



## September 2010 Newsletter

**Next Club Night      Monday 20 September 2010**

**Kapiti FFC flytying competition judging**

**Location – Softball Club Te Atiawa Park at 7.30pm**

Kapiti Fly Fishing Club (Inc.)  
PO Box 32,  
Te Horo

[www.kapitifyfishing.org.nz](http://www.kapitifyfishing.org.nz)

(See last page for contacts)  
*(Newsletter sent by email to all members)*

There are number of activities that make our fishing club the success it undoubtedly is. The guest speakers we have at our monthly meetings, the new fly tying night initiative and the expertise our experienced members share with us all, make for a forward looking club. Perhaps the most important activity however, is the number and wide variety of our club trips. Listening to guest speakers and learning to tie flies is certainly enjoyable but is the action of getting out onto the water and experiencing the tug of the line that makes our enthusiasm for fly fishing a reality.

Your committee endeavours to look for opportunities to run trips and I encourage you all to go on as may as you can. The trips are the only way your fishing will improve and there is always plenty of assistance if you are new at the sport or new to the areas we go to. We are always looking for places to run trips and would like to hear from you if you can offer any suggestions. The Hut Club has been invited to fish with us soon and probably in the Otaki River. Their club will reciprocate in the spring with a trip to the Wainuiomata River which will certainly be an excellent chance to fish a river new to most of us. We are also looking at a trip to the Rotorua district in 2011.

In the meantime, we have trips organised to Turangi (2) and the McWilliams Shield on the Waikanae. I hope you can make some of these trips at a time when the fish are certainly going to be in the rivers. I hope to see you all there.

Tight lines.

Ralph Lane

Don't forget to check out the club website  
[www.kapitifyfishing.org.nz](http://www.kapitifyfishing.org.nz)

If you have any photos of fishing trips or fish caught forward them on to Ken McWilliams who can place them on the website.

**Articles for inclusion in the magazine are welcome from all club members. Tales about your fishing trips, or other articles you may come across. Please email to me at [hohi.jones@clear.net.nz](mailto:hohi.jones@clear.net.nz)**

Noel and Malcolm organise Flytying nights for interested members over the winter. Initially there maybe too many members to have them at a members home so they will be held at the Softball Clubrooms on the first Monday of the month. There will be a small charge of \$2 to \$3 to cover a donation to the softball club.



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# COMMERCIAL TROUT FARMING

Why Fish & Game New Zealand is opposed .....

New Zealand's wild trout fishery is of significant cultural and recreational importance for New Zealanders and also provides added benefits for tourism and local economies. The non-commercial status of trout in this country is considered to be important for maintaining these cultural, recreational and tourism values.

Fish & Game believes the commercialisation of trout will have significant adverse impacts on both the fishery and its cultural, recreational and tourism values.

## What is the current situation in New Zealand?

Current legislation prohibits the buying and selling of New Zealand wild trout and the domestic farming of trout. The Custom Import Prohibition (Trout) Order 2007 restricts the importation of significant quantities of trout and the importation of trout and trout products for sale. Commercial interests with no stake in, or responsibility for the wild fishery would like to establish trout farms in New Zealand.

## What is the Government's position?

The Government advised mid-January 2010 that there were no plans to change the non-commercial status of trout in New Zealand. The Department of Conservation and the Ministry of Tourism supports Fish & Game's opposition to commercial trout farming because of its potential impact on the wild fishery and on its cultural and economic worth. However the Government's position may change if there is strong lobbying for trout farming.

## What is Fish & Game's position, and why?

Fish & Game New Zealand is opposed to the commercial farming of trout and the importation of trout flesh into New Zealand.

Its principal reasons are as follows:

- **Poaching:** Once a legitimate commercial market is established this will create potential outlets for poached trout – look what has happened in the inshore marine sector, despite a massive and costly law enforcement effort. Trout are especially vulnerable to poaching particularly when they aggregate in peak condition for spawning.
- **Law enforcement consequences:** A greatly increased ongoing operational cost to licence holder funded enforcement would result. Such poaching would never be eliminated, which would reduce the viability of targeted wild fisheries. Landholders adjoining spawning streams could expect a significant increase in poachers crossing their land, perhaps not dissimilar to that which occurs with marijuana cultivation.
- **Disease:** Disease is always a problem when any species (including trout) is raised intensively in closed quarters. Overseas, trout farm diseases have spread to wild fisheries and there is no reason to think this could not happen in New Zealand.
- **Genetic diversity:** In terms of initial trout farm establishment and/or gene pool improvement, proponents argue there is no need to import stock as fish sourced from the local wild fishery would suffice. However history indicates that as an industry develops so does the pressure to improve growth rate, food conversion efficiency and

flesh quality. New stock importation invariably follows. This introduces not only biosecurity risks around importation of new diseases but also enhanced risk of gene infusion (dilution) into the wild gene pool from escapees and sundry releases.

