

Agenda For The Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council
On 20th May 2025
At Information Centre, Council Rooms
120 Scotland Street, Roxburgh
Starting 12 noon with a light lunch

Timetable	Council Meeting
11.00am	Executive only meeting
12.00 noon	Lunch
12.30 pm	Meeting Begins
1.00 pm	Public Excluded Session
2.00 pm	Open Meeting Resumes
2.45 pm	Afternoon Tea
3.00 pm	Public Forum
5.00 pm	Meeting Ends

Contents

1.0	Present and Apologies	3
2.0	Matters to be raised not on the agenda.....	3
3.0	Declarations of Interest	3
4.0	Confirmation of Previous Minutes.....	4
5.0	Matters Arising from the Minutes	10
6.0	Health and Safety Report - April/May 2025	11
7.0	Items Requiring Decisions.....	13
7.1	Licence Fee Recommendation 2025-26.....	13
7.2	Bendigo Wildlife Management Reserve Draft Management Plan - Summary of Feedback	29
7.3	Family Licence Modernisation	30
8.0	Public Excluded Items	43
8.1	Draft Public Excluded Minutes 18 th March 2025	43
8.2	Report on Health and Safety Incident	43

8.3	Draft Sports Fish Game Management Plan Review and Progress.....	43
8.4	Property Update	43
9.0	Financial Report	44
10.0	Chief Executives Report	59
11.0	RMA Planning and Consents Report	63
12.0	Committee & Delegate Reports.....	66
12.1	Clutha Fisheries Trust – Ian Cole.....	66
12.2	New Zealand F&G Council – Mike Barker	67
12.3	Clutha Mata Au Sportsfish and Habitat Trust – Rick Boyd	71
12.3	Ngai Tahu – Paulette Tamati-Eliffe	72
12.4	Conservation Board – Neil Harraway.....	72
13.0	Correspondence.....	73
13.1	NZC to Otago.....	73
13.2	Otago to NZC.....	90
13.3	General Correspondence In	91
13.4	General Correspondence Out	95
14.0	Items to be Received or Noted	96
14.1	Paradise Shelduck Special April 2025	96
14.2	Summary of Fishing Competitions – 2024/25 Season	99
14.3	Creel Survey and Fishing Competition Analysis of Lake Hawea	102
15.0	General Business.....	116

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 Tuesday 18th March 2025

At Otakou Marae, 45 Tamatea Road, Otakou, Dunedin

The meeting opened at 1.30pm

1.0 Present and Apologies

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

In attendance: Ian Hadland (CE), Jamie Ward (Operations Manager), Bruce Quirey (Communications Officer), Paulette Tamiti-Elliffe (Ngāi Tahu Delegate).

Apologies: Vicky May

Moved (Cr Highton/Cr Trevathan)

That apologies be accepted.

Carried.

2. Matters to be Raised Not on the Agenda

Cr Weatherall said he would like to discuss board governance in general business concerning an assessment of Councillor strengths gaps with a view to co-opting an additional board member.

3.0 Declarations of Interest

Crs Highton, McIntyre and Barker submitted on the Firearms Act.

Cr Preedy is a member of Teviot Angling Club.

4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Cr Highton noted one word missing in the Minutes.

Cr Barker noted that Fish & Game staff gave a presentation to the Upper Clutha Anglers Club and said that prompted discussion about the Anglers Review and opposition to triple hooks. The CE said the review would start this year and it could be added to the list for staff to report on.

Moved (Cr Trevathan/Cr Highton)

That the minutes of the Council meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council held on 25th January 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

6.0 Health and Safety Report February/March 2025

CE said no significant hazards had been noted the report. Cr Highton inquired about specific hazards at Bullock Creek Springs Hatchery. The operations manager said hazards at Bullock Creek had been reassessed. A hazard list was provided to Friends of Bullock Creek who were advised to create their own safety plan for when operating on the Fish & Game property.

Moved (Cr Barker/Cr Preedy)

That Council receive the health and safety report for February/March.

Carried unanimously.

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 Workplan and Budget Overview 2025-2026

The operational work plan and budget were discussed, with an emphasis on zero-based budgeting required by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, and the need to submit the draft budget by 22nd March.

The CE said the new format proposed was too detailed. The new budget was more money than last year. There was no national policy for dealing with budgets.

The Chair Adrian McIntyre would have an opportunity to speak to the budget on at the NZC meeting on April 11-12.

The council had reconfirmed the risk priorities. The operational workplan was mostly business as usual, but there would be some upheaval with the office move this year.

A question was asked about the cost of changeover to replace vehicles.

There was discussion about the use of reserves.

The CE was asked if he was comfortable about the salaries budget, to which he replied yes, noting there was a national policy for remuneration.

Regarding capacity to absorb the cost of the communications strategy, the CE said the Council had agreed to \$60,000 for a communications part-time fixed-term position.

There was a suggestion the Council should broaden its approaches to community trusts as part of its funding strategy.

Moved (Cr Barker/Cr Highton)

That the Council agree to the draft 2025/26 operational workplan and budget.

Carried.

Moved (Cr Cruden/Cr Trevathan)

That the meeting moves into Non Public.

Carried.

8.0 Public Excluded Items

8.1 Minutes of Public Excluded Meeting 25th January 2025

8.2 Communications Implementation Plan - Review

8.3 Otago Property Update

Moved (Cr Preedy/Cr Cruden)

- 1. That Council transfer \$351,316 from its General Reserve to the Otago Property Reserve to cover the full (GST exclusive) cost of the new building.**
- 2. Agree an additional \$50,000 sum to be moved from the general reserve to the Otago Property Reserve as a contingency, or to be used to further fit out the new building so it is fit for purpose and to help facilitate the move.**
- 3. Notify New Zealand Council as per policy.**
- 4. Council authorise the CE to spend from the Otago Property Reserve up to \$1,237,660 (excl GST) to complete the building at 5 Hazlett Road, Mosgiel as per the Building Contract signed 3rd March 2025, and report to the Council on cashflow and progress payments on a regular basis.**

The motions were carried.

8.4 Draft SFGMP Progress, Consultation and Draft Provisions

9.0 Financial Report

The CE was asked if Otago Fish & Game Council had gained licensing revenue at Southland Fish & Game's expense. The CE replied he could not tell. Questions were also raised about employee entitlements under liabilities; why there was a budget line for elections; and why the compliance budget was so low. To the latter question, CE said he would be happy to find out and email a response.

Moved (Cr Weatherall/Cr Preedy)

That the Finance Report and Licence Report to the 28th February 2025 be received.

Carried.

10.0 Chief Executive's Report

The Chair noted that the meeting was running overtime and invited questions about the CE's report. There were no questions.

Moved (Cr Highton/Cr Cruden)

That the Chief Executive's Report be received.

Carried.

11.0 RMA Planning and Consents Report

15 January 2025 – 10 March 2025

A question was asked about Clutha District Council extracting water from the Tokomariro River and moving it in large volume to Waihola. The Environment Officer replied there was no issue if extraction pressure on the Tokomariro was resolved.

Moved (Cr Weatherall/Cr Trevathan)

That the RMA Planning and Consents report be received.

Carried.

12.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

12.1 NZC – Mike Barker

Cr Barker tabled a summary from the NZC meeting on February 28 - March 2. Regarding public access strategy and communications, he noted that Otago Fish & Game Council was one of a number of regions that had not completed their access workshop on where access had been lost.

The CE undertook to do that.

The Chair noted he had invited Women On the Fly to address the Council to discuss supporting women angling.

Cr Barker said the ESL contract had been rolled over for a further two years.

There was a plan for a digital licensing system, including a mobile app.

Asked if it would be delivered by ESL, Cr Barker replied NZC did not know.

A question was raised how the duck stamp would be done with a digital system.

Cr Barker said the most interesting part of the meeting was a proposal by North Canterbury Region not to replace their own manager. A number of other Councils regions were interested in the idea.
Otago councillors expressed concern about the concept.

Moved (Cr Weatherall/Cr Cruden)

That the matter of Fish & Game regions management lay on the table for discussion at the next Council meeting.

Carried.

12.2 Clutha Fisheries Trust Update – Ian Cole

An update was tabled.

12.3 Ngai Tahu

The Ngai Tahu representative Paulette Tamati-Elliffe said she would have a discussion about voting rights on the Council and bring feedback to the next meeting.

12.4 Conservation Board - Neil Harraway

Nil.

12.5 Clutha Mata Au Sportsfish and Habitat Trust

An update was tabled.

Cr Barker said the Trust had decided to employ a specialist in the area of obtaining fish farm licences, working with MPI, and finding out what the Trust needed to do to move forward.

12.6 Tiaki Maniototo

A summary from John Highton was tabled.

Moved (Cr Highton/Cr Trevathan)

That the committee and delegate reports be received.

Carried.

13.0 Correspondence

13.1 NZC to Otago

13.1.1 CEO Corina Jordan Resigns

Councillors took strong exception to a letter from NZC Chair Barrie Barnes regarding the resignation of NZC CE Corina Jordan. Cr Weatherall said the Council needed to register an objection. Crs McIntyre, Trevathan, Highton, and Cruden also expressed their dissatisfaction with the letter.

The Chair proposed the CE set up an online Council meeting to continue the discussion on the matter.

The CE said the online meeting should also discuss decisions required for the Wānaka property.

13.2 Otago to NZC

Nil.

Due to lateness, the Chair agreed to leave the remaining agenda items on the table and ended the meeting at 5.35pm.

He thanked the Ngāi Tahu delegate Paulette Tamati-Elliffe for inviting the Council to visit Otakou Marae and for the discussions and hospitality.

The Chair asked the Otago Fish & Game CE to send a letter of thanks on behalf of the Otago Fish & Game Council to the outgoing NZFGC CE Corina Jo

Confirm Minutes

Mover:

Seconded:

Carried/Not Carried:

Recorded against (if any):

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

6.0 Health and Safety Report - April/May 2025

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

- Game bird ranging
- Spawning surveys, aerial and ground
- Wetland planting and weeding

OHS Audits - Internal

Completed audits:

- Hazardous substances
- Office Audits Dunedin and Cromwell
- Council policy

Next audit areas:

- Vehicle Hazards and safety
- Work Shops, Field equipment and PPE
- Main Hazard Register
- Boat Safety
- Staff training register
- Ranger Support

Incidents/Accidents/Near Misses/New Hazards – discussed with mitigation at meetings and record on file if needed.

- Reminder of Flu and Covid – we do recommend vaccines
- Issues of social media attacks and criticism of Fish and Game or personally
- Wasps are living in the Bendigo wetland plant covers. Staff advised to wear gloves and avoid old covers.
- Outside slips and falls (2x)
- Extra rocks surfacing in Poolburn, to be marked with buoys
- Ranging for the opening of game bird shooting, some incidents occurred. They will be reported separately in Public Excluded

Training Completed

- CERT (Ranger Safety) modules completed by two staff members
- First aid refresher course completed by one staff member
- Electric fishing, growsafe course, day skippers and one full first aid course finished by a new staff member.
- New staff member inducted into Dunedin and Cromwell buildings, Bullock Creek wetlands springs and Bendigo wetland.
- Ranger training evening held for game bird season compliance work

General Discussions, Actions

- Updates with staff on the seaflux system
- Discussions on botulism in birds, and also potential for avian bird flu in the Otago region
- Social media attacks and criticism, discussed how to get support when required. Support others too.

Recommendation

To receive the health and safety report for April/May

Sharon Milne
Administration Officer
6th May 2025

Receive Report

Mover:

Seconder:

Carried/Not

Carried:

Recorded against (if any):

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 Licence Fee Recommendation 2025-26

Licence Fee Consultation

The attached briefing paper from New Zealand Council (NZC) and while lengthy, is self-explanatory.

In summary, they are seeking feedback on the following:

- a. *Recommend to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing of the approval of the 2025-26 Adult Whole Season Sports Fish licence of **\$161** (increase of \$5) and Adult Whole Season Game licence of **\$120** (increase of \$4) (inclusive of a \$5 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) inclusive of GST be accepted **
- b. *Recommend to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing of the approval of the 2025 26 Non-Resident Whole Season Fishing licence of **\$300** (increase of \$30) **
- c. *That the licence categories be charged at the agreed ratio for all categories*
- d. *The sea-run salmon licence endorsement of \$5 (as a cost-recovery mechanism) (no change from 2024/25).*
- e. *That Designated Waters Licence as a \$5 annual licence per Fish and Game region for resident anglers and as a day licence to non-resident anglers at a fee of \$40 (no change from 2024/25).*
- f. *Recommend the forecast Fish LEQ for the 2025/26 Season being **72,975** and **30,601** for Game.*

Key Considerations:

Item B: The \$30 increase in the Non-Resident Whole Season Fishing licence lacks supporting analysis or rationale in the provided documentation, although this Council has previously supported such an increase.

Items C, D, and E: These proposals represent a continuation of the existing framework and are unlikely to materially impact Otago.

Licence Fee Proposal:

NZC staff have acknowledged several financial discrepancies in the pre-circulated information and associated tables. The implications of these errors for the final licence fee proposal remain unclear. I have requested further clarification, including details on Otago's levy demand - this was notably absent from the current materials. We are awaiting a response.

The zero-based budgeting process has served to highlight previously absorbed costs and prompted more accurate forecasting, although it has not resulted in savings. The proposed increases—approximately 3% for fish licences and 4% for game licences - exceed the current Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 2.5%. These increases may challenge ministerial acceptance given the current economic climate.

NZC staff are now aware of a number of financial errors in the recirculated information and tables attached. Just how this might impact upon the final licence fee proposed is unknown.

I have requested additional information on a number of matters to help support our Council in its decision making, including information on our levy demand which was not part of the attached bundle. I am still awaiting further information.

Transparency of NZC budgets

One of the gaps in the present system is the general lack of transparency on the budgets of NZC. Apart from their own internal review, there has been no analysis of the costs or testing the appropriateness of the various budget lines.

Why is this important? Levies fund that activity.

Levies

The biggest budget line for Otago isn't staff salaries, its actually our levy to NZC of \$ 1,177,497. Our Council is dutybound to ensure that this is spent appropriately, and this obligation is highlighted by legal advice previously circulated:

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

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

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

I propose that the calculation of costs at NZC, and levies are far from clear and the new process, which removes any visibility or scrutiny by regional staff, only exacerbates the situation.

Licence Equivalent (LEQ) estimate

With regards to item f, I am satisfied with the estimate of LEQ's and the way they have been forecast nationally and regionally. History tells us that these have been consistently accurate over time with the exception of a few major interruptions such as earthquakes and Covid-19.

For discussion and response

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
9th May 2025

CONSULTATION:	LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION 2025-26
TO:	Regional Managers
CC:	Administrators
AUTHOR:	Corina Jordan, CEO of NZ Fish & Game Council
DATE:	24/04/2025
FEEDBACK DUE:	09/06/2025
FEEDBACK TO:	nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz

Recommendations - Ngā taunaki

1. The New Zealand Fish and Game Council seeks consultation from Regional Fish and Game Councils on the following points:
 - a. Recommend to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing of the approval of the 2025-26 Adult Whole Season Sports Fish licence of **\$161** (increase of \$5) and Adult Whole Season Game licence of **\$120** (increase of \$4) (inclusive of a \$5 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) inclusive of GST be accepted *
 - b. Recommend to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing of the approval of the 2025 26 Non-Resident Whole Season Fishing licence of **\$300** (increase of \$30) *
 - c. That the licence categories be charged at the agreed ratio for all categories
 - d. The sea-run salmon licence endorsement of \$5 (as a cost-recovery mechanism) (no change from 2024/25).
 - e. That Designated Waters Licence as a \$5 annual licence per Fish and Game region for resident anglers and as a day licence to non-resident anglers at a fee of \$40 (no change from 2024/25).
 - f. Recommend the forecast Fish LEQ for the 2025/26 Season being **72,975** and **30,601** for Game.

Discussion - Kōrero

Proposal

2. The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZC) is seeking to consult with Fish and Game regional councils on the '2025/26 licence fee recommendations and forecast LEQ' for 2025/26.
3. The NZC met on the 11th and 12th of April 2025 to consider the 2025/26 budgets and licence fees. Following that meeting, NZC agreed to recommend an increase in licence fees. The licence fee for a sports fish adult whole season licence is proposed as \$161 (an increase of \$5), the game adult whole season licence is proposed as \$120 (an increase of \$4), and the non-resident whole season fish licence is proposed as \$300 (an increase of \$30) for 2025/2026. In recommending these fees, NZC also recommended that all other licence categories increase to the agreed proportions. A full list of recommended licence fees and categories is detailed in the Schedule attached (**Appendix 2**).

Background

4. In recommending licence fees to the Minister, the New Zealand Fish & Game Council is required to:

“Give particularly careful consideration to the regional Fish and Game Councils’ assessed management costs, and the potential impact, on their management activities, when reaching its decision as to the level of licence fee that would be “appropriate”; and

Give genuine attention, and thought, to the regional Fish and Game Councils’ views and recommendations before making its recommendation to the Minister. Geddis 2023, NZC fee setting power - s 26C(1)(e) CA - advice 29.05.2023[82][23].

5. Section 26Q of the Conservation Act 1987 sets out the functions of Fish and Game Councils.

Subsection (1)(d)(a) requires councils:

To assess the costs attributable to the management of sports fish and game;

Section 26Q(1)(d)(ii) requires Fish and Game councils:

To develop and recommend to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council appropriate licence fees to recover costs and game bird habitat stamp fees;

Section 26C(1)(e) requires NZC:

To recommend to the Minister of Conservation an appropriate fee for fishing and hunting licences, after considering the views and recommendations of Fish and Game Councils.

Section 26C(1)(ia) also requires NZC:

To recommend to the Minister, after considering the views and recommendations (if any) of Fish and Game Councils and the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board, an appropriate fee in respect of any game bird habitat stamp and the form of such stamps (the form of the stamp to be approved as part of the 2011 Game Notice).

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

Policy

7. At the May 2020 NZC meeting, in response to COVID-19, the NZC set the minimum level of reserves at 20% of total budget for all councils. This level of general reserve is considered adequate to provide security against fluctuations in income and to ensure adequate operational cash flow.
8. The budget policy specifies that all expenditure from general and dedicated reserves needs to be notified/approved by NZC as part of the budget round or by making an application for Exceptional Funding. There are consequences across all sectors of the organisation when any council's reserves are reduced in a manner inconsistent with this policy.

Budget Process

9. The New Zealand Fish & Game Council resolved at meeting 170 (23 and 24 August 2025) that there would no longer be a Contestable Fund Budget round. Instead, NZC, on an annual basis, will be taking a zero-based budget approach whereby the entire budget of a region will be reviewed annually and in setting both Licence Fee recommendations and organisational budgets moving forward.
10. The Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) approach was to be phased in over two years. With the first year focussed on supporting the regions to work through a ZBB process, updating F&G's budget and application templates, and trialling new/amended processes. Year two is intended to be about refining F&G's templates and processes from the learnings of year one and, if required, more in-depth discussions around any potential financial policy changes, including resourcing across the organisation.
11. Summary:
- a. ZBB is intended to be phased in over two years;
 - b. For 2025/26, Regional Fish & Game Councils are encouraged to consider the previous year's budget as a guide in setting the overall regional budget;
 - c. Councils were encouraged to consider Strategic Priorities for the region – Ideally, utilise the Organisational Strategy as this will be top of mind for NZC;
 - d. Councils were encouraged, when considering their strategic priorities along with legislative functions, to build budgets and their OWP in a manner which considers each line item and whether or not efficiency gains can be made, and whether or not line items should be added or removed;
 - e. The effective outcome may be, an increase, or decrease, relative to the previous year's budget total;
 - f. For material changes in projects from previous years, the preparation of a business case was recommended (i.e.>\$30,000).
12. A comprehensive Zero-based budgeting tool, instructions document, and video was distributed to the regions on 26 February 2025. Drop-in training sessions were also provided. Given the delay in providing the Zero based budgeting tool, NZC accepted regional budgets in either the historic format or in the new ZBB format. Three regions (Westcoast, North Canterbury, and Hawkes Bay Fish & Game Councils) worked with the new ZBB tool and provided their budgets in this format. A Business Case Template and Summary Budget Template were also provided to assist regions in putting forward their recommended budgets to NZC. The Summary Template also provided a structure for Regional Chairs to speak to as they presented their budgets to NZC on the 11th of April 2025. All Regions provided their full budgets.

13. This process is summarised in the following budget cycle:

Feb	All council budgets reviewed against audited actual expenditure. Budgets over or under 10% variance are reported against, reviewed, and discussed. The variance reports for the 2024/25 year are prepared and discussed.
March	Preparation of business and operational work plans for new financial year (NFY). Draft budgets developed by NZC and regional councils.
April	Councils apply for Baseline funding and Business Case funding, with applications circulated beforehand and prioritised at the NZC April meeting
April 11th	NZC meet (by Zoom) with the Chairs of each region to consider the budget funding applications.

April 11 & 12th	NZC make recommendations on licence forecast fees, having considered Baseline funding levels and Business Case fund applications, and sends them to regional councils for consideration.
May	Regional councils consider NZC licence fee recommendations. Due back to NZC (9 June 2025).
June	NZC consider regional response and finalises licence fee recommendations for approval by the Minister for Hunting and Fishing.

14. The funding required to cover Base funds and approved Business Case funding is assessed against the expected licence sales for the year ahead (established from analysis of historical sales trends) to determine the licence fees.

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

2025/26 Licence LEQ Forecast

16. The following table represents the approved forecast for the Licence sales for Fish and Game for the 2025/26 season. NZC is recommending the forecast LEQ for the 2025/26 Season being **72,975** for Fish and **30,601** for Game.

17. The forecast which the Licence Working Party recommended.

Table 1. Extrapolated Fish Licence Forecast (LEQ) for 2025/26 – using the estimated sales for the 2024/25 complete season as of 17 March 2025.

	Actual Fish 2023-24	Estimated Fish 2024-25	Extrapolated Fish 2025-26
Northland	467	618	618
Auckland Waikato	3655	3838	3838
Eastern	8504	9005	9005
Hawke's Bay	2455	3010	3010
Taranaki	1022	1217	1217
Wellington	3039	2910	2846
Nelson Marlborough	4377	4217	4136
North Canterbury	11007	10456	10180
West Coast	2169	2200	2200
Central South Island	12486	12406	12366
Otago	15514	15491	15479
Southland	8740	8300	8080
	73435	73667	72975

Table 2. Extrapolated Game Licence Forecast (LEQ) for 2025/26 – based on the Traditional Method.

