

Agenda For The Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council

On 23rd May 2024

At 120 Scotland Street, Roxburgh

Starting 11:45am with a light lunch

Timetable	Council Meeting
11.45 am	Lunch
12.15 pm	<i>Council Only Session</i>
12.30 pm	Council Meeting Begins
2.00 pm	Public Excluded Session
2.45 pm	Afternoon Tea
3.00 pm	Public Forum
3:15 pm	Open Meeting Resumes
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 21st March 2024

At Otago Fish and Game Council office, Dunedin

1.0 Present and Apologies

Present: Colin Weatherall (Chair), Mike Barker, Rick Boyd, Ray Grubb, Adrian McIntyre, Blair Trevathan.

In attendance: Ian Hadland (CE), Bruce Quirey (Communications Officer), Nigel Paragreen (Environmental Officer).

Present via video conferencing: John Highton, Ian Cole.

Apologies: Vicky May, Paulette Tamati-Elliffe (Ngāi Tahu appointee), Neil Harraway (Otago Conservation Board).

Meeting opening at 12.45pm.

The Chair welcomed the councillors.

Moved (Cr Weatherall)

That apologies be accepted.

Carried unanimously.

2.0 Matters to be raised not on the agenda

Nothing.

3.0 Declarations of Interest

The Chairperson asked Councillors to update and sign Declarations of Interest. No new declarations were tabled.

4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

An error was pointed out in Item 7.1 Election of officers in the February minutes, whereby "X" needed to be replaced with "Cr Weatherall".

Moved (Cr Highton/Cr Grubb)

That the minutes of the Council meeting and AGM of Otago Fish & Game Council held on 10th February 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record, subject to the above amendment.

Carried unanimously.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

The CE was asked if he had followed up about Otago joining a working group for health and safety. The CE advised that the Central Otago Operations Manager would be joining the NZC working group.

There was a question about the ward structure, and it was noted a futures report was still to be received by NZC, but had acknowledged some flexibility might be needed in bigger regions.

A question was raised about plans to improve Macraes Hatchery. The CE replied there was no proposal yet.

6.0 Health and Safety Report – February/March

Moved (Cr Barker/Cr Trevathan)

That the Health and Safety Report be received.

Carried unanimously.

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 Operational Workplan and Budget Overview 2024-2025

The CE presented the operational workplan and budget overview. He noted it was a draft that would require licence fees to be adopted. The NZC had requested all regions reduce bulk funds by 3%, which was impossible to do. That was over \$37,000 for Otago, which had an external operating budget of nearly \$95,000.

The CE highlighted a list of items if Council wanted to try and achieve some savings. He presented a no-change budget except for contestable funding bids.

It was expressed by councillors that the way finances were administered did not recognise the impact of activity from region to region. The CE noted that was the purpose of the contestable funding system.

The Chair said Otago paid an increased levy and was making its contribution to the wider organisation.

It was also pointed out the Council should wait for a report from the NZC future finance committee. Councillors proposed writing to NZC to notify the need to increase Otago's base budget to match angler and hunter activity in the region.

They said reserves should not be used to fund the operational work plan. The CE agreed but asked if reserves could be used to fund a specific project to meet its agreed strategic objectives.

Moved (Cr Boyd/Cr Grubb)

That the Council:

- **Agree to the draft 2024/25 operational workplan and budget.**
- **Confirm the contestable funding bids from the national pool and notification of the proposed spending from reserves.**
- **Notify NZC of Otago Councils inability to meet the 3% saving in base funds.**
- **Notify NZC of the need to increase Otago base funding.**

Carried unanimously.

Councillors said a proposed new staff role for advocacy and liaison should emphasise improving relationships with rural communities.

7.2 Greenhouse Gas Report and Inventory for the OFGC – 2022/2023

The Environmental Officer, Nigel Paragreen, presented the greenhouse gas report and inventory to the Council. The report prompted discussion whether progress to reach emissions reduction targets should be verified by a third party. In response to a question, Mr Paragreen advised that verification was a risk assessment and was best practice.

Councillors suggested the Council could move towards external verification if it considered the organisation was getting close to becoming carbon neutral.

A question was also raised about the potential for carbon sequestration by wetlands.

The Chair thanked Mr Paragreen for his work.

Moved (Cr Grubb/Cr Trevathan)

That the Council:

- 1. Receive this report.**
- 2. Direct staff to pursue an emissions reduction target of a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, based on the 2022/2023 financial year emissions, by 2030.**
- 3. Report internally each year on progress to reach emissions reduction targets.**
- 4. Further investigate carbon sequestration of wetlands.**

Carried unanimously.

Moved (Cr Weatherall/Cr McIntyre)

That the meeting moves into Public Excluded Items.

Carried unanimously.

8.0 Public Excluded Items

8.1 Confirm Draft OF&GC Public Excluded Minutes from 10th February 24

8.2 Bullock Creek Stormwater QLDC Easement Agreement

8.3 Wanaka Hatchery Site Subdivision - Presentation

8.4 Dunedin Office Options Paper

8.5 Habitat Enhancement and Research Fund Applications

Moved (Cr Grubb/Cr Cole)

That the HEF application for \$6,910.15 for Takitakitoa wetland be approved.

Carried.

Moved (Cr Grubb/Cr Trevathan)

That Council approve the following HEF applications and staff progress updates be provided to Council:

- **\$2500 for Fern Burn Native Restoration.**
- **\$2500 for Paddock Bay Native Restoration be approved.**
- **\$2500 for Rocky Hill Wetland Restoration be approved.**

Carried.

9.0 Financial Report

The CE invited questions about the financial report.

Cr Highton asked what the net outcome of the sale and purchase of properties in Cromwell was. The CE said he would follow that up and circulate a response.

It was suggested the Council's planning meeting could be held at the Cromwell field base.

Cr Grubb asked if a cash flow chart could be produced as part of the financial report.

The Chair said the CE would get advice on that request.

Moved (Cr Grub /Cr Boyd)

That the Finance Report and Licence Report to the 29th February 2024 be received.

Carried unanimously.

10.0 Chief Executive's Report

The CE said there had been a delay at the Minister for Hunting and Fishing's office in approving the Game Notice due to bag limit changes in some regions, and indicated more time was needed in the notification processes. It might change the way the next Anglers Notice was done.

Councillors felt that more information was needed about Designated Waters fisheries at the point of licence sales, and there was a specific request for DW maps to be put in agencies.

Concern was raised about the lack of consistency about Designated Waters fisheries among regions. Otago Fish & Game Region had nine DW fisheries, Southland had one DW fishery, and Central South Island had none. Councillors agreed the CE should write to NZC to express the view that implementation of Designated Waters fisheries should be consistent across the country and request that other regions review the designation of pressure-sensitive fisheries.

Moved (Cr Weatherall/Cr Trevathan)

That the CE Report be received.

Carried unanimously.

11.0 RMA Planning and Consents Report

The CE said the Environmental Officer had proposed to put in a funding bid to NZC for witnesses to appear at a Land and Water Plan hearing which was proposed before the end of the year.

Moved (Cr Boyd/Cr Trevathan)

That the RMA Planning and Consents Report be received.

Carried unanimously.

Councillors congratulated Environmental Officer Mr Paragreen on the exceptional standard of his work.

12.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

12.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust

The CFT chair, Cr Cole, provided an update on species interaction research in the Nevis catchment, access work, and the closure of a bank account.

Moved (Cr Barker/Cr Boyd)

The CFT report be received.

Carried.

12.2 New Zealand Council

Cr Barker, the Otago representative on the NZC, said the NZC Chair had met the Minister for Hunting and Fishing. The Minister had no appetite for an increase in the licence price. Fish & Game now reported to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing, not Conservation. The Minister saw no value in introducing a Guides Licence currently.

Cr Barker provided updates on NZC matters including the Research and Monitoring Programme; the contestable funding process; compliance and ranger appointments; reports to go to regions; approval of a staff development grant for the Otago CE; the NZC financial report; the research sub-committee; and NZC governance advisor.

Moved (Cr Weatherall/Cr McIntyre)

That the NZC representative's report be received.

Carried

12.3 Ngai Tahu

Nil

12.4 Conservation Board

Nil.

12.5 Clutha Mata Au Sports Fish Trust

Cr Boyd, the Clutha Mata Au Sports Fish Trust chair, said the Trust was in the process of developing its financial and administrative systems.

The Trust had agreed to engage Tania Murphy as secretary and treasurer, and appointed Cr Boyd as Chair. All appointments to the Trust were for 12 months.

The Otago F&GC Chair, Cr Weatherall, congratulated Cr Boyd on his appointment.

Moved (Cr Grubb/Cr Weatherall)

That the Clutha/Mata Au Sports Fish and Habitat Trust report be received.

Carried.

12.6 Tiaki Maniototo

Cr Highton, the Council's representative to Tiaki Maniototo, said there was agreement on the need for a management plan for the upper Taieri. The designation of wetlands in the area was a complex issue. An ORC LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) survey had not progressed, and this had held back fencing of waterways. Another issue was whether grazing of wetlands was permitted. There had been no substantive progress on a proposed stakeholders meeting.

He said Traverse Environmental had produced an interesting draft report compiling water quality information on the area acknowledging problems such as siltation and low oxygen levels.

Other matters he raised included funding issues for fencing, a planting programme and nursery, willow removal, low flows, access and amenities.

Moved (Cr Weatherall/Cr McIntyre)

That the Tiaki Maniototo representative's report be received.

Carried.

13.0 Correspondence

13.1 NZC to Otago

13.1.1 Base Funding for 2024 25 NZC Chair

13.1.2 Summary of F&G National Meeting 16th February 2024

13.2 Otago to NZC

13.2.1 NZF&GC Policy Feedback

13.3 General Correspondence In

Nil

13.4 General Correspondence Out

Nil

Moved (Cr Barker/Cr Trevathan)

That correspondence received.

Carried.

14.0 Items to be Received or Noted

Nil

15.0 General Business

Cr Trevathan asked about willow control at Bendigo Reserve. The CE undertook to follow up the inquiry with the Central Otago operations manager.

Cr Trevathan asked if Council could consider alternative revenue methods, such as raffles. The Chair said the CE could possibly look at it regarding a specific project but the organisation's scope to raise funds was limited statutorily.

The Chair thanked councilors for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 4.45pm.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

6.0 Health and Safety Report April May 2024

Events/Work Requiring OHS Planning – Job hazard sheets completed.

- Game season ranging
- Spawning surveys
- Mallard aerial trend counts

OHS Audits - Internal

Completed audits:

- Staff training schedule
- Vehicle hazards and safety equipment
- Workshop, field equipment and PPE

Next audit areas:

- Ranger training, support and policy
- Workshops, field equipment and PPE

Incidents/Accidents/Near Misses/New Hazards

- Problems with dangerous drivers on the roads, especially in tourist areas. Close observation of a car on the wrong side and a cow vs truck incident. Staff advised to take extra care and stay alert at all times.
- Frost on roads has begun. Care to be taken
- The hazard register is being updated with hazards associated with electric fishing and more in-depth boating detail. All staff expected to read over the document and add comments.

Training Completed

- 1 Staff member completed an Electric Fishing Course
- Cromwell Building fire drill completed.
- 1 staff member attended a Grow safe chemical spray course
- Game ranger training evening completed
- Oceana Gold OHS and hatchery induction update for staff

General Discussions, Actions

- A reminder that protective PPE gear should be worn to all reported fish and duck kills and disposed of after use. Items used should be replaced in truck safety and PPE box when the job is done. Extras will be held at the offices.
- David Priest to join the national OHS committee meetings.
- Cromwell smoke detectors batteries updated.
- Staff offered Flu vaccinations.

Recommendation

- 1. That this report be received**

Sharon Milne

Administration Officer - May 2024

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 Licence Fee Recommendations 2024-25

Licence Fee Consultation Paper Summary

The attached briefing paper from New Zealand Council (NZC) is self-explanatory. Essentially, they are proposing no change in either the fish or gamebird licence fee for 24/25 season, evidently based around advice it had received from the Minister of Hunting and Fishing, although we have seen nothing formal to that effect.

This obviously creates a very tight fiscal environment, especially against a tide of rising costs, and lower income through reduced licence sales due to recessionary pressures on our participants.

This has the potential to have a deep impact on regional reserves, including Otago's, and will exacerbate the call for increased levies for levy-paying regions in future to top up other regional reserves to minimum viable levels. That isn't a sustainable model locally or nationally.

Change in process for determination of budgets and contestable funding bids

The usual process for testing and determination of regional and NZC budgets was changed this year by NZ Council. The triaging of contestable funding bids and budget items was considered by New Zealand Council governors acting alone. Managers, with their deep operational knowledge, were not invited to participate and I feel this removed a layer of transparency from the system which ensured that spending in regions, and particularly at New Zealand Council, was appropriate and well-aligned to organisational goals.

Levies

Otago's proposed levy is \$1,182,425.

Standard levy calculations are based on the difference between what is expected to be earned in the region less the agreed base fund. The balance is the levy (or grant) due. It's a clumsy way to calculate a levy because if licence sales fall or rise then the levy is unmoved and the region either tops up its reserves or calls upon them to operate.

This is why all regions need reserves and why the licence forecast is so important and so contentious. It is especially important for bigger income earners because even small percentage reductions in revenue can have a big impact on funding available to the region, and potentially the national pool.

The amount of levies to be paid has a direct impact on the region's cashflow such that I'm uncertain whether the 20% reserves policy would cover fluctuations in income over the year in Otago. Fortunately, we have had reasonable reserves but increased demands on them – either operationally, or by requests to fund other NZC activity – could change that.

Legal advice on levies

Legal advice from Sir Geoffery Palmer obtained by NZC in 2019 has appropriate guidance for how levies should be established and consulted:

Levy power must be exercised fairly, reasonably and according to law

As a statutory power the New Zealand Council's levy power must be exercised fairly, reasonably and according to law. That is, the process for determining the levy must be documented, transparent and consistent with the purposes set out in section 26C(1)(f). At a minimum:

- a. The calculation of the costs of the administration of the New Zealand Council, advocacy and research must be clear;*
- b. The basis for determining the amount to be redistributed between regional Fish and Game Councils must be clearly articulated*
- c. The regional Fish and Game Councils must be given the chance to comment on the proposed levy and redistribution;*
- d. Their views must be taken in account by the New Zealand Council when it makes its determination*

In addition, the [legislation](#) is clear that NZC can only levy licence fees.

Additional call on regional reserves by NZC

The New Zealand Council has determined that a shortfall in funding for the F&G magazine and RMA legal pool funding is proposed to come from regional cash reserves on a pro-rata based on approved base funds. In effect, they have forced all regions to use 3.36% of their reserves and forecast a loss for the year. The mechanism is simply an additional levy of \$41,657 and a departure from the standard levy model. It might also be unlawful as levying powers are well defined in the Conservation Act 1987 and are specific to licence fees and should be justified (as noted above)

Otago contestable funding bids

You will see that the only Otago contestable funding bid approved was the expenditure from our own non-resident reserve fund for Designated Waters work.

The application for an additional staff member and governance training were denied, the latter on the basis that this would be conducted by NZC on behalf of all regions.

The failure to approve the staff member does create an issue for implementation of the Otago Council's strategic plan, which has a heavy focus on advocacy and stakeholder relationships (as does the NZC strategic plan). If present base funds are confirmed, we will need to revisit the operational workplan and move some projects around to meet the strategic objectives as far as possible while continuing to do the basics well. That final workplan will come back to the July meeting.

Categories

Licence ratios (fees in relation to each other) were confirmed at NZC. That may have been because there was no appetite to change the overall base fee or because there is a body of work due to review the licence fee structure this coming year. In fact, there is unspent budget at NZC which should have advanced this work in the current year.

Consequently, there was no analysis or discussion on non-resident and Designated Waters fees at the time and nor has it come before the national Licence Working Party. This Council has been forthright in the past about the present fees not being aligning to the high-quality opportunity that New Zealand angling provides to overseas visitors.

The timing will be tight for NZC to undertake any analysis on this but given the budget constraints then it might be a matter to raise in the Otago council's response to NZC.

For discussion and feedback to NZC

Ian Hadland

Chief Executive - 14/05/2024

CONSULTATION:	LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION 2024-25
TO:	Regional Chairs
CC:	Regional Managers, NZC and Administrators
AUTHOR:	Corina Jordan, CEO NZ Fish and Game Council
DATE:	29/04/2024
FEEDBACK DUE:	31/05/2024
FEEDBACK TO:	nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz
LINK TO REGISTER:	Consultation Register

Recommendations - Ngā taunaki

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council seeks consultation from Regional Fish and Game Councils on the following points:

1. That the 2024/25 adult whole season sports fish licence fee is set at \$153 and that the adult whole season game licence is set at \$113 (inclusive of a \$5 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp), with all proportional changes to remaining licence fees and categories. (no change from 2023/24).
2. The sea run salmon licence endorsement of \$5 (as a cost-recovery mechanism). (no change from 2023/24).
3. That Designated Waters Licence, as a \$5 annual licence per Fish and Game region for resident anglers and as a day licence to non-resident anglers at a fee of \$40. (no change from 2023/24).

Discussion - Koīrero

Proposal

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZC) is seeking to consult with Fish and Game regional councils on the '2024/25 licence fee recommendations and forecast LEQ' for 2024/25.

The NZC met on the 19th and 20th of April 2024 to consider the 2024/25 budgets and licence fees. Following that meeting, NZC agreed to recommend maintaining the licence fee for a sports fish adult whole season licence at \$153 and to maintain the game adult whole season licence at \$113 for 2024/2025. In recommending these fees, NZC also recommended that all other licence categories increase to the agreed proportions. A full list of recommended licence fees and categories is detailed in the Schedule attached (**Appendix 2**).

Background

Legislation provides for the following:

- Section 26Q of the Conservation Act 1987 sets out the functions of Fish and Game Councils.
- **Subsection (1)(d)(a) requires councils:** *To assess the costs attributable to the management of sports fish and game;*
- **Section 26Q(1)(d)(ii) requires Fish and Game councils:** *To develop and recommend to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council appropriate licence fees to recover costs and game bird habitat stamp fees;*
- **Section 26C(1)(e) requires NZC:** *To recommend to the Minister of Conservation an appropriate fee for fishing and hunting licenses, after considering the views and recommendations of Fish and Game Councils;*
- **Section 26C(1)(ia) also requires NZC:** *To recommend to the Minister, after considering the views and recommendations (if any) of Fish and Game Councils and the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board, an appropriate fee in respect of any game bird habitat stamp and the form of such stamps (the form of the stamp to be approved as part of the 2011 Game Notice).*

Operationally, the national policy of NZC specifies that all expenditure needs to be approved as part of the budget round, including capital expenditure and expenditure from reserves for all councils.

Policy

At the May 2020 NZC meeting, in response to COVID-19, the NZC set the minimum level of reserves at 20% of total budget for all councils. This level of general reserve is considered adequate to provide security against fluctuations in income and to ensure adequate operational cash flow.

The budget policy specifies that all expenditure from general and dedicated reserves needs to be notified/approved by NZC as part of the budget round, or by making an application for Exceptional Funding. There are consequences across all sectors of the organisation when any council's reserves are reduced in a manner inconsistent with this policy.

Budget Process

The method of increasing funding levels for individual councils is through a contestable funding application at the April budget setting meeting. Applications can be for either a one-off funding allocation for a specific project, or for ongoing additional funding. The latter in effect raises the total baseline funding level for that council.

The funding required to cover base funds and approved contestable funding is assessed against the expected licence sales for the year ahead (established from analysis of the last two-year sales trends, considering the implications of COVID-19 and border restrictions) to determine the licence fees.

This process is summarised in the following budget cycle:

Feb	<p>All council budgets reviewed against audited actual expenditure. Budgets over or under 10% variance are reported against, reviewed, and discussed. The variance reports for the 2022/23 year are prepared and discussed.</p> <p>NZC set regional base funds for the 2024/25 year at \$11,867,408. NZC recommended to all Regions to make reductions of 3% from their Base funds.</p>
March	<p>Preparation of business and operational work plans for new financial year (NFY).</p> <p>Draft budgets developed by NZC and regional councils.</p> <p>Regions and NZC made savings of \$192,183.</p>
April	<p>Councils apply for 'new' contestable funding with applications circulated beforehand, reviewed against criteria, considered, and prioritised at the meeting</p>
	<p>NZC meet (by Zoom) with the Chairs of each region to consider the contestable funding applications.</p>
April	<p>NZC make recommendation on licence forecast, fees, having considered base funding levels and contestable fund applications, and send to regional councils for consideration.</p>
May	<p>Regional councils consider NZC licence fee recommendation. Due back to NZC (31 May).</p>
June	<p>NZC consider regional response and finalise licence fee recommendations for approval by the Minister of Conservation. (19 June)</p>

The recommended licence fee is effectively set by dividing the sum of the proposed budgets of the 13 Councils by the number of the adult whole season licence equivalents that Fish and Game NZ expects to sell during the year (LEQ targets).

2024/25 Licence LEQ Forecast

The following table represents the approved forecast for the Licence sales for Fish and Game for the 2024/25 season. Total LEQ Fish 72,826 and Game 31,340.

The forecast which was recommended by the Licence Working Party.

	Actual 2021/22		Actual 2022/23		Est 2024	Budget 2023/24		Projected 24/25	
	Fish	Game	Fish	Game	Fish	Fish	Game	Fish	Game
Northland	217	1,582	455	1,552	454	370	1,552	454	1,537
Auckland/Waikato	3,231	6,309	3,550	6,518	3,658	3,729	6,201	3,658	6,518
Eastern	8,695	3,024	8,643	2,854	8,456	8,663	3,012	8,363	2,769
Hawkes Bay	2,476	1,916	2,525	1,750	2,335	1,879	1,916	2,690	1,667
Taranaki	861	1,114	1,034	1,086	987	938	1,113	964	1,072
Wellington	3,239	3,409	2,990	3,290	2,989	2,807	3,409	2,989	3,231
Nelson-Marlborough	3,460	900	4,410	862	4,364	4,599	887	4,341	843
North Canterbury	10,980	2,428	11,084	2,557	10,964	11,148	2,381	10,904	2,557
West Coast	1,744	370	2,253	364	2,169	2,208	358	2,127	361
Central South Island	11,638	2,235	12,946	2,267	12,536	12,937	2,233	12,331	2,267
Otago	14,923	4,080	15,828	3,989	15,549	15,614	4,029	15,410	3,944
Southland	8,099	4,727	9,084	4,625	8,758	9,167	4,672	8,595	4,574
NZC only									
National									
TOTAL	69,563	32,094	74,802	31,714	73,219	74,060	31,763	72,826	31,340

Following Components Featured in the 2024/25 Budget Discussions:

Contestable Funding Applications

59 contestable funding applications were received (90 last year), seeking additional funding of \$2,200,596 (last year \$2,965,090).

National Budget	# Applications	\$ from Licence fee	\$ from Reserves	CF for Salaries	CF for REM	CF for new Staff
Northland	2	12,974	-	10,974	10,974	
Auckland/Waikato	0	-	-	-	-	
Eastern	2	26,600	15,000	26,600	26,600	
Hawkes Bay	2	154,000	-	54,000	54,000	
Taranaki	2	29,333	-	29,333	8,124	21,209
Wellington	1	17,788	-	17,788	17,788	
Nelson-Marlborough	0	-	-	-	-	
North Canterbury	5	103,748	30,000	31,748	31,748	
West Coast	2	34,350	25,000	59,350	59,350	
Central South Island	3	237,500	29,601	190,000		190,000
Otago	3	120,000	23,000	115,000		115,000
Southland	5	19,427	136,775	75,702	10,427	65,275
NZC only	7	110,400	-	-		
National	25	1,075,100	-	160,000		160,000
TOTAL	59	1,941,220	259,376	770,495	219,011	551,484
TOTAL Contestable Funding Applications		2,200,596				

Contestable Funding Recommendations from NZC Staff

The NZC staff made recommendations to the NZC in 3 Steps:

1. Step 1: Prioritisation for Regional Contestable fund applications for salaries and core functions;
2. Step 2: Recommendations for NZC and National Budgets for core functions;
3. Step 3: Recommendation of the Regional Contestable applications and the NZC and

National applications against the Fish & Game Organisational Strategy – strategic merit.

2024/25 NZC Contestable Funding Approval and 2024/25 Budgets

Budgets for all councils were received and circulated to the NZC for review prior to the April NZC meeting.

The Chairs of the Regions were invited to present their CFs to the NZC on Friday 19th April.

The NZC approved contestable funding applications at a total value of \$1,580,496. Of this, \$624,161 were ongoing from the Licence fee, \$596,959 were one off from the Licence fee and \$359,376 were one-off from reserves.

The attached Table 6 (Appendix 1) sets out the full list of approved contestable funding applications with the approval rating from the NZC staff and the final approval from the NZC. Any figures highlighted in yellow have been adjusted from the original application during the Contestable funding review process or at the NZC meeting.

