

**Agenda For The Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council
On 18th February 2023
At Otago Fish and Game Council Boardroom
Cnr Hanover and Harrow Streets, Dunedin**

Timetable	Saturday, 18th Feb Council Meeting
9:00 am	Assemble at Dunedin Office F&G. Councillor only session
9:30 am	Full Council meeting begins
11:00 am	Morning Tea
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:00pm	Meeting resumes
2:30pm	Public Session (if any)
2:45pm	Afternoon Tea
3:15pm	Meeting resumes
3:45pm	Meeting closes
3:45pm	CE Presentation – Council position and overview
4:15pm	Guest speaker – Chalk Stream Restoration
6:30pm	Councillor Dinner (Black Dog Restaurant)
Timetable	Sunday, 19th Feb Councillor only Planning Workshop
8:30am	Workshop begins
10.30am	Morning Tea
12:30pm	Lunch, then depart (unless further time required).

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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 For The Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council

On 1st December 2022

At Cromwell Presbyterian Church, 10 Elspeth Street, Cromwell

1.0 Present and Apologies

Present: Colin Weatherall (Chair), Mike Barker, Rick Boyd, John Highton, Adrian McIntyre, Blair Trevathan, Vicky May

Present via Zoom: Ray Grubb

In attendance: Ian Hadland (CE), Bruce Quirey (communications officer/minutes secretary), David Priest (Central Otago operations manager)

Apologies: Ian Cole, Richard Twining (Ngai Tahu)

The Chair Colin Weatherall opened the meeting at 12.35pm and welcomed councillors and staff, including Central Otago operations manager David Priest, who began his role in October. Cr Weatherall noted an apology from Ngai Tahu representative Richard Twining for health reasons and the council extended its best wishes to Mr Twining.

The Chair noted Cr Ray Grubb was attending by Zoom. Cr Weatherall said the regulations around meetings had changed back to the pre-Covid format whereby Council was required to have a quorum in the room, which it did have.

An apology from Ian Cole was noted.

Cr Barker/Cr Trevathan

Moved apologies be received.

Carried unanimously.

David Priest introduced himself with a pepeha. He translated it was about aiming high and to bow only to a mountain. Mr Priest was originally from Hamilton and more recently Collingwood. He was happy to have moved inland to Central Otago to take on the new role. He looked forward to looking after the work programme, having appointed another fulltime field officer and two summer interns. The interns would advocate for Fish & Game at peak-use areas in the Southern Lakes and Central Otago, advising anglers and collecting data. They would start on December 28 and finish on February 5.

Cr White suggested Fish & Game get feedback from the interns at the end of their term.

2.0 Matters to be raised not on the agenda

Cr Weatherall indicated there would be a resolution of acknowledgement and appreciation to Ray Grubb, who had resigned as NZ Fish & Game Council Chair and OF&GC representative to NZC. Secondly, OF&GC would need to appoint an NZC councillor.

3.0 Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded all Councillors to update and sign the Declarations of Interest. The Declarations were tabled. See attachment.

4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Moved (Cr Boyd/ Cr Highton)

That the minutes of the Council Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council held on 29th September 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried unanimously.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cr Highton asked if the CE had prepared a briefing about Lagarosiphon. The CE apologised he had not had time to prepare the briefing and suggested there be further discussion about what it should look like.

6.0 Health and Safety Report

The CE said the Health and Safety Report demonstrated Council's commitment to health and safety for staff, volunteers and rangers. He encouraged the Chair to sign the 2022/23 Health and Safety Policy. Cr Boyd asked where councillors sat in the policy. The CE said councillors working alongside staff were volunteers and briefed accordingly. It raised an interesting point about councillors' health and safety for travel, food, and accommodation. He undertook to ensure councillors were covered under the policy.

Moved (Cr White/Cr Trevathan)

That the Health & Safety report be received, and that the Council adopts the 2022/23 Health and Safety Policy.

Carried unanimously.

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 Future Treatment of Non Resident Levy Income

The CE discussed his report on a NZ Fish and Game Council consultation paper on the future treatment of the non-resident (NR) levy (inclusion as licence income). NZC sought feedback on two questions:

- Whether to include the NR levies as general licence income from the 23/24 year onwards.
- Where the present reserves should remain. Options are for them to remain in regional dedicated reserves or merged to a national pool.

He said need for the NR levy to be ringfenced had been removed. The levy should be regarded as licensing income and used to defray the costs to New Zealand licence holders.

The CE said the levy should not at this stage become part of general income until policies were developed or a resource allocation project was completed.

Cr Grubb said under the Act there was only provision for NR and resident licences, not a levy. The money should be returned to the regions where it was incurred.

Otago was the highest contributor of NR levies.

The CE noted some of the NR reserve was earmarked to defray costs of the implementation of the designated waters proposal.

Cr Weatherall said in discussions with Southland and CSI F&G regions, he was open to the fund being used to support particular projects, including joint proposals between regions.

Moved (Cr Trevathan/Cr Highton)

1. **That Otago Fish and Game Council advises NZC that it is opposed to the NR licence becoming part of general licence income until such time as;**
 - a. **There is a full suite of financial policies developed and adopted by NZC.**
 - b. **The resource (re)allocation project is completed and a new system is in place for allocation of funding.**
 - c. **The amalgamations (if any) are complete.**
2. **OF&GC recommends that the present funds should remain in the Region they were earned, noting that some non-residents would have purchased in specific regions to support their local F&G council in managing fisheries which are of direct interest to them.**

Carried unanimously

Cr Boyd asked for an update on the designated waters proposal. The CE said since the draft proposal had been presented to Council in May, it had been found the designated waters criteria might not fit some Otago backcountry waters. A revised proposal would come back to regional councils next year. The aim was to have the designated waters system in place for the 2023/24 season.

Cr Highton said it was a reminder a guides licence should be implemented at the same time. Cr Grubb said a guides licence was expected to be in place next year.

Cr Trevathan asked if consideration was being given to guides licences for game bird hunting. The Chair suggested that Cr Trevathan ask the CE to put the matter on the agenda. The CE undertook to seek an update from the NZC on the status of any game bird guide licence proposal.

7.2 Applications for Authorisation to Remove Sportsfish

The CE discussed the background on applications for authorisation to remove sportsfish. The Council had received two separate applications to remove sportsfish from sections of 11 small streams containing threatened non-migratory galaxiids (NMG). He said the proposals would likely have little or no impact on the wider sports fishery and were in line with the Otago Council's species interaction policy and 10 year Sportsfish management plan. Council could consider providing assistance if staff time was available, if only to salvage captured fish for transfer to approved 'put and take' fisheries.

Cr Boyd said the proposal would not affect brook trout. Their distribution in Otago had been documented in PHD research. There had been no NZ fishery developed through their introduction, perhaps apart from Lake Emily. They did not compete effectively with brown and rainbow trout and had been pushed into the high tributaries.

Cr Highton said the main effect of brook trout on non-migratory galaxiids was competition for space and food. He would be agreeable to their control or removal. However, this was potentially the first step in a movement to call trout "pests". He recommended Fish and Game staff continue to closely monitor such projects. Cr McIntyre said he was worried about the proposed areas for brook trout removal and how that might be perceived by anglers.

Cr Grubb said trout were not pests. They were listed as valued introduced species under Te Mana o te Taiao, a cornerstone of national biodiversity policy. He noted that Fish and Game were clearly statutory managers of sports fish and should insist on being consulted at the first point of any consideration to remove trout and salmon or to affect their habitat.

Cr Highton said any actions concerning trout control or removal should be part of a visible plan.

The CE said Fish and Game was already involved in indigenous fish species work at Cardrona and the Manuherekia. The proposed areas associated with the Kyeburn catchment were part of a draft fish species management plan under a MOU between irrigators, Fish and Game and runanga. However, the ORC proposal had come over the top of the MOU.

The CE said irrigators needed to finalise the fish management plan, which was overdue. Fish and Game needed to take an accumulative view of all catchment fisheries, and could not approve individual ORC proposals in the long term until a fish management plan was in place. Iwi had provided valuable information on fish barrier proposals which could have impeded fish access for native eels.

Cr White said she was comfortable with the recommendation and the ORC should keep its focus on water quality.

Moved (Cr Barker /Cr Boyd)

- **That authorisation be given to Waterways Consulting Ltd to remove trout from the sections of Laheys and Campbells creek identified. A five-year term to be imposed so the project can be reviewed.**
- **That the ORC be granted and authority to remove sportsfish from the waters described for a term of five years, with the exception of the Kyeburn tributaries where the authorisation will have a term of one year, to allow time for the species management plan to be completed.**
- **That OF&GC insist the ORC consults Otago Fish and Game at the first point of any consideration to remove trout and salmon or to affect their habitat.**

Carried 7/1

7.3 Draft Game Notice 2023 (Gamebird hunting regulations)

The CE outlined the draft 2023 Game Notice. The proposal to raise the paradise shelduck limits was subject to the January 2023 moult count.

The 2022 shoveler trend count was the second lowest on record, and the medium-term population trend was in steady decline. The draft proposal was for a daily limit of one male bird per day.

Mr Hadland said native shoveler were a taonga species and any mismanagement could be detrimental to Fish and Game's relationship with iwi. Otago and Southland regions accounted for 40% of the national harvest of shoveler, a very transient species. Limiting the harvest was one of the best methods of management, he said.

Cr McIntyre and Trevathan spoke against the recommendation to lower the shoveler limit and said it should remain unchanged.

Cr Trevathan said he would have liked more data on shoveler and grey teal populations. He sought confirmation of the dates for the summer paradise shelduck in March 2023. The CE confirmed that this was as approved by the Council at its November 2021. He said the Council had an obligation under its Sport Fish and Game Management Plan to consult with other regions, seek alignment and carefully manage species which crossed regional boundaries.

Cr Highton said while Crs McIntyre and Trevathan made some good points, the Council did need to take a precautionary approach. He proposed the shoveler season begin after the opening weekend for mallards.

Cr Boyd said it was clear the shoveler population had dropped 20-25% below the long-term trend line.

Moved (Cr White/Cr Boyd)

1. **That the draft game regulations be adopted subject to paradise shelduck trend counts and the population falling between 16,000 and 23,000 birds.**
2. **If the paradise shelduck trend count exceeds 23,000 birds that the daily bag limit for that species to be increased to 15/day.**
3. **Impose a daily bag limit of 1 male bird/day for shoveler.**

Chair asked could the Council approve the regulations noting (1) the paradise shelduck count, (2) confirmation of the shelduck season, and (3) resolution for the shoveler limit to change to one/day or for the limit to remain unchanged.

The CE advised the Chair that the Council needed to, because of the timing, and subject to the paradise shelduck counts, decide on the draft notice now.

Cr Highton/Cr Trevathan moved an amendment

- **that the shoveler bag limit remain at 2 birds/day,**
- **and that the opening of the shoveler season be two days later than the opening of the grey/mallard season.**

The Chair asked that if the amendment was carried would it be manageable and enforceable. The CE responded the proposed amendment would require a big communication campaign, and the compliance would be enforceable. He did not accept an assertion there was not enough data.

The amendment was lost. (2 in favour)

The Chair reverted to the original recommendations moved by Crs White/Boyd.

- **Recommendation 1:**
Carried

- **Recommendation 2:**
Carried
- **Recommendation 3:**
Carried. (McIntyre and Trevathan against)

There then followed a discussion raised by Cr White about the safety of shooting from drift boats. The CE responded the regulations for shooting from a boat were put in place to manage interaction between hunters at the beginning of the season. He said Cr White was raising a safety question which was a code of conduct matter for hunters and for NZ Police. Cr Boyd agreed it was a safety issue, and not management of fish and game.

The meeting skipped to Item 9 on the agenda.

9.0 Financial Report

The CE said tabled data about daily cumulative fish LEQ (whole season licence equivalents) demonstrated how OF&GC had an extraordinary year for licence sales in 2021/22. This year sales were tracking within the range of normal years.

Cr Barker sought an explanation of “FWFA” (Full Season Family) and the CE took note. Cr Highton questioned accounts receivable, a drop in interest income and an increase in species management expenditure. The CE made a note to follow up Crs Highton and Barker’s queries.

He said the final set of accounts and Statement of Service Report for the 2021/2022 year would be presented at the AGM.

