



**FISH & GAME NZ, SOUTHLAND REGION
AGENDA
FOR THE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD
THURSDAY 10th OCTOBER 2019.**



Councillor Withington with a nice brown trout caught in the Makarewa River.

NOTICE OF MEETING:

The next meeting of the Southland Fish & Game Council will be held on **Thursday 10th October 2019** at the Fish & Game Office Boardroom, 17 Eye Street, Invercargill commencing at **6.00pm**.

A finger tea will be provided for Staff & Council at 5.15pm.

MEETING AGENDA:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies.
3. Councillor "Conflicts of Interest" – Register circulated at meeting for Councillors to declare & sign if any conflicts of interest with agenda items.
4. Health & Safety Report to 30th September 2019.
5. Minutes of the meeting held 15th August 2019.
6. Matters arising from the minutes.
7. Administration Reports: (Any items Councillors wish to discuss please contact the Manager prior to the meeting).
 - Accounts paid & Direct Credit/Debit payment list since last meeting.
 - Licence sales progress to 12 September 2019.
 - Regional Budgets vs Budget Licence Income. FYI
 - 2019 Financial Statements (subject to Audit for approval)
 - Correspondence list.
8. Staff Report.
9. Public Forum.
 - Phillip Joostens – proposed rafting proposal
 - Scott Slater – Western Southland drift boat proposal
 - Dave Witherow – re rafting proposal
 - Julian Peters – re rafting proposal
 - Alan Leitch – re rafting proposal
 - Don Wallace – re rafting proposal
 - Dougal Rillstone – re rafting proposal
 - David Linklater – re rafting proposal
 - John Dean – re rafting proposal
 - Dr Mike Turner – re rafting proposal
 - Terry Wilkins – re rafting proposal
 - Tom Jones – re rafting proposal
10. NZ Council issues:
 - NZC 2020 changed meeting dates – Southland meeting date changes? – see yearly calendar.
 - Gun Law Reform Round two.
 - Licence Sales Systems Options.

PTO

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Background

As part of its commitment to Health and Safety and providing a safe workplace the Southland Fish and Game Council requires a report at each meeting describing:

1. Implementation and adherence to the Health and Safety policy/manual – including H&S as agenda item for staff & ranger meetings.
2. Monitoring and Reporting – in accordance with the Health and Safety plan;
3. Risk Management (identification and treatment) – any new issues or hazards that have arisen and how these have been addressed.
4. Training programme – information sharing and training of staff and volunteers;
5. H&S incidents – near misses or injuries sustained, plus updates on past events;
6. Recommendations.

September 2019 update:

1. Implementation and adherence to the Health and Safety Plan

The Council Health and Safety Plan & Policy was approved at the Council meeting held 9th June 2016 and reviewed annually by staff. The 2019 annual review of our H&S processes & plan is now complete.

This year we have compared our H&S plan and processes with those of another Fish and Game region (Nelson Marlborough), to see if we can adopt anything they are doing to improve on any elements of our H&S processes.

Conducting this comparison has been valuable. We have been able to add/adapt elements of Nelson Marlborough's H&S processes to improve on our own H&S processes. For example, we have now produced a Health and Safety Performance Checklist to make sure we are covering everything we need to during H&S meetings. We have also produced a H&S review schedule which documents any changes/additions we make to any elements of our H&S processes. A newly developed H&S action register documents H&S actions which need to take place, who is responsible for the H&S action and when it is to be completed by.

The Health & Safety Policy sets out the commitment that the Council has towards the Health and Safety of all Fish and Game workers and visitors.

A copy of the Policy is displayed in the entrance way to the office for all workers and visitors to see. It was also displayed in the Te Anau Office. The Policy will be reviewed every three years, next review being August 2021.

The Health and Safety Plan which incorporates the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 has been circulated to Staff. The plan sets out the policies and procedures that will be implemented to ensure that our workers and visitors to our workplace are safe. The plan sets out the roles and responsibilities for Council, management and all workers at the workplace. The plan, also sets out an annual timetable to ensure that all Risk areas within the business are identified and annually audited.

Staff meetings include Health and Safety on the Agenda. Staff are given an opportunity to raise any issues and as a team we develop a procedure to minimise the risk. All staff are made aware immediately of any new hazards identified.

Staff training requirements pertaining to Health & Safety, is ongoing and reviewed annually.

3. Training programme

A staff training schedule was ongoing to ensure all hazards that required specific training were identified.

A defensive driving course for staff was being investigated.

A Power boat refresher course was scheduled for October 2019.

Staff kayak safety training would commence this season.

4. H&S incidents

Nil to report

5. Recommendations

Council receive and accept this Health & Safety report.

Unconfirmed Minutes of the Fish & Game NZ, Southland Region Council meeting held at the Southland Fish & Game Office, 17 Eye Street, Invercargill on Thursday 15th August 2019.

Present: Graeme Watson (Chair)
Chris Owen
Paul Stenning
Dave Harris
Mike Hartstonge
David MacGregor
Corey Carston
Lyndon Norman
Craig Horrell
Ken Cochrane
Cyril Gilroy (Te Runanga Ngai Tahu.)
Bevan McNaughton

In attendance:
Z Moss (Manager), C Stewart, E Garrick, (F&G Officers) J Smyth (Resource Management Officer), C Mason (Minutes).

Members of the Public:
Len Prentice
Gavin Roy

Welcome:

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6.00pm and welcomed those present.

The Chairman pointed out all exits from the building should an emergency occur.

