

Agenda for The Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council
On Thursday 16th July 2019
At Roxburgh St Johns Rooms, Scotland Street Roxburgh
Starting Meeting 12:30pm

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1.0 Present and Apologies

2.0 Matters to be raised not on the agenda

3.0 Declarations of Interest

4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

**Minutes of the Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting,
Otago F&G, Dunedin Office, Cnr Hanover & Harrow Streets,
Thursday 16th May 2019, commencing at 12.30pm.**

1.0 Present:

Monty Wright (Chair), Adrian McIntyre, Ray Grubb, John Barlow, Rick Boyd, Vicky Whyte, Colin Weatherall, Murray Neilson, John Highton, Ian Cole, Mike Barker, Dan Rae

In attendance: Ian Hadland (CE), Richard Twining (Ngai Tahu), Nigel Pacey (OF&GC and minute secretary), Nigel Paragreen (Environmental Officer - part meeting), Steve Doughty (NZC R3 manager)

Apologies were received from
Bruce Jefferies (Conservation Board)
Resolved (McIntyre/Cole)

2.0 Matters to be raised not on the Agenda

Nil

3.0 Declarations of Interest

Nil

4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Resolved (Boyd/Barlow)

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 March 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record with the following adjustments:

Murray Neilson – spelling of “Neilson” needs corrected

5.0 Matters arising from Minutes

Cr Highton asked about the progress of a guides licence at NZC level.

Moved (Highton/Boyd):

That a letter be sent to NZC requesting more information on where in the process the NZC are, regarding a guides licence.

Carried (Cr Cole abstained)

Cr Grubb asked about progress with sorting access through Hunter Valley Station.
CE replied that F&G had communicated it's concerns to DOC. It is understood that DOC was meeting with the station managers – no outcome yet.
Cr Cole asked if there were any cases of people being denied access.
CE replied that there were groups that have been denied vehicle access as recently as March.

6.0 Health and Safety Report

CE spoke to the near-miss event while game bird ranging on opening day, 4th May. A shotgun was discharged accidentally while a hunter was trying to unload in preparation for an inspection of a mai mai by rangers. Staff are discussing any possible changes to their ranging procedures to mitigate future risk. CE also stated that he would get advice from other regions before recommending any change to policy.

Cr Rae asked about the amount of alcohol that rangers encounter when ranging.
CE said most hunters understood the risks of consuming alcohol when using a firearm and only a very small proportion of hunters were found to be consuming alcohol, largely at the conclusion of their hunting.

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 2019/20 Licence Fee Recommendation

Cr Barker asked about a multi-year licence.

CE responded that the licensing regulations don't currently permit anything other than seasonal issuing. Also combining fish and game licences is very difficult as sports fish and game birds are dealt with in two different pieces of legislation making it very difficult to combine them.

Moved (Grubb/Barker):

That the council accept the recommendations from the NZC regarding the increase in licence fees. That is a \$3 increase in the Fishing Licence to \$133 and a \$2 increase in the Game licence to \$98 (which includes the \$1 extra dedicated to the Gamebird Habitat Trust Board)

Carried (Cr Whyte and Cr Boyd voted against the motion)

Moved (Grubb/Barker):

That the council write to the NZC and ask that there is a fundamental review of the non-resident licence pricing and a movement away from incremental increases.

Cr Grubb spoke to the motion. He wanted the ratio for setting non-resident licence fees looked at. Currently set at 1.3 times the adult whole season licence fee and he suggested 2 times would be more appropriate.

The motion was lost.

It was eventually agreed

That the Non resident licence fee be increased to \$180 with all other non resident fees to remain the same.

Carried (Cr Whyte voted against the motion)

7.2 Insurance for Dunedin F&G Council Building

CE spoke to proposal and explained both options.

Moved (Neilson/Boyd):

That the council adopt option 2 - move to full replacement value insurance for the Dunedin building.

Carried unanimously.

7.3 Project 1172 – 2019/20 Anglers Notice Annual Review - Final Recommendation Report

CE spoke to the report.

Moved (Rae/Whyte):

That the council accept the recommendation that the sea run salmon daily limit for applicable waters in the Otago region be reduced from two fish to one fish per day.

Carried unanimously

Moved (Rae/Grubb)

That the council approve the Anglers Notice for the 2019/20 season provided in the report as appendix 1.

Carried unanimously

7.4 Group and Complementary Licences Policy

CE spoke to the “Group and Complimentary Licences Policy”.

Moved (Boyd/Whyte):

That the council continue to issue group fishing licences and complimentary hunting and fishing licences subject to the policy presented.

Carried unanimously

7.5 Policy and Deemed Permit Workshop Proposal

Cr Grubb suggested it was an excellent idea.

All councillors supported the idea. CE is to canvas dates with councillors.

8.0 Public Excluded Items

Moved (Cole/Weatherall)

That the meeting moves into the public excluded session.

Carried unanimously

Moved (Barlow/Rae):

That the meeting moves out of the public excluded session

Carried – Unanimously.

The following outcomes to matters were agreed to be made public

8.1 Styx Wetland purchase Update

Council agreed to source a valuation for the land and, based on that, proceed with the Nature Heritage Fund application.

8.2 Habitat Enhancement and Research Fund Applications (2)

Broad Wetland – Lower Taieri

Moved (Rae/Highton):

That the council approve \$2000 to assist with earth work costs once the wetland has been created.

Carried unanimously

Mark Wetland – Park Hill Heriot

Moved (Rae/Highton):

That the council approve \$2000 to assist with earth work costs once the wetland and silt traps have been installed.

Carried unanimously

Moved (Barlow/Rae):

That the meeting moves out of the public excluded session

Carried – Unanimously.

9.0 Financial Report and Licence sales report

CE confirmed a table of reserve movements has been included for information.

CE asked if it would be appropriate to combine the remainder of the Lindis reserve (overspent) with mining right renewals budget. It was agreed to keep separate.

Moved (Weatherall/Boyd):

That the Financial Report and Licence sales report be received

Carried unanimously

10.0 Chief Executives Report

CE spoke to his report

10.2

Moved (Boyd/Grubb)

That the stormwater pipe at the head of the springs leading to bullock creek be turned off.

Carried unanimously

It was suggested that Bullock Creek could be better recognised in the QLDC District plan. Cr Grubb to talk to FOBC to initiate discussions with the QLDC.

Moved (Rae/Barlow)

That the CE report be accepted

Carried unanimously

11.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

11.1 CFT

Cr Cole presented his verbal report.

- Investment portfolio has been updated.
- Niall Watson has been appointed in an administration role.
- A need has been identified for an access register (this to be available online).
- Nesting Islands at the head of Dunstan upkeep ongoing.
- A possible workshop has been planned to develop a strategic plan.

Next meeting 23rd October.

11.2 NZC

Cr Weatherall provided a wide-ranging summary of the last NZC meeting.

NZ Council are investigating ways to increase revenue outside of licence sales.

Cr McIntyre would like the NZC to engage more with licence holders over firearms law reforms.

Next meeting of NZC is on 4/5 June.

11.3 Ngai Tahu

Richard Twining spoke about his efforts to get Ngai Tahu more involved with OF&G. Ngai Tahu reps are keen to come to the next meeting in Roxburgh and to have a tour of the proposed hatchery site.

11.4 National Sea Run Salmon Committee

Cr Boyd provided a verbal report. The committee wanted to see all South Island Regions change bag limit for sea run salmon from two per day to one per day. More data is being gathered to inform further changes including a seasonal bag limit. A framework has been proposed to allow the altering of regulations in response to the changing health of the fishery.

11.5 Conservation Board

No report.

12.0 Correspondence

Correspondence (circulated with agenda) was noted.

12.1 NZC to OF&GC

12.1.1 Lindis River and Environment Court

12.2 OF&GC to NZC

12.2.1 The Economic Value of NZ's Sports Fisheries

12.2.2 Transition from Mining Privileges

13.0 Items to be received or noted

13.1 Habitat Enhancement/Research Fund Update – Noted

13.2 Otago Region Mallard Monitoring Study April 2019

Cr Highton asked why only South Otago was monitored. CE explained that it aligned with the northern southland monitoring so the two could be compared. – Noted

13.3 Bullock Creek Urban Storm Water and Fisheries Surveys. Cr Grubb suggested a fish screen be installed at the top of Bullock Creek to prevent salmonids entering to help protect native fish in the upper reaches. Cr Highton agreed it was a great idea to protect an urban stream along with native species. It was explained that it wasn't entirely practical as trout can reach the very headwaters and the galaxids were found below them in the catchment. - Noted

13.4 Report to Council on Consenting Workload 13 Mar – 8 May 2019 Noted

14.0 General Business

The Council agreed that the CE write to the FOBC regarding the building of an unauthorized structure on the Bullock Creek site.

Presentation

Steve Doughty presented an update regarding progress with the R3 strategy

- Non-traditional methods of revenue need exploring
- TAKF as run in Otago is great, benchmarks for other regions
- Surveys and data analysis is important
- Access to the resource is the biggest driver of participation
- Women running classes for women has potential
- Rangers are the most important PR tool we have

The meeting was closed at 5 pm

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

6.0 Health and Safety Report

At the recent South Island staff meeting in Christchurch. We had an update on an online intentions form designed for Fish and Game field work by Nelson/Marlborough Fish & Game Council. This system provides good details of jobs, hazards and also notifies other staff when you do not log a return note. We feel it will be very easy to run and a beneficial tool for the future.

P van Klink has trialed it but our connections to the system need to be re confirmed.

All Otago Fish & Game Ford Ranger trucks have been recalled for brake correction.

Health and Safety audits completed include, both office buildings and the training and qualifications register update.

Fire drills have been performed in both Dunedin and Cromwell offices.

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 NZC New Subcommittees Nominations

Nominations to NZC Subcommittees

Background

The New Zealand Council chair has requested nominations for three new subcommittees of New Zealand Council - Licencing, Remuneration and Financial. The NZC Chairman's letter explains the reason for these new subcommittees and Cr Weatherall may also be able to speak to their background at the meeting.

Attached with the NZC chairs letter are the Terms of Reference for each subcommittee.

Licencing Subcommittee - At this stage, and because it was a matter of urgency, I have already been approved as a member of the Licencing subcommittee so that subcommittee is now completely formed and already met once. Chairman Monty Wrights reply is attached.

Remuneration Policy Subcommittee - Colin Weatherall, as our NZ Councillor has been appointed to the subcommittee at NZC level for the remuneration policy review so it may appear a duplication of regional involvement to appoint another Otago Councillor to it.

Financial Review Subcommittee - While there some positions available, I think it prudent that at least one of the positions is filled by a manager to provide technical and operational input. In saying that, I note that Cr Grubb has expressed interest in the role and there may be other suitably qualified Councillors willing to put their name forward as a nominee.

Decision required:

That Otago Council considers a Councillor or staff nominees to the Financial Strategic and Remuneration Subcommittees of New Zealand Council

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
2 July 2019

Dear Monty and Otago Fish and Game Councillors,

At the New Zealand Fish and Game Council meeting on the 7th and 8th of June the Council discussed the need for input into the broader strategic projects that are critical to the overall organisation of Fish and Game. As a result, the Council voted to establish three new sub-committees. Each sub-committee will be made up of a combination of regional Fish and Game Council appointees and NZ Councillors. They will have written terms of reference (attached with this letter) setting out their scope and purpose and will be supported and have input from NZC staff.

These three sub-committees are:

- Financial Strategic.
- Remuneration Policy.
- Licensing.

The Financial Strategic sub-committee has been established to take a longer term look at the NZC budget with an eye towards operating on a more strategic five-year basis. It will comprise two NZ Councillors, Dan Isbister and Paul Shortis, plus two regional Fish and Game Council appointees.

The Remuneration Policy sub-committee has been set up to facilitate a review of Fish and Game's remuneration nationally. It should be noted that it was made clear at the meeting that no part of this process was intended to centralise employment, and that regional Fish and Game Councils would still employ staff directly. The aim of the review is simply to ensure that staff are paid fairly relative to their role and experience across the country and that benefits independent of salary are consistent. The sub-committee will be made up of two NZ Councillors, Bill O'Leary and Colin Weatherall, plus two regional Fish and Game Council appointees.

