



Kapiti Fly Fishing Club October 2023 Newsletter



Our speakers for this meeting will be a selection of our members talking about our local rivers - Waikanae, Otaki, Ohau, Tokomaru and any others you might want information on - re access points and methods.

Don't forget to bring a gold coin for the raffle as the top prize has increased to a **\$50 voucher for Sporting Life Turangi**.

In this month's newsletter: This month's photo is of one of New Zealand's countless, turquoise-hued trout streams in the Wilkin Valley in the South Island.

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Club activities

Date	Event	Coordinator
13 to 15 October	Rangitikei River area	TBC
Monday 23 October	Club meeting – Guest speaker TBC	
Monday 6 November	Interclub Fly-Tying Competition -host Wellington Club	Gordon
10 to 12 November	Tukituki and Waipawa Rivers	TBC
Saturday 18 November	Family Fishing event Winstone Lakes	Malcolm
Sunday 19 November	Fly Fishing workshop for students Otaki College Winstone Lakes	
Monday 27 November	Club meeting – Guest speaker TBC	



Presidents report

Golly the months roll by quickly. Is it a function of getting older, or what? Seems like I only wrote the last report a couple of days ago!

I guess the real reason is that I have only been on the water for one day, and that was a deliberate effort to do get out late on opening day. It wasn't ideal conditions, with cloud over the hills on the Otaki lower gorge that lifted I think for a total of 10 minutes over the next 2 1/2 hours.

The river was high but flowing clear, as I have found with that river – it does clear pretty quickly.

And yes, I did luck out, hooking and landing one brown. When it took, I was thinking it was a really good fish, but no, it turned out to be a river fish that was very skinny, but with pronounced spots. It should have been 5lbs+ and was closer to 3. Perhaps another reflection of what I am thinking has been a pretty difficult winter for river creatures with high dirty water for so long.

We are in the process of arranging a Kids Fish Out day at Winstone Lakes in Otaki on 18 November. We will need help from as many club anglers as possible please, spread over the day, as we are trying to get the kids also spread out by using a booking sheet at Otaki Hunting & Fishing where Lee has been very helpful in offering to do that work for us. There will be a list at the meeting.

We haven't currently got an October trip planned, but I am thinking of arranging one to Lake Namunamu for a day, either midweek or perhaps one weekend. It has to be soon as access is probably going to become difficult as Ernslaw One, the owner of the surrounding forest, is about to commence logging operations and that might close the lake for perhaps 3 years. It is 20 minutes out of Hunterville, then a walk of almost ¾ hour, with the first grade being pretty steep.

It is boat fishing only, with no shore fishing and access only at the launching spots. It is high in the hills and so has no runoff problems. There are 3 or 4 boats there but no booking system – first come, first served. Perhaps 2 to a boat, rowing only, so limited to probably only 6 of us. Rainbows with lovely red flesh. Again, a list will be at the meeting and an email will also be going out once a day is chosen if we don't have a full number. Life jackets will be essential.

There are obviously some better fish in the rivers that have not had the same high, dirty water problems as those in the East, so I hope that some of you have at least managed to get out, weather permitting. Or if not yet, then get out soon.

Tight Lines



Fly Casting Tuition by Gordon Baker

Club member Gordon Baker is available for one-on-one casting tuition. Gordon is a casting instructor with Flyfishers International (USA). He is available to help beginners get off to a good start and to assist more experienced members improve their distance casting skills. Although not yet an approved two-handed casting instructor Gordon is a keen learner willing to share new skills.

Email Gordon kiwiflyfisher@gmail.com or phone 0274946487 to arrange a suitable time for a lesson. There is no charge.

Mid-Week Fishing trips by Hugh

For those members who are lucky enough to be able to fish mid-week during the forthcoming season please confirm if you wish to be included in the mid-week fishers email list to:

hugh.driver.nz@gmail.com

The emails are often sent out only giving very short notice to take advantage of the prevailing conditions and members availability, as an example the afternoon of day before the proposed trip.

If you are interested in participating on any mid-week fishing trips, please email Hugh Driver with your contact details and you will be added to the email list.

Slide and Negative Scanner

If any KFFC member would like to digitise slides or negatives (with colour reversal) I have a scanner that you are welcome to borrow, at a cost of a small \$5.00 donation to the club.

Please email me to arrange: hugh.driver.nz@gmail.com

Volunteers required for the - Family Take a Kid Fishing Saturday 18 November

On **Saturday 18 November** we have our annual Family 'Take Kid Fishing' event on at the Winstones Lakes in Otaki and we will need **YOUR HELP** on the day for a few hours, if you are available to help can you please contact Malcolm either by email: malcolm1@xtra.co.nz or by text message on 027 384 6596.

People can book a time slot by contact Hunting and Fishing in Otaki or by contact Malcolm Francis.

THIS EVENT IS BEING SPONSORED BY PUBS CHARITY NZ AND THE NZ COMMUNITY TRUST

Kapiti Women on the Fly by Leigh Johnson

2023 Women on The Fly Workshop

This year's workshop, to be held at TALTAC on 10/12th November, is fully subscribed with 42 attendees. (And a growing waitlist.)

