

**Agenda for the Meeting of the  
Otago Fish & Game Council to be held on  
16<sup>th</sup> April 2015  
St John's Rooms, 145 Scotland Street, Roxburgh  
Commencing at 12.00 noon**

*Please note: A Lunch will be provided at 11:45 am*

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## **1 Present and Apologies**

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## **2 Declaration of Interest**

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### **3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes**

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#### **Minutes of Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting Oakridge Hotel, Wanaka 14 February 2015, Commencing at 12.30pm**

##### **1.0 Present:**

Monty Wright (Chair), Dr John Jillett, Dan Rae, Vicky Whyte, Dr Colin Aldridge, Adrian McIntyre, Ian Cole, Dave Witherow, Dr Mike Turner, and Ray Grubb.

**In attendance:** Niall Watson (CE) Ian Hadland (OM), Peter Wilson (EO), Lindsay Lyons (NZC), Robert Sowman (NZC), and Lucy Ibbotson (ODT)

**Apologies** were received from

Alan Hammond, John Barlow, Murray Neilson, and Francie Diver (OCB). Ian Cole tendered an apology for early departure from the meeting (3.30pm).

The Chair welcomed Messrs Lyons and Sowman to the meeting.

(Rae/Jillett)

**That apologies be accepted**

It was **agreed** that leave of absence be granted to Messrs Grubb (April to August inclusive), Cole (June) and Dr Turner (June).

##### **2.0 Declarations of Interest**

Nil

##### **3.0 Election of Officer**

###### **3.1 Chair**

Mr Wright relinquished the chair and the CE called for nominations for the position of Chair.

Monty Wright - nominated by Witherow/ seconded Cole

**There being no further nominations Mr Wright was declared duly elected.**

###### **3.2 Executive**

It was resolved (Turner/Witherow)

**That existing Executive members (Vicky Whyte, John Jillett, Adrian McIntyre and Dan Rae) be reappointed to the vacant positions**

Resolved (Rae/Whyte)

**That the Minutes of the meetings on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014 be confirmed as a true and correct record.**

## **4.0 Matters Arising from Minutes**

### **4.1 Takitakitoa**

The CE outlined costs of Takitakitoa wetland development and funding from the Game Bird Habitat Trust Board. It was noted that Takitakitoa was the GBHT's second biggest project in terms of funding support.

### **4.2 Clare Morris Resignation**

### **4.3 Fish Salvage**

### **4.4 Affected Party Status**

### **4.5 QLDC Waterway bylaws**

## **5.0 Communications New Zealand Council**

### **5.1 NZC Correspondence to Otago**

#### **5.1.1 NZC Correspondence**

Nil

#### **5.1.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC**

Nil

## **6.0 Chief Executive's Report**

### **6.1 Administration**

Finance reports to the end of January 2015 were discussed. The CE noted that the final cost of the office double glazing was \$30,189 + GST after downward adjustments due to simplified specifications. Two quotes had been sought initially which had been very evenly matched. The work was expected to start in the next two months

The overrun in 'Habitat' related to Takitakitoa works and the overrun in 'Licencing' related to inclusion of credit card fees for increasing online sales.

The CE advised that Clare Morris had resigned following her period of extended leave. She had been awarded a scholarship to train further in health sciences which would allow her to work part time.

**Agreed** the Chair wrote and thank Clare for her efforts

Resolved (Whyte/Turner)

**That Finance and Licence sales reports to the end of January 2015 be approved**

## **6.2 Species**

### **Fish Salvage**

Fish salvage in Quartz Creek was discussed and the impracticality of widespread salvage of juvenile trout from large numbers of small streams as they dried up was noted.

## **6.3 Habitat**

### **Affected Part Status**

The slow progress on resolution of affected party status issues was discussed and it was resolved (Grubb/Aldridge)

**That development of an MoU with ORC to cover relationships with Fish and Game and to include affected Party Status be elevated to a high priority.**

Mr Grubb considered ORC should be bringing together agencies including Federated Farmers, Ngai Tahu, Fish and Game and DOC when issues arose. Mr Wilson noted that had occurred over drought and low flows.

### **QLDC Waterway Bylaws**

Concerns over the repeated poor consultation processes adopted by QLDC when dealing with boat speed limit by laws was discussed.

It was noted that bylaw changes only considered navigational safety when a wider view was required. Mr Wilson said that tackling the generic issue through the QL District Plan review was the answer.

There were some differences of opinion expressed on jet boating access and the potential impact on recreational experience through disturbance was noted.

It was **agreed** that the Council seek a meeting with Otago Branch of the NZJBA for liaison purposes.

### **Minimum and Residual Flows**

**Lindis River:** John Barlow, Dan Rae and the CE met with Lindis irrigators on 5<sup>th</sup> February to discuss common ground and areas of disagreement. The irrigators proposed a working party approach to further discussions. Mr Rae noted agreement on any aspects of the situation would help narrow the focus of any future hearing.

It was resolved (Jillett/Cole)

**That John Barlow and Dan Rae represent the Council on the working party.**

### **Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group:**

The CE updated the Council on the MCWSG's investigations into the raising of Falls Dam. Feasibility reports were being completed and construction costs were an issue but there was still a belief that improved irrigation water storage could have significant environmental benefits as well as irrigation benefits.

In the event that the scheme didn't go ahead the transition from mining privileges to RMA consents within the catchment would become very difficult because of completion for water.

## **Waikouaiti**

Mr Wilson reported there had been no movement on the Waikouaiti Minimum Flow and Mr Grubb noted that Ngai Tahu were doing work on estuary health.

### **6.4 User Participation**

The CE noted there was an upcoming TAKF event at Earnscleugh ponds on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February.

The Chair advised he had attended a recent Fly Flingers meeting in Dunedin.

### **6.5 Public Interface**

No discussion

### **6.6 Compliance**

The recent offences by guided overseas anglers were discussed. Resolution by reparation was noted and it was **agreed** that the council's concerns be taken up with the guides and lodges concerned

### **6.7 Licencing**

The lack of progress on the guides licence was discussed along with the urgent need for one.

It was noted that NZC needed to lead advocacy on getting it in place including identification of impediments and construction of arguments to counter them, and development of a strategy to be followed by all councils.

Delays resulting from interest in a concessions regime for fish and game resources were considered misguided because that regime required a change to the Conservation Act.

It was resolved (Grubb/Whyte)

**That Council reaffirm its support for urgent attention on the guides licence and request advice from NZC on strategies to achieve its implementation.**

Robert Sowman's very significant contribution in managing the Eyede contract was noted.

### **6.8 Council**

The October 2015 Fish and Game election date was noted.

#### **2015 Timetable**

The meeting schedule for 2015 was **agreed** subject to correction of the date for the 2016 planning meeting as follows:

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April - Roxburgh

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June - Dunedin

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August - Cromwell

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October - Dunedin

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November - Cromwell

Saturday/Sunday 13/14 February 2016 - Dunedin

## **6.9 Planning and Reporting Sports Fish and Game Management Plan**

Mr Grubb spoke to the draft plan noting it was the completion of 3 years work by the Council and the working party and explaining its importance.

It was resolved (Grubb/Aldridge)

**That the Council approve the draft SFGMP subject to minor editorial corrections and recommend it for approval to the Minister.**

### **Annual Report**

The Council discussed the Annual Report presented to the AGM in November 2014. Dr Aldridge queried the process for reviewing the CE's performance salary and conditions and the reporting process

The Executives longstanding delegation in undertaking that function was noted and the committee's report back (in August 2014) was confirmed.

The CE advised delegations were included in Standing Orders and Governance Policy and the Executive Committee's role was described in Standing Orders. He said policy and delegations could be developed or changed by Council when it felt it was desirable to do so.

It was resolved (Aldridge/Grubb)

**That the Council review its delegations**

## **7.0 Committee Reports**

**7.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust** – Mr Rae outlined Trust activity including:

- Involvement in Lindis research, wildlife surveys and drought assessment
- Further meeting with QLDC on Kane Road access alternative
- Hosting a Fullbright scholar looking into chemical residues in a NZ waterway (the Clutha)

**7.2 New Zealand Council**

No meeting held in preceding period

## **8.0 Technical Reports**

**8.1 Bengier Burn – Helen Keeling**

The report was discussed.

Resolved (Whyte/Rae)

**That the report be received.**

Council noted that survey work had been done in the 1990s (Maturin and Wright), that there was information on historic salmon runs both of which were worth noting. Mr Wright suggested smolt may move out by December in response to diminishing flows.

## 8.2 Fisheries Monitoring Programme and SOPs - Keeling

The report was discussed and supported.

It was **agreed** that extra resourcing may be required to cover for Helen Keeling while involved in the work because of the minimum/residual flow workload.

The report recommended seeking national commitment to development of fisheries SOPs including resourcing and inclusion of a dedicated project on Otago's 2015/16 Annual Plan with funding for meetings, peer review and staff support if NZC funding does not eventuate

It was resolved (Rae/McIntyre)

**That the report and its recommendations be accepted and that the CE be authorised to arrange implementation.**

## 8.3 Donald Stuart Creek - Keeling

Agreed that the report be received

## 8.4 Game Regulations - Trotter

It was noted that the decision on Game Season regulations had been made at the November meeting subject to waterfowl counts.

Resolved (Aldridge/Turner)

**That the report be received**

## 8.5 Waterfowl Trend Counts - Trotter

The report was discussed and it was resolved (Grubb/McIntyre)

**That the report be received**

## 8.6 Manorburn Angler Survey - Halford

The report was discussed along with its usefulness for determining fishery trends was resolved (Whyte/Rae) .

**That the report be received**

Resolved (Grubb/Jillett)

**That the meeting go into public excluded session:**

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

<b>GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED</b>	<b>REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER</b>	<b>GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION</b>
Information provided in confidence  Consideration of external advice	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)



This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

ITEM	REASON UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON	WHEN REPORT CAN BE RELEASED
8.5	Protect the privacy of natural persons.	Sec. 9(2)(a)	Information provided identifies a particular person or can easily be connected with a particular person.	Once the person to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure or the Council decides privacy is no longer an issue.
8.6, 8.7	Maintain legal professional privilege	Sec. 9(2)(h)	To enable the Council to discuss legal advice.	Once the matter is completed and the legal advisor agrees to its release.

**(See confidential minutes)**

Resolved (Rae/Jillett)

**That the meeting move out of public excluded**

## **9.0 Correspondence**

**Agreed** correspondence items 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 were received

## **10. General Business**

### **10.1 Terry Broad Resignation**

Moved from the Chair:

**That a letter of thanks be sent to Terry for his contribution over the years.**

### **10.2 Health and Safety**

The CE advised there had been a near miss incident during the reporting period involving driving by a temporary staff member. He said the matter had been addressed with the staff member concerned.

### **10.3 Audit and Risk Committee**

Mr Grubb proposed establishment of an Audit and Risk Committee and the matter was discussed. Mr Grubb said the committee was required to monitor a range of risk areas including legislative compliance; Health and Safety; gifts and benefits, schedule

of delegation and audit of exercise, travel register, credit card register and audit of exercise; liabilities schedule. He said that incidents such as the DCC car fraud and the D Health Board fraud would have been avoided if Audit and Risk committees had been operating.

The CE advise the auditor had recommended a twice yearly report to Council on risks including legislative compliance, and a report on health and safety to every meeting. He said he agreed with developing a reporting format to cover all areas of concern but favoured the Council filling the role directly. He expressed concern about burgeoning compliance activities.

The matter was discussed and Dr Aldridge proposed a motion in along the lines on Mr Grubb's recommendations but it was noted that the matter would have to be deferred until the next meeting

**The meeting closed at 5.30pm**

## MINUTES & STAFF RESPONSES STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP 15 FEBRUARY 2015

**Present:** Monty Wright (Chair), Dr John Jillett, Dan Rae, Vicky Whyte, Dr Colin Aldridge, Adrian McIntyre, Dave Witherow, Dr Mike Turner, and Ray Grubb.

**In attendance:** Niall Watson (CE) Ian Hadland (OM), Peter Wilson (EO), Lindsay Lyons (NZC), Robert Sowman (NZC)

**Apologies:**

Alan Hammond, John Barlow, Murray Neilson, and Francie Diver (OCB).

### 2015/16 PRIORITIES

Issues identified by Council as priorities for the 2015/16 work programme and for incorporation into the draft Annual Plan and Budget

### SPECIES

- Contact Energy and salmon run mitigation activity
- Secure hatchery site to replace Macraes
- Game regulations – avoid spillover from Southland initiatives

	<b>Task</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>
	Press for improvements to Contact Energy's lower Clutha mitigation package in line with consent in order to achieve target salmon run of 5000 fish and tangible habitat enhancement gains. Mitigation to include joint consideration of local salmon hatchery option	<u>Report to Council in November 2015</u>
	Identify alternative hatchery option for Macraes hatchery operation	<u>Report to Council in February 2016</u>
	Align game regulations with southland as far as possible	<u>Report to Council in November 2015</u>

## HABITATS

- Minimum and residual flows - First priority: Lindis, Kyeburn, Manuherikia and tributaries, Bengier Burn, Waikouaiti. Second priority Cardrona Data gathering tailored to Environment Court case standard
- Planning activity in support of improved RPS and anything to do with deemed permits
- Contact Energy and Lower Clutha habitat enhancement.

	<b>Task</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>
	Make submissions on minimum and residual flow proposals for Otago rivers and prepare cases for hearings as required: Lindis Cardrona Benger Burn Kye Burn Manuherikia Tuapeka 12 Mile Creek	<u>Submissions made on plan changes and resource consents in timely manner and Council advised of significant actions.</u>
	Participate in RPS review and other plan or policy reviews	<u>Report to Council in August 2016</u>
	Lower Clutha habitat enhancement	<i>Included above under 1211</i>

## USERS

- Angler/Hunter Recruitment (note consolidation of promotional activities falls within the current year)
- Segmentation exercise on angling (client base v. future client base v. availability of angling opportunities to anglers)
- ID significant gaps in public access to Otago waterways
- Review update pamphlet stock
- Contribute angler access layer to WAMS for Otago

	<b>Task</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>
	Identify significant gaps in public access to Otago waterways <del>and contribute angler access layer to WAMS for Otago</del>	<u>Report to Council in April 2016</u> <i>WAMS updated since last meeting</i>
	Apply ringfenced non-resident licence funds to improvements in backcountry fisheries management	<u>Report to Council on activity by April 2016</u>

	Progressively review and update pamphlet stock as need for reprint arises including web versions	<u>Report to Council on activity by August 2016</u>
	Complete market segmentation exercise for Otago anglers including consideration of existing and future client bases and availability of angling opportunities	<u>Report to Council by June 2016</u>
	Consolidated recruitment package implemented throughout the year	<u>Report to Council implementation in February 2016</u>

## PUBLIC INTERFACE

	<b>Task</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>
	Enhance Council's PA and advocacy efforts through establishment of PA support facility. \$20,000 (either part time position or retain contract services)	<u>PA support facility established</u>

## LICENCE

- Encouragement of online sales and cut-over from paper system to online system including contingency planning (avoid big bang cutover).
- New category implementation requires messaging, resourcing and national linkage.
- Guides licence implementation requires strategy development by NZC and advocacy support regionally (MP lobbying)
- Non-resident licence monitoring of sales and compliance and identify opportunities for use of extra funds.

	<b>Task</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>
	Promote movement of agency licence sales to agency online and public online and facilitate smooth cut-over from paper licencing to online licencing	<u>Report to Council in April 2016</u>
	Support introduction of new licence categories by local endorsement of national communications plan	<u>Report to Council in August 2016</u>

## COUNCIL

- Policy review – delegations, risk management etc
- Election – recruitment of voters and candidates

	<b>Task</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>
	Review Council policy including delegations and risk management arrangements.	<u>Report to Council in October 2015</u>
	Hold triennial election through service provider electionz.com and encourage voter enrolment and participation  <i>Note most activity relating to the 2015 election occurs in the current financial year although the actual election date is in the new year.</i>	<u>Election required and voter turn-out improved on 2013</u>

## PLANNING

- Fish and game resource inventory and SOPs

	<b>Task</b>	<b>Performance Measure</b>
	Establish 'Ferret' (proprietary brand) document system for storage and retrieval of digital copies of all council documents	<u>Report to Council in February 2016</u>
	Support national strategy for implementation of the guides licence	<u>Guides licence regulations introduced during year</u>

#### **4 Matters arising from the minutes**

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## 5 Communications New Zealand Council

### 5.1 Correspondence from NZC to Otago

#### 5.1.1 NZC – Analysis and feedback from Governors workshop, attendees and covering letter – Discussion



8 - AP

1 April 2015

Monty Wright  
Chairperson  
Otago Fish & Game Council  
PO Box 76  
DUNEDIN 9054

8 - APR 2015

Dear Monty

#### NZ COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION OF THE GOVERNORS' WORKSHOP

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council conducted its own workshop on Saturday morning 21 March 2015 to review the November 2014 Governors' Workshop and discussed the outcomes from that day's event.

