

**Agenda for the Meeting of the
Otago Fish & Game Council to be held on 20th October 2016
At the Office of Otago Fish & Game Council
Cnr Hanover and Harrow Streets Dunedin**

Commencing at 12.15

Please note: A Lunch will be provided at 11.45am

1 Present and Apologies	2
2 Declaration of Interest / Health and Safety Report	2
3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes	3
4 Matters arising from the minutes	12
5 Communications New Zealand Council	13
5.1 Correspondence from NZC to Otago	13
5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC	14
6 Chief Executives Report	20
7 Committee Reports	35
7.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust	35
7.2 NZC Meeting	35
8 Staff and Technical Reports	36
8.1 Results 2014-15 National Angling Survey - H Trotter	36
8.2 Proposed Update to Angler' Code of Conduct - H Trotter	38
8.3 Legislative Compliance 2015/16 Financial Year - N Watson	49
8.4 Twelve Milne Creek Fisheries Values Assessment - P Van Klink	54
8.5 Shoveler Trend Council 2016 – M Trotter	61
8.6 Confidential Habitat Enhancement Grant - M Trotter	64
8.7 Confidential Prosecution Update- Ian Hadland	64
9 Correspondence	65
9.1 The Concerned Anglers Group – Discussion Paper For Council	65
9.2 Zane Moss – Contribution to the Oreti Environment Court Case	66
9.3 Office of the Prime Minister – Lake Snow in Wanaka and Wakatipu. Plus Reply	67
9.4 Wanaka Gun Club – Thank You.	69
9.5 Gallaway Cook Allan – Notice of Appeal Lindis Catchment Group	70
9.6 Otago Conservation Board – Rapid Expansion of Visitor Numbers	71
9.7 Land Information New Zealand – Hukarere Tenure Review	73
10 General Business	75

1 Present and Apologies

2 Declaration of Interest

3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes

**Minutes of Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting
Presbyterian Church, Elspeth Street, Cromwell
18th August 2016
Commencing at 12.15 pm**

1.0 Present

Monty Wright (Chair), Adrian McIntyre, Dave Witherow, Rick Boyd, Ian Cole, Dan Rae, Vicky Whyte and Murray Neilson

In attendance: Niall Watson (CE), Ian Hadland (OM), Richard Cosgrove (NZC), Bruce Jeffries (Otago Conservation Board)

Apologies were received from Dr John Jillett, John Barlow, Colin Weatherall, Dr Mike Turner and Alan Hammond.

Resolved (Cole/McIntyre)

That the apologies be received.

Mr Wright welcome Richard Cosgrove the NZC's new PA staff member for the South Island and Otago Conservation Board member Bruce Jeffries of Wanaka who has taken on the Fish and Game liaison role

2.0 Declarations of Interest and Health and Safety

- **Declarations of Interest** - There were no new declarations of interest.
- **Health and Safety** – Nothing to report

3.0 Minutes

Resolved (Whyte/Boyd)

That the Minutes of the meetings on the 16th June be confirmed as a true and correct record.

4.0 Matters Arising from Minutes.

4.1 Game Bird Habitat Trust Board – The CE advised that NZ Council had supported existing trust members rather than Murray Neilson nomination but that all nominations had been forwarded to the Minister of Conservation

4.2 Lead Shot – Mr McIntyre expressed concern about the non-availability of the letter mentioned in the Minister’s letter under item 5.1.1. Mr Watson advised that NZC was asked to treat the attached letter as confidential.

Council **agreed** the Minister’s letter needed to be considered along with the attachment.

Mr McIntyre said any changes to the subgauge exemption for lead needed to consider impacts on subgauge users in terms of availability of ammunition for 410, 28 and 16 gauges and on retailers particularly in respect of lead times for any changes that come out of it.

It was eventually resolved (McIntyre/Whyte)

That Council agree to bringing forward the review of the lead shot exemption for subgauges.

That Council express its concern about the availability and status of the letter mentioned in the Minister’s letter.

5.0 Communications New Zealand Council

5.1 NZC Correspondence to Otago

5.1.1 Ban on use of lead shot in subgauges

Received – discussed above

5.1.2 Preparation of a Resource Management (RM) Strategy

Council noted the distinction between the regional Fish and Game Council role of participating in planning processes to protect habitat values and the New Zealand Council’s national advocacy role relating to legislation, national RM policy statements and with a focus on influencing central Government..

It was **agreed** the RM Strategy be supported and councillors were invited to provide input to the CE on amendments for inclusion in a response to NZC by the end of August.

5.1.3 Standard Operating Procedures

It was noted that SOPs would be useful in co-ordinating operational activities such as species monitoring so that results were comparable, and in sharing information and providing guidance on procedural issues. SOPs were not seen as a mechanism that should encroach on Council decision-making.

Mr Jeffries noted problems the Otago Conservation Board had experienced where DOC planning SOPs restricted Conservation Management Strategy development directions.

It was **agreed** that attempting too much standardisation would give away opportunities for innovation and improvement, but that priority areas for SOP development could usefully cover:

- Health and safety
- Staff training
- Data consistency
- Operational manuals

5.1.4 Land Owner Licencing

It was **agreed** that the initiative should be supported because of the importance of communicating with all hunters and for data collection. Past failed attempts to advance landowner licencing were noted and it was seen as important to give landowners assurances over the motives for the licence.

5.15 Angling Ethic – Catch and Release

The matter was discussed including West Coast's recent initiative on restricting daily catch where fish were released. Some councillors considered the harvest for food aspect of fishing was important but the personal choice of the angler was noted.

It was **agreed** that Helen Trotter be asked to prepare a paper for the next Council meeting based on material collected and included in her scholarship report on angling ethics.

5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC

5.2.1 Response on Fish and Game Elections – received

5.2.2 Response on Council decisions impinging on others - received

6.0 Chief Executive's Report

6.1 Administration

Finance and licence sales reports to the end of July 2016 were discussed. Council noted that income and expenditure was tracking the budget satisfactorily with expenditure slightly ahead of budget – 95% spent at a point 91.5% through the financial year. Fish and game licence income for the year to date were both slightly ahead of the full year budget.

Licence Sales

There were no known potential agent liabilities.

Fish licence revenue returns for the year to date were ahead of the LEQ sales target for the full year despite the introduction of new licence categories including three discounted categories. Game licence sales for the year were just ahead of the sales target for the full year and sales for the same time period last year

Mr Hadland advised that fish licence sales were within the range of sales for the last three years. Council noted that there was a view that prices and categories should not be adjusted for at least three seasons to see how new categories and income bedded in.

Mr Rae queried the rate of return on wetland funds held in trust with Anderson Lloyd.

Capital purchases

Council noted that a quote had been accepted for installation of heat pumps in the Dunedin Office at a cost of \$13605 + GST and that a flow meter was to be purchased at a cost of \$3600+ GST

Resolved (Jillett/Whyte)

That Finance and Licence sales reports to the end of July 2016 be approved.

Public Forum

Mr Stu Dever addressed the meeting about the presence of 'lake snow' in Lake Wakatipu. The algal growth was present in Wanaka but had not been present in Wakatipu before this season. He said it was a real problem and threatened angling activity. He noted water quality was of great importance to local and international tourists but was not getting attention from Government. It was not clear if the spread of lake snow was a biosecurity incursion, was related to climate change or was the result of land use changes within the catchment.

The matter was discussed and it was resolved (moved from the Chair)

That the Council write letters of concern to the Minister for the Environment, the Minister of Tourism and the Otago Regional Council expressing extreme concern about the development and identifying the urgent need for research.

Mr Dever also complained about anglers targeting large spawning fish in the Kawarau River between June and September and the lack of no fishing signage in Queenstown Bay. Mr Hadland noted there were signs on bollards around the bay and restrictions on signage prevented alternatives.

6.2 Species

Pukeko and mallard monitoring was discussed

6.3 Habitat

Lindis Minimum Flow Decision

The CE outlined his preliminary views on the decision but said he was seeking legal advice before reporting further on how to respond. He advised that the decision in respect of the summer minimum of 900l/s was a hefty compromise, being just under 50% of the mean annual low flow (MALF) but that 900l/s:

- provided a continuous flow in the main stem
- would sustain aquatic life including fish and wading birds
- would provide for fish passage
- would connect to the Clutha in a meaningful way
- would retain the braided character of the lower reaches

He noted that there was a likelihood of costly appeals to the Environment Court but said the decision was well founded on the expert scientific evidence presented and on national and regional resource management policy.

Mr Watson noted the minimum flow would not come into effect until 2021 when Mining Privileges lapsed. He said that would end a century of single focus water use within the catchment and restore the river as an aquatic habitat, as a landscape feature and as a recreational amenity.

He said irrigators had been given 30 years to plan for alternative sources of water or to change farming practices yet many were only now starting to look at on farm storage, collective water schemes or alternative water sources such as the Clutha River or local aquifers. He noted that the decision still allocated over half of the summer low flow to irrigation in a river which was about the same size as the Taieri at Waipiata.

Contact Energy

The CE noted that a meeting was to be hosted by Contact to discuss sports fish mitigation options, particularly salmon enhancement, with stakeholders.

Manuherikia

Council noted that ORC were making the setting of minimum and residual flows in the Manuherikia catchment a priority with community views being sought on waterway values and issues.

Pomahaka

Mr McIntyre expressed concern about gravel management in the Pomahaka River at Kelso Bridge which was causing bank erosion. The matter was referred to staff.

Cardrona

The CE advised work was planned on the Cardrona to draw together fisheries and flow information gathered over recent seasons. He said the ORC were looking at recommencing the minimum flow process later in the year.

6.4 User Participation

Vicky Whyte requested consideration of a take a kid fishing event at a Roxburgh orchard. The matter was referred to staff.

Hunter Valley Station

The CE advised a submission on access requirements for anglers had been made to the overseas investment office via Walking Access NZ.

Hukarere Station Tenure Review

The lack of progress over meaningful anglers access across the station to the Pomahaka was discussed. Clutha District Council did not share concerns about road access to the bridge over the river. Responses to the exclusive capture situation were discussed including establishment of a controlled fishery.

Resolved (Witherow/Boyd)

That Council take legal advice on the options available to challenge the process issues and outcomes

6.5 Public Interface

No Discussion

6.6 Compliance

No Discussion

6.7 Licencing

No discussion

6.8 Council

Discussed below

6.9 Planning and Reporting

BDO's letter of 12 July 2016 was received and it was **agreed** the CE's acceptance of fees for audits until 2018 be ratified

7.0 Committee Reports

7.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust

Mr Watson reported on trust business including:

- Some good progress on the Kane Road agreement.
- Assistance with Lake Hayes research.
- Clearance of Lake Dunstan islands for nesting birds
- Approvals received for track improvements to 'Black Bag' access to Clutha River.
- Discussions with DOC over Poison Creek access to Clutha.

Mr Cole queried what could be done about access in the Gilmore road area at the head of Lake Dunstan. The matter was referred to staff

7.2 New Zealand Council

Mr Watson reported on the recent NZC meeting and noted:

- The Resource Management Strategy was present to the meeting and was well received and referred on to regional Fish and Game Councils for comment.
- The guides licence was to be the subject of a meeting between Lindsay Lyons, Robert Sowman and the NZPFGA.
- In some quarters there still seemed to be an agenda for employment of an internal lawyer at a national level even though the idea had got little traction when it arose a few years ago at a staff level. It wasn't clear what the lawyer's role would be if it were established.

- There was also an unsanctioned attempt to grab resources allocated to support regional involvement in planning processes (Corina Jordan's position, now filled by Peter Wilson) when considerable success was being experienced in that area. The aim was to divert those resources to unspecified NZC advocacy activity which had been singularly unproductive under a National Government. This promotion of a shift away from participation in planning (where resource decisions are actually made) to 'harnessing public opinion' lacked any detail and was particularly unconvincing as an alternative he said.
- The NZC meeting had been a good one, observers were welcomed and involvement in debate was invited

8.0 Technical Reports

8.1 Otago Fish and Game Council Offence Guidelines - Hadland

Mr Hadland's report was discussed and it was resolved (Rae/Whyte)

That the guidelines dated August 2016 be adopted

The reduced reparation levels for no backcountry licence and fishing outside a local area without the inter available licence were noted

8.2 Compliance Summary – Hadland

The report was discussed and it was resolved (Cole/Rae)

That the report be received and rangers be thanked for their continued professional effort.

8.3 Council response to Anglers Notice Working Party - Hadland

The report was discussed and it was determined that it would be better to start with a blank page and construct something from scratch for the first schedule rather than amending the existing schedule.

It was **agreed** the working party efforts to date provided a useful start point.

It was **agreed** that the Council write to NZC and propose a new start as the best way forward based on commitment, leadership, and a reasonable time allocation, with copies of the letter to regional Fish and Game Councils.

