

**Agenda for the Meeting of the  
Otago Fish & Game Council to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016  
At the Office of Otago Fish & Game Council  
Cnr Hanover and Harrow Streets, Dunedin  
Commencing at 12.15pm**

*Please note: A Lunch will be provided at 11.45am*

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## **1 Present and Apologies**

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## **2 Declaration of Interest**

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### 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes

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**Minutes of Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting  
Centennial Court Motel, Alexandra  
13<sup>th</sup> February 2016  
Commencing at 10.30pm**

**1.0 Present:**

Monty Wright (Chair), Dr John Jillett, Vicky Whyte, John Barlow, Adrian McIntyre, Dave Witherow, Ian Cole, Alan Hammond, Colin Weatherall, and Murray Neilson.

**In attendance:** Niall Watson (CE), Ian Hadland (OM), Stu Hayes (University of Otago)

**Apologies** were received from Dan Rae, Dr Mike Turner and Rick Boyd

Resolved (Barlow/Cole)

**That apologies be received and that Mr Rae be granted leave of absence for the period February to June inclusive.**

**Declarations of Interest and Health and Safety**

- **Declarations of Interest** - There were no new declarations of interest.
  
- **Health and Safety** - The motor vehicle accident involving a Council vehicle was noted. It was a two car collision and the other party was at fault. Occupants sustained only minor injuries but the vehicle was written off by the insurance company. There was no excess payment required.

**2.0 Election of Officers**

**Chair**

Mr Watson took the chair and called for nominations for the position of Chairman.

Moved Weatherall/Seconded McIntyre: **Monty Wright**

There being no further nominations **Monty Wright was declared duly elected**

**Executive (four positions)**

Moved Jillett/Seconded Whyte: **Dave Witherow**

Moved Weatherall/Seconded/Witherow: **Current Executive members be returned namely Dan Rae, Adrian McIntyre and Vicky Whyte**

There being no further nominations

**The Executive was declared to be Rae, Whyte, Witherow, McIntyre in addition to the Chair and the NZC appointee**

### 3.0 Minutes

Resolved (Whyte/Jillett)

**That the Minutes of the meetings on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015 be confirmed as a true and correct record.**

### 4.0 Matters Arising from Minutes

**4.1 Contact Energy** – The CE advised that there had been little progress since the meeting with Contact Energy but ORC were looking into consent compliance issues.

**4.2 Wanaka Salmon Pond** – QLDC had granted the consent to subdivide and operate a fish facility on Camerons Creek, but this did not cover compliance with water quality requirements which were an ORC matter. Ministry of Primary Industry issued licences to ‘farm’ salmon but as Rick Boyd’s paper had shown the regulations were minimal. Fish and Game was usually consulted in the fish farm licence issuing process.

**4.3 Hukarere** – A request had been lodged asking for permission to assess access but there has been no response.

**4.4 Lochy River** – Mr Witherow noted that fish stocks in the Upper Lochy were very limited based on his recent observations.

**4.5 Lake Dunstan Mai Mai** – CODC have concluded the mai mai requires resource consent.

It was **agreed** that staff develop recommendations on regulations to govern mai mai location, style and size on Lake Dunstan if the situation was not controlled by existing regulations.

Mr Barlow advised he had recently spoken to hunters in the Bendigo area who were looking for a mai mai site.

### **Presentation – Stu Hayes: Non Resident Licence Holders**

Mr Hayes from the University of Otago presented the findings from his masters research project which looked at preferences and behaviours of non-resident (NR) anglers. He reported that:

- Nearly 90% of NR anglers are either satisfied or very satisfied with their NZ angling experience
- NR anglers spend over twice as much as the average tourist contributing \$28m to the NZ economy
- F&G could play an effective co-ordination role between tourism, government and agriculture, highlighting the long-term benefits of clean rivers and angling tourism
- Major concerns that the ‘uniqueness’ of the NZ fisheries is in decline due to angling pressure and agriculture
- Future fee increases might be tolerated but should be introduced with a full justification for how the revenue has been used to improve the fishing experience
- Introduction of more flexible options could help alleviate some of the ill will shown by some forced to buy a whole season licence for a shorter trip length.

- NRs are a committed, loyal and valuable group – financially and otherwise – and care immensely for the NZ waterways

On this latter point Cr Jillett raised the council's previous position about NR licence holder non-eligibility to vote. Discussion followed. Cr Witherow concluded that the Council had formed exactly the right position in that NZ anglers should be running their own fisheries.

Mr Hayes said a full report would be made available to the Council shortly in printed and electronic form and he wished to express his thanks for the financial and practical support provided by Otago F&G Council and its staff.

## **5.0 Communications New Zealand Council**

### **5.1 NZC Correspondence to Otago**

5.1.1 Election Report – Mr Watson noted that Electionz.com were used by Otago Council to conduct the Otago elections. He noted the appointment of a returning officer was a regional Fish and Game Council function and that the appointment of a chief executive as returning officer was specifically provided for in the regulations.

The report's recommendations 1 to 7 were discussed -

- Use one single returning officer nationally
- All licenceholders to vote automatically or registration open up to close of voting.
- Review process of electorate selection by licenceholders
- Encourage licenceholders to record email addresses
- Remove option for handwritten candidate profile
- Review process for updating the database to capture DOB and email address
- Extend time period for postal votes

and it was resolved (Weatherall/Whyte):

**That Council retain the existing returning officer delegation for Otago and in addition oppose recommendation 2 and 5 and support recommendation 4, 6 and 7.**

Clarification of recommendation 3 on electorate selection was sought.

### **5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC**

Nil

## **6.0 Chief Executive's Report**

### **6.1 Administration**

Finance and licence sales reports to the end of January 2016 were discussed.

Resolved (Barlow/Jillett)

**That Finance and Licence sales reports to the end of January 2016 be approved.**

### **6.2 Species**

No discussion.

### **6.3 Habitat**

The CE outlined current priorities including preparation for the Lindis minimum flow hearing commencing on 31<sup>st</sup> March; continuing negotiations with Kye Burn irrigators; continuing discussions with Contact Energy over mitigation; and completion of the Sow Burn agreement.

Councillors requested more information on the off-site mitigation covenant within the Sow Burn agreement. This allows for management and enhancement of the Maniototo wetland area owned by Sow Burn irrigators, namely DFP and Herlihys, and has recently been amended to manage grazing.

It was **agreed** that staff report to the April meeting.

The Lochar Burn covenant near Bendigo wetland was also discussed.

### **Pool Burn Channelisation**

Staff were asked to seek a progress report on the Pool Burn channelisation which occurred last autumn, including the potential for prosecution. The tributary reach affected had had well developed gravel bars used for spawning but those features have been lost as a result of the work. ORC has been investigating the offence for some considerable time.

### **6.4 User Participation**

#### **Hukarere Station**

The CE reported that he had written formally to Hukarere Station seeking access to the property for an on-site inspection of access needs through tenure review. So far no reply has been received

#### **Backcountry Licencing**

Mr Hadland outlines backcountry licence compliance problems experienced this season and the difficulties in dealing with them. While several licenced anglers had been found without the additional backcountry licence the reparation penalty for what was technically fishing without a licence seemed too severe. The offence seemed more in line with regulations offences relating to method or season. It was noted that decisions on offences had been delegated from Council to the CE.

Resolved (Weatherall/Witherow):

**That Council change the reparation fee for fishing without a backcountry licence.**

Staff were asked to bring an amended reparation schedule to the next meeting for approval.

### **6.5 Public Interface**

No discussion

### **6.6 Compliance**

No discussion

## **6.7 Licencing**

No discussion

## **6.8 Council**

No discussion

## **6.9 Planning and Reporting**

### **National Liaison**

The CE advised that the NZC meeting in Cromwell was scheduled over three days in March and to be held at Perriam Cove. Otago councillors have been invited to attend part or all of the meeting. Those councillors who could only attend part of the meeting should consider attending the field trip and dinner on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>. Further advice would be sought from those planning to attend in order to finalise accommodation

- 18 March – NZ Council Meeting (full day)
- 19 March – Field Trip and Dinner
- 20 March – NZ Council Meeting resumes (part day)

## **7.0 Committee Reports**

### **7.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust**

Dr Jillett and Mr Cole outlined Trust activity including:

- Continuing involvement in Helen Keeling's Lake Hayes research
- Work in support of the Lindis minimum flow plan changes
- Kane Road alternative alignment providing access to the Upper Clutha River is the subject of an agreement to be signed.

### **7.2 New Zealand Council**

Dr Jillett said there had been no meeting of the NZC Council since November but an 'induction' meeting was planned for 27<sup>th</sup> February in Wellington:

## **8.0 Technical Reports**

### **8.1 Aerial Trend Counts – Trotter**

Mr Trotter's report was discussed and it was resolved (Witherow/McIntyre)

#### **That the report be received**

The non-inclusion of Butchers and Rivers dams in the survey was discussed, but was not considered to be a problem.

Resolved Cole/Barlow

#### **That the meeting go into public excluded session**

The reason for the public excluded session was for the privacy of Habitat Fund applicants and to keep material to be used in the Lindis hearing confidential

(see confidential minutes)

Resolved Cole/Barlow

**That the meeting come out of public excluded session**

**8.4 Angler Notice Working Party Summary - Halford**

The report was discussed noting the South Island staff working party's progress so far. Councillors were invited to make individual responses to Mr Halford noting that it would come back for Council consideration in a more refined form.

Councillors commented on leaving the gaff provision for Otago in place and the need to discourage the use of light traces (2-3 lb) causing fish to be played to exhaustion.

**Public Forum**

An angler addressed the meeting about a new fence on the west side of Manorburn that restricted public access. The CE advised that staff had spoken to the station owner who had erected the fence to limit access and prevent littering. The fence was understood to be on private property.

There was a general discussion about the health of the Manorburn fishery which seemed to be in good shape and about ranging. The visiting angler offered to become a ranger.

**9.0 Correspondence – Nil**

**9.1 – Minister of Conservation** - acknowledging receipt of Annual Report  
Received

**10.0 General Business**

**10.1 – Landholder Licence Privilege** - The CE confirmed that landholders who have rivers, lakes or ponds within their property boundaries (where there was no Queens Chain) could fish without a licence under section of the Conservation Act.

**10.2 – Family Game Licence** - Vicky Whyte queried the lack of a family game licence. The CE said there was some discussion nationally of a review of game licence categories and on the reintroduction of a family licence for game.

