

**Agenda for the Meeting of the
Otago Fish & Game Council to be held on 21st June 2018
At Otago Fish & Game council office, Cnr Hanover and Harrow Streets, Dunedin**

Commencing at 10.30am

Please note: A Lunch will be provided at 12.30

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1 Present and Apologies

2 Declaration of Interest

3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting St Johns Meeting Room, Main Road, Roxburgh. 19 April 2018, Commencing at 12.30pm

1.0 Present:

Monty Wright (Chair), Dr John Jillett, Dan Rae, Adrian McIntyre, Ian Cole, Dr Mike Turner, John Barlow, Rick Boyd, Richard Twining, Murray Neilson, Vicky Whyte and Colin Weatherall.

In attendance: Niall Watson (CE) Ian Hadland (OM), Martin Taylor (NZC CE) Richard Cosgrove (NZC PA Advisor South Island) Pat Garden (Chair Otago Conservation Board), John Roberts (DOC) and Tom Kitchin (ODT)

Apologies were received from
Dave Witherow, Alan Hammond and Bruce Jeffries (OCB).

(Weatherall/Barlow)

That apologies be accepted.

2.0 Declarations of Interest

Nil

Mr Weatherall noted his son was now the CE of Walk NZ

3.0 Minutes

Resolved (Rae/Boyd)

That the Minutes of the meetings on the 10th February 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

4.0 Matters Arising from Minutes

4.1 Meeting Schedule for 2018

The CE noted that due to the extra Council Meeting for the purposes of recruitment the meeting schedule was changing in terms of meeting location. Mr Weatherall advised that the 21st June meeting would now be held in Dunedin, would be combined with a retirement function for Mr Watson and would involve an overnight stay.

4.2 Salmon Committee

Mr Boyd reported on the initial meeting of the National Sea Run Salmon Committee of which he was a member. The primary focus was stopping the decline of the sea run salmon fishery. He said the extent to which lake stocks would be considered was not clear but noted their important contribution to the residual sea run in the Clutha.

The committee had finalised terms of reference and set some high-level objectives. They were to meet again on the 22nd May. The salmon symposium proceedings were still to be completed.

4.3 Jet Boat Incident

The CE advised that the QLDC harbour master had given an unsympathetic response to the Council's concerns over inconsiderate behaviour by a commercial jet boater who encroached on an area of the Clutha River being fished by anglers from the river bank. There was no response to the request to the harbour master for advice on protocols governing commercial boats when encountering passive recreational users. Instead the harbour master focused on the reaction of the anglers to the interference.

The company concerned had also been contacted, requesting a meeting but there had been no response.

Agreed that the matter be taken up directly with the QLDC.

Mr Boyd noted the stark contrast with the harbour master's response to a Wanaka rescue boat which had been fined for inadvertently cutting across fishing lines behind a trolling boat in Roys Bay.

Staff were asked to consider whether the high levels of recreational use at times in Roys Bay was a reason to consider restrictions on trolling in the area.

5.0 Communications New Zealand Council

5.1 NZC Correspondence

5.1.1 Increasing Participation Report.

The OM reported on the marketing analysis by Steve Doughty noting the aim of maintaining participation. He said in some respects the initial effort should go into monitoring US progress in the development of R3 (recruitment, retention and reactivation) programmes before resourcing a 3-year term staff position for co-ordination purposes.

There was discussion about the heterogenous nature of angling and hunting in NZ and Dr Jillett noted the dramatic change in the pattern of licence sales over time between North and South Islands.

Mr Taylor said Fish and Game needed to have a future view of where it wanted to be in terms of participation – increase, hold or decrease. He said fees had risen faster than inflation since 1997. He noted Otago had tremendous fisheries in the southern lakes area, but councillors noted recent environmental issues had caused lowland river fishery declines.

There was discussion about what sort of anglers should be retained or reactivated with a focus on retaining angling as a significant recreational activity for NZ residents. Discussion on capping licence fees included comment on further category differentiation.

The OM was asked to respond to NZC on the basis of the discussion

5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC

5.2.1 Guides Licence

Issues relating to immigration law were discussed. Mr Talyor said the NZC submission on the licence implementation was going through some final adjustments in advance of being presented to the Minister

5.2.2 Salmon Committee - noted

6.0 Health and Safety – nothing to report

7.0 Chief Executive's Report

7.1 Administration

Finance reports to the end of March 2018 were discussed with expenditure running at 65% at a point 58% through the financial year. The CE noted this was not unusual after the busy summer period. Fish licence sales were slightly ahead of the same date last year.

Resolved (Whyte Boyd)

That Finance and Licence sales reports to the end of March 2018 be approved

Wanaka Hatchery

The completion of the boardwalk along Bullock Creek was noted along with the need to identify a date for an official opening. An early June opening had been suggested. It was **agreed** that Mayor Jim Boulton be invited to officiate, and it was noted that there was also to be an on-site meeting with him on 1 May about Alpha Series subdivision storm water.

The CE advised that agreement on a name for the springs area was needed and 'Bullock Creek Springs', 'Bullock Creek Wetland Springs' and 'Bullock Creek Wetland' were the front runners.

7.2 Species

Mallard Monitoring

The CE advised that monitoring was completed for the year with the 2018 count down on last year but most likely due to the dispersal effect of flooding in the lower Taieri and Lower Clutha

7.3 Habitat

Contact Energy

CE advised that discussions were continuing on a Clutha catchment hatchery but had taken second place to minimum flow issues. Councillor Whyte mentioned a Teviot Anglers Club meeting with Contact on 7 May and Richard Twining advised that Ngai Tahu supported the hatchery idea.

Kye Burn

Negotiations over residual flows were nearing completion. That would resolve the Council's appeal

Cardrona

Further hydrological investigations by ORC had been undertaken but no results had been released to date. A key issue was surface water/groundwater interactions. The minimum flow process was expected to kick off again in the near future.

Arrow River

The minimum flow process was under way but a river flow had not yet been notified.

Camerons Creek

Noted that the ORC case had been concluded and sentence for interference with the stream was in the order of \$20,000 in fines. Stream reinstatement had not been required because it was likely to further disturb aquatic life.

Shag River

Recent river works that were the subject of a complaint were ORC river training.

Pomahaka

Mr McIntyre noted that Pomahaka River works had blown out in recent flooding.

Lindis

The CE expressed serious concern about process issues surrounding the Lindis Catchment Group's (LGC) appeal over the minimum flow decision and their application for catchment wide consents.

LGC and ORC, having reached an alternative agreement on the minimum flow, were preparing a joint case to the Environment Court which meant ORC were supporting the consent application and were bearing significant witness costs for the LGCs consents

Resolved (Weatherall/Rae)

That Council move into Public Excluded

(See confidential minutes)

Resolved (Rae/Turner)

The Council go out of Public Excluded meeting**Bullock Creek**

The presence of unauthorised stream works on tributaries was noted.

7.4 User Participation

No discussion

7.5 Public Interface

No discussion

7.6 Compliance

A recent successful prosecution for fishing without a licence and giving false information was noted.

7.7 Licencing

No discussion

7.8 Council

No discussion

7.9 Planning and Reporting

Annual Plan and Budget

Refer reports

8 Committee Reports

8.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust – Mr Cole advised that recent Trust activity included:

- Continuing Manuherikia conductivity monitoring
- Supporting the Council with work on Long Gully Creek
- Lindis temperature data recording
- Follow up activity on the Kane Road access agreement which has yet to be signed off. Concern was expressed about delay.

8.2 New Zealand Council

Dr Jillett reported on the recent NZC meeting to the West Coast and matters discussed which included:

- West Coast staff reported on backcountry fisheries monitoring
- Out of region angling was a feature of west coast management
- Consideration was being given to the scope of the Ngararoro Conservation Order
- The guides licence
- Captive reared mallards
- R3 programmes.
- Salmon Committee

Dr Jillett noted that legal funding for three applications was approved with the one from Otago to come from reserves. The CE asked that this be discussed further in the public excluded session

9.0 Technical Reports

9.1 Annual Plan Development

Resolved (Cole/Barlow)

That the proposed staff responses be included in the 2018/19 annual plan.

Mr Watson advised that there were budget funding applications lodged for extra funding for wetland management (\$10,000), prosecutions (\$45,000) and administration (\$12, 126)

9.2 Anglers Notice Review

Councillor Boyd noted that the report did not contain an assessment of the relevant Sports Fish and Game Plan provisions relating to regulation setting or a summary of feedback from the public meetings.

Resolved (Boyd/Turner)

That the matter be deferred for consideration at a meeting by telephone conference in the next two weeks once the additional material is in hand

9.3 Captive Reared Mallards (see confidential minutes)

9.4 Potential Land Purchase (see confidential minutes)

9.5 Prosecution Guidelines (see confidential minutes)

9.6 Habitat Enhancement Grants (see confidential minutes)

9.7 Pomahaka Sea Run Trout

The report was discussed, and it was **agreed** that in the light of the report the Council should consider regulation changes for the river and further fish survey work.

Resolved (Rae/Weatherall)

That the report be received

10.0 Correspondence

10.1 Lake Hawea Fishing Classic – Letter of thanks for support - received

10.2 NZ Police – Letter of thanks for support for kids fishing– received

10.3 Minister for the Environment – Response to letter on mining privileges.

The CE noted that ORC was not well placed to process mining privileges because of:

- uncertainty over the definition of the ‘existing environment’ against which effects were to be measured and which in turn governed affected party consideration;
- poor linkage between minimum and residual flows. proposed plan change (1D) was in preparation to fix that;
- little or no consideration of cumulative effects.
- uncertainty over the site for impact assessment for residual flows (eg the immediate take location or the waterway downstream)

Agreed that Council write again to the Minister outlining specific areas of concern with the ORC policy framework.

11.0 General Business

11.1 Kawarau River Island Development

Discussed

11.2 Relationships

John Roberts noted the good working relationship between DOC and Fish and Game over water issues. Pat Garden expressed the same view from an Otago Conservation Board point of view. There was a discussion on trout/native fish interactions.

11.3 Mr Watson's Retirement

On behalf of the Chair Mr Weatherall noted that the meeting was the last with Mr Watson as Chief Executive. On behalf of the Council he thanks Mr Watson for his many years of good service to the Council and wished him well in his retirement. The Council endorsed the sentiments expressed by acclamation.

Messrs Roberts, Garden and Kitchen left the meeting

Resolved (Rae/Jillett)

Meeting go into public excluded session

(See confidential Minutes)

Resolved (Whyte/Boyd)

Council go out of Public Excluded

11.4 Mr Taylor was invited to address the meeting:

- He said his attendance completed a round of all Councils and he was struck by the diversity of habitats around the country between regions.
- He emphasised his strong interest in participation and in the development of an R3 programme for Fish and Game.
- He said he would not let parochialism undermine national policy development.

The meeting closed at 5.30pm

**Otago Fish & Game Council Meeting
Teleconference Minutes
28th May 2018, 7pm**

**2018/19 Licence Fees, Licence Categories And Fee Ratio Recommendations
From NZC.**

Present: John Jillett, Monty Wright (Chair), Mike Turner, John Barlow, Rick Boyd, Ian Cole, Colin Weatherall, Vicky Whyte, Dan Rae, Ian Hadland (CE)

Apologies: David Witherow

The chair welcomed all councillors to the meeting and said the report had been well circulated and that the CE had made a bullet point summary on the paper and emailed that to all Councillors.

Fishing Licence fee

There was general discussion about the \$3.00 increase in the fishing whole season adult fee. The CE explained that every other category is simply a ratio of the AWS licence so only one adjustment was necessary, and the others fell into line.

Cr Whyte and Boyd expressed concern that the \$3.00 fee increase was unjustified and that more should be done to cut costs and increase participation. Cr Rae noted that the general populous should not be having to prop up a region (NC) which continues to overspend and seek additional funds to cover it.

Cr Barlow and Cole along with Cr Turner agreed that it is better to have regular increments at or about the level of CPI rather than larger increases over time.

Cr Weatherall suggested that a \$2.00 increase would be more satisfactory and be more closely aligned to CPI for the year. That was supported and by Cr Rae.

It was agreed to recommend a fee of \$2.00 on the Adult whole season fish licence with all other categories falling into line based on current ratios with the exception of the Junior licence which should remain at \$25.00. Cr Whyte was opposed to the fee increase.

Category and licence fee ratio changes

The CE explained that the proposal for fee ratio changes and new categories was brought forward by the Northland representative at some point after the matter had been discussed at the joint NZC and managers meeting.

Neither the Licence working party or any other managers had seen the changes before they were circulated by NZC for consultation.

Councillors expressed disappointed in that process with one Councillor noting that it was out of order for governors to be involved to this extent in something as fundamental to the organisations wellbeing. The chairman noted that it was disappointing when there are professional staff with skills and experience in the licencing area who were not consulted on the proposals.

Councillors agreed that there could be serious implications from ad-hoc introductions of categories or changes to ratios. The chairman noted his disappointment at the increase of the local area licence and short break licence fees, especially as they were popular categories in Otago.

There was unanimous agreement that any changes needed to be backed by a body of research including its implications to revenue and to participation. Cr Boyd suggested the entire suite of changes including new categories should be put back through the Licence Working Party and the managers group.

Cr Whyte noted that none of the proposed changes made licences any more affordable for New Zealand anglers and they had an expectation that non resident licence holder fees would be used to hold down licence fees for kiwi anglers. Most councillors agreed that the Non resident licence was still to cheap and this should have been the start point for any review in fee ratios.

It was agreed to recommend that all new categories and fee ratios proposed be reject by NZC until such time as the proposals have been researched and considered by the Licence Working Party.

Gamebird Licence Fee.

For reasons noted previously, councillors **agreed** that the \$2.00 increase was not justified strongly enough. Cr Weatherall, supported by Cr Rae suggested that the fee increase be capped at \$1.00 to which there was unanimous agreement.

It was agreed to recommend that the fee increase of \$2.00 be rejected in favour of \$1.00 maximum increase with all other gamebird fees to remain the same.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance

The Teleconference closed at 8:20pm

4 Matters arising from the minutes

5 Communications New Zealand Council

5.1 Correspondence from NZC to Otago

5.1.1 Licence Fee Recommendation 2018/19 – Previously circulated.

5.1.2 New Zealand Council Audit on Remuneration – Previously circulated.

5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC

5.2.1 Comments on Captive Reared Mallards Policy Development

From: Ian Hadland

Sent: Monday, 23 April 2018 5:53 p.m.

To: Robert Sowman (rsowman@fishandgame.org.nz)

Subject: Otago Fish & Game Council comments on CRM policy development

Dear Robert,

The New Zealand Council has sought feedback to contribute to policy development for the practice of releasing 'Captive-Reared' mallards.

The Otago Council considered the five questions at their 19th April 2018 meeting and their response is reported below.

1. Is Fish & Game supportive of releasing CRMs as a tool to augment wild populations?

No – Otago Council did not support this. A majority of Councillors did not believe that the Otago population required augmentation and were not convinced that the strain to be released would be superior or more productive to that already present. The Council was guided by the commentary in Dr Murray Williams report.

2. Is Fish & Game supportive of releasing CRMs as a tool that could be used to hasten the recovery of wild populations that are at low levels, as a consequence for example, of a series of very poor breeding seasons or serious botulism outbreaks arising from climatic conditions, or over harvesting?

Yes, The Otago Council concluded that if there was a palpable reason to release CRMs to restore a decimated population, then they would support leaving this option open for the future.

3. Does Fish & Game support the concept of 'put and take' operations where CRMs are released for the principal purpose of providing an immediate hunting opportunity?

No. The council acknowledged that they had supported hunting preserves for pheasant in the past, but they did see this as distinctly different from releasing mallard into areas where wild mallards are already present for the purpose of Put and Take.

4. If the latter is something Fish & Game wishes to facilitate, support or promote, would we accept the development of commercial enterprises run along the lines of many upland game operations, or would we require 'put and take' operations to be of a non-commercial nature only? [An argument to consider is if Fish & Game allows commercial pheasant/quail/partridge hunting, should it not also allow commercial exploitation of mallards or other gamebirds and change the law to enable this if necessary?].

