

Whitebait Fishery, 1942 Season

Inspector's Centre.	Rivers fished.	Method of Fishing.	Fishing began.	Best Month.	Number of Fishermen. (Approximately.)		Total Quantity caught. (Approximately.)
					Whole Time.	Part Time.	
Auckland ..	Waikato	Hand-nets ..	27th July	October ..	100	50	Cwt. 482
Auckland ..	Kaituna	Hand-nets ..	6th August	August ..	20	10	29
Auckland ..	Tarawera	Hand-nets ..	25th July	September ..	..	17	99
Napier ..	Ngaruroro and Tuki-tuki	Set-nets ..	1st July ..	September ..	20	40	24
Blenheim ..	Wairau, Opawa, Tuamarina	Hand-nets ..	August ..	November ..	2	20	7
Motueka ..	Motueka, Moutere ..	Set and hand nets	August ..	October ..	6	..	18
Takaka ..	Takaka, Motupipi ..	Hand-nets ..	August ..	August ..	..	4	1
Westport ..	Buller, Orowaiti, Totara, Fox, Nile, Little Totara	Hand-nets ..	September	November ..	2	100	30
Greymouth ..	Grey, Teremakau, Camerons, Paroa	Hand and set nets	September	October ..	2	100	60
Wataroa (South Westland)	Big Wanganui, Karangarua, Waitoto, Maori, Mahitahi, Okuru, Poerua, Wataroa, Waitangi	Set-nets ..	September	October ..	20	30	155
Christchurch ..	Wainakariri, Ashley, Styx, Saltwater Creek, Waipara, Avon	Hand and set nets	August ..	November ..	10	40	161
Temuka ..	Opihi, Orari ..	Set-nets ..	September	November ..	..	40	45
Dunedin ..	Molyneaux, Kakanui, Owaka, Taieri, Waitaki, Shag, Waikawa, Waikouaiti, Pleasant, Tokomairi, Wainakarua	Hand-nets ..	August ..	Oct. and Nov. ..	12	5	44
Dunedin ..	Mataura, Oreti, Aparima, Waiau, Titiroa, Mararewa, Otautau, Waikiwi	Hand and set nets	August ..	Oct. and Nov. ..	15	7	51

FRESH-WATER FISHERIES

Quinnat Salmon

No quinnat salmon hatchery work was undertaken during the year. The 1942-43 fishing season was one of the best on record and under normal conditions the total production would have been fairly substantial, the average size of the fish being also above average, at least for the more northern rivers. Salmon appeared in the mouths of Canterbury rivers as early as November, and some were taken by fishermen in December and January. Continuous floods throughout February prevented successful fishing in what is usually the best fishing period, and the majority of the fish that were caught were taken between mid-March and mid-April.

Only fourteen selling licenses were taken by rod-fishers. The returns of catches from these licensees are summarized in the statement given below :—

Quinnat Salmon, 1943

—	Males.	Females.	Sex not given.	Totals.
<i>Returns from Rods</i>				
Waimakariri River, 5/3/43 to 15/4/43 (two rods)—				
Number of fish caught	7	17	..	24
Total weight	78 lb.	182 lb.	..	260 lb.
Average weight	11.1 lb.	10.7 lb.	..	10.8 lb.
Rakaia River, 13/3/43 to 11/4/43 (three rods)—				
Number of fish caught	38	32	16	86
Total weight	327 lb.	368.5 lb.	184.5 lb.	880 lb.
Average weight	8.6 lb.	11.5 lb.	11.5 lb.	10.2 lb.
Rangitata River, 11/1/43 to 8/4/43 (five rods)—				
Number of fish caught	19	11	46	76
Total weight	258 lb.	136 lb.	568.5 lb.	962.5 lb.
Average weight	13.6 lb.	12.4 lb.	12.4 lb.	12.7 lb.
Opihi River, 3/2/43 to 15/4/43 (two rods)—				
Number of fish caught	..	..	46	46
Total weight	..	..	682 lb.	682 lb.
Average weight	..	..	14.8 lb.	14.8 lb.
Combined Rivers, 11/1/43 to 15/4/43 (twelve rods)—				
Number of fish caught	64	60	108	232
Total caught	663 lb.	686.5 lb.	1,435 lb.	2,784.5 lb.
Average weight	10.3 lb.	11.4 lb.	13.3 lb.	12.0 lb.

The Opihi River, less affected by floods than the larger rivers, provided good fishing. A total of 252 salmon, weighing 1,667 lb., caught between 14th February and 25th April has been recorded for this river. The Department is indebted to Mr. F. W. Pellett for forwarding these records.