

Agenda Item 10.1:

Operational Report – for the period ended November 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, 8
	Officer, 11
	Admin, 6

Vehicles:

Managers Vehicle RHG: (start) 4,025km (fin) 7,525km. Total private for period: 970km

Fish & Game Officer Vehicle PSM: (start) 89,745km (fin.) 95,797km. Total private for period: 690 km

The Officers vehicle is due for replacement in the coming months. The old vehicle will be utilised as the temp officer vehicle if required and the current vehicle sold. This will result in a more up-to-date fleet of vehicles.

Bi-monthly report on outputs

1111 Trout Surveys.

Preparation underway for drift dive trout surveys.

1112 Lake Netting

Nothing to report in this period.

1113 Spawning Surveys.

Nothing to report in this period.

1114 Trend Counts

Shoveler and Grey Teal survey completed.

1115 Sportsfishery Research

The first electric fishing survey on the Mawheraiti research streams has been completed. The fish count was consistent with the seven-year November average, despite the flooding experienced this spring.

1116 Designated Waters Fisheries Management

Regional representation at the bimonthly meetings to discuss issues.

1121 National Hunter Survey.

South Island report attached.

1161 Fisheries Enhancement.

There have been no reports received of juvenile Salmon being caught in the release areas to date.

1171 Regulations/Gazette Notices

The three-yearly game bird regulations consultation has been completed. The report is attached.

1181 Game Bird Control

No crop predation complaints have been received during this period.

1211 RMA Plans/Policy/Consents

The below applications are either approved as having 'no more than minor effects' or under consultation in the period.

Applicant	Area	Type	Nature of work	Comments	Status
VonAh Contracting Ltd	Kokatahi	Discharge to land	Composting Plant	Vicinity to Duck Creek raised concerns regarding leachate and monitoring.	Submission (Neutral)
Coastal Dairies Ltd	Kowhiterangi	Discharge Permit	Stand-off pad through 2 pond system	Good mitigation	Approved
Westland Mining Ltd	Fox's Creek Arahura	Discharge Permit	Alluvial Gold Mining	Good re-circulation system	Approved
David Read	Inangahua River	Mining Permit	Suction Dredging	Concerns as regionally significant fishery	Consulting

With the bulk of Fish and Game's concerns an appeal to the Tai Poutini Plan was not required.

1213 DoC

Nothing to report in this period.

1311 Access.

Continued contribution to the 2025 Mapping Working Group to support discussions and planning for the future development of the Fish & Game mapping system.

Access to upper Crooked has remained unlocked and positive feedback from anglers regarding access. The mid-Crooked is a work-in-progress with different access mechanisms under consideration.

1312 Assisted Hunting.

Nothing to report in this period.

1331 Website/Ezines/Social Media

Facebook engagements have been focused on successful early season fishing and opportunities. Reel life articles produced. All current council meeting minutes have been signed and uploaded to the website. All reports that have been received at council meetings have also been uploaded to the website.

1332 Fish & Game Magazine

Nothing to report in this period.

1341 Sportsfisheries Guides.

Agents regularly visited and stocked with guides.

1361 Clubs, Outdoor Recreation Groups

A successful fishing event conducted for Big Brothers Big Sisters event at Lake Brunner on the 15th November with approximately 20 attendees.

1371 Council properties.

Okuru hut was utilised by a couple of long-standing volunteers from Fish and Game over the period.

1411 Conservation Boards, Iwi, Allied Groups.

Coordinated the capture of Rudd from Lake lanthe for the National Kiwi Centre. Provided contracted boat services at Lake Brunner for the WCRC to undertake their monthly water monitoring.

1421 Media/Communication.

Media releases focusing on the start of the fishing season, early season fishing opportunities and the AGM. Office communications with licence-holders have mostly been regarding fishing opportunities, regulations and licencing.

1431 Political Advocacy

Nothing to report in this period.

1511 Compliance.

Compliance conducted around the lower reaches of Westland Rivers and Lake Brunner in particular. New signage created for the lower reaches to increase education about the requirement to hold a licence to fish for sports fish.

1521 Ranger Training.

Nothing to report in this period.

1531 Prosecutions.

Nothing to report in this period.

1611 Licence Production & Distribution.

Changes to family licence have had an impact on sales so far this season. WC less impacted than other regions but weather is also playing a factor.

1621 Agent Liaison.

Just a couple of enquiries about licencing anomalies. Family licence eligibility issue has quietened down.

1721 Council.

Regular bi-monthly reporting and Liason with Chair regarding council communications and Annual Reporting.

1821 OWP & Budget

The revised budget has been provided to the NZ Council COO.

1831 Annual Public Meeting & Report.

A substantial amount of staff time has been spent on this project over September/October/November period due to a remote and poorly organised Auditor requesting information.

1841 National Liaison.

Communication with other regions regarding game regulations, compliance, annual reporting and health and safety.

1910 Staff Salaries & Payroll.

Some training is required for the Administration position and Helen Cate is still providing this on a temporary basis until the Annual Report is provided to Council for approval.

1940 Office Premises.

General Maintenance including lawns and cleaning. Increases to rates and lease this year are now taking effect financially.

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. Most equipment is now managed under the Controlled Equipment system in the Health and Safety Procedures

1990 Vehicles

All vehicles are up to date for their on-road requirements. Some cosmetic work was completed on the surplus vehicle in preparation for sale.

Staff Recommendation:

That this report be received.