Finally, the Licensing sub-committee has been established to oversee the licence provider review process ahead of the Eyede contract ending in August 2020. The intention of the NZC was to continue the good work that the Licence Working Party has done, but with clear terms of reference and a defined process. The sub-committee will be made up of two NZ Councillors, Noel Birchall and Chris Owen, and three regional Fish and Game Council appointees.

In terms of the regional appointees we seek nominations from Councils on Councillors or staff who would like to be involved. The NZC would also like to invite your Council specifically to select one of the regional appointees for the Licensing sub-committee, whether that is the Chief Executive of your region or another candidate you think suitable. Once we have received the nominations we will confirm the composition of the sub-committees as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Lindsay Lyons
Chairman
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Terms of Reference for the Strategic Financial Review Sub Committee

1. The name of the committee shall be the Strategic Financial Review Sub Committee.
2. The purpose of the committee is to develop and recommend to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and the twelve Regional Councils a five-year budget and supporting business plan for the entire Fish and Game organization which will form the basis of financial decisions for Fish and Game such as the contestable funding process and reserves policy.
3. The terms of reference for the committee are a living document and can be changed as agreed with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in consultation with the twelve Regional Councils.
4. The committee shall be a Sub Committee of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.
5. The committee has the ability to appoint any suitably qualified person required for advice, assistance and support.
6. The committee will consist of two New Zealand Council councilors and two suitably qualified persons nominated by the twelve Regional Councils.
7. The Sub Committee will be supported by and can have input from NZC staff.
8. The committee shall report to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and shall be bound by the Governance Policies of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.
9. The committee shall be funded by the National Budget as agreed by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.
10. The committee shall, for membership, draw on the voluntary contribution of governors and Regional Managers within Fish and Game who have the appropriate expertise and experience to carry out the functions of the committee. Normal expenses incurred in the course of the committee's activities will be reimbursed from the National Budget.
11. The committee recognizes the legislative autonomy of individual Regional Councils in providing a national budgetary framework that will support greater efficiency and alignment within Fish and Game.
12. The committee shall seek financial information from Regional Councils in discharging its purpose. Such information will be used strictly to aid the purpose of the committee.
13. The committee shall report on activities to the New Zealand Council of Fish and Game and the twelve Regional Councils periodically and aligned with the meeting schedule of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.
14. All deliberations of the committee shall remain confidential to Fish and Game.

Terms of Reference for the National Remuneration Policy Sub Committee

1. The name of the committee shall be the National Remuneration Policy Sub Committee.
2. The purpose of the committee is to develop and recommend to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and the twelve Regional Councils a National Remuneration Policy for Fish and Game.
3. The terms of reference for the committee are a living document and can be changed as agreed with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in consultation with the twelve Regional Councils.
4. The committee shall be a Sub Committee of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.
5. The committee has the ability to appoint any person required for advice, assistance and support and engage any expert agency to develop the policy subject to agreement with New Zealand Fish and Game Council.
6. The committee will consist of two New Zealand Fish and Game Council councilors and two suitably qualified persons nominated by the Twelve Regional Councils.
7. The Sub Committee will be supported by and can have input from NZC staff.
8. The committee shall report to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and shall be bound by the Governance Policies of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.
9. The committee shall be funded by the National Budget as agreed by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.
10. The committee shall, for membership, draw on the voluntary contribution of governors and Regional Managers within Fish and Game who have the appropriate expertise and experience to carry out the functions of the committee. Normal expenses incurred in the course of the committee's activities will be reimbursed from the National Budget.
11. The committee shall seek remuneration information from Regional Councils in discharging its purpose.
12. The committee recognizes the legislative autonomy of individual Regional Councils and shall maintain strictest confidentiality with respect to information on remuneration and supporting terms of employment that is supplied to the committee.
13. The committee shall report on activities to the New Zealand Council of Fish and Game and the twelve Regional Councils periodically and aligned with the meeting schedule of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.
14. All deliberations of the committee shall remain confidential to Fish and Game.

Terms of Reference for the National Licensing Sub Committee

1. The name of the committee shall be the National Licensing Sub Committee.
2. The purpose of the committee is to be responsible for (a) the national license sales system (including evaluate and recommend to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and the twelve Regional Councils the best provider of a licensing system, associated CRM platform and continuing technical support), (b) license categories, and (c) license category pricing.
3. The timeframe for 2(a) above is for completion on or before August 2012.
4. The terms of reference for the committee are a living document and can be changed as agreed with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in consultation with the twelve Regional Councils.
5. The committee shall be a Sub Committee of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.
6. The committee has the ability to appoint any suitably qualified person required for advice, assistance and support and engage any expert agency to deliver its objectives.
7. The committee will consist of two New Zealand Council councilors and three suitably qualified persons nominated by the Twelve Regional Councils.
8. The Sub Committee will be supported by and can have input from NZC staff.
9. The committee shall report to Fish and Game councils through the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and shall be bound by the Governance Policies of the New Zealand Council.
10. The committee shall be funded by the National Budget as agreed by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.
11. The committee shall, for membership, draw on the voluntary contribution of governors and Regional Managers within Fish and Game who have the appropriate expertise and experience to carry out the functions of the committee. Normal expenses incurred in the course of the committee's activities will be reimbursed from the National Budget.
12. The committee recognizes the autonomy of individual Regional Councils and shall work towards a workable solution that is acceptable to the twelve Regional Councils.
13. The committee shall report on activities to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and the twelve Regional Councils periodically and aligned with the meeting schedule of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.
14. All deliberations of the committee shall remain confidential to Fish and Game.

24 June 2019

Mr Lindsay Lyons, Chairperson

New Zealand Fish & Game Council
PO Box 25-055
Wellington 6146

Dear Lindsay

Nominations to NZC Subcommittees

Thank you for your letter inviting nominations to the various subcommittees.

1. Financial and Remuneration subcommittee nominations

Unless you think there is urgency, we propose to discuss nominations to these subcommittees at our July meeting.

My Chief Executive has explained that some managers in the organisation do have very good expertise in both areas. As such we would support Phil Teal, Andy Garrick and Glenn McLean's appointment to the Remuneration Subcommittee. Mr Teal in particular as he has coordinated previous remuneration reviews on behalf of staff and holds relevant information. Similarly, Jay Graybill has significant and long-term experience in terms of finances and was involved in a group who have previously reviewed financial policy.

2. Licencing Subcommittee nomination

I appreciate there is some urgency with the licence renewal process so seek to address that nomination now. Obviously, our Chief Executive Ian Hadland has considerable experience as a previous Licence Working Party member. Our Council will want that experience returned to any group coordinating licencing matters, so he has our support.

His nomination is conditional upon some amendments to the Terms of Reference. Regardless of whether our CE is appointed to the committee or not, I'd like to see the following amendments made to the Terms of Reference for clarity;

- That the purpose (2) is adjusted to read ***'The purpose of the subcommittee is to be responsible for the coordination of the renewal of the contract for the national licencing system on behalf of the 12 Regional Councils.'*** B and C should be removed for simplification and these are technical matters which should be handled by staff rather than governors. It also aligns better with your cover letter which better explains the purpose of the subcommittee. The decision on the licence provider rests with the 12 regions so there is no approval process for the NZC, I see its role as facilitation.
- There does need to be clarity over how the mixed Governor/staff subcommittee will be chaired and who and what they are accountable for. It is still unclear who the decision-making unit is and how any disputes might be resolved.

I'm told that the previous regime where NZC staff member Robert Sowman acted as coordinator worked very well. We strongly recommend Robert is co-opted to the subcommittee in similar capacity as previously.

- It needs a further term regarding transparency. All information must be shared in an open and transparent way, without exception.

Depending on timelines, (not advised) we will come back to you after the next meeting with final nominations of staff or Councillors for the other subcommittees.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Monty Wright', written in dark ink.

Monty Wright
Chairperson
Otago Fish & Game Council

8.0 Public Excluded Items

- 8.1 Manuherikia Communications and Engagement Approach (Draft)**
- 8.2 Dingle Burn Back Country Fishery – Survey of Aerial Operators**
- 8.3 Otago Fish & Game Council Property Update July 2019**
- 8.4 Upper Clutha Salmon Farms**
- 8.5 Council Guidance on Deemed Permit Applications**
- 8.6 Delegation Extension – Spending From Dedicated Reserves**

9.0 Finance and Licence Sales Reports

9.1 Finance Reports

The finance report for the period from 1 September 2018 to 30th April 2019 is attached. Expenditure to date is \$2,079,285 (including levies \$753,599, agent commission \$81,826 and depreciation \$75,084) compared with the Year to Date budget of \$1,721,316.

Expenditure to date is well above budget but this is due to the spending from reserves for RMA matters (~\$369,000. A further unexpected invoice of \$10,000 (for a salmon eDNA project) had to be paid because it was not identified as an unpaid project item at the end of last financial year. With those removed the council should be on budget.

Total income to date is \$2,084,993 compared with Year to Date budget of \$2,119,973

Budget and expenditure figures are exclusive of GST.

Funds Position at 30th June 2019

ANZ 00 account \$ 193,626.74

ANZ 70 account \$ 408,137.97

Term Investments as at 30th June 2019:

ASB 0079 \$342,978.39 @ 3.45% maturing 11th July 2019

ANZ 1000 \$300,000 @ 3.42% maturing October 2019

The sum of \$71,046.10 is held by Anderson Lloyd in trust for wetland management via DOC.

Otago Reserves 30th June 2019

Otago Reserves Movements	Bal 31-08-2018	Income (To) Reserve	Note	Expense (From) Reserve	Bal June 19
Back Country Non-resident Levy	\$105,295	\$94,737		\$1,017	\$199,015
Habitat Enhancement & Research	\$41,989	\$5,885	2	\$12,415	\$34,984
Lindis Reserve	\$115,842	\$180,000	1	\$369,892	-\$74,050
Mining Rights	0.0	\$150,000		0.0	\$150,000
Historical Reserves	\$179,968	0.0		0.0	\$179,968
Renovation Reserves	\$66,000	0.0	3	\$49,650	\$16,350

Note 1 \$180,000 (Lindis) approved Feb 19 by NZC and \$150,000 (Mining) approved prior to 2018 by NZC - both from our reserves.

Note 2 Grants allocated by council but not yet paid out \$32,500
Balance \$34,984 = Amount available for distribution \$2484.

Note 3 \$9213 is committed to be spent on painting, floor coverings and the entrance asphalt tidy. This work should be finished by the end of the year and the project should finish underbudget.

9.2 Capital Expenditure

Buildings

Painting has begun in the entranceway of Otago Fish & Game Office. Floor coverings will proceed soon.

Vehicles

One Ford Ranger has been sold for \$31,000 incl GST

Equipment

A new Dunedin office laptop has been provided free under warranty to replace one that burnt out.

9.3 Licence Sales

Fish Licence Sales 2018/19 Season

See the table following for fish licence sales categories and numbers up to the 30th June 2019

Fish licences sales revenue for the 2018/19 season recorded to 30th June 2019 total \$2,006,548 compared with \$1,974,518 for the same date for the 2017/18 Season. This includes commission.

Fishing licence income has improved due to the increase of licence prices not licence sales.

The 2018/19 budget for fish licence sales is \$1,746,748 exclusive of GST.

In summary, fishing licence sales to 30th June in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) 14551.04 LEQs compared with 15156.60 for the same period last year.

Game Licence Sales 2019 Season

See table following for game licence sales categories and numbers up until the day after game bird shooting opening. This compares 2018 and 2019 Seasons.

Game licences sales revenue for the 2019 season recorded to 30th June 2019 total \$398,082 compared with \$389,505 for 30th June 2018 for the 2018 Season. This includes commission. The 2018/19 budget for Game Licence Sales is \$344,100 exclusive of GST.

In summary, game licence sales in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) 4137.55 LEQs compared with 4131.06 for the same period last year.

9.5 Agents and Debts

No liabilities or potential liabilities at the present time.

