

NOTICE OF MEETING:

The next meeting of the Southland Fish & Game Council will be held on
Thursday 12th of December 2024 at the Fish & Game Office Boardroom,
17 Eye Street, Invercargill
Commencing at **6.00pm, followed by the AGM at 7:30pm.**

AGENDA:

1	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Declaration of Interests
2	Apologies
3	Confirmation of Minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirm Minutes of the SFGC Public meeting held 13th November 2024.• Confirm Minutes from AGM held 7th December 2023.
4	Notices of Motion. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive & approve Health & Safety Report• Approve the Gamebird regulations for the 2025 season• Decision regarding stay in proceedings in Environment Court
5	Staff Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Background on gravel management• Update on Monowai Jetty• Wildlife Park
6	Correspondence <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Letters of resignation from K Placko and D Linklater• Letter from Hon Todd McClay• Letter to Corina Jordan• Email from Ben Febery
7	Administration Reports. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accounts paid & Direct Credit/Debit payment list since last meeting.• Licence sales progress to 31st November 2024.• Budget to Actual progress to 2024• Journal
8	NZ Council update.
9	Items for the next agenda.
10	Close meeting

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Fish and Game NZ, Southland Region council meeting held at the Southland Fish and Game Offices, 17 Eye Street, Invercargill on 13th November 2024, commencing at 6.00pm.

Present:

Lindsay Withington (Chair)	Lyndon Norman
Dave Harris	Dave Linklater
Mike Hartstonge	Mike Turner

In attendance: Zane Moss (Manager), Ben Febery.

Steve McCartney (Minutes).

Members of the Public: Nil

1 Welcome:

The Manager (as interim Chairman) opened the meeting at 6.05pm and welcomed those in attendance. He presented an overview of the process of appointing a Chair and the election of Officers (Chair, Deputy, NZC Representative and Executive Committee and the voting system.

Moved D Harris that system B (first past the post) be implemented. Seconded M Hartstonge. Carried.

Election of Officers –

Chairperson – M Hartstonge nominated L Withington for Chairman. Seconded Norman. Carried.

Deputy Chair – L Norman nominated M Hartstonge for Deputy Chairman. Seconded L Withington. Carried.

NZC Representative – L Norman nominated L Withington as NZC Rep. Seconded M Hartstonge. Carried.

Executive Committee – L Withington nominated M Hartstonge. Seconded D Harris. Carried

- M Hartstonge nominated L Norman. Seconded D Harris. Carried

Co-option of members to Council.

Moved M Hartstonge. Seconded L Norman to co-opt Dave MacGregor and Craig Horrell to Council. Carried.

2 Apologies:

Bruce Diprose.

Moved: L Withington. Seconded: M Hartstonge. Carried.

3 Declarations of Interest:

The individual member declaration of conflicts of interest with any item on the agenda had been circulated to members before the start of the meeting.

Any conflicts were noted by the Chairman.

4 Confirmation of Minutes.

The minutes of the public meeting held 26th Sept 2024 were considered.

Resolved L Norman/ D Harris *That the minutes of the public meeting held 26th September 2024 were taken as read and were a true and correct record, subject to correction of minor spelling error. Carried.*

5 Notices of Motion

Health & Safety Report – October - November 2024.

The Council Health & Safety report for the period was attached to the agenda for consideration. All known hazards were listed in the Southland Health & Safety Plan.

The Manager advised that should F & G look to undertake work for DOC, they will require our H & S policy to be externally audited.

Councillor Harris, in regard to the Health and Safety Policy recommended that the wording – as far as reasonably practicable- be removed from the policy.

Resolved D Harris/M Hartstonge: *That the Health and Safety Report October – November 2024, be received and accepted and the Health and Safety Policy change be accepted. Carried.*

Governance Code of Conduct Policy.

Resolved M Turner/D Linklater to accept the Code of Conduct Policy. Carried.

Letter from Hon Todd McLay

The minister is seeking response from the Council in respect of –

Opportunities to make efficiencies

Regional mergers

Council member numbers

Honorarium for Councillors

Relationship between NZC and councils

Measures to support our Council to be more effective.

Criteria under which the Minister to remove elected members

The Manager to draft a response to the Minister.

Meeting Schedule dates

The council examined the proposed meeting dates schedule for the year ahead and agreed to accept as stated.

Staff Report

The manager spoke regarding the section 70 matter and the media commentary.

Councillor Linklater's accusatory email

Moved L Norman. Seconded M Hartstonge to move meeting into committee. Carried.

Moved L Norman. Seconded D Harris to move meeting out of committee.

Council resolved to bring their resolution out of committee. Councillor Linklater was censured for his actions and his email. He was told not to contact Barrie or Corina about anything in

regard to the Southland Council and he was directed to review the content on his email. He questioned whether he could recall his email but was informed he could not.

Councillor's Governance-relevant information reports

Waiau Trust Annual report presented.

2022 significance of Ngai Tahu rep. Cyril Gilroy likely to be new rep.

SFGC Governance Policies (to new councillors)

SFGC Standing Orders (to new Councillors)

Legislation that relates to Councillors roles.

Administration Reports

Accounts paid since last meeting.

Licence sales progress to 31/10/24

Budget to actual progress

Journal report.

No matters raised. Journal report signed by the Chairman.

Moved D Harris. Seconded M Hartstonge that the accounts paid list be accepted. Carried

NZC update.

D Harris advised that at the last NZC meeting there wasn't a lot of support for the Environment Court process that Southland had been involved in. However, Councillor Harris pointed out that NZC was well aware of our involvement in the case, having approved funding and the expenditure of our reserves at various stages of the process. Councillor Harris also pointed out that the two subsequent appeals were not caused by Southland Fish and Game.

Items for the next meeting

Next meeting will be on 12 December 2024 and will incorporate the AGM.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____

Unconfirmed Minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting of the Fish & Game NZ, Southland Region Council, held at Waghorn's woolshed, Waituna Lagoon on Thursday 7th December 2023.