8.4 Backcountry Fishery Angler Survey 2015-2016 – Helen Trotter

The report was discussed and Ms Trotter was complimented on it. There was discussion on whether or not comparable data was available for waters outside the controlled fishery and whether or not guides and non-residents were more astute in using controlled period licences. An apparent error was noted in Figure 9.

It was **agreed** the report be received

8.5 Fern Burn Spawning Survey 2015 – Upper Clutha Anglers

The report was received and it was **agreed** the club be thanked for an excellent report.

8.6 Manorburn Reservoir Opening day survey – Halford

The report was discussed and received. The CE advised that a summary handout was to be prepared for distribution to anglers at the start of the coming season covering Manorburn and Poolburn.

8.7 Poolburn Reservoir opening day survey- Halford

The report was discussed and received.

8.8 Mallard Monitoring – Paul van Klink

The report was discussed and it was **agreed** the methodology be repeated annually to inform Game Season regulation setting.

8.9 Otago Fish and Game Council Wetland Reserves – Morgan Trotter

The report was discussed at some length and it was resolved (Boyd/Witherow)

That the recommendations in the report including expenditure from the HEF funds of up to \$2000 for fencing on Tokomariro Wetland; up to \$1500 is for willow control on the Tokomariro Wetland; and up to \$2400 to increase open water habitat at the Inch Clutha Wetland were approved.

8.10 Habitat enhancement fund application – Morgan Trotter

Resolved (McIntyre/Cole)

That Council approves a HEF grant of up to \$5000 towards consent fees for wetland development. To be undertaken by Darren Keen at Taieri Mouth

8.11 Habitat enhancement fund application – Paul van Klink

Resolved (Witherow/Rae)

That Council approves a HEF grant of up to \$1500 towards fencing materials and plantings on an irrigation dam at Scott Armstrong’s property at Becks.

9.0 Correspondence

9.1 – Minister of Conservation: approval of licence fees - Received

9.2 – Wanaka Gun Club: Thanks for grant and request for further grant to support clay target shooting – Agreed and received

9.3 Albert Town Ratepayers: copy of letter to QLDC on goldfish in local lagoons. Mr Neilson said goldfish had been present in the area since the 1980s.- Received

9.4 Inderlee Ltd: letter claiming Ryder's report on water quality supported the company's view that fish farming impacts would be benign. CE to respond - **Received**

10.0 General Business

10.1 Non-resident anglers and guides

Mr Witherow advised that David Linklater was organising a meeting about angler pressure on low country streams coming from non-resident anglers and guides. He said meetings were planned to discuss the issue.

The CE confirmed that as a matter of Fish and Game National Policy resident anglers were accorded first priority in angler use.

10.2 Tourism Impacts

Mr Jefferies advised that Otago and Southland Conservation Boards were planning a joint meeting on Tourism impacts on parks at the Crown Plaza in Queenstown on 27th October 2016 and said Fish and Game would be invited.

10.3 Forest and Bird Landscape Investigation

Mr Jeffries advised Upper Clutha Forest and Bird was conducting a landscape assessment of the Makarora area from 'The Neck' to the head of the lake and up the river valley.

The Chair thanks Bruce Jeffries for his attendance and input

The meeting closed at 5.30 pm.

4 Matters arising from the minutes

5 Communications New Zealand Council

5.1 Correspondence from NZC to Otago

5.1.1 Nil

5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC

5.2.1 Land Occupier Licence to Hunt and Fish



2 September 2016

Lindsay Lyons
Chair
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
Po Box 13-141
WELLINGTON

Dear Lindsay

Land Occupier Licence to Hunt and Fish

Robert Sowman's paper on the above was considered at our August Council meeting.

Otago Council agreed that the initiative should be supported because of the importance of communicating with all anglers and hunters of management issues and for data collection.

Past failed attempts to advance landowner licencing were noted and it was seen as critically important to get land occupiers onside as a first step and to give them and farmer advocacy groups such as Federated Farmers assurances over the motives for the licence.

One policy impediment to progress may be the current 'Ends' National Policy EP 2.1 Fishers and Hunters which gives in priority in descending order to;

1. Resident licenceholders
2. Non-resident licenceholders
3. Those people who aspire to fish and hunt
4. Landowners

That policy may need to be revisited if the land occupier licence is to be pursued successfully.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monty Wright".

Monty Wright
Chair

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

Otago Region

5.2.2 Function for SOP Treatment



2 September 2016

Lindsay Lyons
Chair
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
Po Box 13-141
WELLINGTON

Dear Lindsay

Functions for SOP Treatment

Robert Sowman's paper on the priority for preparation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) was considered at our August Council meeting.

Otago Council agreed that SOPs would be useful in co-ordinating staff operational activities such as:

- species monitoring;
- data consistency;
- operational manuals for staff
- health and safety procedures
- staff training

SOPs are particularly useful in ensuring data collected is comparable and in sharing information across the country and in providing guidance on procedural issues to new staff members.

SOPs are not seen as a mechanism that should encroach on Council decision-making and it is important to note that attempting too much standardisation gives away opportunities for innovation and improvement which is a key benefit of a devolved structure.

There is of course some activity already underway on preparation of a model health and safety manual and of a fisheries monitoring SOP. One frustrating aspect of the latter is the lack of a sufficient NZC budget allocation for SOP development despite it being an NZC priority, requiring staff time for extraordinary funding applications.

Also, funding for such activities should be accommodated in the NZC co-ordination budget. It is not appropriate to load those costs on to dedicated funds such as the research fund as has happened with the fisheries monitoring SOP.

Currently there is an emerging need for a facility to allow staff across the country to share documents – a drop box or an intranet. Again this is core co-ordination and I would urge NZC to approve funding to establish such facilities as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Monty Wright'.

Monty Wright
Chair

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

Otago Region

5.2.3 Subguage Exemption for the Use of Lead Shot



2 September 2016

Lindsay Lyons
Chair
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
Po Box 13-141
WELLINGTON

Dear Lindsay

Subguage exemption for the use of lead shot

The Minister's letter questioning the subguage exemption for lead shot was considered at our August Council meeting and it was resolved that the Council agree to the Minister's request to bring forward the review of the exemption.

My Council felt that it was unfortunate the enclosure mentioned in the Ministers letter was not circulated as background to the Minister's request. There has been quite a lot of unnecessary speculation on that correspondence which has only served to complicate the matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monty Wright".

Monty Wright
Chair

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

Otago Region

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www.fishandgame.org.nz

5.2.4 Anglers Notice 1st Schedule



3 September 2016

Lindsay Lyons
Chair
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
Po Box 13-141
WELLINGTON

Dear Lindsay

Anglers Notice 1st Schedule

While there is some useful material in the Anglers Notice Working Party Report circulated earlier in the year and focusing on the Anglers Notice 1st schedule my Council believes it would be better to start with a blank page and construct something from scratch rather than attempting to amend the existing 1st schedule.

A new start is seen as the best way forward based on commitment, leadership, and a reasonable allocation of time resources.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monty Wright".

Monty Wright
Chair

Copy: Chairs Fish and Game Councils

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Otago Region

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5.2.6 Resource Management Strategy



7 September 2016

Lindsay Lyons
Chair
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
Po Box 13-141
WELLINGTON

Dear Lindsay

Resource Management Strategy

The circulated Resource Management Strategy was discussed at our August meeting and was supported without change noting that, as discussed in the covering memo, there needs to be further work on development of tactics and actions for achievement of the Outcomes and Objectives identified in the document.

My Council noted the important distinction within the strategy between the regional Fish and Game Council role of participating in planning processes to protect habitat values and the New Zealand Council's national advocacy role relating to legislation, national RM policy statements and with a focus on influencing central Government. That reflects the respective national and regional roles as defined in the Conservation Act.

We look forward to further involvement in development of tactics and actions for implementation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monty Wright".

Monty Wright
Chair

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Otago Region

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www.fishandgame.org.nz

5.2.7 Extension to Eyede Contract



2 September 2016

Lindsay Lyons
Chair
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
Po Box 13-141
WELLINGTON

Dear Lindsay

Extension to Eyede Contract

Otago Council support taking up the Eyede licencing contract's option of a two year extension to the agreement. The service provided has been very satisfactory since contract renewal and an extension to the contract is entirely appropriate.

Given the satisfactory nature of the outsourcing arrangement it would also be worthwhile for the Licence Working Party to investigate negotiating a further extension beyond that two year period.

Yours sincerely

Monty Wright
Chair

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

Otago Region

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6 Chief Executives Report

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT OCTOBER 2016

6.1 ADMINISTRATION

Finance and Administration

Financial Reports to 31 August 2016

The draft finance report for the period from 1 September 2015 to 31 August 2016 is attached for your information. The accounts are still with the accountant for end of year reporting but we don't expect to see much change from the draft presented.

NZC levies for the year have been set at \$839,736 and commission has been calculated at \$95,504. Key budget figures are included in the front of the Annual Work Plan

Expenditure to date is for the new financial year is rather meaningless as we are only a month into the new financial year. A full update will be provided for the next meeting

Fishing licence sales revenue received for the year to 10 October 2016 is \$694,527.00 (including commission). The fish budget figures for the full year is \$1,596,522 including commission.

Budget and expenditure figures are exclusive of GST

Licence Sales to 10 October

Fish licence sales recorded to 10th October 2016 are outlined in the attached table from Eyede and compared with last year on the same date. Figures are inclusive of GST.

Fishing licence sales in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) at 5,525 LEQs are very slightly ahead when compared to the same time last year (5,231 LEQs).

Funds Position at 30th September 2016

ANZ 00 account	\$226,751.69
ANZ 70 account	\$131,644.02

Reparation Trust Account

Account balance to 31 August 2015	\$ 63,702
Revenue for year to 30 September 2016	\$ 500
Less Grants	<u>\$ 4,500</u>
Total	\$ 59,702

Backcountry Management

Account balance to 10th October \$41,712

Term investments as at 30th September 2016:

ASB 0079	\$314,286.45 @ 3.30% maturing January 2016
SBS 44624	\$469,149.43 @ 3.38% maturing December 2016

The sum of \$76,110.10 is held by Anderson Lloyd in trust for wetland management via DOC.

Agents and Debts

No liabilities or potential liabilities at the present time.

Capital Expenditure

Heat pumps in the Dunedin Office have now been installed.

Purchasing of a suitable meter for measuring flows of small rivers and streams requires further investigation. Costs range from \$2500 for a simple device to \$16,000 to obtain a unit equivalent to the ORC. Helen is looking at options including second hand and hiring.

Health and Safety

A minor near miss related to chemical handling was reported and corrective action has been taken. One staff member completed a first aid certificate update.

Staffing

Peter Wilson has now finished working out his notice period but will remain available for some residual RMA matters.

The Environmental Officers role is currently being advertised in major papers and in the Jobs section of Trademe. The Trademe listing has had 1250 views.

Steven Dixon will have returned from his fortnight in USA where he attended the International Trout conference and gave a presentation. Niall remains on annual leave until the 3 November and the OM has been delegated his responsibilities.

Land and Buildings

Following an increase in thefts around Cromwell, the Council has contributed to a further movement sensor for the alarm at its Cromwell office. A 10 year smoke alarm has also been installed.

Two non binding Memorandum of Understanding documents have been signed:

- University of Otago and the Lakes Alpine Trust to establish a Research and Education centre on part of the Councils Wanaka hatchery site.
- Te Kakano Aotearoa Trust for rehabilitation of the headwaters of Bullock Creek.

Recommendation

That the draft Finance for the period ending 31 August and Licence Sales Report to 10 October be received.

6.2 SPECIES

Waterfowl Monitoring (1111)

Shoveler monitoring is complete and a report has been prepared for this meeting. (Item 8.5)

Spawning Surveys (1112)

Spawning surveys are complete for the 12 Mile Creek (report provided in this agenda 8.4) and are underway in Quartz Creek and the Cardrona River.

Population Monitoring: (1113)

Nothing to report

Success & Satisfaction (1122)

A workshop with Martin Unwin on the National Angling Survey has been organised for the 18th October in Cromwell. Participants from Otago, Southland and Central South Island are proposing to attend.

Helen Trotter will give a short presentation on the National Angler Survey results at the meeting.

Fish Salvage (1131)

Landowner contact has been made to facilitate annual fish salvage operations at Quarts Creek

Hatchery Operations (1141)

Spawning has been completed and enough eggs were harvested to be able to supply Nelson Marlborough with the surplus. Hatching is underway. Surplus brood stock was liberated to the Southern Reservoir ahead of the TAKF day and provided great sport for some young anglers.

Releases (1161)

Liberations will begin when FGO Dixon returns from overseas in mid October.

