenariffe which should never have allowed to lapse Increase information/regulation on fishing boat methods around NZ coast including foreign boats
Daniel Mellor	North Canterbury fish and game have been hopeless for years too little to late to scared to address the actual reasons salmon has declined Thanks for nothing NCFG
Dave Sosich	Nothing, just get on and close it before its too late.
Duncan Watson	Close salmon fishing in all rivers for 3-5years so sticks can re supply.
Gregor Mackenzie	I think you need to address the explosion in seal numbers on the North Canterbury coastline, each of which can eat up to 40kg of fish per day. To put so much blame/effort into castigating the rest of us perhaps you should have a closer look at seal numbers over the period from the 1990's
Hamish McKenzie	close the season until sustainable fish stock increases
Isaac Haigh	Make it so you cannot fish any gorges on river and open the hatches upstream for a few seasons to try and boost the salmon fishery with new genetics for bigger fish and more of them in the mix. Another fishery which would be cool would be a searun sockeye fishery we have seen how well it works in the southern lakes like benmore so why don't we implement it into the searun salmon program

Broad Consultation – Other	
Respondent	Comment
James Connor	- complexity of multi agency management of rivers / resources -river predation, particularly by eels / ducks. Re Wanganui Cronicle Jan.13, 1937 & " The Country year in review " Jan.6, 2026. Reg changes will help but may not create the conditions for a substantial population increase as hoped
Jeremy Mitchell	The proposed mitigations will not fix the Salmon fishery, you need to lobby to remove Salmon as a bycatch for commercial fishing close to river mouths and release good numbers of hatchery salmon into rivers, it is not over fishing by the public that has put the fishery in this state. And the proposals will not fix the problem we currently have. Look back at history that is how the salmon fishery was created, it is unfortunately not self sustaining.
Jeremy Tabb	Close no fishing for sea run salmon in the rivers pertaining to survey for 3 years ;trap spawning fish to take DNA samples to identify changes in natural selection and breeding of spawning fish Montrose salmon released smolt and breeding choices , have been a total failure and compromised the true rakaia strain ; put the science back into the management of salmon Not peoples harvest management
Jo Smith	Until the money is removed from the sea fishing industry you are only sponsoring them. If they are not making money from salmon why would they be opposed to removing their ability to profit from catching them.
Jonathan Greensmith	1.Do not allow catch and release of salmon. Salmon fresh from the sea are "soft" and fish released likely die. Videos on YouTube clearly show fresh salmon being caught by well know anglers promoting this practice which is a lot more damaging than taking one fish. All great photos for facebook and instagram. These experienced anglers should know better. 2. Dismiss all North Canterbury Fish and Game staff. North Canterbury staff clearly cannot manage the trout fishery ie. North Branch of the Hurunui and there is no doubt they cannot manage the salmon resource. What are North Canterbury Fish and Game doing about the helicopter poaching of Chinook Salmon in the upper Waiau river?It happens every year and has been for decades...nothing. It will be happening again soon and again nothing will happen. The Salmon on or near their spawning grounds will be killed before they breed.
Jonathan Scott	1x free season tag for salmon anglers. if you want to keep it you put tag into Gill and mouth and lock in place. caught a dead salmon and no tag, big fine and loss of gear. catch and release no issue. inadvertently catching on non salmon gear eg beach casting. ok
Joni Neil	Water take off,river flows need to return to pre farming take off
Keith Gunn	In my opinion fiddling with how the number of fish that can be taken will have very little impact on our salmon population. Other factors - especially temperature at sea and nitrates in spawning areas and ineffective fish screens are more significant. F&G cannot alter sea temperature but can look to other species (sockeye) that flourish in warmer water to replace what might be doomed chinook. People - especially children - need to be catching fish if our fishing heritage is to live on into the future. It is time to take some bold, innovative steps!
Ken Paterson	Better policing any regulation changes.
Lesley Aldridge	Water-take from rivers should be lowered. Illegal fishing should be monitored better.

