

**Agenda For The Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council**  
**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025**  
**Planning Meeting Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025**  
**At Otago Fish and Game Council Office**  
**Corner Hanover and Harrow Streets**

<b>Timetable</b>	<b>Saturday - Council Meeting</b>
11.45 am	Lunch
12.15 pm	Councillor Only Session
12.30 pm	Meeting Begins
1.00 pm	Public Excluded Session
1.30 pm	Open Meeting Resumes
2.45 pm	Afternoon Tea
3.00 pm	Public Forum
5.00 pm	Break for evening. Dinner at 6.00pm Budda Styx
	<b>Sunday – Council Planning Meeting – Papers Separate</b>
9.00am	Planning Meeting Begins
10.30am	Morning Tea
10.45am	Meeting Resumes
12.30pm	Meeting Concludes - Lunch

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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 And AGM**

**On 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**At Otago Fish and Game Council Office**

#### **1.0 Present and Apologies**

Present: Adrian McIntyre (Chair), Mike Barker, John Cruden, John Highton, Vicky May, John Preedy, Blair Trevathan, Colin Weatherall.

In attendance: Ian Hadland (CE), Sharon Milne,

Nigel Paragreen (part meeting online), Bruce Quirey (part meeting online).

The meeting opened at 12.20pm and the Chair welcomed councillors.

Apologies: John Highton, Paulette Tamiti-Elliffe (Ngāi Tahu).

Moved (Cr Weatherall/Cr Preedy) **that the apologies be accepted.**

**Carried unanimously.**

#### **2.0 Matters to be raised not on the agenda**

A question was raised about issues experienced in Southland Fish & Game Region with regards to landowners. The CE said he felt things were calming but he was not sure as a Federated Farmers/F&G meeting was to be held today, and he would hear more. There was a general discussion about health and safety practices.

#### **3.0 Declarations of Interest**

The Chair Cr McIntyre asked Councillors to update and sign the Declarations of Interest.

#### **4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

Moved (Cr Barker/Cr Trevathan)

**That the minutes of the Special Council meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record.**

**Carried unanimously.**



## **5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Nil.

## **6.0 Health and Safety Report- October/November**

Moved (Cr May/Cr Barker)

That Council

- 1. Adopt the H&S Policy and authorise the Chairperson and CE to sign**
  - 2. Receive the health and safety report for October/November**
- Carried unanimously.**

## **7.0 Items Requiring Decisions**

### **7.1 Draft Game Notice 2025 (Game bird hunting regulations)**

Cr Trevathan questioned Cr Barker, the Otago representative to the New Zealand F&G Council (NZC), if they were considering changing game monitoring programmes and methods. He suggested current monitoring was not accurate and he was keen on drone work.

Cr Barker said the NZC was looking at other ways of monitoring.

The CE said he wanted more information that the current methods were inadequate. He noted an NZC letter from the Hawkes Bay Region F&G manager requesting a review of standard operating procedures for game bird monitoring. Otago F&G was reviewing its mallard monitoring this year.

Cr Highton said monitoring needed to consider distribution, not just numbers.

The CE said staff needed to know what specific information councillors required to support their decisions. He asked what the council's priorities were, and then decide on methods. He suggested there may be a need to encourage more hunter training to improve success rates.

The conversation changed to bird flu, and concern that if or when it arrived there could be a season of no income from game bird hunting. Cr Highton said he was not hearing the planned message to hunters to be prepared.

The CE said NZC was getting a plan in place, and more information would come. If bird flu arrived, it could have a major impact. He said the regulations should be set as if there would be a normal season, and information would be included in the magazine.

There was also discussion about whether shovelers should be on the list; grey teal not on the list; identifying birds in the air; if hunting swans should be allowed in Area A; and if the summer season for paradise shelduck was at the right time.

Moved (Cr May/Cr Trevathan)

1. **That the draft game regulations be adopted subject to Paradise shelduck trend counts and the population falling between 16,000 and 23,000 birds.**
2. **If the Paradise Shelduck trend count exceeds 23,000 birds that the daily bag limit for that species to be increased to 15/day region wide, if the count is less than 16,000 the summer season for paradise shelduck should be suspended for 2026.**

**Carried**

The draft report had been provided to Ngāi Tahu to review and provide comment.

## **7.2 Sports Fish & Game Management Plan Guidelines**

The CE said the New Zealand F&G Council (NZC) had asked for feedback on the following documents related to Sports Fish and Gamebird Management Plans (SFGMP) which they intended to adopt as policy.

Otago Fish & Game Council's SFGMP would expire next year. The Environmental Officer was presently reviewing the document.

The CE recommended the content was adequate, and advised to simply note the guidance material and feedback to the NZC:

He explained a sports fish management plan was reviewed every 10 years.

He said the NZC guidelines were helpful but questioned whether they should be policy. The Environmental Officer would write the new plan in the new year.

Cr Barker said another region had just completed their SFGMP and the Minister for Hunting and Fishing was not happy. The SFGMP should be a broad document, and shorter rather than longer. He noted that the Minister must approve it.

Moved (Cr McIntyre/Cr Trevathan)

That Otago Council

- **Communicate appreciation for exercising their coordination role in collation and circulation of the guidance material.**
  - **That it needn't be National Policy as it is largely guidelines.**
  - **Otago Council note the guidance, and use it in developing its next SFGMP.**
- Carried.**

## **8.0 Public Excluded Items**

### **8.1 Confirm Public Excluded minutes of meeting 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

### **8.2 Otago Regional Policy Statement Appeal to High Court**

### **8.3 Minister Request for Feedback**

### **8.4 Otago Property Update**

## **9.0 Financial Report**

The CE opened the discussion, noting it was early in the financial year and there had been few developments since the last Council meeting.

Councillors asked questions about the entitlements on the balance sheet, and how licence sales were going. The CE said licence sales were down this season, possibly due to the weather and flooding. He hoped sales would pick up during the summer break.

Cr Weatherall said the start of licence sales had been delayed this season and noted the Minister for Hunting and Fishing was delayed in signed them off.

Moved (Cr May/Cr Cruden)

**That the Finance Report and Licence Report to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 be received. Carried.**

## **10.0 Chief Executive's Report**

The CE noted there was overall good media coverage of the 20-year anniversary of the Macraes hatchery.

The access charter proposed by the Minister for Hunting and Fishing, Todd McClay, was only for public conservation land. Staff would take the opportunity to talk to the Minister for improved access to upland game hunting, such as at Pisa Range and Bannockburn.

The 150th anniversary of the first trout fishing season was coming this weekend. A free special day licence offer to mark the occasion was going well. The CE asked the Council if they wished to proceed with a plaque at the Dunedin Botanic Gardens, noting it was expensive. Crs May and Preedy agreed it should proceed. Cr Barker said he was not in favour due to cost. The CE outlined plans for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary media event on Saturday and invited councillors to attend if they wished.

In response to question, he said a history feature would be published in the ODT in summer at no cost, and there was reference material on the website.

Cr McIntyre updated the Council on the parliamentary fish event at Lake Hawea in November. He said it was attended by representatives from many political parties, and included a presentation and debate about a guides licence and good, open discussion about Fish & Game activities. He said all enjoyed themselves, the weather was good, and the fishing was successful.

The CE noted it was an NZC event and that Otago staff who attended did a good job. There was talk of the event coming back to Otago.

*John Highton joined the meeting at 1pm*

Councillors expressed concerns about the continued lack of progress on a guides licence, and that overseas guides were having a negative effect. It was suggested that Otago form its own plan.

The CE said it would need full regional support. He said the guide licence proposal was with NZC and stalled with the Department of Conservation. The CE said he would find out where the guides licence was up to and respond to Council.

Moved (Cr Barker/Cr Trevathan)

**That the Chief Executive's Report be received.**

**Carried.**

## **11.0 RMA Planning and Consents Report**

The CE said the ORC had delayed notification of its land and water regional plan because the Government was revising the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. The Environmental Officer would update the Council in the public excluded section.

Cr Highton raised concerns about recognition of trout and salmon in new legislation. He hoped it would be a good opportunity to get it in higher legislation.

The CE said he did not think it would be easy and could irritate the Government. In response to a question, he said NZC was talking to the Government about legislative review and needed to tread carefully.

Cr Barker said he did not know what NZC was thinking at this stage. They needed to see the legislation and have a NZC meeting. Cr Highton asked Cr Barker to report back after NZC meeting.

Moved (Cr May/Cr Highton)

**That the RMA Planning and Consents Report be received.**

**Carried.**

## **12.0 Committee & Delegate Reports**

### **12.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust**

No CFT trustees were present to report to the Council since the retirement of former councillors Cole and Boyd.

Cr Barker expressed interest in joining the CFT. The CE said he would talk to the CFT chair about this, and how to manage reports into OF&GC meetings

### **12.2 NZC**

Cr Barker said NZC had not meet since the last Otago F&GC meeting.

He was pleased NZC had proposed to hold the parliamentary fish event again, although he was unsure of the final cost.

He had asked the NZC chair about the Crawford Report and was informed it would not be presented at the next NZC meeting, the reason given being that Mr Crawford was still waiting for further information from some regions.

The next meeting of NZC would be on December 12 and 13.

Cr Weatherall said as the former OF&GC chair, he had been given a commitment that Otago would receive a draft copy of the Crawford Report. He suggested Otago should lodge an official information request for the section pertaining to OF&CG before NZC received the report.

He suggested the CE should note in reply to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing that OF&GC had not seen the Crawford Report.

Cr Barker said the Minister was coming to the NZC meeting, and he had been advised to invite him to the Otago planning meeting in January.

### **12.3 Ngāi Tahu**

Nil.

### **12.4 Conservation Board**

Nil.

### **12.5 Clutha Mata-Au Sportsfish and Habitat Trust**

Cr Barker said the Trust met on November 15 in Clyde at the Contact Energy office.

A report on the likely outcome of developing a salmon hatchery at Roxburgh and releasing salmon back in the river was positive.

The report said a hatchery was the only way it could be achieved and could not see negative aspects. It was possible that only a very small number of released

fish could stray into other rivers which could introduce new genetics to other populations.

The hatchery project should use salmon from the upper Clutha, and the difficulty would be getting fish large enough to produce enough eggs and progeny.

The trustees present at the meeting were Cr Barker, Rick Boyd and Neil Gillespie.

Cr Barker said he had moved that the Trust move forward on progress and get consents, but Mr Gillespie was hesitant because trustees Crs May and McIntyre were not present.

The CE said once the trust agreed to proceed, the next steps were to apply for consents and permits and start discussions with Ngāi Tahu and DOC.

The Chair thanked Cr Barker for his report.

## **12.6 Tiaki Maniototo**

Cr Highton, the representative on Tiaki Maniototo, said he had attended an upper Taiari Wai meeting on Monday.

He said the focus was to have a membership drive. As an incorporated society it needed enough members to be valid.

The main item relevant to the area was the cancellation of regional councils' ability to proceed with land and water plans. Millions of dollars had gone into the plans. That affected the group because ORC was going to lead a process to produce a plan specific to the upper Taieri, such as grazing, willow control, and fire material in wetlands. That was all on hold.

It had been a good spring for planting. The target was to plant 90,000 plants, and that had been exceeded by a generous margin.

Cr Highton mentioned work on recreational sites, such as at Creamery Road bridge, and access on Ford Road.

He would be attending the Taiari Wai River Festival on January 18.

## **13.0 Correspondence**

The CE said he had replied to NZC about zero-based budgeting and its meeting plan.

### **13.1 NZC to Otago**

Nil

**13.2 Otago to NZC****13.2.1 Feedback on Budget and NZC Meeting Schedule****13.3 General Correspondence In****13.3.1 Hon Todd McClay****13.3.2 Hon Todd McClay****13.4 General Correspondence Out**

Nil

Moved (Cr Trevathan/Cr Barker)

**That the correspondence be received and noted.  
Carried.**

**14.0 Items to be Received or Noted****14.1 Shoveler and Grey Teal Trend Monitoring October 2024**

The CE noted that the shoveler and grey teal report was interesting. There had been a noticeable downward trend in the total number of shoveler harvested. The 2023 review change to the shoveler bag limit had been effective in reducing the harvest in Otago and Southland.

**14.2 Clutha Angler Survey**

Cr Highton commented that the survey did not mention sea trout and requested more information.

The CE asked Cr Highton to describe in succinct terms the objective.

Cr Highton replied that the question was why there was no salmon run, and the answer was what happened at sea. That applied to sea trout. He would like to see verification that sea trout were spawning in the Upper Pomahaka.

Cr Preedy said river level fluctuations and frost on redds were killing salmon.

Cr McIntyre thanked Cr Highton for his concerns and said they should be taken up in the January planning meeting.

**14.3 Pummer Leith Trout Report 2024**

The CE said the Pummer Leith Trout Report was completed by a university student.

Cr Barker said it was a good report. Cr Highton said the report concluded that flooding affected the trout in the river.

Moved (Cr Trevathan/Cr Cruden)

**That the reports be received.  
Carried.**

## 15.0 General Business

Cr Weatherall said he would like the Council to consider its numbers, given that there were only eight governors. He said the Council might consider its skillsets around the table, if there were any gaps in governance, and if the Council could find a mechanism to coopt or appoint additional membership.

He asked for a report to the planning meeting and proposed a survey to assess the skills around the table. The Council could then decide.

The Council agreed that Cr Weatherall would circulate a survey.

Cr Preedy asked about the Council's interest in chukar. The CE replied that the Council did not have a monitoring programme for chukar. Cr Highton said there could be more focus on upland game, and better access to DOC land. The CE replied that the advice he received from attending an R3 conference in the United States was that it was unwise to promote species which were hard to get and had a limited resource. Fish and Game should be careful to raise expectations about upland game hunting.

The Chair thanked councillors for their attendance. Next meeting would be in January.

The meeting closed at 4.40pm.



## **5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

## 6.0 Health and Safety Report – December 2024/January 2025

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

- Holiday season ranging
- Wetland planting and weeding
- Designated waters compliance work

OHS Audits - Internal

Completed audits:

- Main Hazard Register
- Vehicles and hazards
- Chemical checks
- Final year audit of OHS

Next audit areas:

- Boat safety

Incidents/Accidents/Near Misses/New Hazards

- Exit door handle jammed - New door window and lock on fire exit Dunedin office
- Food allergy near miss
- New submerged rock spotted at Poolburn, buoys ordered.

Training Completed

- Induct new staff member to offices, hatchery and field work
- staff member completed refresher first aid course
- Staff member completed UHF radio communications course
- Fire Drills in Dunedin and Cromwell

General Discussions, Actions

- Dangerous trees broken down over the road at Takitakitoa - fixed by City Forests- area now safe to travel to bund wall.
- Unkept yard and unsafe buildings at Wanaka Hatchery grounds. Discussions with FOBC. Under Action
- Discussion on Seaflux boat use - who is crew and who are passengers. Only staff are crew all others need to be inducted with paperwork/sign in completed.

Recommendation

3. To receive the health and safety report for December/January

Sharon Milne

Administration Officer

9<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## 6.1 Hazard and OHS Audit Report 2024

[Review On Month Shown and audits saved to Sharepoint]

Task	Review Date	Review By	Achieved	Time Frame
Office Hazard Audit Cromwell/Dunedin	Jan/July	Sharon/Ben	Cromwell Jan 24 Dunedin Jan 24 July 24	6 monthly
Vehicle Hazards and Safety Equipment	January/ August	Steve	March + Dec 24	6 monthly
Council Policy	November	Ian	November 2024	Annual
Workshops and Field equipment and PPE Hazard Audit	March	Steve/Ben	Cromwell Jan + July 24 Dn March 24	Annual
Ranger/volunteer training, support, policy	May	Mason/David	June 24	Annual
Staff Training Schedule	April / October	Sharon	April 2024 October 2024	6 monthly
Hazardous Substances Cromwell, Dunedin,	June/ December	Steve Mason	Crom June + Dec 24 Dn Dec 24 +	6 monthly
Boat Safety	September	Steve/Ben	December 2024	Annual
Main Hazard Register Updated	September	Jayde/Sharon/ David	June 24 Major Upgrade planned	Annual
Full Audit Checklist (H&S form 2)	Dec	Ian/Sharon	Jan 2025	Annual

### Record of Compliance with F&G Councils OSH Systems, Policies and Procedures

✓	Action required	Notes – Evidence of completion
	<b>Policy and meetings</b>	
	Policies displayed or available	<i>All policy documents added to Sharepoint. Policy displayed at both Cromwell and Dunedin communal areas</i>

	H&S promoted to staff	<i>H&amp;S is part of weekly and bi monthly meeting agendas Staff involved in audits and update of hazards</i>
	Notes/minutes of H&S meetings assembled	<i>Stored in folder and on Sharepoint, summarised at bi monthly staff meeting, emailed to staff and included in council reports.</i>
	<b>Audit and drills</b>	
	Offices, Workshops, audits complete	<i>All audits completed by Dec 2024</i>
	Fire Extinguishers checked / building evacuation practice.	<i>Extinguishers checked and serviced annually by external contractor. Evacuation drill completed December 2024 at Cromwell and Dunedin offices</i>
	MSD (Material safety data) sheets current	<i>Current and stored with chemical at sites. Update and checked 6 monthly at Dunedin and Cromwell sites</i>
	PPE Safety Equipment and Vehicle and safety equipment audits done	<i>PEP audit completed March 2024, Extra items stocked in preparation of possible Avian Influenza November. Vehicles and safety equipment checked January and December 2024</i>
	Seaflux Boat information current	<i>Part of Seaflux - software package for commercial vessels to manage operator safety and boat maintenance. All (2) boats compliant as at Dec 2024 Member of Coast Guard for central lakes as safety back up Boat handling refresher courses up to date. One staff achieved boat masters in 2024, one UHF Radio course completed</i>
	Volunteer and Staff Rangers	<i>Inductions, for events and outings. Ranger audit completed June 2024. Rangers training November 2024. Refresher course by 12 honorary rangers Full CERT safety course attended by 1 staff and 1 ranger,</i>
	Hazards register current and dated	<i>Updated from regular meetings. Update June 2024 and shared with staff for comment. Simplifying and adjustments planned by June 2025.</i>
	Evidence of annual review of H&S processes and performance	<i>Constantly being reviewed at each individual audit and to mitigate new hazards, equipment, incident and up and coming issues. NZC to confirm new policies 2025</i>
	<b>Training and inductions</b>	
	Training/Support for H&S rep	<i>No new training</i>
	New Staff / Visitors / Volunteers / Contractors	<i>Completed sign in register for visitors and onsite contracted workers.</i>

