



Kapiti Fly Fishing Club

October 2017 Newsletter



PRESIDENT REPORT

First, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new members who have joined our club over the past two months, new members are the key to any club's success. I would encourage to participate in the clubs 'on water' trips and please make yourself known if you are new to our area and fly fishing, we have numerous very good fly fishers who are more than willing to share their knowledge.

I trust you had the opportunity to head out for a fish on opening day, Michael joined me on Opening Day on the Waikanae River for a few hours fishing. The weather was not that great with overhead cloud and the feel of rain to come in the air, but we did manage to spot a trout or two as we meandered along. We both hooked a lost a nice trout each, both trout took a liking to a size 14 Black Midge pattern.

We did meet up with another young angler who was spin fishing, he did an excellent job of 'putting the fish down, and sadly lacked any ethics when it came to share the river with other anglers. At one stage he came up a joined us while Michael was fishing to a nice-looking trout, while Michael was busy checking his line this lad decided to jump in and flick hi lure over the top of the very same fish.

I am still trying work out why we never tossed him in the dam river, but two fine old gentlemen carried on walking upstream in the hope that the said young lad would go and annoy some other poor fly fisherman. One of the joys of fly fishing on a popular river like the Waikanae, the river is a great public asset for all to enjoy. Hopefully I will have the opportunity over the long weekend to explore a different part of the river minus Ruben the spin fisherman.

Over the past few weeks I have received a number of text and photos from different members of their success on the water and I have to say one or two looked like very nice trout, no doubt we will hear the full story at Monday night's meeting.

On Monday 9 October, Michael, Tony J and Craig represented our club at the Inter Clubs Fly Tying competition, and what an excellent performance by our team. Michael took out the top prizes for the Individual Fly with his Damsel Dry Fly and the team came second to the Upper Hutt team. Well done team an excellent effort and as always Upper Hutt were excellent host.

Next Thursday will be our last 'Fly Tying workshop' and we will be focussing on tying Czech nymphs and no doubt Tony will show you his magic with tying a dry fly, I would like to thank all those members who have both contributed and participated in this year's series of workshops.

Look forward to seeing you at the club meeting on Monday night, warm regards Malcolm

Front cover: Waikanae River by Malcolm

Any newsletters success is influenced by the contribution of others so please pass on any truthful or Imaginative stories otherwise you may find 'yourself' as part of future tales from the river bank. malcolm1@xtra.co.nz

***You are invited to the next KFFC Club Night on
Monday 23 October when we will share our
experiences of fishing the Waikanae River***

FROM THE TYRE'S BENCH AT SCHOOL ROAD – FLY FISHING MIDGES TOP TO BOTTOM BY PAT DORSEY



Photo by Jason Jagger

Throughout my tenure as a professional guide, I have run across my fair share of anglers who are intimidated by fly fishing midges. These individuals have conjured up every imaginable excuse to avoid tying and fishing small flies because they are panic stricken when it comes to fishing with spiderweb tippet and minuscule flies.

What many anglers fail to realize is that midge fishing often accounts for some of the best opportunities on tailwaters, spring creeks, and still-waters. In some watersheds, midges are the predominant food source, making up as much as 50 percent of a trout's diet. Unlike many other aquatic insects, midges can complete an entire life cycle during the winter months. Many species can undergo a complete life cycle—egg to adult—in just a few weeks.

The most widespread group of midges are chironomids, members of the Chironomidae family. While the majority of midges are small, they are hugely important. What they lack in size is offset by their massive populations, making them a viable food source for trout 365 days a year.

I have found that midge fishing is really only as tough and complex as you make it. Your success with midges begins by being able to recognize and understand their life cycles, coupled with choosing the appropriate artificial flies to imitate the various stages of their lives. While there are about 1,000 midge species, and their identification is difficult at best, keep things simple. Don't outthink yourself—as far as you and I are concerned, a midge is a midge. It's hard to go wrong with the size, shape, and colour formula when narrowing down your fly selection.

Life Cycle

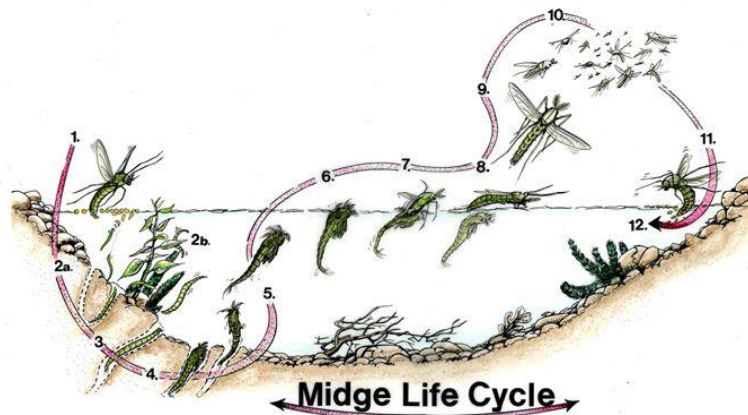


Image from Dave Whitlock's Guide to Aquatic Trout Food

Larvae. Midge larvae look like little worms. Identifying features include: a slender, slightly curved, uniform abdomen with visible segmentation and a pair of prolegs. Their heads are small, but noticeable, and easy to imitate

with a few wraps of tying thread. Midge larvae are found in a wide range of colours including blood red, pale olive, grey, brown, and black. Most midge larvae are between 3 and 10 millimetres—about the length of a size 16 to 22 long-shank hook. Many anglers overlook fishing larvae imitations, which can be a huge mistake.

Larvae live in the substrate of our trout streams. They attach themselves to rocks, burrow in mud, silt, and other debris, or cling to aquatic foliage. According to Leonard C. Ferrington, Jr., a professor at the Department of Entomology at the University of Minnesota, “Midge larval densities depend on month of year, productivity of stream, and kinds of stream-bottom substrates. Typical densities, however, may range from 800 to 2,000 larvae per square meter.”

Larvae in areas with lower oxygen levels are often bright red because they contain haemoglobin, an oxygen-carrying metalloprotein that allows them to survive in silty environments with little or no oxygen. Anglers often refer to the red wormlike larvae as blood worms or blood midges.

Larvae imitations are productive year-round because they have a tendency to drift continuously in the current, a phenomenon referred to as constant drift. A steady supply of drifting midge larvae is especially important for opportunistic trout when other aquatic insects are inactive. A sudden increase in stream flow can also knock loose larvae, creating small feeding frenzies and the perfect opportunity to fish larvae patterns.

Pupae. When midge larvae reach maturity, they develop into pupae. Pupae are shorter and stockier than the slender larvae. The thorax is swollen, containing the wing-pads, legs, and gills, with highly visible segmentation throughout the abdomen. I tie my pupae imitations in sizes 20 to 26, in a wide range of colours—black, brown, dark olive, and grey.



Prior to emerging, pupae become fidgety, moving up and down in the water column several times before the adult finally breaks free from the pupal sheath and pushes its way through the meniscus.

A layer of highly reflective trapped gases produces a mirrorlike bubble in the thorax and a translucent abdomen. Size, shape, colour, plus a “dash of flash” are important when tying and fishing pupae imitations. Silver-lined glass beads, Krystal Flash, Medallion Sheeting, Gliss N Glow, and Mylar tinsel are all popular and effective in midge designs because they imitate this reflectivity.