**The meeting closed at 4.30pm and was followed by a presentation from Wanaka community representatives about freshwater research facilities**

#### **4 Matters arising from the minutes**

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## **5 Communications New Zealand Council**

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### **5.1 Correspondence from NZC to Otago**

5.1.1 Nil

### **5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC**

5.2.1 Nil

## 6 Chief Executives Report

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### CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT APRIL 2016

#### 6.1 ADMINISTRATION

##### Finance and Administration

###### *Financial Reports to 31 March 2016*

The finance report for the period from 1 September 2015 to 31 March 2016 is attached for your information.

NZC levies for the year have been set at \$850,957 and commission has been calculated at \$94,831. Key budget figures are included in the front of the Annual Work Plan

Expenditure to date is \$1,122,491 (including levies \$425,478 and commission \$62,961 but excluding depreciation (\$45,682) compared with the annual budget of \$1,896,622 (operational expenditure: \$950,834, depreciation: nil, and levies: \$850,957 and excluding commission: \$94,831).

Total income to date is \$1,582,442 compared with budget of \$1,981,072.

Fishing licence sales revenue received for the year to 31 March 2016 is \$1,485,291 (including commission). The fish budget figures for the full year is \$1,583,698 including commission.

Game licence sales revenue received for the year to date is \$3,702 (including commission). The year's budget for game licence sales is \$312,926 including commission.

Budget and expenditure figures are exclusive of GST

###### *Licence Sales to 7 April 2016*

Sales recorded to 7 April 2016 are outlined for fish and game licences in the attached table from Eyede and compared with last year on the same date. Figures are inclusive of GST. Fishing licence sales in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) at 14,464 LEQs are very slightly behind last year at the same time (14,567 LEQs). This remains encouraging given the major change in licence categories. The budget LEQ figure for the year (whole season adult licence equivalents) is 14688.

Licence category codes used in the table are: FWF (Family) FWA (Season Adult) FWNA ( Non resident Adult) FSLA (Senior) FLAA (Local Area ) FWJ (Season Junior) FWNJ (Non-resident Junior), FLBA (Long Break – 9 day) FSBA (Short Break – 3 day) FDA (Adult Day) FDJ (Junior Day)

Game sales to 7 April 2016 in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) are 921 LEQs, slightly ahead of last year at the same time (860 LEQs). Because game licence sales are just starting to ramp up this is not a meaningful figure. The budget Game LEQ figure is 3999.

###### *Funds Position at 31 March 2016*

ANZ 00 account	\$157,297.32
ANZ 70 account	\$ 674545.17

#### *Reparation Trust Account*

Account balance to 31 August 2015	\$ 55,368
Revenue for current year to 30 September 2015	\$ 13, 180
Less Grants	<u>\$ 7,000</u>
Total	\$ 61,584

#### *Backcountry Management*

Account balance to 31 August 2015	\$30,076
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#### *Term investments as at 31 March 2016:*

ASB 0079	\$308,819.91 @ 3.55% maturing July 2016
SBS 44624	\$460,718.29 @ 3.65% maturing June 2016

The sum of \$73,846 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*

A new truck has been purchased at a cost of \$43, 383 and the insurance pay out for the truck which was written off was \$28,695

#### *Staff and Health and Safety*

There is nothing to report from a health and safety perspective. New OSH rules apply from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016

Morgan Trotter has now completed and submitted his MSc thesis on Lindis low flows. Helen Keeling's Msc project on Lake Hayes is progressing well and is now about 25% complete.

#### *Land and Buildings*

Quotes have been received for Dunedin Office heating and a valuation has been completed for the Cromwell site.

#### **CE to report**

#### **Recommendation**

**That the Finance and Licence Sales Report for the period ending 31 March 2016 be received.**

## **6.2 SPECIES**

#### **Waterfowl Monitoring (1111)**

Waterfowl trend counts were completed in late January (see separate report)

#### **Spawning Surveys (1112)**

Nothing to report

**Population Monitoring: (1113)**

Cardrona write up is continuing.

**Success & Satisfaction (1122)**

A salmon creel survey is underway on the Lower Clutha

**Fish Salvage (1131)**

Nothing to report

**Hatchery Operations**

The hatchery is running as expected for this time of year. The water in Lone Pine is slowly rising back to normal levels. All the fish are doing well and are putting on condition before winter sets in.

**Releases (1161)**

Date	Water	Number	Age	Weight Range
20/02/2016	Southern Reservoir	70	1yr +	300g
8/04/2016	Southern Reservoir	60	1yr +	300 - 400g

**Game Notice (1171)**

Game regulations have been gazetted for the 2016 season

**Anglers Notice (1172)**

See separate report

**Game Bird Control (1181)**

Nothing to report.

**6.3 HABITAT****Resource Management (1211)****Resource Management Complaints 2014/15**

Date/Agency	Issue	Response
May 2015	A complaint was lodged with ORC about channel works in a Central Otago spawning stream in late May.	ORC are investigating. They have confirmed this is still under action.
August 2015	Complaint about a digger in the Bengier Burn during the spawning season	Works done under emergency provisions because of damage to bridge abutments

June 2015	Complaint about grazing adjacent to Waikoikoi	Reported to ORC. As stream was fenced and grazing was not causing pugging at time of inspection no offence was committed
September 2015	Complaint about feedlot next to Kaitangata Channel and potential for leachate discharge	ORC still to respond

### Resource Consents

There has been some interchange with Contact over Fish and Game's previous letter on the mitigation programme.

### CE to report

### Planning (1212)

### Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group

The MCWSG is preparing to send out a package to farmers seeking support for a scheme based on raising Falls Dam by up to 20 meters

### Minimum and Residual Flow Setting

<b>Minimum and Residual Flows and Transition from Mining Privileges (TMP)</b>		
<b>River</b>	<b>Activity and status</b>	<b>Status</b>
Lindis	<p>Minimum flow &amp; transition from mining privileges (TMP).</p> <p>Overallocated</p> <p>MALF 1860 l/s</p>	<p>Lindis fisheries research has been completed and submitted for peer assessment.</p> <p>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 extra impact in comparison to climate.</p> <p>ORC heard submissions on Water Plan Change 5A on 31 March to 7 April 2016. The plan change proposes a summer minimum flow of 750 l/s, instead of the 450 l/s previously recommended. Fish and Game has sought a summer minimum of 1000 l/s</p> <p>Evidence was presented by four staff, Cawthron institue and Lincoln Agritech. CFT Councillors and anglers also presented submissions in person. DOC and Ngai Tahu's submissions were well aligned with Fish and Game.</p>

Cardrona	Minimum Flow & TMP  Overallocated	Mainstem fisheries and flow surveys undertaken over the 2014/15 summer period. A minimum flow proposal is expected sometime during 2016 but there is no firm timetable
Waikouaiti	Minimum Flow Fully allocated  MALF 258 l/s	F&G have supported a minimum flow of 220 l/s proposed through community consultation.. Further action on the minimum flow has been deferred pending more research by ORC on estuary health which is planned this summer.
Pomahaka	Minimum flow  MALF 4300 l/s  <b>Min Flow 3600l/s (84% MALF)</b>	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	Minimum flow  MALF 310 l/s  <b>Min Flow 280 l/s (90% MALF)</b>	The ORC hearing panel decision set a 300 l/s summer minimum flow instead of the 260 l/s notified. That decision was appealed to the Environment Court and the matter was resolved through mediation in early December 2015.
Manuherikia	Minimum flow Irrigation scheme investigation.  MALF lower river 2126 l/s  Overallocated	Collaborative process underway involving F&G. The irrigation scheme proposals which are focussed on raising the level of Falls Dam are about to be the subject of an offer to catchment farmers.  The Manuherikia catchment has over 250 mining privileges or deemed permits in place. The present minimum flow at Ophir at 820 l/s is considered inadequate and ORC are planning a minimum flow for the lower river
Benger Burn	Minimum flow &TMP.  Overallocated	Further action by ORC has been deferred pending more research on water resources and aquifer/surface water interaction.
Sow Burn	TMP  Overallocated  <b>Residual flow of 70 l/s + off-site mitigation</b>	<u>The Sowburn all-of-catchment consent has been granted by ORC.</u>  The residual flow requirement is 70 l/s on a stream that is considered to be ephemeral in nature in the middle reaches.  Off-site mitigation conditions include a covenant over a large area of the Maniototo wetlands

Kye Burn	TMP Overallocated MALF 500 l/s	F&G position is that a mainstem environmental flow between 200-300 l/s is required. A meeting was held with irrigators in early December 2015. Their present position is outside the above range at which flow the Kye Burn is unlikely to connect in a meaningful way to the Taieri River. Connection is a key value
Low Burn	Minimum flow TMP Overallocated	No action
Bannock Burn	Minimum flow TMP Overallocated	No action
Quartz Creek	TMP Overallocated	Reports on fishery values (2) competed along with a report on fish salvage. There is little information on stream hydrology.
Tuapeka River	ORC Management Flow Report  MALF 314 l/s	No action
Upper Clutha		ORC is planning research onflow requirements of fish in the river to inform a minimum flow setting process
12 Mile Creek (Wakatipu)	ORC Management Flow Report	Stream survey work undertaken
Fern Burn	Overallocated	Status of flows and takes to be investigated

## 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 flow setting but recent agreement on affected party status improves the situation.

The need for a strategic approach to the phase out of mining privileges has been raised with ORC.

### Reserves Management (1221)

Earthworks at Takitakitoa Wetland are complete and five mai mais have been constructed and installed. The wetland is in the process of filling and one mai mai should be operational for the upcoming season.

### Wetland Protection (1232)

See report on protective covenants for Lochar Downs Wetland (near Bendigo) and parts of the Maniototo Wetland

**Assisted Habitat (1230)**

Nothing to report

**River Management (1233)**

Nothing to report

**6.4 USER PARTICIPATION****Access (1311)**

There is an Overseas Investment Office application for the sale of Hunter Valley Station and there has been an approach from the applicant over conditions relating to public access. The station is a pastoral lease. See confidential material

**Signage (1312)**

Nothing to report

**Backcountry Fisheries (1321)**

Backcountry fishery monitoring has been continuing using staff resources including contract staff. Coverage has included Greenstone, Caples, Lochy, Hunter, Wilkin, Nevis and Dingle Burn and has included compliance with fisheries regulations and Doc concession monitoring.

The dedicated funding for backcountry management arising from the additional fees on non residents is proving useful in funding increased activity in the backcountry. Based on the NZC's broadened definition it is also available for use on other high value waters popular with non residents. This provides for extra flexibility but it will take a year or two to fully develop work programmes in these areas.

