



Kapiti Fly Fishing Club

April 2021 Newsletter

This month's cover photo: Manawatu River by Krasimir Angelov

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Club activities

Date	Event	Coordinator
Monday 26 April	Club night	
9 to 15 May	Club trip to Lake Rotoiti and Rotorua district	Ralph Lane
Monday 10 May	Fly Tying workshop – Waikanae Boating Club	Gordon
Monday 24 May I	Kapiti Fly Fishing Club Annual General Meeting	Michael
May-June TBC	Hawkes Bay area	Pete
June dates TBC	Whanganui and Whakapapa	Malcolm

'Club members will be notified by email confirming the dates of planned club trips.'

You are invited to the next KFFC Club Night on Monday 26 April

Interactive session on different ways of setting up your line.

Meeting starts at 7:30pm looking forward to seeing you there

Presidents report

Well, another month nearly gone and its soon to be the end of the summer fishing season with most back country areas closing on 30 April. Roll on the winter fishing in the central lakes area. As per recent years KFFC will be arranging a couple of winter trips to Turangi so watch out for the email notifications.

A big thanks to member and Past President Ralph Lane for organising a weeklong trip to Rotoiti on 9-15th May. It is sure to be a great trip and we expects a newsletter trip report and some photos to come from it, if you are interested in joining the team, please contact Ralph Lane.

Talking of fishing I feel it's a good time to talk about fishing etiquette and the links to the Fish & Game and DOC website pages are below. I suggest that you take a look as a reminder. My view is that the rule to remember is to never push into a pool where someone else is fishing. First check whether the person is fishing upstream or downstream and always go in behind them. Ideally have a chat with them to see what their plans are.

In heavily fished areas like Taupo this should be easy to work out however in areas with low fish numbers please don't just go up to the next pool and fish in front of them as they will often expect that they should have a good few hours fishing at least to the next access point!

Please also learn the regulations for the area you will be fishing as they can vary quite a bit and ignorance may cost you if you get it wrong.

A fair number of us use only barbless hooks and practice catch and release in most places. This makes it more likely that any fish caught and released will survive and even more important are far easier to remove from our bodies!

Gordon's fly-tying sessions are proving successful as he showed members how to tie that old faithful, the Woolly Bugger and Kras headed off to the Manawatu and hooked up a good number of trout! I had better place an order for a few from him to boost my catch!

Don't forget that the May club night is also our AGM, and I will be presenting our newest Cup, The Graeme Waters Cup to the member, either on or off committee, that I consider has done the most to support our club during the year. I have a few members on my list, so you had better attend the AGM in case you are the recipient!

This Monday, 26th April is Club night, and we are having a very informal interactive session where new members will bring along their gear (and questions!) and hopefully a fair number of more experienced members will be there to help and show off their setups. Nothing is really organised, apart from starting with a brief intro and tea and coffee, so it will be up to all of us, new and not so new to get to know each other better and help each other as well as having some fun.

Come join us!

Michael

<https://fishandgame.org.nz/freshwater-fishing-in-new-zealand/getting-started/fishing-code-of-conduct/>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/central-north-island/places/taupo-trout-fishery/how-to-fish/fishing-etiquette/>

Fly Casting Tuition by Gordon Baker

Club member Gordon Baker is available for one-on-one casting tuition. Gordon is a casting instructor with Flyfishers International (USA). He is available to help beginners get off to a good start and to assist more experienced members improve their distance casting skills. Although not yet an approved two-handed casting instructor Gordon is a keen learner willing to share new skills.

Email Gordon kiwifyfisher@gmail.com or phone 0274946487 to arrange a suitable time for a lesson. There is no charge.

Mid-Week Fishing trips by Hugh

For those members who are lucky enough to be able to fish mid-week during the forthcoming season please confirm your desire to be included in the mid-week fishers email list to:

hugh.driver.nz@gmail.com

The emails are often sent out only giving very short notice to take advantage of the prevailing conditions and members availability, as an example the afternoon of day before the proposed trip.



Fly Pattern of the Month –Hare & Copper Bomb and Beaded Nymphs by Gordon Baker

Hare & Copper Bomb and Bead Nymphs



One of the easiest patterns to tie - and one of the most effective. The Hare and Copper catches fish throughout the country in a variety of waters. The guard hairs used in the mix represent legs and give the fly that buggy look that is remarkably effective. Well weighted this is an essential winter nymph.

Hook	TMC 5262 size 8-14
Thread	Black 3/0 or 6/0
Weight	Copper, black, gold or tungsten bead and/or lead wire.
Rib	Copper wire
Body	Dubbed hares fur and guard hairs

Please Note

Please note that the next flytying meeting will be at the Waikanae Boating Club at 7.30pm Monday 10 May. Please bring your club membership card. If you haven't received yours yet you may do so at either the club or fly tying meeting.

Please remember that the materials for our Fly Tying workshops are sponsored by the Flyshop where you can purchase your fly tying materials, their website is; <https://www.flyshop.co.nz/>



Theses' Woolly Bugger work! - a success story



In the above photo you will see three of our members concentrating on tying the Green Woolly Bugger at our last Fly-Tying workshop under the direction of Gordon Baker. On the right-hand side of the photo, you can see that Kras is focused on the task in hand with Gordon keeping a close eye on his progress, the question once the fly was finished 'I wonder if this fly will catch a fish?'

The following weekend Kras headed up to his favourite river the Manawatu and decided to give his newly tied Woolly Bugger a try and see if they were any good. Well, the results speak for themselves, 5 fish hooked and two landed as you will see from the photos below. According to Kras there was one minor problem after the days fishing, "I need to learn how to make them more durable though, as they started falling apart after some casting and couple hook ups."

One of the greatest thrills of fly fishing is catching a fish on a fly that you have created yourself, I think young Kras will be tying more Woolly Buggers in the future.

This demonstrates the value of participating in the Clubs fly-tying workshops so please make a point of joining us this month on Monday May 10.



Is your fly-fishing gear ready for the season? By Ben Kryzinski

If you're like me, and the one fishing outing you took in January was so cold and miserable that you uttered some semblance of, "I'm too old for this shit," stowed your gear and waited for spring, now's the time to pull it out of the closet and get it ready. Spring has sprung across many parts of the country, and it won't be long until we're itching to get out and enjoy some fishing with the sunshine on our backs and the fly rod guides free of ice. Having your gear ready to go when you hit the water is a nice way to start a new season.

And I'm not just talking about your fly rods here. There is a lot of clean-up and preparation that should be done before that first trip of the year — the whole idea is to ensure your equipment is functional and that you're ready to make that first cast once you assemble your rod at the truck. Consider this a simple reminder. A checklist if you will. It will help you make sure your fishing gear is ready when you are. And, honestly, even if you have a dozen fly rods in the rafters, much of the maintenance and preparation work can be done on the couch while you watch the TV.

Just get the gear out and get it done.

Fly rods

This is the implement we count on the most. It's also the tool that is most likely to have unnoticed damage from the year before. Pull it from its sock and carefully inspect each section, making sure to give the wraps and the guides special attention. Do you see any exposed thread? Any rust starting to show through on the stripping guide or the snake guides? Is the tip-top firmly attached and free of rust? Check the wraps on the female ferrules. Any splitting or cracking? Is the graphite or glass still intact?

Next, check the reel seat. Is it tight? If it's loose, it's only a matter of time before it slides off the butt section. How about the threads? Free of dust or sand?

If you find an issue, now's the time to send the rod in for repairs — before it fails on you on the water. If it's solid and there are no problems, take a microfiber cloth or a chamois and carefully wipe the rod clean using a solution of warm water and a small amount of mild dish soap. Wipe each section down carefully, and don't put the rod back in its tube or sock until it's completely dry.

Fly reels

These are bit trickier. Really good reels are sturdy and dependable, but they'll only stay that way if we take care of them. A lot of fly reels only need a simple inspection before we give them our seal of approval for another season of service. Others require a bit more effort, and that means taking them apart.

If your favourite fly reel has a bearing assembly, remove the spool from the reel. You'll be able to see discoloration or any dirt or grime in the centre of the spool (and you might be surprised at how much there is). In most instances, you'll need a Phillips screwdriver to separate the bearing assembly from the rest of the spool (if you fish with a sealed disc-drag reel, there really isn't much you can or should do other than give the frame and spool a good wash in some warm, soapy water). Just be careful that you don't lose any seals or screws when you do this — I recommend

spreading them out on a table in front of you in the order the parts came off the spool. Then, wash each item in warm, soapy water. For your own sake, don't do this in the sink. You drop one little piece down the drain, and you're in big trouble.

