

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 24 July 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.

Public: Leigh Johnson (Women on the Fly), Anna Hull, Anne and Peter Valentine.

25-029 APOLOGIES:

None.

25-030 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? P Centofanti advised that he was adding to the register that at the June Annual General Meeting of the Salmon and Riparian Enhancement Society Incorporated he was elected Vice President.

25-031 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.

25-032: INWARD CORRESPONDENCE:

032.1 Indian Cultural Organisation

Chair advised that a letter had been received from the Indian Cultural Organisation thanking the staff and the Council for their involvement in the repatriation project acknowledging that Hamish Stevens went above and beyond to make the past season a success. Chair and Council thanked Hamish, Steve and the rest of the staff on their commitment to this important work.

25-033: 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 noted that the CE performance review is due to be undertaken in September, and the Council and Chair's performance reviews are due to be undertaken in November.

25-034 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:

034.1 Ahuriri Angler Displacement & Support for Management Intervention (6.1)

B Harper spoke to his report on an angler survey investigating displacement and support for management intervention on the upper Ahuriri River undertaken at the end of the 2024/25 fishing season.



The survey focused on understanding the extent and nature of angler displacement, and gauging support for potential Pressure Sensitive Fishery (PSF) management tools.

Findings indicated that while crowding is a concern for some anglers, its overall impact on the wider angler population that fish the upper Ahuriri is currently limited. Support for PSF management tools was mixed noting that some tools could cause greater displacement than currently exists, highlighting the need to carefully align any intervention with clearly defined objectives.

B Harper advised the survey did not include quantitative data on actual angler encounter rates or establish a baseline for angler use and satisfaction and without such baseline data, assessing the effectiveness of any future management intervention would be challenging. This emphasises the need for additional on-river research focused on angler use patterns, encounter rates, and satisfaction levels which would enable the CSIFGC to evaluate management impacts and support adaptive decision-making.

General discussion ensued and it was felt that more time and discussions needed to be undertaken before agreeing to specific goal options presented in the report.

Resolved (V May/P Centofanti)

25-047

THAT COUNCIL ENDORSES MANAGEMENT OPTION 1 “TO UNDERTAKE A FIELD-BASED ANGLER USE AND SATISFACTION SURVEY DURING THE 2025/26 SPORTS FISHING SEASON AS PART OF A PROGRAMMED COMPLIANCE AND MONITORING EFFORT” AND DEFERRED GOAL SETTING UNTIL REVIEWING RESULTS OF 2025/26 FISHING SEASON FIELD SURVEY OF ANGLER USE, ANGLER ENCOUNTERS AND SATISFACTION ON THE UPPER AHURIRI RIVER.

034.2 Site Maintenance - Drainage

Council was presented with quotes to replace collapsed drainage pipe and install two sumps between shed and connect to existing concrete sump near stream. Also to extend forecourt area in front of garage and contour slope to existing car park level, surface in two coat chip seal.

Resolved (P Centofanti/Craig McKenzie)

25-048

THAT COUNCIL APPROVE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$18,000 FOR REPAIR OF THE SHED DRAINAGE PIPE AND CHIP SEAL OF GARAGE FORECOURT AREA TO BE FUNDED FROM GENERAL RESERVES.

034.3 Timing of Triennial Game Gazette Review Cycle (6.3)

At a previous meeting Councillors expressed concern about the timing of the Game Gazette triennial review cycle as it falls shortly after the election of a new Council. It was felt there needed to be a longer lead in time for new Councillors before they were asked to make decisions on game regulations. Staff were requested to bring a proposal to Council to ensure that the triennial Game Gazette review cycle aligns with the Council’s governance cycle to enhance decision-making, support effective game management, and uphold the principles of transparency and accountability.



THAT CSI COUNCIL

- 1. COMMENCE THE REVISED TRIENNIAL GAME GAZETTE REVIEW CYCLE, WITH THE FOLLOWING REVIEW SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 2028, AFTER THE OCTOBER 2027 COUNCIL ELECTIONS. THIS WILL ENSURE THAT NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILLORS HAVE SUFFICIENT TIME TO BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THEIR GOVERNANCE RESPONSIBILITIES BEFORE PARTICIPATING IN THE REVIEW PROCESS.**
- 2. CONTINUE THE TRIENNIAL REVIEW CYCLE THEREAFTER, WITH REVIEWS SCHEDULED EVERY THREE YEARS FROM THAT DATE.**
- 3. MAINTAIN THE CURRENT PROVISION FOR MATTERS OF URGENCY TO BE ADDRESSED BETWEEN SCHEDULED REVIEWS, ENSURING RESPONSIVENESS TO ECOLOGICAL OR MANAGEMENT TRIGGERS.**

034.4 2025/26 Sea-Run Salmon Season Bag Limit Adjustment (6.4)

CE advised that in accordance with the 2021 Threshold Management Strategy, the sea-run salmon spawning population estimate for the Waimakariri, Rakaia, and Rangitata/Rakitata rivers was finalised on 1 July 2025 at 900 fish. This count places the population in the “severe” management band (threshold: <1,200 fish).

