

TABLED AT HEARING

Application: RDRML

Submission on Resource Consents Application.

Joint hearing

Name of Applicant; Rangitata Diversion Race Management Ltd.

Date: 1/5/2018

To construct, maintain and operate a large water storage facility and associated activities and to abstract a further 10 Cumecs from the Rangitata river.

This is a combined submission between the SOUTH CANTERBURY SALMON ANGLERS ASSOCIATION and THE SALMON AND RIPARIAN SUPPORT TRUST Inc.

Speakers; Phil deJoux. Alan Brooks. Graham Parnell.

Why Combine?

Common goals,

Both organisations closely linked.

Non repetitive

Expediency,

This should not otherwise detract from or water down the views and evidence that would have come from 2 organisations.

Who we are! A brief resume of the two groups.

The South Canterbury Salmon Anglers Association was formed in 1974 as a result of a one "Frank Thorpe" wanting to take Opihi river issues to the Government of the day only to be told by Prime Minister Norman Kirk that no one would listen to individuals and he should form a group to represent anglers. From these beginnings, the association has grown. It has 120 financial members and advocates for the wider salmon fishing fraternity in Mid and South Canterbury. It provides a voice for salmon fishermen and women and represents them on issues that affect their chosen sport. They own a holiday home at the Rangitata reserve which is available to members, and provide manpower and financial assistance to the McKinnon's creek salmon hatchery.

Their Activities Include

- assisting the by-catch verifier programme.
- lobbying for the protection of salmon spawning areas.
- assisting the McKinnons Creek hatchery program.
- keeping anglers informed.

In recent weeks since the publication of the consent process, we have had a large number of salmon anglers and interested persons who are not comfortable speaking to a tribunal or even putting something down on paper, come to us and ask for us to speak on their behalf. This is the silent majority if you like who also deserve to have a voice.

Some information about the McKinnons Creek Salmon Hatchery and Salmon and Riparian Support Trust.

About the Salmon and Riparian Support Trust.

In 2005 a group of individuals, concerned at the continuing decline in salmon numbers in local rivers, banded together with a plan to recommission a disused fish hatchery on McKinnons creek which flows into the Rangitata river.

A trust was formed (**The Salmon Enhancement Trust, subsequently renamed the Salmon and Riparian Support Trust,**) to seek some funding for the project and a call was made through the media, for volunteers to help with the project.

The first working bee was held in 2005 and 80 plus persons turned up to get involved



What we found! August 2005

1st Working Bee October 2005



Over the next year, the abandoned hatchery was cleaned up, parts of it rebuilt and a resource consent was sought to divert water through the complex to be able to raise salmon fry for release.

The first salmon fry were received from Montrose hatchery at Rakaia in 2006. These fish at a weight of around 3 grams, were held at the hatchery for one year and released at around 65 grams into the Rangitata river. This continued for 3 years until the adults from the first release arrived back at McKinnons creek in 2009 at an average weight of 9 Kg having spent the previous 2 years at sea.



The Hatchery today

From that point, the hatchery has become self-sufficient, and eggs from returning fish are incubated and hatched at the hatchery for later release into many of the rivers in South and Mid Canterbury.

Tens of Thousands of voluntary hours have been involved over the past 12 years and the core group of supporters and helpers numbers around 80 persons. In 2009 the Hatchery group were overall winners in the Trust Power Timaru District Community Awards.

Funding has primarily come from donations by anglers, friends and supporters, with some generous support from Fonterra for a hatching shed and riparian planting around McKinnons creek. Fundraising for projects is also an important part of our operation and the Mid and South Canterbury Community Trust have funded projects at the hatchery.



Some of the benefits that have accrued from the work at McKinnons Creek.

In recent years approximately 60% of all salmon caught at the mouths of the Rangitata, Opihi and Orari rivers are from the McKinnons Creek Hatchery.

Confidence has been restored to the fishing communities in South Canterbury by the enhanced ability to go out and catch a salmon.

The hatchery shows how an environmental project in the middle of a dairy farming area can have positive benefits for all parties. (Local dairy farmers have all come on board and Fonterra's board of directors have viewed and given the thumbs up to the hatchery)

The project has given a large section of the community a purpose by their voluntary work at the hatchery.

Many local schools have either visited the hatchery or started on the "Salmon in schools" programme.

The Trust has become highly respected by a number of agencies including Fish @ Game, DOC, and Fonterra Clandeboye.

The hatchery management group meet with Central South Island Fish and Game twice per year to set direction and plans for the future and are assisted and supported by them in a number of areas.

The establishment of a plant nursery providing plants native to the area to use on many riparian plantings on McKinnons creek, Ealing Springs stream and other local landowner initiatives including Rangitata South Irrigation salmon spawning race. The Hatchery continues to go from strength to strength. It remains an entirely volunteer operation with helpers giving tens of thousands of hours of their time to ensure its success. In reference to the 2017 salmon season, due to the decline in the natural salmon run on the Rangitata, possibly around 70% of the fish caught were of hatchery origin.

In 2015 the Riparian Support Trust deregistered from the Charities Commission and is now an Incorporated Society. The name "The Salmon and Riparian Support Trust", has remained as it also reflects the dual focus of assisting with the planting of riparian strips along with the hatchery.

The hatchery has its own website where anyone can view the past, present and latest news at the hatchery.

www.mckinnonscreek.co.nz

Strategic Goals of the Hatchery include;

To improve angler catch of adult Salmon in the lower Rangitata River from that present from 2001 to 2006 and to minimise impacts on the wild fishery by recommissioning the McKinnons stream hatchery to supplement juvenile Salmon production and promote creation of spawning runs into suitable tributaries in the lower river.

To evolve over time, wild stock genetics into all fish grown at the hatchery in conjunction with best practice guidelines from Central South Island Fish and game and using wild stock in the breeding program.

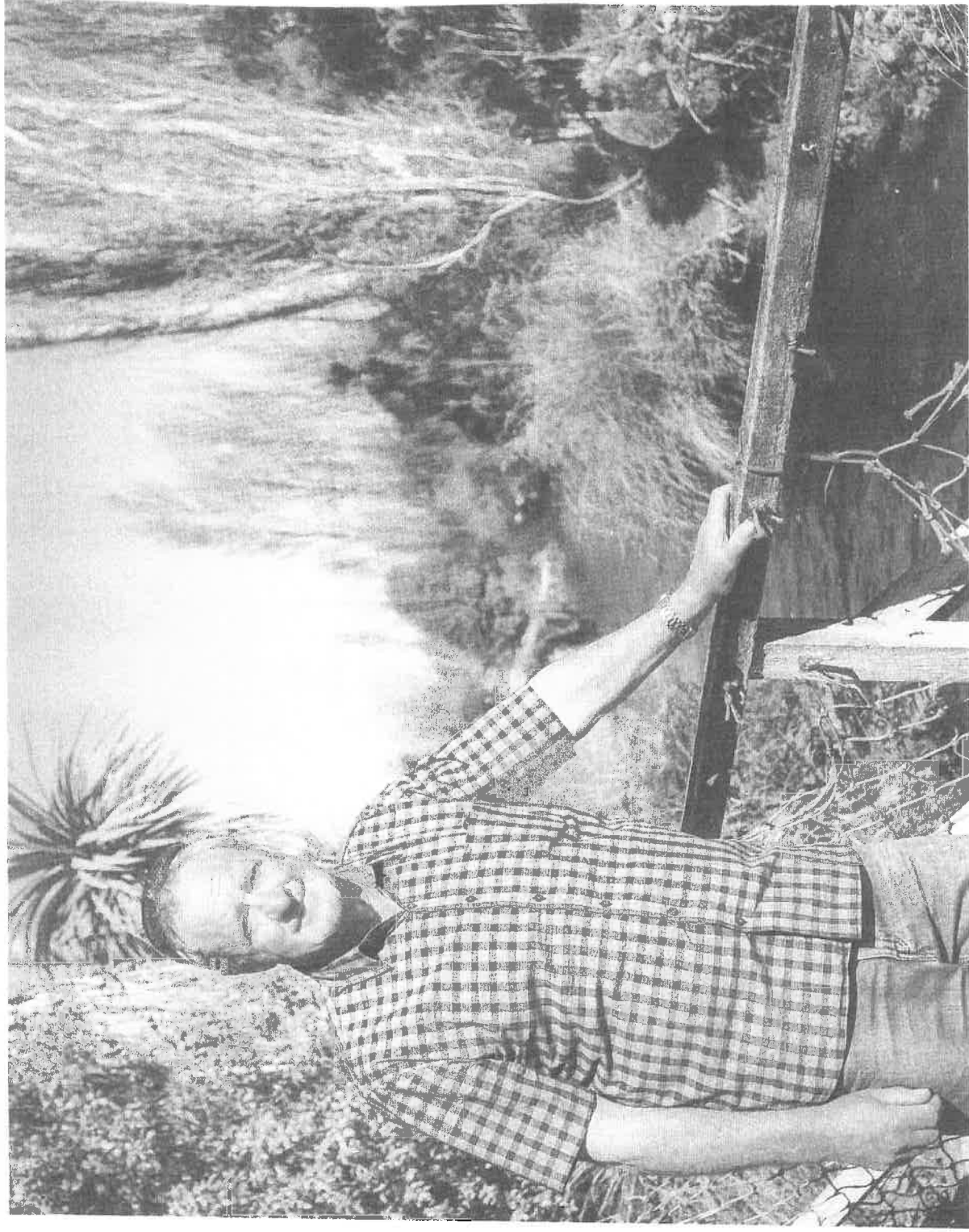
To supplement Rangitata headwaters streams with eyed ova and salmon fry from approved stock breed at the hatchery.

