

Name I grew up in Dunedin moved to Central in 86
 I have been diving for 60 years and started suction dredging in 88 and my partner & I started dredging @ Beaumont when our claim was granted in 92. Dirty water from the Clyde dam Tailrace deepening stopped me mining and I converted my dredge to clear lagoons & lakes in Dunstan & Wanaka & numerous north Island lakes & water bodies working with Dept of Con and NIWA for 12 years
 I heard of Cold Golds application and looked thru some of the Submissions that is why I am here today; working underwater is not a very social occupation and over the years I have become more & more aware of the underwater environment and the effects we can have on it working with NIWA made me even more aware
 I have no time at all for emotional misinformed opinions from people who don't know all the facts not that I do but I do have many years experience gained by being under water and observing going over areas we had dredged earlier and not being able to tell that we had worked them.
 To compare suction Dredging with the way Otago was "Historically plundered" shows a total lack of awareness of the process areas that were sluiced and mined with bucket dredges will be visible for generations in fact some are historic places and tourist attractions A suction dredge does not dig up the river bed it lifts gravels & rocks passes them over static tables & riffles and puts them back in the river down stream the length of the dredge
 The Clutha river is a ^{very} large powerful Dynamic system continuously rearranging the gravels & rocks with every change in river levels

Drift Diving the Clutha is not a quiet experience there is a continuous clicking and clunking as rocks are rearranged making their way downstream especially in times of changed water flow.

I have seen eels & lampreys go up the spout and back into the river with no discernable effect

I have seen trout appear day after day within minutes of starting dredging hanging around the nozzle for any food that is disturbed from the gravels

With regard to the river bed and its inhabitants suction dredging is in my opinion an efficient environmentally sound way at mining and should not and does not deserve to be lumped in with past

Techniques

The same constraints that apply to all water craft apply regarding fueling waste disposal etc and areas that the likes of fish & game & Clutha fisheries trust can identify as spawning grounds need to be protected during the season.

being here speaking is not easy for me I am much more comfortable answering questions or responding to statements