Fish \& Game - Ohau Channel Diversion Wall Fisheries Panel Meeting August 2011

## 1. Lake Rotoiti Trout Fishery Survey Data

Trout Season Opening Day Survey data.

- Angler and fish data is collected on October 1 each season.
- Opening Day 2010. Data from Lake Rotoiti trout, approximately 29 months after diversion wall was completed.


## Summer Survey Data

- Continuous summer survey from November to April each year
- Trout characteristics collected from all fish measured - 30 to 35 months post wall completion


## Possible wall Impacts?

A) It might be expected that effects to the trout fishery may be seen through affecting the smelt food supply in Lake Rotoiti - Changes may subsequently be seen in trout growth? Declining condition factor (weight loss) may precede a drop in trout length.

- Data from the 2010 Opening Day (Table 2 and figure below) showed that trout condition from the hatchery 2 -year-old group was close to the long term average.
- An increase in condition factor was noted from Lake Rotoiti Opening Day data (2-yr-old fish)


Fish \& Game Trout Fishery Data - Ohau Channel Diversion Wall Fisheries Panel Meeting August 2011

- The summer survey data for Lake Rotoiti (Table 1) shows that average trout condition over the 2010-11 summer was poorer than it was from the fish surveyed from the previous summer and below the last eleven-year average.

Table 1. Summer Survey Comparison of overall average fish lengths and weights. Significant differences between years are shown in bold.


Fish \& Game Trout Fishery Data - Ohau Channel Diversion Wall Fisheries Panel Meeting August 2011

## Possible wall Impacts?

B) Affect on trout migration/impact on wild fishery - Change in \% wild fish in catch?

- Opening Day data from 2010 Opening ( $\left(^{\text {st }}\right.$ October 2010) showed $30.9 \%$ of the opening day catch (excluding fly fishing) was made up of wild trout (Table 2). This is a historically low percentage (for the third year running), but has been recorded at this level previously after the large increase in liberations from the 2001 trout releases.
- The Summer creel survey data (Table 1) shows that the percentage of wild trout in the catch measured during the 2010-11 summer creel survey was $50 \%$. This was up from the $37 \%$ recorded over the 2009-10 summer and the $30 \%$ wild during the 2008-09 summer.
- Liberations of hatchery trout into Lake Rotoiti have increased slightly over the last two years and we would expect this to have a slight effect of decreasing the wild percentage in the catch (assuming wild recruitment was consistent)

It is possible that a low percentage of wild trout recorded may be an affect of the diversion wall, or may have been affected by an increase in hatchery liberations since 2009 to meet angling pressure.

We know that there is passage of adult trout between the lakes from the acoustic tagging done to monitor trout moving into cold water flows. Of the 30 adult trout tagged in Lake Rotorua at least three (?) were recorded as having moved into or through the Ohau Channel at some stage during the study.

Mature adult trout are known to migrate into the channel in autumn and early winter and pass through the channel to spawn in the channel or further afield in Lake Rotorua tributaries. After spawning these fish will return to the lake (October-December?) to recover.

At some time juvenile trout will emigrate downstream out of the Lake Rotorua tributaries and Lake Rotorua and travel back into Lake Rotoiti. We know from trout otolith micro-chemistry that juvenile trout from Lake Rotorua tributaries contribute to the wild Rotoiti fisheries.

If downstream migrating wild trout were diverted by the wall and travelled down the Kaituna River - as immature sub-adults or post spawned recovering mature adults - this would reduce the percentage of wild fish seen in the lake Rotoiti catch in years after the diversion.

The percentage of wild fish was very slightly elevated on opening day 2010 ( $30 \%$ wild). This total is similar to the 2008, 2009 openings and was similar to the 2001 Opening Day percentage.

We might also expect a decline in the ratio of younger wild fish to older wild fish if the returning immature fish have been differentially affected. This data from previous Opening Days has been compiled in Table 3 and shows that the percentage or younger trout in the wild catch has in past years been as low as $24 \%$, and averages around $40 \%$.