Objectives for the project are as follows.

- Recommission disused Salmon Hatchery on McKinnons Stream.
- Operate a rear and release facility with the objective of establishing a returning run of Salmon to McKinnons stream to maintain brood stock for wider enhancement.

- Develop spawning runs of fish into suitable streams below the gorge starting with Ealing springs.
- Involve the use of remote incubators in high country streams to supplement wild populations.
- Observe best practice recommendations to minimise impacts of hatchery fish on wild populations.
- Maintain McKinnons Creek to support the passage of returning Salmon.
- Provide educational opportunities for local schools with visits to the site and encourage student participation in various aspects of hatching fish and fish growth and management.
- Operate a showcase hatchery with a view to enhancing relationships between anglers and local communities.
- Establish a Charitable Trust to fund the project.
- Work with Fish and Game to achieve the above objects.

The Salmon Hatchery at McKinnons Creek has developed into one of the most successful and professionally run volunteer hatcheries in the country with a very wide range of support in the community.



THE SALMON AND RIPARIAN SUPPORT TRUST

WORDS ANNIE STUDHOLME IMAGES ANNIE STUDHOLME AND SUPPLIED

An inspiring band of dedicated, angling-loving volunteers is behind a conscious effort to lift salmon numbers across Canterbury rivers.

From its small beginnings, the McKinnon's Creek Salmon Hatchery on the south side of the Rangitata River is now widely recognised as the foremost recreational hatchery in the country. A decade after the first salmon fry arrived, it's estimated around 60 per cent of all salmon caught locally hail from the tiny, volunteer-run hatchery.

Ideas of restoring salmon numbers in the Rangitata River, and other rivers, first surfaced at the South Canterbury Salmon Anglers Association AGM back in 2005. Numbers of salmon being caught had been consistently dropping with Central South Island Fish and Game confirming the fishery was in a precarious state and didn't look like improving in the short or long term.

Determined to make a difference, Phil de Joux, chairman of the Salmon and Riparian Support Trust, which runs the hatchery, and a group of dedicated anglers decided Mother Nature needed a helping hand, and set about looking for suitable sites to implant salmon eggs in tributaries of the Rangitata River.

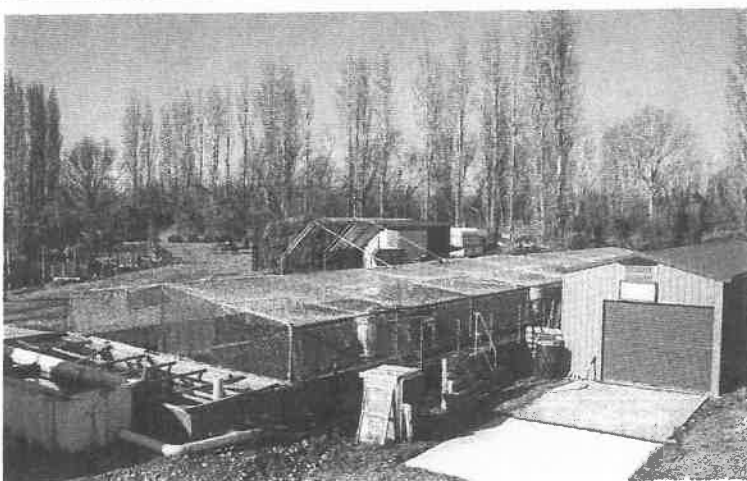
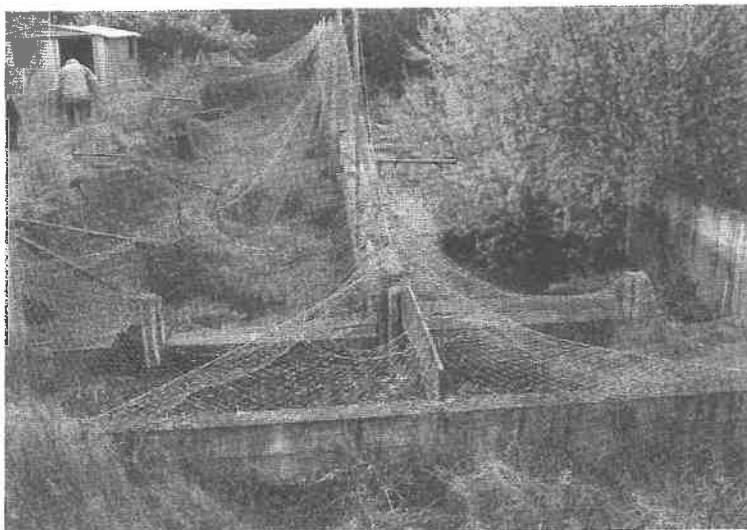
Coincidentally, around this time an old commercial fish farm on McKinnon's Creek, which had been abandoned by its owners fifteen years prior, was handed back to the Department of Conservation, who owned the land. "DOC rang Fish and Game, and they rang me and said, 'Can you do something with this?'" explained Phil. "Too right we can," he replied. And with that, the group swung into action.

Undeterred by the mammoth task ahead to get the hatchery ready, an ad in the local newspaper about a working bee attracted no less than 80 people, many of whom were retired anglers hoping to improve the fishing for future generations. By the following year, the first 55,000 salmon fry arrived from the Montrose Hatchery on the Rakaia River, which were grown in the hatchery raceways to an optimum weight of 65 grams before being released. Over the next two years, more fry were received from the Montrose Hatchery.

A group of dedicated anglers decided Mother Nature needed a helping hand, and set about looking for suitable sites to implant salmon eggs in tributaries of the Rangitata River."

Not everyone believed the ambitious plan would succeed, but when the first 500 adult salmon returned to spawn in McKinnon's Creek in 2009, all fears were allayed. "It was all the proof we needed. We must have been doing something right because they were coming back," says Phil.

Those salmon that returned were trapped, sorted and eggs removed from females and fertilised with milt from selected male fish. The fertilised eggs were then put into incubation trays where running water is circulated through and left for 50-60 days before hatching. From there, the small fish were shifted to bigger tanks and fed until they were large enough to be moved into raceways. Here they were fed using automatic feeders for about a year during which time they were fin-clipped before they were big enough to be released, only for a tiny percentage of them to return two years later for the whole process to begin again.



OPPOSITE Salmon and Riparian Support Trust chairman Phil de Joux overlooking McKinnon's Creek.

ABOVE What enthusiasts were faced with at the old commercial fish farm on McKinnon's Creek back in 2006.

BELOW The McKinnon's Creek Hatchery site today.

Since 2009 the hatchery has been self-sufficient, using its own eggs harvested from genetically-pure wild Rangitata River stock. The hatchery now has the capacity to incubate around half-a-million eggs however in a normal year it aims for about 350,000.

