

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

BOARD PACK

for

February 2023 Council Meeting

Wednesday, 15 February 2023

5:30 pm (NZDT)

Held at:

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

595 JOHNS ROAD, HAREWOOD, CHRISTCHURCH

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AGENDA

FEBRUARY 2023 COUNCIL MEETING

Name:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
Date:	Wednesday, 15 February 2023
Time:	5:30 pm to 7:30 pm (NZDT)
Location:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL, 595 JOHNS ROAD, HAREWOOD, CHRISTCHURCH
Board Members:	ALAN STRONG (Chair), CHRIS BRANKIN, DAVE BARRON, DAVE COLL, GRAEME NAHKIES, KEN LLOYD, NIALL COSTER, PHILLIP MUSSON, RICHARD O'KEEFE, TREVOR ISITT
Attendees:	DEBBIE AMBLER, RASMUS GABRIELSSON

1. Opening Meeting

1.1 Welcome by Chairman 5:30 pm (5 min)

ALAN STRONG

Welcome Councillors and the public to the meeting.

1.2 Karakia 5:35 pm (5 min)

CHRIS BRANKIN

Whakataka te hau ki te uru
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga
Kia mākinakina ki uta
Kia mātaratara ki tai
E hī ake ana te atakura
He tio, he huka, he hau hū
Tihei mauri ora!

Translation:

*Cease the winds from the west
Cease the winds from the south
Let the breeze blow over the land
Let the breeze blow over the ocean
Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air.
A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day.*

1.3 Interests Register 5:40 pm (5 min)

ALAN STRONG

List of interests of directors and officers including actual, potential, or perceived conflicts.

Supporting Documents:

1.3.a Interests Register	7
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1.4 Conformation of Minutes

5:45 pm (5 min)

ALAN STRONG

To confirm the minutes from the September 2022 Council meeting.

Supporting Documents:

1.4.a	Minutes : North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Meeting - 17 Nov 2022	8
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1.5 Action List

5:50 pm (5 min)

Supporting Documents:

1.5.a	Action List	16
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2. FOR DECISION

2.1 Game Bird Habitat Trust - Nominees

5:55 pm (10 min)

RASMUS GABRIELSSON

Supporting Documents:

2.1.a	GBHT NOMINATION TO NZC (2).pdf	17
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3. STANDARD REPORTS

3.1 Chairman's Report

6:05 pm (5 min)

ALAN STRONG

Supporting Documents:

3.1.a	CHAIRMANS REPORT - FEBRUARY 2023 (003).pdf	19
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3.2 Operational Progress / Staff Activity Report

6:10 pm (10 min)

RASMUS GABRIELSSON

Supporting Documents:

3.2.a	OPERATIONAL PROGRESS REPORT -FEBRUARY 2023.pdf	20
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3.3 Finance Report

6:20 pm (10 min)

RASMUS GABRIELSSON

Finance update December 2022

Supporting Documents:

3.3.a	FINANCE REPORT - DECEMBER 22.pdf	27
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3.4 Health and Safety Report

6:30 pm (5 min)

RASMUS GABRIELSSON

Supporting Documents:

3.4.a	HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT - FEBRUARY 23 (1).pdf	34
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3.5 RMA Report

6:35 pm (15 min)

RASMUS GABRIELSSON

Supporting Documents:

3.5.a	RMA REPORT - FEBRUARY 23.pdf	36
3.5.b	RAKAIA RIVER WCO UPDATE - FEBRUARY 23.pdf	38

3.6 Compliance Report

6:50 pm (5 min)

RASMUS GABRIELSSON

Supporting Documents:

3.6.a	COMPLIANCE REPORT - FEBRUARY 23 (2).pdf	42
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3.7 FIF Governors Update

6:55 pm (10 min)

ALAN STRONG

Supporting Documents:

3.7.a	FIF UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2023.pdf	44
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3.8 NZC Report

7:05 pm (10 min)

DAVE COLL

Supporting Documents:

3.8.a	NZC REPORT - FEBRUARY 2023.pdf	45
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4. GENERAL BUSINESS

5. PUBLIC SESSION

5.1 Public Session

7:15 pm (15 min)

ALAN STRONG

6. FOR INFORMATION

6.1 Correspondence to CSI Fish & Game Council

Letter on behalf of the North Canterbury Fish & Game Council to the CSI Fish & Game Council. A meeting is being organised to discuss the issues raised.

Supporting Documents:

6.1.a	Letter to Colin Weatherall CSI.pdf	47
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6.2 Lake Coleridge Fishing Competition, Angler Satisfaction Survey & More

Supporting Documents:

6.2.a	LAKE COLERIDGE FISHING COMPETITION, ANGLER SATISFACTION SURVEY, AND HISTORIC DATA ANALYSIS (1).pdf	49
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6.3 Sea Run Salmon Report

Supporting Documents:

6.3.a	UPDATE ON SEA-RUN SALMON HARVEST ESTIMATES.pdf	55
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6.4 Lead Shot Regulations

Supporting Documents:

6.4.a	LEAD SHOT REGULATIONS (1).pdf	57
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6.5 Designated Waters Update

Supporting Documents:

6.5.a	DESIGNATED WATERS UPDATE (6).pdf	60
6.5.b	CONFIDENTIAL DESIGNATED WATERS LICENCE PROPOSAL 1 (1).pdf	63

7. Close Meeting

7.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: 2023 FEBRUARY COUNCIL WORK - 18 Feb 2023, 9:00 am

Interests Register

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

As of: 9 Feb 2023

Person	Organisation	Active Interests	Notice Date
ALAN STRONG	Fonterra	Contractor	23 Sep 2022
CHRIS BRANKIN	Ngai Tahu Representative	MFE staff member	21 Oct 2020
DAVE BARRON	Tallarook Dairies, Nectar Group	Director of Company which leases land for the purpose of dairy farming, Owner of Nectar Group. Not involved in Fish and Game service or support decisions.	9 Nov 2021
DAVE COLL	n/a	No interest recorded	18 Nov 2022
GRAEME NAHKIES	BoardWorks - Practice Leader	Governance expert in residence and occasional consulting assignments with primary sector organisations	17 Mar 2022
KEN LLOYD	n/a	No interest recorded	18 Nov 2022
NIAL COSTER	n/a	No interest recorded	18 Nov 2022
PHILLIP MUSSON	Fonterra	Shareholder Fonterra	21 Apr 2021
RICHARD O'KEEFE	n/a	No interest recorded	18 Nov 2022
TREVOR ISITT	n/a	No interest recorded	18 Nov 2022

MINUTES (in Review)

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING

Name:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
Date:	Thursday, 17 November 2022
Time:	3:30 pm to 5:45 pm (NZDT)
Location:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL, 595 JOHNS ROAD, HAREWOOD, CHRISTCHURCH
Board Members:	ALAN STRONG (Chair), DAVE BARRON, DAVE COLL, KEN LLOYD, NIALL COSTER, PHILLIP MUSSON, RICHARD O'KEEFE, TREVOR ISITT
Attendees:	DEBBIE AMBLER, RASMUS GABRIELSSON
Apologies:	GRAEME NAHKIES, CHRIS BRANKIN
Guests/Notes:	Staff - Lyndon Slater and Jonathan Larrson, Emily Craig and Harry Graham- Samson (late)

1. Opening Meeting

1.1 Welcome by Chairman

1.2 Karakia

Whakataka te hau ki te uru
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga
Kia mākinakina ki uta
Kia mātaratara ki tai
E hī ake ana te atakura
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Let the breeze blow over the ocean
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A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day.*

1.3 Interests Register

All Councillor's names are added stating "nothing to declare".

1.4 Conformation of Minutes

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Meeting 22 Sep 2022, the minutes were confirmed as presented.



Minutes

Minutes from 22 September 2022 confirmed.

Decision Date: 17 Nov 2022
Mover: TREVOR ISITT
Seconder: NIALL COSTER
Outcome: Approved

2. FOR DECISION

2.1 2021/2022 Statement of Service and Performance

Noted errors were corrected and an explanation of the final audit process was given.



Statement of Service and Performance

That the 2021/2022 Statement of Service and Performance be accepted.