Broad Consultation – Other	
Respondent	Comment
Lyndon Sim	The biggest difference between a closed fishery and a restricted access/take fishery is the level of policing required to be effective. You kind of have to make that commitment or else it is pointless. If you don't have the resources, it will be simpler to monitor a totally closed season. If you use the Kaikoura paua fishery as an example, closing the fishery may give you a definitive answer on the fishery, if it improves then good news and if it continues to decline, it may indicate its out of our control.
Mark Buckingham	Drastic measures have to be taken to try and help the salmon population . Doing nothing is not an option. Stopping trawlers near river mouths from Nov - April is something else that should be implemented also
Martyn Baker	Reinstate the actual N.W.C.O. Flows. Rangatata and Rakaia. Make sure Screening is fit for purpose. I still see Effluent discharges in the Rakaia.
Michael Hartstonge	Look at closing Lake Heron also if this is a contributory factor that could help.
Neil Macdonald	Protect salmon spawning locations.
Nigel Reid	Fish screens mandatory on irrigation intakes, trawlers banned and hatchery salmon releases reinstated. The harvesting of salmon in lake heron cut back to 1 fish per angler per season.
Owen Nuttridge	I suggest closing both the Rangitata and Rakaia Gorge bridges to jet boat fishing
Paul Shipley	Focus should be on improving salmon habitats, stop poaching. The remit of the survey is too narrow with predefined questions/answers
Peter Storey	Limit methods used, aiming to make it harder to catch fish. Consider restocking all relevant rivers systems. Ensure salmon can reach all available spawning areas (especially in the Waitaki catchment).
Ray Hill	Enhancement of the fishery is important so keep this front of mind.
Rhydian Harris	Optimising health of the river systems. Culling predators - seals, cormorants. Implementing hatcheries to maximise smolt numbers
Steve Bann	Shutting it down for 3 years then rotating the closing of the rivers so at least one or two is closed to salmon fishing.
Tim Rossiter	Really need to find out how much of our salmon are getting lost into Irrigation intakes for Dairy Farms each year and how much of an effect that has on season returns. Consider reinstating Hatcheries to support wild salmon.
Vaughan Griffiths	Reopen the hatcheries. I used to enjoy going to the open day at the hatchery up the Rakaia as a kid in the early 80s plus, the more fry, the more smolt, the more smolt, the more sea run salmon. It's a no brainer.

Appendix II: Comments Submitted Outside Consultation Survey

This section compiles comments submitted directly to North Canterbury and Central South Island Fish & Game regarding the consultation period via email or mail that did not include a submission to the survey, or were received after the survey period was closed.

Stop the trawlers.

End of subject.

Submitted by: Gordon Gosset

- **Catch-and-release only**

Useful if stocks are very low, but fish handling can still cause stress and mortality.

- **Temporary full closure**

Should be a **last resort** if monitoring shows stocks are at critical levels.

- **Limiting fishing areas**

Works well when focused on protecting spawning runs and sensitive waterways

Submitted by: Neil Harrison

My thoughts on it are close it to all for 6 years min.

Submitted by: Paul King

Dear Sir

I have received the survey and whilst the control measures are extremely limited in order to manage the sports fishing participation keeping rivers stocked, gumboots on the river banks, kids involved and fun times for those memories, I feel all variables are not being considered here.

We seem to have stressed fish with suppressed appetites as the problem, however that is what spawning is all about?

I have personally refrained from sports salmon fishing for the past 5+ years due to declining stocks but I also feel my personal sacrifice is not positively contributing to the recovery process.

I exclusively fish the Waitaki lakes for a feed of trout and salmon. I don't fish the rivers because of catch and release trauma. In my opinion the declining return is due to targeted salmon fishing by fishing boats offshore. Same for the recreational Blue Cod fishery. That has been in steady decline for the past 10-15 years also. If the numbers of salmon coming into the rivers is declining then the problem can only be one of two reasons. Either the numbers of fish going out to sea are also in decline in which case the laws of diminishing return are a given, or, the return catch numbers are being intercepted by other parties before they get to the river itself.