**CE to Report****Magazine Supplements and Newsletters (1331)**

The Game Season magazine and supplement for Otago has been circulated and the pre season newsletter is in preparation

**Reel Life**

Monthly contributions to online newsletters are continuing

**Newspaper Supplements (1332)**

Copy has been prepared for use by local newspapers running game season supplements.

**River Reports (1333)**

River reports are continuing for the season.

**Publications (1342)**

Three interactive angling maps, in cartoon form have been completed. They are aimed at introducing families new to angling to safe areas for fishing and recreation.

**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)**

The meeting has been held to finalise the MOU between DOC and Otago Fish and Game and a draft should be available for approval at the June meeting.

There is a proposal from Southland Fish and Game for a Council to Council meeting. It is our turn to host and Clinton is suggested as a venue for a meeting date in June.

A date has been set for a Council to Council meeting with ORC, namely Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016. The timing of the meeting has still to be confirmed. The last such meeting was in March 2013. Obvious matters for discussion are Plan Change 6A implementation and transition from mining privileges. Limiting the number of topics probably makes sense

### **For discussion**

John Jillett, Ian Hadland and Peter Wilson met with ORC's Peter Bodeker and Stephen Woodhead on the 5<sup>th</sup> April to discuss changes to the upcoming ORC annual plan and additional work on water quality, flood drainage, wilding pines and river strategies

### **John Jillett/Ian Hadland to Report**

### **Media (1431)**

There has been good media coverage on compliance, minimum flows and environmental matters.

### **Advocacy (1432)**

There has been some interaction with ORC about the effectiveness of minimum flows and responses to drought conditions. The key issue is whether or not the existing minimum flows are doing their job – that is, are all the surface water takes upstream of those points being progressively required to cease when the various minimum flows are breached.

### **Tenure Reviews (1433)**

Despite earlier agreement Hukarere Station are not responding to requests to allow staff onto the property to assess additional access opportunities to and along the river. The ministers of Lands and Conservation have been informed of our concerns but decisions on the 'substantive proposal' rests with the Commissioner of Crown Lands. That decision is not made public until

## **6.6 COMPLIANCE**

### **Ranging (1511)**

Ranging at the southern lakes has continued to detect a low level of offending but this is decreasing alongside angling activity. A number of fast moving foreign tourists detected have resulted in much follow up work. Our staff and rangers are now well aware of the value of extracting accurate email addresses and cellphone numbers which allows some ongoing communication with them.

### **Ranger Support**

Nothing to report

### **Prosecutions**

Two anglers being prosecuted for FWL in the Queenstown District Court has turned out to be a protracted affair. One now has an arrest warrant issued for non appearance (largely for the more serious obstruction charge). The other man pled guilty and is applying for a discharge without conviction which will be heard on the 18 April. A third FWL charge has been filed in Dunedin District court and a further two are being prepared presently.

## **6.7 LICENCING**

### **Licensing System (1611)**

The Eyede licensing system continues to operate well.

### **Agents (1612)**

Nothing to report

## **6.8 COUNCIL**

### **Council (1720)**

Nothing to report

## **6.9 PLANNING AND REPORTING**

### **Strategic Planning (1811)**

See separate staff response to Strategic Planning Report

### **Annual Plan**

2015/16 Annual Plan implementation is proceeding satisfactorily.

### **Audit and Annual Report (1831)**

Nothing to report

### **National Liaison (1841)**

There was a good delegation from Otago Council at the NZC meeting held in Cromwell recently (Councillors Whyte, McIntyre, Neilson, Turner, Wright and staff – Watson and Hadland) enabling considerably positive interaction both in the meeting and in less formal situations. The field trip focused on an access issue nearing resolution (Kane Road); a minimum flow issue (Lindis) and river protection via WCO (Nevis).

Most of the NZC meeting was very positive and productive but it was concerning to see individual councillors put forward proposals for centralisation of reserves even though this is clearly beyond the jurisdiction of NZC and for there to be a difference of opinion within NZC on whether or not Fish and Game is a hierarchy with NZC at the top. In some quarters there is a reluctance to accept the devolved nature of Fish and Game Councils.

That aside it was a good opportunity for relationship building and Otago has been invited to present its views to a future meeting of NZC because of time constraints at its March meeting

### **For discussion**

Niall Watson  
Chief Executive  
April 2016

Balance Sheet  
**Otago Fish & Game Council**  
 Balance Sheet  
 As at 31 March 2016

<b>CAPITAL</b>		This Year	Last Year End
7500	Opening Equity	1,039,201.00	1,039,201.00
9015	Retained Earnings Brght Fwd	<u>1,437,918.74</u>	<u>1,417,494.83</u>
		2,477,119.74	2,456,695.83
	Plus Current Year Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	459,931.02	20,423.91
	<b>TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>2,937,050.76</u></u>	<u><u>2,477,119.74</u></u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
5005	Cash on Hand	200.00	200.00
5022	Stock on Hand	10,510.50	10,510.50
5030	Accrued Interest	1,728.58	1,728.58
5040	Prepayments	13,914.52	13,914.52
5060	ASB Investments	308,819.91	302,790.64
5080	SBS Investments	460,718.29	450,000.00
5800	GST Paid	6,651.67	27.13
6000	Sundry Creditors	28.41	28.41
6040	PAYE Control	12,804.16	0.00
6800	GST Received	0.00	61.16
6805	GST Payments/Refunds IRD	0.00	2,897.76
ACCREC	Trade Debtors	83,659.87	146,594.97
ASB_00	ASB 00 Account	41.15	1.15
NB00	National/ANZ 00 Account	157,027.32	165,546.50
NB70	National/ANZ 70 Account	<u>674,545.17</u>	<u>136,283.86</u>
		1,730,649.55	1,230,585.18
<b>LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
6010	Holiday Pay Accrued	60,780.56	60,780.56
6800	GST Received	24,765.07	0.00
6810	Funds received in Advance	210,002.00	210,002.00
ACCCSPAY	Trade Creditors	<u>51,208.21</u>	<u>57,280.36</u>
		346,755.84	328,062.92
	<b>NET WORKING CAPITAL</b>	1,383,893.71	902,522.26
<b>TERM ASSETS</b>			
5070	Anderson Lloyd Investment	<u>73,845.94</u>	<u>73,845.94</u>
		73,845.94	73,845.94
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
7000	Vehicles Purchases	290,980.17	276,292.51
7001	M/V Accum Deprn	(133,126.09)	(106,526.09)
7020	Boat Purchases	100,497.93	100,497.93
7021	Boat Accum Deprn	(75,004.66)	(72,344.66)
7200	Plant Purchases	66,198.01	56,644.10
7201	Plant Accum Deprn	(51,864.64)	(47,146.64)
7300	Furniture & Fittings	30,847.94	30,847.94
7301	Furniture Accum Deprn	(28,620.15)	(27,780.15)
7400	Field Equipment Purchases	34,610.96	34,610.96
7401	Field Eq Accum Deprn	(22,845.40)	(22,565.40)
7440	Land Purchases	414,410.77	414,410.77
7450	Buildings Purchases	629,287.49	629,287.49
7451	Buildings Accum Deprn	(314,832.20)	(306,558.20)
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>(49,574.13)</u>	<u>(47,264.13)</u>
		1,479,311.11	1,500,751.54
	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u><u>2,937,050.76</u></u>	<u><u>2,477,119.74</u></u>

**Otago Fish & Game Council  
Profit and Loss - Summary  
for Period Ended Mar:2015/16**

		-----Month to Date-----			-----Year to Date-----					
		Actual	Budget	% of Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance	Annual Budget	YTD Actual Budget	Last YTD
<b>INCOME</b>										
<b>FISH AND GAME LICENCE SA...</b>										
1000	Fishing Licences Income	90,783	0	0%	1,485,291	1,583,696	(98,405)	1,583,696	94%	1,680,529
1006	Game Licences Income	(480)	0	0%	3,702	312,926	(309,224)	312,926	1%	33,109
		90,303	0	0%	1,488,993	1,896,622	(407,629)	1,896,622	79%	1,713,638
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>										
1010	Interest received	0	0	0%	21,402	35,150	(13,748)	35,150	61%	22,765
1020	Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	0	0	0%	48	8,000	(7,952)	8,000	1%	841
1022	Reparations Trust Fund	2,500	0	0%	6,180	0	6,180	0	0%	1,954
1025	Rent Received	2,819	0	0%	20,203	41,300	(21,097)	41,300	49%	24,323
1065	Fishing Competitions	204	0	0%	742	0	742	0	0%	742
1075	Commissions Income	44	0	0%	1,028	0	1,028	0	0%	1,352
1090	Sundry Income	0	0	0%	3,659	0	3,659	0	0%	9,088
1092	Merchandise Sales/Other	4	0	0%	1,087	0	1,087	0	0%	(6,913)
1094	Donations Received	0	0	0%	2,000	0	2,000	0	0%	2,943
1096	RMA Costs Reimbursed	28,950	0	0%	37,081	0	37,081	0	0%	0
		34,521	0	0%	93,430	84,450	8,980	84,450	111%	57,094
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>124,824</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1,582,422</b>	<b>1,981,072</b>	<b>(398,650)</b>	<b>1,981,072</b>		<b>1,770,732</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>										
<b>SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>										
	POPULATION MONITOR / MMT	(8,705)	1,000	(870)%	(4,051)	7,000	(11,051)	12,000	(34)%	13,244
	HARVEST ASSESSMENT	0	250	0%	0	1,750	(1,750)	3,000	0%	0
	FISH SALVAGE	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
	HATCHERY OPERATIONS	(128)	1,083	(12)%	1,367	7,585	(6,218)	13,000	11%	10,413
	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
	<b>SPECIES MANAGEMENT-...</b>	<b>(8,832)</b>	<b>2,333</b>	<b>(379)%</b>	<b>(2,684)</b>	<b>16,335</b>	<b>(19,019)</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>(10)%</b>	<b>23,657</b>
<b>HABITAT PROTECTION</b>										
	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT A...	13,170	375	3,512%	47,955	2,629	45,326	4,500	1,066%	4,353
	WORKS & MMT COUNCIL LAND	(870)	292	(298)%	10,716	2,044	8,672	3,500	306%	(849)
	ASSISTED HABITAT	1,000	0	0%	1,000	0	1,000	0	0%	0
	<b>HABITAT PROTECTION-T...</b>	<b>13,300</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>1,994%</b>	<b>59,671</b>	<b>4,673</b>	<b>54,998</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>746%</b>	<b>3,504</b>
<b>PARTICIPATION</b>										
	ACCESS	765	167	458%	1,097	1,169	(72)	2,000	55%	2,450
	SATISFACTION SURVEYS	935	0	0%	4,456	0	4,456	0	0%	2,102
	NEWSLETTERS	0	1,250	0%	10,675	8,750	1,925	15,000	71%	12,035
	OTHER PUBLICATIONS	53	416	13%	105	2,920	(2,815)	5,000	2%	0
	TRAINING	0	583	0%	1,629	4,085	(2,456)	7,000	23%	4,300
	CLUB RELATIONS	4	83	5%	495	585	(90)	1,000	50%	529
	HUTS	26	0	0%	820	0	820	0	0%	0
	<b>PARTICIPATION-TOTAL</b>	<b>1,783</b>	<b>2,499</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>19,277</b>	<b>17,509</b>	<b>1,768</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>21,417</b>

