

**Agenda For The Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council
On 8th February 2020
At Wanaka Hotel, 71 Ardmore Street, Wanaka
Starting 12.00 noon with a light lunch**

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1.0 Present, Apologies and Election of Officers

1.1 Present at Meeting

1.2 Apologies

1.3 Election of Officers:

Chairman (Currently Cr Wright)

Deputy Chair (Currently Cr Weatherall)

Executive (Currently Crs Wright, Weatherall, Whyte, Rae, McIntyre)

NZC appointee (Currently Cr Weatherall)

2.0 Matters to be raised not on the agenda

3.0 Declarations of Interest

4.0 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes and AGM

**Minutes of the Otago Fish and Game Council Annual General Meeting
Cromwell Presbyterian Church, 10 Elspeth Street, CROMWELL
Thursday 28 November 2019, commencing at 3:15 pm.**

1.0 Present:

Monty Wright (Chair), John Barlow, Rick Boyd, Colin Weatherall, Murray Neilson, Mike Barker, Dan Rae, John Highton, Ian Cole

In attendance: Ian Hadland (CE), Richard Twinning (Ngai Tahu), Nigel Pacey (OF&GC and minute secretary), Bruce Jefferies (Conservation Board) and Niall Watson (OF&GC).

Apologies were received from Adrian McIntyre, Vicki Whyte, Ian Cole and Ray Grubb Resolved (Neilson/Boyd)

2.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Moved (Neilson/Barlow)

That the minutes of the Council Annual General Meeting held on 29 November 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record without any amendments.

Carried – Unanimously

3.0 Annual Report

Tabled

CE spoke to the reason for the delay was an issue with the auditor.

4.0 Questions from the floor

Cr Barker asked about the large discrepancies in the remuneration of the Chief Executive in 2019 compared with 2018. CE explained the reason was the overlapping change over of CE's that occurred in 2018 and both salaries are noted in the 2018 figures, hence the over-inflated value for that financial year.

Cr Weatherall expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the staff over the past 12 months.

Resolved (Weatherall/Barlow)

To accept the Annual Report for the Otago Fish and Game Council for the year ending 31 August 2019.

Carried – Unanimously.

Annual General Meeting Closed 3:30 pm

**Minutes of the Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting
Cromwell Presbyterian Church, 10 Elspeth Street, CROMWELL
Thursday 28 November 2019, commencing at 11:45 am.**

The chair opened the meeting and gave some initial remarks regarding the position of the Otago Fish and Game Council. He thanked the previous CE, Niall Watson and the current CE Ian Hadland along with the governors for the guidance and leadership over many years. Chairperson Wright said, after visiting with other regional chairs recently, the Otago Council punches well above its weight and leads the country in many aspects. He reiterated how lucky we are in the region to have the personnel that enables us to do the work we do. Chairperson Wright outlined some challenges ahead – especially rebuilding and maintaining relationships with the rural community.

1.0 2019 AGM (3:15pm to 3:25pm) – see separate minutes

2.0 Present

Monty Wright (Chair), John Barlow, Rick Boyd, Colin Weatherall, Murray Neilson, Mike Barker, Dan Rae (late), John Highton, Ian Cole

In attendance

Ian Hadland (CE), Richard Twining (Ngai Tahu), Nigel Pacey (OF&GC and minute secretary), Bruce Jefferies (Conservation Board) and Niall Watson (OF&GC).

Apologies

Were received from Adrian McIntyre, Vicki Whyte, Ian Cole, Ray Grubb and Dan Rae (lateness)

Resolved (Neilson/Boyd)

Declarations of Interests

Nil

3.0 Matters to be raised not on the agenda

Nil

4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Moved (Highton/Barker)

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 September 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record without any amendments.

Carried – Unanimously

5.0 Matters arising from Minutes

Chair expressed a wish for possible field trips to the Macraes hatchery / Takitakitoa Wetland / Upper Taieri wetlands to go into the schedule for 2020. The CE agreed and would circulate options.

6.0 Health and Safety Report

A review of the Staff Rules and Health and Safety Audit Schedule has begun. This will be discussed at the next staff meeting.

No incidents or accidents reported since the last Otago Fish & Game Council meeting.

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 Reducing Licence Fee Increases – Southland FGC Letter

CE stated that any decrease in spending would come from operating costs and that a national level review of finance was underway. There was much discussion regarding possible methods of saving or generating 1% being requested by the Southland Council. CE agreed to respond in line with discussion.

7.2 Project 1171 – Preliminary 2020 Game Bird Season Regulations

The CE spoke to the report and Southlands letter requesting consistency between regions. Cr's agreed with the sentiment but didn't necessarily agree that a reduction in bag limit was appropriate at this time. Cr Highton extended his support for the shortened mallard season and suggested an open "parry" season, maybe in March. The CE advised that there was a short season in March available to Junior hunters already and this was proposed to be extended to 9 days.

Moved (Neilson/Highton)

The Otago Fish and Game Council reduce the season by two weeks for hunting dabbling ducks (grey, mallard/hybrid and shoveler) with a season length to run from the first Saturday in May and ending on a Sunday in mid-July with no change in bag limits. A follow-up survey is to be completed to measure success and satisfaction.

The Otago Fish and Game Council extend the junior paradise duck season from one weekend day in March to a 9-day special season including two consecutive weekends starting on the first Saturday in March. Subject to trend count results in January 2020. Carried – Unanimously.

Moved (Weatherall/Highton)

The Otago Fish and Game Council will not adjust mallard bag limits for the 2020 season.

Carried – Unanimously

7.3 Southland Letter on Aligning Mallard Bag Limit and Season Length

CE to write to Southland Council and advise of the Otago Council decision to shorten the Otago mallard season by two weeks. Also, to inform them that the Otago council

won't be altering bag limits for the 2020 season along with an invitation to the Southland Council to introduce a summer paradise duck season in line with the Otago Council.

7.4 2020 Otago Fish & Game Council Meeting Schedule

A Tapanui meeting with a possible field trip with the Pomahaka Watercare Group was very well supported.

Otakou Marae meeting could replace May meeting in Dunedin

Macraes Hatchery field trip in September

The CE agreed to circulate an updated schedule.

8.0 Public Excluded Items – full minutes available separately

Moved (Boyd/Neilson)

That the meeting moves into the public excluded session.

Carried – Unanimously

8.1 Confirm previous public excluded minutes

Moved (Rae/Weatherall)

That the public excluded minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26th September 2019 and the Extraordinary Council meetings held on 14th and 22nd October be confirmed as a true and correct record without any amendments.

Carried – Unanimously

8.2 and 8.3 Habitat Enhancement Fund Application – Hewitt Wetland

Habitat Enhancement Fund Application – Sheila Natusch Wetland

Both applications were presented and there was little discussion. CE commented that both projects were worthwhile.

Moved (Weatherall/Highton)

That both the Hewitt (\$1000) and Sheila Natusch (\$2000) wetlands be funded from the Habitat Enhancement and Research Fund (HERF). Also that this decision is moved into the public minutes.

Carried – Unanimously

8.4 Property update November 2019

8.5 Verbal Update on the Lindis Court appeal

8.6 Verbal update on the Skelton Report

8.7 Verbal update on the Manuherikia minimum flow setting process

8.8 NZC report

Moved (Rae/Boyd)

That the meeting moves out of the public excluded session.

Carried – Unanimously

9.0 Financial Report and Licence sales report

Cr Highton asked about generating revenue with sponsorship or naming rights. Other options for funding were discussed. The CE replied that staff had been successful in securing sponsorship for take a kid fishing events and wetland enhancement projects and he was dedicated to increasing this.

Moved (Barker/Barlow)

That the Financial Report and Licence sales report be received

Carried – Unanimously

10.0 Chief Executives Report

- Contact Energy mitigation projects and funding was detailed.
- Quartz Creek – discussion regarding the removal of the structure/dam.
- CE updated council on the Skelton report and the ORC's response. Some discussion followed regarding the impact of short term consents.
- Agreed to invite Bruce Robertson to February planning meeting with the need to move to "outcome reporting" in line with Auditor general guidelines.
- Conservation Board annual report available – email CE for a copy

Moved (Weatherall/Neilson)

That the Chief Executives Report be received

Carried – Unanimously

11.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

11.1 CFT

Cr Boyd presented his report.

- Kane Road – Aaron has estimated a time allowance to review alternatives together with site inspection (4-8 hrs)
- Audit underway – completed by end Nov
- Trustees are currently reviewing the trusts "Tier Rating"
- 4 Ree Crescent. Design for alterations underway. Approx \$3000 estimate.
- A new market valuation will be sought after alterations and a new lease will need to be negotiated with OF&GC.
- Nesting Islands: Excessive growth has been cleared. No sign of nesting witnessed.
- The 6-year strategic plan is still progressing

11.2 NZC

Cr Weatherall presented his report.

- Cr McIntyre has been nominated to the Game Bird Habitat Trust
- Minister Sage has confirmed there is no constraint to spending non-resident licence money for general F&G management.
- National prosecution policy has been adopted
- NZC is investigating appointing an in-house legal person.
- The Lindis appeal being lodged by the Otago Council agreed to be funded by the NZC

11.3 National Sea Run Salmon Committee

Cr Boyd presented his report.

- Update regarding regulation change allowing a season bag limit for salmon – DoC reasonably happy so far
- Release of surplus commercial salmon smolts seems to have stopped but the regulations surrounding this practice are unclear
- Hatchery guidelines stemming from the Cawthron Report still being discussed
- Put and take fisheries and Research needs to be deferred to the next agenda
- Cr Boyd raised his concern that “the committee needed to focus on strategic direction rather than the fine detail” was noted but no discussion occurred.

11.4 Ngai Tahu

Richard Twinning presented his report.

- Mr Twinning noted his pleasure at the granting of a consent for the rafting on the Maitai River between Wyndham and Maitai
- Mr Twinning asked why the national chief executive was making comments about freshwater eels?

11.5 Conservation Board

Bruce Jefferies presented his report.

- Some board members have expressed their concern about the risk-averse nature of the DoC on tracks etc with the effect of limiting access.
- Tenure review of Glenary Station underway – see LINZ website for details
- Pest-control in the Wanaka and Wakatipu headwater basins has occurred.
- The new work programme has been adopted
- The indigenous Biodiversity discussion document is up for consultation
- An integrated Wanaka Catchment Plan about to be launched

Meeting adjourned at 3 pm to move into the 2019 AGM – see separate minutes

Meeting resumed at 3:30 pm

12.0 Correspondence

Correspondence (circulated with agenda) was noted.

12.1 NZC to OF&GC - Nil

12.2 OF&GC to NZC

12.2.1 Otago Non-Resident Licence Reserve to Operating

12.2.2 Licence Sale System Contract Renewal with Regional F&G Councils

12.2.3 Adrian McIntyre's nomination to Game Bird Trust Board (Previously Sent)

12.2.4 Outcome of the extraordinary meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council on Lindis River (Confidential previously circulated)

12.3 General Correspondence In

12.3.1 Halberg Foundation Support Letter

12.3.2 Wanaka Gun Club thanks

12.3.3 Permission to relocate rainbow trout in the White Burn

12.3.4 J Hinkley – Shag River renaming. Discussion occurred and while not disagreeing with the change, the general feeling was this is not an issue for the Otago Fish & Game Council.