No, (No vote required) due to response to 1 and 3 above.

5. If Fish & Game allows release of 'put and take' operations, would we wish to see the birds hunted in a similar way to how wild mallards are hunted now, or would

we be accepting of the upland game equivalent of 'driven hunts', where birds are encouraged to fly over hunters from point A to point B, or some other approach?
No, (No vote required) due to response to 1 and 3 above.

Yours sincerely

Ian Hadland
Operations Manager

5.2.2 2018/19 Licence Fee Recommendations



5 June 2018

Chairman
New Zealand Fish & Game Council
PO Box 13141
Johnsonville
Wellington 6440

Dear Mr Lyons,

Re: 2018/19 Licence fee recommendation, category and licence ratio changes

Our Council considered your paper last night at a special telephone conference as our regular meeting is held in the third week of June. The Council did reach agreement and this is summarised below. We expect this to be endorsed when our full Council meets on the 21st June.

Licence fee

Council considered the \$3.00 increase in the fish licence and the \$2.00 increase in the game licence fee unjustified. They noted that the New Zealand Council had not done enough to increase participation or reduce costs to keep licence fee increments to a minimum. They expressed that the New Zealand Councils failure to address the consistent overspending of one regional Council (identified in the paper) was disappointing and that those costs shouldn't be borne by other New Zealand licence holders.

It was agreed that an increase of \$2.00 for the adult whole season fish licence and \$1.00 for the whole season gamebird licence was more appropriate and in line with the CPI figures quoted. The Council reaffirmed its previous views that small incremental shifts in the fee are better than larger increases at longer intervals.

There was also a strong feeling that the Junior licence needn't move with up with the Adult whole season ratio and this should be kept at \$25.

Modification to licence categories and ratios with whole season fees

The Council was of the firm view that these proposed changes should have come through the Licence Working Party and Managers meetings, and should have been supported with research and a summary of potential implications - both financial, and to participation. While some of the proposed changes appear to be desirable, due to the flawed process by which these have been proposed, all changes to ratios and categories were rejected.

It was recommended that the NZC promote such changes back through the Licence Working Party for further analysis. At the same time they should consider the ratio on the Non Resident whole

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

Otago Fish and Game Council

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season licence and also the potential ability to charge a fee for non resident backcountry licence holders.

The Otago Fish and Game Council also wanted to remind the NZC that the initial price for the Non Resident Licence (ratio of 1.3 x a whole season licence) was only a placeholder to get the category implemented. It is our expectation that this category should be a priority for review with any additional revenue gained to be used to help defray price increases imposed on New Zealand anglers.

Thank you

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Monty Wright', written in a cursive style.

Monty Wright
Chair, Otago Fish and Game Council

5.2.3 Marketing Analysis Paper



5 June 2018

New Zealand Fish & Game Council
PO Box 13141
Johnsonville
Wellington 6440

Dear Martin,

Re: Feedback to NZC 'marketing analysis' paper

The Council discussed the paper at its April meeting.

It was generally agreed that this report was a positive initiative and one that this Council has been promoting for a number of years now. It covers the various issues well but we had hoped that it would do more than restate the present situation which has been well canvassed at staff conferences and at our own Council meetings.

While it highlighted some tools available and a few focus areas, it does lack an overall strategic direction. However, it was agreed that 'R3' (Recruitment, retention and reactivation) was the most suitable framework to increase participation and the Council's view was that retention and reactivation were the highest priorities.

Licence sales data

It was unfortunate that the sales trends were not broken down by region as there are major differences between areas. Much of the South Island regions have been trending upwards for angling over the last 5 years and the report should acknowledge that. Deeper interrogation of the data or surveying of participants in regions showing growth may highlight participation initiatives that could be applied to regions where sales are decreasing.

Councillors also noted that there was possibly some larger societal changes, including demographics, which could have been better covered in the report but appreciate that it may have been left out for reasons of brevity. A wider understanding about the attitudes and aspirations of younger generations such as millennials (who are now of child bearing age) will be critical to ensure that F&G messaging connects with that demographic.

Focus largely on angling

It was noted that the report largely focused on angling and that hunting participation was an equally pressing issue. It was accepted that angling recruitment was probably easier and had the most potential but raising hunter participation rates shouldn't be lost sight of.

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The Way Forward

There was no disagreement with the points raised in this section of the report. It is particularly noteworthy that the consultant has correctly identified that the target for growth is not with youth directly, but with the parents of that demographic. That is an important distinction. Much of the organisations current recruitment effort is focussed on youth with very little by way of monitoring to see what, if any, of the activities are having an impact on long term participation.

Development of an R3 Strategy

The report hints at the development of an R3 strategy and the Otago Council believe this is the next logical step. It has supported the NZC contestable funding bid to see that strategy developed and has a workplan output to not only support the NZC in this project, but also to develop its own regional R3 strategy.

As part of the national strategy development it will be important to do a wide scan of all current R3 activity across the regions – not only to pick out worthwhile projects, but also to help regions conduct an unbiased analysis of their own programmes for effectiveness.

Similarly, there will be some regions which may not necessarily want to increase participation in certain areas. Otago for instance won't want to encourage increased participation in sensitive or pressured fisheries.

It will be critical that any R3 strategy development is from the regions upwards. There will be differences in regional hunting and fishing resources which will require a tailored approach to R3 strategy implementation. For the best chance of success, it will require full regional buy-in and this is best achieved by a coordinator or group working alongside regional staff rather than directing from outside.

Resourcing

As noted above, Otago have supported the NZC funding bid for the next step which should be R3 strategy development. There were mixed views in our Council if that could be done via a small working committee in-house or if it should be contracted to an outside provider. If a suitable contractor with enough experience in Fish & Game matters is found then that would ensure that the project is delivered. It will be important that they are coordinated by a well-chosen group of Fish and Game Council staff.

Thank you

Yours sincerely



Ian Hadland
Chief Executive

6 Health and Safety Report

7 Chief Executives Report

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT JUNE 2018

7.1 ADMINISTRATION

Finance and Licence sales

Financial Reports to 31 May 2018

The finance report for the period from 1 September 2017 to 31 May 2018 is attached.

Key budget figures are included in the front of the Annual Work Plan

Expenditure to date is \$1,565,941 (including levies \$688,592 and commission \$76,202 but excluding depreciation (\$58,734) compared with the annual budget of \$1,955,764 (operational expenditure: \$984,399, depreciation: nil, and levies: \$918,122 and excluding commission: \$99,630). As present the budget is 80% spent at a point 75% through the financial year. Summer and autumn see a peak in expenditure, so this is not unusual.

Total income to date is \$2,024,745 compared with budget of \$2,074,287

Fishing licence sales revenue received for the year to 31 May 2018 is \$1,641,544 (including commission). The fish budget figures for the full year is \$1,670,050 including commission.

Game licence sales revenue received for the year to 31 May 2018 is \$208,898 (including commission). The year's budget for game licence sales is \$322,536 including commission.

Budget and expenditure figures are exclusive of GST.

Otago Fish & Game Council

Balance Sheet

As at 31 May 2018

CAPITAL	This Year	Last Year End
Anderson Lloyd Investment	(77,745.39)	(77,745.39)
Opening Equity	1,039,201.00	1,039,201.00
Retained Earnings Brght Fwd	<u>1,671,288.48</u>	<u>1,519,497.04</u>
	2,632,744.09	2,480,952.65
Plus Current Year Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	257,545.60	151,791.44
TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS	<u><u>2,890,289.69</u></u>	<u><u>2,632,744.09</u></u>
REPRESENTED BY		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash on Hand	200.00	200.00
Stock on Hand	18,111.00	18,111.00
Accrued Interest	5,957.15	5,957.15
Prepayments	25,078.97	25,078.97
ASB Investments	331,362.83	325,456.46
SBS Investments	496,855.05	486,209.07
GST Paid	3,521.82	0.00
PAYE Control	1,747.65	0.00
GST Payments/Refunds IRD	92.88	0.00
Trade Debtors	166,743.23	163,031.90
ASB 00 Account	10.98	10.98
National/ANZ 00 Account	223,490.15	120,842.51
National/ANZ 70 Account	472,380.33	397,122.48
SBS Account	<u>24.66</u>	<u>24.66</u>
	1,745,576.70	1,542,045.18
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	22,688.31	22,688.31
Holiday Pay Accrued	43,091.12	43,091.12
PAYE Control	0.00	3,418.25
GST Received	5,185.47	61.04
Funds received in Advance	191,877.47	191,877.47
Trade Creditors	<u>19,787.49</u>	<u>92,066.33</u>
	282,629.86	353,202.52
NET WORKING CAPITAL	1,462,946.84	1,188,842.66
FIXED ASSETS		
Vehicles Purchases	323,715.70	281,931.54
M/V Accum Deprn	(164,895.71)	(130,695.71)
Boat Purchases	100,497.93	100,497.93
Boat Accum Deprn	(85,899.81)	(82,479.81)
Plant Purchases	79,824.39	72,806.18
Plant Accum Deprn	(67,765.07)	(61,699.07)
Furniture & Fittings	34,347.94	34,347.94
Furniture Accum Deprn	(30,302.45)	(29,222.45)
Field Equipment Purchases	36,331.83	34,610.96
Field Eq Accum Deprn	(27,261.82)	(26,901.82)
Land Purchases	414,410.77	414,410.77
Buildings Purchases	634,544.67	642,892.49
Buildings Accum Deprn	(350,212.24)	(339,574.24)
Land @ Fair Value	426,260.00	426,260.00
Building @ Fair Value	162,085.11	162,085.11
Buildings @ FV - Accum Deprn	<u>(58,338.39)</u>	<u>(55,368.39)</u>
	1,427,342.85	1,443,901.43
NET ASSETS	<u><u>2,890,289.69</u></u>	<u><u>2,632,744.09</u></u>

**Otago Fish & Game Council
Profit and Loss - Summary
for Period Ended May:2017/18**

	Month to Date			Year to Date			Annual Budget	YTD Actual Budget	Last YTD	
	Actual	Budget	% of Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance				
INCOME										
FISH AND GAME LICENCE SA...										
1000	Fishing Licences Dn Agency	0	0	0%	(1,604)	0	(1,604)	0	0%	179,589
1002	Fishing Licences Income	15,212	139,171	11%	1,641,544	1,252,539	389,005	1,670,050	98%	1,622,037
1006	Game Licences Income	15,585	26,878	58%	208,898	241,902	(33,004)	322,536	65%	315,369
		30,797	166,049	19%	1,848,838	1,494,441	354,397	1,992,586	93%	2,116,995
OTHER INCOME										
1010	Interest received	225	2,800	8%	18,499	25,201	(6,702)	33,601	55%	9,725
1020	Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	189	416	45%	1,115	3,752	(2,637)	5,000	22%	5,391
1022	Reparations Trust Fund	0	0	0%	(1,344)	0	(1,344)	0	0%	(18,115)
1025	Rent Received	1,760	3,591	49%	26,017	32,327	(6,310)	43,100	60%	29,590
1065	Fishing Competitions	224	0	0%	995	0	995	0	0%	1,046
1075	Commissions Income	17	0	0%	259	0	259	0	0%	619
1090	Sundry Income	(13)	0	0%	1,076	0	1,076	0	0%	1,666
1092	Merchandise Sales/Other	0	0	0%	616	0	616	0	0%	(6,243)
1094	Donations and Grants Received	0	0	0%	75,126	0	75,126	0	0%	28,630
1096	RMA Costs Reimbursed	0	0	0%	53,547	0	53,547	0	0%	53,100
		2,403	6,807	35%	175,907	61,280	114,627	81,701	215%	105,409
	TOTAL INCOME	33,200	172,856		2,024,745	1,555,721	469,024	2,074,287		2,222,404
EXPENDITURE										
SPECIES MANAGEMENT										
	POPULATION MONITOR / MMT	0	1,000	0%	8,335	9,000	(665)	12,000	69%	9,348
	HARVEST ASSESSMENT	0	250	0%	0	2,250	(2,250)	3,000	0%	0
	FISH SALVAGE	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
	HATCHERY OPERATIONS	338	833	41%	6,370	7,501	869	10,000	84%	11,150
	RELEASES	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	25
	REGULATIONS	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
	CONTROL	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
	SPECIES MANAGEMENT-...	338	2,083	16%	16,705	18,751	(2,046)	25,000	67%	20,523
HABITAT PROTECTION										
	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT A...	5,392	374	1,442%	63,460	3,378	60,082	4,500	1,410%	70,728
	WORKS & MMT COUNCIL LAND	1,041	291	358%	97,144	2,627	94,517	3,500	2,776%	13,764
	ASSISTED HABITAT	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
	HABITAT PROTECTION-T...	6,433	665	967%	160,604	6,005	154,599	8,000	2,008%	64,492
PARTICIPATION										
	ACCESS	1,211	250	484%	2,981	2,250	731	3,000	99%	733
	SATISFACTION SURVEYS	0	0	0%	6,592	0	6,592	0	0%	9,211
	NEWSLETTERS	0	375	0%	3,349	3,375	(26)	4,500	74%	20,889
	OTHER PUBLICATIONS	0	83	0%	60	751	(691)	1,000	6%	2,938
	TRAINING	0	333	0%	3,038	3,001	37	4,000	76%	1,480
	CLUB RELATIONS	87	333	26%	3,022	3,001	21	4,000	76%	936
	HUTS	278	0	0%	278	0	278	0	0%	81
	PARTICIPATION-TOTAL	1,576	1,374	115%	19,320	12,378	6,942	16,500	117%	36,267

**Otago Fish & Game Council
Profit and Loss - Summary
for Period Ended May:2017/18**

	-----Month to Date-----			-----Year to Date-----			Annual Budget	% of Budget	
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance			
PUBLIC INTERFACE									
LIAISON	0	0	0%	7	0	7	0	0%	9
COMMUNICATIONS	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
ADVOCACY	0	82	0%	326	754	(428)	1,000	33%	2,466
PUBLIC INTERFACE-TOTAL	0	82	0%	333	754	(421)	1,000	33%	2,475
COMPLIANCE									
RANGER ADMIN	768	208	369%	1,129	1,876	(747)	2,500	45%	1,728
RANGER TRAINING	0	375	0%	4,804	3,375	1,429	4,500	107%	3,862
COMPLIANCE	0	416	0%	3,176	3,752	(576)	5,000	64%	18,093
COMPLIANCE-TOTAL	768	999	77%	9,109	9,003	106	12,000	76%	23,683
LICENCES									
LICENCE PRODUCT/DISTN	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
AGENT SERVICING	26	41	64%	246	377	(131)	500	49%	304
COMMISSION	919	0	0%	76,202	0	76,202	0	0%	81,035
NZFG LEVIES	0	76,510	0%	688,592	688,592	(1)	918,122	75%	629,802
LICENSES-TOTAL	945	76,551	1%	765,040	688,969	76,071	918,622	83%	711,141
COUNCIL									
COUNCIL ELECTIONS	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
COUNCIL MEETINGS	103	1,250	8%	13,467	11,250	2,217	15,000	90%	10,720
COUNCIL-TOTAL	103	1,250	8%	13,467	11,250	2,217	15,000	90%	10,720
PLANNING / REPORTING									
MMT/STRATEGIC PLANNING	0	0	0%	1,536	0	1,536	0	0%	1,538
REPORTING/AUDIT	0	1,083	0%	13,408	9,751	3,657	13,000	103%	4,146
NATIONAL LIAISON	13	0	0%	13	0	13	0	0%	1,030
PLAN/REPORT-TOTAL	13	1,083	1%	14,957	9,751	5,206	13,000	115%	6,714
ADMINISTRATION									
SALARIES	56,977	63,450	90%	555,185	571,063	(15,878)	761,413	73%	462,719
STAFF EXPENSES	1,440	1,295	111%	17,930	11,679	6,251	15,564	115%	18,340
STAFF HOUSES	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
OFFICE PREMISES	4,392	5,873	64%	57,939	61,885	(3,946)	82,504	70%	52,521
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	160	208	77%	1,296	1,876	(580)	2,500	52%	2,666
COMMUNICATIONS	1,351	2,090	65%	16,713	18,830	(2,117)	25,100	67%	14,506
GENERAL	408	546	75%	7,378	4,923	2,455	6,581	112%	6,729
GENERAL EQUIPMENT	22	208	10%	2,350	2,876	(526)	3,500	67%	1,030
VEHICLES	2,794	4,124	68%	50,140	37,128	13,012	49,500	101%	49,464
ADMINISTRATION - TOTAL	67,544	78,784	86%	708,931	710,260	(1,329)	946,642	75%	607,976
DEPRECIATION	5,526	0	0%	58,734	0	58,734	0	0%	58,734
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	84,246	162,881	52%	1,767,200	1,467,121	300,079	1,955,764	90%	1,562,727
Profit (Loss)	(51,046)	9,975		257,546	88,600	168,946	118,523		659,678

