

## **Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review**

**Lease name: CROWN ROCK**

**Lease number: PO 124**

### **Fish & Game Report**

As part of the process of Tenure Review Fish & Game councils may provide advice on significant inherent values within the pastoral lease, and the information may be incorporated in the Conservation Resources Report. The advice is part of the information gathered and assessed for the development of a preliminary consultation document.

The report attached is released under the Official Information Act 1982.

**December**

**05**



## **Fish and Game Resources Report for the Crown Rock Lease.**

Prepared by the  
Otago Fish and Game Council

### **Section One - Introduction**

#### *1.1 Purpose*

The purpose of this report is to advise the Commissioner of Crown Lands on the sports fish and game values present on the land included in the Crown Rock crown pastoral lease. The lease is being considered for land tenure review and disposal under the provisions of the Crown Pastoral Land Act. As well as habitat values the report covers angling and hunting values and associated access issues.

Information for this report has been researched and prepared by Otago Fish and Game Council staff.

#### *1.2 Location*

Crown Rock pastoral lease is located on the east side of the Black Umbrella Range, and to the west of the Stronach Range. The lease takes in all of the north side of the Sandy Creek catchment and is bounded by the Hukarere pastoral lease. A small section of the Pomahaka River bounds the Southeast corner.

### **Section Two - General Resources Information**

#### *2.1 Sports Fisheries Habitat Values*

- Pomahaka River

The upper Pomahaka is recognised as supporting a trout fishery of regional significance and it is protected by a Water Conservation Notice (1989). This status is being translated into equivalent provisions in the Otago Regional Council Plan: Water. The Notice recognises that the upper reaches of the river and tributaries provide for a significant trophy trout fishery and a regionally significant trout spawning and rearing habitat.

The Pomahaka River supports an important brown trout fishery, which is based on separate stock of sea-run and resident fish. The Upper Pomahaka catchment (of which Crown Rock is a part) provides an important spawning area for both of these stocks.

Sea-run trout spawn almost exclusively in the Upper Pomahaka, thus the welfare of the Pomahaka fishery is dependent on the high quality spawning habitat the area provides. River resident trout from throughout the Pomahaka and lower Clutha Rivers also spawn in the area and elsewhere in the catchment where conditions are suitable.

The Otago Acclimatisation Society trapped the spawning run of brown trout at Hukarere Station between 1979 to 1981 where results indicated the run was conservatively estimated to be in the order of 2000 fish per annum. A similar number would be expected through the section bounding Crown Rock pastoral lease

Spawning surveys in the late 1970's and early 1980's showed that this section of the Pomahaka was used for spawning, with 23 redds counted in a 1 km section bounding the lease.

- **Sandy Creek**

Sandy Creek has only been surveyed once (June 1980) where only minor spawning was recorded in the lower reaches. It is thought that there is a natural fish barrier several kilometres up Sandy Creek.

- **Other tributaries**

There is not thought to be any sports fish this high in the catchment above the natural fish barrier.

### *2.2 Sports Fisheries Recreation Values*

There are excellent fisheries values in the bounding section of the Pomahaka River. Sandy Creek and its tributaries are not likely to support angling values due to the high altitude and small size of the streams and possible fish barriers.

### *2.3 Gamebird Habitat Values*

Occasional paradise shelduck and mallard ducks visit the property but values are low.

### *2.4 Gamebird Recreation Values*

There is very limited opportunity for gamebird hunting.

### *2.5 Other Recreational Values*

No other recreational values identified.

### *2.6 Access Information*

Historic access to Crown Rock pastoral lease has been difficult and relied on access availability through Hukarere pastoral lease. It is intended that access will be formalised to the southern boundary of the Crown Rock lease through tenure review process on Hukarere pastoral lease. There is marginal strip along the Pomahaka River bounding Crown Rock.

**Section Three - Consultation**

*3.1 Consultation Undertaken*

N/A

*3.2 Issues Identified Through Consultation*

N/A

**Section Four - Fish and Game Perspective**

*4.1 Fisheries Habitat Views*

No further protection is required for the Pomahaka River however marginal strip should be laid off along Sandy Creek where it qualifies to protect water quality and spawning.

*4.2 Fisheries Recreation Views*

No issues identified on the lease.

*4.3 Gamebird habitat Views*

Further habitat protection is not required.

*4.4 Gamebird Recreation Views*

No issues identified.

*4.5 Access Views*

Access is required from the southern boundary of the lease, where the Hukarere access finishes, to the Pomahaka River marginal strip. This will allow anglers access to the marginal strip enabling foot access upstream and downstream along the marginal strip. A provision for parking needs to be provided, as there would be no further vehicle access.

**Section Five - Bibliography**

Tenure Review Document

Crown Pastoral lands Act. (1998)

Land Status Report for Crown Rock Station.

Spawning Surveys, Otago Fish & Game Council

Dated: Monday, 19 March 2001

Signed



Mark Nelson

Resource Officer

For: The Otago Fish and Game Council