

# “Ripples”

The Official publication of the Southland Fly Fishing Club. The club was founded in 1974

March 2018



[www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz)



# Southland Fly Fishing Club



## Editors Choice Tippets

### Illegal dumps - another regional council failure

Fish & Game is calling for an urgent nationwide audit of illegal rural dumps following a report revealing thousands of farmers may be breaking the law by burning or burying contaminated waste on their farms.

The media report says regional councils suspect thousands of tonnes of contaminated waste are being buried on farms every year.

Picture Right: A farm dump on the Selwyn River upstream of Coes Ford.

Other waste such as plastic is being burned and there are concerns over how old or out of date sprays and poisons are being discarded.

Regional councils say while they are aware of what is happening, they claim there is little they can do about the practice.

Fish & Game New Zealand chief executive Martin Taylor says this is unacceptable.

"It is staggering that in this day and age, farmers are being given a free pass to pollute the environment by local councils prepared to turn a blind eye to it," Martin Taylor says.

"The scale of this threat is significant. We need to know how much discarded spray, insecticide, oil and paint is being quietly buried in farm pits where it will poison the environment for decades to come.

"Not only could toxins flow into streams and rivers already struggling under intensive farming pollution, but it puts aquifers at risk and threatens communities," Mr Taylor says.

"Regional councils must lift their game, urgently. The first thing we need is a national audit by the Ministry for the Environment to establish the scale of the problem and then a comprehensive plan to tackle it," he says.

"Just as councils have failed the community protecting water quality from dairy pollution, they are now showing how they are failing to protect Kiwis from the toxic threat posed by illegal dumps.

"These dumps must be outlawed. There are schemes and reputable companies which handle such waste safely and efficiently and it should be compulsory to use them," Martin Taylor says.



Cover photo by Johnny Mauchline - Small stream brown

Excellent flies and photography by Juraj Durdiak

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

John Gierach

## Fishing Report By Redtag



The rivers and streams have been up and down like a yo-yo in the last month. Rain has brought discoloured water to most catchments and finding fishable water has been difficult to say the least. However as always there are places to go to find fishable water. Consulting the weather maps and the Environment Southland river flows and levels helps give a picture of the conditions but it is only by going out and finding likely spots that you can find fishing.

Activity during these times can be sporadic but willow grubbers feeding in the edges are still available and if the grubs are there the fish will feed. As the weather cools during Autumn we are also getting more mayfly hatches and spinner falls. These can happen at any time of day but we are now getting excellent hatches most evenings. The fish are in top condition and are keen to take more feed for the coming Winter months.



CDC duns and emergers are excellent flies to try at this time and often the fish are not too fussy and selective as they can be over Summer. Emerging nymphs fished in the surface film and mayfly spinners can bring results. Its always important to study the riseforms and also look in the water to see what stage of the hatch or fall the fish are concentrating on. In the last few days I have had fish taking grubbers and mayfly all in the same pool. This makes things interesting as they can often be taking duns and emergers at the same time. Rather than continually changing flies I often seek out one particular riseform and stalk fish appropriately.

I haven't had much of a chance to try out my experimental flies so far but will keep you posted should they prove effective. Its always fun to potter away on a rainy day at the bench and try and come up with some different ideas.

Tight Lines





## Fishing Guides - A USA perspective by Mike Lawson



Earlier this year I posted some thoughts about etiquette and what is acceptable on our rivers. I stated that one of my personal gripes in recent years is loud music that is being played from drift boats without regard to the impact it has on other anglers. I also mentioned my concern that simple respect, common courtesy and consideration is getting lost in today's fly fishing world. I asked for your thoughts. That post generated almost 200 comments. Many of the responses were focused on the music issue. There were lots of other great comments about etiquette and acceptable behaviour. I wrote a follow up on a blog post entitled "Peace".

As expected, there were quite a few comments about guides and guiding. Comments included floating too close to other anglers, anchoring too close, trying to run other anglers out of the best spots, thinking they have priority, and basically an attitude that guides think they own the river. Other thoughts included too many guides and younger guides who weren't trained and mentored about the importance of proper etiquette and professionalism. Other comments were not focused on behaviour but rather an overall resentment such as exploiting the resource for personal gain. Some comments brought out a strong animosity toward non-residents. As often happens with Facebook, there were also some personal attacks and threats.