This review started with consideration of the analysis of results from the Post Event Evaluation Survey. All participants at the Governor's Workshop were sent an evaluation survey. I am attaching the feedback and recorded comments that were received. Of the 36 attendees, 9 recorded their feedback – 5 CE/Managers, 2 Chairman, 2 NZ Councillors. While not a large number, responses were at least representative of the groups who attended and provided useful insights. After discussing the feedback, the NZ Council went on to consider the key messages in the staff presentation and that from Elana Geddis and then the Facilitator's presentation and points recorded from each table on the output classes.

It was agreed the overall message was a call for a standardised approach to common tasks. In this context, the NZ Council favours the adoption of SOPs for all councils to apply. It recognised that some activity is already underway, such as the financial review across Fish and Game budgets and finance policy.

There is also the health and safety manual template that has been distributed to all councils for them to customise to their own requirements. The NZ Council places great importance on ensuring these requirements are in place and being actively reported. Hence, it would like to take the health and safety policy and implementation as an activity for it to review and audit across all councils. A further area suitable for a standardised approach would be the training of governors and managers in health and safety, employment relations and to support governance and management excellence. The NZ Council proposes to consult regions on these needs and ways they can be provided following the upcoming Fish and Game Council elections.

Other points raised at the governors' workshop that the NZ Council identified with and would wish to follow up in subsequent initiatives include:

- recognising the significance of the urban population and the need to build strong public support for Fish and Game activities and their value to the wider community. There was also recognition of the potential for increase participation in these urban centres.
- upholding the retention of public access to the fish and game resource

*Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats*

New Zealand Council  
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- promoting of centres of excellence with Fish and Game's 13 councils.
- promoting a 'neutral' champion of freshwater like the NZ Rivers Trust.

There were a mass of points recorded from the workshop and if there are other key tasks you would like to promote please let me know.

As we were told by Elana Geddis, coordination is the process of organising people or groups so that they work together properly and well. This is exactly what the NZ Council hopes is achievable from working together and adopting consistent and agreed approaches to all functions we are charged to undertake.

I look forward to these challenges and the prospect of seeing you all together in a similar forum in three years' time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindsay Lyons', written in a cursive style.

Lindsay Lyons  
Chairman

## Post Event Evaluation Survey

Feedback and recorded comments from the Workshop are listed below under each question.  
Of the 36 attendees, 9 recorded their feedback – 5 CE/managers, 2 Chairman, 2 NZ Councillors.

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Thank you for attending the recent Fish & Game Governors' Workshop held on Saturday 22 November 2014. To provide feedback on impressions of the various aspects of the event, you are invited to respond to Questions 1 – 6 by circling or shading one box only for each question using a score of 5 (highest) to 1 (lowest).

Questions 7-9 provide for narrative comment to explain or expand on particular points.

The final two questions are to gauge your interest in such an event being repeated.

Your views are very important and will help evaluate the value of the event, the way it was structured and how such an event might be improved. Individual responses will not be identified.

Scoring:           5 = excellent  
                      4 = Good  
                      3 = Fair  
                      2 = Poor  
                      1 = Terrible

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### 1. Overall, how would you rate the event?

5	4	3	2	1
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4 X 8   89%

3 X 1   11%

### 2. How would you rate the contribution of the independent facilitator?

5	4	3	2	1
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5 X 4   44%

4 X 4   44%

3 X 1   11%

### 3. Overall, the quality of presentations at this event was ...

5	4	3	2	1
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5 X 4   44%

4 X 4   44%

3.5 X 1 11%

4. **The opportunity provided for participants to interact (have questions answered, share concerns and experiences, etc.) during the event was ...**

5	4	3	2	1
---	---	---	---	---

5 X 3 33%  
 4 X 5 56%  
 3 X 1 11%      Time constraints limited full discussion

5. **How would you rate the event in helping to clarify the challenges facing Fish and Game?**

5	4	3	2	1
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5 X 1 11%  
 4 X 6 67%  
 3 X 1 11%  
 2 X 1 11%      The event had a focus on audit & coordination and so didn't really set out to clarify challenges

6. **How would you rate the event in helping promote the thinking on Fish and Game's future direction?**

5	4	3	2	1
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5 X 5 56%  
 4 X 4 44%      limited because of focus. But appeared to be a clear consensus on the benefits of audit & coordination

7. **What was your favourite part of the event?**

- No real favourites
- The table discussions on output classes
- Seeing together those people in Fish and Game who have the potential to make a difference
- Elana Geddis's presentation allayed some fears but at the same time gave good leads on the role of the New Zealand Council
- The gathering the night before and the opportunity to mingle with all of the other participants. The most productive part of the event came out in the two presentations in the morning.
- The opening presentation by staff members who gave an excellent perspective of the organisation from an operational level.
- Listening to what others were thinking is important.
- The interactive opportunities, everyone able to put up their two bobs worth.
- Presentation by Zane & Anthony – said what governors needed to hear!

**8. What was your least favourite part of the event?**

- No real favourites
- No commitment to follow through to actions with timeframes
- A comment by a staff speaker – re leadership of the NZ Council ‘They are a bloody nightmare and they are having an impact on staff moral’
- The round table discussions but only in the sense that our table was dominated by tow very outspoken opinionated individuals, one in particular, which was frustrating to say the least.
- One speaker was given disproportionate microphone time but had little of substance to say.
- There was no opportunity to raise regional issues.
- Don’t have one
- The breakout groups on the Output class priorities for coordination (albeit the most important). Didn’t nail these down as tightly as could have to give greater confidence to the NZ Council to take a subsequent lead on them.

**9. What could be done better if the event was to be repeated?**

- Not so much ‘done better’ as following through on progress made
- More focus on how and what resources are required to achieve desired outcomes
- The event was well put together. Although there is a cost, if there are ways of drawing more Fish and Game people together and leading them in the same strategic direction such an event would be well worthwhile.
- People were asked to think about ???? tasks etc., which we could usefully have direction & coordination on from ???? office – it appeared to me many had not given much thought to this ahead of time. Perhaps written suggestions could have been solicited and circulated beforehand. [???? = difficulty to decipher]
- More time allocated to establishing national priorities for considering legal fund applications.
- Provide an opportunity to raise regional issues by the Chairman.
- Nothing, I think the event will evolve and morph into whatever it will be.
- “Doing less better” – especially on the Output Class priorities for “coordination” ... talking beyond just the headings.

10. If you believe a similar event should be repeated, what time period should pass before it is held again?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| One year                                | 1 (would expect and be disappointed if significant progress hadn't been made on this topic within the timeframe with a need to review and refine actions if required and confirm where we're going), 1 for a NZ Council report back on what the NZ Council is doing on the OC priorities, then two yearly to discuss whole-of-organisation progress. |
| Two years                               | 1 (next March 2016 once new councils been together), 1, 1  |
| Three years                             | 1, 1, 1, 1   |
| Four years                              |  |
| Five years                              |  |
| More than five years (specify how many) |  |

11. Based on your experience of this 2014 event, how likely are you to attend a similar event in the future (circle one)?

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Very likely     | 1, 1, 1, 1, 1 |
| Somewhat likely | 1, 1,         |
| Not likely      |               |

- This very much depends on what comes out of this workshop and the recommendations. If the suggested actions are supported and results in regions working together and resourced properly then, Yes would come again.
- Barely touched on external threats and opportunities.

Please complete and return to Robert Sowman, New Zealand Fish and Game Council  
[rsowman@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:rsowman@fishandgame.org.nz)

## 5.1.2 NZC – Changes in ethnicity. – Discussion



8 - APR 2015

31 March 2015

Monty Wright  
Chairperson  
Otago Fish & Game Council  
PO Box 76  
DUNEDIN 9054

Dear Monty

### CHANGES IN ETHNICITY

At its meeting in March 2015 the New Zealand Fish and Game Council discussed changes in ethnicity in Auckland and other parts of the country and what this might mean for the fish and game resource and the organisation's attempts to represent the interest of future anglers and hunters.

For example, we know from recent census that New Zealand's population has a relatively high proportion of immigrants, with 25.2 percent born overseas. Among the cohort of people born overseas, Asia has become the number one "overseas birthplace", overtaking the United Kingdom and Ireland for the first time.

Asian people make up 11.8 percent of the total population (compared to 9.2 percent in 2006 and 6.6 percent in 2001). The size of the Asian population has doubled since 2001. The rapidly increasing South Asian population (spear-headed by those of Indian ethnicity) is bringing about a new ethnic mix in New Zealand society.

All regions are projected to have greater ethnic diversity in the future. What the New Zealand Fish and Game Council would like to know is how this diversity might best be catered for and its implications managed vis-à-vis an impact on licence sales, the transmission of relevant regulations and any perceived consequences for the fish and game resource.

Please provide comments on your council's view of the extent of the changing ethnic mix in your region, the positive and negative issues you see that may result from this, and your suggestions on how best it should be handled to the benefit of Fish & Game New Zealand.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindsay Lyons'.

Lindsay Lyons  
Chairman

*Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats*

**New Zealand Council**  
or, 2 Jarden Mile, Ngauranga, PO Box 13141, Wellington 6440, New Zealand. Telephone (04) 499 4767 Facsimile (04) 499 4768  
Email [nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz) [www.fishandgame.org.nz](http://www.fishandgame.org.nz)

### 5.1.3 NZC – Non resident fishing licence revenue – Discussion



8 - APR 2015

31 March 2015

Monty Wright  
Chairperson  
Otago Fish & Game Council  
PO Box 76  
DUNEDIN 9054

Dear Monty

#### NON-RESIDENT FISHING LICENCE REVENUE

Up to the end of February 2015, total sales of the non-resident fishing licence nationally had reached some 4,000. This means that in the current financial year councils have been receiving revenue based on the sales of these licences. The New Zealand Fish and Game Council have asked that I remind you of the need to “ring-fence” any extra revenue (the extra \$37 resulting from sales of this category of licence).

You will recall, the then Minister of Conservation stipulated that the non-resident licence be “at a cost of 1.3 times the adult whole of season fishing licence, with any increased revenue obtained being directed to specific management to improve back country fisheries.” (MOC letter dated 9 September 2012).

The New Zealand Council resolved (July 2014) “*that for the purposes of fisheries management a back country fishery is taken to mean any New Zealand freshwater (river and or lake) that provide some truly spectacular angling experiences, are popular with non-resident anglers and are inherently sensitive and need careful management*”. In other words it would apply to more than just gazetted back country fisheries.

It is therefore important that each region nominate waters it wishes to designate for specific management from this non-resident licence “extra” revenue. These waters and the “extra” revenue utilised should be identified and described in your annual report to Parliament at the end of 2015.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindsay Lyons'.

Lindsay Lyons  
Chairman

*Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats*

**New Zealand Council**  
P.O. Box 2 Jarden Mile, Ngauranga, PO Box 13141, Wellington 6440, New Zealand. Telephone (04) 499 4767 Facsimile (04) 499 4768  
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## 5.1.4 NZC – Health and Safety Manual



8 - APR 2015

1 April 2015

Monty Wright  
Chairperson  
Otago Fish & Game Council  
PO Box 76  
DUNEDIN 9054

Dear Monty

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY MANUAL**

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council with the help of the Eastern Fish and Game Council and in particular, Carmel Veitch, prepared a generic Fish and Game Health and Safety Manual for distribution to all councils. The purpose of doing so being to ensure Fish and Game Councils are committed, through consultation with employees, to provide a healthy and safe workplace for all employees, customers and visitors and are committed to constantly improve Health and Safety standards and procedures.

You will be aware that employers will have greater health and safety obligations once the Health and Safety Reform Bill becomes law later in 2015. The manual already circulated to regions will be up-dated once this Bill becomes law.

Meanwhile, at its March 2015 meeting, the New Zealand Council asked that I write to regions to get assurance that they have the manual and that its associated register is in place and your staff are actively discussing and reporting on health and safety activity.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindsay Lyons'.

Lindsay Lyons  
Chairman

*Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats*

### **New Zealand Council**

Room 2, Jarden Mile, Ngauranga, PO Box 13141, Wellington 6440, New Zealand. Telephone (04) 499 4767 Facsimile (04) 499 4768  
Email [nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz) [www.fishandgame.org.nz](http://www.fishandgame.org.nz)



5.1.5 NZC – Guides Licence



7 APR 2015

31 March 2015

Monty Wright  
Chairman  
Otago Fish and Game Council  
PO Box 76  
DUNEDIN 9054

Dear Monty

**GUIDES LICENCE**

Thank you for your letter of 7 November 2014 about the implementation of a guides licence. You will recall, Robert Sowman and I spoke to your Council on this matter at your meeting in Wanaka in February. At that meeting we encouraged the region to identify a politician who might champion the initiative in Wellington. It remains our view that without such support it is difficult to see progress against an entrenched Department of Conservation position.

In discussing the wish for a guide licence at its March 2015 meeting, the New Zealand Council agreed that I write to the Director-General of Conservation and ask Lou Sanson for his support in introducing the guides licence.

Historically, the Department of Conservation has opposed the introduction of a guides licence essentially on the basis that it remains unconvinced that any licensing regulation is justified. What the New Zealand Council would like to see is a collaborative effort with the department to make this happen as was the case with the introduction of a non-resident fishing licence.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindsay Lyons'.

Lindsay Lyons  
Chairman

*Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats*

**New Zealand Council**

Floor, 2 Jarden Mile, Ngauranga, PO Box 13141, Wellington 6440, New Zealand. Telephone (04) 499 4767 Facsimile (04) 499 4768  
Email [nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz) [www.fishandgame.org.nz](http://www.fishandgame.org.nz)

**5.1.6 NZC –Response to Otago on letter concerning the most recent Palmer opinion**



7 - APR 2015

31 March 2015

Monty Wright  
Chairman  
Otago Fish and Game Council  
PO Box 76  
DUNEDIN 9054

Dear Monty

Thank you for your Council's support for Sir Geoffrey Palmer's opinion on co-ordination and audit as set out in your letter of 7 November 2014.

As you are aware, the New Zealand Fish and Game Council has previously received and accepted Sir Geoffrey's opinion and recently discussed it further in the context of outcomes from the recent Fish & Game Governors' forum. As we were told at that event by Elana Geddis, speaking on behalf of Sir Geoffrey, co-ordination is the process of organising people or groups so that they work together properly and well. This is exactly what the NZ Council hopes is achievable from working together and adopting consistent approaches to all functions we are charged to undertake.

As an early co-ordination matter, I am writing to all regional chairmen requesting confirmation of compliance with health and safety procedures and, given the importance to us all that this be actively reported, are proposing that we collectively take the health and safety policy and implementation as an activity for review and audit across all councils.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindsay Lyons'.

Lindsay Lyons  
Chairman

*Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats*

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or, 2 Jarden Mile, Ngauranga, PO Box 13141, Wellington 6440, New Zealand. Telephone (04) 499 4767 Facsimile (04) 499 4768  
Email [nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz) [www.fishandgame.org.nz](http://www.fishandgame.org.nz)

## **5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC - Nil**

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT APRIL 2015

#### 6.1 ADMINISTRATION

##### **Finance and Administration**

###### *Financial Reports to 31 March 2015*

A financial report for the financial year to 31 January 2015 is attached for your information. The summary spreadsheet has been structured so that it can be more easily compared with the approved budget of \$933,451.

Expenditure to date is \$1,082,442 (including levies \$447,016 and commission (\$69,393) but excluding depreciation (\$45,682) compared with the annual budget of \$1,827,484 composed of Otago's expenditure budget (\$933,451), depreciation (nil), and levies (\$894,033) and excluding commission (\$96,183) .

Overall expenditure is 55% of budget which is a comfortable position half way through the year and with the more intense summer period out of the way, although there are still some March accounts to process

Total income to date is \$1,538,005 compared with budget of \$2,007,222. It is difficult to compare seasons because income is coming in more quickly with the move to agency on line but fish sales appear buoyant with the long hot summer just past.

Fishing licence sales revenue received for the year to date is \$1,469,972 (including commission). The fish budget figures for the full year is \$1,593,438 (\$1,266,959 plus commission \$79,672).

Game licence sales revenue received for the year to date is \$4,478 (including commission). The year's budget for game licence sales is \$330,229 (\$313,712 plus commission of \$16,511).

###### *Licence Sales to 31 March 2015*

Sales recorded to 8 April 2015 are outlined for fish and game in the attached table from Eyede. The comparison figure is for the whole of the previous year. Figures are inclusive of GST.

###### *Funds Position at 31 March 2015*

ANZ 00 account	\$187,381.11
ANZ 70 account	\$542,749.94

#### *Reparation Trust Account*

Account balance to 31 August 2014	\$ 52,614
Revenue for current year to 31 January 2014	\$ 4,754
Less Grants	<u>\$ 3,000</u>
Total	\$ 54,368

#### *Term investments as at 31 March 2015:*

ASB 0079	\$296, 145 @ 4.5% maturing 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2015
ANZ 1006	\$433,571.33 @ 4.65% maturing 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2015

The sum of \$71,102 is held by Anderson Lloyd in trust for wetland management via DOC.

#### *Agents and Debts*

Nothing to report

#### *Capital Expenditure*

Supply of tablets to councillors for use on Council business has been delayed due to pressure of work in other areas. With the upcoming election it now seems sensible to begin making this change at the time the new council takes office.

Two computers have been replaced in the Cromwell office at a cost of \$1600 approximately.