Fish \& Game Trout Fishery Data - Ohau Channel Diversion Wall Fisheries Panel Meeting August 2011
Table 2. Opening Day Data. Lake Rotoiti

| Open <br> day | Total lib | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Spring } \\ & \text { lib } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | Aut lib | \% Wild | 2 yr length | 2 yr weight | 2 yr CF | cpue | \% Wild exFF | $2 \mathrm{yr}(\mathrm{n})$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1992 | 12500 | 6500 | 6000 | 53 | 540 | 2.20 | 50.53 | 0.15 | 53.0 |  |
| 1993 | 12500 | 7000 | 5500 | 80 | 546 | 2.21 | 48.44 | 0.20 | 78.0 |  |
| 1994 | 12000 | 6500 | 6100 | 60 | 534 | 1.96 | 46.42 | 0.38 | 60.0 |  |
| 1995 | 12500 | 6500 | 6000 | 69 | 518 | 1.80 | 47.32 | 0.35 | 69.0 | 16 |
| 1996 | 13000 | 6500 | 6000 | 57 | 536 | 2.10 | 49.00 | 0.26 | 58.0 | 42 |
| 1997 | 14500 | 8500 | 6000 | 57 | 522 | 1.99 | 50.44 | 0.22 | 57.8 | 17 |
| 1998 | 14500 | 7500 | 7000 | 63 | 522 | 1.85 | 46.92 | 0.15 | 61.0 | 31 |
| 1999 | 14500 | 3500 | 11000 | 54 | 522 | 1.90 | 48.23 | 0.15 | 54.0 | 36 |
| 2000 | 14500 | 3500 | 11000 | 44 | 517 | 1.81 | 46.63 | 0.17 | 41.0 | 30 |
| 2001 | 27000 | 12500 | 14500 | 30 | 507 | 1.63 | 45.01 | 0.22 | 28.3 | 94 |
| 2002 | 25000 | 10500 | 14500 | 44 | 500 | 1.60 | 45.90 | 0.28 | 41.9 | 70 |
| 2003 | 25000 | 10500 | 14500 | 42 | 505 | 1.65 | 46.29 | 0.22 | 42.2 | 35 |
| 2004 | 24500 | 10000 | 14500 | 43 | 514 | 1.74 | 46.06 | 0.17 | 41.4 | 45 |
| 2005 | 15000 | 7500 | 7500 | 42 | 530 | 1.96 | 48.58 | 0.24 | 39.2 | 79 |
| 2006 | 23000 | 15500 | 7500 | 37 | 514 | 1.78 | 47.22 | 0.20 | 37.6 | 176 |
| 2007 | 25000 | 10500 | 14500 | 36 | 514 | 1.69 | 45.57 | 0.19 | 36.1 | 112 |
| 2008 | 25000 | 10500 | 14500 | 33 | 519 | 1.80 | 46.63 | 0.16 | 31.9 | 121 |
| 2009 | 25500 | 10500 | 14500 | 30 | 518 | 1.79 | 46.34 | 0.25 | 28.0 | 87 |
| 2010 | 29500 | 14500 | 14500 | 32 | 509 | 1.71 | 47.09 | 0.22 | 30.9 | 48 |

Table 2 Data summary statistics

|  | \% Wild | 2yr Igth | 2yr wgt | 2yr CF | cpue | \% Wild exFF |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Mean | 47.68 | 520 | 1.85 | 47.30 | 0.22 | 46.8 |
| Standard Error | 3.23455 | 2.79851 | 0.04133 | 0.35264 | 0.01471 | 3.29551 |
| Median | 44 | 518 | 1.8 | 46.92 | 0.22 | 41.9 |
| Mode | 57 | 522 | 1.96 | 46.63 | 0.22 | \#N/A |
| Standard Deviation | 14.0991 | 12.1984 | 0.1802 | 1.5371 | 0.0641 | 14.3648 |
| Sample Variance | 198.7836 | 148.8012 | 0.0325 | 2.3627 | 0.0041 | 206.3472 |
| Kurtosis | -0.1760 | -0.1920 | -0.2429 | 0.1239 | 1.2762 | -0.5160 |
| Skewness | 0.6523 | 0.5091 | 0.6959 | 0.8444 | 1.1943 | 0.5541 |
| Range | 50 | 46 | 0.61 | 5.52 | 0.23 | 50 |
| Minimum | 30 | 500 | 1.6 | 45.01 | 0.15 | 28 |
| Maximum | 80 | 546 | 2.21 | 50.53 | 0.38 | 78 |
| Count | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 | 19 |
| Confidence | 6.34 | 5.48 | 0.08 | 0.69 | 0.03 | 6.46 |