Pupae patterns are most effective when naturals are ascending to the water’s surface or when they are hanging in a C shape, suspended just below the surface film. The emerging process is slow, giving trout ample opportunity to capitalize on an effortless meal. Concentrations of wiggling, rising pupae draw the attention of nearby trout, producing a steady feeding rhythm.

Adults. Adults emerge by breaking through the surface film, pulling themselves out of their suspended pupal sheaths by using their legs to push on the surface tension. During this phase, the emerging midges appear to be twice as long as the pupae because of the trailing shucks attached to the adult bodies.

Trout may key in on different phases of the emergence, and midges can look astonishingly different from one phase to the next. At first, the emerging insect appears as a significant hump on the back of a floating pupa, and patterns like the Medallion Midge are a perfect match.

As the wings struggle to pull free from the pupa, the trailing shuck can be a significant trigger. Some adults never complete the emerging process—they remain trapped within their pupal sheath. Stuck in the Shuck or trailing shuck patterns are excellent imitations for these struggling cripples. Most imitations are black or cream with a few strands of orange, amber, or cream Z-Lon or Darlon protruding from the hook shank to represent the trailing shuck.

When a midge's wings are first fully extended (upward), the silhouette can appear almost mayfly like, and a small Parachute Adams or Cannon's Suspender Midge are not only effective, but easy to spot on the water.

After complete emergence, the adults sit on the water long enough to dry their wings and prepare for flight. Down-wing imitations like Matt's Midge fool trout that are selectively feeding on midges resting in preparation to leave the water's surface. On many occasions, I have experienced trout that refuse anything but down-wing-style artificial.

It is not uncommon to see clusters of midges on the water's surface after strong hatches—especially during the winter and early spring. I have observed many instances where a group of midge's clings onto one another, twisting and turning on the surface. Trout feed confidently and voraciously when these clusters form.



Strategies

Fishing larvae requires no sophisticated tactics. Most anglers dredge larvae patterns close to the substrate where the greatest concentrations are found. I have had my best success with pale olive and red larvae imitations.

I fish my larvae as attractors in a conventional, two-fly nymphing rig. A good rule of thumb is to keep your strike indicator adjusted to 1.5 to 2 times the depth of the water—measured from your split-shot or other weight. I space my flies 300mm to 350mm apart, using a midge pupa as the top fly because a pupa should naturally drift higher in the water column than a larva.

When a midge hatch becomes evident and trout begin intercepting midge pupae higher in the water, I snip off my larva and fish two pupae. This decision is based on trout switching from opportunistic to selective feeding. Fishing pupae requires more finesse and skill than dredging larvae. Concentrate your efforts in transitional zones (mid-channel shelves or gravel bars) that funnel into deeper water. Locate pods of feeding fish as opposed to targeting a single fish.

Getting your flies in the correct feeding zone can make or break your success. It is entirely possible to use too much weight during the height of a midge hatch. The speed of the current, and the depth of the fish, help determine the amount of weight you'll need. In most cases, a #4 or #6 split-shot is sufficient.

The "takes" are subtle, therefore I prefer a sparse yarn strike indicator because they are the most sensitive. In many cases the strike is only a small dimple around the indicator. The best hatches occur during the low-light hours. Trout keying on emergers or adults are generally suspended just below the surface, not hugging the bottom. During the initial phases of the hatch, trout may eat both hanging pupae and adults.

Pupae should be fished in the surface film. Emergers should be fished half in and half out of the meniscus.

The greased-leader technique works well when trying to fool trout that are keying on pupae just below the surface. Apply silicone floatant to the entire leader excluding the last 12 inches closest to the fly. The ungreased section allows the pupa to sit just below the surface, precisely where you would expect to find emerging pupae.

Another effective method is to fish a dry-dropper rig, suspending a tungsten Flashback Black Beauty off a dry fly, or emerger. This is especially effective in skinny water where traditional nymphing rigs tend to spook trout or get hung up on the bottom. This is a great play in anticipation of things to come, as once the trout turn their attention to adult midges, you can simply cut off the dropper and focus solely on dry-fly fishing. My observation leads me to believe that once trout commit to feeding on adults, the pupae and emergers become less important.

For targeting trout that are keying on adults, the feeding window is narrow. A cast that is a foot to the right or left of your rising trout is not close enough. Toss in a cruising trout, especially in slow-moving currents, and things become challenging. In all cases, target a specific rising fish as opposed to random casting, otherwise your odds drop dramatically.

The best advice I can give you is to get as close to the fish as possible without spooking it. Midge emergers, cripples, and adults are difficult to see. I typically coat the top of my fly with Frog's Fanny, which turns the topside of the fly white and helps locate your tiny fly on the water. If you still cannot see your fly, you should at least have a reasonable idea of where the end of your leader is. Set the hook in response to any surface disturbance in that general area.

Fishing cripples or Stuck in the Shuck imitations is similar to fishing adults. These imitations display the trapped adult extending partially out of the pupal sheath. Stuck in the Shuck imitations should be fished on the surface, and cripples should be fished half in and half out of the surface film.



Terminal Tackle

A 9-foot 4- or 5-weight rod is sufficient for most midge fishing. I prefer a fast-action rod for nymphing larvae and pupae imitations, and a softer rod for delicate dry-fly applications. I carry an assortment of tapered leaders (5X to

6X), ranging in length from 7.5 to 9 feet long. I carry several spools of tippet, both fluorocarbon and monofilament in sizes 5X to 7X. Fluorocarbon is ideal for most nymphing, but monofilament is better for dry flies because it floats and is more supple.

When fishing dry flies, emergers, and cripples, I typically use longer leaders, 3m feet to 1.3m, terminating with 500mm to 700mm of 7X tippet. Conditions dictate the length of the leader—smooth glasslike currents require longer leaders. In riffled water you can get away with a shorter leaders and heavier tippet.

Pat Dorsey is a co-owner of Blue Quill Angler in Evergreen, Colorado

Read more: <http://www.flyfisherman.com/fly-tying/fly-fishing-midges-top-to-bottom/#ixzz4vvuOdhfU>

Editor – On opening day on the Waikanae River both Michael and I hooked a trout each on black Midge Nymph and sadly we never managed to bring them to the net, both went for a small size 16 black Midge pattern. Over the past few years I have found a number of different colours work extremely well in size 14, 16 and 18, easy nymph to tie and very effective.

SMALL LOCAL STREAMS BY TONY ORMAN

As outlined in another contribution I've been browsing some old copies of the now defunct New Zealand "Fishing and Shooting Gazette". In one of 1930 I noted reference to a stream the Otauru, a tributary of the Manawatu. In some places it's called the Otara. It runs from the Tararua foothills where the Mangahao Dam power house is and close to the Shannon Railway Station.

It used to be a grand wee stream apparently. The Wellington Acclimatisation Society said good catches were obtained during the 1926-7 season. A writer "BB" in the 1930 magazine issue said when the power house was erected it was envisaged a "larger, faster stream of steady volume."

"The result has been somewhat different — one finds the Otauru pretty well a raging torrent."

