

Agenda Item 10:

Operational Report – for the period ended March 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, 5
 Officer, 7
 Admin, 6

Vehicles:

Managers Vehicle: (start) 82,099km (fin) 92,298km. Total private for period: 1,090km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle PSM: (start) 66,843km (fin.) 72,773km. Total private for period: 815 km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle MML: (start) 149,200km (fin.) 151,900km.

Bi-monthly report on outputs

1111 Trout Surveys.

2024/5 Trout surveys completed, and report attached.

1112 Lake Netting

Nothing to report in this period.

1113 Spawning Surveys.

Habitat assessments being completed at sites identified as potential spawning habitat from modelling that have not previously been surveyed with a focus on areas with development pressure.

1114 Trend Counts

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

1115 Sportsfishery Research

Second electric fishing of Mawheraiti research stream completed.

1116 Designated Waters Fisheries Management

Designated Waters meetings representation when required from the West Coast. Juvenile trout and some adults collected for the Rough River Research project have been sent to Otago University for the student to begin preparing them to be analysed. Adult trout collection is underway.

1121 National Hunter Survey.

2024 South Island Harvest Report attached.

1161 Fisheries Enhancement.

Staff have taken on board comments from the last Council meeting and secured 2000 100g ex hatchery Salmon for release into the Lake lanthe 'put and take' fishery in accordance with our enhancement strategy.

We have also managed to secure smaller 10g Salmon where staff are proposing to utilise the opportunity to enhance the lake Kaniere 'put and take' fishery.

1171 Regulations/Gazette Notices

Gamebird regulations confirmed.

1181 Game Bird Control

One crop predation complaint has been received regarding paradise shelducks. Complaint was received during summer season, so farmer was informed about the summer season regulations and hunters were made available for assistance if the hunters who regularly hunted the property were unable to assist. One organised hunt held in Barrytown focusing on swans utilising the summer season to reduce the dependence of permits by landowners.

1211 RMA Plans/Policy/Consents

Nothing to report in this period.

1213 DoC.

Nothing to report in this period.

1311 Access.

Angler Access signs have been ordered and installed where access issues have been encountered and resolved. WAMS is also providing some signage about no camping in some of the same locations. Coordinated the production of additional signage at the angler access points on Bruce Stream, Lake Brunner, highlighting that access crosses private land and the landowners' criteria for access.

1312 Assisted Hunting.

Nothing to report in this period.

1331 Website/Ezines/Social Media.

All current council meeting minutes and reports have been signed and uploaded to the website. The new website has now launched and seems to be a lot more user friendly.

1332 Fish & Game Magazine

Content for Gamebird supplement reviewed and licence-holder list provided to distributor.

1341 Sportsfisheries Guides.

Agents regularly visited and stocked with guides.

1361 Clubs, Outdoor Recreation Groups

Approval given to the trout section in the 2025 Ahaura Hunting and Fishing competition, with the offer of assistance.

1371 Okuru Hut.

General Maintenance and upkeep during compliance stays including the painting of the roof.

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.

1421 Media/Communication.

Media releases have focused on the fishing opportunities and environmental stress during a dry summer. Article being prepared for the Top of the South Farming paper. Focusing on upcoming game bird season and encouraging landowners to get hunters on their property to manage game bird populations

1431 Political Advocacy

A meeting with the Minister of Hunting and Fishing was attended. It was a positive meeting with the Minister having a good understanding of Fish and Game issues and was keen to hear about any local issues.

1511 Compliance.

Compliance completed around lower reaches, South Westland salmon fisheries, Reefton and Lake Brunner. Gamebird opening compliance planning is underway.

1521 Ranger Training.

Nothing to report in this period.

1531 Prosecutions.

Two cases of fishing without licence have now been closed. The angler detected fishing without a licence at Lake Brunner has completed diversion. The angler detected fishing without a licence on the Grey River was issued a written warning following her case not meeting the public interest test for prosecution.

1611 Licence Production & Distribution.

Steady flow of licence sales for both Family and Adult for this season. Good numbers of juniors and children also attaining licences.

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

The new budget template provided by the NZ Council has been utilised. We are one of a small number of regions moving to the system requested by the NZ Council. During this establishment year issues are being ironed out and the initial thoughts are that the budgeting resolution is too high and would be better off using a quarterly/seasonal basis rather than monthly.

Draft 2025/26 workplan developed with Council 'Strategic Priorities' and input from staff incorporated.

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.

The 2025/26 budget preparation is underway with a review of staff remuneration in accordance with National Policy.

1940 Office Premises.

General Maintenance including lawns and cleaning and a bit of paint.

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.