Decision Date: 17 Nov 2022
Mover: RICHARD O'KEEFE
Seconder: DAVE COLL
Outcome: Approved

2.2 Game Bird Regulations Review

Black Swan Season

The framework for issuing permits to disturb or control game birds for crop protection is currently being discussed with landowners and Iwi, with the intention of creating a Memorandum of Understanding and updated management framework for game bird control outside the open hunting season.



Black Swan Season

The August open hunting season for black swans is removed from the Game Notice, and the hunting of black swans shall cease on the last weekend of July. To assist landowners with any crop predation issues, the existing disturbance or control permit system will be used to access, quantify and manage any issues as they arise.

Decision Date: 17 Nov 2022
Mover: PHILLIP MUSSON
Seconder: DAVE BARRON
Outcome: Approved

Summer Mallard Hunting Season

Options developed by staff for the council to consider are;

- a. The summer season for the 2023 Game Notice is the first two weekends in February 2024 (3-4 and 10-11 February which is consistent with the CSI summer mallard season dates.

b. The summer mallard duck hunting season is 3-4 and 10-11 February 2024 in Area B only and no hunting shall be permitted in Area A.

c. The summer mallard duck hunting season is removed from the 2023 Game Notice.

The staff's recommendation is for Option B.



Summer Mallard Hunting Season

The summer mallard duck hunting season is 3-4 and 10-11 February 2024 in Area B only and no hunting shall be permitted in Area A.

Decision Date: 17 Nov 2022
Mover: PHILLIP MUSSON
Seconder: KEN LLOYD
Outcome: Approved

Gamebird Regulations - Other Changes

Shoveler Ducks

To close a loophole in the aggregate bag limit and to have national consistency, it is the intention to remove shoveler ducks from the total aggregate bag limit on opening weekend and introduce a 2-bag limit for them. This would mean that on Game Bird season opening day a hunter could shoot an aggregate bag of 25 grey/mallard ducks, 20 paradise ducks, and 2 shoveler ducks.

Water Body

Noted that consistent wording was required in the Game Bird regulations and in Schedule 1 when mentioning "water body".



Game Bird Regulation Changes - Other Changes

1. **Shoveler Ducks** - Remove shoveler ducks from the aggregate bag limit on opening weekend.
2. **Paradise Shelducks** - In the summer paradise shelduck season, hunting is restricted to locations 200 metres or more from open water.

Decision Date: 17 Nov 2022
Mover: PHILLIP MUSSON
Seconder: TREVOR ISITT
Outcome: Approved

Gamebird Season Dates for the 2023 Gamebird Season

Noted that for this season observe/monitor cock pheasant take and if required make changes to the regulations in the 2024 season.



2023 Game Season Dates

That the dates for the 2023 Game Notice are;

SPECIES	SEASON DURATION	DAILY BAG LIMIT	HUNTING AREAS
Grey and mallard duck aggregate bag limit	6 and 7 May 2023	25	All areas

Grey, mallard duck and any hybrid of those species	8 May to 30 July	15	All areas
	3-4 and 10-11 February 2024	10	Area B only - only over agricultural grain crops and green feed paddocks and more than 200 metres from a water body
NZ shoveler duck	6 May to 30 July	2	All areas
Paradise shelduck	6 May to 30 July	20	Area A
	6 May to 17 September	20	Area B
	3 Feb to 10 March	15	Area A and only more than 200 metres from any water body
	3 Feb to 10 March	20	Area B and only more than 200 metres from any water body
Pukeko	6 May to 24 September	5	All areas
Black Swan	6 May to 30 July	2	All areas
California Quail	6 May to 27 August	10	All areas
Cock Pheasant	3-4 June, 1-2 July and 5-6 August	1	All areas
Chukar	Closed Season	0	All areas

Decision Date: 17 Nov 2022
Mover: TREVOR ISITT
Seconder: PHILLIP MUSSON
Outcome: Approved

2.3 Non-Resident Levy - Licence Fee Consultation

Currently, the non-resident levy is used to complement operational activities and going forward should be spent regionally to benefit the fishery that the non-resident angler pays for use. Noted that 84% of total non-resident anglers coming to New Zealand were fishing in the South Island and if funds were shared between regions then they should be ringfenced geographically.

**Non Resident Levy - Licence Fee Consultation**

That NCFG Council agrees that the non-resident levy funds should not be considered as general licence income, and consequently should remain in regional dedicated reserves for fisheries projects; and

That NCFG Council resolves to support Auckland/Waikato Council's recommendation to NZC that "prior notification of expenditure from the regional non-resident reserve is no longer desirable".

Decision Date: 17 Nov 2022
Mover: RICHARD O'KEEFE
Seconded: DAVE COLL
Outcome: Approved

2.4 Council Meeting Dates

Rural meeting dates and workshops are seen as quite an expense but the benefit for Councillors to "socialise and get to know one another" and to engage with stakeholders was seen as beneficial.

**Meeting Dates for 2023**

All meetings are to commence at 5.30 pm on the third Wednesday of every month outlined and unless otherwise stated will be held at 595 Johns Road, Harewood at the North Canterbury Fish and Game offices.

The 2023 meeting and workshop dates are as follows;

15 February 2023	
15 March 2023	Draft Budget and OWP
24 May 2023	Fish regulations and licence fee recommendation
19 July 2023	Proposed rural meeting - 3.30 pm start
20 September 2023	
22 November 2023	Game Bird regulations (3.30 pm start) and AGM (6.30 pm start)
	Council Workshops
18 - 19 February 2023	Planning and strategy workshop - venue to be confirmed
10 August 2023	End of financial year review

Decision Date: 17 Nov 2022
Mover: ALAN STRONG
Seconded: NIALL COSTER
Outcome: Approved

3. STANDARD REPORTS

3.1 Chairman's Report

The Regional Councils Chair's meetings are co-ordinated by Cr Strong. A collective letter was sent by Regional Chair's to NZC seeking clarification as to who was on the implementation steering committee and what was happening with that committee, as progress on mergers of regions was at a standstill.

Suggested that councilors have input into the Chair's meetings with processes discussed.

3.2 CEO / Staff Activity Report

Councillor's congratulated staff on the quality of the Reports presented which were taken as read.

Lake Coleridge Fishing Competition

Staff were complimented on the organisation of the Lake Coleridge fishing competition and both staff and rangers' interaction with the public was well received.

The inclusion of Lake Georgina and Lake Selfe in the fishing competition was discussed. As the competition was based on the weight of a fish, the question of including a catch and release category for competitions on these lakes was raised.

It was recommended that the management and framework of the competition be reviewed, prior to the 2023 fishing season.



STANDARD REPORTS

That the Chairman's verbal report and the following reports be taken as read; CEO/Staff Activity Report, Finance Report, Health and Safety Report, RMA Report, and the Rakaia WCO Report.

Decision Date:	17 Nov 2022
Mover:	DAVE BARRON
Seconder:	PHILLIP MUSSON
Outcome:	Approved

3.3 Finance Report

3.4 Health and Safety Report

3.5 RMA Report

3.6 Rakaia WCO Report

3.7 FIF Governors Update

3.8 NZC Report

4. FOR DISCUSSION

4.1 Lake Coleridge Fishing Competition Overview

Discussed in Reports Section.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

5.1 USE OF RESERVES

Use of Reserves for the Rental Property

Agreed that more than one quote be obtained for consideration when any work is undertaken on the rental property and that a Healthy Homes audit be completed to guide and enable emergency repairs to be completed.

5.2 Reforming Financial Management



Reforming Financial Management

That the NCFGC requests that NZC take steps to reform the organisation's financial management and financial allocation system to allow governors at both the national and regional levels make to financial decisions for which they are accountable.

Cr O'Keefe against

Decision Date: 17 Nov 2022
Mover: NIALL COSTER
Seconder: KEN LLOYD
Outcome: Approved



Reforming Financial Management

Cr Strong to write a letter on behalf of the Council requesting that NZC take steps to reform the organisation's financial management and financial allocation system to allow governors at both the national and regional levels make to financial decisions for which they are accountable.

Due Date: 31 Dec 2022
Owner: ALAN STRONG

6. PUBLIC SESSION

6.1 Public Session

State of High Country Fisheries

Cr Lloyd signaled that this be on the agenda for the Council Workshop in February.

