

**Agenda for the Meeting of the  
Otago Fish & Game Council to be held on  
29<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at  
Otago Fish & Game Council Office  
Corner Hanover and Harrow Streets, Dunedin  
Commencing at 12.30pm**

*Please note: A Lunch will be provided at 11.45am*

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## **1 Present and Apologies**

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## **2 Declaration of Interest**

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### 3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes

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#### **Minutes of Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting St Johns Rooms, Roxburgh 20 August 2015, Commencing at 12.30pm**

##### **1.0 Present:**

Monty Wright (Chair), Dr John Jillett, Dan Rae, Vicky Whyte, John Barlow, Adrian McIntyre, Dr Colin Aldridge, Dave Witherow, Ian Cole, Dr Mike Turner, and Murray Neilson.

**In attendance:** Niall Watson (CE) Ian Hadland (OM), Paul van Klink (FGO)

**Apologies** were received from  
Ray Grubb.

(Whyte/Jillett)

**That apologies be accepted**

##### **2.0 Declarations of Interest**

Nil.

##### **Health and Safety**

A minor fire at the Dunedin Office was caused by a grinder during window replacement. Smoldering material in the wall was extinguished with fire extinguisher and the fire brigade was called and attended as a precaution and checked the situation.

##### **3.0 Minutes**

**Agreed** the minutes be clarified item 3, paragraph 1 by adding Dr Turners name as present at the meeting.

Resolved (Jillett/Barlow)

**That the Minutes of the meetings on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2015 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject the amendment above.**

##### **4.0 Matters Arising from Minutes**

**4.1 Mt Burke** – The Mt Burke access proposal was discussed. QLDC's Denis Mander had advised the formal road stopping/taking proposal was still in preparation

**4.2 Regional Trends in Licence Sales** – Dr Jillett noted recent licence sales information indicating sales trends continued with South Island sales increasingly dominant.

**4.3 Lauder Creek** – CE report the matter had not yet been investigated.

**4.4 Guides Licence** – The CE reported that NZC staff, were in the process of updating the paper in support of guides licence regulations. The lack of regulations was the remaining impediment to having a guides licence in place. He said he had agreed

to assist NZC staff with drafting and understood both DOC and the Guides Association were in support.

## **5.0 Communications New Zealand Council**

### **5.1 NZC Correspondence to Otago**

#### **5.1.1 Confirmation of 2015/16 Fees and Budgets**

Received

#### **5.1.2 Non Resident Licence Revenue**

The memo from Robert Sowman and the letter from Northland Council suggesting a centralised pool fund for additional revenue was discussed.

Resolved (Aldridge/McIntyre)

**That Non-Resident Licence revenue be retained in a dedicated fund by each Council based on regional sales for specific management to improve backcountry fisheries**

#### **5.1.3 2015/16 Licence Fee Recommendations**

The letter from the June agenda was received.

#### **5.1.4 National Policy on Reparation**

The letter from the June agenda was received.

### **5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC**

#### **5.2.1 Response on National Policy on Reparation**

Noted

## **6.0 Chief Executive's Report**

### **6.1 Administration**

Finance reports to the end of July 2015 were discussed. The finance report showed the Council had spent 87% of budget at a point 91% through the year but noted there were likely to be outstanding accounts still to come because the report was prepared in the first week of August.

Licence sales trends were noted with fishing licences sales closing in on budget but game sales appeared to be behind budget.

Capital purchase of two vehicles - Skoda station wagon \$40,036 and Toyota Hilux (\$37,144) – and sale of one Holden Colorado (\$17,043) were noted.

The OM advised that two photocopiers were to be replaced through outright purchase He said the capital cost of approximately \$9000 and a 5 year service contract. He said this would result in savings of about \$250/month.

Resolved (Rae/Jillett)

**That Council approve the proposed purchase of photocopiers and service contract**

Dr Aldridge queried the trade creditors figure of \$289,000 in the balance sheet. The CE said he could not clarify while away from the office but would send around an email explanation.

Resolved (Rae/Turner)

**That Finance and Licence sales reports to the end of July 2015 be approved**

**That proposed purchase of photocopiers and acceptance of service contract be approved.**

The CE also noted that the purchase of 'Ferret' digital document storage and retrieval system was underway

### **Wanaka Hatchery Land**

The on-site meeting with members of the Wanaka community involving councillors Barlow, Jillett and Turner was noted. The need to protect aquatic habitats (Bullock Creek, springs and wetland) was identified along with the priority need for resources to fund a hatchery through land disposal. Mr Barlow outlined his views on the current real estate market and the CE was asked to prepare a full report for the October Council meeting.

## **6.2 Species**

### **Hatchery**

Noted that the 4000 trout given to Southland Fish and Game were fry that were surplus to requirements at Macraes. No charge was made for the fish in the expectation that the co-operative relationship with Southland would see reciprocation in some form or another

### **Lower Clutha Salmon**

The CE advised that he had had a useful meeting with the Contact Energy chief executive along with Bryce Johnson. Issues raised were:

- Current mitigation programme and lack of compliance with consent conditions on mitigation requirements
- Delays over the agreed re-establishment of Bendigo Wildlife Management Reserve
- Loss of public access resulting from sale of Contact land adjacent to the Clutha

Contact's CE had indicated they had funded capital works for mitigation elsewhere in the country (wetland enhancement in the Waikato)

## **6.3 Habitat**

### **Minimum and Residual Flows**

#### **Lindis River:**

The CE reported on the recently notified minimum flow plan change for the Lindis proposing a summer minimum of 750 l/s. He noted Fish and Game's position of a 1000 l/s minimum was justified because:

- The calculation of MALF had increased from 1600 to 1860 l/s
- Morgan Trotters research showed earlier assessments of fish behaviour and survival were erroneous.

- Alternative water sources were now available for much of the land irrigated by Lindis water.
- The value of the lower river as a wading bird habitat had not been previously identified.
- There was uncertainty over 750 l/s as an adequate flow under different seasonal conditions.

Even then it was a significant compromise he said.

Council noted that the CE had engaged Cawthron Institute to give additional expert fisheries evidence; a hydrologist to provide expert advice on hydrology; and Anderson Lloyd for legal services. Cost estimates for work were being sought. An application would be made for funding from the Regional Legal Pool Fund

Resolved (Rae/McIntyre)

**That the CE's actions in engaging the above consultants be approved.**

#### **Waiwera Minimum Flow Plan Change**

The CE reported that the Waiwera minimum flow decision had been released with a 300 l/s summer minimum being set. This flow was highly satisfactory being over 90% of MALF. The period for appeals was still open however.

#### **Lake Tuakitoto**

Mr Hammond commented on the outcome of the complaint about cattle grazing in the wetland expressing the view that the lease should not be reissued to another party. The CE advised staff were following up that and other issues with ORC

#### **Transition from mining privileges**

The CE advised that individual replacement of mining privileges with RMA consents, often in small streams, was at risk of variable outcomes in terms of residual flows. Staff had developed the following standard response:

- No on-site fishery values – residual = 70% MALF (contribution to downstream flows)
- On-site values – residual = 80-90% MALF (maintenance of on-site habitat and contribution to downstream flows)

### **6.4 User Participation**

#### **Lion Foundation Grant Application**

The CE explained that a grant application for \$4970 to be lodged with the Lion Foundation towards the costs of the Southern Reservoir Take a Kid Fishing events needed a supporting resolution of the Council.

Resolved (Barlow/Turner)

**That the Council apply to The Lion Foundation for a grant towards two major Take a Kid Fishing events to be held at Dunedin's Southern Reservoir in September 2015 with the aim of encouraging children and families to experience trout fishing.**

## **Non Resident Licences and Backcountry Fisheries**

Northland Council's proposal that additional revenue should be accumulated nationally and allocated on individual application was considered.

It was **agreed** the move would divert funds from its original purpose namely '*specific management to improve BC fisheries*' and would involve significant transaction costs in terms of fund management and allocation and uncertainty over outcomes leading to shorter term project based management as a result rather than a step up in improved management.

Resolved (Aldridge/McIntyre)

**That NRL revenue be retained in a dedicated fund by each Council based on its regional sales for specific management to improve backcountry fisheries.**

## **Tenure Review**

The CE advised that Hukarere Station tenure review proposals limited public access to and along the Pomahaka River and could result in exclusive capture. He noted that the recent Ben Nevis tenure review outcome had an unfavourable aspect to it with no public access to the Dell area of the Nevis River despite its strategic recreational importance. It was **agreed** the matter be taken up with LINZ.

Council requested a report on public access to Dunstan Creek.

## **6.5 Public Interface**

The CE advised that the regional MOU with DOC was still awaiting final approval with DOC

## **6.6 Compliance**

Resolved (Rae Witherow)

**That the meeting become public excluded**

(see confidential minutes)

Resolved (Aldridge/Rae)

**That the public meeting be reopened**

## **6.7 Licencing**

Progress with the introduction of the new suite of licences was noted. The CE commented on the significant effort put into preparatory work for the regime change by Ian Hadland and Sharon Milne.

## **6.8 Council**

### **Audit and Risk Committee Notice of Motion**

It was moved (Aldridge/Wright)

**That the Council establish a standing committee to be called the Audit and Risk Committee to monitor a range of risk areas including:**

- **health and safety,**
- **legislative compliance,**
- **gifts and benefits,**
- **a schedule of delegations and audit of their exercise,**
- **travel register,**

- credit card register and audit of exercise,
- liabilities schedule

**The committee, which be composed of two or three councillors, will be independent of other committees and responsible for auditing internal processes relating to the above areas and any other areas requiring oversight and for engaging with the external auditor in advance of the annual audit.**

**The committee shall report on its activities at each Council meeting."**

Dr Aldrige spoke in support of the motion noting the Council had responsibilities as caretakers of Council resources and it needed controls in place to manage risk and that an A&R committee was expected.

The CE noted that the Council currently held the audit and risk responsibilities and said there were control mechanisms in place but a consolidation of policy and a reporting regime should be established rather than a committee.

The matter was discussed at length and councillors noted:

- The organisation was small
- A committee cuts across Council's lines of accountability
- Councillors have access to information
- The committee duplicates other audit functions held by the auditor and the NZC.
- Risks were minimised by current policy on investments and credit cards.

Dr Aldrige replied saying the Council managed \$20 million of revenue each decade and that the committee was required.

The motion was put to the meeting and **lost**

### **Election**

The CE noted candidate nominations closed on the 27<sup>th</sup> August.

There was a discussion about meeting times to better suit a range of councillors. Younger councillors would have difficulty taking time off work during weekdays. It was noted that meeting times were a matter for the new council.

It was resolved (Cole/Turner)

**That the October meeting be rescheduled to Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October from the 15<sup>th</sup> October to enable the newly elected Council to hold its first meeting.**

### **Legislative Compliance Schedule**

Resolved (Witherow/Jillett)

**That the legislative compliance schedule be approved.**

## **6.9 Planning and Reporting**

### **Annual Plan**

Project 1354 promoting novice hunting through use of the Councils wetland reserves was noted.

It was resolved (Cole/Rae)

**That the Triennial Angler Notice review be completed prior to the 2016/17 fishing season**



Resolved (Rae/Jillett)

**That the 2015/16 Licence Fee recommendations be supported**

**That the Annual Plan for 2015/2016 with a total budget of \$950,834 and levies of \$850,957 be approved.**

### **Annual Report**

The CE advised preparations had commenced for the annual audit. And the accounting standards for Public Benefit Entities were discussed.

It was eventually resolved (Turner/McIntyre)

**That Council report under Tier 2 for Public Sector Public Benefit Entities Standard – RDR (reduced disclosure regime) from the year ending August 2015 onwards.**

## **7.0 Committee Reports**

### **7.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust**

Mr Rae outlined Trust activity including:

- Work in support of Lindis Minimum Flow
- Continuing liaison over fencing at Kane Road alternative alignment.
- Investigation of access issue at Poison Creek

### **7.2 New Zealand Council**

Mr Witherow outlined NZC business including:

- Approval of further duck research on heavy metal contamination
- Ruataniwha Dam outcome in Hawkes Bay where satisfactory water quality standards have been set.
- Report-back on Financial Policy Review
- Assurances from Worksafe NZ that health and safety compliance on farms did not affect anglers
- Guides Licence and DOC DG's support for it.
- Fish Farm Licences and the NZC's position that fish out ponds could only be established in conjunction with a bone fide fish farm operation
- Discussion with Walking Access Commission which is soon up for review
- Tuwharetoa trout rearing concession and associated risks as the thin end of the wedge for trout farming
- Overseas Investment Office's lack of consultation with interested agencies over public access

## **8.0 Technical Reports**

### **8.1 Mallard Monitoring (June) - Trotter**

Mr Trotters report was discussed and the new annual monitoring regime was noted. The OM advised that a three year research project was in its third year but it was not clear what would follow in terms of mallard research after that.

Resolved (Hammond/McIntyre)

**That the mallard monitoring be received and the Council seek an update on mallard research and where it is going.**

### **8.2 Lake Hayes Brown Trout Monitoring (June) – van Klink**

The report was discussed and it was resolved (Moved from the Chair)

**That the report be received and staff continue to liaise with interested parties concerning the restoration of the Lake Hayes ecosystem**

### **8.3 Game Season Opening 2015 (June) - Halford**

**Agreed** that the report be received

### **8.4 Environmental observations from the 2014/2015 summer low flow period (June) – Keeling**

Ms Keeling's report was discussed and the significant compilation of observations on the recent drought was noted. The CE advised the report had been sent to ORC with a request to meet and discuss drought effects

Resolved (Moved from the Chair)

**That the report be received**

### **8.5 Habitat enhancement fund applications (June) - Trotter**

After discussion it was resolved (Rae/McIntyre)

**That the following grant recommendations for wetland development be approved for payment.**

**Sinclair Wetlands Trust, Waihola: \$1500 towards fencing**

**G. Robertson's Wetland, Tapanui: \$1500 towards earthworks**

**Braes Farm Wetland, N&S Scott, Waikouaiti: \$1500 towards fencing**

**Bonnieview Wetland, A. Richardson, Heriot: \$1500 towards earthworks**

**Waikouaiti Estuary Fencing, G. Shields, Waikouaiti: \$1500 towards fencing**

### **8.6 Compliance Summary – Hadland**

The report was discussed and the table of reparation levels noted.

It was resolved (Whyte/Cole)

**That reparation levels in the report be endorsed.**

**That volunteer rangers be thanked for their significant efforts**

**That the report be received.**

It was noted that long serving ranger Bill Wells of Cromwell was to retire and agreed that a suitable gift be made to him.

### **8.7 Lake Wanaka Peak Season angler Surveys – Halford**

The quality of the report was noted.

Resolved (Barlow/Turner)

**That the report be received**

### **8.8 Quartz Creek Fishery and Residual Flow Setting - Halford**

The report was discussed at some length and Mr Halford was commended on it. Concern was expressed about the long running impacts of irrigation takes on the river

It was resolved (Whyte/Rae)

**That the report be received and a copy be forwarded to Otago Regional Council**

### **8.9 Backcountry Rivers Online Satisfaction Survey 2014/15 – Keeling**

Resolved (Turner/Aldridge)

**That enhanced liaison with guides, accommodation providers and travel agencies regarding correct licencing be undertaken.**

**That a fishery and compliance monitoring programme be developed for backcountry fisheries.**

The CE noted the guides licence implementation was now a priority action for NZC.

