

**Agenda For The Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council
On Thursday 28th September 2023
At Otago Fish and Game Council Office
Cnr Hanover and Harrow Streets, Dunedin
Starting 11.45am with a light lunch**

Timetable	Council Meeting
11.45 am	Lunch
12.15 pm	Councillor Only Session
12.30 pm	Meeting Begins
1.00 pm	Public Excluded Session
2.30 pm	Open Meeting Resumes
2.45 pm	Afternoon Tea
3.00 pm	Public Forum
5.00 pm	Meeting Ends

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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 Thursday 20th July 2023 at Clutha District Council Rooms, Tapanui

1.0 Present and Apologies

Present: Colin Weatherall (Chair), Adrian McIntyre, Mike Barker, Rick Boyd, Ian Cole, Vicky May, John Highton.

Present via video conferencing: Ray Grubb.

In attendance: Ian Hadland (CE), David Priest (Central Otago Operations Manager), Bruce Quirey (Communications Officer), Zane Moss (Southland Fish and Game Council Manager).

Apologies: Blair Trevathan, Paulette Tamati-Elliffe (Ngāi Tahu appointee)

The Chair Colin Weatherall called meeting to order at 12.35pm and welcomed Southland Fish and Game manager Zane Moss.

Staff were excused from the meeting for a councillor-only discussion.

The public meeting opened at 1pm.

Cr Weatherall noted Ngāi Tahu representative Richard Twining's term at the council had been completed. There would be further discussion about the Ngāi Tahu appointee in the Committee and Delegate Reports part of the meeting. An apology from Cr Trevathan was noted.

Moved (Cr Cole/Cr Highton)

That the apologies be accepted.

Carried unanimously.

Councillors discussed the passing of Harvey Maguire, a former councillor on the transitional Otago Fish and Game Council.

Moved (Cr Weatherall/Cr Cole)

That Council note the passing of Harvey Maguire, a former councillor on the transitional Otago Fish and Game Council, and extend condolences to his family in acknowledgement of his long-term involvement with the organisation.

Carried unanimously.

2.0 Matters to be raised not on the agenda

None

3.0 Declarations of Interest

The Chair asked Councillors to update and sign Declarations of Interest. Declarations were tabled. See attachment.

4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Moved (Cr Boyd/Cr Cole)

That the minutes of the Council Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council held on 24th May 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried unanimously.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cr Highton, having not been present at the previous Council meeting, asked about follow-on activity from Cr McIntyre's duck hunting presentation. The CE replied the next annual planning meeting would be best forum for that discussion.

Cr Highton asked about progress on the implementation of a fishing guides licence, which he understood would coincide with the launch of the Designated Waters management scheme. He expressed disappointment in the delay. Cr Barker, the Otago representative to NZ Council, said that the NZC chief executive Corina Jordan and NZC Chairman Barrie Barnes, would raise the matter at the forthcoming guides annual conference and would report back to the NZC after that meeting. The CE said he understood the delay was due to a lack of impetus in the Department of Conservation to progress the implementation.

Moved (Cr Boyd/Cr Highton)

That Otago F&G write to NZC and the Minister of Conservation that the lack of implementation of a guides licence continues to be a significant embarrassment to Fish & Game, and that the process be expedited.

Councillors said that without a guides licence, the fisheries management system was not fit for purpose because it lacked essential tools to manage into the future.

Carried unanimously.

The question was also asked if there had been any progress on the implementation of an Afterpay facility for licence holders. The CE undertook to take the matter up with the licensing working party again, but it had previously only been a luke-warm reaction.

6.0 Health and Safety Report - June/July 2023

Moved (Cr May/Cr Highton)

That the Health and Safety Report be received.

Carried unanimously.

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 Adoption of 2023/24 Operational Workplan and Budget

CE outlined the operational workplan and budgeted. He noted an error in the total budget number. The correct figure was \$1,297,465. He said the Designated Waters (DW) IT contribution would be paid this current financial year out of non-resident reserves rather than next year. The OWP, aligned with the Council's strategic priorities, was ready for adoption and enclosed for councillors' consideration.

The CE was asked if he considered \$25,000 to be sufficient to manage designated waters compliance. The CE said he thought it was enough. In addition to compliance, there would be other DW work such as new signage and promotion in the magazine and other communication channels.

Cr Grubb raised similar queries about the level of compliance work and how surveying would be conducted during the first season of the DW system.

Councillors commented on the omission of a Wānaka Lake workshop from the OWP and asked if Otago Fish & Game would hold a meeting with Central South Island Fish & Game. The CE replied that could be possible if the Council so wished.

Cr Grubb, attending the meeting by video, said the audio quality was poor.

Moved (Cr McIntyre/Cr Cole)

That the Council adopt the 2023/24 Operational Workplan and Budget.

Carried unanimously.

7.2 Legislative Compliance 2022-23 Financial Year

The CE said adoption of legislative compliance for 2022-23 was a necessary and important formality required by the auditor. He noted the Government had revoked the epidemic preparedness notice and required to have a quorum present for meetings. He also discussed consents at Takitakitoa wetland, and for a culvert at lower Clutha River/Mata-au. The CE said that to the best of his ability, he believed the Council complied with current legislation.

The CE was asked if the Council complied with the Human Rights Act regarding disabled persons and tangata whenua. The CE noted the Human Rights Act was included in the legislative compliance schedule.

Moved (Cr Boyd /Cr Barker)

That Council notes that the Council currently complies with the relevant legislation described below.

Carried unanimously.

The Chair, Cr Weatherall, noted the regulation regarding the Council's responsibility for future elections concerning its structure and future membership. He noted there would be an election next year. At the rate at which recommended Fish and Game changes were progressing, he suggested the Council would be living with its current boundaries and responsibilities at the next election. He said the Council would need to consider if the change in the previous election from 12 to 9 councillors was appropriate.

7.3 Designated Waters Implementation Ranging and Survey

The CE said the work programme for the Designated Water Implementation Ranging and Survey was getting down to operational details a bit too deep for an ordinary meeting. He invited the Chair to direct councillors' questions to the operations manager.

The question was raised why the Pomakaha River was not mentioned and Mr Priest replied that the Pomahaka would be covered by regular ranging from Dunedin-based rangers.

Councillors questioned access to the Wilkin and Young rivers, and Mr Priest said a helicopter could not land at the Young River.

Another view was that the programme was fine but the first year of DW would be more of a matter of education. Courts would not support prosecutions against people who might or not be familiar with the regulation changes.

Mr Priest said that anglers would be surveyed during the ranging operations.

Moved (Cr May /Cr Weatherall)

That Council endorse the draft work programme and add this into the 2023/24 Operational Workplan.

Carried unanimously.

The meeting skipped to Item 9 on the agenda.

9.0 Financial Report

The CE noted one of the recommendations in the financial report was to rescind grants from the Habitat Enhancement Reserve Fund approved for wetland development projects but for a range of reasons had not been completed. The project owners had been given the opportunity to reapply in future.

The CE was queried about the Council's plans for short-term investments. He said funds would be reinvested for terms to the best advantage of between 90 days and six months.

The CE noted significant damage to an outboard motor caused by rats was not covered by the boat insurance policy.

It was pointed out again that acronyms for categories in the licence sales report needed to be corrected.

Moved (Cr Highton/Cr Barker)

1. **To withdraw the grants allocated to Rutter, Begg, Royalburn Station and Otewhata Fraser River projects and return the funds to the Habitat Enhancement Reserve Fund.**
2. **That the finance and licencing report be received.**

Carried unanimously.

10.0 Chief Executive's Report July 2023

The CE said the Forms and Fees Notice had been signed by the Minister of Conservation not the Anglers Notice at this stage. The CE noted the Designated Waters (formerly backcountry) boundary for the Pomahaka River had been moved upstream to Hukerere as requested.

Mr Hadland said Olivier Raven, a Masters student from Wageningen University in the Netherlands, would deliver a presentation on results of otolith research for the Lower Clutha Brown Trout Origin Project at the end of the Council meeting. The research analysing juvenile and adult otoliths had highlighted important natal streams in the catchment.

Cr Weatherall acknowledged the advocacy support being provided by Otago to NZC.

The CE noted the significant cost of legal fees to prosecute compliance offences in court.

Councillors asked about the future of *Fish & Game* magazines, prompting broad discussion ranging from support for its continuation to the need for its review due to rising costs. The CE said the next magazine was under production but beyond that it was still being considered. Cr Barker said NZC had not budgeted for the next game bird magazine.

The CE said NZC would have to communicate its decision to the regions in a timely manner. Cr Weatherall said Otago and Southland generated the dominant share of game bird hunting licences and needed to be consulted on the magazine's future.

Moved (Cr McIntyre/Cr Barker)

That Council write to NZC asking for clarification on the future of the Fish & Game magazine and to express its preference that a hard copy of the magazine continues.

Carried unanimously.

Cr May suggested NZC produce hunting and angling calendars.

Moved (Cr Weatherall/Cr May)

That the CE's report be received.

Carried unanimously.

11.0 RMA Planning and Consents Report

The CE said progress was going well on the Land and Water Regional Plan and the Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement. Fish & Game with the support of licence holders had succeeded having the value of trout and salmon habitat reinstated into the Land and Built Environment Bill, which is to replace the Resource Management Act, where consistent with protection of indigenous species. Mr Moss added that linking habitat to the protection of those species would be a far better outcome.

Cr Grubb said he admired the efforts made by the national office to get the changes by the select committee. There was also protection of valued introduced species in Te Mana o te Taiao and the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy. Cr Cole acknowledged the support of licence holders in the recent campaign and said recognition of valued introduced species needed to be species specific.

Moved (Cr Cole/Cr Highton)

That the Environmental Officer's report be received.

Carried unanimously.

12.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

12.1 CFT

Cr Cole, the Clutha Fisheries Trust chair, said CFT trustees had met to discuss the Otago Fish & Game proposal to purchase the Cromwell building. The sale was not within CFT trustees' strategy, but CFT had agreed to take discussion to the next stage. Due process and diligence, including two property valuations, was required.

CFT had agreed to a funding request for further native fish work this summer in the upper Clutha River catchment, such as in the Nevis River, following work in Cardrona.

CFT had donated funding to improve habitat for nesting birds in Bendigo Wildlife Management Reserve.

The trust had assessed maintenance requirements on access tracks in the upper Clutha. Improvement work was almost complete, including moving a stile at Lochar Burn access because of significant riverbank erosion.

Moved (Cr Barker/Cr Highton)

That the CFT report be received.

Carried unanimously.

12.2 NZC

Cr Barker, the Otago representative to NZC, said he had previously written to the NZC Chair for an update on progress to implement the guides licence. He was advised the NZC Chair and CE were meeting guides and were looking at where it had gone with the Department of Conservation.

NZC had an extraordinary meeting on 21st June to discuss the Anglers Notice licence fees recommendations to be resubmitted to the Minister of Conservation for approval. The proposed fee schedule had been approved, allowing councils to proceed with their budgets. NZC would meet again in August to discuss a full agenda.

Moved (Cr Cole/Cr McIntyre)

That the NZC report be received.

Carried unanimously.

12.3 Ngāi Tahu

The CE said Richards Twining's term as the Ngāi Tahu appointee to Otago Fish & Game had come to an end after six years. The new appointee is Paulette Tamati-Eliffe, from Te Rūnanga o Ōtākau. Ms Tamati-Eliffe had sent an apology for this meeting. She was booked to attend Otago Fish and Game Council's next two meetings. Mr Hadland said Ms Tamati-Eliffe would help drive the Council forward towards its strategic priorities engaging with Ngāi Tahu and local rūnanga.

The Council wished to record its thanks to Mr Twining, who had achieved some significant milestones, such as inviting the Council to meet at the Hokonui rūnanga.

Moved (Cr Weatherall/Cr Boyd)

That the CE write to Richard Twining and to Hokonui Rūnanga to acknowledge Mr Twining's services as the Ngāi Tahu appointee to the Council for the past six years, and to extend the Council's thanks and appreciation for his valuable contribution.

Carried unanimously.

Copies would also be sent to Hokonui Rūnanga and to Ngāi Tahu.

12.4 Conservation Board

Nil.

It was pointed out by Cr Grubb that a review of conservation management strategies was underway under which the Department of Conservation could be enabled to make decisions without reference to Fish & Game. Cr Barker said the matter had not been raised by NZC. DOC governed access to the conservation estate and Fish & Game should take a strong interest.

Moved (Cr Grubb/Cr Barker)

That the Otago representative to NZC ask if NZC intends on taking an interest in the review of conservation management strategies given the implications on hunter and angler access.

Carried unanimously.

The CE undertook that he and the Chair would talk directly with the Conservation Board and establish who is the contact for Otago Fish & Game.

Moved (Cr Boyd/Cr Cole)

That the meeting move into the public excluded session.

Carried unanimously.

8.0 Public Excluded Items

8.1 Public Excluded Minutes from 24th May 2023

Moved (Cr McIntyre/ Cr Boyd)

That the public excluded minutes of the meeting on 24th May 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried unanimously.

8.2 Cromwell Field Base Building Option

Moved (Cr Boyd/Cr Highton)

- 1. That the Council seeks its own independent valuation of the CFT building at 2 Rees Crescent, Cromwell.**
- 2. That the Chair, Cr McIntyre and CE be authorised to begin negotiation with the CFT to reach a satisfactory price for purchase and complete a sale and purchase agreement subject to the sale of the Chardonnay Street property.**
- 3. That the CE seek legal advice on its Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act obligations with regards the sale of the Chardonnay Street property.**

Carried unanimously.

8.3 Drift Fishing Application

Moved (Cr Boyd/Cr Weatherall)

- 1. That the report be received.**
- 2. That in principle a hearing be avoided as it would require a use of Fish & Game resources that would be best allocated elsewhere. A hearing could be started if it is likely that Fish & Game and the Applicant could come to an agreement early in the process.**
- 3. That staff continue to negotiate with the applicant subject to the guidance provided by the Council.**

Carried.

8.4 Bullock Creek Storm Water

Moved (Cr McIntyre/Cr Barker)

- 1. That the CE be authorised to seek legal advice up to the value of \$5,000 on Bullock Creek consents and the QLDC easement agreement.**
- 2. That subject to legal advice, the Council authorise the CE to commission an engineering review of Bullock Creek stormwater flows, including predevelopment flood records.**

Carried unanimously.

8.5 Wanaka hatchery Subdivision

Moved (Cr Cole/Cr McIntyre)

That the subdivision proposal be put on hold pending progress on the development of an upgrade stormwater system upgrade.

Carried.

8.6 Contact Energy Trust

Moved (Cr Weatherall, on behalf of Cr May/Cr Cole)

1. That Cr May be confirmed as the Council's appointee to the Trust.
2. That the Crs May, McIntyre, Boyd and Barker be authorised to sign the Trust documents.
3. Bring the decision to sign into the public record.
4. When signed by all parties, a joint media statement is issued to inform the general public.

Carried unanimously.

Moved (Cr Boyd/ Cr May)

That the meeting move out of the public-excluded session.

Carried unanimously.

13.0 Correspondence

13.1 NZC to Otago

Nil

13.2 Otago to NZC

13.2.1 Notification of Spending from Non Resident Reserves

13.2.2 Feedback on 2022/2024 Licence Fee Recommendations

13.2.3 Feedback on Reserves Policy

13.2.4 Feedback Draft Remuneration Policy

13.3 General Correspondence In

13.3.1

Nil

13.4 General Correspondence Out

13.4.1 Bendigo Wildlife Management Reserve Funding Plan

13.4.2 Email to Ngāi Tahu Tourism

Moved (Cr Highton/Cr Barker)

That the Correspondence be noted and received.

Carried unanimously.

14.0 Items to be Received or Noted – (Separate Pack)

- 14.1 Summary of Fishing Competitions for the 2022/23 season
- 14.2 Creel Survey summary of Lake Hāwea
- 14.3 Report on Takitakitoa Wetland Restoration Project
- 14.4 Poolburn Dam - Creel Surveys/Spawning Surveys/Rock Marking
- 14.5 Acoustics Monitoring of the Southern Lakes Report

Moved (Cr Boyd/Cr May)

That the following reports be adopted and received.

- Summary of Fishing Competitions
- Creel Survey summary of Lake Hāwea
- Report on Takitakitoa Wetland Restoration Project
- Poolburn Dam – Creel Surveys/Spawning Surveys/Rock Marking
- Acoustics Monitoring of the Southern Lakes Report

Carried unanimously.

Moved (Cr Boyd/Cr May)

1. That the acoustics surveys are conducted by Fish & Game staff in January 2024.
2. That results from the 2024 survey are used to inform future survey frequency.
3. That the acoustics report is distributed to other Fish & Game regions to determine interest in the method.
4. That further work be done in the Southern Lakes to determine the breakdown of species between brown and rainbow trout.

Carried unanimously.

15.0 General Business

Brown Trout Origin Project presentation

Masters student Olivier Raven presented to the Council the findings of otolith analysis from the lower Clutha River/Mata-au as part of the Brown Trout Origin Project funded by Contact Energy. The research, in partnership between Fish & Game and the University of Otago, compared the chemical composition of juvenile otoliths with the core of adult otoliths, which developed in their natal streams. The project confidently determined the natal stream for 71 out of almost 200 adult fish tested. The crucial spawning streams in the lower Clutha were identified as Benger Burn, Heriot Burn, Coal Creek, Crookston Burn, Carsons Creek, and Jimmy's Creek. Mr Raven recommended the Council to use the information in management decisions to protect brown trout spawning, ensure the water quality of important natal streams did not

get further degraded, and restore other creeks by controlling sediment runoff and restoring riparian vegetation.

The Chair thanked Mr Raven for his enthusiasm and involvement in the project.

Verbal update on NZC working groups from the Otago F&GC Chair

The Chair, Cr Weatherall, noted NZC had established working groups to look at finance and governance structures of the organisation. The finance working group had not made any recommendations yet. The Chair then outlined a range of structural changes to regions proposed by the governance working group. He said the changes would not affect Otago, Central South Island or Southland regions. Southland and Otago regions had developed a Memorandum of Understanding for consideration by their respective councils.

Cr Weatherall welcomed the arrival of Southland elected representatives for a joint gathering after the meeting.

The Chair closed the meeting a 5.20pm

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

6.0 Health and Safety Report

August/September 2023

Events/Work Requiring OHS Planning

- Wetland Planting days in Cromwell
- Take a Kid Fishing Days in Dunedin
- Adult learn to Fish Dunedin and Cromwell

OHS Audits

Completed audits:

- Office Hazard audit Dunedin and Cromwell

Next audits:

- Boat Safety
- Main Hazard Register

Incidents/Accidents/Near Misses/New Hazards

- At recent Take a Kid Fishing events there were three incidents dealt with by staff, a cut hand, a man who fell unconscious and two youths fled from their social welfare officer. All incidents were discussed the next staff meeting and possible mitigations noted. Staff did a good job, and used their first aid training as required with good outcomes.