Take a Kid Fishing

Cr Coster signaled that discussions for the Council Workshop in February required to be had around sustainable fishing ponds for children.

Winnemem Wintu Project

Consideration was required to be given on the amount of salmon that would be required to be killed for pathogen testing in various spawning catchments for this Project.

7. Close Meeting

7.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - North Canterbury Fish and Game Council - 17 Nov 2022, 6:38 pm

New Actions raised in this meeting

Item	Action Title	Owner
5.2	Reforming Financial Management Due Date: 31 Dec 2022	ALAN STRONG

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Action List

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

As of: 9 Feb 2023

Access Issues at Lower Selwyn River

In Progress

In conjunction with the SDC and Iwi, approach new land owners regarding public access for fishing.

Crs P Musson and A Strong met with owners, who is not prepared to do anything re improving public access at this stage. But the landowner did state they were willing to give access for anglers for one day only over 21/22 season.

As this does not seem a feasible option more work needs to be done on this matter.

Update - 19 May 2022 - Cr's Musson and Strong due to meet with landowner re access for the upcoming angling season again shortly.

Update - 21 July 2022 - due to Covid 19 the planned meeting has been delayed.

Due Date: 21 Jul 2022

Owner: ALAN STRONG

Meeting: 17 Feb 2021 COUNCIL MEETING - 17 FEBRUARY 2021, 6.5 Access Issue at Lower Selwyn River

Reforming Financial Management

Not Started

Cr Strong to write a letter on behalf of the Council requesting that NZC take steps to reform the organisation's financial management and financial allocation system to allow governors at both the national and regional levels make to financial decisions for which they are accountable.

Due Date: 31 Dec 2022

Owner: ALAN STRONG

Meeting: 17 Nov 2022 North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Meeting, 5.2 Reforming Financial Management

FOR DECISION

To: North Canterbury Fish and Game Council

From: Richard Cosgrove

Date: February 2023

Subject: NOMINATION OF ERIN GARRICK TO THE GAME BIRD HABITAT TRUST

Purpose: To nominate an appropriate person for membership of the Game Bird Habitat trust

Recommendations:

1. That the North Canterbury Fish & Game Council nominate Erin Garrick to the New Zealand Council for membership of the Game Bird Habitat Trust.

Background:

2. The Game Bird Habitat Trust exists to distribute monies gathered from the sale of the Habitat Stamp on the game bird licence.
3. The Trust has six members, three of which are nominated by Fish & Game.
4. The Minister of Conservation appoints the Game Bird Habitat Trust members for three years.
5. The current board's term end in September 2023.

Points of Information

6. Each year Game bird hunters pay an additional \$5 for their game bird hunting licence to conserve the habitat of New Zealand's waterfowl and upland game species.
7. Since introduced by the New Zealand government to "generate revenue" to improve game bird habitat and the habitat of other wildlife, the habitat stamp programme has raised over \$2.5 million for conservation.
8. On average, 30 hectares of land each year are protected or enhanced by projects the Trust supports.
9. Erin Garrick has moved to the North Canterbury Region this year after serving on Southland Fish & Game staff for almost eight years.
10. Whilst there, she was responsible for the majority of Wetland Survey work for Southland Fish & Game.

11. Over the last ten years, Southland Fish & Game has assisted in the creation of around 200 wetlands on private farmland.
12. Erin has a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science and Agricultural Business and graduated with distinction. She also has a Postgraduate Diploma and Master of Science in Wildlife Management and graduated with distinction.
13. She is a recreational hunter of game birds and ungulate species, with a passion for using indicating dogs.
14. Her role at Southland Fish & Game oversaw the management of the waterfowl resource in Southland and, consequently, plenty of communication with hunters within the region.
15. Erin has governance experience with her appointment by the Minister of Conservation to the Game Animal Council in 2020.
16. Erin would be an exemplary addition to the Game Bird Habitat Trust Board; her recent practical experience and knowledge of wetland restoration projects would undoubtedly assist the Trust in assessing projects for the maximum benefit of game bird hunters.

Strategic Implications

17. Supporting Erin with this nomination would assist the council in achieving Priority Outcome One: Our Species populations are enhanced by protecting and restoring habitats.

CHAIRMANS REPORT

To: North Canterbury Fish and Game
From: Alan Strong
Date: February 2023

We are now well into the new year and new salmon season, there have been some good reports of fish around. The main rivers are suffering from periods of low flow and higher temperatures primarily due to low rainfall in the alps. This is exacerbated by a high irrigation demand when conditions are dry. Unfortunately, this situation is predicted to occur more often in the future due to our changing climate. This demonstrates the importance of Fish and Games work such as ensuring the Rakaia Water Conservation is managed correctly to protect the rivers outstanding characteristics.

Currently our summer duck season is under way and hunters have reported some good sessions. Council have slightly adjusted the regulations for next season following staff's engagement with hunters this year during our regulation review.

Council has its annual two-day workshop coming up next weekend, this is where the priorities for the year will be developed. This is the process council uses to determine how to best use our finite resources on behalf of licence holders.

The North Canterbury Council has written a letter to CSI requesting a council-to-council meeting to discuss several matters including amalgamation and Lake Herron/Mellish stream management. (Refer to "For Information Papers for Letter). We look forward to a productive and proactive meeting.

Tight lines and hot barrels.

OPERATIONAL PROGRESS REPORT

To: North Canterbury Fish and Game Council

From: Rasmus Gabrielsson

Date: February 2023

BACKGROUND

The format of the CEO/Staff Activity report has been revised, and with guidance from the Chairman and co-opted Councillors Chris Brankin and Graeme Nahkies we are now testing a different approach.

Below is a brief overview of achievements, risk or issues that help or hinder progress on council priorities, followed by a summary how we are tracking with the Operational workplan projects and activities.

This Operational Progress Report aims to provide a higher-level outline, but also allow governors an opportunity to ask the CE about things that may have changed in the operating environment (internal or external) or to expand on operational activities and areas of specific interest.

An opportunity to discuss and direct the structure of future operational reporting format will be provided at the Council Strategy and Planning Workshop 18-19 February 2023. With the assistance of council input, it aims to develop into a shorter and more standardised format.

PRIORITY OUTCOMES

1. Our Species Populations Are Enhanced

The Adaptive Sea-Run Salmon Management Strategy is progressing according to plan, and funding for harvest and spawning surveys have now been added to our baseline budget. Increasing costs for aerial surveys (due to rising inflation and international exchange rates) means it is important that adequate monitoring budgets are made available for next year (a \$8,000 cost increase is anticipated).

In order to better understand game bird population trends and sustainability staff have begun a comprehensive review of our regional game bird monitoring activities. Including a detailed evaluation of how population and harvest assessments have been conducted. It is expected this work will improve both our monitoring methods and help staff progress in identifying priority habitats for game bird populations in need of better protection or restoration.

2. Key Stakeholders Are More Engaged

As a result of the establishment of a regional Fish & Game Officer portion focused on compliance, communications, and engagement we are generally making good progress to deliver on this priority. Staff have identified the benefits and need for a regional strategy document to help us guide and monitor progress on the council's two focus areas within this priority outcome.

It will be very useful to undertake a targeted user survey at the end of the financial year, to help evaluate if and how these efforts have improved stakeholder engagement.

3. Participation In Sports Fishing and Game Bird Hunting Is Increased

Progress has been made on identifying and developing steppingstone fisheries near urban areas, see the section on Fish stocking (under Hatchery Operations) in the Operational Progress Report for more details.

A connection has been established with two fishing and hunting clubs run by students at Canterbury and Lincoln University. Both clubs generally have between 150-200 members annually, and discussions for how we can better engage and support/collaborate with them to progress council priority outcomes are underway.

Despite these and other efforts, evaluations of regional sales trends (and their financial implications) have made it clear that it is unlikely that NCFG can meaningfully increase licence sales if we are not given increased support from NZC to do so. Moreover, it has become clear that any staff effort and regional expenditure aimed at increasing licence sales is unlikely to benefit this region as increased sales will essentially be passed on to NZC for redistribution to Grant receiving regions or National Office budgets.

It is essential that Council prioritises engagement with NZC and other Regional Councils to make progress on a national review of Resource Allocation. Until this has been completed the CEO recommends that Council remove or substantially revise their ambitions and focus for this priority outcome.

