

**Agenda For The Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council
On Tuesday 25th May 2021
At St John Rooms, Scotland Street, Roxburgh
Starting 10.30am**

Timetable	
10.30am	Councilor only workshop on Ministerial Review
12:30pm	Lunch
1:00pm	Council meeting
2:30pm	Address by Contact Energy
3:00pm	Public Forum
3:15pm	Afternoon Tea
3:30pm – 5pm	Council Meeting

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1.0 Present and Apologies

2.0 Matters to be raised not on the agenda

3.0 Declarations of Interest

4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

**Minutes of the Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council
On Thursday 18th March 2021
At St John Rooms, Suffolk Street, Tapanui
The meeting commenced at 1pm**

The Council was hosted on an instructive and informative farm tour by the Pomahaka Water Care Group (PWC). Land and catchment management initiatives, particularly to control sediment before it enters rivers and streams were highlighted. Model riparian planting sites were visited and Craig Simpson From Landcare Trust explained their purpose and more about their ongoing programme of works to improve water quality in the Pomahaka catchment. The tour concluded with a shared lunch and short debrief.

Cr Wright thanked the PWC for the tour and noted it was good to see the positive steps towards improving the environment and encouraged the PWC group to continue. He expressed hoped that farmers, hunters and anglers can all work together for mutual benefits. Simon O'Meara Chairman of PWC thanked us for the visit and our support so far and he wished for that to continue. Lloyd McCall, project manager for PWC group spoke of the 3 year planting project and development of a whole of catchment plan.

Broad ranging discussion followed on various topics including anglers access and riparian fencing, gravel extraction, sediment trap consenting issues, native fish protection, research opportunities and the high cost of ORC consenting to make improvements.

1.0 Present and Apologies

Present: Monty Wright (chair), Adrian McIntyre, Cr Colin Weatherall, Vicky Whyte (via Zoom), John Highton, Ian Cole, Rick Boyd, Dan Rae, Mike Barker, Richard Twining (Ngai Tahu), Ian Hadland (CE), Sharon Milne (F&G Staff)

Apologies: Ray Grubb, John Barlow, Murray Neilson

Moved Cr Cole/Cr McIntyre that the apologies be accepted. Carried.

2.0 Matters to be raised not on the agenda

Cr Highton's discussion paper on angler management and opportunities in post covid NZ will be held over to the May meeting and the CE agreed to prepare a response to the paper.

3.0 Declarations of Interest

Adrian McIntyre has become part of the farmer action group called 'Groundswell'

4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Moved Cr Rae/Cr Barker that the minutes of the February 2021 meeting are a true and accurate record. Carried.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil

6.0 Health and Safety Report

It was agreed to move the verbal report from the CE on the issuing a trespass notice to a member of the public to the public excluded section to protect the individual's identity.

Moved Cr Highton/Cr Wright that the report be received. Carried.

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 Risk Management Policy

The CE presented the Risk Management Policy and explained its purpose. Cr's agreed that the session on risk identification and ranking conducted at the February meeting had been useful. He also noted that Risk Management was part of the Council's governance role (as set out in the Governance manual) and identification and reporting on risk was a requirement of the CE.

Cr's wanted to record a note of thanks to Cr Grubb for initiating the policy development.

Moved Cr Whyte/Cr Weatherall that the Risk Management Policy be adopted. Carried

7.2 Operational Workplan and Budget overview 2021-2022

The CR spoke to his report on the Draft workplan and budget for 21/22 financial year.

Projects had been tweaked rather than changed thanks largely due to Council being mid-way through an established three-year strategic plan.

He noted that he had budgeted, as requested by NZC, based on the same bulk fund as last year. However, the CE outlined a number of projects which would need to be

funded through contestable funding bids (via NZ licence pool funding) and included some funding requests from Otago reserves. This was necessary in his view if the agreed priorities of Council were to be advanced.

Moved Cr Barker/Cr Rae that:

- 1. Council endorse the three year strategic plan priorities and objectives as circulated***
- 2. Agree to adopt the Draft Operational Workplan and forward the Budget, including the contestable funding items, to NZC for input into the licence setting process.***

Carried

8.0 Public Excluded Items

Moved Cr Boyd/Cr Cole that the Council move into Public Excluded Session. Carried

8.1 Otago Fish and Game Council Public Excluded Minutes 13th February 2021

Moved Cr McIntyre/Cr Boyd that the previous minutes were a true and correct record Boyd. Carried.

8.2 Risk Management Report 2021-2022

Moved Cr Whyte/Cr Barker that the Risk Management Report be received

8.3 Proposed Trespass notice – Verbal update given

8.4 Property and Staffing update – Verbal update given

8.5 Other Public Excluded Topics Requested at the Meeting

- The Lindis High Court Proceedings – Update provided by CE**
- Plan Change 7 Hearing – update on proceedings given**

9.0 Financial Report

9.1 Finance Reports

No discussion

9.2 Otago Fish and Game Reserves 28th February 2021

The increasing general reserve was discussed. The CE noted that much of our expenditure for the year is yet to come and those addition funds will be reduced by operating cost.

9.3 Licence Sales

General discussion on Otago sales and Cr's noted the lack of non resident income had started to reduce income when compared to the same time two years ago. Increase in resident licence sales was pleasing.

Moved Cr Cole/Cr McIntyre that the financial and licence sales report be received. Carried.

10.0 Chief Executives Report

10.1 Progress Against Councils 3 Year Strategic Priorities

The CE explained that due to the short time frame between meetings, and the need to quickly produce a draft workplan and budget for this meeting, there was no further update to give on the strategic plan

10.2 Other Staff Activity

10.2.1 SPECIES MANAGEMENT

A verbal update was provided to Councillors on the Kaikorai Estuary fish kill. The ORC had two reports commissioned which hinted that the mechanical draining of the estuary was a contributor to the fish kill. The recommendations in the report include discussing future mechanical openings with F&G and conducting these operations in cooler weather. It was noted that a decade ago both of these actions were normal practice.

10.2.2 HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT – No discussion

10.2.3 USER PARTICIPATION – No discussion

10.2.4 PUBLIC INTERFACE – No discussion

10.2.5 COMPLIANCE – No discussion

10.2.6 LICENCING – No discussion

10.2.7 COUNCIL

Following a request from NZC about the CE's role in triennial elections, the Council wished to confirm Ian Hadland as the returning officer for OF&GC.

Agreed (Cr Weatherall/Cr Rae) that the CE be the returning officer for Otago Fish & Game Council elections.

10.2.8 PLANNING AND REPORTING – No discussion

Moved Cr Weatherall/McIntyre that the CE report be received. Carried.

PUBLIC FORUM

John Preddy and Graham Rae from Teviot Anglers addressed the meeting. They requested more information on the Contact Energy hatchery plans for the Roxburgh area and Lower Clutha River. The CE explained that the discussions with Contact Energy were still commercially sensitive at this point and negotiations continue. He assured them both that he would keep them updated on matters when it was possible to do so.

Mr Rae also enquired as to the Councils position on the proposal to increase the draw down speed of Lake Onslow. The CE replied that his staff had been in negotiations with the applicant, and it is proposed to sign off if a solid monitoring plan was included. CE also noted there is a wider proposal for a wider project by Government to greatly extend Lake Onslow.

11.0 RMA Planning and Consents Report

No report entered due to time restraints.

12.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

12.1 CFT

Cr Cole provided an update.

- Cromwell office has had final inspection for code of compliance.
- There is continued access issues at Kane Road (QLDC has pulled out of negotiations).
- Next CFT meeting will be held in Dunedin on Friday 26th March. The annual work and strategic plan is to be set.

12.2 NZC – Cr Grubb (via email)

- NZC are awaiting the Ministerial Review which is due mid April.
- Staff have been developing scenarios for estimated licence sales and total income.
- NZC has approved an advocacy position on Wetlands and Intensive Winter Grazing and also made recommendations to the Minister for the Environment regarding changes to the National Environmental Standards

12.3 Salmon Committee – Cr Boyd

The Salmon Committee has disbanded due to lack of meetings and members no longer being Councillors. The work of the committee will now be managed by the North Canterbury and Central South Island Fish and Game Councils.

12.4 Ngai Tahu – Richard Twining

Mr Twining spoke favourably about the Otago University Marine studies mobile Aqua van which had come to the marae recently which included marine, freshwater and native species displays.

12.5 Conservation Board

No report

13.0 Correspondence**13.1 NZC to Otago**

13.1.1 Federated Farmers Working Relationship - Received

13.1.2 National Environmental Standards (NES) for Freshwater – Wetland Regulations

Cr McIntyre expressed concern about the ability to develop or maintain maimais in wetlands without consents and the extra costs in larger wetlands. The CE noted that these issues were covered off in the NZC response back to the Minister for the Environment.

CE to respond to NZC congratulating them on a well written submission

13.2 Otago to NZC

Nil

13.3 General Correspondence In

13.3.1 Alexandra District Club – Fishing Event appreciation - Received

13.4 General Correspondence Out

Nil

14.0 Items to be Received or Noted**14.1 Aerial Trend Counts February 2021**

A McIntyre noted that the Canadian Geese have moved into the Catlins and South Otago in large numbers over the last few years. Cr's agreed that staff should promote their hunting to our own licence holders.

Moved Cr Weatherall/Cr Rae that the reports be received

15.0 General Business

15.1 Congratulations to Ray Grubb Chairman of NZC on his ministerial appointment to the High Country Advisory Group that manages crown pastoral leases.

15.2 FGO Dixon was thanked for his display at the Maitara River Day

15.3 Cr Weatherall asked if there were any reports on the Junior paradise shelduck season. CE advised uptake was very light.

The meeting was closed at 5.15pm

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Fish and Game Actions in Response to the Covid Season

At the last meeting Cr Highton tabled a thought-provoking paper on mass tourism and the impact on the New Zealand based angler experience. There was insufficient time to discuss it then and I undertook to report back on the matter for this meeting.

John has helpfully boiled down its content to the below and made a recommendation for action;

Otago Fish and Game priorities include improving participation and improving licence-holder understanding of Fish and Game processes. Sales of local licences have increased as we have had an exceptional season without tourist- anglers and we need to communicate with and retain these additional anglers.

We have a once-only opportunity now as the whole country is reassessing how to regulate tourism. Criteria have been established. These are that tourism should pay fair value for the use of natural capital and protect the values of wildness and natural quiet. It should also fit with the wishes of the local community and be subject to a community-owned management plan.

Consistent with the above priorities we should consult our licence-holders and re-evaluate our tourist angler system against the criteria outlined. It would be best if we act now so that we proceed concurrently with the general community re-evaluation of tourism.

Staff comment:

Staff agree and there is an opportunity in three areas:

1. Defining who these new and reactivated anglers are (who bought licences over the last year), confirming their motivations for becoming licence holders, and then discovering what might be required to keep them into the future.
2. Building better tools and systems for monitoring and managing tourism on pressure sensitive fisheries before they return to full scale.
3. Managing and perhaps encouraging (to improve licence revenue), high yielding tourist anglers and promotion of underutilized fisheries to redistribute angler effort. It is noted that tourist angling outside of pressured fisheries has little impact and this would be in line with the governments wish to return quality tourists to NZ.

There is an assumption Cr Highton's paper that there is a direct relationship between lack of tourist anglers and an increase in local sales which needs testing. The staff view is that other

drivers (rather than a lack of tourist anglers) caused the increase in licence sales such as more domestic travel and holidaying at freshwater locations over summer.

It's worth considering streams of work going on at present to help inform any proposed actions:

- A survey of new and reactivated licence holders will be undertaken in June to assess motivations for purchase of a licence, to test their experiences to date, and to gather insight into what these anglers need to be successful. Otago are drafting that survey, but it will likely go nationwide.
- Backcountry user surveys are being conducted every two months to test anglers experiences and satisfaction levels against previous years data. That is proposed to be reported on before years end.
- NZC is proposing a 'displacement survey' (details and terms of reference to be developed) to look specifically at the extent of displacement of kiwis from NZ fisheries. Staff will remind NZC that *Angler displacement on and from pressure-sensitive rivers in Otago and Southland*. Hayes, S., & Lovelock, B.A. (2019) provides a good summary of the situation in some of the worst impacted areas.
- A second pressure sensitive fisheries meeting will have been held within the last week involving staff from around the South Island and NZC. This will look specifically at angling regulations and licencing options to manage pressured fisheries including proposals to limit tourist angler activity in sensitive waters.

In summary, staff are already engaged in working to 're evaluate our tourist angler system' and looking at solutions.

Timing

Unfortunately, implementation of any solutions might be over a year away as the licencing system and regulations have fixed cycles and the next opportunity for any significant changes is for the 2022/23 angling season. That should provide enough time for consultation on the issues and allow for adjustments to be made to online licencing, pricing and allocation systems.