For the spool, I use both a toothbrush to get at every nook and cranny, and then a cotton swab to clean up any excess grime. A chamois, microfiber cloth or even a paper towel can be used to dry everything off.

Now it's time to lubricate the bearing assembly. Don't use WD-40. It's actually a solvent, not a lubricant, and it shouldn't be sprayed on fly your reel. Instead use a silicon- or graphite-based lubricant that's safe on plastic or rubber seals. I use CRC — a silicon-based lube that can be sprayed into the bowels of the bearing assembly. Dry off excess lube and reassemble your reel. Once you have it all put back together, turn the handle and work the lube throughout the assembly.

Yes, this can be a bit time-consuming, but if you perform this simple maintenance duty once a season, your reels will last years.

Editor's note: Please check your reels warranty as some manufactures do not recommend lubricating the bearing assembly – Ross Reels are an example.

Fly lines

I've become a fly-line cleaning fanatic — it's borderline OCD for me. Yes, I clean the line at the beginning of each season, both with a dunk in warm, soapy water, but also with an industry-crafted line-cleaning solution.

Most line makers recommend their own cleaning kits (some lines are even sold with them). I like the Line Speed kit from Loon Outdoors — it's super easy and supports my zealous line-cleaning habits quite nicely. I've been known to clean my lines daily during extended fishing trips, and, at the very least, I clean them before every outing. Lines aren't cheap, and they'll last several seasons if you take care of them. Cleaning lines also lets you find little nicks and cuts that sometimes don't get noticed until you're casting, and you hear the imperfection as it catches on every snake guide on your fly rod on the way to the water.

Make the time to clean and inspect your fly line. You'll save time and money if you do.

Leader and tippet

The first question you ask yourself is simple. "Do I have enough?" We've all reached for our tippet spools only to find that we're down to about six inches of 3x, and we need another foot. Frustrating.

Unless you put a new leader on at the end of last season, I'd recommend replacing all of your leaders at the start of a new fishing year. There's no sense rebuilding a leader that spent months wrapped around a fly reel developing a long-term memory and very likely growing a bit brittle. Just be smart and start fresh.

Vests, slings, and packs

The soft goods we use to carry our gear can wear out, too. Check zippers and snaps and pay special attention to the hook-and-loop (Velcro) connectors, as they will wear out first. They can be easily replaced, but it's best to replace them *before* you lose your fly box full of Stimulators

come stonefly season, or your box of freshly tied Clousers that you knew you had with you when you got on the boat but now can't find for some reason.

My worst fastener failure? The hook-and-loop sling I used religiously for years gave out on my while fishing the Baja, and I ended up tossing a new DSLR camera into the surf. Had I checked, I'd likely still have a functional camera.

Make sure any D-rings or O-rings are in good shape, and that the plastic or steel hasn't fatigued to the point of breaking. Check all your pockets to make sure they haven't frayed or developed holes. Just give the item a thorough once-over. It'll eliminate any surprises on your first day on the water.

Waders

If your breathable waders leak, you probably know it. But sometimes those leaks are so small that you literally can't find them. It's a simple fix, really. Fill a little spray bottle full of rubbing alcohol and turn your waders inside out. Spray the area where you think your waders are leaking. If there's a hole, it will darken under the spray of alcohol. Mark it with a Sharpie, and when it's dry, apply a dollop of Aquaseal on the marked spot. Push it into the fabric. Let it dry, and you're good.

Don't be surprised to find more than one small "pin-prick" hole in even the toughest pair of waders. A season spent bushwhacking through the willows or even just walking a trail can take its toll.

Wading boots

A simple look at your boots will tell you everything you need to know about them. Make sure the sole isn't separating, and if you wade with felt-soled boots, make sure your felt isn't wearing thin. If you're missing studs on the soles consider ordering a new set from your bootmaker, or these low-cost alternatives as replacements.

Check the no-brainer stuff, too — the lace eyes and the laces themselves. Frayed or worn? Just get new laces.

Final Word

This all seems elementary, but we've likely all been caught off guard thanks to gear failure that, had we taken the time, could have been avoided. Make it a point this season to clean and inspect the gear that makes our fishing possible. You'll learn a lot about your gear, and you'll know when it's time to send something in for repairs or simply replace something altogether. And it's best done now, before you're on the water and something unfortunate happens.

Editor's note: With the Winter Season fast approaching I thought that this article was a very good reminder on the importance of checking your fly-fishing gear prior to heading to Turangi.

Fishing the dry-dropper-dropper rig – because 3 flies are better than one by Spencer Durrant

A few years back I joined a fishing club here in Utah. We did club tying nights, and a group of three or four of us usually fished together every weekend. On one Sunday, we decided to fish a stream that's almost entirely pocket water for its kilometre length. A few of the guys tied on indicator rigs and one went with a lone dry fly.

I tried on a Chubby Chernobyl, a Frenchie, and a zebra midge. One of the guys looked at my rig and jokingly said, "Hey look! It's Triple-Threat over here!"

The nickname stuck for years.

While the fishing club is defunct these days, the odd glances and hard time I get for fishing three flies hasn't changed. Where it's legal, a dry-dropper-dropper is my go-to rig for trout. Unless there's a stellar hatch, or I know the fish want to chase big streamers, you'll find me throwing three flies on any trout river.

I've been known to have my clients fish three flies, too. Earlier this summer, I guided a group of four guys, and each of them balked when I handed them rods strung up with three flies. They weren't the first clients to be sceptical of my approach, and I know they won't be my last.

But that trip – and reflecting on the Triple Threat nickname – got me thinking that most anglers may not be familiar with the idea of a three-fly rig. And given how successful the rig has been for me, I figured it's worth sharing.

I want to preface this by saying I know I didn't come up with anything revolutionary here, nor do I think my three-fly rig makes me somehow unique. Fishing this way, though, isn't something that I think most anglers do, or even consider, and that makes it worth discussing.

Why three flies?

Go stand on the banks of any major river in America, and I'll bet you a dozen flies that one of the first five drift boats that pass during peak season have at least one angler throwing an indicator rig.

I'm not bagging on indicators, but I am going to question the efficacy of that style of fishing. How often have you been on a river, fishing to risers in a slack bit of water, only to have someone high hole you with a bobber rig? The trout quit feeding on top, and if you were there to fish dries, you're suddenly out of luck.

While indicators have a time and a purpose, they're largely counter-productive when you're on a river.

For starters, as Lance Egan, Devin Olsen, and Gilbert Rowley documented in their film *Modern Nymphing*, you simply don't see a lot of takes when you tie on an indicator. Trout have to really commit for the bobber to move, and trout are notorious for being finicky, subtle creatures.

Swap that bobber out for a dry fly, though, and suddenly you're seeing a lot more of the takes on your bottom two flies. And you've replaced your indicator with something that also catches fish. I

can't count how many times I've watched trout try to eat my indicator and trying to slip-set on that kind of take rarely works out in my favour.

Speaking of trout eating dry flies – another reason to fish the three-fly rig is that it allows you to cover more of the water column and imitate more stages of an aquatic insect's lifestyle. In short, you're able to present more options to trout, which increases your odds of catching fish.

Consider, for example, a rig featuring a PMD, Hare's Ear, and RS2. With those three flies, you've covered the major life stages of a mayfly – the dun, pupa, and emerger. Trout that are focused on the easy pickings will likely snag the Hare's Ear, while the fish sitting higher in the water column are more likely to eat your dun or emerger.

The rig

Rigging up for three flies is straightforward. I start with a larger dry fly – usually a size 14. Unless I go with an elk hair caddis, I opt for a parachute fly of some kind. I love how they float, the silhouette against the top of the water, and how easy they are to see.

Next, I tie 400mm to 600mm of tippet off the bend of the hook. One mistake I see a lot of my clients make is not using enough tippet between flies. Remember, you're not only trying to get your flies down to where the fish are – you're fighting the current, too. 400mm to 6700mm is a good general ballpark that works on all but the shallowest or mossy of rivers.

It should go without saying that your nymphs need tungsten beads and lead tied around the shank. I don't use split shot unless I have no other choice, because it chews up tippet and decreases your ability to feel a fish take your droppers.

I like to keep the space between my second and third fly shorter than between my dry and first dropper. The reasoning behind this is that the second fly might get the attention of a trout on the bottom – and then the bottom fly floats along, and that's the one in the most convenient spot for the fish to eat. A 350mm to 400mm length of tippet should be more than adequate.

A few notes for fishing

Most folks worry about getting tangled when fishing three flies. That's a valid concern, but it doesn't happen as often as you might think. Yes, I spend more time untangling flies than if I just fished one or two, but not disproportionately so. The key is to give yourself a bit more time on your cast.

