

**Agenda For The Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council
On Saturday 12th February 2022
At Wanaka Hotel, 71 Ardmore Street, Wanaka
Starting 9:30am**

Timetable	Saturday Council Meeting
9:00 am	Executive Meeting (if required)
9:30 am	Full Council Meeting Begins
11:00 am	Morning Tea
1:00 pm	Lunch
1:45pm	Meeting resumes
2:30pm	Guest speaker – David Cooper, Otago Regional Council
3:15pm	Public Forum (Mask and Vacc pass compulsory)
3:30pm	Afternoon Tea
3:45pm	Meeting resumes
4:30pm	Meeting closes
5.30pm	Councillor Dinner (Wanaka Hotel Restaurant Amigos)
Timetable	Sunday, Councillor Only Planning Workshop
9:00am	Workshop begins
10.30am	Morning Tea
12 noon	Lunch followed by Cr field trip to Wanaka Hatchery Site then depart.

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1.0 Present and Apologies

2.0 Matters to be raised not on the agenda

3.0 Declarations of Interest

Please fill in and sign forms provided.

4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Minutes For The Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council

On 25th November 2021

At Otago Fish and Game Council Office

Cnr Hanover and Harrow Streets, Dunedin

The meeting opened at 12.30pm and the Chair welcomed all in attendance.

1.0 Present and Apologies

Present: Colin Weatherall (chair), Adrian McIntyre, Mike Barker, Ian Cole, Rick Boyd, John Highton, Vicky May (nee Whyte), Ray Grubb, Blair Trevathan.

In attendance: Ian Hadland (CE), Richard Twining (Ngai Tahu).

Apologies: None

2.0 Matters to be raised not on the agenda

Nil.

3.0 Declarations of Interest

The chair circulated forms for completion by Councillors to identify ongoing conflicts of interest to be included in the Council's Declarations of Interest Register.

For this agenda;

Cr Grubb is Chair of the NZC Ministerial Review Implementation Group.

Cr May is a member of Teviot Anglers Club.

4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

It was noted that the commentary provided by the Council's Ngai Tahu represented was not recorded in the minutes. These were displayed and it was

Moved (Barker/Highton)

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 30th September be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried unanimously.

It was also moved (McIntyre/Cole)

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held by Zoom on Thursday 28th October be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried unanimously.

The Chair apologised to Mr Twining on behalf of Council and staff for overlooking his invite to the Zoom meeting for the election of Chair and NZC appointee.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cr Highton asked that the CE follow up on the status of the Grey Teal question posed in the minutes.

6.0 Health and Safety Report

There was a wide-ranging discussion on vaccination status requirements for meetings both now and in the future. The CE noted that more guidance is likely to come from Government in time to prepare properly for events like the Council's February planning meeting and other activities where staff and rangers interface with the public.

Council's Health and Safety Policy – The CE explained that this needed to be adopted annually as a demonstration of both the Council and staff commitment to H&S. With a minor word addition regarding exposure to contaminants it was

Moved (May/Barker)

That the Health and Safety Policy be adopted.

Carried unanimously.

Moved (Boyd/McIntyre)

That the Health and Safety Report be received.

Carried unanimously.

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 Election of officers

Deputy Chair - The Chair explained the role and his wish to see a duo of deputy chairs to assist in the smooth running of Council and support of those particularly in the chair and NZC appointee roles. The chair suggested Crs May and McIntyre good candidates. There being no further nominations it was

Moved (Grubb/Boyd)

That Crs May and McIntyre be appointed Deputy Chairs.

Carried

It was **agreed** that the CE draft a change (for the next meeting) to the Council's Governance manual to describe the role.

Executive Committee – The Chair suggested four as being a good number for an Executive, especially given the reduction of the board to nine councillors. For continuity reasons, he suggested Crs May and McIntyre who were previously on the Executive should remain. Cr Barker was recommended as an additional candidate, and he agreed to join. There being no further nominations it was

Moved (Grubb/Boyd)

That Crs May, McIntyre and Barker be appointed to the Executive. (The Chair already being a member)

Carried

It was further moved (Weatherall/Cole)

That Cr Barker be added to the list of bank account signatories.

Carried

7.2 2021/22 Anglers Notice Review

The CE explained the steps to complete the Anglers Notice in time for adoption at the May 2022 Council meeting. He also reiterated that several the submissions received to date were related to first schedule matters and topics not covered by the Anglers Notice review, such as licence pricing. Cr Boyd remarked that the process would have been considerably more focused if staff had framed the areas for potential changes before requesting submissions. The CE explained that the open approach was used to capture any outliers not previously considered by staff but the point was taken.

The summary table of submissions was discussed, and Councillors were given the opportunity to comment. One matter was asked to be included in the review (5.1 Daily catch limit for catch and release) and one was removed (4.6 Aligning Poolburn and Manorburn opening dates).

With those two amendments made to the table it was

Moved (Weatherall / Boyd)

That the Council adopt the timetable and amended table of regulations for review and staff report to the next meeting on those proposed changes.

Carried unanimously

It was also **agreed** that when staff reply to submitters that they need to expand upon the reasons set out in the table if their suggested change was not being considered for this review. This was particularly relevant for topics such as pressure sensitive fishery management and guide licensing which are part of separate processes.

7.3 Draft Game Gazette Notice

Councillors were provided with a brief overview of the timeframe to get any proposed changes to the Game Notice to New Zealand Council. The CE had suggested a

workshop for Councillors ahead of final drafting but there was agreement to settle the topic today.

There was discussion regarding mallard season length and the reasons for 2019 shortening from 12 to 10 weeks were explained by the CE and the original report and reasoning had been circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting.

Councillors generally **agreed** that it was a perception issue (around disturbance of nesting birds) rather than a population sustainability question. It was **agreed** that a return to a 12-week season would cause no sustainability concerns on the Otago mallard population.

Options for managing the paradise shelduck population within the desired range were also discussed. The staff report had suggested an increase in the daily bag limit if the population in the trend counts exceeded 23,000 birds. Councillors proposed an alternative of removing the junior only restrictions from the 9-day summer paradise shelduck season.

It was moved (May/Trevathan)

That should the trend count for paradise shelduck exceed 23,000 birds in January 2022, then the restrictions related to junior hunting be removed to allow all licence holders take part in the summer season with the daily bag limit to remain at 5/day.

Carried

It was moved (Grubb/McIntyre)

That the Mallard/Grey Season length be extended to 12 weeks (7th May – 31st July 2022) and the remainder of the draft regulations (with the exception of the Paradise Shelduck season, which is to be determined) be adopted.

Carried (8/1)

7.4 Council Meeting Schedule - 2022

Council having now completed the Game Notice deliberations, removed the need for the January workshop and subject to that change it was

Moved (Boyd/Cole)

That the 2022 Meeting Schedule be adopted.

Carried

8.0 Public Excluded Items

Moved (McIntyre/May)

That the Council move into the Public Excluded Session.

Carried.

8.1 Confirm previous public excluded minutes

Moved (Grubb/McIntyre)

That the public excluded minutes of the Council Meeting held on Thursday 30th September 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record without any amendments.

Carried.

8.2 Habitat Fund Application – Bullock Creek

Moved (Boyd/Grubb)

That the application for \$2,400 to fund ongoing weed clearance and planting at Bullock Creek be approved.

Carried.

8.3 Contact Energy Draft Trust Deed

Council agreed to this and it was eventually moved (Barker/May)

That Council acknowledges receipt of the draft Deed and that Crs Boyd and Cr Weatherall be appointed to assist the CE in generating the first round of feedback on the first draft.

Carried

8.4 Wanaka Hatchery Subdivision

It was **agreed** to have the CE continue and report back to the February meeting with a final subdivision plan alongside the options for future management of the wetland area.

Moved (Grubb/Highton)

- 1. That the meeting moved out of Public Excluded session**
- 2. Bring the outcomes into the public record.**

Carried.

9.0 Financial and Sales Reports**Finance and Licence Sales 31st October 2021**

The CE noted that the Council had received the government wage subsidy and it had agreed to revisit the topic at this meeting. He further explained the Council's strong financial position and that licence sales had bounced back from the sag in sales experienced when the subsidy was applied for.

Moved (Cole/May)

- 1. That the Council note the strong early season sales and repay the Covid Wage Subsidy of \$10,554 back to the Government.**
- 2. That the financial and sales report be received.**

Carried unanimously.

10.0 Chief Executive's Report

The CE spoke to his report.

10.1 Progress Against Council's Three-Year Strategic Priorities

The CE provided a verbal update on progress against the Council's three-year strategic priorities. He asked if this style of reporting was what the Council wanted. It was **agreed** that it could be streamlined further with reporting on secondary priorities less frequently. Councillors raised a number of matters but the Chair referred these to the February Planning meeting.

Other Staff Activity

Meeting with Ministerial Review Amalgamation Group - The CE and Chair gave an update on the Amalgamation Group meeting and thanked Councillors for their input. The Council reiterated its view that Otago was an optimum-sized region.

10.2 SPECIES MANAGEMENT

No Discussion

10.3 HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

The CE provided an update on the Contact Energy – Lower Clutha Sports Fish Management Plan Implementation. The Council deferred the discussion to the Public excluded session where a draft Trust Deed was being discussed. (Weatherall/ Cr May)

10.4 USER PARTICIPATION

Take a Kid Fishing Days

Council members acknowledged the success of TAKF events.

10.5 PUBLIC INTERFACE

No discussion.

10.6 COMPLIANCE

No discussion.

10.7 LICENCING

No discussion.

10.8 COUNCIL

Meeting with Ministerial Review Amalgamation Group - The CE and Chair gave an update on the Amalgamation Group meeting and thanked Councillors for their input. The Council reiterated its view that Otago was an optimum-sized region.

Agenda Format – Councillors **agreed** that having a paper rather than electronic copy of the agenda was preferable for meetings. The CE said it was important to be able to email a version out due to the delays in the post so that would happen anyway. The Chair encouraged Councillors to contact the CE with any hardware needs to be able to receive electronic agendas and participate in meetings remotely.

10.9 PLANNING AND REPORTING

The CE noted that the Annual report was now complete and that the Audit Management report from BDO noted two very minor matters related to reporting format in future. Council acknowledged the work done by staff to improve its financial systems.

Moved (Weatherall/Barker)

That the Chief Executive's report be accepted and received.

Carried.

11.0 RMA Planning and Consents Report – 22 Sept – 17 Nov 2021

The CE updated the Council on the current matters staff were working through and the state of the approved spending from its reserves. The meeting briefly discussed the Pigburn water take application, public perceptions of Fish & Game, and questions about the Pomahaka suction dredging application.

The CE also noted that a small amount had been spent of legal fees to join the Forest and Bird /ORC High Court case to seek a declaratory judgement on whether the Freshwater Planning Process (FPP) will hear the entire Regional Policy Statement. It was noted that the RPS will cover much more than freshwater.

Moved (McIntyre/Barker)

- 1. That staff update NZC on Otago Council spending from the RMA regional pool fund before 4th December 2021 and**
- 2. That the RMA Planning and Consents report be received.**

Carried.

12.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

12.1 CFT

Cr Cole reported on the CFT. The Trust now had ability to nominate two more trustees and Niall Watson has been added to the board.

The Trust confirmed its first donation to the Donald Scott Memorial Fund of an annual amount of \$5000.

The Trust is also concerned by the cycle trail proposal to go through the Bendigo Wildlife Area and delta area.

12.2 NZC

Cr Grubb gave a verbal update about NZC matters.

NZC was reviewing the Election regulations and organising governance training for chairs and its own members. Other matters noted included the development of a strategic planning process and a communications strategy.

12.3 Ngai Tahu

Richard Twining expressed his concern about not being notified of the special meeting to elect the Chair/NZC appointee. The Chair apologised for the oversight. Nothing else to report for this period.

12.5 Conservation Board.

Nil

13.0 Correspondence**13.1 NZC to Otago**

Nil

13.2 Otago to NZC

Feedback on structure of F&G - Noted

13.3 General Correspondence In

Nil

13.4 General Correspondence Out

13.4.1 Letter to Contact Energy on progress of Sportsfish Management Plan - Noted

Moved (Barker/Trevathan)

That correspondence to the Otago Fish & Game Council be received.

Carried.

14.0 Items to be Received or Noted**14.1 2021 Take a Kid Fishing Events Report**

Council **agreed** that the events had been hugely popular. A councillor asked if there was any ongoing training with those that had attended. The CE replied that there had been some email contact but it was an area that could be further developed.

The Chair congratulated the CE and staff for their good work.

Moved (Highton/Trevathan)

That the report be received and noted.

Carried.

15.0 General Business

Cr Trevathan thanked the Council for their patience with him at his first meeting.

The Chair thanked the councillors for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 4:50pm.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

6.0 Health and Safety Report – December 21 -February 22

Covid 19

- Covid variant omicron continues to spread. Otago region has been at Orange traffic light level in the new traffic light system. At this level public were allowed entry into the office with a mask, sanitized and of good health.

As of 24th January 2022, we are at traffic light level RED. Our offices are presently closed to public. This will be reviewed regularly. As the infection spreads, staff are preparing to work from home if they choose to do so, or are instructed to do so.

- Staff have discussed levels of response to covid, these will continue to be noted and updated at each staff meeting to decide if more restrictions or safety measures are needed for staff, council, rangers or relating to our buildings and events.
- Masks, gloves and sanitizer are available to all staff.
- A national 0800 number is available to all F&G staff if they are feeling unsettled and wish to talk to someone privately.
- All staff are now double vaccinated. Some have received a booster

Events OHS plans are made before all events and work outings.

OHS Audits

- Completed audits - December - full annual audit checklist for council (See following appendix 1)

Next audits –

- Office hazard audits
- Vehicle hazards and safety equipment

Incidents/Accidents/Near Misses

- The Cromwell boat trailer hit a post. Damage to the wheel guard has been fixed. No harm to driver.

