

# **North Canterbury Fish & Game Angling Regulation Review 2022:**

## **Submission 1:**

**30.5.2022**

### **Submission of Mr Nick Moody to NCF&G Annual Regulations Review**

As long as sufficient monitoring is done to ensure that the fisheries remain sustainable, then I support the 4 proposed changes to the TROUT fishery management below.

As a trout fisherman, I am not well qualified to comment on the Kaiapoi River proposal.

However, F&Gs mandate is to maximise recreation opportunities, so this reduction of the accessibility of the fishery would only be acceptable if it was driven by a higher order need, such as the need to preserve the total salmon stock in this waterway.

In terms of my general views on the management of the trout fishery, I am very supportive of enabling more Winter fishing opportunities in North Canterbury.

We are out of step with the rest of the country and the world in holding to the outdated model of 5 months of closed season as our default setting.

In many North Island rivers and streams some of the best fishing of the year is for the spawning run brown and rainbow trout, and their seasons often run through till the end of June, and not only in the Lake Taupo system by any means.

The only argument for not allowing trout fishing in Winter is to block poaching, and this can be achieved by closing the rivers above the point where the majority of the breeding activity occurs.

I support the current opening up the mid and lower main stem of our braided and hill fed rivers all year around. For example the current Winter season on the lower Selwyn and Ashley rivers, and look forwards to continuing to fish it.

One shouldn't have to drive into the high country to catch a trout for 5 months of the year, as this bad for climate change, and many anglers cannot afford the fuel and/or time to do so.

Other waterways could follow, for example the Otukaikino could be opened up to the Groynes.

I am very pleased that we have finally stopped stocking our lakes and rivers.

Stocking is generally popular with anglers, however generally makes zero scientific sense, wastes money needed for habitat protection, and actually does a lot of harm to our trout populations which through natural selection have adapted to thrive in each particular catchment.

The exception being waterways where natural recruitment is the limiting factor in the health of the fishery, and even then, those waterways are arguably best left to produce low numbers of trophy sized trout.

On most lakes and rivers, the trout population is limited by the supply of habitat and food, not by the supply of juvenile fish.

As a 3rd generation Lake Lyndon angler I am catching as many trout there as ever, and support continued non-stocking there, and certainly no more brown trout, I think that putting browns in there was a mistake.

If our goal is to ensure a high number of catchable trout for beginners, then maintaining it as a rainbow only fishery is the way to go, as they are easier to catch and die young, before they can get overly educated.

In order to improve this key family-friendly beginner fishery it would be better, and much more cost effective, to lobby ECan to remove the 'speed-uplifted zone' classification from the lake, so that watercraft can't go faster than 5 knots within 200m of the shore, which would send the jetskiers and power boat operators down the road to Lake Coleridge where there is room for everyone.

## **Submission 2:**

From: Matt Wells

Sent: Monday, 30 May 2022 4:59 PM

Subject: Submission for review of NC Fishing Regulations.

To whom it may concern.

Submission against the proposed changes to NC regulations specifically the extension of season to 31st May on rivers Porter and Broken for provision of increasing take of rainbow trout.

Concerned that the opening up of above rivers is to provide access for fishers that take for food as a result of declining trout numbers from put and take lakes and declining salmon numbers and reduced salmon season bag limit from rivers as a result of NCF&G decision to no longer raise and stock.

Porter and Broken are sensitive rivers that already face increased pressure due to a recent promotion of these rivers by F&G at the start of the 20/21 season. The floods last year had a significant impact on these rivers and have removed a substantial amount of holding water and cover and populations have declined since these events.

Brown trout are present on Porter river and do spawn in this river. Can F&G confirm that opening up of these waters during brown trout spawning season will not impact spawning of brown trout. Does F&G intend to put rangers on these rivers during the extension to ensure brown trout are not targeted.

Unlike other rivers that have longer seasons Porter and Broken rivers do not flow into a significant lake which aids to support trout for food for recovering after spawning and holds a buffer population stock to support rivers. Broken and Porter rainbows are dependant solely on these rivers for their food to over winter fatten before their spawning season.

The increased pressure may impact spawning success and future populations.

Is F&G intending to have zero bag limit during this extended season as replicated in Waimakariri winter season bag or does it plan to extend 1 bag for this extended period.

Will this season extension apply to the Waimakariri, Poulter and Esk rivers as well.

