

Quinnat Salmon, 1939.

	Males.	Females.	Sex not given.	Totals.
Return from Rods.				
Waimakariri River, 28/2/39 to 29/3/39 (two rods)—				
Number of fish caught	5	5	..	10
Total weight	61 lb.	55 lb.	..	116 lb.
Average weight	12.2 lb.	11.0 lb.	..	11.6 lb.
Rakaia River, 31/1/39 to 30/4/39 (four rods)—				
Number of fish caught	120	99	15	234
Total weight	1,583 lb.	1,399 lb.	234 lb.	3,216 lb.
Average weight	13.2 lb.	14.1 lb.	15.6 lb.	13.7 lb.
Rangitata River, 31/1/39 to 15/4/39 (seven rods)—				
Number of fish caught	41	36	24	101
Total weight	440 lb.	535 lb.	256 lb.	1,231 lb.
Average weight	10.7 lb.	14.8 lb.	10.7 lb.	12.2 lb.
Orari River, 15/5/39 (one rod)—				
Number of fish caught	17	26	..	43
Total weight	155 lb.	248 lb.	..	403 lb.
Average weight	9.1 lb.	9.5 lb.	..	9.4 lb.
Opihi River, 15/2/39 to 15/5/39 (two rods)—				
Number of fish caught	8	3	61	72
Total weight	97 lb.	40 lb.	657 lb.	794 lb.
Average weight	12.1 lb.	13.3 lb.	10.8 lb.	11.0 lb.
Waitaki River, 15/2/39 to 15/5/39 (four rods)—				
Number of fish caught	31	26	..	57
Total weight	456 lb.	412 lb.	..	868 lb.
Average weight	14.7 lb.	15.8 lb.	..	15.2 lb.
Combined rivers, 31/1/39 to 15/5/39 (seventeen rods)*—				
Number of fish caught	222	195	100	517
Total weight	2,850 lb.	2,689 lb.	1,147 lb.	6,628 lb.
Average weight	12.6 lb.	13.7 lb.	11.5 lb.	12.8 lb.

Returns from Nets.

Waimakariri River, 6/1/39 to 14/4/39 (three nets)—				
Number of fish caught	526	395	204	1,125
Total weight	4,814 lb.	4,072 lb.	1,851 lb.	10,727 lb.
Average weight	9.1 lb.	10.3 lb.	9.1 lb.	9.5 lb.

* Four rods fished on two rivers during the season.

The net catches in the Waimakariri represent a very considerable improvement on the results for the 1938 season—1,125 fish weighing 10,727 lb., as against 479 fish weighing 6,236 lb. The average size of the salmon taken in 1938 was 13 lb., which is well over the usual average, while in 1939 it was only 9.5 lb., which is well below the normal. The same unusual predominance of small fish in the catches, especially towards the end of the season, is shown as was noticed in the case of this season's run in the rivers of South Canterbury.

With regard to the average number of fish taken per net, this season's catch, averaging 375 salmon per net, is the highest recorded for the last ten years, and is only exceeded by the production for the 1928 season of an average of 628 salmon per net. With regard to the weight, however, the average total per net was exceeded in 1932 and 1934. The following statement shows the yield of the net-fishing for salmon in the Waimakariri since licenses were first issued:—

Year.	Number of Nets licensed.	Number of Fish caught.		Weight of Fish caught.	
		Total.	Average per Net.	Total.	Average per Net.
				lb.	lb.
1925	5	190	38	..	..
1926	8	1,126	141	13,121	1,640
1927	4	767	192	8,543	2,135
1928	4	2,514	628	28,006	7,001
1929-30	..	..	..	..	..
1931	4	446	111	6,878	1,719
1932	4	1,157	289	15,337	3,834
1933	4	928	232	12,318	3,079
1934	4	1,118	279	13,570	3,392
1935	4	512	128	5,835	1,459
1936	4	246	61	2,733	683
1937	2	106	53	1,067	533
1938	3	479	160	6,236	2,079
1939	3	1,125	375	10,727	3,576

The run of salmon in the Clutha River also appeared to show an appreciable increase, catches by anglers having been made in larger numbers and over a greater length of the river's course than