

**NATIONAL SEA RUN SALMON COMMITTEE**

Fourth Meeting, Friday 14 September 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), Phil Musson (North Canterbury 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.

**Welcome**

1. **Chairperson’s introductory remarks**
2. **Apologies**- Phil Musson lateness
3. **Identify Conflicts of Interest against items on this meeting’s agenda** – Done & Attached
4. **Confirm Minutes of previous meeting** – one slight adjustment note by Rick Boyd then acceptance moved Matthew Hall, seconded Rick Boyd
	1. **Communication with regions**:
* Minutes need to be sent out Managers-resolved by the committee.
* Any recommendations from NSRC would be reported back to NZ Council
1. **Review and evaluate the regional responses to the letter from the Chairman:**

**Otago letter**- Issues raised regarding lack of committee expertise and they disagreed there was enough information to say there was a problem for the whole of F&G. Rick Boyd gaeb some context to the committee on Otago’s discussion around this issue. Matthew Hall said we need to look at this from the perspective of the fish. Paul Hodgson believes it has implications for whole organisation and that different areas have totally different views of situation. The table was completed to the best of Otago’s ability. Desire by Otago Council to use wild lake fishery to establish hatchery for fish below Clutha dam. Hey didn’t agree with closure option in relation to the Clutha River. Paul Hodgson said we may well need to have a different level of focus for each river. Rick Boyd said if Contact Energy build a hatchery there is opportunity to use Clutha as a resource for testing practices on other rivers. Definition of hatchery reared wild stock required by Otago council. Noted re Outcome D- some options are not fully supported by the Willis report – noted

**CSI Letter.** They believed they were not given enough time to complete task so no tables filled in. Agreed they wanted to stop the decline in spawning numbers. Raised questions on legality of certain proposed regulations ie an annual limit. Felt there needs to be co-ordination between regions in setting regulations. CSI raised lack of committee expertise and felt staff should be involved on committee. Resolved: to ask CSI to complete tables.

**Nelson/Marlborough issues** – Resolved: NSRC would like a response confirmed by the Council.

**North Canterbury issues** - NSRC not sure if the response has been ratified by NC council. Resolved to send back to NC for clarification and would like questions answered and voted on by council.

**Common issues raised across all responses:**

There is a belief there needs to be staff on the committee as a lack of expertise. Paul Hodgson responds that the Committee is strategic in nature looking to set direction once issues clarified then it will require staff involvement on technical issues. There was discussion around the merits of staff involvement at what stage with the committee.

NSRC resolves that a technical reference group of staff be formed and councils are asked to nominate a staff member to attend.

The question of whether the salmon issue is a problem for the whole organisation. NSRC have agreed in strategic outcomes there is a problem.

The letters tables need to be filled out. Not all regions have same issues as CSI and North Canterbury. Agree Nelson/Marlborough, and West Coast need to only provide responses to the other parts of the letter and Otago is operating under a different set of circumstances.

Definition of hatchery reared wild stock. Resolved: Rick Boyd conducting a literature review for the committee, see further reference below.

Legality of proposed regulation changes. Further work required.

Coordination between regions- It was noted this was a key factor for success.

There was no agreement on closure option formula proposed by NSRS. Agree we need further determination by councils and we need feedback from salmon anglers.

Agreed NSRSC will conduct a survey with questions like: do you agree the Sea Run Salmon fishery is in crisis? Do you agree that we should close the fishery? What level of closure would you accept? would you want to catch a 50-pound hatchery fish vs catching a 10 pound wild fish? **Note:** These are only suggestions the actual questions in the survey will be reported back at the next meeting of the NSRS Committee.

Resolved: Write back to regions collectively (i.e., same letter to each); draft a survey; write to regions for staff nominees to be on the technical reference group.

1. **Discuss the Cawthron report into salmonid stocking practices**

What impact does this report have on the NSRC operation: Rick Boyd reasonably happy with report, unless hatcheries are appropriately managed then there are going to be problems.

North Canterbury issues are a failure at all levels. Carey Cudby said if fishery isn’t broke don’t dump surplus fish in a river; best value is in lakes fishery. Phil Musson noted the report was quite targeted and it hasn’t actually been discussed at a North Canterbury meeting and there are issues that the North Canterbury council needs work on.