Moved (Cr McIntyre/Cr Barker)

That the finance and licencing report be received.

Carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2.45pm for the AGM.

The meeting resumed at 3.10pm.

Moved (Chair/Cr McIntyre)

That the meeting move into Public Excluded Items

Carried unanimously.

8.0 Public Excluded Items

8.1 Confirm Draft OF&GC Public Excluded Minutes from 29th September 2022

Moved (Cr Boyd/Cr McIntyre)

That the public excluded minutes of the meeting on 29th September 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried unanimously.

8.2 Clutha Lagoon Culvert Consent

The CE provided an update on a Resource Management Act Consent for a culvert at Clutha Lagoon.

(Chair/ Cr White)

Moved that the CE's report be received.

Carried unanimously.

8.3 Contact Energy Trust – Verbal Update

The CE provided a verbal update on the Contact Energy trust.

Moved (Cr White/Chair)

That the report be received, and the next steps acknowledged.

Carried unanimously.

Moved (Cr Boyd/Cr Barker)

That the meeting move out of public-excluded.

Carried unanimously.

10.0 Chief Executive's Report

The CE provided an update on the OF&GC Strategic Priorities for 2020-2023. There were some exciting projects over summer around public awareness and acoustic monitoring alongside Central Otago staff.

The CE was trying to fix a date for a Council meeting at Otakou marae, which would be the next formal engagement with iwi.

Poolburn monitoring at a rate of four days per month was going well for the start of the season. Recorded fish catches there had been extraordinary.

The Donald Scott Memorial Fund had been launched. The Chair added the University of Otago Vice-Chancellor had advised the fund was on the threshold to extend to 2035 with the possibility of growth and perhaps a second scholarship.

The CE said staffing vacancies had been filled. The Chair and CE had also signed documents for the covenanting of the Council's wetland at Bullock Creek. The CE invited questions.

Asked about soft bait clinics, the Communications Officer said events held at Henley and Wanaka had attracted about 60 and 30 participants respectively.

Cr Highton raised a question about cultural harvest. The CE said there had been discussions with a Ngai Tahu member concerning expectations around black swans and paradise shelduck, and a more formal meeting would take place.

The Chair complimented staff on the audit, noting much had been achieved.

Moved (Cr McIntyre/Cr White)

That the CE's report be received

Carried unanimously.

11.0 RMA Planning and Consents Report

The CE spoke to the Environmental Officer's report. Staff had worked hard on evidence for Otago Regional Policy Statement. The next step would be rebuttal evidence.

Staff were also working on a submission towards the Natural and Built Environment Bill, and providing feedback to the ORC during consultation for the Land and Water Regional Plan.

The CE also outlined written approvals provided during the reporting period.

Cr Barker provided feedback from public meetings he attended on Land and Water Regional Plan consultation, saying they were poorly attended and was critical of how questions had been framed.

Cr Grubb encouraged the CE to ask the NZC for access to funding related to the development of the LWRP in Otago, which would be "the first cab off the plot" under the framework of the National Policy Statement Freshwater Management. He said the Council should be developing a budget for process, integrated with the national office. Given the importance of its precedence, Otago needed the full support of the national office and funding.

The other complication was deemed permits.

Moved (Cr Barker/Cr Boyd)

That the Environmental Officer's report be received

Carried unanimously.

12.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

12.1 CFT

CFT member Cr Boyd gave a brief report. CFT met in Dunedin on October 27, also attending the Donald Scott Memorial Trust launch. A small amount of maintenance was needed at the Rees Street site. CFT had approved funding for work on non-migratory galaxiids in the Cardrona catchment.

12.2 NZC

Cr Grubb gave a verbal report having resigned as NZC Chair and Otago representative. In the time of being the Chair he had talked the mantra of respect for individuals and

the organisation. However, the level of recent written commentary had been disgraceful, he said.

He had been a reluctant NZC Chair. He inherited a situation where Fish and Game was unwelcome at Parliament and among industry bodies. The Ministerial Review had described Fish and Game governance at a low level and the relationship between regions and NZC was the worst that it had been. There was no mana whenua or iwi relationship. There was no respect for individuals or organisations.

In his time as Chair, Fish and Game had dropped the Dirty Dairying campaign. The organisation had needed to create an atmosphere where it could focus on people and build relationships.

As Chair of the Ministerial Review implementation steering committee, a complete set of recommendations had been delivered to the Department of Conservation.

Fish and Game now had better relationships with everybody who was important to the organisation, he said. Cr Grubb said he extended his support for the NZC successor.

He had enjoyed the confidence of OF&GC Chair Cr Weatherall and excellent support from Mr Hadland.

Cr Weatherall replied OF&GC would formally record its sincere thanks and appreciation to Cr Grubb for his efforts at NZC at the AGM.

The Chair moved

that the NZC report be received.

12.3 Ngai Tahu

Ngai Tahu representative Richard Twining recorded an apology due to a health matter.

The CE noted he had received an email from Mr Twining about the draft game bird notice, concerned about the decline in the national shoveler count.

12.4 Conservation Board

Nil

The Chair questioned whether the Conservation Board was participating with Fish and Game. The CE said the Conservation Board was being delivered its agenda and had not put in an apology.

The CE suggested Fish and Game should maintain a relationship with the Conservation Board through their chair.

Moved (Cr Barker/Cr May)

That the committee and delegate reports be received and noted.

Carried unanimously.

13.0 Correspondence

13.1 NZC to Otago

1.1.2 Future Implementation Steering Group

13.2 Otago to NZC

13.2.1 Regional Chairs Meeting October 2022

13.3 General Correspondence In

Nothing of note.

13.4 General Correspondence Out

Nothing of note.

Moved (Cr Highton/Cr Boyd)

That correspondence be approved and received.

Carried unanimously.

14.0 Items to be Received or Noted

14.1 Greenstone River and Long Burn - Sports Fish Spawning Report

The CE discussed the sports fish spawning report and said there was enough measure to show some concern. He invited the Council to consider making the matter part of its work plan.

There was discussion about the efficacy of sonar surveys in Wakatipu, gill netting, and duplicate surveys from Niwa.

14.2 2022 Southern Reservoir Take a Kid Fishing & Adult Beginner Spin Fishing Classes

The CE highlighted feedback comments from TAKF survey participants praising the support of staff and volunteers at the event.

Catch rates were low, which was disappointing.

Moved (Chair/Cr McIntyre)

1. **That the Greenstone and Long Burn spawning report be received.**
2. **That the Take A Kid Fishing & Adult Beginner Spin Fishing Classes**

reports be received.

Carried unanimously.

15.0 General Business

The Chair said the Council needed to connect with NZC following Cr Grubb's departure from NZC roles.

(Cr Weatherall/Cr McIntyre) moved

to nominate Mike Barker as the Otago representative to NZC for this term (1 year and 3 months).

Cr Barker said he would be happy to represent Otago as best he could, and he thanked the Chair for the nomination and support.

Carried unanimously.

Cr Grubb noted the next NZC meeting would be on February 10-11 2023.

Cr White asked if there were any updates on the Onslow Battery proposal. The CE said latest media reports had suggested the proposal was promising.

Councillors would next meet in Dunedin on February 18-19 2023.

Cr Boyd put in his apology for the February meeting.

**The Chair wished councillors well for Christmas
the meeting ended at 4.30pm.**

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

6.0 Health and Safety Report

January February 2023

Covid 19

- Staff agreed to continue relaxed covid policy for work and meetings, and to work from home if potentially infectious.

Events Requiring OHS Planning

- Summer Lake ranging

OHS Audits

Completed audits:

- Main hazard list audit and distribution
- Final year end H&S management audit

Next audits:

- Office Hazard audits
- Vehicle Hazard and safety Equipment

Incidents/Accidents/Near Misses/New Hazards

- Nil

General – Council Policy adopted at December 2022 Council meeting

Training Completed

- Two new casuals and one full staff member inducted into Otago Fish and Game Cromwell
- Also given guidelines on safety in the field, while out educating and ranging around the lakes.
- Three staff members have started Boatmaster training course.
- Central Otago Staff ran boat drills to practice possible man overboard, fire and collision events.

Recommendation

That this report be received

Sharon Milne
Administration Officer
February 2023

H&S 2 MANAGEMENT AUDIT CHECKLIST 2022

Record of compliance with F&G Councils OSH systems, policies and procedures

√	Action required	Notes – Evidence of completion
	Policy and meetings	
	Policies displayed or available	<i>All policy documents added to Sharepoint storage. Policy displayed at both Cromwell and Dunedin communal areas</i>
	H&S promoted to staff	<i>H&S is part of weekly and bi monthly meeting agendas Staff involved in audits and update of hazards</i>
	Notes of H&S meetings assembled	<i>Stored in folder and on Sharepoint.</i>
	H&S Minutes circulated to staff	<i>Filed and emailed following full staff meetings</i>
	MSD (Material safety data) sheets current	<i>Current and stored with chemical at sites. Update and checked 6 monthly Dunedin and Cromwell</i>
	Audit and drills	
	Offices, Workshops, Hatchery audits complete	<i>All audits completed by Dec 2022</i>
	First Aid/ Fire Extinguishers checked	<i>All staff up to date or booked with refresher courses. Extinguishers checked and serviced annually by external contractor, Dn and Cromwell</i>
	PPE Safety Equipment and Field Equipment Audits done	<i>All completed by March 2022, Extras for vehicles to be compiled in Jan/June 2022</i>
	MTOP Boat information current	<i>Compliant as at Dec 2022 Member of Coast Guard for central lakes back up Boat handling refresher course up to date and two staff working on boat master courses One staff attended VHF radio course</i>
	Contractors/Volunteers induction records filed	<i>Yes, for events and onsite service contractors. Rangers training November 2022. CERT course refresher attended by 6 staff and 6 rangers</i>
	Hazards register current and dated	<i>Current. Updated from regular meetings and annual audit December 2022. Sent to staff to read.</i>
	Evidence of annual review of H&S processes and performance	<i>Constantly being reviewed at each individual audit and to mitigate new hazards, equipment and incidents</i>
	Staff Emergency Evacuation drills and training for designated staff	<i>Evacuation drill completed December 2022 Cromwell Office for new staff and Dunedin at staff meeting September 2022</i>

	Training and inductions	
	Training/Support for H&S rep	<i>Nil</i>
	New Staff/Contractor Induction records	<i>Completed for visitors, tenants, contracted workers and new Staff (David and Mason) inducted end 2022</i>

	Incidents/Accidents	
	Accident Register complete	<i>Up to date – 4 incident reports filed, 1 required doctor visit and treatment</i>
	Investigations results fed back	<i>All near miss or incidents had mitigation options discussed and noted at meetings. Reported to Council meetings.</i>
	Return to work processes and procedures understood and used	<i>Covid 19 meant limitations to staff working from the office. No incidents/accidents limiting staff for work.</i>
	Near-miss reports	<i>5 reported – discussed at weekly meetings, hazard list updated where required.</i>
	Incident/hazard corrective actions documented and completed where possible	<i>Discussed, documented in minutes and added to hazard list if required.</i>
	Accident/Injury Prevention Initiatives	<i>Staff are all first aid trained and first aid kits filled. Discussions of near misses to prevent repeats. Encouraging - lunch out of office, Encouraged to exercise more, to help office strains, stresses and eye strain and assist with general fitness/health. Written information and on 0800 number provided to those needing to discuss unsettling or irritating issues. Reminders about driver /road safety. Vehicles have safety equipment and PEP gear.</i>
	Covid 19	
	Vaccinations	<i>All staff advised to be vaccinated</i>
	Policy	<i>Policy on the covid regional level was followed. Discussion at meetings to ensure staff policy suits the level of the time and to check staff are happy with arrangements. At meetings, rangers safety, events and major works there are checks for adequate controls against covid spread and staff and participant safety.</i>

Completed by S Milne

Signed: I Hadland (CE)

Date: 24.01.2023

Reported to OF&GC (February Mtg): 18.2.2023

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 Election of Officers

Council revisits all roles at its February meeting. There will be an election for the following roles

Chairman (Currently Cr Weatherall)

Executive (Currently Crs Weatherall, Barker, Whyte, McIntyre)

NZC Appointee (Currently Cr Barker) is not up for contest as it runs for the term of Council

Deputy Chair will be considered at the March meeting. This allows time for any incoming chair to canvas interest among members.

