

“Ripples”

The Official publication of the Southland Fly Fishing Club

The club was founded in 1974

January 2015



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



*Southland Fly
Fishing Club*

Editors Choice Tippetts

No Guiding without prior written permission rule introduced in UK fishery



Guided fishing is no longer permitted on Lamington & District Angling Improvement Association water without prior written permission and where permission is granted the permission letter must be carried for inspection by the bailiff. This new rule is highlighted on this years permits as well as here on the website and the secretary will also be writing to different angling bodies. As such ignorance of the rule will not be deemed an acceptable excuse and any guides found to be working the river without carrying the written permission letter will be asked to leave the river.

The Association respects the role of guides and instructors, especially when it comes to helping newcomers to the sport however with limited space on the riverbank our season members access to the fishing must remain our highest priority. When the subject of guiding was raised at the AGM several proposals were offered by members and the committee with the rule now in place being passed with a unanimous vote. We believe this rule is being introduced for all the right reasons and while it is not an outright ban on guiding it will be used to prevent large guided parties restricting the access to fishing for season members, especially at known busy periods of the season. (www.lamingtonfishing.co.uk)

Cover Photo— Johnny Mauchline



Exceptionally well tied flies and photograph

Around the Club

If you are thinking of going up to Poolburn I wouldn't bother. Three club members had a trip there recently and found the water conditions were excellent however the big fish are in very poor condition and slabby. Very unusual for this location. There are lots of 1lb fish in good condition so hopefully the fishery will recover.

I have been picking up umpteen plastic and cardboard packaging from lures hooks and spinners along the river banks. I guess its mostly kids littering? Maybe Fish & Game could focus on this issue in their magazine and on Kids Corner on their website?

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

John Gierach

Fishing Report by Redtag



After a difficult start to the season normal service has resumed.

The weather has been generally stable over the last few months and apart from the NW gales from time to time fishing has been excellent.

I had a trip to the spring fed creeks in Westland and caught some quality browns on dry fly. Never easy fishing on these small creeks as the fish can spot you a mile away so a stealthy

approach using commando like tactics of sneaking along the bank and casting from a prone position is often necessary.

Another trip to North Otago over the holiday season sight fishing to quality fish in the streams was a success with browns and rainbows generally taking dries and willow grubs.

Back to home waters and the river is now in excellent condition.

Water level is low and regular hatches are now the order of the

day. As the fish become more keyed in to the mayfly the harder

they are to catch! Selectively feeding on one or two stages of the hatch at any given time it is a challenge to determine exactly what they are on. Observing the riseforms can help establish what fly to use.

Somewhat later in the season than normal willow grubs are now also prevalent falling into the water off the trees. Never an easy undertaking to catch willow grubbers at the best of times but persistence will generally prevail especially if you have the fly they want! It is fantastic to observe these grubbers 'willowing' away to their hearts content without a care in the world. Exciting fishing indeed.

I had an experience yesterday where on one section of a flat there were fish everywhere taking duns and emergers and willow grubs all at the same time! In the end I got frustrated having to change flies to cast to particular selective fish and just

concentrated on casting to rising fish taking duns off the top. Spoiled for choice is an understatement.

Tight lines!



Dry Fly Fishing tales from B.C. Canada by Johnny Mauchline



Skagit River British Columbia Canada



The River Trail



The Jeep came in Handy

I spent a week fishing the Skagit River in British Columbia in September 2014. Being only 2 hours drive from downtown Vancouver BC Fish & Wildlife retain this premier trout fishery as an easily accessible wilderness river. There are no guides allowed on the river and the Skagit is one of many catch and release only waters in BC which also has a bait ban. There is well over 35km of wilderness fishing from the headwaters to Ross Lake where it then crosses the US border. It has wild Rainbows and Dolly Varden and Bull Trout in its cold gin clear water. A BC Non-Canadian Resident permit costs NZ\$58 for 8 days.

As my wife tramped up the side trails into the high mountains with the bears and cougars I fished the Skagit from good access points and camping areas along the river trail. The scenery is breathtaking with mountain peaks and large tall forests all around.

The river has glides and runs interspersed with cool deep gin clear pools. The rainbows are free rising and will take dry flies readily if conditions are good. Hatches of large mayfly occur frequently. Luckily the weather conditions were good and I found casting an Adams size 12 and a Hairwing Caddis to be successful. Rainbows are in the main around the 2lb mark and are feisty and strong. I caught a hatfull each day with the best being around 3lb.

In all of the time I spent fishing I only came across 2 other fly fishermen however I did have an eventful meeting with a Beaver. I couldn't believe how large they are. As I moved closer to it to get a photo it slapped its tail hard on the water giving off an almighty splash or warning to keep my distance which sent me on my way!

A terrific trip in beautiful surroundings with the friendly and hospitable people of BC. Cant wait to go again.



The author fishing in the Skagit valley Provincial Park



Wild Rainbow on the dry fly



A nice 3lb fish from the upper Skagit



Strawberry Bar



Shawatum Bar



At their recent meeting Central South Island Fish and Game refused to budge on a plea to fix a damaging diversion on Deep Creek, a superb backcountry trout stream and important salmon spawning stream set in Lord of the Rings country at the foot of Mt Sunday in the Upper Rangitata River valley.