12.4 General Correspondence Out

12.4.1 Naylor Love sponsor wetland plants and labour

12.4.2 Response to Department of Conservation Letter

13.0 Items To Be Received Or Noted

13.1 1110 – Population monitoring shoveler trend Count

13.2 2019 – Otago Pukeko monitoring

13.3 Consenting Workload

Moved (Rae/Weatherall)

That the Items 13.1 – 13.3 be received/noted

Carried – Unanimously

14.0 General Business

Cr Highton made the comment that there are challenging times ahead for Fish and Game and retaining staff will be important and this may require extra resources.

Cr Boyd spoke in support of Cr Barker if he seeks nomination for the Otago Conservation Board or Authority. Unanimous support from other councillors.

The Chair wished all well for the Christmas break and reiterated his proud feeling regarding the achievements of the Otago Fish and Game Council and Staff.

The meeting was closed at 5:25 pm

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

6.0 Health and Safety Report

H&S 2 MANAGEMENT AUDIT CHECKLIST

Record of compliance with F&G Councils OSH systems, policies and procedures.

H&S

√	Action required	Notes – Evidence of completion
	Policies displayed or available	<i>Added to Ferrett storage and policy displayed both Cromwell and Dunedin communal areas</i>
	Hazards register current and dated	<i>Current and updated at regular meetings</i>
	Notes of H&S meetings assembled	<i>Stored in folder</i>
	H&S Minutes circulated to staff	<i>Yes, filed and emailed following staff meetings</i>
	MSD (Material safety data) sheets current	<i>Current and stored with chemical at sites</i>
	Offices, Workshops, Hatchery audits complete	<i>All audits completed by Dec 2019</i>
	First Aid/ Fire Extinguishers checked	<i>Checked and serviced annually</i>
	PPE Safety Equipment and Field Equipment Audits done	<i>All completed by Dec 19</i>
	MTOP Boat information current	<i>Compliant as at Sept/Oct 2019</i>
	Contractors/Volunteers induction records filed	<i>Yes, for events and onsite contractors. Ranger trained and updated</i>
	H&S being promoted to staff	<i>H&S is part of weekly meeting agenda</i>
	New Staff/Contractor Induction records	<i>Completed for visiting workers, new staff inducted</i>
	Staff Emergency Evacuation drills and training for designated staff	<i>Evacuation drill completed mid Jan 2019 for Dunedin Office And Cromwell June 19</i>
	Training/Support for H&S rep	<i>No Training this year but ongoing support</i>
	Evidence of annual review of H&S processes and performance	<i>Constantly being reviewed, most recently by a new staff member</i>

Incidents/Accidents

√	Action required	Notes – Evidence of completion
	Accident Register complete	<i>Up to date</i>
	Investigations results fed back	<i>Yes, and mitigation options discussed at meetings</i>
	Return to work processes and procedures understood and used	<i>Not required this term.</i>
	Near-miss reports filed	<i>5 reported – discussed at weekly meetings, forms filed and hazard list updated where required.</i>
	Incident/hazard corrective actions documented and completed where possible	<i>Yes, documented and followed up</i>
	Accident/Injury Prevention Initiatives	<i>Staff first aid trained and boat training up to date, Encouraging lunch out of office exercise to help office strains And stresses and general fitness/health.</i>

Completed by Chief Executive Signed: _____

Duffell

Date: (~~December~~) 23 January 2020

Reported to OF&GC (February Mtg): 8th February 2020

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 Report to Council on Species Interaction

No sports fish listed in the Conservation Act (1987) is native to New Zealand and the addition of sports fish to New Zealand's freshwater ecosystems has altered the way in which species interact. This may take the form of increased competition for resources; or predation by and of sports fish. To what degree sports fish are responsible for subsequent declines in native species is an increasingly controversial topic, as is the legal protection they should be afforded.

There are cases where it is clear that sports fish are having a detrimental impact on native species. In Otago, this is most often the case for threatened or endangered non-migratory galaxiids, where the ingress of salmonids can lead to increased predation and localised extinctions within short periods of time. Because they have been in New Zealand for so long, salmonids have largely spread to all habitat available to them, so these situations often occur due to illegal transfers or changes in conditions which enable fish passage – such as the re-wetting of seasonally intermittent reaches and alterations to river morphology. Intervention may be required to separate the populations in such cases.

While it is not specifically listed as a function of Fish and Game Councils in the Conservation Act, supporting conservation efforts for rare and threatened aquatic species should be high on the Council's priority list. Any future extinction of freshwater species in New Zealand would be unconscionable. The strong conservation and environmental ethic of anglers and hunters share should no doubt be extended to threatened and endangered species.

With that in mind, it is important to understand that intervention choices may have impacts on the salmonid population and wider fishery. These can range from very high to minimal detrimental impacts and may even be positive in some cases. For example, replacing anthropogenic low/no flow barriers with a physical salmonid barrier and restoring flow to the galaxiid population will have positive effects for salmonid populations downstream. This may offset the removal of salmonids from habitat upstream of the new barrier.

Clearly, decisions of this nature must be taken on a case by case basis and involve a high degree of nuance. Intervention actions taken should reflect the importance of the populations involved, the probability of success and the impacts on wider ecosystems. Fish and Game staff are well placed to provide information and advice on these topics, particularly in relation to wider impacts on sports fisheries. In this manner, supporting conservation efforts will contribute to performing key Fish and Game Council functions, including maintaining sports fisheries and representing the interests of anglers.

Recent experience has demonstrated that species interaction is increasingly becoming a topic of debate at meetings and Resource Management Act (1991) hearings, sometimes being raised despite it not being directly relevant. When Fish and Game is not involved, other agencies or resource users often attempt to provide that sports fishery advice themselves,

with inaccurate and/or inconsistent conclusions drawn about the impact of salmonid fisheries and potentially damaging outcomes as a result.

It is the advice of the author that the best results for the fishery will most likely be gained by proactively working with other parties to provide advice on intervention actions. There is strong pressure from water users to promote the abstraction of rivers dry as a conservation tool and recent decisions demonstrate that decision makers are open to this idea, despite the clear risk to downstream ecosystems. Without a decisive plan for undertaking interventions where required, it is likely that poor environmental outcomes for all species will result in the long run.

Being proactive in this field will almost certainly involve agreeing to the removal or movement of some existing salmonid populations. However, by restoring flows there are opportunities to enhance downstream habitat, which is often of greater benefit to the wider fishery. If the Council chooses not to be proactive in this manner, the author believes the risk of degradation to wider ecosystems caused by low/no flow conservation methods and the subsequent impact on fisheries will far outweigh any costs of being proactive.

Staff have held initial discussions on this topic with representatives from Aukaha, the Department of Conservation (DoC) and the Otago Regional Council (ORC) to improve decision making for species interaction in the Manuherehia Catchment. As part of those discussions, two documents have been written and are attached as Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 respectively:

1. a proposal for working together, noting that the timeline for task 1) within the document has been missed; and
2. principles for species interaction management.

Discussion in regard to these documents are ongoing and no party has yet officially endorsed either document. Regardless of the result of those discussions, it is recommended that the Council endorse the proposal and adopt the principles, for the Manuherehia catchment. This will clearly signal the Council's intention to work with other statutory parties and Iwi on species interaction issues and will set a much-needed standard for the way intervention actions are undertaken.

Recommendation:

- that the Council receive the report;
- that the Council endorse the proposed multi-agency approach to species management and interaction for the Manuherehia catchment;
- that the Council adopt the common principles for the management of freshwater species in the Manuherehia catchment; and
- that the Council discuss adopting both documents as the basis for a region wide policy on species interaction.

Nigel Paragreen
Environmental Officer
29 January 2020

Appendix 1: Proposed multi-agency approach to species management and interaction

Memo Purpose

- To outline an approach to freshwater species management and species interactions in the Manuherehia catchment that enables agencies with responsibilities for species to reach agreement on identification of issues and resourcing of solutions.

Overview

- These four organisations have responsibilities relevant to freshwater species and their habitats:
 - **Ngāi Tahu** rangatira have kaitiaki responsibilities towards taonga and mahinga kai species (including both indigenous and introduced species);
 - the **Department of Conservation** are statutory managers of indigenous species;
 - the **Otago Fish and Game Council** are statutory managers of sports fish and game birds; and
 - the **Otago Regional Council** are responsible for sustainable management of waterbodies.
- Ngāi Tahu, the Department of Conservation and the Otago Fish and Game Council are the primary parties to this approach, with the Otago Regional Council acting in an advisory role.
- All four organisations are represented on the Manuherehia Reference Group (MRG) and the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), which also include other representatives of water users and community interests.
- Improved co-ordination between these four organisations can assist the MRG and TAG to fulfil their functions, provide clarity for water users concerned about species interactions which may negatively impact non-migratory galaxias, and ensure that solutions emerge that are supported by mana whenua and all those with statutory responsibilities for species management.
- Potential exists to also co-ordinate with the **Ministry for the Environment** in support of the Manuherehia catchment as an exemplar catchment where new approaches and solutions can be employed, and existing approaches and solutions strengthened, to improve freshwater management outcomes.

Proposal

- Agency co-ordination focussed on achieving the following tasks, **completed before April 2020**, has the potential to support plan development and deemed permit replacement application decisions:
 - 1) By December 31 2019, refine a set of principles to guide decisions around species management and interaction, building on discussions to date (see **Attachment One** for a summary of discussions to date);
 - 2) Identify, to the extent possible within a short time:
 - a) species interaction hot spots in the catchment where solutions are likely to be needed (starting with 27 November hui);
 - b) species management objectives - short, medium and long term;
 - c) species management information needs; and
 - d) species habitat needs.
 - 3) Determine appropriate management actions for species interaction hot spots that support identified objectives and account for habitat needs.
 - 4) Produce a summary document of tasks 1-3, including an overview of the issues, information and objectives agreed by the parties, to guide further resourcing and decision-making.

- Enable co-ordination at the operational level, supported by leadership, to undertake the shared tasks and report back through each organisation the outcome of collaborative effort.

- Provide for decision-making processes within each organisation, enabling leadership in each organisation to adopt the approach with any necessary amendments relevant to their responsibilities.

Intended Outcome

- A well-co-ordinated multi-agency response to pressures impacting a variety of species of interest to each of the parties in the Manuherekia catchment that results in a clear plan for management of their populations and habitats, through both statutory and non-statutory means, as a dimension of improved freshwater management.