## **9.0 Correspondence – June and August**

**9.1 Hon Maggie Barry, Minister of Conservation** – Advice of approval of Otago Fish and Game Plan – **received**

**9.2 ORC** – Advice that the Pomahaka minimum flow was operative from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015 – **received**

**9.3 Kings High School** – Letter of thanks for junior angling grant – **received**

**9.4 ORC** – Advice on Taieri low flows and irrigation shutdown – **received**

**9.5 Waiiau Trust** – Cover letter for annual report (available at the Dunedin Office) - **received**

## **10. General Business**

**10.1 Wetland cultivation at Waihola** – Mr Wright confirmed the area was private land

**10.2 Fish and Game Magazine** – The value of the magazine was queried with the greater proportion of material contained in it relating to fly fishing – for discussion at the next meeting.

**The meeting closed at 5.00pm**

## **4 Matters arising from the minutes**

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## **5 Communications New Zealand Council**

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5.1 Correspondence from NZC to Otago - Nil

5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC - Nil

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT OCTOBER 2015

#### 6.1 ADMINISTRATION

##### **Finance and Administration**

###### *Financial Reports to 30 September 2015*

The finance report for the period from 1 September 2015 to 30 September 2015 is attached for your information. At this early stage in the year it is not very meaningful. I will prepare a summary spreadsheet so that the reports to meetings can be more easily compared with the approved budget of \$950,834.

NZC levies for the year have been set at \$850,957 and commission has been budgeted at \$94,831. Key budget figures are included in the front of the Annual Work Plan

Expenditure to date is \$84,689 (including levies \$nil and commission \$134 but excluding depreciation (\$6,526) compared with the annual budget of \$1,896,622 operational expenditure: \$933,451, depreciation: nil, and levies (\$894,033) and excluding commission (\$96,183) .

Total income to date is \$4,000 compared with budget of \$1,981,072, all of which is other than licence income.

Fishing licence sales revenue received for the year to 30<sup>th</sup> September is negative \$481 (including commission). This is quite normal for this period. The fish budget figures for the full year is \$1,583,698 including commission.

Game licence sales revenue received for the year to date is \$nil (including commission). The year's budget for game licence sales is \$312,926 including commission.

Budget and expenditure figures are exclusive of GST

In many respects the more relevant financial data is the end of year position to 31 August but that data is still subject to adjustments. However at this stage it appears likely that the end of year result will be a small surplus.

###### *Licence Sales to 23 October 2015*

Sales recorded to 23 October are outlined for fish and game in the attached table from Eyede for last year and the current year. Figures are inclusive of GST. Fishing licence sales whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) at 6482 LEQs are slightly ahead of last year the same time (6110 LEQs). This is quite encouraging given the major change in licence categories but may represent early sales of whole season licences to committed anglers. The budget LEQ figure for the year (whole season adult licence equivalents) is 14688.

There have been no game sales for the period (nil LEQs) compared with last year (nil LEQs). The game budget LEQ figure is 15,646.

*Funds Position at 30 September 2015*

ANZ 00 account	\$126,301.61
ANZ 70 account	\$182,508.27

*Reparation Trust Account*

Account balance to 31 August 2015	\$ 55,368
Revenue for current year to 30 September 2015	\$ 78
Less Grants	<u>\$ 1,500</u>
Total	\$ 53,946

*Term investments as at 30 September 2015:*

ASB 0079	\$302,790.64 @ 3.95% maturing 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2016
SBS 44624	\$450,000@ 4.55% maturing 23 <sup>rd</sup> November

The sum of \$73,846 is held by Anderson Lloyd in trust for wetland management via DOC.

*Agents and Debts*

No liabilities or potential liabilities at the present time

*Capital Expenditure*

As an alternative to photocopier leasing two photocopier machines have been purchased outright through the 'All of Government' at a total cost of \$9554 + GST. The previously held 5 year lease and service contract has expired.

There is also a 5 year maintenance contract based on a per page service fee. This provides ongoing benefits with our steadily reducing print volumes.

Savings compared to the previous contract arrangement are projected to be in the order of \$350 month including depreciation over 5 years.

Electricity supply for both Dunedin and Cromwell has been renegotiated with a new supplier via All of Government. The contract term is 48 months with monthly savings in the order of 20% projected.

**OM to report**

*Staff*

All staff have renewed their first aid certificates.

*Land and Buildings*

There has been a minor adjustment to the reception area at the Dunedin Office which improves utility and staff will be getting quotes for interior painting and improved heating options. Also see separate confidential report on hatcheries.

**Recommendation**

**That the Finance and Licence Sales Report for the period ending 30 September 2015 be received.**

## 6.2 SPECIES

### Waterfowl Monitoring (1111)

Shoveler and pukeko counts were completed in August

### Spawning Surveys (1112)

Spawning surveys for the season are mostly complete. Rainbow spawning is still occurring in the upper Clutha catchment area. A survey has been conducted on Quartz Creek and Fern Burn (Upper Clutha Anglers)

### Population Monitoring: (1113)

Lindis and Cardrona write ups are continuing

### Success & Satisfaction (1122)

Nothing to report

### Fish Salvage (1131)

Nothing to report

### Hatchery Operations

A feeding trial on two of the outside tanks was conducted over one month, one tank was feed every day and the other was feed every 2nd day. Fish weights below:

(30 fish weighed)	Average
Tank 1 (feed every day)	0.536g
Tank 2 (feed every 2 <sup>nd</sup> day)	0.483g

Brood stock were captured from the race in early October and stripped. There are approximately 40,000 eggs in the incubator at present.

### Releases (1161)

01/09/2015	Southern Reservoir	1000 TAKF	2yrs	800g+
12/10/2015	Hamiltons Dam	200	1yr	100g +
13/10/2015	McAtamneys Head pond	300	1yr	100g +
14/10/2015	Mathias Dam	300	1yr	100g +
15/10/2015	Sulivans Dam	70	2yrs	1kg
16/10/2015	Sulivans Dam	70	2yrs	1kg

### Game Notice (1171)

A report on the 2016 Game Gazette is planned for the November meeting

### Anglers Notice (1172)

A report on the 2016/17 Anglers Notice is planned for the November meeting

### Game Bird Control (1181)

Nothing to report.

## 6.3 HABITAT

### Resource Management (1211)

#### Resource Management Complaints 2014/15

Date/Agency	Issue	Response
May 2015	A complaint was lodged with ORC about channel works in a Central Otago spawning stream in late May.	ORC are investigating.

#### Resource Consents

The Contact consent issue and the scale of their mitigation activities has been taken up with ORC and they have indicated they are willing to meet to discuss our concerns. A meeting is planned with Contact's Clutha hydro scheme manager and environmental advisor on 28<sup>th</sup> October which should provide some feedback on the three issues raised with their CE:

- consent compliance over mitigation activities (mostly salmon enhancement);
- loss of public access as a result of land disposals adjacent to the upper Clutha;
- the status of the Bendigo Wildlife Reserve area.

#### CE to report

#### Planning (1212)

#### Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group

Staff continue to be involved in the Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group which is developing a catchment wide strategy for enhancement of irrigation water storage and use in the Manuherikia Catchment.

#### Minimum and Residual Flow Setting

Minimum and Residual Flows and Transition from Mining Privileges (TMP)		
River	Activity and status	Status
Lindis	Minimum flow & transition from mining privileges (TMP).  Overallocated  MALF 1860 l/s	Lindis fisheries research has been completed and is currently being written up.  Economic analysis has been undertaken by OPUS and BERL, and now released by ORC. The study states that climate factors, not the level of minimum flows, is the limiting factor on agriculture in the catchment, and that the level set for a minimum flow will have a small extra impact in comparison to climate.  ORC notified Water Plan Change 5A on 8 <sup>th</sup> August including a summer minimum flow of 750 l/s, instead of the 450 l/s previously recommended. The submission period has closed and an ORC hearing date is expected late this year or early in 2016



		Evidence preparation in underway Several informal meetings have been held between F&G, CFT, Lindis irrigators, DOC, Ngai Tahu and ORC to share information and narrow areas of disagreement .
Cardrona	Minimum Flow & TMP  Overallocated	Mainstem fisheries and flow surveys undertaken over the summer period. A minimum flow proposal is expected late in 2015
Waikouaiti	Minimum Flow Fully allocated  MALF 258 l/s	F&G have supported a minimum flow of 220 l/s. Further action on the minimum flow has been deferred pending more research on estuary health which is planned this coming summer
Pomahaka	Minimum flow  MALF 4300 l/s	The plan change has been completed setting minimum flows of 3600 l/s (summer) 7000 l/s (winter), primary allocation limit of 1000 l/s, and a supplementary allocation minimum flow of 13,0000 l/s.
Waiwera	Minimum flow  MALF 310 l/s	The ORC hearing panel decision set a 300 l/s summer minimum flow instead of the 260 l/s notified. That decision has been appealed to the Environment Court and the matter is set down for Environment Court mediation in late 2015
Manuherikia	Minimum flow Irrigation scheme investigation.  MALF lower river 2126 l/s  Overallocated	Collaborative process underway involving F&G The irrigation scheme proposals which are focussed on raising the level of Falls Dam are at feasibility study stage.  The Manuherikia catchment has over 250 mining privileges or deemed permits in place
Benger Burn	Minimum flow &TMP.  Overallocated	Further action by ORC has been deferred pending more research on water resources and aquifer/surface water interaction.
Sow Burn	TMP Overallocated	The Sowburn all-of-catchment consent application remains with the Otago Regional Council. The residual flow requirement is 70 l/s on a stream that is considered to be ephemeral in nature in the middle reaches. F&G staff are liaising with ORC staff and applicants.  Of site mitigation conditions include a covenant over a large area of the Maniototo wetlands

Kye Burn	TMP Overallocated MALF 500 l/s	F&G position is that a mainstem minimum flow between 200-300 l/s is required.
Low Burn	Minimum flow TMP Overallocated	No action
Bannock Burn	Minimum flow TMP Overallocated	No action
Quartz Creek	TMP Overallocated	Report on fishery values has been completed and a further field inspection (October 2015) has been completed
Tuapeka River	ORC Management Flow Report  MALF 314 l/s	No action
12 Mile Creek (Wakatipu)	ORC Management Flow Report	No action

### **CE to Report**

#### **Transition from Mining Privileges (MPs) to RMA Consents**

There is a continuing risk that processing of individual consent applications replacing mining privileges in overallocated Central Otago catchments will undermine environmental flow setting but recent agreement on affected party status improves the situation.

Staff are routinely seeking residual flows on applications for consents to replace mining privileges to recognise on-site impacts and downstream catchment wide impacts using internal standards

### **CE to Report**

#### **Reserves Management (1221)**

ORC are preparing a consent to allow open water development at the Triangle Wildlife Management Reserve as mitigation for drain clearance.

Staff have been discussing protection of residual wetlands adjacent to Bendigo with the landowner and the re-establishment of the Bendigo Wildlife Management Reserves seems now to be back on Land Information NZ's agenda

#### **Wetland Protection (1232)**

Nothing to report

#### **Assisted Habitat (1230)**

See confidential report on Habitat Enhancement Fund grants recommendations

### **River Management (1233)**

Nothing to report

## **6.4 USER PARTICIPATION**

### **Access (1311)**

Silver Fern Farms (SFF) have approached Fish and Game about stopping a public road behind their Finedgand facility. The road is vested in Clutha District Council and SFF have been advised that F&G has a like for like policy over road stopping.

There have been two incidents in the Cromwell area where hunting has come into conflict with recreational use and/or residential development. CODC plan to signpost a track up the sugarloaf at Lowburn as a no hunting area because of complaints by walkers and LINZ have indicated they may do the same at Bannockburn Inlet because of a recent incident involving a caravan being hit by rifle fire at Cairnmuir. Small game and upland game hunting is a popular activity in Central Otago but there is considerable change in patterns and densities of recreational use in some areas and in residential development.

### **For discussion**

### **Signage (1312)**

A new style over a fence and two angler access signs were erected on the lower Clutha south (Koua) branch.

### **Backcountry Fisheries (1321)**

Issuing of BC licences is now being undertaken by Eyede but the controlled fishery remains with the original service provider. This area of licence administration is a work in progress.

### **Magazine Supplements and Newsletters (1331)**

The 8 page pre fishing season newsletter was distributed

### **Reel Life**

Monthly contributions to online newsletters Reel Life are continuing

### **Newspaper Supplements (1332)**

Nothing to report

### **River Reports (1333)**

River reports are again underway for the season. This has been a diminishing workload as online information on flows has become available

### **Publications (1342)**

Nothing to report

### **Web Site (1343)**

Nothing to report

### **Fishing and Hunting Events (1351)**

Staff made presentations at the 'Make a Difference for Central Otago' MAD4CO water forum meeting in Alexandra and at the fishing seminar at H&J's Outdoor World Queenstown

A display was installed maintained at the Upper Clutha festival of sport and recreation (FOSAR), Wanaka

### **Take-a-kid-fishing (1352)**

Two take a kid fishing events have been held at Southern reservoir with 337 participants. (See separate report) 60 scouts also attended a separate event at the same location

### **Club Liaison (1361)**

Staff have attended meetings of Wakatipu Anglers Club, Upper Clutha Anglers Club, Teviot Angling Club, Otago Angler, Dunedin Branch of NZ Deerstalkers and Fly Flingers and Stream Bashers. Staff attended a major fishing competition at Glenorchy and also attended the WAipahi Gold Medal Competition.

### **Commercial Use (1362)**

Pre season newsletters have been sent to both guides and aircraft operators (previously circulated) keeping them informed on regulation changes and backcountry management.  
Nothing to report

## **6.5 PUBLIC INTERFACE**

### **Liaison (1411)**

A draft MOU between DOC and Fish and Game has been completed with DOC and submitted to Te Ropu Kaitiaki I Araiteuru for feedback earlier in the year

### **Media (1431)**

There has been good media exposure over the last two months including coverage of the Otago Fish and Game Council elections, compliance monitoring, new licence categories, the fishing season opening, Lindis minimum flow submissions, Poolburn ranging and opposition to the salmon fish out pond.

### **Advocacy (1432)**

Nothing to Report

### **Tenure Reviews (1433)**

Hukarere Station lessees have been invited to the October Council meeting to discuss public access issues coming out of their tenure review. (see letter circulated separately by email)

## **6.6 COMPLIANCE**

### **Ranging (1511)**

There has been a lot of ranging activity since the beginning of the season both from voluntary rangers and staff and through peak use surveys. Compliance has been disappointing (see below)

### **Ranger Support**

Four new applications for appointment as rangers are being considered. A ranger training event is planned for November and will be held in Te Anau in conjunction with Southland Fish and Game.

### **CE to Report**

#### **Prosecutions**

Compliance has been poor over the season opening with 5 offences resolved by reparation, reparations offers outstanding for 5 other offences and 3 cases of fishing without a licence (FWL) and giving false information heading to court

Two other possible 2015 game season offences are being considered

## **6.7 LICENCING**

### **Licensing System (1611)**

The introduction of new licence categories has gone well with a lot of positive feedback from anglers (see separate report)

### **Agents (1612)**

Staff (Ian and Sharon particularly) have put a lot of effort into agent liaison over the introduction of new licence categories and the move to online licencing

### **OM to report**

## **6.8 COUNCIL**

### **Election of Chair and Executive**

The election of Chair and Executive Committee is usually undertaken at the February meeting each year. If that practice is to continue Council will need to at least elect a Chair until that time.