Reasoning behind the decisions include:

1. Salaries for REM – have all been approved in principle – as the NZC believe our people are our greatest assets. However, the amounts sort in the CF's need to peer reviewed by the HR advisor to ensure the amounts are in line with the REM policy i.e. there is parity/ equity across the organisation for staff.
 - a. The process this year is that the market information from the March Strategic Pay survey will be available around mid May. Jane will then notify Chairs/ Managers of the new pay bands and will send out a spreadsheet to those who have asked for CF funds for remuneration. Jane will work with the Chair/ Manager to schedule a meeting to chat through regional recommendations for salaries. Pay parity can then be checked and the additional budget required can be confirmed.
 - b. Once this review has been completed, the relevant Regions will be notified of the final approval from the CF fund for Rem.
 - c. In future, as NZC has only approved a budget for one Strategic Pay report in the next financial year, we will use the September 2024 report to calculate the remuneration budget for the 25/26 financial year.
 - d. Strategic Pay will calculate new pay bands in early December from the September survey , so the HR/HS advisor can then send out a spreadsheet to Regions where you can identify where you think you will want to place your staff within the bands, and the required remuneration can be calculated well before the April NZC meeting.
2. All CF's from Regional reserves were approved.
3. Northland - \$2,000 for insurance was declined as the NZC feels this amount could be found within the present Northland budget, and due to significant organisational fiscal constraints.

4. Hawkes Bay \$100,000 has been approved from reserves as a one off. It is the intention of the HBFGC to ensure this project is self-sustaining in the following years.
5. Taranaki – Management Contract - \$21,209 – Approved as a one off and for the budget to be reconsidered in the following year.
6. North Canterbury – Put and Take Fishery – NZC approved \$5,000 as per the current year budget. The value of the put and take fishery project was noted as high against the Organisational Strategy, though unfortunately further funding could not be provided at this stage due to tight organisational fiscal constraints. Te Waihora Maimai \$9,000 was approved as a one off as the NZC have requested the North Canterbury Council to investigate alternative funding for this, for example a Maimai fee to those using the maimai's. The ARF figure was approved as per the current year budget \$20,000 (one off) with the NZC requesting all Regions ARF registers are reviewed against ARF policy to ensure all Regions are adequately funded.
7. Central South Island – Applied for 2 staff members – the NZC approved 1 staff member, after considering the regional needs to support the canals fisheries, and level of staffing across similar sized regions. This was the second year CSI had sought an additional field officer to support delivery of their operational plan and in particular to meet the needs of managing the canal fisheries;
8. Otago - \$5,000 for the Council Induction was not approved as this will be funded by the NZC budget. The new staff member was declined due to financial constraints, though as with North Canterbury's put and take fishery, the strategic value of this position was noted as high against the Organisational Strategy.
9. Southland – CF's from Reserves approved and the Parrie and swan counts costs were reinstated.
10. NZC - \$20,000 for NZC meetings not approved as they look to move to online and 1-day meetings to save money. Staff expenses reduced to \$10,000 due to financial constraints. Advocacy for Fish and Game \$37,500 was reinstated (as this was originally reduced with the 3% cuts). The NZC were committed to the Governance Advisor and approved \$20,000 for this as part of the commitment to undertake the non-legislative recommendations of the Ministerial Review, and in supporting the organisation through this period of change.
11. National – Many of the National CF applications were due to increased costs for providing core regional services and as such were approved – for example, the increase in office 365 and data costs, election costs, postage increases for the postage of the licences and increased costs of hosting face to face managers meetings.
 - a. The Health and Safety Risk management system was given a priority as the NZC considered that the implementation of a robust H & S system used by all of Fish and Game was vital.
 - b. Approval was given for the Website and Social media project \$30,000 which aims to

design and delivery extension resources for hunters and anglers as part of the commitment to adding value for Licence holders and in underpinning the organisations R³ program – initial focus on recruitment and reactivation.

- c. The NZC Staff submitted a CF for National Liaison (\$40k) and Marketing & Social Licence (80K). The NZC approved a total of \$30,000 across both projects with the direction to the CEO to use this funding either in National Liaison and or Marketing and Social licence. \$90,000 declined due to prioritisation of regional needs within tight fiscal constraints.
- d. The Research budget was reinstated to the \$100k (as this was originally reduced with the 3% cuts)
- e. A reduction in the National Base funding of \$50,000 was approved (this was part of the Regulations budget) to make additional funds available. The NZC made a decision to no longer print regulation guides, but to have these provided as a link and a PDF only.
- f. The \$50,000 reduction from the Regulations budget was approved to be used as a one off for the Scoping of the Digital licence for 2024/25.
- g. The HR/HS position that was funded as a one off in 2023/24 was approved but at .6FTE rather than the .8 FTE that was originally applied for.
- h. Governor Training and induction was approved at \$30,000.
- i. The application for a .5 FTE for research was declined.

12. There were two major projects that were considered by the NZC, that were not affordable within the Licence fee – these 2 projects were for the magazine \$235,000 and for the Regional RMA (Resource Management Act) Fund \$200,000. The NZC recognised the significance of these 2 projects – both have been approved as one offs for 2024/25 and will come from regional reserves.

The proposed budget for the 13 Fish and Game councils for 2024/25 (including funding from reserves) is \$13,255,720. Individual budgets are shown in the Table 3 below alongside the previous financial year (both shown as GST exclusive).

Table 3: National Approved Budget -DRAFT

	Base Funds 2024/25	Approved CF Licence Fee ongoing	Approved CF from Licence Fee - One off	Approved CF from Reserves - One off	Approved Budget 2024/25 (inc from Reserves)
Northland	581,107	10,974	0	0	592,081
Auckland/Waikato	881,824	0	0	0	881,824
Eastern	1,278,944	26,600	0	15,000	1,320,544
Hawkes Bay	380,624	54,000	0	100,000	534,624
Taranaki	419,692	8,124	21,209	0	449,025
Wellington	830,600	17,788	0	0	848,388
Nelson-Marlb	564,125	0	0	0	564,125
Nth Canterbury	973,187	36,748	29,000	30,000	1,068,935
West Coast	341,601	34,350	0	25,000	400,951
Central SI	850,235	95,000	23,750	29,601	998,586
Otago	1,240,967	0	0	23,000	1,263,967
Southland	803,632	19,427	0	136,775	959,834
NZC only	1,203,086	77,400	0	0	1,280,486
National 1	1,325,600	243,750	523,000	0	2,092,350
TOTAL	11,675,224	624,161	596,959	359,376	13,255,720

1

Research Fund Allocation

To avoid inflating the budget in any one year an allocation is made annually to the Research Fund. The annual Research Budget (\$155k) has been split between General Research (\$100k), the National Anglers Survey (\$30k) and the Research for PhD (Cawthron \$25k).

The National Research Budget was reduced by \$41,000 (to make the 3% savings) This was reinstated by the NZC within the CF approval process.

There were no applications to this Research Fund.

Staff Development Fund

A staff scholarship of \$10,000 is available annually for Fish and Game staff to apply for support from the organisation for national and international study, work experience or participation in events or conferences.

There were two applications to this fund for the 2024/25 year.

¹ National issues include the cost of shared services benefiting the organisation nationwide, such as the special editions of the FISH AND GAME magazine, the FISH AND GAME NZ website, licence administration system, administration of elections, ranger health & safety training, etc.

1. Hamish Stevens (CSI) \$2,500 – to attend the Biennial Bay Delta Science Conference in San Francisco
2. Beginner te Reo Māori online classes for 20x F & G staff \$6,600 (applied for by Maggie Tait)

Following the recommendations from the Managers, the application from Hamish Stevens was approved to the total value of \$2,500.

RMA/Legal Fund Allocation

The RMA/Legal fund receives budget allocations on a reimbursement basis. It covers payment of costs through a national fund rather than separate funding allocations in individual council's budgets where approved legal projects occur.

It was agreed that contestable funding of \$200,000 be allocated to the national legal pool fund for this 2024/25 year. This will be funded from reserves.

The NZC approved from the RMA fund

- \$10,215 to work on inputs control from the NPSFM (National Policy Statement Freshwater Management) project.
- \$30,000 for Hawkes Bay for Tranche 2.
- \$50,000 towards RMA reform and NPS _ FM.
- And 65,000 from Hawkes Bay Reserves for Tranche 2.

Licence Fee Recommendations

NZC Licence Fee Recommendation

At the February 2024 NZC meeting, the NZC indicated that they intended for the licence fee to remain at \$153 and \$113 as they believed that the minister would, be accepting of this price.

The NZC recommend that the 2024/25 licence fee be based on a sports fish adult whole season fee of \$153 and the game adult whole season licence \$113 (inclusive of the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) (GST inclusive) and for all other licence categories to increase proportionally. The Salmon licence \$5, the Designated Waters Licence \$5 for residents and \$40 for Non-residents. This represents no increase on last year.

The NZC recommended that the Sports Fish and Game licence categories be maintained at the same ratios as previous years.

Recommended licence fees are set out in the schedule 2 at the end of this letter.

Total income including interest is \$12,463,441. The Cost of Sales (COS) is the commission and bank transaction charges relating to the sale of licences is budgeted at 4.0% of licence income.

Table 4: Total Income Summary 2024/25					
TOTAL Licence Income \$					
			Net Licence		
	TOTAL F & G	Total COS \$	Income \$	Interest \$	Net Income
Northland	204,746	8,190	196,556	10,104	206,660
Auckland/Waikato	1,098,798	43,952	1,054,846	17,768	1,072,615
Eastern	1,372,688	54,908	1,317,780	34,340	1,352,120
Hawkes Bay	514,440	20,578	493,862	35,630	529,492
Taranaki	228,929	9,157	219,772	9,032	228,804
Wellington	701,100	28,044	673,056	10,984	684,040
Nelson-Marlb	656,710	26,268	630,442	7,419	637,861
Nth Canterbury	1,690,842	67,634	1,623,208	13,367	1,636,575
West Coast	316,886	12,675	304,211	15,470	319,681
Central SI	1,853,460	74,138	1,779,322	44,444	1,823,766
Otago	2,420,593	96,824	2,323,769	57,966	2,381,735
Southland	1,573,067	62,923	1,510,144	39,923	1,550,068
NZC only				40,025	40,025
National					
TOTAL	12,632,259	505,290	12,126,969	336,472	12,463,441

NZ Game Bird Habitat Stamp

The NZC recommended the Game Bird Habitat Stamp for 2023/24 remain at \$5.

Modification to Licence Categories and Ratios with whole Season Fees

The NZ Council agreed that the sports fish categories and ratios be maintained the same as previous years.

Overall Forecast Position and Use of Reserves

The recommendation for licence fee of \$153 and \$113, along with the recommendation of a total budget of \$13,255,720 creates an overall deficit of \$792,279.

Table 5: Overall Forecast Position for Fish and Game				
For the Year ended 31 August 2025				
Net Licence Sales				12,126,969
Interest				336,472
Total Income				12,463,441
Less Approved Budget				13,255,720
Total Surplus/(Deficit)				(792,279)

Approval for regions to use their reserves to cover one off projects for the year totals \$359,376. Additionally, regions are required to use their reserves to cover the shortfall of \$432,903. This latter amount represents an additional 3.36% use of reserves. (\$359,376 plus \$432,903 equals the total LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION 2024-25

deficit of \$792,279).

Forecasts as at April 2024 suggest one region, North Canterbury may fall below the 20% reserves and require a top up of \$12,247 in the 2025/26 contestable funding round. This forecast however, is based on Regions working within the 2023/24 budgets.

Conclusion

The NZ Council seeks consultation from Fish and Game regional councils on the following points:

1. **The licence fees and categories as set out in the appended schedule (Appendix 2) and specifically:**
 - a. **That the 2024/25 adult whole season sports fish licence fee is set at \$153 and that the adult whole season game licence is set at \$113 (inclusive of a \$5 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp), with all proportional changes to remaining licence fees**
 - b. **The Licence LEQ of 72,826 (Fish) and 31,340 (Game)**

To enable the NZC to consider feedback and make recommendations to the Minister of Conservation at its 18 June 2023 meeting, responses to these changes are requested to be submitted by the close of business on **31 May 2024**.



Barrie Barnes
Chairman
New Zealand Fish and Game Council



Corina Jordan
Chief Executive
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

APPENDIX 1

Table 6 : Contestable Fund Applications Detail 2024-25 - 432,903

Summary of Decisions from NZC meeting

App No	Region Base Funding 2024/25	Project Code	Description	L R	B O C	Additional \$ Sought	\$ amount \$ Adjusted	Staff Recomm endation	NZC Recomm endation	1 Not	2 Good To	3 Recommende	4 Essential Whole	5 Withdrawn	APPROVED Ongoing Licence Fee	APPROVED One Off Licence Fee	APPROVED Restore Reserves	APPROVED Capital EX	APPROVED from Reserves
Northland																			
	\$ 581,107																		
NTH 001		1910	Salaries	L	B	10,974	10,974	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTH 002		1984	Insurance	L	B	2,000	2,000	1	1	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL Northland					12,974	12,974			2,000	0	0	0	0	10,974	0	0	0	0
Auckland/Waikato																			
	\$ 881,824		No CF bids			0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL Auckland/Waikato					0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eastern																			
	\$ 1,278,944					0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EAST 001		1910	Salaries	L	B	26,600	26,600	4	4	0	0	0	26,600	0	26,600	0	0	0	0
EAST 002		1114	Lake Tarawera	R	O	15,000	15,000	4	4	0	0	0	15,000	0	0	0	0	0	15,000
	TOTAL Eastern					41,600	41,600			0	0	0	41,600	0	26,600	0	0	0	15,000
Hawke's Bay																			
	\$ 380,624					0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HBAY 001		1910	Salaries	L	B	54,000	54,000	4	4	0	0	0	54,000	0	54,000	0	0	0	0
HBAY 002		1454	Education Centre Development	R	O	100,000	100,000	4	4	0	0	0	100,000	0	0	0	0	0	100,000
	TOTAL Hawke's Bay					154,000	154,000			0	0	0	154,000	0	54,000	0	0	0	100,000
Taranaki																			
	\$ 419,692					0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TARA 001		1912	Continuation of Management	L	O	21,209	21,209	4	4	0	0	0	21,209	0	0	21,209	0	0	0
TARA 002		1911	Salaries	L	B	8,124	8,124	4	4	0	0	0	8,124	0	8,124	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL Taranaki					29,333	29,333			0	0	0	29,333	0	8,124	21,209	0	0	0
Wellington																			
	\$ 830,600					0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WELL 001		1911	Salaries	L	B	17,788	17,788	4	4	0	0	0	17,788	0	17,788	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL Wellington					17,788	17,788			0	0	0	17,788	0	17,788	0	0	0	0
Nelson/Marlborough																			
	\$ 564,125		No CF Bids	L	B	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N/A						0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL Nelson/Marlborough					0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Canterbury																			
	\$ 973,187					0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NC 001		1911	Salaries	L	B	31,748	31,748	4	4	0	0	0	31,748	0	31,748	0	0	0	0
NC 002		1161	Put & Take Fishery	L	B	23,000	5,000	4	4	0	0	0	5,000	0	5,000	0	0	0	0
NC 003		1232	Te Waihora Maimai Agt	L	O	9,000	9,000	4	4	0	0	0	9,000	0	0	9,000	0	0	0
NC 004		ARF	Asset Replacement Fund	L	O	40,000	20,000	4	4	0	0	0	20,000	0	0	20,000	0	0	0
NC 005		1112	Trout Fishery/Designated Wa	R	O	30,000	30,000	4	4	0	0	0	30,000	0	0	0	0	0	30,000
	TOTAL North Cant					133,748	95,748			0	0	0	95,748	0	36,748	29,000	0	0	30,000
West Coast																			
	\$ 341,601					0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WC 001		1910	Salaries	L	B	34,350	34,350	4	4	0	0	0	34,350	0	34,350	0	0	0	0
WC 002		1910	Salaries	R	O	25,000	25,000	4	4	0	0	0	25,000	0	0	0	0	0	25,000
	TOTAL West Coast					59,350	59,350			0	0	0	59,350	0	34,350	0	0	0	25,000

Table 6 : Contestable Fund Applications Detail 2024-25 - 432,903**Summary of Decisions from NZC meeting**

App No	Region Base Funding 2024/25	Project Code	Description	L R	B O C	Additional \$ Sought	\$ amount \$ Adjusted	Staff Recomm endation	NZC Recomm endation	1 Not	2 Good To	3 Recommend	4 Essential Whole	5 Withdrawn	APPROVED Ongoing Licence Fee	APPROVED One Off Licence Fee	APPROVED Restore Reserves	APPROVED Capital EX	APPROVED from Reserves
Central South Island																			
	\$ 850,235					0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CSI 001		CAP	Electric Fishing Machine	R	C	29,601	29,601	4	4	0	0	0	29,601	0	0	0	0	0	29,601
CSI 002		1910	Salaries	L	B	190,000	95,000	4	4	0	0	0	95,000	0	95,000	0	0	0	0
CSI 002		1912	Staff Expenses	L	O	47,500	23,750	4	4	0	0	0	23,750	0	0	23,750	0	0	0
TOTAL Central South Island						267,101	148,351			0	0	0	148,351	0	95,000	23,750	0	0	29,601
Otago																			
	\$ 1,240,967					0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTG 001		1700	Council Elections & Meetings	L	O	5,000	5,000	1	1	5,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTG 002		1911	Advocacy/PR/Strategic Rela	L	B	115,000	115,000	4	3	0	0	115,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTG 003		1321	Designated Waters Impleme	R	O	23,000	23,000	4	4	0	0	0	23,000	0	0	0	0	0	23,000
TOTAL Otago						143,000	143,000			5,000	0	115,000	23,000	0	0	0	0	0	23,000
Southland																			
	\$ 803,632					0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STH 001		1900	Salaries	L	B	10,427	10,427	4	4	0	0	0	10,427	0	10,427	0	0	0	0
STH 002		1115	Maintain Te Anau House	R	O	61,500	61,500	4	4	0	0	0	61,500	0	0	0	0	0	61,500
STH 003		1115	Maintain Angler Access Brigh	R	O	10,000	10,000	4	4	0	0	0	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	10,000
STH 004		1115	Parrie and swan counts	L	B	9,000	9,000	4	4	0	0	0	9,000	0	9,000	0	0	0	0
STH 005		1710	Salaries from DW Reserve	R	O	65,275	65,275	4	4	0	0	0	65,275	0	0	0	0	0	65,275
TOTAL Southland						156,202	156,202			0	0	0	156,202	0	19,427	0	0	0	136,775
NZC																			
	\$ 1,203,086					0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NZC 001		1700	Governance Forum Chairs/N	L	B	3,000	3,000	2	1	3,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NZC 002		1700	NZC Chair Travel	L	B	7,000	7,000	4	4	0	0	0	7,000	0	7,000	0	0	0	0
NZC 003		1700	NZC Meetings	L	B	20,000	10,000	2	2	0	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NZC 004		1820	Financial Audit Fee	L	B	3,000	3,000	4	4	0	0	0	3,000	0	3,000	0	0	0	0
NZC 005		1920	Staff Expenses	L	B	20,000	10,000	4	4	0	0	0	10,000	0	10,000	0	0	0	0
NZC 007		1430	Advocacy for Fish & Game	L	B	37,400	37,400	4	4	0	0	0	37,400	0	37,400	0	0	0	0
NZC 009		1700	Governance Advisor	L	B	20,000	20,000	3	4	0	0	0	20,000	0	20,000	0	0	0	0
TOTAL NZC						110,400	90,400			3,000	10,000	0	77,400	0	77,400	0	0	0	0

Table 6 : Contestable Fund Applications Detail 2024-25 - 432,903**Summary of Decisions from NZC meeting**

App No	Region Base Funding 2024/25	Project Code	Description	L R	B O C	Additional \$ Sought	\$ amount \$ Adjusted	Staff Recommendation	NZC Recommendation	1 Not	2 Good To	3 Recommende	4 Essential Whole	5 Withdrawn	APPROVED Ongoing Licence Fee	APPROVED One Off Licence Fee	APPROVED Restore Reserves	APPROVED Capital EX	APPROVED from Reserves
	National																		
	\$1,325,600					0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAT 001		1614	Licence Audit Fee	L	B	2,500	2,500	4	4	0	0	0	2,500	0	2,500	0	0	0	0
NAT 002		1822	Maritime Compliance	L	B	10,000	10,000	4	4	0	0	0	10,000	0	10,000	0	0	0	0
NAT 003		1422	Information Technology - Nat	L	B	18,000	18,000	4	4	0	0	0	18,000	0	18,000	0	0	0	0
NAT 004		1240	RMA Fund	L	O	200,000	200,000	4	4	0	0	0	200,000	0	0	200,000	0	0	0
NAT 005		1711	Election Costs	L	O	15,000	15,000	4	4	0	0	0	15,000	0	0	15,000	0	0	0
NAT 005		1711	Election Costs	L	B	7,500	7,500	4	4	0	0	0	7,500	0	7,500	0	0	0	0
NAT 006		1332	Fish and Game Magazine	L	O	235,000	235,000	4	4	0	0	0	235,000	0	0	235,000	0	0	0
NAT 007		1170	Reg Guides	L	B	4,100	4,100	4	1	4,100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAT 008		1630	Licence Production	L	B	40,000	40,000	4	4	0	0	0	40,000	0	40,000	0	0	0	0
NAT 009		1810	Managers meetings	L	B	33,000	8,000	3	4	0	0	0	8,000	0	8,000	0	0	0	0
NAT 010		1820	Health & Safety - Risk Mngt S	L	B	5,000	5,000	3	4	0	0	0	5,000	0	5,000	0	0	0	0
NAT 010		1820	Health & Safety - Risk Mngt S	L	O	3,000	3,000	3	4	0	0	0	3,000	0	0	3,000	0	0	0
NAT 011		1423	Website and Social Media	L	B	30,000	30,000	4	4	0	0	0	30,000	0	30,000	0	0	0	0
NAT 012		1430	National Liaison	L	B	40,000	10,000	4	4	0	0	0	10,000	0	10,000	0	0	0	0
NAT 013		1442	Marketing and Social Licence	L	B	80,000	20,000	4	4	0	0	0	20,000	0	20,000	0	0	0	0
NAT 014		1460	Research	L	B	41,000	41,000	4	4	0	0	0	41,000	0	41,000	0	0	0	0
NAT 015		1815	Co-ordination HR - travel	L	B	5,000	5,000	3	3	0	0	5,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAT 016		1820	Strategic Pay reports	L	B	6,000	3,000	4	4	0	0	0	3,000	0	3,000	0	0	0	0
			Reduction of Baseline - Regu	L	B	0	(50,000)		4	0	0	0	(50,000)	0	(50,000)	0	0	0	0
NAT 017		1620	Scoping of Digital Licence - U	L	O	50,000	50,000	4	4	0	0	0	50,000	0	0	50,000	0	0	0
NAT 018		1830	Consultant Amalgamation - F	L	O	10,000	10,000	4	1	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAT 019		1835	Cost optimisation follow up	L	O	20,000	20,000	4	4	0	0	0	20,000	0	0	20,000	0	0	0
NAT 020		1840	Culture and PD for all F & G	L	B	20,000	20,000	3	3	0	0	20,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAT 021		1850	National H & Safety trainging	L	B	5,000	5,000	3	3	0	0	5,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAT 022		1100	Sports Fish & Game bird stat	L	B	5,000	5,000	4	4	0	0	0	5,000	0	5,000	0	0	0	0
NZC 006 NAT 023		1910	Salaries - HR/HS Advisor	L	B	85,000	63,750	4	4	0	0	0	63,750	0	63,750	0	0	0	0
NZC 008 NAT 024		1700	Governor Training and induct	L	B	30,000	30,000	4	4	0	0	0	30,000	0	30,000	0	0	0	0
NZC 010 NAT 025		1910	Salaries - Research	L	B	75,000	75,000	3	3	0	0	75,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
						0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL National					1,075,100	885,850			14,100	0	105,000	766,750	0	243,750	523,000	0	0	0
	TOTAL					\$ 2,200,596	\$1,834,596			\$ 24,100	\$ 10,000	\$ 220,000	\$ 1,580,496	\$ -	\$ 624,161	\$ 596,959	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 359,376

APPENDIX 2



Schedule of FISH AND GAME NZ's proposed Licence & Fees for 2024/25 (inclusive of GST)

Sports Fish Licence		2023/24	2024/25	
Category of licence	Applicant Class	Current fee \$	Proposed fee\$	Fee difference
Whole season (1 Oct – 30 Sep)	Adult	153	153	Nil
	Junior	31	31	Nil
	Child	free	free	Nil
Family		198	198	Nil
Non-resident Whole season	Adult	264	264	Nil
	Junior	50	50	Nil
	Child	50	50	Nil
Winter (1 Apr – 30 Sep)	Adult	92	92	Nil
Loyal senior	Adult	130	130	Nil
Local area	Adult	122	122	Nil
Short break	Adult	55	55	Nil
Long-break	Adult	107	107	Nil
Day	Adult	24	24	Nil
	Junior	5	5	Nil
Non-resident Day	Adult	37	37	Nil
	Junior	22	22	Nil
	Child	22	22	Nil
Controlled period		free	free	Nil
Sea Run Salmon		\$5	\$5	Nil
Designated Waters- resident	Season	\$5	\$5	Nil
Designated Waters- non-resident	Day	\$40	\$40	Nil

Game Bird Licence*		2024	2025	
Category of licence	Applicant Class	Current fee \$	Proposed fee\$	Fee difference
Whole season (primarily 1st Sat in May to 31 Aug)	Adult	113	113	Nil
	Junior	26	26	Nil
	Child	5	5	Nil
Day (available from 2nd Monday of season)	Adult	26	26	Nil
	Junior	10	10	Nil

All licence category fees are set as a percentage of the fish or game adult whole season fee and rounded to the nearest \$, hence in some instances the fee difference remains nil.

*Game bird hunting licence fee includes the \$5 NZ Game Bird Habitat Stamp.

