On behalf of Save the Rivers Mid Canterbury Inc

My name is Ian Hedley Watson

I am a foundation member of Save the Rivers Mid Canterbury Incorporated.

I was elected as the first President of Save the Rivers in 1981.

Ever since then, I have been campaigning to keep water in our local rivers and lakes to maintain a balanced quality of life for all New Zealanders who use them for recreation.

I was fortunate to be born into a family that valued our rivers and waterways for recreation.

My childhood memories are of going to the Hinds River for swimming, fishing and generally enjoying the outdoors, gaining skills and confidence in allowing me to take responsibility for my own health and wellbeing.

From the Hinds River it was then to the Rangitata River. We used to spend most of our summer holidays there, initially in tents at the camping ground then later in the better accommodation in the hut settlement on the north side of the river. My family have owned holiday homes in this settlement since 1925 until this present day.

I have used all of the braided rivers in Canterbury for recreation, fishing, hunting etc. In my evidence to the Environment Court for the Conservation Order on the Rangitata River I listed what my family valued the Rangitata River for:

"A FAMILY THAT PLAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER"

The things we do at and value the Rangitata River for:

Fishing: Salmon, trout (sea run and resident), herring, whitebait, eels, flounder, silveries, cock-a-bullies and numerous sea fish species.

Boating: Row boats, out-board boats, canoes, jet boats, wind-surfing, water skiing, tobogganing and rafting on tubes.

Bonfires and bar-b-ques on the beach, socialising, children's sports day, motor bike riding, beach buggies, hunting deer and chamois and thar in the headwaters, rabbit shooting, duck shooting, tramping, beach combing, photography, bird watching and camping.

As you can see we have had many **quality times** at the river together as a family.

It would take many hours to tell you about all the special times we have had over so many years. The fact that, after all these years, we still greatly enjoy going to the river together speaks for itself!

At present I am enjoying the Rangitata River with my 5 grandchildren, teaching them the skills I am able to pass on from the knowledge I have gained through the generations of association with the river.

I have been fortunate to have lived when I have and been able to enjoy the many outstanding recreational, wildlife and cultural values that the Rangitata River has afforded me over my lifetime of 69 years.

TABLED AT HEARING

Application: RORMC

Joint hearing

Date: 2/5/2018

The key objective of Fish and Game for a Conservation Order for the Rangitata River was to quote: *"Seek to establish adequate protection of the natural, wild and scenic characteristics of the Rangitata River together with its fisheries, recreational, spiritual and cultural values".*

I supported the application and made submissions to the Special Tribunal and the Environment Court. I am 69 years old and have spent most of my life fishing and appreciating what this magnificent river has to offer. Over this lifetime of living on the river I have personally experienced all the things that Fish and Game sought to protect. Over these many years I have acquired a tremendous knowledge about the Rangitata River.

Fish and Game recognised the existing consents to take water for irrigation, stockwater and electricity generation but opposed further abstraction of water because it sought to establish adequate protection of the wild and scenic attraction and other qualities of the river. They also sought a cap on abstraction to limit the take of water to be 35.7 cumecs. This was the decision of the Special Tribunal in the Draft Order. Unfortunately the Final Order did not include this protection. By not limiting the amount of water that can be abstracted over 110 cumec, (at Klondyke), it provides opportunities to take all the water in the river above 110 cumecs and, obviously, this will destroy the many outstanding features which Fish and Game sought to protect.

"A little bit more of a little bit less".

This quotation is a very true and correct description of how so many rivers in Cantrbury have been destroyed. In my lifetime I have seen river such as the Hinds, Opihi, Orari, Ashburton, Pareora and Selwyn all degraded because of over allocation of water to out of stream use.

The Effects of Taking More Water

The effects of what I believe an additional 10 cumecs abstracted from the river **will** have on angling and the river below Klondyke are:

1 It must be remembered that at Klondyke the river is nearly always in one channel whereas in the lower river below SH1 there can be up to 13 braids. When river flow drops suddenly this most braided section of the river changes dramatically. Some braids will dry up completely whilst all other braids will have a reduction of water and depth which impedes salmon migration.

2 The river will not be able to transport sediment loadings the same because there is less water flow. This has been most noticeable since South Rangitata Irrigation Limited have been abstracting 20 cumecs of water when the flow at Klondyke is above 110 cumecs. There is more build-up of sand and quicksand in the lagoon tidal area and other places throughout the river.

This build-up of sand and reduction in river flow results in the mouth drifting northwards. The build-up of sand and the ponding of water in the lagoon area poses major problems for both hut settlements on each side of the river mouth. When flood flows reach the estuarine area, as well as upstream, it cannot shift this build-up of sand and the water rises rapidly

and up to 30 huts in the southern settlement can be flooded. The water also gets into the northern settlement area. In recent years ECan have had to mechanically open the mouth to prevent this flooding.

It is most noticeable when the river flow drops quickly that sand and other sediment start to be deposited and build-up on the river edge and out to the slower moving water.

3 The larger stones and boulders will not be carried over the rapids and this will cause bars between runs of water to form.

This build-up of stones on the bars will slow and change water direction. The change in river flow and direction changes how salmon migrate. A nice stretch of salmon angling water can be good one day and different the next. A reduction in water flow and build-up of sand and stones deteriorates the angling amenity values.

The most important river flows for developing salmon fishing pools and runs is on the falling hydrograph of the river flows from 150 cumecs down to when the present river flow becomes spin fishable for salmon. ie 100 down to 90 cumecs as measured at Klondyke.

The proposed 10 cumecs reduction in river flow would change how pools and runs develop. Because of reduced flow and high turbidity, salmon could migrate through the lower river. For a given flow the turbidity would be higher than previously and too high for anglers to catch salmon. Changing the important natural characteristics of the river could change the way salmon migrate and also how salmon are caught.

River mouth and lower up-stream anglers may find that by the time the turbidity is clear enough to catch salmon the salmon have migrated through this area when it was too turbid to be fishable.

4 It would also change the way people fish at the river mouth, tidal and riffle parts of the river. With less river flow the sea and tide would become more dominant. For the same turbidity the river flow would be less.

Where a whitebaiter, trout or salmon angler may now fish would be made different and could change the whole dimension of whether they are successful in catching these fish. In short, the amenity value to anglers would be changed and diminished.

5 By abstracting water from a braided river you change the whole character of the river. It is this that the Rangitata Water Conservation Order seeks to protect.

There is plenty of supporting evidence in other Canterbury rivers that I used to enjoy fishing.

When river flows have been over allocated to out of stream use the rivers, such as the Ashburton, Hinds, Orari, Opihi, and Selwyn have all gone from being tremendous fishing rivers to hopeless fishing rivers. This, in turn, has put huge angling pressure on the Rangitata River.

When the Rangitata River Water Conservation Order was gazetted, in 2006, there was a total of 30.7 cumecs of water abstracted from the river by RDRML. If consent is granted for another 10 cumecs to RDRML that plus the 20 cumecs already recently. (2010), granted to

South Rangitata Irrigation Limited, plus other small takes, it adds up to 65.7 cumecs being abstracted from the river.

