

**Agenda For The Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council
On Thursday 22nd July 2021
At Otago Fish and Game Office, Cnr Hanover and Harrow Streets Dunedin**

Timetable	
11:00am	Executive Meeting
12:00 noon	Lunch
12:30pm	Council meeting begins
3:00pm	Public Forum
3:15pm	Afternoon Tea
3:30pm – 5pm	Council Meeting

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1.0 Present and Apologies

2.0 Matters To Be Raised Not On The Agenda

3.0 Declarations of Interest

4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

**Minutes of the Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council
On Tuesday 25th May 2021
At St John Rooms, Scotland Street, Roxburgh**

The meeting opened at 1pm and the Chair welcomed all in attendance.

1.0 Present and Apologies

Present: Monty Wright (chair), Colin Weatherall, John Barlow, Ray Grubb, John Highton, Adrian McIntyre, Mike Barker, Murray Neilson, Vicky May (nee Whyte), Dan Rae, Ian Cole, Rick Boyd.

In attendance: Ian Hadland (CE), Nigel Paragreen (OF&GC environmental officer), Bruce Quirey (OF&GC communications officer/minute secretary), and Richard Twining (Ngai Tahu).

Apologies: None.

Moved (Cr May (nee Whyte)/Cr McIntyre)

That they be a true and correct record

Unanimously carried.

2.0 Matters to be Raised not on the Agenda

None

3.0 Declarations of Interest

Cr Grubb has been appointed Chair of the Fish & Game Ministerial Review Implementation Steering Committee.

Cr Highton is a board member of the Maniototo Tiaki Preservation Project.

Cr Rae declared a relative had submitted an application to abstract water in the Strath Taieri area. He said he would not speak to that item in the RMA Planning and Consents report.

4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Moved (Cr Weatherall/Cr Boyd)

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18th March 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record without any amendments.

Carried - Unanimously.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Fish and Game Actions in Response to the Covid Season

The CE drew to the meeting's attention a paper tabled by Cr Highton at the March council meeting on mass tourism and the impact on the New Zealand-based angler experience. Cr Highton spoke to his paper, highlighting criteria for regulating tourism. The CE commented on the work OF&GC staff are doing in this area, including a survey of new and reactivated licenceholders; backcountry user surveys; a displacement survey proposed by NZC; a pressure-sensitive fisheries meeting held in May 2021. Cr Grubb also noted work proposed to be undertaken by the NZC. There was discussion on the need for a national approach and that various control systems in the regions would need to be rationalised. The CE signalled he intends to present a draft matrix on the management of pressure-sensitive fisheries at the next council meeting.

6.0 Health and Safety Report May 2021

Moved (Cr Rae/Cr Cole)

That the Health and Safety Report be received. Carried.

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 NZ Fish and Game Licence Fee Recommendation Consultation

The CE said the NZC is consulting on the 2021/2022 licence fee recommendation.

Councillors discussed the recommendation. Councillors discussed the Licence categories and potential new urban opportunities and agreed it would be helpful if the increases in both game bird and fishing licences could be separated and better justified.

Cr Grubb said the budgets process should not anticipate a licence fee increase. Instead there should be two sets of budgets presented one with and one without a licence fee increase. Cr May (nee Whyte) said she was against increasing licence fees because of uncertain economic times.

Moved (Cr Boyd/Cr Cole)

That OF&GC support the NZC recommendation for a \$4 increase on the whole season fishing licence (to \$137) and \$2 to the gamebird licence to bring it up to \$100. The latter includes the \$4 gamebird habitat stamp levy. All other categories will be adjusted up accordingly (via the agreed ratios) and rounded to the nearest dollar.
Carried.

Cr May (nee Whyte) voted against the recommendation.

8.0 Public Excluded Items

Moved (Cr Barlow/Cr Weatherall)

That the Council move into the Public Excluded Session.

Unanimously agreed.

OF&GC staff members Nigel Paragreen and Bruce Quirey were permitted to remain for the Public Excluded Session.

8.1 Otago Fish & Game Council Minutes Public Excluded Minutes 18th March 2021

Moved (Cr Weatherall/Cr McIntyre)

That the previous minutes were a true and correct record.

Carried

8.2 Habitat Enhancement Application

Moved (Cr May nee Whyte/Cr Neilson) that Council approve a grant of \$1000 to cover planting costs for Rutter Wetland.

Carried.

8.3 Lindis High Court Update

Paper received and noted

8.4 Donald Scott Memorial Fund

Moved (Cr May/Cr Barker) that;

That Otago Fish and Game Council sign the Deed of Gift.

Support the Memorial Fund with an annual contribution of \$5000 for an initial period of 5 years, to be funded from the Non-resident Levy fund.

Promote additional donations through F&G communication networks.

Carried unanimously.

8.5 QLDC Wanaka Stormwater Easement Offer

Moved (Cr Boyd/Cr Rae)

That the QLDC be advised the package offered to OF&GC in exchange for a stormwater easement across F&G property does not meet its expectations.

Carried unanimously.

8.6 Prosecution Update

Moved (Cr Rae/Cr Wright)

That OF&GC obtain legal advice on the alleged poisoning of gamebirds incident.

Carried.

Moved Cr Wright/Cr Rae that the Council move out of Public Excluded Session.

Carried

Richard Twining excused himself from the meeting after the Public Excluded Session.

Presentation: Contact Energy – Lower Clutha Sportsfish Management Plan Implementation

Contact Energy representative Boyd Brinsdon addressed the meeting to provide an update on the longer-term plan for a hatchery at Roxburgh and sportsfish enhancement activities. Mr Brinsdon tabled a draft proposal for a trust and a draft funding model. He explained that the hatchery project had been budgeted for the next financial year, but the Contact Energy ELT was yet to agree on the final terms of the trust for an initial capital contribution and ongoing funding. He reminded the Council that other stakeholders would also need to be convinced of the merits of the proposed hatchery and salmon releases.

Current term of the consent conditions for Contact mitigation on the Clutha expire in 2042. F&G and Contact would like to see some overlap of agreements through that period. Councillors asked if a lump sum covering the cost of construction and then an annual payment for hatchery running costs would be over and above the current \$100,000 used for SFMP works. The CE said additional funds for expansion should be held by the trust. Councillors congratulated Contact Energy for its progress on the hatchery project. Contact is seeking feedback on the draft for the funding model and the trust. F&G councillors agreed a Contact representative should sit on the trust as well as representatives from the local community.

Public forum

Two members of the public, Graeme Rae and John Preedy of Teviot Anglers attended the public forum. They said the club wished to be included on Contacts proposed trust. Councillors replied to - F&G was best to determine the make-up of the trustees but community representation was important.

Mr Rae told the meeting that the Teviot Anglers Club had been excluded from ORC consultation on a Pioneer Energy resource consent application to vary the draw down speed in Lake Onslow. F&G environmental officer Nigel Paragreen was asked to provide a verbal update on the application process. He said F&G was trying to interpret the conditions of the draw down, however, Pioneer had not provided key information relating to the difference between the current and proposed management regimes, but ORC had accepted the level of information as provided to them and he shared the Teviot anglers' concern.

F&G encouraged Teviot Anglers Club to advise the Otago Regional Council in writing that the club was an affected party in the consent process. The CE said F&G was involved in a statutory process as an affected party and was negotiating on behalf of anglers. F&G work at Lake Onslow to date included spawning and creel surveys, both historic and current.

9.0 Financial Report

Finance report was taken as read. The meeting noted fish licence sales were up but revenue was down. The CE said he would investigate that query.

Moved (Cr Cole/Cr Barlow)

That the financial and licence sales report be received.

Carried unanimously.

10.0 Chief Executive's Report May 2021

The CE updated Councillors on Gamebird Monitoring, Silverstream and Kaikorai Estuary Fish Kills, the Anglers Notice and Spawning Surveys. The meeting heard both fish kills were caused by ORC failure in its obligations. The CE said the ORC had proposed higher engagement prior to works that could impact on fisheries. The meeting was asked why the Hunter River was open during brown trout and rainbow trout spawning.

CE verbally discussed the Lake Onslow Battery Project. The Battery Project seemed to be advancing quickly but F&G had been excluded from the feasibility study. The Department of Conservation was expected to report back on recreational and sportfish values, which was curious. The meeting heard some councillors were annoyed F&G was not asked to provide a submission. Cr Grubb suggested Otago Council request NZC take the matter up with the Minister for the Environment.

Resolved (Cr Highton/Cr Boyd)

That OF&GC contact MBIE and request direct input into the evaluation process for the Lake Onslow Battery Project.

Carried unanimously.

Moved (Cr Barlow/Cr Weatherall)

That that the Chief Executive's report be accepted and received.

Carried unanimously.

11.0 RMA Planning and Consents Report - 2 February – 18 May 2021

Moved (Cr Cole/Cr Rae)

that the meeting go into committee.

Carried unanimously.

The OF&GC environmental officer updated the council on the plan change hearings before the Environment Court.

Moved (Cr May nee Whyte/Cr Weatherall)

that the meeting go out of committee.

Carried unanimously.

The CE sought OF&GC approval to spend the maximum extent of the reserve provided on hearings.

Moved (Cr Grubb/Cr Rae)

That OF&GC spend up to the maximum extent of the reserve provided for PC7 and 8 Environment Court hearings.

Carried unanimously.

The OF&GC environmental officer provided a verbal update about the **Manuherekia Consultation Documents** and survey on minimum flow options. He said he hoped the council would reach agreement that there was not enough water for both irrigation and environmental values. He suggested Option 5, a minimum flow of 3000 litres per second. The environmental officer would need to provide a submission to the ORC on councils' behalf. The CE undertook to circulate a recommended position and seek endorsement before the next council meeting.

Moved (Cr Weatherall/Cr Rae)

that the RMA Planning and Consents report be received.

Carried unanimously.

12.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

12.1 CFT

Cr Cole spoke to the CFT report, noting a reduction in its portfolio performance.

12.2 NZC

Cr Grubb provided a verbal update on NZC activities, including staff changes and consultation programmes. Intensive winter grazing and the high-country advisory group were among the focuses of consultation.

He also commented that the Guides Licence was gaining traction and he expected to have further news on its progress at the next meeting.

12.3 National Searun Salmon Committee

Cr Boyd said there had been no further meetings and that he supported the request from CSI Region to disband the subcommittee.

12.4 Ngai Tahu

Mr Twining had excused himself from the meeting after the Public Excluded Session but had passed on items of interest to the CE and Chair.

12.5 Conservation Board

Items from the Conservation Board were forwarded via email to council.

13.0 Correspondence

13.1.1 NZC Consultation Document: Change Freeze

The meeting discussed the correspondence from the NZC to F&G regions requesting a freeze on large asset movement and staff replacements ahead of the implementation of the ministerial review recommendations. The CE said the suggested assets freeze was practical and pragmatic but there were difficulties with a freeze on new positions and staffing arrangements. He said finance was not a constraint for the replacement of Otago staff and hoped the council would support an exemption to replace key staff and for replacement of items identified in the asset replacement fund. Council agreed that Should be part of the feedback to NZC.

Crs Grubb and Barker excused themselves from the meeting.

13.1.2 Disbanding National Searun Salmon Committee

The NZC paper requests for the disbanding of the committee leaving the day to day management of the salmon fishery in the hands of the regions with the most interest in the species. There was further discussion about the state of South Island-wide sea-run salmon fishery and Councillors proposed that if it were to worsen then consideration should be given to closure of the sea-run salmon fishery entirely.

Moved (Cr Boyd/Cr Barlow)

That the council agrees that the NSRSC should be disbanded and the management of the sea-run salmon fishery be undertaken collaboratively by regional F&G councils.

Carried unanimously.

13.1.3 Saturday-ising Opening of Fishing

The meeting discussed a request for feedback on a proposal for Saturday-ising Opening of Fishing. It was noted that there was a lack of data to support the proposal.

Moved (Cr Wright/Cr Cole)

That the council was opposed to the proposal for Saturday-ising Opening of Fishing Season.

Carried unanimously.

14.0 Items to be Received or Noted

Moved (Cr Wright/Cr Barlow)

That the Mallard Monitoring Study Report April 2021 be received.

Carried unanimously.

Cr McIntyre asked that the report on the Mallard Monitoring Study transects be circulated on F&G social media channels.

15.0 General Business

There was no general business. Cr May (nee Whyte) thanked the CE for the progress on the Contact Energy component of the meeting.

The meet closed at 5pm

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

6.0 Health and Safety Report June – July 2021

- Covid 19 – Wellington had a covid scare and went to level 2. One staff member was there over this time and became unwell but has since tested negative.
We are encouraging all staff to get vaccinations when available and continue to use registering apps and personal safety plans.

Events

- Spawning surveys are being done in early winter. One incident recorded where a suspected firearm was discharged near where a staff member was walking a streambank. The reason for the supposed shot was not discovered. The issue was discussed and as it was a random incident it was suggested adjoining farmers should be notified if staff are working near private property.

OHS Audit Completed

- Hazardous substances Cromwell, Wanaka, Dunedin and Hatchery (June).
- Field equipment safety check and field hazard sheet review was added to the workshop audit.
- Next audits –Office building audits (July).

Incidents/Accidents/Near Misses

- One minor vehicle incident where a farm gate swung back and hit a vehicle, minimal amount of damage done.

Training

- One staff has done first aid training. Four others are making bookings for training.
- One staff and one new ranger to attend CERT training in August 2021

Recommendation

That is report be received.

Sharon Milne
Administration Officer
July 2021

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 Adoption of 2021/22 Operational Workplan and Budget

Background

In March the OWP and budget was circulated as a draft for approval and got the agreement of Council to be put forward into the national equation to establish licence fees and levies. Since then, the Minister has approved the Licence fees for next season which were promoted by the New Zealand Council after having assessed all budgets, including its own.

The organisation continues to operate in a revenue short environment with many regions expecting to use reserves to top up operating expenses. Otago has been well placed financially not to have to do this, but it is important not to become complacent.

Workplan

The final draft Operational Work Plan (OWP) for next year has been circulated to you. Staff consider it ambitious but achievable. We run a lean organisation so any additional work added to the workplan at this point will mean having to let some other tasks go. However, we do try to retain as much flexibility as possible and it is the Councils prerogative to change the emphasis around any projects if it sees such a need. A lot of the OWP is business as usual but there is a clear focus on the strategic plan outcomes adopted by the Council 2 years ago.