Similarly, the pathway to an operative Guides Licence is out of this Councils sphere of influence although and update on progress could be sought.

For brief discussion

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
17 May 2021

6.0 Health and Safety Report May 2021

- Staff are going through unsettled times with the ministerial review of Fish and Game.

Staff have been encouraged to talk to someone (peers or CE if they are feeling stressed or anxious).

Otago have access to councilors via Work Place Support. NZC of Fish and Game have also contracted an employee support agency and an 0800 contact number has been offered to all staff and managers.

- Covid 19 – We will encourage all staff to get vaccinations when available.
- OF&GC are now members of Coast Guard who have assistance available in the Central Otago Lakes region.
- Vehicle health and safety booklets have all been updated, informing staff at Otago Fish and Game vehicle policy, hazards and instructions if accidents happen.

Events

- Game Ranging preparation – Pre game season there was a briefing meeting for rangers on rules, regulations and conduct. All rangers to read and sign the Job Safety Analysis Sheets. Mycoplasma bovis and covid management protocols were also provided.

OHS Audits

- Audits completed - Staff training register update completed.
- Next audit – Hazardous substances Cromwell, Wanaka, Dunedin and Hatchery (June)

Incidents/Accidents/Near Misses

- A staff member dropped in unexpectedly at a worksite where a digger was removing willows. All staff have been reminded that when entering a third party work site involving machinery (e.g. diggers at a gravel extraction sites or willow removal etc) they are to contact the business before visiting the site and wear PPE (personal protective equipment) as required.
- A non hunting but disagreeable landowner approached a F&G vehicle on a roadway at duck shooting opening day. Ranger CERT training was used and the rangers were able to back away from the situation.

Training

- Two staff are booked for refresher first aid training.
- One staff and one new ranger are to attend CERT training in August 2021.

Recommendation

That is report be received.

Sharon Milne
Administration Officer
May 2021

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 NZ Fish and Game Licence Fee Recommendation Consultation

The NZC is now consulting on the 2021/2022 Licence fee recommendation and the following paper is self-explanatory.

In summary, and after analysis was provided from the managers group, they are recommending a \$4 increase on the whole season fishing licence (to \$137) and \$2 to the gamebird licence to bring it up to \$100. The latter includes the \$4 gamebird habitat stamp levy. All other categories will be adjusted up accordingly (via the agreed ratios) and rounded to the nearest dollar.

It should be noted that there was no change in licence fees last season due to Covid and all budgets were cut by 5%.

Otago F&G Council contestable bids have been included and subject to the recommendation being adopted by NZC (and endorsed by the Minister of Conservation) the Otago budget for 2021/22 financial year will be \$1,039,442 which is up from the current year of \$961,612. The additional funds have come from a mixture of the licence fee adjustment (\$36,830) and spending from our own reserves (\$31,000).

For discussion and decision

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
11 May 2021



Fish and Game New Zealand Licence Fee Recommendation Consultation

1. Proposal

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZC) seeks consultation from Fish and Game Councils on the 2021/22 licence fee recommendations.

NZC met with regional managers on 16th April to consider the 2021/22 budgets and licence fees. Following that meeting, NZC agreed to recommend an increase of \$4 to the sports fish adult whole season licence and an increase of \$2 to the game adult whole season licence. In recommending these fees, NZC also recommended that all other licence categories increased on the agreed proportions. A full list of recommended licence fees and categories is detailed at the end of this letter.

2. Background

Legislation provides for the following:

Section 26Q of the Conservation Act 1987 sets out the functions of Fish and Game Councils. Subsection (l)(d)(a) requires councils:

to assess the costs attributable to the management of sports fish and game;

Section 26Q(l)(d)(ii) requires Fish and Game councils:

to develop and recommend to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council appropriate licence fees to recover costs and game bird habitat stamp fees;

Section 26C(l)(e) requires NZC:

to recommend to the Minister of Conservation an appropriate fee for fishing and hunting licences, after considering the views and recommendations of Fish and Game Councils.

Section 26C(l)(ia) also requires NZC:

to recommend to the Minister, after considering the views and recommendations (if any) of Fish and Game Councils and the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board, an appropriate fee in respect of any game bird habitat stamp and the form of such stamps (the form of the stamp to be approved as part of the 2011 Game Notice).

Operationally, national policy of NZC specifies that all expenditure needs to be approved as part of the budget round, including capital expenditure and expenditure from reserves for all councils.

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

New Zealand Council

Level 2, The Dominion Building, 78 Victoria Street, Wellington 6011. P.O. Box 25-055, Wellington 6146, New Zealand.
Telephone (04) 499 4767 Email nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz www.fishandgame.org.nz

3. Reserves

National policy sets reserve levels equal to between 30-50% of licence income for those councils which generate licence sales income above their budget, or of total budget for those councils which receive a grant. This level of general reserve is considered adequate to provide security against fluctuations in income and to ensure adequate operational cash flow. In the May 2020 meeting, in response to Covid the prescribed reserve level was reduced to 20% of total budget for all councils.

The budget policy specifies that all expenditure from general and dedicated reserves needs to be approved by NZC as part of the budget round, or by making an application for Exceptional Funding. There are consequences across all sectors of the organisation where any council's reserves are reduced outside of policy.

4. Budget process

The method of increasing funding levels for individual councils is through a contestable funding application at the April budget setting meeting. Applications can be for either a one-off funding allocation for a specific project, or for ongoing additional funding. The latter in effect raises the total baseline funding level for that council.

The funding required to cover base funds and approved contestable funding is assessed against the expected licence sales for the year ahead (established from the last two years of actual sales), to determine the new licence fees.

This process is summarised in the following budget cycle:

Feb	NZC set Regional base funds for the 2021/22 year at \$9,607,893. This was approximately 95% of the original previous year's budget
March	All council budgets were reviewed against audited actual expenditure for the year ending 31 st August 2020.
	Budgets over or under 10% variance are reported against. The variance reports for the 2019/20 year were prepared, however because of Covid they were not appropriate to use as a guide in determining contestable funding applications.
	Preparation of business and operational work plans for new financial year (NFY)
April	Priorities for NFY are discussed at Regional Manager & NZC meetings April
	Draft budgets developed by NZ and regional F&G councils
	Councils apply for 'new' contestable funding with applications circulated beforehand, reviewed against criteria, considered and prioritised at the meeting of regional managers, which recommends the allocation of contestable funds, research and legal fund allocations and new licence fees for NFY
	NZC make recommendation on licence fees, having considered base funding levels and contestable fund applications, and send to regional councils for consideration.
June	Regional councils consider NZC licence fee recommendation. Due back to NZC 16 th June
	NZC consider regional response and finalise licence fee recommendations for approval by the Minister of Conservation.

The recommended licence fee is effectively set by dividing the sum of the proposed budgets of the 13 Councils by the number of the adult whole season licence equivalents that F&G NZ expects to sell during the year (LEQ targets).¹

¹ A licence equivalent (LEQ) sets the adult whole season licence as the standard unit of measure with a value of one (1) and other categories of licence are amalgamated as adult whole season equivalents in accordance with their proportionate value of the adult whole season licence. For example, the value of a junior whole season licence is 20% of an adult whole season licence. Therefore 5 junior whole season licences equal 1 LEQ.

5. 2021/22 LEQ targets

	2018-2019 LEQ'S (Actual)		2019-2020 LEQ'S (Actual)		2021-2022 Traditional LEQ'S (Extrapolated)		2021-2022 LEQ'S (Recommended LWP)	
	Fish	Game	Fish	Game	Fish	Game	Fish	Game
Northland	300	1,788	313	1,600	313	1,506	230	1,603
Auckland-Waikato	3,781	6,583	3,746	6,245	3,729	6,076	3,546	6,256
Eastern	9,884	3,162	9,020	2,749	8,588	2,543	8,554	2,754
Hawkes Bay	2,576	1,884	2,472	1,637	2,419	1,514	2,438	1,640
Taranaki	831	1,064	791	992	770	956	874	994
Wellington	3,005	3,504	3,026	3,134	3,026	2,949	3,142	3,139
Nelson-Marlborough	4,076	882	4,089	816	4,089	783	3,373	817
North Canterbury	11,969	2,530	11,333	2,309	11,016	2,198	11,290	2,313
West Coast	2,072	343	1,761	379	1,606	379	1,828	380
Central South Island	12,188	2,358	11,458	2,091	11,093	1,958	11,177	2,095
Otago	14,843	4,142	14,435	3,867	14,231	3,729	14,191	3,874
Southland	8,626	4,860	8,065	4,628	7,785	4,512	7,603	4,636
Total	74,151	33,101	70,510	30,448	68,665	29,103	68,245	30,500

The following components featured in the 2021-2022 budget discussions:

6. Contestable funding applications

A total of 62 contestable funding applications were received (up from 24 last year), seeking additional funding of \$1,219,639 (last year \$1,031,345). \$50,000 of this is from the Northland Restricted Reserve.

Budgets for all councils making application for increased funding were received and circulated for review prior to the April managers meeting.

7. Contestable funding recommendations

Managers considered all contestable funding applications and assigned each a priority rating. This was then explained at a joint meeting with NZC. The outcome recommended that applications totaling \$1,216,672 (\$331,701 from reserves) be funded, including provision for national RMA/legal funding.

Of this, \$608,371 (\$331,701 from reserves) was recommended for funding on a one-off basis, meaning this funding would be freed-up and become available in next year's budget round. The \$50,000 approved for Northland was from their restricted reserve. As this was from their Restricted Reserve it is simply a notification.

8. Research fund allocation

To avoid inflating the budget in any one year an allocation is made annually to the Research Fund. In past years, this allocation has been \$134,000. However, in the 2019-2020 financial year it was agreed to reduce this amount to \$70,000 due to Covid budgetary restrictions.

The Managers recommended to the NZC that the Research fund be increased by \$30,000 for the 2021/22 budget. This takes the Research Fund allocation to \$100,000 per annum. No proposals for research were put forward at this meeting.

A further \$30,000 has been recommended for the National Anglers Survey and for this to be an ongoing amount coming directly from the licence fee and not the Research fund.

9. Staff Development Fund

A staff scholarship of \$10,000 was available annually for Fish and Game staff to apply for support from the organisation for national and international study, work experience or participation in events or conferences. Again, due to Covid restrictions this budget was set to

zero for the 2020/21 year.

The Managers recommended to the NZC to reinstate this fund for 2021/22 budget (\$10,000) and ongoing.

Applications for this will open later in the year.

10. RMA/Legal fund allocation

The RMA/legal fund receives budget allocations on a reimbursement basis. It covers payment of costs through a national fund rather than separate funding allocations in individual council's budgets where approved legal projects occur.

The original application for RMA/Legal was for \$300,000 but Managers recommended that \$500,000 be allocated to the national legal pool fund for this 2021/22 year, an increase of \$186,000 from last year. This is considered the amount we are likely to spend in the 2021/22 year due to demands relating to the NPS-FW.

11. 2021/22 NZC Contestable Funding Approval and 2021/22 Budgets

The NZC approved 58 of the contestable funding applications at a total value of \$1,116,672. Of this \$288,385 were ongoing from the licence fee, \$546,586 one off from the licence fee and \$281,701 one off from reserves.

CPI on salaries for 1.4% was approved to all regions who applied. The loss of interest income that was applied for was taken from regions reserves if reserves could sustain it. (See attached schedule of approved CF applications)

The proposed budget for the 13 Fish and Game councils for 2021/22 (including funding from reserves) is \$10,724,565. Individual budgets are shown in the table below alongside the previous financial year (both shown as GST exclusive) (excluding the \$50,000 from Northland Restricted Reserve).

National Budget	Approved 2020/21	Approved 2021/22
Northland	508,200	550,915
Auckland/Waikato	795,379	810,240
Eastern	1,071,572	1,141,059
Hawkes Bay	368,127	376,208
Taranaki	357,970	376,464
Wellington	762,502	696,199
Nelson-Marlborough	444,491	466,818
North Canterbury	775,672	783,400
West Coast	346,448	346,448
Central South Island	673,164	729,030
Otago	961,612	1,039,442
Southland	643,699	713,199
NZC only	1,134,917	1,102,607
National inc Research	1,390,640	1,592,536
TOTAL	10,234,393	10,724,565 ²

² National issues include the cost of shared services benefiting the organisation nationwide, such as the special editions of the F&G magazine, the F&G NZ website, licence administration system, administration of elections, ranger health & safety training, etc; Commission is paid to licence sale agents (mostly retailers). Current policy sets commission at 4.5% per licence sold. Commission funding is aligned to both the licence sales estimate taken into the budget system and the subsequently adopted licence fee.