Summary of Draft Profit and Loss Statement Expenses 31st May 2018
As At 11/06/18

Expense	Total Budget	Actual Expenditure	YtD %	Comment
		Ytd		
Projects				
Species	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 16,705.00	67%	
Habitat	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 20,079.00	251%	This less RMA legal reimbursed and donations to Bullock Creek and surplus 2016/17 reserve funding
Participation	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 17,320.00	105%	This less \$2000 donation for TAKF
Public Interface	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 333.00	33%	
Compliance	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 9,109.00	76%	
Licences	\$ 500.00	\$ 246.00	49%	
NZC Levies	\$ 918,122.00	\$ 688,592.00	75%	
Agent Commission		\$ 76,202.00		
Council	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 13,467.00	90%	Had extra meetings
Planning	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 14,957.00	115%	Audit costs finished
Projects Total	\$ 1,009,122.00	\$ 857,010.00	85%	
Administration				
Salaries	\$ 757,913.00	\$ 555,185.00	75%	
Staff Expenses	\$ 15,564.00	\$ 17,930.00	115%	Excess CF job interview etc
Office Premises	\$ 82,504.00	\$ 57,939.00	70%	
Office Equipment	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,296.00	52%	
Communication	\$ 25,100.00	\$ 16,713.00	67%	
General	\$ 6,561.00	\$ 7,378.00	112%	Radio advertising extra
General Equipment	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,350.00	67%	
Depreciation		\$ 58,734.00		
Vehicles	\$ 49,500.00	\$ 50,140.00	101%	Maintenance and fuel up
Administration Total	\$ 943,142.00	\$ 767,665.00	81%	
Total	\$ 1,952,264.00	\$ 1,624,675.00	83%	

Summary of Position 31st May 2018

Total Expenditure		\$ 1,624,675.00
Less Depreciation		58734.00
Less Levies	\$ 918,122.00	\$ 688,592.00
Less Commission		\$ 76,202.00
Less RMA Reimbursed		\$ -
Net Expenditure		\$ 801,147.00
Budget		\$ 984,399.00
% Spent		81%

All ready taken out above

Summary of Profit and Loss Statement Income 31st May 2018

As At 11/06/18

Income	Total Budget			Comment
Fish	\$ 1,670,050.00	\$ 1,639,940.00	98%	May's comes in June
Game	\$ 322,536.00	\$ 208,898.00	65%	May's comes in June
Prosecutions	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,115.00	22%	
Rent	\$ 43,100.00	\$ 26,017.00	60%	Wanka rental finished
Interest	\$ 33,601.00	\$ 18,499.00	55%	Term interest comes in July
Grants Donations	\$ -	\$ 75,126.00		
	\$ 2,074,287.00	\$ 1,969,595.00	95%	

Licence Sales

Sales recorded to 6th June 2018 are outlined for fish and game licences in the attached table from Eyede and compared with last year on the same date. Figures are inclusive of GST. Fishing licence sales for the season so far in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) are 15,099 LEQs compare with 15,059 for the same period last year. Game licence LEQs of 4,117 are slightly behind last years 4224

Funds Position at 31 May 2018

ANZ 00 account	\$223,490.15
ANZ 70 account	\$472,380.33

Reparation Trust Account

Account balance to 31 March 2017	\$ 44,333
Revenue for year to 31 March 2017	\$ 8,300
Less grants to 31 March 2017	\$ 9,644
Total	\$ 42,989

There is presently a commitment in grants approved but not spent of approximately \$11,750

Backcountry Management

Account balance to 31 August 2017	\$70,468
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Term investments as at 31 March 2018:

ASB 0079	\$331,362.83 @ 3.45% maturing July 2018
SBS 44624	\$496,855.05 @ 3.40% maturing July 2018

The sum of \$77,745 is held by Anderson Lloyd in trust for wetland management via DOC. A small proportion is committed to a weed assessment at Waihola Waipori wetland

Recommendation

That the Finance and Licence Sales Report for the period ending 31 May 2018 be received.

Agents and Debts

No liabilities or potential liabilities at the present time.

Capital Expenditure*Vehicles*

One truck (value \$37,143.91 excluding GST) has been replaced and an one is presently for sale via the Trade Me auction site. A second new truck is due for delivery in July.

Equipment

The Council has recently replaced two staff computers and purchased a large monitor for the boardroom.

Land and Buildings*Freshwater Research Centre Wanaka*

No movement

Wanaka Hatchery Site

The ex hatchery house tender is complete and is due for removal over the winter. It fetched \$10,000 incl GST, less cost of advertising. The power to all other buildings at the site has now been cut off.

The pedestrian boardwalk along Bullock Creek has had its opening postponed due to the ongoing issues with siltation of the creek and stormwater management of the subdivision upstream.

See separate report

Dunedin Office

The replacement of ceiling tiles and insulation at Dunedin office is continuing but is not yet complete. Quotes are being obtained to replace the office front door assembly which is becoming worn out.

The tenants in the lower story of the Dunedin Building have given notice of their departure in early September. Advertising for a replacement tenant will begin shortly.

CE Credit Card

The Council has been without a staff credit card facility for around a decade but with the growth of online transactions and the increased burden of staff claims for work purchases made on private credit cards, a card has been ordered for office use only. Controls are in place to ensure it is not misused including that all proposed purchases are agreed by the CE and that the usual sign off procedures (two signatories) apply.

Council Delegations to Chief Executive

Council may delegate functions in accordance with its Standing Orders section 1.9 and has delegations in place to its Chief Executive for the following functions:

- Employment and dismissal of staff within the structure authorised by the Council
- Operating expenditure - up to \$5,000.00 on any service item or collection of items, any one contract of an ongoing nature or any order with a single supplier.
- Capital expenditure - up to a \$5,000.00 purchase price (or purchase price equivalent, if leased) whether minor or major capital, on any one item, or set of like items, excluding land and buildings.
- Capital disposals - up to a book value or sale price (whichever is the greater) of \$5,000.00 per item or collection of like items.
- Bank accounts - The Chief Executive may approve changes to the bank accounts, bank signatories and signatories for electronic banking subject to Audit and Risk Committee oversight.
- Ranger Appointments – The CE shall approve Otago candidates for ranger warrant appointments. (August 2006)
- Returning Officer – The CE shall be the returning officer for Otago Fish and Game Council elections (April 2007)
- Decisions on fisheries and game offences – The CE shall make decisions on the action to be taken over sports fisheries and game offences.

The routine purchase of replacement vehicles is not specifically covered by a delegation but is budgeted for annually. It would be helpful if that specific delegation was also added.

Recommendations

- 1. That Council reaffirm the existing delegations to the Chief Executive and amend its Governance Policy in accordingly.**
- 2. That Council add a delegation: Replacement Vehicles – The CE may, within budget, purchase and dispose of vehicles on the Councils behalf up to the value of \$40,000 excluding GST, with all purchases and sales to be reported in bi monthly agendas.**

Staffing

CE to report

7.2 SPECIES

Waterfowl Monitoring (1111)

Annual mallard monitoring has been completed.
See separate report

Spawning Surveys (1112)

Spawning surveys have been conducted in Mill Creek, Bullock Creek, Quartz Creek and Shepard's Hut Creek. Several other surveys have been thwarted so far by weather and high flows.

Success & Satisfaction (1122)

Nothing to report

Fish Salvage (1131)

Nothing to report

Hatchery Operations

MPI have concluded their investigation into a disease outbreak at Macraes Hatchery where around 20% of the young rainbow stock presented with 'popeye' symptoms. MPI concluded it was most likely a Vitamin E deficiency. The situation is now under control and there shouldn't be any impact on spring liberations

Releases (1161)

Scheduled releases have been completed for the financial year

Game Notice (1171)

Nothing to report

Anglers Notice (1172)

See separate report.

Game Bird Control (1181)

Two complaints about mallard duck fouling commercial premises around Dunedin are presently being managed.

7.3 HABITAT

Resource Management (1211)

Resource Management Complaints 2014/15

Date/Agency	Issue	Response
January 2017	A complaint was lodged with ORC by a third party about stream channel works in Camerons Creek outside Wanaka	ORC prosecution was successful. Fines of \$21,375 were imposed but unfortunately there was no direction to reinstate the stream
January 2018	Complaint lodged over significant unauthorised channel works in the Shag River	Under investigation by ORC
May 2018	Bullock Creek Sediment and stormwater runoff from subdivision reported to ORC and QLDC	See separate report

Resource Consents

Contact Energy Consents

There have been further positive discussions with Contact Energy about lower Clutha salmon fisheries mitigation options involving a Clutha catchment hatchery.

Waterfall Park

A development is proposed to be built on Mill Creek, from the waterfall downstream, and affected party approval is requested for ORC and QLDC consents. This will involve some potential adverse effects to the habitat and spawning functions of Mill Creek because of: sediment discharge during construction; deepening and widening of the stream in parts; the construction of rock weirs in the stream and the discharge of storm water. Staff are working closely with the developers to identify and avoid or mitigate adverse effects and enable monitoring of the outcomes to ensure results are observed on the ground.

Tapanui Water Treatment Plant

A discharge consent into Whiskey Gully Stream is sought for this water treatment plant under a limited notification process. The discharge itself has been found to contain very high levels of dissolved aluminium, which are released for frequent, short bursts. As most guidelines focus on constant exposure, it is difficult to assess the impact the discharge may have. Averaging the discharge out over an hour, which would broadly meet USEPA guidelines, still exceeds general acute toxicity criteria for aquatic biota. However, brief monitoring records do indicate that MCI has not yet been affected. The stream is otherwise preferable for a broad range of species and trout are found up and down stream of the discharge. A large weir a couple of km's downstream inhibits upstream migration from Flodden Stream, so the population residing around the discharge is self-sustaining. Staff are investigating the issue alongside DOC.

Packrafting Queenstown

A commercial surface water consent is sought for packrafting activities at numerous locations around the Queenstown Lake District. Proposed locations include the Rees River, the east Matukituki above the glacier burn; the west Matukituki above raspberry flat; and longer expeditions over the Gillespie Pass, including the Makarora river, Siberia Stream, Crucible Lake and the Wilkins river. Staff are reviewing the application currently.

Planning (1212)

Minimum and Residual Flow Setting

Dunstan Creek

Staff recently attended an on-site meeting to discuss residual flow issues for Dunstan Creek in the Manuherikia Catchment with irrigators. Dunstan Creek is identified as a backcountry fishery of regional importance and provides a high-quality angling experience. By comparison with other Manuherikia tributaries downstream of Falls Dam it has high levels of naturalness

Kye Burn Residual Flows

Discussions are continuing directly with Kyeburn Catchment Limited over an agreement a residual flow for the river. Delays relate to input from other parties to the issue

Lindis Minimum Flow Plan Change

There has been little activity in the last reporting period while ORC's report to the Environment Court on the direct referral of catchment consents is being completed. That report is being prepared concurrently with expert evidence for the combined Lindis Catchment Group/ORC case and is expected in the very near future.

ORC's agreement with LGC over the minimum flow and the catchment consents has resulted in them significantly resourcing the combined ORC/LCG case. ORC have engaged 10 expert witnesses

An Environment Court hearing date for the joint hearing is likely to be scheduled once the Court has digested ORC's §87 RMA report.

The Ombudsman has reported on progress with the Fish and Game complaint over ORC's refusal to provide information under the Official Information Act relating to the Lindis River minimum flow process but nothing has been released to date.

Minimum Flows On Arrow, Cardrona and Manuherikia

ORC have recently announced an omnibus plan change for minimum flows on the Arrow, Upper Cardrona (down to Mount Barker) and the Manuherikia Rivers.

Suggested summer minimum flow figures are:

Arrow	800 l/s
Cardrona at Mt Barker	700 l/s
Manuheria Campground	range 1250-1600 l/s
Manuherikia Ophir	1500-1750 l/s
Dunstan Creek	400-600 l/s

The actual minimum flows to be notified are still to be determined and notification is expected in August and ORC are open to feedback in the interim.

While this will represent a major workload the plan change will also incorporate refinements to the Water Plan. For example the linkage between minimum and residual flows. These refinements are badly needed. In many respects this approach is much better than a succession of individual plan changes because there are generic issues common to all three plan changes that only have to be argued once.

The proposal to adopt 3 minimum flow sites in the Manuherikia catchment is important and will help considerably to provide satisfactory environmental flows throughout the river. But limiting Cardrona minimum flow setting to the upper catchment is difficult to understand when the major impacts of irrigation are in the lower river and the interaction between groundwater and surface water is complex.

Niall Watson to report

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 1750 l/s	ORC decision on Water Plan Change 5A set a summer minimum of 900 l/s. Decision appealed and went to mediation which was concluded in early July 2017 without resolution. ORC and LCG agreed on a reduced minimum flow of 550 l/s with gallery intakes replacing large race takes leaving Fish and Game to defend their hearing decision Lindis Catchment Group's consents lodged and to be heard concurrently with the minimum flow. Environment Court hearing date still to be scheduled but is not expected until second half of 2018.
Cardrona	Minimum Flow & TMP Overallocated	Cardrona above branches to be included in a plan change covering Arrow, Manuherikia and upper Cardrona and due to be notified in August 2018.
Waikouaiti	Minimum Flow Fully allocated MALF 258 l/s	F&G supported a minimum flow of 220 l/s proposed through community consultation in 2016. Further action on the minimum flow deferred pending more research by ORC on matters including estuary health.

Pomahaka <i>(Concluded)</i>	Minimum flow MALF 4300 l/s Min Flow 3600l/s (84% MALF)	Plan change complete, 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 <i>(Concluded)</i>	Minimum flow MALF 310 l/s Min Flow 280 l/s (90% MALF)	Plan change complete, setting minimum flows of 280 l/s (summer)..
Manuherikia	Minimum flow Irrigation scheme investigation. MALF Ophir 3,200 l/s (± 800) MALF Campground 3,900 l/s (± 600) Overallocated	The Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group process completed. New water company established looking at irrigation proposals focussed on raising the level of Falls Dam with a focus on a low-raise dam option. The Manuherikia catchment has over 220 mining privileges (or deemed permits) in place. The present minimum flow at Ophir at 820 l/s is considered inadequate and ORC are planning to set a minimum flow for the lower river at the Alexandra Campground and possibly elsewhere in the catchment. A minimum flow for the Manuherikia River is to be included in a plan change covering Arrow, Manuherikia and upper Cardrona and is due to be notified in August 2018.
Benger Burn	Minimum flow &TMP. Overallocated	Further action by ORC deferred pending more research on water resources and aquifer/surface water interaction.
Sow Burn <i>(Concluded)</i>	TMP Overallocated Residual flow of 70 l/s + off-site mitigation	The Sowburn all-of-catchment consent has been granted by ORC. The residual flow requirement is 70 l/s on a stream that is considered to be ephemeral in nature in the middle reaches. Off-site mitigation conditions include a protective covenant over a large area of the Maniototo wetlands

Kye Burn	TMP Overallocated MALF 490 l/s	A consent application was heard in June 2017 and an ORC decision setting a mainstem residual flows of 180 l/s reducing to 160 l/s at the lowest take point on the river was appealed to the Environment Court. The matter went to mediation on 20 th October. Agreement has been reached with Kyeburn Irrigation Company for a residual flow below the last mainstem take of 200 l/s after 5 year period. That agreement still has to be formalised
Low Burn	Minimum flow TMP Overallocated	Catchment group meeting held early 2017
Bannock Burn	Minimum flow TMP Overallocated	Catchment group meeting held late 2016
Arrow River	TMP Over-allocated	Arrow River to be included in a plan change covering Arrow, Manuherikia and upper Cardrona and due to be notified in August 2018.
Quartz Creek	TMP Overallocated	Internal reports on fishery values have been completed. Discussion continuing with landholder
Tuapeka River	ORC Management Flow Report MALF 314 l/s	No action
Clutha		ORC called for submissions on the Clutha River seeking feedback on the river's attributes as a first step towards setting a minimum flow
12 Mile Creek (Wakatipu)	ORC Management Flow Report	Stream survey work is being undertaken
Fern Burn	Overallocated	Status of flows and takes needs to be investigated. Spawning surveys have been undertaken by Upper Clutha Anglers.
Coal Creek	TMP	Catchment group meeting held May 2017
Long Gully Creek	TMP Overallocated MALF 30 l/s	An agreement was nearly concluded with Long Gully Race Society over an environmental flow regime for the creek but was not successfully concluded. Discussions are continuing. This Lake Dunstan tributary which provides for trout spawning and rearing has an intermittent flow in its lower reaches.