Game Notice (1171)

Nothing to report

Anglers Notice (1172)

Changes to the current seasons Anglers Notice have been promoted where possible and signage installed or updated at the Leith Stream and Lake Mahinerangi.

Game Bird Control (1181)

Two complaints about Black Swans have been received and permits to disturb have been issued.

6.3 HABITAT

Resource Management (1211)

Contact Energy

The 2016-17 Lower Clutha Sports Fish Management Plan was determined following meetings with Contact (Daniel Druce).

Resource Management Complaints 2015/16

Date/Agency	Issue	Response
June 2015	Complaint about grazing adjacent to Waikoikoi	Reported to ORC. As stream was fenced and grazing was not causing pugging at time of inspection no offence was committed
September 2015	Complaint about feedlot next to Kaitangata Channel and potential for leachate discharge	ORC still to respond
September 2016	Complaint about gravel removal and riverbed works in Shag River	Meeting convened with ORC engineers and compliance staff to review global consent.

Planning (1212)

Regional Policy Statement

The Regional Policy Statement (RPS) for Otago has been released by ORC and it appears that most of the Councils submission was supported. Former Environmental Officer Peter Wilson considered that the initial RPS was quite well written and that the additions made via the submissions process simply improved it.

Minimum and Residual Flows and Transition from Mining Privileges (TMP)		
River	Activity and status	Status
Lindis	<p>Minimum flow & transition from mining privileges (TMP).</p> <p>Overallocated</p> <p>MALF 1860 l/s</p>	<p>The commissioners released their decision on plan change 5A (Lindis River Integrated Management) that seeks to establish minimum flows and a surface and groundwater allocation regime for the Lindis River. The decision was notified in August 2016.</p> <p>As a direct result of Fish and Game's expert evidence, the hearing commissioners proposed an increase in the minimum flow from 750 lps to 900 lps. OF&GC sought a minimum flow of 1000 lps, but a flow of 900 lps still represents a reasonable outcome, albeit with no further room to compromise.</p> <p>The irrigators have appealed the entire decision and the Council has lodged a s 274 joining notice to be a party to the appeal. DOC and Iwi are likely to do the same.</p> <p>A contestable funding bid to the NZC legal pool fund has been circulated to Regional Manager and given its importance, has had a largely favourable response.</p>
Cardrona	<p>Minimum Flow & TMP</p> <p>Overallocated</p>	<p>Mainstem fisheries and flow surveys were undertaken over the 2014/15 summer period and follow-up work on spawning is proposed. A University of Otago student has installed temp loggers and will assess flows over summer.</p> <p>Staff are also assisting Otago University research on juvenile trout development in the Cardrona River which is aimed at increasing the understanding the effects of summer water temperature on juvenile trout. Planning and experimental design is being finalised at present with field work due to begin in November.</p> <p>A minimum flow proposal is expected late in 2016 but there is no firm timetable</p>

Waikouaiti	<p>Minimum Flow Fully allocated</p> <p>MALF 258 l/s</p>	<p>F&G have supported a minimum flow of 220 l/s proposed through community consultation.</p> <p>Further action on the minimum flow has been deferred pending more research by ORC on estuary health. (No change in status)</p>
Manuherikia	<p>Minimum flow Irrigation scheme investigation.</p> <p>MALF lower river 2126 l/s</p> <p>Overallocated</p>	<p>There is a collaborative process underway involving F&G.(Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group) to look at irrigation scheme proposals which are focused on raising the level of Falls Dam. A 20 metre raise is contemplated. They are now seeking expressions of interest before the end of October</p> <p>The Manuherikia catchment has over 220 mining privileges (or deemed permits) in place.</p> <p>A Management Flow report has been released by the ORC recommending a minimum flow of 1.5cumecs at the campground. Expected timeframe for plan change to be notified is late 2016 or early 2017.</p> <p>A submission was made as part of Consultation No.1 on the Manuherikia River minimum flow (Plan Change 5C) and the Council's 2013 Manuherikia catchment values paper was updated for use in this process.</p>
Benger Burn	<p>Minimum flow &TMP.</p> <p>Overallocated</p>	<p>Further action by ORC has been deferred pending more research on water resources and aquifer/surface water interaction. (No change in status)</p>
Kye Burn	<p>TMP Overallocated</p> <p>MALF 500 l/s</p>	<p>F&G position is that a mainstem environmental flow between 200-300 l/s is required.</p> <p>A meeting was held with irrigators in early December 2015. Their present position is outside the above range at which flow the Kye Burn is unlikely to connect in a meaningful way to the Taieri River. Connection is a key value. (No change in status)</p>
Styx/ Taieri	<p>Minimum Flow</p>	<p>Staff attended the first of the catchment group meetings and presented of F&G values</p>

Low Burn	Minimum flow TMP Overallocated	(No change in status)
Bannock Burn	Minimum flow TMP Overallocated	Staff have attended the first of the group meetings and presented values
Poolburn	Minimum Flow	Staff have prepared and distributed a paper on known values. A catchment group meeting is proposed for mid November. An Otago student is looking a flows, groundwater and stream morphology as part of a Masters project.
Quartz Creek	TMP Overallocated	Reports on fishery values (2) competed along with a report on fish salvage. There is little information on stream hydrology. (No change in status)
Tuapeka River	ORC Management Flow Report MALF 314 l/s	(No change in status)
Upper Clutha		ORC is planning research on flow requirements for fish in the river to inform a minimum flow setting process. (No change in status)
12 Mile Creek (Wakatipu)	ORC Management Flow Report	Stream survey work completed.
Fern Burn	Overallocated	Status of flows and takes needs to be investigated. Spawning surveys have been undertaken by Upper Clutha Anglers. (No change in status)

CE to Report

Transition from Mining Privileges (MPs) to RMA Consents.

As previously advised ORC is organising irrigators in Central Otago into catchment groups and arranging meetings involving irrigators and stakeholders such as DOC, Ngai Tahu, and Fish and Game. As noted in the above table, staff have appeared at meetings of the Bannockburn and Styx community groups and provided information for the Poolburn meeting in the last period.

Reserves Management (1221)

A successful planting day was held at Takitakitoa wetland with Ricoh staff who were undertaking a sustainability project. They also donated \$1500 worth of plants. Around 900 native trees and shrubs were planted near the road end car park.

Wetland Protection (1232)

Nothing to report

Assisted Habitat (1230)

Two HEF projects were completed and a further two applications for HEF funding received. One is recommended (see confidential report).

GBHTB funding for Darren Keens wetland project on the lower Taieri was approved. Darren is being assisted with the resource consent process. A recommending report (to assist with RC approval) for a similar project on Dave Inder's property near Finegand has been completed.

6.4 USER PARTICIPATION

Access (1311)

The Gilmore Road access issue was referred to the Clutha Fisheries Trust who are proposing to meet the landowner shortly. CFT have also put in a request to the CODC to clarify the easement to the public area.

Signage (1312)

A number of simple "Fishing Licence Required" signs have been installed around Queenstown's more popular angling access points. The purpose of the increased signage is to forewarn tourists before they are actively involved in unlicensed fishing.

Backcountry Fisheries (1321)

Staff have heard via the Professional Fishing Guides Association that Ngai Tahu has sent letters to aircraft operators confirming their own helicopter company as the only party with landing rights to Ngai Tahu owned land in the Greenstone and Caples Rivers. The Operations Manager has emailed the CE's of both Ngai Tahu-Farming and Ngai Tahu-Tourism for clarification.

For Discussion

Magazine Supplements and Newsletters (1331)

The preseason angling newsletter was completed and distributed along with supporting advertiser material.

Reel Life/Both Barrels

Monthly contributions to online newsletters are continuing.

Publications (1342)

Nothing to report.

Website (1343)

The NZC advises that the F&G website overhaul is underway with a primary aim of simplifying it and making it more 'mobile device friendly'.

User training (1350)

Helen has developed a draft Angling Code of Conduct for Council approval. It has been developed based on a similar one produced for Australian recreational fishers. Refer to agenda item 8.2

For discussion

Fishing and Hunting Events (1351)

Nothing to report

Take-a-kid-fishing (1352)

Two successful TAKF events were held at the Southern Reservoir in late September. Around 180 kids attended each day. Although catchrates were low, the feedback from attendees has been very positive as has the media coverage of the event.

Club Liaison (1361)

Nothing to report

Competitions (1362)

Cr McIntyre was contacted regarding the levies being taken for the Glenorchy Fishing Competition. The competition was approved by council staff earlier in the year (in line with the Sports Fish & Game Management Plan provisions) with the same conditions as previous years. The competition organisers have been contacted and they are surprised by the complaint and said they have had a positive relationship with Fish & Game over the last ~15 years and no issue with the levies. As it is a smaller competition, the standard levies provided for under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations have been discounted by 60% and some of the proceeds are trunked back into kids prizes.

For discussion

6.5 PUBLIC INTERFACE

Liaison (1411)

There has been considerable agency liaison with DOC, Otago University and ORC over various matters.

Media (1431)

There has been media coverage on TAKF events, the Lindis plan change, lake snow and the opening of the fishing season.

Tenure Reviews (1433)

The Commissioner of Crown Lands has now replied on Hukarere Station Tenure Review and a copy is in inwards correspondence. The matter does not look particularly positive.

6.6 COMPLIANCE

Ranging (1511)

Nothing to report

Ranger Support (1520)

A successful CERT training program was conducted at Cromwell with 7 Otago rangers (who had not done the course before) attending. An Arrowtown man has applied to become a ranger and has been interviewed and looks a good prospect. Staff are awaiting police checks to be completed.

Prosecutions (1530)

See confidential report for prosecutions update.

6.7 LICENCING

Licencing System (1611)

Lana Pachenko, one of Eyede's key development staff has left the business after a decade with them. We have been assured that the gap left by the very capable developer (who was largely responsible for the programming that implemented the new licence categories and controlled fishery allocation system) will be filled by someone equally qualified.

Agents (1612)

Nothing to report

6.8 COUNCIL

Council (1720)

This will be the second paperless meeting. Please contact Ian if Cr's are having any issues with the technology.

6.9 PLANNING AND REPORTING

Strategic Planning (1811)

Implementation of the Ferret filing system including staff support and training has been ongoing and is progressing well.

Annual Planning (1821)

Nothing to report

Audit and Annual Report (1831)

The auditor will be in the Dunedin office late October/early November. The Annual Report preparation is underway including the statement of service performance which is largely complete. The AGM is to be held on the 29th November in Cromwell.

Ian Hadland
Acting Chief Executive - October 2016

Balance Sheet
Otago Fish & Game Council
 Balance Sheet
 As at 31 August 2016

CAPITAL		This Year	Last Year End
7500	Opening Equity	1,039,201.00	1,039,201.00
9015	Retained Earnings Brght Fwd	<u>1,437,918.74</u>	<u>1,417,494.83</u>
		2,477,119.74	2,456,695.83
	Plus Current Year Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	63,408.11	20,423.91
	TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS	<u><u>2,540,527.85</u></u>	<u><u>2,477,119.74</u></u>
REPRESENTED BY			
CURRENT ASSETS			
5005	Cash on Hand	200.00	200.00
5022	Stock on Hand	11,004.00	10,510.50
5030	Accrued Interest	5,431.03	1,728.58
5040	Prepayments	7,589.77	13,914.52
5060	ASB Investments	314,286.45	302,790.64
5080	SBS Investments	469,149.43	450,000.00
5800	GST Paid	9.13	27.13
6000	Sundry Creditors	0.00	28.41
6800	GST Received	0.00	61.16
6805	GST Payments/Refunds IRD	0.00	2,897.76
ACCREC	Trade Debtors	142,602.75	146,594.97
ASB_00	ASB 00 Account	10.98	1.15
NB00	National/ANZ 00 Account	131,754.48	165,546.50
NB70	National/ANZ 70 Account	272,619.93	136,283.86
SBS00	SBS Account	<u>24.66</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		1,354,682.61	1,230,585.18
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
6000	Sundry Creditors	19,681.95	0.00
6010	Holiday Pay Accrued	42,701.40	60,780.56
6040	PAYE Control	2,529.70	0.00
6810	Funds received in Advance	193,022.00	210,002.00
ACCSPAY	Trade Creditors	<u>99,224.09</u>	<u>57,280.36</u>
		357,159.14	328,062.92
	NET WORKING CAPITAL	997,523.47	902,522.26
TERM ASSETS			
5070	Anderson Lloyd Investment	<u>76,110.10</u>	<u>73,845.94</u>
		76,110.10	73,845.94
FIXED ASSETS			
7000	Vehicles Purchases	290,980.17	276,292.51
7001	M/V Accum Deprn	(152,126.09)	(106,526.09)
7020	Boat Purchases	100,497.93	100,497.93
7021	Boat Accum Deprn	(76,904.66)	(72,344.66)
7200	Plant Purchases	72,806.18	56,644.10
7201	Plant Accum Deprn	(55,234.64)	(47,146.64)
7300	Furniture & Fittings	30,847.94	30,847.94
7301	Furniture Accum Deprn	(29,220.15)	(27,780.15)
7400	Field Equipment Purchases	34,610.96	34,610.96
7401	Field Eq Accum Deprn	(23,045.40)	(22,565.40)
7440	Land Purchases	414,410.77	414,410.77
7450	Buildings Purchases	642,892.49	629,287.49
7451	Buildings Accum Deprn	(320,742.20)	(306,558.20)
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>(51,224.13)</u>	<u>(47,264.13)</u>
		1,466,894.28	1,500,751.54
	NET ASSETS	<u><u>2,540,527.85</u></u>	<u><u>2,477,119.74</u></u>