The biggest change from this current year will be the introduction of the projects differed by covid related spending constrains, particularly from reserves. This includes user/public surveys and our lakes fisheries workshop. These were essential components in our first year of the three-year strategic plan but unfortunately only now being undertaken.

Otago Budget

The budget and levies have now been confirmed by NZC. The split for each output is provided for below, along with a comparison with last year.

Output	2020-21	2021-22	Change
Species Management	\$137,021	\$139,226	1.5 %
Habitat Protection & Management	\$249,623	\$247,295	0.9 %
Angler/Hunter Participation	\$136,292	\$134,581	-1.2%
Public Interface	\$208,252	\$210,329	0.5%
Compliance	\$89,549	\$90,032	0.5%
Licensing	\$23,900	\$24,084	0.7%
Councils	\$51,137	\$52,315	2.2%
Planning/Reporting	\$76,158	\$79,549	4.2%
TOTAL Bulk Fund Budget	\$961,612	\$961,612	0%

Additional funding

In addition to the base funding the NZC has also approved and confirmed our contestable funding bids and the spending from our own reserves.

Base fund	\$961,612
Spending from Non Resident Reserve:	
• Lake fisheries workshop	\$22,000
Spending from Otago General Reserves	
• Colmar Brunton poll of Otago public	\$8,000
• Asset replacement fund reserve	\$11,000
Contestable funding bids approved (from licence fee):	
• CPI on salaries	\$9,467
• Performance increments	\$6,500
• Lease increase	\$9,904
• Lost interest income	\$10,959
TOTAL BUDGET	\$1,039,442

A copy of the full budget has been circulated with the OWP. Please let us know if you wish to see a printed copy.

Recommendation

That the Council adopt the 2021/22 Operational Workplan and Budget

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
14 July 2021

7.2 Legislative Compliance 2020-21 Financial Year

Introduction

Council adopted a Legislative Compliance Schedule in August 2015 (see below) The purpose of the schedule is to provide a framework for reporting on legislative compliance across relevant Acts and Regulations.

Legislative Compliance

In my opinion the Council has been compliant with its legal obligations under the Acts and Regulations listed with the exception of one matter which can be rectified here.

Privacy Act 2020 changes – The Privacy Act was updated in June 2020 and among other obligations, s201 of the Act now requires all agencies to have at least one person who's familiar with the agency's privacy obligations and fulfils the role of a **Privacy Officer**.

The Privacy Commissioners website provides guidance on who that should be and aspects of the role. They suggest in smaller organisations the role would rest with the manager. Tasks include:

- be familiar with the privacy principles in the Privacy Act
- work to make sure the organisation complies with the Privacy Act
- deal with any complaints from the organisation's clients about possible privacy breaches
- deal with requests for access to personal information, or correction of personal information
- act as the organisation's liaison with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner.
- train other staff at the organisation to deal with privacy matters
- advise their organisation on compliance with privacy requirements
- be familiar with any other legislation governing what the organisation can and cannot do with personal information.

I suggest that Council formally appoint the Chief Executive as the Privacy Officer by resolution and edit the Governance Policy so that the role is included in the list of delegations for future Chief Executives. It is a parallel situation to the role of Returning Officer which has been covered off in a similar way.

Recommendations

1. **That the Chief Executive is appointed as the Councils 'Privacy Officer' pursuant to section 204 of the Privacy Act 2020.**
2. **The Councils Governance Policy manual (section 3.8.3) be edited by adding the role of Privacy officer to the list of delegations to the Chief Executive.**
3. **That Council notes that, with the above agreed, that the Council currently complies with the relevant legislation described below.**

Ian Hadland

Chief Executive - July 2021

OTAGO FISH AND GAME COUNCIL - LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE			
Adopted August 2015			
The Council has to comply with all relevant legislation. This schedule includes the main Acts and Regulations relating to Fish and Game Council activities but is not exhaustive.			
Act or Regulations	Key provisions	Comments	Responsibility
Conservation Act 1987	S 17 s26 R, s26S s26T, s26X s26ZD, s40 (1) (5)	Council responsible for: preparation of Fish and Game Plan; compliance with Conservation Act and Wildlife Act, regulations and gazette notice conditions; preparation of Anglers Notices; appointment of staff; production of annual report; holding at least 6 meeting PA.	Chief Executive
- Fish and Game Council Election Regulations 1990	Regulation 3, 20, 26	Council responsible for: appointing a returning officer; returning officer responsible for preparing rolls and conducting elections. Council responsible for meeting post election and appointment of NZ Council member	Council Chief Executive
Crown Entities Act 2004	S150 (3)	Annual Report presented to Parliament	Chief Executive
Public Finance Act 1989	S 43, Part 5, subpart 2, Schedule 4	Council responsible for preparation of annual report including financial statements and statement of service performance	Chief Executive Administration Officer Accountant
Public Audit Act 2001	S4	Council defined as a public entity	

Wildlife Act 1953 - Wildlife Regulations	s15, s39 (1), s44, s53, s54 Parts 2 and 3	Council responsible for: annual game season recommendations; day to day management of Wildlife Management Reserves under delegation from the Minister [Inch Clutha, Little Hoopers Inlet]; exercise any written authority from the DG for taking or killing of game	Chief Executive Fish and Game Officers Rangers
Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act	Parts 2 and 7	Council responsible for conduct of meetings in accordance with Act and responses to OIA requests	Council Chief Executive
Resource Management Act 1991	Parts 3 and 6	Council responsible for compliance with the Act in terms of buildings, structures and land and water use.	Chief Executive
Employment Relations Act 2000		Employment contract obligations in respect of restructuring	Council (CE) Chief Executive (staff)
Parental Leave and Employment Protection Act 1987	Parts 1 and 2	Employment contract obligations in respect of parental leave	Council (CE) Chief Executive (staff)
State Sector Act 1988	s 56, s58	Council responsible for being a good employer	Council (CE) Chief Executive (staff)
Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992	Part 2	Council responsible for taking all practicable steps to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and maintain a safe working environment for employees • Ensure employees are not exposed to hazards while at work • Develop emergency procedures • Ensure employees are 	Chief Executive Council

		<p>trained and supervised</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide employees with information on hazards • Record, report and investigate accidents • Systematically identify and assess hazards • Control significant hazards 	
Maritime Transport Act 1994	Part 2	Council responsible for boat certification and safe use by staff	Operations Manager Chief Executive Council
Privacy Act 2020		Council responsible for appropriate handling of personal information notably licenceholder data; compliance reports; mail lists	Chief Executive Administration Officer
Human Rights Act 1993		Council responsible for compliance with human rights obligations under the Act	Chief Executive Compliance Coordinator
Protected Disclosures Act 2000		Council responsible for compliance with obligations under the Act	Chief Executive
Search and Surveillance Act	S3, Part 4, s169 (2) (3), s171, s172`	Council responsible for compliance with obligations under the Act including annual reporting on exercise of surveillance powers during ranging.	Rangers and F&G and staff. Chief executive
Holidays Act 2003		Employment contract obligations in respect of annual leave and public holidays	Administration Officer Chief Executive
Crown Entities Act 2004	s25	Council responsible for exercise of its powers and performance of functions under the Act and other Acts	Chief Executive Council
Income Tax Act 2007	Parts CX and RD	Council responsible for FBT returns and PAYE deductions and returns	Administration Officer Chief Executive

Goods and Services Tax Act 1985	Parts 2 and 3	Council responsible for GST payments, deductions and returns	Administration Officer Chief Executive
KiwiSaver Act 2006	Parts 2 and 3	Council responsible for enrolment of staff in Kiwisaver	Administration Officer Chief Executive

7.3 Otago Fish & Game Council Elections

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to have the Council confirm the arrangements for the upcoming elections.

Election cycle

In the absence of any alternative approach identified by Minister to date, I have assumed that the Council will run its usual election in compliance with the Fish and Game Council Election Regulations 1990.

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1990/0361/latest/DLM143459.html#DLM143498>

The Schedule of dates for this years election is as follows:

9 th August 2021	Candidate nominations open
26 th August 2021	Candidate Nominations close
8 th September 2021	Electoral roll closes
8 th October 2021	Election day

Legislation on Membership of Councils

26U of the Conservation Act provides guidance on both number of members on regional F&G councils (not more than 12) and the number of subregions (not more than 6). 26Z of the Conservation Act requires 1 person to be elected from each subregion.

Number of Members on Council

At present the Council has 12 members plus a co opted Ngai Tahu representative. The Ministerial Review commented unfavourably about the relative size of Councils in the modern era and this was reflected in the recommendations where the reviewers proposed boards of eight including the iwi representative with just four of those being elected.

There is some merit in reducing the number of board members from 12 to between 8 and 10. There is an excellent article on the website 'Governance Today' which lays out some sound reasoning. In summary, a board of 8-10 means;

- Enough numbers to meet diversity and skill base expectations
- Adequate numbers to "spread the workload" and retain interest at the same time
- Groups are not formed, numbers small enough to support individualism
- Managing the board costs not excessive
- Board member engagement can be maximised without impacting on decision making process
- Orderly succession can be managed
- Attendance generally is not an issue

The downsides of a smaller board also has to be considered including stakeholder perceptions about representation and how decision making might be impacted if two or more members are unable to attend.

[https://www.governancetoday.com/GT/Articles/What is the optimum Board size.aspx](https://www.governancetoday.com/GT/Articles/What_is_the_optimum_Board_size.aspx)

From a logistical perspective, meetings may run quicker with a smaller group and that is an important consideration. At present Council meetings take between 4 and 5 hours which means they can only really be conducted during the day rather than evenings. This Council has previously discussed whether meeting time and duration may be biasing candidates towards people with more flexibility in their time, specifically the non working types ie retirees etc. Diversity on boards was also discussed in the Ministerial Review.

Financially it makes little difference. A small amount of cost is associated with travel and accommodation each year but as volunteers, we run a pretty lean board. This may change in future if all Cr's are being paid by F&G to appear at meetings.

In summary, a move towards a smaller Council of between 8 to 10 members would reflect a more modern board structure, but more importantly signal a move in line with the recommendations in the Review and counter some of the reports criticism that the organisation is 'over-governed'.

Subregions

Otago is presently divided into four subregions; Lakes, Clutha, Dunedin/North Coast and Central Otago. I have been unable to find any strict definitions for the subregions but imagine they loosely follow the territorial authority divisions out to our regional F&G boundary.

The subregions as presently set out strike a tidy balance between population and area and are probably appropriate for the time being.

Returning officer

As you will be aware, I am the designated returning officer for the Otago F&G Council election but it is highly likely that a third party contractor will be appointed to coordinate the election process as usual. I will liaise with them directly when they are appointed by New Zealand Council.

As this is our last meeting before the election process begins, I formally seek instructions from you now on the number of subregions (and by default the number of members required there) and also the total number of members overall. As Returning Officer I have stood back from offering a direct recommendation on the matter.

For discussion and decisions on;

1. Reaffirm subregion definitions and number, or look to something different (not more than 6 subregions)
2. Total number of member places to be filled in the next election. (up to 12)

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
14th July 2020

8.0 Public Excluded Items

8.1 Confirm Previous OF&GC Public Excluded minutes from 25th May 2021

8.2 Habitat Enhancement Fund Application

8.3 Game Bird Cull Prosecution Update – Verbal

8.4 Staffing Update – Verbal

8.5 CE Performance Review – Colin Weatherall to update

8.6 QLDC Stormwater Access Easement Wanaka - Verbal

9.0 Financial Report 30th June 2021

9.1 Finance Reports

The draft finance Profit and Loss report and Balance sheet for the period from 1st September 2020 to 30th June 2021 is below.

Expenditure at the 30th June for the 2020/21 financial year is \$1,655,042 (including levies \$533,853, agent commission \$81,076, depreciation \$50,907 and \$153,490 from our reserves (NZC reimbursement due for some of this). The annual expenditure budget is \$1,805,609. We are at 83% of the year and expenditure is at 79% of budget at end of June.

Total income from licence sales to date is \$ 2,018,680. The annual licence sales budget income is \$1,646,268. This shows good revenue collection for the past 10 months. Revenue for the next 2 months is always lower as it is winter fishing time. We still have very limited tourists and most game sales have been accounted for at this point.

Income from other sources totals \$167,666. This includes NZC reimbursement of legal expenses for the Plan Change Hearing \$49,574, rent \$56,794 and donations/contracted work of \$46,421.

Budget and expenditure figures are exclusive of GST.

The accounts show a profit at 30th June of \$531,304.

Funds Position at 30th June 2021

ANZ 00 account \$193,135.72
ANZ 70 account \$1,039,782.04

Term Investments as at 30th June 2021

ASB 0079 \$362,449 @ 0.85% Maturing on 11th July 2021

Donations and Grants (not in budget)

Date	Who	For	Amount GST excl
Sept- Feb21	Mixed	Bullock Creek Plantings	\$700.90
Sept21	Community Care Trust	Take A Kid Fishing	\$1,733
Feb21	Contact Energy	Projects: Manuka Island, Brown Trout Origin, Harvest Monitoring	\$43,988
Total			\$46,421

Debtors

There are no bad or doubtful debts at the 30th June 2021

Capital Expenditure and Sales

One replacement Ford Ranger truck and one laptop brought. One Ford Ranger truck to be sold in July.

Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting 22nd July 2021

9.2 Otago Fish and Game Reserves 30th June 2021

Otago Reserves Movements	Balance August 2020	Income (To) Reserve	Note	Outgoing (From) Reserve	Balance April 2021
Back Country Non-resident Levy	\$266,789	\$6,361	9	\$822	\$272,328
Habitat Enhancement & Research	\$10,995	\$6,500	2	\$3,995	\$13,500
Bullock Creek Reserve	\$5,033	\$530		\$2,724	\$2,839
Mining Rights Reserve	\$23,947		3	\$6,410	\$17,537
Priority Consents Reserve	60,000		7		\$60,000
Historical Property Reserves	\$172,044		4	\$10,366	\$161,678
Renovation Reserves	\$8,175			1,604	\$6,571
Regional Policy Statement Reserve	\$60,000		5		\$60,000
Priority Plan Changes	\$118,485		6	\$67,848	\$50,637
Total				93,769	\$645,090
NZC Grant Movements					
Priority Plan Changes		\$50,000	8	\$49,721	\$279

Note 2 Balance is \$13,500. Less committed but not yet paid out of \$9,500 so balance of \$3995.15 is available for dispersal by way of grants.