#### **CE to report.**

#### *Staff*

Interviews for the vacant Cromwell Fish and Game Officer position will be complete before the upcoming Council meeting. The vacancy attracted a strong response with a number of applicants having relevant skills and or experience.

#### **CE to report**

#### *Land and Buildings*

Work has commenced on double glazing the 1st Floor at the Dunedin office.

#### **Recommendation**

**That the Finance and Licence Sales Report for the period ending 31 March 2015 be received.**

## **6.2 SPECIES**

### **Waterfowl Monitoring (1111)**

An attempt will be made to complete a mallard monitoring survey before mid April. This will follow one of the national protocols developed by Southland (it has not been possible to develop a single methodology because of differences in landscape across the country). The survey will not be undertaken in the second half of April to avoid disturbance in advance of the season opening.

### **Spawning Surveys (1112)**

Nothing to report

### **Population Monitoring: (1113)**

Fish survey work on the Lindis, Cardrona and Bengier Burn has been completed in support of upcoming minimum flow processes. A three season survey of Otago rivers has also been completed as part of Cawthron Institute's 'Cumulative Effects' research programme. Monitoring of other waters including Kye Burn and Manuherikia mainstem and tributaries has been continuing and a summary of drought impact observations is being prepared.

### **Success & Satisfaction (1122)**

Reports on lake monitoring are in preparation.

### **Fish Salvage (1131)**

Nothing to report

### **Hatchery Operations (1141)**

The hatchery operation ran normally throughout the drought despite a requirement to utilise stored water from Lone Pine Dam because of restrictions on Taieri River water takes.

### **Releases (1161)**

Nothing to report

### **Game Notice (1171)**

The 2015 Game Season Notice has been approved and published in the Government Gazette

### **Anglers Notice (1172)**

See separate report

### **Game Bird Control (1181)**

Nothing to report.

## **6.3 HABITAT**

### **Resource Management (1211)**

#### **Resource Management Complaints 2014/15**

<b>Date/Agency</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Response</b>
April 2015	F&G has received complaints and expressions of concern over Lake Tuakitoto water levels and cattle grazing within the wetland. These issues have been passed on to ORC and F&G staff plan to inspect the lake at the next opportunity	

## Resource Consents

### Affected Party Status

A meeting was held with ORC over the affected party issue. ORC agreed to:

- provide Fish and Game with a weekly list of consent applications that affect waterways.
- treated Fish and Game as affected over applications to replace mining privileges with RMA consents because of cumulative effects and environmental sensitivity in over-allocated catchments.
- communicate as issues arise and will meet from time to time to compare notes.

This will enable Fish and Game to provide feedback on affected party status on consents and for the early identification of issues.

### Planning (1212)

#### Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group

Staff continue to be involved in the Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group which is developing a catchment wide strategy for enhancement of irrigation water storage and use in the Manuherikia Catchment. Economic viability of water storage options at Falls Dam (increasing dam height) and on the Upper Ida Burn are still being assessed. Consultants are in the process of finalising feasibility reports and the current focus of Fish and Game's interest is the incorporation of identified environmental outcomes into final feasibility reports

### Minimum and Residual Flow Setting

<b>Minimum and Residual Flows and Transition from Mining Privileges (TMP)</b>		
<b>River</b>	<b>Activity and status</b>	<b>Status</b>
Lindis	Minimum flow & transition from mining privileges (TMP).  Overallocated  MALF 1860 l/s	Lindis fisheries research has been completed and is currently being written up.  Economic analysis has been undertaken by OPUS and BERL, and now released by ORC. The study states that climate factors, not the level of minimum flows, is the limiting factor on agriculture in the catchment, and that the level set for a minimum flow will have a small extra impact in comparison to climate.  ORC reported a changed summer minimum flow proposal of 750 l/s, instead of the 450 l/s previously recommended. The change is still be formally adopted by ORC  Proposals to notify the plan change in May 2015 may be extended by two months to allow further discussions to happen between irrigators and environmental interests (including DOC and

		<p>Iwi) on complementary policy areas.</p> <p>Two informal meetings and a site visit have been held between F&amp;G, CFT, and Lindis irrigators (5 February and 1 April) with further meetings planned. A related meeting has been held on complimentary policy changes involving F&amp;G, Lindis irrigators and ORC senior staff.</p>
Cardrona	<p>Minimum Flow &amp; TMP</p> <p>Overallocated</p>	Mainstem fisheries and flow surveys undertaken over the summer period. A minimum flow proposal is expected in October or November.
Waikouaiti	Resource consent application	Consent appeal resolved by mediation
Waikouaiti	<p>Minimum Flow Fully allocated</p> <p>MALF 258 l/s</p>	F&G have supported minimum flow of 220 l/s. Further action on the minimum flow deferred pending more research on estuary health.
Pomahaka	<p>Minimum flow</p> <p>MALF 4300 l/s</p>	F&G supported minimum flows of 3600 l/s (summer) 7000 l/s (winter), primary allocation limit of 1000 l/s, and a supplementary allocation minimum flow of 13,000 l/s. The commissioners supported the ORC proposal and the plan change has now been signed off by the ORC.
Waiwera	<p>Minimum flow</p> <p>MALF 310 l/s</p>	F&G submissions in February supported minimum flows of 260 l/s (summer) 400 l/s (winter) but questioning primary allocation limit of 500 l/s. All submissions were either in support of the ORC proposal or sought a higher but non-specific flow. A hearing is to be held on 21 April.
Manuherikia	<p>Minimum flow Irrigation scheme investigation.</p> <p>MALF lower river 2126 l/s</p> <p>Overallocated</p>	<p>Collaborative process underway involving F&amp;G Irrigation scheme at feasibility study stage. Some movement on individual mining privileges with applications for replacement with RMA consents.</p> <p>F&amp;G's target 'Camp Ground' minimum flow is 1500 l/s but the existing Ophir minimum flow (820 l/s) is a problem.</p>
Benger Burn	<p>Minimum flow &amp;TMP.</p> <p>Overallocated</p>	Deferred pending more research on water resources and aquifer/surface water interaction.
Sow Burn	<p>TMP</p> <p>Overallocated</p>	The Sowburn all-of-catchment consent application remains with the Otago Regional Council. There have been two variations to the



		consent, to handle supplementary allocation. There is a remaining issue with affected party approval being required from a minority shareholder in a deemed permit which is preventing the consent from being granted. The ORC has also commissioned NIWA to undertake an investigation into the hydrological connection and transport time between Sowburn residual flows and the Taieri main-stem at Waipiata. This may affect the residual flow requirement on the Sowburn consents, which was negotiated to be 70 l/s.
Kye Burn	TMP Overallocated  MALF 500 l/s	Further response has been made to Kye Burn irrigators and request for meeting. F&G position is that a mainstem minimum between 200-300 l/s is required
Low Burn	Minimum flow TMP Overallocated	No action
Bannock Burn	Minimum flow TMP Overallocated	No action
Quartz Creek	TMP Overallocated	Report on fishery values and issues in preparation
Tuapeka River	ORC Management Flow Report  MALF 314 l/s	No action
12 Mile Creek (Wakatipu)	ORC Management Flow Report	No action

## **CE to Report**

### **Waiwera Minimum Flow**

Local Farmer Ken Telford has requested the opportunity to address the Council on the Waiwera minimum flow issue probably later in the meeting rather than in the Public Forum

## **For Discussion**

### **Transition from Mining Privileges (MPs) to RMA Consents**

There is a continuing risk that ORC's processing of individual consent applications replacing mining privileges in overallocated Central Otago catchments will undermine environmental flows but recent agreement on affected party status improves the situation.

### **Reserves Management (1221)**

Planned earthworks for the Takitakitoa Wetland development have been completed for this year. Excavations will be allowed to dry out prior to further work next summer.

**Wetland Protection (1232)**

Nothing to report

**Assisted Habitat (1230)**

Nothing to report

**River Management (1233)**

Nothing to report

**6.4 USER PARTICIPATION****Access (1311)**

There has been a significant meeting over Mt Burke public access and the future of public roads in the area which has seen an agreement being reached between the lessee, QLDC, Fish and Game, CFT, Trails Trust and DOC. The formal proposal which is in preparation involves shifting road locations to avoid the homestead and yards but to provide lake shore access at the flax paddock and access to the Dublin Bay boundary. This negotiation is not part of tenure review (which is still to come if the lessee chooses to re-enter) and does not affect the other public road leading from Maungawhera Road to the North.

**CE to report****Signage (1312)**

Nothing to report.

**Backcountry Fisheries (1321)**

See separate report

**Magazine Supplements and Newsletters (1331)**

Game Season supplement published in Fish and Game magazine. Newsletter in production

**Reel Life/Both Barrels**

Monthly contributions to online newsletters Reel Life and Both Barrels have continued.

**Newspaper Supplements (1332)**

Some advertising support given for game season newspaper supplements.

**River Reports (1333)**

River reports underway

**Publications (1342)**

Nothing to report

**Web Site (1343)**

Nothing to report

### **Fishing and Hunting Events (1351)**

Staff recently attended a Queenstown game season event and a Dunedin pre season shoot addressing hunters on relevant matters in both cases.

### **Take-a-kid-fishing (1352)**

Grants Braes and George Street schools attended fishing events at Southern Reservoir and Concord School had a hatchery visit and fished Lone Pine reservoir at Macraes Flat. Karitane and Waikouaiti School were involved in a 'backyard bass' events to teach casting techniques.

### **Club Liaison (1361)**

Nothing to report

### **Commercial Use (1362)**

Nothing to report

## **6.5 PUBLIC INTERFACE**

### **Liaison (1411)**

A draft MOU between DOC and Fish and Game has been completed with DOC and submitted to Te Ropu Kaitiaki I Araiteuru for feedback

### **Media (1431)**

Some good media coverage of take a kid fishing events at Lowburn and Earnsclough, Lake Hawea Fishing Competition and a successful conclusion to a compliance issue. Helen Keeling's Scholarship Report got well reported in an angling newspaper and the Nevis Conservation Order got further coverage with Pioneer putting their high country stations on the market. Fish and Game's perspective on drought impacts didn't get as well covered as impacts on farming.

### **Advocacy (1432)**

Nothing to Report

### **Tenure Reviews (1433)**

After a quiet period, there is movement on tenure review proposals. Fish and Game staff visited Mt Hope Station (at the headwaters of the Pomahaka River) and a fish and game resources report is in preparation for this property to assist with the tenure review process.

Preliminary proposals for Morven Hills and Longlands Stations have been released. The proposals look acceptable from a Fish and Game perspective, as public access to sports fish and gamebird resources appears appropriate, but Fish and Game staff will visit the properties in the next month to obtain a fuller understanding of the proposals.

Staff will be meeting with the new DOC tenure review manager, Jeremy Severinson, who is on secondment from LINZ, to discuss concerns with the process. These concerns include the treatment of submissions, the exclusive capture of fisheries, and how vehicle access arrangements are determined.

## **6.6 COMPLIANCE**

### **Ranging (1511)**

There has been considerable ranging activity over the summer period involving rangers and staff. Generally compliance has been good

### **Ranger Support**

Two new rangers have commenced duties in the Queenstown area and have recently been visited by staff

### **Prosecutions**

Offences involving non resident anglers in the Wakatipu and Wanaka areas have all been resolved by reparation. Related matters concerning guides and lodges are being addressed directly.

## **6.7 LICENCING**

### **Licensing System (1611)**

Nothing to report.

### **Agents (1612)**

Staff are liaising with agents over a number of issues including on-line licencing, phase out of paper licences, new licence categories and backcountry fisheries registration.

## **6.8 COUNCIL**

### **Elections (1710)**

The triennial Fish and Game Council will be held in October 2015. See attached election timetable.

### **Council (1720)**

Notice of Motion on Audit and Risk Committee – See attached report

## **6.9 PLANNING AND REPORTING**

### **Strategic Planning (1811)**

Sports Fish and Game Plan for Otago is with the Minister of Conservation for approval

### **Annual Plan (1821)**

See separate report

### **Annual Report (1821)**

Nothing to report

**National Liaison (1841)**

Staff continue to be involved in the Licencing Working Party (NW) and the Licence Category Review (IH). Peter Wilson is assisting with planning advice in other regions.

NZC Chief Executive Bryce Johnson and Communications Manager Don Rood will be attending the April meeting in Roxburgh. This follows attendance by myself and Monty Wright at their Council meeting and Governors Forum in November last year and Lindsay Lyons and Robert Sowman's attendance at our February meeting.

Again the purpose of their attendance is liaison and they will be able to contribute to discussion of current issues.

Niall Watson  
Chief Executive  
April 2015

# FISH AND GAME NEW ZEALAND 2015 Regional Council Elections

## ELECTION TIMETABLE

**9 October 2015**

Returning Officer: Elections Administrators	Warwick Lampp, Anthony Morton Michele Day	<a href="mailto:wlampp@electionz.com">wlampp@electionz.com</a> <a href="mailto:amorton@electionz.com">amorton@electionz.com</a> <a href="mailto:mday@electionz.com">mday@electionz.com</a>	Ph: 0508 666 336 0508 666 336 0508 666 336
Contract Manager:	Robert Sowman, NZ Fish and Game Council Ph: 04 499-4767	Fax: 04 499-4768	<a href="mailto:rsowman@fishandgame.org.nz">rsowman@fishandgame.org.nz</a>
Complexity:	Postal and online voting, one issue for potentially 12 regions, more than 12 candidates for 12 places		

October 2014	Proposal provided to F&G by Returning Officer
<b>October 2014</b>	<b>Ratification of election timetable and appointment of Returning Officer</b>
July 2015	RO to prepare nomination documents, setup communication systems with RMs, confirm service providers, costs finalised and contract drawn up
Mon to Fri 27 – 31 July	Public Notices and Nomination Papers, candidate handbook sent to RMs
Monday 3 August	Public notices and nominations documents signed off
Friday 7 August	Interim electoral rolls via Eyede sent to Returning Officer
<b>Saturday 8 August</b>	<b>Public Notice of Election - Call for candidacy/registration for electoral roll</b>
<b>Thursday 27 August</b>	<b>Nominations Close at 5pm</b>
Mon to Fri 31 Aug to 4 Sep	Voting documents designed/sent to RMs (envelopes, voting papers, candidate profile booklets)
<b>Wednesday 9 September</b>	<b>Electoral Roll closes at 5pm Voting Documents signed off, online voting site commenced</b>
Friday 11 September	Final electoral rolls for contested regions sent to Returning Officer
Monday 14 September	Online voting site signed off
<b>Thursday 17 September</b>	<b>Lodgement of Voter Packs with NZ Post</b>
17 – 22 September	Delivery of voter packs by NZ Post
5 – 9 October	Progressive Processing of returned voting papers
<b>Friday 9 October 2015</b>	<b>Election Day - Voting closes 5pm</b>
<b>Tuesday 13 October</b>	<b>Postal votes close - Official Results produced Returning Officer signs certificate, candidates advised of Final Results</b>
Wednesday 14 October	Public notices prepared and signed off for publication
Saturday 17 October	<b>Official Declaration - Public Notice of Results in regional dailies</b> Voting papers sealed up and kept at RO's office
Wednesday 21 October	Closure for period for application to NZ Council for recount
<b>Wednesday 28 October</b>	<b>Elected members to take office</b>
Wednesday 18 November	Last day for new councils to have met and determine its appointee to the NZ Council
Monday 11 January 2016	Voting papers securely destroyed by <i>electionz.com</i>

**Summary of Draft Profit and Loss Statement Expenses 31st March 2015**

**6/04/2015**

Expense	Total Budget	Actual Expenditure	Ytd %	Comment
		Ytd		
<b>Projects</b>				
Species	\$ 24,600.00	\$ 14,354.00	96%	
Habitat	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 3,504.00	44%	
Participation	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 21,417.00	57%	
Public Interface	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 539.00	6%	
Compliance	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 2,623.00	20%	
Licences	\$ 500.00	\$ 1,401.00	280%	
Council	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 7,244.00	72%	
Planning	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 13,716.00	137%	
<b>Projects Total</b>	<b>\$ 112,600.00</b>	<b>\$ 64,798.00</b>	<b>58%</b>	
<b>Administration</b>				
Salaries	\$ 650,623.00	\$ 405,168.00	62%	
Staff Expenses	\$ 23,200.00	-\$ 531.00	-2%	Helen Brazil flights and Morgan Masters reimbursements so negative
Office Premises	\$ 83,450.00	\$ 31,964.00	38%	
Office Equipment	\$ 18,374.00	\$ 1,898.00	10%	
Communication	\$ 28,666.00	\$ 18,284.00	64%	
General	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 2,785.00	15%	
General Equipment	\$ 13,944.00	\$ 4,237.00	30%	
Vehicles	\$ 68,149.00	\$ 28,100.00	41%	
<b>Administration Total</b>	<b>\$ 904,406.00</b>	<b>\$ 491,905.00</b>	<b>54%</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,017,006.00</b>	<b>\$ 556,703.00</b>	<b>55%</b>	

Depreciation		\$ 45,682.00		
Commission Expense	\$ 96,183.00	\$ 69,393.00	72%	
RMA Expenses reimbursed		\$ -		
Levies	\$ 894,033.00	\$ 447,016.00	50%	

