

**Agenda for the Meeting of the  
Otago Fish & Game Council to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017  
At Victoria Arms Hotel, Old Cromwell  
Commencing at 12.15pm**

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

<b>1 Present and Apologies</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2 Declaration of Interest</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4 Matters arising from the minutes</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>5 Communications New Zealand Council</b>	<b>12</b>
5.1 Correspondence from NZC to Otago	12
5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC	13
<b>6 Health and Safety Report</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>7 Chief Executives Report</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>8 Committee Reports</b>	<b>28</b>
8.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust	28
8.2 NZC Meeting	28
<b>9 Staff and Technical Reports</b>	<b>29</b>
9.1 Back Country Compliance Ranging and Angler Satisfaction Survey 2016/17 Season - P van Klink	29
9.2 Shoverler Trend Count - M Trotter	40
9.3 QLDC and ORC Navigational Safety Bylaw Reviews - I Hadland	43
9.4 Compliance Summary 2016/17 - I Hadland	46
9.5 Confidential Habitat Enhancement – P van Klink	50
9.6 Confidential Habitat Enhancement – P van Klink	50
9.7 Confidential Report on Wanaka Hatchery – N Watson	50
9.8 Anglers Notice Review - C Halford	51
<b>10 Correspondence</b>	<b>66</b>
10.1 Schools Clay Target Competition	66
10.2 Contact – Hawea Gates Generation Project at the Hawea Dam	67
10.3 D Linklater – Kiwi Angler First	68
10.4 Gore District Angling Society - Kiwianglersfirst	69
<b>11 General Business</b>	<b>70</b>

**1 Present and Apologies**

---

**2 Declaration of Interest**

---

### **3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes**

---

**Minutes of Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting  
Otago Fish and Game Council Office, Dunedin  
17 August 2017  
Commencing at 12.15 pm**

#### **1.0 Present**

Monty Wright (Chair), Adrian McIntyre, Colin Weatherall, John Jillett, John Barlow, Rick Boyd, Dan Rae, David Witherow, Richard Twining, Murray Neilson, and Ian Cole.

**In attendance:** Niall Watson (CE) Ian Hadland (OM) Shawn McAvenue (ODT).

**Apologies** were received from, Mike Turner, Vicky Whyte, and Alan Hammond.

Resolved (moved from the Chair)

**That the apologies be received.**

#### **2.0 Declaration of Interests**

There were no new declarations of interests.

#### **3.0 Minutes**

Resolved (Weatherall/Jillett)

**That the Minutes of the meeting on the 15 June 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to minor corrections in 7.0.**

#### **4.0 Matters Arising from Minutes.**

##### **4.1 OIO Decision on Hunter Valley Station**

The OIO decision was discussed along with NGO's assessment of whether or not it was flawed and challengeable.

The CE said he felt the process criteria were too broad and did not properly weight public access. This was a common issue with tenure review and generally with the disposal of Crown land.

It was **agreed** the CE report to the next meeting on the matter

## 5.0 Communications New Zealand Council

### 5.1 NZC Correspondence to Otago

#### 5.1.1 Code of Conduct for Sports Fishing

It was noted that the code had been discussed before when it was **agreed** to send it to NZC.

It was **agreed** that any code needed to be brief and self explanatory, along the lines of the summary on page 12. Staff were asked boil down the code and report back.

There was a lengthy discussion on the need to standardise and abbreviate regulations. Points made included:

- Consistency for consistencies sake breaches the principle of subsidiary
- Regulations should be easily understood but must meet the needs of fishery management
- Regulations are likely to vary with the characteristics of waters, groups of waters or regions.
- Regulations were intended to reflect local choice

There was specific discussion on limits on backcountry pressures including encounter rates, angler and fish behaviour.

#### 5.1.2 Proposed National Policy on Budget and Expenditure

The draft policy was discussed and compared with the existing policy. It was **Agreed** that the CE provide a draft response to the October council meeting.

### 5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC

Nil

## 6.0 Health and Safety (H&S)

The OM reported on council health and safety obligations and outlined the process used to identify and record hazards and develop responses to hazards using overhead projections.

## 7.0 Chief Executive's Report

### 7.1 Administration

Finance and licence sales reports to 31 July 2017 were discussed with 97% of the budget spent at a point 92% through the financial year. Income received was currently 105% of budget.

### **Licence Sales**

It was noted that and that fishing licence sales were ahead of the same period last year at 15,207 LEQs versus 14,913 LEQs for last year at the same time.

Game sales at 4,250 LEQs was well ahead of last year (4,074 LEQs).

### **Capital purchases**

Noted that a replacement vehicle had been purchased at a cost of \$38,542 excluding GST.

### **Land and buildings**

#### **Freshwater Research Centre**

Mr Barlow tabled a further communication from ALREC and their paper entitled 'Proposal for the Establishment of Governance Structures'.

It was **agreed** it was difficult for the Council to respond quickly to the document.

It was noted that the research stream arising from the centre was important to F&G and that the value of the Council's contribution in terms of hosting the centre deserved recognition.

Governance arrangements for ALREC were discussed and the interlinking of the Guardians of Lake Wanaka, Lake Wanaka Trust, ALREC, and Te Kakano Trust was noted. The latter had recently received \$350,000 in funding for a Lake Wanaka Management Plan.

It was **agreed** that Council needed to ensure it did not expose itself to undue risk in progressing the governance issue.

Resolved (Weatherall/Rae)

**That the ALREC report lie on the table and that councillors give feedback to the CE prior to his report back to the Council.**

It was **agreed** that the Council hold a field trip to Wanaka Hatchery in the near future to inspect the site and consider all matters relating to its management including the wetland restoration project, research centre location and walkway alignment.

Resolved (Jillett/Rae)

**That the finance report for the period ending 31 July 2017 and licence sales report to 25 July 2017 be approved.**

### **7.2 Species**

No discussion

### **7.3 Habitat**

#### **Consents**

##### **Kye Burn**

An appeal to the Environment Court has been lodged in response to the ORC decision on Kye Burn Catchment Limited's consent application. Fish and Game had sought a

residual flow of 300 l/s in the mainstem. KCL sought a flow of 180 l/s dropping to 160 l/s below the last take and the decision was in line with the application. The mean annual low flow is 539 l/s so the residual is less than 30% of MALF

### **Contact Energy**

The CE advised that recent discussions with Contact over a salmon hatchery had been positive.

### **Upper Clutha Commercial Boating**

Recent consent applications for commercial kayaking and rafting from Wanaka outlet downstream and on other waters had resulted in consultation with local anglers and the Upper Clutha Angling Club about capacity pressures and site sensitivity. Responses had been made that sought to limit pressure on sensitive waters but there seemed to be no district plan provisions to deal with cumulative effects of commercial boating activities or to monitor overall commercial use..

It was **agreed** that staff should report on the situation and write to QLDC seeking a meeting on the need for limits on commercial use in order to protect quality of recreational experience

### **Minimum Flows**

#### **Lindis**

Environment Court mediation concluded in July without resolution and there is likely to be an Environment Court hearing in the New Year. In a surprising reversal ORC staff reached agreement with Lindis Catchment Group over a proposal for a reduced minimum flow - to 550 l/s - in conjunction with 13 gallery intakes along the upper 18 kilometres of the irrigation affected river, but leaving the lower 6 kilometres down to the confluence progressively depleted. Other parties (DOC, Ngai Tahu) have yet to confirm whether or not they support the agreement reached between the LCG and ORC, but Fish and Game, Clutha Fisheries Trust, Upper Clutha Anglers Club, Central Otago Environmental Society and NZ Professional Fishing Guides Association support the original decision coming out of the resource consent hearing - for a minimum flow of 900 litres/second.

The failure of ORC to support its own commissioners' decision is a real concern and undermines confidence in their resource consent hearing processes. The LCG proposal was originally floated at the consent hearing but got no traction.

#### **Manuherikia**

ORC has reported back on the feedback received on Manuherikia River minimum flows (Plan Change 5C) but has yet to formally notify a plan change. Views on minimum flow levels are highly polarised.

#### **Arrow**

ORC has held drop in sessions and stakeholder meetings for a proposed Arrow River minimum flows Plan Change but has not yet reported back on the feedback received.

### **Plan Change 1D**

ORC plan change (ID) to address issues relating to the transition from mining privileges to RMA consents and matters relating to residual flows has been restarted and a round of consultation meetings has been held.

### **Water Quality**

Winter crop issues and impacts on water quality have been the subject of monitoring over the winter period and a meeting was held with ORC senior staff.

### **Reserves Management**

#### **Takitakitoa Wetlands**

The OM gave a short presentation on the Takitakitoa wetland including photos of water levels following flooding. He advised that ORC consent monitoring and reporting had been completed satisfactorily.

#### **7.4 User Participation**

No discussion

#### **7.5 Public Interface**

No discussion

#### **7.6 Compliance**

No discussion

#### **7.7 Licencing**

The OM gave a presentation on national licence holder demographics and on patterns of lapsing and retention.

#### **7.8 Council**

It was noted that the joint meeting with Southland Fish and Game Council in July had discussed mallard research, backcountry fisheries management, and grazing of winter crops. There was a further discussion about backcountry licences which were now region specific so that an Otago licence could not be used in Southland and vice versa. It was **agreed** that staff be asked to consider how the process of issuing backcountry licences could be improved.

### **Annual Plan and Budget**

The CE advised that there had been one further change to the plan involving the dropping of the newsletter involving printing and postage in favour greater use of social media and e-newsletters.

It was resolved (Barlow/Boyd)

**That the 2017/18 Annual Plan be approved including the above change**

#### **7.9 Planning and Reporting**

No discussion

## **8.0 Committee Reports**

### **8.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust**

Mr Cole addressed the meeting noting that the Trust had been continuing work on:

- Maintenance of Bendigo nesting islands
- Completion of Kane Road access
- River flow work on the Lindis and Cardrona
- Analysis of conductivity monitoring
- Negotiation of a new lease on Ree Crescent with Fish and Game.

There was discussion on the currency of the Upper Clutha access pamphlet

### **8.2 New Zealand Council**

Dr Jillett reported on business from the last meeting which included:

- Appointment of Martin Taylor as the new NZ Council chief executive
- Very good feedback on the national staff conference organised by Sharon Milne, Helen Trotter and Ian Hadland and held in Dunedin
- Support for a South Island salmon symposium in October this year
- Discussion on difficulties in getting Ministerial support for the guides licence

## **9.0 Technical Reports**

### **9.1 Legislative Compliance Report**

Resolved (Rae/Boyd)

**That the Legislative Compliance Report be received**

### **9.2 Lindis Minimum Flow and Kye Burn Catchment Consents**

See confidential minutes

### **9.3 to 9.5 Habitat Enhancement Fund Reports**

See confidential minutes

### **19.6 Bullock Creek update -**

Referred to hatchery site meeting - date to be advised

## **10.0 Correspondence**

### **11.1 ORC - Response on Annual Plan Submission**

Received

### **10.2 Geoff Crutchley – views on proposed water levy**

Mr Crutchley addressed the meeting expressing his serious concern about the impact of a water levy on farming operations namely:

- The sale of water conflicts with principles around water ownership and the RMA's focus on social economic and environmental effects assessments.
- Control of effects are the responsibility of regional councils and should be considered in the consenting process
- Water levies are likely to drive water use to those with the biggest cheque book, predominantly intensive corporate farms.
- Intensive land use is closely linked to waterway degradation and will be accelerated by water charges.
- Community involvement along the lines of the Upper Taieri Water Users Group which has included Fish and Game is a better way to manage water.