This is a huge amount of water from a river with a mean annual flow of 95 cumecs.

RDRML also have an existing consent to take up to 7.1 cumecs of water from the South Branch of the Ashburton River.

Salmon Migration

Salmon migration is different from spring to autumn. In spring and early summer, (November and December), good cold river flows allow salmon to migrate through the lower braids unrestricted.

Because river flow is generally higher and the water cooler when early salmon get the current on their nose they race up through the lower braided section of the river.

Late autumn salmon are the opposite. These salmon battle prolonged periods of low flow and higher water temperature. They are reluctant to travel through the very low and braided sections of the river. They tend to hover around the river mouth, trading in and out of the lagoon and sea. This occurs when the river has been low and clear and the water temperature too warm for them to start their migration. They must wait for a fresh, (a rise in river flow), in the river.

It is river flow from 110 cumecs up to more than 200 cumecs, (these are not flood flows), that are very important to get this late run of salmon through the most braided sections of the river. If the flow drops off too quickly the salmon can get trapped in open sections of the river with nowhere to hold up or hide. If the proposed extra 10 cumecs was granted then the minimum flows restrictions, for February through to April, would need to be raised to allow for salmon migration.

On March 16th 2018 the Rangitata had a rise in river flow, as measured at Klondyke, from 50 cumecs to 150 cumecs. In angling terms there was "a fresh" in the river.

It is this sort of increase in flow of water that I believe is important for salmon migration during February, March and April.

See the flow sheets, (included), to see how the allocation to South Rangitata Irrigation and the requested extra take of 10 cumecs above 132 cumecs by RDRML changes the residual flow in the river.

The natural river flow has increased from 50 to 150 cumecs – important flow rates for salmon migration.

	Take (cumecs)	River Flow (cumecs)
Natural flow at Klondyke		150
Less already consented RDRML take	35.7	
Less already consented SRIL take	20.0	
Less proposed extra RDRML take	10.0	
Total (proposed) take	65.7	
Residual flow (below SRIL) in river		85

The flows above 85 cumecs are the most important for salmon migration in the late summer and autumn months.

This extra flow of water, that only lasts for a couple of days is so important in getting late runs of salmon through the braided sections of the river.

The included flow sheets also show how the river is shared.

Sand Trap – Sand in the River

RDRML are seeking to discharge silt and sand into the Rangitata River.

Some of this sediment would be a by-product of them taking an extra 10 cumecs of water for the proposed mega storage lake.

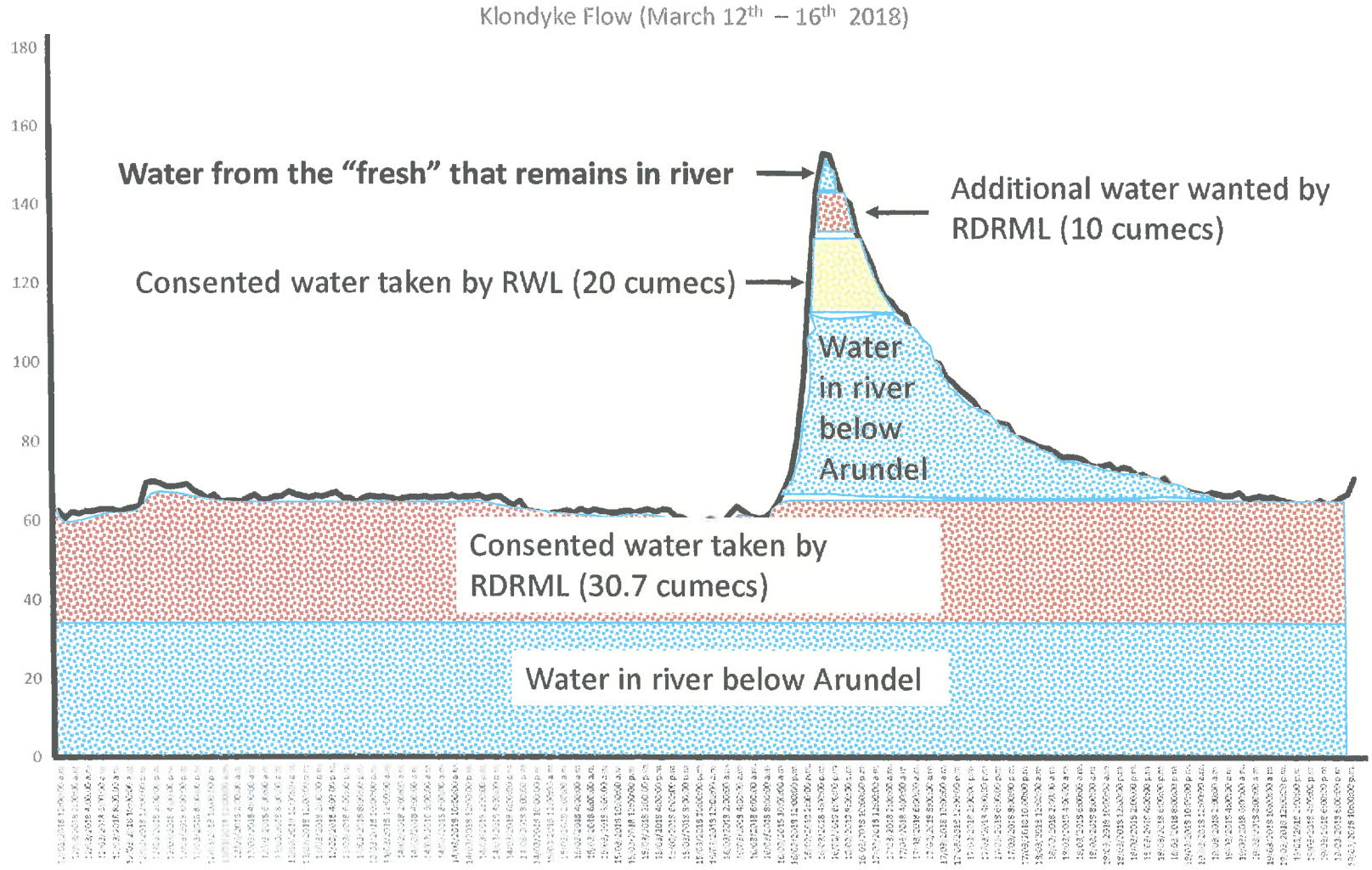
Sand already in the river system is a nuisance after floods. It creates large areas of quicksand throughout the river system and in the lagoon area of the river mouth. This build-up of sand directly leads to flooding in the settlements on both the north and south sides of the river mouth.

The proposed dumping of sand and other sediment to the river increases sediment loadings in the natural river flows and would be a cost and nuisance to river users below the sluicing channel. It is extremely dangerous if people get bogged in it because it is nearly impossible to get out of. The more you struggle, the more you sink! On a number of occasions, I have had to get out of my body waders and, lying flat across the sand, crawl to safety. Retrieving my waders has been a mission in itself!

I have also had my motorbike and Polaris bogged in quicksand many times, over the years, when using river for recreation. On other occasions I have helped other people get motorbikes and 4WDs out of the sand. It can be very frightening and in some cases life threatening.

