



**Lincoln
University**

Te Whare Wānaka o Aoraki

AOTEAROA • NEW ZEALAND



State of Recreation at Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere 2013

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waihora ellesmere
trust

New Zealand's specialist land-based university

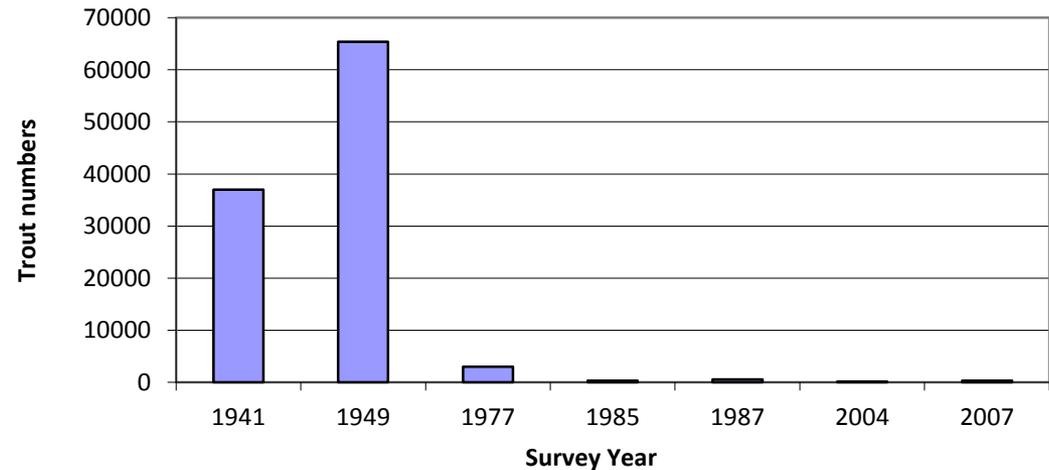
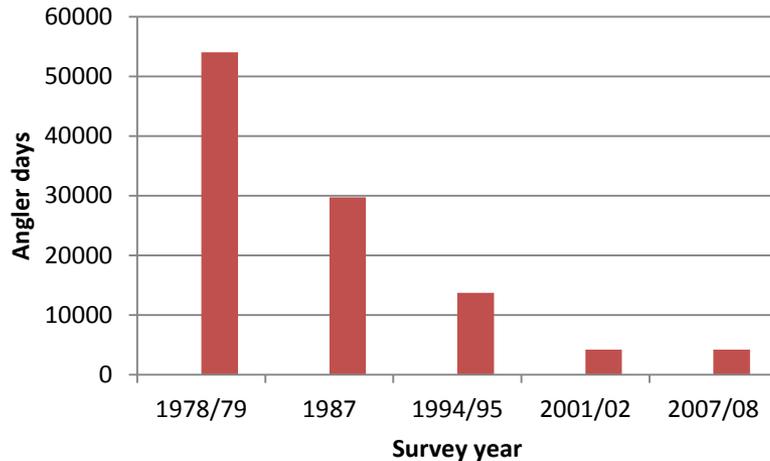
What I will cover

- What is in and what is out and quality of the lack of information
- Trout fishing
- Waterfowl hunting
- Cycling
- Overall state of recreation
- Pressures and Response
- Conclusions and Recommendations

Activity classes and information availability and traffic light reliability assessment

