

“Ripples”

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Southland Fly Fishing Club

Editors Choice Tippets

Water, Trout and Politics

In these politically charged times, it's hard for any legislative body to make progress on the most mundane of matters. And when powerful forces that fund the political machine are allied against the public will, elected officials seem even less interested in taking a stand. The fight to restore stream access to the public in Utah is just such a case study.

In 2008 the Utah Supreme Court ruled in *Conatser v. Johnson* that the public has a right to "engage in all recreational activities that utilize the water". But this wasn't the controversial piece of the ruling. The court further clarified the public right by saying that the right was not limited to "activities that can be performed upon the water." It affirmed the rights of sportsmen, including anglers, to wade in public waters even if this meant touching stream bottoms that were privately owned.

Some property owners saw the *Conatser* ruling as a taking of something they owned. David Van Dyke, General Manager of The Lodge at Red River Ranch, wrote an email to Rep Dean Sanpei (R-Provo) in which he stated the Supreme Court ruling "effectively took private property and gave it to the general public." The state legislature seemed to agree. In 2010, Rep Kay McIlff (R-Richfield) sponsored HB 141 to remedy the situation.

HB 141, ironically titled "Recreational Use of Public Water on Private Property", was actually about limiting the recreational rights affirmed by the *Conatser* ruling. It passed and changed the law defining the public's right to use the waters for recreation. It effectively limited people to only floating certain rivers.

The first suit, the "Provo Case", seeks to establish that in passing HB141 the legislature violated the Utah Constitution. According to Kris Olson, President of the Utah Stream Access Coalition, "If the legislature does not act for the benefit of the public then they're in violation of the public trust doctrine." USAC asserts that in reducing the public easement to public resources in favor of land owners the legislature violated this doctrine. While initial rulings in the Provo case did not negate the HB 141 law, the court has yet to rule on the public trust doctrine issue. Both sides will be in court this spring to argue their positions.

The second lawsuit, the "Weber Case" is perhaps the more far reaching of the two from a landowner perspective. It seeks to have the stream beds on navigable waterways, currently privately owned in some cases, to be declared public land. This would reopen access to over 2,700 miles of streams and fundamentally change the relationship between landowners and the streams that cross their land. Both lawsuits should see rulings in the coming months.

The legal wrangling in Utah may seem a distant issue for many anglers but the issue is worth tracking. Whether it is mining, drilling, or ranching there is an increasing threat of public resources being reserved for private use. Those seeking to privatize the public way are very effective at generating outrage at the trampling of personal rights when those rights, as indicated by the *Conatser* ruling, don't actually exist.

In Utah, the legislature now waits on the courts. Regardless of the rulings, it's likely this matter will not close anytime soon. The legislature could still act in either direction and lawyers seeking fees will be available for a return to court.

What it really comes down to is public officials doing their jobs. As Kris Olson said, "It's going to have to come from the legislature, ultimately." Elected officials won't be able to dodge their responsibility. Unfortunately, it's anybody's guess which way they're going to go.



Exceptionally well tied fly and photograph

Steve Zakur

"People get the Politicians and fishing tackle they deserve."

John Gierach

Fishing Report by Redtag



Fishing over the past month or so has again been tough going with the remaining open rivers running high and generally discoloured. I have only been able to get out on the river twice so far this month and prospects are not looking good for the remaining 2 weeks. There may be an opportunity to fish in the last week in the high-country streams before the end of the season. Hopefully with there having been plenty of water it will have encouraged some good fish to come up from the lakes.

I was lucky enough to find a hatch on one occasion just as the river was clearing up a bit. See top 2 photos to the left. A steady hatch of duns brought a flurry of activity in the hour just before dark and the fish were taking duns all over the tail of the pool. I ended up with 4 fish and missed about the same.



I went up to Mt Cook village at Aoraki/Mt Cook for the first time last weekend and spent time walking around the mountains which was spectacular. I fished the head of Lake Pukaki in a NW gale for an hour and caught 3 good browns in top condition on a streamer fly and had 2 bust offs. I kept one fish of 5 1/2 lb that was full of small smelt. Then the rain came in hard and it was all over. See bottom 2 photos to the left.