- **Pollution:** As with dairy farming and intensive agriculture, fish farming can be a dirty business, with consequent adverse environmental effects on downstream water quality and ecology. The fact that the Resource Management Act and its implementation by regional councils has failed to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse environmental effects of agriculture suggests pollution from trout farms would be ineffectively controlled.

## **What about salmon?**

### **Salmon farming hasn't adversely affected the wild salmon fishery.**

The wild salmon fishery is not as vulnerable to poaching as the trout fishery. Wild salmon are common in only half a dozen large rivers in the South Island over a short season. Salmon poaching would have to occur in the lower reaches of these rivers because once they reach the upper reaches, where (unlike trout) they die naturally, their flesh condition has deteriorated and is no longer suitable for human consumption. Any attempt to use nets to catch salmon in the wide, visually exposed, lower reaches of the rivers is quickly reported to enforcement officials by salmon anglers. In contrast, trout spawn in generally smaller rivers and more isolated areas where the illegal taking of fish can be more easily concealed.

## **What would we really lose?**

New Zealand's wild trout fishery is internationally acclaimed and provides an invaluable natural, recreational and tourist resource. It now represents a significant contribution to the New Zealand outdoor recreational lifestyle. It has been created and nurtured by Fish & Game and its predecessor Acclimatisation Societies through the voluntary efforts of anglers. To the extent that anyone claim a property right in this magnificent fishery it is the anglers of New Zealand, and they do not want trout farming.

The loss of New Zealand's 'wild trout status' is difficult to quantify, but it is clear that its value to both New Zealanders and overseas visitors can only increase as this special quality becomes rarer and more precious as the world's natural resources are consumed or destroyed. Overseas anglers regularly comment most favourably on the non-commercial status of trout in New Zealand.

# **WE MAY CALL ON ANGLERS TO SPEAK UP**

New Zealand Fish & Game Council  
August 2010

The NZFFA is deeply concerned about the proposal by DOC to poison brown trout in the Karori Sanctuary. This is not because it is a particularly significant fishery, although it could be made so, but because of the precedent it would establish within a government department that seems to specialise in the widespread and indiscriminate use of poisons to eliminate anything it regards as 'pests'. There are already elements within DOC who see trout as 'pests'. We do not intend to sit idly by and see them extend this philosophy to NZ's free flowing waterways.

A copy of a letter sent to Kate Wilkinson, Minister of Conservation, outlining our concerns is attached. We would recommend and encourage you to support this by writing your own letters to the Minister on the subject.

You can write to her at:

Minister of Conservation

Freepost Parliament

Private Bag 18 888, Parliament Buildings

Wellington 6160

(no stamp is required), or by emailing her at

[k.wilkinson@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:k.wilkinson@ministers.govt.nz)

Your support is appreciated.

Jim Hale

President.

[www.nzffa.net](http://www.nzffa.net)

## **NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF FRESHWATER ANGLERS (INC.)**

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PO Box 38-777  
Howick  
Auckland

14 September 2010

Kate Wilkinson  
Minister of Conservation  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Dear Minister,

The New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers (Inc) is writing to you to express, in the strongest possible terms, its deep concern and strong objection to the proposed poisoning of brown trout in the upper reservoir and tributaries of the Karori Sanctuary.

We are fully cognisant of the fact that this area is not currently a significant fishery. We are also aware that, given sufficient willing and foresight, it could have been made into a significant outdoor recreational angling facility for young anglers, in close proximity to a major population centre.

We have followed this debate for almost a decade now, and given the latest proposals to use a broad-based non-selective poison like rotenone, which will not only kill trout, but all other aquatic life as well, we can only make one conclusion. This is a flawed and inappropriate activity to attempt to achieve an eco-fundamentalist fantasy.

We reiterate Minister, our strongest possible objection to this proposal. We do so, on a number of grounds:

It demonstrates a remarkable lack of care and planning for the outdoor recreational angling needs of young urban New Zealanders, when it would have been so easy to accommodate those.

It demonstrates a disregard, bordering on insult, to the efforts of our forefathers to establish viable freshwater fisheries for both recreational and food harvesting purposes. It is only the self-funded hard work of Fish & Game NZ and the members of fishing clubs that we represent, that ensures that these fisheries are maintained at all.