Training

- Ranger training was conducted 4-5th December 2021
- Refresher first aid for two staff members completed during the period

Recommendation

That is report be received

Sharon Milne
Administration Officer
February 2022

Appendix 1

H&S 2 MANAGEMENT AUDIT CHECKLIST 2021

Record of compliance with F&G Councils OSH systems, policies and procedures

✓	Action required	Notes – Evidence of completion
	Policy and meetings	
	Policies displayed or available	<i>All policy documents added to Sharepoint storage. Policy displayed at both Cromwell and Dunedin communal areas</i>
	H&S promoted to staff	<i>H&S is part of weekly and bi monthly meeting agendas Staff involved in audits and update of hazards</i>
	Notes of H&S meetings assembled	<i>Stored in folder and on Sharepoint.</i>
	H&S Minutes circulated to staff	<i>Yes, filed and emailed following full staff meetings</i>
	MSD (Material safety data) sheets current	<i>Current and stored with chemical at sites. Update and checked 6 monthly Dunedin and Cromwell</i>
	Audit and drills	
	Offices, Workshops, Hatchery audits complete	<i>All audits completed by Dec 2021</i>
	First Aid/ Fire Extinguishers checked	<i>All staff up to date with refresher courses. Extinguishers checked and serviced annually by external contractor, Dn and Cromwell</i>
	PPE Safety Equipment and Field Equipment Audits done	<i>All completed by March 2021, Extras for vehicles to be compiled in Jan/June 2021</i>
	MTOP Boat information current	<i>Compliant as at Dec 2021 April 2021 We joined Coast Guard for central lakes back up Boat handling refresher course Aug 2020 Ian, Steve, Helen</i>
	Contractors/Volunteers induction records filed	<i>Yes, for events and onsite service contractors. Rangers training updated December 2021. CERT course attended by Jayde, Bruce and one ranger</i>
	Hazards register current and dated	<i>Current. Updated from regular meetings and annual audit September 2021</i>
	Evidence of annual review of H&S processes and performance	<i>Constantly being reviewed at each individual audit and to mitigate new hazards and incidents</i>
	Staff Emergency Evacuation drills and training for designated staff	<i>Evacuation drill completed December 2021 Cromwell Office and Dunedin at staff meeting January 2021</i>
	Training and inductions	
	Training/Support for H&S rep	<i>Nil</i>
	New Staff/Contractor Induction records	<i>Completed for visitors and contracted workers and new Staff (Bruce, Khaylm, Caelan, and Jayde) inducted 2021</i>

Incidents/Accidents	
Accident Register complete	<i>Up to date – 5 incident reports filed, 1 required doctor visit 1 required treatment</i>
Investigations results fed back	<i>All near miss or incidents had mitigation options discussed and noted at meetings</i>
Return to work processes and procedures understood and used	<i>Covid 19 meant limitations to working at different levels though the year. No incidents/accidents limiting staff for work.</i>
Near-miss reports filed	<i>11 reported – discussed at weekly meetings, forms filed and hazard list updated where required.</i>
Incident/hazard corrective actions documented and completed where possible	<i>Yes, documented in minutes and hazard list if required.</i>
Accident/Injury Prevention Initiatives	<i>Staff are all first aid trained Practiced 4 wheel drive and river crossings Dec 2021 Discussions of near misses to prevent repeats. Encouraging - lunch out of office, need to discuss unsettled or irritating issues, Exercise too help office strains and stresses and general fitness/health.</i>
Covid 19	
Vaccinations	<i>All staff double vaccinated</i>
Policy	<i>Policy on the covid regional level was followed. New traffic light level has been related to the earlier level system. Each meeting we discuss, if staff policy suits the level of the time and check staff are happy with arrangement. At meetings, rangers safety, event and major works are checked for adequate controls against covid spread and staff and participant safety.</i>

Completed by S Milne

Signed: I Hadland (CE)



Date: 20.01.2022

Reported to OF&GC (February Mtg): 12.2.2022

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 Anglers Notice Recommendations for the 2022/2023 Fishing Season

Introduction

The last triennial review of the Anglers Notice for the Otago Region was completed in the 2017/18 season with considerable public consultation undertaken and resulting in several regulation changes made to the Anglers Notice for the 2018/19 fishing season.

A triennial review has commenced, with angling clubs canvassed for submissions and staff identifying issues around sustainability, opportunity and simplification. Submissions were received from 5 angling clubs and 27 individuals. Submissions covered 35 topics. Staff provided a scoping report to Council at the November meeting. Council decided that 12 of the submitted topics should be investigated further, these changes are outlined below in Table 2. Any changes would come into effect on October 1st, 2022.

2015-2025 Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan provisions

Staff have paid particular attention to the following clauses from the Otago Sports Fish and Game Management Plan.

5.2.3 - *There is a demand amongst anglers and hunters for a diverse range of recreational opportunities.*

5.3.1 - *To manage sports fisheries and game resources having regard to sustainability to meet the interests and recreational needs of present and future generations of anglers and hunters.*

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

5.4.1 - *Achieve sustainability through the following approach:*

(a) Ensure that the sustainability of the resource has precedence over utilisation (i.e., utilisation will be dependent on sustainability).

(b) In the absence of reliable information or in the face of uncertain information, a precautionary approach will be adopted in managing fish populations.

(c) Management decisions will be based on the best available information.

(d) The absence of information will not be used as a reason for failing to adopt management measures.

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

7.4.2 - *Review annually angling and hunting conditions and assess them for relevance, clarity and simplicity.*

7.4.3 - *Liaise with other regions over the annual review of angling and hunting conditions and to seek consistency between regions.*

Staff have also taken into account that the Otago Region and Fish & Game nationally are guided by an R3 (Retention, Reactivation and Recruitment) strategy to increase participation and that complex and/or overly restrictive regulations are key identified barriers to participation. If anglers are not confident in their understanding of the regulations or feel the regulations are “elitist” or will significantly reduce their chance of catching a fish, they are less likely to buy a licence (S Doughty, pers comms).

Timetable

Table 1 below details the review timetable, staff reporting, the consultation process, and final approval deadlines for the 2021/2022 Anglers Notice Review.

Any changes will become effective in the 2022/2023 fishing season.

Table 1: Anglers Notice review schedule – complete actions shown in grey

October 2021	A request to angling clubs to submit suggestions to the Anglers Notice review (complete).
Otago Fish and Game Council November 2021	Meeting – Staff provide Council a list of regulations to review based on initial submissions from angling clubs and issues identified by F&G staff. Councillors will have an opportunity to add to the list of matters presented. Council to decide on which changes warrant further investigation and inclusion in the review (complete).
Otago Fish and Game Council February 2022 Meeting	Staff will present a report on proposed changes including any supporting monitoring data or biological information and published scientific reports and referenced to provisions of the Sports fish and Game Management Plan for Otago. Staff will aim to seek consistency with neighbouring Fish & Game regional regulations where it is practical. Council to adopt draft Anglers Notice (including proposed changes) which will be circulated to clubs and submitters and notified to the public (current stage).
1 March 2022 through April 2022	Anglers and angling clubs will be advised of recommended changes and canvassed for final feedback.
Otago Fish and Game Council May 2022 Meeting	Staff will provide a report incorporating a summary of any further angler submissions, and final recommendations for council consideration. Council to approve final changes.

Traditionally the feedback stage has involved public meetings in halls around the region. Unfortunately, these meetings have not been well attended in the past. Staff consider that proposing meetings under present COVID guidelines (especially at the ‘red’ level) would be unwise.

Recommendation

That the feedback process consists of communications with the submitters and public consultation through the Otago Fish and Game Council Facebook and a notice in the newspaper.

Regulation Review

Table 2 below outlines the submissions that Council agreed at their November meeting should be further investigated.

Table 2: Submissions to be reviewed in this report.

Category	Number	Regulation
Boat fishing	1	Clarify boat rules.
	2	Increase drift boat opportunities.
Season length	3	Closure of small spawning streams.
	4	Glenorchy lagoons open year-round.
	5	Hore's Control Pond open November 1 to April 30.
	6	Lower Greenstone River open all year.
	7	Lower Manuherekia River open all year.
Sensitive fisheries	8	Daily limit on catch & release.
Other	9	A combined sports fish bag limit for southern lakes.
	10	Mill Creek above Waterfall Park open to all anglers.
	11	Reduce sections of Clutha and Taieri rivers.
	12	Review rules regarding multiple hooks.

1 Clarify boat rules.

Currently there are eight regulations that Otago anglers need to familiarise themselves with (Table 3), compounding this there are also five additional subsets where two of the eight regulations are applied to one waterway. The large number of regulations are difficult to understand for licence holders and compliance staff. It's important to note that "boat" is defined in Schedule 1 of the regulations as "any manned flotation device"

Table 3: Current Otago Region boating regulations

Note	Rule
2	No licence holder shall fish from, or troll from, any boat which is being mechanically propelled.
3	No Licence holder shall fish from any boat.
4	No licence holder shall fish for sports fish from any boat, canoe, pontoon or flotation device.
5	Fishing for sports fish is permitted from any boat, canoe, pontoon or flotation device.
6	Licence holders may fish from any boat, canoe, pontoon or flotation device in the tidal reaches of all rivers.
7.1	Trolling from any boat that is being mechanically propelled is permitted.
7.2	All anglers fishing from boats which are being mechanically propelled must stay at least 100 metres from any anglers fishing from the shore.
8	Trolling from any boat that is being mechanically propelled is not permitted.

Some of the current regulations are very similar (notes 2 & 8 and notes 3 & 4). There is also some inconsistency with formatting where some of the prohibited activities start with “no licence holder shall” while others end with “is not permitted”. Other issues identified by staff are the use of the term “trolling” which is not defined in Schedule 1 or Schedule 2 for the Otago Region and the usage of both notes 4 and 6 simultaneously which partly contradict each other on some waterways.

Staff have proposed a set of four regulations below in Table 4. These regulations cover the region well and make only minor changes to the current regulations. The regulations are intentionally listed in order of most permissive to least permissive.

Table 4: Proposed Otago region boating regulations.

Note	Rule
2.1	Licence holders may fish from any boat, canoe, pontoon or flotation device.
2.2	Licence holders fishing from boats that are being mechanically propelled must stay at least 100 metres from any anglers fishing from the shore.
3	Licence holders may fish from any boat, canoe, pontoon or flotation device provided it is not being mechanically propelled.
4	No licence holder may fish from any boat, canoe, pontoon or flotation device except in the tidal reaches of this waterway if applicable.

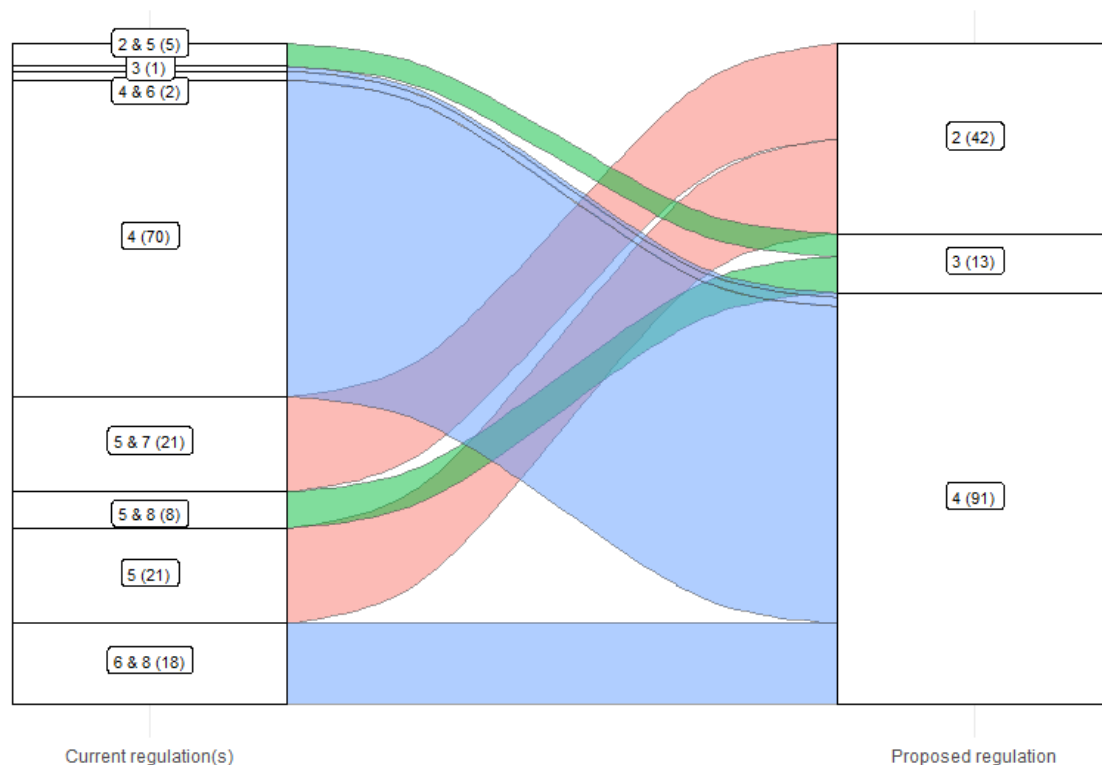


Figure 1: Current regulations linked to the new regulations they are proposed to change to. Number of listed waterways under the current and proposed rules shown in parenthesis.

The simplification of the boat rules will lead to less confusion from anglers and compliance staff; however, it does come at the cost of a small loss of flexibility. The key change is that the tidal sections of all coastal rivers will be open for boat fishing including from a motorised vessel.