**Otago Fish & Game Council  
Profit and Loss - Summary  
for Period Ended Mar:2015/16**

	-----Month to Date-----			-----Year to Date-----			Annual Budget	% of Budget	
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance			
<b>PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>									
LIAISON	0	42	0%	63	294	(231)	500	13%	0
COMMUNICATIONS	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	539
ADVOCACY	0	583	0%	0	4,085	(4,085)	7,000	0%	0
<b>PUBLIC INTERFACE-TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>4,379</b>	<b>(4,316)</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>539</b>
<b>COMPLIANCE</b>									
RANGER ADMIN	0	208	0%	2,010	1,460	550	2,500	80%	357
RANGER TRAINING	0	375	0%	4,093	2,625	1,468	4,500	91%	2,266
COMPLIANCE	2,526	333	758%	2,526	2,335	191	4,000	63%	36
<b>COMPLIANCE-TOTAL</b>	<b>2,526</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>276%</b>	<b>8,629</b>	<b>6,420</b>	<b>2,209</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>2,659</b>
<b>LICENCES</b>									
LICENCE PRODUCT/DISTN	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
AGENT SERVICING	0	42	0%	264	294	(30)	500	53%	1,401
COMMISSION	3,890	0	0%	62,961	0	62,961	0	0%	72,653
<b>NZFG LEVIES</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>70,913</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>425,478</b>	<b>496,392</b>	<b>(70,914)</b>	<b>850,957</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>447,016</b>
<b>LICENSES-TOTAL</b>	<b>3,890</b>	<b>70,955</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>488,703</b>	<b>496,686</b>	<b>(7,983)</b>	<b>851,457</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>521,070</b>
<b>COUNCIL</b>									
COUNCIL ELECTIONS	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
COUNCIL MEETINGS	1,170	1,000	117%	9,951	7,000	2,951	12,000	83%	7,499
<b>COUNCIL-TOTAL</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>117%</b>	<b>9,951</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>2,951</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>7,499</b>
<b>PLANNING / REPORTING</b>									
MMT/STRATEGIC PLANNING	0	0	0%	899	0	899	0	0%	846
REPORTING/AUDIT	0	1,000	0%	14,884	7,000	7,884	12,000	124%	3,835
NATIONAL LIAISON	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	34
<b>PLAN/REPORT-TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>15,782</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>8,782</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>132%</b>	<b>4,716</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>									
SALARIES	51,524	57,127	90%	378,996	399,889	(20,893)	685,517	55%	336,216
STAFF EXPENSES	(459)	1,850	(25)%	4,665	12,960	(8,295)	22,202	21%	(2,665)
STAFF HOUSES	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
OFFICE PREMISES	318	6,786	5%	36,376	47,520	(11,144)	81,450	45%	37,211
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	45	1,232	4%	1,303	8,636	(7,333)	14,796	9%	1,898
COMMUNICATIONS	1,085	2,347	46%	14,270	16,433	(2,163)	28,164	51%	20,164
GENERAL	3,232	1,500	215%	5,636	10,504	(4,868)	18,000	31%	4,796
GENERAL EQUIPMENT	108	803	13%	2,607	5,635	(3,028)	9,650	27%	5,115
VEHICLES	8,233	5,542	149%	33,563	38,802	(5,239)	66,505	50%	34,752
<b>ADMINISTRATION - TOTAL</b>	<b>64,086</b>	<b>77,187</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>477,417</b>	<b>540,379</b>	<b>(62,962)</b>	<b>926,284</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>437,486</b>
DEPRECIATION	6,526	0	0%	45,682	0	45,682	0	0%	45,682
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>84,448</b>	<b>157,182</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>1,122,491</b>	<b>1,100,381</b>	<b>22,110</b>	<b>1,886,241</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>1,068,230</b>
<b>Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>40,377</b>	<b>(157,182)</b>		<b>459,931</b>	<b>880,691</b>	<b>(420,760)</b>	<b>94,831</b>		<b>702,502</b>

**Summary of Draft Profit and Loss Statement Expenses 31st March 2016**  
**As At 12/04/16**

Expense	Total Budget	Actual Expenditure	YtD %	Comment
		Ytd		
<b>Projects</b>				
Species	\$ 26,000.00	-\$ 2,684.00	-10%	Lindis Masters claim
Habitat	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 22,590.00	282%	less reimbursed legal fund
Participation	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 19,277.00	64%	
Public Interface	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 63.00	1%	
Compliance	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 8,629.00	78%	
Licences	\$ 500.00	\$ 264.00	53%	
Council	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 9,951.00	83%	
Planning	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 15,782.00	132%	
<b>Projects Total</b>	<b>\$ 109,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 73,872.00</b>	<b>68%</b>	
<b>Administration</b>				
Salaries	\$ 668,134.00	\$ 378,996.00	55%	
Staff Expenses	\$ 22,202.00	\$ 4,665.00	21%	
Office Premises	\$ 81,450.00	\$ 36,376.00	45%	
Office Equipment	\$ 18,374.00	\$ 1,303.00	9%	
Communication	\$ 28,666.00	\$ 14,270.00	51%	
General	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 5,636.00	31%	
General Equipment	\$ 13,944.00	\$ 2,607.00	27%	
Vehicles	\$ 66,505.00	\$ 33,563.00	50%	
<b>Administration Total</b>	<b>\$ 917,275.00</b>	<b>\$ 477,416.00</b>	<b>52%</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,026,275.00</b>	<b>\$ 551,288.00</b>	<b>54%</b>	

Depreciation		\$ 45,682.00		
Commission Expense		\$ 62,961.00		
RMA Expenses reimbursed		\$ 37,081.00		
Levies	\$ 850,957.00	\$ 425,478.00	50%	

**Summary of Profit and Loss Statement Income 31st March 2016**

**As At 12/04/16**

Income	Total Budget	Actual Income	YtD %	Comment
		Ytd		
Fish	\$ 1,583,696.00	\$ 1,485,291.00	94%	
Game	\$ 312,926.00	\$ 3,702.00	1%	
Prosecutions	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 48.00	1%	
Rent	\$ 41,300.00	\$ 20,203.00	49%	
Interest	\$ 35,150.00	\$ 21,402.00	61%	
	<b>\$ 1,981,072.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,530,646.00</b>	<b>77%</b>	

	Budget	Actual	YtD%	Comment
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	\$ 1,026,275.00	\$ 551,288.00	54%	
<b>Less "Other Income"</b>	\$ 84,450.00	\$ 93,430.00	111%	
<b>Approved Budget</b>	\$ 950,834.00	\$ 457,858.00	48%	

## Otago Fish Licence Sales YTD to 7 April 2016

Channel	FWF	FWA	FMNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWJ	FWNJ	FWIA	FWIJ	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDJ	Total	Fish LEQ	Fish Var	Fish \$
Otago Agency Online	2592	3731	395	0	0	432	6	45	6	0	0	692	51	7950			
Retail Book	612	1109	0	0	0	197	0	32	6	0	0	3146	280	5382			
Public Online	1320	1552	549	0	0	148	17	31	3	0	0	1511	79	5210			
Eyede Call Centre	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	10			
2014-2015 Total	4525	6394	945	0	0	777	23	109	15	0	0	5354	410	18552	14567		\$1,558,007
Agency Online	2872	3622	504	505	402	505	23	40	0	63	322	3699	257	12814			
Retail Book	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	10			
Public Online	1417	1454	584	164	275	196	13	13	0	35	216	2760	132	7259			
Eyede Call Centre	40	36	7	22	1	2	0	0	0	1	2	31	1	143			
2015-2016 Total	4329	5112	1095	691	678	703	36	53	0	99	540	6499	391	20226	14464	-0.7%	\$1,559,617

FWF - Family, FWA - Adult Season, FMNA - Non Resident full season, FSLA - Senior Loyal, FLAA - Local Area, FWNJ - Non resident Junior, FWIA - Adult Winter, FWJ - Junior Winter, FLBA - Long Break, FLNB - Short Break, FDA - Adult Day, FDJ - Junior Day

Otago Game Licence Sales YTD to 7 April 2016												
Otago	Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ	Game \$	Game Var		
	Agency Online	527	50	24	0	0	601					
	Retail Book	135	7	5	0	0	147					
	Public Online	183	5	8	0	0	196					
	Eyede Call Centre	2	0	0	0	0	2					
2014-2015	Total	847	62	37	0	0	946	860	\$66,521			
	Agency Online	762	51	29	0	0	842					
	Retail Book	0	0	0	0	0	0					
	Public Online	146	8	6	0	0	160					
	Eyede Call Centre	1	0	0	0	0	1					
2015-2016	Total	909	59	35	0	0	1003	921	\$73,675			7.1%

## **7 Committee Reports**

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### **7.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust**

### **7.2 NZC Meeting**

## 8 Staff and Technical Reports

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### 8.1 Anglers Notice Review and Public Submissions – C Halford

## COUNCIL REPORT APRIL 2016

### Anglers Notice Review and Summary of Public Submissions

#### Introduction

This report provides a summary of public submissions on Otago's Anglers Notice Review and completes the second round of 2015/16 reporting. Final reporting will be completed for the June council meeting which will conclude the review exercise.

Anglers, fishing clubs and guides were invited to comment on suggested changes to Otago's Anglers Notice in late January through February via the media, Fish and Game website and direct correspondence. The closing date for submissions was March 4. A total of 25 submissions were received.

The report has been compiled in sequence with the relevant sections of the Anglers Notice with the submitter's numbers (appendix 1.) provided next to each subject heading to identify their interest.