7.2 Gamebird Habitat Trust Board Nominations

Background

Staff have circulated nominations forms twice to all councillors for distribution among your networks. At this point the Council only has one application to hand.

Just as a reminder, appointments to the board are made by the Minister of Conservation, with the Fish & Game nominations being put forward by NZ F&G Council.

Nomination

Chantel Whitby of Dunedin is currently a member of the board and wishes to undertake a second term. Her application is attached showing she is well qualified for the role.

Ms Whitby now seeks this Councils agreement to be her nominator. If agreed this will be passed onto NZC for their decision and (hopefully) endorsement.

Recommendation

That Council agree to nominate Chantel Whitby to a trustee role with the New Zealand Gamebird Habitat Trust Board

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
2 Feb 2023

Nomination for NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust



OFFICE OF
THE MINISTER
OF CONSERVATION

**NZ GAME BIRD HABITAT TRUST
BOARD NOMINATION FORM**

(Please complete **ALL** sections and return in Word format. Please do **NOT** provide a CV)

NOMINEE DETAILS

Nominated for: Member, New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board

Title Ms
Family name Whitby
First name Chantal
Preferred name Chantal
Full Street Address 37 Fulton Road, Glenleith, Dunedin 9010
 (and postal address if different)

Age 35 **Date of birth** 25-10-87 **Citizenship** NZ **Gender** Female
Tel Daytime **After hours** **Mobile** 027 250 9579
Email address chantalwhitby@gmail.com
Ethnicity (inc. iwi affiliation/s if applicable) N/A

Current or most recent employment (specify position and employer, include dates by year):
 Landscape architect, Hudson Associates Landscape Architects, 2018 to present.

Relevant skills and attributes the candidate will bring to the position (e.g. in relation to land and environmental management, nature conservation, kaitiakitanga, natural earth and marine sciences, matauranga Maori, recreation, tourism, te ao Maori, cultural awareness, the interests of local community including the tangata whenua of the area):

My passion for New Zealand's environment was a key driver for pursuing a career in landscape architecture. I studied at Lincoln University as the course had a strong focus on land-based design and sustainability.

Until recently I lived on a nationally significant wetland (Te Nohoaka o Tuikauau – Sinclair Wetlands), where I resided for eight years. As part of my time at the wetlands I was involved with community planting days, as well as restoration work with international volunteers. At times I assisted with pest control (trapping and shooting), weed releasing plants, and nursery work.

My life at the wetlands sparked my interest in wetlands and inspired me to study a Master of Science in Environmental Management at the University of Otago. My thesis researched looked at the opportunities and constraints of encouraging farmers to restore wetlands on their properties. As part of my research, I travelled to numerous places in both the North Island and South Island to talk with farmers about their firsthand experience with wetlands projects on their farms. While studying I was also awarded the Golden Plover Wetland Research Award for original research into the management of wetlands at Honours Masters level.

My role as a landscape architect largely focuses on landscape assessments. As part of my work, I am often required to analysis the potential effects projects may have on the landscape, with several projects involving wetlands. When writing reports, I frequently collaborate with ecologists to ensure effects on the environment are appropriately avoided, remedied or mitigated. These analytical skills are transferrable to evaluating plans and reading construction drawings. I am also familiar with New

Zealand's planning framework, including the RMA, NZ Coastal Policy Statement, NPS for Freshwater Management, and numerous regional, district and unitary plans.

I have been a member of the NZGBHTB for the last three years and, as such, am familiar with the range of projects which apply for funding. Over the three years I have honed my ability to understand which projects are likely to have stronger merits than others, with has included discussions with other members regarding the pros and cons of distributing funds over a range of projects (e.g., quantity) versus providing higher amounts of funding to fewer projects (e.g., quality).

**List any Government (i.e. Ministerial) appointments
(current and previous, include dates by year):**

Game Bird Habitat Trust Board (2020 – 2022)

List any appointments held on private sector and/or other boards/councils

(e.g. company, school and health boards, national NGO council positions etc; current and previous, include dates by year):

New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment (treasurer and core committee member, 2017-2021).
Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (Far South Branch coordinator, 2021 to present).

Qualifications and work experience (include significant work history, familiarity with public conservation land and conservation issues, community involvement including conservation activity):

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (Second Class Honours, Division 1)
Master of Science in Environmental Management (with Distinction)
NZ Institute of Landscape Architects Registered Landscape Architect

Work experience assessing the effects of proposed projects on the landscape (including effects on wetlands).
Work experience designing revegetation planting plans, including writing implementation and maintenance plans.
Conservation project leader for International Student Volunteers – directing the practical implementation of conservation projects and educating on general conservation matters.

Community involvement:

Achilles (Dunedin) – 2021 (guiding athletes with disabilities)
Women's Refuge (Dunedin) – 2014-2021 (designing children's playground and garden maintenance)
Te Nohoaka o Tukiaauau - Sinclair Wetlands – 2013-2019 (conservation work, including working with community groups)
Penguin Place (Dunedin Peninsula) – 2012 (assisting with penguin conservation, e.g., planting, and feeding sick penguins)

Are there any possible conflicts of interest which could arise if the nominee were appointed to the conservation board, if so, what are they?

No

Outdoor recreation and other outdoor interests

Ultra-distance trail running, tramping, mountain biking, and sea kayaking.

NOMINATOR TO COMPLETE (if applicable)

Full name of individual or organisation:

Postal address

Date

Signature of nominator

NOMINEE TO COMPLETE

Do you authorise the information provided on this form to be seen by those involved in nomination / selection processes? Yes No

Do you authorise the Department of Conservation to keep this form on a confidential file after the nomination / selection process? Yes No

Do you agree to the information provided by you on this form and any accompanying information (in support of this nomination) being released to any person who requests it under the Official Information Act and/or Privacy Act? Yes No

I understand that if I have given incorrect or misleading information, or have omitted any pertinent information in my nomination, I may be disqualified from appointment or, if appointed, liable to be dismissed. Yes No

Date 14-12-22

Signature of nominee



When completed, please send this form in Word format to: nominations@doc.govt.nz, or post to

Minister of Conservation, c/- Department of Conservation
 Attention: Rick McGovern-Wilson
 PO Box 10-420
 Wellington 6143

You should hear the outcome of your nomination in late May 2023.

8.0 Public Excluded Items

8.1 Public Excluded Minutes for Meeting 1st December 2022

8.2 Contact Energy Trust Update

8.3 Risk Management Report 2023-24

9.0 Financial Report

Finance and Licence Sales 31st December 2022

9.1 Finance Reports

The financial Profit and Loss report and Balance sheet for the period from 1st September 2022 to 31st December 2022 are below.

Expenditure at the 31st December 2022 for the 2022/23 financial year is \$731,484 (including levies \$300,021, agent commission \$54,788, depreciation \$18,435.

This also includes \$37,472 of spending from our reserves.

The annual expenditure budget \$2,494,466.

Budget and expenditure figures are exclusive of GST.

The draft accounts show a surplus at 31st December 2022 of \$804,129

Bank Funds Position at 31st December 2022

ANZ 00 account \$184,913.37

ANZ 70 account \$667,043.26

Term Investments as at 31st January 2023

ASB 0079 \$373,714.65 @ 2.85% Maturing 11th January 2023

Re invested in January 2023 @ 4.55%

ANZ \$507,013.76 @ 3.75% Maturing on 16th May 2023

Donations and Grants (not in budget)

Donation/Grant from	For	Amount GST excl
RICOH	Native Trees	1,000
Mt Aspiring Station	Bullock Creek Planting	60
Kaiwhakahaere Kaupapa Taiao	Bullock Creek Planting	300
Otago Community Trust	Take a Kid Fishing	2,900
W Houliston	Take a Kid Fishing	200
Total		\$4,460

Doubtful Debtors

nil

Capital Expenditure and Sales

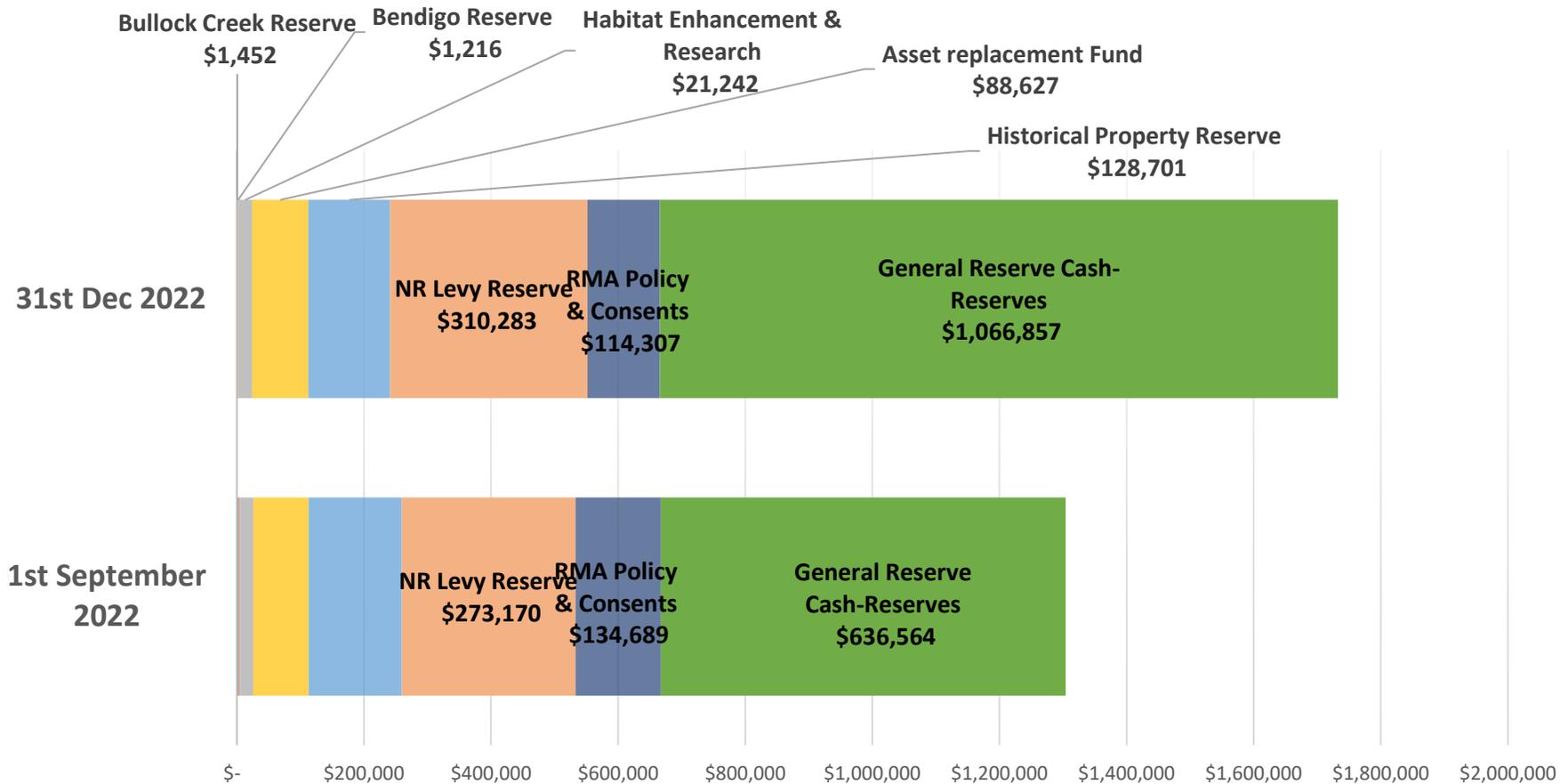
Electric car ordered.