Queenstown Hunting and Fishing hopes to open in September 2019. We will be arranging a new agency with them.

Balance Sheet

Otago Fish and Game Council

As at 30 June 2019

Assets	30 Jun 2019	31 Aug 2018
Current Assets		
Bank	601,965	433,614
Receivables	151,895	178,479
Investments	642,978	842,310
Inventory	18,521	18,521
Funds Held in Trust	71,046	71,046
Accrued Interest	-	4,285
Total Current Assets	1,486,405	1,548,255
Fixed Assets		
Property Plant & Equipment	1,408,120	1,412,970
Total Fixed Assets	1,408,120	1,412,970
Total Assets	2,894,526	2,961,225
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Payables	232,433	309,146
Employee Entitlements	45,513	41,206
Rounding	-	-
Total Current Liabilities	277,946	350,353
Total Liabilities	277,946	350,353
Net Assets	2,616,580	2,610,873
Equity		
Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated Funds	2,017,324	2,102,857
Current Year Earnings	5,708	(85,533)
Transfer (To)/From Reserves	(45,351)	-
Total Accumulated Funds	1,977,680	2,017,324
Dedicated Reserves		
Back Country Fisheries Reserve	199,015	105,295
Habitat Enhancement & Research	35,459	41,989
Lindis Reserve	(74,050)	115,842
Mining Privileges Reserve	150,000	-
Historical Reserves	179,968	179,968
Asset Replacement Funding	74,826	74,826
Total Dedicated Reserves	565,218	517,920

7/10/2019

Xero | Balance Sheet 2018 19

Bullock Creek Reserve	2,636	4,583
Wetland Development Trust - Anderson (Iloyd)	71,046	71,046
Total Restricted Reserves	73,682	75,629
Total Equity	2,616,580	2,610,873

Profit and Loss

Otago Fish and Game Council For the 10 months ended 30 June 2019

	MAY 2019	JUN 2019	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET
Income							
Licence Sales							
Fish Licence Sales	24,139	27,922	1,586,574	1,713,298	(126,724)	93%	1,746,748
Non-Resident Licence Revenue	4,172	5,173	94,737	-	94,737	-	-
Game Licence Sales	22,397	117,035	333,663	341,645	(7,982)	98%	344,100
Total Licence Sales	50,707	150,130	2,014,974	2,054,943	(39,969)	98%	2,090,848
Other Income							
Interest Income	106	33	16,126	29,870	(13,744)	54%	35,851
Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	131	190	4,298	4,160	138	103%	5,000
Rent Received	1,760	2,705	29,280	29,700	(420)	99%	35,644
Fishing Competitions	-	-	796	-	796	-	-
Donations & Grants	-	-	7,052	-	7,052	-	-
Merchandise Sales/Other	26	-	1,170	-	1,170	-	-
RMA Costs Reimbursed	-	-	5,090	1,300	3,790	392%	1,300
Sundry Income	-	622	797	-	797	-	-
Diversion - Habitat Enhancement and Research Fund	-	-	5,410	-	5,410	-	-
Total Other Income	2,024	3,550	70,019	65,030	4,989	108%	77,795
Total Income	52,731	153,680	2,084,993	2,119,973	(34,980)	98%	2,168,643
Gross Profit	52,731	153,680	2,084,993	2,119,973	(34,980)	98%	2,168,643
Expenses							
Species Management							
Population Monitoring							
Waterfowl Monitoring	-	-	6,895	12,000	(5,105)	57%	12,000
Total Population Monitoring	-	-	6,895	12,000	(5,105)	57%	12,000

Profit and Loss

	MAY 2019	JUN 2019	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET
Harvest Assessment							
Game Harvest Survey	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000
Total Harvest Assessment	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000
Hatchery Operations	33	132	1,431	9,267	(7,836)	15%	10,000
Releases	238	-	1,250	-	1,250	-	-
Total Species Management	270	132	9,576	21,267	(11,691)	45%	25,000
Habitat Protection & Mngt							
Resource Mngt Act	-	10,000	379,526	3,740	375,786	10,148%	4,500
Works & Management Assisted Habitat	20	1,880	9,239	2,910	6,329	317%	3,500
Habitat Enhancement Research Fund Grants	-	-	29	-	29	-	-
	-	-	12,415	-	12,415	-	-
Total Habitat Protection & Mngt	20	11,880	401,208	6,650	394,558	6,033%	8,000
Participation							
Access	-	32	1,088	1,660	(572)	66%	2,000
Satisfaction Survey	-	-	1,017	-	1,017	-	-
Newsletters	-	-	2,116	4,500	(2,384)	47%	4,500
Other Publicatons	-	-	-	840	(840)	-	1,000
Training	-	-	3,689	6,000	(2,311)	61%	7,000
Club Relations	-	-	801	1,000	(199)	80%	1,000
Merchandise stock	-	-	52	-	52	-	-
Total Participation	-	32	8,763	14,000	(5,237)	63%	15,500
PUBLIC INTERFACE							
Media Releases	-	-	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	1,000
Liaison DoC Unin Govt CFT	-	71	88	-	88	-	-
Total PUBLIC INTERFACE	-	71	88	1,000	(912)	9%	1,000
COMPLIANCE							
Ranging	831	9	1,880	2,080	(200)	90%	2,500
Ranger Training	9	-	1,609	4,500	(2,891)	36%	4,500
Compliance	1,290	-	9,684	9,086	598	107%	10,000
Total COMPLIANCE	2,130	9	13,173	15,666	(2,493)	84%	17,000
LICENCING							
Agent Servicing	38	-	209	500	(291)	42%	500

Profit and Loss

	MAY 2019	JUN 2019	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET
Commission/Fees	1,429	6,601	81,826	92,470	(10,644)	88%	94,088
Total LICENCING	1,467	6,601	82,036	92,970	(10,934)	88%	94,588
COUNCIL							
Council Meetings	2,116	319	15,979	12,500	3,479	128%	15,000
Total COUNCIL	2,116	319	15,979	12,500	3,479	128%	15,000
PLANNING & REPORTING							
Reporting/Audit	-	234	2,733	2,000	733	137%	13,000
National Liason	314	-	509	-	509	-	-
Total PLANNING & REPORTING	314	234	3,241	2,000	1,241	162%	13,000
ADMINISTRATION							
Salaries	12,464	96,953	571,396	644,620	(73,224)	89%	773,540
Staff Expenses	5,290	823	10,231	12,130	(1,899)	84%	15,564
Office Premices	6,964	3,727	71,645	71,184	461	101%	84,872
Office Equipment	57	14	1,859	2,330	(471)	80%	2,500
Communications	1,053	1,265	16,091	20,920	(4,829)	77%	25,100
General Exp (incl Insurance)	458	31	1,164	6,241	(5,077)	19%	6,741
General Field Equipment	1,779	-	2,745	3,000	(255)	91%	3,500
Vehicles	1,920	2,523	41,366	41,240	126	100%	49,500
Total ADMINISTRATI ON	29,984	105,336	716,498	801,665	(85,167)	89%	961,317
Depreciation	7,669	7,669	75,084	-	75,084	-	23,004
Loss on Disposal	-	-	42	-	42	-	-
NZ Fish & Game Levies	251,200	-	753,599	753,598	1	100%	1,004,798
Total Expenses	295,170	132,282	2,079,285	1,721,316	357,969	121%	2,178,207
Net Profit	(242,440)	21,397	5,708	398,657	(392,949)	1%	(9,564)

Otago Fishing Licence Sales 2017/18 and 2018/19 Up To 30th June

2018 - 2019																			
Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	Total	Fish LEQ	Fish \$
Agency Online	2,467	3,203	502	577	203	148	19	253	970	1,830	433	31	89	112	18	112	10,967		
Eyede	13	5	4	5	1	1	0	1	10	10	0	0	3	0	0	2	55		
Public Online	1,645	1,825	838	244	333	142	34	289	1,719	2,282	264	23	134	93	21	90	9,976		
Total	4,125	5,033	1,344	826	537	291	53	543	2,699	4,122	697	54	226	205	39	204	20,998	14,551.04	\$2,006,548.00

2017 - 2018																			
Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	Total	Fish LEQ	Fish \$
Agency Online	2,568	3,579	491	549	233	96	36	254	1,146	2,511	546	23	88	124	0	0	12,244		
Eyede	12	5	13	8	1	2	0	4	1	18	2	0	0	0	0	0	66		
Public Online	1,694	1,834	802	223	268	79	42	211	1,369	3,161	284	23	117	121	0	0	10,228		
Total	4,274	5,418	1,306	780	502	177	78	469	2,516	5,690	832	46	205	245	0	0	22,538	15,156.60	\$1,974,518.00

FWF (Family), FWA (Adult), FWNA (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)

FDNJ (non resident Junior), FWNC (non resident Child), FDNC (non Resident child day)

Otago Game Licence Sales 2018 and 2019 Up To The 30th June

2019								
Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ	Game \$
Agency Online	3,378	236	78	30	2	3,724		
Eyede Call Centre	5	0	0	0	0	5		
Public Online	677	58	22	40	0	797		
Total	4,060	294	100	70	2	4,526	4,137.55	\$398,082.00

2018								
Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ	Game \$
Agency Online	3,490	254	94	27	0	3,865		
Eyede Call Centre	3	0	0	0	0	3		
Public Online	565	50	12	37	1	665		
Total	4,058	304	106	64	1	4,533	4,131.06	\$389,505.00

GWA Full Season Adult, GWJ Full season Junior, GWC Full season Child
 GDA Adult Day, GDJ Junior Day

10.0 Chief Executives Report

10.1 SPECIES

Population Monitoring (1111)

Preparations are underway for annual Pukeko and shoveler monitoring which is due for completion in the first week of August.

Monitor Fisheries (1113)

One salmon spawning survey in the Makarora area was completed. No salmon were found. Fish & Game staff and a contractor working on behalf of the Otago Regional Council conducted a helicopter survey of spawning of the Manuherikia River and tributaries. The 5 hour flight didn't record as many redds as expected but it was run quite late in the season.

The Upper Clutha report has been delayed

Success & Satisfaction (1122)

Creel Surveys of Lake Wanaka anglers is going as planned but angler numbers have dropped away. Surveys of Roxburgh Dam Salmon are now complete, and an online survey of lower Clutha Salmon anglers has been conducted and this is expected to be reported on shortly. The report will also be provided to Contact Energy as part of its monitoring plan for salmon returns into the lower Clutha.

Hatchery Operations (1141)

The Macraes Hatchery continues to operate smoothly.

A visit to the disused Water Treatment plant site with Dunedin City Council staff has been completed and a report is being prepared. Staff are assessing its suitability or otherwise as a future hatchery option. Unfortunately, the DCC has hinted that they want to hold the site instead of selling the asset.

Regulations (1171)

A final draft of the 2019/20 Anglers Notice has been prepared and it is presently before the Minister for approval.

10.2 HABITAT

Resource Management (1211)

Consents (1212)

See separate report item (12.5)

Contact Energy Consents

Neil Gillespie from Contact Energy will present the hatchery design to the Council at its pre meeting field trip to the proposed hatchery site.

The Lower Clutha Sports Fish Management Plan which was negotiated as part of the consent conditions for the dam operation is now a decade old and a review has been proposed by Contact staff to check it's ongoing relevance and application.

Minimum and Residual Flow Setting (1212)

Lindis Minimum Flow Plan Change

The Environment Court hearing of the Lindis minimum flow appeal was completed in late February. The Court requested closing submissions in writing from the parties to the appeal and more recently has requested additional legal submissions on efficiency considerations relating to water use amongst other things. Lindis catchment groups's evidence had addressed efficiency narrowly as it related to agriculture production whereas the Court seems to be seeking a broader view.

To recap Otago Fish and Game has been defending the original ORC decision on a minimum flow of 900 l/s or 51% of MALF. Lindis Catchment Group had appealed that decision and proposed a minimum flow of 550l/s or 31% of MALF

Priority catchments – Manuherikia, Cardrona and Arrow Rivers

Arrow and Cardrona

The Arrow and Cardrona plan change processes have begun with submissions on values being called. Fish and Game's submission is attached. Staff have been told that the deadline for notification of plan changes in these catchments has been pushed back a few months to early 2020. With this exception, there is no additional reputable information available regarding the content of the plan planes or when the next consultation will occur.

