

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Central South Island Fish and Game Council held in the Boardroom, 32 Richard Pearse Drive, Temuka, on Thursday 15 February 2018 at 7:10 pm.

Present: J Cruden L Koevoet
B Growcott P McLauchlan
M Hall G Rooney (Chairman)
D Isbister W Spry
B Whipp

In Attendance:

Staff: J Graybill (Chief Executive), B Dolan (Office Administrator), A Christensen (Resource Officer), H Stevens (Fish and Game Officer), R Adams (Fish and Game Officer) and J Couper (Fish and Game Officer), Richard Cosgrove (SI Communications Advisor), Martin Taylor (NZC Chief Executive).

18-001 APOLOGIES:

M Webb, D Winterburn (DoC), and John Henry (Ngai Tahu).

AGREED that the apologies of M Webb, D Winterburn and J Henry be accepted.

18-002 COUNCILLOR INTEREST REGISTER:

Chairman queried if Councillors had any new interests to add to the register.

Daniel Isbister indicated he wished to add that he is now a member of the Lower Waitaki Zone Committee and the North Otago Sustainable Land Management Committee.

18-003 HEALTH & SAFETY:

Chief Executive pointed out exit points of the building and assembly points for evacuation of the premises.

18-004 GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Licence Agencies (LK)
- Meridian – Flows on the Waitaki (LK)
- Access tracks on the Waitaki (DI)
- Smolt releases (BW)
- White Poles (BW)
- Good News (BW)

18-005 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 7 December 2017:

Resolved (Koevoet/Hall)

18-001

THAT THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF 7 DECEMBER 2017 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.



18-006 BUDGET AND FINANCE:

006.1 Financial Reports & Expense Listing

Resolved (Isbister/Koevoet)

18-002

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE FINANCIAL REPORTS AND RATIFIES THE EXPENSE LISTINGS FOR NOVEMBER 2017, DECEMBER 2017 AND JANUARY 2018 IN THE GST INCLUSIVE AMOUNTS OF \$357,177.43, \$64,568.64 AND \$116,040.56, RESPECTIVELY.

18-007 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:

007.1 National Salmon Management Committee (9.1)

Chief Executive introduced a memo from the NZ Council regarding establishment of a National Salmon Committee. He advised this was a recommendation from the Sea-Run Salmon Symposium held in Ashburton in November 2017. The memo invites comments on draft Terms of Reference prepared by M Hall, main facilitator of the Symposium, for establishing such a committee.

Resolved (Koevoet/Spry)

18-003

THAT THE CSI COUNCIL SUPPORTS ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL SALMON COMMITTEE AND SUPPORTS THE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE PROVIDED.

M Taylor added that each Council will have to work out what they are going to do individually and regionally as the systems income was down 2.5% and therefore regions may have to consider resource shifting.

007.2 Waitaki Riparian Enhancement Proposal (9.2)

L Koevoet declared his conflict of interest as a member of the WRES and spoke to his proposal for off-site brood stock rearing. It was noted that Mark Webb had reviewed the proposal and provided comments and recommendations.

J Cruden noted that M Webb had several questions in his report and queried if WRES would be providing answers to these? L Koevoet responded that they would. J Cruden queried if this proposal would come back to Council before any final decisions and it was clarified that it would.

Resolved (Hall/Whipp)

18-004

- 1. THAT COUNCIL AGREES IN PRINCIPLE WITH CAPTIVE REARING OF BROOD STOCK AND RELEASE OF THEIR PROGENY TO WELCOME STREAM TO PROMOTE A RETURNING RUN OF ADULT SALMON OF SUFFICIENT SIZE FOR WRES HATCHERY NEEDS, AND**
- 2. WRES TO PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS ON THE PROGRAMME AS IDENTIFIED IN THIS REPORT OR AT COUNCIL'S REQUEST.**

007.3 Upper Oahu Fisheries Management and Trout Spawning (9.3)

Council considered M Webb's report on the Upper Ohau fishery and his suggested change in regulation from the current opening date (being the first Saturday in November to 30 April) to having the opening date be 1 September to 30 April. M Webb noted that



allowing anglers access to trout from September in the upper Ohau would be justified on the grounds that –

- i. The canal and lake fisheries of the upper Waitaki have established without requiring canal trout to spawn successfully. Canal trout spawning is excess to production needed to sustain downstream lake and river fisheries.
- ii. Trout fry produced in the upper Ohau River will quickly migrate downstream driven by lack of food. Once in Lake Ruataniwha or the Ohau B Canal they are likely to have poor survival as they are preyed on by larger trout. In natural rivers juvenile trout feed and grow in the rivers before reaching downstream lakes where they are better prepared for survival. It is very unlikely that upper Ohau origin trout fry make a significant contribution to downstream fisheries.
- iii. The opening of the fishing season on 1 September would ensure that all brown trout and two-thirds of rainbow trout would have spawned and contributed to recruitment.
- iv. Spawning habitat enhancement will be undertaken to increase the success of brown and rainbow trout spawning.