#### **2. Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits**

##### **Arrow River** (# 14)

This submitter has requested that a restriction be placed on treble hooks. He feels that the large fish from the Kawarau River that access the river for spawning are targeted during the open fishing season and should be released. The submitter also asks that the regulations are changed to catch and release.

##### *Staff Comment*

The First Schedule of the Sports Fishing Regulations allows for the use of treble hooks and restricting use on individual waters would be difficult to achieve and inconsistent with regulations. Banning treble hooks would complicate enforcement issues. Changing to catch and release would limit angling opportunities particularly for junior anglers who frequently visit the river.

Recommendation No Change to the current regulations

**Caples River** (# 5, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24)

Submitters have suggested the Caples River should be a controlled fishery similar to the Greenstone River management regime. Ease of accessibility and increased angling pressure are the key points. One submitter also suggests a zero bag limit.

*Staff Comment*

The controlled fishery booking regime on the Greenstone River has likely directed some anglers to the Caples River but this was always likely to happen. Interestingly we have received very little feedback about overcrowding issues and some compliance monitoring this season has revealed low to moderate use. While a controlled fishery regime is an option for the future there is no clear indication it is required at this time. Changing to a zero bag limit isn't consistent with the neighboring Greenstone River regulations of 1 fish per day and could create confusion for anglers in addition to compliance issues.

Recommendation No Change to the current regulations

**Clutha River – Deans Bank** (#13)

This submitter suggests that the Deans Bank area should be all methods.

*Staff Comment*

While this change would assist with easier interpretation of regulations for the river and counter some compliance issues, any regulation change for Deans Bank would meet with stern opposition from many local and regional anglers. The area has historical significance and any proposed change would require considerable consultation. The deterioration of the fishery in recent years probably due to the colonization of didymo provides sound reason not to relax the current regulations.

Recommendation No change to the current regulations

**Upper Clutha River - Bag Limits** (# 9, 16)

Submitter # 16 has operated a guided rafting business on the Upper Clutha River for 15 years and has kept good catch records that have shown a significant drop in catch rates and fish size. The submitter is suggesting a drop in the daily bag from 6 fish to 2.

The other submission from the Upper Clutha Angling Club suggests dropping the current bag to 4 fish. Reasons include a growing community, increased angler presence, limited fisheries information and the need to take a precautionary approach.

*Staff Comment*

Due to high river flows a planned drift dive has not been undertaken so the fish population has not been assessed. Feedback from anglers however has suggested that fish have become

more difficult to catch and their condition has declined. Dropping the bag limit may be a sensible option in the absence of reliable fisheries information.

Recommendation That this issue be given further consideration.

**Diamond Creek** (# 3, 5, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24)

Submitters have requested that Diamond Creek be changed to fly fishing only. Current permitted methods allow fly and spin fishing.

*Staff Comment*

Diamond Creek offers good spin fishing opportunities with the current 1 fish/day bag limit and fits within the spectrum of opportunity for waters across the region.

Recommendation No change to the current regulations

**Greenstone River** (# 14, 19)

Submitter 14 suggests opening the river downstream from the Swing Bridge to winter fishing. He feels that more river winter fishing opportunities should exist and this would provide a great opportunity for visiting anglers.

Submitter # 19 suggests a zero bag limit and that all BC waters should have a zero bag limit.

*Staff Comment*

A regulation change in the 2011 review through feedback from Back Country licence holders resulted in this section of the river opened to spin anglers, the entire river was previously fly fishing only. While this suggestion has some merit and would conform with other rivers in the Lakes area such as the Matukituki and Lower Makarora rivers there is growing concern from local anglers and some commercial operators about a possibly decline in rainbow trout numbers in Lake Wakatipu and many of the tributaries.

Whilst a bag limit of 1 fish per day is suggested, pressure on river stocks and the spawning run would be difficult to quantify. Due to isolation, compliance, and possible interference with the spawning run it would be difficult to monitor.

With respect to submitter # 19 a zero bag limit is not necessary for the Greenstone River and presently allows an angler to harvest one fish which is consistent with other waters in the district.

Recommendation No change to the current regulations

**Hunter River** (# 8)

The submitter has suggested a beat system for the river acknowledging that the river supports good fish and angler numbers. Concern was expressed about anglers driving the river's edge to get from pool to pool suggesting this required better management.

*Staff Comment*

The Hunter River is classified as a BC fishery and receives moderate to high angling use. In a recent BC anglers survey respondents expressed some concerns about the fishery. In the mid to lower valley the braided nature of the river allows for angler separation but it appears angling pressure is climbing. Aircraft and jet boats have good access to the valley and many anglers access the lower reaches from Lake Hawea by boat. Some vehicle access through Hunter Valley Station and Dingle Burn Station still occurs.

A booking system for the Hunter River is an option but this will require further consultation with anglers and guidance from our SFGMP.

Recommendation That the issue be given further consideration

**Kawarau River** (# 20)

The submitter has requested that the Kawarau River is closed for fishing between May and October. Currently the river is open from 1 October to 30 September with permitted methods – fly, spin, bait and a 6 fish daily limit. The respondent is concerned that anglers are targeting large spawning rainbow trout that could be beneficial to the recruitment of the Lake Wakatipu fishery.

*Staff Comment*

While some harvest is occurring, the river is large and offers a winter angling opportunity when many of the main lake tributaries are closed.

Recommendation No change to the current regulations

**Lake Mahinerangi** (# 10)

This submitter is questioning the closure of Lake Mahinerangi over the winter months and suggests it would be great to have it open like Onslow, Waipori and Waihola.

*Staff Comment*

While there is little information to suggest that a winter season will impact on fish stocks having an opening on October 1<sup>st</sup> has appeal to some anglers and falls within the spectrum of opportunity for waters across the region.

Recommendation No change to the current regulations

## **Lake Wakatipu**

(# 3, 5, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24)

Seven submitters have suggested dropping the daily bag limit on Lake Wakatipu from 6 to 2 fish per day. Respondents are concerned the higher bag is sending the wrong message to recreational anglers and there is concern about the lack of fish numbers in some of the lake tributaries.

Submitter #20 has operated a guided boat fishing business for many years and is concerned about the abundance of small salmon in the lake, their diminishing condition, and declining rainbow numbers. He recommends a higher salmon bag and a lower trout limit. He explained that on one trip he caught and released 47 salmon in 2 hours but will often go for a week without catching a rainbow trout.

### *Staff Comment*

With the exception of Submitter # 20 I suspect the other respondents are likely fly or spin anglers that fish the local rivers and therefore have a different perspective on the issue, but there is a common thread about the decline in trout numbers. Angler surveys by boat over the holiday period confirmed what submitter #20 has experienced with high salmon catches.

Recommendation That the issue be given further consideration and included in the wider context of bag limits for regional waters.

## **Lochy and Routeburn Rivers**

(# 3, 5, 13, 14, 15, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24)

In our communication to anglers inviting them to comment on angling regulations we asked if the Lochy and Routeburn Rivers should remain as no take fisheries with a zero bag.

One submitter suggests the daily bag limit should be raised to 2 fish per day for the entire river and a BC fishery classification for the entire river. Comments provided were that there are enough fish in the lower river to sustain a 2 fish daily bag and anglers fishing the upper river generally release their catch licence. The other submitters confirmed that the regulations should remain unchanged.

### *Staff Comment*

There was general support to retain the current regulations. With respect to the respondent wanting to increase the bag limit to 2 fish per day a regulation change would not be consistent with other bag limits on similar waters in the district and there is limited knowledge of fish stocks to warrant an increase. The lower river presently caters for novice and less confident fly anglers and provides the ability to fish on a short term licence. All BC fisheries require a full season licence.

Recommendation No change to the current regulations

### **Makarora River** (# 11)

Some Makarora residents have requested that the Makarora River and its tributaries upstream from the Young River confluence be changed to catch and release only. Reasons include decrease in the trout population, increased angling pressure including guiding and the protection of early and late spawners.

#### *Staff Comment*

The river supports an annual spawning run from Lake Wanaka. Similar to other main lake tributaries in the district most fish out-migrate quickly after spawning which reduces the river population. Current regulations permitting fly and spinning with a 1 fish/day bag limit are consistent with other main lake tributary regulations and therefore should be a key consideration. It is common practice for guided and fly anglers to release their catch. Overall angling use is not clear outside of the National Anglers Survey. Like other similar rivers in the district it is likely that angling pressure is increasing.

Recommendation No change to the current regulations

### **Makarora River** (# 4)

Cromwell Rod and Gun Club members would like to see the bag limit from the Wilkin Confluence downstream to Lake Wanaka increased to 2 salmon and 2 trout per day. Members feel there are sufficient fish stock to support the change and consider the driving distance to this waterway should reflect a larger bag. Current regulations permit fly and spin and a 1 fish daily limit.

#### *Staff Comment*

This section of river is mainly the pathway for the spawning run and while fish are present in numbers at times fish numbers are generally low to moderate. Regulation consistency with other tributary waters should be considered.

Recommendation No change to the current regulations

### **Manorburn and Poolburn Reservoirs** (# 17, 25)

Submitter # 17 suggests that Manorburn Reservoir (1 November opening) and Poolburn Reservoir (1 October opening) open on the first weekend of their respective months. He believes this would provide a better opportunity for family angling on a special day of the fishing calendar.

Submitter # 25 has questioned the lowering of the daily bag limit on Poolburn Reservoir from 6 to 3 several years ago with the size and quality of catches declining.

#### *Staff Comment*

Opening on the first weekend of the open season is an option but this could place additional pressure on roads and the limited boat launching facilities. While it would provide a different

feature for waters in Otago and annually allow junior anglers the opportunity to experience an opening weekend start to the fishing season, regulations would sit outside the normal season for similar waters in the district.

Anglers have commented about declining fish sizes and the condition of the larger fish at Poolburn Reservoir. We know this is cyclic and probably due to additional spawning opportunities in Long Valley Creek. Angler interviews are undertaken on the opening day and we have a base of fisheries information but additional monitoring may be required.

Recommendation No change to the current regulation

**Moke Lake** (# 3, 5, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24)

Submitters have requested that Moke Lake regulations be changed to fly and spin only with a bag reduction to 2 fish per day. Their general concern is that they believe the fishery has suffered since the introduction of bait as a legal method.

*Staff Comment*

There is no evidence that bait fishing has had a detrimental impact on the fishery. Fishing can be unproductive at times on this lake and allowing bait fishing maximizes angling opportunity. The fishery is on our stocking schedule supporting natural recruitment. Dropping the bag limit from 3 to 2 per day would make little difference but could be considered in line with any regional bag adjustments.