Mr Crutchley answered questions and the matter was discussed at some length. Mr Wright thanked Mr Crutchley for his presentation

### **10.3 ORC – Letter on Arrow River minimum flow setting process**

Received

### **10.4 ORC – Letter Plan Change 1D clarifying residual and minimum flows**

Received

### **10.5 ORC – Feedback on Manuherikia River minimum flow setting process**

Received

### **10.6 NZC – Letter of congratulations from Lindsay Lyons on national staff conference organised by Otago staff**

Received

### **10.7 Waiiau Trust – Annual Report and cover letter**

Received

## **11.0 General Business**

**11.1 Waihola Waipori Wetlands** – the OM reported on Lake Waihola Waipori Wetlands Society interest in doing follow up a pest plant assessment within the Waipori/Waihola Wetland. He said that Wildlands Consulting, who conducted the original assessment, had quoted to \$7,148 +GST to conduct the surveys and provide an updated weed risk assessment report. This could be funded from the Wetland funds held in trust by the Council for DOC. He said that would require DOC permission.

There was discussion of conditions for such a grant and the need for a benefit to Fish and Game.

Resolved (Weatherall/Rae)

**That a grant be approved for the work subject to DOC agreement**

## **11.2 Anglers Notice Review**

Mr Boyd advised he was due to meet staff on the following day to discuss the review format and noted he would be overseas during November

## **11.3 Staff Matters**

See confidential Minutes.

The meeting closed at 5.30pm

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

---

## 5 Communications New Zealand Council

---

### 5.1 Correspondence from NZC to Otago

#### 5.1.1 National Budget 2017/2018 - Tables sent separately.



TO: ALL REGIONAL MANAGERS  
 RE: 2017/18 NATIONAL BUDGETS

---

On 6 July 2017 the Minister approved the 2017/18 licence fees (Fish \$127 and Game \$94 inclusive of GST and habitat stamp). The following confirmations are forwarded to you for your 2017/18 Budget and Operational Work Plan, incorporating approved contestable funding:

**1. Approved National Budget 2017/18**

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 2017/18 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 2017/18 including contestable funding" column in the National Budget 2017/18.

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 2017/18 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

10th August 2017

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

**5.2.1 Nil**

**6 Health and Safety Report**

---

## 7 Chief Executives Report

---

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT OCTOBER 2017

#### 7.1 ADMINISTRATION

##### Finance and Administration

###### *Financial Reports to 31 August 2017*

The finance report for the period from 1 September 2016 to 31 August 2017 is still in preparation and because of end of year adjustment may need to be tabled or circulated after the agenda

Key budget figures are included in the front of the Annual Work Plan

Fishing licence sales revenue received for the year to 31 August 2017 is \$1,713,133 (including commission). The fish budget figures for the full year is \$1,596,522 including commission.

Game licence sales revenue received for the year to 31 August 2016 is \$333,128 (including commission). The reduction in revenue from the last report reflects the payment of habitat stamp funds to the Game Habitat Trust. The year's budget for game licence sales is \$313,552 including commission.

Budget and expenditure figures are exclusive of GST

###### *Licence Sales to 25 July 2017*

Sales recorded to 25 July 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 for the season in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) at 15,452 LEQs compare well with the budget LEQ figure for the year of 14,688.

Game sales for the period stand at 4253 LEQs are well ahead of the budget Game LEQ figure of 4,007.

###### *Funds Position at 29 September 2017*

ANZ 00 account	\$210,529.28
ANZ 70 account	\$266,502.51

###### *Reparation Trust Account*

Account balance to 31 August 2016	\$ 62,448
Revenue for year to 31 August 2017	\$ 12,550
Less grants to 31 July 2017	<u>\$ 31,665</u>
Total	\$ 44,333

There is presently a commitment in grants approved but not spent of approximately \$21,000

*Backcountry Management*

Account balance to 31 August 2016 \$38,585

*Term investments as at 31 July 2017:*

ASB 0079	\$325,456.46 @ 3.60% maturing January 2018
SBS 44624	\$486,209.07 @ 3.70% maturing January 2018

The sum of \$77,745 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*

Nothing to report

*Staff and Health and Safety*

No incidents or injuries during the reporting period.

*Land and Buildings***Freshwater Research Centre Wanaka**

See separate confidential report

**Dunedin Office**

The replacement of ceiling tiles and insulation at Dunedin office is continuing but is not yet complete. A costing is being sought to control birds on the Dunedin office building

A rent review has been completed for the Dunedin Office tenant.

**Recommendation**

**That the Licence Sales Report for the period ending 31 August 2017 be received.**

**7.2 SPECIES****Waterfowl Monitoring (1111)**

The shoveler monitoring counts are complete for the season. Data will be fed into the national database which is being managed by Eastern Region. Pukeko counts have also been completed.

**Spawning Surveys (1112)**

Spawning surveys are underway

**Population Monitoring:**

Nothing to report

**Success & Satisfaction (1122)**

Nothing to report

**Fish Salvage (1131)**

Nothing to report

**Hatchery Operations**

Hatchery operations are running normally. Contact Energy staff visited the hatchery with Monty Wright and Steve Dixon

**Releases (1161)**

Pre-season releases were made to Dunedin reservoirs for the take a kid fishing events and for the season opening

**Game Notice (1171)**

Nothing to report

**Anglers Notice (1172)**

See attached report

**Game Bird Control (1181)**

Nothing to report.

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

<b>Date/Agency</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Response</b>
October/November 2016	A complaint was lodged with ORC about silt contamination in both Mill Creek (Lake Hayes) and Bullock creek (Wanaka)	Abatement notices issued by QLDC. ORC investigation complete.  QLDC have been contacted recently to clarify the present situation at Bullock Creek
January 2017	A complaint was lodged with ORC by a third party about stream channel works in Camerons Creek outside Wanaka	ORC prosecution was successful. Sentencing pending

### **Resource Consents**

There have been further positive discussions with Contact Energy about lower Clutha salmon fisheries mitigation options involving a Clutha catchment hatchery. Contact staff have now visited the McKinnon's Creek salmon hatchery and Macraes Hatchery. **CE to Report**

### **Upper Clutha Boating**

Staff have written to QLDC seeking a meeting about waters that are sensitive to boating pressures in the Queenstown Lakes District particularly the Upper Clutha from Lake Outlet to Albert Town. That was in response to recent consent applications

In addition QLDC has announced a by law review which includes boat speed limits. See separate report.

### **Planning (1212)**

#### **Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group**

No meeting -nothing further to report

### **Minimum and Residual Flow Setting**

#### **Manuherikia Minimum Flow – Plan Change 5C**

Nothing further to report since ORC released responses to the second round of feedback on Manuherikia minimum flow options for the river. They have still to advise on their decision on a minimum flow or flows to provide for the life supporting capacity, the natural character or the amenity value of the river.

### **Kye Burn**

Otago Fish and Game has appealed ORC's decision on Kye Burn to the Environment Court and mediation is scheduled for Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October. A consent application lodged by Kye Burn Catchment Limited for RMA consents to replace deemed permits (mining privileges) within the catchment.

MALF has been calculated at 539 l/s and residual flows have been set at 160 l/s (30% MALF) 180 l/s (33% MALF). There are a number of issues but residual flow levels are the most contentious.

The existing environment, from which effects should be measured under RMA processes, is a key issue. Fish and Game's position

**Refer to separate confidential report.**

### **Lindis Minimum Flow Plan Change**

At this stage no hearing date has been set for the minimum flow. Lindis Catchment Group are planning to lodge resource consents for their individual takes in the near future to be heard concurrently by the Environment Court rather than going through the ORC approval step. This makes sense but ORC in reaching agreement with LCG on the minimum flow are likely to have a predetermined position on the individual consents.

<b>Minimum and Residual Flows and Transition from Mining Privileges (TMP)</b>		
<b>River</b>	<b>Activity and status</b>	<b>Status</b>
Lindis	Minimum flow & transition from mining privileges (TMP). Overallocated MALF 18601750 l/s	ORC decision on Water Plan Change 5A set a summer minimum of 900 l/s. Decision appealed and went to mediation on 8/9 December 2016 in Cromwell and was concluded in early July 2017 without resolution. An Environment Court hearing is scheduled for the New Year. Lindis Catchment Group consents are likely to be heard concurrently with the minimum flow
Cardrona	Minimum Flow & TMP  Overallocated	ORC are actively working on drawing together known information on the Cardrona. ORC advise there is likely to be a community report back in the first quarter of 2018.
Waikouaiti	Minimum Flow Fully allocated  MALF 258 l/s	F&G 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 matters including estuary health.
<b>Pomahaka</b> <i>(Concluded)</i>	Minimum flow MALF 4300 l/s  <b>Min Flow 3600l/s</b> <b>(84% MALF)</b>	Plan change complete, 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.
<b>Waiwera</b> <i>(Concluded)</i>	Minimum flow MALF 310 l/s  <b>Min Flow 280 l/s</b> <b>(90% MALF)</b>	Plan change complete, setting minimum flows of 280 l/s (summer)..
<b>Sow Burn</b> <i>(Concluded)</i>	TMP  Overallocated  <b>Residual flow of 70 l/s + off-site mitigation</b>	The Sowburn all-of-catchment consent has been granted by ORC.  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 protective covenant over a large area of the Maniototo wetlands

Manuherikia	<p>Minimum flow Irrigation scheme investigation.</p> <p>MALF Ophir 3,200 l/s ( ± 800)</p> <p>MALF Campground 3,900 l/s ( ± 600)</p> <p>Overallocated</p>	<p>The Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group process which Fish and Game has been a part of, has been completed and a new water company has been established looking at proposals focused on raising the level of Falls Dam.</p> <p>The Manuherikia catchment has over 220 mining privileges (or deemed permits) in place. The present minimum flow at Ophir at 820 l/s is considered inadequate and ORC are planning to set a minimum flow for the lower river at the Alexandra Campground and possibly elsewhere in the catchment.</p> <p>A minimum flow plan change for the Manuherikia River has started but a minimum flow figures have still to be formally notified.</p>
Benger Burn	<p>Minimum flow &amp;TMP. Overallocated</p>	<p>Further action by ORC has been deferred pending more research on water resources and aquifer/surface water interaction.</p>
Kye Burn	<p>TMP Overallocated</p> <p>MALF 539 l/s</p>	<p>A consent application was heard in June and a ORC decision setting a mainstem residual flows of 180 l/s reducing to 160 l/s (&lt;30% MALF) at the lowest take point on the river has been appealed to the Environment Court and goes to mediation on 20<sup>th</sup> October.</p> <p>F&amp;G position is that a mainstem environmental flow between 200-300 l/s is required and that it probably has to be in the upper half of that range (250+ l/s)</p>
Low Burn	<p>Minimum flow TMP Overallocated</p>	<p>Catchment group meeting held early 2017</p>
Bannock Burn	<p>Minimum flow TMP Overallocated</p>	<p>Catchment group meeting held late 2016</p>
Arrow River	<p>TMP Overallocated</p>	<p>Catchment group meetings were held early 2017 and a minimum flow plan change process is just starting up</p>

Quartz Creek	TMP Overallocated	Reports on fishery values have been completed along with a reports on fish salvage. There is little information on stream hydrology. Some discussion with landholder
Tuapeka River	ORC Management Flow Report  MALF 314 l/s	No action
Upper Clutha		ORC has undertaken research on flow requirements for fish in the Clutha to inform a minimum flow setting process
12 Mile Creek (Wakatipu)	ORC Management Flow Report	Stream survey work is being undertaken
Fern Burn	Overallocated	Status of flows and takes needs to be investigated. Spawning surveys have been undertaken by Upper Clutha Anglers.
Coal Creek	TMP	Catchment group meeting held May 2017

### **CE to Report**

#### **Transition from Mining Privileges (MPs) to RMA Consents.**

A number of smaller applications to transition from mining privileges to RMA consents have been dealt with and there are several under consideration.

Key concern the quality of hydrological and biological information provided in support of applications; determination of affected party status and cumulative effects of a succession of low residual flows on waterway health

#### **Reserves Management (1221)**

##### **Takitakitoa Wetland**

Further planting has been undertaken at the wetland with the help of volunteers from RICOH and PGG Wrightsons

##### **Wetland Protection (1232)**

Nothing to report

##### **Assisted Habitat (1230)**

See separate HEF reports.