Notes:

- A junior means a person aged 12 years or over, but under 18 years at the start of the season.
- A child means a person aged under 12 years at the start of the season.
- Designated Waters, Sea Run Salmon and Controlled-Period licence entitles an adult or junior whole season or family fish licence holder to fish in specified waters or for specified species.
- Whole Season for sports fish extends from 1 October through to 30 September the following year.
- Whole Season for game birds can extend from the first Saturday in May to beyond the traditional closing dates for upland game hunting at the end of August due to special season conditions between February to April the following year for some species, e.g. Paradise shelduck and Pukeko.
- A Game Bird Habitat Stamp fee of \$5.00 (incl. GST) is payable on all categories of game hunting licence and is included in the fees shown in the game hunting licence table above.

Carmel Veitch <cveitch@fishandgame.org.nz>

Dear All,

Corina has asked me to give you further clarification of the implications for Regions for the use of Reserves for RMA and Magazine (add funds sort) for the Draft 2024/25 Budget – as per the Licence fee consultation paper that went out yesterday. (attached). This is following a request from the Otago Fish and Game Council.

See the Table attached that shows a use of Reserves for the 2024/25 year of \$432,903.

The total Draft Budget \$12,896,344. The Loss for the year is \$432,903 (3.36%). Each Region has been pro-rated 3.36% of the Draft Approved base funds as a use of reserves.

Budgets/Levy/Grants for 2024 25 -Draft						3.36%
Region	Forecast Total Income	Approved base Funds 2024 25	Approved CF Reserves	Less use of Reserves %	Levy/ (Grant)	Forecast Surplus/ (Deficit)
Northland	\$206,660	\$592,081	\$0	19,875	(\$365,546)	(\$19,875)
Auckland\Waikato	\$1,072,615	\$881,824	\$0	29,601	\$220,391	(\$29,601)
Eastern	\$1,352,120	\$1,305,544	\$15,000	43,824	\$90,400	(\$58,824)
Hawkes Bay	\$529,492	\$434,624	\$100,000	14,589	\$109,457	(\$114,589)
Taranaki	\$228,804	\$449,025	\$0	15,073	(\$205,149)	(\$15,073)
Wellington	\$684,040	\$848,388	\$0	28,479	(\$135,869)	(\$28,479)
Nelson-Marlb	\$637,861	\$564,125	\$0	18,936	\$92,673	(\$18,936)
Nth Canterbury	\$1,636,575	\$1,038,935	\$30,000	34,875	\$632,514	(\$64,875)
West Coast	\$319,681	\$375,951	\$25,000	12,620	(\$43,650)	(\$37,620)
Central SI	\$1,823,766	\$968,985	\$29,601	32,527	\$887,308	(\$62,127)
Otago	\$2,381,735	\$1,240,967	\$23,000	41,657	\$1,182,425	(\$64,657)
Southland	\$1,550,068	\$823,059	\$136,775	27,628	\$754,637	(\$164,403)
NZC	\$40,025	\$1,280,486	\$0	42,983	(\$1,197,478)	(\$42,983)
National inc RMA &	\$0	\$2,092,350	\$0	70,236	(\$2,022,114)	(\$70,236)
TOTAL	\$12,463,441	\$12,896,344	\$359,376	\$432,903	\$0	(\$792,279)

This is the same process that was used in 2023/24 (0.07%), 2022/23 (1.03%) and 2021/22 (2.37%) & 2020/21(10%).

In previous years, individual projects were not identified as coming from Reserves, however, the NZC wanted to be transparent in the process that they undertook in determining the projects to approve or not in these financially challenging times and they also wanted to ensure that projects were one off i.e. The RMA and Magazine were identified so as not to put Fish and Game into financial difficulty in the coming years.

The impact of this has been forecasted in the following table. One Region – North Canterbury is forecasted to require a top up of reserves (\$12,247) for in the 2025/26 budget round – assuming all Regions work within their current budget for 2023/24.

Reserves Forecast as at 31 August 2025							
	Forecast Reserves Aug 2024	Surplus /(Deficit)	Forecast Reserve 31/8/25	Reserves required 20% of Budget	Top up Required to achieve 20% Reserves	Adjusted Reserves to no less than 20% 31/8/24	Reserves % of Base Fund
Northland	201,388	(19,875)	181,513	118,416	0	181,513	31%
Auckland\Waikato	354,140	(29,601)	324,539	176,365	0	324,539	37%
Eastern	684,429	(58,824)	625,605	264,109	0	625,605	47%
Hawkes Bay	710,136	(114,589)	595,547	106,925	0	595,547	111%
Taranaki	180,020	(15,073)	164,947	89,805	0	164,947	37%
Wellington	218,925	(28,479)	190,446	169,678	0	190,446	22%
Nelson-Marlb	147,873	(18,936)	128,937	112,825	0	128,937	23%
Nth Canterbury	266,415	(64,875)	201,540	213,787	12,247	213,787	20%
West Coast	308,343	(37,620)	270,723	80,190	0	270,723	68%
Central SI	885,820	(62,127)	823,693	199,717	0	823,693	82%
Otago	1,155,321	(64,657)	1,090,664	252,793	0	1,090,664	86%
Southland	795,714	(164,403)	631,311	191,967	0	631,311	66%
NZC/NAT	797,735	(113,219)	684,516	674,567	0	684,516	20%
TOTAL	6,706,259	(792,279)	5,913,980	2,651,144	12,247	5,926,227	

I hope this clarifies the process.

Kind Regards

Carmel

Carmel Veitch | Chief Financial Officer

New Zealand Fish and Game Council

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7.2 Draft Anglers Notice April 2024

Proposed Change

There is only one minor change proposed for the 2024/25 Anglers Notice:

Blakeley's Dam

At their February meeting, Council agreed to extend the season from a November start to October 1 to April 15 as lambing is no longer a concern for the landowner.

This change has been consulted with the landowner and will provide more opportunity for anglers.

Recommendation

1. That Council agrees to the minor change to Blakely Dam season length being from 1 October to 15th April 2025, and all other regulations to remain the same.

NB. Refer to Regulations Booklet or to current [Anglers Notice Regulations here](#)

Jayde Couper

Fish & Game Officer

April 2024

7.3 Regulation Setting Policy and Procedure

Background

Currently, there is no formal policy for setting regulations in the Otago Fish and Game Region. The process for setting regulations has evolved over many years, primarily through trial and error. However, the creation of a draft procedure in 2017 by a working party consisting of Councillors Rick Boyd, Ian Cole, and John Barlow significantly improved the robustness of the review process. The current format of the regulation review includes an annual review of the hunting regulations (Gamebird Gazette) and a triennial review of the angling regulations (Anglers Notice), with urgent matters addressed annually.

The last major review of angling regulations was conducted for the 2022-2023 season. This means the triennial review is due later this year, although the attached policy suggests postponing it to the next season.

Policy Reasoning

The policy in **Error! Reference source not found.** mostly formalises current practice and is largely informed by the current Sports Fish and Game Management plan. Staff have proposed that the triennial anglers review has been moved to the second year of the Council term. This change would allow more time for new Councillors to familiarise themselves with the issues and concerns raised by their licence holders.

A triennial review of the hunting regulations is proposed to align with the fishing regulation process. This will also formalise a consultation process, which is not currently occurring.

Anglers Notice Procedure Reasoning

The procedure is largely based on one produced by a 2017 working party as outlined above. Changes to the 2017 policy mostly focus on the use of technology for consultation and formalising the groups that will be consulted.

It is expected that the first year will serve as a trial period for this procedure. Staff will then report back to the Council with recommendations for potential adjustments.

Recommendation

2. That Council adopts the Regulation Setting Policy in **Error! Reference source not found.**
3. That Council adopts the Anglers Notice Review Procedure in Appendix 2

Jayde Couper
Fish & Game Officer
May 2024

Appendix 1: Draft Otago Fish & Game Regulation Setting Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear and transparent framework that enables the Otago Fish and Game Council and its staff to efficiently review and update regulations. This will help maintain the sports fish and gamebird resources and support the recreational and health-sustaining activities that depend on them. The core goal of this policy is to maximise opportunities and enhance satisfaction.

Timeframes

This policy should be reviewed at least once during each Council term to ensure it remains aligned with the provisions of the Sports Fish and Game Management Plan and meets the strategic objectives of the Council. If significant changes in legislation occur, an earlier review of this policy may be necessary.

Review Schedule

Full review of the fishing regulations through the Anglers Notice and Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice are to be conducted on triennial basis, occurring in the second year of the Otago Fish and Game Council's three year election cycle. The review is to follow the Otago Fish & Game - Anglers Notice Review procedure. (Appendix)

Full reviews of the hunting regulations through the Gamebird Gazette Notice are also to be conducted on a triennial basis, taking place in the third year of the Otago Fish and Game Council's election cycle. The review process for these regulations is to follow a Otago Fish & Game - Gamebird Gazette Review Procedure (to be produced).

Outside of the triennial reviews, only changes that require urgency or provide an increase in opportunity with minimal risk should be made. Changes enacted under an adaptive management regime, such as increasing a bag limit when the population is high, which were approved at a triennial review, should be permitted.

Regulation Principles

Regulations are to be set according to the following principles:

- Regulations are consistent with the current Otago Sports Fish and Game Management Plan.
- Regulations align with the strategic priorities of the Otago Fish and Game Council.
- Regulations provide for sustainable populations as a first priority.
- Regulations aim to optimize the satisfaction of licence holders.
- Regulations look to maximise participation and opportunity to sustainable limits.
- Regulations are based on the most up-to-date and sound scientific information.
- Regulations acknowledge the diverse abilities and interests of licence holders and aim to distribute restrictions fairly.
- Regulations recognise the importance of sustainably harvesting wild food.
- Regulations are minimised, straightforward to explain and easily understood.
- Regulations are enforceable in court.

- Regulations, and consultation on them, are consistent with statutory obligations.
- Regulations are consistent with other Fish & Game regions where possible, with a priority on coordination with neighbouring regions.
- Regulations are consistent with the ethics of Fish and Game New Zealand outline in Appendix and Appendix .

Consultation

As a Crown Entity and willing Treaty Partner, the Otago Fish and Game Council has statutory responsibilities under Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, the Conservation Act 1987 and the Wildlife Act 1953.

The regulation review process will begin with consultations with Mana Whenua to enable their contributions to the direction of the process, identify concerns early, and seek shared goals and aspirations. The following organisations will be approached:

- Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRONT)
- Rūnaka recognised in the SPGMP
 - Te Rūnanga o Otakou
 - Te Rūnanga o Hukanui
 - South Otago Rūnanga
 - Kati Huirapa Rūnanga Ki Puketeraki
 - Te Whanau o Otokia
 - Moturata Taieri Whanau
 - Te Rūnanga o Moeraki.
- Kāi Tahu ki Otago

Staff will also consult with relevant key stakeholder groups on any major changes to regulations. Key stakeholders being:

- Department of Conservation (DoC)
- Ministry for Tourism
- Land information New Zealand (LINZ)
- Game Animal Council (GAC)
- Federation of Freshwater Anglers
- NZ Professional Guides association
- Currently active freshwater angling and gamebird hunting clubs based in Otago and Northern Southland.
- Neighbouring Fish & Game Regions.
- Otago licence holders

Staff will provide Council a summary document of the consultation process. Council will take the feedback from the consultation and give it careful consideration when making their decisions.

Notification

Final Council decisions will be communicated back to submitters and key stakeholders to ensure transparency and evidence of a thorough and open public process.

Appendix 2: Otago Fish & Game Anglers Notice Triennial Review Procedure

1. Initial Notification and Consultation

Starts early year 1

- Staff will consult with Iwi to:
 - Allow their input on direction of the process
 - Share their concerns
 - Identify common ground and aspirations

2. Management Review

Completed October year 1

- Staff will review the status of the Otago fishery incorporating up to date data on:
 - Habitat issues including water quality and quantity
 - Species assessments - species populations and sustainability
 - Angling trends - Angler surveys of activity, harvest and satisfaction
 - Compliance and clarity issues

3. Issues and Options Paper

Completed October year 1

- Staff will prepare a draft report detailing issues and options informed by the Management review for Council approval
- Council will provide indications of their intent, to guide the consultation process.

4. Final Consultation

Completed March year 2

- A letter will be sent to key stakeholders inviting them to comment.
- Feedback will be requested in the form of a letter which will be provided directly to Council
- Direct emails will be sent to licence holders, including an online form for their responses

5. Final Recommendations

Completed April year 2

- Staff will compile and provide the Council with a summary of feedback received during the consultation process
- Based on this feedback, the Council will make final decisions on changes to the regulations

6. Anglers Notice approval

Completed May year 2

- Staff will provide a copy of the Anglers Notice with amendments marked up.
- Council will approve the Anglers Notice
- Staff will provide the amended Anglers Notice to the Minister via the National Fish and Game Council

7. Notification

Complete June year 2

- Staff will provide summary of Council decisions to stakeholders, submitters and licence holders

Appendix 3: Letter from Hon Todd McClay - Minister for Hunting and Fishing to New Zealand Fish and Game Council.

Ms Corina Jordan
Chief Executive
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

1 March 2024

Dear Corina Jordan,

I am writing to inform you that I have not approved the 'Open season for game in Fish and Game regions' Game Notice Submission received by my office on 16 February 2024.

It is my expectation that Fish and Game Councils will operate in line with the functions set out in the Conservation Act 1987 section 26Q: "...to manage, maintain, and enhance the sports fish and game resource in the recreational interest of anglers and hunters." This should include working to maintain or facilitate a permissive environment regarding access to hunting and fishing areas and that all recommendations to me proposing changes in bag limits or hunting season timeframes made are based upon sound, evidence-based assessments of population/flock health and long-term sustainability outcomes.

In order to make a well-informed decision, I would like additional evidence-based information to support the proposed changes for the 2024 Game Notice for;

- North Canterbury, specifically reductions in bag limits for greylards and paradise shell ducks and reducing the length of the shell duck and pūkeko hunting seasons, and
- Southland: reducing the bag limit for mallards.

Alternatively, the North Canterbury and Southland Fish and Game Councils may wish to consider recommending a reversion to the 2023 bag limits and season lengths for the 2024 Game Notice in relation to the bird species outlined above.

Going forward it is my expectation that the NZ Fish and Game Council maintain a national population/flock monitoring programme, support a consistent approach to population/flock management across regions where appropriate, and have a clear and consistent process across the country for consulting with licence holders. I will discuss these, and further expectations I have, at our scheduled meeting on Tuesday 5 March.

Warm regards,
Hon Todd McClay
Minister for Hunting and Fishing

Appendix 4: Angling Code of Conduct

CODE OF CONDUCT

Please consider the rights of others and observe the anglers code of conduct

- Always ask permission from the land occupier before crossing private property unless a Fish & Game access sign is present.
- Do not park vehicles so that they obstruct gateways or cause a hazard on the road or access way.
- Always use gates, stiles or other recognised access points and avoid damage to fences.
- Leave everything as you found it. If a gate is open or closed leave it that way.
- A farm is the owner's livelihood and if they say no dogs, then please respect this.
- When driving on riverbeds keep to marked tracks or park on the bank and walk to your fishing spot.
- Never push in on a pool occupied by another angler. If you are in any doubt have a chat and work out who goes where.
- However, if agreed to share the pool then always enter behind any angler already there.
- Move upstream or downstream with every few casts (unless you are alone).
- Fish being returned to the water should be released as carefully and quickly as possible. Ideally leave the fish in the water and remove the hook with long-nosed pliers without handling the fish.
- While catch and release fishing is widely promoted by some as a conservation minded approach to angling it remains the angler's choice. However, the catching of large numbers of fish in a day can impact on individual fish and also on the angling experience for others. Fish & Game advocate hooking and landing a limited number of fish per day.
- Fish being retained should be killed as quickly as possible, ideally by spiking or stabbing the brain slightly behind and above the eye (also known as iki jime – pronounced "iki jimi").
- Always respect the environment, wildlife, other anglers and members of the public.
- Remove waste nylon and personal litter from the river banks and parking places.
- The only way we can protect our rivers in the long term is to CHECK, CLEAN and DRY all your gear before entering another river or lake anywhere in New Zealand.

REMEMBER TO TREAT OTHERS AS YOU WOULD WISH TO BE TREATED YOURSELF!

Appendix 5: Hunting Code of Conduct Summary – Full policy at <https://www.fishandgame.org.nz/assets/DMS/Hunting/Hunting-in-action/Hunting-Code-of-Practice-National-Policy-Nov19-Web.pdf>

GAME BIRD HUNTING CODE OF CONDUCT

Fish and Game New Zealand actively promotes responsible and ethical hunting practices. As game bird hunters we all have the following responsibilities, as detailed in the Game Bird Hunting Code of Conduct:

HUNT HUMANELY

- Shoot only within the effective range of our firearm and our capabilities, and only when a quick, clean kill is likely
- Retrieve all shot birds promptly and dispatch wounded game birds quickly and humanely
- Respect the resource, value our game birds and eat what we shoot

PROTECT GAME BIRD RESOURCES AND OUR HUNTING TRADITIONS

- Understand and observe all hunting regulations and licensing requirements
- Support game bird management and habitat enhancement activities
- Take no more than our immediate needs
- Share our knowledge and foster ethical attitudes and behaviour in hunting companions and youth

CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

- Remove all rubbish from the hunting area and dispose of offal and carcasses responsibly
- Use non-toxic shot and biodegradable products.
- Use established tracks and roads

RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

- Respect private property and always ask for access permission
- Be considerate of non-hunters
- Be aware of our safety and the safety of others when hunting
- Comply with the Arms Act 1983 and always follow the 7 Firearms Safety Rules:
 1. Treat every firearm as loaded
 2. Always point firearms in a safe direction
 3. Load a firearm only when ready to fire
 4. Identify your target beyond all doubt
 5. Check your firing zone
 6. Store firearms and ammunition safely
 7. Avoid both alcohol and drugs when handling firearms

For further guidance about responsible game bird hunting read the full Code of Practice at www.fishandgame.org.nz

STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC PESTS

Protect our waters: **CHECK, CLEAN, DRY.** Check dogs, boots, decoys, boats and their trailers before you leave the area.

8.0 Public Excluded Items

8.1 Draft Public Excluded Minutes of Meeting 21st March 2024

8.2 Otago Regional Policy Statement Potential Appeals

8.3 Council Property Update

8.4 Dublin Bay Lake Wanaka Bird Kill

8.5 Verbal Update on QLDC Easement Agreement

9.0 Financial Report

Finance and Licence Sales 30th April 2024

9.1 Finance Reports

The financial Profit and Loss report and Balance sheet for the period from 1st September 2023 to 30th April 2024 are below.

Profit and Loss

Income

Licence Income

Total licence sales year to date is \$2,279,805 against annual budget of \$2,455,777 (93% of annual budget)

Fish licence revenue to 30th April 2024 totals \$2,032,153 (Fish sales \$1,993,987 + non resident revenue \$1,909 + Designated Water licence \$36,257) compared with \$1,901,474 for the same period of the 2022/23 season.

The makeup of fish licence income is different this season as the new designated waters licence system charges for angling selected waters.

Fish licence revenue is ahead of this point in 2022/23 by \$130,679.

Income from game licence sales can only be shown for sales up to the 30th of April 4 days before opening. Income for May sales will not arrive until June 2024.

Game licence revenue from the Profit and Loss statement for the 2023/24 season recorded to 30th April 2024 total \$ 247,652 compared with \$ 217,318 for the 2022/23 season also to the 30th April of the season.

Figures exclude GST and commission to agents.

The 2023/24 budget for game licence sales is \$ 378,376 exclusive of GST.

Game licence revenue is ahead of 2022/23 by \$30,334.

Other Income

Total other income year to date is \$749,757.

Areas of interest are:

- Wages Reimbursement is for work done for other regions
- Contact Energy income is invoiced for project work as it is done.
- Fines revenue from our latest court case is coming in monthly from Ministry of Justice.
- Rent Received is below budget as the budget was formed when we had the Cromwell section leased out.
- Other income is very high as we have the profit on sale of fixed assets that included the sale of the Chardonnay street property in Cromwell.

Donations and Grants (not in budget)

Donation/Grant from	For	Amount GST excl
Bayfield High School	TAKF Lures	\$50.00
Otago Community Trust	TAKF	\$1,879.00
RICOH	Taiktaiktoa Wetland	\$1,000.00
Total		\$2,929.00

Expenses

Expenditure at the 30th April for the 2023/24 financial year is \$1,821,556 against a year to date budget of \$1,873,807. Expenditure slightly under budget at 97.2%.

The main reasons for any variances are:

- Species Management – All categories are under budget.
- Habitat Protection – this includes \$22,021 of unbudgeted Contact Sports Management Plan spending, this will be on charged to Contact Energy Ltd, Works.
- Management spending on wetland plant guards and stakes and maintenance to the Wanaka grounds is budgeted for.
Habitat Enhancement and Research Fund Grants come from a reserve, funded from diversion payments.
- Participation – Designated Waters signage, surveys and monitoring has a budget in place with more monitoring yet to come, OF&G fishing training events are complete. We have a grant Otago Community Trust to go towards Take A Kid Fishing events.
- Public interface. Active with hunting and fishing reports and social media.
The communications strategy project from regional reserve funding is about to begin.
- Compliance- one difficult prosecution included.
- Licencing – Designated Waters (DW) IT Build – Otago Region's contribution to designing and implementing the DWL system and data base.
Commission is made up from agent sales commission and bank fees associated with online sales.
- Council expenses – Four of six meetings accounted for. February planning meeting two days includes accommodation and food. Remaining meetings just a day each.
- Planning and Reporting – All expenses from accountant for the auditor in.
More national Liaison to come.
- Over Heads/Administration
Salaries not equal as April 2024 had three pay days.
Office premises - an assessment was done on building insurance and it is much higher than budget.
General expenses – unexpected legal cost for Wanaka Hatchery/Bullock Creek \$11,689.
Vehicle costs are increasing. April is lower as Excise duty on boat fuel was reimbursed.

- Approved Reserves Expenses - \$19,986. 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 \$48,111.
- Levies – paid monthly as per budget. \$774,639 excl GST to date.
- University Research Grant – Dr Donald Scott \$5000 has been paid from the non-resident reserve as agreed by Council.

The profit and loss for the 8 months ended 30th April 2024 shows a surplus of \$1,208,006. This includes \$641,793 from profit on sale of fixed assets.

Balance Sheet

Bank Funds Position at 30th April 2024

Bank	Value
ANZ 00 Account	\$ 108,051.02
ANZ 70 Account	\$ 234,405.94
ASB Account	\$ 90.57
Cash On Hand	\$ 50.00
Total	\$ 342,597.53

Term Investments as at 30th April 2024

Investment Bank	Amount	Rate	Maturity
ANZ 1000	\$530,399	6.0%	16th May 2024
ANZ 1002	\$200,000	6.10	20 th Sept 2024
ANZ 1001	Closed		25 th Sept 2023
ASB 81	\$200,000	6.10%	2 nd August 2024
ASB 80	\$200,000	4.30%	2 nd May 2024
Total	\$1,130,399		

ANZ 1001 was closed on the 25th September 2023 and added to the 70 Account \$401,016.99

ASB 80 Has since been closed at maturity 2nd May 2024 and added to the ANZ 70 account \$202,120.55

ANZ 1000 is planned to be closed on maturity 16th May 2024

Fixed Assets and Capital Expenditure

The asset replacement fund has gone from \$95,161 to \$43,875 with upgrading one truck, one boat and buying a defibrillator.

Liabilities

Total Liabilities at 30th April are \$294,860.

