



SOUTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Meeting time: 6:00PM Thursday 27 November 2025.

Location: 17 Eye Street, Invercargill.



Fishing fun during the Central Southland Fishing Day

NOTICE OF MEETING:

The next meeting of the Southland Fish & Game Council will be held on
Thursday 27th November 2025 at the Fish & Game Office Boardroom,
17 Eye Street, Invercargill
Commencing at **6.00pm**

AGENDA:

1	Welcome
2	Apologies
3	Recognition of Bill Jarvie's service to Fish & Game
4	Confirmation of Minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirm Minutes of the SFGC Public meeting held 25 September 2025.
5	Notices of Motion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health & Safety Report• 2026 Gamebird hunting regulations
6	General business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposal from staff of Otago initiative to put grey teal on game bird list.• Ardlussa access• Update of Manager position• Update on interim Manager• Update from Dave Harris on any developments with wildlife park.• Chairmans update on meetings and conversations had with groups, organisations, stakeholders or affected parties.• Feedback from kids fishing event put on in conjunction with Shona Taylor.
7	Staff Report
8	Correspondence for information
9	Financial Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update from Steve on financial report and audit and progress with Leach and Partners.
9	NZ Council update
10	Items for the next agenda
11	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 25th September 2025, commencing at 6.00pm.

Present:

Dave MacGregor
Lyndon Norman
Craig Horrell
Bruce Diprose

Mike Turner
Mike Hartstonge
Dave Harris

In Attendance

Steve McCartney (minutes).

Members of the public: Gerhard Uys

1 Welcome:

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6.08pm and welcomed those in attendance.

2 Apologies:

Cyril Gilroy - lateness

Resolved D Harris/M Hartstonge where considered *That the minutes of the public meeting held 27th March 2024 were taken as read and were a true and correct record* that apologies be accepted. 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 31st July 2025 were considered.

Resolved M Hartstonge/C Horrell that the minutes of the public meeting held 31 July 2025 were taken as read and were a true and correct record. Carried.

5 Notices of Motion

Health & Safety Report.

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. Health and Safety Policy also included. Cr Hartstonge recommended that a H & S presentation be made for honorary rangers.

Resolved D Harris/M Hartstonge: That the Health and Safety Report and amendments be received and accepted. Carried.

Powers of the executive

Traditionally, the executive managed the Manager's performance (including ensuring the completion by the Manager of staff annual reviews), any disciplinary matters, urgent media requests.

General discussion and acceptance that the executive need to bring a greater focus on their responsibilities.

Resolved D MacGregor/L Norman to accept the above powers as responsibilities of the executive and to report activities undertaken by the executive to Council. Carried.

Vehicle Signage and Email.

Discussion re NZC and other unspecified regions use .org extension under the one subscription, with the thought being to join this and save SFGC \$232/mth being the cost SFGC currently pay to run our own email.co.nz extension. Steve raised a question as to who manages access to the server that stores the .org.nz data with the suggestion that it can be accessed by people outside of SFGC. Equally our current subscription is for Microsoft 365 business provides access to Outlook, Word, Excel. Powerpoint etc with the same question re who has access to apply. Cr MacGregor to raise these questions with Ritchie Cosgrove.

Vehicle signage requirements are to be addressed by Adrienne and Jill at NZC.

Environment Southland Awards evening

To be attended by Dave MacGregor and his wife, Lyndon and partner, Adrian and Lesley from Otago.

Corina Jordan

Carina joined the meeting to outline her shared role with NZC & GAC.

Her role for NZC is to help it through the reform process. Focus is at strategic level and political aspects, plus projects that are nationally important to Fish and Game – Fish farming (trout), water conservation orders, RMA reform processes. Also to introduce fit for purpose licencing and CRM system.

Brief discussion on meeting with Jason Herrick. Access sign boycott to be lifted. Steve raised the matter of Federated farmers to pay for the \$1000's of stolen signs, many of which were removed from public land and are the property of Southland Fish and Game. None have been returned to SFGC. Cr Macgregor to speak to Herrick to issue comms on the signs to let all know that the access signs are SFGC property and not to be removed.

Access over public road/Dillon property.

Discussion around public road access to river only goes so far as Dillon now has a LINZ lease/right to occupy meaning vehicle access stops at part way down road and then walking access only to river.

Resolved M Hartstonge/L Norman, D Harris against, to abide by this new arrangement. Carried.

Celebrity Weekend Duck Hunt

Cr MacGregor raised the idea of arranging a duck hunting event/s inviting local personalities/F & G management/MP's/VIP's etc to share in the experience. Aim to cover cost (unknown) through communication with politicians & R3 budget, with the Managers approval.

Staff Report

No matters raised.

Resolved D Harris/D Macgregor that the council accept the Staff report as presented. Carried

Southland Water and land Plan Court Proceedings

Resolved C Horrell/L Norman that the Council withdraw from the court proceedings. Carried

Correspondence for information

- Policy on special licences and template. Discussion around providing licences for events where a commercial element exists. Cr Hartstonge mentioned creating a template for a special game licence and requests staff to create same for next meeting.
- Staff concerns re Family Fishing licence. Main issue is mandatory addition of child/grandchild, in particular those without children. Cr Harris suggested NZC produce more publicity around this aspect of the terms and conditions. To seek clarification regarding listing the same children on both a parents and grandparents' licence, similarly for caregivers/guardians. Cr Hartstonge is wanting know if F & G have adopted the definition of a family from the DOC/Taupo terms and conditions.
- MOU SFGC, DOC, Te Runaka o Oraka-Aparima. Accepted as presented subject to any changes.

Financial reports

No matters raised.

Resolved D Harris/D MacGregor to accept financial reports as presented. Carried.

NZC update.

Councillor's MacGregor, Hartstonge and Harris attended the last meeting. D Harris advised discussions held on fishing regulations for next season. Budgets approved. Email update sent to councillors by NZC Chair.

Resolved D Harris/M Hartstonge to move meeting into public excluded. Carried.