Otago Fish and Game Reserves 31st December 2022

Otago Reserves Movements	Balance August 2022	Income (To) Reserve	Note	Outgoing (From) Reserve	Balance Oct 2022
Back Country Non-resident Levy	\$273,170	\$42,113	1	\$5,000	\$310,283
Habitat Enhancement & Research	\$20,642	\$3,600	2	\$3,000	\$21,242
Bullock Creek Reserve	\$3,121	\$360		\$2,029	\$1,452
Bendigo Reserve	\$2,039	\$	9	\$823	\$1,216
Mining Rights Reserve	\$17,537		3	\$	\$17,537
Priority Consents Reserve	\$41,697		7	\$	\$41,697
Historical Property Reserves	\$146,433	\$6,506	4	\$24,238	\$128,701
Regional Policy Statement Reserve	\$44,379		5	\$2,382	\$23,997
Priority Plan Changes	\$31,076		6	\$	\$31,076
Total	\$580,094	\$52,579		\$37,472	\$577,201
NZC RMA/Legal Funding					
Regional Policy Extra		\$60,000	8	\$0	\$60,000

- Note 1 \$5000 a year for five years is to be taken from the Non resident fund for the Dr Donald Scott University Fund beginning. Agreed by Council May 2021. 2021/22 is year three.
- Note 2 Balance is \$21,242. Less committed but not yet paid out of \$10,500 so balance of \$10,742 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, used on development of the Wanaka site
- 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.
- Note 7 OF&GC agreed to \$60,000 May 2020. NZC notified.
- Note 8 August 2021 NZC approved the use of \$60,000 to be reimbursed by the Regional RMA legal fund towards our Regional Policy Planning Costs
- Note 9 May 2022 council agreed to Habitat Enhancement funds for Bendigo

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2022 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2022



Balance Sheet

Otago Fish and Game Council As at 31 December 2022

	31 DEC 2022	31 AUG 2022
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank	852,137	432,082
Receivables		
Accounts Receivable	457,282	77,117
Total Receivables	457,282	77,117
GST	(67,444)	42,695
Investments	878,063	872,159
Inventory	21,151	21,151
Accrued Interest	-	4,959
Accounts Receivable - Other	15,834	-
Total Current Assets	2,157,023	1,450,162
Fixed Assets		
Property Plant & Equipment	1,333,125	1,348,413
Total Fixed Assets	1,333,125	1,348,413
Credit Card SM 6180	(1,380)	(3,799)
Total Assets	3,488,768	2,794,777
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	19,440	74,951
Other Payables	190,559	192,806
Employee Entitlements	5,691	60,441
Rounding	-	-
Salmon Endorsement	2,461	91
Total Current Liabilities	218,151	328,289
Total Liabilities	218,151	328,289
Net Assets	3,270,617	2,466,488
Equity		
Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated Funds	1,622,094	1,607,045
Current Year Earnings	804,129	15,049
Transfer (To)/From Reserves	178,483	176,937
Total Accumulated Funds	2,604,706	1,799,031
Dedicated Reserves		
Non Resident Levy Reserve	310,283	273,170
Habitat Enhancement & Research	21,242	20,642
Priority Plan Changes Reserve	31,076	31,076
Priority Consents Reserve	41,697	41,697

	31 DEC 2022	31 AUG 2022
Regional Policy Statement Reserve	23,997	44,379
Mining Privileges Reserve	17,537	17,537
Historical Property Reserve	128,701	146,433
Renovation Reserve	-	-
Asset Replacement Funding	88,710	87,363
Total Dedicated Reserves	663,242	662,296
Restricted Reserves		
Bullock Creek Reserve	1,452	3,121
Bendigo Reserve	1,217	2,039
Total Restricted Reserves	2,669	5,161
Total Equity	3,270,617	2,466,488

Profit and Loss

Otago Fish and Game Council For the 4 months ended 31 December 2022

	NOV 2022	DEC 2022	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Income								
Licence Sales								
Fish Licence Sales	204,275	291,627	1,458,245	1,335,734	122,511	109%	1,959,517	1,750,886
Non-Resident Licence Revenue	13,969	15,478	42,113	-	42,113	-	-	10,364
Game Licence Sales	-	-	83	-	83	-	370,659	340,189
Total Licence Sales	218,244	307,105	1,500,441	1,335,734	164,707	112%	2,330,176	2,101,439
Other Income								
Contact Energy Mitigation Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	94,109
Reserves Mngt Income	-	-	-	432	(432)	-	1,300	-
Govt Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,210
Interest Income	6,874	1,242	3,612	5,104	(1,492)	71%	15,322	14,008
Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	-	-	55	668	(613)	8%	2,000	265
Rent Received	4,818	5,685	21,111	18,792	2,319	112%	56,386	60,320
Fishing Competitions	220	-	667	-	667	-	-	493
Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,080
Donations & Grants	1,060	3,100	4,460	-	4,460	-	-	4,249
Merchandise Sales/Other	-	-	165	-	165	-	-	196
Sundry Income	209	-	1,503	-	1,503	-	-	7,582
Diversion - Habitat Enhancement and Research Fund	1,300	-	3,600	-	3,600	-	-	14,700
Total Other Income	14,481	10,027	35,173	24,996	10,177	141%	75,008	219,212
Total Income	232,725	317,132	1,535,614	1,360,730	174,884	113%	2,405,184	2,320,651
Gross Profit	232,725	317,132	1,535,614	1,360,730	174,884	113%	2,405,184	2,320,651

	NOV 2022	DEC 2022	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Expenses								
Species Management								
Population Monitoring	-	-	-	16,312	(16,312)	-	48,930	12,844
Harvest Assessment	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	3,500
Hatchery Operations	2,784	4,037	7,051	3,000	4,051	235%	9,000	1,792
Releases	144	-	232	336	(104)	69%	1,000	911
Game Bird Control compliants	-	-	444	-	444	-	-	750
Total Species Management	2,927	4,037	7,726	19,648	(11,922)	39%	60,930	19,797
Habitat Protection & Mngt								
Contact Sports Fish Management Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53,487
Resource Mngt Act	-	-	-	332	(332)	-	1,000	57,010
Works & Management	31	-	668	1,668	(1,000)	40%	5,000	3,131
Habitat Enhancement Research Fund Grants	-	870	2,870	-	2,870	-	-	-
Total Habitat Protection & Mngt	31	870	3,537	2,000	1,537	177%	6,000	113,628
Participation								
Access and Signage	200	85	355	834	(479)	43%	2,500	2,681
Back Country Surveys/Monitoring	41	-	116	-	116	-	-	-
Promotion Articles and Advertising	-	384	384	-	384	-	-	-
Publications and Web Site	852	850	1,702	-	1,702	-	-	-
OF&G Training Events	286	-	1,264	1,668	(404)	76%	2,000	2,023
Club Relations and Grants	-	-	-	332	(332)	-	1,000	1,132
R3 Campaigns	-	-	-	168	(168)	-	500	-
F&G Advocacy at Popular Fisheries	-	-	-	8,000	(8,000)	-	24,000	-
Total Participation	1,378	1,319	3,820	11,002	(7,182)	35%	30,000	5,836
PUBLIC INTERFACE								
World Wetlands	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-

	NOV 2022	DEC 2022	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Liaison	-	200	200	332	(132)	60%	1,000	566
Media Releases	140	-	434	1,002	(568)	43%	3,000	1,215
Total PUBLIC INTERFACE	140	200	633	1,334	(701)	47%	5,000	1,781
COMPLIANCE								
Ranger Training and Expenses	252	670	2,045	2,834	(789)	72%	5,500	6,543
Compliance	-	-	-	1,664	(1,664)	-	5,000	26
Total COMPLIANCE	252	670	2,045	4,498	(2,453)	45%	10,500	6,569
LICENCING								
Agent Servicing	-	67	106	172	(66)	62%	500	441
Commission/Fees	7,646	9,848	54,788	52,428	2,360	105%	104,858	85,709
Total LICENCING	7,646	9,914	54,894	52,600	2,294	104%	105,358	86,150
COUNCIL								
Council Meetings	24	1,199	3,585	5,000	(1,415)	72%	15,000	14,080
Total COUNCIL	24	1,199	3,585	5,000	(1,415)	72%	15,000	14,080
PLANNING & REPORTING								
Reporting/Audit	11,222	996	15,990	16,000	(10)	100%	16,000	16,891
National Liason	-	4	128	664	(536)	19%	2,000	248
Corporate Liaison	-	-	4	-	4	-	-	-
Total PLANNING & REPORTING	11,222	1,000	16,122	16,664	(542)	97%	18,000	17,139
ADMINISTRATION								
Salaries	60,869	57,881	201,697	272,982	(71,285)	74%	818,935	745,060
Staff Expenses	4,177	1,673	8,968	8,340	628	108%	32,000	20,914
Office Premices	7,161	6,220	49,080	34,940	14,140	140%	104,839	105,980
Office Equipment	439	685	1,152	834	318	138%	2,500	2,802
Communications	1,201	1,504	5,143	7,302	(2,159)	70%	21,900	20,367
General Exp (incl Insurance)	32	22	2,525	2,234	291	113%	3,900	2,794

	NOV 2022	DEC 2022	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
General Field Equipment	-	73	1,244	1,102	142	113%	3,300	2,962
Vehicles	4,082	3,208	24,702	22,000	2,702	112%	52,000	55,113
Total ADMINISTRATION	77,961	71,267	294,512	349,734	(55,222)	84%	1,039,374	955,993
Approved Reserve Expense	426	1,207	21,013	-	21,013	-	-	60,289
Depreciation	4,622	4,637	18,435	1,404	17,031	1,313%	4,222	60,101
NZ Fish & Game Levies	-	-	300,021	400,024	(100,003)	75%	1,200,082	959,241
Public Advocacy	-	140	140	-	140	-	-	-
University of Otago Research Grant	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Total Expenses	111,630	96,459	731,484	863,908	(132,424)	85%	2,494,466	2,305,602
Net Profit	121,095	220,673	804,129	496,822	307,307	162%	(89,282)	15,049

9.2 Licence Sales

Fish Licence Sales 2022/23 Season to 31st December 2022

See appendix 1 for a table showing fish licence sales categories and numbers. This table shows fish licences sales for seasons 2021/22 and 2022/23 to the end of December of the season.

In summary, fishing licence sales in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) 11,744.34 LEQs compared with 12,135.36 LEQs for the same period last year.

Licence sales are slow this year, for whole season family and adult. Non resident licences have increase for the early part of the season with the increase in tourism.

Fish licence revenue from the Profit and Loss statement for the 2022/23 season recorded to 31st January 2023 total \$1,500,358 compared with \$1,437,826 for the 2021/22 season. These figures include both resident and non resident sales.

Figures exclude GST and commission to agents.

The 2022/23 budget for fish licence sales is \$1,959,517 exclusive of GST.

For interest sake I have included a table of licence sales to the end of January as it is a high sales time of the year. At the time of this report we do not have the income from these sales.

9.3 Agents Debts

Nil

9.4 Recommendation

That the finance and licencing report be received.

Sharon Milne
Administration Officer
1/02/2023

Fish Licence Sales 2021/2022 and 2022/23 to the 31st December of the Season

2022/23

Channel	FWFA	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWC	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	Total	Fish LEQ
Public	1807	1910	262	345	289	25	126	926	585	381	24	124	37	992	5	17	0	7855	5,427.55
Agency	2023	2744	82	679	129	6	72	269	320	304	13	27	27	11	5	3	566	7280	6,316.79
Total	3830	4654	344	1024	418	31	198	1195	905	685	37	151	64	1003	10	20	566	15135	11,744.34

2021/22

Channel	FWFA	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWC	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	Total	Fish LEQ
Public	1758	2103	41	299	281	9	131	848	35	315	4	86	0	787	0	1	0	6698	5,167.87
Agency	2241	3181	5	729	138	6	88	256	6	320	0	26	0	14	0	1	0	7011	6,967.49
Total	3999	5284	46	1028	419	15	219	1104	41	635	4	112	0	801	0	2	0	13709	12,135.36

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)

SRSE (Salmon Endorsement)

Fish Licence Sales 2021/22 and 2022/23 to the 31st January of the Season

2022/23																		
Channel	FWFA	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	fishTotal	Fish LEQ
Public	2022	2195	366	357	364	30	179	1541	941	473	33	221	58	11	28	0	10184	6,366.27
Agency	2129	2946	119	696	149	9	92	401	485	357	14	45	47	6	9	602	8118	6,792.13
Total	4151	5141	485	1053	513	39	271	1942	1426	830	47	266	105	17	37	602	18302	13,158.4

2021/22																		
Channel	FWFA	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	fishTotal	Fish LEQ
Public	2014	2406	47	309	370	17	230	1441	47	415	5	152	0	1	1	0	8514	6,049.89
Agency	2356	3385	6	745	163	8	128	417	8	372	0	41	0	0	1	0	7647	7,408.21
Total	4370	5791	53	1054	533	25	358	1858	55	787	5	193	0	1	2	0	16161	13,458.09

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)
 SRSE (Salmon Endorsement)

10.0 Chief Executives Report – February 2023

10.1 SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Lakes Fisheries Monitoring

Angler surveys on Lake Hawea and Poolburn Reservoir continue at a rate of 4 days per month and peak use surveys of other waters including Wakatipu Loganburn, Manorburn, Mahinerangi and Dunstan were also completed over the holiday season.