Transition from Mining Privileges (MPs) to RMA Consents.

A number of smaller applications to transition from mining privileges to RMA consents have been dealt with and there are several under consideration. There have been recent difficulties in securing residual flows on small tributary water takes and these are being taken up with ORC. There have been further recent problems with affected party status. The key issue is the cumulative effect of the transition in terms of flow restoration in overallocated waterways. If adequate residual flows are not set, then mainstem minimum flows will be difficult to achieve

Niall Watson to report

Reserves Management (1221)

Aerial crack willow spraying at Toko and Waitapeka wetlands and Glyceria control at Takitakitoa seems to have been successful. The areas will be rechecked in spring for regrowth.

Wetland Protection (1232)

Staff attended a further ORC meeting on future management of Lake Tuakitoto and provided input. We are encouraging licence holders to contribute by way of emailed feedback to ORC.

Negotiations are continuing with an Upper Taieri landowner over the purchase of an area of wetland. Staff are now investigating external funding sources as the landowner is fixed on a price beyond this council's resources.

CE to report

Assisted Habitat (1230)

See separate report on Habitat Enhancement Fund (HEF) site visits

7.4 USER PARTICIPATION

Access (1311)

The CE met with Otago Federated Farmers president recently to discuss a number of issues including Plan Change 6a (water quality) implementation and recreational access in light of the M.Bovis outbreak. We agreed that MPI should be doing more to communicate the negligible risk posed by human foot traffic to put landowners more at ease.

Signage (1312)

Bullock Creek walkway signage has been printed and installed.

Backcountry Fisheries (1321)

See separate report on Controlled Fishery.

Magazine Supplements and Newsletters (1331)

Articles are presently being drafted for the next issue of the Fish & Game magazine.

Reel Life/Both Barrels

Monthly contributions to online newsletters are continuing

Newspaper Supplements (1332)

Nothing to report.

Publications (1342)

Nothing to report.

Website (1343)

Nothing to report

Fishing and Hunting Events (1351)

Staff have attended a number of preseason duck hunting events including retailer evenings (2) and clay target shoots (3).

Take-a-kid-fishing (1352)

Staff supported a TAKF event at Lake Hawea run by a local scout group

Club Liaison (1361)

Nothing to report

Commercial Use (1362)

Supporting papers associated with Guides Licence have been delivered by NZC staff to the Conservation Minister's Private Secretary, Henley Mckegg. The final submission had input from the Professional Guides Association (Craig Smith) and our staff member Helen Trotter.

It represents an ultimate attempt at getting a Guide Licence in under the existing legislative amendments (introduced in 1996) and if these amendments are not activated by September 2018 the previous Minister has instructed Parliamentary Counsel that they be removed. Much now rests in the hands of DOC officials and the persuasion that can be conveyed to the Minister and her Cabinet colleagues.

Robert Sowman may attend our meeting and provide an update.

7.5 PUBLIC INTERFACE**Liaison (1411)**

The CE has met with the new president of Federated Farmers, John Roberts from DOC and had an update from the Clutha Fisheries Trust chair Ian Cole.

DOC Permissions have emailed us a summary of a response to an application to release captive reared mallards in West Otago. They have refused to grant the application for several reasons and told the applicant they would need to seek this Councils approval in the first instance if they applied again.

Media (1431)

There has been some good coverage of water issues (eg Bullock Creek stormwater) in the local media and a large amount of positive coverage from the opening of the gamebird hunting season. The CE did two radio interviews on the *M. Bovis* disinfection by rangers for duck hunting CLE work.

7.6 COMPLIANCE

Ranging (1511)

Opening weekend compliance effort by 6 ranging teams resulted in two offences being detected. Multiple offences were detected at one site including shooting protected species and possession of lead shot.

Ranger Support (1521)

Early preparations are being made for replacement warrants for Otago rangers. A review of performance and commitment to training will be undertaken to ensure that the final list of renewals meet the councils needs for coverage and Health and Safety.

Prosecutions (1531)

Three angling offenders are on hold pending a review of the diversion scheme implemented in Southland Region for its suitability here. One further gamebird hunting offender (noted above) is being prepared for court prosecution.

7.7 LICENCING

Licencing System (1611)

The Eyede licencing system had a small breakdown on opening weekend but continues to operate well.

Agents (1612)

Gun City has recently opened a branch in Dunedin and is now acting as a licence agent on our behalf.

6.8 COUNCIL

Elections (1710)

Much of the election material, including the timetable, is now hosted on the Fish and Game New Zealand website. Councillors are encouraged to review that and circulate to any other potential candidates that have expressed an interest.

<https://fishandgame.org.nz/about/elections/>

Council (1720)

An updated meeting schedule has been circulated to Councillors and was generally endorsed.

Updated meeting schedule:

August 16th – Dunedin

October 25th – Cromwell

November 29th – Dunedin – AGM

9/10 February 2019 - Dunedin

The primary reason for the change was related to election timing. 20th October is the official declaration of results with elected members to take office 31st October. The October 25th meeting could be a joint meeting of both old and new Council.

While not critical, there is a 21st November deadline to elect a NZC appointee which will be required to attend a NZC meeting on the 23rd-25th November in the Eastern Region. That could also be confirmed at the October meeting.

Joint meeting with Southland Council – A joint meeting of Otago and Southland Councils is proposed for Saturday the 4th August in Tapanui. An indication of availability on that date will be sought.

Recommendation

That the revised 2018 meeting schedule above is approved

7.9 PLANNING AND REPORTING

Strategic Planning (1811)

The transition to Office 365 software provides the opportunity for more cloud-based storage and retrieval of documents. Some external advice on the most practical way to apply the new software benefits has been sought.

Annual Planning (1821)

The strategic planning document is presently being incorporated into the annual operational workplan and budget which will be ready for adoption at the August meeting.

Annual Report (1831)

Nothing to report

National Liaison (1841)

Outward correspondence confirms the responses to the NZC licence fee recommendation and to the marketing report from Doughty Consulting.

The New Zealand Council has requested (as an Audit request under 26C(1)(j) of the Conservation Act) salary and conditions information including individual employment agreements for all staff. The CE has complied in part to that with an anonymised set of information.

At this stage the CE is proposing to continue his role on the National Licence Working Party.

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
June 2018

Otago Fish & Game Council Fish Licence Sales Till 6th June of the Year

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWJ	FWNJ	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDJ	Total	LEQ	Value
2016/2017															
Agency Online	2,636	3,542	505	511	263	479	28	147	58	312	4,312	285	13,078		
Retail Book	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	7		
Public Online	1,582	1,751	801	229	262	226	26	96	47	253	3,677	189	9,139		
Eyede Call Centre	10	6	7	11	0	5	1	0	0	2	14	0	56		
Total	4228	5299	1313	751	525	710	55	243	105	567	8009	475	22,280	15,059	\$1,636,896
2017/2018															
Agency Online	2,568	3,579	490	549	232	545	23	89	36	249	3,546	206	12,112		
Retail Book	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Public Online	1,694	1,832	800	223	268	283	23	68	42	210	4,401	231	10,075		
Eyede Call Centre	12	5	13	8	1	2	0	2	0	4	19	0	66		
Total	4274	5416	1303	780	501	830	46	159	78	463	7966	437	22,253	15,099	\$1,667,473

Variance between years +0.30%

FWF (Family), FWA (Adult), FWNZ (Non Resident), FSLA (Senior Loyal), FLAA (Local Area),
 FWJ (Junior), FWNJ (Junior Non resident), FLBA (Long Break), FSBA (Short Break), FDA (Adult Day), FDJ (Junior Day)

Otago Fish & Game Council Game Licence Sales Till 6th June of the Year

Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	LEQ	Value
2016/17								
Agency Online	3,513	282	97	26	0	3,918		
Public Online	629	59	25	35	0	748		
Eyede Call Centre	2	0	0	0	0	2		
Total	4144	341	122	61	0	4,668	4,224	\$330,605
2017/18								
Agency Online	3,484	254	93	16	0	3,847		
Public Online	562	50	11	23	1	647		
Eyede Call Centre	3	0	0	0	0	3		
Total	4049	304	104	39	1	4,497	4,117	\$325,771

Variance between years -2.50%

GWA Full Season Adult, GWJ Full season Junior, GWC Full season Child

GDA Adult Day, GDJ Junior Day

8 Committee Reports

8.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust

8.2 NZC Meeting

9 Staff and Technical Reports

9.1 Habitat Enhancement Fund Reviews 2018 - M Trotter

COUNCIL REPORT JUNE 2018

Habitat Enhancement Review

Introduction

This is a brief update on three completed HEF projects for Council information.

Ken Munros Wetland, Waipahi

Established: 2013
HEF Grant: \$1500



Munros site before wetland extension 2013 (above) and completed wetland May 2018 (below)



Riparian cover on Munros wetland (May 2018)

This wetland contains approximately 0.3 hectares of open water which was created by extending and repairing an old dam wall. The present dam wall and overflow channel are in good condition. Ken planted *Carex secta*, oaks, flax and a weeping willow. The *Carex* plantings have combined with existing plants to create a perimeter of cover around most of the wetland. The oak trees look to be at least 5 years away from producing mast.

Ken reports that he sees two mallard broods on the pond most springs and that paradise ducks do not breed on it. This is likely to be because of the riparian vegetation around the margin. Paradise ducks like clear visibility around their brood rearing pond (Williams 1981). Paradise ducks also require clear access to the water and only a small amount of cover such as a few tussocks; their ducklings first response to danger is to dive (Williams and Imber 1970). Dabbling ducks, such as mallards require escape vegetation for their broods (Williams and Imber 1970).

John Edgars Wetland, Tapanui

Established: 2014
HEF Grant: \$1500

This wetland was one of the smallest projects to obtain funding, it contains two narrow arms and is about 75-80m long. The dam wall is in good condition. Water quality appeared to be good with lots of invertebrates present. Although this project is at the smaller end of any project recommended by staff, John reports that mallards nest in the surrounding rushes and he sees ducklings on the pond each spring.



Edgars site before development 2014 (above) and south arm of Edgars wetland May 2018



North arm of Edgars wetland May 2018

Mike Symons Wetland, Waipahi

Established: 2013
HEF Grant: \$1500



Project in progress 2013 (above) and Symons Wetland May 2018 (below)

This has probably been one of our most successful HEF project in terms of waterfowl habitat creation. The initial footprint was an old (dry) back water of the Waipahi River. It now contains approximately 0.5 hectares of open shallow water. On the day of inspection, it was holding several hundred mallards plus Canada geese and grey teal. Every spring it produces several broods of mallard. It has a low gradient sunny beach for waterfowl to loaf on during the day. The Carex provide good cover and a stand of willow provide security form a nearby road and railway.

General Update of HEF

Since the HEF programme began approximately 5 years ago staff have assessed 91 potential projects most of which have been wetland sites. Forty projects were recommended for financial assistance and have been completed. This includes grants for a community riparian nursery (Waikouaiti) and experimental wetlands aimed to improve water quality (Pomahaka).

A review of three wetland projects completed 4-5 years ago shows they have been successful in creating habitat and have been well maintained. The associated land holders are pleased with how the projects have developed. This has resulted in the promotion of wetland projects in their local communities and other farmers contacting F&G for advice.

Presently we have 8 HEF projects in progress (\$15,350 committed). Staff do not intend on starting anymore new HEF projects at this stage. The priority is to get the outstanding projects finished.

Recommendation: That this report is received

Morgan Trotter
Fish and Game Officer
May 2018

References

Williams M, and Imber, M, 1970, The Role of Marginal Vegetation in some Waterfowl Habitats, Proceedings of the NZ Ecological Society, Volume 17.

Williams M, 1981, The Duck Shooters Bag, An Understanding of New Zealand's Wetland Gamebirds. The Wetland Press.

9.2 Anglers Notice Review June 2018 - C Halford

COUNCIL REPORT JUNE 2018

Anglers Notice Review June 2018

Introduction

At the April 2018 council meeting councillors noted that staff report item 9.2 Anglers Notice (AN) Review did not contain an assessment of the relevant Sports Fish and Game Plan provisions relating to regulation setting or a summary of feedback from the public meetings.

Since then information has been circulated including AN public submission, a spread sheet summary of the submissions and the public meeting notes from the five meetings held within the region.

Information pertaining to our statutory responsibilities under the Conservation Act and policy within the Sports Fish and Game Management Plan for the Otago Fish and Game Region (SFGMP) were detailed in Council Agenda Item 9.8 Anglers Notice Review – C Halford, October 2017.

This is the final recommending report for the Anglers Notice Review and any changes to the AN agreed by council at this meeting need to be forwarded to the National Fish and Game Council Office by June 30. All changes will apply to the 2018/2019 fishing season.

This report details the public consultation phase of the review, a summary of angler feedback, staff overview of recommended changes incorporating provisions of the SFGMP, and final recommendations. Noting that some of the material in this report has been referenced from the October 2017 Anglers Notice report.

Background

Following on from the decisions of the October 2017 Council meeting an Issues and Options paper was compiled for circulation (previously circulated) and attached as Appendix 1 in this report.

This invitation for comment on the AN was emailed to 6000 whole season licence holders, angling clubs and commercial interests. A link to the Otago page of the Fish and Game website directed readers to a submission page. Monthly updates were provided on the Reel Life web page.

In January 2018 a Public Notice featured in the Otago Daily Times Newspaper informing anglers of the review, and local papers were provided with media releases containing meeting dates and venues, and requests for feedback on proposed changes by March 5.

Public meetings (attendance in brackets) were held at Queenstown (15) in December, and Alexandra (11), Balclutha (7), Dunedin (16) and Wanaka (18) in February.

Staff addressed these meetings with a power point presentation covering the 7 main issues in the Issues and Options paper and at all meetings there was open communication.

Meeting notes were recorded and have been presented in this report as appendix 2.

Public Submissions

61 written public submissions were received, less than expected but a light response has been typical of past reviews. While there was a reasonable response to the key issues and options there was also varying responses to a range of other topics outside of the review brief.

Submissions were received from four angling clubs and the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers.

Some submitters only placed feedback on areas of interest or waters that they fished and areas they were familiar with.

Submissions from the Wakatipu area were weighted by 11 Wakatipu Anglers Club members supporting the Wakatipu Angling Club submission.

Angler feedback has been included in the summary below.

The Issues and Options, and some discussion for each of the key issues below can be referenced in the Issues and Options paper attached as Appendix 1 in this report

1. Southern Lakes and Lake Dunstan Bag Limits

Options presented to the public for feedback

- i. No change to the current regulations
- ii. Adopt a precautionary approach by reducing the bag limit. Options include reducing the overall bag limit for trout and salmon from 6 to 4, or splitting the bag with no more than 2 or 4 being trout

Angler Feedback

There was support from submitters and some attendees at the public meetings for reduced bag limits.

