

“Ripples”

The Official publication of the Southland Fly Fishing Club. The club was founded in 1974

September 2018



www.southlandflyfishingclub.org.nz



Southland Fly Fishing Club

Editors Choice Tippets

While the editor is away I get to prepare the Ripples. This month instead of using someone else's article I have written by own on the Environment Southland Water and Land Plan and what I see are the problems with the plan and the process.

Dave

The Southland Water and Land Plan

The Southland Water and Land Plan was prepared by the Southland Regional Council to control activities that could have an effect on the quality of water in Southland. The initial plan was released mid-2016 and submissions were called for. At best the proposed plan was marginal in its ability to control the water quality in Southland rivers and streams.

Following the receipt of submissions the plan was redrafted by staff at the Regional Council and then there was an opportunity for submitters to speak on their submissions. As well as the revised plan there was a 700 page document to explain the changes but this was not in the order as the sections of the plan so it was very difficult to find the sections that referred to your submissions. There was no provision for submitters to have any say regarding any changes to the plan in areas that they had not submitted on in the first place. I got to speak on my submissions exactly one year after the initial submissions had to be in and then I was actually speaking to a different version of the plan from what I had initially submitted on. The submissions were heard by a panel of five, three of which were Southland Regional Councillors and two were independent commissioners. Two of the three Councillors were from a farming background.

This panel then had the plan revised again to form what they hoped was the final version of the plan. This version differed significantly from the original plan and has no chance of improving the water quality in Southland. Generally the science from the initial version of the plan has been overtaken by the wishes of the farming community. One of the positive points of the initial plan was that it attempted to control activities on different soil types in a manner that suited the soil types in an attempt to limit contamination of water bodies.

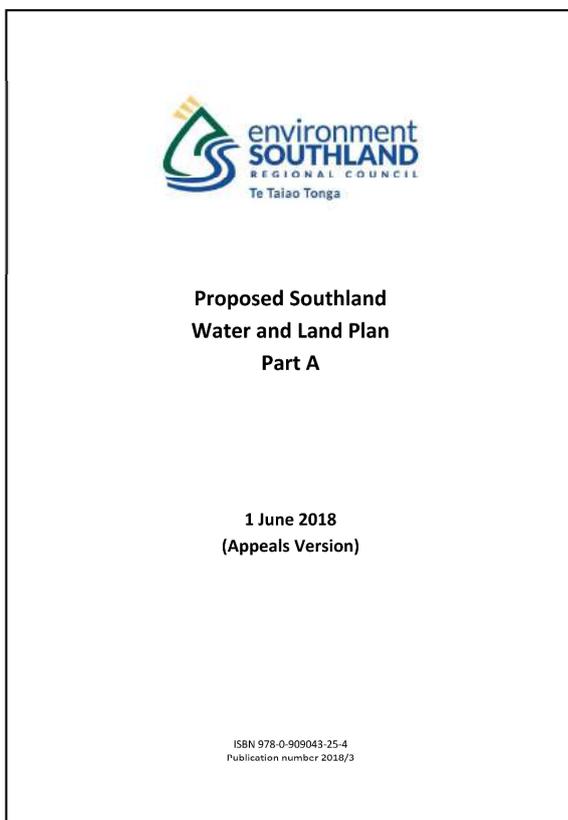
From here the plan is open to appeal to the Environment Court. There have been a number of appeals and as a submitter to the plan I have received some of these appeals (I should have received all of them but know I haven't).

Many are from farmers concerned at the provisions in the plan that restrict some of their activities but there are also appeals from others wanting the plan strengthened so that it has some chance of improving water quality in Southland.

Unfortunately the whole process is flawed. If you did not submit on a section in the plan with your initial submissions you can't have any further say on that section of the plan even if it has been significantly changed during the two revisions of the plan. No provision to speak at the oral submissions unless it was in your initial submission and again no provision to appeal the final version if you didn't submit on that section in the original plan. This is a lesson for next time I submit on such a plan. You have to submit on all the bits you like as well as all the bits you don't like and maybe even all the bits you don't care about.

It will be some time before the plan is now finalised as the appeals have to go to the Environment Court unless the situation can be sorted out by mediation and that will take some time. Unless there are significant changes don't expect any improvement in water quality even in the long term. In fact don't even expect a reduction in the rate of degradation of the rivers we fish.