Manuherekia

Staff are continuing to prepare and contribute to this plan change process. They are seeking to work closely with regional stakeholders and have formalised a working relationship with Aukaha by way of an MOU, which has been previously circulated. A technical advisory group (TAG) has been set up to assist the ORC in gathering and vetting information for the plan change process. Morgan Trotter is Fish and Game's representative on the TAG. A second group, called the Manuherekia Reference Group (MRG), is due to meet on the 12th of July. Niall Watson and Nigel Paragreen will attend on behalf of Fish and Game. The focus of the MRG will be to assist the development of values and objectives for the catchment. The ORC has indicated that consultation on values for the catchment will take place by the end of the year.

CE to update

Investigation of ORC Performance

Staff and Councillors attended a meeting with Peter Skelton and MfE staff on the 8th of July, as part of the MfE investigation into the performance of the ORC. Monty Wright, Collin Weatherall, Ian Hadland, Niall Watson and Nigel Paragreen attended on behalf of the Council. The discussion largely revolved around allocation, resolving over-allocation, residual flows, existing environment, expectations of stakeholders, sediment rules, affected party identification and plan change 6A. A detailed report of Fish and Game's experience in matters relating to the terms of reference were provided. Peter Skelton is to report back to the Minister by the 3rd of September 2019. It is unclear what that report may recommend.

CE to update

Reserves Management (1221)

Staff have finalised the monitoring report required as part of the consent for the Takitakitoa wetland. The report is attached as item 13.1

Styx Wetland - Following the Councils agreement, a market valuation of the wetland available for purchase in the Upper Taieri was completed and added to the application to the Nature Heritage Fund for funding. The decision is due any day now.

Bullock Creek subdivision Stormwater

The inadequacy Alpha Series Stormwater System continues demand attention by staff and Councillors. A recent QLDC review of the stormwater system has found it inadequate and the report authors have commented on a number of gaps in the original design including the Erroneous assumptions about the catchment size and the low level of

accurate data regarding of soakage rates. The QLDC report has been passed back to the developers' engineers for comment.

I have since met with the CEO of QLDC who has given assurances that no further subdivisions will be permitted in the catchment until the stormwater system adequacy is resolved to their satisfaction.

For discussion

10.3 USER PARTICIPATION

Signage (1312)

Staff have begun adjusting signs in lowland catchments as a result of the changes to the searun salmon bag limit.

Back Country Fisheries (1321)

Two reports have been produced. The Backcountry fishery report is attached as item 13.3. A second report on the Dingle river fishery is in the public excluded agenda item 8.2 due to it holding commercially sensitive information.

Magazine Supplements and Newsletters (1331)

The magazine content has now been written and lodged with the magazine designers. Otago content has been extended to six pages.

Reel Life/Both Barrels

Monthly contributions to online newsletters are continuing but the Both Barrels ezine will conclude this month

10.4 PUBLIC INTERFACE

Liaison (1411)

The Upper Taieri Water Users Group meeting was attended by staff and a presentation given on wetlands.

The CE and Councillors have attended a number of engagements recently including;

- Chair and CE attended a meeting with Aukaha to sign the MOU
- CE attended the last Conservation Board meeting
- CE met with the CEO of ORC and also QLDC during the period
- Councillors and staff had a joint meeting with Friends of Bullock Creek and QLDC on stormwater issues in Bullock creek

Media (1431)

Social media updates have been more regular with a good range of content being generated or shared. The number of followers continues to grow, albeit more slowly than we would like.

10.5 COMPLIANCE

Ranging (1530)

Opening weekend game ranging has been completed and the small number of offenders have now been dealt with. A report on opening weekend activities is attached as Item (13.2)

Prosecutions (1531)

Two fast moving Australians were apprehended in early July without fishing licences. One has since paid diversion and the other will be issued with a warning.

10.6 LICENCING

Licencing System (1611)

The NZC has appointed two of its councillors to join nominees from Regions to assist with the transition to a new licencing contract. New providers are presently being screened for cost and suitability with a decision expected before the end of the year.

10.7 COUNCIL

Council (1720)

Risk Management Schedule – Several versions of risk management schedules from both within and external to the organization have been sourced and these are still in the process of being edited. Pressure on workloads means that these will now be ready for the September meeting.

10.8 PLANNING AND REPORTING

Annual Planning (1821)

The 2019/20 Annual Operational Workplan and budget has been completed and if the Licence fee is approved then it will be confirmed.

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
11 July 2019

11.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

11.1 CFT

11.2 NZC

11.3 Salmon Committee

11.4 Ngai Tahu

11.5 Conservation Board

12.0 Correspondence

12.1 NZC to Otago

12.1.1 Fish & Game Chairs Workshop - November 2019

June 12th, 2019

Monty Wright
Chairperson
Otago Fish & Game Council
PO Box 76
DUNEDIN 9054

Dear Monty

FISH AND GAME CHAIRS' WORKSHOP – Saturday 23 November 2019

Following an enjoyable and successful meeting of Fish and Game chairs and the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) in February 2019, I would like to invite you to a further one-day workshop in November 2019.

A meeting of joint Fish and Game Council chairs and the NZ Council provides an opportunity for Fish & Game's leadership to discuss the issues of the day and what as an organisation Fish and Game's position might be on them and what is needed to manage, maintain and enhance the organisation's future prosperity.

THE NEXT TEN YEARS

A meeting of Chairs with NZ Council in November 2019 would allow a continued focus on the new approach to budgeting, changes in direction to managing, maintaining and enhancing the organisation, a review of our governance practices following the three Fish and Game Council external audits, what a new licensing administration system will provide and an update on issues such as upland game preserves and the guides licence.

As for the February forum, the gathering would-be made-up of NZ Councillors, regional Chairs, the NZ Council Chief Executive and invited speakers, and overseen by an experienced facilitator.

Council	Chairperson	NZ Council Appointee
Northland	Phil Durham	Noel Birchall
Auckland/Waikato	Murray Young	Nigel Juby
Eastern	Murray Ferris	Lindsay Lyons
Hawke's Bay	Bruce Bates	Kevin Williams
Taranaki	Paul Blewman	Alan Flynn
Wellington	Strato Cotsilinis	Paul Shortis
Nelson/Marlborough	Owen Baigent	Bill O'Leary
West Coast	Andy Harris	Andy Harris
North Canterbury	Alan Strong	Roy Knight
Central South Island	vacant	Dan Isbister
Otago	Monty Wright	Colin Weatherall
Southland	Graeme Watson	Chris Owen

ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL

It is anticipated that regional chairpersons will arrive on the afternoon of Friday 22nd, in time for a happy hour and evening meal with the NZ Council (who will be meeting on the Friday and Sunday) and depart at the conclusion of the workshop on Saturday afternoon.

Please arrange either, through your regional office, or direct with Jordyn at the NZ Council office for your attendance. Jordyn (contactable on 04 499 4767 or jmclean@fishandgame.org.nz) will organise your flights and pre-booked accommodation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss any aspects of the proposed workshop.

Kind regards



Lindsay Lyons
Chairperson
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
Ph: 07 357 4087 / 0272765454
flylyonz@gmail.com

12.1.2 Dates To Set Licence Fees In 2020

12 June 2019

Monty Wright
Chairperson
Otago Fish & Game Council
PO Box 76
DUNEDIN 9054

Dear Monty

DATES TO SET LICENCE FEES IN 2020

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) considered feedback from consultation over the setting of the 2019 licence fees and has asked that I share with you the preference for confirming dates to set licence fees in 2020 and beyond.

Several Fish and Game Councils following the 2019 consultation made the comment that the timing of the NZ Council deadline for responses meant councils were unable to consider the NZ Council recommendations during the normal regional council meeting cycle and hence had to achieve this consultation by email or telephone conference.

The setting of the NZ Council deadline for feedback is dictated by two significant dates – the start of our own organisation's financial year (1 September) and Cabinet's 28-day rule. It is a requirement of Cabinet that regulations must not come into force until at least 28 calendar days after they have been notified in the *New Zealand Gazette* (2-3 days). The 28-day rule reflects the principle that the law should be publicly available and capable of being ascertained before it comes into force.

In addition, time must be provided to allow both officials and the Minister (in that order) to consider the submission with a buffer built-in should further information be sought. This is generally accepted to be 8-working days for each, i.e. 16 working days in total.

Meaning, our internal processes need to be completed by the beginning of July each year.

Working to this deadline, the NZ Council needs to have its initial recommendations to you in April or May and then be able to reflect on your feedback before confirming those recommendations in late June.

To allow your council and the NZ Council to complete this cycle through public meetings and meet this timeframe, it would require regional Fish and Game Councils to fix its June meeting in the middle two weeks of that month and have responses back to us in the third week of June. Is this something your Council would be willing to accommodate?

The NZ Council could then meet in the final week of June and formally adopt the new licence fee recommendations and start the submission process with officials and the Minister.

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

New Zealand Council

If you are happy with this timing, the NZ Council will look to confirm its 2020 meeting dates during its 22-23 November 2019 meeting.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindsay Lyons', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lindsay Lyons

Chairperson

New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Ph: 07 357 4087 / 0272765454

flylyonz@gmail.com

12.1.3 Setting of National Policy – Consultation Policy

14 June 2019

Monty Wright
Chairperson
Otago Fish & Game Council
PO Box 76
DUNEDIN 9054

Dear Monty

In Otago Fish and Game Council's response on 15 February 2019 to the NZ Council draft paper on Setting National Policy, your Council raised the need for a review of the Consultation Policy to ensure it is up to date.

This commentary was considered by the NZ Council at its June 2019 meeting where it was agreed to seek advice from the Otago Council on what improvements it wanted made to the consultation policy.

With this advice, the NZ Council is open to the subject being revisited at a future date.

Kind regards



Lindsay Lyons
Chairperson
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
Ph: 07 357 4087 / 0272765454
flylyonz@gmail.com

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

New Zealand Council

12.2 Otago to NZC

12.2.1 Licence Fee Recommendations and Ratio Changes

28 May 2019

Martin Taylor
New Zealand Fish & Game Council
PO Box 25-055
Wellington 6146

Dear Marty,

Re: 2019/20 Licence fee recommendation and licence ratio change

Our Council considered the NZC licence fee recommendation paper at its 16th May meeting. The Otago Fish & Game Councils response is as follows;

1. **Fish Licence fee** - Council agreed to increase the licence fee by \$3.00 to \$133.00.
2. **Adult Non Resident Fish Licence fee** – Council agreed to the increase
3. **Gamebird licence fee** - It was agreed that an increase of \$1.00 for the adult whole season gamebird licence was appropriate and in line with CPI figures quoted.
4. **Gamebird Habitat Stamp Fee** - The Council agreed that the \$1.00 increase to the stamp fee to \$4.00 was appropriate. The Council noted the good work that the Trust Board does in funding wetland development around New Zealand.

It also agreed that the ratios for all other categories should remain the same. Concern was expressed at the adverse impact to Non Resident Day licence sales due to last minute ad-hoc changes by NZC last year.

Budgets

The Council noted that the New Zealand Councils budget was one of the largest and this should be subject to the same level (or greater) scrutiny and transparency as Regional Council budgets as this has a direct impact on the licence fee and levies required to be paid.

Modification to licence fee ratios and long term planning

The Council was of the view that the method for setting fees was rather ad-hoc and that a more research based approach to pricing was required, and that a more systematic approach to long term financial planning and should be adopted. It suggested NZC take a longer term view of organisational costs and these should be factored in and adequately budgeted for. By way of example, the end of Mining Rights in Central Otago in 2021 and its associated workload and external costs could have been, and should be, better covered in the national budgeting process.

Yours faithfully



Ian Hadland
Chief Executive, Otago Fish and Game Council

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

Otago Fish and Game Council

12.3 General Correspondence In

12.3.1 Commercial Salmon Farm Licence Applications



Fisheries New Zealand

Tini a Tangaroa

8 July 2019

Ian Hadland
ihadland@fishandgame.org.nz

SUMMARY OF STEPS FISHERIES NEW ZEALAND FOLLOW RELATING TO COMMERCIAL SALMON FARM LICENCE APPLICATIONS AND FISH AND GAME ENGAGEMENT.