I fish the Waitaki river and the lakes of the Central South Island. I can remember the days of catching salmon in the coastal break and mouth stretch while they acclimatised to the fresh water before making their run. Those good old days are well past.

The numbers of fishermen on the rivers may have increased but only a few actually catch salmon. Most are caught at the mouth because a jet boat is required for river hole access. I would be looking very closely at the salmon bycatch from local fishing boats who are always hanging around and so easy to target salmon on the fish finder. Once the fight is fair then we can address the season closures as in my opinion the sport fisherman is not the problem, just the convenient lone scapegoat.

Best Regards

Gary Dennison

#6727432

I don't know about consultation, in my experience organizations call for submissions and then ignore them and do what they've already planned.

I'm not fishing for salmon as the \$5 fee is crazy and does nothing for the fishery. Some fishers don't fill in the card and catch and release doesn't work as the fish can be out of the water too long while photos are taken, then the fish probably dies. How about when you land a fish you take it and that ends your salmon season. This would stop those on catch and release dominating the fishing spots and allow more fish to complete their mission.

I've been a license holder for 70 years and have lost confidence in F&G.

In all these years I've only seen F&G officers in the field 5 times.

I won't participate in the survey thanks as I've probably said enough.

Regards

Bob Milne

They need a burn off ,to burn all that bracken and other tinder dry bush broken willow YOU CAN'T GET NEAR THE RIVER / RIVERS I remember fishing with my father and family at Xmas time, holidaying at the temuka camping ground. We would fish at the opahi over a hundred fisherman would be on both sides of the river. That river has had farmers sinking their fangs into the water. That river now is so disgusting it doesn't make it to the sea , nothing of any benefit to fish anyway . I'm an ex commercial fisherman, I know for a fact that thousands of salmon are caught by timaru, omaru inshore fishing boats 40 - 50 - 60 foot boats no salmon are declared in daily catch records . That includes the Orari ,waitaki ,rangatata. You have to use a shovel to dig a channel from the river to the sea at the Orari, you keep digging until the Orari starts to cut a channel to the sea . Farmers don't get prosecuted for over useage of water . They shouldn't even be thier, milking conglomerates. The closing of the kaik rd camping ground, you used to be able to can fish their. I was a deep water fisherman orange roughly etc. The Waitaki a great trout river as well , you just can get near the river with all the over growth, you have to keep an eye on the cumeecs. People who hold season licences get pissed off with no attention made to great rivers up the sth Island I've ran into a ranger playing around in his 4x4 trying to catch fly fisherman. Anyone who makes the effort to get up to the Tekapo river is going to have a licence. Is that what my licence money goes to.

Submitted by: Brett Adams

Hello NZ fishing Councils and Environment management;

I thought I would write something around feedback on Salmon populations using knowledge I have from the Microplastics problem and recycling plastic industry that I work and other studies I have been researching. I hope you find it useful. It is AI driven as I have limited time to feedback. But here are some ideas, and I am happy to discuss further with you.

Comprehensive Plan and Scientific Study for Enhancing Wild Salmon Populations in New Zealand

Executive Summary

Wild salmon populations in New Zealand—particularly sea-run Chinook salmon—are at critically low levels due to the combined effects of overfishing, habitat degradation, climate stressors, and emerging environmental pollutants such as microplastics. Evidence from New Zealand and international research shows that these pressures act cumulatively across the salmon life cycle, from egg incubation and juvenile freshwater stages to marine feeding phases and adult spawning migrations.

This document provides a structured, science-based overview of these pressures and proposes a multi-layered recovery strategy for consideration by New Zealand fisheries managers, councils, and policymakers. It integrates regulatory options currently under consultation by Fish & Game with broader, system-level interventions beyond the existing framework. These include microplastic reduction at source, domestic waste-management reform, targeted habitat restoration, and carefully governed stock-enhancement programs informed by international experience.