Present:

Lindsay Withington (Chair), Corey Carston, Lyndon Norman, David MacGregor, Mike Turner, Dave Harris, David Linklater & Stevie-Rae Blair.

Staff in attendance:

Z Moss (Manager), Corina Jordan (NZFGC CEO), J Smyth (RMA Officer) C Stewart, Ben Febery (Field officers), Ian Hadland (Otago F & G) S McCartney (Minutes).

Welcome:

Lindsay Withington opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed those present and thanked everyone for their attendance (1 x members of the public attended).

The Chairman gave the meeting a health & safety briefing, showing where the exits were should an emergency occur.

Apologies:

Resolved D Harris/M Turner those apologies be received and sustained from Mike Hartstonge, Bill Jarvie and Craig Horrell. Carried.

Minutes of the AGM held 1stth December 2022.

Resolved D Linklater/M Turner that the minutes of the AGM meeting held on the 1st December 2022 were a true and correct record. Carried.

Matters arising from the minutes:

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Presentation of the 2023 Statement of Performance.

The Statement of Performance was presented in draft form as the auditors were yet to conclude their examination of this year's report.

Chairman's Report:

2023 has been a year of significant progress for Southland Fish & Game. Sales of sports fish and game licences have remained strong, and we're encouraged by the return of our valued non-resident anglers.

During the year, there have been noteworthy milestones. Development and implementation of the Designated Waters Licence represents a significant stride in effectively managing angler pressure and safeguarding the angling experience. The wetland development at the Waituna Mahinga Kai Pa site has resulted in the establishment of 20 hectares of open water wetland providing vital habitat for waterfowl and native fish and also contributing to Ngai Tahu and mana whenua aspirations. The Perch and Eel study at the Rakatu-Redcliff wetland serves as a good example of how a non-native species can positively impact our eel populations and to help correct presumptuous views to the contrary and also encourage consideration of broader ecosystem and cultural views.

The introduction of our online angler access maps is a valuable resource for anglers seeking to explore fishing opportunities within Southland.

We were pleased to welcome two new field staff to our team. Following Erin Garrick's departure, Ben Febery was appointed to the Invercargill office and Dwight Grieve to the Te Anau office.

I wish to extend my gratitude to Zane and his dedicated team for their enthusiasm and commitment this year. Their contributions have played a crucial role in the success's we have achieved.

2022 Financial Statements:

The 2023 unaudited Financial Statements recorded total income of \$1,736,631 less total expenses \$1,021,179, less NZFGC levies \$765,227 leaving a net deficit of \$49,775 against a budget deficit of \$64,232. Licence sales and interest income exceeded budget as did Angler/Hunter participation and staff related costs. There were no further comments in relation to the financial statements or the Statement of Performance Report.

Resolved D Harris/D Linklater that the 2023 Statement of Performance Report & Financial Statements (in draft form) be received & accepted by the Council. Carried.

Presentation – Corina Jordan (NZFGC CEO)

The chairman invited Corina to the floor to speak on some of the matters, challenges and work currently under way.

Following the election, we now have a minister of Hunting and Fishing whom F & G will report to as well as the Minister of Conservation.

The Wildlife Act and the Conservation Act are to be reviewed and F & G will support this as it is believed that this will be a of benefit to Fish and Game, both under this government and those to follow. Launch of our Rewild programme, fronted by Dame Lynda Topp (patron) aimed at increasing participation, licence revenue, regional social licence building, of which our wetland work is a good example of providing habitat to support hunting and fishing but also connecting with rural communities to further cement the relevance of the work we do. There remains some policy work to do in respect of Health and safety, and Compliance and governance. Some non-legislative work has taken place with the amalgamation of the Wellington and Taranaki regions being evidence of this.

This has taken place on the back of the Ministerial review and will give confidence to the government that we are building to be a modern, capable and relevant organisation worthy of continued support.

General Business:

No matters raised.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 7.50pm followed by a supper.

Chairman _____ Date _____

Health and Safety Report – December 2024

Work requiring health and safety planning – tailgate forms completed

- Ranging – sports fish
- MLC fish pass

H&S audits - internal

Completed audits:

- Manging sickness in the workplace
- Hazardous substances
- Updated H&S policy

Next audit areas:

- Tailgate form review:
 - o Sorts fish compliance
 - o Weed spraying
 - o Angler access signs
 - o Drift diving
 - o Goose culling

Incidents/accidents/near misses/new hazards

No incidents, accidents or near misses reported.

Workplace accident register as of 30 August 2024:

Number of workplace injuries in 2024-2025 year	0
Number of workplace injuries in 2023-2024 year	1
Number of workplace injuries in 2022-2023 year	0
Number of workplace injuries in 2021-2022 year	1

Training in progress/completed

Staff recently participated in an all-staff webinar on highly pathogenic avian influenza. In preparation for its arrival, the Southland office will begin compiling the necessary PPE to ensure readiness and safety.

General discussions and actions

Staff reviewed five tailgate forms relevant to upcoming summer work. Adjustments were made as required.

The new H&S policy, approved by the Council, has been signed by the manager and printed copies placed in prominent positions within the Invercargill and Te Anau offices.

Staff are preparing H&S documentation for the DoC CCD contract.

Staff recommendation

That this report be received.

Southland Fish & Game Staff report – November-December

1100 Species Management Projects

1114 Mallard monitoring

Staff conducted mallard brood counts near Lochiel and Winton. Good numbers were observed, and the average brood size was higher than average. See table below. For a full discretion of results, see the Southland Region Gamebird Regulation Recommendations document.

Southland brood count data 2015-2024.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Long term average
Median brood size	11.3	7	7	8	7	7.5	7	4	5.5	8	7.2
Average brood size	9.7	6.4	7	8.9	7.8	8.7	9.1	4.2	5.6	8.3	7.8
Total number of broods	22	18	8	9	26	18	26	44	37	52	26

1161 Put and Take Fisheries

Preparation is being made to receive this season's salmon smolt from Sanford. These donated fish are reared-on at Te Anau, principally for the annual Take A Kid Fishing event at Labour Weekend.