Note 3 \$150,000 (Mining Rights) approved prior to 2018 by NZC from our reserves. Includes \$80,000 of Lindis expenses, agreed by Council July 2019.

Note 4 Historical Property Reserve May 2020 \$15,000 and July 2020 \$25,000 was allocated to Wanaka subdivision by the Otago Council.

Note 5 OF&GC agreed to \$60,000 May 2020. NZC notified.

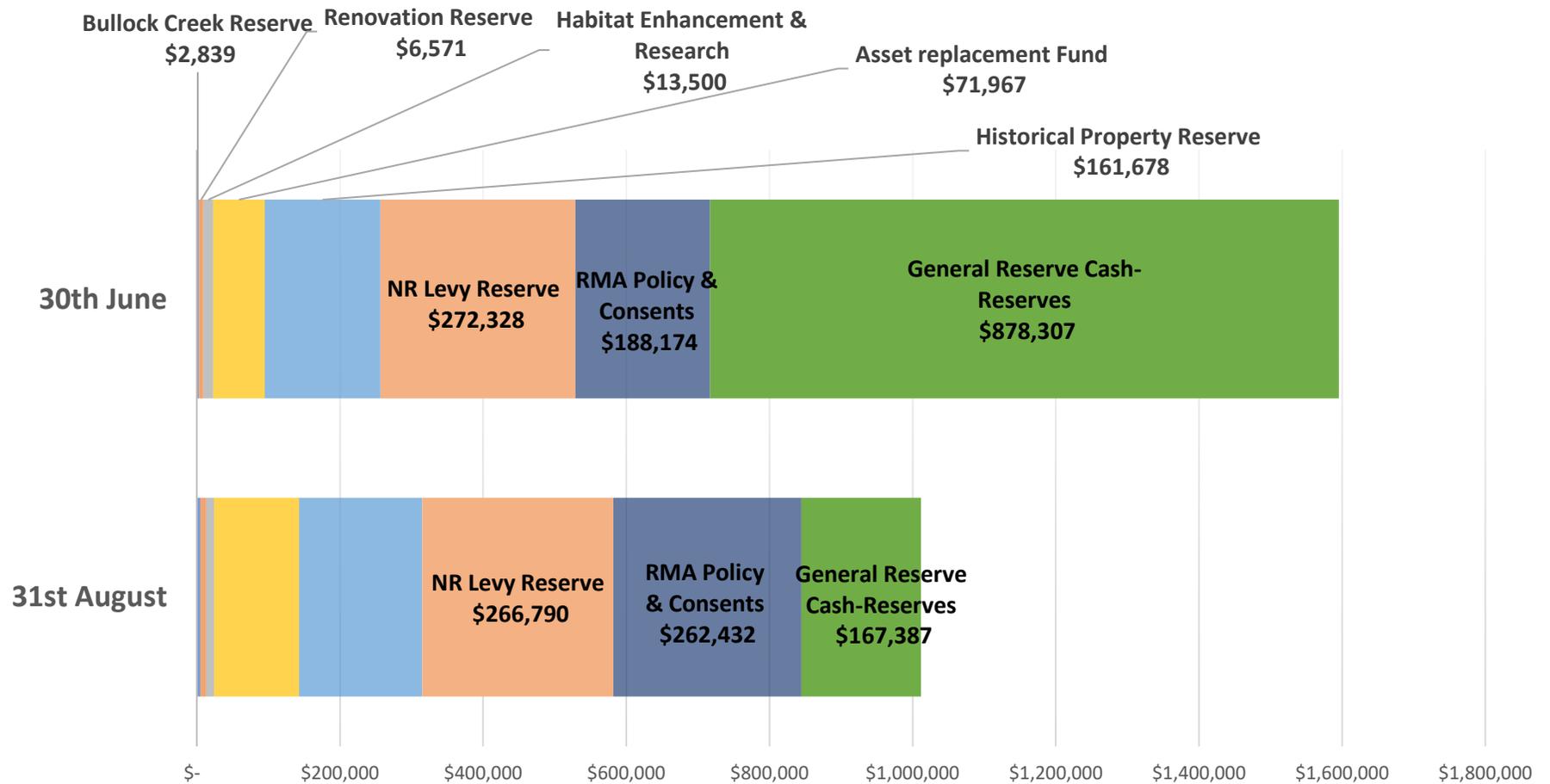
Note 6 OF&GC agreed to \$120,000 May 2020. NZC notified. \$81,000 agreed to be spent by council September 2020. Remainder of reserve agreed to be spent May 2021

Note 7 OF&GC agreed to \$60,000 May 2020. NZC notified.

Note 8 Feb 2021 NZC allocated the use of \$50,000 to be reimbursed by the Regional RMA legal fund towards Plan Changes 7 and 8 of ORC Waterplan

Note 9 \$5000 a year for the next five years is to be take from the back country non resident fund for the Dr Donald Scott University Fund beginning this financial year. Agreed by Council May 2021

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES FROM 31ST AUGUST 2020 TO 30TH JUNE 2021



Balance Sheet

Otago Fish and Game Council As at 30 June 2021

	30 JUN 2021	31 AUG 2020
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank	1,232,968	652,613
Receivables		
Accounts Receivable	60,360	118,479
Total Receivables	60,360	118,479
GST	7,640	40,644
Investments	362,450	359,370
Inventory	20,958	20,958
Accrued Interest	870	870
Accounts Receivable - Other	(403)	-
Total Current Assets	1,684,844	1,192,934
Fixed Assets		
Property Plant & Equipment	1,381,603	1,385,558
Total Fixed Assets	1,381,603	1,385,558
Total Assets	3,066,446	2,578,492
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	69,372	74,257
Other Payables	163,829	231,585
Employee Entitlements	93,466	64,175
Rounding	-	-
Total Current Liabilities	326,667	370,017
Total Liabilities	326,667	370,017
Net Assets	2,739,779	2,208,475
Equity		
Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated Funds	1,364,081	1,651,962
Current Year Earnings	531,304	(29,076)
Transfer (To)/From Reserves	80,379	(258,805)
Total Accumulated Funds	1,975,764	1,364,081
Dedicated Reserves		
Back Country Fisheries Reserve	272,328	266,789
Habitat Enhancement & Research	13,500	10,995
Priority Plan Changes Reserve	50,637	118,485
Priority Consents Reserve	60,000	60,000
Regional Policy Statement Reserve	60,000	60,000
Mining Privileges Reserve	17,537	23,947

Balance Sheet

	30 JUN 2021	31 AUG 2020
Historical Property Reserve	161,678	172,044
Renovation Reserve	6,571	8,175
Asset Replacement Funding	118,926	118,926
Total Dedicated Reserves	761,177	839,361
Restricted Reserves		
Bullock Creek Reserve	2,838	5,033
Total Restricted Reserves	2,838	5,033
Total Equity	2,739,779	2,208,475

Profit and Loss

Otago Fish and Game Council For the 10 months ended 30 June 2021

	MAY 2021	JUN 2021	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
Income								
Licence Sales								
Fish Licence Sales	9,940	8,218	1,671,863	1,301,365	370,498	128%	1,324,365	1,683,279
Non-Resident Licence Revenue	585	622	6,361	-	6,361	-	-	70,828
Game Licence Sales	9,691	1,934	340,457	321,903	18,554	106%	321,903	316,109
Total Licence Sales	20,216	10,774	2,018,680	1,623,268	395,412	124%	1,646,268	2,070,216
Other Income								
Interest Income	42	42	3,488	-	3,488	-	-	16,177
Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	51	143	1,489	1,670	(181)	89%	2,000	723
Rent Received	6,538	6,093	56,794	49,295	7,499	115%	59,153	53,498
Fishing Competitions	-	637	1,526	-	1,526	-	-	1,635
Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,418
Donations & Grants	-	27,922	46,421	-	46,421	-	-	208,526
Merchandise Sales/Other	17	-	330	-	330	-	-	67
RMA Costs Reimbursed	-	-	49,574	-	49,574	-	-	-
Sundry Income	500	500	1,544	-	1,544	-	-	17,128
Diversion - Habitat Enhancement and Research Fund	-	200	6,500	-	6,500	-	-	13,635
Total Other Income	7,148	35,536	167,666	50,965	116,701	329%	61,153	330,808
Total Income	27,364	46,310	2,186,347	1,674,233	512,114	131%	1,707,421	2,401,025
Gross Profit	27,364	46,310	2,186,347	1,674,233	512,114	131%	1,707,421	2,401,025
Other Income								

Profit and Loss

	MAY 2021	JUN 2021	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
Govt Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85,726
Total Other Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85,726
Expenses								
Species Management								
Population Monitoring	2,025	-	10,568	9,000	1,568	117%	9,000	6,348
Harvest Assessment	-	-	4	-	4	-	3,000	2,700
Hatchery Operations	-	-	4,770	4,600	170	104%	9,000	3,912
Releases	67	-	518	1,500	(982)	35%	1,800	838
Game Bird Control compliants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	119
Total Species Management	2,092	-	15,860	15,100	760	105%	22,800	13,916
Habitat Protection & Mngt								
Contact Sports Fish Management Plan	10,412	5,768	29,310	-	29,310	-	-	58,197
Resource Mngt Act	11,042	17,569	125,363	1,670	123,693	7,507%	2,000	32,449
Works & Management	416	89	5,520	4,170	1,350	132%	5,000	14,196
Assisted Habitat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	225,012
Habitat Enhancement Research Fund Grants	-	-	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	12,435
Total Habitat Protection & Mngt	21,870	23,425	164,192	5,840	158,352	2,812%	7,000	342,288
Participation								
Access and Signage	51	-	952	2,080	(1,128)	46%	2,500	1,628
Back Country Surveys/Monitoring	75	-	822	-	822	-	-	6,037
Promotion Articles and Advertising	-	-	-	1,250	(1,250)	-	1,500	998
Publications and Web Site	-	-	-	630	(630)	-	700	1,085
OF&G Training Events	-	-	632	2,000	(1,368)	32%	2,000	1,266
Club Relations and Grants	-	-	92	830	(738)	11%	1,000	1,388
Fish Competitions and Data	5	-	32	-	32	-	-	-
Total Participation	131	-	2,530	6,790	(4,260)	37%	7,700	12,403

Profit and Loss

	MAY 2021	JUN 2021	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
PUBLIC INTERFACE								
NZC National Water Campaigns	-	-	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	1,000	-
Liaison	-	31	106	1,250	(1,144)	8%	1,500	122
Communication	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	690
Media Releases	-	-	312	6,070	(5,758)	5%	7,000	1,068
Total PUBLIC INTERFACE	-	31	418	8,320	(7,902)	5%	9,500	1,880
COMPLIANCE								
Ranger Training and Expenses	512	31	618	7,250	(6,632)	9%	7,500	4,779
Compliance	-	-	2,197	4,500	(2,303)	49%	5,000	1,282
Total COMPLIANCE	512	31	2,815	11,750	(8,935)	24%	12,500	6,061
LICENCING								
Agent Servicing	21	-	177	750	(573)	24%	750	257
Commission/Fees	671	399	81,076	59,360	21,716	137%	59,360	81,950
Total LICENCING	693	399	81,254	60,110	21,144	135%	60,110	82,207
COUNCIL								
Council Meetings	386	479	7,573	13,000	(5,427)	58%	15,000	15,167
Total COUNCIL	386	479	7,573	13,000	(5,427)	58%	15,000	15,167
PLANNING & REPORTING								
Reporting/Audit	264	234	16,862	16,000	862	105%	16,000	17,236
National Liason	43	-	43	1,800	(1,757)	2%	2,000	73
Total PLANNING & REPORTING	307	234	16,904	17,800	(896)	95%	18,000	17,309
ADMINISTRATION								
Salaries	72,393	44,175	604,013	628,754	(24,741)	96%	754,500	769,829
Staff Expenses	6,083	235	15,355	13,566	1,789	113%	17,000	11,067
Office Premices	8,115	4,822	83,299	75,504	7,795	110%	88,996	80,359
Office Equipemnt	164	21	2,670	2,084	586	128%	2,500	2,340

Profit and Loss

	MAY 2021	JUN 2021	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
Communications	1,996	1,091	17,987	18,344	(357)	98%	22,000	20,167
General Exp (incl Insurance)	320	12	2,801	2,700	101	104%	2,900	3,485
General Field Equipment	(76)	-	518	1,968	(1,450)	26%	2,300	2,531
Vehicles	2,749	2,624	41,734	43,840	(2,106)	95%	51,000	45,736
Total ADMINISTRATION	91,744	52,980	768,378	786,760	(18,382)	98%	941,196	935,514
Depreciation	5,150	5,150	50,907	-	50,907	-	-	69,392
Gain on Disposal	(44)	-	(44)	-	(44)	-	-	-
Loss on Disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Media Releases	-	31	37	-	37	-	-	-
NZ Fish & Game Levies	-	-	533,853	533,852	1	100%	711,803	1,011,763
Wanaka Subdivision	-	-	10,366	-	10,366	-	-	7,924
Total Expenses	122,841	82,759	1,655,042	1,459,322	195,720	113%	1,805,609	2,515,826
Net Profit	(95,477)	(36,449)	531,304	214,911	316,393	247%	(98,188)	(29,076)

9.3 Licence Sales

Fish Licence Sales 2020/21 to 30th June 2021

See table following for fish licence sales categories and numbers. This table shows fish licences sales for seasons 2020/21, 2019/20 and 2018/19 to the 30th June of the season.

In summary, fishing licence sales to 30th June 2021 in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) 14,404.68 LEQs compared with 14,195.76 for the same period last year.

Fish licence revenue from the Profit and Loss statement for the 2020/21 season recorded to 30th June 2020 total \$1,678,224 compared with \$1,864,032 for the 2019/20 Season. These figures include both resident and non resident sales. Exclude GST and commission to agents. The 2020/21 budget for fish licence sales is \$1,324,365 exclusive of GST.

