

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 27th November 2025 at 7:00 pm.

Present: P Centofanti V May
W Duley Callum McKenzie
D Isbister Craig McKenzie
L Koevoet Andrew Simpson (Chair)
J Henry (Ngai Tahu)

In Attendance:

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

25-049 APOLOGIES:

None.

25-050 COUNCILLOR INTEREST REGISTER:

Chair asked 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?

25-051 HEALTH & SAFETY:

No incidents have been advised in the last two months. Activity has been ongoing building Job Safety Analysis sheets (JSA's) taken from the traditional tail gate forms. This work is compliant with current HSWA legislation. Chair noted thanks to the CE for work on this.

25-052: 2025 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE CALANDAR:

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. Chair advised that the CE's performance review has been undertaken. In response to a query about the number of Councillors involved in his review the Chair clarified that the review was undertaken by two members, in conformity with CSI Council's Governance policy.

25-053 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:

053.1 Assessing Contribution of Salmon Feed Pellets in the Hydro Canals – Feasibility Study (4.1)

B Harper reported that the hydro-canal fishery is renowned for producing trophy trout and contributes \$13.6M annually to the Mackenzie Basin economy. The removal of salmon farms from the Pūkaki-Ōhau Canal at the start of the 2025 year poses a risk to this fishery's productivity. It is proposed to use stable isotope and otolith analysis to quantify the role of salmon farm feed pellets versus natural prey in trout diets across Tekapo and Pūkaki-Ōhau canals. The findings of a feasibility study will guide adaptive management and potential supplementary feeding trials to maintain angler satisfaction and economic value.

B Harper responded to general queries. Concern was expressed about this proposal setting a precedent for putting fish feeders into other fisheries in the CSI region. B



Harper responded that the canal fishery is unique and fish feeders would only be beneficial to this type of fishery.

Resolved (V May/Craig McKenzie)

25-066

THAT COUNCIL APPROVE EXPENDITURE OF \$15,000 FROM RESERVES AND ALLOCATION OF UP TO 308 STAFF HOURS TO UNDERTAKE A STABLE ISOTOPE STUDY ON THE HYDRO CANALS COMMENCING IN THE CURRENT 2025/26 FINANCIAL YEAR AND CONTINUING THROUGH IN TO THE 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR, WITH OTOLITH SAMPLES COLLECTED CONCURRENTLY BUT RETAINED FOR PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS AT A LATER DATE, SUBJECT TO PROJECT PRIORITISATION, RESOURCING AND BUDGET AVAILABILITY.

053.2 Salmon Consultation (4.2)

Council was presented with a proposal to conduct a survey of salmon anglers regarding their support for potential regulation changes to the sea-run salmon fishery. Staff explained that following an initial random survey the consultation will be opened to salmon anglers who have held a salmon bag card since the 2023/24 season. Some concern was expressed that consultation was being restricted to salmon anglers and not opened to all anglers. There was also concern that the survey would miss salmon anglers who no longer obtain a salmon card due to declining numbers of salmon.

Resolved (A Simpson/Craig McKenzie)

25-067

THAT COUNCIL APPROVES CONDUCTING A SURVEY FOR POTENTIAL REGULATION CHANGES TO THE SEA-RUN SALMON FISHERY AS SET OUT IN THE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT AND EXTENDING THE OPPORTUNITY TO THE PUBLIC TO UNDERTAKE THE SURVEY.

053.3 Lake Heron Fishery (4.3)

Council was presented with a consultation document that contains options for further restrictions on lake-type salmon harvest and angling at Lake Heron while the sea-run salmon fishery remains within the severe population management band.

Resolved (A Simpson/V May)

25-068

THAT COUNCIL APPROVES CONSULTATION OF CSI LICENCE HOLDERS IN WHICH OPTIONS ARE PRESENTED FOR FURTHER RESTRICTIONS ON LAKE-TYPE SALMON HARVEST AT LAKE HERON AND EXTENDING THE OPPORTUNITY TO THE PUBLIC TO UNDERTAKE THE SURVEY.

053.4 Commencing Governance Training with Institute of Directors (4.4)

CE sought Council's endorsement to initiate governance training for Councillors and the Chief Executive (CE) by enrolling in the Institute of Directors (IoD) Health and Safety Governance online course to strengthen its governance capability in areas of risk oversight and statutory compliance. Chair endorsed this as it puts Councillors in a better position to meet their own individual due diligence obligations.



THAT THE COUNCIL:

- 1. ENDORSES THE COMMENCEMENT OF GOVERNANCE TRAINING WITH THE IOD'S HEALTH AND SAFETY GOVERNANCE ONLINE COURSE.**
- 2. APPROVES FUNDING FOR COUNCILLORS AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO) TO ENROL IN THE COURSE AT THE IOD MEMBER RATE OF \$180 (GST INCL) PER PARTICIPANT.**

053.5 Review of Risk Management Policy (4.5)

CE presented a revised draft of the CSI's Risk Management Policy for Council consideration explaining that the purpose of this review is to ensure the policy reflects current best practice in governance, aligns with the Council's statutory responsibilities, and remains fit for purpose in a changing risk environment.