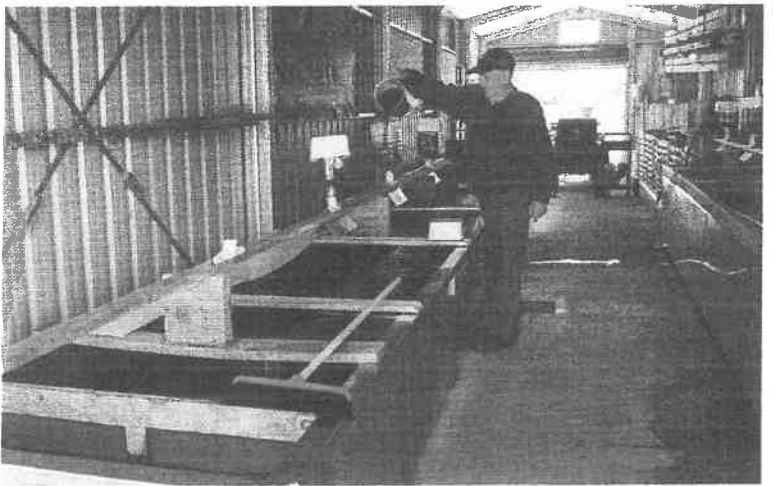
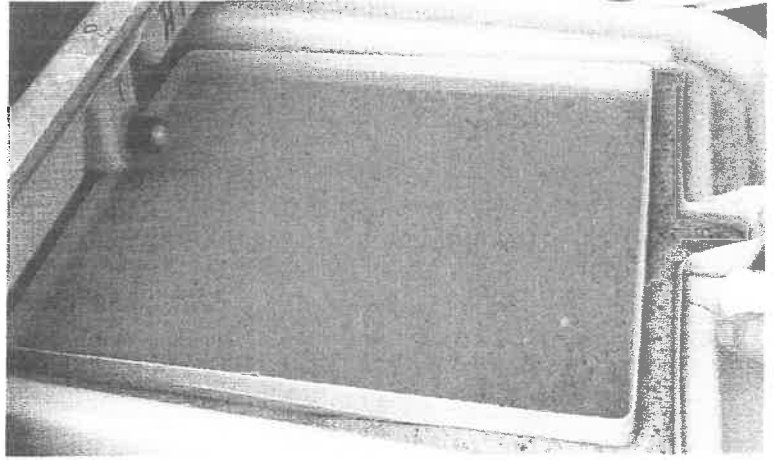
In addition to releasing salmon fry and "eyed ova" into the Rangitata River it now also has remote incubators in the Opihi, Orari, and Ashburton rivers, the Deep Stream and Black Mountain Stream (Mesopotamia) in the Rangitata headwaters, streams near the Maori Lakes in the Ashburton Gorge, and the man-made Rangitata South Irrigation Spawning Race. A group of volunteers also looks after a breeding programme maintaining incubators at Three Springs Creek near Kimbell. The trust has also assisted the salmon fishery in the Otago harbour with the provision of eggs, and is involved with Fish and Game's Fish In Schools Project, the development of the salmon spawning area at Ealing Springs, as well as riparian plantings.

None of the hatchery's success would have been possible without its dedicated volunteers. Phil estimates that jointly people have put in tens of thousands of volunteer hours."

This June, it released 60,000 salmon into the Rangitata River. On average, Phil expects just 1-2 per cent of those they release to return. The most they have had return was 900 in 2010. For reasons unknown last year was one of the worst returns since it started with only 120 adult salmon coming back, he says.



ABOVE Everyone on deck to release salmon back into McKinnons Creek (2010).



ABOVE Group of volunteers fin-clipping young salmon; Incubator tray with 4000 eggs; Volunteer Robert Clarke filling up the automatic feeders in the hatchery shed.

However, the last breeding season the hatch rate was almost 85 per cent, compared to around 40 per cent in the wild. This year's incubation numbers also looked good, with estimated release figures in the Rangitata for next year at around 80,000.

What started in 2005, when volunteers first laid foot on the old fish farm, has blossomed into a community project that now enjoys practical and financial assistance from a number of local businesses, landholders, anglers and volunteers, numerous trusts, Department of Conservation, Central South Island Fish and Game, and Fonterra Clandeboye. Together, they are demonstrating how different groups can work together to achieve conservation goals.

Phil says they have been "blown away" by the support the hatchery has received. "It's very humbling. We've had assistance from literally all corners of the community. We only need to ask and things get done. While a lot of people can't come and do working bees, many are prepared to do things for us at cost."

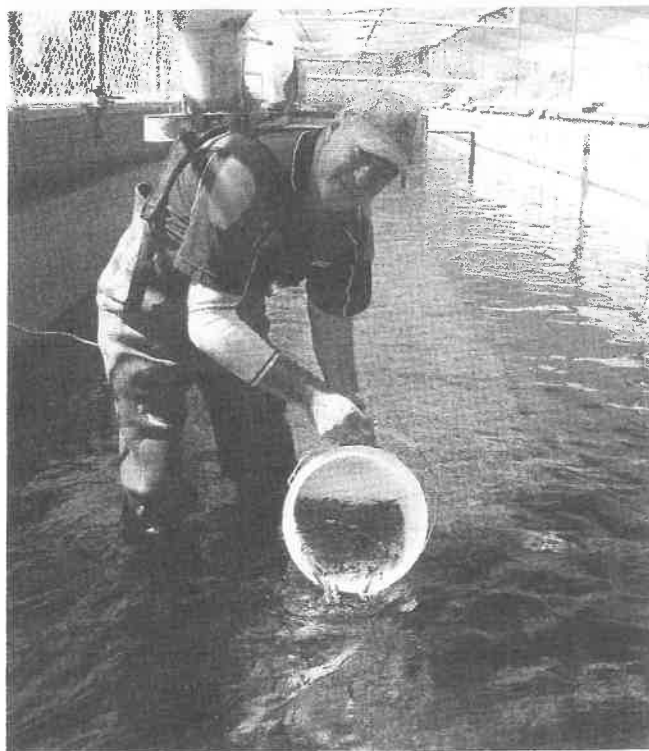
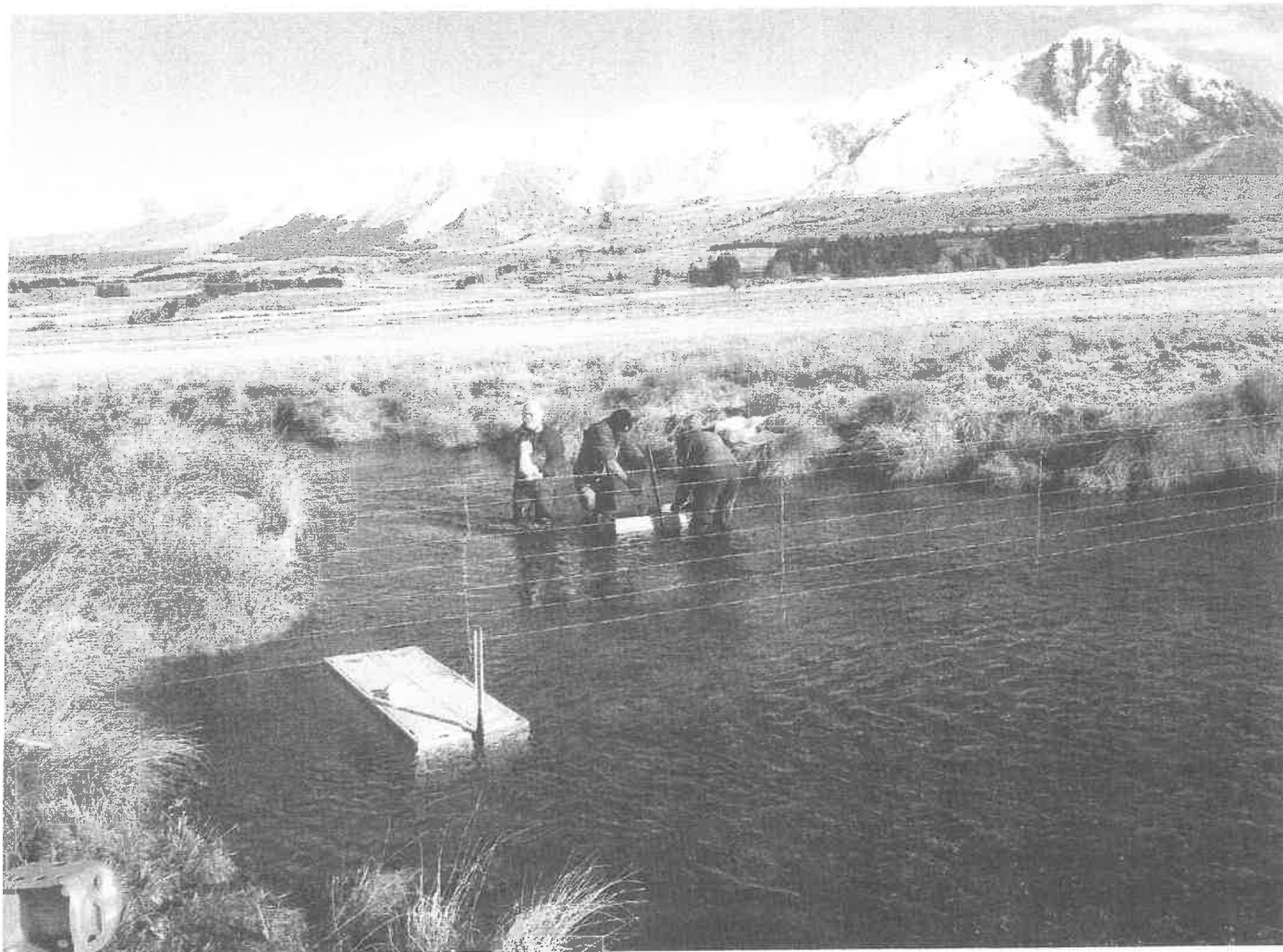
With the Clandeboye dairy factory nearby, Fonterra

fronted up with the funds to build the much-needed \$18,000 hatching shed in 2009. "That was probably the single most important development at the site. We never could have afforded it without them. It's been a huge help," he says.