**Summary of Profit and Loss Statement Income 31st March 2015**  
**As At 06/04/15**

Income	Total Budget	Actual Income	YtD %	Comment
		Ytd		
Fish	\$ 1,593,438.00	\$ 1,469,972.00	92%	
Game	\$ 330,229.00	\$ 4,478.00	1%	
Prosecutions	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 841.00	14%	
Rent	\$ 37,000.00	\$ 24,283.00	66%	
Interest	\$ 40,555.00	\$ 22,124.00	55%	
	\$ 2,007,222.00	\$ 1,521,698.00	75%	

	Budget	Actual		
Total Expenditure	\$ 1,017,006.00	\$ 556,706.00		
Less "Other Income"	\$ 83,555.00	\$ 63,605.00		
Approved Budget	\$ 933,457.00	\$ 429,496.00	46%	



Balance Sheet  
**Otago Fish & Game Council**

**Balance Sheet**  
**As at 31 March 2015**

<b>CAPITAL</b>		This Year	Last Year End
7500	Opening Equity	1,039,201.00	1,039,201.00
9015	Retained Earnings Brght Fwd	<u>1,593,865.83</u>	<u>1,568,076.20</u>
		2,633,066.83	2,607,277.20
	Plus Current Year Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	409,930.85	25,789.63
	<b>TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>3,042,997.68</u></u>	<u><u>2,633,066.83</u></u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
5005	Cash on Hand	200.00	200.00
5022	Stock on Hand	7,354.00	7,354.00
5030	Accrued Interest	12,396.75	2,571.66
5040	Prepayments	625.69	11,078.69
5050	Investments - ANZ National Bank	423,746.24	423,746.24
5060	ASB Investments	292,932.55	289,684.20
5800	GST Paid	2,551.11	0.00
6040	PAYE Control	1,776.48	0.00
6805	GST Payments/Refunds IRD	27,811.39	1,763.04
ACCREC	Trade Debtors	179,984.45	125,053.35
ASB_00	ASB 00 Account	1.15	1.15
NB00	National/ANZ 00 Account	183,679.21	78,617.04
NB70	National/ANZ 70 Account	542,794.94	290,133.50
UNBANK	Unbanked	<u>0.00</u>	<u>314.00</u>
		1,675,853.96	1,230,516.87
<b>LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
6000	Sundry Creditors	37,328.12	37,328.12
6010	Holiday Pay Accrued	35,325.00	35,325.00
6800	GST Received	22,838.82	0.00
ACCSPAY	Trade Creditors	<u>41,335.84</u>	<u>67,477.48</u>
		136,827.78	140,130.60
	<b>NET WORKING CAPITAL</b>	1,539,026.18	1,090,386.27
<b>TERM ASSETS</b>			
5070	Anderson Lloyd Investment	<u>71,102.06</u>	<u>71,102.06</u>
		71,102.06	71,102.06
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
7000	Vehicles Purchases	235,177.60	235,177.60
7001	M/V Accum Deprn	(105,589.00)	(78,989.00)
7020	Boat Purchases	90,722.06	90,722.06
7021	Boat Accum Deprn	(70,003.00)	(67,343.00)
7200	Plant Purchases	58,274.10	53,894.10
7201	Plant Accum Deprn	(46,748.00)	(42,030.00)
7300	Furniture & Fittings	30,847.94	28,255.00
7301	Furniture Accum Deprn	(27,694.74)	(26,854.74)
7400	Field Equipment Purchases	34,610.96	34,610.96
7401	Field Eq Accum Deprn	(19,834.00)	(19,554.00)
7440	Land Purchases	414,410.77	414,410.77
7450	Buildings Purchases	596,081.14	596,081.14
7451	Buildings Accum Deprn	(300,209.50)	(291,935.50)
7460	Land @ Fair Value	426,260.00	426,260.00
7462	Building @ Fair Value	162,085.11	162,085.11
7463	Buildings @ FV - Accum Deprn	<u>(45,522.00)</u>	<u>(43,212.00)</u>
		1,432,869.44	1,471,578.50
	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u><u>3,042,997.68</u></u>	<u><u>2,633,066.83</u></u>

**Otago Fish & Game Council  
Profit and Loss - Summary  
for Period Ended Mar:2014/15**

		Month to Date			Year to Date					
		Actual	Budget	% of Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance	Annual Budget	YTD Actual Budget	Last YTD
<b>INCOME</b>										
<b>FISH AND GAME LICENCE SA...</b>										
1000	Fishing Licences Income	108,155	132,786	81%	1,469,972	929,508	540,464	1,593,438	92%	1,310,060
1006	Game Licences Income	439	27,519	2%	4,478	192,634	(188,156)	330,229	1%	(450)
		108,594	160,305	68%	1,474,450	1,122,142	352,308	1,923,667	77%	1,309,610
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>										
1010	Interest received	1,612	3,380	48%	22,124	23,660	(1,536)	40,555	55%	19,094
1020	Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	156	500	31%	841	3,500	(2,659)	6,000	14%	3,926
1022	Reparations Trust Fund	0	0	0%	1,754	0	1,754	0	0%	6,260
1025	Rent Received	3,392	3,083	110%	24,283	21,585	2,698	37,000	66%	19,751
1065	Fishing Competitions	0	0	0%	742	0	742	0	0%	1,089
1075	Commissions Income	0	0	0%	1,233	0	1,233	0	0%	1,211
1090	Sundry Income	1,200	0	0%	9,244	0	9,244	0	0%	2,196
1092	Merchandise Sales/Other	(1)	0	0%	441	0	441	0	0%	(1,744)
1094	Donations Received	0	0	0%	2,843	0	2,843	0	0%	3,000
1096	RMA Costs Reimbursed	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	15,087
		6,358	6,963	91%	63,605	48,745	14,860	83,555	76%	69,871
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>114,952</b>	<b>167,268</b>		<b>1,538,055</b>	<b>1,170,887</b>	<b>367,168</b>	<b>2,007,222</b>		<b>1,379,480</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>										
<b>SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>										
<b>POPULATION MONITOR / MMT</b>										
		106	967	11%	13,244	6,769	6,475	11,600	114%	5,125
<b>HARVEST ASSESSMENT</b>										
		0	250	0%	0	1,750	(1,750)	3,000	0%	0
<b>FISH SALVAGE</b>										
		0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
<b>HATCHERY OPERATIONS</b>										
		57	833	7%	10,439	5,835	4,604	10,000	104%	6,119
<b>RELEASES</b>										
		0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
<b>REGULATIONS</b>										
		0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
<b>CONTROL</b>										
		0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
<b>SPECIES MANAGEMENT-TOTAL</b>		<b>163</b>	<b>2,050</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>23,683</b>	<b>14,354</b>	<b>9,329</b>	<b>24,600</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>11,243</b>
<b>HABITAT PROTECTION</b>										
<b>RESOURCE MANAGEMENT A...</b>										
		0	292	0%	4,353	2,044	2,309	3,500	124%	28,150
<b>WORKS &amp; MMT COUNCIL LAND</b>										
		(34,564)	292	(11,837)%	(849)	2,044	(2,893)	3,500	(24)%	1,235
<b>ASSISTED HABITAT</b>										
		0	83	0%	0	585	(585)	1,000	0%	3,868
<b>HABITAT PROTECTION-TOTAL</b>		<b>(34,564)</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>(5,182)%</b>	<b>3,504</b>	<b>4,673</b>	<b>(1,169)</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>33,252</b>
<b>PARTICIPATION</b>										
<b>ACCESS</b>										
		63	292	21%	2,450	2,044	406	3,500	70%	653
<b>SATISFACTION SURVEYS</b>										
		0	417	0%	2,102	2,919	(817)	5,000	42%	1,595
<b>NEWSLETTERS</b>										
		0	1,292	0%	12,035	9,044	2,991	15,500	78%	11,076
<b>OTHER PUBLICATIONS</b>										
		0	583	0%	0	4,085	(4,085)	7,000	0%	0
<b>TRAINING</b>										
		0	375	0%	4,300	2,625	1,675	4,500	96%	2,727
<b>CLUB RELATIONS</b>										
		0	167	0%	529	1,169	(640)	2,000	26%	172
<b>HUTS</b>										
		0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	161
<b>PARTICIPATION-TOTAL</b>		<b>63</b>	<b>3,126</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>21,417</b>	<b>21,886</b>	<b>(469)</b>	<b>37,500</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>16,385</b>

**Otago Fish & Game Council  
Profit and Loss - Summary  
for Period Ended Mar:2014/15**

	-----Month to Date-----			-----Year to Date-----			Annual Budget	% of Budget	
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance			
<b>PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>									
LIAISON	0	83	0%	0	585	(585)	1,000	0%	0
COMMUNICATIONS	0	0	0%	539	0	539	0	0%	0
ADVOCACY	0	667	0%	0	4,669	(4,669)	8,000	0%	83
<b>PUBLIC INTERFACE-TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>5,254</b>	<b>(4,715)</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>COMPLIANCE</b>									
RANGER ADMIN	0	208	0%	357	1,460	(1,103)	2,500	14%	322
RANGER TRAINING	0	375	0%	2,266	2,625	(359)	4,500	50%	130
COMPLIANCE	0	500	0%	0	3,500	(3,500)	6,000	0%	6,555
<b>COMPLIANCE-TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2,623</b>	<b>7,585</b>	<b>(4,962)</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>7,007</b>
<b>LICENCES</b>									
LICENCE PRODUCT/DISTN	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
AGENT SERVICING	1,472	42	3,505%	1,401	284	1,107	500	280%	6,990
COMMISSION	3,901	8,015	49%	69,393	56,108	13,285	96,183	72%	50,066
NZFG LEVIES	0	74,503	0%	447,016	521,521	(74,504)	894,033	50%	422,585
<b>LICENSES-TOTAL</b>	<b>5,373</b>	<b>82,560</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>517,811</b>	<b>577,923</b>	<b>(60,112)</b>	<b>990,716</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>479,641</b>
<b>COUNCIL</b>									
COUNCIL ELECTIONS	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
COUNCIL MEETINGS	(81)	833	(10)%	7,244	5,835	1,409	10,000	72%	14,851
<b>COUNCIL-TOTAL</b>	<b>(81)</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>(10)%</b>	<b>7,244</b>	<b>5,835</b>	<b>1,409</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>14,851</b>
<b>PLANNING / REPORTING</b>									
MMT/STRATEGIC PLANNING	0	0	0%	846	0	846	0	0%	819
1821 ANNUAL OWP/BUDGET	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	247
REPORTING/AUDIT	0	833	0%	12,835	5,835	7,000	10,000	128%	4,008
NATIONAL LIAISON	0	0	0%	34	0	34	0	0%	0
<b>PLAN/REPORT-TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>833</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>13,716</b>	<b>5,835</b>	<b>7,881</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>137%</b>	<b>5,074</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>									
SALARIES	74,657	54,219	138%	405,168	379,533	25,635	650,623	62%	315,043
STAFF EXPENSES	1,666	1,933	86%	(531)	13,535	(14,066)	23,200	(2)%	9,948
STAFF HOUSES	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
OFFICE PREMISES	(5,076)	6,954	(73)%	31,984	48,680	(16,716)	83,450	38%	40,791
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	228	1,531	15%	1,898	10,719	(8,821)	18,374	10%	2,612
COMMUNICATIONS	1,948	2,369	82%	18,284	16,723	1,561	28,666	64%	14,364
GENERAL	46	1,500	3%	2,785	10,500	(7,715)	18,000	15%	13,408
GENERAL EQUIPMENT	0	1,162	0%	4,237	8,134	(3,897)	13,944	30%	4,562
VEHICLES	3,369	5,679	59%	28,100	39,754	(11,654)	68,149	41%	38,333
<b>ADMINISTRATION - TOTAL</b>	<b>76,837</b>	<b>75,367</b>	<b>102%</b>	<b>491,905</b>	<b>527,578</b>	<b>(35,673)</b>	<b>904,406</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>439,062</b>
DEPRECIATION	6,526	0	0%	45,682	0	45,682	0	0%	45,682
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>54,318</b>	<b>167,269</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>1,128,124</b>	<b>1,170,923</b>	<b>(42,799)</b>	<b>2,007,222</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>1,052,281</b>
<b>Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>60,634</b>	<b>(1)</b>		<b>409,931</b>	<b>(36)</b>	<b>409,967</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>327,199</b>

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FWIA	FWIJ	F24A	F24J	GWA	GWJ	GWA	GWJ	GWA	GWJ	GWA	GWJ	GWA	GWJ	GWA	GWJ	GDA	GDJ	Total	Fish \$	Game \$	Total Value	
<b>Otago 2014-2015</b>																												
Agency	2592	3731	395	432	6	45	7	692	51	538	50	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8564			
Retail Book	540	989	0	175	0	0	0	2576	221	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4501			
Public Online	1322	1552	549	148	17	31	3	1515	80	185	6	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5425			
Eyede Call Centre	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13			
Mail Order	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
<b>Total</b>	<b>4455</b>	<b>6274</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4789</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18503</b>	<b>\$1,783,189</b>	<b>\$67,159</b>	<b>\$1,850,348</b>	
<b>Otago 2013-2014</b>																												
Agency	2147	3037	0	323	0	113	14	744	39	2259	212	76	24	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8989			
Retail Book	1197	2195	0	294	0	340	40	4549	390	1246	126	43	21	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10444			
Public Online	1284	1699	0	141	0	92	10	1530	106	481	47	26	64	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5485			
Eyede Call Centre	1	5	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15			
Mail Order	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
<b>Total</b>	<b>4629</b>	<b>6936</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>6826</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>3989</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24933</b>	<b>\$1,785,908</b>	<b>\$373,223</b>	<b>\$2,159,131</b>	

Report Name: Regional Sales Multi Dates

Report Parameters; Regions: Otago

Seasons 1: Game 2015, Fishing 2014/15 ; From: 1/01/2014 To: 8/04/2015

Seasons 2: Game 2014, Fishing 2013/14 ; From: 1/01/2013 To: 8/04/2015

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\*24 Hour licence count is based on number of days that the licence is valid for. Books are counted from the day they were processed.

## **7 Committee Reports**

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**7.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust**

**7.2 NZC Meeting**

## 8 Staff and Technical Reports

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### 8.1 Fish & Game Wetlands Workshop - H Keeling

#### COUNCIL REPORT APRIL 2015

##### *Fish & Game Wetlands Workshop*

A two day workshop hosted by Central South Island Fish and Game Council in Temuka was attended by Morgan Trotter, Helen Keeling and Cliff Halford in late February. The course was organised by Nathan Burkepille (Northland Fish and Game), recipient of a F&G Staff Scholarship which he used to coordinate four workshops across the country and to host wildlife biologist and wetland ecologist Tom Biebighauser from the United States.

The first day of the course began with an introductory talk by Tom outlining the full range of wetland types and their associated values. Ephemeral water was highlighted as being of particularly high value to wildlife, supporting more rare species, and abundant and diverse invertebrate communities. Shallow water was noted as being most important for waterfowl foraging and brood rearing.

Tom shared some lessons from his decades experience in wetland restoration and creation, working with government agencies, private landowners and companies and community groups. He noted that the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers now considers wetland protection and restoration as vitally important in managing flooding.

He had found that in general only 50% of wetland enhancement projects were successful, often becoming dry holes within a few years of construction, or creating areas deep water not used by wildlife. Subsequently over the last 15 years Tom has developed a series of techniques and guidelines to build successful, low cost, low maintenance wetlands which should last forever.

The most suitable sites for wetland creation were flat pieces of land with evidence of drainage or standing water. He advised against building on sites with more than 6% slope (21°) and recommended flatter sites which allowed large wetlands to be created at a low cost. There should be no more than 1 m change in elevation across the site (otherwise the site should be split and multiple wetlands created; 'stair-stepping'). Tom recommended, in order to build wetlands that last forever:

- Don't block streams
- Don't build high dams
- Have spillway with low shear stress i.e. wide

The specific technique which is most appropriate at a given site will depend on the source of water (groundwater or surface water) and the type of soil present, particularly the amount of clay (for compaction and water retention). A series of resources were provided for use in making initial site assessments and testing soil types. Each region was also provided with a

copy of Tom's book *Wetland Restoration and Construction: A Technical Guide* which is an excellent resource with detailed explanation of his techniques.