2018/19 Season has been shown for those interested in pre covid sales.

Game Licence Sales 2020 to 30th June 2021

See table following for game licence sales categories and numbers. This table shows full season sales for 2020,2019 and 2018.

In summary, 2020 game licence sales in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) is 4,174.14 LEQs in 2021 compared with 3858.97 LEQs for 2020 and 4,134.45 LEQs for 2019.

Three seasons have been shown to show pre covid sales volumes against the last two seasons.

Game licences sales revenue from the Profit and Loss statements for the 2021 season up to the 30th June 2021 is \$340,457 compared with \$315,255 for the same period in the 2020 Season.

The 2020/21 season budget for Game Licence Sales is \$321,903 exclusive of GST.

9.5 Agents Debts

Some small Farmlands invoices still outstanding from last month. They have been contacted and payment will be made. Farmlands agents no longer choose to sell ammunition and most of our sales with them are associated with gamebird hunting. We will be reviewing Farmlands agencies soon.

We are planning that all agents go onto direct debit systems in the future but this will still not be suitable for some of our agents.

9.6 Recommendation

That this report be received

Sharon Milne
Administration Officer - 14/07/2021

Otago Fish and Game Licence Sales to the 30th June of the Season

2020/2021

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	Total	Fish LEQ
Agency	2,497	3,497	27	711	171	128	14	243	865	51	413	0	119	4	0	0	8,740	
Eyede	8	13	0	9	0	0	0	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	
Online	1,964	2,499	90	282	414	161	28	402	2,248	174	422	4	228	6	1	3	8,926	
Total	4,469	6,009	117	1,002	585	289	42	646	3,118	226	835	4	347	10	1	3	17,703	14,404.68

2019/2020

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	Total	Fish LEQ
Agency	2,507	3,569	363	675	212	110	29	211	862	1,253	419	21	79	66	20	49	10,445	
Eyede	3	11	4	10	2	0	1	1	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	40	
Online	1,459	1,743	652	225	337	215	42	272	1,704	1,759	326	35	158	59	18	58	9,062	
Total	3,969	5,323	1,019	910	551	325	72	484	2,570	3,014	747	56	237	125	38	107	19,547	14,195.76

2018/2019

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	Total	Fish LEQ
Agency	2,467	3,203	502	577	203	148	19	253	970	1,830	433	31	89	112	18	112	10,967	
Eyede	13	5	4	5	1	1	0	1	10	10	0	0	3	0	0	2	55	
Online	1,645	1,825	838	244	333	142	34	289	1,719	2,282	264	23	134	93	21	90	9,976	
Total	4,125	5,033	1,344	826	537	291	53	543	2,699	4,122	697	54	226	205	39	204	20,998	14,551.04

FWF (Family), FWA (Adult), FWNA (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),
 FDNJ (day non resident Junior), FWNC (non resident Child), FDNC (day non Resident child day)

Otago Game Licence Sales to 30th June of the Season

2021 Post Covid

Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ
Agency	3,383	262	82	14	0	3,741	
Eyede	3	1	0	0	0	4	
Online	707	87	35	37	2	868	
Total	4,093	350	117	51	2	4,613	4,174.14

2020 Covid Year

Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ
Agency	2,826	211	72	12	1	3,122	
Eyede	7	0	0	0	0	7	
Online	961	81	34	17	1	1,094	
Total	3,794	292	106	29	2	4,223	3,858.97

2019 Pre Covid

Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ
Agency	3,378	236	78	30	2	3,724	
Eyede	5	0	0	0	0	5	
Online	677	58	22	40	0	797	
Total	4,060	294	100	70	2	4,526	4,134.45

GWA Full Season Adult, GWJ Full season Junior, GWC Full season Child
GDA Adult Day, GDJ Junior Day

10.0 Chief Executives Report July 2021

10.1 Progress Against Councils 3 Year Strategic Priorities

SF&GMP Output	Goals 2020-2023	Draft Objectives (Specific, timebound and measurable)	February Update
Species Mgt	Improved knowledge of Sportsfish population dynamics in Southern Lakes	Robust monitoring system for southern lakes fisheries established by 2022 with enough sensitivity to detect population change. Research proposal to investigate drivers for that change lodged to NZC for funding by 2023	Creel surveys are complete for the season on Lake Wanaka and the report is within this agenda. A further year of data collection is proposed for next season in the OWP. Spawning surveys in Lake Hawea tributaries were completed and will be reported on at the September meeting. A hold on funding (from reserves) to run a lake fisheries management workshop means that this project remains on hold but is now scheduled for winter 2022.
	Improve Clutha River Salmon knowledge	Contribution of southern lakes salmon population to lower river searun fishery researched by 2022. Options for enhancement of downstream migration by 2023. Benefits and risks of further liberations reported on by 2021. Salmon spawning sites surveyed and documented (ongoing)	Contact Energy funding Creel surveys at the Roxburgh dam wall are complete and reporting is in progress. No searun salmon have been reported this season. Spawning surveys in the upper and lower catchment are underway and two aerial surveys of the Clutha mainstem has been completed by a contractor. Reporting on those flight is due end of July.
Habitat Protection & Mgt	Improve outcomes in RMA planning processes – Plans reflect F&G input	Submissions reflecting F&G positions made on time and hearings attended for all planning matters impacting on F&G managed species, habitat and users (lumpy workload so no dates fixed) Additional advocacy in the form of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once yearly Governor to governor meetings with ORC • Twice yearly meetings between CE's of orc and territorial authorities, iwi and DOC. (Same at a staff level) 	The RMA consenting and planning report is provided by way of update in this agenda. Plan change 7 nears completion and has gone well, despite its length. Plan change 8 looks as if it may be resolved largely through mediation Over the period CE has met with the ORC regulatory general manager, ORC Manager Consents, ORC CEO, QLDC CEO and Chief engineer and also had a telephone discussion with Aukaha Chair Edward Ellison.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre circulation of key submissions (two weeks ahead) to allies for comment and to seek alignment. <p>By 2022, establish three way agreement (Aukaha, DOC, F&G) on freshwater values and bottom lines for input into FMU process.</p>	<p>Staff are still meeting regularly with Aukaha to generate consistent submissions to larger RMA consent applications.</p> <p>Any agreement looks increasingly unlikely by the deadline, however the groups continue to cooperate on matters of mutual interest.</p>
	Create or improve more wetland areas with emphasis on irrigation dams as habitat and headwater wetlands	10 ponds/wetlands on private land developed or enhanced or protected annually (30 wetlands/ponds by 2023)	<p>Investigations for new pond development has slowed considerably – partially as a result of staffing changes. One application has been prepared for Council to consider this meeting.</p> <p>Staff effort has been diverted to catchment group work which could provide major improvements to wetlands across Otago. More time has been budgeted next year for this activity.</p>
Angler & Hunter Participation	Maintain or improve current participation levels, especially among females	Maintain current participation levels and improve female participation by 5% by 2023	<p>Staff are regularly contributing to national marketing efforts including completion of a national survey of reactivated and first time anglers to assist with future marketing efforts.</p> <p>The survey of female anglers has been complicated by their tendency to be held within a family licence under a partners name.</p>
Access (under Participation in SF&GMP)	No net loss of access	Identify and log current access points by 2021 20% More access points identified in Otago region available to anglers and hunters by 2023.	Current access points are being fed into a database with the Taieri and Clutha catchments largely complete. The project has to be scaled to an extent due to the size of the region.
Public interface	High licence holder understanding of F&G organisation and its work on their behalf	Improve licence holder knowledge of F&G activities (by two unit points in licence holder survey) by 2023	The magazine acts as our flagship print communication to licenceholders but a reduction in regional pages means staff will need to consider other options. The next fishing magazine is due out mid August.

			<p>Social media activity also continues to rise with 2,200 followers on the Councils Facebook page.</p> <p>A repeat survey of licenceholders will be required to see if there is progress against the objective.</p>
Improved understanding by the general public of F&G role and work	<p>Establish information portal including option of an educational facility in conjunction with Contact energy by 2023</p> <p>Generate and conduct general public survey of understanding by 2021 to establish base metric. PR/PA programme established and implemented by 2021. Follow up survey 2023 to check progress</p>		<p>Negotiations related to a hatchery at Roxburgh hosted by Contact Energy are now concluding with the proposed formation of a trust. The core trust document has been edited and returned to Contact Energy</p> <p>PR survey is on hold due to funds from reserves being held back at present.</p>
Proactive engagement with Ngai Tahu	<p>MOU/Principles document extended to cover wider Otago water and wildlife values and agreed by 2022.</p>		<p>Relationship with Aukaha continues to build with regular meetings and communication around planning and consenting matters.</p> <p>Staff are scheduled to attend a Maoritanga course which will help to build on our relationship at a staff level. The same could be proposed at a governance level when the new council forms.</p>
Improved FGO and Ranger visibility	<p>15% of Otago fish licence holders and 10% of game licence holders have direct contact via CLE or through other F&G activities on an annual basis</p>		<p>Reporting on proportions of licence holders checked is due shortly.</p> <p>Ranger warrants expire at the end of September and the renewal process has started. The police vetting system is holding the process up but its looking like we should have 13 honorary rangers rewarranted by 1 October. A number of Rangers have chosen to step down at this point. We are moving towards a smaller group of better trained rangers to ensure we comply with H&S provisions required of us.</p>
Form alliances/collaborations with landowners (and stakeholder organisations) on areas of common interest	<p>360 degree survey of all stakeholders and other groups on organisational attitude and effectiveness by 2021.</p> <p>Draft and implement strategic communications plan for stakeholders by 2022. Review for positive progress and report 2023</p>		<p>Stakeholder survey on hold as funding from Reserves was placed on hold.</p> <p>NZC is proposing to upgrade its Communication Strategy so some guidance may be provided by that. Timeframe is unknown.</p>

Administration	Find alternative sources of income to support F&G activities	At least 20% of external expenditure is from alternative sources	As previously advised, a good portion of the target figure for this year has been secured through the Contact Energy Sportsfish Management Plan. (\$100,800 worth of work) Applications will be made shortly for funding support for the Councils 'Take a kid fishing' days.
Compliance	Regulations understandable by licence holders	Make regulations easier to interpret through simplification and improved user interfaces, especially online	Project is now part of a nationally lead project and changes will be integrated into the website rebuild proposed for later 2021. No further action.
	Improved compliance rates	Improve compliance rate from 95% to 97%	A low offence rate for game hunting this season points to meeting the objective. Analysis of Ranger returns is being completed now and will be reported at year end.
	Prosecutions completed in a compassionate and professional way	Revisit prosecution guidelines annually (Sept) and sign off alongside diversion payment schedule	Prosecution guidelines were adopted in November 2020. Full prosecution report due at years end alongside the above.

10.2 Other Staff Activity

10.2.1 SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Spawning Surveys

A number of catchments have been visited over the last two months including the Hunter River and some lower Clutha Tributaries. A report on the Hunter spawning surveys is due next meeting.

Anglers Notice

The Anglers Notice (and regulation book) has now been finalised and accepted by the Minister. No changes to bag limits, season lengths or methods are proposed for the next angling season. Staff will soon be starting the process for the regulations review which was postponed last year.

10.2.2 HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Contact Energy – Lower Clutha Sportsfish Management Plan Implementation

The outline of a Trust document which was discussed at the last meeting has been amended by staff and returned to Contact Energy. They have indicated that they are happy with the edits which included the Trust being an enduring one, even if the hatchery was closed or not built for any reason. Negotiations will need to continue on the level of their financial input into the Trust to make it work. It is proposed to have a Trust Deed ready to sign at the next meeting.

Just a reminder, the primary purpose of the trust is to facilitate Contact Energy's obligations under the Sportsfish Management Plan which is components of their RMA consent for the Roxburgh Dam. That now includes the proposed hatchery build. It does look to be an elegant solution to manage the body of work expected of them to improve sports fisheries in the lower Clutha.

Lake Onslow Battery Project

A meeting with MBIE staff on the project is proposed for the end of July. Following that we may need to revisit our own work programme to allow time to either assist other agencies doing environmental and recreational assessments or conduct our own.

Lindis High Court Case

The Lindis High Court hearing was concluded at the end of April and we are still awaiting a decision.

10.3 USER PARTICIPATION

Pressure sensitive fisheries management proposal

Staff have met with Southland region and NZC staff to develop a proposed solution. A draft form of that will be presented at the meeting. It still needs considerable work but Staff did agree to present a draft proposal to Council this meeting.

Presentation by CE

New and Reactivated Licence holder Survey

Otago staff have led a national survey of new and reactivated anglers. Its purpose was to discover motivations for taking up angling this last season, to learn more about their experiences and to seek information on what they need to continue. It has gone very well with a 27% survey response giving over 1500 responses all up. The summary data is very insightful and will be used to inform marketing efforts next season. A full report on findings will be presented next meeting.

Short presentation by Comms Officer or CE

10.4 PUBLIC INTERFACE

Media

The F&G media article on the Manuherikia River and proposed 'choices' for minimum flows was well received in some circles. Promotion of the Te mana o te wai concept of the river coming first isn't a message some want to hear. The media response was predictable and of course nearly exclusively based on potential economic losses from higher minimum flows.

10.5 COMPLIANCE

Nothing noteworthy to report

10.6 LICENCING

Agents

The Administration Officer and CE will be reviewing the licence agents over the next period to ensure coverage and suitability for the future. Public online sales of licences continue to climb so its timely to take another look at agents with very low sales and checking if it's worth it for both parties.

10.7 COUNCIL

Election

There is a paper in the main agenda on Elections. Needless to say that this is coming up quickly.

10.8 PLANNING AND REPORTING

Licence fee recommendation

The licence fee recommendation has been confirmed by the Minister and now all that remains is for Council to confirm the Draft OWP and budget so staff can move forward into a new financial year on 1stth September.

Recommendation

That this report be received

Ian Hadland

Chief Executive

15 July 2021

11.0 RMA Planning and Consents Report

18 May 2021 – 14 July 2021

Current Legislation, Policy and Planning Processes

Plan Change 7, 8 and 1

Plan Change 7

The hearing for Plan Change 7 (**PC7**) continues and at the time of writing has finished its 10th week of hearings. The process has been far longer and more intense than expected, with significant time required of legal and planning witnesses. Similar resource pressure has been reported to staff by other participants and is not unique to the Fish and Game case.

