

My name is Ian Parkin my reason for making a submission is the social wellbeing of thousands of instream users of the Rangitata River.

In my lifetime I have witnessed the demise of the Ashburton River. I well remember a hundred or more fisher people at the mouth when the Salmon were running, you had to be on the river before day break just to get a spot. The Ashburton River was second to none amongst the Salmon Fishing Rivers, back then there were many recreational fisher people, swimmers, picnickers, rowboats and sight seers at the river. As more and more water was abstracted I witnessed Salmon trying to come over the shingle bar when the mouth was closed and finding Salmon that had beached themselves at night through lack of water.

The Hakatere Hut Holders has gone from a vibrant fishing recreational user community to a cheap place for people to live and commute to work. I wonder what social impact of this recreational loss has incurred.

There are only two Salmon Fishing Rivers left in Mid Canterbury is this the death knell of the Rangitata?

The largest instream users of the Rangitata River are fisher people many families and friends get together to socialise and pursue their chosen recreation. For many river users it is an escape, time out, something completely different to their everyday lives and the freedom to do what they want at their own pace and in their own time.

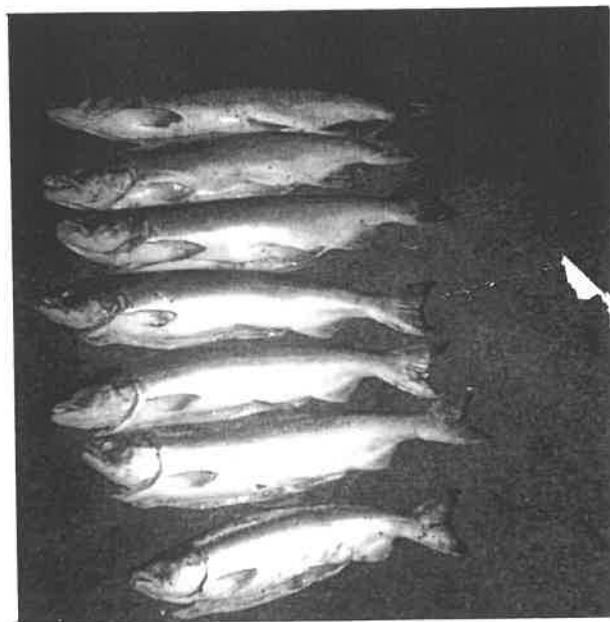
Salmon fishing requires patience and skill, the reward comes when you hook up they are truly a great fish, I've never seen a grumpy angler carrying a Salmon or trout back to their bag. The taking of more water decreases the Rangitata's chance to wag its tail, change its course, be a braided River giving algae's and didimo more time to get established in its braids. These algae's foul fishing hooks decreasing the angler's chances of success. The Rangitata River needs high flows to clear silt build ups and clear algae's.

It takes approximately 25min from Ashburton to the State Highway 1 Rangitata Bridge making it easily accessed after work. The recreational impact of these lost opportunities is unmeasurable but what we do know is suicide and depression is very high and rising. There is a big focus at the moment on depression. For many river users this is their time out their chance to recharge. It's a place we can go we don't need permission it belongs to everyone and I see any consent that effects the opportunities of these River Users as unacceptable.

- Extra 10m³/s take from the Rangitata
- Silt discharge from the sediment pond
- Non-compliant fish screen. This should be rectified immediately and then maintained and monitored.
- 35-year term. With climate change who knows what the future holds.



My son and nephew at the Rangitata River 1999. My son is holding his first Salmon.



1971 A good days fishing at the Ashburton River.