42 submitters requested a reduction in bag limits with 8 of those not specific about numbers.

13 submitters requested a reduction to 4 fish per day and 17 requested a lower bag of 3 and 2. The Wakatipu Anglers Club (WAC), supported by 11 individual submissions requested a daily limit of 2 fish.

3 submitters requested that the daily bag remain at 6 fish per day with two of the submitters requesting a split bag for salmon and trout.

There was some support for bag limit reductions at the public meetings, and at the Alexandra meeting it was noted the anglers expected reasonable bag limits.

In summary there was sufficient support from submitters to reduce the daily bag limits on our main lakes.

The following options have been provided for Council consideration.

Options

- 1.1 No change to the current bag of 6 fish per day.
- 1.2 A reduction in the combined daily bag to 4 fish per day.
- 1.3 A reduction in the daily bag of 4 fish per day with no more than 2 being trout

Preferred Option

1.2 is the preferred option.

Rationale and SFGMP Guidance

It is difficult to apply bag limits that may alter harvest levels and angler expectations when there is no clear understanding of fish populations in the four lakes of Dunstan, Hawea, Wanaka and Wakatipu and how they function individually.

The main lake fisheries (including Lake Dunstan) account for more than 40% of total angling days in Otago (National Anglers Survey 2014-15) and they are important regionally and nationally in terms of fishing licence sales.

We know that few anglers achieve the current daily bag limit of 6 fish other than salmon when they are abundant, and anglers have been known to catch bag limits of trout from Lake Hawea at times.

Providing a common bag limit for the four lakes may not fit entirely with species composition and different harvest rates but it does provide some consistency with the regulations.

In this situation we need to be guided by the SFGMP Species Management – Issues 5.2.1 objectives 5.2.1 5.3.1, 5.3.3, and policy 5.4.1

- 5.2.1 There is a need to demonstrate a cautious management approach in light of any perceived decline in fisheries
- 5.3.1 To manage sports fisheries and game resources having regard to sustainability to meet the interests and recreational needs of present and future generations of anglers and hunters.

5.3.3 To optimise angling and hunting opportunity and maintain or improve the recreational fishing opportunity spectrum available in Otago.

5.4.1 Achieve sustainability through the following approach:

- (a) Ensure that the sustainability of the resource has precedence over utilisation (i.e., utilisation will be dependent on sustainability).
- (b) In the absence of reliable information or in the face of uncertain information, a precautionary approach will be adopted in managing fish populations.
- (c) Management decisions will be based on the best available information.
- (d) The absence of information will not be used as a reason for failing to adopt management measures.

Reducing the bag to 4 best fits within the policy framework

Reducing the bag to 4 fish per day still provides anglers with the opportunity to target and harvest salmon when they are seasonally abundant and recognises their significant contribution to the sports fishery.

There have been reports of low salmon numbers in lakes Wanaka and Wakatipu recently, but we know populations can vary significantly between seasons.

For trout a reduction in the daily bag will provide some harvest relief and allow a greater sharing of the resource with increasing population growth and expected angling pressure. National Anglers Survey results were previously circulated to councillors on 11/10/17.

Many anglers struggle to identify caught species so not having a split bag for salmon and trout alleviates the issue of species identification and related compliance issues.

Many anglers also expect value for their licence fee and any greater reduction in bag limits could be met with some criticism and requiring further consultation.

Adoption of a 4 fish per day bag limit also provides the option of reducing the daily bag on the Kawarau River. While anglers weren't specifically asked about a lower bag for the Kawarau River during the consultation process a reduction is in line with Lake Wakatipu makes sense and this will align with suggested bag limits for the Clutha River, for consideration in point 5 below.

There was general support from Wakatipu anglers for a reduction in bag limits, so this shouldn't be a contentious addition locally.

Recommendations

The combined daily bag limit for salmon and trout in Lakes Dunstan, Hawea, Wakatipu and Wanaka be reduced to 4 fish per day for the 2018/19 fishing season.

If the recommendation above is adopted the daily bag limit for the Kawarau River be reduced to 4 fish per day for the 2018/19 fishing season.

2. Lowland River Issues and Bag Reductions

Options presented to the public for feedback

- i. No change to the current regulations
- ii. Reduce the bag limit in the most affected rivers
- iii. Reduce the bag limit in all lowland rivers that would also ensure consistency in the regulations

Angler Feedback

Numerous submitters and attendees at the public meetings that either fished or were familiar with lowland fisheries accept that many have degraded habitat and declining fisheries.

There were 36 written submissions requesting a reduction in daily bag limits which included and 11 individual Wakatipu Anglers Club members which supported their club's submission. and a reduction to 2 fish per day.

7 submitters requested a bag limit of 4 fish while 16 asked for a reduction to 2 or 3 fish per day. 12 submitters suggesting a reduced bag didn't provide a specific number.

Some anglers at the Balclutha public meeting commented that they would support a reduced bag in the smaller rivers because they preferred not to harvest from them and instead harvested from the larger rivers like the Clutha River which they felt had good fish numbers and should maintain a reasonable daily bag limit.

Overall there appears to be recognition that lowland rivers are under stress and bag limit reductions could be applied.

The following options have been provided for Council consideration.

Options

- 2.1 No change to current bag limits
- 2.2 All lowland rivers with a current daily limit of 6 fish be reduced to 4 fish per day and lowland rivers with a current daily limit of 3 fish be reduced to 2 fish per day.
- 2.3 All lowland rivers be reduced to 2 fish per day.

Preferred Option

2.2 is the preferred option.

Rationale and SFGMP Guidance

Habitat and water quality are the likely factors limiting trout numbers and angling success and satisfaction and reducing bag limits may have little impact on harvest or fish numbers.

Whilst some rivers have had mild bag limit reductions in past AN reviews mainly due to angler concerns, bag limits have generally been stable for a significant period without fully knowing their influences on individual fisheries.

The review concluded that bag limits are an issue and were to be included for Public consultation.

We have useful fisheries and angler information (Thirty Years of Creel Surveys – D Scott and M Wright 2005 and 2007) and National Anglers Survey results but for most rivers we have limited recent data.

Option 2.2 is considered the best option because it provides a general reduction in bag limits across a range of lowland fisheries and it fits within the framework of;

SFGMP Issues 5.2.1, objectives 5.2.1 5.3.1, 5.3.3, and policy 5.4.1 as detailed previously in this report.

Reducing bag limits on waters with a current 6 bag to 4 is more likely to get angler approval than a reduction below 4. A greater reduction than this particularly on popular fishing waters could be overly restrictive. A bag limit of 4 still allows for a reasonable harvest from medium sized rivers and estuarine areas.

Several lowland rivers currently have a 3 fish daily limit and a reduction to 2 fish per day would be a sensible option.

Bag limits should be reflective of lower fish numbers and declining or poor water quality highlighting their vulnerability, therefore a reduction in the daily bag is warranted.

Applying bag limits across the board (so to speak) may not qualify as the best management practise but with limited fisheries information we have little choice this does however fit with SFGMP objective;

7.3.2 To minimise and simplify regulations controlling angling and hunting so they do not become an impediment to participation, but not at the expense of precautionary management.

Recommendations

Lowland rivers with a current 6 fish daily bag be reduced to 4 fish per day. Noting that the Clutha and Pomahaka Rivers are being addressed later in this report.

Lowland rivers with current daily limits below 4 fish be reduced to 2 fish per day.

3. Lake Mahinerangi

Options presented to the public for feedback

- i. No change to the current regulations
- ii. Close the reservoir during the winter with an open season from 1 Oct – 30 Apr.
- iii. And/or reduce the daily bag limit either for the current season from 1 Oct – 30 Sept, or with a shorter season of 1 Oct to 30 Apr.

Angler Feedback

As previously reported some anglers are concerned with the winter opening and the impacts on fish populations. Taieri Anglers Club have been vocal about this.

Anglers have commented about the decline of rainbow trout numbers which they say have disappeared. According to (Scott and Wright 2007), the Otago Acclimatisation Society established a population by planting ova between 1965 and 1973 and while there was an immediate boost in rainbow trout numbers, a decline was soon evident.

Anglers were asked to comment on the winter opening and a reduction in bag limits either from 1 October to 30 September or the shorter season of 1 October to 30 April

30 submitters responded to this issue. 8 submitters supported a winter closure with 2 of those submitters supporting a reduction to 4, 1 submitter supported a reduction to 2 fish per day and a 4th submitter suggesting a general reduction. 3 submitters supported retaining the winter season with one submitter commenting;

“There are no major bodies of water near Dunedin apart from the low reaches of rivers that offer an angler a day trip away for some fishing. This fishery provides great sport for kids with the perch readily catchable so would be good to keep this fishery open for this purpose”.

The Wakatipu Anglers Club and 11 individual club members supported a bag reduction to 2 fish per day with no comment on season length. A further 7 submitters just requested a reduced bag.

I submitter commented there were too many perch and no trout.

There was greater support for a winter closure and good support to reduce bag limits.

There was some communication about releasing rainbow trout into the reservoir which would require further consideration.

The main issue here appears to be a low to moderate trout population and concerns about general harvest, and additional winter harvest. Anglers are concerned about the significant decline in the rainbow trout population which has affected catch rates.

Perch are abundant for which there is no daily limit under 9.1 of the regulations

Options

- 3.1 No change to the current regulations
- 3.2 Retain the open season 1 October to 30 September and reduce the bag limit to 4 fish per day
- 3.3 Close the winter season and reduce the bag limit to 4 fish per day.

Preferred Option

3.2 is the preferred option.

Rationale and SFGMP Guidance

National Anglers Survey Results show that angling pressure has dropped from $4,130 \pm 690$ angling days in 1994/95 to $1,580 \pm 510$ in 2014/15.

Reasons for this reduction aren't clear and could be attributed to fish numbers, low productivity, angler satisfaction and possibly access issues which have been raised.

We don't know how much angling occurs in the winter months and therefore we have little indication of harvest, however it is likely angler pressure would be low and may have little impact on trout stocks. We know that adult brown trout will be spawning and will not be unavailable to the angler until late winter and early spring when they return to the reservoir leaving non spawners, juveniles and perch for anglers.

Lake Mahinerangi does provide a reservoir winter fishing opportunity and reducing bag limits is the best option to ensure sustainability of the sports fishery.

If it can be shown that winter season harvest is having an impact on trout stocks regulation changes can be made to address this.

SFGMP Issues 5.2.1, objectives 5.2.1, 5.3.1, 5.3.3, and policy 5.4.1 as detailed previously in this report apply here with objective 5.3.3 providing direction for angling opportunity.

- 5.3.3 To optimise angling and hunting opportunity and maintain or improve the recreational fishing opportunity spectrum available in Otago.

Recommendation

That the season length for Lake Mahinerangi remains at 1 October to 30 September with a daily bag reduction to 4 fish and no change to the legal methods of Fly/Spin/Bait.

4. Pomahaka River

Options presented to the public for feedback

- i. No change to the current regulations
- ii. Season length, method or daily bag regulations could be amended for all or parts of the river.
- iii. Reduce the daily bag limit in the upper river only.
- iv. Back country fishery designation for the upper river and /or other measures as necessary

Angler Feedback

38 submitters provided comments on this issue and there was reasonable feed back from the public meetings.

11 submitters supported the introduction of a backcountry river designation for the upper river. Anglers were openly concerned about the decline in the Upper Pomahaka fishery and there was good support to reduce bag limits for the entire river ranging from 2-4 fish per day.

25 submitters with a range of opinions requested a reduced bag of between 2-4 fish per day.

Some anglers requested a 1 fish bag for the upper river and there was support for catch and release. 1 submitter suggested a slot limit for the upper river.

No submitter requested the status quo.

1 submitter suggested an open season of 1 October to 30 April for the entire river and 2 submitters suggested closing the river for 3-5 years to help the fishery to recover.

Options

- 4.1 No change to the current regulations for the entire river
- 4.2 Introduce a backcountry river designation to the river upstream of Park Hill Bridge (Switzers Road) with season length 1 October to 30 April, permitted methods Fly and Spin only and a 1 fish daily bag limit, and

reduce the bag limit to 4 fish per day for the entire river downstream of Park Hill Bridge, (Switzers Road) with season lengths and methods to remain as they currently read.
- 4.3 Introduce a backcountry river designation to the river upstream of Park Hill Bridge (Switzers Road) with season length 1 October to 30 April, permitted methods Fly and Spin only and a 1 fish daily bag limit, and

reduce the bag limit to 2 fish per day for the entire river downstream of Park Hill Bridge, (Switzers Road) with a season lengths and methods to remain as they currently read.

Preferred Option

4.2 is the preferred option

This allows for a backcountry river designation for the upper river, a reduced bag from 3-1 fish per day and the removal of bait fishing which fits with other backcountry fishery regulations.

For the remainder of the river a bag limit reduction from 6 fish per day to 4 is consistent with lowland river bag recommendations in Point 2 above and may provide some harvest relief.

The 1 October – 30 April season between Park Hill Bridge and Swans Bridge provides protection during the spawning period while the open season from 1 October to 30 September downstream of Swans Bridge, (Clydevale Road) allows for winter angling opportunities

There appears to be no reason to adjust current methods of Fly/Spin/Bait for the mid and lower reaches of the river.

Rationale and SFGMP Guidance

We know that the Pomahaka fishery has been adversely affected by siltation and poor water quality due to land intensification resulting in reduced habitat and declining fish numbers.

There are three sets of angling regulations for the river incorporating different season lengths and bag limits. It would be good to simplify the regulations if possible and apply a backcountry river designation for the upper river which will allow us to monitor use and get angler feedback on the fishery.

There is enough concern for the fishery that consideration could be given to closing the entire river at the end of April but in doing so a winter angling opportunity would be lost in the lower river below Swans Bridge on the Clydevale Road.

This 15km stretch of river provides an opportunity for anglers to fish through the winter months acknowledging that most of the spawning run migrate to the mid and upper river in the autumn and early winter, and we know that spawning brown trout are often difficult to catch.

Due to the concern about fish numbers a reduction in the daily bag is appropriate and is well supported by submitters. A reduction from 6 to 4 for the mid and lower river fits with our strategy to simplify and be more consistent with regulations across the region.

A greater reduction than 4 could meet with some opposition from anglers and may require further consultation.

There appears to be no reason to adjust current methods of Fly/Spin/Bait for the mid and lower reaches of the river.

Changes to the regulations and management of the fishery are guided by SFGMP Issues 5.2.1, objectives 5.2.1, 5.3.1, 5.3.3, and policy 5.4.1 as detailed previously in this report.

At the April 2018 council meeting item - **9.7** Pomahaka Sea Run Trout

It was **agreed** that in the light of the report the Council should consider regulation changes for the river and further fish survey work.

While it is not clear at this stage what the work will entail regulation changes at this time should not affect outcomes.

Recommendations.

That the Pomahaka River upstream of Park Hill Bridge be designated a Backcountry Fishery with a season length of 1 October to 30 April, legal methods Fly and Spin, and a bag of 1 fish per day.

No change to the current season length of 1 October to 30 April and methods including Fly/Spin/Bait for the Pomahaka River downstream of Park Hill Bridge - but the bag be reduced from 6 fish to 4 fish per day.

No Change to the current season length of 1 October to 30 September and methods including Fly/Spin/Bait for the Pomahaka River downstream of Swans Bridge - but the bag be reduced from 6 fish to 4 fish per day.

5. Simplifying Clutha River Regulations

Options presented to the public for feedback

- i. No change to the current regulations
- ii. Relax the fly only area at Deans Bank to include spinning but retain the season length of 1 Oct to 31 May which protects valuable spawning areas.
- iii. Extend Deans Bank to the Albert Town Bridge.

Angler Feedback

39 submitters responded to this issue.

6 Submitters including the Upper Clutha Angling Club and an additional 11 Wakatipu Anglers Club (WAC) members requested the status quo for season lengths and retention of the fly only area with additional request for bag reductions.