Induction records	<i>Inductions for events and outings Full Inductions for Bill Morris, James Ballantine and Jamie Ward, for office and field work as required.</i>
First Aid	<i>All staff up to date with refresher courses.</i>

<b>Incidents/Accidents</b>	
Accident/Incident Register complete	<i>Up to date –6 accident/incidents reported, one required doctor visits. No serious incidents</i>
Investigations results fed back	<i>Mitigation options discussed, implemented and noted at meetings, Hazards added to register list. 6 incident reports written. Council notified</i>
Near-miss reports	<i>16 reported</i>
Accident/Injury Prevention Initiatives	<i>Staff are all first aid trained and first aid kits filled. Discussions of near misses to prevent repeats. Encouraging - lunch out of office, Encouraged to exercise more, to help office strains, stresses and eye strain and assist with general fitness/health and wellbeing. Written information and an 0800 number provided to those needing to discuss unsettling or irritating issues. Reminders about driver /road safety. Vehicles have safety equipment and PEP gear.</i>
<b>Infectious Diseases</b>	
Avian Bird Influenza	<i>Staff have been updated and prepared for possible avian influenza outbreak. PEP gear on hand</i>
Vaccinations	<i>All staff encouraged to be vaccinated</i>
Pandemic/Endemic Illness	<i>Policy on disease at a regional level was not required this year. The office has masks, covid tests, gloves and sanitiser as required. Request for those sick to remain home and work when possible.</i>

Completed by S Milne

Signed: I Hadland (CE)

Date: 12.01.2025

Reported to OF&GC: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## 7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

### 7.1 Bendigo Wildlife Management Reserve Plan v13 7Jan 2025

#### Otago Fish and Game Council for decision: Bendigo Wildlife Management Reserve Notification

##### Background

The Bendigo Wildlife Management Reserve was due for public notification in August/September 2024, everything was essentially ready, but the notification did not happen.

Iwi consultation was completed late 2024, with Ian Hadland receiving confirmation from Kāi Tahu that they did not have interest or resources to be actively involved with the Management Plan or the wetland.

The Draft Management Plan (V13) is ready for Public Consultation (link below).

[Bendigo Wildlife Management Reserve Plan v13 07Jan2025 Draft.docx](#)

This is essentially the same as V12 dated 08 Aug 2024, with a few date and address changes which was previously accepted for notification. The consultation period will run for 2-months.

##### Recommendation

**That the Otago Fish and Game Council adopts the draft Bendigo WMR Plan V13 and begins public notification pursuant to Section 119 of the Reserves Act 1977, with a two-month public consultation.**

Jamie Ward  
Operations Manager  
08 Jan 2025

## 7.2 Anglers Notice Review - January 2025

Last year, the Otago Fish and Game Council adopted Otago Fish & Game Regulation Setting Policy (July 2024) to formalise the regulation-setting process. The policy requires regulations to be reviewed according to a set timeline and ensures they maintain sports fish and gamebird resources while supporting the recreational and health benefits associated with these activities.

Another core purpose of this policy is to ensure the Council meets its statutory obligations. As a Crown Entity and willing Treaty Partner, the Otago Fish and Game Council has responsibilities under *Te Tiriti o Waitangi*, the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, the Conservation Act 1987, and the Wildlife Act 1953.

Recently the Minister has taken an increased interest in regulation setting including rejecting the introduction of a number of new Designated Waters in the Southland, Nelson/Marlborough, and West Coast regions. The Minister has also expressed that councils should “maintain or facilitate a permissive environment regarding access to hunting and fishing areas” and “have a clear and consistent process across the country for consulting with licence holders”. Consequently, staff recommend that significant changes outside the consulted triennial review process are avoided unless they are both urgent and consequential.

The procedure for conducting the triennial review is outlined in Appendix 1. Initial mana whenua engagement is scheduled to begin followed by a management review, which must be completed by October 2025.

### Neighbouring Regions

The regulation policy requires consultation with neighbouring regions to ensure consistency where possible. As regulation reviews are conducted simultaneously and at the Council level, this process can be challenging. However, regional staff have provided an indication of topics that their councils are likely to review:

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>Southland</b> | Southland have indicated there are likely to be no changes. The only potential adjustment might be removing the ‘no fishing’ restriction within 100m of two Real Journeys jetties, as they no longer feed trout there  |
| <b>CSI</b>       | <p>CSI are currently reviewing the following submissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requiring single hook use (&amp; single point) at Lake Heron to aid v undersize/small salmon that are subject to high rates of C&amp;R.</li> <li>• Introducing year-round fishing season / winter season at Lake Opuha.</li> <li>• Changing brown trout zero bag to 1 at Lake Alexandrina winter season.</li> <li>• Changing the Awakino River (Lower Waitaki River tributary) from permanently closed to a high-country season (First Saturday in November until 30 April).</li> </ul> |

- Introducing exemption for actively fished scented soft baits in Fly and Spin only waters.

**West Coast** West Coast are running their triennial review and are expecting no changes.

## **Review – 2025/2026 season**

Staff regularly discuss the suitability of regulations and maintain a database of issues or complaints related to them.

No urgent issues have been identified through this process. In accordance with the regulation setting policy; minor issues will be addressed during the triennial review next year.

As a result, only minor formatting changes to the Anglers Notice are recommended. A corrected capitalisation of “Mata Au” and changing “Akatore River” to “Akatore Creek” to align with the LINZ gazetteer. The draft Anglers Notice is available for review in Appendix 2.

## **Recommendation**

**The draft notice in Appendix 2 is adopted unchanged.**

Or

**Council provide staff with any proposed urgent changes (which cannot be deferred to the triennial review) to be consulted and report on to the May meeting of Council.**

Jayde Couper  
Fish & Game Officer  
January 2025



## Appendix 1: 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.
- Direct emails will be sent to licence holders, including an online form for their responses
- Feedback will be summarised and reported to Council.

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

<https://gazette.govt.nz/notice/id/2024-gs3540>

### Otago Fish and Game Region

The Otago region is defined here: *New Zealand Gazette*, 24 May 1990, No. 83, page 1861.

#### 1. Definitions

For interpretation of terms, refer to the First Schedule of this notice.

#### 2. Additional Requirements

Note 1	1.1	No fishing for sports fish is permitted at any time in all waters in which sports fish are held in captivity for display, hatching, or other purposes, or within a distance of 100m from any part of the outer boundaries of such waters.
	1.2	Except in the case of Perch for which there is no daily limit, no angler shall on any one day take and kill or be in possession of more than the prescribed daily limit from the waters specified in clauses 2 and 3.
	1.3	In addition to the daily limits specified in clauses 2 and 3 and note 1.2, no angler shall on any one day take, kill or be in possession of more than 6 sports fish from any waters except Lake Onslow.
	1.4	An angler may continue to fish for a particular species of sports fish on any day on which the angler has already killed a limit bag for that species as long as fish taken are immediately returned with as little injury as possible into the water from which it was taken.
	1.5	In all waters of the region there shall be no minimum length except in the -
	1.5.1	Nevis River where no angler shall take or be in possession of any sports fish greater than 400mm in length.
	1.5.2	Clutha River and its tributaries downstream of Roxburgh Dam and all other waters running into the sea, where no angler shall take or be in possession of any Salmon less than 450mm in length.
Note 2	2.1	Anglers may fish from any boat, canoe, pontoon or flotation device.
	2.2	Anglers fishing from boats that are being propelled by a motor must stay at least 100 metres from any anglers fishing from the shore.
Note 3	3.1	Anglers may fish from any boat, canoe, pontoon or flotation device provided it is not being propelled by a motor.
Note 4	4.1	No angler may fish from any boat, canoe, pontoon or flotation device except in the tidal reaches of this waterway if applicable.
Note 5	5.1	When playing a Salmon in the Clutha River downstream of Roxburgh Dam, a gaff may be used to secure or land that Salmon if it is greater than 450mm in length.

Note 6	6.1	No angler shall fish with a float or floating device on the line in that section of the Clutha River downstream of Roxburgh Dam to the Roxburgh Township Bridge.
Note 7	7.1	Closed to all sports fishing in September except for Otago Fish and Game controlled fishing events.
Note 8	8.1	<b>Designated Waters:</b> No angler may fish in a designated water unless they are the holder of an appropriate designated waters licence or are named on such a licence.
	8.2	Only single-point hooks may be used, and a lure (including flies) may not have more than one hook attached in a Designated Waters fishery in this region.
Note 9	9.1	<b>Controlled Fishery:</b> No angler may fish in a controlled fishery during a controlled period unless they are the holder of an appropriate controlled-period licence or are named on such a licence.

### 3. Open Season, Permitted Methods, Daily Bag Limits

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species <small>Zero bag limit unless number shown</small> Trout/Salmon		Refer clause 2 additional requirements
All lakes, rivers and streams <b>not specified</b> below		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Note 1
For all lakes, rivers and streams within the Clutha River catchment lying <b>upstream of Clyde Dam</b> except where otherwise specified below		1 Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
For all lakes, rivers and streams within the Clutha River catchment lying <b>downstream of Clyde Dam</b> , except where otherwise specified below		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4, 5, 6
Akatore Estuary		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown Trout/Salmon		Refer clause 2 additional requirements
Akatore <del>River</del> Creek		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Albert Burn		1 Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Arrow River		1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	1		Notes 1, 4
Blakelys Dam		1 Oct - 15 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Bullock Creek	from Lake Wānaka to source	closed				
Butchers Dam		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Caples River	<b>Part of Greenstone Designated Water</b> Caples River and tributaries	1 Nov - 31 May	F	1		Notes 1, 4, 8
Cardrona River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 4
Careys Creek	upstream of the rail line bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of the rail line bridge	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Catlins Estuary	downstream of the Southern Scenic Route bridge	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Catlins River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species		Refer clause 2 additional requirements
				Zero bag limit unless number shown		
				Trout/Salmon		
Clutha River/ <del>Mata-au</del> Mata-Au	Lake Wānaka Outlet to Roxburgh Dam (excluding Deans Bank section)	All year	FSB	2	4	Notes 1, 3
	Deans Bank section (defined by landmark posts 1km downstream of Lake Wānaka and 600m upstream of Albert Town Bridge)	1 Oct - 31 May	F	2	4	Notes 1, 4
	below Roxburgh Dam	All year	FSB	4	1	Notes 1, 2, 5, 6
Coal Pit Dam		All year	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Conroys Dam		All year	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Contour Channel		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Dart River /Te Awa Whakatipu		All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Dart River tributaries	not mentioned elsewhere	1 Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Deep Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown Trout/Salmon		Refer clause 2 additional requirements
Diamond Creek		1 Oct - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Diamond Lake (Glenorchy Area)		All year	FS	2		Notes 1, 2
Dingle Burn	<b>Designated Water</b> Dingle Burn upstream of the bridge on the Dingle Burn Station access road	1 Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4, 8
	downstream of the bridge on the Dingle Burn Station access road	1 Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Falls Dam		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Fraser Dam		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Fraser River	downstream of dam	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Fraser River Upper	upstream of dam	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 4
Glenorchy Lagoons		All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 2
Greenstone River	<b>Designated Water</b> Greenstone River and tributaries	1 Nov - 31 May	F	1		Notes 1, 4, 8

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown Trout/Salmon		Refer clause 2 additional requirements
	upstream of Sly Burn					
	<b>Controlled Fishery</b> Greenstone River and tributaries upstream of Sly Burn	1 Feb - 31 Mar	F	1		Notes 1, 4, 8, 9
	<b>Designated Water</b> Greenstone River and tributaries, including the Caples River, between the Sly Burn confluence and the swing bridge at the Greenstone Station Road car park	1 Nov - 31 May	F	1		Notes 1, 4, 8
	downstream of the swing bridge at the Greenstone Station Road car park	All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Hamiltons Dam		All year	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Hāwea River		All year	FS	2	4	Notes 1, 4

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown Trout/Salmon		Refer clause 2 additional requirements
Hoffmans Dam		All year	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Hore's Control Pond		1 Nov - 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4
Horne Creek	from Lake Wakatipu to source	closed				
Hunter River	<b>Designated Water</b> Hunter River and tributaries	1 Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4, 8
Ida Burn Dam		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Kaihiku Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Kaikorai Estuary	downstream of Abbots Creek confluence	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Kaikorai Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Kawarau River	from its source at Lake Wakatipu to Lake Dunstan	All year	FSB	2	4	Notes 1, 3
Knights Dam		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Kuriwao Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Kye Burn		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4



Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species <small>Zero bag limit unless number shown</small> Trout/Salmon		Refer clause 2 additional requirements
Lake Dispute		1 Oct - 31 May	FS	2		Notes 1, 3
Lake Dunstan		All year	FSB	2	4	Notes 1, 2
Lake Hāwea		All year	FSB	2	4	Notes 1, 2
Lake Hayes		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 3
Lake Johnson		All year	FSB	1		Notes 1, 3
Lake Kirkpatrick		All year	FS	2		Notes 1, 4
Lake Mahinerangi		All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Lake Onslow		All year	FSB	10		Notes 1, 2
Lake Roxburgh	from the State Highway 8 bridge at Alexandra downstream to the Roxburgh Dam	All year	FSB	4	2	Notes 1, 2
Lake Sylvan		All year	FSB	6		Notes 1, 2
Lake Tewa		All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Lake Tuakitoto	including outlet channel and inlet channel	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Lake Waihola	including outlet and waterways connected with Lake Waipori	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Lake Waipori		All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Lake Wakatipu	within the waters of	closed				

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species		Refer clause 2 additional requirements
				Zero bag limit unless number shown Trout/Salmon		
	Queenstown Bay bounded by a straight line drawn from the outermost point of Queenstown Gardens to the point where the south bank of One Mile Creek meets Lake Wakatipu					
	within 100m of any part of the wharf in Black Bay (commonly known as the Walter Peak Jetty)	closed				
		All year	FSB	2	4	Notes 1, 2
Lake Wānaka	within 150m of any part of the launch wharf at the township of Wānaka, within 150m of any part	closed				

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown Trout/Salmon		Refer clause 2 additional requirements
	of the public jetty at the Wānaka Marina, and anywhere within 150m of the shoreline between the wharf and the jetty					
		All year	FSB	2	4	Notes 1, 2
Lee Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Lindis River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 4
Lochy River	and tributaries downstream of Disputed Creek confluence	1 Nov - 31 May	F	1		Notes 1, 4
	<b>Designated Water</b> Lochy River and tributaries upstream of Disputed Creek confluence	1 Nov - 31 May	F	0		Notes 1, 4, 8
Logan Burn Dam		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
MacLennan River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown Trout/Salmon		Refer clause 2 additional requirements
Makarora River	and tributaries	1 Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of Wilkin River confluence	All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Manorburn Dam Lower		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Manorburn Dam Upper		1 Nov - 31 May	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Manuherekia River	and tributaries above Shaky Bridge (Kerry Road)	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 4
	below Shaky Bridge (Kerry Road)	All year	FSB	1		Notes 1, 4
Mathias Dam		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Matukituki River	and tributaries above Glenfinnan Stream confluence	1 Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
	between Glenfinnan Stream confluence and Motatapu River confluence	1 Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 3

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown Trout/Salmon		Refer clause 2 additional requirements
	downstream of Motatapu River confluence	All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 3
McAtamney's Head Pond		All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Meggat Burn		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Mill Creek (a tributary to Lake Hayes)	from the Speargrass Flat Road Bridge to Waterfall Park	closed				
	above Waterfall Park	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of Speargrass Flat Road Bridge	All year	FSB	1		Notes 1, 4
Moke Lake		All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 3
Molyneux Pond		All year	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Motatapu River	and tributaries	1 Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Nenthorn Pond		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Nenthorn Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Nevis River	<b>Designated Water</b>	1 Oct - 30 Apr	F	1		Notes 1, 4, 8

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown Trout/Salmon		Refer clause 2 additional requirements
	Nevis River and tributaries					
Owaka River	upstream of the Southern Scenic Route bridge	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of the Southern Scenic Route bridge	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4
Perkins Pond		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Pinders Pond		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Pleasant River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Pomahaka River	<b>Designated Water</b> Pomahaka River upstream of the Hukarere Station Bridge on Hukarere Station Road	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FS	1	1	Notes 1, 4, 8
	downstream of the Hukarere Station Bridge on	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	1	Notes 1, 4