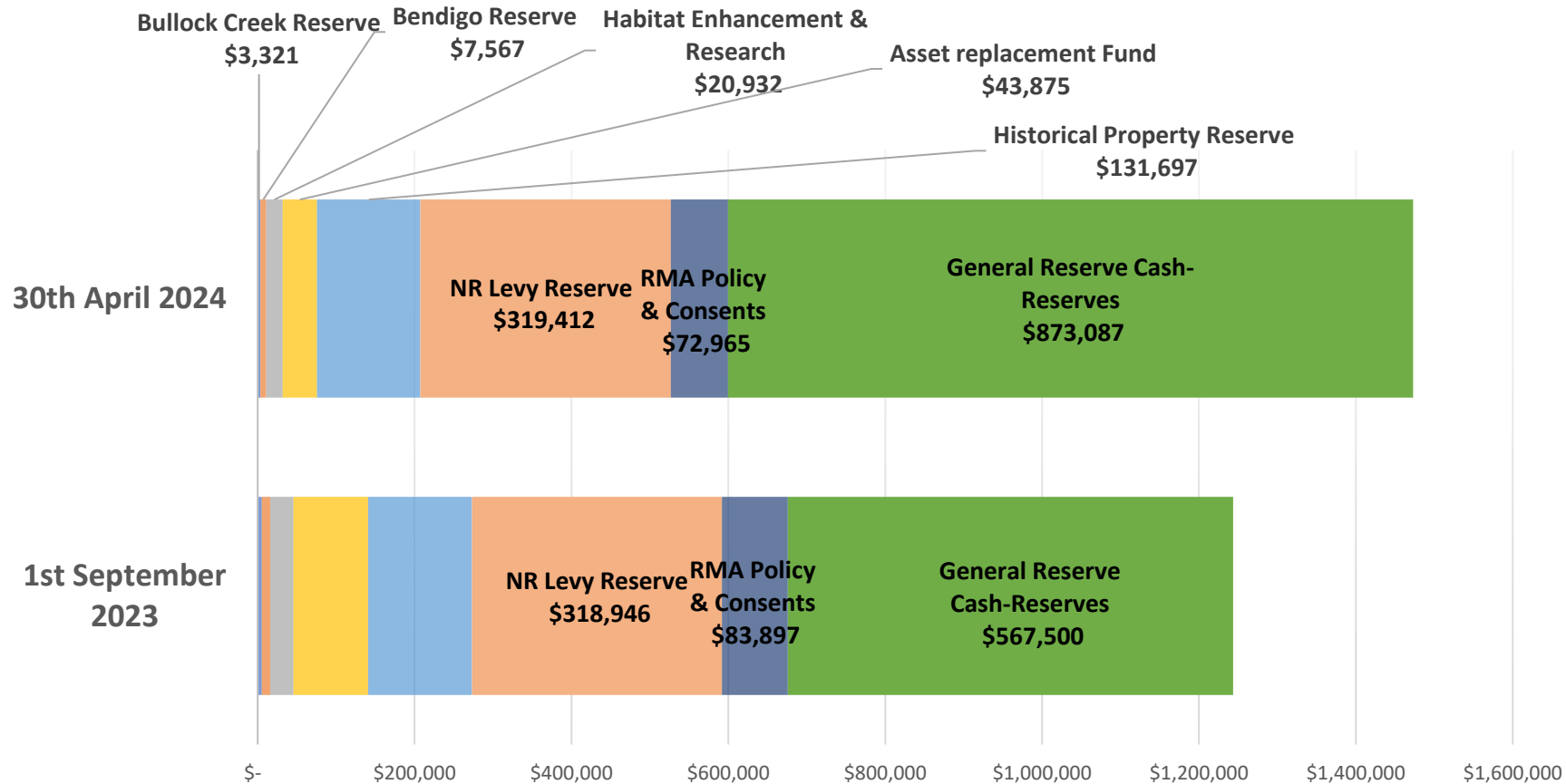
- Employee Entitlements includes \$50,888 of outstanding staff annual leave.
- Other payables include visa card spending, game stamp Levy and mostly from reversal of income in advance from the previous year. This will be updated at the end of the year when the new figures are calculated.
- Salmon Endorsement and Designated Waters Liabilities are money owed to other regions for licences relating to their region but sold in Otago.

Equity**Otago Fish and Game Reserves 30th April 2024**

Otago Reserves Movements	Balance August 2023	Income (To) Reserve	Note	Outgoing (From) Reserve	Balance April 2024
Back Country Non-resident Levy	\$318,946	\$36,066	1	\$35,600	\$319,412
Habitat Enhancement & Research	\$29,502	\$13,340	2	\$21,910	\$20,932
Bullock Creek Reserve	\$5,437	\$3,500	3	\$5,616	\$3,321
Bendigo Reserve	\$10,592	\$0.0	8	\$3,025	\$7,567
Priority Consents Reserve	\$41,697	\$0.0	7	\$0.0	\$41,697
Historical Property Reserves	\$132,341	\$0.0	4	\$644	\$131,697
Regional Policy Statement Reserve	\$11,124	\$0.0	5	\$10,932	\$192
Priority Plan Changes	\$31,076	\$0.0	6	\$0.0	\$31,076
Total	\$580,715	\$52,906		\$77,727	\$555,894

- Note 1 Income is from late 2022/23 season non resident fishing licence and 2023/24 season designated water licence sales. \$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. 2022/24 is year three. \$25,000 for 2023/24 Implementation of the Designated Waters set up and monitoring. Agreed by NZC and Council Reserve Budgets
- Note 2 Balance is \$20,932. Less committed but not yet paid out of \$1,000 so balance of \$19,932 available for dispersal by way of grants.
- Note 3 Bullock Creek was approved. OF&GC HEF funding February 2024 \$3,500.
- Note 4 Historical Property Reserve – Dedicated to the purchase of other properties. Council agreed 2019 to use toward subdivision of ex Wanaka hatchery 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. This reserve is not required now and is proposed to be used on Regional Policy Statement work.
- Note 7 OF&GC agreed to \$60,000 May 2020. NZC notified. This reserve is not required now and is proposed to be used on Regional Policy Statement work.
- Note 8 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 2023 TO 30TH APRIL 2024



Cash Flow Table and Forecast

	Sep-2023	Oct-2023	Nov-2023	Dec-2023	Jan-2024	Feb-2024	Mar-2024	Apr-2024	May-2024	Jun-2024	Jul-2024	Aug-2024
Total Income	\$ 474,550	\$ 532,187	\$ 277,361	\$ 353,586	\$ 207,667	\$ 118,314	\$ 145,459	\$ 224,762	\$ 182,537	\$ 21,220	\$ 24,082	\$ 15,158
Total Expenses	\$ 298,820	\$ 223,143	\$ 237,127	\$ 229,859	\$ 228,253	\$ 224,427	\$ 213,989	\$ 218,189	\$ 220,017	\$ 206,152	\$ 208,549	\$ 207,500
Net Profit	\$ 175,730	\$ 309,044	\$ 40,234	\$ 123,727	-\$ 20,586	-\$ 106,113	-\$ 68,530	\$ 6,573	-\$ 37,480	-\$ 184,932	-\$ 184,467	-\$ 192,342

Cash	\$ 1,243,366	\$ 927,936		\$ 1,295,789		\$ 1,626,597		\$ 1,472,856	\$ 1,435,376	\$ 1,250,444	\$ 1,065,977	\$ 873,635
Less Reserves comitted	\$ 567,500	\$ 570,935		\$ 565,733		\$ 561,502		\$ 599,769	\$ 599,769	\$ 599,769	\$ 539,769	\$ 539,769
General Cash reserve	\$ 675,866	\$ 357,001		\$ 730,056		\$ 1,065,095		\$ 873,087	\$ 835,607	\$ 650,675	\$ 526,208	\$ 333,866

Italics are forecast estimates

Cashflow forecast as requested.

It should be noted that August is the leanest month in terms of cash reserves but these are generally restored in September when fish licence sales revenue starts to come in.

Balance Sheet

Otago Fish and Game Council

As at 30 April 2024

	30 APR 2024	31 AUG 2023
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank	342,598	324,402
Receivables		
Accounts Receivable	365,087	159,885
Prepayments and Accrued Income	-	12,332
Total Receivables	365,087	172,216
GST	(21,642)	22,038
Investments	1,130,334	916,442
Inventory	15,599	15,599
Accrued Interest	8,328	17,017
Total Current Assets	1,840,304	1,467,714
Fixed Assets		
Property Plant & Equipment	2,040,562	1,329,054
Total Fixed Assets	2,040,562	1,329,054
Total Assets	3,880,866	2,796,768
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	57,509	77,178
Other Payables	182,137	253,200
Employee Entitlements	50,888	73,980
Salmon Endorsement	2,113	-
Designated Waters other regions	2,213	-
Total Current Liabilities	294,860	404,359
Total Liabilities	294,860	404,359
Net Assets	3,586,006	2,392,410
Equity		
Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated Funds	1,548,016	1,622,094
Current Year Earnings	1,208,006	(74,078)
Transfer (To)/From Reserves	230,215	172,028
Total Accumulated Funds	2,986,237	1,720,043
Dedicated Reserves		
Non Resident Levy Reserve	319,412	318,946
Habitat Enhancement & Research	20,932	29,502
Priority Plan Changes Reserve	31,076	31,076
Priority Consents Reserve	41,697	41,697
Regional Policy Statement Reserve	192	11,124

Balance Sheet

	30 APR 2024	31 AUG 2023
Historical Property Reserve	131,697	132,341
Asset Replacement Funding	43,875	91,651
Total Dedicated Reserves	588,880	656,337
Restricted Reserves		
Bullock Creek Reserve	3,321	5,437
Bendigo Reserve	7,567	10,592
Total Restricted Reserves	10,889	16,030
Total Equity	3,586,006	2,392,410

Profit and Loss

Otago Fish and Game Council For the 8 months ended 30 April 2024

	MAR 2024	APR 2024	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Income								
Licence Sales								
Fish Licence Sales	71,527	40,194	1,993,987	2,034,380	(40,393)	98%	2,077,401	1,888,362
Non-Resident Licence Revenue	-	-	1,909	-	1,909	-	-	105,135
Designated Water Licence Sales	4,648	2,100	36,257	-	36,257	-	-	-
Game Licence Sales	58,940	188,590	247,652	248,415	(763)	100%	378,376	354,010
Total Licence Sales	135,115	230,884	2,279,805	2,282,795	(2,990)	100%	2,455,777	2,347,507
Other Income								
Wages Reimbursement	-	1,207	5,076	-	5,076	-	-	14,941
Contact Energy Mitigation Income	-	17,848	21,618	-	21,618	-	-	68,972
Interest Income	1,353	1,106	28,695	37,832	(9,137)	76%	56,757	52,630
Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	1,717	83	2,700	300	2,400	900%	500	798
Rent Received	3,104	5,282	31,176	42,569	(11,393)	73%	63,849	53,747
Fishing Competitions	-	525	1,119	-	1,119	-	-	1,544
Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets	18,395	-	641,793	-	641,793	-	-	8,144
Donations & Grants	-	-	2,929	-	2,929	-	-	28,823
Merchandise Sales/Other	-	-	60	-	60	-	-	87
RMA Costs Reimbursed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60,000
Sundry Income	-	1,120	1,250	-	1,250	-	-	413
Diversion - Habitat Enhancement and Research Fund	5,020	1,320	13,340	-	13,340	-	-	18,460
Total Other Income	29,589	28,491	749,757	80,701	669,056	929%	121,106	308,559
Total Income	164,703	259,375	3,029,562	2,363,496	666,066	128%	2,576,883	2,656,066

	MAR 2024	APR 2024	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Gross Profit	164,703	259,375	3,029,562	2,363,496	666,066	128%	2,576,883	2,656,066
Expenses								
Species Management								
Population Monitoring	-	1,250	5,636	11,000	(5,364)	51%	13,000	49,063
Monitor key fisheries/Research Liaison	-	-	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	1,000	-
Harvest Assessment	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,500	3,500
Hatchery Operations	-	-	3,388	6,000	(2,612)	56%	9,000	14,731
Releases	-	-	681	1,000	(319)	68%	1,000	625
Game Bird Control compliants	34	-	34	-	34	-	-	444
Total Species Management	34	1,250	9,740	19,000	(9,260)	51%	27,500	68,363
Habitat Protection & Mngt								
Contact Sports Fish Management Plan	-	14,448	22,021	-	22,021	-	-	44,017
Resource Mngt Act	-	-	980	800	180	123%	1,000	64,042
Works & Management	(12,647)	13,179	6,805	9,500	(2,695)	72%	12,500	1,574
Habitat Enhancement Research Fund Grants	-	-	3,739	-	3,739	-	-	2,870
Total Habitat Protection & Mngt	(12,647)	27,627	33,544	10,300	23,244	326%	13,500	112,503
Participation								
Access and Signage	185	-	750	1,668	(918)	45%	2,500	2,499
Back Country Surveys/Monitoring	3,443	-	9,577	25,000	(15,423)	38%	25,000	116
Promotion Articles and Advertising	-	-	101	500	(399)	20%	500	-
Publications and Web Site	-	-	924	-	924	-	-	4,430
OF&G Training Events	38	-	2,088	2,000	88	104%	2,000	2,300
Club Relations and Grants	91	332	607	1,000	(393)	61%	1,000	1,083
Wetland Reserve Ballots	-	22	22	-	22	-	-	-

	MAR 2024	APR 2024	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
F&G Advocacy at Popular Fisheries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,026
Total Participation	3,757	354	14,069	30,168	(16,099)	47%	31,000	25,453
PUBLIC INTERFACE								
Liaison								
Liaison DoC Unin Govt CFT IWI	-	-	33	800	(767)	4%	1,000	765
Total Liaison	-	-	33	800	(767)	4%	1,000	765
Communication								
Publications	-	-	384	-	384	-	-	-
World Wetlands	-	-	27	500	(473)	5%	500	54
Total Communication	-	-	411	500	(89)	82%	500	54
Media Releases								
Advocacy Statutory	-	-	-	400	(400)	-	500	-
Weekly Fishing Reports/ social media	735	560	4,462	4,500	(38)	99%	4,500	2,940
Communications Strategy	-	-	176	16,000	(15,824)	1%	24,000	14,520
Media Release	-	-	-	400	(400)	-	500	400
Total Media Releases	735	560	4,638	21,300	(16,662)	22%	29,500	17,860
Total PUBLIC INTERFACE	735	560	5,082	22,600	(17,518)	22%	31,000	18,679
COMPLIANCE								
Ranger Training and Expenses	-	107	2,162	4,900	(2,738)	44%	5,500	5,941
Compliance	-	-	8,250	3,000	5,250	275%	5,000	6,649
Total COMPLIANCE	-	107	10,412	7,900	2,512	132%	10,500	12,590
LICENCING								
Designated Waters IT Build	-	-	21,023	31,819	(10,796)	66%	31,819	-
Agent Servicing	71	38	199	500	(301)	40%	500	172

	MAR 2024	APR 2024	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Commission/Fees	5,334	10,493	79,545	104,849	(25,304)	76%	110,510	86,914
Total LICENCING	5,404	10,531	100,768	137,168	(36,400)	73%	142,829	87,087
COUNCIL								
Elections Council	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	-
Council Meetings and Agendas	1,800	-	11,917	10,000	1,917	119%	15,000	12,462
Total COUNCIL	1,800	-	11,917	10,000	1,917	119%	15,250	12,462
PLANNING & REPORTING								
Reporting/Audit	-	-	15,713	16,000	(287)	98%	16,000	17,049
National Liason	-	-	195	400	(205)	49%	500	630
Total PLANNING & REPORTING	-	-	15,908	16,400	(492)	97%	16,500	17,679
ADMINISTRATION								
Salaries	75,368	105,943	618,802	658,050	(39,248)	94%	987,058	808,170
Staff Expenses								
ACC Levy	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	2,160
Fringe Benefit Tax	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,500	7,217
Staff Training	701	475	3,232	4,000	(768)	81%	6,000	16,619
Staff Clothing Branded	500	-	1,358	-	1,358	-	-	572
Staff Personal Expenses	(119)	(150)	(151)	-	(151)	-	-	-
Staff Expenses	424	708	3,937	5,336	(1,399)	74%	8,000	9,438
Staff Employment Expenses	-	-	-	1,600	(1,600)	-	2,000	683
Total Staff Expenses	1,506	1,033	8,376	10,936	(2,560)	77%	24,500	36,689
Office Premices	3,759	7,846	75,470	80,439	(4,969)	94%	115,899	114,681
Office Equipemnt	1,573	-	2,199	1,800	399	122%	2,500	1,119
Communications	1,372	928	14,262	13,936	326	102%	20,700	23,017
General Exp (incl Insurance)	88	27	13,823	3,736	10,087	370%	4,600	2,720
General Field Equipment	10	-	1,455	2,436	(981)	60%	3,300	2,572

	MAR 2024	APR 2024	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Vehicles	3,167	2,229	37,993	38,672	(679)	98%	54,000	60,078
Total ADMINISTRATION	86,842	118,006	772,380	810,005	(37,625)	95%	1,212,557	1,049,047
Approved Reserve Expense	-	8,328	19,986	-	19,986	-	-	61,697
Depreciation	6,381	6,381	48,111	35,624	12,487	135%	53,431	59,502
NZ Fish & Game Levies	96,830	96,830	774,639	774,642	(3)	100%	1,161,958	1,200,082
University of Otago Research Grant	-	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Total Expenses	189,136	269,973	1,821,556	1,873,807	(52,251)	97%	2,716,025	2,730,144
Net Profit	(24,433)	(10,597)	1,208,006	489,689	718,317	247%	(139,142)	(74,078)

9.2 Licence Sales

Fish Licence Sales 2023/24 Season to 30th April 2024

See table following for fish licence sales numbers and categories for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 season sales to the end of April of the season.

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.

In summary, 2023/24 fishing licence sales in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) 15,002 LEQs compared with 14,481 LEQs for the same period last year - 521 LEQs ahead of last year at the same time. The resident designated water licence is of small value so does not affect the LEQ greatly, it is more influenced by the adult and family resident licence sales that are both down this year.

Game Licence Sales at Opening Day of the Season

The Gamebird licence sales began online and at agencies on the 14th of March 2024.

A full adult licence has an increase of \$6 per licence from the previous year.

See table following for game licence sales categories and numbers at 30th April of both 2023 and 2024 seasons.

Also followed by a table showing Game season sales two days after opening for both 2023 and 2024 seasons. Income for May sales is not assigned until June.

In summary, game licence sales in whole season licence equivalents are 3,842 LEQs for the 2024 opening day compared with 3,913 LEQs for the same period 2023 season.

71 LEQs behind last season.

9.3 Debtors

No doubtful debts from agent.

No doubtful debts in the general accounts

9.4 Recommendations

- 1 ***That the Finance report and Licence Report to the 30th April 2024 be received.***
- 2 ***That, subject to Councils approval of the litigation, the Priority Consents Reserve \$41,697 and the Priority Plan Changes Reserve \$31,076 be made available for funding of the Otago Regional Policy Statement case.***

Sharon Milne

Administration Officer 14/05/2024

Otago Fish Licence Sales to 30th April of the Season

2023/24																					
Sales	FWFA	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	DWLR	DWLN	Total	LEQ
Public	1930	2379	586	375	355	91	41	387	2487	2250	572	41	378	118	18	75	0	1519	633	14235	7,822
Agency	2074	2954	208	752	153	44	19	134	477	675	380	11	62	39	12	32	512	1394	138	10070	7,181
Total	4004	5333	794	1127	508	135	60	521	2964	2925	952	52	440	157	30	107	512	2913	771	24305	15,002

2022/23																					
Sales	FWFA	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	DWLR	DWLN	Total	Fish LEQ
Public	2099	2353	533	362	397	128	34	321	2403	1835	524	36	341	72	15	37	0	0	0	11490	7,246
Agency	2188	3059	199	698	155	62	18	134	610	904	390	19	71	57	8	13	626	0	0	9211	7,235
Total	4287	5412	732	1060	552	190	52	455	3013	2739	914	55	412	129	23	50	626	0	0	20701	14,481

FWFA (Family), FWA (Adult season), FWNA (Non Resident season), FSLA (Senior Loyal), FLAA (Local Area),
 FLBA (long Break), FSBA (Short Break), FDA (Adult Day), FDNA (Non Resident Adult Day), FWJ (Junior Season)
 FWNJ (Junior non resident season), FDJ (Junior Day), FDNJ (Non Resident Junior Day), FWNC (non Resident Child season)
 FDNC(Non Resident child Day),SRSE (Salmon Endorsement),DWLR(Designated Waters Resident),DWLN(Designated Waters Non Res)
 Some of the DWLs sold are for other regions, and other regions have some of ours

Otago Game Licence Sales to the 30th April of the Season

2024(Opening Day 4th May)

Sales	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ
Public	305	41	25	0	0	371	302
Agency	2296	169	67	0	0	2532	2,308
Total	2601	210	92	0	0	2903	2,610

2023 (Opening Day 6th May)

Sales	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ
Public	267	29	22	0	0	318	273
Agency	2145	177	66	0	0	2388	2,180
Total	2412	206	88	0	0	2706	2,452

GWA Full Season Adult, GWJ Full season Junior, GWC Full season Child

GDA Adult Day, GDJ Junior Day

Otago Game Licence Sales to Two Days after the Season Opening

2024							
Sales	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ
Public	743	106	55	0	0	904	753
Agency	3066	227	78	0	0	3371	3,089
Total	3809	333	133	0	0	4275	3,842

2023							
Sales	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ
Public	757	86	42	0	0	885	774
Agency	3093	234	90	0	0	3417	3,139
Total	3850	320	132	0	0	4302	3,913

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

10.0 Chief Executives Report

10.1 SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Monitor fisheries

Spawning surveys are underway for the season for both trout and salmon. The aerial flights of the Clutha River have been postponed due to high water levels. The airtime is likely to be transferred to the Pomahaka River and tributaries.

Monitoring liberation success at reservoirs

Staff are presently monitoring some of the key reservoirs looking for marked hatchery fish to check on growth rates and relative abundance.

A fish kill in Coalpit Dam contributed to this monitoring with 20 adult fish collected and a proportion of these were actually marked with different annual fin clips. Some of the growth rates recorded have been very fast. Staff are following up with the Otago Regional Council on the fish kill and they have completed a second round of water testing to determine the cause of the low oxygen levels.

Gamebird monitoring

Aerial monitoring flights for mallard duck were completed in April and are reported on in this agenda. Numbers were down slightly overall but counts were made more difficult by higher than usual Clutha River levels.

Gamebird opening weekend harvest

Good conditions for hunting did not necessarily translate into bigger bags for hunters based on the harvest data collected to date. The report in this agenda shows a steady downward trend in hunter harvest for opening weekend but it does also correspond with a decrease in overall hours hunted.

Regulations setting policy – Council agreed to review the Anglers Notice policy and staff have now produced a draft policy and for all regulation setting by Council. Getting the process right is especially important considering the new Ministers comments on the Gamebird Notice review. The draft Regulation Setting Policy is in the matters to be decided and includes a procedure for triennial reviews. A similar procedure needs to be developed and agreed for the Game Gazette Notice reviews as well.

Species interaction

Staff have met with Otago Regional Council freshwater science staff to begin mapping fish values in the Kyeburn. This was supposed to have been completed by now as part of the side agreement/MOU reached with the Kyeburn irrigators when their consents were renewed in 2019. The longer-term aim is to clearly identify the areas where there is species interaction for joint management responses, protect vulnerable native species in situ, and explore opportunities for sportsfish enhancement elsewhere.

10.2 HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Contact Energy – Trust Up and Running

Its Chair (Cr Boyd) will be able to update the full Council at the meeting on progress. A draft business plan has been produced and a schedule of works. Staff have been offering support to assist the trust in any way possible.

RMA (Resource Management Act) planning and Consents

See separate reports

Wetlands

Staff continue to plant up Bendigo wetland with the support of various groups. Aukaha have replied that they have no interest or concerns with the Bendigo Management Plan or our activities in the Bendigo Reserve. Staff are yet to hear back from Te a o Mararma who are the other mana whenua party with an interest in the area. The Operations manager is also working with LINZ (Land Information New Zealand) to include their property into the reserve plan which should make future management of the entire site more streamlined.

The road upgrade into Takitakitoa has been completed and attached to this agenda is a monitoring and dam safety report which is provided to the Otago Regional Council to satisfy the consent conditions.

10.3 USER PARTICIPATION

Designated Waters implementation

The Designated Waters monitoring is nearly complete for the season. Use of our designated waters has been light, but this will be confirmed when the remaining surveys for the Hunter/Dingle and Greenstone/Caples have been completed.

Publications

As noted previously, printing and distribution costs are becoming a significant concern for the NZC, not just for the magazine but for production and distribution of licences too. The NZC at its April meeting has decided not to print the Angling Regulations book next season to save costs. Staff are looking at options to ensure local agents have a printed version of our own regulations in case people do not have access to an online version.

Clubs and Events

Staff attended five of the pre duck season clay target events around the region, mingling with hunters and providing F&G updates at prizegiving's. It continues to be a good way to connect with a range of hunters ahead of the season.

10.4 PUBLIC INTERFACE

Bullock Creek Stormwater

The CE (Chief Executive) has been in regular contact with Queenstown Lakes District Council staff seeking an update on the Easement Agreement for the proposed pipeline. To date we have had no response from QLDC (Queenstown Lakes District Council) on the updated agreement, but I understand it is in the hands of their lawyers. Similarly, staff are yet to receive a description and design of their proposed overflow works near our boundary.

CE to update in Public Excluded Session

Media

It has been a busy period media wise with print media content being very strong, particularly around the start of the hunting season. Almost all was positive. The Communications Officer and Cr McIntyre were also interviewed by radio stations about the gamebird season.

There was also good coverage in social media for both the Patagonia womans fly fishing event in Queenstown and the annual Casting for Recovery retreat in Makarora.

Communications Strategy

Development of a Communications Strategy has been advancing with a contractor being engaged to help develop a strategy document to guide the Councils activities. Staff have provided the contractor with background material (which we have quite a lot of) and an update on the current activities, threats, and opportunities.

Vesting of Mt Iron Reserve

Email communication to Councillors confirmed the staff advice that OF&GC has no interest in the transfer between agencies (vesting) of this rather built-up area. Unless there is any objection at the meeting, I will reply to that effect on behalf of the Council.

Council to confirm direction

10.5 COMPLIANCE

Offences

Opening weekend compliance of duck hunters was particularly good. Five ranging teams were out with Police officers in support of some crews. Two no-licence offences are being processed at present but generally, hunters were very well behaved and pleased to see staff and rangers active.

Rangers

A review of rangers is about to commence as their 3-year warrants are due to expire in September. We need to maintain our dedicated group of compliance staff in Otago and the review does present an opportunity to recheck motivations for being an honorary ranger. Any retirements will create spaces for new applicants.

10.6 LICENCING**Licence sales**

Gamebird season sales were down across the country (-2.1%) but only marginally (-0.8%) behind last year in Otago.

Agents

Agents were all visited ahead of the hunting season and provided updates on licencing and regulations. They were pleased by our interaction with them especially around 410g moving to non toxic shot. They appreciated our pragmatic approach to implementing the change.