Only 1 submitter asked for the fly only method at Deans Bank to be relaxed.

At the Queenstown, Wanaka and Dunedin public meetings there was some support for retaining the Deans bank fly only area.

3 submitters supported extending Deans Bank to the Albert Town Bridge. which has some merit for simplicity but will restrict spin fishing opportunity immediately upstream of the Highway Bridge.

The Upper Clutha Angling Club suggested a reduction to 4 fish per day while the Wakatipu Anglers Club and 11 of its members suggested a reduction to 2.

Overall 26 submitters supported reducing the bag limit along the entire length of the river. There was some support to include bait fishing downstream of the Albert Town Bridge which staff would endorse.

Options

- 5.1 No change to the current regulations
- 5.2 Leave current season lengths and methods above the Albert Town Bridge (ATB) as they stand then permit all methods downstream of the ATB to the sea with a reduction in the bag limit to 4 fish per day.
- 5.3 Leave current season lengths and methods above the Albert Town Bridge (ATB) as they stand but extend the Deans bank boundary downstream to the ATB then permit all methods downstream to the sea with a reduction in the bag limit to 4 fish per day.

Preferred Option

The preferred option is 5.2

For simplicity having one regulation above the ATB is desirable but there is good support to retain the Deans Bank Fly only area which has some regard as being a very special area.

Permitting the use of bait below ATB is a sensible option, along with reducing the bag limit to 4 fish per day which has some support of submitters.

Rationale and SFGMP Guidance

Deans Bank has historical significance and its standing has provided some protection for the River section from the Lake Wanaka Outlet to the Albert Town Bridge which has benefited the wider angling community.

While it could be said that fly anglers are well catered for in the regulations with several fly only waters in the region, the Clutha is a large river and the fly only section is minor by comparison with the overall angling opportunity for spin and bait anglers.

Retaining the fly only method at Deans Bank fits with SFGMP objective;

- 5.3.3 To optimise angling and hunting opportunity and maintain or improve the recreational fishing opportunity spectrum available in Otago.

At present from the downstream boundary of Deans Bank to the Luggate Bridge anglers can fly and spin fish. Downstream of this point to the sea, in addition to fly and spin, bait fishing is permitted.

There is no biological or sustainability issue with allowing bait fishing from the Albert Town Bridge. This change would allow greater angling opportunity which also fits with SFGMP objective 5.3.3

The Albert Town Bridge is a clear boundary and spin anglers will maintain access to the Deans Bank downstream boundary which benefits many holiday campers.

The Clutha River, particularly the upper section above Lake Dunstan has been severely affected by didymo with has had an impact on the fishery, but there has been some recent recovery with anglers reporting some good catches and well-conditioned fish.

A bag limit reduction from 6 to 4 fish is precautionary and fits with SFGMP Issues 5.2.1, objectives 5.2.1 5.3.1, 5.3.3, and policy 5.4.1 as detailed previously in this report.

A reduced bag limit to 4 fish is desirable for the entire river and fits with SFGMP objective

- 7.3.2 To minimise and simplify regulations controlling angling and hunting so they do not become an impediment to participation, but not at the expense of precautionary management.

Recommendations

That the season length and methods on the Clutha River above the Albert Town Bridge remain the same and from the Albert Town bridge downstream a season length of 1 October to 30 September will apply with permitted methods of Fly, Spin and Bait.

There is a reduction in the daily bag limit from 6 fish to 4 fish per day for the Clutha River from the Lake Wanaka Outlet to the sea.

6. Upper Clutha Standardisation

Options presented to the public for feedback

- i. No change to the current regulations
- ii. Amend the season length and permitted methods for waters not listed in Clause 2.3 1 Nov – 31 May, and restrict the permitted methods to fly and spin only

Angler Feedback

19 submitters supported amending the regulations in 2.1 of the Anglers Notice to align with waters listed in 2.3.

1 submitter felt that regulations should be set as required for specific waters.

Options

- 6.1 No Change to the current regulations
- 6.2 Amend the season length to 1 Nov – 31 May and permitted methods to Fly and spin only in Clause 2.1 for waters not listed in Clause 2.3 and restrict the permitted methods to fly and spin only.

Preferred Option

The preferred option is 6.2

Rationale and SFGMP Guidance

It makes sense to standardise the regulations for clarity and simplicity and fits with SFGMP objective;

- 7.3.2 To minimise and simplify regulations controlling angling and hunting so they do not become an impediment to participation, but not at the expense of precautionary management.

The present regulation is unsatisfactory. The option outlined above would standardise the regulations for all waters draining into lake tributaries upstream of Clyde and provides the most consistency with other waters in this part of the catchment

Recommendation

1. That 2.1 of the Anglers Notice is amended as follows;

All lakes, rivers and streams upstream of the Clyde dam not mentioned in clause 2.3 for this region will have an open season from 1 November to 31 May with permitted methods of fly and spin, and a daily limit bag of 1 fish

7. Boats

Options presented to the public for feedback

- i. No change to the current regulations
- ii. Include boating regulations for specific waters in clause 2.3 of the regulations for clarity
- iii. Consider revising boating regulations based on angler feedback

There was little feedback from anglers and submitters on this issue but some support for adding a referral in clause 2.3 to regulation - **8. The Use of Boats**

The main issue here appears to be presenting the regulations as clear as possible and making them easy to interpret which staff will respond to.

Options

- 7.1 No change to the current layout in the Anglers Notice.
- 7.2 Include boating rules in 2.3 of the regulations
- 7.3 Refer format issues to staff

Preferred Option

7.3 is the preferred option

There are no recommended changes to boating regulations requiring council approval. This is solely about better presentation of boating regulations and aligning them with corresponding waters for ease of interpretation.

Rationale and SFGMP Guidance

Technical matter to be dealt with by staff.

Complies with SFGMP objective;

- 7.3.2 To minimise and simplify regulations controlling angling and hunting so they do not become an impediment to participation, but not at the expense of precautionary management.

Recommendation

Refer to staff for action

8. Multiple Hooks

One issue that several submitters and some of those attending the public meetings raised was the continued use of treble or multiple hooks.

While this was not highlighted in the early stages of the review initially it requires some consideration and a research review. It is too late for inclusion in the current review and it will no doubt require considerable consultation with anglers.

Eastern Fish and Game Council is presently undertaking a review of their fishing regulations and the use of multiple hooks has been raised as an issue in a discussion document.

It will be interesting to see angler feedback and the outcome.

Recommendation

For council consideration and direction

9. Further Work

While the review of the Anglers Notice for the Otago Fish and Game Region has been comprehensive there are still sections of the fishing regulations that require further thought including Schedule 1 which requires agreement nationally if it is to be amended.

The layout of the AN and the Sports Fishing Regulations Booklet should be reviewed and simplified as far as possible over the next year.

Recommendation

For council consideration and direction for the work plan

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank this Council and particularly Rick Boyd for input to this review.

Cliff Halford
Fish and Game Officer
June 2018

9.3 Otago Mallard Monitoring Study 2018 - P van Klink

COUNCIL REPORT JUNE 18

Otago Region Mallard Monitoring Study, April 2018

Introduction

Fish and Game Councils and universities have coordinated together to spearhead recent research into mallard duck populations. As part of the research for Otago, mallard population monitoring has been undertaken to determine long term trends which are necessary to manage game birds sustainably. Accurate information on population trends will allow Fish and Game managers to make informed decisions when setting game bird harvest regulations. The intention in future will be to look at the relationship between the mallard monitoring results and the Otago hunter harvest and effort estimates which are sourced from game bird hunter telephone surveys.

Otago Fish and Game completed a pilot mallard monitoring project in 2015. This report is on the past four years of the mallard monitoring study (2015 – 2018).

Methods

The methods used for the mallard monitoring in Otago are largely based on methodology used by Southland Fish and Game, which has been refined over the past few years. The Otago site selection criteria and methodology for selecting the sampling units (ponds and transects) is attached in Appendix 1. The mallard monitoring aerial survey methodology is attached in Appendix 2. The original flight plan in 2015 comprised of 46 ponds, seven 10 km river transects, and ten 10 km cross country transects (Figure 1). The flight was conducted on 13 April 2018.

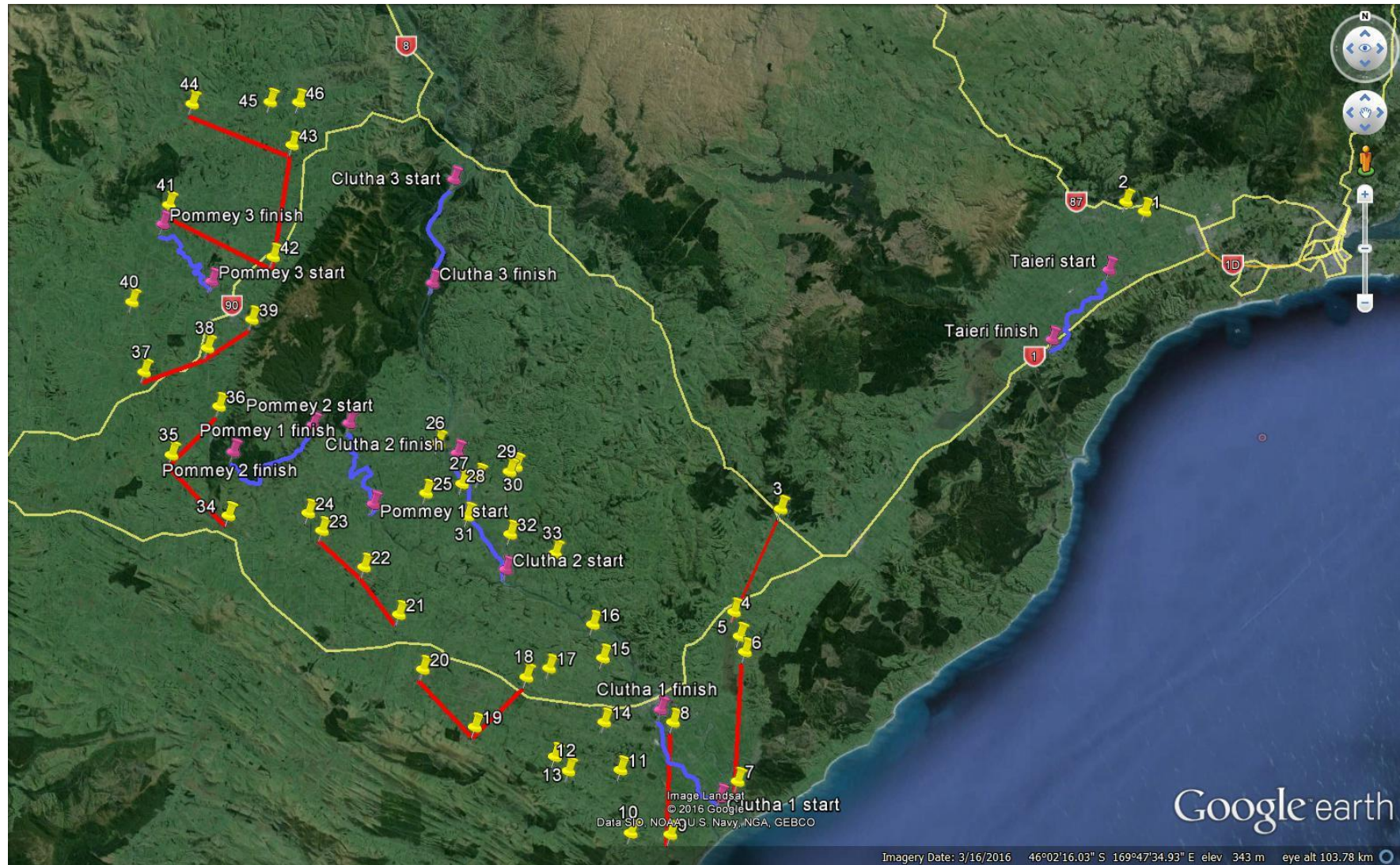


Figure 1. Otago Mallard Monitoring flight plan showing the original total of 46 ponds (yellow), seven 10km river transects (blue) and ten 10km land transects (red)

Results

All of the original 2015 flight plan was completed except for one river transect (Pomahaka 2), and 2 ponds (5 & 17) (Figure 1, Table 1). Over the past four years a number of sampling units have not been completed. Reasons for not completing all the counts have included;

- The helicopter had to return to base to refuel
- An aerial hazard (wire) was identified on Pomahaka 2 river transect and it was dropped from subsequent monitoring for safety reasons
- Ponds were not correctly identified from the air and nearby ponds were counted instead (these have not been included in the results)
- Sampling units were missed (from the flight plan or during the count) and these oversights were only realised after the counts were complete

Table 1. The number of mallard monitoring counts completed 2015 - 2018

	No. of ponds counted (*46)	No. of river transects counted (*7)	No. of cross-country transects counted (*10)
2015	41	6	8
2016	44	6	10
2017	45	6	9
2018	44	6	10

* Denotes the original number of sites selected

The number of mallards counted for each of the survey sampling units is shown in the sub-totals for 2015 - 2018 (Table 2). A total of 3134 mallards were counted in 2018 (Table 2). There were a number of variables that have changed between the 2015 and 2018 surveys. These minor changes include;

- A different pilot in 2016
- A different and Fish and Game observer in 2015
- A different number of counts completed over all years
- A different amount of time surveying (flying hours)
- Different cameras for taking photos during the counts

Table 2: Otago mallard duck monitoring results showing the separate strata (ponds, river and cross-country transects) and total counts for 2015 - 2017 (NC = no count)

Pond No.	2015	2016	2017	2018
1	2	0	30	134
2	0	0	3	21
3	32	148	71	21
4	0	0	0	0
5	0	NC	NC	NC
6	0	157	30	55
7	0	0	1	0
8	44	239	43	230
9	71	77	242	23
10	17	0	33	8
11	0	0	0	0
12	13	40	24	13
13	3	0	13	9
14	56	67	14	43
15	22	51	10	32
16	16	81	49	11
17	0	4	0	NC
18	13	0	9	0
19	35	20	111	4
20	2	0	5	11
21	0	6	12	0
22	430	379	6	8
23	2	0	83	16
24	12	3	4	5
25	62	0	116	6
26	11	0	12	6
27	0	0	0	0
28	77	142	84	8
29	0	6	84	29
30	9	8	2	1
31	0	NC	0	0
32	0	0	0	7
33	26	6	5	8
34	2	0	35	0
35	0	13	0	0
36	16	0	0	0
37	3	11	28	48
38	6	38	31	0
39	40	10	2	0
40	NC	284	135	100
41	NC	45	177	0
42	61	61	76	65
43	0	20	0	59
44	NC	35	0	0
45	NC	0	0	0
46	21	40	4	25
Sub-total Ponds	1104	1991	1574	1006

River Transect	2015	2016	2017	2018
Taieri transect	1560	1408	662	981
Clutha 1 transect	610	639	912	126
Clutha 2 transect	225	63	174	69
Clutha 3 transect	47	10	128	42
Pomahaka 1 transect	683	736	570	376
Pomahaka 2 transect	39	NC	NC	NC
Pomahaka 3 transect	NC	97	364	63
Sub-total River Transects	3164	2953	2810	1657
Cross Country Transect				
Transect 1	101	48	NC	90
Transect 2	182	26	656	95
Transect 3	58	119	417	66
Transect 4	3	0	42	22
Transect 5	595	116	37	48
Transect 6	27	0	22	38
Transect 7	6	0	60	67
Transect 8	NC	26	112	41
Transect 9	25	0	108	0
Transect 10	NC	0	5	4
Sub-total Cross Country Transects	997	335	1459	471
TOTAL	5265	5279	5843	3134
Total flying time (Hours)	4.8	5.4	6.2	5.5

Discussion

A total of 3134 mallards were counted in 2018 which is down approximately 40% on previous years. This figure in itself is not a reliable metric of changes to the mallard population in the survey region (MacKenzie, 2018). Annual variability in where ducks are concentrated ie what fraction of mallard population is being sampled in pond, river and cross country transect could be different. MacKenzie (2018) states that it is difficult to determine how changes in number of mallards counted in each type of survey correspond to each other and has cautioned how they should be interpreted.