The hatchery uses solar energy for most of its electricity use, but still requires more than \$14,000 each year to function, most of which goes out in fish feed.

At the end of the day though, none of the hatchery's success would have been possible without its dedicated volunteers. Phil estimates that jointly people have put in tens of thousands of volunteer hours.

Raising salmon from eggs to one year old was labour-intensive, and to do it properly required absolute dedication. Volunteers are there every second day cleaning tanks and topping up automated feeders, while small groups are also out every weekend to clean raceways. At certain times of the year there are other jobs to be done like the painstaking removal of dead eggs from incubation trays with tweezers, or fin-clipping, which has been used to help them to identify each salmon, he explains.



TOP Volunteers setting up a remote incubator up at Mesopotamia Station in the headwaters of the Rangitata River. ABOVE LEFT Volunteers transferring adult fish. ABOVE RIGHT Growing salmon in the raceway.

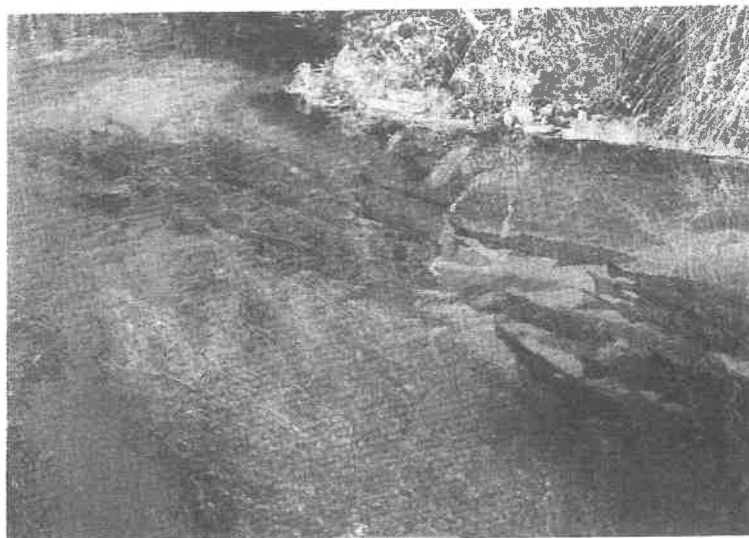
"We knew nothing when we started. We have learnt a lot, read a lot and listened to a lot of people. We made a few mistakes but now we have really good processes in place. We know we are making a difference but while most of us love salmon fishing, it's not just about catching a fish. It was also enhancing people's lives, giving them something to do. There's great camaraderie."

Recently the trust has turned its attention to riparian plantings, growing its own seedling from plants sourced locally. "Originally the idea was to make the hatchery nice and it's just grown from there," says Phil.

While the trust has more than 140 people on its mailing list, only 80 of those are reasonably active with people required on an eleven- to twelve-week roster for one three-hour session only. Many are aging, and it's desperately hoping to inspire some youngsters to get involved so the knowledge can be passed on, ensuring its continuation in the future. ■

For more information:

Visit www.mckinnonscreek.co.nz or email phil.dejoux@xtra.co.nz



ABOVE Returning salmon in McKinnon's Creek.

It's not just about catching a fish. It was also enhancing people's lives, giving them something to do. There's great camaraderie."

Joint Submission.

Explanation of protection under a Water Conservation Order.



With respect, I would like to draw your attention to the picture of the above sign.

The sign shown above is situated in the car park at the Rangitata Reserve on the South side. Its not a large sign “30cm X 50cm approx.” but we believe it delivers a powerful message.

It states, **“THIS RIVER IS PROTECTED BY A WATER CONSERVATION ORDER”**

In our view, a WCO on a river is equivalent to a National Park protection on land. In fact in a number of circumstances its protective conditions could be classed as stronger than some National Park conditions.

When the Special Tribunal recommended a WCO for the Rangitata river in 2002, all those who took part in the affirmative, believed that the recommendations that came out would be set in stone. We accepted that further water was allowed for to be abstracted (20 cumecs) but we thought that would be the end of it. The Rangitata river is one of the most shared river’s in the country and anglers have accepted this. We thought that this was in the spirit of the concept of sharing a resource. We celebrated when the decision came out.

We have to ask ourselves now, why are we here again, back at square one having to fight again for the river.

A note regarding implications of a Water Conservation orders for Regional Councils.

“A water conservation order can prohibit or restrict a regional council issuing new water and discharge permits, although it cannot affect existing permits. Regional

policy statements, regional plans and district plans cannot be inconsistent with the provisions of a water conservation order."

Explanation on the consents.

CRC170654. A water permit to abstract a further 10 cumecs from the Rangitata River when flows exceed 142.6 cumecs. **We Oppose this consent application.**

(1) In reference to the WCO on the Rangitata river and the recommendations of the Special Tribunal.

We believe that any further abstraction over and above existing takes, i.e. RDR 33 cumecs, RSI Ltd 20 cumecs and a couple of other minor takes, are outside the spirit and intent of the Report by the Special Tribunal which resulted in the Water Conservation Order on the Rangitata River in 2002.

After hearing all the submissions, reports, legal representations, modelling data and many thousands of information documents, the Special Tribunal, recommended that a Water Conservation Order be granted, and recognised there is a need to ensure that the number and sizes of freshes and floods are not significantly reduced. They also recognised there was significant potential to develop further irrigation using Rangitata water. They considered that a further 20 cumecs could be made available above 110 m³/s. (see Part V11, Protection and Preservation of outstanding features and qualities, paragraph 99, 100, and 102).

We believe this is a **cap on abstractions** after the existing and potential flows (20 cumecs) have been taken. Part V111, paragraph 14 also strengthens this. *"We believe that without a cap on total abstraction or restriction on the number of takes in the main stem, the outstanding values etc would not necessarily be preserved/protected."*

We believe that with the total number of cumecs being abstracted when both RDR Ltd and RSI Ltd are operating at their maximum, plus a couple of minor ones, this cap has been reached. Although this is not specifically mentioned in the finished WCO document, the intent of the Commissioners was very clear. One cannot dismiss the recommendations of this important group who were the only ones to listen to and evaluate the total amount of information available from all submitters. To disregard their recommendations makes a mockery of the democratic processes this country is built upon.

Another area which is important is section 13(below) of the WCO.

13. Exemptions

Nothing in this order prevents the grant of a resource consent that would otherwise contravene the conditions set out in Clauses

8 to 11 if—

(a) a consent authority is satisfied that—

(i) there are exceptional circumstances justifying the grant of the permit; or

(ii) the permit is for a discharge that is of a temporary nature; or

(iii) the permit is for a discharge that is associated with necessary construction and maintenance work relating to works and structures not otherwise prohibited by this Order; and

(b) the exercise of any such resource consent would not compromise the preservation and protection of the outstanding characteristics and features identified for the waters specified in the Schedules.

This prevents any consenting authority from granting a consent that would compromise the very situation that the Special Tribunal made in their recommendations. "Paragraph 14 of the Report by the Special Tribunal on the Rangitata river WCO. We believe that without a cap on total abstraction, or restriction on the number of takes in the main stem the outstanding values etc would not necessarily be preserved/protected."

USE OF WATER;

We Oppose the increase of 10 Cumecs applied for by the applicant at any flows.

We can find no reason for the increase and believe there is enough water, with existing and future efficiencies, and with that which is already consented, to fill the proposed storage pond. In our view it looks a bit like water speculation with the applicant being able to sell extra water to the highest bidder should the extra take be consented. We have a raft of reasons why we believe no further water should be abstracted from the Rangitata river, some of these will be explored later.