Ian Michelson supplied the photos below of size 12 willow grub flies designed and sold in Australia for NZ. Whatever!

Tight lines!



Smart waders go fishing for science by BBC News



The genteel pastime of fly fishing is set to enter the smartphone age. A Dutch team is developing clever waders that enthusiasts can wear to find not only the ideal location to fish, but to collect key hydrological data for scientists.

Of most use to both groups would be waders that sensed water temperature.

Anglers know this influences where fish go in a river and, for researchers, it betrays details about the movement of water in that river and its chemistry.

"We need more data from more streams than we could possibly monitor with our sensor networks," explained Rolf Hut from Delft University of Technology.

"Wouldn't it be nice if we had citizens walking around in the water, interested in temperature because they want to know where the fish are, and at the same time providing us with the information we can use for our research?"

The data would be collected by a simple temperature probe in the wader boot. This would then travel up a wire to a Bluetooth device above the waist to be passed to a phone in a dry pocket.

The angler could use the information straightaway to decide where to stand in the river and cast their fly, while the scientists would receive the details back at the lab over the cell network for later analysis. [ng on cost, we could e sensors in the waders"](#)

Dr Hut and his colleagues are interested in the study of hyporheic exchange, which describes how water moves into and out of a stream through its bed. In dry periods, a stream will lose water into the ground; in wet periods, it will gain it - and where the water comes into the stream, it is usually much colder than what it is joining. It used to be thought this was a fairly gradual process along a stream's entire length, but scientists now realise that the exchange in some locations is actually far more significant than in others.

The team's smart waders are in the earliest phase of development, but Dr Hut was able to demonstrate the concept at this week's European Geosciences Union General Assembly - albeit in the rather warm and dry setting of the meeting's poster hall.

Then there is the question of extending the range of sensors incorporated into the waders.

Rolf Hut added: "Why stop at temperature? What about water depth?" [Rolf Hut is a fan of "citizen science" approaches to collecting data for research](#)

"For hyporheic exchange, it would be interesting to look at salinity; pH would be really interesting for water quality.

"And now there are sensors coming on the market that would do water quality parameters like nitrogen levels, dissolved carbon levels - that are really telling you how healthy a stream is.

"So that's not necessarily for hyporheic exchange, but for other fields of hydrology and water management. And that's in the interest of the fishers, by the way, because you need a healthy stream to have fish."

Dr Hut's attire at the meeting prompted a chuckle of two from fellow hydrologists, but also admiration for the ingenuity.

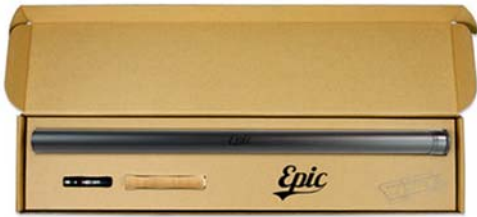
Nicholas Howden from Bristol University, UK, said: "Hyporheic exchange is a fascinating topic.

"For example, groundwater that comes into rivers tends to be very rich in base cations - the kind of stuff salmon need. They will spawn in gravel beds where there is upwelling.

"So, these are locations that are ecologically very important for the river."

The idea of the smart waders originated from a talk with Scott Tyler of the University of Nevada, Reno.

Ready to Wrap Rod Kit (swiftflyfishing.com)



Good to see Swift Fly Fishing Company based in Wanaka NZ coming up with a novel approach to supplying NZ designed rods to Fly fishers. World famous not just in NZ for their Epic fibreglass rods Swift have now developed carbon fibre blanks that they say are specifically suited to dry fly, emerger and light nymph fishing for trout of all sizes that we fish for in NZ.. Hopefully if they are correct it will give NZ fly fishers an alternative to the usual fly rod manufacturers that are marketed heavily here.