	Actual Game 2023	Actual Game 2024	Extrapolated Game 2026
Northland	1552	1521	1506
Auckland Waikato	6518	6463	6436
Eastern	2855	2663	2567
Hawke's Bay	1750	1888	1888
Taranaki	1086	995	950
Wellington	3290	3239	3214
Nelson Marlborough	862	850	844
North Canterbury	2557	2576	2576
West Coast	364	363	363
Central South Island	2266	2031	1914
Otago	3989	3945	3923
Southland	4625	4488	4420
	31714	31022	30601

18. Appendix 1 provides the 2025/2026 Licence Sales and Interest Forecast based on Current Licence Fees.

Following Components Featured in the 2025/26 Budget Discussions: Business Case Funding Applications

19. All Regions provided their proposed Baseline budget for FY26. For most regions this included an increase from their FY25 baseline budgets. Increases ranged from X to x% (appendix x). Total FY26 Baseline budgets totalled \$12,874,509, in comparison to total FY25 baseline budgets which totalled \$12,358,386 (including contestable fund applications that were approved in FY25 as ongoing), an increase of 4.1% and \$516,123.00.
20. For reference, according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), in March 2025, New Zealand's annual inflation rate reached 2.5% for the previous 12 months.

Summary of Base Budget Proposals 2025/26 vs 2024/25

Region	Base Budget FY 24/25	Proposed Base Budget 25/26	Percentage increase	Value Increase
Northland	\$592,081.00	\$610,346.00	3%	\$18,265.00
Auckland\Waikato	\$881,824.00	\$966,026.00	10%	\$84,202.00
Eastern	\$1,305,544.00	\$1,273,476.00	-2%	(\$32,068.00)
Hawkes Bay	\$434,624.00	\$499,775.00	15%	\$65,151.00
Taranaki	\$427,816.00	\$427,292.00	0%	(\$524.00)
Wellington	\$848,388.00	\$851,300.00	0%	\$2,912.00
Nelson-Marlb	\$564,125.00	\$590,269.00	5%	\$26,144.00
Nth Canterbury	\$1,068,935.00	\$1,145,910.00	7%	\$76,975.00
West Coast	\$375,951.00	\$424,000.00	13%	\$48,049.00
Central SI	\$945,235.00	\$1,030,235.00	9%	\$85,000.00
Otago	\$1,240,968.00	\$1,324,478.00	7%	\$83,510.00
Southland	\$823,059.00	\$885,171.00	8%	\$62,112.00
NZC only	\$1,280,486.00	\$1,513,516.00	18%	\$233,030.00
National	\$1,569,350.00	\$1,332,715.00	-15%	(\$236,635.00)
TOTAL	\$12,358,386.00	\$12,874,509.00	4%	\$516,123.00

21. Fourteen Business case applications were received (59 last year), seeking additional funding of \$960,449 (previous year \$2,200,596).

Summary of Original Base Budget Proposals and additional Business Case Requests

Region	Net Licence Income	Base Budget FY 24/25	Proposed Base Budget 25/26	Reserves as at 31 Aug 25	Business cases from reserves or Other	Business Cases	Reserves Req 20% of budget
Northland	\$226,447.59	\$592,081.00	\$610,346.00	\$214,033.00			\$118,416.20
Auckland\Waikato	\$1,100,651.55	\$881,824.00	\$966,026.00	\$149,287.00			\$176,364.80
Eastern	\$1,430,366.16	\$1,305,544.00	\$1,378,026.00	\$660,651.00		\$70,347.00	\$264,108.80
Hawkes Bay	\$583,381.66	\$434,624.00	\$499,775.00	\$548,535.00	\$87,000.00		\$115,324.80
Taranaki	\$254,269.29	\$427,816.00	\$427,292.00	\$258,546.00			\$89,805.00
Wellington	\$680,741.13	\$848,388.00	\$851,300.00	\$410,195.00			\$169,677.60
Nelson-Marlb	\$619,641.83	\$564,125.00	\$590,269.00	\$94,030.00		\$35,000.00	\$112,825.00
Nth Canterbury	\$1,574,695.98	\$1,009,935.00	\$1,237,910.00	\$343,326.00	\$39,000.00		\$213,787.00
West Coast	\$327,820.74	\$375,951.00	\$424,000.00	\$256,274.00			\$80,190.20
Central SI	\$1,815,088.60	\$945,235.00	\$1,030,235.00	\$911,992.00	\$40,000.00		\$207,265.40
Otago	\$2,404,585.74	\$1,240,968.00	\$1,324,478.00	\$843,587.00			\$252,794.00
Southland	\$1,481,972.73	\$823,059.00	\$885,171.00	\$672,820.00		\$41,199.00	\$191,966.80
NZC only	\$39,646.00	\$1,280,486.00	\$1,513,516.00	\$1,559,679.00		\$100,000.00	\$674,567.20
National	\$0.00	\$1,569,350.00	\$1,628,715.00			\$436,000.00	
TOTAL	\$12,539,309.00	\$12,299,386.00	\$13,367,059.00	\$6,922,955.00	\$166,000.00	\$682,546.00	\$2,667,092.80

Funding Recommendations from NZC Staff

22. The NZC staff made recommendations to the NZC in three Steps:

- a. Step 1: Recommendation of Salary increases to meet the 2% increase in Market Movement as provided in baseline budgets;
- b. Step 2: if no licence fee increase is to be considered, then recommend:

- i. Retaining FY25 budgets;
- ii. Approve top-up of reserves;
- iii. Approve applications from reserves;
- iv. Approve additional budgets to be spent from reserves, which are a high strategic priority for Fish & Game;
- v. Approve essential business cases;
 - Licence system RFP \$50,000
 - Increased licence system running costs \$30,000
 - Increase in postage for the magazine \$50,000
- c. Step 3: If a licence fee increase is to be recommended, then consider:
 - i. Approval of the Regional Baseline Budgets and increases from 2024/25;
 - ii. Approval of the NZC/National Baseline Budgets, which remain the same as 2024/25;
 - iii. Approval of the essential Business Case applications made by NZC (\$136,000):
 - Increased licence system operation costs (\$30,000):
 - licence system RFP (\$50,000) and
 - expected additional magazine postage costs for the 2026 year (\$50,000)
 - i. Approval of the Business Case applications that meet the organisation's Strategic priorities within the budget envelope that is being considered.

2025/26 NZC Business Case Funding Approval and 2025/26 Budgets

23. Budgets for all councils were received and circulated to the NZC for review before the April NZC meeting.
24. The Chairs of the Regions were invited to present their Regional Budgets to the NZC on Friday, 11th April.
25. The NZC approved Business Case funding applications at a total value of \$960,449. Of this, \$386,000 were ongoing from the Licence fee, and \$574,449 were one-off from reserves.
26. As previously notified via email, the draft budget resolutions are:
 - a. Approve reserve top-up of \$27,077 for Auckland/ Waikato and \$18,795 for Nelson/ Marlborough. A total of \$45,872 for reserves top-ups FY26;
 - b. Approve all budgets from reserves that have been included within business cases or as reserve funded within baseline in the FY26 Budget applications;

- c. Approve all staff salary increases as put forward in the salaries component of baseline budget FY26 applications for existing staff, subject to available budgets.
 - d. Accept essential NZC business cases of \$136,000 consisting of - increased licence system operation costs (\$30,000), licence system RFP (\$50,000) and expected additional magazine postage costs for the 2026 year (\$50,000);
 - e. Recommended approval of a research position with NZC to support NZC's research statutory function and to coordinate and modernize F&G research management, including population monitoring analysis and reporting;
 - f. Agree to top up RMA fund by \$100,000 (\$200,000 was initially applied for to the Council)
 - g. Agree to top up the Research fund by \$50,000
 - h. Recommend approval of the Total Budget of \$13,548,958 funded through forecast licence income and interest from reserves and one off projects funded by the use of reserves;
 - i. Three business cases were proposed to be declined. These included the following:
 - Eastern Compliance Officer \$70,347;
 - NM part-time R³ position \$35,000;
 - Te Anau position declined as a business case, but NZC would support tjs position being funded through the regions reserves \$41,199.
 - j. All regionally proposed baseline budgets were accepted, with some recommended changes in relation to funding aspects of projects from reserves rather than through the licence income. Whether or not a region funds projects from reserves is a decision for the Regional Council.
 - Eastern region moved one project (\$8,000) from their baseline funding to fund it from reserves.
 - North Canterbury moved two projects from their submitted budget to fund them from reserves, (\$19,000 and \$20,000) and
 - NZC moved the HR position from the National projects to place it under the NZC budget. Also, NZC opted to fund the magazine for two editions in 2026 from the unspent reserves previously allocated in anticipation of cost increases.
27. Budget decisions from NZC meeting 174 are subject to ratification at the NZC meeting in June.
28. Final decisions on the licence fee, levies, and grants will be made at the June NZC meeting 175 after consideration of regional feedback.
29. The proposed budget for the 13 Fish and Game councils for 2025/26 (including funding from reserves) is \$13,548,958. Table 3 summarises the draft budget decisions from NZC which are being consulted on. Individual budgets are shown in Table 4 below alongside the previous financial year (both shown as GST exclusive).

Region	Net Licence Income	Proposed Base Budget 25/26	Reserves as at 31 Aug 25	Business cases from reserves	Business Cases	Description
Northland	\$226,447.59	\$610,346.00	\$214,033.00			
Auckland\Waikato	\$1,100,651.55	\$966,026.00	\$149,287.00			
Eastern	\$1,430,366.16	\$1,273,476.00	\$660,651.00	\$8,000.00		Additional compliance Officer \$70,347
Hawkes Bay	\$583,381.66	\$499,775.00	\$548,535.00	\$87,000.00		Additional casual staff member 37k, Tukuituki riv
Taranaki	\$254,269.29	\$427,292.00	\$258,546.00			
Wellington	\$680,741.13	\$851,300.00	\$410,195.00			
Nelson-Marlb	\$619,641.83	\$590,269.00	\$94,030.00			Part time R3 Role \$35,000
Nth Canterbury	\$1,574,695.98	\$1,145,910.00	\$343,326.00	\$39,000.00		
West Coast	\$327,820.74	\$424,000.00	\$256,274.00	\$33,250.00		
Central SI	\$1,815,088.60	\$1,030,235.00	\$911,992.00	\$40,000.00		Fencing
Otago	\$2,404,585.74	\$1,324,478.00	\$843,587.00			
Southland	\$1,481,972.73	\$885,171.00	\$672,820.00	\$41,199.00		One Officer position
NZC only	\$39,646.00	\$1,513,516.00	\$1,559,679.00	\$30,000.00	\$100,000.00	New Research Position
National	\$0.00	\$1,332,715.00		\$296,000.00	\$36,000.00	Increased Licence Costs
National					\$50,000.00	Licence System RFP
National					\$50,000.00	Extra Magazine postage
National					\$100,000.00	RMA Fund Topup
National					\$50,000.00	Research Fund Topup
TOTAL	\$12,539,309.00	\$12,874,509.00	\$6,922,955.00	\$574,449.00	\$386,000.00	

30. Individual budgets are shown in Table 4 below alongside the previous financial year (both shown as GST exclusive).

	Base Funds 2025/26	Approved Business Case from Licence Fee ongoing	Approved Business Case from Reserves - One off	Approved Budget 2025/26 (inc from Reserves)
Northland	610,346	0	0	610,346
Auckland\Waikato	966,026	0	0	966,026
Eastern	1,273,476	0	8,000	1,281,476
Hawkes Bay	499,775	0	87,000	586,775
Taranaki	427,292	0	0	427,292
Wellington	851,300	0	0	851,300
Nelson-Marlb	590,269	0	0	590,269
Nth Canterbury	1,145,910	0	39,000	1,184,910
West Coast	424,000	0	33,250	457,250
Central SI	1,030,235	0	40,000	1,070,235
Otago	1,324,478	0	0	1,324,478
Southland	885,171	0	41,199	926,370
NZC only	1,513,516	100,000	30,000	1,643,516
National	1,332,715	0	296,000	1,628,715
TOTAL	12,874,509	100,000	574,449	13,548,958

1

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

Research Fund Allocation

31. An annual allocation is made to the Research Fund to avoid inflating the budget in any one year. The annual Research Budget (\$155k) historically has been split between General Research (\$100k), the National Anglers Survey (\$30k) and the Research for PhD (Cawthron \$25k).
32. NZC made a Business case application of \$100,000 for the Research Fund. NZC approved a \$50,000 top-up of the Research Fund for the 2025/26 financial year.

Staff Development Fund

33. A staff scholarship of \$10,000 is available annually for Fish and Game staff to apply for support from the organisation for national and international study, work experience or participation in events or conferences. The Staff Development Fund of \$10,000 has been retained and will be available for the 2025/26 financial year.

RMA/Legal Fund Allocation

34. The RMA/Legal fund receives budget allocations on a reimbursement basis. It covers payment of costs through a national fund rather than separate funding allocations in individual councils' budgets where approved legal projects occur.
35. NZC submitted a Business Case to provide an additional \$200,000 to the RM Fund. NZC approved \$100,000 to be allocated to the national legal pool fund for this 2025/26 year.

NZC Licence Fee Recommendations

36. After discussion, the NZC voted to recommend to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing of the approval of the 2025 26 Adult whole season sports fish licence of \$161 (an increase of \$5) and Adult whole season game licence increase of \$120 (an increase of \$4) (inclusive of the game bird habitat stamp) inclusive of GST be accepted
37. The NZC also voted to recommend to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing of the approval of the 2025 26 non-resident whole season fishing licence of \$300 (an increase of \$30)
38. That the licence categories be charged at the agreed ratio for all categories;
39. The licence fee(s) and budget go to the Regions for Consultation;
40. Total income, including interest, is \$13,262,190. The Cost of Sales (COS) is the commission and bank transaction charges relating to the sale of licences is budgeted at 4.0% of licence income.

Table 5: Total Income Summary 2025/26

	Fish Licence Income \$			Game Licence Income \$			TOTAL Licence Income \$				
	Fish \$	COS \$	Net Fish \$	Game \$	COS \$	Net Game \$	TOTAL F & G	Total COS \$	Net Licence		
									Income \$	Interest \$	Net Income
Northland	86,520	3,461	83,059	150,600	6,024	144,576	237,120	9,485	227,635	6,421	234,056
Auckland/Waikato	537,320	21,493	515,827	643,600	25,744	617,856	1,180,920	47,237	1,133,683	4,479	1,138,162
Eastern	1,260,700	50,428	1,210,272	256,700	10,268	246,432	1,517,400	60,696	1,456,704	19,820	1,476,524
Hawkes Bay	421,400	16,856	404,544	188,800	7,552	181,248	610,200	24,408	585,792	16,456	602,248
Taranaki	170,380	6,815	163,565	95,000	3,800	91,200	265,380	10,615	254,765	7,756	262,521
Wellington	398,440	15,938	382,502	321,400	12,856	308,544	719,840	28,794	691,046	12,306	703,352
Nelson-Marlborough	579,040	23,162	555,878	84,400	3,376	81,024	663,440	26,538	636,902	2,821	639,723
North Canterbury	1,425,200	57,008	1,368,192	257,600	10,304	247,296	1,682,800	67,312	1,615,488	10,300	1,625,788
West Coast	308,000	12,320	295,680	36,300	1,452	34,848	344,300	13,772	330,528	7,688	338,216
Central South Island	1,731,240	69,250	1,661,990	191,400	7,656	183,744	1,922,640	76,906	1,845,734	27,360	1,873,094
Otago	2,167,060	86,682	2,080,378	392,300	15,692	376,608	2,559,360	102,374	2,456,986	25,308	2,482,293
Southland	1,131,200	45,248	1,085,952	442,000	17,680	424,320	1,573,200	62,928	1,510,272	20,185	1,530,457
Non Resident licence fee uplift											117,382
NZC only										39,646	39,646
National											
TOTAL	10,216,500	408,660	9,807,840	3,060,100	122,404	2,937,696	13,276,600	531,064	12,745,536	200,544	13,063,462

NZ Game Bird Habitat Stamp

41. The NZC recommended the Game Bird Habitat Stamp for 2025/26 remain at \$5.

Modification to Licence Categories and Ratios with whole Season Fees

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

Overall Forecast Position and Use of Reserves

43. The recommendation for licence fees of \$161 and \$120, along with the recommendation of a total budget of \$13,548,958, creates an overall potential surplus of \$88,953.

**Table 6: Overall Forecast Position for Fish and Game
Based on Fish \$161 & Game \$120**

For the Year ended 31 August 2026

Net Licence Sales											12,745,536
Interest											200,544
Uplift of Non-Resident licences											117,382
Total Income											13,063,462
Less Approved Budget											13,548,958
Less funded by Reserves											(574,449)
Total Surplus/(Deficit)											88,953

44. Approval for councils to use their reserves to cover one-off projects for the year totals \$574,449.

45. Forecasts as at April 2025 suggest two regions, Auckland Waikato and Nelson Marlborough, may fall below the 20% reserves and require a top-up of \$45,872. This was included in the baseline budget calculations

Conclusion

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

1. **The licence fees and categories as set out in the appended schedule (Appendix 2) and specifically:**
 - a. That the 2025/26 Whole Season Sports Fish licence fee is set at \$161 (an increase of \$5), and the Adult Whole Season Game licence fee is set at \$120 (an increase of \$4) (inclusive of a \$5 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) inclusive of GST be accepted *;
 - b. That the 2025/26 Non-Resident Whole Season Fishing licence fee is set at \$300 (increase of \$30) *
 - c. with all proportional changes to remaining licence fees
 - d. The Licence LEQ of 72,975 (Fish) and 30,601 (Game).

47. To enable the NZC to consider feedback and make recommendations to the Minister of Conservation at its June 2025 meeting, responses to these changes are requested to be submitted before **Monday, 9 June 2025**.



Barrie Barnes
Chairman
New Zealand Fish and Game Council



Corina Jordan
Chief Executive
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Otago Fish and Game Decision

Mover:

Seconded:

Carried/Not Carried:

Recorded against (if any):

2025-26 Licence sales and interest forecast based on current licence fees.

Region	Extrapolated Fish 2025-26	Extrapolated Game 2026	Budget Fish \$135,652 (\$156 incl GST)	Budget Game \$96,523 (\$111 incl GST excl GHBT \$5)	less comm 4% \$	Net Licence \$	Plus Interest \$	Net Income \$
Northland	618	1506	83,833	145,362	-9,168	220,027	\$6,421	226,448
Auckland Waikato	3838	6436	520,633	621,214	-45,674	1,096,173	\$4,479	1,100,652
Eastern	9005	2567	1,221,548	247,771	-58,773	1,410,546	\$19,820	1,430,366
Hawke's Bay	3010	1888	408,313	182,233	-23,622	566,924	\$16,456	583,380
Taranaki	1217	950	165,089	91,696	-10,271	246,513	\$7,756	254,269
Wellington	2846	3214	386,066	310,221	-27,851	668,435	\$12,306	680,741
Nelson Marlborough	4136	844	561,057	81,464	-25,701	616,821	\$2,821	619,642
North Canterbury	10180	2576	1,380,939	248,640	-65,183	1,564,396	\$5,495	1,569,891
West Coast	2200	363	298,435	35,037	-13,339	320,133	\$7,688	327,821
Central South Island	12366	1914	1,677,475	184,743	-74,489	1,787,729	\$27,360	1,815,089
Otago	15479	3923	2,099,760	378,655	-99,137	2,379,278	\$25,308	2,404,586
Southland	8080	4420	1,096,070	426,626	-60,908	1,461,788	\$20,185	1,481,973
NZC							\$46,730	46,730
	72975	30601	9,899,217	2,953,662	-514,115	12,338,764	202,825	12,541,589

APPENDIX 2

Schedule of FISH AND GAME NZ's proposed Licence & Fees for 2025/26 (inclusive of GST)

Sports Fish Licence		2024/25	2025/26	
Category of licence	Applicant Class	Current fee \$	Proposed fee\$	Fee difference
Whole season (1 Oct – 30 Sep)	Adult	156	161	5
	Junior	31	32	1
	Child	free	free	Nil
Family		203	209	6
Non-resident Whole season	Adult	273	300	30
	Junior	50	52	2
	Child	50	52	2
Winter (1 Apr – 30 Sep)	Adult	94	97	3
Loyal senior	Adult	133	137	4
Local area	Adult	125	129	4
Short break	Adult	56	58	2
Long-break	Adult	109	112	3
Day	Adult	25	26	1
	Junior	6	6	Nil
Non-resident Day	Adult	38	40	2
	Junior	23	24	1
	Child	23	24	1
Controlled period		free	free	Nil
Sea Run Salmon		\$5	\$5	Nil
Designated Waters- resident	Season	\$5	\$5	Nil
Designated Waters- non- resident	Day	\$40	\$40	Nil

Game Bird Licence*		2025	2026	
Category of licence	Applicant Class	Current fee \$	Proposed fee\$	Fee difference
Whole season (primarily 1st Sat in May to 31 Aug)	Adult	116	120	4
	Junior	27	28	1
	Child	5	5	Nil
Day (available from the 2nd Monday of the season)	Adult	27	28	1
	Junior	10	10	Nil

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

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

Notes:

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

7.3 Family Licence Modernisation

Summary of Proposal

The New Zealand Fish & Game Council is seeking regional feedback on proposed changes to the Family Licence category, which include:

- Allowing two primary licence holders
- Permitting all family members to fish independently
- Granting both primary licence holders equal fishing and voting rights
- Investigating any required regulatory or legislative amendments
- Monitoring impacts over a three-year period
- Promoting the change as part of a wider strategy to increase female participation.

Their proposal and supporting papers are attached.

Overview

While the Council should support reviewing the Family Licence category to identify and remove barriers to participation, this proposal lacks sufficient supporting evidence, particularly around financial and behavioural impacts. The consultation material conflates licence category reform with broader promotional strategies targeting women. While both are worthy of attention, they require distinct treatment and evaluation.

Purpose of the Family Licence

The Family Licence was introduced following research in the 1990s showing that most anglers are recruited through family networks, particularly fathers and male relatives. The intention was to enable families to fish together under one cost-effective arrangement and support skill transmission from experienced adults to their partners and children.

Over time, the licence was adapted to provide more flexibility—allowing secondary holders to fish with children independently and later permitting adult partners to take grandchildren. The core principle has always been shared family participation, rather than independent access for two adults. Reframing this category as a discounted double-adult licence undermines its foundational purpose.