It's a lot like fishing streamers, or heavy nymph rigs. That extra weight means your rod slows up, your loop opens, and you're waiting just a bit longer on each casting stroke for your loop to unfurl. Take that same concept to fishing the dry-dropper-dropper rig, and you'll be in business.

I'd also recommend using nothing smaller than 4x down to your first fly. A good 4x leader is thick enough to help turn over what ends up being a 12–13-foot leader, when all your flies are tied on.

The dry-dropper-dropper rig is also a deadly way to approach pocket water. Casting off the tip of your rod so that the flies land at the top of a pocket, lifting excess line off the water, and keeping a tight line between you and your dry fly, will ensure the best drift. A few of my favourite streams here in Utah are almost exclusively pocket water, and the dry-dropper-dropper rig always produces in that type of water.

Finally, I wouldn't worry about your tippet sliding off the bend of the hook if you use barbless flies or crimp the barbs down yourself. I made the switch over to barbless a year or so ago (it's so much easier to remove barbless flies from fish, and myself, when guiding clients) and haven't once had a section of tippet slide off the end of the hook.

Fishing a dry-dropper-dropper might seem like overkill, and I suppose in some ways it is. But it's an incredibly effective way to cover as much of the water column and aquatic insect life cycle as possible. It won't win you any points with the dry fly purists among us, but you'll probably catch a few more fish than them.

Local Body: New rules will achieve 'modest' gains in water quality ...

Intensive farming rules adopted.

Horizons Regional Council has adopted recommendations that will allow some intensive farming operations to apply for resource consent - after a gap of three years.

At its latest strategy and policy meeting, councillors adopted the recommendations a three-member panel has made on rules to limit nutrient-leaching in target catchments in Tararua, Horowhenua and coastal Rangitikei.

The recommendations stretch to more than 260 pages and will now be made public. Submitters then have 30 days to appeal the plan change to the Environment Court, based on points in their original submission. The way the council's previous intensive farming rules were applied led Fish & Game and the Environmental Defence Society to take it to the Environment Court in 2017. The court declared the rules must be applied as stated.

After that, 118 dairy farms and 60 commercial vegetable growers were unable to apply for consent and they essentially continued operating without it.

Horizons and the Environment Minister got expert advice, and in 2018 Horizons decided it would have to change the rules in such a way that farmers could apply for consent. It notified a plan change in 2019, which led to an initial 84 submissions, then another 32 submissions.

There were expert conferences on water quality and on economic and social impact, Horizons' strategy, and regulation manager Nic Peet said.

The submissions of 75 people were heard by a panel of three commissioners from October 12-22, 2020. The panel's recommendations were released on March 19, and councillors discussed them in a workshop. The recommendations are that the maximum nitrogen-leaching numbers in the plan be updated, in line with current and future changes to the Overseer programme that measures leaching.

The numbers will be higher, but they reflect what has been happening already and will not allow for increased leaching. About 70 per cent of farmers were expected to be able to meet them, councillor David Cotton said.

Those who could not meet the new numbers would be asked to reduce their nitrogen-leaching by up to 20 per cent over a limited time. They could do this by reducing stock numbers, or using less fertiliser, or they could graze stock off their farms, Cotton said. They would also be expected to use agreed industry best practice.

If they could not do this, they could apply for five-year consents while they changed to a land use that created less leaching. This could particularly apply to parts of the Tararua District where there were dairy farms on heavy soil with high rainfall.

The recommendations were a significant change to the rules, Horizons chairwoman Rachel Keedwell said, but she didn't expect many would need to change to a new land use.

If followed, the recommendations were expected to make a "modest" improvement to water quality. "Council's focus is to now return to implementation of the plan change and to continue to improve water quality throughout the region," Keedwell said.

The decision changed the weighting of rules in the plan, and about 250 people were now expected to apply for consents, Peet said.

Federated Farmers and DairyNZ are happy with the plan change. Farmers who have been in limbo would be pleased to have more certainty, Federated Farmers president Andrew Hoggard said.

The plan change is an interim measure, and any consents given under it will only last for 10 years. Bigger plan changes are to come, because the council has until December 2024 to give effect to Government's Essential Freshwater package.

Whanganui Chronicle.

Another cracker on the Manawatu! By Nick Weldon

27th February dawned early!

Four fisherfolk and a spouse spotter made their way in two cars up through Shannon, where we had the obligatory coffee at the Horseman's Café (and boy, do they make a good coffee!), and then over the Pahiatua Track and on to Oringi Bend.

The intrepid four were Kras Angelov, Greg du Bern, Mark Vogt, and Nick Weldon. Sadly, Dorwin and Ruth couldn't make it on the day. Hope the ankle is getting better, Ruth.

It was a pearler of a day, with a light breeze coming down the river.

Parking just off the road in front of the gate, we set up and vaulted (!) over the gate to get to the river. Now as most know, the first bit upstream consists of a high bank from which you can see straight down into the river. At low summer levels, we could see everything and, stone me, we saw fish after fish immediately below us in the deeper water. Some were well over 4lbs and one or two could be classified as monsters! This resulted in a mad scramble to get at them.

Mark went downstream and ploughed through the water to the opposite bank to cast into the nearside bank. Oh, to be young and fit again! The rest of us were not quite so intrepid and strolled slowly upstream until we had easy access to the water.

Then we all split up. Nick went upstream, Kras a short way downstream, where we had seen more good fish, and Greg took the middle reaches.

Now, I can't speak for anyone else, but I think we all caught fish. I had four fish and lost a monster (?!). More anon.

Fortunately, Cathie came with me, and was right beside me when I caught the first fish. Here's a little montage of the action.

Just don't get too excited ...



The cast, under the willows ...



The take and strike ...



The Battle begins ...



And the winner is! ...

Now I have to own up to pushing the fish towards the camera a bit. Hence the oversized hands!!

Irrespective of size, it was a strong, deep-bodied fish that was a joy to catch.

After landing and releasing another further upstream, I decided to rest on my laurels and strolled back to the car to have a picnic lunch under the trees watching the fish under the bank lazily take a cicada or two off the surface. Then back to it.

Two more fish later, I was about ready for another break, so I returned to the car where Cathie was reading in comfort. I persuaded Cathie to 'spot' for me as I made my way up the opposite bank casting into the steep bank and under the trees. Well! Talk about enthusiastic! After Cathie had got the hang of distinguishing fish from weed, rock or log, she was seeing them everywhere! Never seen her so excited when out fishing! Each time I put a fish down with a lazy cast, she spotted another and eventually, she settled on one that was bigger than the others and insisted that I go for it.



This is when she took this photo and proceeded to guide me onto the fish, which was tight under the bank, but patrolling its patch in a sort of figure of eight ...

About eight casts later the indicator hesitated, I struck and there was a scream from Cathie that I had it! Now I knew this was a good fish purely from the power coming back up the line. It made two or three runs into the far bank, all of which were pretty well unstoppable! It was really only playing with me. I got it into open water just once, and then it decided it had had enough and surged into the roots of a fallen tree under the bank. And that was that! Cathie shouted at me "Why did you let it go? Call yourself a fisherman?!"

Not really you understand. She was actually very supportive and sympathised while I issued some very choice words.

And there you have it. Another superb day out, organised and managed by Kras and greatly appreciated by the rest of us. Thanks, Kras. That's three great days on the Manawatu for me since joining the club.

Loved it and so did Cathie!

Plan change to help farmers gain consent by Janine Rankin

Horizons Regional Council has adopted "sticking plaster" repairs to the way nitrate leaching from intensive farms is measured and managed.

The council has adopted resource management commissioners' recommendations for changes to its One Plan that create pathways for Tararua dairy farmers and Horowhenua vegetable growers to gain resource consents for their operations.

Plan Change 2, which is still subject to being publicly notified and to a 30-working day appeal period, is designed to overcome unworkable aspects of the plan that stranded hundreds of farmers unable to gain consents to function legally.

Horizons group manager for strategy and regulation Nic Peet said some farmers, including dairy, vegetable, crop and irrigated sheep and beef farmers in the targeted catchments, would still find it difficult to comply. But they would have a gateway to demonstrate that they were using good management practices that were helping reduce nitrate leaching from harming the environment and to water quality.

Peet said it would be an improvement to bring nearly 250 unconsented activities inside the regulatory process. "It's about environmental improvements without crippling the operators. "It's a proportional response, looking at what is feasible."

Council chairwoman Rachel Keedwell said it was good to see the end of a process that had caused a lot of uncertainty and angst. But it was still "a sticking plaster" she said, ahead of a new plan designed to help meet the 2020 national policy statement for freshwater management.