ATTACHMENT ONE: Summary of Discussions to Date

Principles

- Cumulative effects matter
- A precautionary approach is needed where risks exist and information is limited, relevant to species management objectives
- Natural function of waterways within the catchment is supported and is the benchmark, as we all place importance on the intrinsic value of each waterway
- Species interaction can mean keeping populations apart

Pathways

- Improving species management extends beyond RMA and all avenues should be employed
- Resources are limited within organisations and across organisations, so need targeting or additional support

Species Information

- Agency records need to be kept up to date and information shared between agencies
- We all understand that one-off records can be inaccurate
- Where species information is unknown, our collective expectation is that the applicants will invest in what is happening relevant to their application
- When water users describe the cost of infrastructure as being prohibitive, reliable costings will be required to be supplied

Solutions

- Use of hydraulic barriers (dewatering waterbodies) is not supported as a tool for managing species interaction
- Races can enable fish passage where it is not desirable, so screening races is an important species interaction management tool, with a presumption in favour of fish screening guidelines
- Races should be used as species habitat only as an exception, assessed against these criteria, and any agency recommending an exception must confer with all other agencies:
 - Race habitat shall not come at the cost of the river
 - First priority is keeping water and fish in natural channels
 - Water of sufficient quantity must be permanently flowing in the race
 - Consider the degree of channelisation of a waterbody (eg has it become race/drain?)
 - Presence of riparian vegetation
 - Nature of substrate in the race
 - Quality of water in the race and protections to maintain quality

- Whether fish can get back to the natural waterway without being harmed
- Abstraction and flow measuring devices (eg flumes) can provide a combination of measuring/monitoring and barrier to fish passage so should be encouraged where applicable to protect vulnerable populations (e.g non-migratory galaxiids)

Appendix 2: Common principles for the management of freshwater species in the Manuherekia catchment

TASK 1: Common principles for the management of freshwater species in the Manuherekia Catchment

The following principles are shared by the parties as statutory managers of freshwater species in the Manuherekia Catchment and shall guide decisions on species management and the management of undesirable species interactions, where it is agreed that active management is required.

Principles

- Healthy, resilient and productive ecosystems are a fundamental requirement for all freshwater species. Protecting and enhancing habitat is the foundation of species management.
- Management of freshwater species and their habitats will consider the ecological function and ecosystem services of the waterbodies of catchment in the absence of abstraction and will recognise the intrinsic value of each waterway.
- Hydrology based on unmodified flows ('naturalised flows') should be used as the baseline to consider the effects of flow reduction/abstraction on freshwater habitats and species.
- Management objectives agreed by the parties for freshwater species will provide for the significant and diverse values present in the catchment (in both the mainstem and tributaries) including mahika kai, sports fish and the protection and enhancement of threatened indigenous fish species and populations.
- Threatened non-migratory galaxias¹ populations in the Manuherekia catchment are vulnerable and will require more active management than for other species in the catchment, as a priority.
- Species interactions (i.e. predation, competition) which can cause adverse effects for threatened non-migratory galaxias populations are undesirable and may require specific interventions to separate species through exclusion and/or removal, where this is practical to do so.
- Where it is identified sports fish (or other fish) are impacting negatively on threatened non-migratory galaxias species, careful consideration will be given to management responses to improve the security of those indigenous species populations.

¹ Central Otago roundhead galaxias and alpine galaxias are classified as "nationally endangered"; Clutha flathead galaxias "nationally critical" (Goodman et al., 2014)

- Specific solutions for the management of species interactions will be determined on a case by case basis and agreed by the parties as statutory managers of freshwater species.
- Where it is agreed species should be separated, priority will be given to the construction of permanent fish barriers which will provide reliable, long-term protection for vulnerable fish populations.
- Use of hydraulic barriers (dewatering waterbodies) is not supported as a tool for managing species interactions.
- Restoring and enhancing habitat in natural channels is the priority for management. Irrigation takes should be screened to prevent the entrainment of fish into raceways. If raceway habitat is present for aquatic species it will not come at the cost of habitat in natural river channels.
- Effective coordination between agencies is underpinned by up to date data and species records and sharing information between agencies.
- Management will consider the cumulative effects of activities across the catchment.
- When an activity poses risks to the environment, relevant to species management objectives, and information is limited a precautionary approach is needed.
- Consideration will be given to all regulatory and non-regulatory avenues available to achieve agreed management objectives.
- Principles, management objectives and plans developed by the parties will be consistent with existing MOU's.
- Principles, management objectives and plans agreed by the parties will be consistent with existing legislation and regulations.

8.0 Public Excluded Items

8.1 Previous Public Excluded Minutes

8.2 Property Update

8.3 NZC Communications Strategy

8.4 Lindis High Court Proceedings Update - Verbal

8.5 Maitara River Rafting Consent Issue Update

9.0 Financial Report

Finance and Licence Sales Report to 31st December 2019

9.1 Finance Reports

The draft finance report for the period from 1 September 2019 to 31st December 2019 is attached.

Expenditure to date is \$737,120 (including levies \$252,941, agent commission \$46,014 and depreciation \$16,908) compared with the year to date budget of \$797,407.

Total income to date is \$1,227,757 compared with the year to date budget of \$1,542,811.

Budget and expenditure figures are exclusive of GST.

Funds Position at 31st December 2019

ANZ 00 account \$ 72,217.52
ANZ 70 account \$ 582,807.84

Term Investments as at 31st January 2020:

ASB 0079 \$354508.73 @ 2.75% maturing July 2020
ANZ 1000 \$305,087.84 @ 2.80% maturing April 2020

The sum of \$72,420.98 was held by Anderson Lloyd in trust for wetland management via DOC. Following approval from DOC this has now been transferred to make up part of the deposit for the purchase an Upper Taieri Wetland. This line item can now be removed from our accounts

Otago Reserves 31st December 2019

Otago Reserves Movements	Balance August 2019	Income (To) Reserve	Note	Expense (From) Reserve	Balance Dec 2019
Back Country Non-resident Levy	\$202,033	\$30,158		\$2,761	\$229,430
Habitat Enhancement & Research	\$32,959	\$6,900	2	\$26,174	\$13,685
Lindis Reserve	\$986	-	1	\$161	\$825
Mining Rights	\$55,908	-	3	\$16,122	\$39,786
Historical Reserves	\$179,968	-		-	\$179,968
Renovation Reserves	\$8,175	-		-	\$8,175

Note 1 \$180,000 (Lindis) approved Feb 19 by NZC from our reserves. Invoices for Lindis High Court Appeal costs have been funded by NZC \$20,943.41

Note 2 Balance is \$13685, less committed but not yet paid out of \$ 6826 so balance of \$6859 is available for dispersal by way of grants.

Note 3 \$150,000 (Mining Rights) approved prior to 2018 by NZC from our reserves. Includes \$80,000 of Lindis expenses, agreed by Council July 2019.

9.2 Capital Expenditure

Blinds were replaced in two offices office at a cost of \$2064.50

9.3 Licence Sales

Fish Licence Sales 2019/20 to 20th January 2020

Fish licences sales revenue for the 2019/20 season recorded to 20th January 2020 total \$1,705,789 compared with \$1,692,753 for the same date for the 2018/19 Season. This includes commission.

The 2019/20 budget for fish licence sales is \$1,786,017 exclusive of GST.

In summary, fishing licence sales to 20th January in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) 12378.98 LEQs compared with 12528.56 for the same period last year.

We assume that the licence sales are slightly down on last year due to the unsettled weather patterns over the spring/summer period.

9.4 Agents and Debts

No liabilities or potential liabilities at the present time.

Milton News Centre has now closed its licence sales agency. We will not be seeking a new agent in Milton.

Recommendations

That this report be received

Sharon Milne
Administration Officer
31/01/2020

Profit and Loss

Otago Fish and Game Council For the 4 months ended 31 December 2019

	NOV 2019	DEC 2019	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
Income								
Licence Sales								
Fish Licence Sales	112,026	211,082	1,125,053	1,493,646	(368,593)	75%	1,786,017	1,678,036
Non-Resident Licence Revenue	3,567	13,194	30,124	26,664	3,460	113%	80,000	102,928
Game Licence Sales	-	-	-	-	-	-	333,332	335,121
Total Licence Sales	115,592	224,276	1,155,177	1,520,310	(365,133)	76%	2,199,349	2,116,085
Other Income								
Interest Income	13	538	5,655	8,261	(2,606)	68%	24,773	29,107
Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	151	-	578	500	78	116%	2,000	4,737
Rent Received	4,548	3,681	16,339	13,740	2,599	119%	41,220	32,930
Fishing Competitions	292	155	563	-	563	-	-	1,129
Gain on sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,566
Donations & Grants	3,115	50	18,526	-	18,526	-	-	21,921
Merchandise Sales/Other	130	39	352	-	352	-	-	1,057
RMA Costs Reimbursed	-	8,037	20,873	-	20,873	-	-	5,090
Sundry Income	-	2,525	2,794	-	2,794	-	-	3,270
Diversion - Habitat Enhancement and Research Fund	2,000	2,400	6,900	-	6,900	-	-	6,885
Total Other Income	10,249	17,426	72,580	22,501	50,079	323%	67,993	115,691
Total Income	125,842	241,701	1,227,757	1,542,811	(315,054)	80%	2,267,342	2,231,776
Gross Profit	125,842	241,701	1,227,757	1,542,811	(315,054)	80%	2,267,342	2,231,776

Profit and Loss

	NOV 2019	DEC 2019	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
Expenses								
Species Management								
Population Monitoring	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,000	6,895
Harvest Assessment	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000	2,700
Hatchery Operations	(446)	3,200	3,795	2,600	1,195	146%	8,000	5,371
Releases	238	-	386	500	(114)	77%	1,500	1,556
Game Bird Control compliants	-	119	119	-	119	-	-	-
Total Species Management	(208)	3,319	4,300	3,100	1,200	139%	23,500	16,522
Habitat Protection & Mngt								
Resource Mngt Act	161	8,037	29,119	28,546	573	102%	61,394	388,755
Works & Management	369	276	12,113	2,500	9,613	485%	7,500	9,380
Assisted Habitat	-	-	12	-	12	-	-	344
Habitat Enhancement Research Fund Grants	24,086	617	26,174	-	26,174	-	-	14,148
Total Habitat Protection & Mngt	24,616	8,930	67,417	31,046	36,371	217%	68,894	412,627
Participation								
Access and Signage	46	24	268	668	(400)	40%	2,000	1,834
Back Country Surveys/Monitoring	1,850	669	2,761	-	2,761	-	-	6,191
Promotion Articles and Advertising	230	360	629	500	129	126%	1,500	2,116
Publications and Web Site	-	635	635	-	635	-	1,000	-
OF&G Training Events	165	428	841	3,500	(2,659)	24%	6,000	4,878
Club Relations and Grants	-	-	715	500	215	143%	1,000	1,990
Merchandise stock	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52
Total Participation	2,291	2,116	5,850	5,168	682	113%	11,500	17,060
PUBLIC INTERFACE								
Liaison	8	4	114	172	(58)	66%	500	567
Communication	220	-	570	336	234	170%	1,000	-
Media Releases	-	205	285	468	(184)	61%	1,000	-
Total PUBLIC INTERFACE	228	208	968	976	(8)	99%	2,500	567