Health and Safety Report – October-November 2025

Work requiring health and safety planning – tailgate forms completed

- Groundskeeping
- Chainsaw
- Sport Fish Compliance
- Anglers Access Signage
- Basic Carpentry
- Macrophyte Removal (Brightwater)
- Brood Counts

H&S audits

Update to 'home contact' (safety check in) responsibility form

Next audit areas

Awaiting feedback and findings from NZC audits of other F&G regions.

Incidents/accidents/near misses/new hazards

An independent H&S incident investigation has been planned (to commence from 17 November 2025) to investigate the alleged incident raise by staff on 28 August 2025.

Workplace accident register as of 30 August 2025:

No injuries to report

Number of workplace injuries in 2025-2026 year	0
Number of workplace injuries in 2024-2025 year	1
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

New staff member Josh Tabak has been enrolled to do a CERT refresher course.

Boat skipper refreshers are currently being organised for field staff as current certificates are due to expire.

Bi-annual fire evacuation training completed

General discussions/actions

In the absence of a manager, staff continue to take a proactive approach to H&S matters. Each Monday morning, staff hold a brief meeting to discuss the weekly work plan, with H&S matters addressed as required.

Josh Tabak was given an induction including instruction on Health & Safety processes.

Staff recommendation

That this report be received.

Southland Fish & Game Staff report – October-November 2025

1100 Species Management Projects

1172 Game Gazette

Staff have completed a detailed report to inform regulation decisions for the 2026 season.

1181 Crop protection

One crop complaint has been received for black swans predating on pasture. The complaint was received on 15 October 2025. A follow-up call with the field officer was conducted on 16 October 2025, and a two-week crop predation permit was issued immediately following that call. A follow-up call regarding the permit occurred on 3 November, and the permit was renewed as the issue was still ongoing. Two attempts have since been made to contact the landowner, with a message left requesting a return call. No response has been received to date. Based on this, we will assume the issue has been resolved.

1200 Habitat Protection/ Management

1211 RMA – Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan (pSWLP)

Fish & Game appeals on Rules 24 and 78 of the pSWLP remain before the Courts (Rule 24 – Environment Court; and Rule 78 – High Court).

Rule 24 – Incidental discharges from farming

The hearing relating to Rule 24 (permitted activity status for incidental discharges from farming) of the pSWLP, resumed in the Environment Court at Christchurch on 21 October 2025.

Participation of Parties

- Environment Southland, Forest & Bird, Fonterra Co-operative Group Limited and Dairy NZ Limited (collectively “Dairy interests”), and Southland Federated Farmers appeared and actively participated in the hearing.
- Fish & Game — although represented by Sally Gepp KC — did not file expert evidence or legal submissions in the hearing and did not cross-examine any witnesses. Fish & Game had previously advised the Court that it would abide by its decision under Rule 24 following its application to rescind its notice of withdrawal on the matter.

Key Issues

- Under s 70(3) of the RMA, Regional Councils may include rules permitting discharges that would otherwise breach section 70(1)(g) — including those with significant adverse effects on aquatic life — if:
 - Significant adverse effects are already occurring in the receiving water; **and**
 - The plan includes standards that will help reduce those effects within 10 years (the timeframe for plan review).
- The main legal issue is whether Rule 24 as drafted satisfies section 70(3) of the RMA. Are the controls in the pSWLP strong enough to reduce freshwater ecosystem degradation effects from land use activities, by how much, and within 10 years as required by s 70(3)?

Implications & Next Steps

- Because Fish & Game chose to not actively participate in the resumed Rule 24 hearing, its decision to “abide the Court’s decision” means it has not shaped the evidential record nor provided legal submissions on the interpretation of s 70(3).
- The participating parties will proceed to file closing legal submissions this month.
- It is unlikely that a final decision on Rule 24 will be delivered this year.

Rule 78 – Weed and sediment removal for drainage maintenance

A meeting between parties, including Environment Southland, was held in early September 2025. Progress is being made between the parties' post meeting, albeit delayed by the resumed Rule 24 hearing, on an agreed Rule 78 with a view to resolving the outstanding High Court appeals on it. It is hoped that this process can be concluded by late 2025.

1212 RMA - Consents evaluation

Water take and use	Instream works	Land Use	Gravel / Rock
Daiken Southland Limited - resource consent application to take and use surface water from the Mataura River at Mataura for industrial processing.	Environment Southland (Catchment Management Division) - resource consent application to undertake berm maintenance and the extraction of gravel, sediment and vegetation to ensure the capacity of the Otautau Stream is maintained to its original design capacity.	Waikaia Gold Ltd – publicly notified resource consent application to undertake alluvial gold mining adjacent to tributary of Waikaia Stream, including multiple proposed bed relocations to facilitate mining activities. Staff received a request from Habitat NZ Wildlife Management, a wildlife management consultancy, seeking information on mallard duck populations, movements, and ecology to help assess the potential impacts of the proposed Makarewa datacentre on the local mallard population. Relevant monitoring data and literature was provided to them.	Environment Southland (Catchment Management Division) - resource consent application to undertake extraction of gravel to increase the capacity of the lower Oreti River.

		<p>Fishjet NZ Ltd - application for renewal of land use consent to operate up to two commercial jetboats (up to 6m) on the Upper Waiau River and Lake Manapouri (including the Waiau Arm) for guided fishing trips and water taxi services. The Applicant has proposed a set of volunteered consent conditions in line with existing consent covering guided fishing locations, trip numbers, and passenger limits to address potential effects on recreational fishing and the trout fishery in the Upper Waiau River and Lake Manapouri.</p>	
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Report on Resource Consent for the Opening of Waituna Lagoon

Introduction

In 2024, Environment Southland, the Department of Conservation (DOC), and Te Rūnanga o Awarua (on behalf of Iwi) submitted a joint resource consent application to manage the hydrology and ecological health of Waituna Lagoon. The lagoon is part of the internationally significant Awarua–Waituna wetland complex (Ramsar site) and is valued for its ecological, cultural, and recreational importance, including a long history of gamebird hunting and brown trout fishing.

