Kapiti Fly Fishing Club

April 2020 Newsletter

This month's photo: While we have been in 'lock-down' these guys have been enjoying their day in Waikanae River undisturbed – photo by Malcolm

In this month's newsletter:

Club activities

At this stage, the Committee will review the On-Water trips and provide an update in next month's newsletter when hopefully we are going to move into Covid -219 Level 2.

You will receive an invite to join members at this month's Club Meeting via Zoom technology on Monday 27 April

SPORTING life
OUTFITTERS TO THE FAMOUS TONGARIRO RIVER

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.

President report

Well, this will likely end up more of a ramble as with the Lockdown still on as I write this and our world rapidly changing my thoughts are all over the place. Certainly, for me, the ability to use social media platforms to keep in touch with loved ones and friends has been a Godsend. I know this is not for everyone but my view is that as a club, we need to keep abreast of what's new (if indeed that is possible) to attract new and younger members but knowing that it can be hard for some of us old members to embrace.

We also propose, subject to AGM approval, a nil fee for the 20/21 financial year which we feel will help our membership.

The committee has,with the assistance of member Tane Moleta, been looking at ways to keep things moving and in particular ways of generating more club communication as well as looking at providing platforms for all members to communicate with each other as well as with the wider fly fishing community. We cannot do this alone and any ideas you have will certainly be welcomed.

Club nights and AGM.

Until we can meet at the club rooms again, we will hold these sessions on ZOOM and Tane will facilitate these for us. We had our committee meet on Zoom and it was very interactive.

You will all receive an invite and instructions as to how to Log in for our next club night it will be just an informal get together, but with a short Agenda. This will give members an opportunity to see how it goes so please join us on Monday night, see your buddies and have a bit of fun.

Re the AGM we are keen to get a few more of you involved in making KFFC even better so if you are keen to join the committee, or even be President, then please come forward. At present we have a great team however it is extremely important that we have 'new members' to maintain high level of enthusiasm and new ideas so please give this some thought. Please let either Pete Haakman or I know if you are interested in joining the Committee.

Do not forget that even if you do not want to be on the committee but are keen to help in certain areas you will certainly be welcomed. We have several projects such as Fly-tying workshop, casting, trip coordinating, Take a Kid Fishing days or just arranging a trip, or providing trip accommodation, to your special fishing spots

Other Communications - Most of you are aware that we have both a Website and a club Facebook page which both provide quite different ways of communication. Now love it or like it I have tried to do some quick communications, over the lockdown period to get some of us together using our Facebook page now called "Kapiti Fly Fishing Club. Members and Friends" and we have been running a very informal fly-tying competition open to all members and invitees. It has had a reasonable amount of traction and is one way of communicating amongst ourselves and we have seen some nice fly's tied and so far, Pete Haakman and Aussie Perry have won prizes. (Courtesy of Matt Patte from Taupo Rod and Tackle).

The Taupo fishing Club and the Wellington Regional Fly-Fishing Group FB team are doing the same, so we have extended our communications a bit to get both KFFC and our members more exposure to the fishing community. Now I am sure that this may have caused some negative reactions amongst some members, but it is working well for some.

There are some 24 members that I know are on the Facebook platform which came as a bit of a surprise to me.

Messenger. This App is also used a lot and provides an alternative to emails and has the ability for its members to create their own small groups, just fantastic to arrange fishing trips or to just keep in touch. If for instance we were all on this platform we could, in addition to emails, make instant contact with it all recorded and no need to try to hunt through an email trail. I personally have several fishing friends' groups plus a huge family one. FYI, you do not need to be on Facebook to use the Messenger App.

We, as a club where our members are involved in a largely isolated and low cost , non-team sport , are lucky that we will be able to continue our passion as the weeks go by so please spare a thought for those involved in team sports who will certainly be facing severe social and financial restrictions severely limiting the sports they love.

The good news is that we will be able to continue, with social distancing, shore-based fishing from Tuesday but the bad news is the Waikanae River season closes 30th April so get in quick. The Otaki however remains open all season and whilst a fair proportion of the spawning Browns will have moved upriver there may still be the odd one around.

Please look after your family and friends through these trying times and keep safe so we can meet again on the water as soon as we can.

Kia Kaha

Michael

Letter from the Kapiti Fly Fishing Club Committee

Exceptional times require exceptional actions, and your committee has been debating how to handle this year's AGM and club nights in a lockdown situation.

We have resolved to use technology to both issue AGM documents and hold the AGM itself, so that we continue interacting as club members and doing essential business.

Here is what we intend to do:

- We will hold the AGM on Monday 25th May at 7.30 pm but hold it 'virtually' using the Zoom application.
- In order to hold the AGM, we must call for nominations for officers and committee members from the wider membership. We ask that anyone interested in helping us steer the club into an exciting future should notify Michael and/or Pete as soon as possible. Please regard this as a formal request for nominations.
- We will issue by email the minutes of the last AGM (2019), reports from the president and treasurer and this year's audited financial accounts as attached documents at least two weeks prior to the AGM.
- At about the same time, we will also email an agenda and any prior committee-approved motions to be considered and adopted at the AGM. Again, these can either be responded to at the Zoom meeting or by email in advance of the meeting.
- Well in advance of the meeting, we will inform everyone how to use the Zoom application on their laptop, smartphone, or tablet, without having to download the application itself (it will run in a browser). Zoom also can call each member for votes or survey responses, so if we need to count votes, we can.
- Again, if anyone prefers to respond by email rather than online at the meeting, then this is fine, and we will take all prior written responses into account at the meeting.

We hope that you will find these actions acceptable. If not, please let us know as soon as possible.

Keep well and safe in your family bubble - warmest regards your KFFC Committee

Short story - "The Lone Wolf" by Chris Moy

For years I had my local river virtually to myself and when I did encounter other anglers, I tried to avoid them like they were infected with COVID 19. To me they were bloody nosey buggers asking me too many questions at a stage where I wasn't really wanting to give out answers freely.

I would cover my fly and bullshit them as much as I could, kinda of a selfish prick really. It took me years to crack the code on my local river and thought well if they want to catch fish then they got to put in the Mahi just like me, more fish for me until they do.

Anyway as time went on I kept on bumping into this elderly guy on the river and we started to have the odd chat here and there, he was doing it tough finding fish and if he did they were difficult to fool. So, one day we bumped into each other again and I thought I would exchange details with him and take him out for a fish sometime.

From then on, we found ourselves fishing more often together and I found I actually enjoyed passing on some of my knowledge to him, a kinda unexpected thing really! We found fish and eventually he caught fish, it was like being an unpaid guide really and it has since then turned into a great friendship. His name is Michael Murphy.

Michael has a son in-law called Leon who also fishes and eventually we met up. Michael brokered a deal where I would take them to a secret back country tributary in exchange for a trip to the mighty Tongariro. Leon has a batch in Turangi.

I would have taken them there anyway, wink, wink! We had a great day in the back country, and we all enjoyed each other's company, just like a day on the water should be. From then on, we have spent many days together on the water and have created great memories over the years and it genuinely has made me a better fisherman.