Dear Ian,

Thank you for contacting our office regarding applications of new salmon fish-farm licences and Fish and Game's involvement in this process.

The following provides an overview of Fisheries New Zealand's steps in assessing fish-farm licence applications to farm salmon in relation to Fish and Game. And, other requirements to transfer and release salmon in relation to fish farming.

The granting of a fish-farm licence under the Freshwater Fish Farming Regulations 1983 is delegated from the Minister of Fisheries (as described in the regulations) to the Manager Customary Fisheries & Spatial Allocations (Manager CFSA). This group includes the Aquaculture & Fisheries Permitting team who receive and assess fish-farm licence applications.

The regulations provide for two opportunities where input from Fish and Game may be required

1. The Freshwater Fish Farming Regulations state that for any application to farm salmon the Minister (delegated to Manager CFSA):
 - a. shall (under regulation 8(1)(a)) take into account any written submission from the Fish and Game Council in relation to applications made under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) for the right required in respect of any water required for, or affected by, the proposed fish farm (as listed under regulation 5(1) of the Freshwater Fish Farming Regulations).

In summary, the fish-farm licence applicant must provide such information with their application. However, not all fish farms may require a consent under the RMA to farm as the activity may be deemed a permitted activity under the Regional Plan.

Where a consent under the RMA is not required, Fisheries New Zealand may require a licence applicant to provide evidence that the Fish and Game Council was given notice of the proposed farm (and any submission made by the Fish and Game Council). Fisheries New Zealand is not required under regulation to do this. This ensures Fish and Game are at least aware of such proposed activity and Fisheries New Zealand has confidence engagement has been made.

Fisheries Management Fisheries New Zealand

118 Vickerman Street, Port Nelson
Private Bag 14, Nelson 7042, New Zealand
Telephone: +64-3-548 1069, Facsimile: +64-3-545 7799
www.fisheries.govt.nz or www.mpi.govt.nz

This also means the proposed farmer can directly answer any questions Fish and Game may have, whereas before the Aquaculture & Fisheries Permitting team would be the intermediary relaying questions and answers. This also provides the Aquaculture & Fisheries Permitting team a contact for Fish and Game to follow up with. Upon receiving the licence application the Aquaculture & Fisheries Permitting team may contact the Fish and Game Council to confirm their original input and seek any further input before proceeding.

The Freshwater Fish Farming Regulations also state that the Minister (delegated to Manager CFSA):

2. shall (under regulation 8(7)) not grant more than 1 salmon fish-farm licence for any one catchment unless he is satisfied that the proper management of the salmon fishery in that catchment would not be adversely affected by the granting of an additional licence or licences, and for this purpose shall consider any submission of the matter made –
 - a. by a Fish and Game Council...in any case where that Council could make submission under regulation 5(2) (the RMA process and make a submission to Fisheries NZ) if the application for the licence were an application for a water right.

In summary, and as per point 1 above, the Aquaculture & Fisheries Permitting team would consider the information from the Fish and Game Council received via the fish-farm licence application and seek further input from Fish and Game on this matter as deemed necessary.

Recent applications to farm salmon

Since the 2016 application for the salmon fish-out farm in Wanaka, the Aquaculture & Fisheries Permitting team have received two fish-farm licence applications to farm salmon. These are a research farm in Marlborough (which Fish and Game advised it had no concerns) and one in March 2019 for a farm near Luggate. The latter application did not include any input from Fish and Game, which we have requested the applicant supply before considering the application.

Additional information to note:

If there was any doubt regarding a fish-farm licence application to farm salmon or to release salmon to the wild, the Aquaculture & Fisheries Permitting team would contact the local Fish and Game Council.

Conditions on a fish farm licence

Fish-farm licences have conditions relating to biosecurity management and notifying MPI in the event of any increased mortalities or sickness that are unexplained or unusual.

Other conditions include

- ensuring fish cannot escape,
- unauthorised access to the farm is restricted,
- MPI is notified in the event of escapes or unauthorised removal of fish,
- Restricting the way unwanted, dead or parts of any fish are disposed of, and
- Prohibiting fish being used for bait and berley.

Stocking a fish farm

Under section 192A of the Fisheries Act 1996 a fish farmer (as defined under the Fisheries Act) can only acquire and be in possession of fish from certain sources. Salmon farmers can only obtain fish from another fish farm (licensed farm or marine farm).

Transferring and releasing salmon from a fish farm

A salmon farmer must obtain prior approval to move any salmon onto and off their farm. This approval process includes a health check of the farm to ensure stock is not experiencing any unusual, increased or unexplained sickness or mortalities.

Any release of salmon into the freshwater environment must obtain prior approval from either the Minister of Conservation (delegated to DOC) or the Minister of Fisheries (delegated to the Manager CFSA) under section 26ZM of the Conservation Act 1987. A new salmon farm will likely require a section 26ZM approval for its first stocking. DOC and Fisheries New Zealand seek input from each other on any section 26ZM application received.

Approval under regulations 62 and 63 of the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 may also be required. However, as Fisheries NZ have no jurisdiction here we would advise the salmon farmer to engage with DOC and Fish and Game.

I, and the Aquaculture & Fisheries Permitting team are happy to discuss any of the above or any other question you may have regarding the take of fish and fish farming. Please ring me on 03 545 7750 or email on fishfarm@mpi.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Richard Fraser
Senior Fisheries Analyst
Aquaculture & Fisheries Permitting
NELSON

12.4 General Correspondence Out

12.4.1 Cooperation between Fish & Game and Friends of Bullock Creek

22 May 2019

Mr Andrew Waterworth
Friends of Bullock Creek
Wanaka

Dear Andrew

It has been great to see the on-going cooperation between Fis & Game staff member Paul van Klink, our Councillors Rick and Ray, and FOBC.

We received an update of activity at our last Council meeting and were pleased to hear of your initiative to have Bullock Creek better recognised within the QLDC Plans as a complete and separate entity. The F&G Council supports your efforts in progressing the concept.

There were a couple of other matters we would like to address;

- Signage - we are keen to see consistent signage throughout the catchment as you develop a programme. We are able to assist with a brand standard for this.
- Development within the catchment above Stone Street - the new platform was a surprise to us and it is not within the terms of the MOU. We also understand there are ideas for further development. We do not wish to hinder that but we consider it most important that we know and approve in advance. A one year plan rolled over annually seems desirable. Please confirm that this will be prepared and circulated to us (as per MOU)

We are also monitoring the work QLDC is doing on stormwater flows out of the Alpha and Studholme developments and will continue to work with you on that. Separately, the Council has agreed to close off the top pipe currently flowing into the creek. We will be arranging for that to happen shortly.

I have copied this to Paul, Rick and Ray and look forward your reply.

Regards



Ian Hadland
Chief Executive

13.0 Items to be Received or Noted

13.1 Report to ORC On Takitakitoa

15/05/2019

Otago Regional Council
Private bag 1954
Dunedin

Dear Sir/Madam

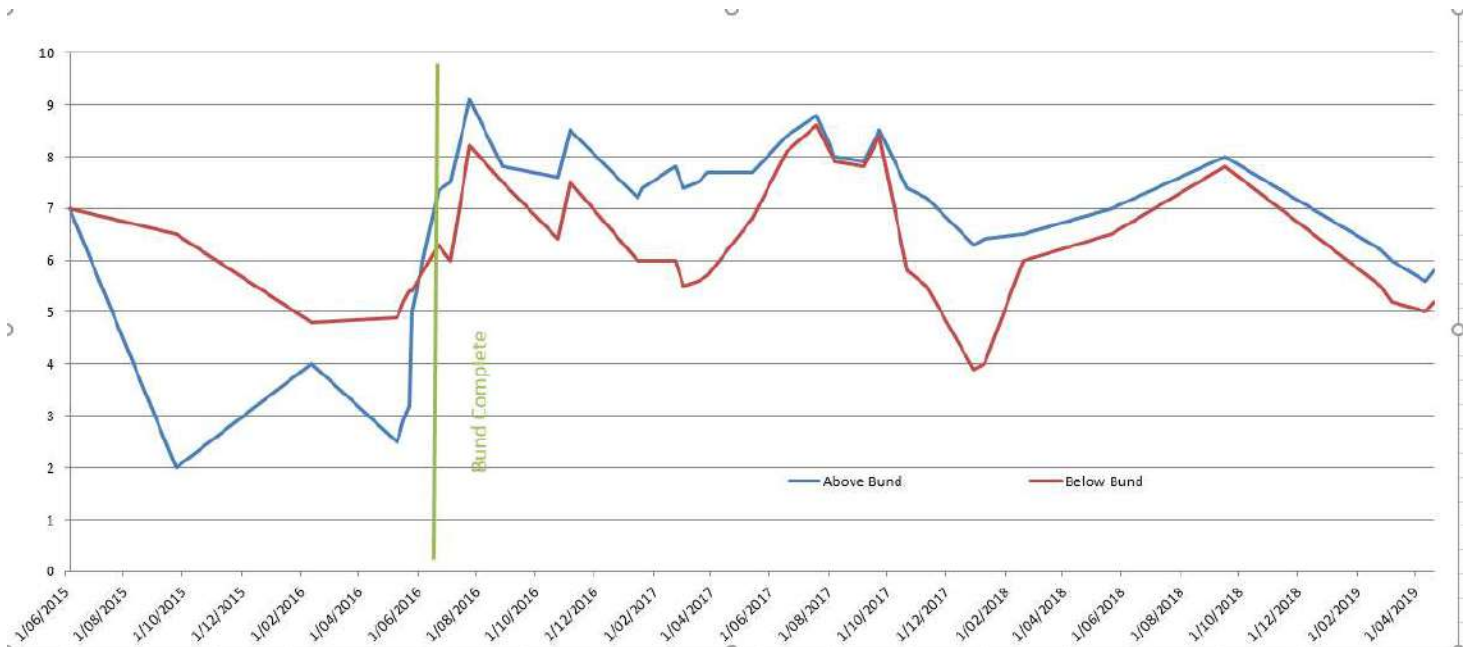
Re Consent Reporting Associated With Takitakitoa Wetland Restoration Project

The information below is presented to satisfy the conditions of consent **RM14.043.03** granted to Otago Fish & Game Council to restore and enhance the Takitakitoa Wetland.

Both Condition 4 and 5 of the consent are being answered under each subheading

Water Levels

Staff gauges above and below the bund wall are being used to monitor water levels in the wetland. Units are in decimetres.



The bund, and the blocking of the deep drains which dissected the upper part of the wetland has resulted in much improved hydrological regime. Water levels are higher than the lower part of the wetland and are much more consistent.

Manually read staff gauges are the most cost effective and efficient way to measure water levels in the wetland so this monitoring will continue at least quarterly (or better) for the next twelve months.

Flow Through Fish Pass

Due to this year's dry summer water has not been flowing in Surprise Stream at the top end of the wetland or for that matter down the fish pass (picture taken 8/03/19).

Fish Pass Check	Flowing?	Depth	Dam WL	Video
24/10/2016	yes	35mm	7.6	
3/03/2017	Yes	30mm	7.4	
19/03/2017	yes	30mm	7.4	Yes
08/03/2019	No	0mm	6.0	
10/04/2019	No	0mm	5.6	



Eel Abundance

Two fyke nets (baited with half of a trout) were set over two nights (8/4/19 – 10/4/19) near the bund wall (diagram attached below). A total of five eels were caught in fyke net 2 (two of them escaped the bin before identification) the remaining three consisted of two short fin and one long fin. There were zero fish caught in fyke net 1.



Inanga Abundance Above and Below the Dam

Inanga were in very low abundance in the upper part of the wetland before it was enhanced. Electric Fishing surveys in Surprise Stream (near the maximum upstream extent of the wetland) recorded a single fish, and even then, it was not captured. The main inflowing creek has run completely dry over the last four summers, so it is hardly ideal habitat

Three minnow traps (baited with vegemite) were set for two nights, two in front of the bund wall & one below. Minnow trap 1 caught two common bullies and one Inanga, minnow trap 2 caught zero fish & minnow trap 3 caught nine inanga, one common bully and two juvenile perch.



