
Clutha Fisheries Trust

Chairman's Report for 2007-08 Financial Year.

It is my pleasure to report on another successful year of Trust operation and activities. The Trust portfolio continues to be managed by Private Banking New Zealand in a conservative manner. Though we have to report a -1.47% loss on investments for the year, given current global financial circumstances this is a very good result. The Trust funds remain in a healthy state.

At the time of writing the annual audit is not quite complete, but a summary of the audited accounts will be published in the Otago Daily Times when completed and will be available online (www.cft.co.nz). A full copy will be available from the CFT office. I do not envisage any issues.

Capital purchases during the year included replacement of the Nissan Truck and purchase of a new electric fishing machine. The trust's boat was sold during the year being surplus to requirements with the Fish and Game boat being available on loan when required.

At year end the Clutha Fisheries Trust Board is Dan Rae of Bannockburn); Ian Cole of Wanaka [nominees of Otago Fish and Game Council]; John Jillett of Dunedin [nominee of New Zealand Fish and Game Council; Gerry Closs of Dunedin [nominee of the Minister of Fisheries; Murray Neilson of Dunedin [nominee of the Minister of Conservation]

During the year trustee Dr Bob McDowall resigned and was replaced by Dr Gerry Closs. Bob has served on the trust since its inception in 1992 until August 2008 and has made a significant contribution to decision-making and brought a high level of scientific expertise to the organisation. I take this opportunity to publicly welcome Dr. Gerry Closs as a trustee. Gerry is a highly regarded scientist and is currently a senior lecturer of the Zoology Department at the University of Otago and is a very keen angler.

Trust activities for the year continued the focus on supporting Fish and Game Otago's efforts to protect the Nevis River from hydro development and to recognise the rivers diverse values. To this end the trust funded native fish specialist Dr Richard Allibone's review of the status of the non migratory galaxiid *Galaxias gollumoides* which is resident in the valley. Richard's report is available online at www.SaveTheNevis.co.nz for those interested in our unique natural history.

This, the third report funded by the trust, joins earlier work on sports fisheries values by Cawthron Institute and landscape values by Alan Petrie.

Field Officer Aaron Horrell spent many hours in the Nevis undertaking survey work on both trout and native fishes alongside consultant scientists and Fish and Game staff. All this effort makes a significant contribution to our knowledge of the river in advance of the hearing of Fish and Game's application to amend the Water Conservation Order scheduled for early 2009.

A second thread to the year's activities was continued efforts on providing public access to and along the Upper Clutha. The Lochar Road angler access track was completed as well as the development of Pittaway Lane, an important angler and public access which supports the Department of Conservation's Reko Point Conservation area. A publication of an access pamphlet identifying those secure public access points so far identified and more work on the ground. It is also pleasing to report on the completion of the bridge over the entrance to Perriam Cove providing unimpeded lake foreshore access.

The trust continued with its investment in scientific research in the upper Clutha area with further funding of the brown trout migration and recruitment study being conducted by Rasmus Gabrielson who started the year as a postgraduate zoology student at Otago and finished it as a Fish and Game employee based in Cromwell. I am pleased to say Rasmus' important research is continuing.

Other work undertaken during the year included conducting take a kid fishing days at Molyneux Pond; supporting the retention of riverside Crown land in the lower Manuherikia River and completing a three year creel survey on the Manuherikia River.

The Trust supported in principle the Tarras Community's application to the sustainable farming fund for funds to undertake a study into alternative irrigation water supplies from the Clutha. If successful this would allow irrigators to relinquish takes from the severely over allocated Lindis River, an important spawning tributary for the Clutha River. We await with interest the result of their efforts.

During the year the Trust worked closely with Fish and Game Otago and with the Department of Conservation and maintained its working relationship with the Lake Dunstan Management Committee

Finally I would like to thank my fellow Trustees for their contribution over the year and especially our Field Officer Aaron Horrell for his effort throughout the year. To Otago Fish & Game Council, thank you also for your support and cooperation.

Dan Rae
Chairman

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