Profit and Loss

	NOV 2019	DEC 2019	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
COMPLIANCE								
Ranger Training and Expenses	(165)	2,299	3,963	4,900	(937)	81%	7,500	3,694
Compliance	-	-	-	3,000	(3,000)	-	10,000	9,684
Total COMPLIANCE	(165)	2,299	3,963	7,900	(3,937)	50%	17,500	13,377
LICENCING								
Agent Servicing	92	-	205	400	(195)	51%	750	189
Commission/Fees	5,725	5,712	46,014	38,148	7,866	121%	95,371	85,316
Total LICENCING	5,817	5,712	46,219	38,548	7,671	120%	96,121	85,506
COUNCIL								
Council Meetings	1,754	425	4,762	7,000	(2,238)	68%	17,000	17,363
Total COUNCIL	1,754	425	4,762	7,000	(2,238)	68%	17,000	17,363
PLANNING & REPORTING								
Reporting/Audit	11,207	434	16,740	14,000	2,740	120%	14,000	15,733
National Liason	24	-	24	300	(276)	8%	1,000	548
Total PLANNING & REPORTING	11,231	434	16,764	14,300	2,464	117%	15,000	16,280
ADMINISTRATION								
Salaries	10,091	138,195	243,567	252,421	(8,854)	96%	758,145	719,284
Staff Expenses	1,017	1,282	3,803	2,675	1,128	142%	16,000	17,222
Office Premices	5,761	5,228	36,877	38,824	(1,947)	95%	97,872	86,812
Office Equipmment	172	44	847	832	15	102%	2,500	1,905
Communications	1,748	1,285	5,513	7,832	(2,319)	70%	23,500	20,886
General Exp (incl Insurance)	196	49	2,034	4,641	(2,607)	44%	5,441	5,162
General Field Equipment	194	68	999	840	159	119%	2,500	1,561
Vehicles	2,471	3,278	23,386	21,508	1,878	109%	51,500	50,371
Total ADMINISTRATION	21,650	149,429	317,027	329,573	(12,546)	96%	957,458	903,203
Contact Sports Fish Management Plan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,000
Depreciation	5,636	-	16,908	22,544	(5,636)	75%	67,632	89,529
Loss on Disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	305

Profit and Loss

	NOV 2019	DEC 2019	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
NZ Fish & Game Levies	-	-	252,941	337,252	(84,311)	75%	1,011,763	1,004,799
Total Expenses	72,850	172,871	737,120	797,407	(60,287)	92%	2,288,868	2,597,137
Net Profit	52,992	68,830	490,638	745,404	(254,766)	66%	(21,526)	(365,361)

Balance Sheet

Otago Fish and Game Council As at 31 December 2019

	31 DEC 2019	31 AUG 2019
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank	650,243	291,894
Receivables	333,537	149,397
Investments	653,934	648,846
Inventory	17,962	17,962
Funds Held in Trust	-	72,421
Accrued Interest	5,479	5,479
Total Current Assets	1,661,155	1,186,000
Fixed Assets		
Property Plant & Equipment	1,402,962	1,412,134
Total Fixed Assets	1,402,962	1,412,134
Total Assets	3,064,116	2,598,134
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Payables	350,749	299,197
Employee Entitlements	50,117	53,427
Rounding	-	-
Total Current Liabilities	400,866	352,623
Total Liabilities	400,866	352,623
Net Assets	2,663,251	2,245,511
Equity		
Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated Funds	1,651,962	2,017,323
Current Year Earnings	490,638	(365,361)
Transfer (To)/From Reserves	32,479	51,266
Total Accumulated Funds	2,175,078	1,703,228
Dedicated Reserves		
Back Country Fisheries Reserve	229,429	202,033
Habitat Enhancement & Research	13,685	32,959
Lindis Reserve	825	987
Mining Privileges Reserve	39,786	55,908
Historical Reserves	179,968	179,968
Asset Replacement Funding	23,000	(4,608)
Total Dedicated Reserves	486,694	467,246
Restricted Reserves		
Bullock Creek Reserve	1,478	2,616

Balance Sheet

	31 DEC 2019	31 AUG 2019
Wetland Development Trust - Anderson lloyd)	-	72,421
Total Restricted Reserves	1,478	75,037
Total Equity	2,663,251	2,245,511

Otago Fish Licence Sales to 20th January 2019 and 2020

2019 - 2020

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	Total	Fish LEQ	Fish \$
Agency	2,409	3,371	221	659	183	22	117	463	731	392	14	48	49	17	43	8,739		
Eyede	3	9	3	10	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	29		
Online	1,334	1,538	467	220	268	37	147	899	1,023	271	30	90	41	9	35	6,409		
Total	3,746	4,918	691	889	453	59	264	1,362	1,754	665	44	138	90	26	78	15,177	12,378.98	\$1,705,789.00

2018 - 2019

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	Total	Fish LEQ	Fish \$
Agency	2,385	3,026	308	563	178	9	135	504	888	370	26	53	65	9	45	8,564		
Eyede	10	3	2	5	1	0	0	8	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	33		
Online	1,539	1,671	551	240	277	22	136	868	1,084	226	16	72	60	14	46	6,822		
Total	3,934	4,700	861	808	456	31	271	1,380	1,973	596	42	128	125	23	91	15,419	12,528.56	\$1,692,753.00

FWF (Family), FWA (Adult), FWNA (Non Resident), FSLA (Senior Loyal), FLAA (Local Area),

FWJ (Junior), FWNJ (Junior non resident), FLBA (Long Break), FSBA (Short Break), FDA (Adult Day), FDJ (Junior Day)

FDNJ (day non resident Junior), FWNC (non resident Child), FDNC (day non Resident child day)

10.0 Chief Executives Report

10.1 SPECIES

Gamebird Trend Counts (1111)

January trend counts are now complete, and the report is attached as item 8.2

Establish GIS layer for spawning (1112)

Our seasonal worker Ben Davies is entering historic and recent spawning data into the database in preparation for input into the GIS layer. Priority is being given to Clutha spawning in the first instance as it overlaps with a Contact Energy funded project.

Monitor Fisheries (1113)

Several trips have been made to the Upper Fraser River without an angler being seen. A private angler walked a substantial part of the catchment without seeing a fish. There is no obvious reason why this is now so unproductive.

Success & Satisfaction (1122)

Creel Surveys of Lake Wanaka anglers continue with some good catches being recorded. The weather through January has been exceptional and allowed boat surveys and CLE duties to be carried out on Lakes Dunstan, Hawea and Wakatipu.

Fish Salvage (1131)

No salvage operations undertaken so far this season

Hatchery Operations (1141)

The Macraes Hatchery continues to operate smoothly. A valve to one of the main tanks was replaced after it seized. It has been pleasing to read that the Macraes mine life has again been extended which helps safeguard the future of Otago hatchery operations.

Liberations (1161)

Liberations to designated waters have been completed for the year. Small numbers of 2-year-old fish will continue to be liberated to Southern Reservoir and Sullivans dam.

Regulations (1171)

The Game season regulations have now been submitted. The Paradise shelduck counts didn't reveal any substantial changes in population size so they remain as approved at the November Meeting

Permits to disturb (1181)

Seven permits to disturb wildlife have been issued over the period, mostly for mallard predating on crops. No follow up action has been required although one landowner needed to be discouraged from a potential poisoning operation.

10.2 HABITAT

Consents (1212)

See separate report item 8.1

Contact Energy Consents

Since the last meeting two separate meetings have been held with Contact Energy over their Sports Fish Management Plan.

The first was to confirm progress on a number of Contact funded projects we are undertaking including electric fishing surveys on Clutha tributaries, and work at Manuka Island.

The second meeting related to the salmon hatchery and the potential alternatives. Ryder consulting has been contracted by Contact to update a decade old report on sportfish (including salmon) mitigation. We should get an update on the progress of that at the meeting and expect to see a full report at the March meeting.

CE to update

Deemed Permit Update

At its meeting on the 22nd of January, the ORC voted to develop a plan change to enable the implementation of the Minister's recommendations². There is little published information as to the details of the decision; however, staff understand that this will likely take the form of a controlled activity rule for surface water abstraction, in which consent can be applied for and will always be granted subject to conditions. The ORC has stated publicly that the central aspect of this rule will be to ensure that all such applications are granted a term of no longer than 7 years. Staff are supportive of this decision but disappointed that it appears many basic environmental protections will be missing from these short-term consents. This includes basic residual flow considerations and adherence to minimum flows. Staff intend to submit on this point when submissions are called for the plan change, which is proposed to be notified in March.

Unfortunately, it will be difficult to ensure that applications lodged prior to the notification date will be granted shorter term consents in line with the Minister's recommendations. Staff are aware of a number of applicants who are attempting to 'run the gauntlet' by submitting applications early in an attempt to secure a 35-year consent. Submissions for the first one of these applications, a take on Shepherds Creek, were due in January 2020. It seems likely that

² The Council was briefed by Niall Watson on the Skelton Report and Minister's recommendations and associated implications at the last Council meeting.

the workload on staff to assess and respond to such applications will increase in the short term. If the March plan change goes ahead as planned, the long-term workload in this area should diminish, as the requirement to attain written approvals will likely be removed.

At that time, it is expected that staffs' focus will shift away from processing deemed permits and related plan changes and to participation in the development of a new Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP). ***This means that the forecast budget developed for Council in July is now essentially defunct.***

Proposed Plan Changes

The ORC has been directed to begin the development of a LWRP, intended to replace and modernise the current water policy framework. The ORC has plans to incrementally develop the LAWP between now and 2023, when it is expected to notify.

The proposed path forward can be separated into two distinct categories, which are been listed below (to the best of staff's knowledge).

- 1) Making changes to the current Regional Plan: Water for Otago
 - a. Deemed Permits Plan Change: to provide an interim consenting framework for expiring water permits. The plan change is to allow for the processing of short-term consents at relatively low cost, while a new planning framework to appropriately provide for flows and allocation is developed.
 - b. Plan Change 6AA: to extend the 1 April 2020 deadline for achieving the contaminant thresholds and nitrogen leaching limits in the Regional Plan: Water.
 - c. Omnibus Plan Change: changes and additions to the Regional Plan: Water to strengthen the plan's provisions for managing water quality and contaminant discharges.
- 2) Reviewing the water plan, to develop and notify the LWRP: development of a new Regional Policy Statement and LWRP. The latter will likely consist of overarching regional objectives and policies, with individual chapters for each Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) or Rohe.

The following graphic, outlining proposed timeframes for the path forward, is adapted from the agenda of the ORC's extraordinary meeting on the 27th of November 2019, with highlighted fields representing changes relayed to Fish and Game staff since that time.

**Preparation of Fit for Purpose Planning Regime for Otago
Overall Timeline**

**Plan Changes to Regional Plan: Water
for Otago**

PC6AA

- December 2019: Hearing
- February: Decision

Deemed Permits Plan Change

- March 2020: Notify
- March-April: Submission period
- August: Hearings
- October: Release of decisions

Omnibus Plan Change

- March 2020: Notify
- November: Release of decisions

Water Plan Review

Regional Policy Statement

- November 2020: Notify
- January 2023: Operative

LWRP

- December 2023: Notify
- December 2025: Operative

**Draft FMU Development Plan (FMU/Rohe: Start
month, end month)**

- Taieri: June 2020, March 2021
- Catlins: June 2020, March 2021
- North Otago: April 2021, February 2022
- Dunedin Coast: April 2021, February 2022
- Clutha
 - o Upper Lakes Rohe: March 2022, April 2023
 - o Roxburgh Rohe: March 2022, April 2023
 - o Lower Clutha Rohe: March 2022, April 2023
 - o Manuherekia Rohe: February 2019, December 2020
 - o Dunstan Rohe (Arrow and Cardrona only): February 2019, June 2020
 - o Dunstan Rohe (remainder): March 2022, April 2023
 - o Mainstem: March 2022, April 2023

Minimum and Residual Flow Setting (1212)

In the Manuherehia, both the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Manuherehia Reference Group (MRG) are in full swing, with meetings occurring regularly. The ORC has reported that the CHES model has been largely completed by NIWA and the water users' model (Goldsim) will also be used with any limitation to either model having to be described and agreed by the TAG. The flow scenarios are being developed and are proposed to be put to the MRG for discussion. The process timeframes look to be slipping.