But behind the various groins and at bends in the stream, good sport is likely to be had all the same. Downstream fishing and the wet fly here come into play. Going down after lunch on the same day, the fishermen will probably find a series of holes and such water as is running is merely a trickle."

"In the evening, there may or may not, be water running."

"BB" rated the Otauru as "a great fly stream fishable for its eight miles from power house to mouth where it joins the Manawatu - in half an hour one can usually take four or five fish weighing from half a pound to 1.5 lbs. On an evening last season, the writer landed a 5.5 lb brown on a Black Gnat, a beautifully shaped female fish 22 inches long and evidently up from the Manawatu to spawn as it later proved to be full of well-developed ova.

A week prior "BB" caught a fish just under 4 lbs.

I started my fly fishing on small streams in the Manawatu such as the Kahuterawa and Tiritea and to a lesser extent the Tokomaru. I also fished the Ohau in the late 1950s but it was never as productive as others. Reports in the "Fishing and Shooting Gazette" of the 1940s suggest it was always a bit uncertain. I never fished the Otauru.

The Mangaone I think it's called, near Te Horo also held trout. I fished it once and saw fish but they saw me first.

Small streams can be fun. You may go fishless but what the heck! After all small streams have a closeness like a good buddy. They are friendly and charming and have a personal intimacy while presenting a challenge to any angler. Treat small streams with respect. They don't need heavy pressure. If you get a trout, it's a bonus. I suggest you practice 'catch and release' on small streams too.

Back in the 1950s we used 'little wet flies' with our favourite patterns being Hardies Favourite, Peveril of the Peak and Red Tip Governor. We fished them across and around. In the old "Fishing and Shooting Gazettes" I noticed

the editor F. E. Thornton advocating fishing them straight upstream as you would today's nymphs. Logically he reckoned bigger fish were caught that way as the flies sank deeper than when fished across, down and around.

There are rich rewards in fishing small streams, mostly intangible ones, and no matter the age of the angler. I still gravitate to small streams.

BLUE DUCKS NUMBERS GET A BOOST IN WAIKANAЕ BY DAVID HAXTON



The pair of Blue Ducks at Nga Manu Nature Reserve

A young male and female blue duck from Nga Manu Nature Reserve, in Waikanae, part of an endangered species throughout the country, have had their first clutch of eggs. The pair of blue duck, also called Whio, originally from Pukaha Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre, came to Nga Manu in April when they were about 16 months old.

The aim was for the pair to be advocacy display birds, where people could get close and learn more about the species, as well as a breeding pair where their offspring could help boost the numbers of the critically endangered species. Reserve staff and volunteers were delighted when the female blue duck laid six eggs.

One of the eggs was infertile but the rest were kept in a climate controlled environment. Three of the eggs have hatched into ducklings but unfortunately the other two didn't survive. The ducklings were put into a small warm enclosure with a group of mallard ducklings to keep them calm.

When they're about six weeks old the blue ducklings will go onto another enclosure, where they will be introduced to the outdoors, before being taken to a hardening-up facility in Turangi and then released into the wild. Helping boost blue duck numbers was an important conservation effort for Nga Manu to be involved in especially as there are fewer than 3000 of the species remaining. And the numbers could be increased again soon as the female blue duck at Nga Manu has built a natural nest and laid some eggs.



A blue duckling born at Nga Manu Nature Reserve

Meanwhile the Kapiti Fly Fishing Club has donated \$500 to Nga Manu towards live food. Live food is given to a variety of species at Nga Manu such as blue duck, kiwi, tuatara, gecko and skink. Nga Manu Nature Reserve manager Matu Booth said the donation was "awesome."

"As a group no one sees Whio more than people who are into fly fishing." "I was invited to give a talk to the club and listened to some great stories of Whio being fearless in their environment," he said. "Fly fishers are really conscious about degradation of rivers and Whio are really good indicators of the health of rivers. So this donation has a nice connect for them."

Kapiti News

MOST RIVER POLLUTION COMES FROM STREAMS THAT DON'T NEED FENCING, RESEARCH SHOWS



Researchers found 77 per cent of the pollution load nationwide came from smaller streams that do not require fencing

Most of New Zealand's river pollution comes from streams that would be exempt from waterway fencing rules, new research shows. It calls into question the effectiveness of current efforts, which would become law under legislation proposed by the National Government. A paper published by the American Journal of Environmental Quality found that 77 per cent of contaminants in New Zealand's rivers came from smaller waterways exempt from proposed fencing rules.

Fencing efforts by rural and community groups have sought to protect streams more than 1m wide and 30cm deep from stock. Both voluntary and regulatory fencing efforts by rural and community groups have sought to protect larger waterways, sometimes described as wider than a stride and deeper than a Redband gumboot.

In policy terms, it refers to streams more than 1m wide and 30cm deep. The paper, by Ag Research scientist Dr Richard McDowell as part of the Our Land and Water National Science Challenge, found that most pollution does not come from those waterways. It modelled the contaminant load for over half a million stream segments around the country, which were divided into those that would need to be fenced and those that would not. It determined 77 per cent of the pollution load nationwide came from streams that would not require fencing.

The contribution of individual pollutants from smaller streams ranged from 73 per cent of total nitrogen to 84 per cent of dissolved reactive phosphorus. It was particularly evident in agriculturally-productive regions such as Canterbury, Southland, Nelson and Hawkes Bay, which "exhibited large contaminant loads from exempt catchments", the research said.

"These regions have significant downstream rivers that are used for recreation and tourism," it said. "Our data suggest that not requiring fencing may significantly delay or reduce the ability to mitigate water quality impairment unless other measures are taken." Because most of the waterways in the country were smaller, it was no surprise they were the major contributor of pollution, McDowell said.



"The take-home message is not to put all your eggs in one basket and just rely on fencing to decrease your water quality impact. For farmers, it would mean looking at other ways to reduce water quality impacts. Fencing all streams in the country, including smaller ones, would cost \$1.4b, according to a regulatory impact statement by the Ministry for Primary Industries.

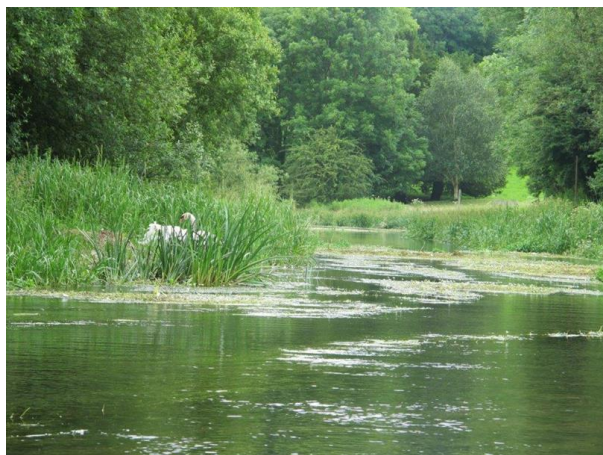
It would be uneconomic to do so, but there were other measures to reduce the impact on water quality, McDowell said. "Don't expect fencing to do everything. Fencing costs, a lot, but we do have a large array of other management practices we can do to improve water quality and not impact on the bottom line."