The organising committee of Leigh Johnson, Gordon Baker, Greg du Bern, Rachel McNae, Marion Hall, and Betty Mani are busy on final details. It's shaping up to be an exciting weekend of learning for both beginners and experienced ladies.

Support this event please

Donations of small items would be very welcome - to be used as spot prizes. Suitable items would be packs of flies, fly boxes, tippet etc. (Only new/near new items please.)

Contact me, Leigh at leigh@leighjohnsonnz.com or 0274488282 to arrange drop off or pick up. (Or give it to Gordon at the meeting on Monday.)

Women on The Fly would like to thank our sponsors:

- [Hunting & Fishing NZ](#)
- www.speedlinefishing.com
- [NZTroutApp](#)
- [Icebreaker](#)
- [Southern Latitude Guides](#)
- [Creel Tackle & Cafe](#)
- [I Love Fly Fishing](#)
- [Sporting Life - Turangi](#)
- [Fish Scene](#)

Order your WoTF Cap!

[Full details & order form here.](#)

Limited time opportunity with orders closing Monday 24th at 6pm so please be quick.

A great Xmas gift or get one for yourself. 🎁🎄🧑🏻🎧



Where to find WoTF?

Please follow our activities on this [Facebook Page](#).

There is also a private [WoTF Facebook group](#) that provides a safe space for women who fly fish, (or would like to fly fish) to share information, arrange fishing activities, and learn from each other about all things fly fishing.

Or contact me directly at leigh@leighjohnsonnz.com or visit www.womenonthefly.nz to register your interest.

Important update for licence holders: Gold Clams issue



You may have seen reports about steps to restrict access to Lake Okataina near Rotorua amid iwi concerns about the spread of the invasive species gold clam. We know many anglers will be worried about the situation, especially on the eve of the new fishing season.

Fish & Game New Zealand is closely monitoring the situation and working with mana whenua, Te Arawa Lakes Trust, and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to understand the risks of gold clams spreading from the Waikato River to the Rotorua lakes.

We're also looking at the science to better understand what this means for the health of freshwater and native and valued introduced species.

Gold clams have been confirmed in the Waikato River since May 2023 and, fortunately, have not been discovered elsewhere. This invasive species is mainly spread by boats with a ballast system, such as wake boats for water skiing and wake boarding. MPI has assessed there is little risk of freshwater clams being spread by anglers, and boats used for trout fishing have no need for ballast systems.

Fish & Game concerned

We're deeply concerned about discussions to close Lake Okataina, particularly given the Waikato River system and Lake Karāpiro are under next to no restrictions by MPI.

We believe MPI and Waikato Regional Council should be taking much stronger measures to prevent the spread of gold clams to other regions, in particular, investing more resources into isolating the gold clam at 'ground-zero' in the Waikato River.

We believe other steps, such as a wash station at boat ramps, should have been installed as soon as the gold clams were discovered.

Good bio-security practices

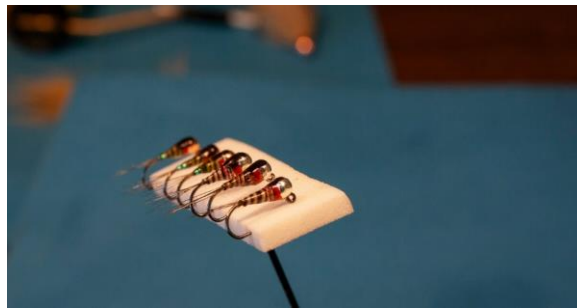
Fish & Game has led the way in adopting good biosecurity practices at rivers and lakes across the country. This has included banning felt-soled waders and spearheading the advocacy of the [‘check, clean, dry’](#) steps for angling gear, which is also recommended to prevent the spread of gold clams.

We will continue to keep you updated about the situation.



Corina Jordon Chief Executive Fish & Game.

The Nymph Angler is Sustainable by Domenick Swentosky



I write so much about nymphing that people assume I don't fish dries. That's not true at all. I fish dries all throughout the year, happy to take the chance to fish on top when the trout give me a good reason to do so. I also fish streamers almost every trip, and I fish a lot of wet flies (mostly at night). I like being a well-rounded angler, ready for anything at any time.

But I've also spent large portions of my angling life focused on just one aspect of the game. I once dedicated a full year to fishing only with streamers, no matter the river or the conditions. I went just as long with tight-lining nymphs, never attaching an indicator or a dry fly to the line, only so I could see what could really be done by tight line nymphing exclusively — so I could learn the strengths and weaknesses of the tactic. And when I first got serious about fly fishing a couple of decades ago, I made up reasons to fish dry flies all the time too, spending years refining the leaders and the casts, especially on small streams, and always with my Border Collie along for the trip.

I've written this often: I fish flies and a fly rod because it gives me the best chance to meet the fish on their own terms. Trout take big meaty five-inch streamers as a baitfish. But they also eat size #24 Trico spinners and everything in between. They take food from the streambed and from the surface of the water. And no other tackle allows me meet trout in all these places, with all manners and sizes of patterns, with as much efficiency as a fly rod.

So then, being well-rounded is a unique advantage available to fly fishers. And the best anglers I know are adept at every method of delivery. They carry dries, wets, streamers, and nymphs, and they fish them all with confidence.

