

**Agenda for the Meeting of the
Otago Fish & Game Council to be held on Thursday 20th August 2015
At St Johns Rooms, Roxburgh 145 Scotland Street,
Commencing at 12.15**

Please note: A Lunch will be provided at 11.45am

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1 Present and Apologies

2 Declaration of Interest

3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting St Johns Rooms, Roxburgh 14 April 2015, Commencing at 12.30pm

1.0 Present:

Monty Wright (Chair), Dr John Jillett, Dan Rae, Vicky Whyte, John Barlow, Adrian McIntyre, Ian Cole, Dave Witherow, Dr Mike Turner, and Murray Neilson,.

In attendance: Niall Watson (CE) Ian Hadland (OM), Peter Wilson (EO), Bryce Johnson (NZC), Don Rood (NZC), and Ken Telford (Public Forum only)

Apologies were received from

Alan Hammond, Dr Colin Aldridge, Ray Grubb and Francie Diver (OCB) who has resigned from the OCB liaison position with regret for personal reasons.

The Chair welcomed Messrs Johnson and Rood to the meeting and invited their input.

(Whyte/Jillett)

That apologies be accepted

It was **agreed** that leave of absence be granted to Messrs Grubb (April to August inclusive), Cole (June) and Dr Turner (June).

2.0 Declarations of Interest and Health and Safety

Nil.

3.0 Minutes

It was noted that he had been omitted from the attendance list for the February meeting and that the leave of absence should have referred to Mr Rae not Dr Turner

Resolved (Whyte/Rae)

That the Minutes of the meetings on the 14th February 2015 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject the amendments above.

4.0 Matters Arising from Minutes

4.1 Audit and Risk Committee

It was noted that Dr Aldridge had requested that his notice of motion (below) be held over until the June meeting.

Notice of Motion:

That the Council establish a standing committee to be called the Audit and Risk Committee to monitor a range of risk areas including:

- *health and safety,*
- *legislative compliance,*

- *gifts and benefits,*
- *a schedule of delegations and audit of their exercise,*
- *travel register,*
- *credit card register and audit of exercise,*
- *liabilities schedule*

The committee, which be composed of two or three councillors, will be independent of other committees and responsible for auditing internal processes relating to the above areas and any other areas requiring oversight and for engaging with the external auditor in advance of the annual audit. The committee shall report on its activities at each Council meeting."

5.0 Communications New Zealand Council

5.0 NZC Correspondence to Otago

5.0.1 Governor's Workshop Evaluation

The letter was received and discussed noting the NZC's interest in development of SOPs for common operation tasks amongst all 13 councils within Fish and Game, with a priority on health and safety.

Councillors were requested to put forward their views on priorities for co-ordination to the CE and for the CE to report further to the June meeting.

5.0.2 Angler and Hunter changes in Ethnicity

The letter was received and discussed

5.0.3 Non Resident Licence.

The letter was received and the need for the Council to identify backcountry fishery areas in Otago deserving of additional expenditure was noted. CE was requested to report back by August.

5.0.4 Health and Safety Manual

The letter was received. The CE noted that Otago had an updated H&S manual in preparation based on the Eastern model, that a health a safety register was in place and that each Council meeting received a report on H&S issues.

Concern was expressed about contract farm health and safety consultants and their advice to farmers on H&S requirements which were leaving farmers apprehensive about their responsibilities and which could lead to unnecessary access closures.

Mr Hadland advised that some of the contract advice was at odds with the law and he was working with Federated Farmers on clarifying issues.

It was **agreed** that the Council seek clarification from the legal authority with ultimate responsibility in the health and safety area.

5.0.5 Guides Licence

Response on progress with guides licence received.

5.0.6 Palmer Opinion

Response on Palmer Opinion received

5.0.7 Functions under 26Q that lend themselves to SOPs

The NZC CE's request for feedback on Conservation Act functions under 26Q that lend themselves to SOPs was received and discussed. The CE noted that SOP development undertaken sparingly was most likely to be effective.

5.0.8 Consistency of Annual Financial Audits

Request for information on annual report and audit formats – received.

5.1 Correspondence from Otago to NZC

Nil

6 Chief Executive's Report

6.0 Administration

Finance reports to the end of March 2015 were discussed. The finance report showed the Council had spent 46% of budget at a point half way through the year. The CE explained that the report was compiled before all March accounts had been received including the planning meeting account. The result had been helped by cost savings through the delay in replacing the second Cromwell staff position.

The CE advised that a decision was pending on the appointment of a new Fish and Game Officer to the Cromwell office following the completion of interviews

Resolved (Whyte/Barlow)

That Finance and Licence sales reports to the end of March 2015 be approved

6.2 Species

Hatchery

Oceania Gold's decision to extend the life of the Macraes Mine meant that the Council's hatchery operation was secure in the short term (3 to 5 years).

Lower Clutha Salmon

Catches in the lower Clutha were very low with only 5 salmon being reported taken this season. The CE advised he had had an acknowledgement of this letter to Contact Energy (previously circulated) but no detailed reply so far.

6.1 Habitat

Affected Part Status

The CE reported that a positive meeting had been held with ORC on the issue with agreement that ORC would :

- provide Fish and Game with a weekly list of consent applications that affect waterways.
- treat Fish and Game as affected over applications to replace mining privileges with RMA consents because of cumulative effects and environmental sensitivity in over-allocated catchments.
- communicate as issues arise and will meet from time to time to compare notes.

Fish and Game and ORC agreed to communicate as issues arose and to meet from time to time so enabling Fish and Game to provide feedback on affected party status.

Minimum and Residual Flows

Lindis River: Council representatives (John Barlow, Dan Rae, Murray Neilson, Morgan Trotter, Peter Wilson and the CE) have variously attended two meetings with Lindis irrigators, a catchment field trip, ORC's public meeting in Tarras on 1st April and a meeting with senior ORC staff and Lindis irrigators.

The Council has committed to working with Lindis irrigators as far as possible to share information on the river's hydrology and natural values and to look for solutions to water management issues.

At a public meeting in Tarras on 1st April 2015 ORC reported a change in its position on the minimum flow required for the river. ORC is now considering a summer flow of 750 litres/second which is an increase on the 450 litres/second announced 12 months earlier in the Consultation Draft Plan Change. The CE said this was a gratifying change in direction which moved towards Fish and Game's recommendation for 1000 l/s minimum flow. The 750 l/s has still to be adopted by ORC for public notification but a science report by NIWA confirms the need for increased flows at least to that level.

Fish and Game has supported a request by Lindis irrigators for a two month delay in notification of the minimum flow plan change to allow for consideration of complementary policy development. However complementary policy development on water management was not seen as something that could be traded off against adequate instream flows.

Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group:

The CE updated the Council on the MCWSG's progress. Feasibility reports for the scheme were still being finalised with some uncertainty still over construction costs for a new Falls Dam. Community interests including Fish and Game were pressing strongly for explicit coverage of environmental outcomes in final feasibility reports including detail of mechanisms for achieving those outcomes (eg consent conditions, farm plans, plan changes) .

Waikouaiti

The CE advised the Waikouaiti minimum flow setting plan change had been delayed to allow a study of estuary health to be completed.

Cardrona

The CE reported that minimum flow setting on the Cardrona was expected to crank up later in the year.

Waiwera Minimum Flow Plan Change

Mr Ken Telford addressed the meeting expressing concern about non-notified water allocation from the river, a lack of residual flow setting, limited hydrological information, high summer water temperatures, and deteriorating water quality. He had submitted to ORC seeking a minimum flow above the proposed 83% MALF on the basis of the above and community support.

The CE said that the Council position was similar to that adopted on the Pomahaka but that if there was community support for a higher minimum and an issue over water temperatures Fish and Game should be able to support a higher minimum.

6.4 User Participation

Mt Burke

The on-site agreement over road stopping and public access between Mt Burke Station, DOC, QLDC, Trails Trust, CFT and Fish and Game was discussed.

It was **agreed** that conditions of support included:

- ‘like for like’ swap of roads (a road taken for a road stopped)
- road alignment from Maungawera Road to Dublin Bay boundary must be capable of formation.
- location of lakeshore marginal strip to be defined by survey
- end of Maugawera road extended to connect with margin of Quartz Creek across Flax Paddock (connects to marginal strip and then parallel along to the north to creek margin).

The CE advised that the issue of the road to the north from Maungawera Road was not part of the agreement and will be addressed separately and that marginal strips will be laid off on Quartz Creek in 2020 on lease renewal.

Noted that WAC funding may be available to cover survey costs. The CE was asked to investigate

6.5 Public Interface

The CE advised that the regional MOU with DOC was close to completion and was presently the subject of consultation with Ngai Tahu.

6.6 Compliance

Councillors requested an up to date list of rangers for their information

6.8 Council

The Fish and Game election timetable (agenda page 38) was noted. Key dates were:

- 8th August – public notification of election, call for candidates and voter enrolments.
- 27th August - candidate nominations close
- 9th September – voter enrolment closes
- 17th September – voting forms distributed by mail
- 9th October – voting closes at 5.00pm (Election Day)
- 13th October –postal voting closes

Noted that voting can be done either online or by return post.

Mr Johnson noted that some Fish and Game Councils were considering setting numbers of council position at less than 12 to cause elections and that Otago was one of the only Councils to have had contested elections at each triennium.

7.0 Committee Reports

7.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust

Mr Rae outlined Trust activity including:

- Clearance of vegetation from islands in Lake Dunstan for nesting birds
- Agreement over fencing at Kane Road alternative alignment Kane Road access alternative.
- Development of riverside access track at Black Bag subdivision

7.2 New Zealand Council

Mr Witherow outlined NZC business at a recent 3 day meeting including:

- Consideration of access issues and concern about breached agreements and lack of action over illegal road obstructions
- Discussion of the Southland cycleway case which conflicted with maintenance of the Oreti's wilderness values
- Discussion of water management in Canterbury and Ecan following recent legal action
- Ruitaniwha decision
- Proposals to reactivate Ngarouroro water conservation order application.
- Attendance by DOC DG Lou Sanson who is not opposed to advancing the guides licence.
- Workshop on papers from the Governors Forum with debate about need for SOPs to cover Fish and Game operations. Mr Witherow noted the value of divergent approaches leading to discovery of improved performance
- Discussion on recruitment and North Canterbury Youth programme including Fish in Schools noting need to know what activity is currently being undertaken across the country.
- Reaffirmation of commitment to introduce new licence categories next season.
- Restricted scope of the completed National Office review instead of the original structural review contemplated.

8.0 Technical Reports

8.1 Strategic Planning Workshop Report

The report outlining project responses to Council priorities was discussed along with the budget spreadsheet showing a proposed budget of \$960,836, an increase of \$27,383 or 2.9% on last year's figure. The increases were composed of salaries and a budget for PA support (\$10,000)

Resolved (Rae/Jillett)

That the Annual Plan projects and budget for 2015/16 be approved

Kye Burn Contract

Council **agreed** to the proposed expenditure of \$7,100 on a fish habitat assessment of the Kye Burn to support low flow negotiations. The CE said cost savings on staff changes meant that this work should fit within budget

8.2 Fish and Game Wetlands Workshop - Keeling

The report was discussed and received.

8.3 Lindis Research - Trotter

Agreed that the report be received

8.4 Regional Trends in Fish and Game Sources of Income – Dr Jillett

The report was discussed and Council noted the changing pattern of revenue generation with declines in the North Island in Eastern, Auckland/Waikato and increases in the South Island bigger regions. Only two smaller regions were receiving grants while NZC's expenditure budget continued to increase.

Agreed that the report be received and circulated to other Fish and Game Councils.

8.5 Anglers Notice 2015/16 - Halford

The report was discussed and it was **agreed** that no major review be undertaken until the Fish and Game Plan was approved. The CE advised there were no recommended changes to the 2015/16 Anglers Notice. **Agreed** that the report be received.

8.6 Communications Strategy fro 2015/16 Game Season – Hadland

The report, requested by Council last year, was discussed and it was **agreed** it be received.

8.7 Waipahi River – Keeling

Agreed the report be received

8.8 Greenstone Controlled Fishery – Keeling

The report was discussed and it was **agreed** the report be received

8.9 Tuapeka Values Assessment – Keeling

Agreed the report be received. A further assessment of the effect of the Tuapeka dam on fish passage was requested

9.0 Correspondence

Agreed correspondence items 9.1 to 9.4 be received. Staff were asked to look further into Mr Cunningham's letter concerning changes to the flows in Lauder and Doctors Creeks.

10. General Business

10.1 Messrs Johnson and Rood addressed the meeting on NZ Council activities. Mr Johnson noted that:

- There were still threats to Part II of the Resource Management Act which could reduce the protection the Act provided and the case law benefits from Fish and Game (and other) litigation over the years .
- The Walking Access Act provided for a review after three years which was due shortly so it was a case of use it or lose it.
- NZC had changed it's status within the Land and Water Forum to one of 'active observer' to avoid both being captured by consensus outcomes and being publicly muzzled.

- There was growing concern about Government Ministers interest in what has been called a ‘shared governance model’ whereby local agencies such as Ecan have some elected and some Government appointed councillors.
- There was a growing interest in a transition to sustainable agriculture.

Mr Rood stressed the importance of public awareness and explained the move to engage with anglers and hunters and stakeholders through a range of media channels.

The meeting closed at 5.45pm

4 Matters arising from the minutes

5 Communications New Zealand Council

5.1 Correspondence from NZC to Otago

5.1.1 Confirmation of approved budgets 2015/16

Budget figures separate. For Your Information



TO: ALL REGIONAL MANAGERS

RE: 2015/16 BUDGETS

On 20 July 2015 the Minister approved the 2015/16 licence fees (Fish \$124 and Game \$92 inclusive of GST and habitat stamp). The following confirmations are forwarded to you for your 2015/16 Budget and Operational Work Plan, incorporating approved contestable funding:

1. Approved National Budget 2015/16

This spreadsheet shows base funds, the total of approved contestable funding, and final budget totals. It shows the LEQs taken into the budget, the licence revenue budget and the commission expense budget. Also shown is the total of approved contestable funding for each region, and the base level funding for next year after removal of any one-off funding to be applied only to the 2015/16 budget.

2. Contestable Funding Summary

This spreadsheet shows approved contestable funding at the project level.

Please now update your OWPs to incorporate the projects which were reliant on receiving contestable funding and update your budgets to reconcile with the "Approved Budget 2015/16 including contestable funding" column in the National Budget 2015/16.

When your budgets and OWPs have been updated to include contestable funding, please send me a copy of your final documents. This will be the budget record against which you will compare actual audited expenditure in your end of year variance report.

3. Surplus/Shortfall Schedule

The levy remittance/grant payment schedule for 2015/16 is attached. As usual an invoice will be forwarded in the preceding month to when payments are due. As we rely on timely receipt of surplus payments for our cash flow requirements, please advise me if your remittance is likely to be unavoidably delayed for any reason.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Lyall'.

Alison Lyall

Finance & Administration Manager

29th July 2015

Does/2014-15 National Budget

5.1.2 Non Resident Fishing Licence Revenue



7 August 2015

Regional Managers/Chief Executives

NON-RESIDENT FISHING LICENCE REVENUE

The purpose of this letter is to consult with your Council on the attached letter from the Northland Fish and Game Council arguing against individual regions holding (and utilising) the "extra" revenue generated by the sale of non-resident fishing licence.

