

Agenda Item 10:

Operational Report – for the period ended January 2024

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.

Matters for the information of Council.

Staff:

Staff holidays estimated (days): Manager, 12
Officer, 12
Admin, 0

Vehicles:

Managers Vehicle: (start) 44,582km (fin) 52,210km. Total private for period: 1,050km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle PSM: (start) 23,295 km (fin.) 30,963 km. Total private for period: 1,351 km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle MML: (start) 126,632km (fin.) 132,833km.

Bi-monthly report on outputs

1111 Drift Diving

Drift Dives completed at the following sites: Mawheraiti @ SH7, Mawheraiti @ Mirfin Bridge, Inangahua @ Blacks Point, Grey River @ Hospital Flat, Rough River @ Mirfins Ford, Rough River @ Mill site, Haupiri River @ School, Haupiri River @ Upstream of Ahaura, Waitahu River @ Gannons Rd and Larrys Creek @ Upper site. Dives have been completed using local volunteers and WCRC staff.

1114 Trend Counts

Attending National Gamebird meetings with a focus on improving trend count SOP's. Paradise Shelduck moult counts are underway.

1115 Sportsfishery Research

Second electric fish of our research streams in the Mawheraiti Catchment completed.

1116 Designated Waters Fisheries Management

Data being collected on Reefton Rivers as potential designated waters. Meeting with Designated waters coordinators fortnightly reviewing currents DW and data collection. A watching brief is in place regarding Designated Waters utilisation. Few unsavoury incidents or overstaying are being reported and good feedback on the new regime.

1171 Regulations/Gazette Notices

A nation-wide review and simplification process has been initiated. Game regulations are being prepared for the Minister.

1181 Game Bird Control

Four crop predation complaints have been received, all regarding paradise shelducks. Advice was given in response to two, with scaring permit was issued to one and a regular permit was issued to the last complaint.

1211 RMA Plans/Policy/Consents

Communication with Regional Council regarding water clarity in the Mawheraiti River emanating from a gold mining operation.

Non-notified resource consents approved or consulting on as affected party.

| Applicant | Area | Type | Nature of work | Comments |
|---------------------|---------------|------------------|--|--|
| Kiwirail | Kotoku, Moana | Land use consent | Replacement of Arnold and Deep Creek Rail Bridges. | Temporary piling and staging bridge to be used |
| Green Acre Farm Ltd | Rotomanu | Land use consent | Installing Bridges over stock crossings | Baylee consulting |
| Green Acre Farm Ltd | Rotomanu | Water Permit | Diversion of Puzzle Creek | Baylee consulting |
| NZTA | Haast Pass | Land use consent | Bridge Work at Gates of Haast | Dean consulting |

Fish and Game have provided evidence on MaiMai for the TtPP. Some good news that the recommendation report agrees with MaiMai construction as a permitted activity.

1213 DoC

Drone and restricted air space clearance obtained from DoC to carry out trend counts. DoC has also aided greatly with access and hut use in the Mokihinui and Karamea catchments.

1331 Website/Ezines/Social Media

Reel life completed. Facebook posts regarding fishing opportunities and Fish and Game.

All current council meeting minutes have been signed and uploaded to the website.

Regulation guides are also online for the current season. The new and improved Fish & Game website is due to launch on February 7th.

1332 Fish & Game Magazine

Game edition material being prepared.

1341 Sportsfisheries Guides

Agents regularly visited and stocked with guides.

1361 Clubs, Outdoor Recreation Groups

Staff ran measuring station at Lake Brunner Fishing competition. Good chance for community engagement at a family focused competition. Fishing Skills and Information session at Lake Brunner during the competition had low attendance due to poor weather. Basics of fly-fishing course held at the Taramakau on the 4th December attended by eight anglers.

1371 Okuru Hut

General maintenance and installation of blinds.

1411 Cons.Bds. Iwi, Allied Groups

Nothing to report.

1421 Media/Communication

Media release regarding Fish and Game education events, summer angling opportunities and annual report/AGM.

1511 Compliance

Compliance carried out focusing on lower reaches of rivers and lakes during weekends and evenings. Rivers focus of mid-week compliance, encountering non-resident anglers and visiting anglers.

Please to report despite high number of anglers encountered of the Christmas break, only non-compliances detected have been juniors on family licence holders not fishing with the primary or secondary licence holder.

1531 Prosecutions

Two cases, one angler found to be fishing without licence at Lake Brunner and one angler fishing two rods at Lake Ianthe, have both completed diversion.

1611 Licence Production & Distribution

Licence sales to NZ residents so far this season are below budget and last year's sales. Upgrades to licence purchases are being received more frequently.

1621 Agent Liaison

Regular visit to agents. Frequently stocked with access guides, how to guides, child licence pads and excess F&G magazine in the office.

1721 Council

Council servicing and reporting completed.

1811 Sportsfish and Game Management Plan

The draft plan has been submitted to the Hunting and Fishing Minister.

1821 OWP & Budget

The 2024 OWP and Budget is being developed.

1831 Annual Public Meeting & Report

AGM facilitated and annual report presented.

1841 National Liaison

Communication with other regions regarding game bird monitoring, Designated Waters, sports fishery management/research and compliance.

1910 Staff Salaries & Payroll

No concerns around leave or TIL balances.

1940 Office Premises

Regular cleaning, maintenance, and replacement of worn items.

1970 General

The Managers VISA card details were obtained and fraudulently used for online shopping. Westpac notified us immediately and stopped transactions on the account and the purchase made has been covered under insurance.

All accounts payable continue to be paid on time, all providers to us are emailing accounts directly rather than posting so this is also minimising delays. Accounts receivable are also paid on time where applicable.

1980 Equipment

Staff reviewed field equipment and safety gear and replaced/procured new gear where required.

Staff Recommendation:

That this report be received.