10.7 COUNCIL**Council Elections**

The Council election is proposed to run as usual (although there is no fixed timetable at this point), and nominations will be sought in early August. Our communications officer will begin the promotion of the elections shortly including seeking candidates to stand. As the chair has reiterated, it is important that Otago continues to have superior quality governors into the future and a well contested election is presently the only vehicle for that.

Otago F&G Property

There has been a considerable body of work over the last few weeks bringing the Dunedin building to market and looking into alternative office and workshop options. Public excluded section of the agenda contains a full update.

Next Council Meeting

The next Council meeting is on 23rd July 2024 in Tapanui, the chair has invited the Southland Council to join us again as part of our ongoing working relationship and MOU.

10.8 PLANNING AND REPORTING

National Liaison

There are more NZC policy documents for feedback in this agenda. The latest list includes policy on health and safety (and including for Rangers) and Protected Disclosures Policy. They are to be considered for feedback by the end of May

Recommendation

That this report be received

Ian Hadland

Chief Executive

May 2024

11.0 RMA Planning and Consents Report

13 March – 13 May 2024

Current Legislation, Policy and Planning Processes

Otago Regional Policy Statement (ORPS)

Staff and Councillors have been working through the appeals process for the ORPS. Please see the associated report elsewhere in this agenda for more details.

Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) review and changes to farm regulations

The Government recently announced a review to the RMA. Key changes relevant to Fish and Game work include:

- removing consideration of Te Mana o te Wai from consenting processes;
- amending stock exclusion;
- repealing winter grazing regulations;
- speeding up the process to make or amend NPS's and NES's; and
- amending freshwater farm plan regulation.

Further details are not available to staff at this time and we await further information from the Government.

Fast-track Approvals Bill

Staff received correspondence from the Manuherekia Catchment Group that they will be submitting a fast-track application. Please see the correspondence section of the agenda for more details.

Current Notification processes

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
Otago Regional Council applications		
Amec Mercury Ltd.	To extract gravel from the Strath Taieri and Outram Glen reaches of the Taieri River	A neutral submission is being written by staff, outlining the need for better cumulative effect assessments.

Written approval provided during the period

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
Otago Regional Council applications		
Queenstown Hardfill Management Company Ltd.	To extract gravel from the Rees River	Conditions were negotiated to avoid wetted areas and avoid channelisation, after which affected party approval was provided.
Wanaka Golf Club Inc.	To vary a consent to extract groundwater	Affected party approval was provided.
Otakia Ltd.	To extract gravel at Outram Glan	Conditions were negotiated to avoid wetted areas and retain the natural character of the gravel beach, after which affected party approval was provided.
Queenstown Lakes District Council applications		
Paddle Queenstown	To formalise an existing kayaking operation on Moke Lake	A condition was negotiated to encourage separation of kayakers and anglers, after which affected party approval was provided.

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

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

Recommendation:

1. That this report be received.

Nigel Paragreen
Environmental Officer
13 May 2024

12.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

12.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust

12.2 Clutha Mata-Au Fisheries and Habitat Trust

12.3 New Zealand Fish and Game Council

12.4 Ngai Tahu

12.5 Conservation Board

12.6 Tiaki Maniototo

Tiaki Maniototo Meeting Wed 17/4/24. JH and JC both in attendance in person at Patearoa.

A feature of the meeting was a guest presentation by Murray Neilson. Murray indicated that he had previously walked the whole of the Upper Taieri wetland boundary in 1975 when he was a Game Management Officer for the Wildlife Service. He made a map of the wetland boundary which would still be valuable if it could be found.

Murray also produced a plan for restoration of Tunaheketaka/Upper Taieri Lake as a wetland with 1-2 m of water and islands. One suggestion at the time was that it could be a release point for black stilts. The Ranfurly Business Association was on board. The plan was archived in Wellington and would again be valuable if it could be found and retrieved, given the current high level of interest in this project.

Fencing progress continues to be slow in current economic conditions so the focus will continue to be on critical source areas that could be fenced using 100% TM funds. Permission from other organisations is also proving to be difficult. A further goose cull has been carried out just over a month from opening of the duck season. Morgan Trotter has been overseeing further water quality measurement. Autumn planting is gearing up. There will be no mainstem willow spraying in conjunction with ORC this year. A further in person meeting of the recreation group is planned to progress access projects.

TM presentations at the recent Wetland Symposium were very well received.

MIC mentioned a meeting with Fish and Game about Logan Burn flows.

TM had a visit from Miles Anderson who was shown around the project.

ORC is still working on a letter to landowners about the Upper Taieri plan and stock exclusion.

13.0 Correspondence

13.1 NZC to Otago

13.1.1 New Zealand Council Consultation Items

New Zealand Council Consultation Items

The New Zealand Council is seeking regional Council feedback on a number of draft policies which they are proposing to adopt as National Policy.

1. Draft Protected Disclosures Policy

The policy is required to comply with the Protected Disclosures Act. It is designed to provide staff, or former staff, protections for disclosure of serious wrongdoing by the organisation.

At present the policy is written for NZF&GC but it needs to extend to Regional Councils, or more preferably, be adopted as policy by individual Regional F&G Councils locally to clarify lines of accountability. In practice, any disclosures recorded locally are likely going to be managed at the Regional Council level rather than through NZF&GC (although they may act in a supporting capacity). The draft policy sets NZC up as the investigator makes them responsible for the complaint being addressed.

Recommendation – Reject adoption as national policy. Agree to adopt an updated version locally. Add to our Regional Policy list.

2. Draft National Health and Safety Policy

Otago already has a Health and Safety Policy in place (last adopted in February) so a national Health and Safety policy is simply duplication. It also has the inadvertent effect of making the NZC accountable for H&S incidents or litigation generated in the regions where presently the PCBU (Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking) stops at the Regional Council level. Why NZC would invite additional liabilities (with the exception of Rangers) needs further explanation.

This is overreach by NZC. A part of their function is to develop national policy *‘for carrying out the functions for sports fish and game’* and this steps outside of this. The legislation is quite clear that regions are to develop their own personnel policies as part of their good employer obligations (Section 26T of the Conservation Act) and that includes policy for worker health and safety and we have done that.

In summary, its unnecessary to adopt as national policy and unless the duties and lines of accountability are clarified and refined, then this will just confuse (and broaden) where liabilities lay.

NZC has an audit function which it should use to ensure that every region (and its self) have a fit for purpose health and safety policy in place. The policy should be clearer about that.

Recommendation – Refuse adoption as national policy and rely on our Councils established version.

3. Draft Ranger Health and Safety Policy

This policy is more appropriate as National Policy as there are some clear lines of accountability from the ‘director’ of Fish and Game NZ as the appointer of honorary Rangers. There is still some confusion around the extent of that liability for regional staff as they are appointed (for compliance purposes at least) under the same section of the Conservation Act.

The most practical way to address this in the policy is to clarify the extent of the roles for staff and Honorary rangers so that the NZC doesn’t inadvertently attract a new liability and creep into day-to-day management of regional staff.

Staff are happy to assist with edits to improve the policy for national adoption. Edits could include:

- Removal of the specific Health and Safety provisions – they are held elsewhere so don’t need to be duplicated in this policy.
- Clarify the annual declaration section so it only covers *Honorary* Rangers Health and Safety specifically when doing compliance work – Staff undertaking compliance work are covered in our own internal H&S system and this also covers honorary rangers working for Otago F&G on tasks other than compliance.

Recommendation – Support, with amendments.

For Discussion and feedback to NZC

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive

10.5.24



DRAFT Protected Disclosures Policy

Section	Governance
Contact/Owner	NZC HR
Last Review	New Policy
Next Review	
Approval	NZC
Effective Date	

1. PURPOSE

To comply with the Protected Disclosures Act 2022, to facilitate the disclosure and investigation of serious wrongdoing in the workplace, and to provide protection to employees/workers who report concerns.

2. POLICY

This policy provides for an employee, a former employee, a volunteer, a contractor of Fish and Game NZ or a Council member to be protected from dismissal and any other punitive acts by Fish and Game for disclosing a serious wrongdoing. The serious wrongdoing may be committed either by Fish and Game or within Fish and Game by an employee or contractor.

Fish and Game NZ:

- protects those who, in good faith, raise concerns about serious wrongdoing.
- Maintains confidentiality of the discloser's details
- ensures allegations of serious wrongdoing are properly investigated and addressed.
- complies with the principles of natural justice.
- sets out a standardised process for making a protected disclosure.
- identifies who a protected disclosure of serious wrongdoing may be made to
- complies with the requirements of the Act

3. What is a Protected Disclosure?

A protected disclosure is defined as where the discloser:

- believes on reasonable grounds that there is, or has been, serious wrongdoing in or by the discloser's organisation; and
- discloses information about that in accordance with this Act; and
- does not disclose it in bad faith.

Those who provide support information are generally also protected if they disclose in the same manner.

The discloser will not be liable to any civil, criminal, or disciplinary proceedings because they made or referred a protected disclosure. However, if they have been personally involved in the serious wrongdoing about which they are disclosing information, the Protected Disclosures Act does not protect them from disciplinary action, or from civil or criminal proceedings arising from that wrongdoing.

A discloser is entitled to protection even if:

- they are mistaken and there is no serious wrongdoing; or
- they do not refer to the Act when making the disclosure; or
- they also make the disclosure to another person if they do so—
 - on a confidential basis; and
 - for the purposes of seeking advice about whether or how to make a protected disclosure in accordance with this Act.

4. Who is a Protected Disclosure made to?

The disclosure made to the Chief Executive of the NZ Council, to a Regional manager/Chief Executive or Regional Council Chair, or to an Appropriate Authority (see the Procedures for Appropriate Authorities).

5. What is Serious Wrongdoing?

An unlawful, corrupt, or irregular use of funds or resource of a public sector organisation; or Acts, omissions, or courses of conduct:

- that constitute a serious risk to public health or public safety or health or safety of an individual, or to the environment; or
- that constitute a serious risk to the maintenance of law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences and the right to a fair trial; or
- that constitute an offence; or
- that is oppressive, unlawfully discriminatory, or grossly negligent, or gross mismanagement by a public sector employee or person performing a function or a duty or exercising power on behalf of a public sector organisation or the Government

6. What is not Serious Wrongdoing?

Things like dissatisfaction with the leadership of an organisation or more minor misconduct matters may not amount to serious wrongdoing and would therefore not be covered by the Act. The Act does not cover employment issues that are covered by the Employment Relations Act.

7. Natural Justice

Fish and Game NZ, will adhere to principles of 'Natural Justice', meaning that those involved:

- are not judges in their own cause. If the person involved in considering a protected disclosure is in any way involved with the alleged serious wrongdoing, then that person cannot give an objective view of the matter and will not be part of the process; and
- will hear both sides of the argument. The process should hear both sides of any assertions made by the complainant and by any person who is involved in the alleged serious wrongdoing.
- will give a reasoned decision in a timely manner.

8. Protection from Victimisation and Retaliation

Fish and Game NZ must not retaliate, or threaten to retaliate, against a discloser who is an employee; and no person may treat another less favourably because of a protected disclosure. This applies even if it transpires that the disclosure is not protected by the Act.

If the discloser feels that their protected disclosure has caused them to suffer retaliatory action, they may have a personal grievance under the Employment Relations Act 2000.

Similarly, if they feel that they have been victimised because of their protected disclosure they may make a complaint under the Human Rights Act 1993.

9. Confidentiality

Where a protected disclosure is made, the recipient of the disclosure, must use their best endeavours not to disclose information that may identify the discloser.

This obligation exists unless the discloser consents in writing to the disclosure of their identity or :

- for the effective investigation of the disclosure

- in order to prevent serious risk to public health, or public safety, the health and safety of the individual, or the environment
- to comply with the principles of natural justice
- to aid an investigation by a law enforcement or regulatory agency for the purpose of law enforcement.

10. Important Notes

The protection of the Act will not apply where a disclosure is made in bad faith.

The Act does not provide immunity from prosecution for the serious wrongdoing itself – only for the making or referring of the disclosure.

If the information is disclosed to someone other than those people specified in the Act (for example, directly to the media or on social media), the discloser may lose the protection of the Act.

The discloser must ensure that any disclosure of information is made strictly in accordance with the procedures of this policy.

If the discloser is unsure about any part of this policy, then they should refer to the NZC HR Advisor.

Refer to the Protected Disclosures Procedures for a step by step process on making a disclosure

See also: [Office of the Ombudsman Protected Disclosure Guidance](#)

DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT CONTROL

Prepared by: HR Business Partner
Owned by: NZC/NZC CEO
Authorised by: Fish and Game New Zealand National Council
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DRAFT National Health and Safety Policy

Section	Operational
Contact/Owner	NZC HR
Last Review	New Policy
Next Review	
Approval	NZC
Effective Date	

1. Introduction

Fish and Game NZ is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy workplace for employees, volunteers and the public, by complying with relevant health and safety legislation (Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA) and associated regulations), and various New Zealand standards and approved codes of practice.

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) and each of the Regional Fish and Game Councils (Regional Councils) are PCBUs for the purposes of the HSWA. PCBUs have a requirement to work with each other where there are overlapping duties. This requirement relates not only to Fish and Game Councils but to other organisations that the Councils work with.

The NZ Council also has the function of developing national policies in consultation with the regions and has particular responsibilities as the only Council with an overview across the organization.

The Chief Executive of the NZ Council is not a PCBU with respect to Regional Council employees except when they are undertaking ranger duties. However, one of the NZ Council's functions is to develop, in consultation with Regional Councils, national policies for the carrying out of the NZ Council's functions for sports fish and game. It is also a function of the NZ Council to audit the activities of the Regional Councils.

In line with these functions, the NZ Council expects the Regional Councils to be model employers and to ensure that the Regional Councils' working environments are healthy and safe for all employees, not just rangers.

This policy applies to all Regional and NZ Council employees and all other workers (such as contractors or volunteers) where applicable.

2. POLICY

Duties of Regional Councils and the NZ Council

The Council will, as far as is reasonably practicable, comply with the provisions of legislation dealing with health and safety in the workplace, by:

- providing a safe physical and emotional work environment;
- ensuring a health and safety plan is in place in relation to specific activities which include ; fieldwork; working alone, ranging; motor vehicles; boating; office security; and hatchery operations where relevant
- ensuring that engagement and consultation with staff on the plan occurs;

- providing adequate facilities and any safety equipment deemed necessary, including ensuring access and ensuring property and equipment is safe to use and workers are not exposed to risks;
- ensuring there is an effective method in place for identifying, assessing and controlling risks. This includes the recording and investigating of injuries, and reporting incidents and accidents including serious harm incidents;
- ensuring that a drug and alcohol policy, a fatigue management plan, and a prevention of bullying and harassment policy is in place.
- ensuring that health and safety plans have been agreed with other agencies to cover overlapping health and safety issues
- having a commitment to a culture of continuous improvement.

The Regional Manager/Chief Executive, as an Officer, is also responsible for implementing this policy and therefore must:

- exercise due diligence in accordance with the provisions of the health and safety legislation;
- ensure that operational plans and procedures such as first aid and emergency evacuation procedures are in place;
- take all reasonable steps to protect workers, volunteers and visitors in the workplace from unsafe or unhealthy conditions or practices;
- ensure there are effective processes to deal with unacceptable behaviour, such as non-compliance;
- ensure that workers have adequate training, supervision and information to undertake their activities
- keep Council fully informed;
- advise the Council Chair of any emergency situations as soon as possible.

The Regional Manager/Chief Executive and the Council, may be liable if they fail to meet or comply with health and safety obligations.

All workers (employees, contractors, and volunteer workers) are expected to play a vital and responsible role in maintaining a safe and healthy workplace through:

- being involved in improving health and safety systems at work;
- following instructions, rules, procedures and safe ways of working;
- reporting any pain or discomfort as soon as possible;
- reporting all injuries, incidents and near misses;
- helping new staff members, trainees, volunteers and visitors to the workplace understand the risks and why they exist;
- reporting any health and safety concerns or issues through the reporting system;
- keeping the workplace tidy to minimise the risk of any trips and falls;
- wearing protective clothing and equipment as and when required to minimise exposure to workplace risks;
- take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and of others in the workplace.

Workers may be personally liable if they fail to meet or comply with their health and safety obligations.

All others (e.g. visitors) in the workplace must:

- follow all instructions, rules and procedures while in the workplace;;
- report all injuries, incidents and near misses to the Manager/Chief Executive;
- wear protective clothing and equipment as and when required to minimise their exposure to risks.

Councils must have a comprehensive health plan in place that is specific to their region covering the topics and policies set out in the Appendix to this Policy.

Health and Safety incidents will be reported to the National Health and Safety Committee, except for Serious Harm incidents which will be reported to NZC straight away. When there is a health and safety incident, the Regional Council will consider whether changes to the Health and Safety Plan are required to minimize the risk of such an incident occurring again in future, will make such changes as are necessary.

To support consistency of approach, the NZ Council and the Regional Councils will establish a **National Health and Safety Committee**, comprising regional representatives and a representative from the NZ Council. The Committee will monitor incidents, review Council policies and plans, and share practices and learnings.

DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT CONTROL

Prepared by: Jane Hutchings, HR Business Partner
Owned by: NZC/NZC CEO
Authorised by: Fish and Game New Zealand National Council
Date Issued (for Consultation):
Next Review:

Appendix 1

A Health and Safety Plan should cover:

1. The process for receiving and considering information regarding health and safety incidents, hazards, and risks, and responding in a timely way;
2. Staff involvement
3. Training and supervision;
4. Procedures for managing health and safety risks that arise in the specific region, for example (and only as applicable to the region): fieldwork; working alone; ranging; motor vehicles; boating; office security; and hatchery operations;
5. The requirement under HSWA to engage with other agencies the Council may work with from time to time and who may also have overlapping health and safety duties;
6. Availability of first aid assistance and training;
7. Emergency evacuation procedures;

Plus additional policies and guidelines covering:

1. Drug and alcohol use;
2. Fatigue management
3. Prevention of bullying and harassment.
4. Lone worker SOP
5. Safe driving policy
6. Intentions template or App
7. Tailgate forms
8. Boat training manual
9. Boat safety plans
10. External contractors induction checklist
11. External contractors health and safety agreement
12. Drift diving safety plan
13. Plan for controlling hazardous substances
14. A storage and spill plan
15. Hazard control plans
16. Drone use guidelines



National Health and Safety Policy for Rangers

Section	Operational
Contact/Owner	NZC HR
Last Review	New Policy
Next Review	
Approval	NZC
Effective Date	

1. PURPOSE

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (**NZ Council**) and each of the Regional Fish and Game Councils (**Regional Councils**) are PCBU's for the purposes of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (**HSWA**). The NZ Council and the Regional Councils have overlapping duties in relation to fish and game rangers, who are appointed by the Director of the NZ Council but are usually managed, and trained, by the Regional Councils.

HSWA requires PCBU's with overlapping duties to consult and co-operate with each other, and to coordinate their activities. The purpose of this policy is to clarify the health and safety responsibilities of the NZ Council, and the Regional Councils, to avoid, so far as reasonably practicable, any gaps in the overall health and safety scheme as it relates to fish and game rangers.

To the extent that it relates to rangers, this Policy is implemented pursuant to sections 26HA of the Conservation Act 1987 (**Act**), which allows the NZ Council to develop a national policy relating to fish and game rangers.

2. POLICY

Under section 26FA of the Act, the Director (i.e. the NZ Council Chief Executive) has the power to appoint Fish and Game rangers. Under HSWA, rangers are workers whose activities are influenced by the NZ Council, and the NZ Council owes them a duty of care, even where the rangers are employed by a Regional Council or are honorary rangers carrying out activities under the supervision of a Regional Council.

Duties of Regional Councils

Regional Councils have primary responsibility for managing the on-the-ground health and safety of rangers who are employed by them or are carrying out activities in their region (including honorary rangers). The Regional Council's responsibilities include:

- providing training, support and appropriate supervision to rangers;
- ensuring that Rangers and Regional Councils understand and comply with the Ranger Guide and Health and Safety Guidelines for Rangers
- ensuring that the necessary personal protective equipment (**PPE**) is available for use by the rangers, and that rangers are knowledgeable in the proper use of the PPE;
- managing any other matters of day to day health and safety, including hazards and risks, that arise in the Regional Council's workplace or in locations where the rangers will be operating.

Regional Councils must have a comprehensive health and safety policy and plan in place that is specific to their region, and at a minimum, covers the following topics:

1. The process for receiving and considering information regarding health and safety incidents, hazards, and risks, and responding in a timely way to that information;
2. Training and supervision;
3. Procedures for managing health and safety risks that arise in the specific region, for example (and only as applicable to the region): fieldwork; working alone; ranging; motor vehicles; boating; office security; and hatchery operations;
4. The requirement under HSWA to engage with other agencies the Regional Council may work with from time to time and who may also owe overlapping health and safety duties;
5. Availability of first aid assistance and training;
6. Emergency evacuation procedures;
7. Drug and alcohol use;
8. Workplace stress and fatigue management; and
9. Bullying and harassment.

On an annual basis beginning on **DATE**, the Regional Councils must complete the declaration attached to this Policy and titled "Annual Declaration of Health and Safety Compliance", and provide it to the Chief Executive of the NZ Council. The Declaration will confirm that:

- the Regional Council has health and safety policies and a plan in place that cover all matters required by this Policy, and that it has been complied with in the preceding 12 months;
- all health and safety incidents that have occurred in the preceding 12 months have been reported to **the Health and Safety Committee** and will record such incidents (and any changes to the Regional Health and Policy that may have resulted);
- all rangers have been provided with ongoing training in the 12 months preceding the declaration, and provide details of training completed and by which rangers.

Duties of NZ Council

The NZ Council has a duty to ensure that all reasonably practicable steps have been taken to ensure the health and safety of the rangers it appoints. This means:

- undertaking due diligence with respect to the suitability of prospective rangers before they are appointed; and
- ensuring that the Regional Councils are meeting their health and safety responsibilities as set out in this Policy.

Before the NZ Council Chief Executive signs a ranger warrant, the Chief Executive must be provided with:

1. a Fit and Proper Person form completed by the prospective ranger;
2. confirmation from the Regional Manager/CE that the prospective ranger has met the criteria set out in the Recruitment Guide for rangers and
3. evidence that the prospective ranger has completed the CERT Situational Safety and Tactical Communications course.

The Chief Executive of the NZ Council will keep an appropriate record as evidence that she undertook this due diligence before the ranger's warrant was signed.

The Chief Executive of the NZ Council will receive the "Annual Declaration of Health and Safety Compliance" provided by Regional Councils. If any issues arise from the Declaration (or a Regional Council's failure to provide it), the Chief Executive will take such further steps, or make such further enquiries, as may be appropriate in the circumstances. This may include an approach to WorkSafe or to the Minister of Conservation.

Annexed to this Policy is the Annual Declaration of Health and Safety Compliance.

DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT CONTROL

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Owned by: NZC/NZC CEO
Authorised by: Fish and Game New Zealand National Council
Date Issued (for Consultation):
Next Review:

DRAFT

13.2 Otago to NZC

Nil

13.3 General Correspondence In

13.3.1 Minister For Hunting and Fishing

Hon Todd McClay

Minister of Agriculture
Minister of Forestry
Minister for Hunting and Fishing
Minister for Trade
Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs



28 March 2024

Colin Weatherall
Chair, Otago Fish and Game Council
colinweatherall@xtra.co.nz

Dear Colin Weatherall

I am very pleased to be writing to you as Minister for Hunting and Fishing. This new portfolio is recognition that hunting and fishing are highly valued activities across New Zealand. I want to support and represent the interests of recreational hunters and fishers, and will be working closely with Hon Tama Potaka, Minister of Conservation, to ensure we make the most of opportunities to deliver great outcomes for both conservation and hunting and fishing.

I am responsible for all matters relating to freshwater sports fishing and game bird hunting, as well as recreational and commercial hunting of deer, tahr, chamois, and feral pigs on public conservation land. I have statutory responsibility for Fish & Game New Zealand, and I have committed to supporting and strengthening this organisation to better reflect the interests of game bird hunters and fishers in decision making.

It is my expectation that Fish and Game Councils will operate in line with the core function set out in section 26Q of the Conservation Act 1987: "...to manage, maintain, and enhance the sports fish and game resource in the recreational interest of anglers and hunters."

Regional councils should therefore be focused on ensuring licence holders have every opportunity to fish and hunt, including good monitoring of fish and game bird health and populations, the enforcement of regulations, and habitat maintenance.

All recommendations to me should be based upon sound, evidence-based assessments of sports fish and game bird populations, licence holder preferences and expectations, and long-term sustainability outcomes. Your council should have a clear and consistent process for consulting with licence holders.

To help me get a full picture of how each of the Fish and Game Councils are operating and enable me to deliver on my commitments for Hunting and Fishing, I would appreciate you providing me with the following information:

1. The number of FTE staff employed by your council and total cost of salaries each year from 1 September 2017 to year end 31 August 2024 (will need forecasting for this year)
2. A breakdown of staff costs and roles between back office administration and front line field staff, including the number of FTE staff being paid over \$100k, each year from 2017 to 2024 (forecasted to year-end 2024)

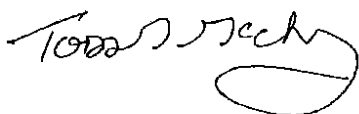
2

3. Any public campaigns, advocacy, cases, and legal proceedings taken by your council each year from 2017 to 2024, and the total cost and number of staff hours spent on these (forecasted to year-end 2024)
4. The number of employment disputes, complaints, awards and dismissals each year from 2017 to the present
5. A breakdown, by year between 2017 to 2024, of forecast and actual expenses, income, assets, and cash reserves
6. A description of your monitoring and reporting activities each year over 2017-2024 from both a financial and fish/bird population health perspective, including:
 - The number of hours of field work undertaken per year in support of game birds
 - The number of hours of field work undertaken per year in support of sports fish
 - The number of hours of enforcement work undertaken each year by paid staff in relation to (a) game birds and (b) sports fish
 - The number of hours of enforcement work undertaken each year by honorary staff in relation to (a) game birds and (b) sports fish
7. The number of external complaints you have received between 2017 to the present and the general nature of the complaints
8. A description of how you have been cooperating with surrounding regional fish and game councils

I would be grateful for this information being sent to my office by 4 weeks from the date of this letter.