L Koevoet declared his opposition to the proposal as he felt it would open it up to hungry fish that would make these fish easy targets. He was also concerned that it would take out fish that would normally spawn and re-populate the canals. He didn't believe Council should be risking over-fishing.

D Isbister noted it would be interesting to see what happens over the next couple of years. J Cruden queried that if Council approved the regulation could it be reviewed on a yearly basis? It was clarified that it could be reviewed during the Angler Notice review.

Resolved (Isbister/Spry)

18-005

- 1. THE ANGLERS NOTICE BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR FISHING IN THE UPPER OHAU RIVER FROM 1 SEPTEMBER 2019 TO 30 APRIL 2020.**
- 2. CURRENT METHODS, BAG LIMITS AND OTHER FISHING CONDITIONS APPLY DURING THE EARLY SEASON.**
- 3. SPAWNING HABITAT ENHANCEMENT BY FLOW AND SUBSTRATE MANAGEMENT BE UNDERTAKEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH MERIDIAN ENERGY LIMITED.**

L Koevoet asked that his vote against the motion be recorded.

007.4 Captive Reared Mallards (9.4)

NZ Council had provided a paper written by Jeff Niblett on captive-reared mallard inviting feedback from regions. Discussion ensued but it was recognised that it was difficult for this Council to form an opinion on this issue and provide comment when it doesn't yet have all the facts and information surrounding it.

Resolved (Koevoet/Hall)

18-006

THAT THE CSI COUNCIL WAIT UNTIL THE NZ COUNCIL HAVE DISCUSSED CAPTIVE REARED MALLARDS AT ITS MARCH

2018 MEETING AND UPON PROVISION OF THE OUTCOME OF THAT DISCUSSION THE CSI COUNCIL CAN THEN PROVIDE COMMENT ON THE TOPIC.

18-008 OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS:

008.1 Activity Reports & Operations Reports (10.1)

Staff responded to general queries from Councillors related to topics in their activities reports that were provided for information. Topics included: Lake Poaka, mining rights consents, flow and allocation work, and RDR consent hearing.

008.2 Salmon Runs 2016/17 (10.2)

M Webb provided Council with his yearly report on the salmon spawning and angler harvest for the 2016/17 season. No discussion ensued.

008.3 Presentation on Licence Sales for the CSI Region (10.3)

Chief Executive presented Council with up-to-date information on national licence sales trends.

18-009 GENERAL BUSINESS:

009.1 Licence Agencies (LK)

L Koevoet queried the process regarding requests from people who wish to become licence agents in the CSI Region as he had received a call by someone who had been declined.

Chief Executive and Chairman reminded Councillors that these issues are operational and delegated to the Chief Executive and therefore not a matter for Council.

Chief Executive explained that this Council presently has sufficient coverage of licence agents in this region and that any business or fishing/hunting guide can purchase licences for their clients through the F&G licencing system via 'public-on-line'.

L Koevoet advised that he was happy with the Chief Executive's response.

009.2 Meridian – Flushing Flows (LK)

L Koevoet expressed his concern about flushing flow levels on the Waitaki River. Chief Executive responded that flushing flows are specified in the Waitaki Catchment Water Allocation Plan and also in Meridian consent conditions. Chairman asked that information on consent conditions including listed dates for flushing flows be provided to Councillor Koevoet.

009.3 Access Tracks on Waitaki (DI)

D Isbister queried if Council had money from Meridian to address access on the Waitaki. Chief Executive advised that Meridian provide money for habitat enhancement and H Stevens clarified that Meridian had cleared access tracks so that work could be undertaken for habitat enhancement on the Demonstration Channels.

009.4 Smolt Release (BW)

B Whipp advised that at a McKinnons meeting they had talked about changing release dates. He would like to put a proposal forward to release 10,000 fish in March. The fish would be taken out of their present stock of 57,000. He would like to release them just below Rangitata South. He asked that Councillors let him know if they have any views. It was pointed out that at the Salmon Symposium in November 2017 Dave Willis had suggested that it was worth considering to release fish earlier and at a smaller size.



009.5 White Poles (BS)

Bill Whipp advised that the white pole on the south side at the Rangitata was cut down and when it was put back in it was moved 100 metres from its original spot. Upon phoning the Chief Executive, the pole was put back to its original location. He felt that this situation was not good and needed to be looked at.

009.6 Good News (BW)

B Whipp advised that King Salmon have donated fish food to McKinnons Hatchery at no charge.

009.7 Martin Taylor (NZC Chief Executive)

Chairman invited M Taylor to address the Council. M Taylor updated Council on the re-structure of positions within the NZC office.

He indicated that Fish and Game are facing less licence sales in the younger generation, so NZ Council are looking at a R3 Strategy. (R3 stands for Recruitment, Retention and Re-activation). To move in this direction F&G may need a shift of priorities and resources within the organisation.

Some Councillors responded with the view that many of our fishery resources are already under pressure so questioned why Fish and Game would be wanting to recruit more anglers to use them?

Meeting closed: 10:00 pm.

Next Council Meeting – 19 April 2018

Signed



Date