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species <small>Zero bag limit unless number shown</small> Trout/Salmon		Refer clause 2 additional requirements
	Hukarere Station Road to Swans Bridge on Clydevale Road  downstream of Swans Bridge (Clydevale Road)	All year	FSB	4	1	Notes 1, 4
Poolburn Dam		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Puerua Estuary	downstream of the Southern Scenic Route bridge	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Puerua Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Rees River	and tributaries	1 Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of Muddy Creek	All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Reid Lake		All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 3
Route Burn	and tributaries	1 Nov - 31 May	F	0		Notes 1, 4
Rutherfords Dam		1 Nov - 15 Apr	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Shag River/ Waihemo	upstream of State Highway 1 bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown Trout/Salmon		Refer clause 2 additional requirements
	downstream of State Highway 1 bridge	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Shotover River		All year	FSB	2	4	Notes 1, 4
Silver Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Southern Reservoir		1 Oct - 31 Aug	FS	1		Notes 1, 4, 7
Styx Weir Pond		All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Sullivans Dam		All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Sutton Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Tahakopa River	upstream of Maclellan River confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4
	downstream Maclellan River confluence	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4
Taieri River	upstream of State Highway 87 bridge at Outram	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4	1	Notes 1, 4
	downstream of State Highway 87 bridge at Outram	All year	FSB	4	1	Notes 1, 2
Teviot River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4



Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown Trout/Salmon		Refer clause 2 additional requirements
Three O'Clock Stream		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	1	Notes 1, 4
Timaru River	and tributaries	1 Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of Timaru Creek Road bridge	All year	FS	1		Notes 1, 4
Tokomairiro River	above Coal Gully Road bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of Coal Gully Road bridge	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4
Tomahawk Lagoon		All year	FSB	1		Notes 1, 2
Tuapeka River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Victoria Dam		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 2
Von Lake		1 Nov - 31 May	F	1		Notes 1, 2
Von River	and tributaries	1 Nov - 31 May	F	1		Notes 1, 4
Waikouaiti River	upstream of State Highway 1 road bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of State Highway 1 road bridge	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Waipahi River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	4		Notes 1, 4

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species		Refer clause 2 additional requirements
				Zero bag limit unless number shown Trout/Salmon		
Waipori River	upstream of the Contour Channel confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
	downstream of the Contour Channel confluence to the Taieri River confluence	All year	FSB	4		Notes 1, 2
Waitahuna River		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Waitati River	upstream of Orokonui Stream confluence	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Waiwera River	downstream of Orokonui Stream confluence	All year	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
		1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2		Notes 1, 4
Waters of Leith	upstream of Lindsay Creek	closed				

Water	Section of water	Open season	Authorised fishing methods	Daily bag limit by species Zero bag limit unless number shown Trout/Salmon		Refer clause 2 additional requirements
	confluence and including Lindsay Creek					
	downstream of Lindsay Creek confluence to the Leith Street Foot Bridge	1 Oct - 30 Apr	FSB	2	1	Notes 1, 4
	downstream of Leith Street Foot Bridge	All year	FSB	2	1	Notes 1, 4
Wilkin River	<b>Designated Water</b> Wilkin River and tributaries	1 Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4, 8
Young River	<b>Designated Water</b> Young River and tributaries	1 Nov - 31 May	FS	1		Notes 1, 4, 8

## **8.0 Public Excluded Items**

**8.1 Draft minutes of Public Excluded meeting 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**8.2 Risk Management Report**

## 9.0 Financial Report

### **Finance and Licence Sales 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

#### **9.1 Finance Reports**

The financial Profit and Loss report and Balance sheet for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 for the 2024/25 financial year are below.

### **Profit and Loss**

#### **Income**

##### **Licence Income**

**Fish licence revenue** from the profit and loss statement 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 totals \$1,597,374 (Fish sales \$1,579,565 + Designated Water licence \$17,809) compared with \$1,607,318 for the same period of the 2023/24 season. Fish licence revenue is behind 2023/24 by \$9,944. These figures include both resident and non resident sales. The budget for fish licence sales is \$2,090,400 for the full year.

Fish licences include designated water licences for specialist fisheries. Some of these are sold for other regions and other regions sell ours. Funds are sent to the appropriate region at the end of the year.

Central South Island Fish and Game and North Canterbury Fish and Game's Councils have a sea run Salmon Endorsement Project. We have sold 279 Sea Run Salmon endorsements with a value of \$1,995.65 (GST excl) these funds will be returned to them.

##### **Other Income**

Total other income to 31<sup>st</sup> December is \$37,350.

Areas of interest are:

- Wages Reimbursement is for work done for other regions. This includes RMA assistance to NCF&GC.
- Interest is under budget as interest rates have fallen. Extra term deposits will provide more interest income in the future as they fall due.
- Rent Received is from yard lease in Cromwell. Budgets have not yet been adjusted for the sale of the Dunedin office and associated loss in rental returns
- RMA costs Reimbursed is NZC payment towards Regional Policy Statement work.

#### ***Donations and Grants (not in budget)***

<b>Donation/Grant from</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Amount GST excl</b>
Otago Community Trust	Take A Kid Fishing	\$2,900
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,900</b>

## **Expenses**

Expenditure at the 31<sup>st</sup> December for the 2024/25 financial year is \$948,868 against a year to date budget of \$960,194. Expenditure at 98%.

The budget was approved before expenses of Dunedin rental and building costs were planned.

The main reasons for any variances are:

- Species Management – Hatchery operations are high from a large fish food purchase. Most work on species management at this stage of the year is labour.
- Habitat Protection – RMA spending includes that claimed from NZC for Regional Policy Statement work. Works and Management is high due to expensive ground maintenance at the Wanaka hatchery site.
- Participation – Training events and club relations look overspent, but we had a grant of \$2,900 from Otago Community Trust towards Take A Kid Fishing events. Club relations is high due to new stock of give aways for events.
- Public interface. No spending in this area yet only work hours.
- Licencing – Commission is made up from 5% agent sales commission and bank fees associated with online sales.
- Council expenses – Two meetings have been held.
- Planning and Reporting – Some end of year accountancy assistance and the audit.
- Over Heads/Administration- Salaries -One less salary for the start of the year. Staff employment expense is high from assistance in employing a new staff member. Office premises – This now includes office rent in Dunedin, not part of the approved budget. Also includes office insurance cleaning power, rates and rental of storage space.
- Approved Reserves Expenses - \$15,601. This is expenditure approved by the council for the Bendigo, Bullock Creek and some Otago Property and RMA Reserves.
- Depreciation – Depreciation year to date is \$19,242.
- Levies to NZC – paid monthly as per budget. \$401,962 excl GST.

The profit and loss for the 4 months ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 shows a surplus of \$681,836.

## **Balance Sheet**

### ***Bank Funds Position at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024***

<b>Bank</b>	<b>Value</b>
ANZ 00 Account	\$143,143.75
ANZ 70 Account	\$470,355.27
ASB Account	\$75.57
Cash On Hand	\$50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$613,624.59</b>

### ***Term Investments as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024***

<b>Investment Bank</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Maturity</b>
ANZ 1002	\$206,150	5.15%	20 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2025
ANZ 1003	\$500,000	5.55%	6 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
ASB 81	\$206,083	5.95%	2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2025
ASB 82	\$500,000	5.40%	10 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2025
ASB 83	\$300,000	5.25%	20 <sup>th</sup> Nove 2025
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,712,233</b>		

### ***Fixed Assets and Capital Expenditure***

\$37,190 remained from the previous year, \$2,835 extra was budgeted for 2024/25. The asset replacement fund is at \$14,065. The total includes the purchase and sale of ford ranger trucks.

Land and building transactions are not part of the asset replacement fund.

### ***Liabilities***

Total Liabilities at 31<sup>st</sup> December are \$327,407.

- Other payables include visa card spending, accrued accounting and audit fee expenses and income in advance.
- Employee Entitlements includes \$53,121 of outstanding leave entitlements and accrued leave reversal from the previous year.
- Designated Waters liabilities are money owed to other regions for licences relating to their regions but sold in Otago.

**New Zealand Fish and Game Council Legal Fund Grant – Paid as Required**

Agreed by the NZC June 2024 \$37,500

	To Use 2024/25	Used	Remaining
<b>Regional Policy Statement NZC Legal Fund</b>	\$20,510	\$19,215.83	\$1,293.87

**Equity****Otago Fish and Game Reserves 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

<b>Otago Reserves Movements</b>	<b>Balance 1<sup>st</sup>September 2024</b>	<b>Income (To) Reserve</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>Outgoing (From) Reserve</b>	<b>Balance 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024</b>
<b>Non-resident DW Levy</b>	\$314,913	\$17,809	1	\$11,952	\$320,770
<b>Habitat Enhancement &amp; Research</b>	\$22,692	\$550	2	\$0	\$23,242
<b>Bullock Creek Reserve Restricted Reserve</b>	\$1,777	\$0	3	\$522	\$1,255
<b>Bendigo Reserve Restricted Reserve</b>	\$22,508	\$0	8	\$2,716	\$19,792
<b>Priority Consents Reserve</b>	\$34,190	\$0	7	\$0	\$34,190
<b>Otago Property Reserves</b>	\$1,008,566	\$0	4	\$84,415	\$924,151
<b>Priority Plan Changes</b>	\$24,539	\$0	6	\$0	\$24,539
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,429,185</b>	<b>\$18,359</b>		<b>\$99,605</b>	<b>\$1,024,169</b>

Note 1 Income is from designated water licence sales. \$5000 a year for five years for the Dr Donald Scott University Fund. Agreed by Council May 2021. 2024/25 is year four. 2024/25 Budget allows for \$23,000 for designated waters monitoring.

Note 2 Balance is \$23,242. Less committed but not yet paid out of \$4,000 so balance of \$19,242 available for dispersal by way of grants.

Note 3 Bullock Creek council approved OF&GC HEF funding February 2024 \$3,500.

Note 4 Otago Property Reserve – Funds from historical and recent property sales, dedicated to acquiring and maintaining land and building assets in Otago. Wanka subdivision \$11,084, Office build and rent \$72,016 + others \$1,316

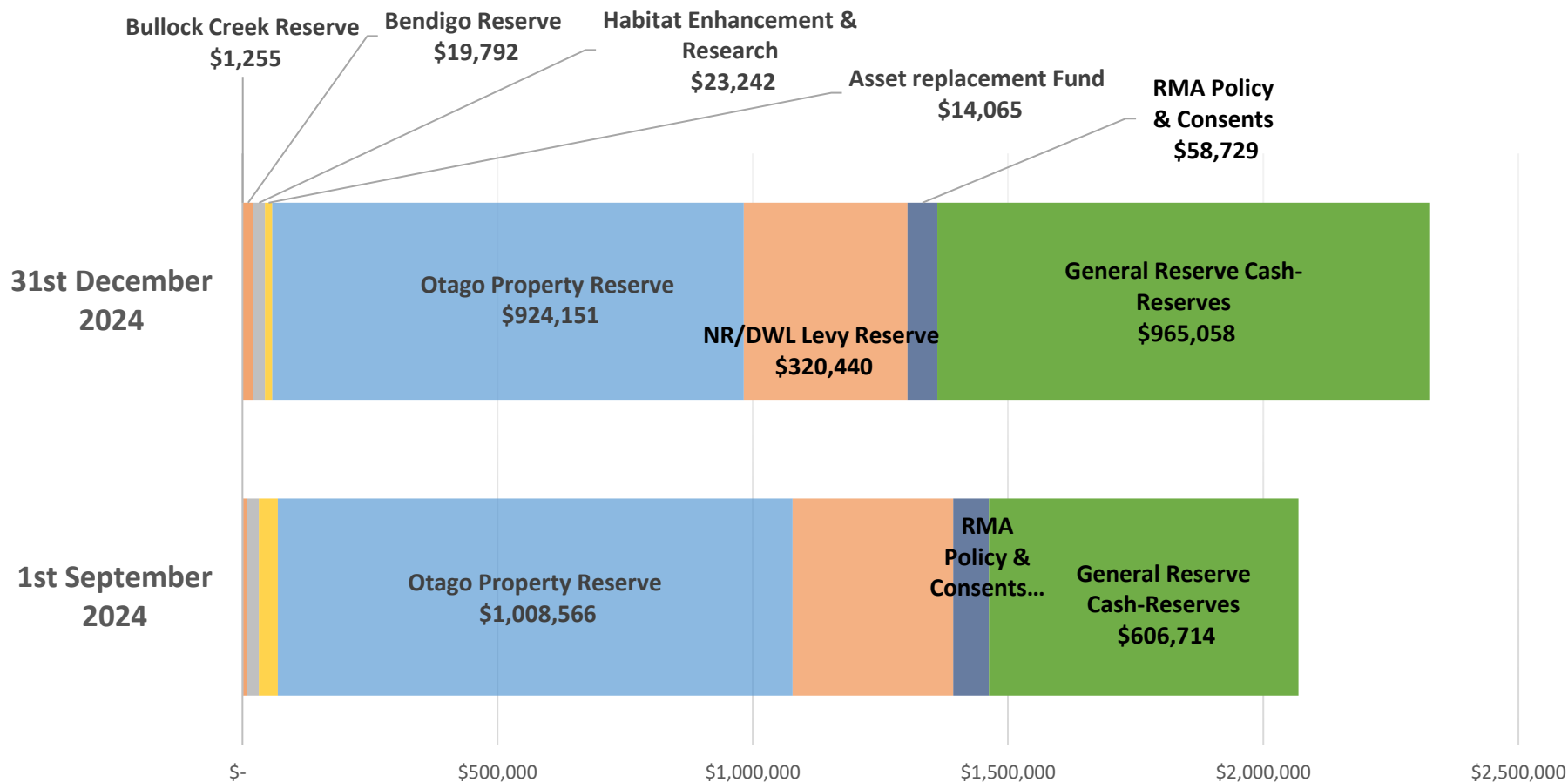
Note 6 OF&GC agreed to \$120,000 May 2020. NZC notified. \$81,000 agreed to be spent by council September 2020. This reserve is not required now and has been agreed by council (May 2024) to be used by Regional Policy Statement.

Note 7 OF&GC agreed to \$60,000 May 2020. NZC notified. This reserve is not required now and has been agreed by council (May 2024) to be used on Regional Policy Statement work.

Note 8 Bendigo May 2022 \$3,414 and March 2023 \$3,000 council agreed to Habitat Enhancement funds for Bendigo. ORC 2nd Eco Fund \$5,000 June 2024



## DRAFT MOVEMENT IN RESERVES FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2024 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2024



# Balance Sheet

## Otago Fish and Game Council

As at 31 December 2024

	31 DEC 2024	31 AUG 2024
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Bank	613,625	1,663,253
<b>Receivables</b>		
Accounts Receivable	534,457	202,738
<b>Total Receivables</b>	<b>534,457</b>	<b>202,738</b>
GST	-	32,465
Investments	1,712,233	406,083
Inventory	27,710	27,710
Accrued Interest	6,523	6,523
Accounts Receivable - Other	279	-
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>2,894,826</b>	<b>2,338,773</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Property Plant & Equipment	2,126,875	2,124,360
Approved Building WIP Mosgiel	36,516	-
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>2,163,390</b>	<b>2,124,360</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>5,058,216</b>	<b>4,463,133</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	15,850	80,178
Other Payables	177,738	243,926
Employee Entitlements	74,067	90,055
Rounding	-	-
Salmon Endorsement	1,543	-
Designated Waters other regions	1,995	-
GST	56,213	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>327,407</b>	<b>414,159</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>327,407</b>	<b>414,159</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>4,730,810</b>	<b>4,048,974</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>		
Accumulated Funds	3,204,580	1,548,016
Current Year Earnings	681,836	1,656,565
Transfer (To)/From Reserves	(511,751)	(621,979)
<b>Total Accumulated Funds</b>	<b>3,374,664</b>	<b>2,582,601</b>
<b>Dedicated Reserves</b>		
Non Resident Levy Reserve	314,913	314,913
Habitat Enhancement & Research	23,242	22,692

	31 DEC 2024	31 AUG 2024
Priority Plan Changes Reserve	24,539	24,539
Priority Consents Reserve	34,190	34,190
Otago Property Reserve (was Historical Property Reserve)	924,151	1,008,566
Asset Replacement Funding	14,065	37,190
<b>Total Dedicated Reserves</b>	<b>1,335,099</b>	<b>1,442,089</b>
<b>Restricted Reserves</b>		
Bullock Creek Reserve	1,254	1,776
Bendigo Reserve	19,792	22,508
<b>Total Restricted Reserves</b>	<b>21,047</b>	<b>24,285</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>4,730,810</b>	<b>4,048,974</b>

# Profit and Loss

## Otago Fish and Game Council For the 4 months ended 31 December 2024

	NOV 2024	DEC 2024	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
<b>Income</b>								
<b>Licence Sales</b>								
Fish Licence Sales	283,303	354,245	1,579,565	1,584,264	(4,699)	100%	2,090,400	2,052,245
Non-Resident Licence Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,909
Designated Water Licence Sales	3,687	5,800	17,809	-	17,809	-	-	40,340
Game Licence Sales	164	18	183	-	183	-	380,682	370,260
<b>Total Licence Sales</b>	<b>287,155</b>	<b>360,063</b>	<b>1,597,556</b>	<b>1,584,264</b>	<b>13,292</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>2,471,082</b>	<b>2,464,754</b>
<b>Other Income</b>								
Wages Reimbursement	-	-	2,783	-	2,783	-	-	15,743
Contact Energy Mitigation Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90,868
Govt Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Interest Income	1,007	770	10,763	19,320	(8,557)	56%	57,966	59,739
Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	-	-	-	168	(168)	-	500	2,700
Rent Received	500	500	2,000	14,148	(12,148)	14%	42,450	45,207
Fishing Competitions	240	-	674	-	674	-	-	1,119
Depreciation Recovered on Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	475,880
Donations ,bequests and other Fundraising	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,929
Merchandise Sales/Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
RMA Costs Reimbursed	14,812	1,322	20,537	-	20,537	-	-	16,990
Sundry Income	-	44	44	-	44	-	-	2,227
Diversion - Habitat Enhancement and Research Fund	550	-	550	-	550	-	-	15,100
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>17,110</b>	<b>2,635</b>	<b>37,350</b>	<b>33,636</b>	<b>3,714</b>	<b>111%</b>	<b>100,916</b>	<b>748,544</b>