I am very much looking forward to working with you to get the best outcomes for freshwater sports fishing and game bird hunting and ensure that, together, we can make it easier for licence holders to hunt and fish. I would welcome the opportunity to come to your region and speak with you and your fellow councillors about the issues facing your region.

Warm regards,



Hon Todd McClay
Minister for Hunting and Fishing

cc Barrie Barnes, Chair New Zealand Fish and Game Council

13.3.2 Morning Star Beach Recreation Reserve



Te Rūnanga o NGĀI TAHU

24 April 2024

Otago Fish & Game Council

By email: otago@fishandgame.org.nz

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Vesting of part of Morning Star Beach Recreation Reserve in Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

I am writing to thank you for your support of our Morning Star Beach Recreation vesting proposal.

I am pleased to confirm that the Minister of Conservation approved the vesting of 0.8 hectares of Morning Star Beach Recreation Reserve in Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu in October 2023, subject to several conditions. A Gazette Notice authorising the vesting under section 26(1) of the Reserves Act 1977 was published in the New Zealand Gazette on 1 November 2023 and is **attached** for your reference. You will note that it provides for the legalisation of the public accessway that passes through the site.

The Minister of Conservation also approved the delegation of some Ministerial powers to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu under section 10(1) of the Reserves Act 1977. Copies of the relevant Delegation Instruments are also **attached** for your reference.

We consider the vesting and delegations to be a positive expression of the contemporary relationship between the Crown and Ngāi Tahu. Kimiākau (Shotover River) is significant to Ngāi Tahu. Our connection goes back centuries, we have an intimate relationship with the landscape, as it was the home of our tūpuna (ancestors) and a place where they exercised rangatiratanga d engaged in mahi kai, it is a part of us.

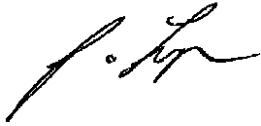
We have started work on a draft management plan for the reserve land vested in us and will be seeking written suggestions from the community to guide this work. There will also be the opportunity to get involved through the formal submission process when we share the draft Reserve Management Plan for public consultation early next year.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu
15 Show Place, Addington, Christchurch 8024
PO Box 13-046, Christchurch, New Zealand
Phone + 64 3 366 4344, 0800 KAI TAHU
Email: info@ngaitahu.iwi.nz
Website: www.ngaitahu.iwi.nz

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu

Again, I express my thanks for your support on this matter. We hope you will continue to be involved as it is important that we work alongside our communities on this kaupapa.

Nāhaku noa, nā



Justin Tipa

Kaiwhakahaere

Mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri ā muri ake nei.
For us and our descendants after us.

13.3.3 Manuherekia Catchment Group



2 May 2024

Nigel Paragreen
Otago Fish & Game Council
By email: nparagreen@fishandgame.org.nz

Dear Nigel

RE: **FAST TRACK APPROVAL APPLICATION**

I write to advise the Manuherekia Catchment Group will be applying for inclusion in Schedule 2 of the Fast Track Approvals Bill.

The Manuherekia Catchment Project is a long running whole of catchment project, focused on setting a new flow regime for the Manuherekia River as well as providing for the integrated management of existing storages within the Manuherekia Catchment. It includes upgrade or replacement of the existing Falls Dam as well as other water optimisation measures - including possible Clutha/Mata-Au augmentation - to support water use efficiency in the lower valley and additional catchment storage within the vicinity of Wades Creek in the Hawkdun/Idaburn Irrigation Company command area.

The timeframe for preparing the application has been very short; we have deliberately avoided commenting on specific dam size, reservoir level, minimum flows etc as there has not been the time for detailed design and hydrological modelling.

Criteria for inclusion in Schedule 2 includes the project having regionally significant benefits. We feel the approach would provide regionally significant infrastructure and provide for higher minimum flows for environmental enhancement.

If the application is successful, it will be the beginning of a long journey for everyone involved. Should you have any queries, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clare', written over the 'Yours sincerely' text.

Clare Hadley **General Manager**

13.4 General Correspondence Out

Nil

14.0 Items to be Received or Noted

14.1 Aerial Mallard Monitoring 2024

Summary

Staff conducted the ninth aerial mallard monitoring survey in the South Otago Region on April 15, 2024. The survey counted 5,130 mallards across 46 ponds, six 10km river transects, and ten 10km cross-country transects.

The overall trend across the nine years is positive, however, the count was lower than previous surveys' averages, with dry weather affecting the surveyed ponds, and high and dirty river conditions impacting the counts on the Clutha River.

No strong correlations were found between mallard counts, soil moisture profiles, and hunting success in South Otago. Consequently, a review of the mallard survey monitoring program is recommended to ensure its statistical soundness.



Photo 1: Mallards on a nicely vegetated pond in the Glenkenich area.

Introduction

In 2015, the Otago Fish and Game Council initiated a pilot project for mallard monitoring, as part of a nationwide push to monitor populations. The aim of the research and monitoring in the Otago Region was to establish long-term trends allowing for sustainable game bird management. The availability of population trend data will enable Council to make well-informed decisions when determining game bird harvest regulations. This report covers the mallard monitoring study's last nine years (2015-2024), excluding 2020 when it was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns.

Previous mallard monitoring reports recommended investigating correlations between mallard counts and hunter success. This report also presents the findings of that investigation.

Method

Otago's mallard monitoring methods are based on a technique developed by Southland Fish & Game. Details on site selection and sampling units are in Appendix 1. The aerial survey methodology is presented in Appendix 2.

This year's flight plan included three categories: 46 ponds, six 10-kilometer river transects, and ten 10-kilometer cross-country transects (Figure 1). The flight occurred on April 15, 2024, the same date as last year. The flight typically starts around 9:30 am. However, this year's survey was delayed by fog until around 11:30 am, extending the completion time to 5:00 pm. Despite the delay, viewing conditions seemed unaffected. Once underway, the weather was calm and sunny, with good visibility. The flight was conducted in a Cabri G2 helicopter with the passenger door off to improve visibility and clarity of photographs.

Modifications to the methods over the years are detailed in Appendix 3.

To account for changes in monitored sites and identify trends, the data was also analysed using route regression, a standard Fish & Game procedure (Teal, 2003). Route regression minimizes the effects of yearly variation by averaging the long-term trends of log- counts at each monitored site over defined time periods (Stevens, 2021). Logarithmic transformation prevents data variation at highly populated sites from overwhelming the analysis. A full scientific review by Sauer & Droege (1990) showed that "route-regression methodology is most efficient in the estimation of long-term (>5 year) trends and tends to provide conservative results for low-density species."

Individual site trends were determined across the monitoring period using a Sens slope estimator, which calculates the median slope between every possible pair of data points. This

method was chosen because it can handle highly variable data and is suitable for datasets with missing values.

Where possible, statistical tests have been included. The 95% confidence intervals, depicted as capped lines on some graphs, provide a range of likely values. This means if the survey were repeated, in 95% of the iterations, the actual value would lie within this range. The length of these intervals represents the certainty of the monitoring program. Furthermore, "p" values have been provided, indicating the confidence in observed effects. A smaller "p" value signals higher confidence. Commonly, a "p" value below 0.05 is deemed statistically significant. R^2 values are also provided in places to indicate how suitable a model is at predicting values. For example, an R^2 value of 0.75 indicates that the depicted model can explain 75 percent of the variation in the predicted variable.

Soil moisture data was sourced from the National Institute of Water and Atmosphere's (NIWA) CLIFLO web system, which provides access to the National Climate Database. Data from stations 26163 (Balclutha) and 18437 (Middlemarch) were used because the datasets extend back past the start of the national harvest survey and monitoring flights.

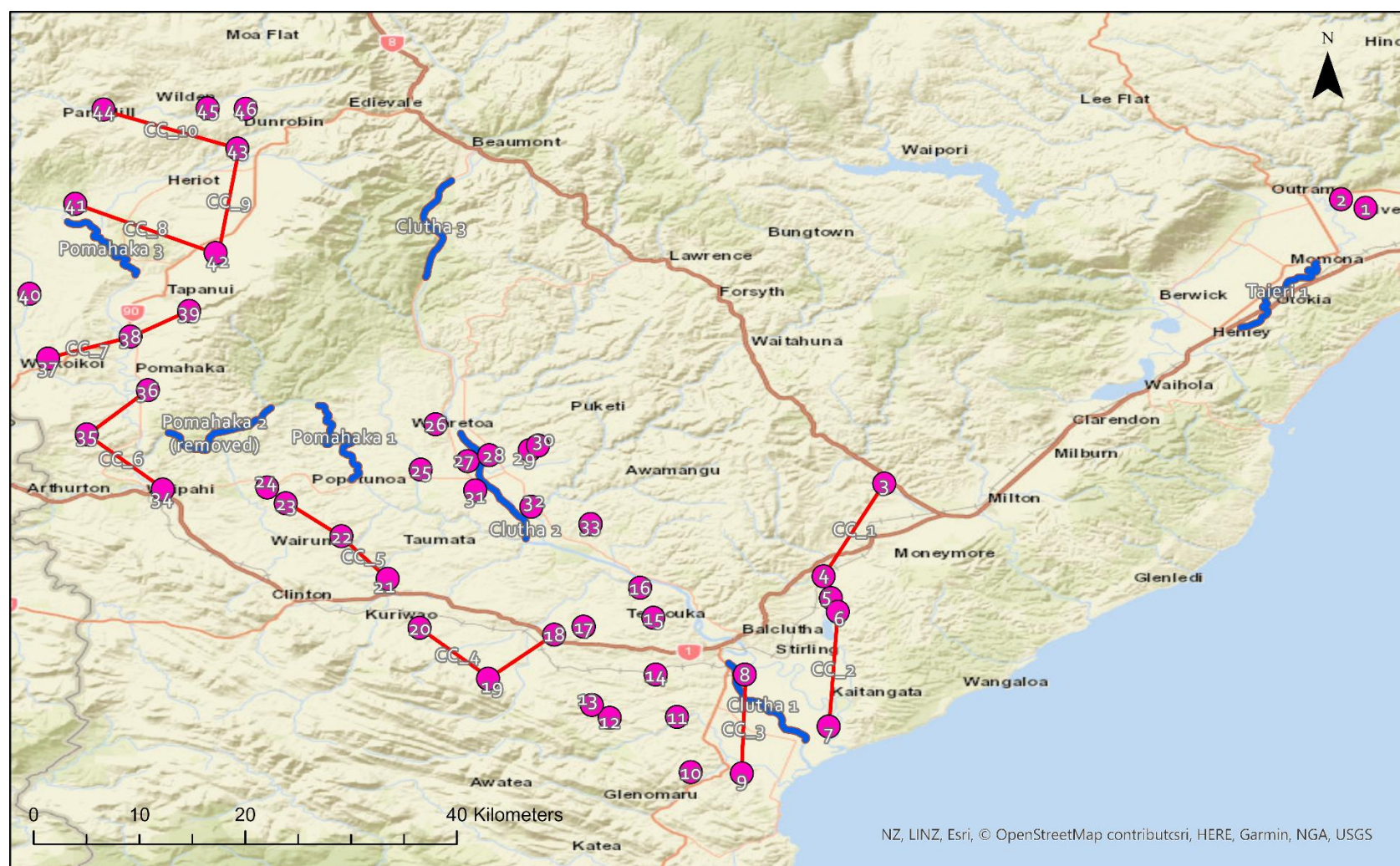


Figure 1: Map of the monitoring area, showing monitored ponds in pink, cross-country transects in red and river sections in blue.

Results

Count totals.

Table 1 displays the number of mallards counted in each stratum and the total count for the survey.

Table 1: Mallards counted in each year, broken down by strata.

Year	Cross-Country	Pond	River	Total
2015	1,000	1,100	3,160	5,260
2016	340	1,990	2,950	5,280
2017	1,460	1,580	2,810	5,850
2018	470	1,010	1,660	3,140
2019	1,460	920	2,610	4,990
2021	530	2,090	3,010	5,630
2022	1,700	2,720	5,900	10,320
2023	680	1,610	2,810	5,100
2024	760	2,050	2,320	5,130

This year's mallard count was just over 5,000, almost matching last year's count. This year's result is lower than the average of previous surveys (nearly 5,700). However, if we exclude the anomalously high count in 2022, this year's total is slightly above average. In terms of absolute count, there is generally positive trend, with an average increase of 170 mallards per year across the survey period.

Mallard distribution was more even this year, with only 16 sites containing no mallards (compared to an average of 19). The highest count at a single site was 25 (see Appendix 4 for details).

In terms of habitat types surveyed, cross-country transects showed counts similar to previous averages. However, pond counts were higher than normal, while river counts were lower than usual by about 800 mallards.

Trends

Aside from the general linear trend discussed above, route regression analysis was conducted (Figure 2).

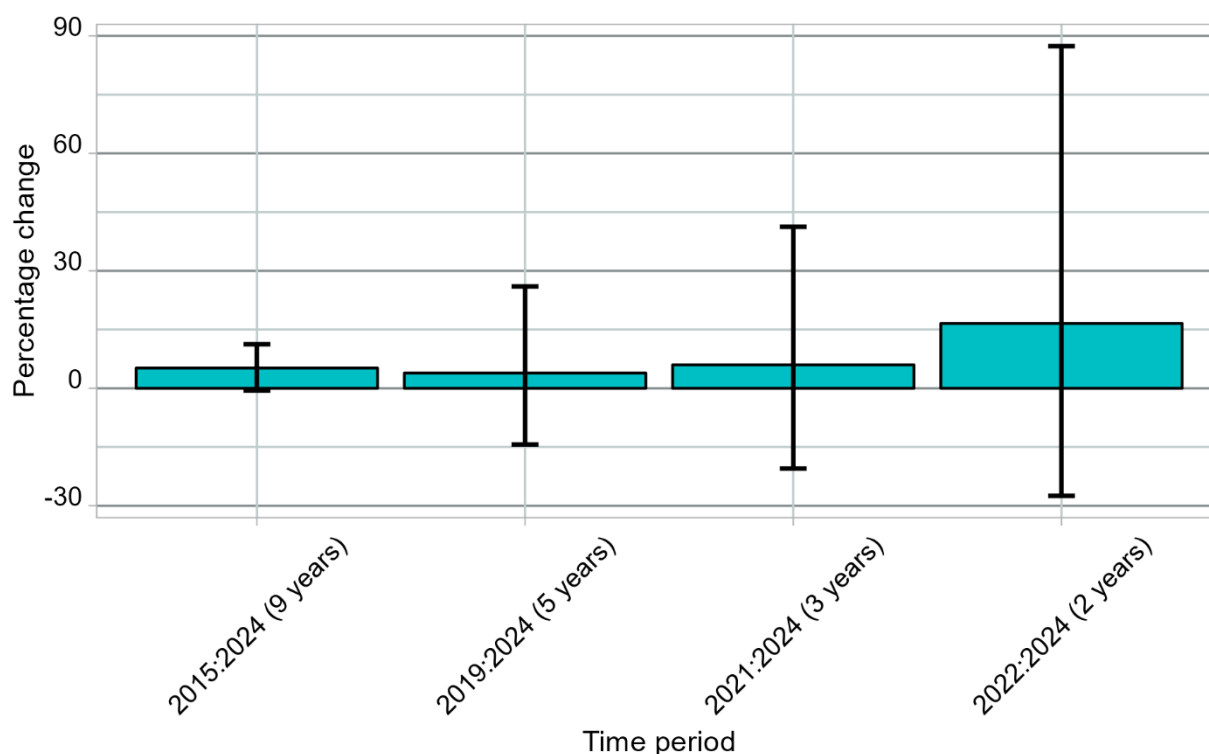


Figure 2: Percentage change in mallard numbers across four time periods with 95% confidence intervals.

Figure 2 shows how mallard populations have changed over different time periods, all ending with this year's survey. All periods show an upward trend, suggesting mallard numbers are increasing in the surveyed area over time. However, the lines extending around the points (confidence intervals) show a relatively high level of uncertainty, particularly for shorter time periods. These intervals indicate a range of possible values, and because they cross zero, we can't say with statistical certainty that the increase is significant.

To examine trends at individual monitoring sites, a Sens slope test was used. The results are summarised in *Table 2*.

Table 2: Number of sites showing Sens slope trends across the entire survey period (2015-2024).

Trend	Number of sites	Percent
Decreasing	17	28.3%
No significant change	14	23.3%
Increasing	29	48.3%

Almost half of the monitored sites show a statistically significant increase suggesting an increasing population.

Mallard counts as a predictor of hunter success.

One method to test the suitability of our mallard monitoring program is to see if it predicts the success of hunters the following season. The relationship between the average hunters' weekend bag and the mallard count is depicted in Figure 3.

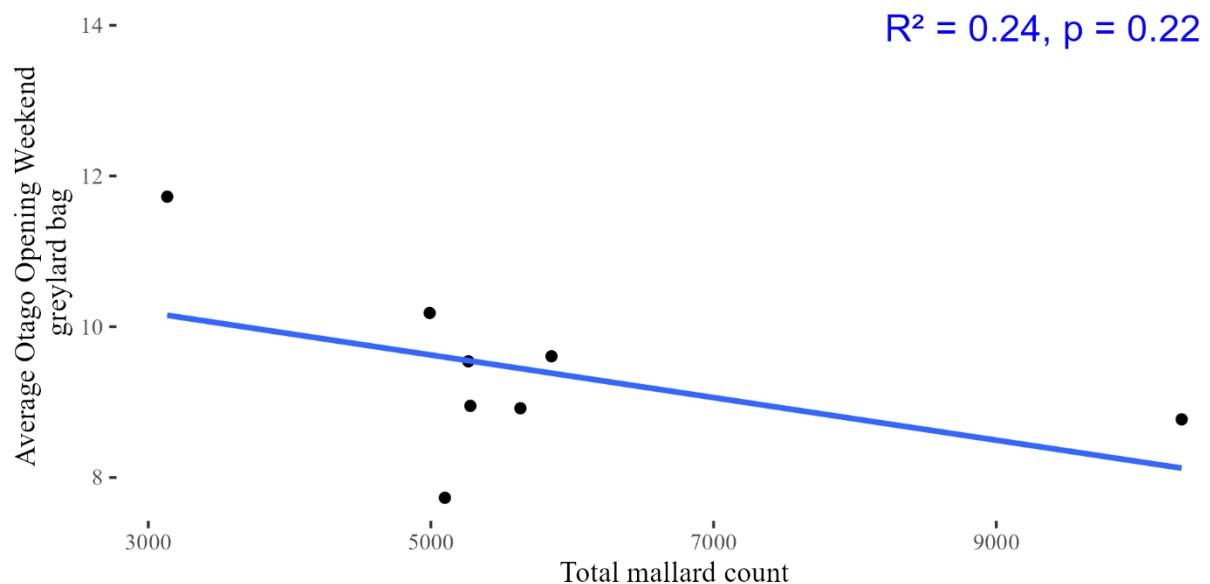


Figure 3: Total count from mallard monitoring flight against the average Opening Weekend grey/lard bag for the following season. Linear regression model and its associated statistics shown in blue.

Figure 3 shows the relationship between the average number of ducks hunters bagged in a weekend and the mallard count. However, the connection between monitoring results and hunter success is weak and unexpected. We would typically expect a positive correlation, meaning higher mallard counts lead to more ducks bagged.

To investigate this further, we looked at a smaller scale, comparing only Clutha District hunters' harvest per hour (Figure 4).

We chose Clutha District because it aligns well geographically with the survey area, and harvest per hour helps account for variations in how long hunters spend hunting.

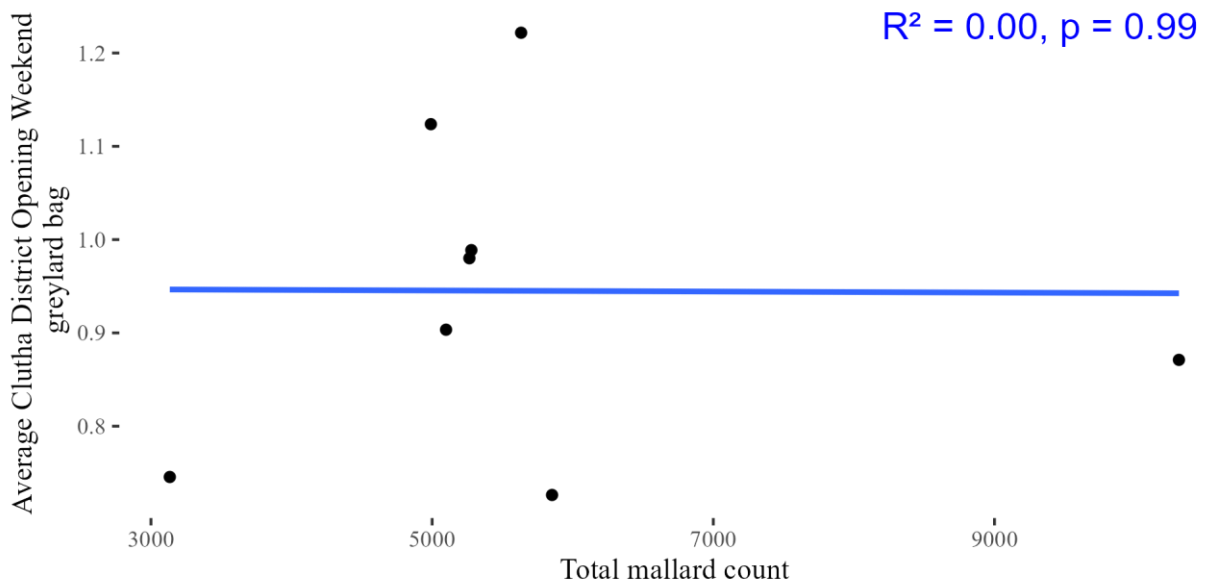


Figure 4: Total count from mallard monitoring flight against the average Clutha District Opening Weekend grey/lard (mallards+ greys+ hybrids) per hour for the following season. Linear regression model and its associated statistics shown in blue.

There was no relationship between the mallard count and hunter success in the area. A number of other relationships were investigated. This included comparing harvest success against the individual habitat types (ponds, rivers, and cross-country), but no strong positive relationships were found.

Other Monitoring methods

Building on work by Cohen Stewart of Southland Fish & Game who found correlations between Southland hunters' Opening Weekend success and the previous spring's soil moisture levels, we examined relationships for the Otago Region. These are depicted in Figure 5 & Figure 6.

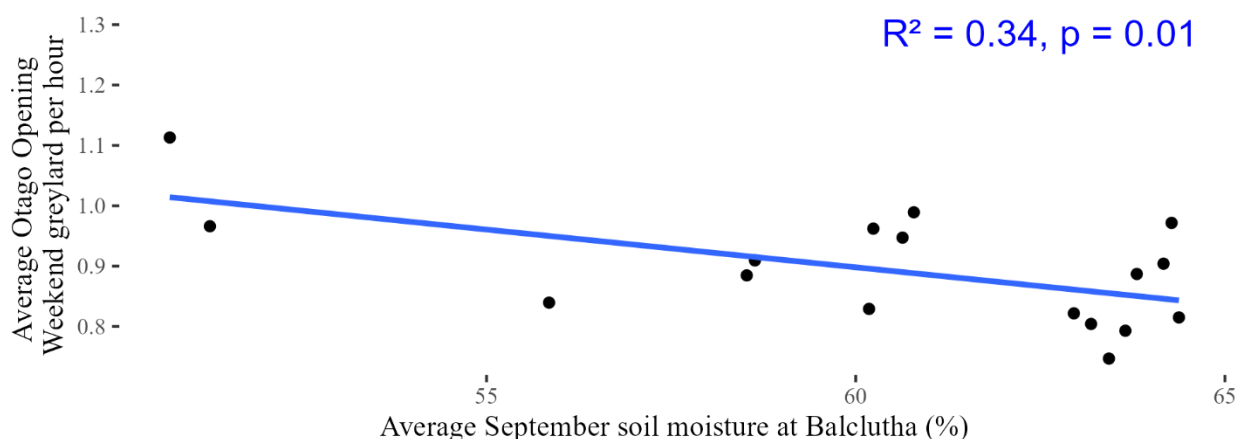


Figure 5: September soil moisture percentage against the following Opening Weekend Otago grey/lard harvest rate.