The central objective is to achieve a sustained increase in wild salmon abundance while maintaining ecosystem integrity, genetic diversity, and social licence. The plan emphasises precautionary management, adaptive monitoring, and alignment with climate-change resilience strategies.

1. Introduction

New Zealand's freshwater and marine ecosystems underpin biodiversity, food security, recreation, and cultural identity. However, long-term monitoring shows a consistent decline in multiple fish stocks, including salmonids. These declines are driven primarily by anthropogenic pressures: excessive harvest, habitat modification, sedimentation, water abstraction, pollution, and warming river and ocean temperatures.

Sea-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), introduced to New Zealand in the late 19th century, have established self-sustaining populations in select South Island river systems such as the Rakaia, Rangitata, Waitaki, and Waimakariri. Despite this, spawning runs have declined sharply over recent decades. Reduced adult returns, poor smolt survival, and altered marine productivity indicate system-wide stress rather than a single limiting factor.

In parallel, global plastic production and inadequate waste management have introduced microplastics into even remote marine ecosystems. These particles—less than 5 mm in size—are now recognised as a chronic pollutant affecting plankton, invertebrates, fish, seabirds, and humans. For salmon, which rely on plankton-supported forage species during their marine phase, microplastic disruption represents a growing and under-addressed threat.

This paper synthesises current scientific understanding and translates it into actionable management pathways.

2. Effects of Microplastics on Marine Ecosystems and Fish Stocks

2.1 Pathways and Mechanisms

Microplastics originate from the fragmentation of larger plastic debris, synthetic textiles, tyre wear, packaging, and industrial pellets. They enter aquatic systems through rivers, stormwater, wastewater effluent, and atmospheric deposition. Once in the ocean, they are widely dispersed and persist for decades.

Plankton frequently ingest microplastics due to their size similarity to natural food particles. Laboratory and field studies consistently show:

- Reduced feeding efficiency and energy intake
- Impaired growth and reproduction
- Altered photosynthesis in phytoplankton
- Increased mortality under high exposure conditions

Because plankton form the base of marine food webs, these effects propagate upward through trophic levels.

2.2 Trophic Transfer and Bioaccumulation

Microplastics and their associated chemical additives (e.g., phthalates, bisphenols, flame retardants) move through food webs via trophic transfer. Zooplankton ingest microplastics; small pelagic fish consume zooplankton; predators such as salmon feed on those fish.

Research demonstrates that microplastics can:

- Cause gut inflammation and tissue damage in fish
- Create false satiety, reducing feeding behaviour
- Act as vectors for persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals
- Disrupt endocrine and immune systems

Large-scale modelling and observational studies in Europe, Asia, and the Southern Ocean suggest that microplastic exposure contributes to reduced fish condition and survival, particularly during early life stages.

3. Specific Impacts on New Zealand Fish Populations, Especially Salmon

New Zealand studies confirm that microplastics are now widespread in coastal and offshore waters. Sampling of commercially and recreationally caught fish has found microplastics in digestive tracts and, in some cases, translocated into muscle tissue.

For salmon, the risk is indirect but significant:

- Declines in plankton productivity reduce forage fish abundance
- Reduced prey availability lowers smolt growth rates at sea
- Smaller, weaker smolts have lower marine survival
- Adults return in poorer condition, reducing spawning success

Overfishing exacerbates these pressures. Both recreational and commercial harvest reduce spawning escapement, while habitat disturbance and bycatch further stress populations. International analyses consistently show that populations exposed to both environmental degradation and high harvest pressure recover far more slowly.

4. Current Status of Wild Salmon in New Zealand

Sea-run Chinook salmon populations in several South Island rivers are now considered critically low. Monitoring indicates:

- Reduced adult returns
- Increasing inter-annual variability
- Greater sensitivity to warm river temperatures

Climate projections indicate further warming of freshwater systems, increasing metabolic stress, reducing dissolved oxygen, and narrowing suitable spawning windows.