Citing increased erosion in the natural main stem if water is returned to it and the threat that poses to salmon spawning lower down as reasons for not acting. And CSI also stated *'that any threat to salmon habitat in Deep Creek threatens the sustainability of the Rangitata salmon fishery'*

Yet when additional information was provided to the Council highlighting real losses to the both salmon spawning and juvenile rearing habitat, with a picture showing actual salmon spawning beds already becoming dewatered, the Council failed to change their opinion.

That information also clearly shows minimal erosion risks in the dewatered main channel, yet having cited erosion as a reason for doing nothing; they are choosing to completely ignore the substantial new erosion that's occurring and likely to continue for many years in the narrow fast diverted flow, which is already depositing silt into that very same salmon spawning area below!

Deep Creek is also noted for its superb trout fishery, visited by anglers from around the world, the middle section of the original main channel will be lost forever unless this is addressed.

This all flies in complete contrast to recent habitat work only a few kms away on the south side of the river, which highlights that remedial environmental work can be achieved within these sensitive areas.

From the Fish and Game website: *"Fish & Game manages maintains and enhances sports fish and game bird and their habitats in the best and long term interests of present and future generations of anglers and hunters"*

This is clearly not happening in the CSI, after over two and a half years of getting nowhere and with this stream quite literally now on its knees, it is time that all licence holders and the general public are made fully aware of what appears to be complete negligence on the part of our fisheries managers.

Asked *"If F&G wont or don't want to be involved then I can organise the repair work, for that to happen I need to know that F&G will support such action and any consent that may need to be acquired."* at their August 21st meeting, the CSI F&G Council, with no further discussion on the issue, confirmed to Future Rivers trustee Steve Gerard that the answer to his question was no.

Both Salmon and Trout anglers are urged to contact the CSI office and their local council representatives and ask for immediate action. They should also demand answers as to exactly why this situation has been allowed to continue like this for such a very long period of time.

The handling of this and other recent issues by the Central South Island Fish and Game raises serious questions as to why they are not acting in the best interests of licence holders as required under the Conservation Act specifically 26Q (b) (v) *by undertaking such works as may be necessary to maintain and enhance the habitat of sports fish and game, subject to the approval of the Minister, the land owner, or the administering authority, as the case may require:*

Details and photos are available on the Future Rivers website www.futurerivers.co.nz

Steve Gerard

Trustee—Future Rivers

Presidents Report by Dave Harris

It has been a relatively quiet time for club activities but once everyone is back from holidays things should get going again.

We have a night on the river on January 13 but this will be over by the time the Ripples comes out. Following this we have our Club meeting on January 27. At this stage I still don't have a speaker but it may be an opportunity to see what everyone has been up to. This is followed by the Fly Fishing course on January 30, February 1. We will require some helpers for the fly casting on the Saturday afternoon and for on the river on the Sunday. We will sort this out at the January Club Meeting. The weekend after this is Alan's trip to the Hollyford. This is a three day weekend (Waitangi Day on the Friday). The plan is to go to the Lodge Thursday night and then on to Gunn's Camp on the Friday to stay two nights. If you are interested let Alan Carlene know. The week after that we have our February day trip, meeting at Fish and Game at 7:00am on the Sunday morning. If that hasn't given you enough fishing the February Meeting on February 24 is also on the river.

I have been looking back on how my season is going. The weather has made things difficult with a lot of wind and high rivers through November. I still managed a few trips out and have had time to evaluate the new things I have tried this season. I didn't buy much over the off season but here are some items I have been using:

Water proof notebook – can let it get wet so it lives in the front of my vest allowing me to record my catches more easily. However I still don't write enough in it and don't seem to be able to keep the pencil tied on to it.

Braided leader – I used to use these when there were readily available (from Airflo) and imported some from England (Shakespeare Worcester brand) over the winter. They are very like the old Airflo ones and I have been using one on my CTS Affinity MX rod and I like it.

Indicator Tool – This is a tool for attaching your indicator using a short length of plastic tubing. They are available from the Fly Shop. I actually made my own using a needle I purchased from Spotlight. I don't use an indicator often but this system works well being easy to attach and remove.

Rio Gold line – I bought this line a couple of years ago when I built my CTS Affinity MX rod but just did not like it. At the casting day last year I tried it on my CTS Affinity X rod and have been using it on this rod in windy conditions ever since. It is a good combination for me.

Sink tip line – I have not tried this yet. It has been in the draw for a couple of years and after fishing at Von Lake in November where I saw a lot of fish caught on a sink tip line I have put it on one of my spare spools so will be able to try it out next time I am fishing in suitable conditions.

Nothing exciting (or expensive) here, but all things I am trying to improve my fishing. I am working on the theory that if I do everything the same I will only get the same results so I need to try some different things to see if there is an improvement.

Dave

Name This Stream Competition

The November photo brought no response. So here is another chance to win a voucher.

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

13th Jan 2015		On the River, Tuesday straight after work, Coal Pit Rd
18th Jan		Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game – 7am
27th Jan	[MM]	
31 Jan 1 Feb		Fly Fishing course run by Mike Weddell from Mosgiel.
3rd Feb	(CM)	Fly Tying
6-8th Feb		Waitangi Day Weekend Trip to Gunn's Camp
15th Feb		Club Day Trip, meet at Fish & Game - 7am

Club Contacts

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- 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, Mataura (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



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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