##### **River Management (1233)**

Nothing to report

## **7.4 USER PARTICIPATION**

### **Access (1311)**

There has been no further action on the OIO decision on Hunter Valley Station. Two other confidential OIO applications have been sent to Otago Fish and Game for input.

### **Signage (1312)**

Nothing to report

### **Backcountry Fisheries (1321)**

A survey has been commissioned to assess expert angler opinion of trends in the Upper Pomahaka fishery

### **Magazine Supplements and Newsletters (1331)**

An e-newsletter was distributed

### **Reel Life/Both Barrels**

Monthly contributions to online newsletters are continuing

### **Newspaper Supplements (1332)**

Nothing to report.

### **Publications (1342)**

Nothing to report.

### **Web Site (1343)**

The web site has been upgraded nationally and feedback is being given on its look and functionality. Please advise if you spot any problems.

### **Fishing and Hunting Events (1351)**

Staff have attended fishing competitions and pre season events.

### **Take-a-kid-fishing (1352)**

Successful take a kid fishing events have been held in Dunedin with support from Councillors and volunteers. Steve Dixon will report more fully in future.

### **Club Liaison (1361)**

Nothing to report

### **Commercial Use (1362)**

Nothing to report

## **7.5 PUBLIC INTERFACE**

### **Liaison (1411)**

**Media (1431)**

There has been very good media coverage of fishing events with good photos of successful junior anglers

**Advocacy (1432)**

Nothing to report

**Tenure Reviews (1433)**

Nothing to report

**7.6 COMPLIANCE see separate report****Ranging (1511)**

Nothing to report

**Ranger Support (1520)**

Nothing to report

**Prosecutions (1530)**

Nothing to report

**7.7 LICENCING****Licensing System (1611)**

The Eyedee licensing system continues to operate well.

**Agents (1612)**

Nothing to report

**7.8 COUNCIL****Council (1720)**

A successful hatchery field trip was held on 14<sup>th</sup> September – see separate report

**For discussion****7.9 PLANNING AND REPORTING****Strategic Planning (1811)**

Nothing to report

**Annual Planning (1821)**

Nothing to report

**Annual Report (1831)**

Accounts preparation is underway

**National Liaison (1841)**

Nothing to report

Niall Watson  
Chief Executive  
October 2017

## Otago Fish & Game Fish Licence Sales to 10th October 2017/18 Season

2017 - 2018		FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWJ	FWNJ	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDJ	Total	Fish LEQ	Fish \$
	Agency Online	1,139	1,483	52	386	67	192	3	2	10	149	22	3,505		
	Eyede Call Centre	5	3	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	15		
	Public Online	623	665	141	152	51	80	5	1	6	195	11	1,930		
	Retail Book	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,767</b>	<b>2,151</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>5,450</b>	<b>5,315.08</b>	<b>\$682,350.00</b>
2016 - 2017		FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWJ	FWNJ	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDJ	Total	Fish LEQ	Fish \$
	Agency Online	1,255	1,510	48	369	84	146	2	2	6	214	25	3,661		
	Eyede Call Centre	4	1	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12		
	Public Online	625	727	145	156	58	63	3	0	2	130	1	1,910		
	Retail Book	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,884</b>	<b>2,238</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>5,583</b>	<b>5,555.64</b>	<b>\$701,789.00</b>

FWF (Family), FWA (Adult), FWNZ (Non Resident), FSLA (Senior Loyal), FLAA (Local Area), FWJ (Junior), FWNJ (Junior Non resident), FLBA (Long Break), FSBA (Short Break), FDA (Adult Day), FDJ (Junior Day)

Report Parameters: Seasons: Fishing 2017/18; Regions: Otago; Channels: Retail Book, Agency Online, Eyede Call Centre, Public Online  
 Season 1 Dates used in this Report:

Fishing 2017/01/08/2017-10/10/2017

Season 2 Dates used in this Report:

Fishing 2016/01/08/2016-10/10/2016

\*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 & Game Council Fish Licence Sales - Complete Season 2016/17 Season

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWJ	FWNJ	FWJA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDJ	Fish Total	Fish LEQ	Fish \$
Agency Online	2,636	3,543	520	511	270	489	28	190	61	343	5,266	362	14,219		
Eyede Call Centre	10	6	7	11	0	5	1	5	0	2	28	0	75		
Public Online	1,583	1,752	812	229	263	227	26	132	48	275	4,445	227	10,019		
Retail Book	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	8		
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,229</b>	<b>5,301</b>	<b>1,339</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>9,746</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>24,321</b>	<b>15,452.16</b>	<b>\$1,982,402.00</b>

FWF (Family), FWA (Adult), FWNZ (Non Resident), FSLA (Senior Loyal), FLAA (Local Area),  
FWJ (Junior), FWNJ (Junior Non resident), FLBA (Long Break), FSBA (Short Break), FDA (Adult Day), FDJ (Junior Day)

Report Parameters: Seasons: Fishing 2016/17; Regions: Otago; Channels: Retail Book, Agency Online, Eyede Call Centre, Public Online  
Run on 10/10/2017 9:22:58 a.m.

\*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 & Game Council Game Licence Sales - Complete Season 2016/17 Season

Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Game Tot: Game LEQ	Game \$
Agency Online	3,525	283	98	54	0	3,960	
Eyede Call Centre	2	0	0	0	0	2	
Public Online	634	59	25	65	3	786	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,161</b>	<b>342</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4,748</b>	<b>\$397,044.00</b>

Report Parameters: Seasons: Game 2017; Regions: Otago; Channels: Retail Book, Mail Order, Agency Online, Eyede Call Centre, Public Online  
Run on 10/10/2017 9:16:23 a.m.

\*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.

## **8 Committee Reports**

---

### **8.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust**

### **8.2 NZC Meeting**

## **9 Staff and Technical Reports**

---

### **9.1 Back Country Compliance Ranging and Angler Satisfaction Survey 2016/17**

**Season - P van Klink**

**COUNCIL REPORT  
OCTOBER 2017**

*Backcountry Fishery Compliance Ranging and Angler Satisfaction Survey  
2016/2017 Season*

#### ***Introduction***

The Otago Fish & Game Region has eight designated backcountry fisheries: Greenstone, Caples, Upper Lochy, Nevis, Dingle Burn, Hunter, Wilkin and Young Rivers. Anglers wishing to fish backcountry fisheries must obtain a backcountry endorsement which can only be obtained by having a Whole Season Sports Fishing Licence.

#### ***Compliance and Monitoring Programme Background***

During the 2014/15 and 2015/16 seasons non-resident anglers made up approximately 47% and 49% of all participation in Otago's backcountry fisheries (Keeling, 2015; Trotter 2016). Currently non-resident anglers pay an additional premium of \$38 on each non-resident licence (NRL) fee above that of an ordinary Whole Season Licence. The Otago Fish & Game Council agreed in August 2015 that this extra revenue from non-resident licence sales should be used to improve backcountry fisheries management. It was recommended that a fishery and compliance monitoring programme be developed for backcountry fisheries. A further staff meeting in August 2016 identified priorities for the Backcountry monitoring effort for the 2016/17 season. The priority was to focus the majority of the ranging effort into replicating the Hunter River Creel and Social Surveys, 1999-2001. This report covers the backcountry fishery monitoring programme for the 2016/2017 season.

#### ***Survey Method***

##### ***Compliance***

Compliance monitoring was undertaken to enforce the Sports Fishing Regulations. Additionally Fish and Game rangers gathered information on guided fishing operators on behalf of the Department of Conservation. Pre-season backcountry fisheries information letters and/or presentations were given to a number of user groups including;

- accommodation providers ie fishing lodges,
- fishing guides (including NZPFGA members),
- New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (Southern Branch),
- New Zealand Jet Boat Association (Otago Branch),

***Otago Fish & Game Council Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017***

- Aircraft operators,
- All successful hunting parties in the Wanaka Roar Ballot and the Greenstone / Caples Ballot
- Department of Conservation hut wardens based at Glenorchy with an emphasis on the wardens working in the Caples and Greenstone Valleys.

#### *Timing of Surveys*

Backcountry fishery monitoring was undertaken throughout the 2016/2017 season (1 November - 31 May) but with an emphasis on high use periods over the summer months of January – March (Table 1).

#### *Resources*

James Smith was contracted by Fish & Game to complete a set amount of days for the Backcountry Fishery Monitoring Programme. The rest of the surveys were undertaken by staff.

#### *Access*

An ATV and boat were used for gaining access to the Hunter River. Wilkin River Jet provided access into the Wilkin River. All ranging and angler surveys were completed on foot.

#### *Satisfaction Surveys*

A basic angler interview survey form was drafted in 2015 for interviewing anglers encountered on the river. For the 2015/16 season all anglers were asked what their backcountry management preference was for that fishery. The results on the river(s) were that many anglers had no idea of what sort of management options were available. Based on the feedback from 2015/16 the question was only proposed to fishing guides to gauge their perceptions of appropriate management for the backcountry fisheries (Table 2).

The 2016/17 interview form was used to gauge overall satisfaction of anglers backcountry fishing experience (Appendix 1).

An additional survey form was drafted to replicate the 1999-2001 Hunter River Creel and Social Surveys. This was used in the Hunter River only (Appendix 2).

#### *Quantifying Angler Use*

Monitoring angler use on backcountry rivers has always been difficult to quantify and has largely been based on e-mail or telephone surveys which are completed retrospective of the fishing effort. Being able to accurately quantify angler use allows Fish and Game to better understand potential pressure on a fishery and where necessary look at management options if required.

Following on from a pilot trial using two Moultrie Trail Cameras in the Caples River during the 2015/16 season, a further six cameras were installed in the 2016/17 season. Three cameras were installed in the lower reaches and three in the upper reaches of the Caples in October 2016. The cameras were retrieved in May 2017. The methodology for this trial was based off a similar study in the North Island (Daniel, 2015).

## ***Results***

### *Hunter Valley Access*

Access into the Hunter River via Hunter Valley Station was restricted due to the station being sold through the Overseas Investment Office. This restriction in access for Fish and Game staff meant that fewer angler surveys were completed in the Hunter River. Access was gained through the Dingle Burn Station on one occasion however ATV access was restricted to the vicinity around Green Bush Hut.

### *Sports Fishing Regulations Compliance*

Rangers completed 34 licence checks and encountered 8 fishing guides in 34 days spent surveying backcountry rivers (Table 1). This is down from 67 licence checks and 15 fishing guides for the same amount of effort in the 2015/16 season.

Eighteen anglers were non-resident (53%) and 16 anglers were resident (47%). Two anglers (one resident and one non resident)(6%) failed to produce a backcountry licence. This compared to 17% non-compliance of a backcountry licence for the 2015/16 season. Two fishing guides that were encountered also failed to have a backcountry endorsement, though they could have argued that they weren't actually fishing. Anglers that 'Failed to Produce' (FTP) a licence were not reported on.

### *Non-resident Anglers and Guided Angling*

Of the 18 non-resident anglers interviewed, 14 (78%) were guided (Table 2).

### *Satisfaction Surveys*

Twenty- seven angler satisfaction surveys were completed by 26 anglers which equated to 76% of anglers encountered. Anglers who had just arrived at the river were not included in this survey.

Of the 27 satisfaction surveys, 12 angler interviews were carried out on the Hunter River. The Hunter River results will be reported on in the future once a larger dataset of survey information is compiled. This will allow for a meaningful comparison to the information gained in the Hunter River Creel and Social Surveys between 1999 - 2001.

### *Overall Angler Satisfaction*

Anglers were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with their backcountry experience for the day they were interviewed. 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. Of the 15 interviews conducted the majority of anglers (93%) said that they were either '*satisfied*' or '*very satisfied*' with their angling experience on Otago backcountry rivers (Table 2).