The Chairman reported an addition to the agenda being that Len Prentice would be speaking to Council on item 10.4 under General Business.

Apologies:

Resolved Harris/McNaughton that apologies be received & accepted from Lindsay Withington & Bill Jarvie. Carried.

As he could not make the meeting Cr Withington's comments on items on the agenda were tabled & circulated at the meeting for Councillors information.

Conflicts of Interest with items on the agenda:

The individual member declaration of conflicts of interest with any item on the agenda had been circulated to members for signature before the start of the meeting.

Any conflicts were noted by the Chairman.

Health & Safety Report:

The Council health & safety report for the period 1st June 2019 – 31st July 2019 was attached to the agenda for consideration. The report showed a nil return for the period.

All known hazards were listed in the Southland Health & Safety Plan.

Resolved Watson/Harris that the Health & Safety Report to 31st July 2019 be received. Carried.

The Government were also soon to release a new National Policy Statement on Fresh Water which would also be influential on how Regional Councils handle these issues and that work hopefully would reduce the scope of the second part of our Appeal, as intensive wintering would be covered in the policies.

In reply to Cr Cochrane's query the Manager reported that as at 31st July 2019 the amount spent on the Hearings was \$91,780 and the budget was \$89,500 (\$84,000 approved by NZC from our reserves and \$5,500 approved from the operational budget) leaving an overrun of \$2,280.

It was frustrating for staff that the Topic A Hearings originally thought to be a week-long had evolved to three weeks plus, but that was out of our control.

New Zealand Council Issues:

Cr Owen reported on some key aspects of the NZC meeting held 9th & 10th August 2019 held in Wellington.

- An updated Contestable Fund & Reserves funding application forms for the 2020/2021 F&G Budget round was approved. This provided extra information so NZC could make a more informed decision.
- Three new sub-committees of NZC had been formed.
 - i. Licensing.
 - ii. Financial review.
 - iii. Remuneration.

The Licence sub-committee members were Chris Owen (Chair), Noel Birchall, Ian Hadland, Jay Graybill & Phil Teal.

The Financial Review Committee members were Paul Shortis, Daniel Isbister, Ray Grubb & Richard O'keefe.

The Remuneration Committee members were Colin Weatherall, Bill O'Leary, Phil Teal & Ken Cochrane.

- The current licence management provider's contract expired 31st August 2020. NZC had been looking at all options for licence management in the market and would make recommendations to regions in due course.
- Game Bird Habitat Trust Board. - Three persons were nominated for the GBHT Board by NZ Council. All current appointees were eligible for re-appointment. Current members were Mark Sutton, Ian Hogarth & Steve Scragg. NZ Council required nominations from regions by 1st November 2019.
- The Non-Resident Licence revenue currently stays within the regions and is transferred to a reserve to be spent on pressure sensitive fisheries. It was not part of the budget process. NZC would like to have this revenue as part of the budget process, as the amount held in reserves nationally was significant enough to have an impact on the licence fee /budgeting process. The issue had been referred to the finance review committee.
- Gun Law reforms phase 11 –The proposed changes to the gun laws were discussed. With more time allowed in this phase Regions would be consulted for their input and a national submission made in due course.
- A letter from the Conservation Minister, Hon Eugenie Sage, sent to the CE of Fish & Game had approved the 19/20 licence fee increase this year, but stated she was concerned at the continued incremental increases in licence fees every year for the past five years. She asked to be provided with a financial overview of what effect there would be with no increase next year to licence fees, what was the sustainability of retaining customers with constant increases & what was Fish & Games strategic approach to fee setting over the coming years.

10.4 Upper Mataura Access:

A report attached to the agenda had been received from Simon Wilkinson concerning access to the Upper Mataura. The upstream access referred to in the report was relatively short and had created conflict issues with anglers. Mr Wilkinson had suggested a resolution to the issue being an extension downstream of the upstream beat, which would still allow plenty of water for both beats. Len Prentice, who was very familiar with the area, gave the meeting a breakdown of the problems that were occurring there, particularly how local farmers were being affected by anglers cutting across their properties and the damage it had caused. Len believed a better solution was to completely remove the short 2nd access upstream (at the telephone exchange), did we really need it? The farmers land on the 2nd access beat had now been divided into lifestyle blocks. Len believed that once these blocks were sold the access would be shut down anyway, by removing it now it would solve a lot of the conflict issues for anglers and farmers.

As this was a Management issue Council agreed to leave it to the staff to solve the problem.

10.5 Fish & Game costs and licence fees – Dave Harris:

Dave Harris was a Councillor very concerned at the expected continual increase in licence fees over the next five years, as shown by the NZ Council, CEO, at the last meeting. This was unsustainable and was a serious concern as it resulted in declining licence sales nationally. Cr Harris's report on a possible solution to the licence fees increases was attached to the agenda.

We had to change what we did to make ends meet. He suggested that instead of a bottom up approach and increasing the licence fee every year to cover the budget costs, (like Councils do with rates) the licence fee should be set before starting the budget rounds so the budgets covered the sales, not the other way around. The cost of a full season adult fishing licence had increased by 43% in real terms over the last 25 years. Further to that he suggested that the 2020-2021 licence fee be reduced by \$1 requiring a 1% reduction in regional budgets to accommodate that. He quoted the relevant section from the Conservation Act 26q 1 (d) (ii).

"to develop and recommend to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council appropriate licence fees to recover costs and game bird habitat stamp fees";

Councillor Harris said it was the regions job to recommend to NZC the licence fee.