Is there a plan to recommence restocking programmes for high country lakes to replenish declining populations to compensate for season extensions to Broken and Porter rivers.

I am unable to attend the meeting on Thursday night thank-you for considering my submission against extending the open season on the Porter and Broken rivers.

Regards Matt Wells.

### **Submission 3:**

From: Andy Wells  
Sent: Monday, 30 May 2022 3:50 PM  
Subject: Re proposed regulation changes for North Canterbury

Hi Debbie/ Richard,

Please submit to the ARM this week. I oppose the proposal to allow the extension to the fishing season on the Broken and Porter rivers to 31<sup>st</sup> May.

While I can see common ground to align our regulations to those of Otago and Southland, without exception every river that is open in these regions to 31<sup>st</sup> May, runs into a lake. Those lakes provide a buffer stock of fish. They also contain a buffer of high protein food, which allows the fish population to regain weight after spawning.

Broken and Porters empty into the Waimakariri, which lacks such a supply of food to the rainbow population, and along with Broken and Porters Rivers is already showing signs of the fish numbers dropping. The increase of intensive farming alongside the river up to the gorge and now around Cass may be one cause, so I feel that a cautious approach is needed rather than allowing angler participation just for the sake of doing so.

It should also be noted that brown trout spawn in sections of the Porter River and allowing “anglers” to target them in May, when Honorary Ranger activity is at its lowest, is not the wisest idea.

I have seen the effects of that close to our city in April, and by the time that a ranger is raised the perpetrators are long gone.

I have a conflicting meeting Thursday night, so will not be able to speak to this.

Regards,  
Andrew Wells

## **Submission 4:**

**From:** Clark Stanger

**Sent:** Sunday, 29 May 2022 8:26 PM

**Subject:** Regulations review for North Canterbury F&G

Hi Clark Stanger here.

I would like to see in the regulations review that the stupid salmon bag limit card be replaced by a simple tag.

This will be provided with licence number and related to the obvious licence number.  
Reasons for this are as follows.

No excuse for not filling out the card, or the pens in the vehicle. As example of an excuse.

Its easy to take the 2 tags licence number on them and they are put through the salmons gills and secured.

Not clipped together then the fisher person has a problem.

No need to sign anything.

Licence check and tag matches licence number.

Easy

## **Submission 5:**

**From:** Clark Stanger

**Sent:** Sunday, 29 May 2022 9:30 PM

**Subject:** Hi Clark Stanger here . I would like to see in the regulations review that the stupid salmon bag limit card be replaced by a simple tag. This will be provided with licence number and related to the obvious licence number. Reasons for this are as follow...

I would also like to see bait fishing removed from the gazette for lake coleridge.

This being due to lack of licence holders fishing there with bait.

Im there a lot and there's little if any benefit to bait fishing.

Or at least restricted to junior licence holders only.

As for season in lake coleridge, no it shouldn't open for all year, theres to much pressure on the lake as it is and since i spend most weekends theres for the last 4 years the fish numbers are dropping considerably.

I recommend bringing back the winter season from 1st june till perhaps the 31 august inclusive.

So closed for may and closed for September and October opening 1st sat November.

In 4 years going up there most weekends regularly over this time i still have not seen 1 single fish go up righton river . I used to see a few run the river but this was aprox 20 years ago.

I am surprised not to see any during may and rest of the year thru till end September.

## **Submission 6:**

**From:** andrew young

**Sent:** Saturday, 28 May 2022 1:29 PM

**Subject:** NC regs review

Hi,

Briefly, the things I would like to see are

1) Leave the upper Rakaia open to trout fishing until the end of the regular season - April 30. Perhaps fly fishing only.

I don't believe that the very few (if any) people who will cheat the regs to target salmon will have a significant impact. This is already true in the upper Waimak, Waiau, Ashley, Hurunui..., so would give better alignment.

2) Keep Coleridge closed in October. This gives greater emphasis to the traditional start of season event, resets the fish, and would give the council a useful window to do road maintenance.

3) Make lake Hawdon fly fishing only to align with Sarah & Marymere.

I support the remaining proposals.

I am aware that some stakeholders are in favor of stocking lakes - particularly Lyndon. I believe that such decisions need to be more data informed. Also that allowing time for natural selection and breeding to establish a robust natural population is necessary to inform the data itself. This will never happen if the gene pool is weakened by hatchery fish and/or competition for food is too great.

