

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Central South Island Fish and Game Council held in the Boardroom, 32 Richard Pearse Drive, Temuka, on Thursday 22 May 2025 at 7:00 pm.

Present: P Centofanti (via Zoom) Craig McKenzie
L Koevoet Andrew Simpson (Chair)
V May

In Attendance:

CSI Staff: S McKnight (CE), G Clarke, B Harper, H Stevens, R Adams, J Van Beers, N Dellaway.

Public: Grant Weston, Dean Rattray, Allan Davidson, Daniel Isbister.

25-019 APOLOGIES:

Callum McKenzie, Willie Duley, J Henry (Ngai Tahu).

Resolved (Koevoet/May)

25-019

THAT THE APOLOGIES OF CALLUM MCKENZIE, WILLIE DULEY AND JOHN HENRY (NGAI TAHU BE ACCEPTED).

25-020 COUNCILLOR INTEREST REGISTER:

Chair queried if Councillors had any new interests to add to the register; or considered that the business of today's meeting would give rise to any actual or perceived conflict with their interests? L Koevoet advised he had submitted to the Anglers Notice as a licence holder. Chair sought Council's view on whether L Koevoet could vote. Council agreed to allow L Koevoet to vote on the Anglers Notice.

25-021 HEALTH & SAFETY:

CE pointed out exit points of the building and assembly point for evacuation of the premises in case of an emergency. No incidents have been advised in the last two months

25-022: 2025 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE CALENDAR:

The Annual Governance calendar is provided to Council to refer to throughout the year to keep track of the main items of work coming up for Council to consider.

25-023 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:

023.1 2025/26 Triennial Anglers Notice Review (5.1)

The council was provided with a report outlining submissions received, results of public consultation and staff assessment and subsequent recommendations for the 2025/26 Angler Notice. *(Note: Please refer to the 2025/26 Triennial Anglers Notice Review report for detail).*

The following recommendations resulted from Council deliberations. These recommendations will be forwarded to the NZ Council.

Two submitters had indicated their wish to address the Council on their submissions and Chair invited those submitters to address the Council on their submissions

Grant Weston addressed the Council on his submission to have Lake Opuha open year-round with 2 trout daily bag limit.

Dean Rattray addressed the Council on his submission to have fishing in Lake Heron become a single hook, a single point only fishery to be phased in over a two-year period.

1. Lake Opuha/Ōpūaha – Introducing a Winter Fishing Season

Resolved (Craig McKenzie/L Koevoet)

25-020

THAT COUNCIL INTRODUCE A WINTER SEASON FOR LAKE OPUHA/ŌPŪAHA – 1 JUNE TO 30 AUGUST WITH A 2 SPORTS FISH DAILY BAG LIMIT AND FLY, SPIN AND BAIT METHODS PERMITTED.

Rationale:

A winter season introduces a new season fishing opportunity in wintertime an hour drive of the region's biggest urban centre. The winter season maintains existing values around the event-like 1 October opening day and eliminates potential incompatible interactions with duck hunters on the opening weekend of duck season and during May.

2. Lake Heron/Ōtūroto - enforcing use of single hooks for welfare of caught and released lake-type salmon

Resolved (V May/Craig McKenzie)

25-021

THAT COUNCIL INTRODUCE A REGULATION TO ENFORCE THE USE OF SINGLE-HOOK SINGLE-POINT LURES AT LAKE HERON IN THE 2026/27 SPORTS FISHING SEASON TO ALLOW EXTRA TIME FOR PUBLICATION OF THE DECISION.

L Koevoet asked that his vote against be recorded.

Rationale:

The aim of this resolution is to minimalise handling time to reduce potential harm to fish.

Resolved (Craig McKenzie/V May)

25-022

THAT CSI FISH & GAME INCLUDE A PROJECT IN THE 2025/26 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN TO ADVOCATE FOR ANGLERS TO VOLUNTARILY REDUCE THEIR RISK OF CAUSING HOOKING MORTALITY AND INJURY OF CAUGHT AND RELEASED LAKE-TYPE SALMON AT LAKE HERON.

Rationale:

An advocacy project holistically covers multiple aspects of catch and release that can impact on fish welfare and is believed will achieve better outcomes for salmon welfare than a regulatory change focussing on one variable.

3. Bells Pond – Reducing Trout Daily Bag Limit
Resolved (L Koevoet/V May)

25-023

THAT THE DAILY TROUT BAG LIMIT AT BELLS POND REMAIN AT 4.

