

Agenda Item 10:

Operational Report – for the period ended March 2023

Prepared by: Dean Kelly – Manager

Introduction

The Council's adopted governance policies require the manager to provide an Operational Report, specific proposals for capital expenditure and acquisitions as well as major issues and opportunities for the Council. There are further requirements for the Manager to provide assurance that the Management Limitations are being observed. The format of this report is therefore to certify compliance with Governance Policies, Management Limitations and provide other material, responses, or assurance that Council objectives, strategies, plans, performance, risks, operation, resources, and structure are being met.

Notifications of intention to purchase unbudgeted capital items more than \$10,000.

The Field Officer Ute was replaced in the period.

Matters for the information of Council.

Staff:

Staff holidays estimated (days): Manager, 19
Officer, 12
Admin, 3

Vehicles:

Managers Vehicle: (start) 10,235km (fin) 17,600km. Total private for period: 3,360km

Fish & Game Officer Vehicle MML: (start) 116,555 km (fin.) 120,456 km.

Fish & Game Officer Vehicle PSM: (start) 0 km (fin.) 1,416km. Total private for period: 458 km.

Bi-monthly report on outputs

1111 Drift Diving

Drift dives completed on the Waitahu @ Gannons Bridge, Larry's Creek @ Upper Site, Inangahua @ Blacks Point and the Rough River @ Mill site. The Waitahu count was below average, solely due to below average numbers of small fish, with medium and larger numbers above their averages. Larry's Creek was below average with all size classes lacking numbers. Inangahua @ Blacks Point second count for the season, resulted in a count almost three times as many the first count in December, highlighting the importance in the count timing. This count was still below average due to numbers of medium trout being slightly down and the numbers of small trout being significantly down. The Rough River was dived in a section dived two time previously (1997 & 2008) and resulted in above average count. Numbers of large and medium trout were similar to previous dives, but the number of small trout observed was significantly up.

1113 Spawning Surveys

Nothing to report.

1114 Trend Counts

Paradise Shelduck moult count and report completed. Swan monitoring currently underway, with final counts being completed during greyland counts in April.

1115 Sportsfishery Research

Nothing to report in this period.

1116 Backcountry Fisheries Management

Trail camera monitoring occurring on the upper Grey. Constant data entry is occurring. National working group discussions around consultation and implementation of 'Designated Waters' system. The Council will need to decide on which waters to Designate.

1121 National Hunter Survey

Summer season survey being conducted.

1161 Fisheries Enhancement

An estimated 4000 wild-run Salmon fingerlings are being reared at Silverstream for release into Lake lanthe in April 2023. They are growing well but slightly down on size compared to last year due to cooler water temperatures in Spring.

1171 Regulations/Gazette Notices

The consultation process with anglers and stakeholders for the designated waters licencing system is now complete. See attached summary. Council will now need to consider the following previously selected waters; Larry's Creek, Waitahu, Upper Grey (above Clarke), Karamea and Ahaura (above certain point) Rivers as Designated Waters for adoption at the June council meeting.

2023/24 game bird hunting regulations have been Gazetted.

1181 Game Bird Control

Four crop predation complaints have been received, two for paradise shelduck, one for swan and one for Pukeko. One paradise shelduck complaint was responded to by organised hunt completed by the young hunter club under permit and followed up by a hunt during the summer season. The other paradise shelduck complaint was addressed by wavering the requirement to be 200m from open water (but still over paddocks) to allow hunters to hunt the paradise shelduck during the summer season. The last two complaints were addressed by providing advice and directing hunter to the properties during the summer season.

1211 RMA Plans/Policy/Consents

Fish and Game appeared before the select committee on the NBEA. Our submission and background advocacy appears to be recognition in our point of view.

Non-notified resource consents approved or consulting on as affected party.

Applicant	Area	Type	Nature of work	Comments
Martin and Dianne O'Brien	Ellis Creek, Waitaha	Land use consent	Divert and protect a bend in Ellis Creek	Minor works outside spawning
WCRC	Waiho River	Land use consent	Diversion and Gravel extraction for stop banks	No fishery, no issues
Henry Adams	Hokitika River Catchment	Land use consent	Gravel Extraction	
Christian Community Trust	Hohonu River	Land use consent	Gravel Extraction	Crossings prohibited during spawning/migration.