Fresh water, and the ecosystems and fisheries it sustains, are a public resource. These are not something that private organisations or even government departments can choose to poison at will, to feed some kind of 'return to the 1600's' fantasy.

It would set a precedent that we, New Zealand's freshwater anglers, find both repugnant and unjustified. The indiscriminate poisoning of waterways is something that we will both object to and seek to prevent. Especially when it threatens freshwater sports fish. We will be writing to

you under a separate letter about our concerns on the possible use of rotenone, sodium nitrite and pindone.

There is a culture within your department, Minister, which seeks to eliminate anything it sees as 'non-native' by the widespread and indiscriminate use of non-selective poisons. Regardless of any substantial proof of its effectiveness. We will not stand by and see this extended to our waterways.

Finally Minister, we hardly need to remind you, that Section 7(h) of the RMA requires that everyone exercising functions and powers under it, 'to have particular regard to the protection of the habitat of trout and salmon'. The NZFFA fails to see how deliberately poisoning trout achieves or satisfies this requirement of the Act.

Minister, the NZFFA regards this proposal as both flawed and dangerous to the interests of its members. We object to its implementation. We await your response to these genuine concerns with interest and anticipation.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Hale  
President.  
Email "[jahale@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:jahale@slingshot.co.nz)"

CC: The Chief Executive Officer  
Wellington City Council

The Chairman  
Fish & Game NZ

# WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

## MEETING AGENDA ITEM LIST WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2010

### UNCONFIRMED MINUTES 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2010

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#### AGENDA

**Location: Palmerston North, 200 Broadway Avenue, Palmerston North, 18<sup>th</sup> August 2010, at 3.00pm.**

1. Present and In Attendance
2. Apologies
3. Minutes, 16<sup>TH</sup> June 2010
4. Matters Arising
5. Adopt Annual Plan 2010/11
6. National Council Business
7. Exclusive Capture Issues
8. Criteria for Assessing Game Preserves
9. Rangitikei River Backcountry Licence
10. Regional Merit Award
11. Dispute Resolution (Development of National Policy)
12. 2009 Fish and Game Election Results & Feedback
13. Management Report
14. Expenditure Report/Financial Transactions
15. Fishing Licence Report/Game Licence Report
16. Correspondence/Media
17. General Business

The KFFC Secretary receives the above information from Wellington Fish and Game and is happy to make copies available to any member upon request.

I also occasionally receive other angling club newsletters from NZ FFA which I can make available. This month I have the September Christchurch Fishing and Casting Club. Inc. Their website [www.cfcc.co.nz](http://www.cfcc.co.nz)

## Fly Fishing at Night - in Rivers

**Safety is the key consideration when fishing rivers at night, especially big rivers. And any river can be 'big' in the dark.**

Fly fishing at night in rivers - big fish - big risks?

Fishing at night introduces a whole raft of new variables for the angler to deal with - especially if it is a really dark night. But really black nights are the best time to catch big brutes. Especially big brown brutes. Catch 22 - again.

It seems trite to write it - but the biggest problem with night fishing is the inability to see what you are doing.

- The first problem is casting. It is usually impossible to see the fly-line, and to see where it is going. If you are fishing where a back-cast is likely to be problematical you can put money on your fly finding the trees behind you.
- The second issue is knowing where your cast has gone, when you fire it out over the water. Is it heading to the right place, or is it heading for the trees on the other-side.
- Third, once the fly is on the water, it is hard, if not impossible, to know if that fly is travelling to where you want it.

I guess summing up the difficulties, is that when night fishing you become acutely aware of how much daytime fly-fishing relies on your seeing what is going on.

Ok, so it looks like night fishing is confined to a bunch of nutter fishermen, bumbling about in the dark, hoping they are doing the right

thing, dreaming of a big fish, while their nose freezes off. Well, call me a nutter. But I am a nutter who enjoys catching bigger fish than are normally found during the day.

There is one thing that is absolutely essential when contemplating fishing a river at night - know the water.

- You must either know the stretch of water you are going to fish very well from repeated visits to that water.
- Or, you do a thorough reconnoitre in daylight, prior to venturing out.
- Or, you fish the water in the company of someone who knows the water intimately.
- Actually I never fish a river at night alone - there is extra safety in numbers.

If these three factors are in place, you maximise your chances of catching fish, and minimise the chances of taking a tumble and getting worse than just wet.

So, here is my sequence of events before tackling a piece of water I have not fished before.

I always visit the water during daylight and fish it with the method I plan to use at night. I never, ever, not even once, night-fish water I have not fished in daylight.