Aerial Gamebird Surveys

Aerial flight counts were completed at the end of January and a report is attached to this agenda. Paradise shelduck numbers have dipped slightly on a very high year last year. There is a lot of movement between sites and new sites being found every flight making accurate analysis of trends more difficult.



Acoustics Survey of Southern Lakes

By the time of the meeting, and weather permitting, NIWA should have done the first rounds of acoustic surveys of Hawea, Wakatipu, Wanaka and Dunstan. Some minor modifications to the F&G boat were required to house the transducer. An additional part of the project is to train some of our staff in the method and analysis. This will help with any future surveys.



Monitor Key Fisheries

Staff have completed nine electric fishing survey sites in the Shag/Waihemo River and tributaries and have now moved to the Catlins area and undertaken a further 7 sites to update aged records from that area.

Hatchery

Hot weather and warm lake temperatures at Macraes hatchery triggered alarms in the hatchery building recently with the temperatures getting to near lethal levels for trout. No losses were reported to stock but monitoring is continuing.

Regulations

The Game Gazette notice was finalised in line with Councils decision at the December meeting. Paradise shelduck moult counts were beneath the 23,000 threshold required for a change to the daily bag limits so that remains at 12/day region wide. A report on gamebird trend counts is attached to this agenda.

10.2 HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Contact Energy – Lower Clutha Sportsfish Management Plan Implementation

The programme of works has begun and progress into the autumn.

An item in the Public Excluded part of the agenda will provide an update to the proposed Trust Deed and funding agreement. Contact staff presenting the funding proposal (which supports the Trust) to their senior leaders and it was positively received. That allows the trust documents to be finalised.

Wetland/Reserve work

Time has been spent on woody weed control at Takitakitoa Wetland. University of Otago volunteers will soon visit the wetland to help release planted natives from summer grass growth.

Staff have spent some time editing the Bendigo Reserve Management Plan which is in a final draft. After consultation with iwi, it will go out for more formal public consultation.

10.3 USER PARTICIPATION

Access

All access points are presently being digitised and uploaded to a dedicated access portal which will be housed in the F&G website. The third party provider has done a very good job on locating previous data and the end product looks easy to use. It will also house the fishing regulations at each site so it will quickly become the one stop shop for angler information. Council doesn't have a specific budget for this in the current year but it's too important of a project to let slide.

Advocacy at high profile fisheries

Two summer staffers have completed their 6 week stint around our southern lakes fisheries. Blake Harper and Nina Henig were involved in angler surveys, boat ramp liaison and other F&G work to support our F&G staff over the summer. While compliance wasn't a primary focus, they interviewed over 120 anglers and apprehended 5 offenders for unlicensed angling.



Backcountry Fisheries

The Greenstone Controlled fishery booking system which runs from Feb-March is operating well. Bookings are up a bit on the same time last year.

The Designated Waters proposal continues to be developed by a collection of NZC and regional staff with a view to implementation in the new fishing season. I have circulated the most recent incarnation of the proposal to Councillors for information. The Council will get a chance to make a formal response when it is finalised.

Publications

The magazine content for the gamebird season issue has been finalised and sent to the publishers. Reel Life Ezine content is still being distributed monthly but a more specific weekly river report is now also being emailed to around 11,000 Otago licence holders. This is part of our R3 strategy to stay in better touch with Otago licence holders. The 2022 survey found that their preference was to see more “how-to-where-to” material via their inboxes.

10.4 PUBLIC INTERFACE

Media

A steady stream of media releases were distributed over the period – not all of them picked up by the media. Fishing related content did feature strongly in the ODT holiday guide though which we provided several articles to.

Advocacy

In addition to our local advocacy efforts, the Communications officer has been engaged by NZC to assist with a national campaign related to the incoming Natural and Built Environment Act and also on wider NZC communications efforts.

10.5 COMPLIANCE

Prosecutions

Thanks to good compliance over the holiday break, the prosecution workload has been lighter than usual.

Our casual compliance support officer finished up recently and we are engaging with the Law Department at Otago University seeking a new recruit to assist with the present workload of diversions and prosecutions. We wish Joseph Robinson well for the future and thank him for his diligent service over the last year.

Rangers

Two new Ranger appointments have been made and there are a further three to interview for suitability – all from Central Otago which is promising.

10.6 LICENCING

Nothing to report

10.7 COUNCIL

Staffing

Council will be pleased to hear that staffing is now back to full strength. With some new staff in fresh roles, there will be a learning period but they are getting up to speed quickly.

10.8 PLANNING AND REPORTING

Strategic planning session

Corina Jordan our National office CEO will be facilitating the planning session. As you know, she has recently gone through this exercise with her own Council and with regional managers. While the NZC has a slightly different statutory function, having her input should provide an opportunity for greater cohesion between the national and regional council objectives.

The Draft Operational Workplan for 2023/24 will be provided to Council for review before its next meeting in mid March.

Recommendation

That this report be received

Ian Hadland

Chief Executive

February 2023

Output	Goals 2020-2023	Objectives	February 2023 Update
Species Mgt	That OF&GC have sufficient understanding of Southern Lakes sportsfish populations to meet management needs	<p>Robust monitoring system for southern lakes fisheries established by 2023 with enough sensitivity to detect long term population change.</p> <p>Research proposal to investigate drivers for that change lodged to NZC for funding by 2024</p>	<p>Random angler surveys are being undertaken at Lake Hawea to gather fisheries and effort data. Peak use surveys have been completed at other southern lakes over summer.</p> <p>Acoustic monitoring by NIWA of Lakes Dunstan, Hawea, Whakatipu and Wanaka will be underway (weather permitting) Netting to determine species composition to support the project is also proposed.</p> <p>Lakes fisheries workshop is still proposed for winter 2023 but there are a number of similar events planned on Southern lakes health which F&G may be able to dovetail into.</p>
Habitat Protection & Mgt	Improve outcomes in RMA planning processes – Plans reflect F&G input	<p>Submissions reflecting F&G positions made on time and hearings attended for all planning matters impacting on F&G managed species, habitat and users.</p> <p>Joint freshwater and habitat outcomes developed with partner agencies and promoted through planning processes.</p>	<p>Further submissions have been made to the Regional Policy Statement. Staff consider it to be a reasonable document but don't wish for that to be undone by other parties. The original submission covers all areas of F&G interest.</p> <p>Discussions with DoC, Iwi and other agencies continue with regular meetings between the parties, and also occasional meetings of the same group and ORC policy and planning staff.</p>
Licence holder communication	High licence holder understanding of F&G organisation and its work on their behalf.	<p>Improve licence holder knowledge of F&G activities by 10%- or two-unit points (in licence holder survey) by end of 2023</p> <p>15% of fish and 10% of game licence holders have one face to face contact with F&G annually</p>	<p>No action. Survey to be completed late in 2023.</p> <p>No specific metrics at this point but angler contact rates should be up with increased staff effort, summer interns, and creel surveys at both Hawea and Poolburn.</p>

Public awareness and strategic relationships	Improved understanding by the general public of F&G role and work	<p>Survey results from perceptions of F&G stakeholder survey analysed.</p> <p>PA programme established and implemented, based on an overall communications strategy, by end of 2023.</p>	<p>Stakeholder survey is being designed at present for implementation in March.</p> <p>No change. NZC have developed a draft communications strategy and are seeking to refine this. They have also engaged a contractor to review the F&G brand. Otago can ride the back of that work.</p>
	Proactive engagement with Ngai Tahu	<p>Iwi and F&G aspirations for freshwater outcomes shared, and aligned where possible, to achieve longer term protection of Otago freshwater and wetlands.</p> <p>Engage with Ngai Tahu in a conversation on cultural harvest of gamebird species under F&G management.</p>	<p>Environmental Officer has been regularly engaging with Aukaha over RMA planning and consenting matters including Regional Policy Statement and Land and Water Plan</p> <p>May Council meeting is proposed to be held at Otakou runanga to build on relationship already formed.</p> <p>CE has met briefly with a local Ngai Tahu member and discussed cultural harvest. No action this period but there is a commitment to a more formal meeting in Autumn.</p>
	Form alliances/collaborations with landowners (and rural stakeholder organisations) on areas of common interest	<p>90% of catchment group meetings attended by staff to engage and communicate F&G values.</p> <p>100% of wetland development/enhancement enquiries are visited with 50% resulting in Habitat fund applications</p>	<p>Staff have been attending catchment groups meetings and activities where time permits.</p> <p>Wetland development applications have slowed considerably. None this reporting period. Issues with overly complicated consenting remains an issue.</p>

11.0 RMA Planning and Consents Report

23 November 2022 – 9 February 2023

Current Legislation, Policy and Planning Processes

Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement (**PORPS**)

Fish and Game staff have been engaging with both the Freshwater Planning Process (**FPP**) and the non-FPP within the PORPS. Within each process:

1. The non-FPP is currently being heard and is expected to continue on and off until May.
2. The FPP submission has been written and further submissions were recently completed. It can be expected that evidence writing will begin in the near future.

Natural and Build Environment (**NBE**) Bill

The NBE Bill has been through its first reading and submissions on it have been called. The New Zealand Fish and Game Council is leading the submission process and has reached out to regional staff for input, which is being provided. As it stands without the influence of submissions, the NBE Bill makes it difficult for Fish and Game to continue to advocate for the interests of anglers and hunters and the interests of Fish and Game Councils, as protection of habitat for trout and salmon and recognition of recreation and amenity is absent.

Land and Water Regional Plan (**LWRP**) Development

In December 2022, the Regional Council organised large, invitation only workshops to assist with their development of the LWRP. Fish and Game staff were invited to attend and did so over about two weeks, covering topics such as freshwater quality, freshwater quantity, forestry, in-stream work, farming practices. The workshops were characterised as productive by Regional Council staff, which is pleasing. It appears that the opportunity for Fish and Game staff to provide input at this early stage is valuable.

Staff changes

Recent staff changes within Fish and Game's planning and policy workload should be drawn to the attention of Councillors:

- Nigel Paragreen is currently on a 32 hour week and will move to 24 hours in the start of April, to share childcare duties.
- Khaylm Marshall has graduated his Masters course and subsequently finished his employment with Fish and Game, moving to Environment Canterbury. We wish him well.
- Caelan Church has also graduated his Masters course and enrolled in further study. He will continue on with Fish and Game for 8 hours per week.
- Mason Court has begun taking on limited policy and planning work in Central Otago, in the same way that Caelan and Khaylm have previously, and will grow his capacity in this field.

Current Notification processes

There are no current notification processes.

Written approval provided during the period

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
Otago Regional Council applications		
Dart River Jet Safaris	To disturb the bed of the Dart River to allow for jet boats to traverse sections.	Affected party approval was provided after conditions were negotiated which notifies Fish and Game of frequent works, sets limits on sediment discharge, preferentially avoids work during the spawning season, retains natural character and sets limits on the scale of work in sensitive areas.
Manuherikia Catchment Group Inc. and Peter Thomas McLeod	To build a wetland in a tributary of Thomsons Creek and undertake long term maintenance, including clearing sediment from upstream tributaries, the wetland itself and the mainstem of Thomsons Creek.	Affected party approval was provided after conditions were negotiated to protect the mainstem of Thomsons Creek, including limiting the term of consent to 10 years; setting limits on the volume and frequency of disturbance; and avoiding works (bar emergency works) during the spawning season.
Kiwirail Holdings Ltd	Emergency works on Bridge 202, over the Waikouaiti River near Merton.	Affected party approval was provided.
Queenstown Lake District Council applications		
The Otago Regional Council	To install a monitoring buoy and mooring on Lake Hāwea for the purpose of water quality monitoring.	Affected party approval was provided.

