

# Volunteer Salmon Hatchery Newsletter

## Edition 41 July 2022.

Welcome to the 41<sup>st</sup> Edition of our news letter. Winter is well and truly upon us. It looks like the frosts for the end of June are going to be particularly savage.

We must firstly acknowledge the organisations that are currently sponsoring our organisation. These are in no particular order, The Morven Glenavy Ikawai Irrigation Company, Waitaki Irrigators Collective and Oceania/Yilli Dairy Ltd, These organisations provide financial assistance for our fish food requirements. The fish food is our greatest expense. We are truly grateful for your assistance.

We must also acknowledge our past main sponsors whom we have not called upon for assistance. They are , Meridian energy community trust, Youthtown, Pub Charity, Otago Community trust, Dean and associates, Waimate district council community trust. These sponsors have been instrumental in the formation of our organisation.



We must also acknowledge the support and assistance given to us by Mt Cook Alpine Salmon. They have provided assistance and information on incubation procedures and also have donated tread plate materials to surround the new raceway making a firm and secure footing about the raceways even when working with water. MCAS also donated 10 battreys for our collection.

The past salmon season was unbelievably successful, and a good improvement on past seasons. It was a shame that it co-incided with a season limit bag of two, but one good season does not make a reinstated fishery. We need several like seasons, in a row, to hopefully record an improvement.

We had 5 confirmed fin clipped salmon caught by our anglers this season. I suspect there will be a few more notified to Fish and Game, when they complete their salmon angler survey by phone and email. **This is the very busy time for our volunteers.** As you are all aware, we have grown our own captive brood stock. Our first echelon of brood stock was harvested on the 17<sup>th</sup> May (9 females) and weekly thereafter on the 24<sup>th</sup> may(24 females), then 31<sup>st</sup> May (36 Females) then 7<sup>th</sup> June. (11 females). Making a total of 80 female fish. Our early dead egg losses there replaced by new eggs from harvest 3 and four.

A big thank you to all those that helped out on the 4 harvest days to collect the eggs and to milk the males , this was a good effort and we were helped by relatively warm weather. It was enjoyed by all that took part and even by those that chose just to observe. The size of our fish being harvested was eye watering. A good number of fish where on the 20 pound plus size.



For the first time in our history the 4 heath incubators were full of eggs, giving a total of 190,000 eggs. Hopefully 40% will survive. Which means our target of 60,000 fry will be achieved.

Our organisation must thank our team looking after the eggs at the Welcome Stream site. The personell involved are Mike Hutchinson, Pete Anderson, Maurice Brown and Bill Pricor. These guys are going every second day to the site and changing the filters, rinsing the trays and removing thousands of non viable eggs, as well as recording all they do on the white board and dairy entries.

This incubation season has seen a dramatic increase in silt in the incubation trays. This could be because we are using more than 3 times the water volume compared to years past when we have had far fewer eggs. As a result of the increase in silt we have encountered a problem with bacteria growing on the eggs. This has also been a first, and we went to use the approved treatment method for the bacteria but were unable to obtain a supply of Hydrogen peroxide (50%) solution because of Covid. This has now arrived but too late for our needs. (It took 7 weeks to arrive). It is unable to be used on salmon eggs 16 days after fertilisation. Our volunteers were getting rather despondant with the numbers of eggs having to be removed.

But their spirits rose on Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> June when they found a tray of the first batch of eggs was hatching. Hopefully these are the first of many over the next 6 weeks.

Les Crosbie has completed the fish transporter. It is now at Bells Pond where it will undergo some trials before being used to transport approx 250 smolt from Bells Pond for release into Welcome Stream. A photograph of the transporter will be in the next edition. Les on behalf of our organisation we thank you for your time and effort.

We would like some volunteers to move fish stock at bells pond sometime on or about the 11-14<sup>th</sup> July weather depending. If you can help out please contact a committee member. And you will be advised closer to the date when it takes place, and what is required.

We have the Oamaru Poultry club, (at the Drill Hall), fundraising venture, where we assemble show cages on **Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> July commencing at 9am**, morning tea and lunch provided. Then dismantle on **Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> July commencing at 9am**. Morning tea provided the job will be finished before midday. **We need ten volunteer assistants on each day**. Please help out. It is an inside job and please bring a pair of snippers for cutting plastic ties.

**This news letter is sponsored by Oamaru sports and outdoors. If you are looking for sports or fishing equipment please visit Richard and His team.**

