

CONFIRMED MINUTES

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

At the **COUNCIL WORKSHOP** on **16 Jun 2021** these minutes were **confirmed as presented**.

Name:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING
Date:	Thursday, 3 June 2021
Time:	6:32 am to 7:22 pm
Location:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL, 595 JOHNS ROAD, HAREWOOD, CHRISTCHURCH
Board Members:	ALAN STRONG (Chair), CHRIS BRANKIN, DAVE COLL, GRAEME NAHKIES, PHILLIP MUSSON, REX GIBSON, RICHARD O'KEEFE, TREVOR ISITT, STUART HENDERSON
Attendees:	DEBBIE AMBLER, RASMUS GABRIELSSON
Apologies:	DANIEL MAXWELL, KEN LEE, BILL SOUTHWARD
Guests/Notes:	Greg Tarra, Larry Burke, Warren Mackie, Mike Agar, Russell Mackay, Colin Eaton, Bruce Kelly, Brendon Topp, Phil Ball (NZSAA), Gary Worthington, Ben Haywood, David Kirkness

1. Opening Meeting

1.1 Opening of Meeting - Reason for Urgent Meeting

Cr Strong apologised for the short notice for this Special Council meeting. He explained that since the Government had recently approved the ability for Fish & Game to apply for a sea-run salmon season bag limit this Council urgently required decisions to be made and motions to be agreed to enable the process to progress with introducing new fishing rules if they were to be able to be implemented in time for the 2021/22 angling season. He also explained that CSI Council had already meet and reconfirmed their commitment to, when permitted, to implement a season bag limit regulations that jointly manage sea-run salmon harvest across the CSI and NC regions, in accordance with the Adaptive Sea-Run Salmon Management Plan agreed to and adopted by both Councils in 2020.

1.2 Karakia

For the public in attendance, Cr Gibson explained that work on a special karakia for NCFG was currently being undertaken in conjunction with Tuahiwi Iwi and explained the meaning of the karakia he was going to present.

Cr Gibson stated he was reading "Water Rights for Ngai Tahu" and encouraged those present to purchase a copy (see link below for details). He also stated the NCFG has a great ally in Ngai Tahu.

<https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/engage/cup/catalogue/books/water-rights-for-ngi-tahu-a-discussion-paper.html>

1.3 Interests Register

2. Decisions and Discussions

2.1 Sea-Run Salmon Angling Regulations For The 2021/22 Season

Cr Strong asked those present for their input with outcomes to questions as follows :

- that the season bag limit was discussed in conjunction with the CSI Council who had already reconfirmed their endorsement of the recommended season bag limit regulations for the 2021/22 season.
 - that there was no point of conflict between regions.
 - spawning counts were not yet finished - the adaptive management plan rely on a rolling average of data over a 3 year period to be looked at when deciding bag limits. At this stage this year's counts appear close to being at the bottom end of lowest outcomes on record.
 - the recent initiative to more broadly survey salmon spawning in lowland rivers indicate these habitats may contribute notably to the total salmon spawning numbers in the Waimakariri catchment in some years.
 - that the results of the Salmon Angler Harvest survey are being finalised in June, and will be available at the August Council meeting.
 - that with the implementation of the recommendations from the Ministerial Governance Review of NZFG there will be benefits from reorganising the format and use of Advisory Committees, such as the historical Trout and Salmon committees.
1. The Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 have now been amended to permit a sea-run season bag limit to be implemented for the 2021/22 season, and the CSIFG Council have already resolved to adapt the joint NC and CSI staff recommendations.
 2. It is now time for the NZFG Council to consider and make their recommendations on sea-run salmon fisheries angling conditions for 2021/22 (with or without a season bag).



ANGLERS NOTICE 2021/22 - NCFG AND CSI RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That NCFG Council recommends a two fish season bag limit for sea-run salmon, and
2. That, in agreement with Central South Island Fish and Game Council, this limit will apply across both the Central South Island and North Canterbury Regions.

Decision Date: 3 Jun 2021
Mover: ALAN STRONG
Seconder: TREVOR ISITT
Outcome: Approved



ANGLERS NOTICE 2021/22 - WAIMAKARIRI RIVER

3. For the Waimakariri River downstream of the Staircase Stream, that the open season for sea-run salmon fishing shall be from 1 October to 30 April
4. For the Waimakariri River upstream of the Staircase Stream confluence, that fishing for sea-run salmon is not permitted.

Decision Date: 3 Jun 2021

Mover: ALAN STRONG
Seconder: PHILLIP MUSSON
Outcome: Approved



ANGLERS NOTICE 2021/22 - RAKAIA RIVER

5. For the Rakaia River downstream of the Coleridge trailrace confluence, that the open season for sea-run salmon fishing shall be from 1 October to 30 April

6. For the Rakaia River upstream of the Coleridge trailrace confluence, that fishing for sea-run salmon is not permitted

Decision Date: 3 Jun 2021
Mover: ALAN STRONG
Seconder: RICHARD O'KEEFE
Outcome: Approved

R Gabrielson explained that the return to a full length season for sea-run salmon, to the end of April, will allow anglers more opportunities and to spread their harvest pressure and catch fish across the full run and season. That in having a season bag limit, it was targetting those anglers who catch more than 2 in a season to reduce their catch.

Catch and release was discussed and how compliance would be done under the new rules. R Gabrielson stated that an implementation report was currently being completed with the introduction of a harvest card for each eligible full season licence holder.

Cr Isitt expressed concerns that from a compliance perspective, the harvest card was very weak and felt the Fish & Game may required something more robust like a physical tag to mark the catch. He also suggested that fish should not be taken out of the water in an ideal catch and release scenerio.

C Eaton asked how the family licence would work regarding the season bag limit - R Gabrielson stated the implementation report will look into this, and that it will also be a specific topic for a joint NC - CSI Council committee meeting to consider.



Resolution 7 - Anglers Notice - Other Rivers

That the original Resolution 7 be re-submitted to include the Kaiapoi River.

Decision Date: 3 Jun 2021
Mover: ALAN STRONG
Seconder: TREVOR ISITT
Outcome: Approved



New Resolution 7 - Anglers Notice - Other Rivers

7. For the

Ashley River downstream of the Ashley Gorge bridge

Avon River downstream of the Barbadoes Street bridge

Kaiapoi River downstream of the confluence of the Cust Main Drain

Cam River from Kaiapoi River confluence to Smith Street Bridge

Heathcote River

Hurunui River below the South Branch confluence

Lee Stream

Saltwater Creek

Tentburn outfall

Waiau River downstream of the Hope River confluence

that the open season for sea-run salmon fishing shall be from 1 October to 30 April, and all other parts of these rivers will remain closed for sea-run salmon fishing.

Decision Date: 3 Jun 2021
Mover: ALAN STRONG
Seconder: TREVOR ISITT
Outcome: Approved

3. Close Meeting

3.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING - 16 Jun 2021, 6:30 pm

Signature: _____

Date: _____