With that said, most of the die-hard anglers I run into are nymph-first fishermen. Or at least their nymphing game is strong, and they don't hesitate to break it out. That's because nymphing catches a lot of fish — more than dries and streamers combined over the long haul.

Nymphing is sustainable. Here's why ...

All conditions | All seasons

I live in Central Pennsylvania because the trout fishing is excellent here, year-round. Wild trout fishing in this region is a twelve-month affair. And for the dedicated angler, there is no off season. There are a lot of us in the area who just keep fishing, no matter what the winter weather brings. Our limestone spring-fed rivers remain open from ice in all but the most extreme temperatures.

But to make the most of the winter months, a good nymphing game is critical. These wild trout demand solid dead-drift presentations in the cold waters of the dark months. But with good skills and the right patterns, the action is often fantastic.

Dry fly guys are relegated to waiting for a midge hatch or perhaps a lucky late or early season BWO event. Otherwise, fishing dries in the winter is a waste of time, and the trout start making that point to us somewhere around the last weeks of October every year.

Nymphs are flies for all seasons: spring, summer, fall and winter. No matter the river conditions, nymphing is a safe bet.



Sloop. Livin' large

Bigger fish? | More Fish

But what about catching bigger trout? That's what the streamer angler is going for, right?

Sure, the average trout on streamers is larger than the average sized trout caught on other fly types, overall. But most of the really big trout I've caught have been on nymphs, even though I fish streamers a lot.

It's often repeated that once trout get to a certain benchmark, they become meat eaters — predators that no longer eat small meals. It may be true, but even a predatory trout will make

quick work of a stonefly danced compromisingly close to his spot. An easy meal for minimal movement? Yes please.

My best strategy for catching big trout is to catch a bunch of trout, and one of them is sure to be big. Nymphs hook a lot of trout, and depending on the river, one in fifty might be something worth calling home to Mom about.

More to refine | More to control

That brings me to this final point about nymphing: While catching those fifty trout and looking for the big ones, the talented nymphing angler can experience success.

Catching trout is exciting. It's why we're out there. And when you start to average a fish every ten or fifteen minutes you realize that the things you are doing — the refinements you're making in the casts and the drifts — is catching fish. The trout let you know that you're doing something right, and it's a rewarding feeling.

There are more options and ways to deliver a nymph than with any other discipline. Depth, angle, drop speed, lead speed, indie or tight line, there's more to refine than with streamers or wets, and there's more options for changing a nymphing presentation than a dry fly look. The nymphing game runs deep.

READ: Troutbitten | Why Number in the Net Matter

Nymphing is sustainable

Throughout my years on the water, I've seen anglers come and go. I've known more guys and women who picked up fly fishing and then gave it up than anglers who've stuck with it.

Sure, that's human nature, in part. We all go through spells and phases of interest. That's probably healthy. But inevitably, the anglers who hang up their waders are the ones who don't branch out to learn the complete game of fly fishing. So, they lose interest.

Nymph fishermen keep catching fish through all conditions and all seasons. But the dry-flies-only crew meets a lot of conditions where it's best to sit this one out.

Likewise, I see a too many streamers-only guys burn out. It's fun to believe that you're dedicated to chasing trophy fish. And that might last for quite a while. But eventually, the low fish count catches up to everyone. And it becomes more appealing to sit home than to hit the river for one or two fish in the slow season.

So however, you enjoy fishing on a fly rod, by all means do that. Do it until you catch all the trout you could ever want to catch. But as soon as you feel a tinge of boredom creep in, if you find yourself skipping out on a chance to fish because the hatch isn't on for dries, or the water is too low for streamers, then turn to nymphs.

Because the nymph angler is sustainable.

Fish hard, friends.

Getting Hooked by Richard Donnelly



For a half a kilometre West London Creek flows through a campground with trimmed lawns, a swimming pond, swing sets, fire rings, and picnic tables. The local Trout Unlimited chapter has been busy, removing beaver dams and downed trees. The water runs clear and deep and tumbles through well-placed, rocky chutes. It looks like a trout creek ought to look, but never does. A sort of theme park creek.

Children play along creek banks and ogle the brown trout swimming among mats of watercress. Whole families attack the stream with bobbers and worms, catching nothing. This is too bad. We need trout anglers, and we need them to catch fish. But catching a brown trout is challenging, even doing it the right way.

Trout are always hungry. There is no mysterious “off” switch, like walleye fishing. But a trout is devilishly sensitive. If they see, you they won’t bite. If you splash your cast, they won’t bite. If you yell at your buddy to get up here, they’re biting they won’t bite. They’re picky. I have watched kicking grasshoppers float safely past feeding trout. They were eating something else.

I like to fish West London, even in the park. It is easy, untroubled fishing. One morning a few steps from a family eating breakfast I caught three fair-sized browns, one after the other. A ten-year-old girl ran into the camper, emerging with a fishing pole. She couldn’t take it anymore.

I watched as she cast a worm and bobber. The water, which “popped” with feeding trout, went calm.

It’s not my place to advise another angler. To be fair, there wasn’t much I could say. I could tell her to sneak up on them, but if you’re throwing a bobber all the stealth in the world won’t help.