Fish \& Game Trout Fishery Data - Ohau Channel Diversion Wall Fisheries Panel Meeting August 2011

Table 3. Composition of Wild trout caught Opening Day by Age Cohort

| Season start | $A V G$ | $10-11$ | $09-10$ | $08-09$ | $07-08$ | $06-07$ | $05-06$ | $04-05$ | $03-04$ |
| :--- | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Wild 1+ | 33 | 28 | 23 | 27 | 16 | 64 | 51 | 26 | 30 |
| Wild 2\& Older | 45 | 25 | 50 | 32 | 52 | 58 | 53 | 68 | 19 |
| All Wild | 78 | $\mathbf{5 3}$ | $\mathbf{7 3}$ | $\mathbf{5 9}$ | $\mathbf{6 8}$ | $\mathbf{1 2 2}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 4}$ | $\mathbf{9 4}$ | $\mathbf{4 9}$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wild 1+ | $43 \%$ | $53 \%$ | $32 \%$ | $46 \%$ | $24 \%$ | $52 \%$ | $49 \%$ | $25 \%$ | $61 \%$ |
| Wild 2\& Older | $56 \%$ | $47 \%$ | $68 \%$ | $54 \%$ | $76 \%$ | $48 \%$ | $51 \%$ | $65 \%$ | $39 \%$ |

Fish \& Game Trout Fishery Data - Ohau Channel Diversion Wall Fisheries Panel Meeting August 2011

## 2. Ohau Channel Trout Fishery Survey Data

Fisheries Surveys at the Ohau Channel were completed under contract by a student in 2005-06, and subsequently by Aquatek Consultants in 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11. The data collected provides 2 years of fisheries statistics pre-wall construction and 3 years post completion.

## ExECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A total of 63 angler creel surveys were conducted at the Ohau Channel over the 2010-11 angling season. A lower number of anglers were encountered per survey than during the 2009-10 season but was on a par with the 2005-06 to 2008-09 surveys.
- The 2010-11 season within the Ohau Channel produced a significantly lower ( $\mathrm{P}<0.001$ ) average catch rate than the $2009-10$ season. The 0.27 fish per hour recorded was poorer than all of the previously undertaken Ohau Channel creel survey averages.
- The average brown trout caught during the 2010-11 season was longer than those measured during the 2009-10 survey but smaller and in poorer condition. Only 5 brown trout were measured compared with 34 during 2009-10, 20 during 200809,38 during 2007-08 and 48 during the 2005-06 survey. The average rainbow trout caught was significantly shorter ( $\mathrm{P}<0.001$ ), lighter $(\mathrm{P}<0.001)$ and in poorer condition ( $\mathrm{P}<0.001$ ) than those caught during the 2009-10 season.
- Anglers interviewed during the 2010-11 season felt that their catch rate, the size of the fish they were catching and their overall level of satisfaction were all significantly poorer ( $\mathrm{P}<0.001$ ) than during the 2009-10 season.
- Over the course of the 2010-11 survey, the perceived decline in the fishing was such that $19 \%$ of anglers said they were either satisfied or highly satisfied with their seasons fishing. This was a significant drop $(\mathrm{P}<0.001)$ from the $88 \%$ satisfied during the 2009-10 season.
- Over the 2010-11 season, $74 \%$ of surveyed anglers felt that nothing detracted from their angling experience in the Ohau Channel. Of those that voiced detractions, the poor condition of fish caught was the major factor ( $15 \%$ ). The lack of fish or poor catch rates was the second highest factor (9\%). A total of 5 responses ( $2 \%$ of anglers) were received regarding the presence of the wall having a possible affect on the fishery.

