

Agenda Item 10:

Operational Report – for the period ended January 2024

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, 4
 Admin, 4

Vehicles:

Managers Vehicle: (start) 76,546km (fin) 82,099km. Total private for period: 1,300km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle PSM: (start) 62,198km (fin.) 66,843km. Total private for period: 611 km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle MML: (start) 144,173km (fin.) 149,200km.

Bi-monthly report on outputs

1111 Trout Surveys.

Trout dive surveys completed on the Mawheraiti River (SH7 and Mirfin dive sites) and Rough River (Mirfin Ford and Above Old Mill dive sites). Counts have been average or slightly below average.

1112 Lake Netting

Report completed and attached.

1113 Spawning Surveys.

Nothing to report in this period.

1114 Trend Counts.

Paradise Shelduck moult surveys are underway. The birds in South Westland are taking extra resources to find this year due to low water levels

1115 Sportsfishery Research.

Juvenile trout collected for the Rough River Research project, attempting to use otolith microchemistry to assess trout movement in the Rough River.

1116 Designated Waters Fisheries Management.

Attending Designated Waters coordinators meetings when time allows, and representation is required from the West Coast. Designated waters licences have declined from last years levels.

1121 National Hunter Survey.

Nothing to report in this period.

1161 Fisheries Enhancement.

Wild mixed salmon have been successfully sourced and are growing well. Hokitika and Taramakau catchment release planned for February. Lake lanthe release will occur when water temperature drops in April.

1171 Regulations/Gazette Notices.

Preparations underway for the triennial Sportfish Regulations Review. West Coast sports fishing licence holders surveyed as part of the three yearly regulation review. Report will be going to Council.

1181 Game Bird Control.

Three crop predation complaints have been received, all regarding paradise shelducks. Advice was given in response to one compliant and permits were issued in response to other two complaints.

1211 RMA Plans/Policy/Consents

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

Applicant	Area	Type	Nature of work	Comments
Westland District Council	Haast, Jackson River	Land use consent	Gravel extraction	No issues.
Westland Milk Products Ltd	Hokitika River	Land use consent	Divert water to North Channel	No issues, due to conditions.
Rosco Contractors Ltd	Rough River	Land use consent	Gravel Extraction from dry bed 2 weeks per year.	Causeway to avoid crossings
Campbell Agriculture and Contracting Ltd	Paringa River	Land use consent	Lower Hokitika stop-bank works	To be done immediately, out of riverbed, with crossings done by 1st week in Feb.

1212 Dairy Industry/Farmer Advocacy

Minor visits for s95 consent approval process.

1213 DoC.

Feedback was provided to the CMS review. The Stewardship Land decisions are currently with the Minister.

1311 Access.

Access signage and sign maintenance progressing well. Two access issues in the Grey Calley at the Crooked River and Ahaura being followed up.

1312 Assisted Hunting.

Nothing to report in this period.

1331 Website/Ezines/Social Media.

Reel life completed for December and January. Regular Facebook posts regarding summer fishing and educational courses. All current council meeting minutes, meeting reports and other information have been signed and uploaded to the website. Updated Councillor information and meeting dates have also been updated on the website.

1332 Fish & Game Magazine

Content for Gamebird supplement underway.

1341 Sportsfisheries Guides.

Agents regularly visited and stocked with guides.

1361 Clubs, Outdoor Recreation Groups.

Assisted with the Lake Brunner fishing competition, in conjunction with running a skills and information session at Lake Brunner on the 30th of November. Lake Bruner fishing competition participation was up, with 35 children participating the event. Held two basic of fly-fishing courses, one a Taramakau on the 8th of December and one the following Sunday in Westport. Fifteen anglers attended the Greymouth event, while Westport there was only six anglers. Positive feedback received on all three educational events.

1371 Okuru Hut.

General Maintenance and upkeep during compliance stays.

1411 Conservation Boards, Iwi, Allied Groups.

Nothing to report in this period.

1421 Media/Communication.

Media releases have focused on the fishing opportunities over the holiday period and during warm weather

1431 Political Advocacy

The response from the Hunting and Fishing Minister regarding licencing and designated waters was reviewed and actions taken to provide a response in due course.

1511 Compliance.

Compliance completed around lower reaches, South Westland, Reefton and Lake Brunner.

1521 Ranger Training.

Nothing to report in this period.

1531 Prosecutions.

Two active fishing without licence cases. One male at Lake Brunner and one female on the Grey River.

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.

Regular visit to agents. Frequently stocked with access guides, how to guides, child licence pads and excess F&G magazine from the office. Agents have been issued with the new user manuals as provided by Eyede, and NZ Fish & Game.

1721 Council.

Council servicing and reporting completed. Licence-holder lists were provided to the returning officer for elections and all nomination enquiries were forwarded to sub-region Councillors. No Election was required in the West Coast Region as there were less than 9 nominations. A first meeting of the new Council took place on 12th November. Peter Bayliss was appointed Chair and Sam Speight was appointed NZ Council Member.

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. A safety issue with the boat trailer was fixed at Bridge Motors.

Staff Recommendation:

That this report be received.