4. The Council Has Achieved a Positive, Sustainable Financial Position

NCFG is cashflow positive, and regional reserves have been partly restored. While General Reserves are above the 20% of baseline budget threshold level set by NZC, the region's Restricted Reserves have not yet been rebuilt. Regional Asset Replacement and Capital Expenditure Reserves are also not yet at a level that will enable regular replacement of higher-value capital assets long-term (e.g. vehicles, jetboat, electric fishing machine, office premises and rental property maintenance etc.). Additionally, regional fish licence sales continue to decline below sales targets set by NZC. This means NCFG must likely again use regional reserves to complete all our NZC Levy payments.

NZC have also recently proposed concerning changes to how the Non-Resident Levy (NRL) Reserve might be managed that threaten to negatively impact NCFG region's financial sustainability. If implemented the proposed changes will hinder our ability to continue carrying out operational activities and withstand periods of decreasing licence sales. During the last 10+ years, NCFG region has consistently been using the regional NRL Reserve to fund operational activities and has to date spent ~70% of all levies collected. If the NRL funds are centralised by NZC it is essential that the region's baseline budget is increased, to compensate for reductions in expected non-resident fishing licence income (currently likely losses are estimated to be between \$40,000 to \$80,000 per year).

5. The North Canterbury Fish and Game Council Has a Relationship With Iwi In Its Region Consistent With Its Obligations To Give Effect To The Principles Of The Treaty of Waitangi

As a result of staff engagement and the support and guidance of our Statutory Advisor from Ngai Tahu, Chris Brankin, NCFG has gradually been increasing our iwi engagement and relationships.

To progress this priority, and give effect to our obligations under S4 of the conservation Act, staff have been working with representatives from Ngai Tahu/TRONT, statutory management agency roles focused on iwi relations, and other iwi partners around: vehicle access to Te Waihora; the monitoring, management and cultural harvest of native game birds; and how to better monitor and understand if and when threatened non-migratory native fish populations are negatively impacted by trout predation, and how to best address this.

The CE has been working with Steve Carrick who holds the role of Pou Mātai Kō/Cultural Land Management Advisor at Environment Canterbury. This has resulted in improved understanding for how mātauranga Māori/knowledge can benefit and aid environmental protection, and also identified collaboration opportunities. As a result NCFG have been invited by iwi organisers to participate in both a fishery survey at Coopers Lagoon / Muriwai (a small coastal lagoon between the Rakaia River mouth and Te Waihora outlet owned by Ngai Tahu) and also a collaborative mudfish survey and protection project, aimed at making sure trout and other introduced fish are not adversely impacting the recovery of threatened mudfish at a regionally significant native fish sanctuary site in the upper Hororata catchment.

OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN UPDATE

OUTPUT AREA 1: SPORT FISH AND GAME BIRD SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Population Monitoring

Game Bird Counts

Annual game bird flight counting black swans and paradise shelducks have been completed. Conducted and reported on a comprehensive review of game bird management in North Canterbury (First draft completed, report due to Council by July/August).

Hapua Surveys

Assisted Environment Canterbury in Hapua surveys at the Waiiau River Mouth, Hurunui River mouth and Brooklands lagoon (Waimakariri River).

Harvest Assessment

Sea Run Salmon Harvest Surveys

Because 2021/2022 Salmon cards continued to be handed in late; staff have reviewed and revised salmon harvest estimates following the recent release of the draft CSI report (see separate sea-run salmon harvest update report). Staff have continued the development of the /2023 season project plan for how to adjust this season sea-run salmon harvest survey method.

Lake Fishery Creel Surveys

To aid monitoring of high-value Lake Fisheries staff have digitised past Lake Coleridge competition data & analysed trends (see separate Lake Coleridge Fishing Competition update report).

Hatchery Operations

Hatchery Facilities

Staff have carried out maintenance and infrastructure inspections at Whiskey Creek hatchery site (currently not in active use after decommissioning in 2019/20). A plan for both short- and long-term maintenance requirements of the site and its infrastructure (water race, vegetation clearance, and fish passage structures) is being prepared.

Fish stocking

A meeting with CCC Parks manager to review how angling should be managed and provided for in both the Roto Kohatu and Groynes Parks has been held. Discussions centred around their importance as steppingstone fisheries, and ways to help ensure the potential for conflict between anglers and other user groups are managed effectively. These parks/lakes represent a significant resource to the urban populations and junior/intermediate anglers. A proposed draft stocking plan for Lake Roto Kohatu has been discussed with CCC Park manager, and an initial small-scale release of commercial-origin juvenile trout and salmon, in preparation for winter fishing activities has taken place.

Regulations

Angling regulations review

Staff have been involved in and contributed to the national Designated Waters/Pressure Sensitive Fisheries discussions, including attendance in NZC and regional meetings.

Hunting regulations review

A review of game bird regulations for 2023/2024 season has been completed.

Species Management and Control

Game bird Control

Staff have responded to queries, evaluated, and processed applications for game bird control permits. Year to date, 5 permits have been issued (1 cultural harvest of paradise ducks, 1 for control of paradise ducks, 1 for control of mallards, paradise ducks, and 2 for control of pukeko).

Sport fish control

Took part in Haldon Pastures mudfish survey in collaboration with ECan and DOC staff. Engaged in the discussions and coordination of proposed fieldwork for a long-term collaborative project with ECan and DOC on trout removal in an important native fish refuge on Bealey Stream near Hororata township.

OUTPUT AREA 2: HABITAT PROTECTION, MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT

Statutory Planning Process

For a more detailed overview of the RMA advocacy and planning work done to represent the interests and aspirations of anglers and hunters in the statutory planning process see the separate RMA Report.

Fish Screens

Involvement in FSWG subgroup meetings and report reviews.

Access Agreements

Involvement with Greenpark Sands Lake Ellesmere / Te Waihora access working groups, finding solutions to continue allowing hunters to get vehicle access closer to the water's edge.

Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere Joint Management Plan

Conducted maimai counts & GPS marking on Lake Ellesmere/Te Waihora, aimed at updating our records of hunters who have tagged hides and maimai locations.

Assisted Habitat*General Habitat Enhancement*

Staff have been engaged with environmental working groups and forums to advocate for Braided River health. See a copy of the recent joint submission to the Natural and Built Environments Bill we contributed toward [here](#).

General Habitat Assessment*HCWWP Project Support*

Fish & Game staff have provided administrative support to facilitate and help this Freshwater Improvement Fund (FIF) project, funded by the Ministry for the Environment, to undertake works aimed to protect vulnerable but valuable waterways and wetlands in the North Canterbury high-country. Our support to the project helps improve environmental protection by maintaining and enhancing the habitat of sports fish and game AND native flora and fauna.

For a more detailed overview of how the HCWWP Project contributes to maintain and enhance habitats of high importance and interest to sports fish and game resources see the separate FIF Project Report

OUTPUT AREA 3: PARTICIPATION**Increase Participation***R3 Programme*

Production and planning of educational videos (How-To salmon fishing video series, development of How-To for float tube fishing).

Normal regional communications and outreach with local media stories on compliance operations, sea-run salmon season, and summer duck hunting.

Commenced a regional deep-dive analysis of our licence sales trends, in preparation for our upcoming council planning workshop (18-19 February 2023).

R3 Angling and Hunting Events

Organised and held the Lake Coleridge Fishing Competition and commenced planning for the 2023 Ranger's Salmon Fishing Competition which is usually held in late March each year on the lower Waimakariri River.

Satisfaction Surveys

Conducted Lake Coleridge fishing competition satisfaction survey, results, and analysis, information for sponsors.

Planned and designed summer game bird season participation and satisfaction survey.

Access*Access advocacy*

The need for the development of regional access strategy document has been identified, to help guide and resource this workstream over multiple years.

Access Signage

Review and replacement of dilapidated access signage across the region.

Newsletters*Fish and Game Magazine supplements*

Advertising for Lake Coleridge fishing competition.

Produced content for magazine articles for the Fish & Game game bird season magazine.

Regional articles

Weekly fishing reports & Reel life publications have been completed. In addition, staff have also produced content for rural newspapers on summer game bird season.

Website

NCFG website updates and Facebook page updates have been regularly produced.