Training Completed

- 4 wheel Drive Course attended by 5 staff
- Annual ranger training
- Two staff first aid refresher courses attended.

General Discussions

- Discussion on the need for generic base Health and Safety policy and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's). This was further discussed at the staff conference in Rotorua. Topics included field work and boating.
- Mental Health week, a reminder to eat well, exercise and get sleep. Seek out contact in unsettled times. NZ Fish and Game provides an O800 assist number. Staff are encouraged to get out of office at lunch times for their own wellbeing.

A summary of health and safety, incidents, accidents, new hazards, audits and training is completed in December.

Recommendation

That this report be received

Sharon Milne

Administration Officer - September 2023

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 Draft Meeting Schedule Otago Fish and Game Council 2023 -2024

The following Otago Council meeting schedule has been developed based on previous years but also considers the NZC meeting schedule (inwards correspondence from NZC in this agenda).

Planning meeting

The Councils planning meeting is proposed for the 10th & 11th of February 2024 in Wanaka. Confirmation of that weekend is required with some urgency as accommodation in the area is typically tight at that time of year.

Marae meeting

A meeting at a marae has been proposed for May 2024 (perhaps Otakou Marae) but the location and timing needs to be confirmed.

Joint meeting with Southland

On the back of the MOU signing with Southland F&G Council which requires at least one meeting annually, a joint meeting with them is proposed for July.

Additional meetings

Just a note to say that the schedule is subject to change and Council should remain flexible. This will be especially important as aspects of the Ministerial Review roll out. Council feedback may be required between these dates.

NZC meeting schedule

We are unsure why the NZC meeting schedule requires consultation with Regional Councils but they have asked for feedback on it. Staff have scanned the dates and see no apparent clashes with either or Council meetings or other major events.

Recommendations

1. That Council adopt the draft meeting schedule for 2023-2024
2. That feedback is provided to NZC that Otago Council has no issues with the draft meeting schedule they have provided.
3. Council invite Southland Councillors to a joint meeting in Tapanui or Gore on the 24th July 2024.

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
18.09.23

Date	30 th Nov 2023 (+AGM)	10th & 11th Feb 2024	21st March 2024	23rd May 2024	25th July 2024	26th September 2024	30 th Nov 2024 (+AGM)
Venue	Roxburgh	Wanaka	Dunedin	Marae (TBC)	Tapanui	Cromwell	Dunedin
Time	11:45am Lunch 12:30pm Meeting 3pm AGM	12pm Saturday to 1pm Sunday	11:45am Lunch 12:30pm Meeting	TBC	11:45am Lunch 12:30pm Meeting	11:45am Lunch 12:30pm Meeting	11:45am Lunch 12:30pm Meeting 3:00pm AGM
Planning, Licence fees and Budgets	Adopt Annual Report	Strategic Planning session	Approve draft Operational Workplan and budget	Final Licence fee recommendation	Adopt final OWP and Budget	Approve draft set of accounts for audit	Adopt Annual Report
Governance		Election of officers	Agree on wards and Cr numbers for election	Executive meeting (CE review)	Exec meeting - Finalise CE review	Confirm meeting schedule for following year	New Council meets Election of Chair & NZC Appointee
Regulations		Approve Game Gazette Draft report on Anglers Notice changes		Approve Anglers Notice			
Health and safety	Adopt H&S policy	H&S self Audit report	Bi monthly report	Bi monthly report	Bi monthly report	Bi monthly report	Adopt H&S policy
Policy Review and other					Schedule of legislative compliance Joint meeting with Southland in evening	Compliance Guidelines Outgoing Cr presentations?	

DRAFT Meeting Schedule 2023-2024

Note: Elections and Ministerial Review implementation may require additional meetings.

7.2 New Zealand Council (NZC) Policy Feedback

The NZC has provided several documents to Otago Council following its August meeting. Much of the background detail is covered in the letter contained in the NZC update section of this agenda so I won't repeat it here.

Additional papers pack

Due to the volume, please find attached with this agenda a separate pack of papers from NZC containing:

1. *Draft National Policy on setting National Policy*
2. *Draft 2023-2024 Meeting & Budget Schedule*
3. *Draft Conflict of Interest Policy*
4. *Terms of reference – Future Structure Working Group (FYI only)*
5. *Terms of reference – Future Finance Working Group (FYI only)*

Draft National Policy on Setting National Policy

This simply formalises the present process for consultation and adds a timeframe for policy review.

- This could be renamed *NZC Consultation Policy* as it primarily sets out the formal route for consultation of items with regions.
- 3.2 is concerning in that it seems to suggest the NZC could proceed with policy without substantial buy in by Regions. That may comply strictly with the statute, but it would quickly erode the positive working relationship between Regional Councils and NZC.
- This policy on policy setting should contain other provisions such reasons why any new or reviewed Policy is absolutely necessary, question if it duplicates other policy elsewhere, and if it complies with - rather that usurps statutory functions of Regional Councils. Maximum length of two pages should also be suggested.

Meeting and Budget Schedule

Staff are a bit unsure why this operational material is being circulated for consultation. Doesn't cause any harm to distribute for Councils information and to help councils plan their own meetings and budget timetables. This could be handled at a regular managers meeting.

Draft Conflict of Interest Policy

Again, not sure why NZC policy which only relates to the Council of NZC is being circulated for consultation with Regions. The Policy seems sound and modern, if a little verbose.

NZC is encouraging (once ratified) of Regions to adopt as their own version. It should be noted that our Council already has Conflict of Interest provisions in both the Standing Orders and in the Councils Governance Policies document.

My recommendation would be to encourage NZC and other regions to modify their Governance Policy document to include this and leave all policy related to governance tidily in one place.

Terms of reference – Future Structure Working Group

For Councilor information.

We note that this group has been running for some time but there is little by way of minutes to see if any substantial progress is being made.

Terms of reference – Future Finance Working Group

For Councilor information.

The groups purpose seems to cut across Regional Council statutory functions in setting up a 5 year business plan for the entire organisation. Otago has its own 3 year strategic plan and works through a budget process to fund that. How the two will be integrated is question which must be raised.

Funding for both Working Groups is unclear but it seems to be coming from NZC budget. Staff don't recall that being a contestable funding bid in the last round (April) but will clarify that with the Finance Officer at NZC

Recommendation

That the CE provides feedback, based on the comments in this paper to NZC.

Ian Hadland

Chief Executive

20.9.23

8.0 Public Excluded Items

- 8.1 Draft Minutes of Meeting 20th July 2023 Tapanui**
- 8.2 Bullock Creek Storm Water Issues – Legal Advice**
- 8.3 Cromwell Field Base Purchase Option**
- 8.4 Report on Consent Application of Aotearoa Angler Ltd**

9.0 DRAFT Financial Report 31st August 2023

9.1 Finance Reports

The draft financial Profit and Loss report and Balance sheet for the period from 1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023 are below.

Adjustments and accruals are yet to be made by the accountant, ahead of the Audit in October. The Council is being asked to adopt the enclosed Profit and Loss Statement as a draft.

Profit and Loss

Income

Licence Income

Total licence sales year to date is \$2,336,682 against a budget of \$2,330,176 (100.3% of budget)

Fish licence revenue to 31st August 2023 total \$1,979,673 (Fish sales \$1,877,538 + non resident revenue \$105,135) compared with \$1,750,886 for the 2021/22 season.

Fish Licence sales are ahead of 2021/22 by \$228,787 and \$6,506 above this years budget. These figures include both resident and non resident sales.

Game licence revenue to 31st August 2023 totalled \$354,010 compared with \$340,189 for the 2021/22 season. This is ahead by \$13,821 of the previous year.

The 2022/23 budget for game licence sales was \$370,659 exclusive of GST. Income is 96% of that budgeted.

Other Income

Total other income year to date is \$216,601 against a budget of \$75,008.

Areas of interest are:

- \$68,972 unbudgeted income from Contact Energy which offsets the unbudgeted expenses in Habitat Protection Management for the sports fish management plan.
- Interest income has exceeded year to date budget by \$20,291. This will have accrued interest from term deposits to come.
- The budget for court fine income was over estimated.
- Rental income did not meet the budget as the Cromwell Chardonnay Street tenants where only leasing the site for part of the year.
- Donation and grants total \$28,823 (see table below).
- Year to date diversion payments going to the Habitat Enhancement Fund for wetland restoration is \$18,460.

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
NZ Salmon Angers (Otago Branch)	Take a Kid Fishing	1,500
Donation box Bullock Creek	Bullock Creek	363
Clutha Fisheries Trust	Bendigo wetland	15,000
Otago Regional Council	Bendigo Plants	5,000
HEB Construction	Bullock Creek	2,500
Total		\$28,823

Expenses

Expenditure at the 31st August for the 2022/23 financial year is \$2,615,150 against a year to date budget of \$2,505,806. Expenditure is over budget by \$109,344.

The main reasons for this variance are:

- Species Management - \$7,433 over budget. Harvest Management over budget due to game harvest survey cost of \$3,500 and budget only \$2,000, Hatchery Operations is over budget due to less closing stock at the end of the year.
- Habitat Protection – this includes \$44,017 of unbudgeted Contact Sports Management Plan spending, claimed as income from Contact Energy Ltd.
- Participation – under budget by \$4,047. Less budgeted spending was required by the Central Otago Lakes survey over Christmas.
- Public interface. Over budget by \$1,839 due to weekly fishing reports that were not budgeted for, and additional money spent on communications strategy.
- Compliance- over budget \$2,090 due to the court costs on 1 case and slightly over spent ranger training budget.
- Licencing – Under budget by \$18,271. Commission is made up from agent sales and bank fees associated with online sales. As more of our sales go online the commission fees value is reduced.
- Council expenses - \$2,538 under budget due to lower travel costs by attending meetings in Tapanui and Roxburgh.
- Planning and Reporting – Less than budget due to less national Liaison
- Over Heads/Administration – total is under budget by \$34,333. This is due to less spent on salaries (two staff changes) and extra spending in staff expenses, FBT and vehicles. Some unexpected expenditure the Cromwell boat (OFG1) motor has been damaged by rats eating wires \$5,097.

- Approved Reserves Expenses - \$61,697, this is expenditure approved by the council for the Bendigo, Bullock Creek and Historical and Regional Policy Statement Reserves.
- Depreciation – Depreciation year to date is \$58,664, however the budget figure of \$3,520 actually represents the ARF (Asset Replacement Fund). Next year the budget figure will be the actual depreciation budget.
- Levies – as per budget
- University Research Grant – Dr Donald Scott \$5000 has been paid from the non resident reserve.

The profit and loss for the 12 months ended 31st of August 2023 shows a deficit of \$65,950. This figure will change when the accountant has made adjustment for accruals.

Balance Sheet

Bank Funds Position at 31st August 2023

Bank	Value
ANZ 00 Account	\$ 148,397.54
ANZ 70 Account	\$ 178,525.86
ASB Account	\$ 130.57
Cash On Hand	\$ 50.00
Total	\$327,103.97

A payment run was not signed over the year end. The 00 account is now out of balance with Xero for the 31st of August 2023 by \$2701.91.

Term Investments as at 31st August 2023

Investment Bank	Amount	Rate	Maturity
ASB 0079			Closed 11 July
ANZ	\$516,442.13	5.45%	13 th Nov 2023
ANZ	\$400,000.00	5.05%	25 th Sept 2023
Total	\$916,422.13		

The ASB term deposit was closed and the final total of \$384,939.85 was added to the ANZ 70 account.

Fixed Assets Capital Expenditure

Total fixed assets \$1,329,892

Over the last two months:

- A fast charger for the electric car has been Installed at the Dunedin office.
- The sale of the Mitsubishi Truck is complete, it sold for \$30,000 including GST. A replacement vehicle has been ordered.

Quotes have been requested for new doors for the Window Treatment show room.

A new boat for the Dunedin office has been ordered.

Liabilities

Total Liabilities at 31st August are \$385,576

- Other payables are high as 2023/24 licence income in advance is higher this year than last year.
- Employee Entitlements \$46,867 is out standing staff annual leave.

Equity**Otago Fish and Game Reserves 31st August 2023**

Otago Reserves Movements	Balance August 2022	Income (To) Reserve	Note	Outgoing (From) Reserve	Balance Feb 2023
Back Country Non-resident Levy	\$273,170	\$105,135	1	\$59,359	\$318,946
Habitat Enhancement & Research	\$20,642	\$18,460	2	\$9,600	\$29,502
Bullock Creek Reserve	\$3,121	\$6,823		\$4,507	\$5,437
Bendigo Reserve	\$2,039	\$23,000	9	\$14,447	\$10,592
Mining Rights Reserve	\$17,537		3	\$17,537	0
Priority Consents Reserve	\$41,697		7	\$	\$41,697
Historical Property Reserves	\$146,433	\$14,212	4	\$28,304	\$132,341
Regional Policy Statement Reserve	\$44,379		5	\$33,255	\$11,124
Priority Plan Changes	\$31,076	\$	6	\$	\$31,076
Total	\$580,094	\$167,630		\$167,009	\$580,715
NZC RMA/Legal Funding					
Regional Policy Extra	60,000		8	\$60,000	\$0.0

Note 1 \$5000 a year for five years is to be taken from the Non resident fund for the Dr Donald Scott University Fund. Agreed by Council May 2021. 2021/22 is year three. Budget for 2022/23 Acoustic Central lake surveys \$38,930, Lakes summer advocates \$24,000 and development of designated waters \$25,000 also from this reserve. Agreed by council.

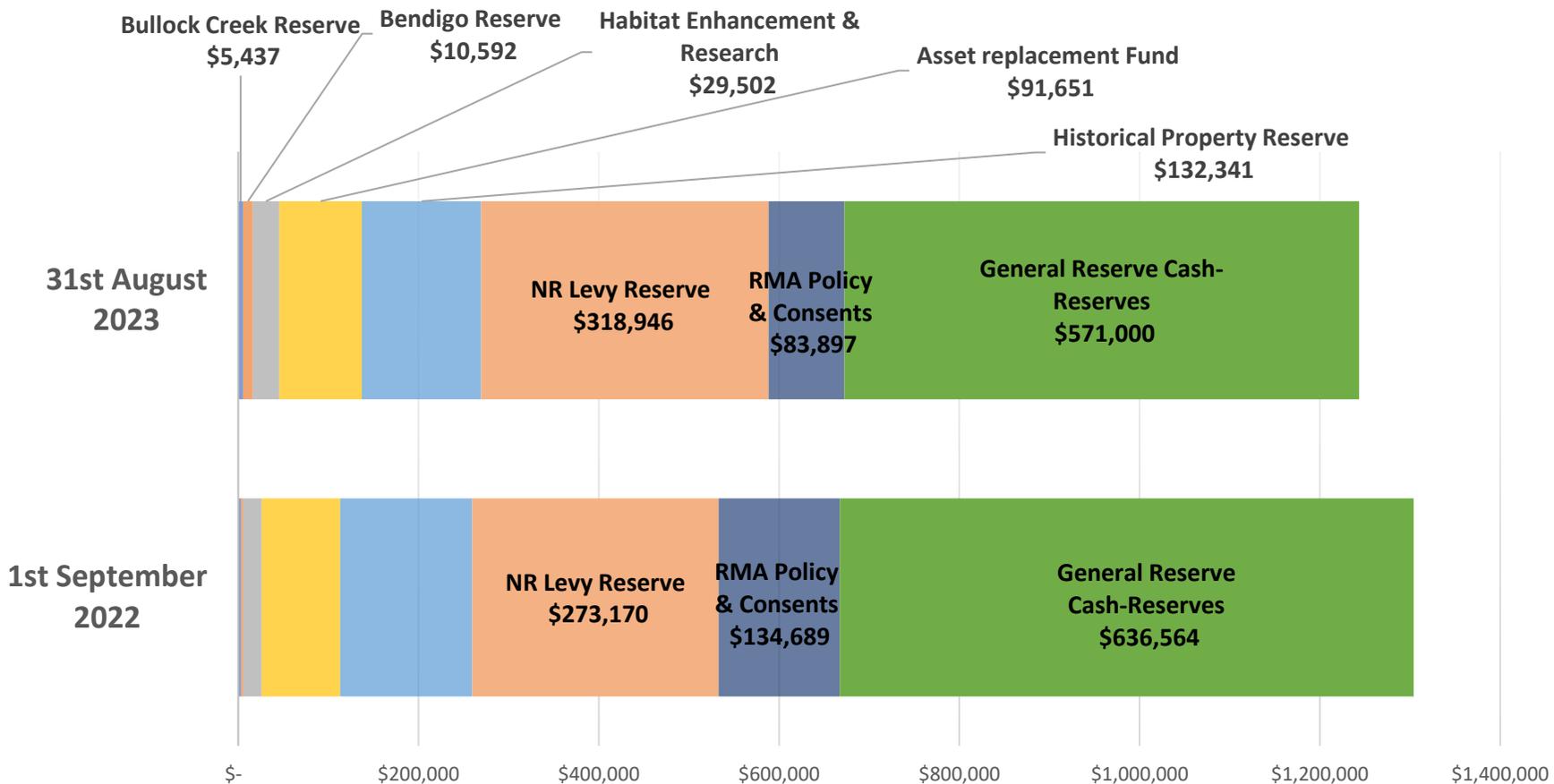
Note 2 Balance is \$29,502. Less committed but not yet paid out of \$3,000 so balance of \$26,502 available for dispersal by way of grants. See note below.