In most cases I fish at night with a sinking line (of varying types - more later) to a dark streamer-type fly. I try and get a feel for the cast necessary to send the fly where I want it. Once I have established that, I find some sticks and make a marker on the bank, for both where to stand and the direction of the cast. I do this in each of the various lies I have identified.



I take particular note, and I mean a written note, of anything, logs, rocks etc. that may trip me up when wading. For each marker I note the depth where I was standing, (ankle, shin, knee, mid-thigh). This helps me ensure I am in the right place for the cast. I take a note of snags and other things that might interfere with my fly or line.

If the piece of water, is to be fished through, that is cast two or three times, then take a step, and cast again, and so on through the water, I note down the number of steps.

By fishing the water in daylight you can experiment with the tackle required. If you are fishing downstream, you can work out whether you require a floating line or all the way down to a fast sinking shooting head. This decision may well force the decision on what rod weight to use, i.e. shooting head - heavier weight rod.

The daylight fact-finder will allow you to test lure weight as well, in combination with the line weight you have chosen.

While this may seem to be a great deal of effort for a night's fishing, in reality it is little different to what we do on any new piece of water in the day. The first day we fish new water we discover and commit to memory the dynamics of that water, and on following days we can fish it productively, having identified the best lies. Over time that knowledge gets refined, and honed. It is just the same for night fishing, the more we fish a piece of water at night the more we know the water and the more productive we become.

## Night fishing methods.

### Downstream wet lining

By far and away the easiest (and possibly the most productive) method of night fishing is downstream wet-lining. That is firing a cast across the river, let it swing down and around until the lure is below you, then twitch retrieve the line back ready for the next cast.

This method is the best for anglers relatively new to fly-fishing, because it reduces the variables. But most anglers I know fish downstream at night, including the very best anglers.

Do not forget using wee wets, flymphs or spider flies. Many insects hatch at night and a small wet fly on a sink-tip line can be very effective. Cast across and allow the fly to swing, then when it is below you, do a 'lift and draw' retrieve. That is lift the rod tip up slowly, draw in an arm's length of line, then drop the rod tip and let the fly sink again. The idea is to imitate an emerging insect swimming up to the surface. Repeat till the line is back to where you need to recast.

### Dry-fly fishing

Many insects, especially a number of Caddis, hatch at night, and dry fly fishing can be very effective, but it really does require that you have some moon-light. Usually small drifts are the answer, to avoid the dreaded drag on the fly. Although sometimes a bit of drag is effective, especially when caddis are on the water.

But my favourite night-time flies are big leggy foam-flies that create all kinds of trouble and strife on the water - just like big terrestrial insects such as moths, cicada, and hoppers. Fire them out well above the water surface and let them plop down on the water. These foam flies will even work when there is no hatch on - often dragging big fish up from deep water.

On this theme do not ignore small bass bugs, especially those with lots of legs and a cupped face - they make lot of 'noise' and again can pull big fish up from the depths.

Mice patterns work most of the time especially on big brown trout. In fact mice can be fished down and across on water that is not moving fast. The wake off the fly seems to attract big brute browns.

### Nymph fishing at night

I have tried to nymph fish at night, really tried, but I find it just too problematical. Nymph fishing in daylight is the most difficult of all fly-fishing methods - we are working in three dimensions. Give nymphing a go at night if frustration is your close and personal friend.

### Stopper Knot

There is one little but important thing you need to know when fishing at night - how to tie

a 'stopper knot'. At night it can be very difficult to tell how much line is outside the rod tip when retrieving. Having the fly-line pull into the rod guides is one of fly-fishing's more tedious events. Especially at night.

Pull about a rod and a half length of fly-line out from the rod tip then tie on a trimmed stopper knot on the fly-line just in front of the reel. The stopper knot will give you two warnings when the fly-line is nearing the rod tip. First you will feel the knot as it comes through the tip guide, and then as it touches each guide. Plenty of warning to stop retrieving and prepare for a new cast.

### Night fishing equipment

Apart from the usual fishing paraphernalia hanging off your body there are a few 'must haves'.

You need a torch of course. I always carry two. A small one clipped to my waders, some use a small torch that clips to the peak of a cap, for selecting flies and tying them on, and a bigger one for navigation. I carry a fresh set of batteries for both torches.

Regardless of which torch you use, never shine it on the water where you are going to fish. If you need to turn on your torch to change a fly or leader, turn away and face the river bank.

If I am fishing in bigger rivers I always wear a floatation device. I use a SoSpender. I also attach a large cyalume stick to my vest - it can really help in finding me if I go floating off down a river.

I wear layered warm clothing, and take extra clothing to add as night and the cold seeps in.