### **CE to report**

### **Elections (1710)**

Elected members officially take office 10 days after the electoral certificate is signed. The certificate for the 2015 election was signed on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015 so Councillors assume office on the 28<sup>th</sup> October, the day before our scheduled meeting.

The Council is obliged to elect an NZ Council appointee at its first meeting. Appointments are by majority vote and the appointee stays in office for the three year term as long as they remain a member of the appointing Fish and Game Council except where the majority of Council members decide to vote on a new appointment. In effect the NZC appointment is at the Council's discretion.

Deciding on the NZC appointment at its first meeting doesn't give councillors much opportunity to consider who they wish to appoint. The current appointee is Dave Witherow but he has indicated an interest in standing down from the position which has significant time and travel demands with 5 meetings totalling 10 meeting days/ year.

There is a further complication. Despite the legal obligation on Fish and Game Councils to make an appointment at their first meetings NZC has decided that its next scheduled meeting should be the last NZC meeting of the old triennium. They have indicated that where new appointments are made that change the NZC appointee then both old and new councillors will be welcome. The NZC's following meeting is in March 2016 and it is scheduled to be held in Otago.

### **CE to Report Council (1720)**

The November meeting and AGM is scheduled for Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November. That will be the last meeting for 2015.

## **Schedule Of Meeting 2016**

**Saturday/Sunday 13/14 February 2016**

**Thursday 20 April**

**Thursday 15 May**

**Thursday 18 August**

**Thursday 20 October**

**Tuesday 29 November**

Meetings for 2016 follow an agreed timetable namely the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in April, June August and October with a planning meeting held over a weekend on the second weekend in February. The November meeting and AGM is usually held in late November to allow for the completion of the audit and annual report.

Apart from the planning meeting, meetings are held in the afternoons from about noon onwards. Council can change this meeting formula if it wishes.

## **6.9 PLANNING AND REPORTING**

### **Strategic Planning (1811)**

The Sports Fish and Game Plan for Otago was approved by the Minister of Conservation on 6 May 2015 and has a ten year term. The February Planning meeting will be the first opportunity to consider the effect of the newly approved plan on annual work plan and budget development.

### **Annual Plan**

There are marked differences between formats for annual budgets and annual reports that make bimonthly reporting against approved budgets difficult. While there are moves nationally to standardise formats that has not been completed. An alternative to for the Council to approve a reconciliation statement against which financial reporting can be made

### **CE to Report**

### **Audit and Annual Report (1831)**

Preparation for the audit are well underway with accounts preparation complete and work continuing on the Statement of Service Performance. The annual report will follow new Accounting Standards for Public Sector Public Benefit Entities which came into effect in August 2015. This is not expected to pose any problems but there are timing issues which inevitably mean the audited report is often not signed off until shortly before the AGM (26<sup>th</sup> November 2015.)

### **CE to Report**

#### **National Liaison (1841)**

Ian Hadland has recently replaced me on the Licencing Working Party. Peter Wilson has been assisting with planning advice in other regions and has recently attended an RMA co-ordination meeting.

**Niall Watson**  
**Chief Executive**  
October 2015

Balance Sheet  
**Otago Fish & Game Council**  
 Balance Sheet  
 As at 30 September 2015

<b>CAPITAL</b>		This Year	Last Year End
7500	Opening Equity	1,039,201.00	1,039,201.00
9015	Retained Earnings Brght Fwd	<u>1,611,312.14</u>	<u>1,593,865.83</u>
		2,650,513.14	2,633,066.83
	Plus Current Year Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	(87,214.92)	17,446.31
	<b>TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>2,563,298.22</u></u>	<u><u>2,650,513.14</u></u>
<b>REPRESENTED BY</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
5005	Cash on Hand	200.00	200.00
5060	ASB Investments	296,291.92	296,291.92
5080	SBS Investments	450,000.00	450,000.00
5800	GST Paid	6,489.80	102.79
6040	PAYE Control	0.00	9,527.50
6800	GST Received	0.00	61.16
6805	GST Payments/Refunds IRD	1,763.40	1,763.40
ACCREC	Trade Debtors	49,158.45	146,594.97
ASB_00	ASB 00 Account	41.15	1.15
NB00	National/ANZ 00 Account	126,072.61	165,546.50
NB70	National/ANZ 70 Account	182,508.27	136,283.86
UNBANK	Unbanked	<u>528.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		1,113,053.60	1,206,373.25
<b>LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
6000	Sundry Creditors	37,328.12	37,328.12
6010	Holiday Pay Accrued	35,325.00	35,325.00
6040	PAYE Control	2,449.50	0.00
6800	GST Received	1,435.17	0.00
ACCCPAY	Trade Creditors	<u>41,345.04</u>	<u>57,860.44</u>
		117,882.83	130,513.56
	<b>NET WORKING CAPITAL</b>	995,170.77	1,075,859.69
<b>TERM ASSETS</b>			
5070	Anderson Lloyd Investment	<u>71,102.06</u>	<u>71,102.06</u>
		71,102.06	71,102.06
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
7000	Vehicles Purchases	295,314.03	295,314.03
7001	M/V Accum Deprn	(128,389.00)	(124,589.00)
7020	Boat Purchases	99,006.97	99,006.97
7021	Boat Accum Deprn	(72,283.00)	(71,903.00)
7200	Plant Purchases	58,274.10	58,274.10
7201	Plant Accum Deprn	(50,792.00)	(50,118.00)
7300	Furniture & Fittings	32,532.20	32,532.20
7301	Furniture Accum Deprn	(28,414.74)	(28,294.74)
7400	Field Equipment Purchases	34,610.96	34,610.96
7401	Field Eq Accum Deprn	(20,074.00)	(20,034.00)
7440	Land Purchases	414,410.77	414,410.77
7450	Buildings Purchases	629,287.49	629,287.49
7451	Buildings Accum Deprn	(307,301.50)	(306,119.50)
7460	Land @ Fair Value	426,260.00	426,260.00
7462	Building @ Fair Value	162,085.11	162,085.11
7463	Buildings @ FV - Accum Deprn	<u>(47,502.00)</u>	<u>(47,172.00)</u>
		1,497,025.39	1,503,551.39
	<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u><u>2,563,298.22</u></u>	<u><u>2,650,513.14</u></u>

Printed: Friday, 23 October 2015 11:29:15 a.m. \* may include unposted items - subject to change \*

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**Otago Fish & Game Council  
Profit and Loss - Summary  
for Period Ended Sep:2015/16**

		-----Month to Date-----			-----Year to Date-----					
		Actual	Budget	% of Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance	Annual Budget	YTD Actual Budget	Last YTD
<b>INCOME</b>										
<b>FISH AND GAME LICENCE SA...</b>										
1000	Fishing Licences Income	(481)	1,583,696	0%	(481)	1,583,696	(1,584,177)	1,583,696	0%	(599)
1005	Game Licences Income	0	312,926	0%	0	312,926	(312,926)	312,926	0%	9
		(481)	1,896,622	0%	(481)	1,896,622	(1,897,103)	1,896,622	0%	(590)
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>										
1010	Interest received	313	35,150	1%	313	35,150	(34,837)	35,150	1%	(2,008)
1020	Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	0	8,000	0%	0	8,000	(8,000)	8,000	0%	213
1022	Reparations Trust Fund	(1,170)	0	0%	(1,170)	0	(1,170)	0	0%	(1,600)
1025	Rent Received	2,792	41,300	7%	2,792	41,300	(38,508)	41,300	7%	3,525
1075	Commissions Income	393	0	0%	393	0	393	0	0%	142
1090	Sundry Income	28	0	0%	28	0	28	0	0%	0
1092	Merchandise Sales/Other	125	0	0%	125	0	125	0	0%	(7,234)
1094	Donations Received	2,000	0	0%	2,000	0	2,000	0	0%	2,943
		4,482	84,450	5%	4,482	84,450	(79,968)	84,450	5%	(3,919)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>4,000</b>	<b>1,981,072</b>		<b>4,000</b>	<b>1,981,072</b>	<b>(1,977,072)</b>	<b>1,981,072</b>		<b>(4,609)</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>										
<b>SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>										
	POPULATION MONITOR / MMT	0	834	0%	0	834	(834)	10,000	0%	0
	HARVEST ASSESSMENT	0	250	0%	0	250	(250)	3,000	0%	0
	FISH SALVAGE	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
	HATCHERY OPERATIONS	79	1,084	7%	79	1,084	(1,005)	13,000	1%	22
	RELEASES	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
	REGULATIONS	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
	CONTROL	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
	<b>SPECIES MANAGEMENT-...</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>2,168</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>2,168</b>	<b>(2,089)</b>	<b>26,000</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>HABITAT PROTECTION</b>										
	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT A...	11,639	376	3,095%	11,639	376	11,263	4,500	259%	1,442
	WORKS & MMT COUNCIL LAND	104	292	36%	104	292	(188)	3,500	3%	7,228
	ASSISTED HABITAT	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
	<b>HABITAT PROTECTION-T...</b>	<b>11,743</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>1,758%</b>	<b>11,743</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>11,075</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>147%</b>	<b>8,670</b>
<b>PARTICIPATION</b>										
	ACCESS	183	167	109%	183	167	16	2,000	9%	1,720
	SATISFACTION SURVEYS	0	167	0%	0	167	(167)	2,000	0%	460
	NEWSLETTERS	11,272	1,250	902%	11,272	1,250	10,022	15,000	75%	11,915
	OTHER PUBLICATIONS	0	418	0%	0	418	(418)	5,000	0%	0
	TRAINING	764	584	131%	764	584	180	7,000	11%	2,922
	CLUB RELATIONS	0	84	0%	0	84	(84)	1,000	0%	18
	HUTS	17	0	0%	17	0	17	0	0%	0
	<b>PARTICIPATION-TOTAL</b>	<b>12,236</b>	<b>2,670</b>	<b>458%</b>	<b>12,236</b>	<b>2,670</b>	<b>9,566</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>17,035</b>

**Otago Fish & Game Council  
Profit and Loss - Summary  
for Period Ended Sep:2015/16**

	-----Month to Date-----			-----Year to Date-----			Annual Budget	% of Budget	
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance			
<b>PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>									
LIAISON	0	42	0%	0	42	(42)	500	0%	0
COMMUNICATIONS	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	100
ADVOCACY	0	584	0%	0	584	(584)	7,000	0%	0
<b>PUBLIC INTERFACE-TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>(626)</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>COMPLIANCE</b>									
RANGER ADMIN	628	209	300%	628	209	419	2,500	25%	0
RANGER TRAINING	181	375	48%	181	375	(194)	4,500	4%	174
COMPLIANCE	0	334	0%	0	334	(334)	4,000	0%	0
<b>COMPLIANCE-TOTAL</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>808</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>(110)</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>174</b>
<b>LICENCES</b>									
LICENCE PRODUCT/DISTN	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
AGENT SERVICING	14	42	32%	14	42	(28)	500	3%	(10,380)
COMMISSION	134	0	0%	134	0	134	0	0%	16,427
NZFG LEVIES	0	70,914	0%	0	70,914	(70,914)	850,957	0%	0
<b>LICENSES-TOTAL</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>70,956</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>70,956</b>	<b>(70,808)</b>	<b>851,457</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>COUNCIL</b>									
COUNCIL ELECTIONS	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
COUNCIL MEETINGS	0	1,000	0%	0	1,000	(1,000)	12,000	0%	0
<b>COUNCIL-TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>(1,000)</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>PLANNING / REPORTING</b>									
MMT/STRATEGIC PLANNING	42	0	0%	42	0	42	0	0%	0
REPORTING/AUDIT	0	1,000	0%	0	1,000	(1,000)	12,000	0%	0
NATIONAL LIAISON	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
<b>PLAN/REPORT-TOTAL</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>(958)</b>	<b>12,000</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>									
SALARIES	49,927	55,679	90%	49,927	55,679	(5,752)	668,134	7%	80,553
STAFF EXPENSES	1,159	1,852	63%	1,159	1,852	(693)	22,202	5%	978
STAFF HOUSES	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
OFFICE PREMISES	5,058	6,791	74%	5,058	6,791	(1,733)	81,450	6%	13,737
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	12	1,235	1%	12	1,235	(1,222)	14,796	0%	1,258
COMMUNICATIONS	1,217	2,348	52%	1,217	2,348	(1,131)	28,164	4%	2,516
GENERAL	351	601	58%	351	601	(250)	7,200	5%	4,048
GENERAL EQUIPMENT	0	807	0%	0	807	(807)	9,650	0%	1,201
VEHICLES	1,910	5,544	34%	1,910	5,544	(3,634)	66,505	3%	11,113
<b>ADMINISTRATION - TOTAL</b>	<b>59,633</b>	<b>74,857</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>59,633</b>	<b>74,857</b>	<b>(15,224)</b>	<b>898,101</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>115,404</b>
DEPRECIATION	6,526	0	0%	6,526	0	6,526	0	0%	6,526
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>91,215</b>	<b>154,863</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>91,215</b>	<b>154,863</b>	<b>(63,648)</b>	<b>1,858,058</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>147,979</b>
<b>Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>(87,215)</b>	<b>1,826,209</b>		<b>(87,215)</b>	<b>1,826,209</b>	<b>(1,913,424)</b>	<b>123,014</b>		<b>(152,488)</b>

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWJ	FWNJ	FWIA	FWIJ	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDJ	Total	Total Value	
Agency	1510	2085	49	0	0	193	2	0	0	0	0	0	36	2	3892	
Retail Book	78	215	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	2	339	
Public Online	680	802	93	0	0	58	3	0	0	0	0	104	11	1877		
Eyede Call Centre	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Mail Order	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2268</b>	<b>3104</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6110</b>	<b>\$778,497</b>	

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWJ	FWNJ	FWIA	FWIJ	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDJ	Total	Total Value
Agency	1514	1871	74	408	124	178	4	0	0	3	16	235	18	4462	
Retail Book	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Online	640	664	117	123	66	65	0	0	0	0	7	132	16	1943	
Eyede Call Centre	29	19	3	21	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	77	
Mail Order	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2183</b>	<b>2554</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>6482</b>	<b>\$791,249</b>

Report Parameters; Regions: Otago  
Seasons 1: Fishing 2014/15 ; From: 1/01/2014 To: 23/10/2014  
Seasons 2: Fishing 2015/16 ; From: 1/01/2015 To: 23/10/2015  
Run on 10/23/2015 11:24:14 AM

\*24 Hour licence count is based on number of days that the licence is valid for. Books are counted from the day they were Processed.

## **7 Committee Reports**

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**7.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust**

**7.2 NZC Meeting**

## **8 Staff and Technical Reports**

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**8.1 CONFIDENTIAL - Habitat Enhancement Fund Applications – M Trotter**

**8.2 CONFIDENTIAL – Wanaka Hatchery**

### 8.3 Hunter Harvest and Effort 2015 Game Season – M Trotter

## COUNCIL REPORT OCTOBER 2015

### OTAGO HUNTER HARVEST & EFFORT UPDATE

Staff recently compared Otago hunter harvest and effort estimates between 2000 -2015 (see below). This data was sourced from gamebird hunter telephone surveys, and a summary is provided below.