Despite the lower count in 2018, reasonable concentrations of mallards were noted on some nearby water bodies that were not included in the counts. The most notable decline in mallards counted was on the Clutha and Pomahaka river transects (Table 2). High river flows on both of these rivers is thought to be the reason for the low counts. Birds were likely to be displaced from the usual quiet backwaters and calmer water off the main stem. With this in mind, we could have expected to see a shift in these birds to higher counts in nearby pond and cross country transect counts. This hasn't transpired and it would be fair to say that there were generally less mallards across the board from previous years (Table 2).

The counts may also be down due to normal fluctuations based on environmental conditions. This summer was very dry from November through to January which would have resulted in

lower fledgling survivability. On top of that, grain was typically harvested 3 -4 weeks early this year which could have made a difference to the pond and cross country transects in the south Otago areas. This season the stubble had already been re-sown and so the mallards had presumably distributed over wider areas.

One of the main considerations for all future mallard monitoring is to reduce the number of independent variables. Efforts have been made to use the same observer, same helicopter and pilot, complete the original flight plan and count the same number of sampling units. Comments and recommendations from MacKenzie (2016 and 2018) have been noted and these improvements to the monitoring will be incorporated where possible to improve the overall mallard monitoring study.

As this is the fourth year of monitoring no inferences about mallard population trends in South Otago have been made from this limited amount of data collected over four surveys. The relationship between the mallard survey results and the annual hunter harvest for Otago has not been investigated. The annual game hunter survey results for 2018 are typically not available until August. The autumn population monitoring is conducted after the regulations have been set. All of these factors need to be considered when looking at the bigger picture of how the information collected during the mallard monitoring is to be used within the management process including setting the Game Season regulations. (MacKenzie, 2018).

Recommendation

That the survey continues to be conducted annually using this methodology.

That this report be received

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Grant Smith from Otago Helicopters Ltd for undertaking the mallard monitoring flight. Grant's excellent GPS and observational skills made the mallard monitoring flight more efficient and effective.

Paul van Klink
Fish and Game Officer

References

MacKenzie, D. I. 2016. Review of Fish and Game Regional 2016 Mallard Reports. Unpublished report, Proteus Wildlife Research Consultants.

MacKenzie, D. I. 2018. Review of Fish and Game Regional 2017 Mallard Reports. Unpublished report, Proteus Wildlife Research Consultants.

Appendix 1

Otago Mallard Monitoring Selection Methodology

Otago Fish and Game established mallard monitoring sites and completed a pilot monitoring study in 2015. The methodology for selecting the 46 ponds, seven 10km river transects and 10 10km cross-country transects was completed by Southland staff. The monitoring was conducted by Otago staff.

Monitoring Area Selection Criteria

Habitat characteristics;

- All land in South Otago was considered.
- Areas more than 200m above sea level were excluded to avoid surveying in hill-country which tends to be less favourable waterfowl habitat.
- Densely forested areas were also excluded due to the lack of duck habitat.
- Google earth maps were used for identifying the location of ponds, river and cross-country transects.

Pond selection criteria;

- All ponds >20m in diameter were identified and recorded in an Excel spreadsheet.
- From the identified ponds 46 “good” ponds were randomly selected.
- Ponds were deemed unsuitable for a variety of reasons, but generally because they were too close to buildings, were near places of common human activity, such as beside tracks or other structures, or they had been modified and did not meet the original size criteria, e.g. had been fully or partially drained.
- For the 80 or so unsuitable ponds, the next closest ponds that did meet the size and isolation criteria were used instead.
- On-going replacement of ponds will be necessary if surveyed ponds become unsuitable, which will be assessed annually.
- Ponds in excess of 20ha were also excluded because they are too difficult to count accurately and prone to annual variations in the distribution of birds.

River transect selection criteria;

- The upper limit of the transect count was based on known mallard habitat within the survey area;
- The total km of the river was calculated and 1 km potential start points were assigned
- Random numbers were chosen which was the distance from the sea (km) for the downstream start point for the 10km transect.
- Up to five transects were selected within the total distance of the river to be surveyed.
- To ensure transects did not overlap, start points were randomly selected until five 10 km non-overlapping transects were selected.

Cross- country transect selection criteria;

- Ten 10km cross-country transects were selected.
- The start points chosen were randomly selected ponds (as described above) where there was a minimum distance of 10 km between that point and the next randomly selected pond.
- This enabled the completion of a transect while flying to the next pond location, thereby minimising flight-time.

Appendix 2 Otago Mallard Monitoring Aerial Survey Methodology

General

- Counts are undertaken between April 07 and 18.
- An Otago Helicopters Robinson Class 22 is used for the survey.
- The pilot provided assistance in locating the sampling unit (pond or transect) with GPS and looking for birds where safety was not compromised.
- The shortest route between ponds and transects was flown.
- The weather was fine and wind < 12 knots.
- The survey was undertaken between 0900 and 1700 hours.
- Species other than mallards, particularly geese, paradise shelduck, grey teal, scaup and shoveler were identified and excluded from the count.
- The helicopter was positioned to enable the clearest view of the survey area.
- If birds were seen under trees or scrub the count was done when these had emerged.
- The helicopter could be positioned so that birds slowly came out from cover without making them fly off.
- When birds did fly off an estimate of the number departing was made and added to the total count.
- Groups of more than about 30 birds were photographed and the birds were counted on the computer using Microsoft paint. The paintbrush application allowed the user to count individual mallard ducks on the image which ensured that no mallards were double counted.

Ponds

- If there were < 30 birds on the pond they were counted manually otherwise they were photographed.
- The helicopter flew at a height so that the mallard ducks did not fly off from the pond but could be clearly counted or photographed.

River transects

- Main river backwaters were not surveyed if they were more than about 100m from the main channel, otherwise they were included as part of the river transect.
- For the river transect the helicopter slowed to a hover over or adjacent to the willow lined sections so that the ducks would swim out to become visible to observers and then easily counted.

Cross country transects

- Mallards were counted within 100m either side of the helicopter as it flew along the transect.
- This gave a fixed width of no more than about 200m from the line of the survey.
- The helicopter flew at an approximate fixed height so that birds could be easily seen and identified as mallards.
- Generally the transect was undertaken at a fixed cruising speed but if an accumulation of mallards was found, e.g. a pond was on the transect line, the helicopter was slowed so the birds could be accurately counted.
- Birds were not generally encountered unless there was a water feature present.

9.4 Greenstone Controlled Fishery Satisfaction Survey 2018 - H Trotter

COUNCIL REPORT JUNE 2018

2018 Greenstone Controlled Fishery Satisfaction Survey

Introduction

The Greenstone Controlled Fishery (GCF) operates over three beats, from above the Sly Burn confluence to Lake McKeller, on the Greenstone River in February and March each year. Each beat may be booked by one angler (and one companion). Bookings may only be made up to five days in advance. The GCF aims to maintain a high quality backcountry angling experience by controlling angler encounter rates. An annual online satisfaction survey is conducted at the end of each GCF season to gauge angler use and satisfaction with the fishery and the controlled fishery system. The survey also helps to identify issues and areas for improvement.

Method

The bookings database for the 2018 GCF was reviewed to determine user numbers, demographics, angler days, and beat preferences. Valid email addresses were available for all 35 anglers who made booking (or were companions). An online survey was distributed to anglers via email. The survey asked questions relating to overall experience/satisfaction, fish numbers, and future management.

Please note the GCF was surveyed as part of the wider bi-monthly survey of backcountry fisheries in 2017 so was not reported on separately.

Results

Angler Demographics and Pattern of Use

The 2018 GCF was utilized by a total of 38 anglers (although this includes guides listed as companion anglers and it is unclear whether these guides fished themselves). The total number of angler days booked during the 2018 GCF was 79; slightly more days were booked in February (45), than March (34). Effort was spread relatively evenly across the beats, with 33 days on Beat 1 and, 20 and 26 days on Beats 2 and 3 respectively (Figure 1). Most anglers (48%) booked 2-day trips, while 26 % booked 1-day trips and 21 % booked 3-day trips and 5 % 4-day trips. Only one angler reported using a guide and the estimated rate of guide use was 5.6 %. This is considerably lower than estimates from previous seasons.

Table 1: GCF angler effort and demographics 2008-2018

Season/Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of anglers						40	43	55	66	55	38
Total capacity allocated	51%	46%	46%	61%	27%	27%	25%	26%	39%	29%	22%
NZ Resident anglers	31%	36%	31%	41%	37%	48%	42%	29%	38%	31%	45%
Non-Resident anglers	69%	64%	69%	59%	63%	52%	58%	71%	62%	69%	55%
Guided anglers	21%	20%	34%	32%	43%	10%	16%	36%	33%	18%	6%

NB: Following a review of past booking records some adjustments were made to these results for past season and this table varies from those previously reported. Due to inaccuracies and inconsistencies with angler details reported (particularly prior to the introduction of the non resident licence) some judgements were required regarding the interpretation of results.

Non residents made up 55% of users, down from a peak of 71% in 2015 (Table 1). The origin of non resident users largely followed the typical pattern (Figure 2) being predominately from North America and Australia. with small numbers the United Kingdom (Figure 2).

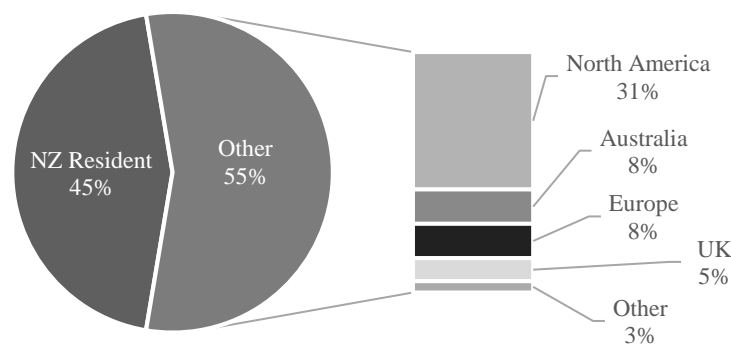


Figure 1: Origin of anglers who participated in the 2018 GCF

Overall Experience Satisfaction

Twenty-one responses to the online satisfaction survey were received. Response rates were good (57 % for non residents and 65 % for residents). Eighty-six percent of anglers indicated that they fished their booking. However it is suspected that non active anglers may be under estimated due to non response bias among these anglers. Weather and flow conditions were the listed reasons for not fishing bookings as planned.

In previous surveys overall satisfaction levels have been assessed by asking anglers how their experience compared to their expectations. In 2016 dissatisfaction was reported at the highest level in recent years, with 35% of anglers reporting their expectations were not met, or their experience was significantly below their expectations (Figure 2).

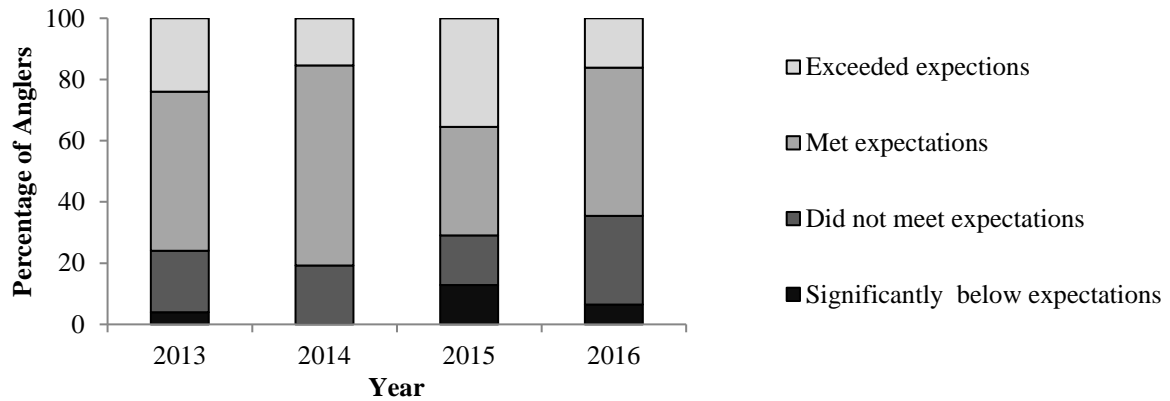


Figure 2: Overall experience ratings for the 2013- 2016 GCF

For the current survey satisfaction was assessed on a 5-point likert scale to align with the methods used for the broader backcountry fisheries survey. Most anglers reported they felt neutral (33 %) or dissatisfied (17 % dissatisfied, 11 % very dissatisfied) with their overall angling experience. About 40 % of anglers were satisfied or very satisfied with their experience. Weather (discoloured water, windy conditions), fish numbers and condition, and livestock were the main reasons for dissatisfaction.

The majority of anglers reported fish numbers did not meet their expectations (Figure 4). No results are reported for 2017 as this question was not asked in that season. Individual anglers landed between 0 and 8 fish (Figure 5). Reported catch figures align with angler's feelings they did not encounter any many fish as expected; reported catches were lower compared to the previous four seasons, with no catches over 10 fish reported. One angler commented, "There were almost no fish - the lowest fish counts in the last 20 years I have fished the Greenstone."

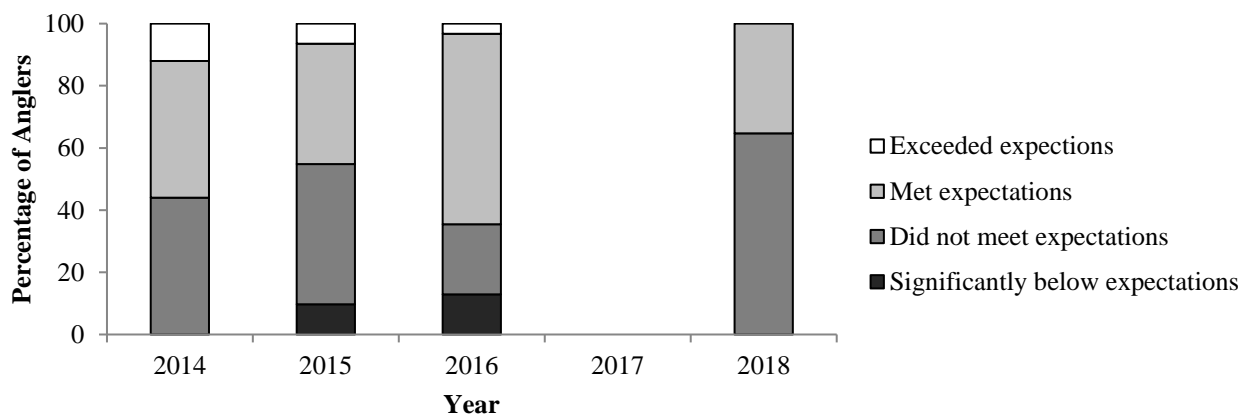


Figure 4: Fish encounter ratings for the GCF 2014-2018 (not surveyed in 2017)

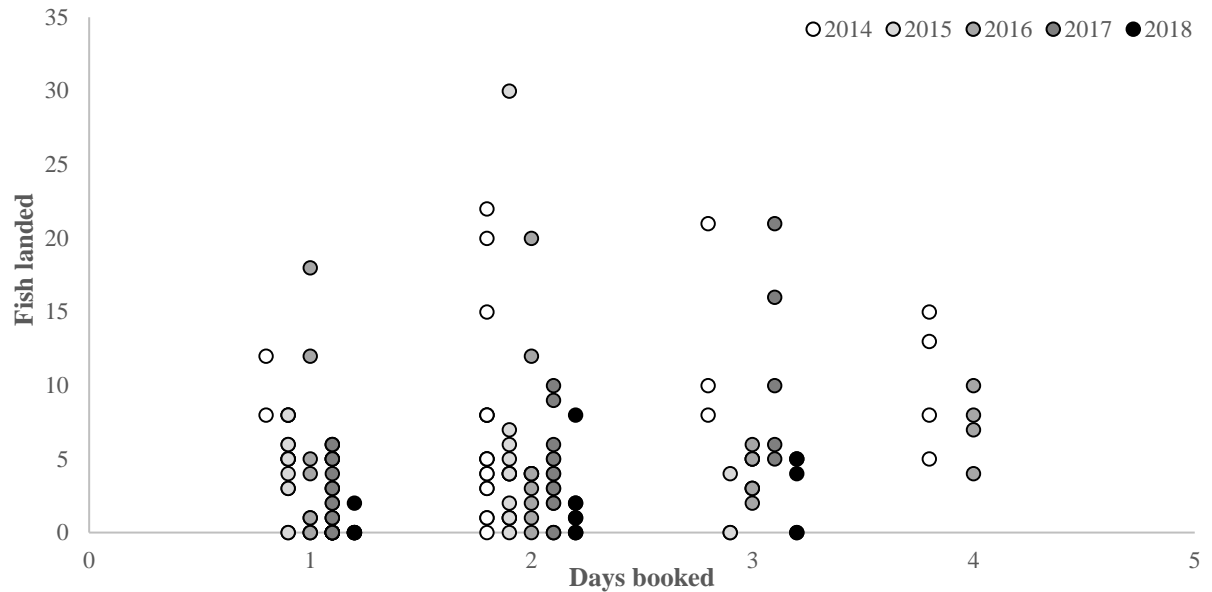


Figure 5: Number of fish landed and number of days booked by anglers for the GCF 2014 - 2016

Online Booking System

Most anglers (90 %) were able to book their preferred beat and reported the system was ‘easy’ or ‘very easy’ to use. The inability to cancel and amend bookings was noted as a limitation of the system.