You need to leave a detailed plan of where you will be fishing and your expected time of return to your home or accommodation. Stick to the plan.

That pretty much is that. Fly fishing at night is a skill that requires more effort in preparation than daylight fishing, but the rewards in terms of bigger fish are well worth the effort. But always lurking in the background, as in any activity undertaken in the dark of night, is the increased potential for harm. Be careful - keep safe.

Another article from Bish and Fish available through a link on the club Website [www.bishfish.co.nz](http://www.bishfish.co.nz)

Calendar 2010		
Date	What	Notes/Contact
20 Sept	Club Night	KFFC Fly tying Comp. Judging
26 Sept	Flycasting Competition	Start 10.30am finish about lunch with Sausage sizzle
10 Oct	Waikanae River	McWilliams Shield
15 to 17 Oct	Turangi	Noel. Fishing in the General Area
18 Oct	Club night	
14 or 21 Nov	Hutt Valley Club Exchange day	Graeme

14<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> November a club exchange trip with the Hutt Club, our club will host them for a trip on the Otaki or Waikanae River and in return our club will be entertained on the Wainui River. Date to be confirmed

The Committee is also looking at a trip to say Rotorua for a few days in March.

Our triangular flytying competition with the Hutt and Wellington Clubs is not too far away, in October, probably first Tuesday. This year it is to be held at the Hutt Club's rooms.

## Kapiti Fly Fishing Club (Inc.)

### PURPOSE:

- To promote the art and sport of Fly Fishing.
- To respect the ownership of land adjoining waterways.
- To promote the protection of fish and wildlife habitat.
- To promote friendship and goodwill between members.
- To promote and encourage the exchange of information between members.

### CLUB MEETINGS:

Please come along (& bring a guest) to our monthly club meetings usually at: 7.30 pm on the third Monday of each month temporarily at the Softball Club Te Atiawa Park Donovan Road Paraparaumu

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

KFFC Committee usually meets on the second Monday in each month at 7.30pm at a committee member's house. Talk to a Committee member if you would like to attend. **Next meeting 18 March.**

### NEWSLETTER COPY:

Newsletter copy to be received by First Friday of month.  
Your input is welcomed [hohi.jones@clear.net.nz](mailto:hohi.jones@clear.net.nz)

**Thanks to all for your articles – Ken**

### Contacts:

President	Ralph Lane Email: <a href="mailto:ralph.iill@xtra.co.nz">ralph.iill@xtra.co.nz</a>	ph 04 297 3323
Vice President	Wayne Cameron Email: <a href="mailto:wayneandval.cameron@xtra.co.nz">wayneandval.cameron@xtra.co.nz</a>	ph 04 298 1480
Secretary	Hugh Driver Email: <a href="mailto:drivers@paradise.net.nz">drivers@paradise.net.nz</a>	ph 04 902 0177
Treasurer	Stuart Ayres Email: <a href="mailto:stuart.ayres@paradise.net.nz">stuart.ayres@paradise.net.nz</a>	ph 04 904 1483
Immediate Past President	Graeme Waters Email: <a href="mailto:pumps@xtra.co.nz">pumps@xtra.co.nz</a>	ph 04 298 4908
Membership & Social Activities	Austin Fraser Email: <a href="mailto:streamwise@xtra.co.nz">streamwise@xtra.co.nz</a>	ph 06 368-7300
Coach	Malcolm Francis Email: <a href="mailto:malcolm.francis@acc.co.nz">malcolm.francis@acc.co.nz</a>	ph 06 364 2101
Raffles & Fund Raising	Frank Klus Email: <a href="mailto:frankk@paradise.net.nz">frankk@paradise.net.nz</a>	ph 04 905 4828
Librarian	Frank Klus Email: <a href="mailto:frankk@paradise.net.nz">frankk@paradise.net.nz</a>	ph 04 905 4828
Webmaster	Ken McWilliams Email: <a href="mailto:ken-sylvia@xtra.co.nz">ken-sylvia@xtra.co.nz</a>	ph 04 2984249
Club Trips	Hugh Driver Email: <a href="mailto:drivers@paradise.net.nz">drivers@paradise.net.nz</a>	ph 04 902 0177
Newsletter	Ken Jones Email: <a href="mailto:hohi.jones@clear.net.nz">hohi.jones@clear.net.nz</a>	ph 06 364 8084
Manage Club Assets	Malcolm Francis Email: <a href="mailto:malcolm.francis@acc.co.nz">malcolm.francis@acc.co.nz</a>	ph 06 364 2102

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Remember the club owns rods and reels for club members to borrow  
There are 6 rods & reels with floating and sink lines in weight ranges 6 thru 9