I've been in the outfitting and guiding business since 1974. My purpose here is not to respond to all of the comments but rather to offer my personal perspective on this touchy subject based on almost 45 years of knowledge and experience.

I want to start with some important facts. The outfitting and guiding industry is managed and regulated by both state and federal agencies. State management and governance varies wildly from state to state. Wyoming, for example, does not require a state guide or outfitting license for fishing. This means anybody can guide in Wyoming without liability insurance, bonding and other state requirements as long as they are on waters not under federal jurisdiction. We are legally licensed in both Idaho and Montana. I cannot comment on other states like Utah and Colorado because I don't have a complete understanding of the requirements in other states.

I am not aware of any state with more stringent laws governing outfitting and guiding than Idaho. The Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board is a self-governing agency whose sole responsibility is to properly regulate the outfitting and guiding industry in Idaho for the purpose of safeguarding the health, safety, and welfare of the public. By definition outfitters are employers of guides and guides are employees of outfitters. There are no independent contractors. As employers, outfitters provide marketing and promotion, facilities and services, liability insurance, withhold payroll taxes and other related employer responsibilities.

Each and every river and lake in the State of Idaho is limited to a specific number of outfitters. For example there are 8 outfitters legally licensed for the South Fork of the Snake, 7 for the Henry's Fork and 5 for the Teton River.





These restrictions on the number of river outfitters have been in place since before we opened Henry's Fork Anglers in 1976. In fact, when we first started the only way we were able to begin legally guiding on the Henry's Fork was to purchase an existing business from another outfitter.

Later the rules were amended to limit the number of guides that could legally float these rivers at any one time. For example, each outfitter on the South Fork can only have 12 guides on the entire river. Rivers are also broken into smaller segments. There are five float segments on the South Fork and not more than 4 boats are allowed by any individual outfitter in any section at one time. The result of these restrictions was evident in a recent study on the South Fork where the guided public accounted for less than 15% of the total use.

Montana is quite different from Idaho. Outfitter and guide licensing is governed by a board of outfitters but administered the State Department of Labor and Industry. The Board of Outfitters places no limits on the number of outfitters and guides licensed on any river in the state. While guides must be permitted through a licensed outfitter, most of them are hired as contract labour. There are many resident outfitting businesses based at a single location but there are also many nomadic outfitters and guides who roam across the state from river to river whenever the fishing is at its peak. The result on some rivers like the Madison is that the number of guided participants far outnumbers the non-guided public.

Once the toothpaste is out of the tube it is impossible to get it back in. Almost 30 years ago I served on a panel of Montana outfitters with Pat Barnes, Bud Lilly, Dick McGuire, and others in an effort to place guide limits and restrictions on Montana rivers. Our effort was a dismal failure. Eventually the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks stepped in. Completely independent from the state board of outfitters, they implemented their own restrictions. This has resulted in a Special River Permit requirement on some rivers like the Big Hole, Beaverhead and Madison. Outfitters are limited to a restricted number of use days on the Beaverhead and Big Hole. I expect the same will happen on the Madison River.

Federal agencies also require special use permits to operate on managed public lands and waterways. For example, at Henry's Fork Anglers we hold special use permits with the Ashton/Island Park and Palisades Ranger Districts of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest, the Hebgen Lake District of the Gallatin National Forest, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service. These federal agencies require valid state outfitter and guide licenses, proof of liability insurance and other requirements. Use day limits are also imposed which may or may not equal state restrictions. In addition fees are imposed according to the number of use days utilized by each outfitter.

It's hard to argue that there are too many guides on many rivers in states that impose no restrictions on the number of guides. In Idaho restrictions have been in place now for over 40 years. Long established outfitters like Henry's Fork Anglers, Three Rivers Ranch and Teton Valley Lodge maxed out their use allocations long ago.

For example, we average about the same number of guide trips each summer in Box Canyon that we did 25 years ago. Yet 25 years ago there were less than a quarter of the boat trailers parked at the take out than there are today. Who are the others? Just because the parking lot is full of trailers doesn't mean they are all guides.