The tidal sections that currently allow unmotorised boat fishing that are affected by this change are:

- Akatore River / Estuary
- Careys Creek
- Caitlins River/ Estuary
- Kaikorai Stream/ Estuary
- Pleasant River
- Puerua Stream / Estuary
- Shag / Waihemo River
- Tahakopa River
- Taieri River – From SH1 to Silverstream confluence
- Tokomairiro River
- Waikouaiti River
- Waitati River
- Waters of Leith

Coastal waters that currently have no boat fishing that are affected by this change are the Contour Channel and the MacLennan River.

Staff believe that these changes will be minor as most of these rivers offer little opportunity for boat fishing due to their small size.

The only waterway in the Otago Region that has a fishing season, but no boat regulations is the Southern Reservoir in Dunedin. As it is a drinking water reservoir, Dunedin City Council is unlikely to support boating. The most similar fishery to the Southern Reservoir is Sullivans Dam where current Fish & Game regulations prohibit boat fishing. Staff recommend for consistency that no boat fishing is allowed on Southern Reservoir.

Recommendation 1.1

That the boating regulations are changed in accordance with Table 4 and Figure 1.

Recommendation 1.2

That boat fishing is not permitted on the Southern Reservoir.

2 - Increase drift boat opportunities.

Drift boat fishing is a common way to fish in North America, however, it is not highly practised in New Zealand. The setup typically involves two people, one person, often a guide rowing slowly downstream and holding on likely looking patches of water while the other person fishes. Drift boat fishing tends to be more popular on larger rivers, especially those with low gradient and few rapids. These river characteristics limit the use of drift boats in NZ. The method is also frequently used on rivers where the public access points are far apart. Research on New Zealand drift boat fishing suggests some guides utilise jet outboards to increase manoeuvrability and possibly to return to the drop-off point.

Submitters have requested that the Hawea River, the Makarora River below the Wilkin confluence and the Deans Bank section of the Clutha River are opened to non-motorised boat fishing.

Allowing boat fishing on these sections of river will increase opportunity while only having a minimal effect on shore angling.

Recommendation 2.3 refers to the Deans Bank section of the Clutha River. Deans Bank has historical significance and decisions regarding it need to be made carefully, however staff do not believe that allowing boat fishing in this reach will negatively affect the fishery in a serious way. Staff believe that this section of the river can handle other angling types due to its large size. It's also thought that most boat anglers would move through the section quickly, minimizing their effects on shore-based fly anglers. Staff have noticed the section contains a lot of productive water that is not fished to a large extent, largely due to fishing on the true left becoming more difficult due to access restrictions.

Recommendation 2.1

That non-motorised boat fishing is allowed on the Hawea River.

Recommendation 2.2

That non-motorised boat fishing is allowed on the Makarora River below the Wilkin confluence.

Recommendation 2.3

That non-motorised boat fishing is allowed on the Clutha River above Albert Town bridge including Deans Bank section.

3 - Closure of small spawning streams.

Staff have identified two small lake tributaries that offer little angling opportunity; Quartz Creek, a tributary of Lake Wanaka and 12 Mile Creek, a tributary of Lake Wakatipu (Figure 2). Due to the small stable nature of these streams, they are believed to provide higher relative spawning and rearing potential than the larger lake tributaries. The size of these tributaries also means they are seldom fished, however, those that do fish these streams are likely to have difficulty avoiding standing on redds.

Another issue with these spawning streams, particularly Quartz Creek, is that runs of large lake fish can get stuck by receding flows following their spawning run. Fish that are stranded in these creeks when the flows recede are very susceptible to stress and angling pressure, potentially including unlawful harvest. The more the fish are targeted by anglers, the more likely that an accumulation of stress will mean that staff have to salvage the fish rather than waiting for a fresh to allow them to return to the lake.

To avoid reduction in the spawning potential of these creeks, it is proposed that they are closed to angling. Closure will also give enforcement staff a more straight forward offence for anyone disturbing or attempting to catch these fish.

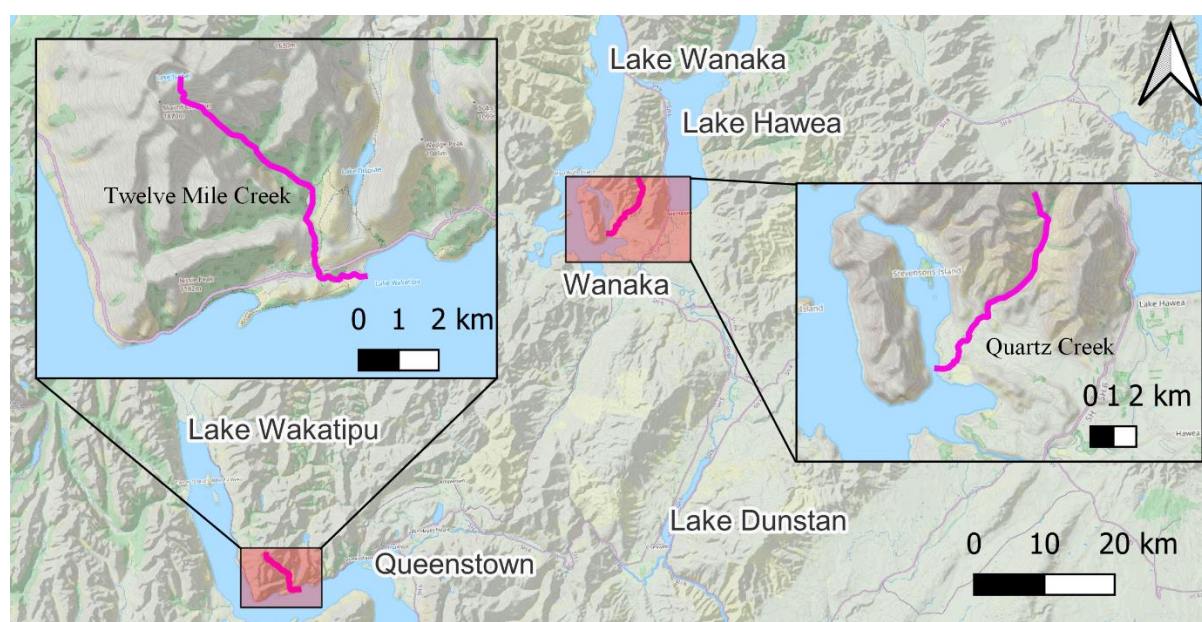


Figure 2: Map showing location of Twelve Mile and Quartz Creek. Please note: only the lower 1.5 km of Twelve Mile Creek is inhabited by spawning trout due to an impassable waterfall below Glenorchy Road.

Recommendation 3.1

That the fishing season for Quartz Creek is closed year-round.

Recommendation 3.2

That the fishing season Twelve Mile Creek is closed year-round.

4 - Glenorchy lagoons open year-round.

The Glenorchy lagoons are a small series of shallow lagoons, lying just north of the Glenorchy Township (Figure 3). The lagoons are not highly utilised, their highest usage estimate on record was 210 angler days in the 2014/15 fishing season (Unwin, 2016). Usage is likely to be limited due to the lagoon's shallow depth, difficulty of access due to riparian trees, isolated nature, and proximity to other more esteemed fisheries. Satellite maps suggest that there is little spawning habitat available, so a potential lack of fish may have also contributed to low angler usage.



Figure 3: Location of Glenorchy lagoons at the head of Lake Wakatipu

The fishery currently has a season of October 1 to April 30 and a bag limit of one trout. Submitters have requested that the fishery is open to fishing year-round to help move angling away from more pressured waterways nearby.

Future monitoring of the effects of regulation changes will be difficult as the National Angling Survey is the only source of reliable usage for this fishery and is not due for around six years after any changes to the regulations are made. The National Angling Survey also only provides rough estimates for fisheries with very low usage.

Despite issues around monitoring and potentially low numbers of trout available to anglers, any changes to the regulations are unlikely to have a significant effect on the fishery due to low usage and a large proportion of the lake being unfishable due to poor access.

Opening the fishery to year-round angling will provide some opportunity to a small number of anglers and potentially transfer a small amount of pressure from nearby fisheries.

Recommendation 4.1

That the Glenorchy lagoons are open to angling year-round.

5 - Hore's Control Pond open November 1 to April 30

Hore's Control Pond is an approximately 6-hectare irrigation pond located in the Maniototo near Patearoa (Figure 4). The pond is located on private land as part of Stonehenge Station. Access to the pond is at the goodwill of the landowners.

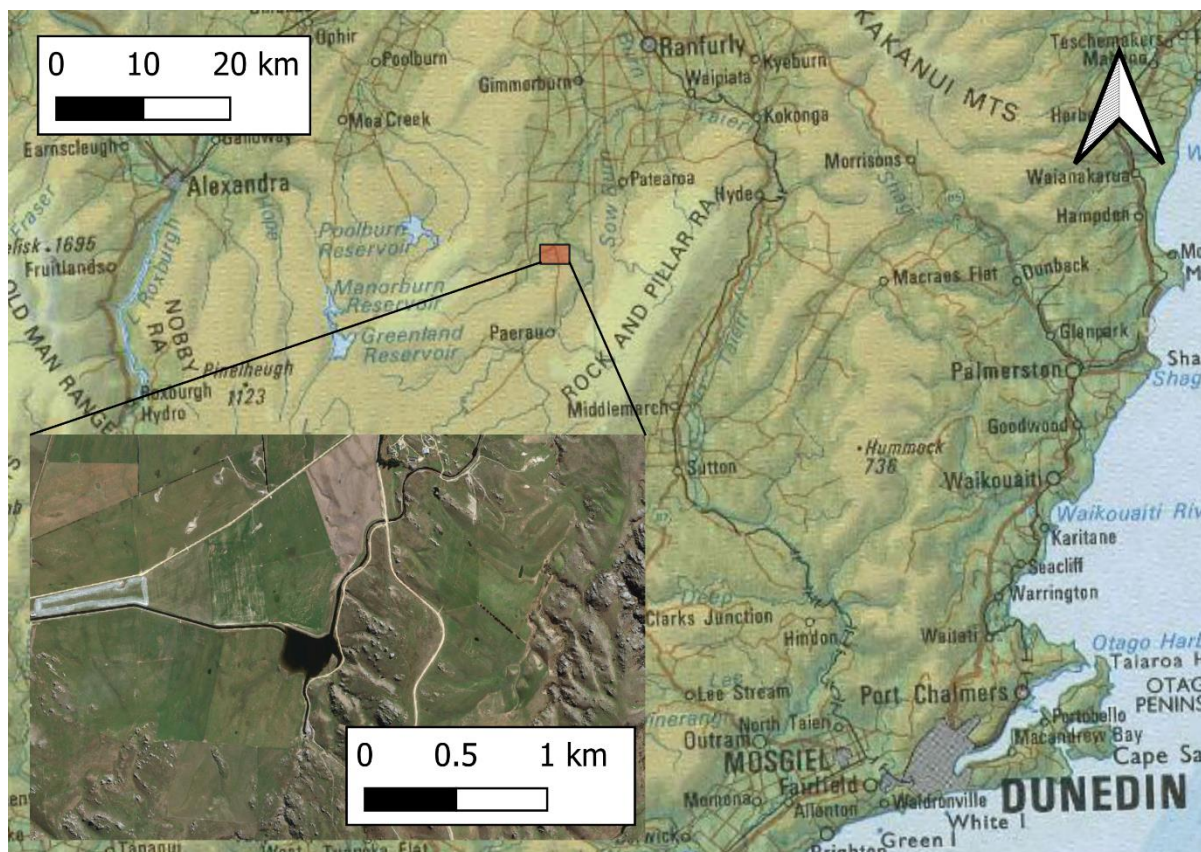


Figure 4: Location of Hore's Control Pond.

The regulations for Hore's Control Pond in the Anglers Notice appear to be an error as they do not align with staff or landowners' understanding of previous reviews. Fish & Game signage at the pond currently states that there is no access until November and that there is no boating permitted, however, the Fish & Game regulations state a year-round open season, and that boating is allowed.

The landowners have requested that the regulations reflect the signage and that the fishing season is not opened until November and closed at the end of April, so anglers do not interfere with lambing.

Fishing from boats should be prohibited as it is likely a health and safety issue for the farm and contradicts the signage.

Recommendation 5.1

That the open season for Hore's Control Pond is changed to November 1 to April 30.

Recommendation 5.2

That fishing from boats is not permitted on Hore's Control Pond.

6 - Lower Greenstone River open year-round

The Greenstone River is a world-renowned fishery known for its clear water and abundant fish. Due to the river's popularity, angling pressure in the upper reaches is monitored as a Back Country Fishery and regulated as a Controlled Fishery. The upper river is also recognised as an important spawning stream for Lake Wakatipu, particularly for rainbow trout. The upper Greenstone fishery relies on a proportion of the spawning run remaining in the river throughout summer, as the fishery generally only restocks during the winter/spring, conserving these upper river fish maintains the fishing for the rest of the season.

The lower Greenstone River (downstream of the Greenstone Station Road car park swing bridge) is approximately two km long and runs into the northwest shore of Lake Wakatipu. The lower Greenstone River is currently open from November through to the end of May and has a bag limit of one trout. Bait fishing is not allowed.

Submitters have requested that the lower river is opened year-round to allow for a "Tongariro style" winter fishery for spawning run fish. Staff believe that very few fish spawn in the lower reaches of the river and that they move quickly through the section on their way to spawn in the upper river. Potential usage of this proposed season is likely to be low due to the remoteness of the area.

As the section is only two km long and the fish are migrating through the area quickly, they are only likely to be vulnerable to angling pressure for a short time period.

Trout mortality due to catch and release is likely to be low due to low water temperatures in winter and the elevated average catch & release skill level of anglers likely to fish a remote spot in winter. Study of steelhead (sea-run rainbow trout) suggests that trout that survive catch & release have no statistically significant change to reproductive success compared with trout that weren't caught (Pettit, 1977).

Opening the lower river in winter would provide for fly fishing in flowing water at a time of year when very little of that style of fishing is available.