Her father joined us with a hefty spinning rod. He began dragging a bucktail through pools. Occasionally this works, I don’t know why. Yes, I do. The trout get fed up. After a dozen casts, they say enough is enough, and attack.

I quit fishing and watched father and daughter enjoying themselves or enjoying themselves as much as anyone who’s not catching fish.

Here's my problem. Too nice a guy. This is a common affliction among fly anglers. More so than say, moose hunters.

"Anyone want to try the fly rod?" I held up my slender, easy-casting four-weight. The girl, named Samantha, raced over. I handed the rod to her and explained how to lift the line into the air, wait, and toss it over an imaginary fence. She hopped with excitement.

You don't expect much from a beginner, but children have this advantage: They don't try to overpower a fly rod. They don't have to unlearn a lifetime of spoon chucking and reel cranking. After five minutes Samantha could generate a short, fairly consistent cast. She was ready to fish.

I knotted up the biggest Hendrickson I could find. The three of us walked up-creek, jumping a blue heron, which departed, squawking. We passed motorhomes and a volleyball court, and on the way developed an entourage. Children joined us, a dog or two, and a gaggle of adults. Something was up, and they weren't going to miss it.

I made everyone stand back. Crouching, Samantha, and I approached the water. We spied feeding trout dimpling the surface of a wide run. Samantha's eyes were wide with anticipation. I remembered something. Fly fishing is just plain fun.

I pulled line free and handed over the rod. "Remember," I whispered. "Lift the line way up high, hold it there, then cast."

The first try brought a fistful of foxtail, hooked on the backcast. I told her not to worry. I do it all the time. Which is true. Samantha "splashed" the next cast, and spooled line at her feet the next. More things are apt to go wrong than right in fly fishing. And life in general, I suppose.

Mayflies wandered over the creek, now and then falling into the water. A trout took a fly with a splash. "There," I told her,

Sam threw a nice seven-meter cast. The tippet straightened and the Hendrickson dropped into an eddy. As it floated under an oak tree a trout took the fly, turning and slapping the water.

A ten-year-old girl squealed and jumped up and down, as only a ten-year-old can. "Whaddo, I do? Whaddo, I do?"

"Pull the line," I said. "Bring him in." I unclipped my net.

Sam held tight and ran backward, which proved an effective strategy. She kept the fish from escaping under mats of watercress.

"Hold the line just like that," I said. "You're doing great."

The trout fought upriver, then down, jumping twice to the oohs and ahhs of the assembled campers. "Don't let go," her father shouted.

Dad, that's not going to happen.

The trout slowed, circled, and made one more nail-biting run. I netted him, a fine fourteen-inch brown.

The crowd clapped. Phones came out, and a very proud little girl had her picture taken by a dozen people, including one beaming father. "Should we keep it?" he asked.

"You could," I said. "There's plenty of trout. But maybe we should ask her."

“Let him go,” she said. “Maybe I’ll catch him again, when he’s bigger.”

Spoken like a true sportsperson. Kneeling, she placed him in the water and held him there. After a moment the trout shot off.

I made my own getaway. I wanted to fish the next valley and would be stuck all day if I hung around. About a hundred people wanted a crack at fly fishing and would have to learn the way we all do.

By trial and error. And hopefully, without too many witnesses.

Whither the double taper? by John Juracek



Casting a double taper fly line on the Firehole River in Yellowstone National Park

While scanning the internet recently, I happened across an article titled “Why Fish Double-Taper Fly Lines?” A website reader wondered what these lines were for, noting that he didn’t know anyone that fished one. The article’s author then opined that he himself had never fished a double-taper either. Seeking an answer, the question was passed on to some other folks.

To my mind, however, *Why fish a double-taper?* isn’t the telling question. Rather, what we should be asking is, *Why fish a weight-forward?* Indeed, considering the relative merits of each taper, it’s long struck me as odd that the weight-forward has so convincingly supplanted the double-taper as the *de facto* line choice for today’s anglers (I’m referring here to floating lines).

After all, double-tapers were the standard in this sport for ages. Weight-forwards are a comparative newcomer, specialty lines that arose from the quest for distance. But somewhere in the neighbourhood of thirty years ago this paradigm changed, and weight-forwards took over the world. They shouldn’t have.

From a practical point of view, the only advantage a weight-forward line has over a double-taper line is the ability to cast long distances—say, over 20 meters. But even this advantage carries a caveat. To wit, you must use a line-size heavy enough so that a double-haul can exploit the difference in weight between the line’s head and running line (the heavier head essentially drags along the lightweight running line, adding distance to the cast). This means using a 6-weight line

or heavier. Anything lighter and there simply isn't enough weight difference between the head and the running line to gain significant extra distance, double haul or not. (One can argue here for 5-weights, but it's a borderline argument.) Weight-forward 2, 3, and 4s ... hmm ... why are they even made?)

While heavier weight-forward lines do have distance advantages over double-tapers, the fact that this extra distance comes from shooting the running line can be somewhat limiting. Actually, in certain kinds of fishing it can be a real problem. For instance, when gulper fishing (dry fly fishing to cruising trout in lakes) long casts are often integral to success. That's because they increase the number of chances possible at a given fish, either before the fish swims out of range or before it spooks by coming too close.