Fish \& Game Trout Fishery Data - Ohau Channel Diversion Wall Fisheries Panel Meeting August 2011

### 2.1 Data Collection

A total of 63 survey events were undertaken at the Ohau Channel over the 2010-11 season when anglers were present. Angler contacts encountered per survey were lower than the 2009-10 season but on a par with the surveys conducted during the 2005-06 and 2007-08 and 2008-09 seasons.

Table 1. Surveys conducted and anglers interviewed

|  | $\mathbf{2 0 0 5 - 0 6}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 7 - 0 8}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 8 - 0 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 9 - 1 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 0 - 1 1}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Surveys | 82 | 82 | 82 | 82 | 82 |
| Survey events* | 79 | 65 | 60 | 54 | 63 |
| Total Anglers | 576 | 496 | 373 | 518 | 412 |
| Anglers per survey | 7 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 7 |

*Survey events = surveys when anglers present

### 2.2 Angler catch rates

The angler catch information ( $\mathrm{CPUE}=$ fish per rod hour) gathered during the surveys during the 2005-06, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 seasons is summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Catch rate data 2005-06, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 seasons.

|  | $\mathbf{2 0 0 5 - 0 6}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 7 - 0 8}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 8}-\mathbf{0 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 9 - 1 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 0 - 1 1}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Hrs fished | 1099.1 | 934.15 | 728.10 | 1015.5 | 826.5 |
| Kept | 349 | 371 | 212 | 394 | 125 |
| OSRT | 102 | 24 | 42 | 221 | 90 |
| USRT | 34 | 16 | 4 | 14 | 29 |
| CPUE(sum) | 0.41 | 0.42 | 0.35 | $\mathbf{0 . 6 0}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 2 6}$ |
| HPUE(sum) | 0.32 | 0.40 | 0.29 | 0.39 | 0.15 |
| Avg indiv' cpue | 0.42 | $\mathbf{0 . 4 0}$ | 0.30 | $\mathbf{0 . 6 1}$ | $\mathbf{0 . 2 7}$ |

CPUE = catch per unit effort (fish per hour and includes oversized returned)
HPUE = Harvest per unit effort (fish per hour kept)
(sum) is calculated from all fish caught/all hours fished - good for harvest calculations Indiv' = average of all individual anglers catch rate - good for perception calculations

Mann Whitney tests of the average individual anglers catch rate show a significant statistical difference between the 2010-11 and 2009-10 seasons ( $\mathrm{P}<0.001$ ). There was also a significant difference between the 2009-10 and 2008-09 seasons ( $\mathrm{P}<0.001$ ). There was no significant difference between the 2007-08 and 2008-09 seasons catch rates ( $\mathrm{P}=0.52$ ) whereas there was just a significant difference noted between the 2005-06 and 2007-08 catch rates ( $\mathrm{P}=0.049$ ). This type of difference is typically due to the spread of catch rates between anglers although Figures 2.2-2.6 suggest little difference was apparent. Angler experience (Figure 2.7-2.11) may account for differences seen in catch rates as inexperienced anglers have lower catch rates generally. The frequency of individual anglers visiting the Ohau Channel during the 2010-11 season follows the same general trend as was seen in the 2009-10 season.

Fish \& Game Trout Fishery Data - Ohau Channel Diversion Wall Fisheries Panel Meeting August 2011

### 2.3 Seasonality of Catch Rates

Catch rates were low at the start of the season (October) then improved during November to be consistent with other seasons. Recorded catch rates during December 2010 were higher than other Decembers during seasons surveyed. Fishing during late summer early Autumn was very hard (low catch rates) before success improved during May and then dropped off as per other seasons during June.