12. NZ Game Bird Habitat Stamp

No change to the Game Bird Habitat Stamp was recommended for the 2021/22 year.

13. Licence fee recommendation

Based on the estimated LEQs (extrapolated from the current sales figures and analysis of sales trends over the last two season (2018/19 and 2019/20) and of generated revenue, established base funds, approved contestable funding, plus research and legal fund allocations, the NZ Council recommends:

The 2021/22 licence fees be based on a sports fish adult whole season fee of \$137 and the game adult whole season licence to be based on \$96 plus \$4 (Total \$100) for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp (GST inclusive).

14. Modification to licence categories and ratios with whole season fees

The NZ Council discussed the differential pricing for non-resident licences and agreed that the sports fish categories and ratios be maintained at the same as previous years.

15. Use of Reserves & Impact on Reserves

The recommendation for licences fee of \$137 and \$100, along with the recommendation of a total budget of \$10,724,565 requires Regions to use their reserves to cover the shortfall. Nine Regions are using reserves to cover one off project for the year (\$281,701). On top of that there is a shortfall of \$247,147, which is 2.37% of budgets. Each region will need to draw on their reserves by 2.37% in order to cover this shortfall.

In this scenario Taranaki is the only region that will require a top of Reserves in order to maintain reserves at 20%.

16. Conclusion

The NZ Council seeks consultation from Fish and Game Councils on the following resolutions:

That for consultation with regional Fish and Game Councils, a 2021/22 recommended adult whole season sports fish licence fee of \$137 and an adult whole season game licence fee of \$100 (inclusive of a \$4 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) inclusive of GST be accepted.

To enable the New Zealand Council to consider feedback and make recommendations to the Minister of Conservation at its June 17th 2021 meeting, responses to these changes are requested by 16th June 2021.



Paul Shortis
Acting Chief Executive

Schedule of F&G NZ's proposed Licences & Fees for 2021/22 (inclusive of GST)

Sports Fish Licence		2020/21	2021/22	
Category of licence	Class of applicant	Current fee \$	Proposed fee \$	Fee difference
Whole season (1 Oct – 30 Sep)	Adult	133	137	\$4.00
	Junior	27	27	Nil
	Child	free	free	Nil
Family		173	178	\$5.00
Non-resident Whole season	Adult	180	185	\$5.00
	Junior	34	35	\$1.00
	Child	34	35	\$1.00
Winter (1 Apr – 30 Sep)	Adult	80	82	\$2.00
Loyal senior	Adult	113	116	\$3.00
Local area	Adult	106	110	\$4.00
Short-break	Adult	48	49	\$1.00
Long-break	Adult	93	96	\$3.00
Day	Adult	21	22	\$1.00
	Junior	5	5	Nil
Non-resident Day	Adult	34	35	\$1.00
	Junior	20	21	\$1.00
	Child	20	21	\$1.00
Back country		free	free	Nil
Controlled-period		free	free	Nil

Game Bird Licence*		2021	2022	
Category of licence	Class of applicant	Current fee \$	Proposed fee \$	Fee difference
Whole season (primarily 1st Sat in May to 31 Aug)	Adult	98	100	\$2.00
	Junior	23	23	Nil
	Child	4	4	Nil
Day (available from 2nd Monday of season)	Adult	23	23	Nil
	Junior	8	8	Nil

All licence category fees are set as a percentage of the fish or game adult whole season fee and rounded to the nearest \$, hence in some instances the fee difference remains nil.

*Game bird hunting licence fee includes the \$4.00 NZ Game Bird Habitat Stamp.

Notes:

A junior means a person aged 12 years or over, but under 18 years at the start of the season.

A child means a person aged under 12 years at the start of the season.

Back country and controlled-period licence mean an endorsement on an adult or junior whole season or family fish licence with special conditions for fishing specified waters.

Whole Season for sports fish extends from 1 October through to 30 September the following year.

Whole Season for game birds can extend from the first Saturday in May to beyond the traditional closing dates for upland game hunting at the end of August due to special season conditions between February to April the following year for some species, eg. Paradise shelduck and Pukeko.

A Game Bird Habitat Stamp fee of \$4.00 (incl GST) is payable on all categories of game hunting licence and is included in the fees shown in the game hunting licence table above.

8.0 Public Excluded Items

8.1 Minutes Public Excluded meeting 18th March 2021

8.2 Habitat Enhancement Application

8.3 Lindis High Court Update

8.4 Donald Scott Memorial Fund

8.5 QLDC Wanaka Stormwater Easement Offer

8.6 Prosecution Update

9.0 Financial Report

Finance and Licence Sales 30th April 2021

9.1 Finance Reports

The draft finance Profit & Loss report and Balance Sheet for the period from 1st September 2020 to 30th April 2021 is below.

Expenditure at the 30th April for the 2020/21 financial year is \$1,447,346 (including levies \$533,853, agent commission \$80,007, depreciation \$40,608 and \$114,062 of our reserve and NZC reimbursed spending. The annual expenditure budget is \$1,805,609.

We are 67% through the year and expenditure is 66% of total budget.

Total income from licence sales to date is \$ 1,987,691. The annual licence sales budget income is \$1,646,268. This shows good licence income for the past 8 months. Revenue for the next 4 months is typically lower due to winter and we have very limited tourist angler sales. Nearly all Game season revenue has been accounted for.

Income from other sources totals \$124,982. This includes NZC reimbursement of legal expenses for the Plan Change Hearings \$49,274 and donations of \$18,500.

Budget and expenditure figures are exclusive of GST.

The accounts show a profit at 30th April of \$665,326 but this will be eroded over the remainder of the year as revenue diminishes and fixed costs continue.

Funds Position at 30th April 2020

ANZ 00 account	\$267,305.87
ANZ 70 account	\$987,914.31

Term Investments as at 30th April 2021

ASB 0079 \$362,449 @ 0.85% Maturing on 11th July 2021

Donations and Grants (not in budget)

Date	Who	For	Amount GST excl
Sept- Feb21	Mixed	Bullock Creek Plantings	\$700.90
Sept21	Community Care Trust	Take A Kid Fishing	\$1,733
Feb21	Contact Energy	Projects: Manuka Island, Brown Trout Origin, Harvest Monitoring	16,066
Total			\$18,500

Debtors

There are no bad or doubtful debts at the 30th April 2021

Capital Expenditure and Sales

A stand up desk and mat was brought for a staff member

9.2 Otago Fish and Game Reserves 30th April 2021

Otago Reserves Movements	Balance August 2020	Income (To) Reserve	Note	Outgoing (From) Reserve	Balance April 2021
Back Country Non-resident Levy	\$266,789	\$6,300		\$747	\$272,342
Habitat Enhancement & Research	\$10,995	\$6,300	2	\$4,000	\$13,295
Bullock Creek Reserve	\$5,033	\$530		\$2,226	\$3,337
Mining Rights Reserve	\$23,947		3	\$6,410	\$17,537
Priority Consents Reserve	60,000		7		\$60,000
Historical Property Reserves	\$172,044		4	\$10,366	\$161,678
Renovation Reserves	\$8,175				\$8,175
Regional Policy Statement Reserve	\$60,000		5		\$60,000
Priority Plan Changes	\$118,485		6	\$40,739	\$77,745
Total				\$64,488	\$674,109
NZC Grant Movements					
Priority Plan Changes		\$50,000	8	\$49,574	\$426

Note 2 Balance is \$13,295. Less committed but not yet paid out of \$8,500 so balance of \$4795 is available for dispersal by way of grants.

Note 3 \$150,000 (Mining Rights) approved prior to 2018 by NZC from our reserves. Includes \$80,000 of Lindis expenses, agreed by Council July 2019.

Note 4 Historical Property Reserve May 2020 \$15,000 and July 2020 \$25,000 was allocated to Wanaka subdivision by the Otago Council.

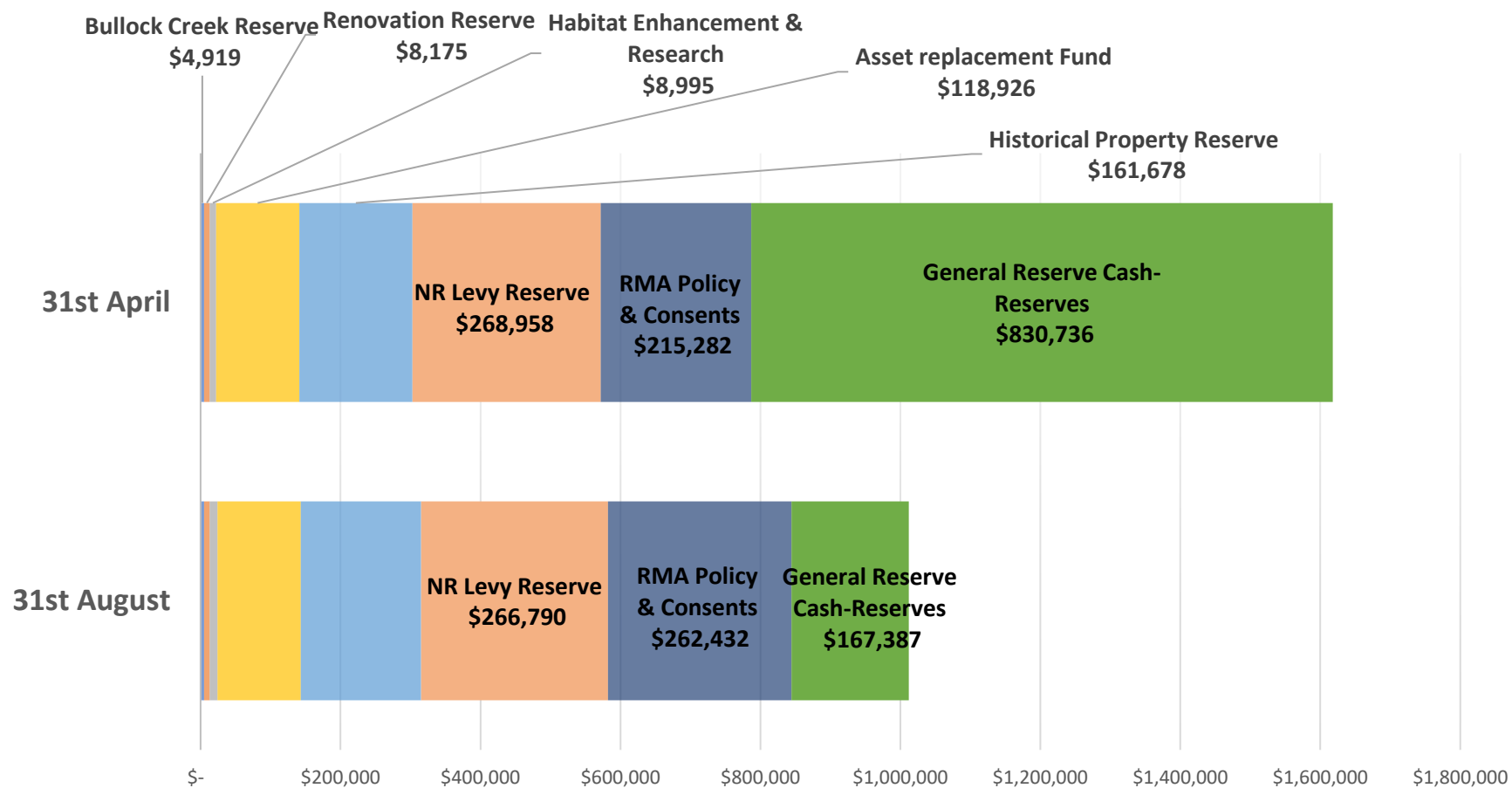
Note 5 OF&GC agreed to \$60,000 May 2020. NZC notified.

Note 6 OF&GC agreed to \$120,000 May 2020. NZC notified. \$81,000 agreed to be spent by council September 2020.

Note 7 OF&GC agreed to \$60,000 May 2020. NZC notified.