But in this kind of fishing, I don't want to rely on shooting line for my distance. Inaccuracy results from that. And if I do make a bad cast or a fish passes up my fly, I don't want to have to strip in a bunch of line (to get to the head) before I pick up and make another cast. Too much wasted time. Instead, I want to pick up my line immediately, make one backcast, and lay it right back out. Double-tapers allow me to do that.

Another problem with weight-forwards is that they don't mend well at distances longer than the length of the head (the thin running line cannot effectively manipulate the heavier head). Although this is typically of more consequence to steelhead and salmon fishermen, it still plays a role in many types of trout fishing. In contrast, double-tapers mend exceptionally well.

Weight-forward lines almost universally have very short tips and front tapers, which promote an abrupt, harsh turnover of leader and fly. Double tapers, with their longer tips and tapers, offer a much smoother turnover—a wonderful quality that adds to the pleasures of casting and aids presentation in delicate fishing situations.

Double-taper lines also permit you to reverse your line when one end wears out. So, you get two lines in one. In this day and age, with some fly lines costing over \$100.00, that's a nice benefit. It's especially nice when you realize that you don't give up any performance to get it.

It's been noted as a disadvantage of double-tapers that they take up more room on a reel. Which means you'll have less backing on your reel. True. But having less backing isn't the same as having no backing, and any adequately sized reel provides for a reasonable allowance. (I think most of us know how infrequently we need it for trout fishing.)

There are other considerations between the two tapers, but here's the bottom line. I can think of just one fishing situation—fresh or saltwater—where I would opt for a weight-forward line instead of a double-taper (and it's a long belly weight-forward, which doesn't really count, since the benefits of such a line are more akin to those of a double-taper anyway). Nevertheless, here it is long cast required—at least 20 meters. A need for a heavy line—7-weight or heavier. Single casts only at sighted fish or multiple casts if fishing blind—the point being that in either case the amount of time between casts isn't important (so there's no penalty for the extra time it takes to strip in the line before making another cast). Finally, no line manipulation necessary after completing the cast.

Is there real-world fishing that fits these criteria? Sure, there is, but for most of us it's probably out of the ordinary. Think, perhaps, of certain tarpon or permit fishing. Or casting to a feeding

frenzy of stripers or bluefish. Maybe stripping streamers for trout in a big river or reservoir. If you engage in any of these pursuits, then by all means use a weight-forward line. But if you find yourself in more conventional situations, especially fishing for trout, consider the double-taper.

There are good reasons these lines were made in the first place—reasons that I daresay still prevail.

River Rules by Todd Tanner



Doug and I were visiting the Elk River in British Columbia last weekend when a fellow in a drift boat opted to ignore the open channel on river right and float down the small side channel, I was fishing. I was a little bummed — the oarsman could see me standing mid-channel from quite a ways away — but I assumed that he'd have the angler in the bow stop casting when they got close, and that they would slip behind me and scoot downstream a fair distance before they started up again.

Nope.

The fellow on the oars rowed right in front of me — almost close enough for me to reach out and poke him with my rod — while the angler in the bow kept casting. They pounded the bank I was fishing, and they kept doing so as they headed downstream. As you might imagine, I was less than pleased. After pondering their utter cluelessness for just a second, I reeled in and called it quits for the day.

There are a few things that you never want to do as a fly fisher. For example, if you're rowing a boat and you have to pass a wade angler in tight quarters, you don't just float through. Instead, there's a basic protocol to follow:

- The downstream angler has the right of way.
- The wade angler has the right of way over the drift boat.
- Tell everyone in your boat to stop fishing while you're still well upstream.

- Slow down above the angler. Drop anchor if you can't hold the boat in place with the oars.
- Ask the angler if you should go behind — which is usually the best bet — or in front to minimize your impact on his or her fishing.
- Follow the angler's directions.
- If it's too tight to float by safely, get out and walk the boat quietly past the angler.
- Be sure to ask the angler if they're working upstream or downstream. If they are fishing downstream, give them a couple of hundred yards before anyone in your boat starts casting again.

There are several other common mistakes you'll want to avoid when you're on the water. They fall under the following categories:

Personal space

The vast majority of us prefer to have the water in our immediate vicinity to ourselves. To be frank, it's rude as hell to encroach on someone else's spot while they're fishing. So how close is too close? That depends on any number of things, including the size of the stream or river, its popularity, the type of water, the time of day, the time of year, the proximity to large population centres, etc. Still, there are some general guidelines to keep in mind.

If you're wading a large river and there are very few people around, try to give everyone you come across a ton of space. You don't need to intrude on their angling.

If the quarters are tight, or if there are a bunch of folks in the immediate vicinity, you can get a little closer ... but not much. My personal rule of thumb is that two anglers who don't know each other should never be able to cast to the same location at the same time. If we assume that good casters can cast 20 meters with a fly rod — which many can — we should aim to be at least 40 to 50 meters away from the nearest fly fisher.

If we're floating, it's typically a good idea to stay at least a hundred yards away from other boats. You may find yourself in certain situations where you'll have to be closer than that, but in general you want to give everyone on the river plenty of space.