	NOV 2024	DEC 2024	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Capital Gains on Sale of Assets	-	(4,203)	(4,203)	-	(4,203)	-	-	1,202,472
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>304,265</b>	<b>358,495</b>	<b>1,630,703</b>	<b>1,617,900</b>	<b>12,803</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>2,571,998</b>	<b>4,415,771</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>304,265</b>	<b>358,495</b>	<b>1,630,703</b>	<b>1,617,900</b>	<b>12,803</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>2,571,998</b>	<b>4,415,771</b>
<b>Expenses</b>								
<b>Species Management</b>								
Population Monitoring	-	-	-	500	(500)	-	13,000	9,311
Monitor key fisheries/Research Liaison	-	-	-	668	(668)	-	1,000	-
Harvest Assessment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,200
Hatchery Operations	1,020	2,093	6,128	5,666	462	108%	10,000	(6,597)
Releases	273	-	532	750	(218)	71%	1,000	951
Game Bird Control compliants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,241
<b>Total Species Management</b>	<b>1,292</b>	<b>2,093</b>	<b>6,660</b>	<b>7,584</b>	<b>(924)</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>10,106</b>
<b>Habitat Protection &amp; Mngt</b>								
Contact Sports Fish Management Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,492
Resource Mngt Act	11,645	2,414	21,699	336	21,363	6,458%	1,000	17,970
Works & Management	889	2,645	4,254	4,164	90	102%	12,500	9,846
Habitat Enhancement Research Fund Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,649
<b>Total Habitat Protection &amp; Mngt</b>	<b>12,534</b>	<b>5,059</b>	<b>25,953</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>21,453</b>	<b>577%</b>	<b>13,500</b>	<b>99,957</b>
<b>Participation</b>								
Access and Signage	192	128	449	1,036	(587)	43%	3,000	1,061
Back Country Surveys/Monitoring	4,301	-	6,952	12,500	(5,548)	56%	25,000	20,259
Promotion Articles and Advertising	-	-	-	200	(200)	-	500	241
Publications and Web Site	-	-	120	-	120	-	-	924
OF&G Training Events	364	29	2,117	1,900	217	111%	2,000	3,020
Club Relations and Grants	217	-	466	400	66	116%	1,000	1,650

	NOV 2024	DEC 2024	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Wetland Reserve Ballots	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
<b>Total Participation</b>	<b>5,074</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>10,105</b>	<b>16,036</b>	<b>(5,931)</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>31,500</b>	<b>27,177</b>
<b>PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>								
<b>Liaison</b>								
Liaison DoC Unin Govt CFT IWI	-	-	-	300	(300)	-	1,000	41
<b>Total Liaison</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>(300)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Communication</b>								
World Wetlands	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	27
<b>Total Communication</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Media Releases</b>								
Advocacy Statutory	-	-	-	200	(200)	-	500	-
Weekly Fishing Reports/ social media	350	420	1,820	2,400	(580)	76%	6,000	4,375
Communications Strategy	-	-	1,100	-	1,100	-	-	15,398
Media Release	-	140	140	-	140	-	-	-
<b>Total Media Releases</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>3,060</b>	<b>2,600</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>118%</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>19,773</b>
<b>Total PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>560</b>	<b>3,060</b>	<b>2,900</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>106%</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>19,841</b>
<b>COMPLIANCE</b>								
Ranger Training and Expenses	-	-	246	2,500	(2,254)	10%	5,500	2,828
Compliance	-	-	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	10,000	8,250
<b>Total COMPLIANCE</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>(7,254)</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>15,500</b>	<b>11,078</b>
<b>LICENCING</b>								
Designated Waters IT Build	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,023
Agent Servicing	32	53	85	250	(165)	34%	250	252
Commission/Fees	9,519	11,276	53,584	66,892	(13,308)	80%	98,843	89,251
<b>Total LICENCING</b>	<b>9,551</b>	<b>11,329</b>	<b>53,669</b>	<b>67,142</b>	<b>(13,473)</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>99,093</b>	<b>110,525</b>

	NOV 2024	DEC 2024	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
<b>COUNCIL</b>								
Elections Council	-	-	-	500	(500)	-	500	-
Council Meetings and Agendas	1,877	426	4,984	5,000	(16)	100%	15,000	14,103
<b>Total COUNCIL</b>	<b>1,877</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>4,984</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>(516)</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>15,500</b>	<b>14,103</b>
<b>PLANNING &amp; REPORTING</b>								
Reporting/Audit	11,896	-	16,196	16,000	196	101%	18,000	16,156
National Liason	-	-	-	200	(200)	-	500	266
<b>Total PLANNING &amp; REPORTING</b>	<b>11,896</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,196</b>	<b>16,200</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>18,500</b>	<b>16,421</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>								
Salaries	70,899	72,544	278,725	327,276	(48,551)	85%	981,843	951,670
<b>Staff Expenses</b>								
ACC Levy	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,500	1,931
Fringe Benefit Tax	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,000	6,156
Staff Training	152	-	1,649	3,000	(1,351)	55%	8,000	6,765
Staff Clothing Branded	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,358
Staff Personal Expenses	-	(279)	(279)	-	(279)	-	-	-
Staff Expenses	528	888	1,707	3,000	(1,293)	57%	8,000	9,120
Staff Employment Expenses	60	2,854	7,020	1,000	6,020	702%	1,000	5,488
Employee Assistance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,000
<b>Total Staff Expenses</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>3,464</b>	<b>10,097</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>3,097</b>	<b>144%</b>	<b>27,500</b>	<b>46,818</b>
Office Premices	16,959	12,923	67,090	38,916	28,174	172%	87,689	91,664
Office Equipemnt	61	45	959	1,200	(241)	80%	2,000	3,463
Communications	890	1,851	5,453	7,772	(2,319)	70%	23,200	19,740
General Exp (incl Insurance)	174	306	950	2,200	(1,250)	43%	3,600	14,350
General Field Equipment	-	-	-	1,264	(1,264)	-	3,300	2,769

	NOV 2024	DEC 2024	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Vehicles	2,380	4,186	22,914	25,668	(2,754)	89%	55,000	51,560
<b>Total ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>92,104</b>	<b>95,319</b>	<b>386,189</b>	<b>411,296</b>	<b>(25,107)</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>1,184,132</b>	<b>1,182,034</b>
Approved Reserve Expense	229	1,463	15,601	-	15,601	-	-	43,052
Depreciation	5,049	4,935	19,242	19,576	(334)	98%	58,724	56,784
Loss on Disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,169
NZ Fish & Game Levies	100,491	100,491	401,962	401,960	2	100%	1,205,887	1,161,958
University of Otago Research Grant	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>245,446</b>	<b>221,831</b>	<b>948,868</b>	<b>960,194</b>	<b>(11,326)</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>2,675,036</b>	<b>2,759,206</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>58,818</b>	<b>136,665</b>	<b>681,836</b>	<b>657,706</b>	<b>24,130</b>	<b>104%</b>	<b>(103,038)</b>	<b>1,656,565</b>



## **9.2 Debtors**

No doubtful debts from agents.

No doubtful debts in the general accounts

## **9.3 Licence Sales**

### ***Fish Licence Sales 2024/25 Season to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024***

See table following for fish licence sales numbers and categories for the 2024/25 and 2023/24 season sales to the 31<sup>st</sup> December of the season.

Fish licence sales for the 2024/25 Season were delayed. Sales began on 22nd July 2024 for both online and in agencies. Prices have increased for each category and there are no category changes.

Designated Waters are \$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 and DWLN relate to resident and non resident designated water licences (DWL) sold in Otago, some are for other regions.

In summary, 2024/25 fishing licence sales, in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs), 11,601, LEQs this season compared with 11,950 LEQs to the 31<sup>st</sup> December of the previous season - 349 LEQs behind last year.

A large drop in resident full season adult and family but an increase in loyal Senior, local area and short break licences. Junior resident licences are well up.

All non resident licences categories are up.

Designated water licences are down for both resident and non resident.

## **9.4 Audit Management Report**

The audit management report from BDO has been circulated to Councillors separately. Several very minor matters were noted (which staff can easily address) otherwise it is a positive audit report and it is thereby recommended for adoption by Council.

### **Recommendations**

- 1. That the Finance Report and Licence Report to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 be received.**
- 2. That the Council receives and adopts the BDO Audit Management Report for 2023/24 financial year.**

Sharon Milne - Administration Officer

14/01/2025

## Otago Region Fish Licence Sales to the 31st December of the Season

**2024/25**

Sales	FWFA	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	DWLR	DWLN	Total	Fish LEQ
Public	1665	2094	328	348	298	23	198	992	926	585	37	145	69	19	44	0	1353	195	9319	5,992
Agency	1637	2359	83	784	128	10	65	182	248	366	12	25	24	5	12	355	1113	66	7474	5,608
<b>Total</b>	<b>3302</b>	<b>4453</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>1132</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>1174</b>	<b>1174</b>	<b>951</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>2466</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>16793</b>	<b>11,601</b>

**2023/24**

Sales	FWFA	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	DWLR	DWLN	Total	Fish LEQ
Public	1650	1963	314	354	250	20	171	977	786	409	23	123	40	8	22	0	1315	243	8668	5,665
Agency	1944	2693	88	730	134	7	64	208	259	316	7	26	20	6	15	484	1324	28	8353	6,285
<b>Total</b>	<b>3594</b>	<b>4656</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>1084</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>1185</b>	<b>1045</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>2639</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>17021</b>	<b>11,950</b>

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

## 10.0 Chief Executives Report

### 10.1 SPECIES MANAGEMENT

#### Gamebird monitoring

By the time of the meeting the gamebird monitoring flights will have been completed. If the Paradise shelduck numbers are within the bounds confirmed by Council at the last meeting the regulations will be recommended as unchanged from last season.

Councillors have raised gamebird monitoring a number of times and there is a review of our monitoring proposed for this year. Staff have put together a basic report on what is presently being done to bring all Councillors up to date at the planning meeting.

Inward correspondence from NZC also contains a letter which provides an update on the topic and the NZC direction on gamebird monitoring. I have included this as it may have an impact on the planning meeting discussion and any final report on our local monitoring efforts.

#### Angler surveys

Interviews of lakes anglers continue to be undertaken, particularly at Lake Hawea as planned. Angler numbers are generally lighter than we have seen on the lakes, especially over the summer break but the weather hasn't been particularly good either.



#### Regulations

The final drafts of Gazette Notices needs to be with NZC by the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 which is a tight timeframe after the flight counts. Fortunately, the Council is well placed with the regulations already agreed unless the monitoring counts fall wildly out of the normal range.

#### Bird Flu outbreak

The outbreak of HPAI (H7N6 strain) in a north Otago poultry farm appears under control. This has been a useful soft test for the Ministry of Primary Industry in management of an outbreak. NZC has been providing regular updates to councillors and F&G staff about this response and the management of the more lethal H5N1 strain of the influenza should it reach New Zealand shores.

## **10.2 HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT**

### **RMA update**

[See separate report under 11.0]

### **Clutha Lagoon**

I have opened the lines of communication with the ORC regarding a project on the lower Clutha Lagoons. My hope is that the response will be positive about an enhancement project and it can move towards an introductory meeting between agencies and stakeholders. At this stage there has been no reply. I will be following that up.

## **10.3 USER PARTICIPATION**

### **Designated Waters implementation**

Monitoring and compliance is underway with surveys in the Nevis and Greenstone/Caples, Wilkin, Hunter and Dingle having been completed and no compliance issues have been detected.

### **Publications**

Articles for the gamebird edition the F&G magazine are presently being written. This will include short obituaries for Alan Hammond and Monty Wright. Weekly river reports and monthly ezines for angling are being distributed with the former becoming very popular. Staff would be happy to take comment on content.

### **Guides licence**

Following a query at the last council meeting a sought an update from NZC on the Guides Licence. The response is covered in inward correspondence.

## **10.4 PUBLIC INTERFACE**

### **Advocacy**

Media releases continue to flow and Otago coverage has been very positive over the summer break. This included some larger articles in the ODT Summer Times.

### **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Trout Fishing in Otago**

While proving a challenge in terms of timing and resources, the 105<sup>th</sup> celebration was a great success. The licence giveaway, full page ODT article and the re enactment covered by television news were well received. Credit must go to our Communications Officer for bringing together the various limbs and I'll take this opportunity to thank Cr Highton for dressing up as an 'old' angler for the occasion.



### **World Wetlands Day event, Bullock Creek Wetland, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025**

A joint effort between Friends of Bullock Creek and F&G is proposed to celebrate World Wetlands Day at Bullock Creek. There will be food and addresses from FOBC and F&G and guided walks of the wetland. It would be good have some Councillors attend.

## **10.5 COMPLIANCE**

### **Prosecutions**

Compliance has been exceptionally good over the summer break so the prosecution workload is presently light. Staff and rangers continue to be active in the field and now the weather is settling we should see a bit more activity from anglers.

## **10.6 LICENCING**

Licence sales are recovering from a slow start across the South Island and are now only marginally behind, including in Otago. (see finance report). The wet spring and high rivers is one contributing factor but reduced recreational spending overall is also a likely cause.

## **10.7 COUNCIL**

### **Staffing**

The Cromwell based Operations Manager is coming to grips with the work and the area quickly and has advanced a number of matters including the Bendigo Management Plan notification. He will attend the January planning meeting so Councillors will have another opportunity to talk to him there.

### **Property Update**

The Wanaka section is still awaiting title to be issued before we can move to disposal.

The consents have been lodged for the new building and if that process runs smoothly then we should still be on track to exit the current building in mid November this year.

***CE to update***

## **10.8 PLANNING AND REPORTING**

### **Annual plan development**

There is a separate Planning Meeting Agenda attached with some background papers to digest ahead of the Sunday planning session. Just a reminder that councillors should be thinking high level about outcomes for the 25/26 workplan rather than individual projects. With the 2023-2026 strategic direction being set, this shouldn't be a major exercise.

### **Next Council Meeting**

The next Council meeting is in Dunedin on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025. This will be the Council's opportunity to see the draft operational workplan and budget for 25/26 financial year. That will be submitted to NZC to go into the licence fee calculations

### **Recommendation**

***That this report be received***

**Ian Hadland  
Chief Executive  
January 2025**

## 11.0 RMA Planning and Consents Report

### Planning and Consenting Report 11 November 2024 – 15 January 2025

#### Current Legislation, Policy and Planning Processes

##### *Otago Regional Policy Statement (ORPS)*

An update can be provided in the public excluded section of the meeting if required, as RPS processes are being currently mediated.

Aside from staff attending mediation, there has been no significant progression since the Council last met to discuss these processes.

##### *Sports Fish and Game Management Plan (SGMP) 2025*

Since the last report, staff have completed an analysis of the SFGMP 2015 and the New Zealand Fish and Game Council guidance on developing SFGMPs has been adopted into national policy. As a result, staff have produced a document to begin initial consultation and begun thinking about the broad framework of the SFGMP 2025. A report has been generated for Councillors with several questions on initial direction to consider.

#### Current Notification Processes

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
Otago Regional Council notifications		
The Dunedin City Council	A publicly notified consent to operate, close and provide after-life care for the Green Island Landfill	A neutral submission was written by staff which provides helpful information to inform a positive decision on the consent. I note that a sitting Councillor has also made a submission on the consent, as is their right. Staff have confirmed that this is in a private capacity. Provided the Councillor and staff manage any arising conflicts of interest, I do not foresee any complications arising from the two submissions.
Queenstown Lakes District Council		
The Queenstown Lakes District Council	A variation to the landscape schedules of the Upper Clutha	A submission was written seeking that significant fisheries and spawning sites in the area be recognised within the schedule.



**Written Approval Provided During the Period**

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
<b>Otago Regional Council applications</b>		
Central Otago District Council	To discharge treated wastewater to land for the purpose of disposing of wastewater from the Champagne Gully Recreational Area public toilets.	Staff reviewed the application and found no issues. Affected party approval was provided.
Appleton Dairy	To clear aquatic weeds from Stony Creek	Staff negotiated conditions to return fish back to the stream if removed and limit stream bed disturbance. On acceptance by the applicant, written party approval was provided.
<b>Queenstown Lakes District Council</b>		
Wanaka Water Taxis	To add another vessel to the current water taxi operation.	Staff reviewed the application and found no issues. 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**  
**15 January 2025**



## 12.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

### 12.1 CFT – Ian Cole (Chair)

1. The trust has engaged Wildlands Consultants to assess shorebirds and waterfowl of Lake Dunstan. This is a project that has not been done and trustees felt long overdue. Approx \$14,000.
2. BWMR - The trust continues to support Otago Fish and Games management plan for this area to the tune of \$15,000/annum.
3. Additionally, a couple of years ago, the trust has identified, with Fish and Game staff the removal of several willow trees [ 48] between Gilmour Road and Amisfield access suitable for removal. Aim is to open up this shoreline as it is becoming grossly overgrown. The trust had hoped to coordinate with the Cycle Trails Trust but that work has now been postponed. Options have been discussed to possibly poison those trees first. LINZ approval was given and the Trust now seeks to extend that period [ initially 2 years. ORC will be contacted.
4. Wanaka Lake Snow Trustees are keen to engage some scientific research into this issue. Again, ORC will be contacted to see if they have any concern and identify any work they may have outlined.
5. Anglers Survey of Lake Dunstan. Trustees hoped that these would be forthcoming. Ian Hadland to report back to identify when that would be. While trustees recognise that this is a core function of Fish and Game they considered potential financial assistance to this.
6. Anglers Access - Trustees have identified historical legal access sites on the Upper Clutha and will continue to maintain and further negotiate others.
7. Nevis Non Migratory Galaxiid Restoration Project – ORC. Trustees have some concern that the current project unduly focusses on trout removal with little focus on longer term strategy. To that end CFT proposes to co-ordinate a 1.5 day Non Migratory Galaxiid Workshop in March with invitations to a number of interested parties. Fish and Game will clearly be one of those parties.

