

Agenda Item 11:

Operational Report – for the period ended March 2022

Prepared by: Dean Kelly – Manager

Introduction

The Council's adopted governance policies require the manager to provide an Operational Report, specific proposals for capital expenditure and acquisitions as well as major issues and opportunities for the Council. There are further requirements for the Manager to provide assurance that the Management Limitations are being observed. The format of this report is therefore to certify compliance with Governance Policies, Management Limitations and provide other material, responses, or assurance that Council objectives, strategies, plans, performance, risks, operation, resources, and structure are being met.

Notifications of intention to purchase unbudgeted capital items more than \$10,000

A replacement vehicle is on order for LDY407. Nelson/Marlborough had a mechanical issue with a vehicle and needed a replacement immediately. West Coast sold LTQ175 to them to sort the issue.

Matters for the information of council

Staff:

Staff holidays due (days): Manager, 21
 Hokitika Officer, 4
 Admin, -4

Vehicles:

Managers Vehicle: (start) 137,962km (fin) 144,436 km. Total private for period: 1,585km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle MML: (start) 75,545 km (fin.) 82,187 km. Total private for period: 912 km

Bi-monthly report on outputs

1111 Drift Diving

Dives have been completed on the Mokihinui River (south branch & below the gorge) and the Karamea River (upstream of the crow, downstream of the crow & the bend). The Mokihinui River count was up on previous years and had above average numbers of large fish, below average numbers of medium/small fish due to previous high counts of medium/small in 2017/18. All count the Karamea were below average, due to low numbers of medium to small fish compared to previous counts.

1114 Trend Counts

Paradise Shelduck trend counts completed. Report attached.

1115 Sportsfishery Research

New River electric fished in main stem due to side tributaries barely flowing. Brown trout were captured at low densities with increasing size as we move down stream. Aided with the WCRC biosecurity work in Lake Ellery and the lower Moeraki River.

1121 National Hunter Survey

With increased outsourced prices and the administration role filled it is intended to take this task back in-house for the next two years.

1161 Fisheries Enhancement

Salmon release for like Ianthe planned for the 4th of April.

1181 Game Bird Control

Three paradise shelduck complaints received in Ikamatua area. An organised hunt using members of the young hunter's club addressed two complaints with a permit to delegated hunters used for the Mawheraiti complaint.

1211 RMA Plans/Policy/Consents

Feedback was provided on the Tai Poutini Plan exposure draft. Feedback focused on access, activity on surface water bodies and maimai and track work in wetlands. It is the intention to get a consultant planner to complete a thorough review of the plan regarding sportsfishing and gamebird hunting impacts.

1311 Access

Aided hunters with access to properties during the summer season. Some South Westland Lake signs were replaced.

1331 Website/Ezines/Social Media

Regular Facebook engagements have been completed focusing on promoting the upcoming gamebird season and staff field work. Reel life completed each month, focusing on salmon fishing and trout fishing in low flows. All current council meeting minutes have been signed and uploaded to the website. Updated of website for council meetings under the red traffic light setting.

1341 Sportsfisheries Guides

Agents regularly stocked with guides.

1361 Clubs, Outdoor Recreation Groups

Communication with the South Westland Lions regarding their annual salmon fishing competition, although cancelled this year due to Covid. Contact, support, and promotion provided to pre-season gun-club shoots.

1371 Okuru Hut

Hut visited and serviced whilst ranging in South Westland. A builder has removed the fireplace from the Okuru hut as it was unsafe. It is the intention to replace it with a heat pump as staff utilising the hut are only there for short stays overnight.

1421 Media/Communication

Article released regarding preparing for the gamebird season and late season salmon fishing.

1511 Compliance

Compliance carried across the region, but with particular focus on salmon fisheries. Two complaints received and addressed, first being illegal set netting at a river mouth which was responded to by MPI and a second one for a hunter exceeding his bag limit which is currently being investigated. Improved relationship with MPI, with two full time staff now based in Greymouth, plans have been made to work together in addressing set netting issues at river mouths.

1521 Ranger Training

Increased communication with rangers due to Covid and the additional risks it brings. Ranger's weekend cancelled due to the peak of the Omicron spread.

1611 Licence Production & Distribution

All returned licenses for this period have been contacted, details updated and resent to the license holders. Merged all duplicate licence holders. Sorted the mailing list for the Game Bird magazine send out when doing that noticed we have had a few licence holders pop up this period with incorrect details (address usually) that have been entered by agents.

1621 Agent Liaison

Regular visit to agents. We have called agents who have had incorrect address details being entered when selling licences – resulting in undeliverable mail.

1721 Council

Technical issues from the February meeting have been resolved. Councillor Phibbs is registered in the Westpac portal so is available for back up authorisation on accounts. Still awaiting paperwork from Councillor Taylor – Oath of office and conflict of interest register.

1821 OWP & Budget

A draft 2022/23 Workplan and budget is attached.

1841 National Liaison

Communication with other region regarding compliance, prosecutions, and trend counts. Work has all-but completed on the report for the amalgamation working Group. The Manager will be stepping back from this now.

1927 Occupational Safety and Health.

See Health and Safety Report.

1950 Office Equipment

Have reset the layout of the meeting room to allow for more function at Council meetings. Admin tablet replaced with laptop, and better monitor. All new equipment working much faster and more dependable.

1980 Offices

Will be looking at getting the heating sorted before winter. Painting and borer will be addressed in the coming months.

1980 Equipment

Basic maintenance on field equipment.

Staff Recommendation:

That this report be received.