While farming in the future will always require some water, we don't believe that future farming trends have been adequately considered. It is extremely likely that future trends will be toward protein manufactured from plant products which will require less water for the same or increased output. This needs to be factored in instead this insatiable grab for more and more water for existing farming systems.

For example.

"Memphis Meats, a San Francisco-based clean meat company producing animal cells and meat without the animal (beef, chicken duck). Its multi meat technology platform is producing clean healthy, ethical and environmentally friendly versions of our animal proteins without the trail of destruction caused by traditional animal agriculture. It's the future that will replace and decimate conventional animal and factory farming. Dr Rosie Bosworth"

Dr Rosie Bosworth. " experienced with working with executives from start-ups to multinationals and governments in NZ, Australia, the U.S. and the U.K. to curate & develop

purpose-driven & game changing strategic food trajectories, communications strategies & content.

In 2013, was awarded a PhD in environmental innovation and sustainable technology development that facilitate industrial paradigm shifts. Much of her research was undertaken at the University of Maastricht, the Netherlands, and has researched alongside the world's top think tanks & innovators across the NL, Australia, Germany, Belgium & Australia. In 2017, was inducted into the University of Auckland's 40 Under 40 - in the Influencer & Disruptor category."

We are opposed to Rangitata water being used to supplement groundwater aquifers in the Ashburton district when the Rangitata aquifers have a need of this water. We are concerned that the Rangitata aquifers will be depleted somewhat and have an effect on McKinnon's Creek. McKinnons Creek is the site of a Salmon Hatchery which the Salmon and Riparian Trust operate.

McKinnons Creek is hydraulically connected to the Rangitata aquifers. (Schedule 3 WCO). During summer months we are often challenged by the drop in flows in McKinnon's creek caused by drawdown from the aquifers and any further abstractions or removal of rechargeable water would make it very hard for the hatchery to operate under its existing consent. If these aquifers are to be recharged, existing already consented water should be used.

We are opposed to any further water being abstracted from the Rangitata river. We rely on significant flows in the lower reaches firstly attracting salmon into the river to begin their run to the headwaters and to the hatchery and also to provide a safe river braid for them to use to reach the hatchery. Further abstractions could put both these functions of the river in jeopardy.

We believe that any further abstraction over and above existing takes, i.e. RDR 34 cumecs, RSI Ltd 20 cumecs and a couple of other minor takes, are outside the spirit and intent of the Report by the Special Tribunal which resulted in the Water Conservation Order on the Rangitata River in 2002.

In summary; We believe that the recommendations' of the Special Tribunal for the WCO and the WCO itself are a significant factor in determining the outcome of this hearing. The future of the Rangitata river is at stake here. Its time to put a mark in the ground and say enough is enough. We want the river to still be here for our grandchildren, their children and for generations to come. We have the chance here and now to "MAKE THE RANGITATA GREAT AGAIN"

[1]**

Rangitata RDR ADB

SC Salmon Anglers and Salmon Riparian Support Trust Inc ask the consent committee to consider the following submissions.

As fishery bodies we support the introduction of a Fish screen as tabled but under its current form presented we have a number of concerns which we will outline later in our report.

With respect to consent applications we state our position as follows.

[a] No more Water abstraction.

[b] No further discharges of debris back into the river, except for tight controls on existing Sand trap.

[c] Physical evidence that all fish, Salmon, Trout and Native fish, extracted from the river proper must be returned to the river in the same healthy condition. That there be ongoing proof and evidence of this condition with regular monitoring.

[d] That from 01/01/2019 till the time the system is effectively running, that RDR Management funds an increased Salmon enhancement program run by the Salmon Riparian Support Trust Inc along with Fish & Game. This is the only existing program that supports the Rangitata Salmon Fish Family.

With respect to all parties involved in this and past water rights the Angler Community has lost faith in the Evidence and lack of commitment that has been tabled by past experts. We have been bombarded by statements and promises by all these experts but sadly to the detriment of our way of life on the Rangitata River and our love for fishing this great river. The Conservation Order identified one of the outstanding features was the Salmon Fishery and that is certainly not the case today. The very existence of the Salmon Riparian Support Trust or more specifically McKinnon's Creek Hatchery was simple a recovery program by Anglers in an attempt to re-establish this great Asset.

From the very hand that have assured us that our river would be Protected under a Conservation Order we now stand in a river that is very much changed in recent year. More sad news is that over the last 3 years even an above average angler has struggled to catch even one salmon a season. The simple fact is that we have all but lost our Salmon Sport, it is dying and we need direct help and increased protection to survive.

The salmon run on average for the past 10 year declined considerably to the very sad state we have today. In 1993/94 year the headwaters of the river received 6077 spawning adults and now for the past 4 year 2013 to 2017 the best return was 2014-15 with 1666 a token return of 27.42% from this base year. Even more pathetic is the return of year 2016-17 with a total of 545 or 8.97% of year 1993/94.

Today we are standing before you asking for help and assistance for the survival of our fishery.

The river cannot afford to lose another drop of water and the salmon fishery needs everyone help and co-operation to be rescued for future generations.

We applaud the concept of the fish screens but sorry we do not believe that the location, the exclusion of the sand trap within the bypass and the lack of bypass detail to the river, that for our fish will be protected. We simply do not have the confidence that 100% of the fish will be returned to the river in an unharmed manner.

We will cover our review in the following sections.

[1] Head Waters.

[2] RDR River Bund.

[3] RDR to Fish Screen

[4] Bypass to river.

[4] RDR to Mouth.

[2] ***

The majority of Anglers of the Rangitata River support and respect the total fishery of the river from Whitebait (one of the smallest fish), native fish (that live within our waters) to the majestic Salmon. It is generally accepted that the Salmon being the largest species of fish is the benchmark for all fish. If you look after the salmon then the river will have the environment to support all other fish.

In our submission when we refer to Salmon we are covering to total fishery of this river.

Head Waters.

[1] The survival of the Salmon Fishery is entirely dependent on Salmon getting to the head waters and in reasonable numbers for the survival of this specie. This fishery is a simple numbers game whereby the more adult salmon returning to the head waters spawning streams the more redds/eggs are set produced more smolt for the annual migration to sea.

Today the downward migrating smolt numbers are far too low and the increasing competition with irrigation is just too much. Irrigation to date is the largest single predator (36% +) of this journey of survival and here today you are asking the anglers to risk more fish and give up more water to help the farming community. For the survival of this fishery this proposed Fish Screen must work effectively not in mere words of man and experts but it must be proven that it will perform and save our fishery of this great river.

A prime objective of the Salmon Riparian Support Trust Inc supported by Salmon Angler Association is to Seed into the Headwaters Salmon eggs and smolt to re-establish a viable Salmon population.

The transfer of eggs and smolt to the headwaters however has had to be stopped in recent years for the following reasons.

[a] Because the Trust is required first to maintain a brood stock to ensure ongoing supply of returning Adults, but in recent years it is now a limited resource.

[b] Anglers are of a very strong view that losses to RDR and Rangitata South Irrigation are far too high that it is not economic currently to release smolt in the head waters.

[c] Anglers believe very strongly that the accelerated decline over the last 3 years has a direct relationship to increase abstraction for this river.

Rather than play with words on this topic we request you to view some statistics that we have received and also collated to identify the very sad state of affair in the spawning streams of this great river.

Refer Table [2]

Please note the following;

- 1993/94 has been used as a base year @ 6077 returning adult fish to the spawning streams.

- 1993/94 was approximately 50% of the historical runs of the good old days.
- Returns vary but the trend 13/14 onwards highlights a major trend and a problem for the future.
- The salmon fishery has a three year cycle and a 4 year downward trend highlights that it is crying for help. Refer [A]
- Post 1997 these figures are not good reading.
- Downward migration smelt are a key indicator and the fishery is simple numbers game.

The more you release to sea the more you get back.

- From Hatchery knowledge we have assessed the size of the annual smolt run refer [B]
- This assessment incorporates several stages

On average 60% of a run are females

Hatchery female stock produces an average of 3,500 eggs so we have used a conservative estimate of 3,000.

It is generally estimated that natural spawning rate is 50%.

To maintain a conservative assessment we have reduced a further 20% predation loss.

- Refer table [2] [B] We believe is a realistic estimate of the downward migrating smolt pre RDR.
- At a less than 1% average return from sea these figures simply will not sustain this fishery !!!!

