

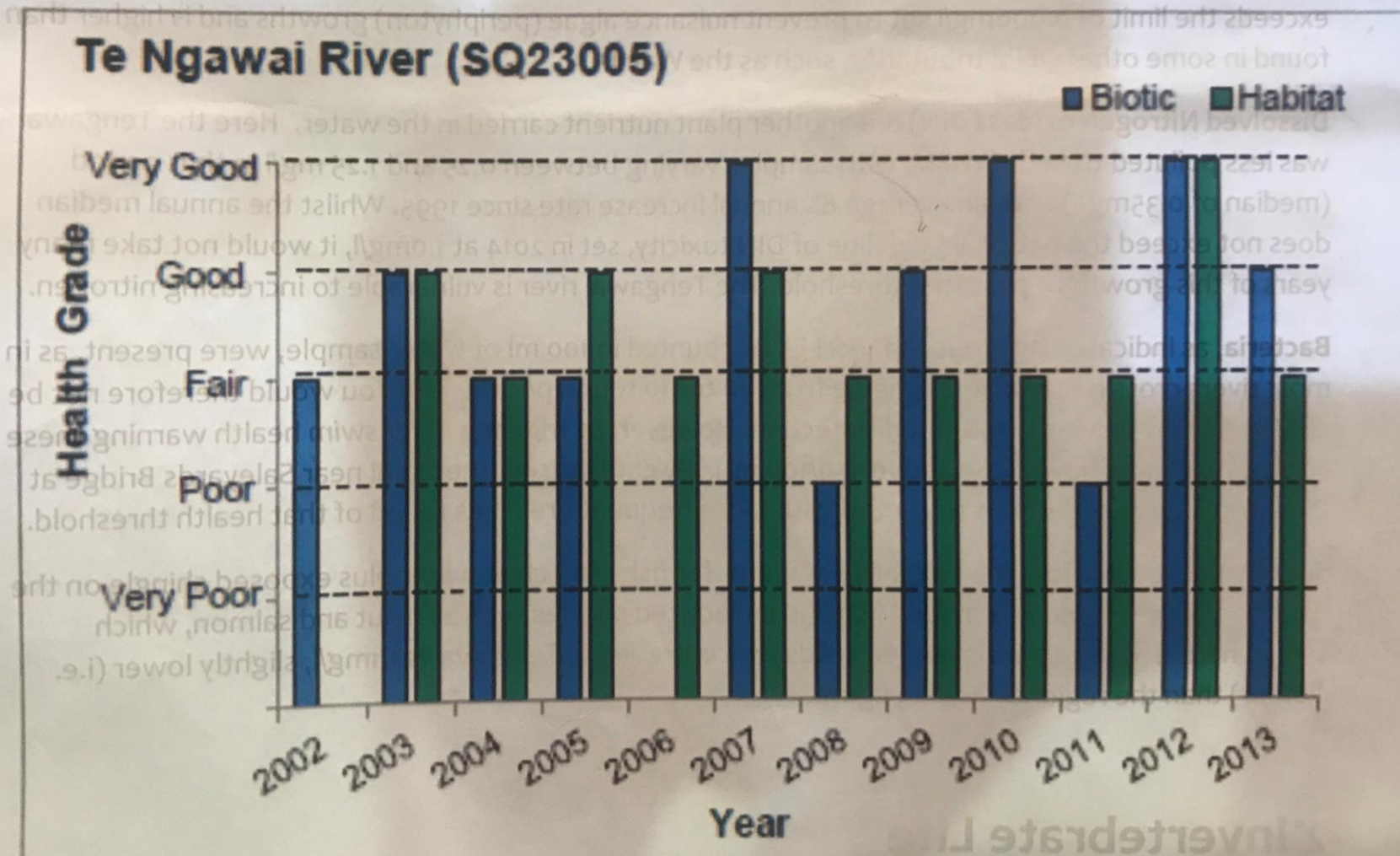
Te Ana Wai

Catchment Group

Te Ana Wai Catchment Group

- Te Ana Wai Catchment is the largest area in the Opihi Zone, with the lowest number of irrigators.
- Very small part of the upper catchment is irrigated, with more significant areas being irrigated in the lower catchment and Totara Valley. This is unlikely to change unless Alpine water becomes available.

Figure 1: The invertebrate community gradually changes in response to degrading conditions. Invertebrates that are present in healthy streams are more sensitive to changes in water and habitat quality, than those that inhabit unhealthy streams



Shirley Hayward ECAN water quality scientist

River is in “pretty good shape”

Low in E Coli, Excellent invertebrate quality (indicating river is healthy),
Health grade generally good (Fair - very good)

Farming needs to retain economic viability in order to care for the environment.

