**Agenda Item 10**

**Operational Report** – for the period ended March 2021

**Prepared by:** Dean Kelly – Manager

**Introduction**

The Council’s adopted governance policies require the manager to provide an Operational Report, specific proposals for capital expenditure and acquisitions as well as major issues and opportunities for the Council. There are further requirements for the Manager to provide assurance that the Management Limitations are being observed. The format of this report is therefore to certify compliance with Governance Policies, Management Limitations and provide other material, responses, or assurance that Council objectives, strategies, plans, performance, risks, operation, resources and structure are being met.

**Notifications of intention to purchase unbudgeted capital items in excess of $10,000**

Nothing to report

**Matters for the information of council**

Staff:

Staff holiday entitlements: Manager, 9 days

Hokitika Officer, 0 days

Northern Officer, 15 days

Vehicles:

Managers Vehicle: (start) 102,758km (fin) 110,803km. Total private for period: 2,955km

Fish & Game Officer Vehicle: (start) 41,500 (fin) 49,000km. Total private for period: 1,222km

Fish & Game Officer Vehicle: (start) 76,021 km (fin.) 83,342 km. Total private for period: 2,074 km

**Bi-monthly report on outputs**

1111 Drift Diving

Drift dives completed in the Mokihinui (south branch, below gorge), Karamea (upstream & downstream Crow, the Bend), Wairau, Motueka and Grey River (Waipuna). Surveys and report completed for 2021.

1114 Trend Counts

Paradise shelduck moult count surveys and report completed. Pukeko transect surveys underway.

1115 Sportsfishery Research

Electric fishing carried out on three sites that are Mawheraiti River tributaries as well as on the New River and two of its tributaries.

1116 Backcountry Fisheries Management

Four trail cameras capturing data in the Reefton area requiring fortnightly maintenance.

1161 Fisheries Enhancement

Fish organised and transfer underway from Salmon smolt NZ to Lake Ianthe.

1181 Game Bird Control

Four Paradise Shelduck and one Pukeko complaints received. One responded to with the young hunter’s club and advice given to three. The Pukeko complaint was addressesd by culling a small number of Pukeko on a Maize Crop.

1211 RMA Plans/Policy/Consents

Work continues on implementation and farm plan module for the NES for freshwater.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Applicant** | **Area** | **Type** | **Nature of work** | **Comments** |
| WMP | Hokitika River | Water Pemit | Water take from North Channel for factory | Consultation and water take linked to conjtinuous flow meter in channel with no extraction below 3 cumecs. |
| Elect Mining Ltd | Stafford | Land use consent | Variation to mining permit. |   |
| Amalgamated Mining Ltd | Notown | Land use consent | Channel realignment | Temporary diversion of Joyce Creek |
| Glen Lewis Terraces Ltd | Inangahua | Discharge Permit | Dairy Discharge reconsenting | Two pond system |

1212 Dairy Industry/Farmer Advocacy

Continued liaison with landowners regarding new freshwater standards and regulations.

1213 DOC

Meeting with Suze Harris and Chris Woolmore to discuss collaboration on future fish survey work. Discussions with concessions staff regarding rating on Reserve land.

1311 Access

Staff have added to properties to our huntable properties list following discussion with farmers. Currently revisiting trying to gain access for game bird hunters to Colins Dam.

1312 Assisted Hunting.

Responded to a paradise shelduck complaint with members of the young hunters club. Staff held two young hunters organised events during the March season in Moonlight and Barrytown addressing landowner complaints of paradise shelduck, pukeko and swans. Coordinated hunting during the summer season to maximize hunting opportunities for hunters and aid farmers receiving crop predation.

1331 Website/Ezines/Social Media

Relevant material has been posted on website. Regular Facebook engagements have been done, focusing on promoting salmon and trout fishing opportunities as well as the March gamebird season and the upcoming 2021 gamebird season.

1332 Fish & Game Magazine

2021 Gamebird edition complete.

1341 Sportsfisheries Guides

Restocked agent supplies of sport fisheries guides.

1361 Clubs, Outdoor Recreation Groups

Staff have been in communication with the Ahaura hunting and fishing competition. Will be attending the weigh and be based trout weigh in area to answer questions and checking licences.

1411 Cons.Bds. Iwi, Allied Groups

Pukeko harvested by young hunters club feathers were plucked and couriered to iwi in Rotorua to be incorporated into the weaving of a korowai.

1421 Media/Communication

Articles to newspapers and on social media regarding summer fishing opportunities as well as the upcoming hunting season and pegging day.

1511 Compliance

Compliance undertaken over the salmon season. No offences detected.

1621 Agent Liaison

Liaison continues regarding the upcoming gamebird season, ammunition supplies and firearms licencing.

1821 Plans Budgets

A draft workplan and budget has been produced. With staff reorganisation it is possible to work within the existing cost-saving budget of 2019 -5%. A copy has been provided for council input and will require approval when the NZ Council has decided on budgeting and licence fees for 2021/22. The revised 10 year plan is being compiled and will be presented to Council before notifying and seeking input.

1841 National Liaison

Managers are meeting more frequently via internet meetings with the rapidly changing financial and regulatory environment. Financial management, staffing and promotional material have been a focus.

1927 Occupational Safety and Health

Completed staff H&S meetings and currently reviewing the workplan with a focus on the safety of operations.

1980 Offices

General maintenance including weed spraying, mowing and cleaning.

1980 Equipment

The boat was damaged in a near miss incident. This has been repaired and tested as per Surveyors instructions.

Staffing

Glen Newton has resigned as our Hokitika Fish and Game Officer to take up a new role with The Paparoa Wildlife Trust. Glen has been an excellent officer and his organisational skills will be missed. We wish him all the best for his future endeavours.

Considering the uncertainty around the future structure of Fish and Game with the Ministerial Report imminent it is not proposed to replace the full Fish and Game Officer role in the coming month. It is the winter period where staff have historically taken leave so there should not be an issue with workload. There is however, an issue with continuation of business regarding Administration and options to resolve this are being actively investigated. There may well be a role that encompasses some aspects of both, for the right applicant.

**Staff Recommendation:**

That this report be received.