The sand that builds up in the trap presents a great opportunity for RDRML to find commercial use for it. If there is no commercial use then it needs to be classed as rubbish and disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner.

The direct dumping of sand, and other sediment that deposits in the sand trap and proposed storage lake, into the river would increase sediment loading of the natural river flows and would be a nuisance and cost to users down-stream. It is simply a health and safety issue for people using the river.


Klondyke Flow (March 12th – 16th 2018)
180
160
140
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
Water from the "fresh" that remains in river
Additional water wanted by RDRML (10 cumecs)
Consented water taken by RWL (20 cumecs)
Water in river below Arundel
Consented water taken by RDRML (30.7 cumecs)
Water in river below Arundel

Summary – Another 10 cumecs

"A little bit more of a little bit less"

If the RDRML proposal to take another 10 cumecs was granted it would mean a total of up to 65.7 cumecs of water could be taken from the river.

This would result in the once mighty Rangitata River being unable to perform as it used to. It will not be able to transport all grades of sediment, sand, gravel, stones, rocks, and boulders right throughout its river system.

The shingle banks along the coast will, over time, get smaller and the size of rocks and boulders there will decrease. The cliff faces will get eroded more quickly by pounding southerly storms.

The shingle bank protecting the lagoon tidal area will not be as high or robust. At time of strong southerly storms waves will surge across the shingle bank and erode the foreshore.

There will be more ponding of water in the lagoon area and more flooding of huts in both settlements.

Autumn salmon migration will be affected by less and lower freshes.

The sea and tide will have more dominance because there will be less river flow and reduced current in braids. There will be more ponding of water at high tides.

The riffle areas at the top of the lagoon will become too shallow and slack for good trout fishing.

Whitebaiters will have less current allowing whitebait to go around nets.

Please don't grant anymore water. The river is already struggling!

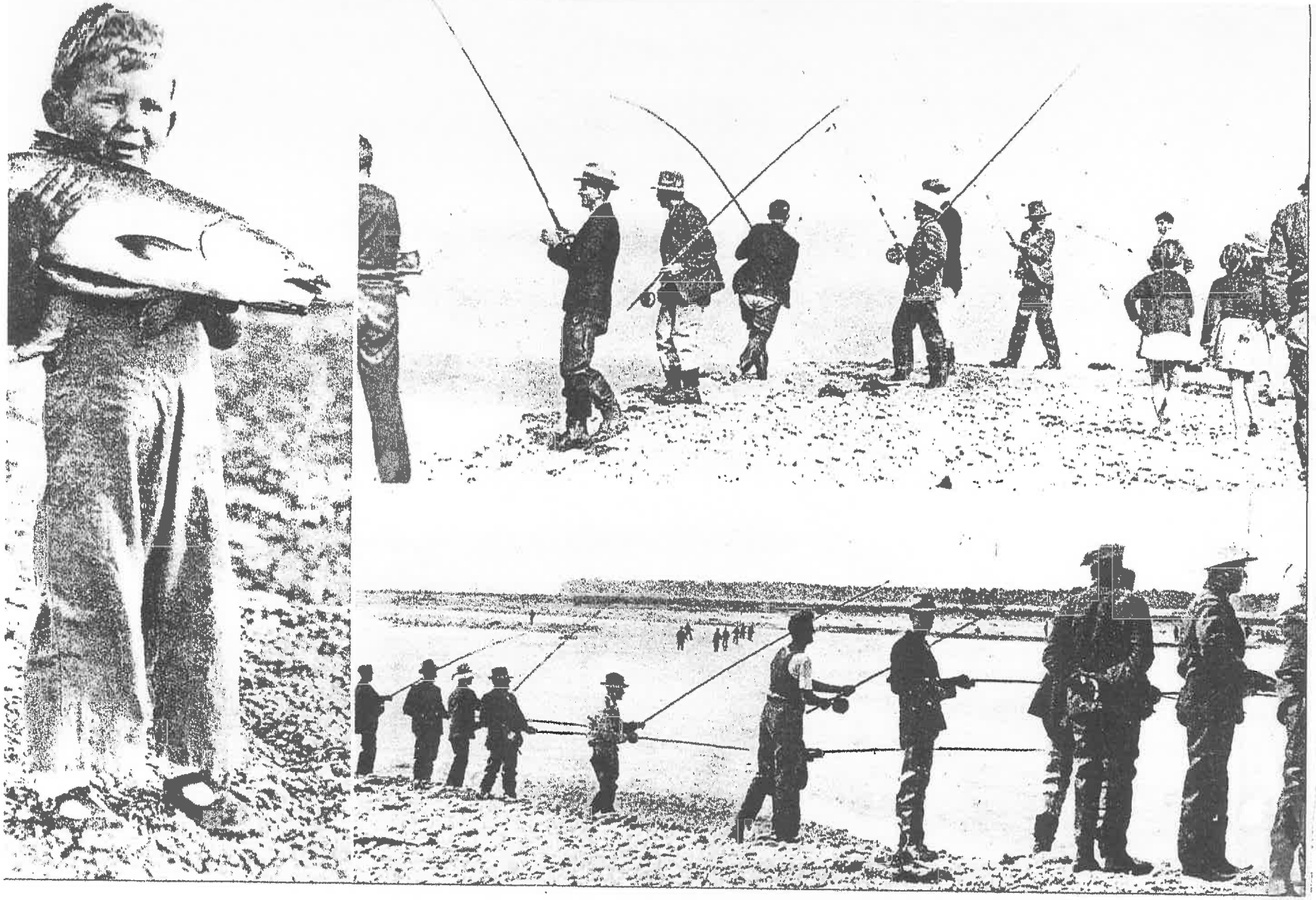
THE RANGITATA RIVER

This river means so much to us
It has been part of our lives for five generations, spanning 93 years
It draws us to its water
It holds a spell over our lives
We love this river
We stay by it
We play in it
We listen to it
We learn from it
We understand this river and the secrets it releases
We gather food from it
We recharge our batteries from it
We sustain our work effort from it

This river needs its water to take care of itself
The river has to right for water to stay in its own bed
Water is the life blood of it
Water is a living thing – you have to treat it as such .....
Treat it as if it has a mind and soul of its own

This river is under stress
Don't let it die – part of us will die with it ....
It's calling out for help
We must help this river before it is too late

The future of this river lies with you. **We make this plea to not grant the taking of more water from it so that future generations of our families and other New Zealanders can enjoy this magnificent river for many years to come.**