Client Relations*Club Relations*

Club presentations, preparation & communications (Christchurch Fishing and Casting club, University of Canterbury FishSoc, Christchurch Rod and Gun Club).

OUTPUT AREA 4: PUBLIC INTERFACE

The key focus has continued to be on working with Iwi partners to identify pathways forward to build authentic relationships, understand engagement expectations, and explore co-management opportunities. Additional focus areas include meeting with strategic landowners and statutory agencies (e.g. LINZ/ DOC) that are involved in the management and access to our key habitats and resources. Staff have also been involved and attended meetings and workshops with other groups e.g., Braided River Action Group.

OUTPUT AREA 5: COMPLIANCE

See the separate compliance report for a more detailed account of ranging activities.

OUTPUT AREA 6: LICENCING

Staff have overseen Licence production and replacement in the office, and partaken in licence database discussions with NZC staff, Regional Managers, and members of NZC's Licence Working Party. Currently, the staff is undertaking preparatory work for the next season's sea-run salmon harvest card.

OUTPUT AREA 7: COUNCIL

Staff have assisted the Council Chairman in administrating the preparation of updates and Reports/Papers for Council meetings and workshops.

OUTPUT AREA 8: PLANNING AND REPORTING*Planning and Reporting*

Development of the Draft OWP for the 2023/24 season has begun, and OWP project plans for the current year have been reviewed and updated, and/or scheduled to be completed.

National Liaison

Involvement with NZC Women Anglers survey, correspondence, and planning.

Review of National Angling Survey period data, in preparation for national analysis and management discussions coordinated by NZC.

INPUT AREA 9: ADMINISTRATION*Staff Training*

Staff have completed follow-up practical electric fishing training with an external instructor. Further practical training will be provided in late February, along with a theoretical lesson on the principles and safety of electric fishing by an instructor from Smith-Root, who are the manufacturers of the primary electric fishing machines NCFG owns and operate.

Continuing jet boat driver training with Paul Van-Klink in Waimakariri and Rakaia rivers is underway (Harry Graham Samson and Lyndon Slater).

Staff workshop for report writing has been held with the assistance of Co-opted Councillor Chris Brankin.

Our newest staff member has recently completed the CERT course (Matt Garrick) and has also partaken in ranger training at McKenzie hydro canals in conjunction with CSI region.

Office Premises Maintenance

A Healthy Homes inspection has been carried out of the rental property, confirming additional maintenance is required to meet the set National Standard. Discussions with the tenant has resulted in the preparation of a draft agreement for how and when this work can be completed. And some of the more urgent work to maintain and repair the rental property and yard area has already been undertaken and/or scheduled. More maintenance work is still required to ensure the property complies with the Healthy Homes Standard. Plans for how this work can be resourced and completed will be presented at the council workshop (February 2023).

Freshwater Improvement Project

Provide administrative, GIS, or operational support to the FIF project.

FRESHWATER IMPROVEMENT FUND (FIF PROJECT REPORT):

See the separate Freshwater Improvement Fund report.

OTHER WORK:

Jonathan Larsson joined us from Sweden for two months as he completed the practical internship component of his biology degree.

FINANCE REPORT

To: North Canterbury Fish and Game Council

From: Debbie Ambler

Date: February 2022

Subject: DECEMBER 2022 FINANCE REPORT

1. PURPOSE

To inform Council on the financial performance and position, reporting monthly using the accrual basis. It documents income and expenditure versus the current annual budget.

The shortened format gives explanations if spending in that month is over \$1,000 at the side of each post.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Finance report be accepted for the month ending 31 December 2022.

3. POINTS FOR INFORMATION

a. Profit and Loss – Table 1

The Profit and Loss Report reports direct costs for the period stated being December 2022. This Report has been set up in the same format as the year-end Annual Report.

The approved 22/23 Budget used in this Report is \$914,882. This is made up of baseline funding of \$783,400 plus \$91,482 granted from contestable funding. In addition, one-off approvals were given to use reserves totalling \$40,000. (\$15,000 for traffic safety upgrade and \$25,000 for headwater monitoring).

Revenue

- i. Licence sales are received by two methods: Public On-Line is paid to NCFG monthly, and Agency On-Line is earned monthly but paid to NCFG bi-monthly.
- ii. The non-resident licence levy is accumulated over the financial year and is journaled into the Back Country Reserve at the end of the financial year.
- iii. The sea-run salmon endorsement charge of \$5.00 is separated from licence income and is used to offset printing costs for the endorsement card.

b. Balance Sheet – Table 2

- i. Accruals: (11.64) Duck Stamp Levy (rounding)
- ii. Employee Entitlements: is annual leave and PAYE owing at month end
- iii. Income In Advance: \$104,755 - (year-end transaction) – this relates to an accounting accrual for whole season fish licences that still have 1/12th of the licence remaining as at balance date. This will be reversed out and replaced with values as at 31/8/23.

c. Aged Payables / Receivables – Tables 3 & 4

Noted explanations if spending is over \$1,000 to the side of the code.

Note: Charges relating to the Rakaia Water Conservation Order are reimbursed by NZC.

All invoices relating to the FIF Project (except for "in-kind" expenses) are reimbursed by MfE

d. Asset Register – Table 5

Reports on purchases and disposals for the financial year 2022/23.

Table 1 : Profit and Loss

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council
For the 4 months ended 31 December 2022

Account	Dec 2022	YTD Actual	22/23 Budget	% of Total Budget	
REVENUE					
Fish and Game Licence Sales					
Fish Licence Sales	192,463	1,105,290	1,363,969	81%	
Non-Resident Licence Revenue	6,944	18,951	0	0%	
Sea Run Salmon Card	4,087	17,510	0	0%	
Game Licence Sales	(263)	(263)	222,360	0%	
Total Fish and Game Licence Sales	203,230	1,141,486	1,586,329	72%	
Other Income	4,537	13,891	19,296	72%	Rent and RMA Reimbursements
Total REVENUE	207,767	1,155,377	1,605,625	72%	
EXPENSES					
Outputs					
Species Management	1,452	2,058	67,000	3%	Chest waders for two staff
Habitat protection & Management	5	9,072	13,250	68%	
Angler & Hunter participation	0	5,437	8,000	68%	
Public Interface	38	206	700	29%	
Compliance	125	1,531	6,500	24%	
Licensing	7,193	44,348	71,573	62%	Commission & Eyed Bank Charges
Council	437	2,049	4,500	46%	
Planning & reporting	80	381	10,000	4%	
Total Outputs	9,329	65,082	181,523	36%	
Overheads					
Employee Related Expenses					
Salaries & Wages	88,157	223,475	641,653	35%	3 x paydays in month & CPI adjustments
Staff Expenses	2,811	5,323	16,600	32%	Staff xmas event & uniforms
Other Overheads					
Office Premises	624	22,481	29,850	75%	
Office Equipment	153	612	4,500	14%	
Communications/consumable	2,756	9,360	19,500	48%	Costs relating to SharePoint Implementation
General/Insurance	(409)	21,705	22,064	98%	
General Equipment	1,940	4,806	4,000	120%	Proshot Laser Package for wetland surveying
Vehicles/Marine	2,774	15,998	42,765	37%	Vehicle maintenance & fuel
Total Other Overheads	7,839	74,962	122,679	61%	
Total Overheads	98,806	303,760	780,932	39%	
Depreciation	9,079	34,574	0	0%	
NZ Fish & Game Levies	54,552	218,209	654,423	33%	
FIF In Kind Expenditure	3,023	8,026	0	0%	
Bad Debts	424	424	0	0%	
Total EXPENSES	175,213	630,074	1,616,878	39%	
FIF - Income / Expenditure					
FIF - Income	0	9,491	0	0%	Claimed from MFE 1/4erly
FIF Salaries	(15,000)	(43,500)	0	0%	
FIF Kiwisaver	(450)	(1,305)	0	0%	
FIF Land Purchase - Legal Costs	0	(736)	0	0%	
FIF Surveying	0	(4,783)	0	0%	
FIF Lidar Mapping	0	(11,700)	0	0%	
Total FIF - Income / Expenditure	(15,450)	(52,534)	0	0%	
Net Profit	32,553	525,303	(11,253)	-4668%	

Table 2: Balance Sheet

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council As at 31 December 2022