Two Equal Primary Licence Holders

Allowing two adults full, independent fishing rights under one discounted licence category is a significant shift. While it may simplify administrative structures, it could also cannibalise revenue by replacing two full licences with one subsidised family licence. The proposal appears to support this change primarily on equity grounds, without robust modelling of potential switching behaviour or financial impacts.

Discrimination?

The assertion that the current Family Licence is discriminatory appears unsubstantiated. The licence allows *either* partner to be the primary holder - there is no gender restriction. Any perceived imbalance in how this is applied is more likely a reflection of social patterns in licence purchases, not a flaw in the system's design.

Financial Implications

The FAQ document cites an estimated annual revenue loss of \$149,501 from households that currently purchase both a Family Licence and an additional adult licence. However, these projections are not detailed, and no modelling has been provided. It is premature to make structural changes to a licence category without full transparency around the financial impacts—especially when regional budgets are already under pressure.

Taupo Fishery is reported as introducing the proposed provisions two years ago but no data has been provided on the financial impact, the change in angler preferences for licences, or additional participation by women.

The assumption that lost revenue will be offset by an influx of new women anglers is optimistic at best, particularly given the marginal increase in participation experienced from past licence category promotions. This warrants further scrutiny before action is taken.

Concerns with the Evidence Base

Much of the supporting evidence rests on a 2025 survey from Women on The Fly NZ with 51 respondents. While their perspectives are important, a self-selected sample from a community of enthusiasts does not represent the broader population of potential female anglers. In contrast, no data has been presented on current family licence holders' views, nor have switching behaviours or compliance risks been evaluated.

We also note that the national Licence Category Optimisation Report—designed to review all categories for financial sustainability and participation has yet to be tabled. Proceeding with major licence changes ahead of that report appears premature.

Recommendation

Urge NZC to proceed with caution to ensure that the long-term implications for revenue, participation, and licence structure are fully understood. The timeline for the introduction of a change is also very tight.

NZC should defer any decision on the Family Licence proposal until the following information is made available and considered:

1. Detailed modelling of potential revenue impacts and category switching, including Juniors
2. A broader analysis of current Family Licence holders and their likely response to the change
3. A full review by the National Licence Working Party, including consideration of the forthcoming Licence Category and Pricing Optimisation Report

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
9th May 2025

Supporting Women Anglers: modernising the Family Licence

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting #174

For Decision

Prepared by: Maggie Tait, Principal Communications Advisor, NZ Fish and Game Council

Kōrero taunaki - Summary of considerations

Purpose

1. This report to the New Zealand Council seeks support to modernise family licences.

Financial considerations

Nil Budgetary provision x Unbudgeted

Risk

Low x Medium High Extreme

Ngā taunaki - Staff Recommendations

That the New Zealand Council:

1. **Amend** the family licence regulations to allow for two primary licence holders, giving both members of a couple equal fishing rights and voting privileges.
2. **Implement** this change for the 2025/26 fishing season.
3. **Investigate** any necessary legislative or regulatory amendments required to implement this change.
4. **Monitor** the financial and participation impacts of this change over a three-year period, with specific attention to rates of women's participation.
5. **Notes** that the change will be promoted as part of a coordinated strategy to address barriers to women's participation in fresh water sports fishing.

Whakarāpopoto - Executive Summary

2. The current family licence structure designates one person as the primary licence holder with the ability to fish independently, while the secondary licence holder (typically a woman) may only fish with children or the primary licence holder. This restricts women's participation in fishing and reinforces outdated gender roles.
3. The Department of Conservation's Taupo District approach to family licences allows both partners to be recognised as licence holders with equal rights.
4. By adopting a similar approach, Fish & Game NZ can address a significant barrier to women's participation in fishing, potentially increasing licence sales and creating a more inclusive fishing community.
5. Financial analysis indicates approximately \$149,501 in additional licence revenue is currently being spent by households containing a family licence holder, suggesting there is demand for both adults in a household to fish independently.
6. Women on The Fly NZ community survey results show that 67% of respondents believe the current regulations are unfair and should be changed, with 82% believing these regulations negatively affect women's participation.
7. Research demonstrates that Fish & Game has reached "carrying capacity" with its current demographic profile. If women participated in fresh water sports fishing at the same rate as men (3.6% vs. current 0.4%), licence holders would increase by an estimated 60,000, significantly boosting participation and revenue.
8. These proposed changes align with Fish & Game's R³ strategy (recruitment, retention, reactivation) and the recommendations from the governance review highlighting the need for increased diversity.

Takenga mai - Background

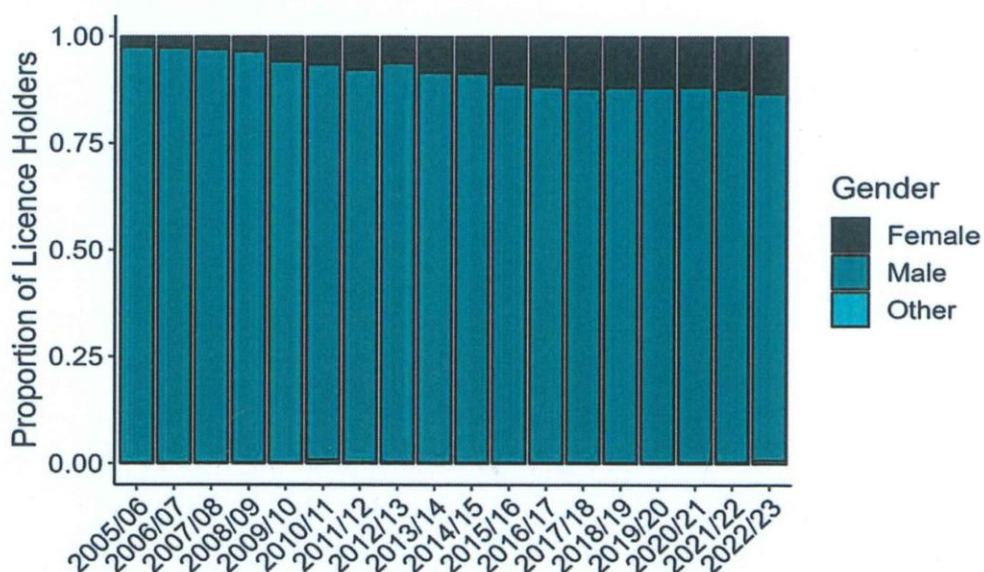
9. The current family licence (\$203) includes "a couple and up to 4 children or grandchildren under the age of 18." However, only the primary licence holder may fish independently, while the secondary licence holder may only fish with the children named on the licence or alongside the primary licence holder.
10. For comparison DOC's family licence is \$159. NZC staff are not recommending increasing the Fish & Game price.

11. Fish & Game's website states: "The licence allows one person (the primary licenceholder), or one person and that person's spouse or partner (the secondary licenceholder) and their children or grandchildren (who are under 18 years of age on October 1) to fish together. The secondary licence holder may take the children named on the licence fishing (and fish themselves with the children) without the primary holder taking part. But only the primary licence holder may use this licence to fish on their own."
12. This restriction presents a significant barrier for the secondary licence holder, who must purchase an additional adult licence (\$156) to fish independently.
13. Recent survey data and constituent correspondence indicate that this structure disproportionately impacts women, who are more likely to be designated as secondary licence holders.
14. At present, only the primary licence holder receives Fish & Game communications and has voting rights in Fish & Game elections, further limiting women's representation and voice in the organisation.

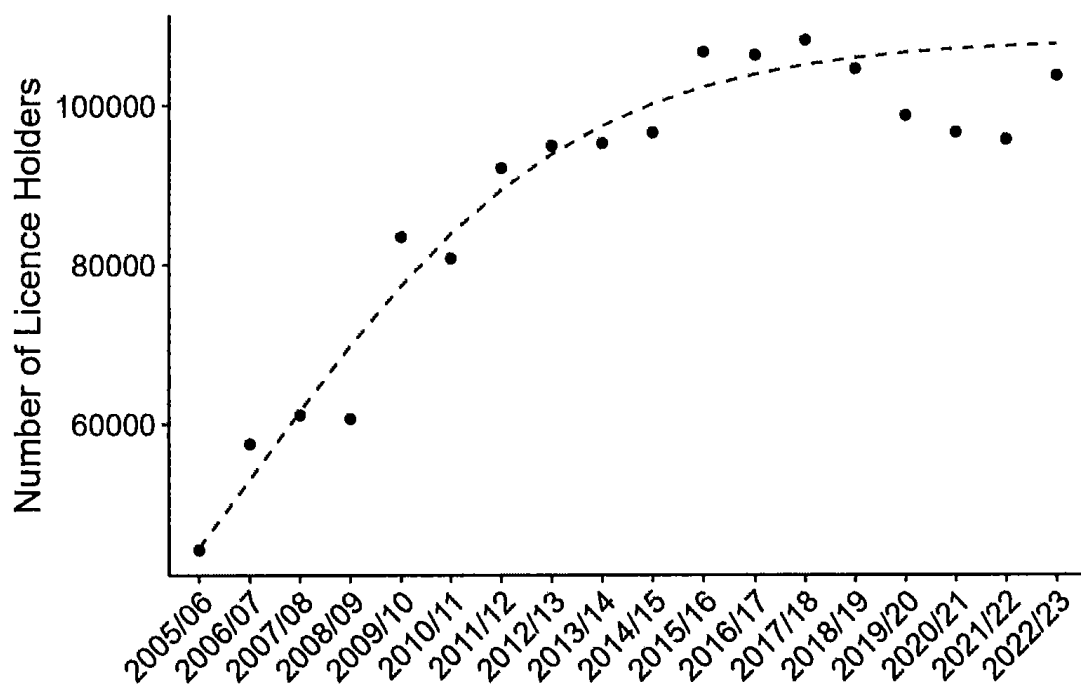
Kōrerorero - Discussion

Current Participation and Potential Growth

14. During the 2023/24 fishing season, 14,763 out of a total of 109,356 anglers were women, accounting for approximately 13 percent of the total angler population.
15. During the 2005/06 fishing season, 1,099 Fish & Game anglers were women. This constitutes an increase in the proportion of anglers who were women of an average of 0.6% per year.



16. However, official statistics likely underestimate female participation due to the lack of data on female spouses on family fishing licences and junior/child anglers – potentially an additional 16,000 women.
17. Currently, 3.6% of the adult male population in New Zealand purchases a fishing licence annually, compared to only 0.4% of the adult female population.
18. Were women to participate in fresh water sports fishing at the same rate as men, that would increase the number of Fish & Game licence holders by an estimated 60,000, representing significant potential for growth.
19. Research by H. Sanders Garrick (2024) indicates that Fish & Game has reached "carrying capacity" within its existing demographic of anglers. The number of fishing licence holders has plateaued in recent years, as shown by logistic growth modelling of licence sales since the 2005/06 fishing season.



20. Without expanding the demographic profile of fresh water sports fishing, Fish & Game will have limited opportunity for future growth. The current licence holder base is oscillating slightly above and below the threshold level, indicating a mature market.
21. In North America, women are the fastest growing demographic in hunting and fishing, suggesting similar potential exists in New Zealand with the right policy changes and targeted initiatives.

22. Broadening the demographics of fresh water anglers is crucial not only for financial sustainability but also to increase social support for fresh water sports fishing and maintenance of healthy fresh water ecosystems in a changing attitudinal and political landscape.

Financial Implications

18. During the 2023/24 season, \$118,230 worth of non-family whole season licences were purchased by people from households that already contained a family licence holder.
19. An additional \$31,271 was spent on short-term licences by members of these same households.
20. This suggests that many secondary licence holders (predominantly women) are already purchasing separate licences to fish independently, at a combined cost of \$149,501 annually.
21. While changing to a two primary holder system might initially appear to reduce revenue (as some households would no longer need to purchase additional licences), the increased participation of women could lead to significant long-term revenue growth through both direct licence sales and related expenditures.

Barriers to Women's Participation

22. A 2025 survey by Women on The Fly NZ found that 67% of respondents believe the current family licence regulations are unfair and should be changed.
23. 82% of respondents believe the current regulations negatively affect women's participation in fresh water sports fishing.
24. Research commissioned by Fish & Game NZ from Dr Stu Hayes and Professor Brent Lovelock (University of Otago) identified several key barriers to women's participation in trout fishing:
- a) **Lack of representation:** Traditional portrayals of fishing as a male-dominated activity have contributed to a lack of visibility of women in the sport.
 - b) **Access to resources:** Women may encounter difficulties accessing essential resources and support systems, such as equipment, knowledge, and mentorship opportunities.
 - c) **Cultural and social norms:** Deep-seated norms surrounding gender roles may discourage women from pursuing fishing as a recreational activity.

- d) **Lack of women in leadership positions:** Limited representation in governance and decision-making roles further restricts women's influence in the fishing community.

25. The Women on The Fly NZ survey highlighted additional practical barriers, including:

- Cost
- Lack of flexibility in the current licensing structure
- The inability to fish independently
- Outdated and restrictive rules that do not reflect modern family dynamics
- Lack of confidence in skills
- Safety concerns when fishing in remote areas

26. Correspondence from licence holders has highlighted frustration with the current system, with one noting: "I feel this is nonsensical and unfair; anyone on our family licence should be able to fish whenever they want and with whoever they want to fish with."

Department of Conservation Model

26. The Department of Conservation (DOC) for the Taupo District employs a more inclusive approach to family licences, defining a family licence as one that "entitles the holder and the holder's spouse or partner and any member of the holder's family, to take trout within the Taupō District."

27. This model recognises both partners equally as licence holders, without designating one as primary and one as secondary.

28. Adopting a similar approach would align Fish & Game with this proven model and address a significant barrier to women's participation.

Voting Rights and Representation

29. Currently, only primary licence holders have voting rights in Fish & Game elections, further limiting women's representation and influence in the organisation.

30. Extending voting rights to both primary licence holders in a family licence would help increase women's participation in governance and decision-making processes.

31. This aligns with recommendations from the governance review highlighting the need for increased diversity across the organisation.

Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei - Next actions

32. If approved, staff will:

- a) Draft the necessary amendments to the family licence regulations.
- b) Develop a communication plan to inform current and potential licence holders about the change.
- c) Update licence purchasing systems to accommodate two primary licence holders on family licences.
- d) Monitor and report on the financial and participation impacts of the change over a three-year period.
- e) Work with regional councils to promote this change as part of broader initiatives to encourage women's participation in fishing.

33. Staff recommend implementation for the 2025/26 fishing season, beginning 1 October 2025.

Family Licence Reform: Frequently Asked Questions

Financial Implications

Q: Will changing to a two primary holder system reduce our revenue?

A: While there may be a short-term reduction in revenue from households that currently purchase both a family licence and an additional adult licence (estimated at \$149,501 annually), research indicates significant potential for growth.

Q: How much would it cost to implement this change?

A: Apart from loss in revenue, costs would be minimal. For the DOC fishery, the ratio of adult whole season licence to the family licence is higher than the Fish & Game ratio for the same licences, so a comparative increase may mitigate some of that licence revenue loss and deter fraudulent claims.

Q: Can we afford to make this change given current budget constraints?

A: It's not just necessary but will be beneficial. Fish & Game has reached "carrying capacity" with its current demographic. Without expanding to new demographics, particularly women, we face stagnant or declining participation rates. The financial benefits of attracting more women to fishing far outweigh the implementation costs.

Implementation

Q: How would we verify that both licence holders are genuinely partners?

A: We would use the same verification methods currently employed for family licences. The DOC model for the Taupo District has successfully implemented this approach without significant verification issues. Under current rules, we already verify that someone is a spouse or partner to be included on a family licence.

Q: Would we need to change legislation to implement this reform?

A: Any necessary regulatory changes would be identified during the implementation planning phase.

Q: How would we handle voting rights for both primary licence holders?

A: Both primary licence holders would receive separate communications and voting rights for Fish & Game elections. This process is straightforward to implement through our existing systems with minimal adjustments.

Impact on participation

Q: Would this change really make a difference to women's participation?

A: Yes, the evidence strongly suggests it would. A 2025 survey conducted by Women on The Fly NZ (with 51 respondents from their community of approximately 700 members) shows 82% of respondents believe the current regulations negatively affect women's participation.

Women currently represent only 13% of identified anglers (potentially up to 28%, including unidentified participants on family licences). In comparable regions like North America, women are the fastest-growing demographic in fishing and hunting when barriers are removed.

Q: Why focus on encouraging more women to take up freshwater fishing?

A: Freshwater sports fishing is for everyone.

Research shows women enjoy fishing for many of the same reasons as men: connecting with nature, mental well-being, learning new skills, and social connections. The data shows women currently participate at only 0.4% compared to 3.6% for men, indicating not a lack of interest but the presence of barriers to participation.

Research commissioned by Fish & Game NZ from Dr Stu Hayes and Professor Brent Lovelock (University of Otago) found the family licence was a constraint and recommended changing it. "Another issue had to do with the family licence and, in particular, the requirement that the primary licence holder (generally a husband/partner) must always be present. This requirement was viewed as being problematic for almost all the women we spoke to who had held, or hold, a family licence, in that the requirement can restrict one's ability to fish alone or with others."

Q: How do we know women want to fish independently?

A: Survey data and financial records demonstrate this clearly. During the 2023/24 season, \$118,230 worth of non-family whole season licences were purchased by people from households that already contained a family licence holder. The 2025 Women on The Fly NZ survey showed that 67% of respondents believe the current family licence regulations are unfair and should be changed. The survey also revealed that women's motivations for fishing include connecting with nature, mental well-being, and learning new skills—activities they should be able to pursue independently.

Addressing Specific Concerns

Q: Won't men just claim their friends as "partners" to save money?

A: No, we don't believe this will be a problem.

1. The same verification requirements that prevent abuse of the current family licence system would apply
2. The DOC's Taupo District has implemented a similar approach without encountering this issue
3. The proposed definition clearly outlines who qualifies as family members
4. The potential financial benefit would be minimal compared to the effort of falsifying a relationship

Q: Why change a system that has worked well for decades?

A: The current system hasn't worked well for many participants, particularly women. The system reflects an outdated model where men were seen as the primary anglers. Modern families and partnerships are more equal, with both partners wanting to participate fully in recreational activities. The proposed change will bring our licensing system into line with modern times and the DOC approach.

Q: Won't this cause confusion among licence holders?

A: Clear communication during implementation would minimise any confusion. The change simplifies the system by removing arbitrary restrictions on who can fish and when. Most licence holders will welcome the added flexibility and equality in the system.

Benefits Beyond Participation

Q: How does this change benefit Fish & Game beyond potential licence sales?

A: Benefits include:

- Greater diversity in the fishing community
- Increased support for freshwater sports fishing
- Enhanced support to maintain and enhance healthy freshwater ecosystems
- Broader political and community backing for Fish & Game initiatives
- A better fit with today's values of fairness and inclusion More families taking part in fishing activities
- Potential for more diverse representation in Fish & Game governance
- Increased perceived value of a family fishing licence

Q: Does this align with our broader strategic goals?

A: Yes, this change directly supports our R³ strategy (recruitment, retention, reactivation) and aligns with recommendations from the governance review, highlighting the need for increased diversity across the organisation.

Comparing with DOC's Approach

Q: How has the DOC approach worked in the Taupo District?

A: The DOC approach in the Taupo District has successfully implemented a more inclusive definition of family licences that recognises both partners equally. Their definition includes "one person, or one person and that person's spouse or partner", along with dependants and grandchildren under 18. This model has functioned effectively without any of the concerns raised.

Q: What key differences exist between our proposed system and DOC's approach?

A: Our proposed approach is modelled closely on DOC's system, with adjustments for our specific administrative requirements. Both systems recognise the equality of partners in a family licence arrangement and avoid designating one person as "primary" and one as "secondary."

The DoC definition of family is:

- one person, or one person and that person's spouse or partner; and
- the dependants of that person or those persons who
- ordinarily or periodically reside with that person or those persons and
- are aged under 18 years on 1 July; and
- the grandchildren of that person or those persons who are aged under 18 years on 1 July.

Otago Fish and Game Decision

Mover:

Seconder:

Carried/Not Carried:

Recorded against (if any):

8.0 Public Excluded Items

8.1 Draft Public Excluded Minutes 18th March 2025

8.2 Report on Health and Safety Incident

8.3 Draft Sports Fish Game Management Plan Review and Progress

8.4 Property Update

9.0 Financial Report

Draft Finance and Licence Sales 30th April 2025

9.1 Finance Reports

The financial Profit and Loss report and Balance sheet for the period from 1st September 2024 to 30th April 2025 for the 2024/25 financial year are below.

Profit and Loss

Income

Licence Income

Fish licence revenue from the profit and loss statement 30th April 2025 totals \$2,089,732 (Fish sales \$2,047,867 + Designated Water licence \$41,865) compared with \$2,032,153 for the same period of the 2023/24 season. Fish licence revenue is ahead 2023/24 season by \$57,579.

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 382 Sea Run Salmon endorsements with a value of \$1,660.87 (GST excl). These funds will be returned to them.

Game licence revenue from the profit and loss statement 30th April 2025 totals \$288,575 compared with \$247,652 for the same period of the 2024 season. Game licence revenue is ahead by \$40,923. Many game licences are sold the few days before opening. May game licence income is not accounted for here.

The budget for game licence sales is \$380,682 for the full year.

Other Income

Total other income to 30th April 2025 is \$86,562.

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. There is no more to claim.

Donations and Grants (not in budget)

Donation/Grant from	For	Amount GST excl
Otago Community Trust	Take A Kid Fishing	\$2,900
Ricoh	Wetland Plants	\$1,000
Bayfield High School	Rod Hire	50
Total		\$3,950

Expenses

Expenditure at the 30th April for the 2024/25 financial year is \$2,258,667 against a year-to-date budget of \$1,832,373.

