

ROTORUA ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

Incorporated 16/06/1949

JULY 2021 NEWSLETTER



Fishing on a winter's day at Lake Rerewhakaaitu.

Photo: Larry Ware

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Treasurer	Ian Fear	027 474 2772
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	Larry Ware	021 645 544
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Contribution Deadline: 20th of each month

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The content and comments in this newsletter are those of the authors or by participating members and not necessarily those of other Association members

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We have sadly had two bereavements in the last month, with Richard Hendriks' partner losing her grandmother, and Ian Ferguson losing his father. We trust they had full lives and will be well-remembered. Phil has recovered well and is looking good.

For a long time we have been discussing spinning rods, so the committee approved that we get four rods plus some spinners. Although they are very useful for kids to start fishing, the rods are for use by everyone. Rods are one piece, and the line weight is about ten pounds. If you don't use too much pressure, you can still land a good fish.

Thanks, Martin for adjusting the bar door latch. I it closes much better now. The raffles have been pretty lively, with recent winners being Bryan, Rod H, Helen, Bryan, Ian, Helen, Bryan and Chris. A big thanks to Chris who donated sealed and frozen trout and magazines to club members on two occasions. He has also been actively fishing Lake Okataina and handing in his catch details for the fish of the month.

We have just had an unexpected visit from Terry Kelso from Nelson. He was President in 2000 and taught me the A-Z course 20 years ago. Unfortunately, Nelson anglers lack a clubhouse, which makes us quite privileged to have this clubhouse. Thanks to those who went before us.

Martin in Edinburgh has left for the northern Sutherland district to fish the Oykel Bridge river and surrounding lakes. The weather can be volatile. Fish are usually from half a pound to two pounds and are great fighters. It is also possible to target sea trout. In the area is the Castle of Mey which now belongs to Charles, and the well-known Dunrobin Castle.

Please respond when the membership renewals reach you at the end of June. We also welcome new members Liz, Macaskill, Steve Webb, Scott Parker and John Gausden.

We need around 30 helpers for the first Kids fish-out on Sunday, 8 August. Please put this on your calendars. Kids and parents really enjoy the day with us. Pete Otto

FISH OF THE MONTH



Caught by Heather Fargher at
Lake Waikaremoana.

Rainbow jack, 2.2kg.

**The winner of the Fish of the Month Award will receive
a \$10 voucher redeemable from Hamills Rotorua**



1271 Fenton St, Rotorua

07 348 3147

FISH OF THE MONTH



Photo: Getty images

JULY UPCOMING EVENTS & REMINDERS

- 5th Mon, Fly tying 7 pm at clubhouse by Colin
- 9th Fri, Schools close and starts Surf Casting weekend
- 10th Sat, New moon
- 12th Mon, two night Tuki-Tuki trip
- 22nd Thurs, Committee meeting 7pm at club
- 23rd Fri, Club pot-luck dinner, eat at 6pm

NOTE Sun 8 Aug first KFO, Kid's Fishout starts at 9am. We need as many anglers as we can get thanks

PLAY AND RELEASE FISH SAFELY

Alan Bulmer at <https://activeanglingnz.com/2017/03/21/ensuring-fish-survive-after-release/>

I recently read an excellent article by Tony Bishop on the rules that should be followed when releasing a fish. It is well worth a look:- <http://www.bishfish.co.nz/articles/general/releaserules.htm>

This prompted me to do some research to find out what scientific studies had been conducted on Catch & Release practices and what else had been discovered. I managed to unearth an excellent publication by Stephen Casselman entitled "Catch-and-release angling: a review with guidelines for proper fish handling practices" which summarises most of the key studies undertaken and the important research outcomes. The reference number is ISBN 0-7794-8590-4 should you wish to purchase a copy.

I've summarised most of the key points in the following paragraphs. Some of the research findings are very interesting. While catch-and-release is physiologically stressful, stress and therefore mortality can be minimized by following some general catch-and-release guidelines. Gear should be appropriate for the species being targeted, allowing for quick retrieval and hook removal. The use of barbless hooks and circle hooks should be considered to reduce the amount of time required to release fish. Air exposure should be minimized and fish should be released quickly. Depth of capture, hooking location and bleeding should be taken into account when deciding on whether or not to release a fish.

When performed correctly, catch-and-release can be successful with minimal harm to the fish and should be encouraged. However, due to the variation among species in response to catch-and-release techniques, it is recommended that further research is needed to create species-specific guidelines.

One of the key components to the increased use of catch-and-release practices, both by anglers and fisheries managers, is the assumption that fish which are released actually survive the experience. This assumption comes from the observation that when fish are released after being caught they generally swim away, apparently unharmed. However, research indicates that most mortality occurs some time after release (Muoneke and Childress, 1994), thus fish that appear healthy

upon release may later exhibit injuries or distress caused by catch-and-release practices. Given the potential impact of mortality on the success of catch-and-release as a management practice, there is an increased demand to understand the level of mortality caused by catch-and-release and determine how various factors may affect catch-and-release survival.