1200 Habitat Protection/ Management

1211 RMA - Plan, policy, pSWALP

Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan (pSWLP)

Farm Environment Management Plans (FEMP's)

On 21 November 2024, the Government announced its intention to put in place a regulatory change that provides Southland farmers with a further 18 months (until mid-2026) to comply with the rules in the Southland Water and Land Plan requiring the preparation and certification of a FEMP. This decision has been welcomed by Environment Southland and farming interests. Under the pSWLP, farmers were required to have a farm plan prepared and certified by the end of November 2024.

FEMP's under the pSWLP were intended to be a keystone of Southland's approach to managing environmental contamination risks associated with farming activities. They sought to:

1. *Reduce Contaminants:* Manage critical areas on farms to limit nutrient, sediment, and microbial runoff into waterways.
2. *Uphold Te Mana o Te Wai:* Prioritize the health of water bodies and ecosystems.
3. *Encourage Best Practices:* Promote actions like fencing waterways, riparian planting, and efficient nutrient use.
4. *Ensure Compliance:* Help farmers meet regulatory and water quality standards.
5. *Support Monitoring:* Provide a framework for tracking and improving environmental performance.
6. *Allow Flexibility:* Enable farmers to adapt practices as science and regulations change.

Environment Southland and farming interests had strongly supported the use of FEMPs under the pSWLP during Environment Court proceedings, including the requirement for them to be prepared and certified by the end of November 2024.

Stay of proceedings

On 2 December 2024, Environment Southland applied for a stay of proceedings regarding Environment Court appeals on Rule 24 of the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan (pSWLP). Rule 24 addresses incidental discharges of contaminants (nutrients, sediment, and microbes) from land use activities into water.

In its Fifth Interim Decision, the Environment Court determined it lacked jurisdiction under section 70 of the Resource Management Act (RMA) to approve Rule 24 as proposed. The Court found that Rule 24 did not meet section 70 requirements. Environment Southland's subsequent appeal on the point to the High Court was unsuccessful. The High Court ruled that merely including section 70(1)(c)-(g) requirements in Rule 24 was insufficient and that the Environment Court could examine evidence to decide if Rule 24 satisfied section 70 requirements.

Environment Southland further appealed to the Court of Appeal, which upheld the earlier decisions. The Court of Appeal confirmed that section 70 requirements must be met before including a rule in a plan and that the Environment Court could assess evidence to determine compliance. As a result, the Environment Court's Fifth Interim Decision remains binding.

Environment Southland is seeking a stay of the Environment Court proceedings on Rule 24, as the Government has indicated plans to amend section 70 of the RMA. These changes are expected to align section 70 with recent amendments to section 107, potentially allowing rules for incidental discharges if they include conditions requiring improvement over time. Fish & Game does not intend to oppose the stay application and will abide by the Environment Court's decision.

Plan Change Tuatahi

Fish & Game staff have remained in contact with Environment Southland staff regarding Plan Change Tuatahi. Plan Change Tuatahi is intended to set limits, targets and methods (for discharges to and abstractions from waterways) that will help achieve hauora, a state of healthy resilience, for waterbodies within a generation. Environment Southland no longer intends to proceed with its original timetable to notify Plan Change Tuatahi in early 2024, following Government granting a 3-year extension, until 31 December 2027, for regional councils to notify their freshwater plan changes. Environment Southland has indicated that Plan Change Tuatahi will be notified sometime in 2027.

Environment Southland – Gravel working group

Fish & Game staff have participated in further workshop as part of the Gravel Working Group convened by Environment Southland. The purpose of the group is to develop objectives and policies to guide gravel management. From Fish & Game's perspective, key outcomes are that any intervention in the river system, including gravel management:

1. Is based on an understanding of the river system including past and current gravel behaviour and gravel budgets in catchment / site;
2. Is informed by science, ecological and cultural advice; and

3. Is operationalized in an appropriate and informed manner with clear accountability from contractors back to ES.

Environment Southland – Weed and sediment removal working group

Fish & Game staff have participated in further workshops as part of the Weed and Sediment Removal Working Group convened by Environment Southland. The purpose of the group is to resolve outstanding appeals on Rule 78 of the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan, which relates to weed and sediment removal from modified waters for drainage maintenance.

Waimea gravel removal

Staff met compliance staff from Environment Southland to discuss their findings that the Catchment Management Division had breached the permitted activity conditions and operated unlawfully in the removal of gravel and the modification of the banks of the Waimea stream.

1212 RMA - Consents evaluation

Staff attended a meeting in Te Anau called to initiate discussion over options for weed vegetation control in river fairways, with rivers of the Te Anau Basin foremost in consideration. Attendees were from DoC, ES, Te Anau River Liaison, F&G and Waiau Trust. MP Joseph Mooney also attended. There was a strong push from the river liaison representatives for grazing of the riverbeds to be considered.

Instream works	Gravel / Rock
Cam Jones and Chris Prichard – Application to undertake recreational suction dredging in the bed of the Gow Burn	<p>McGregor Concrete – Application to extract gravel from within the bed of the mid-Mataura River bed.</p> <p>W Pinkney Ltd – Application to extract gravel from within the bed of the Waikaia River.</p> <p>Ryal Bush Transport – Application to extract gravel from within the bed of the lower Oreti River bed.</p>

1232 Pond/wetland identification and advice

Staff completed a significant planting day at a Waituna Mahinga Kai wetland site. These plants were largely contributed by Environment Southland from their Riparian Planting initiative. These plants will mask the dam, add natural character and biodiversity, and importantly, reinforce the dam face from wave lap erosion.