Matthew Hall can’t connect with report, salmon fishery has always been done on a shoe string, bit of disconnect between New Zealand vs overseas, need to pick out the ‘doables’ and look at where there gaps and see what can be done. Does not beleive Eastern hatchery is applicable to south island. Noted SI hatcheries put together after Glenariffe closure.

Phil Musson said the North Canterbury hatchery is run in relation to Salmon management Plan 2012, and there is an opinion that the Glenariffe hatchery replaced wild fish with hatchery Fish.

Matthew Hall believes hatchery operations are under-capitialised.

Carey Cudby believes looking in to the future the report gives guidance and interested to hear Steve Terry’s response to the report.

Alan Brooks thinks the report is a set up, but in principle agrees with a great deal of it but it doesn’t give us any solutions, massive problem in mixing salmon and North Canterbury has mixed too much, wants solutions.

Martin Taylor, said the report has raised issues about mixing wild and hatchery fish. Alan Brooks asks where do you get the fish and smolt from?

Carey Cudby operations need to measurable and scientific. Paul Hodgson this report disappointed in that salmon and trout weren’t separated out, disappointing comments on hatchery; need to transplant the practices from Eastern to make it work down here, need to have national standards around hatcheries, thinks the report writer has transposed personal convictions

Martin Taylor noted report came out of a managers meeting re cost overruns from North Canterbury and was specifically comparing the North Canterbury and Eastern hatchery operation, what things work and what don’t work, report is only asked to look at how to run a hatchery.

Rick Boyd, felt they haven’t done what they need to do very well in relation to answering questions about the fishery – but in the context that it was not meant to – it only addressed hatchery practices/operations. Phil Musson believes there is an absence of good governance to make sure the hatchery is well run and suggested that the NZ Council hatchery and wild salmon good management practices need to be standardised.

Rick Boyd believes we need to develop a set of standards on the operation procedures of hatcheries and raises using the Eastern SOPs. Paul Hodgson ask for review of report by Dave Willis in relation to salmon. Phil Musson, all fish must be marked and protocols around recording used. Alan Brooks, we cannot separate hatchery out, need to control all areas of influence in relation to salmon. Martin Taylor, we must be able to measure the impact of a hatchery in relation to governance decisions; Note: Stocking practices are different to operating a hatchery.

**Recommendation to NZ Council from this committee:**

The Committee resolved we need 1.- Best practice guidelines on running a hatchery; 2 – Agree stocking practices; 3 – Both need to be peer reviewed by David Willis – Moved Paul Hodgson Seconded Phil Musson - Result: carried

1. Salmon Management Plan 2012

Martin Taylor: Plan says nothing about what actions to take when. Gives lots of options but doesn’t say when to apply those options.

Paul Hodgson, it has problems in relation to regulatory issues aren’t addressed.

Matthew Hall we need try and convert parts of Management Plan into a species management plan in the future, doesn’t spell out what to do.

Paul Hodgson thousands of hours went into the formation of the document. Paul Hodgson asks what are the gold nuggets in the plan?. Martin Taylor suggests we need a sea run operational plan that sits in under this plan. **Note:** The plan has policies and procedures but no actions; Matthew Hall says the Salmon Management Plan is no more than a policy doc.

The committee sought information on how the management plan was affecting operations in the regions and will request regions to show what decisions have been made by each councils and staff on the management the sea run salmon fishery – in light of the plan.

**Recommendation to NZ Council from this committee:**

Invite Councils to report on how they have used the Salmon Management plan to develop operational salmon management practices since 2012 to improve the salmon fishery on a year to year basis – Moved Paul Hodgson seconded Matthew Hall, Result: carried

1. Discussion of Steve Terry’s report: Restoration of the salmon fishery – A strategic outline

Interesting and well written report on what has happened in North Canterbury in the past, informative on habitat and catch. Lacking detail on the effect of fish screens.

Report was requested by North Canterbury on what they could do to restore salmon fishery. Matthew Hall and Paul Hodgson raise issues with High Country development as there are other things going on in the High Country. Raises the question of where does this committee want to put its resources into? At the moment the committee feels this report is a step too soon.

**Action Point** – Rich Boyd to provide definitions around hatchery fish and wild fish at next meeting.

1. **Next meeting: Early November**