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

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

Recommendation:

1. That this report be received.

Nigel Paragreen
Environmental Officer
9 February 2023

12.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

12.1 CFT

12.2 NZC

12.3 Ngai Tahu

12.4 Conservation Board

13.0 Correspondence

13.1 NZC to Otago

Nil

13.2 Otago to NZC

13.2.1 Feedback On .410 Caliber Exemption for Lead Shot



19 January 2023

New Zealand Fish & Game Council

Via Email

Re Feedback on .410 caliber exemption for lead shot

Otago Council discussed the matter at an urgent Zoom meeting last evening and is expected to ratify this communication at its next full council meeting on 18th February 2023.

The following points were noted:

- That the timeframes for feedback on such an important issue are unreasonably short for proper consideration of the topic and consultation with licence holders.
- Impact on junior hunters and availability of supply of reasonable alternatives to lead shot in .410's are serious issues that will need addressing in any response by NZC.
- Present use of .410 is very low by comparison with other calibre shotguns so the amount of lead shot discharged to the environment in any season is infinitesimal.

Otago Council requests that New Zealand Council recommends to the Minister:

- No change to the 2023/24 Otago Game Gazette Regulations as submitted in December 2022. This includes continuing the lead shot exemption for .410 shotguns for the next hunting season.
- That the NZC request that the Minister allow time for the organization to gather the requisite research (as set out in the NZC paper by Jack Kos) and provide feedback to the Minister ahead of the 2024/25 game season gazette notice. That information should include the viability and availability of alternatives to lead in 410 ammunition.
- If the Minister does not wish to continue the exemption for .410 ammunition then a suitable transition period be considered to ensure that F&G, gamebird licence holders and retailers can properly prepare for - and communicate - any change.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colin Weatherall".

Colin Weatherall

13.2.2 Feedback on NZC Three Year Strategy



19 January 2023

New Zealand Fish & Game Council

Via Email

Re: Feedback on NZC three year strategy

Otago Council discussed the matter at an urgent Zoom meeting last evening and is expected to ratify this communication at its next full council meeting on 18th February 2023.

Otago Councillors were very encouraging of the direction and the layout of the strategy document.

The following points were noted.

- That the timeframes for feedback on the document were unreasonably short for genuine consideration. As such, the council only considered the strategy and did not have time to have useful discussion on the 3 year business plan portion of the document.
- They were pleased to see some of the **Ministerial Review recommendations** covered off directly in the strategy. This should please the Minister.
- The **Vision** could be greatly improved if it had some strong wording around representation. Our user pays user says model is one of the enduring strengths of the organization.
- The strategy is bereft of commentary on **climate change**. This topic was evidently raised at the planning session of managers, NZC and chairs. It was thought that a three year plan shouldn't ignore longer term issues. (Page 8)
- Healthy habitat and ecosystems section should contain a sentence on our management, and protection of, **indigenous species**, including vegetation. Page 8
- The reference to a **comprehensive communication plan** addressing internal and external requirements' needs explaining. What is its purpose or end goal? (page 4)

Only remaining comment to make is how best to integrate the direction across the whole organization. At present it is the vision of the NZC but Regional Councils are still working within their own 10 year management plans and are about to head into another business planning cycle, most probably independent of this strategy.

Thanks for the opportunity for early input.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Weatherall

Otago Fish & Game Council Chair

13.3 General Correspondence In
Nil

13.4 General Correspondence Out
Nil

14.0 Items to be Received or Noted

14.1 Game Bird Moulting Count January 2023

Summary

In late January, 20,800 paradise shelduck, 2,500 black swan and 3,700 Canada geese were counted on 96 wetlands, ponds and lakes around the Otago Fish & Game Region. The paradise shelduck count did not reach the 23,000-threshold required to increase the bag limit.

Long-term trend analysis indicates a stable population of paradise shelduck and a slight decline for black swans. In contrast, short-term trends over the last five years showed an increase for paradise shelduck and no change in black swan numbers. The number of Canada geese recorded this year saw a significant rise compared to the previous year's count.



*Figure 1: High densities of paradise shelduck moulting on and beside a pond in the Middlemarch area.
Photo – I Hadland*

Introduction

The endemic pūtangitangi/ paradise shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*) congregates every year to moult on large bodies of water all around New Zealand in late January/ early February. The birds take around three – four weeks to replace all their flight feathers (Williams, 1981), leaving them flightless and vulnerable to predation. During this period the typically scattered species is mobbed together on particular waterways, providing a valuable opportunity for Fish & Game to survey numbers in the lead-in to the game bird hunting season.

The flight also counts the kakīānau/ black swans and kuihi/ Canada geese that are present at each site. Black swans typically moult in large numbers on a few select coastal estuaries (Williams, 1981). The sites have been selected with paradise shelduck moult sites as the top priority followed by black swans. Canada geese are counted to maintain historic records.

Due to more dams being built over time and the extensive nature of moult sites a full population count (census) is not possible, however by counting a large number of sites it is possible to confidently identify long term population trends, particularly for paradise shelduck.

Method

Moult sites are circled at low level in a fixed-wing light aircraft, typically a Cessna 172 due to its low stall speed and high mounted wing which make it easier for observers to count waterfowl. Low density mobs of waterfowl are counted while circling. If high densities are spotted from the plane, estimates are made at the time and the mobs are photographed (Figure 1). Counts are then carried out later using computer software. Due to airspace restrictions around Queenstown airport, a small number of sites are counted on foot with binoculars and spotting scopes. This year there were 96 total moult sites counted (Figure 2).

Despite efforts to maintain consistency in the annual survey, such as using the same aircraft, having the same observers, surveying the same sites, and conducting the count at the same time every year, variations in the total bird count may occur due to external factors such as new pond constructions, staff changes, and inclement weather preventing access to all survey sites. These variations mean that the total bird count does not always fully explain trends in populations.

Figure 2 shows the location of the monitored sites and the subregional breakdown of the Otago Fish & Game Region which is broken down eight subregions.

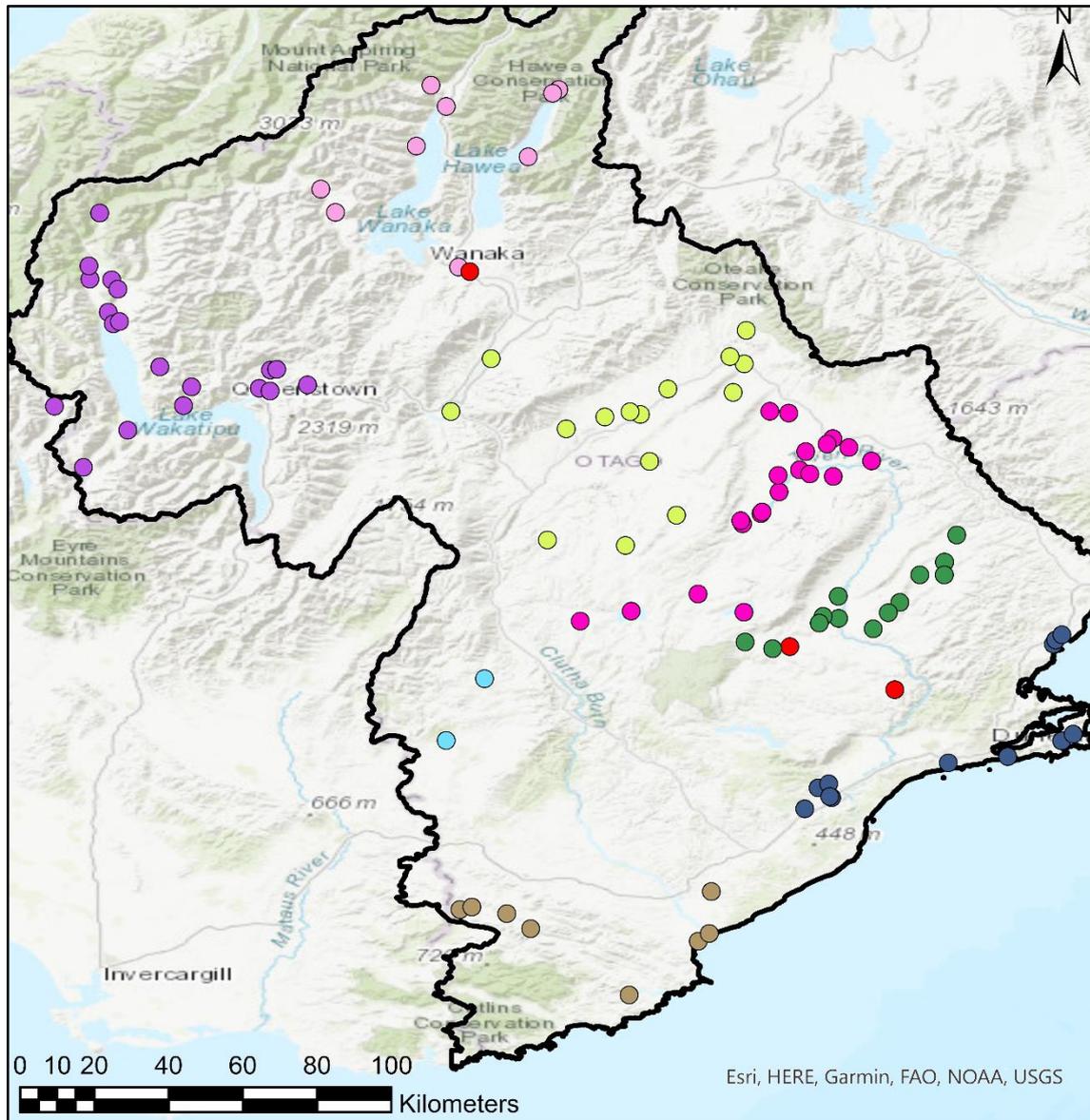


Figure 2: Map of currently and previously counted moult sites. Otago Fish & Game boundary in black.

Results

Paradise shelduck

Figure 3 shows the long-term total counts for paradise shelduck as well as the linear trend for the period.

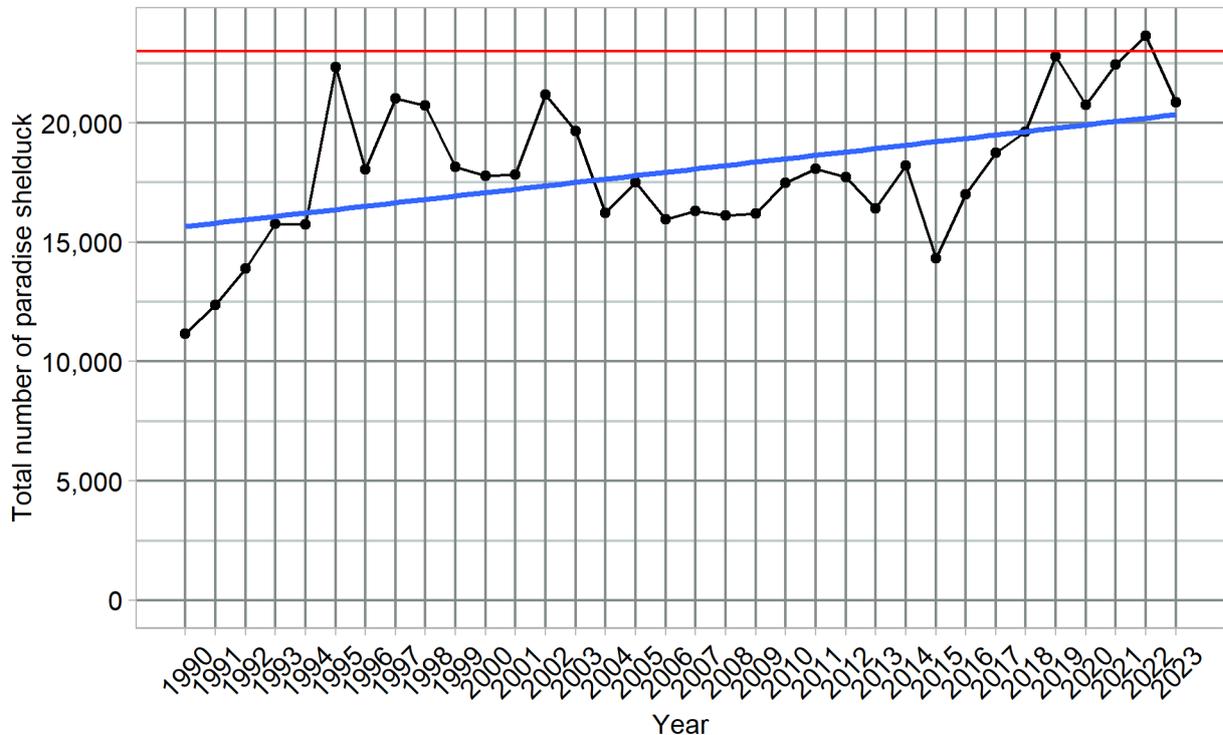


Figure 3: Long-term (1990-2023) count totals for paradise shelduck. Long-term linear trend shown in blue. The management threshold of 23,000 shelduck shown in red.