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

The main reasons for any variances are:

- Species Management – Populations Monitoring -This includes the Central Lakes acoustic survey and bird count flights
- Habitat Protection – RMA spending includes that claimed from NZC for Regional Policy Statement work.
- Participation – Most fish training events and gun club shoots for the year have been attended, we had a grant of \$2,900 from Otago Community Trust towards Take A Kid Fishing events. Back country surveys have been less than expected.
- Public interface. Weekly fishing reports will be extend to fortnightly game hunting reports that were not budgeted for. Communications strategy has a budgeted reserve to spend from.
- Compliance – No court costs yet and game ranging expense occurs in May.
- Licencing – Commission is made up from 5% agent sales commission and bank fees associated with online sales.
- Council expenses – four meetings have been held, plus a meeting with the minister. Travel and accommodation cost have increased.
- Planning and Reporting – Some end of year accountancy assistance and the audit.
- Over Heads/Administration- Staff expenses - Staff training covers new staff training and university studies as an extra, Staff employment expense is high from assistance in employing new staff members. .
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 area. Office equipment – Two chest freezers purchase as extras.
- Approved Reserves Expenses - \$27,479. This is expenditure approved by the council for the Bendigo, Bullock Creek and some Otago Property and RMA Reserves.
- Building costs are a significant component of the variance. \$396,715 to date.
- Depreciation – Depreciation year to date is \$39,525.
- Levies to NZC – paid monthly as per budget. \$803,925 excl GST.

The profit and loss for the 8 months ended 30th April 2025 shows a surplus of \$199,642.

Balance Sheet

Bank Funds Position at 30th April 2025

Bank	Value
ANZ 00 Account	\$93,127.61
ANZ 70 Account	\$304,198.85
ASB Account	\$75.57
Cash On Hand	\$50.00
Total	\$397,452.03

Term Investments as at 30th April 2025

Investment Bank	Amount	Rate	Maturity
ANZ 1002	\$206,150	5.15%	22 th Sept 2025
ANZ 1003	\$500,000	5.55%	6 th June 2025
ASB 81	\$212,264	4.85%	2 nd Aug 2025
ASB 82	\$500,000	5.40%	10 th Sept 2025
ASB 83	\$300,000	5.25%	20 th May 2025
Total	\$1,718,414		

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 \$13,161. The total includes the purchase of a ford ranger truck and computer laptop and sales of ford ranger truck and a 4 wheel motor bike. Land and building transactions are not part of the asset replacement fund.

Liabilities

Total Liabilities at 30th April are \$449,717.

- Other payables include visa card spending, accrued accounting and audit fee expenses and income in advance.
- Employee Entitlements includes \$43,795 of outstanding leave entitlements and accrued leave reversal from the previous year.
- Designated Waters and Salmon Endorsement 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
Regional Policy Statement NZC Legal Fund	\$20,510	\$20,510	\$0.0

Equity

Otago Fish and Game Reserves 30th April 2025

Otago Reserves Movements	Balance 1 st September 2024	Income (To) Reserve	Note	Outgoing (From) Reserve	Balance 30 th April 2025
Non-resident DW Levy	\$314,913	\$41,865	1	\$14,193	\$342,585
Habitat Enhancement & Research	\$22,692	\$2,510	2	\$1,000	\$24,202
Bullock Creek Reserve Restricted Reserve	\$1,776	\$0	3	\$1,241	535\$
Bendigo Reserve Restricted Reserve	\$22,508	\$0	8	\$2,877	\$19,631
Priority Consents Reserve	\$34,190	\$0	7	\$0	\$34,190
Otago Property Reserves	\$1,008,566	\$401,316	4	\$488,064	\$921,818
Priority Plan Changes	\$24,539	\$0	6	\$4,337	\$20,201
Communications Strategy		\$62,700	5	1,308	61,392
Total	\$1,429,185	\$508,391		\$513,020	\$1,424,019

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 \$23,442. Less committed but not yet paid out of \$3,000 so balance of \$21,202 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 \$16,817 + Office build and rent \$469,020 + others \$2,227. Council Approved \$401,316 extra March 2025.

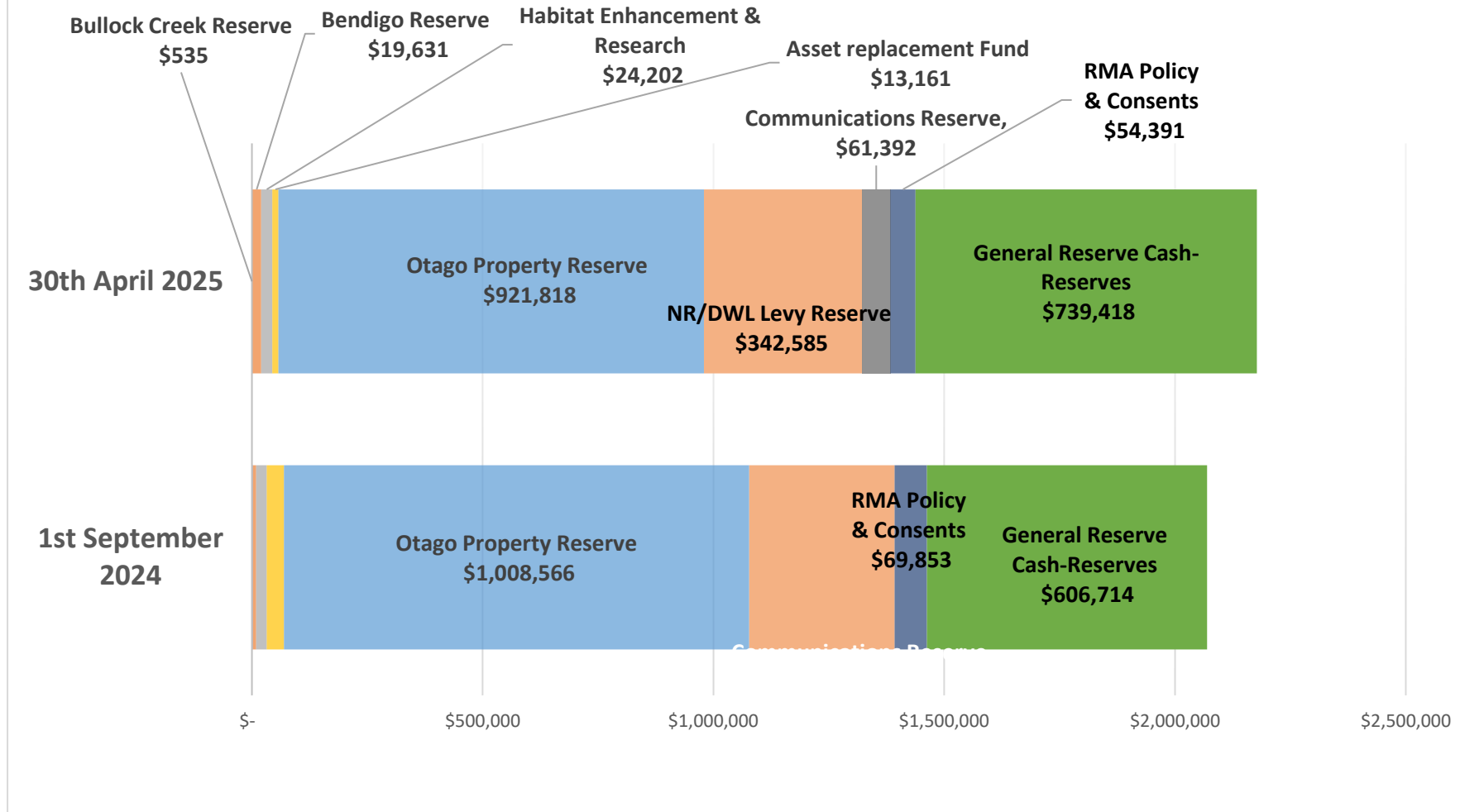
Note 5 Communications Strategy - Council approved September 2024. New Reserve.

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. ORC 2nd Eco Fund \$5,000 June 2024

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2024 TO 30TH APRIL 2025



Balance Sheet

Otago Fish and Game Council As at 30 April 2025

	30 APR 2025	31 AUG 2024
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank	397,452	1,663,253
Receivables		
Accounts Receivable	420,228	202,738
Total Receivables	420,228	202,738
GST	20,195	32,465
Investments	1,718,415	406,083
Inventory	27,710	27,710
Accrued Interest	6,523	6,523
Accounts Receivable - Other	329	-
Total Current Assets	2,590,852	2,338,773
Fixed Assets		
Property Plant & Equipment	2,107,481	2,124,360
Total Fixed Assets	2,107,481	2,124,360
Total Assets	4,698,333	4,463,133
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	212,031	80,178
Other Payables	189,873	243,926
Employee Entitlements	43,957	90,055
Rounding	-	-
Salmon Endorsement	1,661	-
Designated Waters other regions	2,195	-
Total Current Liabilities	449,717	414,159
Total Liabilities	449,717	414,159
Net Assets	4,248,616	4,048,974
Equity		
Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated Funds	3,204,580	1,548,016
Current Year Earnings	199,642	1,656,565
Transfer (To)/From Reserves	(593,320)	(621,979)
Total Accumulated Funds	2,810,903	2,582,601
Dedicated Reserves		
Non Resident Levy Reserve	342,585	314,913
Habitat Enhancement & Research	24,202	22,692
Priority Plan Changes Reserve	20,201	24,539
Priority Consents Reserve	34,190	34,190

	30 APR 2025	31 AUG 2024
Otago Property Reserve (was Historical Property Reserve)	921,818	1,008,566
Communications Strategy Reserve	61,392	-
Asset Replacement Funding	13,161	37,190
Total Dedicated Reserves	1,417,548	1,442,089
Restricted Reserves		
Bullock Creek Reserve	535	1,776
Bendigo Reserve	19,631	22,508
Total Restricted Reserves	20,166	24,285
Total Equity	4,248,616	4,048,974

Profit and Loss

Otago Fish and Game Council For the 8 months ended 30 April 2025

	MAR 2025	APR 2025	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Income								
Licence Sales								
Fish Licence Sales	74,186	59,884	2,047,867	1,992,511	55,356	103%	2,090,400	2,052,245
Non-Resident Licence Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,909
Designated Water Licence Sales	5,713	2,187	41,865	-	41,865	-	-	40,340
Game Licence Sales	74,117	214,238	288,575	285,512	3,063	101%	380,682	370,260
Total Licence Sales	154,017	276,310	2,378,307	2,278,023	100,284	104%	2,471,082	2,464,754
Other Income								
Wages Reimbursement	1,908	-	4,691	-	4,691	-	-	15,743
Contact Energy Mitigation Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90,868
Clutha Mata-Au Trust	31,000	-	31,000	-	31,000	-	-	-
Govt Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Interest Income	657	439	19,879	38,646	(18,767)	51%	57,966	59,739
Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	-	-	-	336	(336)	-	500	2,700
Rent Received	500	1,811	5,311	28,299	(22,988)	19%	42,450	45,207
Fishing Competitions	-	-	1,287	-	1,287	-	-	1,119
Depreciation Recovered on Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	475,880
Donations ,bequests and other Fundraising	50	-	1,050	-	1,050	-	-	17,929
Merchandise Sales/Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
RMA Costs Reimbursed	-	-	20,537	-	20,537	-	-	16,990
Sundry Income	-	-	296	-	296	-	-	2,227
Diversion - Habitat Enhancement and Research Fund	1,100	660	2,510	-	2,510	-	-	15,100
Total Other Income	35,215	2,910	86,562	67,281	19,281	129%	100,916	748,544

	MAR 2025	APR 2025	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Capital Gains on Sale of Assets	-	-	(6,560)	-	(6,560)	-	-	1,202,472
Total Income	189,231	279,220	2,458,309	2,345,304	113,005	105%	2,571,998	4,415,771
Gross Profit	189,231	279,220	2,458,309	2,345,304	113,005	105%	2,571,998	4,415,771
Expenses								
Species Management								
Population Monitoring	261	-	12,216	10,000	2,216	122%	13,000	9,311
Monitor key fisheries/Research Liaison	-	-	20	668	(648)	3%	1,000	-
Harvest Assessment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,200
Hatchery Operations	-	-	6,243	8,556	(2,313)	73%	10,000	(6,597)
Releases	-	-	647	750	(103)	86%	1,000	951
Game Bird Control compliants	-	-	68	-	68	-	-	2,241
Total Species Management	261	-	19,193	19,974	(781)	96%	25,000	10,106
Habitat Protection & Mngt								
Contact Sports Fish Management Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,492
Clutha Mata-Au Trust expenses	-	19,213	19,213	-	19,213	-	-	-
Resource Mngt Act	-	-	21,718	668	21,050	3,251%	1,000	17,970
Works & Management	567	523	7,054	8,336	(1,282)	85%	12,500	9,846
Assisted Habitat	-	-	170	-	170	-	-	-
Habitat Enhancement Research Fund Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,649
Total Habitat Protection & Mngt	567	19,736	48,155	9,004	39,151	535%	13,500	99,957
Participation								
Access and Signage	296	-	1,560	2,068	(508)	75%	3,000	1,061
Back Country Surveys/Monitoring	1,980	52	9,193	22,500	(13,307)	41%	25,000	20,259
Promotion Articles and Advertising	-	-	-	400	(400)	-	500	241
Publications and Web Site	-	-	120	-	120	-	-	924

	MAR 2025	APR 2025	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
OF&G Training Events	138	19	2,274	2,000	274	114%	2,000	3,020
Club Relations and Grants	116	231	813	1,000	(187)	81%	1,000	1,650
Wetland Reserve Ballots	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Total Participation	2,530	302	13,960	27,968	(14,008)	50%	31,500	27,177
PUBLIC INTERFACE								
Liaison								
Liaison DoC Unin Govt CFT IWI	-	-	19	700	(681)	3%	1,000	41
Total Liaison	-	-	19	700	(681)	3%	1,000	41
Communication								
World Wetlands	-	-	97	200	(103)	49%	200	27
Total Communication	-	-	97	200	(103)	49%	200	27
Media Releases								
Advocacy Statutory	-	-	-	400	(400)	-	500	-
Weekly Fishing Reports/ social media	560	700	4,340	4,800	(460)	90%	6,000	4,375
Communications Strategy	-	-	1,308	-	1,308	-	-	15,398
Media Release	-	-	140	-	140	-	-	-
Total Media Releases	560	700	5,788	5,200	588	111%	6,500	19,773
Total PUBLIC INTERFACE	560	700	5,904	6,100	(196)	97%	7,700	19,841
COMPLIANCE								
Ranger Training and Expenses	-	-	1,466	4,000	(2,534)	37%	5,500	2,828
Compliance	-	-	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	10,000	8,250
Total COMPLIANCE	-	-	1,466	9,000	(7,534)	16%	15,500	11,078
LICENCING								
Designated Waters IT Build	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,023
Agent Servicing	34	-	119	250	(131)	48%	250	252

	MAR 2025	APR 2025	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Commission/Fees	6,064	11,933	82,084	93,768	(11,684)	88%	98,843	89,251
Total LICENCING	6,098	11,933	82,203	94,018	(11,815)	87%	99,093	110,525
COUNCIL								
Elections Council	-	-	-	500	(500)	-	500	-
Council Meetings and Agendas	2,800	487	14,045	10,500	3,545	134%	15,000	14,103
Total COUNCIL	2,800	487	14,045	11,000	3,045	128%	15,500	14,103
PLANNING & REPORTING								
Reporting/Audit	-	-	18,018	18,000	18	100%	18,000	16,156
National Liason	-	-	-	400	(400)	-	500	266
Total PLANNING & REPORTING	-	-	18,018	18,400	(382)	98%	18,500	16,421
ADMINISTRATION								
Salaries	110,608	62,188	590,775	654,556	(63,781)	90%	981,843	951,670
Staff Expenses								
ACC Levy	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,500	1,931
Fringe Benefit Tax	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,000	6,156
Staff Training	155	-	5,248	5,000	248	105%	8,000	6,765
Staff Clothing Branded	-	25	346	-	346	-	-	1,358
Staff Personal Expenses	(20)	-	(279)	-	(279)	-	-	-
Staff Expenses	230	557	3,333	6,000	(2,667)	56%	8,000	9,120
Staff Employment Expenses	352	-	7,414	1,000	6,414	741%	1,000	5,488
Employee Assistance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,000
Total Staff Expenses	718	582	16,063	12,000	4,063	134%	27,500	46,818
Office Premices	12,587	17,021	126,991	63,828	63,163	199%	87,689	91,664
Office Equipment	45	740	2,084	1,900	184	110%	2,000	3,463
Communications	1,514	1,884	12,237	15,532	(3,295)	79%	23,200	19,740
General Exp (incl Insurance)	110	34	1,377	3,300	(1,923)	42%	3,600	14,350

	MAR 2025	APR 2025	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
General Field Equipment	615	-	639	2,382	(1,743)	27%	3,300	2,769
Vehicles	4,780	1,475	35,222	40,332	(5,110)	87%	55,000	51,560
Total ADMINISTRATION	130,977	83,925	785,388	793,830	(8,442)	99%	1,184,132	1,182,034
Approved Reserve Expense	830	130	27,479	-	27,479	-	-	43,052
Approved Building WIP Mosgiel	157,389	171,160	396,715	-	396,715	-	-	-
Depreciation	5,071	5,071	39,525	39,152	373	101%	58,724	56,784
Fish Salvage	-	-	33	-	33	-	-	-
Gain on Disposal	-	-	(2,342)	-	(2,342)	-	-	-
Loss on Disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,169
NZ Fish & Game Levies	100,491	100,491	803,925	803,927	(2)	100%	1,205,887	1,161,958
University of Otago Research Grant	-	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Total Expenses	407,576	393,934	2,258,667	1,832,373	426,294	123%	2,675,036	2,759,206
Net Profit	(218,344)	(114,714)	199,642	512,931	(313,289)	39%	(103,038)	1,656,565

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 30th April 2025

See table following for fish licence sales numbers and categories for the 2024/25 and 2023/24 season sales to the 30th April 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), 15,059, LEQs this season compared with 15,002 LEQs to the 30th April of the season - 57 LEQs ahead of last year.

Short term fishing license numbers have increased in all categories. All non resident licences categories have also increased.

Game Licence Sales 2024/25 Season to Opening Day

See table following for fish licence sales numbers and categories for the 2024/25 and 2023/24 season sales to opening day of the season.

Sales began on the 13th March. The gamebird habitat stamp charge has remained the same at \$5 per licence.

In summary, 2025 game licence sales, in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs), 4,181, LEQs this season compared with 3869 LEQs of the previous season - 312 LEQs ahead of last year.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Finance Report and Licence Report to the 30th April 2025 be received.**

Sharon Milne
Administration Officer
12/05/2025

Otago Regional Fish License Sales to the 30th April of the Season

2024/25

Sales	FWFA	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	DWLR	DWLN	Total	Fish LEQ
Public	2020	2616	610	363	419	119	45	491	2747	2619	784	60	376	129	27	88	0	1605	652	15770	8,534
Agency	1764	2613	206	816	156	64	24	136	463	608	447	23	60	46	7	33	382	1160	269	9277	6,525
Total	3784	5229	816	1179	575	183	69	627	3210	3227	1231	83	436	175	34	121	382	2765	921	25047	15,059

2023/24

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

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

Otago Region Game Bird Hunting License Sales to Opening Day Of the Season

2025							
Sales	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ
Public	984	157	63	0	0	1204	1,015
Agency	3118	241	92	0	0	3451	3,166
Total	4102	398	155	0	0	4655	4,181

2024							
Sales	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ
Public	739	105	55	0	0	899	759
Agency	3065	227	77	0	0	3369	3,109
Total	3804	332	132	0	0	4268	3,869

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

10.0 Chief Executives Report

10.1 SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Monitor fisheries

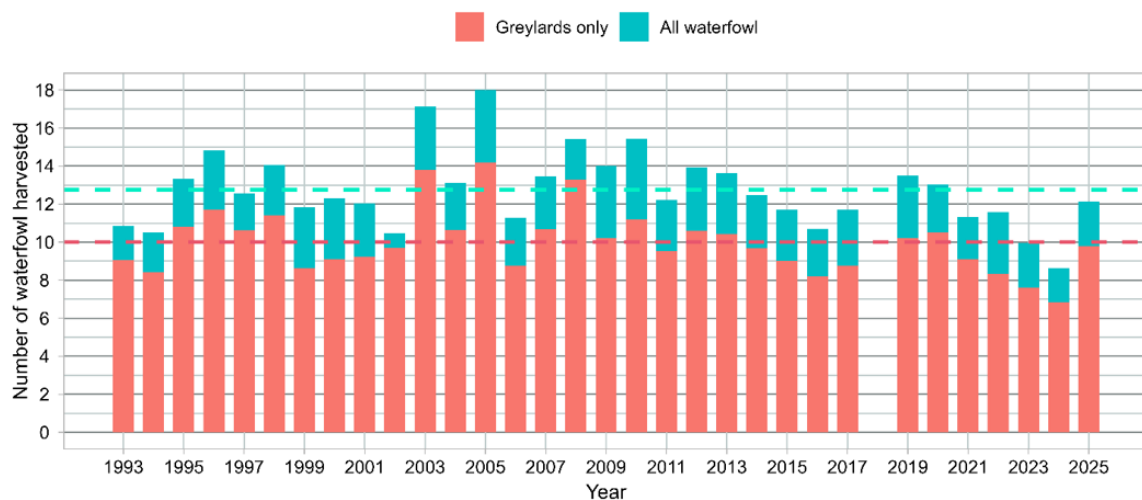
Spawning surveys are underway for the season for both trout and salmon. One round of aerial flights of the Clutha River have been completed with some early trout spawning being noted. No salmon were seen.

Gamebird monitoring

Aerial monitoring flights for paradise shelduck were completed in January and were reported at the March meeting. The report has been included again because some Councillors wished to discuss its content.

Gamebird opening weekend harvest

Good conditions for hunting translated into bigger bags for hunters based on the harvest data collected to date. (See interim chart below) The report will come to the next meeting but there seems that there were more ducks taken in this year than for a while and hunters also stayed out longer.



Regulations

The changes to the Anglers Notice for Otago has been forwarded onto New Zealand Council. The triennial review for the gamebird gazette notice will begin now with early consultation with iwi.

Species interaction

We have been supporting the Clutha Fisheries Trust in trying to bring together a group of practitioners and academics to discuss future galaxiid protection in Otago. The initial proposal was met with some resistance which was unfortunate. There will be a need to put some of the politics of freshwater fish interactions aside if there is to be any multi agency emphasis on non migratory galaxiid protection for the future.

10.2 HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Mata Au Sportsfish and Habitat Trust

There is a fuller update from the Trust later in this agenda but our staff have been contracted to undertake a number of salmon related projects on behalf of the Trust. Angler surveys around the Roxburgh Dam are near completion, one round of aerial spawning surveys have been done and eDNA kits are being deployed this week to look for salmon spawning sites in the upper Clutha lakes tributaries.