Note 8 Feb 2021 NZC allocated the use of \$50,000 to be reimbursed by the Regional RMA legal fund towards Plan Changes 7 and 8 of ORC Waterplan

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES FROM 31ST AUGUST 2020 TO 31ST APRIL 2021



Balance Sheet

Otago Fish and Game Council As at 30 April 2021

	30 APR 2021	31 AUG 2020
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank	1,255,420	652,613
Receivables		
Accounts Receivable	435,320	118,479
Total Receivables	435,320	118,479
GST	(25,176)	40,644
Investments	362,450	359,370
Inventory	20,958	20,958
Accrued Interest	870	870
Total Current Assets	2,049,842	1,192,934
Fixed Assets		
Property Plant & Equipment	1,346,061	1,385,558
Total Fixed Assets	1,346,061	1,385,558
Total Assets	3,395,902	2,578,492
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	266,467	74,257
Other Payables	164,714	231,585
Employee Entitlements	90,920	64,175
Rounding	-	-
Total Current Liabilities	522,101	370,017
Total Liabilities	522,101	370,017
Net Assets	2,873,802	2,208,475
Equity		
Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated Funds	1,364,081	1,651,962
Current Year Earnings	665,326	(29,076)
Transfer (To)/From Reserves	51,358	(258,805)
Total Accumulated Funds	2,080,765	1,364,081
Dedicated Reserves		
Back Country Fisheries Reserve	272,342	266,789
Habitat Enhancement & Research	13,295	10,995
Priority Plan Changes Reserve	77,746	118,485
Priority Consents Reserve	60,000	60,000
Regional Policy Statement Reserve	60,000	60,000
Mining Privileges Reserve	17,537	23,947
Historical Property Reserve	161,678	172,044

Balance Sheet

	30 APR 2021	31 AUG 2020
Renovation Reserve	8,175	8,175
Asset Replacement Funding	118,926	118,926
Total Dedicated Reserves	789,699	839,361
Restricted Reserves		
Bullock Creek Reserve	3,337	5,033
Total Restricted Reserves	3,337	5,033
Total Equity	2,873,802	2,208,475

Profit and Loss

Otago Fish and Game Council For the 8 months ended 30 April 2021

	MAR 2021	APR 2021	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
Income								
Licence Sales								
Fish Licence Sales	31,810	29,836	1,653,705	1,276,365	377,340	130%	1,324,365	1,683,279
Non-Resident Licence Revenue	465	561	5,154	-	5,154	-	-	70,828
Game Licence Sales	67,059	261,772	328,831	321,903	6,928	102%	321,903	316,109
Total Licence Sales	99,334	292,169	1,987,691	1,598,268	389,423	124%	1,646,268	2,070,216
Other Income								
Interest Income	46	42	3,404	-	3,404	-	-	16,177
Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	39	970	1,296	1,336	(40)	97%	2,000	723
Rent Received	11,968	6,093	44,162	39,437	4,725	112%	59,153	53,498
Fishing Competitions	326	-	890	-	890	-	-	1,635
Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,418
Donations & Grants	14,005	-	18,500	-	18,500	-	-	208,526
Merchandise Sales/Other	17	-	313	-	313	-	-	67
RMA Costs Reimbursed	49,574	-	49,574	-	49,574	-	-	-
Sundry Income	35	87	544	-	544	-	-	17,128
Diversion - Habitat Enhancement and Research Fund	700	1,000	6,300	-	6,300	-	-	13,635
Total Other Income	76,711	8,192	124,982	40,773	84,209	307%	61,153	330,808
Total Income	176,045	300,361	2,112,673	1,639,041	473,632	129%	1,707,421	2,401,025
Gross Profit	176,045	300,361	2,112,673	1,639,041	473,632	129%	1,707,421	2,401,025
Other Income								

	MAR 2021	APR 2021	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
Govt Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85,726
Total Other Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85,726
Expenses								
Species Management								
Population Monitoring	-	3,750	6,630	9,000	(2,370)	74%	9,000	6,348
Harvest Assessment	-	-	4	-	4	-	3,000	2,700
Hatchery Operations	3,166	407	4,770	3,800	970	126%	9,000	3,912
Releases	(90)	-	450	1,200	(750)	38%	1,800	838
Game Bird Control compliants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	119
Total Species Management	3,076	4,157	11,854	14,000	(2,146)	85%	22,800	13,916
Habitat Protection & Mngt								
Contact Sports Fish Management Plan	1,353	9,308	12,946	-	12,946	-	-	58,197
Resource Mngt Act	53,250	11,750	96,795	1,336	95,459	7,245%	2,000	32,449
Works & Management	224	788	5,015	3,336	1,679	150%	5,000	14,196
Assisted Habitat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	225,012
Habitat Enhancement Research Fund Grants	2,000	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	12,435
Total Habitat Protection & Mngt	56,828	21,846	118,756	4,672	114,084	2,542%	7,000	342,288
Participation								
Access and Signage	19	-	901	1,664	(763)	54%	2,500	1,628
Back Country Surveys/Monitoring	-	-	747	-	747	-	-	6,037
Promotion Articles and Advertising	-	-	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	1,500	998
Publications and Web Site	-	-	-	490	(490)	-	700	1,085
OF&G Training Events	-	-	632	2,000	(1,368)	32%	2,000	1,266
Club Relations and Grants	-	83	92	664	(572)	14%	1,000	1,388
Fish Competitions and Data	-	-	27	-	27	-	-	-
Total Participation	19	83	2,399	5,818	(3,419)	41%	7,700	12,403

	MAR 2021	APR 2021	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
PUBLIC INTERFACE								
NZC National Water Campaigns	-	-	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	1,000	-
Liaison	-	-	32	1,000	(968)	3%	1,500	122
Communication	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	690
Media Releases	-	-	312	5,136	(4,824)	6%	7,000	1,068
Total PUBLIC INTERFACE	-	-	344	7,136	(6,792)	5%	9,500	1,880
COMPLIANCE								
Ranger Training and Expenses	-	-	74	5,500	(5,426)	1%	7,500	4,779
Compliance	2,197	-	2,197	3,500	(1,303)	63%	5,000	1,282
Total COMPLIANCE	2,197	-	2,272	9,000	(6,728)	25%	12,500	6,061
LICENCING								
Agent Servicing	-	36	156	550	(394)	28%	750	257
Commission/Fees	4,478	13,721	80,007	59,360	20,647	135%	59,360	81,950
Total LICENCING	4,478	13,757	80,163	59,910	20,253	134%	60,110	82,207
COUNCIL								
Council Meetings	511	9	6,708	11,000	(4,292)	61%	15,000	15,167
Total COUNCIL	511	9	6,708	11,000	(4,292)	61%	15,000	15,167
PLANNING & REPORTING								
Reporting/Audit	-	-	16,364	16,000	364	102%	16,000	17,236
National Liason	-	-	-	1,400	(1,400)	-	2,000	73
Total PLANNING & REPORTING	-	-	16,364	17,400	(1,036)	94%	18,000	17,309
ADMINISTRATION								
Salaries	50,654	56,800	487,444	503,004	(15,560)	97%	754,500	769,829
Staff Expenses	382	288	9,038	7,532	1,506	120%	17,000	11,067
Office Premices	4,220	10,390	70,363	62,004	8,359	113%	88,996	80,359
Office Equipment	372	856	2,486	1,668	818	149%	2,500	2,340

	MAR 2021	APR 2021	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
Communications	2,466	(460)	14,901	14,676	225	102%	22,000	20,167
General Exp (incl Insurance)	14	42	2,469	2,500	(31)	99%	2,900	3,485
General Field Equipment	9	-	594	1,586	(992)	37%	2,300	2,531
Vehicles	4,210	4,502	36,361	36,672	(311)	99%	51,000	45,736
Total ADMINISTRATION	62,326	72,418	623,654	629,642	(5,988)	99%	941,196	935,514
Depreciation	5,097	5,097	40,608	-	40,608	-	-	69,392
Loss on Disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Media Releases	-	6	6	-	6	-	-	-
NZ Fish & Game Levies	-	177,951	533,853	533,852	1	100%	711,803	1,011,763
Wanaka Subdivision	-	-	10,366	-	10,366	-	-	7,924
Total Expenses	134,531	295,324	1,447,346	1,292,430	154,916	112%	1,805,609	2,515,826
Net Profit	41,513	5,037	665,326	346,611	318,715	192%	(98,188)	(29,076)

9.3 Licence Sales

Fish Licence Sales 2020/21 to 30th April 2021

See table below for fish licence sales volumes for various categories comparing 14th May 2021 with 2019 and 2020 seasons at the same date. These figures include commission and GST. 2019/20 is very different to 2020/2021 in value and LEQs as the category volumes have changed from selling lots of non resident fishing licences in the early part of 2019/2020 to selling very few but there has been a pleasing lift in full season resident licences in 2020/2021.

In summary, fishing licence sales to 14th May 2021 in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) is 14,295.69 LEQs compared with 13,945.50 LEQs for the same period last (Covid impacted) season.

Fish licences sales revenue for the 2021 season recorded to 14th May 2021 total \$1,908,740 compared with \$1,946,526 for the 2020 for the season.

These figures include the 5% commission that goes on agent sales and GST.

The 2020/21 budget for fish licence sales is \$1,324,365 exclusive of GST.

Game Licence Sales 2021 Season

See table below for game licence sales categories and volumes for a comparable period last year.

Game licences sales revenue for the 2021 season recorded to 14th May 2021 totals \$406,799 compared with \$377,393 to the 6th June 2020 for the 2020 Season (both dated 14 days after opening). These figures include the 5% commission that goes on agent sales and GST.

The 2021 budget for Game Licence Sales is \$321,903 exclusive of GST.

In summary, game licence sales in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) 4134.76 LEQs for the 2021 season compared with 3837.03 for the same period 2020 season.

9.4 Agents Debts

One small Farmlands invoice still outstanding from last month. They have been contacted and payment will be made.

9.5

Recommendation

That this report be received

Sharon Milne
Administration Officer
18/05/2021

Otago Region Fish Licence Sales 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 Seasons To 14th May of the Year

2020-2021

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	Total	Fish LEQ	Total Value
Agency	2,496	3,497	24	711	171	101	14	236	812	33	411	0	114	3	0	0	8,623		
Eyede	8	13	0	9	0	0	0	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	37		
Online	1,959	2,497	86	282	412	126	27	373	2,133	125	415	4	219	3	1	1	8,663		
Total	4,463	6,007	110	1,002	583	227	41	610	2,950	159	826	4	333	6	1	1	17,323	14,295.69	\$1,908,740.00

2019-2020

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	Total	Fish LEQ	Total Value
Agency	2,502	3,565	360	675	212	17	28	196	760	1,242	411	21	70	66	20	49	10,194		
Eyede	3	11	4	10	2	0	1	1	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	38		
Online	1,451	1,735	647	225	333	102	42	230	1,475	1,728	312	33	144	58	17	57	8,589		
Total	3,956	5,311	1,011	910	547	119	71	427	2,237	2,972	725	54	214	124	37	106	18,821	13,945.50	\$1,946,526.00

Otago Region Game Licence Sales 14 days After Season Opening of 2020 and 2021

2021								
Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ	Total Value
Agency	3,369	262	81	2	0	3,714		
Eyede	3	1	0	0	0	4		
Online	691	86	34	4	0	815		
Total	4,063	349	115	6	0	4,533	4,134.76	\$406,799.00

2020								
Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ	Total Value
Agency	2,821	211	71	4	0	3,107		
Eyede	7	0	0	0	0	7		
Online	949	80	33	2	0	1,064		
Total	3,777	291	104	6	0	4,178	3,837.03	\$377,393.00