Rationale:

Maintains opportunity and consistency of regulations with the Waitaki River.

4. Rangitata River / Rakitata – introducing an April trout season upstream of Turn Again Point
Resolved (V May/Craig McKenzie)

25-024

THAT THE RANGITATA RIVER/RAKITATA AND TRIBUTARIES UPSTREAM OF TURN AGAIN POINT IS CLOSED FOR ALL SPORTS FISHING DURING APRIL.

Rationale:

Maintains current full protections for spawning salmon in April justified under the current salmon crisis.

5. Bait fishing – permitting restricted use of a portion of fish as bait
L Koevoet declared a conflict and abstained from voting.

Resolved (V May/Craig McKenzie)

25-025

TO INTRODUCE A REGULATION TO PERMIT A PORTION OF FISH TO BE USED AS BAIT, EXCLUDING TROUT, SALMON AND FISH OVA.

Rationale:

Simplifies 'fish' bait regulations and increases options and availability of fish bait options.

6. Scented artificial lures (bait) – permitting restricted use in spin fishing waters
Resolved (V May/Craig McKenzie)

25-026

TO INTRODUCE NEW REGULATION TO PERMIT THE USE OF SCENTED ARTIFICIAL LURES IN WATER WHERE SPIN FISHING IS PERMITTED, WHEN ACTIVELY FISHED SO AS TO IMITATE A BAIT FISH.

Rationale:

Creates opportunity at 46 additional waters for spin-style anglers to utilise and enjoy popular modern scented soft baits that imitate bait fish.

7. Bait fishing – introducing a regulation to clarify offence of bait fishing with salmon farm and trout hatchery fish feed pellets
Resolved (V May/Craig McKenzie)

25-027

TO INTRODUCE A REGULATION THAT EXPLICITLY PROHIBITS THE USE AS BAIT ANY FEED PELLETS USED FOR THE REARING OF TROUT AND SALMON.

Rationale:

Simplifies the regulations by making it readily understandable.

8. Upper Ahuriri River Catchment – introducing a November season opening date

Resolved (Craig McKenzie/L Koevoet)

25-028

THAT ALL WATERS OF THE AHURIRI RIVER CATCHMENT SHALL HAVE AN OPEN SEASON OF 1ST SATURDAY IN NOVEMBER – 30 APRIL.

Rationale:

Simplifies the regulations and provides an additional month of fishing opportunity.

9. Awakino River / Te Awakinonui – introducing an open season

Resolved (V May/Craig McKenzie)

25-029

TO INTRODUCE AN OPEN SEASON FOR THE AWAKINO RIVER/TE AWAKINONUI 1ST SATURDAY IN NOVEMBER – 30 APRIL WITH 2 TROUT DAILY BAG LIMIT AND FLY AND SPIN METHODS PERMITTED. DESIGNATE AS A SEA-RUN SALMON WATER. INTRODUCE A SEA-RUN SALMON FISHING SEASON FROM 1ST SATURDAY IN NOVEMBER TO 31 MARCH AND FLY AND SPIN METHODS PERMITTED.

Rationale:

Increases opportunity for anglers.

10. Lake Alexandrina / Takamana – introducing a winter season brown trout bag limit

Resolved (V May/Craig McKenzie)

25-030

TO INTRODUCE A BAG LIMIT OF MAX 1 BROWN, SUBJECT TO THE EXISTING 2 SPORTS FISH DAILY BAG LIMIT AT LAKE ALEXANDRINA DURING THE WINTER SEASON.

Rationale:

Provides for the legal harvest and utilisation of fatally injured brown trout. Spawning surveys are in place to assess if any additional harvest that occurs impacts on brown trout numbers.

11. Canal fishery – introducing a universal bag limit across interconnected waters

Resolved (V May/L Koevoet)

25-031

TO INTRODUCE A 2 SPORTS FISH BAG LIMIT FOR UPPER ŌHAU RIVER, WAIREPO ARM AND KELLAND POND

Rationale:

Simplifies regulations bringing by them into line with the bag limits of their interconnected waterways.

12. Annual review of sea-run salmon bag limit and justification

Council was provided with recommendation that complies with the salmon threshold management system put in place for the 2021/22 season. It was noted salmon numbers are now approaching the severe threshold with the Rangitata River looking to have its worst spawning numbers on record to date.