The Manuherehia invertebrate drift study, which the Council is co funding, is fully underway now following a weather delay.

Lindis Minimum Flow Plan Change

The matter has been Appealed to the High Court. An update will be given in the Public Excluded section of the meeting.

Reserves Management (1221)

Planting and plant maintenance continues at Bullock Creek alongside Friends of Bullock Creek and their contractor. The planted area is developing nicely.

10.3 USER PARTICIPATION

Access (1311)

An updated access map to Upper Clutha angling spots is in draft form and should soon be printed and/or available online. Access points have all been inspected, and in some cases new agreements reached with landowners about access alignment and signage.

The upgrade of the boatramp and expanded carparking at Lake Mahinerangi is now complete with the exception of planting. The boat launching area at the Edgar Stark bridge is the remaining public ramp on the lake with the recent closure of the area around the dam wall because of ongoing vandalism and fire threats.

Signage (1312)

Staff have completed new signage for Lake Mahinerangi as part of the boat ramp upgrade.

Back Country Fisheries Management (1321)

A number of surveys of back country fisheries have been completed during the reporting period including the Dingle, Greenstone and Nevis. The Nevis has been getting a lot of use and some good data is being gathered to inform future management.

Work on Pressure Sensitive Fishery Management has stalled at the New Zealand Council office due to other workloads. Its unlikely that any new measures will be able to be introduced for the 2020/21 season at the current rate of progress.

Magazine Supplements and Newsletters (1331)

The gamebird magazine articles have been recently completed and are with the production crew.

The Councils Facebook page has over 1200 followers now and is growing at a steady pace. It is proving a good platform for information distribution and event promotion.

Reel Life/Both Barrels (1343)

Monthly contributions to online newsletters are continuing.

User training (1350)

Two boat fishing clinics were organised, one in Wanaka and another in Glenorchy. The turnout to both was rather low so staff will review the programme to see if more can be done to increase participation or drop the events.

More successful was the soft bait clinic at the Manuherekia River where 90 people turned up for soft bait tips and demonstrations from experts. The feedback on the event was very favourable.

TAKF events (1352)

The rescheduled take a kid fishing event at Southern Reservoir went well and some very good fishing was had by anglers at that site well into the holiday period.

10.4 PUBLIC INTERFACE

Liaison (1411)

The CE and Councilors have attended a number of engagements recently including;

- CE, Niall, and Nigel met with ORC Chairwoman Marion Hobbs
- Cr Grubb, Barlow and the CE met with QLDC staff over Bullock Creek matters
- CE has met with the Chair of the Upper Taieri Water Users Group
- Councillors and staff had meetings with Friends of Bullock Creek members

Media (1431)

A media release was written and distributed on the ORC proposed plan change to deal with Mining Right renewals and Niall Watson had a good opinion piece published in the ODT on water rights.

NZC Advocacy

The NZC has provided the Council with its draft Communications strategy for consideration.

National Campaigns (1441)

Staff have made preparations for a World Wetlands Day event based on a public walking tour at Takitakitoa Wetland. The event will be held on the 2nd February. An update on how it went will be provided to the meeting.

10.5 COMPLIANCE

Ranging (1530)

There has been a considerable amount of compliance work completed over the summer break by both volunteers Rangers and staff. For the most part anglers have been well behaved but the usual range of offences have been detected including unlicensed angling and fishing with two rods.

Prosecutions (1531)

Since the start of the season 25 offenders have been apprehended and 15 of those have completed Court assisted diversion and made penalty payments to the Councils Habitat and Research Fund. Three warnings have been issued and a further seven offenders are currently being processed for their offences detected over the holiday period. There are no cases at this point which have proceeded to a full court hearing.

The new court diversion process is working very well. It has streamlined the handling of cases meaning that fast moving unlicensed tourist anglers are no longer able to avoid prosecution.

10.6 LICENCING

Licensing System (1611)

Renewing of the contract for the licence service provider is near complete with a final proposal due to come before Council for signoff at the March meeting.

Guides Licence

The guides licence proposal is back with DOC currently after Jack Kos at NZC completed edits on the document. The focus of the edit was to iron out some inconsistencies and link the problems identified (i.e. Pressure Sensitive Fisheries, compliance etc) with the solution – a guide's licence.

Next step is by NZC staff is to meet DOC Taupo to get their perspective on it. Currently they do not see the need/value out of a guide's licence, so that is one of the primary areas requiring resolution. Further discussions are also being held with other Government departments that
Otago Fish & Game Council Meeting 8th February 2020

will receive added regulatory compliance from this – i.e. IRD etc. From there it's a case of finalising the proposal and putting it through the cabinet process. While its looking positive, its unlikely to be implemented this season because it will need a generous lead in period.

10.7 COUNCIL

Council (1720)

See separate report on property in the public excluded agenda.

Meeting schedule – Just a reminder about the meetings proposed to be away from our regular venues this year;

- 26th March – Tapanui 10am start. Tour with Pomahaka Water Care Group,
- 28th May – Dunedin – Early start for those that want to see Takitakitoa wetland first-hand.
- 24th Sept 2020 – 10am Macraes Flat – 10am start with tour of hatchery and egg stripping demonstration
- 26th November – AGM Roxburgh - followed by Council dinner.

10.8 PLANNING AND REPORTING

Annual planning (1820)

A briefing document has been prepared and Bruce Robertson, an independent facilitator, will be present at the planning meeting to help the Council consolidate its ideas and generate priorities for the next annual workplan. Background information related to the planning meeting will be drip fed out to Councilors over this coming week.

Annual Reporting (1831)

We received the Audit Completion Report from BDO and this has been circulated to Councillors. Apart from one matter where the income in advance was incorrectly calculated (and later fixed) it is a clean report.

The 2018/19 Annual report has now been circulated to the Ministers office as required.

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
30 January 2020

11.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

11.1 CFT

11.2 NZC

11.3 Salmon Committee

11.4 Ngai Tahu

11.5 Conservation Board

12.0 Correspondence

12.1 NZC to Otago

12.1.1 Release of Surplus Salmon Stock from Commercial Hatcheries

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
Otago Fish & Game
Dunedin 9016

11th December 2019

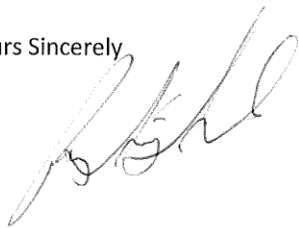
Re: Release of surplus salmon stock from commercial hatcheries

Dear Ian,

The National Sea Run Salmon Committee is concerned about the release of surplus commercial salmon stock into the wild. While there is uncertainty as to the degree that this practice still occurs we think it is important to inform the commercial hatcheries that it is no longer acceptable. The exception to this would be if specifically approved by Fish & Game in certain localities.

We believe that commercial hatcheries have previously been told that the release of surplus stock was advantageous to the wild fishery and therefore would recommend a soft approach. We recommend that staff visit the remaining commercial hatcheries in their regions in person to deliver this message and a letter confirming disapproval of the practice.

Yours Sincerely



Roy Knight
Chairman
National Sea Run Salmon Committee

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

New Zealand Council

12.1.2 Licence Sales System for NZ Fish and Game

6 December 2019

Dear Chairs,

I am writing on behalf of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council to let you know of two resolutions made by the New Zealand Council at its recent November meeting.

Regarding the licence sales system decision, the New Zealand Council resolved:

1. *Agree to adopt option one (Eyede with their own support staff) as the outcome of the licence sales system RFP*
2. *Agree to approach the negotiations with one contract time period for the licence sales system and one for the business support functions*
3. *Agree to delegate the management of re-signing the contract with Eyede to the Licence Sub-Committee supported by NZ Council staff*
4. *Agree to delegate coordinating the process for gaining regional signatures on the Eyede contract to the licence subcommittee supported by NZ Council staff*
5. *Agree to take this agreement out of Public Excluded into the public minutes.*

The New Zealand Council also resolved to send a draft NZ Council Communications Strategy for regional feedback in your Council's public excluded session. I have enclosed a copy of the draft NZ Council Communications Strategy. The NZ Council have requested feedback by 2 April 2020.

It is important to note that the draft key messages are just draft. They were developed by regional Fish and Game staff during consultation earlier in the year.

The New Zealand Council have asked Mike Jaspers to present to Managers at the February meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Taylor
Chief Executive

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

New Zealand Council

Level 2, The Dominion Building, 78 Victoria Street, Wellington 6011. P.O. Box 25-055, Wellington 6146, New Zealand.
Telephone (04) 499 4767 Email nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz www.fishandgame.org.nz

12.2 Otago to NZC

Nil

12.3 General Correspondence In

12.3.1 Letter from ORC on Our Plan Change Submission



From the Office of the Chairperson

Our Ref: A1314639

14 January 2020

Niall Watson

Email: nwatson@fishandgame.org.nz

Dear Niall,

Although I am meeting you later this morning, I was really grateful for your clear submission. You were a lovely balance to many of the other submissions, and you have shown that you understand what we are trying to do.

As a Council we have asked for more time to consider options in the Plan Change. Following the public forum, staff will meet with a group of invited stakeholders to further test ideas. We will have an additional Council meeting on 22 January 2020, where Councillors will consider options in the Plan. For legal reasons this paper will be considered in public excluded. We will then meet again on 11 March 2020 as a Council to consider the Plan, also in public excluded for legal reasons. In our letter of 16 December 2019, we made a commitment to Minister Parker to notify a plan change by 31 March 2020. You will have the opportunity to put in a submission once the Plan has been notified.

I want to emphasise that the Water Permits Plan Change is an interim solution to the issue of water permits expiring in October 2021 recommended by Minister Parker. This plan change shouldn't detract from the bigger picture work plan, including the Land and Water Regional Plan and the Regional Policy Statement. There is good progress being made in the Arrow, Cardrona and Manuherikia catchments and this will continue. The Taieri and Catlins catchments will be the next cabs off the rank.

Yours sincerely

Marian L. Hobbs.

Cr Marian L Hobbs
Chairperson

*P.S. I really did appreciate our meeting yesterday.
M.*



12.4 General Correspondence Out

12.4.1 Reducing Licence Fee Increases

10 December 2019

Mr Graeme Watson
Chairman
Southland Fish and Game Council
PO Box 159
INVERCARGILL

Dear Graeme

Re: Reducing Licence Fee Increases

Your letter of 26th September 2019 was discussed at our last full Council meeting.

Thank you for raising this. There is pressure on budgets around the country with sales revenue decreasing in a number of regions, particularly in the North Island, and we should remain conscious of licences being priced beyond the reach of the average angler and hunter and we should be prudent with our expenditure of licence sales revenue.