Nationally, there were 4 regions who could not generate enough income to cover their regions running costs. There were 4 regions who generated enough income to pay their costs but not enough to contribute to their fair share of national costs. Leaving only 4 regions who generated enough income to pay for themselves and contribute to national costs. Southland was one of those regions. Southland had also voted to hold the licence fee at the last round of budgets but was outvoted.

Discussion followed.

Cr Cochrane, while agreeing that we had to make ends meet nationally to be sustainable, said we may be a bit premature at this stage to make any changes. If the new NZC review sub-committees showed there were savings to be made within the organisation, it may solve some of the licence fee arguments.

Cr Harris said it was not too premature, as the 2020/2021 OWP discussions were starting to be held. Other regions also had to have time to consider a licence reduction cost.

The Manager noted that the OWP's were approved by the Regional Councils and the costs of achieving those Plans was the budget. Perhaps budgets should be capped to increase only by the CPI each year.

Cr Hartstonge said we should forget the CPI and look more at where the money was being spent e.g. legal fees.

Cr Owen mentioned huge savings could be made in the organisation e.g. licence management providers, which would have an impact on licence fees.

Councillors generally were in agreement that Participation & Public interface were very important.

Cr Cochrane said we needed to look at the historic statutory projects & review some of those, as there were areas, we could prune our budget on in his view.

Cr Stenning agreed with all comments so far but added that with the current public emphasis on winter grazing we needed to push forward our Habitat message as well. Wetland creation for sediment traps, riparian zones etc. We need to get our message out about offering positive solutions to water quality problems. The Manager reported that we were getting involved already. He had a meeting with Landcorp's Environmental Manager & Dr Clint Rissman tomorrow on these issues. They would be discussing run off structures & good management practices for intensive winter grazing. New science (lidar data) could become part of Farm Plan's in the future, so we would be involved & promoting our message as well.

Cr Harris said that the pressure sensitive fisheries management should also be a priority along with the R3 programme.

Cr Owen said Governance training should be a priority for every new Council. Cr Cochrane reported on the Nth Canterbury model on governance and agreed training was important. To have governance training was supported by the meeting.

10.7 Pressure sensitive fisheries.

A draft report on management mechanisms & potential implications on the Upper Oreti fishery compiled by Stu Hayes, postgrad student at Otago University, was attached to the agenda.

Cr Hartstonge said he had participated in the survey and found the questions to be very leading. Cr Cochrane who had also participated agreed. He was also concerned at the management fee option in the survey which may have influenced the result. He said nowhere did Council ever talk about a management fee. The Manager said that the questions were set by Professor Brent Lovelock, Otago University, a very qualified & respected academic on Tourism etc. The perception survey was to get as much information as possible so Council could make an informed decision on pressure sensitive fishery management.

10.8 3 year Angler Notice Review:

The Angler Notice was reviewed every three years with the next review to take effect for the 2020-2022 seasons. It was timely for Council to identify and start initial discussions on any changes they wished staff to prepare background information on. The Council would be keeping in mind the national focus on recruitment, reactivation & retention (R3) with the regulations.

To help with initial discussions Cohen Stewart had prepared a report for Council to consider. He had recommended a broad review in line with the concerns of the R3 Steve Doughty report which said that complicated regulations were a barrier to some anglers, particularly novice anglers. We had to make fishing easier not harder.

Cohen's report proposed four changes with reasoning behind each change.

1. All fishing methods permissible in all Southland water bodies
2. Season length in Lakes Fergus, Gunn & Hankinson changed from 1st Nov – 31st May to being open all year round.
3. All anglers fishing from boats must stay at least 100m from any anglers fishing from shore.
4. Proposed changes to the 1st Schedule.
 - molluscs to be included in the definition of bait
 - Spin fishing definition to include actively fishing with scented soft baits, so as to imitate a bait fish.

Council had no issue with the build of a Children's shelter or the site where it would be situated, as long as there was no cost to the Council.

Resolved Hartstonge /McNaughton that Council agreed with the shelter being built at the site in the Wildlife Park, shown on the map in the agenda, subject to it having no cost to the Fish & Game Council. Carried.

Waituna land buy back & land retirement:

In reply to Cr Carston's query on Waituna land buy back the Manager said that money had been received and he presumed that negotiations with landowners were continuing. If land was acquired hopefully Fish & Game would become involved in creating wetlands and habitat in the area.

There were no items mentioned for the next agenda.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Chairman _____ Date _____

**SOUTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL PAYMENT LIST FOR THE OCTOBER 2019 MEETING.
ACCOUNTS PAID SINCE THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Cheques Paid:

8518	Void cheque	\$0.00	
8519	Reimburse petty cash	\$149.50	Milk, coffee, postage, tea bags etc to 08/08/2019
8520	Corey Carston	\$60.00	Mileage 2019
8521	Dave Harris	\$60.00	Mileage 2019
8522	Mike Hartstonge	\$60.00	Mileage 2019
8523	Paul Stenning	\$60.00	Mileage 2019
8524	Lindsay Withington	\$60.00	Mileage 2019
8525	Bevan McNaughton	\$60.00	Mileage 2019
8526	Void cheque	\$0.00	
8527	Reimburse petty cash	\$133.00	Milk, coffee, meeting exps, rubbish bags, dishwasher etc
8528	Reimburse petty cash	\$69.00	Tea, coffee, TP, plasters etc to 31/08/2019
	Sub total	\$711.50	

Plus Direct Credits paid:

9/08/2019	ACC WorkPlace levys	\$1,449.71	Final 18/19 & 19/20 prov levy
9/08/2019	Fastway couriers	\$486.54	Courier labels for parcels
9/08/2019	Ford Motor Company	\$50,779.62	Toyota Hi lux purchase MFG353
9/08/2019	Inland Revenue Dept	\$15,251.24	Paye & Kiwisaver July 2019
9/08/2019	McNaughton Computers	\$243.01	Install new UPS and network issues
9/08/2019	Northland F&G	\$50.00	Southland donation for Robert Sowman leaving gift
9/08/2019	Northland F&G	\$169.14	Maritime NZ levies SFGC1 & 2 to 30/06/2020
9/08/2019	Office Max	\$183.45	General stationery
9/08/2019	Sarah Ongley	\$10,695.15	Legal fees for pSWALP
9/08/2019	Te Anau Boating Club	\$170.00	Annual subs 2019/2020
9/08/2019	Datavault	\$18.00	Server backup
16/08/2019	NZ F&G Council	\$195,612.25	4th levy 2019
30/08/2019	Ann Heffernan	\$120.00	Staff allowance
30/08/2019	AoN NZ Ltd	\$1,114.65	Adjustment vehicle insurance.
30/08/2019	Charlies Kitchen	\$62.39	Part Council supper - fruit etc
30/08/2019	Chris Owen	\$61.60	Mileage August meeting
30/08/2019	Craig Horrell	\$243.32	Mileage August meeting
30/08/2019	Craigs Print	\$102.56	Mallard poster for NADS conference Canada - reimbursed NZC
30/08/2019	Cue Environmental	\$2,581.75	pSWALP Planner costs - Ben Farrell
30/08/2019	Dave MacGregor	110.11	Mileage August meeting
30/08/2019	Fastway Couriers	251.46	Courier labels for parcels
30/08/2019	Inland Revenue	11,844.92	Paye & Kiwisaver August 2019
30/08/2019	Ken Cochrane	63.14	Mileage August meeting
30/08/2019	Lyndon Norman	87.31	Mileage August meeting
30/08/2019	Network Electrical	415.44	Install feed for UPS-server
30/08/2019	NZ Fish & Game Council	16,161.00	GBHTS income from Game 2019 sales
30/08/2019	Pohangina Environmental	16,851.30	pSWALP expert witness - Dr Death
30/08/2019	Still Building Ltd	19,781.76	Te Anau Cottage bathroom renovation
30/08/2019	Data Vault Co	18.00	Monthly backup server.
30/08/2019	Wellington F&G	646.00	Airfares Dr Canning pSWALP witness
6/09/2019	Amenity Contracting	573.16	Wildlife park mow July & August
6/09/2019	Ann Heffernan	731.50	Annual mileage for own car use
6/09/2019	Cohen Stewart	164.00	Reimburse eggs for nest study & staff training
6/09/2019	Craigs Design	2,370.68	Reprint access brochures -Fishing surrounds Ingill - Waiau basin
6/09/2019	Fuji Xerox	183.80	Service agreement
6/09/2019	Nth Canterbury F&G	149.99	Trade me listing sale of vehicle Toyota HLT568
17/09/2019	Cameron Outdoors	3,933.41	12 x Browning trail cameras
17/09/2019	Daryl Guise	26.00	Part refund fish licence 19/20 FWA-FWIA
17/09/2019	Fuji Xerox	268.82	Service agreement
17/09/2019	Graphic Press	894.70	19/20 fish Regulation books freight
17/09/2019	Margaret May	20.00	Part refund fish licence 19/20 FWA - FSL
17/09/2019	NZ Fish & Game Council	308.00	Airfares Richard Grosgrove to visit Southland Council
17/09/2019	Riparian Restoration	1,513.40	658 carex secta plants for pond subsidy scheme
17/09/2019	Zane Moss	691.21	Reimburse accomodation pSWALP science conferencing
27/09/2019	Inland Revenue Dept	12,232.60	Paye & Kiwisaver September 2019
27/09/2019	Otago Fish & Game	192.81	Cert training share for 3 x Honorary Rangers
27/09/2019	Royal Forest & Bird	2,061.29	Half share Barrister costs pSWALP
27/09/2019	Sarah Ongley	465.75	Legal fees pSWALP to 31/08/2019

FISHING LICENCE SALES PROGRESS 2019-2020

Current season sales Fish 2019/2020			Last year at same time Fish 2018/2019			Complete season sales 18/19		
Category	No Sold	12/09/2019	Category	No Sold	12/09/2018	Category	No Sold	
Whole season adult	291	\$38,703.00	Whole season adult	323	\$41,990.00	Whole season adult	2866	\$372,580.00
Whole season Jun	24	\$648.00	Whole season Jun	34	\$884.00	Whole season Jun	564	\$14,664.00
NR Adult	51	\$6,783.00	NR Adult	45	\$5,850.00	NR Adult	1170	\$152,100.00
NR Junior		\$0.00	NR Junior		\$0.00	NR Junior	35	\$910.00
NR Child		\$0.00	NR Child		\$0.00	NR Child	43	\$0.00
NR Day Adult		\$0.00	NR Day Adult		\$0.00	NR Day Adult	1565	\$32,865.00
NR Day Junior		\$0.00	NR Day Junior		\$0.00	NR Day Junior	50	\$250.00
NR Day Child		\$0.00	NR Day Child		\$0.00	NR Day Child	16	\$0.00
Local Area	10	\$1,060.00	Local Area	13	\$1,352.00	Local Area	239	\$24,856.00
Senior Loyal	113	\$12,769.00	Senior Loyal	101	\$11,211.00	Senior Loyal	476	\$52,836.00
Family	207	\$35,811.00	Family	217	\$36,673.00	Family	2449	\$413,881.00
Adult Day		\$0.00	Adult Day		\$0.00	Adult Day	1293	\$27,153.00
Junior Day		\$0.00	Junior Day		\$0.00	Junior Day	134	\$670.00
Short Break		\$0.00	Short Break		\$0.00	Short Break	356	\$16,732.00
Long Break		\$0.00	Long Break		\$0.00	Long Break	29	\$2,639.00
Winter Adult		\$0.00	Winter Adult		\$0.00	Winter Adult	118	\$9,204.00
TOTAL	696	\$95,774.00	TOTAL	733	\$97,960.00	TOTAL	11403	\$1,121,340.00
LEQ'S	720		LEQ'S	754		LEQ'S	8626	