I still have my Lone Wolf days on the river but not so much now as my wife also carries a fly rod in hand behind me. Now that is a whole new kind of fishing buddy lol!

The End.

Living remotely in New Zealand before and during the coronavirus pandemic by Sarah Catherall

For the past seven months, Brooke Healey and Jacob de Vries and their two children have lived in total isolation on a small island north of the Marlborough Sounds and west of the North Island. They are reliant on a Department of Conservation (DOC) boat which only comes every four to six weeks to deliver their groceries and other supplies to Takapourewa, also known as Stephens Island.

De Vries is the DOC ranger on the 1.5-square-kilometre island and nature reserve that's co-managed by the department and Ngāti Koata iwi. It is north of D'Urville Island.

Brooke Healey, partner Jacob de Vries and their children Jade de Vries, 3, and Noah de Vries, 5

As New Zealanders face being cut off from one another and now from the world, isolation is a daily reality for this couple and their children, Noah, 5, and Jade, 3.

Since they arrived, de Vries has only left the island once, when he had to go into Blenheim for medical attention. To get anywhere, it takes them two hours to get into Havelock – their closest place on the mainland – and they can only do so when the DOC boat comes. To reach the boat, it's a 30-minute walk down to the water's edge, and once there, if they do need to hop on board, there is no jetty so Healey says: "We literally have to hop on a rock and jump onboard."

Says de Vries: "The boat can only come in on good days, so we've had times where the groceries we order online turn up and the bananas have gone rotten and the lettuces are wilted."

Such extreme isolation means they have missed weddings and one funeral.

"It's a bit of an ordeal to leave and we have to find someone to look after the place when we're not here," de Vries says. Along with the delivered supplies, the family lives off veges from the garden, and the seafood he catches. "We've got kina, fish, pāua and blue cod teeming in the sea. The only thing I really miss is fresh venison," he says.

It's de Vries' first isolated post, one he took on for 18 months to have more family time, as his last DOC post was in the Bay of Plenty, when he often had to go away for a couple of days at a time to trap possums and pests in the bush. The family have a home in the Bay of Plenty, which is already rural and isolated, but not to this extent.

Brooke Healey and her family watch a setting sun on Takapourewa

Now, though, the most time he would get away from his family is about three hours.

"Brooke and I are lucky we've got a really good relationship. Yeah, we watch a bit of Netflix at night," he laughs.

Their biggest challenge, and what they miss most, is contact with family and friends. "I've also left my hunting dogs behind. I couldn't attend my mates' father's funeral, and he was like my second dad."

In his role, he does biosecurity checks each day, and general custodian work. "The wilderness out here is insane. We've got 30,000 tuatara and all these incredible seabirds, which literally fly into you." Healey works part-time and online for Rotorua's Canopy Tours.

The ranger has made a video for friends struggling with the prospect of isolation, and social distancing.

"I'm trying to tell them you don't need to go to a restaurant to enjoy life. We're so lucky in Aotearoa. We have the most incredible country. "It's also really good to just get used to making do with what you've got. We look in the fridge and you just make a meal out of what you've got."

Flying a kite on Takapourewa

His fiancée and the children are currently at her parents' home in the Bay of Plenty with the kids – her first break since they arrived last August. On the island, Healey finds it difficult without childcare or family to help with her kids. While she grew up on a dairy farm and is used to isolation,

living on Takapourewa is next level. "You just can't go out for a coffee. I cannot just catch up with my mates. I cannot send my kids to preschool. I've got friends on the mainland asking me for tips."

It is a similar, but not as extreme story in the Awatere Valley, where Mary and Steve Satterthwaite have lived in relative isolation for almost three decades, along with their adult children who have since left home. Muller Station, a high-country station, is one of the most remote in the north of the South Island.

On the 40,000-hectare station, sometimes Mary and Steve's only company is each other. Their closest town is Hanmer, 75 kilometres away, but it's a schlep of a trip. Mary explains: "It's not a great road and we have to open and close 14 gates."

Muller Station in the beautiful Marlborough high Country. Steve and Mary Satterthwaite and a mustering team pictured at Munroe Hut on the Acheron River.

About once a month they make the drive to Blenheim, 124km away and a two-hour drive over "a better road". As Kiwis stock their cupboards and fridges and "panic buy", the Satterthwaites have spent almost three decades planning three months in advance.

Mary milks the cows daily, and they live off the vegetables and meat they produce on the farm. Every Tuesday, the mail truck comes up the driveway with any groceries they order. She bulk buys 20kg of flour and sugar. However, the truck did not come for nine weeks when their road was closed after the Kaikōura earthquakes. "We've got a lot of stuff here though, so we don't need to rush to the supermarket at the moment."

They host guests in accommodation quarters and run four-wheel drive adventures on their property. Social isolation will not impact them too much now.

There are things Mary misses. Every time she goes to Christchurch, she treats herself with a Bikram yoga class. She likes a latte when she is in Blenheim but reckons despite coronavirus and its impact on the world, one word of advice is: "People could do with living a bit simply. People don't need all the things they have."

Their children are in their 20s, but Mary home schooled them until they went to a prep school in Year 7, and they also attended a school they set up with three families in the valley, who they also socialised with. The children were all friends and were never bored. "The kids had chores. After

school, they got the firewood in and they had to feed the animals. Then they would go out on their pushbikes till dinner time."

On the coronavirus, their daughter, Alice, 24, was travelling in Europe, but fortunately arrived home about four weeks ago. Says Mary: "I don't think we're that isolated, but people would come here and hate it" There's no cafe where we are and no gym. If we come home late at night off the farm, we cannot say, 'Oh let's get takeaways', we have to be in the kitchen if we want to eat."

Call for action on the decline of insects – 'Without them we are in big trouble' by Karoline Tuckey

Governments around the world are being warned more must be done to prevent declining insect numbers, or the consequences could be severe and wide-reaching.

A bee, landing on a Pōhutukawa bloom

More than 70 scientists from 21 countries have written an appeal for immediate steps to reduce threats to insect species, and a roadmap to recovery, which has been published in the journal *Nature Ecology & Evolution.*

"There is now a strong scientific consensus that the decline of insects ... and biodiversity as a whole, is a very real and serious threat that society must urgently address," the group said.

Waikato University's Dr Christina Painting contributed to the text, and said a decline in insects could mean "big trouble" for humans because they were crucial to agriculture and healthy ecosystems.

Insect pollinators were needed for growing crops, to keep our forests healthy, and insects were the main food source for many of our native fish and birds, she said. The group have praised the

German government for committing €100 million ($NZ168m) to the problem, which they say is a "clarion call to other nations."

What do they should be done?

Painting said there were smart and achievable steps that could be taken to make an immediate difference. "They're ideas we think scientists, policymakers, land managers and communities can all use together to help insect conservation."

High on the list is for natural areas to be planned for within urban and "homogenous" environments, which could provide havens for insects, and support species diversity.