That plan is due for public notification by the end of 2024.

She said she hoped that process would create something more enduring than plan change 2, which was an attempt to fix "a mess."

The new rules will allow existing intensive land users to apply for consents that would be valid for up to 10 years. There were also options for those wanting to transition to other types of farming to do so over five years.

Regional councillor Sam Ferguson described it as a step in the right direction. It might not trigger huge improvements, but it also took into account the thousands of people employed in farm-based businesses. Farmers and vegetable growers have welcomed the council's move.

"This gives some certainty for farmers who have been in limbo," said Federated Farmers National president and Manawatu dairy farmer Andrew Hoggard. It provided a way for farms that made a 20 per cent reduction in nitrogen loss based on actual farm baselines to get consent for a controlled activity.

Hoggard said amendments proposed by Federated Farmers and Dairy New Zealand had been adopted that would avoid serious economic impacts on farms in the region.

Horticulture New Zealand chief executive Mike Chapman said it was short-term relief for Levin growers, who supplied 20 per cent of the country's fresh vegetables.

"Horizons is providing existing vegetable growers with a way to stay in production and feed New Zealanders while continuing to reduce environmental impact."

Chapman said there would be challenges, but growers had already made a good start through modern cultivating techniques, cutting down use of fertilisers and water, and using sediment traps.

Forest and Bird freshwater advocate Tom Kay said an appeal against the plan change remained a possibility, and he would take time to go through the detail of the decision and see whether it went far enough.

He was worried that intensive land use would be able to continue for up to another 10 years so long as farmers complied with the loosely defined good management processes. "There is only so much riparian planting you can do to deal with leaching through the soil."

"It really allows some wriggle room for people to just continue doing what they are doing."

Rise up; Understanding trout rise forms by Spencer Durrant



Aside from a healthy dose of luck, a well-rounded education on aquatic insects is the most valuable piece of tackle for any fly fisher. Certainly, a witless angler with a \$1,000 fly rod might get lucky and catch a fish or two just out of sheer persistence, but a fly fisher with an old Fenwick Fenglass from the 70s and a studied understanding of how trout eat will always put more fish in the net.

In no instance is this so acutely obvious, I think, than in dry fly fishing. One more than one occasion, I've futilely thrown one good drift after another to a river boiling with trout, only to have my dry fly completely ignored.

Then, I met a guy named Ryan McCullough, who happens to be the best dry fly fisherman I've ever shared a river with, and who schooled me on the art of identifying rise forms. Identifying rise forms, in turn, allows you to identify what fish are eating.

His secret?

Watching.

The way Ryan explains it, a rise form is the particular movements, sounds, and disturbances on the water's surface made by a trout eating dry flies—all of which differ depending on what the trout is eating.

For me, learning to recognize these differences led to what felt like a quantum leap forward in my angling abilities. Before, I'd get frustrated and contemplate walking off the river with an hour of daylight still left during a big hatch. Now, I'm confident that I'm fishing the right fly at the right time which means that if I'm not hooking up, it's likely my presentation that's to blame.

While presentation is a crucially important part of successful dry fly fishing, I don't want to focus on that here. Instead, I want to focus on the streamside education Ryan gave me all those years ago, on a forgotten stream in the high desert of Oregon.

Emerger Eats

The first signs of a good hatch are the subtle, soft rises of trout looking up and snacking on emerging insects. Most often, this is characterized by trout rising with their dorsal fin and tails out of the water, but the rest of their body submerged. It's as if the fish just levitates straight up in the water column, then back down again.

When trout are snacking on emergers, they don't make the classic *plop* sound most often associated with rising fish. In fact, emerger rises are fairly quiet, and unless you're paying close attention, can be hard to miss, especially in bigger water.

When you see this, it means that trout are eating bugs stuck in the surface film — or just below it. Emerging insects, especially mayflies, spend a relatively long time in the surface film as they emerge from their shucks and take flight as full duns.

Duns and Cripples

In the midst of a big hatch, you'll see the classic rise that all anglers, I think, long for in some way — the mouth and head of a trout breaking the surface. This shows you that the trout is not only feeding with abandon, but also that it's eating flies right off the surface.

In most cases, this sort of rise means that fish are taking either duns or cripples. I don't want to get too far into the weeds of whether fish eat more duns or cripples (the answer is cripples), so it's enough to remember that the rise form for trout feeding on either bug is usually the same.

You likely won't see much more of the trout breaking the water's surface when they're eating duns and cripples. Trout like to position themselves right below the surface, moving up and down with their mouths open to vacuum up whatever is floating by on top. At first glance, it might look like the trout are just feeding without any regard for what they're eating. If you take a few minutes to watch, though, you'll see the fish targeting specific bugs — especially when they're keyed in on duns.

Spinners and Spent wings

Towards the end of a hatch, mayflies in the final stage of their lives “spin” slowly back to the water's surface to mate and lay eggs, where they're often quickly gobbled. These bugs are, I believe, the most sought after by trout, because both spinners and spent wings are easy prey and often descend to the water in massive numbers, triggering a trout feeding frenzy.

I'm going to borrow Ryan's words here in describing what trout look like when rising to these bugs:

"The classic head-to-tail rise is accompanied by the trout leading with an open mouth above the surface. You will know it because it will sound like constant gulping or lip-smacking. Sometimes, a trout will feed so actively that the top of his body hardly leaves the surface, and you will see a half-open and closing mouth that looks more like a person swimming and breathing than a fish eating."

Trout expend the energy to stay near the surface and eat these bugs because the payoff is worth it. During a spinner fall, the calories a trout can intake can greatly exceed what it expends by swimming against the current at the surface (which is significantly stronger than the current elsewhere in the water column).

Other rises

There are two other rise forms that deserve mentioning here, the first being the splashy, loud rise that makes every angler whip his or her head around looking for its source when it's heard on the river. The majority of the time, this rise is caused by a small fish trying to get to bugs before larger fish.

However, in the case of a good stonefly hatch, or if there are any terrestrials on the water, big fish will often hit those bugs hard. That behaviour can cause the same splashy sounds you hear when smaller fish are eating.

And last, but certainly not least — don't discount the smallest, most subtle rise of them all. You see this most often when fishing slow-moving water, or in crystal-clear spring creeks. It looks more like a dimple in the water's surface than a true rise. Ryan calls these "sipping rises," because in many cases, trout are doing just that — sipping bugs right off the water's surface.

These are the most difficult rises to cast to, because fish that have the time to leisurely swim around, inspect flies, then casually sip them off the surface are generally well-attuned to the traps we lay for them. As someone once said to me while fishing the Green River in Utah, "It's like the fish have time to come up and count the tailfeathers on your fly, and if there's too many, they won't eat."

In these instances, a smaller bug on a light, long leader is your best friend. I love throwing small midge patterns (size 26 parachute midges are fantastic for fish like this) but if there's a significant bug hatch on the water, try to match that as best you can.

Watch and Learn

To wrap up, I want to reinforce what I believe is the most valuable lesson I've ever learned in regard to fly fishing: There's nothing wrong with sitting on the riverbank, watching trout eat, and absorbing that knowledge. You don't have to immediately start casting when you see rising fish. In fact, I'd wager that the rush to cast and catch (or at least try to) is what leads to many anglers to leave a river of rising fish empty-handed and frustrated.

Back in March, before the world went to hell in a handbasket, I sat on the banks of a river with Ryan, and we just watched. We were there to fish a blue-winged olive hatch, and the fish weren't really working the surface. It wasn't until we saw consistent rises on emergers that we got off the bank and started casting. All told, we spent the better part of an hour just watching those fish.

If you want to truly decode rise forms and learn to fish the flies that trout are eating, then there's no better teacher than the trout themselves. Take five, ten or even twenty minutes, watch feeding trout feed, and you'll be amazed at how much you learn.

***Born with this – the last days of the Klamath River dam by Steve Duda
photos by Jeremiah Watt***



Before heading downstream in search of a wild steelhead, Mikey Wier takes an unsentimental view of PacifiCorp's Iron Gate Dam on the Klamath River

The Hornbrook Chevron looks like any other place to buy gas, snacks, and a fishing license along the I-5 corridor in Northern California. It's also one of the few businesses still standing in Hornbrook, California (population around 200). For a few hours though, it comes to life because the Chevron parking lot is the unofficial rendezvous point for fly-fishing trips on the upper Klamath River. It's here that guides meet anglers, coffee chases donuts and steelhead strategies hatch.