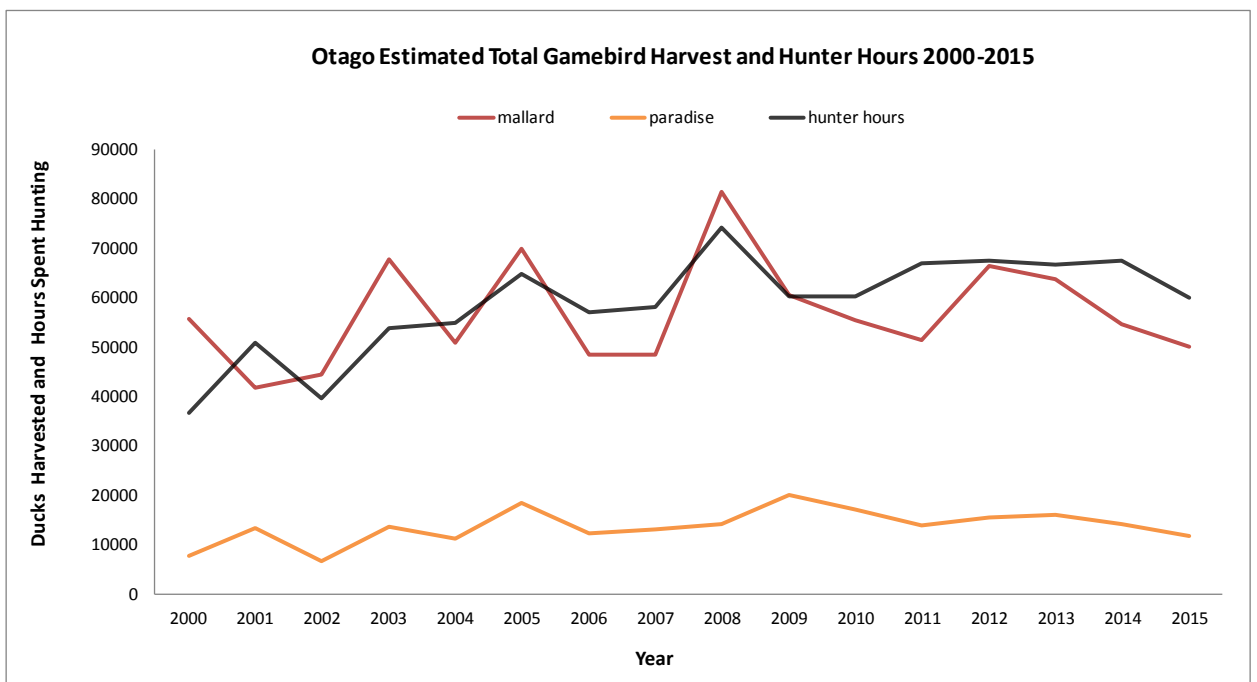


Figure 1: Estimated total harvest of mallard and paradise ducks, and hunter hours spent in the field throughout Otago 2000-2015.

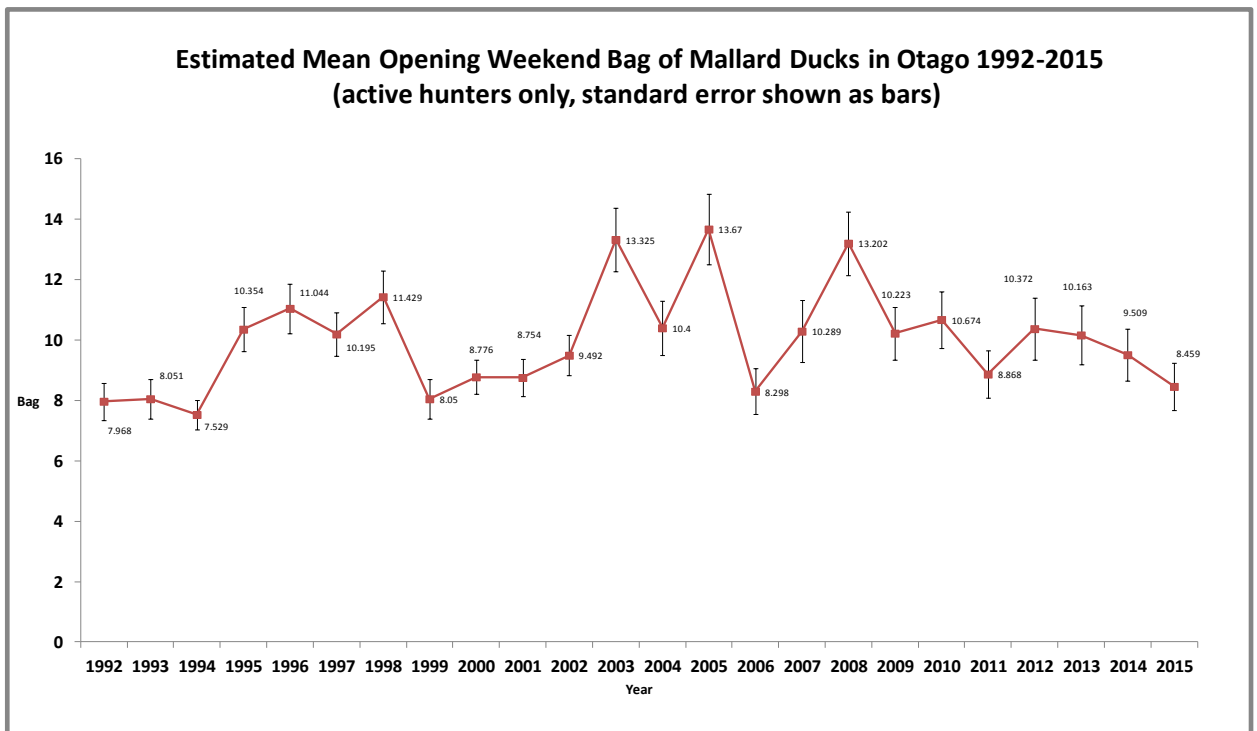


Figure 2: Estimated opening weekend harvest of mallard ducks throughout Otago 1992 - 2015.

## Results

Total mallard and paradise duck harvest appears to follow hunter hours spent in the field (figure 1). The total mallard harvest over the last four years has been trending down, but lies within the range of historic results (figure 1&2).

## Discussion

Given concerns about mallard population trends in other regions, particularly in the North Island it is important to bring to Council's attention any potential indication of a decline in Otago. There are a number of variables such as weather conditions and hunter participation that affect harvest results. At present harvest is within the historic range and it is not possible to distinguish between mallard population numbers and the reduction in hunter effort or efficiency. Should future harvest results drop below historic levels and/or continue to trend downward a more precautionary approach to setting harvest restrictions may be appropriate.

## Recommendation

That this report is received for Councilor information

**Morgan Trotter**  
**Fish & Game Officer**

**COUNCIL REPORT  
OCTOBER 2015-10-23**

**Southern Reservoir Take a Kid Fishing 2015**

On Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> September and Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2015, the Otago Fish & Game Council had two ‘Take a Kid Fishing’ (TAKF) events at the Southern Reservoir.

**Planning**

The DCC approved two Fish & Game Council TAKF events at the Southern Reservoir. A conditional agreement was reached to use the venue.

**Sponsorship**

An application for assistance with funding for the events was put to Sport Otago, Otago Community Trust and the Lions Foundation. The Otago Community Trust generously donated \$2000.00 towards the event. The money was used for things such as: toilet hire, traffic management, a lure for each child, colouring book and pencils and promotions. Allan Millars Hunting & Fishing, Centrefire McCarthys Stream & Field Store, Elios Gun Shop, West Shell and Subway were asked and kindly donated some items such as gift vouchers, rod & reel sets, hats etc for a spot prize draw at the end of each day.

**Promotion**

The TAKF day was promoted by the way of a email that was sent out to all the primary schools and some high schools throughout Dunedin informing them of the event and asking them to mention the TAKF days in their school newsletters. It was also advertised on the Fish & Game web site and on facebook.

**Access**

With the support of the DCC, the Southern Reservoir was closed for fishing for the month of September. This was to facilitate the liberation of trout and help improve catch- rates for the events.

**Support**

A Health & Safety plan was drawn up and St John and Brighton Surf Life Saving Club provided assistance. Traffic Management & Control LTD supplied the road signage for the event.

A donation of \$300 each was given to St John and Brighton Surf Life Saving Club.

**Entries**

All entries were done online through the Fish & Game web site using “Survey Monkey”. This proved to be a cost effective and user friendly way to register children. Entries were limited to 180 children (under 17) per event. One week before the event an information page of the event rules and regulations was emailed to the participants.

On the day of the event participants lined up at the registration table and received a number. They also received a goodie bag with a colouring book, pencils, bumper sticker, spot prize entry form and a lure.



The “Take Me Fishing” trailer was set up beside the registration table, children that didn’t have a fishing rod or the rod they bought along was not suitable for trout fishing could borrow one for the event.

### **Stocking of the Southern Reservoir**

One thousand two year old rainbow trout and 12 larger fish were set aside at the Macraes Hatchery for the event. Five Hundred & six fish were transported and released into the reservoir before the 19<sup>th</sup> September. Another 506 fish were released into the reservoir the week after the first event.

### **Events**

#### **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>**

One hundred & seventy eight children signed up for the first day but 34 didn’t show and this was probably because of the bad weather. Even though the weather was cold and rainy there were plenty of supporting parents, grandparents and volunteers. According to the spot prize entry form at least 29 fish were caught and of those 9 were returned. There may have been more fish caught but because of the bad weather entry forms weren’t returned. The reservoir was closed for fishing after 12noon.

#### **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>**

One hundred & eighty seven children signed up for the second day but 25 didn’t show and this was again probably due to the cold weather. Once again according to the spot prize entry forms at least 29 fish were caught and of those 7 were returned. This event was similar to the previous event and not all the entry forms were handed in.

Fish ranged in weight from 800g to 2kg, none of the big fish were caught. The children that caught fish were able keep the fish if they wished which were gutted and cleaned by Fish & Game rangers.

Fish & Game rangers and volunteers walked around the reservoir giving advice on knot tying, casting and assisting with the landing and releasing of fish.

Because of the cold rainy weather the lucky number draw at both events was cancelled. Both lucky number draws were carried out at the Fish & Game office. The items donated by Allan Millars Hunting & Fishing, Centrefire McCarthys Stream & Field Store, Elios Gun Shop, West Shell & Subway were given out to the lucky kids. A number of items from Otago Fish & Game Council (water bottles, Frisbees) were also given out.

#### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>**

This year an invitation was sent out to Scouts, Cubs, Keas and Girl guides for a 2hr kids fishing lesson. Approximately 30 kids from Dunedin and 30 kids from Invercargill showed up + scout leaders and parents. Fish & game staff and some volunteers gave fishing lessons on casting, safety, correct fishing equipment and tying knots etc. Ten fish were caught on the day and a lot of fun was had by all.

### **Media coverage**

Unfortunately there was no media coverage at either event this year even though the local papers were alerted to the events.

There was an article in the Star one week prior the first event.

## User Survey

A Survey form was filled in for each child and number of questions asked:

- How many fish were taken and how many fish released? (Figure 1)
- How did you hear about the event? (Figure 2)
- Have you been fishing before? (Figure 3)

### How many fish were taken and how many released?

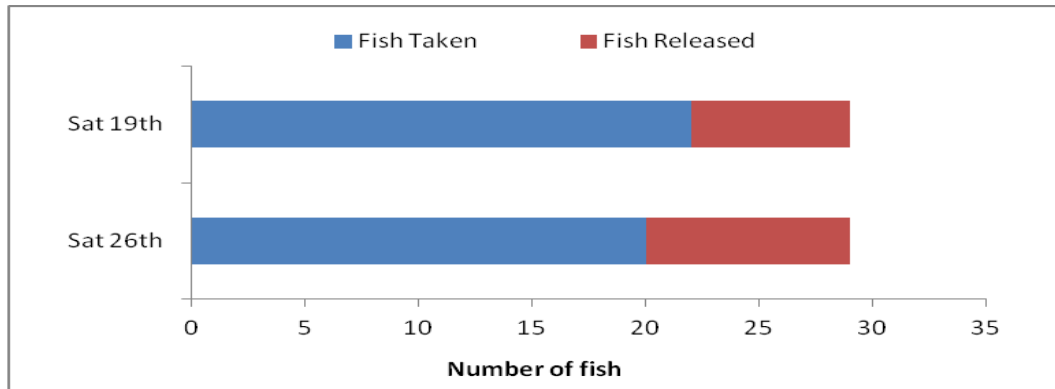


Figure 1: Number of fish taken and number of fish released on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> at the 2015 TAKF events

Over the two days approximately 58 fish were caught and out of those 18 were released.

### How did you hear about the event?

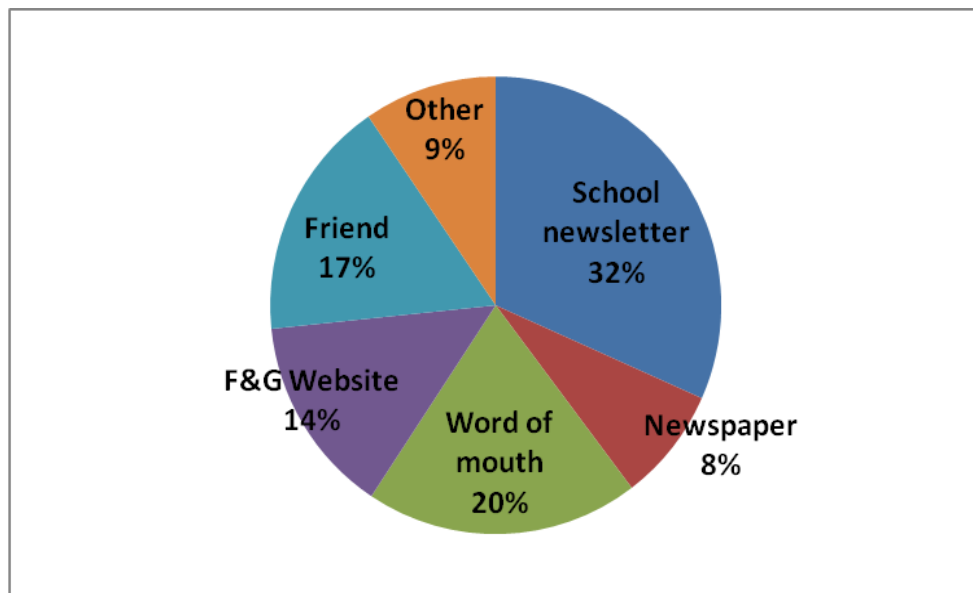


Figure 2: Percentage of people who found out about the 2015 TAKF event through various advertising outlets

The TAKF day was promoted by the way of an email that was sent out to all the primary schools and a few high schools throughout Dunedin informing them of the event and asking

them to mention the TAKF days in their school newsletters. It was also advertised on the F&G web site.