"I think in New Zealand we're pretty good and very proactive about trying to come up with restoration areas in both urban and in our conservation estate. But perhaps we have not really been thinking about what's good for insects while we've been designing those programmes," she said

New Zealand's giraffe weevil

The group have also called for "aggressive steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reversing agricultural intensification, including reduced [use of] synthetic pesticides and fertilisers and pursuing their replacement with agroecological measures."

Phasing out pesticides could be one of the trickiest challenges, but it was important to start, Painting said. "There are problems because they're generally not that specific in the species they target - so if you put a broad-spectrum pesticide out it's going to knock off not just the pest species you're worried about for your crop, but also anything else that might be there.

The group have also called for "aggressive steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, "An obvious measure that could be more biological control methods - using other insect species or a pathogen to knock out a pest species, and there's a huge amount of work that goes into developing those species and that research at our Crown Research Institutes in New Zealand."

Light pollution was also on the list, as it could have a "pretty severe" impact on insect populations, she said. The attraction of man-made lights could lure insects to their deaths, and disrupt normal mating and feeding patterns, Painting said.

"There's lots of light designs now that don't attract insects or birds - because migrating birds can also be pretty strongly affected by light as well."

The extra steps needed in New Zealand

Painting said in New Zealand we faced an extra complication - we knew so little about our insect populations compared to the Northern Hemisphere, that we just did not have a good grasp of the problem.

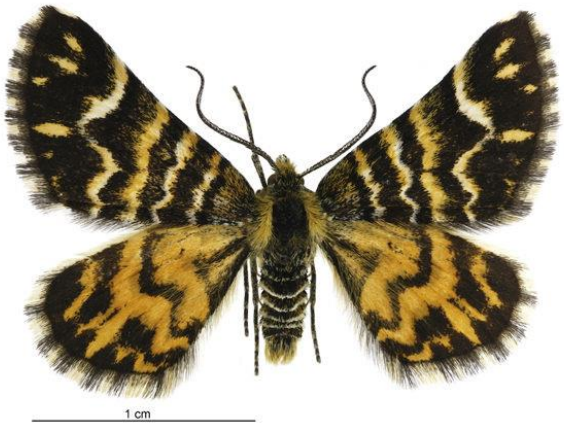
There was strong evidence for significant declines in many species around the world over a long period of time, and it was likely the human-induced changes animals were susceptible to were affecting insects here, she said.

"We don't really know what's happening to our insect populations ... we really lack long-term monitoring data to comment suitably. We need to figure out what's actually going on here, and how complex that problem might be."

What is being done in New Zealand?

Painting said work was being done by the Department of Conservation to prioritise the most threatened insect species we really need to worry about and act immediately to conserve.

"Things like the giant weta, various moth species, and some threatened flightless beetles - there's work and money being put into those species recovery programmes now. "We're not doing nothing, but the biggest problem in New Zealand is the lack of that longer-term data - because the way we do research tends to be within a research programme that is usually only a few years long. So, we lack the ability as researchers to collect data over the longer term, which would really give us answers about what we need to really worry about."



New Zealand's native Notoreas Moth

She said more support was needed from the public and for government to recognise just how important insects are. "We fund things that people value, and to date there has been a much lower

appreciation of insects than other species, so it makes sense that we've seen less money put into insect conservation."

"We fund things that people value, and to date there has been a much lower appreciation of insects than other species, so it makes sense that we've seen less money put into insect conservation."

More public education could lead to more appreciation for insects and the roles they play - and then should translate to more justification for policymakers to commit funding to protect them, she said.

"Some of us think insects are gorgeous and very cute, but it's crucial to understand that without them we'd be in big trouble - they're just so incredible because it's such an intricate system of interactions between different species and within communities - and we're just in our infancy of understanding just how those pieces together.

"Those questions and the mystery around that alone, I think, is something we should really be excited about."

Editor's note: In 2018 I read a fascinating book by Dave Goulson called A Sting in the Tail – My Adventurers with Bumblebee sand have since a couple of his other books all focused on bumblebees and other insects, if you see this book in our local library I would recommend reading this excellent book.

NZ's Freshwater at risk by Marc Daalder

A new report from the Ministry for the Environment shows the scale of the threat to New Zealand's freshwater resources.

The latest triennial report on the state of New Zealand's freshwater resources paints a dire picture of an environment under threat of destruction. Freshwater environments in all non-natural areas, including urban, forestry and farming environments, are heavily polluted, the report found.

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and Statistics NZ report, *Our Freshwater 2020*, examines new data through the lens of four "priority issues": the threat to wildlife and ecosystems, the pollution of freshwater, the effects of changing water flows on rivers and lakes and the impact of climate change.

Many changes to freshwater environments, the report found, "are slow to reverse, and some are irreversible. Loss of species and ecosystems could have significant impacts on our identity, wellbeing, cultural values, and economy."

Together, the four issues depict an environment in sore need of attention and resourcing, Forest & Bird freshwater advocate Tom Kay said.

"New Zealand's freshwater has reached breaking point. Political and policy leaders have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make the changes we need to save our people

and our natural world. We need clean water and flowing rivers, and right now our fresh water needs us to protect it," he said.

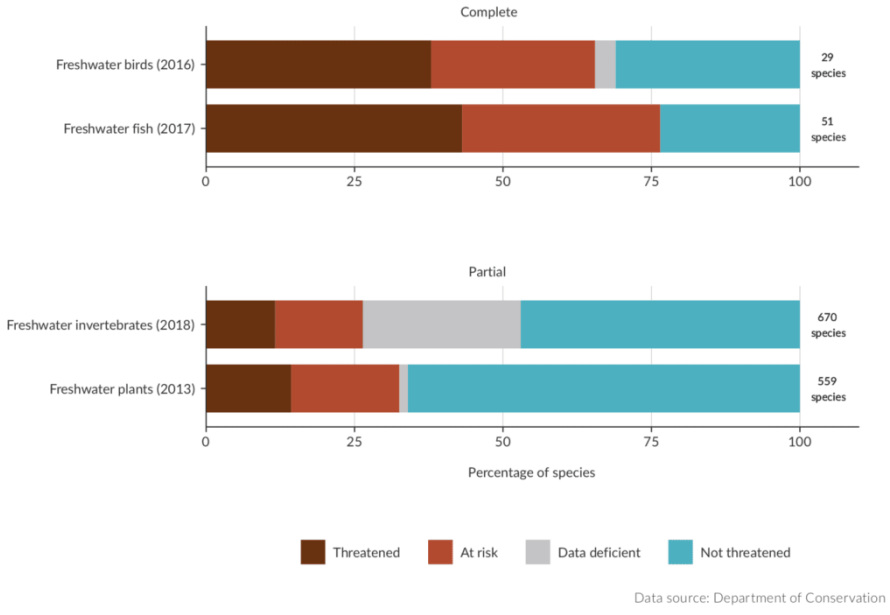
The report comes a month after **Newsroom reported that polluted waterways in the Hauraki Plains** had led to the deaths of thousands of native eels, ducks and other wildlife.