In summary this fishery need all the help it can get and it cannot afford any further exposure to Risk!!!

****TABLE[2]

RANGITATA RIVER
WILD STOCK DOWNWARD MIGRATING SMOLT
ESTIMATES - SALMON RIPARIAN SUPPORT TRUST

From Fish & Games Stats HeadWaters Annual Counts	Wild fish spawning spawners(wild)	% return to 93/94	Females @60% 0.6	Eggs Average 3000	Hatch Rate 50% to smolt	smolt to sea 80%
93/94	6077	100%		10937737	5468868	
94/95	3941	0.6486	3646	7093754	3546877	2837502
95/96	8352	1.3744	5011	15033339	7516670	6013336
96/97	7467	1.2288	4480	13440390	6720195	5376156
97/98	2870	0.4723	1722	5165956	2582978	2066383
98/99	3236	0.5325	1941	5824040	2912020	2329616
99/00	1686	0.2775	1012	3034927	1517463	1213971
00/01	497	0.0818	298	894219	447110	357688
01/02	597	0.0982	358	1074225	537112	429690
02/03	659	0.1085	395	1186486	593243	474594
03/04	1876	0.3087	1126	3376800	1688400	1350720
04/05	1135	0.1868	681	2043000	1021500	817200
05/06	512	0.0843	307	921600	460800	368640
06/07	2062	0.3393	1237	3711600	1855800	1484640
07/08	3690	0.6073	2214	6642000	3321000	2656800
08/09	2714	0.4466	1628	4885200	2442600	1954080
09/10	901	0.1483	541	1621800	810900	648720
10/11	905	0.1489	543	1629000	814500	651600
11/12	1610	0.2650	966	2898000	1449000	1159200
12/13	3042	0.5006	1825	5475600	2737800	2190240
13/14	1283	0.2111	770	2309400	1154700	923760
14/15	1666	0.2742	1000	2998800	1499400	1199520
15/16	1055	0.1736	633	1899000	949500	759600
16/17	545	0.0897	327	981000	490500	392400

****% of 93/94 year

Critical Issues

[A]

[B]

****TABLE [1]

SALMON RIPARIAN SUPPORT TRUST

EGGS & SMOLT RELEASES

*****FARM COMMENCED 2006 *****

SUMMARY 2006 TO 2017

	BROOD SMOLT	EGGS INCUBATED	SMOLT RELEASED	TOTAL COMBINED	RETURNS YEAR	RETURNS YEAR	TOTAL COMBINED						
2006	55000			55000			0						
2007	72000			72000			0						
2008	52000			52000			0						
2009	65000			65000			0						
2010	70000			70000			0						
2011	70000	515000	183000	768000	2013/4	965	442	1407					
2012	55000	550000	29000	634000	2014/5	400	491	891					
2013	60000	550000	56736	666736	2015/6	130	106	236					
2014	60000	550000	90430	700430	2016/7	78	108	186					
2015	66000	366000	0	432000	2017/8	100	106	206					
2016	60000	177000	57800	294800	2018/9			0					
2017	60000	95000	0	155000				0					
2018				0				0					
totals	745000	0	2803000	0	416966	0	3964966	0	1673	0	1253	0	2926

[3] ***

[2] RDR in Stream Rock Wall/River Bund.

The Angler community are very uncomfortable with the consent that RDR Management holds that has given them almost open rights to change the river to obtain maximum water abstraction from the river.

This bund promotes the build-up of water for entry to the RDR but it also increases probability of increased losses of fish.

It is highly likely that higher volumes of fish are being lost to the RDR than are currently assessed simply because of the regular strategic changes to the rock bund restructure post flood damage.

To improve water supply for access to the RDR channel would only enhance the probability that an increase proportion of fish are taken from the river system.

Angler's strong objections to the rights of RDR to manipulate the river and create a structure that encourages fish into this diversion.

What is very sad is that RDR Management has made no attempts to introducing methods, techniques, structures etc. that would draw fish away from entering the RDR.

Looking to the current consents the anglers believe that irrespective of the Fish Screen installation that RDR should attempt to reduce fish assess to the RDR system.

Quite honestly anglers do not want any fish taken from the river and it considered that RDR should be required to minimise fish take and compensate for any losses.

We would strongly recommend that RDR management research the possibilities of fish protection system in this area of the river.

[4] ***

[3] RDR to Fish Screen.

The Anglers of this river **totally support** the concept of installing a Fish Screen on the RDR and for the return of all fish(100%) back to the river.

We are not experts at the assessment of this fish Screen but from our limited understanding and knowledge and conditional to expert review, we believe that this specific fish screen is the best available.

We are quite frankly most grateful to RDR Management for tabling this proposal and their willingness to correct this long outstanding problem for our fishing community.

We do however wish to raise concerns we have within this current application and present the following points for your review.

The objective of the Fish Screen installation is to stop the losses of fish to the RDR.

[a] By definition then the benefit of this exercise is only fulfilled if the fish are returned to the river system unharmed and in the same condition that they are taken from the river, pre RDR.

[b] That these results are proven and ongoing evidence is made available that all fish are being returned to the river and that they are unharmed.

[c] That there is an ongoing monitoring system for fish passage and protection.

[d] It is our understanding that this fish screen has not been fully tested. Sadly experts have let us down in the past so we are requiring tangible evidence as to the effectiveness of this screen.

[e] If there are problems with [d] then the Anglers request very strong criteria and conditions placed on RDR Management that urgency and priority status is given to correct any identified anomalies.

[f] Anglers expect 100% performance and return of all fish back to the river. For results less than these the fishery is to be compensated by RDR Management annually based on an agreed formula and the funds used for replacing fish losses.

[g]The location of the Fish Screen is questioned by anglers and we will cover these issues shortly in more detail.

With the consent as it is currently lodged we ask for your consideration of the following.

Refer Table [4]

This consent proposal is for an increase abstraction from the river of 12 cumec through the gates into this area. That increased flow represents a water increase of 25.15% approximately at a river flow of 142.6 cumec. ($25.15\% = 12 \text{ increase} / 47.7 \text{ total RDR abstraction from the river.}$)

With this increased water are additional fish being exposed to extra risk as they pass through this system? We cannot calculate the number of increase smolt that will enter this area because it is conditional to all river flows. But what we can say is that at 142.6 cumecs 25.25 % more smolt will be exposed to additional risk!

There are no artificial concepts or methods or indeed any attempts to protect fish at any point.

Fish are simply left to fend for themselves along with all the rubbish sand and sediment that is passed through this section.

Some would argue that this would be like flood conditions in a normal flooded river. With respect to those experts we would argue that the conditions are significantly higher and with higher risk to our fish.

- This sediment is now compressed as it enters the bypass.
- 47.7 cumecs flow are abstracted from the river and all the sediment compressed after 42.7 cumecs approximately is diverts through the fish screens.
- The bypass then flows at a maximum of 5 cumecs but includes the sediment out of 47.7 cumecs of water.
- The entire fishery is expected to navigate this bypass, suffer this high exposure to sediment which is significantly higher than a river flood.
- RDR Management have not as yet disclosed to Anglers the structure and concept of the bypass. At this point we would assume that the bypass drop to the river must be significant to ensure sediment is cleared.
- Unless there are some special fish protection structures within anglers cannot conceive how fish would survive this drop!

In Summary this proposal is abstracting more Fish/Salmon smolt from our river and exposing them to even higher risk issues.

Higher fish population and Higher Risk

Let us review the sections within the RDR Channel

[A] Entrance.

Not provision for fish deflection.

No attempt to reduce fish access

Bund structure enhances fish access so highly likely fish population more than assessments.

From our understanding the general estimated losses to the RDR at current flows are 200,000 smolt pa.

We would refer you to Table [2] [B] and suggest that figures would be higher than this general estimate.

[B] Passage from entrance to head of Fish trap.

RDR Management confirmed that there are to be no deflections, structures, methods or procedures to attempt to guide or deflect fish away from the trap. In addition there are no other exit passages provided for fish other than the one of which they discharge all other rubbish sand and stones.

The fish trap abstracts only water and very fine particles of sand with all the residues passing the trap and exiting via the bypass.

Sorry but this proposal is simple not good enough for our fishery and we believe mortality would be high as a result.

[5]***

[c] Bypass to River.

In our view this is the most important area of the total fish passage system yet it is not defined within this current Water right application.

It would be assumed that the bypass water flow would need to be sped up by way of a rapid drop to the river to discharge all the solid material within. This Vertical drop is of major concern to anglers as is the distance to river down the bypass. We require far more information on this area if it is to be considered seriously.