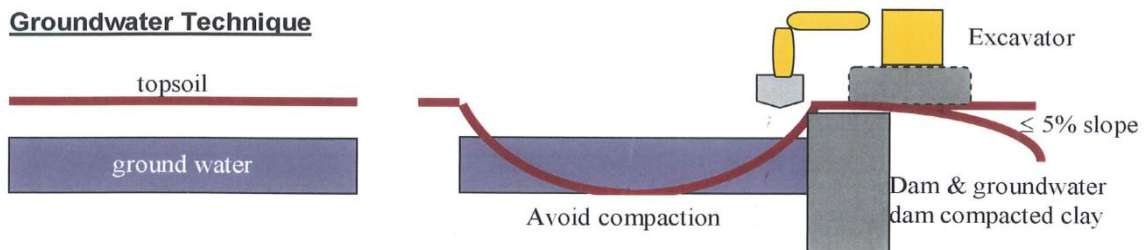
A key take home message was not to build wetlands with high dam walls; Tom now rarely builds a wetland with a dam more than 30-40 cm high. He instead recommends building groundwater dams (below the ground) to block underground movement of water and has

©Tom Biebighauser-August 2, 2013

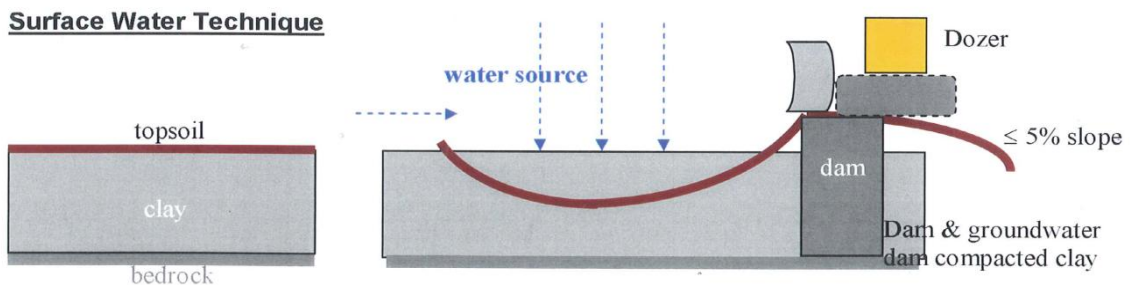
**Wetland Construction Techniques Key:**

- (A) Water seeps and rises into **test hole** from underground..... Groundwater Technique
- (A) No water seeps into the **test hole**..... (B)
- (B) Thin soil ribbons that *break off* are 1.5-inches (3.8 cm) or longer..... (C)
- (B) Thin soil ribbons that *break off* are less than 1.5-inches..... Liner Technique
- (C) Thin soil ribbons are 2-inches (5 cm) or longer..... Surface Water Technique  
*small watershed acceptable*
- (C) Thin soil ribbons are between 1.5 and 2-inches..... Surface Water Technique  
*greater compaction and larger watershed required*

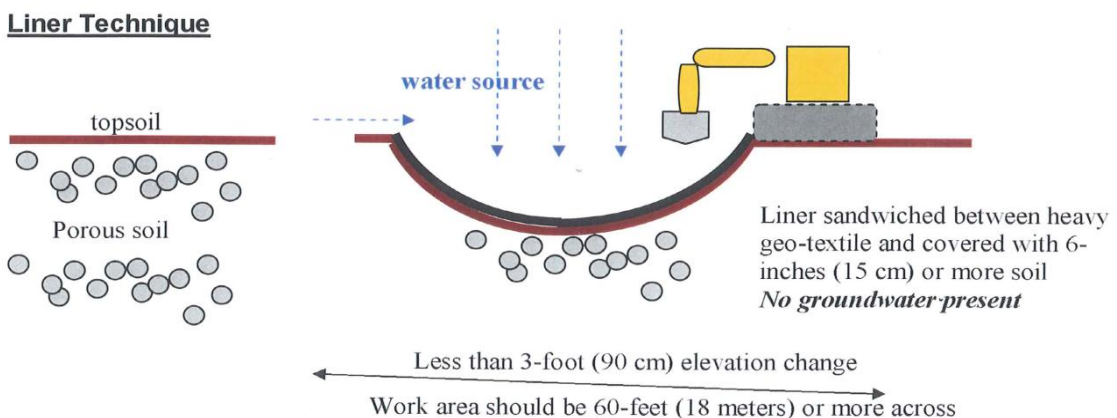
**Groundwater Technique**



**Surface Water Technique**



**Liner Technique**



found this approach to be cheaper to construct and without the maintenance issues associated with high dam in the longer term (i.e. head cuts, erosion, spill ways).

Figure 1: Tom Biebighauser's wetland construction techniques

Further consideration should be given to ensuring constructed wetlands are as 'natural' as possible. Any dam walls should have <5% slope, edges made irregular with large woody debris and root masses kept and returned, or added to the wetland. Varying the bottom of the wetland with pits and mounds was also recommended to enhance habitat diversity. On grazed land Tom has added fenced stock ramps to allow stock access to wetlands for drinking water without eroding the banks.

The first day was concluded with a talk and tour by Mark Webb (Central South Island Region) regarding his experience creating a wetland on his land adjacent to the CSI office. Mark had maintained photo points since its construction 1991 so unlike many projects the development of the site was clearly documented and this gave a valuable insight into the extent a wetland changes over time.

The second day of the workshop was held on site at the Wainono Wetlands where Central South Island is planning enhancement works. An assessment of the site was carried out including, drawing a site map, digging test holes, taking levels and identifying where water was entering and leaving the site.

Approaches to increasing the water level within the wetland were discussed. The soil at the site had an adequate clay composition for compaction and was saturated under the drought conditions present, indicating that the site would hold water if flooded. It was recommended to plug the outlet draining the ditch running along the side of the wetland and lower the stop bank to create a wide spillway which would allow water from the adjacent canal to enter the wetland more frequently. The ditch was to be filled using the 'plug and pond' approach and a number of ponds were marked out for contractors.

The workshop was an excellent learning opportunity for staff and provided many practical lessons and well as take away resources which can be applied to future wetland enhancement projects in Otago. Historically most projects in Otago and Southland have involved the creation of a dam wall (often 1 m or more), in the belief that this is the most cost efficient way to maximise water area and holding capacity. Often farmers do not wish to inundate relatively flat land, which is seen as a potential loss of production. The challenge will now be for staff to encourage landholders to concentrate efforts on shallow low gradient sites with low walls and to appreciate the value of ephemeral wetlands.

Helen Keeling, Fish & Game Officer, March 2015



*Figure 2 Tom Biebighauser and Morgan taking levels at Wainono Wetlands*



## 8.2 Update on Lindis River Research - M Trotter

### COUNCIL REPORT APRIL 2015

#### Lindis River Research Progress Update 2014 Field Season

In January 2014, 622 0+ and 1+ brown and rainbow trout (between 60-160mm long) from the lower Lindis River were implanted with Passive Integrated Transponders (PIT tags).

The movements of tagged trout were tracked over the summer low flow period using mobile back-pack PIT tag readers. Three surveys of the 9 km study area, plus one starting at the Ardgour Bridge and several smaller surveys were conducted. To detect out-migration and losses to an irrigation raceway stationary PIT tag readers were positioned on the main-stem river and on the Begg Stacpoole raceway.

Immediately after PIT tagging the study reach was subjected to extreme low flow conditions. Flows reduced to approximately 25% of MALF or less for 75 days. Approximately 20% of the study reach dried up entirely.

With assistance from the Cawthron Institute season one analysis was completed. Results indicate that the juvenile trout population suffered very high mortality during the low-flow abstraction period. The overall survival estimate (of all PIT tagged fish) based on the top statistical model was much lower than would be expected for post-critical period juvenile trout.

Potential downstream migration to larger refuge habitat such as the Clutha River was prevented by downstream drying reaches over summer. The river also dried above the Ardgour Bridge preventing any possible movement further upstream. Only a small percentage of trout tagged in reaches that later dried were successful in moving and finding refuge water. Tagged fish were documented moving in and out of the mouth of an irrigation raceway. Only a small number (6) were recorded more than 400m into the race and this occurring during autumn freshes.

At first light immediately after the dewatering of a lower river reach large numbers of upland bullies were found alive stranded under river cobbles. Within 24 hours they had all but disappeared. It was presumed they had been taken by scavengers as the substrate was too armoured for them to bury into.

Field observations indicate that the trout population underwent high levels of predation during the low flow event as potential escape cover was reduced. Of the 20 shed PIT tags that were found, 18 were under shag perches.

## 2015 Field Season

Initial electrofishing and spotlight surveys of the lower Lindis River indicated that the juvenile trout population was very low. Much lower than electrofishers experienced with the Lindis River had seen before.

PIT tagging began in January 2015, 320 juvenile trout were caught and tagged over 3km between the Lindis Crossing and the Begg Stacpoole Race bund. During the two month study period the lower Lindis remained dry below the Crossing and mobile reader surveys revealed that tagged trout did not move upstream of the Begg Stacpoole race bund which acts as a barrier to upstream fish movement during low flow periods.

Within one week of initial tagging, flows had dropped to very low levels (266 l/s at Ardgour recorder). Approximately 35% of the study area dried entirely.

Habitat surveys indicate that the lower Lindis has increased filamentous algae coverage and reduced potential predator cover (undercut banks, turbulent water etc) than the upper river. The amount of algae smothering parts of the lower Lindis River was far greater than previously seen in this system (appendix 1). In addition the invertebrate community appeared degraded in these areas.

Following tagging, mobile reader surveys of the 3 km study area were conducted most weeks until the end of February. The final two surveys detected 25 and 27 tagged trout left alive.

Motion cameras confirmed high levels of fish predation, and that scavengers removed any trout that had died in stranded pools overnight. Camera footage revealed ferrets and rats targeting dead fish, and shags and herons targeting live fish in stranded pools.

Data analysis and interpretation will be completed with assistance from the Cawthron Institute. I expect that season two results will confirm that during low flow period the juvenile trout population in the lower Lindis River suffers very high levels of mortality associated with standings and increased predation pressure.

The lower Lindis River is suffering the impact of consecutive summer dewaterings. The aquatic ecosystem is under significant stress during the summer low flow period and the river is experiencing serious drought like conditions on an annual basis. Results to date indicate that instead of being a productive source of juvenile trout recruitment to the Upper Clutha and Lake Dunstan Fisheries, the lower river is acting as a recruitment sink.

Morgan Trotter  
6 March 2015  
Fish and Game Officer  
Otago Fish and Game Council

Appendix 1

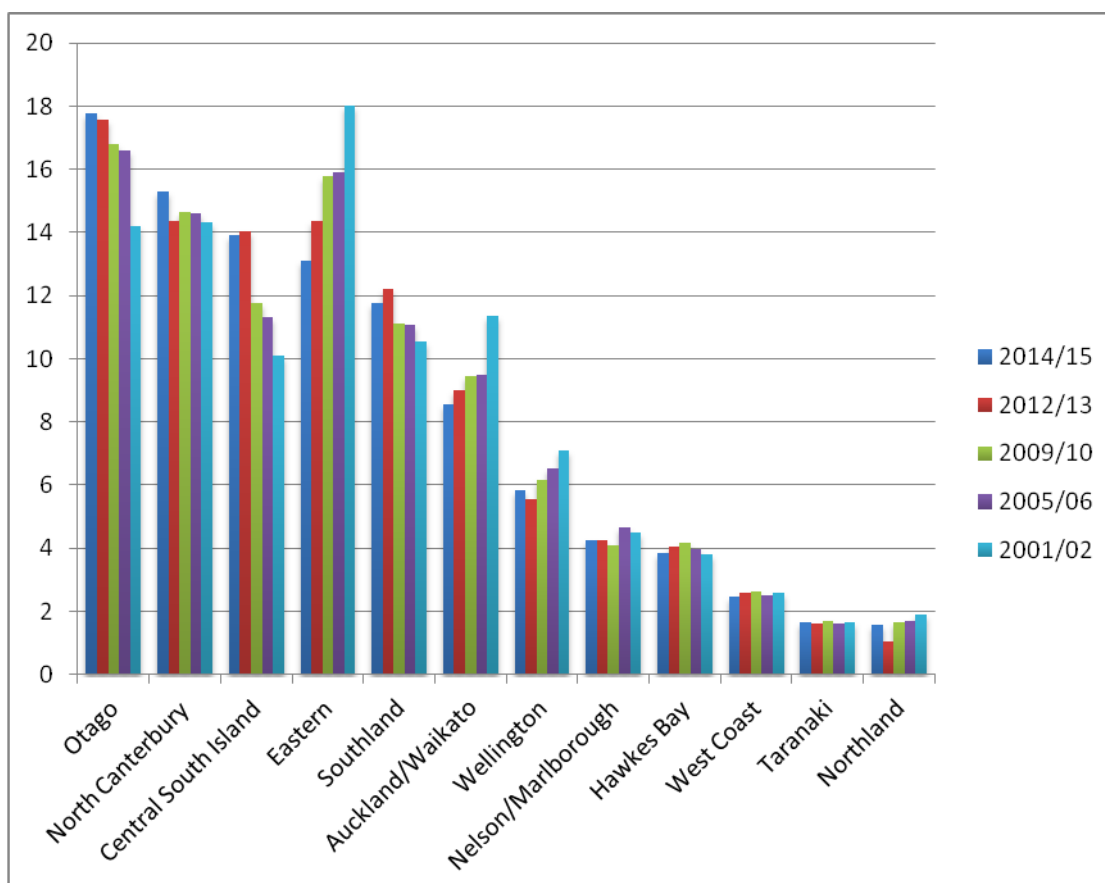


### 8.3 Regional Trends in Fish and Game Sources of Income - J Jillett

## COUNCIL REPORT APRIL 2015

### Regional Trends in Fish and Game Sources of Income (2001/02 to 2014/15)

NZ Fish and Game operations are funded entirely by income generated from licence sales by the regional councils. Other sources of income are essentially insignificant. The New Zealand Fish and Game Council has no statutory source of funding and derives its budget through levies on regional councils. There are very disparate differences in the incomes of the 12 regional F&G councils.



### Percentage Of Total NZF&G Income Earned by the Regional Councils

In the 2014/15 financial year six of the regional councils earned in excess of the average income (8.33%) and six earned very much less. Otago region had the highest income (17.78% of the national total) and Northland the smallest (1.06%). The six largest regions earned 80% of collective income and the six smallest earned 20%. The budget process for the whole organisation allows for levies on the wealthier councils to provide not only for the total funding of NZC activities but also minor redistribution of funds to supplement the income of the two smallest councils.

A potential consequence of the disparities in regional income is that delegates of the smaller councils could dominate decisions of NZFGC, though in theory at least they are charged with giving priority to national interests. In practice it does seem that national councillors do have parochial views and are often asked to represent regional thinking to NZC. Do they have a potential conflict of interest?

A feature of 12+ year changing sources of income is the emergence of persistent patterns. Four south-eastern South Island regions (Central South Island, Otago, Southland and North Canterbury) have all increased their share of the national pool. There has been a marked fall in the Eastern region's share, while the Auckland/Waikato and Wellington contributions have also decreased. The Eastern region once had the largest income of all the regions but is now further relegated from third to fourth in rank, though it still retains the largest budget.

Other regions, including Nelson/Marlborough, Hawkes Bay, West Coast, Taranaki and Northland have more or less held their own.

### **Changing Patterns of Regional Contributions to the National F&G Funding Pool**

	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2001/02</b>
Otago	17.78	17.56	16.81	16.60	14.18
North Canterbury	15.28	14.35	14.66	14.61	14.32
Central South Island	13.92	14.02	11.78	11.33	10.08
Eastern	13.12	14.35	15.78	15.92	18.01
Southland	11.75	12.21	11.1	11.08	10.54
Auckland/Waikato	8.54	9.02	9.46	9.51	11.35
Wellington	5.83	5.55	6.18	6.52	7.08
Nelson/Marlborough	4.24	4.27	4.11	4.65	4.51
Hawkes Bay	3.84	4.06	4.18	3.96	3.81
West Coast	2.46	2.60	2.61	2.49	2.58
Taranaki	1.67	1.62	1.68	1.62	1.64
Northland	1.57	1.06	1.66	1.70	1.91

Three eastern South Island regions each generate more income than do the five smaller regions collectively (13.78%). Nearly 59% of the national income is now earned by the four south-eastern regions.

### **NZF&G Sources of Income (%)**

	2001/02	2005/006	2009/10	2012/13	2014/15
North Island	43.79	39.24	39.23	35.86	34.57
South Island	56.21	60.76	60.77	64.14	65.43

There has clearly been a consistent 9.22% change in the respective contributions from North (-ve) and South (+ve) Islands to NZF&G annual pool F&G funds over the past 10+ years. The other major change, not quantified here is the burgeoning NZC budget.

John Jillett,  
Fish & Game Otago Councillor  
March 2015

## 8.4 Anglers Notice 2015/16 - C Halford

### **COUNCIL REPORT APRIL 2015**

### **Anglers Notice 2015/16**

#### **Introduction**

The triennial review of the Anglers Notice (AN) was scheduled to proceed in 2014 but was deferred by this council until Otago's Sports Fish Game Management Plan (SFGMP) review was finalised and approved by the Minister of Conservation.

The SFGMP is presently sitting with the Minister of Conservation for signing off and it is hoped this will happen in the coming months. A full review of the Anglers Notice will then commence early in the 2015/16 season.

While major changes will be considered in the full review process any minor adjustments to clarify legalities will be identified by staff and adjusted for the 2015/16 season.

#### **Recommendation**

**This report be received.**

Cliff Halford  
Fish and Game Officer  
31 March 2015

## **COUNCIL REPORT APRIL 2015**

### **Communications Strategy For The 2015/16 Gamebird Hunting Season**

Council have asked for the development of a communications strategy for this years gamebird season. From memory, the primary motivator was to try to better inform landowners and landowning hunters, many who are unlicensed, of their rights and the relevant regulations. Unlicensed landowners are not privy to the same level of information as a general licence holder, particularly the helpful printed material such as the regulation guide booklet, newsletter and magazine.

The opportunity has been taken to widen that brief to include a range of promotional and communication activity proposed to be undertaken by staff for the 2015/16 hunting season.