### Have you been fishing before?

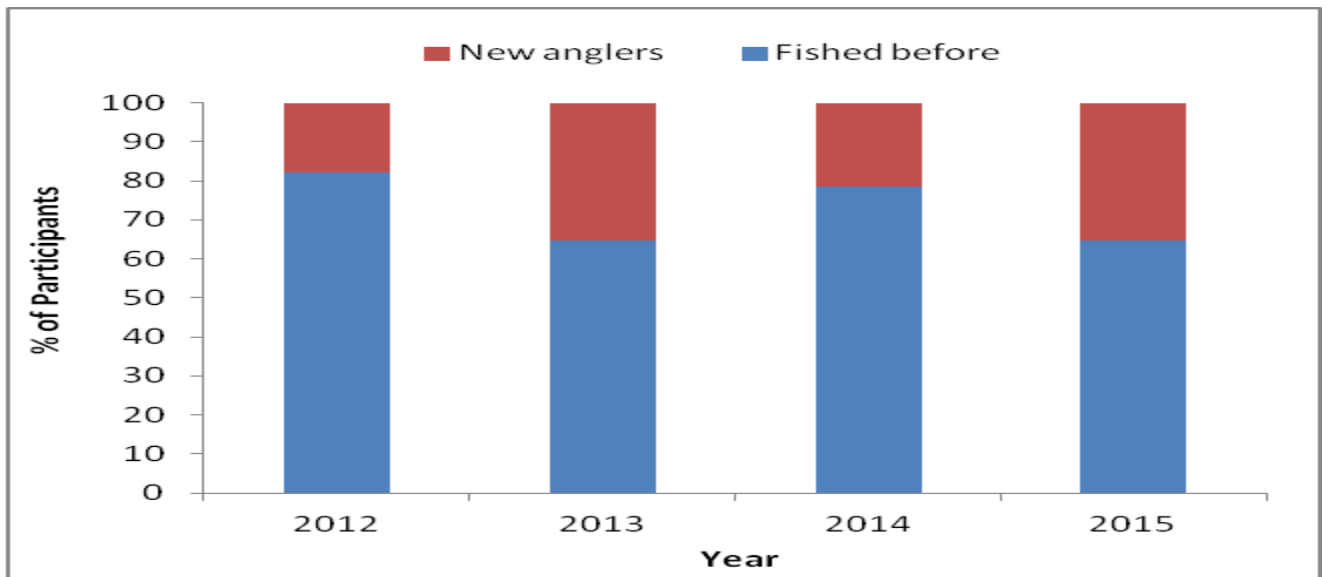


Figure 3: Percentage of participants who had fished previously and who had never fished before.

Each year we try to encourage more non-fishers to give fishing a go so it was encouraging to see the percentage of children that hadn't fished before was greater this year when compared to last year.

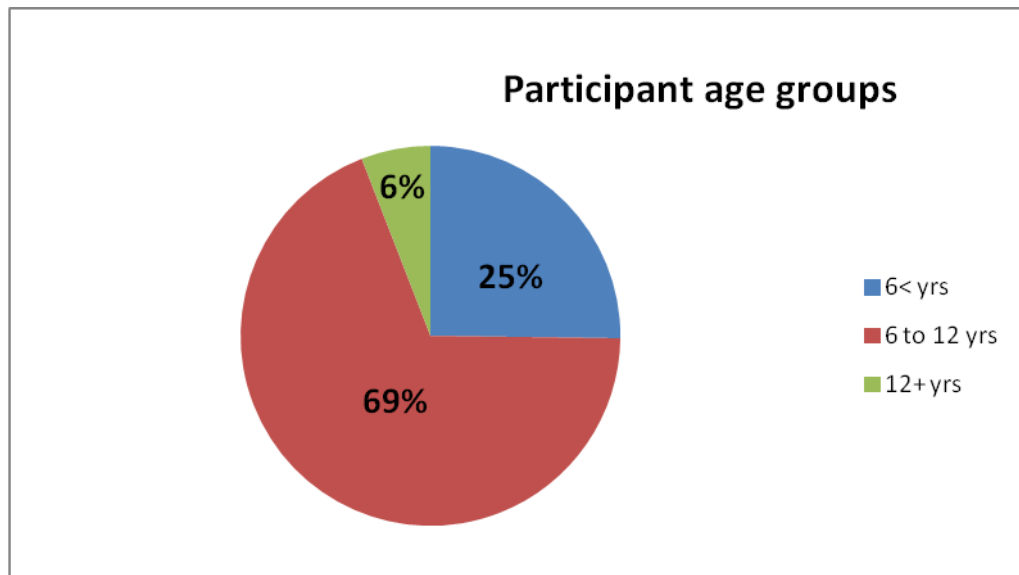


Figure 4: Relative percentage of participants across age groups at the 2015 TAKF events

The most represented group of children were the 6-12 age groups with the pre-teens not showing much interest. This seems to be the trend for the last four years.

### Catch Rate

Below is a summary of the catch rate for the last four years. In 2012 four hundred & fifty 2year old fish were released into the reservoir, in 2013 eight hundred two tear old fish were released, in 2014 600 fish were liberated and this year 1000 fish were released.

Year	Catch rate (fish per person)
2015	0.19
2014	0.39
2013	0.55
2012	0.26

It is not certain why the catch rate was so low this year; it is possible it was due to the cold rainy weather. A different method of fishing may be introduced to try and increase the catch rate. These methods could be the use of soft plastics, booby flies and the use of Tasmanian devils which have been known to catch rainbow trout.

### Acknowledgements

Otago Community Trust, Allan Millars Hunting & Fishing, Centrefire McCarthys Stream & Field Store, Elios Gun Shop, West Shell, Subway, St John, DCC, Macraes Oceana Gold, Brighton Surf Life saving Club, Traffic Management & Control LTD.

**Volunteers/rangers** - Gordon McManus, Ross Taylor, Mike Teasdale, Robbie Natta, Adrian Gillions, Maurice McCabe, John Dean, Tamara Dixon, Kiran Dixon, Brian Hutton, Colin Weatherall, Jack Hadland, Angus Leckie

**Fish & Game staff** - Ian Hadland, Morgan Trotter, Sharon Milne, Helen Keeling

### Recommendations

That this report be received.

**Steven Dixon**

**Fish & Game Officer**



## 8.5 Lower Clutha Salmon Survey – H Keeling

### COUNCIL REPORT OCTOBER 2015

#### *Lower Clutha Salmon Harvest Survey & Monitoring Report*

##### *Introduction*

As part of the Contact Energy Limited Sports Fish Management Plan (SFMP) annual monitoring activities are taken to assess the lower Clutha salmon run and gauge progress of the sports fish mitigation programme, in accordance with conditions associated with consent 2001.394 for the Clutha Hydroelectric Power Scheme. While several monitoring approaches may be utilized a key source of information is the annual angler harvest survey. This report presents monitoring results for the 2014/2015 season.

##### *Angler Survey*

##### *Methods*

The Southern Institute of Technology call centre was contracted to conduct the telephone survey and the completed survey was delivered on 10 June 2015. The telephone survey sought to interview 266 anglers, slightly more than targeted by previous surveys. About half the contacts were previous respondents to surveys; half were randomly selected from Whole Season Licence holders who live in, or near the lower Clutha catchment. In addition a pre-paid mail survey was posted to all Whole Season Licence holders in Otago (over 9,000 survey forms) with the annual OFG pre-season newsletter in late September.

The surveys asked anglers who had fished the lower Clutha River for salmon to report their fishing locations and effort (measured by number of visits), and catch information including location of catch, timing (month), adipose fin clips (indicative of hatchery origin) and any other known salmon anglers.

##### *Results*

##### *Response*

A total of 200 interviews were completed during the phone survey. The response to the mail survey was the lowest since the survey began with no valid response received to date.

*Table 1: Number of responses from phone and mail surveys of lower Clutha salmon anglers 2010-2015; number of lower Clutha salmon anglers identified shown in brackets*

SEASON	2009/2010	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015
MAIL	73 (29)	27 (13)	9 (8)	25 (20)	7 (3)	0
PHONE	148 (47)	80 (37)	110 (40)	152 (54)	195 (69)	200 (72)
TOTAL	221	107	119	177	202	200

Table 2: Summary catch and effort measures for lower Clutha River salmon 2010-2015

SEASON	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
<b>LOWER CLUTHA ANGLERS</b>						
TOTAL	76	50	48	74 (9)	72 (3)	72
PERCENT SUCCESSFUL	45	50	42	36	32	21
<b>ANGLER VISITS</b>						
TOTAL	1120	831	601	875	954	925
AVERAGE	16	18	13	12	13	13
<b>SALMON CAUGHT</b>						
TOTAL	70	63	78	73(1)	86 (4)	44
SALMON PER ANGLER	0.92	1.26	1.6	0.99	1.19	0.61
MAX NO. CAUGHT	5	8	15	17	18	12
CATCH RATE	0.06	0.07	0.12	0.08	0.09	0.05
VISITS PER SALMON	17	15	8	12	11	21
<b>ESTIMATED RUN SIZE</b> (based on 33% harvest rate)	212	190	236	224	264	

( ) additional anglers and salmon identified by on-site angler surveys and salmon head drop off only; excluded from further analysis of effort and catch rate as end of season data was not reported.

### Angler Participation & Effort

Seventy-one anglers reported that they fished for salmon in the lower Clutha during the 2014/2015 season. Anglers reported a total of 925 visits to the lower Clutha for salmon and the average effort was 13 visits per angler.

The most frequently fished section of river was Roxburgh to the Roxburgh Dam wall where anglers reported making 380 visits (40% of the total effort). Millers Flat attracted 16% of effort and the Pomahaka River received 10% of angler visits. Beaumont, Clydevale and Balclutha to the mouth each received 7-8% of angler effort.

### Catch Information

Fifteen anglers (21%) were successful in catching at least one salmon. This is lowest success rate since surveys began. The total reported harvest of salmon was 44 fish the lowest reported harvest since surveys began. Similar to previous the majority of salmon (~50%) of the total were caught between Roxburgh and the Roxburgh Dam wall. Millers Flat and Beaumont were the next most productive sections with 18% and 15% of the total reported harvest respectively. Approximately 12% of reported salmon were caught between Balclutha and the

mouth and 7% in the Pomahaka. Very few salmon were caught in other sections of the lower Clutha. The distribution of reported harvest was consistent with previous seasons.

Weights were reported for 26 salmon. Weights ranged from ~3 kg to 17 kg. The average weight of salmon was 6 kg. The month of catch was reported for 40 salmon (Figure 1). Salmon were caught from December through until April; a shorter season than in previous years. Harvest peaked in March before a sharp decline in April.

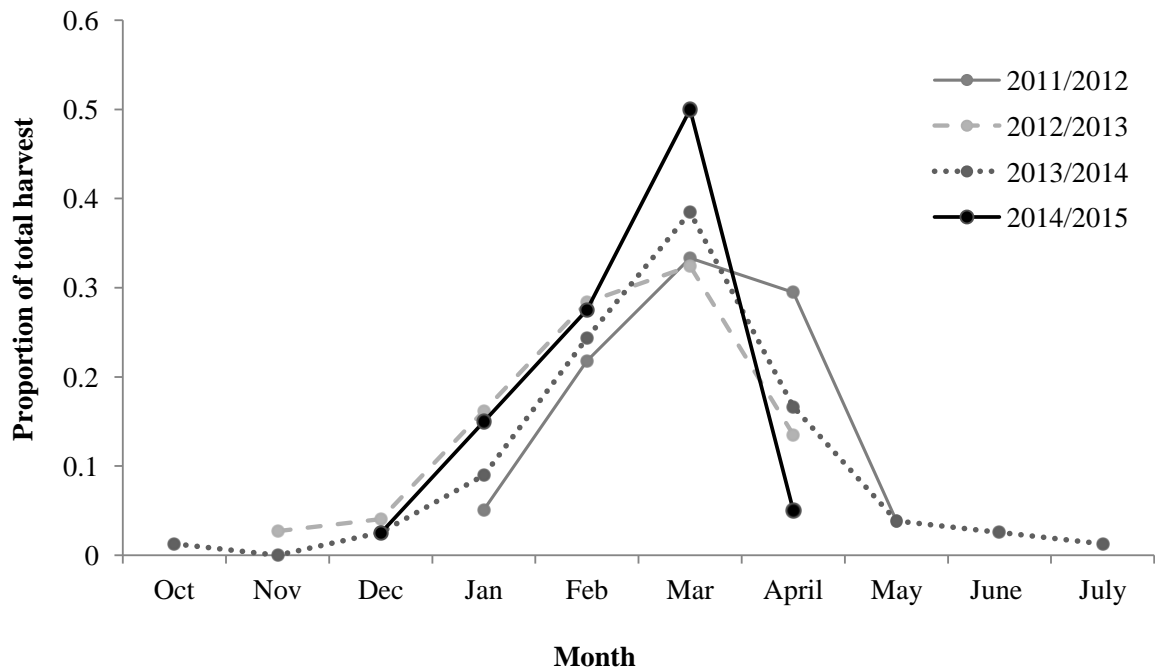


Figure 1: Month of catch for lower Clutha salmon reported harvest 2012-2015

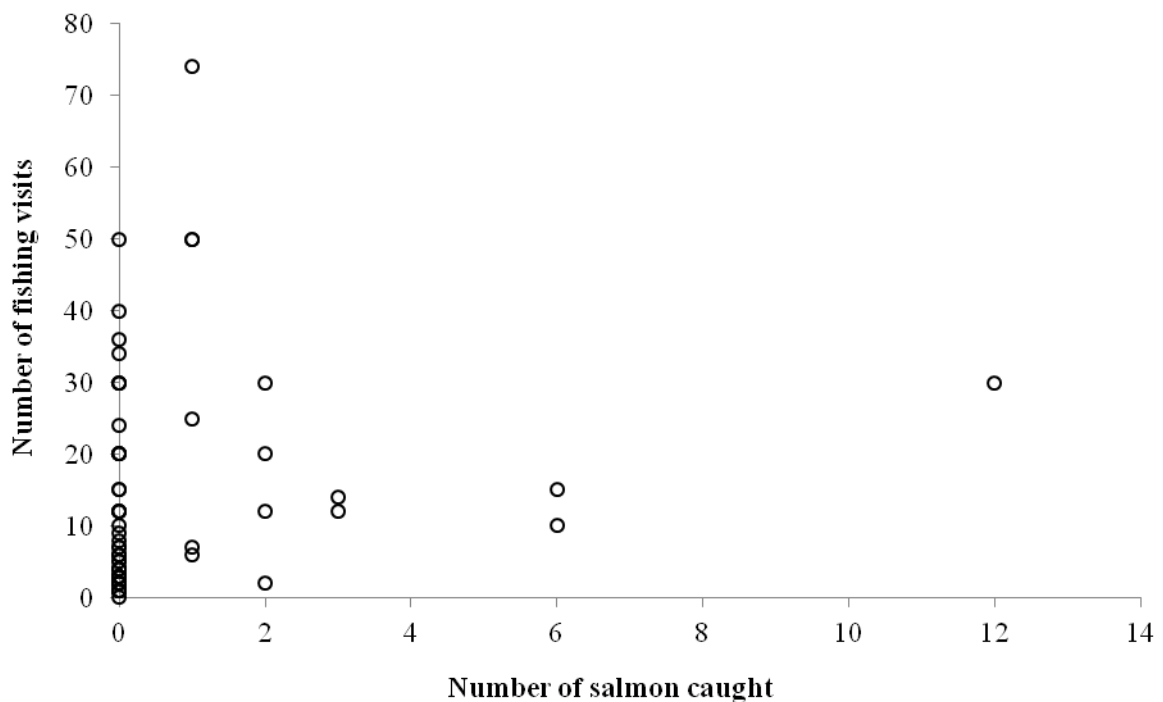


Figure 2: Effort and catch for lower Clutha salmon anglers in the 2014/2015 season

