

Crown Pastoral Land Tenure Review

Lease name: OTAMATAPAIO

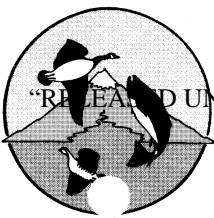
Lease number: PO 343

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.

January 05



"RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT"

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

32 Richard Pearse Drive, PO Box 150, Temuka. Phone (03) 615-8400. Fax (03) 615-8401

Po 343

Received
12/4/95

10 April 1995

Mr Rob Wardell
Landcorp Property Ltd
PO Box 27
ALEXANDRA

Dear Sir,

Attached is our assessment of fish and game values pertaining to Otamatapaio Station.


In summary the Otamatapaio Stream is an important spawning stream for the Lake Benmore fishery primarily brown trout. In some seasons when rainfall is less than average, low river flows and irrigation abstraction causes the river to be dry between SH 83 and Lake Benmore. The most critical period is late April-May when the Lake Benmore adult fish move upstream to spawn. Fortunately irrigation abstraction is tailing off at that time, and there is usually some water instream to enable fish passage to the upper reaches.

There are good fish stocks in the river upstream from SH 83. The apparent low level of angler popularity could be related to the international reputation of the nearby Ahuriri River and the lack of appreciation of the Otamatapaio. However some anglers do fish the stream with notable success.

We note that there is a road reserve and Crown Land strip along the Otamatapaio Stream which extends beyond the existing roadend almost up to the 1000 m contour.

We believe that much of the Upper Range Block backing onto the Hawkdon Range has been retired under an existing Land Improvement Agreement. If that land is to revert to Crown control, public access to those lands via the existing river route should be retained in the interests of recreational and other users, including angling and gamebird hunting interests.

Yours faithfully



Frank Scarf
Fish and Game Officer

Location OMARAMA Area _____ Landholder _____

INITIAL ASSESSMENT OF SPORTS FISH & GAME VALUES

1) SPORT FISHERY ASSESSEMENT

RIVER/STREAM <i>Otamatapaio Stream</i>																	
Sports Fish Present	Br						Rb						Sa				
	1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5
Value Assess																	
Fish Stocks			✓				✓										
Nursery Value				✓					✓								
Spawning Value				✓					✓								
Angler Popularity		✓					✓										

Comment *Lower reaches from SH 83 to Lake Benmore dry during most summers due to low rainfall and irrigation abstraction. Primarily a spawning stream for the Lake Benmore fishery. Provided sufficient water in stream to permit fish passage, large numbers of spawning fish have been observed some seasons.*

2) GAME BIRD PRESENCE

AREA

LEGEND:

SPECIES									
Mallard duck	✓								
Grey duck	✓								
Paradise duck	✓								
Canada goose									
Chukar	✓								
Quail	✓								
Pheasant									

Comment *Good numbers of waterfowl observed although area is not noted as a waterfowl hunting area. Good quail in riverbed and adjacent terraces. Chukar seen in riverbed in times of heavy snow.*

3) MARGINAL STRIP/PROVISIONS SOUGHT 1) It is noted that approx 2670 ha (Upper Range Blocks) has been retired under an existing land improvement Agreement.
 2) A road reserve and Crown land strip extends along the Otamatapaio Stream to about the 1000m contour to provide access to the retired lands. We would seek preservation of that access for angling and other recreational pursuits.

4) GENERAL COMMENT