10.0 Chief Executives Report May 2021

10.1 Progress Against Councils 3 Year Strategic Priorities

SF&GMP Output	Goals 2020-2023	Draft Objectives (Specific, timebound and measurable)	February Update
Species Mgt	Improved knowledge of Sportsfish population dynamics in Southern Lakes	Robust monitoring system for southern lakes fisheries established by 2022 with enough sensitivity to detect population change. Research proposal to investigate drivers for that change lodged to NZC for funding by 2023	Creel surveys are near complete for the season on lake Wanaka Data will be drawn into a report before years end. Spawning surveys in Lake Hawea tributaries should be in progress by the time of the meeting. A hold on funding (from reserves) to run a lake fisheries management workshop means that this project remains on hold.
	Improve Clutha River Salmon knowledge	Contribution of southern lakes salmon population to lower river searun fishery researched by 2022. Options for enhancement of downstream migration by 2023. Benefits and risks of further liberations reported on by 2021. Salmon spawning sites surveyed and documented (ongoing)	Contact Energy funding Creel surveys at the Roxburgh dam wall are complete and reporting is in progress. No searun salmon have been reported this season. Spawning surveys in the upper and lower catchment are underway and one aerial survey of the Clutha mainstem has been completed by a contractor.
Habitat Protection & Mgt	Improve outcomes in RMA planning processes – Plans reflect F&G input	Submissions reflecting F&G positions made on time and hearings attended for all planning matters impacting on F&G managed species, habitat and users (lumpy workload so no dates fixed) Additional advocacy in the form of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once yearly Governor to governor meetings with ORC • Twice yearly meetings between CE's of orc and territorial authorities, iwi and DOC. (Same at a staff level) 	The RMA consenting and planning report is provided by way of update in this agenda. Over the period CE has liaised with the ORC GM regulatory and Engineering (over fish kills), QLDC Chief engineer and also had a brief discussion with Aukaha Chair Edward Ellison. Staff are still meeting regularly with Aukaha to generate consistent submissions to larger RMA consent applications and to consider the group Manuherikia Consent applications for water which were lodged before the 30 year RMA deadline.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre circulation of key submissions (two weeks ahead) to allies for comment and to seek alignment. 	Any agreement looks increasingly unlikely by the deadline, however the groups have been cooperating on matters of mutual interest.
	Create or improve more wetland areas with emphasis on irrigation dams as habitat and headwater wetlands	By 2022, establish three way agreement (Aukaha, DOC, F&G) on freshwater values and bottom lines for input into FMU process. 10 ponds/wetlands on private land developed or enhanced or protected annually (30 wetlands/ponds by 2023)	Investigations for new pond development has slowed considerably – partially as a result of staffing changes. One new application has been prepared for Council to consider. Staff effort (as well as an ex staff member) has been diverted to catchment group work which could provide major improvements to wetlands across Otago.
Angler & Hunter Participation	Maintain or improve current participation levels, especially among females	Maintain current participation levels and improve female participation by 5% by 2023	Staff are regularly contributing to national marketing efforts including design of a survey of first time anglers to assist with future marketing efforts. At present licence sales are up 2.4% on the same time last year with large increases in family and whole season licence sales. Game licence sales were also up on last season. The survey of female anglers has now been prepared and is ready for distribution.
Access (under Participation in SF&GMP)	No net loss of access	Identify and log current access points by 2021 20% More access points identified in Otago region available to anglers and hunters by 2023.	Current access points are being fed into a database as time permits and this work will increase towards winter. The project has been narrowed to the Taieri and Clutha to ensure complete coverage of areas before picking up major tributaries or other catchments.
Public interface	High licence holder understanding of F&G organisation and its work on their behalf	Improve licence holder knowledge of F&G activities (by two unit points in licence holder survey) by 2023	Recruitment of a specialist communications officer has considerably increased our outward communication especially via the media. Social media activity also continues to rise with 2,200 followers on the Councils Facebook page.

			<p>Articles for the next fishing magazine will be written over the next reporting period and that publication is due out mid August.</p> <p>A repeat survey of licenceholders will be required to see if there is progress against the objective.</p>
Improved understanding by the general public of F&G role and work	<p>Establish information portal including option of an educational facility in conjunction with Contact energy by 2023</p> <p>Generate and conduct general public survey of understanding by 2021 to establish base metric. PR/PA programme established and implemented by 2021. Follow up survey 2023 to check progress</p>	<p>Negotiations related to a hatchery and information site at Roxburgh hosted by Contact Energy are continuing.</p> <p>PR survey is on hold due to funds from reserves being held back at present.</p>	
Proactive engagement with Ngai Tahu	<p>MOU/Principles document extended to cover wider Otago water and wildlife values and agreed by 2022.</p>	<p>Relationship with Aukaha continues to build with regular meetings and communication around planning and consenting matters.</p> <p>A proposal to meet at Otakou marae for the May meeting was postponed and staff are working towards a suitable alternative date when Councillors can be properly inducted to the site by Otakou kaumatua.</p>	
Improved FGO and Ranger visibility	<p>15% of Otago fish licence holders and 10% of game licence holders have direct contact via CLE or through other F&G activities on an annual basis</p>	<p>Opening weekend ranging is complete with around 100 licence checked across various areas of Otago.</p> <p>Ranger warrants expire at the end of September and the renewal process has started. A number of Rangers have chosen to step down at this point. We are moving towards a smaller group of better trained rangers to ensure we comply with H&S provisions required of us.</p>	
Form alliances/collaborations with landowners (and stakeholder	<p>360 degree survey of all stakeholders and other groups on organisational attitude and effectiveness by 2021.</p> <p>Draft and implement strategic communications plan for stakeholders by 2022. Review for positive progress and report 2023</p>	<p>Stakeholder survey on hold as funding from Reserves was placed on hold.</p>	

	organisations) on areas of common interest		
Administration	Find alternative sources of income to support F&G activities	At least 20% of external expenditure is from alternative sources	As previously advised, a good portion of the target figure for this year has been secured through the Contact Energy Sportsfish Management Plan. (\$100,800 worth of work) Applications will be made shortly for funding support for the Councils 'Take a kid fishing' days.
Compliance	Regulations understandable by licence holders	Make regulations easier to interpret through simplification and improved user interfaces, especially online	Project is now part of a nationally lead project and changes will be integrated into the website rebuild proposed for later 2021.
	Improved compliance rates	Improve compliance rate from 95% to 97%	A low offence rate for game hunting this season points to meeting the objective. A low level of fishing offending means that the end of year result could remain stubbornly around the 95% mark.
	Prosecutions completed in a compassionate and professional way	Revisit prosecution guidelines annually (Sept) and sign off alongside diversion payment schedule	Prosecution guidelines were adopted in November 2020.

10.2 Other Staff Activity

10.2.1 SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Gamebird Monitoring

Aerial monitoring of mallards was completed before the opening of the gamebird season. A full report on population trends is included in this agenda.

Silverstream and Kaikorai Estuary Fish Kills

I have circulated the ORC reports on Kaikorai and Silverstream fish kills previously. Staff will continue to work alongside the ORC engineering staff to ensure the recommendations of each report are implemented. The key component overlooked that contributed to the kills appears to be an assessment of the wider environmental before any action was taken. In the case of Silverstream especially, the anoxic water being pumped into a fish refuge area during a flood could have been anticipated with some basic pre-discharge water quality testing.

Anglers Notice

In line with Council advice from the November meeting, the review of the anglers notice has been placed on hold and no changes to bag limits, season lengths or methods are proposed for the next angling season.

Spawning Surveys

These are underway at present. The opportunity was taken in a good weather window to do an aerial survey of Lake Onslow tributaries with a view to identifying the upstream limits of trout migration.

10.2.2 HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Contact Energy – Lower Clutha Sportsfish Management Plan Implementation

Several of the approved projects have been completed including Bengerburn willow removal, electric fishing of lower Clutha tributaries and the manuka island plantings. Autumn salmon spawning surveys are underway. A Contact Energy representative will address the meeting to provide an update on the longer term plan for a hatchery and sportsfish enhancement activities.

Lake Onslow Battery Project

F&G seem to have been left out of the feasibility study but DoC have made contact as they need to report on ecological and recreational values. OF&GC will have to report back via them on both gamebird and sportsfish habitat, and recreational fishing values – some of the highest values up there. Given the short reporting period, staff have been diverted from other work to undertake urgent spawning surveys. One aerial survey and a foot survey of the Onslow tributaries has been completed before winter conditions set in. Early observations are that nearly all viable trout spawning areas would be covered by a raised lake level.

Lindis High Court Case

The Lindis High Court hearing was concluded at the end of April and a brief report has been provided in the confidential agenda. A decision from the court is expected over the next month or so.

10.2.3 USER PARTICIPATION

Back Country Angler Surveys

Field surveys of backcountry anglers is now complete and two-monthly online surveys of licence holders have one further round to be completed. Both will be reported on at years end.

Staff attended a number of preseason gun club events providing an update to hunters on the non toxic shot changes and the season prospects.

10.2.4 PUBLIC INTERFACE

Media

Two incidents (duck dumping and a firearm incident at Alexandra) spoiled an otherwise positive set of media articles on the hunting season opening. SAFE didn't seem to get much traction for their call to ban duck hunting. The CE was interviewed on the radio and the new communications officer successfully managed to navigate the print media coverage - largely in our favour.

10.2.5 COMPLIANCE

Ranging

Opening weekend ranging went to plan with only a single lead shot offence detected. That is very good compliance when ranger teams are targeting private ponds, some of which are evidently receiving their first visit in decades.

10.2.6 LICENCING

Agents

The Administration Officer and CE will be reviewing the licence agents over the next period to ensure coverage and suitability for the future. It should be noted that some Farmlands stores who previously sold ammunition are no longer doing so and this has considerably reduced their game licence sales. Public online sales of licences continue to climb.

10.2.7 COUNCIL

Meeting Schedule

There may be a need for additional meetings (including some with Southland) as a result of the Ministerial Review and ongoing discussions about its implementation.

10.2.8 PLANNING AND REPORTING

Licence fee recommendation

A paper has been prepared by NZC for your consideration. You will note that all of Otago Councils contestable funding bids were approved but are subject to the licence fee recommendation being confirmed.

Change Freeze

NZC has produced a paper requesting that all regions consider a 'change freeze' for staffing and major assets. That will need to be debated and feedback provided but given the uncertainty, most regions are behaving that way already.

Recommendation

That this report be received

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
15 May 2021

11.0 RMA Planning and Consents Report

2 February – 18 May 2021

Current legislation, policy and planning processes

Plan Change 7, 8 and 1

The hearing for Plan Change 7 (**PC7**) continues at the time of writing. Fish and Game is due to appear on 20 May. The process has been more intense than expected, with significant time required of legal and planning witnesses. The resource pressure has been reported to staff by other participants and is not unique to the Fish and Game case.

The Environment Court has the majority of topics in Plan Change 8 (**PC8**) and the entirety of Plan Change 1 (**PC1**) be discussed at mediation prior to a hearing. In addition, expert conferencing will be held on the PC8 topic of animal waste systems. Due to restrictions on resourcing, staff will participate in the relevant PC8 processes using in-house resources and have agreed to not attend PC1 processes. PC8 mediation and expert conferencing will occur during June and July, with a hearing to start in September.

Council has put aside \$120,000 for these three plan changes, with \$60,000 available in theory each for PC7 and PC8/PC1, via the *Priority Plan Change Reserve*. In addition, the National Fish and Game Council has contributed a total of \$50,000 to the plan changes, to assist in covering the additional complexity associated with being one of the first plan changes to deal with the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020. This leaves a total pool of \$170,000 for the plan changes.

PC7 is projected to overspend, with savings aiming to be made from PC8 to accommodate. Staff request authority from the Council to spend the remainder of the reserve.

Expenditure to date is:

- PC7 \$87,031.15
- PC8/1 \$4,944.33

Total funds remaining for the plan changes: \$78,024.52

Regional Policy Statement

It is expected that the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) will be notified within the next 2 months. Nigel Paragreen and Niall Watson have participated on steering committees informing the draft RPS development and have provided feedback to a draft as part of that process. It is most likely that the next opportunity for feedback will be upon notification.

The Council has put aside \$60,000 to participate in the RPS planning processes. So far the reserve remains whole.

Manuherehia Consultation Document

The Manuherehia consultation document *Manuherehia Choices* is planned to be released around the time of the Council meeting. It is expected the consultation window will last a month and a small number of in person consultation sessions will be held. It would be useful for Councillors to encourage anglers and hunters who visit the catchment to provide feedback.

Otago Regional Council Long Term Plan

Staff have prepared a submission on the ORC Long Term Plan, with a focus on the inequality involved in the ORC's approach to funding the rehabilitation of Lake Hayes. It is expected that staff will attend a hearing on the plan the week of 17 May 2021.

Due to constraints on staff time, submissions were not made on long term plans for district and city councils.

Current Notification processes

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
<i>Otago Regional Council applications</i>		
Various abstractors within the Pigburn catchment	To abstract water from the Pigburn.	A submission in opposition was put forward and a pre-hearing meeting held. However, the application was then amended at the applicants' request, re-notified and staff have made a submission in opposition was made on the amended application.
JN & CA Davis	To abstract water from the Stratford and Colour Burn Creeks.	A submission in opposition was written in response to being limited notified. No hearing date has been set.
Arrow Irrigation Company	To abstract water from the Arrow river.	The application was publicly notified, and staff made a submission in opposition. No hearing date has been set.

Written approval requests being processed

Applicant	Activity	Status
<i>Otago Regional Council applications</i>		
Lone Star Farms Ltd.	To abstract water from various waterways in the Strath Taieri.	The applications are lodged together but it is not clear if they will be assessed together. Staff are reviewing the applications and it is understood the applications are on hold.
Various abstractors within the Strath Taieri		
Janefield Family Trust and Stephen and Michelle Holland		
John and Pauline Curruthers		
Pioneer Energy	To vary existing consents to store and use water at Lake Onslow to increase the drawdown rate.	Staff are developing adaptive management conditions with the applicant.