Thanks for all that you do!

Andrew Young

## **Submission 7:**

From: Garry & Jo Hill  
Sent: Wednesday, 25 May 2022 5:26 PM  
Subject: Anglers review 2022/2023

Greetings Fish & Game,

Having read the Angling Regulations Review Notice for 2022/23 fishing season proposal, I would like to register my heartfelt disapproval for what is being proposed in doing away with the Lake Coleridge High Country opening.

Our group of anglers have been making the pilgrimage up to Coleridge for "High Country Opening" for more than 35 years now. It started with a bunch of keen young fellas and now our sons and daughters are coming along.

It is the beginning of the fishing season effectively and throughout the years it has been a wonderful meeting point of like minded people all out to catch the "big one" on this weekend. A veritable must be there each year! Despite the changes in the camping rules and regulations we still pitch our tents and have a great time - circle around the first weekend in November each year!

Please leave a perfectly wonderful tradition alone - it ain't broke - embrace it as we have for years!

Kindest  
Garry Hill

## **Submission 8:**

**From:** Warren Mckie

**Sent:** Monday, 23 May 2022 10:27 PM

**Subject:** Anglers review 2022/2023

Giddy!!

I was rather disturbed to see there is another proposal to open Lake Coleridge to year round fishing.

I am very much against this.

I have been a continuous holder of both Gamebird and fishing licences since 1978, possibly earlier.

Every one of those years I have looked keenly to the opening of the relevant season. It provides me and the people I fish/hunt with a bright spot on our horizons. It is the reason I buy the licence, any fishing I do through the season is generally incidental.

Having a season and therefore an opening day provides a set and predictable date to coordinate mates, time off and create a sense of excitement. This spreads to others and inspires them also.

From a sustainability point of view, I believe that having a season also sends a message that the fishing resource is not unlimited and is to be respected.

I also think that having an open season year round would probably lead to less fishing in total. Without a clear target it is very easy to "not get around to it, and distracted by life's other stuff.

Thank you for your time,

Warren Mckie

## **Submission 9:**

**From:** Fred van Slooten

**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2022 11:07 PM

**Subject:** Anglers review 2022/2023

Having read the **Angling Regulations Review Notice for 2022/23 fishing season** proposal, I strongly disagree with a proposal to do away with the Lake Coleridge High Country opening.

I have got to say I strongly disagree with the implications of this. The traditional "High Country Opening" will be lost and the social comradery that this brings will disappear.

Having fished the Coleridge High Country opening for nearly 40 years, this tradition has now spanned over 3 generations for our family. I share this tradition with my sons and a number of long standing friends.

Camping by the lake, getting up early in anticipation of the new season, catching up with friends not seen for some time all make for a special weekend. This will be lost when no fixed date remains if the opening weekend is removed and tradition is broken.

The First weekend in November is a fixed date in thousands of Calendars where tradition stands tall. In fact the fishing is often second nature to the weekends social status.

Removal of this iconic Canterbury tradition would remove a vital social gathering for our group and that of hundreds of others.

Licence sales are boosted at this time this is confirmed by those who have been in the trade selling fishing gear for many years.

Changing the High Country Opening has been discussed on occasions at Anglers reviews in the past and never gone ahead. This proposal has already caused anguish among a number of people in previous years. Please don't harass the loyal long term FAG licence holders.

Please give serious consideration to the above points raised.

Kind regards

Fred van Slooten

Member of

Canterbury Anglers Club

Salmon Anglers Association

Lure Fishing Club

Trustee TAKF.

## **Submission 10:**

From: Mike Abel  
Sent: Wednesday, 11 May 2022 2:49 PM  
Subject: Feedback

Hi there,

Just sending my 2 cents on the 5 topics as requested on Facebook. As little as I have to offer.

### 1. Open Coleridge up for all-year-round fishing

It's already open 10 months of the year, and the only 2 months it's closed are during the summer season with plenty of options available. Presumably it's currently closed those 2 months to allow fish to spawn and recover, so I don't personally see any reason to change the status quo. Not personally fussed though.

### 2. Align rainbow trout fishing rivers (Broken & Porter) with other region's rainbow fisheries and allow fishing until the end of May for rainbows

Assuming that the salmon are spawning in Winding Creek and not in Broken itself, and that their migration is done at this point, I have no problem with this. This fishery seems to be fairly healthy over the last few years, with the exception of Porter this year due to the floods. These rivers already have the 40cm max rule applied, so I don't see why not myself.