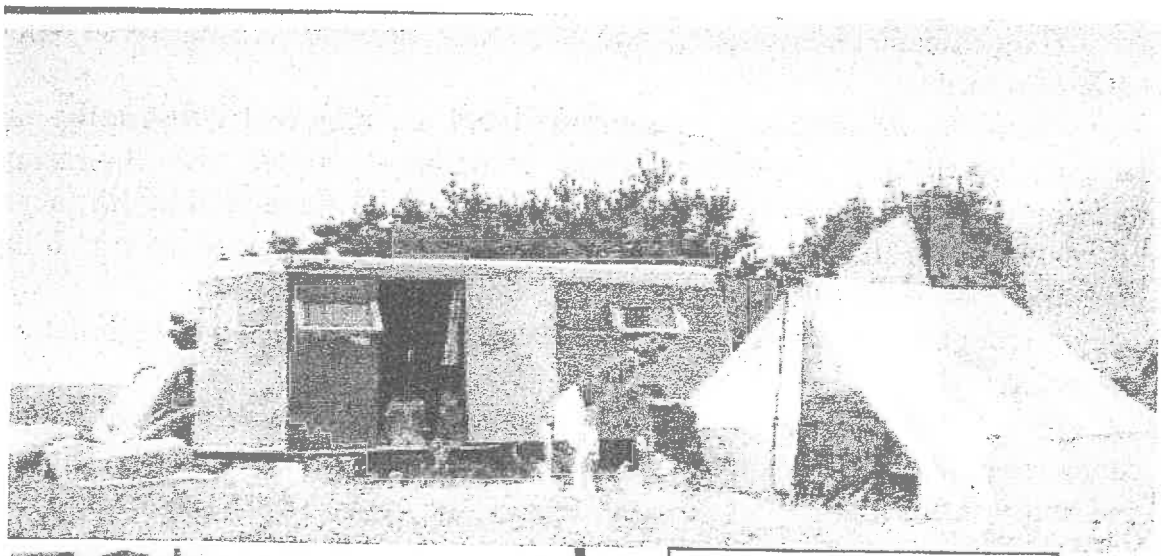


EN THE SALMON ARE RUNNING: ANGLERS HAVE GOOD SPORT AT THE MOUTH OF THE RANGITATA RIVER, SOUTH CANTERBURY

sting view as anglers congregate at the mouth of the Rangitata River during this season's run of salmon. Some large and good-conditioned ave been taken. **Left:** A small boy with a large catch. **Top right:** Rods are lifted while an angler with a catch passes through to a pace. **Bottom right:** The line of anglers at the mouth of the river.

River mouth 1935

Hedley Watson trout fishing. Murial and Stan Watson whitebaiting



Above: Camping at river

Left: Hedley Watson with Children.
Shirley, Ian, Russell

Born to fish the Rangitata River

Debbie, Tori and Max Watson

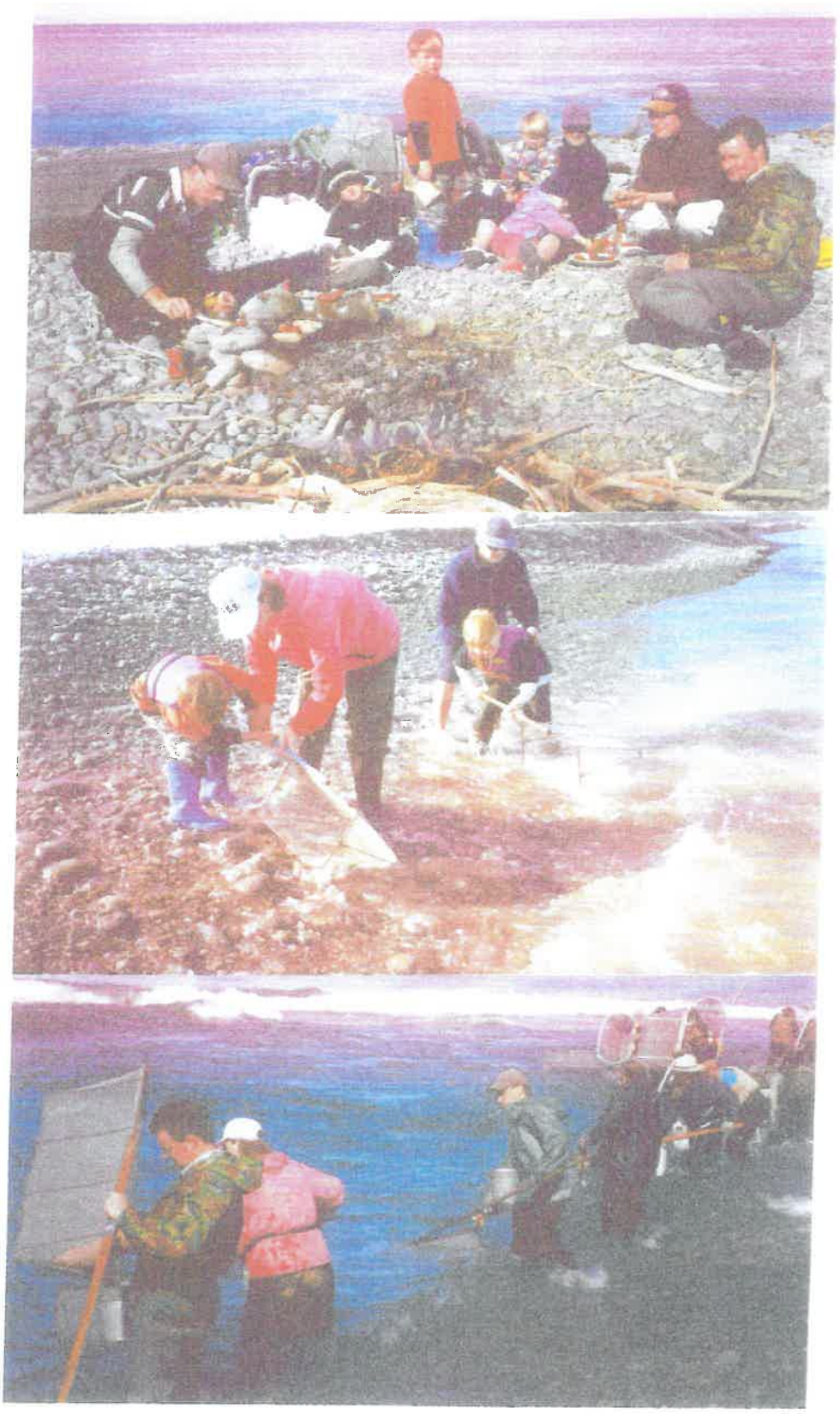
Travis Howden

Jared Howden

Bailee Howden

Sharon Watson

Andrew Watson
Ian Watson



A family that plays together, stays together.

The Rangitata River is **Nationally** and **Internationally** important for its braided river system, wildlife, fisheries, and recreational values. It plays a very important part in many peoples lives.
The Ashburton District Proposed District Plan states --- (Page 20)

'It is the braided rivers traversing the plains, and their mouths, which are of significant conservation value as they provide habitat for a wide variety of birds.
The Rangitata, Rakaia, and Ashburton rivers are regarded **Nationally** and **Internationally** as important areas, providing habitats for threatened indigenous birds, (such as the wrybill plover, the banded dotteril, black billed gulls and the South Island pied oystercatcher) as well as providing breeding and feeding grounds for trout, salmon, and water fowl.
These rivers are also of value for their recreational activities and high natural character.'
The plan, (page 23) also calls for the preservation of the remaining natural character of the districts coastal environment and its lakes, rivers, wetlands and their margins.