The application was publicly notified, receiving 51 submissions, including a submission in support from Southland Fish & Game ('Fish & Game'). Fish & Game attended the pre-hearing but did not actively participate in the public hearing, given the extensive expert evidence and legal submissions supporting the application.

The application was heard by independent hearing commissioners and the commissioners’ decision, dated 13 October 2025, was communicated to the applicants and the submitters on 14 October 2025. The decision granted a 20-year resource consent to the applicants for the periodic opening of the lagoon to the sea.

Background to the Lagoon Opening Regime

- Waituna Lagoon is a shallow coastal lagoon fed by multiple catchment streams (Waituna, Carran, Moffat Creeks, which provide critical spawning habitat for the brown trout fishery) and sits at the terminus of the catchment.
- Historically the lagoon would have naturally opened and closed to the sea when a gravel barrier bar was overtopped or breached, creating periodic connection with the sea. With human intervention (farming, drainage, mechanical openings) the dynamics changed: artificial openings have been used since 1908 to assist drainage and at times fish passage.
- Over the past 15+ years, monitoring has shown a rapid decline in Waituna Lagoon's health, leaving it in a degraded state. The lagoon has been affected by high nutrient and sediment levels, excessive algal growth, and damage to key aquatic plants—particularly *Ruppia*, which provides habitat and food for invertebrates and waterfowl, stabilizes sediments, reduces turbidity, and absorbs nutrients. These impacts have been compounded by changes to the lagoon's natural hydrology through frequent openings, mostly for land drainage.
- The existing historic consents for opening expired in early 2022, and the new joint application – supported by Fish & Game - sought a longer-term, ecologically-driven opening regime.

Key Features of the New Consent

- The consent term is for 20-years and envisages a gradual transition to a more ecologically optimal opening regime, including progressively higher trigger water-levels before an opening may occur.
- The opening triggers include: water-level thresholds, duration of exceedance, water quality / ecological health triggers, fish passage triggers, and monitoring and reporting requirements.

In Years 1 - 5 the lagoon may be opened in winter when the level is at or above 2.3m above mean sea level for seven consecutive days; in summer at or above 2.5m for 24 hours. Over Years 6 - 15 and 16 - 20 the thresholds change (e.g., 2.5m for more days).

- Monitoring and reporting: the consent conditions require data on water quality, ecosystem health indicators, timing and duration of openings, etc.
- The consent also acknowledges cultural values (mana whenua), ecological restoration objectives under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM), and Te Mana o Te Wai principles.
- Some stakeholders, including landowners and farmers in the catchment, have raised concerns that the higher water-level triggers could increase flooding and land drainage risks or delay lagoon openings compared with the previous regime. Consequently, the new consent decision is likely to be appealed to the Environment Court. Following the recent state of emergency in Southland, the deadline for lodging an appeal has been extended by the Environment Court to 19 November 2025, by agreement between the joint applicants and Federated Farmers.

Ecological Rationale: Nutrient & Sediment Flushing, Fish Passage and Ecosystem Health

- One of the central ecological rationales for the managed opening regime is to flush accumulated nutrients and sediment from the lagoon to the sea and to allow seawater exchange, thereby reducing the risk of internal nutrient build-up, algal blooms and poor water-quality states (e.g., eutrophication).

- The application materials provide that when the lagoon is open, total nitrogen concentrations are significantly lower; turbidity and suspended solid loads likewise show improvement. Conversely, an extended period of opening can be detrimental to
- Opening also supports improved hydrological variability (fresh-to-brackish exchange), which is important for the health of the wetland vegetation, macro-invertebrates, and estuarine habitat transitions.
- Fish passage: The lagoon and its tributaries support native fish species, including migratory fish. The opening regime includes trigger provisions to enable migration of native fish between the lagoon and the coastal marine area.
- Maintaining the lagoon's ecological functioning also supports submerged macrophyte communities, aquatic plants and birdlife (both resident and migratory) which are part of the value of the wetland complex.
- The recognition that the lagoon may "flip" into an algal-dominated state if nutrient/sediment loads and stagnation persist under closure scenarios underpins the need for a managed regime. In the absence of any opening consent, Environment Southland has used its emergency powers under the RMA to open Waituna Lagoon to the sea to protect its ecological health, including flushing nutrients and sediment.

Relevance to Fish & Game Interests

From the perspective of Fish & Game, granting of this consent is of particular importance:

- **Game bird habitat** – The Awarua–Waituna lagoon system is a valued site for waterfowl, including game bird species, and recreational gamebird hunting. A managed opening that supports improved ecological functioning of the lagoon aligns with game bird habitat objectives.
- **Fishery values (brown trout / native fish)** – The lagoon and its tributaries support a regionally significant brown trout fishery and is part of the angling landscape in Southland. The application itself notes recreational values, including trout fishing. An opening regime that supports improved ecological functions of the lagoon, including water quality, is likely to benefit the brown trout fishery.
- **Water-quality and aquatic ecosystem health** – Improved water quality, including lower accumulated nutrient and sediments loads, reduced algal risk, and healthier aquatic plant (*ruppia*) beds benefit both the aquatic environment and the recreational hunting and fishing experience. If the lagoon becomes degraded (e.g., algal dominated), recreational gamebird hunting and brown trout fishing use may suffer.
- **Long-term certainty** – The 20-year consent (with monitoring and review) gives stakeholders, including Fish & Game, certainty about how lagoon opening will be managed into the future.
- **Alignment with Te Mana o Te Wai / catchment-wise management** – Fish & Game's interests often align with whole-ecosystem health, connectivity (ki uta ki tai), and freshwater-to-marine linkages. The opening regime supports those linkages, which may strengthen the broader framework for advocating for integrated management across the entire catchment, including the need to reduce nutrient and sediment inputs and implement property scale mitigations.

