



McKinnon's Creek Salmon Hatchery

Newsletter. March 2015



A challenge this year!

Everyone said when we started this venture that one day our dream run will be interrupted by a year when things won't go exactly to plan. This may be the year as the long hot summer drought is having an effect at the hatchery. McKinnons creek is as low as many of us have ever seen it, with a much reduced flow to what we have previously known. What is the cause of this?

The aquifers that feed the spring at the head of McKinnons creek come from the Orari river. When the Orari river is full, so to is McKinnons creek, however a dry year combined with an increased number of bores into the underground aquifer, has left the stream without sufficient water to satisfy all our needs at the hatchery. Oxygen content is low and the temperature is high. This has caused some stress to our young fish and a decision was made 2 weeks ago to release half of our broodstock. These fish will still survive, provided they successfully navigate their way to the sea, however there may be some mortality due to their smaller size. To hang on to them would have meant a greater number would have perished so the decision was easy. We still have 30,000 fry in the raceway and these are being monitored daily.



A hurried exit!

After much conjecture and misinformation, a group of hatchery volunteers along with Fish & Game, were invited to inspect the Rangitata South Irrigation intake with a guided tour of the facilities and an explanation as to how the system works. It would need several volumes to explain the workings of the complete system however in summary the method of excluding fish from the intake is good, using a rock wall groin and low intake currents, along with a method of returning downward migrating smolt to the river, this could well be the model for future intakes. We are all hoping that this system is successful and will be watching with interest. The fish spawning race that Gary Rooney is building, under the design brief of Mark Webb of Fish & Game, will be a great asset to the fishery and plans are already underway to transport some hatchery adult fish to the facility to let them do their thing naturally. This is a long term project and we will keep you posted. Gary and his team need to be congratulated for doing this as the initiative was his and was not required under his consent. We hope other developers have the same empathy for Salmon enhancement as this.



Inspecting the spawning race under construction.

FIN CLIPPING DAY; We would like to fin clip 30,000 brood stock at the hatchery on Saturday 11th April. All welcome, bring own lunch, refreshments supplied. Meet George Road 9.30am. Good opportunity for all to get involved, school holidays so young helpers welcome! If weather bad, will do on Sunday, Port FM 8am for advice.

NEW WEEKEND ROSTER; Please get a replacement if you cannot make your date.

WEEK Wk Wk ENDING	TEAM LEADER					
22 nd March		Dave Rooney	Blue Rooney,	Grant Rooney	Tom Faulkner	
29th	D Chambers	Royce Jamieson	Les Smith	Paul Brown	Paul McKenzie	
5 th April	R Metcalf	M Snelleksz	W Harrison	Gary Paterson	Wayne Wilson	
12th		Russell Wood	Lynsday Galbraith	Roger Low	Richard Davidson	A Brooks
19th	I Frew	W Stratford	A Gillespie	Colin Highstead	Eddie Lee	
26th	C deJoux	H Pateman	Dennis laplanche	Steve de Joux	Phil de Joux	
3 rd May	B Whipp	K Lloyd	D Quigley	Derek Davies	A Cooper	Norm Anderson
10th	R Hobbs	C Wilson/J Manning	Vern Griffin	Andy Oldfield	Hayden Willis	
17th	N Side team					
24th	G Ivey	Sam Herring	D Herring	P Ritchie	G Tulley	
31st		Dave Rooney	Blue Rooney,	Grant Rooney	Tom Faulkner	
7 th June	D Chambers	Royce Jamieson	Les Smith	Paul Brown	Paul McKenzie	
14th	R Metcalf	M Snelleksz	W Harrison	Gary Paterson	Wayne Wilson	
21st		Russell Wood	Lynsday Galbraith	Roger Low	Richard Davidson	A Brooks
28th	I Frew	W Stratford	A Gillespie	Colin Highstead	Eddie Lee	I Frew
5 th July	C deJoux	H Pateman	Dennis laplanche	Steve de Joux	Phil de Joux	
12th	B Whipp	K Lloyd	D Quigley	Derek Davies	A Cooper	Norm Anderson
19th	R Hobbs	C Wilson/J Manning	Vern Griffin	Andy Oldfield	Hayden Willis	R Hobbs
26th	N Side team					

Many Thanks to those who have recently made donations to the hatchery through raffle prizes and financial assistance. The list is extensive and some names are not on this list, please take this as a personal thanks from all the hatchery staff.

Recent donations;

1 Mark rogers,c/ Fishermans Loft, 2 Grant Boyd c/ Ballingers Hunting&Fishing
 3 Hunting &Fishing 226 Stafford st Timaru, 4 Rachell c/ anchell auto trim & upholstery
 5Kirsty Eden,c/ Tegel chicken, 6jaccanna custom and frieght Ken Quigley
 7 Mike stickings, rangitata huts, 8 the sham,rock group John Quigley
 9 dermott painters 10 clarance st Christchurch, 10 chequered flag corr /helen SH1Rangitata
 11 eastside butchery 4 denmark st temuka, 12 phil hart economy motorcycles
 13complete angler 280 cashel st christchurch , 14 Hunting fishing575 colombo st chch
 15 repco wairaki rd chch jim Christie, 16 rangitata motor camp colin wilson
 17 glenn shaw [builder] 17 church st woodbury Geraldine, 18 sports services rangiora
 19 hamills timaru richard davidson , 21 eddie columbus dairy farmer, chch
 22 Wavne Smart IAG. 23 Dave Lerner.24 K Sewell.25 North Huts26.D Sosich.