Staff have liaised with the Environment Southland Land Sustainability team on mitigation subsidies ES are offering. We provided feedback on what the application process would best look like for wetland development, and will provide further on-the-ground advice once applications have been received.

Staff continuing to liaise with six landowners re wetland constructions this summer season.



Caption: The dam and outlet. Note the trench in the outlet, which lowered the water level sufficiently for planting at the waterline. The wetland will be raised again in a year or so.



Caption: "Just waiting for a mate"

Staff have surveyed a wetland at Waimatua, which will be constructed once the site dries out.

A site in Te Anau was surveyed and information relating to opportunities available via the Waiau Trust was given to the landowners. A second site was surveyed and appraised in conjunction with the Waiau Trust.

Ward's Wetland which received GBHT funding has had its preparation work done. Planning for construction this summer.

Staff have provided support for another large wetland development at Brydone by meeting with ES and DOC staff regarding its construction.

'Desktop' advice and LiDAR mapping provided for a landowner adjacent to the Waiarakiki Stream.

1241 Waiau River hydro power effects (periphyton, WWP)

The first Waiau – Mararoa periphyton survey was completed on November 26. The results returned a 'Green' status for the Waiau, with a second survey scheduled for December 9th.

1242 MLC Fish Pass

The flow from MLC is now down to the summer minimum of 16 cumecs. The fish pass was managed to ensure it was operating with the optimum gate openings.

1300 Participation

1311 Maintain, protect and enhance access

Brightwater

Informational signage has been created about the Brightwater Spring, and the development of the QEII covenant. These will be erected at both of the Brightwater accesses, with the hope of a) raising awareness and the profile of the role Fish & Game had in the process and b) sowing a seed in visitors that they might contribute to similar projects in the future.

THE BRIGHTWATER SPRING

William Gordon, Bill's great-grandfather originally from Scotland took up the lease of this section of land in 1878. The Brightwater Spring was never surveyed and has remained in the private ownership on the Gordon family's working farm. It is the largest recorded spring in Southland.

In 2024, Bill and Beth Gordon graciously placed the Spring and the riparian margins into a QEII National Trust Covenant. This provides a legal framework to protect biodiversity on private land in perpetuity.

Southland Fish & Game, QEII National Trust and the Gordons collaborated to develop the covenant. Southland Fish & Game generously contributed towards the fencing of this world-renowned brown trout stream for the benefit of anglers. Fish & Game will manage the Spring, doing aquatic and terrestrial weed control, and will maintain practical access.



The key benefits.

- The Spring is protected from commercial development.
- Public access in perpetuity.
- Riparian vegetation will stabilise the banks and shade the water, enhancing depth and physical cover for trout and native fish.



If you would like to contribute towards similar projects, please contact Southland Fish & Game.



Caption: New signs for the Brightwater Spring accesses.

McGregor Pond

Basic wooden seats were added to 'family' tables previously installed by McGregor Concrete ahead of the new season and the annual TAKF event at Labour Weekend.



Glen Monarch Access – Upukerora

Staff have liaised with Waiau Trust following the change of ownership of the Glen Monarch property and the future of this Trust negotiated public access easement.

Brightwater Spring

Five access stiles have been erected at the Brightwater to provide access to the now stock-excluded spring.

An informational sign explaining the owner's (Bill and Beth Gordon) history, their decision to put the spring into a QEII covenant and the role of the QEII Trust & Southland Fish & Game is underway and will be installed at each of the two access points.

Motu Road – lower Waiau

Staff are working with landowners to maintain access to the Waiau River.

Access signage and maintenance

Staff have completed signage refresh at Te Anau Downs jetty.

1313 Monowai jetty proposal

Funding

- Staff were excited to have their applications to Hapai Hapori Community Matters (lotteries) and Aotearoa Gaming Trust get approval for \$30 490 and \$10 000, respectively.
- Staff have liaised with local boat clubs about them contributing on behalf of their membership.
- Staff have created a Give-A-Little page to fill the gap and raise the public profile of the project.
- Funding is 90% secured.

Construction

- Contractors are penciled in for late Feb/early March. We have deemed this a suitable time as the holiday season is largely over, and the lake will hopefully be low.

Staff are glad to nearly be at the exciting end of this project!

1314 Pressure Sensitive Fisheries

Staff have been involved in the production of a document that will provide F&G staff and Councilors with Guidelines for applying pressure-sensitive fisheries management mechanisms to New Zealand's trout fisheries. This document has been reviewed by regional staff and is now with the NZC policy advisor for review prior to distribution to regional Fish & Game Councils.

Camera monitoring of Upper Oreti beats usage underway, as well as data collection via compliance checks.

1332 Promote fish/hunt magazine, internet & print

Staff have created content for the e-zine Reel Life and produced relevant content for the Southland Fish & Game Facebook page. Some Facebook posts have received very high reach (6,000-49,000) and engagement levels. Staff have also started compiling content for the game edition of the magazine.

1334 R3 - recruitment, retention, reactivation

Wellbeing study

Staff submitted a manuscript titled: *Recreational trout fishing and mental health and well-being in Aotearoa New Zealand: a cross-sectional study*, to the journal *Leisure Sciences*. It is currently under review.

Soft bait clinic

Southland Fish & Game partnered with Lance Gill from Composite Developments to deliver an evening clinic focused on tips and tricks for soft bait fishing. The event was well attended, with approximately 45 participants, many of whom were new to trout fishing. Staff are planning more instructional fishing events in the new year, including another soft bait clinic with Lance in Gore.

Hunting resources

Staff have been working with NZC to produce online resources to accompany a new series of instructional gamebird hunting videos. Items will cover the basics of hunting including equipment, access, preparing birds etc.

1400 Communication

1423 Communication with farmers

Staff attended the Te Anau River Liaison AGM in Te Anau.

1426 Communication with anglers and hunters

Staff have received and replied to various email, Facebook, phone and office queries from anglers.

Staff attended a meeting of new people to Fiordland organised by Active Southland.