LEQ TARGETS FOR FISH 2019/2020 = 9020

LEQ TARGETS FOR FISH 2018/2019 = 8830

FISH LICENCE LEQ'S ARE CURRENTLY .07% OF TARGET. LAST YEAR AT SAME TIME .08% OF TARGET

Please note that the non resident levy of \$2,397 has been deducted off the sales figure and will be transferred to dedicated reserves for pressure sensitive fisheries at the end of financial year, less commission and GST.

Regional Budgets v Expected licence Income

2019-2020

F&G Regions	Approved base fund budgets 19/20	Game Licence net income budget 19/20	Fish Licence net income budget 19/20	Total Licence net income Budget 19/20	% budget spending to net lic income	From National Angling Survey 2014/2015	
						# Angling days in region	% of total angling days in region
Northland	\$528,885	\$138,987	\$31,754	\$170,741	310%	1,510	0.14
Taranaki	\$377,637	\$89,067	\$95,648	\$184,715	201%	8,850	0.80
West Coast	\$358,893	\$30,053	\$224,209	\$254,262	141%	54,180	4.87
Wellington	\$802,633	\$267,788	\$330,570	\$598,358	131%	34,990	3.15
Nelson/Marlborough	\$453,520	\$72,050	\$425,003	\$497,053	91%	35,230	3.17
Hawkes Bay	\$383,408	\$149,565	\$273,414	\$422,979	91%	35,680	3.21
Auck/Waikato	\$809,188	\$534,561	\$413,406	\$947,967	85%	26,460	2.38
Eastern	\$1,127,970	\$253,698	\$1,089,678	\$1,343,376	84%	153,180	13.78
North Canterbury	\$787,760	\$205,690	\$1,353,980	\$1,559,670	51%	174,280	15.67
Otago	\$1,012,215	\$318,332	\$1,705,646	\$2,023,978	50%	182,940	16.45
Southland	\$677,578	\$381,641	\$996,239	\$1,377,880	49%	110,260	9.92 *
Central South Island	\$695,436	\$183,755	\$1,408,541	\$1,592,296	44%	294,430	26.48
Total	\$8,015,123	\$2,625,187	\$8,348,088	\$10,973,275	73%	1,111,990	100%

* The Southland Angling days were the lowest usage of the last four survey periods, probably due to a very poor summer that year 2014/2015.

NZ Council base fund budgets

2019/2020	\$1,134,937
2018/2019	\$1,134,937
2017/2018	\$1,091,867
2016/2017	\$1,091,867
2015/2016	\$1,091,867

At the last meeting Council were unanimous in recognising the importance of reducing costs within the whole Fish & Game organisation to be sustainable. Councillor Harris had suggested each region reduce their budgets by 1% thereby reducing the licence fee by \$1.00. This spreadsheet is timely in showing the Council what the Regional budgets versus the Regional expected licence income for the 2019/2020 year actually is. The total angling days/% in each of those regions is included for your information.

Southland Fish and Game Staff report, October 2019

1100 Species Management Projects:

Simulated mallard nest predation study

Staff have deployed simulated mallard nests, paired with trail cameras on two dairy farms in Southland. So far, we have observed less predation of the simulated nests than expected. However, most nests have had several visits from many different potential predators including cats, ferrets, possums, hedgehogs, hawks, rats and stoats.

Feral cat habitat movement

We have finally received animal ethics approval through DOC to collaboratively put collars on six feral cats around the Wreys Bush area. This site is two-fold: we will learn about how feral cats interact with farmland habitat bordering the Oreti river in relation to mallard nesting as well as for DOC to learn about how feral cats interact with the braided river habitat and the endangered black billed gulls that nest in this area. Sirtrack have offered to refurbish the collars for free as now that they have been sitting on the shelf for two years the battery life will be reduced from when originally purchased. This is fantastic news but has resulted in collaring being delayed for another month. We aim to start capturing four feral cats throughout November when there will be mallard ducklings in the area, and a further two more in December when the gulls will start nesting.

1200 Habitat Protection/ Management:

Wetland surveys

Ben Febery, Otatara – planting advice

Theo White, Invercargill – planting and wetland enhancement advice

Mathew Taylor, Fairlight wetland survey

Water quality monitoring

The lake water quality monitoring that we conduct in conjunction with Environment Southland has been ongoing.

1300 Participation:

Facebook

Staff have produced several Facebook posts over the last few months with many of the posts receiving a good level of engagement.

5,184m ³ /day and 525,000m ³ /year of groundwater from 4 bores situated in the Five Rivers groundwater zone to irrigate pasture		Pyramid road bridge spanning the mid-Mataura River		

Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan.

