



NATIONAL SEA RUN SALMON COMMITTEE

Third Meeting, Wednesday 25 July 2018
North Canterbury Fish & Game Office, 595 Johns Road

AGENDA

Present:

Committee members: Martin Taylor (NZ Council), Carey Cudby (Nelson/Marlborough F&GC), Matthew Hall (Central South Island F&GC), Rick Boyd (Otago F&GC), Bruce Erickson (West Coast F&GC), Paul Hodgson (NZ Salmon Anglers Association), Alan Brooks (South Canterbury Salmon Anglers Association).

Others present: Richard Cosgrove (South Island Communications Adviser NZ Council) as minute taker. Trevor Isitt (observer from North Canterbury Fish & Game)

Welcome

1. Chairperson's introductory remarks
2. Identify Conflicts of Interest against items on this meeting's agenda
3. Confirm Minutes of previous meeting – Moved Matthew Hall, Seconded Alan Brooks – unanimous approval.

Action Points

4. **Review previous meeting's Strategic Outcomes discussion-**
 - Rick Boyd thought the Strategic Outcomes don't reflect the terms of reference and the Strategic Outcomes don't have coordinated approach. He thought members see the National Sea Run Salmon Committee as providing direction to Regional Fish & Game Councils.
 - Matthew Hall thinks it will take 18 months for committee to settle, felt for a need for a national strategic direction ie Fish Screen issue to sit over the top of regions, if left it to the regions we would have same outcome;
 - Martin Taylor asked Rick Boyd if he believes there is a fundamental difference between Strategic Outcomes and Terms of Reference?
 - Rick Boyd said problem definition has not be defined and managers haven't managed the fishery in combination with the misconception that hatcheries are the solution.
 - Rick Boyd believes we are way ahead of ourselves with our action.
 - Trevor Isitt said crisis is right now and require some urgent action and solution will vary from region to region.
 - Carey Cudby believes there is nothing wrong with Terms of Reference, the strategy or the approach we were taking.
 - Paul Hodgson believes its important that we talk this through, it's taken 20 years to get to this point in Canty and the cold reality is that it unlikely there will be

agreement between regions. He thought the Terms of Reference and strategy were good.

- Matthew Hall believes recommendations from the Salmon Symposium and David Willis report are the two base documents for the National Sea Run Salmon Committee to work through. He thought a lot of the Strategic Outcomes are a straight take from the David Willis report, and we need need to put the Recommendations of the Salmon Symposium on the agenda to discuss (Matthew Hall will circulate for next meeting).
- Martin Taylor noted David Willis report comes come under Stop the Decline heading and fits in with the Strategic Outcomes.
- Paul Hodgson said the problem definition needs to include 'Change the decline in numbers of juvenile fish reaching the sea. **Unanimous Agreement**

Timeframe

- Rick Boyd believes 9 years is not long enough we need to plan over at least 20 years.
- Matthew Hall believes 9 year timeframe is good, doesn't want it to be a generation away.
- Martin Taylor said we are facing a problem for the whole of Fish & Game movement right now if the salmon fishery crashes. **Agreed - three cycles of three years**

Strategic Outcomes

- Committee **agrees** with Strategic Outcomes

Stop the Decline

- Matthew Hall agrees with focussing on six rivers and agrees on the 2018 baseline approach as it brings a focus on wild fish and hatchery fish.
- Martin Taylor raises the question of how urgent do we want to be? The numbers returning this year were so low should we close the fishery in part or entirely.
- Rick Boyd asked what's the minimum number of fish we want reaching the spawning ground and said we need to have an escapement target to utilise the spawning ground
- Trevor Isitt felt it was far better to use catch limits and season limits to stop the decline.
- Martin Taylor asks how many fish do you want to get back to your spawning ground?
- Carey Cudby and Matthew Hall agree situation is bad enough to call to close the fishery right now. Martin Taylor agreed and said you either take the pill now or plan for the last salmon competition in a few years.
- Matthew Hall said if we don't do something now we won't have a fishery, there will be nothing left
- Carey Cudby agreed and said it's an easy argument to sell to anglers.
- Martin Taylor said then the first four actions are weak.
- Martin Taylor poses question - if returning numbers are X then next season will the fishery be closed ?
- Paul Hodgson the role of this committee is leadership we are here to send a message it shouldn't be sugar coated - anglers aren't stupid and we should signal that the salmon fishery is in crisis and if numbers are low we should consider closing the fishery and reducing the catch rate

Based on this Martin and Matthew “if the spawning returns (escapement) are equal to or less than the average of the last two seasons then the salmon fishery then the wild fishery will be closed”. Unanimous Agreement

- Paul Hodgson suggested adding fish screens to actions in new **Strategic Outcomes Section E – restoring numbers of juveniles reaching the sea:**
 - Paul believes we need to advocate from an environmental perspective on water not just a salmon perspective, and state recommendation from National Sea Run Salmon Committee to New Zealand Council to **“have a national advocacy strategy on Canterbury water quality and its impacts on the fishery”**
 - Discussion centred around a review of regional sports fish and game management plans to support the National Sea Run Salmon Committee approach to fish screens, as existing regional sports fish and game management plans are not fit for purpose and need to be updated to support habitat outcomes for salmon fishery, and need a scoping exercise on how to update them and costs of updating them.
 - Discussion then centred around hatchery reared wild fish and how they must be an option subject to science.
 - Paul Hodgson asked what other options do we have to restore the fishery and what strategies does David Willis have for restoring a wild fishery?, Alan Brooks huge debate around wild stock – Rick Boyd to investigate existing literature on restoring self-sustaining wild fish populations;
 - **Section D** recommendations stand with modifications to point one, and Point 4 “how much can we spend” removed, Alan Brooks - must acknowledge that we are in crisis management mode,
 - **Section E** address failed fish screens, minimum flows, fish passage,
5. **Establish a timeline for change:** What actions do we want to see within what timeframe? What actions do we want to see: Fish Screens (find an example of a non-compliant fish screen and litigate); Conditions on the fishery (ie closure of fishery); Establishing put and take fishery; Review the sports fish and game management plan (2-5 years).
 6. **Determine the budget and resource:** What level of spending do we need to fulfil our strategic goals? What can National Sea Run Salmon Committee do to achieve outcomes? Rick Boyd-Look at what direction we want to go in the future, Matthew Hall-need some feedback from the regions – refer action plan from previous meeting.
 7. **Establish the National Sea Run Salmon Committee internal and external communications policy** – Discussion supported for minutes to posted on Fish & Game website, and to post the draft minutes as soon as corrected – Moved Paul Hodgson seconded Bruce Erickson. ***Minutes are to be sent out as soon as possible within 72 hours for corrections, then posted on website within seven days as draft minutes and communicated to NZ Councillors and Regional managers at that time.***

Next Meeting

8. Set time and place for next meeting. **Early September**