Recommendation No change to the current regulations

**Matukituki River** (# 4)

Cromwell Rod and Gun Club members would like to see the bag limit from the Motatapu Confluence downstream to Lake Wanaka increased from 1 to 2 trout per day. Members feel there are sufficient fish stocks to support the change and consider the driving distance to this waterway should reflect a larger bag. Current regulations permit fly and spin, and 1 fish/day.

*Staff Comment*

This section of river was opened some years ago to provide a winter angling opportunity in addition to the normal open season of 1 November to 31 May. Winter anglers have been permitted to target the main spawning runs and this is when the majority of angling is undertaken, therefore a cautious approach should be adopted. Present bag limits are consistent with other rivers in the district.

Recommendation No change to the current regulations  
**Nevis River** (# 5, 21, 22, 23, 24)

These submitters requested that the regulations on the Nevis River remain unchanged.

Recommendation No change to the current regulations

**Teviot River** (# 25)

The submitter commented that he considers the Teviot River is Otago's most overstocked and under fished river which he has fished for 40 years and questions why the river is not open to fishing all year round. The current season is October 1 to April 30 with permitted methods Fly, Spin and bait.

*Staff Comment*

The Teviot River is a brown trout spawning tributary of the Clutha River and the open season fits with other similar waters in the catchment. Fish are abundant and generally small in size. It is likely that any relaxation of the season length will have little impact on fish numbers but anglers would be permitted to harvest spawning fish. Angler use would be low due to very cold winter temperatures.

An open season from October 1 to September 30 would not be consistent with other waters in the catchment when we are trying to streamline fishing regulations for clarity and ease of interpretation.

Recommendation That the issue be given further consideration

**Timaru River** (# 4)

Club members wish to have the permitted daily bag of 1 fish increased to 2 fish from the road bridge to the Lake Hawea. Their opinion is that there are sufficient fish stock to support the increase especially the distances that many anglers have to travel.

*Staff Comment*

Present regulations allow fishing from 1 October to 30 September with permitted methods - fly and spin and a daily limit of 1 fish. Upstream of the bridge the river closes at the end of May annually to protect spawning.

This section of river generally only holds fish during the spawning period and regulations were relaxed on this section of river some years ago to support winter angling in a stream environment. The 1 fish/day bag limit was set to allow some harvest of the healthy spawning run. Any change to the bag limit will not be consistent with other lake tributaries in the area.

**Young and Wilkin Rivers** (# 8)

This submitter is requesting that a zero bag be introduced for the Young and Wilkin Rivers. Comments received were that both rivers needed to recover from floods and that too many fish are being removed by transient anglers. This submitter also wishes to have catch and release on all BC rivers.

*Staff Comment*

Both of these rivers are productive spawning tributaries of the Makarora River that feeds Lake Wanaka. Both rivers are BC fisheries that cater for local, regional and overseas anglers and

while there is a moderate harvest, many fish are released. The 1 fish daily bag limit and 1 November to 31 May open season is consistent with other similar waters in the district.

Recommendation No change to the current regulations

### **Waters of the Leith** (# 2, 6, 7)

These submitters are requesting additional regulations to protect spawning fish in the Leith stream and its tributaries.

Submitter # 2 has commented to staff that they would like to see greater protection of spawning fish stock.

Submitter # 6 suggests that the salmon fishery from the Leith Street Walk Bridge in the university area to the mouth of the Leith be catch and release only.

Submitter # 7 would like to see that the “Waters of Leith” are closed during March and April to protect spawning.

The current open season is 1 October to 30 April - permitted methods are fly, spin, bait and a daily bag limit of 3 fish.

Waters of Leith downstream of Leith Street Foot Bridge open season is 1 October to 30 September – permitted methods are fly, spin, bait and a daily bag limit of 3 fish.

#### *Staff Comment*

Staff, have regularly received comments seeking greater protection of the brown trout and salmon spawning run particularly by the local associations involved in the Dunedin harbour salmon enhancement program. Both species are regularly targeted by anglers during the spawning season and some protection of the upper catchment would be sensible.

Present regulations allow for continued harvest in the lower section of the stream.

#### Recommendation

1. Close “Waters of the Leith” from and including Lindsay Creek confluence upstream all year.

**Note** - This regulation will be included in Clause 3 of the Regulations – Closed Season, and the other current regulations will remain.

## **6. Bait Fishing Waters (# 12, 25)**

Submitter # 12 requests the use of shellfish as bait and the use of two bait assembly particularly for use in tidal waters.

Submitter # 25 would like to see bait fishing for salmon in the Clutha River prohibited. His reasoning is that he believes bait angling is having an impact of fish numbers especially near the Roxburgh Dam. He also suggests a no salmon take period of around 4 years to try and improve the population.

### *Staff Comment*

The legal description of bait is being assessed with the national review of the 1st Schedule of the Anglers Notice. Currently only one bait assembly is permitted and the Anglers Notice Working Party has not suggested a change for this.

There is little evidence to suggest bait anglers harvest more salmon than spin anglers therefore bait angling should be permitted to continue. A closed season for salmon over an extended period would only restrict angler opportunity.

### Recommendations

1. Definition of "bait"- Wait for the outcome of the national Anglers Notice Review (1<sup>st</sup> Schedule)
2. Continue the permitted use of bait for salmon fishing

## **8. Use of Boats (#16)**

The submitter is requesting that fishing is permitted from a boat, canoe, pontoon or any flotation device on the Makarora River from the Wilkin confluence downstream to Lake Wanaka.

The submitter suggests the river is large enough and will not have an effect on land based anglers.

### *Staff Comment*

This activity is permitted on the nearby Clutha and Matukituki Rivers which is probably sufficient to meet the needs of this angling group. The Makarora River and its tributaries are experiencing increasing angling pressure and relaxation of the present regulations is not necessary. Whilst drift fishing offers a different angling experience it can impact on shore based anglers satisfaction.

Recommendation      No change to the current regulations

## **9. Daily Bag Limits** (# 9)

Other submitters have provided comments about bag limits but these have been covered under the specific waters above.

The Upper Clutha Angling Club has been advocating for a general reduction to daily bag limits in the Upper Clutha Catchment through the last review in 2011 and prior. They consider increases in the population, angling pressure and limited knowledge of fish stocks as key issues. Members feel that a reduction from a 6 daily bag to 4 would be prudent and this would fall into line with neighboring Fish and Game Regions.

### *Staff Comment*

This council was provided with some background to regional bag limit adjustments through staff reporting in the November Council Agenda (2015 Anglers Notice Review Preliminary Report, C. Halford). While there was some feedback from anglers about bag limits in the public consultation round of this review the general issue requires further consideration and resolution.

Recommendation That the issue be given further consideration

## **Treble Hooks** (# 3, 5, 21, 22, 23, 24)

Several submitters have asked that treble hooks be prohibited. The main reason is the perceived damage to small fish, including Lake Wakatipu salmon. A number of submitters have suggested a phase out period, to single hooks.

### *Staff Comment*

The subject of treble hooks has been raised numerous during Anglers Notice reviews and generally. The first schedule of the Anglers Notice does not prohibit treble hooks and there is no recommendation to change this. Removing hooks from fish for release is an educational component of fishing that we will continue to promote.

Recommendation No change to the current regulations

## **Catch and Release on all Waters** (# 1)

This submitter has suggested a change for the Otago Fish and Game Region (on a trial basis) from the October opening to September where anglers can have a catch and release month.

His rationale is that in recent years the weather in September has been milder and more settled than in October, opening up angling opportunities. The impact of an earlier catch and release start could be monitored. He is of the belief that Fish and Game is responsible for getting more anglers fishing and this could help achieve that. He strongly suspects that the effect on fish populations will be minor.

*Staff Comment*

This submitter has provided his thoughts on a new idea which should be considered. However a September opening does not fall in line with national standards and I strongly suspect there will be a range of compliance issues.

Recommendation      No change to the current regulations

**Final Recommendation**

That the report be received

Cliff Halford  
Fish and Game Officer  
April 2016

## Appendix 1.

### List of Submitters

#	
1	Gordon Munn
2	Dunedin Community Salmon Trust
3	Neil Mc Gill
4	Cromwell Rod and Gunn Club
5	Colin Heath
6	New Zealand Salmon Anglers, Otago Branch
7	Lorraine and John Savory
8	Chris Daughters, Cedar Lodge New Zealand
9	Upper Clutha Angling Club
10	Dave Watson
11	Makarora Resident Anglers, Submitted by David Howe
12	Clive Preedy
13	Steve Dixon
14	Simon Wilkinson
15	Chris Dore
16	Greg Dougherty
17	Lex Coutts
18	Bruce Leitch
19	Bryan Wrighton
20	Stu Dever
21	Fraser Hocks
22	Daniel Holik
23	Dennis Seear
24	Santillan de Pinto
25	Patrick Quinn

**8.2 Staff Response to Strategic Planning 2016 - N Watson – Confidential**

### 8.3 Wetland Covenant Update - P Wilson

## COUNCIL REPORT APRIL 2016

### Wetland Covenant Update

#### Introduction

Staff are currently finalising three covenants to protect and enhance wetlands on private land across Otago. This report provides an update on where these covenant processes are at.

#### Taieri Scroll Plain Covenants and Caveats

These covenants and caveats, covering an area of approximately 30 ha of the Taieri Scroll Plain wetland, have been negotiated as a biodiversity offset for enabling the continuation of summer irrigation from the Sow Burn. There are two covenants

#### Dairy Farms Partnership Covenant:

This covenant is established in the name of the Otago Fish and Game Council under section 77 of the Reserves Act 1977. The Department of Conservation standard covenant template was used.

The covenant covers approximately 29 hectares of highly modified wetland, some of which is also designated as a regionally significant wetland under the Regional Plan: Water. Much of this area was affected by catchment board works in the 1970s, and is now only wet during times of high rainfall and river flow. The old braids of the scroll plain wetland are still visible and intact. However, whilst the regional plan provides some protection, particularly against any further drainage, the plan does not provide any protection or guidance on an appropriate grazing regime for the wetland, beyond prohibiting noticeable pugging and slumping caused by stock.

The covenant conditions include the development of a grazing management plan for various areas within the covenant, based on their sensitivity.

It is intended to undertake a staged enhancement and promotion plan for the area.

The land transfer plan is currently being finalised, and once this is complete, the covenant can be registered against the land title.