Inanga



Common Bully



2x short fin & 1x long fin eel

Vegetation Changes

Seven monitoring sites have been established and from these the vegetation is photographed annually.



This photo monitoring is going to continue through this spring and autumn. No alteration to the methodology is proposed.

Effectiveness Of Plant Pest Control

- Crack willow control is complete, the 6 or so trees on the neighbouring property will be attended to in the Spring 2019 to stop re-infestation.
- Broom has been sprayed where possible along roadsides and bund wall.
- Glyceria was sprayed near the western culvert upstream & downstream and has not returned, ongoing monitoring will be carried out.
- Gorse control along the roadway and along the eastern flank of the impoundment was conducted in March and follow up knapsack spraying will be conducted in spring 2019.

Abundance Of Native Avifauna

A combination of observations and counts have been used to note changes in abundance of all avifauna present in the wetland. The table below shows the relative changes over time.

*Denotes 'gamebirds' as defined by the Wildlife Act 1953

Species	<i>Pre bunding</i>	<i>Post Bunding</i>	March - 2019
Pukeko*	Rare	Common	At least 20 living there now
Mallard*	Occasional	Common	Large numbers
Black Swan*	Not recorded	Occasional	10+ they come and go
Grey Teal	Rare	Abundant	1000+
Scaup	Not Recorded	Rare	6 sighted this summer
P. Shelduck*	Rare	Common	40 +
Shoveller*	Rare	Common	
Harrier Hawk	Rare	Rare	Seen occasionally
Fernbird	Common	Common	Still present on edges
Bittern	Not Recorded	Not Recorded	Unseen
Pied Stilt	Not recorded	Occasional	Breeding at bund and at top end 16+
Royal Spoonbill	Not Recorded	Rare	5 seen there in the summer
Canada Goose	Not recorded	Rare	Pair, not seen for about 6 months
Spurwing Plover	Not recorded	Rare	
Fantail	Not recorded	Occasional	6 seen near the carpark turnaround

It will be noted that there has been a significant improvement the diversity of species and their relative abundance (shaded green) since the wetland has been restored.

Ongoing monitoring will most likely involve annual (or better) checking to see if there are any changes to the post bunding abundance above and recording numbers where possible.

Takitakitoa was not recognised for its gamebird values under the RWP at the time of consenting but policy 10.4.2(c) of the plan allows for those values (A8) to be enhanced. It is our view, based on the monitoring above, that F&G has been successful with this project in achieving a regionally significant habitat for waterfowl (Ref A8 under wetlands in RWP).

Gamebird Harvest

The monitoring method for gamebird harvest is simply to record the opening day harvest from each allocated maimai of which there are five. In 2016 only maimai 5 had any water near it as the impoundment had not filled at that point in time.

Opening day results	7-May-16	6-May-17	5-May-18	4-May-19
Maimai 1		1 Mallard 5 Parries 2 Shoveler	6 Parries 1 Mallard	1 Mallard 6 Parries 2 Shoveler
Maimai 2		16 Mallard 12 Parries 2 Shoveler	6 Swan 20 Parries 12 Mallard	25 Mallard 5 Parries
Maimai 3		7 Mallard 12 Parries 1 Shoveler	3 Mallard	No birds shot
Maimai 4		10 Mallard	1 Parries	2 Parries
Maimai 5	11 mallards	33 Mallard 2 Swan, 6 Parries	115 Parries	34 Mallard 46 Parries 2 Shoveler 2 Swan

No changes to this monitoring approach are proposed. There isn't a better known monitoring tool for harvest and the results can depend a lot on the conditions, and the ability of the hunter.

Shoveler abundance

The area was counted as part of the National Shoveler Survey conducted in the first week of August 2018. There were 215 noted on that survey. It is proposed to continue to survey the wetland as part of that annual nationwide survey.

Paradise Shelduck abundance

Paradise shelduck accumulate together in the last week of January to moult flight feathers. 47 known sites have been recorded in Otago with the nearest to Takitakitoa being Lake Waihola. An aerial inspection of Takitakitoa revealed 34 paradise shelduck at this location.

It may in time become a moult site because it has much of the attributes required. Takitakitoa will remain part of the annual aerial survey for paradise shelduck.

Biodiversity Plantings

Last year 900 native shrubs were planted in the margins of the wetland near Elbow Stream and a further 1000 are proposed to be planted this spring.

Small Dam Inspection Report

An updated Small Dam Inspection Report is attached to satisfy **Condition 6**.

Please let me know if any further reporting is required to satisfy these consent conditions.

Thank you

Steven Dixon
Fish & Game Officer
June 2019

13.2 Game Ranging 2019

Spring Conditions

It was a good spring in most parts of the region with regular rain throughout the summer period. From late summer and into the autumn South Otago experienced dry conditions with ponds and wetlands in need of water. Rain during April eased the situation and restored water levels to satisfactory levels.

Good numbers of early mallard broods were seen and with the changeable summer weather pattern there was a lot of late broods.

Paradise shelduck had a good breeding season and this was reflected in higher numbers counted during the January moult counts than the previous season.

Swan numbers were lower possibly due to a large algal bloom on Lake Waihola. (Aerial Trend Counts 2019, M. Trotter)

Leading up to the start of the season there was a very healthy scattering of waterfowl across the region and hunters were informed through the media that prospects were looking better than 2018. Neighbouring Fish and Game regions were also reporting healthy duck numbers which boded well for southern hunters.

Pre-season Promotions

Four pages (previously 2) featured in the national magazine. information was posted on the Fish and Game website Both Barrels and there was good coverage in regional newspapers.

Staff attended pre-season gun club shoots in Dunedin (2) Wanaka (1). A Promotional evening was attended by staff at H&J's Outdoor World in Queenstown and reasonably well supported by hunters. Ian Hadland did a radio interview with News talk ZB.

There was a considerable amount of national media coverage on the new firearms legislation.

A promotions and media schedule has been provided in this report as Appendix 1.

Ranger Training

On the evening of April 30, a training evening was held at the Dunedin Fish and Game Office for rangers and staff that were involved with the opening day game ranging exercise. Cromwell rangers were skyped in.

Rangers were briefed on the ranging plan, procedural guidelines and health and safety, the use of vehicles, access to private land, cleaning for (M Bovis) and dealing with offences.

Opening Day Exercise

On a calm opening day 6 teams of rangers visited ponds and wetlands in the Milton, Ranfurly, Middlemarch, Ida Valley and Lake Waipori areas.

A total of 153 hunters were interviewed which was a good effort by rangers. Ranging teams reported pleasant interactions with hunters and landowners.

Offences

Five hunters were found in possession of lead, five hunters were not carrying licences and 2 hunters on the same pond claimed occupier privilege.

A visiting hunter from the North Island was surprised to receive an offence notice for shooting two Pukeko. There is a nil bag for Pukeko in the Otago region.

Offences including failure to produce (FTP) licences provides a compliance rate of 93%. Excluding FTP's, the compliance rate is 96% which sits slightly above the target of 95%.

Success and Satisfaction

Calm conditions didn't favour hunters and success was patchy across the region. Windy conditions were experienced in Central Otago in the afternoon. Good hunting was reported in the Ida and Styx Valleys, and in the Maniatoto. Some hunters in the Bendigo Wildlife Management Reserve did very well on opening morning as did hunters around Alexandra.

There was some positive feedback from coastal wetland reserves allocated to junior hunters with two groups at the Takitakitoa Wetland reporting good success.

Hunters on the Lower Clutha reported difficult hunting in calm conditions and bags were generally down on the previous season.

Overall it was a positive start to the 2019 game bird hunting season and very pleasing that throughout NZ there were no firearm related incidents.

Cliff Halford
Fish and Game Officer
June 2019

Appendix 1.

2019 Game Season Media and Promotions

Newspaper/Radio	Date	Advertising	Comments
Open press release	Monday April 15	No	Flight Counts provided. PvK and NP 2
Otago Daily Times	Tuesday April 16	No	Prospects suit hunters provided. PvK & NP 2
Southland Times	Tuesday April 16	No	Otago Duck Numbers High provided. PvK & NP 2
News Talk ZB	Mid-April	No	Mycoplasma bovis and seasons prospects IH
Wanaka sun	Thursday April 18	No	Promising duck numbers ahead of season. PvK
Central Otago News	Thursday April 25	No	Promising season and healthy duck numbers. CH
Wanaka Sun	Thursday April 25	No	Changes to Gun laws. Comments from Martin Taylor
Southland Times	Friday April 26	No	Aerial counts, numbers higher than last season. PvK NP 2
Otago Daily Times	Friday May 3	No	Showers to open season, Duck numbers, Licence sales. Comments from police. NP 2

Promotional Area	Publication/Venue	Comments
Fish and Game Nationally	Magazine	Otago supplement, 4 page regional insert and mail out to hunters. Staff
National F&G Web Site	Both Barrels	Duck numbers, sticking to the rules, sub-gauges and lead, respecting harvest. CH
Hunter Liaison and Education	Thursday April 11 Queenstown H&J Outdoor World. Duck hunters Promotional evening	Power point Presentation to approximately 60 hunters. PvK
Hunter Liaison and Education	Sunday April 14 Dunedin Gun Club	Liaison with hunters IH
Hunter Liaison and Education	Sunday April 28 West Otago Gun Club 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. Spoke at the prize giving about firearm and opening weekend safety.CH

13.3 Backcountry Fishery and Controlled Fishery Report for the 2018/2019 Season

Introduction

The Hunter River was identified as a priority Otago Backcountry fishery for compliance and angler satisfaction surveys for the 2018/19 season. Planned surveys were to focus on gathering information on current participation and angler satisfaction. This information has been collated and compared with the Hunter River Creel and Social Surveys, 1999-2001 and reported separately by J. Smith (2019).

As well as the Hunter River surveys, compliance checks were performed on other backcountry fisheries over the season. This report covers the backcountry fishery monitoring programme for the 2018/2019 season.

Compliance and Monitoring Programme Background

Non-resident anglers make up approximately 40 -50% of all participation in Otago's backcountry fisheries (Keeling, 2015; Trotter 2016). Non-resident licence revenue is being used by the Otago Fish & Game Council to fund these surveys as part of backcountry fisheries management.

Hunter Valley Access

Four-wheel drive and an ATV were used for gaining access to the Hunter River. Access was initially gained through Hunter Valley Station although access became difficult to negotiate early in 2019. Consequently, only one ranging trip was completed after this date and access was gained via the Dingle Burn Station. Once in the valley all ranging and angler surveys were completed on foot.

Licence checks completed in the Caples, Greenstone and Wilkin Rivers were not planned backcountry surveys but rather opportunities to undertake compliance checks while fishing, tramping or completing unrelated conservation work. Ranging in the Pomahaka and Nevis Valleys was planned when conditions were favourable.

Survey Method

Greenstone Controlled Fishery

A limited amount of data was collected from the online booking system. This data is compared to previous years presented in Table 1.

Compliance

Compliance monitoring was undertaken to enforce the Sports Fishing Regulations. Additionally, Fish and Game rangers gathered information on guided fishing operators on behalf of the Department of Conservation. Pre-season backcountry fishery information letters and/or presentations were given to a number of user groups including;

- accommodation providers ie fishing lodges,
- fishing guides (including NZPFGA members),
- New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (Southern Branch),
- New Zealand Jet Boat Association (Otago Branch),
- Central Otago aircraft operators,
- All successful hunting parties in the Wanaka Roar Ballot and the Greenstone / Caples Ballot
- Department of Conservation hut wardens based at Glenorchy with an emphasis on the wardens working in the Caples and Greenstone Valleys.

Timing of Surveys

Backcountry fishery monitoring was undertaken throughout the 2018/2019 season (01 October – 30 April and 01 November - 31 May) (Table 2).