#### **Background**

By way of background, it is useful to undertake a SWOT analysis of where Otago gamebird hunting is positioned at present.

#### **Strengths**

- High public profile and acceptance of gamebird hunting in the deep south
- Popular activity as a proportion of total population
- Social side of outings regarded highly
- Part of social fabric in some rural centres and in families
- High level of compliance with the regulations

#### **Weaknesses**

- Difficulties in communicating with unlicensed landowners
- Price fairly high for participation of a new entrant for opening weekend
- Difficult group to target/ few opportunities for direct contact
- Low skill level in some hunters which can influence success
- Hunters sometimes anxious about approaching landowners for access
- Licence purchase tends to be last minute

#### **Opportunities**

- Full season under utilised
- Plenty of room on public water after opening weekend
- Working with retailers to increase sales of licences and other goods
- Upskilling can lead to greater success and satisfaction
- Wild/harvest your own/organic/heart tick food
- Better information flow to landowners



## **Threats**

- Licence package not suited to ‘have a go’ people
- Drinking culture and anti hunting lobby risks, seen as barbaric
- Images of kids with guns, dead animals
- HSE Act – may act as a deter access landowners

## **Methods**

*Media* – Regular media releases at key times will be used to create excitement and encourage licence takeup. They will also be used to inform landowners of their obligations if hunting and reduce barriers to property access.

*Feature Articles* – selected articles will be provided to regional and local papers to support their advertising features around duck hunting.

*Advertising* – Print adverts will be strategically placed in both mainstream papers and local and community papers. Where possible these will be in support of hunting related text.

*Attendance at Gun Club Shoots* - Staff will attend, where possible, regular preseason gun club shoots which are promoted as hunting season eye-openers.

*Retailer Support* – Staff visits to retailers during peak times. One staff member will be placed in Dunedin’s largest licence agency to interact directly with hunters.

*Direct Contact with Licence Holders* – Rangers will interact with not less than 200 hunters on opening morning.

*Offers to Hunters* – Hunters encountered by rangers on opening weekend who have brought a novice or children will receive a small reward for doing so (yet to be determined).

## **Timing**

See table below

## **Reporting**

A partial report of activity will be provided to the June Council Meeting.

## **Recommendation**

That this be received

Ian Hadland  
Operations Manager  
25 March 2015

## Calendar of Events – Gamebird Season 2015

Date	Activity	Tasks	Target audience	Status
March 20	Game Magazine	Generate articles for two page supplement	Last Season Licenceholders	Done
March 22	Attendance Dunedin Clay Target Club duck shooters day	Short talk and distribution of promotional material	Duck hunters	Done
March 26	Attend Outdoor World (Queenstown) duck hunting event	Construct talk on mallard research and current F&G activity		
April 15 – 26	Advertorials/Features in ODT, Clutha Leader, Mirror, Clutha/Southland Farmer.	Generate articles with the special focus on landowners involvement in hunting.  Generate advert to promote online sales	Landowners  Regular hunters	Underway
April 18	Both Barrels Ezine distributed subscribers	Seasons prospects and other material		Ready
April 26	Attendance at Wanaka Gun club duck shooters day	Short talk and distribution of promotional material	Duck hunters	Pending
28 April	Media release – Compliance – Encourage licence take-up	Write and release – Include details of last years prosecutions	Licence holders and public	Pending
29 April	Media Release – Landowner licencing/H&S	Write and release	Landowners	Pending
30 April	Media Release - opening Prospects	Pre written and circulated to media	All groups	Pending

1 May	Retailer/Agency support	Spend afternoon in major retail store talking to hunters and distributing F&G promotional material.	Licenceholders	
2 May Opening Day	Media release and - Opening day success Radio station contact	Prewritten media release updated and sent to all media by 4pm	General public	Pending
	Ranging	Check licences/bags. Provide small reward for hunters bringing kids or a novice with them. Distribute landowner and ranger rights information.	Licence holders landowners	Pending
3 May	Media Release - Compliance summary	Summarise compliance and hunting activity	General public Licence hunters	Pending
15 May	Both Barrels Ezine distributed subscribers	Opening weekend summary	Subscribers	Pending
May 29	Media release - Opening of Quail Season (30 May)	Media release sent to all media	Independent hunters	Pending
12 June	Both Barrels Ezine distributed subscribers	Mid season opportunities	Subscribers	Pending
17 July	Both Barrels Ezine distributed subscribers	Season roundup. Promotion of Parry Season	Subscribers	Pending
July 28	Media Release – Closing Weekend	Write media release - Season roundup and ongoing opportunities (parries geese etc  (Hadland)	Licenceholders	Pending

## 8.6 Waipahi River Fisheries Monitoring - H Keeling

### COUNCIL REPORT APRIL 2015

#### *Waipahi River Fisheries Monitoring*

##### *Background*

In 2010 a fisheries monitoring programme was established at several Tributary sites and two mainstem sites on the Waipahi River. Quantitative electrofishing has been conducted annually to assess juvenile abundance. Assessment of habitat condition has also been made. This report presents the results of the current year and considers findings from surveys conducted over the last five years.

##### *Method*

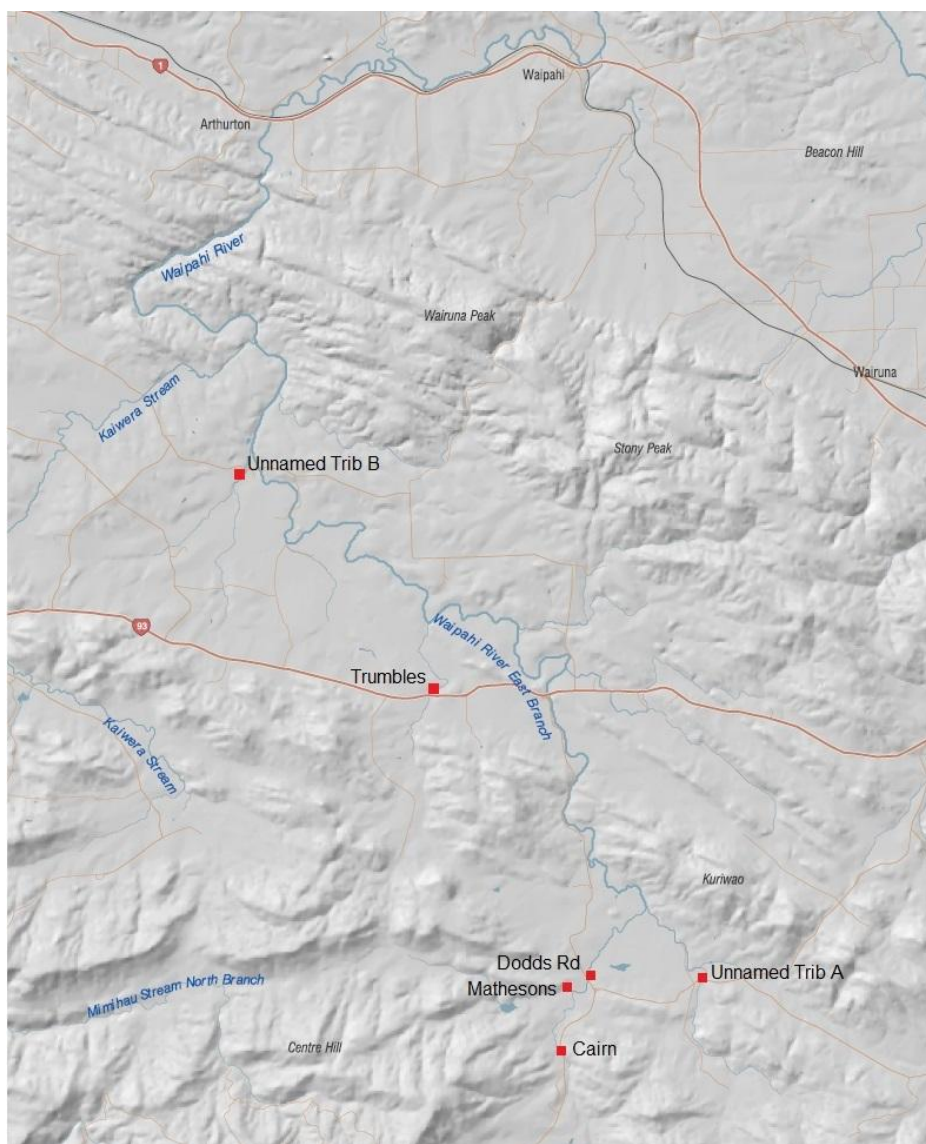


Figure 1: Waipahi River monitoring sites

At each site a 30 m reach was electrofished with stop nets, in multiple passes. All brown trout were measured and released. The abundance of upland bullies and koura was noted. Longfin eels were counted and their length measured. If the eel was sighted but not captured easily length was estimated to minimise risk electrofishing injury. Habitat was classified by type (run, riffle, pool etc), substrate, instream cover and riparian vegetation.

## **Results**

<b>Site</b>	<b>Brown Trout</b>		<b>Other Species</b>		
	<i>No. caught</i>	<i>Abundance Index (trout/m<sup>2</sup>)</i>	<i>longfin eel</i>	<i>koura</i>	<i>upland bully</i>
Cairn	3	0.1	0	abundant	common
Mathesons	36	1	2	common	common
Dodds Road	3	0.025	1	common	common
Trumbles	6	0.1	2	common	common
Tributary A	8	0.17	1	common	occasional
Tributary B	0	0	2	occasional	occasional

The number of juvenile trout at the sites monitored was generally low, except for Mathesons Creek where juvenile trout were abundant. Tributary B was the only site where no trout were observed, and both koura and upland bully were found in very low numbers here.

Most sites have a good range of fish cover present including instream debris, undercut banks and bank vegetation. Tributary B has the poorest fish cover with limited overhanging bank vegetation or instream debris. Coarse gravel and cobbles and bedrock are the predominant substrate types at the sites. Sedimentation appeared to be an issue at all sites although to varying degrees; Mathesons and Tributary A appeared less impacted than other sites.

## **Discussion**

There does not appear to have any significant change in juvenile trout abundance at the sites monitored in the five years since the programme began. Trout numbers have generally been low (between 1 and 10 fish caught at each site) although Tributary A and Mathesons have produced higher numbers in some years. Trout have been found every year at all sites except Dodds Road and Tributary B, indicating the at most sites spawning has been consistently successful. The most commonly observed age-class are 0+ trout, although small numbers of 1+ and 2+ trout have been caught across the sites, particularly at Mathesons.

The high numbers of trout observed at Mathesons in 2015 (the highest since the programme began) is likely a reflection of an extended period of stable flows, as well as the good quality spawning and juvenile rearing habitat present. Fencing of Mathesons Creek in 2012 has addressed issues with bank erosion (Figure 2). The riparian vegetation is now well established and the banks are stabilised. The riparian strip is still lightly grazed however this appears to be well managed with no signs of

pugging or erosion present (Figure 2). The project appears to have been a very successful application of HEF funds, securing a significant spawning Tributary for the Waipahi fishery.



*Figure 2: Mathesons Creek prior to fencing in 2012 (left) and after being fenced(right)*

Bank erosion and sedimentation is however an ongoing issue in the Waipahi catchment, particularly where streams are unfenced. Pugging caused by stock access was documented at the Tributary B monitoring site and sheep were observed in the creek at the time of assessment. Aquatic habitat values are considerably degraded at this site and only low fish numbers have been observed. In general habitat condition is considered to have deteriorated across the monitoring sites since monitoring began as a result of ongoing sedimentation. Further riparian fencing could improve aquatic habitat at Tributary B and other similar sites in the catchment.



*Figure 3: Pugging at Tributary B monitoring site on the Waipahi River*

### ***Future Work***

Otolith microchemistry analysis is planned to be undertaken through two visiting scientists from Estonia with the University of Otago. They plan to analyse trout otoliths collected from the Waipahi Gold Medal Competition. This work will hopefully identify the relative importance of several spawning tributaries and may assist direct further habitat enhancement works.

Review and continued refinement of the Waipahi monitoring programme will continue with other planned work on SOPs and general fisheries monitoring. Additional or alternative sites may be investigated to find more representative monitoring reaches particularly where significant man-made structures are present.

### ***Recommendation***

That this report be received.

Helen Keeling  
Fish & Game Officer  
March 2015

## 8.7 2015 Greenstone Controlled Fishery Satisfaction - H Keeling

### COUNCIL REPORT APRIL 2015

#### *2015 Greenstone Controlled Fishery Satisfaction Survey*

##### *Introduction*

The Greenstone Controlled Fishery (GCF) operates over three beats, from above the Sly Burn confluence to Lake McKeller, on the Greenstone River in February and March each year. Each beat may be booked by one angler (and one companion). Bookings may only be made up to five days in advance. The GCF aims to maintain a high quality backcountry angling experience by controlling angler encounter rates. An annual online satisfaction survey is conducted at the end of each GCF season to gauge angler use and satisfaction with the fishery and the controlled fishery system. The survey also helps to identify issues and areas for improvement.

##### *Method*

The bookings database for the 2015 GCF was reviewed to determine user numbers, demographics, angler days, and beat preferences. Valid email addresses were available for 53 anglers. An online survey was distributed to anglers via email. The survey asked questions relating to overall experience/satisfaction, fish numbers, and future management.

##### *Results*

###### *Angler Demographics and Pattern of Use*

*Table 1: GCF angler effort and demographics 2008-2015*

Season/Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	<b>2015</b>
Number of anglers						40	43	<b>55</b>
Total capacity allocated	51%	46%	46%	61%	27%	27%	25%	<b>26%</b>
NZ Resident anglers	40%	54%	34%	41%	51%	47%	42%	<b>29%</b>
Non-Resident anglers	60%	46%	66%	59%	49%	53%	58%	<b>71%</b>
Guided anglers	21%	20%	34%	32%	43%	10%	16%	<b>36%</b>



The 2015 GCF was utilized by a total of 55 anglers. Anglers made a total of 41 trips to the Greenstone during the controlled fishery. These trips covered 64 periods (days), with 17 trips including a companion angler contributing a further 28 angler days. Therefore the total number of angler days for the 2015 GCF was 92.

Each beat has 59 periods available for up to two anglers which correspond to 177 primary angler days and 354 total angler days during the GCF. The 2015 season saw 26% of this total capacity utilized; consistent with the previous few seasons, although a lower level than experienced in earlier years (Table 1).

Twenty-two angler days (24%) were guided. This was comprised of 17 guided trips made by a total of 20 different anglers; 12 trips by a solo angler and 5 trips by angler pairs (compared to just 6 guided trips total in 2014). This level of guided angling is an increase on the previous two seasons (Table 1). Interestingly although guided anglers made up 36% of all anglers they only comprised 24% of total angler days (pressure) during the controlled period. Guided angler days were not evenly distributed across the three beats, with beat 1 receiving more than twice the guiding pressure of beats 2 and beats 3 (Figure 1). This suggests that the most common guided experience during the GCF was a fly-in day trip to beat 1.

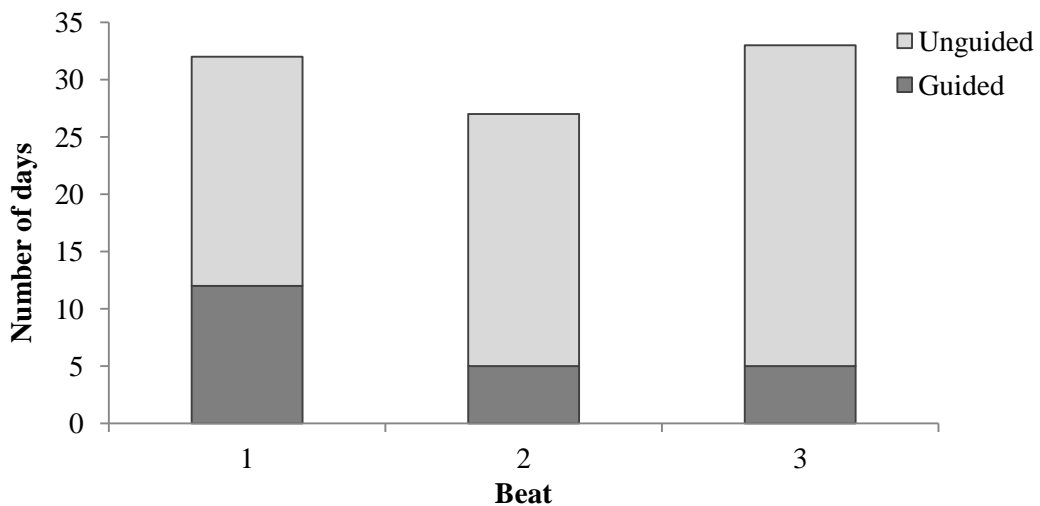


Figure 1: Guided and unguided anglers days by beat for the 2015 GCF

Overall effort was more evenly distributed across the three beats than in previous seasons (Figure 1). Typically beat 3 is the most popular, followed by beat 2 and beat 1 respectively. This season however there were only a few days effort separating the beats, and beat 1 was slightly more popular than beat 2. This can likely be attributed to good summer flows (anglers are known avoid beat 1 due to low flows) and increased use by guides wanting a single day fly-in trip for their clients.