The Ashburton District Council's Annual Plan 1999 / 2000 states – The Rakaia and **Rangitata rivers are world renown for salmon fishing between November and April.**
The 2000 / 2001 plan states – **'Many visitors fish our famous rivers and lakes'**

The Canterbury Regional Council is seeking to preserve the natural character of the region's rivers, wetlands, lakes and their margins, and to protect their inhabitants.

It is clear from these statements that the **Rangitata River is of National and International importance.**

Three generations: Andrew Ian and Hedley Watson.

Andrew Watson—24lb salmon

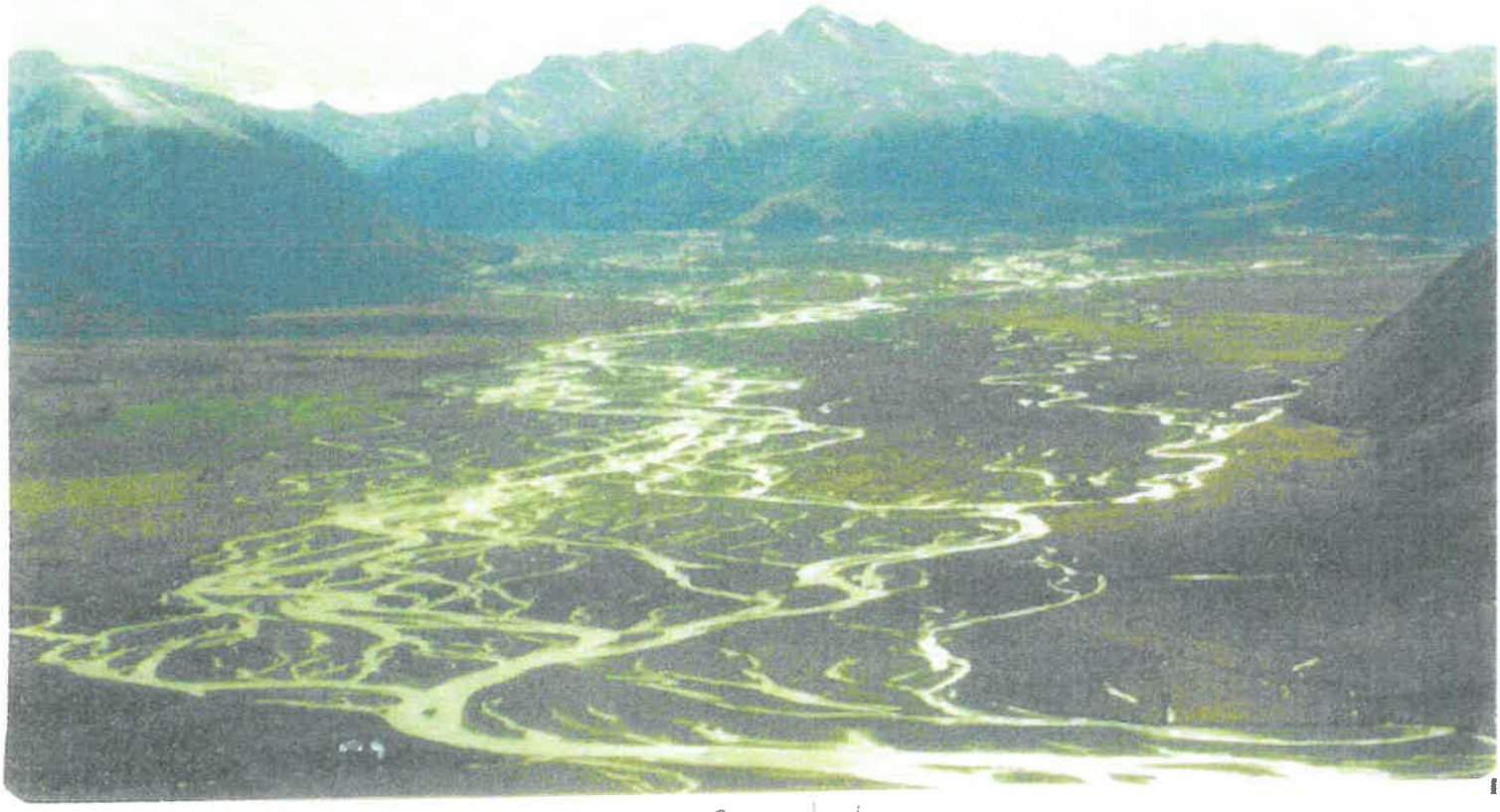
Ian Watson—37lb salmon


CYCLONE 150N
RFD

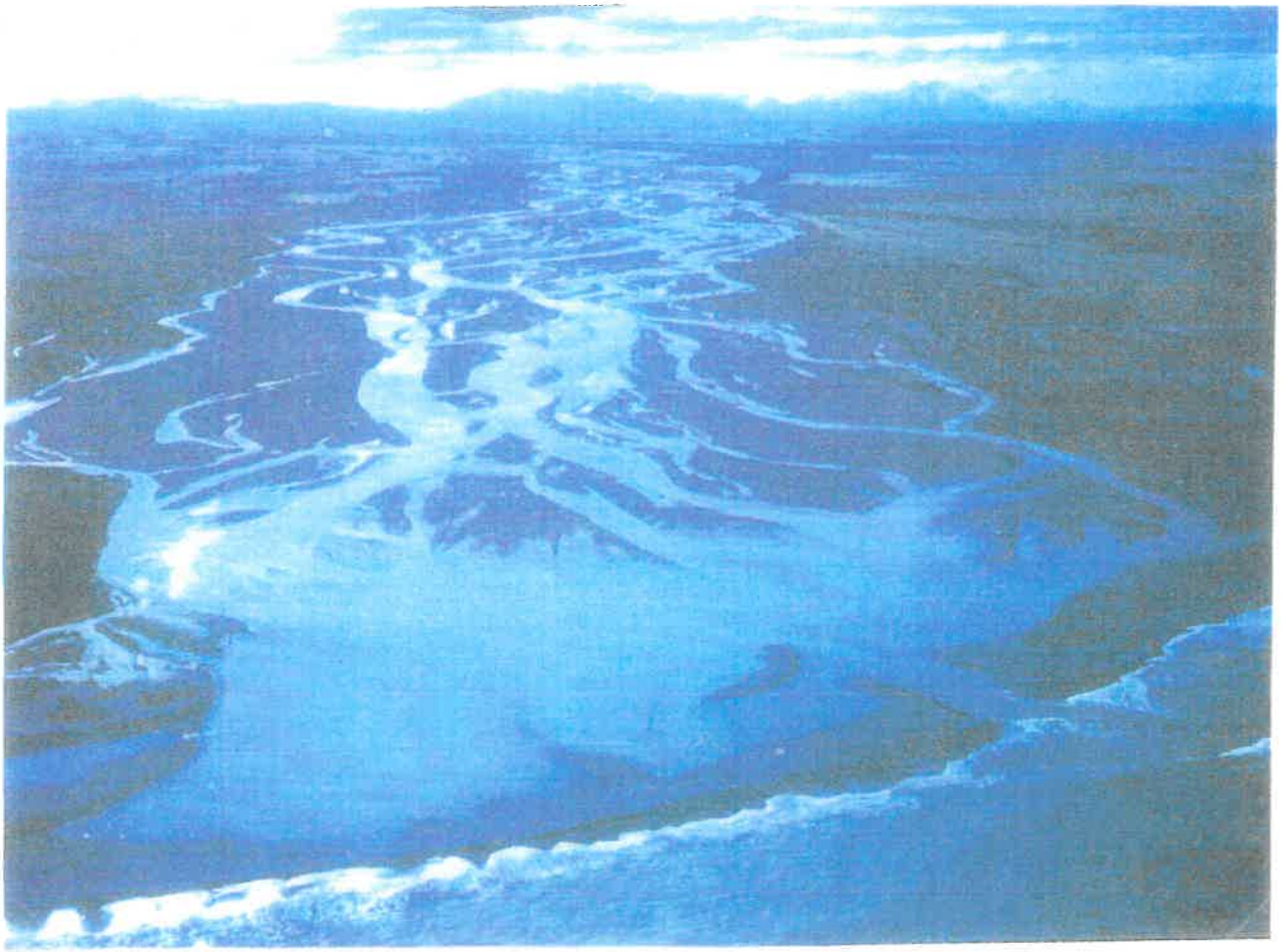
Rangitata diversion race intake, Oct 1990