### 3. Move to a ballot system for the Esk River

I'm really intrigued with this one. It's a river I fish once, maybe twice a season. I'm interested to understand what problem we're trying to solve. Maybe I've been lucky, but I've never seen it as a highly fished river with lots of angler contention. I'm guessing this is instead a way of the lawdowner having more knowledge of who is on their land at any given time, with the ability to get in contact (via you) if issues arise?

I'm interested in how this ballot system would work. I personally pick where I fish on any given day based on flows, current weather, recent weather, upcoming weather, etc. I'm not sure how, if at all, a predefined ballot could fit into that sort of decision making. I wouldn't waste my time fishing it with poor variables just because it was my ballot date; would that just be tough luck?

### 4. Change bag limit at children's fishing lakes from 2 to 1 fish to allow for more children to have an opportunity for success

Sounds fair to me. Part of getting the children into this sport should also be about conservation and teaching them the benefits of catch and release. I assume regular stocking is expensive, so measures like this sound like a good idea.

### 5. Remove bait fishing for salmon in the Kaiapoi river

Not a method or river I fish. No comment from me.

One last thing I would like clarification on if possible - the rule around authorised tackle (2.3.1) - the wording is that no angler should be using more than 1 assembled rod and running line. What do you

mean by using? Actively fishing, or rigged up? The only reason I ask is around whether I am allowed to carry 2 fly rods rigged for different scenarios (e.g. dry & heavy-nymph), and decide which to use at any given time rather than re-rigging. I was always told that I couldn't do this, but I have seen plenty of others doing it and saying it's allowed as long as they aren't both being fished at the same time. What's the truth of the matter?

Cheers for your time

Mike Abel

## **Submission 11:**

**From:** Matt Jones

**Sent:** Tuesday, 31 May 2022 4:08 PM

**Subject:** Angling regulations review submission- Matt Jones

Hi All,

I will be unable to attend and offer a verbal explanation on the evening of 2 June, so this whole email below can be read out by staff at the meeting.

I wish to make a submission in regards to the proposal to align rainbow trout fishing rivers with other region's rainbow fisheries and allow fishing until the end of May.

On the basis that angling pressure is monitored as to not have an effect on the overall quality of the fisheries, I would like to offer feedback **in support** of the proposal with recommendations to include the following rivers/streams:

- Porter & Broken Rivers' systems (excluding Slovens & Winding Creek)
- Ryton River
- Harper & Avoca rivers' systems

In the last 5 years I have spent a combined 100+ days either guiding or personally fishing these suggested Rivers.

From my experience, I would like to highlight the below benefits and justification for these suggestions:

- Increased opportunity to license holders by offering a High-country river angling opportunity to North Canterbury anglers in May.
- Allowing any Hunters or trampers in these areas to include fishing in their outdoor excursion.
- A higher number of better quality pre-spawning Rainbows will be present in streams.
- There is no overlap with spawning Sea-run Salmon being present in the Harper/Avoca/Ryton and very limited overlap in the Porter and Broken with the exclusion of Winding & Slovens Creek.
- They are predominantly Rainbow Trout fisheries with the majority of any Brown Trout Spawning occurring from June-September, having limited effect on the wider Brown Trout populations of the Lake Coleridge & Waimakariri systems.

Thanks

Matt

## **Submission 12:**

**From:** Tristan Mckenzie

**Sent:** Tuesday, 31 May 2022 8:14 PM

**Subject:** Regulation proposals

Hi, Im putting my submission statement in regards to some of the Canterbury High Country Lake regulations. 2 lakes in particular, being Lake Ida and Lake Monk/Catherine. Float tubing has been in and out of the regulation books from season to season, eg the season just gone. It had been taken off. I would greatly appreciate seeing that put back in the books as an option considering the edges of them lakes are hard to access in parts of the lake. Float tubing gives you that extra option to get among them crowded areas of matagouri, trees etc along the shoreline. My other proposal, Lake Georgina should be catch and release only, or limit put back to one from two kept, but most of all given the size of the lake, fly fishing only. Float tubing should be an option for all the Coleridge lakes in particular them back country ones I mentioned in Ida & Monk as it once was.

Regards Tristan