Species and ecosystems at risk

The headline statistic on native species is gloomy: 76 percent of native freshwater fish are now threatened by or at risk of extinction. Since the last report in 2017, one species has officially been labelled extinct, although it was last sighted in the 1940s.

Several of the threatened species are taonga, including longfin eel (tuna), four species of whitebait (shortjaw kōkopu, giant kōkopu, kōaro, and īnanga) and lamprey. A quarter of freshwater invertebrates are similarly threatened by or at risk of extinction, as well as a third of freshwater plants and two thirds of native birds that rely on freshwater environments for feeding or breeding.

Figure 1: Conservation status of indigenous freshwater species



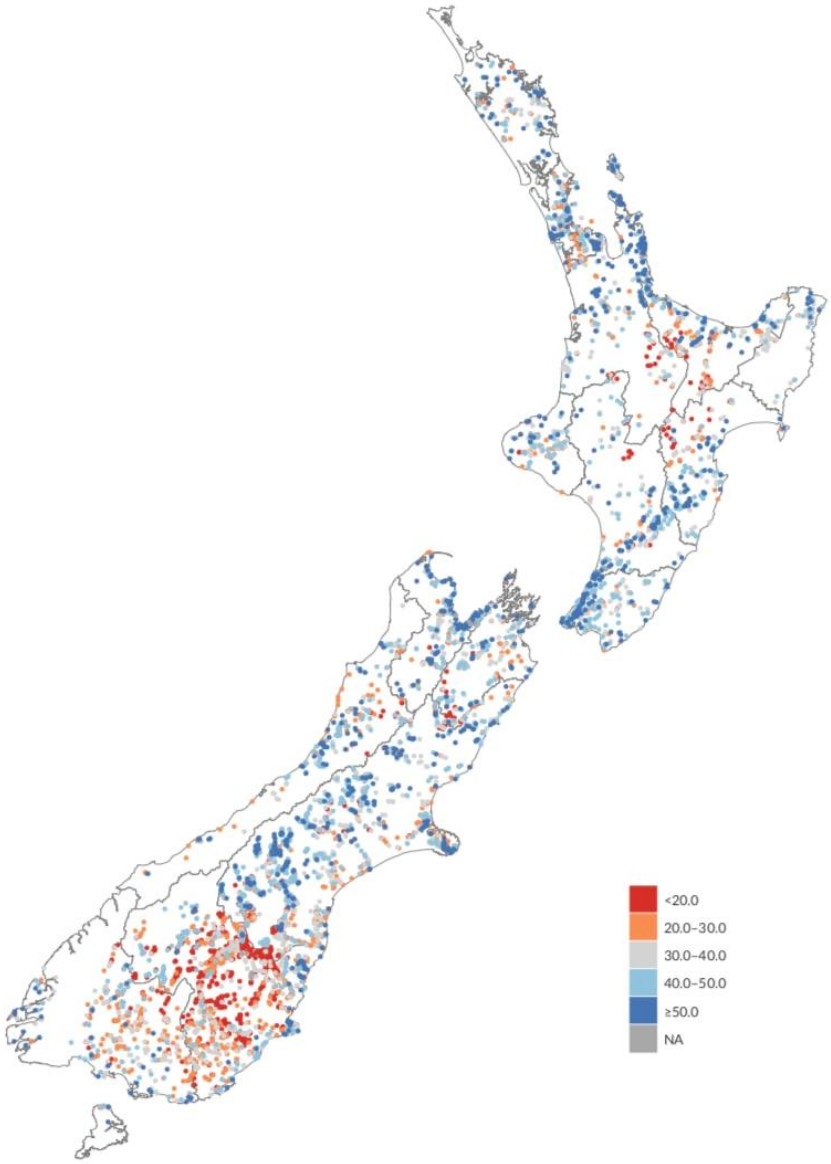
Note: Total species in this figure refers to the total number of species assessed. Complete assessments are those where all known species in the group have been assessed. Partial assessments are those where not all species in the group have been assessed.

The habitats themselves are also suffering. Since humans first settled Aotearoa, 90 percent of the country's wetlands have been drained. In the 15 years to 2016, more than 200 wetlands totalling 1247 hectares were lost nationwide. Between 1990 and 2012, 157 hectares were lost in Southland alone.

About 18 percent of rivers assessed over the past two decades had a low "index of biotic integrity" - in other words, lower than expected numbers of freshwater fish. These scores indicate a degraded native fish community and were mostly found in Southland, Otago, and the central North Island.

The following chart from the MfE report shows the results of assessments of freshwater fish life at nearly 6,000 sites across New Zealand by NIWA. A score of under 20 indicates a degraded environment for fish.

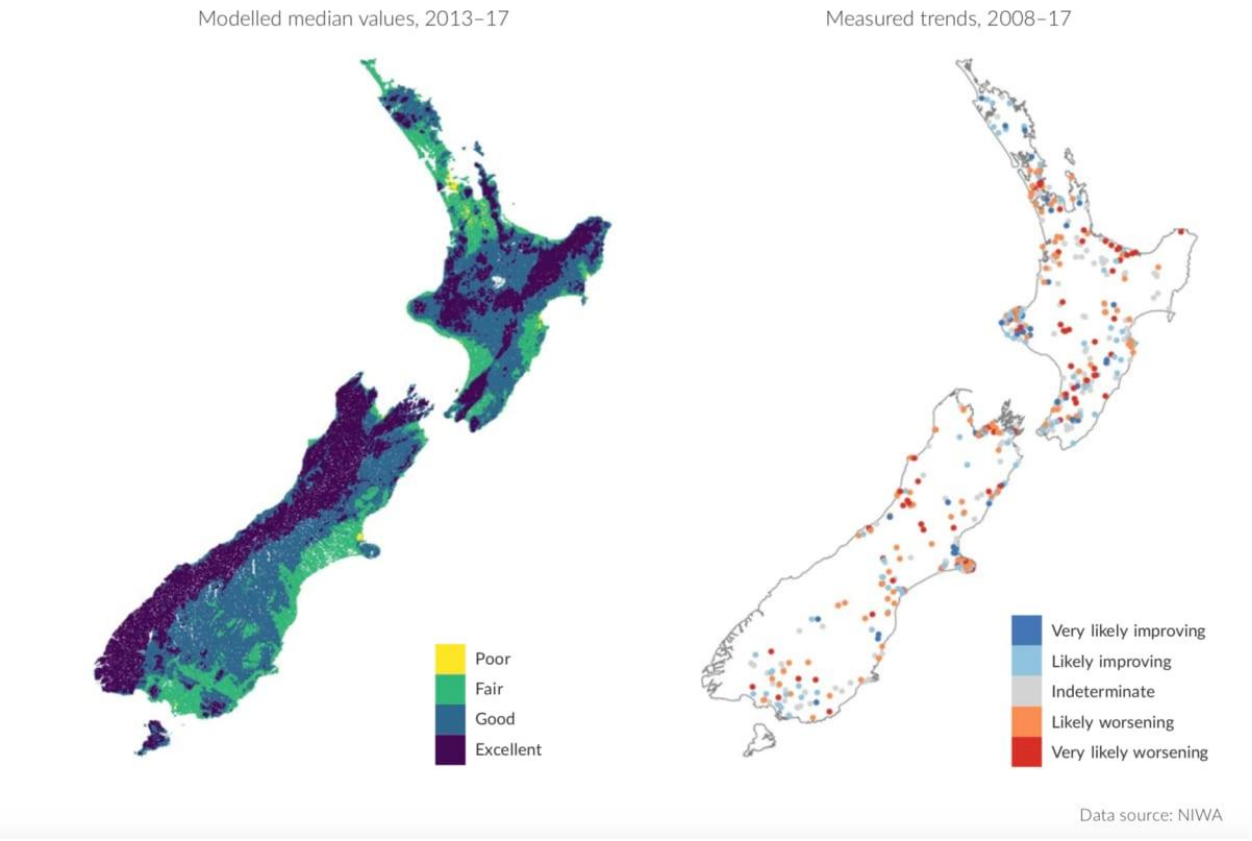
Figure 2: Fish index of biotic integrity scores for sites sampled between 1999 and 2018