During the 2010-11 season (3 years post wall) the anglers catch rates appeared to improve following the start of the season in contrast to the way they have done during the preceding surveys. The autumn of 2011 (April/ May) followed the trend seen in the 2005-06, 2007-08 and 2008-09 surveys (Table 4-8). This is reflected in the seasonality of catch rates shown in Figure 2.1 and Table 8.


Figure 2.1 Angler catch rates by year during the season
This seasonality of catch rates in past seasons tends to mirror the encounter rate during the season (Figures 2.12-2.16). Basically if catch rates were higher then the interviewers tended to encounter more anglers, when they were lower they encountered less anglers. During the 2010-11 season angler encounter rates were highest at the start (October) and the end of the season (June) when expectations of catching fish were highest. The start of the season usually has high catch rates after being rested for 3 months and the end of the season traditionally sees fish move into the channel when the Lake Rotorua's temperature that feeds the channel cools.

Changes in catch rate can often be related also to a change in the level of experience of anglers. Anglers were asked about their experience (Figures 2.7-2.11) and this varied little between the four surveys.

Fish \& Game Trout Fishery Data - Ohau Channel Diversion Wall Fisheries Panel Meeting August 2011

Table 4. 2005-06 Catch rates during the season

|  | Hrs | Kept | OSRT | USRT | cpue Sum | cpue indi'v |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| Opening Weekend | 238.5 | 88 | 11 | 3 | 0.42 | 0.44 |
| All October | 536.95 | 173 | 46 | 6 | 0.41 | 0.43 |
| November | 177.25 | 46 | 25 | 8 | 0.40 | 0.36 |
| December | 71.25 | 10 | 5 | 7 | 0.21 | 0.20 |
| Jan \& Feb | 12.75 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0.71 | 0.71 |
| March | 49.45 | 11 | 6 | 0 | 0.34 | 0.40 |
| April | 130.95 | 52 | 7 | 6 | 0.45 | 0.42 |
| May | 100.75 | 43 | 11 | 5 | 0.54 | 0.59 |
| June | 19.75 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 0.35 | 0.35 |

Table 5. 2007-08 Catch rates during the season

|  | Hrs | Kept | OSRT | USRT | cpue Sum | cpue indi'v |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| Opening Weekend | 226.5 | 95 | 3 | 2 | 0.43 | 0.64 |
| All October | 433.65 | 230 | 8 | 5 | 0.55 | 0.47 |
| November | 100.0 | 13 | 0 | 1 | 0.13 | 0.08 |
| December | 5.25 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0.38 | 0.67 |
| Jan \& Feb |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| March | 10.0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.10 | 0.14 |
| April | 80.0 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0.21 | 0.24 |
| May | 173.0 | 83 | 16 | 9 | 0.57 | 0.66 |
| June | 132.25 | 25 | 0 | 1 | 0.18 | 0.29 |

Table 6. 2008-09 Catch rates during the season

|  | Hrs | Kept | OSRT | USRT | cpue Sum | cpue indi'v |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| Opening Weekend | 186.3 | 100 | 4 | 0 | 0.56 | 0.55 |
| All October | 408.6 | 141 | 12 | 0 | 0.37 | 0.34 |
| November | 66.75 | 14 | 5 | 1 | 0.28 | 0.26 |
| December |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan \& Feb |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| March | 27.0 | 10 | 5 | 1 | 0.56 | 0.61 |
| April | 41.0 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 0.20 | 0.20 |
| May | 67.0 | 25 | 10 | 2 | 0.52 | 0.32 |
| June | 117.75 | 20 | 4 | 0 | 0.20 | 0.20 |

Table 7. 2009-10 Catch rates during the season

|  | Hrs | Kept | OSRT | USRT | cpue Sum | cpue indi'v |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| Opening Weekend | 304.25 | 198 | 24 | 0 | 0.73 | 0.67 |
| All October | 596.25 | 307 | 103 | 2 | 1.87 | 0.65 |
| November | 137 | 27 | 38 | 1 | 0.48 | 0.55 |
| December | 12.5 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0.56 | 0.40 |
| Jan \& Feb |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| March | 25.5 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.04 | 0.08 |
| April | 56 | 11 | 40 | 2 | 0.91 | 0.97 |
| May | 56 | 21 | 18 | 7 | 0.70 | 0.70 |
| June | 132.25 | 20 | 22 | 1 | 0.32 | 0.31 |