In saying that, the Council disagreed that it should reduce its budget by 1% (or in Otagos case ~\$10,000) for a number of reasons:

- Because of the current budget setup, that 1% reduction will most likely have to be found out of external operating funds. That is a small proportion of the budget and could directly impact on field activities such as aerial flights or compliance activity.
- Otago Council would much sooner utilise that 1% to drive R3 initiatives that could deliver gains in participation and safeguard revenue for the longer term.
- A 1% reduction in budgets would save less than one dollar on the licence fee. That is an inconsequential change.
- Holding the licence fee flat doesn't maintain pace with inflation so spending power is reduced over time.
- Holding the licence fee flat on an annual basis simply means pushing forward an inevitable price rise to catch up. Research (Southwick and Associates) from the US has shown that approach to have a negative impact on long term participation.
- Otago is in a very large battle to protect and improve flows in Central Otago streams as historic mining water rights transition to consents. A heavy staff workload is expected. Our Council is likely to require a substantial increase in its operational budget to achieve the best and most enduring outcome for those waterways and that runs counter to this request.

In taking that position, the Council offered alternative options for achieving a similar outcome:

- The staffing and breadth of activity now undertaken by NZC have greatly inflated in recent years and it now has one of the biggest operational budgets, with little income. This Council is hopeful that the strategic financial review will reveal areas to make savings at our national

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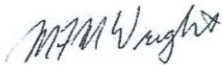
office, bring their role back in line with their statutory function, and that the new business development manager recently hired can quickly find alternative sources of revenue.

- Otago have been very successful in leveraging revenue from external sources to fund core F&G activity. The hatchery in partnership with OceanaGold at Macraes, Contact energy mitigation work, sponsorship of TAKF events and wetland plantings being examples. We continue to explore options and other regions should too.

We also note that the National Strategic Financial Review is underway so it would be premature to act in the way requested until the outcomes of that process are known.

Thank you

Yours sincerely



Monty Wright

Chairman, Otago Fish & Game Council

12.4.2 Game Season, Bag Limits and Season Length

11 December 2019

NEW ZEALAND

Mr Graeme Watson
Chairman
Southland Fish and Game Council
PO Box 159
INVERCARGILL

Dear Graeme

Re: Game Season

Your letter of 19th November 2019 on aligning bag limits was discussed at our last full Council meeting.

Our Sports fish & Game Management Plan contains a provision to consult our neighbouring Regions on regulation changes, and also to seek consistency and simplicity where possible. So thank you for prompting that discussion.

Season length for dabbling duck (mallard/grey and NZ shoveler)

The Council agreed to recommend a reduced season length (by two weeks) to align with Southland. While there was no absolute biological reason for that, the Council agreed with your commentary around hunter perceptions of shooting or disturbing birds preparing for nesting. Our own hunter survey results indicate that this measure is supported by 40-50% of the hunters surveyed. We accept that your results were higher.

Daily bag limits for mallards

The council agreed to retain the current bag limit of 25 mallards per day rather than reducing it to 20 per day. There was no biological reason for the change and we have noted relatively stable populations and harvest over the last decade. It was also thought that a reduction in potential harvest as a result of that change may invite criticism by some members of the community who are concerned about the relationship between wildfowl and water quality.

Review

The Council has asked that staff review the outcomes of both decisions before next year's regulation setting. This will put the Council in a better position to reconsider these change requests in future.

The only other significant change agreed was to extend the March junior hunter weekend for Paradise shelduck to 9 days (to encapsulate two weekends and the week between) to provide for increased hunting opportunity and to target birds preying on crops or new grass.

Thank you

Yours sincerely



Monty Wright
Chairman, Otago Fish & Game Council

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

Otago Fish and Game Council

13.0 Items to be Received or Noted

13.1 Report to Council on Consenting Workload 20 Nov 2019 – 28 Jan 2020

Further update of select consents

Lake Onslow: there have been no updates of significance since this was last reported.

Long Gully: there have been no updates of significance since this was last reported.

Luggate Catchment Deemed Permits: on 26 November 2019 a decision was handed down on this application. The decision is broadly in line with several main points from Fish and Game's submissions, with the major exception being a consent duration of 24 years. Immediately prior to the hearing, the applicant amended the application to drastically reduce the primary allocation, moving towards the supplementary take for their reliability of supply. As a result, the catchment's primary allocation is dramatically reduced and close to that listed in Schedule 2A of the Regional Plan: Water for Otago.

Queenstown Lakes District Council Wastewater Network consent: on 20 December 2019 a decision was handed down to refuse this application. The decision cited a range of reasons, including: a lack of information on the proposal and potential effects; little support from objectives and policies of the relevant planning documents; and that granting the application would not achieve the purpose and principles of the Resource Management Act (1991).

Subdivision on the Luggate-Cromwell Highway: there have been no updates of significance since this was last reported.

GlenAyr: The Council was limited notified on an application to abstract from Shepherds Creek for both the existing primary allocation and a new supplementary allocation. Staff submitted in opposition and requested a shorter term, higher supplementary minimum flow and the installation of a fish screen. Staff did not request to speak at a hearing.

Written approval provided during the period

Consents submitted to the ORC

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
Matarae Station	To abstract water from the Sutton Stream	Written approval was provided, as the water take broadly fit within the advice provided from the Council on deemed permits. With this permit, the total catchment allocation for the Sutton would be 10%-20% of MALF and the application was consistent the text objectives. The application was for a 35 year term.

Consents submitted to the Queenstown Lakes District Council

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
Geoff Hunt	To install a mooring within the Frankton Arm	Written approval was provided.
Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research	Place temporary monitoring buoys in various lakes around the Queenstown Lakes District.	Written approval was provided.

No written approvals were provided during the period for consents from the following bodies:

- Central Otago District Council
- Dunedin City Council
- Clutha District Council
- Waitaki District Council

Recommendation: that this report be received.

**Nigel Paragreen
Environmental Officer
29 January 2020**

13.2 Aerial Trend Counts January 2020

Abstract

Waterfowl counts are conducted on a selection of molting sites every January. These counts do not provide a census. They are aimed to reflect population trends over time. Total Paradise duck numbers have been moderately high (when compared to historic data) over the last three seasons and there will be an extension of the March junior hunter paradise duck season. This regulation adjustment had prior approval from Council in November. Black swan and Canada goose numbers were similar to last summer's counts.

Methods

Approximately 90 waterfowl molting sites were investigated on 27 January 2020. Flights were made in a fixed-wing light aircraft. Molting sites were circled at low level and the numbers of each species (paradise shelduck, black swan and Canada geese) estimated. Photographs are also taken, and these are counted to validate counts and increase accuracy. Some sites are counted from the ground where practical.

Results

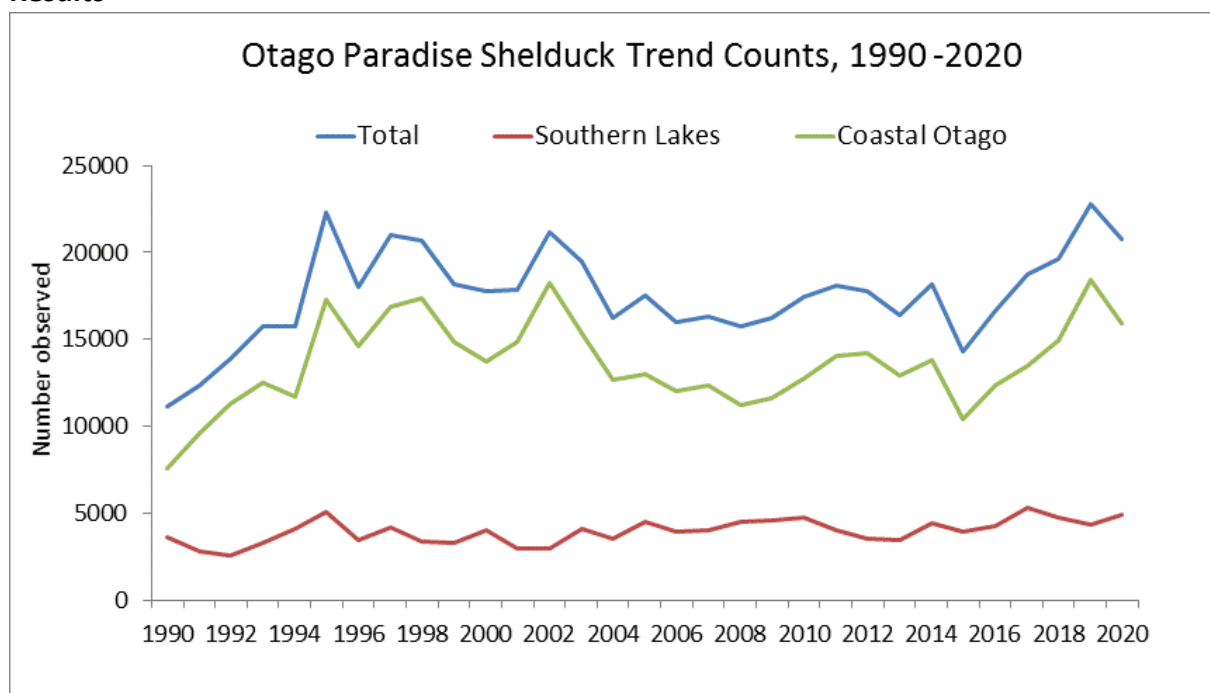


Figure 1: January aerial trend counts of paradise shelduck in the Otago Region, 1990 - 2020

The total number of paradise ducks counted in 2020 (20757) was similar to 2019 (22,786) and 2018 (19,636). The highest counts were on Patersons storage Dam in the Ida Valley (1910) and Lake Tuakitoto (1730) followed by a new site Carbridge Downs (1050) near Hawea.

Table 1: Otago region paradise duck summer trend counts: raw data 2018 - 2020 (nc = not counted).

	Area	2020	2019	2018
Kaikorai Estuary	E C	195	185	250
Tomahawk Lagoon	E C	300	240	567
Hoopers Inlet	EC	18	nc	nc
Papanui Inlet	EC	0	nc	nc
Waikouaiti Estuary	E C	0	20	0
Waikouaiti Sewage	E C	920	1265	1170
Hawksbury Lagoon	E C	nc	6	0
Macraes Flat Ponds	ST	425	468	435
Two Johns Dam	ST	675	655	590
Peat Bog	ST	0	0	0
Billy's Flat	ST	28	211	204
Stewarts Dam	ST	0	12	0
Shinglea Road Dams	ST	50	620	40
Hunterleigh East Dams	ST	13	nc	0
Sutton Pond	ST	nc	31	0
Middlemarch Sewage	ST	nc	nc	nc
Kidds Rd (Bruhnes)	ST	nc	1580	235
Salt Lake	ST	0	nc	0
Andersons Pond (Deep Stream Sth)	ST	nc	nc	750
Springfield Dams	ST	nc	nc	510
Rocklands Road Ponds	ST	687	880	20
Dunstan Rd Rocklands	ST	45	550	660
Loaganburn Dam	M	104	82	0
Styx Basin	M	2169	1300	700
Linburn Dissipation	M	0	0	0
Linnburn Dam	M	0	65	180
Falconers Dam	M	12	549	2
Totara Creek Confluence	M	0	65	0
Maniototo Taieri River	M	535	0	0
Duffys Lane	M	0	0	0
Pateoroa/Creamery Rd Pond	M	255	nc	265
Mathias Dam	M	15	0	10
Taieri Lake	M	545	320	295
Rutherfords Dam	M	145	0	0
Ranfurly Sewage	M	nc	0	nc