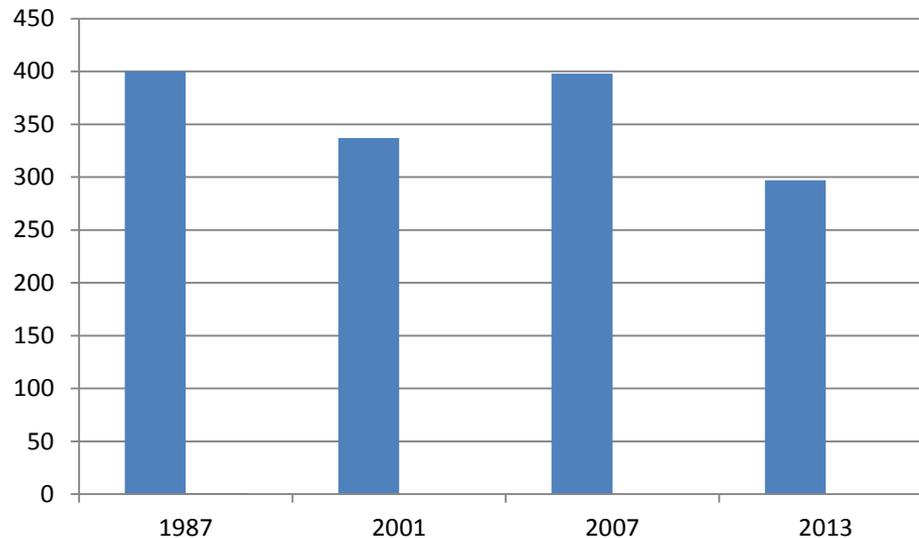
Activity class	Activity type	Numbers users /trends	Locations of activity	Perceptions - +ve or -ve
A. Wildlife dependent	Fishing – trout	Quantitative, time series	Expert knowledge	Expert knowledge
	Fishing – whitebait	Expert knowledge	Expert knowledge	No information
	Waterfowl hunting	Quantitative, time series	Quantitative, time series	Expert knowledge
	Bird watching	Quantitative, Expert knowledge	Expert knowledge	Expert knowledge
B. Water- based	Swimming	Expert knowledge	Expert knowledge	No information
	Boating - yachts	Quantitative, expert knowledge	Expert knowledge	Expert knowledge
	Boating – water skiing	Quantitative, expert knowledge	Expert knowledge	Expert knowledge
	Boating – power	Quantitative, expert knowledge	Expert knowledge	Expert knowledge
	Boating – wind surfing	Quantitative, expert knowledge	Expert knowledge	Expert knowledge
C. Land-based	Cycling	Quantitative	Quantitative	Expert knowledge
	Photography	Qualitative	Expert knowledge	Expert knowledge
	Walking	Qualitative	Expert knowledge	Qualitative
	Picnicking	Qualitative	Expert knowledge	Qualitative

State – trout angling and trout numbers: ongoing periodic monitoring via national angler survey



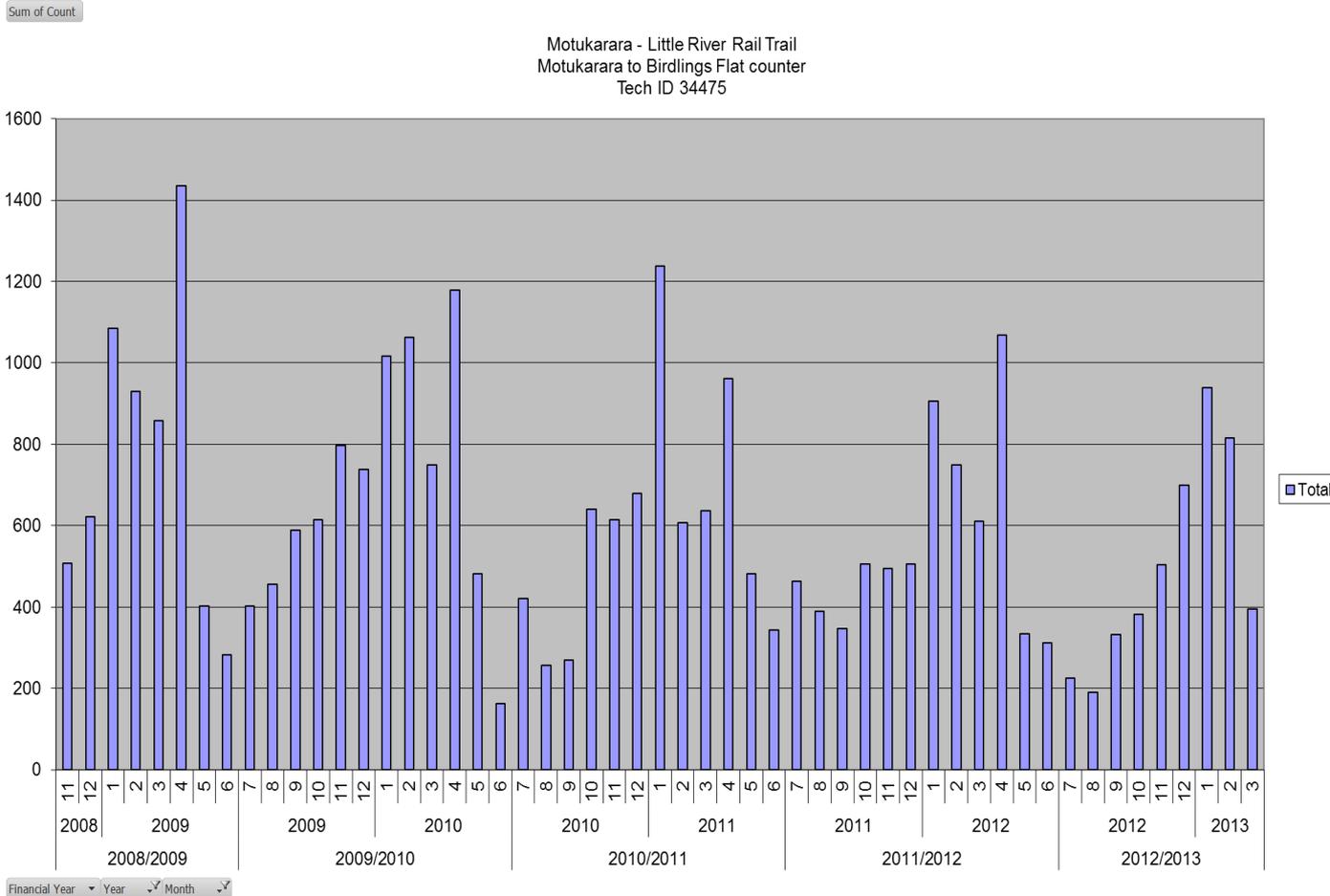
Waterfowl hunting – no ongoing monitoring of effort, but ...