*Table 1 Backcountry Ranging Effort 2016 /17*

<b>Location</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Number of days ranging (incl. access)</b>	<b>No. of guides encountered</b>	<b>No. of licence checks completed</b>	<b>No. of offences detected</b>	<b>No. of interviews conducted</b>
Hunter River	James Smith	04 – 10 November 2016	7	0	0	0	0
Caples River	Paul van Klink	20 – 21 December 2016	2	0	1	0	0
Wilkin River	James Smith	07 – 12 February 2017	6	2	4	0	4
Caples River	Paul van Klink	15 – 16 February 2017	2	1	3	0	3
Nevis River	James Smith	23 February 2017	1	1	6	0	6
Greenstone River	Steve Dixon	22 – 24 February 2017	3	0	0	0	0
Hunter River	James Smith, Paul van Klink	27 February – 06 March 2017	8	3	8	0	9**
Nevis River	James Smith	09 March 2017	1	1	3	1 x NBCL	2
Caples River	Paul van Klink	11 – 15 May 2017	2	0	4	0	0
Hunter River	James Smith, Paul van Klink	23 – 24 May 2017	2	0	5	1 x NBCL	3
			34	8	34	2	27

\*NBCL = No Back Country Licence \*\* One angler was interviewed twice

Table 2. Angler Details and Overall Satisfaction 2016-2017.

BC River	No. of anglers in party	Resident (R) / Non-resident (NR)	Guided Y/N	Access	No. of anglers encountered	Overall satisfaction	Preference for future management	Other comments
Wilkin	2	NR	Y	Heli	0	Very satisfied	Not completed	Solitude, beauty, water clarity, enough fish
Wilkin	2	NR	Y	Heli	0	Very satisfied	Not completed	Weather good, seen fish, wilderness experience
Wilkin	2	NR	Y	Heli	0	Very satisfied	Not completed	No other anglers
Wilkin	2	NR	Y	Heli	0	Very satisfied	Not completed	Lots of fish, great weather, scenery
Caples	2	NR	Y	Heli	0	Very satisfied	Voluntary beat system ie Oreti	
Caples	2	NR	Y	Heli	0	Very satisfied	Voluntary beat system ie Oreti	
Caples	1	R	N	Walk	0	Very satisfied	Voluntary beats	Last few years more anglers on the river
Nevis	1	NR	Y	4WD	6	Dissatisfied	Not completed	No. of other anglers, poor personal performance
Nevis	1	NR	N	4WD	2	Satisfied	Not completed	Nice drive, sense of adventure, family trip
Nevis	2	R	N	4WD	3	Very satisfied	Not completed	Scenery, beautiful day
Nevis	2	R	N	4WD	2	Satisfied	Not completed	Beautiful day, good being on the water
Nevis	1	R	N	4WD	6	Satisfied	Not completed	Had one fish on, scenery, clean area
Nevis	1	R	N	4WD	2	Very satisfied	Not completed	Enjoy the walk, scenery, lovely day, quiet, peaceful
Nevis	2	NR	Y	4WD	3	Very satisfied	As above	Condition of water, scenery, be nice to catch a fish but not everything, don't expect large numbers of fish
Nevis	2	NR	Y	4WD	2	Very satisfied	Catch & release, river def. got busier in last 3 years, getting fished everyday, introduce beats and a booking system	Scenery, learning new techniques, not just about fishing

### *Angler Dissatisfaction*

One angler (6%) interviewed was dissatisfied with their angling experience. This angler had identified the number of anglers encountered (6) and poor personal performance as the reasons for their dissatisfaction.

### *Preference for Future Management*

Two fishing guides and one resident angler wanted to see more management controls placed on fishing backcountry rivers. Voluntary beats and a booking system were seen as ways to manage angler numbers on the river.

### *Department of Conservation concessionaire compliance*

All 8 Fishing Guides encountered had a valid concession from either the lodge they were working for or they were members of the New Zealand Professional Fishing Guides Association (NZPFGA).

### *Quantifying Angler Use*

During the tail end of the 2015/16 season two trail cameras were set at two locations in the Caples River as a trial to quantify angler use. Trail camera placement and set-up was problematic as both cameras were triggered repeatedly by moving vegetation in the foreground which led to an excessive number of images being captured.

The trial was continued in the 2016/17 season with six trail cameras set-up in the Caples River. Despite more thoughtful camera placement, the problems that were encountered in the 2015/16 season were exacerbated by a prolonged windy and wet summer. The distance anglers were from the cameras also contributed to an underrepresentation of how many anglers were fishing the river during the season. This was evident when a group of four anglers walked past a camera trap in the lower Caples River in mid May 2017. When the camera was retrieved just minutes later and the images reviewed, it was revealed that the anglers were not captured by the camera. The only possible reason was that the subjects (anglers) were too far away from the camera sensor and therefore the camera was not triggered.

### *Discussion*

The Otago backcountry fisheries management regime and the backcountry fishing licence structure has been in place for over ten years. Backcountry rivers are identified as Fish and Game's blue ribbon fisheries and most people that fish these rivers are dedicated anglers. Non-compliance with the backcountry regulations was lower than the 2015/16 season although this did not take into account the two of the guides who did not have backcountry endorsements. It was encouraging to observe all fishing guides working under a valid concession which was also observed in the 2015/16 season.

The backcountry compliance monitoring programme was plagued by poor weather conditions in the early and middle periods of the season. This reduced the amount of ranging effort completed prior to Christmas. The poor weather also explained the lower number of anglers encountered and interviewed when compared to the same amount of effort in the 2015/16 season.

Access into the Hunter River via Hunter Valley Station was difficult in the early part of the season. This improved once the sale of the station had gone through the Overseas Investment Office (OIO) approval process in the latter part of the season. It is anticipated that the Hunter River angler satisfaction surveys will remain a focus for the 2017/18 season. If enough surveys are completed, a comparison between the Hunter River Creel and Social Surveys, 1999-2001 and current angling behaviours will be able to be made.

Angler satisfaction levels were high for all but one of the anglers surveyed. Two fishing guides and one resident angler wanted to see more backcountry management actions implemented including voluntary beats and a booking system.

The use of trail cameras to quantify angler usage in the Caples River has not worked as well as anticipated. In a wide, open valley such as the Caples the cameras failed to capture anglers who were too distant from the camera's motion sensor. This issue could be overcome by using a time lapse function in the cameras so that the cameras take photos every set period of time. Although the analysing of thousands of images would become time consuming there are programmes such as 'My Scouting Assistant' to assist with this task.

The additional revenue gained from non-resident licences presents Fish and Game with an opportunity to expand and build on the work that was completed during the past two seasons. This is particularly relevant when tourism is expected to continue to grow in New Zealand and pressure on backcountry is likely to increase as a result.

#### ***Planned work for 2016-2017***

- Continue to communicate and liaise with backcountry fishery user groups.
- Complete Sports Fishing Regulation training with Department of Conservation staff hut wardens (October 2017).
- Further develop a backcountry fisheries monitoring programme across all of the Otago backcountry fisheries.
- Continue to liaise with Department of Conservation on concession monitoring and reporting.
- Continue to build the relationship with the Hunter Valley Station lessee for the purpose of facilitating angler and staff access.
- Increase the number of angler satisfaction surveys completed.

***Recommendation*****That the Report be received*****References***

Daniel, A. 2015. Monitoring Angler Use of New Zealand Backcountry Fisheries with Trail Cameras. Fish & Game, Auckland/ Waikato

Keeling, H. 2015. COUNCIL REPORT AUGUST 2015. Backcountry Rivers Online Satisfaction Survey 2014-2015 Season. Fish & Game, Otago

Trotter, H. 2016. COUNCIL REPORT AUGUST 2016. Backcountry Rivers Online Satisfaction Survey 2015-2016 Season. Fish & Game, Otago

Paul van Klink  
Fish & Game Officer

***Appendix 1******Otago Fish & Game Council Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017***

**Interview details**

Date ..... River .....

Interviewer .....

No. Anglers in party 1 2 3 4 Angler Licence #.....

Guided Yes No Guide name .....

**Effort**

Hours fished today ..... Total days on river .....

**Access**

Walk Helicopter Fixed wing Jet boat

**Encounter**

How many anglers have you encountered today?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

How did your encounters (or lack of encounters) impact your overall experience?

Negative Positive Neutral

How many encounters would you tolerate before your fishing experience was significantly downgraded?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

**Satisfaction**

How would you rate you overall satisfaction with your backcountry fishing experience today?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied Very dissatisfied

Please explain/why?

[Empty rectangular box for explanation]

Status quo Controlled Fishery (online booking e.g. Greenstone)

Voluntary beats (marked sections of river to help anglers share)

Do you have any suggestions or comments relating to the management of Otago’s backcountry fisheries?

[Empty rectangular box for suggestions]

*Appendix 2*

<i>HUNTER RIVER SURVEY 2016/2017</i>				<i>Ranger: _____</i>
Date				
Licence Number				
Res (N) / Non Res (NR)				
Number of fishing days on Hunter River this trip				
Method of access				
Hours fished today				
Number fish caught today				
How crowded do you think the Hunter River is? (1-4)				
Number of other anglers encountered today				
How satisfied with angling experience? (1-5)				
Reason/comments				
<b>Guide name</b>				
<b>Do you think the Hunter River angling regulations adequately reflect the needs of all users? Y/N</b>				
<b>Comment/suggestion for change</b>				
<b>How many days have you guided on the Hunter River this season?</b>				

*CROWDING: 1-Extremely 2-Moderately 3-Slightly 4-Not at all*

*SATISFACTION: 1-Very Satisfied 2-Satisfied 3-Neither 4-Dissatisfied 5-Very Dissatisfied*

## 9.2 Shoverler Trend Count - M Trotter

### COUNCIL REPORT OCTOBER 2017

#### Project 1110 Population Monitoring Shoveler Trend Count

##### *Introduction*

Shoveler ducks congregate every August on open wetlands to select breeding partners. Once paired up they seek secluded areas to nest (Holden 1990, Williams 1981). This behavior provides an opportunity to monitor a selection of congregation sites throughout the country. Counts at these staging grounds are used to infer population changes. The number of birds observed each year can be impacted by weather patterns and it is more reliable to observe a continuous trend over several years before making inferences about population changes. Trend counts do not provide a census of the population.

##### *Methods*

On 7 August 2017, Fish and Game staff and volunteers throughout New Zealand visited shoveler congregation sites. Otago Fish and Game staff assisted by ranger Trevor Beck counted 38 sites. Regional monitoring results are sent to Matthew McDougall from Eastern Region for data analysis.

##### *Results*

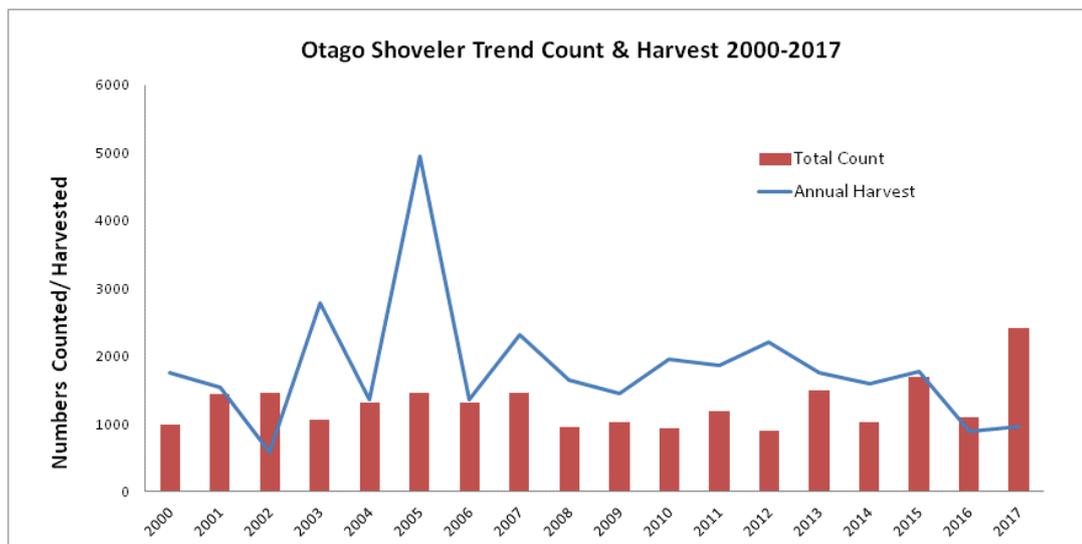


Figure 1: Total shoveler counts and estimated hunter harvest for Otago 2000-2017

Between 2000 and 2017 the total number of shoveler has varied between approximately 900 and 2400 birds. The 2017 total was 2417, in 2016 it was 1091 and in 2015 it was 1696.