The key issue for the Upper Greenstone fishery is the fishing pressure due to high numbers of anglers. A large number of anglers practising catch & release can reduce the catchability of trout in a waterway (Young & Hayes, 2004). Catch and release in the lower section is likely to peak in September, coinciding with the main run of spawning rainbows. Most fish will still have a month to spawn undisturbed before the November opening of the main river. This should prevent catch & release in the winter season significantly affecting catchability in the upper river during the main season.

Although opening the lower river is unlikely to significantly affect further up the river, the sustainability of the upper river fishery should take precedence over the potential increase in opportunity. However, because the Greenstone is a relatively well understood fishery in terms of participation and experience, staff have a good foundation for further monitoring programmes if it is believed that the upper river has been negatively affected by this proposed rule change. If it is suspected that the upper river fishery has declined due to this potential change, it should be investigated further to try and confirm, or the change could be reversed.

Recommendation 6.1

That Greenstone River downstream of the Greenstone Station Road car park swing bridge is opened to fishing year-round.

7 - Lower Manuherekia River open all year.

The entire Manuherekia and its tributaries are currently open to all angling methods from October 1 to April 30. The bag limit is one trout. The fishery contains both resident trout and migrants from the Clutha River and Lake Roxburgh.

Submitters have requested that the lower Manuherekia is open to fishing year-round. The section that submitters have suggested is from the Clutha confluence to Shaky Bridge; around 400 – 1,000 metres depending on the height of the Clutha. This change in regulations will allow anglers to target Clutha River resident trout on their run to spawn in the upper Manuherekia and its tributaries. Staff and submitters believe there is little to no spawning activity in this reach.

The lower river winter fishery is not expected to be highly utilised but could provide some opportunity for anglers to fish relatively small flowing water over the winter months.

The Manuherekia faces issues of warm water temperatures, senescent algae and fish passage issues over the summer months. A small number of fish being caught, most of which will be released, is unlikely to affect the sustainability of the fishery.

There would be a slight increase in complexity of the regulations as the river would need to be split into two rows. There would also be the need to update signage in the area. Due to the fact that Shaky Bridge is not on a named road there is also an increased risk of people fishing out of season due to not knowing the exact location of the delineation.

Recommendation 7.1 That the Manuherekia is open to angling year-round below Shaky Bridge.

8 - Daily limit on catch & release.

A submission from an angling club has requested that the Otago Fish and Game Council consider a daily limit on catch and release for some highly fished waters.

Staff believe it would be very difficult, if not impossible, for rangers to enforce as it would require rangers to observe anglers for a significant period of time. There would also be a need to film the angler as evidence of the offence.

It is recognised that there is mortality associated with catch and release fishing, however a significant portion of this can be mitigated by best practice catch and release. Examples of this include keeping the fish in the water, landing fish quickly and not practising catch and release in high temperature waterways. A catch and release limit would need to take into account the ecology of the waterway, the life stage of the fish and the skill level of the angler, which makes setting a region-wide regulation difficult.

As catch and release is an ethical issue, affected by myriad factors, it is best dealt with through providing useful guidance and education. The anglers "Code of Conduct" at the start of the regulations addresses this by stating the following points:

- Fish being returned to the water should be released as carefully and quickly as possible. Ideally leave the fish in the water and remove the hook with long-nosed pliers without handling the fish.
- While catch and release fishing is widely promoted by some as a conservation minded approach to angling it remains the angler's choice. However, the catching of large numbers of fish in a day can impact on individual fish and also on the angling experience for others. Fish & Game advocate hooking and landing a limited number of fish per day.

Staff will seek to develop communications that educate anglers on best practice catch and release.

Recommendation 8.1

That no new regulations regarding catch and release are introduced.

9 - A combined sports fish bag limit for southern lakes.

The majority of large southern lakes, Wanaka, Hawea, Wakatipu and Dunstan, currently have a daily bag limit of two trout and four salmon. There are also a number of adjoining rivers that share this bag limit; the upper Clutha, the Hawea River, Kawarau River and the Shotover River. Lake Roxburgh has a bag limit of four trout and two salmon. Staff receive numerous phone calls and have witnessed many situations that suggest that a large proportion of our licence holders struggle to differentiate between rainbow trout, brown trout and Chinook salmon. This issue is exacerbated in the Southern Lakes where all three species are present and tend to look more similar than in coastal catchments.

Staff recommend that the bag limits for the species present are combined into a sports fish limit. This would make the regulations easier for anglers to follow and reduce angler concern of not being able to identify fish that leads to some anglers not harvesting fish or perhaps not fishing at all.

Staff have seen cyclical changes in the lakes and there appears to be a tendency for trout and salmon populations to ebb and flow at opposite times, i.e., salmon are abundant when trout populations are low and vice versa. This regulation would mean that anglers who regularly harvest bag limits are more likely to harvest species that are more abundant which should help conserve the species that are less abundant at the time.

The Central South Island Region (CSI) has recently changed over to a bag limit of four sports fish for the large lakes where multiple species are present (lakes Aviemore, Benmore, Heron, Ohau, Pukaki and Waitaki). This regulation was partly put in place to utilise the current abundance of sockeye salmon present in some of these lakes.

Recommendation 9.1

That lakes Wanaka, Hawea, Wakatipu, Dunstan and Roxburgh and the upper Clutha (excluding Deans Bank section), Hawea, Kawarau, and Shotover rivers are changed to a daily sports fish limit of four sports fish.

10 - Mill Creek above Waterfall Park open to all anglers

Mill Creek is an important spawning tributary to Lake Hayes near Arrowtown. The creek is divided into three sections (Figure 5).

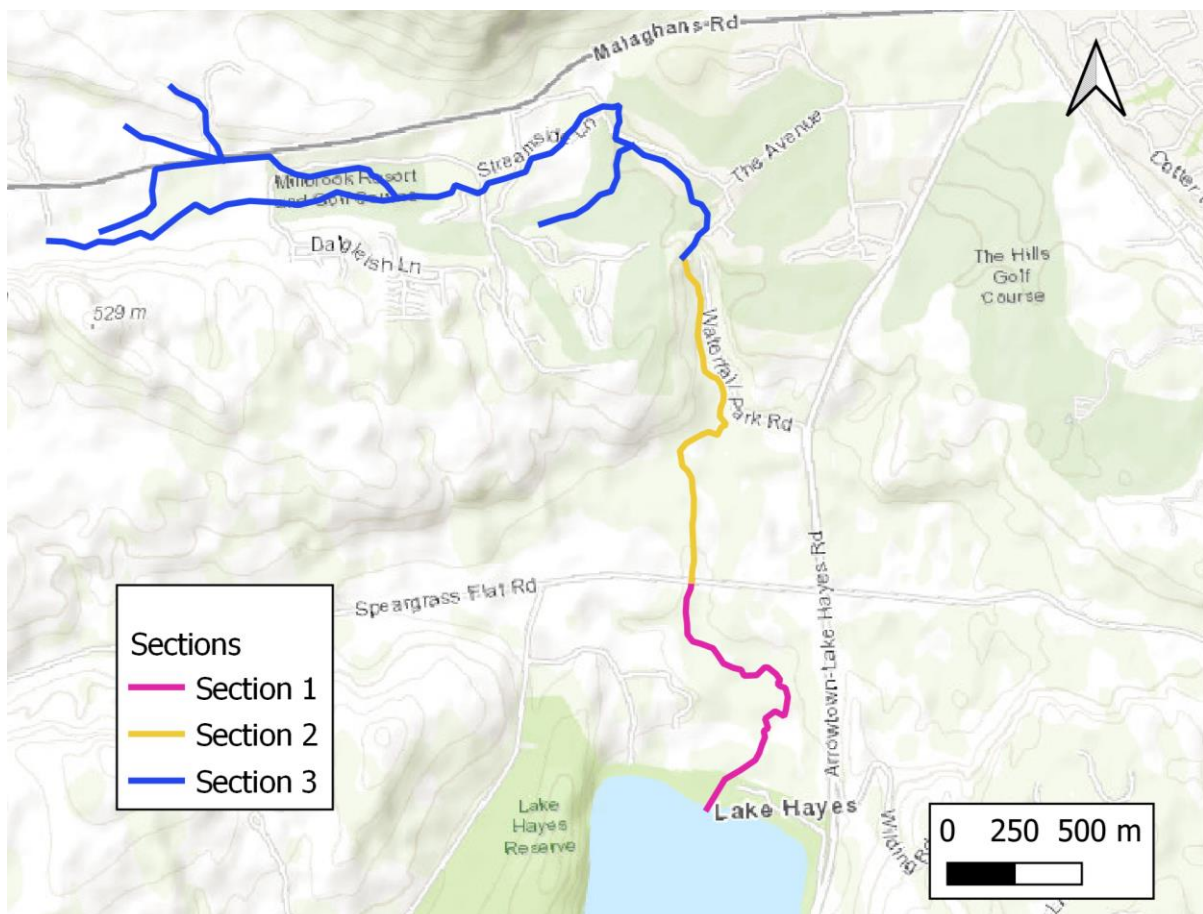


Figure 5: Mill Creek sections.

Section 1 is open year-round. Section 2 is closed to all angling as it contains the majority of spawning activity for Lake Hayes, Section 3 is open from October to the end of April but only to anglers with junior or child's licences.

At the base of Section 3 is a large waterfall that prevents upstream migration, meaning the section contains lower trout numbers than the bottom two sections. There is no marginal strip and very few legal roads on the upper section of the stream, which means that angling is only available to landowners or people that have been granted access. It is currently not clear if the landowners provide access to the general public.

Submitters and staff feel that the upper section is underutilised by junior anglers and that opening it to all anglers would provide a small increase in opportunity.

Recommendation 10.1

That Mill Creek above Waterfall Park is open to all anglers

11 - Reduce sections of Clutha and Taieri rivers.

Clutha

Currently the Clutha River has a total of six sections (Table 5) which leads to confusion for anglers, especially those that are not local to the area. As the largest river in the country, the Clutha River can comfortably handle the significant angling pressure placed on it due to a large proportion of it being difficult to access or difficult to fish. Staff believe that an easing of restrictions on methods and boat use would have no effect on the sustainability of the fishery.

Table 5: Current Clutha River sections.

Section	Season	Method	Trout bag	Salmon bag	Notes
Upstream of Albert Town Bridge (except for Deans Bank Section)	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FS	2	4	1, 4
Albert Town Bridge to Luggate Bridge	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FS	2	4	1, 5, 8
Deans Bank Section (defined by landmark posts 1km downstream of Lake Wanaka and 600m upstream of Albert Town Bridge)	1 Oct – 31 May	F	2	4	1, 4
Downstream of Luggate Bridge to Lake Dunstan	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	2	4	1, 5, 8
Downstream of Clyde Dam to Balclutha	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	4	1	1, 5, 8, 9, 10
Downstream of Balclutha	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	4	1	1, 5, 7, 9

Staff have proposed a change to three sections (Table 6) that aims to recognize the sea run salmon fishery below the Roxburgh Dam and the Deans Bank section. Staff have recommended that the Deans Bank section stays as status quo in recognition of recent Anglers Notice reviews by Council.

Table 6: Proposed Clutha River sections.

Section	Season	Method	Trout bag	Salmon bag	Notes
Lake Wanaka Outlet to Roxburgh Dam (excluding Deans Bank section)	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	2	4	1,5,8
Deans Bank Section (defined by landmark posts 1km downstream of Lake Wanaka and 600m upstream of Albert Town Bridge)	1 Oct – 31 May	F	2	4	1,4
Below Roxburgh Dam	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	4	1	1,5,7,9,10

Recommendation 11.1

That the Clutha River is broken down to the sections outlined in Table 6.

Taieri

The Taieri is broken down in to four sections (Table 7). The sections have relatively similar regulations with the most significant variance the winter closure of the river above Silverstream.

Table 7: Current Taieri River sections

Section	Season	Method	Trout bag	Salmon bag	Notes
above Outram	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	4	1	1, 4
from Outram to Silverstream confluence	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	4	1	1, 5, 8
downstream of Silverstream confluence to Otokia Bridge on State Highway 1	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	4	1	1, 5, 8
downstream of Otokia Bridge on State Highway 1	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	4	1	1, 5, 7

Staff have proposed a set of two regulations for the river. These two regulations introduce two key changes for the river. The first change is that non-motorised boat fishing would be allowed in the upper river. Staff feel this would allow anglers to utilise some of the slower sections of the river with limited access. The second key change is that the river would be open to winter fishing in the section between Silverstream and Outram. This was chosen as anglers have a harder time knowing where the Silverstream confluence is, particularly while out on the river. It is recognised that there is some spawning activity in this section, but it is not significant.

Table 8: Proposed Taieri River sections.

Section	Season	Method	Trout bag	Salmon bag	Notes
Above Outram	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	4	1	1, 5, 8
Below Outram	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	4	1	1, 5, 7

Recommendation 11.2

That the Taieri River is broken down to the sections outlined in Table 8.

12 - Review rules regarding multiple hooks

Currently Otago is the only Fish & Game region with a regulation restricting the use of multiple hooks – 13.2 – “The use of any legal lure with multiple hooks in a backcountry fishery is prohibited”. The DOC Taupo District has the following rule – 3.3(f) – “No person when fishing for trout shall use any lure having attached to it more than one hook or a hook that is not a single-pointed or single-barbed hook”.

Discussions with submitters, rangers and Fish & Game staff has revealed confusion on the intent of Otago note 13.2 – ‘The use of any legal lure with multiple hooks in a backcountry fishery is prohibited’. It is not clear whether the intent of this rule is to prevent the use of treble hooks or prevent the use of lures with more than one hook assembly i.e. a Rapala-style lure with two treble hooks or an articulated streamer with a second “stinger” hook at the back. Generally in the past a lure with a treble hook has been recognised as having one multi-pointed hook rather than multiple hooks. Staff recommend that the note is either removed or clarified. The fisheries affected by this rule are the Greenstone, Caples, Lochy and Nevis which are fly only and the Dingle, Hunter, Pomahaka, Wilkin and Young which allow spin fishing.