The impact of mortality caused by catch-and-release practices is often underestimated by both anglers and fishery managers. From a review of 118 catch-and-release studies which involved over 120,000 fish, the average mortality associated with catch-and-release angling was 16.2%. Thus, while many anglers may assume that by practising catch-and-release they are having no impact on the fish population, a significant number of released fish may die. Additionally, many anglers will continue to fish after they have caught their limit under the premise that they will release all further fish caught, however they often do not take into consideration the number of fish which will inadvertently be killed as a result of this practice.

Physiological Response

A number of studies have attempted to determine the physiological response to catch-and-release procedures (e.g. Beggs et al., 1980; Gustaveson et al., 1991; Tufts et al., 1991; Ferguson and Tufts, 1992; Cooke et al., 2003a). From these studies a number of general responses can be identified. Extended play time can result in exhaustion which is characterised by marked acidosis. Specifically this causes an increase in blood lactate levels and a decrease in extra-cellular pH. Once the fish is landed, air exposure causes the gill lamellae to collapse, causing an almost complete loss of gas transfer. This results in an increase in blood CO₂ levels and a decrease in blood O₂ levels. Exhaustive exercise and air exposure have been shown to produce an increase in cardiac output, with a decrease in stroke volume and an increase in heart rate. While the physiological response of fish to catch-and-release practices is relatively well understood, little is known about the cumulative impact of these sub-lethal stressors.

Some effects of sub-lethal stress caused by catch-and-release are reduced growth, impaired reproductive success and increased susceptibility to disease and pathogens. Mason and Hunt (1967) examined the survival and growth of deeply hooked rainbow trout over a four month period.

They found that, of the fish that survived to the end of the experiment, there was no significant decrease in the growth of fish that were released, even for fish in which hooks were left embedded. In examining the effects of catch-and-release on reproductive success, Booth et al. (1994) found that there was no significant difference in the egg survival of angled and non-angled Atlantic salmon. Conversely, Cooke et al. (2000) found that in largemouth bass, which provide parental care to eggs, fish that were angled incurred increased brood predation and increased likelihood of brood abandonment. Similarly, smallmouth bass have been found to have reduced ability to defend their broods after being angled from their nest (Suski et al., 2003). Thus, for some species at least, evidence exists that catch-and-release may result in reduced growth and reproductive success.

In addition to sub-lethal physiological stress, catch-and-release practices could cause injury, which, although initially does not cause mortality, may have detrimental effects. For example, hooks may physically damage gills, jaw, esophagus and eyes. These injuries may inhibit locomotion, feeding or reproduction, all of which may effectively remove previously healthy fish from the population.

Hook Type

Although considerable variation exists between species in the effects of gear type on catch-and-release mortality, several generalizations can be made. While there is some variation among species, the use of circle hooks tends to reduce mortality. Circle hooks differ from traditional J-style hooks in that the point of the hook is generally perpendicular to the shank (Figure 1). Circle hooks have been found to be less susceptible to becoming deeply embedded; however, there is some evidence that, in bluegill, the incidence of eye injuries may be greater (Cooke et al., 2003b). In a review of the effectiveness of circle hooks, Cooke and Suski (2004) found that, the use of circle hooks reduced overall mortality rates by approximately 50%, but that there was variation among species.

Barbless hooks are often recommended as an alternative to barbed hooks to decrease catch-and-release mortality. In fact, Manitoba and Alberta have regulated that only barbless hooks may be used for angling in those jurisdictions to reduce catch-and-release mortality. Barbless hooks have been demonstrated to reduce handling time through ease of removing the hook, thereby decreasing associated mortality (Cooke et al., 2001). Schaeffer and Hoffman (2002) also demonstrated that the unhooking times of barbless hooks were significantly shorter than barbed hooks,



however, the same study indicated that anglers landed 22% more fish using barbed hooks than barbless hooks. Similarly, the use of barbless hooks has been found to significantly reduce mortality in trout (Taylor and White, 1992). It has also been suggested that barbless hooks reduce tissue damage. Thus, while barbless hooks are generally less harmful to fish, anglers may be reluctant to use them because they perceive that catch rates will suffer.

Air Exposure

Ferguson and Tufts (1992) found that there were direct effects of air exposure duration on mortality of rainbow trout. Rainbow trout that were chased for approximately 10 minutes had a survival rate of 88%, however this fell to 62% for fish that were subsequently exposed to air for 30 s and survival was only 28% for fish exposed to air for 60 s (Ferguson and Tufts, 1992). This study demonstrates the detrimental effects of air exposure, and highlight the need to reduce handling time and air exposure during catch-and-release.

Episode 2 next month

THE KARAT FLY



Photo: Colin Cox

Use a size 8 hook.

Tie thread onto the hook and build a head of thread at the bend of the hook.

Bring thread forward to the eye and tie in brass eyes. Leave 4mm from the eye.

Select a piece of marabou approximately 30mm in length. Tie on.

Tie in flash material slightly longer than the tail.

Select another piece of marabou and tie it on the top the same length.