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. **Remaining balance \$17,537 was put back into general reserves 23rd March 2023 as agreed at March meeting**

- 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 \$3,414 and March 2023 \$3,000 council agreed to Habitat Enhancement funds for Bendigo. CFT agreed to assist with grant of \$15,000 June 23. ORC Eco Fund \$5,000 June 23

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2022 TO 31ST AUGUST 2023



Profit and Loss

Otago Fish and Game Council For the year ended 31 August 2023

	JUL 2023	AUG 2023	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Income								
Licence Sales								
Fish Licence Sales	14,033	(139,471)	1,877,538	1,959,517	(81,979)	96%	1,959,517	1,750,886
Non-Resident Licence Revenue	2,440	2,659	105,135	-	105,135	-	-	10,364
Game Licence Sales	637	651	354,010	370,659	(16,649)	96%	370,659	340,189
Total Licence Sales	17,111	(136,161)	2,336,682	2,330,176	6,506	100%	2,330,176	2,101,439
Other Income								
Contact Energy Mitigation Income	-	21,519	68,972	-	68,972	-	-	94,109
Reserves Mngt Income	-	-	-	1,300	(1,300)	-	1,300	-
Govt Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,210
Interest Income	5,417	981	35,613	15,322	20,291	232%	15,322	14,008
Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	267	352	798	2,000	(1,202)	40%	2,000	265
Rent Received	3,422	3,976	53,747	56,386	(2,639)	95%	56,386	60,320
Fishing Competitions	-	-	1,544	-	1,544	-	-	493
Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets	8,144	-	8,144	-	8,144	-	-	22,080
Donations & Grants	-	2,500	28,823	-	28,823	-	-	4,249
Merchandise Sales/Other	-	3,188	87	-	87	-	-	196
Sundry Income	-	4	413	-	413	-	-	7,582
Diversion - Habitat Enhancement and Research Fund	5,830	1,650	18,460	-	18,460	-	-	14,700
Total Other Income	23,081	34,169	216,601	75,008	141,593	289%	75,008	219,212
Designated Water Licence Sales	-	1,013	1,013	-	1,013	-	-	-
Total Income	40,192	(100,978)	2,554,297	2,405,184	149,113	106%	2,405,184	2,320,651

	JUL 2023	AUG 2023	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Gross Profit	40,192	(100,978)	2,554,297	2,405,184	149,113	106%	2,405,184	2,320,651
Expenses								
Species Management								
Population Monitoring	-	19	49,063	48,930	133	100%	48,930	12,844
Harvest Assessment	-	3,500	3,500	2,000	1,500	175%	2,000	3,500
Hatchery Operations	-	(12,587)	14,731	9,000	5,731	164%	9,000	1,792
Releases	-	81	625	1,000	(375)	63%	1,000	911
Game Bird Control compliants	-	-	444	-	444	-	-	750
Total Species Management	-	(8,988)	68,363	60,930	7,433	112%	60,930	19,797
Habitat Protection & Mngt								
Contact Sports Fish Management Plan	10,078	908	44,017	-	44,017	-	-	53,487
Resource Mngt Act	-	-	47	1,000	(953)	5%	1,000	57,010
Works & Management	224	469	1,574	5,000	(3,426)	31%	5,000	3,131
Habitat Enhancement Research Fund Grants	-	-	2,870	-	2,870	-	-	-
Total Habitat Protection & Mngt	10,302	1,377	48,508	6,000	42,508	808%	6,000	113,628
Participation								
Access and Signage	-	567	2,499	2,500	(1)	100%	2,500	2,681
Back Country Surveys/Monitoring	-	-	116	-	116	-	-	-
Publications and Web Site	1,080	-	4,430	-	4,430	-	-	-
OF&G Training Events	-	(142)	2,300	2,000	300	115%	2,000	2,023
Club Relations and Grants	-	844	1,083	1,000	83	108%	1,000	1,132
F&G Advocacy at Popular Fisheries	-	-	15,026	24,000	(8,974)	63%	24,000	-
Total Participation	1,080	1,270	25,453	29,500	(4,047)	86%	29,500	5,836
PUBLIC INTERFACE								
Liaison								

	JUL 2023	AUG 2023	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Liaison DoC Unin Govt CFT IWI	446	-	765	1,000	(235)	76%	1,000	566
Total Liaison	446	-	765	1,000	(235)	76%	1,000	566
Communication								
World Wetlands	-	54	54	1,000	(946)	5%	1,000	-
Total Communication	-	54	54	1,000	(946)	5%	1,000	-
Media Releases								
Advocacy Statutory	-	-	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	1,000	-
Weekly Fishing Reports/ social media	-	-	2,940	-	2,940	-	-	-
Communications Strategy	470	-	14,520	13,840	680	105%	13,840	361
Media Release	-	-	400	-	400	-	-	854
Total Media Releases	470	-	17,860	14,840	3,020	120%	14,840	1,215
Total PUBLIC INTERFACE	915	54	18,679	16,840	1,839	111%	16,840	1,781
COMPLIANCE								
Ranger Training and Expenses	917	31	5,941	5,500	441	108%	5,500	6,543
Compliance	-	403	6,649	5,000	1,649	133%	5,000	26
Total COMPLIANCE	917	434	12,590	10,500	2,090	120%	10,500	6,569
LICENCING								
Agent Servicing	-	31	172	500	(328)	34%	500	441
Commission/Fees	639	3,813	86,914	104,858	(17,944)	83%	104,858	85,709
Total LICENCING	639	3,844	87,087	105,358	(18,271)	83%	105,358	86,150
COUNCIL								
Council Meetings and Agendas	1,829	99	12,462	15,000	(2,538)	83%	15,000	14,080
Total COUNCIL	1,829	99	12,462	15,000	(2,538)	83%	15,000	14,080
PLANNING & REPORTING								
Reporting/Audit	-	-	15,990	16,000	(10)	100%	16,000	16,891

	JUL 2023	AUG 2023	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
National Liason	176	128	630	2,000	(1,370)	32%	2,000	248
Total PLANNING & REPORTING	176	128	16,620	18,000	(1,380)	92%	18,000	17,139
ADMINISTRATION								
Salaries	63,243	56,828	766,116	818,935	(52,819)	94%	818,935	745,060
Staff Expenses								
ACC Levy	2,160	-	2,160	2,000	160	108%	2,000	1,441
Fringe Benefit Tax	-	-	6,805	5,000	1,805	136%	5,000	6,196
Staff Training	-	4,058	16,619	18,000	(1,381)	92%	18,000	3,947
Staff Clothing Branded	-	27	572	2,000	(1,428)	29%	2,000	1,079
Staff Personal Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Staff Expenses	562	2,413	9,438	5,000	4,438	189%	5,000	8,250
Staff Employment Expenses	-	-	683	-	683	-	-	-
Total Staff Expenses	2,722	6,498	36,277	32,000	4,277	113%	32,000	20,914
Office Premices	6,350	11,030	113,103	104,839	8,264	108%	104,839	105,980
Office Equipmmt	15	47	1,110	2,500	(1,390)	44%	2,500	2,802
Communications	1,481	1,641	23,017	21,900	1,117	105%	21,900	20,367
General Exp (incl Insurance)	45	23	2,720	3,900	(1,180)	70%	3,900	2,794
General Field Equipment	76	-	2,572	3,300	(728)	78%	3,300	2,962
Vehicles	3,548	8,134	60,126	52,000	8,126	116%	52,000	55,113
Total ADMINISTRATION	77,480	84,200	1,005,041	1,039,374	(34,333)	97%	1,039,374	955,993
Approved Reserve Expense	8,418	24,228	61,697	-	61,697	-	-	60,289
Depreciation	5,197	5,197	58,664	4,222	54,442	1,389%	4,222	60,101
NZ Fish & Game Levies	100,007	100,007	1,200,082	1,200,082	-	100%	1,200,082	959,241
University of Otago Research Grant	-	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Total Expenses	206,961	211,851	2,620,247	2,505,806	114,441	105%	2,505,806	2,305,602
Net Profit	(166,769)	(312,829)	(65,950)	(100,622)	34,672	66%	(100,622)	15,049

Balance Sheet

Otago Fish and Game Council

As at 31 August 2023

	31 AUG 2023	31 AUG 2022
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank	324,402	432,082
Receivables		
Accounts Receivable	161,645	77,117
Prepayments and Accrued Income	12,365	-
Total Receivables	174,010	77,117
GST	21,774	42,695
Investments	916,442	872,159
Inventory	15,599	21,151
Accrued Interest	-	4,959
Accounts Receivable - Other	3,995	-
Total Current Assets	1,456,222	1,450,162
Fixed Assets		
Property Plant & Equipment	1,329,892	1,348,413
Total Fixed Assets	1,329,892	1,348,413
Total Assets	2,786,114	2,798,575
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	77,169	74,951
Other Payables	261,541	196,604
Employee Entitlements	46,867	60,441
Rounding	-	-
Salmon Endorsement	-	91
Designated Waters other regions	-	-
Total Current Liabilities	385,576	332,087
Total Liabilities	385,576	332,087
Net Assets	2,400,538	2,466,488
Equity		
Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated Funds	1,622,094	1,607,045
Current Year Earnings	(65,950)	15,049
Transfer (To)/From Reserves	172,027	176,937
Total Accumulated Funds	1,728,171	1,799,031
Dedicated Reserves		
Non Resident Levy Reserve	318,946	273,170
Habitat Enhancement & Research	29,502	20,642
Priority Plan Changes Reserve	31,076	31,076

	31 AUG 2023	31 AUG 2022
Priority Consents Reserve	41,697	41,697
Regional Policy Statement Reserve	11,124	44,379
Mining Privileges Reserve	-	17,537
Historical Property Reserve	132,341	146,433
Renovation Reserve	-	-
Asset Replacement Funding	91,651	87,363
Total Dedicated Reserves	656,337	662,296
Restricted Reserves		
Bullock Creek Reserve	5,437	3,121
Bendigo Reserve	10,592	2,039
Total Restricted Reserves	16,030	5,161
Total Equity	2,400,538	2,466,488

9.2 Licence Sales

Fish Licence Sales 2022/23 Season to 31st August 2023

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 31st August of the season.

In summary, fishing licence sales in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) 14,871.01 LEQs compared with 14,743.72 LEQs for the same period last year. 127.29 LEQs ahead of last year. Adult and family resident licence sales are down this year. All Non resident categories and day licence numbers are up due to increased international and local tourism.

Game Licence Sales to 31st August 2023

See table following for game licence sales categories and numbers for the full 2023 and 2022 seasons.

In summary, game licence sales in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) 3,987.90 LEQs for the 2023 opening day compared with 4,076.87 LEQs for the same period 2022 season. 88.97 LEQ's down on last season. 96 less full season adult licences where sold.

Fish Licence Sales 2023/24 Season to 19th September 2023

See table following for fish licence sales numbers and categories for the start of the 2023/24 season sales. All prices have increased - Whole season adults from \$145 to \$153, Family from \$188 to \$198 and non resident full season from \$250 to \$264.

Our previous Back Country Waters are now Designated Waters. Designated Waters are charged out at \$5 per region for the season for residents and \$40 a day for Non Residents (with a limit of 5 per region)

Note that DWLR relates to resident designated water licences sold in Otago and some are for other regions. We will not know what sales other regions have for Otago until the end of the season.

9.3 Agents Debts - Nil

9.4 Recommendations

- 1 ***That the Draft Finance and licencing report be received.***
- 2 ***That the 2022/23 draft financial accounts be approved for audit.***

Sharon Milne
Administration Officer
21/09/2023

Fish Licence Sales to the 31st August of the Season

2022/23

Sales	FWFA	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWC	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	Total	Fish LEQ
Public	2114	2363	541	363	398	239	34	395	2771	2134	544	46	399	96	1809	17	54	0	14317	7,493.08
Agency	2192	3062	206	698	156	143	20	160	734	1178	394	28	91	89	15	11	24	626	9827	7,377.94
Total	4306	5425	747	1061	554	382	54	555	3505	3312	938	74	490	185	1824	28	78	626	24144	14,871.01

2021/22

Sales	FWFA	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWC	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	Total	Fish LEQ
Public	2134	2577	94	311	419	229	26	441	2606	239	467	13	276	9	1383	6	14	0	11244	6,918.26
Agency	2415	3494	16	749	171	150	10	232	760	127	410	1	74	9	26	0	14	0	8658	7,825.46
Total	4549	6071	110	1060	590	379	36	673	3366	366	877	14	350	18	1409	6	28	0	19902	14,743.72

FWFA (Family), FWA (Adult), FWNA (Non Resident), FSLA (Senior Loyal), FLAA (Local Area),

FWIA (Winter), FLBA (long Break), FSBA (Short Break), FDA (Adult Day), FDNA (Non Resident Adult Day)

FWJ (Junior), FWNJ (Junior non resident), FDJ (Junior Day), FDNJ (Non Resident Junior Day), FWC (Free Child)

FWNC (non resident Child), FDNC (Non Resident child Day), SRSE (Salmon Endorsement)

Otago Region Game Season Licence Sales for 2022 and 2023

2023							
Sales Chan	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ
Public	790	88	47	65	2	992	820.08
Agency	3117	237	94	22	1	3471	3,167.82
Total	3907	325	141	87	3	4463	3,987.9

2022							
Sales Chan	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ
Public	820	82	25	35	1	963	843.2
Agency	3183	240	68	16	0	3507	3,233.67
Total	4003	322	93	51	1	4470	4,076.87

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

Otago Fish Licence Sales to the 19th September of the Season

2023/24																				
Sales Chan	FWFA	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	DWLR	DWLN	Total	Fish LEQ
Public	161	198	25	133	25	0	0	0	0	15	1	0	0	0	0	0	332	3	954	585.8
Agency	458	533	1	250	12	0	0	0	0	37	0	0	0	0	0	124	404	0	1819	1,356.92
Total	619	731	26	383	37	0	0	0	0	52	1	0	0	0	0	124	736	3	2773	1,942.71

2022/23																				
Sales Chan	FWFA	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	DWLR	DWLN	fishTo	Fish LEQ
Public	242	287	23	139	30	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	786	768.28
Agency	374	412	2	224	15	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	130	0	0	1182	1,105.92
Total	616	699	25	363	45	0	0	0	0	38	0	0	0	0	0	130	0	0	1968	1,874.2

FWFA (Family), FWA (Adult), FWNA (Non Resident), FSLA (Senior Loyal), FLAA (Local Area),

FWIA (Winter), FLBA (long Break), FSBA (Short Break), FDA (Adult Day), FDNA (Non Resident Adult Day)

FWJ (Junior), FWNJ (Junior non resident), FDJ (Junior Day), FDNJ (Non Resident Junior Day), FWC (Free Child), FWNC (non Resident Child)

FDNC (Non Resident child Day), SRSE (Salmon Endorsement), DWLR (Designated Waters Resident), DWLN (Designated Waters Non Resident)

10.0 Chief Executives Report – September 2023

10.1 SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Spawning Surveys

Salmon were confirmed spawning in a tributary of the Makarora on Mt Albert Station which is a significant find. Spawning areas for Wanaka salmon have been particularly difficult to pinpoint and this is the first record from that area in a decade. A report is attached to this agenda. (Item 14.4)

Regulations

The Anglers Notice submission was finally accepted by the Minister ushering in the new Designated Waters regime which replaces our present Back Country fisheries. That is a major shift in pressure sensitive fisheries management and the treatment of non residents.

10.2 HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Contact Energy – Lower Clutha Sportsfish Management Plan Implementation

The annual report on Contact Energy funded sportsfish and habitat work in the Clutha River is attached in the staff reports to be noted. Its an interesting read with some great work completed by staff.

The final Mata Au Sports Fish Trust documents are ready for signing. The Trust needs to move into operation quickly if it hopes to undertake anything by way of a work programme this summer.

10.3 USER PARTICIPATION

Designated Waters implementation

The Designated Waters is now being implemented with priority given to updating licence holders, signage, online content to explain the changes. Monitoring and compliance will begin shortly too and continue in line with the plan approved by Council at the last meeting.

Publications

The F&G fishing edition of the magazine was distributed as planned and now the discussion turns to the future of the printed version. It is becoming very expensive to print and distribute now and it is rightfully being reviewed for cost/benefit. The NZC have assured us they will consult regions on any changes.

Weekly River reports to anglers (via email) will resume this week and continue for the open season. That supports other electronic communications including month ezine Reel Life and regular Facebook posts.

Take a Kid Fishing and Adult Fishing Classes

Both series of events will be complete by the time of the meeting. There has been terrific demand for the introductory angling course this year, probably as a result of adverts in the magazine and a boosted profile on our Facebook page.

Survey of Anglers – Economic evaluation of the Canal Fishery

Over the next month or two, some Otago anglers may be contacted by researchers asking questions about angling trips to the Twizel area canals. Licence holders are being encouraged to participate so the economic value to the organisation and the wider community of that popular fishery is properly quantified.

10.4 PUBLIC INTERFACE

Media

There was again good coverage in the ODT and in social media of our Take a Kid fishing events. Ex Councillor Murray Neilson's excellent opinion pieces on freshwater management and species interaction also deserve special mention here too.

Advocacy

In addition to our local advocacy efforts, the Communications officer (and other staff) continue to be utilised by the NZC to assist with a national campaigns. The latest is a profile campaign for the organisation to be launched next month and this could be timely with the recent news that the Wildlife Act is to be replaced. This could have a large impact on the future of the organisation.

Meeting attendance

Staff have been attending plenty of stakeholder meetings including with District Council planners in Queenstown and Wanaka and with Wai Wanaka. The CE spoke at a Millers Flat Community group and the Comms officer at a Taieri service group meeting last week to provide an update on the Fish & Game matters.

10.5 COMPLIANCE

Prosecutions

Compliance summary report attached. (Item 14.2)

10.6 LICENCING

The CE and other staff have also been involved in supporting the NZC to get the licencing system ready for the new season including the new designated waters licences. It seems to be running without issues and a good number of designated waters licences have been sold.

10.7 COUNCIL

National Staff Conference

All staff recently attended the National Staff Conference in Rotorua. NZC released their strategic plan and updated the organisation on the F&G profile campaign which will help showcase the organisation and its work. Other topics covered were species management, compliance, alignment with other organisations to advocate for valued introduced species and engagement with mana whenua. Dame Lynda Topp, herself a keen hunter and angler, in a keynote address motivated the staff to work above their paygrade for licence holders and to maintain hope, and our health. There appeared to be more unity across the organisation than we have seen in the recent past, especially at staff level, and there was lots of chatter around cross boundary work and creating other efficiencies.

Joint Meeting with Southland

Southland Councillors joined our last meeting and it was a productive get together. The operational MOU which was agreed in principle at the meeting is the first of its kind in the organisation. It is presently before their Council for signing.

Request from Central South Island F&G

CSI Region has approached its neighbouring Regions for assistance with its summer compliance activity. This is probably fair given that 30% of the angler use at the canal fishery is from Otago licence holders. The CE and OM will look at the summer programme for Otago and see where we can fit in. CSI Region are presently understaffed so are deserving of interim support.

Governance Training – Westlake

I attended the Westlake governance training session and found it quite useful. How many other Crs attended one of the zoom sessions?

For discussion

Boat Replacement

The Dunedin Stabicraft is due to be replaced by a similar sized craft being built in Invercargill. Its will be put to work as soon as it has completed its maritime survey sometime in October. The Stabicraft will be put on the market around then to ensure there is a smooth changeover.

10.8 PLANNING AND REPORTING

Annual Audit and Annual Report

The end of August was the end of the financial year and staff will now begin the annual reporting process. The Auditor has made contact and a schedule of tasks has been agreed. One of the earlier tasks is for the Council to adopt a draft set of accounts for audit. That is in the finance report within this agenda. As previously mentioned there is a new reporting standard required and we are expecting more detail on that shortly.

Next Council Meeting

Just a reminder that the next Council meeting is in Roxburgh on 30th November 2023. The AGM will be held in the middle of that meeting as usual.