Southland Fish & Game have recently completed a literature review on the morbidity and mortality of different hook types (Table 9). Priority in this study was given to data on salmonids. This review looked at six papers and meta-analyses (some of which summarised dozens of studies). This literature review provided strong evidence that there is no significant difference in mortality between fish caught on single hooks and those caught on treble hooks. This conclusion that runs contrary to a large number of anglers’ opinions is at least partly caused by a tendency for treble hooks to be ingested less deeply by fish due to their size and shape. One of the major factors contributing to salmonid hooking mortality is the depth of hooking as hooking the gills or stomach area is more likely to cause bleeding.

Recommendation 12.1 That (with the exception of fly only waters) the use of treble hooks in Otago waters be permitted.

Recommendation 12.2

That note 13.2 – “The use of any legal lure with multiple hooks in a backcountry fishery is prohibited” is removed.

If it is to be retained, then the following wording should replace 13.2:

The use of any legal lure with more than one single- or multiple- pointed hook in a backcountry fishery is prohibited.

Table 9: Literature review of the effects on morbidity and mortality of different hook types. Prepared by Cohen Stewart from the Southland Fish and Game Council.

Title	Location	Year	Author(s)	Finding
A review of catch-and-release angling mortality with implications for no-take reserves	Various – meta-analysis	2005	Bartholomew and Bohnsack	<p>This meta-analysis sought to determine the factors that influenced post release mortality in freshwater fish. In the meta-analysis, seven factors significantly influenced mortality: hook location, natural bait, removing hooks from deeply hooked fish, J-hooks (single hooks typically used by NZ fisherman vs. circle hooks), depth of capture, warm water temperatures, and extended playing and handling times.</p> <p>Salmonid studies in the meta-analysis (n=3) showed that hook type (single vs. treble) did not influence mortality. Brown trout (Taylor and White 1992), cutthroat trout (Pauley and Thomas 1993), Chinook salmon and coho salmon (Gjernes et al. 1993) mortality was not influenced by hook type.</p>
Effect of hook type on mortality, trauma, and capture efficiency of wild stream trout caught by angling with spinners	North America	2004	<u>DuBois</u> and <u>Dubielzig</u>	<p>This study determined hooking mortality, eye damage and jaw injury of three species of wild stream trout caught on size-1 Mepps spinners having barbed or barbless treble or single hooks.</p> <p>The mortality of rainbow trout, brown trout, and brook trout was low in all treatments (<4%). Hook types did not differ significantly in causing mortality or severe eye damage of rainbow or brown trout. Severe eye damage was evident on about 10% of the trout landed (range = 2% to 13%, depending on species). Jaw injuries were found on about 6% of the catch. Barbless single hooks were quicker to remove than the other hook types, but the difference was insufficient to reduce mortality.</p>

Title	Location	Year	Author(s)	Finding
The influence of hook type, angler experience, and fish size on injury rates and the duration of capture in an Alaskan catch-and-release rainbow trout fishery	Alaska	2004	Meka	This study did not compare treble and single hooks but rather two types of single hooks (J-hooks and circle hooks). However, their findings are still relevant to discussions around treble hooks. Meka (2004) found that angler experience was a key factor influencing injury to the fish. Novice anglers injured proportionally more fish than experienced anglers, primarily during hook removal.
Evaluating recent innovations in bait fishing tackle and technique for catch and release of rainbow trout	North America	2003	Jenkins	<p>In this study, the author had a variety of different baited hook types and let pen-reared rainbow trout swallow the hook as much as they wanted. Hook types included circle hooks, Shelton self-releasing hooks, standard J and treble hooks and artificial flies (all were barbless). Flies, circle hooks, and Shelton hooks were extracted from the fish, and the lines were cut on the J and treble hooks.</p> <p>The fish caught with flies, J hooks (line cut), and netted controls all survived the post-catch observation period. The survival of fish caught on the Shelton, cut-line treble, and extracted circle hooks was 98, 98, and 91% respectively.</p>
Determinants of hooking mortality in freshwater recreational fisheries: a quantitative meta-analysis	Various – meta-analysis	2011	Hühn and Arlinghaus	In this meta-analysis, hook type (treble or single) did not significantly influence hooking mortality in freshwater fish (many of the studies included in this meta-analysis were on salmonids). More important was whether the hook was barbed or not and most important was water temperature. Water temperature was positively and significantly correlated with hooking mortality (higher temperatures resulted in higher mortality). Additionally, bait angling resulted in higher hooking mortality than spin fishing.

Title	Location	Year	Author(s)	Finding
Hooking mortality and landing success using baited circle hooks compared to conventional hook types for stream-dwelling trout	North America	2014	High and Meyer	Wild stream caught rainbow trout, cutthroat trout and rainbow-cutthroat trout hybrids were caught using different hook types and post mortality release was monitored. Mortality rate for fish caught on spinners with a treble hook was 29%. Mortality for fish caught on baited J-hooks (single hooks typically used in NZ) was 25%. The slightly different mortality rates were not deemed statistically significant.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to the 5 angling clubs and 27 individuals that prepared submissions to the Otago Anglers Notice Review. Thanks to Mark Webb (CSI F&G), Baylee Kersten (West Coast F&G) and all Otago staff for providing advice and contributing to this report. Particular thanks to Cohen Stewart from Southland Fish & Game who provided a significant amount of advice on the Anglers Notice review process and provided his meta-analysis of hooking mortality and morbidity (Table 9).

Jayde Couper,
Otago Fish & Game Officer
 2/2/22

Appendix

Appendix 1: Current Otago Fish & Game regulation notes

Note 1	1.1	No fishing for sports fish is permitted at any time in all waters in which sports fish are held in captivity for display, hatching, or other purposes, or within a distance of 100m from any part of the outer boundaries of such waters.
	1.2	Except in the case of perch for which there is no daily limit, no licence holder shall on any one day take and kill or be in possession of more than the prescribed daily limit from the waters specified in clauses 2 and 3.
	1.3	In addition to the daily limits specified in clauses 2 and 3 and note 1.2, no licence holder shall on any one day take, kill or be in possession of more than 6 sports fish from any waters except Lake Onslow.
	1.4	A licence holder may continue to fish for a particular species of sports fish on any day on which he or she has already killed a limit bag for that species as long as fish taken are immediately returned with as little injury as possible into the water from which it was taken.
	1.5	In all waters of the region there shall be no minimum length except in the –
	1.5.1	Nevis River where no licence holder shall take or be in possession of any sports fish greater than 400mm in length.
	1.5.2	Clutha River and its tributaries downstream of Roxburgh Dam and all other waters running into the sea, where no licence holder shall take or be in possession of any salmon less than 450mm in length.
Note 2	2.1	No licence holder shall fish from, or troll from, any boat which is being mechanically propelled.
Note 3	3.1	No Licence holder shall fish from any boat.
Note 4	4.1	No licence holder shall fish for sports fish from any boat, canoe, pontoon or flotation device.
Note 5	5.1	Fishing for sports fish is permitted from any boat, canoe, pontoon or flotation device.
Note 6	6.1	Licence holders may fish from any boat, canoe, pontoon or flotation device in the tidal reaches of all rivers.

Note 7	7.1	Trolling from any boat that is being mechanically propelled is permitted.
	7.2	All anglers fishing from boats which are being mechanically propelled must stay at least 100 metres from any anglers fishing from the shore.
Note 8	8.1	Trolling from any boat that is being mechanically propelled is not permitted.
Note 9	9.1	When playing a salmon in the Clutha River downstream of Roxburgh Dam, a gaff may be used to secure or land that salmon if it is greater than 450mm in length.
Note 10	10.1	No licence holder shall fish with a float or floating device on the line in that section of the Clutha River downstream of Roxburgh Dam to the Roxburgh Township Bridge.
Note 11	11.1	Closed to all sports fishing in September except for Otago Fish and Game controlled fishing events.
Note 12	12.1	No licence holder shall fish for sports fish in a designated Junior fishery unless they are the holder of a child or junior licence.
Note 13	13.1	Backcountry Fishery. All licence holders who fish in a backcountry fishery (as defined by the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2021) must first obtain a backcountry licence (as defined by the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2021) the provisions of that notice apply to this notice.
	13.2	The use of any legal lure with multiple hooks in a backcountry fishery is prohibited.
Note 14	14.1	Controlled Area. In the controlled area, a controlled period applies. All licence holders who fish in the controlled area must first obtain a controlled period licence (as defined by the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2021).
	14.2	Controlled Period. Controlled period means the period beginning on 1 February 2022 and ending on 31 March 2022.
	14.3	Controlled Period Licence. A controlled period licence means a licence that entitles the following persons to fish for sports fish in the controlled area during the controlled period, but only during the day and on the reach, specified in the licence.
	14.3.1	the holder of the controlled period licence; and
	14.3.2	if the holder also holds a backcountry licence that is endorsed on a family licence, the holder's spouse or partner and, of accompanied by the holder or the holder's spouse or partner, any member of the holder's family; and
14.3.3	any one or more companion anglers named in the controlled period licence who hold backcountry licences.	

7.2 Proposed Easement over Waitepeka Wetland

Background

The letter attached is self explanatory. The Southland Institute of Technology (SIT) is proposing to upgrade its wastewater system and is intending to install a pipeline directly to the Clutha District Councils scheme. The proposed pipeline needs to cross the lower end of the Waitepeka Wetland site. Clarification is being sought on the true alignment as it appears to cross legal road rather than the Fish and Game owned Wetland Section. Nevertheless, SIT has replied that it is looking for approval in principle to an easement (in favour of the Clutha District Council) from our Council to advance the project quickly.

Potential impacts

Irrespective of the underlying land ownership, the proposed pipeline alignment crosses at a point which is simply rank grass adjacent to the roadway. In fact it lays well outside of the wetland area footprint itself. (see aerial image) Staff can't see any issues with this.

Compensation

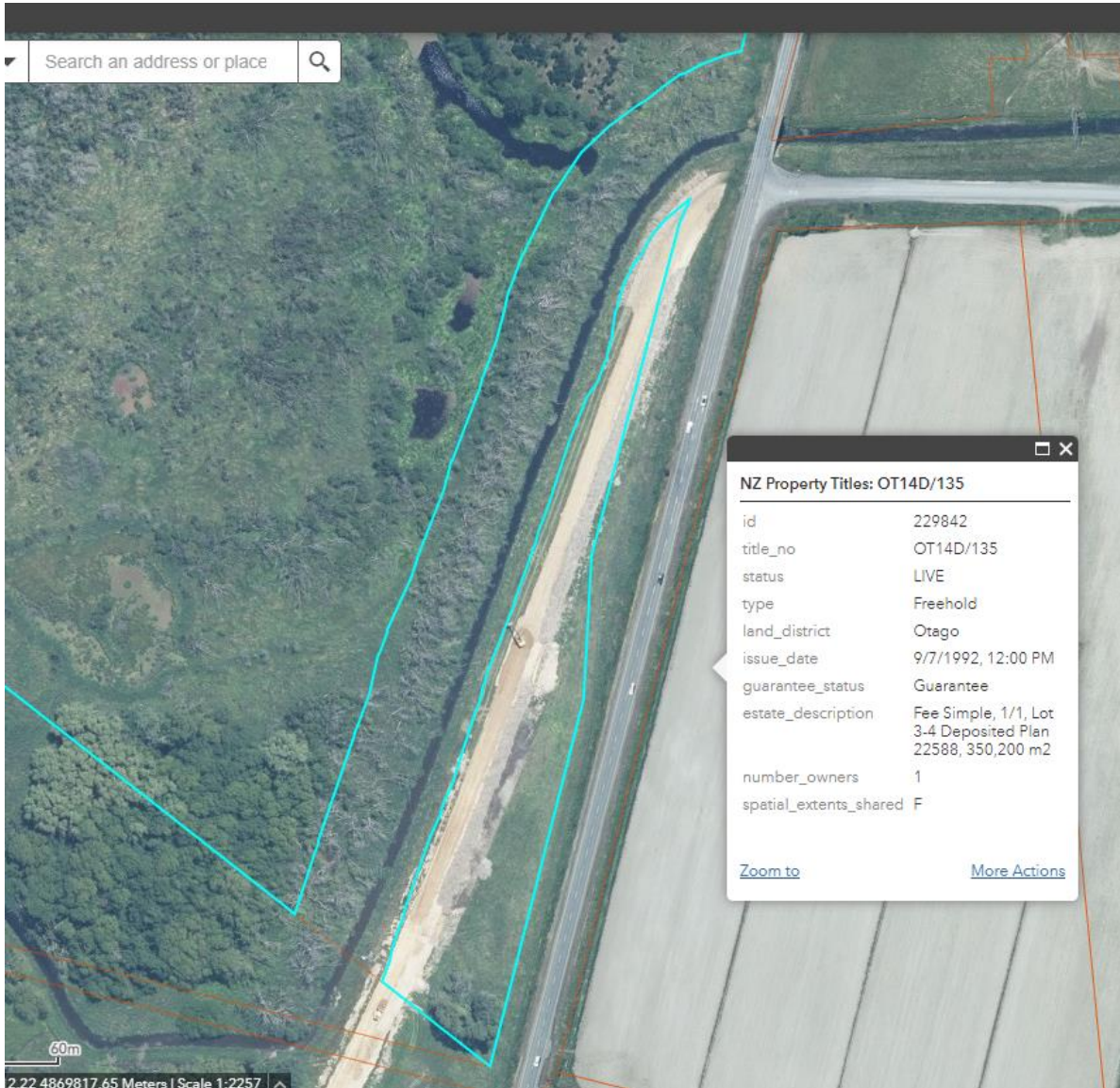
The proposed easement and letter is written in the way of a notice of intention rather than an offer to consider. I have taken this up with SIT and they are open to options but noted they have no budget beyond paying for our legal fees, surveying and construction.