Northland was responding to a letter from the Chairman of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) to all regional chairmen in March 2015 about the importance for each region to nominate waters it wished to designate for specific management from the non-resident licence "extra" revenue. These waters and the "extra" revenue utilised are to be identified and described in annual reports to Parliament at the end of 2015.

The NZ Council at its meeting has agreed to receive the Northland Council's letter and in determining its reply to first consult with all Fish and Game Councils. The Northland Fish and Game Council is requesting that the NZ Council "*establishes an internal accounting system that would identify these funds for use by regions that have sensitive backcountry fisheries which require research and management*".

You will recall, the then Minister of Conservation stipulated that the non-resident licence be "*at a cost of 1.3 times the adult whole of season fishing licence, with any increased revenue obtained being directed to specific management to improve back country fisheries.*" (MOC letter dated 9 September 2012).

The New Zealand Council resolved (July 2014) "*that for the purposes of fisheries management a back country fishery is taken to mean any New Zealand freshwater (river and or lake) that provide some truly spectacular angling experiences, are popular with non-resident anglers and are inherently sensitive and need careful management*". In other words it would apply to more than just gazetted back country fisheries.

Up to the end of June 2015, total sales of the non-resident fishing licence nationally had reached 4,658. This means that in the current financial year councils have been receiving revenue on the sales of these licences based on the 2014/15 fee of \$160 per licence. The following table provides the current amounts by region.

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

New Zealand Council

1st Floor, 2 Jarden Mile, Ngauranga, PO Box 13141, Wellington 6440, New Zealand. Telephone (04) 499 4767 Facsimile (04) 499 4768
Email nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz www.fishandgame.org.nz

Non-resident licence sales per region to 30 June 2015

Region	NRL sales	"extra" revenue \$
Northland	57	2,109
Auckland/Waikato	254	9,398
Eastern	387	14,319
Hawke's Bay	175	6,475
Taranaki	22	814
Wellington	93	3,441
Nelson/Marlborough	545	20,165
West Coast	218	8,066
North Canterbury	577	21,349
Central South Island	657	24,309
Otago	971	35,927
Southland	702	25,974
National total	4,658	172,346

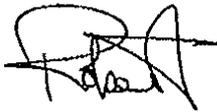
(2014/15: AWS = \$123, NRL = \$160, "extra" revenue = \$37 per NRL)

In providing feedback on the Northland letter and the treatment of the "extra" revenue, I ask that you indicate your Council's preference to that revenue being:

1. Ring fenced and put into a dedicated fund by each region, or
2. Collected centrally for application by regions, and the
3. Criteria that should be consistently applied for spending the "extra" revenue.

It is assumed, even if it becomes the preferred option, that it is now too late to change the current practice of this revenue being held and directed to specific management by each region. Any change, if it is to occur, should be introduced for the new financial year. Again, your Council may wish to comment on this.

Yours sincerely



Robert Sowman
Policy & Planning Manager



D.21
24 APR 2015

15th April 2015

Lindsay Lyons
Chairman
New Zealand Fish & Game Council
P.O Box 13-141
Wellington

Dear Lindsay

Re: Non Resident Fishing Licence Revenue

The Northland Fish & Game Council held its meeting on the 10th April and addressed your letter asking that regions nominate the waters it wishes to designate for specific management from the non- resident licence extra revenue and that this revenue needs to be identified and described in the regional annual report.

Northland Fish & Game Council is opposed to this approach and the direction that the New Zealand Council is requesting the way these funds are being used or their intended use.

There are several reasons for this and these are as noted below:

1. Northland has received some income from overseas anglers purchasing a non-resident fishing licence. To date, Northland has sold 55 non-resident adult fishing licences which make a total of \$1769.56 excluding GST, as extra revenue designated for specific management for backcountry fisheries.
2. Overseas anglers arrive in New Zealand and from Auckland; they travel to Northland to experience the beaches during the summer months. The first place they stop is Whangarei and while here purchase their supplies etc. which will include fishing tackle as well as food. At the same time, these tourists visit the Information Centre and enquire about freshwater angling and are then advised to go to an agent to purchase their fishing licence.
3. Northland does not have any areas which could be called backcountry fisheries. Northland's finest and most productive fisheries are Put and Take fisheries.
4. It is very much the view of this Council that the Minister never intended for each region to hold onto their funds and to spend those funds at a regional level. The Council feels that the Minister of Conservation's intention was that the extra income would be used to manage nationally for any sensitive backcountry fisheries.
5. The extra revenue should be spent on backcountry fisheries management which overseas tourists tend to target.

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

Northland Region

Unit A5, 7-11 Noll Place, Raumanga, PO Box 25003, Whangarei Mail Centre, Whangarei 0148, New Zealand.
Telephone (09) 438 4135 Email northland@fishandgame.org.nz www.fishandgame.org.nz

6. This is a national licence and the funds should be pooled and held in a dedicated reserve by the NZFGC to which regions who have backcountry fisheries apply annually to fund and carry out research and management.

This would work along the same system for regions that apply for extra funding from the legal pool fund for RMA work.

The same principal must be in place for the extra funding being received from Game licence sales (approx. \$40,000.00) being put into dedicated reserves for Mallard research. This is what we advised and justified to game bird licence holders and the Minister for the increase to the licence fee in 2013.

The non-resident licence funds held in central pool would go a lot further and achieve a great deal more.

This directive coming from the NZFGC is nothing more than regional parochialism and I would have thought that Fish and Game New Zealand and regions would have long since thought of Fish and Game as a national entity where the resources are spread on a needs basis, not where the income is generated.

This Council will not be retaining the funds at the end of year but request that the NZFGC establishes an internal accounting system that would identify these funds for use by regions that have sensitive backcountry fisheries which require research and management.

Yours sincerely



Dave Nicholson
Chairman
Northland Fish & Game Council

5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC

5.2.1 Copy of response on National Policy on Reparations For Your Information



30 June 2015

Lindsay Lyons
Chair
New Zealand Fish & Game Council
PO Box 13141
Wellington

Dear Lindsay,

My Council supports the draft National Policy on Reparations subject to amendments as follows:

Title and Paragraph 1– the policy should be simply entitled ‘National Policy on Reparation’ to clearly identify it as policy developed under 26C1(a). National Policy should be used elsewhere rather than ‘Fish & Game New Zealand’s National Policy’.

The policy should use the correct statutory names of councils for the sake of clarity namely - regional ‘Fish and Game Councils’ (the councils having the statutory enforcement role and for whom the policy has been developed), and ‘New Zealand Fish and Game Council’. Use of ‘Fish and Game’ or ‘Fish and Game New Zealand’ should be avoided within the policy itself as it blurs distinctions.

Paragraph 3. The criteria are support except for the inclusion of the agreement of the ‘North Island Compliance Co-ordinator’ as well as the Regional Manager or Chief Executive over offers of reparation. The statutory responsibility for enforcement activity lies with the Fish and Game Council concerned. In most (if not all) cases the individual Council’s authority to act has been delegated to the Regional Manager or Chief Executive. The NI Compliance Co-ordinator has no authority to act or to be involved in the decision-making on offences or the offer of reparation.

Paragraph 4 . The intent of this paragraph is supported but it becomes overly prescriptive in some areas and should be simplified as far as possible.

The second bullet point is unnecessary if the proposed wording for the third bullet point below is used.

The third bullet point onwards would be better worded to read:

- *“If the offence is a repeat offence unless the Regional Manager or Chief Executive finds there are extenuating circumstances.”*
- *“If the offence is a serious offence in the opinion of the Regional Manager or Chief Executive”.*

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

Otago Region

Cnr Hanover & Harrow Sts, PO Box 76, Dunedin 9054, New Zealand. Telephone (03) 477 9076 Facsimile (03) 477 0146

The final bullet point requiring any offence committed by a guide to be dealt with by the Courts is unreasonable and should be deleted.

Paragraph 6 - Reparation Fee Levels – The reparation levels proposed in the policy are very low by comparison with those offered in Otago and Southland. This matter has been discussed at some length over time by those Councils using reparation. Courts do not treat offences consistently in terms of fine levels in different parts of the country and agreement was reached amongst Regional Managers and Chief Executives to benchmark reparation back to the average of local Court fines for individual offences. This means that in Eastern reparation can be significantly lower than that say in Southland where average fines are higher. Benchmarking reparation against average fines imposed by local Courts is practical, equitable and flexible.

Also incorporating specific dollar values into the national reparation policy means that the policy will need to be reviewed each time there is a need to change those reparation levels.

The inclusion of a reparation level for junior anglers is not supported. Junior anglers should be dealt with by other means.

Paragraph 7 - Use of Funds – the policy is supported. The key points are that reparation funds are kept separate and are use for a specified beneficial purpose. In Otago reparation funds are used for habitat enhancement grants.

Paragraph 8 - Reparation Process – this section is supported but could be shortened and simplified. There is no need for example to say why part payments cause complications.

Paragraphs 9 and 10 are supported

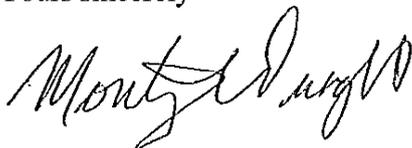
Paragraph 11 Completion of Reparation and Return of Gear.

This paragraph should be replaced with:

“On completion of the reparation agreement seized gear will be returned to the offender unless gear forfeiture was part of the reparation agreement”

Reparation Letter and Acceptance Form - It is assumed that the reparation offer letter and acceptance form are models for the guidance of policy users and are not part of the actual policy

Yours sincerely



Monty Wright
Chair

6 Chief Executives Report

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT AUGUST 2015

6.1 ADMINISTRATION

Finance and Administration

Financial Reports to 31 July 2015

A financial report for the financial year to 31 July 2015 is attached for your information. The summary spreadsheet has been structured so that it can be more easily compared with the approved budget of \$933,451.

Expenditure to date is \$1,874,077 (including levies \$894,033 and commission \$91,226) but excluding depreciation (\$71,786) compared with the annual budget of \$2,007,222 composed of Otago's expenditure budget (\$933,451), depreciation (nil), and levies (\$894,033) and excluding commission (\$96,183).

Overall expenditure is 87% of budget at a point 91% of the way through the year. This is satisfactory.

Total income to date is \$1,997,590 compared with budget of \$2,007,222.

Fishing licence sales revenue received for the year to date is \$1,585,559 (including commission). The fish budget figures for the full year is \$1,593,438 (\$1,266,959 plus commission \$79,672).

Game licence sales revenue received for the year to date is \$318,605 (including commission). The year's budget for game licence sales is \$330,229 (\$313,712 plus commission of \$16,511).

Licence Sales to 6 August 2015

Sales recorded to 6 August 2015 are outlined for fish and game in the attached table from Eyede. The comparison figure is for the whole of the previous year. Figures are inclusive of GST. While fishing licence sales (14735 LEQs) are almost the same as last year's sales (14759 LEQs) They are still behind the budget LEQ figure (whole season adult licence equivalents) of 14898.

There is still a gap between game sales this year (3981 LEQs) compared with last year (4089 LEQs) and again with the budget LEQ figure of 4267. This is not a final sales figure but indicate game sales are continuing to plateau or decline slightly

Funds Position at 31 July 2015

ANZ 00 account	\$101,693.38
ANZ 70 account	\$556,621.04

Reparation Trust Account

Account balance to 31 August 2014	\$ 52,614
Revenue for current year to 31 July 2014	\$ 7,254
Less Grants	<u>\$ 4,500</u>
Total	\$ 55,368

Term investments as at 31 July 2015:

ASB 0079	\$302,790.64 @ 3.95% maturing 11 th January 2016
SBS 44624	\$450,000@ 4.55% maturing 23 rd November

The sum of \$71,102 is held by Anderson Lloyd in trust for wetland management via DOC.

Agents and Debts

No liabilities or potential liabilities at the present time

Capital Expenditure

Two vehicles have been replaced at costs of \$40,036 (Skoda) and \$37,144 (Hilux). One vehicle (Colorado) has been sold for \$17,043 (all ex GST) by competitive tender.

A new 60hp outboard has been purchased for the Dunedin boat at a cost of \$9015. The old motor was sold on Trade Me for \$1565.22

Staff

Staff annual reviews have all been completed. Helen Keeling will be commencing a part time MSc in the new financial year on trophic interactions in Lake Hayes. I will be on extended leave from 3 September to 1 October inclusive and Ian Hadland will be Acting CE in my absence. All staff attended a two day South Island staff workshop in Twizel recently.

Land and Buildings

There have been some approaches about the future of the Wanaka Hatchery

CE to Report

Recommendation

That the Finance and Licence Sales Report for the period ending 31 July 2015 be received.

6.2 SPECIES

Waterfowl Monitoring (1111)

Shoveler and pukeko counts will be undertaken in August

Spawning Surveys (1112)

Spawning surveys for the season are mostly complete

Population Monitoring: (1113)

Lindis and Cardrona field work is being written up and field observations over this summer's drought have been compiled into a report which has been forwarded to Otago Regional Council. This is included as a separate report which because of its size was circulated in full in the June digital agenda only. The paper agenda only includes the report's summary and conclusions (See separate report – June agenda)

Success & Satisfaction (1122)

Nothing to report

Fish Salvage (1131)

Nothing to report

Hatchery Operations

Consideration is being given to growing more fish at the hatchery for our TAKF events by reducing the size of the fish reared from 1kg to around 700g. This is being trialed by feeding the fish in one outside tank every 2nd day instead of every day. Fish weights are being monitored.

Oceana Gold are in the process of replacing a pump shed housing the backup diesel water pump and installing a solar panel to keep the battery charged. The shed was damaged last year by strong wind. In addition the company are looking at modifying the water intake system to stop wild fish being sucked into the pipes. This has happened twice since the start of the hatchery.

Loan Pine Reservoir is back to its normal level after the drought

Releases (1161)

50x2yr fish were released in Southern Reservoir.

4000 young of the year (excess stock) were provided to Southland F&G to grow on for their TAKF events

1000 yoy were released into Tomahawk Lagoon

1000 yoy were released into Sullivan's Dam

Game Notice (1171)

Nothing to Report

Anglers Notice (1172)

See separate report from June agenda. The Minister has now approved new licence categories, fees and angling regulations

Game Bird Control (1181)

Nothing to report.

6.3 HABITAT

Resource Management (1211) Resource Management Complaints 2014/15

Date/Agency	Issue	Response
April 2015	F&G has received complaints and expressions of concern over Lake Tuakitoto water levels and cattle grazing within the wetland. These issues have been passed on to ORC and F&G staff plan to inspect the lake at the next opportunity	ORC advise the grazing lease over this area has been cancelled in response to this issue.
May 2015	A complaint was lodged with ORC about channel works in a Central Otago spawning stream in late May. ORC are investigating.	

Resource Consents

The Contact consent issue and the scale of their mitigation activities has been taken up with ORC and they have indicated they are willing to meet to discuss our concerns. A meeting was held recently with Contact's CE and three issues were raised: consent compliance over mitigation activities; loss of public access as a result of land disposals adjacent to the upper Clutha; the status of the Bendigo Wildlife Reserve area. The meeting also covered more general water issues with NZ Council's CE. While this was not the meeting we had requested it was a useful start to a dialogue with the company.