Lastly

Just a note of thanks to the Chair and staff for looking after the organisation while I was on extended leave. Everything operated to plan in my absence.

Recommendation

That this report be received

Ian Hadland

Chief Executive

September 2023

11.0 RMA Planning and Consents Report

Planning and Consenting Report

5 July – 18 September 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 hearing has closed. Staff presented to the panel in April and May.
2. The FPP hearing has been closed. Staff presented to the panel in August.

At the time of writing, there are still some open questions about the application of National Policy Statements which have been released or amended while the PORPS processes were open. Staff are providing evidence on the implications of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity as a part of that. It remains to be seen how much additional work will be required before a decision is handed down. Staff's expectation is that the work required on the PORPS from here will be minimal.

In terms of budgeting, the reserve associated with these processes is nearly depleted. Depending on the work required of Fish and Game by the Panel prior to a decision, it may be necessary to exceed the budget by a small amount. It would be helpful for the Council to consider authorising additional contingency funding for up to \$20,000 – potentially from existing Otago RMA based reserves that have been underspent.

Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP)

The Regional Council has released more detail on the direction of the LWRP. On initial review, it seems positive for environmental protection and restoration generally but does not do a good job at providing for angling and hunting values, nor enabling anglers and hunters to contribute to environmental protection and restoration through advocacy using their values. Staff understand that there will be a framework for proactively managing species interaction, similar to what is sought by Fish and Game in the PORPS. However, the details of this are not yet clear.

Natural and Built Environment Act (NBA) and the Spatial Planning Act (SPA)

The NBA and SPA are two pieces of legislation that form the package to replace the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). The SPA brings in a new requirement for long-term regional spatial planning and the NBA is the main replacement for the RMA.

In this last reporting period, the Governor-General has given Royal Assent for both of these acts. The NBA will be gradually introduced over time, phasing out the RMA. Critically, the NBA now includes consideration of the habitat of trout and salmon, which was introduced due to advocacy from Fish and Game Councils.

Current Notification processes

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
Otago Regional Council, Queenstown Lakes District Council and Central Otago District Council applications		
Peter Hall	To undertake suction dredge gold mining and to disturb the bed of the Clutha River/Mata Au	Fish and Game has submitted in opposition, citing concerns around spawning protections, disturbance to anglers and the mobilisation of sedimentation. Staff are in contact with the applicant to try and resolve the issues outside of a hearing and that process is ongoing.

Written approval provided during the period

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
Otago Regional Council applications		
Southern Planning	To construct an extension to Falls Lodge, near the Routeburn Walking Track.	Conditions were negotiated which would minimise the discharge of sediment to water bodies, after which affected party approval was provided.
Queenstown Lakes District Council applications		
Jake Allen and Michael Hawley	To establish a commercial motorised spa boat operation on Lake Wakatipu.	A condition was negotiated to ensure separation of the motorised spas from shore anglers, after which affected party approval was provided.
Aotearoa Anglers Ltd.	To establish and maintain a fly-fishing operation utilising inflatable rafts to drift fish on a variety of water bodies within the Queenstown Lakes region	Conditions were negotiated with the applicants to limit pressure on affected water bodies and ensure a reasonable distance is kept from other anglers. Based off of discussions with the Otago Fish and Game Council Executive and the Chair, affected party approval has been provided for the non-controversial parts of this application - Clutha River/Mata-au downstream of the Albert Town Bridge, Lake Hāwea and Lake Wānaka. Discussions with the applicants are ongoing for the controversial parts of this application. A report on the application is available in the public excluded section of this agenda.

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
18 September 2023

12.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

12.1 CFT

12.2 NZC

12.2.1 NZC CEO Update to Regional Managers



6 September 2023

NZC CEO Update to Regional Managers

Summary of Fish & Game National Council Meeting #165 (18 & 19 August 2023)

Tēnā koutou,

I hope this latest NZC Meeting update finds you all in good health and you are all looking forward to the upcoming Staff Conference in Rotorua from 12 to 15 September 2023. It will be a great opportunity for us all to get together and reflect on a number of achievements across the organisation as we navigate our way towards shaping the future of Fish and Game New Zealand.

Please find below a summary of the key topics and decisions that emerged from the latest NZC meeting held in Wellington on 18 & 19 August 2023.

Executive Overview:

Guide Licence Update: Regional Fish & Game Council concerns in relation to delays on the completion of the Guide Licence were acknowledged by the New Zealand Fish & Game Council. The Guide Licence document is subject to ongoing negotiation with the Guides and refinement such that it would be acceptable to the Minister of Conservation. It is scheduled for the Guides Licence to come to the next NZC meeting in November 2023 for consideration and finalisation.

Insurance and Indemnity: NZC received a presentation on insurance and indemnity from John Bell and Katishce Remnant from Aon Insurance. Discussion revolved around policy coverage and limits, including claims that were subject to a maximum payout per annum, and the concept of aggregated limits as well as the need to address risks and potential issues. Attention was also given to the coverage for PCBU situations and health and safety regulations and impacts on insurance coverage with some ambiguities clarified. Insurance does not cover, for example, fines against a PCBU (CEO/Manager/ and Council) for breaches against the Health and Safety or Maritime Acts. Future insurance considerations were also discussed, including exploring different options to better cover various levels of risk, sharing premiums based on licence holders rather than regional allocation with a goal to reduce duplication of costs. The PowerPoint presentation is attached for your information and contemplation of future insurance options.

2023-24 Annual Budget & Meeting Schedule: The proposed 2023/24 Annual Budget & Meeting Schedule for upcoming NZC meetings were agreed for Regional consultation, subject to:

- A change to the Licence fee meeting in June, which is to be held over two half days in order to consider both the Licence fee recommendation to the Minister of Conservation, and also NZC advice to the Minister on the Sports fish Forms and Fees, Regulations and Anglers Notice; and
- The August NZC meeting is to be held over two days.

The Annual Budget & Meeting Schedule is now out to regions for consultation, please see attached updated Annual Budget & Meeting Schedule with feedback due 20 October. Please note the NZC Policy for changing Policy document discussed below which is also out for consultation. It will be important for Regional Fish & Game Council meetings to be scheduled ideally on the off month of a NZC meeting, or at least 3 weeks after a NZC Meeting and at least 3 weeks prior to the next NZC meeting to enable effective communication and decision making across Councils.

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

New Zealand Council

Research and Monitoring Programme: Updates were provided on ongoing studies funded by the Research Fund, along with the presentation of the draft Research Strategy. Feedback on the strategy was requested, with plans to engage with the Research Subcommittee to finalise in time for the next NZC meeting in November. The role of Research Subcommittee and delineation of roles between operational and governance was discussed with the Research Subcommittee's Terms of Reference to be finalised to clearly define responsibilities in line with organisational objectives and would be presented at the next NZC meeting for ratification. The significance of research sharing, peer reviewing, and publishing was highlighted and the importance of research in maintaining a strong social license and addressing access issues was also discussed.

Draft Resource Management Strategy & Practice Notes Update: The Draft RM strategy serves as a foundation for understanding the Resource Management issues over the next few years and workload. The RM Strategy and Practice Notes provide a platform for setting out Fish & Games values that we want to see reflected in regional and national policy, and management responses. It also introduces a project priority matrix for RMA fund applications, which outlines essential criteria that projects must meet to be eligible for NZC funding. A landing page has also been developed to serve as a resource for stakeholders, primarily planning/policy experts, and organisations seeking similar outcomes to Fish & Game in the policy space. The landing page features our Practice Notes which sheds light on our approach and initiatives while offering comprehensive insights into our contributions to environmental policies and strategies.

Detailed Information and Decisions:

Research Fund Application: NZC received a significant research application 'Economic Survey of Trout and Salmon Angling in Aotearoa New Zealand' focused on trout and salmon angling with a budget of \$160,000.

Approved in Principle: *The application's intent was approved in principle. NZC emphasised that the research should encompass a national assessment, including Taupo with this project being extremely high priority for NZC.*

Staff were to refine the application, exploring costs and potential funding sources in collaboration with the Research Subcommittee and present a revised version to NZC for review and ratification at its 24 & 25 November 2023 meeting. The findings of recent national surveys and the CSI canal survey were to be integrated into this comprehensive national survey with this being central in delivering a unified perspective on the direct and indirect value of New Zealand trout fisheries to New Zealand.

RMA/Legal Fund Applications: NZC received two applications from the Wellington Fish and Game Council:

- Greater Wellington Regional Council plan change hearing process requesting \$50k towards legal costs and \$30k for Planner costs totalling \$80k; and
- \$120k for Horizons Regional Council plan changes.

Both cases were supported: *as they would have significant consequences for the organisation at a national level and were considered precedent setting. However, due to concerns around budget constraints, the workload identified through the RM strategy, including potential requirements of additional staff, and the conservation law reform, NZC approved funding of the Greater Wellington Case out of the RM Legal Budget and seek that WFGC fund the Horizons case from their reserves at this time. The NZC CEO was to discuss this with the Wellington Regional Manager.*

A summary of pre consultation processes that are underway under the NPS-FM was provided at the meeting. With the volume of additional work, in principle approval was sought from NZC to look at options for additional staffing, including an inhouse lawyer and 1-2 additional RMA planners.

Approved in Principle: *To explore the possibility of hiring additional staff, with an in-house lawyer and 1-2 RMA planners identified as key roles needed to manage the workload effectively.*

At present, the process for RM legal fund approval is subject to an independent legal for applications exceeding \$50,000, including the two applications received above. However, this policy will be revisited due to the growing capacity of our in-house staff to conduct assessments before NZC reviews.

Budget and Financial Decisions: Discussion revolved around the operational work plan budget, cost of compliance in the maritime program, and fiscal impact of the Ministerial Review. Budgets not utilised were considered for carryover into the new fiscal year, including the unused funds from the Ministerial Review Budget for 2022-23 to be carried over to 2023-24 to fund the Organisational Finance Optimisation proposal and implementation of non-legislative review recommendations. A list of priority projects for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 periods was also approved.

Approved: *The budget for 2023-24 was approved with a projected deficit of \$343,074 and delegated authority to the NZC CEO to manage spending within the approved 2023-24 budget.*

Consideration was given to the Hunting & Fishing magazine and the assessment of Fish and Game magazines' future viability with further review and deliberations to be carried out in November. The NZC allocated funding towards Fish & Game's social license campaign.

Policy and Governance:

- **Policy Modernisation:** The Policy Modernisation Subcommittee, comprising the Executive Committee, will review and distribute policies to regions for consultation as required in order to streamline the process of giving effect to the Ministerial Review, with final decisions resting with NZC. The focus will be on implementing the Ministerial Review, ensuring H&S and HR policies meet legislative requirements, and avoiding undue length and complexity. The importance of effectively communicating policies to regions was emphasised, along with encouraging their adoption to ensure consistent standards across all areas.
- **National Policy Implementation:** A Policy on Setting National Policy was discussed at the NZC meeting for consideration by the Regions. Track-changed copy attached. A streamlined consultation process is recommended in order to accommodate urgent statutory requirements and to implement the non-legislative parts of the Ministerial Review.

Key amendments include:

- Streamlined process:
 - Draft policies can go to a NZC committee/or its delegate, such as the Executive (as mentioned above) which has the delegation from NZC to review the policies and approve them for consultation with the regions.
 - Policies must be consulted within one NZC Council meeting cycle (8 weeks).
 - NZC staff collect and present feedback from Fish & Game regions to the NZC, which is to be received at least 15 working days prior to the NZC meeting.
- Amendment to Clause e: to allow '*reasonable time*' for Fish and Game Councils to provide feedback so the NZC can consider and amend the draft national policy before adopting it (Also allows for situations where a longer consultation period is required based on the complexity of the issue).
- Removal of '*majority decision*' as there is no legal requirement for complete agreement by all, or a majority of Fish and Game Councils in arriving at that policy.
- This would review/set F&G National Policy and these elements would also apply in any other circumstances where the NZC is required to consult with Regional Councils.

The policy is circulated to regions for feedback and is due by 20 October 2023 ideally. It is noted that the current NZC Policy for setting policy could be interpreted as providing two meeting cycles therefore, would not be concluded before the end of the year. We are seeking that Regions agree to a shortened timeframe for providing feedback on the policy for Setting National Policy, in order to enable the ongoing work required to implement the Ministerial Review and ensure that Fish & Game is meeting its legislative requirements.

- **Conflict of Interest Policy:** The Conflicts of Interest Policy was considered, and a draft was discussed for final approval in the upcoming November meeting. Detailed editing is to be carried out, ensuring clarity and compliance. Regions will be encouraged to review their existing policy in

light of the revised NZC policy to ensure consistency. The policy is circulated to regions with feedback due by 20 October 2023.

- **Staff Code of Conduct:** The draft Staff Code of Conduct was to be amended to include the values framework from the organisational strategy, and consideration be given to include the definition of "due process" under misconduct and inclusion of a dispute resolution provision, with the updated version to be circulated to regions for feedback as requested by the Chairs Forum and as part of the Ministerial Review Recommendation 17. The Staff Code of Conduct Policy is attached and circulated to regions for feedback due by 20 October 2023.

Please note, it is important that staff are consulted on this policy as well as your councils.

- **Remuneration Policy:** NZC approved the draft Remuneration Policy taking into consideration regions feedback. Please find attached the final policy and accompanying paper which sets out staff recommendations and reasoning, and key sections of the discussion outlining why the NZC adopted the policy as national policy binding on the regions.
- **Working Groups ToR:** The draft Future Finance Working Group and Future Structure Working Group Terms of Reference were approved by NZC. Attached for your information.

Operational Updates:

- **NZC CEO Report: NBE Update:** Fish & Game has secured changes to "protect the habitat of trout and salmon" with the areas that Fish & Game remain concerned about noted. The financial implications of the National Angler Survey were discussed. NZC received the Engaging with Mana Whenua: A discussion document exploring best practice for Fish & Game, which highlighted the importance of specific survey responses from iwi and tribes, including details such as gender, age, and iwi affiliations with this to be circulated to Regional Councils and relevant stakeholders. As part of the program to implement Fish & Games Section 4 responsibilities & Ministerial Review Recommendations in relation to Iwi, and in building a stronger connection with Mana Whenua the following was acknowledged: ***the urgency of incorporating Te Ao Māori perspectives within the NZC staff policies, and the allocation of funds approved for a part-time advisor contract to facilitate this integration.***

Decisions from Part II (Public Excluded) moved to Part I:

- **Compliance Policy Review:** NZC received the draft gun unloading and unattended firearms standard operating procedures and Ranger Compliance Report with it agreed that: ***the NZC CEO is to review the existing national policy on compliance and propose a nationally coordinated approach under a revised national compliance framework including development of SOP's.***
- **Maritime Function:** NZC agreed to fund: ***The development of overarching policies and systems that support the organisation's Maritime functions including agency wide health and safety policy; the Sea Flux App to have better oversight of marine health and safety documentation; and increase the annual funding for the Maritime Officer position and support systems and functions to reflect the Maritime New Zealand recommendations with funding to come from regions reserves (pro rata on boats) for the 23/24 year.***

If you have further queries or need more details on any of these points, please feel free to contact me directly.

We value your ongoing commitment and look forward to your continued participation in achieving our common objectives.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Corina Jordan
Chief Executive Officer
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

12.3 Ngai Tahu

12.4 Conservation Board

13.0 Correspondence

13.1 NZC to Otago

13.1.1 In Relation to the Magazine and Guides Licence

From: Corina Jordan <cjordan@fishandgame.org.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 7:37 PM

To: Ian Hadland <ihadland@fishandgame.org.nz>; Barrie Barnes <barrie@iloveflyfishing.kiwi>; NZ Fish & Game Council <nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz>

Cc: Colin Weatherall <colinweatherall@xtra.co.nz>; Mike Barker <mike.f.barker@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: F&G Magazine

Good afternoon Ian,

Thank you and the Otago Fish & Game Council for the correspondence in relation to the Magazine and Guides Licence.

I have lodged this as inwards correspondence through nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz for the NZC. The Chair will get a letter back to OFGC on these matters.

In the meantime, please be assured no decisions are intended to be made on the Magazine without discussion across Fish & Game, in accordance with the current processes of NZC and our work in building a high trust model and positive connections across the organisation.

Kind regards

Corina Jordan | Chief Executive
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Level 2, Dominion Building, 78 Victoria Street, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 25-055, Wellington 6140

Mobile 021 426 350

E cjordan@fishandgame.org.nz | W www.fishandgame.org.nz

13.1.2 Guides Licence and Fish & Game Magazine



17 August 2023

Otago Fish and Game Council
 C/- CE Ian Hadland & Chair Colin Weatherall
ihadland@fishandgame.org.nz
colinweatherall@xtra.co.nz

RE. Guides Licence & Fish and Game Magazine

Dear Otago Fish and Game Council,

I trust this letter finds you well. First and foremost, we at NZ Fish and Game Council (NZC) understand and appreciate the importance of open communication and the shared concerns surrounding the progression of the Guide Licence. We sincerely apologise for any misunderstandings or concerns that might have arisen over the past two years.

The Guide Licence, as we all believe, plays a pivotal role in the efficient management of our fisheries, and we too see the immense value it brings, especially in terms of data collection and management, improving fishing experiences, and regulating the influx of foreign guides.

While we are grateful for the collaboration and agreement reached with the NZC and the Professional Guides Association, we acknowledge there have been a series of unforeseen challenges in finalising the process. The feedback and active involvement of Councillor Mike Barker have been invaluable, and we affirm that his concerns were voiced and duly noted by NZC and considered in our discussions.

In terms of the current status:

The majority of the proposed licence terms and conditions have received approval internally, but there are a few finer points, particularly related to data collection and usage, that require further negotiation and discussion.

Regarding concerns with the DoC advisors, we are in active discussion with them to address any discrepancies and to align our visions. It's paramount for us that any policy we introduce has a holistic buy-in from all the stakeholders, ensuring its effectiveness in the long run.

In light of your recommendation, should the discussions with the DoC advisors not yield the desired results promptly, we commit to escalating the matter to the Minister of Conservation, as we believe in the urgency and importance of this issue.

We truly value the patience and understanding of the Otago Fish and Game Council, and please be assured that our commitment to the Guide Licence has not waned. We will continue our efforts to see it come into fruition at the earliest. Your continuous feedback and support are vital for us. We will provide regular updates on our progress and ensure that any challenges faced are communicated and addressed swiftly.

I would like to also acknowledge your concerns raised regarding the Fish and Game magazine and understand the challenges faced due to the escalating printing and distribution costs. Such financial pressures certainly demand an evaluation of every expenditure, especially in these uncertain times. However, I would like to echo the sentiments of NZC that prior consultation with the Regions is pivotal before arriving at a conclusive decision about the magazine's future.