Top-Banded Dotteral
Middle-Wrybill Plover
Bottom-Black Billed Gull

American Anglers
Mike Christeana
Clarke Hall

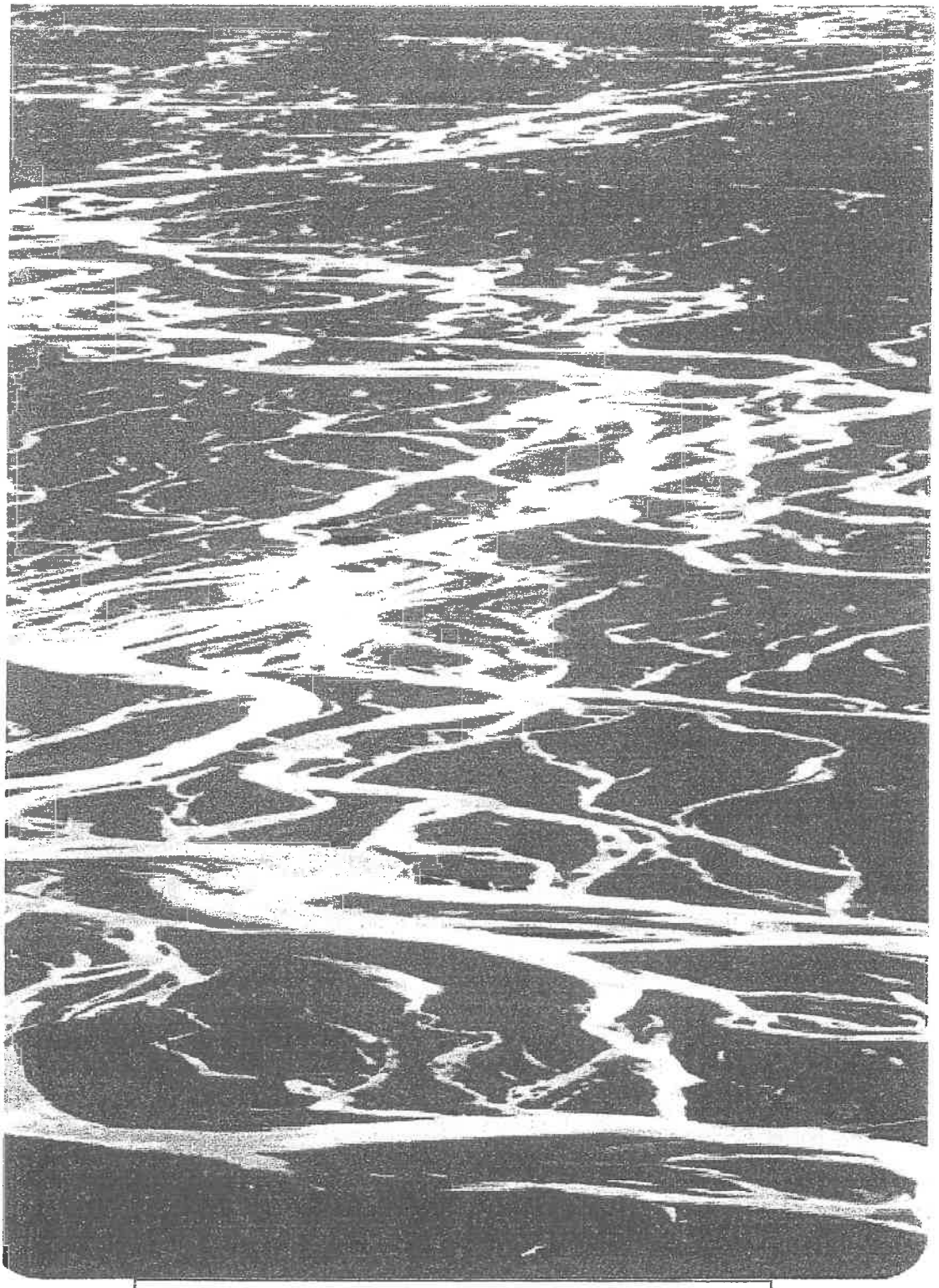


Upper Rangitata

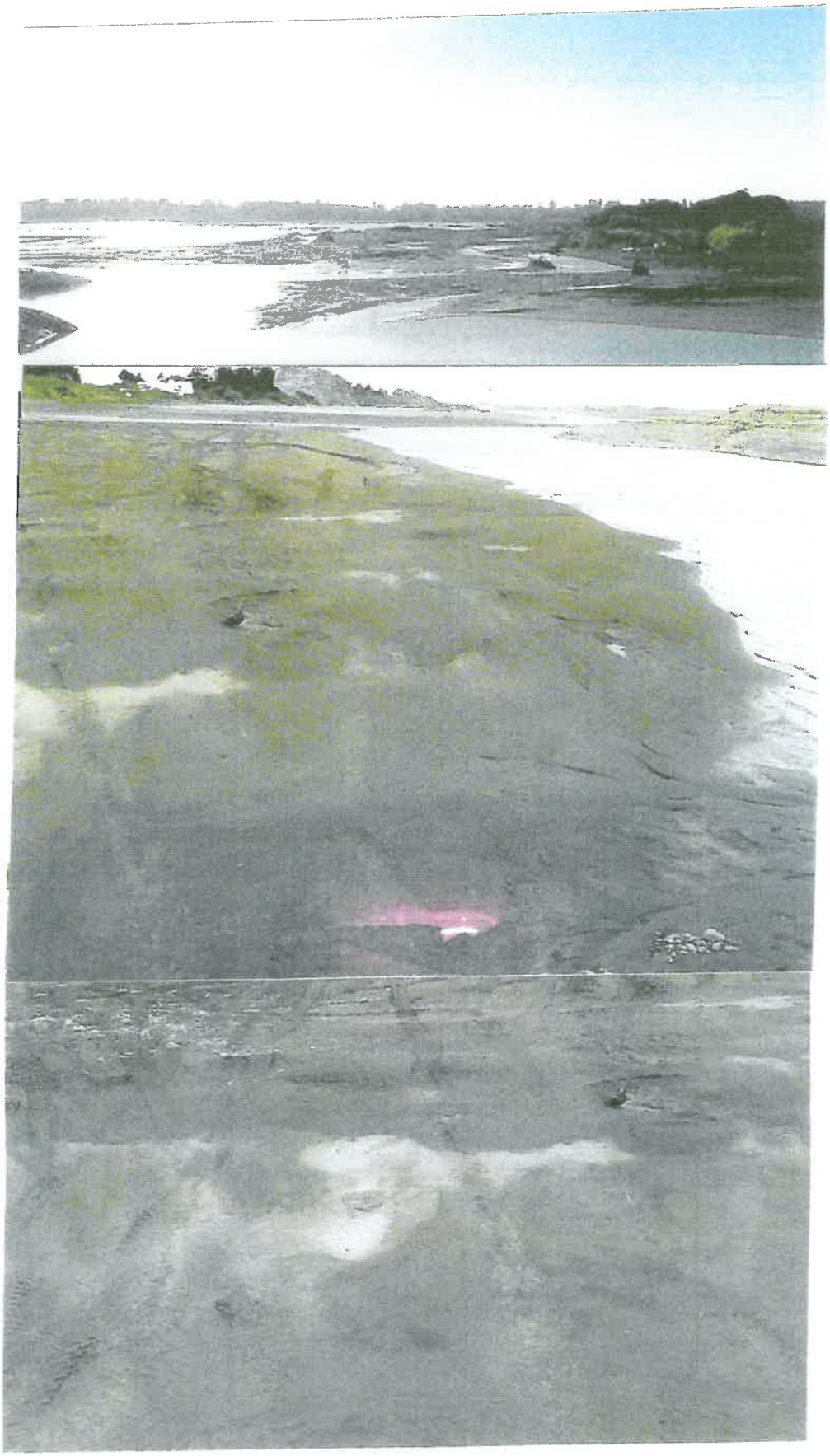


Lower Rangitata

Rangitata River



May the many braids continue to flow



RANGER
G. Ranger

CON520: SUBMISSION ON RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATION

(SECTION 96 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991)

TO: Consents Manager
Environment Canterbury
P O Box 345
CHRISTCHURCH 8140

Email: [illegible]@ecan.govt.nz

Ph: (03) 353 9007 Fax: (03) 365 3194

OR: submit by completing an on-line form at:
http://www.ecan.govt.nz/news-and-notices/notices/

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

FILE:CRC182535

Closing Date:**5.00pm Monday 19 February 2018**

Submitter Details

Full Name of Submitter(s)/Organisation: Ian Hedley WATSON

Postal Address For Service: P.O Box 5040 Tinwald

Contact Phone No(s): 03 3080261 0274308613

Fax/Email: Maxian @ Kinect.CO.NZ

☐ Please tick this box if you do not want to receive any communication on the process, and hearing via email

Contact Person: Ian WATSON

Name of applicant: **Rangitata Diversion Race Management Limited**

Applications to Environment Canterbury

☐ All of the applications as listed below OR only those as ticked.

☑	CRC182535	Discharge permit -	discharge water via the fish bypass return
☑	CRC182536	Water permit -	for a non-consumptive take
☑	CRC182537	Land use -	disturb the bed of the river
☑	CRC182538	Discharge permit -	temporarily discharge sediment
☑	CRC182539	Land use -	extract gravel for construction and maintenance
☑	CRC182540	Land use -	to use land for earthworks
☐	CRC182541	Discharge permit -	emergency discharge of water
☑	CRC182542	Water permit -	change of conditions to enable use of alternative fish screen
☐	CRC182630	Water permit -	to use water for storage
☐	CRC182631	Water permit -	use water for irrigation, stockwater and electricity generation

☑ I / We support the application ☐ I / We oppose the application ☐ I / We are neutral to the application (neither support or oppose)

☑ I / We **do** wish to be heard in support of my/our submission*

(Note: this means you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing)

*If others make a similar submission, I will consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing ☐ Yes ☐ No

OR

☐ I / We **do not** wish to be heard in support of my/our submission

(Note: this means that you cannot speak at the hearing, however you will retain your right to appeal any decision to the Environment Court on any decision made by the Council.)

8007799 00042 0033

☐ LUC17/0122 Land use – non compliances associated with construction and operation of a fish screen

☐ I / We support the application ☐ I / We oppose the application ☐ I / We are neutral to the application (neither support or oppose)

☐ I /We **do** wish to be heard in support of my/our submission*
(Note: this means you wish to speak in support of your submission at the hearing)