Use by non residents was the highest in recent years at 71% (Table 1). The origin of non resident users largely followed the expected pattern (Figure 2) being predominately from North America and Australia, with small numbers from Europe (4%) and the United Kingdom (2%)<sup>1</sup>. There was however a shift in the numbers of North American

<sup>1</sup> Origin was not specified for 2% of anglers

and Australian anglers who respectively represented 28% of users in 2014. This season North American anglers made up 45% of users while the percentage of Australian anglers decreased to 18%.

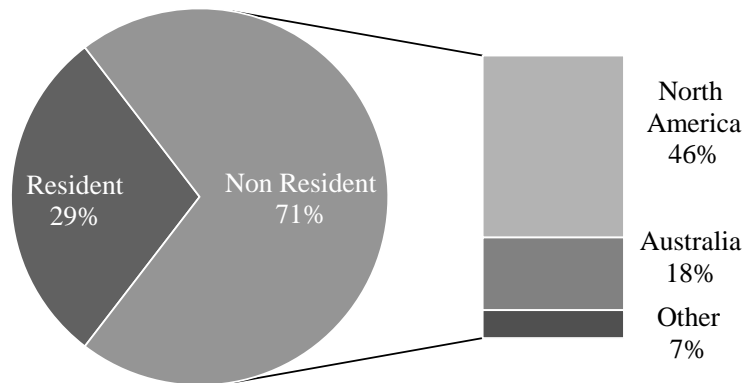


Figure 2: Origin of anglers who participated in the 2015 GCF

### Satisfaction Survey

Thirty-four responses to the online satisfaction survey were received (64% response rate; consistent with previous years), although the survey was open for just one week in order to meet the reporting deadline for the April Council meeting. Ninety-one percent of anglers indicated that they fished their booking. Weather or a longer than expected tramping trip/walk in were the listed reasons for not fishing bookings as planned.

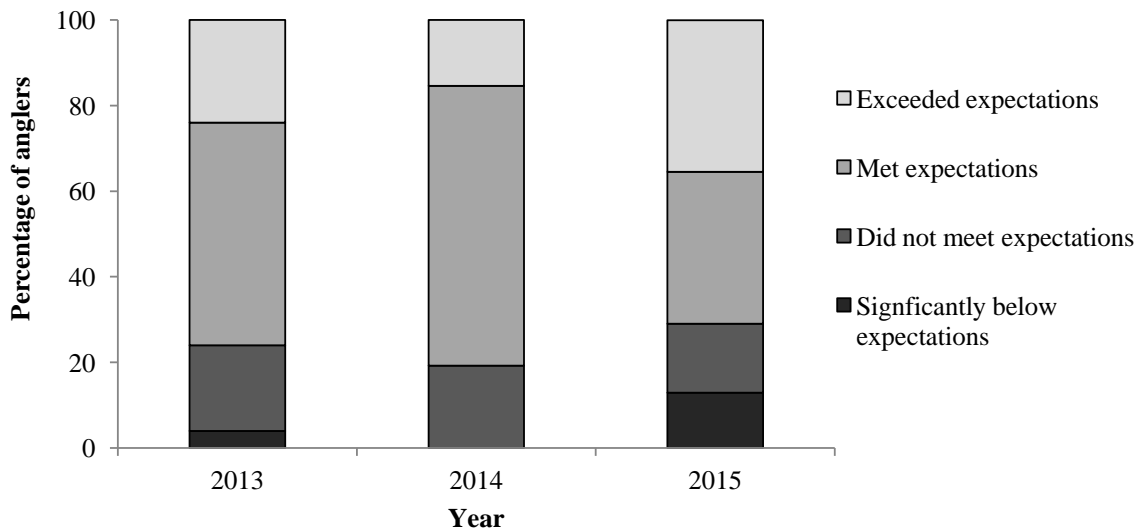


Figure 3: Overall experience ratings for the 2013- 2015 GCF

Overall satisfaction levels are assessed by asking anglers how their experience compared to their expectations. Satisfaction levels remain high for the GCF with 71% of anglers feeling their expectations were met or exceeded in 2015 (Figure 3). Compared with the preceding two seasons, dissatisfaction was slightly increased with more anglers reporting their experience was significantly below their expectations. The factors driving dissatisfaction were didymo, poor weather or river/flow conditions,

small or few fish encountered and ‘no shows’ by other GCF Licence holders (particularly frustrating when the angler’s preferred beat was booked to a ‘no show’). However it appears to have been a somewhat polarising season with more anglers also reporting their expectations were exceeded.

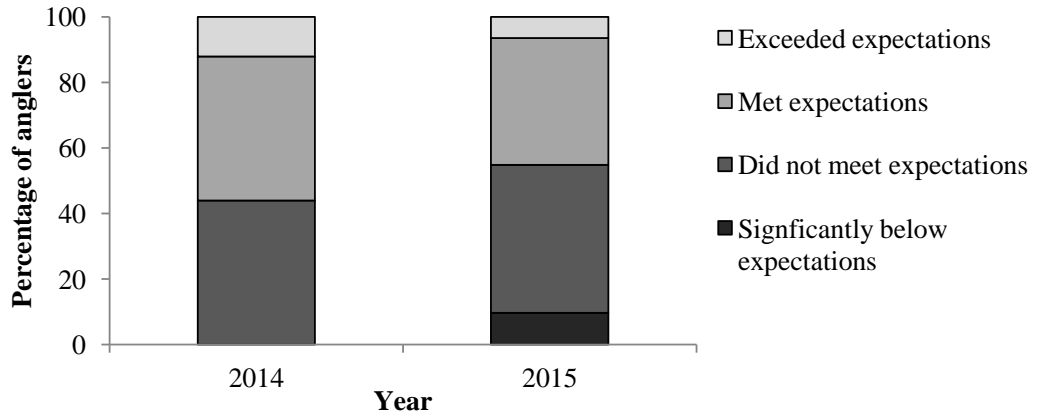


Figure 4: Fish encounter ratings for the GCF 2014-2015

The majority of anglers reported fish numbers did not meet their expectations (Figure 4). Individual anglers landed between 0 and 30 fish (although the latter is considered an outlier and perhaps the angler reported the total number landed by their party). There was a decrease in catch rate compared to 2014 (Figure 5) and only one angler reported landing more than ten fish (compared to six in 2014). Conversely, five anglers reported catching no fish this season compared to just one angler in 2014.

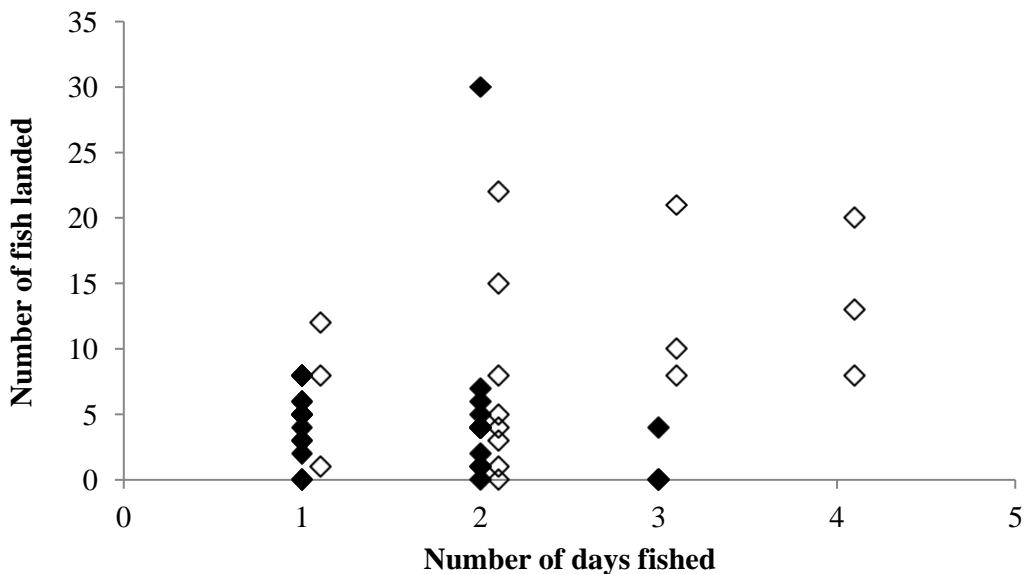


Figure 5: Number of fish landed and number of days booked by anglers for the GCF in 2014 (open markers) and 2015 (black markers)

### *Online Booking System*

Most anglers (82%) were able to book their preferred beat and date. This was down from 96% in the previous season but is perhaps a consequence of the increased number of users. There was a decrease in the number of anglers reporting difficulty using the booking system and 88% of anglers reported the system was 'easy' or 'very easy' to use.

### *Future Management*

Support for further use of Controlled Periods on backcountry rivers remains high among GCF users (88% in favour). General feedback on the GCF was largely favourable and there was no significant management issues identified.

### *Discussion*

Total user numbers continued to increase for the 2015 GCF however total use of available capacity remained relatively low and consistent with the previous few seasons. While there are more individual users it appears that anglers are more frequently booking just a single day for their trip meaning that overall pressure has not increased.

A significant increase in the percentage of guided anglers is suspected to be the result of both an actual increase and improved reporting of guiding through the booking system. However as previously mentioned the preference for single day trips by guided anglers means that their impact in terms of angling pressure was less than expected. Similarly the increase in non resident use is likely attributed to some actual increase but may also have been influenced by improved reporting in booking system, increased guiding and the new Non Resident Licence (past non resident users may have been less 'visible' due to use of an NZ address).

Improvements to the accuracy of information collected were the largely the result of increased scrutiny of bookings made during the GCF. It was observed that guides and helicopter operators were often making bookings in their names (instead of the client/s) or providing business email addresses (instead of personal email addresses for the client/s). When contacted, in most cases guides were able to provide the correct information, although this was time consuming for staff. Ongoing communication with guides and businesses will be required to ensure data collection standards remain high; however a warning system for repeated non-compliance may also need consideration.

Prior the 2015 GCF the booking system webpage was reviewed and several changes were made to improve both its functionality and appearance. A marked decrease in anglers reporting difficulty with the system indicates these changes have been successful. It should be noted that the GCF is now linked to the Backcountry Licencing system to remove duplicated angler information requests, but this requires that correct personal details be provided at the Backcountry Licencing stage.

Results from the online survey indicate satisfaction levels continue to be high. There was an increase in dissatisfaction compared to the previous two seasons attributed to

both manageable and unmanageable factors. Among the (more) manageable factors was the occurrence of 'no shows' which could be addressed through simplifying and highlighting the cancellation process on the website or sending a reminder email prior to the booking with a link to cancel if necessary.

The conditions of the GCF were causes of some dissatisfaction which could also be addressed. While not necessarily required, any changes to the GCF conditions should be considered in the upcoming Anglers Notice review. While there are always a few complaints about the five day lead in, an increasing number of anglers wanting to combine fishing the Greenstone with a longer tramp in the area are finding the five day lead in prohibitive. A small increase to the lead in time by two or three days has been suggested.

In addition following some confusion regarding the GCF rules in 2014 a simplified approach was taken this season by referring back to the conditions currently listed in the Fees and Forms Notice and Anglers Notice. Therefore no restriction was made to the number of consecutive days or total days an angler could fish during the GCF, however the booking system was adjusted so that anglers could only book one day at a time; having to re-enter the booking site if an additional day was required (where previously anglers could add a second day to each booking). While most anglers fished just a single day and so were not affected, anglers preferring multi-day trips found this change made their trip planning more difficult.

Low fish numbers (and to a lesser extent fish size and condition) was also a concern for some anglers and reported catch rate was lower than the previous season. A range of factors can influence catch rate including weather and flows so some interannual variability is expected. Collection of this information will continue and further fisheries monitoring may be considered.

Given the success of the GCF it might be worth considering use of a similar system elsewhere within the backcountry network, in particular on the Hunter River where high use and ongoing conflict between users has impacted the quality of the backcountry experience. The upcoming Backcountry Satisfaction Survey scheduled for early June would be an ideal opportunity to gauge support for such measures amongst current users.

### ***Conclusion***

The GCF continues to provide anglers with a high quality backcountry angling experience. While the number of users has increased in 2015, along with increased use by guides and non-resident anglers, actual angling pressure remains at lower levels than in the past. Improvements made to the booking system have been successful, although ongoing work with commercial users is required.

### ***Recommendations***

- Continue communication with guides, lodges and helicopter operators regarding client information requirements for Backcountry Licencing and the GCF prior to the 2016 season.
- That this report is received.

Helen Keeling  
Fish & Game Officer  
April 2015

## 8.8 Tuapeka Values Assessment - H Keeling

### COUNCIL REPORT APRIL 2015

#### *Tuapeka Values Assessment*

##### *Background*

In November 2014 the Otago Regional Council (ORC) published the report *Management Flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in the Tuapeka River*. The key findings of this report are briefly noted here followed by a summary of sports fish values present which has been undertaken to consolidate Fish & Game information on this river.

##### *Summary of ORC Findings*

The Tuapeka catchment is dominated by high producing exotic grasslands (mainly in support mixed sheep and beef farming), with significant exotic forestry in the upper catchment. A total of 19 l/s is currently allocated from the catchment for the Tuapeka Rural Water Supply Scheme. A flushing flow for the Tuapeka is estimated to be 2853 to 5706 l/s (three to six times median) and therefore the current allocation is unlikely to impact flushing flows. The naturalised 7-day MALF (mean annual low flow) for the lower reach of the river is around 314 l/s.

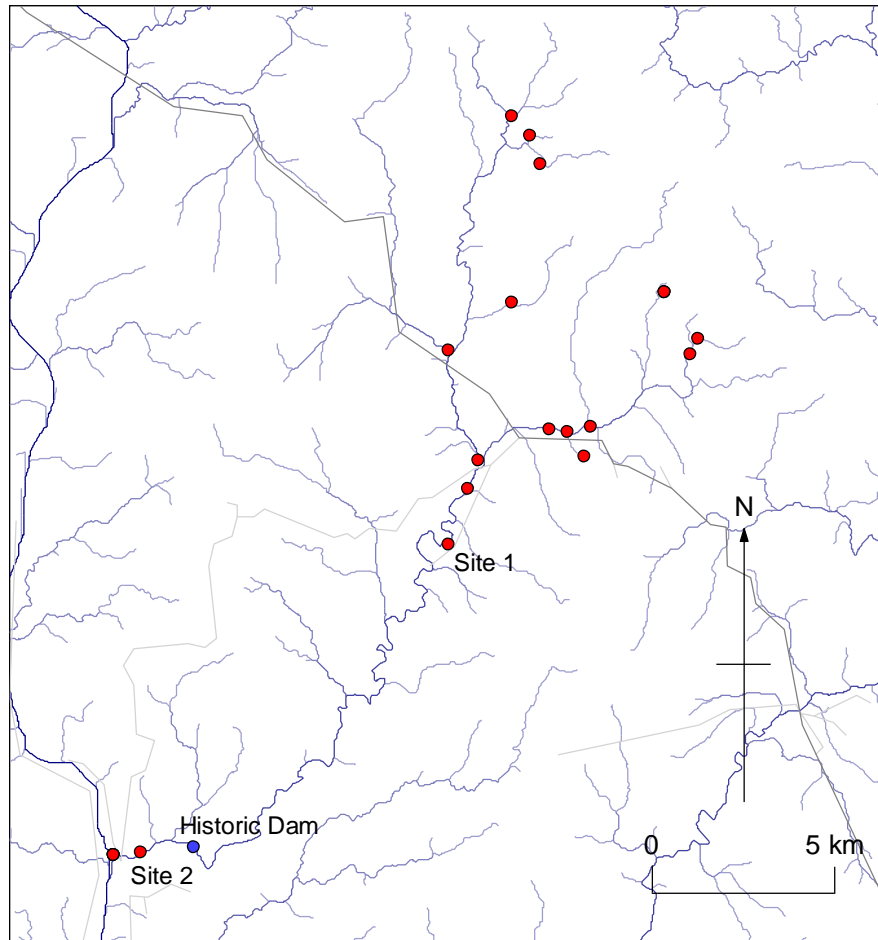
An IFIM survey was conducted in the lower river to assess changes in available habitat with flow. Available habitat for both adult and juvenile brown trout increased as flows increased. Using the habitat retention method (percentage of habitat at MALF) the ORC recommended a flow of 245 l/s for adult trout (70% retention), 220 l/s for juvenile trout (80% retention). An optimum flow of 420 l/s was recommended by ORC for trout spawning.

##### *Sports Fish Values*

Angler use of the Tuapeka River has consistently been reported at around 100 days in the last three national angler surveys (1995-2008) and the river is considered to be a Locally Important fishery. As noted in the ORC Water Plan the ecosystem values (Schedule 1A) for the Tuapeka include significant presence of trout, significant areas for spawning (trout and salmon) and juvenile rearing (trout and salmon). Records of salmon in the Tuapeka are limited to a few anecdotal reports of spawning fish and documented releases of ova and smolt. However the inclusion of salmon as a value reflects the extreme reduction of salmon spawning habitat in the Clutha catchment (as result of the Clutha Dams) and that therefore all tributaries of the lower Clutha represent significant spawning habitat for this species.