PC7 has provided Fish and Game with an excellent opportunity to explore concepts within the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020. To date, the following has been highlighted by Fish and Game or the Court:

- Reinforcement that Te Mana o te Wai (TMOTW) has a similar meaning and effect as what was found during the Southland Water and Land Plan appeals. The Court relied upon this as the basis for TMOTW discussions in PC7.
- The difference and significance of prioritising the health and well-being of water bodies, compared to that of just ecosystems.
- Conservation of non-migratory galaxias in the context of the NPS-FM must be integrated, comprehensive and be consistent with prioritising the health and wellbeing at an ecosystem and water body level. Fish and Game has argued that low flow barriers are not consistent with this prioritisation.
- Exploration of the activities which sit within the 2nd tier of the hierarchy of obligations.

Fish and Game has now presented its closing submissions, as have most other parties. A copy of Fish and Game's closing submissions has been circulated to Councillors. This provides an eloquent summary of Fish and Game's case to date.

The Court will take most of July to consider submissions and evidence on the proposed Regional Policy Statement (pRPS) of Otago 2021. A decision is likely in September 2021.

Due to the extended nature of the hearing and the time still until a decision may be handed down, there is the potential for deemed permit hearings may be held in the interim. Depending on the details of such hearings, staff may be required to fund these cases from the *Priority Consents Reserve*.

Plan Change 8

Plan Change 8 (**PC8**) has been split into two hearings, one each for the primary sector and urban topics. The entirety of the primary sector topics went to mediation in the last month and were successfully mediated with most parties. Key to the agreement was acceptance by the Otago Regional Council (**ORC**)

that the provisions will be in place for only two years before they are replaced by the Land and Water Regional Plan.

Due to the extended and unexpected cost and length of the PC7 hearing, many parties, Fish and Game included, were unwilling or unable to commit significant funds for such a short time frame. Staff expect that a protracted hearing required to seek adequate long-term regulation of activities such as intensive winter grazing and stock setbacks from water will push Fish and Game well outside its budget in the *Priority Plan Change Reserve*, despite additional funding from the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (**NZC**). Staff consider that the likely scale of such an overspend would not be reasonable for the PC8 primary sector topics.

To date, the funding provided by the NZC has been entirely spent on the PC7 process. Given the fundamental concepts being discussed in that forum, staff consider that the intent of the NZC funding has been met and the funding put to a use which is likely to benefit Fish and Game nationally by advancing the interpretation of the NPS-FM.

A similar mediation process has been proposed for the remaining urban topics in PC8.

Despite reaching agreement for the primary sector topics, the Court has indicated that a hearing still needs to be held. Staff attended a pre-hearing conference on the primary sector topics on 14 July and are working with the ORC and other parties to make the process as streamlined as possible.

Plan Change 1

Staff have pulled out of Plan Change 1 as it now looks as if it will be of limited value for Otago Fish and Game or NZC.

Expenditure

Even with PC8 on track to be resolved efficiently, staff cannot discount an overspend from the *Priority Plan Changes Reserve*. As demonstrated by PC7, the resources required will be largely dependent on direction from the Court.

Approximate expenditure to date is:

- PC7 \$110,776.87
- PC8 \$8,823.98

Approximate funds remaining for the plan changes: \$50,399.15

Regional Policy Statement

The pRPS has been notified and a consultation period will be open for submissions until 3 September 2021. The RPS will be the highest-level policy document developed within Otago and will give high level direction on how to manage resources in the region. The RPS must give effect to the NPS-FM, in addition

to any other relevant National Policy Statement, and in turn will be create direction for the Land and Water Regional Plan.

Critically, the RPS will need to provide a regional interpretation of TMOTW and outline long term visions for catchments in the region. These are likely to be critical in determining the direction of travel for the region's environment in the next 30 years. It is important that Fish and Game participate in setting that direction.

From a brief read, it appears that the pRPS does not seek to protect the habitat of trout and salmon, despite it being specifically mentioned in the policies of the NPS-FM. This is very concerning and may result in poor environmental outcomes and/or, at the extreme, the marginalisation of Fish and Game from planning processes in Otago.

The Council has put aside \$60,000 to participate in the RPS planning processes. So far, this reserve remains whole. Given the complexity of PC7 in interpreting the NPS-FM, staff anticipate that additional funding may be required. This RPS is the first to be notified since the NPS-FM became operational in 2020 and as such, it is likely to be nationally significant. As this is one of the first pRPSs to be notified after the NPS-FM came into force, Councillors should not discount a need to appeal decisions, which in this case will be on points of law only and be directly to the high court.

It is recommended that the current funding be reviewed and if necessary, additional funding is sought from the NZC.

Current Notification processes

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
<i>Otago Regional Council applications</i>		
Various abstractors within the Pigburn catchment	To abstract water from the Pigburn.	A submission in opposition was put forward and a pre-hearing meeting held. However, the application was then amended at the applicants' request, re-notified and staff have made a submission in opposition was made on the amended application. No hearing date has been set.
JN & CA Davis	To abstract water from the Stratford and Colour Burn Creeks.	A submission in opposition was written in response to being limited notified. No hearing date has been set.
Arrow Irrigation Company	To abstract water from the Arrow river.	The application was publicly notified, and staff made a submission in opposition. No hearing date has been set.
45 South Mining Ltd	To undertake suction dredging in the Kye Burn	Prior to notification, staff had indicated that written approval may be provided strict limits on

		the physical area disturbed, spawning and rehabilitation were proposed. These are not included in the notified application and Fish and Game staff are engaging with the applicant to determine a position.
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Written approval requests being actively processed

Applicant	Activity	Status
<i>Otago Regional Council applications</i>		
Pioneer Energy	To vary existing consents to store and use water at Lake Onslow to increase the drawdown rate.	Staff have been attempting to develop adaptive management conditions with the applicant. Staff were recently informed the applicant is looking to head to limited notification.
Glenorchy Community Association Inc.	To extract gravel from the Buckler Burn, near Glenorchy.	Applications amendments agreed with applicant, awaiting confirmation they have been made.
Earthworx Taieri	To extract gravel from sections of the Taieri River	Awaiting information from the applicant.
Otago Regional Council	Discharge from the Silverstream Pumpstation	Staff understand that the applicant intends to head to limited notification and are awaiting notice.
ORC	A global consent for the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land use for the disturbance of the bed, for the purpose of the extraction of alluvium, placement of groynes and rip rap rockwork, placement and use of temporary culverts. - Discharge of sediment to rivers. - Water permit to divert water within the bed. 	Staff have provided feedback on the application and understand that the applicant has changed the application as a result. Staff are awaiting confirmation of application changes.
Queenstown Lakes District Council	To extract rock from the bed of Scott Creek and Routeburn Station Land	Staff are discussing the application with representatives of the applicant.
Clutha District Council	To discharge water and contaminants from the Balclutha Wastewater Treatment Plant to the Clutha River	Staff gave affected party approval for this application back in 2018; however, the application has since been amended to more fully reflect the sources of waste that will be

		treated and discharged. Staff are reviewing the application.
Queenstown Hardfill	To extract gravel from the Rees River	Staff have proposed conditions which would protect spawning in Diamond Creek and protect the natural character of the Rees. Staff are awaiting confirmation from the applicant before affected party approval is provided.

Written approval provided during the period

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
Otago Regional Council applications		
Jens Schumann	To undertake suction dredging in the Pomahaka River	Written party approval was provided after the applicant amended the application to include conditions to protect spawning and rehabilitate pool, run, riffle sequences.
Queenstown Lakes District Council	To reinforce an existing floodbank on the Rees River, near Glenorchy	Written party approval was provided.
The Department of Conservation	To replace a timber bridge at Moke Lake	Written party approval was provided.

No written approvals were provided during the period for consents from the following bodies:

- Central Otago District Council
- Queenstown Lakes District Council
- Dunedin City Council
- Clutha District Council
- Waitaki District Council

Recommendation:

1. That this report be received.
2. That staff review funding requirements for a Regional Policy Statement case and apply for funding if necessary, from the New Zealand Fish and Game Council legal pool fund.

Nigel Paragreen
Environmental Officer
14 July 2021

12.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

12.1 CFT

12.2 NZC

- Review Update
- NZC general update

12.3 Salmon Committee

12.4 Ngai Tahu

12.5 Conservation Board

13.0 Correspondence

13.1 NZC to Otago

Nil

13.2 Otago to NZC

13.2.1 Feed back on 2021/2022 Licence Fee Recommendation



26th May 2021

Mr Paul Shortis
Acting Chief Executive
New Zealand Fish & Game Council
Via email

Re: Feedback on 2021/2022 licence fee recommendation

Dear Paul,

Otago Council considered the NZC Licence Fee recommendation paper at its meeting held on the 25th May 2021.

Council **agreed** (11/12) with the recommend increase in licence fees to \$100 (including the gamebird habitat stamp fee) for gamebird licence and \$137 for the sportsfishing licence (all other categories adjusted accordingly)

OF&GC also asked that;

1. The Licence Working Party look at the option for a cheaper fee for urban and highly accessible fisheries to support recruitment efforts.
2. That the NZC consider separating out the fishing and gamehunting licence fees in future recommending reports so there can be a more context and justification for pricing and increases. Some councillors felt that gamebird hunters are not getting fair value for money at present and increasing the fee may only make that matter worse.

Yours sincerely

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
Otago Fish & Game Council

13.2.2 Feed Back on Salmon Committee



26th May 2021

Mr Paul Shortis
Acting Chief Executive,
New Zealand Fish & Game Council
Via email

Re: Feedback on Salmon Committee

Dear Paul,

Otago Council considered the paper (on CSI Fish & Game Councils request to disband the Salmon Committee) at its meeting held on the 25th May 2021.

Council agreed that the National Searun Salmon Committee should be disbanded and the day-to-day management, and long term planning, for South Island searun salmon be passed back to those regions where the species are most prevalent. Our Council would still wish to be a party to those discussions.

Council also wanted to communicate that NZC should be asking those regions with critically diminished returns of searun salmon (primarily CSI and NC Regions) to consider closing their salmon fisheries while that long term planning is completed. This was seen as an urgent and prudent measure as there is a feeling that the wild component of this iconic species is becoming biologically unviable.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ian Hadland". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
Otago Fish & Game Council

13.2.3 Notification of Spending from Non Resident Licence Reserves- Donald Scott Scholarship



26th May 2021

Mr Paul Shortis
Acting Chief Executive,
New Zealand Fish & Game Council
Via email

Re: Notification of spending from Non Resident Licence Reserves – Donald Scott Scholarship

Dear Paul,

Otago Council considered a paper regarding financial contribution to a new research scholarship administered by the University of Otago in the name of past zoology professor Dr Donald Scott. Donald was also a long term member of our Council and passed away 18months ago.

His widow offered OF&GC several thousand dollars to use on sportsfish research. That gift was passed onto the University to establish the fund as it is easier for them to administer and account for the fund. At this point it is regarded as seed funding for a much wider scholarship fund which is expected to be regularly topped up with external donations. We propose to help with promotion on that aspect.

As you will be aware research funding for our organisation is beneath 1% of revenue which is rather pitiful. This scholarship will help in some way to bridge that gap with targeted freshwater and sportsfish research. It will be granted to zoology students of masters level and above working directly on areas of interest to Fish & Game.

Otago Fish & Game Council agreed to contribute \$5,000 pa for 5 years from its Non Resident Licence Reserve. This is notification of that commitment. It was noted that past Non resident angler surveys have identified 'research on fisheries' as being one of the highest ranked (4.15 on a scale of 1-5) potential uses of that additional levy on their licences.

Please let me know if you would like more details about the fund, or if you know of other who may be interested in contributing.

Yours sincerely

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
Otago Fish & Game Council

13.2.4 Feedback on Saturday-ising Opening Day of the Fishing Season



26th May 2021

Mr Paul Shortis
Acting Chief Executive,
New Zealand Fish & Game Council
Via email

Re: Feedback on Saturday-ising opening day of the fishing season

Dear Paul,

Otago Council considered the NZC paper (on Eastern Fish & Game Councils request to Saturday-ise opening day of the fishing season) at its meeting held on the 25th May 2021.

Council was unanimously opposed to the proposal to look at standardising this throughout NZ. It noted that there were a number of opening day options being used across the country which each in themselves offer opportunity for anglers to spread their effort. 1st November opening of Otago lakes tributaries and the first weekend in November opening in Central South Island being examples where angler travel to enjoy both openings. These separate opening days have caused very few issues in the past.

As a second schedule change, it is an option that Eastern Region are able to implement themselves. If they do, we would be interested in any feedback from anglers on such a change and that could better inform any proposal of this nature in future.

OF&GC would however welcome a discussion on a review of the first schedule of the angling regulations to look for other opportunities for consistency.

Yours sincerely

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
Otago Fish & Game Council

13.2.5 Feedback on Change Freeze



26th May 2021

Mr Paul Shortis
Acting Chief Executive,
New Zealand Fish & Game Council
Via email

Re: Feedback on Change Freeze

Dear Paul,

Otago Council considered the paper on the proposed 'Change Freeze' at its meeting held on the 25th May 2021.

Council agreed that this is a prudent measure in the most part, especially given the circumstances. It did take exception to two items:

1. **Staffing** – Council agreed that it is not the time to create new roles without communicating or seeking approval from neighbouring regions and the NZC. It did take exception to the replacement of permanent staff. Otago presently has two vacant roles of which one might be considered a key role. Offering a short term contract for that particular role is likely to lead to a reduced range of quality candidates in an already tight job market. It proposes to go ahead with that replacement as a permanent employee.
2. **Replacements of assets under \$70,000** – Council considered the principle as being agreeable with the exception of items already on the Councils asset replacement schedule. Replacement of vehicles for example is not only necessary but rather routine.

Both of these exceptions line up with the principles and commentary delivered by NZC and Implementation Group Chair that as much as possible we should maintain a 'business as usual' approach to ensure stability and capability of the organisation over the medium term.

With those two exceptions the Council were agreeable to this becoming policy, although it was noted that it may be better as 'Guidelines' or a multi party agreement as it is completely unenforceable as policy.