### ***Discussion***

The 2017 trend count total of 2417 was the highest on record since 2000. This was largely due to an unusually large congregation of shoveler on Lake Tuakitoto which was at a high level due to flooding. Shoveler are a highly migratory bird and will travel a long way to find favorable filter feeding conditions such as shallow eutrophic lakes (Caithness 1982, Holden 1990). This behavior would explain the large congregation of birds on Lake Tuakitoto.

### ***Otago Hunter Harvest Estimate***

The 2017 hunter harvest estimate from telephone surveys was 971 (95 % Confidence Interval 583 – 1623). This is similar to the 2016 hunter harvest estimate which was 897 (95 % Confidence Interval 514 – 1565). The number of hunters interviewed during game harvest surveys who report shoveler is relatively low resulting in wide confidence intervals.

### ***National Population Analysis (by Mathew McDougal)***

The population of shoveler duck at all sites monitored recently ( $n=254$ ) appears to be stable, (percentage change  $=-1.07$ ; 95% Credible Interval  $-2.7 - 0.56$ ;  $n=240^1$ ). Short term (2016-2017) there was no detectable change as the credible interval estimate spans zero (mean  $=-10.8\%$ ;  $-27.0 - 8.9$ , 95% Credible Interval;  $n=238$ ).

The 2017 total count for sites that have been counted every year over the last 18 years ( $n=84$ ) was 154% of the average for the period 2000 – 2016 and was up 71% on last year's count. These 84 sights indicate a small linear increase over the last 18 years ( $\beta_{yr}=164$ ,  $t=2.846$ ,  $P=0.0117$ ).

### ***Summary***

The elevated count of shoveler in the most recent trend count was due to a large congregation of birds at Lake Tuakitoto. This was probably due to high lake levels providing good feeding opportunities. Analysis of nationwide results indicates a stable population. There is no recommendation for any regulation adjustment.

### ***Recommendation***

**That this report be received.**

Morgan Trotter  
Fish & Game Officer  
October 2017

---

<sup>1</sup>With the 95% credible interval there is a 95% chance that the true estimate lies within the interval, whereas 95% confidence limit is a random variable (Link and Barker, 2010) whereby if the data were repeated numerous times 95% of these confidence intervals would encompass the true mean (McCarthy, 2007).

### ***References***

Caithness T, 1982, Gamebird Hunting, Problems Questions and Answers, Fish and Fowl Series No 2, The Wetland Press.

Link, W. A. & Barker, R. J. 2010. Bayesian Inference with Ecological Applications, London, Elsevier.

Fish & Game Hunter Harvest Surveys, 2016, Unpublished Results from Telephone Surveys

Barker L, 2008. National Gamebird Hunter Survey Results 2008. Fish & Game New Zealand Wellington.

Holden P, 1990, Wild Game, Hunting Gamebirds, Small and Feral Game in New Zealand, Hodder & Stoughton.

McCarty, M. A. 2007. Bayesian Methods for Ecology, New York, Cambridge University Press.

McDougal M, 2017. A Trend Count of New Zealand Shoveler Duck, Fish & Game NZ, Eastern Region Report, Rotorua, NZ.

Williams M, 1981, The Duck Shooters Bag, An Understanding of New Zealand's Wetland Gamebirds. The Wetland Press.

### 9.3 QLDC and ORC Navigational Safety Bylaw Reviews - I Hadland

## COUNCIL REPORT OCTOBER 2017

### QLDC and ORC Navigational Safety Bylaw Reviews 2017

#### Background

Navigational safety bylaws are in place to ensure the safe navigation of vessels on harbours, lakes and rivers. Generally, on harbours and lakes, they are of little consequence to Council or our licence holders but the bylaws do provide for 'speed uplifts' on rivers which make them available for faster moving vessels such as power boats and jetboats. This can cause conflict with anglers, gamebird hunters and disturb sensitive habitats.

Unless a bylaw is in place (such as the QLDC and the ORC bylaw) then all rivers have a 5 knot restriction for boating unless they have been uplifted via application to Maritime NZ (under section 91.20 of the Maritime Rules) and gazetted. Some Otago waters already have historic upliftings in place, the lower Clutha and lower Taieri Rivers for example.

The previous review of the QLDC bylaws was quite contentious as a speed uplift for the Hunter River was proposed without consultation with OF&GC. Submissions and a hearing resulted in an agreed period of use via a partial speed uplift. (see below)

#### Otago Jet Boat Association Liaison

Staff have recently met with members of the Otago Branch of the NZ Jet Boat Association (OJBA). They are proposing a new working relationship of being upfront and communicative about wishes. They relayed that they did not want to see a repeat of the situation with Hunter River speed uplifts in the QLDC bylaws when that was last heard in 2013.

They have approached the Council with a 'wish-list' of waters where they would like to either modify the present uplifting or apply for new upliftings. They have been motivated by several successfully negotiated uplifts in Nelson Marlborough Region and CSI Region.

The Ahuriri was provided by way of an example as to how the uplifts could work in Otago waters. In this case a seasonal window was provided for (1<sup>st</sup> Feb - 31<sup>st</sup> May) and a minimum flow set at 20cumecs below which boating would not be permitted. That is designed to protect spawning habitat and reduce the potential for conflict with anglers.

At present, the Maritime rules and the local bylaws favour safety above all else when considering uplifts and it does not appear that environmental or other concerns about upliftings can be taken into account. This might well explain the lack of prior consultation with Fish & Game when speed uplifts have been proposed in the past. Fortunately, the NZJBA is now, as a matter of course, routinely talking to Fish & Game about their proposals with the express purpose of avoiding conflict with users or habitat at a later date.

**QLDC Bylaws Released For Consultation**

Buried deep in the document is the schedule of waters where speed uplifts are proposed for consultation and they included the upper Clutha (above Deans Bank) and the Clutha below Albert town. The Council has already expressed a strong view that a speed restrictions should remain in place for the reach near the Wanaka Outlet and this issue was picked up by the media. The remaining uplifts or adjustments to uplifts proposed by the OJBA are fairly benign.

The deadline for submissions is 31 October.

**ORC Navigational Safety Bylaws**

The ORC is also seeking feedback on their bylaws and while they largely relate to harbour operations, there is a section on speed uplifts for rivers. The JBA have already presented a submission in line with the table below which was generated following discussion with OF&GC staff. The Harbour master is aware that the table is still subject to council discussion and approval.

The ORC has a deadline for feedback of 16<sup>th</sup> of October but we have been granted a few extra days to ensure that OF&GC views are taken into account – especially any areas of agreement with the OJBA with respect to the table below.

**Recommendations**

Review the table of proposals and discuss

Authorise staff to make submissions/provide feedback to ORC and QLDC on proposed changes, including those proposed by the OJBA.

Ian Hadland  
Operations Manager  
10 October 2017

## Proposals

River	Present restriction	Proposed	Staff comment
Kawarau River - Roaring Meg to Nevis Bluff (via QLDC Bylaws)	5 knots – no uplift in place	Uplift for two weekend per year	Few issues. Very little angling in reach
Hawea River (Via QLDC Bylaws)	2 upliftings per year entitlement	Negotiate 2 weekends which avoid peak use	30cumecs are needed for safe boating so there may be little or no overlap with anglers at those flows
Upper Shotover Skipper bridge to Branches (Via QLDC Bylaws)	5 knots – no uplift in place	Uplift last weekend in October and 1 <sup>st</sup> weekend in November. (JBA members only)	Not sure of angling pressure at that time but unlikely to be an issue.
Clutha River – Outlet to first rapid (Top of Deans Bank) (Via QLDC Bylaws)	5 knots – no uplift in place	Uplifted between 10am and 4pm winter and 10am and 6pm in summer.  (requested by QLDC as part of 2017 bylaw review)	Could have an impact on passive users at this popular reach including anglers. Safety would be an issue.
Clutha River – Below Albertown Bridge to QLDC boundary (Via QLDC Bylaws)	Uplifted between 10am and 4pm winter and 10am and 6pm in summer.	Uplifted all year round  (requested by QLDC as part of 2017 bylaw review)	Consistent with rest of river downstream. Not a big issue. Lots of jetboat use now and little conflict.
Manuherikia (ORC Bylaws)	5 knots – no uplift in place	Seeking two months August & September above certain flows - 7cumecs	Summer uplifting possible at higher flows as no interaction with anglers. Consider April/May above certain flow (median flow on ORC flows website?) to reduce impact on rainbow spawning. Main stem spawning not known.
Taieri River - Pukerangi to Hyde (ORC Bylaws)	5 knots – no uplift in place	August/September above a certain flow	No impact on angling. Spawning could be protected by minimum runable flow of say 20 Cumecs measured at Sutton.
Taieri River – Hyde to Cogans bridge (ORC Bylaws)	5 knots – no uplift in place	August/September above a certain flow	No impact on angling. Spawning could be protected by minimum runable flow of say 20 Cumecs measured at Waipiata.
Taieri River – Outram to Henley Ferry Bridge	5 knots – no uplift in place	Negotiate set dates for two weekends.	Little impact on angling if done in winter. July/August (Sept removed to protect whitebaiting) say 30 Cumecs measured at Outram?

## 9.4 Compliance Summary 2016/17 - I Hadland

### COUNCIL REPORT OCTOBER 2017

#### Compliance Summary Report 2016/17 Season

##### Purpose

This report provides a brief summary of the compliance activity for the 2016/17 fishing and hunting seasons.

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.

##### Fishing Season Compliance

Documented fish licence holder contacts	819
Total whole season adult and family licence holders	12153
% Checked (target: >10% Adult licence holders)	7%
Number of offenders (excluding Failure to Produce or "FTP's")	31
% Compliant (target: >95%)	96.2%

There were 819 recorded interviews with anglers – around 300 less than the previous year. Of these, 34% 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 was well beneath its target of 10% licenceholder contacts. Poor angling weather over the summer lowered angler activity and also limited lake creel survey work and this has had an impact on the overall number of interviews undertaken.

The 31 fishing offenders dealt with was less than half of last year but it must be noted that the 2015/16 season was an outlier in terms of reported offending (61). Over the last 5 years compliance has ranged between 95% and 98% and this season's result fits within the range. In addition to the offences, a further 32 anglers failed to produce a licence on demand (FTP's) and had offence notices issued. All of these were given verbal or written warnings.

##### Types of fishing offences

Fishing without a licence is still by far the most common offence. Two offenders were caught without valid Backcountry licences and both of these were dealt with by way of reparation at the new level set by Council at its August 2016 meeting.

### **Fishing Prosecution Summary**

- 22 of 22 offenders accepted Councils reparation option and were dealt with out of court.
- Two angling offences and 4 other delayed prosecutions were concluded in the financial year (details below)
- One offender (tourist) was untraceable.
- 7 written warnings were given for minor offences.