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

New Zealand Council

Level 2, The Dominion Building, 78 Victoria Street, Wellington 6011. P.O. Box 25-055, Wellington 6146, New Zealand.
 Telephone (04) 499 4767 Email nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz www.fishandgame.org.nz

The magazine, as rightly pointed out, stands as a hallmark of our organisation. It is not merely a publication; it represents the very ethos and essence of the community it serves. It's more enduring and valuable content has been a mainstay for licence holders, often transcending the transient nature of online content. Numerous surveys reiterate its significance, underscoring its value as one of the most tangible benefits of being a licence holder.

Given its significance, the NZC assures that the Regions will be granted the opportunity to weigh in and contribute to these vital discussions and any forthcoming deliberations about the magazine's future. Engaging in collaborative discussions will not only uphold the principles of inclusivity and shared decision-making but will also aid in exploring viable alternatives, should the need arise.

We genuinely believe that our combined insights and shared expertise will guide us towards the best possible outcome for all stakeholders involved.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration. We look forward to a collaborative approach in addressing these matters.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Barrie Barnes', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Barrie Barnes
New Zealand Fish and Game Council Chair

13.1.3 No Ministry for the Environment Funding



15 September 2023

Fish and Game Regional Councillors
allfishandgamecouncillors@fishandgame.org.nz

Tēnā koutou,

You may have heard suggestions, that Fish and Game has been named, as taking money from the Ministry for the Environment, to implement the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FWM) and embed in the Spatial Planning and Natural and Built Environment (NBEA) Bills.

This has been circulating through farming communities off the back of a media release by Federated Farmers last week, and in coverage on The Country. Federated Farmers claim that the Government is doing “dodgy deals, and wasteful Government spending, in the lead up to the general election”.

Corina, CEO of Fish and Game New Zealand, presented on The Country on Monday, to address these unfounded claims, and also, to talk about Fish & Game’s media release on wetlands. You can listen to the interview [here](#).

For background, on 7 September, Fish and Game NZ received an email from MfE. This email was calling for “expressions of interest” in a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) participation pilot fund, to support Resource Management plan-making.

Fish and Game NZ was one of a number of organisations, including Federated Farmers, and eNGO groups that were approached by MfE, in relation to this fund. Our information has been released as part of a request under the Official Information Act.

The funding pilot aims to support NGO participation in resource management strategy, and plan-making, starting with Freshwater Plans under the Resource Management Act 1991, and continuing to Regional Spatial Plans, and Natural and Built Environment Act plans. The fund was up to \$600,000 over three years (approximately \$200,000 per year).

Whilst Fish and Game NZ recognises the need to consider supplementing licence holder money in relation to the organisation’s functions, and the heavy workload ahead for supporting Regional Planning processes, it was decided to not apply for this money, and instead, to seek a government delay on the application period until after the general election. This would allow Fish and Game NZ to understand more deeply the possible implications, if any, of participation.

In support of the above decision some of the reasons considered were:

1. The timeframes with respect the ‘expression of interest’ did not provide sufficient time to engage with the Fish and Game NZ Council;
2. We are aware that the funding comes with conditions for use that need to be carefully evaluated;
3. The funding excluded the funding for court cases, a major cost for Fish and Game NZ;
4. Refers to NBEA and Spatial Planning Bill implementation which Fish and Game did not support;

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

New Zealand Council

Level 2, The Dominion Building, 78 Victoria Street, Wellington 6011. P.O. Box 25-055, Wellington 6146, New Zealand.
 Telephone (04) 499 4767 Email nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz www.fishandgame.org.nz

5. The RM legislative space is, at this time politically uncertain, as opposition parties have openly stated that 'Bills' will be repealed.

At this point in time, we would like you all to take comfort in knowing that Fish and Game NZ, through our CEO, Corina, is taking a determined approach, to ensure that as a statutory entity, our position in the political landscape remains neutral. Added to that, we are well aware, that we must continue to maintain strong, supportive, and open relationships with all organisations, that we consistently engage with, in this space. Yes, it is a period of heightened political activity, and as such, we consider that to pause any engagement activity, especially of this type, is the best position for Fish and Game NZ to hold.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Barrie Barnes

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Chair

Tel: 021 925 006

BBarnes@fishandgame.org.nz

13.1.4 Wildlife Act 1953 Review



15 September 2023

Fish and Game Regional Councillors
allfishandgamecouncillors@fishandgame.org.nz

Tēnā koutou,

During the last year, Regional Councils and Councillors have raised the subject of the Wildlife Act 1953 review, and voiced a number of concerns, as to its possible content, and Fish and Game's ability to have positive input. What has been of great concern for Fish and Game, is the scale and pace of the proposed reforms leading into an election, along with the fact that Fish and Game has not been party to any draft legislative proposals, nor been provided with the opportunity to work side by side the Ministry through this process.

As you may be aware the Conservation Minister, Willow-Jean Prime, has recently made a policy announcement, of which she provided Corina, NZC CEO, with a heads-up prior to the announcement, on late Friday, 8 September 2023. The following has been prepared by Corina.

Why does this matter to Fish and Game?

Along with the Conservation Act 1987, the Wildlife Act 1953, is Fish and Game's primary governing statute, setting out the sustainable management of valued introduced species as a food source and their place in New Zealand.

What is Fish and Game's position?

- We are concerned at the implications of this reform on Fish and Game, our licence holders, freshwater species, game birds and their habitats.
- What is particularly disappointing, is Fish and Game, has not been given the opportunity to participate in this process to date, and the Labour Party has set a very ambitious timeline for what is an incredibly complex piece of legislation.
- We support the protection of endangered, or threatened species, and agree that a legislative framework needs to provide the tools, to ensure that these species exist now, and into the future. Any reform also needs to ensure that mana whenua rights and obligations are recognised.

What Fish and Game is calling for?

- What we need is a workable alternative, which protects indigenous species, and ensures the sustainable management of valued introduced species for the benefit of all New Zealanders, and recognises and empowers people, communities, and Fish and Game's conservation efforts.
- Sports fish and game birds have an indispensable place in New Zealand's cultural heritage, and ecosystems, existing in tandem with indigenous species. Sports fish and game birds are also a valued food resource for families and communities across New Zealand.
- In crafting a new wildlife framework, it will be important to preserve Fish and Game's statutory mandate, which has been pivotal in managing sports fish, and game bird populations and protecting and enhancing New Zealand's environment.

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

New Zealand Council

Level 2, The Dominion Building, 78 Victoria Street, Wellington 6011. P.O. Box 25-055, Wellington 6146, New Zealand.
 Telephone (04) 499 4767 Email nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz www.fishandgame.org.nz

- Fish and Game must be at the table during the crafting of any new legislation that replaces the Wildlife Act 1953.

Fish and Game is New Zealand's leading freshwater champion. Without Fish and Game, New Zealand would lose the key advocate for the health of our rivers and lakes that are the habitat of indigenous and valued introduced species.

This announcement of the Minister comes hot on the heels of changes to the Natural and Built Environment Bill (NBE) following a campaign by Fish and Game and our licence holders. The submissions made on Fish and Game's behalf, by Corina, were greatly instrumental for the change regarding trout and salmon as valued introduced species.

In a statement to Parliament about the changes, Environment Minister David Parker applauded the work of Fish and Game. He told Parliament that New Zealand needs to protect the habitat of trout and salmon and praised Fish and Game's environmental advocacy led by the NZC CEO, Corina.

What are Fish and Game's next steps?

It is acknowledged that currently this may be an unsettling time for Fish and Game staff. I would urge you all to be supportive of your Regional Manager/CE and through them, the staff who work diligently, and with loyalty, for Fish and Game and our future.

Through the NZC Office, and CEO Corina, we have been working to strengthen our relationships with all political parties, policymakers, and other organisations over the past 12 months. Whilst this announcement is somewhat confronting, Fish and Game is continuing in rebuilding these relationships. It is comforting to know that our position and relationships are continuing to grow stronger. This will allow us to have an involvement as a valued contributor and partner, and in so, secure positive outcomes for Fish and Game nationally and for our licence holders.

The New Zealand Council has allocated resources, and has authorised Corina, to lead Fish and Game's response and advocacy on this issue. I ask you all to please provide unified support to NZC and Corina as we continue to deal with the challenges that now appear before us. The media release on Monday 11 September will support an update to Fish and Game's licence holders and can be viewed [here](#).

Please feel free to make contact at any time.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Barrie Barnes

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Chair

Tel: 021 925 006

BBarnes@fishandgame.org.nz

13.2 Otago to NZC

13.2.1 Potential Loss of Fish and Game Magazine

From: Ian Hadland
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 4:44 PM
To: Corina Jordan <cjordan@fishandgame.org.nz>; Barrie Barnes <barrie@iloveflyfishing.kiwi>
Cc: Colin Weatherall <colinweatherall@xtra.co.nz>; Mike Barker <mike.f.barker@gmail.com>
Subject: F&G Magazine

Kia ora Corina and Barrie,

My council discussed, with some concern, the potential loss of the magazine which is presently distributed to licence holders.

The Council appreciates that printing and distribution costs have risen and that is putting enormous pressure on budgets but wanted to remind the NZC that it needs to discuss and consult with Regions before making any decisions on its future.

The magazine has been a flagship publication for the organisation carrying quality content which is considerably more enduring and of higher value to licence holders than today's online alternatives. It's often one of the most visible and tangible benefits of being a licence holder and is regularly reported as such through our surveys.

Can we please be assured that before any decisions are made on the magazine that regions will be able to consider its future alongside NZC, and also assess any viable alternatives.

Thank you

Ian Hadland | **Chief Executive**

Otago Fish and Game Council
PO Box 76, Dunedin

Cell: (027) 254 9700
Office: (03) 477 9076

13.2.2

From: Ian Hadland

Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 4:33 PM

To: Corina Jordan <cjordan@fishandgame.org.nz>; Barrie Barnes <barrie@iloveflyfishing.kiwi>

Cc: Colin Weatherall <colinweatherall@xtra.co.nz>

Subject: Guides Licence

Dera Corina and Barrie,

Our Council asked me to write to NZF&GC and express its disappointment at the stalled progress of the Guides Licence after having been told two years ago that it would be implemented alongside the Designated Waters regulations. The Guides Licence is seen as an important component of pressure sensitive fishery management, especially the return of valuable information to better manage fisheries, the experience and also foreign guides who have previously dominated some waters.

The Council felt the guides licence may be being unnecessarily held up with the DoC advisors as there appeared to be broad agreement between NZC and the Professional Guides Association and policy case had been well made last year. It seems that most of the obvious hurdles had been overcome. We note that our NZC appointee Mike Barker also raised this issue with you in the 15th May 2023 with a view to having this added to the NZC agenda.

Can you please provide an update on where the Guide Licence is actually up to and define any remaining impediments to its introduction. If there are barriers with the DoC advisors, they encourage you to take the matter up directly with the Minister of Conservation.

Thank you

Ian Hadland | **Chief Executive**

Otago Fish and Game Council
PO Box 76, Dunedin

Cell: (027) 254 9700

Office: (03) 477 9076

13.3 General Correspondence In

13.3.1 Kate Berkett: NZ Battery Project

From: Kate Berkett <Kate.Berkett@mbie.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, August 9, 2023 3:28 PM
To: Ian Hadland <ihadland@fishandgame.org.nz>
Subject: NZ Battery Project - Cabinet decision on next steps [IN-CONFIDENCE: RELEASE-EXTERNAL]

Good afternoon Ian,
Cabinet Ministers have met recently and decided on the next steps of the NZ Battery Project. The NZ Battery Project webpages will be updated later today, and a summary of the next steps is outlined below.

- Cabinet has agreed to progress two options to the next stage of the NZ Battery Project. That is: the pumped hydro scheme at Lake Onslow and the portfolio approach, which draws on multiple technologies.
- The NZ Battery Project has done further work over the past few months that has given more of an understanding into the viability of a multi-technology solution called the portfolio approach. This work has confirmed this sort of approach appears feasible, and there are viable operation and procurement models. Depending on the shape of a portfolio option, it could provide an even more economically beneficial option than identified in the Indicative Business Case.
- Recent analysis concluded that:
 - the portfolio approach is likely to include biomass and geothermal technologies, but the market might propose services based on other technologies.
 - the option of Crown-owned assets should not include hydrogen for dry year generation due to technology and market development uncertainties, while not discounting the development of a hydrogen industry for other purposes.
- The NZ Battery Project will not continue investigating large-scale, Crown-constructed and owned green hydrogen as a possible, or partial, dry year solution.
- The designs of the portfolio approach remain conceptual at this stage.
- As the Phase 1 investigations showed earlier this year, the Lake Onslow option is technically feasible and could resolve the dry year problem on its own. But as with all large infrastructure projects, it would have some negative effects on the local environment, as well as cultural and social values, and heritage and

archaeological sites.

- There are also some likely benefits beyond the electricity system, such as increased economic opportunities for the local community and potentially new recreational opportunities. The NZ Battery Project will continue to investigate the optimal design of the scheme, and potentially further field work.
- Both the Lake Onslow and portfolio options appear feasible. The NZ Battery Project will now run them through the detailed business case framework.
- It is expected part-way through this process (around the middle of next year), once the strategic and economic assessments of the Detailed Business Case are completed, the preferred option for solving New Zealand's dry year problem in a renewable way will be confirmed.
- This preferred option will continue through the remaining elements of the Detailed Business Case.
- Cabinet has also agreed that the North Island pumped hydro concept will no longer be-considered by the NZ Battery Project. The technical potential of this idea hasn't been tested. Following discussions with the main affected parties, it is apparent this concept comes with unique and significant challenges. It will not therefore be advanced for further analysis.
- The NZ Battery Project team will engage further with the market in this next stage to understand more about whether and how they could contribute to a portfolio approach to solving the dry year problem.
- Engagement with iwi will be a key component for the next stages of the NZ Battery Project.
- Final decisions are still some way away from being made. It's important to weigh up all the evidence and consider all options.

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Kate

Kate Berkett

Senior Engagement Consultant, NZ/Aotearoa Battery
Energy Projects & Programmes, Energy & Resource Markets

kate.berkett@mbie.govt.nz | Mobile: +64 27 535 5886 |

138 Victoria Street, Christchurch



13.4 General Correspondence Out

13.4.1 Thankyou Richard Twining

23 July 2023

Mr Richard Twining
Mataura
Via email

Kia ora Richard,

Otago Fish & Game Council wish to express their heartfelt gratitude for your contribution as the Ngāi Tahu representative over the past six years. Your dedication, insights, and commitment to the management and enhancement of our region's fisheries and gamebird resources (and their habitat) has been outstanding. We have greatly appreciated the unique perspective you brought to the council table, incorporating cultural values and knowledge to support our decision making.

One of the highlights of your tenure was undoubtedly your coordination of a hui at Hokonui Runanga. The opportunity to meet there, and the warm welcome our Council received not only deepened our appreciation of Maoritanga, but also fostered a sense of unity and mutual respect among all members and highlighted the importance of that growing relationship.

As you step away from your role as the Ngāi Tahu representative, we want to extend our sincerest wishes for your ongoing health issues. Your resilience and strength in facing these challenges have been an inspiration to all of us, and we hope for a steady recovery so that you may continue to contribute to your community and endeavours close to your heart. Kia kaha Richard.

Once again, thank you for your exceptional service and dedication to the Otago Fish & Game Council. We wish you all the best for the future, whatever that may bring.

Nga mihi



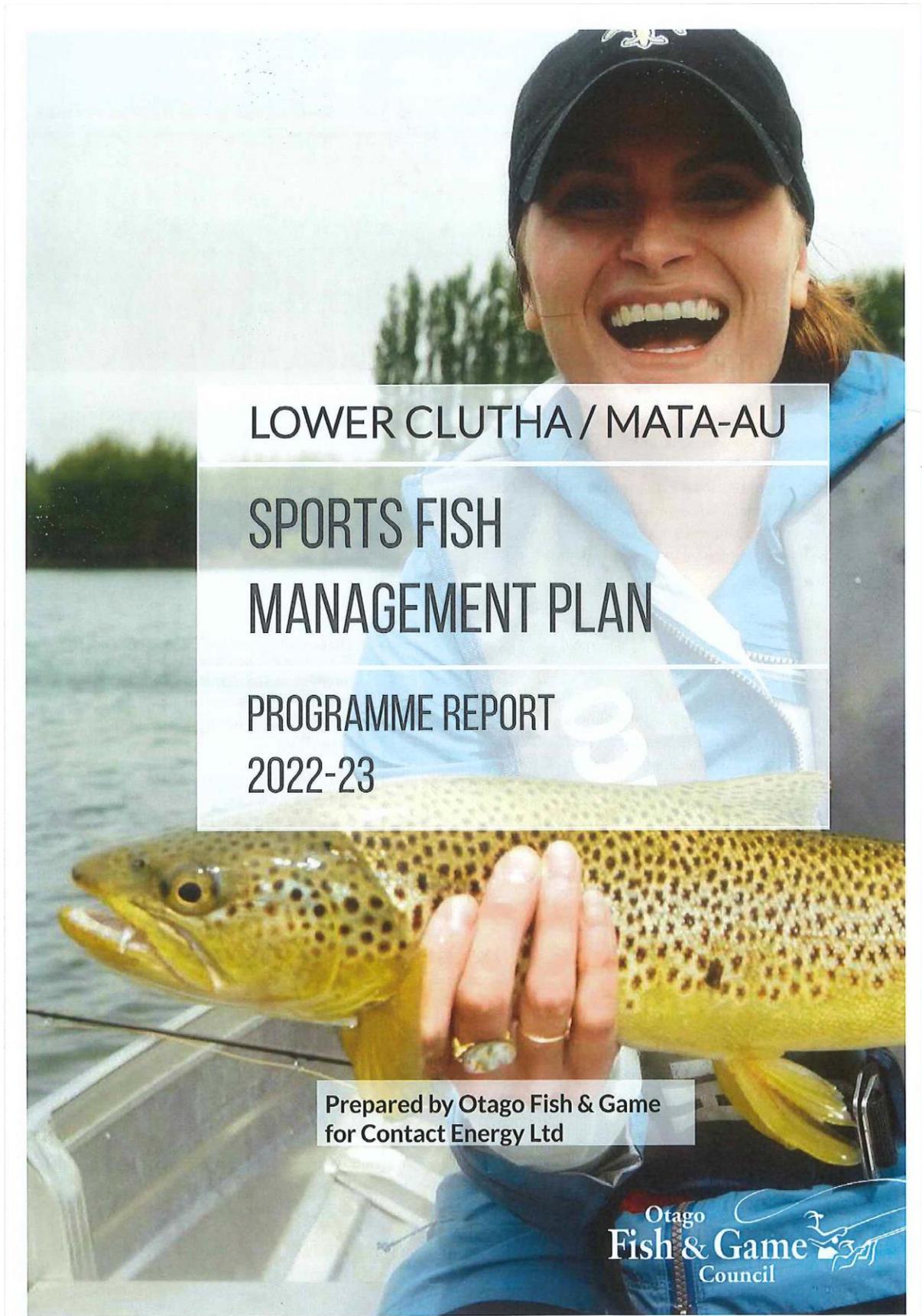
Colin Weatherall

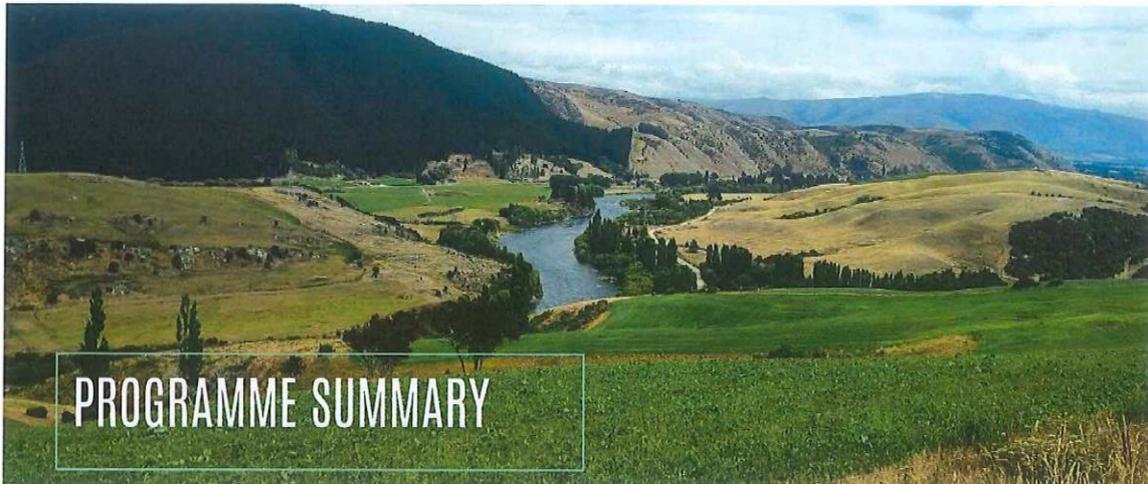
Chairperson

CC: Ben Hodgson, Ngai Tahu liaison person to F&G Councils
Mr Terry Nicholas, Manager, Hokonui Runanga

14.0 Items to be Received or Noted

14.1 Sports Fish Management Plan Report 2023





PROGRAMME SUMMARY

As part of the consent conditions for operating the Clutha River/Mata-au hydroelectric dams, Contact Energy is required, in consultation with Otago Fish and Game Council, to commission a sports fisheries mitigation programme to manage the sports fisheries in the lower Clutha River/Mata-au from Roxburgh Dam to the sea.