Staff acted as a go-between for an angler and a commercial jet boat operator after the angler complained over a jet boat being operated upstream of the Queens Reach boat ramp on the upper Waiau River. It transpires that the operator was acting within his consent conditions. Further contact will be made with the operator to discuss how the issue can be best managed in the future.

1421 Communication with Conservation Groups

Staff met with DOC staff to discuss a review of the Wildlife Park, and whether the birds' presence there met DOC's biodiversity priorities into the future.

1452 Schools/youth organisations

Fish in Schools

Staff dropped off large salmon to the schools that raised salmon in their class as part of the Fish in Schools programme.

Staff are helping a fly-fishing group get established at St Peter's College, Gore. Fish & Game are applying to Active Southland on their behalf for a grant for gear and equipment.

Staff have taken a group of local youth workers fishing, and supplied them with rods, reels and tackle. They are going to take their rangitahi out fishing over summer. It is hoped this will provide the youth workers with another tool in their kite, that the youth will experience the physical and mental benefits of the recreational, and that Fish & Game will receive feedback about trout fishing as an intervention.

1500 Compliance and enforcement

1533 Fiordland Compliance and CCD

The annual application for MPI funding received via ES Biosecurity has been submitted.

CCD displays and collateral were prominently displayed at the Stabi-craft Te Anau – Manapouri Fishing Classic.

Angler compliance work associated with the Stabi-craft fishing competition was conducted and over 90 licences were checked.

Angler compliance has been conducted on many waterways including – Oreti, Mataura, Weydon Burn, Clinton, Hamilton Burn, Aparima, Whitestone, Eglinton, Upukaroara, McGregors Pond, Mavora lakes, Lake Te Anau, Lake Thomas, Brightwater, Roberts Creek. 100% compliance rate to date with over 240 checks completed.

1800 Planning and reporting

1831 Preparation of Annual Report

The Southland Fish & Game Council annual report was prepared and filed with the auditor.

1900 Administration

1913 Maintenance & Office Admin Te Anau

The roadside trees adjacent to the Te Anau office have been removed as part of a larger clearance of trees on both sides of the road.





Sent: Saturday, 16 November 2024 7:38 PM
To: Todd McClay (MIN) <T.McClay@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: TM02545 | Resignation from Southland F&G Council

Dear Minister,

Resignation from Southland Fish & Game Council

Unfortunately, I have found the recent development of tensions in the rural community between Fish & Game and some farmers to be a significant risk to my business as a fishing guide and to my personal wellbeing. Whilst I understand that Fish & Game's involvement in the Environment Court process and subsequent appeals has been significantly misrepresented by Federated Farmers and the media, nonetheless, I'm not in the position to argue on a case by case basis with individual farmers. So unfortunately, despite my desire to support Fish & Game and the great work they do, my role as a councillor is untenable at this time. I do hope these circumstances change and I can contribute at some later time.

Please proceed with haste to assist in carrying out the instruction to have my name removed from the council directory.

I look forward to continuing to contribute to our fishing community in other ways.

Kind regards | Ngā mihi,

Kristina Placko

Sent: Saturday, 16 November 2024 7:38 PM
To: Todd McClay (MIN) <T.McClay@ministers.govt.nz>
Subject: TM02545 | Resignation from Southland F&G Council

Dear Minister,

Resignation from Southland Fish & Game Council

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Please proceed with haste to assist in carrying out the instruction to have my name removed from the council directory.

I look forward to continuing to contribute to our fishing community in other ways.

Kind regards | Ngā mihi,

Kristina Placko

Afternoon,

For your information, David Linklater has resigned from the Southland Fish and Game council effective immediately following his email last week.

Regards
Lindsay

From: david linklater <dglinklater@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, 15 November 2024 9:32 AM
To: Lindsay Withington <larlwithington@gmail.com>
Subject: Resignation

The Chairman,
Southland Fish and Game.
Dear Sir,

I now believe I got caught in a political power play and made untrue statements which I regret greatly. I would like to make a sincere apology to Southland Fish and Game and especially to the people involved. I wish to offer my resignation from Southland Fish and Game effective immediately.

Kind regards David Linklater

Hon Todd McClay

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



27 NOV 2024

Kristina Placko

By email: placko.kristina@gmail.com

TM02545

Dear Kristina,

Thank you for your email dated 16 November regarding your resignation from Southland Fish and Game Council in accordance with section 26ZA(4) of the Conservation Act 1987.

I appreciate your service on the Council and your contribution to managing, maintaining, and enhancing the region's sports fish and game resources.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Todd McClay'.

Hon Todd McClay
Minister for Hunting and Fishing



28 November 2024

Corina Jordan
CEO
NZFGC

Via email

Dear Corina

10 Year Sportsfish & Gamebird Management Plan policies and guidance documents.

You are aware that Southland is overdue on the renewal of our 10 year Sportsfish and Game Management Plan. We developed a draft consultation stage some time ago, however, we were advised (by your predecessor) not to progress further until the new framework was developed. Therefore, we are pleased to see this policy being progressed because (assuming it's adopted), we will be able to advance our plan.

During our recent Council meeting, the Southland Council discussed whether or not statutory plans could be made far more approachable, and more concise. They appreciate it is a statutory requirement but discussed whether the style of plan that has typically been produced is somewhat dated. They questioned the degree to which other entities considered our Sportsfish and Game Management Plan in their own statutory processes and how influential our plans were likely to be in that regard.

The Southland Council are not opposed to the drafts you have provided and hope that once they are adopted as policy, will enable and encourage the production of consistent and concise SFGMPs.

Fatigue Management Policy

Southland is not opposed to the Fatigue Management Policy and accept that fatigue is a significant risk that must be managed. This is certainly true in Southland with long summer days, which can inevitably lead to staff working long hours while conducting field work, in hot and sometimes remote locations.

Annual Budget and Meeting Schedule

The Southland Council can ensure that our meeting schedule meets the expectation of the New Zealand Council, such that we can provide feedback to on any consultation sought.