## **12.2 NZC - Cr Barker**

NZC Meeting #171 was held over Friday/Saturday December 13/14.  
Summary of important decisions.

### **1. Election of Chair and Executive.**

### **2. Reports etc presented or adopted;**

- Fatigue Management Guidelines adopted
- New Risk Register
- Establishment of a national Sportsfish and Gamebird monitoring program
- RMA update. New budget request for \$98K for support engagement in the RM Reform 3 and National Direction work (NPS-FWM replacement).
- Licence holder survey report presented (conducted in Sept 2024 and prepared by Dr Humphrey Walker)
- NZIER report presented
- Staff development grant applications (Jayde Couper [Otolith preparation] and Adam Daniel [aquatic invasive species] both strongly supported.
- SFGMP Policy guidance adopted
- NZ Gamebird Habitat Trust Board report adopted. Habitat stamp \$5; Photographic competition to be run for 2027
- NZ Gamebird Habitat Trust Board report adopted. Habitat stamp \$5; Photographic competition to be run for 2027
- Maritime NZ update. Maritime NZ audit found 2 significant H & S related findings: lack of uniformity policy in F & G re trip reporting; fatigue management plan and drug and alcohol policies
- NZ Communications report

## **12.3 Ngai Tahu – Paulette Tamati-Elliffe**

## **12.4 Conservation Board**

## 12.5 Clutha Mata-Au Sportsfish and Habitat Trust – Rick Boyd (Chair)

### Key Milestones 2024

- Trust documents were finally signed by Contact Energy and the inaugural Trustees, and the Trust was registered in February. The Trust's formation marked Contact Energy's intent to provide a fit for purpose structure to support lower Clutha sportsfish and habitat mitigation as set out in its Resource Consent conditions.
- Tania Murphy was contracted to provide financial and administrative services to the Trust and has been a big help to me and the Trust over the year.
- Trust initial Business Plan completed in June and approved by Trustees, setting out in broad terms the Trust's plans for the next three years. The business plan contained a range of projects for the 2024-25 funding year within each of its funding categories that will be contracted out to external parties, including to Otago Fish and Game. It is expected that the business plan will be fine-tuned and adjusted annually.
- The Trust commenced the process of opening a bank account with Westpac Bank in April and after much form filling the Trust Bank account with Westpac was finally opened in early August.
- The Trust provided a copy of its business plan and budget to Contact Energy in June for approval and to support its initial funding allocation request.
- The Funding Agreement which provides the Trust's operational budget was finally signed by Contact Energy on 31 July and the Trust subsequently invoiced Contact in August for its 2024-25 annual funding. Contact paid the invoice and deposited the annual funding in the Trust's bank account on 30 September. Thanks to Otago Fish and Game for bankrolling the Trust in the interim.
- At a meeting in June, the Trust approved a quote from Cawthron Institute to undertake a science-based assessment to determine if a salmon hatchery was the best means of achieving the Trust purposes. Dr Robin Holmes final report was received on 25 October. The report was excellent and confirmed that a hatchery was the best means of achieving the Trust purposes.
- In the past two months I held discussions with Otago Fish and Game on the projects that will be contracted to OF&G. I have received costings for each project – the OF&G costs all fall within the approved Trust budgets.
- As the OF&G costs all fall within the Trust approved budget, I have advised Ian Hadland that their quotes are accepted. Contracts/work orders from the Trust to OF&G for each project will be finalised in January after discussion with Contact's Jenny Bullock regarding health and safety requirements. I will seek Trustee approval for the final signoff with OF&G.
- Mike Barker has progressed discussions with Otago University on the Trust funding a PhD scholarship for a project on fish populations/ecology in the lower Clutha River. This is a key Trust project aimed at updating knowledge of the fish populations in the lower Clutha and how they may have changed since before the Clyde Dam was constructed. A draft agreement with the University has been prepared and the scholarship advertised. One application has been received so far. The formal agreement with the University will be finalised when a suitable PhD candidate has been found.

## **12.6 Tiaki Maniototo - Cr Highton**

- Planting season was very successful
- Christmas get together was held at Patearoa School on Dec 12 and was well attended
- Summer Festival will be at Patearoa Saturday Jan 18 with Fish and Game in attendance
- First meeting for the year is 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025
- We need to ensure that we make a date for the Takitakitoa visit

## 13.0 Correspondence

### 13.1 NZC to Otago

#### 13.1.1 Guides Licence

From: Corina Jordan <[cjordan@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:cjordan@fishandgame.org.nz)>  
 Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 3:30 PM  
 To: Ian Hadland <[ihadland@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:ihadland@fishandgame.org.nz)>; Richie Cosgrove <[rcosgrove@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:rcosgrove@fishandgame.org.nz)>  
 Cc: Adrian McIntyre <[point.farm@outlook.co.nz](mailto:point.farm@outlook.co.nz)>  
 Subject: Re: Guides Licence

Happy New Year Ian,

I hope you had a great Christmas and New Years break.

The draft Guides Licence has been socialised with DOC and has gone to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing to seek his initial views. I understand that the NZPFGA have been lobbying the Minister as well. The president of the NZPFGA also pitched a “Guides licence” to MP’s at the Parliamentary Fish, as part of his presentation on the value of freshwater angling to NZ.

At this stage the future of the Guides Licence rests with the Minister for Hunting and Fishing (s48A Conservation Act). Our understanding is that the Minister is considering alignment/ synergies with guide licencing for big game hunting. We are in discussions with the GAC on this. The Minister is also considering any guide licencing conditions with an eye to NZ’s international obligations, especially in relation to our Australian neighbours.

I am happy to discuss this with you, and brainstorm ideas on guide management, or alternatives approaches depending on the issues you may be experiencing.

North Canterbury for example, have put in place a controlled fishery (trial) for two river systems in order to manage pressure. There was concern that this would benefit guides. The initial review has found that out of 120 days available, guides only utilised the fishery for 9 days, the remainder being non guided NZ anglers.

Kind regards

Corina Jordan | Chief Executive  
 New Zealand Fish and Game Council  
 Level 2, Dominion Building, 78 Victoria Street, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 25-055, Wellington 6140  
 Mobile 021 426 350  
 E [cjordan@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:cjordan@fishandgame.org.nz) | W [www.fishandgame.org.nz](http://www.fishandgame.org.nz)

### 13.1.2 National Gamebird Monitoring Programme

**To:** Jayde Couper <[icouper@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:icouper@fishandgame.org.nz)>; Richie Cosgrove <[rcosgrove@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:rcosgrove@fishandgame.org.nz)>  
**Cc:** Ian Hadland <[ihadland@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:ihadland@fishandgame.org.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: National gamebird monitoring programme

Hey Jayde,

Happy New Year. Hope you had a great Christmas/ New Years break.  
 Thanks for the email.

What's the timeframe for your work? I am currently working to an end of Feb 2025 deadline to have a draft out for regional technical consultation.

Process:

- 2023 Regional teams empowered to work together to create SOP's – workshop on this at the 2023 Staff Conference;
- Information has been collated and a number of SOPs are drafted, but this work has paused I think mainly due to resourcing constraints;
- I have now bought on external experts to review and collate this work into draft policy and advise on SOP's;
- I am keen to stand up a small F&G technical team to review this work and provide input prior to the policy being finalised for wider circulation to the regions;
- Draft Policy and SOPs to Regional Managers after technical input, for their feedback (20 March 2025)
- Draft Policy and SOPs to NZC following consultation with Regions and incorporating feedback (12 April 2025);
- NZC to consider draft Policy and SOPs and then if approved send to Regional Fish & Game Councils for consultation;
- Regional Council consultation (April/ May);
- Finale NZC decision (17, 18 June 2025).

I think therefore we could link you with the experts as you complete your work, which might be the most useful/ helpful for you and would also support the wider piece of work given your expertise?

Answers below:

- Has there been any progress on this? Yes as above
- What is the expected timeframe for the programme development? As above
- Who is responsible for leading the programme development? Project sponsor Corina. NZC Governance Research Sub Committee.
- Is the programme limited to population monitoring? Yes, at this stage. Though I am expecting recommendations on habitat monitoring may fall out of the work.

- What species are included in the programme? Mallards, Black Swan, Australasian Shoveler, Paradise Shelduck, Pukeko.

I have also asked a company called Precision Studios (Rik and his team) to design a research brief for consideration by F&G for funding. The intention of the research is to trial remote sensing and the latest in drone technology to assess bird populations and potentially salmon and trout spawning. The research brief will go to Regional Managers for consideration before going to NZC. If you are interested I can link you in with this work as well.

Kind regards

**Corina Jordan** | Chief Executive

**New Zealand Fish and Game Council**

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

**Mobile 021 426 350**

**E** [cjordan@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:cjordan@fishandgame.org.nz) | **W** [www.fishandgame.org.nz](http://www.fishandgame.org.nz)

## 13.2 Otago to NZC

### 13.2.1 Feedback Draft Sports Fish and Gamebird Management Plan Policy

**From:** Ian Hadland <ihadland@fishandgame.org.nz>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 December 2024 9:55 AM

**To:** NZ Fish & Game Council <nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz>; Adrian McIntyre <point.farm@outlook.co.nz>

**Cc:** Sharon Milne <smilne@fishandgame.org.nz>; Samantha May <smay@fishandgame.org.nz>

**Subject:** Feedback from Otago on Draft Sportsfish and Gamebird Management Plan Policy

Kia ora,

The Otago Council met on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and considered the four items bundled under ***Draft Sports Fish and Game Management Plan Policy***

Otago Council would like to thank NZC for appropriately using its coordination function to generate a generic set of instructions and guidelines to assist regions with replacing their SF&GMP's. This is already being used as we review our present plan and begin the consultation process.

There was some confusion as to whether this fitted the usual norms for policy (and therefore binding) when each region is distinctly unique, both for the management of wildlife, and its key relationships - particularly with mana whenua. It was also considered too prescriptive and detailed to be governance policy and was presented in a rather incoherent form.

It was eventually agreed;

1. To note the guidance, and thank the NZC for its development.
2. **Not** support it being adopted as National Policy.
3. Communicate that Otago will use the guidance documents in the replacement of its own 10 year plan.

Thank you  
Kia pai te ra

Ian Hadland | **Chief Executive**  
Otago Fish and Game Council  
PO Box 76, Dunedin

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



### 13.2.2 Filling Councillor Vacancies

**From:** Adrian McIntyre <[point.farm@outlook.co.nz](mailto:point.farm@outlook.co.nz)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 December 2024 7:40 am  
**To:** Colin Weatherall <[colinweatherall@xtra.co.nz](mailto:colinweatherall@xtra.co.nz)>; Ian Hadland <[ihadland@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:ihadland@fishandgame.org.nz)>  
**Subject:** FW: Filling Councillor Vacancies - full voting rights (Not Co-option)

**From:** Barrie Barnes <[BBarnes@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:BBarnes@fishandgame.org.nz)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 23 December 2024 12:07 pm  
**To:** Barrie Barnes <[BBarnes@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:BBarnes@fishandgame.org.nz)>  
**Subject:** Filling Councillor Vacancies - full voting rights (Not Co-option)

Kia ora tatou Fish & Game Regional Chairs,

The question has recently arisen, as to what the process is, to fill councillor vacancies (full voting rights) on a Fish & Game regional council. This may be as a result that a member(s), duly elected during the national elections, has resigned, regrettably passed away, or some other reason. The shortfall of regional councillors may also be because the full complement of councillors wasn't reached at the time of the national election, consequently no election for that region followed. The following process is not to be confused with co-option, that process will be detailed in another email in the new year.

**Replacement of a councillor following an extraordinary vacancy or vacancies:**

*1 - Per section 26ZA(5) of the Conservation Act 1987 and the Fish and Game Council Elections Regulations 1990 (regulation 24): A notice of the extraordinary vacancy or extraordinary vacancies that occurred is published in all the major daily newspapers in the Fish and Game region.*

*2 - That notice informs those licence holders eligible to vote (and the public generally) of the vacancy or vacancies and that an election will only be called if requested by a majority of the eligible voters.*

*3 - If after a suitable time period to enable the eligible voters the opportunity to provide feedback, there is a majority of eligible voters that request an election (covered by Section 26ZA(5)(a) of the Conservation Act 1987) then a by-election is to be held.*

*4 - Election is held in accordance with the Fish and Game Council Elections Regulations 1990.*

*5 - The result is declared by the Returning Officer, and the vacancies are filled with Councillors who have full rights as elected Councillors.*

*6 - Provide evidence to the NZ Council that all required processes were followed with the election of the councillors as per the New Zealand Council's function (section 26C(1)(d) of Conservation Act)*

**However, if there is not a majority of eligible voters who provide feedback to the notice in Step 2 above.**

***(The council may then appoint members by the provisions of 26ZA(5)(b) of the Conservation Act 1987 by)***

*3 - The Fish and Game Council gives public notice (2<sup>nd</sup> public notice) of its intention to fill the vacancy/vacancies identified in the earlier public notice in all the major daily newspapers in its region and names the prospective members.*

*4 - Following a suitable time period for feedback from eligible voters on the proposed appointed members, the council votes at a meeting to appoint the said person/s. As appointed, these Councillors have full voting rights – just as if they had been elected as Councillors through a three-yearly main election or a by-election.*

*5 - Provide evidence to the NZ Council that all required processes were followed with the appointment of the Councillors as per the New Zealand Council's function (section 26C(1)(d) of Conservation Act)*

***(Note: The above information has been compiled with the assistance of DOC Senior Policy Advisors)***

Ngā mihi

Barrie

**Barrie Barnes | Chair**

**New Zealand Fish and Game Council**

**Mobile 021 925 006**

**E [BBarnes@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:BBarnes@fishandgame.org.nz) W [www.fishandgame.org.nz](http://www.fishandgame.org.nz)**

**13.3 General Correspondence In**  
Nil

**13.4 General Correspondence Out**

Nil

## **14.0 Items to be Received or Noted**

### **14.1 2024 Southern Reservoir Take a Kid Fishing & Adult Beginner Spin Fishing Classes**

On the weekends of the 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> September and 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024, the Otago Fish & Game Council held four 'Take a Kid Fishing' (TAKF) events at the Southern Reservoir.

#### **Planning**

The DCC approved four Fish & Game Council TAKF events at the Southern Reservoir. A conditional agreement has been reached to use the venue for future events.

#### **Sponsorship**

The Otago Community Trust generously donated \$2,900.00 towards the event. The money was used for things such as toilet hire, traffic management, fish transportation.

#### **Promotion**

The TAKF day was promoted on the Otago Fish & Game Facebook page and an email was sent out to all the Dunedin Schools.

#### **Access**

The Southern Reservoir is closed for fishing for September. This is to facilitate the liberation of trout and help improve catch-rates for the events. The reservoir was visited randomly during this month and there was no evidence of unlawful fishing.

#### **Support**

Traffic Management & Control LTD supplies and erects all the road signage for the event. Hirepool supplied the toilets for the weekends. Green Island Lions provided hot food and organised a coffee car for the events.

#### **Entries**

All entries were taken online using "Survey Monkey". This captures details of the attendees so they can be later contacted for follow up surveys.

#### **Format of events**

There were four sessions over the two weekends (one session per day). All the sessions were held from 10 am to 12 pm. On the day of the event, participants were greeted by our friendly volunteer rangers and staff, signed in and then found a spot around the reservoir to fish.

The "Take Me Fishing" trailer was set up beside the registration table, children that didn't have a fishing rod or the rod they bought along was not suitable for trout fishing could borrow one for the event.

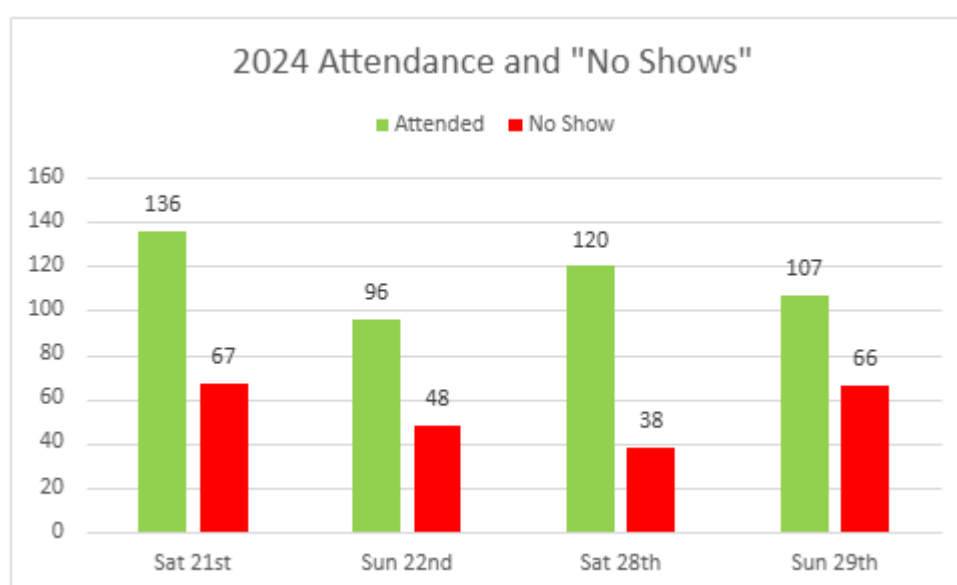
The TAKF trailer has 40 rod and reel sets for loan and many of the rods were used across the four sessions.