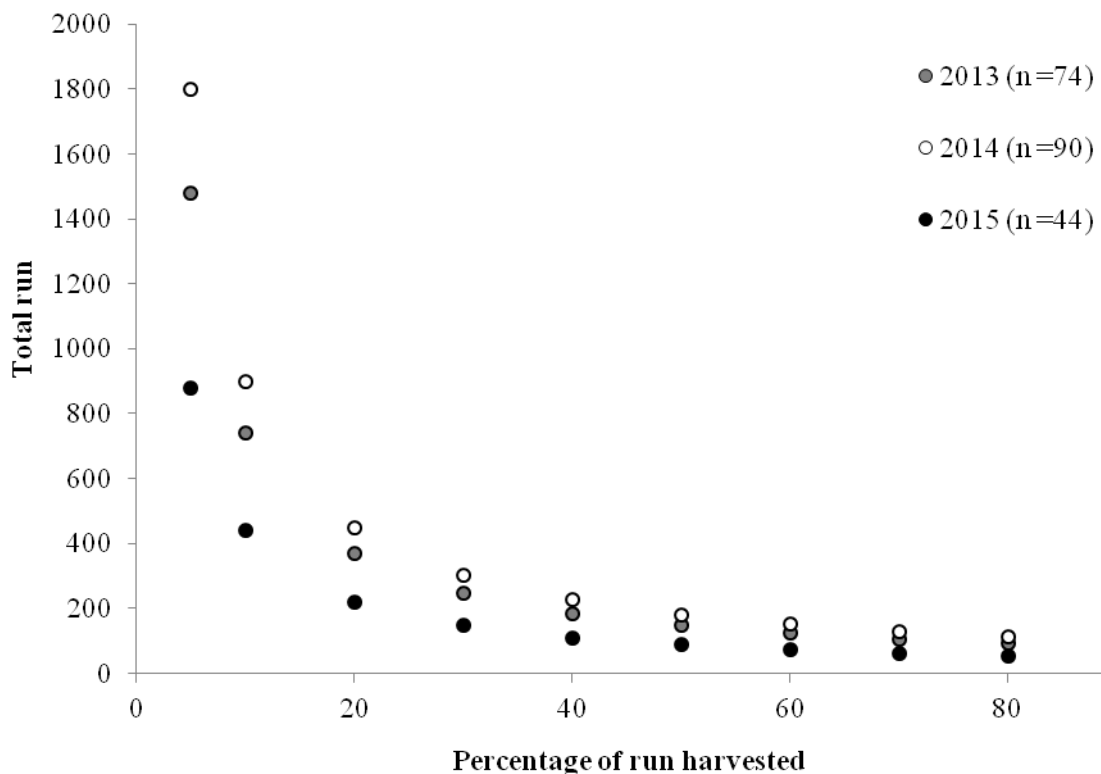
The overall catch rate was down for the 2014/2015 was 0.05 or 21 visits for each salmon caught; similar to the 2009/2010 season (Table 2). Most anglers made fewer than 10 visits and caught no salmon (Figure 2). Most successful salmon anglers caught between 1 and 3 salmon and made between >10 to >50 visits. The highest number of salmon caught by an individual angler was 12. Similar to past seasons the correlation between effort and success was not strong indicating that technique or other factors are likely important in determining success.

Three marked (adipose fin clipped) salmon were reported caught in the 2014/2015 season, all in February at the Roxburgh Dam wall. The sizes of the marked fish were reported at around 6 kg and all were reported as female.

### *Estimated Run Size*

Past reports have estimated total run size based on a harvest rate of 33%, which has been validated on the Rangitata River (Webb 2010). Given that the harvest rate for the lower Clutha is unknown it may be more useful to give a range of population estimates given different harvest rates (Figure 3).

If just one percent of the run was harvested by anglers, the total run estimate would be around 900 salmon (Figure 3). It could be reasonable to assume between 60% and 10% of the run was harvested, so a conservative estimate of the total run would be between 100 and 400 salmon (Figure 3). While significant uncertainty remains, the range of estimates identified are all still considerably below the specified target of 5000 returning salmon.



*Figure 3: Estimates of total run size based on possible percentage of run harvested 2013-2015*

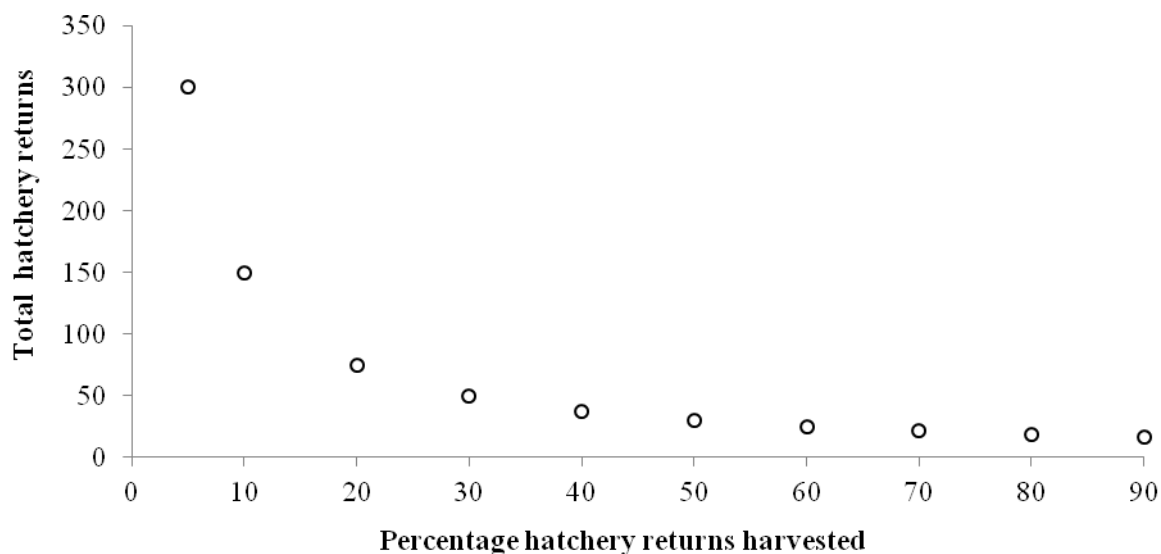


## *Hatchery Returns*

Marked salmon reported from the 2014/2015 season are most likely returns from the release of 150,000 salmon in 2013, as most anadromous Chinook salmon in New Zealand mature at age three (Quinn & Unwin 1993). It is likely that some salmon will have returned from other releases (supported by the range of sizes being caught). However, as no data was collected to verify the age structure of the run, for this analysis it was assumed that all hatchery returns in the 2014/2015 season originated from the 2013 release.

Of the 150,000 salmon released in 2013, 30,000 were marked. Assuming marked and unmarked salmon had equal rates of survival and capture, and given the estimated return rate of 0.0001% then 15 of the 150,000 salmon released returned to the lower Clutha River and were caught.

It is reasonable to assume that not all hatchery raised salmon which returned to the river were caught by anglers. A range of possible harvest rates can again be applied to estimate the total number of hatchery returns (Figure 4). A harvest of between 60% and 10% of all hatchery returns would indicate between 25 and 150 hatchery salmon returns to the Clutha; a return rate of 0.1% and 0.017% respectively.



*Figure 4: Estimates of total hatchery returns based on possible percentage harvested 2014/2015*

## ***Other Monitoring Results***

### *Spawning Survey*

Due to unfavorable flow and weather conditions causing poor visibility no aerial surveys were conducted in 2015. Surveys will again be scheduled for the coming season.

### *Otolith Collection*

Collection of head continued this season however there was less promotion and fewer heads were collected. Greater effort will be required in the coming season to meet the sample numbers recommended in the monitoring review report (Cawthron, 2015).

### *On-site Angler Surveys*

On-site angler surveys were not conducted this season due to lack of staff coverage with the Cromwell position vacant. On-site angler surveys will be re-initiated in the coming season.

## ***Discussion***

### *Response, Effort and Harvest*

Phone survey efforts again achieved an increased total response this year with 200 completed responses. The total number of salmon anglers identified was the same as the previous season (Table 2). It is interesting to note however that since surveying began in 2010 over 170 individual anglers have reported fishing for salmon in the lower Clutha in at least one season. Response to the mail survey was poor however this could be due in part to most active salmon anglers already being captured by the phone survey. In the last two years the mail survey has been combined with a newsletter update on the enhancement programme to improve the value of this contact with anglers. Because of this, and to go some way in addressing potential biases in the phone survey, it is intended to continue the mail survey despite the poor response rate.

While reported effort was consistent with previous seasons, the number of salmon caught was significantly decreased; around half the number reported for the previous season and the lowest reported harvest since surveys begun. A number of factors could explain the lower harvest including a lower total run size, flow conditions affecting the run and/or anglers' ability to target fish or unknown survey bias.

The estimated total harvest should be considered as a minimum and may underestimate the actual harvest due to several factors. The survey design is biased to licenced anglers from the Otago region. The harvest of non-resident, non-Otago region and non-licenced anglers is not accounted for. It is also assumed that further salmon were harvested by Otago resident anglers and not reported.

Due to a number of limitations with the available data and assumptions made in analysis, some of which are mentioned above, there is considerable uncertainty around any estimates of return rates (and total run size). The estimates presented here are intended to provide only an approximate index based on the available information, which may be utilized as a coarse comparative measure across seasons until more robust data is obtained.

### *Ongoing Monitoring*

Monitoring will continue for the 2015/2016 and will include onsite monitoring during the season, aerial spawning surveys and a phone survey. Following completion of a review of salmon monitoring in the lower Clutha by Cawthron in 2015, several additional projects have

been identified for 2015/2016. This includes a review of historical releases and rearing practices for lower Clutha salmon to inform future activities and a fish aging (scales and otoliths) workshop for staff.

As much of the data collected relies on input from anglers it is important that efforts continue to improve engagement with anglers and raise public awareness of the enhancement project. This may be achieved through media releases, the 'Reel Life' online newsletter and presentations at clubs to communicate with anglers throughout the salmon season. It is intended that a competition will also be run to encourage anglers to report their catch and donate salmon heads in support of future analysis work.

### ***Recommendations***

- Continued monitoring efforts in 2015/2016 as outlined in the SFMP work plan.
- That this report be received.

**Helen Keeling**  
**Fish & Game Officer**

### ***References***

Dungey, R. (1999) Lower Clutha River Chinook salmon and brown trout spawning: review of existing information, Contact Energy Study Brief #16-3, report prepared for Contact Energy Ltd, November, unpublished.

Fish & Game New Zealand (2013) *Returns to Salmon Runs of Old?* Fish & Game New Zealand Special Issue 37, September 2013, Fish & Game New Zealand, Fairfax Media, Auckland: pp24-30.

Quinn, T.P. and Unwin, M.J. (1993) Variation in life history patterns among New Zealand Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) populations, *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*, 50(7): 1414-1421.

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## 8.6 Anglers Notice Review Process – C Halford

### **COUNCIL REPORT OCTOBER 2015**

#### **Anglers Notice Triennial Review Schedule**

##### **Introduction**

The last full review of the Anglers Notice was undertaken in 2011. A scheduled triennial review for 2014 was delayed by this council until the Sports Fish and Game Management Plan for Otago Fish and Game Region was signed off by the Minister of Conservation. The plan was signed off on 6 May 2015 allowing the review to proceed.

The following schedule details the consultation process, staff reporting and final approval deadlines for the 2015/2016 Anglers Notice Review.

##### **Timetable**

- **Mid September 2015** – Anglers were invited to contribute to the review process in the Otago Fish and Game Council Sportsfishing 2015 Newsletter.
- **Otago Fish and Game Council November Meeting** – Staff will provide a scoping report with suggested changes based on monitoring or biological information, responses from anglers, and giving consideration to consistency with neighbouring Fish and Game Regional regulations.
- **December - February 2016** – Anglers are informed of recommended changes through clubs and media and staff will summarise the responses.
- **Otago Fish and Game Council February Meeting** – Staff will provide a detailed report including external submissions and recommendations for council consideration.
- **Otago Fish and Game Council April Meeting** – Staff will provide a draft recommending report for council consideration.
- **Otago Fish and Game Council June Meeting** – Staff will provide a final report for Council approval.
- **July 1 2016** – Deadline for anglers notice to NZFGC and ministerial approval.

##### **Recommendation**

The timetable and process be accepted

**Cliff Halford**  
**Fish and Game Officer**  
October 2015

## 8.7 Licence Sales 2014/15 – I Hadland

### COUNCIL REPORT OCTOBER 2015

#### Summary of Sportsfish and Gamebird Licence Sales for 2014/15

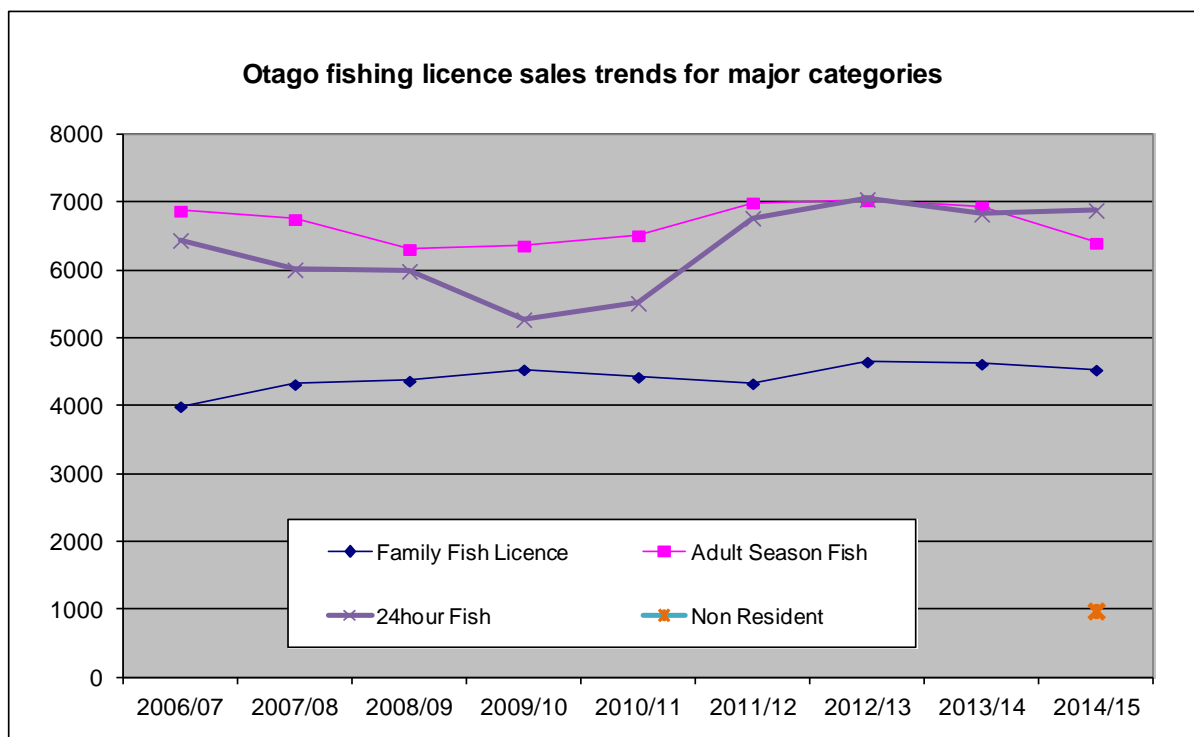
This report summarises licence sales in all categories for the 2014/2015 season (to 15 October 2015) and compares these with previous seasons. Data were derived directly from Eyede reporting facility.

