

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name: HUKARERE STATION

Lease number: PO 009

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

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Fish and Game Resources Report for the Hukarere Pastoral 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 Hukarere 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

The Hukarere Pastoral Lease is located on the west bank of the upper Pomahaka, between Parasol and Sandy Creeks and to the east of the Umbrella Range divide.

Section Two - General Resources Information

2.1 Sports Fisheries Habitat Values

- Upper Pomahaka

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 Hukarere 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

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

Otago Region

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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. The results indicated the run was conservatively estimated to be in the order of 2000 fish per annum. This underestimation was due to the frequent washing out of the trap.

Spawning surveys in the late 1970's and early 1980's showed that Parasol, Little Parasol, Sandy Creek and Doakes Stream are also used for spawning.

Adult fish habitat values are high in this area with a valuable sequence of pools and riffles and runs in the main river. As a consequence of relatively low intensity land use and the presence of native vegetation adjacent to the river, there is a significant input of terrestrial insects during the summer, which increases the feeding opportunity. In addition land use impacts are minimised because of the well-developed riparian vegetation.

2.2 Sports Fisheries Recreation Values

The Upper Pomahaka is highly valued as a trophy brown trout fishery where it provides large sea run trout in near wilderness surroundings. The National Angler Survey places the Pomahaka River (not separated into upper and lower) as the 8th most fished water and the 4th most popular river fisheries in Otago. It was estimated that there were more than 6700 angler visits to the river in the 1995/96 season.

Creel survey results from a survey between 1970-1980 showed that the Upper Pomahaka River contained the largest average size fish in the district.

2.3 Gamebird Habitat Values

Paradise shelduck, grey and mallard duck are known to occur on the lease.

2.4 Gamebird Recreation Values

There is limited potential for hunting on the lease.

2.5 Other Recreational Values

No other recreational values identified.

2.6 Access Information

There is a good network of formed roads and tracks providing vehicle access to the river at a number of points. However these roads often do not follow designated road reserves, which means practical access for angling is currently at the discretion of the leaseholder.

Section Three - Consultation

3.1 Consultation Undertaken

Consultation with representatives of some angling clubs has been undertaken, namely Otago Anglers Association, Fly Flingers and Stream Bashers and the Clutha Angling Club.

3.2 Issues Identified Through Consultation

These clubs raised no additional issues.

Section Four - Fish and Game Perspective

4.1 Fisheries Habitat Views

Marginal Strips should be laid off on all qualifying waterways. Parasol, Little Parasol, Doakes Stream and Sandy Creek are all important for producing high quality water to the Pomahaka catchment. Where these streams are not wide enough to qualify for marginal strip protection, strips of conservation land should be laid off.

4.2 Fisheries Recreation Views

Marginal strips along the main stream Pomahaka should be enlarged to provide waterway protection and ease of public access.

4.3 Gamebird habitat Views

The further habitat protection is not required.

4.4 Gamebird Recreation Views

No issues identified.

4.5 Access Views

Fish and Game believe that access to the river both within the pastoral lease area and to the catchment upstream is very important. The road should be legalised or at the very least have an access covenant or easement that provides for public vehicle access over it.

Given the recreational and fisheries significance of this river, and the rugged topography it is imperative that assured and permanent public access to and along the Pomahaka be established as part of this tenure review.

Section Five - Bibliography

Tenure Review Document

Crown Pastoral lands Act. (1998)

Land Status Report for Hukarere.

Creel and Angling Census 1970-1980 (D. Scott & R.I. Watson)

Dated: Tuesday, 10 October 2000

Signed



Mark Nelson

Resource Officer
For: The Otago Fish and Game Council