**Otago Fish & Game Council
Profit and Loss - Summary
for Period Ended Aug:2016/16**

	Month to Date			Year to Date			Annual Budget	YTD Actual Budget	Last YTD
	Actual	Budget	% of Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance			
INCOME									
FISH AND GAME LICENCE SA...									
1000 Fishing Licences Dn Agency	(113,659)	0	0%	1,987,596	1,583,696	103,900	1,583,696	107%	1,639,120
1006 Game Licences Income	(6,906)	0	0%	322,728	312,926	9,802	312,926	103%	312,457
	(120,567)	0	0%	2,010,324	1,896,622	113,702	1,896,622	106%	1,951,577
OTHER INCOME									
1010 Interest received	8,355	0	0%	43,979	35,150	8,829	35,150	125%	45,387
1020 Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	112	0	0%	945	8,000	(7,055)	8,000	12%	911
1022 Reparatlons Trust Fund	(1,500)	0	0%	7,080	0	7,080	0	0%	2,754
1023 Rent Received	4,015	0	0%	38,935	41,300	(2,365)	41,300	94%	41,932
1065 Fishing Competitions	35	0	0%	1,053	0	1,053	0	0%	1,049
1075 Commissions Income	39	0	0%	1,121	0	1,121	0	0%	2,109
1090 Sundry Income	3,865	0	0%	9,702	0	9,702	0	0%	39,001
1092 Merchandise Sales/Other	7,516	0	0%	1,076	0	1,076	0	0%	1,164
1094 Donations and Grants Received	8,206	0	0%	47,726	0	47,726	0	0%	21,745
1098 RMA Costs Reimbursed	0	0	0%	51,499	0	51,499	0	0%	0
	30,345	0	0%	213,107	84,450	128,657	84,450	262%	156,053
TOTAL INCOME	(90,222)	0		2,223,431	1,981,072	242,359	1,981,072		2,107,630
EXPENDITURE									
SPECIES MANAGEMENT									
POPULATION MONITOR / MMT	0	1,000	0%	11,396	12,000	(604)	12,000	95%	17,076
HARVEST ASSESSMENT	2,700	250	1,080%	2,700	3,000	(300)	3,000	90%	2,700
FISH SALVAGE	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
HATCHERY OPERATIONS	(1,017)	1,063	(94)%	6,764	13,000	(6,236)	13,000	52%	10,694
RELEASES	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
REGULATIONS	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
CONTROL	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
SPECIES MANAGEMENT-...	1,683	2,333	72%	20,860	28,000	(7,140)	28,000	75%	30,670
HABITAT PROTECTION									
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT A...	2,925	374	782%	82,830	4,500	78,330	4,500	1,841%	16,686
WORKS & MMT COUNCIL LAND	303	291	104%	22,055	3,500	18,555	3,500	630%	34,983
ASSISTED HABITAT	199	0	0%	1,402	0	1,402	0	0%	0
HABITAT PROTECTION-T...	3,427	665	515%	106,287	8,000	98,287	8,000	1,329%	53,669
PARTICIPATION									
ACCESS	727	166	438%	2,662	2,000	662	2,000	133%	3,761
SATISFACTION SURVEYS	(4,428)	0	0%	23,605	0	23,605	0	0%	2,215
NEWSLETTERS	0	1,250	0%	16,309	15,000	1,309	15,000	109%	17,877
OTHER PUBLICATIONS	372	416	90%	1,047	5,000	(3,953)	5,000	21%	1,981
TRAINING	4,348	583	746%	5,690	7,000	(1,010)	7,000	86%	5,522
CLUB RELATIONS	189	83	227%	1,048	1,000	48	1,000	105%	1,778
HUTS	0	0	0%	826	0	826	0	0%	166
PARTICIPATION-TOTAL	1,208	2,498	48%	51,487	30,000	21,487	30,000	172%	33,900

**Otago Fish & Game Council
Profit and Loss - Summary
for Period Ended Aug:2015/16**

	Month to Date			Year to Date			Annual Budget	% of Budget	
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance			
PUBLIC INTERFACE									
LIAISON	0	41	0%	63	500	(437)	500	13%	17
COMMUNICATIONS	12	0	0%	12	0	12	0	0%	539
ADVOCACY	0	583	0%	587	7,000	(6,413)	7,000	8%	0
PUBLIC INTERFACE-TOTAL	12	624	2%	962	7,500	(6,838)	7,500	9%	557
COMPLIANCE									
RANGER ADMIN	174	200	84%	2,715	2,800	215	2,500	109%	2,078
RANGER TRAINING	174	375	46%	4,267	4,500	(233)	4,500	95%	2,447
COMPLIANCE	2,129	333	639%	10,339	4,000	6,339	4,000	258%	36
COMPLIANCE-TOTAL	2,476	916	270%	17,321	11,000	6,321	11,000	167%	4,561
LICENCES									
LICENCE PRODUCT/DISTN	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
AGENT SERVICING	190	41	462%	481	500	(19)	500	96%	808
COMMISSION	2,978	0	0%	85,703	0	85,703	0	0%	94,570
NZFG LEVIES	0	70,913	0%	850,957	850,957	0	850,957	100%	894,033
LICENSES-TOTAL	3,168	70,954	4%	937,142	851,457	85,685	851,457	110%	989,409
COUNCIL									
COUNCIL ELECTIONS	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
COUNCIL MEETINGS	1,279	1,000	128%	14,950	12,000	2,950	12,000	125%	9,706
COUNCIL-TOTAL	1,279	1,000	128%	14,950	12,000	2,950	12,000	125%	9,706
PLANNING / REPORTING									
MMT/STRATEGIC PLANNING	0	0	0%	2,607	0	2,607	0	0%	1,917
REPORTING/AUDIT	9,000	1,000	900%	14,884	12,000	2,884	12,000	124%	12,835
NATIONAL LIAISON	28	0	0%	40	0	40	0	0%	34
PLAN/REPORT-TOTAL	9,028	1,000	903%	17,531	12,000	5,531	12,000	146%	14,756
ADMINISTRATION									
SALARIES	149,943	57,125	262%	725,245	685,517	39,728	685,517	106%	687,893
STAFF EXPENSES	1,506	1,848	81%	22,185	22,202	(17)	22,202	100%	17,391
STAFF HOUSES	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
OFFICE PREMISES	1,576	6,786	23%	66,907	81,450	(14,543)	81,450	82%	64,363
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	1,952	1,232	158%	4,523	14,796	(10,273)	14,796	31%	4,761
COMMUNICATIONS	3,792	2,346	162%	26,431	28,164	(1,733)	28,164	94%	33,582
GENERAL	99	1,499	7%	14,041	18,000	(3,959)	18,000	78%	7,547
GENERAL EQUIPMENT	40	803	5%	3,794	9,650	(5,856)	9,650	39%	5,325
VEHICLES	(2,297)	5,540	(41)%	52,345	66,505	(14,160)	66,505	79%	49,898
ADMINISTRATION - TOTAL	196,811	77,179	203%	915,471	926,284	(10,813)	926,284	99%	871,250
DEPRECIATION	6,526	0	0%	78,312	0	78,312	0	0%	79,289
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	186,418	157,169	118%	2,160,023	1,886,241	273,782	1,886,241	115%	2,087,206
Profit (Loss)	(275,639)	(157,169)		63,408	94,831	(31,423)	94,831		20,424

Otago Fish and Game FishSales -2015/16 and 2016/17 Seasons to 10 October

2015 - 2016		Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWJ	FWNJ	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDJ	Total	Fish LEQ	Fish \$
		Agency Online	1,273	1,579	54	362	109	156	3	2	11	131	17	3,697		
		Eyede Call Centre	24	18	3	21	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	69		
		Public Online	511	548	96	116	49	52	0	0	5	75	13	1,465		
		Total	1,808	2,145	153	499	158	209	3	2	16	208	30	5,231	5,278.88	\$660,242.00
2016 - 2017		Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWJ	FWNJ	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDJ	Total	Fish LEQ	Fish \$
		Agency Online	1,246	1,492	47	366	82	146	2	1	6	211	25	3,624		
		Eyede Call Centre	4	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12		
		Public Online	616	723	142	156	56	63	3	0	2	127	1	1,889		
		Total	1,866	2,216	189	529	138	209	5	1	8	338	26	5,525	5,498.76	\$694,527.00

FWF (Family), FWA (Adult), FWNZ (Non Resident), FSLA (Senior Loyal), FLAA (Local Area),
 FWJ (Junior), FWNJ (Junior Non resident), FLBA (Long Bread), FSBA (Short Break), FDA (Adult Day), FDJ (Junior Day)

7 Committee Reports

7.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust

7.2 NZC Meeting

8 Staff and Technical Reports

8.1 Results 2014-15 National Angling Survey - H Trotter

COUNCIL REPORT OCTOBER 2016

Results of the 2014-15 National Angling Survey

Summary of presentation to Council:

The 2014-15 National Angling Survey is the fourth in a series of surveys conducted since 1995 to estimate annual angling effort for all river and lake fisheries under Fish & Game New Zealand jurisdiction. Data on angling locations and effort during the 2014/2015 angling season were collected via bimonthly telephone surveys of randomly selected fishing licence holders.

Total annual effort from 1995-2015 ranged from 1.110 million angler-days in 2014/15 to 1.202 million angler-days in 2007/08, but shows no consistent long-term trend. Long-term trends are more apparent at regional level, with significant declines in Auckland/Waikato, Eastern, Wellington, and weaker declines in Nelson/Marlborough and Southland. Significant increases have occurred in Central South Island, and on the West Coast. Consistent long-term trends are also apparent with respect to REC source-of-flow and land cover class, for which total annual effort has declined by 48% for lowland river fisheries, and by 30% for fisheries in catchments dominated by pasture or cropland.

There is no significant long term trend in total effort for the Otago Region but there has been a marked decline for lowland rivers from 22,300 days in 1994/95 to 8,870 angler days in 2014/15. Total effort for the Otago region was 186,570 angler days for the 2014/15 season, distributed over 60 river fisheries and 36 lake fisheries in 13 catchments. The Clutha catchment accounted for 76% of total effort. Lake fisheries accounted for 57% of total effort. NZ resident anglers from outside the Otago region contributed 20% of angler days. Overseas anglers contributed just 2.8% of the regional total, but almost all of this effort was expended in the Clutha catchment, and overseas anglers had a strong preference for river fisheries.

This dataset, which now spans two decades, is one of the few available sources of quantitative data on long-term trends in freshwater environments. It is valued not only by Fish and Game, but is now recognised as a robust and credible data source, widely used to inform resource management and policy development.

Recommendation

That this report be received.

Helen Keeling
Fish and Game Officer

Appendix

Table 3-11: Total angling effort in the Otago region (angler-days \pm 1 standard error) by water type, 1994/95 - 2014/15.

Water type	1994/95	2001/02	2007/08	2014/15
River (mountain-fed)	6,480 \pm 660	8,420 \pm 1,100	7,990 \pm 960	7,410 \pm 1,190
River (hill-fed)	16,740 \pm 1,550	27,140 \pm 3,380	20,080 \pm 3,090	28,260 \pm 3,100
River (lowland)	22,300 \pm 2,650	18,560 \pm 2,590	12,620 \pm 1,750	8,870 \pm 1,360
River (lake-fed)	32,160 \pm 3,400	44,700 \pm 4,440	40,890 \pm 4,010	33,600 \pm 4,210
Total, all rivers	77,690 \pm 4,630	98,810 \pm 6,250	81,580 \pm 5,440	78,150 \pm 5,530
Lake (natural)	68,920 \pm 3,990	77,190 \pm 4,890	84,320 \pm 6,740	66,080 \pm 5,450
Lake (reservoir)	36,260 \pm 2,130	42,710 \pm 3,470	49,530 \pm 3,590	37,130 \pm 3,020
Total, all lakes	105,180 \pm 4,520	119,910 \pm 5,990	133,850 \pm 7,630	103,210 \pm 6,230
Total, all rivers and lakes	182,870 \pm 6,470	218,710 \pm 8,660	215,430 \pm 9,370	181,360 \pm 8,330

8.2 Proposed Update to Angler' Code of Conduct - H Trotter

COUNCIL REPORT OCTOBER 2016

Proposed Update to Anglers' Code of Conduct

New Zealand Fish and Game Council has recently requested feed-back on the ethics of catch and release fishing with responses due by 11 November 2016. The review is in line with a key recommendation of my 2014 Staff Scholarship Report following my attendance at the 7th World Recreational Fisheries Conference (7WRFC) in Brazil was that Fish and Game New Zealand develop and actively promote explicit guidelines and/or policy on ethical fishing (and hunting), clearly outlining for licence holders and the general public what Fish & Game consider acceptable and unacceptable with respect to animal welfare when fishing (and hunting).