Considerations & Caveats

- While the consent is positive, its success depends on effective implementation: the timely triggering of openings, rigorous monitoring, good communication with stakeholders, and adaptive management if ecological or hydrological conditions change (e.g., due to climate change, high catchment loads). A high degree of coordination and communication will be required between the three parties holding the consent.
- There is a tension between the ecological objective of higher water-levels before opening and the flood/land-drainage interests of neighbouring landowners. If land drainage or inundation concerns dominate, there may be pressure to open earlier or more frequently, which might compromise ecological benefits. The submissions from land-owners reveal this tension.
- Monitoring results will be important to assess whether opening triggers and regimes are achieving the desired reductions in nutrients/sediment, improved fish passage, and enhanced wetland condition.
- The new opening regime is not a substitute for long term catchment load reductions (nutrient, sediment).

Conclusion

The granting of the resource consent for periodic opening of Waituna Lagoon represents a significant milestone in the effort to restore and sustain the ecological, cultural and recreational values of this internationally-important wetland system. From Fish & Game's perspective, the consent provides important support for improved aquatic and wetland habitat, better water quality, fish passage, and long-term certainty for recreational gamebird hunting and brown trout fishing.

It is recommended that Fish & Game Southland remains engaged with the joint applicants, including monitoring results, and remains vigilant to ensure that the opening regime is implemented in a timely and effective way.

Update

On 19 November 2025, Federated Farmers filed a Notice of Appeal in the Environment Court appealing the Southland Regional Council's decision to grant long-term resource consents for the periodic opening of Waituna Lagoon (APP-20242456) to Te Rūnanga o Awarua, the Department of Conservation, and Environment Southland. Federated Farmers previously submitted on the application, received the decision on 14 October 2025, and was granted a 10-day extension to lodge this appeal due to a local emergency.

The appeal challenges the entire decision and its conditions. Federated Farmers disagrees with the proposed trigger levels for opening and the lack of reliance placed on the historical opening regime. Matters raised in the Notice of Appeal include:

- Long-term consent duration: Granting a 20-year consent gives exclusive control over a sensitive lagoon without proper consideration of ki uta ki tai, flood management responsibilities, or the upcoming Waituna FMU limit-setting process.
- Environmental effects: The application ignores more than a century of active water level management and understates the effects of prolonged high-water levels on flood control works, farmland, infrastructure, and the lagoon's erodible banks.
- Environment Southland's statutory duties: As a co-applicant, Environment Southland focused on ecological and cultural outcomes and did not adequately consider its responsibilities for natural hazards, flood control, and soil conservation.

- Ecological uncertainty: A precautionary approach is required because of uncertainty about how the lagoon will respond to higher water levels. Federated Farmers considers this should involve either:
 - o Setting a maximum level of 2.2 m while more science is gathered; or
 - o Granting a short-term consent allowing limited increases.
- Consent conditions: The conditions do not require the lagoon to be opened once trigger levels are reached, increasing flood and erosion risks.
- Activity definitions: The application did not clearly identify all activities requiring consent or properly assess their effects.

Overall, Federated Farmers says the decision does not give effect to the RMA, the NPS-FM, the Regional Policy Statement, or the Southland Water and Land Plan, and fails to achieve integrated management.

It is recommended that Fish & Game keep a watching brief on the appeal process.

1232 Pond/wetland identification and advice

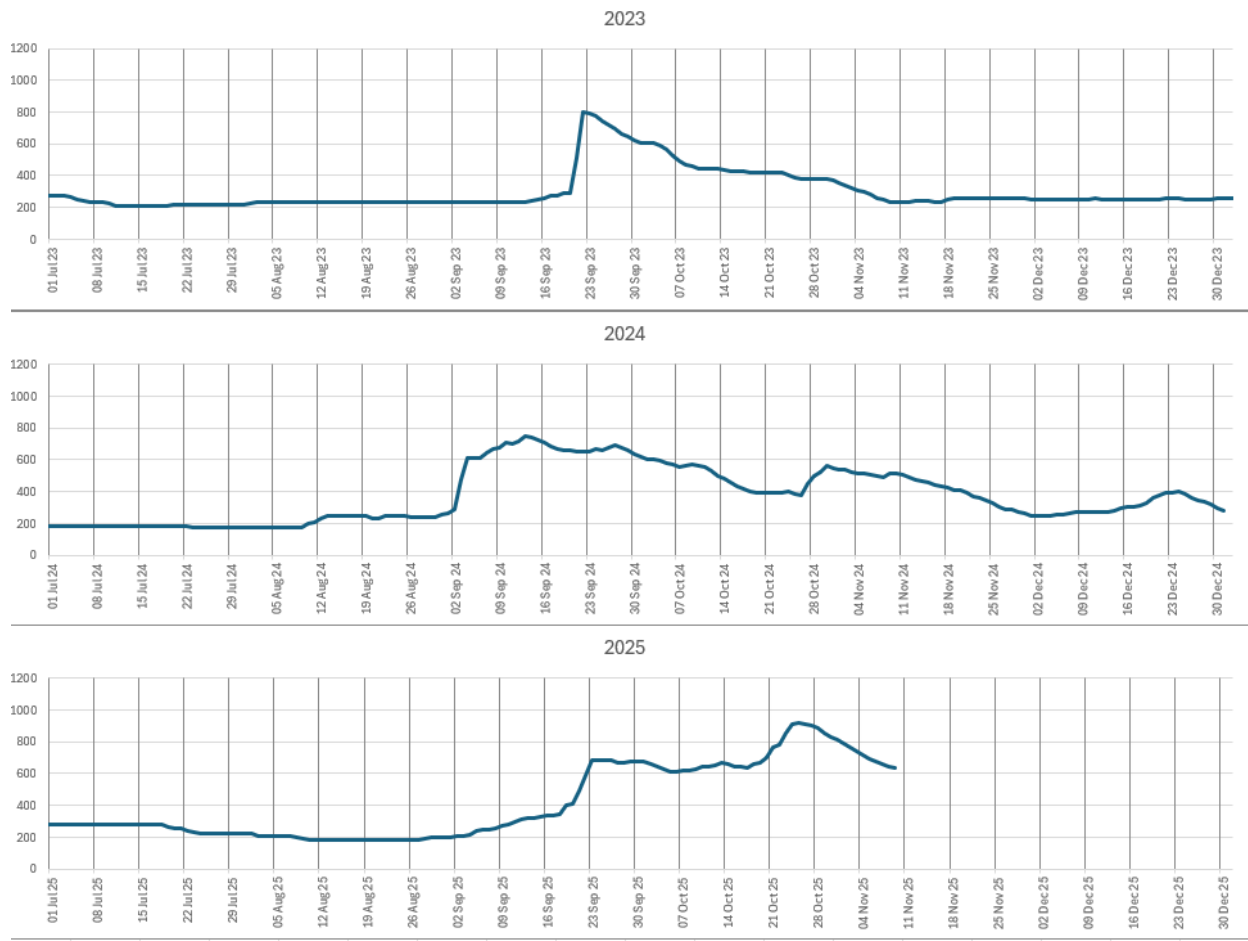
Staff have surveyed several wetland sites, and amongst them has been a cluster of enquiries from landowners seeking wetland advice as part of their land use consent requirements. For consents where the landowners are seeking to intensify, Environment Southland are requiring mitigations to offset some, or all, of their increased pollutant losses. These landowners, and/or contracted planners, have contacted us for advice on the best location and construction methodology.