One major issue that Anglers are struggling with is the limited use of the current Sand Trap in dealing with the high sediment loads of this river. The sand trap was a major introduction developed by RDR Management to help manage the significant sediment problem within the RDR system. From our understanding it has worked effectively and that significant deposit of sediment are collected and later discharged from this site.

The existing Sand Trap already has special water right conditions to be cleared on a regular basis. All historical discussions and indeed recent discussions made it very clear that the sediment discharge was major and that the sand trap was vital for the RDR. Sediment has always been a major problem so we cannot conceive a bypass with our fish and all this extra sediment assisting the fishery cause.

This proposal before us today places the sand trap after the fish screen and rendering it of no value at all except for very fine sediment discharge to the RDR. This logic appears to be in conflict with historical operations and the only conclusions that we can draw from this is that it provides significant efficiencies and economic benefits to RDR Management.

A significant sediment problem exists on the Rangitata RDR that is a fact. So why do RDR Management and their experts believe they can simply transferred this major problem back to the fishery? Sorry but that is simply not a fair go.

This consent places this major sediment problem out of the hand of RDR Management but sadly into the hands of the fishery. That is not acceptable, thanks very much!

Let us summarise the facts.

A major sediment discharge that is currently gathered at the sand trap, under the existing water right proposal, will be discharged down the one and only bypass after the fish screen, along with all our fish.

Without further design clarification RDR Management seem to be quite comfortable to drop our fish into the rubbish pot and flush them at speed down to the river.

Further that our fish that have been protected from the RDR by a new \$10 Million dollar fish screen will face the firing squad as they descend to the river.

We are not sure if you are aware but when fish face a rapid water drop will turn and face up stream. As they decline in the bypass in this proposal then they will face into all this falling sediment and it would be very likely that there would be exceptionally high mortality.

Our conclusion is that RDR Management have completely overlooked the purpose of this exercise, that is the save our fish not kill them.

We are aware that fish can survive turbid water but this example will expose fish to,

[a] a more harsh environment continually within this bypass and not periodically as in a flood.

[b] 25. % more fish numbers, at peak times, will be exposed to higher risk.

[c] The speed of this bypass discharge water to the river is a major concern. Full disclosure and discussed is required before any conclusions are drawn!

Recommendation.

The Fishery requires a passive passage after the fish Screen that is monitored ongoing to provide evidence for all parties that all species of fish (100%) are replaced back to the parent river unharmed and in safe conditions.

We believe that the Sand Trap problem that has been highlight can be resolved very quickly and easily and we would recommend that you consider the following.

[a] That the Fish Screen be located after the existing sand trap.

[b] The significant sediment build up that currently exists will continue to be discharged via the sand trap.

[c] That a passive bypass be developed specifically for fish stock to migrate back to the river.

[d] That an effective fish monitoring system be installed within the bypass to provide evidence of performance and also assist in fishery research.

[e] That a body be set up to oversee an annual review of results in [d] and when issues are identified that there be time limits for remedies to be put in place.

[f] That all interested parties be informed and communicated on all relevant issues.

***Table [4]

Rangitata

16/04/2018

RDR Submissions Salmon Riparian Support Trust

[1] Total River abstraction flow inclusive of proposed 10cumecs

Period 01/09 to 31/05 annually.

- Actual River flow at maximum abstraction proposed?

= 142.6 cumecs

Assessed page 28 RDR report

RDR direct- irrigation & power	30.7	
Fish bypass back to river	3.0	
Individual Farmer(Cumberland)	1.5	
Aquifer recharging	.5	(recent????)
**** Total	35.7	
New addition	10.0	
Proposed new bypass	2.0	
****RDR new Total	47.7	
*** Rangitata south	20.0	
***** Total abstraction	67.7	***% of River Flow = 47.47%
Bypass returned	-5.0	
****Net taken from River	62.7	***% of River Flow = 43.97%
**** No 10Cumecs additional	52.7	***% of River Flow = 36.95%
River flow same time	142.6	

[6] ***

RDR to Mouth.

Turbidity - Sediment

As anglers we walk the river and know and understand the changes that have and are happening on our beloved river The Rangitata.

On the topic of sediment and turbidity we have again watched and heard the experts in these fields tell us what exists. They have also told us that the introduction of the Sand trap and Rangitata South Irrigation system would make no difference to our environment.

The fact and results however do not back up these theories because in these times we as anglers have experienced a significant decline in our fisher Salmon, Trout and we are also very concerned about the silvery.

Let us briefly review River flows.

Refer to Tables [4].

- Currently at a flow of 142.6cumec , a small flood, abstractor jointly deduct 52.7 cumecs or 36.95% leaving a residual flow of 89.9 cumecs for the river
- This consent proposal at the same flow of 142.6cumec, abstractor will jointly deduct 62.7 cumecs or 43.97% and leaving a residual flow of 79.9 cumecs for the river.
- Mean flow of the river is 95.1 cumecs (RDR Report) at Klondyke
- Median flow of the river is 72 Cumecs, at Klondyke.

The difference between the mean & median flow is 23 cumecs a massive difference and that is what we as Anglers see down river. A much lower river flow than what is being preached by the experts. What we are fishing is a marginal river that has been reduced post the Conservation Order by 20 Cumecs above 110 and more yet to come.

The Median flow less abstraction represents what we as Anglers and users of the river have been left to play in!

The river itself is changing in many ways.

- Floods vary in flows but in general they are shorter in length and they do not appear to carry the velocity to clear the riverbed as in the past.
- From the peaks of the floods till low flows is much shorter and the river cannot clear the sediment like it had done in the past.
- The changes in land use have diminished the natural storage of water that would, in the past, discharge over time and prolong good fishing flows.

- Today the days between highs and lows are considerable less and that reduces our good fishing time.
- Good fishing time is dependent on prolonged downward falling hydrograph after the murky water has cleared. In recent year that has reduced considerably.
- The lower flows are leaving much more sediment on our riverbed and anglers are adamant that this has increased significantly post Sand Trap and more recently with the addition take of Rangitata South over 110 cumec.
- Salmon cannot survive around sand and they will not settle where sand is moving.
- The ongoing discharge of residual sediment back into our river is simply killing our sport and our fish! The build-up of sand and fine sediment is not acceptable to the sports fishery.
- The higher level floods are vital for the cleaning of the river bed and have been the lifesaver to the fisher in dealing with didymo. These violent flows sweep the didymo from the riverbed and discharge it into the sea where it dies.
- By allowing abstractions at these low flood levels Anglers are very concerned that didymo will return to this river and destroy the fisher.
- The natural flooding of the river inclusive of the variable flows that occur is vital for the total life of the river. The river bed, the lagoon, the mouth and the coastline are all delicately balanced but they are also rebuilt by these floods.
- These river changes have accelerated the river channel and reduce pooling and holes that had been excellent for fish passage and fishing
- The effects of these changes have reduced considerably the time that anglers can fish the river between RDR and the estuary.
- Anglers that historically fished up river now stay at the mouth simply because they have no assurance that they can find good fishing conditions up stream.
- Clearly the health and environment of the river has changes and the Salmon & trout are not coping with these man made changes!

By way of an example we would like to share with you an anglers experience on the Rangitata estuary area during the period 17/3/2018 to 30/3/2018.

On Friday night the angler arrived at a friend's hut at approximately 7.30pm that evening.

He had travelled down from Christchurch and was aware that the river was starting to flood as he had crossed both the Rakaia and Rangitata main road bridges.

At about 7.45 his friend's daughter dialled up on her cell phone to check the river flow at Klondyke and the flow was 150 cumec, the approximate flow that the table consent wants to take an additional 10 cumecs of water!

He went fishing that next morning about 8 am and that equates to the approximate 12 hours' time period for the water to travel from Klondyke to the beach head.

Flow assessment by our calculations was $150 - 33 \text{ RDR} - 20 \text{ Rangi south} = 97$ cumecs residual flow at 8am at this location.

The river was only in a mild flood and dropping quickly.

Saturday evening and Sunday morning the river had lowered considerably but had left a massive sand deposit right across the last rapid to the beach. Refer pictures attached. This was very unusual because this area is fast flowing water full of guts and rapid that would normally discharge sediment quickly.

There was a subsequent flood on the 28/3/2018 which was more significant but yet again it did not clear this sand mass that had been deposited, but not clear to sea. In simple terms this flood was not sufficient to move that sand.