Unfortunately the state of water in Southland (and probably most other areas of the country) is under the control of those who have the most to lose in any attempts to improve the water quality.



Cover Photo: Joel Hughes with a nice Mararoa rainbow on the November Club Trip. Photo by Dave

"People get the Politicians and fishing tackle they deserve."

John Gierach

Presidents Report by Dave

Well it is only a few days until the new season starts. At present the rivers are in excellent condition. If they stay this way it should be a great opening but there is plenty of time for their condition to change. Hopefully you are all ready to go with plenty of flies tied and all your gear checked and ready to go. I must admit I haven't tied as many flies as I should have but I have plenty of time during the season to tie more if I need them.

We have already had our first fly tying demonstration at Hunting & Fishing (see report elsewhere) and by the time you read this we will have had our lodge working bee. Still to come before the season will be two more demonstrations at Hunting & Fishing., one on their fishing night and another on Saturday 22nd. I will not be available for either of these so if you wish to pop along and support Chris that would be great. The final event for the month will be the Casting Day at Queens Park on September 30th at 1:00pm. Come along and get the kinks out of your casting before the season starts. The first weekend in October we will be having our first Lodge Weekend for the season and the following Sunday (14th October) we will have our first day trip for the season (meet at Fish & Game at 7:00am).

At our meeting this month we will have Cohan from Fish & Game along as our speaker. He can't speak on regulation changes this year as there haven't been any, so he will cover some other issues within Fish & Game. Still on the Fish & Game front, there are Fish & Game Council Elections this year. You will receive your voting papers this month and voting closes on October 12th. There are 14 people standing for the Southland Council this year. There are three regions in Southland and the highest polling candidate in each area is elected along with the next 9 candidates. There is only one candidate for the Te Anau and Gore regions so these two candidates will be elected regardless of how many votes they get. Of the 14 candidates eight are on the council at present although one is a co-opted member to replace a councillor that resigned. This means that there will be a number of new councillors after the election. Read what the candidates have said about themselves and cast your vote.

Annual Fishing Competitions by Dave

The Club Fishing Competitions this year take the same form as in the past. This is an honesty competition where hand in your cards at the monthly meetings (or any other time you can find me). You were given 7 cards when you paid your subscription and that is one card for each month of the season. You can put more in but you will need to buy more cards from the Secretary to make it through the season.

There are 4 sections – heaviest brown, heaviest rainbow, total weight and condition factor. The first two are easy to figure out, total weight is the total for one fish per month (hence the seven cards) and the condition factor is based on the length and weight of the fish.

Calculation is:

$$\text{Condition Factor} = \frac{\text{weight}}{\text{length} \times \text{length} \times \text{length}} \times 100000$$

Weight is in pounds and length is in inches

If you use metric instead of imperial measures it looks like this:

$$\text{Condition Factor} = \frac{\text{weight}}{\text{length} \times \text{length} \times \text{length}} \times 3612.8$$

Weight is in grams and length is in cm.

A very good fish gives a condition factor of 60 – 70. If this calculation gives numbers over this I get very suspicious of the data.

There is also a Junior Competition and this is based on taking part in Club activities. Points are awarded for attending meetings, coming out on Club trips putting in fish cards each month, entering the photo competition and entering flies in the fly tying competition.

There will be a one night photo competition at the end of the season with 4 classes – scenic, trophy, action and general. So remember to take your camera and take plenty of photos

Fly Tying Competition - September 2018 by Dave

The final fly for this off-season is the magoo. See last month's Ripples for details.

Fly Tying Competition - August 2018 by Dave

The August fly was the Spotlight Fly. Members were given a selection of materials and a set of instructions. They were allowed to tie what ever they liked following the instructions and using the materials provided. There were seven flies entered on the night and the clear winner was Chris McDonald's fly.



Chris McDonald's Winning fly.



Other Spotlight flies

Fly Tying Demonstration by Chris

Fly Tying Hunting & Fishing - September 8th.

Dayne Hazlett and I tied flies at Hunting & Fishing for a couple of hours on Saturday morning. Dayne is very new to fly tying but was happy to tie his first ever hare and coppers in public. We had some interest for a course membership and from a lady wanting an advanced course for her husband. We also taught a 12-year-old to tie a hare and copper nymph. He was quite happy to take it home with him. We may see him at the course.

September Club Trip by Chris

Club Trip to the Lagoon Out West

Chris and Dave met up with Dayne and Murray Buchanan at Wallacetown then headed west. It was about mid tide when we arrived. Dave was first on to the water and was broken off on about his third cast.