Environment Court hearing of Topic A appeals against the Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan ('the Proposed Plan') commenced in Invercargill on Tuesday, 4 June 2019 and occupied three weeks of hearing time + an additional three days for closing submissions during the week commencing 29 July. Topic A matters covered the following matters:

1. The state of the environment, including in relation to ecological health, human health for contact recreation and ground / surface water quality; and
2. Overarching policies and objectives, which create the framework for subsequent rules in the Proposed Plan.

Specific rules, including discharge (point source and diffuse) and land use rules, and remaining policies are to be dealt with in Topic B.

Initial caucusing / conferencing of expert scientific and planning witnesses occurred in Invercargill in mid-September 2019 to facilitate development of the following:

1. Thresholds to determine degradation with respect to ecological and cultural health from a water quality and quantity perspective, including where areas of degradation and at risk sites exist in the Southland Region – this is likely to occur in late August to early October. This work will involve identification of what, if any, additional scientific information / research is required; and
2. The proposed policy / planning response to the above.

Dr Adam Canning of Wellington Fish & Game is participating in the above scientific caucusing / conferencing on behalf of Fish & Game and has most recently been involved in the Freshwater Science and Technical Advisory Group convened by Minister for the Environment to provide recommendations regarding eco-system health for inclusion in the Draft National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. Further Environment Court facilitated conferencing of 3 days duration among expert scientific witnesses is to occur in Christchurch in mid-October 2019.

She received positive feedback on her poster presentation entitled “Mallard brood use of man-made wetlands in Southland, New Zealand.” Some of her key recommendations to the NZ Council from the symposium include:

- The use of infographics as a key tool to communicate with the public. I think this is an area we currently lack in when trying to communicate numbers and statistics in an easily interpretable fashion.
- Any R3 efforts should be monitored to verify that they are indeed meeting the objectives.
- Hunter/angler satisfaction studies should be undertaken in regions to determine if we are focusing on the wrong trade-offs (quality of the experience vs opportunity). By focusing on increasing opportunity, we may be decreasing the quality of the experience. What are the key variable components of a quality hunt?
- Inter-regional communication could be improved. It is rather embarrassing to represent the organization internationally and have other waterfowl professionals ask you about the results from a recent Fish & Game funded study and it is the first time you are seeing the results!
- Consider the development of a recruitment-based program where interested individuals can do a set period of training that would make them well qualified to become future Fish and Game field officers (or elsewhere as advocates within the conservation space). Not only would this give the organization a pool of suitable candidates that have already learnt the basics to be easily integrated into any Fish and Game roles, regions would have already worked with these individuals so would know how well they would fit in with the team. Further, not only would this create an opportunity for additional help with ranging and field work duties it would more importantly create an avenue for the recruitment of younger, keen supporters of our organization.
- Look for funding avenues or partnerships outside of license holder revenue ie: wetlands benefit everyone through filtering water and increasing biodiversity values to benefit human mental health and happiness. There are other avenues that could fund wetland creation ie: bequests, insurance companies reducing flood risk, bird watchers, specific hunting permits (ie: for F and G owned wetlands), koura production or offsetting the carbon footprint through the potential of carbon storage in wetlands.
- Fish & Game attendance at the 9th NADS in Portland, Oregon 2022.



3 September 2019

Fish and Game Councils

Consultation on 2020 meeting dates

The attached schedule of meeting dates for 2020 was considered at the August meeting of the NZ Fish and Game Council, where it was agreed to circulate for consultation with regions and received feedback before the NZ Council's November meeting.

It is noted that this schedule differs from dates outlined in my earlier letter. This is due to attempts to bring the consideration of new licence fees and budgets forward to allow for more time for it to be considered by Department of Conservation officials and sign-off by the Minister.

Please submit your feedback on these dates by Friday 8 November.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Lindsay Lyons".

Lindsay Lyons
Chairperson

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

	Tuesday 24 th	Circulation of Budgets, contestable fund applications & budget summaries
April	Thursday 2 nd	Meeting of Managers in Wellington
	Friday 3 rd	Joint NZ Council & Managers Meeting s in Wellington
	Saturday 4 th	NZ Council Meeting s in Wellington
	Sunday 5 th Mark-up day for hunting stands	
	Friday 10 th April- Good Friday	
	Monday 13 th April -Easter Monday	
	Saturday 25 th April - Anzac Day	
May	Saturday 2 nd Opening of Game Season	
	Monday 25 ^h	Final date for receipt of Fish & Game council responses to licence fee proposals
June	Monday 1st June – Queens Birthday	
	Friday 12 th & Saturday 13 th	Meeting of the NZ Council in Wellington
	Monday 15 th	Draft licence fee submission to DOC officials
	Thursday 25 th	Adjust licence fee submission following consultation with DOC & submit to MOC
	Tuesday 30 th	Final day for submission for GBHT Grant applications
	Tuesday 30 th	Final day for regulation details from Fish & Game Councils for Anglers Notice
July	Monday 6 th	Draft Anglers Notice submission to DOC officials
	Friday 10 th	Send out submissions to GBHT Board
	Thursday 16 th	Adjust Anglers Notice submission following consultation with DOC & submit to MOC
	Wednesday 22 nd	GBHT Board Tel Conference @11am
August	Friday 31 st	Publish Anglers Notice in NZ Gazette
	Tuesday 18 th & Wednesday 19 th	Meeting of Managers in Wellington
	Wednesday 26 th	Fish licences go on sale
	Friday 28 th	GBHT Board Meeting in Wellington
2020/21		
September	Saturday 1 st	New Financial year for Fish & Game
	Friday 11 th & Saturday 12 th	Meeting of the NZ Council in Wellington
October	Tuesday 1 st -Opening of Fishing Season	
	Monday 26 th October – Labour Day	
Oct – Nov	Audit time for all Regions	
November	Friday 20 th – Sunday 22 nd	Meeting of the NZ Council in Taranaki
December	Friday 11 th	Final date for receipt of 2019/20 Variance Reports to CV
	Friday 25 st , Saturday 26 th -Xmas & Boxing Day	
	Thursday 31 st	Last day to hold Public Annual General Meeting and present Annual Report & Financial Statements for year ended 31 August 2019