Resources

James Smith was contracted by Fish & Game to complete a set amount of days for the Backcountry Fishery Monitoring Programme. The rest of the surveys were undertaken by staff.

Satisfaction Surveys

In the 2016/17 season an interview form was drafted to replicate the 1999-2001 Hunter River Creel and Social Surveys (Appendix 1). This is the third season collecting angler information in the Hunter River.

Results

Hunter Valley Access

Access into the Hunter River via Hunter Valley Station was restricted from January 2019. The landowners did not approve of Fish & Game staff camping on the Department of Conservation land. Consequently, they made access difficult for Fish & Game staff to a point where we ceased work in the Hunter River. Access was gained via Dingle Burn

Station however access is limited from the true left bank and it is not ideal for ranging. The restriction in access for staff meant that fewer angler survey days were completed than planned.

Sports Fishing Regulations Compliance

Rangers completed 43 licence checks in 23 ranging days (Table 2). In the past three seasons 27 (2017/18), 43 (2016/17) and 67 (2015/16) licence checks were completed in Back Country Fisheries.

Fifteen anglers were non-resident (35%) and 28 anglers were resident (65%). Two anglers (1 resident, 1 non-resident) did not have back country licences and compliance action was taken.

Greenstone Controlled Fishery

Table 1: GCF angler effort and demographics 2008-2019

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
No. of anglers						40	43	55	66	55	38	38
Total capacity allocated	51%	46%	46%	61%	27%	27%	25%	26%	39%	29%	22%	29%
NZ Res anglers	31%	36%	31%	41%	37%	48%	42%	29%	38%	31%	45%	34%
NR anglers	69%	64%	69%	59%	63%	52%	58%	71%	62%	69%	55%	66%
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 seasons 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 (Helen Trotter 2018).

** This figure could not be ascertained as an angler survey was not completed for the CF period in 2019.*

Total capacity in the Greenstone River controlled fishery period (Beats 1 – 3) was on par with the last two years and just below the average of 36% occupancy over the past 12 years (Table 1). Non-resident anglers made up 66% of the angling effort in the Greenstone River during the controlled fishery period.

Satisfaction Surveys

Satisfaction surveys were completed by 12 anglers. Anglers who had just arrived on the river were not included in this survey. All of the angler satisfaction surveys for 2018/19 were carried out on the Hunter River which is being reported on by Smith (2019).

Department of Conservation concessionaire compliance

Four fishing guides were encountered during the 2018/19 season and all had a valid concession. This brings the total to 28 fishing guides that have been interviewed in Otago backcountry fisheries over the past four seasons and all have had a valid concession.

Table 2: Backcountry Ranging Effort 2018 /19

Location	Person	Dates	Days Ranging (incl. access)	Guides	Licence Checks	Offences Detected	Interviews Conducted (Hunter River only)
Pomahaka River	James Smith	09 Oct 2018	1	0	0	0	n/a
Hunter River	James Smith	10-12 Dec 2018	3	0	4	0	4
Hunter River	Paul van Klink	28-29 Dec 2018	2	0	5	0	2
Nevis River	Paul van Klink	30 Dec 2018	1	0	1	0	n/a
Pomahaka River	James Smith	09 Jan 2019	1	0	1	0	n/a
Pomahaka River	James Smith	11 Jan 2019	1	0	1	0	n/a
Caples River	Paul van Klink	12 Jan 2019	1	0	3	0	n/a
Hunter River	Paul van Klink	30-31 Jan 2019	2	2	6	0	0
Caples River	Ian Hadland	1-2 Feb 2019	2	0	0	0	n/a
Greenstone River	Ian Hadland	3-4 Feb 2019	2	0	0	0	n/a
Hunter River	James Smith	17-18 Feb 2019	2	0	4	0	4
Nevis River	Paul van Klink	13 Feb 2019	1	1	12	2*	n/a
Wilkin River	Paul van Klink	18 Feb 2019	0.5	1	3	0	n/a
Hunter River	Paul van Klink	27 Feb -1 Mar 2019	2.5	0	3	0	3
Pomahaka River	James Smith	25 Apr 2019	1	0	0	0	n/a
Total			23	4	43	2	13

* No Backcountry Licence

Discussion

Angler compliance with the backcountry fishery regulations appears to be improving with just two breaches of the regulations detected in the 2018/19 season. Compliance of fishing guides with valid concessions is also very high which suggests that unsubstantiated claims of illegal guiding is probably not a big issue in Otago.

Access into the Hunter River via Hunter Valley Station was restricted until after the 1st December due to lambing and calving. Prior to the public access agreement, the valley was closed to vehicles until after 20th November. Access through the station deteriorated after January as the leasees did not approve of Fish & Game staff camping on the Department of Conservation land in the Hawea Conservation Park. Leasees became uncooperative in granting access for survey work. Although one further trip was organised via the Dingle Burn Station the number of planned trips into the Hunter Valley for ranging was well down.

To date 37 angler interviews have been conducted from 36 anglers in the Hunter River over the past three seasons. The 1999 – 2001 social surveys resulted in 234 interviews from 153 anglers which was directly related to the number of survey days completed by staff and rangers. In order to make a reasonable comparison with the 1999 – 2001 data we ideally need to interview 25 -50% of the users which equates to 60 to 125 angler interviews. This target would have been achievable if access issues had not arisen. If further backcountry work is planned for the Hunter River it is imperative that an access agreement is developed between the Department of Conservation and Orange Lakes (NZ) Ltd which specifically allows access for management purposes. Currently Fish & Game staff are utilising the general public access which has not worked.

Anecdotal reports from anglers fishing the Greenstone River and ranger observations indicated that the fishing was generally poor during the 2018/19 season. Anglers commented that the river had low numbers of fish compared to previous seasons. Fish & Game do not have any recent fish data for the Greenstone River as the last drift diving survey was conducted 16 years ago (December 2003). Anglers experiences and anecdotal reports will be closely monitored in coming seasons to partially assess how the fishery is performing.

Planned work for 2019 - 2020

- Continue to communicate and liaise with backcountry fishery user groups.
- Complete Sports Fishing Regulation training with Department of Conservation staff hut wardens (October 2019).

- Further develop a backcountry fisheries monitoring programme across all of the Otago backcountry fisheries.
- Continue to liaise with Department of Conservation on concession monitoring and reporting.
- Develop a ranging programme for the upcoming season by September 2019.

Recommendation

That the Report be received

Paul van Klink

Fish & Game Officer

References

Keeling, H. 2015. COUNCIL REPORT AUGUST 2015. Backcountry Rivers Online Satisfaction Survey 2014-2015 Season. Fish & Game, Otago

Smith J. 2019. COUNCIL REPORT, Fish & Game, Otago

Trotter, H. 2016. COUNCIL REPORT AUGUST 2016. Backcountry Rivers Online Satisfaction Survey 2015-2016 Season. Fish & Game, Otago

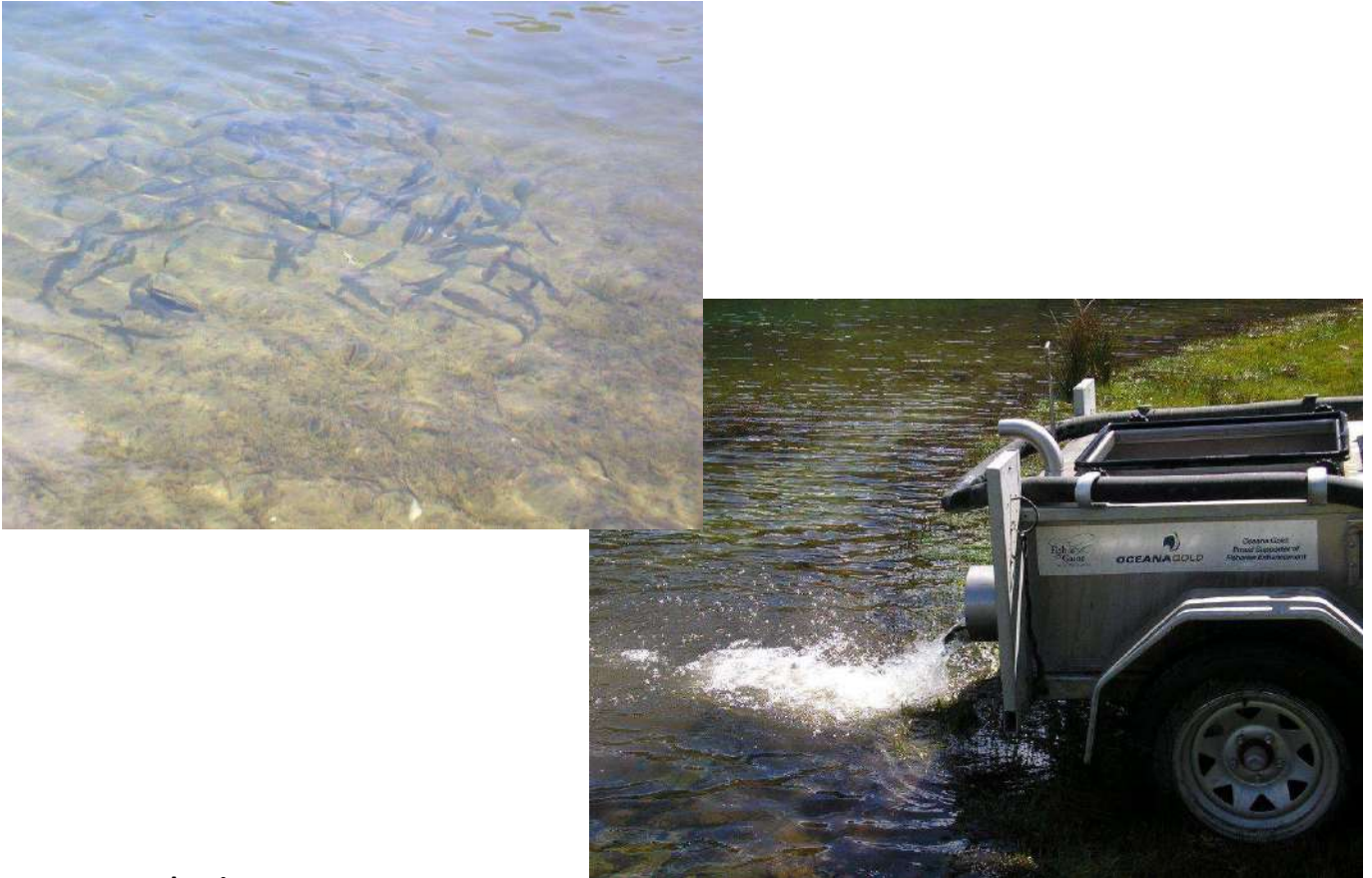
Appendix

<i>Ranger:</i> _____				
<i>HUNTER RIVER SURVEY 2018/2019</i>				
Date				
Licence Number				
Res (N) / Non Res (NR)				
Number of fishing days on Hunter River this trip				
Method of access				
Hours fished today				
Number fish caught today				
How crowded do you think the Hunter River is? (1-4)				
Number of other anglers encountered today				
How satisfied with angling experience? (1-5)				
Reason/comments				
Guide name				
Do you think the Hunter River angling regulations adequately reflect the needs of all users? Y/N				
Comment/suggestion for change				
How many days have you guided on the Hunter River this season?				

CROWDING: 1-Extremely 2-Moderately 3-Slightly 4-Not at all

SATISFACTION: 1-Very Satisfied 2-Satisfied 3-Neither 4-Dissatisfied 5-Very Dissatisfied

13.4 Put & Take Fisheries Monitoring Program



Introduction

This report outlines a Put & Take fishery monitoring program as set out in the 2018/19 OWP: code 1161 - *Develop a monitoring programme to determine growth & harvest rates at stocked sites.*

The aim of this program would be to gather data that will be used to inform future stocking rates.

While we have some historic monitoring information (Thirty Years of Creel Surveys – Scott & Wright 2007) we have limited fisheries information on catch rates and fish details directly from Macraes hatchery releases.

Catch/harvest rates, length & weight are relatively easy to obtain but growth rates are a little more difficult to gauge. One way we can monitor growth rates is from annual rotational fin clipping that can be used to identify year class.