Council felt it needed more time to digest the information provided. It was **AGREED** that this be placed on the agenda at the next meeting to allow Councillors to familiarise themselves with the suggested changes.

053.6 Delegation to Negotiate HPAI Sampling Contract with MPI (4.6)

CE sought Councils approval to negotiate and enter a contract with the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) for High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) sampling within the CSI region. MPI has approached Fish & Game to participate in sampling activities, requiring a formal agreement to outline roles, responsibilities, and funding arrangements. MPI currently operates a national HPAI surveillance programme, but there is no South Island input at present. With Subantarctic flyways now impacted by HPAI, MPI has identified the need for early detection capability in South Island regions to protect wildlife and domestic poultry.

Questions were raised as to if this work fits within Fish & Game's core legislative responsibilities and the number of hours this was going to involve. Furthermore that some of the work would be sub-contracted out and F&G manage the species in question so undertaking this work does fit with Fish and Games legislative responsibility and is in the National good. Furthermore it is an opportunity to diversify Fish and Game's income stream and increases our engagement with other stakeholders.

THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVES DELEGATION TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH MPI FOR HPAI SAMPLING ACTIVITIES.



053.7 2026 CSI Council Meeting Dates (4.7)
Resolved (Craig McKenzie/L Koevoet)

25-071

THAT CSI COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2026 BE HELD ACCORDING TO THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE:

- **5 FEB** CSI COUNCIL MEETING INCLUDING GAME REGULATIONS TO SUBMIT TO NZC BY 9 FEBRUARY.
- **12 MARCH** CSI COUNCIL MEETING (THIS WOULD NORMALLY INCLUDE APPROVE OWP & BUDGET FOR SUBMITTING TO MANAGERS/CES FOR RECOMMENDATION TO NZC BY 14TH MARCH).
- **21 MAY** CSI COUNCIL MEETING INCLUDING APPROVE ANGLING REGULATIONS AND LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION TO SUBMIT TO NZC BY 30 MAY.
- **23 JULY** CSI COUNCIL MEETING.
- **24 SEPT** CSI COUNCIL MEETING
- **26 NOV** CSI COUNCIL MEETING *(THIS DATE COULD CHANGE DEPENDING ON EOY AUDIT)*

053.8 2024/25 Performance Report (4.8)

CE advised that the audit has been completed and Council have received it's signed and stamped Performance Report for the 2024/25 year.

Resolved (D Isbister/V May)

25-072

THAT COUNCIL ADOPT THE PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR THE 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR TO BE PRESENTED AT IT'S ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING ON 4TH DECEMBER 2026.

053.9 Risk Matrix Review-October/November 2025 (4.9)

CE reported that Risk 8 - A species level event arrives in our habitats has been updated with the following:

- MPI has produced a draft contract for combined services across NCFG, CSIFG, and OFG.
- CSIFG will act as the contract manager, with other regions sub-contracting under this agreement (MPI requested a single point of contact).
- The draft has been reviewed and returned to MPI for further drafting.
- Total contract value across the three regions: \$200,000.
- MPI retains full responsibility for incursion response. Our role is to enable monitoring steps to support early detection and reporting.

25-054 NZFGC MATTERS:

054.1 D Isbister Update

D Isbister gave an update on NZC matters that included: NZC held an online meeting on the 23rd of October 2025 and agreed to allocate up to \$85,000 (on top of \$15,000 previously allocated) for engaging consultants to work on Fish and Game's submission on the new F&G Bill going through parliament.



D Isbister advised that NZC changed their next meeting date to the first weekend in December which he is unable to attend. It was felt it was important for CSI to have an appointee to attend the meeting with full speaking and voting rights.

Resolved (V May/A Simpson)

25-073

THAT COUNCIL APPOINT CRAIG MCKENZIE AS CSI FISH AND GAME'S APPOINTEE, WITH FULL SPEAKING AND VOTING RIGHTS, TO THE NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL FOR COUNCIL MEETING #178 TO BE HELD ON 5TH AND 6TH DECEMBER 2025.

25-055 REQUEST FOR MEDIATION:

Resolved (A Simpson/P Centofanti) at 8:24 pm

25-074

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 9:18 pm.

Council resolved in Public Excluded session the outcome of resolution 25-077 be brought into the public session of the meeting. That being:

THAT COUNCIL NOTES THE REQUEST FOR MEDIATION AND POSTPONES ITS RESPONSE PENDING RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE.

25-056 BUDGET & FINANCE:

Resolved (D Isbister/P Centofanti)

25-075

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE FINANCIAL REPORTS AND RATIFIES THE SCHEDULES OF PAYMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2025 IN THE GST INCLUSIVE AMOUNTS OF \$121,884.45 AND \$130,697.53.

25-057 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: 25 September 2025

Resolved (Craig McKenzie/D Isbister)

25-076

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 25 SEPTEMBER 2025 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.



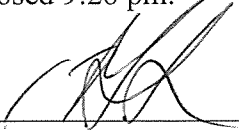
25-058 OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS:

AGREED that the Operations and Staff reports be received.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Council Meeting: 5th February 2026 – 7 pm

Meeting closed 9:28 pm.

Signed  _____

Date 5/2/26 _____