Discussion

The 2018 season saw lower levels of use for the GCF compared to recent seasons, in terms of both the number of total users and days booked. Levels of use are suspected to have been influenced by weather (more wet and windy days compared to previous seasons) and possibly less commercial pressure.

Reported guided use was considerably lower this season. In previous seasons there was more bookings from guides detected during the controlled period and particularly high use by a single operator which increased the guided activity estimates. While the results of this survey may indicate lower levels of guided angling this season it is suspected there may be non response bias for guided anglers, particularly where guides have arranged licencing and booking, and the anglers may be less engaged with Fish and Game. This is a known issue with the survey methodology which relies on self selection and therefore results should be considered with such limitations in mind. Furthermore, as anglers and guides become more compliant with provision of details when booking it is harder for commercial activity to be detected. Relying solely on survey responses may not be sufficient to adequately estimate guided activity and it may be more effective to request this information at the time of booking. Consideration will also be needed about how a future guides’ licence might be incorporated into the system.

While this season’s results are not directly comparable, results do seem to align with the increasing number of anglers reporting their experience was below expectations in recent surveys (2015-2016). Comparison with results from the previous surveys of satisfaction for other Otago backcountry fisheries (2012-2016) found that on average almost 70 % of anglers

reported being satisfied or very satisfied with their backcountry fishing experience. The 2018 GCF result of just 40 % is therefore considered to be very low, particularly considering that angler encounter and crowding (a common source of dissatisfaction) was not an issue for these anglers, although at the same time this fact may raise the expectations of GCF users and consequently affect how they rate their experience.

Supporting comments from anglers suggest that weather and fish numbers were key factors for anglers in determining their satisfaction. While weather is obviously beyond the control of fisheries managers further investigation of fish populations may be warranted. Reported catch rates were lower this season, and while this could be related to difficult angling conditions fisheries monitoring would provide better information about the status of the fishery. It also remains unclear what affect didymo has had on the fishery since it was first established in the river over 10 years ago. Livestock an ongoing annoyance for anglers and it may be worthwhile to revisit this issue and see if any improvements could be made.

Overall the online booking system is working well. Some issues were identified with anglers booking both primary and companion slots under the same name. This has been raised with Eyede. Additional functionality to allow anglers to ammend and cancel their bookings would be desirable. Currently such changes must be done on request by staff and this could make anglers less likely to cancel when their plans change.

Recommendations

- **Consideration of fisheries assessment programme for the Greenstone River as part of a long-term monitoring strategy.**
- **That this report is received.**

Helen Trotter
Fish & Game Officer

9.5 2018 Game Season Opening - C Halford

COUNCIL REPORT JUNE 2018

2018 GAME SEASON OPENING

Seasons Predictions

Most of Otago experienced reasonable rainfall over spring and good mallard brood numbers were reported, but then parts of Otago dried off and descended quickly into drought conditions which would have affected some late broods. Through late summer and into autumn there was plenty of rain which was good for inundating favorable feeding areas. Ponds throughout the district were well topped up for opening day and some areas were reporting good duck numbers.

Annual paradise duck, black swan and shoveler duck trend counts were all higher than last year indicating strong populations of these species across the region.

April Mallard Counts

Fish & Game Otago has been monitoring the South Otago mallard population annually during April for the past 4 years. This year we recorded the least number of birds across ponds and transects indicating a lower population than usual, but a lot of birds were spotted on ponds and paddocks outside of the surveyed areas due to heavy rain prior to the survey day. (See separate mallard monitoring report in this agenda)

Overall it was expected hunters would experience an average season at best.

Pre-Season Promotions

Two pages were provided for the national magazine, a 12-page game season newsletter was emailed to licence holders, information was posted on the Fish and Game website Both Barrels, and there was coverage in regional newspapers. The National F&G office presented a solid preseason media package with additional support from the NZ Mountain Safety Council, Water Safety Council and NZ Police.

Staff attended pre-season gun club shoots in Dunedin (2) Wanaka (1). Promotional evenings at H&J's Outdoor World in Queenstown and Hunting and Fishing in Dunedin were attended by staff and supported by approximately 70 hunters at each. Agents reported an early interest in product and licence sales.

A complete promotions and media schedule has been provided as an appendix to this report.

Ranging Training and *Mycoplasma bovis*

A ranger training evening in Dunedin on May 1st focused on preparing rangers for the opening day covering safety in the field, relevant legislation, firearms handling and procedural guidelines for interviewing and processing offences.

Disinfecting guidelines were established for the *Mycoplasma bovis* outbreak with all ranging teams briefed and equipped with cleaning equipment. All rangers were instructed to clean

footwear when exiting individual properties. As an added precaution ranging teams were instructed to only travel on main roads and metaled farm tracks which meant additional walking time to interview hunters was required. In consultation with the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI National Liaison Office) and veterinarians a leaflet on (M. bovis) was produced as a handout for farmers.

Opening Day Exercise

On the opening day, six ranging teams were organized to provide regional coverage and fill in some gaps from previous seasons ranging. Areas included Maniatoto, Ranfurly, Nenthorn, Tapanui, Ida Valley and Wanaka/Hawea Flat.

A seventh team comprising of rangers Colin and Scott Weatherall checked hunters in the Waipori area after hunting themselves.

Results and Summary of Offences

A total of 101 hunters were interviewed which was less than anticipated and due in part to one team at Ranfurly that spent three hours at their first pond visit dealing with compliance issues which the CEO will report on at the meeting. Restricted vehicle use with (M bovis) took extra time as expected.

In addition to the Ranfurly incident, two hunters failed to produce licences and another group were found in possession of lead shot. All were later cleared with the lead shot being identified as trap shooting ammunition and not in use. Overall, compliance was very high and this was a most pleasing result.

Landowners responded well to our (M. bovis) protocols and generally rangers were well received. There were no reported firearms incidents from within the region or nationally which was a positive outcome.

Hunter Success

Calm conditions and some fog hindered hunting opportunities at the start of the day but there was wind assistance for many areas from mid-morning into the afternoon.

Some good hunting was experienced in the Ida valley and the Styx basin, the south of the region and Lake Dunstan, but success overall was patchy with few limit bags reported. Many hunters reported seeing low bird numbers and there was comment that the calm conditions didn't help. Harvested birds were in very good condition which was a bonus.

It was a slow start to the 2018 game bird hunting season, but hunters have been reminded there are plenty of opportunities available throughout the remainder of the season.

Cliff Halford
Fish and Game Officer
June 2018

Appendix 1.

2018 Game Season Promotions and Media

Newspaper/Radio	Date	Advertising	Comments
Clutha Leader	Thursday April 26	Provided by F&G	Seasons prospects provided. PvK
Queenstown Mirror	Wednesday April 25	Provided by F&G	Seasons prospects provided. PvK
Southland Times	Monday April 30	No	Police warn hunters, Alcohol and safety messages
Newsie	Monday May 1	No	Mycoplasma bovis and F&G response IH
News hub	Monday May 1	No	Mycoplasma bovis and seasons prospects IH
News Talk ZB	Monday May 1	No	Mycoplasma bovis and seasons prospects IH
The Country	Tuesday May 2	No	Weekend forecast, Comments from Scott Kunac. Hunters as conservationists and Takitakitoa. IH
Otago Daily Times	Saturday May 5	No	Feature on Bill Johnsen of Clyde. Police warn of alcohol and driving. Regulations & safety.CH
Otago Daily Times	Monday May 7	No	Weekend round up. Local hunting family and praise to hunters for safety. IH

Promotional Area	Publication/Venue	Comments
Fish and Game Nationally	Magazine	Otago supplement and mail out to hunters.
Otago Region	Newsletter	In circulation to licence holders via email in mid-April. MT
National F&G Web Site	Both Barrels	Seasons prospects, bird counts and safety. CH
Otago Region	Tuesday April 10 Queenstown H&J Outdoor World. Duck hunters Promotional evening	Presentation to approximately 70 hunters. CH
Otago Region	Wednesday April 18 Hunting and Fishing Dunedin. Duck hunting promotional evening	Presentation to approximately 70 hunters. MT
Otago Region	Sunday April 15 Dunedin Gun Club	Liaison with hunters IH
Otago Region	Sunday April 22 Alan Millars Hunting and Fishing Dunedin, pre-season shoot	Liaison with hunters. IH
Otago Region	Wednesday April 25 Wanaka Gun Club, Duck Hunter Shoot	Approximately 80 shooters. Provided giveaway material and communicated with hunters. CH

9.6 Meadowstone Alpha Series Subdivision Update on Storm Water Discharges - N Watson

COUNCIL REPORT JUNE 2018

Meadowstone Alpha Series Subdivision – Update on Storm Water Discharges

1. Introduction

The Council's Wanaka Hatchery property is immediately downstream of the Alpha Series subdivision. The subdivision is one of a number in the Meadowstone series on the western edge of Wanaka township. Storm water disposal from the subdivision is an ongoing issue with several significant discharges of silt laden run-off flowing over into the hatchery property from a small dam on the boundary and entering Bullock Creek.

So far QLDC has issued a \$750 infringement notice over one of these events and has requested Meadowstone submit an updated Site Management Plan. ORC has issued an abatement notice relating to the discharge of stormwater.

2. Background

The Council first raised concerns with QLDC over site management and storm water disposal from the Meadowstone Alpha Series subdivision site in late 2015 with the expectation of being identified as an affected party for Meadowstone's consent application. At the time QLDC were processing an application for storm water disposal and had commissioned peer reviews of the adequacy of the disposal system and of monitoring requirements. QLDC's expert engineers had concerns about holding capacity but eventually concluded the storm water disposal system to groundwater was viable. QLDC concluded that effects on Fish and Game's hatchery property would be 'less than minor' and that as a result Fish and Game was not an affected party. This meant that although the Council was an adjoining neighbour immediately downstream from the subdivision it was shut out of the consent process.

Dams, diversions and discharges are the responsibility of ORC and they advise they have not issued any consents to Meadowstone for any of those activities. This means Meadowstone is relying on permitted activity rules for the dam immediately above the hatchery boundary and any diversion or discharge over the boundary but storm water discharges arising from a succession of rainfall events appear to breach those rules.

Fish and Game has had numerous communications with QLDC and ORC who collectively have responsibility for managing the situation and for taking enforcement action over breaches of consent conditions (QLDC) and/or Water Plan rules (ORC). This culminated in Fish and Game's on-site meeting with the QLDC Mayor and Chief Executive and relevant staff on 1 May 2018. As a result of that meeting QLDC undertook to look into the issues raised and we are awaiting a response from them.

Also a further complaint has just been lodged with ORC over silt laden storm water discharges on 22nd May 2018.

3. Issues

a. Site Management

The site was previously extensively grazed pasture. Subdivision activities have resulted in a very large area of open ground being exposed during the development phase and during rainfall events surface run-off is quickly contaminated with silt. It is reasonable to assume that run-off is greater and more rapid than occurred historically.

Measures taken to control run-off and prevent silt laden discharges are clearly inadequate. This is a generic issue. Generally urban development sites that disturb or remove vegetation need much tighter control than occurs at present and exposed areas need to be limited in size.

b. Storm Water Disposal

It is not clear how the storm water system, which attempts to discharge runoff to groundwater, will perform once the development phase (building construction, landscaping, garden and driveway development) is over. As noted previously expecting a discharge to groundwater to work immediately above an area with a high water table and springs is unrealistic.

Once the subdivision is completed runoff from within the subdivision is likely to be with be subject to a different range of contaminants and silt should become a minor consideration

QLDC appears to be moving away from connection of storm water in new subdivisions to Wanaka's storm water reticulation system. This may have positive environmental benefits where it works but Alpha Series' storm water arrangements are impacting on an important and sensitive small stream environment.

Connection to the reticulation system is an option that needs to be considered. The earlier Meadowstone subdivision is rumoured to have limited capacity for additional storm water so the only obvious alternative is through the hatchery property to Stone Street. That has already been signalled to QLDC as a possible option

c. Dam and Diversion

The dam above the boundary is intended to hold water and to capture silt in extreme events (1 in 100 year events). But is regularly filling and overtopping in regular rain events. The bund wall has scoured on one occasion and has now been modified with the addition of a concrete spillway in the centre. This diverts and concentrates the overflow which discharges over the boundary. While dams in small catchments don't necessarily require consent this one is in a residential zone and is an inappropriate structure in that context. The area of the hatchery property where the main discharge occurs is likely to be residential in the long term and is not intended to be restored to its natural state like the land on the true right of Bullock Creek.

The status of the dam has been queried with QLDC and ORC.

d. Discharge

The discharge over the boundary in rain events floods hatchery land zoned as residential and carries a silt load that conspicuously discolours spring-fed Bullock Creek. While there are mitigation measures in place which have been progressively increased over time they have not proven adequate.

4. Conclusion

This matter has been the subject of a number of complaints to QLDC and ORC which have been investigated by both agencies and the Council is presently waiting for formal responses from both.

The situation exposes deficiencies in affected party decision-making and in the management of subdivisions in Queenstown Lakes District. It also exposes difficulties in enforcement of Water Plan rules relating to silt contaminated discharges.

In the first instance it is important that both agencies be given the opportunity to respond to the Council's complaints and to resolve the situation.

Niall Watson
June 2018

10 Correspondence

10.1 Martin Carter (Doc) – Decline of Mallard Release

From: Martin Carter <macarter@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 25 May 2018 9:37 a.m.
To: Ian Hadland <ihadland@fishandgame.org.nz>
Subject: David Darling 64257-FAU Wildlife Act Application

Good morning Ian

The application from David Darling to obtain and release mallard ducks in the Gore region has been considered by the decision maker, including the comment provided by the Otago Regional Fish and Game Council and a decision has been reached.

The Department has declined the application on the following grounds:

- a. the liberation/release of the mallards is unsound as it will not augment the wild population at the proposed liberation site, as this is not depleted
- b. there is no confidence for the long-term survival and well-being of any captive bred and released mallards which survive being shot
- c. the conditions imposed by the Department in its game bird authorities cannot be monitored to ensure the well-being of the mallard ducks

The Department is of the view it would fail to observe its duty to the New Zealand public under the Wildlife Act 1953 to protect and preserve the well-being of the birds if the application was approved in these circumstances.

Mr Darling has been informed of the decline and advised if still he wishes to release mallard ducks at the same location, he must first approach the Otago Regional Fish & Game Council and obtain its support before submitting a new application.

Regards

Martin Carter
Permissions Advisor
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11 General Business