The count of paradise shelduck this year dropped to 20,800, after reaching a peak of 23,660 last year (Figure 3). In terms of total moult count there has been a statistically significant increase over time ($p=0.004$) however this increase should be viewed with caution as the sites monitored have changed over time and the number of sites monitored has increased over the same period.

This year's count did not exceed the threshold of 23,000, required to increase the daily bag limit for next season.

Route regression

To account for changes in the monitored sites the data has also been analysed using route regression which is a Fish & Game standard operating procedure (Teal, 2003). Route regression minimises the effects of yearly variation, by averaging the long-term trends of natural logged counts at each monitored site over defined time periods (Stevens, 2021). Counts are natural logged to prevent variation in very prolific moult sites from overwhelming the data. A full scientific review by Sauer & Droege (1990) showed that "route-regression methodology is most efficient in the estimation of long-term (>5 year) trends and tends to provide conservative results for low-density species".

Figure 4 depicts the output of the route regression. It shows changes in shelduck populations over several extended time frames in terms of a percentage change over time. It suggests that long term, the paradise shelduck populations in the Otago Region are stable.

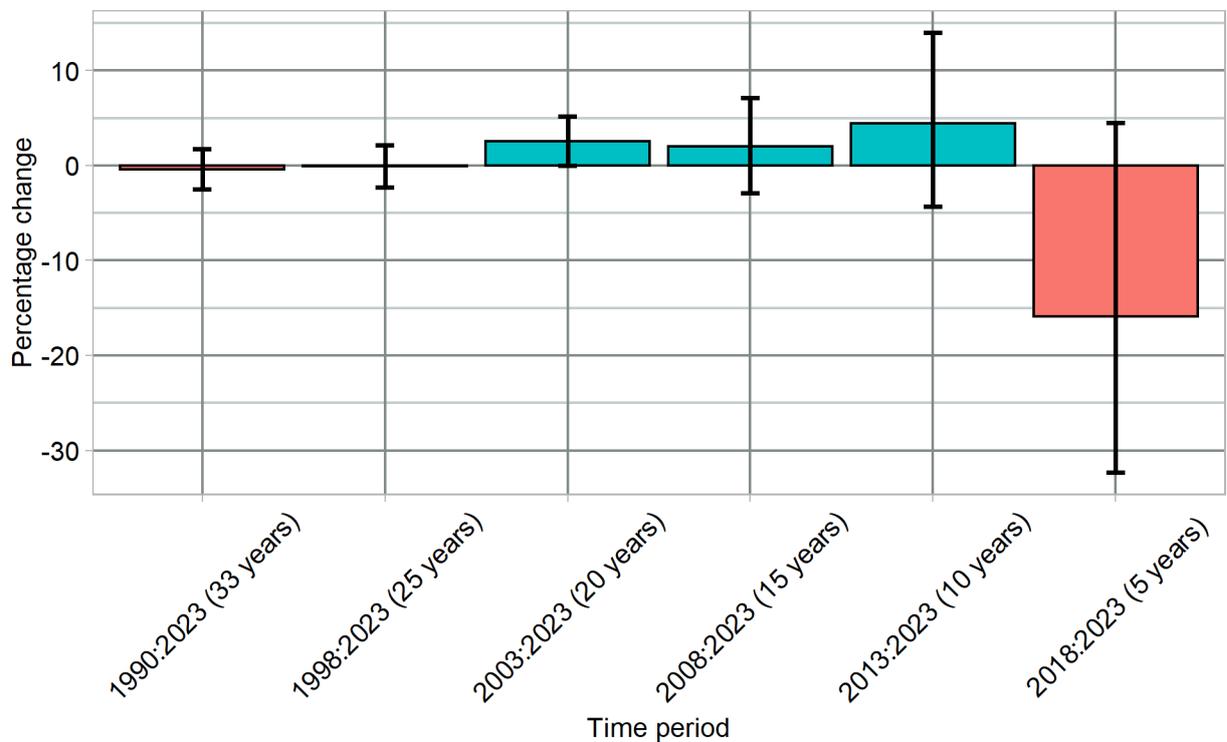


Figure 4: Proportional change in paradise shelduck numbers over varying periods with 95% confidence intervals. Increasing trend for period shown in blue, decreasing trend in red.

The route regression trend for the 33-year period is very close to zero, indicating no significant change at the population level. Our monitoring suggests that the population may have decreased by a maximum of 2.5 percent. The confidence intervals for these trends are very narrow, indicating that we can have high confidence that there has been no substantial change in paradise shelduck numbers.

The trends for the 10-, 15-, and 20-year periods are all positive, but the confidence intervals for each of these periods span zero. This implies that there is a small probability that the population may have decreased during these periods, but if so, the decrease is likely to be minor.

The period covering the last five years shows a negative trend, suggesting a decrease of around 16 percent over the period. This estimate comes with a reasonably high level of uncertainty as shown by the relatively wide confidence intervals.

Regional paradise shelduck counts

Figure 5 illustrates the short-term changes in the average number of paradise shelduck at each moult site in the subregions of Otago.

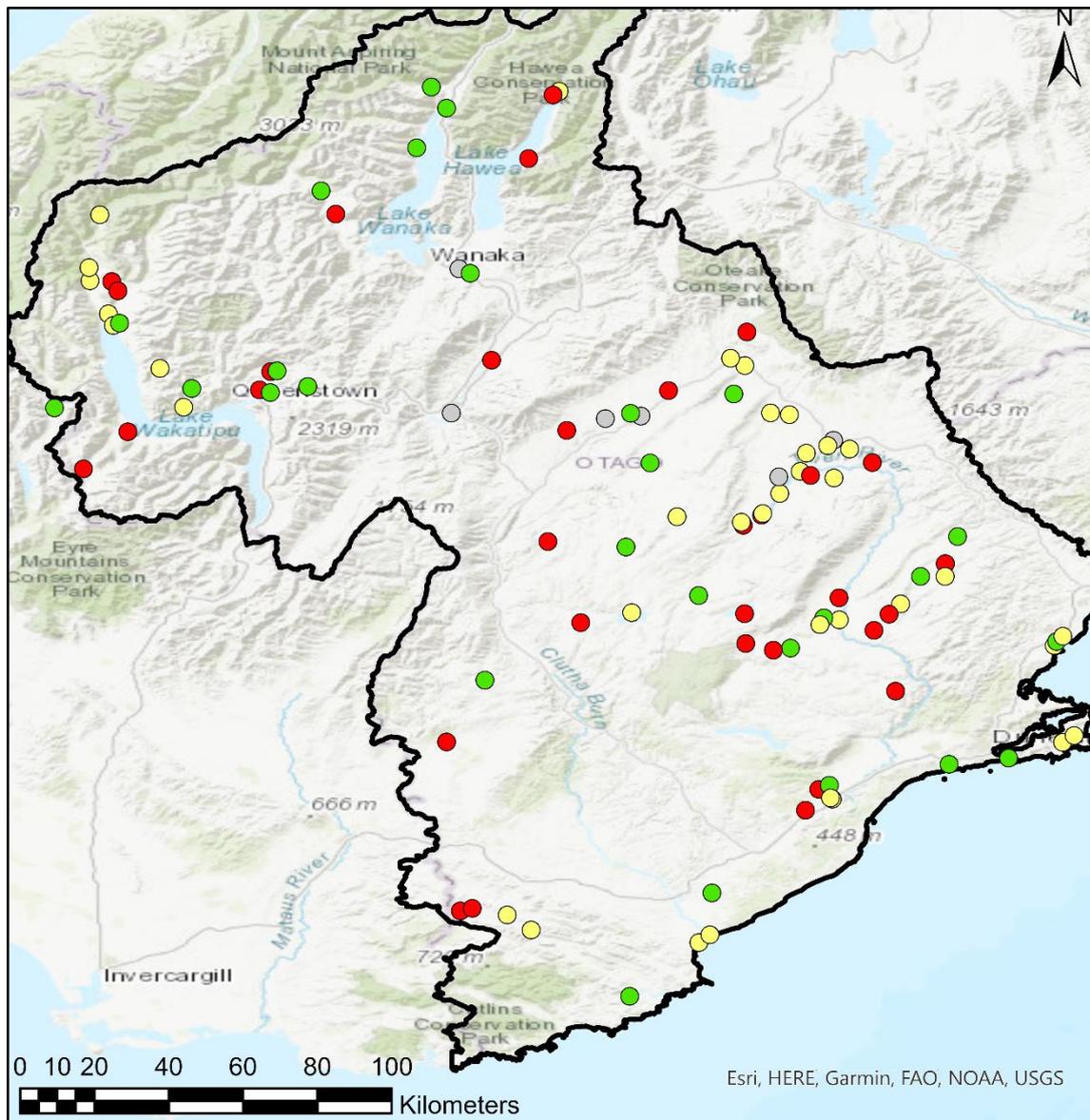


Figure 5: Total numbers of paradise shelduck per moult site broken down by subregion. Current year shown in orange.

The subregional count totals show less consistent trends over time than the Otago Region aggregated data. The decrease in the total count was reflected in each subregion, with the exception of the Maniototo and Queenstown regions, which exhibited slight increases compared to the previous year's count. Since the ponds selected in each subregion are distinct and unique, comparisons between subregions should be made with caution.

Site trends

Figure 6 presents a geographical representation of the long-term trend at each monitored site.



- Increasing
- Stable
- Decreasing
- Not enough data

Figure 6: Paradise shelduck long term trends at each monitored moult site.

Individual site trends were determined using a Sens slope estimator, which calculates the median slope between every possible pair of data points. This method was chosen because it can handle highly variable data and is suitable for datasets with missing values. Only sites with at least four counts were included in the analysis. For the whole Otago Region, the trends were divided roughly equally among the three categories: increasing, decreasing, and stable.

No clear geographical patterns were strongly evident from the analysis, except for the Maniototo Region which had a higher proportion of stable or decreasing trends relative to the other subregions.

Black swans

Figure 7 sums each year's total counts for black swan and provides a linear trend for the period.