Blakleys Dam	M	0	0	0
Smiths Dam Wedderburn	M	17	330	190
White Sow Rd Ponds	M	110	30	nc
Gillespies Ida Ponds	I	230	190	320
McSkimmings Dam	I	11	0	0
Falls Dam	MK	66	400	346
Pennyweight Ponds	MK	124	160	0
Poplar Pump Ponds	MK	292	200	50
Satinburn	MK	725	700	
Merton Hill	MK	245	30	450
McBreens, Patersons	I	1910	2500	2700
Speargrass Dam	I	135	294	nc
Upper Manorburn Dam	I	290	195	500
Poolburn Dam	I	76	40	50
Lake Onslow	MK	0	2	300
Raes Pond Teviot	MK	4	155	12
Chitocks Moa Flat	WO	380	470	275
Toropuke Kelso	WO	55	44	70
Upper Waiwera Pond	SO	281	98	40
Mathersons Dam Waipahi	SO	465	325	345
Dunvagan Dam Waipahi	SO	470	570	250
Upper Owaka	SO	0	0	15
Catlins Lake	SO	250	600	531
Puerua Estuary	SO	54	82	12
Old River Channel	SO	75	30	nc
Lake Tuakitoto	SO	1730	800	900
Lake Waihola	E C	240	750	150
Sinclair Wetland	E C	195	145	80
Lake Waipori	E C	307	180	450
McLarens-Waipori	E C	0	0	0
Ram Island-Waipori	EC	0	0	0
Mt Nicholas Lagoon	Q	305	290	375
Von Lake	Q	nc	nc	nc
Pondburn	Q	nc	nc	nc
Lower Dart	Q	6	4	6
Routeburn Station	Q	nc	nc	nc
Lake Sylvan	Q	15	85	132
Upper Dart	Q	10	8	4
Diamond Lake	Q	375	506	305
Reids Lake	Q	25	14	6
Lower Rees	Q	18	0	0

Glenorchy Lagoons	Q	32	32	145
Lake Luna	Q	nc	nc	nc
Moke Lake	Q	19	199	223
Lake Dispute	Q	nc	nc	nc
Lake Johnson	Q	0	7	1
Hunter Road Pond	Q	8	0	6
Mooneys Pond	Q	165	55	87
QT Sewage	Q	567	648	692
Ham Hons Pond	Q	0	25	nc
Dingle Lagoon	UC	17	152	82
Hunter Valley	UC	8	12	14
Hunter Mouth	UC	135	145	345
Makaroroa Mouth	UC	545	360	430
Wilken Ponds	UC	nc	nc	nc
Minaret Station	UC	95	182	265
Matukituki Valley	UC	183	388	535
Luggate Airport (was STP)	UC	465	0	43
Big Boggy Lagoon	UC	310	445	386
Carbridge Downs	UC	1050	nc	nc
Lake Dunstan area	UC	531	805	635
Total Region		20757	22786	19636
Total East Coast		2175	2791	2667
Total Strath Taieri		1923	5007	3444
Total Ida & Manuherikia		4108	4866	4728
Total West Otago		435	514	345
Total South Otago		3325	2505	2093
Total Queenstown		1545	1873	1982
Total Upper Clutha		3339	2489	2735
Total Maniototo		3907	2741	1642

Black Swan

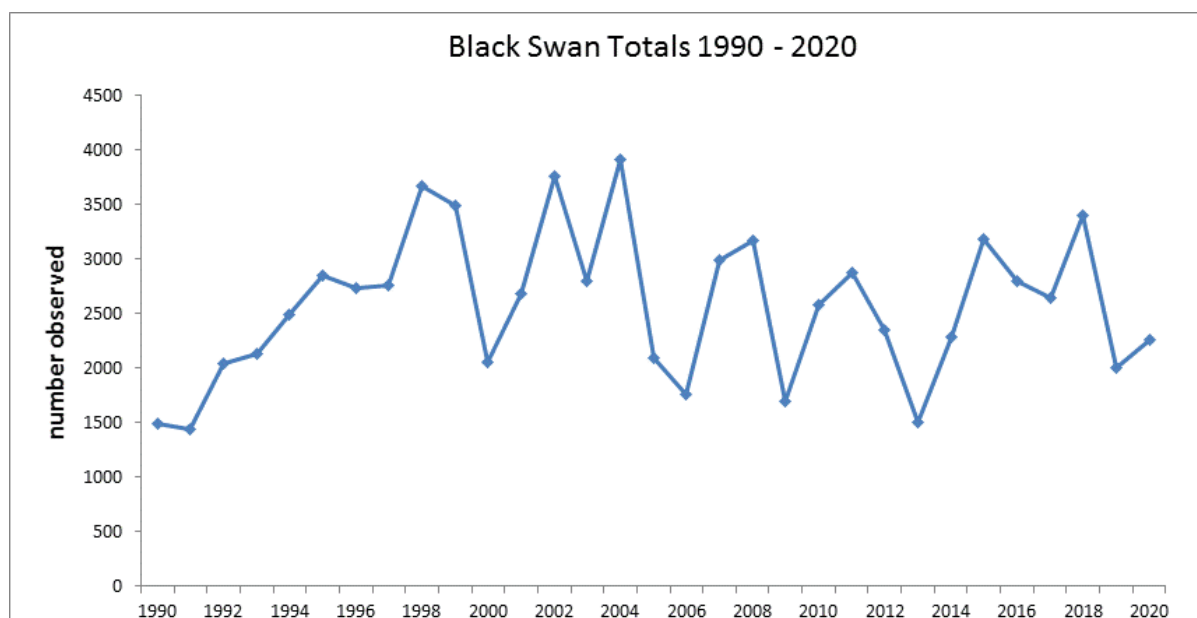


Figure 2: January aerial trend counts of black swans in the Otago region, 1990-2020

The total number of black swans counted in 2020 was 2266 and in 2019 it was 2002.

Table 2: Otago region black swan summer trend counts: raw data 2018-2020

Site	Area	2020	2019	2018
Kaikorai Estuary	E C	26	6	0
Tomahawk	EC	9	122	0
Waikouaiti	EC	6	11	30
Hawkesbury Lagoon	E C	nc	12	1
Loganburn Dam	M	7	8	0
Styx Basin	M	240	60	16
Linnburn Dam	M	0	0	0
Falconers	M	0	0	0
Maniototo	M	12	30	0
Kidds Rd	M	0	2	0
Mathias Dam	M	0	0	3
Taieri Lake	M	6	27	2
Rutherfords Dam	M	0	0	0
Falconers Dam	M	0	0	0
Blakleys Dam	M	0	0	0
Lake Onslow	M	24	0	0
Falls Dam	I	0	0	0
Gillespes Ida	I	0	31	0
McBreens Pond	I	31	0	20

Upper Manorburn	I	0	0	12
Poolburn Dam	I	7	0	0
Mathersons Dam (Waipahi)	SO	0	0	0
Catlins Estuary	SO	52	0	2
Puerua Estuary	SO	30	20	2
Lower Clutha Mouth	SO	38	0	nc
Clutha Ponding	SO	nc	nc	nc
Lake Tuakitoto	SO	350	15	210
Old River Channel	SO	45	255	25
Tokomairoro Estuary	SO	nc	nc	nc
Lake Waihola	EC	900	760	2800
Lake Waipori	EC	250	250	17
Sinclair Wetland	EC	25	6	20
Ram's Island Waipori	EC	0	0	0
Makarora Mouth	UC	8	14	0
Big Boggy	UC	8	12	0
Paddock Bay	UC	6	14	0
West Wanaka Lagoons	UC	12	16	12
Dingle Lagoon	UC	5	8	0
Hunter Mouth	UC	6	101	32
Lake Dunstan	UC	105	142	97
Mt Nicholas	Q	0	17	17
Diamond Lake	Q	0	nc	24
Reid Lake	Q	0	36	45
Glenorchy Lagoon	Q	57	24	17
Lake Johnson	Q	1	3	0
Totals Otago		2266	2002	3404
East coast		1216	1167	2868
Maniototo		265	127	21
Ida Valley & Manuherikia		62	31	32
South Otago		515	290	239
Upper Clutha		150	307	141
Queenstown/ Glenorchy		58	80	103

Canada Geese

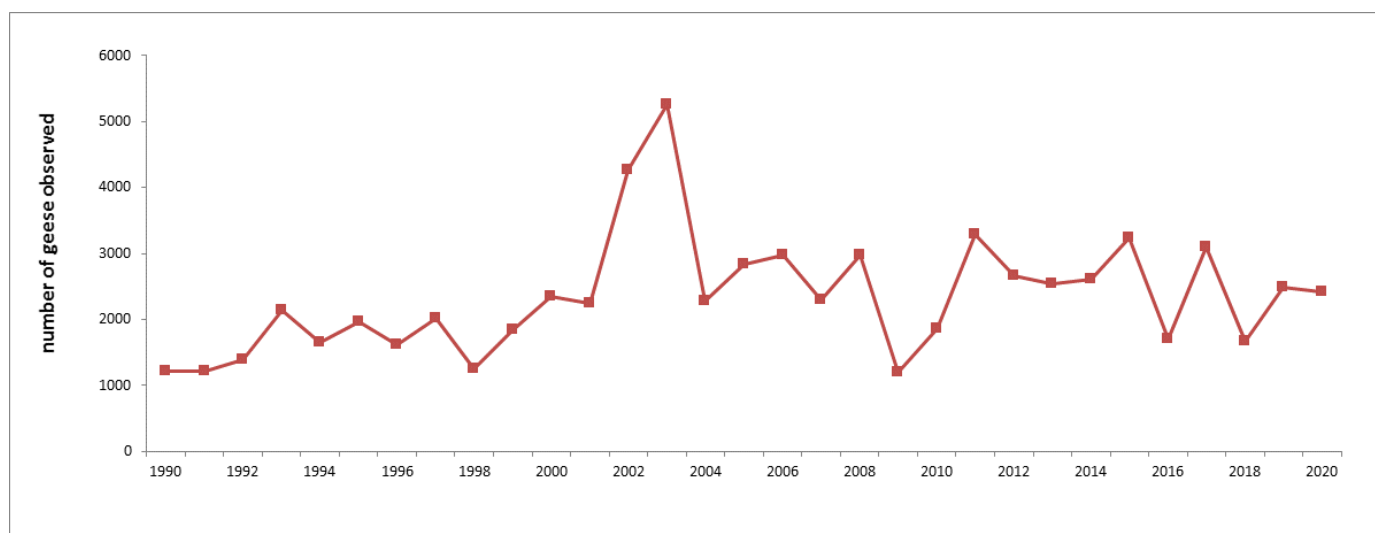


Figure 3: January aerial trend counts of Canada geese in the Otago Region, 1990-2020

This summer's Canada goose count of 2423 birds was similar to last years count of 2484 birds.