As an adjoining landowner to the wetland, there may be opportunities for negotiation of projects related to the wetland. Improved access and/or revegetation support are options. This will depend entirely on whether the alignment is in fact across the F&G property.

Recommendations

- Agree in principle to an easement (subject to confirmation that an easement is required) across the Fish & Game Council property at Waitepeka.
- CE to negotiate a reasonable compensation arrangement which provides enduring benefits to hunters or the wetland.

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
2 February 2022



15 December 2021

Queenstown
 3rd Floor, 11-17 Church Street, Queenstown 9300, New
 P O Box 653, Queenstown 9348, New
 P +64-3-441 0125 F +64-3-442 8116 queenstown@mactodd.co.nz www.mact
 DX ZP95001 Bank/Trust Account BNZ 02-0948-036

Also practising in **Wanaka • C**

Director Ref: C

Otago Fish and Game Council
 PO Box 76
 DUNEDIN 9054

Attention: **Ian Hadland**
 Chief Executive Officer

E-Mail: ihadland@fishandgame.org.nz

Dear Ian

EASEMENT AGREEMENT FOR TELFORD - OWAHA HIGHWAY, FINEGAND (Our Ref: 432399-15)

1. We act for Southern Institute of Technology Limited ("SIT"). SIT operates the Telford Campus.
2. As you will be aware, SIT is installing a rising wastewater main from its campus to the main Clutha District Council settling ponds to replace its own self-contained sewage system. Once installed, Clutha District Council will own and manage the infrastructure.
3. The proposed route for the wastewater pipe is through your property located at Owaha Highway, Finegand, legally described as Lot 3-4 Deposited Plan 22588 (Otago). We understand that representatives of Telford have discussed this proposal with you and you are supportive of the project.
4. **We enclose** a copy of the full scheme design. This document describes the proposed path of the pipe.
5. This project has now progressing through the engineering design and construction approval process. SIT are now in a position to seek the appropriate resource consents from the Clutha District Council and Otago Regional Council.
6. The next step in this process is the registration of formal easements. To that end **we enclose** an Agreement to Grant Easement between you and SIT. This document records that you as the landowner consent to the proposal and will execute a formal easement (in a similar form as set out in the document) when provided the same by SIT.

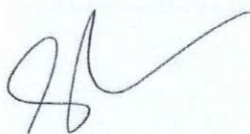


The Partners and Staff of MACTODD would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.
 Our Christmas break will commence from 12pm on Friday 24th December 2021.
 During the holiday period, we will be available by phone & email and the office will re-open as normal on Monday 4th January 2022.

7. The formal easement will be surveyed and registered on the title to your property in favour of the Clutha District Council.
8. SIT have agreed to cover all reasonable legal costs incurred by you in respect of the Easement Agreement and registration of an Easement Instrument on your title.
9. This letter also serves as formal notice of SIT's intention to register the wastewater main over your property in accordance with the attached scheme design. We recommend that you seek independent legal advice.
10. Please contact us if you have any questions about the agreement or any aspect of the proposal.

Yours faithfully

MACTODD LAWYERS



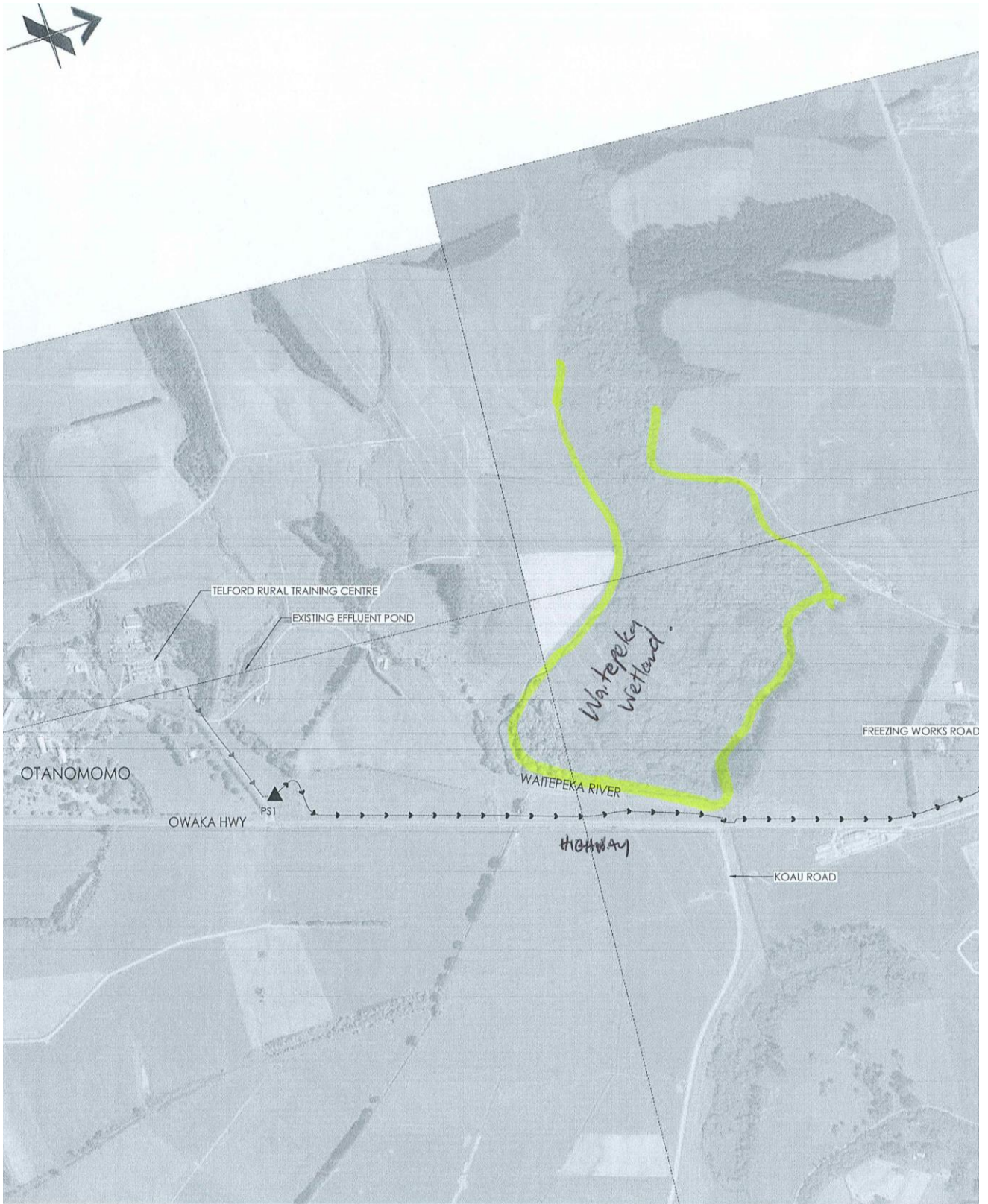
Scott Donaldson

Senior Associate

E-Mail: scott.donaldson@mactodd.co.nz

Direct Dial: (03) 441 0356 | Mobile: 022 623 0071

encl.



SAFETY IN DESIGN
 If reasonably practicable steps have been taken to ensure safety in design has been considered within Cosgroves scope of work for this design in accordance with IPENZ practice note 07 "design for safety in allforms and other structures (July 2006)". It remains the responsibility of

D	FOR CONSENT	09 DEC 21	JH
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The Contractor is to be aware of all inspections to be made by the Engineer as a requirement of the Producer Statement PS4 construction review documentation. The Engineer will require 24 hours



CHECK ALL INFORMATION ON SITE PRIOR TO COMMENCING WORK. READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SPECIFICATION AND OTHER RELEVANT DRAWINGS AND DOCUMENTATION.

8.0 Public Excluded Items

8.1 Minutes of the previous public excluded meeting 25th November 2021

8.2 Lindis High Court Case Update

8.3 Risk Management Report

8.4 Cycle Trail Tracks Trust MOU – Bendigo Wildlife Mgt Reserve

9.0 Financial Report

Finance and Licence Sales 31st December 2021

9.1 Draft Finance Reports

The draft financial Profit and Loss report and Balance sheet for the period from 1st September 2021 to 31st December 2021 are below.

Expenditure at the 31st December for the 2021/22 financial year is \$725,965 (including levies \$239,810, agent commission \$57,104, depreciation \$19,040. This includes \$37,979 of spending from our reserves. Year to date budget is \$672,966 or 108% spent. The overspend is related to increased commission being paid out and the spending from reserves noted above.

The annual expenditure budget 2,137,042.

Income from Fishing licence sales to date is \$1,437,826. The annual fishing licence sales budget income is \$1,690,619. This shows good revenue collection for the past 2 months. Income from other sources totals \$34,695. This includes the \$10,554 covid wage subsidy grant which was recently returned to the government.

Budget and expenditure figures are exclusive of GST.

The draft accounts show a surplus at 31st December 2021 of \$746,556

Funds Position at 31st December 2021

ANZ 00 account \$ 102,020.15
ANZ 70 account \$1,022,452.80

Term Investments as at 31st December 2021

ASB 0079 \$563,977.37 @ 1% Maturing on 11th January 2022 (reinvested)

Donations and Grants (not in budget)

Who	For	Amount GST excl
General	Donation	9.00
QLDC	Bullock Creek Plantings	470.00
Rippon Vineyard	Bullock Creek Planting	300.00
Otago Community Care Trust	Take Kid Fishing Events	2,020.00
Total		\$2,799.00

Debtors

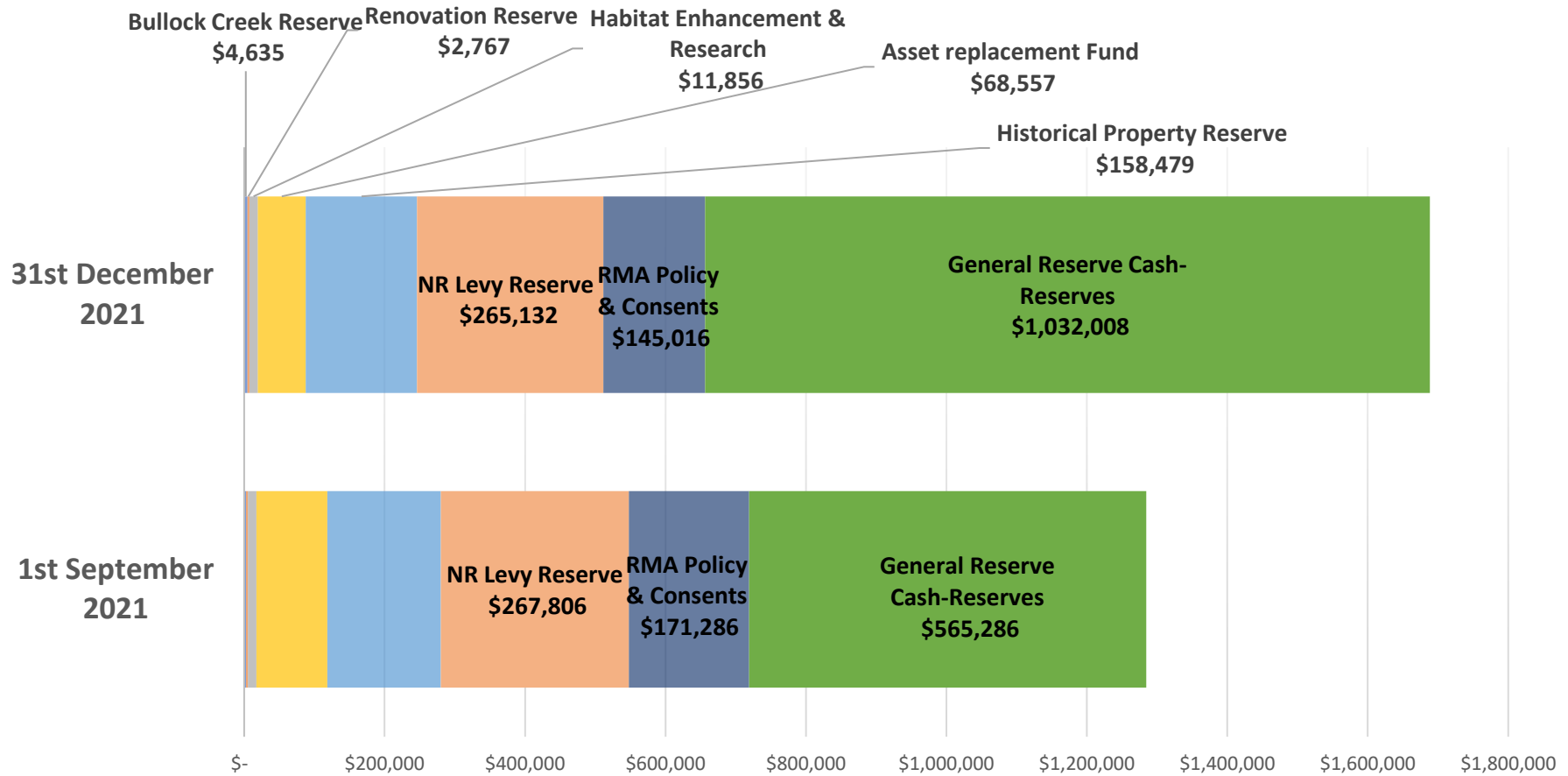
No general debtors

Otago Fish and Game Reserves 31st December 2021

Otago Reserves Movements	Balance August 2021	Income (To) Reserve	Note	Outgoing (From) Reserve	Balance April 2021
Back Country Non-resident Levy	\$267,806	\$2326	1	\$5,000	\$265,132
Habitat Enhancement & Research	\$11,756	\$2500	2	\$2,400	\$11,856
Bullock Creek Reserve	\$2,806	\$2,940		\$1,111	\$4,635
Mining Rights Reserve	\$17,537		3	\$ -	\$17,537
Priority Consents Reserve	\$55,507		7	\$13,809	\$41,697
Historical Property Reserves	\$161,678		4	\$3,199	\$158,479
Renovation Reserves	\$2,767			\$ -	\$2,767
Regional Policy Statement Reserve	\$59,349		5	\$6,010	\$53,339
Priority Plan Changes	\$38,893		6	\$6,450	\$32,443
Total				\$37,979	\$587,885
NZC RMA/Legal Fund Movements					
Regional Policy Extra		\$60,000	8	\$	\$60,000

- Note 1 \$5000 a year for five years is to be taken from the Non resident fund for the Dr Donald Scott University Fund beginning. Agreed by Council May 2021. 2021/22 is year two.
- Note 2 Balance is \$11,856. Less committed but not yet paid out of \$10,500 so balance of \$1356 is available for dispersal by way of grants.
- Note 3 \$150,000 (Mining Rights) approved prior to 2018 by NZC from our reserves. Includes \$80,000 of Lindis expenses, agreed by Council July 2019.
- Note 4 Historical Property Reserve, used on development of the Wanaka site
- Note 5 OF&GC agreed to \$60,000 May 2020. NZC notified.
- Note 6 OF&GC agreed to \$120,000 May 2020. NZC notified. \$81,000 agreed to be spent by council September 2020.
- Note 7 OF&GC agreed to \$60,000 May 2020. NZC notified.
- Note 8 August 2021 NZC approved the use of \$60,000 to be reimbursed by the Regional RMA legal fund towards our Regional Policy Planning Costs

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2021 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2021



Capital Expenditure and Sales

Ford Ranger brought for \$45,961 exclusive of GST. Surplus Ford Ranger via by Trade Me for \$38,000 in January 2022 with funds brough back into asset replacement fund. That will show in the next reporting period.