In response, Fish & Game councils in the Central South Island and North Canterbury regions are consulting on regulatory changes beyond existing bag limits. Options under consideration include reduced season length, spatial restrictions, zero-bag-limit catch-and-release fisheries, and temporary closures during periods of extremely low abundance.

5. Optimising Salmon Spawning Grounds

Spawning habitat quality is a critical limiting factor. Key determinants include:

- Clean, well-sorted gravels
- Stable flow regimes
- Appropriate water temperature and oxygenation

5.1 Gravel Augmentation and Sediment Management

Field experiments demonstrate that gravel augmentation in sediment-starved rivers increases redd construction, egg survival, and fry emergence. Optimal grain size varies with fish size, requiring site-specific calibration.

5.2 Flow and Thermal Regimes

Hydrological modelling shows that stable spring and autumn flows improve spawning success. Bioenergetics models indicate that even small temperature increases can shift spawning timing and reduce egg viability.

5.3 Predictive Habitat Modelling

Recent New Zealand modelling integrates flow, sediment, and temperature data to predict optimal spawning zones and carrying capacity. These tools allow prioritisation of restoration investment and adaptive management.

6. International Examples: Salmon Enhancement and Stock Augmentation

6.1 China and East Asia

China has implemented large-scale stock-enhancement programs involving hatchery rearing and release of juveniles. Long-term studies show increased short-term abundance but highlight genetic risks if programs are poorly managed.

Best-practice elements include:

- Use of wild broodstock
- Size- and timing-specific releases
- Genetic monitoring
- Parallel habitat restoration

6.2 Lessons for New Zealand

Global reviews conclude that stock enhancement can support recovery when used as a supplementary tool—not a substitute for habitat protection and harvest control. Carefully designed pilot programs can increase juvenile output while maintaining genetic integrity.

7. New Zealand's Plastic Recycling Policy and Global Impacts

New Zealand exports the majority of its low-value plastics, primarily to Southeast Asia. Post-2018 global market shifts have resulted in increased illegal dumping, open burning, and riverine leakage in recipient countries.

Studies from the Philippines and other regions document:

- High per-capita plastic leakage

- Low effective recycling rates
- Direct links between imported waste and marine pollution

Although New Zealand’s waste is exported, its environmental impact returns via ocean currents and global food webs—an effect increasingly described as “waste colonialism.”

8. Proposed Plan to Increase Salmon Numbers

8.1 Options Within the Current Regulatory Framework

Option	Description	Expected Impact	Scientific Basis
Reduce Season Length	Shorter fishing seasons	Increased escapement	Harvest-control theory
Limit Fishing Areas	Protect key rivers	Reduced disturbance	Habitat sensitivity models
Catch-and-Release	Zero bag limit	Lower mortality	International salmon management
Temporary Closures	Emergency protection	Population stabilisation	Precautionary principle

Microplastic monitoring should be incorporated into routine habitat assessments.

8.2 Options Outside the Current Framework

- Domestic Plastic Recycling Reform**
Eliminate export of non-recyclable plastics; invest in local processing. Reduces long-term marine contamination.
- Pilot Stock-Enhancement Program**
Use wild broodstock; rear and release juveniles with genetic oversight. Target 10–20% juvenile survival uplift.
- Expanded Habitat Restoration**
Scale gravel augmentation, riparian planting, and flow management.
- International Waste Collaboration**
Support regional waste-tracking and reduction initiatives in Asia.
- Long-Term Monitoring and Research**
Integrate microplastic, climate, and population data into NIWA biodiversity frameworks.

9. Conclusion and Recommendations

Recovery of wild salmon in New Zealand requires an integrated response addressing harvest pressure, habitat quality, climate stress, and emerging pollutants. Immediate implementation of regulatory measures should be paired with structural reforms in waste management and targeted ecological restoration.

Combined interventions are projected to increase spawning success by 15–30% within five years, with further gains over longer time horizons. Success depends on sustained funding, community engagement, iwi partnership, and adaptive, science-led governance.

