

**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 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025, commencing at 6.00pm.**

**Present:**

|                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Dave MacGregor  | Mike Turner     |
| Lyndon Norman   | Mike Hartstonge |
| Craig Horrell   | Dave Harris     |
| Bruce Diprose   | Josh Tabak      |
| Matthew Garrick | Bill Jarvie     |

**In Attendance**

1 x member of the public and Steve McCartney (minutes).

**1 Welcome:**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6.08pm and welcomed those in attendance and introduced Matt Garrick, Interim Manager SFGC pending appointment of a permanent manager and similarly welcomed Josh Tabak, newly appointed manager in Te Anau.

**2 Apologies:**

Cyril Gilroy, Dwight Grieve

**Resolved D Harris/M Hartstonge 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 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025 were considered.

**Resolved D Harris/M Turner that the minutes from meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025 are 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. from Steve McKnight that their policy has not received a full review. However, NZC is supposedly conducting a review with the view to producing a nationwide policy document.

**Resolved C Horrell/L Norman that the Health and Safety report be received and accepted. Carried.**

### **2026 Gamebird Hunting Regulations**

Cr Norman commented that if numbers are recommended to be lower, will the Minister approve it.

Matt Garrick advised that a robust consultation process is required and making a decision to be ratified on 11<sup>th</sup> December is insufficient time to achieve a defensible consultation.

Recommendations –

Season length – 3 months

Mallard Bag limit – 20 opening weekend, 10 remainder or 20 throughout season.

Summer season – no

Paradise duck – 10 opening weekend, 6 remainder

Shoveler – to consult with Iwi. Recommend 2 of any sex.

Black Swan – 5

Pukeko – 0

Pheasant – 5

Quail – 5

Chukar – 0

Identified changes to go to consultation by email and facebook then a public meeting for submitters to speak. The chairman to speak with Cyril Gilroy.

**Resolved D Hartstonge/D Harris to accept Gamebird regulation changes and ask staff to submit changes for consultation. Carried.**

### **General Business.**

Otago recommending Teal to be added to the Gamebird list. The minister declined. It is too difficult to differentiate between the grey and brown teal.

Ardlussa access. The chairman to meet with Chris Dillon to discuss a contract for access.

Manager's position. Council still working through the process. Now to readvertise in January with view to appoint March/April.

Te Anau Wildlife park. Matter currently with Iwi. Chairman to speak with Bobby Brown to press for advancement with this matter.

Chairman.

Spoke with Fed farmers to ask them about bag limits and season length. They will consult with their members and get back to SFGC.

Spoke with a ES staff member in charge of the Enviroschools. Asked if they would be interested in F & G coming onboard to do a programme regarding wetlands – measure water temps, test water, catch eels for study.

Fishing event held at Fernhill with Shona Taylor. Approx 20 attended. A few fish and Eels caught. Bill, Cory, Dave H, Dave Macgregor, Cohen there plus Hunting & Fishing supplied lures. Active Southland attended. Successful day.

### **Staff Report**

#### **Correspondence**

Nil.

#### **Financial reports**

Leech and partners. All financials provided by them have been forwarded to BDO in order for them to undertake their testing and will report any changes that maybe required.

ZBB – Steve to attend a training day at the F & G North Canterbury offices on 17 Dec.

#### **NZC update**

Councilor Harris attended a few online meetings. Firstly, discussed RMA funding of \$130k for Corina Jordan for work on the new Act. Second meeting discussed Waikato requesting money for a wetland.

North Canterbury model – questions remain regarding the legality of the proposal and liabilities that would rest with NZC regarding Health and Safety risks. Also, Councilor Harris stated that there is nothing in the Act that says that NZC can undertake the function of managing another region or that regional councils can delegate the employment of staff to the NZC.

Lengthy discussion around the practicality (lack of) of Chairs representing regions at NZC o/a of the time commitment, workload and potential cost of attendances.

#### **Items for next meeting – APM on 11<sup>th</sup> December**

Nil.

Steve asked for an item to be included in the next council meeting being for the councilor to reacquaint themselves with the standing orders in respect of the recording of public excluded sessions in the minutes. Steve left a hardcopy of the requirements with the chairman.

The chairman closed the meeting with a presentation to Bill Jarvie who has retired from Fish and Game after 42 years of service. Bill was presented with a plaque and a gift.

The meeting was then closed at 8:20pm by the Chairman.

Next meeting scheduled to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_