The issue of animal welfare with regard to angling, particularly catch and release, was a key theme at the conference and I had the benefit of attending talks given by leading international experts as well as having discussions with managers from a range of international management agencies. It became clear to me that the current Fish and Game Code of Conduct (as published in the Regulation Guide Book) was inadequate and did not place appropriate emphasis or give anglers sufficient guidance on, animal welfare or ethical behaviour. While concerns about the moral acceptability of catch and release angling have not yet emerged as prominently in New Zealand as overseas, waiting to have a reactive response to the issue may leave Fish and Game vulnerable to criticism and New Zealand anglers falling behind international standards and best practice in recreational angling.

Recent discussions at the Compliance Coordinators meeting (June 2016) as well as the current proposal for a voluntary daily limit for catch and release angling has also brought attention to the issue of angling ethics. While in surveys of backcountry fishery users, anglers have also increasingly expressed a need for Fish and Game to increase its promotion of angling etiquette and best practice catch and release techniques. It is therefore timely to present a proposed update to current Anglers' Code of Conduct.

Based on the contacts made at the 7WRFC I searched the publications of several international management agencies and experts for model codes and found several useful examples with common points of emphasis. The proposed Code of Practice presented here has been primarily adapted from that of RecFish Australia, which was first developed a national Code of Practice in 1995 (with two reviews supported by the Australia Government), and recognises and conforms with Australia's Overarching Principles of Aquatic Animal Welfare and the Position Statement of the National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare. Reference has also been made to the 1998 Anglers Code of Conduct published by Central South Island Fish and Game Council and catch and release guidelines published by DOC Taupo.

The proposed update presented here is intended to cover all the key points of the current Code of Conduct as well as additional emphasis on animal welfare, ethics and responsible behaviour. The style and format is intended to clearly highlight the key messages and provide relevant easy

to follow guidelines on how we can all meet our responsibilities as ethical anglers. To communicate the updated code effectively with anglers it will be necessary to publish the final Code of Practice in a variety of formats which may include a full Code of Practice document (included below), a regulation guide summary (example included below), webpage summary, brochure or factsheet, licence receipt summary, educational video, poster/fridge magnet and media targeted at young anglers.

It is intended that this first attempt be a starting point for further discussion and refinement. Once feedback is received from the regions it is anticipated that a final document could be promptly prepared and a promotional/communication plan could be developed.

Recommendation

That this paper be forwarded to NZ Council in response to their request for feedback on angling ethics

Helen Trotter
Fish and Game Officer
October 2016

PROPOSED CODE OF PRACTICE FOR FRESHWATER SPORT FISHING

Freshwater angling is a favourite kiwi pastime loved by hundreds of thousands of New Zealanders across the country. New Zealand's fisheries are also internationally renowned, with tourist anglers making significant contribution to the economy. With the enjoyment of a natural resource comes a responsibility to support its sustainability and to behave ethically, in order to safeguard the future of freshwater angling for all New Zealanders.

Fish and Game New Zealand (comprised of 12 regional Fish & Game Councils across New Zealand and one national Council) are the statutory managers of freshwater sport fishing in New Zealand and represent the interests of anglers. This Code of Practice has been developed to set standards of practice which clearly outline our responsibilities as freshwater anglers in order to support the practice of ethical angling.

Summary

The Code of Practice for Recreational Fishing outlines our four key responsibilities as anglers:

- **Treat fish humanely**
- **Protect our fisheries**
- **Care for the environment**
- **Respect the rights of others**

These four key responsibilities incorporate 12 specific principles:

- **Quickly and correctly return any fish to be released**
- **Quickly and humanely kill any fish to be kept for consumption**
- **Value our fish and respect the food and recreational resource they provide**
- **Understand and observe all fishing regulations and licensing requirements**
- **Support enhancement and management activities**
- **Take no more than our immediate needs**
- **Remove all rubbish and prevent pollution**
- **Prevent the spread of freshwater pests**
- **Use established tracks and roads**
- **Be considerate of other users**
- **Respect private property and always ask for access permission**
- **Be aware of our safety and the safety of others when fishing**

Treat Fish Humanely

QUICKLY AND CORRECTLY RETURN ANY FISH TO BE RELEASED

Fish may need to be released to comply with regulations, because the fish is not of sufficient quality to eat, or because we choose to practice catch and release fishing. Following correct catch and release practice will minimise the duration and stress resulting from the direct handling of fish and will ensure fish released will have a good chance of survival.

Quickly and correctly returning fish means:

- *Minimise air exposure*
 - Keep the fish's mouth and gills fully submerged in the water as much as possible during handling
- *Eliminate contact with dry surfaces*
 - Attempt to land fish in the water
 - If possible leave the fish in the water and unhook it without handling it
 - Wet hands prior to handling (or use wet cotton or untextured gloves)
 - Hold the fish in or slight above the water, away from dry or hard surfaces
 - Never let a fish flap around on the floor of your boat or on the ground
- *Reduce angling duration and handling*
 - Land fish as quickly as possible without playing it to exhaustion
 - Use tackle matched to the target species – use strong line so you can land fish quickly
 - Use barbless hooks and hook removal devices (long nose pliers or forceps)
 - Fish with a knotless or rubber landing net
 - Avoid large hooks and treble hook lures
 - If the fish to be released is bleeding excessively it should be humanely dispatched (where taking of the fish is permitted)
 - When bait fishing, if the fish to be released is deeply hooked the line should be cut close to the mouth
- *Be prepared if intending to take photographs*
 - Photograph wet fish
 - Keep the fish as close to the water as possible if removing from the water momentarily, and fully submerge the fish between pictures
- *Carefully revive fish*
 - Hold the fish lightly without squeezing, gently support the body under the front fins and grip the tail (never hold a fish up by the tail only)
 - Face the fish into the current and gently release the fish when it has revived
 - Do not pull fish back and forth through the water
 - Never throw a fish back into the water

QUICKLY AND HUMANELY KILL ANY FISH TO BE KEPT FOR CONSUMPTION

Quickly and humanely killing fish means:

- Minimising handling prior to dispatch to reduce stress on the fish and increase the quality of the flesh
- Immediately and humanely dispatching fish by:
 - Cranial concussion - administering an accurate, sharp blow to the head, with a blunt object and a blow of appropriate force for the size of the fish to render the fish unconscious; followed by bleeding out, or decapitation. This method ensures the fish is unconscious at the time of death and bleeding out ensures high quality flesh is maintained.
 - Ike jime - driving a spike through the brain, when done correctly results in immediate death and high quality flesh. This is considered the fastest and most humane method of killing fish.

VALUE OUR FISH AND RESPECT THE FOOD AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCE THEY PROVIDE

Our treatment and handling of fish is a direct reflection of the respect we have for sport fish, our appreciation of the food and recreational resource they provide, and our commitment to protecting the angling tradition for future generations.

Respecting the resource means:

- Never leaving fishing gear unattended
- Use appropriate gear for the species and size being targeted
- Storing harvested fish in a cool place away from sunlight, preferably in a chilly bin or cooler bag
- Avoiding waste and never discarding any retained fish
- Treating non-target fish with the same care and respect as that is given to targeted sport fish

Protect Our Fisheries

UNDERSTAND AND OBSERVE ALL FISHING REGULATIONS

Fish and Game New Zealand set and enforce regulations to manage our fisheries and the quality of the angling experience. Regulations safeguard the sustainability of the fishery by placing limits on harvest and protecting of spawning areas. They also outline acceptable methods and rules for different fisheries.

Understanding and observing all fishing regulations means:

- Obtaining the required licence(s) - carry it at all times when fishing, and produce it if requested by a Fish and Game Ranger
- Becoming familiar with Fish and Game's regulation guide, including both the First Schedule for regulations generally common to all regions, and the Second Schedule for regional fishing regulations
- Checking the method, bag limit, season length regulations of the fishery *before* commencing fishing

- Being aware of the additional licencing requirements and regulations for designated Backcountry Fisheries
- Reporting any illegal fishing activity or inappropriate animal welfare behaviour to the local Fish and Game office

TAKE NO MORE THAN OUR IMMEDIATE NEEDS

We can limit pressure on fisheries and conserve fish stocks by limiting our catch and taking only the fish we require for our own immediate needs.

When harvesting fish for consumption taking no more than our immediate needs means:

- Only killing fish we intend to eat, and not taking more than we need

This principle also applies to catch and release angling. Even when we practice correct catch and release techniques we still exert pressure on the fishery. This may impact the quality of the fishery and the catchability of sports fish, particularly for some backcountry rivers which may be subject to high levels of catch and release angling.

When catch and release fishing ‘taking no more than our immediate needs’ means limiting our fishing pressure by:

- Selecting and targeting a limited number of trout rather than trying to catch as many fish as possible in one day
- Spreading our effort across fisheries and avoiding camping out on the same stretch of river for extended periods
- Measuring success on the overall experience and angling challenge, not the number of fish landed

SUPPORT SPORT FISH AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Sustainable and productive fisheries rely on the maintenance and protection and enhancement of freshwater ecosystems.

Supporting efforts to manage our fisheries and freshwater ecosystems means:

- Cooperating with the collection of recreational catch and effort data
- Participating in research, educational and enhancement projects
- Participating in public processes concerning environmental management and protection
- Participating in Fish and Game elections and submitting on consultative and long term planning processes
- Promoting ethical fishing practices and sharing knowledge and skills with others, especially youth

Care For The Environment

REMOVE ALL RUBBISH AND PREVENT POLLUTION

Rubbish and pollution can affect the health of the environmental and wildlife and can degrade the outdoor experience of others.

Caring for the environment means:

- Taking all rubbish away from fishing sites including waste nylon, hooks, tackle packaging and personal litter
- Dispose of fish offal and carcasses responsibly – offal and other waste must not be left unburied on the river bank or lake shore
- Report pollution of waterways to the local council or Fish and Game office

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF FRESHWATER PESTS

New Zealand has a large number of pristine rivers and lakes which are threatened by invasive freshwater species including algae, weeds and pest fish.

Preventing the spread of invasive freshwater species means:

- Being aware of biosecurity risks in all waterways and treating every waterway as a potential source of invasive pest species
- Always **CHECK** (remove all plant matter from your gear) **CLEAN** (spray or soak with 5% detergent solution) and **DRY** (completely dry for 48 hrs) when moving between waterways
- Never transferring any fish, fish ova (eggs), or other aquatic organisms between waterways
- Reporting any observations of pest species to Ministry of Primary Industries or the local Fish and Game office

USE ESTABLISHED TRACKS AND ROADS

Off-road access can contribute to erosion, vegetation loss and disturb riverbeds.

Using established tracks and roads means:

- Using designated access points and roads, and avoid straying from established tracks
- Sticking to marked tracks on riverbeds or parking and walking to the fishing site
- Using established fords when crossing rivers where possible
- Avoid obstructing access when parking vehicles

Respect The Rights Of Others

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER USERS

We each fish for a variety of reasons and may take particular enjoyment from different aspects of our angling. It is important to acknowledge these factors may vary between anglers, and to recognise that our behaviour has the potential to impact on the experience of others.

Being considerate of other users means:

- Never cutting-in on, or crowding anglers already on the water
- Communicating our intentions when we encounter another angler – the reasonable distance covered in day will vary between anglers and fisheries so where practical a quick conversation will ensure enough water is left before the second angler begins fishing
- Looking out for other anglers when accessing a fishery by helicopter/plane. Provide a generous allowance for anglers already on the water to continue fishing (remember they may have walked several hours to get there)
- Fishing upstream from beat markers where they are present – attempting to gain more water by first walking downstream is unfair to other anglers
- When fishing from a boat give way to anglers fishing from the shore, adhere to all boating rules and restrictions and be considerate of the impacts of our boat noise and wake on other anglers
- Respecting the rights all outdoor users (e.g. swimmers) to enjoy our rivers and lakes even if their activity is not ideal for our own fishing

RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY AND ALWAYS ASK FOR ACCESS PERMISSION

Public access to our rivers and lakes is at heart of our Kiwi way of life and angling traditions. However sometimes access over private land is required and this privilege is given at the discretion of the landowner. As an angling community we all have a responsibility to behave appropriately while on private land to ensure continued access into the future.