Zero-Based Budgeting (ZBB)

The Southland Council has long been dissatisfied with our current budget process and has attempted to draw the New Zealand Council's attention to the resource allocation work of David Hunt. Hunt considered ZBB but concluded that there would be insufficient information to safely adopt a ZBB approach. He recommended an alternative that was in part based on angler/hunter use, with budgets becoming increasingly contestable as region's budgets became comparatively higher, per unit of use, compared to the national average. One of the key

benefits of this approach (apart from its simplicity) is that regions retain the ability to prioritise regional objectives.

Framework Required

The challenge for the New Zealand Council, and indeed for the entire organisation, is to avoid this process becoming extremely burdensome, without necessarily providing much benefit.

One aspect that I think has been missed is that a true ZBB is where the entire budget is contestable. Does NZC envisage considering the relative benefits of trout spawning monitoring in Southland against similar activity in (say) Taranaki or Nelson, or would it simply accept that such work is simply a function pursuant to the Act? If it is a function pursuant to the Act, how will the technical merits be considered, given they are operational, and managers/CEs have been excluded from these processes? What is appropriate and necessary, what level of rigour is required, does it need to be helicopter-based, how many replicates are required?

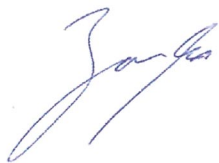
A ZBB process will inevitably pit all regions against each other. In the academic resources outlining the strengths and weaknesses of a ZBB approach, there is a recognised risk that the shiniest, most eloquent budget is most likely to receive funding.

The New Zealand Council will have to develop a budget policy framework supporting ZBB that prevents regions developing budgets far in excess of their current budget. The framework will also have to identify what is a reasonable 'minimum' pursuant to our statutory functions and address equitability of the grant/levy system, transparently setting a 'reasonable' NZC budget and resource allocation.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Southland Council supports a move to a zero-base budget process but wishes to urge the New Zealand Council to develop a suitable framework against which to assess regional budgets' appropriateness with respect to organisational or regional priorities and resource allocation and suggest that such is developed as comprehensive financial policy in support of a move to ZBB.

Yours sincerely



Zane Moss
Manager
Southland Fish and Game Council

Steve McCartney

From: Ben Febery <bfebery@fishandgame.org.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 November 2024 10:58 AM
To: Steve McCartney
Subject: Fw: Setting up a recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) in Gore, Southland

Hi Steve,

Can you please add this to correspondence for the next council meeting?

Thanks,
Ben

From: Ben Febery <bfebery@fishandgame.org.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 10:56 AM
To: Joe Stringer <joe@yrless.nz>
Subject: Re: Setting up a recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) in Gore, Southland

Hi Joe,

Thanks for your email and notifying Fish & Game of your intent to establish, or at least investigate, a reticulated aquaculture system (RAS) in the Wendon Valley.

As you are already aware, given that you are intending to farm a freshwater species, you are required to notify the Fish & Game Council. Please consider this email as official acknowledgement of you having done so. As further evidence, I will have it recorded in the formal correspondence of the Council.

The Council notes

- We are pleased that you intend to utilise a reticulated system and will therefore be non-consumptive in regard to water use. The Water Conservation Order that was placed on the Mataura River in 1984 limits the amount of water that can be taken from the catchment. Environment Southland has currently exceeded this limit, and is in the process of reducing the water take(s) upstream of Gore.
- FYI there is an existing chinook salmon population in the Mataura catchment, especially downstream of the Mataura Falls which poses a substantial spawning barrier.

- The Ministry of Primary Industries/Fisheries New Zealand manage the process for establishing, and running, an aqua farm in New Zealand. Fish & Game may have further involvement if they seek our input at any stage.

Fish & Game is not opposed to this on principle.

All the best with your investigations and I trust you're enjoying the drier weather and ground conditions.

Kind regards,
Ben Febery

Field Officer
Southland Fish & Game Council
17 Eye St | PO Box 159 | Invercargill | 9840
03 215 9117 | 027 432 0318

From: Joe Stringer <joe@yrless.nz>
Sent: Sunday, November 17, 2024 10:02 PM
To: Southland Office <southland@fishandgame.org.nz>
Cc: Ben@southlandfishgame.co.nz <Ben@southlandfishgame.co.nz>
Subject: Fwd: Setting up a recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) in Gore, Southland

Hi
Just a bump on this email since I have not had any reply.

Regards
Joe Stringer
021 168 2532

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:Setting up a recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) in Gore, Southland

Date: Tue, 10 Sep 2024 08:15:33 +1200
From: Joe Stringer <joe@yrless.nz>
To: permissionshamilton@doc.govt.nz, Megan Reid <megan@hokonuirunanga.org.nz>, southland@fishandgame.org.nz, info@goredc.govt.nz, service@es.govt.nz

Hi

We are looking at setting up a recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) on my farm in Southland, Gore (459 Clinker Hill Road, RD3, Gore 9773).

I'm following the process set out in the "Guide to setting up and operating a land-based aquaculture farm" by fisheries NZ, and the outline says to make contact to you regarding the process and what's needed from your end.

The fish species that we are looking to grow in the system is Salmon with sub species not determined yet.

