

Agenda Item 11:

Operational Report – for the period ended July 2022

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 more than \$10,000

A replacement vehicle is on order for LDY407.

Matters for the information of council

Staff:

Staff holidays due (days):	Manager, 18.4
	Officer, 12.45
	Admin, 8.3

Vehicles:

Managers Vehicle: (start) 151,799km (fin) 157,768km. Total private for period: 1,350km

Fish & Game Officer Vehicle MML: (start) 89,577km (fin.) 95,817km. Total private for period: 1,793 km

Bi-monthly report on outputs

1111 Drift Diving

Nothing to report.

1113 Spawning Surveys

Complete. See attached report.

1114 Trend Counts

Swan trial counts completed. Shoveler survey commenced.

1115 Sportsfishery Research

Spawning surveys carried out on Mawheraiti research sites.

1116 Backcountry Fisheries Management

Complete. See attached report

1121 National Hunter Survey

Survey going well, getting a good response rate of people on the phone and plenty of people who call back if they miss my call.

We have had a number of responses from people via text message, either prompted by their voicemail to send a text or by them texting us back if they missed the call or were in an area with limited contact. This works really well for those who live where reception is poor and no landline – meaning we are now getting more data from people who at other times may have been missed.

The season has continued to be impacted by weather and also by covid and general sickness taking over hunters effecting their ability to hunt if they don't live rurally. Overall, the data is good and consistent.

1161 Fisheries Enhancement

Two tanker loads of wild mixed sex salmon – approximately 4,400 salmon, ordered for next April to be released into Lake lanthe.

1171 Regulations/Gazette Notices

The Anglers notice and regulation guide for 22-23 season has been approved and copies are due to arrive to the office and agents shortly. Only change being winter closure of Lake Haupiri and anglers being encouraged to limit season salmon take to six.

1211 RMA Plans/Policy/Consents

The combined local authority Tai Poutini Plan has been notified. Unfortunately, we expect some issues will arise in the notified plan particularly around, activities in wetlands, activity on the surface of water and built structures. We are currently reviewing the document and planning a submission response.

Non-notified resource consents approved as affected party.

Applicant	Area	Type	Nature of work	Comments
Reidell Farms Ltd	Kowhiterangi	Land use consent	Gravel extraction	Renewal, no issues.
WCRC	Buller River	Land Use Consent	Gravel extraction	Consulting, Bunding and dry riverbed work only.
Kiwirail	Kotuku	Land use consent	Bridge replacement	Consulting, spawning timing of works
TrustPower	Arnold River	All	Dam construction	Consulting, most issues addressed.

The review of DoC administered stewardship land has been completed and is out for submissions. We have reviewed the proposals and entered a submission with our concerns. These are largely around disposal of pasture river flats and hunting of gamebirds in reclassified lands. Dean VanMierlo was contracted to draft and submit the submission on Fish and Games behalf.

1311 Access

Hunters were provided with access information for game bird hunting.

1312 Assisted Hunting

Four organised events held averaging 15 attendee's, the majority being West Coast hunters. High numbers of Pukeko harvested. The events were well received by both landowners and attendees.

1331 Website/Ezines/Social Media

Regular Facebook engagements have been done, focusing on promoting the organised hunts and other game bird hunting opportunities. Three of the four Facebook posts regarding organised events and the positives of them (e.g., feathers being used for weaving, managing game populations, social hunting, and food for the table) reached more than 2,500 people and had 300-500 engagements. Both barrels completed for June & July.

Beta testing of new website and licence portal is complete with a go live date expected before the council meeting.

1332 Fish & Game Magazine

Sports fishing edition now completed including the West Coast doing a feature article on perch fishing to promote the underutilised resource.

1341 Sportsfisheries Guides

Agents regularly stocked with guides.

1361 Clubs, Outdoor Recreation Groups

The West Coast Whitebaiter's Association AGM was attended and a speaker from Fish and Game regarding interactions between sportsfish and indigenous fish was facilitated.

1371 Okuru Hut

The hut has some planned internal repairs so will be out of action, other than for staff assisting with the repairs and on filed operations over the coming months.

1411 Conservation Boards/Iwi/allied agencies

Feathers from Pukeko shot during organised hunt sent to Iwi. Education/Engagement strategy forwarded to Iwi representative for input.

A workshop was facilitated at the Hokitika Office with WCRC, DoC and Fish and Game freshwater fisheries managers present. This is proposed to be a regular activity as cooperation and coordination of monitoring and issues is desirable for all those agencies involved.

1421 Media/Communication

Facilitated Ami Coghlan (Fish and Game Wellington) to speak in the region on her Sportsfish/Galaxiid interaction research. Whilst here Ami also presented and discussed the issue with a local freshwater fisheries group.

1511 Compliance

Compliance was minimal over the period with few people fishing or hunting in the period. Although a ranger presence will be required for the closing weekend of the gamebird season.

1521 Ranger Training

New ranger currently in training and will be fully equipped ready to go after CERT training in September.

1531 Prosecutions

One angler found to fishing without a licence at Lake Paringa has completed diversion.

1611 Licence Production & Distribution

Only two returned licences this period, great to see more care being taken when entering addresses by agents. There has also been a delay in licence purchases and being sent for printing, seems sporadic but has been noted at the admin meetings that sometimes a 12 working day delay can be seen.

1621 Agent Liaison

All Agents have been contacted by phone to check in how they are going, and to confirm numbers of regulation guides required for the upcoming season – many have decreased their numbers.

All Agents have also been contacted regarding the rollout of the new licence system website, and the new Agent manual on how to use the website. Will be following up with phone calls and visits to each Agent after the website goes live on the 25th of July so we can get them all confident and happy using the new system.

1721 Council

All councillors have been emailed the updated mileage claim form, IRD have updated the km rate to 0.83c from 0.79c

1811 Sportsfish and Game Management Plan

The Council resolved to get the Sportsfish and Game Management Plan to a draft stage. The draft has been sent to Ben Farrell for formatting and preparation for Iwi consultation. Earlier consultation late last year indicated the plan was substandard regarding Iwi recognition and input. A revised draft, based largely on the recently ministerially approved CSI plan, has been prepared and is being provided to local Runanga for consideration. It is hoped that a favourable response will mean the revised draft will be available for Council review at the October Meeting

1821 OWP & Budget

See attached draft OWP and Budget for adoption.

1841 National Liaison

Communication with other regions regarding administration, budgeting, Iwi engagement, prosecutions, trend counts, budgeting, licencing and pressure sensitive fisheries.

1927 Occupational Safety and Health.

See Health and Safety Report.

1950 Office Equipment

The Manager's computer is regularly failing and not up to spec for regular internet-based meetings. Hopefully it will get through to the next financial year when it will be replaced.

1980 Equipment

Staff reviewed field equipment and safety gear and replaced/procured new gear where required.

Staff Recommendation:

That this report be received.