An annual work plan of projects is developed following a review and planning meeting each year. Projects in the Sports Fish Management Plan (SFMP) are contracted to Otago Fish and Game Council as well as external providers. Contact Energy are required to report to the consent authority (Otago Regional Council) on the implementation of the SFMP by August 15 each year and a final programme report is delivered by August 31 to allow work completed during the salmon spawning season to be included.

The attached report details the progress to date for the projects contracted to Otago Fish and Game Council in the 2022-23 financial year.

SPORTS FISH MANAGEMENT PLAN OBJECTIVES

Condition 17. a)

The consent holder shall, in consultation with Fish & Game New Zealand (Otago Region) commission a sports fisheries mitigation programme to manage the sports fisheries in the lower Clutha from Roxburgh Dam to the sea so that:

(i) a self-sustaining population of salmon with a target spawning run of approximately 5000 salmon is established, and

(ii) sports fish habitat is generally enhanced

in recognition of the adverse effects of the Hawea Dam, Clyde Dam, and Roxburgh Dam operations on downstream passage of sports fish and sports fish habitat quality.

HABITAT ENHANCEMENT - Condition 17. c)(iii) and (iv)

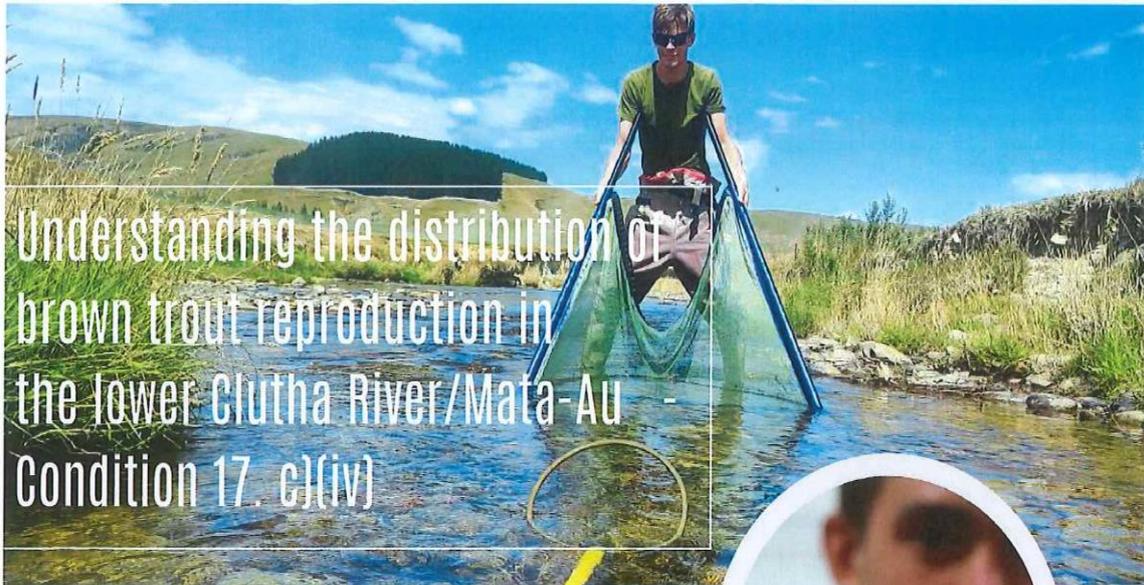
MANUKA ISLAND RESTORATION

There has been ongoing planting and maintenance at Manuka Island with a further 200 beech trees, which were kindly provided by the Otago Corrections Facility, planted on the island. Ongoing maintenance of the plantings has included hand releasing around the plantings, the spraying of woody weeds, mostly willows, and installing a trapline targeting mammalian predators. The intensive willow control aims to increase flow into the backwater, improve angler access and enhance salmonid spawning and rearing habitat. The trap line successfully removed 30 pest animals from the island.



The work on the island this season was conducted by Glen Riley of Habitat Restorations Aotearoa Ltd. Glen has suggested the island could benefit in future from a program including fencing and planting on the other side of the island.





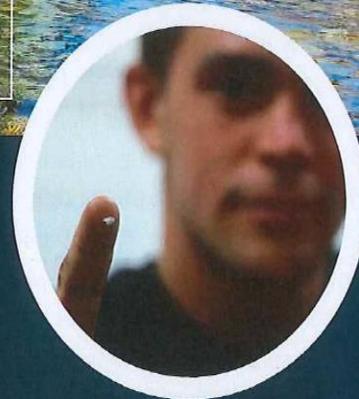
Brown Trout Origin Project

Several crucial spawning tributaries have been identified in the lower Clutha River/Mata-au after a four-year project collecting and analysing brown trout.

The Brown Trout Origin Project analysed the otoliths, or ear bones, of juvenile and adult trout collected from around the catchment by Fish & Game and anglers.

Otoliths are small bones that sit at the base of a fish's brain and build up in layers as the fish ages. As these layers build up, they take on the chemical composition of the waterway and the fish's diet. The otoliths were collected over the past four years from juvenile trout caught in Clutha tributaries by electric fishing and from adult trout heads donated by anglers and collected at fishing competitions. Otoliths were collected from 608 juvenile and 198 adult brown trout.

By comparing the chemical composition of the juvenile otoliths to the core of the adult otoliths, which developed during their time in the stream they were born, we were able to confidently identify the birthplace of around 40% of adult trout captured by anglers, a result similar to other studies using this method. The fish whose natal stream we were unable to identify were likely from unidentified tributaries, the mainstem of the Clutha or Pomahaka or potentially from upstream of the Roxburgh Dam.



The final six-month months of research were completed by Olivier Raven, a Master's student from Wageningen University in the Netherlands, who used a precise laser and mass spectrometer to analyse the otoliths at the University of Otago. Olivier's reports will be finalised and available soon. Olivier plans on publishing the work in a fisheries journal and will present the research at the 7th International Otolith Symposium based in Viña del Mar, Chile in October 2023.

Otago Fish & Game would like to thank Olivier for his hard work on this project, Contact Energy for providing the funding and the University of Otago staff, particularly Professor Gerry Closs who provided the expertise needed to conduct the analysis. Thanks also to the many licence holders who provided samples and the landowners who allowed us to sample their streams.

Understanding the distribution of brown trout reproduction in the lower Clutha River/Mata-Au - Condition 17. c)(iv)

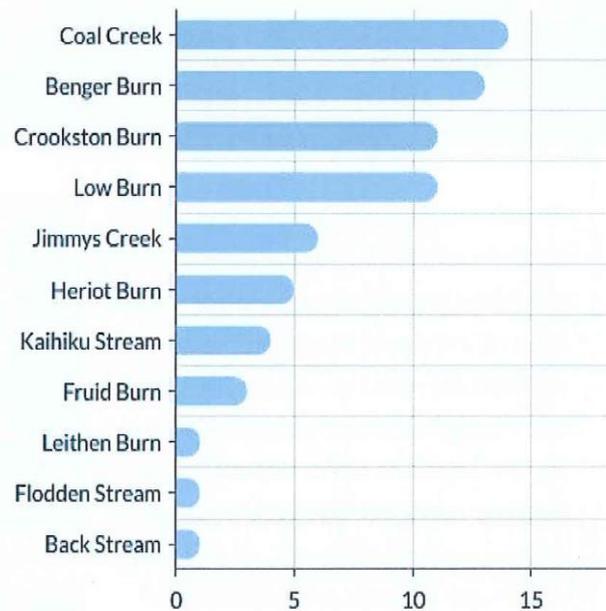
Predicted Origin Streams

This work has allowed us to identify which of the spawning streams running into the lower Clutha/Mata-au provide the most trout to the angler's line and make the protection of these streams a top priority.

The project highlighted several tributaries in the upper section of the river, namely the Bengier Burn, Heriot Burn, Coal Creek, Crookston Burn, and Jimmy's Creek, as particularly significant. Analysing these streams may provide valuable insights and strategies for enhancing other tributaries. The work also suggested that very few of the fish caught throughout the lower Clutha/Mata-au showed evidence of a sea-run life history type. Only fish caught in the Clutha lagoon showed signs of time spent in the ocean or tidal area. A number of the fish caught in the lagoon were shown to have been born in Coal Creek, near the base of the Roxburgh Dam, a distance of more than 100km.

The most frequently predicted natal site

Based on angler caught fish from the lower Clutha

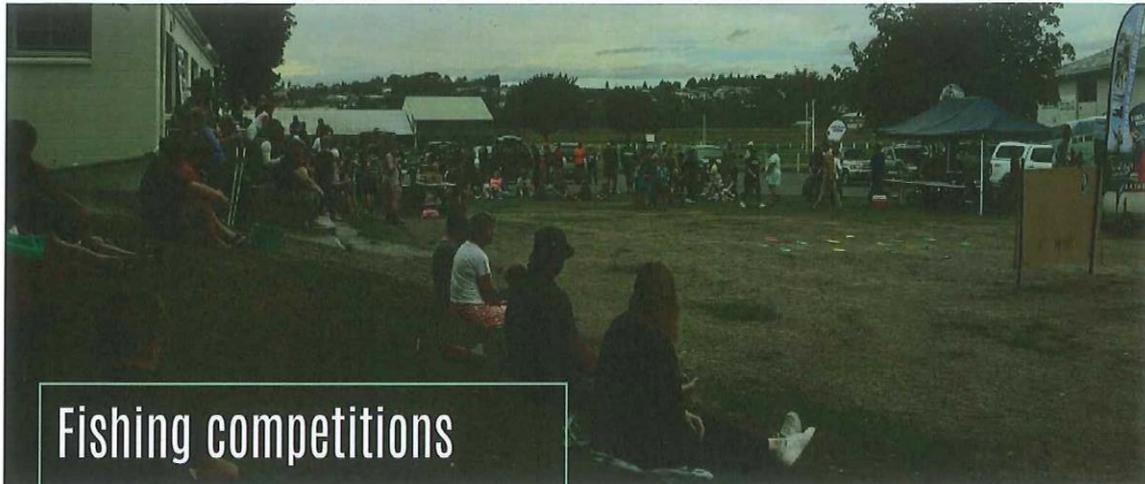


Otolith Storage

The origin project has uncovered a lot of information about otolith microchemistry, but one of the key findings was that the chemical signatures are relatively stable over time. This stability has meant that otoliths collected in between 1995 and 1998 for a previous project were suitable to be analysed and that otoliths collected in future can be analysed using the models produced this year.

To ensure more otoliths are collected in future and the data from these are able to be analysed, Fish & Game have developed a system for the long-term filing of otoliths and purchased more otolith extraction kits.





Fishing competitions

To increase the number of adult fish for analysis and to encourage participation, a fishing competition was run on the lower Clutha and Pomahaka rivers. The competition was run in tandem with the Bluelight Fishing Competition run by the Balclutha police. Contact Energy funding was used to purchase prizes to attract adult participants, to add to the significant amount provided by local businesses for the children's event.

Fish & Game coordinated the event promotion, administration and weigh-in process, and provided guidance and loan equipment for the children.

A sunny day helped get people out to the event and we had a great turn out with 262 participants, half of whom were children.

Fishing was on the slow side with 50 fish weighed in, including 23 brown trout that were subsequently utilised for the origin project.



The Contact Energy funding and support by community businesses meant that every child who attended was able to take home at least one prize.

MONITORING THE SALMON POPULATION - Condition 17. c) vii)



ON-SITE CREEL SURVEYS

A local contractor was hired to undertake onsite creel surveys at the Roxburgh Dam and nearby fishing access points during the main salmon fishing period.

This survey was carried out by a local contractor and despite 23 visits to the dam, they observed very few anglers and a low catch rate for the anglers who did fish. It was also noted that most anglers at the dam were targeting trout rather than salmon. No salmon were observed during the creel surveys. One worker on the Roxburgh Dam reported seeing two or three salmon caught and another said they had seen salmon breaching near the dam wall.

These surveys suggest the lower Clutha/Mata-au salmon fishery is in a very poor state, with relatively few anglers targeting salmon.

ONLINE HARVEST SURVEY

This year's harvest survey was run using new methods due to the introduction of a season bag limit in Canterbury. Otago anglers with a season bag card for Canterbury had already been surveyed as part of the Canterbury region's combined surveys and consequently had to be removed from Otago call lists. The Otago-based surveys were set up using a new method concentrating on anglers with known previous success, as well as how close they live to the river. Analysis of previous surveys has shown that anglers who live close to the lower Clutha are more likely to fish it for salmon and this year's survey confirmed this idea.

The survey estimated that anglers fished the river for a total of 1600 ± 660 (± 1 standard error) days. Reassuringly, this estimate of usage relates well to recent National Angling Survey estimates. Anglers fished throughout the catchment, however, salmon fishing above Beaumont was the most popular area, accounting for almost two thirds of the effort. Fishing below Balclutha was the next most popular with just over a quarter of the angling days. Fishing in the middle reaches and Pomahaka was far less popular. We estimate that almost 50 anglers were successful in bringing home a salmon with a total harvest of 53 ± 24 . Salmon harvest was all recorded in either the Pomahaka River or above Beaumont in the main river.

Estimates from this survey come with relatively wide confidence intervals which could be improved in future by running a volunteer online-based survey to boost data collection and the maintenance of a database recording angler success over time.



AERIAL MONITORING SURVEYS

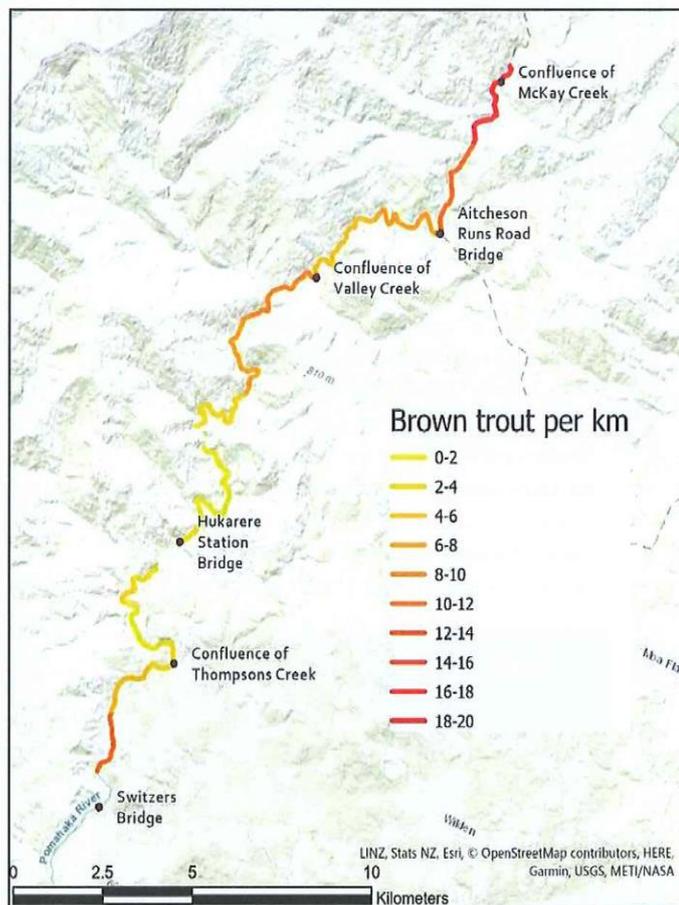
Conducting aerial surveys to count redds (fish nests) and live fish offers valuable insights into the relative abundance and distribution of sports fish and spawning activity over time. These ongoing surveys play a crucial role in the long-term monitoring efforts the lower Clutha/Mata-au fishery.

Due to poor weather and river conditions, only one flight was able to be conducted on the Pomahaka and no suitable window was found to survey the Clutha River/Mata-au or the Leithen Burn. Just under 35km of the upper Pomahaka River was surveyed in early June, however, sections of the river had to be avoided due to flight hazards identified on previous flights and a particularly thick hoar frost on the day of the survey.

The survey followed a significant flood, meaning any salmon redds that may have been laid down prior to the flood were unable to be detected and no evidence of salmon or salmon spawning was seen.

On the day of the survey, brown trout were grouped up in deeper pools and there was very little evidence of spawning. Despite this, high numbers of brown trout were seen throughout the river with a total of 216 counted throughout the surveyed reach.