CE to report

Planning (1212)

Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group

Staff continue to be involved in the Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group which is developing a catchment wide strategy for enhancement of irrigation water storage and use in the Manuherikia Catchment. Economic viability of water storage options at Falls Dam (increasing dam height) and on the Upper Ida Burn are still being assessed. Consultants are in the process of finalising feasibility reports and the current focus of Fish and Game's interest is the incorporation of identified environmental outcomes into final feasibility reports

Minimum and Residual Flow Setting

Minimum and Residual Flows and Transition from Mining Privileges (TMP)		
River	Activity and status	Status
Lindis	Minimum flow & transition from mining privileges (TMP). Overallocated MALF 1860 l/s	Lindis fisheries research has been completed and is currently being written up. Economic analysis has been undertaken by OPUS and BERL, and now released by ORC. The study states that climate factors, not the level of minimum flows, is the limiting factor on agriculture in the catchment, and that the level set for a minimum flow will have a small

		<p>extra impact in comparison to climate.</p> <p>ORC reported a changed summer minimum flow proposal of 750 l/s, instead of the 450 l/s previously recommended.</p> <p>The plan change was notified on 8th August with submissions closing with ORC on Friday 4th September at 5.00pm.</p> <p>Several informal meetings have been held between F&G, CFT, Lindis irrigators, DOC, Ngai Tahu and ORC to share information and narrow areas of disagreement .</p>
Cardrona	<p>Minimum Flow & TMP</p> <p>Overallocated</p>	Mainstem fisheries and flow surveys undertaken over the summer period. A minimum flow proposal is expected in October or November 2015
Waikouaiti	<p>Minimum Flow Fully allocated</p> <p>MALF 258 l/s</p>	F&G have supported minimum flow of 220 l/s. Further action on the minimum flow has been deferred pending more research on estuary health which is planned this coming summer
Pomahaka	<p>Minimum flow</p> <p>MALF 4300 l/s</p>	The plan change has been completed setting minimum flows of 3600 l/s (summer) 7000 l/s (winter), primary allocation limit of 1000 l/s, and a supplementary allocation minimum flow of 13,0000 l/s.
Waiwera	<p>Minimum flow</p> <p>MALF 310 l/s</p>	F&G supported submissions for a minimum flows higher than that notified by ORC 260 l/s (summer) 400 l/s (winter) and sought a primary allocation limit of 500 l/s. An ORC hearing was held on 21 st April and a 300l/s summer minimum flow has been set.
Manuherikia	<p>Minimum flow Irrigation scheme investigation.</p> <p>MALF lower river 2126 l/s</p> <p>Overallocated</p>	Collaborative process underway involving F&G Irrigation scheme at feasibility study stage. There are some concerns about minimum and residual flows and water quality
Benger Burn	<p>Minimum flow &TMP.</p> <p>Overallocated</p>	Further action by ORC deferred pending more research on water resources and aquifer/surface water interaction.
Sow Burn	<p>TMP</p> <p>Overallocated</p>	The Sowburn all-of-catchment consent application remains with the Otago Regional Council. There have been two variations to the consent, to handle supplementary allocation. There is a remaining issue with affected party approval being required from a minority shareholder in a deemed permit which is preventing the consent from being granted. The ORC

		has also commissioned NIWA to undertake an investigation into the hydrological connection and transport time between Sowburn residual flows and the Taieri main-stem at Waipiata. This may affect the residual flow requirement on the Sowburn consents, which was negotiated to be 70 l/s. F&G staff are liaising with ORC staff to bring this long-standing project to a conclusion.
Kye Burn	TMP Overallocated MALF 500 l/s	F&G position is that a mainstem minimum between 200-300 l/s is required. A further assessment of habitat values and flow requirements has been completed.
Low Burn	Minimum flow TMP Overallocated	No action
Bannock Burn	Minimum flow TMP Overallocated	No action
Quartz Creek	TMP Overallocated	Report on fishery values has been completed
Tuapeka River	ORC Management Flow Report MALF 314 l/s	No action
12 Mile Creek (Wakatipu)	ORC Management Flow Report	No action

CE to Report

Transition from Mining Privileges (MPs) to RMA Consents

There is a continuing risk that processing of individual consent applications replacing mining privileges in overallocated Central Otago catchments will undermine environmental flows but recent agreement on affected party status improves the situation.

The basis for one recent individual RMA consent application to replace a mining privilege on Donald Stuart Creek has been agreed with the applicant after prolonged negotiations and sets a benchmark for future applications in over-allocated catchments.

Reserves Management (1221)

ORC has recently agreed to mitigation works within the DOC managed Triangle Wildlife Management Reserves in response to drain clearance to provide relief to an upstream landholder. The agreement will enable open water development where it is practical in a Regionally Important Wetland that does not have a lot of habitat diversity.

Wetland Protection (1232)

Nothing to report

Assisted Habitat (1230)

See confidential report on Habitat Enhancement Fund grants from June Agenda

River Management (1233)

Nothing to report

6.4 USER PARTICIPATION

Access (1311)

Silver Fern Farms (SFF) have approached Fish and Game about stopping a public road behind their Finedgand facility. The road is vested in Clutha District Council and they have rightly insisted SFF contact affected parties ahead of lodging a request. The road is formed and there is evidence of occasional use for angling including a substantial style over a fence where its alignment nears the Clutha River. Ian Hadland has met with SFF and explained Fish and Game's interest in securing additional access to and along the river and our interest in a 'like for like' swap in return for agreement.

Operations Manager to report

Signage (1312)

New Inch Clutha Reserve sign erected to replace the old damaged one

3x new "Closed Game Area" signs erected at Finegand Reserve

One sign and kiosk erected at the historical fish ponds

5x new foot access only signs at Inch Clutha

One new "Water of Leith" angler information sign erected at the Leith St foot bridge

Backcountry Fisheries (1321)

See separate report. There introduction of the non-resident licence (NRL) in the current season has resulted in 4,658 licences being sold of which 971 (21%) were sold in Otago. The higher fee generates about \$30 extra revenue (net of GST and commission) above that of an ordinary whole season licence. The Minister in approving NRLs required that additional revenue be ring-fenced for use on backcountry fisheries management given their importance as a drawcard and fishing destination for visiting anglers.

By agreement with Fish and Game the Ministers condition has been interpreted as meaning high value fisheries of importance to visiting anglers, not just backcountry waters. That gives a bit of room to move in management activity and avoids impact on core funding

NRL sales for the year by region appear to be a good measure of where visiting angling occurs and the current approach adopted is that the revenue should be spent on improved or more intensive management where it is collected. Revenue of almost \$30,000 from this year has been kept separate as a dedicated fund for backcountry fisheries management. In some regions there is very little visiting angling and NRL sales are low but sales are significant in regions where you would expect it, particularly in the South Island

Surprisingly Northland Council (see NZC correspondence has proposed that all additional revenue should be accumulated nationally and allocated on individual allocation. There have been other proposals as well to divert the money from its original purpose namely '*specific management to improve BC fisheries*'. These moves subvert the Minister's original intention. Establishment of a contestable fund involves significant transaction costs in terms of fund management and allocation. Applications are required to be prepared and deliberated over according to criteria to be developed. There is uncertainty over outcomes and management will be shorter term and project based as a result. This makes it difficult to develop an improved work programme for backcountry fisheries.

Otago has already got a fairly well developed backcountry fisheries management regime but the real shortfall comes through the cost of on-site biological/user monitoring (drift dives/ electric fishing, creel) and compliance monitoring (licencing, landings, concession conditions, habitat impacts). This invariably involves helicopter travel and has often involved temporary staffing.

At present we manage eight rivers as designated BC river fisheries and one as a controlled fishery. In addition we have a number of other rivers (eg. Upper Pomahaka, Dunstan Creek) that are not within the designated BC regime but have identified BC values and some other high value waters for visiting anglers. It is essential this funding is retained if management of Otago's backcountry fisheries is to be improved through a step up

Recommendation

That NRL revenue be retained in a dedicated fund by each Council based on its regional sales for specific management to improve backcountry fisheries

Magazine Supplements and Newsletters (1331)

Fishing Season supplement in preparation

Reel Life/Both Barrels

Monthly contributions to online newsletters Reel Life and Both Barrels have continued.

Newspaper Supplements (1332)

(See Game Season report)

River Reports (1333)

Nothing to report

Publications (1342)

Nothing to report

Web Site (1343)

Nothing to report

Fishing and Hunting Events (1351)

Nothing to report

Take-a-kid-fishing (1352)

Nothing to report

Club Liaison (1361)

Nothing to report

Commercial Use (1362)

Nothing to report

6.5 PUBLIC INTERFACE

Liaison (1411)

A draft MOU between DOC and Fish and Game has been completed with DOC and submitted to Te Ropu Kaitiaki I Araiteuru for feedback

Media (1431)

See Game Season report. In addition there has been coverage of the Pomahaka minimum flow result.

Advocacy (1432)

Nothing to Report

Tenure Reviews (1433)

After a quiet period, there is movement on tenure review proposals. Fish and Game staff visited Mt Hope Station (in the headwaters of the Pomahaka River) and a fish and game resources report is in preparation for this property to assist with the tenure review process.

Fish and Game staff have visited Longlands Station and Morven Hills Station as part of the NGO inspection team. These proposals appear acceptable from a Fish and Game perspective. The Morven Hills proposal will result in the headwaters of Dunstan Creek being returned to the Crown.

Staff have met with the new DOC tenure review manager, Jeremy Severinson, who is on secondment from LINZ, to discuss concerns with the process. It appears that the process will be improved to benefit Fish and Game and other stakeholders. Staff will make a similar approach to LINZ

A letter has been written to LINZ over public access requirements at Hukarere Station

6.6 COMPLIANCE

Ranging (1511)

Nothing to report

Ranger Support

Nothing to report

Prosecutions

All game season offences have now been resolved

OM to report

6.7 LICENCING

Licensing System (1611)

Work is continuing on arrangements for the introduction of new licence categories

Agents (1612)

Staff are liaising with agents over a number of issues including on-line licencing, phase out of paper licences and new licence categories. Ian Hadland has been working closely with NZC staff over a communications and marketing planning.

The scale of the changes involved mean there is a fair chance of hitting bumps in the road during implementation.

OM to report

6.8 COUNCIL

Elections (1710)

The triennial Fish and Game Council Elections are to be held on 9th October 2015. I am again acting as Returning Officer and *Electionz.com* are again contracted to run the Election.

Key election dates are as follows:

8th August – Public notification of election, call for candidate nominations and voter enrolments (candidate nomination forms available online)

27th August – Candidate nominations close

9th September – Voter enrolments close

17th September – distribution of voter packs to enrolled voters (votes can be cast by return post or online)

9th October – Election day – voting closes at 5.00pm

13th October – last day for receipt of postal votes. Candidates will be advised of results

Elected members take office 10 days after the electoral certificate is signed (29th if the certificate is signed on the 14th October) and must meet to elect an NZ Council appointee by 17th November.

That timing poses some difficulties. Otago presently has a meeting scheduled for Thursday 15th October but for practical reasons that could not be a meeting of the new council. After discussion with the Chair it is proposed that instead the first meeting of the new council be held on Thursday 29th October at which time an NZC appointee be elected.

This allows the date for the November meeting and AGM (Thursday 26th November) to stand. This of course means the August council meeting is the last meeting of the current Council

Recommendation

That the scheduled meeting of the Council for Thursday 15th October be postponed until Thursday 29th October.

Council (1720)

Risk and Audit Function – Notice of Motion

Colin Aldridge's Notice of Motion on the need for an Audit and Risk Committee follows:

That the Council establish a standing committee to be called the Audit and Risk Committee to monitor a range of risk areas including:

- *health and safety,*
- *legislative compliance,*
- *gifts and benefits,*
- *a schedule of delegations and audit of their exercise,*
- *travel register,*
- *credit card register and audit of exercise,*
- *liabilities schedule*

The committee, which be composed of two or three councillors, will be independent of other committees and responsible for auditing internal processes relating to the above areas and any other areas requiring oversight and for engaging with the external auditor in advance of the annual audit.

The committee shall report on its activities at each Council meeting.

CE's Comments on the motion

While I consider there is a need to consolidate the Council's audit and risk function I am reluctant to recommend going to a stand-alone committee to achieve that. The matters to be monitored through an audit and risk function were identified at the February meeting and are included in the table below but there may be others:

Risk area	Current approach
Health and safety procedures	Incident reporting to each staff meeting and now to each council meeting. Hazard ID at each staff meeting. H&S Manual upgrade underway based on Eastern FGC revisions. Incident reporting to ACC where required (injury accident)
Delegations and audit of exercise	Delegations currently listed in governance policy. No reporting on exercise
Gifts and benefits	Gifts register
Legislative compliance	Legislative compliance schedule complete but still overly complex
Travel register	No travel register for recording of significant travel
Credit card register	No Council credit cards. Expenses refunded through impress claims approved with other accounts (two approved signatories)
Liabilities	Reported to Council bi monthly
Capital purchases and disposals within budget	Reported to Council bi monthly

It is not possible to eliminate risk of fraud or process failure through the establishment of a committee or any other mechanism for that matter but an increase in oversight and control

helps reduce risks. The difficulty faced by a small organisation is the increasing burden of compliance activities required of us by changing accounting and other standards.

My understanding is that the audit part of the exercise involves sighting the various formal records (eg gifts register, health and safety records, personal claims payments) to make sure there is compliance, that processes are operating and that registers are up to date. In addition there would be some contact with the auditor in advance of the Auditor General's annual audit to address any matters the Council wanted covered

As an alternative to a committee I would like to suggest a biannual report to the full Council on audit and risk matters. In effect the Council carries the responsibility for monitoring audit and risk issues but this would formalise it.

For discussion

Legislative Compliance Schedule

The attached 'Legislative Compliance Schedule' lists all the Councils key legislative compliance requirements. This has been some time in preparation and needs to be formally adopted by Council. The list has been whittled down from a longer list.

Recommendation

That the legislative compliance schedule be adopted and reported against biannually

6.9 PLANNING AND REPORTING

Strategic Planning (1811)

As previously advised Sports Fish and Game Plan for Otago has been approved by the Minister of Conservation and is now operative. Copies have been sent to all relevant agencies and a media release has been made

Annual Plan and Budget (1821)

The draft annual plan is enclosed separately for your consideration and approval. With fees having been approved by the Minister Otago's budget for 2015/16 of \$950,834 has been approved will come back to the August meeting once licence fees have been approved by the Minister.

Consideration of the 2015/16 licence fees had to be dealt with outside a formal meeting because of the cancellation of the June meeting due to bad weather but there was a clear majority support.

Recommendation

That the draft Annual Plan for the 2015/2016 Financial Year

That the decision to support the 2015/2016 licence fee recommendations be ratified

Annual Report (1821)

The annual audit is scheduled commence after mid October with the aim of completing the annual report and having it signed off by the auditor in time for the AGM on 26th November 2015.

Accounting Standards for Public Benefit Entities

We have recently received input on this matter from Carmel Veitch (Eastern Fish and Game) who has been assessing Fish and Game Councils' compliance requirements for the new Accounting Standards for Public Sector Public Benefit Entities (PS PBE) which she advises will take effect from 31 August 2015. There are four Tiers within this reporting regime. The tier is determined by the size of the entity based on total expenses as follows:

Tiers Public Sector Public Benefit Entities

Tier	Annual Expenditure	Standards required	Reporting
1	Over \$30 million	PBE Standard	High level reporting
2	Between \$2 million and less than \$30 million	PBE Standard - RDR	High Level reporting with Reduced disclosure. (Reporting at a slightly higher level than we do now)
3	Less than or equal to \$2 million	PBE (PS)	Lower level accrual reporting
4	Less than \$125,000	PBE (PS)	Cash reporting

If expenditure is over \$2 million an agency is obliged to report in Tier 2. Any organisation can elect to move up a tier but cannot elect to move down. Otago had expenditure over \$2 million in 2013 and was \$1.9 million in 2014 and so is straddling the boundary between Tiers 1 and 2. Otago's budgeted expenditure for 2014/15 will exceed the \$2 million threshold (\$2,052,952) so therefore it makes sense to report in Tier 2 for the 2014/15 Annual Report.