It's here, on a near-perfect fall morning, I meet up with Patagonia ambassador and California Trout (CalTrout) videographer Mikey Wier and his colleague Andrew Braugh. For 50 years, CalTrout has been at the vanguard of wild fish conservation and the fight to preserve California's waters. Wier has chased trout and salmon across the world and has the 1,000-yard-stare and unflappable air to prove it. Braugh, CalTrout's Mt. Shasta/Klamath regional director, offers an eager, earnest welcome to Siskiyou County. As we lean against Braugh's drift boat and make fish talk, a trucker ambles over. He's seen the drifter and wants to talk fishing, too. Everyone here does. I ask him what he thinks of the Iron Gate Dam, just 9 miles up the road.

Is it time it finally came down? "I just don't know," he says. "I really don't. But I do want to see these fish do well."

Dam controversy or not, this will always be true; nobody hates salmon.

Our small crew has come to Northern California to explore the Klamath, a once generous river now cut in half and nearly broken. Can a river that once hosted the third most abundant salmon runs on the West Coast overcome a calamitous history of dams, mining, logging and numberless

other insults? Can it be a welcoming home again—not just for fish—but for the people who live, work, and pray on its banks.

We've also come to chase a rumour that the days of the four most-downriver Klamath dams may be numbered. There are whispers that stakeholders are inching closer to an agreement to restart the most significant dam removal and restoration project in US history. We've swallowed the heartbreak of dashed deals before. A 2016 agreement to remove these dams crumbled in July 2020 primarily due to liability concerns voiced by their operator, PacifiCorp. It was a bitter pill just weeks before salmon were to begin their spawning push.

Full disclosure—I'm also here to do a little fishing. The hope is to get lucky and connect with a wild Klamath steelhead. Touching a whirling mass of will, beauty and perfection for a breath-taking moment—and then letting it swim away—is a humbling way to taste the elemental power of a river.

We'll follow California State Route 96, which stalks the Klamath along its route to the ocean—from the upriver farmers and ranchers to the river's mouth, the ancestral home of the Yurok Tribe.

In the rural West, there is a real fear that environmentalists are out there to take the water or sue you and put you out of business. Perceived or real is beside the point. We have to counter that and offer solutions.

The chilly morning ripens into a delicious day, and we drive to just below the Iron Gate Dam, where we'll launch the boat. Along the way, we pass homes (cosy), campgrounds (half-full) and restaurants (closed). We also pass the first of what will prove a constant: a green State of Jefferson flag.

Decades-old, the State of Jefferson secessionist movement found momentum during the Trump years. Anti-tax, anti-regulation, pro-gun and staunchly libertarian, the Jefferson Staters want to establish a 51st state in conservative stronghold counties of Northern California and Southern Oregon. When it comes to removing the Klamath River dams, they're an ornery "no." More than any other group, the truculent Jefferson Staters symbolize just how stark the division over dam removal can be.

"Up here, it's like dam removal is the end of civilization," a spokesman for the dam's owners, PacifiCorp, told a reporter. "Downriver, the dams are the root of all evil."

The fact is the Klamath dams are inefficient and an ever-increasing burden on the region. According to a 2008 study by the Public Utilities Commissions in Oregon and California, the dam's electricity customers would save more than \$100 million by bringing the Klamath River dams down, rather than spending more than \$500 million to service them.

These are the sort of estimates that never seem to decrease, and the liability is undoubtedly much more significant now. However, PacifiCorp customers have already paid for the dam removal. In January 2021, PacifiCorp announced that they'd collected \$200 million in surcharges from their Oregon and California customers. The remaining \$250 million needed for removal and restoration will come via a State-of-California bond.

Money aside, if there's any hope for the Klamath's imperilled salmon and steelhead, the dams need to come down.

The Klamath is a particularly beautiful river. From its start in Oregon to its broad mouth emptying into the Pacific, it describes a way of life for those lucky enough to live near it. It is used for irrigation, electricity, and recreation. It is also the home to salmon, steelhead, bull trout, rainbow trout, coastal cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey. But these are more than just fish; they're the physical and spiritual lifeblood of the Yurok and other tribes who have lived on its banks since before time was counted on calendars.



For cloud watchers, Klamath, California, is prime territory: gauzy mist mingles with redwoods, steam lifts off the river and the sun illuminates the foothills with streaks of gold

Yurok is a word that comes to us from their neighbouring tribe, the Karuk. It means "downriver." At around 5,000 enrolled members, they are the largest Indigenous tribe in California.

"Iron Gate" is an English phrase meaning "property of PacifiCorp." PacifiCorp is a wholly owned subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway Energy, owned by Berkshire Hathaway, a multinational conglomerate holding company controlled by a man named Warren Buffett. As of April 2021, Buffet was the sixth wealthiest individual on the planet, worth \$98 billion.

Completed in 1962, Iron Gate is the lowest dam on the Klamath. It is an earthen embankment, standing 172 feet tall with a length of 740 feet. Its two turbines can generate 18 megawatts of electricity, roughly enough to power around 14,634 homes for a year. However, due to silt build-up, it's estimated that the dam is now operating at half capacity. In comparison, a typical 2.5-megawatt wind turbine can provide electricity for about 2,000 homes. Replacing the power produced from these dams is no longer an issue.

Iron Gate stands at the midpoint of the Klamath. In reality, however, it is the end of the road. The dam was built without any way for salmon and steelhead to get over or around it, slamming the door on fish attempting to reach spawning habitat upriver. As an attempt at mitigation, there is the Iron Gate Fish Hatchery, a glum structure ornamented only by a deserted picnic area.

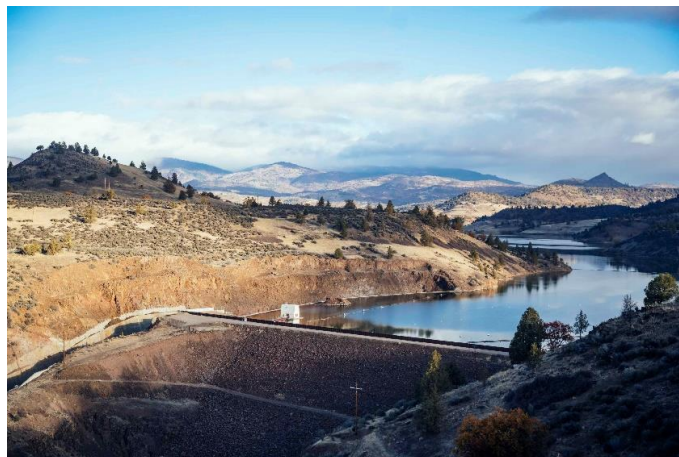
According to the California Hatchery Review Project, the hatchery goal has been to release about 6 million fall Chinook—also known as king salmon—annually. Additionally, 200,000

steelhead smolts and 75,000 Coho smolts are scheduled to go into the river each year, though these numbers often vary dramatically. Despite this effort, Klamath steelhead and salmon populations continue to plummet.

I wander around the facility, trying to get a sense of the place. From any perspective, Iron Gate is not beautiful. It looks like all dams—gurgling black froth, attended to by seagulls, decorated with pipes, pumps and heavy machinery. The smell of ozone and diesel tinges the air. When you get close, the brutalist structure hums, a barely perceptible drone that never ends.

There is an actual iron gate guarding the pumphouse. A placard lets me know I'm not welcome. I make my way down to the river, where I run across two anglers visiting from Colorado. They've hired a local outfitter to guide them for the day. The forecast? Fair. Only a few battered Chinook ghost through the pools. As for steelhead? A firm maybe. There are reports of scattered sightings. But trout? There are always trout.

The anglers take a few selfies by the sun-speckled drifter, joke, scrutinize fly boxes—regular boat launch stuff. Before I can bring up the subject, one of the anglers jerks his thumb over his shoulder. “Hopefully, when we come back in a year or two, that dam will be gone. This may be the last time we have to look at it.”



A river cut in half. With no fish passage, the Iron Gate Dam is the end of the road for Klamath River salmon and steelhead

From any perspective, Iron Gate is not beautiful. It looks like all dams—gurgling black froth, attended to by seagulls and decorated with pipes and pumps, heavy machinery, seeping the smell of ozone and diesel. When you get close, the brutalist structure hums, a barely perceptible drone that never ends.

Finally, we hit the water. It doesn't take long before we find a trout, then another and another. The early success is a pressure-release valve, freeing us to think about things other than fishing. Braugh is eager to talk about his work on the river.

Dam removal is more than just dynamite and excavators. There's habitat to restore and concerns about flooding, sediment, and property values. But what most concerns people on the upper Klamath is irrigation. How will we keep the crops watered and the cows happy?