Murray headed east, Dave stayed near the car and Chris and Dayne headed west. Chris was giving the Damsel Mink from the fly-tying competition its first outing. After several follows it was taken by a nice 3lb brown. Chris & Dayne continued to spot a number of fish and Dayne had his first take on a fly. Unfortunately, the fish soon departed without being landed. Dayne stayed and continued to thrash the same water where he could spot fish while Chris moved further down the lagoon.

Chris landed a couple of fish over a stretch of about 150 yards and then on the way back spotted and caught a pair of 2 ¾ lbers. He then caught another of the same weight where Dayne had been fishing. Back at the car for lunch, Dave hadn't touched anything else, Murray had been broken off, and Dayne hadn't landed another couple of takes.

After lunch Dave and Murray headed off on a big walk while Dayne and Chris returned to where they had fished in the morning. Chris spotted and landed yet another 2 ¾ lber and Dayne had another take. Chris landed another couple on the way down to the turnaround point then landed a 3 ¼ lber that had very nice yellow colouring but also had a growth on its back.

Dayne and Murray had already left when Chris & Dave, who did more walking than fishing for the afternoon got back to the car.

It was a good day out, the cloud pretty much lifted apart from a 2 minute shower after lunch. The lagoon was reasonably clear. Fish were able to be spotted especially when the sun was out. It was nice to have newbies Dayne and Murray on the trip. Dayne had a busy club weekend involved with club activities on both days.



One of Chris's browns from Te Waewae Lagoon

Scotland Trip by Johnny Mauchline



I spent some time fishing the River Kelvin near my parents home in Scotland. The Kelvin's total length is 34 kilometres from its source to its confluence with the River Clyde. The river starts as a meandering stream crossing flood plains and ending as a dramatic river that runs through a wooded gorge in parkland in the industrial city of Glasgow.

On its banks the river has witnessed the rise and fall of many industries during the Industrial Revolution: bleaching, dyeing, flour milling amongst others as well as being the sewer for our Victorian forefathers.



For a century its weirs and dams impeded the spawning salmon and sea trout and the pollution and waste from industry killed all invertebrates and trout.

However with the demise of these industries and a new awareness of environmental controls the river now teems with life. The salmon and sea trout have returned and good numbers of wild trout can be caught along its whole length.



A season permit to fish for trout costs NZ\$30 which is available from the River Kelvin Angling Association. All trout fishing is catch and release only.

The middle and upper reaches and the main tributaries are excellent dry fly water and easily wadeable. Access is generally from road bridges of which there are many.

I fished dry fly only on the Kelvin itself and on its main tributaries the Allander and Luggie waters. There are good hatches of mayfly with the trout rising to emergers and duns at any time. I caught plenty of trout in the 1/2 to 1 lb range on a size 16 Parachute Adams or a Dads Favourite.



Canada Trip by Ian Michelson



Sitting in Calgary Airport waiting for flight to Honolulu. Temperature outside a balmy 5 degrees. My fishing day yesterday came to nothing as when I was still 50 km short of my intended destination the snow was bucketing down the snow ploughs were out and the temperature was minus 1. I was determined to look at the river which I did way downstream on the flat country out of the mountains and it looked really good and I was very disappointed. However discretion was the better part of valour and I really think at those temperatures or lower (which it

would have been further into the Rockies) I would have been wasting my time . When I started to drive back snow was already lying even way down where I was. Quite an unusual cold snap for this time of year should have been 16 to 20 . Just my luck ! I drove back to Calgary and went and fished the Bow at a recommended spot. Saw and did nothing for the 2 hours I was there. Not surprising as it was a very warm 1 to 2 degrees with a cold wind. Talked to a couple of other fishers who did twice as well as me - just hopeless. You should see the set up they use. Makes Tongariro rigs look positively delicate. Huge leaded flies which they use as sinkers and a 2 inch worm fly underneath with some copper wire on it. not for me I am afraid. Every cloud has a silver lining at east I had not booked the float trip!!

Bow River is really nice. A large. Mataura with four times the water flow . It was very low so I would have some reservations as to how easy it would be to fish at a higher level. Heaps of invertebrates under the rocks and some lovely weed but suspect even on a sunny day not a polaroiding water. They certainly get great caddis hatches in the evenings but there is very little dry fly fishing done I am told.