Recommendation:

That Council report under Tier 2 for Public Sector Public Benefit Entities Standard – RDR (reduced disclosure regime) from the year ending August 2015 onwards

National Liaison (1841)

Staff continue to be involved in the Licencing Working Party (NW)and the Licence Category Review (IH). I have recently resigned from the LWP in favour of Ian Hadland. This allows Ian's marketing expertise to be applied in this area.

Peter Wilson has been assisting with planning advice in other regions.

Niall Watson
Chief Executive
August 2015

Summary of Draft Profit and Loss Statement Expenses 31st July 2015
As At 6/08/2015

Expense	Total Budget	Actual Expenditure	YtD %	Comment
		Ytd		
Projects				
Species	\$ 24,600.00	\$ 27,570.00	112%	
Habitat	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 17,751.00	222%	
Participation	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 29,109.00	78%	
Public Interface	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 539.00	6%	
Compliance	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 2,936.00	23%	
Licences	\$ 500.00	\$ 666.00	133%	
Council	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,028.00	90%	
Planning	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 14,567.00	146%	
Projects Total	\$ 112,600.00	\$ 102,166.00	91%	
Administration				
Salaries	\$ 650,623.00	\$ 604,539.00	93%	
Staff Expenses	\$ 23,200.00	\$ 13,473.00	58%	Helen Brazil flights and Morgan Masters reimbursements so low
Office Premises	\$ 83,450.00	\$ 68,901.00	83%	
Office Equipment	\$ 18,374.00	\$ 3,074.00	17%	
Communication	\$ 28,666.00	\$ 28,454.00	99%	
General	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 8,489.00	47%	
General Equipment	\$ 13,944.00	\$ 5,654.00	41%	
Vehicles	\$ 68,149.00	\$ 54,068.00	79%	
Administration Total	\$ 904,406.00	\$ 786,652.00	87%	
Total	\$ 1,017,006.00	\$ 888,818.00	87%	

Depreciation		\$ 71,786.00		
Commission Expense	\$ 96,183.00	\$ 91,226.00	95%	
RMA Expenses reimbursed				
Levies	\$ 894,033.00	\$ 894,033.00	100%	

**Otago Fish & Game Council
Profit and Loss - Summary
for Period Ended Jul:2014/15**

		-----Month to Date-----			-----Year to Date-----					
		Actual	Budget	% of Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance	Annual Budget	YTD Actual Budget	Last YTD
INCOME										
FISH AND GAME LICENCE SA...										
1000	Fishing Licences Income	17,243	132,786	13%	1,585,559	1,460,652	124,907	1,593,438	100%	1,469,886
1006	Game Licences Income	1,749	27,519	6%	318,605	302,710	15,895	330,229	96%	316,091
		18,992	160,305	12%	1,904,164	1,763,362	140,802	1,923,667	99%	1,785,977
OTHER INCOME										
1010	Interest received	4,524	3,379	134%	32,914	37,176	(4,262)	40,555	81%	29,768
1020	Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	10	500	2%	911	5,900	(4,989)	6,000	15%	8,273
1022	Reparations Trust Fund	0	0	0%	2,754	0	2,754	0	0%	5,760
1025	Rent Received	4,633	3,083	150%	39,633	33,917	5,716	37,000	107%	34,881
1050	Project Income	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	6,000
1055	Fishing Competitions	0	0	0%	1,049	0	1,049	0	0%	1,089
1075	Commissions Income	3	0	0%	2,000	0	2,000	0	0%	1,631
1090	Sundry Income	235	0	0%	17,926	0	17,926	0	0%	2,222
1092	Merchandise Sales/Other	164	0	0%	(6,724)	0	(6,724)	0	0%	(1,747)
1094	Donations Received	0	0	0%	2,963	0	2,963	0	0%	9,000
1096	RMA Costs Reimbursed	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	15,087
		9,569	6,962	137%	93,425	76,593	16,832	83,555	112%	111,964
TOTAL INCOME		28,661	167,267		1,997,590	1,839,955	157,635	2,007,222		1,897,941
EXPENDITURE										
SPECIES MANAGEMENT										
POPULATION MONITOR / MMT										
		0	966	0%	17,076	10,634	6,442	11,600	147%	5,197
HARVEST ASSESSMENT										
		0	250	0%	0	2,750	(2,750)	3,000	0%	0
FISH SALVAGE										
		0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	6
HATCHERY OPERATIONS										
		0	833	0%	10,494	9,167	1,327	10,000	105%	9,098
RELEASES										
		0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
REGULATIONS										
		0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
CONTROL										
		0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
SPECIES MANAGEMENT-...		0	2,049	0%	27,570	22,551	5,019	24,600	112%	14,301
HABITAT PROTECTION										
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT A...										
		5,597	291	1,923%	18,686	3,209	15,477	3,500	534%	37,961
WORKS & MMT COUNCIL LAND										
		526	291	181%	(935)	3,209	(4,144)	3,500	(27)%	578
ASSISTED HABITAT										
		0	83	0%	0	917	(917)	1,000	0%	4,507
HABITAT PROTECTION-T...		6,122	665	921%	17,751	7,335	10,416	8,000	222%	43,046
PARTICIPATION										
ACCESS										
		209	291	72%	3,099	3,209	(110)	3,500	89%	1,349
SATISFACTION SURVEYS										
		0	416	0%	2,215	4,584	(2,369)	5,000	44%	2,273
NEWSLETTERS										
		0	1,291	0%	17,877	14,209	3,668	15,500	115%	15,986
OTHER PUBLICATIONS										
		494	583	85%	494	6,417	(5,923)	7,000	7%	0
TRAINING										
		288	375	76%	4,608	4,125	483	4,500	102%	4,826
CLUB RELATIONS										
		0	166	0%	694	1,834	(1,140)	2,000	35%	430
HUTS										
		17	0	0%	123	0	123	0	0%	161
PARTICIPATION-TOTAL		1,005	3,122	32%	29,109	34,378	(5,269)	37,500	78%	25,025

Balance Sheet
Otago Fish & Game Council
 Balance Sheet
 As at 31 July 2015

CAPITAL		This Year	Last Year End
7500	Opening Equity	1,039,201.00	1,039,201.00
9015	Retained Earnings Brght Fwd	<u>1,593,865.83</u>	<u>1,568,076.20</u>
		2,633,066.83	2,607,277.20
	Plus Current Year Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	51,726.96	25,789.63
	TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS	<u><u>2,684,793.79</u></u>	<u><u>2,633,066.83</u></u>
REPRESENTED BY			
CURRENT ASSETS			
5005	Cash on Hand	200.00	200.00
5022	Stock on Hand	0.00	7,354.00
5030	Accrued Interest	0.00	2,571.66
5040	Prepayments	0.00	11,078.69
5050	Investments - ANZ National Bank	0.00	423,746.24
5060	ASB Investments	296,291.92	289,684.20
5080	SBS Investments	450,000.00	0.00
5800	GST Paid	39,147.08	0.00
6805	GST Payments/Refunds IRD	1,763.40	1,763.04
ACCREC	Trade Debtors	30,689.75	125,053.35
ASB_00	ASB 00 Account	1.15	1.15
NB00	National/ANZ 00 Account	103,413.48	78,617.04
NB70	National/ANZ 70 Account	556,621.04	290,133.50
UNBANK	Unbanked	<u>0.00</u>	<u>314.00</u>
		1,478,127.82	1,230,516.87
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
6000	Sundry Creditors	37,328.12	37,328.12
6010	Holiday Pay Accrued	35,325.00	35,325.00
6040	PAYE Control	7,811.39	0.00
6800	GST Received	5,872.23	0.00
ACCSPAY	Trade Creditors	<u>289,006.07</u>	<u>67,477.48</u>
		375,342.81	140,130.60
	NET WORKING CAPITAL	1,102,785.01	1,090,386.27
TERM ASSETS			
5070	Anderson Lloyd Investment	<u>71,102.06</u>	<u>71,102.06</u>
		71,102.06	71,102.06
FIXED ASSETS			
7000	Vehicles Purchases	295,314.03	235,177.60
7001	M/V Accum Deprn	(120,789.00)	(78,989.00)
7020	Boat Purchases	99,836.30	90,722.06
7021	Boat Accum Deprn	(71,523.00)	(67,343.00)
7200	Plant Purchases	58,274.10	53,894.10
7201	Plant Accum Deprn	(49,444.00)	(42,030.00)
7300	Furniture & Fittings	32,532.20	28,255.00
7301	Furniture Accum Deprn	(28,174.74)	(26,854.74)
7400	Field Equipment Purchases	34,610.96	34,610.96
7401	Field Eq Accum Deprn	(19,994.00)	(19,554.00)
7440	Land Purchases	414,410.77	414,410.77
7450	Buildings Purchases	629,287.49	596,081.14
7451	Buildings Accum Deprn	(304,937.50)	(291,935.50)
7460	Land @ Fair Value	426,260.00	426,260.00
7462	Building @ Fair Value	162,085.11	162,085.11
7463	Buildings @ FV - Accum Deprn	<u>(46,842.00)</u>	<u>(43,212.00)</u>
		1,510,906.72	1,471,578.50
	NET ASSETS	<u><u>2,684,793.79</u></u>	<u><u>2,633,066.83</u></u>

Channel	FWF	FWA	FMNA	FMNJ	FWJ	FWNJ	FWIA	FWIJ	F24A	F24J	Total	Fish LEQ	Total Value
2013-2014													
Agency	2147	3037	0	323	0	113	14	744	39		6417		
Retail Book	1197	2195	0	294	0	340	40	4549	390		9005		
Public Online	1284	1699	0	141	0	92	10	1530	106		4862		
Eyede Call Centre	1	5	0	0	0	3	0	3	0		12		
Mail Order	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0		
Total	4629	6936	0	758	0	548	64	6826	535		20296	14759	\$1,785,908
2014-2015													
Agency	2595	3734	417	434	9	150	21	865	59		8285		
Retail Book	577	1062	0	190	0	46	4	3291	288		5458		
Public Online	1326	1553	563	148	21	71	7	1816	93		5607		
Eyede Call Centre	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	5	0		10		
Mail Order	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0		
Total	4499	6351	981	772	30	268	32	5977	440		19360	14735	\$1,850,840

Report Name: Regional Sales Multi Dates

Report Parameters: Regions: Otago

Seasons 1: Fishing 2013/14 ; From: 1/01/2013 To: 6/08/2015

Seasons 2: Fishing 2014/15 ; From: 1/01/2014 To: 6/08/2015

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*24 Hour licence count is based on number of days that the licence is valid for. Books are counted from the day they were Processed.

Otago	2013-2014	Channel										Total Value
		GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ				
	Agency	2259	212	76	24	1	2572					
	Retail Book	1246	126	43	21	3	1439					
	Public Online	481	47	26	64	5	623					
	Eyede Call Centre	3	0	0	0	0	3					
	Mail Order	0	0	0	0	0	0					
	Total	3989	385	145	109	9	4637	4089				\$373,223

Otago	2014-2015	Channel										Total Value
		GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ				
	Agency	2459	210	81	52	3	2805					
	Retail Book	880	61	24	2	1	968					
	Public Online	556	50	23	30	2	661					
	Eyede Call Centre	4	0	0	0	0	4					
	Mail Order	0	0	0	0	0	0					
	Total	3899	321	128	84	6	4438	3981				\$363,201

Report Name: Regional Sales Multi Dates
Report Parameters: Regions: Otago
Seasons 1: Game 2014 ; From: 1/01/2014 To: 6/08/2015
Seasons 2: Game 2015 ; From: 1/01/2015 To: 6/08/2015
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*24 Hour licence count is based on number of days that the licence is valid for. Books are counted from the day they were Processed.

OTAGO FISH AND GAME COUNCIL - LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE – 29 July 2015

The Council has to comply with all relevant legislation. This schedule includes the main Acts and Regulations relating to Fish and Game Council activities but is not exhaustive.

Act or Regulations	Key provisions	Comments	Responsibility
Conservation Act 1987	S 17 s26 R, s26S s26T, s26X s26ZD, s40 (1) (5)	Council responsible for: preparation of Fish and Game Plan; compliance with Conservation Act and Wildlife Act, regulations and gazette notice conditions; preparation of Anglers Notices; appointment of staff; production of annual report; holding at least 6 meeting PA,	Chief Executive
Freshwater Fisheries Regulations	Regulation 51	Authorisation of use of electric fishing machines within region	Chief Executive
Fish and Game Council Election Regulations 1990	Regulation 3, 20, 26	Council responsible for: appointing a returning officer; returning officer responsible for preparing rolls and conducting elections. Council responsible for meeting post election and appointment of NZ Council member	Council Chief Executive
Crown Entities Act 2004	S150 (3)	Annual Report presented to Parliament	Chief Executive
Public Finance Act 1989	S 43, Part 5, subpart 2, Schedule 4	Council responsible for preparation of annual report including financial statements and statement of service performance	Chief Executive Administration Officer Accountant (Adair Craik)
Public Audit Act 2001	S4	Council defined as a public entity	
Wildlife Act 1953	s15, s39 (1), s44, s53, s54	Council responsible for: annual game season recommendations; day to day management of Wildlife Management Reserves under delegation from the Minister [Inch Clutha, Little Hoopers Inlet]; exercise any written authority from the DG for taking or killing of game	Chief Executive Fish and Game Officers Rangers

Wildlife Regulations	Parts 2 and 3		
Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act	Parts 2 and 7	Council responsible for conduct of meetings in accordance with Act and responses to OIA requests	Council Chief Executive
Resource Management Act 1991	Parts 3 and 6	Council responsible for compliance with the Act in terms of buildings, structures and land and water use.	Chief Executive Operations Manager
Employment Relations Act 2000		Employment contract obligations in respect of restructuring	Council (CE) Chief Executive (staff)
Parental Leave and Employment Protection Act 1987	Parts 1 and 2	Employment contract obligations in respect of parental leave	Council (CE) Chief Executive (staff)
State Sector Act 1988	s 56, s58	Council responsible for being a good employer	Council (CE) Chief Executive (staff)
Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992	Part 2	Council responsible for taking all practicable steps to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and maintain a safe working environment for employees • Ensure employees are not exposed to hazards while at work • Develop emergency procedures • Ensure employees are trained and supervised • Provide employees with information on hazards • Record, report and investigate accidents • Systematically identify and assess hazards • Control significant hazards 	Operations Manager Chief Executive Council
Maritime Transport Act 1994	Part 2	Council responsible for boat certification and safe use by staff	Operations Manager Chief Executive Council
Privacy Act 1993		Council responsible for appropriate handling of personal information notably licence holder data; compliance reports; mail lists	Chief Executive Operations Manager Administration

			Officer
Human Rights Act 1993		Council responsible for compliance with human rights obligations under the Act	Chief Executive Operations Manager Compliance Coordinator
Protected Disclosures Act 2000		Council responsible for compliance with obligations under the Act	Chief Executive
Search and Surveillance Act	S3, Part 4, s169 (2) (3), s171, s172`	Council responsible for compliance with obligations under the Act including annual reporting on exercise of surveillance powers during ranging.	Rangers and F&G Staff Operations Manager Chief executive
Holidays Act 2003		Employment contract obligations in respect of annual leave and public holidays	Administration Officer Chief Executive
Crown Entities Act 2004	s25	Council responsible for exercise of its powers and performance of functions under the Act and other Acts	Chief Executive Council
Income Tax Act 2007	Parts CX and RD	Council responsible for FBT returns and PAYE deductions and returns	Administration Officer Chief Executive
Goods and Services Tax Act 1985	Parts 2 and 3	Council responsible for GST payments, deductions and returns	Administration Officer Chief Executive
Kiwi Saver Act 2006	Parts 2 and 3	Council responsible for enrolment of staff in kiwi saver	Administration Officer Chief Executive

7 Committee Reports

7.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust

7.2 NZC Meeting

8 Staff and Technical Reports

8.1 Compliance Summary 2014/15 - I Hadland

COUNCIL REPORT AUGUST 2015

Compliance Summary Report 2014/15 Season

Purpose

This report provides a brief summary of the compliance effort for the 2014/15 fishing and hunting seasons including Court prosecutions undertaken by the Council and reparations made by offenders.