### **Fishing Prosecutions**

The outcomes from a number of these cases have already been reported to Council but by way of summary for annual reporting:

**Gordon** – Mr Gordon was apprehended fishing without a licence at Tomahawk Lagoon. There were several aggravating factors included in the summary of facts including the use of three rods and minor verbal threats to a Ranger. He pleaded guilty and was convicted and fined \$800 for fishing without a licence, \$300 prosecutions costs and \$130 Court costs. His gear was forfeited.

**Wishart** – This offender was caught fishing at lake Wakatipu with an associate who was also convicted (Hensley.) Wishart did not respond to the reparation offer and then failed to appear at his court hearing. He later contacted the office from Westport to clear the matter up. A local constable agreed to handle the prosecution on OFGC behalf and duly added Wishart to the Westport District Court list. The constable was provided with the full file. Unfortunately the constable didn't appear on our behalf on the due date and the judge dismissed Wishart without conviction.

**Cowlin** – This was another complex and costly set of hearings where the offender was eventually granted leave to apply for a discharge without conviction for fishing without a licence and providing false particulars. The defendant claimed a conviction would compromise his career as a marine scientist and limit overseas travel. The Judge granted the discharge without conviction noting that his decision was one 'on a knife edge'. The offender was asked to contribute \$2000 towards F&G costs of the prosecution.

**Livingstone** – Mr Livingstone was also caught on the edge of Lake Wakatipu fishing and claimed to have left his licence at home. A failure to produce offence notice was written but he never provided a valid licence and the database eventually revealed he was unlicensed. After a convoluted series of appearances, he was subsequently prosecuted and fined \$500 for fishing without a licence, \$1000 for providing false information, plus \$1000 solicitors fees and \$130 court costs – a total fine of \$2,630.00

**Barclay** – A ranger caught Mr Barclay at Southern Reservoir trying to obtain a fishing licence on his cellphone. It was too late though as he had already been observed fishing. He was prosecuted and fined \$600 for fishing without a licence, plus \$250 solicitors fees and \$130 court costs, His seized gear was forfeited.

**Hensley** – This offender was caught fishing without a licence at Lake Wakatipu with an associate. He failed to meet the reparation terms and was prosecuted in the Queenstown District court. On a guilty plea, he was convicted, had no fine imposed but was made to pay \$500 solicitors fees and \$130 court costs.

## Game Season Compliance

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

Total documented Game licence holder contacts	212
Total whole season adult and family licence holders	4161
% Checked (target: >10% Adult licence holders)	5%
Number of offenders (excluding FTP's)	8
% Compliant (target: > 95%)	96.3%

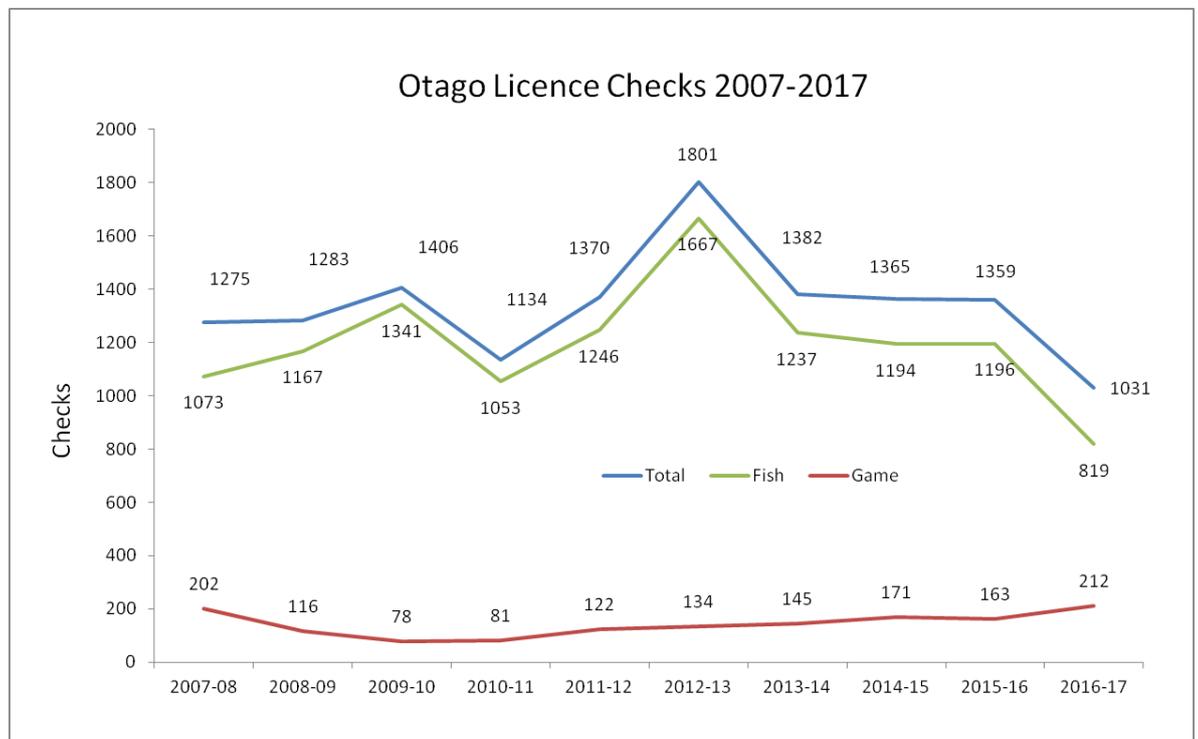
The target of 10% of gamebird licence holders was not achieved again this year. This contact rate is an almost unattainable target, especially when much of our compliance work is focused on opening weekend and on individual farm ponds with a small but fit group rangers.

The compliance target was met and in general hunters were well behaved. There were three unlicensed hunters caught and four using lead shot. One further offender was caught taking protected species.

## Gamebird Season Prosecution Summary

- All 6 offenders that were offered the councils reparation package completed its terms.
- 2 warning letters were issued.
- 7 hunters that failed to produce their licences on the day did so within 7 days.
- No court prosecutions required

## Trends in ranging activity



### **Changes in honorary rangers**

Three new rangers (Glenorchy, Dunedin and Waikouaiti) have been taken on since the last report. One has retired. The Council remain well serviced by 27 rangers with a good geographical spread. Seven staff also remain warranted.

While the number of licence checks this season is well down, our rangers have still done an excellent job. They have detected and professionally reported over 40% of the total offences encountered in Otago. Their attendance at other events such as TAKF days and assisting with other field work is also greatly appreciated.

### **Reparation Levels**

Direction on matters of prosecution, including reparation levels, are guided by the Council's adopted "Offence Guidelines". These were last approved in August 2016 but are still current in my view and are also in line with CSI Region. It is important that the Council maintains a high level of take up for reparation to reduce the need for costly court prosecutions.

### **Prosecution Costs**

The price of prosecuting some individuals this year has well exceeded the Councils budget with the use of third party counsel (even at discounted rates) being the primary cost. Legal fees are impossible to predict and budget for because the number of cases that will eventually need court prosecutions and how prolonged or convoluted they might become is unknown at the start of the New Year. This year's budget overrun was reported in the media and we commented that this is simply the cost of justice and can't easily be avoided.

In the future though, it may be necessary to increase the annual budget for prosecutions. It appears a growing number of people are willing to test the system and once in there, are able to cause unnecessary delays which add to costs in both money and staff time.

One alternative is to develop legal expertise in house but this would be costly and results could be variable. The inconsistent flow of cases, their relative low number and the fact that these prosecutions have more aggravating features (such as obstruction) mean it would be difficult for a staff member to build experience or confidence. Contracted legal services remain the best option in my view.

### **Recommendations**

Volunteers Rangers be thanked sincerely for their continued 'professional' effort.  
Council receive this report.

Ian Hadland

**Operations Manager**

6/03/2018

**9.5 Confidential Habitat Enhancement – P van Klink**

**9.6 Confidential Habitat Enhancement – P van Klink**

**9.7 Confidential Report on Wanaka Hatchery – N Watson**

## **9.8 Anglers Notice Review - C Halford**

### **COUNCIL REPORT OCTOBER 2017**

#### **2017 Anglers Notice Review**

##### **Executive Summary**

This report summarises findings of a comprehensive review of the sports fishing regulations (Anglers Notice) for the Otago Fish and Game Region recognising statutory responsibilities under the Conservation Act 1987, and the Sports Fish and Game Management for the Otago Region (SFGMP). The review involved consideration of available fisheries monitoring data, angler use data and compliance information.

The Otago Fish and Game Region is some 32,000 square kilometres in area and contains 136 named fisheries offering a spectrum of angling opportunity from popular backcountry fisheries to urban reservoirs and including, major lakes and rivers, dams, lowland fisheries and estuaries.

Findings of the review included reconsidering regulations in the Upper Clutha catchment including the Clutha River, trends and options for the Pomahaka River to address angler concerns and responses to Lake Mahinerangi anglers over season length and bag limits.

Suitable daily bag limits to address deteriorating river conditions and fisheries values on some lowland rivers, and population growth in the Southern Lakes area has been considered. The splitting of daily limits for individual species on major lakes to recognise the productivity of landlocked lake salmon populations by comparison with trout populations is identified as an option.

The review recognises the need to clarify and simplify some regulations which will require reformatting the Regulation Guide Booklet. Regulations relating to fishing from boats are a case in point.

##### **Background**

At the February 2017 council meeting Council agreed to a template and timeline prepared by a working party comprised of councillors Boyd, Barlow and Cole for a comprehensive review of the Anglers Notice (AN).

The purpose of the Anglers' Notice is to set out the conditions under which a licence holder may fish for sports fish within a given Fish and Game Region.

This report has been compiled utilising a broad range of information that was summarised and emailed to you independently to this report.

An issues and options section has been included at the end of this report which will form the basis for the angler consultation phase of the review.

## **Need for the Review**

Otago Fish and Game Council has statutory functions and responsibilities under the Conservation Act 1987 and its activities are guided by the 2015-2025 Sport Fish and Game Management Plan (SFGMP) for Otago Fish and Game Region. The SFGMP was approved by the Minister of Conservation on 6 May 2015.

The Anglers Notice Working Party identified that Council needed a more detailed and structured approach to reviewing the sports fishing regulations for the Otago Region, that was Conservation Act responsibilities and SFGMP objectives.

Regulations need to be reviewed periodically to address resource use, sustainability, relevance and clarity.

## **Review Objectives**

1. To undertake the review in accordance with statutory responsibilities and Council policy.
2. To set fishing regulations which reflect current use and trends
3. Refine regulations for simplicity and ease of interpretation.
4. To consult the angling community and seek feedback on proposed changes.
5. To incorporate changes for the 2018/2019 fishing season.

## **Conservation Act**

This Council is established under section 26P of the Conservation act 1987. Its functions are detailed in Section 26Q of the Act.

### *26Q Functions of Fish and Game Councils*

(1) The functions of each Fish and Game Council shall be to manage, maintain, and enhance the sports fish and game resource in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters, and, in particular,—

(a) to assess and monitor -

(i) sports fish and game populations; and

(ii) the success rate and degree of satisfaction of users of the sports fish and game resource; and

(iii) the condition and trend of ecosystems as habitats for sports fish and game:

(b) to maintain and improve the sports fish and game resource -

- (i) by maintaining and improving access; and
- (ii) by maintaining the hatchery and breeding programmes, where required for stocking or restocking the sports fisheries and game habitat; and
- (iii) by formulating and recommending to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council conditions for fishing and game seasons; and
- (iv) by ensuring that there are sufficient resources to enforce fishing and hunting season conditions; and
- (v) by undertaking such works as may be necessary to maintain and enhance the habitat of sports fish and game, subject to the approval of the Minister, the land owner, or the administering authority, as the case may require:

Section 26R “Fish and Game Council Responsibilities” lays out the provisions that apply to the Anglers Notice.