Lindis Environment High Court Case Costs

Otago Fish and Game Council paid legal costs to Otago Regional Council and the Lindis Catchment Group

Covid Wage Subsidy Return

Council agreed to repay the covid Wage subsidy back to the Government. This has been actioned in January 2022.

Balance Sheet

Otago Fish and Game Council As at 31 December 2021

	31 DEC 2021	31 AUG 2021
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank	1,124,694	720,937
Receivables		
Accounts Receivable	353,044	23,078
Total Receivables	353,044	23,078
GST	(44,091)	28,120
Investments	563,977	563,977
Inventory	17,222	17,222
Accrued Interest	803	803
Total Current Assets	2,015,649	1,354,137
Fixed Assets		
Property Plant & Equipment	1,386,200	1,359,279
Total Fixed Assets	1,386,200	1,359,279
Total Assets	3,401,850	2,713,416
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	12,711	45,252
Other Payables	164,435	163,393
Employee Entitlements	26,708	53,331
Total Current Liabilities	203,855	261,977
Total Liabilities	203,855	261,977
Net Assets	3,197,995	2,451,439
Equity		
Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated Funds	1,607,045	1,364,081
Current Year Earnings	746,556	242,964
Transfer (To)/From Reserves	187,952	122,678
Total Accumulated Funds	2,541,553	1,729,722
Dedicated Reserves		
Non Resident Levy Reserve	265,132	267,806
Habitat Enhancement & Research	11,856	11,756
Priority Plan Changes Reserve	32,443	38,893
Priority Consents Reserve	41,697	55,507
Regional Policy Statement Reserve	53,339	59,349
Mining Privileges Reserve	17,537	17,537
Historical Property Reserve	158,479	161,678
Renovation Reserve	2,767	2,767

Balance Sheet

	31 DEC 2021	31 AUG 2021
Asset Replacement Funding	68,557	103,618
Total Dedicated Reserves	651,807	718,910
Restricted Reserves		
Bullock Creek Reserve	4,635	2,806
Total Restricted Reserves	4,635	2,806
Total Equity	3,197,995	2,451,439

Profit and Loss

Otago Fish and Game Council For the 4 months ended 31 December 2021

	NOV 2021	DEC 2021	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
Income								
Licence Sales								
Fish Licence Sales	171,066	233,577	1,435,484	1,352,493	82,991	106%	1,690,619	1,682,748
Non-Resident Licence Revenue	350	653	2,326	-	2,326	-	-	6,839
Game Licence Sales	17	-	17	-	17	-	323,364	341,516
Total Licence Sales	171,432	234,230	1,437,826	1,352,493	85,333	106%	2,013,983	2,031,103
Other Income								
Contact Energy Mitigation Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53,911
Govt Grants	-	-	10,554	-	10,554	-	-	-
Interest Income	77	103	243	1,612	(1,369)	15%	4,840	5,064
Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	54	33	185	1,000	(815)	18%	2,000	1,714
Rent Received	3,966	5,702	17,677	16,860	817	105%	50,590	68,479
Fishing Competitions	-	-	458	-	458	-	-	1,526
Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21,198
Donations & Grants	300	2,020	2,799	-	2,799	-	-	2,674
Merchandise Sales/Other	-	-	209	-	209	-	-	(249)
RMA Costs Reimbursed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49,853
Sundry Income	-	70	71	-	71	-	-	1,537
Diversion - Habitat Enhancement and Research Fund	1,500	500	2,500	-	2,500	-	-	6,500
Total Other Income	5,897	8,427	34,695	19,472	15,223	178%	57,430	212,207
Total Income	177,329	242,657	1,472,521	1,371,965	100,556	107%	2,071,413	2,243,309
Gross Profit	177,329	242,657	1,472,521	1,371,965	100,556	107%	2,071,413	2,243,309

	NOV 2021	DEC 2021	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
Expenses								
Species Management								
Population Monitoring	-	-	2,480	7,336	(4,856)	34%	31,000	10,568
Harvest Assessment	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000	2,704
Hatchery Operations	-	-	92	3,000	(2,908)	3%	9,000	7,983
Releases	202	3	407	1,200	(793)	34%	1,800	585
Total Species Management	202	3	2,980	11,536	(8,556)	26%	44,800	21,840
Habitat Protection & Mngt								
Contact Sports Fish Management Plan	-	-	1,304	-	1,304	-	-	36,219
Resource Mngt Act	-	45,419	45,419	668	44,751	6,799%	2,000	1,266
RMA Approved Reserve Expense	6,203	1,232	29,469	-	29,469	-	-	141,000
Works & Management	187	410	2,589	1,668	921	155%	5,000	7,277
Habitat Enhancement Research Fund Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,739
Total Habitat Protection & Mngt	6,390	47,060	78,781	2,336	76,445	3,372%	7,000	191,502
Participation								
Access and Signage	454	72	844	834	10	101%	2,500	1,892
Back Country Surveys/Monitoring	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	822
OF&G Training Events	100	-	1,835	1,800	35	102%	2,000	804
Club Relations and Grants	230	-	230	600	(370)	38%	1,000	918
Total Participation	784	72	2,909	3,234	(325)	90%	5,500	4,437
PUBLIC INTERFACE								
World Wetlands	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-
Liaison	-	-	-	336	(336)	-	9,000	111
Media Releases	-	384	384	2,336	(1,952)	16%	7,000	833
Total PUBLIC INTERFACE	-	384	384	2,672	(2,288)	14%	17,000	944
COMPLIANCE								

	NOV 2021	DEC 2021	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
Ranger Training and Expenses	(127)	1,397	3,222	5,000	(1,778)	64%	6,500	1,795
Compliance	-	-	-	1,668	(1,668)	-	5,000	8,621
Total COMPLIANCE	(127)	1,397	3,222	6,668	(3,446)	48%	11,500	10,415
LICENCING								
Agent Servicing	126	3	153	400	(247)	38%	500	177
Commission/Fees	6,697	8,678	57,104	50,720	6,384	113%	90,629	81,876
Total LICENCING	6,822	8,682	57,257	51,120	6,137	112%	91,129	82,054
COUNCIL								
Elections Council	-	-	-	500	(500)	-	500	-
Council Meetings	1,654	584	6,710	5,000	1,710	134%	15,000	8,080
Total COUNCIL	1,654	584	6,710	5,500	1,210	122%	15,500	8,080
PLANNING & REPORTING								
Reporting/Audit	10,334	1,208	16,641	16,000	641	104%	16,000	17,689
National Liason	-	-	-	666	(666)	-	2,000	421
Total PLANNING & REPORTING	10,334	1,208	16,641	16,666	(25)	100%	18,000	18,110
ADMINISTRATION								
Salaries	81,244	58,150	205,128	258,756	(53,628)	79%	776,272	675,407
Staff Expenses	1,271	5,180	7,863	5,300	2,563	148%	19,000	23,279
Office Premices	7,501	7,400	45,167	38,264	6,903	118%	95,600	100,740
Office Equipemnt	18	14	838	832	6	101%	2,500	5,409
Communications	1,307	1,243	7,105	7,604	(499)	93%	22,800	20,836
General Exp (incl Insurance)	32	2,218	4,114	2,232	1,882	184%	3,900	3,173
General Field Equipment	263	-	726	1,102	(376)	66%	3,300	1,334
Vehicles	3,960	4,901	22,288	19,334	2,954	115%	44,000	43,901
Total ADMINISTRATION	95,597	79,106	293,230	333,424	(40,194)	88%	967,372	874,079
Depreciation	4,569	5,335	19,040	-	19,040	-	-	61,476

	NOV 2021	DEC 2021	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
Loss on Disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	188
NZ Fish & Game Levies	-	-	239,810	239,810	-	100%	959,241	711,804
Office General (was Petty cash)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51
Wanaka Subdivision	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,366
University of Otago Research Grant	5,000	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Total Expenses	131,224	143,829	725,965	672,966	52,999	108%	2,137,042	2,000,346
Net Profit	46,104	98,828	746,556	698,999	47,557	107%	(65,629)	242,964

9.2 Licence Sales

Fish Licence Sales 2021/22 Season to 31st December 2022

See appendix 1 for a table showing fish licence sales categories and numbers. This table shows fish licences sales for seasons 2021/22 and 2020/21 to the end of December of the season.

In summary, fishing licence sales in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) 12,130.54 LEQs compared with 11,973.28 LEQs for the similar period last year

Fish licence revenue from the Profit and Loss statement for the 2021/22 season recorded to 31st December 2021 total \$1,437,826 compared with \$1,393,789 for the 2020/21 season. These figures include both resident and non resident sales. Figures exclude GST and commission to agents.

The 2021/22 budget for fish licence sales is \$1,690,619 exclusive of GST.

9.3 Agents Debts

There were three agents with late payments, payment has now been made.

9.4 Recommendation

That the financial report be received

Sharon Milne
Administration Officer
03/02/2022

Appendix 1

Otago Fish and Game Licence Sales to 31st December of the Season

2021/22																		
Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	Total	Fish LEQ	Fish \$
Agency	2,241	3,181	5	729	132	6	88	256	6	320	0	26	0	0	1	6,991		
ESL	6	8	0	5	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24		
Online	1,752	2,095	41	294	281	8	127	848	35	315	4	86	0	0	1	5,887		
Total	3,999	5,284	46	1,028	413	15	219	1,104	41	635	4	112	0	0	2	12,902	12,130.54	\$1,664,699.00

2020/21																		
Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	Total	Fish LEQ	Fish \$
Agency	2,289	3,144	18	695	148	4	82	321	7	330	0	39	3	0	0	7,080		
ESL	6	9	0	9	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28		
Online	1,646	2,043	48	267	285	16	139	793	57	307	2	87	0	1	0	5,691		
Total	3,941	5,196	66	971	433	20	221	1,118	64	637	2	126	3	1	0	12,799	11,973.28	\$1,596,475.00

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

10.0 Chief Executives Report

10.1 Progress Against Councils 3 Year Strategic Priorities

SF&GMP Output	Goals 2020-2023	Draft Objectives (Specific, timebound and measurable)	Update
Species Mgt	Improved knowledge of Sportsfish population dynamics in Southern Lakes	Robust monitoring system for southern lakes fisheries established by 2022 with enough sensitivity to detect population change. Research proposal to investigate drivers for that change lodged to NZC for funding by 2023	Creel surveys are in full swing for the third consecutive year of surveying on Lake Wanaka. The lake fisheries management workshop which was scheduled for winter 2022 is being reconsidered due to Covid.
	Improve Clutha River Salmon knowledge	Contribution of southern lakes salmon population to lower river searun fishery researched by 2022. Options for enhancement of downstream migration by 2023. Benefits and risks of further liberations reported on by 2021. Salmon spawning sites surveyed and documented (ongoing)	Contact Energy Sports Fish Management programme for the 21/22 season is underway. The Fishing competition to harvest trout heads from the lower Clutha was a success with over 50 heads being presented. The eDNA on Lower Clutha to identify Salmon spawning habitat is proposed for Autumn.
Habitat Protection & Mgt	Improve outcomes in RMA planning processes – Plans reflect F&G input	Submissions reflecting F&G positions made on time and hearings attended for all planning matters impacting on F&G managed species, habitat and users (lumpy workload so no dates fixed) Additional advocacy in the form of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once yearly Governor to governor meetings with ORC Twice yearly meetings between CE's of orc and territorial authorities, iwi and DOC. (Same at a staff level) Pre circulation of key submissions (two weeks ahead) to allies for comment and to seek alignment. By 2022, establish three way agreement (Aukaha, DOC, F&G) on freshwater values and bottom lines for input into FMU process.	The RMA consenting and planning report is provided by way of update in this agenda. Plan Change 8 decision has come out and a brief read confirms that it is largely in line with the mediation. Over the period CE has met with the ORC regulatory general manager and 70 of his staff have visited Takitakitoa Wetland to learn more about wetland management and assist with some tree planting. The CE had a telephone discussion ORC CEO. Any three way agreement looks increasingly unlikely by the deadline, however the groups continue to cooperate on matters of mutual interest, most recently to discuss the ORC global consent application for river works.
	Create or improve more wetland areas with emphasis on irrigation dams as habitat and headwater wetlands	10 ponds/wetlands on private land developed or enhanced or protected annually (30 wetlands/ponds by 2023)	Investigations for new pond development has slowed considerably – There was one inspection during this period. Staff effort has been diverted from this project to catchment group work including in the Taieri scroll plain.
Angler & Hunter Participation	Maintain or improve current participation levels, especially among females	Maintain current participation levels and improve female participation by 5% by 2023	Staff are regularly contributing to national marketing efforts. One staff member has been appointed to the national communications group. Participation levels continue to rise (2.5 % ahead of last season) The survey of female anglers has been put on hold.
Access (under Participation in SF&GMP)	No net loss of access	Identify and log current access points by 2021 20% More access points identified in Otago region available to anglers and hunters by 2023.	No additional work in this project area during the period.
Public interface	High licence holder understanding of F&G organisation and its work on their behalf	Improve licence holder knowledge of F&G activities (by two unit points in licence holder survey) by 2023	The licence holder engagement survey is being reported this meeting. This is a repeat of those conducted in 2019 and 2020. This will be used to check progress against this objective. Social media activity continues to rise with 2,730 followers on the Councils Facebook page.