There is a tension here between supporting intensification and increased losses, knowing that mitigations are not going to capture all pollutant increases and during a time when Environment Southland's Catchment Summaries are calling for significant reductions. On the other hand, our involvement in these consents offers our services and expertise to the community, and does create further habitat, gamebird hunting opportunities, and goodwill.

1241 Upper Waiau flows and fry survival

Meridian Energy has provided flow graphs including the three most recent (below) as requested by staff. They were requested because, despite the good results realised with the annual period of liaison (typically July – October) to manage the Upper Waiau flows to give best chance of successful rainbow trout spawning, there is a concern that subsequent very high flows may be a factor in reducing the survival of emerging fry.

This scenario has occurred in many of the last several years. If indeed the high flows during fry emergence is a factor in their survival, the impact for the angler will be seen three plus years after. Whilst there may be little that can be done to avoid these high flows, it would be of value to evaluate any relationship between these events and angler catch rates in the Upper Waiau.



1242 MLC Fish Pass

The MLC fish pass will likely be reopened by late November, having been closed for approximately two months due to a combination of extreme flows from Lake Manapouri being in its 'High Range' and periods of flood events in the Mararoa River.

1300 Participation

1311 Maintain, protect and enhance access

In the days leading up to the new fishing season, staff installed new beat signs on the upper Matura and Waikaia Rivers. Since installation, all but one sign has remained in place, with only a single sign removed. A few additional signs still need to be installed (following minor adjustments to wording/boundaries), but the majority are now up.

At the time of writing, more signs have been ordered to mark new access points on the lower Matura.

Staff have been working with a local farmer at O'Shea Road (mid-Matura)—a popular angler access point—to develop an angler car park. This arrangement will help guide anglers on where to park and will work well for both the farmer and anglers.

Staff have completed two days of macrophyte removal on the Brightwater Spring. Last season, the lower section became heavily choked with macrophytes, making some parts of the spring almost unfishable. This year, staff physically removed macrophytes from the problem areas. This preemptive work should

prevent needing to cut them back later in the season. It will be interesting to see how much this work slows their regrowth and helps maintain good fishing conditions throughout the season.

Continued refinement of our online access maps - <https://fishandgameaccessmap.org/> The next step will now be integrating our regulation information.

1314 Pressure Sensitive Fisheries

Beat usage is being recorded on the upper Oreti to continue to gather information on occupancy rates and effect of the Designated Waters Licence. Staff continue to document data (from licence checks) on angler origin and whether they are guided.

1332 Promote fish/hunt magazine, internet & print

Staff have produced relevant local material for the Reel Life e-zine.

1334 R3

Staff have assisted NZC and Cawthron staff with the analysis and presentation of results pertaining to a Fish Futures project with R3 applications. This work looks at the formative role modified fisheries (put-and-take fisheries, canals, reservoirs, lowland rivers/streams) can have in angler development.

Staff have assisted in several instructional fishing events aimed at upskilling anglers. More events proposed including a “basics session” in Te Anau. Indian Community Southland contacted and are interested in a learning to fish session as well.

1400 Communication

1422 Communication with Iwi

Staff recently assisted social workers from Awarua Whānau Services with a trout fishing event for a newly established men’s group with a well-being focus. Conversations with the social workers revealed that trout fishing aligns well with their programme’s goals of improving well-being through connection with the awa (river).

1426 Communication with anglers and hunters

Staff have received multiple angler queries via email, Facebook, phone and office. One maimai dispute has also been addressed.

1433 Trout fishing and wellbeing

A positive media piece was produced outlining the details of the Southland Fish & Game Council’s newly established [Angler Wellbeing Fund](#).

1441 Fishing competitions

Staff have continued preparations for Fish & Game’s involvement in the annual Stabicraft Te Anau–Manapouri Fishing Classic and Take a Kid Fishing competition following their postponement due to poor weather.

1500 Compliance and enforcement

1511 River Ranging Duties

There was a slow start to the season due to adverse weather and river conditions. However, angling activity has increased recently. Compliance activities have been completed on Oreti, Mataura, Waikaia, Hamilton Burn, Whitestone, Aparima, Brightwater, Lake Te Anau, Mavora Lakes, Upper Waiau and the Weydon Burn.

1800 Planning and reporting

1831 OWP Preparation

Preparation of the material for the annual report is close to completion.

1900 Administration

1916 Staff training and health & safety

New staff

As of the start of November, Josh Tabak joined the team and will take over completely from Bill Jarvie when he retires at the end of November. Josh has received an induction into organisational processes and procedures including Health & Safety.