RMA (Resource Management Act) planning and Consents

See separate report

Wetlands

The Bendigo Wetland management plan is now ready to be sent to the Ministers office for approval. Work, aligned to the plan, is ongoing with further areas planted up over Autumn. Staff had an afternoon at the Bendigo planting around 200 trees as part of Ben Sowrys send off. *(Photo: staff at one of the maimais on Bendigo showing poisoned willows and carex secta planted a year ago)*



10.3 USER PARTICIPATION

Designated Waters implementation

The Designated Waters monitoring is nearly complete for the season. Use of our controlled fishery has again been light, but this will be confirmed when the final reporting is completed shortly.

Publications

There has been a reasonable amount of negative feedback to the gamebird regulation guide booklet being replaced with a regional pamphlet. This was a cost saving initiative and supposed to be a stepping stone to having the regulations only housed online. There will need to be further discussion on this topic as awareness of the fishing or hunting regulations it is a key component to maintaining compliance and we need to make it as easy as possible for people to comply.

Clubs and Events

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

10.4 PUBLIC INTERFACE

Bullock Creek Stormwater

There has been some adverse feedback from the community to the QLDC's consent to improve the performance of its stormwater discharge arrangements near Bullock Creek. This includes the use of some F&G land to create an overflow wetland as an interim receptacle for stormwater which occasionally overflows into the creek. When the final consent is issued, we will meet with Friends of Bullock Creek and discuss how this presently mowed area is to be integrated into the wetland.

Media

It has been a busy period media wise with print media content being very strong, particularly around the start of the gamebird hunting season. All was positive, for Otago at least. A drone being shot down in Canterbury has been met with a mixed reaction and a surprising amount of sympathy for the hunter.

Communications Strategy

The communications implementation plan is presently being followed and the output has been strong across all of our priority areas. The chair and CE meeting with Federated Farmers recently is a case and point. The CE also attended the Otago branch AGM.

Chair to update

10.5 COMPLIANCE

Offences

Opening weekend compliance of duck hunters was particularly good. Four ranging teams were out over opening weekend with around 140 hunters spoken to. Two no-licence offences are being processed at present but generally, hunters were very well behaved and pleased to see staff and rangers active.

10.6 LICENCING

Licence sales

Gamebird season sales were well up in Otago this year. Some of that is likely to be Southland hunters buying in Otago.

10.7 COUNCIL

Staff Changes

Cromwell based F&G Officer Ben Sowry has now departed for his role with Eastern Fish and Game Council and he has been replaced by Cole Briggs. His background and credentials will be circulated shortly.

Next Council Meeting

The next Council meeting is on 22nd July 2025 in Tapanui, the chair will invite the Southland Council to join us again as part of our ongoing working relationship and MOU.

10.8 PLANNING AND REPORTING

National Liaison

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

Recommendation

That this report be received

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
May 2025

Moved:

Seconder:

Carried/Not carried

11.0 RMA Planning and Consents Report

10 March – 9 May 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 (SFGMP) 2025

Since the last report, staff have undertaken early consultation and begun drafting the SFGMP 2025. A report on progress and draft provisions has been provided in the public excluded section of this agenda.

Review of notification decisions by the Otago Regional Council

Staff recently undertook a review of notification decisions by the Otago Regional Council to identify whether Fish and Game had been incorrectly excluded from consent applications. Analysing notification decisions from the last year, staff found half a dozen applications where they thought this had been the case. Staff arranged a discussion with the Regional Council's Manager of Consents and had a productive discussion about the underlying concepts. Staff have committed to providing the Regional Council with additional information on when Fish and Game would consider itself an affected party in consent applications, as well as additional background information on sports fish and game and their distribution, to assist with future notification decisions.

Discussions with the Regional Council River Engineering Team

Staff have engaged productively with the Council's river engineering team over the reporting period to ensure upcoming projects are adequately protective of sports fish and game values. The projects in question involve widening the flood channel in the Silverstream, from the aerodrome to the confluence, and building up the flood bank on the contour channel. Both are multi-year projects.

As a result of these discussions, staff are confident that these projects will be undertaken with care and concern for sports fish and river habitat. In addition, as a result of the engagement, staff have committed to providing principles for protecting sports fish and game values, which the engineering team can use when considering future erosion and sediment control plans.

Current Notification Processes

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
Otago Regional Council notifications		
The Dunedin City Council	A publicly notified consent to operate, close and provide afterlife care for the Green Island Landfill	Staff spoke to their neutral submission, raising concerns about the suitability of discharge limits, consistency of the application with rehabilitating the Kaikorai Stream and Estuary as required by the ORPS freshwater visions, and the necessity for ecotoxicology monitoring. Favourable outcomes were achieved in the decision for all but the ecotoxicology monitoring, which the decision maker noted as being worthwhile but outside the scope of this application.
Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited	For the site wide expansion of mining activities at Macraes Gold Mine, including the discharge of contaminants to the Taieri, Shag and Waikouaiti catchments.	A neutral submission was written by staff which provides helpful information to help inform a decision maker. Key points involved dealing with uncertainty, properly considering cumulative effects and managing the extremely long timeframe for adverse effects (200+ years). Staff made contact with Oceana Gold prior to the submission being made so it was not a surprise.

Written approval provided during the period

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
Otago Regional Council applications		
Otago Regional Council	Perform maintenance on the outlet sill structure at Lake Tuakitoto and install a fish passage ramp.	Staff confirmed that fish passage would be provided for sports fish and provided written party approval.
Otago Regional Council	Global consent to undertake river management works including: disturbance of the bed; extraction alluvium; placement of riprap; bank stabilisation; discharge of sediment to rivers; and diversion of water within the bed.	This global consent has been subject to negotiations between the Regional Council, Fish and Game staff and other affected parties since 2021. Staff negotiated a mechanism to build a closer relationship with the Regional Council while they implement this global consent, with the aim of working together to ensure river engineering work gets done and is undertaken in a manner that reduces its impact on water bodies over time. Affected party approval has now been provided.

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

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

Recommendation:

1. That this report be received.

Nigel Paragreen
Environmental Officer
9 May 2025

Moved:

Seconder:

Carried/Not carried

12.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

12.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust – Ian Cole

Clutha Fisheries Trust are due to have a meeting in mid June

That agenda will cover the following

- The organising of a suitable date to hold a Strategic workshop for the restoration of Non Migratory Galaxiid. This is likely to be aimed for September/October. You will recall the last attempt!
- BWMR - The trust continues to support Otago Fish and Games management plan for this area to the tune of \$15,00/annum
- Trust continued support to Donal Scott Memorial Trust of \$5000/annum
- Wildlands Avian survey of Lake Dunstan completed - at this stage trustees have not seen finished report
- Anglers access to Clutha River - ongoing
- Lake Snow in Lake Wānaka - further investigation re a suitable scientific study
- Trustees attended lagarosiphon management programmes for both Lake Dunstan and Lake Wānaka . It appears that Lake Wānaka programme is achieving great success. The “Eradication” zone will be extended to a line roughly from the peninsula to Damper Bay Point. On a personal observation level it is clear that extensive native weed beds are developing in the western bays [Paddock Bay and Parkins}. To date an increase in cruising brown trout has not been observed
- Niall and myself to attend a Lowburn Catchment Group meeting this coming Friday 16th.
- Potential additional Trustee appointment

12.2 New Zealand F&G Council – Mike Barker



21 April 2025

NZC CEO Update to Regional Managers

Summary of Fish & Game National Council Meeting #174 (10 & 11 April 2025)

Tēnā koutou,

Below, you'll find a comprehensive summary of the topics and decisions from our latest NZC meeting. Your engagement and feedback in these matters are invaluable, and I encourage you to review the summary closely.

Executive Overview:

The team at NZC have reviewed and compiled a list of papers from the NZC Meeting 174 held on April 10 & 11 in Wellington.

A number of items are with you all for consultation, including:

1. proposed changes to the family licence;
2. draft budget decisions, and proposed licence fee, levies, and grants;
3. proposed licence sales forecast FY26.

Budgets, levies, and grants are all subject to the final decision by the Minister for Hunting and Fishing on the licence fees submission presented at the end of June.

All decisions from NZC 174 are subject to ratification of minutes at the June NZC meeting.

Also, below is an update on the wider NZC meeting and the following reports are attached for your information:

- RMA update report;
- Research update report;
- Variance report;
- Reserves report.

Detailed Information and Decisions:

1. Proposed Family Licence Changes

At the Council meeting, the Council considered a paper proposing changes to the family fishing licence which will create a more equitable system and boost women's participation in fresh water sports fishing.

The current family licence structure designates one person as the "primary" licence holder with full fishing rights, while the "secondary" licence holder (typically a woman) can only fish with the primary holder or with children. Only the primary licence holder receives Fish & Game communications and has voting rights.

This system reflects outdated gender roles and creates barriers for women who wish to fish independently or take their own path in enjoying our waterways. The paper argued that this restriction contributes to the significant gender imbalance in fishing participation, with women making up only 13% of identified anglers.

After consideration, the NZC has decided to consult with regions on amending the family licence regulations to allow for:

- Two primary licence holders
- Allow all family members to fish independently
- Both primary licence holders to have equal fishing rights and voting privileges
- Investigate any necessary legislative or regulatory amendments and financial implications as part of the consultation information package.
- If the change is recommended following consultation, monitor financial and participation impacts over a three-year period, with specific attention to rates of women's participation.
- Promote any agreed changes as part of a coordinated strategy to address barriers to women's participation in freshwater sports fishing.

The paper and an FAQ document created to help with consultation are attached to the email.

Feedback is needed before Monday 9th June.

2. Budget Consultation

As previously notified via email (and the staff newsletter), the draft budget resolutions are:

1. Approve reserve top-up of \$27,077 for Auckland/ Waikato, and \$18,795 for Nelson/ Marlborough. A total of \$45,872 for reserves top-ups FY26;
2. Approve all budgets from reserves that have been included within business cases or as reserve funded within baseline in the FY26 Budget applications;
3. Approve all staff salaries increases as put forward in the salaries component of baseline budget FY26 applications for existing staff.
4. Accept essential NZC business cases of \$136,000 consisting of - increased licence system operation costs (\$30,000), licence system RFP (\$50,000) and expected additional magazine postage costs for the 2026 year (\$50,000);
5. Recommended approval of a research position with NZC to support NZC's research statutory function, and to co ordinate and modernize F&G research management including population monitoring analysis and reporting;
6. Agree to top up RMA fund by \$100,000
7. Agree to top up the Research fund by \$50,000
8. Three business cases were proposed to be declined. These included the following:
 - Eastern Compliance Officer;
 - NM part time R3 position;
 - Te Anau position proposed to be funded by the region from reserves.
9. The majority of regionally proposed budgets were accepted, with some recommended changes in relation to funding aspects of budgets from reserves rather than through the license income. Whether or not a region funds projects from reserves is a decision for the Regional Council.
10. Recommend approval of the Total Budgets of \$13,834,958* funded through forecast licence income and interest from reserves;
11. Recommend to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing of the approval of the 2025 26 Adult whole season sports fish licence of \$161 (increase of \$5) and Adult whole season game licence increase of \$120 (increase of \$4) (inclusive of the game bird habitat stamp) inclusive of GST be

12. Recommend to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing of the approval of the 2025/26 non-resident whole season fishing licence of \$300 (increase of \$30) *
13. That the licence categories be charged at the agreed ratio for all categories;
14. The licence fee (s) and budget go to the Regions for Consultation;
15. Request that the National Office develops revised budget policy for next year (26/27) and consults the regions on it.

Budget decisions from NZC meeting 174 are subject to ratification at the NZC meeting in June.

Final decisions on the licence fee, levies, and grants will be made at the June NZC meeting 175, after consideration of regional feedback.

Please see the licence fee, levies, grants consultation paper for further information.

Feedback is needed before Monday 9th June

3. Licence sales forecast (email sent 20 March with draft licence sales forecasts)

Provided by Kate Thompson on behalf of the licence Working Group, this paper discusses the anticipated licence sales for the 2025-26 financial year. NZC is consulting with the regions on the forecast licence sales, and is recommending the forecast LEQ for the 2025/26 Season being **72,975** for Fish and **30,601** for Game (tables 3 and 5 respectively).

Please also find attached the background spreadsheets from Kate on the updated sales forecasts to 17 March for purposes of using estimated complete season sales for 2024-25 in the revenue forecasts.

For the 2024/25 season, General Reserves interest was calculated at 90% of General Reserves 4.5% interest:

- 1st Spreadsheet:
 - First table is usual method;
 - 2nd is using an estimated result for this season. This increases the forecast from 72,669 to 72,975 for Fish LEQ's;
- 2nd workbook "2025-26 Revenue budgets" shows current years LEQ targets in \$ and incorporates interest;
 - Kate has added two extra tables (targets for 25-26) converting LEQ's to \$, one for usual method of forecasting, and another using estimate complete season sales for 2024-25;
 - Note the first table incorporates interest which is calculated from the reserve worksheets returned by regions;

The two forecast tables do not include forecast General Reserves interest income, this will be calculated at 3%. The two forecasts are also based on current licence fees at \$156 incl GST for Fish \$111 incl GST for Game (exclusive of GBHT levy)

General Reserve interest rate for 2025/26 will be calculated as forecast General Reserves at 3%.

NZC has at this stage proposed to use the 72,975 approach for Fish LEQ's, as advised.

NZC remains open to amending their recommendation to NZC. NZC will follow the normal process of consulting with the Regional Fish & Game Councils off the back of the April NZC budget meeting.

Feedback on the proposed Licence sales forecast for FY26 is needed before Monday 9th June

Reports for information:

Variance Report

Attached is the variance report with the information provided to NZC by each region. Historically, this report enables the identification of any issues. All regions provided explanations with their variance reports.

Please note that table 7 is incomplete due to data not being provided.

Reserves Paper:

The reserves paper indicates the state of the projected reserves within the organisation at the end of Financial year 2024-25.

Research update paper

Note the current financial status of the Research Fund. As at 27 Feb 2025, \$172,670 commitment and \$99,500 available for distribution

RMA update Paper

The RMA fund update paper is provided for your reference. As of 28 February 2025, the RMA fund has committed funds of \$445,848. The remaining uncommitted funds of \$192,302 are available for new cases. An additional \$100,000 is being proposed to top up the RM fund for FY26.

NZC Interim CEO

The NZC voted to appoint Deputy CEO Richie Cosgrove as the interim NZC CEO through to November 2025, whilst the Council undertakes the process for a permanent appointment to the role.

If you have further queries or need more details on any of these points, please feel free to contact me directly. We value your ongoing commitment and look forward to your continued participation in achieving our common objectives.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Corina Jordan
Chief Executive Officer
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

12.3 Clutha Mata Au Sportfish and Habitat Trust – Rick Boyd

Activities and Progress Report (to 8 May)

- The Trust has held 3 meetings since the beginning of the year, 15 March (general business), 17 April (Planning Meeting) and 8 May (Consider and approve the Trust's annual Business Plan and Budget for the 2026 financial year (1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026). That will go to Contact Energy before the end of May for the Trust's 2026 funding request under the Funding Agreement with Contact.
- In case I haven't covered this earlier, Andy Gray of Contact Energy replaced Neil Gillespie as Contact's Trustee in February. That has resulted in the usual paperwork war (Charities Commission, Westpac Bank) which has only recently been finalised. Andy has already shown that he will be a great asset to the Trust.
- The search for a PhD candidate for a project on the lower Clutha River continues. Mike can fill in the Council with developments – but in brief Riki Parata (Ngai Tahu-Hokonui) is interested, has the right qualifications and is considering applying. Mike can provide more details if you wish.
- In April the Trust received a proposal from Maree McGregor of Southern Audit Ltd to undertake the Trust's annual Financial Review which I signed off. She is highly qualified. Tania Murphy will work with Maree to ensure the Trust meets the requirements of the Trust Deed and the Financial Agreement in reporting to the Charities Commission and Contact Energy.
- Mike and I met with Glen Riley of Habitat Restorations Aotearoa on site at the Manuka Island habitat restoration area near Balclutha on 9 April to learn about what has been achieved and to understand what work is required. I'm waiting for some information from Glen including an estimate of costs for the work that needs to be done.
- Trustees were sent a progress report to 31 March on each of the individual projects that Otago Fish and Game are undertaking for the Trust. The next progress report is not due from Otago Fish and Game until 15 May so is not yet in my hands– Ian may be able to update Council.

12.3 Ngai Tahu – Paulette Tamati-Eliffe

12.4 Conservation Board – Neil Harraway

13.0 Correspondence

13.1 NZC to Otago

New Zealand Council Consultation Items – 13.1.1-13.1.3

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

13.1.1 Resource Management & Legislation Policy

Purpose and Scope of the Legal Fund

The original intent of the regional legal pool fund was to support RMA-related case costs at the regional level. Renaming the fund represents a departure from this purpose and signals a shift in focus toward national-level advocacy. This new direction should ideally be funded through other NZC budget lines specifically allocated for national initiatives.

Policy vs Strategy Confusion

There is a lack of clarity around whether this is a policy or a funding strategy. In reality, it functions more as a funding strategy — a framework for determining how and what to fund nationally within the constraints of a limited budget. While the prioritisation matrix is a useful tool, its effectiveness is limited by the ad hoc nature of application submissions. Typically, applications are received individually throughout the year and are approved if funding is available, rather than being evaluated comparatively. It is rare for multiple projects to be assessed side-by-side based on merit.

Funding Process and Decision-Making

The process for assessing and recommending applications to NZC is unclear. The organisation has an RMA group with relevant expertise, yet their involvement appears minimal or absent in this context. Currently, it seems that NZC is making funding decisions without the benefit of structured analysis. To improve this, the process should include an initial evaluation by staff or external contractors with the appropriate expertise, to ensure that each application is rigorously assessed on its merits before reaching NZC for final decision-making.

Recommendation: Request edits to the Policy in line with the above comments.

13.1.2 Draft Lone Worker Policy

Current System

Otago has a well-developed system for managing lone worker activities, integrated into our regional Health and Safety (H&S) plan. While there is room for improvement, the current system functions effectively. It is unclear why this provision cannot be incorporated into each region's existing H&S plan, rather than establishing a separate national-level policy. Creating a standalone policy risks duplication, inefficiency, and confusion.

Liability and Accountability

Otago has previously raised concerns about the lack of clarity around liability when the New Zealand Council (NZC) is not the Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) for regional councils. This confusion is compounded by the continued use of the generic term "Fish & Game New Zealand," which is not a statutory title for either the NZC or any regional Fish & Game Council. If the policy is adopted in its current form, it would be unenforceable due to the ambiguous and incorrect naming conventions used.

Definition and Application of 'Lone Worker'

The draft policy lacks a definition of "lone worker," making it difficult to determine when specific safety measures should be applied. In Otago, we use a sliding scale based on the activity's location and duration. For example:

- Overnight solo backcountry work requires a satellite phone and a structured call-back system.
- Day trips, such as a spawning survey on Silverstream, require recorded intentions and confirmation upon return.
- Working from home typically requires minimal oversight.

Adopting a blanket approach would mean that many low-risk, routine tasks would require unnecessary and resource-intensive procedures. Instead, a risk-based matrix should be used to guide safety protocols, taking into account the nature of the activity, location, duration, and remoteness.

Recommendation: Not support the policy in its current form. Substantial edits are required.

We should recommend:

- Enabling regions to incorporate appropriate lone worker provisions into their own H&S manuals.
- Clarifying roles, responsibilities, and statutory titles.
- Defining "lone worker" and applying a matrix-based approach to guide safety requirements.

13.1.3 Draft Health and Safety and Wellbeing Policy

Duplication of Existing Policy

This draft policy largely duplicates provisions already contained within Otago's Health & Safety policy, which was reviewed and re-adopted in January 2025. As such, it is unnecessary and risks undermining or conflicting with existing regional systems that are already fit for purpose.

Wellbeing – In Name Only

The inclusion of “Wellbeing” in the policy title is misleading. The draft does not address employee wellbeing in any meaningful way—there is no mention of mental health, work-life balance, stress management, or other wellbeing-related themes. If wellbeing is to be included in the policy, it needs to be clearly defined and meaningfully incorporated throughout.

Policy Breaches and Enforcement

The section on policy breaches is problematic. It is unclear what authority the New Zealand Council (NZC) holds to take disciplinary action, particularly given that NZC is not the PCBU for regional councils. The policy does not outline the process, jurisdiction, or legal basis for enforcement, leading to confusion around roles and accountability.

Recommendation: Reject the policy in its current form. It creates unnecessary duplication, adds confusion to established regional systems, and fails to clearly define lines of accountability or authority. Any national guidance should instead focus on supporting regions to enhance and align their existing H&S policies where needed, without overriding or duplicating them.

For Discussion and feedback to NZC

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
9.5.2025

13.1.1 Policy: Resource Management & Legislation

Section	Operational
Contact/Owner	NZC CEO
Last Review	New Policy
Next Review	April 2026
Approval	NZC
Effective Date	19 April 2026

1. PURPOSE

The Resource Management Policy is intended to provide policy on prioritising spending of the New Zealand Fish & Game Councils Resource Management Fund, along with the conditions associated with the provision of funds to support National and Regional Resource Management cases, and cases taken in relation to legislation relevant to hunts and anglers such as the Firearms Act, Wild Life Act, Conservation Act, and National Parks Act.

2. PART 1 – PRIORITY FOR SPENDING RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FUND MONEY

Scope: The RMA fund could now be called “Resource Management Strategy Fund” to better reflect the range of cases that have been funded from it including Wildlife Act and Conservation Law Reform work. This fund can continue to fund regional policy and consents as well as significant changes to the legislation that we work under, where we need to obtain funding for external experts to assist with this work.