Fish & Game chief executive Bryce Johnson said it was an "extremely important piece of research" that showed an urgent need to rethink the national riparian fencing strategy. "We now have the science to show what we have long suspected – small waterways are crucially important to the environment and need to be properly protected from contamination," he said. "They flow into the bigger streams and rivers and [the] research shows that by the time they join up with bigger streams, much of the pollution has already occurred."

Stuff

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF FRANK SAWYER BY IAN MITCHELL

Below me, the ghostly grey shape hovered over the gravel in the rain-stained chalk stream, occasionally darting left or right, intercepting invisible nymphs. I glanced at Keith and he gave me the nod. I tapped my rod and the non-descript nymph dropped off the penultimate rod ring. I breathed slowly, trying to calm my nerves. I was in the middle of Wiltshire on the stretch of the River Avon once tended by the renowned riverkeeper Frank Sawyer – the creator of the very nymph pattern I was about to cast. Time was short, and history weighed heavily upon me.



For many years, Frank Sawyer was the riverkeeper on the Avon in Wiltshire, for the British Army Officer's Fishing Association. Now known as the Services Fishing Association, it still has the same 6½ mile stretch river on Ministry of Defence (MOD) land. It starts above the town of Bulford and ends at Netheravon. The Association's members are serving and ex-serving MOD personnel; however fortunately for me, guests are also allowed. Hence Keith, an accomplished fly tier I have known for over 15 years, was able to arrange for me to spend the day poking around the Avon and soaking up some of the history.

Frank Sawyer invented one of the most enduring and well-known fly patterns; one that most fly-fishers probably have and use regularly when fishing for trout. Known as the Pheasant Tail Nymph or PTN for short, it is tied with two materials only: the fibres from the centre tail feather of a cock pheasant, and fine red copper wire that provides weight and doubles as tying thread. Frank Sawyer followed up the work of G.E.M Skues who was one of the first to write about and popularise the use of nymphs or sunken flies for feeding trout. Whereas Skues focused on rising and bulging trout, Sawyer developed and refined the technique of using weighted nymphs fished upstream to trout and grayling feeding at depth. It is also quite likely he invented the tuck cast – he described such a cast in his book 'Nymphs and the Trout':

"To make a nymph pitch and sink quickly, the best method I have found is to stop the rod on the downward stroke in casting, and check the running line passing through the left hand just when it is extended horizontally over the water. This check has the tendency to make the nymph curl downwards with the cast and then penetrate the water before the line falls."

Before heading to the Avon, Keith and I visited the town of Bulford, where Sawyer lived in a farmhouse until his death in 1980. The farmhouse no longer stands and was replaced by some non-descript townhouses. However, on the opposite side of the street is Owl Cottage, which was once the house of Major Oliver Kite, a contemporary, a friend (and possibly later an enemy) of Sawyer's.



Whilst Kite credited Sawyer with the development of upstream nymphing, "These wire-bodied nymphs, an original and imaginative construction evolved by Sawyer, are the very foundation of Modern Nymph fishing" [ii], Kite himself probably did more to popularise the method. Kite was known for his communication skills, having worked for the Army re-writing training manuals, and he made a number of television series. Kite describes in his own book how he caught his first trout on a nymph in 1957, one of Sawyer's own, at the suggestion of Sawyer himself. Despite both being advocates for the upstream nymph techniques, it is said that their initial friendship soured into "an uneasy relationship" [iii]. Keith tells me he believes that Sawyer, at the end, would not even speak to Kite.

It must have been quite a strain for them as they lived opposite each other in Bulford up until Kite's sudden death in 1968. We visited the final resting places of both Kite and Sawyer. Kite had a formal churchyard burial in Bulford while Sawyer had his ashes scattered on his beloved ponds at Netheravon. We visited the member's hut and ponds, a very peaceful resting place indeed.

After the rest of tour, we headed for the Avon, passing a quaint brewery and a thatcher at work repairing one of the roofs typical of the area. We were soon walking the banks of the Avon with rod in hand in search of a fish or two. It was about 11:00 am, and despite the warm day, there was very little insect activity. Ambling along, we cast

to a couple of ounces but either our drifts were off, or the trout were not interested in our offerings. It was probably not a great day for the dry fly.



Thatcher at work

We soon came to a seat that overlooked a quiet pool. The seat bears a commemorative plaque to Frank Sawyer and marks the place of his death in February 1980. We both sat for a while and gave silent thanks to a man that added a great amount to world of fly-fishing, and was fortunate enough to spend his last moments doing something he loved. It was at this point I felt it was only fitting that I tie on one of Frank's nymphs.



Rather than his PTN, I selected another of Sawyer's famous flies that is, in his own words, 'a miserable concoction of wire and wool, a thing anyone could make in less than a minute, and which to the human eye has not the slightest resemblance to any living creature'. Frank called it the Grayling Bug, and used it to great effect on his home river, as well as others in England and abroad. Lee Wulff, the great American angler, called it the Killer Bug and the name stuck. The wool from which it was made, Chadwick's 477, was discontinued even in Sawyer's time, and became highly sought after, such was the fly's fame. It sells on eBay for \$100 or so a metre. Keith had given me some Chadwick's several years back, but I could never bring myself to use it all up. Recently, however, I used it to good effect by visiting a knitting shop and finding a ball of wool extremely close in colour and texture. My Killer Bug was tied with the substitute and indistinguishable from the real thing – well to me anyway.

The grayling agreed, although I'm not sure Frank would have agreed with my use of a bright yellow yarn indicator. The water we were fishing was too deep to spot fish (that's my excuse, but in reality, I am lazy; an indicator is easier to watch than the entry point of the leader as Frank would have).



Grayling are native to European rivers, and one of my favourite fish to catch. They are relatively easy to find and they are tolerant of anglers, soon resuming feeding after being spooked. However, they are not so easy to catch. They are very quick, and take and reject a nymph faster than any trout. Any delays in setting the hook will mean missed fish. All this means grayling are a great fish for learning nymphing.

Keith soon found me a deep green pocket close to the bank, where I missed the first two takes before my third turn of the wrist set the hook into some weight. We shared the rod and water and over the next hour managed to catch a few more grayling from that stretch. Keith, showing his experience and technique, hardly missing a take.



Keith shows how it's done

We eventually moved on to a beautiful run below a road bridge where Keith graciously allowed me to fish the entire water, sledging every missed fish with the skill of one of his beloved test cricketers. Despite his best efforts, I did end up landing a couple; however, I missed more than I landed. I like to think it was because I was obliged to fish from more than 20 metres away, due to the depth of the water and my use of hip waders. In my defence, I submit that Frank himself was not a fan of fishing from a distance, believing it spooked or poorly hooked more fish than it caught. Based on his great experience watching others fish he wrote that, “at 25 yards... to hook a fish when its mouth is closed, one should start the tightening of the line before the fish ... has opened its mouth to take a nymph”. [iv]

With little time remaining before I needed to catch my train to London, we wandered upstream and found a grayling darting left and right on a gravel bed, presumably taking nymphs. Now was the time to fish as Frank advised: no indicator, just a weighted nymph.