Regards
Joe Stringer
021 168 2532

**SOUTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL PAYMENT | LIST OF
ACCOUNTS PAID SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

Direct Credits paid:

12/11/2024	Meridian Energy Ltd	\$360.48	power - 17 Eye Street
12/11/2024	Meridian Energy Ltd	\$97.04	power - Te Anau Office
13/11/2024	Clinton Goad	\$156.00	Fish licence refund/upgrade
13/11/2024	Estate of Barry Lemm	\$156.00	Fish licence refund
14/11/2024	Peter Philpott	\$156.00	Fish licence refund/upgrade
14/11/2024	Tim Boys	\$1,000.00	Pond Subsidy
15/11/2024	BNZ	\$5.20	Merchant fees
19/11/2024	MA & CM Turner	\$266.00	Meeting travel
20/11/2024	Officemax	\$69.92	Stationery
20/11/2024	Eastern F & G	\$88.69	Xero sub - October
20/11/2024	E H ball ITM	\$85.89	Paling timber
20/11/2024	Automotive Solutions	\$2,478.69	NUF116 - WOF and 4 Tyres
20/11/2024	Inland Revenue	\$17,028.71	PAYE
20/11/2024	NZ Fish & Game Council	\$221,671.71	Levy
20/11/2024	Te Anau Panelbeaters	\$111.65	Repair periphyton viewing device
20/11/2024	ICC	\$1,450.00	rates - 17 Eye Street
20/11/2024	Competenz	\$414.00	Chainsaw course - Unit assessment charge
20/11/2024	E H Ball ITM	\$2,066.40	Materials for stile construction
20/11/2024	Fuji Xerox	\$47.75	Photocopies
20/11/2024	Fioedland Nurseries	\$63.25	Mowing of lawns
20/11/2024	Eastern F & G	\$88.69	Xero sub - September
20/11/2024	Officemax	\$80.67	Stationery
20/11/2024	Sthld District Council	\$219.28	Rates - 178 Manapouri Te Anau Hway
20/11/2024	NZ Fish & Game Council	\$138.00	Seaflux sub x 2
20/11/2024	PWFP Fire Safety	\$150.08	Fire extinguisher testing - Te Anau
20/11/2024	Sthld District Council	\$134.70	Rates - 280 Sinclair Road.
20/11/2024	Sthld District Council	\$126.45	Rates - 1820 Waimea Hway, Mandeville
20/11/2024	Atkinson Plumbing Ltd	\$237.21	Install boiler unit in kitchen
20/11/2024	Eagle Technology	\$287.50	ArcGIS - annual sub
20/11/2024	Bloomers Groomers	\$295.00	Pre sale vehicle clean MBS600
20/11/2024	Joss Stroud	\$275.00	Premise cleaning - Aug/Sept/Oct
20/11/2024	Gerhard Uys Media	\$400.00	Brightwater photography
20/11/2024	Environment Sthld	\$468.39	Rates - 17 Eye Street
20/11/2024	Craigs design & Print	\$563.87	Printing of CCD books
20/11/2024	Fastway Couriers	\$9.50	rural ticket shortfall
20/11/2024	Environment Sthld	\$600.96	Rates - 178 Manapouri Te Anau Hway
20/11/2024	Allied Press	\$601.34	Advertising - Gore Ensign, Sthld Express
20/11/2024	Automotive Solutions Ltd	\$1,084.68	Seatcovers for truck QTG474 (Ben)
22/11/2024	Manic Tackle	\$1,632.08	Boots, shirts
27/11/2024	Ruth Thomas	\$125.00	Fish Licence refund/upgrade
28/11/2024	Stephane Dassau	\$171.00	Fish licence refund/upgrade
4/12/2024	MA & CM Turner	\$266.00	Council meeting travel

Sub total **\$255,728.78**

Plus Direct Debits

3/11/2024	One NZ Group	\$381.80	Cellphones
11/11/2024	BP Oil NZ	\$2,439.26	Fuel - vehicle fleet
20/11/2024	Velocitynet Ltd	\$244.00	Internet access
20/11/2024	Paymark Ltd	\$21.74	EFTPOS mthly sub
28/11/2024	Eyede Solutions	\$1,267.00	Fish sales
2/12/2024	BNZ	\$1.40	Bank fee
4/12/2024	One NZ Group	\$389.72	Cellphones

11/11/2024

BNZ Visa

\$4,679.63	4 Square Otatara - Gas bottle	46.29
	Mitre 10 te Anau - hose tap	9.88
	Givealittle - Zane (Brightwater)	200
	Te Anau Photocentre - CCD posters	20
	APL Manapouri - Diesel	50
	Placemakers te Anau - Screws	6.12
	Freshchoice Te Anau - milk	2.79
	2Talk Ltd - prepaid calls	51.75
	Freash Chgoice - supermix for TAKF	16.5
	Microsoft - office 365 sub	232.3
	Freshchoice - Groceries	3.15
	Dropbox - annual sub	237.39
	Dome Café - Zane, feds, J Mooney	10.25
	Te Anau Photocentre - CCD, God Clam posters	5
	Pak n Sav - gift card	205.95
	E Hayes & Sons - Tape	21.95
	Pak n Sav - vacuun cleaner bags	12.99
	Jaycar - fuses Electro fish	23.8
	Southland batteries - electro fishing machine	203.09
	VISME - annual report	59.27
	Fiordland bakery - lunch for volunteers	26.56
	NZ Transport Agency - RUC for MBS600	620.44
	Te Anau Paperplus - laminating	10
	Woolworths - groceries	61.39
	Hunting & Fishing - digital scales	79.99
	Trademe - listing MBS600	350
	Unichem Pharmacy - cloce oil	16.99
	Farmlands - lock syringe	7.35
	Freshchoice - milk	2.79
	Pak n Sav - cat food fpr fyke nets	8.59
	Placemakers Te Anau - timber/perlins	116.05
	Placemakers Te Anau - hex screws	27.54
	Ascot park hotel - drinks ES awards	59.5
	Ascot park hotel - drinks ES awards	10
	Ascot park hotel - drinks ES awards	10
	Ascot park hotel - drinks ES awards	8.5
	Placemakers Te Anau - fence posts	61.89
	NZ Transport Agency - rego NUF117	207.77
	EZY Clean Car wash - Ben MBS600 pre sale wash	10.5
	Garmin - Freedom safety plan	25
	Pak n sav - BBQ food Soft bait clinic	117.23
	Pak n Sav - Soft drink for soft bait clinic	29.41
	Hunting and fishing - Jig heads for clinic	116.91