#### Total Licence Sales for Otago

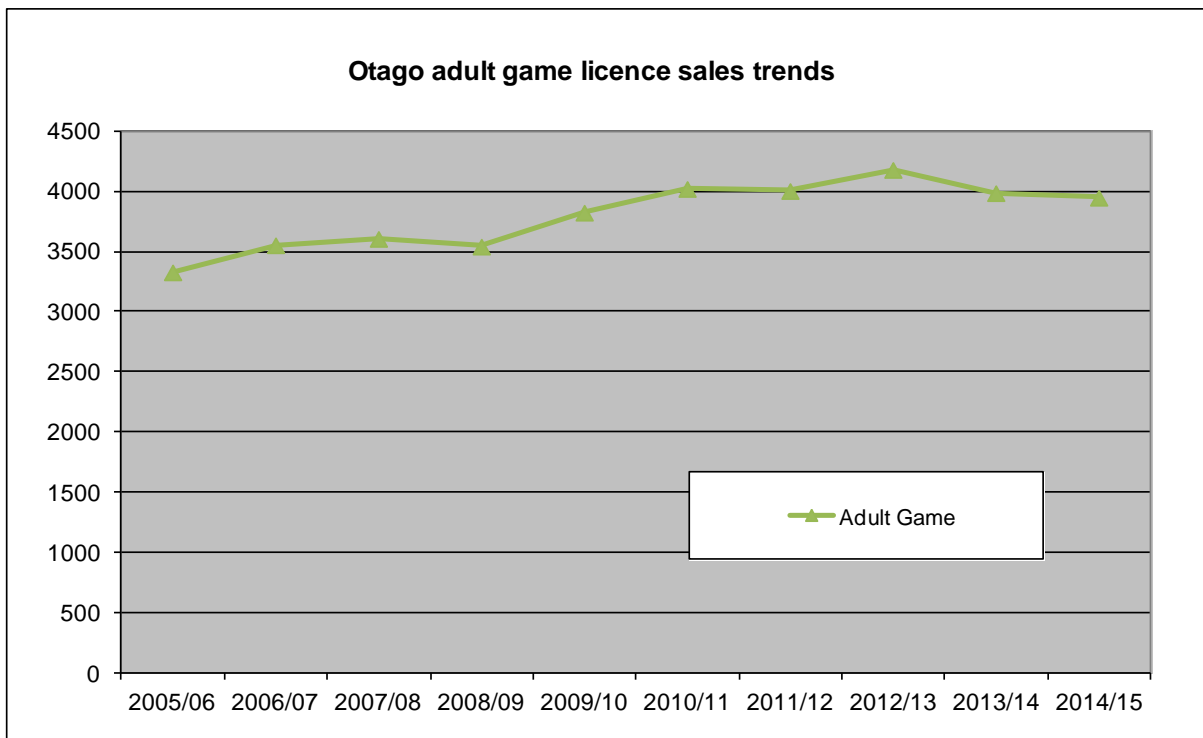
Year	Fish LEQ's	Game LEQ's	Total Value
2011/12	14535	4089	\$2,046,787
2012/13	14902	42770	\$2,174,128
2013/14	14750	4077	\$2,156,853
2014/15	15073	4034	\$2,261,565

Revenue from sales of fishing and gamebird licences was up by 5% on the previous season. Around one third of that additional revenue was obtained through the premium associated with the non resident licence. Fishing licence sales were up by 323 LEQ's (whole season licence equivalents) and gamebird LEQ's were down by 43.

#### Sales trends in major categories



Sales in all major categories have been rather static over previous seasons. The decrease in the number of adult whole season licences is most likely a result of overseas people having to switch to the Non Resident licence. 984 non resident licences were sold in Otago which is a very good result for its first year of implementation.



Game licence sales remain steady at just under 4000.

### Sales by Channel

Fishing Licence Sales

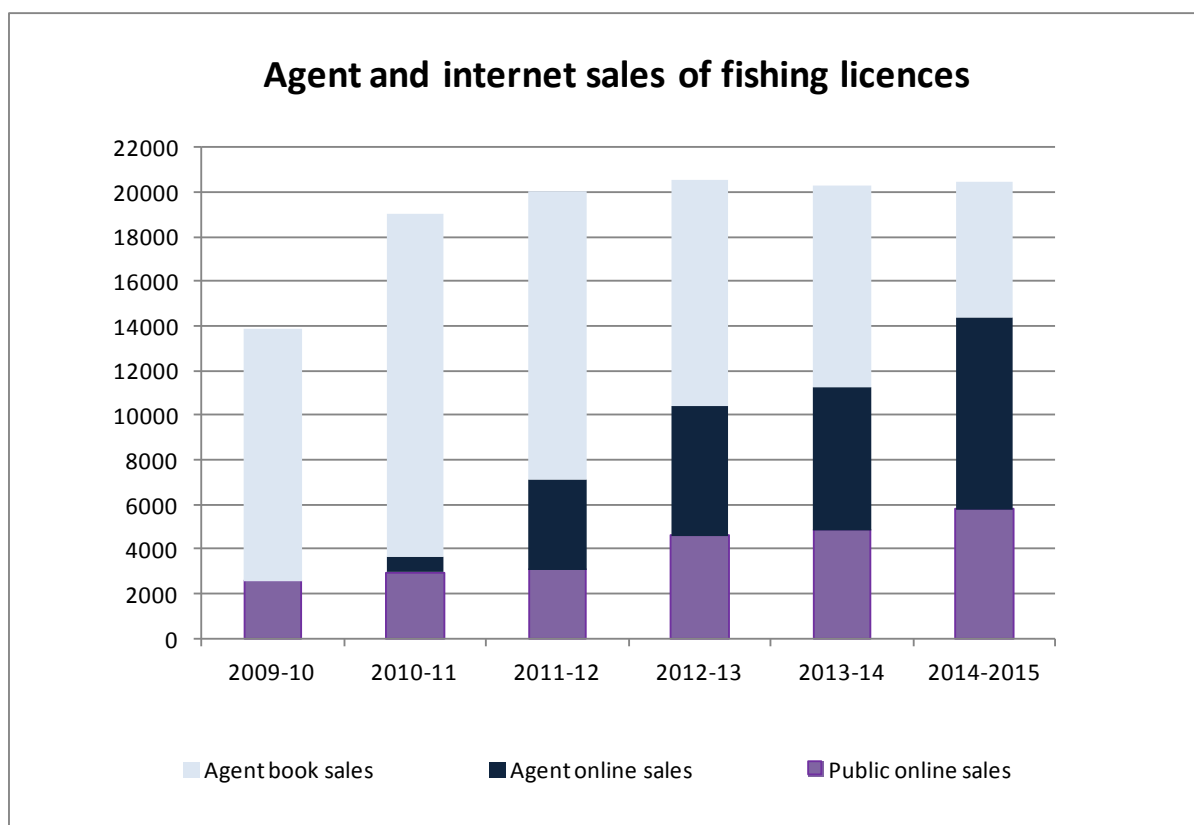
Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FWJ	FWND	FWIA	FWIJ	FDA	FDJ	Total Fish
Agency Online	2595	3734	420	434	17	161	22	1161	73	<b>8617</b>
Retail Book	608	1111	0	197	0	98	14	3816	335	<b>6179</b>
Public Online	1326	1554	563	148	21	81	9	1976	101	<b>5779</b>
Eyede Call Centre	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	10	0	<b>15</b>
Mail Order	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4530</b>	<b>6401</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>6963</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>20590</b>

## Game Licence Sales

Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total Game
Agency Online	2459	210	81	52	3	<b>2805</b>
Retail Book	931	64	25	6	1	<b>1027</b>
Public Online	556	50	23	32	3	<b>664</b>
Eyede Call Centre	4	0	0	0	0	<b>4</b>
Mail Order	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3950</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4500</b>

The low volume of sales via mail order and call center will be noted. It is intended to group these under a single title of ‘Direct Sales’ in future which will simplify reporting.

### Changes to Sales Channels

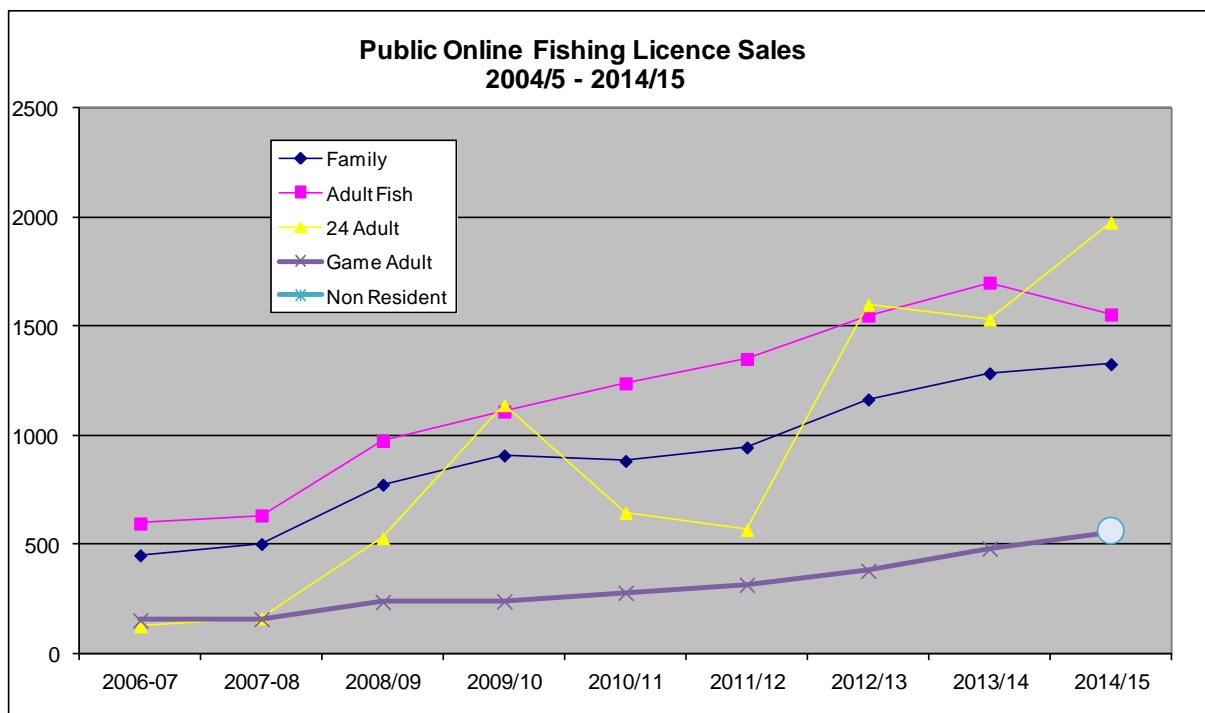


Otago Region sold around 25,090 individual game bird and fishing licences last season. Of those, 74% are sold by retailers with the remainder being purchased by licence holders via the website. The proportion of licences sold directly via the website (‘Public Online’ or POL) increased 4% last year to 26% of all transactions. This was expected to peak at around 20%.

The reduction in book licences over time and corresponding growth in agency online is pleasing. Many of the remaining book licence sales are associated with 24hr licences. Of course this season the only books issued are for emergency purchases.

## Public Online sales

As noted above growth of public online sales (via our website) is also pleasing with 28% of fishing licences and 15% of game licence being purchased through this channel.



Again, the dip in adult whole season sales via the public online facility is likely due to cannibalisation by the Non resident licence sales. Around two thirds of the Non Resident Licence sales in Otago were direct sales through the website – many of them assumed to be before they left their home country.

## Move to bookless licencing

Agents were all aware of the transition to bookless licencing for the current season but some were still very late adopters. Two agencies elected to terminate their contracts as the sales system did not suit their businesses. These were not in regionally critical areas.

One group who did find the transition away from books more difficult than expected was fishing guides, many of which were used to having access to either prepaid book or books on loan from other agencies. We have been working closely with the bigger guiding operations to shift them to online agencies or training them to use the public online facility. This work is ongoing as we react to complaints, follow up with technical help or get them into a agency contract.

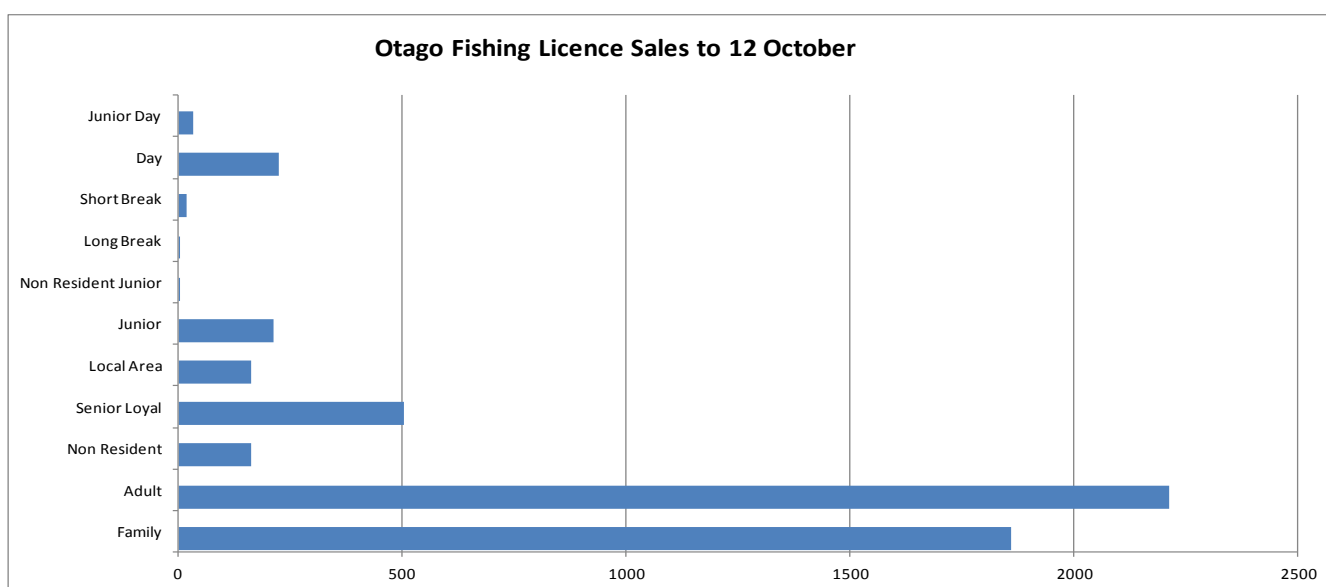
It is not expected that the closing of some agents and the move away from books will have an impact on the accessibility of licences in the Region. With the steady growth of public online sales (via the web) and the increase in smartphone ownership, complete regional coverage by agents is no longer a high priority for the distribution of licences.



## **New licence category introduction**

The introduction of the non-resident licence taught the organization much about the logistics for new category introduction and the importance of communication and planning. As a result of that planning, and the commitment locally to increase personal contact with the agents, we have had a relatively smooth introduction of the new categories. Early indications are that people are entering agencies (or the POL facility) well informed about the new category options and people are joining the appropriate categories. We have had few inquiries to the office about options or requests for refunds because people found themselves in a wrong category. That is positive.