My tuck cast was less than elegant, but the Killer Bug plunged vertically a metre or so ahead of the fish, disappearing with a satisfying plop. With my nymph invisible, I watched my leader and the fish in hope, trying to imagine my fly drifting towards it. The fish moved, snapping its jaws. In a panic, I flicked the rod back and by some miracle the line tightened. I soon had the grayling at the bank. My (Frank's) Killer Bug was firmly lodged in the corner of its mouth.



I could not imagine a better time to wind in and head home, and said so to Keith, thanking him profusely for such a great opportunity to experience fly-fishing history, and to walk in Frank Sawyer's footsteps.

Nymphs and the Trout – Frank Sawyer 1970 A & C Black

[ii] Nymph Fishing in Practice, 1963, Oliver Kite

[iii] Nymph Fishing A history of the Art and Practice – Terry Lawton 2005. Swan Hill Press

[iv] Nymphs and the Trout – Frank Sawyer 1970 A & C Black

KEITH WOODFORD DISCUSSES HOW COMPOSTING BARNs CAN PROVIDE SOLUTIONS FOR NEW ZEALAND DAIRY

There is increasing recognition that 24/7 paddock wintering of cows is not the way forward for New Zealand dairy. The challenge is to find solutions. These solutions need to achieve good environmental management, they need to be animal friendly, and they also need to make economic sense.

Over recent months I have been on a personal journey of learning about composting barns. That journey is ongoing and I have more to learn. But I am now at a point where I am confident that composting barns can be a major part

of the strategic solution for New Zealand dairy. They can be win-win-win for the environment, for animals, and for profitability.

There is one important qualification to the above statement. It is that none of us yet have all of the answers for New Zealand conditions. Also, there is evidence that some farmers are going into composting barns with a poor understanding of the critical factors for success.

With a composting barn, if things go wrong they can go really wrong. In that situation, what should be sweet smelling, dry and warm compost, which cows love to lie in, turns to smelly sludge. At that point, it is 'out with the sludge', and back to square one. But if the basic design of the shed is wrong, things will go wrong again. If working well, the compost stays in the barn for 12 months. It then gets taken out, left for some further decomposition, and used as valuable fertiliser.

For success, the key requirement is to first get the infrastructure right, and then manage the barn so as to maintain an environment that favours aerobic bacteria (the good fellows) rather than anaerobic bacteria (the bad fellows). For success, the key requirement is to first get the infrastructure right, and then manage the barn so as to maintain an environment that favours aerobic bacteria (the good fellows) rather than anaerobic bacteria (the bad fellows).

The distinguishing concept of a composting barn is that composting occurs in situ. The cows roam freely in the barn and lie on a mix of wood chips and straw, with the wood-chip component being critical. It would be nice if the cows could be toilet trained but they can't. So, the cows defecate and urinate directly into their beds. However, as long as there is adequate ventilation combined with daily mechanical aeration, then the beds remain dry, warm and sweet smelling.

Composting barns are not new, but it is only in the last few years that the requirements to make the system work have become better understood. The first time I took much notice of composting barns was close on ten years ago, when I heard that Fonterra had constructed some at Hangu, the first of their China farms. From all accounts, it was less than successful. For their subsequent farms at Yutian and also at the third hub, they have gone to the tried and tested American free-stall system. It is to Yutian, rather than Hangu, where they take visitors who are lucky enough to be allowed to visit their China farms.

Knowing something of the problems at Hangu, I subsequently cautioned an international corporate client of mine in another part of the world from building composting barns. I remain cautious in relation to dairy corporates going that way until more experience is gained, because of the need for hands-on monitoring and early recognition if something is not quite right.

Of course, that proviso of hands-on monitoring is relevant to any farm. It needs someone on-site who is passionate about making it work. A probe thermometer and moisture meter should be basic tools.

The key event that set me on the composting journey was a visit in May of this year to two composting barns in Oregon, separately owned by the Cowan and Bennett families. I was there in Oregon with a team from construction company Calder Stewart and our main focus was to learn about hybrid systems that combine barns with grazing. But as so often on such trips, the key insights came out of left field. In this case it was composting barns.



Bennett composting barn in high-rainfall Western Oregon

What I saw there were two barns that were working well. At the Bennetts farm, I saw robot-milked cows that had a post-milking choice of whether they went to a free-stall barn or a composting barn. Most were going to the composting barn. The compost was dry and sweet smelling and the cows were clean. The Bennetts described how their replacement rates and somatic cell counts had both dropped since building the compost barn.

On returning to New Zealand, I started talking to Waikato-based consultants Sue Macky and Bryan McKay about their experiences with composting barns. Bryan quickly pointed out to me that it was better to talk about 'composting barns' rather than 'compost barns'. This is to reduce confusion between these and other systems where the cow poo and urine are collected, with the liquid then squeezed out, and the dry poo then used as cow bedding.

I have seen this second system working very well in the Netherlands in association with free-stall barns, and it too has potential here in New Zealand. However, it is fundamentally different to in-situ composting which is the focus of this article.

So, to avoid confusion I now use the term 'composting', but note much of the overseas literature still calls them 'compost' barns. Sue Macky subsequently introduced me Tony Allcock who is one of her Waikato-based clients. Tony farms with his wife Fran and son Lucas, and they are now into the fourth year with a composting barn.

I arrived at the Allcock farm with cold feet on a miserable wet winter day, but after standing in the barn for a few minutes my feet warmed up nicely. That is what happens in a composting barn which is working properly. The Allcocks' barn is designed so that liquid can flow out of the compost and into the dairy effluent management system. In practice, there is no liquid; it all evaporates away.

I am aware of other barns where either the liquid does not evaporate, or where it evaporates but then descends in a condensation rain event. It is all about getting the design right. Shifting to a composting barn has required a fundamental shift of farming system for the Allcocks. They have moved from a typical NZ grazing system to one where the cows spend part of every day in the barn and part grazing outside.



The Allcock Waikato composting barn, freshly aerated, with cows about to return from grazing

Under the old system, the production varied between 88,000 and 99,000 kg milk-solids per year. Since making the change, production was 128,000 kg in the first year, 134,000 kg in the second year and 147,000 kg in the third year. The target going forward is 180,000 kg.

Nearly all of the production increase has come from higher production per cow rather than increased cow numbers. Production per cow has lifted from about 380 kg milk-solids to 544 kg last year. Tony described to me how in total they have spent \$900,000 on the new system, including lots of concreting in the surrounds, and also the purchase of a feed mixer wagon and small tractor for aerating the compost. The roof structure itself is well under half the total cost.

By my calculations, the total capital spend has been \$18 per additional kg of milk-solids, based on last season's production. This will drop further using this year's increased production. The two most important feed components are pasture and home-grown maize silage. Additional feed includes some PKE and soy, but by my calculations over 80% of the feed is produced on-farm.

I have yet to do a full economic analysis of the transition to a hybrid system comprising pasture grazing plus a composting barn. But everything I have seen so far tells me that the outcomes are triple bottom line in relation to reducing the nitrogen leaching from cow urine, being very strong on cow welfare, and also stacking up as a financial investment. The Allcocks still farm with seasonal calving. However, 12-month milking with its increased biological feed conversion efficiency combined with off-season premiums would certainly be feasible.