Another requirement of the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board as well as individual federal agencies is that each boat must be marked with identification with a minimum of 3 inch letters of the employing outfitter. It's easy to see on a busy day on the South Fork that the majority of float boats are not fishing guides. Yet I think there are some who believe that all or most drift boats they encounter on a given river are operated by fishing guides.

I can understand why there is resentment towards fishing guides. Many if not all of the comments on my Facebook post were valid as I have witnessed plenty of poor undisciplined behaviour at one time or another. I have not hesitated to call the outfitter of the offending guide with a description of the guide, his boat and his offenses. In every case the outfitter has taken the responsibility to resolve the issue. That's one advantage of the identification requirement on the boat. I know all 6 of the other legal outfitters on the Henry's Fork. Above all else, all of us want to maintain the highest level of professionalism and integrity on and off the river. However sometimes managing a guide staff is a little like herding cats. If mistakes are made we want to know about it. A phone call or email reporting poor behaviour by one of our employees is greatly appreciated. Remember in Idaho all guides are employees of an outfitter. They represent us. They work for us. Not only that, guides are part of a team, a fraternity. Bad behaviour reflects poorly on everybody. All should not be judged badly by the unprofessional behaviour of a few.

One major misconception about fishing guides is that they are doing the fishing in competition with the general public. First off, by Idaho law it is illegal for a guide to kill his client's game or catch his client's fish. It is not the guides who are doing the fishing. It is their clients, the guided public. The guided public is part of the general public. Over the years I have seen a change in attitude with regard to this issue both by the fishing public and some of the managing agencies.

There have been instances where the guided public has been discriminated against simply on the basis that they hired a guide. The fishing season was not open on the Upper Henry's Fork including the Box Canyon, Last Chance and the section above Mack's Inn until a few years ago. After the regulations were changed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to allow year round fishing we received a letter from the forest service ranger stating that guiding would not be allowed on this section during the winter season. This meant that anglers who didn't hire a guide could fish there but those who hired guides could not. Two years ago on the South Fork the forest service and BLM changed the legal put-in and take-outs for guides which denied their clients an opportunity to fish a back channel of the river above Conant that was still available to the non-guided public. It took a few letters, phone calls and meetings to remind these agencies that they serve all of the public, not just the portion of the public who don't fish with guides.

There are those who believe that guides catch the most fish. Remember, it is the client fishing, not the guide. In most cases the number of trout is highly dependent upon the experience and skill level of the angler whether they fish with a guide or not. The fact is the majority of clients do not have the experience or skill level to hook and land large numbers of trout. If you hang out at one of the popular boat access points you'll likely see a guide teaching his clients to cast. While it is true that a good experienced angler fishing with a competent guide can really light things up on the river it isn't the norm. The majority of skilled experienced anglers do not need to fish with a guide to catch more and larger trout.

The argument that we exploit the resource for our own benefit is hard to defend because by definition it is true. My only comeback is that I believe what is beneficial to guides is equally beneficial to the non-guided public. Outfitters and guides who are not willing to give back to the resource that supports them should not be in business. Without the support of outfitters, guides and their clients it is doubtful organizations like the Henry's Fork Foundation, Friends of the Teton River, Snake River Cutthroats, Teton Regional Land Trust and other organizations would be where they are today. Attend any of their fund raising events and you'll find dozens of donated trips contributed by guides and the outfitters they work for. A look at the list of financial donors will also reveal the financial support from the local outfitting and guiding industry.

In the end we try to maintain the highest level of professionalism. If you ever witness undisciplined behaviour by any guide with Henry's Fork Anglers logo on his boat, please give us a call. If you see it from a guide who works for another outfitter I know they would also appreciate hearing from you.



## Poolburn Trip - 2nd March by Chris McDonald

Julie, Jan, Paul and Dave went up earlier in the week. Unfortunately by the time Chris and Allen went up on the Friday night they had yet to locate any cooperative fish. The koura pots however were being much more productive. Thanks to Julie's connections we stayed in the Alexandra District Club's hut. A solid base proved beneficial during the two hour thunderstorm on Saturday afternoon. Pity the paddle boarder who was tenting somewhere out there.