RJS & SJ Elliot	To abstract water from Spiller Creek.	Staff are awaiting response from the applicant.
Glenorchy Community Association Inc.	To extract gravel from the Buckler Burn, near Glenorchy.	Applications amendments agreed with applicant, awaiting confirmation they have been made.
Earthworx Taieri	To extract gravel from sections of the Taieri River	Awaiting information from the applicant.
Otago Regional Council	Discharge from the Silverstream Pumpstation	Staff understand that the applicant intends to head to limited notification and are awaiting notice.
Lindis Crossing and Pritchard-Jones	To abstract groundwater connected to the Lindis River	Staff are reviewing the application.
ORC	<p>A global consent for the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land use for the disturbance of the bed, for the purpose of the extraction of alluvium, placement of groynes and rip rap rockwork, placement and use of temporary culverts. - Discharge of sediment to rivers. - Water permit to divert water within the bed. 	Staff have provided feedback on the application and understand that the applicant has changed the application as a result. Staff are awaiting confirmation of application changes.

Written approval provided during the period

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
<i>Central Otago District Council applications</i>		
Tai Poutini Resources Limited	Alluvial gold mining activities on river floats within the lower Nevis Valley.	Written approval had been previously provided to the same consent for the ORC, this application was to the Central Otago District Council and remained unchanged. Written approval was provided.
<i>Otago Regional Council applications</i>		
Willowcroft Ltd.	To extract gravel from the Taieri River and Mill Stream, near Outram.	Information was sought to demonstrate that the volumes applied for were sustainable and conditions negotiated for setbacks from the water and maximum depth limits. Written approval was provided.
Road Metals	To extract gravel from the Cardrona River near Ballantyne Road.	Conditions negotiated for setbacks from the water and maximum depth limits. Written approval was provided.

Foothills Mining Ltd.	Alluvial gold mining activities on river floats within the lower Nevis Valley.	Written approval was provided.
Central Otago District Council	To install erosion protection within the bed of Pumphouse Creek, Roxburgh.	Written approval was provided
100WPS Trust Limited	Build a marina at Walter Peak Station, Lake Wakatipu.	Minor variations were requested to the consent, which staff had already provided written party approval to. Written approval was provided.
Queenstown Lakes District Council	To temporarily divert and dam Horne Creek for the purpose of installing wastewater pipes.	Restrictions on the timing of the work were secured to avoid the spawning season. Written party approval was provided.
Brown Family Trust	To extend an existing jetty in the Frankton Arm of Lake Wakatipu.	Written approval was provided.
Queenstown Lakes District Council	Amendment to the methodology for constructing a board walk in Roys Bay, Wanaka, to include piling works from the shoreline.	Written approval was provided.
Wenita Forest Products	To undertake harvesting operations at Akatore Forest.	Written approval was provided.
Southern Forests NZ Limited	Removal and replacement of existing culverts at Lone Pine Forest, Beaumont.	Conditions were negotiated to avoid the spawning season and improve fish passage. Written approval was provided.

No written approvals were provided during the period for consents from the following bodies:

- Queenstown Lakes District Council
- Dunedin City Council
- Clutha District Council
- Waitaki District Council

Recommendation:

1. That this report be received.

Nigel Paragreen
Environmental Officer

18 May 2021

12.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

12.1 CFT

12.2 NZC

12.3 Salmon Committee

12.4 Ngai Tahu

12.5 Conservation Board

13.0 Correspondence

13.1 NZC to Otago

13.1.1 Consultation Document: Change Freeze



Consultation Document: Change Freeze

Introduction

It is the intention of New Zealand Council that the underlying can be adopted as national policy, following regional consultation, as soon as possible potentially short cutting the normal policy setting process and timeline. While not ideal, there is some urgency, and this policy may not be in place for an extended period.

Until it has been ratified by all thirteen councils, can we also request that individual regional councils adhere to the spirit and guidelines below.

Finally, it should be acknowledged that even when policy, this will be legally unenforceable. These are, however, extraordinary times under which we are asking all councils, including NZC, to agree.

Purpose

1. New Zealand Council are about to embark on a consultation process with the Regional Councils in order to prepare a response to the Ministerial Review.
2. In the interim and during the implementation of the Ministerial Review, it is important that the status of significant assets are not altered in such a way that the new proposed regions may be handicapped when they are formed.
3. For example, forming a trust for a specific purpose out of general reserves will limit the utilisation of those funds by the new council and we must agree not to limit the effectiveness of the new regional entities.
4. In a similar fashion, the sale and purchase of vehicles, and other significant capital items, must be entered into with the agreement of all parties likely to be affected. In the case of vehicles this would mean with the agreement of the neighbouring region(s) currently proposed for amalgamation.
5. Finally, hiring new staff, either in new positions or as replacements, should be done in consultation with the regional councils through the managers group and NZC.

Guidelines

6. To minimise disruption to the organisation during the process of implementing the review's recommendations, all Fish and Game Councils (regional Fish and Game Councils and the New Zealand Fish and Game Council) agree not to:
 - a. Dispose of or purchase any assets of a value less than \$70,000 without the agreement of the amalgamating region.
 - b. Dispose of or purchase any assets of a value greater than \$70,000 without approval from the regional councils through the managers group and NZC.
 - c. Create or dissolve any trusts, regardless of monetary value - or dispose of assets within those trusts without approval from NZC.
 - d. Make any significant staffing changes without first receiving approval from the Managers Group and NZC.
 - i. NB. Significant staffing changes means employing new staff in a full-time capacity or undertaking any restructure of staffing.
 - ii. Noting that several regions may require new personnel to carry on business as usual, it is recommended that these appointments are made as fixed term contracts.
7. The process by which approval will be given for the disposal or purchase of assets greater than \$70,000 or a significant staffing change is modelled on the CF bid process and is set out as follows:
 - a. A proposal will be put forward by a Fish and Game Council initially to the Managers' group, who will consider it taking into account:
 - i. The organisation's circumstances at the time.
 - ii. The direction the organisation is moving in implementing the review's recommendations.
 - b. The Managers' group will make a recommendation to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in support or opposition to the proposal.
 - c. The New Zealand Fish and Game Council will then consider the matter and decide, applying the same lens of:
 - i. The organisation's circumstances at the time.
 - ii. The direction the organisation is moving in implementing the review's recommendations.
8. This set of processes will be reviewed annually until the Ministerial Review has been fully implemented.
9. Because of the indeterminate timeframe involved in implementing the recommendations of the review, this policy must be reviewed and reaffirmed or revoked annually. This annual review must include the opportunity for regions to provide input on how the policy is working for them.

Paul Shortis
Acting CEO,
New Zealand Fish & Game Council

13.1.2 Salmon Committee Letter – For Feedback



CSI Salmon Committee Letter Request for Feedback

Background

1. Central South Island Fish and Game Council have recently sent a letter (attached) to NZC on the future of the National Sea-Run Salmon Committee (**NSRSC**). They note the committee believe that the policy work of the committee has been completed, and recommend to NZC that:

'...the National Sea-Run Salmon Committee be disbanded and that the day-to-day management of the Sea-Run salmon fishery be undertaken collaboratively by the South Island salmon regions.'

2. Note: The NSRSC operates as a sub-committee of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, with membership comprised of Fish and Game governors, primarily from the salmon regions, as well as representatives from recreational salmon angling associations. Its purpose is to 'develop and promote a co-ordinated approach within Fish and Game and key stakeholders to ways that will restore and enhance the sea run salmon fisheries in the interests of anglers'.

Request for Feedback

3. In order to make an informed decision, NZC is now seeking your feedback on CSI's recommendation; specifically, does your council believe:
 - a. that the NSRSC should be disbanded and the management of the sea run salmon fishery be undertaken collaboratively by regional Fish and Game councils; or
 - b. that there is still a place for national co-ordination of sea run salmon policy development and management strategies.
4. We are primarily seeking feedback from South Island salmon regions given the immediate relevance to them, however all Councils are welcome to provide feedback.



26 March 2021

Mr Ray Grubb
 NZ Fish & Game Council, Chair
 PO Box 25 055
 WELLINGTON 6140

Dear Ray,

Future of National Sea-Run Salmon Committee

The National Sea-Run Salmon Committee (Salmon Committee) was formed by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZC) following a recommendation by the Salmon Symposium held in Ashburton in November 2017. The Salmon Committee was chaired by the NZC Chief Executive and was made up of governor representatives from the South Island "salmon regions" plus stakeholder representatives.

Progress was made after the Salmon Committee sought advice from experienced salmon management practitioners, primarily from the CSI and North Canterbury Fish and Game regions. The Salmon Committee's main accomplishments were to adopt a definition of "wild salmon" and to successfully initiate a season limit bag to the Minister of Conservation, with the assistance of the NZC staff. The previous Minister approved the "principle" of a season limit bag, which was to be referred to Cabinet. We await that referral and the necessary Cabinet decision.

Since these achievements, the Salmon Committee has not met for just over a year. CSI believes that this signals that the policy work of the Salmon Committee has been completed and it is now time for implementation by the South Island "salmon regions".

The CSI Council resolved:

TO RECOMMEND TO THE NZ COUNCIL THAT THE NATIONAL SEA-RUN SALMON COMMITTEE BE DISBANDED AND THAT THE DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT OF THE SEA-RUN SALMON FISHERY BE UNDERTAKEN COLLABORATIVELY BY THE SOUTH ISLAND SALMON REGIONS.

Please can NZC consider this recommendation and advise NZC's decision.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Andrew Simpson
 Chair, Central South Island Fish and Game Council

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

Central South Island Region

32 Richard Pearse Drive, PO Box 150, Temuka 7948, New Zealand. Telephone (03) 615 8400
www.fishandgame.org.nz

Otago fish and Game Council Meeting Tuesday 25th May 2021

13.1.3 Saturday-ising Opening of Fishing – Request for Feedback



Eastern Letter re 'Saturday-ising' the Opening of the Fishing Season Request for Feedback

Background

1. Eastern Fish and Game Council have recently sent a letter (attached) to NZC on the concept of 'Saturday-ising' the opening of the fishing season.
2. Currently there are a number of 'opening dates' for the sports fishing season, with the primary nation-wide opening being the 1st of October. The high country fisheries in Central South Island, Otago and Southland all open on the 1st of November, whereas the North Canterbury high country fisheries open on the first Saturday in November.
3. The reasons mooted by Eastern for Saturday-ising the opening are:
 - a. To create more of an event-based opening to the fishing season.
 - b. To align with the Saturday-ised opening of the game bird season.
 - c. To increase participation on opening day by maximising opportunity.
4. Risks they have identified are:
 - a. Regulatory and compliance implications, particularly for the first few years.
 - b. Congested fisheries and access facilities (boat ramps etc)
 - c. Many anglers are happy currently to take 1 October off work.
 - d. Some families may be excluded as it is likely the first Saturday in October will be the last weekend of the school holidays.

Request for Feedback

5. Given the significance of this decision, and the fact that regulations are set by individual regions, it is proposed that the process for considering this concept is as follows:
 - a. Regions are consulted initially on a simple express of interest basis;
 - b. If there is sufficient interest, NZC staff will prepare a risk/benefit paper for NZC's consideration;
 - c. If approved, this will return to regions for a substantive consultation;
 - d. NZC will then consider the matter a final time and make a recommendation to regions (note: in this instance the strongest directive NZC could give is to recommend to regions to either Saturday-ise opening or to retain the status quo).
6. NZC is seeking your council's feedback on the following:

Does your council believe there is merit in exploring the idea of a nationally standard fishing season opening date of the 1st Saturday in October?



23 March 2021

The Chair

New Zealand Fish and Game Council

via email

Dear Ray

RE 'SATURDAY-ISING' THE OPENING OF THE FISHING SEASON

In June last year the Eastern Fish and Game Council resolved to move the opening date for lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina to the first Saturday in October rather than 1 October which it has traditionally been. The initial intention was for this to come into effect for the 2021-22 Sports Fishing Season commencing 1 October 2021, but on reflection Council agreed to defer its implementation until the 2021-2022 Season. The relevant agenda and minutes from that meeting are attached to the email accompanying this letter, but a precis of what was discussed is as follows:

“Council discussed at some length the proposal to change the opening of lakes Rotoiti, Tarawera and Okataina to the first Saturday in October each year. Those in support of the change felt that there was a need to raise the profile of the opening of the lakes, to create a carnival atmosphere to promote trout fishing, increase participation and interest in the sport, and bring it into line with the opening of the game season. Arguments against the proposal which were raised by some Councillors and staff included issues around congested boat ramps and parking facilities, many anglers already being happy to take 1 October off work whatever day of the week it was, some not liking the crowded conditions a Saturday opening might generate, and by pushing opening out to the first weekend may exclude some families as this would quite likely be the last weekend of the school holidays. Looking at it from a compliance perspective, some staff felt ‘Saturday-ising’ would add unnecessary complexity to the regulations and it might take several years before people became acquainted with the new rules. It was suggested by some that the proposal be put to the New Zealand Council for a national change to the rules rather than applying it just to these three lakes. Council agreed that an approach should be made to the New Zealand Council for consideration of a national change to the opening of the season with the majority supporting a change for the three lakes regardless of that outcome.”