Barugh's job is to build relationships with the basin's ranchers and farmers—the stakeholders most interested in a reliable water flow. The goal is to implement water-management strategies to control irrigation more efficiently while restoring habitat in the tributaries that cross the ranch and farmland.

“In the rural West,” Braugh explains, “there is a real fear that environmentalists are out there to take the water or sue you and put you out of business. Perceived or real is beside the point. We have to counter that and offer solutions.”

For Braugh, that means something he calls “kitchen table” talk. “We have to demonstrate that we understand their point of view,” he says. “If you can't establish a rapport, you're not going to get through the front gate, let alone get to the kitchen table to talk about real, constructive solutions.”

It's crucial that CalTrout confront the fears and misinformation ranchers and farmers face. “The important thing to remember,” he says, “is that they see themselves as stewards of the land, too. But they also don't want to pass down a ranch that's under litigation or facing the threat of being shut down. If you can reduce that fear, it changes how they think about their entire future. Nobody hates salmon.”

When not fretting about potential litigation, Braugh notes that ranchers are deeply concerned about utility costs. For CalTrout, that's a conversation starter. By modernizing operations, ranchers and farmers save money. “If there's meaningful value for them, they'll listen.”

The kitchen-table talk is working. “We know how to grow cows, but we don't know how to grow fish,” says Blair Hart, a fifth-generation cattle rancher, “but we're gonna learn.” With the help of CalTrout, Hart Ranch is becoming a model of efficient water management, reconnecting, and opening up more than 10 miles of habitat on the Little Shasta River.

On Cardoza Ranch, a similar project has opened 14 miles of habitat on the Parks Creek tributary. “To keep this ranch intact—which has been in our family for 169 years—the only way to meet regulatory demands coming from society is to become efficient,” Hart says.

Although California State Route 96 is a breath-taking drive through Northern California's most remote parts, the area is struggling. Throughout the watershed, people have been battered by a triple whammy of catastrophes. Yearly fires have devastated homes, businesses, and communities. COVID-19 has ravaged the area, killing indiscriminately. Finally, the economic realities in the area are harsh. Unemployment, bankruptcies, homelessness, and drug addiction have been ruthless here. The reality of the situation is hard to fathom with the galloping river ornamenting a redwood forest set against a crisp autumn day. Yet along 96, the anger, mourning and confusion are palpable.

Happy Camp, California, 77 twisty miles east of the Iron Gate Dam, is the headquarters of the Karuk Tribe. According to a crumbling chamber of commerce sign, it's also the “Steelhead Capital of the World”—an unsanctioned title disputed by many.

When we pull into town, the surrounding peaks are still charred from last summer's horrific burns. On September 8, 2020, the Slater and Devil Fires rushed toward the town's main street. By the time the flames were doused, nearly 160,000 acres were torched, 158 homes had burned to the ground, a dozen people were injured, and two firefighters had lost their lives. The

fire left half the town homeless. Red Cross vehicles sit idle in the street, their drivers still working out how to help people. For a village with a population of around 850, it's a lingering nightmare.

"We couldn't see across main street because of the smoke," Daniel Effman, owner of Partners Deli and Arcade, tells us. "People were hiding along the riverbank to escape the fires coming down."

Tragic as they are, these situations have a way of bringing people together, especially in tight-knit communities like Happy Camp. As soon as the smoke cleared, Effman began providing free food to the community. "Your money's no good in Happy Camp," he told neighbours.

On its route to the sea, hundreds of streams and creeks feed the Klamath. One of its main tributaries is the 19-mile-long Salmon River. It is unspoiled and undammed, and as we get closer, Wier's steelhead senses start tingling. We turn off 96 and head upriver to explore a particular spot he knows to be "epic."

Toss a rock over the bridge crossing the Salmon River and it plummets in a woozy arc. It collides with the river in a splat that echoes off the sheer rock walls guarding a majestic pool just below a waterfall. If there are fish anywhere in this system, it should be here—we should see them from the bridge. We don't see anything. But, when it comes to steelhead, Mikey Wier is a gamer.

He negotiates a barely-there goat trail, hug-slides the canyon wall's warm rock and boulder hops until he's descended 500 feet to the pool. This is Karuk tribal land, and on the bridge, there can be no mistake. The structure is tagged "Indian Pride," and the hashtag #landback stands out in black spray paint. Next to "This Is Native Land," someone has carefully rendered the Karuk word OOK (meaning "here") with arrows pointing up, down, left and right.

It doesn't take Wier long to connect with a fish, but it's a small trout, not the steelhead we're targeting. While he casts, it's impossible to ignore just how loud the quiet here is. From below, the river whooshes, while above, the breeze hums and hisses through the green canopy.

Just a few miles downstream is Katimin, an ancient village site and a place the Karuk speak of as the "centre of the universe." Gold miners burned the village to the ground in 1852, and colonizers torched it again in 1883. By the 1950s, the government owned the land. It sold four acres to a man who constructed a riverside fishing lodge, a few cabins—and a fence—forcing the Karuk to perform traditional renewal and salmon-welcoming ceremonies off the property.

During the offseason, the lodge's owner raised marijuana seedlings later transplanted to a grow operation deep in the Klamath National Forest. Busted in 1993, he was facing serious drug and weapons charges. Striking a deal, he forfeited the land and bartered down to a state weapons charge. The feds put it up for sale, but there were no takers. Finally, after a year of negotiations, the government returned the land to the Karuk. Not a progressive land-return policy, but something, I guess.

We see these dams as a monument to colonialism. This was about destroying people and culture for profit. We have ceremonies that require people to pray in the river. You can't pray if you can't even go into the river because it's toxic. We want to fix things. We want to restore habitat, and we want to eat more healthy salmon. Costco chicken ain't cutting it. But it's not just for the tribes. It will benefit everyone.

Eighty miles downstream and just 4 miles from where the Klamath River empties into the Pacific Ocean, the town of Klamath, California, doesn't have that battered look or the scattered State of Jefferson flags from upriver. Instead, it looks as if someone simply turned off the lights, a reminder that COVID-19 is very real here. The still-new Redwood Hotel Casino is dark. Most restaurants are shuttered. Work is getting done, however. This is Yurok headquarters.

Before colonialism, the Yurok spread upriver and along the coast, populating more than 70 known villages. Change—monstrous change—was coming. Spanish colonizers anchored off Trinidad Head in June of 1775. The invaders climbed the peak, planted a cross and claimed dominion over the land, warning the Yurok to accept Christianity or face the consequences.

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By the time the Spanish made it to Northern California, waves of colonialists had been stealing, slaving, raping, and murdering in North America for almost 300 years. Soon, what was to become Northern California was being raided by the Americans, Spanish, English, and Russians—all hungry for plunder. Land, pelts, fish, fresh water, and timber were all on the menu. They took what they wanted. There were no rules. There were no limits.

Reeling from the first wave of the invasion, the California Gold Rush, which began in earnest in 1848, flung the Yurok into deeper chaos. Rather than a romantic American interlude, the Gold Rush was one of world history's most devastating ecological events. With the miners came pollution, exploitation, land theft, and cultural and physical genocide. A grim passage in the preamble of the Yurok Constitution illustrates the oppression: "Our social and ecological balance, thousands and thousands of years old, was shattered by the invasion of the non-Indians.

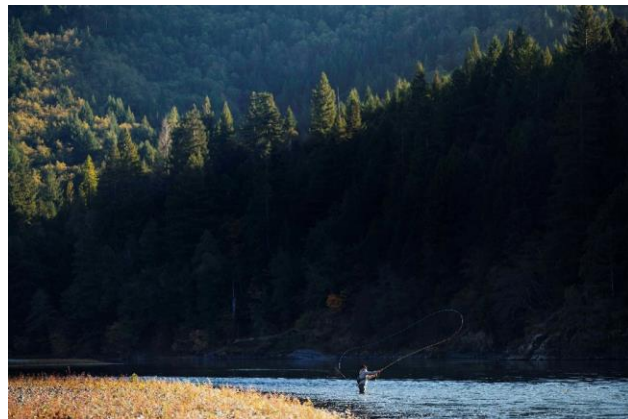
We lost three-fourths or more of our people through unprovoked massacres by vigilantes and the intrusion of fatal European diseases. The introduction of alcohol weakened our social structure, as did the forced removal of our children to government boarding schools ... After gold miners swarmed over our land, we agreed to sign a "Treaty of Peace and Friendship" with representatives of the President of the United States in 1851, but the United States Senate failed to ratify the treaty. Then in 1855, the United States ordered us to be confined on the Klamath River Reserve, created by an executive Order ... within our own territory."