3. OVERALL GOALS

The allocation of funds to the advocacy fund will be set by the New Zealand Fish & Game Council as part of its annual budget process and following consultation with the Regional Fish & Game Councils. Any council can apply for funding, with funding awarded on the merits of the case and alignment with the priorities set out below:

3.1 Advocate for Fish and Game values – restoring degraded ecosystems and retaining those in good health where required to:

3.1.1 Recognise and protect the rights of hunters and anglers;

VALUES

TRUST

We are trusted as consistent and capable providers

INCLUSION

We recognise and respect diverse perspectives and cultural interests

CONNECTION

We are deeply connected with anglers, hunters, regulators and the public

SERVICE

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- 3.1.2 Recognise and protect salmonid fisheries;
- 3.1.3 Recognise and protect angling values
- 3.1.4 Recognise and protect game bird populations;
- 3.1.5 Recognise and protect recreational and/ or amenity values; and
- 3.1.6 Recognise and protect access for recreational users.
- 3.2 Develop productive relationships with iwi, which give effect to the Councils' legal responsibility to The Treaty of Waitangi / Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- 3.3 Retain the Councils' functions, purpose, and independence, with improvements where possible, during reviews to the Wildlife and Conservation Acts.
- 3.4 Advocate for the protection and restoration of trout and salmon habitat as a part of healthy ecosystems;
- 3.5 Develop tools to address detrimental population impacts due to species interaction and advocate to embed those tools in legislation and policy.
- 3.6 Work towards updating Sports Fish and Game Management Plans across the country, and embedding the values identified in Sportsfish and Gamebird Management Plans in regional policy, this includes angling and hunting values and access.
- 3.7 Work towards including accurate mapping of Fish and Game values to communicate where the species we manage live, and for hunting and angling values.
- 3.8 Contribute to the restoration of the Councils' social and legislative licence through our work.
- 3.9 Collaboratively develop joint positions on key issues and shared advocacy resources between the Councils.
- 3.10 Build local and national relationships with key stakeholders with influence on legislative and policy processes.
- 3.11 Promote Regional Councils and Territorial Authorities to resource Long Term Plans sufficiently to implement meaningful State of the Environment monitoring, policy and enforcement.

Councils should aim to engage with decision makers early, participating where possible in legislation or plan writing and making fulsome submissions. After entering the legal system, cases that represent high value through precedent setting potential or the protection of important sports fish and game resources should be prioritised where limited funds are available (such as in 2025).

The following table provides a scoring matrix for proposed new cases. Cases which represent National Significance will be prioritised, if required over those with regional significance only.

	Precedent setting potential	Value of sports fish and game resources impacted	Likelihood of success	Potential strength of evidence to support the case	Political risk, risk to organisational Brand (low risk =4; high risk =1).	Total score for proposed new case
Locally important	3	2	1, 2, 3, or 4	1, 2, 3, or 4	1, 2, 3, or 4	
Regionally significant 1 region	6	4	1, 2, 3, or 4	1, 2, 3, or 4	1, 2, 3, or 4	
Regionally significant 2 or more regions	9	6	1, 2, 3, or 4	1, 2, 3, or 4	1, 2, 3, or 4	
Nationally significant	12	8	1, 2, 3, or 4	1, 2, 3, or 4	1, 2, 3, or 4	

4. FUNDING PROCESS

- 4.1 To apply for advocacy funds, the region must provide the application case on the prescribed form to be decided at the next available NZC meeting. If a decision is needed urgently, a workshop can be held and a decision recommended, to be confirmed at the next NZC meeting.
- 4.2 Case theory and case plan along with communications and engagement plan will be provided to NZC for review and approval with the application.
- 4.3 The Council that applied for funds will report back to NZC at least twice annually on implementation of the case theory and any changes to the case that is predicted to arise through for example presentation of evidence, expert conferencing, mediation, or decisions. The Council that applied for funds will also report at least two annually on milestones and expenditure against budget.
- 4.4 At the end of the process, key learnings from the case will be presented to NZC and the RM team along with the decision and other key documents.
- 4.5 Unused funds must be returned to the advocacy fund.

5 Review

This strategy should be reviewed every second year to ensure it is kept up to date. This should be undertaken with input from Fish & Games Resource Management Team

DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT CONTROL

Prepared by: Helen Brosnan – Senior Policy Advisor NZC
Owned by: NZC
Authorised by Council
Date Issued (for Consultation): 28 February 2025
Next Review:

Otago Fish and Game Decision**Mover:****Seconder:****Carried/Not Carried:****Recorded against (if any):**

13.1.2 Policy: Lone Worker Support – Draft for Consultation

Section	Operational
Contact/Owner	NZC HR
Last Review	New Policy
Next Review	Lone Worker
Approval	NZC
Effective Date	February 2025

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to support all the people who work for Fish and Game New Zealand, whether they be Councillors, employees, contractors or volunteers who work from time to time in isolation or alone.

People conducting a business or undertaking (PCBUs) and workers have a responsibility to manage communications with any person working alone and provide an effective means of getting help quickly in an emergency

Part 2 of the Health and Safety at Work (General Risk and Workplace Management) Regulations 2016: 21- Managing risks associated with remote or isolated work:

1. *A PCBU* must manage, in accordance with regulations 5 to 8, risks to the health and safety of a worker who performs remote or isolated work.*
2. *To minimise risks to the health and safety of a worker associated with remote or isolated work, a PCBU must provide a system of work that includes effective communication with the worker.*
3. *A PCBU who contravenes this regulation commits an offence and is liable of conviction –*
 - (a) *for an individual, to a fine not exceeding \$10,000;*
 - (b) *for any other person, to a fine not exceeding \$50,000.*

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all Fish and Game NZ employees, including councillors, contractors and volunteers, minimise the risk to themselves and others by:

- Understanding the roles and responsibilities of employees and managers
- Identifying hazards that may be present when working alone

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CONNECTION

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- Assessing these risks
- Management at all NZ Fish & Game regions must work with people who may be working alone from time to time to develop a plan to manage these risks.

2. APPLICATION

This policy applies to all employees at our workplace, including councillors, contractors, volunteers, and anyone who enters our workplace.

3. POLICY

Fish & Game recognises that it is not possible to eliminate all risks associated with working alone, and therefore, all regions are required to have the following protocols and control measures in place to minimise as far as practicable risks to any person working for Fish and Game who is working alone

3.1. The control measures must be:

- Fit for purpose
- Suitable for the nature and the duration of the work
- Installed, set up and used correctly

3.2. The control measures must include:

- Detailed SOP for the nature of the work
- Confirmation at every use that the equipment to be used is checked and safe for use
- Confirmation that the person to be working alone has adequate knowledge of and experience in undertaking the work and in the use of the equipment

3.3. Communications – There must be a SOP of a communication system that enables management and/or supervisor to:

- Identify who will be working on their own
- The location where they will be working
- The time that they leave the primary workplace to go and work on their own and the expected time that they will be away
- The time that they arrive at the location to undertake the work
- Time that they are due back in the primary place of work or accommodation if they are away from the primary workplace overnight
- If they are away overnight, the time the next day that they are due back at the primary workplace

3.4. The effectiveness of the communication system must be reviewed at least annually to ensure that

- It meets the regulations required
- Staff using the communication system both understand and are capable of using the system
- It is effective in the workplaces that the lone worker will be
- It is tested to ensure that it is working correctly
- The system includes a “panic and/or emergency capability should emergency help be needed

Our expectations of you

All regions will have effective systems to enable our workers, be they councillors, employees or volunteers are able to be assured that they have been provided with the safest possible work environment, equipment and communication systems

Breaches

These policies reflect “the way we do things around here.”

DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT CONTROL

Prepared by: Adrienne Murray, HR Advisor NZC
Owned by: NZC
Authorised by NZC
Date Issued (for Consultation)
Next Review: April 2026

Otago Fish and Game Decision

Mover:

Seconder:

Carried/Not Carried:

Recorded against (if any):

13.1.3 Policy :Health Safety and Wellbeing- For Consultation

Section	Operational
Contact/Owner	NZC HR
Last Review	New Policy
Next Review	April 2026
Approval	NZC
Effective Date	

1. PURPOSE

The health and safety of our people, volunteers, contractors, and visitors is a core cultural value of Fish and Game

2. POLICY

We support proactive and meaningful health and safety policies and procedures that enable all staff, volunteers, contractors, and visitors to adhere to best practice protocols and processes. This is legislated by NZ Government's WorkSafe under the Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA) 2015 and relevant Codes of Practice, Standards, and Guidelines that apply to our business

3. APPLICATION

This policy applies to all employees at our workplace, including councillors and contractors, and to anyone who comes into our workplace

4. BACKGROUND

Fish and Game New Zealand is a PCBU (Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking) according to HSWA. A PCBU must ensure the health and safety of workers (defined as employees, volunteers, contractors and subcontractors), visitors, passerby, neighbouring companies, and that other people are not put at

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risk by its work. This is called the 'primary duty of care'.

Specific Obligations

Fish and Game is obliged to provide and maintain a healthy and safe work environment by carefully designing the training, structures, work systems and technology to meet obligations. This includes monitoring the health/welfare of staff and training people about risks. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Clothing (PPC) is provided according to specific needs.

Hazards, Risks and Incidents

Fish and Game will identify and control hazards and risks in our workplace and ensure our staff have the right plant, tools, skills, and information to work safely. This includes the maintenance of all plant and equipment according to label/manufacture's instructions.

If an incident or near miss were to occur:

- We will accurately record them, with investigations and prevention plans.
- We will support a safe return to work where possible.

Training and Review

Fish and Game will train and supervise staff and volunteers to ensure safety and competency. We will design and regularly review measurable targets and involve staff and stakeholders in induction, training, continuous process improvement and establishing roles/responsibilities. This may involve contracting external expertise.

SAFETY WILL ALWAYS TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER EXPEDIENCY.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This policy applies to all entities and persons who hold duties under the HSWA 2015. The HSWA 2015 places duties onto four groups, who are considered duty holders. Each duty holder holds a defined responsibility for health and safety in the workplace

Duty Holder	Duties and Responsibilities
PCBUs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must meet the Duties of the Health and Safety at Work Act (2015) under Section 36 Primary duty of care. • F&G must ensure so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of its workers and any other workers it influences or directs. • F&G is required to ensure a focus on 'so far as is reasonably practicable'.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the HSWA and in relation to a duty of a PCBU, 'reasonably practicable' means that which is, or was at a particular time, reasonably able to be done in relation to ensuring health and safety, taking into account and weighing up all relevant matters including Section 22 of HSWA: • The likelihood of the hazard or the risk concerned occurring; and the degree of harm that might result from the hazard or risk; and • What the person concerned knows, or ought reasonably to know, about The hazard or risk; and • The ways of eliminating or minimising the risk; and • The availability and suitability of ways to eliminate or minimise the risk; and • After assessing the extent of the risk and the available ways of eliminating or minimising the risk, the cost associated with available ways of eliminating or minimising the risk, including whether the cost is grossly disproportionate to the risk. <p>In carrying out the primary duty, F&G must ensure at a minimum, so far as is reasonably practicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the provision and maintenance of a work environment which is without risks to health and safety, • the provision of adequate facilities for the welfare at work of workers while they carry out work for the PCBU including access to those facilities, • the provision of any information, training, instruction or supervision necessary to protect all persons from risks to their health and safety arising from work carried out as part of the conduct of the PCBU, and • that the health of workers and conditions at the workplace are monitored for the purpose of preventing injuring or illness of workers arising from the conduct of the PCBU.
Officers	<p>An officer is a person who holds a very senior leadership position in the business and has the ability to significantly influence the management of a business or undertaking.</p> <p>Officers have a duty of due diligence to ensure their business understands and manages its key health and safety risks.</p> <p>For F&G the NZC councillors as individuals, are all officers of the PCBU.</p> <p>The F&G Governance function across both NZC and Regional Councils will:</p>

- Establish appropriate forums and governance mechanisms to enable visibility of systems of work
- Provide channels and forums for Officers to perform due diligence requirements as outlined by the HSWA.
- Establish a programme to monitor and learn from outcomes of implemented safety practices across all the regions.
- Report on and provide assurance reporting at all levels on safety and its agreed critical risks and controls.
- Maintain and create a framework to report on how F&G as a PCBU meets its obligations under the HSWA.

Officers usually delegate the implementation of health and safety policy to the highest management position (Chief Executive), who is responsible for ensuring appropriate management and oversight for the implementation of procedures and practices to ensure obligations and expectations are met. The Council may delegate any of its functions or powers but can never delegate its accountability.

Officers of a company are required to:

- Exercise due diligence to ensure the PCBU complies with its primary duty. Due diligence includes taking reasonable steps to:
 - acquire and keep up-to-date knowledge of health and safety matters for the PCBU,
 - understand the nature of the PCBU's operations and of the associated hazards and risks,
- ensure there are adequate processes to eliminate or minimise risks to health and safety,
- ensure that the PCBU has appropriate processes for receiving and considering information regarding incidents, hazards, and risks and for responding in a timely way to that information,
- ensure that the PCBU has, and implements, processes for complying with any duty or obligation, and
- verify the provision and use of the above resources and processes through reviews and audits. Ensure effective governance processes to lead and resource safety at F&G adequately.
 - approve and monitor the progress of the Health and Safety Committee
 - ensure the PCBU has appropriate resources and effective governance processes to lead and resource safety at F&G adequately
 - approve and monitor the progress of the H&S strategy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lead and champion safety practices in their own regions. • participate as required in the development, design and implementation of the F&G H&S strategy. • endorse the H&S strategy for approval by the Regional Council and NZC • lead by example, modelling the safety practices and actively discussing everyday work. • Understand the team’s risk profile, critical safety risks and relevant controls for the workplace, and ensure the integration and establishment of learnings • Ensure progress of safety plans and provide adequate resources (in particular, for people) leadership focus and financial funding to achieve effective implementation of safety in own area. • Understand H&S policy and procedures through observation and learning sessions with staff.
Workers	<p>A worker is an individual who carries out work in any capacity for a PCBU. All workers must take reasonable care to ensure the H&S of themselves and others, comply with the PCBU’s reasonable instructions, and cooperate with reasonable policies and procedures.</p> <p>For F&G, this includes all staff and other person(s) conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU’s) with overlapping duties as defined in the Health and Safety at Work 2015 Act, i.e. contractors, subcontractors and volunteers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • keep yourself and others safe in the workplace/when performing work. • actively participate in safety conversations on hazard identification and risk management process and assist in identifying better controls to work safely. • participate in the delivery of the safety operational plan. • be involved in everyday learning reviews to identify success factors and understand where processes restrict safe and adaptive practices. • speak up about unsafe practices, conditions and hazards, what processes restrict or inhibit safety, • report HSW events, unsafe practices, conditions and hazards using the defined tools in the workplace. • keep yourself aware of emergency procedures for any work environment. • participate in training to develop required skills and competencies.
Other persons at work	<p>Other persons who come to the workplace, such as visitors, casual volunteers and other persons at work, must take reasonable care of themselves and not harm others in the workplace.</p>

Health and Safety Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a contact point for workers' feedback or issues by championing Work as Done vs Work as Imagined and other safety practices. • Undertake required training to perform role. • Work with people leaders to help engage workers in participating in the delivery of the H&S operational plan and be involved in learning reviews. • Participate in safety forums and Health and Safety Committee meetings.
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6. POLICY PRINCIPLES

There are five key principles that support safety practice roles and responsibilities. One or more of these principles are applied to every individual's work role at F&G. Our policy demonstrates how every individual contributes to the safety of everyday work activity.

- F&G delivers a safe system of work

A PCBU, and its officers are responsible for ensuring safe systems. These roles facilitate adequate H&S resources, so far as is reasonably practicable, to create workplace conditions where the physical and psychological environments are optimal

In our workplaces, safety risks are actively discussed, and work practices are reviewed regularly for the purpose of continuous improvement.

- Safety practice is embedded by Leadership

Leadership (at all levels) ensures all operational processes use a safety lens to understand how our work is done. Leaders reinforce and support learning and improvement in business activities on a day-to-day basis. They empower staff to apply principles, frameworks and processes that proactively uncover what has led to success.

- Working constructively and communicating with all regions including NZC is constant

The F&G safety eco-system is an organic and complex system where overlapping duty roles and responsibilities should be discussed up front and continually with regions and NZC. A continual understanding of overlapping duties and how we all co-operate, consults, and co-ordinate is required.

- Accountability is clearly defined

All elements of the F&G health and safety systems have defined accountabilities for all regions of F&G. These appear in job descriptions, safety documents and contracts with contractors and volunteers. We identify specific duties to facilitate compliance requirements or meet legislative requirements. These include the governance mechanisms in place at F&G

7. OUR EXPECTATIONS OF YOU

Breaches

These policies reflect “the way we do things around here.”

Depending on the seriousness of the breach, if you are found to have breached these policies we will:

- talk with you to make sure you know the terms of the policy you have breached, including what appropriate support we can offer.
- make sure you know the required behaviour expected from now on; and/or,
- take disciplinary action if necessary.

See our **code of conduct** and the ‘Serious misconduct’ clause of your employment agreement for more information about what behaviour is expected and what action may be taken for breaches.

DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT CONTROL

Prepared by:	Adrienne Murray
Owned by:	NZC
Authorised by	Council
Date Issued (for Consultation)	28 February 2025
Next Review:	

Otago Fish and Game Decision

Mover:

Seconded:

Carried/Not Carried:

Recorded against (if any):

13.2 Otago to NZC

Nil

13.3 General Correspondence In

13.3.1 QEII National Trust

25 March 2025



Otago Fish & Game Council
PO Box 76
DUNEDIN 9054
otago@fish-game.org.nz

In reply please quote
5-12-017

Dear Steve and Ian

Visit to the Toko Mouth QEII National Trust covenant

I visited your covenant on 10 March 2025 as part of the National Trust's routine covenant monitoring programme. The purpose of this visit was to meet with you, check on the condition of the lowland swamp wetland values you are protecting, and discuss any concerns you may have about covenant management.

During my visit I inspected fences, checked the impact that any weeds and pest animal species are having, and took repeat photos at established locations (photopoints) throughout your covenant. I have attached a summary of this information for you.

I would like to convey the National Trust's gratitude in your ongoing stewardship of this site and to thank you for the effort and expenditure you are putting into caring for your covenant.

I look forward to seeing you on my next visit, which is tentatively scheduled in March 2025. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about your covenant before my next visit.

Kind regards

Morgan Trotter
+64 27 222 3067
MTrotter@qei.org.nz

Toko Mouth covenant monitoring summary 10 March 2025

Visit summary

1/2 Morgan spent 3.5 hours visiting this covenant (and neighboring City Forest covenant). Access is limited due to gorse along much of southern boundary and a deep drain along the roadside (which can be crossed in select spots). Vegetation within covenant is very thick making walking challenging. Some internal inspections conducted.

3/4. This covenant is generally in good condition. This is one of our few wetlands that is experiencing a decrease in willow issues/abundance. Abundant birdlife especially wax-eyes. Fernbirds heard but not seen. Black shag seen in top pond (likely indicating fish presence). Previous rep notes would indicate that some of the vegetation associated with this area has changed from salt marsh to freshwater vegetation over time.

5. Crack willow tress now generally under control (thank you) but some have survived previous spray application and are beginning to sprout new leaves. Please continue willow control and continue to try and minimise any collateral impacts. A drone maybe useful. 3 silver birch saplings near pond and two wilding pines near road side cut and pasted by rep on the day.



Photopoints

Photopoint name:

A-ppt01

Location:

Yellow triangle. Just N of F&G sign cross small waterway and veer left until open eater seen on right. Tag on salt ribbonwood.



Date:
2011-10-01



Date:
2025-03-10

Photopoint name:

A-ppt02

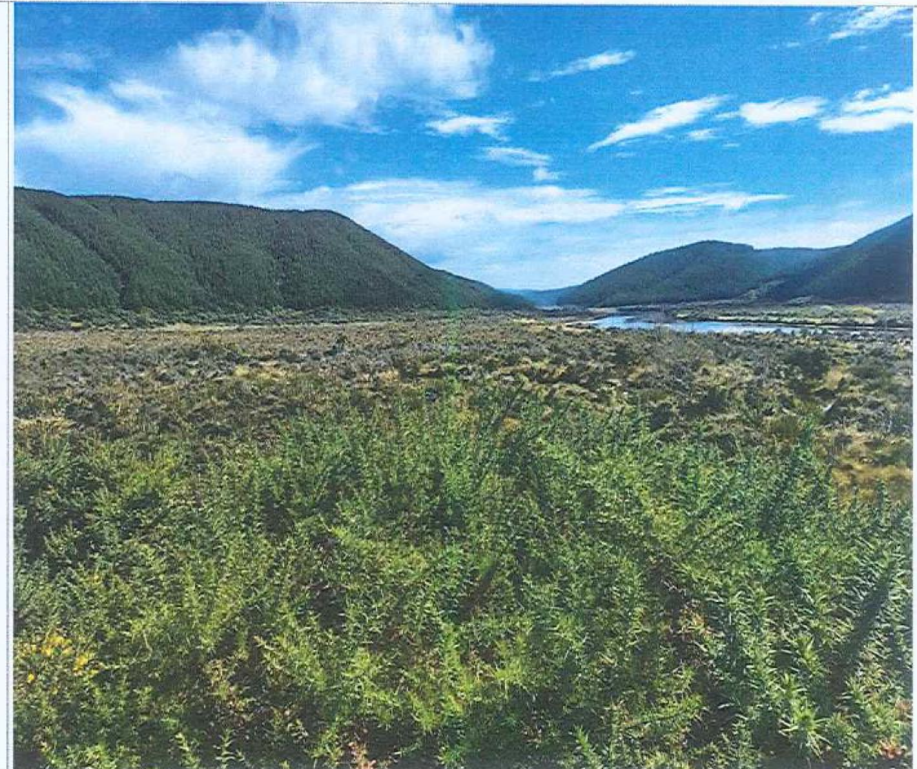
Location:

Yellow Triangle. In through first gate on west side of road south of F&G sign. Skirt round swamp to fenceline. Tag on 17th post from road.



Date:

2011-10-01



Date:

2025-03-10

13.4 General Correspondence Out

Nil

14.0 Items to be Received or Noted

14.1 Paradise Shelduck Special April 2025



Photo 1: Paradise shelduck loafing on a paddock in Mosgiel. B Quirey.

Summary

A survey of Otago licence holders shows low but targeted participation in the paradise shelduck special season, with most hunters reaching or nearing their bag limit and reporting strong satisfaction. While only a small proportion of hunters took part, feedback was positive, and many non-hunters cited lack of awareness or time as their main reason. The results suggest the season would be highly responsive to regulation changes, with potential to increase harvest and participation through modest adjustments.

Introduction

The paradise shelduck special season was introduced in response to high numbers recorded during the summer moult count. Initially, the season was only open to junior hunters but was extended to all licence holders in 2019 as numbers remained high.

This phone survey of 267 randomly selected Otago region licence holders (~6.5% of holders) is the first to estimate participation, harvest, and hunter satisfaction with the season.

Results

Individual Harvest, Participation and Effort

The survey estimated that $3.4 \pm 2.1\%$ of Otago licence holders hunted in the special season, showing that as expected, the participation in the season was low. Of those who hunted the special season, they spent an average of 1.3 days. Two thirds hunted only a single day. Hunters averaged 3.9 birds per hunt and five birds for the entire special season.