Tunes

I love music. I just love it. But it's important to realize that only total dicks blast their favourite tunes on the water. Here's the thing. Technology allows us to listen to music at any volume we choose without imposing our musical tastes on everyone around us.

While I prefer to fish without music — as do most of the folks I know — some anglers want music to enhance their experience. Fair enough. But it's incumbent upon them to listen with earbuds or AirPods. As long as they avoid sharing their favourite songs with everyone else, they can crank AC/DC or enjoy Miley Cyrus to their heart's content. Just don't make the rest of us listen to it.

Cutting in line

If you've been fly fishing for a while, you've probably heard the term "low holing." It means that someone cut in front of someone else on the river in order to improve their odds of success. It

also means that the angler who was just “low holed” will be understandably pissed at the individual or individuals who ignored fly fishing etiquette and chose greed over the Golden Rule.

How do we avoid this issue? It’s simple. If we’re floating, we give wade anglers and other boats a ton of room, and we avoid floating around someone and then pulling in to fish the water directly below them.

If we’re wading, we take a second to observe the other angler. If they’re working downstream, we either stay above them or we walk, way, way, way downstream past them before starting to fish. And if they’re working upstream, we follow the same basic principle in the other direction.

Oh, and if you can’t tell which way a person is moving — if, for example, they’re stationary — all you have to do is ask. The vast majority of fly fishers will appreciate your good manners and tell you exactly what they’re planning.

Drones

If you’re someone who feels the need to film yourself or others with a drone, or if you purchased a drone to scout for rising fish or good river conditions from a distance, please keep in mind that a lot of folks have pretty serious issues with drones intruding on their personal space. With that in mind, don’t fly your drone around other anglers without their prior permission and be mindful that some people find the whine of a drone to be incredibly annoying. A little common sense can go a long, long way to avoid issues on the water

Dogs

It’s really pretty simple. Don’t bring your dog fishing with you unless he or she is exceptionally well-behaved. At a minimum, your dog should always be under your control. Which means it should sit, stay, and heel on command. And if you decide to take your dog to the river to swim, or for exercise, please keep it away from folks who are trying to fish. Even dog lovers like yours truly can get a little peeved when Bob the Wonder Dog charges over and puts down all the rising trout in the immediate vicinity.

In conclusion

I just want to point out that we are all personally responsible for everything we do on the water. If we act consciously and treat other folks with respect, we set a positive example and make the world a slightly better place for everyone around us. Conversely, if we’re loud and obnoxious, or clueless, or if we fail to embrace basic fly-fishing etiquette, then we make things worse for ourselves as well as other anglers. From where I sit, that should be an easy choice for everyone who loves to fish.

Visions and Feelings by Domenick Swentosky



As anglers, we want to know where the fly is, and we want control over its path. But on the river, acquisition of these desires is fleeting. The water works against us. Currents grab the line and force the fly off on some unintended course — in the wrong direction and down a different seam. Poor light angles and water clarity take away the visibility of a leader or fly. And mixed currents fight against us, removing direct contact, control, and strike detection.

Two of Five

See, hear, touch, taste, smell. Our five human senses define the way we exist in the world. And the complete angler uses all these senses to experience a day on the water.

The sounds of mixed pocket water, deep inside a limestone canyon, bordered by towering hemlocks and shaded ferns are what I dream of. Late at night, when my mind won't stop churning over the troubles or intricacies of life and let me sleep, I imagine myself waist deep in the river. I hear the constant rumble of a rolling river mixed with the sporadic clap of falling waves over wet mossy rocks. I smell the complexity of limestone waters mixed with earth, the clean aroma of evergreens and the herbal scent of those unfolding ferns.

These sounds and smells, so familiar and present, are there for my imagination at any moment. With closed eyes, I need not elaborate with mental pictures. The creations of scent and sound in these dreams form the necessary peace to sleep — calmly. And moments later, I'm waking to daylight, rested and open to a new day.

While all five senses blend together into the rich, unmatched experience of fishing through woods and water, only two are necessary for catching trout — sight and feel. These two senses combine to tell us a story about each drift. Some of our tactics require both, while others require just one. But take away both sight and feel, and the angler is lost.

Why We All Love Top Water

The rolled wood duck tips of Hendrickson wings bounce over a riffle, cantering gently to the side and reflecting sunlight in a spray of angles. The dead drift is flawless, and time separates into slow motion. Then a golden-brown freight train charges from the undercut of shadows. Is anything more perfectly rewarding than this moment?

Mayb.

How about stripping a visible streamer in the top column and watching that same wild trout charge the fly? The suspense manufactured from a great cast mixes with the adrenaline of a top-tier trout attacking the fly, and we *feel* the take as we see it. For many, the visible streamer eat matches or surpasses the excitement of the surface take on a dry.

The dry fly scenario uses sight alone to track the fly. The s-curves, lending enough slack for the dead drift, put us out of touch on purpose. But the streamer scenario has all the same visual elements of watching the Hendrickson, with the added sense of touch — of contact with the fly.

Both are highly rewarding experiences — addictive, even. And this kind of pleasure is a good reason why fishing dry flies and streamers are arguably the most preferred methods of modern fly fishing.

