

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 5th February 2026 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, H Stevens, R Adams, J Van Beers.

26-001 APOLOGIES:

B Harper, N Dellaway.

26-002 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? Vicky May advised she has resigned as a Councillor from Otago Fish and Game Council. Callum McKenzie advised he may have a conflict around the catch care and release campaign as he has provided a quote for contract work. Council noted both changes in interests. [Minute Note: Callum did not participate in the discussion or voting surrounding Catch, Care Release campaign].

26-003 HEALTH & SAFETY:

No incidents have been advised over the months of December 2025 and January 2026. Staff are considering the NZC request to join the national Health & Safety committee.

26-004: 2026 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. CE advised that the March meeting of Council will be considering the OWP and Budget for the next 12 months (starting 1 September 2026). (Secretarial Note: NZC requires all regional budgets provided to them by Friday 13th March). Discussion ensued on the merits of Councillors holding a workshop prior to the meeting with CE advising drafts will be available to Councillors in early March. From that Councillors can decide if they wish to hold a workshop prior to the 12 March meeting. CE encouraged Councillors to provide him with their ideas for the OWP if they have any specific projects in mind.

26-005 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:

005.1 2026/27 Game Gazette Notice (4.1)

H Stevens advised that as per Council resolution 12-047 the 2026/27 Game Gazette review is to only consider matters of urgency. He advised current gamebird populations and harvest trends do not identify any matters of urgency for consideration by Council. Council held a brief discussion including comments around CSI's bag limit numbers.

Resolved (Craig McKenzie/D Isbister)

26-001

THAT THERE BE NO CHANGES (OTHER THAN STANDARD SEASON DATE CHANGES) TO THE 2026/27 CSI GAME SEASON CONDITIONS.

005.2 Staff Development Proposal (4.2)

CE spoke to his report seeking Council approval for PhD project funding for CSIFGC staff member Blake Harper over a three-year period (2026/27–2028/29), enabling delivery of the previously approved hydro-canal trout diet, growth, and management research programme within a coordinated PhD structure. With the hydro-canal trout fishery being a nationally significant recreational fishery integrating this work into a PhD ensures scientific robustness, peer review, and long-term value to CSIFGC.

Council queried if some of this funding could be applied for through the national staff development fund given the national significance of the canal fishery. CE confirmed that Blake would be putting in an application. CE responded to various queries around this project, and it was:

Resolved (V May/Craig McKenzie)

26-002

THAT COUNCIL APPROVES THE ALLOCATION OF UP TO \$29,000 OVER THREE YEARS, (2026/27–2028/29), FOR PHD PROJECT FUNDING FROM ITS SPECIAL FISHERIES RESERVE FOR BLAKE HARPER NOTING THAT THE APPROVED AMOUNT COVERS TUITION FEES AND YEAR 2 AND YEAR 3 RESEARCH COSTS AND THAT UNDERLYING RESEARCH COMPONENTS WERE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED.

005.3 Catch Care Release Campaign (4.3)

J Van Beers and R Adams spoke to their report proposing that Council undertake a canal-fishery tailored catch and release advocacy campaign branded “Catch Care Release” (CCR). A catch and release project has been in the ‘Top 5’ priority projects of the CSIFGC Canal Management Strategy since 2021. The campaign aims to improve the outcomes for caught and released fish at the canal fishery by delivering impactful advocacy that educates and encourages anglers to use best practice catch and release techniques.

Staff responded to various questions, concerns and clarifications related to the campaign. Council felt it appropriate that this project be funded within the national bulk funding process as the canal is fished by anglers countrywide so it would be of national benefit. If the proposal does not get accepted through the bulk funding it was **AGREED** that the matter be brought back to CSI Council for further consideration.

Resolved (A Simpson/Craig McKenzie)

26-003

THAT STAFF DESIGN A CATCH, CARE AND RELEASE CAMPAIGN BUSINESS CASE PROPOSAL TO NZC COMMENCING IN 2026/27 FINANCIAL YEAR WITH A BUDGET OF \$36,750 AND 565 STAFF HOURS.

005.4 Upper Ohau River Spring Season Results 2025 (4.4)

R Adams spoke to his report advising that it was a relatively poor season overall and identified two matters of urgency i.e. the angler satisfaction level did not reach the 80% threshold previously set by Council with only 77% satisfaction recorded and that catch rates were significantly reduced from 2023 and 2024 levels. He recommended that Council reduce the 2026 Spring Season Ballot Schedule with an aim to achieving 80+% satisfaction by having an overall reduction of approximately two-thirds of angler days, i.e. omitting four October-based allocations resulting in the reduction of half of the current number of anglers in that area.

R Adams responded to questions from Councillors. Some expressed concern that it was too early to be looking at reductions and would like to see no changes for another season with others supporting the precautionary approach of reduction of allocations.

Resolved (Craig McKenzie/L Koevoet)

26-004

THAT COUNCIL PROVIDE A SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED 2026 BALLOT SCHEDULE FROM THE 2023-2025 SCHEDULE WITH AN OVERALL REDUCTION OF APPROXIMATELY TWO-THIRDS OF AVAILABLE ANGLING DAYS.

005.5 Winnemem Wintu/NZ Sampling Project (4.5)

CE updated Council that the contract with Winnemem Wintu has been extended to June 2026 which allows the pathogen sampling for this season to be completed. CE recommended that Council continue on with the project with the understanding that a new contract will need to be negotiated with Winnemem Wintu.