It also reports on achievement of internal regional compliance guidelines of:

- Checking 10% of fish or game adult full season licence holders annually
- Maintaining 95% compliance with laws and regulations.

Chapter 10 of the recently approved Sports Fish and Game Management Plan contains additional objectives and policies which will be reported against in future. (At this stage these are largely being met by the current regime)

Fishing Season Compliance

Documented fish licence holder contacts	1173
Total whole season adult and family licence holders	10818
% Checked (target: >10% Adult licence holders)	9.2%
Number of offenders (excluding Failure to Produce or "FTP's")	27
% Compliant (target: >95%)	97.5%

There were 1173 recorded interviews with anglers over the course of the season – around 200 less than last year. Of these, around 18% were undertaken as part of an organised creel or peak use survey. The remainder of fishing licence checks were undertaken at random by both staff and our dedicated honorary ranging team spread throughout the region.

The above table shows that the compliance team didn't quite meet its target of 10% client contacts. This is the first year in over a decade that the target has not been reached. This is disappointing, especially given it was one of the best summers we have had over that period.

The 27 fishing offenders dealt with was three more than last year. The overall compliance rate was 97.5%, well above the 95% threshold meaning that this year's angling compliance has been very good. In addition to the number of offences, a further 20 anglers failed to produce a licence on demand (FTP's) and these were given verbal or written warnings.

Types Of Fishing Offences

Fishing without a licence is still by far the most common offence. One of the offenders provided false particulars.

Fishing Prosecution Summary

- 16 out of 16 offenders that were offered the Councils reparation option accepted and were dealt with out of court.
- One offender has had proceedings filed against him for Fishing without a licence. (See below)
- One further offender was jailed for other more serious offences before a prosecution could be initiated.
- 10 written warnings were given for minor offences.
- 20 anglers were given failure to produce a licence notices and subsequently provided them to the office for verification.

Fishing Prosecutions

As noted above, one fishing without a licence case is to be heard in the Invercargill District Court on the 18th August.

The offender was caught for a second time in two years for fishing without a licence. In the first instance, the offender was offered and accepted reparation. While he requested to resolve the matter in the same way this time, he was refused. Council policy requires the offender must have not previously offended against the Conservation or Wildlife Acts to qualify for reparation so the matter was referred straight to court.

We should be able to provide an update of the hearings outcome at the meeting.

Game Season Compliance

Game season compliance activity has been briefly reported on but below is a short summary

Total documented Game licence holder contacts	171
Total whole season adult and family licence holders	3879
% Checked (target: >10% Adult licence holders)	4.5%
Number of offenders (excluding FTP's)	6
% Compliant (target: > 95%)	96.5%

It will be noted that the target of 10% of gamebird licence holders was not achieved again this year. It is an almost unattainable target, especially when much of our compliance work is focused on opening weekend and on small farm ponds - often with great distances between. The compliance rate was considerably better than our target of 95%.

The 5 offenders were caught in possession of lead shot while hunting waterfowl within 200m of water. One further hunter was caught without a hunting licence. The overall results were pleasing.

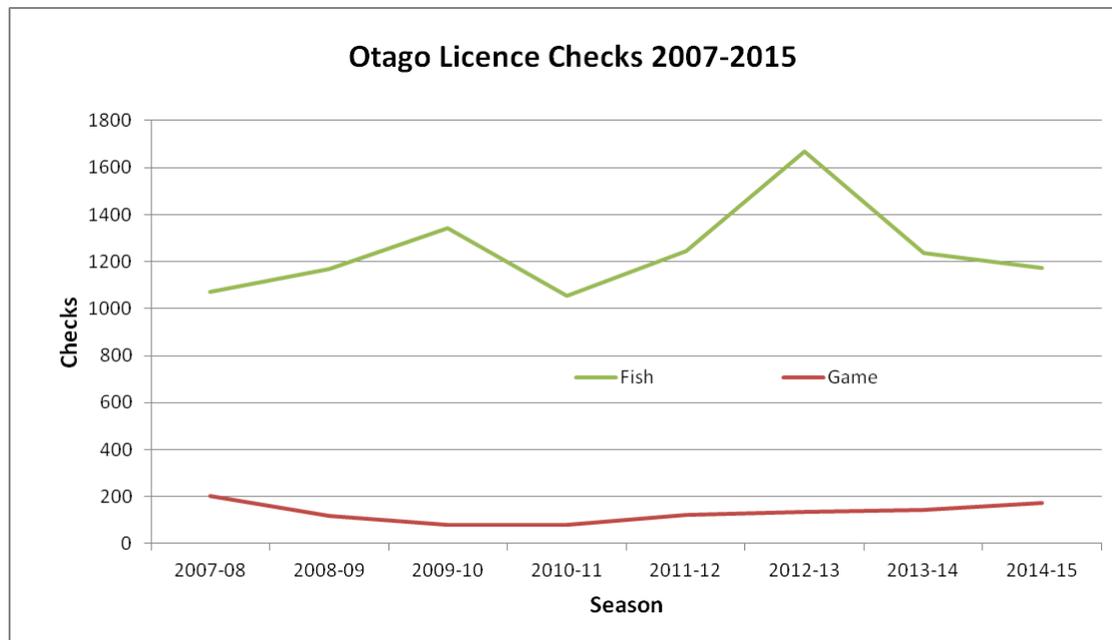
Gamebird Season Prosecution Summary

- All three offenders offered the councils reparation package completed its terms.
- 3 warning letters were issued. Two for possession of lead shot (unoccupied maimai but no hunter claimed the ammunition). A further warning letter was written to an offender who was in possession of lead near a waterway but interpretation of the current regulations pertaining to what is a waterway put any prosecution at risk. This is yet to be resolved nationally.
- 2 hunters that failed to produce their licences on the day did so within 7 days.
- No court prosecutions required

Trends In Ranging Activity

Over the last couple of seasons there has been an increase in the number of licence checks completed during organised events and peak use surveys. This type of activity is being used as a training ground for new rangers and provides a useful way to stretch staff resources further. This is particularly prevalent when undertaking boat based creel surveys over the summer at the large southern lakes. This has changed the pattern of checks and we are now seeing lower numbers of roving licence checks from honorary rangers. Staff will look at options to improve this in the coming season to ensure we maintain a good spread of CLE activity across the region.

The chart below highlights a three yearly peak in activity. It is noted that this coincides with the year of the rangers warrant renewal which run in three year terms.



Changes In Honorary Rangers

Two new rangers were appointed in the Queenstown area and one ranger passed away (Rod Spackman of Glenorchy). The three yearly review of rangers is currently underway with active rangers needing to be rewarranted by the 1st September. At this early stage it appears

that the Council will remain well serviced by around 20 rangers with a good geographical spread.

Reparation Levels

Over the last three years, over 90% of offenders have taking up the Councils reparation package. This indicates that the current reparation levels are appropriate. If that proportion were to decrease below say 80% there would be a significant increase in the number of court prosecutions and with it, an increase in associated costs. At present, it typically costs more to prosecute an offender in court than is ever recovered by way of fines. However, the Council has a very high success rate in terms of convictions and it is acknowledged as a necessary component of CLE activities.

Reparation rates remain consistent with CSI region. Money collected continues to be diverted into the Council's Habitat Enhancement Fund.

National Policy for reparation is presently being considered by regional councils and the NZC. Otago has made strong submissions (alongside Southland) to ensure that the current regime in use in our respective regions forms the basis for any policy. Having national policy, provided it is sufficiently broad and flexible, does assist in ensuring that our reparation system is positively viewed and sanctioned by the Courts.

Recommendations

- Reparation levels (as described in attached schedule) remain the same for the current financial year.
- Volunteers Rangers be thanked sincerely for their continued professional effort.
- Council receive this report.

Ian Hadland
Operations Manager
14/08/2015

Appendix 2 From The Otago Offence Guidelines Document

(Approved by Council October 2010 and fees below last reaffirmed Oct 2014)

Reparation Levels For Various Categories Of Offences –

Offence	Section	Reparation Fee	Average Fine	Range
Fishing without a licence	Conservation Act s26ZI	\$500*	\$513	\$200 - \$700
<i>Fishing without a Backcountry licence</i>	<i>Conservation Act s26ZI</i>	<i>\$500</i>	<i>No cases</i>	<i>No cases</i>
Non-compliance with Anglers Notice (eg Using more than one rod etc)	Conservation Act s26 R (6)	\$200	No cases	No cases
Fishing out of season (unintentional)	Conservation Act s26ZP	\$200	No cases	No cases
Hunting without a licence	Wildlife Act s19(1)	\$600*	\$510	\$300-\$700
Breach of Game Gazette conditions (eg. Over bag limit, lead shot)	Wildlife Act s6(3)	\$500	\$487	\$250 -\$700

Notes:

- Reparation levels are in line with Central South Island Region levels.
- Average fines do not include court costs (generally \$130) or solicitors fees (range between \$75 and \$600) or the forfeiture of shotguns or fishing equipment
- Information based on last 3 years of prosecutions in Otago and Southland Region.
- Last review October 2014

8.2 Lake Wanaka Angler Survey - C Halford

COUNCIL REPORT AUGUST 2015

Project 1122 LAKE WANAKA PEAK SEASON ANGLER SURVEYS

Introduction

Angler surveys in the summer during peak holiday periods provide a useful way to monitor angling effort, catch rates, harvest, and compliance with fishing regulations. Surveys were undertaken on Lake Wanaka during the 2014/15 summer season and this report summarises those findings and comparisons with previous seasons.

Method

The lake creel survey methodology was used to interview all anglers by boat and from the shore and the standard reporting sheet was used to document angler and catch information with fish inspected weighed and measured. All survey information has been recorded on a data base. A minimum of four surveys was scheduled.

Results

In the 2014/15 angling season Lake Wanaka anglers were surveyed on five individual days resulting in 104 interviews for 132.8 hours angling effort. Fourteen fish were weighed and measured with a further seven fish released.

Compliance with fishing regulations was satisfactory with 8 failure to produce licence offences which were later cleared. One no licence offence was processed.

Catch and Harvest Rates

Season	Total Interviews	Total Angling Hours	Total Fish Caught	Fish Returned	Catch Rate	Harvest Rate
2014/15	104	132.8	21	7	0.15	0.10
2013/14	60	61.0	9	4	0.14	0.08
2012/13	127	167.5	18	3	0.11	0.09

Catch Analysis

Season	Brown trout		Rainbow trout		Salmon	
	Kept	Released	Kept	Released	Kept	Released
2014/15	10	5	4	1	-	1
2013/14	4	1	1	2	-	1
2012/13	7	3	8	-	-	-

Catch by Method (number of fish caught)

Season	Bait	Fly	Spin	Jig	Lead Line	Surface Line	Down Rigger
2014/15	-	3	-	-	15	3	-
2013/14	-	1	-	-	6	2	-
2012/13	-	1	2	2	10	2	1

Catch Rate by Method (fish per hour)

Season	Bait	Fly	Spin	Jig	Lead Line	Surface line	Down Rigger
2014/15	-	0.33	-	-	0.20	0.10	-
2013/14	-	0.18	-	-	0.16	0.17	-
2012/13	-	0.30	0.16	2.0	0.10	0.04	0.08

Angling Effort by Method

Season	Bait	Fly	Spin	Jig	Lead Line	Surface line	Down Rigger
2014/15	-	17%	7%	-	55%	21%	-
2013/14	1%	9%	12%	-	59%	19%	-
2012/13	-	2%	7%	1%	54%	28%	7%

From 2012 – 2015 trolling inclusive of lead line, surface line and down rigging has been the most popular method and accounting for 81% of the overall catch. Fly anglers had some success with 10% of the overall catch. One jig angler caught 2 fish for one hours angling in the 2012 – 2013 season. Bait angling isn't being picked up during our surveys but it is possible that holiday anglers camping around the shorelines could be bait fishing into the evening.

Average Length and Weight of Fish 2012-2015

2012-2015	Number	Average length (mm)	Average weight (grams)
Brown	21	472	1120
Rainbow	*11	474	1120
Salmon	**	-	-

*13 rainbow in total were inspected but two were cleaned.

** No salmon were inspected over the three seasons but two were caught and released in separate seasons

Licences classes for each Fish and Game region 2014 – 2015 and Total % for 2012 - 2015

Licence Region	Number	%	% 2012 - 2015
Otago	41	39	46
North Canterbury	36	35	29
Southland	19	18	15
Central South Island	4	4	6
Non Resident	4	4	2
Other			>1

Licences from the Otago Region were 51% and 52% for the 2012 - 2014 seasons and 39% for the 2014 – 2015 season. Anglers from North Canterbury continue to show a strong presence during the holiday season. The non-resident licence will likely show an upward trend in the future providing useful information on overseas anglers.

Licence classes for 2014 – 2015 and % for 2012 - 2015

Category	Number	%	% 2012 - 2015
Family Season Adult	49	47	48
Adult Whole Season	32	30	31
Child Free	13	13	8
Non Resident	4	4	1.4
Junior on Family Licence	2	2	2.4
Child on Family licence	2	2	3.5
Adult 24 hour	2	2	3.8
Junior Season			1.4

The Family licence is showing its popularity accounting for 48% of all licence types over the past three seasons. The percentage of adult season licence holders has remained steady. It will be interesting to see how holiday anglers respond to the new categories for the 2015 – 2016 season.

Recommendation

That this report be received.

Cliff Halford
Fish and Game Officer
July 2015

**COUNCIL REPORT
AUGUST 2015**

Quartz Creek Fishery and Residual Flow Setting

Introduction

Quartz Creek is a small stream situated on the range between Lakes Hawea and Wanaka with two branches flowing through the Mount Burke Station pastoral lease. The larger East Branch originates to the east of Mount Burke flowing between Mount Gold and Mount Maude with the smaller West Branch joining approx 2.8 kilometres upstream of Lake Wanaka in Stevenson's Arm (figure 1). The stream supports an annual spawning run of trout from Lake Wanaka and provides juvenile recruitment to the Lake Wanaka sports fishery.

The East Branch of Quartz Creek is completely diverted for irrigation at low flows during the spring through the summer months and over prolonged periods during dry seasons. A weir with a diversion structure diverts water into a race system limiting fish passage and dewatering the lower section of the stream and stranding fish. Fish salvages have been undertaken when inflows haven't been sufficient to bypass unwanted water past the weir and into the lower section of the stream.