Recommendation:

That Managers

1. Note NZ Council meeting dates proposed for 2020 are:
 - February 14 & 15 in Wellington
 - April 3 & 4 in Wellington
 - June 12 & 13 in Wellington
 - September 11 & 12 in Wellington
 - November 20 to 22 in Taranaki region.
2. Note all dates to be confirmed in November by NZ Council following consultation with Managers & Fish & Game Councils.

Southland Fish & Game Council

Yearly Agenda timetable.

Date of Meetings	Primary Business
10 th October 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020-2022 Angler Notice 3 yr review discuss any changes for public submission. • Draft Financial Statements 2019 for approval subject to Audit. • 2020 Game season regulation setting recommendations. • AGM 2019 Venue & date. (Separate or not)
12 th December 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AGM 2019 - (or Thur 5th December, if separate). • 2020 Game season regulations confirmed for gazette. (To NZC by 31st January 2020). • 2020/2022 Angler Notice confirm changes to be advertised calling for public submissions. • 2020/2021 OWP & Budget initial considerations.
13 th February 2020 (NZC meeting 14 th & 15 th February 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020/2022 Angler Notice - hear public submissions. • Confirm 2020/2021 OWP & Budget. (To NZC by 13/03/2020).
9 th April 2020 (NZC meeting 3 rd & 4 th April 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020/2021 licence fee recommendations. (To NZC by 25th May 2020)
11 th June 2020 (NZC meeting 12 th & 13 th June 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2020/2022 Angler Notice confirm changes for gazette. (To NZC by 30th June 2020)
13 th August 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021/2022 OWP priorities for initial consideration. • 2021 Game season initial considerations.

Council may wish to consider changing the February & June 2020 meeting dates so they do not clash with NZC meeting dates.

2020-2022 Angler Notice Review:

Proposed regulation changes

Following feedback from Council, staff recommend the following proposed changes to the Anglers notice are released to licence holders for comment:

1. All legal methods (fly, spin and bait) are permissible in all Southland water bodies excluding the upper Oreti above Rock Point and Fiordland waterbodies requiring a clean gear certificate.
2. All year season length on Lake Fergus, Lake Gun and Lake Hankinson.
3. Universal bag limit of two trout across all Southland waterbodies except the upper Oreti which would remain as one.
4. That the Southland Fish & Game Council recommends to NZ Council that molluscs are included in the definition of bait in the first schedule of the angling regulations.
5. That the Southland Fish and Game Council recommends to NZ Council the spin fishing definition in the first schedule includes 'actively fishing with scented soft baits to imitate a bait fish'.

Angler Notice Review: Pressure Sensitive Fisheries

Hopefully, Council will have had a chance to digest the report on our pressure sensitive fisheries before the meeting, which shows a reasonable level of support for some form of management of access to the Upper Oreti, Worsley and Clinton rivers.

Consequently, Council should consider whether they wish to progress the possible development of a form of controlled access to any or all of these waters for the 2020/2021 season.

Unfortunately, there are a couple of factors that may make it more difficult to implement all of the possible options for the following season. One is the selection of a new licensing provider. Whichever provider councils choose to run with, the changeover is relatively close to the start of the new season and any development of a new booking or balloting system will add complexity and difficulty in getting up and running.

The second factor is the progression of the PSF options paper. You will recall that Jack Kos from the New Zealand Council office has been tasked with progressing this work. Unfortunately, Jack is behind where he expected to be because of unforeseen work demands, such as the firearms legislation reviews, the Guides Licence and Indigenous Fisheries Bill, all of which understandably have had to take priority, despite Jack's enthusiasm for the PSF work.

Some of the specifics of this work includes whether or not Fish & Game will be allowed to differentiate between resident and non-resident anglers. Given one of the options that council has previously expressed interest in is the notion of trying to achieve a more equitable proportion of use by residents vrs non-resident anglers, establishing this is critical for us. This is particularly relevant when you consider that at peak times last season non-resident angler use exceeded 80%. Council will be unable to progress mechanisms that look to provide for (say) 50% sharing of use and the possibility of "locals only" weekends until this is resolved.

Staff recommend consideration of a booking or ballot system is advertised for the Worsley and Clinton rivers as a starting point to make anglers more familiar with the system, before further consideration is given to the likes of the Oreti.

Zane Moss

Manager

Game regulations 2020

A point system was tabled at the August council meeting as a predictive tool that utilizes factors that assist in the likely abundance of mallards during the game season. Below is an outline of the points system, suggested bag limits and season length with two recommendations for council to consider.