Eastern Region

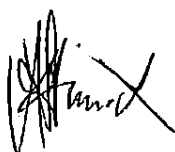
Paradise Valley Rd, Ngongotaha, Private Bag 3010, Rotorua, New Zealand. Telephone (07) 357 5501 Facsimile (07) 357 5503

Otago fish and Game Council Meeting Tuesday 25th May 2021

Subsequent to this, Steve Doughty offered to canvas all other Fish & Game regions and establish what level of support there might be to do this right across the country. He received responses from the managers of five regions, four of whom felt it warranted further consideration and that the proposal be put forward to the New Zealand Council. The fifth advised that it would make no real difference to them. Steve personally also saw merit in the proposition from an R3 programme point of view.

Based on all of the above, Eastern Fish & Game asks that the topic be tabled with the New Zealand Council, at such time as it can be accommodated, with a view to obtaining support for putting it out to regional Fish & Game councils for more formal consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Garrick', with a large 'X' mark at the end.

Andy Garrick

Manager

Eastern Fish and Game Council

Eastern Region

Paradise Valley Rd, Ngongotaha, Private Bag 3010, Rotorua, New Zealand. Telephone (07) 357 5501 Facsimile (07) 357 5503

13.2 Otago to NZC

Nil

13.3 General Correspondence In

Nil

13.4 General Correspondence Out

13.4.1 Submission on the Long Term Plan 2021-2031



14 May 2021
 Otago Regional Council
 70 Stafford Street
 Dunedin, 9016

Submission on the Long Term Plan 2021 - 2031

This feedback is provided on behalf of the Otago Fish and Game Council (**Fish and Game**). For additional information please contact Nigel Paragreen using the details below.

Submitter Details

Submitter: The Otago Fish and Game Council
 Contact person: Nigel Paragreen, Environmental Officer
 Email: nparagreen@fishandgame.org.nz
 Office phone: 03 477 9076
 Postal address: PO Box 76, Dunedin 9016

N. Paragreen

14 May 2021

Introduction

- [1] Fish and Game is the statutory manager of sports fish and game bird resources within Otago. It holds functions and responsibilities set out in the Conservation Act 1987. The organisation's functions include managing, maintaining and enhancing the sports fish and game resources of Otago in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters; representing the interests and aspirations of anglers and hunters in the statutory planning process; and advocating the interests of the Council, including its interests in habitats. This submission has been developed in line with these functions.
- [2] Due to the popularity of angling in New Zealand, the demographic Fish and Game represents when carrying out its statutory functions is significant; however, this is not always obvious. The 2013/2014 Active NZ Survey conducted by Sport and Recreation New Zealand reported that 19.5% of respondents had been fishing (including both marine and freshwater angling) in the past 12 months¹. The survey found fishing had a higher rate of participation than rugby, tramping, football, cricket and basketball for men; and that fishing had a higher participation rate than netball, tennis, snow sports and tramping for women. Within Otago, license sales have exceeded 10,000 licenses in the past two decades and in the last decade has increased to over 20,000 licenses across all categories. Participation rates estimated from the National

¹ Sport and Recreation New Zealand. 2015. *Sport and Active Recreation in the Lives of New Zealand Adults: 2013/14 Active New Zealand Survey Results*. Wellington: Sport New Zealand.

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

Otago Fish & Game Council

Cnr Harrow & Hanover Sts, PO Box 76, Dunedin, New Zealand. P: (03) 477 9076 E: otago@fishandgame.org.nz

Angling Survey² between 1994 and 2015 show that total freshwater fishing effort in the Otago Fish and Game region ranged from 180,860 to 215,430 angler-days over the fishing season.

- [3] As required by the Conservation Act 1987, Fish and Game has prepared a Sports Fish and Game Management Plan for Otago³, which has guided the development of this submission. This document describes the sports fish and game bird resources in the region and outlines issues, objectives and policies for management over the period.
- [4] Fish and Game does wish to speak to this submission at a hearing.

General

- [5] Fish and Game expects the Otago Regional Council (ORC) to face a significant workload in the next 10 years. Initially, in order to develop resource management and regulatory responses to changes implemented through the Action Plan for Healthy Waterways Package and begin to phase out the region's legacy of freshwater over-allocation. Looking past the immediate, the implementation of replacement legislation for the Resource Management Act will likely take significant resources also.
- [6] The recent expenditure on plan changes 7 and 8, which are respectively necessary due to historic underinvestment in water quantity and quality programmes, highlights the need to act early and decisively to resolve resource management issues as they arise. Fish and Game is encouraged by the messaging put out by Councillors around the need to invest more resources into such issues and generally supports increased expenditure. Within this, there should be a particular focus on spending to:
 - a. restore ecosystems degraded by abstraction and phase out over-allocation in the region;
 - b. develop a functional regulatory framework to restore catchments affected by the cumulative effects of intensive land use, placing a high degree of urgency on urban pollution and intensive winter grazing;
 - c. effectively enforce regulatory frameworks and eliminate the ability for polluters to 'hide in plain sight'.

Rehabilitation of Lake Hayes

- [7] Fish and Game generally supports the work to rehabilitate Lake Hayes. For many years the lake has suffered from the effects of development and land use in its catchment. That the degradation of Lake Hayes has been allowed to continue for so many years represents a subsidy, from residents and visitors bearing the costs of degradation to those who pollute via poor land management.
- [8] The \$3.5 million the ORC estimates is required to rehabilitate the Lake represents yet another subsidy for polluters, unless they are required to fund the exercise. In this context, the logic of requiring those who benefit from the rehabilitation to pay for the work is inherently flawed. It transfers responsibility from those who *caused* the degradation to those who *suffer* from it.

² Unwin, M. J. 2016. *Angler Usage of New Zealand Lake and River Fisheries*. Christchurch: National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research.

³ Otago Fish and Game Council. 2015. *Sports Fish and Game Management Plan for Otago Fish and Game Region 2015 - 2025*. Dunedin: Otago Fish and Game Council.

- [9] I understand that the rationale behind the approach is derived from funding models for infrastructure, such as a flood or drainage scheme. However, these are not accurate comparisons to the Lake Hayes rehabilitation case. This is because rehabilitation is fundamentally about resolving externalities. Land managers in the Lake Hayes catchment have made decisions which resulted in the degradation of the lake. This places a burden on society, who might have enjoyed the lake more in a non-polluted state. That burden is an external cost on society arising from the decisions of private individuals upstream.
- [10] In the case of a flood or drainage scheme, the ORC is providing the service of flood mitigation or drainage to residents in an area. The geographic bounds of those receiving the service can be easily identified and its only logical that those receiving the service also pay for it.
- [11] The restoration of Lake Hayes is not a service provided by the ORC. It is a result of market failure and should never have been required in the first place. Through appropriately funding the rehabilitation programme, the ORC has an opportunity to internalise the externalities.
- [12] As a representative of anglers and hunters who have suffered from the historical degradation of Lake Hayes and stand to benefit from its rehabilitation, Fish and Game takes serious issue with transfer of responsibility from those who caused the degradation to those who would benefit from its resolution. Fish and Game submits that this approach is akin to victim-blaming. Or rather, victim-funding.
- [13] Those in the Lake Hayes catchment should take on the majority of the cost for its rehabilitation. They are either directly responsible to the cumulative problem through land management choices, or indirectly responsible, having inherited the increased land value due to historic land management choices.
- [14] There will be some overlap between those who benefit from the rehabilitation and those who caused it. This will be most likely in the immediate area surrounding the lake. Generally, pollution in freshwater systems occurs at the catchment scale and the catchment for Hayes appears to extend far beyond the area labelled (1) in the infographic on page 17 of the consultation document. Certainly, those residing in the area labelled (2) should not contribute at a greater rate than others outside the catchment.
- [15] It is reasonable, in Fish and Game's view, for the wider public in and outside Otago to take on some burden for the rehabilitation cost. The percentage breakdowns for the Queenstown Lakes District, the Otago region and outside the Otago region appear reasonable.
- [16] **Recommendation:** Fish and Game generally support the work to rehabilitate Lake Hayes but support none of the options presented regarding where the funding is to be sourced. Fish and Game seek that a variation of Option 1 is chosen, which sources the majority of funding from the whole of the Lake Hayes catchment and retains the minor contributions from the Queenstown Lake District, the Otago region and outside the Otago region.

14.0 Items to be Received or Noted

14.1 Otago Mallard Monitoring Report, April 2021

Introduction

The Otago Fish and Game Council began mallard monitoring in 2015 as a pilot project and as part of nationwide population monitoring programme. The Otago Region research and monitoring was setup to determine long term trends which are necessary to manage game birds sustainably. Accurate information on population trends will allow Fish and Game managers to make informed decisions when setting game bird harvest regulations. The intention in future will be to look at the relationship between the mallard monitoring results together with the Otago hunter harvest and effort estimates.

This report is on the past six years of the mallard monitoring study (2015 – 2021). The monitoring wasn't completed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Methods

The methods used for the mallard monitoring in Otago are largely based on methodology used by Southland Fish and Game. The Otago site selection criteria and methodology for selecting the sampling units (ponds and transects) is attached in Appendix 1. The mallard monitoring aerial survey methodology is attached in Appendix 2. The original flight plan in 2015 comprised of 46 ponds, seven 10 km river transects and ten 10 km cross country transects (Figure 1). The flight was conducted on 08 April 2021.

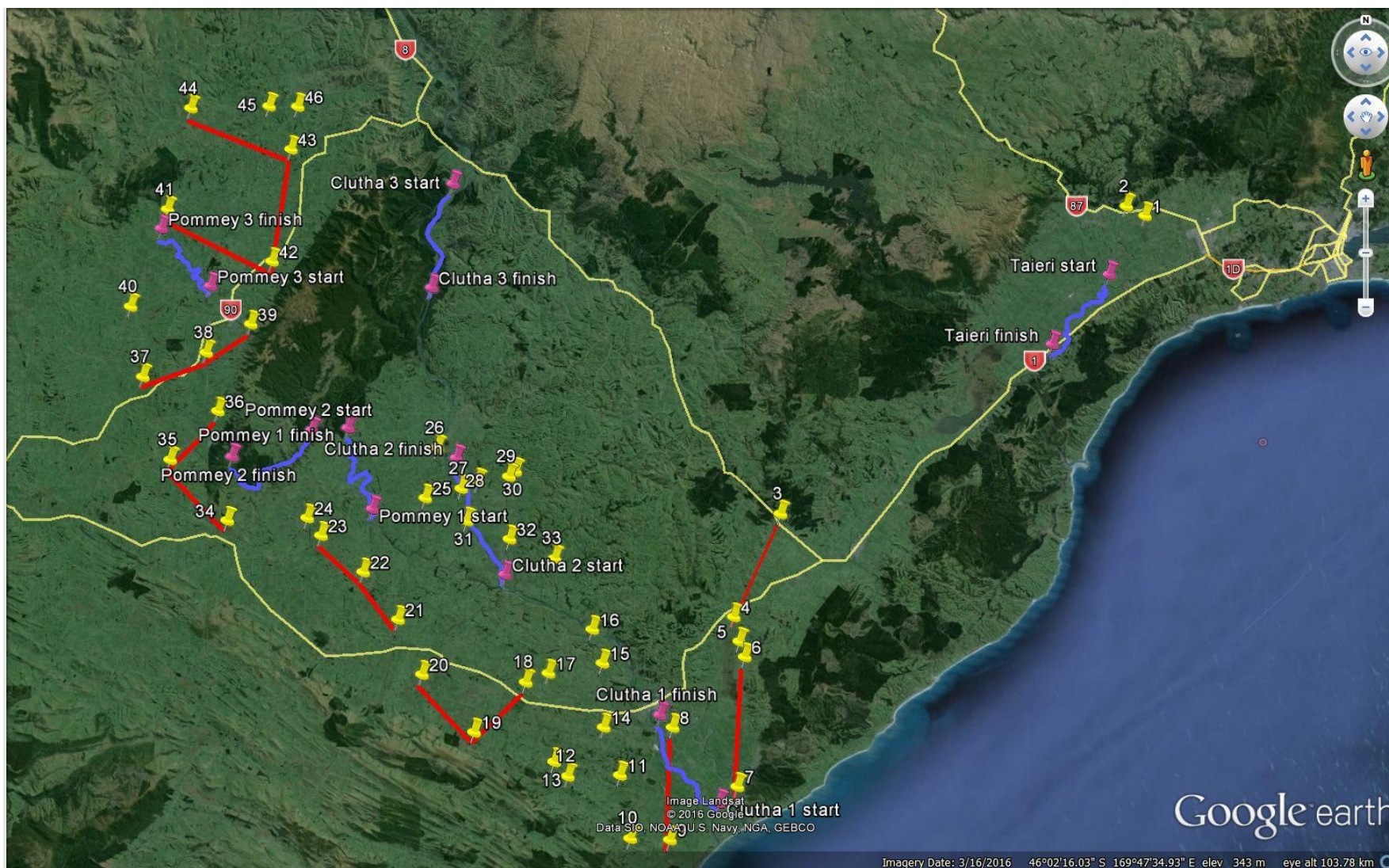


Figure 1. Otago Mallard Monitoring flight plan (2015) showing the original total of 46 ponds (yellow), seven 10km river transects (blue) and ten 10km cross country transects (red)

Results

All of the original 2015 flight plan was completed except for one river transect (Pomahaka 2), and 1 pond (5) both of which have been excluded from the monitoring indefinitely (Figure 1, Table 1). An aerial hazard (wire) was identified on Pomahaka 2 river transect and it was dropped from subsequent monitoring for safety reasons. Pond 5 has been excluded as it is an ephemeral pond which has always been dry when the surveys been completed.