#### 26R Fish and Game Council responsibilities

- (1) In the performance of their responsibilities, Fish and Game Councils shall abide by the requirements of this Act and the Wildlife Act 1953 and any regulations made under either of those Acts.
- (2) Except as provided in section 26Q(1), Fish and Game Councils shall not, within their areas of jurisdiction, engage in any activity that has as its predominant purpose the making of a commercial gain from that activity.
- (3) The following provisions apply to Anglers Notices:
  - (a) Fish and Game Councils shall prepare such notices:
  - (b) Fish and Game Councils shall, through the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, recommend such notices for approval by the Minister:
  - (c) the New Zealand Fish and Game Council shall, if satisfied as to the form of the notice, submit it for the Minister’s approval:
  - (d) as soon as practicable after a notice is approved by the Minister, the New Zealand Fish and Game Council shall publish the notice in the *Gazette*:
  - (e) Fish and Game Councils shall make copies of notices available for sale to the public.

(4) An Anglers Notice shall set out the conditions under which a current licence holder may fish for sports fish in the area to which the notice relates, being conditions relating to—

- (a) the size and limit bag for any species of sports fish:
- (b) any open or closed season in any specified waters in the area, and the sports fish in respect of which they are open or closed:
- (c) any requirements, restrictions, or prohibitions on fishing tackle, methods, or the use of any gear, equipment, or device:
- (d) the hours of fishing:
- (e) the handling, treatment, or disposal of any sports fish.

(5) An Anglers Notice may also declare any waters within the area of jurisdiction of the Fish and Game Council to be fisheries experimental waters, and to make such provision for the protection of fish in those waters as in the opinion of the Minister are necessary or desirable for fish research purposes.

(6) Every person commits an offence and is liable to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 who takes any sports fish from any waters at any time or place, or with any device or in any manner, if such taking is not permitted by any Anglers Notice in force in respect of those waters.

### **Sport Fish and Game Management Plan for Otago Fish and Game Region (SFGMP)**

The SFGMP for the Otago Fish and Game Region provides the framework for the management of Otago's sports fish and game bird resources.

The plan was prepared in accordance with section 17L of the Conservation Act 1987 and requires the council;

- To have regard to the sustainability of sports fish and game birds in the area to which the plan relates; and
- To have regard to the impact that the management proposed in the plan is likely to have on other natural resources and other users of the habitat concerned; and
- To include such provisions as may be necessary to maximize the recreational opportunities for anglers and hunters.

### **Relevant SFGMP Objective and Policy Statement**

5.3.1 To manage sports fisheries and game resources having regard to sustainability to meet the interests and recreational needs of present and future generations of anglers and hunters.

- 5.3.3 To optimise angling and hunting opportunity and maintain or improve the recreational fishing opportunity spectrum available in Otago.
- 5.4.1 Achieve sustainability through the following approach:
- (a) Ensure that the sustainability of the resource has precedence over utilisation (i.e., utilisation will be dependent on sustainability).
  - (b) In the absence of reliable information or in the face of uncertain information, a precautionary approach will be adopted in managing fish populations.
  - (c) Management decisions will be based on the best available information.
  - (d) The absence of information will not be used as a reason for failing to adopt management measures.
- 7.3.2 To minimize and simplify regulations controlling angling and hunting so that they do not become an impediment to participation, but not at the expense of precautionary management.
- 7.4.2 Review annually angling and hunting conditions and assess them for relevance, clarity and simplicity.
- 7.4.3 Liaise with other regions over the annual review of angling and hunting conditions and to seek consistency between regions.

### **Resource and Information gaps**

The Otago Fish and Game Region is some 32,000 square kilometres in area and contains a vast array of waterways and unique fisheries.

Fisheries monitoring is undertaken through annual work plans however it is difficult to maintain up to date information for all waters.

Table 1. Resource and Trend Information (circulated separately) provides a summary for 136 named waters within the Otago Fish and Game Region.

The summary provides an overview of the following;

**Column 1** – Waters in the Otago Region identified in the SFGMP, National Anglers Survey (NAS) and in the Anglers Notice.

**Column 2** – Significance rating from the SFGMP, National, Regional or Local.

**Column 3** – Resource Information from files and staff knowledge.

The section reveals that Council has a useful base of fisheries and angler information for many waters but there are considerable gaps.

#### **Column 4 – Water Quality information (Staff assessment)**

Water quality information is an informed judgement by staff based on published data, angler feedback or personal knowledge. Generally many waters are considered in good to reasonable condition but there is concern some low land rivers are experiencing poor water quality due to land intensification, sedimentation and high nutrient leaching rates. This impacts on waterway health, fish populations and angling experiences.

Waterways with poor or declining quality have been identified in this column.

#### **Column 5 – National Anglers Survey results. (circulated separately)**

National Anglers Survey results provide trends in angler use. Staff have reviewed the information from 1994 – 2015 and assessed whether angling use is increasing, declining, about the same or variable.

#### **Column 6 – General comments, feedback and observations.**

### **Compliance and Trouble Areas**

A summary of offences over the past three years (attached as additional information) indicates that there are no significant regulatory “hot spots”.

Of the total 122 offences the majority is fishing without licences  $n = 103$  (85%), with the remaining  $n = 19$  (15%) regulatory offences.

Of those fishing without licence offences  $n = 77$  (74%) were from the Southern Lakes area with  $n = 31$  (40%) of those non residents.

There have been sporadic reports of spin anglers in the Deans Bank fly only area and during the closed season.

### **Regulations**

A key objective of the review is to refine regulations for simplicity and ease of interpretation.

#### ***First schedule***

The First Schedule of the Anglers Notice provides conditions generally common to all Fish and Game regions.

All twelve Fish and Game Councils must be consulted and reach agreement over proposed changes to the First Schedule. In 2015 a working party was established and recommended changes to the First Schedule but the process was not completed.

In July 2017 the NZ Fish and Game Council agreed to a national review of the First Schedule to simplify the regulations, and achieve more consistency with regions.

## ***Second Schedule***

The Second Schedule provides regulations specific to each Fish and Game Region such as bag limits, method restrictions, season lengths and other relevant conditions.

The Otago regulations are reasonably clear but some descriptive changes are required and the regulation guide layout needs simplifying and reformatting. This will likely be guided by the national review with regional consultation and input.

A key question is whether or not the current regulations in the Second Schedule fit within the parameters of the SFGMP?

Current regulations allow for a good spectrum of opportunity for a variety of waters with a range of angling experiences and this fits with the SFGMP objective;

5.3.3 To optimise angling and hunting opportunity and maintain or improve the recreational fishing opportunity spectrum available in Otago.

### **2.2 & 2.3      *Season lengths***

Sections 2.1 and 2.2 of the Second schedule define the open season on waters above and below the Clyde dam.

2.1 Waters upstream of the Clyde Dam not mentioned in 2.3 presently open 1 November and close on 30 April with permitted methods including fly, spin and bait.

The open season in 2.1 should be changed to 1 November to 31 May to correctly align with other named waters in the catchment.

Season lengths across the region are timed to fit with “the new season” and closures protect natural spawning periods.

There is some negative feedback about the Lake Mahinerangi open season of 12 months duration.

### **2.3      *Restriction on Methods***

Current method restrictions cater for different angling opportunities (recreational opportunity spectrum) as defined in the SFGMP for the Otago Region.

Most waters have had the same method restrictions for lengthy periods and this review hasn't highlighted the need for widespread change but this is open for discussion.

Some adjustment to the Upper Clutha River could be considered for clarity and simplicity. From the Lake Wanaka Outlet downstream of the Luggate Bridge there are currently three separate regulations.

The Upper Clutha fishery has also suffered from the colonisation of didymo but angler reports suggest there has been some recent improvement.

Concerns have been highlighted about the current status of the Pomahaka fishery with some experienced anglers reporting declines in stocks in the upper river which is recognised as having backcountry fishery characteristics. Work is presently underway to survey expert anglers. Fly, Spin and bait methods are currently permitted.

The use of treble hooks from spin angling on some back country rivers has been criticised in the past.

## **8. Use of Boats**

Restrictions on boating have been set to limit disturbance to anglers, to protect angling experiences and the angling environment.

The current rules allow for a range of boating opportunities and there doesn't appear to be any clear reason to alter the current regulations other than to redefine and simplify regulations. There is ongoing pressure from commercial interests to relax boating rules.

## **9. Bag limits**

Bag limits should be set to ensure that overall harvest is sustainable and to share harvest between anglers otherwise the following SFGMP policy statement should be applied;

- 5.4.1 (b) In the absence of reliable information or in the face of uncertain information, a precautionary approach will be adopted in managing fish populations.

Backcountry rivers presently have a 1 fish daily limit which is the most precautionary limit possible without going to a zero bag and there is a high level of catch and release on most backcountry waters.

A precautionary bag limit is presently in place to restrict overharvest. In addition to this under regulation 9.4 of Otago's Second Schedule;

*A licence holder may continue to fish for a particular species of sports fish on any day on which he or she has already killed a limit bag for that species as long as any fish taken are immediately returned with as little injury as possible into the water from which it was taken.*

There has been discussion in other regions of limiting the number of fish caught and released to reduce disturbance pressure on fish stocks but that has enforcement difficulties and should be seen more as an ethical behaviour to encourage. Backcountry fisheries are growing in popularity with anglers and guides and there is increasing interest from non resident anglers in these waters.

### *Large Lakes and Rivers*

Most of the large lakes and rivers have daily bag limits of 6 fish per day. These limits are historical and don't relate to estimates of fish populations or current harvest. Most anglers do not achieve the daily bag limit but higher limits on waters that hold landlocked chinook salmon populations are probably appropriate given their productivity.

The splitting of daily limits for individual species could be considered in order to restrict harvest of trout but at the same time to allow more liberal harvest of salmon.

The Southern Lakes area is experiencing considerable growth and there is a perception that the fishing is not as good as it once was. Sharing the resource between participating anglers into the future is desirable, and getting a better understanding of individual fisheries, users and harvest is becoming more important.

Council needs to consider sustainability, the impacts of growth and increasing angling pressure, and the angling communities' perception of value for their licence fee. Some consistency with neighbouring Fish and Game Regions (Southland, Central South Island and West Coast) would help standardise regulations throughout the South Island.

Bag limits for the Upper Clutha River will be covered in the Issues and Options section below.

Recent comments include;

#### *Lake Wanaka*

"Fish are not being seen around the lake edge and where have the salmon gone".

A boat charter operator who has been providing catch information recently commented that the brown and rainbow trout in the lake are the best he has seen for many years.

#### *Lake Wakatipu*

"Where have all the rainbows gone and why are there so many small salmon in the lake"?

A boat charter business has been requesting a greater salmon take.

#### *Upper Clutha River*

"There was a really good run of rainbow from Lake Dunstan this year".

"The fishery seems to have picked up a little with caddis returning in the evening and fish improving in condition".

### ***Put and Take Waters***

Waters that are stocked annually with hatchery reared fish generally have a bag limit of 1 fish per day. This provides a harvest opportunity and is also prudent in terms of fish rearing and releasing costs and sharing the resource amongst anglers.

### ***Lowland Rivers***

Waters have a mix of limits from 2-6 fish per day.

There is increasing concern about declining water quality and degradation of some fisheries. On some rivers angler interest is dropping which is the likely to be result of lower fish numbers, habitat quality and angling enjoyment.

### ***Other Waters***

Other waters in the region have a range of bag limits from 1-6 fish per day that reflect their individual qualities and to some extent recruitment abilities. Generally little is known about productivity and harvest. Lake Onslow has a 10 fish daily bag limit due to high productivity.

### **Results of the Review**

1. The Otago Fish and Game Region has a broad range of fishing waters and regulations that cater for different angling experiences which fits within the framework and policy of the SFGMP for the region.
2. The review has identified the need for more biological, fisheries and angler information on a range of waterways but the resources required to undertake high levels of monitoring are not available.
3. Many lowland waterways have degraded water quality which is likely affecting waterway health, fish productivity and angling opportunities.
4. Current bag limits generally reflect angler opinion on appropriate harvest levels rather than estimates of fish populations and angler harvest.
5. Growth, particularly in the Southern Lakes may require a precautionary approach to management and the need for “sharing the resource” when considering regulation options.
6. Regulations need to be simplified and clearly presented as far as possible but that should not be an end in itself. Alignment of regulations with neighbours is desirable.