Profit and Loss

Fish and Game New Zealand, Southland Region For the year ended 31 August 2024

	2024	2024 OVERALL BUDGET	2023
REVENUE			
Fish and Game licence sales			
Fish Sales	1,161,179	1,219,610	1,052,944
Game licence	420,661	438,762	410,937
3005 - Non-Resident Licence Levy Revenue	198	-	76,388
3006 - Designated Waters Licence Sales - Southland	27,671	-	-
Total Fish and Game licence sales	1,609,708	1,658,372	1,540,270
Donations, bequests, other fundraising			
Donations/koha from the public			
4161 - Put n Take Income	-	-	2,000
Total Donations/koha from the public	-	-	2,000
Total Donations, bequests, other fundraising	-	-	2,000
Grants from non-government agencies			
4211.1 - RMA Oncharge NZC Income	14,432	-	74,361
Total Grants from non-government agencies	14,432	-	74,361
Contracts (central/local government)			
NIWA Monitoring	39,046	-	31,297
4244 - Dept. of Conservation Contracts	6,100	2,000	-
4533 - MPI - Biosecurity CCD programme	30,000	25,000	30,000
Total Contracts (central/local government)	75,146	27,000	61,297
Contracts (non government)			
4242 - MLC Fish Pass Management- Meridian	13,818	10,000	10,511
Total Contracts (non government)	13,818	10,000	10,511
Interest			
4971 - Interest Public Trust	923	-	706
4971.1 - Interest Other	55,315	42,769	38,715
Total Interest	56,238	42,769	39,420
Other Income			
Diversion Scheme Game	2,100	-	2,100
Diversion Scheme Fishing	10,670	-	4,602
4531 - Fine Income (Courts)	1,238	5,000	840
4941 - Rental - Te Anau Cottage	9,391	-	-
4947 - Rent - Office Space Eye St	1,952	1,800	1,952
Sale of Products	16,502	50	(721)
4004 - Profit on sale of Assets	20,895	-	-
4532 - Eftpos transactions	297	-	-

	2024	2024 OVERALL BUDGET	2023
4243 - Contract Income	11,014	-	-
Total Other Income	74,059	6,850	8,773
Total REVENUE	1,843,402	1,744,991	1,736,631
EXPENSES			
Outputs			
Species management			
Population monitoring	17,909	20,550	21,169
Harvest assessment	-	2,000	-
Releases	255	150	80
Total Species management	18,163	22,700	21,249
Habitat protection & management			
1212 - RMA Consents evaluation	-	50	348
1211 - RMA Plans & Policy	-	50	-
1213 - ES Water & Land Plan Appeal	32,168	-	64,005
Works & management	-	2,100	-
Assisted habitat	5,082	110	13,066
Assessing & monitoring	12	-	749
Total Habitat protection & management	37,262	2,310	78,168
Angler & Hunter participation			
Access			
1311 - Maintain & Enhance Access	93,024	57,500	20,339
1312 - Erection & Maintenance of signage	-	1,000	774
1313 - Monowai Development (Jetty)	12,210	-	2,155
1314 - Pressure sensitive fisheries	821	400	275
Total Access	106,055	58,900	23,543
Other Publications			
1341 - Handouts, books, internet and Pamphlets	1,186	2,500	-
1333 - Produce angling hunting reg bks	418	1,800	-
1331 - Promote Fish & Hunt via general media	1,460	1,100	223
Total Other Publications	3,064	5,400	223
Training & R3			
1334 - R3 Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation	602	500	682
1351 - Hunter training	923	1,000	650
1352 - Angler training	35	-	-
Total Training & R3	1,561	1,500	1,332
Total Angler & Hunter participation	110,680	65,800	25,098
Public interface			
Communication	2,586	1,200	2,555
Public promotions	-	130	43
Visitor facilities	495	405	803

	2024	2024 OVERALL BUDGET	2023
Fish in schools programme	186	500	510
Total Public interface	3,268	2,235	3,911
Compliance			
Ranging	191	300	417
Ranger training	-	3,500	255
Compliance	7,400	5,750	5,359
Total Compliance	7,591	9,550	6,031
Licensing			
Commission	63,706	74,627	62,246
Licence production - DW	13,862	20,980	-
Total Licensing	77,567	95,607	62,246
Council			
Council meetings	3,820	9,500	5,217
Total Council	3,820	9,500	5,217
Planning & reporting			
1811 - Management Plan	-	1,000	-
Reporting	469	1,000	614
1834 - Audit Costs	8,776	11,000	8,492
1842 - National Liaison	278	1,000	161
1841 - Policy development/ Managers Meetings	-	500	50
Total Planning & reporting	9,523	14,500	9,317
Total Outputs	267,874	222,202	211,236
Overheads			
Employee related costs			
Salaries and wages	742,456	713,350	597,818
1923 - Fringe Benefit Tax	12,783	5,000	4,855
1921 - ACC Levy	1,844	1,300	1,640
Staff training & other expenses	8,948	9,600	8,926
KiwiSaver contributions	27,992	25,000	22,123
Total Employee related costs	794,024	754,250	635,362
Other expenses			
Communications & Consumables	14,065	14,400	16,960
Field equipment	1,435	4,500	6,854
General	33,487	29,606	31,318
Office equipment	3,318	3,000	6,173
Office premises	13,926	25,700	20,193
Vehicles	42,785	35,234	32,311
Total Other expenses	109,016	112,440	113,809
Total Overheads	903,040	866,690	749,171
2005 - Depreciation	61,481	15,164	57,236
Total EXPENSES	1,232,395	1,104,056	1,017,644

	2024	2024 OVERALL BUDGET	2023
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	611,007	640,935	718,988
Less other Expenses			
1843 - NZ Fish & Game Levy	(803,189)	(803,189)	(765,227)
Total Less other Expenses	(803,189)	(803,189)	(765,227)
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICT)	(192,182)	(162,254)	(46,239)