Over the past five years a number of sampling units have not been completed during the monitoring. This has led to slight differences in the totals of the sampling units (Table 1).

Table 1. The number of mallard monitoring counts completed 2015 - 2021

	No. of ponds counted (*46)	No. of river transects counted (*7)	No. of cross-country transects counted (*10)
2015	41	6	8
2016	44	6	10
2017	45	6	9
2018	44	6	10
2019	45	6	10
2020	NC	NC	NC
2021	45	6	10

* Denotes the original number of sites selected

The number of mallards counted for each of the survey sampling units is shown in the sub-totals for 2015 - 2021 (Table 2). A total of 5633 mallards were counted in 2021 (Table 2). There were a number of variables that have changed between the 2015 and 2021 surveys. These minor changes include;

- A different helicopter pilot in 2016
- A different and Fish and Game observer in 2015
- A different number of counts completed over all years
- A different amount of time surveying (flying hours)
- Different cameras for taking photos during the counts
- A different helicopter in 2021

While it is important to record these changes between the years the variables and minor changes have little influence on the totals for the monitoring data.

Table 2: Otago mallard duck monitoring results showing the separate strata (ponds, river and cross-country transects) and total counts for 2015 - 2021 (NC = no count)

Pond No.	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021
1	2	0	30	134	21	55
2	0	0	3	21	2	0
3	32	148	71	21	98	248
4	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
6	0	157	30	55	52	88
7	0	0	1	0	0	8
8	44	239	43	230	85	151
9	71	77	242	23	14	27
10	17	0	33	8	0	0
11	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	13	40	24	13	21	61
13	3	0	13	9	0	3
14	56	67	14	43	5	0
15	22	51	10	32	42	14
16	16	81	49	11	105	104
17	0	4	0	NC	0	0
18	13	0	9	0	0	2
19	35	20	111	4	0	100
20	2	0	5	11	13	74
21	0	6	12	0	0	6
22	430	379	6	8	13	9
23	2	0	83	16	40	7
24	12	3	4	5	30	4
25	62	0	116	6	14	420
26	11	0	12	6	6	4
27	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	77	142	84	8	30	0
29	0	6	84	29	17	55
30	9	8	2	1	0	8
31	0	NC	0	0	11	0
32	0	0	0	7	10	5
33	26	6	5	8	39	19
34	2	0	35	0	0	0
35	0	13	0	0	10	0
36	16	0	0	0	0	0
37	3	11	28	48	0	7
38	6	38	31	0	20	61
39	40	10	2	0	0	37
40	NC	284	135	100	97	118
41	NC	45	177	0	5	125
42	61	61	76	65	61	241
43	0	20	0	59	49	0

44	NC	35	0	0	0	0
45	NC	0	0	0	0	3
46	21	40	4	25	5	30
Sub-total Ponds	1104	1991	1574	1006	915	2094
<i>River Transect</i>	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021
Taieri transect	1560	1408	662	981	1312	1216
Clutha 1 transect	610	639	912	126	174	321
Clutha 2 transect	225	63	174	69	281	443
Clutha 3 transect	47	10	128	42	86	85
Pomahaka 1 transect	683	736	570	376	536	538
Pomahaka 2 transect	39	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Pomahaka 3 transect	NC	97	364	63	222	407
Sub-total River Transects	3164	2953	2810	1657	2611	3010
<i>Cross Country Transect</i>	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021
Transect 1	101	48	NC	90	71	30
Transect 2	182	26	656	95	189	141
Transect 3	58	119	417	66	94	96
Transect 4	3	0	42	22	857	30
Transect 5	595	116	37	48	87	53
Transect 6	27	0	22	38	117	75
Transect 7	6	0	60	67	10	11

Transect 8	NC	26	112	41	16	91
Transect 9	25	0	108	0	24	2
Transect 10	NC	0	5	4	0	0
Sub-total Cross Country Transects	997	335	1459	471	1465	529
TOTAL	5265	5279	5843	3134	4991	5633
Total flying time (Hours)	4.8	5.4	6.2	5.5	5.0	5.0

Discussion

A total of 5633 mallard ducks were counted in 2021 which is about 10% higher than the average over all years and up by 12% from the last count in 2019. MacKenzie (2018) states that it is difficult to determine how changes in number of mallards counted in each type of survey correspond to each other and has cautioned how they should be interpreted. Therefore, this figure in itself is not a reliable metric of changes to the mallard population in the survey region (MacKenzie, 2018). Annual variability in where ducks are concentrated ie what fraction of mallard population is being sampled in pond, river and cross country transect could be different.

The south Otago region was very dry when the counts were completed and many of the ponds were dry or had very little water in them. This led to a high number of the ponds having “0” counts (n=14). Over the five years of monitoring between 11 and 17 ponds have recorded a “0” count. Out of the 46 original ponds selected three ponds have never had a mallard counted on them in six years monitoring. This highlights that pond habitat changes over time and that some ponds hold more mallards some years than others. The survey revealed that mallard populations were largely clumped in the environment rather than spread throughout the area. This again was thought to be because of the dry conditions. Reasonable concentrations of mallards were noted on river transects and on ponds that were quite possibly being fed. It should be noted that river transects are much easier to count when the rivers are low as they were in the 2021 counts. When the mallards are observed in higher numbers in the different strata (ponds, river, cross country) it is very easy to undercount as most of the birds have to be counted back in the office from photographs.

One of the main considerations for all future mallard monitoring is to reduce the number of independent variables. Every effort has been made to use the same observer, same helicopter and pilot, complete the original flight plan and count the same number of sampling units. The helicopter company contracted to complete the counts (Otago Helicopters Ltd) had recently disposed of the Robinson R22 helicopter used since 2015 to conduct the count

and instead a Gabri G2 was used for the 2021 counts. Southland use the same helicopter and there was very little noticeable difference between the two types of helicopter.

While we acknowledge that there are differences in the variables between years it is not thought that these influence the overall monitoring results. It is anticipated that from 2022 the mallard monitoring results will be analysed in finer detail to explore any trends in the mallard population over the different strata. The analysis will also look at population averages for each of the three strata (Ponds, Cross-country transects and River transects) which will increase the reliability of the data particularly as the number of sampling units has changed between years. Comments and recommendations from MacKenzie (2016 and 2018) have been noted and these improvements to the monitoring will be incorporated where possible to improve the overall mallard monitoring study.

After six years of mallard monitoring there is quite low variability in the mallard populations from year to year. The total numbers are surprisingly similar except for 2018. The relationship between the mallard survey results and the annual hunter harvest for Otago has not been investigated in any detail. The autumn mallard population monitoring is conducted after the regulations have been set. All of these factors need to be considered when looking at the bigger picture of how the information collected during the mallard monitoring is to be used within the management process including setting the Game Season regulations (MacKenzie, 2018).

Recommendation

That this report be received

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Grant Smith from Otago Helicopters Ltd for undertaking the mallard monitoring flight. The mallard monitoring work is made easier using the experience of his flying, GPS and observational skills.

Paul van Klink
Fish and Game Officer

References

MacKenzie, D. I. 2016. Review of Fish and Game Regional 2016 Mallard Reports. Unpublished report, Proteus Wildlife Research Consultants.

MacKenzie, D. I. 2018. Review of Fish and Game Regional 2017 Mallard Reports. Unpublished report, Proteus Wildlife Research Consultants.

Appendix 1

Otago Mallard Monitoring Selection Methodology

Otago Fish and Game established mallard monitoring sites and completed a pilot monitoring study in 2015. The methodology for selecting the 46 ponds, seven 10km river transects and 10 10km cross-country transects was completed by Southland staff. The monitoring was conducted by Otago staff.

Monitoring Area Selection Criteria

Habitat characteristics;

- All land in South Otago was considered.
- Areas more than 200m above sea level were excluded to avoid surveying in hill-country which tends to be less favourable waterfowl habitat.
- Densely forested areas were also excluded due to the lack of duck habitat.
- Google earth maps were used for identifying the location of ponds, river and cross-country transects.

Pond selection criteria;

- All ponds >20m in diameter were identified and recorded in an Excel spreadsheet.
- From the identified ponds 46 “good” ponds were randomly selected.
- Ponds were deemed unsuitable for a variety of reasons, but generally because they were too close to buildings, were near places of common human activity, such as beside tracks or other structures, or they had been modified and did not meet the original size criteria, e.g. had been fully or partially drained.
- For the 80 or so unsuitable ponds, the next closest ponds that did meet the size and isolation criteria were used instead.
- On-going replacement of ponds will be necessary if surveyed ponds become unsuitable, which will be assessed annually.
- Ponds in excess of 20ha were also excluded because they are too difficult to count accurately and prone to annual variations in the distribution of birds.

River transect selection criteria;

- The upper limit of the transect count was based on known mallard habitat within the survey area;
- The total km of the river was calculated and 1 km potential start points were assigned
- Random numbers were chosen which was the distance from the sea (km) for the downstream start point for the 10km transect.
- Up to five transects were selected within the total distance of the river to be surveyed.
- To ensure transects did not overlap, start points were randomly selected until five 10 km non-overlapping transects were selected.

Cross- country transect selection criteria;

- Ten 10km cross-country transects were selected.
- The start points chosen were randomly selected ponds (as described above) where there was a minimum distance of 10 km between that point and the next randomly selected pond.
- This enabled the completion of a transect while flying to the next pond location, thereby minimising flight-time.

Appendix 2**Otago Mallard Monitoring Aerial Survey Methodology***General*

- Counts are undertaken annually between April 07 and 18.
- An Otago Helicopters Robinson Class 22 or Gabri G2 is used for the survey.
- The pilot provided assistance in locating the sampling unit (pond or transect) with GPS and looking for birds where safety was not compromised.
- The shortest route between ponds and transects is flown.
- The weather was fine and wind < 12 knots.
- The survey was undertaken between 0900 and 1700 hours.
- Species other than mallards, particularly geese, paradise shelduck, grey teal, scaup and shoveler were identified and excluded from the count.
- The helicopter was positioned to enable the clearest view of the survey area.
- If birds were seen under trees or scrub the count was done when these had emerged.
- The helicopter could be positioned so that birds slowly came out from cover without making them fly off.
- When birds did fly off an estimate of the number departing was made and added to the total count.
- Groups of more than about 30 birds were photographed and the birds were counted on the computer using Microsoft paint. The paintbrush application allowed the user to count individual mallard ducks on the image which ensured that no mallards were double counted.

Ponds

- If there were < 30 birds on the pond they were counted manually otherwise they were photographed.
- The helicopter flew at a height so that the mallard ducks did not fly off from the pond but could be clearly counted or photographed.

River transects

- Main river backwaters were not surveyed if they were more than about 100m from the main channel, otherwise they were and included as part of the river transect.
- For the river transect the helicopter slowed to a hover over or adjacent to the willow lined sections so that the ducks would swim out to become visible to observers and then easily counted.

Cross country transects

- Mallards were counted within 100m either side of the helicopter as it flew along the transect.
- This gave a fixed width of no more than about 200m from the line of the survey.
- The helicopter flew at an approximate fixed height so that birds could be easily seen and identified as mallards.
- Generally the transect was undertaken at a fixed cruising speed but if an accumulation of mallards was found, e.g. a pond was on the transect line, the helicopter was slowed so the birds could be accurately counted.
- Birds were not generally encountered unless there was a water feature present.

15.0 General Business