Dave and Chris walked the shoreline on Saturday morning while the others "boated" in Jan's inflatable boat. Several fish were spotted and waved goodbye to. Dave eventually picked up a small fish that was chasing bullies in the shallows. Lunch became an extended event due to the thunderstorm although Jan and Chris kept trying at dusk. Sunday morning saw Dave, Julie and Paul head to the Teviot for the day. Chris went for a dawn fish and laded a three and a quarter pound brown on a Royal Wulff. Allen, Jan and Chris used Allen's boat to travel to the big island for an explore. Some nice shoreline but still no cooperative fish.

Chris and Allen headed home on Sunday, the others on Monday. Only a couple of fish for the weekend but not too bad a result given how little the fish were moving about. It was nice to be back at Poolburn for the first time in many years. The water level was in the mid range and a lot of the places normally fished were well under water. The little tracks previously used as accesses are now major highways so lots of people must be fishing there. Looking forward to going back at the normal time around new year when the fish are a bit more active.



## Presidents Report by Dave Harris



Well what a change we have seen with the rivers. From starting to get too low for the comfort (and survival) of the fish to struggling to find fishable water. However it is just as well it rained as the rivers would have got to the stage where there would have been a lot of fish deaths if the dry had continued.

Unfortunately I have been busy doing other things rather than fishing so haven't been out much recently and this is not about to change as I am writing this sitting in Invercargill airport on my way to Melbourne and I have no fishing planned there. I did manage to get up to Poolburn for the Club Trip that Julie organised. I added a couple of days, going up on the Thursday and returning on the Monday. Unfortunately we didn't find much fish action with most of the fish seen rising actually jumping right out of the water chasing damsel flies. Generally these were well out in the lake and there were only a few.





On the Sunday three of us went down to the Teviot River (picture above) where there was a fishing "contest". This is part of some scientific research going on into the condition of the fishery. Pioneer Energy have this carried out as part of the consent conditions for one of their power stations on the river. There are supposed to be plenty of fish but they are generally small. Somehow most of them seemed to avoid me but it was still an interesting day. All participants received a \$50 Hunting & Fishing voucher so you did get to take something home. A couple of fish were gutted at the end of the day and looked to have been feeding on small dark nondescript nymphs plus one damsel fly. Hopefully we will be able to include another Poolburn trip in the calendar next year.

At the start of the month we had a group from the South Canterbury Anglers Club staying at the Lodge. They struggled a little with the water conditions but did manage to find good water with no other anglers. Using our Lodge was in return for us using one of their huts at Lake Alexandrina in February. Hopefully we can arrange this again next year and I have already contacted them about this but I don't expect a reply for some time.



## Coming Events

(MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

- 20<sup>st</sup> Mar  Mid-week Trip
- 27<sup>th</sup> Mar [MM]
- 3<sup>th</sup> April (CM) Fly Tying
- 8<sup>th</sup> April  **Club Day Trip**, meet at Fish & Game 8am
- 17<sup>th</sup> April  Mid-week Trip – Dave Harris 027 201 6722
- 24<sup>th</sup> April [MM]
- 28/29<sup>th</sup> Apr  Lodge Trip (End of Season)

## Club Contacts

- Address **Southland Fly Fishing Club, PO Box 1689, Invercargill, New Zealand**
- Website [www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz](http://www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz)
- President Dave Harris, 30 Baxter Street Invercargill (03 215 6068) [dcharris@southnet.co.nz](mailto:dcharris@southnet.co.nz)
- Secretary Chris McDonald, 334 Racecourse Road, Invercargill (03 217 3733) [mcdonald.ccnd@kinect.co.nz](mailto:mcdonald.ccnd@kinect.co.nz)
- Editor Johnny Mauchline, (021 2877 323) [johnnymauchline@gmail.com](mailto:johnnymauchline@gmail.com)  
*Items for publication must be submitted to the editor, prior to the 10th of the month*
- Librarian Simon Budd
- Lodge Custodian Dave Murphy, 35 Brown Road, Invercargill [dmurphy@southnet.co.nz](mailto:dmurphy@southnet.co.nz) (03 230 4698) or (0276752324)

## 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, 17 Eye St, West Invercargill, Invercargill 9810. [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

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

## Club Sponsors



### **Disclaimer:**

The opinions or views expressed in this newsletter, are those of the respective authors, and not necessarily those of the Editor or the Southland Fly Fishing Club. The Editor takes no responsibility for the factual content of this publication.