Fish \& Game Trout Fishery Data - Ohau Channel Diversion Wall Fisheries Panel Meeting August 2011

Table 8. 2010-11 Catch rates during the season

|  | Hrs | Kept | OSRT | USRT | cpue Sum | cpue indi'v |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| Opening Weekend | 270.75 | 51 | 11 | 9 | 0.23 | 0.35 |
| All October | 449 | 62 | 17 | 11 | 0.18 | 0.17 |
| November | 55.5 | 7 | 10 | 3 | 0.31 | 0.39 |
| December | 7.5 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0.53 | 0.5 |
| Jan \& Feb |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| March | 16 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0.13 | 0.11 |
| April | 30.75 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 0.23 | 0.17 |
| May | 98 | 27 | 39 | 2 | 0.67 | 0.58 |
| June | 165.5 | 20 | 18 | 10 | 0.23 | 0.25 |

### 2.4 Catch Rate Distribution

Plots of catch rate distribution across anglers from one year to the next showed little real difference with typically $60 \%$ of anglers not having caught a fish when interviewed.
(Figures 2.2-2.6)
Figure 2.2


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Figure 2.3


Figure 2.4


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Figure 2.5


Figure 2.6


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### 2.5 Anglers perceptions and Satisfaction

Anglers were asked to rate (Table 7) how they felt about their catch rates and the size and condition of the fish they were catching this summer compared to previous summers. Anglers were also asked to rate their level of satisfaction with the summers fishing.

Table 7. Rating scales for assessing angler perceptions and satisfaction.

| Ratings for CPUE and Size. |  | Rating for level of Satisfaction. <br> Value |  |
| :---: | :--- | :---: | :--- |
| Description | Value | Description |  |
| 1 | Excellent | 1 | Highly satisfied |
| 2 | Good | 2 | Satisfied |
| 3 | Average/Acceptable | 3 | Dissatisfied |
| 4 | Poor | 4 | Strongly dissatisfied |
| 5 | Terrible |  |  |

The average rating used in the following tables and figures is the average calculated from all anglers perceptions on catch rate, fish size and condition, and satisfaction. The average rating should be considered to be the answer given by a hypothetical "average angler". Size and condition are grouped into the same question as past surveys have found anglers most often group these characteristics together. Satisfaction is also assessed by the percentage of anglers who responded that they were satisfied (highly satisfied or satisfied) with their summers fishing.

The rating for the average angler for catch rate (cpue), fish size and angler satisfaction, including percentage of satisfied anglers is shown in Table 8.

Table 8. Angler perceptions ( $1=$ excellent, $5=$ terrible)

|  | $2005-06$ | $2007-08$ | $2008-09$ | $2009-10$ | $2010-11$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cpue | 2.9 | 2.94 | $\mathbf{3 . 8 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 2 3}$ | 4.06 |
| Size | 2.28 | $\mathbf{2 . 9 8}$ | $\mathbf{3 . 8 7}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 3 2}$ | 4.05 |
| Satisfaction | 1.75 | $\mathbf{2 . 4 4}$ | $\mathbf{3 . 2 8}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 0 2}$ | $\mathbf{3 . 1 6}$ |
| \% satisfied | $98 \%$ | $\mathbf{6 6 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 6 \%}$ | $\mathbf{8 8 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 9 \%}$ |

Anglers interviewed during the 2010-11 season felt that their catch rate, the size of the fish they were catching and their overall level of satisfaction were all significantly poorer ( $\mathrm{P}<0.001$ ) than during the 2009-10 season.
The marked decline in angler perceptions was supported by measured catch rate and by fish characteristics. Actual measured catch rate during the 2010-11 season was significantly worse ( $\mathrm{P}<0.001$ ) than measured during the 2009-10 season.