Resolved (V May/Craig McKenzie)

25-032

1. **THAT THE SEA-RUN SALMON SEASON BAG LIMIT FOR 2025/26 FOR THE CSIFG AND NCFG REGIONS COMPLIES WITH THE THRESHOLD MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND THE 2021 THRESHOLD MANAGEMENT BANDS AND BE BASED ON THE FINAL ESTIMATES OF THE COMBINED WAIMAKARIRI, RAKAIA AND RANGITATA SEA-RUN SALMON SPAWNING POPULATION SIZE AVAILABLE NO LATER THAN 23 JUNE 2025, AS FOLLOWS-**
 - i) **COMBINED SPAWNING POPULATION SIZE BETWEEN 1,200 AND 5,100 FISH – RETAIN 2 FISH SEASON BAG LIMIT**
 - ii) **COMBINED SPAWNING POPULATION SIZE OF LESS THAN 1,200 FISH – IMPLEMENT 1 FISH SEASON BAG LIMIT.**

2. **THAT CSIFGC STAFF ENGAGE WITH NCFG STAFF TO PREPARE A PAPER FOR THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNCILS BY MARCH 2026 PRESENTING SEASON AND AREA RESTRICTION OPTIONS TO BE APPLIED WITHIN THE ‘SEVERE’ SPAWNING POPULATION MANAGEMENT BAND.**

023.2 Councillor Vacancy (9.1)

Resolved (Craig McKenzie/V May) at 8:18 pm

25-033

THAT THE PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE FOLLOWING PARTS OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THIS MEETING, NAMELY -

General Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter [i.e., OIA interest protected]	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Confidential Matters	OIA section 9(2)(a)	That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 to maintain legal and professional privilege.

Council resumed in open forum at 8 35 pm.

Council AGREED that the following resolution be brought into the public session of the meeting.

Resolved (Simpson/McKenzie) Unanimous

THAT THE CSI COUNCIL APPOINTS DANIEL ISBISTER TO THE COUNCIL TO FILL THE EXTRAORDINARY VACANCY IN ACCORDANCE WITH S26ZA(5)(B) OF THE CONSERVATION ACT.

D Isbister was then invited to join the Council at the table as an elected member of Central South Island Fish and Game Council.

023.3 2025/26 Licence Fee Recommendation (5.2)

CE spoke to the NZC report advising of a proposed increase of \$5 to both the whole season fish and game bird licences and a \$30 increase to the non-resident whole season licence. CE noted the lack of quality control and several discrepancies and points of concern in the document. Some areas show conflicting totals between different tables with no clarification as to how adjustments were applied. CE further advised that the tool supplied to implement zero based budgeting was not fit for purpose and remains that way now.

Varying views were expressed but it was generally felt that the proposed increase is out of step with the current rate of price increases across New Zealand and does not take adequate account of the additional financial pressures currently experienced by our licence holders. Some members considered that the recent budget process did not provide adequate assurance of the need to increase the licence fee.

Resolved (L Koevoet/D Isbister)

25-034

THAT CSI COUNCIL DOES NOT SUPPORT AN ADULT WHOLE SEASON LICENCE FEE INCREASE TO BOTH THE FISHING AND GAME BIRD LICENCES FOR THE 2025/26 LICENCING YEAR.

Resolved (V May/L Koevoet)

25-035

THAT CSI COUNCIL SUPPORTS A \$30 INCREASE TO THE NON-RESIDENT WHOLE SEASON FISHING LICENCE FEE AND WOULD FURTHER SUPPORT THIS BEING INCREASED TO A LEVEL HIGHER THAN \$30.

Resolved (Craig McKenzie/D Isbister)

25-036

THAT CSI COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE LICENCE CATEGORIES BEING CHARGED AT THE AGREED RATIO FOR ALL CATEGORIES.

Resolved (Craig McKenzie/V May)

25-037

THAT CSI COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE SEA-RUN SALMON LICENCE ENDORSEMENT OF \$5 (AS A COST-RECOVERY MECHANISM).

Resolved (L Koevoet/Craig McKenzie)

25-038

1. THAT CSI COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE DESIGNATED WATERS LICENCE AS A \$5 ANNUAL LICENCE PER FISH AND GAME REGION FOR RESIDENT ANGLERS.
2. THAT CSI COUNCIL DOES NOT SUPPORT THE DAY LICENCE NON-RESIDENT FEE OF \$30 AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS BE INCREASED TO \$50 PER DAY.