## **New category sales**



It is assumed that many of our most dedicated anglers buy a fishing licence early in the season and that includes the large number of over 65's. At present the proportion of Senior Loyal licences sold is around 10% of all adult licence sales.

The local area licence has been less popular than expected with sales steady at 3% of total sales. Feedback from agents suggests that the limitations on area are an impediment to most anglers such that the adult whole season licence remains better value. It is also emerging that there could be a cross over with over 65's in the market who have opted for the Loyal senior licence if eligible. Eastern region sales of this category have been very strong.

## **Feedback on new categories**

Feedback from agents and licenceholders to the new categories has been largely positive:

- Senior Loyal Licence has been warmly received by our committed senior anglers
- Short term categories have been received favourably by the agents and they anticipate they will sell well. Some are even suggesting that they could improve compliance based on sales of 24hour licences which might be stretched to fit a weekend angling outing.

- Response to the reduction in day licence fee has been positive, particularly by the charter boat operators.
- There have been some negative comments about no reduction in the price of a family licence for the over 65's (already a discounted category)
- Also some minor disgruntlement by long stay international residents that the Non Resident licence shouldn't apply to them. ie a french chef who has been living in Queenstown for 5 years but does not hold a Permanent Resident Visa.

### **Further promotion of new categories required**

If the organization is to maintain revenue at previous levels then compensatory sales of the short term categories will be imperative to offset the popular discounted categories. We will increase our promotional efforts locally to encourage sales, particularly over the summer season, and there is expected to be additional promotional effort from NZC as well.

### *For information*

Ian Hadland  
**Operations Manager**  
16 October 2015

## 9 Correspondence

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### 9.1 ORC – Waiwera Catchment Minimum Flow Decision



Our Reference: A775120

14 AUG 2015

6 August 2015

Niall Watson  
Chief Executive  
Fish and Game Otago  
PO Box 76  
Dunedin 9054

Dear Niall

**Decisions on submissions to Proposed Plan Change 3B (Waiwera catchment minimum flow) to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago**

The Otago Regional Council has made decisions on submissions to Proposed Plan Change 3C (Waiwera catchment minimum flow) to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago.

Please find enclosed:

- A full copy of the Council's decisions; and
- A copy of the public notice advertising the release of the Council's decisions which appears in the Otago Daily Times on Saturday 8 August 2015.

Information can also be found on the Council website ([www.orc.govt.nz](http://www.orc.govt.nz)).

If you have any queries about the plan change, please contact any member of our Policy Team on 0800 474 082 or email [policy@orc.govt.nz](mailto:policy@orc.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Pettinger".

Richard Pettinger  
Senior Policy Analyst  
Encl

*Mission Statement: "To promote the sustainable development and enhancement of Otago's resources"*  
70 Stafford Street, Private Bag 1954, Dunedin 9054. Telephone (03) 474-0827. Facsimile (03) 479-0015



# REGIONAL PLAN: WATER FOR OTAGO

## Public Notice of Decision on Proposed Plan Change 3C

The Otago Regional Council has made decisions on submissions to a change to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago (Water Plan).

### Proposed Plan Change 3C (Waiwera catchment minimum flow)

This Proposed Plan Change introduces a primary and supplementary allocation and minimum flow regime for the Waiwera catchment.

The decision may be inspected at:

- Otago Regional Council offices at:
  - 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin
  - William Fraser Building, Dunorling Street, Alexandra
  - The Station, First Floor, corner Shotover and Camp Streets, Queenstown
- All public libraries throughout the Otago Region.
- Service centres of Otago's city and district councils.
- Council's website: [www.orc.govt.nz](http://www.orc.govt.nz).

### Right to appeal to the Environment Court:

Those who submitted on the proposal may appeal the Council decision to the Environment Court within 30 working days of notice of decision being served (under clause 14 of Schedule 1, Resource Management Act 1991). Any such appeal must be in the prescribed form, and a copy of the notice must be sent to the Otago Regional Council in the manner prescribed by the Resource Management Act 1991.

### Address for service of local authority:

Post to Otago Regional Council  
Private Bag 1954  
Dunedin 9054  
Fax to (03) 479 0015  
Email to [policy@orc.govt.nz](mailto:policy@orc.govt.nz)

*Fraser McRae*

*Director Policy Planning & Resource Management*

Signed on behalf of the Otago Regional Council

Saturday 8 August 2015

Notified in accordance with clause 5 of Schedule 1, Resource Management Act 1991



Private Bag 1954, Dunedin 9054 • 0800 474 082 • [www.orc.govt.nz](http://www.orc.govt.nz)

# **Proposed Plan Change 3C (Waiwera catchment minimum flow)**

**to the**

## **Regional Plan: Water for Otago**

### **Council Decisions**

Otago Regional Council resolved to adopt the recommendations of the Hearing Committee on Proposed Plan Change 3C (Waiwera catchment minimum flow) at its meeting on Wednesday 5 August 2015, as follows:

*That Council:*

- 1. Adopt the recommendations of the Hearing Committee on Proposed Plan Change 3C (Waiwera catchment minimum flow) to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago with tabled amendments as its decision;*
- 2. Publicly notify its decisions on Proposed Plan Change 3C (Waiwera catchment minimum flow) to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago on Saturday 8 August 2015; and*
- 3. Notify submitters of its decision.*

All references to the recommendations of the Hearing Committee must now be read as being the decisions of Council in the following report.



**5 August 2015**

This report presents the recommendations of the Hearing Committee to the Otago Regional Council on submissions and further submissions to Proposed Plan Change 3C (Waiwera catchment minimum flow) to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago.

**Hearing Committee:**



**Councillor Louise Croot**

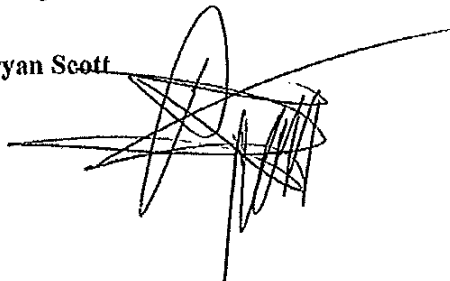
**Chairperson**

**Councillor Sam Neill**



**Councillor Bryan Scott**

6 May 2015



*Decisions of Council on Proposed Plan Change 3C (Waiwera catchment minimum flow)  
5 August 2015*

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<b>Abbreviations</b>	
Council	Otago Regional Council
MALF	Mean annual low flow (7-day)
NPSFM	National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014
Proposed plan change / plan change	Proposed Plan Change 3C (Waiwera catchment minimum flow) to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago
RMA	Resource Management Act 1991
Water Plan	Regional Plan: Water for Otago (operative at 1 May 2014)
<b>Note: use of section/Section:</b>	
section	A reference to another section in this report. A reference to a section of the Water Plan.
Section	A Section of the RMA.
<b>Note: text marking</b>	
<del>Operative word</del> / <u>notified word</u>	Notified change, showing change proposed from the Water Plan

*Decisions of Council on Proposed Plan Change 3C (Waiwera catchment minimum flow)  
5 August 2015*

## 1. BACKGROUND

Proposed Plan Change 3C (Waiwera catchment minimum flow) to the Water Plan introduces a primary and supplementary allocation and minimum flow regime.

The primary minimum flow will apply to primary status consented takes and identified permitted takes, while recent consented takes will be subject to a higher supplementary minimum flow.

The proposed plan change was publicly notified in the Otago Daily Times on Saturday 13 December 2014 and submissions closed on Monday 16 February 2015. A total of 6 submissions were received.

The *Summary of Decisions Requested*, which requested further submissions, was notified on Saturday 28 February 2015, with further submissions closing on Friday 13 March 2015. There were two further submissions received.

The *Officer's Report on Decisions Requested*, which evaluated decisions requested by submitters and further submitters, and made recommendations to the Hearing Committee, was released on Friday 27 March 2015.

Submissions on the proposed plan change were heard on Tuesday 21 April 2015 in Dunedin. Five submitters presented evidence to the Hearing Committee, with one submitter having evidence read out.

Submitters were supportive of the plan change, although the main matter raised was to lift the minimum flow as notified from 260 l/s to 310 l/s or higher.

We thank all of the people who have participated in this plan change process. We have read all submissions and listened to evidence presented at the hearing. In preparing our recommendations we have also been mindful of the Otago Regional Council's statutory responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management 2014 (NPSFM).

As a result of the submission and hearing process, our recommendation to the Otago Regional Council is to amend the plan change as shown in Appendix 1 to this report.

Our recommendations in detail follow.



## 2. ALLOCATION LIMITS AND MINIMUM FLOWS

This section provides recommendations applied to specific requests on the allocation limits and minimum flows being proposed by the Plan Change. The minimum flow regime applies to the Waiwera catchment from its confluence with the Clutha/Mata-Au to its headwaters.

### 2.1 Primary allocation minimum flows

Setting an acceptable irrigation season minimum flow for primary allocation is the main focus of submissions and further submissions. The minimum flow is the river flow level below which consents to take, and some permitted activity takes, may not be exercised. It applies when water is in shorter supply and greater demand.

Primary allocation minimum flows of 260 l/s for the period 1 October to 30 April and 400 l/s for the rest of the year, are proposed to be specified in Schedule 2A.

For detail of the proposed amended policy, rule and associated provisions and the submissions received relating to this matter, refer to:

<i>Provision code</i>	<i>Provision</i>	<i>Page(s) of Proposed Plan Change 3C</i>	<i>Page(s) of Summary of Decisions Requested</i>
1	<i>Policy 6.4.5 and Rule 12.1.4.2</i>	2, 4	7
4, 5	<i>Schedule 2A Minimum flows (Irrigation season and non-irrigation season)</i>	6	8

#### 2.1.1 Main Issues

Two submitters requested a higher irrigation season minimum flow be considered, while others submitting supported the proposed irrigation season minimum flow of 260 l/s. All supported the non-irrigation season minimum flow of 400 l/s. The following is the main issue raised:

- A higher irrigation season minimum flow is sought for historical, environmental, cultural and river health reasons.

#### 2.1.2 Recommendation

We considered the submissions and recommend the following:

- (a) Make no amendment to Policy 6.4.5 and Rule 12.1.2.5
- (b) Amend Schedule 2A irrigation season primary allocation minimum flow, from 260 l/s as notified, to 300 l/s.

#### 2.1.3 Reasons

This higher minimum flow has little impact on the security of supply for the 150 l/s of primary takes in this catchment, while increasing certainty for sustaining instream

values and natural character. Several water takes already observe a minimum flow at or near 300 l/s, with little or no storage needed to get by the infrequent dry spells.

## 2.2 Limiting primary allocation

Primary allocation is the quantity to which the lowest minimum flows in both the irrigation and non-irrigation season apply. Setting an appropriate primary allocation limit prevents new takes that would exceed it being subject to that minimum flow. Instead, new takes would be allocated with supplementary status, at a higher supplementary minimum flow.

In the case of the Waiwera catchment, a primary allocation limit of 150 l/s is proposed, for Schedule 2A. For detail of the submissions received relating to this matter, refer to:

<i>Provision code</i>	<i>Provision</i>	<i>Page(s) of Proposed Plan Change 3C</i>	<i>Page(s) of Summary of Decisions Requested</i>
6	Schedule 2A Primary allocation limit	6	9

### 2.2.1 Main Issue

While others supported the limit as proposed, the following summarises the decision requested by one submitter, regarding the primary allocation limit:

- Adjust the proposed limit for historical, environmental and cultural reasons.

### 2.2.2 Recommendation

We considered the submissions and recommend the following:

- (a) Adopt the primary allocation limit in Schedule 2A as notified.

### 2.2.3 Reason

There is no justification for adjusting the primary allocation limit upwards or downwards from 150 l/s, for the reasons given. Aquatic ecosystem, natural character or historical, environmental, cultural or river health values, or economic opportunities for irrigation are only likely to be compromised significantly by large adjustments to the primary allocation limit. Any significant increase in the limit would risk “flat-lining” of the river at that minimum flow, while any reduction in the limit would unnecessarily frustrate the replacement of consents for takes which are sustainable.

## 2.3 Supplementary minimum flow and allocation

This minimum flow would constrain taking for new allocations granted beyond the primary allocation limit. Those who wish to store water for use in the irrigation season can take to fill reservoirs whenever the flow exceeds 500 l/s.

For detail of the submissions received relating to this matter, refer to:

<i>Provision code</i>	<i>Provision</i>	<i>Page(s) of Proposed Plan Change 3C</i>	<i>Page(s) of Summary of Decisions Requested</i>
7	<i>Schedule 2B Supplementary allocation minimum flow</i>	6	9
8	<i>Schedule 2B Supplementary allocation block size</i>	6	9

### **2.3.1 Main Issue**

One submitter requested an increase in the Schedule 2B minimum flow for supplementary allocation of 500 l/s, to 800 l/s, to make it more consistent with other Otago catchments, while other submitters supported that minimum flow. All submitters supported the retention of the supplementary allocation block size of 100 l/s.

### **2.3.2 Recommendation**

We considered the submissions and recommend the following:

- (a) Adopt the supplementary allocation minimum flow and block size as notified.

### **2.3.3 Reason**

The higher supplementary minimum flow applying in the Pomahaka catchment reflects the high significance of the brown trout fishery in that river. The Waiwera River, while having important trout spawning and other fishery values, does not warrant a minimum flow that would significantly constrain new take opportunities.

### 3. OTHER PLAN CHANGE MATTERS

#### 3.1 Whole plan change, maps, minor and consequential changes

General submissions were made relating to the whole plan including the new maps and the minor and consequential changes tabled on page 7.

For detail of these matters and the submissions received relating to them, refer to:

<i>Provision code</i>	<i>Provision</i>	<i>Page(s) of Proposed Plan Change 3C</i>	<i>Page(s) of Summary of Decisions Requested</i>
2	<i>Maps B13, B15</i>	<i>Following p 8</i>	<i>7</i>
9	<i>Whole of plan change</i>	-	9
18	<i>Minor and consequential changes</i>	7	10

##### 3.1.1 Issues

Submissions supported the Plan Change and sought changes consequential to the decisions requested. The amended maps were supported.

##### 3.1.2 Recommendation

We considered the submissions and recommend the following:

- (a) Make the minor and consequential amendments in the table on page 7 of Proposed Plan Change 3C, and any other amendment necessary to give effect to the plan change.

##### 3.1.3 Reasons

Clause 10(2) of Schedule 1 RMA provides for any necessary consequential alterations.

*Decisions of Council on Proposed Plan Change 3C (Waiwera catchment minimum flow)  
5 August 2015*

## **4. MATTERS NOT ADDRESSED IN THIS PLAN CHANGE**

### **4.1 Matters beyond the scope of the plan change**

One submitter requested that water meters be made mandatory for any water taken for dairy shed usage. Another requested evidence be provided of historical water take, to allow review of primary water take.

See page 12 of *Summary of Decisions Requested*.

#### **4.1.1 Recommendation**

We considered the submissions and recommend the following:

- (a) Make no amendment to address matters beyond the scope of this plan change

#### **4.1.2 Reasons**

Take measurement requirements are most appropriately left to national regulation.

Policies or rules for reviewing consents to address primary allocation taking need to be considered carefully in the context of all Otago catchments, and would need consultation before proposing.

## **10 General Business**

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