A decline in angler perceptions was noted between the 2005-06 season and the 2007-08 season for catch rate, and a significant decline for fish size and satisfaction ( $\mathrm{P}<0.001$ ). Perceptions were further lowered during the 2008-09 season when angler perceptions for all 3 characteristics (catch rate, fish size and satisfaction) were again significantly lower compared with the 2007-08 season ( $\mathrm{P}<0.001$ ). Where anglers felt fish size was significantly poorer, actual measured fish were larger, although brown trout were slightly lighter and rainbows significantly lighter meaning trout condition was poorer.

Fish \& Game Trout Fishery Data - Ohau Channel Diversion Wall Fisheries Panel Meeting August 2011

The percentage of anglers that expressed they were either satisfied or extremely satisfied with their angling has changed significantly over the course of the 5 completed surveys. A total of $98 \%$ of anglers stated they were satisfied with their Ohau Channel angling during the 2005-06 season. This dropped significantly ( $\mathrm{P}<0.001$ ) during the 2007-08 season to $66 \%$ of anglers. Through the 2008-09 season only $16 \%$ of anglers felt that they were satisfied with their angling experience. This figure had dramatically dropped away over the first 3 seasons surveyed ( $\mathrm{P}<0.001$ Binomial Comparative Trial). To have only $16 \%$ of anglers saying they were satisfied or highly satisfied was very low. Typically angler satisfaction on $\mathrm{F} \& \mathrm{G}$ surveys gets to a low point of $70 \%$.

During the course of the 2009-10 survey, the perceived improvement in the fishing was such that $88 \%$ of anglers said they were either satisfied or highly satisfied with their seasons fishing. This was a significant improvement ( $\mathrm{P}<0.001$ Binomial Comparative Trial).

Following on from the 2009-10 season, poor catch rates and fish size measured during the 2010-11 changed anglers perceptions in such a way that a total of $19 \%$ of anglers said that they felt they were either satisfied or highly satisfied with their angling in the Ohau Channel. This was significantly poorer than the level achieved during the 2009-10 season ( $\mathrm{P}<0.001$ Binomial Comparative Trial).

### 2.6 Angler Detractions

In order to attempt to quantify what real issues are facing anglers fishing the Ohau Channel they are asked "what, if anything, detracts from their angling experience?" The percentage responses this year are shown in Table 9.

Table 9. Stated detractions to angling experience

| DETRACTION | $2005-06$ | $2007-08$ | $2008-09$ | $2009-10$ | $2010-11$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Crowds | $9 \%$ | $2.5 \%$ |  |  |  |
| Shags | $5 \%$ |  |  |  |  |
| Quality Water | $5 \%$ |  | $3.9 \%$ | $3 \%$ |  |
| Boats | $4 \%$ |  |  |  |  |
| Rude anglers | $3 \%$ | $1 \%$ |  |  |  |
| Limited access | $3 \%$ |  |  |  |  |
| Weir* | $2 \%$ |  |  |  | $2 \%$ |
| Snags | $2 \%$ |  | $1.3 \%$ |  |  |
| Other users | $2 \%$ | $2.5 \%$ |  |  |  |
| Few fish | $2 \%$ |  |  | $4 \%$ | $9 \%$ |
| Technology | $1 \%$ |  |  |  |  |
| Poor conditioned fish | $1 \%$ |  | $1.3 \%$ | $8 \%$ | $15 \%$ |
| Pollution | $1 \%$ |  | $1.3 \%$ |  |  |
| Poachers | $1 \%$ |  |  | $7 \%$ |  |
| No Toilet | $1 \%$ |  |  |  |  |
| No regulation signs | $1 \%$ |  |  |  |  |
| Nil | $55 \%$ | $94 \%$ | $92.1 \%$ | $78 \%$ | $74 \%$ |
| Total | $100.0 \%$ | $100.0 \%$ | $100.0 \%$ | $100.0 \%$ | $100.0 \%$ |