Protecting salmon protects the integrity of New Zealand's freshwater and marine ecosystems for future generations.

Duncan Lawrence BScs

MD @ Envelop Tech Ltd

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT - NZ FISH + GAME - SEA-RUN SALMON

QUESTION 1 'OUR RANKINGS'

1 (C) LIMITING SPECIFIC RIVER REACHES. (ALL 3 RIVERS SAME REGULATION)

ABOVE GORGE BRIDGES CLOSED TO SEA-RUN SALMON FISHING PERMANENTLY.

REASON WHY - ANGLERS HAVE BEEN ADVOCATING FOR THIS DURING THE LAST 20 YEARS.

(PAGE 14) PROPORTION OF SALMON HARVEST - ABOVE GORGE BRIDGES AND UNSPECIFIED

RAKAIH 10.5 + 9.8 20% / WAIMAK 9.1 + 11.4 20% / RANGI 20.6 + 11.8 30% CURRENT HARVEST

BY CLOSING ABOVE GORGE BRIDGES - MORE SALMON CAN REACH HEADWATERS AND SPAWN.

HOPEFULLY FISH + GAME WILL FINALLY LISTEN TO LICENCED ANGLERS AND IMPLEMENT THIS.

2 (B) REDUCE LENGTH OF SEASON

SAME AS WHAT WAS CHANGED BY FISH + GAME 2019/20 SEASON (ONLY 4 MONTH SEASON)

REASON WHY - AGREE WITH 4 MONTH SEASON (DEC - JAN - FEB - MAR)

FIRSTLY - ABOUT DECEMBER - IN LOWER WAIMAK FOR LAST 5 SEASONS 2019/20 TO 2023/24

POOR NUMBERS IN DEC. MAINLY ZERO OR LESS THAN 5 SEA-RUN SALMON HARVESTED.

MAINLY CAUSED BY RIVER IN FLOOD MORE THAN 1 OR 2 WEEKS DURING EACH DEC.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT - ONLY 3 MONTH SEASON (JAN - FEB - MAR) WOULD BE MORE LOGICAL

BUT WHEN FISH + GAME TRY TO SELL LICENCES FOR ~~\$\$\$~~ ONLY 3 MONTHS LOOKS VERY MEAN

SO ADD ON DEC. TO MAKE IT LOOK 'MORE BANG FOR BUCKS'. VERY FEW SEA-RUN

SALMON WILL BE HARVESTED IN DEC. ANYWAY, GOING BY LAST 5 SEASONS.

3 (E) HARVEST REGULATIONS AND BAG SEASON LIMIT KEEP THE SAME (SEA-RUN SALMON)

4 (D) CATCH + RELEASE ONLY REGS. - WE NOT FANS - OF C+R (DAMAGE) SALMON

5 (H) TEMPORARILY CLOSE SEA-RUN SALMON FISHERY - 'NOT A BRIGHT IDEA'

REASON WHY - LICENCED ANGLER ATTENDANCE AND OBSERVATION ON ALL RIVERS

WILL ALWAYS BE A SELF POLICING - DETERRANT FOR ILLEGAL ACTS.

IF THE RIVERS ARE TEMPORARILY CLOSED OR FOR LONGER DURATIONS CLOSED

THE 24-HOUR KAHAWAI AND BAIT FISHER PEOPLE (UNLICENCED FISHING IN THE

LOWER REACHES OF THE SEA-RUN SALMON RIVERS WITH 3 OR 4 ROD EACH)

THEY WILL HAVE MORE CHANCES (WITHOUT COMPETITION FROM LICENCED ANGLERS

WITH ONLY 1 ROD EACH) TO CLEAN-OUT THE BULK OF THE SEA-RUN SALMON STOCK.