FISHING LICENCE SALES PROGRESS

Current season sales Fish 2025/2026			Current season sales Fish 2024/2025			Current season sales Fish 2023/2024		
Category	No Sold		Category	No Sold		Category	No Sold	
Whole season adult	1470	\$229,320.00	Whole season adult	1621	\$252,876.00	Whole season adult	2784	\$425,952.00
Whole season Jun	470	\$14,570.00	Whole season Jun	495	\$15,345.00	Whole season Jun	817	\$25,327.00
NR Adult whole season	230	\$62,100.00	NR Adult whole season	201	\$54,270.00	NR Adult whole season	757	\$199,848.00
NR Junior whole season	8	\$408.00	NR Junior whole season	3	\$153.00	NR Junior whole season	30	\$1,500.00
NR Child	2	\$102.00	NR Child	1	\$51.00	NR Child	14	\$700.00
NR Day Adult	183	\$6,954.00	NR Day Adult	158	\$6,004.00	NR Day Adult	1503	\$55,611.00
NR Day Junior	4	\$92.00	NR Day Junior	8	\$184.00	NR Day Junior	32	\$704.00
NR Day Child	6	\$138.00	NR Day Child	2	\$46.00	NR Day Child	20	\$440.00
Local Area	126	\$15,750.00	Local Area	180	\$22,500.00	Local Area	279	\$34,038.00
Senior Loyal	530	\$70,490.00	Senior Loyal	505	\$67,165.00	Senior Loyal	562	\$73,060.00
Family	1041	\$211,323.00	Family	1352	\$274,456.00	Family	2268	\$449,064.00
Adult Day	116	\$2,900.00	Adult Day	236	\$5,900.00	Adult Day	1282	\$30,768.00
Junior Day	5	\$30.00	Junior Day	25	\$150.00	Junior Day	194	\$970.00
Short Break	32	\$1,792.00	Short Break	108	\$6,048.00	Short Break	435	\$23,925.00
Long Break	2	\$218.00	Long Break	4	\$436.00	Long Break	41	\$4,387.00
Winter Adult	0	\$0.00	Winter Adult	0	\$0.00	Winter Adult	91	\$8,372.00
Searun Salmon Card	93	\$465.00	Searun Salmon Card	96	\$480.00	Searun Salmon Card	193	\$965.00
Designated Waters - Res	1312	\$6,560.00	Designated Waters - Res	1363	\$6,815.00	Designated Waters - Res	1800	\$9,000.00
Designated Waters - NR	45	\$1,800.00	Designated Waters - NR	34	\$1,360.00	Designated Waters - NR	582	\$23,280.00
TOTAL	5675	\$625,012.00	TOTAL	6392	\$714,239.00	TOTAL	13684	\$1,367,911.00
LEQ'S	4006		LEQ'S	4578		LEQ'S	8941	

LEQ TARGETS FOR FISH 2025/2026 = 8080

LEQ TARGETS FOR FISH 2024/2025 = 8529

FISH LICENCE LEQ'S ARE 49.6% OF TARGET. LAST YEAR AT SAME TIME 53.6% OF TARGET

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STHLD FISH LICENCE SALES AS AT 10 November 2025 ARE DOWN 12.7% ON LAST YEARS SALES AT THE SAME TIME.

NATIONALLY THE FISH LIC SALES ARE DOWN 5.1% ON LAST YEARS SALES TO THE SAME TIME

GAME LICENCE SALES COMPLETE SEASON

Current season Game 2026			Current season Game 2025			Current season Game 2024		
Category	No Sold		Category	No Sold		Category	No Sold	
Adult WS		7/31/2025 #VALUE!	Adult WS	3601	\$406,913.00	Adult WS	4377	\$494,601.00
Junior WS		#VALUE!	Junior WS	430	\$11,180.00	Junior WS	523	\$13,598.00
Ad Day		#VALUE!	Ad Day	52	\$1,352.00	Ad Day	47	\$1,222.00
Jun Day		#VALUE!	Jun Day	4	\$40.00	Jun Day	2	\$20.00
Child WS		#VALUE!	Child WS	147	\$735.00	Child WS	183	\$915.00
TOTALS		#VALUE!	TOTALS	4234	\$420,220.00	TOTALS	5132	\$510,356.00
LEQ'S	#VALUE!		LEQ'S	3719		LEQ'S	4516	

LEQ TARGETS FOR GAME 2025/26 = 4420

LEQ TARGETS FOR GAME 2024/25 =4420

GAME LICENCE LEQ'S ARE CURRENTLY 81.3% OF TARGET.

LAST YEAR AT SAME TIME 86.54% TARGET

STHLD GAME LICENCES AS AT 31st AUGUST 2025 ARE DOWN 17.6% ON LAST YEARS SALES AT THE SAME TIME

NATIONALLY THE GAME LIC SALES ARE DOWN 1.3% ON LAST YEARS SALES TO THE SAME TIME

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

Direct Credits paid:

2/09/2025	Meridian Energy Ltd	\$312.29	power 178 Manapouri + Connection fee 162
12/09/2025	Meridian Energy Ltd	\$407.23	Power - Te Anau
12/09/2025	Te Anau Signs	\$731.17	access signs
22/09/2025	Te Anau Signs	\$731.17	access signs
9/22/2025	Sally Gepp	\$2,205.70	SWALP
9/22/2025	Eatern F & G	\$89.99	Xero mthly sub
9/22/2025	Ford NZ Ltd	\$60,550.89	truck purchase
9/22/2025	Maraoa Motors	\$50.00	puncture repair
9/22/2025	Te anau Auto services	\$60.00	WOF Trailer
9/22/2025	NZFGC	\$138.00	Seaflex mthly subs
9/22/2025	Riparian Restoration	\$2,385.00	plants
9/22/2025	Inland Revenue	\$34,998.29	PAYE
9/22/2025	Eatern F & G	\$89.99	Xero mthly sub
9/22/2025	Office Max	\$82.01	Stationary
9/22/2025	Fiordland Marine	\$196.00	Stabicraft - safety check
9/22/2025	Home creek Nursery	\$594.26	Plants for Te Anau site
9/22/2025	Hunting and Fishing	\$2,500.00	Rods & Reels - Ben
9/22/2025	NZFGC	\$21,190.00	GBHT annual levy
9/22/2025	PWFP Fire Safety	\$472.08	Te Anau extinguisher tests + replace 2
9/22/2025	Graphic Press	\$158.62	Fishing Regs Bopoklets
9/22/2025	Automotive Solutions	\$673.39	Full service NUF116
9/22/2025	Southland District Council	\$645.00	Consent costs Fire & Flue, Te Anau house
9/22/2025	Fuji Xerox	\$99.60	Photocopies
9/22/2025	Te Anau Signs	\$292.84	Access sihns
10/4/2025	One NZ group	\$317.92	cellphones
10/8/2025	Lowburn Ag Ltd	\$3,000.00	wetland grant
10/10/2025	Ben Ngatai	\$56.00	licence refund
10/10/2025	George dold	\$125.00	licence refund
10/10/2025	MA & CM Turner	\$266.00	travel
10/13/2025	Meridian energy Ltd	\$415.33	power te Anau
10/13/2025	Meridian energy Ltd	\$487.89	power 17 Eye Street
10/14/2025	L Grant	\$156.00	licence refund
10/14/2025	M Grant	\$156.00	licence refund
10/15/2025	BNZ	\$2.46	merchant fee
10/20/2025	Eastern F & G	\$109.25	Xero mthly sub
10/20/2025	NZFGC	\$138.00	Seaflex sub x2
10/20/2025	Maraoa Motors	\$1,148.12	Service QHG257 Bill's truck
10/20/2025	Fuji Xerox	\$420.30	photocopies
10/20/2025	Automotive Solutions	\$55.00	WOF trailer 34FLU
10/20/2025	OfficeMax	\$44.47	Stationery
10/20/2025	Evans freight	\$575.00	Bridge to brightwater stream
10/20/2025	Joss Stroud	\$200.00	Cleaning 17 Eye St
10/20/2025	BNZ	\$40.00	Audotors Confirmation report
10/20/2025	Power Services te Anau	\$73.31	Electrical inspection Te Anau House
10/20/2025	Eatern Fish & Game	\$109.25	Xero sub
10/20/2025	NZFGC	\$138.00	Seaflex sub x 2
10/20/2025	Mararaoa motors	\$1,148.12	Service - Bill's truck
10/20/2025	Fuji xerox	\$420.30	photocopies
10/20/2025	Automotive Solutions	\$55.00	WOF trailer 34FLU
10/20/2025	Officemax	\$44.47	Stationery
10/20/2025	Evans Freight	\$575.00	Brightwater bridge transport
10/20/2025	Joss Stroud	\$200.00	Cleaning 17 Eye St
10/20/2025	BNZ	\$40.00	Fee Audotor Confirmation report
10/20/2025	Still Building	\$2,679.63	Te Anu house - remove old fireplace install new
10/20/2025	Environment Sthld	\$5,750.00	Awards evening
10/20/2025	Sheffield South Is	\$8,291.50	recruitmnt fee re Managers role
10/20/2025	Sheffield South Is	\$7,210.50	recruitmnt fee re Managers role
10/20/2025	Inland revenue	\$26,508.00	PAYE
10/20/2025	Power Services Te Anau	\$73.31	electrical inspection of Te Anau house
11/3/2025	Wear on Earth	\$609.00	Staff gear allw Jacob
11/3/2025	BNZ	\$1.00	abnk fee
11/11/2025	Josh Tabak	\$2,895.55	Travel reimbursement Akld/Te Anau
11/12/2025	Briana Marshall	\$56.00	Licence refund re Te Aanu fishing comp cancelled.
11/12/2025	Meridian Energy Ltd	\$378.34	power - Eye St
11/12/2025	Meridian Energy Ltd	\$281.89	power - Te Anau
11/17/2025	BNZ	\$9.10	Merchant fee

	Sub total	\$194,913.53	
Plus Direct Debits			
21/07/2025	Velocitynet Ltd	\$244.00	Internet access
21/07/2025	Paymark Ltd	\$21.74	EFTPOS mthly sub
24/07/2025	NZ Transport Agency	\$2,339.13	RUC arrears MFQ353
11/08/2025	B P Oil NZ	\$1,917.08	Fuel - fleet
14/08/2025	NZ Transport Agency	\$1,532.44	RUC - NUF117 Zane's truck
20/08/2025	Velocitynet Ltd	\$244.00	Internet access
20/08/2025	NZ Traansport Agency	\$1,532.44	RUC - PGR681 dwight's truck
20/08/2025	Paymark Ltd	21.74	EFTPOS - mthly sub
3/09/2025	One NZ Group	\$499.46	cellphones
10/09/2025	BP Oil NZ	\$2,005.03	Fuel
22/09/2025	Velocitynet	\$244.00	internet access
22/09/2025	Paymark	\$21.74	EFTPOS mthly sub
10/10/2025	BP Oil Nz	\$1,030.47	fuel - Fleet
20/10/2025	Velocitynet	\$244.00	Internet access
20/10/2025	Paymark Ltd	\$21.74	EFTPOS mthly sub
28/10/2025	Eyede Solutions	\$2,776.00	Fish sales
3/11/2025	One NZ group	\$323.10	Cellphones
10/11/2025	BP Oil NZ Ltd	\$1,702.56	Fuel fleet
13/10/2025	BNZ Visa	\$1,967.62	SFGC Licence purch/Ben re R3
			31
			NZ safety Blackwoods-First aid kit refill
			72.32
			Direct Office products - Purch by Bill J in error
			94.31
			SFGC Licence purch/Ben re R3
			62

