

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name: Mt Alford

Lease number: Pc 052

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.

Copied September 2003



20 December 2000

QV Valuations
PO Box 13-443
CHRISTCHURCH

Attention: Barry Dench

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TENURE REVIEW – MT ALFORD

The following provides an assessment of Fish and Games Interest in relation to Mt Alford.

1. The Ashburton River system once supported a nationally recognised salmon and trout fishery. The fishery has declined over the last 30 years but still has value attracting approximately 4,200 angler days per season.

Compared to the South Ashburton the North Ashburton sportsfishery is not particularly noted. Compared with 30 years ago salmon are rare and the brown trout are neither abundant or large. Those that are present tend to inhabit the more reliable flows in the main stem above Thompson's track. Angler use is confined in the main to upstream of SH 72. To the wilderness fishery angler the North Ashburton above SH 72 offers well conditioned brown trout in the range of 1.0 – 2.0 kg weight.

Also salmon and trout spawning occurs in the reaches upstream of SH 72. Currently the overall fishery value of the North Ashburton River may be low but it is important to retain the fishery values particularly the wilderness ones that presently exist and access to them for future generations.

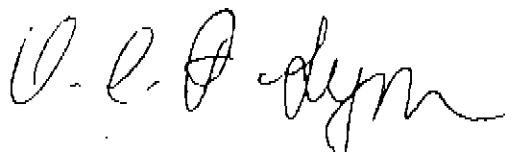
2. The wetland area located to the north east of Spoons Road end has gamebird value. It provides habitat for mallard ducks and paradise shelducks along with Canada goose. The North Ashburton also provides habitat suitable for paradise shelducks.
3. Continued access to the North Ashburton fishery is important. In this regard Fish and Game request that the following be included in the tenure review.

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

Central South Island Region

- a) Marginal strips on the North Ashburton River banks along the length of the property margin involved.
- b) Vehicle access off Spoors Road through the southern property block, across the North Ashburton River and through the northern property block to the Junction of Five Mile Creek.

Yours faithfully



Vaughan Lynn
Fish and Game Officer

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