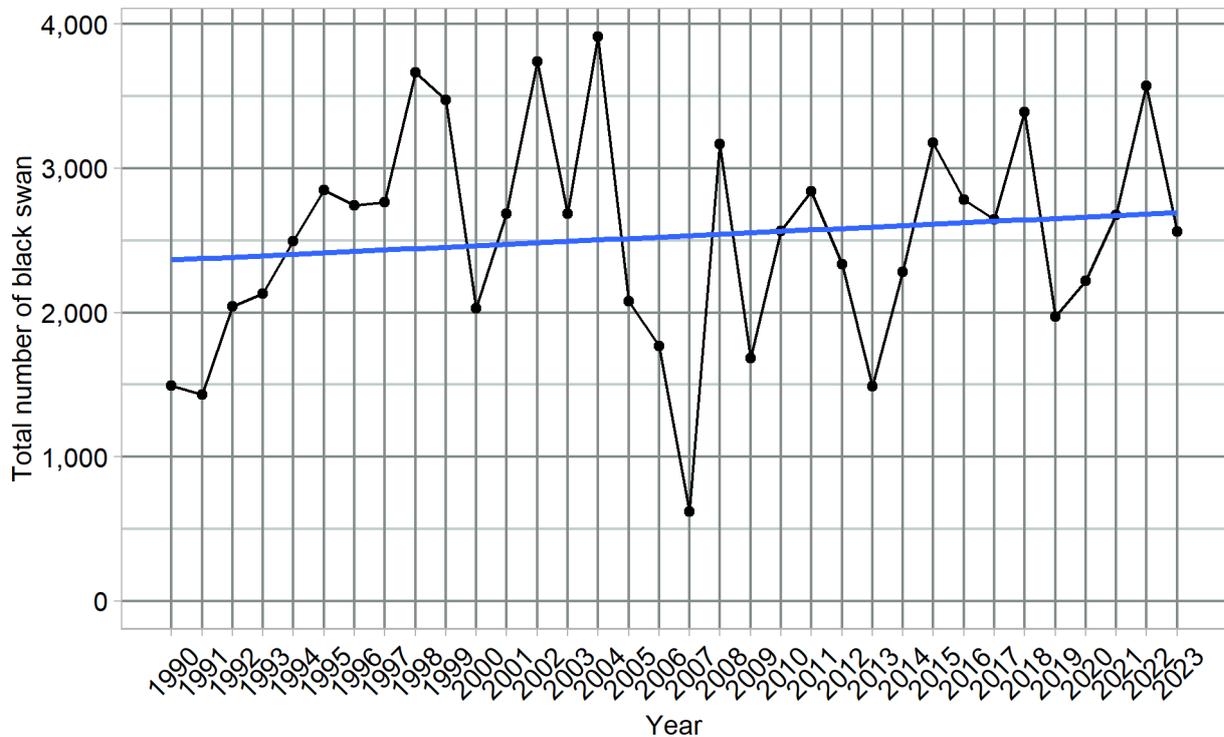


Figure 7: Long-term (1990-2023) count totals for black swan. Long-term linear trend shown in blue.

This year we counted just over 2,500 black swans. The total black swan count has shown an increasing trend over time at the monitored data sites however these data are confounded by the number of sites surveyed also increasing from an average of just over 60 in the 1990's to almost 80 in the 2010's.

Black swans tended to be seen at coastal sites and were only present at 35 of the 96 monitored sites. Just under 40% of the swans counted were at 4 sites in the Waihola/ Waipori wetland complex.

Route regression

Figure 8 depicts the percentage change in black swan populations over several extended periods. The trends were determined using route regression.

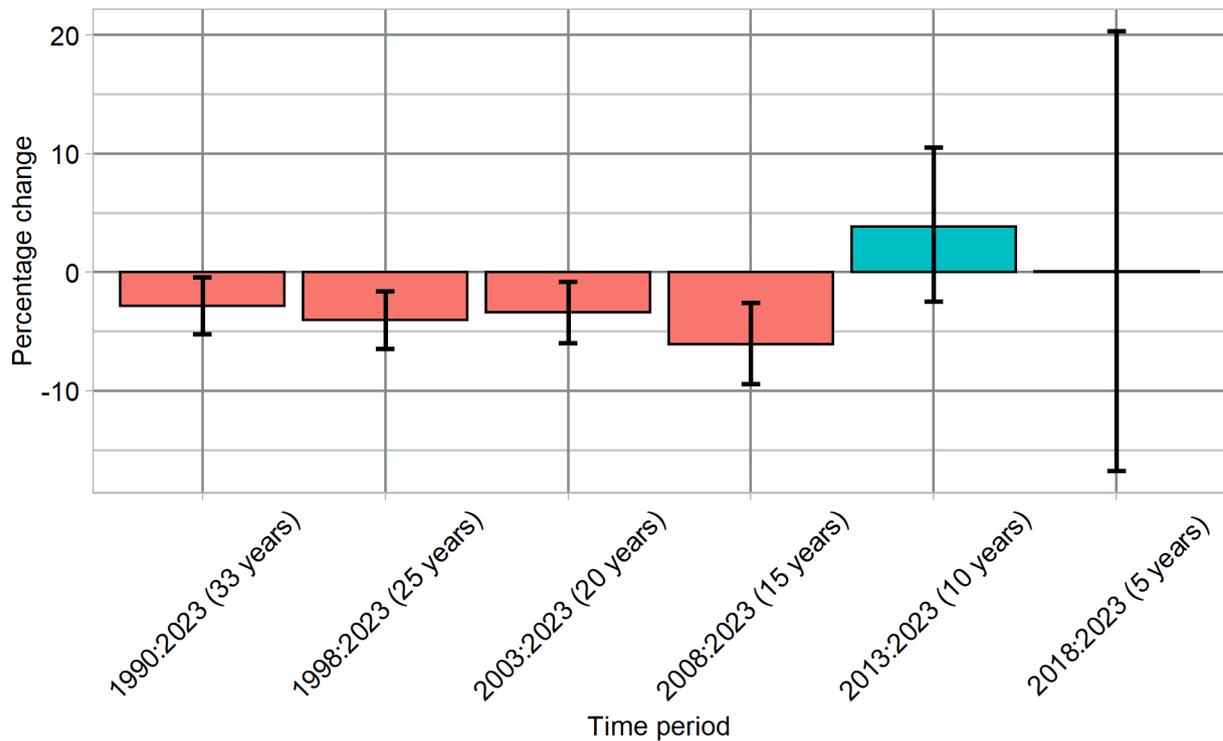


Figure 8: Proportional change in black swan numbers over varying periods with 95% confidence intervals. Increasing trend for period shown in blue, decreasing trend in red.

The route regression analysis is based on an incomplete dataset as it is not clear in all the historical data if some sites/ years were not surveyed or if zero swans were detected. Efforts will be made in future to remedy this. The dataset has been filtered to only include sites with at least three counts as several sites have only been monitored twice and some showed strong changes which overly influenced the regionwide trend when they were included. The available black swan data set suggests a slight decline in swan populations over the long term (Figure 8). For the entirety of the data set it appears there has been a decrease of between 0.4 and 5.2%. More recent trends indicate that this decline has levelled off in the last five to ten years.

Canada geese

Figure 9 presents the annual total count of Canada geese since 1990, with a linear trend line for the given time frame.

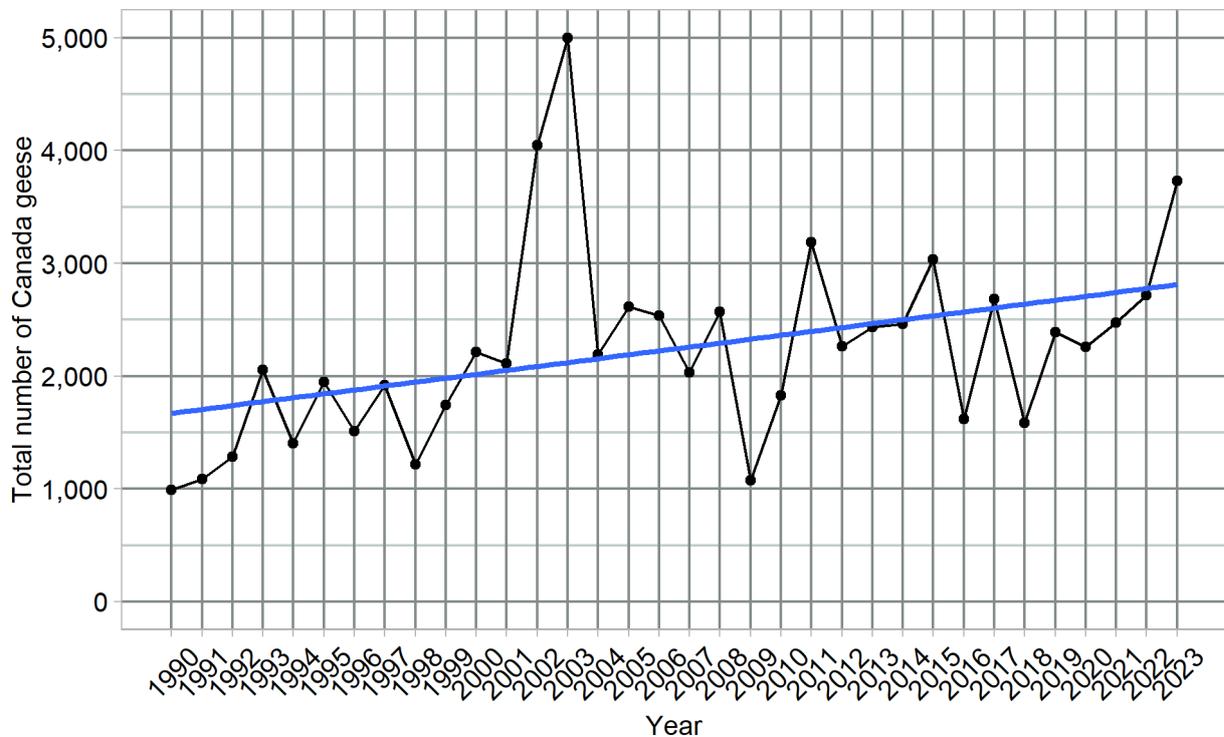


Figure 9: Long-term (1990-2023) count totals for Canada geese. Long-term linear trend shown in blue.

Figure 9 demonstrates a clear upward trend in the abundance of Canada geese in the Otago Region. The count for the most recent year was high, reaching 3,700. The geese were concentrated at a small number of specific sites, with Loganburn Dam alone accounting for almost a third of the total count. The extremely high counts seen in 2002-3 can be largely attributed to unusually high numbers observed at Falls Dam during that period.

However, it's worth noting that some sites that were previously monitored for geese are no longer visited, as they have been removed from the game list. If these sites were excluded from the chart, the apparent increasing trend would become even more pronounced. The Canada goose dataset should be checked and interrogated in depth if management questions arise in future.

Discussion

Following a count of more than 23,000 paradise shelduck in 2022, council made the decision to allow the adult hunters to participate in the traditionally junior- and child-only March season. At its December meeting, Council voted to increase the daily bag limit to 15 shelduck if the count exceeded the threshold again (Priest, December 2022). As the count was 20,800 this season, the daily bag limit will remain at 12 birds.

Over the surveyed period (1990-2023), there has been a significant rise in the number of irrigation storage dams (and moult sites) in the Otago Region. As a result, the number of sites that are counted annually has had to be expanded to ensure adequate coverage of the moulting population. However, it should be noted that there are limitations on the number of surveyed sites that can be increased due to rising costs and staff time. Before the next survey, staff should evaluate which sites have been most consistently monitored since 1990 and which ones have the greatest impact on variability in the total count. This could help to optimize the survey process and make the most efficient use of resources.

While increasing the number of sites over time has been necessary to track changes in the landscape, it has potentially inflated total numbers which could obscure declines in game bird populations. To address this, a route regression analysis was conducted as an additional way to assess changes over time, in addition to total counts. As game bird managers, one of the main objectives is to provide optimal hunting opportunities while preserving strong populations. Council and staff should be pleased to see that the route regression analysis indicates very stable populations over long-term periods. This stability suggests that the Council's management of shelduck harvest and habitat has been successful in maintaining a sustainable population for hunters. Additionally, the high level of confidence in these trends suggests that the Otago Region's significant investment in collecting data from a large number of sites over a prolonged period has been worthwhile for sustainable long-term monitoring and management of this species.

As black swans tend to congregate in very large numbers on a few select coastal sites, estimates for their trends in abundance come with lower confidence. Black swans are also more difficult to count accurately than the other species as they tend not to be as mobbed together (B Quirey, pers comms). Despite only being observed at a limited number of sites, their overall numbers were relatively high. As swans concentrate on coastal lagoons and this habitat is limited, the moult count likely represents a significant proportion of the regional population.

The population of black swans appears to have increased over the last five to ten years, even with the recent changes to more permissive hunting regulations.

Canada goose numbers appear to be increasing however an analysis should be carried out to determine whether there is enough suitable data to come to a strong conclusion on this. As the surveyed sites have been chosen to estimate paradise shelduck and to a lesser extent black swan trends, the data for Canada geese is likely to be less accurate.

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Acknowledgments

Thanks to Ian, Bruce, Ben, David and Mason who fought back the nausea (mostly successfully) carrying out the aerial counts and Blake and Nina who counted sites from the ground.

Thanks to the Otago Fish & Game staff, particularly Sharon, Steve and Bruce who counted a huge number of parries in photos.

**Jayde Couper,
Fish & Game Officer
January 2023**

15.0 General Business