A second issue that was going on within this area was far more concerning for us angler. From the last rapid to the mouth the loose sand was ballooning in the river and rendering useless for anglers to fish. We repeat what has been stated before Salmon dislike Sand but to have sand ballooning into the water is a major disaster. There would therefore be an absence of fish and that was confirmed by no fish being caught on either side of the river that week end.

Another point for consideration is that floods of 150 cumecs are insufficient to clear the river system of flood sediment as evidenced in the above example.

The variable flows of the river are vital for cleaning the river and also for angling. We strongly believe that the river has fulfilled its economic obligations to the community and should be left alone as is.

Sadly for us anglers the experts on sediment discharges have completely ignored the effects on fish and our angling environment. It is now time to stop this practice and require water right holders to factor cost to manage sediment outside the river system. The Rangitata River is not a rubbish dump!

We restate please No more sediment discharges back into our river!

No more!

The mighty Rangitata River is contributing significantly to the economy but enough is enough. No more water abstraction and no more sediment discharges into our river.

Recreational users are entitled to enjoy the outstanding features as highlighted under the Conservation Order. The slogan at that hearing was enough is enough yet today we fight again against 10 cumecs further water demands! We have already lost 20 cumecs to

Rangitata South Irrigation since the conservation order was won. It is simply not good enough and we are appealing today for protection of this fishery for future generations.

The conservation order was approved because of the significant characteristics this river carried. The Salmon fishery was one of these and yet today we are fighting for its very survival.

The intention behind the fish screen is to return more fish to the river. Returning them to the river at greater risk and exposure to high mortality is not a viable option.

We request your consideration on this matter.

No more water abstraction.

No more sediment discharge into this river.

Amen.

***TABLE [3]

ECAN RANGITATA RIVER FLOWS

Time and	69302 Rangitata River at Klondyke Discharge (m3/s)		Irrigation	Beach head Residual flow	
Date		12hr delay			
*****	[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	
16/03/2018 0:05	60.527	16/03/2018 12.05			Friday
				0	
16/03/2018 19:25	146.417	17/3/2018 7.25	55.7	90.717	****
16/03/2018 19:30	146.192				
16/03/2018 19:35	145.448				
16/03/2018 23:55	124.689	17/3/2018 11.55	48.6	76.089	****
17/03/2018 0:00	125.335				Saturday
17/03/2018 9:00	100.546	17/3/2018 21.00	35.7	64.846	
17/03/2018 23:55	79.108				
18/03/2018 0:00	79.164	18/03/2018 12.00			****
18/03/2018 9:00	74.082	18/3/2018 21.00			
19/03/2018 9:00	66.252	19/3/2018 21.00			
20/03/2018 9:00	79.893	20/3/2018 21.00			
21/03/2018 9:00	70.77	21/3/2018 21.00			
22/03/2018 9:00	93.902	22/3/2018 21.00			
23/03/2018 9:00	77.168	23/3/2018 21.00			
24/03/2018 9:00	71.316	24/3/2018 21.00			Saturday
25/03/2018 9:00	85.211	25/3/2018 21.00			
27/03/2018 9:00	81.197	27/3/2018 21.00			
28/03/2018 0:15	436.353	28/03/2018 12.15	55.7	380.653	****
28/03/2018 0:20	435.977				
28/03/2018 0:25	438.737				
28/03/2018 9:00	258.728	28/3/2018 21.00			
29/03/2018 9:00	134.988	29/3/2018 21.00			
30/03/2018 9:00	100.482	30/3/2018 21.00			
31/03/2018 9:00	86.578	31/3/2018 21.00			*** Saturday
01/04/2018 9:00	93.776	01/4/2018 21.00			
02/04/2018 9:00	77.113	02/4/2018 21.00			

[7] ***

The angler community are becoming increasingly concerned and frustrated over the management of Consent's and what we would suggest is unfair business practice.

We raise these points for your consideration because we believe that they are fundamental to the future of all fisheries.

We comment as follows specifically as it relates to the Rangitata/RDR.

Consent Breach V several years to build the fish screen

Sorry but the Salmon fishery does not have the time that is suggested by this consent.

It is our understanding that RDR Management were served with a breach notice on the current fish screen. That RDR Management are simply not complying with the consent and are in breach of the conditions.

We the Anglers have now found out that RDR Management have been let off because they have lodged this consent proposal. Please note that this approval is inclusive of several years' delay to develop.

Sorry but this is not fair play because again the fishery is the only one that loses out, yet again. Everyone seems to be comfortable and play games with the river/fishery and protect unconditionally the RDR system.

Please understand this important point these actions are killing the fishery.

As trustees of Salmon Riparian Support Trust and Salmon Anglers Assn we are aware of the state of the fishery and it is very bad news! We desperately need your help and not more nails to the coffin.

The Salmon fishery simply cannot survive unless there are protective measures put in place immediately. We need your help!

We the Anglers can recover from this position but it will be hard work

We will however need financial assistance in the intervening year to rear salmon smolt to compensate for these ongoing losses. The future fishery is dependent on RDR Management and other Irrigators compensating for smolt losses.

Unless that is done this outstanding feature of this river will be lost for future generations.

Please consider this request very seriously and require irrigators to honour their responsibilities to the river community.

[8] ***

Ownership and transfer of Water.

One of the very sad facts about hearings in the past is that too often issues are negotiated behind closed doors and anglers do not get notified nor consulted on.

We do not get advised of these issues and generally only find out through our own research.

As an example we refer to the deal between RDR Management, Ecan and Rangitata South Irrigation whereby during a maintenance period on the RDR water is able to be transferred and abstracted on the south side of the Rangitata.

We believe this issue was not spoken at hearings but negotiated after.

The Government states clearly that water is not owned by anybody so why has anyone got the right to transfer water.

Each consent should stand on its own and water not used by that body should be returned to the river, unconditionally.

Anglers want a fair and honest system but sorry that is not what we have received in the past.

The Rangitata Rivers needs to be living to provide any benefit to all the community therefore we ask that any surplus flows be returned to where it belongs.

Please no more in house deals, all issues must be debated openly, honestly and be transparent for all parties, it would be much appreciated.

Speaker; **Graham Parnell.**

Conclusion and summary

In all this we have a number of Bottom lines

The Intent and provisions of the WCO on the Rangitata river must be adhered to

No further abstraction from the Rangitata

No further discharges of sediment and debris to the river

100% effective fish screen at all existing irrigation intakes. No more juvenile salmon and other species lost to irrigation pumps, screens and on farmers paddocks.

Evidence and proof that all smolt are returned unharmed to river

Some form of mitigation for losses that have been sustained and will be sustained until screening is 100% compliant.

Variable river flows must continue. Floods and freshes are the lifeblood of the river

If I may be permitted to echo the words of the **Winnemem Wintu tribe (Native Americans)**

Do you listen when Salmon speak.

"In a time long ago, when the waters flowed free, my ancestors swam home to bring life to me. There were thousands, no hundreds of thousands of my brothers and sisters. We swam in the cold, clear, flowing water rushing down to the sea. There we would grow and thrive. Then winter was coming and it was time to go home, back to the streams

where life began, to start the cycle over again. Such peace and harmony, the way things should be, the cycle of life that renews all things.”

“That time is long lost now. The builders came. They took away our streams, our homes, and our nurseries. Now we are few, struggling to survive. With each passing cycle our numbers grow fewer. One day soon, we will be no more. The cycle of life will have ended.”

When salmon speak, do you listen? They have been telling us for years that what is happening around us in the name of progress, is not progress at all, but the beginning of the end of the cycle of life. They have been telling us that the dams and irrigation schemes that take away their homes are slowly killing them – driving them to the point of extinction. They have been telling us that the waters are no longer cold and clear as they die in the summer heat. They have been telling us that the trees are disappearing and the erosion of the earth is filling our rivers and streams. They have been telling us! Who is listening?

In conclusion, we firmly believe that the Rangitata river is now at a crossroad, to allow more water to be abstracted will be the eventual demise of the river as we know it. We have no doubt, that if more water is allowed to be removed from this river, under the protection of a Conservation Order, then the flood gates will have been opened and you will find a raft of further applications for more and more water on the desks at the Regional Council’s office in the next few years. We desperately plea for the life of this river to be spared. We ask on behalf of all the creatures that call the river home, on behalf of all the birds and fish that inhabit its waters and environment and on behalf of all human beings whose ancestors discovered this land, populated it, and derive sustenance from it. We should learn from the examples of overseas where pollution, and irresponsible land use have caused devastation to communities and local populations.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this submission.

Phil deJoux, Alan Brooks, Graham Parnell.

May 2018.