Last week I went up with my Canadian friend Hans to his cabin on the side of Canim Lake. Lovely lakes but all boat fishing for rainbow. Edges unwadeable and fish are well out anyway as per usual rainbow fishing. Pity really as they look really good.

We fished the. Canim River between Canim Lake and Lake Mahood. Due to terrain and the falls in particular there is only about four kilometres of fishable water. For the first time ever there in Hans experience there was another group of three also fishing which made life more difficult. However because it is all rainbows in roughish water they do not spook very easily and one can fish the same water a couple of times a day.

The first day Hans got 7 nice fish 13 to 16 inches and I got one (though I must modestly say it was on of the best pieces of fishing I have ever done as the fish was in an eddy on the other side of a very fast and turbulent run). I also got another tiddler which I had seen rise. Not a happy Chappy that evening!! Interesting that it was not possible to bring them up blind. The other party did catch fish using large weighted nymphs mainly fished across and down

Made up for it all the next day. From 12pm there was a mayfly hatch and I had sorted out what to use on them (my new Dads pattern was invincible both dry and wet) to rising fish. Lost count eventually but I must have got 15 fish at 12 to 15 inches and at least the same again 8 to 12 inches .Add to that the ones I missed and felt the weight of and Ian was happy again. The rise was much later the next day .Three fish by 3pm and about 20 by 6pm all except four of which were over 12 inches and the best two would push 18 inches .All in all a very good trip even though it involved a full days travelling at either end. On the way home we saw a sign that the Skagit River valley that I had intended to go to before arranging with Hans was closed because of the fire danger, so I was pretty lucky there. Hans said the Canim fish were slightly bigger overall compared to the Skagit and that the fishing was further between drinks and a lot more fishers.

Lodge Working Bee by Dave

We had a Lodge working bee on Saturday 15th September. There were just three of us there, Chris McDonald, David Murphy and myself. The main plan for the day was to get the window frames painted and Chris and David concentrated on this. I had to install a satellite dish and take down the old TV aerial.

The window painting was completed along with replacing some of the putty around the windows. The dish was put up but I didn't have enough cable to complete the installation and we need something to put the new TV and the set top box on in the lounge. I was able to get the TV operating in the kitchen so I know the dish is pointing in the right direction (and that we can get signal over the trees beside the building).

Once those jobs were completed we turned the water back on and checked everything was okay. Good this year with no split valves, so putting the isolation valve to the pump inside seems to have worked. Then out came the weed eater and after a bit of cursing trying to get the thing to run, quite a bite of the long grass around the front of the building was cut.

So another successful day and thanks to Chris and David for their time and effort.



Chris painting while David sweeps the deck



Chris wiping the paint off one of the windows. It should have been on the frame not the glass.

Coming Events

(MM=Monthly Meeting, CM = Committee Meeting)

20 th Sept	Demo	Hunting & Fishing Fishing Night
22 th Sept	Demo	Fly Tying demonstration @ Hunting & Fishing
25 th Sept	[MM]	Fish & Game speaker
30 th Sept	Sunday	Casting Day at Queens Park 1:00pm
6 th & 7 th Oct	Trip	Lodge Trip—Contact Dave 027 201 6722
14 th Oct	Trip	October Day Trip—Meet at Fish & Game 7:00am
30 th Oct	[MM]	
3 rd & 4 th Nov	Trip	Lodge Trip—Contact Dave 027 201 6722
11 th Nov	Trip	November Day Trip—Meet at Fish & Game 7:00am

Club Contacts

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Items for publication must be submitted to the editor, prior to the 10th of the month
- Librarian Simon Budd
- Lodge Custodian Dave Murphy, 35 Brown Road, Invercargill dmurphy@southnet.co.nz (03 230 4698) or (0276752324)

Club items for sale

Metal Badges \$15 ea.



Cloth Patches \$12 ea.



Club Meetings

The club meets at 7:30pm on the last Tuesday of each month (except December) at the Fish & Game building, 17 Eye St, West Invercargill, Invercargill 9810. [The February meeting is on the river.](#)

Executive Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month following the general meeting, except for Dec/Jan, includes fly tying, so come along and bring your gear if you want help with a fly—all members welcome.

Club Resources

The club has an extensive library of Books and Videos, contact the Librarian

A blow up Rubber Boat and a set of five Radio's, which can be borrowed by club members, contact Chris McDonald.

Club Sponsors



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