Data source: New Zealand Freshwater Fish Database

Another measure of biodiversity and ecosystem health, the macroinvertebrate community index (MCI), found that more than 75 percent of New Zealand's total river length had good or excellent scores. However, in nearly 40 percent of these cases, the trend was worsening, while it was only improving in about a quarter. The remainder, 37 percent, had an indeterminate trend.

Figure 3: River macroinvertebrate community index scores



Rivers are not alone in struggling. In a small sample of lakes where data on submerged plant life was available, 36 percent were in poor condition or had no plants, 32 percent were in moderate condition and 34 percent were in excellent condition. The vast majority - 88 percent - had invasive plant species.

Nearly half of the 3,800 lakes larger than 1 hectare had poor or extremely poor water quality, as indicated by high nutrient levels, murky water, and a propensity for algae blooms. Just 15 percent had good or very good water quality while the remaining 38 percent were of average quality.

The report found that human alteration of the landscape, in-stream structures like dams, fishing, loss of habitat and the presence of invasive species have all contributed to the threat to native wildlife and habitats.

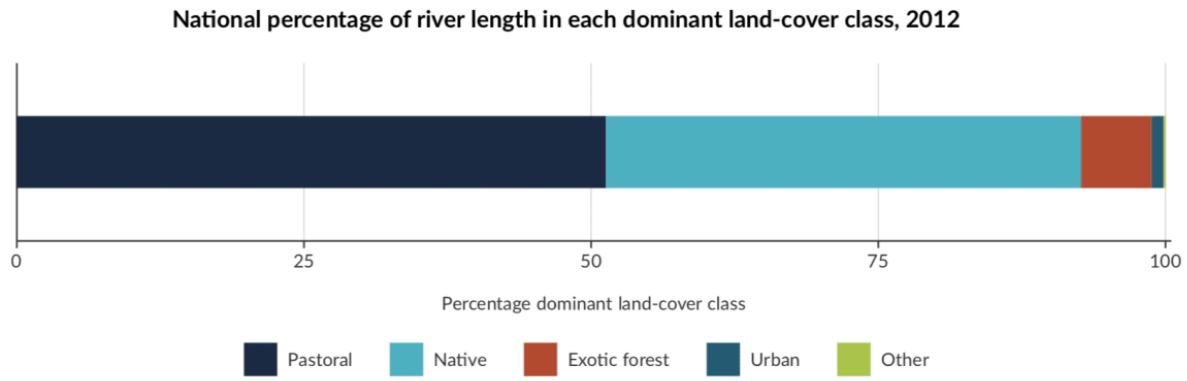
Water pollution remains a problem

The low water quality in many lakes is indicative of the report's second priority issue: pollution of freshwater environments. The vast majority of rivers in urban, farming and forestry areas are polluted, according to the report.

In urban areas, 99 percent of the total river length exceeds one or more of the guidelines for nutrient or turbidity (cloudiness) levels. Nearly half of the river length exceeded expected *E. coli* levels.

In pastoral areas, the situation is slightly less dire. Although nutrient or turbidity levels were exceeded in 95 percent of the total river length in these areas and *E. coli* levels exceeded in 24 percent, the degree to which these guidelines were breached was lower. The median levels for turbidity, for example, where 57 percent higher in urban areas than pastoral ones and *E. coli* levels in urban areas were double those in farm rivers.

Nonetheless, the impact of agriculture may be greater because of the sector's use of larger areas of land. While just 1 percent of the country's total river length was counted as urban, more than half is pastoral. Moreover, the study states, "studies at national, regional, and catchment scales show that the concentrations of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment, and E. coli in rivers all increase as the area of farmland upstream increases."



Forestry areas, which cover just six percent of New Zealand's river length, exceed nutrient guidelines in 95 percent of cases and turbidity guidelines in 27 percent of cases.

Rivers in native forest catchments, meanwhile, have fared better. Less than 60 percent of river length in native forest areas exceeded nutrient guidelines, less than 10 percent exceeded turbidity guidelines and less than 5 percent exceeded *E. coli* expected levels.

The prevalence of such pollutants in waterways also threatens human health. "In 2017, there were 427 notifiable illness cases of campylobacteriosis, 250 of giardiasis, 219 of

cryptosporidiosis, 135 of salmonellosis, and 88 of *E. coli* infection for cases where people reported contact with recreational water," the report stated.

Rivers aren't the only ones struggling with pollution, however. In addition to the water quality issues noted above, nitrogen concentrations in 28 percent of lakes with upstream catchments in farming areas exceed the recommended levels. Such lakes make up 47 percent of the 3800 lakes of one or more hectares in the country.

This figure rises to 44 percent for lakes with upstream catchments in urban areas - which make up about 2 percent of the country's lakes. For lakes with upstream catchments in forests, 8 and 19 percent have nitrogen concentrations exceeding recommended levels, for native and exotic forests, respectively.

According to the study, "77, 70, and 67 percent of lakes with upstream catchments in the urban, pastoral, and exotic forest land-cover classes respectively are in poor or very poor ecological health, due to frequent algal blooms and murky water caused by high nutrient concentrations". This figure drops to just 19 percent for lakes with upstream catchments in native forests.

The report found that wastewater and stormwater discharge into rivers, the clearing and converting of land, felling and replanting of forests, change from sheep to cattle farming, intensification of farming and the use of pesticides are all to blame for the degradation of freshwater environments.

Redirection of water flows examined

Besides an increase in water pollution, farming intensification has also been blamed for the third priority issue in the paper: the redirection of water flows.

Irrigated land has doubled over the past 15 years and irrigation makes up the second-most consented allocation of freshwater. When looked at in terms of the maximum allowable rate of water use, 45 percent of consented allocation goes to hydroelectricity and 37 percent to irrigation. By volume of consumption, however, irrigation takes the lead at 58 percent, because hydroelectricity plants do not consume the water they use.