Visit to Lake Brunner Station to discuss gravel extraction on Hohonu River.

Communication with West Coast Regional Council compliance team regarding disturbance in the Crooked River.

1213 DoC

In reading the Conservation Board minutes we cannot expect any decision regarding the Stewardship Land Review until 2024.

1311 Access

Working with BDMA Revolution Ltd completing access mapping over the West Coast region. Dilapidated boundary signs are being replaced.

1312 Assisted Hunting

Young hunter club utilised to address a paradise shelduck complaint. Communication with landowners and hunters during the summer season to maximise hunting opportunities and aid farmers. Organised hunts for the winter season preparation is underway.

1331 Website/Ezines/social media

All current council meeting minutes have been signed and uploaded to the website. Regulation guides are also online for the current season. Relevant material has been posted on website. Facebook post have been regular, focusing on summer fishing opportunities and updating anglers on field work.

1332 Fish & Game Magazine

2023 Gamebird supplement reviewed and dispatched.

1341 Sportsfisheries Guides

Agents regularly visited and stocked with guides.

1361 Clubs, Outdoor Recreation Groups

Lake Mapourika Salmon competition and Ahaura Hunting and Fishing competition given approval. Lake Mapourika Salmon competition attended by ranger Kelvin Taylor. No salmon caught during the competition, but some impressive trout were. South Westland Lions Club have indicated this was their last competition. Staff are attending Ahaura competition.

1371 Okuru Hut

Renovations and planned to restart late April where the kitchen, toilet, shower, and flooring will be replaced. This is likely to run into the 2023/24 financial year, so provision has been made in the budget to complete the works.

1411 Conservation Boards/Iwi/allied agencies

Engagement with Tai Poutini Runanga regarding Sportsfish, and Game Management Plans, Ministerial Review Implementation and game regulations continues.

1421 Media/Communication

Regular contact with licence holders with enquiries mostly focusing on licencing and Salmon fishing.

1511 Compliance

Compliance has been completed whilst completing other field work. One offender detected who was fishing without a licence and failed to provide his particulars.

1521 Ranger Training

Ranger training was planned for closing weekend of the salmon season in South Westland lakes but due to lack of ranger availability has been cancelled although staff will be heading out with our South Westland Ranger. Staff have resorted to one-on-one training instead and to focus on the local area to make it more relevant.

1531 Prosecutions

Three FWL cases have been closed with all offenders completing diversion. One active case which we are working alongside the police of fishing without a licence and failing to provide their full name, date of birth and address.

1611 Licence Production & Distribution

3 returned licenses for this period have been contacted, details updated and resent to the license holders. Less return licences are coming through. The database team have changed the prompt for mailing address to make it clearer that it is only required if different to physical.

1621 Agent Liaison

A few clarifications and licencing issues over the period. Mostly changing of licence categories or clarification for Salmon angling.

1721 Council

Council servicing and reporting completed.

1811 Sportsfish and Game Management Plan

A revised draft is attached for Council notification approval. We are still awaiting input for Iwi but this can be accommodated in the notification process.

1821 OWP & Budget

BA draft budget and workplan is attached for Council adoption.

1831 Annual Public Meeting & Report

Nothing to report.

1841 National Liaison

Communication with other regions regarding regulations, sportfish research, drift diving, compliance and financial management. Consultation regarding the Designated Waters licencing system implementation is nearly completed.

1927 Occupational Safety and Health.

See Health and Safety Report.

1940 Office Premises

Heat pumps in 2 offices have been installed and a new sign is to be erected on the outside of building. Fluorescent lighting has gradually been replaced with LED versions. The building requires a paint, and the top section of the roof is nearing replacement as there are intermittent leaks, rust, and seal with Clearlite are past their use-by date.

1950 Office Equipment

Office equipment is regularly being upgraded and replaced where required as per budget.

1970 General

All bills paid on time, bank account is sitting at optimal operational amount now that the Ute order arrived and has been paid for. Term deposit continues to perform well with rising interest rates. Term deposits have been split to match income/expenditure cycle.

1980 Equipment

Staff reviewed field equipment and safety gear and replaced/procured new gear where required.

Staff Recommendation:

That this report be received.