### Stocking of the Southern Reservoir

Approximately 600 two-year-old rainbow trout were set aside at the Macraes Trout Hatchery for the event. Four hundred fish were transported and released into the reservoir 5 days before the first event which was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September. Another 200 fish were released into the reservoir the week after the first weekend.

### Events

Date	Registered	Extra	No show	Total attend
Sept 21 <sup>st</sup>	190	13	67	136
Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup>	139	5	48	96
Sept 28 <sup>th</sup>	148	10	38	120
Sept 29 <sup>th</sup>	164	9	66	107
Total	641	37	219	459



*Figure 1: Attendance rates for all 4 sessions which includes extras*

The *no-show* rate jumped from 38% last year to 48% this year. It is unknown why the “*no show*” rate remains high each year. Some years this can be due to weather conditions but the weather this season was fine. With the Southern Reservoir being a small water body with limited access, child numbers from 110 – 130 are manageable.

### **Survey Results and feedback**

342 invitations were sent out to attendees via email to gather information about the event and there were 111 completed responses.

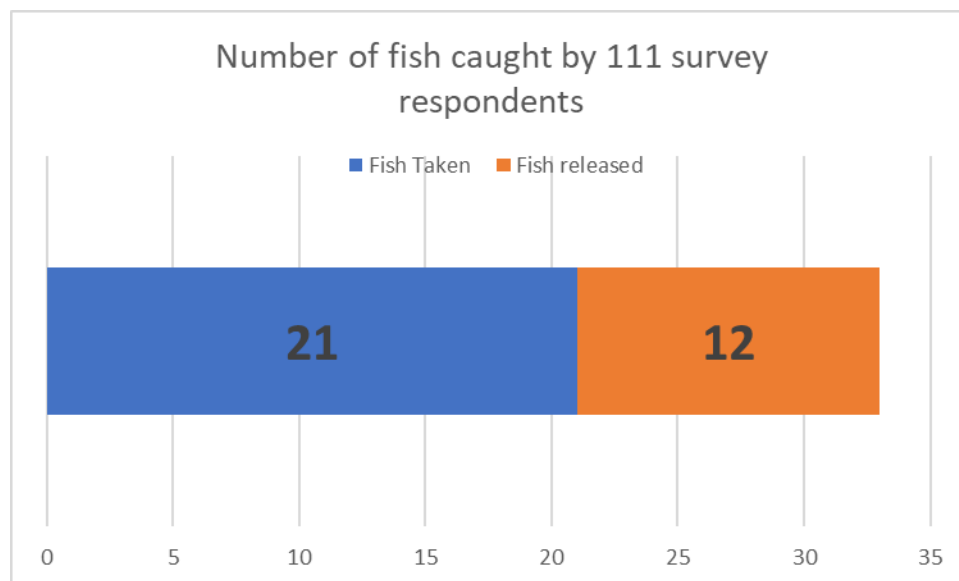
Some of the questions asked were:

- How many fish did you take home?
- How many fish did you return?
- Do you have any suggestions for future TAKF events?

Out of the completed responses:

21 fish were harvested (across the 4 days)

12 fish were caught and returned to the reservoir (across the 4 days)



*Figure 2: Overall catch from survey respondents*

Participants were also asked if they had any suggestions for future events. All responses are summarised in appendix 1 below.

Children that caught fish were able to keep the fish if they wished which were gutted and cleaned by Fish & Game rangers.

Fish & Game rangers and volunteers walked around the reservoir giving advice on knot tying, casting, and assisting with the landing and releasing of fish.

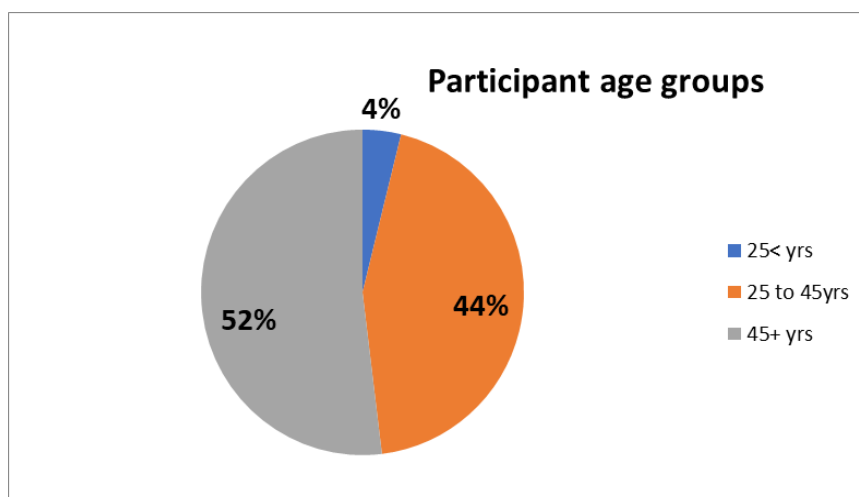
*First event – Sept 21<sup>st</sup>*



**Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

### **Beginner Adults Fishing Class**

For the last 11 years, Otago Fish & Game Council has been running adult beginner fishing classes. Normally we run 3 classes in Dunedin and one in Cromwell but this year we filled 5 classes in Dunedin (9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> Sept) and one in Cromwell (13<sup>th</sup> Sept). Advertising was by way of the Fish & Game web site and on Facebook.



*Figure 3: Relative percentage of participants across age groups*

**Dunedin classes** - there was a 2hr theory session (held in the Dunedin office boardroom) with a PowerPoint presentation on equipment, knots, fish species, where fish can be found, licences etc and on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Sept the classes were combined and a 1.5hr practical session was held at the Southern Reservoir. There were 56 registrations for the Dunedin classes (9 no-show). Forty-two beginner anglers came to the fishing lesson at Southern Reservoir on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Two rainbow trout and one brown trout were caught.

**Cromwell class** - Eleven participants took part in the Cromwell adult beginner fishing class, held on September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The class began with an evening theory session in the Bannockburn Room at the Cromwell Presbyterian Church, followed by a fishing trip to Lake Dunstan the next morning. While the practical session didn't yield many fish, everyone had a great time learning about freshwater sports fishing and honing their casting skills. Although no fish were caught, the group thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

### **Acknowledgements**

Otago Community Trust, DCC, Macraes Oceana Gold, Traffic Management & Control LTD, Green Island Lions

### **Volunteers/Rangers**

Mike Teasdale, Geoff Dee, Dan Natter, Mike Wu, Brian Hutton, Ben Davies, Mark Barrett, Leon Watson, Colin Weatherall, Robbie Natter

### **Fish & Game Staff**

Steven Dixon, Sharon Milne, Ian Hadland, Jayde Couper, Ben Sowry, Mason Court



**Recommendations**

That this report is received.

**Steven Dixon**

**Fish & Game Officer**

**December 2023**

**Appendix 1: Suggestions for future events**

No. excellent event - very well run
A bit hard to catch fish for most people, maybe release the fish a week or two earlier on the reservoir to acclimate them on the area
The event is great, maybe more time?
Not really. Thought it was really good except there was definitely a lot of parents doing the fishing rather than the kids.
The food and coffee van this year was a great idea, keep that
No
Allow bait
None
I just hope keeps going
No
Yes, big disappointment. Windy hole. Pick a better day to hold it. Children were very disappointed
No
It was well organised
A notice to say we are booked in and a reminder notice. We were sad we missed out.
Limit the number of people more to allow more space between people fishing
Great event - please keep making this available.
It was a great event thanks
A really well-run event, we had a lot of fun thank you!
Tips on how to catch the fish. More help on the day so that children can actually catch a fish. Release more fish so there is more chance of catching a fish with proper help and support from experts.
Have fun
Love it, well run and a lot of fun
More food trucks for kids
Great fun, great support
Nope.
I think it was great could have fishing lures or gear for sale
Would be great to see a representative from a local supplier or such there to help assist adults that are trying to help their kids learn but don't have much knowledge themselves.
All good!
No, it is great.

No, it was a well-run event.
No, it was great.
It was well organized and managed, thank you
No, it was great!
Awesome event. Please keep it going
None, rangers did a great job on the day
More time fishing
No
Nope
It's a well-run event, I can't think of anything that could make it better
It's an absolutely great event. Everyone was so helpful and taught me how to fish in NZ (I'm from overseas and am unfamiliar with the conditions here and unfamiliar with not being able to use live bait). Even our teenage daughter is keen on fishing now and is building up her kit. Our preschoolers want to fish every weekend
Maybe try to space people out more
Longer timeframe. Less people. More days. Was fairly good though
No, we loved it, such a great opportunity for the kids. Maybe consider limiting numbers slightly more as we kept getting tangled lines with our neighbours on both sides due to lack of space.
Great events seemed like a little too many people sometimes. Kids don't always cast well and being closer together wasn't ideal
No, the event was well organised, and the volunteers were friendly and helpful.
Is what it is. That's why it's called fishing and not catching.
No
No, it was a great event thank you
Would have like to catch a fish but that's out of your control
No
I personally think it was bit too crowded
No
Nothing it was awesome as was
No
No
No. Looks like a great event thanks
Just more events. Was a fun morning
No, was good, about the right amount of people
No, it was a great day.
Very good event
No, it was amazing. Probably one of my son's greatest moments in childhood.
I think it is just fine as it is.
No, it's great as it is
It was great. Staff were so helpful and friendly. Got a bit cramped on the bank. Great event
Allow worm fishing for kids at the event so that not only kids old enough to continuously cast can enjoy but all ages

Great activity, thank you so much.
No
No.
It was a very well organised event. Most families around me were having a good time, regardless of their success catching anything. I'd not change much; my son and I had a great morning.
Really well run, thanks!
If possible, offer an option to change date as the event is weather dependent and unluckily, we always choose a day that has cold windy or rainy conditions 🌧️ we won't know the weather till closer to the day so if there is a chance and availability to change date would be great.
None
No. It was a fun and well organised event. We all enjoyed it and the kids especially enjoyed the fish anatomy lesson with gutting the fish! Thanks
Was awesome - daughter loved it
No, it was good.
Segregated areas for older or more experienced fisher kids. My boy was swamped by lots of little kids and their parent's throwing lines and sinkers in every direction. Totally understand why you would want to encourage little kids, but for the older ones trying to practice their skills it's very frustrating. These older ones are the kids that then nag their parents for regular fishing licences, understand/learning to understand the rules, and are actually developing their love for fishing. They deserve a fairer shot on the day.
At least let people know they didn't have enough room on the days etc
please supervise the kid's beginners' step by step
To warn people not to sit too close to others. We spent a lot of the time untangling lines from one another.

## Appendix 2: Media article



Holy mackerel ... Charlie Dixie, 9, shows off a rainbow trout he caught at Fish & Game's Take A Kid Fishing event at Dunedin's Southern Reservoir yesterday. PHOTO: PETER MCINTOSH

### TIM SCOTT

DUNEDIN children rigged their lures and cast their lines by the hundreds over the weekend.

More than 300 Dunedin children enjoyed the fresh air and the sunshine at Fish & Game's Take A Kid Fishing event at the Southern Reservoir.

Fish & Game Otago officer Steve Dixon said the free event was a chance for children and their families to enjoy a healthy outdoor activity before the season started on October

## Hundreds turn out for taster

1. About 300 rainbow trout had been released into the Southern Reservoir with 300 more to follow next weekend.

Among them were about 15 fish weighing between 2.2kg-4.5kg, two of which had been caught on Saturday, but there were plenty of smaller "break-fast fish" still out there, Mr Dixon said.

"Just to see the kid come up

with a fish in their hand and a big smile on their face, that's what we're all about."

Each child was allowed to take one fish home with them.

Despite organisers gutting the fish in front of them, Mr Dixon said none of the children had been particularly squeamish.

"Some of the kids want to put the head and guts in their pocket and take that home as

well," he said.

"It's pretty fun."

Charlie Dixie had been fishing at the reservoir with his family over the past four years, but yesterday reeled in his first catch.

While the fish felt slimy and had been "swirling everywhere," he enjoyed the fun of trying to catch fish — and eating them.

The event will continue next weekend.

tim.scott@odt.co.nz

VIDEO: [www.odt.co.nz/tv](http://www.odt.co.nz/tv)

## 14.2 2024 Licence Holder Engagement Surveys

**Strategic priority:** *Increased knowledge of Otago F&G role and activity by licenceholders results in improved perceptions of value for money in a licence.*

Otago Fish & Game Council has continued to increase communications efforts to achieve the above strategic priority. To monitor progress, we have conducted repeat engagement surveys for fishing and game bird whole season licence holders in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023 and 2024. (In 2022, a stakeholder perceptions survey was conducted rather than licence holder engagement surveys.)

The most recent engagement surveys were emailed to licenceholders on December 16, 2024. Two reminders were sent to recipients who had not completed the surveys. The surveys ended on January 6, 2025. Separate surveys were conducted for anglers and game bird hunters, and were limited to resident licence holders. The following questions were asked:

- How do you rate your understanding of the role of the Otago Fish & Game Council?
- On a scale of 1 to 9, how do you rate your Otago Fish & Game Council's "fishing/hunting licence" in terms of value for money?
- What two things could the Otago Fish & Game Council do to improve your rating for the previous question?
- On a scale of 1 to 9, how positively do you think Otago Fish & Game Council is viewed by the general public? Please answer specific to Otago.
- What is one thing Otago Fish & Game Council could do to improve how it is viewed by the general public? Please answer specific to Otago.
- Which of the following best describes you? (Frequency of fishing/hunting)
- How many seasons have you purchased a fishing licence?
- What is your current licence type?
- What is your age?

The 2024 Engagement Surveys were sent to:

- 2023-24 fish whole season licenceholders (FWFA, FWA, FSLA, FLAA)
- 2024 game whole season licenceholders (GWA)

<b>Criteria:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licenceholders happy to receive information.</li> <li>• Removed email duplicates.</li> <li>• Game licenceholders removed from fish survey.</li> </ul>		
	Licence categories	Total survey recipients
Fish	FWFA, FWA, FSLA, FLAA	4842
Game	GWA	2701

**Otago licenceholders:**

Otago	2023 - 2024	FWFA	FWA	FSLA	FLAA	Total
		4013	5347	1130	518	<b>11,008</b>
Otago	Game Bird 2024	GWA				
		3854				<b>3854</b>

**2024 Fish survey:**

- Responses 712
- Response rate 14.7%
- Margin of Error 4%

**2024 Game survey:**

- Responses 318
- Response rate 11.8%
- Margin of Error 5%

**Key observations:**

Analysis of surveys from 2019 to 2024 shows fishing licenceholders tend to rate both value for money and understanding of the Council slightly higher than game bird licenceholders, with both groups demonstrating moderate levels of understanding and perceived value over the years.

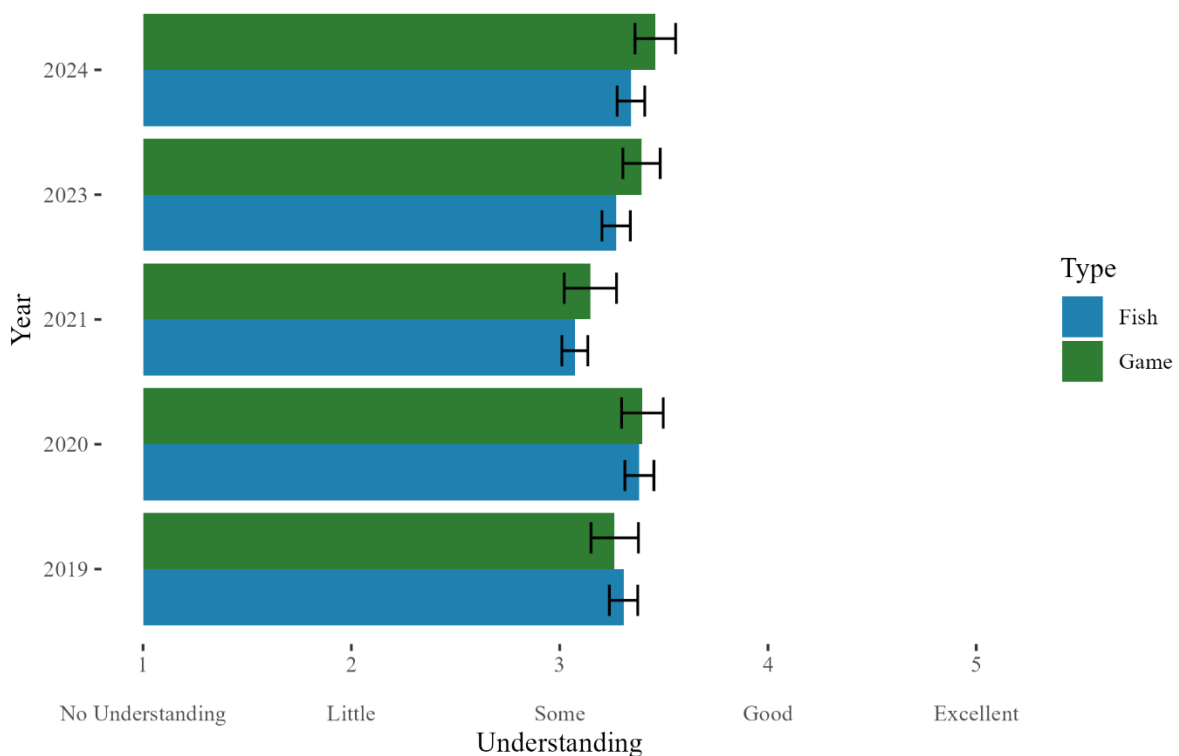
- **Fishing licenceholders** show a general increase in perceived value for money, but a slight decline in understanding over the years.
- **Game bird licenceholders** experience a small decline in perceived value, but an overall improvement in understanding.