Mallard regulation setting guideline

Mallard regulations for Southland are currently set each year at the AGM in December, for the following May. However, our population count is undertaken in March, at which point it can vary substantially from what the season prospects may have looked like mid-breeding season. Given bag limit decisions are based around the data we have available at the December meeting, we would like to create a more formal and transparent regulation setting process that in hindsight we can still support knowing that it was the best information we had at that time. This process would account for various factors that influence the population. Currently bag limit decisions are somewhat based around monitoring (brood counts for example) but often more weighting is put on anecdotes and gut feeling. It is preferable to focus on the available objective information and to remove more subjective elements.

Spring weather conditions

Weather through the breeding season has a massive impact on brood survival. In particular, the presence of ephemeral water creates pockets of highly productive wetlands across the landscape creating an easily accessible, highly available food source for ducklings. The first ten days of a duckling's life are the most critical for survival, and the prevalence of ephemeral water greatly increases brood survival. When bag limit decisions are made, a high level of weighting should be put on breeding conditions through September, October and November.

Previous seasons mallard count

Our mallard aerial counts are undertaken in March as this is the most appropriate time to count the overall population as mallards are starting to group after moulting and brood rearing is complete. However, because regulations are set in the December prior to the season, this figure is not available until regulations have already been set, hence for this process this number tells you the availability of mallards entering the previous hunting season.

Brood count

Our brood counts are undertaken in November, just prior to the AGM. We drive the same brood route multiple times throughout the month to determine prevalence and size of broods in the older age classes. As these ducklings have survived through their first six weeks of life, they are much more likely to survive through to the hunting season making these age classes the most important cohort to monitor. Much like other forms of hunting, naïve juveniles make up the majority of a hunter's bag so relative hunting success relies on juvenile recruitment through into the hunting season.

Gamebird harvest survey

Every two weeks through the hunting season we randomly survey 120 hunters to gather information on participation and hunting success over the season. This correlates reasonably well with our population

count just prior to the season, and in the literature (as we do not gather banding data) breeding season success (% juveniles in population), albeit from the previous season.

Spring weather conditions

Measured by comparing to the long-term median spring precipitation (Sept-Nov) at Winton

- 1 Dry conditions (lower quartile)
- 5 Median conditions
- 10 Wet conditions (upper quartile)

Previous seasons mallard count

Measured by comparing to the long-term median count

- 1 Poor count (lower quartile)
- 2.5 Median count
- 5 High count (upper quartile)

Brood count

Measured by comparing to the long-term median brood size count

- 1 Poor brood count (lower quartile)
- 2.5 Median brood count
- 5 High brood count (upper quartile)

Gamebird harvest survey

Measured by comparing to the long-term median opening weekend harvest per hunter

- 1 Poor harvest
- 2.5 Median harvest
- 5 High harvest

Maximum total points = 30

<10 points = restrictive bag limit

10-15 points = no change

>15 points = liberal bag limit

Examples

Ex 1: December 2015, setting the bag limit for the 2016 season.

Spring weather conditions: Up until our AGM, conditions were looking below average = 4

Previous seasons mallard population count: Between lowest quartile and median = 1.25

Brood count: At the end of November our brood count was looking above the upper quartile = 5

Gamebird harvest survey: Lower than median = 2

Total points = 12.25: Thus we would recommend to keep the bag limit the same, however we increased from 15 to 20 for OW for the 2016 season.

Ex 2: December 2016, setting the bag limit for the 2017 season.

Spring weather conditions: Up until our AGM, conditions were looking above the upper quartile = 9

Previous seasons mallard population count: In line with our long-term median = 2.5

Brood count: At the end of November our brood count was looking below the median = 2

Gamebird harvest survey: Lower than median = 2

Total points = 15.5: Thus we would recommend to increase the bag limit from 15 to 20 for OW for the 2017 season.

Ex 3: December 2017, setting the bag limit for the 2018 season.

Spring weather conditions: Up until our AGM, conditions were below the lowest quartile = 1

Previous seasons mallard population count: Between median and the upper quartile of LTA = 3.75

Brood count: At the end of November our brood count was looking reasonable = 2

Gamebird harvest survey: Higher harvest than median = 3.5

Total points = 10.25: Thus we would recommend to have no change to the bag limit as we did for the 2018 season.

Ex 4: December 2018, setting the bag limit for the 2019 season.

Spring weather conditions: Up until our AGM, conditions were looking average = 5

Previous seasons mallard population count: Count is below lowest quartile of median = 1

Brood count: At the end of November our brood count was looking below median = 2

Gamebird harvest survey: Harvest was in the lowest quartile = 1

Total points = 9: Thus we would recommend to reduce the bag limit to 15 for OW as we did for the 2019 season.

Bag Limit

Harvest is dependent on prior Spring and Summer weather conditions impacting the population and ratio of juveniles to adults. Bag limits are set for hunter perception of the population rather than regulation of the population, keeping in mind that an increase or excessive number may decrease the quality of the experience or value of the game. Bag limits in Southland have always varied between a restrictive season of 15/10 mallards and a liberal season of 20/15 mallards. Staff suggest that this should be maintained when the point system suggests a restrictive limit, prior seasons limit or liberal limit.

Season Length

Staff suggest that season length should stay constant for the term of the council. After each three-year period we can again ask hunters during our gamebird harvest survey what length of mallard season they are happy with. This could then dictate the length of the season for the period the council is appointed.

RECOMMENDATION

Councillors accept this point system as an indication for the mallard population each season. This will determine whether the season is restrictive (bag limit of 15/10) or liberal (bag limit of 20/15), with the game regulations reviewed every three years in line with the angler notice review.

Councillors keep the same season length (two and a half months) with a review every three years. A hunter survey on preferred season length will be undertaken every three years prior to this review.