Swift says “the Epic 590 C Carbon Fibre Ready to Wrap Rod Kit has the very best componentry available, all designed to fit together seamlessly. No Reaming, No Drilling, No Sanding.

The blanks are a state of the art fly rod blank. The most sophisticated composite materials and production processes are used in their construction. Full Helical construction, multi modulus, All unidirectional carbon fibre and the lowest resin counts in the industry. We believe this is the most sophisticated fly rod blank available.

Building a great custom fly rod is no mean feat, selecting the correct matching components can be an intimidating exercise alone. Then there’s those wraps, the cork and glue.. Our Epic Ready to Wrap Rod Kit makes life easy - we’ve done much of the hard work for you. The kit contains all the components, glues, rod finish and instructions you’ll need to build your own unique custom Epic fly rod.

The components in our Epic Ready to Wrap Rod Kit have all been specifically designed to work together. Our premium grade cork grip features a tapered bore to fit your chosen blank. Each cork grip is ported to receive our Epic reel seat perfectly.”

Each Kit contains:

- An Epic fly rod blank
 - Satin black fiberglass rod tube.
 - Premium hand sewn rod sock
 - Your choice of finest quality Portuguese cork grip *configurable
 - Epic reel seat in either black or Titanium finish.
 - Guide set (Snake brand Universal guides USA)
 - Titanium stripper guide
 - Black & natural white Japanese Silk thread
 - Glue kit (preloaded syringes, grip & tip epoxy, brushes, mixing cups & full instructions)
 - China-graph marking pencil
 - Rod stands
 - Comprehensive 42 page build book with step by step instructions
 - Stickers / Decals
- WT: 5 Recommended line weight: AFTMA #6 Length: 9 feet Pieces: 4

June Fly — Spent Spinner by John Day



Hook - 14 B/MA
Thread - White or Brown
Tail - Brown Deer Hair
Body - Dark Brown dub or Maroon
Wing - Brilliant White

Run the thread to the bend of the hook as usual and for the tail tie in a few strands of deer hair



Tie in slim body material



Wind the thread along the hook to the eye



Tie in the wing material across the shank in figure of eight turns, wings should be approximately the length of shank



Form head and tie off



The finished fly

End of Season Lodge Trip by Dave Harris

Not a lot of interest in the End of Season Lodge Trip with just Simon and myself heading up to the Lodge in Simon's truck on the Friday night. There were a lot of flies on the floor when we got there and a lot more came in during the evening. There was a lot of discussion about what we could do about them but there was nothing we could do immediately so we had to put up with them.

As we were planning on the Mossburn pub for dinner on Saturday, we decided to head that way from the Lodge. We finished up heading into the Von to see if any browns had come into the river on the fresh during the week. We started in the gorge where we found a few fish. They seemed keen to take our flies but we just couldn't hook up. Simon found a big brown that looked to have come up from the Lake but just wasn't going to take a fly no matter what he did. Its mind was clearly on other things. We then went upstream to Old Nicholas where we spotted a fish in faster water. It was keen and was quickly hooked on a nymph. This was the only fish we landed in the Von. On the way out we had a look at Mavora but with cloudy conditions spotting was difficult so went a short distance down the Mararoa where another fish was landed blind nymfing. That was our lot for Saturday so we headed out to Mossburn for dinner and then headed back to the Lodge. The flies were not so bad on Saturday night but there were still a lot to clean up.

Sunday we headed for the Mataura not far below Cattle Flat. It was not clear but was fishable. There were not a lot of fish about and we continued to struggle to land them. Several were dropped and others broken off but that is how it goes. The highlight was spotting five fish feeding on a gravel ledge below a high bank. They were pretty keen and we both hooked one each. However to avoid spooking the rest we quickly took them downstream where there was a lot of fast water and we both dropped them, one bust off and one pulled hook. No fish in the net but good fun. As the river was too high to cross where we were we walked back downstream to find some fresh water but didn't find any more fish so we headed back to the truck. The final river crossing was a bit challenging but we both made it across without getting too wet. We had only landed about half a dozen fish for the day and had seen a disappointing number rising.