Otago F&G licenceholder perceptions of value and sentiment expressed in open feedback, while not entirely immune, do not appear to have been significantly affected by contentious F&G issues in neighbouring regions or at a national level.

## How do you rate your understanding of the role of the Otago Fish & Game Council?

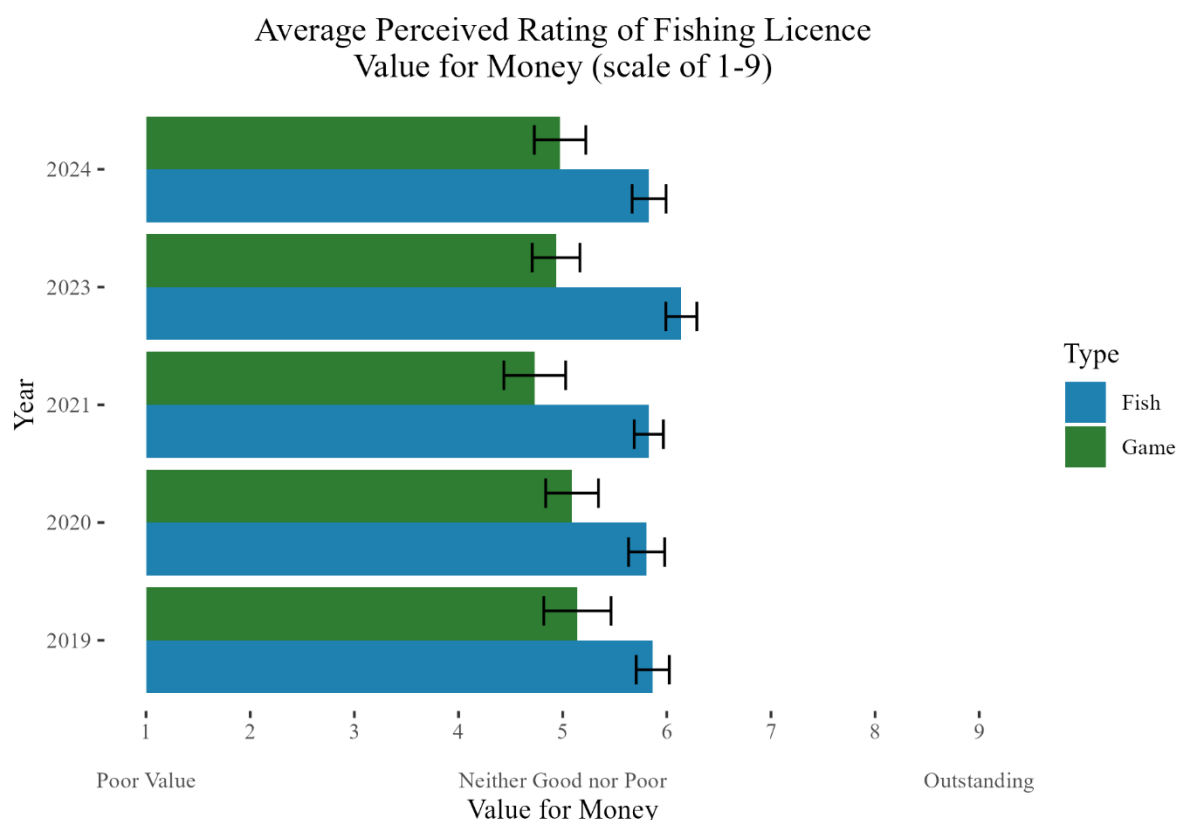
- For **fishing licenceholders**, there is a slight trending **decrease** in understanding over the years. The rating decreased from 3.31 in 2019 to 3.27 in 2023, before slightly **improving** to 3.34 in 2024. After a poor year in 2021, the trend is returning to positive.
- For **game bird licenceholders**, there is a **general upward trend** in understanding, increasing from 3.26 in 2019 to 3.46 in 2024, showing a slow but steady improvement.

Licenceholder Average of Understanding of Otago Fish & Game Role



## On a scale of 1 to 9, how do you rate Otago Fish & Game Council's fishing/game bird hunting licence in terms of value for money?

- For **fishing licenceholders**, there is a **slight upward trend** in the perception of value for money, with ratings increasing from 5.87 in 2019 to 6.14 in 2023, before slightly decreasing to 5.83 in 2024.
- For **game bird licenceholders**, the perception of value for money remains relatively stable, with a small decline over time. The ratings go from 5.14 in 2019 to 4.97 in 2024.



## What two things could the Otago Fish & Game Council do to improve your rating for the previous question?

### Top 5 themes to improve value rating:

#### Anglers:

Anglers in Otago are primarily concerned about the cost of licences, environmental health, and access to fishing locations. There is also a focus on better enforcement of fishing regulations and increasing youth engagement and education to ensure long-term sustainability. In descending order, the top themes are summarised as follows:

#### 1. Cost of Licences

- A significant portion of feedback centres on the high cost of fishing licences. Common suggestions include introducing discounts for locals, families, young adults, seniors, and long-time licence holders. Additionally, there is support for the two-tier system with higher fees for overseas anglers to manage local resources.

#### 2. Environmental Concerns and Water Quality

- Concerns about the environmental health of waterways remain a major theme. This includes requests for better management of water quality, addressing issues like farm runoff, invasive species, and pollution control. There's a strong call for sustainable fish stocking and habitat protection efforts to improve fish populations and water conditions.

### 3. Fishing Access

- Access to fishing locations is another priority for anglers. Suggestions involve increasing access to more fishing spots, improving infrastructure such as boat ramps, signage, and clearer access points. Enhanced enforcement of public access rights, especially in rural areas, was also emphasised.

### 4. Enforcement and Compliance

- Many anglers voiced concerns over the enforcement of fishing regulations, calling for increased patrols, more frequent licence checks, and stronger penalties for violations. There is also a desire for greater visibility of fisheries officers and more awareness campaigns to ensure compliance with rules.

### 5. Education and Youth Engagement

- A focus on educating younger generations about responsible fishing practices and environmental stewardship is the final key theme. Suggestions include promoting youth programmes like "Take a Kid Fishing," creating educational resources, and offering workshops on fishing techniques.

### Game Bird Hunters:

Otago game bird hunters are primarily concerned about the cost and flexibility of licences, access to hunting areas, and relationships with farmers. There is also a focus on improving game bird and habitat management, reducing political involvement, and enhancing regulation and compliance to support responsible and sustainable hunting. The top themes are summarised as follows:

#### 1. Cost and Licence Flexibility

- A significant concern among hunters is the high cost of game bird licences. Many are calling for more affordable options, such as opening weekend-only licences, or reduced fees for specific groups like seniors, students, and families. There is also a desire for greater licence flexibility, including options for part-season or short-term licences.

#### 2. Improved Access and Farmer Relationships

- Many hunters expressed the need for better access to both public and private hunting areas. A key suggestion is to foster better relationships with farmers, focusing on collaboration rather than conflict, to improve access to private land. Additionally, there is a call for increased support for farmers in wetland habitat restoration and predator control efforts.

#### 3. Game Bird and Habitat Management

- There is a strong push for more investment in managing game bird populations and improving their habitats. Suggestions include enhancing wetlands, increasing predator control, and conducting surveys to monitor bird numbers. Some hunters also advocate for the creation of more public hunting areas and better communication regarding conservation efforts.

#### 4. Political and Administrative Concerns

- Hunters are frustrated with the perceived political stance of Fish & Game, particularly its relationship with farmers and environmental policies. Many are asking for a greater



focus on hunting issues, reduced political involvement, and greater transparency about how licence fees are spent.

#### 5. Regulation and Compliance

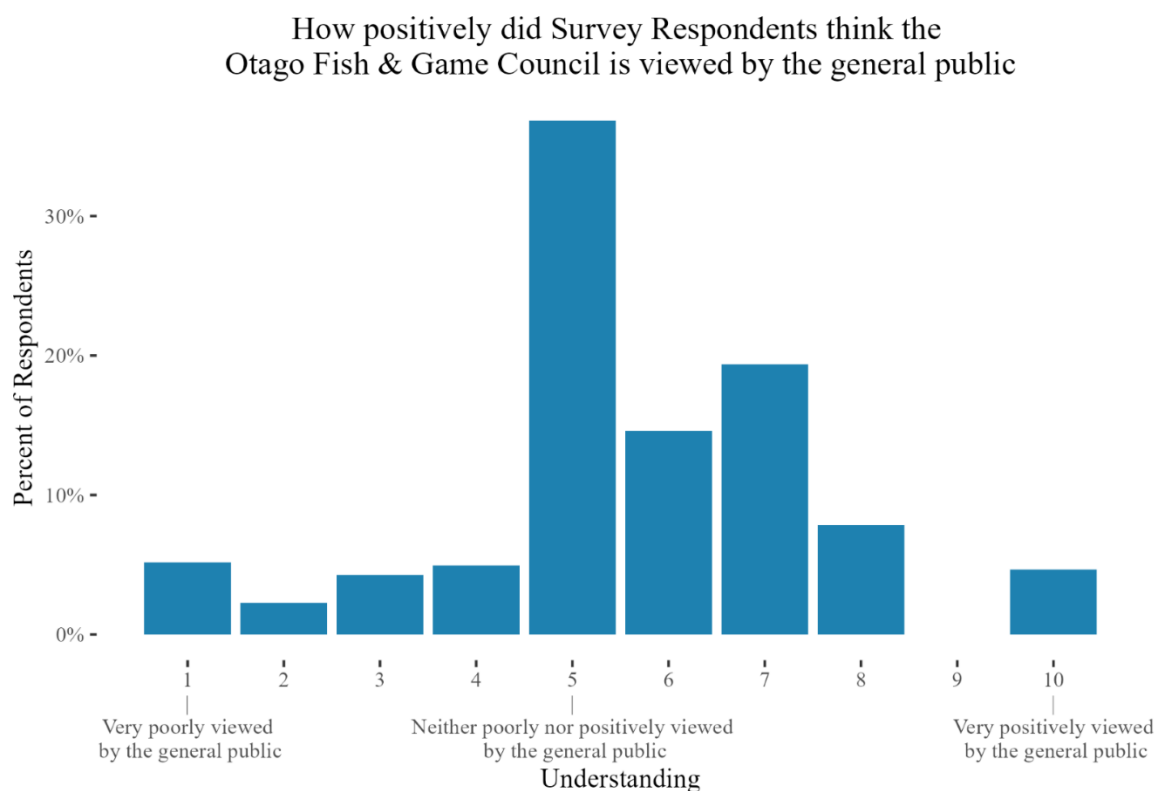
- There is a call for stronger enforcement of hunting regulations, with many hunters requesting more visible game rangers and better communication about rules. Suggestions include stricter penalties for illegal hunting and better efforts to combat non-compliance.

### On a scale of 1 to 9, how positively do you think Otago Fish & Game Council is viewed by the general public? Please answer specific to Otago.

The data according to licenceholders suggests that the general public's perception of the Otago Fish & Game Council is mixed, with a slight leaning towards positive views. Here's the breakdown:

1. Very Poorly Viewed: 3.90%
2. Neither Poorly Nor Positively Viewed: 36.85%
3. Very Positively Viewed: 5.20%

The total number of respondents is 692, with a weighted average rating of 5.72, indicating a generally positive perception of the Council among licenceholders, though with significant variation in opinions.



## What is one thing Otago Fish & Game Council could do to improve how it is viewed by the general public? Please answer specific to Otago.

### Top 5 themes to improve public perception:

#### Anglers:

1. **Communication and Public Engagement:** Anglers highlight the need for better visibility, communication, and outreach. They suggest improving Fish & Game's online presence, providing regular updates, and more actively promoting its work to the public, including responsible fishing practices and conservation efforts.
2. **Water Quality and Environmental Management:** There is widespread concern about declining water quality, particularly due to pollution, invasive species, and agricultural runoff. Anglers urge Fish & Game to focus more on improving water quality and addressing environmental issues like weed management and invasive species control (e.g., Didymo).
3. **Collaboration with Farmers and Landowners:** A significant number of respondents feel that Fish & Game should adopt a more cooperative approach with farmers. While some express frustration over perceived antagonism, others emphasise the importance of acknowledging the positive contributions farmers make to waterway health and maintaining access to fishing areas.
4. **Affordability and Access to Fishing:** The high cost of fishing licences is a recurring concern, with calls for more affordable options, particularly for families, pensioners, and occasional anglers. Suggestions include introducing more flexible pricing structures and making fishing more accessible to New Zealand residents and younger anglers.
5. **Enforcement and Presence of Officers:** Anglers express a desire for more visible enforcement of fishing regulations, including increased ranger patrols and stricter penalties for violations. There is also a focus on ensuring more proactive management to protect fish populations and prevent illegal fishing practices.

#### Hunters:

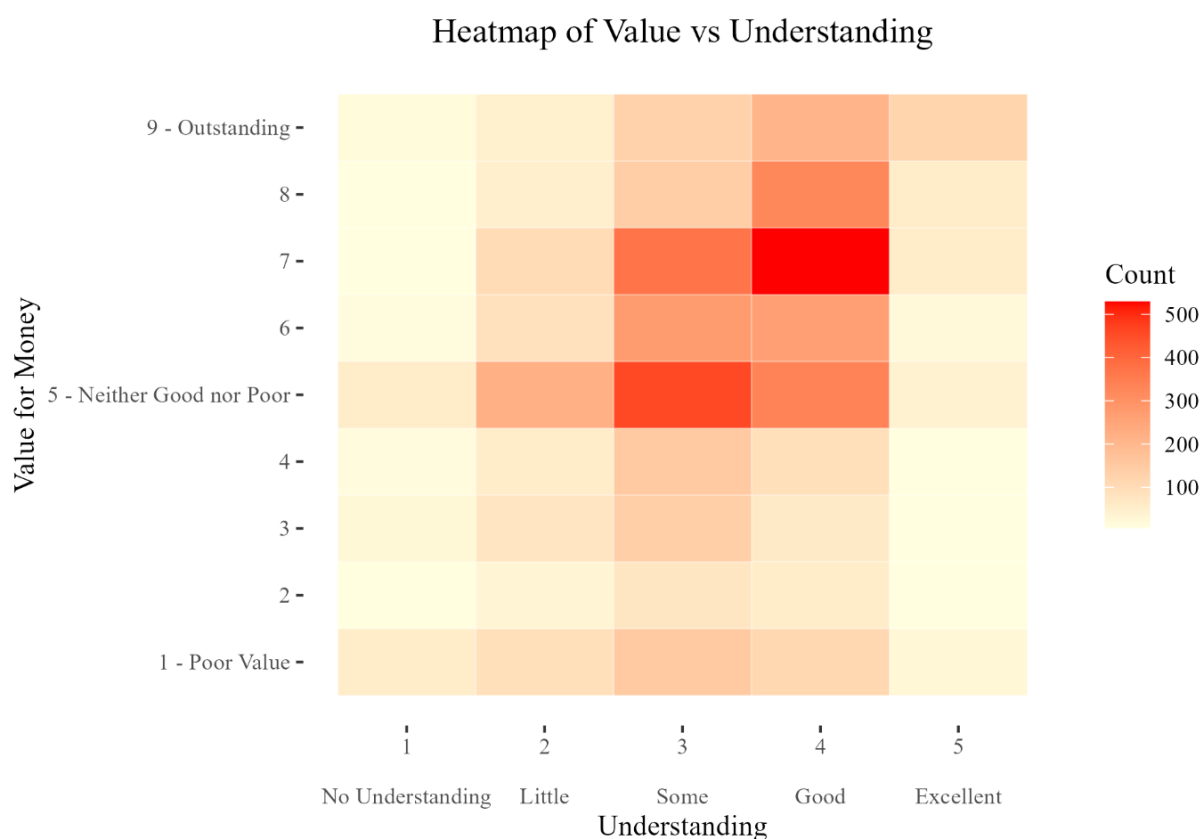
1. **Improve Relationships with Farmers and Landowners:** Many respondents feel that Fish & Game is overly critical of farmers, especially regarding water management and environmental issues. Strengthening partnerships with farmers, respecting their role in conservation (e.g., building ponds), and focusing on collaborative approaches could improve relations and help prevent alienating key stakeholders.
2. **Value for Money and Licence Costs:** Several comments express concern about the high costs of fishing and hunting licences. Many respondents feel that the fees do not align with the services provided, especially given the limited visibility of rangers and the infrequent enforcement of regulations. There is a desire for better transparency regarding how fees are spent.
3. **Greater Visibility and Communication:** There is a significant call for Fish & Game to be more visible and proactive in communicating its work, especially with the general

public. This includes improving social media presence, holding more information sessions, and being more engaged in the field to demonstrate their efforts in conservation and hunting management.

4. **Political and Advocacy Focus:** A number of respondents feel that Fish & Game should focus more on its core mission of fish and game management, rather than engaging in political lobbying or focusing heavily on issues like water rights disputes. There is a call for a more balanced approach that reflects the interests of a broader community, especially those outside of the "green political" spectrum.
5. **More Accessible and Supportive Services:** Feedback suggests that Fish & Game could do more to support hunters and anglers, such as providing better access to public lands, hosting events like "Take a Kid Fishing," and simplifying regulations. Additionally, there is a desire for more hands-on interaction with local communities, such as through field visits or educational programs.