Fisheries surveys have been restricted to the lower river, the upper river and tributaries; there are no records for the mid river, presumably due to challenging access and less

management interest (e.g. DOC have focused on galaxiid habitat in tributaries). Records for the catchment on the NZ Freshwater Fisheries Database (NZFFD) date from 1983, with intermittent data points through to 2012 (Figure 1). While quantitative data is limited the records show that brown trout are generally common in the mainstem river and tributaries.



*Figure 1: Brown trout distribution in the Tuapeka River catchment based on NZFFD records; sites electrofished in 2015 shown along with location of the historic dam*

A spawning survey was conducted by staff in 2009 as part of a wider investigation of brown trout spawning in the lower Clutha. A 3 km reach downstream from State Highway 8 was surveyed by foot in mid June. A total of 6 redds and 11 trout were observed. Good quality spawning gravels were found to be common.

To supplement earlier records in March 2015 two sites (site 1 south of Lawrence and site 2 in the lower river) were electrofished in a single pass without stop-nets to assess the fisheries values currently present. Small numbers of brown trout (<10) were observed ranging in size from 110-145 mm (and one trout at 300 mm). This indicates that multiple year classes are present (with 0+ trout the most common). Longfin eels were also present in low numbers with 6 eels caught across the two sites ranging in size from 185-500 mm. No other species were observed. These findings seem comparable with historical records, although insufficient data exists to confirm any long term



trends. Good fish cover was present at the sites fish including woody debris, undercut banks and riparian vegetation.



*Figure 2: Site 1 (left) and site 2 (right) on Tuapeka River March 2015*

Fisheries values for migratory fish species such as trout, salmon and eels are currently impacted by a historic dam in the lower Tuapeka. The site was visited in March 2015 to assess its current status. There is some uncertainty regarding the extent to which passage is impaired, however the impact for trout and salmon is suspected to be significant. It is believed the dam has some protection due to its heritage value however clarification about requirements to provide passage may be sought from the ORC.



*Figure 3: Historic dam on the lower Tuapeka River*

Fish and Game staff have yet to assess appropriate environmental flows for the Tuapeka River but note the river's importance and/or potential importance as a water available for use by migratory native and sports fish. The question of fish passage past the Tuapeka Dam will be taken up with ORC and DOC.

***Recommendation***

That this report be received.

Helen Keeling  
Fish & Game Officer  
April 2015

## 9 Correspondence

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### 9.1 Gerald Cunningham – Letter of concern over flows in Lauder and Doctors Creeks Manuherikia Valley

Rapid 3355  
State Highway 85  
Lauder 9377  
Central Otago  
23/2/15  
Email: [poppies@farmside.co.nz](mailto:poppies@farmside.co.nz)

Mr Niall Watson  
Fish & Game Otago  
[n.watson@fish-game.org.nz](mailto:n.watson@fish-game.org.nz)

Dear Mr Watson,

I write to express my concerns regarding two local streams, Lauder Creek and Doctors Creek, both of which join the Manuherikia River at Lauder.

Several months ago a large water tank was placed beside Lauder Creek a short distance upstream from where Lauder Bridge crosses State Highway 85. Since that time I have also noticed a pivot irrigator on the neighbouring property running 24/7.

Since that date Lauder Creek has been devastated. What was once a healthy stream with plentiful water and the odd brown trout is now either completely dry or only a slight trickle for several hundred metres from the Lauder Bridge to where Lauder Creek joins the Manuherikia River. Doctors Creek which runs through several properties including my one acre in Lauder could also be feeding an irrigator as it has dried up for the first time in fifty years and the water in this stream is very dirty.

Initially I put down the drying out of Lauder Creek to the drought that Central Otago has been experiencing but recent events have shown that the drought is not the reason for Lauder Creek's demise. One only has to travel up the creek to where it crosses Becks School Road to see that Lauder Creek as I write is well endowed with good clean water. It seems that the water in the creek is disappearing somewhere between Becks School Road and the Lauder Bridge referred to above. I am unable to comment on the problem with Doctors Creek as it passes through private property for several kilometres with no public access.

With the recent rainfall of some 50mm during February other local streams have begun to flow again. Lauder Creek has not and Doctors Creek only barely.

My reason for writing is to help bring to public notice what is happening to local medium and small Central Otago streams. There appears to be no end to the issuing of resource consents by the Otago Regional Council to allow water to be taken for irrigation from any water flow, large or small in Central Otago. The after effects down stream of these resource consents where the streams are drying out seem to just be ignored. I am also aware of plans to apply for even more resource consents for these two streams.

The properties these two streams pass through are members of the local Falls Dam irrigation scheme but this does not seem to satisfy the greed for water by further tapping the public streams that are part of the local river system.

Sincerely,

Gerald Cunningham

## 9.2 Otago Regional Council – Correspondence explaining targeted rates for water quality monitoring and 6A implementation



30 March 2015

Otago Fish and Game Council  
PO Box 76  
Dunedin 9054

7 - APR 2015

Dear ratepayer

### Water quality targeted rate and dairy monitoring rate

The Otago Regional Council has recently released its consultation document for the 2015-25 Long Term Plan (LTP). Our water resource is a key feature of the 10 year plan, and the implementation and achievement of our water quality plan has a very high priority.

In the plan we are proposing to introduce two new targeted rates, one for water quality, and the second for dairy monitoring visits. We have identified your property as being one that will be affected.

Our work on water quality is estimated to cost \$2 million in 2015/16, and will continue on through the life of the LTP. These costs are for programmes to assist improving water quality and will be funded from three sources as follows:

- Investing approximately \$400,000 in research and development for real time water quality monitoring. This will be paid for from Council reserve funds.
- The provision of information to industry groups, rural professionals and farming leaders so they can give appropriate advice to land holders. This is estimated to cost \$520,000 and is to be funded by general rates charged to every ratepayer in the Otago region.
- Approximately \$1.08 million is to be spent on new science and monitoring work. Of this, \$813,000 has been assessed as directly benefiting some rural landholders. We are proposing to introduce a new targeted rate to collect \$813,000 towards the cost of this new work, with the balance being paid for by general rates. The rural land types affected are:

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| - Rural arable farming              | - Rural multi-use within rural industry |
| - Rural dairy                       | - Rural specialist livestock            |
| - Rural forestry                    | - Rural stock finishing                 |
| - Rural market gardens and orchards | - Rural store livestock                 |
| - Rural mineral extraction          |   |

As you have a rural land type included in the list above, it is proposed that you will be charged a targeted rate for water quality. The following rates, including GST, are estimated to be payable in 2015/16 for the capital values shown below.

Targeted Rates for Water Quality	Capital Value \$250,000	Capital Value \$600,000	Capital Value \$4,000,000
Water quality targeted rate	\$18.58	\$44.60	\$297.32

The impact of this water quality targeted rate is estimated to be \$7.43 per \$100,000 of capital value.

*Mission Statement: "To promote the sustainable development and enhancement of Otago's resources"*  
70 Stafford Street, Private Bag 1954, Dunedin 9054. Telephone (03) 474-0827. Facsimile (03) 479-0015



If you have a dairy farm, you will also be charged a targeted rate for our dairy monitoring work. This rate replaces the fees that you have been charged in prior years. Every dairy farm will have at least one monitoring visit to ensure that the dairy activity is not causing any adverse effects on our waterways. Some dairy farms may require two or more visits, and this will be based on the sensitivity of the receiving environment, being the catchment or sub-catchment that your dairy farm is situated in.

It is proposed that each property will be charged one dairy monitoring rate. The rate payable is dependent on the sensitivity of the receiving environment of which there are three classes.

Rating Classes	Environmental Factors	Fixed Rate Payable per property
Class 1	One visit per year: Sensitivity of the receiving environment - low	\$235.00
Class 2	Two visits per year: Sensitivity of the receiving environment – medium	\$470.00
Class 3	Three or more visits per year: Sensitivity of the receiving environment - high	\$705.00

If you have a dairy farm and want to see which class it is in, please visit our web site at [www.orc.govt.nz](http://www.orc.govt.nz). Our website also includes a rate calculator, which will show you your total estimated rates for the 2015/16 year.

If you wish to see a copy of our consultation document, you can find it on our website. Alternatively, you can email [ltf@orc.govt.nz](mailto:ltf@orc.govt.nz) or phone 03 474 0827 to request a copy.

We welcome your feedback. A submission form is included in the consultation document, you can make an online submission by visiting our website, or you can email us your comments to [ltf@orc.govt.nz](mailto:ltf@orc.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



Peter Bodeker  
Chief Executive

Otago Regional Council internal reference number: A752015

9.3 Neil Hayes – Letter on mallards. CE to report.

9/3/15

P O Box 188  
**CARTERTON** 5743

The CEO  
Otago Fish & Game Council  
P O Box 76  
**DUNEDIN** 9054

16 MAR 2015

Please find enclosed copies of:

1. "THE APPROACHING DEMISE OF DUCK HUNTING ....."
2. "A CASE FOR LEAD" The UK's high profile Countryside Alliance publication

} refer "Additional Papers"

These have been circulated widely in NZ and "THE APPROACHING ....." has gone to four groups in the UK – where they are experiencing the same anti-lead and anti-shooting sports scenario.

I've already received a large number of supportive responses, with two commenting that I have perhaps understated the mallard problem!

Plus, this is from a very experienced wildfowler who I've hunted with since 1964 and who has created 25 wetlands and planted over 30,000 trees on his two properties – and who will be heading out of the country on Sunday of Opening Weekend!

**"The mallard decline actually started in 2000 when the big mobs of mallards we used to see dwindled. We were oblivious to the wider scale of this disaster because it developed gradually over 16 years and only recently we've woken up to the fact this thing ain't going to turn around without drastic measures. Fish and Game are yet to wake up - or they are more likely in complete denial that it is happening:**

My **IMMEDIATE ORDER** of priority for a quick fix stop to this haemorrhage:

1. An immediate return to lead shot in all gauges. Number one: because it will STOP shooters continuing to shoot when they believe they have missed and unaware that they have killed by wounding loss possibly 2-5 bag limits using steel
2. Bag limit reduction to 3, for at least one season, and allowing no more than one female mallard in the bag. This is drastic, but drastic measures are called for
3. 2 or 3 shot capacity for all guns and the immediate ban of magazine extension tubes. [hardly a worry if the bag limit was reduced BUT shooters blaze away 5 and 6 or more shots at a time and don't know what they've shot or wounded and only bother with the ones that splash down; lost to the eye are many more wounded ones disappearing previously hit because the magazine is not empty yet there is more blazing to be done. Tom Caithness always said, "It doesn't matter how they die, it is HOW MANY die from the available population"! That is the figure that needs to be addressed

4. Season length reduced to 4 weeks or less
5. Sunrise to sunset shooting to identify hens as in the USA
6. Pond feeding during the season to cease
7. The introduction of a nation-wide predator control programme, with bounty's paid for – mustelids, cats, harriers and hedgehogs
8. No limit on Pukeko and a 6 -9 month season

These are just some of the drastic measures needed and unless introduced NZ Fish and Game will be bankrupt in a few years, together with many importers and retail outlets.

NZ Fish and Game is now backed into a corner - through incredible incompetence; failure to comprehend and acknowledge a problem or purposefully sticking their head in the sand greedily hoping to hang on to the money until the 'game' is over!

From my records:

1. The decline started with the 2000 season
2. With rapid decline during 2001 & 2002
3. A glitch in 2003 and a bounce back to 1999/2000 level
4. Dropping further to a level off for 2004/2005/2006/2007
5. Then rapidly downwards from 2008
6. To the disastrous seasons of 2010-2014
7. The last great season was 1998
8. From the book numbers, 2014 was just 15% of 1998

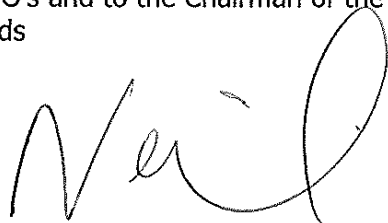
How this could happen right under the nose of Fish and Game is a quite incredible indictment of Fish & Game's lack of wildlife management skills, with no action of any sort being taken to even acknowledge this disaster. The Fish & Game agenda has always been to sell licences and with such incompetence and knowing that they will continue in the same manner - their present structure should be dismantled immediately!"

Five dedicate wildfowlers (including the writer of the notes above) made major contributions towards "THE APPROACHING ....." and they expect the NZ Fish & Game Councils' to study this document and the "A CASE FOR LEAD" – together with comments included in this letter in the hope that all Fish & Game Council members learn something and take **IMMEDIATE** action before it is too late!

Currently 90% of duck shooters believe that NZ Fish & Game is their enemy; and, as published in the Southland Times - Southland Fish & Game Council is **PUBLIC ENEMY #1** - and that those currently on the Southland Council should resign on mass!

I'm also sending copies of the "APPROACHING DEMISE ...." And "THE CASE FOR LEAD" to Richard Prosser, Peter Dunne, Nicky Wagner, the Minister of Conservation, all Fish & Game Councils', the Member of Parliament for the Wairarapa, all NZ F&G Council CEO's and to the Chairman of the NZ F&G Council.

Best regards



F N Hayes QSM CEnv



## 9.4 Dr Claudine Tyrrell (Kaikorai Valley College) Fish In Schools

### Rainbow Trout – Fish in Schools Report 2014

We hosted a school of rainbows for just over 4 weeks in our Biology Lab at Kaikorai Valley College. More than six classes watched patiently as the eyed-ova hatched, then went through the alevin stage to become big enough fry to release (4 cm long). They became such good swimmers that they could jump right out of the water and one even jumped out of the tank! That individual discovered the hard way that baby fish need water to survive. Still, with only five deaths (60 fish survived out of 65 eyed ova), we have shown that it is possible to have a high success rate in raising rainbow trout in our school lab.

On the morning of Friday, 28 November, 2014, the fish were transported over to the Southern Reservoir by Steve Dixon, the local Fish and Game Officer. Eleven of the 8Nk class went along to watch the release, to check out the trout's future home and to see where to come back to greet (and maybe eat?) them when the fish have grown to their 55-75cm adult sizes in the future. In 3-4 years time, these fish will be producing their own offspring.

This project was very popular with students of all ages and they were very respectful of the idea that "we need to be quiet, so that we don't disturb the fish!" Feeding fish (a pinch every hour) was great for each class being able to watch the feeding.

The release site was a surprise for many of the students, as most had not visited the Southern Reservoir before and they were happy to find there was a fishing spot so close to where they lived. It was a very good field trip and very close to KVC.

#### Comments by students on the project included:

"I was surprised that they grew so fast"

"They got to be able to swim so fast coz we looked after them"

"They are soooooo cute"

"The alevins looked like tadpoles, especially Bob"

"When can we have some more to look after?"

"Can we take them home?"

"Can we keep them in our lab till they are adult?"

"They kept changing colour!"

"They are cool colours"

"It's like having a class pet – but lots of them!"

#### Comments by the teacher on the project included:

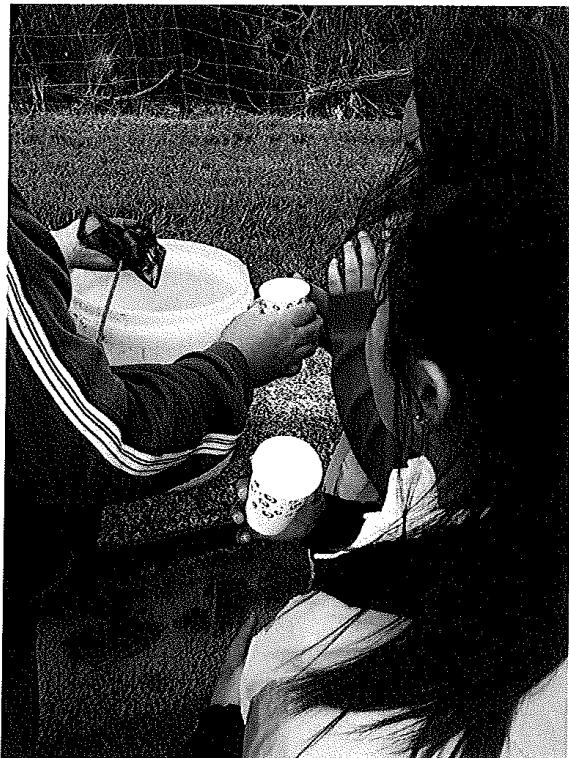
Care and feeding regime was easy and low tech, with the only downside being that I had to come in a couple of times more over the weekends (feeding down to 3-4 times on Saturday). However, I was in the lab a lot over this time of the year, and it was only 3 weekends – plus they did not feed while they were eggs and alevin.

I refreshed the water from a small side creek every couple of days once feeding got underway – I siphoned off the bottom detritus using a hose and replaced about one fifth of the tank. Our school is well positioned for readily collecting fresh stream water.

The lab tended to be cool – between 8- 18 C, and the water stayed about 10C throughout. Support from Steve Dixon of Fish and Game was superb. We kept in touch via cell phone and I updated him with the major stages.

Parents and the wider school got short written updates via the school's newsletter. Three other classes not based in the room came through to see the fish at different stages so at least 170 students were keeping regular tabs on them. Most had never seen fish eggs before and they thought the alevin were like a crazy cool tadpole stage! We had great learning talks about the changes that they were seeing and about how to protect the fish' habitat. The students all are really looking forward to repeating this experience.

Dr Claudine Tyrrell  
Kaikorai Valley College



## **10 General Business**

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