These Things and the Other Things

So then, fishing dries is a pure, visual experience. And stripping a streamer off the undercut, shadowy bank is both visual and tactile. We feel the jarring hit, the killing blow of a predator trout. And if the fly is high enough in the column, we see it too.

Sight and touch, I would argue, are the favoured senses. Most of us would choose these over all others, if forced to a decision. So, it's no wonder that we gravitate to tactics that reward and challenge these senses — dries and streamers.

But what of nymphs?

Underneath

Nymphing is most often performed blind. We rarely see the nymph or watch the trout take. Worse yet, with many of the most common nymphing systems, we're removed from any sense of feel. The standard bobber/indicator method uses line mends to keep the bobber drifting "naturally." These mends introduce slack into a system that already suffers from a loss of contact. And most nymphing anglers struggle to understand where the fly is, in relation to the indicator. (Indicator fishing can be done with contact throughout, but tight line to the indicator styles are still largely underused.)

So, when anglers show an aversion to nymphing styles, this is why. Without sight of the nymph and without feel — without contact — we have little sense for where the fly is. We can guess, but guessing isn't very rewarding. Is it?

Fishing without a good sense of sight or feel deprives the angler of what is most enjoyable — control over the outcome.

Thus, the growing popularity of tight line styles and contact fishing systems is explained. Contact is feel. And a good feel for flies under the water is just as rewarding as a good visual for flies above the water (almost).

Contact systems are as old as fishing itself. Tie a hook and line to any bait, add weight for the cast, and get it to the river bottom. Then drift it, waiting for the occasional tick, tick, tick on rocks or the thud of a trout intercepting the squirming bait. Now take that up a notch. Bring it forward a few decades or centuries. Back it up with high end graphite composites. Add an advanced understanding of river hydraulics and the strike zone, and you have good tight line nymphing. The

way modern nymphing is performed, with a trained eye on the sighter (or an indy in a tight line system) is a harmonious concert of contact and sight. Using our senses of vision and touch, these nymphing styles are blended with a good dose of imagination and focus to take the fly to a trout.

Is all of that as enjoyable as watching the dry fly take at the surface, or feeling and seeing the kill shot of a predator trout assaulting our streamer? Probably not. But nymphing with contact has its own rewards.

READ: Troutbitten | The Mono Rig



Senses

Kicking through thin, crusty snow on fallen oak leaves sounds like winter. And the winter wind cuts through leafless trees with a low whistle rather than a flutter. The sounds of the forest are forever.

Likewise, the scent of a frozen winter wood is barren. The decay and decomposition of dying trees, leaves and animals of all forms is suspended, leaving a clean pallet. The faint fragrance of hemlock hangs in the air and stays with you. Even the next day, unpacking your gear, the scent of the evergreens trails from your clothes and recalls the river hours of a day past.



Neither sense is required for fishing, but memories are built from these scents and sounds.

The tangible experience is what connects us — What we touch, what we cast, how we set the hook, and how we hold a trout. And the vision of it all is where these moments and memories begin.

Fish hard, friends.

14 Ways to Prevent Fish Mortality by Louis Cahill



I'll Be Back to Catch You Again

The years we spend learning to cast and drift a fly or the thousands of dollars we spend on gear and travel are all wasted if we don't have fish.

With more anglers entering the sport every day, sport fish are heavily pressured and in grave danger. There are a lot of common mistakes that anglers make which contribute to fish mortality. Most are innocent and many don't show an immediate risk. With that in mind here are fourteen tips to help keep our little friends happy and healthy.

The 10 Second Rule

A fish's gills are remarkably efficient at collecting oxygen but the delicate membranes that extract the oxygen molecules rely on their buoyancy to keep the collecting surfaces exposed. Out of the water they collapse and are useless. This is to say the obvious, fish can't breathe out of water. It's easy to overestimate how long a fish can hold its breath.

The fact is a fish can't hold its breath at all because it doesn't have lungs. He is out of air as soon as you lift him from the water. Add to this that his metabolism is raging because he's been fighting for his life, and you have a pretty desperate situation. While you are trying to get that hero shot, he's dying. Use the 10 second rule and never keep his head out of the water for more than 10 seconds and give him a good 30 seconds before you lift him again.

Hold on Loosely

I can't tell you how many times I've seen guys squeeze a fish until its eyes pop out. Some guys just get so rattled holding a fish you'd think they never saw one. This death grip can cause serious internal injury especially to the heart. The trick is a nice loose grip. The tighter you hold a fish the more he will struggle. To control one, properly grip him just in front of his tail where there's nothing but muscle and let him just rest on a loose hand under the boney part of his pec fins and gill plates. He will relax and the whole vibe will be nicer.

Barbless Hooks

Once in a while a fish will unbutton due to a barbless hook. That's just a fact of life but most anglers understand that they will hold hundreds, if not thousands, of fish in their life. Decreasing that

number by a few is not a crisis. The fact is that barbless hooks go a long way to reducing fish mortality from hook injuries. If you are fighting fish properly you will not lose many and if you aren't, fishing barbless hooks will teach you to fight fish smarter and you'll be a better angler for it.