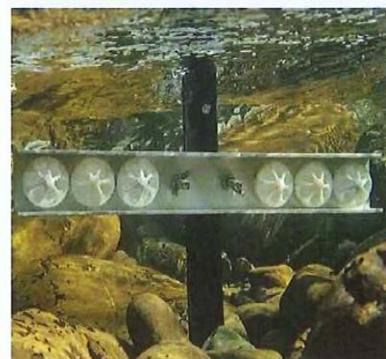
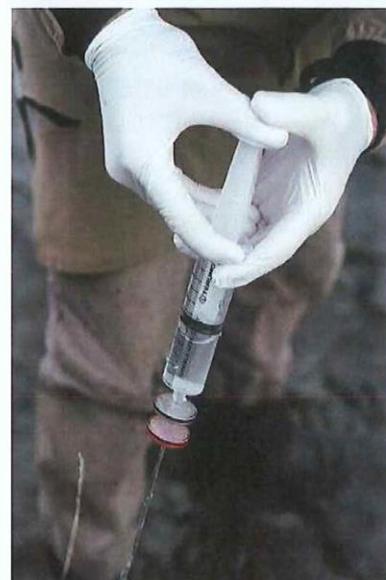
Trout were spread relatively evenly throughout the surveyed reach, however, the highest densities were found just below the end of the survey where the typically preferred spawning locations are.





CLUTHA eDNA SURVEY

Ten sites across the Clutha/Mata-au catchment were sampled for environmental DNA (eDNA) over May and June, using a combination of passive filtration samplers left to soak for 24 hours and syringe filtration samplers provided by Wilderlab NZ Ltd. Triplicate samples were collected at each site. Samples were preserved in the field and multi-species DNA metabarcoding analysis targeting fish, invertebrates, mammals, and birds was undertaken in Wellington by Wilderlab.



SFMP PROGRAMME REPORT 2022-23



Salmon populations in the upper Clutha lakes are known to contribute to the fishery in the lower Clutha as well as support the landlocked lake fisheries. Previous studies indicated that on average more than 61% of the salmon captured in the lower Clutha River were the progeny of landlocked (adfluvial) populations.

Therefore documenting the location of the salmon spawning grounds for these fisheries is important to understand the distribution and use of recruitment habitat which support these populations. This information also assists with directing future habitat protection and enhancement work to benefit the population.

A total of 11 fish species were identified across all sites. Chinook salmon DNA was detected at four sites; Diamond Creek, lower Rees River and both the Makarora River sites. Brown trout DNA was detected at all 10 sites while rainbow trout were detected at only seven sites.

Based on the sequence count results, salmon were most abundant at Diamond Creek, followed by the Makarora River. Both above the Young and below the Wilkin had similar sequence counts. The lower Rees sample was considered to be a tentative detection of salmon due to an extremely low sequence count detected in only one sample replicates.

Native fish detected included upland and common bully, longfin eel, kōaro and several galaxiid species (Clutha flathead, Pomahaka and Gollum).

The average number of fish species detected per site was four. The highest number detected was seven (Benger Burn). The Arrow River had the lowest species diversity detected.



Full results of the eDNA surveys can be explored further via an interactive web application available at:

<https://www.wilderlab.co.nz/explore>



WILDERLAB

Salmon Spawning Surveys



Foot-based spawning surveys were used to check historic and likely spawning areas as well as locations which in previous years returned a positive salmon DNA result. This year's surveys focused on the Wakatipu tributaries, in particular the Rees River and Dart River, as well as a section of the Makarora River above the Wilkin River. A foot-based spawning survey was also carried out on the the Arrow River and the Bengier Burn after public reports of salmon, however, no salmon were seen or detected there.

Spawning salmon were only observed during two of the 12 surveys conducted. These sightings were at an unnamed spring creek located on the true right of the Makarora River above Teil Creek and in Diamond Creek, a tributary of the Rees River.

Abundant brown trout spawning behavior was observed at 10 of the 12 sites with the exceptions of Bengier Burn and the Arrow River. No rainbow trout spawning was observed on any of the surveys.



The discovery of spawning salmon in a Makarora tributary is the first recorded spawning for salmon within the Wānaka catchment for more than 10 years. Fish & Game will work with local landowners and other agencies to assess how to improve the creek's conditions to support salmon spawning in the Wānaka catchment.

14.2 Compliance Summary Report

Purpose

This report provides a summary of compliance activity during the 2022/23 fishing and gamebird hunting seasons.

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

- Checking 10% of Fish or Game Adult Full Season Licence holders annually
- Maintaining 95% compliance with laws and regulations.

Licence Diversion levels

Direction on matters of prosecution, including diversion levels are guided by the “Offense Guidelines” adopted by the Council. These standard diversion fines were approved in November 2022 and are in line with Southland and Central South Island regions levels.

Fishing Season Compliance

Total Adult and Family Full Season Licence holders	12084
Documented Interview with anglers	1167
% Checked (Target >10% Adult licence holders)	9.66%
Number of Offenders (excluding Failure to Produce or “FTP’s”)	31
% Compliance(Target: 95%)	97.34%

This season, **non-resident** full season fishing licence volumes increased by 713% from the 2021-2022 season. In comparison, **resident** full season adult and family licence sales had decreased by 304 licences. Overall, Licence Equivalents (LEQ) were up by 0.8%

Our total number of interviewed anglers increased to 1167 with last year only recording 772. The previous table shows that the compliance team was slightly beneath its target of 10% of total full season family and adult licences (9.66%)

31 individuals were apprehended for Conservation Act 1987 offences, 13 less than last season. Over the last 5 years, compliance levels have ranged between 95% and 98% of those interviewed (and this season’s result fits within the range at 97.34%. In addition to the more serious offences, all those who failed to produce a licence to a ranger in the field (FTP’s) have their licence check on the database and were given verbal or written warnings. This is a routine procedure to ensure anglers do not lie about having a valid licence.

Overview of Fishing Offences

Fishing without holding a valid sports fishing licence (FWL) remains the most common offence in the Otago region, with FWL comprising 87% of offences detected (excluding FTPs). Four offenders committed two simultaneous offences: without a licence and obstruction of a ranger/provided false details. In terms of regulation offences, two individuals were caught fishing with two rods. Thus, resulting in a total of 95% of offences involving FWL.

Fishing prosecution summary

FWL Outcomes

- 5 FWL offenders were given warnings due to factors such as the matter being their first offence, their youth, health issues, or having a licence for a different Fish and Game Region or similar.
- 20 FWL offenders accepted diversion with four more offenders still being processed at years end.
- 1 offender (simultaneous offences of FWL and providing false details) was dealt with through prosecution. This offender was fined:
 1. Fishing without a licence: \$300
 2. Providing false details: \$500
 3. Prosecution cost: \$450
- One 'simultaneous' offence will be heard in court in the coming weeks.

2 Rod Offence Outcomes

- Both 2 rods offenders accepted diversion

All offenders accepted the Councils Diversion package; they chose to accept diversion and pay their fine into the Otago Regions 'Habitat Enhancement and Research Fund'.

The region continues to use the diversion system of laying a charge and then offering diversion. All offenders accepted the Councils Diversion package and paid their fine into the Otago Regions 'Habitat Enhancement and Research Fund'.

The proportion of successful diversions has therefore been consistent with last season all offenders that we offered diversion successfully completing its terms.

Game Season Compliance

Total Documented game licences	3907
Total game licences checked	155
% Checked (Target >10% Adult licence holders)	3.97%
Number of Offenders (excluding Failure to Produce or "FTP's")	20
% compliance (Target: 95%)	87.1%

Game Compliance Summary

The target of interviewing 10% of gamebird licence holders was once more, not achieved this season. This contact rate is an almost unattainable target, especially when much of our compliance work is focused on opening weekend and on individual farm ponds and private land, with a well-trained but limited number of rangers. After opening weekend, game ranging generally results in considerable effort for a limited number of hunter contacts. Thus, all 155 game licence checks were conducted in opening weekend this season and almost exclusively on private land.

HWL Outcomes

- 4 Hunting without licence offences accepted diversion

Breach of Game Gazette conditions

Lead Shot Outcomes

- 5x hunters caught in possession of lead shot accepted Diversion.
- 3x lead shot offenders were offered a warning due to mitigating circumstances such as amount of lead shot present and/or were given an onsite warning.

Over bag limit

- 6x offenders were given a warning for being Over the Bag Limit (Shoveler Hens).

Taking Partially Protected Wildlife

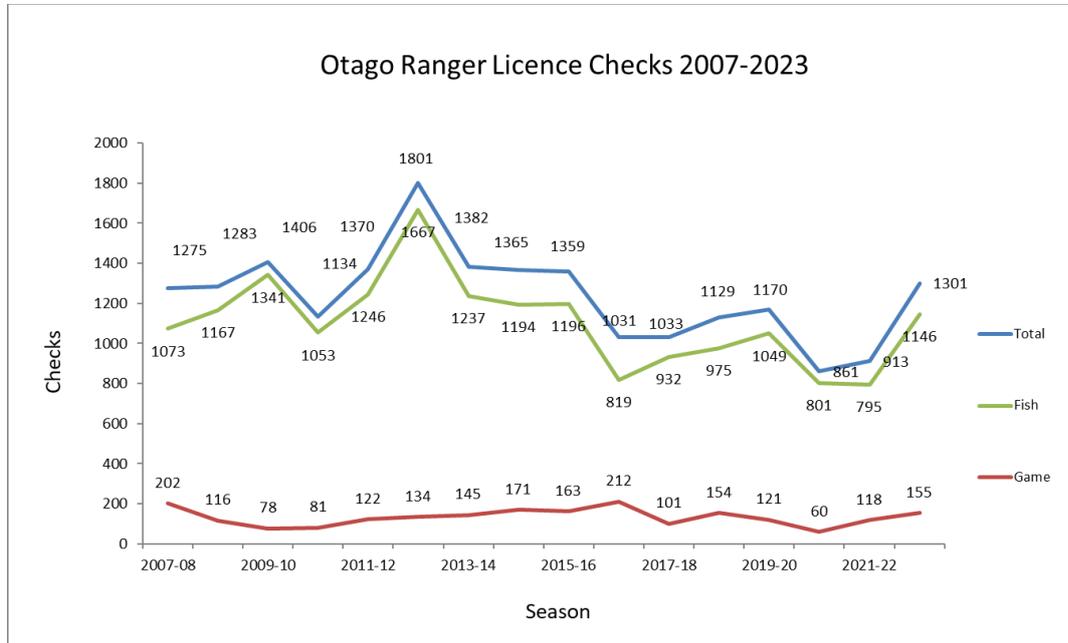
- 2x offenders accepted diversion for Taking Partially Protected Wildlife (Grey Teal). This is an increase from last year's season where 1 offender was given a warning for Taking Partially Protected Wildlife.

Other

Police are still following up with one offender who left a firearm unattended near a hunting area. The offender will receive a warning from the Firearms Safety Authority for his behaviour.

This season saw a decrease in compliance with a noticeable increase in lead shot offences (an increase of 5 offences from the previous season).

Trends in ranging activity



Fishing licence checks were up from the 2021/22 season with an increase of 395 interviews.

Game bird licence checks were also up from the 2022 season, with an increase of 79 interviews.

Recommendations

Council receives this report.

Matthew Veitch

Otago Fish & Game Compliance Officer

19 September 2023

14.3 Backcountry Fishery and Controlled Fishery Report for the 2022/2023 Season

Introduction

The 2022 / 2023 season marked the third year post the COVID-19 pandemic which meant there has been an increase of tourism in particular non-resident anglers and fishing guides on backcountry rivers in Otago. Compliance checks were performed on 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 2022/2023 season.

Backcountry Ranging

Planned ranging was undertaken in the Nevis River as part of signage repair trips after several signs were vandalised at the start of the season. All other licence checks completed in the Wilkin, upper Pomahaka, Dingle Burn, Greenstone and Caples were not planned backcountry ranging trips but were undertaken by staff and / or honorary rangers who were in the area undertaking recreational activities.

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.

Timing of ranging

Backcountry fishery monitoring was undertaken throughout the 2022/2023 season (01 October – 30 April and 01 November - 31 May).

Results*Greenstone Controlled Fishery*

Table 1: GCF angler effort and demographics 2008-2022

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
No. Of															
Anglers						40	43	55	66	55	38	38	21	22	41
Total															
Capacity allocated	51%	46%	46%	61%	27%	27%	25%	26%	39%	29%	22%	29%	19%	21%	34%
NZ res anglers	31%	36%	31%	41%	37%	48%	42%	29%	38%	31%	45%	34%	90%	91%	56%
Non res anglers	69%	64%	69%	59%	63%	52%	58%	71%	62%	69%	55%	66%	10%	9%	44%
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, 2020, 2021 or 2022.*

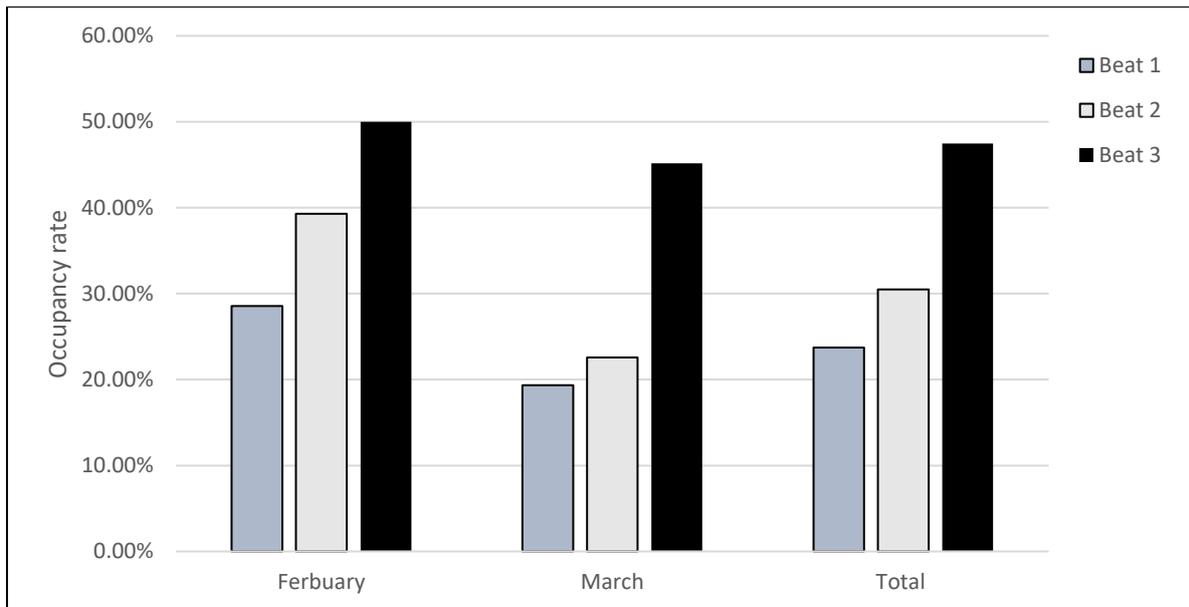


Figure 1: GCF Occupancy rate for 2022-2023 season

Total capacity in the Greenstone River controlled fishery period (Beats 1 – 3) increased from the previous seasons with a 34% of the available beats being booked (Table 1). Resident anglers made up 56% (n=23) of the angling effort and non-resident anglers the remaining 44% (n=18) during the controlled fishery period. The occupancy rate has been quite low (20 – 30%) over the past decade with the 2016 season the only other year with similar occupancy rates to 22-23 (Table 1).

Beat 3 was the most booked beat with a total occupancy rate of 48%, whilst Beat 1 had the lowest with only 23% (Figure 1). February had a significantly higher occupancy rate with 39% compared to March with only 29% (Figure 1).

Sports Fishing Regulations Compliance

Rangers completed 35 licence checks in 20 ranging days (Table 2) which is significantly more than last season with less ranging effort (15 licence checks in 24 ranging days). Sixteen anglers were resident (45%) and Nineteen anglers were non-resident (55%) all of which were compliant with back country licence requirements (Table 2).

Table 2: Backcountry Ranging Effort 2022 /2023

Location	Person	Dates	Days Ranging (incl access)	Guides	Licence checks	Offences detected
Nevis River	Santillan De Pinto	01 October 2022	1	1	3	Na
Nevis River	Ben Sowry	16 October 2022	1	1	2	Na
Greenstone & Caples rivers	Jakub Kanok	15 November 2022	1	0	3	Na
Wilkin River	Paul van Klink	19 December 2022	1	0	1	Na
Wilkin River	Jason Kelly	1 January 2023	1	0	6	Na
Upper Pomahaka River	Jakub Kanok	5 January 2023	1	0	1	Na
Nevis River	Ben Sowry	13 January 2023	1	0	3	Na
Caples River	Fraser Hocks	28-29 January 2023	2	0	4	Na
Greenstone & Caples rivers	Jakub Kanok	29-30 January 2023	2	0	3	Na
Nevis River	Ben Sowry	31 January 2023	1	0	0	Na
Nevis River	Jakub Kanok	7 February 2023	1	3	8	Na
Nevis River	Mason Court & Ben Sowry	14 February 2023	1	0	0	Na
Caples River	Jakub Kanok	15 March 2023	2	0	1	Na
Nevis River	Mason Court	18-19 March 2023	2	0	0	Na
Caples River	Jakub Kanok	7-8 May 2023	2	0	0	Na
Totals			20	4	35	0

Department of Conservation concessionaire compliance

Three fishing guides were encountered during the 2022/23 season in back country fisheries with one guide being checked on three different occasions. Making a total of 42 different fishing guides that have been interviewed in Otago fisheries over the past eight seasons and all have had a valid concession.

Discussion

The increase in the number of anglers fishing Backcountry rivers in the 2022/2023 season reflects the return of increased tourism post COVID-19. Non-Residents made up total of 47% of the anglers recorded in the Back Country (37 Non-resident anglers interviewed riverside or booked a GCF beat). The return of Non-Resident anglers is furthermore shown by the 742 Non-resident Full Season Adult licences sold for the 2022/2023 season which is an increase of 638 compared to the previous season (only 104 sold in 2021/2022).

The Nevis River was the most checked back country river with six days of ranging resulting in 11 licence checks, this is likely due to the accessibility of the Nevis and the ease that the voluntary beat system allows.

The Greenstone Controlled Fishery received the highest number of bookings since 2016 with 41 total beat bookings almost double the previous seasons bookings of 22. Non residents made up a large proportion of that with 44% of the usage non-residents. During the COVID-19 years (2020-2022) Non-resident usage on the greenstone-controlled fishery never got higher than 10%.