In moving towards broader acceptance of composting barns, there are lots of issues to consider. Sue Macky has strong concerns that some farmers are failing to recognise the key requirements for success and in some cases, are getting things horribly wrong. It can be a Kiwi trait to try and figure things out ourselves without learning from those who have gone before.

Some of the basic mistakes relate to insufficient compost area per cow, insufficient wood chips or shavings, insufficient open wall height, insufficient roof pitch, lack of roof venting, wrong placement of drinking troughs (they should be outside the composting area), and group sizes too large.

One of the issues I am currently exploring is where all the bedding is going to come from if everybody starts building composting barns. This has potential to be the greatest constraint. On-farm coppiced poplars, or other fast-growing species such as eucalypts, might be part of the way ahead. Industrial hemp also makes excellent bedding. Our research institutions need to step up and get involved.

WHY DOES THE NGARURORO RIVER DESERVE WCO? BY ANNABETH COHEN

OPINION: Forest & Bird is one of five organisations applying for a Water Conservation Order (WCO) for the Ngaruroro River in Hawke's Bay. A WCO is a tool to recognise and protect the existing outstanding or intrinsic characteristics of New Zealand's most exceptional rivers and lakes.

Intact braided river systems are rare worldwide, occurring in Alaska, Canada, the Himalayas, and here in New Zealand. The South Island is famous for its braided rivers, but the North Island has four of these special ecosystems as well. Once, these river systems were more extensive, but development and irrigation pressures mean those that remain are critically important to the species that rely on them for survival. The best preserved of the North Island's braided rivers is the Ngaruroro, in the Hawke's Bay. Its relatively intact state and importance to the wildlife that lives there make it an obvious candidate for protection.

The Ngaruroro wends its way from the inland forest ranges of Hawke's Bay and across the Heretaunga Plains, to the ocean. The river ecosystem is home to 72 native bird species, of which 27 are threatened with extinction. Twenty native fish species live in the Ngaruroro catchment, but in recent years many of these have been recognised as being "in trouble", rather than "doing ok."

It is true that the lower reaches of the river are more degraded than the rest of the river, but a diverse range of fish species still survives there. Some, like the pātiki, the black flounder (after which co-applicant Ngāti Hori Ki Kohupātiki take their name), travel inland to the river's braided sections. The whole river is a wildlife corridor from the mountains to the sea, and deserves protection in its entirety.



Forest & Bird is a co-applicant for a Water Conservation Order to be placed on the lower section of the Ngaruroro River

Disappointingly, some irrigators are staunchly opposed to the WCO being placed on the lower section of the river, which they take water from. The fact is, WCOs exist on rivers where there are thriving agricultural economies. The Mohaka, in north Hawke's Bay, and the Rangitikei in Manawatū both have WCOs, as do many of the braided rivers of Canterbury.

A WCO cannot revoke existing consents for water takes. It seeks to preserve the river in the state it is in now. It is true the Hawke's Bay Regional Council has significantly over-allocated water in the region and will have to reduce takes to meet recent rules set by central government, but this is nothing to do with the WCO application. In fact, the regional council announced an effective moratorium on new water takes earlier this year, as it grapples with this issue.

Our application for the WCO describes the significant environmental, cultural and recreational values of the Ngaruroro, along with suggestions for how these values can be protected. Anyone with a view on if and how the Ngaruroro should be protected can make their case as part of the WCO hearing process. The hearing panel will use the best available science alongside these submissions to make a recommendation to the Environment Court and the Minister for the Environment.

So how will the WCO work alongside the region's own water advisory group? TANK (an acronym for Tutaekuri, Ahuriri, Ngaruroro, and the Karamu rivers) is a collaborative forum that makes recommendations to the regional council on water management. Forest & Bird has been represented on TANK since its inception.

Various parties have invoked a supposed conflict of purpose between the WCO process and TANK's work, and Forest & Bird's involvement in both. But the two processes are complementary, and the WCO hearings have been scheduled so that TANK's groundwater research will be available in time to inform the WCO deliberations.

It is worth noting that the WCO application seeks only to identify and protect the outstanding values of the river. TANK may well decide the bar needs to be set higher to improve the Ngaruroro's ecosystem.

Ultimately, the livelihood of our communities depends on the health of our rivers. Too many rivers have been lost to decisions that are detrimental to sustainable economies, and devastating to our native wildlife. Once we lose our natural treasures we can never get them back. Forest & Bird believes it's our collective responsibility to give the environment a place in water management decisions. The WCO process is an opportunity for open and honest conversation about how best to do that.

The Dominion Post 17-10-17 - Annabeth Cohen is a Freshwater Advocate for Forest & Bird

RIVER RAKING A DAMAGING PRACTICE BY FRED NICHOL



CHB Freshwater Anglers Club treasurer Fred Nichol believes the practice of river raking should be suspended by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council

Fishermen are concerned with the decline in trout numbers in the Tukituki, Ngaruroro and Tutaekuri rivers, with drought, winter floods, low water flows and agricultural pollution no doubt contributing factors. A survey in the past season showed that 68 per cent of fish caught in the Tukituki were adult fish, and only 32 per cent were juveniles. The results from recent national fly-fishing competitions saw a drop from 700 fish caught to only 36 in the last three years. This is a very disturbing trend.

I believe the policy of the extensive river raking, carried out by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council, using a large tractor and ripper to break up the shingle in the river beds, is another major cause. After the May floods, the river bed was constantly changing its course. This is also leading to a wider, shallower channel, with warmer water in summer causing more algae and slime to form on the river bed.

River raking is also being done in the main spawning streams, so even a relatively small rise in water level will start moving the river bed shingle where trout lay their eggs. Last year the Forest & Bird organisation and other bird watchers were very upset when the raking was done through various nesting colonies, destroying eggs and chicks. To their credit, at a well-attended meeting in February 2017, HBRC fronted up to anglers and Forest & Bird, and agreed to stop raking in the bird nesting seasons. But the raking of the river beds is now being done at the height of the trout spawning run.

River raking was begun in the 1980s, before an environmental impact report was required. The degrading and even possible loss of these fisheries to Hawke's Bay would be a disaster. On the other hand, the tourist revenue from a rejuvenated fishery would be a great boost to local economies and hard-pressed farmers, home stays and for fishermen.

So much of the hard work going into Plan Change 6 to mitigate agricultural pollution could be wasted if the fishery collapses. Until a thorough environment impact survey is completed into river raking, this practice should be put on hold.

Hawke's Bay Regional Council replies:

There are a number of assertions by Fred Nichol that are incorrect, misleading or unsubstantiated.

HBRC has recently adopted a new riverbed Gravel Management Plan (GMP) and an Environmental Code of Practice (COP) for River Control and Waterway Works. This involved representative of Fish and Game and anglers. A number of studies have been carried out over the past six years to better understand the effects of gravel extraction and beach raking on the region's braided rivers. A number of studies have been carried out over the past six years to better understand the effects of gravel extraction and beach raking on the region's braided rivers.

These major studies included two reports: "Effects of Gravel Extraction and Beach Raking on Key Instream Species in Hawke's Bay Rivers: Cawthron" and "Gravel Review: Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment: Forbes Ecology". The COP was developed around these reports, including guidelines on best river management practices to allow the council to carry out its flood control responsibilities with minimal environmental impact.