- Despite numerous requests and assurances, **NO ECONOMIC DATA has been made available.**
- We would like to engage in a meaningful technical discussion - but that is impossible.
- To illustrate that these two should be compatible we encourage the use of FEPs and GMP * (with condition that the issue with proxies is resolved with INZ)
- GMP in itself seems a way forward, but not when it is combined with the failed model of Overseer.
- **The catchment group would not like to see blanket N limits on Overseer.**

Farm Environment Plans

- Our catchment has run two FEP workshops
- Personally on our third version, Beef & Lamb, Opuha Water Ltd and now FarmIQ and fourth assessment using Overseer.
- We have the ambition for our catchment to have 100% engagement with FEPs and seek funding to run further workshops.

- Perceived benefit of GMP, is that small management changes can have a significant benefit to the environment.
- eg Charlotte Irving gave catchment group presentation on best practice for winter strip grazing which changed kg/N from 6.9kg/ha to 1.2kg/ha.
- This type of education can bring a real benefit to water quality, without putting people out of business.
- Now apparent, vast difference in knowledge between early adopters and those just becoming aware.

- Catchment group have grave concerns over using Overseer, which we see as a failed model. Inserting Overseer into GMP is not a good outcome.
- With reservation, we welcome Plan Change 5. The full implications are not yet known. Issue with proxies needs to be resolved as currently impossible to comply.

- Far too many assumptions being made, particularly by anti-farming lobby.
- eg. Craigie McKenzie. Intensive Canterbury cropping farmer, that practices precision farming. By utilising science, he can prove that his operation is not leaching nutrients and is an efficient operation. It is vital that we rely on Science through this process.

Rainfall

- Large catchment with low rainfall, most decent rain comes from East or South East. Based on McKensie Pass weather station:
- Average 2010 until 2015 was 850mm (ECAN website)
- 2015 444mm
- 2016 657mm
- 2017 todate 419mm

- Some environmentalists believe irrigators are sucking the river dry.
- They do not accept the facts.
- They seem to not believe the rainfall data.
- I spoke with Dave Diamond who has farmed at Sutherlands from the 1960s “the river always ran dry”.
- I spoke with Paul Eddy, ECAN river engineer since the 1970s “the river always ran dry, at least every three years”.
- That is the nature of the catchment.

Irrigation

- Historically only limited amounts of land have been irrigated.
- Different classes of irrigators.
- AA consent holders (represented by Tengawai Water Users Group TWUG). AA indicates we were all irrigating before the dam was in existence and are shareholders in the dam. When we irrigate water is released on a 1:1 basis from the dam. Has significant environmental benefits to the Opihi river system of which the Te Ana Wai is a part, and was part of the calculation in keeping the river mouth open.
- All AA consent holders have invested in modern, efficient, spray irrigation. 3 out of 4 have storage ponds.
- The investment by these AA shareholders is significant. Millions of dollars in OWL shares, and annual water charges. Although the water does not come past our gate, there is a 6km gap, we pay economically and environmentally for the use of the water.
- Members of the catchment group have expressed to me that the water rights are sacrosanct. To erode these consents would significantly erode individuals property values.

- Minimum flows a fine balance, probably about right.
- Discussed at length and technically when set 15 years ago, a technical discussion between experts engaged by TWUG, ECAN, Fish & Game, Iwi.
- Minimum flow set, was the result of scientific discussion. Testament to those parties that the minimum flow set, is very close to the NPS (National Policy Statement) and NES (National Environmental Statement).
- Any adjustment would have significant ramifications to these AA consent holders.





Other irrigators

- Totara Valley - like the AA are all part of OWL.
- Sutherlands - are all part of OWL.
- High flow takes. Are not affiliated. Probably the group causing the most concern amongst catchment group members.
- We consider that the flow at which these consents operate is too low. (No data available).
- We request that for any further consent applications the Catchment group be Notified as an Interest Group.

ECAN is not engaging

- Despite numerous requests we have no data to consider, water testing, economic, hydrology, not even rainfall. Promised economic data - nothing.
- We need technical meetings where we can determine solutions. The catchment groups were a missed opportunity to achieve this.
- There has been no technical consultation with farmers.
- Orari did an excellent job, with technical meetings and agreed an outcome. ECAN have not allowed that process in this catchment.
- Need to discuss specific farm outcomes.
- Why hasn't ECAN brought together all the water testing in the catchment for example.
- This appears to be an exercise in appearing to have consultation.