#### Greenbank Pastoral Limited Covenant:

This covenant, approximately 1 ha, covers a section of riverside property owned by interests of the Herlihy family. Of interest to Fish and Game is a side-braid that is currently only connected to the Taieri during times of high flow, and this offers potential for enhancement. This covenant includes public access from Maniototo Road.

The covenant is currently registered as a caveat, or commitment to enter into a covenant, against the land title.

## **Lochar Downs Covenant**

This covenant is currently being negotiated on the Lochar Downs property, which is on the true right bank of the Clutha River immediately above Lake Dunstan, and adjacent to the proposed Bendigo Wildlife Management Reserve. It appears that this area missed the Otago Regional Council's survey in 2009/2010 that led to the delineation of regionally significant wetland boundaries. As there are only limited 'default' wetland rules in Otago, the area will have limited to no protection without a covenant.

The covenant is approximately 7ha in area, and covers the catchment of a small spring-fed stream. The natural values of the area are high, consisting of red tussock, flax, Carex, and a small area of manuka. There are areas of standing water in the lower stream, albeit with a crack willow infestation. The area is currently fenced in part, and will be fully fenced shortly.

This covenant emerged after positive discussions between Fish and Game staff and the landowner after consent was sought for pasture development. Fish and Game agreed to fund the legal work for the covenant, at approximately \$1500, whilst fencing and willow removal would be undertaken by the landholder.

An enhancement plan will be needed for the area, potentially involving the wider community. It should be noted that the proposed Upper Clutha cycle trail will pass along the boundary of the covenant, offering an opportunity to further promote the wetland.

## **Recommendations**

That this report is received.

**Peter Wilson**  
**Environmental Officer**  
**12/04/2016**

## Appendix 1 – Taieri Scroll Plain Covenants

### Covenant Description

#### General Values:

- (a) *To protect and maintain the open space values of the Land.*
- (b) *To protect and enhance the natural character of the Land including existing and potential future wetland habitats.*
- (c) *To protect landscape, amenity and recreational amenity of the Land.*
- (d) *To allow and encourage the natural regeneration of indigenous species.*
- (e) *To preserve wetland flora and fauna and freshwater fish.*
- (f) *To protect indigenous vegetation associated with wetlands and saline soils, vegetation ecosystem types that have become uncommon due to human activity.*
- (g) *To protect habitats of acutely and chronically threatened indigenous species.*
- (h) *To allow public access to the Land by way of existing legal roads. For the avoidance of doubt, the Owner does not grant public access across the balance of the Owner's land (of which the Land forms part) except on request*
- (i) *To provide for potential future restoration and reinstatement of the values of the Land as maybe agreed by the parties from time to time.*
- (j) *To buffer the Taieri River from the effects of surrounding land use.*

#### Specific Values:

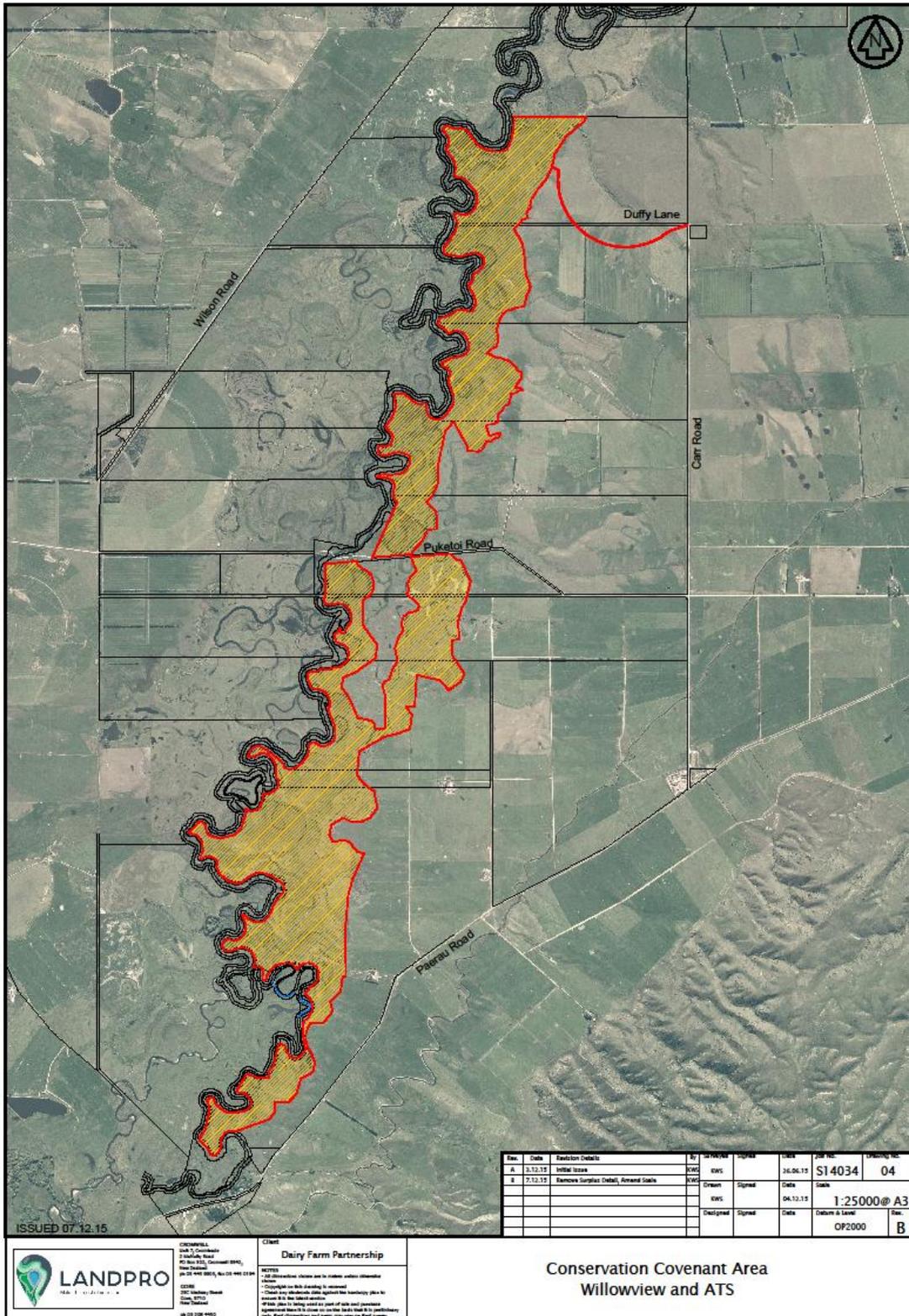
*The values which the parties are satisfied the Land should be managed to preserve include natural environment, landscape amenity, recreational amenity, saline soil areas, wildlife habitat and freshwater fish habitat, with particular regard to sports fish and gamebird habitat.*

*In particular, the Taieri scroll plain wetland is nationally and internationally significant being one of the last remaining wetlands of its type in New Zealand with a unique combination of wetland habitats. The wetland contains significant habitat for both introduced and indigenous waterfowl and freshwater fish and is recognised as a regionally significant wetland. It has been proposed for international recognition under the Ramsar Convention (1971). The wetland is highly valued for its recreational amenity including gamebird hunting. The wetland offers opportunities for the restoration and reinstatement of wetland values that were formerly present in the area.*

*The Land contributes to the landscape values of the Maniototo Plain, and it improves and extends the protection of the intrinsic values of the adjoining public conservation land. The Land compliments and improves on wetland protection in Otago. The Land also provides regionally significant habitat for trout and waterfowl. Saline soils are also present and provide habitat for a range of salt tolerant plants, and is an important example of such habitat in Central Otago.*

*The Land provides protection for the extent and condition of natural freshwater ecosystems within the Taieri catchment as a whole.*

Map



Rev.	Date	Revision Details	By	Checked	Scale	Proj. No.	Drawing No.
A	3.10.15	Initial Issue	KWS		1:25000	S14034	04
B	7.12.15	Remove Surplus Detail, Amend Scale	KWS	Signed	04.12.15		
			Designed	Signed	Date	Drawn & Lined	Rev.
						OP2000	B

ISSUED 07.12.15



2014/2015  
 Land Pro Consultants  
 21 Havelock Road  
 PO Box 815, Dunedin 9102,  
 New Zealand  
 PH 03 448 9803, Au 03 448 0194  
 FAX 03 448 9802

**Client**  
 Dairy Farm Partnership

**NOTES**  
 - All dimensions shown are to centre unless otherwise stated.  
 - Copyright in this drawing is reserved.  
 - Check any alterations made against the locality plan as issued to the client.  
 - If work done is being used as part of title and purchase agreements please refer to the title and purchase documents only. Road dimensions and areas only refer to Road Centre.

**Conservation Covenant Area  
 Willowview and ATS**

L:\141034 - Dairy Farm Part ATS - Conservation Area Willowview and ATS.dwg Plot Date: 07.12.2015

## Appendix 2 – Lochar Downs Covenant

### Covenant Description

#### Description of Land:

The covenanted Land is legally described as consisting of a part of Lots 1-2, Deposited Plan 22869, Otago Land District. The Land is currently held across two freehold titles – OT15D/1100 and OT15D/1101, both owned in fee simple by Lochar Downs Holdings Limited.

The Land consists of approximately 7 hectares of wetland alongside a small unnamed spring fed tributary stream of the Upper Clutha River, adjacent to Lake Dunstan, in the Clutha Valley, Otago. The Land is sandwiched between developed pasture on the east, which in turn adjoins the Upper Clutha River, and a steep river terrace/escarpment on the west. The wetland is currently fenced on the eastern side.