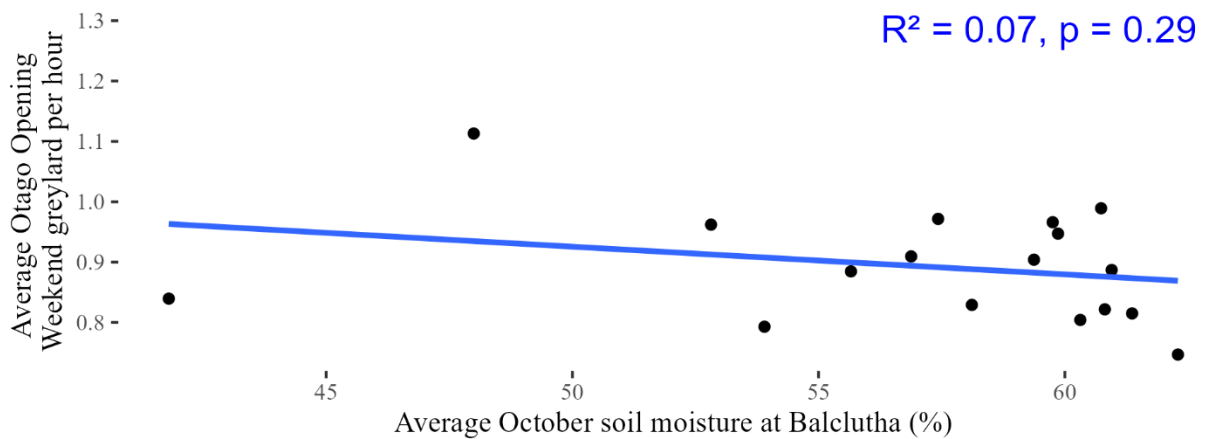


Figure 6: October soil moisture percentage against the following Opening Weekend Otago greyland harvest rate.

Neither of the figures above show a positive correlation similar to the one found by Southland Fish & Game. A large range of other relationships were also investigated. This included using maximum and minimum monthly moisture data, data from the Middelmarsh station only, the averages of the two stations and more localised hunting data. We also compared soil moisture directly against mallard count data. No statistically significant correlations were found that could provide meaningful insights.

Discussion

Despite the prolonged dry weather in South Otago leading to several ponds being nearly dry, dry, or experiencing algal blooms (conditions typically associated with zero mallard counts), the number of surveyed areas with zero counts was lower than average.

The dry conditions also affected the cross-country transects, notably due to a reduction in the levels of effluent ponds. No effluent ponds are surveyed in the ponds stratum, but they are encountered in the cross-country transects. This year it appears that farmers had taken advantage of the recent dry conditions as almost all effluent ponds were at very low levels, making them less suitable habitat for mallards.

Another significant factor this year was the high water level and debris in the Clutha River caused by heavy rainfall in its headwaters. As noted by van Klink (2022), mallards accumulate in high numbers on rivers when the water is low and clear and move to other habitats when they are flooded. This was evident on the Clutha River, where the fast-moving water deterred mallards from areas outside of stable braids and backwaters. These calmer areas are where most of the birds were counted.

Staff observations suggest that weather conditions are impacting the survey results. Mallards appear to be shifting their distribution in response to weather or environmental factors. As a result, the survey may not provide a consistent index of mallard populations across all years.

To address this, we could potentially calculate the total area of each habitat type (ponds, rivers, and cross-country) within the region. This would allow us to scale up the survey results

based on the true habitat proportions. However, this approach would likely be time-consuming and could introduce new uncertainties into the data.

Both the Southland and Central South Island regions staff report that there are reasonable correlations between their mallard monitoring flight results the following Openings' harvest rates, however this was found not to be the case in Otago. While population is only one of many things that affect the harvest of our hunters, it is unexpected that we found a negative correlation between the two. It's possible that due to birds moving, this data is being skewed by the Fish and Game regional boundaries, so it's recommended that before the next survey, staff look at combining both the mallard monitoring data and the harvest data, to see if better predictions can be made. It's worth noting that previous reviews of mallard monitoring (MacKenzie, 2018) have suggested this combined approach for the Otago Southland DMU (Duck Management Unit). A strong reason to stick with the current monitoring system is its alignment with our southern neighbours.

Similar to the analysis of hunter success and regional comparisons, our investigation into the relationships between soil moisture, mallard counts, and harvest results did not yield any statistically significant, sensible correlations. While we expected springtime wet conditions to be a major factor influencing duckling survival and ultimately hunter success, this link wasn't evident in the data available for this analysis. **This lack of a clear relationship highlights a potential limitation of the current data collection methods.** This is unfortunate as a clear relationship would allow us to predict the number of mallards available to hunters with enough time to proactively adjust the regulations.

As this survey has now been running close to a decade and incurs significant financial costs, staff recommend seeking professional statistical advice to determine if the survey is cost-effective and provides valuable data for mallard population management. It is expected that that the initial stages of a professional review will look at the management goals of the region for mallards and the levels of reliability at detecting change that are needed. There are a number of factors that may influence the review of the monitoring program including a recent letter from the Minister of Hunting and Fishing, Hon Todd McClay, sending a letter to the National Fish and Game Council indicating his expectation that Fish and Game will "maintain a national population/flock monitoring programme" and "support a consistent approach to population/flock management across regions where appropriate". This has been budgeted for in the 2024/25 financial year.

It is also worth noting that Council's strategic goals, prioritise the monitoring of "sensitive populations" and it is not clear whether mallards meet that definition.

Recommendation

That this report be received.

References

- MacKenzie, D. I. (2018). *Review of Fish and Game Regional 2017 Mallard Reports*. Unpublished report, Proteus Wildlife Research Consultants.
- Sauer, J., & Droege, S. (1990). *Survey Designs and Statistical Methods for the Estimation of Avian Population Trends*.
- Stevens, H. (2021). *Paradise Shelduck/Black Swan Trend Counts*. Central South Island Fish & Game internal report.
- Teal, P. (2003). *Standard Operating Procedures for Game Bird population monitoring and regulation setting*. Wellington Fish & Game internal report.
- van Klink, P. (2022). *Otago Region Mallard Monitoring Study*. Otago Fish & Game internal report.

Acknowledgments

I would like to extend my appreciation to Alex Justice from Otago Helicopters; his flying skills, navigation proficiency, and keen observational abilities greatly facilitated the work. Thanks also to Cohen Stewart, Hamish Stevens, Dr Matt Kaverman, Matt Garrick and Heather Sanders-Garrick for their assistance in reviewing the Otago mallard monitoring programme.

Recommendations

- That the 2025 mallard monitoring programme is put on hold to allow time and funds for an external review.
- This report is received.

Jayde Couper
Fish & Game Officer
April 2024

Appendices

Appendix 1: Otago Mallard Monitoring Selection Methodology - Taken from van Klink 2022.

Otago Fish and Game established mallard monitoring sites and completed a pilot monitoring study in 2015. The methodology for selecting the 46 ponds, seven (now 6) 10km river transects and ten 10km cross-country transects was completed by Southland staff. The monitoring was conducted by Otago staff.

Monitoring Area Selection Criteria

Habitat characteristics.

- All land in South Otago was considered.
- Areas more than 200m above sea level were excluded to avoid surveying in hill-country which tends to be less favourable waterfowl habitat.
- Densely forested areas were also excluded due to the lack of duck habitat.
- Google earth maps were used for identifying the location of ponds, river and cross-country transects.

Pond selection criteria.

- All ponds >20m in diameter were identified and recorded in an Excel spreadsheet.
- From the identified ponds 46 “good” ponds were randomly selected.
- Ponds were deemed unsuitable for a variety of reasons, but generally because they were too close to buildings, were near places of common human activity, such as beside tracks or other structures, or they had been modified and did not meet the original size criteria, e.g., had been fully or partially drained.
- For the 80 or so unsuitable ponds, the next closest ponds that did meet the size and isolation criteria were used instead.
- On-going replacement of ponds will be necessary if surveyed ponds become unsuitable, which will be assessed annually.
- Ponds in excess of 20ha were also excluded because they are too difficult to count accurately and prone to annual variations in the distribution of birds.

River transect selection criteria.

- The upper limit of the transect count was based on known mallard habitat within the survey area.
- The total km of the river was calculated, and 1 km potential start points were assigned.
- Random numbers were chosen which was the distance from the sea (km) for the downstream start point for the 10km transect.
- Up to five transects were selected within the total distance of the river to be surveyed.
- To ensure transects did not overlap, start points were randomly selected until five 10 km non-overlapping transects were selected.

Cross- country transect selection criteria.

- Ten 10km cross-country transects were selected.
- The start points chosen were randomly selected ponds (as described above) where there was a minimum distance of 10 km between that point and the next randomly selected pond.
- This enabled the completion of a transect while flying to the next pond location, thereby minimising flight-time.

Appendix 2: Otago Mallard Monitoring Aerial Survey Methodology

General

- Counts are undertaken annually between April 07 and 18.
- An Otago Helicopters Robinson Class 22 or Cabri G2 is used for the survey.
- The pilot provided assistance in locating the sampling unit (pond or transect) with GPS and looking for birds where safety was not compromised.
- The shortest route between ponds and transects is flown.
- The weather was fine and wind < 12 knots.
- The survey was undertaken between 0900 and 1700 hours.
- Species other than mallards, particularly geese, paradise shelduck, grey teal, scaup and shoveler were identified and excluded from the count.
- The helicopter was positioned to enable the clearest view of the survey area.
- If birds were seen under trees or scrub the count was done when these had emerged.
- The helicopter could be positioned so that birds slowly came out from cover without making them fly off.
- When birds did fly off an estimate of the number departing was made and added to the total count.
- Groups of more than about 30 birds were photographed, and the birds were counted on the computer using Microsoft paint. The paintbrush application allowed the user to count individual mallard ducks on the image which ensured that no mallards were double counted.

Ponds

- If there were < 30 birds on the pond they were counted manually otherwise they were photographed.
- The helicopter flew at a height so that the mallard ducks did not fly off from the pond but could be clearly counted or photographed.

River transects.

- Main river backwaters were not surveyed if they were more than about 100m from the main channel, otherwise they were and included as part of the river transect.
- For the river transect the helicopter slowed to a hover over or adjacent to the willow lined sections so that the ducks would swim out to become visible to observers and then easily counted.

Cross-country transects.

- Mallards were counted within 100m either side of the helicopter as it flew along the transect.
- This gave a fixed width of no more than about 200m from the line of the survey.
- The helicopter flew at an approximate fixed height so that birds could be easily seen and identified as mallards.
- Generally, the transect was undertaken at a fixed cruising speed but if an accumulation of mallards was found, e.g., a pond was on the transect line, the helicopter was slowed so the birds could be accurately counted.
- Birds were not generally encountered unless there was a water feature present.

Appendix 3 : Annual Changes to methods

2023	This year, a minor modification was made to the methods; the Fiji imagej processing package was utilized to count photos, rather than using Paint. This alteration enabled faster photo counting and allowed us to keep a record of the counting process.
2024	No Changes this year.

Appendix 4: Otago mallard monitoring results showing the separate sample units and strata (ponds, river and cross-country transects) for 2015 – 2024.

Type	Name	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024
Cross-Country	1	101	48	NC	90	71	30	159	281	105
	2	182	26	656	95	189	141	225	154	173
	3	58	119	417	66	94	96	345	77	230
	4	3	0	42	22	857	30	53	16	68
	5	595	116	37	48	87	53	686	6	57
	6	27	0	22	38	117	75	115	64	16
	7	6	0	60	67	10	11	50	0	0
	8	NC	26	112	41	16	91	36	76	98
	9	25	0	108	0	24	2	8	0	3
	10	NC	0	5	4	0	0	18	10	8
Pond	1	2	0	30	134	21	55	11	0	0
	2	0	0	3	21	2	0	0	65	46
	3	32	148	71	21	98	248	439	28	115
	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	5	0	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	0	0
	6	0	157	30	55	52	88	30	38	18
	7	0	0	1	0	0	8	3	0	0
	8	44	239	43	230	85	151	214	70	60
	9	71	77	242	23	14	27	11	6	70
	10	17	0	33	8	0	0	4	187	0

Type	Name	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024
	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	12	13	40	24	13	21	61	49	52	0
	13	3	0	13	9	0	3	3	2	0
	14	56	67	14	43	5	0	0	16	2
	15	22	51	10	32	42	14	19	14	128
	16	16	81	49	11	105	104	167	24	120
	17	0	4	0	NC	0	0	0	0	0
	18	13	0	9	0	0	2	10	2	5
	19	35	20	111	4	0	100	151	151	18
	20	2	0	5	11	13	74	3	8	58
	21	0	6	12	0	0	6	8	11	6
	22	430	379	6	8	13	9	937	141	215
	23	2	0	83	16	40	7	71	7	145
	24	12	3	4	5	30	4	41	32	68
	25	62	0	116	6	14	420	121	274	260
	26	11	0	12	6	6	4	21	0	0
	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	28	77	142	84	8	30	0	0	12	17
	29	0	6	84	29	17	55	0	73	213
	30	9	8	2	1	0	8	17	17	48
	31	0	NC	0	0	11	0	0	0	0
	32	0	0	0	7	10	5	0	5	14
	33	26	6	5	8	39	19	90	48	14
	34	2	0	35	0	0	0	0	38	28
	35	0	13	0	0	10	0	0	36	26
	36	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	10
	37	3	11	28	48	0	7	0	0	114
	38	6	38	31	0	20	61	4	0	45

Type	Name	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024
River	39	40	10	2	0	0	37	5	18	28
	40	NC	284	135	100	97	118	267	0	18
	41	NC	45	177	0	5	125	1	0	10
	42	61	61	76	65	61	241	17	130	64
	43	0	20	0	59	49	0	3	26	64
	44	NC	35	0	0	0	0	0	12	0
	45	NC	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
	46	21	40	4	25	5	30	0	51	0
	Clutha 1	610	639	912	126	174	321	1,044	396	311
	Clutha 2	225	63	174	69	281	443	874	373	160
	Clutha 3	47	10	128	42	86	85	171	13	28
	Pomahaka 1	683	736	570	376	536	538	2,454	1,306	875
	Pomahaka 2	39	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
	Pomahaka 3	NC	97	364	63	222	407	349	269	315
	Taieri 1	1,560	1,408	662	981	1,312	1,216	1,008	452	627

14.2 Consent Report Takitakitoa Wetland 2024

Otago Regional Council
Private bag 1954
Dunedin

Dear Sir/Madam

Re Consent reporting associated with Takitakitoa Wetland Restoration Project

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

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

1. Water Levels

Staff gauges above and below the bund wall are being used to monitor water levels in the wetland (Figure.1)

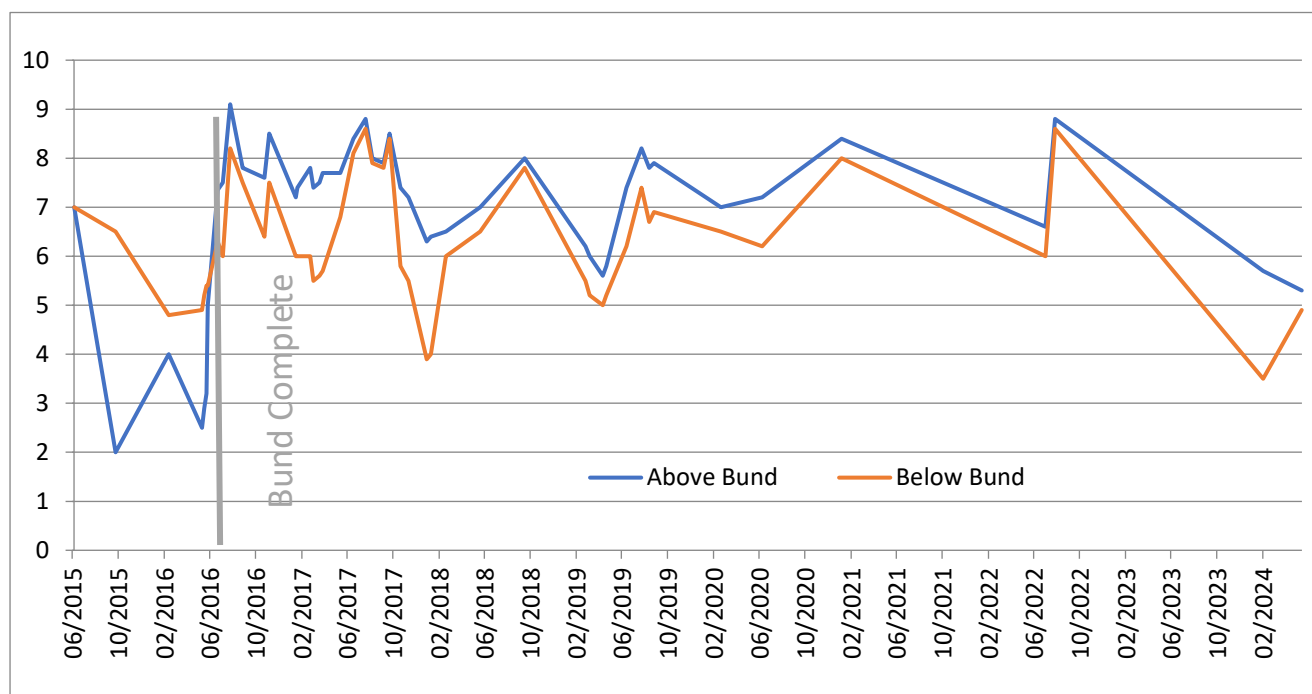


Figure.1 Water levels above and below the bund wall (units in decimetres)

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

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

2. Flow Through Fish Pass

Due to a dry summer the fish ladder and boards were removed to allow for fish passage during the new moon high tides. Inanga were noticed moving in and out of the wetland during high tides in March. A new design of fish pass which will cater for low summer flows will be investigated.



Fish Pass (photo taken on 11/03/2024)

Fish Pass Check	Flowing?	Depth	Dam WL	Video
24/10/2016	yes	+35mm	7.6	
3/03/2017	Yes	+30mm	7.4	
19/03/2017	yes	+30mm	7.4	Yes
08/03/2019	No	0mm	6.0	
10/04/2019	No	0mm	5.6	
08/06/2020	Yes	+5mm	7.2	
06/01/2021	yes	+20mm	8.4	
02/07/2022	No	0mm	6.6	
20/06/2023	Yes	+30mm	7.9	
11/03/2024	Yes	5mm	5.6	

Fish pass flowing data.

3. Eel Abundance

One fyke net (baited with a trout head) was set on the 01/02/2024 upstream of the bund which is shown in red (figure 2). The next day the net was checked, 24 eels were caught, 20 longfin and 4 shortfins.



Figure 2

4. Inanga Abundance Above the Dam

Inanga were in very low abundance in the upper part of the wetland before it was enhanced. Electric Fishing surveys in Surprise Stream (near the maximum upstream extent of the wetland) recorded a single fish, and even then, it was not captured.

Two minnow traps (baited with vegemite) were set on the 01/02/2024, one on the upstream side of the bund wall (Figure 3) & one in Surprise Stream just downstream of the western culvert (Figure 4). The traps were checked the next day, trap 1 had 21 and trap 2 had 65 adult Inanga (photo 2).



Figure 3.

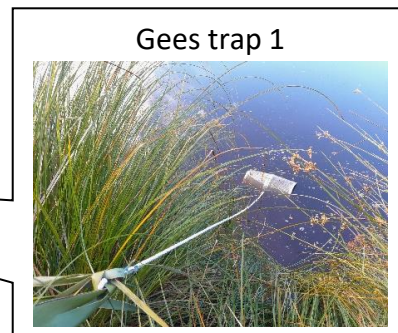


Figure 4.



Photo 2.

5. Vegetation Changes

Six monitoring sites have been established and from these the vegetation is photographed annually. This photo monitoring is going to continue annually. No alteration to the methodology is proposed.

City Forests has continued to harvest pine trees on the Eastern boundary of Takitakitoa wetland and have now started on the western boundary.

6. Effectiveness of Plant Pest Control

- Crack Willow control – ongoing monitoring.
- Broom, Gorse and Blackberry - has been sprayed where possible along roadsides and bund wall and follow up knapsack spraying will be conducted again in Jan - Feb 2025.
- Glyceria – there is still ongoing monitoring and spraying on the true left and true right of the lower part of Surprise Stream.

7. Gamebird Harvest

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

Opening day results	Mai-mai #1	Mai-mai #2	Mai-mai #3	Mai-mai #4	Mai-mai #5
7 th May 2016					11 Mallards
6 th May 2017	1 Mallard 5 Parries 2 Shoveler	16 Mallards 12 Parries 2 Shoveler	7 Mallards 12 parries 1 Shoveler	25 Mallards 5 Parries	33 Mallards 2 Swans 6 Parries
5 th May 2018	6 Parries 1 Mallard	6 Swans 20 Parries 12 Mallards	3 Mallards	1 Parries	115 Parries
4 th May 2019	1 Mallard 6 Parries 2 Shoveler	25 Mallard 5 Parries	0 birds shot	2 Parries	34 Mallard 46 Parries 2 Shoveler 2 Swan
23 rd May 2020	5 Parries	1 Mallard	Not shot	Not shot	2 Mallard 6 Parries
1 st May 2021	3 Parries	Not shot	0 birds shot	10 Mallard	25 Mallard 2 Parries
7 th May 2022	6 Parries 13 Mallards	1 Mallard	Not shot	0 birds shot	Not Shot
6 th May 2023	4 Parries 1 Shoveler	0 birds shot	0 birds shot	2 Mallards 1 Parry 1 Shoveler	5 Parries
4 th May 2024	0 birds shot	1 Mallard 1 Parries	4 Mallard 1 Parries	3 Parries	6 Mallards 2 parries

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

8. Shoveler Abundance

Takitakitoa is counted as part of the “National Shoveler Survey” conducted in the first week of August 2023 - there were 225 noted in this survey. It was also noted the birds seem to congregate in the area just above the bund wall, this is probably due to a large area of open water and is the most undisturbed corner of the wetland.

9. Paradise Shelduck Abundance

Paradise shelduck accumulate together in the last week of January to moult flight feathers. 47 known sites have been recorded in Otago with the nearest to Takitakitoa being Lake Waiholo. Bird numbers at the wetland in January were low with only 8 being counted.

10. Abundance of Native Avifauna

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

*Denotes ‘gamebirds’ as defined by the Wildlife Act 1953

Species	<i>Pre bunding</i>	<i>Post Bunding</i>	April - 2024
Pukeko*	Rare	Common	6 seen in wetland & 20 below the bund
Mallard*	Occasional	Common	Large numbers
Black Swan*	Not recorded	Occasional	4 seen but they come and go
Grey Teal	Rare	Abundant	550+
Scaup	Not Recorded	Occasional	Not seen this time
P. Shelduck*	Rare	Common	Not many seen this season
Shoveller*	Rare	Common	15 counted
Harrier Hawk	Rare	Common	Seen occasionally
Fernbird	Common	Common	Still present
Bittern	Not Recorded	Not Recorded	Unseen
Pied Stilt	Not recorded	Occasional	Not seen this inspection but seen prior
Royal Spoonbill	Not Recorded	Rare	Not seen this inspection but seen over summer
Canada Goose	Not recorded	Rare	6 noted
Spurwing Plover	Not recorded	Rare	
Fantail	Not recorded	Common	15 + seen
Welcome swallow	Not recorded	Common	10 birds seen, nests in Maimi's
Kingfisher	Not Recorded	Rare	First time seeing this bird

11. Biodiversity Plantings

Last year 700 native shrubs were planted in the margins of the wetland and a further 500 + are proposed to be planted this spring.

12. Small Dam Inspection Report

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

Steven Dixon
Fish & Game Officer

SMALL DAM INSPECTION REPORT

File Number: 9 **Date of Inspection:** 13/05/2024
Consent Number: RM14.043.03
Owner: Otago Fish & Game Council
Location: Takitakitoa – Lower Taieri
Inspector: Steven Dixon
Date constructed: Feb 2016
Engineered by: Southroads Ltd
Last inspected: June 2024
Next inspection: June 2025

1. EARTH DAM - Dam size and material – Inspect for undercutting, erosion, depressions around reservoir

Dam height: 1m **Reservoir:** ~32ha
Top width: 15m **Crest length:** 350m
Material: Marine clay core with soil topping

U/S slope – Examine for signs of erosion, beaching, or slumping.

Vegetation: Ungrazed fescue grass, Flax, Carex Toi-toi

Condition: Very good

Comments: Looking good, planting well established

Crest – Examine for cracks & shape deformation.

Condition: Good

Comments: Crest covered in grass and native plants (Flax, Carex Toi-toi and Kanuka)

There was a small depression identified in 2022 at the western end of the bund just before the culvert (Figure 1). This has now been repaired (photo 1). Some broom was detected and sprayed in January 2024.

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Figure 1.

Photo 1. 24/04/2024

D/S slope – *Inspect for seepage around d/s slope, d/s toe, abutments, near spillway & around outlets*

Vegetation: Grass, Flax, Carex Toi-toi

Condition: Good

Seepage: No seepage detected

Comments: Downstream slope in good condition.

2. OUTLETS – *Check for seepage & subsidence.*

Check when outlets last flushed

(a) Pipe

Location: 5m plastic culvert each end of the bund wall with wingwall housing both ends

Condition: very good

Type: Ribbed polypipe

Size: 600mm diameter

Comments: Wing walls look solid, neither of the pipes were blocked.

(b) Fish ladder (western culvert) – check for obstruction and flow

Condition: removed for fish passage.

Flow: Approx 5mm of flow.

Comments: Due to a dry summer the fish ladder and boards were removed to allow for fish passage during the new moon high tides. Inanga were noticed moving in and out of the

wetland during high tides in March. A new design of fish pass which will cater for low summer flows will be investigated.



Photo taken on 11th March 2024

(c) Spillway – Check spillway is clear of any obstacles which may impede flow. Inspect for erosion damage, scoured areas, cracks, displacement.

