

Agenda Item 10:

Operational Report – for the period ended July 2025

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.

Matters for the information of Council.

Staff:

Staff holidays estimated (days):	Manager, 4
	Officer, 10
	Admin, 8

Vehicles:

Managers Vehicle: (start) 101,445km (fin) 105,866km. Total private for period: 1,260km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle PSM: (start) 81,087km (fin.) 84,877km. Total private for period: 550km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle MML: (start) 157,399 (fin.) 160,287km.

The Temporary Ranger vehicle is being prepared for sale with some panel damage requiring work. The Manager's vehicle is due for replacement so will be transferred to the Temporary Ranger vehicle and a replacement Manager vehicle purchased.

Bi-monthly report on outputs

1111 Trout Surveys.

Nothing to report in this period.

1112 Lake Netting

Nothing to report in this period.

1113 Spawning Surveys.

Spawning counts completed on MacDonaldis and Windbag creeks. Spawning surveys completed at known spawning sites in the Taramakau and Hokitika catchments. Report attached.

1114 Trend Counts

Greyland and Pukeko reports completed. Shoveler and Grey Teal survey being completed at start of August.

1115 Sportsfishery Research

Third electric fishing of Mawheraiti research stream completed.

1116 Designated Waters Fisheries Management

Nothing to report.

1121 National Hunter Survey.

2025 Season survey being undertaken.

1161 Fisheries Enhancement.

2,000 yearling salmon released in Lake Ianthe at the end of March. At the start of June, 1,400 one-year-old female salmon (200 g) and 39,000 fry-stage female salmon (2.1 g) were released into the Lake Kaniere put-and-take fishery.

1171 Regulations/Gazette Notices

Revisions provide to NZC for presentation to Minister.

1181 Game Bird Control

One crop predation for Pukeko complaint has been received and was addressed with advice.

1211 RMA Plans/Policy/Consents

Applicant	Area	Type	Nature of work	Comments
Riverlands Farm Ltd	Little Wanganui, Karamea	Discharge Permit	Treated dairy discharge to land and water	No issues.
Cashmere Bay Dairy Ltd	Crooked River	Land use consent	Gravel extraction 5000m ³	Culverting of Tube Creek and dry bed only.
Buller District Council	Buller River	Land use consent	Stormwater works	No issues

1213 DoC

Nothing to report in this period.

1311 Access.

After lobbying by Fish and Game Grey District Council has removed the padlock from the gate at Upper Crooked access point, restoring public access. Additionally, a small gate was installed by Grey District Council at the angler access point near the Greymouth Water Treatment Plant to improve public walking access to the Grey River.

1312 Assisted Hunting.

Two organised hunts were held during the winter game bird season. The first hunt, held at Barrytown, was a fantastic success. Hunters enjoyed exciting Pukeko drives, with fast-paced, close-range shooting as birds flushed from the winter feed crops.

The second event, the South Westland Gamebird Hunt, took place in mid-June. Twenty-five participants were balloted access to farmland in the Poerua Valley and took moderate bags of paradise shelduck and Pukeko, along with the occasional duck. Hunters reported high satisfaction, citing the opportunity to explore new areas and the strong social aspect of the event.

1331 Website/Ezines/Social Media

Facebook engagements have been done, focusing on game bird hunting opportunities and promoting both barrels. Reel life and both barrels completed.

1332 Fish & Game Magazine

Sportsfish supplement completed focusing on the work Fish and Game does in the region.

1341 Sportsfisheries Guides.

Agents regularly visited and stocked with guides.

1361 Clubs, Outdoor Recreation Groups

Three educational fishing events have been confirmed and provided to the magazine for publication. One of these is the Basics of Fly-Fishing course, to be held in Franz Josef at Lake Mapourika (MacDonalds Creek/Otto's Corner campground), with support from the local Department of Conservation (Franz Josef team).

The other two are recurring annual events: a Fishing Skills and Information Session at Lake Brunner, and another Basics of Fly-Fishing course at the Taramakau River.

1371 Council properties.

A replacement couch was procured locally and installed at the Okuru hut. A tenant at the Hokitika Angling Club's leased premises at Lake Kaniere is getting agitated by late night vehicle disturbance due to the Deer in the adjacent paddock attracting attention. His options have been spelled out clearly.

1411 Conservation Boards, Iwi, Allied Groups.

Consulted with Mawhera Incorporation regarding Arahura River access for anglers. They are currently not issuing permits due to health and safety concerns. No responses to date.

1421 Media/Communication.

Media releases have focused on the start of the game bird season.

1431 Political Advocacy

Pete Bayliss and Rob Roney met with the Minister of Hunting and Fishing at the office (Summary in Chairs report).

1511 Compliance.

Compliance carried out focusing on salmon, Lake Brunner, and game bird opening weekend. One noncompliance detected at Lake Brunner of an angler fishing with more than one rod. Gamebird opening compliance completed in Grey Valley and Hokitika, no offences detected

1521 Ranger Training.

Nothing to report in this period.

1531 Prosecutions.

The angler detected fishing more than one rod at Lake Brunner has completed diversion and the case is now closed.

1611 Licence Production & Distribution.

Gamebird licence sales are trending similar to last year despite a gift being provided at Hunting and Fishing shops in other regions.

1621 Agent Liaison.

Contact with the West Coast Agents ahead of the Game Bird licences going on sale. Regulation guides and posters have been delivered by staff.

1721 Council.

Council servicing and reporting completed. A strategic priorities workshop was attended by staff.

1821 OWP & Budget

There is still concern that the new Budget process will cause issues for end of year reporting.

1831 Annual Public Meeting & Report.

Nothing to report.

1841 National Liaison.

Communication with other region regarding regulations, compliance, designated waters, and fishery management. National email communications regarding National Policy and HPAI. The Administrators group has been meeting regularly to discuss administrative issues such as Annual Reporting and Budgeting.

1910 Staff Salaries & Payroll.

July is traditionally a period where Fish and Game staff take leave.

1940 Office Premises.

General Maintenance including lawns and cleaning.

1950 Office Equipment

Nothing to report.

1970 General.

All accounts payable continue to be paid on time, all providers to us are emailing accounts directly rather than posting so this is also minimising delays.

1980 Equipment

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

1990 Vehicles

All vehicles are up to date for their on-road requirements.

Staff Recommendation:

That this report be received.