## **Issues and Options**

The Anglers Notice Review has identified a number of issues that require discussion. This section explains the issue and provides options with an overview. Decisions by Council will form the basis for the angler consultation phase of the review.

### 1. Second schedule *clause 2.1*

As explained in the regulation section above the season length for unnamed waters within the Clutha upstream of Clyde does not align with other named waters in that part of the catchment (tabulated in clause 2.3) and anglers are also permitted to use bait in addition to fly and spin in those unnamed waters.

#### ***Option 1***

No change to the current regulations

#### ***Option 2***

Change 2.1 - season length for waters not mentioned in table 2.3 to 1 November - 31 May, and restrict the method to fly and spin only. Retain the 1 fish daily bag limit. This will fix the problem for waters draining into lake tributaries but will impose different seasons on any fishable tributaries of Nevis, Cardrona.

#### ***Staff Comment***

Option 2 will simplify the regulations and have the most consistency with other waters in the catchment.

A large number of the unnamed waters are small lake and stream tributaries that generally don't hold stocks of adult trout or salmon for angling but which provide valuable spawning, rearing and recruitment to the catchment.

## **Recommendation**

**That Option 2 is included in the public consultation phase of the review.**

### 2. Lake Mahinerangi Open Season

The current open season for Lake Mahinerangi is 1 October – 30 September with permitted methods fly, spin, bait and a bag limit of 6 fish per day.

Recently local anglers have questioned the need to have the reservoir open for winter fishing commenting that the fishery isn't very productive and a winter season would place further pressure on the fishery.

*Staff Comment*

Lake Mahinerangi is a large lake holding stocks of brown and rainbow trout, and perch. There is limited biological and fisheries information so a precautionary approach may be appropriate. Angling pressure has declined significantly since 2001.

**Option 1**

No change to the current regulations

**Option 2**

Include season length and daily bag limits in the public consultation phase of the review due to angler feedback received.

**Recommendation**

**That Option 2 is included in the public consultation phase of the review.**

## 3. Clutha River

The Clutha River has three sets of regulations as follows.

3(a) Clutha River upstream from Luggate Bridge (except Deans Bank section)

1 Oct – 30 Sep	Fly and Spin	Daily Bag 6
----------------	--------------	-------------

3(b) Clutha River Deans Bank Section (defined by landmark posts 1 km downstream of Lake Wanaka and 600m upstream of the Albert Town Bridge)

1 Oct – 31 May	Fly Only	Daily Bag 6
----------------	----------	-------------

3(c) Clutha River downstream of Luggate Bridge

1 Oct – 30 Sep	Fly, Spin, Bait	Daily Bag 6
----------------	-----------------	-------------

*Staff Comment*

The three sets of regulations which include season length and method differences creates difficulties with interpretation and there have been some related compliance issues. For clarity, options could include relaxing the fly only area at Deans Bank to include spinning but retain the season length of 1 Oct to 31 May which would protect valuable spawning areas.

This could also include extending the Deans Bank boundary to the Albert Town Bridge.

The Section of river downstream of Albert Town Bridge could then have an open season from 1 October to 30 Sept with permitted methods Fly, Spin, Bait.

Daily bag limits for the Clutha River are presently 6 and some adjustment may be considered due to the impacts of didymo, population growth, and sharing the resource into the future. It would be desirable if daily bag limits were consistent throughout the entire river.

***Option 1***

No change to the current regulations

***Option 2***

Provide options for redefining the regulations in line with the above proposal and include in the public consultation phase of the review.

**Recommendation**

**That Option 2 is included in the public consultation phase of the review.**

4. Pomahaka River

The Upper Pomahaka is renowned for its large sea run and resident brown trout. Sea run trout migrate in to the river from the sea or estuary area to spawn in the upper reaches and tributary streams. Sea run Chinook salmon migrate in and spawn upstream as well.

Anglers have expressed concerned about the declines in the fishery with declining fish numbers of sea run fish. The overall decline in popularity of the river as a whole can be attributed to degraded water quality but that may not be the case for the upper river.

A survey is presently being undertaken to interview experienced anglers who use the upper section of the river which has backcountry fishery characteristics and could be considered for a backcountry fishery designation. Season length, method or daily bag regulations could be considered for the entire river.

***Option 1.***

No change to the current regulations

***Option 2***

Provide alternative management options for the Pomahaka River based on the outcome of the survey and include in the public consultation phase of the review.

**Recommendation**

**That Option 2 is included in the public consultation phase of the review.**

## 5. Use of Boats

Current regulations allow for a range of boat angling opportunities within the region however these need to be refined for clarity and simplicity.

Including boating rules with the waterway they correspond to (ie include in 2.3 of the Second Schedule) will provide a better description of the regulations in one place.

### *Option 1*

No change to the current regulations

### *Option 2.*

Provide options for the use of boats within the Otago Region and include in the public consultation phase of the review

Recommendation

**That Option 2 is included in the public consultation phase of the review.**

## 6. Bag Limits

A finding of the review is that current bag limits are a reflection of angler opinion on appropriate harvest levels rather than estimates of fish populations and angler harvest.

Due to points raised in this report bag limit adjustments should be considered for inclusion in the review. For the large Southern Lakes revised limits or splitting daily limits for individual species are options to allow harvest of productive salmon fisheries at different rates to trout fisheries.

Many lowland rivers are facing water quality issues and declining fisheries therefore considering reductions in the daily bags may be appropriate.

### *Option 1*

No change to the current regulations

### *Option 2*

Provide daily bag limit options for waters within the Otago Region and include in the public consultation phase of the review.

## **Recommendation**

**That Option 2 is included in the public consultation phase of the review.**

## **Final Recommendation**

That the report be received

Cliff Halford  
Fish and Game Officer  
October 2017

## 10 Correspondence

### 10.1 Schools Clay Target Competition

WANAKA GUN CLUB  
Albert Town/Hawea highway

12.09.2017

TO THE MANAGER, STAFF AND COUNCILORS  
FISH AND GAME OTAGO  
P O BOX 76,  
DUNDIN

Dear Sirs

On behalf of all the members of the Wanaka Gun Club Inc, I would like to express our sincere thanks for your sponsorship for our secondary school pupils inter-collegiate clay target competition which was held on September 2nd. We gave out 8 trophies and 31 medals to the winners and gridders in each of four events, for Seniors and Juniors. The trophies and medals are engraved in the first instance acknowledging "Otago Fish and Game".

This event is becoming more popular each year at Wanaka with very good attendances. 12 schools as far north as Timaru, and south to Invercargill attended. The level of competition is of a very high standard.

I enclose a photo.

I would also especially like to thank Cliff Halford for coming along and being involved in the presentation of the trophies and medals.

**Thank you, Your continued support is greatly appreciated.**

Yours faithfully,  
Fraser McGarvie  
Immediate Past President  
992 Aubrey Road, Wanaka. Phone 03443240



## 10.2 Contact – Hawea Gates Generation Project at the Hawea Dam

File: RE45-H06

Contact Energy Limited

PO Box 25  
Clyde 9341

Clyde Power Station  
Fruitgrowers Rd  
Earnscliffe  
Alexandra 9391  
New Zealand



25 September 2017

Niall Watson  
Fish and Game Otago  
PO Box 76  
Dunedin 9054

By email

Dear Niall

In 2007 Contact was granted resource consents to support Contact's proposed Hawea Gates Generation Project at the Hawea Dam at Lake Hawea. This was a proposal to generate a further 17 MW of renewable hydro-electricity using the available head and flow of water currently released from the Lake and into the Hawea River.

Contact has kept the project under consideration since 2007, but due to the current economics, we've not been able to proceed with construction. Earlier this year the Otago Regional Council and the Queenstown Lakes District Councils resource consents supporting the project expired, and we decided not to try and renew them.

While it is always possible that Contact will consider a future proposal to increase renewable electricity generation from the water currently released from Lake Hawea, this letter confirms that Contact is no longer pursuing the original 2007 project.

Yours sincerely,

Daniel Druce  
Environmental Advisor

### 10.3 D Linklater – Kiwi Angler First

**From:** david linklater <[dglinklater@yahoo.com](mailto:dglinklater@yahoo.com)>  
**Date:** 2 October 2017 at 11:31:44 AM NZDT  
**To:** Niall Watson <[n.watson@fish-game.org.nz](mailto:n.watson@fish-game.org.nz)>  
**Cc:** "[wdwitherow@gmail.com](mailto:wdwitherow@gmail.com)" <[wdwitherow@gmail.com](mailto:wdwitherow@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Letter for council meeting  
**Reply-To:** david linklater <[dglinklater@yahoo.com](mailto:dglinklater@yahoo.com)>

Hello Niall, Could you please present this letter to the next full council meeting .Kind  
Regards David

Dear Otago Fish and Councillors,

I have been giving further thought to the issue of the 3 steps: The Fishery followed by local anglers and then the commercial sector including guides and overseas anglers. An important implication of this order of priorities is that local use of the fishery for recreational purposes is a higher priority than commercial use.

We are concerned that commercial use and the earning of income is being used as a reason to protect our angling heritage. We think this is flawed given the order of priorities that we have established and that the main reason to protect our fisheries should first and foremost be recreational and cultural benefits to New Zealanders. Commercial considerations should be secondary.

We understand that the emphasis on the commercial value of fisheries may reverberate well with politicians. However, over-emphasis of commercial aspects undermines our angling heritage. We think that attitudes are changing and that a more mature approach would be to emphasise the recreational and cultural values of angling, and that this would be more in keeping with the priorities that we have agreed.

A glaring example of the over-emphasis on commercial values is the Australian travel company establishing themselves in Lumsden. We regard this as wholly inappropriate and contrary to our values as kiwi anglers.

We urge Fish and Game councilors to give consideration to these implications which we think follow from the establishment of the priorities that we have outlined.

With many thanks for your help with these issues

Your Sincerely  
David Linklater Kiwianglersfirst

## 10.4 Gore District Angling Society - Kiwianglersfirst

11 OCT 2017

### Gore & District Angling Society

President Stan Fissenden ph 03 208 6771  
 Secretary John Purey-Cust ph 03 208 5200. [johnpureycust@gmail.com](mailto:johnpureycust@gmail.com)

5<sup>th</sup> October 2017

To – Monty Wright, Chairman,  
 Otago Fish & Game,  
 PO Box 76  
 Dunedin 9054

Dear Monty,

At our last meeting we were addressed by David Linklater on the subject of “Kiwi Anglers First”, an organisation which I understand he is one of the founders. He now lives at Gore and has joined our club.

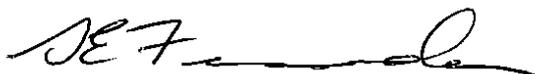
This was the first time for most of our members to hear about this organisation, though overcrowding of the back country and other favoured spots and smaller streams by guided parties of visiting anglers has increasingly become a subject of discussion and complaint. Fly-shy fish increasingly become the order of the day.

Somewhat dubious at the start, by the end he had convinced us that the time for bitching is over and that we, freshwater anglers, should be looking at changes of regulation and fishery management beyond those present now.

None of us are clear how the desired changes may be achieved, or indeed what they are. That will take discussion and time to hammer out, but one thing is clear, and that is that the time for looking to market forces to solve all our problems is over.

We believe that our concerns are widely shared amongst resident New Zealand freshwater anglers and that the subject needs national discussion. To that end a motion at the end of our meeting directed me to lodge them with both Southland and Otago Fish and Game.

Yours sincerely,



Stan Fissenden, President  
 (4 Raeburn Place, West Gore)

## **11 General Business**

---