	31 DEC 2022	31 AUG 2022
Assets		
Bank		
Income Accounts	1,254,548.12	172,334.38
Mai Mai Account	68,719.02	68,749.02
J McIntyre On Call - 21	-	547,813.71
Total Bank	1,323,267.14	788,897.11
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	334,646.16	353,725.30
Other Receivables	200,000.00	237,282.69
Investments	4,735.01	4,679.41
Total Current Assets	539,381.17	595,687.40
Fixed Assets	1,514,422.72	1,490,393.50
Total Assets	3,377,071.03	2,874,978.01
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	14,946.38	52,480.03
Visa	4,058.75	3,660.42
Accruals	(11.64)	8,796.00
Employee Entitlements	82,271.63	46,375.42
GST	110,079.69	21,775.80
Income In Advance	104,755.00	158,036.61
Total Current Liabilities	316,099.81	291,124.28
Total Liabilities	316,099.81	291,124.28
Net Assets	3,060,971.22	2,583,853.73
Equity		
Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated Funds	1,906,479.10	1,719,139.75
Current Year Earnings	472,769.66	187,339.35
Transfer to and from Reserves	530,237.83	36,457.46
Total Accumulated Funds	2,909,486.59	1,942,936.56
Dedicated Reserves		
Asset Replacement Funding	12,352.64	48,922.10
Non Resident Licence Revenue	65,358.96	46,408.33
Total Dedicated Reserves	77,711.60	95,330.43
Restricted Reserves		
Mai Mai Reserve	68,749.02	68,749.02
Rakala Fund Reserve	5,024.01	5,024.01

Table 2: Balance Sheet

	31 DEC 2022	31 AUG 2022
J McIntyre Reserve	-	471,813.71
Total Restricted Reserves	73,773.03	545,586.74
Total Equity	3,060,971.22	2,583,853.73

Table 3: Aged Receivables Summary

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council

As at 31 December 2022

Contact	Total	
Eyede - Internet sales	100,809.00	Paid to North Canterbury early January 2023
Eyede Agent	229,051.95	Paid to North Canterbury early February 2023
New Zealand Fish and Game Council	4,785.21	Refund on RMA costs
Total	334,646.16	

Table 4: Aged Payables Summary

North Canterbury Fish and Game Council
As at 31 December 2022

<u>Contact</u>	<u>Total</u>	
Aged Payables		
Accurate Instruments	2,218.35	Proshop Laser Package for welland surveying
Action Signs	165.20	
ANZ Merchant	8.97	
BP FUELCARD	1,537.10	Fuel purchases
Bunnings	45.99	
Burnsco Marine	13.00	
Busy Bees Services Limited	161.00	
Code 9	49.45	
D W Kirkness	325.00	
Eastern Fish and Game Council	92.23	
EYEDE NC Sales	1,743.00	North Canterbury licence sales
Genesis	310.38	
Grey Ford (2020)	602.35	
Inviewprint	682.47	
Lightwire	70.12	
Nectar	2,442.31	Sharepoint implementation / monthly fee
Paymark	21.74	
Ricoh	111.81	
Spark	128.26	
Terraquip	3,266.45	New suspension for NYC640
Vodafone	300.36	
Z Energy	650.84	
Total Aged Payables	14,946.38	
Total	14,946.38	

HEALTH & SAFETY REPORT

To: North Canterbury Fish and Game Council

From: Lyndon Slater

Date: February 2023

PURPOSE

1. This report has been prepared for the Council to provide a summary of health and safety across the organisation.

INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

2. This report provides a summary of:
 - a. The health and safety performance across the organisation inclusive of any contract work.
 - b. Health and safety risk across the organisation.
 - c. Any significant health and safety incidents for the months reported and any recent updates on past incidents.
 - d. Any near miss events and subsequent follow up actions.
 - e. The progress against the Health and Safety Strategy Work Programme.
 - f. The report also responds to any matters arising from the last Council Meeting.

ANALYSIS

3. The table below summarises the reporting statistics for this period. Further information regarding context and follow up process is captured in a register.

Lost time injuries this period	Lost time injuries this year	Incidents this period	Incidents this year	Near Miss Events this period	Near miss events this year	New Hazards reported this period	New Hazards reported this year
0	0	0	0	0	5	0	3

4. This dataset continues to build over time particularly as our work programme grows and health and safety reporting culture are ingrained into our work ethos.

Safety Plan Review

5. NCFG safety plan and overall systems are in review and will be externally audited on completion.

Near Miss and Incident Events

6. There were no near miss or incident events reported in the period November to February. All staff have taken a break over Christmas with the office closure.

Health and Safety Culture

7. The overall Health and Safety culture in our organization continues to be positive and proactive. Our staff and volunteers are engaged and committed to maintaining a safe and healthy work environment. We have had regular safety meetings and training sessions, and our employees have shown a keen interest in learning about best practices in health and safety.

H&S Meetings

8. Weekly health and safety discussions are a regular part of Monday morning meeting agenda, these discussions provide a useful forum to discuss and improve general health and safety culture.

Staff Induction

9. New staff member Matt Garrick is being inducted and introduced to NCFG Health and Safety systems and processes.

Contractors

10. No new contractors have been inducted or engaged on site.

Staff Competencies and Training

11. Staff competencies continue to be assessed as required. Training plans will be established for all staff to monitor and progress individual needs. As trailers have been identified as a significant risk that have contributed to recently recorded incidents, a competency assessment process has been established.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND SAFETY

12. Conduct regular safety inspections of all equipment and facilities to ensure they are in good working condition and meet relevant health and safety regulations.
13. Encourage employees to report all near miss and incident events as soon as they occur, so that we can learn from them and prevent similar events in the future.
14. Provide ongoing training and development opportunities to enhance staff knowledge and skills in health and safety.

CONCLUSION / DISCUSSION

15. NCFG are tracking well towards our H&S goals. Further work is required to ensure systems and processes are adhered to and good cultures are developed.

RMA REPORT

To: North Canterbury Fish and Game Council

From: Lyndon Slater

Date: February 2023

Purpose

1. This report has been prepared for Council to summarise key RMA activities undertaken by the NCFG team throughout the period November 2022 to February 2023

Introduction and Background

2. As the statutory management agency for sport fish and game birds we are required to consider the Legislation, the RMA, local plans, regional plans, and National Policy Statements applicable to our Region.

Analysis

Priority - Regional

Te Waihora Joint Management Plan Access Issues

2. NCFG have engaged in a process to resolve issues associated with unmanaged vehicle use in the Te Waihora area. A working group has been established between DOC, Ngai Tahu, SDC and NCFG.
3. The primary role of the Working Group is to make recommendations to the Te Waihora Co-Governance Group around solutions to minimise damage and ensure all user groups are provided for. This has progressed to proposing designs for restricting general vehicle access to key sites and providing managed access for the purposes of gamebird hunting.