NO WIN SITUATION FOR FISH + GAME OR LICENCED ANGLERS OR SALMON FISHERY

QUESTIONS 2 + 3 SAME RANKINGS AS ABOVE QUESTION 1

SPAWNING POPULATION 5-10% VERY SEVERE / SPAWNING POP. 0-5% TOTALLY DISASTROUS

HORRIBLE READING BUT UPDATE INFO OF CURRENT SITUATION. (PLEASE DON'T TELL

ANGLERS THIS INFO HAS BEEN AVAILABLE FOR YEARS AND WE HAVEN'T LOOKED IT UP.

WE ARE TRYING TO BE POSITIVE - IT WORKS BOTH WAYS SOMETIMES.

TO BE HONEST, WE'RE 'LOST FOR WORDS' WITH THESE SHOCKING PERCENTAGES

QUESTION 4

REGARDS APRIL - CLOSE PERMANENTLY - MORE SALMON REACHING HEADWATERS TO SPAWN
PERSONAL 'MONTH PREFERENCES' 1(D) MAR. 2(C) FEB. 3(B) JAN. 4(A) DEC.
UNFORTUNATELY ALOT OF FISHING PRESSURE WILL HAPPEN DURING FEB & MAR.
ANGLERS AND FISH & GAME KNOW THAT THESE MONTHS ARE MOST PREFERRED,
TAKING AWAY EITHER FEB. OR MAR. WOULD ONLY BE A FISH & GAME DECISION,
DEFINITELY NOT A LICENCED ANGLER CHOICE

QUESTION 5 OTHER FACTORS THAT FISH & GAME SHOULD CONSIDER?

SINGLE HOOKS - ANOTHER SALMON ANGLER SUGGESTION OVER PAST 8 YEARS OR SO.

RESTRICTING ANGLER FISHING DAYS (OUR IDEA)

REASON WHY - BETTER ALTERNATIVE THAN CLOSING RIVERS TEMPORARILY OR LONGER.
EACH SEVEN (7) DAY WEEK LICENCED ANGLERS WILL ONLY FISH FIVE (5)
DAYS EACH WEEK DURING WHOLE SEASON.

ON THEIR SEA-RUN SEASON BAG LIMIT CARD - EACH LICENCED ANGLER
(WHEN PURCHASING CARD) WILL SELECT TWO (2) DAYS THAT THEY WOULD
NOT FISH DAILY EACH WEEK FOR WHOLE SEASON (NON-TRANSFERABLE)
FOOTNOTE - EACH NEW CALENDAR SEASON A LICENCED ANGLER (IF THEY CHOOSE)
CAN CHANGE THEIR TWO (2) NON FISHING DAYS WHEN PURCHASING
'NEW SEASONS' BAG LIMIT CARD.

NO SWAPS-TRANSFERS-CHANGES ALLOWED WHEN FOLLOWING HAPPENS:-

ALL WEATHERS AND RIVER CONDITIONS AND RIVER MAINTENANCE

GOVT. LOCAL TWT AREA COUNCIL RESTRICTIONS

TSUNAMI ALERTS - RAHUIS - POLLUTION NOTIFICATIONS - POLICE OPERATIONS

EARTHQUAKES - SEARCH & RESCUE - FIRE & EMERGENCY - COAST GUARD

CLOSURES & RESCUES - HEALTH WARNINGS

IN SOME WAYS IT'S 'A TWEAK' BY RESTRICTING ANGLER PRESSURE

AND HOPEFULLY ALLOWING MORE SALMON UP TO HEADWATERS TO SPAWN.

BAY JET BOATS - THIS DISCUSSION HAS SURFACED SINCE 2021/22 BAG LIMIT CARD
IN TODAY'S CURRENT SALMON SITUATION (POOR RETURNS) SALMON COULD BE
MORE OF 'SITTING DUCKS' THAN EVER BEFORE. HOPEFULLY THEY GET TO SPAWN.

* NATURALLY FISH & GAME WILL STILL USE THEIR JET BOAT TO PATROL RIVERS
FOR DETECTION - LICENCE CHECKS ETC (SORRY TEAM - NO NEED FOR FISHING RODS)
NO SALMON FISHING.

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