

Agenda Item 10:

Operational Report – for the period ended May 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, 10
 Admin, 7

Vehicles:

Managers Vehicle: (start) 92,298km (fin) 101,445km. Total private for period: 1,475km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle PSM: (start) 72,773km (fin.) 81,087km. Total private for period: 1,806 km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle MML: (start) 151,900km (fin.) 157,399km.

The Temporary Ranger is being prepared for sale. The Manager's vehicle is due for replacement so will be transferred to the Temporary Renger vehicle and a replacement Manager vehicle purchased. A farmer backed into a Fish and Game vehicle with a farm implement causing significant panel damage. This is being fixed under insurance.

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 MacDonalds and Windbag creeks. Spawning surveys completed at known spawning sites in the Taramakau and Hokitika catchments. The counts are lower than average, but Salmon have been found in all systems.

1114 Trend Counts

Greylard, Pukeko, and Swan counts completed.

1115 Sportsfishery Research

Third electric fishing of Mawheraiti research stream completed.

1116 Designated Waters Fisheries Management

Attending Designated Waters coordinators meetings when time allows, and representation is required from the West Coast. Adult trout collected for the Rough River Research project.

1121 National Hunter Survey.

2025 Season survey being undertaken.

1161 Fisheries Enhancement.

2,000 yearling salmon released in Lake Ianthe end of March.

1171 Regulations/Gazette Notices

Between term Sportsfish regulations reviewed no proposed changes required from operational perspective. The Salmon review conclusions and recommendations from last year still hold and staff recommend close monitoring of the fishery due to continued low return numbers.

1181 Game Bird Control

Six crop predation complaints have been received, five for paradise shelduck and one for Pukeko. One paradise shelduck complaint was addressed with advice, another paradise shelduck complaint was addressed with a scare permit and the remaining four complaints were responded to by issuing permits.

1211 RMA Plans/Policy/Consents

Input from a Fish and Game perspective was provided into 3 Resource Consents regarding the Hokitika Seawall, Buller River suction dredging, and the Waitaha HEPS.

1213 DoC.

Nothing to report in this period.

1311 Access.

Nothing to report in this period.

1312 Assisted Hunting.

Three organised hunts planned during the winter gamebird season in areas where complaints have previously been received. All West Coast game bird licence holders with a valid email address received and confirmed they wish to receive information from Fish & Game received a hunting bulletin at the start of the season which included an organised hunts calendar.

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

Nothing to report in this period.

1341 Sportsfisheries Guides.

Agents regularly visited and stocked with guides.

1361 Clubs, Outdoor Recreation Groups

Nothing to report in this period.

1371 Okuru Hut.

General Maintenance and upkeep during staff use. The Freeview network was updated in April rendering the TV at the Hut unusable. A new screen that can be utilised for different media was purchased through AoG contract.

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

The Chair presented the draft budget to the NZ Council. This was received favourably by the NZ Council and pending the approval of a licence fee by the Minister will be utilised next year. Some trepidation regarding application and audit of new NZC developed budget on regional system.

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.

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. A more fit for purpose PFD and \Helmet were procured for Kayaking. The new Fish Transporter was also transferred over to the West Coast and set up for use.

1990 Vehicles

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

Staff Recommendation:

That this report be received.