

# ASSESSING ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

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Liaison Specialist  
Otago Regional Council



# Assessing environmental effects

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- Renewing your deemed permit is important at the property and community level
- Need to safeguard and protect aquatic ecosystem/instream values
- Knowledge of fish and flow data is needed in order to assess the values
- Onus is on the applicant to provide the flow and fishery data

# River flows and fishery data

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- Both are required and requested in the application
- Part of the 'assessment of environmental effects' section of the application
- Fishery data is generally available on the New Zealand Fresh Water database
- Flow information can be sourced from ORC for rivers where there are flow sites
- We've combined this into the Fish and Flow portal for you – later in this session

# Statutory parties

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- The data is needed to be able to talk with statutory parties that have an interest in eco aquatic values of water
- Consulting with IWI, Fish and Game, and DOC is a key step in preparing your application
- Best done early as possible

# Consent application

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- Statutory parties are Affected parties for the purposes of the application process
- Initial discussions help gain an appreciation of their values and concerns
- Discussion then focuses on the need and purpose of a residual flow (the amount of water to be left in the river at the point of take)

# Consent application

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- Agree on a residual flow, which is reflected in obtaining written approval, to accompany the consent application
- Written approvals with your application significantly speeds up the consenting process
- The consent process will take longer and likely cost more should agreement not be reached prior to submitting your application

# FISH AND FLOWS



**Pete Ravenscroft**

Environmental Resource Scientist  
Freshwater

# Assessing environmental effects

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- Native Fish Community
- Natural Character
- Sportfish



# Native fish community

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Otago is home to a suite of 12 non-migratory galaxiids

- All are threatened with extinction – four are nationally critical
- Ten are located only in Otago
- Four are confined to a single catchment



# Native fish community

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# Natural character

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- Would the stream connect with its receiving water body under a natural flow regime?
- Are there ground and surface water interactions?



# Sports fishery

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There are generally three sports fish that occupy Otago waterways

- Brown trout
- Rainbow trout
- Brook char



# Supporting information

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- Surface flow information to support establishing a naturalised MALF
- Robust existing water take information
- Instream values
- Assessment of effects