*If others make a similar submission, I will consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing ☐ Yes ☐ No

OR

☐ I / We **do not** wish to be heard in support of my/our submission
(Note: this means that you cannot speak at the hearing, however you will retain your right to appeal any decision to the Environment Court on any decision made by the Council.)

2. The reasons for making my submission are: *(state in summary the nature of your submission, giving reasons)*

Because I am very dissapointed about the efficientay of the existing Bio Accoustic Fish Fence at times is 5% and the loss of down stream miagrating salmon smelt that are lost to the outstanding Salmon fishery that is protected by a National Conservation Order

See attached additional pages

Please attach additional pages if required

3. I wish the consent authority to make the following decision: *(give details, including the general nature of any conditions sought)*

Instruct RDRML to replace the sceen with a new rotary screen or screens. Have conditions that the screens is always working at 100%. To return salmon smelt & other fish back to the river un harmed. That the screens to be installed and running 100% within 12 months.
If RDRML can not achieve this then they should stop taking water from the River, untill they can. The granting of the consent must be within the terms and conditions of the Rangitata River Conservation order.

5. ☐ I/We am/am not a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308B of the Resource Management Act 1991. I/We am/am not directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that (a) adversely affects the environment and (b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.

L H Watson

Signature of submitter or duly authorised agent on behalf of submitter

Date 13/02/18

Notes to the submitter:

1. *The person making this submission must send a copy to the applicant as soon as reasonably practicable after serving Environment Canterbury*
2. *A list of all submissions received will be provided to the applicant.*
3. *Please be aware that third parties may request a copy of submissions received and that request is subject to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.*

The address for service of the applicant is:
Rangitata Diversion Race Management Limited
c/- C/O Mr Gavin Kemble, Ryder Consulting Limited, PO Box 13009, Tauranga 3141.
Or Email: g.kemble@ryderconsulting.co.nz

I have read the application as listed. I am in support of some and oppose others. I have ticked the ones that I support and crossed the ones that I oppose.

I support the application by RDRML to remove the present fish screen, (because it has sometimes been only 5% efficient), and replace it with a mechanical rotary fish screen. Continuing to operate the existing non-compliant fish screen must be in breach of the Rangitata Conservation Order and RMA. The proposed new screen should be installed as soon as possible. The new screen should be flawless in design, construction and operation and effectively prevent all fish from entering the diverted RDR water and return them unharmed back into the river.