Fish \& Game Trout Fishery Data - Ohau Channel Diversion Wall Fisheries Panel Meeting August 2011

Over the 2010-11 season, $74 \%$ of surveyed anglers felt that nothing detracted from their angling experience in the Ohau Channel. Of those that voiced detractions, the poor size and condition of fish caught was the major factor ( $15 \%$ ). Lack of fish or poor catch rates drew the second highest number of responses ( $9 \%$ ) which also included a lack of smelt $(2 \%)$. The presence of the wall was also mentioned by $2 \%$ of respondents.

During the 2008-09 survey, the surveyors noted that "The Wall" was the most common topic of discussion during the survey yet no anglers actually mentioned it as a detraction to their fishing. On discussing this with surveyors further, they felt the anglers considered the more immediate detractions when asked this question so responses typically related to what they could see or what was affecting them directly at the time they were interviewed.

Over the course of the 2009-10 interviews, anglers were asked whether they were satisfied or dissatisfied with their summers fishing and then why? This was done to tease out whether anglers felt the wall itself was having a negative (or positive) effect upon the fishery. Only 1 angler out of 55 ( $1.8 \%$ of respondents) said that there were no fish running through the channel perhaps due to the presence of the wall. During the 2010-11 season 5 anglers out of 226 ( $2 \%$ of respondents) mentioned the wall as a causative factor that led to their poor fishing. This was the only mention (good or bad) collected during the surveys of the wall in relation to angling.

### 2.7 Characteristics of fish caught

Table 3. Brown trout and rainbow trout average length and weight data surveyed from Ohau Channel during the 2005-06, 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 seasons. Significant differences shown in bold.

|  | $2005-06$ | $2007-08$ | $2008-09$ | $2009-10$ | $2010-11$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Brown length | 662 | 675 | 702 | $\mathbf{6 5 0}$ | 672 |
| Brown weight | 4.32 | 4.71 | 4.63 | 4.12 | 3.91 |
| Brown c.f. | 52.96 | 53.63 | $\mathbf{4 7 . 7 9}$ | 53.49 | 45.45 |
| Rainbow length | 541 | 543 | $\mathbf{5 5 4}$ | $\mathbf{5 4 1}$ | $\mathbf{5 0 7}$ |
| Rainbow weight | 2.25 | 2.30 | 2.22 | 2.11 | $\mathbf{1 . 5 6}$ |
| Rainbow c.f. | 50.09 | 50.98 | 46.1 | 47.19 | $\mathbf{4 1 . 5 5}$ |

The average brown trout caught during the 2010-11 season was longer than the average brown measured during the 2009-10 survey but lighter and in poorer condition. Only 5 brown trout were measured compared with 34 during 2009-10, 20 during 2008-09, 38 during 2007-08 and 48 during the 2005-06 survey. The average rainbow trout caught was significantly shorter $(\mathrm{P}<0.001)$, lighter $(\mathrm{P}<0.001)$ and in poorer condition $(\mathrm{P}<0.001)$ than those caught during the 2009-10 season.

Fish \& Game Trout Fishery Data - Ohau Channel Diversion Wall Fisheries Panel Meeting August 2011

## Additional Figures

Angler Experience
Seasonality of Interviews

Fish \& Game Trout Fishery Data - Ohau Channel Diversion Wall Fisheries Panel Meeting August 2011

## Angler Experience

Figure 2.7-2.11 Angler frequency (days fished per season by individual anglers)
Figure 2.7


Figure 2.8


Fish \& Game Trout Fishery Data - Ohau Channel Diversion Wall Fisheries Panel Meeting August 2011

Figure 2.9


Figure 2.10


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Figure 2.11


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Seasonality of angler encounters Figure 2.12-2.16
Figure 2.12


Figure 2.13


Fish \& Game Trout Fishery Data - Ohau Channel Diversion Wall Fisheries Panel Meeting August 2011

Figure 2.14


Figure 2.15


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Figure 2.16