Tie in chenille or make a dubbing loop bring forward to behind the brass eye and tie off in a whip finish. Alternatively, bring your thread over the eye and dub a small amount of material to form a head.

This fly can be tied in any combination of colours and should be effective at targeting Browns

MIDWINTER CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The club's Midwinter Christmas was celebrated in style with decorations galore, tasty food and excellent company. Piet and Rika Otto and John Olds decorated the clubrooms with tinsel, a Christmas tree, lights, table decorations and a selection of Christmas stockings, which unfortunately remained empty. Father Christmas had to isolate in Australia because of the Covid-19 outbreak there and couldn't make it in time.

Anne, Sandy, Lynn, Kathy, Patrick and Graeme from the Surf-casting Club came over and joined us. As usual, the club members produced delicious meat dishes, salads and vegies followed by a selection of desserts. The noise level was considerable as everybody had a good time. There were two raffles of meat, chocolate and wine and the members supported it well. Congratulations to Rod H and Helen!



Shane, Gavin and Paul get desserts.

Photo: Piet Otto

LAKE REREWHAKAITU OUTING



Lunch. (L to R): Bryan Taylor, Colin Cox, Harvey ?, Ian Fear (standing) Keith? Steve McCloud, Larry Ware, Roy Coulson. Photo: Piet Otto

We targeted Sunday 13 June when we drew up the calendar last year. Then when the weekend comes, you look at the weather report and the doubts start to emerge. Know the feeling? So off we went and the day actually started quite well. Eventually 15 anglers attended, and as we fished, two light showers of about 15 minutes passed over us, but the rest of the day was great and probably too calm. Maybe it was a few weeks too early because few fish were landed.

We took the portable BBQ with some sausages, bread, butter and tomato sauce for lunch. Anglers brought flasks of tea or coffee, which went down well. Ian had brought his chief farm working dog along, and she obliged to clean up any left over sausages without any complaint.

This was the first time we had four club spinning rods as approved by the committee, plus some spinners. I found that a spinner with a bit of weight could be cast

out pretty far, but don't do this at night in heavy wind when you have no idea where the line is! Joe showed me some tricks that I will apply later. Joe is also willing to help on Fridays if anyone needs some spinning practice at the club

Pete Otto



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OLD PHOTO RESURRECTED



Bryan Taylor fishing . Photo: Jo Fleet

Here are some captions which have been contributed by members:

- Bryan uses the buddy fishing system.
- Hey mate, next one's MINE!
- Bryan wins the meat raffle AGAIN!
- Careful with the back cast, please.
- I am sick and tired of bacon and eggs for breakfast> How about some fish and chips?
- Who says surf and turf doesn't work?
- Sir, can you please get outta my swimming pool?
- Who caught the pig?

FISHING MANY YEARS AGO

Jim Spiers.

Taken from his fishing memoirs, his file has been donated to the club.

Growing up in Oamaru, my first fishing was off the harbour wharves for schooling trevalli. The rig was a long bamboo pole with curtain rings screwed into the nodes to lead the line from an old brass reel. One usually fished 5 hooks. The excitement was intense, along a line of mostly unemployed guys (these were the “carpetbag” years of the Great Depression) sitting bum to bum along the wharf. Often more than one fish was hooked and had to be landed by swinging the whole rig over your head to avoid the other fishermen.

My uncle, Charlie Ayson, introduced me to better things. He was manager of the salmon hatchery on the Hakateramea River, a tributary of the mighty Waitaki. In the early thirties, salmon thrived unimpeded, but stopped when the Waitaki was dammed and the fish ladder was put on the wrong side. Uncle Charlie taught me to fish at the mouth with a 15 –foot Greenheart rod. I was ecstatic to catch my first salmon of 21 pounds after a fight of gigantic proportions. I left Oamaru to join the Forest Service and was not to fish again for many years as I discovered the thrills of hunting.

I returned to fishing 20 years later when stationed at Minginui in the Urewera, a mecca for hunting. My mate Bill Gimblet convinced me to fish for trout again and we would do a two-hour trek to the remote and well loaded Wheao River where few anglers came. Said Bill: “You never know, we could run into a deer or pig on the way”. A year or so later I pushed a dozer track down through the scrub to the river (the period report said we had constructed a new fire break). However, Bill was livid about letting all the riff-raff get to the river and wouldn't speak to me for a couple of weeks

There was no Resource Management Act to worry about in those days. To speed up our roading program we diverted the Whirinaki to put a big shingle bank on the right side of the river for a shorter truck access to the new road. Did it affect the fish population? Sure did! All the aquatic insects and land grubs were stirred up and the fishing below the site was superb for the next couple of weeks. I put this knowledge to the test again a few years later in the Oamaru River when I was with a group of Forest Service woodsmen doing native bush training in the Kaimanawas. Some 30 woodsmen in heavy boots crossed the stream, stirring up all the shingle. My mate and I sneaked back a couple of hours later for a superb evening's fishing



Piet Otto with a sinking line at Rerewhakaaitu. Photo: Larry Ware