Reserve Values to be Protected:

#### General Values:

- (a) *To protect and maintain the open space values of the Land.*
- (b) *To protect and enhance the natural character of the Land including existing and potential future wetland habitats.*
- (c) *To protect landscape, and the amenity of the Land.*
- (d) *To allow and encourage the natural regeneration of indigenous species.*
- (e) *To preserve wetland flora and fauna and freshwater fish.*
- (f) *To protect indigenous vegetation associated with wetlands, a vegetation ecosystem type that has become uncommon due to human activity.*
- (g) *To protect habitats of acutely and chronically threatened indigenous species.*
- (h) *To provide for potential future restoration and reinstatement of the values of the Land.*
- (i) *To buffer the unnamed stream and the Clutha River downstream from the effects of surrounding land use.*

#### Specific Values:

*The values which the Parties are satisfied the Land should be managed to preserve include natural environment, landscape amenity, wildlife habitat and freshwater fish habitat, with particular regard to existing indigenous vegetation, indigenous wildlife, sports fish and gamebird habitat, and to maintain or enhance the quality of freshwater in the wetland. The opportunity for enhancement of these values exists.*

*In particular, the Lochar Downs wetland is in a natural or semi-natural state, with indigenous red tussock and flax (*Phormium tenax*), *Carex secta*, and permanent water. The vegetation cover supports indigenous and introduced wildlife, particularly providing breeding, nesting, and rearing cover for bird species. These values are rare in the context of the Upper Clutha.*

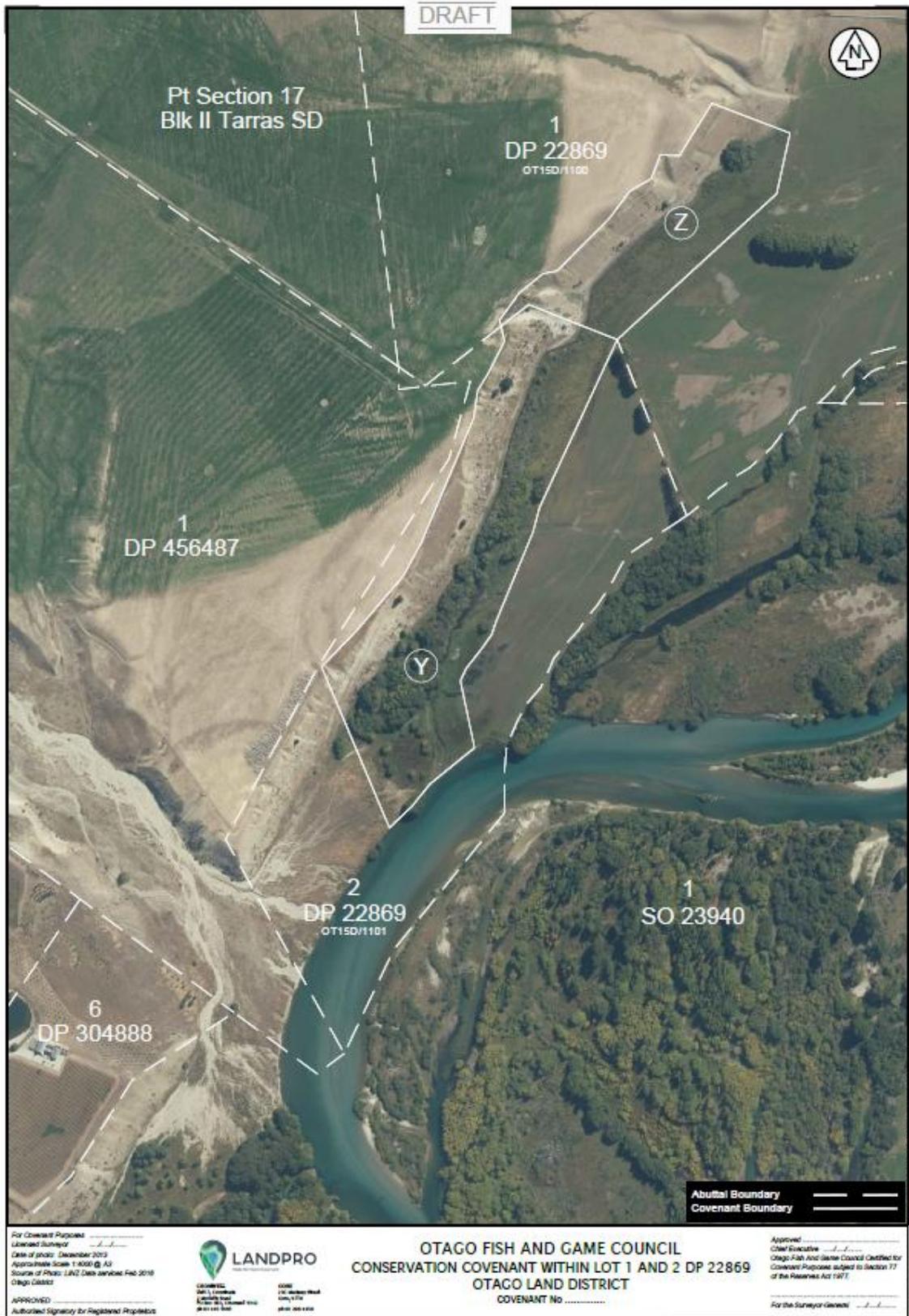
*The Land contributes to the landscape values of the Upper Clutha and delta at the head of Lake Dunstan, and it improves and extends the protection of the intrinsic values of the adjoining riverbed and margins. The Crown riverbed and margins of the Upper Clutha is the*

*subject of the proposed Bendigo Wildlife Reserve. The Land compliments and improves on wetland protection in Otago. The Land also provides regionally significant habitat for waterfowl.*

*The Land provides buffering and protection for the unnamed stream that flows through the wetland to the Clutha River.*

Maps

Covenant is in parcels marked 'Y', and 'Z'.







## 9 Correspondence

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### 9.1 Catchments Otago – Otago University research theme. Invitation to engage on catchment rivers in Central Otago



Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2016

Dear Niall Watson & Otago Fish and Game Councillors,

Water. We drink it, play in it, wash with it, fish in it, and kayak on it. We use it to support domestic stock, for irrigation, and to generate energy. Water is fundamental to all of us, for our livelihoods and our cultural values, and with over half the human body being water, our lives literally depend on it. As New Zealand's fastest growing urban areas, the Central Otago 'Alpine' Lake catchments (Hawea, Wakatipu, Wanaka, Hayes) face complex developmental challenges across environmental, social and economic disciplines.

Accordingly, we would like to introduce our new University of Otago research theme specifically recognising that effective water management cannot be achieved in isolation from appropriate land management; the 'Integrated Catchment Management Research Theme', or *Catchments Otago* for short. The Theme aims to focus on facilitating information sharing and direct collaboration between Governmental Authorities, Lake communities, and Otago University researchers, to: 1) understand community needs; 2) inventory key resources; 3) undertake projects to maximise efficient, equitable, and sustainable resource use; 4) deliver tools for effective freshwater management; and 5) coordinate and enhance Otago University's capacity in Central Otago.

We look forward to meeting with you to discuss the goals and aspirations of this new Research Theme, and to explore how we might work together towards a deep understanding of the challenges facing the 'Alpine' Lakes, in order to identify where future research needs to be focused, and thereby help guide feasible working solutions.

Please feel free to contact us for further information.

With kind regards,



*Kath Dickinson*  
Theme Director



*Gerry Closs*  
Theme Director



*Phil Seddon*  
Theme Director

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Integrated Catchment Management Research Theme  
Department of Botany, University of Otago, PO Box 56, Dunedin 9054  
kath.dickinson@otago.ac.nz • gerry.closs@otago.ac.nz • philip.seddon@otago.ac.nz



### 9.3 ORC – Notification of Waiwera Minimum Flow Change Becoming Operative



Our Reference: A879243

18 February 2016

Niall Watson  
Chief Executive  
Fish and Game Otago  
PO Box 76  
Dunedin 9054

Dear Niall

#### **Plan Change 3C (Waiwera catchment minimum flow) to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago - Operative**

The Otago Regional Council has approved Plan Change 3C (Waiwera catchment minimum flow) to the Regional Plan: Water and is making it operative on 1 March 2016.

This plan change establishes a minimum flow and water allocation regime for the Waiwera catchment.

Please find enclosed a CD with a copy of the Regional Plan: Water for Otago incorporating operative Plan Change 3C as of 1 March 2016 and a copy of the Public Notice made in the Otago Daily Times on Saturday 20 February 2016.

An electronic version of the updated Regional Plan: Water will be available on our website [www.orc.govt.nz](http://www.orc.govt.nz).

If you have any questions about Plan Change 3C (Waiwera catchment minimum flow) contact the Policy Team at our Dunedin office freephone 0800 474 082 or (03) 474 0827, or email [policy@orc.govt.nz](mailto:policy@orc.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Pettinger".

Richard Pettinger  
**Senior Policy Analyst**  
*Encl. CD, Public Notice*

*Mission Statement: "To promote the sustainable development and enhancement of Otago's resources"*  
70 Stafford St, Private Bag 1954, Dunedin 9054. Telephone (03) 474-0827



## 9.4 ORC - Invitation To Participate in Rural Water Quality Advising Group.

Peter Wilson has been asked to attend on OFGC's behalf.



### ***From the Office of the Chairperson***

Our Ref: A884815

3 - MAR 2016

29 February 2016

Niall Watson  
Chief Executive  
NZ Fish & Game (Otago)  
PO Box 76  
Dunedin 9054

Dear Niall

#### **Invitation to participate in Otago Rural Water Quality Advisory Group**

As you are likely to be aware, Otago Regional Council adopted a plan change for managing rural water quality in 2014. Known as Plan Change 6A, the plan controls contaminants and sediment coming off rural properties into waterways from runoff, leaching and drains. The plan's aim is to ensure good quality water in rivers, lakes, wetlands and aquifer. Water that is clear of muck and odour, safe to swim in, gather food from, and that supports healthy ecosystems.

One of the central philosophies of our plan is that landholders are responsible for choosing their own methods for managing contaminant discharge to waterways, rather than being under a consenting regime as seen in other regions.

While the plan was being agreed, we committed to establishing an external advisory group to promote engagement so that knowledge and achievement from Council's unique approach to rural discharge management would be shared.

The purpose of the group is to:

- Regionally promote the learning and achievement from implementation of the new water quality provisions.
- Represent Otago landholders, conservationists, recreational users, local iwi, and tourism in the implementation of the water quality provisions in the plan.
- Provide feedback on progress within stakeholder sectors and identify gaps in implementation.

*Mission Statement: "To promote the sustainable development and enhancement of Otago's resources"*  
70 Stafford Street, Private Bag 1954, Dunedin 9054. Telephone (03) 474-0827. Facsimile (03) 479-0015



- Be a conduit for information flow between their organisations and Otago Regional Council.

We would like to invite you to participate in this advisory group or nominate a delegate from your organisation to participate on your behalf.

The first meeting is scheduled for 21 April, 2-4pm at Otago Regional Council offices in Dunedin.

An overview of the Water Plan and Terms of Reference for the Group will be discussed at this initial meeting.

Please RSVP to Janice Coldicott [janice.coldicott@orc.govt.nz](mailto:janice.coldicott@orc.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Woodhead". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cr Stephen Woodhead  
**Chairperson**

## **9.5 O Todd – Confidential: Hunter Valley Station**

## **10 General Business**

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