I oppose a 5 year lapse period for the commissioning of the new screen because the salmon fishery of the Rangitata River is at an all-time low and the existing inefficient fish screen is adding to the downturn. I want the new fish screen to be up and running within one year. There must be a firm date set and a penalty clause if the date is not met.

The salmon fishery is a naturally important feature of the river and is protected under the conservation order.

CRC182535 Discharge permit – support.

The water should be discharged in a way that allows fish to be returned to the river unharmed and there should be no chance of predation of fish while they are in the by-pass channel. Fish should be prevented from coming up the discharge channel from the river. The quality of the water in the canal should not be altered from that in the river, (eg no rise in temperature, discolouration or laden it with additional silt.

CRC182536 Water permit for non-consumptive take – support.

This will mean that the 5 cumecs taken from the river will be used to return fish back to the river, without change in turbidity or temperature of the water.

CRC182537 Land use to disturb the bed of the river – support.

Provided that any disturbance of the bed is such that if the natural river clarity will change then the work should only be done when there is minimal adverse impact on recreational use, wildlife, fishery or naturalness of the river. These are outstanding features of the river and the Rangitata Conservation Order seeks to protect them.

CRC182541 Emergency discharge of water – oppose.

On the grounds of health and safety for those in the spill area. There is no assurance on how this will happen or how people on the river will be notified in the event of an emergency discharge.

CRC182630 To use water for storage – oppose.

I object to the proposal to the extra 10 cumecs that RDRML have applied for because it compromises the high standard of naturalness protected in the Rangitata Conservational Order. It is a health and safety issue. It creates a huge risk for people and property. At present there is low or no risk. In the event of a major earthquake there could be catastrophic loss of life and property damage.

CRC182542 Water permit change of conditions.

Any change of conditions must be such that the fish screen and by-pass is designed, constructed, operated and maintained to be 100% efficient.

CRC182631 Use water for irrigation, stock-water and electricity – oppose.

This is to restrict the use of natural water. It is also not a complete description of what the water may be used for. I understand there is an intention to build a white water kayak/canoe course. I am sure some people would use the water in the canals and storage lake for such things as white-water canoeing, boating rafting, windsurfing, swimming, fishing, shooting etc. If these are some of the intended uses of the water they should be included in the application for the use of the water.

CRC182631 To use water for irrigation, stockwater and hydroelectricity generation.

I oppose the water, By RDRML, because it is a too restricted use of such a large volume of natural water.

It appears that RDRML intend to exclude the general public form the use of water except white water rafters or invited guests to use the natural water on private land.

The RDRML storage proposal would have a surface area of approximately 125 hectares. This is surely not classed as a pond.

Lake Camp has a surface area of 44 Ha and Lake Hood has a surface area of 80 Ha.

Lake Opuha is a 700 Ha lake, built for the storage of water for irrigation and to supplement low river flows in the Opihi River.

All of these man-made lakes are filled with natural water that no single person has a right to own or call theirs.

RDRML are applying to take another 10 cumecs on top of their present consented take of 33 cumecs. This would mean that they would, at times, have 43 cumecs of Rangitata water to fill their proposed lake.

By allowing up to 43 cumecs of water to be abstracted from a river that has a Water Conservation Order on it would surely compromise some, if not all, of the outstanding features that the Order seeks to protect.

Historically, RDRML have abstracted water from the river without an efficient fish screen and from my lifetime of using and fishing the river this has had a detrimental effect on the outstanding salmon fishery that the RWCO seeks to protect.

It is estimated that 200 000 salmon smolts per year are lost to the fishery by being diverted down the RDR system.

If you multiply the number lost per year by the number of years they have been taken you get a massive loss of about 16 million fish!

So it can be said that the RDRML water take, over the last 80 odd years, has certainly had a diminishing effect on the outstanding fishery.

It has been my observation that people are using private on-farm storage ponds for fishing and other recreational activities. Lake Hood and Lake Opuha certainly provide for a wide range of recreational activities. The 43 cumecs that RDRML would like to have to fill their storage lake is for no recreational activities other than a white water course. This is far too narrow a use of water from such an important natural braided river.

RDRML should not be allowed to use water from the Rangitata River to fill a huge storage lake. To do that would affect so many outstanding natural and recreational aspects of the nationally important, braided, Rangitata River.

Summary

RDRML are too narrow in their use of taking natural water for just irrigation, stockwater and electricity. They intend to build a white-water course but there is a natural white-water canoe

course in the river already, just below Klondyke– it has been used for the commonwealth games. It is one of the many outstanding features of the river.

If the consent for a mega storage lake was granted then RDRML have the opportunity and should be required to provide for a range of uses such as are available at Lake Opuha, Lake Hood and the McKenzie canals and lakes.

To be permitted to create such a large lake, with natural water, and provide for only a single recreational opportunity, (a white water course), is not good enough or acceptable. Is would be better to leave the water in the river where it is valued and used by so many people for a wide range of recreational activities.

CRC182542 Change of conditions to enable use of alternative fish screen

I **support** the application.

RDRML's record of abstracting water from the Rangitata River, over many years, without operating an effective fish screen to stop adult salmon migrating upstream and salmon smolts migrating downstream being lost into the RDR system has been nothing less than woeful! Their attitude towards this nationally important salmon fishery is absurd and must not be tolerated any longer.

The toll of allowing so many fish, over 71 years, has had a huge effect on the present downturn of the salmon fishery.

It is common knowledge that, over the years, millions of downstream migrating salmon smolts have either ended up on farm paddocks or locked up in irrigation storage ponds.

I have also seen salmon and trout trapped in irrigation races when the water was turned off at the end of an irrigation season. Fish and Game have had salvage operations to recover some of these fish and return them to the river.

Every effort should be made to recover fish trapped in storage ponds and return them back to the river where they belong.

The need for an effective fish screen is urgent.

It should be installed within 12 months.

Every effort should also be made to stop this seasons downstream wild migration smolts from being diverted into the RDR system. If this is not possible then traps should be set up to stop them getting into irrigation ponds. Trapped fish should be returned to the river.

Because this season's adult salmon run was so poor, many anglers stopped fishing for them. Anglers realised how important it was to get as many adult salmon up to the spawning streams in the high country. Every effort should be made to stop downstream migrating salmon smolts from getting into the RDR system. Every single salmon smolt is very important for the future of the salmon fishery.

With the salmon fishery currently in decline it is most important that RDRML are made to replace their ineffective BAFF as soon as possible – eg within 12 months. The ineffective BAFF is only adding to the decline of the outstanding wild salmon fishery which the Rangitata Water Conservation Order seeks to protect.

It is the very strong genetics of the wild Rangitata salmon that makes them so important and essential to restore the fishery

This is a world class salmon fishery and must be treated as such.
Once a new fish screen is commissioned it is important for the public to have confidence that it is performing as intended. That can only happen if planning and design prior to construction is carried out about how the efficiency of the fish screen will be determined. Once the fish screen is operational, frequent reporting of the efficiency assessment should be easily assessable to the public. There also needs to be protocols in place to immediately address breakdowns or malfunctions of the fish screen.

Rangitata Diversion at RDR to ACC Stock Water Race Sand trap 27-11-94 Ian Hedley Watson

Signed I H Watson