Yours sincerely

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
Otago Fish & Game Council

13.2.6 Feedback on the Review Document and Recommendations



27th May 2021

Mr Paul Shortis
Acting Chief Executive
New Zealand Fish & Game Council
Via email

Re: Otago F&G Council Feedback on the review document and recommendations

Dear Paul,

Otago Fish and Game Council meet on the 25th May 2021 to consider the Ministerial Review report and its recommendations.

Our Councils response is in two sections. Firstly, the Councils reaction to the report is summarised below and secondly, an analysis of the recommendations and potential solutions. We have used a traffic light system to guide the reader to the important issues.

The Council understands that New Zealand F&G Council (NZC) staff propose to assemble the salient points of feedback from regional councils into a document for the Minister and Implementation Committee to consider. To ensure our independent Councils voice is heard, we have copied this response to the Minister of Conservations office.

Otago F&G Council reaction to the Ministerial Report

- Most of the recommendations are accepted and much of the criticism deserved. We agree that improved governance is required at both regional and national level. Council were also positive about the increase in iwi engagement.
- Otago Council was surprised by some of the recommendations, and how far they departed from the Terms of Reference. If we had known the extent of proposed amalgamations for instance, then we should have been given the opportunity to provide feedback on them. Some Councillors felt that the report should have been issued as a draft report for comment, rather than an ultimatum.

- The Terms of Reference was specific on changes to F&G's statutory functions being out of scope. We note that former Minister of Conservation Eugenie Sage stated in her media release that *"The review is limited to a health check of the governance of Fish and Game. It is not a review of Fish and Game's statutory roles or functions"* yet there are 20 changes listed in the final report which require legislation changes.
- Council also felt let down by the review in that it relatively silent on the principles of Fish & Game and its duty to licence holders as its key stakeholder. The Terms of Reference was quite clear about improving community involvement and licence holder representation, but a serious reduction in councillors, regional amalgamations and ministerial appointments manifestly increase the disconnect between communities, anglers and hunters, and the national organization. The net effect of the recommended changes might be a smaller pool of quality candidates coming forward for elections and/or applications to be appointed to Councils at both levels potentially leading to weakened, rather than improved, governance.
- Councillors felt that (for Otago at least) the result is likely to be a more bureaucratic, less efficient organisation with reduced effectiveness at ground level.

Elections

The most pressing matter for the NZC and the Minister of Conservation is how to manage the upcoming F&G Council Elections. Proposed legislation changes (and an associated delay in implementation of the recommendations around appointments etc) mean that it may be 'business as usual' for this election. If that is not the case, then the Minister's office should urgently provide more clarity on the elections process and timeline so alternative preparations can be made. We look forward to hearing more from the Minister's advisers and/or NZC on this.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the review. You will see in the attached appendix that despite some of the criticisms outlined above, our Council is keen to see the organisation move forward positively. Please let us know how we can assist with that.

Yours sincerely



Monty Wright
Chairman
Otago Fish & Game Council

13.3 General Correspondence In

13.3.1 Friends Of Bullock Creek Position Statement to Otago Fish and Game

Ian Hadland,

Chief Executive, Fish and Game, Otago

3rd February 2021

Dear Ian,

Happy New Year to you. We hope that F&G can look forward to a positive year in these challenging times.

FOBC has had another productive year. We can be proud of the milestones achieved and the significant positive public feedback we have received from members and the public. As we prepare for our AGM in February, we are taking the opportunity to think ahead about the longer-term role of FOBC and the society's relationship with Fish and Game.

Key FOBC committee members have been involved for several years in site work, development and enhancement of the F&G hatchery springs site and advocacy on behalf of the community and F&G with council over stormwater issues. At our AGM, one or two of FOBC's key drivers will be seeking to wind back their involvement during the current year. We will be seeking to replace these committee members with similarly enthusiastic and energetic candidates. However, we know from preliminary discussions, that attracting and retaining committed and energetic committee members is always challenging.

For this reason, FOBC is signalling to F&G, that we cannot guarantee the same level of engagement, commitment, and activity at the hatchery springs site. It is probable that we will have to wind back on our site work by the end of 2021.

The 3-year FOBC MOU with Fish & Game expires this year so discussions on this matter are timely. We feel we are at a key point to evaluate what has been achieved and what the future role should be for FOBC, in light of the following:

- Significant progress is being made by QLDC and F&G towards a practical proposal to divert storm water from the Alpha series subdivision and to manage the flow sustainably and with minimal environmental impact. This will remove the greatest threat to water quality at the hatchery springs site, and it will also involve QLDC taking an active role in site remediation and protection. This work is projected to start in spring this year.

- Fish and Game is advancing its proposal to subdivide an area of land to the north of the existing creek. This will materially change the status of the entire site, as house and land development get under way and infrastructure (pipes, power, sewage, roads) is installed.

F&G has been generous in opening the site for public use and enjoyment. Given the growing public access, in the view of FOBC some sort of long-term Management Plan needs to be contemplated.

FOBC believes that, in the longer term, it is not viable to rely on a small group of unpaid volunteers.

It is our belief that QLDC should be an active party in the long-term management of the site. Informally, we have passed on a number of recommendations to F&G that we think merit discussion with QLDC and that could lead to QLDC assuming a greater responsibility. We think there is some urgency as F&G will be in negotiations over site access and terms and conditions etc.

We expect FOBC to remain as an engaged interest group into the future. We are eager to see the proposed water protections put in place, and the site work completed to date remain in a maintained condition. However, we feel these are matters that cannot be left to FOBC to direct or control. Hence our writing now to clearly signal potential changes in FOBC's role and our interest in proposing the need for a management plan.

We would be happy to meet at any time to discuss FOBC's current and future engagement at the site.

Kind regards,

Andrew Waterworth, President – Friends of Bullock Creek Inc

<https://www.fobc.kiwi/>
<https://www.facebook.com/fobc.wanaka>

13.3.2 Waiau Fisheries & Wildlife Trust



5 JUL 2021

21 June 2021

Dear Jan

The Trustees are pleased to forward you a copy of the 2021 Annual Report covering the 24th year of operation by the Trust. We hope you enjoy reading it.

The Trust has had another productive year in terms of our habitat enhancement projects. The Trust has commenced work with the Smith Family to restore and enhance the Wairaki Oxbow Wetland immediately south of the Wairaki River confluence. This is a regionally significant wetland, and an important eel fishery that has been of interest to the Trust for many years.

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

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

The Investment Fund, under the 3 Fund Managers yielded a healthy 16% return on investments (after withdrawals, fees and brokerage) for the year. This puts the Trust in a good financial position to support its work moving forward.

In an organisation like the Trust, a large number of people contribute to its success, including the Trust Board and people we work with within the community. Jan Riddell, who has been the Trust's Planning Contractor since its inception, retired this year. I wish to sincerely thank Jan for her dedication and vision over that time, the Trust wouldn't be where it is today without her efforts. Claire Jordan, a Planner based in the Waiau Catchment, has taken on Jan's role. I also wish to thank Mark Sutton, Claire Jordan (Contractors to the Trust) and Fish and Game Southland (Cheryl Mason) for their work this year. The Trustees wish to thank everyone who has supported the Trust during the last 12 months. Your interest, cooperation and assistance has been invaluable and enabled us to meet the Trust aims and objectives now and in the future.

Yours faithfully

C A McCulloch
Chairman

Email: camandmuriel@gmail.com

13.4 General Correspondence Out

13.4.1 Report to ORC on Restoration of Takitakitoa

17/06/2021

Otago Regional Council
Private bag 1954
Dunedin

Dear Sir/Madam

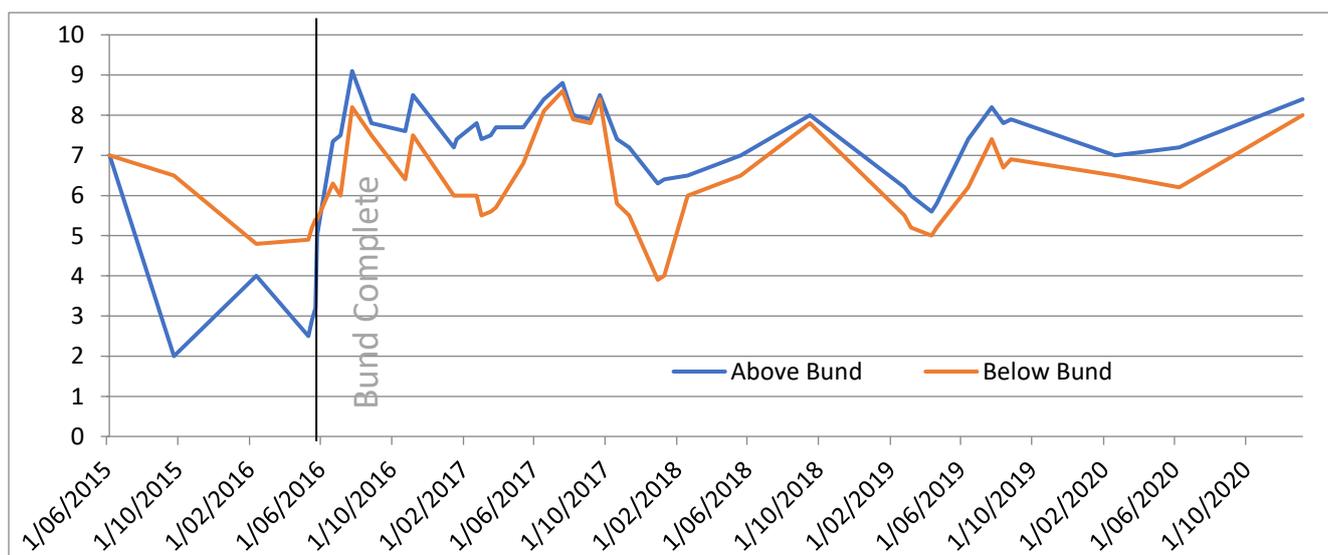
Re Consent reporting associated with Takitakitoa Wetland Restoration Project

The information below is presented to satisfy the conditions of consent **RM14.043.03** granted to Otago Fish & Game Council to restore and enhance the Takitakitoa Wetland.

Both Condition 4 and 5 of the consent are being answered under each subheading

1. Water Levels

Staff gauges above and below the bund wall are being used to monitor water levels in the wetland. Units are in decimetres.



The bund, and the blocking of the deep drains which dissected the upper part of the wetland has resulted in much improved hydrological regime. Water levels are higher than the lower part of the wetland and are much more consistent.

Manually read staff gauges are the most cost effective and efficient way to measure water levels in the wetland so this monitoring will continue at least quarterly (or better) for the next twelve months.

2. Flow through fish pass

Water has flowed down the fish ladder on and off throughout the season. (picture taken 06/01/21).

Fish Pass Check	Flowing?	Depth	Dam WL	Video
24/10/2016	yes	35mm	7.6	
3/03/2017	Yes	30mm	7.4	
19/03/2017	yes	30mm	7.4	Yes
08/03/2019	No	0mm	6.0	
10/04/2019	No	0mm	5.6	
08/06/2020	Yes	5mm	7.2	
06/01/2021	yes	20mm	8.4	



3. Eel abundance

One fyke net (baited with half a trout) was set over one night (18/03/2021) near the bund wall (figure 1). One large Long Finn eel was caught (photo 1)

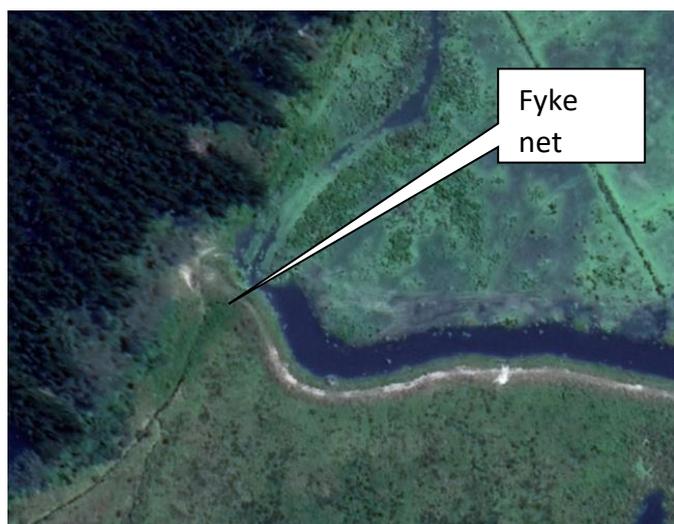


Figure 1.



Photo 1.

4. *Inanga* abundance above the dam

Inanga were in very low abundance in the upper part of the wetland before it was enhanced. Electric Fishing surveys in Surprise Stream (near the maximum upstream extent of the wetland) recorded a single fish, and even then, it was not captured. This survey will be repeated this spring using Gees minnow traps.

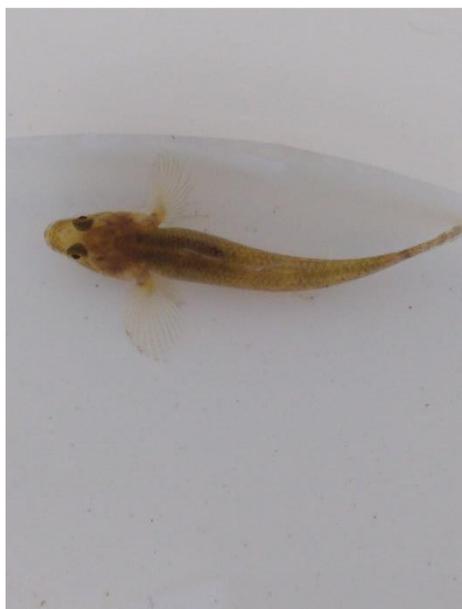
Two minnow traps (baited with vegemite) were set on the 18/03/2021, one on the upstream side of the bund wall & one at the upper part of the wetland. (Figure 2 & 3). Minnow trap 1 caught four common bullies & one *Inanga*, minnow trap 2 caught 11 *Inanga*. (Photos 2&3)



Figure 2:



Figure 3:



5. Vegetation Changes

Seven monitoring sites have been established and from these the vegetation is photographed annually, and any changes noted.

This photo monitoring is going to continue annually. No alteration to the methodology is proposed.