te anau Photo centre - laminating	2
Placemakers te Anau - Herbicide	48.22
Te Anau Photocentre - Flyers - soft bait	7
Ascot Parl hotel- accomm ES Awards/Gordon's	222
Pak n Sav - tea	24.75
Fresh choice - milk	3.09
BNZ - Credit card fees 6 x \$2	12
Pak n Sav - food mediation meeting Jan/Ritchie/l	34.32
The warehouse - First aid kit containers	32
Hells Pizza - catering Council meeting	188.5
Microsoft - 365 business mthly sub	232.3
Pak n sav - napkins	16.08
Pak n sav - groceries	40.98
Thirsty Liquor Russell - Purchase in err - Ben	96.7
Mitre 10 - gumboots	87.46
Macpac - staff gear allowance	85
Hero Internet - prepaid calls	31.05
Just Jeans - staff gear allowance	59
Kiwifuels - Diesel. Cohen	110.7
BP Connect Ashburton	4.6
New World Wigram - food- Cohen on course	12.6
Mitre 10 Te Anau - bolts to attach extinguisher tr	500
The Halswell - Cohen food	35.67
new orld Halswell - Cohen food	24.54
Placemakers - screw barrier McGregor pond	15
NZ Safety blackwoods - First Aid kit items	30.9
Garmin	25
Pak n Sav - Dish brush	3.58
Freshchoice - milk	3.09
Neol Lemming - Column heater	143.23

13/11/2025	BNZ Visa	\$3,146.59	Noel Lemming - SD card reader fo drone photos ###	20.97
			Placemaker Te Anau - Wheelchair ramp materials	189.85
			freshchoice - milk, coffee	39.65
			Air NZ - Airfares for Jodi Wright	974.61
			In'Gill Hunting & Fishing - bait, hooks, line for kid ###	50.93
			Rodd & Gunn - staff gear allw Steve. Shoes	149
			BNZ - card fee \$2 x 6	12
			Noel Lemming - printer for Te Anau office	603.15
			Giant Variety Store Te Anau - funnel 3pk	7.11
			Pak n sav - coffee	25.17
			PGG Wrightson - Prill applicator,Tordon	260.09
			Mitre 10 - flax cuteer, safety gloves	58.47
			NZ transport Agency - RUC - Jacob's truck	772.44
			Freshchoice - milk	3.15
			Microsoft - business 365 sub	232.3
			Pak n Sav - coffee	33.56
			Pak n Sav - milk	2.89
			Hero Internet - prepiad calls	31.05
			Placemakers Te Anau - lok multigrip ###	3
			NZ Transport Agency - Rego NUF116	247.71
			NZ Transport Agency - Rego NUF117	247.71
			Freshchoice - milk	3.15
			SFGC - licenc R Shanks R3 (Ben)	31

Grand Total	\$216,748.41
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Profit and Loss

Fish and Game New Zealand, Southland Region For the year ended 31 August 2026

	2026	2026 OVERALL BUDGET	VARIANCE TO BUDGET	% OF BUDGET SPENT
REVENUE				
Fish and Game licence sales				
Fish Sales	573,006	-	(573,006)	-
Game licence	77	-	(77)	-
Designated Waters Licence Sales - Southland	5,818	-	(5,818)	-
Total Fish and Game licence sales	578,901	-	(578,901)	-
Interest				
Interest Public Trust	319	-	(319)	-
Interest Other	245	-	(245)	-
Total Interest	565	-	(565)	-
Other Income				
MLC Fish Pass Management- Meridian	2,522	-	(2,522)	-
Rent - Office Space Eye St	350	-	(350)	-
Eftpos transactions	491	-	(491)	-
Total Other Income	3,363	-	(3,363)	-
Total REVENUE	582,829	-	(582,829)	-
EXPENSES				
Outputs				
Species management				
Population monitoring	(400)	-	400	-
Total Species management	(400)	-	400	-
Habitat protection & management				
Assisted habitat	3,000	-	(3,000)	-
Total Habitat protection & management	3,000	-	(3,000)	-
Angler & Hunter participation				
Access	2,429	-	(2,429)	-
Training & R3	2,255	-	(2,255)	-
Total Angler & Hunter participation	4,684	-	(4,684)	-
Public interface				
Communication	5,000	-	(5,000)	-
Fish in schools programme	44	-	(44)	-
Total Public interface	5,044	-	(5,044)	-
Compliance				
Ranging	240	-	(240)	-
Compliance	65	-	(65)	-
Total Compliance	305	-	(305)	-
Licensing				

	2026	2026 OVERALL BUDGET	VARIANCE TO BUDGET	% OF BUDGET SPENT
Commission	19,796	-	(19,796)	-
Total Licensing	19,796	-	(19,796)	-
Council				
Council meetings	5,343	-	(5,343)	-
Total Council	5,343	-	(5,343)	-
Planning & reporting				
Reporting	8,500	-	(8,500)	-
Total Planning & reporting	8,500	-	(8,500)	-
Total Outputs	46,273	-	(46,273)	-
Overheads				
Employee related costs				
Salaries and wages	144,892	-	(144,892)	-
Staff training & other expenses	1,078	-	(1,078)	-
KiwiSaver contributions	5,796	-	(5,796)	-
Total Employee related costs	151,766	-	(151,766)	-
Other expenses				
Communications & Consumables	2,330	-	(2,330)	-
Field equipment	1,635	-	(1,635)	-
General	(317)	-	317	-
Office equipment	649	-	(649)	-
Office premises	5,168	-	(5,168)	-
Vehicles	6,091	-	(6,091)	-
Total Other expenses	15,556	-	(15,556)	-
Total Overheads	167,322	-	(167,322)	-
Total EXPENSES	213,595	-	(213,595)	-
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	369,234	-	(369,234)	-
Less other Expenses				
NZ Fish & Game Levy	(160,715)	-	160,715	-
Total Less other Expenses	(160,715)	-	160,715	-
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICT)	208,520	-	(208,520)	-