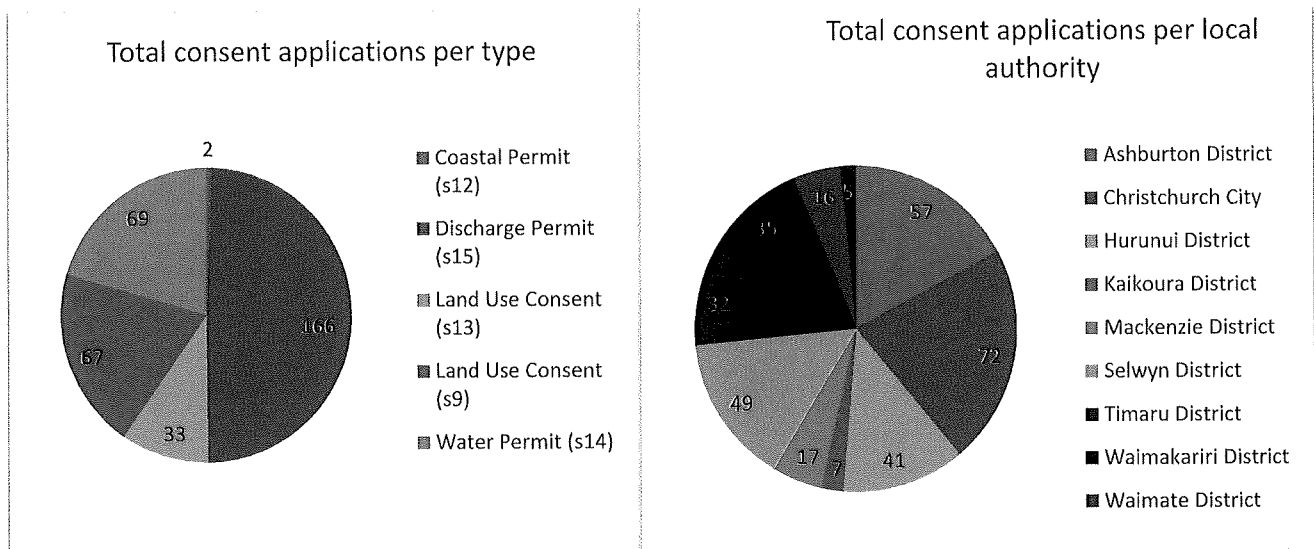
Rakaia WCO

4. Covered in separate Memorandum

Resource Consents General

5. All resource consent applications lodged with the regional council are presented weekly to affected parties to assess whether these are relevant to us. Where relevant we provide feedback to regional councils and where necessary propose these be publicly notified.
6. Through the period November–February we have received and assessed 184 resource consent applications of the type and locations presented below and a total for the year of 337.

7. The total consents relevant to NCFG account for 197 of these with the remainder spread between NM, CSI and Otago regions.



Gravel Management Strategy Review

- 8. The Environment Canterbury Rivers team are reviewing their Regional Gravel Management Strategy (GMS) 2012 which sets the framework for managing gravel extraction from rivers across Canterbury.
- 9. In undertaking the review, North Canterbury Fish and Game are working with the Regional Council to articulate the values important to hunters and anglers and propose amendments to the strategy to provide for these values.

Engagement With LINZ

- 10. Due to several issues identified in the management of LINZ properties, NCFG has begun a process with LINZ to build a better engagement framework and improve the way we receive information regarding their permitting process and applications for land use changes.
- 11. NCFG will seek to establish an MOU or formal agreement with the organisation to manage expectations. Our initial planning meetings with LINZ was completed in late October. This engagement will be further progressed through a workshop involving multiple agencies, aimed at helping us all better define the complex interactions we have as agencies.

Priority - National

- 12. All processes detailed below are being managed and where required submitted at a national level. NCFG has reviewed and provided input where required and beneficial.

Reclassification of Stewardship Land
 Wildlife Act Review – Early engagement
 National Policy Statement Indigenous Biodiversity.
 National Policy Statement Freshwater
 National Environmental Standard Freshwater
 Crown Pastoral Land Reform Act 2022 - Consultation on Regulations and Standards
 Natural and Built Environments Act national submissions.

Update on North Canterbury's Rakaia River issue.

Introduction

Concern amongst river users has been growing for a number of years over changes in river flows and degradation of fishery and other outstanding values in the lower Rakaia River. Perceptions of change in the river was assessed in a 2022 report by NIWA¹.

The leaking of a draft ECan report on water balance modelling for the catchment brought the debate into sharp focus in late 2021 and received detailed media coverage. Amongst other things it questioned whether water takes by Trustpower (now Manawa Energy) to supply downstream irrigation complied with the Rakaia Water Conservation Order (WCO).

Manawa's approach to the management of it defines as 'warehouse stored water' in the catchment was enabled by the 2013 amendment to the WCO but was intended to have a neutral effect on the river environment.

ECan distanced itself from the leaked water balance report and issued an amended version excluding the compliance concerns outlined in the executive summary and conclusions. North Canterbury and EDS became involved at that point and North Canterbury's position was communicated in a letter to the Minister for the Environment in December 2021.

North Canterbury and EDS agreed to act in concert on the matter and wrote to ECan through EDS's lawyer questioning non-compliance issues. ECan's response was:

- to downplay non-compliance;
- to assert that they had no responsibility for compliance with or monitoring of WCO provisions and
- to suggest Court proceedings to clarify the issue

North Canterbury and EDS agreed with ECan that declaratory proceedings were the most appropriate Court action and RMA pool funding for North Canterbury's participation was approved by NZC about mid 2022.

Progress since then has been particularly slow with EDS and North Canterbury commissioning legal advice on both the warehouse stored water concept and ECan's responsibilities to enforce and monitor the WCO. There have been ongoing communications between lawyers acting for ECan, EDS and North Canterbury on the legal questions to put before the Court and at the time of writing ECan has still to share its final position on those legal questions and any supporting affidavits.

Recently ECan has re-initiated consultation with river users over issues of concern through a workshop on progress with water balance modelling on 26th January 2023. Another meeting specific to Fish and Game is scheduled for 9th February. ECan have also been actively working with extractive water users on monitoring and compliance issues.

Background

The Rakaia Water Conservation Order (WCO) has been in place on the river since 1988 and specifically recognises fisheries, natural braided river character, wildlife habitat and

¹ Perceptions of change: Recording observations over decades for Canterbury hāpua, NIWA, 2022

recreational amenity. The order was successfully sought by Fish and Game and was amended by agreement in 2013 to enable water to be stored in Lake Coleridge and released into the Rakaia for downstream use by irrigation interests, notably Central Plains Water (CPW). The amendment was granted on the basis that providing for irrigation would not adversely impacting on the health and wellbeing of the river.

However the consensus view amongst recreational users is that there has been continuing environmental degradation in the catchment related the cumulative effects of excessive allocation of water to out of stream uses. Manawa Energy's 'warehouse stored water' regime and CPW's management of irrigation water are recent major elements of water management within the catchment.

Issues

Insufficient environmental monitoring.

There has been a distinct lack of monitoring of river values, including those outstanding values identified in the WCO , before and since the 2013 amendment and there is limited hard data on environmental trends. The only completed work is the NIWA report mentioned above.

There is a reliance on fishery monitoring data and research results from the 1980s because so little work has been done since although some new monitoring projects are underway.

ECan has acknowledged that it cannot link cause and effect within the catchment at present. It notes its current approach to compliance is only picking up 'pieces' of the full Rakaia picture and says it needs a 'holistic approach to the understanding of the Rakaia so that we can link loss of values with particular drivers'.

River users report lower than anticipated river flows in the lower river and the draft water balance report noted flows at the river mouth were periodically well below the monthly minimum.

Inadequate water use monitoring

ECan's compliance monitoring relies on data collected by consent holders. There is no real time monitoring at present and there are data gaps and some compliance issues which ECan appears to be working to resolve directly with consent holders. Those compliance issues include Manawa Energy's major take from the Wilberforce for supply of stored water.

Warehouse stored water regime

Stored water is the water taken and stored in Coleridge when the river's flow meets the minimum flow and the full 70 cumec water allocation. Stored water is made available for downstream irrigation on request by release into the Rakaia mainstem. The stored water regime was enabled by the 2013 amendment to the WCO but there were changes made to it by Manawa in 2015 and ECan has requested clarification from Manawa Energy over how it is interpreting and managing stored water; how this differs from what was modelled in the 2013 WCO amendment hearing; and over the adverse effects of the change

Subservient water regime

CPW adopted an alternative strategy for using so called 'subservient water' (water not being used by other consent holders) which could be added as 'stored water' and so was outside minimum flow provisions. This approach appears to maximise water use for irrigation but

there is uncertainty over whether CPW's methodology for defining subservient water has been accepted by ECan

Complexity of water management

Water management in the catchment is very complex. There are a large number of consent holders within the catchment and water allocation has been undertaken in a series of 25 or so bands with bands for earlier allocations having a higher reliability of supply than those granted more recently.

Interaction between surface flow and groundwater in the lower Rakaia is not well understood so it is not safe to assume that 'stored water' discharged from Coleridge is fully available to be taken for irrigation downstream.

There has been a significant increase in irrigation demand and allocation in recent decades and significant land use intensification as well.

Lower river flows cannot be continuously monitored so will need to be modelled but there has been a lack of flow gauging in that reach on which to base modelling although that is being remedied with recent work.

ECan's non acceptance of responsibility for monitoring and compliance with the WCO

ECan asserts it has no statutory responsibility for monitoring of outstanding values identified by the WCO or for monitoring compliance with the WCO. Clearly the WCO needs to be supported by ECan through provisions in the Canterbury Land and Water Plan. At present there are strong policy linkages between the WCO and the CLWP so the ECan position is difficult to understand. Declaratory judgement decisions should clarify these issues.