The water take was subject to a water race licence granted in 1934. This was renewed in March 2003 as a deemed permit under the Resource Management Act which will expire on 1 October 2021. It was then reissued on July 7 2004 to reflect transfer of holder to Mount Burke Station limited. With the licence expiring in 2021 it is important that an appropriate residual flow is established to protect in-stream and fisheries values.

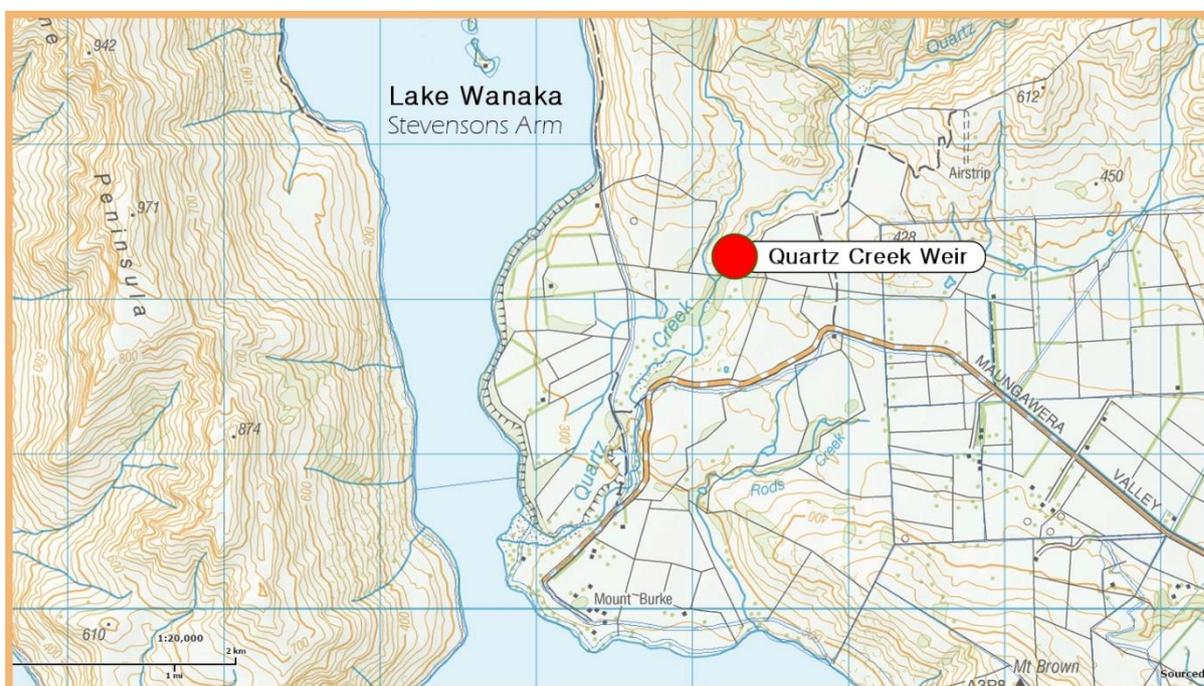


Figure 1: Location of the weir on Mount Burke Station situated approximately 3 kilometres upstream of Lake Wanaka

Current Water Take and Weir Structure

The deemed permit allows a combined total of 400 cubic metres of water per hour from Mount Gold Creek and Quartz Creek. The Quartz Creek take allows 111.11 litres per second.

The weir and point of take of Quartz Creek is situated approximately 3 kilometres upstream from Lake Wanaka. The weir and concrete apron is fitted with a steel and timber guillotine attached to pulleys which is lowered into place to shut off the flow and divert it into a screened race on the true right (Figure 2). Sacking has been used to “seal off” when all the flow is wanted. A large pool below the concrete apron restricts upstream migrating fish but many jump onto the concrete apron when flows are sufficient and gain access to better spawning grounds in the upper section of the stream (figure 3).

In most seasons the guillotine is positioned in November but timing of the take is dependent on climatic conditions and farming operational requirements.



*Figure 2: Showing the concrete dam structure and Guillotine
(Photo taken 11.12.13)*

Hydrology

There is little hydrological information available from Quartz Creek but an estimate of the mean annual low flow (MALF) at the weir is 107 litres/second and MALF at the confluence with Lake Wanaka has been estimated as 122 litres/second based on flow modelling.



*Figure 3: Adult rainbow trout trapped in the pool below the dam structure Note the limited out flow to the lower section of the stream in the top right of the picture.
(Photo taken 26.11.10)*

Fish Migration

The rainbow trout spawning run is generally August to November with the majority of the run in September and October. The first kilometre of stream from the Lake confluence has limited holding water or pools and sufficient spring flows are required for fish to gain access, otherwise they will hold up in the lake until flows are acceptable.

Little spawning occurs in the first kilometre of the stream from the lake upstream to the farm bridge because of the rocky nature of the bed. There is considerable spawning in the next two kilometres of stream from the farm bridge to the weir. Rainbow trout spawn in the upper river but the weir restricts passage for all spawners. Stronger fish navigate the weir but many have to drop back to spawn which creates some superimposition and loss of recruitment. When the guillotine is positioned the lower stream dries quickly (within 2-3 days) and these fish along with juveniles either become stranded in small pools and runs requiring salvage or die in drying reaches.

Fish that navigate the weir have good spawning opportunities upstream with a range of in-stream habitats and better spawning gravels than the lower river. Early spawners that out-migrate before the guillotine is positioned have a realistic chance of returning to the lake with the connected flow. However later spawners in November are regularly trapped above the weir when irrigation water is being abstracted.

On November 26 2014 a survey was undertaken to count trout redds and fish starting at the farm bridge 1 kilometre upstream from Lake Wanaka and finishing 2.5 kilometres above the weir. 79 redds and 132 adult fish were seen downstream of the weir with 49 redds and 36 adult fish seen upstream. Some fish above the weir were observed paired up spawning and it was expected further redds, and fish were in the upper river above the surveyed section. A

number of earlier spawning adults and juveniles would have out-migrated back to Lake Wanaka by this time.

The full extent of the rainbow spawning run has not been established but it is possible several hundred fish access the river. There is a significant loss of recruitment from the upper section of the stream to out – migrating rainbow fry and juveniles entrained into the irrigation race when the diversion guillotine is positioned.

Brown trout are present in the stream but less is known about migration and spawning numbers. Some juveniles were captured while salvaging fish in December 2014. Because of their winter spawning period migrating brown trout are less affected by spring water abstraction but the weir would inhibit upstream passage, restrict spawning opportunities and likely impact on juvenile recruitment.

Fish Salvaging

Fish salvages have been undertaken over many years through the Wildlife Service era and by its successor Fish and Game. Salvage is dependent on spring flows and farm management practices but has generally been undertaken in late November and early December. Communication with Mount Burke Station owners has been important to facilitate salvage operations in conjunction with the lowering of the guillotine.

Salvage exercises have involved rescuing post spawning fish from the large pool below the weir, the drying bed downstream to the lake, and immediately upstream of the weir. This involves several people herding and catching fish with hand nets, placing them in a trailer liberation unit and releasing them back to Lake Wanaka. In recent years members of the Upper Clutha Anglers Club have provided great support (figure 4). An electro-fishing unit has been used on occasions to herd adult fish and capture juvenile trout in the diminishing flows downstream of the weir.

While attempts are made to capture as many fish as possible some fish evade capture through undercut banks and willow root obstructions. These fish unfortunately die when water levels recede outside of main salvage events. Late post spawning rainbows get trapped at the weir and often die against the guillotine or the race screen. Outmigration is gradual making salvage operations difficult to plan for and have been undertaken at short notice in the past.

Fisheries Values

Quartz Creek is one of two significant spawning and recruitment streams at the southern end of Lake Wanaka. The other is Bullock Creek which flows through the Wanaka Township. Small streams like these provide valuable spawning grounds and nursery habitats important for the replenishment of the Lake Wanaka sports fishery. Larger inflowing tributary fisheries are impacted greatly by flood events whereas small streams are less vulnerable and fisheries are able to cope better.

With Wanaka a main tourist hub and the district community growing rapidly with increasing demands on the sports fishery, small streams like Quartz Creek are extremely valuable for replenishing fish stocks.



Figure 4: Salvage of 65 post spawning rainbow trout below the weir with assistance from members of the Upper Clutha Anglers Club (photo taken 26.11.10)

Conclusion

Quartz Creek is an important spawning and rearing area for Lake Wanaka's trout fishery but its potential is seriously limited by historic over allocation of water to irrigation. Current takes are authorised by deemed permits which expire in 2021. Applications for replacement consents issued under the RMA are anticipated between now and the 2021 deadline at which time consideration will be given to setting of residual flows to protect instream values during summer low flow periods.

Alternatively ORC may chose to set a minimum flow for the creek.

Recommendation

That this report is received and a copy be sent to Otago Regional Council for information.

Cliff Halford
Fish and Game Officer
July 2015

**COUNCIL REPORT
AUGUST 2015**

*Backcountry Rivers Online Satisfaction Survey
2014-2015 Season*

Introduction

Sports Fishing Regulations require anglers to obtain a backcountry endorsement for a Whole Season Sports Fishing Licence to fish designated backcountry waters. The Otago Region has eight designated backcountry waters: Caples, Dingle Burn, Hunter, Nevis, Upper Lochy, Wilkin, Young, and Greenstone Rivers. The aim of the backcountry endorsement is to provide a means of monitoring angler use and satisfaction in backcountry rivers, allowing trends and management issues to be identified.

Survey Method

Backcountry monitoring is undertaken via two separate annual online surveys. An initial survey of anglers who use the Greenstone Controlled Period Fishery is undertaken (reported to the April Council meeting), followed by a wider survey of all Otago backcountry endorsed anglers. This is the ninth year anglers have been surveyed in this manner. Since 2012 assessment of angler satisfaction has been simplified; anglers were asked to rate their satisfaction 'overall' rather than in sub-categories.

Anglers were asked to report their fishing activity and to rate their overall angling experience on a 5 point likert scale for each river they fish. Perceptions of angler and fish encounter were also assessed and additional questions were asked regarding current and future management of Otago's BC fisheries. Of the 1356 anglers who acquired a backcountry endorsement in 2015 the database was able to validate 1250 email addresses for survey distribution.

Prior to the current survey, data from the previous five years was reviewed. As some errors were found and some recalculation was undertaken the results reported here may vary slightly from those presented in earlier reports. These changes do not affect the general trends which have been observed previously. It should also be noted that the result presented here exclude the Controlled Period (February-March) on the Greenstone River which were reported separately (April 2015).

Results

The current survey received 610 responses. Response rates were similar for resident and non-resident anglers (50% and 47% respectively). Sixty-three percent of respondents reported they had fished a BC river during the season; a decrease compared to previous seasons (Table 1). Based on this participation level and the total number of backcountry endorsements issued, the estimated total number of active Otago backcountry anglers for the 2014-2015 season was 858 (Table 1).

Table 1: Backcountry participation estimates 2010 – 2014

Season	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
BC Endorsements Issued	1193	1100	1326	1318	1151	1356
Participation Rate	-	-	72%	73%	70%	63%
Estimated Total BC Anglers	-	-	954	962	806	858
Estimated Total BC Angler Days			4220	3805	2915	3101
Estimated Average BC Days per Angler				3.97	3.6	3.6

Similar to previous years approximately 53% of backcountry anglers were New Zealand residents, while 47% were overseas residents (Table 2). Participation rates were similar for residents and non-residents (62% and 65%, respectively). Use of guides increased compared to the previous seasons with 21% of all respondents hiring a guide for their backcountry fishing (Table 2). Reported use of guides was significantly more common amongst non-resident anglers with 35% hiring a guide, compared to only 13% of resident anglers. However the guiding rate for residents was increased compared to the previous season when just 7% of residents reported hiring a guide.

Table 2: Otago backcountry endorsement angler demographics 2010 – 2015

Season	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015
<i>NZ Resident Anglers</i>	56%	59%	60%	58%	59%	53%
<i>Overseas Anglers</i>	44%	41%	40%	42%	41%	47%
<i>Guided Anglers</i>	18%	22.5%	20%	16%	18%	21%

Non-Participation

Those anglers who did not fish the Otago backcountry this season were asked to identify the main reason for this. The predominant responses given were a lack of available time or a change in circumstances, and inclement weather conditions or river flows. A further common response was that they ended up fishing elsewhere. A small number of anglers cited issues with access and guides as reasons for not fishing the Otago backcountry this season.

Angling Effort

A small increase in the number of backcountry endorsements issued resulted in a small increase in total angler days compared to the previous season (Table 1, Figure 1). The Hunter, Nevis and Dingle Burn appear to have experienced increases in angling effort compared to the previous season (Figure 1). Increased in effort on the Hunter, Dingle and

Wilkin Rivers is suspected to be associated with a local lodge now being fully operational this season after recently changing hands.

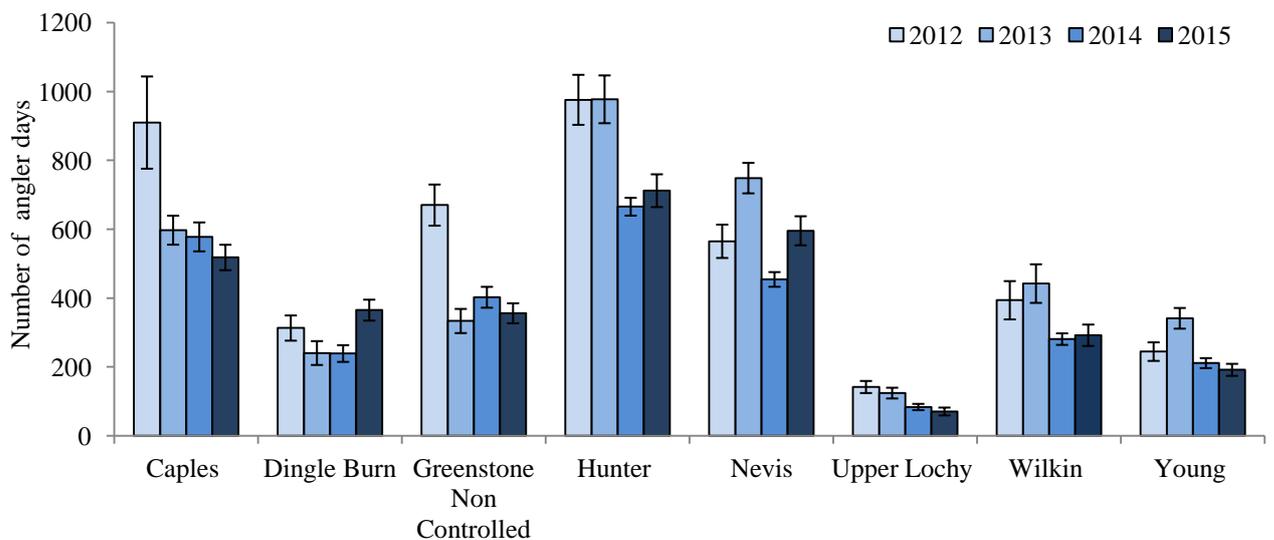


Figure 1: Estimated angler days ($\pm 1SD$) on Otago backcountry rivers 2011-2012 to 2014-2015¹

Guided Angling Pressure

The estimate of total guided angling days was 469. A significant increase in guided effort was seen on the Dingle Burn (Figure 2). Increases were also seen on the Hunter and Nevis Rivers. The Young appears to have had a significant decrease in guided effort. The Hunter continues to have the highest number of guided angling days.

