

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

**Lease name: CATTLE FLAT
(SOUTHLAND)**

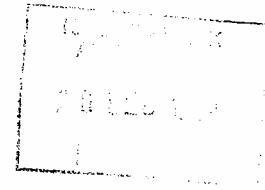
Lease number: PS 071

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.

May 04



FISH AND GAME RESOURCES REPORT FOR THE CATTLE FLAT (Ps071) PASTORAL LEASE

Prepared by the
Southland Fish & 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 bird values present on the land included in this Crown Pastoral Lease. The lease is being considered for tenure review and disposal under the provisions of the Crown Pastoral Land Act. As well as habitat values this report covers angling and game bird hunting values and associated access values.

Information for this report has been researched and prepared by staff of the Southland Fish and Game Council.

1.2 Location

Cattle Flat Station is adjacent to the Ardlussa District and is flanked on its eastern boundary by the Mataura River, to the north by Dome Creek, and the south west by the Tomogalak stream. The property also encompasses a large Scenic Reserve.

Section Two – General Resources Information

2.1 Sports Fisheries Values

The Mataura River is substantial having a mean annual flow of approximately 20 cumecs. It is a world renowned brown trout fishery and has been accorded a National Conservation Order which recognises this and the high public recreational use it receives. The Cattle Flat reach of the river is no exception and provides high quality angling for all anglers. The popularity of this area is reflected in the settlement of huts near Flaxmill Creek. In addition to this, during holiday periods, many people tent camp in the area.

Dome Creek is a small tributary of the Mataura and goes dry in its lower reaches during drought periods.

The Tomogalak is a larger very picturesque tributary which is characterised in its mid reaches by bush lined rocky pools before rising to more open tussock areas. This stream does provide some angling opportunities especially early in the season but its main value is as a spawning and nursery stream. A spawning survey on 7/07/97 showed trout had spawned in good numbers in the particularly suitable gravels adjacent to the sheep yards near the downstream boundary of

the Cattle Flat lease area. The station manager reported sighting a large shoal of spawning brown trout in this area earlier that winter and a DOC electric fishing team found trout much further upstream.

Contained within the property is a small stream called Flaxmill Creek that joins the Mataura adjacent to the Cattle Flat fishermen's huts. Flaxmill Creek is quite exceptional having some of the highest densities of O+ (less than 1 year old) brown trout we ever recorded in Southland. Spawning survey results show the reason for these high densities with up to 50 pairs of spawning trout using this very small stream annually

SPAWNING RESULTS - FLAXMILL CREEK		
	20/06/86	9/06/96
Redds	56	37
Large Fish	12	6
Medium Fish	18	14
Small Fish	2	1

2.2 Game bird values

Paradise and mallard duck frequent the riverbed and adjacent flat land. Changes to hunting methods and the building of private ponds nearby have meant the Cattle Flat area has declined in popularity as a hunting area although it is still used by some keen hunters.

2.3 Other Recreational Values

Deer stalking.

2.4 Access Information

Traditionally anglers and hunters were free to drive to a point opposite the East Dome Reserve area and were able to 'wander at will'. Under present ownership vehicles must now be left at a locked gate a short distance past the Cattle Flat huts unless a key is obtained from the station manager.

Section Three – Consultation

3.1 Consultation Undertaken

None provided

3.2 Issues Identified Through Consultation

None

Section Four – Fish and Game Perspective.

4.1 Habitat Views

The Mataura River flats are a constantly eroding flood plain and establishment of a freehold title could prompt expensive bank protection works to defend this title. These activities can be disruptive to the river's ecosystem. It is Fish and Game's view that the retention of this land in Crown ownership would allow the river to continue its natural processes uninterrupted.

It is the view of the Southland Fish and Game Council that domestic stock; especially cattle and deer should not have access to waterways. We are aware however of the problems associated with permanent fencing in flood ways. Temporary electric fencing or a practice of sheep grazing next to the river is a suitable alternative.

4.2 Access Views

It is the view of Fish and Game Southland that the most important aspect of this particular land tenure review is the provision of legal access for anglers up the Mataura River. To be of practical use this needs to allow vehicle access at least to a point at Map Reference NZMS 260 F43 714 004 and walking access from then on. It is also Fish and Game's view that the best way to achieve this is to retain the Mataura river flats, from Flaxmill Creek to the previously mentioned map reference in Crown ownership. A suitable land status could allow free public access but need not stop stock grazing under licence.

Marginal strip appears to exist on the Tomogalak and Dome Creek and although few anglers visit this area it is our view that these should remain.

Section Five – Bibliography

Land Status Report

storal Land Act (1998)

ed 17/12/99

Signed M. Rodway

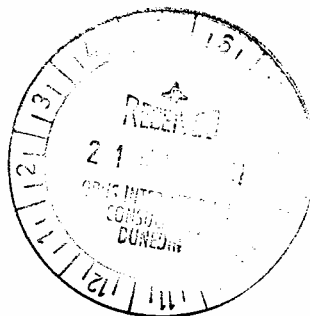
M. Rodway
Manager
For Southland Fish and Game Council

Attention:
Stuart Sutherland
Senior Field Officer
Box 59
Lumsden
Ph/Fax 03 2487636



17th November 2001

Robin Whelan
Opus International
Dunedin



Dear Robin

Re: Cattle Flat Pastoral Lease (Ps071) - Vehicle access for anglers

Fish & Game New Zealand (Southland Region) wishes to establish legal access by vehicle between the Cattle Flat Huts to a point at approximately Map Reference NZMS 260 F44 712998 (see attached map). This is expressly to cater for angler access to that section of the Mataura River. Although the point chosen limits some of the traditional access, it is one of convenience and is a good balance between access for the general angling public while allowing for a 'reward for effort' section of river for the enthusiast further upstream.

We will be guided by Opus International, the Department of Conservation and Land Information New Zealand as to the legal status and definition but to be an effective access for anglers it would need to be subject to the following.

- Allow for some lateral movement of the track
- Give anglers in vehicles the right of passage between 1st October and 30th April inclusive.
- The track would remain largely unformed but be maintained by Fish & Game New Zealand (Southland Region) at a minimum, to a four wheel drive standard.
- Fish & Game would be responsible for signage.
- Have a restriction on dogs.

Yours faithfully
Fish & Game NZ, Southland Region

p.p.Maurice Rodway
Manager

CC. David Gullen
Commissioner of Crown Lands
Lambton House
P.O.Box 5501
Wellington

CC. Bob McKenzie
Land Information New Zealand
Private Bag 4721
Christchurch *Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats*

Priority
File
Number
By
Date

Southland Region

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