Harvest activity was highly skewed with almost 70 per cent of hunts reaching the bag limit, while only 15 percent of hunts were unsuccessful in harvesting at least one paradise shelduck.

Hunters spent an average of 3.3 hours hunting the special season meaning their average harvest rate was just over 1.5 birds per hour, significantly higher than the long-term average main season harvest rate of 0.22 birds per hour. This is expected as hunters are far more targeted during this season.

Total Harvest

We estimate that 140 ± 87 hunters participated, spending a total of 510 ± 350 hours and harvesting approximately 770 ± 570 paradise shelduck. Compared with the estimated 11,650 birds harvested during the main season, the special season accounts for roughly a 6.6% increase in overall harvest.

Hunter Satisfaction

Among those who hunted, 46% were very satisfied, 23% satisfied, and 31% neutral. No hunters reported being dissatisfied, indicating strong overall satisfaction.

Very few hunters provided comments and there were few clear messages. The most common comment was that the bag limit was too low. Some also noted they wouldn't support the season being extended later, due to concerns it might affect the main season.

Non Participants in Special Season

Those who didn't hunt were asked for their main reason (Figure 1).

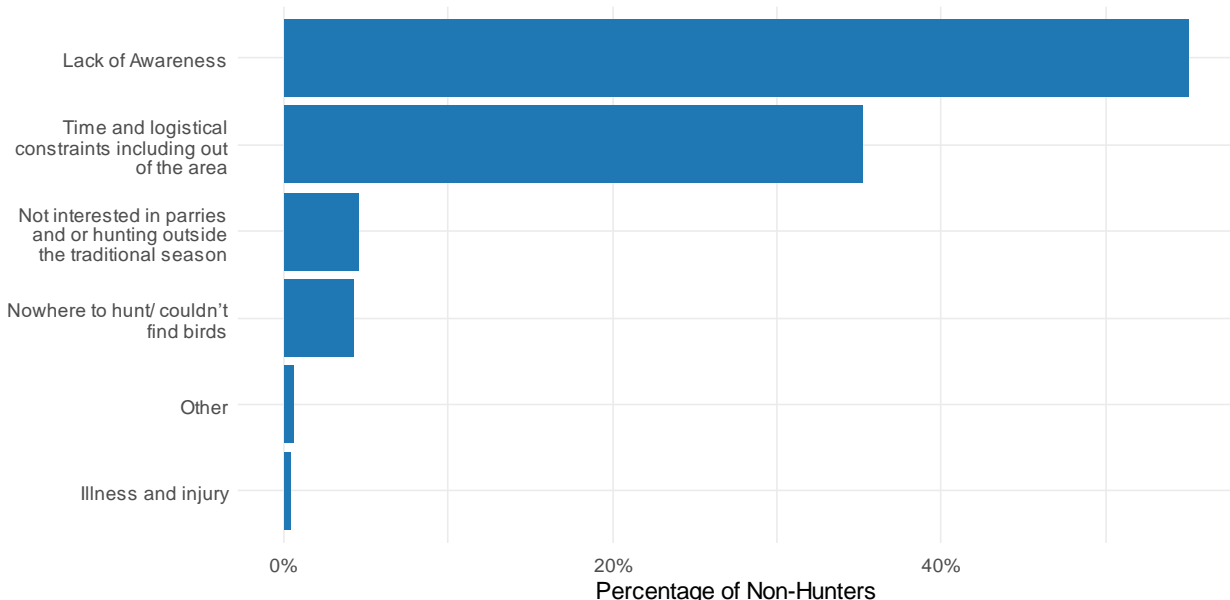


Figure 1: Primary reasons licence holders didn't hunt the special season

Despite extensive promotion, the most common reason for not participating was a lack of awareness. This was followed by time and logistical constraints, with many simply "too busy." Interviewers noted that choosing a single reason was difficult for some and felt that many

who cited being unaware or too busy likely wouldn't have hunted anyway, even if circumstances were different.

Discussion

Results from this initial survey suggest the special season provides a valuable recreational and food resource and helps disperse problematic mobs of paradise shelduck at a time when they are more likely to cause issues for farmers. High satisfaction among participants and support from many non-participants suggests the season is well supported by the hunting community.

There's evidence that current regulations are relatively conservative and are helping maintain paradise shelduck populations. The fact that nearly 70% of hunts reached the bag limit, combined with common feedback that bag limits were too low to justify setting up, suggests that increasing the limit could significantly boost harvest, due to birds per hunt, and would improve overall participation. Very few hunters took part on more than one day, suggesting that extending the season length is unlikely to significantly increase participation.

Hunters not being aware of the season was the most common reason given for not taking part, suggesting some potential to lift participation and harvest through media. However, as the season is heavily promoted to licence holders and the wider public, further gains are likely to be limited.

Consideration might be given to making the harvest survey of the special paradise shelduck season a more routine part of our monitoring programme.

Recommendation

This report be received.

Jayde Couper
Fish & Game Officer
April 2025

Report as Received

Mover:

Seconder:

Carried/Not Carried:

Recorded against (if any):

14.2 Summary of Fishing Competitions – 2024/25 Season

1. Abstract

Fishing competitions in the Otago Region are approved annually under the Sports Fish and Game Management Plan (SFGMP) and conducted in accordance with the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983.

This report provides a summary of competition activities conducted during the 2024/25 work year, under Project 1351 of the annual workplan. A detailed overview of major commercial-type competitions—subject to a \$40.00 administration fee and levies—is included in Appendix 1.

2. Introduction

Four primary fishing competitions in the Otago region attracted levies during the 2024/25 season. These events, which are publicly notified, strongly promote family engagement and encourage youth participation through dedicated junior prizes and giveaways.

Competition approval conditions typically permit each participant to weigh and measure one fish of each species per event. However, the number of fish weighed can vary between years due to changing weather conditions. In Lakes Hāwea and Wakatipu, for example, small salmon are commonly caught and often released.

3. Overview of the 2024/25 Season

3.1 Regulation 57F – Rental Under Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983

Section 57F of the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 states that fishing competitions approved by a Fish and Game Council and charging an entry fee must pay a rental to the Council.

For the local competitions, only 50% of the standard levy is requested. This recognizes their community-focused nature, promotion of family-friendly angling opportunities, and their broader support of local initiatives. Levy amounts are determined by entry categories (e.g., adult vs. junior entrants).

Levy revenue contributes to the purchase of fishing gear and merchandise for school-run events and Take a Kid Fishing (TAKF) programs. Major competitions are occasionally supported with donated gear—such as rod and reel sets for junior prizes.

Refer to Appendix 1 for a full list of major competitions during the 2023/24 season, including event details, levies, and distribution of profits.

3.2. Club and Community Involvement

Angling and hunting clubs routinely run internal competitions, typically for club trophies. Several TAKF programs also include competitive components.

Fish & Game staff actively support many of these events—particularly those where fisheries data collection is a priority—through both financial assistance (via reduced levies) and on-site attendance.

During the 2024/25 season, staff were present at key events in Glenorchy, Hāwea, and Cromwell, conducting fish measurements and recording weight data.

3.3. Fisheries Data Collection

Catch data from major competitions is systematically recorded and stored in a fisheries database.

Long-term data—spanning over 40 years—is available from regular events such as the annual Glenorchy competition at the head of Lake Wakatipu. This dataset provides valuable insights into population trends and fishery health across Lakes Dunstan, Hāwea, and Wakatipu.

4. Summary

Fishing competitions continue to provide valuable recreational opportunities for individuals, families, and community organizations throughout the Otago Region.

Events subject to levies are generally well-organized and conducted in accordance with the Otago SFGMP. Organisers consistently express appreciation for Fish & Game's involvement, especially staff attendance and assistance with data collection.

Furthermore, early-season competitions serve as effective incentives for the purchase of new fishing licences.

At the time of writing, two fishing competition organisers had yet to distribute the profits from this season's competitions.

5. Recommendation

That the report is received.

Ben Sowry,
Fish and Game Officer
April 2025

Report as Received

Mover:

Seconder:

Carried/Not Carried:

Recorded against (if any):

Appendix 1. Major fishing completions which attracted an application fee and levies for the 2024/25 season

Date	Event and duration (years)	Organiser	Lake	No of entries	Fish measured and weighed	Application fee \$40, and levies	Distribution of Profits
5 th October 2024	Glenorchy Fishing Competition (43)	Glenorchy Collective Trust	Wakatipu	182	137	\$499	\$3982 income raised for Glenorchy Early childhood education center.
24 th Nov 2024	Lake Dunstan Fishing Competition (30)	Rotary of Cromwell	Dunstan	127	60	\$276	Distribution of funds have not yet been set by the committee
2 nd January 2025	Lake Dunstan Fishing Competition (14)	Cromwell Town and Country Club	Dunstan	154	87	\$323.50	\$2835 profits when into prizes
8 th February 2025	Lake Hāwea Family Fishing Classic (28)	Family Fishing Classic Committee	Hāwea	366	424	\$705.50	Distribution of funds have not yet been set by the committee

14.3 Creel Survey and Fishing Competition Analysis of Lake Hawea



1. Abstract

This report presents the results of the Lake Hāwea Creel survey for the 2024–2025 fishing season, conducted by Otago Fish & Game, and compares these findings with data from previous surveys spanning 1992-1996, 2012-2018 and 2022-2024. Located in the Otago region of New Zealand, Lake Hāwea is renowned for its sports fishing opportunities, hosting populations of brown and rainbow trout, as well as landlocked chinook salmon.

The report also includes a summary of fish data collected from the Hāwea Family Fishing Classic; a competition held annually from 2000-2025. The analysis of the Creel survey results, and competition data provides valuable insights into anglers' habits and success, contributing to the ongoing monitoring and management of fishing activities in the lake.

2. Introduction

Lake Hāwea, located in the Otago region of New Zealand, spans 13,760 hectares and is the most easterly of the large lakes in the area. At an altitude of 358 meters, the lake reaches depths of nearly 400 meters, with a shoreline of 94.6 km, characterised mostly by bouldery terrain, though there are some gravelly bays. The lake is primarily fed by the Hunter River, with the Dingle Burn and Timaru Creek also providing interest to anglers. In 1958, a dam was constructed at the lake's outflow, raising its level by 18 meters and turning it into a storage reservoir for downstream hydroelectric stations.

Lake Hāwea supports established populations of brown trout, rainbow trout, and chinook salmon, with native fish populations of common bullies, kōaro, and a remnant population of longfin eel also present in the lake. Anglers fish from both the shore and boats, using all legal fishing methods.

Boat-based surveys were first conducted between November 1992 and November 1996, including winter months, to assess fishing activity and catch rates.

Angler (Creel) surveys, provide valuable data on fishing effort, catch rates, harvest, and compliance with regulations.

These Creel surveys were repeated in the 2012-2013, 2014-2018 and 2022-2025 seasons and are part of an ongoing monitoring program. This report summarises the results from the Lake Hāwea Creel survey for the 2024–2025 season, which runs from September 2024 to May 2025, and compares data with Creel Surveys from 2022-2024, Sowry (2024).

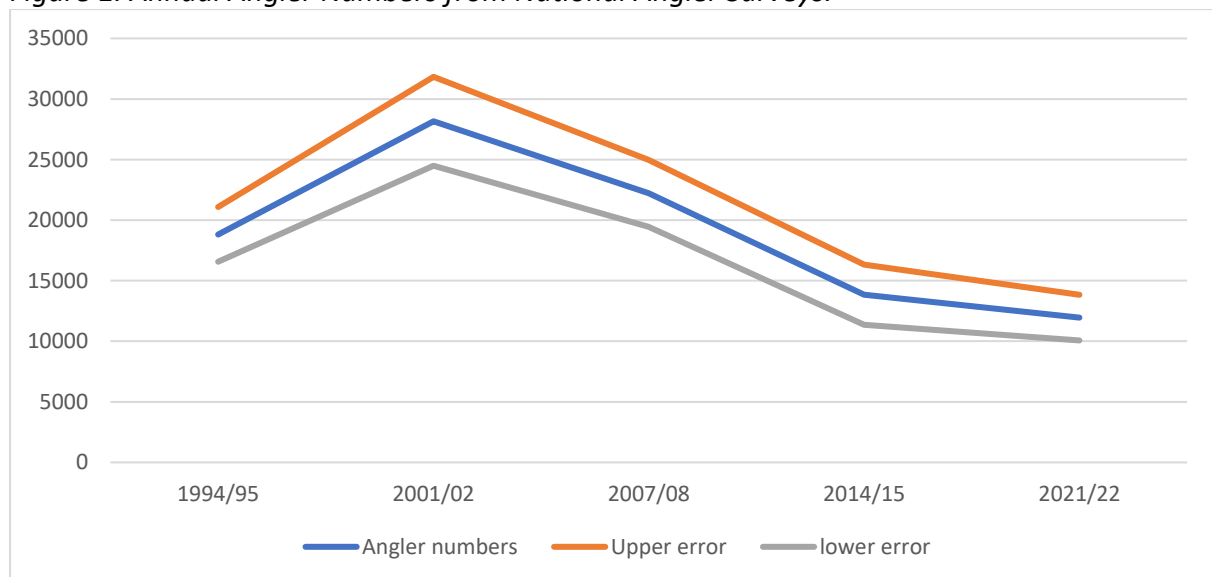
Unfortunately, the fishery data collected during the 2014-2018 seasons, Halford (2018), is inconsistent with the data from the 1992-1996, 2012-2013, and 2022-2025 seasons. As a result, the 2014-2018 data has been excluded from the comparisons in this report.

Due to a staffing change within Otago Fish & Game, the May 2025 surveys were omitted from the 2024–2025 survey period. During the 2022–2024 survey periods, no anglers were encountered during May surveys. To maintain consistency in reporting and align with the current staff's employment time limit, the May 2025 surveys were excluded.

Data collected from the ongoing fishing competition on Lake Hāwea has also been summarised, showing trends in both catch rates and fish condition.

Historically, the National Anglers Survey has shown a fluctuating then declining trend in angler-days at Lake Hāwea, with figures rising from 18,820 ± 2,260 in 1994/95 to 28,160 ± 3,670 in 2001/02, 22,210 ± 2,750 in 2007/08, 13,840 ± 2,490 in 2014/15 before decreasing to 11,953 ± 1886 in 2021/22 (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Annual Angler Numbers from National Angler Surveys.



3. Methodology

Creel Surveys: The creel survey employed a randomised design, conducted at four times per month, including two weekend days per month, with randomly selected morning or afternoon start times. This approach aligns with the methodology of a randomised stratified roving creel survey, as described by Pollock et al. (1994). The surveys were conducted between September and May, inclusive.

Each month, two weekdays and two weekend days were chosen for surveys, with start times randomly set for both the morning and evening. The survey start times were either at 0900 hours or 1200 hours. A detailed schedule was created to outline the survey days and start times, and each survey was conducted within a three- to five-hour window, depending on the day.

To support staff, volunteers were often enlisted to assist with the boat-based surveys. Creel survey sheets and a questionnaire were designed to capture all relevant data (Appendix 1). The surveys were conducted using the Otago Fish & Game boat (OFG7), a 5.5-meter Kiwi Kraft equipped with a 115hp four-stroke Suzuki engine. The boat would circumnavigate the lake, departing from a randomly selected boat ramp, and the direction of the trip was also randomly chosen.

In adverse weather conditions, especially high winds, surveys were shifted to shore-based interviews due to the challenges of approaching vessels and safely mooring. In these cases, staff would drive to popular land-based fishing areas to conduct surveys from the vehicle. Additionally, if no boat trailers were present at the two main boat ramps (the Campground and the Neck), the OFG7 boat would not be launched, as this indicated that no boats were on the water.

All anglers on the lake were approached for interviews. Particular care was taken when approaching shore anglers to minimize disruption. The boat was beached at a distance from their fishing position to ensure the survey was conducted without interrupting their activity. For boat anglers, interviews were conducted while the Fish & Game boat remained alongside. Fenders were deployed to protect both vessels, and boats were approached from the starboard side to avoid any damage.

Anglers were asked a series of questions about their fishing activity for the day, including a standard set of creel questions (Appendix 2). Additionally, anglers were asked about their experience on the lake, such as how many years they had been fishing there and how many days per year they typically fished. The location of each fishing spot was also recorded (Appendix 1).

All fish harvested were weighed and measured (Appendix 3).

Competitions: The Hāwea Family Fishing Classic is an annual competition held on Lake Hāwea, typically occurring in early February.

Since its inception in 2000, the competition has been a valuable source of data for Fish & Game, although it was cancelled in 2022 due to government restrictions related to COVID-19.

During the event, anglers are allowed to enter one fish per participant, which is then weighed and measured. This data is submitted to Fish & Game, providing valuable insights into the average length, weight, and condition factor of the three salmonid species found in the lake.

Over the years, the collected data has helped identify trends and patterns in the fish population, contributing to ongoing monitoring and management efforts.

4. Results from 2024-2025

A total of 107 angler interviews were conducted across 32 sampling periods. During the 2024–2025 creel survey season, there were 24 survey days on which no anglers were interviewed. Although not formally recorded, adverse weather conditions were notably more frequent this season compared to previous years. On the days when no anglers were encountered, high winds or heavy rain likely contributed to the lack of fishing activity, although there were some notable days where good weather conditions aligned with no fishing activity.

Most of the survey effort focused on the lower third of the lake, which aligned with our monitoring priorities where most anglers were located. The Neck and the western shoreline, between the campground and the Neck, emerged as the most popular angling areas, where fish were frequently caught. Some effort was also directed towards the mouths of Timaru and Dingle Burn streams when weather conditions permitted.

The total catch from the 107 anglers was 25 fish, achieved over 133.5 hours of fishing effort. Eleven fish, or 44% of the total catch, were returned, in contrast to the previous season's release rate of 76.2%.

Of the anglers interviewed, 91 (84.9%) reported catching no fish, a significantly higher percentage than in the previous two survey periods (75.5% and 73.3%). 12 anglers had caught one fish each, while one angler each reported catching two, three, four, and five fish each.

4.1 Catch Rate

The Total Catch Rate (TCR) is calculated from the number of fish caught over the length of angling time. $133.5 \text{ divided by } 25 \text{ fish} = \text{one fish for } 5.34 \text{ hours angling effort or } (.19) \text{ as fish per hour caught}$. This was much lower than the previous two survey seasons, with one fish for 2.9 hours angling effort or (.35) as fish per hour caught in 22-23, and one fish for three hours angling effort or (.33) as fish per hour caught in 23-24.

Of the 25 fish caught only one was a brown trout, 18 were rainbow trout, and six salmon were recorded. The harvest rate (HR) is calculated from fish kept divided by total angling effort and shown as fish per hour.

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

Season	Species	Fish caught. (TCR)	Fish released (TCR) and % returned	Fish kept and (HR)
Sept 2022-May 2023 (inc)	Brown	15 (0.05)	12 (0.04) 80%	3 (0.009)
Sept 2023-May 2024 (inc)	Brown	22 (0.116)	17 (0.09) 77.3%	5 (0.03)
Sept 2024-May 2025	Brown	1 (0.04)	1 (0.04) 100%	0 (0)
Sept 2022-May 2023 (inc)	Rainbow	65 (0.21)	31 (0.10) 47.7%	34 (0.11)
Sept 2023-May 2024 (inc)	Rainbow	25 (0.13)	19 (0.1) 76%	5 (0.03)
Sept 2024-May 2025	Rainbow	18 (0.72)	7 (0.28) 38.9%	11 (0.44)
Sept 2022-May 2023 (inc)	Salmon	25 (0.08)	12 (0.04) 48%	13 (0.04)
Sept 2022-May 2023 (inc)	Salmon	16 (0.08)	11 (0.06) 68.8%	5 (0.03)
Sept 2024-May 2025	Salmon	6 (0.24)	3 (0.12) 50%	3 (0.12)

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

4.1 Catch Rate by Method

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

Year	Fish caught Fly (CR)	Fish caught Spin (CR)	Fish caught Surface Trolling (CR)	Fish caught Deep Trolling (CR)
Sept 2022-May 2023 (inc)	14 (0.05)	11 (0.04)	3 (0.01)	75 (0.25)
Sept 2023-May 2024 (inc)	9 (0.05)	27 (0.14)	13 (0.07)	15 (0.08)
Sept 2024-May 2025	1 (0.08)	2 (0.05)	6 (0.32)	16 (0.28)

Deep trolling including down rigger, lead line and paravane was the most productive method accounting for 16 fish, and 64% of the total catch. Surface trolling was the next most effective, with six fish (24% total catch). Five of these fish were caught by one angler harling in the neck area, showing how effective this underutilised method can be in the right conditions. Spin angling caught two fish (8%). The remaining one fish was caught by fly angling (4%).

Table 3. Total Angling effort for each Method

Year	Angler Numbers and (%) Time Fly fishing	Angler Numbers and (%) Time Spinning	Angler Numbers and (%) Time Surface Trolling	Angler Numbers and (%) Time Deep Trolling
Sept 2022-May 2023 (inc)	13 (7.1%)	60 (26%)	26 (16%)	92 (49.6%)
Sept 2023-May 2024 (inc)	17 (14%)	46 (34.4%)	18 (12.9%)	39 (42.3%)
Sept 2024-May 2025	4 (9.2%)	34 (32.2%)	15 (13.8%)	51 (44.4%)

Over the 2024-2025 season both spinning and trolling were the most popular methods (Table 3) and most productive (table 2) with deep trolling the preferred method. Scott & Wright (2007) reported similar findings with trolling being the most popular method and between 57-68% of the angling effort for the three survey years from 1998 - 2001.

Fly fishing was only encountered once, by a group fishing the Neck.

Spinning around the shoreline was mostly concentrated near the dam and campground area at the bottom of the lake, and at the Neck.

One bait angler was also recorded.