Resolved (L Koevoet/Craig McKenzie)

25-039

THAT CSI COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE RECOMMENDED FORECAST FOR FISH LEQ'S OF 72,975 AND GAME LEQ'S OF 30,601.

At 9:55 pm it was:

Resolved (Craig McKenzie/V May)

22-040

THAT THE MEETING BE EXTENDED TO CONTINUE FOR 30 MINUTES.

023.4 CSI Health Safety & Wellbeing (5.3)

CE presented an updated Health, Safety, and Wellbeing Policy for CSI Fish & Game. Key changes include clearer wording to define expectations and the addition of wellbeing aspects since the 2023 drafting.

Resolved (V May/C McKenzie)

22-041

THAT THE COUNCIL ADOPTS THE REVISED HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELLBEING POLICY TO ENSURE A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY THAT INCLUDES WELLBEING.

023.5 Modernising the Family Licence (5.4)

General discussion ensued with varying views expressed. It was noted that looking at modernising the family licence to be more inclusive was important and Council supported this. Concern was raised regarding the timetable for implementation and the potential for unintended consequences. It was also noted that a full financial modelling and switching analysis has not yet been undertaken and that the Licence Working Group needed to be involved in undertaking this review.

CE noted consideration also needed to be given to the compliance risks as sufficient time is needed to develop enforcement strategies.

Other views included: addressing the number of dependants included on a family licence and consideration for people with special needs; not to lose sight that the licence is designed for families and not individuals fishing alone, important to encourage enhancement of participation; have the price set at a point that is realistic to an increased level of flexibility.

It was AGREED that the Chair draft a letter expressing the views put forward.

023.6 Proposal for Establishment of National Health & Safety Framework (5.5)
CE noted he is assisting NZC and others with the work being undertaken in this space.

023.4 Risk Matrix Review-April-May 2025
CE report that Risks 2, has been updated for the Health and Safety policy review to include wellbeing.

25-024 NZFGC MATTERS:

024.1 CSI NZC Representative – Verbal Update (6.1)
L Koevoet reported he could not add anything further to the documentation that has been provided from the NZC. He advised the next meeting in June of NZC was supposed to be a zoom meeting, but something has come up and would now be held in Wellington. CE advised Council that the Minister was going to be addressing NZ Council in June so that will be the reason for the change. Chair sought feedback on the key issues that came out of meeting for CSI to be thinking about. L Koevoet replied when our Council in conjunction with the OWP is creating a budget it must try to fit in with what is required from NZC.

024.2 CSI Chair – Verbal Update (6.2)
Chair reported he had attended the NZC meeting via zoom to talk to the CSI budget. He expressed disappointed in the process and felt it was no substitute for a round table well informed process of regional managers. There were very few questions on CSI's budget, and he came away from a highly unsatisfactory process feeling that improvements were needed. He felt no confidence that the numbers provided in the Licence Fee Recommendation Papers were accurate enough to be approving an increase in the licence fee.

024.3 Resource Management and Legislation Policy (6.3)
CE advised that the policy provided by NZC outlines how the NZC will prioritize and manage the Resource Management Strategy Fund. The Resource Management (RM) team act in the national interest, guided by a Senior Policy Adviser at NZC.

He explained this team could be responsible for administering the fund and making recommendations in consultation with the relevant regions CE and the NZC CE and would give them a secure purpose as a team and tap into their skill sets. NZC should then be focusing on providing the fund and taking a risk-based, strategic view.

Council **AGREED** that the Chair provide feedback to NZC asking that it review the proposed policy in line with feedback received.

At 10:30 pm it was:

Resolved (Craig McKenzie/V May)

22-042

THAT THE MEETING BE EXTENDED TO CONTINUE FOR 15 MINUTES.

25-025 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Resolved (A Simpson/L Koevoet)

25-043

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 13 MARCH 2025 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.



25-026 BUDGET & FINANCE:

Resolved (Craig McKenzie/V May)

25-044

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE FINANCIAL REPORTS AND RATIFIES THE SCHEDULES OF PAYMENTS FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2025 IN THE GST INCLUSIVE AMOUNTS OF \$145,131.79 AND \$132,639.01.

25-027 OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS:

AGREED that the Operations and Staff reports be received.

25-028: INWARD CORRESPONDENCE:

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Council Meeting: Thursday 24th July 2025 at 7 pm.

Meeting closed: 10:45 pm.

Signed _____ Date _____