Photo – before reflooding 2016

Photo – April 2021



6. Effectiveness of plant pest control

- Crack willow control – two trees within the F&G boundary have been killed. Permission will be obtained to spray several trees on the neighbouring property this summer 2021 to stop re-infestation.
- Broom, gorse, and blackberry has been sprayed where possible along roadsides and bund wall and follow up knapsack spraying will be conducted again in Summer 2021.
- Glyceria - it was noted a few small plants appearing downstream of the western culvert last year, these have been sprayed with ongoing monitoring.

7. Abundance of native avifauna

A combination of observations and counts have been used to note changes in abundance of all avifauna present in the wetland. The table below shows the relative changes over time.

*Denotes 'gamebirds' as defined by the Wildlife Act 1953

Species	Pre bunding	Post Bunding	March - 2021
Pukeko*	Rare	Common	About 15 seen
Mallard*	Occasional	Common	Large numbers
Black Swan*	Not recorded	Occasional	6+ they come and go
Grey Teal	Rare	Abundant	1000+
Scaup	Not Recorded	Occasional	6 sighted this summer
P. Shelduck*	Rare	Common	Not many seen this season
Shoveller*	Rare	Common	
Harrier Hawk	Rare	Rare	Seen occasionally
Fernbird	Common	Common	Still present on edges
Bittern	Not Recorded	Not Recorded	Unseen
Pied Stilt	Not recorded	Occasional	Not seen this season
Royal Spoonbill	Not Recorded	Rare	Only seen once this season
Canada Goose	Not recorded	Rare	6 birds come and go
Spurwing Plover	Not recorded	Rare	
Fantail	Not recorded	Common	10 + seen
Welcome swallow		Common	10 + birds seen

It will be noted that there has been a significant improvement the diversity of species and their relative abundance (shaded green) since the wetland has been restored.

Ongoing monitoring will most likely involve annual (or better) checking to see if there are any changes to the post bunding abundance above and recording numbers where possible.

Takitakitoa was not recognised for its gamebird values under the RWP at the time of consenting but policy 10.4.2(c) of the plan allows for those values (A8) to be enhanced. It is our view, based on the monitoring above, that F&G has been successful with this project in achieving a regionally significant habitat for waterfowl (Ref A8 under wetlands in RWP).

8. Gamebird Harvest

The monitoring method for gamebird harvest is simply to record the opening day harvest from each allocated mai-mai of which there are five. **Note:** in 2016 only mai-mai 5 had any water near it as the impoundment had not filled at that point in time.

Opening day results	7-May-16	6-May-17	5-May-18	4-May-19	23-May-20	1-May-21
Mai-mai 1		1 Mallard 5 Parries 2 Shoveler	6 Parries 1 Mallard	1 Mallard 6 Parries 2 Shoveler	5 Parries	3 Parries
Mai-mai 2		16 Mallard 12 Parries 2 Shoveler	6 Swan 20 Parries 12 Mallard	25 Mallard 5 Parries	1 Mallard	Not shot
Mai-mai 3		7 Mallard 12 Parries 1 Shoveler	3 Mallard	No birds shot	Not shot	0 birds shot
Mai-mai 4		10 Mallard	1 Parries	2 Parries	Not shot	10 Mallard
Mai-mai 5	11 mallards	33 Mallard 2 Swan, 6 Parries	115 Parries	34 Mallard 46 Parries 2 Shoveler 2 Swan	2 Mallard 6 Parries	25 Mallard 2 Parries

No changes to this monitoring approach are proposed. There is not a better-known monitoring tool for harvest and the results can depend a lot on the conditions, and the ability of the hunter.

9. Shoveler abundance

Takitakitoa is counted as part of the “National Shoveler Survey” conducted in the first week of August 2020 - there were 58 noted on that survey

10. Biodiversity plantings

Last year 400 native shrubs were planted in the margins of the wetland near Surprise Stream outlet, and a further 400 are proposed to be planted this spring.

11. Small Dam Inspection Report

An updated Small Dam Inspection Report is attached to satisfy **Condition 6**.

Please let me know if any further reporting is required to satisfy these consent conditions.

Thank you.

Steven Dixon
Fish & Game Officer

14.0 Items to be Received or Noted

14.1 Project 1122 – Creel Surveys of Lake Wanaka

Executive Summary

Twenty-seven randomised creel surveys were undertaken on Lake Wanaka over the months of September to May during the 2020 – 2021 fishing season to gather angler and fisheries information, and compliment previous data. Two hundred and fifty anglers were interviewed totalling 435.91 hours of angling effort for a catch of 103 fish, which equates to one fish for approximately 4.2 hours fishing. Trolling was the most popular method accounting for 65.2% of the overall angling effort and 59.2% of the total catch.

Fly fishing is still popular at 16.8% of the angling effort and 32% of the catch. Spinning was at 17.2%, with 8.73% of the total catch. Two bait anglers made up the remainder of the anglers. Two salmon were recorded during surveys. Over the season 18 salmon heads were collected from anglers, mostly fishing at the Makarora end of the lake. This is a marked increase in salmon catches from the previous years.

1. Introduction

Lake Wanaka is located in the Otago region of New Zealand, at an altitude of 278 meters. Covering an area of 192 km² (74 sq. mi), it is New Zealand's fourth largest lake. The lake holds populations of brown and rainbow trout and landlocked chinook salmon and is highly valued nationally and internationally for its sports fishing opportunities.

Creel surveys were undertaken from 1998-2001 and summarised (Scott & Wright, 2007). Additional angler and fisheries information has been gathered in recent years during random creel surveys and ranging days over peak holiday periods.

This report summarises the Lake Wanaka Creel survey results for the 2020 – 2021 season starting in September 2020 and finishing at the end of May 2021.

2. Survey Methodology

The survey was a randomised creel survey with a frequency of at least two surveys per week and two weekend days per month, with randomised starting times. The survey methodology meets the requirements of a randomised stratified roving creel survey (Pollock, et al. 1994).

Two weekdays and two weekend days were selected each month and morning and evening starting times were randomly selected.

Start times.

Creel survey start times were either 0900 hours or 1300 hours.

A full schedule of survey days and start times was compiled. Surveys had to be completed within the four- or five-hour survey period. Volunteers were mostly used to support staff on the boat. Lake locations and times were recorded (Appendix 1).

Creel survey sheets and a questionnaire were developed to document all the relevant information (Appendix 2).

Surveys were conducted using the Otago Fish and Game boat (OFG7), a 5.5-meter Kiwi Kraft with a 115hp four stroke Suzuki. Surveys circumnavigated the lake from a selected boat ramp. The direction of the trip was randomly selected.

On the lake all anglers were approached. Extra care and consideration was given when approaching shore anglers to ensure that they were not overly interrupted. This was achieved by beaching the boat a fair distance from their fishing position around the shoreline. It was difficult at times in Paddock Bay when lake levels were low.

Some boat angler interviews were conducted while anglers continued to fish with the Fish & Game boat pulling alongside. Fenders were deployed from the Fish & Game boat, and boats were approached on from our starboard side onto their port side to mitigate damage to either vessel.

In windy conditions, the surveys were cancelled or postponed, due to difficulty in approaching other vessels and safely mooring alongside.

Anglers were asked about their angling activity for the day along with a standard set of creel questions (Appendix 3). In addition, anglers were asked whether they had experienced lake Snow (*Lindavia intermedia*) on their trip, their years of experience on the lake and how many days a year did they commonly fish the lake. Their fishing location was recorded (Appendix 2).

All fish harvested were weighed and measured (Appendix 4) and data collected was entered onto an excel data base where it has been analysed for reporting.

3. Results and Discussion

A total of 250 angler interviews were obtained from 27 sampling periods. There was one survey day during the duration of the creel programme for the 2020 – 2021 season where no anglers were interviewed. A further six survey days were not completed due to poor weather conditions.

Most of the survey effort was in the lower third of the lake where anglers were located which was very similar to 2019 - 2020 season and where our monitoring effort was focused.

Matukituki Bay, Paddock Bay and Stevenson's Arm continued to be popular angling areas where fish were commonly caught.

With very few salmon being caught on the lake in recent years, and with concerns about the salmon population, anglers were additionally asked had they last caught salmon in the past and where the location was. It was noted in the 2020 – 2021 season two salmon were inspected by survey staff, as well as a few reports of salmon being caught over the season.

The total catch from the 250 anglers was 103 fish for an overall 435.91 hours of angling effort. Anglers returned 48 fish which was 46.6% of the total catch. 198 (79.2%) anglers caught no fish during survey periods. Twenty-eight anglers had caught one fish when interviewed, 12 anglers caught two fish each, six anglers caught three fish, three anglers caught four fish and two anglers caught five fish. One fly fisherman caught ten brown trout in two hours fishing in Stevenson's Arm.

4. Catch Rate

The Total Catch Rate (TCR) is calculated from the number of fish caught over the length of angling time. 435.91 divided by 103 fish = one fish for 4.23 hours angling effort or (.24) as fish per hour caught.

Of the 103 fish caught 58 were brown trout and 43 were rainbow trout. Two salmon were recorded. The harvest rate (HR) is calculated from fish kept divided by total angling effort and shown as fish per hour.

Table 1. Total catch rates (TCR), return rates and harvest rate (HR) for each species.

Season	Species	Fish caught and (TCR)	Fish released (TCR) and % returned	Fish kept and (HR)
Sept 2019 -Aug 2020 (inc)	Brown	29 (0.13)	17 (0.09) 58%	12 (0.06)
Sept 2020-May 2021 (inc)	Brown	58 (0.13)	36 (0.08) 62%	22 (0.05)
Sept 2019 -Aug 2020 (inc)	Rainbow	27 (0.15)	5 (0.02) 18%	21 (0.12)
Sept 2020-May 2021 (inc)	Rainbow	43 (0.09)	13 (0.03) 30.2%	30 (0.07)
Sept 2019 -Aug 2020 (inc)	Salmon	0	0	0
Sept 2020-May 2021 (inc)	Salmon	2 (0.005)	0 (0.0) 0%	2 (0.005)

During the 1998-2001 seasons Scott & Wright (2007), recorded (TCR) for brown trout at 0.14, 0.14 and 0.10, respectively. For rainbow trout it was 0.10, 0.16 and 0.08 and for landlocked salmon TCR was 0.04, 0.01, and 0.04 for the respective years.

The rainbow catch rate for 2020 - 2021 shows a marked decrease on the 2019 – 2020 season.

5. Catch Rate by Method

Table 2. Fish Caught and Catch Rate (CR) by method as fish per hour.

Year	Fish caught Fly and (CR)	Fish caught Spin (CR)	Fish caught Surface Trolling (CR)	Fish caught Deep Trolling (CR)
Sept 2019 -Aug 2020 (inc)	12 (0.22)	0	5 (0.12)	39 (0.37)
Sept 2020-May 2021 (inc)	33 (0.07)	9 (0.02)	5 (0.01)	56 (0.12)

Deep trolling including down rigger, lead line and paravane was the most productive method accounting for 56 fish, and 54.4% of the total catch which was like the 2019 - 2020 season at 59.2%. Surface trolling was next then spinning and fly fishing. Only two bait anglers were interviewed in the 2020 – 2021 season.

Table 3. Total Angling effort for each Method

Year	Angler Numbers and (%) Time Fly fishing	Angler Numbers and (%) Time Spinning	Angler Numbers and (%) Time Surface Trolling	Angler Numbers and (%) Time Deep Trolling
Sept 2019 -Aug 2020 (inc)	18 (22%)	8 (4%)	25 (12%)	87 (59%)
Sept 2020-May 2021 (inc)	42 (19%)	43 (12%)	46 (12%)	117 (57%)

For the past three seasons trolling was the most popular method (Table 3) and most productive (table 2) with deep trolling the standout. Scott & Wright (2007) reported similar findings with trolling being the most popular method and between 57-68% of the angling effort for the three survey years from 1998 - 2001.

Surface trolling in the past two seasons remained constant at 12% of the total angling effort.

Fly fishing is still popular at around 20% of total angling effort for the past three seasons with popular fly fish areas continuing to be Paddock Bay and Stevenson's Arm.

Spinning around the shoreline or from boats was popular with anglers in the 2020 – 2021 season than previous years, at 12% of total angling effort.

Two bait anglers, one at Glendhu Bay and one at the Matukituki River Mouth, made up the remainder of the total angling effort percentages for the 2020 – 2021 season.

6. Catch Details

Table 4. Provides the average length, weight and condition factor of each trout species recorded.

Year	Average Length (mm)		Average weight (Grams)		Average condition factor	
	brown	rainbow	brown	rainbow	brown	rainbow
Sept 2019 -Aug 2020 (inc)	486	452	1225	984	40	39
Sept 2020-May 2021 (inc)	519	465	1510	1268	41.1	47.1

In the 2020 – 2021 season 28 rainbow trout were weighed and measured, another five were only measured due to the fish being gutted. Thirteen brown trout were weighed and measured, an additional five had been gutted and headed. Two salmon were weighed and measured also.

In the 2020 – 2021 season brown trout were generally larger than rainbow trout which was following the trend of last season. Last season brown trout on average were larger with the average being 519mm. Both brown trout and rainbow trout were larger than the previous two seasons, with an improved condition factor in both species.

7. Angler information

Anglers were again questioned on lake snow (*Lindavia intermedia*). *Anglers experienced levels of lake snow occurrence, mostly while trolling. Fly anglers and shore spin anglers experienced no issues.*

As with the previous two seasons, anglers were asked when they had last caught a salmon from the lake. Responses were highly variable with some saying they had caught salmon recently. There has been a noticeable increase of salmon catches in the lake this season, when compared to recent seasons.

Eighteen salmon samples have been collected and verified by staff over the past season from anglers trolling, mostly from at the head of the lake near Makarora.

8. Summary

Most anglers seem comfortable with the lake Wanaka fishery and aside of the field contact during surveys, angler feedback has been positive with reports of some good fishing and nicely conditioned fish. Both species of trout were larger this season than the previous two.

Salmon catches have increased this season over the previous season, with catches around the Matukituki bay, Wanaka faces and near Makarora. Eighteen samples were collected for DNA analysis.

The past three seasons of monitoring angling on Lake Wanaka has provided valuable current fisheries information and there is little doubt a further season of information would be ideal.