Not content with constraining the Yurok to a sliver of their ancestral lands, Congress passed the Dawes Act of 1877. Arguing the reservation had been abandoned, the Act gave small parcels of land to individual Yuroks. It offered the "surplus" to homesteaders. It was land theft on a massive scale, opening the door to widespread logging, mining, habitat destruction and declining wildlife populations. It was also the first sign that something elemental to the Yurok way of life—the salmon—could be taken from them.

In yet another devastating blow, the State of California declared traditional fishing by Yurok people illegal. It took another 50 years and almost constant legal, and even physical, battles for those rights to be reaffirmed.

"When they put the dams in, it cut the river in half," says Barry McCovey Jr., a Yurok tribal member, and their senior fisheries biologist. McCovey Jr. speaks in long paragraphs about complicated things like genetics, salmon returns and escapement. It can be challenging to keep up, especially when seals are chasing salmon in the bay behind him. "Basically, the dams destroyed the ecosystem," he says. "We see these dams as a monument to colonialism.

This was about destroying people and culture for profit. We have ceremonies that require people to pray in the river. You can't pray if you can't even go into the river because it's toxic." He's referencing the algae blooms that accumulate behind Iron Gate. In the summer, this algae is released into the Klamath, coating the river bottom and banks with green slime. "We want to fix things," he continues. "We want to restore habitat, and we want to eat more healthy salmon. Costco chicken ain't cutting it. But it's not just for the tribes. It will benefit everyone."



Before completion of the dams on the Klamath River, it boasted the third-largest salmon and steelhead runs on the West Coast. Despite the fact that runs have fallen to below 10 percent of their historic numbers, fly anglers have yet to run out of hope

I ask him about the dam's defenders. How do you convince someone flying a State of Jefferson flag that dam removal could ever be a good idea? "It's just misinformation," he says. "Everything that we have in this watershed evolved in this flow regime. If you feel like dam removal will hurt fishing opportunities, speak to a scientist. Don't rely on Facebook. Look at the research. Look at science."

The question that everyone wants scientists like McCovey Jr. to address is, what happens next? We've seen the effects of dam removal on Washington's Elwha River, where fish were blocked from upstream migration for close to 100 years. Following the breaching, summer-run steelhead came roaring back and are now thought to be the most robust of any river on the Washington coast.

McCovey Jr. describes how his team closely tracks the science surrounding dam removal, including attending academic conferences and establishing close ties with the scientists studying the Elwha. "Rivers are resilient. Fish are resilient," he says. "Our fish runs are depressed. There's no doubting that. As a scientist, I'm seeing increased disease exacerbated by dams and climate change. The dams warm up the river, and we see the toxic algae, which is quite literally killing fish—the dams are killing fish. There's no doubting that it could start to turn

around, but we need to be patient. It took a very long time to fuck this up, but things will get better.”

Then the obvious question. “What about the rumours?” I ask. What happens when the dams do come down? Will it be a celebration? Will it be bittersweet? He looks across the estuary. A few hundred yards away, the Klamath is becoming the Pacific. The sound of gulls and pounding surf mixes with the wind. “It’s been a long time,” he says. “People have dedicated their careers, their lives. People have died in the attempt to remove those dams. It’s certainly going to be a victory. I can see it being very emotional. As Yurok, restoring balance and fish is something we’re born with. I was born to do this, but we also understand we’ll always be fighting for this river. When I see those excavators, I’ll let you know.”

We were promised so much with those dams, and when they came in, it was the end of everything. We battled for this river, and we won that battle. For thousands of years, we have never been defeated here.

Yurok tribal member and fishing guide Pergish Carlson is quiet. Not standoffish quiet, but warm quiet. The sort of quiet that, when he begins a story, you lean in. “Our creation story begins here,” he says, sliding his river sled into the water. We are launching just a few miles from the Pacific Ocean. The Klamath is languid and easy-going here, far different from the bustling waters below Iron Gate.

“This is where my people come from. This is where my ancestors are buried.” He points to a hillside across the river from a clear-cut only a few seasons old. “My grandfather is buried just up there.

The Yurok have lived on this river for generation upon generation. The redwoods that line the bank have seen centuries of the river. Carlson himself has plied these waters for more than four decades. The steelhead we fish for have been here, in a practical sense, forever. The trees, the people, the fish, and the river all describe history in humbling magnitude. It is time with a capital T.

It’s a privilege for someone like me to fish Yurok land. The abundance. The fragility. The palpable sense of spirit. It is also disorienting. That sense of time is heavy, like something we have put on—a formal frock of reverence. As upriver, big wild steelhead are just not around. Instead, we amuse ourselves with “half-pounders”—juvenile steelhead that return to the river after less than a year at sea. They are feisty and eagerly pounce on our flies. It’s easy, fun fishing.

While the rest of the crew engage the half-pounders, I walk with Carlson down a broad gravel bar. At every bend, every riffle, there’s a connection. He points out an old tribal village location and then, across the river, another. “Anywhere a creek comes in,” he says, “there was a village. Ten or 12 structures and families per village. They were made of wood,” he chuckles. “We left no carbon footprint.”

I look up into the trees and try to imagine life on this river. Carlson obliges my imagination, telling me about the many ways the Yurok would harvest salmon. “We’d gather white stones and place them on the bottom of the river. When they swam over the stones, we’d spear them.”

As we walk, he explains the Yurok pioneered adaptations that allowed them to live in an intimate embrace with the earth. They not only conducted controlled burnings to suppress wildfires, "so we could walk around the forest," but also used those burnings to safeguard the salmon. "When the river got hot, we would do burns. The smoke would create an inversion layer that would cool the river by three or four degrees, allowing the fish to come up."

I ask how it feels to float this river and walk these gravel bars in the shadow of so much history so close to the bone. "In the quiet times when I'm guiding, I'll think about that," he says. "It's something not many people can have—can understand. I feel lucky. I feel it's a real privilege."

I ask Carlson if the rumours are true. If the dams are coming down. It's a serious question, but he grins like he's in on a secret which, it turns out, he is.

We were promised so much with those dams, and when they came in, it was the end of everything. We battled for this river, and we won that battle. For thousands of years, we have never been defeated here." He pauses, nodding at a memory. "I had them all on my boat," he says, "all the big guys from PacifiCorp. I had fished them all day, and at the end, one of them said to me, 'I can't wait to come and fish with you again.'

I told him, 'No. You can't fish with me until those dams start coming down. When that happens, then I'll take you fishing.' That was the last thing I said to him."



Holding a traditional basket, Yurok General Counsel Amy Bowers-Cordalis announces that a Memorandum of Understanding has been reached to bring down four dams on the Klamath River, reconnecting the watershed and opening more than 400 miles of salmon and steelhead habitat.

In many ways, Amy Bowers-Cordalis is the public face of the Yurok. As the tribe's general counsel, she appears before cameras, journalists, and judges. She has fought the complex, slowly grinding negotiations and mediations that have taken place behind the scenes of the dam struggle.

She is self-assured, with a mind two questions ahead and a surprising, boisterous laugh.

I meet her in a small park overlooking Houda Point Beach and the magnificent stack rock formations standing sentinel in the Pacific. We are only a short distance from Trinidad Head, where the wheels were set in motion for genocide. "This is still Yurok country," she tells me. "It was good living here."

There is a video camera. Bowers-Cordalis answers questions patiently, outlining the river's history, the dam's legacy, and the tribe's position. She speaks at length about climate and racial justice on the Klamath, about how important reconnecting the river is to the Yurok. Finally, the camera gets put away, and I ask her if she's about to make history. If the worst kept secret in Northern California is true. She unleashes her robust laugh and almost shouts, "Yes! The dams are coming down!"

A few moments later, I'm on the phone, tapping at my laptop in the parking lot. I have one more thing to do. One more keystroke to punctuate what the Klamath wants us to know. I hit send.

Press Release

"Those dams are coming down!" exclaimed Amy Bowers-Cordalis, general counsel for the Yurok Tribe. Speaking to Patagonia Fly Fish, she broke the news that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) had been reached to bring down four dams on the Klamath River, reconnecting the watershed and opening more than 400 miles of salmon and steelhead habitat.

The memorandum signifies an agreement between the states of Oregon and California, the Yurok and Karuk Tribes, the dam's owners PacifiCorp the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as well as the Klamath River Renewal Corporation, a non-profit responsible for dam removal and related restoration. "The MOU is the right step—the first step," Bower-Cordalis said. "We're in this for the long haul, and to be back on track and to feel like we have this understanding is everything. Now, we can look ahead to taking steps to finally heal this river."

This article was published in cooperation with Patagonia. It originally appeared on The Cleanest Line.