Respecting private property means:

- Asking the land owner for access if there is no Fish and Game signage
- Leaving gates as they are found
- Not disturbing stock, crops, machinery or other property

BE AWARE OF OUR SAFETY AND THE SAFETY OF OTHERS WHEN FISHING

Caring about safety means:

- Being aware of the dangers fishing around river mouths and when crossing rivers
- Gaining local knowledge about boating hazards and carry safety equipment onboard
- Checking the weather and be prepared for the conditions
- Notifying someone of our intentions, particularly when boating, heading into the backcountry or to a remote fishing location (i.e out of cell phone coverage).

Example summary for regulations book (1 page)

CODE OF PRACTICE

Fish and Game New Zealand actively promotes responsible and ethical freshwater fishing practices. As licenced freshwater anglers we have the following responsibilities when fishing, as detailed in the National Code of Practice:

TREAT FISH HUMANELY

- **Quickly and correctly return any fish to be released**
 - Minimise air exposure, keep mouth and gills submerged at all times
 - Eliminate contact with dry surfaces
 - Reduce angling duration and handling
- **Quickly and humanely kill any fish to be kept for consumption**
- **Value our fish and respect the food and recreational resource they provide**

PROTECT OUR FISHERIES

- **Understand and observe all fishing regulations and licensing requirements**
- **Support enhancement and management activities**
- **Take no more than our immediate needs**

CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

- **Remove all rubbish and prevent pollution**
- **Prevent the spread of freshwater pests**
- **Use established tracks and roads**

RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

- **Be considerate of other anglers**
- **Respect private property and always ask for access permission**
- **Be aware of our safety and the safety of others when fishing**

For further guidance on how to meet these responsibilities read the full National Code of Practice for Sport Fishing at www.fishandgame.org.nz

Appendix

Fish and Game New Zealand Code of Conduct (Current)

Always ask permission from the land occupier before crossing private property, unless there is a Fish and Game access sign present

Do not park vehicles so that they obstruct gateways or cause a hazard on the road or access way

Do not interfere with livestock, crops, machinery or other property

Always use gates, stiles or other recognised access points and avoid damage to fences

When driving on riverbed keep to marked tracks or park on the bank and walk to your fishing spot

Always fish with the regulations, they are there to protect your fish

Never push in on a pool occupied by another angler. If you are in any doubt ask those already there whether it is okay to join them

Always enter a pool behind the direction being fished by any angler already there

Move upstream or downstream with every few casts (unless you are alone)

Avoid unnecessary wading or any avoidable disturbance to the water

Fish being returned to the water should be released as carefully and quickly as possible. Remove the hook and return the fish facing upstream until it swims away.

Fish being retained should be killed as quickly as possible by a blow to the head with a rock (or similar tool, or by cutting the fish's throat with a knife

Always respect the environmental, wildlife, other anglers and member of the public

Remove water nylon and personal litter from the river banks and parking places

Leave everything as you found it. If a gate is open or closed leave it that way.

The only way we can protect our rivers in the long term is to CHECK, CLEAN and DRY all your gear before entering another river or lake anywhere in NZ.

Regulations

CODE OF CONDUCT

Please consider the rights of others and observe the anglers' code of conduct

- Always ask permission from the land occupier before crossing private property unless a Fish & Game access sign is present.
- Do not park vehicles so that they obstruct gateways or cause a hazard on the road or access way.
- Always use gates, stiles or other recognised access points and avoid damage to fences.
- Leave everything as you found it. If a gate is open or closed leave it that way.
- A farm is the owner's livelihood and if they say no dogs, then please respect this.
- When driving on riverbeds keep to marked tracks or park on the bank and walk to your fishing spot.
- Never push in on a pool occupied by another angler. If you are in any doubt have a chat and work out who goes where.
- However if agreed to share the pool then always enter behind any angler already there.
- Move upstream or downstream with every few casts (unless you are alone).
- Fish being returned to the water should be released as carefully and quickly as possible. Ideally leave the fish in the water and remove the hook with long-nosed pliers without handling the fish.
- While catch and release fishing is widely promoted by some as a conservation minded approach to angling it remains the anglers choice. However the catching of large numbers of fish in a day can impact on individual fish and also on the angling experience for others. Fish & Game advocate hooking and landing a limited number of fish per day.
- Fish being retained should be killed as quickly as possible, ideally by spiking or stabbing the brain slightly behind and above the eye (also known as iki jime – pronounced "iki jimi").
- Always respect the environment, wildlife, other anglers and members of the public.
- Remove waste nylon and personal litter from the river banks and parking places.
- The only way we can protect our rivers in the long term is to CHECK, CLEAN and DRY all your gear before entering another river or lake anywhere in New Zealand.

REMEMBER TO TREAT OTHERS AS YOU WOULD WISH TO BE TREATED YOURSELF!

**COUNCIL REPORT
OCTOBER 2016**

Legislative Compliance 2015/2016 Financial Year

Introduction

Council adopted a Legislative Compliance Schedule in August 2015 (see below) The purpose of the schedule is to provide a framework for reporting on legislative compliance across relevant Acts and Regulations.

Legislative Compliance

In my opinion the Council is currently compliant with its legal obligations under the Acts and Regulations listed. There are two matters which deserve specific mention:

- 1. Health and Safety** - Recent changes in Health and Safety legislation mean that H&S systems and procedures are currently under review.
- 2. Tax Status** – As you are aware IRD is currently looking at Otago Fish and Game Council’s Public Authority Tax Status. NZ Council is providing a coordinated response on the issue raised by IRD on behalf of all 13 Fish and Game Councils

Recommendation

That Council notes it currently complies with legislation and that this report be received

**Niall Watson
Chief Executive
October 2016**

**OTAGO FISH AND GAME COUNCIL - LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE
SCHEDULE – 29 July 2015**

The Council has to comply with all relevant legislation. This schedule includes the main Acts and Regulations relating to Fish and Game Council activities but is not exhaustive.

Act or Regulations	Key provisions	Comments	Responsibility
Conservation Act 1987	S 17 s26 R, s26S s26T, s26X s26ZD, s40 (1) (5)	Council responsible for: preparation of Fish and Game Plan; compliance with Conservation Act and Wildlife Act, regulations and gazette notice conditions; preparation of Anglers Notices; appointment of staff; production of annual report; holding at least 6 meeting PA.	Chief Executive
Freshwater Fisheries Regulations	Regulation 51	Authorisation of use of electric fishing machines within region	Chief Executive
Fish and Game Council Election Regulations 1990	Regulation 3, 20, 26	Council responsible for: appointing a returning officer; returning officer responsible for preparing rolls and conducting elections. Council responsible for meeting post election and appointment of NZ Council member	Council Chief Executive
Crown Entities Act 2004	S150 (3)	Annual Report presented to Parliament	Chief Executive
Public Finance Act 1989	S 43, Part 5, subpart 2, Schedule 4	Council responsible for preparation of annual report including financial statements and statement of service performance	Chief Executive Administration Officer Accountant (Adair Craik)
Public Audit Act 2001	S4	Council defined as a public entity	

Wildlife Act 1953	s15, s39 (1), s44, s53, s54	Council responsible for: annual game season recommendations; day to day management of Wildlife Management Reserves under delegation from the Minister [Inch Clutha, Little Hoopers Inlet]; exercise any written authority from the DG for taking or killing of game	Chief Executive Fish and Game Officers Rangers
Wildlife Regulations	Parts 2 and 3		
Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act	Parts 2 and 7	Council responsible for conduct of meetings in accordance with Act and responses to OIA requests	Council Chief Executive
Resource Management Act 1991	Parts 3 and 6	Council responsible for compliance with the Act in terms of buildings, structures and land and water use.	Chief Executive Operations Manager
Employment Relations Act 2000		Employment contract obligations in respect of restructuring	Council (CE) Chief Executive (staff)
Parental Leave and Employment Protection Act 1987	Parts 1 and 2	Employment contract obligations in respect of parental leave	Council (CE) Chief Executive (staff)
State Sector Act 1988	s 56, s58	Council responsible for being a good employer	Council (CE) Chief Executive (staff)
Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992	Part 2	Council responsible for taking all practicable steps to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and maintain a safe working environment for employees • Ensure employees are not exposed to hazards while at work • Develop emergency procedures • Ensure employees are trained and supervised • Provide employees with information on hazards • Record, report and investigate accidents 	Operations Manager Chief Executive Council

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematically identify and assess hazards • Control significant hazards 	
Maritime Transport Act 1994	Part 2	Council responsible for boat certification and safe use by staff	Operations Manager Chief Executive Council
Privacy Act 1993		Council responsible for appropriate handling of personal information notably licenceholder data; compliance reports; mail lists	Chief Executive Operations Manager Administration Officer
Human Rights Act 1993		Council responsible for compliance with human rights obligations under the Act	Chief Executive Operations Manager Compliance Coordinator
Protected Disclosures Act 2000		Council responsible for compliance with obligations under the Act	Chief Executive
Search and Surveillance Act	S3, Part 4, s169 (2) (3), s171, s172`	Council responsible for compliance with obligations under the Act including annual reporting on exercise of surveillance powers during ranging.	Rangers and F&G Staff Operations Manager Chief executive
Holidays Act 2003		Employment contract obligations in respect of annual leave and public holidays	Administration Officer Chief Executive
Crown Entities Act 2004	s25	Council responsible for exercise of its powers and performance of functions under the Act and other Acts	Chief Executive Council

Income Tax Act 2007	Parts CX and RD	Council responsible for FBT returns and PAYE deductions and returns	Administration Officer Chief Executive
Goods and Services Tax Act 1985	Parts 2 and 3	Council responsible for GST payments, deductions and returns	Administration Officer Chief Executive
Kiwi Saver Act 2006	Parts 2 and 3	Council responsible for enrolment of staff in kiwi saver	Administration Officer Chief Executive

8.4 Twelve Mile Creek Fisheries Values Assessment - P Van Klink

COUNCIL REPORT OCTOBER 2016

Twelve Mile Creek Fisheries Values Assessment

Introduction

Twelve Mile Creek is a tributary of Lake Wakatipu which enters the lake approximately 8 km west of Queenstown (Figure 1). The creek drains a steep, small catchment (25.2 km²) at the southern end of the Richardson Mountains. Most of the Twelve Mile Creek catchment (98%) is Crown land, which is dominated by indigenous vegetation and is administered by the Department of Conservation.

Four fish species have previously been recorded from Twelve Mile Creek: brown trout, rainbow trout, koaro and upland bully (Olsen 2015). The purpose of this survey work was primarily to assess spawning activity in Twelve Mile Creek while a brief electrofishing survey was also conducted.

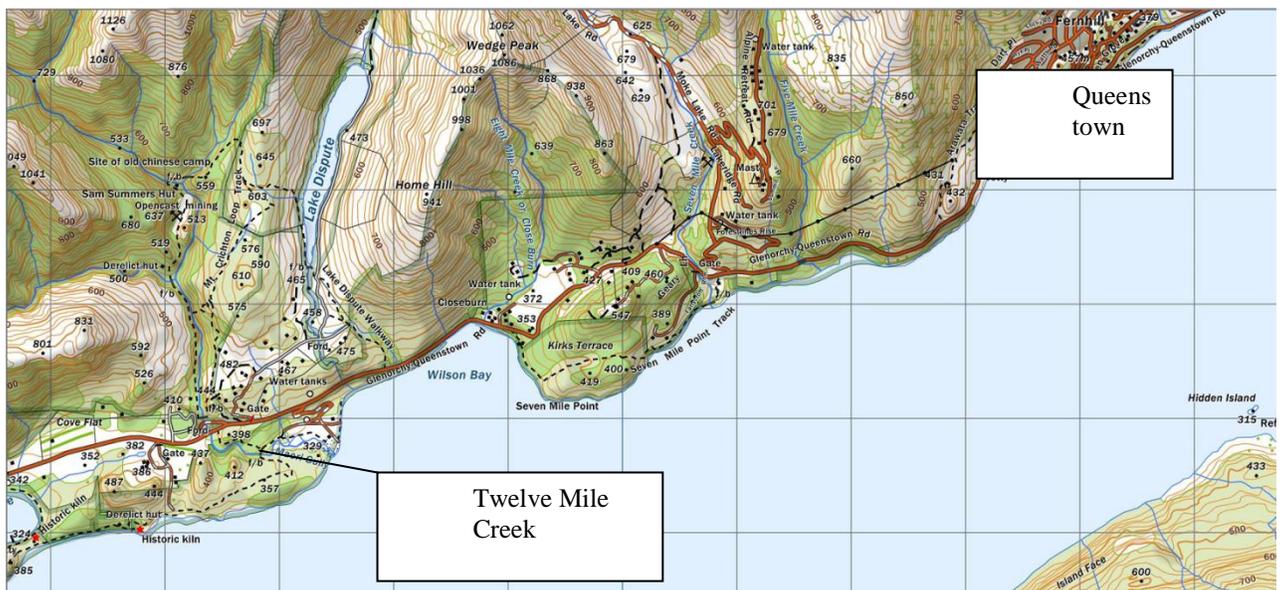


Figure 1. Location of Twelve Mile Creek in relation to Queenstown, Lake Wakatipu

Survey Sites & Methodology

Electrofishing

In January 2016 two sites were sampled using electrofishing, one in the lower reach, 570m upstream from the mouth and one 100m upstream of the Queenstown – Glenorchy Road bridge (Figure 2, Photo 1). A 30m reach at each site was electrofished by two people with a single pass. One person used the EFM300 with a dip net and the other person held a stop net below each section fished. At each site the GPS location, species and fish length were recorded along with the standard parameters on the NIWA Freshwater Fish Database Card Form. Photos were taken of each reach and of a selection of the fish captured.



