Wairau River Salmon caught in Middle Reaches

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3 Fisheries: Wairau, Clarence and Lyell Beach.

Wairau River Salmon Fishery

- Essentially a river fishery

- Small but consistent run generally 500-1500 adults.

- Heavily fished due to good access and clear flows allows for sighted fishing to salmon

- Trout type gear accounts for bulk of harvest.

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Lower Wairau Salmon taken on a nymph

Clarence Mouth

- Surf fishery at the river mouth.

- Flat sea and low clear river required for success

- Typically a small run of 500-1500 adults

- Under utilised resource

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Railway Station - Lyell Creek Mouth Beach

- A recent, popular beach fishery with clean inshore water the key to success.

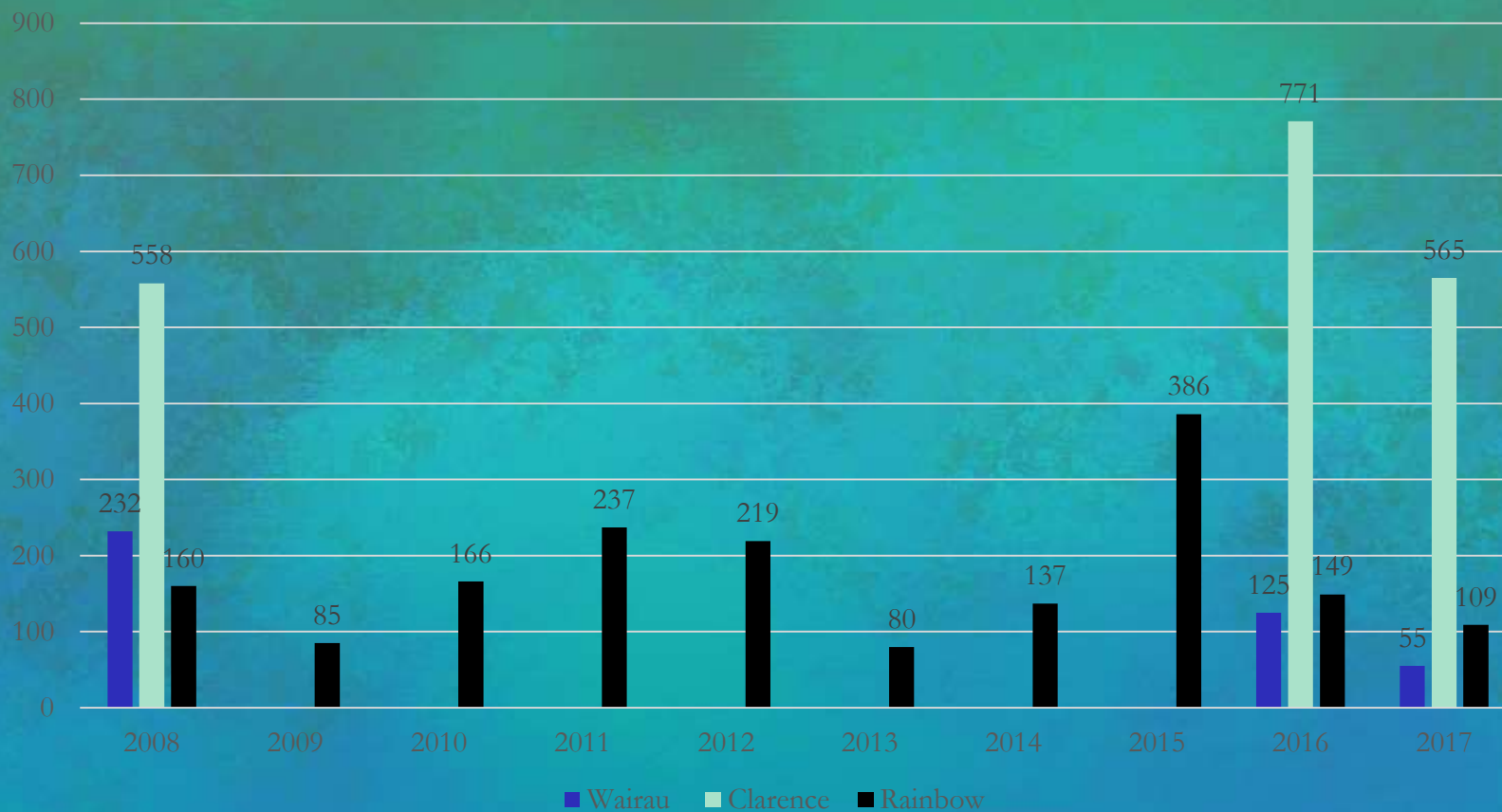- A good year up to 400 fish caught, small in size generally 3-5kg.

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Fishery Trends

- Numbers of salmon have increased since mid 1990's.

- Wairau due to smolt releases from freshwater fish farm and escapees from marine farms.

- Clarence due to ova planting and smolt releases.

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Number of Spawning Salmon Counted

Year	Clarence River	Wairau River	Rainbow River
2008	558	232	160
2009			85
2010			166
2011			237
2012			219
2013			80
2014			137
2015			386
2016	771	125	149
2017	565	55	109

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Trends continued

- Don't appear to be on decline just yet possibly because:

- 1) Headwater spawning areas in a largely natural state and likely to remain that way.

- 2) The rivers are largely unmodified, esp Clarence, & don't have major levels of abstraction

- 3) Smolt entrainment is not an issue.

- 4) Sporadic but regular enhancement efforts over last twenty years.

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Issues

- Unscreened major hydro scheme for Wairau?

- MDC allocating more water for abstraction from Wairau in latest plan

- Future hydro development threat for Clarence

- Lack of non main stem spawning areas

- Fish farm disease breaking out & spreading to wild stocks

Caught on Rapala CD7 X-rap Rainbow Trout Lure