9. References

Pollock, K.H., Jones, C.M. and Brown, T.L. 1994. *Angler survey methods and their applications in fisheries management*. American Fisheries Society Special Publication 25.

Scott, D., Wright, M. 2007 *Thirty Years of Creel Surveys*. Otago Fish and Game Council.

Recommendation

The report be received.

Ben Sowry
June 2021

Appendix 1.

Lake Wanaka Creel Survey 2019/2020 Schedule of Activity

**Start Time
Finish Time**

Season	Date	Weather	Boat Ramp Site	Survey Team
2020/2021				

Lake Survey Zones

Zone																
Start Time																
Finish Time																

Comments

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- GB = Glendhu Bay RBurn = Rumbling Burn WF = Wanaka Faces CO = Clutha Outlet AB = Albert Burn CC = Camp Creek
- PB = Paddock Bay MBurn = Minaret Burn SA = Stevensons Arm RB = Roys Bay Mak = Makarora Mouth Pen = Peninsula
- MM = Matukituki Bay Mbay = Minaret Bay DB = Dublin Bay SB = Snag Bay BC = Boundary Creek

Appendix 3.

Lake Wanaka Survey - Angler Questionnaire

1. **Is this your first fishing trip on Lake Wanaka?**
2. **Or how many seasons have you fished Lake Wanaka?**
3. **How many days per season do you fish the lake?**
4. **Have you had your line fouled with lake snow on this trip?**

Answer should be yes or no, but they may not know what lake snow is.

5. **Have you caught salmon in Lake Wanaka on previous trips?**

When and where (how long ago and what part of the lake).

Appendix 4.

Lake Wanaka Fish Data Sheet

DATE	Brown		Rainbow		Salmon	
	Length	Weight	Length	Weight	Length	Weight

14.2 Backcountry Fishery and Controlled Fishery Report for the 2020/2021 Season

Introduction

Anglers, councillors and staff have had ongoing concerns of increased angling pressure in the Nevis River over the past decade. Management options to address angling pressure in the Nevis River were discussed by the Otago Fish and Game Councillors during the February 2019 work planning and priority setting meeting. A voluntary beat system was identified as the preferred option and this was designed and implemented before the start of the 2020/2021 sports fishing season. The Nevis River was the priority Otago Backcountry fishery for compliance and monitoring with the focus of angler surveys to obtain feedback on the voluntary beat system.

The absence of non- resident anglers meant that overall it was a quiet season on the backcountry rivers. Compliance checks were performed on other back country fisheries over the season with many of these checks being performed by honorary rangers. This report covers the backcountry fishery monitoring programme including the Greenstone Controlled Fishery for the 2020/2021 season.

Backcountry Ranging

Ranging and angler surveys in the Nevis River were planned for during favourable weather and river conditions. Licence checks completed in the Caples, Greenstone, Lochy and Wilkin Rivers were not planned backcountry surveys but rather opportunities to undertake compliance checks while fishing or tramping in the area.

Survey Method

Nevis Angler Surveys

An angler survey form was drafted to obtain qualitative feedback from anglers in the Nevis River about the voluntary beat system (Appendix 1). Most Nevis River surveys were performed on the ground with additional surveys completed by contact with anglers who had recently fished the river.

Greenstone Controlled Fishery

A limited amount of data was collected from the online booking system. This data is presented in the results.

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 fishery information letters and/or presentations were given to a number of user groups including;

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

A joint Southland / Otago Fish and Game meeting with Fishing Guides was held in Arrowtown in August 2020.

Timing of Surveys

Backcountry fishery monitoring was undertaken throughout the 2020/2021 season (01 October – 30 April and 01 November - 31 May).

Results

Nevis Angler Surveys

Nevis River angler surveys were completed by six anglers on the ground. Anglers who had just arrived on the river were not included in the survey. A further four angler surveys were completed on the phone or in person with anglers who had recently fished the Nevis River. Key information obtained from the 10 angler surveys conducted is presented below (Table 1).

Table 1: Angler feedback on the voluntary beat system trialled in the Nevis River during the 2020/21 season

Survey questions	Angler responses		
	Positive	Negative	Comments
Voluntary beat signage	9 positive	1 negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aware of it but was not sure how it works. • Hard to figure out without map where what starts. • Should be more signs along the road
Any specific issues / comments relating to the voluntary beat system	6 positive	2 negative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too hard to find access • For an elderly angler too long a beats, wishes to fish 1km or his favourite pools • As long anglers follow the voluntary beats (all good) • Confusing beat system – do you need to book? • Not too sure if there are any other requirements of the beat system
Other general comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy with system if others follow the rules (note this angler did not follow the rules- parked at beat walked downstream) • Doesn't want it to turn to too obvious access signage (ie Mataura) • Great fish numbers • Great day, good fish numbers, possibly the easiest day fishing up Nevis in history • Fished river 4 times this season • Signs are as large as possible – wouldn't want any larger • A great day • Good system and beat lengths • Beats were really long which is quite good • Caught nine fish between them • Thought it was good, landed 3 fish 		

Greenstone Controlled Fishery

Table 2: GCF angler effort and demographics 2008-2020

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
No. of anglers						40	43	55	66	55	38	38	21
Total capacity allocated	51%	46%	46%	61%	27%	27%	25%	26%	39%	29%	22%	29%	19%
NZ Res anglers	31%	36%	31%	41%	37%	48%	42%	29%	38%	31%	45%	34%	90%
NR anglers	69%	64%	69%	59%	63%	52%	58%	71%	62%	69%	55%	66%	10%
Guided anglers	21%	20%	34%	32%	43%	10%	16%	36%	33%	18%	6 %	*	*

NB: Following a review of past booking records some adjustments were made to these results for past seasons and this table varies from those previously reported. Due to inaccuracies and inconsistencies with angler details reported (particularly prior to the introduction of the non resident licence) some judgements were required regarding the interpretation of results (Helen Trotter 2018).

** This figure could not be ascertained as an angler survey was not completed for the CF period in 2019 or 2020.*

Total capacity in the Greenstone River controlled fishery period (Beats 1 – 3) was the lowest on record with 19% occupancy (Table 2). Resident anglers made up 90% (n=19) of the angling effort in the Greenstone River and non-resident anglers the remaining 10% (n=2) during the controlled fishery period.

Sports Fishing Regulations Compliance

Rangers completed 26 licence checks in 29 ranging days (Table 3) compared to 47 licence checks in 15 days ranging in 2019/20 season. Ranging effort was higher this season due to the efforts of motivated honorary rangers although the effort did not translate to a higher number of licence checks mostly likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. One angler was non-resident (4%) and 25 anglers were resident (96%). Two resident anglers including a fishing guide who was guiding at the time did not have back country licences and compliance action was taken.

Table 3: Backcountry Ranging Effort 2020 /21

Location	Person	Dates	Days Ranging (incl. access)	Guides	Licence Checks	Offences Detected	# Interviews Conducted (Nevis River only)
Nevis River	Paul van Klink	01 Oct 2020	1	0	2	0	0
Nevis River	Paul van Klink	05 Oct 2020	1	0	1	0	0
Dingle Burn	Santillan de Pinto	31 Oct–03 Nov 2020	4	0	7	0	n/a
Nevis River	Paul van Klink	04 Nov 2020	1	0	0	0	0
Wilkin River	Paul van Klink	07 Nov 2020	1	0	0	0	n/a
Nevis River	Jakub Kanok	13 Nov 2020	1	0	2	0	3
Lochy River	Jakub Kanok	15 Dec 2020	1	0	0	0	n/a
Nevis River	Paul van Klink / Ben Sowry	14 Jan 2020	1	1	2	2*	1
Nevis River	Paul van Klink	02 Feb 2021	1	0	2	0	2
Caples River	Ben Sowry	04 Feb 2021	1	0	2	0	n/a
Caples River	Fraser Hocks	06 Feb 2021	1	0	1	0	n/a
Nevis River	Ben Sowry	14 Feb 2021	1	0	0	0	0
Nevis River	Ben Sowry	18 Feb 2021	1	0	0	0	0
Caples River	Jakub Kanok	20 Feb 2021	1	0	0	0	n/a
Caples River	Jakub Kanok	24 Mar 2021	1	0	1	0	n/a
Greenstone River	Jakub Kanok	26 Apr 2021	2	0	1	0	n/a
Caples River	Jakub Kanok	09 May 2021	1	0	1	0	n/a
Caples River	Jakub Kanok	17 May 2021	1	1	2	0	n/a
Greenstone River	Santillan de Pinto	17 May 2021	1	0	0	0	n/a

Greenstone River	Jakub Kanok	18 May 2021	1	0	0	0	n/a
Wilkin River	Paul van Klink	19 May 2021	1	0	0	0	n/a
Greenstone River	Santillan de Pinto	26 May 2021	1	0	0	0	n/a
Hunter River	Paul van Klink / Ben Sowry	24–26 May 2021	3	0	2	0	n/a
Total			29	2	26	2	6

* No Backcountry Licence

Department of Conservation concessionaire compliance

Two fishing guides were encountered during the 2020/21 season and all had a valid concession. This brings the total to 38 fishing guides that have been interviewed in Otago backcountry fisheries over the past six seasons and all have had a valid concession.

Discussion

The low number of anglers fishing in the 2020/21 season meant that the timing of the Nevis voluntary beat system implementation was probably ideal so that the system could “bed in” during a period of low angling pressure. Based on the overall positive feedback from anglers the voluntary beat system has been a success. With no obvious issues coming to light the system will be rolled over for the upcoming system with no changes required.

The Greenstone Controlled Fishery received the lowest numbers of bookings since the system was implemented. While this might be explained by the COVID-19 pandemic and a lower number of guided fishing parties other New Zealand iconic sites (ie Great Walks) have been fully booked. The observed decrease in angling effort in the Greenstone over the past four or five seasons is possibly in part due to the angling itself. Anecdotal reports and observations have noted that trout numbers in the river are far less than they used to be.

Angler compliance with the backcountry fishery regulations appears to be improving with just two breaches of the regulations detected in the 2020/21 season. The non-compliant guide and his client angler did not have backcountry licences which was an oversight as opposed to a blatant infringement. Compliance of fishing guides with valid concessions is also very high with no detection of illegal guiding occurring over the past six seasons.

Planned work for 2021 - 2022

- Continue to communicate and liaise with backcountry fishery user groups.
- Complete Sports Fishing Regulation training with Department of Conservation staff hut wardens (October 2021).
- Continue to liaise with Department of Conservation on concession monitoring and reporting.
- Develop a ranging programme for the upcoming season by September 2021.
- Drift dive the Greenstone River if resources and logistics allow

Recommendation**That the Report be received**

Paul van Klink
Fish & Game Officer
July 2021

References

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

Appendix

NEVIS RIVER VOLUNTART BEAT ANGLER SURVEY 2020/2021				Ranger: _____
Date				
Licence Number				
Res (R type) / Non Res (NR)				
Which BEAT are you fishing today				
Tell us about the F&G Beat signage				
Have you encountered any other anglers today?				
Have you got any specific issues / comments relating to the Voluntary Beat System				
Any other comments				

14.3 1140 - Hatchery Operations & Fish Transfers 2020/2021

Deliver 8000 hatchery raised Rainbow Trout to put and take fisheries around Otago according to the Put & Take Schedule in the Sports Fish & Game Management Plan.

Summary Report – Macraes Flat Trout Hatchery stocking schedule 20/21 season

Date	Water	Number	Age	Weight Range	Fin Clip	
1/09/2020	Southern Reservoir	72	2yrs	1kg+		
3/09/2020	Southern Reservoir	82	2yrs	1kg+		
4/09/2020	Lower Manorburn Dam	500	1yrs	30 - 100g		
7/08/2020	Southern Reservoir	80	2yrs	1kg+		
8/09/2020	Southern Reservoir	160	2yrs	1kg+		
9/09/2020	Southern Reservoir	80	2yrs	1kg+		
10/09/2020	Southern Reservoir	80	2yrs	1kg+		
11/09/2020	Southern Reservoir	80	2yrs	1kg+		
28/09/2020	Southern Reservoir	80	2yrs	1kg+		
30/09/2020	Southern Reservoir	160	2yrs	1kg+		
1/10/2020	Southern Reservoir	80	2yrs	1kg+		
2/10/2020	Sullivans Dam	80	2yrs	1kg+		
6/10/2020	Southern Reservoir	2	Brood	3kg		Tagged trout for comp
6/10/2020	Tomahawk Lagoon	2	Brood	3kg		Tagged trout for comp
6/10/2020	Sullivans Dam	2	Brood	3kg		Tagged trout for comp
22/10/2020	Sarita Orchard	50	3yrs	1 - 1.5kg		
28/10/2020	Pinders Pond	500	1yrs	30 - 100g		
29/10/2020	Butchers Dam	500	1yrs	30 - 100g	RH Pelvic	P&T fisheries Monitoring
30/10/2020	Coalpit Dam	500	1yrs	30 - 100g	RH Pelvic	P&T fisheries Monitoring
30/10/2020	Mathias Dam	500	1yrs	30 - 100g	RH Pelvic	P&T fisheries Monitoring

5/11/2020	Hamiltons Dam	500	1yrs	30 - 100g	RH Pelvic	P&T fisheries Monitoring
6/11/2020	McAtamneys head pond	500	1yrs	30 - 100g	RH Pelvic	
10/11/2020	Lake Johnson	300	1yrs	30 - 100g		
13/11/2020	Rutherfords Dam	500	1yrs	30 - 100g		
16/11/2020	Perkins Pond	300	1yrs	30 - 100g		

Table continued

17/11/2020	Moke Lake	500	1yrs	30 - 100g	
18/11/2020	Nenthorn Pond	300	1yrs	30 - 100g	
29/01/2021	Earnsclaugh Pond	200	2yrs	1kg+	

- A small competition was advertised on social media through the Otago F&G Facebook page. Two tagged fish were released into three Dunedin water bodies. Whoever caught the fish received a rod & reel set donated by Mike Teasdale Motors. (3 fish were caught)
- Put & Take fisheries monitoring program - last year 2500 1yr old fish were fin clipped (RH pelvic fin) and released into selected water bodies.
- All liberations were completed.

Recommendation

That this report be received

Steven Dixon
Fish & Game Officer
12 July 2021

15.0 General Business