The Cawthron report highlighted no existing New Zealand-specific research on the instream ecological effects of gravel raking on instream ecology. Equally there is a lack of fish population data, something the angling community through Fish and Game should measure to help understand the complex issues around river management and river ecology. Equally there is a lack of fish population data, something the angling community through Fish and Game should measure to help understand the complex issues around river management and river ecology.

The report recommends a number of research studies to help understand some of the complexities. The council will carry out some of these recommendations over the coming years, hopefully with full support from the CHB Anglers Club. HBRC operates using Ecological Management and Enhancement Plans developed for the rivers in the region. These supplement the COP with detailed descriptions and guidelines to manage the terrestrial and aquatic habitat in each managed river corridor.

They include for example times when beach raking can be carried out, requirements for inspection by a qualified ecologist and how to minimise any adverse effects. **It is worth noting that trout are not a native species.**

HBRC strongly disputes Mr Nicol's statement that raking was carried out last year destroying nesting colonies. The reference to beach raking during the nesting season referred to was carried out in the shoulder-breeding season before there was an ecological management plan finalised for the Tukituki River. The ecological management plans currently in place dictate that no beach-raking can take place during the bird-nesting season.

Beach raking, as its name suggests, is not carried out in the rivers as implied by Mr Nichol; it is only carried out on gravel beaches (or islands) above the river level and half a metre from flowing water. The main aim is to prevent stable islands or beach bars from forming. These cause lateral shifts in the flow meander. If stable armoured lateral channels develop, this increases the potential for river banks to erode by undercutting flood protection infrastructure along the banks.

Beach raking also helps to prevent pest vegetation (such as lupin) from establishing and ruining the open gravel habitat necessary for the survival of river birds that live and nest in the braided river network. Sediment transport is a natural part of a river's function and in the case of some Hawke's Bay rivers there would be no highly-important braided rivers unless sediment was available to be transported. If beach raking was not carried out, the diversity and abundance of threatened native bird species currently supported by the managed reaches of these rivers would be compromised.

NORTHLAND HAPUU AND CONSERVATIONISTS FIGHT FOR RIVER ACCESS

Local Māori and conservationists have claimed the right to access a Northland river today - by driving through the middle of a working dairy farm. The farm on Rapids Road, west of Whangarei, belongs to Northland Regional Council chairman Bill Shepherd. And the paper road that runs through it, past farm buildings, houses and a cow shed is the only way the public can get close to the rapids and a spectacular but little-known waterfall of the Wairua River.



The paper road to the river runs through Bill Shepherd's dairy farm

Mr Shepherd, who is currently on holiday in Australia, now has a manager on the farm, which is one of three he owns in the area. He said in the 35 years he has owned it he had always allowed river access to people who asked, but he was not impressed that the group who drove through today did so with only a day's notice. "I would have thought they'd have told us earlier what was happening but apparently we don't get the sort of consideration others do," he said.

But for the Northland Environmental Protection Society, it was a matter of the public's right to use public land and they shouldn't have to ask. It was the Society's president, Fiona Furrell, best known for her criticism of the swamp kauri trade, who realised a few months back that there was public and Māori reserve land on either side of the Wairua. "People were legally entitled to be there, to walk and explore along the river - but they just couldn't get to it," she said.

Mrs Furrell said she was poring over new maps released by the Walking Access Commission when she spotted the unformed legal road through Mr Shepherd's farm. It ran down toward the river to the Crown land and what's marked on maps as a Māori Fishing Reserve. She began writing to the Whangarei council, and the Walking Access Commission, lobbying for the paper road - now a farm race - to be formalised as public road.

"It should be public and it should be used," she said. "It gives the only public access to this part of the river; to the waterfalls and the rapids. Kayakers and young people into adventure sports would love it." Mrs Furrell said in its earlier days the Wairua River and its rapids had been singled out for praise by the American adventurer and sports fisherman Zane Grey.

Her next step was to call Northland's river campaigner Millan Ruka, who has been advocating for better access to the Wairua since he returned from overseas some years ago and found his boyhood swimming holes gone and the waters polluted. They pair drove to the farm, intending to drive over the paper road, only to find a farm race formed, metalled and maintained by Mr Shepherd.

Mrs Furrell said they produced maps showing the road was public land but the farm manager turned them away. Mr Shepherd said his manager was taken aback by what he perceived as a sudden aggressive demand for access and was uncertain about how health and safety laws would apply. He said there was potential for damage or injury if people turned up without warning wanting to drive through a working dairy farm.

"If you get a driver not experienced handling livestock ending up in the middle of a herd of 500 cows coming along the race, it could be hugely disruptive," he said.

For the past few months, Mrs Furrell, Mr Ruka, Walking Access Commission, Whangarei Council and Mr Shepherd have been trying to negotiate a deal to formalise public access over the farm, without disrupting it or endangering anyone. They had just about reached an agreement when Mr Shepherd had to go to Australia for a family event.

Fed up with the delays, local hapū and the conservation group piled into a couple of 4-wheel drives today for a hikoi via the paper road-cum-farm race to the river. There was a quick stop to assure the manager of their peaceful intent.



Kaumatua Pita Cherrington offers a karakia before hapū members head down to their old eeling reserve through muddy pasture

The paper road stops well before the river - and the last few hundred metres are over pasture pugged by the dairy herd after a very wet winter - and boggy enough to grab your gumboots. But for the hapū members, just being back on a part of the river they haven't seen for years made the mud and the muck irrelevant.

On the riverbank where his ancestors used to camp and wait for the eels to come down the river in autumn, Mr Ruka eyed the fast-flowing Wairua and choked up a little. He said all over the country, Māori and Pākehā had been shut out of riversides like this one because of land development - not only farming but also lifestyle subdivisions. "I could almost guarantee you probably haven't seen a gathering of our people here in 50 years, though we're just a small group today. It's quite significant, and it's symbolic to let landowners know that it's essential to regain our presence in such places."

Mr Ruka said without access to places like the nearby Purua Falls and the Wairua Rapids, hapū could not see what was happening to the rivers and fulfil their role as kaitiaki. Mr Shepherd said he would be putting up signs to let people know they can access the river though his property when he returns from Australia.

But he said if they wanted a road fit for vehicles the Whangarei council would have to pay for it and any surveying needed. "The paper road has never actually been surveyed and I think there may be places where the race I've built is actually on my land, rather than unformed legal road," Mr Shepherd said.

A DISGRACE: TEN MILLION SALMON THROWN AWAY BY FISH FARMS IN THE LAST YEAR ALONE BY ROB EDWARDS



Events can happen in transporting farmed salmon mortalities - and what happens if they are diseased? Do pathogens wash into nearby streams?

THE Scottish fish farming industry has admitted that it threw away up to ten million salmon last year – nearly a quarter of its stock – because of diseases, parasites and other problems.

Official figures reveal the tonnages of dead fish that had to be disposed of has more than doubled from 10,599 in 2013 to a record high of 22,479 in 2016. Most are transported south to be burnt at an incinerator in Widnes near Warrington in northwest England.