Background

The Macraes Flat Trout Hatchery is situated half an hour west of Palmerston near Macraes township. It was built in 2004, in cooperation with Oceana Gold Ltd and has been running successfully for 15 years. It's a small and efficient operation and thanks to a cooperative corporate partner provides the Council with rainbow trout for liberations at relatively low cost. It can produce up to 8000 yearlings & 2000 two-year olds annually.

Outlined below are some potential sites and methods for the proposed monitoring program.

Potential sites

Species	Age yrs	Number PA	Release Date	Fishery
Rainbow	2	150	Sept - March	Sullivans Dam
Rainbow	2	800	Sept - March	Southern Res.
Rainbow	1	2000	March	Tomahawk Lagoon
Rainbow	1	500	Oct/Nov	Rutherfords Dam
Rainbow	1	500	Oct/Nov	McAtamney's Head Pond
Rainbow	1	500	Oct/Nov	Blakley's Dam
Rainbow	1	300	Oct/Nov	Hamiltons Dam
Rainbow	1	500	Oct/Nov	Mathais Dam
Rainbow	1	500	Oct/Nov	Butcher's Dam
Rainbow	1	500	Oct/Nov	Lake Johnson
Rainbow	1	300	Oct/Nov	Coal Pit Dam
Rainbow	1	500	Oct/Nov	Lower Manorburn Dam
Rainbow	1	200	Oct/Nov	Pinders Pond
Rainbow	1	300	Oct/Nov	Perkins Pond
Rainbow	1	500	Oct/Nov	Moke Lake
Rainbow	1	200	Oct/Nov	Nenthorn Pond
Rainbow	2	200	Feb	Earnscleugh Pond

Schedule 9 of the Sports Fish & Game Management Plan - waters and numbers liberated.

To maximize time and effort it would be recommended to use the dams coded blue in the table above for the proposed monitoring programme because of their close proximity to each other. These P&T fisheries are stocked with 1yr old fish every spring. The monitoring should also be done in the Spring before stocking and before the fishing season opens to avoid any angler backlash. The Fisheries coloured in green could be monitored with little cost as they are close to Dunedin, but these dams are stocked with all year classes, and are open to fishing all year round and are in the public eye.

Potential Methods

Methods	Advantages	Disadvantages
Expert anglers organised fishing days - six expert anglers would be asked to fish selected waters on several days over a season and their catch recorded. Half could be fly fishers and the other half spin anglers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get good catch data including methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a bias in recorded catch rates due to expert anglers
Fishing club fishing days - organised club fishing days on selected stocked waters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get good catch data including methods • Good PR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting enough motivated anglers together to fish.
Angler dairy's - Otago anglers would be asked to keep a catch dairy's and results analysed at the end of the fishing season.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good PR • Get good catch data including methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data not collected instantly • Would need to collect data off anglers (chase them up if not handed in) • Previous experience has showed that there is a bias in recorded catch rates due to expert anglers and more regular users responding
Gill/fyke netting – gill/fyke net selected waters and analyse results.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most effective way of catching fish of all year classes in a small amount of time. • Maximize data collection – size, weight, year class, catch rate • Allows for scale and otolith removal for back calculation of age and growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mortality • Angler perception • Time consuming

<p>Creel surveys - open day creel survey & random summer days (high use days – Sat/Sun, public holidays) would be marked on a calendar, and creel surveys conducted on selected waters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance – licence checks • Good PR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time consuming + travel time • Hit & Miss - angler encounters • Poor weather conditions
<p>Online angler surveys - a survey could be sent out using Survey Monkey to all Otago anglers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost effective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May not get correct length and weight data and may not have noticed fin clipping.
<p>Angler catch data harvested by text - Signage erected at selected dams asking anglers to phone in catch data.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using cell phone technology to our advantage - instant catch data (length, weight, photos) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of signage (minimal) • No cell phone coverage



Blakley's Dam - This dam of 7.61 hectares is exposed to the weather, it is rock bound at the dam end but has grassy shores for the rest of the shoreline. It sometimes becomes weedy during summer. It is stocked with 500 1yr old rainbow trout.

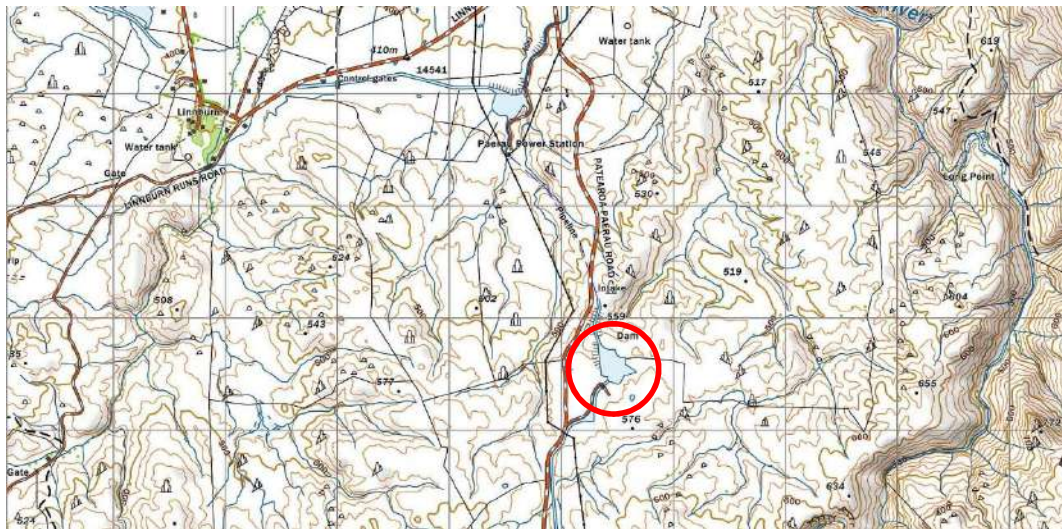


Coalpit Dam - This dam of 3.65 hectares is situated in the Naseby Forest, it has sandy shores and is not too deep. It is stocked with 300x 1yr old rainbow trout.

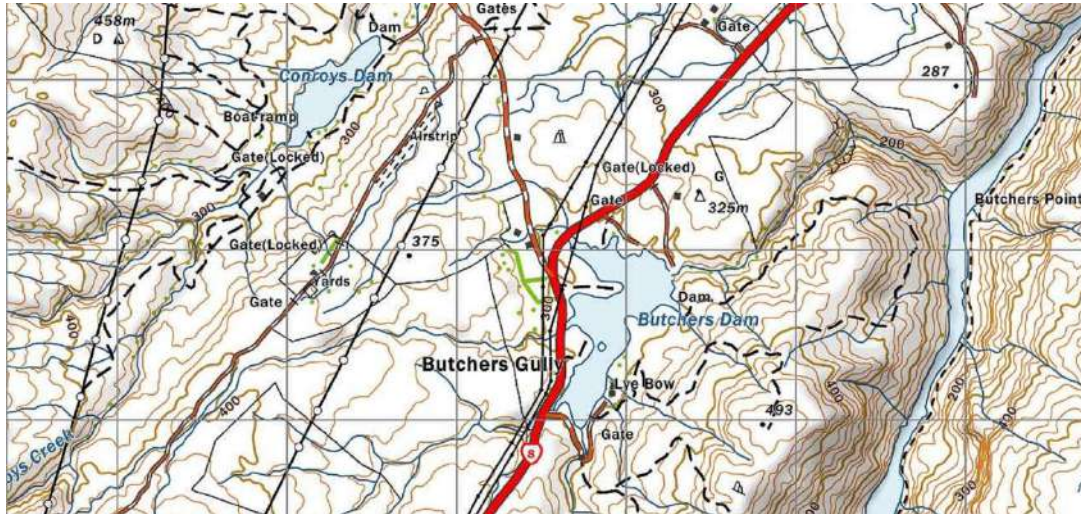


Mathias Dam (top circle) - This dam of 8.26 hectares lies closer to the south-east of the Maniototo and is connected to the Taieri by the east side race. Brown trout reach the dam by the race and 500x 1yr old rainbows are also stocked.

Hamiltons Dam (bottom circle) - This dam of 2.1 hectares the smallest of the five lies also to the south-east of the Maniototo near the old Hamilton gold diggings. It is stocked with 300x 1yr old rainbow trout.



McAtamney's head pond - This is the largest of the Maniototo dams and lies to the east of the Styx/Patearoa road. It is exposed to the weather and the margins are well suited to angling. Brown trout enter the dam from the race from the Taieri, and 500x 1yr old rainbows are stocked.



Butchers Dam - This dam of 32 hectares and is a water supply for Alexandra. It is fed by Butcher's Creek and discharges into the nearby Clutha River. It is stocked with 500x 1yr old rainbow trout.

Best options

With the fin clipping approximately 3000 yearlings to start this Spring, I think the best options which would get the maximum amount of data needed to start the monitoring program would be to trial a combination of spring gill netting and together with angler catch information harvested by way of phone texting. This can be incorporated into the 2019/20 workplan

Recommendations

- That this report be received.

Steven Dixon
Fish & Game Officer

Reference:

Thirty-Three Years of Creel Surveys – D. Scott & M. Wright

13.5 Report to Council on Consenting Workload 8 May – 10 July 2019

Upcoming Consents Potentially Of Interest To Council

Earnsclough Irrigation Company (EIC): there have been no updates of significance since this was last reported.

Lake Onslow: there have been no updates of significance since this was last reported.

Long Gully: Since this was last reported, Nigel Paragreen and Mogan Trotter attended a site visit with members of the Long Gully Race Society. In addition, Jens Rekker was commissioned to undertake a hydrological review of the information in the application. He is expected to report back very soon.

Luggate Catchment Deemed Permits: At the site visit referred to in the previous report. It was clear that the range of trout in the catchment was much greater than had been initially conveyed. Staff observed trout in the race intake for Criffle Irrigation Limited and were told that trout range extended right up to the Criffle take. The ORC has confirmed that Fish and Game is not considered an affected party for the Criffle application and they will not re-consider this assessment. A judicial review would be required. Staff have attended a further meeting with all parties involved (even though DoC and Fish and Game are not considered affected by the Criffle application) to discuss options. No agreement was reached.

Queenstown Lakes District Council Wastewater Network consent: the consent was publicly notified, and staff are preparing a submission.

Written approval provided during the period

Consents submitted to the ORC

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
Keith McNab	Retroactive consent of a jetty in Owaka Reserve	The applicant confirmed that there is public access to the jetty. Written approval was provided.
Silver Fern Farms	To discharge tracer dye in a controlled manner at their Finegand site as part of diagnostic testing	The applicant agreed to amend the application to include a condition that there would be no discolouration or change in visual clarity in the Clutha River by 50m downstream of the point source. Written approval was provided.
Rees River Supplies Ltd.	To extract gravel from the bed of the Rees River	The applicant adopted a consent condition relating to maximum extraction depth.
Clutha District Council	To discharge treated sewage to the Lake Waihola outflow channel	Changes were made to include Fish and Game in future monitoring and reporting communication. Written approval was then provided.

L M Consulting	To discharge sewage to land near water, near Bannockburn, Dairy Creek and Bendigo	The treatment system appeared adequate. Written approval was provided.
Allied Concrete	To discharge truck wash, which may contain contaminants including traces of concrete, to water near Mosgiel	The application amended the application to include restrictions on when discharges may occur. These represent a significant improvement on the status quo and are expected to have minimal impacts. Written approval was provided.
Mt Campbell Station	To vary their dam consent to remove a fish screening condition	DOC attended a field trip and provided evidence to staff that a fish screen would not be required to inhibit the movement of salmonids to the dam from downstream in the catchment. Several waterfalls are present which will achieve this result. Written approval was provided for the variation.

No written approvals were provided during the period for consents from the following bodies:

- Queenstown Lakes District Council
- Central Otago District Council
- Dunedin City Council
- Clutha District Council
- Waitaki District Council

Recommendation: that this report be received.

**Nigel Paragreen and Ben Wilkins
Environmental Officer & Environmental (RMA Support) Officer
10 July 2019**

14.0 General Business