Water allocation limits

The current water allocation limit for the river is 70 cumecs and was set through the WCO in 1988. There is only one irrigation block with a one for one flow sharing arrangement above the minimum. ECan presently describes the river as 'fully allocated' and there appears to have been no consideration of whether that level of allocation remains appropriate in the light of river flow issues and environmental trends

Minimum flows

Current minimum flows for the Rakaia were set on a monthly basis through the 1988 WCO at the gorge. There is no minimum flow set on the lower Rakaia River so lower river flows are not directly protected.

Conclusion

Rakaia River management issues will not be resolved by the upcoming declaratory proceedings but the case is an important step in addressing fundamental questions which will either expose flaws in the planning framework or flaws in interpretation.

The river's problems don't just relate to Manawa Energy's and CPW's activities and their new water management regimes. There are complex cumulative effects at play in a catchment which has sustained massive land use intensification in the last 30 years which has not been matched by land and water resource management.

It seems likely that the WCO provisions are no longer adequate for river protection given those changes but adjustment to the WCO, the CLWP or to consent conditions in response to environmental trends will require a long term advocacy commitment by North Canterbury

3 February 2023

Niall Watson

COMPLIANCE REPORT

To: North Canterbury Fish and Game Council
From: Richard Cosgrove
Date: February 2023

Purpose:

1. To update councillors on the compliance efforts undertaken since the last council meeting

Background:

2. There are 21 (six staff and 15 honorary volunteers) effective warranted rangers undertaking compliance efforts for the North Canterbury Council.
3. Compliance patrols are an essential part of angler engagement; a visible presence reinforces the value of your licence and increases the risk of non-compliant people getting caught.

Points of Information

4. The summer has been a busy period for the Rangers, with at least two days of staff ranging per week occurring since the season began.
5. Honorary Rangers have also been out consistently throughout this period as well and have been responsible for detecting most offences. Year to date, about 750 licence checks have been conducted, representing ~63% of our annual fishing licence compliance target.
6. In addition to undertaking checks at regular high angling traffic sites, a wider variety of remote angling locations have also been targeted this season. While they seldom generate high numbers of licence checks, the visibility and engagement generated by patrolling remote areas is important. As an indication of their increased efforts, it is worth noting that one honorary ranger racked up ~1500 km of travel over the Christmas holiday period, checking licences across the Lewis Pass area.
7. Other honorary rangers have undertaken tasked patrols to target areas where known salmon angling interest was peaking.
8. Ranging patrols have been aimed at a mixture of high angler-use areas such as river mouths and more remote fisheries that haven't been visited as often in the past.
9. A weekend operation in the Lake Summer area combining boat and vehicle patrols over three days in early December was effective in showing the Fish & Game presence in the area.

10. The Lake Sumner operation was covered in local media (North Canterbury News), NCFG Facebook page and weekly fishing report.
11. The rangers have had a key focus on sea-run salmon harvest card compliance.
12. Overall, salmon harvest card compliance has been excellent, with only a very small number (less than ten) having had Failure To Produce Offence Notices written up for not having their harvest card on them.
13. Anglers have been reminded that they must have the means to write in their harvest immediately once a fish is kept, and the return deadline (7 May 2023) for that information.
14. This means anglers cannot have an electronic version of their temporary card unless they have the means by which they can edit that temporary card.
15. Other offences detected during this period that are currently being processed are Fishing without a licence (five people), taking salmon without a sea-run salmon endorsement (one Junior licence holder), and illegal bait (another Junior licence holder).
16. Kahawai angling in the Waimakariri River has led to several calls to the office; rangers have been recording details of anglers fishing for Kahawai and informed them about the requirement of releasing any salmon or trout caught unharmed.
17. In June 2021, new powers were given to Rangers under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations, requiring freshwater anglers to provide names and addresses, DoB, and residential addresses with photo ID to rangers.
18. Ranger training days have been booked for February 28 (with an angling focus) and April 16 (with a pre-game bird season focus), along with another scheduled weekend operation with joint staff and honorary rangers.
19. To improve the management of compliance efforts and volunteer ranger activities, a new online reporting form has been created. It is now live with our rangers and offers staff the ability to gather more data about their ranging efforts and locations.
20. The new compliance reporting forms also offers increased privacy and security around limiting access to licence holder details.
21. New ranger caps are being issued; these are blue and match a national format that brings Fish & Game into a consistent line with MPI Fisheries and NZ Police staff.
22. The Annual Rangers Fishing Competition and the social day is being held on 31 March 2023. Under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations, we do not need to apply for a permit to have this competition, but we include it in this report to inform Council that the competition is being held.

FOR INFORMATION

To: North Canterbury Fish and Game Council

From: FIF Project Governance Group

Date: February 2022

Subject: HIGH COUNTRY WETLAND & WATERWAY PROTECTION PROJECT

Purpose

1. To provide Council with an update on progress within the High Country Wetland & Waterway Protection Project.

Background

2. The primary objective of this project is to improve spawning and rearing habitat in the head waters of the region's key rivers.
3. Time wise the MfE partnership aspect of the project centred on the Glenarriffe Stream has reached the halfway point.
4. This project will create a wetland on Glenarriffe Station that will be in two parts, one owned by the Station, and one by North Canterbury Fish & Game. These land parcels will be placed in QEII Covenants to protect them.
5. The project also seeks further habitat enhancement through land retirement above the wetland site.

Points of Information

6. Title has yet to be issued to complete the land sale. Staff are following this up regularly with the vendor and the project governance group are confident that there is no problem.
7. Lack of title means some activities like covenants are delayed; however, staff have worked to prepare to progress these as soon as possible.
8. Staff secured a sponsorship of \$70,000 from Rakaia River promotions. In conjunction with the \$50,000 received from Trust Power's Rakaia Enhancement Fund, this will enable approximately 24ha of streams and wetlands to be fenced and retired from grazing in the Glenariffe headwaters.
9. Issie Barrett from Canterbury University visited Glenariffe on 14 December. Her stream-based traps indicated good ecological health with signs of increased colonisation of some species in the recently retired area of the East branch of the Glenariffe.
10. Staff completed quarterly reporting to MfE.
11. A key focus of the coming quarter will be to progress project deliverables as far as possible to allow staff to spend time exploring options for a second project.

NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL REPORT

To: North Canterbury Fish and Game Council

From: Dave Coll

Date: February 2022

Purpose

1. To advise the North Canterbury Fish and Game Council of events and decisions made by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.

Recommendations

2. Advisory paper only.

Background

Points of Information

a. Submission to the Government on the Natural and Built Environment Bill (NBEA)

3. North Canterbury Councillors were forwarded a copy of the detailed report from Corina following the meeting in Wellington on 25/26 November 2022. This was emailed to Councillors on 2 December. Since then, NZ Council has held a short online meeting on 12 January to discuss the proposed submission.

4. It was agreed to mount an aggressive campaign as there are many aspects of the proposed legislation that we have grave concerns about. You will all have seen the start of the campaign on the Fish and Game website urging all licence holders to express their concerns to Parliament.

This is the link to show what it is about and how to prepare and lodge a submission.

<https://www.fishandhuntforever.nz/>

b. Next NZC Council Meeting

5. The first meeting in Wellington starts on Friday 10 February and is a 3-day workshop and meeting, with the workshop including governance training.

6. The first order of business will be to appoint a new chair as the current chair (Greg Duley) has only agreed to fill the role of the acting chair until this meeting.
7. As the NZ Council meeting is only a few days before the North Canterbury Fish and Game meeting, I will give a verbal update mainly on the following items which are on the NZ Council agenda and will be of interest:
 - The outcome of the issue regarding the handling of non-resident levies – the existing reserves and how levies are distributed in future years.
 - Consultation will be started regarding the 2023/24 licence fees with NZ Council putting forward yet-to-be-decided indicative fees and forecasts.
 - The issue around the use of 410 shotguns with or without lead shot
 - An update on the NBEA issue

Strategic Implications

8. Discuss alignment with Council's Strategic priorities.
9. Outline any impacts on the work program.
10. Outline any impacts on the budget.