Table 3: Otago region Canada goose summer trend counts: raw data 2018-2020

	Area	2020	2019	2018
Shag Estuary	EC	nc	nc	nc
Two Johns Dam	M	0	0	0
Loganburn Dam	M	285	450	0
Styx Basin	M	300	30	210
Linnburn Dam	M	0	50	0
Maniototo Basin/Taieri Lake	M	55	15	50
Rutherfords Dam	M	0	0	0
Blaiklies Dam	M	0	0	0
Lake Onslow	I	1050	750	450
Gillespies Ida Ponds/Patersons	I	0	21	70
McSkimmings Dam	I	0	0	20
Falls Dam	I	45	60	0
Speargrass Dam	I	24	25	nc
Upper Manorburn Dam	I	160	57	300
Poolburn Dam	I	80	120	10
Lake Waiholā	EC	150	0	105
Hawkesbury Lagoon	EC	nc	0	0
Dunvagan Dam	SO	4	0	0

Lower Clutha	SO	48	0	15
Lake Tuakitoto	SO	0	210	35
Dingle Lagoon	UC	0	52	0
Dingle Mouth	UC	0	0	0
Hunter Mouth	UC	55	60	0
Hunter Valley	UC	12	52	240
Hawea Neck	UC	nc	nc	0
Makarora Mouth Area	UC	0	28	25
Wilken	UC	nc	nc	0
Paddock Bay Wanaka	UC	14	0	0
Matukituki Valley	UC	0	310	0
Big Boogey	UC	25	48	55
Mt Nicholas Lagoon	Q	0	8	0
Von Lake	Q	nc	nc	0
Pondburn	Q	nc	nc	0
Lower Dart	Q	0	0	0
Route Burn Station	Q	0	0	0
Lake Sylvan	Q	0	0	12
Rockburn	Q	0	0	0
Upper Dart	Q	0	nc	0
Diamond Lake	Q	0	85	65
Reid Lake	Q	0	0	0
Lower Rees	Q	0	0	0
Glenorchy Swamp	Q	18	0	0
Lake Wakatipu (general)	Q	0	0	0
Wyuna Pond	Q	nc	nc	nc
Lakes Hayes area ponds	Q	98	53	
Caples	Q	nc	nc	nc
Total Region		2423	2484	1662
Total Queenstown Area	Q	116	146	77
Total Upper Clutha	UC	106	550	320
Total Maniototo	M	640	545	260
Total Ida & Manuherikia	I	1359	1033	850
Total South & East Coast	SO EC	202	210	155

	Area	2019	2018	2017	2016
Shag Estuary	EC	nc	nc	nc	0
Two Johns Dam	M	0	0	0	0
Loganburn Dam	M	450	0	550	450
Styx Basin	M	30	210	450	250
Linnburn Dam	M	50	0	0	0

Maniototo Basin/Taieri Lake	M	15	50	220	40
Rutherfords Dam	M	0	0	0	0
Blaiklies Dam	M	0	0	0	0
Lake Onslow	I	750	450	350	0
Gillespies Ida Ponds/Patersons	I	21	70	10	0
McSkimmings Dam	I	0	20	0	0
Falls Dam	I	60	0	60	40
Speargrass Dam	I	25	nc	75	40
Upper Manorburn Dam	I	57	300	0	0
Poolburn Dam	I	120	10	250	0
Lake Waihola	EC	0	105	100	170
Hawkesbury Lagoon	EC	0	0	12	25
Dunvagan Dam	SO	0	0	0	0
Lower Clutha	SO	0	15	100	0
Lake Tuakitoto	SO	210	35	80	270
Dingle Lagoon	UC	52	0	0	120
Dingle Mouth	UC	0	0	0	0
Hunter Mouth	UC	60	0	350	180
Hunter Valley	UC	52	240	0	0
Hawea Neck	UC	nc	0	0	0
Makarora Mouth Area	UC	28	25	202	45
Wilken	UC	nc	0	0	0
Paddock Bay Wanaka	UC	0	0	0	0
Matukituki Valley	UC	310	0	75	0
Big Boogey	UC	48	55	105	75
Mt Nicholas Lagoon	Q	8	0	75	0
Von Lake	Q	nc	0	nc	0
Pondburn	Q	nc	0	nc	0
Lower Dart	Q	0	0	0	0
Route Burn Station	Q	0	0	0	0
Lake Sylvan	Q	0	12	0	0
Rockburn	Q	0	0	0	0
Upper Dart	Q	nc	0	0	nc
Diamond Lake	Q	85	65	40	nc
Reid Lake	Q	0	0	0	nc
Lower Rees	Q	0	0	0	0
Glenorchy Swamp	Q	0	0	0	0
Lake Wakatipu (general)	Q	0	0	0	0
Wyuna Pond	Q	nc	nc	nc	0
Lakes Hayes area ponds	Q	53			
Caples	Q	nc	nc	nc	nc
Total Region		2484	1662	3104	1705

Total Queenstown Area	Q	146	77	115	nc
Total Upper Clutha	UC	550	320	732	420
Total Maniototo	M	545	260	1220	700
Total Ida & Manuherikia	I	1033	850	745	120
Total South & East Coast	SO EC	210	155	292	465

Discussion & Conclusions

Paradise duck

We have again experienced a relatively wet spring and early summer season in much of North and Central Otago. This would be expected to provide invertebrate production (which young waterfowl require for protein) and grass growth (adult paradise ducks are primarily grazers) and contribute to the numbers of birds counted in recent years.

Some moulting sites between Macraes and Loganburn could not be counted due to low lying fog. These sites normally hold around 1500 birds and this could be expected to account for a decrease of this many birds in this area.

A new moulting site at Corbridge Downs near Hawea has been added to replace the Lovelock Ponds which have been filled in.

Special March Paradise Duck Season

In November 2019 Council agreed to extending the junior paradise duck season from a single day in March to two consecutive weekends starting on the first Saturday in March and ending on the second Sunday, (inclusive of the weekdays between). This was to be subject to trend count results in January 2020. As the counts are similar to last season's total the special season will be extended this march. It is hoped this extension will encourage more junior hunting and alleviate farmer crop depredation issues where they occur.

During the march paradise duck season adult hunters must be accompanied by a junior hunter (to encourage adults to get young hunters out). And hunting is restricted to 200m or more from water. The daily bag limit is 5 paradise ducks a day.

Canada Geese

Geese are recorded when seen in order to maintain the database. There is no alteration of flight plans to increase coverage of moulting geese. The number observed was similar to last year's count.

Black swan

Swans were scattered throughout the Upper Taieri, Tuakitoto and Waipori/Waihola wetland complexes making it difficult to photograph and accurately count all the birds. This may have been due to the clam conditions on the day of the flight. Often, they congregated in sheltered

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bays and are relatively easy to photograph in a small number of frames. It is likely counts for this season are an underestimate of the actual birds present.

Count Methodology

The coastal and central Otago sites are covered in one day using a light plane over approximately 6 hours of flying. Although we refuel at Alexandra this approach does not leave much capacity (spare fuel) to improve coverage over larger wetlands when required or investigate new sites.

Staff have looked into conducting this flight by a helicopter which would be expected to provide a stable platform for counting and photographs but due to the distance covered it is considerably more expensive.

Next year staff intend to investigate using a drone to count some larger wetlands such as Tuakitoto and Waihola/Waipori complex as this would free up plane flight time.

Otago Hunter Harvest

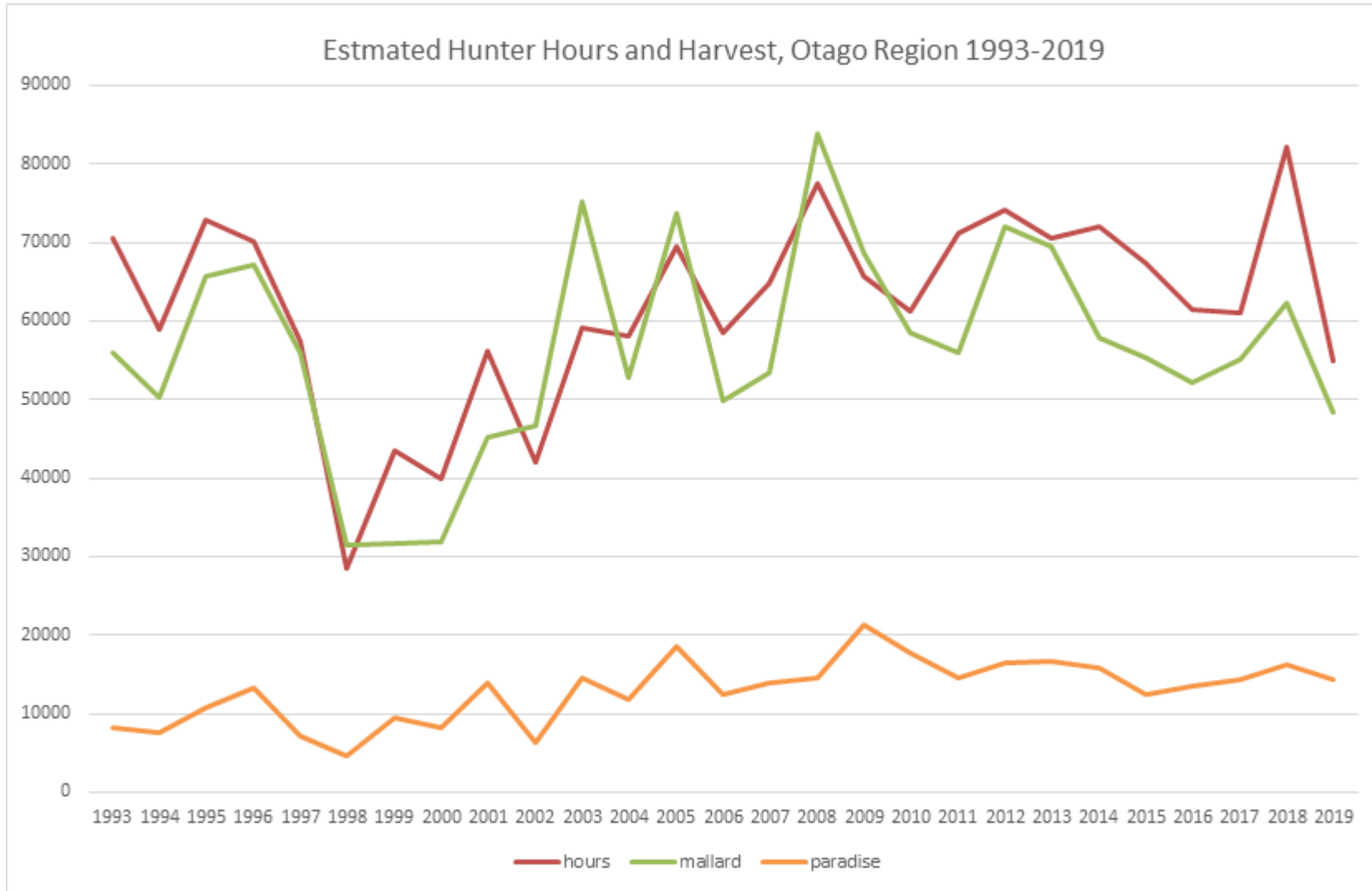
The total harvest estimate for paradise ducks have been fairly stable in recent years and is similar to historic data. Approximately 16 000 paradise ducks were harvested in 2018 and 14 000 in 2019. The national harvest survey database has recently been adjusted to better reflect total hunter effort within each region, so the results presented here differ from previous reports (appendix 1).

Recommendations

That this report is received

Morgan Trotter
Fish and Game Officer
31st January 2020

Appendix 1



14.0 General Business