Numbers of registered maimais at Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere





Cycling – Little River Rail Trail use – good ongoing monitoring



Overall State of recreation activities

Activity	Highest historic levels of use – recreation user days per annum	Estimated level of use 2013 – recreation use days (range)	State assessment
Trout angling	100,000 – probably in the 1960s	3300-5100	For trophy trout good, but for other reasons bad
Cycling on Rail Trail	6000-7000 – contemporary activity	6000-7000	Static but being developed
Waterfowl hunting	5000-10000 – probably much more activity before habitat loss	4000-6000	Probably static
Boating, including windsurfing	10000-20000 – huge regattas held in 20s through to 40s	1500-3000	Mixed – hopeless for power boating/yachting; good for windsurfing
Bird watching	1000 – 1980s onward	500-1500	Probably static
Other – whitebaiting	10000-20000 – likely to have been very large numbers in 1920s through to early 1960s, esp picnickers	0-2000	Whitebaiting: Depends on lake opening in spring
walking		1000-5000	Walking: Rail trail and other initiatives improving it
Picnicking		1000-5000	Picnicking: Mixed opportunities – Lower Selwyn Huts good
other (e.g., eeling, floundering, photography, 4WD driving, camping at Lakeside and geocaching)		1000-2000	Other: Mixed – flounders good some years, etc
Total	Lower range	132000	
	Mid range	145000	
	Upper range	158000	

Pressures (and Driving Forces) and Responses

Activity	Pressure assessment	Driving Force	Response assessment
Trout angling	Huge reduction in trout numbers	Water quality due to land use intensification etc; Habitat loss	CWMS – ZIP; minimum flows
Cycling on Rail Trail	Lake flies	Water quality due to land use intensification	CWMS – ZIP; minimum flows
Waterfowl hunting			
Boating, including windsurfing	Water quality; lake levels	Land use intensification; lake level management regime	CWMS – ZIP;
Bird watching	Conflict with other users esp year-round with goose hunters	Partly government change in geese status	Needs regulatory/policy change – no action undertaken
Other – whitebaiting	Inappropriate lake opening regime	Historic way regime operated	Lake Opening Protocol Group – better focus on fisheries
walking			
picnicking	Lake flies	Water quality due to land use intensification	CWMS – ZIP; minimum flows
other (e.g., eeling, floundering, photography, 4WD driving, camping at Lakeside and geocaching)	Mixed	Mixed	CWMS – ZIP; minimum flows

Overall Conclusions and Recommendations

Overall conclusions:

- State of recreation still hugely reduced, in terms of numbers participating and probably also in terms of quality of activities compared to 1980s and earlier
- Some activities continue to perform very strongly – cycling for example; some very poorly – recreational trout fishing
- Only recreational trout fishing is performing extremely badly
- Pressures and responses, often water quality related, will take time to see changes

Recommendations:

- Record user days per annum statistics for: trout angling, waterfowl hunting, whitebaiting, cycling, bird watching, walking and picnicking;
- Undertake quality of activity measures – size and number of trout, number of waterfowl, access and other visitor-related facilities and provisions including improved signage, ‘walk ways’, boat ramps including for kayaks on the L2, water level and quality parameters by activity