We had already decided we would head back to the Lodge, cook dinner and then head back to town to allow Simon to do some chores on the Anzac day holiday. We were very surprised to see the Oreti was in high flood when we crossed it and a check on the net showed it was running at 180 cumecs. The Mataura was also on the way up and we had left just in time. This confirmed there would be nothing to fish on the Monday anyway.



Presidents Report by Dave Harris

The river season is fast coming to an end with the high country rivers and the Mataura from Gore down due to close at the end of May. This will leave us just the tidal waters and the lakes until October (and that seems a long way away). Unfortunately, other than the first weekend, the May weather has not been great for fishing. Of course the first weekend of May is the opening of duck shooting and any sensible fisherman that is not shooting would be busy doing something other than fishing. Hopefully the weather (and river levels) will improve before the end of the month so we can get out and fish the high country rivers before they close. Remember there is a Lodge trip at the end of the month so hopefully we will get some fishing in then.

With the season ending it is time for fly tying and we have a couple of fly tying days planned at Fish and Game. These are to be held on June 13 and August 2. There will be people there from 9:00am both days and we will stay as long as people are keen to stay. You can come along for as long as you like. If you are new to fly tying we will be able to help you out. If you are experienced you may be able to help us out. Also on June 13 we are holding our annual dinner. This is a chance to socialise with fellow club members and their partners. Once again there will be funny gift (about \$5.00) exchange. This is always fun. We will be taking numbers for this at the May meeting.

Competitions

Fish Competition

I will still take cards for the fish competition. There must be plenty out there as I have only received 3 cards for April.

Fly Tying Competition.

The first fly was in last month's Ripples and you need to get this to me before or at the May meeting. All flies entered go in the draw for a \$20 Hunting & Fishing voucher.

Photo Competition

The photo competition will be held at the June meeting. It is time to start sorting your photos for this competition. There are 4 categories and you can enter 2 photos in each. Photos are to be 7" x 5" and must be from this season. The categories are action, trophy, scenic and general. No guidelines, if you think it fits that categories that is where it goes.

Name This Stream Competition

No correct answers last month so again this month's photo is by Les Ladbrook. Answers by email only please to service@eis.co.nz Correct answers will be placed in a draw for a \$20 Hunting and Fishing voucher sponsored by EIS. If you have a photo of a Southland stream you would like to include in the competition please email the Editor.



Coming Events

(MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

26th May	[MM]	
30-31st May		Lodge Trip – End of Season run, close Lodge (contact Dave Harris)
2nd June	(CM)	Fly Tying
13th June		Fly Tying for club members by club members - Meal at night, (\$5 funny gift)
30th June	[MM]	Members Video & Photo night plus photo competition
7th July	(CM)	Fly tying

Club Contacts

- Address **Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand**
- Website www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz
- President Dave Harris, 30 Baxter Street Invercargill (03 215 6068) dcharris@southnet.co.nz
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- Editor Johnny Mauchline, 10 Carlyle Street, Mataka (021 2877 323) service@eis.co.nz
Items for publication must be submitted to the editor, prior to the 10th of the month
- Librarian Ken Brown, Invercargill
- Lodge Custodian Dave Murphy, 35 Brown Road, Invercargill dmurphy@southnet.co.nz 03 230 4698
(Leave a message on the answer phone please and Dave will get back to you)

Club items for sale

Metal Badges \$15 ea.



Cloth Patches \$12 ea.



Club Meetings

The club meets at 7:30pm on the last Tuesday of each month (except December) at the Fish & Game building, 159 North Road Invercargill. [The February meeting is on the river.](#)

Executive Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month following the general meeting, except for Dec/Jan, includes fly tying, so come along and bring your gear if you want help with a fly—all members welcome.

Club Resources

The club has an extensive library of Books and Videos, contact the Librarian, Jarred Martin.

A blow up Rubber Boat and a set of five Radio's, which can be borrowed by club members, contact Les Ladbrook.

Club Sponsors



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