"Irrigation schemes change the natural flow of a river. Thousands of kilometres of water races have been built to supply water for irrigation, stock watering, mining, and other purposes," the report states. Hydroelectric plants can also divert the course of rivers or reduce their flow.

Other water redirection is also cause for concern. About 10 percent of the country's landmass has been artificially drained, largely to make room for agricultural expansion.

The report lays blame for these issues at the feet of increased demand for irrigation and residential and industrial water use and lower rainfall nationally. Water bottling has not played a major role in this, the report states, noting that just 162.9 million litres of water were bottled last year, or 0.0012 percent of the water consented to be taken for consumption. The vast majority of this was for the domestic market.

The impact of climate change

The final priority issue was the impact of climate change on freshwater. Although data on this issue is still sparse, there is a handful available that the report highlights.

Rainfall numbers do not seem to have been significantly affected by climate change so far. Of 30 areas, four (Auckland, New Plymouth, Rotorua and Taupō) have seen decreased rainfall between 1960 and 2016, while Napier and Timaru have seen an increase.

Several floods, including in Golden Bay in 2011 and Northland in 2014, have been identified has being affected by climate change.

Since over the past century, the average temperature in New Zealand has risen by 1 degree.

At a quarter of monitored sites, soil has become drier in ways consistent with a warming climate.

Between 1977 and 2016, glaciers have lost nearly a quarter of their ice - about 13 cubic kilometres'. From the peak in 1997, glaciers lost 15.5 cubic kilometres of ice, or enough to fill Wellington Harbour 12 times over.

Sea level rise, although minor, has picked up pace in recent years. The average rate of rise over the past 58 years was double that in the prior 60 years, and seas have risen by 1.81 millimetres each year since records began.

Computer modelling can help make up for some of the gaps in the data. According to projections, river levels are likely to rise on the west coast of the South Island and on the eastern side of the Southern Alps, but may ebb elsewhere, particularly the Waikato and Northland.

Snowfall could also decrease by between three and 44 percent by 2040. Decreases in alpine snowfall could weaken streams and rivers that are used to power hydroelectric stations, the report states.

"Extreme rainfall, drought, and sea- level rise may have cumulative effects that intensify the pressures of our activities on freshwater."

On this final priority issue, there is only one cause: the rise in greenhouse gas emissions globally. New Zealand is not immune from this phenomenon. Between 1990 and 2017, net emissions jumped by 57 percent.

Reactions to the report

Environment Minister David Parker, who is pioneering a freshwater policy that **straddles the middle ground between the desires of environmental activists for a crackdown on polluting activity and the wishes of farmers to keep on dairying with no restrictions**, welcomed the new report.

"New Zealanders want to swim, fish, gather mahinga kai and enjoy freshwater as our parents and grandparents did. We also need clean water to drink and irrigation to support a sustainable economy," he said.

"But our water is suffering as a result of human activities, including the effects of climate change."

Climate Change Minister James Shaw also highlighted the report's conclusions on climate change's impact on the environment.

"Freshwater is crucial to all of us – not just for drinking, but for farming, industry and energy too. The freshwater report shows clearly the pressures we are putting on this precious resource as a direct result of climate change. Action on climate change is not only something that will help our economy and improve our communities, but it will improve the quality of our freshwater too," he said.

Meanwhile, Conservation Minister Eugenie Sage said the report showed the need for increased biodiversity efforts.

"The freshwater report outlines well the pressures on native fish such as īnanga/whitebait and the importance of reducing sediment and nitrogen pollution and barriers to fish migration to ensure healthy fish populations," she said.

"I'm proud of the work done last year to strengthen legal protection for native freshwater fish and DoC's efforts now on specific measures to look after whitebait in streams and rivers around Aotearoa. The Biodiversity Strategy is currently being finalised after public consultation. It will commit New Zealand to a clear vision and specific measures to better protect our unique freshwater habitats and plants and wildlife.

Not everyone is happy with the work done so far, however.

Federated Farmers focused on how pollution is present in urban and forestry environments, in addition to farming areas. However, they ignored the fact that pastoral areas contain more than seven times as much river length than urban and forestry areas combined.

"Those catchment-specific issues bring people together and farmers in all of our regions are mixing in with environmentalists and wider community groups to make improvements that tackle local problem areas and priorities. Blanket rules are expensive and often ineffective," Federated Farmers environment spokesperson Chris Allen said in a statement.

The organisation also highlighted the need for better water storage in drier areas and as dry years become more common.

Forest and Bird, meanwhile, said the report displayed the need for urgent action.

The group "is urging local and central Government to heed the warnings in this report. The path we are on threatens our native species and our own wellbeing," Kay said.

"New Zealanders love nature and want to protect it. Right now, we have an opportunity to transition away from environmentally destructive farming, forestry, and urban development practices. The right legal reforms, economic incentives, and regulatory systems can protect and restore our fresh water."

"This report makes clear that New Zealand urgently needs a major transition away from old models of business, because they are harming us, and they are harming the environment."

Too busy to go fishing by Tony Orman

Each October New Zealand celebrates Labour Day with a public holiday. The country rejoices in the 40-hour working week. But really politicians have both an audacity and arrogance plus a good dollop of hypocrisy to recognise Labour Day as a public holiday. I will explain why. Frequently when I happened to meet a fellow angler or hunter, the conversation almost always goes like this. As anglers and hunters are inclined, we stop to swap fibs. You see, although anglers and hunters are born honest, they soon get over it.

The conversations seem to follow a similar pattern.

“Get out fishing on the long weekend?” I ask.

The replies follow a common lament, “Too busy during the week doing 50 and 60 hours a week. Comes the weekend there’s the family and besides, I’m just stuffed.”

It has become a not uncommon situation particularly for today’s young parents with young families. For many, the 40-hour working week now doesn’t happen – it’s been eroded – it’s now history. People are working not just eight hours a day but more. The weekends are no longer a time for family with Saturday and Sunday trading now common. What’s the hurry all about?

Yet I recall back about 1970, politicians said to prepare for earlier retirement and more leisure time in the Autumn of our years. However, something has reversed that and it probably began in 1984 with Rogernomics.

And because of the burgeoning cost to government of superannuation, every now and again, the talk is to extend the retirement age to 67 or even 70. But it is a double-edged sword. At the other edge, for school leavers and teenagers, job opportunities will diminish because older people will be forced to carry on working.

Most politicians seem not to have comprehended that the State will have to pay unemployment benefits to youngsters unable to get jobs.

And it's not good news for youngsters. The social impact can be devastating with the self-esteem of many youths plummeting. That then manifests itself in a disgruntled youth sector and sometimes aggressive behaviour and crime – at great cost to the country. And tragically even suicide – as shown by NZ's abnormally high youth suicide rates. Incredibly "In terms of child health, New Zealand has the highest rates of suicide in the OECD for youth aged 15-19," according to Doctor Google.

The guts of it all

Here is the crux of it all.