Fight with Authority

The biggest mistake I see anglers make is not fighting fish with authority. Most of us are taught to play fish too long, exhausting them before they are landed. A fish that is fought with authority is landed fresher and released fresher. Keep a good angle on the fish and use good side pressure and you can put a lot more pressure on that fish than you think, and you will reduce the chances of an LDR (Long Distance Relationship).

Use a Landing Net

I should say that the most fish friendly landing method is to not touch the fish at all. When possible, instead of landing the fish I will bring him in and grab the fly rather than the fish, easing it out of his mouth and sending him on his way immediately. That's a great method but it doesn't always work. Sometimes the fly isn't where you can get at it, or the fish is too green, or too big, or you just want a photo. The next best thing is a net. A good quality catch and release net, (I like the rubber ones) is very friendly to the fish and a good long handle lets you seal the deal quicker. A healthy basket is nice too. No need to fold him double.

Protect their Head

Believe it or not, head injuries are the leading cause of fish mortality, even if you don't count the ones that get bonked. Fish's heads are not designed for hard surfaces. A seemingly benign blow to the head can end in a fish going belly up after 20 minutes or so. There is hard data on this. That's why it's a bad idea to beach a fish when landing it. If the bank is rocky a flopping fish is in mortal danger.

Never Beach a Fish

Dry land is no place for a fish, and they face several dangers. It is impossible to beach a fish without disturbing his protective slime. That slime keeps out a host of dangerous bacteria and parasites. The slime will regenerate but in the meantime the fish is vulnerable. Being on the bank also dramatically increases the risk of head injury, eye injury and oxygen deprivation. If you are by yourself and want to get a photo, find a sandy spot in the margin of the water where the fish can lie with one side submerged. Cover his face with a wet hand to settle him down. Lift your hand and shoot quick.

Always WET your Hands

Dry hands remove slime too. Many times, I've caught fish with fungus in the shape of a careless angler's hand. It's a simple thing to do. I dip my hands as a reflex action, almost as soon as I hook up.

Don't Dig Around in There

Once in a while a fish takes a fly deep. The best way to avoid this is not to dally on your hookset. Still, it's unavoidable and when it happens don't try to be Dr McCoy. Start digging around in there

and you'll end up saying, "he's dead Jim." cut the line and turn him loose, he'll spit it out. Flies are cheap.

Have a Coke on Hand

There's nothing like it! If a fish is bleeding pour a Coke down his throat and the bleeding stops instantly. If you missed my post on this you can read it ([here](#)).

Revive Before Release

You should always revive a fish before releasing it, especially after a long fight. Hold him in medium fast current where there is plenty of oxygen. Most fish are able to pump water across their gills without the aid of current but slack water has less oxygen than current. Just hold him gently under the pec fins and he'll go when he's ready. If he swims a few yards rolls on his side, go get him. He needs more time.

Look for Predators

An exhausted fish is easy prey. Before you turn the little guy loose have a quick look around. No need in feeding the otters, herons, or sharks, they do fine on their own. Chase those munchers off. That's a little tougher with the sharks but you can tow a fish to safer water, just watch your hands.

Don't Freeze them

I love winter fishing and in general it's better on the fish since the water holds more oxygen when it's cold but there is an added danger. Fish have no body heat and when it's below freezing the delicate membranes in their gills can freeze surprisingly quick. The colder it is the shorter the time you can safely keep them out of the water. Once it's below zero don't lift them at all and never, ever, put them on the snow.

Don't Beat them Up in the Heat

As water warms up it holds less oxygen. Trout can get highly stressed as water temperatures approach twenty degrees. The stress of a fight can raise their metabolism to the point that they just can't get enough oxygen. The effects can be lethal. When water temps are high head for high elevation streams or tailwaters. You'll be cooler and the fish will stay healthy.

Keep these tips in mind and your catch and release technique will be golden. Teach your friends and your kids these valuable practices and we will all reap the reward of a healthy and prolific fishery.

The New Sporting Life Turangi

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If you have never seen a Kiwi in its natural environment (near natural) then I would recommend the Kiwi Night Encounter at Nga Manu, you will need to book as it is limited to 10 people each night.

Newsletter content with built-in links to other documents by Editor

Readers of our newsletter may not realise that when you see a name or wording underlined in an article, as an example [a Harvey leader](#) this is a link to another article where you can find more information. All you need to do is hold down your CTRL key and click on the words and the link will open.

*Newsletter copy to be received by
Second Monday of each month; your
contribution is welcome just send it to:*

malcolm1@xtra.co.nz

Purpose:

To promote the art and sport of Fly Fishing.

To respect the ownership of land adjoining waterways.

To promote the protection of fish and wildlife habitat.

To promote friendship and goodwill between members.

To promote and encourage the exchange of information between members.

Club meetings

You are invited to attend our club meetings that are held on the **Fourth Monday** of each month.

The venue is the **Turf Pavilion Sport Grounds**, Scaife Street, Paraparaumu,

Our **meetings start at 7:30pm** with fellowship followed by speakers of activities.

Club Committee meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month and the meetings are held at the Waikanae Boating Club and start at 7:30pm.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please remember that the club has two Five Weight 8'6" fly rods that members are welcome to use, just contact Malcolm Francis

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