4.2 Catch Details

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

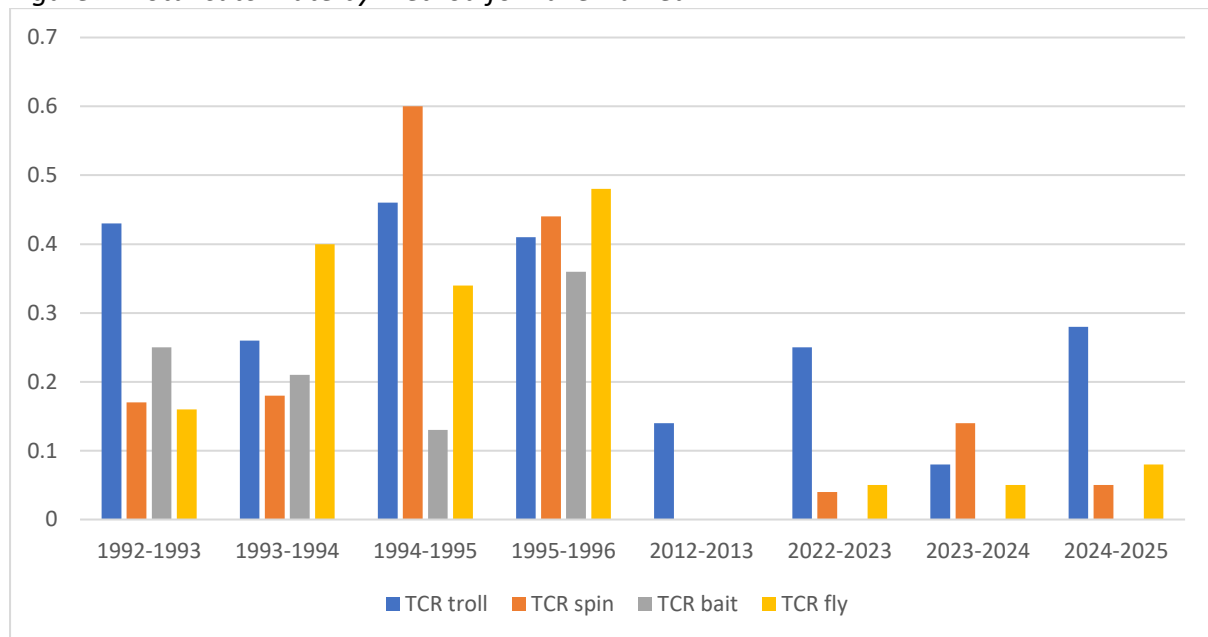
Year	Average Length (mm)			Average weight (Grams)			Average condition factor		
	Brown	Rainbow	Salmon	Brown	Rainbow	Salmon	Brown	Rainbow	Salmon
Sept 2022 -May 2023 (inc)	458	401.9	378	1290	920	764	47.9	51.9	50.3
Sept 2023 -May 2024 (inc)	418.6	412.7	339.3	860	816.7	518.2	41.9	42.8	47.6
Sept 2024 -May 2025	0	465.6	376.1	0	1160	420	0	41.15	37.04

In the 2024 – 2025 season 10 rainbow trout and four salmon were measured. The length for salmon and rainbow trout were both up from previous seasons, however the weight and subsequently the condition factors were notably down in the salmon. No harvested brown trout were encountered during the 2024-2025 survey.

4.3 Historical Comparisons

Data collected from surveys conducted between 1992-1996, 2012-2013, and 2022-2025 has been compiled to compare long-term trends. Catch rates by method, release rates, and the percentage of angling time spent on each method have been charted to highlight trends over time.

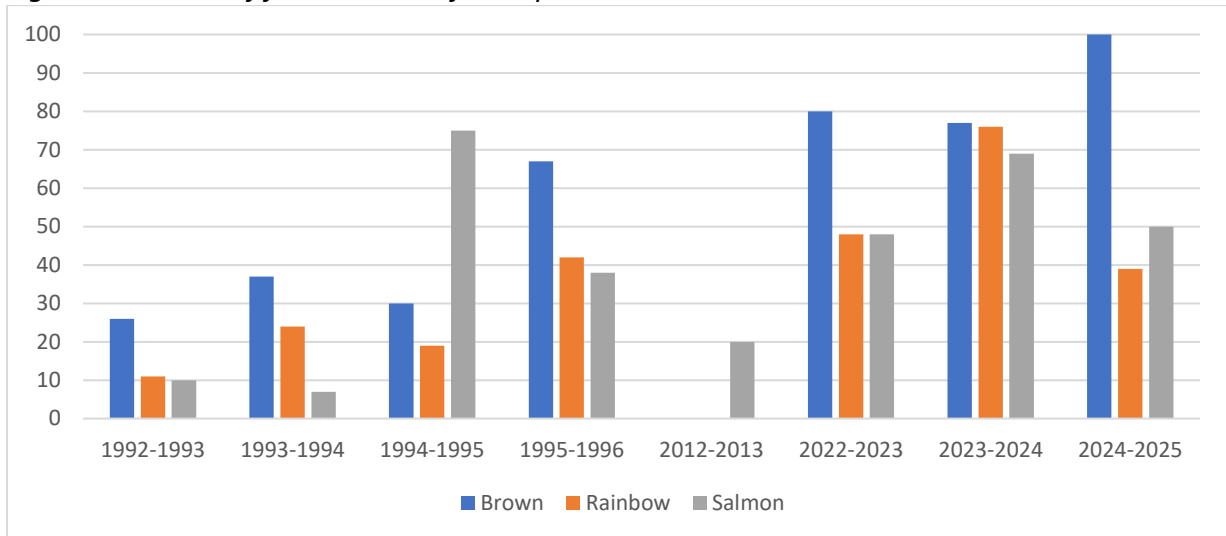
Figure 2. Total catch rate by method for Lake Hāwea



The total catch rate is calculated based on the number of fish caught per hour of fishing. A distinct contrast in success per hour is observed in recent years compared to the early surveys. This trend is particularly interesting when compared to the catch rates from the fishing competition (Figure 5), which shows that while more fish are being caught per angler, fewer fish are caught per hour.

It seems that anglers in the 1990s were catching fewer fish, but more per hour, suggesting a possible shift in angling motivation. Figure 2 illustrates the higher release rate over time. The higher catch rate with less time spent angling could be explained by anglers in the 1990s harvesting fish and ending their fishing sessions sooner, while more recent anglers tend to fish longer, catch more fish per session, but release a sizeable portion of their catch.

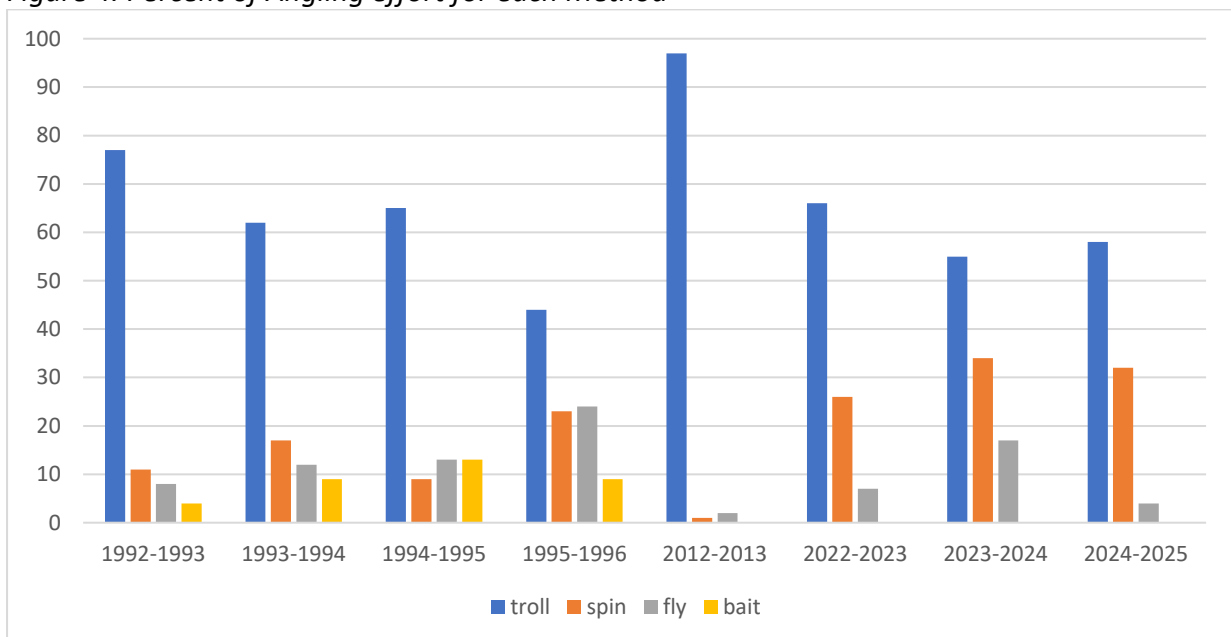
Figure 3. Percent of fish released after capture.



There is a clear trend over time towards releasing a higher percentage of the catch across all species, with the most consistent increase seen in brown trout. While there is no specific year marking the start of the catch-and-release trend for trout angling in New Zealand, the practice gained significant traction in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Roger Young's 1999 paper on catch-and-release for Fish and Game NZ played a key role in this shift.

Although lake angling has traditionally focused on harvesting fish for the table, the trend now clearly shows a growing preference among anglers to release a higher proportion of their catch compared to the 1990s.

Figure 4. Percent of Angling effort for each Method



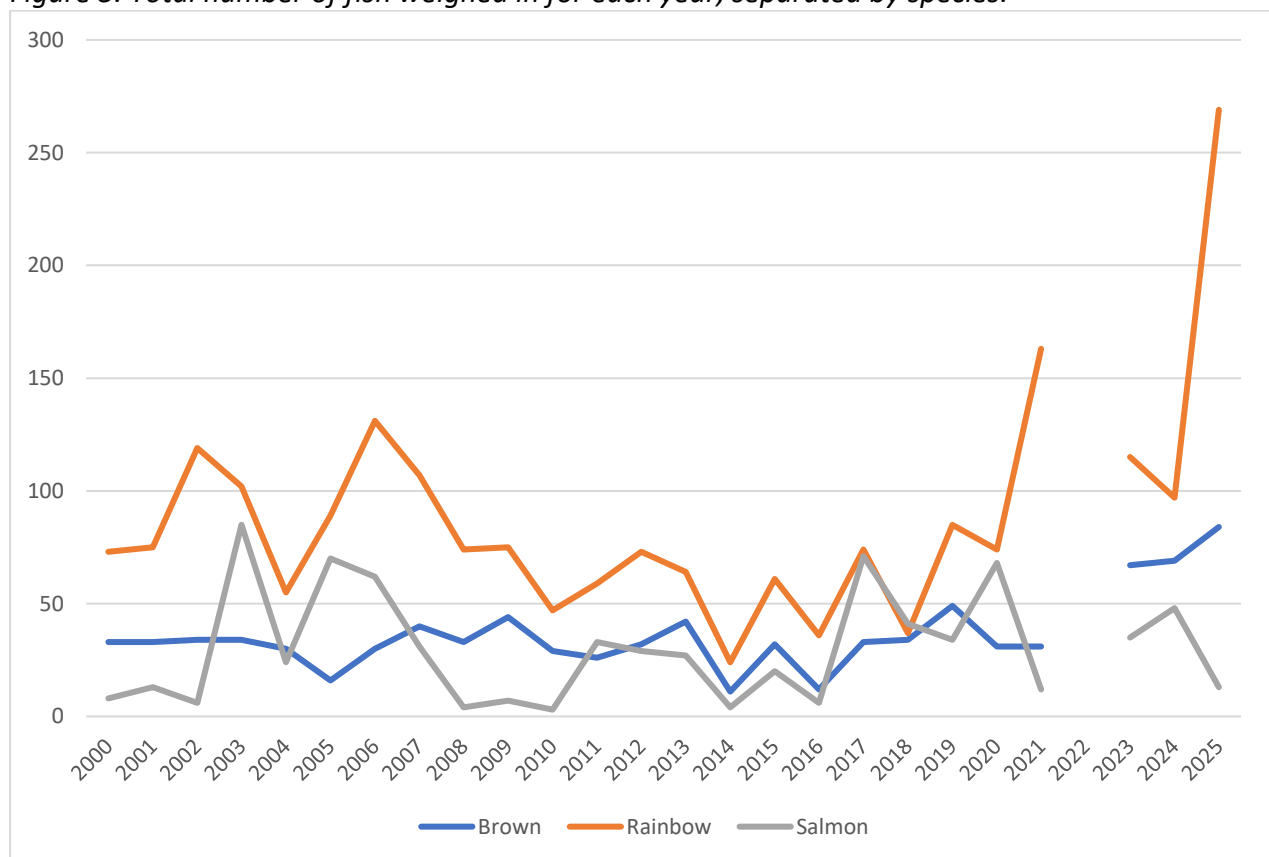
There is a clear preference for trolling among anglers on Lake Hāwea, consistently accounting for more than half of all angling hours on the lake. The popularity of spin fishing has steadily increased, while bait fishing has nearly disappeared. Fly fishing, on the other hand, has seen fluctuating popularity, with a peak followed by a decline over time.

4.4 Competition Data

The Lake Hāwea Family Fishing Classic has been held annually since February 2000, except for 2022 when the event was cancelled due to government-imposed COVID-19 restrictions. The competition is typically held on one of the first weekends of February and is open to anglers of all age groups. Each participant is allowed to weigh in one fish, regardless of species. All fish are measured for length and weight, which is then used to calculate their condition factor.

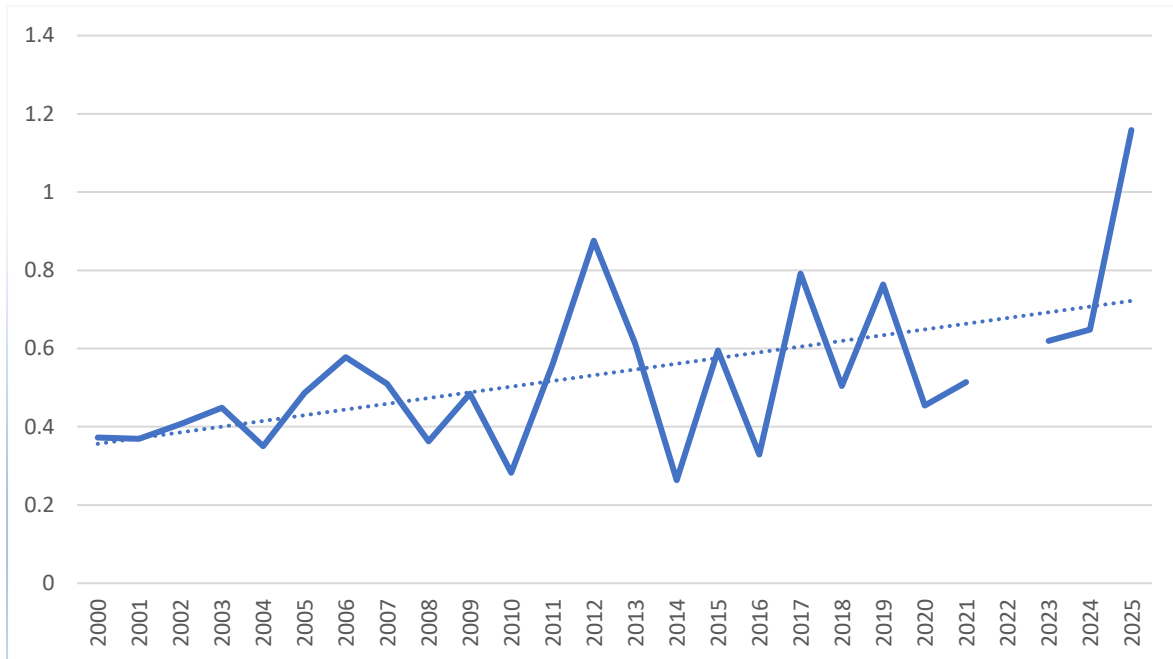
Since all anglers' fish on the same day during the same time of year, the competition provides a valuable snapshot of the fishery's condition during that specific period of the season. However, the number of hours fished by each angler is not recorded, meaning the catch rate per hour cannot be calculated.

Figure 5. Total number of fish weighed in for each year, separated by species.



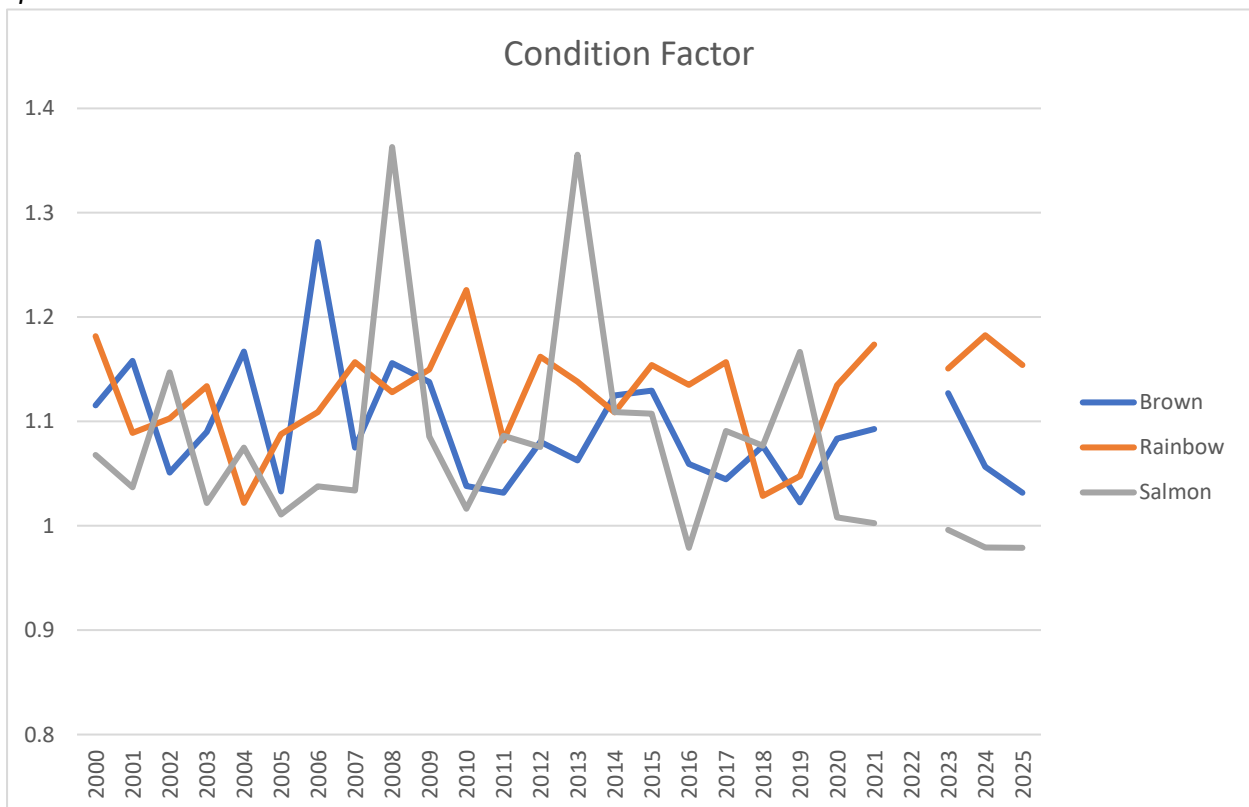
The increase in the total number of fish harvested suggests a higher catch rate. This trend could be linked to the improved health of the fishery, but it may also result from the growing knowledge among anglers, facilitated by online resources, as well as advancements in tackle and electronics.

Figure 6. Total number of fish weighed in per angler entry for each year.



The total number of fish weighed in per angler has been increasing, indicating a higher success rate. Much like the previous graph, this may reflect improvements in the health of the fishery, or the success rate could also be attributed to long-term increases in angler knowledge, including access to information via the internet, as well as advancements in tackle, marine electronics, and fishing tactics.

Figure 7. Shows the average condition factor of fish weighed in for each year, separated by species.



The condition factor trend of rainbow trout has steadily increased over the years, while the condition factor of brown trout and salmon has declined.

5. Discussion

Overall, the health of the Lake Hāwea fishery appears to be in excellent condition. Anglers consistently catch fish, and the fishery is diverse, offering a variety of angling methods and the opportunity to target three species of salmonids. This diversity in both species and techniques makes Lake Hāwea an attractive destination for anglers of all skill levels. While trends in the data have varied across all measured indicators (such as catch rates, release rates, and angler effort), there have been no significant peaks or troughs that would raise any immediate concerns about the long-term sustainability of the fishery. This suggests that the overall fish population and the ecological health of the lake are stable.

However, during the most recent survey period, there was a noticeable decline in the number of angler days encountered. An obvious factor contributing to this decline could be the unpredictable and often harsh weather conditions on the lake. The geographical features surrounding Lake Hāwea, particularly the surrounding mountains, cause wind to funnel through the area, resulting in frequent and intense winds—earning the lake its nickname, "Hurricane Hāwea." These challenging conditions may have deterred anglers from venturing out on certain days. Interestingly, despite the favourable weather conditions during some days of the 2024-2025 season, there were instances when no anglers were encountered on the lake. This raises questions about the other factors that may influence angler participation, such as seasonal trends, fishing preferences, or other variables such as economics or overall national angler participation and distribution.

Angler activity on Lake Hāwea has clearly declined over the past three decades. While numerous variables make it difficult to identify a definitive cause, there is no considerable evidence of a decline in fishery health that would likely deter angler participation.

For future creel surveys, it is recommended to record additional environmental data, such as wind speed, precipitation, air temperature, and cloud cover percentage. By gathering this information, it would be possible to analyse whether these weather conditions have a direct impact on angler participation and success rates. Understanding the relationship between weather patterns and angler activity could help refine future survey strategies and provide more accurate data about how these factors influence the fishery.

Moreover, it would be valuable to include data on whether anglers are fishing from shore or from a boat. While the current surveys record angling methods, and certain techniques, such as trolling, are exclusively boat-based, some data from techniques such as spin fishing is unclear of the access method. Collecting this additional data would provide important insights into the separate ways anglers access the fishery. It could also reveal trends in shore versus boat access over time, helping to identify potential shifts in angler preferences or access points. This information could be particularly useful in managing the fishery and ensuring equitable access for all anglers.

6. References

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

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Sowry, B. 2024. *2023-24 Hawea Creel survey results*. Otago Fish and Game Council report.

7. Recommendation

The report be received.

Ben Sowry
Fish and Game Officer
April 2025

Report as Received

Mover:

Seconder:

Carried/Not Carried:

Recorded against (if any):

Appendix 2.

Lake Hāwea Survey - Angler Questionnaire

1. How many hours have you fished today?
2. What fishing method are you using?
3. Have you caught any fish today?
4. Is this your first fishing trip on Lake Hāwea?
5. Or how many seasons have you fished Lake Hāwea?
6. How many days per season do you fish this lake?

Appendix 3.

Lake Hāwea Fish Data Sheet

DATE	Brown		Rainbow		Salmon	
	Length	Weight	Length	Weight	Length	Weight

15.0 General Business