As per the resolution 25-032, passed by the CSI Council on 22 May 2025, this triggers a reduction in the angler season bag limit from 2 fish to 1 fish for the 2025/26 sports fishing season. He further advised that formal notification has been sent to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and CSI & NC now await a decision from the Minister as to whether he accepts our recommendation of a season reduction.

034.5 Update on Contract Approach with Indian Cultural Organization (6.5)

CE advised that he had a letter drafted to the Indian Cultural Organisation advising them of the results of this year’s monitoring and that CSIFGC will be implementing the corresponding conservation measures, which include a suspension of rematriation from wild spawning populations for the upcoming year. He encouraged the Council to remain responsive to field data and be prepared to revisit this decision if warranted by ecological improvements.

Resolved (P Centofanti/Craig McKenzie)

TO MAINTAIN THE CURRENT POSITION OF NO WILD REMATRIATION FOR THE 2025/26 SEASON, WHILE CONTINUING TO SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE REMATRIATION AND PATHOGEN SAMPLING EFFORTS.

034.6 Risk Matrix Review-June July 2025

CE report that Risks 4 & 5 have been updated to reflect recent findings from NIWA highlighting that marine warming along the Southeast coast of New Zealand is occurring at a rate three times higher than the global average. This accelerated warming poses a significant threat to the viability of the salmon fishery. In response, staff are actively exploring a range of mitigation strategies including a potential hybrid



approach that integrates species conservation efforts with adaptive fishery management practices.

CE further reported that Risk 8 has been updated as in collaboration with MPI, CSI are initiating a Duck Sampling Program aimed at early detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in this region as a proactive surveillance effort is critical to managing the risk of HPAI introduction and spread.

034.7 Investment in Governance Capability-Institute of Directors Training

Council were advised that a comprehensive training package with the New Zealand Institute of Directors (IoD) is being developed. This builds on previous training including Council's onboarding meeting, Dots communication training, and reflects CSI's commitment on building a resilient, informed, and future-ready council.

The package ensures CSI receives consistent access to governance resources, training modules, and development opportunities for all councillors, fostering a shared understanding of best practices and enhancing collective decision-making.

Key benefits of the IoD training package include:

- Access to tailored governance workshops and resources
- Opportunities for councillors to engage in structured learning pathways
- Strengthened governance capability across the council
- Alignment with national standards for board and council governance

25-035 NZFGC MATTERS:

035.1 L Koevoet Verbal Update

Chair, in response to a question from L Koevoet, confirmed that CSI had complied with the Conservation Act in notification of D Isbister's' appointment to Council.

L Koevoet stated he had checked with others and there was no requirement for him to report back to CSI councils on NZC matters and that the information that the Council wants to hear will be sent out via NZC in a summary of decisions made. This is in lieu of the minutes.

035.2 Election for NZC Appointee (7.2)

Resolved (L Koevoet/P Centofanti) at 8:30 pm

25-051

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 9:21 pm.



Council resolved in Public Excluded session the outcome of resolution 25-055 be bought into the public session of the meeting. That being:

THAT THE CSI COUNCIL APPOINTS DANIEL ISBISTER TO BE THE CSI APPOINTEE TO THE NZ COUNCIL.

At 9:20 pm L Koevoet left the Council meeting.

25-025 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: 22 May 2025

Resolved (V May/Craig McKenzie)

25-052

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 22 MAY 2025 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.

Resolved (Craig McKenzie/V May)

25-053

THAT THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 22 MAY 2025 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.

25-026 BUDGET & FINANCE:

CE responded to general queries and updated Council that solar panels have been installed and 10% of our current usage is coming through our solar.

Resolved (V May/Craig McKenzie)

25-054

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE FINANCIAL REPORTS AND RATIFIES THE SCHEDULES OF PAYMENTS FOR MAY AND JUNE 2025 IN THE GST INCLUSIVE AMOUNTS OF \$387,839.75 AND \$138,924.66.

25-027 OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS:

AGREED that the Operations and Staff reports be received.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Council Meeting: Thursday 25 September 2025 at 7 pm.

Meeting closed 9:28 pm.

Signed 

Date 25/9/2025