Successive New Zealand governments have slyly and steadily eroded our standard of living in economic terms. Today invariably, a household can no longer exist on one average income but needs at least two average incomes to sustain a living for two adults and two children. The situation is aggravated by a rampant consumer-driven economy spawned under the free market neo-liberal Rogernomics mantra.

And has the new wave of "liberated" mothers got it wrong? As a youngster my father worked, my mother was at home. Should today's liberated mothers mock their mothers for being the vital home manager. The trouble is while the modern woman may delude herself, she is alive and active being "busy", the reality is she (and her husband) are in danger of being exhausted from being workaholics with inevitable burnout. Weekends can become recuperation rather than leisure.

I am not against someone working if they want to, but if they put themselves under severe stress and have no leisure time and particular for the young family, what's life really about? And severe stress undermines health – down the track – more cost to the State.

Option means choice

Similarly, the right to retire at age 65 – or 60 as it used to be in New Zealand – should be an option. Perhaps we need a massive culture shift not only collectively but individually?

One day when I admitted to a friend Ben, I hadn't been snapper fishing because I had been too busy, he said, "Well Tony, just remember this, when you're on your death bed, you won't wish you'd spent more time at the office!"

Great advise, thanks Ben.

The late Ted Trueblood, superb writer for “Field and Stream” in the US in the 1950s, penned his “Rule of Tomorrow” *Never say I’ll go tomorrow. When you get a chance to go fishing, go. If you wait until tomorrow, tomorrow will drag into next week and next week and next week will drag into next month and next month into next year and some day it will be too late.”*

Ever noticed at the supermarket or petrol station checkout, the tired question often is “Having a Busy Day?” I often politely reply “I’m trying not to be **too** busy,” or similar. And I give a brief sermon, people are just too damned busy.

Some might say a famous American conservationist Henry David Thoreau **(**1817 – 1862) had the right idea. In 1837, Henry Thoreau gave a Harvard university commencement address and advocated that perhaps the order of things should be reversed – the seventh day should be a day of work for sweat and toil, the remaining six days should be free for individuals to fill their souls with “sublime revelations of nature.”

Now there is a thought, if somewhat extreme. Nevertheless, Thoreau makes the point. And as Thoreau asked in his book “Walden”, “Why should we live with such hurry and waste of life?”

What we need is to restore the 40-hour working week and then with a clear conscience, celebrate it honestly.

My wife asked me what I was going to do today.
I told her, "Nothing".

She said, "you did that yesterday".
I said, "I wasn't finished".

Selecting Flies: Trigger Mechanisms, Masking Hatches, and drag by Paul Weamer

Few fly patterns can claim the history, beauty, and effectiveness of Catskill style dry flies

Anglers who wish to tie or purchase the best fish-catching flies need to understand trigger mechanisms. A trigger mechanism is a fly pattern component that makes a fish choose to eat it. Many times, a trout has swum beneath my dry fly, looking at it, but refusing to eat it. Those flies did not have good trigger mechanisms for that fish on that day.

This is a relatively common phenomenon, particularly in famous fisheries where the trout are wild and often caught and released more than once during a fishing season. These fish have been programmed to be more cautious when they feed, making them difficult to catch. But they are also often the largest fish, so it is hard to just ignore them in favour of easier targets. So how does an angler find a trigger mechanism?

First, you need to make sure that you are imitating the proper aquatic insect hatch. On fertile waters, it's common for more than one insect to be hatching at a time. Wild fish are often individualistic feeders so, simultaneously, one might be eating mayfly spinners while another is feeding on midges and yet one more is eating caddisflies. Anglers call these overlapping insect emergences masking hatches, particularly if one hatch is heavy and obvious while the other hatches are sparse.

Once you determine what the fish is eating, then you need to find the best fly pattern with a triggering mechanism. This can be a large, oversized wing, or heavy hackle, that gets the fish's attention. Using flies that are tied larger than the naturals during heavy mayfly emergences and spinner falls is sometimes a triggering mechanism. Adding a little bit of flashy, synthetic materials to your fly patterns can sometime trigger a trout to feed. Incorporating a trailing shuck that makes the fly look more vulnerable will often work. But just about anything that can be a triggering mechanism can also be the reason a trout will not eat your fly. So how do you know where to start.

There is no easy, one-size-fits-all answer. You might have to try several fly patterns, one at a time, and let the fish tell you what is best. Generally, you want to fish as simply as possible. So I start my day with natural coloured flies, sized as close to the natural as possible, on the longest leader

I can fish for that given water (small streams will require shorter leaders than large rivers), and I fish those flies drag free.

When an artificial fly floats unnaturally because it is tied to the fly rod, it is called drag. Unnatural drag is probably the greatest hindrance for catching fish. This phenomenon is the exact opposite of a triggering mechanism and is more akin to a large neon sign screaming, “Do not eat me!” Drag can be combated two ways: Using longer leaders with finer tippets and by mending the fly line.

Mending the line is done by moving it to a place in the air or water where the effects of drag are least. Aerial mends, like the reach cast, are done in the air before the fly is laid on the water. You perform a reach cast by smoothly sweeping the rod upstream as the line straightens, just before it settles to the water. This cast creates slack in the system by putting the fly downstream of the leader and line. The fly can now float drag free until the line and leader catch up to it. You can also mend on the water by gently flipping the fly line between your rod tip and leader up or down stream to control drag.

If I am not catching fish and I’m getting good drag-free drifts, then it’s time to try something else. Perhaps the trigger will be found by imitating another aquatic insect, or with another fly pattern to imitate the same insect. Maybe it will be found by moving my fly rather than fishing it drag free. The only way to know is to try. And it’s this game that is seldom played the same way with the same flies two days in a row, which keeps us from getting bored even after fly fishing for decades. The following fly patterns each have their own triggering mechanisms that are created by the choice of materials used to tie them and how they are fished.

Downstream fisher yields to upstream fisher by Domenick Swentosky

Most sports have a set of unwritten rules, generally agreed upon by those in the know. But the trouble with the unwritten rules of fly fishing is that many newcomers aren’t aware of them. So, it might take seasons of error before realizing that you were pissing everyone else off while wading downstream into the upstream guys.

My boys are in Little League, and we are awash in the joy of baseball again. As coach for my youngest son’s team, I teach these little ball players not only what a force out is at second base, but also the other things, like the unwritten agreement not to step into the batter’s box until the catcher is ready, and to stay off the pitcher’s mound if you’re not the pitcher.

My older son is on a “Major League” team this year, and its fun to watch Joey as a rookie again. He is learning so many new rules at once, and much of what he is absorbing is not in a rule book. It’s just a set of standards and expectations that are generally agreed upon. Like, do not bunt to break up a no hitter because that’s cheap. And left or right fielders yield to the centre fielder for called balls — always.

Fly fishing has its own *long* list of rules. Of course, because so many of those rules are predicated on one faction of fishers doing things better than the other, the tag of elitist is unfortunately (though rightfully) earned.