Campaign groups warn that the industry is facing an “environment catastrophe”, is “haemorrhaging cash” and “shames Scotland”. Companies accept that they have been plagued by disease and sea lice, and that their businesses have suffered. Unwanted mortalities at salmon farms have long been a problem, but in the last three years they have risen to record levels. There have been successive, significant increases in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Latest figures for the months up to June 2017 show another 7,700 tonnes of dead salmon discarded, suggesting that the problem is not going away. There are also thought to have been significant mortalities in the Western Isles since then. The company that suffered the biggest losses was Marine Harvest, headquartered in Norway, whose mortalities leapt threefold to 7,609 tonnes between 2013 and 2016. Over the same period, the Scottish Salmon Company, which is registered in the Channel Islands, saw its dead fish more than double to 5,873 tonnes.

Critics estimate the total number of dead, discarded salmon last year to have been between 10m and 20m. But the industry says it sustained losses of “between 6 and 10 million fish, depending on their size”. Scottish Government figures show that in 2016 the total number of smolts – young salmon - put into fish farm production

in Scotland was just under 43 million. Total salmon production was 162,817 tonnes.

The Scottish Salmon Think-Tank, a new group of fish farm critics, accused the industry of failing to address “appalling” collateral damage. “Self-regulation is simply not working,” said the group’s Lynn Schweisfurth. “The whole salmon farming business model is broken and far from sustainable as it claims to be. These worrying figures are the hallmarks of an industry in crisis and it’s our rural communities that will suffer as the problems continue.”

She urged next year’s parliamentary inquiry into fish farming to tackle the industry’s “systemic” problems. “Until they do, lorry loads of dead fish and the broader environmental and welfare issues that beset the industry will continue to shame Scotland.”

Dr Richard Luxmoore, senior nature conservation adviser for the National Trust for Scotland, described the disposal of huge amounts of rotting fish as “stomach churning” and a waste of good food. “It is the sign of an environmental catastrophe,” he said.

“The salmon farming industry has lost the ability to control fish diseases and this results in escalating quantities of toxic chemicals being poured into the sea in an increasingly fruitless attempt to control them. It also inevitably leads to the release of an infectious soup of disease organisms into our coastal waters.”

He called for the industry to shift to a “closed containment system” that would protect the fish and the marine environment. The same demand was made by the wild fish campaign group, Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland. “Disease and mortalities on Scottish salmon farms continue at shocking levels,” said the group’s Guy Linley-Adams. “What concerns us is that the Scottish Government has almost no idea what the effects are on wild salmon and wild sea trout in Scottish sea lochs.”

Don Staniford from the Global Alliance Against Industrial Aquaculture warned that plans to double the salmon farming business by 2030 were “environmental lunacy”. “Infectious diseases and lice infestation are crippling the Scottish salmon farming industry which is hemorrhaging cash,” he claimed.

The Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation (SSPO), which represents the industry, accepted that there had “unfortunately” been losses. “Last year saw some problems which resulted in the loss of between 6 and 10 million fish, depending on their size,” said SSPO chief executive, Scott Landsburgh.

“This is something which the industry takes very seriously and is working hard to minimise. Disposal of mortalities is managed in line with the government’s approved methods and legislation.” Marine Harvest insisted it had been “very transparent” about the issues it had been facing with sea lice and amoebic gill disease (AGD). “We would clearly prefer if we had not had this level of mortalities,” said the company’s business support manager, Steve Bracken.

“But what is more positive is that the picture is changing. We are making strong progress in reducing the sea lice levels and tackling the challenge of AGD.” The Scottish Salmon Company agreed it had faced “biological challenges and unprecedented mortalities” in 2016. “We have taken decisive action to tackle these challenges,” said a company spokesperson.

The Scottish Government pointed out that fish and shellfish farming contributes £620m to the Scottish economy every year, supporting more than 12,000 jobs. “We have a duty to protect Scotland’s marine environment and the health and welfare of farmed fish is of utmost importance,” said a spokesperson.

“The Scottish Government is committed to working with the aquaculture sector to develop a strategic health framework that ensures we make progress in tackling major problems, including emerging disease and sea lice.”

Who is throwing away the dead salmon fish farm company / tonnes in 2013 / tonnes in 2016

Marine Harvest / 2,224 / 7,609
Scottish Salmon Company / 2,436 / 5,873
Wester Ross / 86 / 3,142
Kames / 51 / 2,854
Scottish Sea Farms / 1,897 / 1,678
Grieg / 0 / 611
Dawnfresh / 122 / 200
Loch Duart / 581 / 33
Others / 3,202 / 479
Totals / 10,599 / 22,479

Salmon farming 2016 in numbers

162,817 tonnes production
3,903 tonnes organic production
43m young salmon
10m mortalities
311,496 fish escaped
253 fish farm sites
10 companies
1,486 staff
£1.8bn business
£3.6bn target business for 2030

Editor: This article highlights why New Zealand should avoid expanding its salmon farming and never move into Trout Farming

Editor - I would like to thank the following member for their contribution to this month's newsletter:

- *Pat Dorsey – Fly Fishing Midges top to Bottom*
- *Tony Orman – Small Local Streams*
- *David Haxton – Blue Duck Numbers Get a Boost in Waikanae*
- *Ian Mitchel – In Footsteps of Frank Sawyer*
- *Keith Woodford – Composting Barns for NZ Dairy Industry*
- *Annabeth Cohen – Why Does the Ngaruroro River Deserve WCO*
- *Fred Nichol – River Raking a Damaging Practice*
- *Rob McMillan who sent in the article by Rob Edwards On Salmon Farming in Scotland*

Your contribution is welcome so if you come across an interesting article then please forwarded to me at malcolm1@xtra.co.nz.

CLUB ACTIVITIES OVER THE NEXT THREE MONTHS

There are numerous benefits from participating in the club trips and activities outside of the great companionships and that the opportunity to learn from other members of the club. Many members are more than willing to share their knowledge as I found out recently on the trip to Lake Otamangakau, I now have these strange looking snail flies in my box.

Date	Event	Contact person
Monday 23 October	Club Night - Fishing the Waikanae River	Malcolm
Thursday 26 October	Last Fly Tying workshop	Malcolm
11 or 12 November	Manawatu River	Malcolm
25 - 26 November	Rangitikei River	Peter H
Jan/Feb TBC	Manganui-o-te-ao River	Pete H/ Malcolm

I would like to remind members that Sporting Life are our sponsor and you are encouraged to visit their website or contact them when you are next looking for a fly fishing item to purchase, Graham will give you a generous discount as a club member.



Please note: I if you have an item or items you would like to sell then please advise the editor and we can include your advertisement in the newsletter.

Kapiti Fly Fishing Club

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

You are invited to attend our club meetings that are held on the **Fourth Monday** of each month.

The venue is the **Turf Pavilion Sport Grounds**, Scaife Street, Paraparaumu,

Our **meetings start at 7:30pm** with fellowship followed by speakers of activities.

Club Committee meetings are held on the first Monday of each month and the meetings are held at various member's homes and start at 7:30pm.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please remember that the club has two Five Weight 8'6" fly rods that members are welcome to use, just contact Malcolm Francis.

Newsletter copy to be received by Second Monday of each month, your contribution is welcome just send it to: malcolm1@xtra.co.nz