Photo1. Electrofishing Sites 1 (left) and Site 2 (right), Twelve Mile Creek, Lake Wakatipu

Spawning Surveys

Monthly walk through spawning surveys were conducted over a 750m reach of Twelve Mile Creek between May and October 2016 (Figure 3). Surveys were only conducted in the lower section of Twelve Mile Creek because an impassable gorge prevents trout from migrating further upstream (Photo 2). The spawning surveys were conducted by one observer walking upstream slowly and observing and recording all trout and spawning redds. Data recorded included river flow and clarity, weather conditions and grid references for all trout and redds observed.



Photo 2. This impassable gorge appears to limit sportsfish to the lower 750m of Twelve Mile Creek

Results

Electrofishing

Brown trout (*salmo trutta*) and koaro (*Galaxias brevipinnis*) were recorded in the lower reaches of Twelve Mile Creek, while koaro were recorded upstream of the Queenstown-Glenorchy Road bridge (Figure 2, Table 1). No brown trout were caught at site 2 due to an impassable gorge which prevents introduced fish from gaining access to the middle and upper reaches of Twelve Mile Creek.

Table 1. Electrofishing results from 2 sites fished in Twelve Mile Creek

Site	Reach length (M)	Species	No. fish	Minimum length (mm)	Maximum length (mm)
1	30	Brown trout	39	34	123
1	30	Koaro	8	46	85
2	30	Koaro	12	48	125

Spawning Surveys

Six spawning surveys were undertaken in Twelve Mile Creek between May and October 2016. Brown trout spawning peaked in July with 30.6 redds/km. No rainbow trout spawning was observed (Table 2). Water turbulence and low winter light in June and July made for challenging conditions for observation of both fish and redds. The counts are therefore a conservative estimate of the spawning activity in Twelve Mile Creek.

Table 2. Spawning activity recorded in Twelve Mile Creek May – October 2016.

Date	Reach length (M)	Species	No. fish	No. redds	Redds/ km
18/05/2016	750	Brown trout	39	1	1.3
14/06/2016	750	Brown trout	32	10	13.3
11/07/2016	750	Brown trout	0	23	30.6
10/08/2016	750	na	0	0	0
05/09/2016	750	na	0	0	0
07/10/2016	750	na	0	0	0



Figure 2. Location of two electrofishing sites, and impassable gorge, Twelve Mile Creek, Lake Wakatipu.



Figure 3. Twelve Mile Creek showing the 750m section surveyed for sportfish spawning activity (red) and the area where most of the fish and redds were observed (blue).

Discussion

The electrofishing survey found a moderate number of juvenile brown trout in the lower section of Twelve Mile Creek. The gorge which is approximately 750m upstream from Lake Wakatipu prevents trout from reaching the middle and upper reaches of the catchment. The survey found only Koaro in the upper section which supports the assumption that introduced fish cannot migrate up past the gorge.

The six spawning surveys conducted showed that brown trout spawning peaked around June. Rainbow trout were not observed spawning in Twelve Mile Creek. Both the electrofishing surveys and spawning surveys show that Twelve Mile Creek is more important for brown trout than rainbow trout. The absence of juvenile rainbow trout in the electrofishing survey also strengthens the observation that the stream is more important for brown trout spawning and recruitment than rainbow trout. The spawning run of fish from Lake Wakatipu is limited by the amount of available spawning habitat. While the spawning run maybe small in size it shows that streams such as Twelve Mile are still important tributary streams for a fishery such as Lake Wakatipu.

References

Olsen, D. 2015. Management Flows for Aquatic Ecosystems in Twelve Mile Creek, Otago Regional Council.

Recommendation

That is report be received.

Paul van Klink
Fish & Game Officer
October 2016

8.5 Shoveler Trend Council 2016 – M Trotter

COUNCIL REPORT OCTOBER 2016

Project 1110 Population Monitoring Shoveler Trend Count

Introduction

Shoveler ducks congregate on open water bodies in August to select mates before seeking secluded areas to breed (Holden 1990, Williams 1981). This provides an opportunity to monitor a selection of congregation sites throughout the country. Counts at these staging grounds are used to infer population changes over time. They do not provide a census of the population.

Methods

On 8 August 2016, Fish and Game staff and volunteers throughout New Zealand visited shoveler congregation sites. Each Fish and Game region counted a minimum of 10 sites. In Otago, Fish and Game staff assisted by ranger Trevor Beck counted 37 sites. Regional monitoring results are sent to Matthew McDougall from Eastern Region for data analysis.

Results

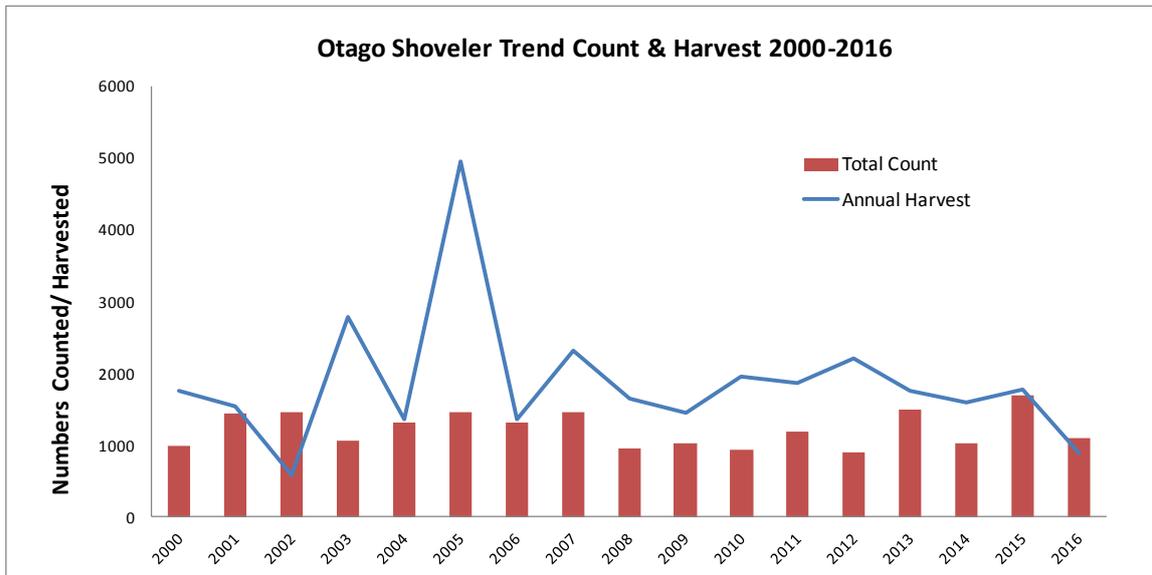


Figure 1: Total shoveler counts and estimated hunter harvest for Otago 2000-2016

Between 2000 and 2016 the total number of shovelers counted at Otago sites has varied between approximately 900 and 1700 birds. The 2016 total was 1091. In 2015 the total was 1696.

Discussion

Central Otago experienced unusually heavy frosts and cold conditions during early August and a snow storm on the day of the count. This resulted in many of the monitoring sites freezing over. This would be expected to make feeding conditions difficult for shoveler ducks which require open water for filter feeding. Shoveler ducks are a highly migratory bird (Caithness 1982, Holden 1990, Williams 1981) and could be expected to leave areas experiencing reduced feeding opportunities. This may explain the reduction of birds recorded in the Maniototo (309 in 2016 versus 916 in 2015) and the total number recorded in Otago.

Otago Hunter Harvest Estimate

The 2016 hunter harvest estimate from telephone surveys was 897 (95 % Confidence Interval 514 – 1565). The 2015 total was 1781 (95% Confidence Interval 1076 – 2948).

The number of hunters who report shoveler harvest during telephone surveys is relatively low (when compared to mallard harvest). This results in wide confidence intervals and reduces the reliability of the estimate.

National Count Analysis (summary provided by Mathew McDougall)

This is the 17th annual count to monitor change in the New Zealand population. A total of 11,781 ducks were counted at 249 sites. Population change was examined using two methods (1) a variant of the Route Regression method and, (2) totals from 82 sites that have been counted each year for the 17 years.

The population of shoveler duck at these sites appear to be stable, (percentage change = -0.94; 95% Credible Interval -2.7 – 0.82; $n=230^1$) over the 17 years. Short term (2015-2016) the population may have decreased (-9.2%; -26.4 – 11.9, 95% Credible Interval; $n=227$). The 2016 total count for sites that have been counted every year ($n=82$) was 90% of the average for the period 2000 – 2015 and was down 26% on last year's count.

Summary

The total number of shoveler recorded in Otago was less than last year but similar to historic records. Analysis of nationwide results indicates a possible population decline since last year but a stable population over the last 17 years. There is no recommendation for any regulation adjustment.

Recommendation

That this report be received.

Morgan Trotter
Fish & Game Officer
October 2016

¹ With the 95% credible interval there is a 95% chance that the true estimate lies within the interval, whereas 95% confidence limit is a random variable (Link and Barker, 2010) whereby if the data were repeated numerous times 95% of these confidence intervals would encompass the true mean (McCarthy, 2007).

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8.6 Confidential Habitat Enhancement Grant - M Trotter

8.7 Confidential Prosecution Update- Ian Hadland

9 Correspondence

9.1 The Concerned Anglers Group – Discussion Paper For Council

Tourist angling and its associated commercialisation

We the resident angler feel that our priceless recreational heritage is being eroded away continuously by people using our heritage to make money. I am sure our wonderful forefathers never intended our heritage to be used in this way. It seems to me that the resident angler is being ignored. There is so much commercialism now that the resident angler is getting highly affected. We would ask Fish & Game to email the following letter to Otago licence holders to see what the feeling is, and to build strength in our group so we can air the issues.

Motto: STAND UP.

A group has been formed called, "The Concerned Resident Anglers Group", to protect our wonderful angling heritage from rampant tourism and commercialization. These people are taking over the resource and the resident angler has been totally ignored. An overseas concern have bought land in the upper Ahuriri river and are currently building a lodge there. They will basically take over this iconic stretch of river which belongs to NZ residents. We are powerless at present to stop it. Large numbers of non resident anglers, are renting campervans and are living on the popular rivers for weeks and even months at a time. THIS NEEDS TO STOP.

We have a Prime Minister of this country[also minister of Tourism] who is only interested in money and is hell bent on attracting as many tourist anglers as he can get with no consideration for the fishery or the resident angler. We need 'people power' 'to effect change. We want Fish & Game to take complete control of tourist angling. This is not possible at present because of government control of Fish& Game.

We are promoting a four step plan mooted by Nick King ,a guide who cares about the fishery and the resident angler. This is used by managers of some of the worlds other platinum fisheries . Picture the component parts of New Zealand angling in order of status. Once identified it is a matter of understanding that if any part lower in rank negatively affects anything above, new restrictions would apply .

1. The Fishery.
2. Citizens and Residents of New Zealand.
3. New Zealand Commercial Guides.
4. Non Resident Anglers.

It is a basic, fair model that's impossible to refute. We want Fish& Game to be able to administer the four step plan to the satisfaction of the resident angler.

We need the resident angler to STAND UP. People power is the only way to put pressure on the government who have control over Fish & Game. So please join the Concerned Resident Anglers Group. Don't let commercialism take over. Press the JOIN button to become a member. We need every angler in the country to join in order to pressure the Government.

It is our heritage, so lets protect it by STANDING UP.