Resolved (V May/Callum McKenzie)

26-005

THAT COUNCIL REQUEST THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO WORK WITH WINNEMEM WINTU TO REDEFINE THE PROJECT GOING FORWARD AND ESTABLISH A NEW CONTRACT.

005.6 Review of Risk Management Policy (4.6)

CE presented the revised draft of CSI's Risk Management Policy for Council consideration identifying two new sections. The first articulates the Council's overall risk appetite and tolerance levels across key risk categories, providing clearer guidance for decision-making and prioritisation. The second affirms the Council's role in promoting a risk-aware culture and supporting governance capability, while maintaining clear boundaries between governance and operational responsibilities.

Chair noted the Institute of Directors online module had good information on risk management and risk identification citing examples of organisations that are healthy i.e. where risks can be raised and risks will be addressed and also had examples where organizations had very poor risk management policies in place and the consequences of those.



THAT CSI COUNCIL AGREES TO THE PROPOSED UPDATES, INCLUDING THE NEW RISK APPETITE STATEMENT AND GOVERNANCE-FOCUSED ENHANCEMENT AND ADOPTS THE REVISED RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY.

005.7 Risk Register (4.7)

CE reported that the following Risks have been updated on the Risk Register:

Risk 5: To reflect the Consultations currently underway (sea run Salmon and Lake Heron regulations in a severe band).

Risk 6: Update to reflect the 2024/25 year. (Static revenues).

Risk 8: To reflect the ongoing work with MPI.

Risk 9: To reflect the pause on regional plans that the Government has put in place.

Risk 12: To reflect the 2024/25 status of governance self-assessment for year 1 and that the Council is currently reviewing its risk policy.

Risk 15: To reflect the government's signal regarding regional authorities.

005.8 Summary of 2025 CSIFGC Audit (4.8)

CE provided a summary of key findings and conclusions from BDO Auditors advising that the outcome of the 2025 audit reflects sound financial reporting and governance practices, with no concerns raised. Prior recommendations remain embedded and continued focus on controls and oversight is encouraged.

CE further advised that BDO have charged CSI and two other regions an additional cost of \$2,000 per region over and above what has been agreed in the signed contract. There was no prior notification by BDO, or agreement to this additional charge by CSI, which is clearly stated as a condition in our signed contract. CE is currently appealing this additional cost via the Office of Auditor General with the outcome yet to be determined.

26-006 NZFGC MATTERS:

006.1 Update from NZC Meeting (5.1)

Craig McKenzie gave an update on NZC matters that included: James Meager, Minister of Hunting and Fishing attending the meeting for a session, instant fines, health and safety plans, finance committee setup (i.e. B Barnes, NZC Chair, was queried how he had chosen people to be on that committee with B Barnes responding he pulled together names to lack of time), North Canterbury MoU with NZC, and regional and NZC audits.

D Isbister advised there is quite a bit of work being undertaken on the RMA and Fish & Game Reforms. The next NZC meeting is scheduled for three days starting Feb 27th.

006.2 Crop Depredation Policy (5.2)

Council discussed NZC's paper on Crop Depredation Policy and agreed to provide the following feedback to assist NZC in finalising this Policy. It was:

Resolved (V May/Craig McKenzie)

26-007

THAT CSI COUNCIL SUPPORTS A POLICY THAT:

1. **ADOPT AN ADVISORY/AUTHORISING BASED MODEL FOR CROP DEPREDATION MANAGEMENT ACROSS ALL REGIONS.**
2. **AMEND THE DRAFT POLICY CONSISTENT WITH THE CSIFGC FEEDBACK AND WORDING RECOMMENDATIONS ABOVE.**
3. **REMOVE ANY IMPLIED OR EXPLICIT OBLIGATION FOR COUNCILS TO OWN OR MAINTAIN EQUIPMENT.**
4. **IMPLEMENT A NATIONAL STANDARD PERMIT AND REPORTING TEMPLATE.**

26-007 BUDGET & FINANCE:

It was reported that the decline in CSI's LEQ's is attributed to a 15% drop in the family licence category. This is balanced by an 11% increase in Local Area, a 6% increase in Short Break, and a 4% increase in Adult Whole Season. There is also an increase in the Junior Whole Season and Non-resident day licence categories.

Resolved (A Simpson/D Isbister)

26-008

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE FINANCIAL REPORTS AND RATIFIES THE SCHEDULES OF PAYMENTS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2025 IN THE GST INCLUSIVE AMOUNTS OF \$333,396.70 AND \$108,814.29.

26-008 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: 27 November 2025

Resolved (A Simpson/Craig McKenzie)

26-009

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 27 NOVEMBER 2025 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.

Matters Arising from the Minutes: L Koevoet requested an update on Resolution 25-077. CE advised that the first attempt at seeking legal advice was not able to be completed in our preferred timeline due to unforeseen circumstances. Therefore an alternative law firm has been instructed, and they are currently working on it.

26-009 CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC EXCLUDED MINUTES:

27 November 2025

Resolved (P Centofanti/Craig McKenzie) at 9:25 pm

26-010

THAT COUNCIL GO INTO PUBLIC EXCLUDED AND 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.
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Council resumed in open forum at 9:37 pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Council Meeting: 12th March 2026 – 7 pm

Meeting closed 9:45 pm.

Signed  Date 24/3/2026