I have no use for restrictions that suggest how we should catch trout on a fly rod. I will not limit myself only to dry flies, and I will not restrict my nymphing to upstream sight fishing for one trout. I sometimes use bobbers. I sometimes use split shot. I do not use fly line if it makes no sense. My philosophy of fly fishing is to do whatever catches fish. And however, anyone else wants to rig up and fish a fly rod is simply fine by me too. Such decisions about methods and tackle do not affect other anglers. They are personal choices, so the silly codes or rules against indicators or other rigs and styles make little sense to me.

On the contrary, the unwritten rules about what fly fishers should do in deference or respect to their fellow angler are paramount. And as the streams get more crowded, the rules of etiquette are more important than ever.

Here is a good one …

The Downstream fisher yields to the Upstream fisher

Many streamer anglers fish downstream. Before my time, the rivers saw a lot of wet fly fishermen who also fished downstream. These days the wet fly guys are sparse, and the streamer crowd is growing.

Streamer anglers blow through a lot of water. That's really the only way it works. Cover water, and catch fish on a streamer. If you do not constantly cover new water with your streamer, you won't net many fish. The pace of the streamer guy can easily be five times that of the upstream nymph or dry fly guy — and it should be. You must cover water.

No matter what fly you are fishing, if you are working downstream and come upon an angler fishing upstream, you should give him plenty of room. Get to the bank and walk around him. That is the rule. I hesitate to call it unwritten because it *is* written, although it seems to be a vanishing concept.

I propose that we all reaffirm and generally agree on this upstream guy / downstream guy thing. With two anglers approaching one another on the same track, somebody has to jump off eventually, and it only makes sense that the guy making his way downstream yields to the guy fishing upstream.

This is not my rule. It's been that way for a long time. As far as I can tell, it's been commonly accepted wisdom for over a century. You can quickly find this affirmed here, here and here.

Streamer anglers cover a lot of water to find good fish

Why?

The downstream fisher blows up more water at a faster pace. His casts are longer, and he cover a wider arc. He spooks more fish ahead of him than does the upstream angler, and he kicks up mud and silt that carries downstream ahead of him.

All of this has a far greater effect on the upstream fisher than vise the versa. The upstream fisher has virtually no effect on the downstream fisher above, until he is nearly on top of the other angler. Conversely, the downstream fisher can affect the quality of fishing fifty or more yards ahead of him, with the carried mud, long casts, and spooked fish.

Floating too

Importantly, the rule should also apply to anglers in a boat approaching the wading angler. Sure, you *can* run the wading angler over like a Mack truck, but you *should* give him the right of way.

I float with friends sometimes, and we make every effort to take the boat behind a wading angler, so as not to disturb the water he is fishing. Yes, even if that means getting out of the boat and walking it through the shallows, that is what we do. Many anglers will wave you through (sometimes with a middle finger), but a little communication goes a long way to preventing any animosity.

Spread the word.

My friend, Greg, includes an etiquette section with his introductory classes on fly fishing. That is a fantastic idea.

Etiquette only works when both sides agree on the terms. Unfortunately, there are a lot of guys out there storming off in a huff because some angler cut him off or ran through the water he planned to fish. Sadly, the offending angler often has no idea he did anything wrong.

Maybe you do not agree with the concept that the downstream fisher should yield to the upstream fisher. That is fine too, but it does not change the fact that it's what most anglers expect. And agreement with the rule is not required for compliance.

To George Costanza's exasperated point, "We're living in a society!" It is really the right thing to do.

Fish hard. And good luck out there.

What is the Corona – Covid-19 really teaching us? Message from Bill Gates

I'm a strong believer that there is a spiritual purpose behind everything that happens, whether that is what we perceive as being good or being bad.

As I meditate upon this, I want to share with you what I feel the Corona/ Covid-19 virus is really doing to us:

1. It is reminding us that we are all equal, regardless of our culture, religion, occupation, financial situation or how famous we are. This disease treats us all equally, perhaps we should to. If you do not believe me, just ask Tom Hanks.

2. It is reminding us that we are all connected and something that affects one person has an effect on another. It is reminding us that the false borders that we have put up have little value as this virus does not need a passport. It is reminding us, by oppressing us for a short time, of those in this world whose whole life is spent in oppression.

3. It is reminding us of how precious our health is and how we have moved to neglect it through eating nutrient poor manufactured food and drinking water that is contaminated with chemicals upon chemicals. If we don't look after our health, we will, of course, get sick.

4. It is reminding us of the shortness of life and of what is most important for us to do, which is to help each other, especially those who are old or sick. Our purpose is not to buy toilet roll.

5. It is reminding us of how materialistic our society has become and how, when in times of difficulty, we remember that it's the essentials that we need (food, water, medicine) as opposed to the luxuries that we sometimes unnecessarily give value to.

6. It is reminding us of how important our family and home life is and how much we have neglected this. It is forcing us back into our houses so we can rebuild them into our home and to strengthen our family unit.

7. It is reminding us that our true work is not our job, that is what we do, not what we were created to do. Our true work is to look after each other, to protect each other and to be of benefit to one another.

8. It is reminding us to keep our egos in check. It is reminding us that no matter how great we think we are or how great others think we are, a virus can bring our world to a standstill.

9. It is reminding us that the power of freewill is in our hands. We can choose to cooperate and help each other, to share, to give, to help and to support each other or we can choose to be selfish, to hoard, to look after only our self. Indeed, it is difficulties that bring out our true colors.

10. It is reminding us that we can be patient, or we can panic. We can either understand that this type of situation has happened many times before in history and will pass, or we can panic and see it as the end of the world and, consequently, cause ourselves more harm than good.

11. It is reminding us that this can either be an end or a new beginning. This can be a time of reflection and understanding, where we learn from our mistakes, or it can be the start of a cycle which will continue until we finally learn the lesson we are meant to.

12. It is reminding us that this Earth is sick. It is reminding us that we need to look at the rate of deforestation just as urgently as we look at the speed at which toilet rolls are disappearing off the shelves. We are sick because our home is sick.

13. It is reminding us that after every difficulty, there is always ease. Life is cyclical, and this is just a phase in this great cycle. We do not need to panic; this too shall pass.

14. Whereas many see the Corona/ Covid-19 virus as a great disaster, I prefer to see it as a ***great corrector***

It is sent to remind us of the important lessons that we seem to have forgotten and it is up to us if we will learn them or not.

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.

Contacts

President:	Michael Murphy027 591 8734 Email: mnkmurf@gmail.com.
Secretary:	Peter Haakman 04 904 1056 Email: phaakman@icloud.com
Treasurer	Ashley Francis Email: ashleyfrancis.nz@gmail.com
Vice President	Email: krasimir.angelov@gmail.com Kras Angelov
Past President	Malcolm Francis: ph. 06 364 2101 Email: malcolm1@xtra.co.nz
Committee:	Nick Weldon Email: nandcweldon@xtra.co.nz
	Leon Smith Email: leonsmithplumbingltd@gmail.com
	Steve Taylor Email: staylorbuilder@gmail.com
Newsletter	Malcolm Francis: ph. 06 364 2101 Email: malcolm1@xtra.co.nz

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