Core members of the group are: Convenor, David Linklater, Bruce Mcgavin, Melvin Tudor, Mike Weddell, Murray Smart, John Thomson, Robin Hulsbosch, Chris Hyndman. John Dean, John Highton. Dave Witherow

9.2 Zane Moss – Contribution to the Oreti Environment Court Case



12 AUG 2016

9 August 2016

Niall Watson
Chief Executive
Otago Fish & Game Council
PO Box 76
Dunedin 9054

Dear Niall

Contribution to the Oreti Environment Court Case

I wish to pass on our Council's sincere appreciation for your Council's generous financial contribution toward our Environment Court battle to save the Upper Oreti valley from the irreparable damage that construction and use of a cycleway would cause.

This is a very appropriate use of the non-resident licence tariff and recognises the across-boundary value that our respective fisheries provide, particularly to non-resident anglers, so many of whom undoubtedly access our regions via Queenstown Airport.

I also wish to extend special thanks to your individual Councillors, Ian Cole, Rick Boyd and Dave Witherow, who presented excellent evidence as parties supporting the Fish & Game case. Ian's knowledge and experience of the valley as an expert angler and professional guide put the values of the fishery in context for the Judge and Commissioners. Rick's excellent evidence and scientific background was teased out by the Judge who recognised his valuable contribution. Finally, it will come as no surprise that Dave's evidence, eloquence and candour with the Judge appeared to be received with a particularly sympathetic ear and brought a touch of humour to the proceedings, albeit at the Southland District Council's expense.

Whether we are ultimately successful in the case, such impassioned evidence as that presented by your Councillors validated the need for us to invest such time and resources into the battle.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zane Moss', is written over a white background.

Zane Moss
Manager

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

Southland Region

PO Box 159, Invercargill 9840, New Zealand. Telephone (03) 215 9117 Facsimile (03) 215 9118 Email southland@fishandgame.org.nz
www.fishandgame.org.nz

**9.3 Office of the Prime Minister – Lake Snow in Wanaka and Wakatipu. Plus
Reply**



Office of the Prime Minister

Prime Minister
Minister for National Security and Intelligence
Minister of Tourism

Minister Responsible for Ministerial
Services

23 September 2016

Mr Niall Watson
Chief Executive
Fish & Game New Zealand
PO Box 76
DUNEDIN 9054

Dear Mr Watson

On behalf of the Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism, Rt Hon John Key, I acknowledge receipt of an information copy of your letter dated 3 September 2016, to Hon Nick Smith, Minister for the Environment, requesting action by Government so support research and survey work on the status and cause of lake snow.

Yours sincerely

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

A Ireton
Correspondence Manager

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand. Telephone 64 4 817 6800



3 September 2016

The Hon. Nick Smith
Minister for the Environment
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister,

Occurrence of Lake Snow In Lakes Wanaka and Wakatipu

Otago Fish and Game Council would like to express its very serious concern to you about the appearance of 'lake snow' in Lake Wanaka and more recently in Lake Wakatipu and possibly in Lake Hawea.

These two pristine alpine lakes both support nationally important fisheries for trout and landlocked salmon and host a broad range of other recreational and tourism activities. The three lakes along with the natural landscapes that surround them form a cornerstone for our international and domestic visitor industry in the Queenstown-Lakes District.

Many people have assumed that large oligotrophic glacial lakes within mostly unmodified catchments would be at little or no risk from external environmental impacts but now we are being proven wrong.

Complaints have been received from anglers and angling guides about fishing lines being fouled and reels being clogged but impacts go far beyond angling. Filters for domestic water supplies are being gummed up and filters on boat motor cooling systems are being clogged

There is research being undertaken on the lake snow phenomenon by Otago University's Marc Schallenberg but we now consider the issue requires a much bigger and more urgent response. As we understand it, it is not clear whether lake snow is developing because of factors such as land use changes within the catchment, overall climate change or whether it is a biosecurity incursion which warrants a didymo scale response.

There needs to be a much greater understanding of what is going on, particularly if lake snow can be transferred from one lake to another by contamination.

We respectfully request you consider action by Government to support research and survey work underway by Otago University and Otago Regional Council and to determine the status and cause of lake snow and help to formulate an urgent response to it.

Yours sincerely

Niall Watson
Chief Executive

Copy: The Rt. Hon John Key, Minister of Tourism
Jacqui Dean, Member of Parliament for Waitaki
Peter Bodeker, Chief Executive, Otago Regional Council
Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

Otago Region

Cnr Hanover & Harrow Sts, PO Box 76, Dunedin 9054, New Zealand. Telephone (03) 477 9076 Facsimile (03) 477 0146
www.fishandgame.org.nz

9.4 Wanaka Gun Club – Thank You.

From: FJ&LJMcGarvie [mailto:garboo48@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, 21 September 2016 8:23 a.m.

To: Otago Fish & Game

Subject: Sponsorship

WANAKA GUN CLUB
Albert town/Hawea highway

19.09.2016

TO THE MANAGER, STAFF AND COUNCILORS
FISH AND GAME OTAGO
P O BOX 76,
DUNDIN.

Dear Sirs

On behalf of all the members of the Wanaka Gun Club Inc, I would like to express our sincere thanks for your sponsorship for our secondary school pupils intercollegiate competition which was held on September 3rd. We gave out 8 trophies and 31 medals to the winners and place getters in each of four events, for Seniors and Juniors. The trophies and medals were engraved in the first instance acknowledging "Otago Fish and Game".

This event is becoming more popular each year at Wanaka with very good attendances, from schools as far north as Timaru, and south to Invercargill attending. The level of competition is of a very high standard.

I enclose a photo of the Mt Aspiring College team, with their "5 person Teams event" medals. This is a very hard event to win and I was extremely proud of them to achieve this. They also collected 6 individual trophies/medals. A very successful day for our MAC shooters.

I would also especially like to thank Cliff Halford for coming along and being involved in the presentation of the trophies and medal .

Thank you, Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Fraser McGarvie
President
992 Aubrey Road,
Wanaka. ph 034432408



9.5 Gallaway Cook Allan – Notice of Appeal Lindis Catchment Group

26 September 2016

Peter Wilson
Fish & Game Council
P O Box 76
Dunedin 9054

**GALLAWAY
COOK
ALLAN**

Gallaway Cook Allan Lawyers Dunedin
Corner High & Princes Streets
PO Box 143
Dunedin 9054, New Zealand
Phone 03 477 7312
Fax 03 477 5564

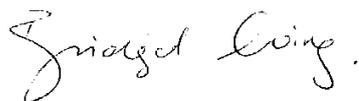
Gallaway Cook Allan Lawyers Wanaka
24 Dunganvon Street
PO Box 450
Wanaka 9343, New Zealand
Phone 03 443 0044
Fax 03 443 6651

Dear Sir/Madam

NOTICE OF APPEAL - LINDIS CATCHMENT GROUP INC V OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

We enclose by way of service a copy of a Notice of Appeal which has been filed with the Environment Court in the above matter.

Yours faithfully
GALLAWAY COOK ALLAN



Bridget Irving
Partner (Dunedin)

Email: bridget.iring@gallawaycookallan.co.nz

28 SEP 2016

LM-308882-2-25-V1

www.gallawaycookallan.co.nz

9.6 Otago Conservation Board – Rapid Expansion of Visitor Numbers



OTAGO CONSERVATION BOARD

PO Box 811, Queenstown 9348
sgerard@doc.govt.nz

Phone: (03) 442 7933 Email:

23 August 2016

Niall Watson
Chief Executive
Otago Fish and Game
PO Box 76
DUNEDIN 9054

Dear Niall

THE RAPID EXPANSION OF VISITOR NUMBERS - WHERE TO FROM HERE?

The Otago and Southland Conservation Boards invite you to attend a Tourism Workshop to be held on Thursday 27 October from 10 am - 4 pm, followed by drinks, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 93 Beach Street, Queenstown. A range of speakers, as outlined below, will present their views.

The number of visitors to New Zealand continues to increase significantly, particularly to iconic locations such as our National Parks. This growth provides a valuable boost to local businesses and to the wider economy but it is also putting a real strain on infrastructure, on the environment and, some users consider it is now threatening the inherent values of our National Parks.

The Otago and Southland Conservation Boards have a legislative role in approving Management Plans for both the Mount Aspiring and Fiordland National Parks. A Review of both these Plans is

scheduled to commence in 2017 and will set the levels of activity for the next ten years.

The Boards wish to hear a diverse range of views from the speakers, about whether visitor growth can continue to expand or whether limits have already been met. The process should help us to be better informed when considering the Review process and when advising the Department.

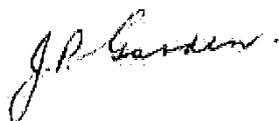
Speakers include:

- A Representative of Ngai Tahu Tourism
- Lou Sanson, Director-General and Gavin Walker, Acting Director, Recreation, Tourism and Heritage, Department of Conservation (DOC)
- Chris Roberts, CEO, Tourism Industry Aotearoa (TIA)
- Kevin Bowler, CEO, Tourism New Zealand (TNZ)
- Peter Wilson, President, Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand (FMC)
- Dave Bamford, Dave Bamford Tourism Development

We are looking forward to hearing from the Guest Speakers and having a robust panel discussion at the conclusion of the presentations. While it has been necessary to limit the number of speakers there will be an opportunity for you to participate by asking questions.

Please RSVP Board Support Officer Sarah Gerard on tel: (03) 442 9823 or email: sgerard@doc.govt.nz at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards,



Pat Garden
John Whitehead

9.7 Land Information New Zealand – Hukarere Tenure Review



Our Ref: PRY-C60-12431-TNR-PO009-Z

Your Ref:

Legal Code: 1477

26 September 2016

Mr Niall Watson
Fish & Game New Zealand
P.O. Box 76
DUNEDIN 9054

Wellington Office
Radio New Zealand House
155 The Terrace
PO Box 5501
Wellington 6145
New Zealand
T 04 460 0110
E Info@linz.govt.nz
www.linz.govt.nz

Dear Niall,

Hukarere Tenure Review

I refer to your letter to the Minister for Land Information dated 12 July 2016, which her office has referred to me for a reply. I regret the delay in getting this reply to you.

I have previously addressed the issues that you have raised in your representations. So as to be absolutely clear, Part 4A of the Conservation Act 1987 provides for the reservation of marginal strips on every disposition of Crown land and that is the primary legislative provision for enabling riparian access. The marginal strips are not reserved under the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998 tenure review provisions, but as a consequence of any disposal action, as you know. Also as you know, at this point in the tenure review process, a public access arrangement is part of the current tenure review proposal.

I'm also aware that there is an existing easement granted over a formed road on the Hukarere pastoral lease land in favour of an adjoining landowner that has to be taken into account in the tenure review. That easement specifically precludes public access over it. Ultimately, if this tenure review proceeds to a substantive proposal being put, acceptance of the substantive proposal by the Hukarere lessee will require the consent of that adjoining easement holder.

To the extent that there may be paper legal roads crossing the Crown pastoral land, such land is outside the ambit of a tenure review and is not something that can be dealt with by the Commissioner. It is the Commissioner, not LINZ, that acts in tenure review and LINZ has no authority from me, nor do I have authority myself, to deal with roads or "rationalise roading issues", as you put it. The views of the pastoral lessee and the district council about whether the bridge is part of a legal public road, and any agreement you may reach with them about that, are not sufficient to give it that legal status and are outside the legal process that I am bound to follow.

In terms of the bullet points in your letter:

Tenure review is a prescribed statutory process and I have to follow what the legislation says.

Your organisation has had the opportunity to provide its views on this tenure review and your views have been heard. Not only is there the public submissions process expressly for that purpose, in addition, I exercised my discretion under section 26 of the Crown Pastoral

newzealand.govt.nz

Land Act 1998 and also consulted you directly about it. Otherwise, there is no "significant statutory interest" for you in the tenure review legislation.

I'm not aware of the legal opinions that you refer to or that anyone is saying that public access is a low priority. But notwithstanding that your aspirations may not be met, we are still engaged in a process which proposes to create public access by easement. With very few exceptions, public access has been a significant feature of completed tenure reviews.

I am aware of Initiatives under a former Government, but those had no connection with my tenure review process and were not entirely successful in terms of the outcome sought. Under the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998 those cannot be taken into account or pursued.

The concession that you are referring to is a tenure review designation in line with the legislation and the Minister of Conservation's provisional consent has been granted. The basis for that is whether, if the land in question were already conservation area, the Minister would grant it under the Conservation Act 1987. It is not a trade-off for public access.

The perspective that you can involve the pastoral lessee, the district council and others in addressing matters that involve the tenure review is simply not an option for me. If any such options were pursued, I would be not taking into account relevant matters and would be acting outside my permitted statutory considerations. Departing from the legislation when it suits your objectives is ultra vires and would leave me open to judicial review.

Yours sincerely,



David Gullen
Commissioner of Crown Lands

10 General Business