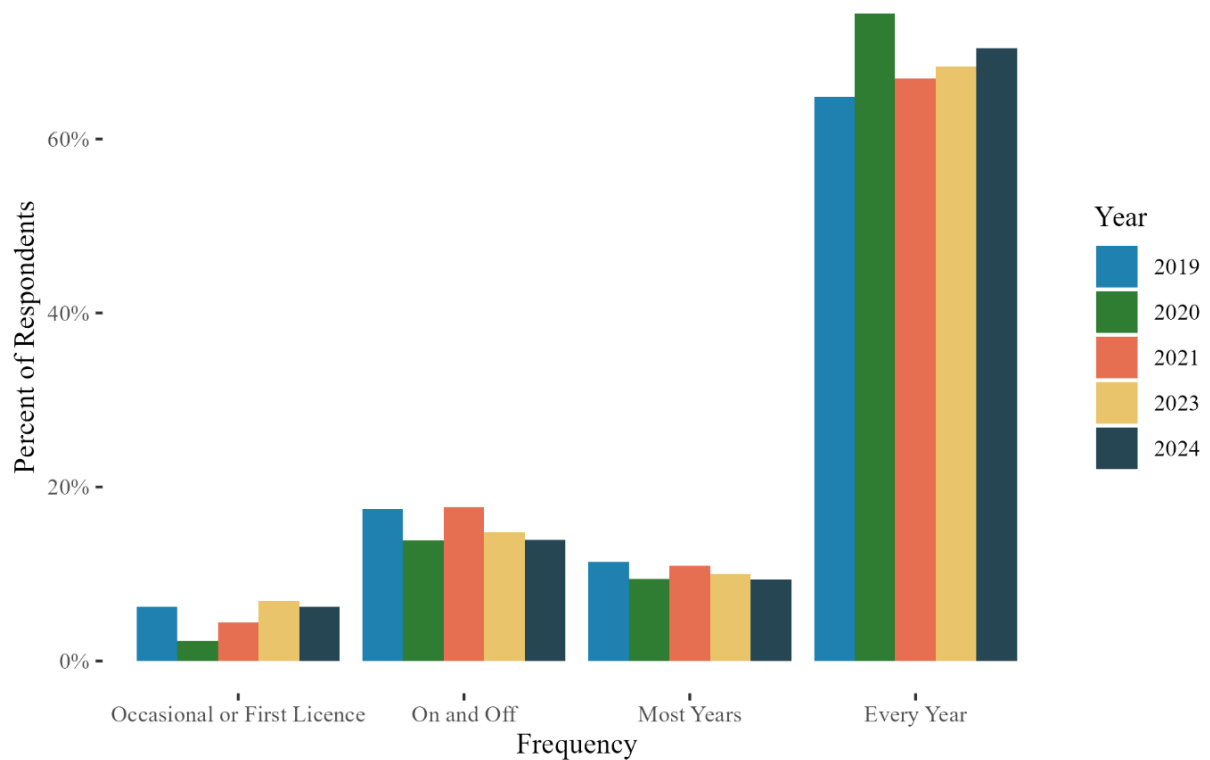
### All years Value vs Understanding Absolute

Looking at all the surveys from 2019 to 2024, the following heatmap chart illustrates the relationship between respondents' perception of value for money and their perceived understanding of what Otago Fish & Game Council does. The hot spot in red shows the highest number of respondents consider they have a good understanding and believe their licence is good value for money. The next highest group, however, has some understanding and believe the value is neither good nor poor.

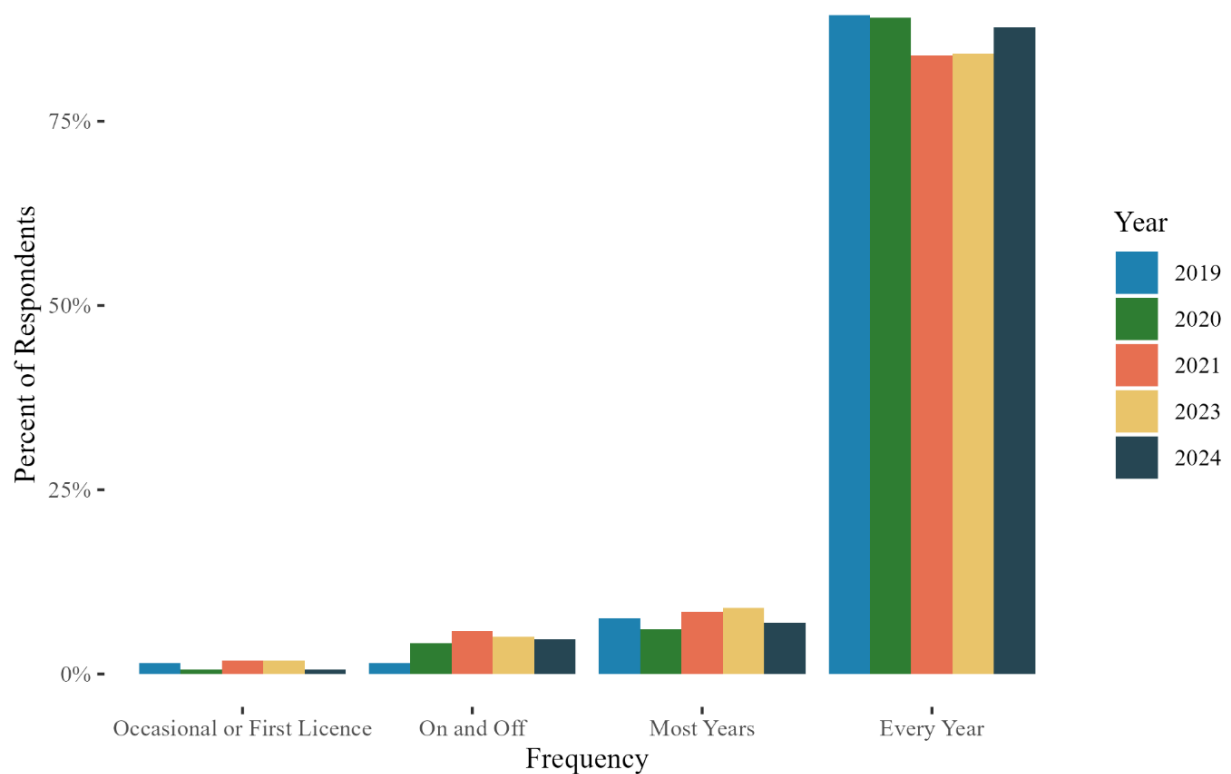


## Which of the following best describes you?

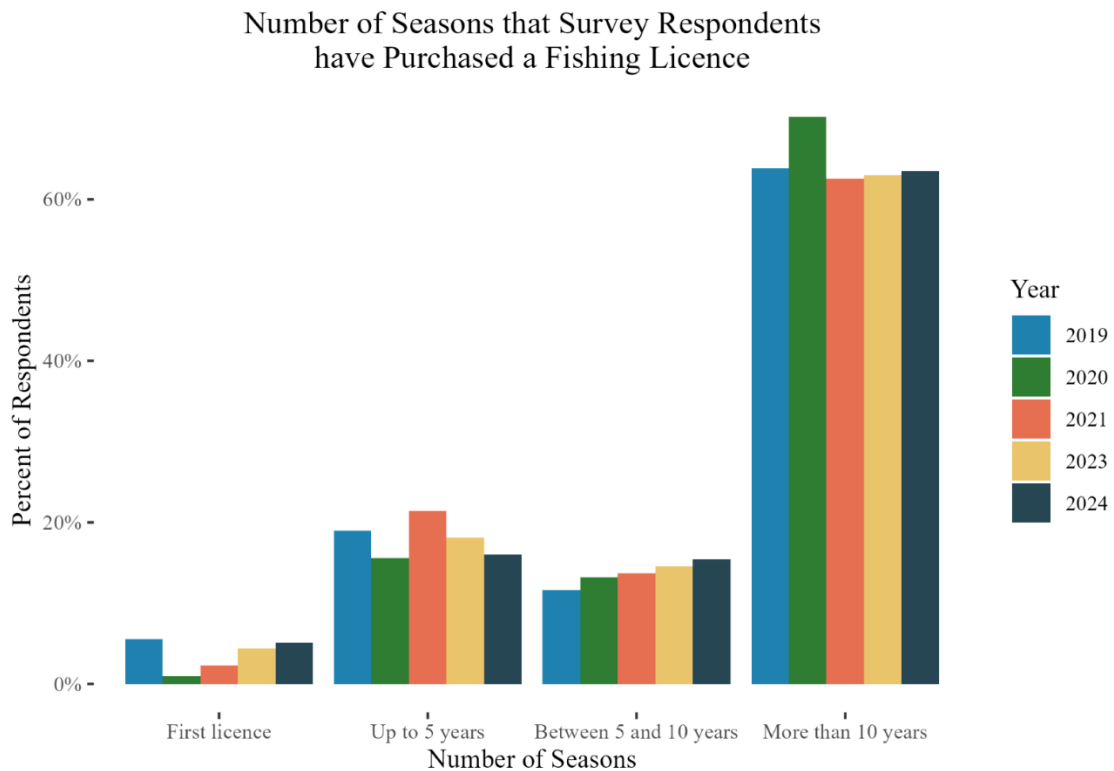
### Frequency of Fishing Licence use



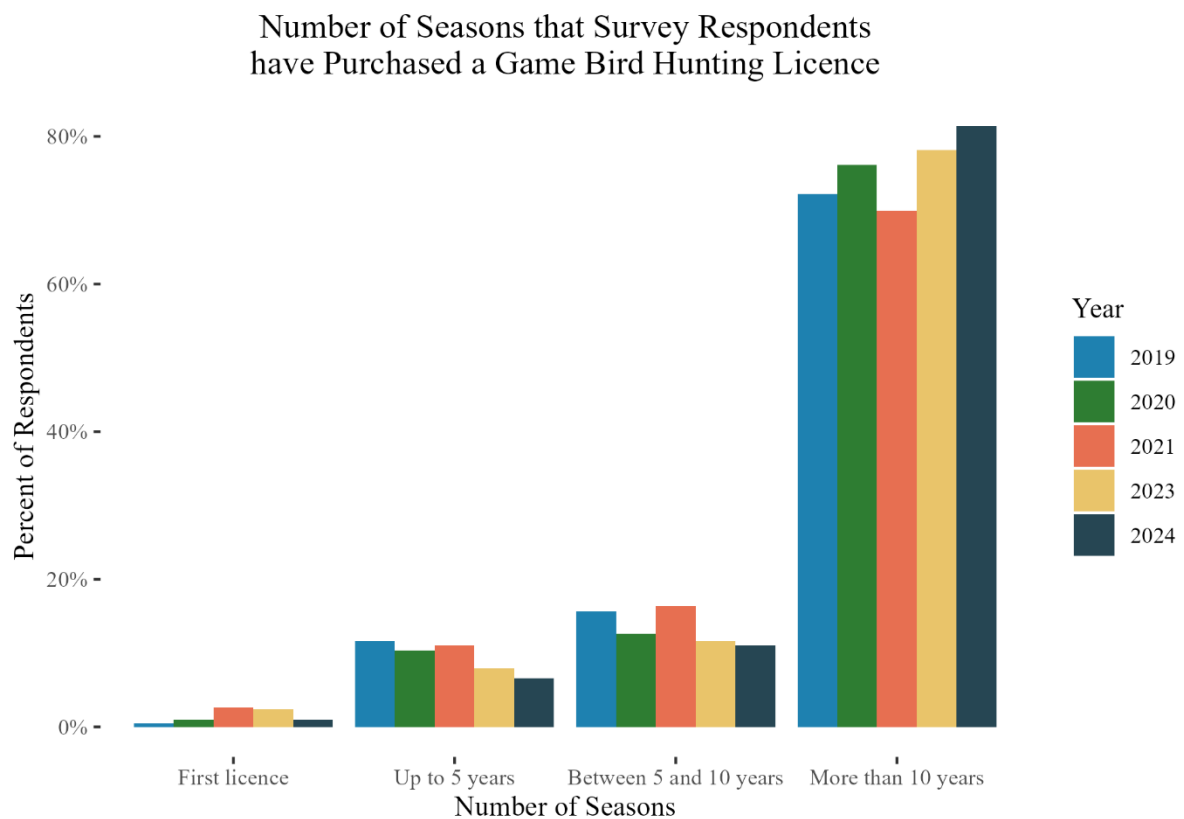
### Frequency of Game Bird Hunting Licence use



## How many seasons have you purchased a fishing licence?



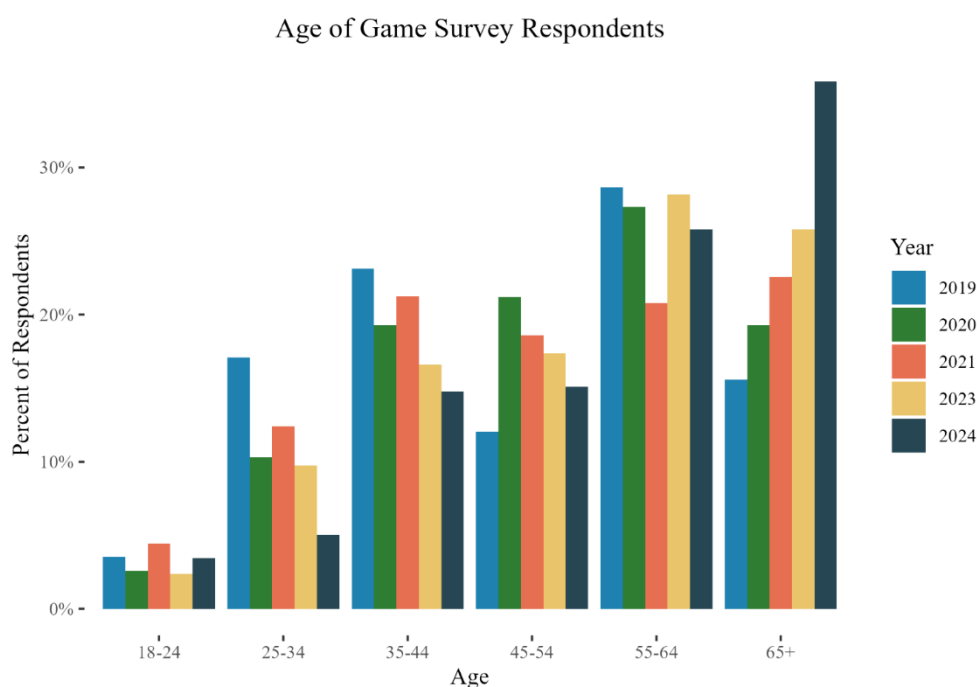
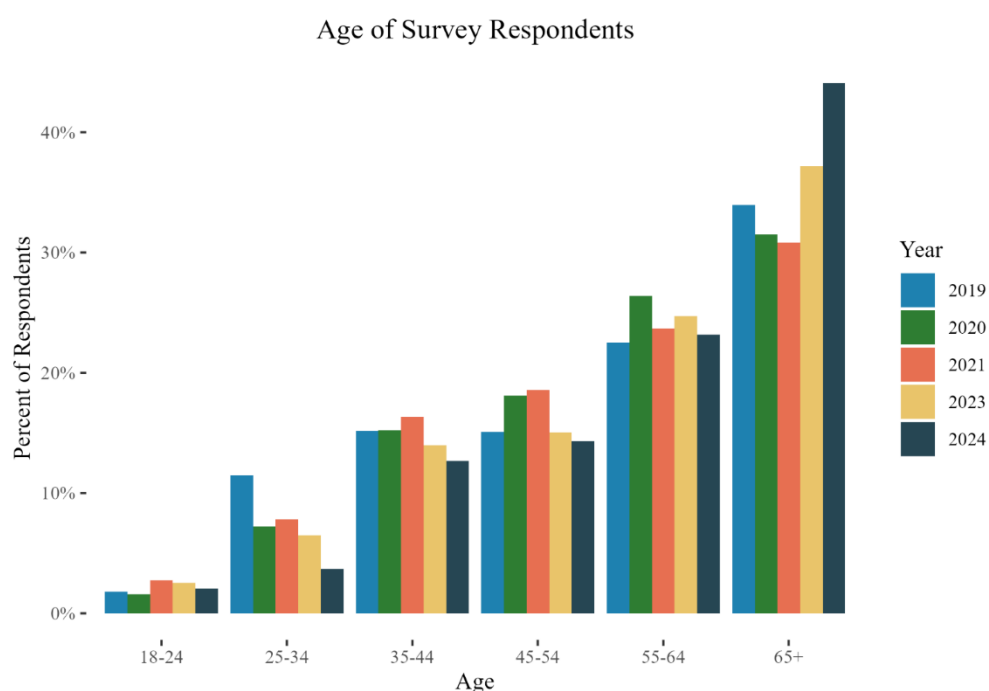
## How many seasons have you purchased a game licence?



## What is your age?

The average age of respondents who took part in the 2024 survey is higher than in previous engagement surveys. Participation by survey respondents aged 65 years and over increased. Participation by respondents in all other age groups decreased.

While we don't know the reason for this, we suspect it could be related to timing. The survey is normally conducted in mid-November/early December. Due to other commitments and circumstances beyond control, the 2024 survey took place later, beginning on December 16 and ending on January 6. It is likely that younger survey recipients were either too busy or otherwise occupied during the pre-Christmas and holiday period to engage with the survey.



***A presentation will be given at the January Council meeting.***

**Acknowledgement:** Thank you to Jayde Couper for processing the data and creating the charts.

**Recommendation:**

**That this report be received.**

**Bruce Quirey**

Otago Fish & Game Council communications officer

January 16, 2025

## **15.0 General Business**