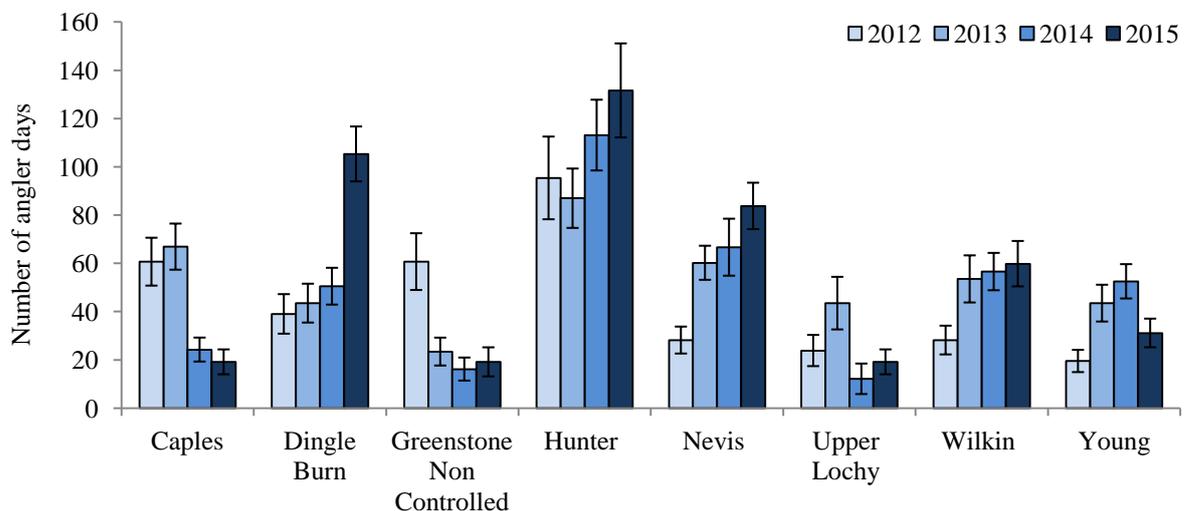


Figure 2: Estimated total guided angler days ($\pm 1SD$) on Otago backcountry rivers 2012-2015

¹ Estimates of total angler days have been calculated using responses for all anglers combined to maintain consistency of method across years; for 2014 and 2015 calculation of total angler days when data was stratified by resident and non-resident anglers resulted in slightly different estimates.

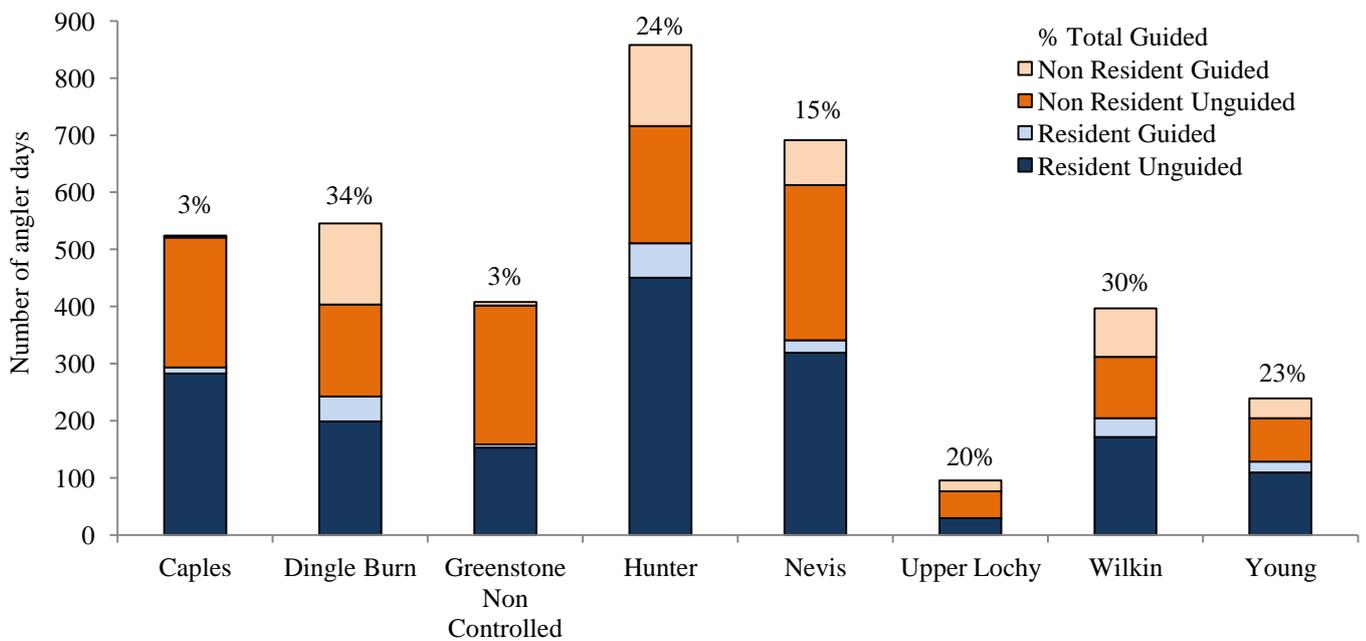


Figure 3: Estimated angler days for resident (blue) and non-resident anglers (orange) for Otago backcountry rivers in the 2015 season; guided days are shown in the lighter shade

Comparison of angler days across different user groups shows that resident and non resident each contributed about half of all angler days. On the Dingle Burn, Greenstone and Upper Lochy Rivers non residents made up the majority of angler days (Figure 3). For other backcountry rivers the contribution of angling days was closer to 50% each for resident and non-resident anglers. The Hunter River had the greatest number of angling days from resident anglers and the highest proportion resident use (59%). Guided angling days contributed 3-34% of total angling days across the Otago backcountry rivers. Guided angling made up more than 20% of total effort on the Dingle Burn, Hunter, Wilkin and Young Rivers.

Overall Angler Satisfaction

Anglers are asked to rate their satisfaction with the overall backcountry angling experience for each river they fished. Satisfaction is measured on a five point likert scale: very dissatisfied (1), dissatisfied (2), neutral (3), satisfied (4), highly satisfied (5), and the responses for each river can be averaged to give an overall satisfaction score.

For the current season at least the majority of anglers continue to report being ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with their angling experience for all Otago backcountry rivers. The Upper Lochy had the greatest increase in reported satisfaction (Figure 4). Satisfaction was slightly decreased or unchanged for all other backcountry rivers (Figure 4).

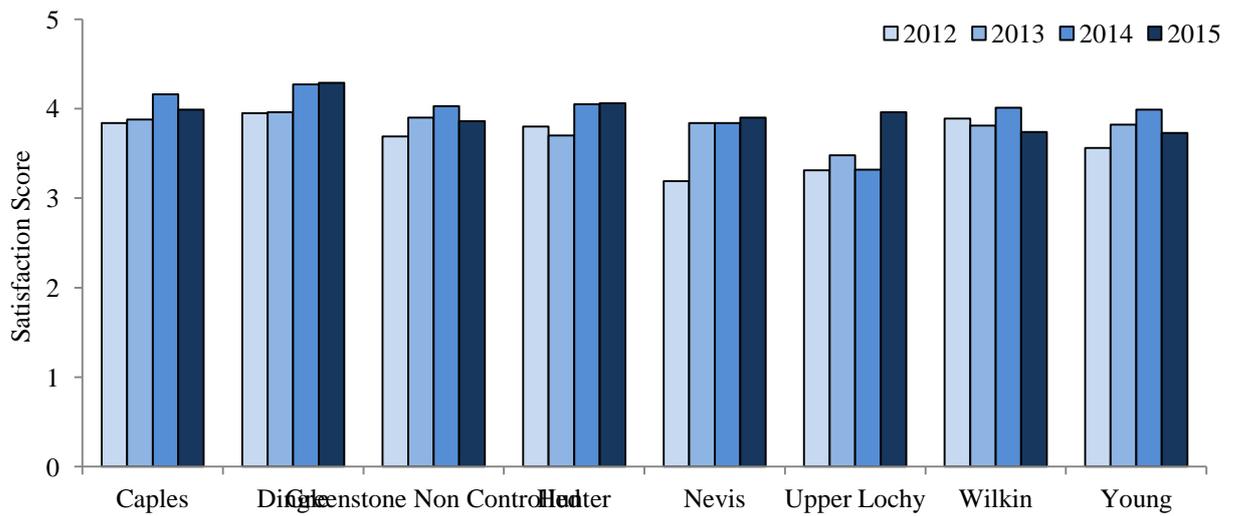


Figure 4: Average angler satisfaction score for Otago backcountry rivers 2010-2015

Angler Dissatisfaction

Respondents were asked to identify the main reasons for any dissatisfaction with their backcountry angling experience. Results remain largely consistent with previous seasons. Perceived low fish numbers continues to be the most often cited reason for angler dissatisfaction; 50% of dissatisfied anglers cited this reason (compared to 30 and 60% in the previous two surveys). Angler numbers (21%), helicopter and jetboat pressure (11%) and guiding pressure (10%) were further significant factors causing angler dissatisfaction. Didymo and weather was also a cause of dissatisfaction for some anglers. A number of anglers also mentioned cattle access to the Caples and Greenstone Rivers negatively impacted their angling experience.

Angler Encounter Levels (Crowding)

For all backcountry rivers the majority of anglers reported encounter levels were 'as expected' (Figure 5). The Hunter, Nevis and Wilkin Rivers had the highest proportion of anglers who reported they encountered more anglers than expected (16%, 17% and 18% respectively). The Hunter also has lowest percentage of anglers reporting encounters were 'less than expected' (13%). For all other backcountry rivers approximately one third of anglers reported angler encounter rates were 'less than expected.'

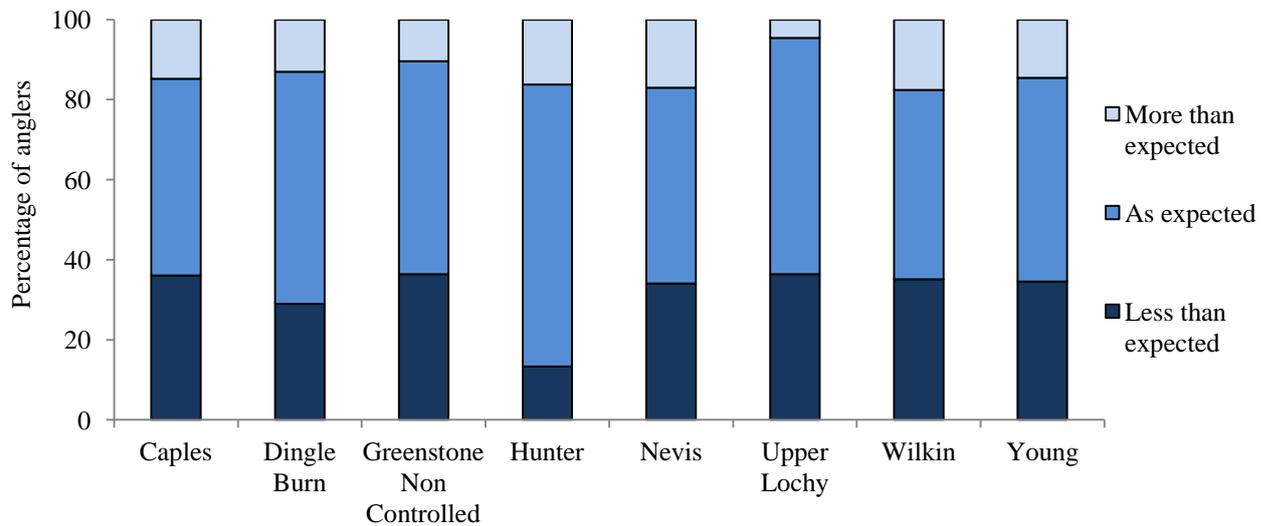


Figure 5: Angler encounter ratings for Otago backcountry rivers 2015

Fish Encounter Levels and Catch Rate

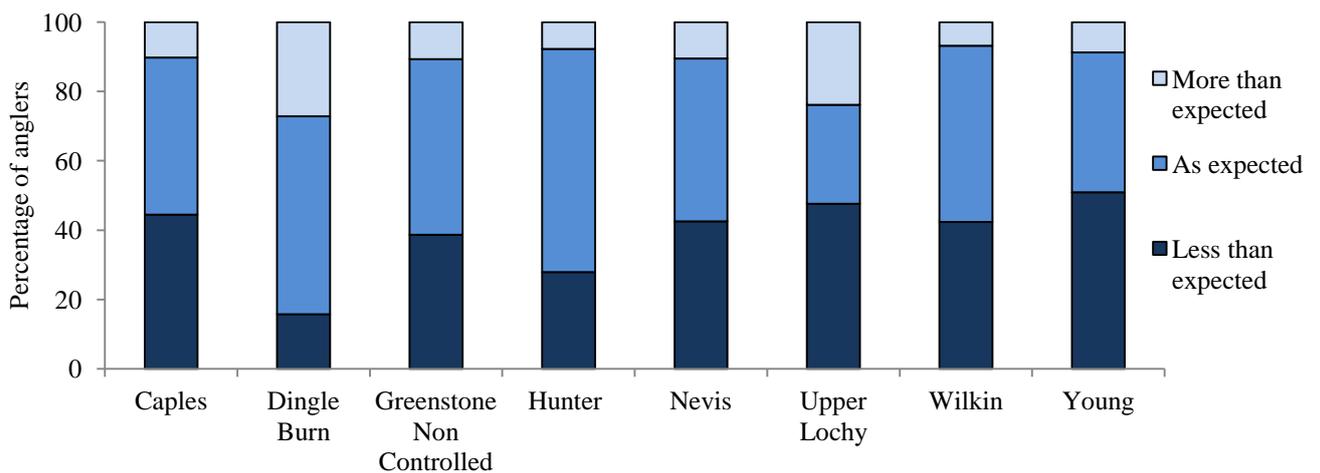


Figure 6: Fish encounter ratings for Otago backcountry rivers 2015

Most anglers found that the number of fish they encountered was ‘*as expected*’ or ‘*less than expected*’ (Figure 6). The Dingle Burn had the highest percentage of anglers who found fish encounters were ‘*more than expected*’ and few anglers reported that fish numbers were ‘*less than expected*’. On average anglers spent between one and three days on each of the rivers they fished and landed on average between two and eleven fish (Figure 7). Estimated catch rates were largely similar to the previous season. The Dingle Burn had the highest catch rate and the Nevis River had the lowest. Slight decreases in catch rate were reported for the Upper Lochy, Wilkin and Young Rivers. Increases in catch rate were reported for the Dingle Burn and Hunter River.