Editor's note: When I first read this article, it was due to my interest in the major decline in the Salmon fishing in the South Island over the past few years. One of the issues they are facing is the decline in river water levels and the impact of irrigations is having on the aqua levels on the Canterbury plains. Yes, and one of the major contributing factors is extensive dairy farming.

Wanted!



The Kapiti Fly Fishing Club will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Monday 24 May, at this meeting you will be electing our new Management Committee.

Would you be interested in joining the team and provide your ideas and input?

If so, we would be interested in hearing from you, please contact Michael, Peter, or Malcolm.

Members Profiles

Introducing Kras Angelov

Members Name:

Kras Angelov



Where do you live:	Paraparaumu Beach
How long have you been Fly-fishing?	Started soon after we moved to New Zealand, so around 5 years.
When did you start your fishing journey?	Started as an incredibly young kid. My dad is keen fisherman and I have always been with him when he went fishing.
Other interest:	Other types of fishing and being outdoors in general.
First trout caught:	First trout caught in New Zealand was on Hutt River, around Birchville. Caught on a Japanese spin lure called Duo Spearhead Ryuki.
Most enjoyable time fishing:	I really like the club fishing trips that will take me to places I will not normally go. The one we had on Retaruke River is a good example.
A favourite place to fish:	Any place where there is fish and not many people.
Largest trout caught	54cm rainbow trout on Ngongotaha stream,
Mentoring members?	I am still learning, but whatever knowledge I have I am happy to pass on.
Availability for fishing trips:	Weekends in general, but always ready to take a day off and go fishing mid-week.
Preferred style of fishing:	All of them - swinging flies on a wet line, nymphing, dry fly.
Why you joined KFFC	To meet likeminded people, to learn, and to go to fishing trips.
Contact details:	krasimir.angelov@gmail.com

Introducing Chris Moy

Members Name:

Chris Moy



Where do you live:

Otaki Beach

How long have you been Fly-fishing?

Started at 14yrs old fishing the local river and Tongariro with my dad and older brother for a few years then picked it back up again 6 years ago after living in Australia for 10 years.

When did you start your fishing journey?

Started fishing at the Otaki river mouth when I was 5 years old for Kahawai and Yellow Eyed Mullet.

Other interest:

Surfing, playing harmonica, camping

First trout caught:

Otaki river spinning with a Black and Yellow Toby.

Most enjoyable time fishing:

I have so many but fishing the Eglington River in Fiordland 5 years ago comes to mine.

A favourite place to fish:

Motueka River

Largest trout caught

10.5 lb

Mentoring members?

Whatever knowledge I have I am willing to pass on.

Availability for fishing trips:

Weekends in general, but always keen for a long weekend.

Preferred style of fishing:

Sight fishing to rising trout with dry fly

Why you joined KFFC

To meet likeminded people and to improve my fishing

Contact details:

0210 803 4476

Introducing Noel Thomas

Members Name:

Noel Thomas



- Where do you live:** Motuoapa
- How long have you been Fly-fishing?** Close to 60 years
- When did you start your fishing journey?** On the Hutt River with my Dad sometime in the late fifties
- Other interest:** Skiing and conservation work
- First trout caught:** Not sure, I do remember losing my first decent fish in the Tongariro when I was a little fellow with my split cane rod and bare feet.
- Most enjoyable time fishing:** Back country fishing with good mates
- A favourite place to fish:** Any river in the back country
- Largest trout caught** 8lb, Lake Waikaremoana
- Mentoring members?** Happy to
- Availability for fishing trips:** Keen on mid-week trips
- Preferred style of fishing:** This is hard but on balance I would say wet lining streamers.
- Why you joined KFFC** To rekindle my interest in fly fishing after years of neglect.
- Contact details:** 0274195307, noel-lyn@xtra.co.nz

Introducing Mark Vogt

Members Name:

Mark Vogt



Where do you live:

Whitby

How long have you been Fly-fishing?

Started freshwater Fly-fishing during the late 2000s, concentrating on catching mainly indigenous yellow fish, tilapia, sharpnose catchfish and others on fly. I was also an avid Bass and saltwater fly fisherman in South Africa. I had a brief foray into trout in South Africa, but only fished for them in earnest since coming to NZ.

When did you start your fishing journey?

As a Boy i used to catch Carp on bait and had the odd holiday fishing at the sea.

Other interest:

Love of the outdoors in general with Tramping, sea fishing (with bait and lures), am a keen gardener, am a keen amateur mycologist. I was trained as an entomologist so am always interested in the outdoors (plants, animals). I am a keen Mountain biker and still cycle between 160 to 250 km a week. I am always busy with new projects and adventures.

First trout caught:

Caught trout on the Drakensberg in South Africa, some of the purest rainbows in the world.

Most enjoyable time fishing:

Recently went on a guided trip to the South Island with a fishing mate who recently moved here from South Africa catching trophy rainbows and Browns.

A favourite place to fish:

Anywhere any how ;-)) But do love the Rangitikei river and the inlet neat my home in Porirua for kahawai and whatever else I can catch.

Largest trout caught

7.5 brown on the Ashley and 7.5 lb rainbow on upper Rakaia (secret location).

Mentoring members? Whatever knowledge I have I am willing to pass on.

Availability for fishing trips: Weekends in general, but always keen for a long weekend. Can do week fishing on occasions.

Preferred style of fishing: Any as long as i am on the water

Why you joined KFFC To meet likeminded people and to improve my fish catching tactics and fly tying.

Contact details: 0274660002 mark.pretoria@gmail.com



Autum morning on Waikanae River

Please remember that the Waikanae river is closed for trout fishing from the 1 May untill the 1 October, if you should see anyone on the river fishing please advise them that the river is closed to trout fishing.

Arrive at
3:30pm
Lectures are
4pm to 5pm



2021 Winter Lectures

**May
5**



**Challenges in conserving swamp
maire seed, a race against Myrtle Rust**

Karin van der Walt - Conservation and Science
Advisor, Otari Native Botanic Garden

**The hidden world of epiphytes:
Life in the forest canopy**

Kevin Burns - Professor of Biology,
Victoria University of Wellington



**May
19**

**Jun
2**



The 109 year moth project

Julia Kasper - Te Papa Entomologist

**Seabirds as ocean indicators of
change** (Te Apārangi speaker)

Brendon Dunphy - Auckland University



**Jun
16**

**Jun
30**



Puangiangi restoration

Barry Dent - Puangiangi Island

**The meaning of Eco: ecology as a
way of thinking** (Te Apārangi speaker)

Kath Dickinson - Professor of Botany,
Otago University



**Jul
14**



Limited Entry - Book at ngamanu.co.nz or call 04 2934131

Where: Robin's Nest at Ngā Manu Nature Reserve

Entry by online donation or paper koha

Over the past three years Nga Manu have been holding their Winter Lectures series covering a range on conservation and environmental topics which have been very popular, if you are interested in attending any of these presentations you can book online or ring Nga Manu on 04 293 4131.

A promotional poster for a Kiwi Night Encounter at Ngā Manu Nature Reserve. The background is dark with a central image of a kiwi bird illuminated by a spotlight. The text is in white and yellow. At the top is the Ngā Manu logo with a kiwi bird icon. Below it is the title 'KIWI NIGHT ENCOUNTER' in large yellow letters. A circular call-to-action bubble on the right says 'CALL 04 2934131 TO BOOK'. At the bottom, there are two columns of text: 'Share in the magical night world of kiwi!' with a '\$5 Discount for Friends of Ngā Manu' and '1 ½ hour experience:' with a list of prices for adults, children, and a row of 5 seats.

Ngā Manu
NATURE RESERVE

**KIWI NIGHT
ENCOUNTER**

**CALL
04 2934131
TO
BOOK**

Share in the magical
night world of kiwi !
\$5 Discount for
Friends of Ngā Manu

1 ½ hour experience:

- Adult (Age 16+) - \$35
- Child (Age 7 -15) - \$25
- Row of 5 seats - \$150

If you have never seen a Kiwi in its natural environment (near natural) then I would recommend the Kiwi Night Encounter at Nga Manu, you will need to book as it is limited to 10 people each night.

*Newsletter copy to be received by
Second Monday of each month, your
contribution is welcome just send it to:*

malcolm1@xtra.co.nz

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.

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

Contacts

President: Michael Murphy 027 591 8734
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Secretary: Peter Haakman 04 904 1056
Email: phaakman@icloud.com

Treasurer Ashley Francis
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Vice President Tane Moleta
Email: tane.moleta@gmail.com

Past President Malcolm Francis: ph. 06 364 2101
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