Location: Eastern end of bund

Condition: Good

Type: 70m low point in bund wall

Capacity: Unlimited – 70m wide

Comments: In sound condition.



3. ABUTMENTS – Check for seepage, erosion, scour

Comments: all good

4. RESERVOIR

Use: Wetland

Level: 5.2 on staff

Source of supply: Natural stream/ rainfed

Drainage: via boards in wingwalls

Condition: Very good

5.CONDITION D/S OF DAM

Channel: Open to Taieri river

Vegetation: Wetland type vegetation

Habitation: Wetland

Structures: Nil

Tributary to: Taieri River

Comments: The small amount of Glyceria that had sprouted up on the true right of Surprise Stream just downstream of the culvert was sprayed in February.

6. PHOTOGRAPH

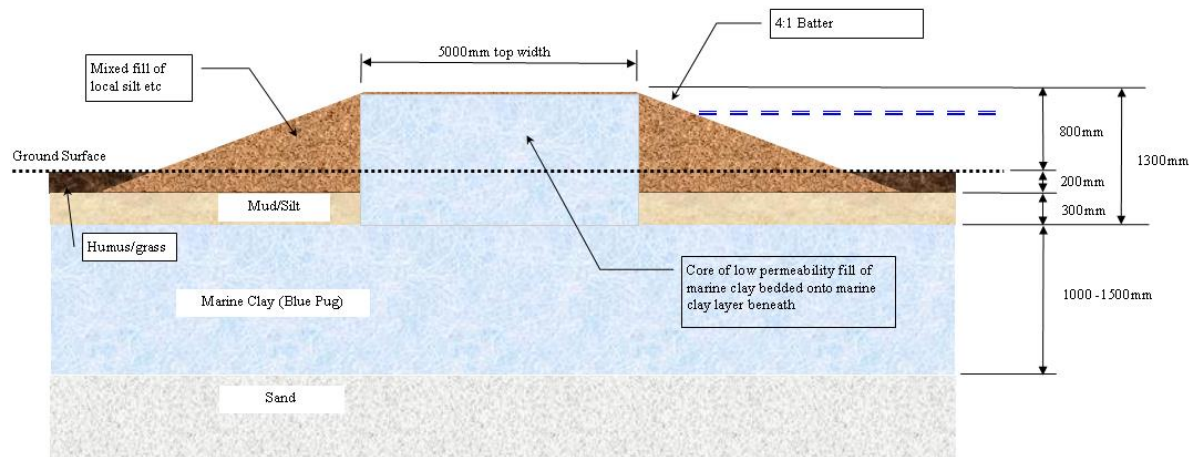


Bund wall and eastern culvert – May 2024

7. BUND WALL CROSS SECTION

Takitakitoa Wetland bund wall cross section

—As built Feb 2016

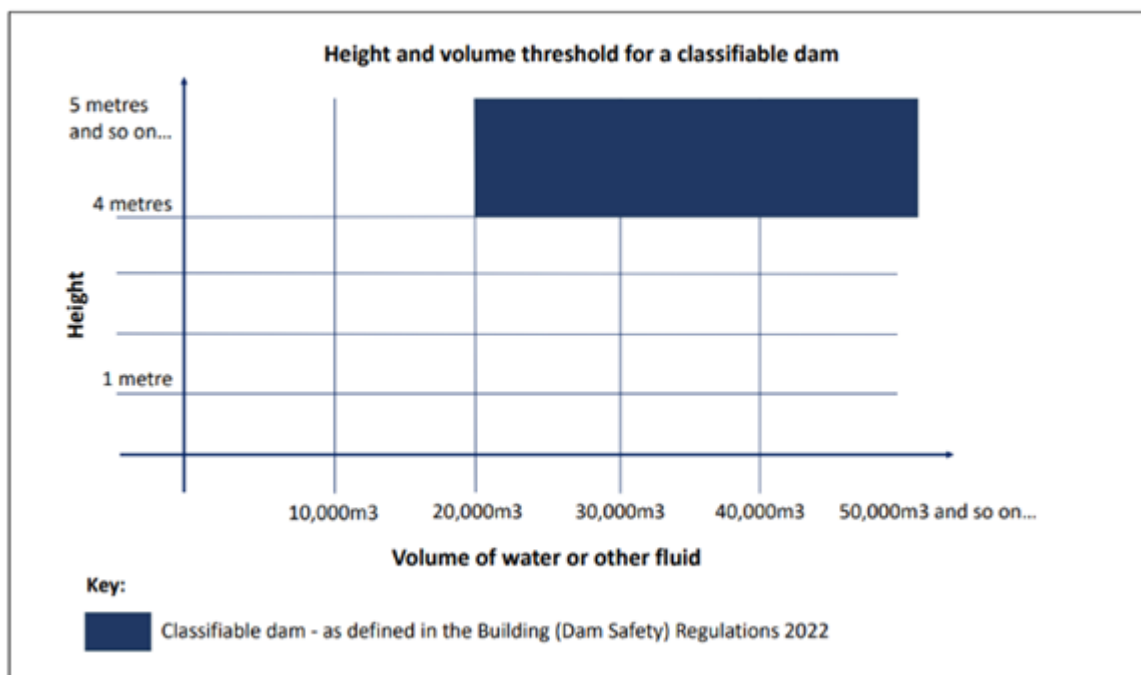


8. Building (Dam Safety) Regulations 2022

After reviewing the dam safety regulations 2022

<https://www.building.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/managing-buildings/building-safety/guide-to-complying-with-the-dam-safety-regulations.pdf> we have found the Takitakitoa Wetland dam wall falls under the threshold of 4m in height and is therefore not considered a classifiable dam as stated in the table below.

Figure 2: Height and volume threshold for a classifiable dam



Guide to complying with the Dam Safety Regulations - Page 22

14.3 Opening Weekend Harvest

Summary

The 2024 Opening Weekend saw harvest rates below the average across most metrics measured. Otago hunters spent nearly 9.5 hours in their maimais over the weekend, harvesting just over 8.5 gamebirds each, of which approximately 80 percent were greyhens.

Less than one percent of hunters are estimated to have reached the bag limit of twenty-five greyhens.

Harvest rates were low throughout most of the region, except for the Queenstown-Lakes District. The low harvest rate this year could be attributed to several factors. The most likely reasons were the dry conditions leading up to opening day, which left many ponds with very little water. Additionally, both rangers and hunters noted a relative lack of greyhens moving around the region, a finding supported by the average results from the aerial mallard survey conducted in April.



Photo 2: Bella Murray, 7 and her dad Paul Murray enjoying a successful Opening Day on a clover paddock near Lawrence.

Introduction / Methods

This year's Opening Weekend survey was a randomised telephone survey of 283 adult and junior gamebird licence holders. It was conducted in the week following Opening Weekend. The survey has been running since 1993 and provides an excellent long-term data set on individual effort and the harvest of each game bird species. All Fish & Game regions conduct a similar survey, and the results are combined nationally. However, not all regions' results are available at the time of writing. Therefore, this report is based only on the results from survey respondents who held an Otago licence. The report does not include the activities of child licence holders or landowners hunting under the owner/occupier exemption.

To address the challenge of distinguishing between mallard ducks and grey ducks due to hybridisation, the report uses the term "greylard" to refer to mallard ducks, grey ducks, and any hybrids of the two. Additionally, "waterfowl" in this report refers to greylards, paradise shelduck, black swans, and shoveler.

As noted in previous reports, the data for 2018 is incorrect due to an unexplained system error. Therefore, the 2018 data has been removed from both the charts in this report and the long-term average calculations.

Results/ Discussion

Just over two percent of Otago licence holders did not hunt at all during Opening Weekend, and slightly more than a quarter hunted outside the Otago Region. This left a little over two-thirds active in the Otago region. Of the hunters active in the region, 97 percent hunted on Saturday, 51 percent hunted on Sunday, and 47 percent hunted both days.

Active Otago Region hunters spent an average of 9.4 hours hunting waterfowl over the weekend (Figure 7), about 90 minutes less than the long-term average, which is indicated by the dotted line in the figure.

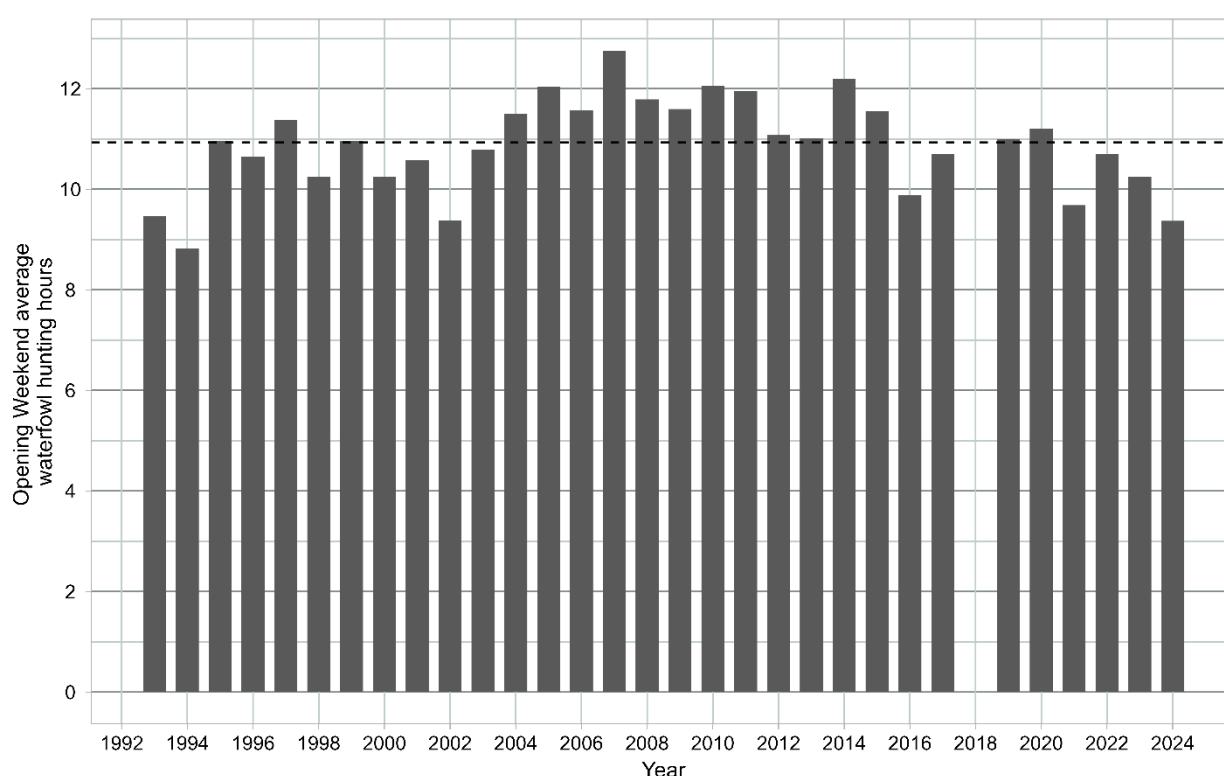


Figure 7: Opening Weekend average waterfowl hunting hours with the long-term average (1993-2023 – dotted line).

It is worth noting that despite the drop experienced this year and last, there is considerable variation between years, and there has been no statistically significant change in the average number of hours hunted across the survey period. This is indicated by a p-value of 0.632, suggesting the average number of hours hunted has remained relatively stable since 1993.

Otago hunters harvested an average of 6.8 greylards for the weekend, 0.76 birds fewer than in 2023 and well below the long-term (1993-2023) average of 10.1 greylards, depicted by the dotted line in Figure 8. The average bag for all waterfowl this Opening Weekend was just over 8.5, significantly less than the long-term average of nearly 13 birds (Figure 8).

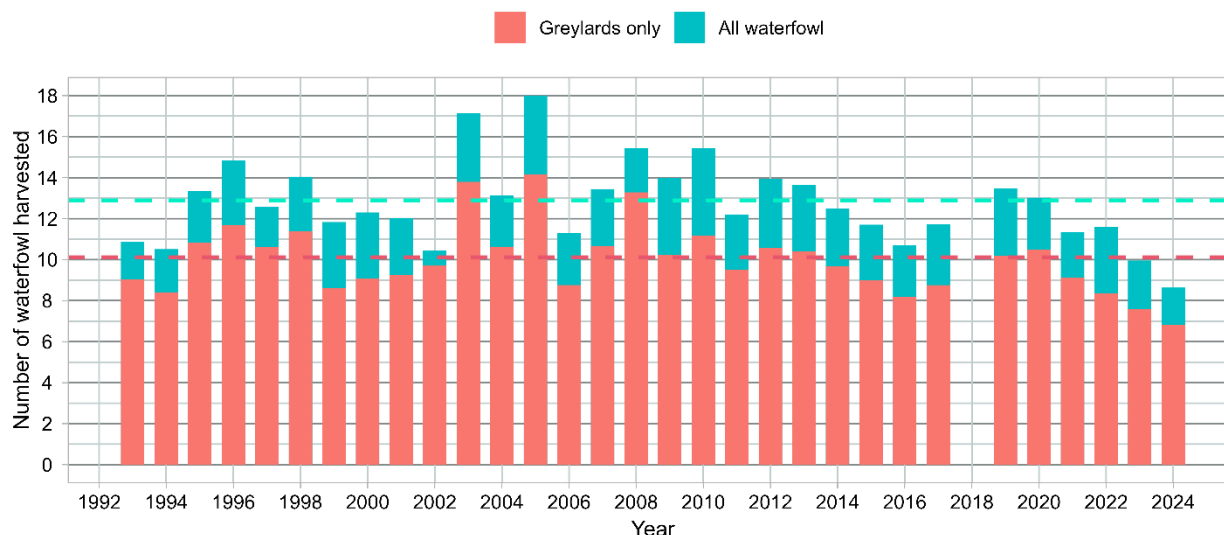


Figure 8: Opening Weekend average greylard and all waterfowl bag with the long-term averages (1992-2023 – dotted lines).

Greylards represented almost 80% of all birds harvested, with paradise shelduck making up most of the remainder, averaging 1.7 birds per hunter. Shovelers and black swans were harvested to a minor extent, and combined, they represented just over 1.5% of the Opening Weekend gamebird harvest.

Only 0.7% of hunters achieved a one-day greylard bag of more than 20 birds, and the birds they harvested in excess of 20 accounted for less than 1% of the total harvest. It's estimated that only 0.5% of hunters obtained the bag limit of 25 greylards. These results suggest that the current bag limits are only restricting the harvest to a limited extent.

Approximately 8.5% of active hunters did not take any birds for the weekend, around 1.5 percentage points more than hunters on last year's Opening (Figure 9).

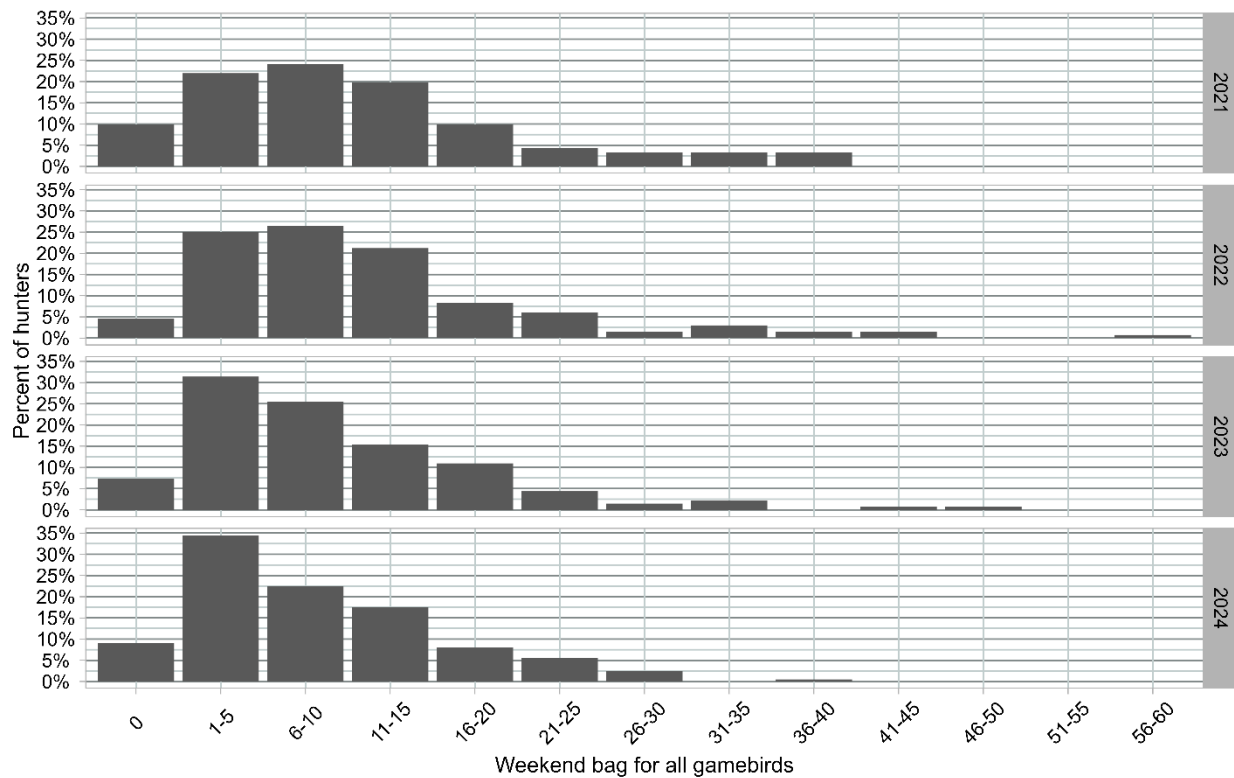


Figure 9: Percentage of surveyed hunters who achieved a particular whole weekend bag range for all waterfowl for the 2021: 2024 Opening Weekends

The number of hunters who achieved medium to large weekend bags remained similar to last year. The percentage of hunters who harvested more than ten game birds dropped slightly from 36% in 2023 to 34% this Opening. However, there was a notable increase in the proportion of hunters who shot smaller weekend bags of five or fewer waterfowl, from 39% in 2023 to 44% this year.

Figure 10 depicts the average rate of greylards harvested per hour across all the Opening Weekends covered by this survey. This measure indicates how fast the hunting action was and is likely one of the best indicators of hunter satisfaction. The greylard harvest rate per hour this Opening was 0.73, slightly lower than last Opening, resulting in the lowest recorded rate of greylard harvest for the Otago Region.

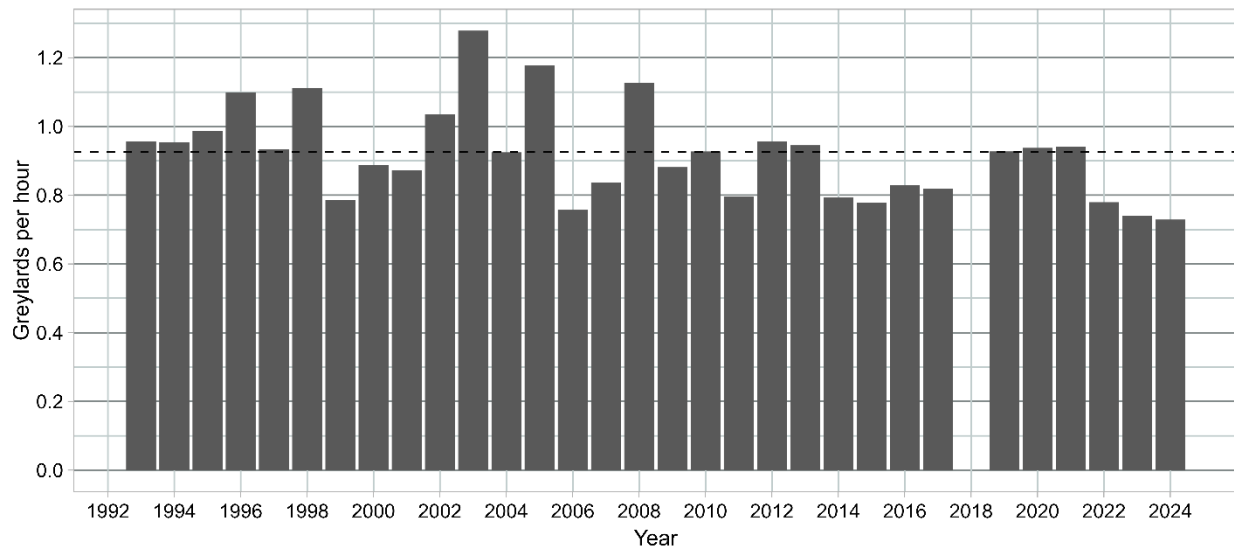


Figure 10: Average Opening Weekend harvest rate of greylards per hour from 1993 to 2024 and the long-term average (1993-2023 – dotted line).

Several factors may have contributed to the low harvest rate observed during this year's Opening Weekend. The most impactful factor was likely the dry conditions leading up to the weekend, which resulted in a shortage of water in several ponds, as noted during the mallard monitoring flights and by rangers during the Opening Weekend.

Additionally, it appeared that there was a relatively low population of greylards in the region. This was indicated by the aerial mallard survey conducted in April and hunters reporting that they saw few ducks moving throughout the day. These factors likely played a role in the very low greylard harvest rate observed this year.

According to anecdotal feedback from rangers, the weather was the most suitable for successful hunting in recent memory. However, it's not clear how much this impacted Opening Weekend success.

It should be noted that Opening Weekend represents only a small proportion of the available days for hunting in the Otago Region, and good overall seasons can follow relatively poor Openings.

In Figure 11, the greylard harvest rate is displayed, broken down by the territorial authority / district council boundary where the hunting occurred. It should be noted that for this analysis, hunting in most of the Waitaki District, which lies north of the boundary with the CSI Fish & Game Region, has been excluded. Due to the previously explained error with the 2018 data, as well as the relatively small size of the Otago section of the Waitaki District and limited hunting in the Queenstown Lakes District, some data points may have zero values. These zero values should not be interpreted as actual zero harvest rates but rather as an indication of a lack of survey coverage for these points.

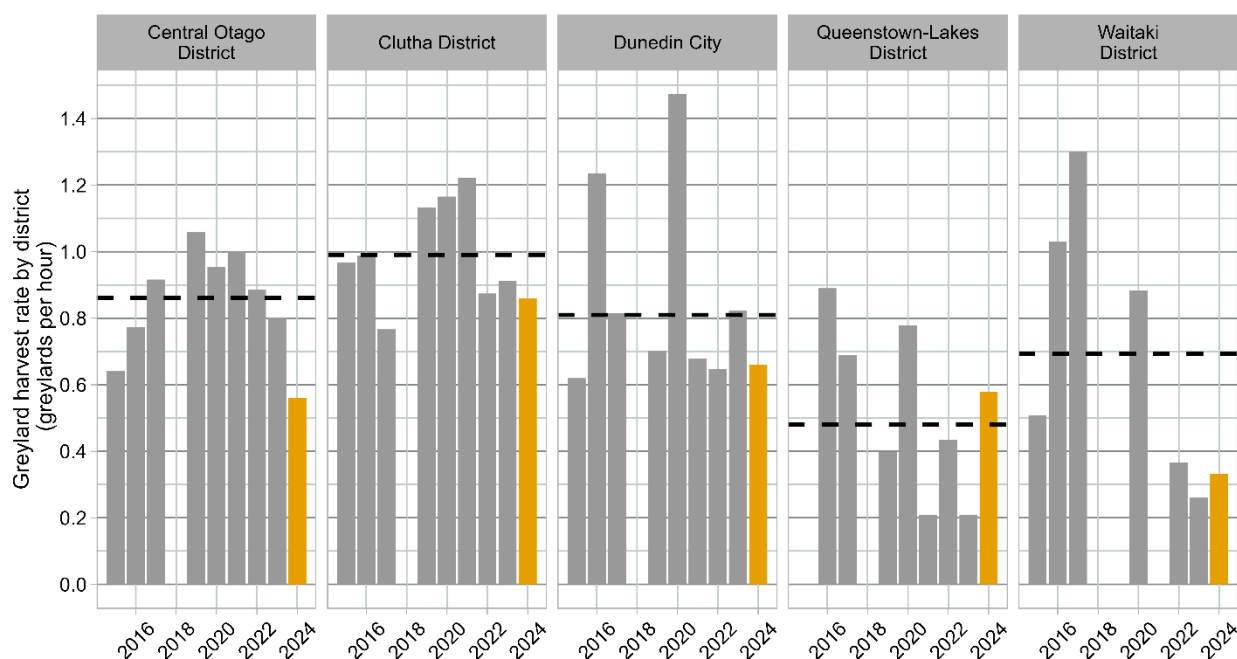


Figure 11: Otago Opening Weekend greyhound harvest rate from 2015 to 2024 broken down by district with their averages for 2015-2023 (dotted lines).

The decline in the greyhound harvest rate seen in Figure 10 was observed throughout the region, not limited to any particular area. Only the Queenstown-Lakes District exceeded the average harvest rate of the previous eight years.

The regional harvest showed a pattern similar to most years, with the Clutha District having the highest harvest rate, unsurprising given its favourable gamebird habitat. In contrast, the Waitaki District had the lowest harvest rate observed.

Supporting anecdotal feedback, the results of the Opening Weekend survey align with staff and ranger observations of bags from around the region during compliance checks. As always, better-prepared hunters fared better than average.

Recommendation

That this report is received

Jayde Couper,
Fish & Game Officer
May 2024

15.0 General Business