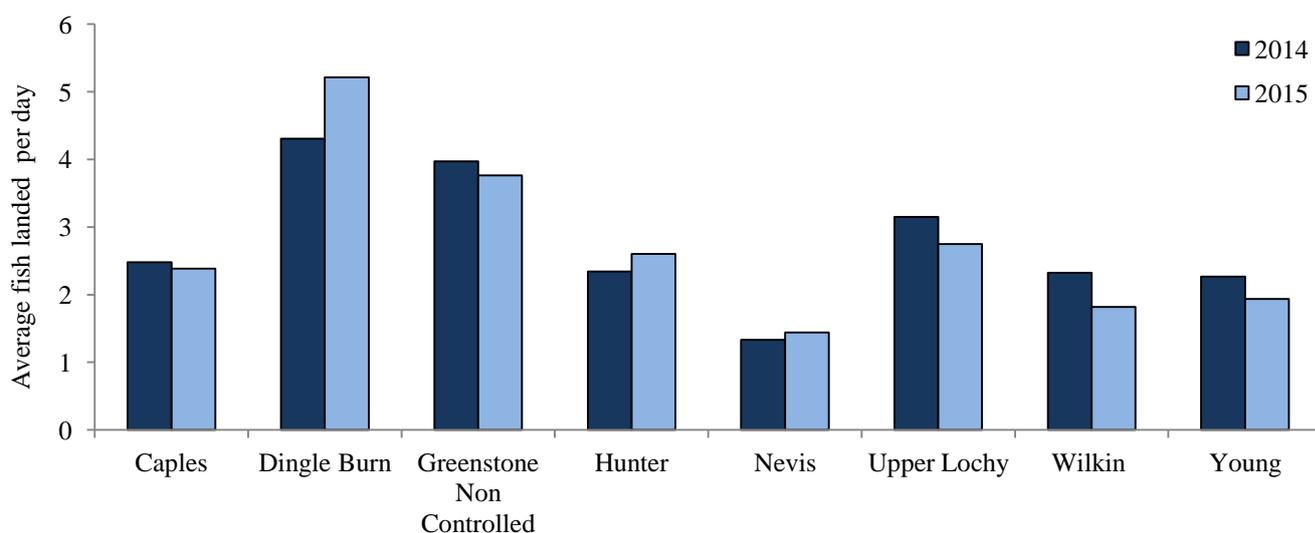


Figure 7: Catch rate (average fish landed per angler day) for Otago backcountry rivers 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 seasons

Management of Otago Backcountry Rivers

Licensing

The majority of both resident and non resident anglers were supportive of the recently introduced Non Resident Licence (80% and 60% respectively). A majority of anglers were also supportive of a proposed Guides Licence (65% in favour of the measure) however there seemed to be a general lack of awareness and understanding of what the proposed licence was amongst a significant proportion of anglers, particularly non resident anglers (Table 3). Many anglers assumed the licence would be mechanism for ensuring guide standards.

Table 3: Response to the question: 'do you support the introduction of a Guides Licence?'

	NZ Resident	Non Resident
Yes	74%	49%
No	5%	7%
I don't know	21%	44%

Anglers were further asked to provide their thoughts and suggestions on future management of Otago backcountry fisheries in general. The key management issues identified by anglers were:

- 1) Controls on helicopter access
- 2) More controls on guided angling (e.g. licencing, limits on total guided days allowed)

Conclusion

The number of backcountry endorsements issued increased by 200 anglers compared to the previous season. However this did not appear to result in a significant increase in pressure on backcountry rivers due to a lower participation rate this season. There was increased guided

angling reported this season, and the impact of the reopening of a popular fishing lodge was reflected in the survey results.

While overall satisfaction remains high across the backcountry, fish numbers continue to be the most commonly cited factor leading to dissatisfaction. In order to assess whether this is an actual or perceived issue fisheries monitoring will be required to address trends in backcountry fish populations. These surveys have been limited in recent years due to the high costs associated with accessing the backcountry, however additional revenue generated from the new Non Resident Licence could be applied here.

The high levels of support for the new Non Resident Licence is encouraging and comments and complaints about non resident anglers were noticeably reduced compared to previous years. Guided angling remained a common concern for anglers and there seemed to be general support for increased management of guided angling. There was however a lack of understanding of the Guide Licence amongst a significant proportion of the backcountry angling community which should be addressed a part of continued pursuit of the Guide Licence.

Significant improvements were made to the backcountry endorsement application process and will continue in the coming season (2015/2016) with the integration of the application process with the Eyede Licencing system. This will ensure that licence numbers provided can be validated at the time the endorsement is issued. Additional investment will also be required to eventually incorporate the Controlled Fishery booking system as well.

Further work is required in communicating information requirements with guides and other commercial operators to prevent cases of incorrect details being provided for clients and double reporting of effort (guides reporting both personal and commercial activity in the survey). This season there have also been instances of guides fishing with unlicensed clients or guides fishing without a backcountry endorsement themselves.

In addition anglers also reported in the survey observing non compliant activity (e.g. spin fishing) during the season. While enhanced liaison with guides and anglers can help to ensure understanding and compliance with the backcountry endorsement system and fishing regulations increased compliance ranging is also considered necessary. Similar to fisheries monitoring, compliance activity has been limited in recent years in part due to the high cost of accessing the backcountry. Again, revenue generated from the Non Resident Licence could be applied here.

Recommendations

- Enhanced liaison with guides, accommodation providers and travel agencies regarding correct licencing of clients and providing correct contact details. This could include an information sheet with relevant material (including new licence categories) and a client details form for guides to use.
- Considerations of fisheries population and compliance monitoring program for backcountry rivers
- Continued pursuit of a guide's licence including attempts to improve understanding of the proposed licence among licence holders

Helen Keeling
Fish & Game Officer
August 2015

9 Correspondence

9.1 ORC – Letter outlining a report on water restrictions on the Taieri River For Your Information



Our Reference: A812063

17 July 2015

Niall Watson
Fish & Game
PO Box 76
Dunedin 9054

Dear Niall

Low Flow Event and Taieri River catchment 24hr voluntary shutdown

You will recall that earlier this year there was a voluntary shutdown of irrigation takes for a 24 hour period everywhere within the Taieri River catchment. The shutdown coincided with the low flow event that affected much of Otago.

The purpose of the temporary shutdown was to enable the natural flow within the Taieri catchment to be assessed along with measurement of the time it takes for flow changes to travel between flow recorders. The shutdown was very successful in achieving these objectives and the cooperation and participation of water users was greatly appreciated by Otago Regional Council. The information gathered during the shutdown has been incorporated into a report that will be presented to ORC's Technical Committee on 22 July.

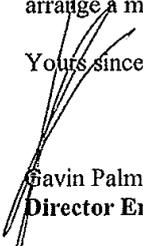
A copy of that report is attached for your information.

Copies will be posted on ORC's website shortly and I am happy to provide you with further hard copies if you wish. Please note that this report is embargoed until 0830hrs on 20 July.

I hope you find the report useful and informative.

I take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of Peter Bodeker for your letter of 18 May and the report prepared by Otago Fish & Game Council on environmental observations during the 2015 low flow period. Peter and I agree with your suggestion that staff from our respective organisations meet to compare notes on the effects of the drought. I will ask Dean Olsen to arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely


Gavin Palmer
Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

Mission Statement: "To promote the sustainable development and enhancement of Otago's resources"
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REPORT

Document Id: A806130

Report Number: 2015/1026

Prepared For: Technical Committee

Prepared By: Matt Dale – Water Resource Scientist

Date: 7/7/2015

Subject: **The effects of the 24 hour voluntary irrigation shutdown on flows in the Taieri River**

1. Précis

The start of the 2014/15 irrigation season was one of the driest on record for the middle and upper reaches of the Taieri catchment, with very little rainfall occurring between October and December. The severity of the dry period is shown in Figure 1 where a Standardised Precipitation Index (SPI) map has been created for the Otago Region, showing that much of the Maniototo and Strath Taieri area was either “Severely Dry” or “Extremely Dry”, with a return period of over 1 in 50 years around Ranfurly and Middlemarch.

Following an extended period of low flows in the Taieri catchment resulting from this lack of rain, the community agreed to a 24 hour voluntary irrigation shutdown to observe the effects on flows in the Taieri River and its tributaries, and to give the community a better understanding of how the system behaves with travel times, attenuation as well as how much water was available in the system. The shutdown ran from 12 pm on 15 January and finished at 12 pm on 16 January 2015.

A report “The effects of the 24 hour voluntary irrigation shutdown on flows in the Taieri River: 15th–16th January 2015” has been prepared to present the information on the hydrology of the main stem of the Taieri River and tributaries as well as on the ground observations gathered during the 24 hour shutdown.

Flows were monitored at six recorders in the Taieri catchment during the shutdown period; five in the main stem (Canadian Flat, Waipiata, Tiroiti, Sutton, and Outram) and one in the Kye Burn at Scotts Lane. In addition, flow gaugings were undertaken at 19 sites (14 tributaries, 5 main stem) in the Strath Taieri and Maniototo.

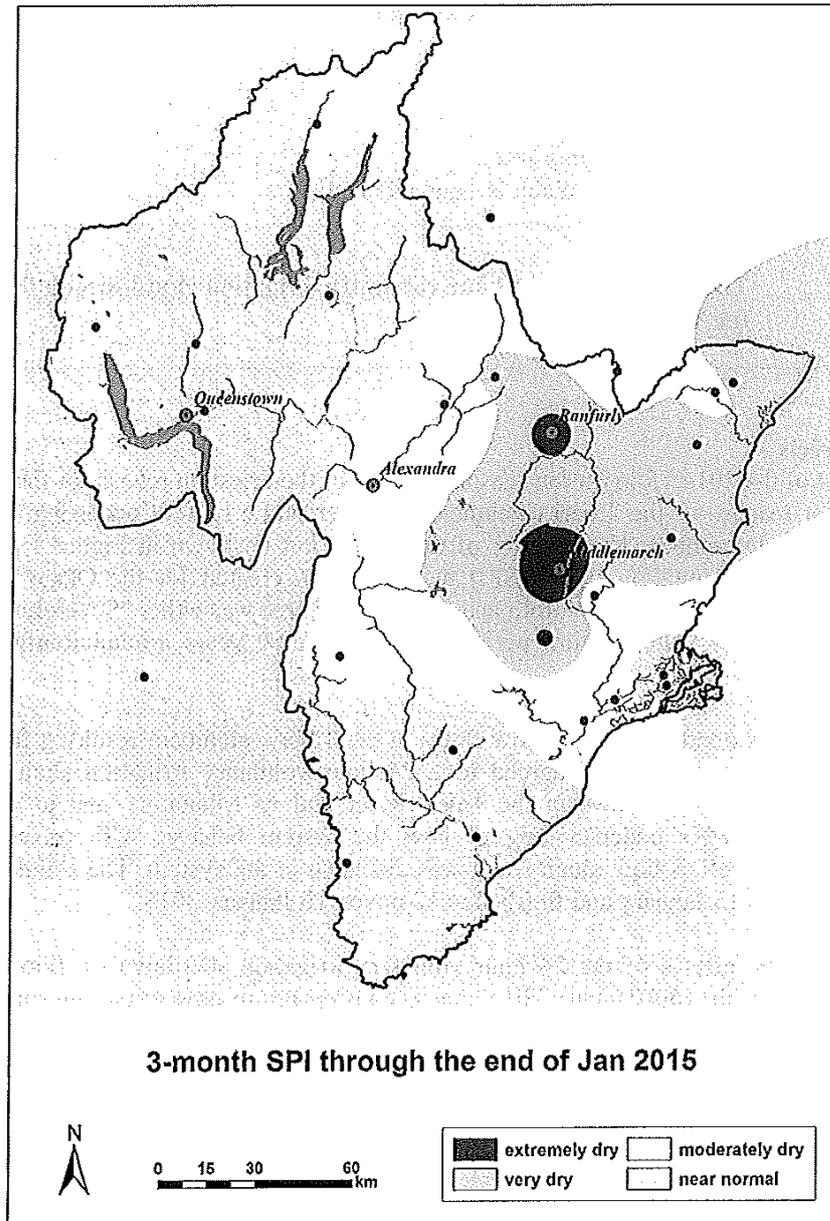


Figure 1 Standardised Precipitation Index for the three month period ending January 2015

The voluntary shutdown returned 130 l/s to the main stem of the Taieri River upstream of Waipiata, while an additional 60 l/s was gained between Waipiata and Tiroiti. This was sufficient to bring flows above the minimum flows specified in the Regional Plan: Water at both Waipiata and Tiroiti. The short-term nature of the shutdown meant that the pulse of water released by this event did not reach the Sutton flow recorder due to abstraction over the subsequent days. It was also clear that the shutdown did not result in the resumption of surface flows in the middle reaches of the Sow Burn and Swin

Burn, however it is unclear if a longer period of shutdown would result in the resumption of surface flows at these sites.

By observing the pulse of flow moving down the catchment, as well as smaller flow events over January/February 2015, it has been possible to estimate the travel time between the major flow sites in the Taieri during times of low flows (Table 1). This information can be used to inform the timing and duration of water management mechanisms such as community-led rostering.

Table 1 Calculated travel time between flow sites in the mid and upper-Taieri

Site	Travel time (h)			
	Waipiata	Tiroiti	Sutton	Outram
Canadian Flat	96	106	133	152
Waipiata		9.5	37	56
Kye Burn at Scott's Lane		15	42	61
Tiroiti			27	46
Sutton				19

Observations on 16 January showed evidence of fish stranding in the Swin Burn and Sow Burn, and those fish remaining in refuge pools were showing signs of thermal stress. Significant algal growth was observed in the Swin Burn, Kye Burn, Little Kye Burn, Pig Burn, Sow Burn and the main stem of the Taieri River at Kokonga and Tiroiti. Photographs of tributaries and the mainstem that were taken during the 24 hour shutdown period are also presented in the report.

2. Recommendation

That this report and the technical report “The effects of the 24 hour voluntary irrigation shutdown on flows in the Taieri River: 15th–16th January 2015” are received and noted.

Gavin Palmer
Director Engineering, Hazards and Science

9.2 Waiau Trust – Cover letter with copy of annual report

For Your Information



30 June 2015

Dear *Niall*

6 - JUL 2015

The Trustees are pleased to forward you a copy of the 2015 Annual Report covering the 18th year of operation by the Trust. We hope you enjoy reading it.

We have had another productive year in terms of our habitat enhancement projects. Our whitebait habitat project at the mouth of the Waiau River continues to be a major focus, with the construction of the new Inder wetland, diversion canal and associated intake works at the Waiau River. This wetland is now full to design level. The volume of new water being diverted will provide further wetland creation opportunities at the site.

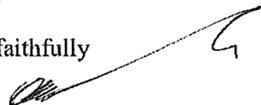
Joint Waiau Trust/QEII National Trust enhancement projects feature again this year, with excellent wetland and stream protection gains being made, throughout the catchment. The benefits to fisheries and wildlife are proving positive. Demand for this grant money for these projects continues, albeit at a slightly lower rate this year. We acknowledge the excellent cooperation of landowners, including Landcorp Farming Ltd, and other groups and organisations such as the QE II National Trust, in helping us to keep up the momentum of this work.

We also acknowledge the good working relationship we have with Meridian Energy Ltd. We will continue to work closely together so good environmental outcomes for the Waiau catchment can be achieved, into the future.

The Fund, under the 4 Fund Managers continues to perform well, achieving a 15.17% return on investments for the year. A good result providing cash for the ongoing operation of the Trust.

In an organisation like the Trust, a large number of people contribute to its success, including the Board and people we work with within the community. I wish to particularly thank Mark Sutton and Jan Riddell for their continued work. The Trustees wish to thank everyone who has supported us during the last 12 months. Your interest, cooperation and assistance have been invaluable and enabled us to meet the Trust aims and objectives now and in the future.

Yours faithfully



C A McCulloch
Chairman
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10 General Business