Beat 3 was the most booked beat likely due to it being the closest beat to the main carpark therefore the most accessible on foot. The lack of booking for Beat 1 is likely due to the lack of water in the upper section of the river this summer as well as the distance required to access the beat. February's higher occupancy rate to March may be explained by the significant weather patterns we experience during those months, with a limited number of fishable days in March due to heavy rainfall.

There were a total four cancellations from anglers in March who contacted Otago Fish & Game staff to cancel their bookings due to weather.

Angler compliance with the backcountry fishery regulations has been 100% this season. Compliance of fishing guides with valid concessions is also very high with no detection of illegal guiding occurring over the past eight seasons.

Planned work for 2023 – 2024

- Shift all the previous back country fisheries across to the new Designated waters licence with specialised monitoring for each fishery.
- Continue to communicate and liaise with backcountry fishery user groups.
- Complete Sports Fishing Regulation training with Department of Conservation staff hut wardens (October 2023).
- Continue to liaise with Department of Conservation on concession monitoring and reporting.

Recommendation

That the Report be received

Mason Court

Fish & Game Officer

References

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

14.4 Upper Clutha Catchment Land-locked Salmon Spawning Surveys

Introduction

Land-locked populations of Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) occur in Lakes Wakatipu, Wānaka and Hāwea where they form an important component of the sports fishery. Although the salmon are relatively small in size they can be easily caught so are popular with anglers. The landlocked salmon of the southern lakes also play an important role in the sea run salmon populations by assisting in recruitment. Previous studies using otolith microchemistry data, have predicted that on average over 61 % of the sea run salmon captured in the lower Clutha River were the progeny of landlocked populations located above the Roxburgh and Clyde Dams (Gabrielsson, 2019).

Landlocked salmon spawning areas in the Central Otago Lakes are not well known and there is a general lack of knowledge of the land-locked salmon fishery. The purpose of the spawning surveys is to research where salmon have been observed spawning in the past and revisit these areas and identify where salmon are currently spawning.

The salmon spawning surveys in autumn 2023 is the fifth year of conducting surveys within the tributaries of the Southern Lakes. The 2023 surveys concentrated effort in the Wakatipu tributaries in particular up the Rees River, significant effort was also afforded to the Makarora River. This interim report is part of a milestone activity identified in the Sports Fish and Game Management Plan for Otago Fish and Game Council (11.2.1.7 2020).

Methodology

Anecdotal information on past salmon spawning areas was provided by Fish & Game staff (past and present), landowners and anglers. The priority catchments are tributaries of Lake Wakatipu (Priority 1) and tributaries of Lake Wānaka (Priority 2). The historic spawning areas identified from previous information were surveyed first as a priority. Anecdotal observations of salmon spawning were obtained from tributaries of the Makarora River, and Rees River.

Foot Based Spawning Survey

Foot-based spawning surveys were used to check historic and likely spawning areas as well as locations which in previous years returned a positive salmon eDNA results. This year's surveys focused on the Wakatipu tributaries, in particular the Rees River and Dart River, as well as a section of the Makarora River above the Wilkin River. Surveys were conducted in May and June which were based on previous anecdotal records of when salmon have been observed spawning.

eDNA (Environmental DNA) Survey

Following on from eDNA surveys in 2020, 2021 and 2022 sampling this season concentrated on the Makarora and Rees rivers. Passive eDNA samplers (drouges) were deployed at two sites in the Makarora River, two sites in the Rees River and one site in the Wilkin River in May and June 2023 (Figure 1 & 2). Each site had triplicate samples collected over a 24 hour period. Single samples were collected at three sites within Lake Wakatipu's tributaries: Glacier Burn,

Lake Sylvan outflow and Diamond Creek (Figure 2). For each sample a syringe was used to filter 500 ml of water on site and a DNA/RNA preservative solution was injected into the filter capsule keeping the genetic material stable at room temperature before it was transported to the lab for analysis. All sample kits were supplied by, and analysis conducted by Wilderlab NZ Ltd



Figure 1. Three eDNA sampling sites located in the Makarora and Wilkin rivers in early May 2023.



Figure 2. Five eDNA sampling sites located in the tributaries at the top of lake Wakatipu in late May 2023.

Results

Foot Based Spawning Surveys

Spawning Salmon were only observed at two locations throughout the surveys, an unnamed spring creek located on the true right of the Makarora river just above Teil Creek (Figure 5) and in Diamond Creek a tributary of the Rees river (Figure 6).

No salmon or salmon carcasses were observed during the walking survey in Upper Rees and tributaries, Glacier Burn or the Lake Sylvan outflow (Figures 3 & 4). Brown trout and brown trout spawning redds were observed in every one of the surveys. These were recorded and entered into the spawning database.

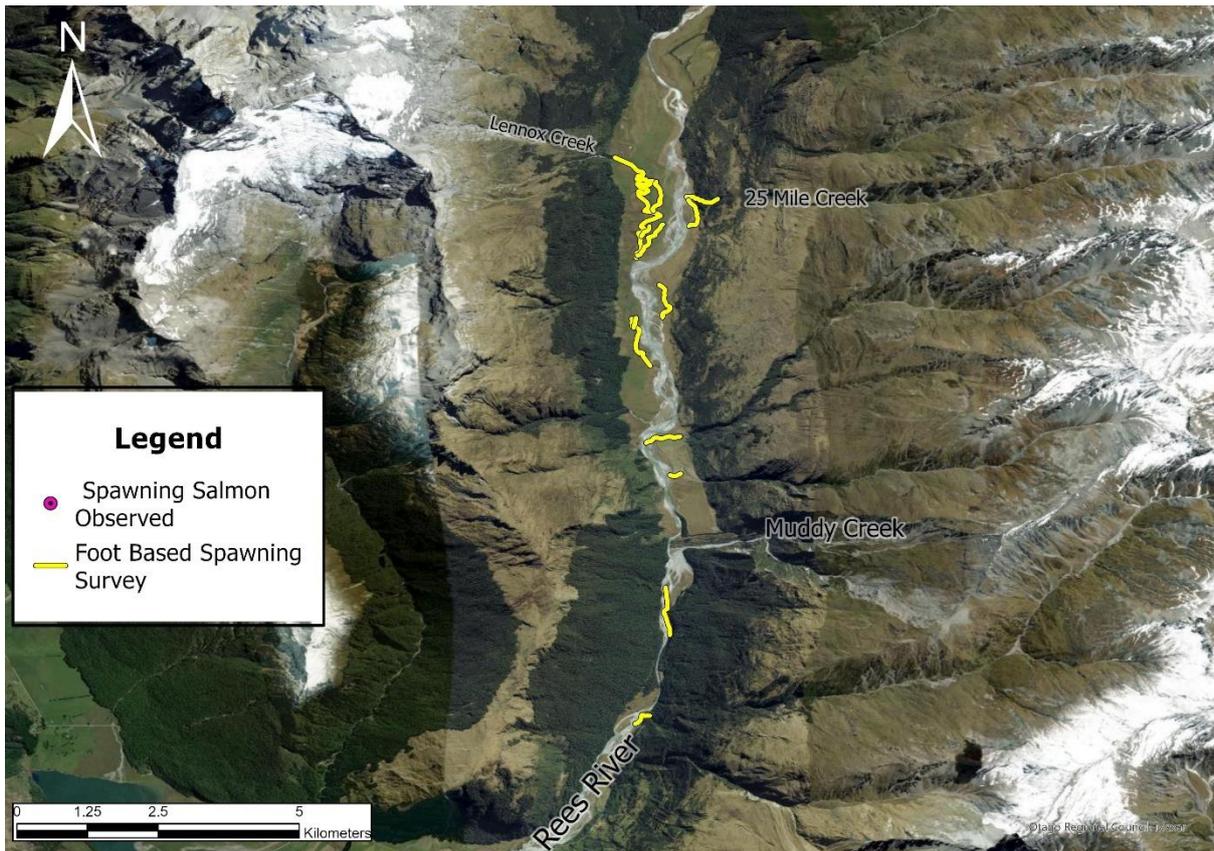


Figure 3. Foot based spawning survey of the upper Rees River conducted in May- June 2023

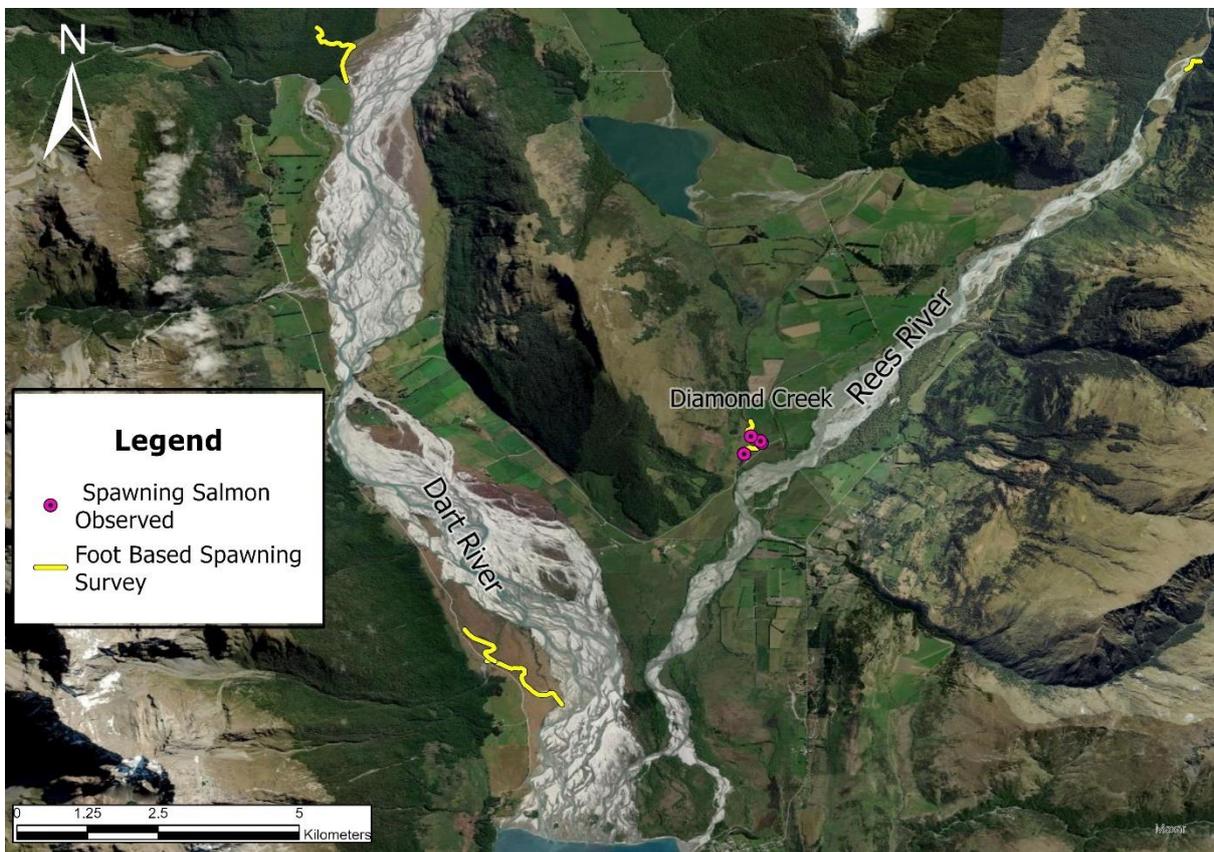


Figure 4. Foot based spawning surveys of the lower Dart and Rees rivers conducted in May 2023

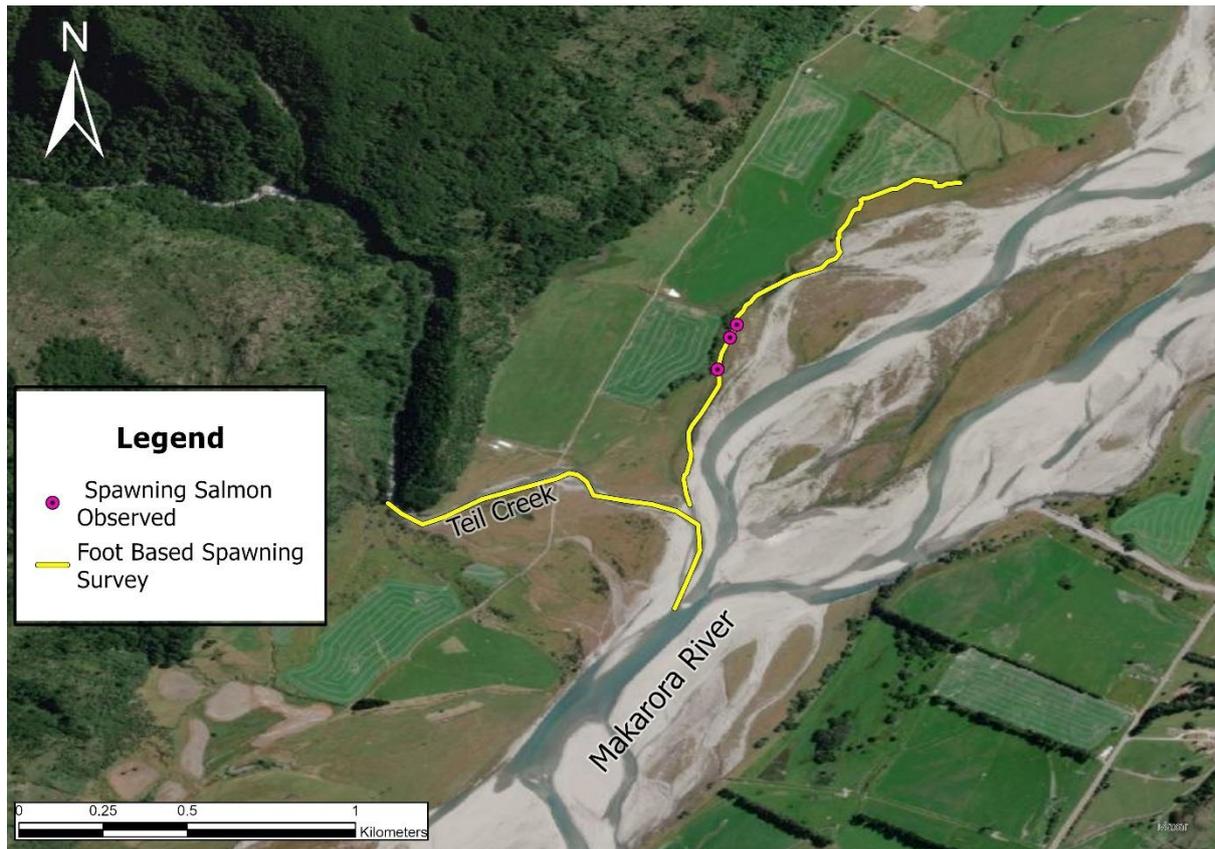


Figure 5: Foot based spawning surveys of Teil Creek and Unnamed Spring Creek located true right of the Makarora River, conducted June 2023

eDNA Sampling

Wilkin River

Sample locality Wilkin 001 (Samples 402140, 402141, 402142), 22 May 2023 is just upstream from the confluence of the Makarora River. No salmon eDNA was detected in any of the three samples deployed at this site.

Makarora River

Sample locality Makarora 001 (Samples 402145, 402146, 402148), 22 May 2023. This site was surveyed on the true left of the Makarora River just upstream from the confluence with the Wilkin River all three samples detected salmon eDNA.

Sample locality Makarora 002 (410011, 410012, 402129), 22 May 2023. This site was surveyed on the true left of the Makarora River downstream from the confluence of the Young River and above the confluence with Teil Creek all three samples detected salmon eDNA.

Diamond Creek

Sample locality Diamond Creek 001 (503808) 15 May 2023, this site was surveyed on the true right of the creek next to the Otago Fish & Game Hut. A strong presence of salmon eDNA was detected.

Rees River

Sample locality Rees 001 (402132,402137,402138) 23 May 2023, this site was surveyed on the true left of the river just above the confluence with Muddy Creek. No presence of salmon eDNA was detected in any of the samples.

Sample locality Rees 002 (402087,401780,401781) 24 May 2023, this site was surveyed on the true right of the river below the main highway bridge that crosses the Rees. A small presence of salmon eDNA was detected in one of the three samples.

Glacier Burn

Sample locality Glacier Burn 001 (503791) 16 May 2023, this site was surveyed on the true right of the river above the confluence with the Dart River. No presence of salmon eDNA was detected with this sample.

Lake Sylvan Outflow

Sample locality Lake Sylvan Outflow 001 (501159) 16 May 2023, this site was surveyed on the true right of the river above the confluence with the Dart River. No presence of salmon eDNA was detected with this sample.

Discussion

Land-locked salmon in Lake Wānaka over the past 7 years can be described as “sparse” when compared to the salmon population of the other southern lakes (Hāwea and Wakatipu). However, there are signs that the number of fish present in the lake is slowly increasing with anecdotal comments from anglers regarding large catches at the Makarora River mouth during the months of April and May.

The discovery of spawning salmon in the unnamed spring creek above Teil Creek is of particular importance as this is the first document spawning of Lake Wānaka landlocked salmon population within the last ten years. With that discovery there are now recorded spawning locations in each of the three main lakes tributaries, with Diamond Creek (Wakatipu), Hunter River (Hāwea) and now the unnamed spring creek (Wānaka). It is unknown if salmon located in Lake Dunstan travel up the Kawarau or the Clutha River to the top other lakes to spawn. A foot-based spawning survey was also carried out on the Arrow River after public reports of salmon captures; however, no evidence of salmon was observed.

The eDNA results show that there was a detection of Salmon eDNA in the Makarora River above the spring creek in which the salmon were observed indicating that there may be another population spawning further upriver (Figure 1). The eDNA sample taken from the lower Rees detected salmon eDNA above Diamond Creek in one of the three samples, this may be due to the close nature to Diamond Creek with the sampling site located

approximately 700 metres from Diamond Creek confluence, or it could be that there is a small population spawning in the spring creeks located in the true right of the lower Rees River.

Otago Fish & Game staff have reached out to the owners of Mt Albert Station in order to explore the idea of enhancing the spring creek in which the salmon were located spawning, through the use of a grant from the HERF (habitat enhancement and research fund). Site visits are organised for late September.

The comprehensive salmon spawning surveys also identified extensive brown trout spawning activity in all of the tributary streams surveyed, with brown trout often observed spawning within metres of salmon.

Future Salmon Spawning Surveys

The use of eDNA should be continued to work out the upper limit of salmon presence in the Makarora River as well as identify possible spawning locations in the Dart Catchment. Foot Based spawning surveys should be continued in tributary streams of the lower Makarora in particular monitoring around the recently discovered spawning creek on Mt Albert Station with the aim of locating and documenting more spawning grounds in similar locations. Further work is also required in the Dart River to determine if Diamond Creek is the only spawning location within Lake Wakatipu tributaries.

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Recommendation

That this report is received.

Mason Court

Fish and Game Officer
September 2023

15.0 General Business