	Improved understanding by the general public of F&G role and work	Establish information portal including option of an educational facility in conjunction with Contact energy by 2023 Generate and conduct general public survey of understanding by 2021 to establish base metric. PR/PA programme established and implemented by 2021. Follow up survey 2023 to check progress	Negotiations related to a hatchery and information portal at Roxburgh hosted by Contact Energy are now concluding with the formation of a trust. PR survey is proposed for this financial year but has not begun due to other priorities.
	Proactive engagement with Ngai Tahu	MOU/Principles document extended to cover wider Otago water and wildlife values and agreed by 2022.	Relationship with Aukaha continues to build with regular meetings and communication around planning and consenting matters. The CE had a meeting scheduled with Aukaha CE but this was postponed due to Covid.
	Improved FGO and Ranger visibility	15% of Otago fish licence holders and 10% of game licence holders have direct contact via CLE or through other F&G activities on an annual basis	12 honorary rangers remain across the district and staff are tentatively looking for more in some key areas. As noted before, we are moving towards a smaller group of better trained rangers to ensure we comply with H&S provisions required of us.
	Form alliances/collaborations with landowners (and stakeholder organisations) on areas of common interest	360 degree survey of all stakeholders and other groups on organisational attitude and effectiveness by 2021. Draft and implement strategic communications plan for stakeholders by 2022. Review for positive progress and report 2023	Stakeholder survey is proposed for this financial year but has not begun. Staff are proposing to discuss options with the University, so the results have a degree of independence to them. NZC is proposing to upgrade its Communication Strategy using an external agency so some guidance may be provided by that.
Administration	Find alternative sources of income to support F&G activities	At least 20% of external expenditure is from alternative sources	As previously advised, a good portion of the target figure for this year has been secured through the Contact Energy Sportsfish Management Plan
Compliance	Regulations understandable by licence holders	Make regulations easier to interpret through simplification and improved user interfaces, especially online	The anglers notice review is underway and a report has been prepared which looks to streamline some areas of the regulations, particularly around boating restrictions.
	Improved compliance rates	Improve compliance rate from 95% to 97%	Compliance rates will be summarised ahead of the next meeting but high number of offences over the holiday break may point to weaker compliance. That will be determined when the number of checks completed can be calculated.
	Prosecutions completed in a compassionate and professional way	Revisit prosecution guidelines annually (Sept) and sign off alongside diversion payment schedule	Prosecution guidelines were adopted in September 2021 - Complete

Other Staff Activity

10.2 SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Gamebird Aerial Counts

Paradise shelduck counts were completed in late January. Trend count totals were as high as we have seen and above the 23,000 upper limit set by Council in November to trigger more permissive conditions for the 2023 summer Paradise Shelduck season. That change has now been added to the Gamebird Regulations for the 22/23 season (as agreed at the November meeting of Council)

CE to update

Regulations

The Anglers Notice Review is in full swing and the report attached summarises the proposals and offers recommendations. Having a fresh set of eyes (new F&G officer) look over the Anglers Notice and ask the hard questions about our present regulations has been helpful.

Game Gazette Notice 2022/23

This has now been confirmed with NZC in line with the Councils directions at its November meeting. That includes the extension of the main Mallard season out to 12 weeks again.

Taieri Electric Fishing Survey

Surveys of main Taieri tributaries to update our aging records have largely been completed during December and January. The information is being added to the National Freshwater Fish Database and will be used to support discussions related to Taieri Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) and ORC Water and Land plan.

10.3 HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Contact Energy – Lower Clutha Sportsfish Management Plan Implementation

The sportsfish and habitat projects funded by Contact Energy are now underway including electric fishing of lower Clutha tributaries for the brown trout origin project. The eDNA project will begin in the Autumn and that will hopefully help identify tributaries used by wild salmon in the lower Clutha River.

The proposed Lower Clutha Trust documents (which include the proposal for a hatchery) have been circulated as a draft and Cr Boyd and the CE have drafted comments and edited the content. The section on its 'purpose' needs refining to ensure it aligns more tightly to the expectations set out in the consent conditions and subsequent discussions. It is presently back with Contact for redrafting and a meeting between the organisations is proposed for mid February. We are hopefully have a copy ready for signing at the March meeting. Progress is slow but Contact staff remain positive about the Trust and the potential to begin a hatchery build.

Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting 12th February 2022

CE/Chair to Update

RMA litigation

The Lindis High Court hearing was concluded in November with our appeal points largely being rejected. A summary of the learnings from the case will be presented to the March meeting. The media picked up on the issue in a rather biased way which frustrated both staff and Councillors.

As expected both the Otago Regional Council and Lindis Catchment Group applied for costs and after some negotiations, the Executive Council agreed to settle these out of court. All have now been paid and full Council informed.

10.4 USER PARTICIPATION

Greenstone Controlled Fishery

Staff have the Greenstone River controlled fishery booking system up and running for the February and March period. Being an online system, it largely runs itself.

Licence holder perceptions survey

The results from the third round of licence holder surveying are reported here and will also be presented to the Council at the Planning Workshop. Perceptions of value for money and understanding of the work the Council do are rather static over time. That is something the Council and staff will have to work on.

Gamebird Magazine

The content for the next special issue of the magazine was completed over January. Our Communications Officer is also writing longer pieces (on behalf of the National office) on wetlands and their value. That will be mailed out mid March to last years gamebird licence holders.

10.5 PUBLIC INTERFACE

Media

Otago continues to generate a solid stream of media content readily picked up by print publications. The articles in the ODT on local fisheries and reporting of aerial surveys of gamebirds were highlights of the reporting period.

10.6 COMPLIANCE

The summer break has produced its usual wave of non-compliant anglers and these are slowly being processed by staff. Just over 20 offenders are facing prosecution action at present, mostly for fishing without licences.

10.7 LICENCING

Positive sales volumes

Cr's will note that the sales for the current season are above those of last year. In fact angling licence sales are presently the highest they have been for a decade. With the impact of Omicron over the next few months this may fade towards the end of the season back to something around average.

10.8 COUNCIL

Staffing

We are now back to a full staffing compliment. This has also been bolstered by a number of casual workers covering off summer field work support, RMA and compliance.

Organisational Review and Amalgamations

The National Amalgamation Review team need to finalise a report by the end of February, and this will likely require another round of feedback in early March. This Council has provided feedback on the options and has been consistent in its commentary that Otago is an optimum sized region that shouldn't need to amalgamate to make it more efficient.

10.9 PLANNING AND REPORTING

Planning Workshop

The agenda for this is attached and a background paper will be mailed to you ahead of the workshop.

Annual Audit

You will note in inward correspondence the BDO letter related to auditing for the next three years. We are told that Council has little choice about the provider (appointed by the Office of the Auditor General)

Recommendation

That this report be received

Ian Hadland

Chief Executive

1 February 2022

11.0 RMA Planning and Consents Report

17 November 2021 – 31 January 2022

Current legislation, policy and planning processes

Plan Change 8

Plan Change 8 has been split into two hearings, one each for the primary sector and urban topics.

No decision has been released on the primary sector topics.

A date for the hearing on urban topics has been set for March 21. Fish and Game has reached agreement with the Otago Regional Council (**ORC**) and most other parties on the entirety of the plan change provisions. However, a small number of provisions have not been agreed at mediation by other parties and will proceed to hearing. The main topic in this group relating to Fish and Game's interest is whether provisions governing discharges of sediment from residential sub-division development should exclude activities in the Queenstown Lakes District. As Fish and Game's case is now the same as that of the ORC, staff have liaised with ORC staff as to evidence requirements for the hearing. It was agreed no evidence was required from Fish and Game. Whether Fish and Game will need to provide legal submissions to the hearing, or attend at all, is unclear and staff are taking legal advice on the matter. It is hoped that any involvement would be limited.

Spending on Plan Change 8 is on track to fall within the combined budget for Plan Changes 7, 8 and 1.

Regional Policy Statement

Progress on this case has been stalled during this period, likely due to parties preparing for the High Court declaration case to determine which parts of the Regional Policy Statement will progress via the streamlined Freshwater Planning Process, and which parts (if any) will progress via the typical Schedule 1 process. A hearing date has been set for this High Court hearing – February 8 and 9. Staff are involved in the High Court case in a limited capacity in the case and are keeping a watching brief.

Deemed Permit Process

ORC staff advise that the processing of deemed permits has resumed, using the provisions set out in Plan Change 7. Due to the directive nature of the Plan Change 7 provisions, Fish and Game staff need not be involved. This was an intended outcome of the plan change, aimed at removing excessive burdens on parties where short term consents are granted. It is likely that deemed permits applications will be processed catchment by catchment across the region and in most cases will result in a short-term roll-over of the deemed permit.

Staff recommend that the Council turn its attention to the development of the Regional Policy Statement and Land and Water Regional Plan, as these will drive the allocation of water in the medium to long term.

Current Notification processes¹

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
<i>Otago Regional Council applications</i>		
Pioneer Energy Limited	To vary existing consents to store and use water at Lake Onslow to increase the drawdown rate.	A submission in opposition has been written by staff and was supported by a complementary submission on behalf of the Teviot Angling Club. The applicant has placed the process on hold to meet with the submitters. Depending on the outcome of those discussions, a hearing could be expected early in 2022.
Central Otago District Council	To discharge contaminants to the Manuherekia from the Omakau wastewater treatment plant	A neutral submission was provided which highlighted key issues and information gaps. Relief sought by Iwi was supported as a path forward. Staff do not intend to attend the hearing.

Written approval provided during the period

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
<i>Otago Regional Council applications</i>		
Otago Regional Council	Reinstate an eroded river berm and repair an existing stormwater culvert near the Clutha River / Mata-au.	Following agreement on a sediment discharge condition, written approval was given.
Soho Properties Ltd	To abstract water from Moylans Creek	After confirming that the application met the same standard as set by Plan Change 7, written approval was given. The consent could not go down the controlled activity pathway in Plan Change 7 due to a technicality.

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:

1. That this report be received.

Nigel Paragreen - Environmental Officer - 31 January 2022

¹ Please note: I have removed long running open notification processes relating to deemed permits.

12.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

12.1 CFT

12.2 NZC

12.3 Ngai Tahu

12.4 Conservation Board

13.0 Correspondence

13.1 NZC to Otago

Nil

13.2 Otago to NZC

Nil

13.3 General Correspondence In

13.3.1 BDO Audit Proposal



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BDO INVERCARGILL
136 Spey Street
P O Box 1206
Invercargill 9840, New Zealand

17 January 2022

Ref.: EN/FGC-007

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
Otago Fish and Game Council
PO Box 76
Dunedin 9054

Copy: Director Auditor Appointments
Office of the Auditor-General
PO Box 3928
Wellington

Dear Ian

Proposal to conduct the audit of Otago Fish and Game Council on behalf of the Auditor-General for the 2022, 2023 and 2024 financial years

1 Introduction

The Auditor-General proposes to appoint me to carry out the audit of your organisation for the next 3 years. As required by the Office of the Auditor-General (OAG), I set out below information relating to the audit for the 3 financial years ending 31 August 2022, 2023 and 2024. The purpose of this proposal is to provide information on:

- the statutory basis for the audit and how audit fees are set;
- the entities covered by this proposal;
- key members of the audit team;
- the hours we plan to spend on the audit and reasons for any change in hours;
- our proposed fees for the audit for the financial years ending 31 August 2022, 2023 and 2024 and reasons for any change;
- assumptions relating to the proposed audit fees, including what we expect of your organisation;
- what the OAG Audit Standards and Quality Support charge provides;
- certification required by the Auditor-General; and
- our commitment to conduct the audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards.

2 Statutory basis for the audit and how audit fees are set

The audit of your organisation is carried out under Section 15 of the Public Audit Act 2001, which states that "the Auditor-General must from time to time audit the financial statements, accounts, and other information that a public entity is required to have audited".

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Fees for audits of public entities are set by the Auditor-General under section 42 of the Public Audit Act 2001. However, your Council and I have the opportunity to reach agreement first and recommend those fees for approval. The Auditor-General, with assistance from the OAG, will set audit fees directly only if we fail to reach agreement.

Our proposed audit fees are set out in this letter and include an estimate of the reasonable cost of disbursements (including travel and accommodation where necessary).

3 Entities covered by this proposal

This proposal covers the audits of the following entities:

- *Otago Fish and Game Council*

4 Key members of the audit team

Appointed Auditor *Aaron Higham*

Audit Manager *John McIver*

5 Estimated audit hours

We estimate that the following hours will be required to carry out the audits (compared to budgeted and actual data from the previous financial year):

Audit team member	2021 budget	2021 actual (*)	2022	2023	2024
Appointed Auditor	15	15	16	16	16
Audit Manager	25	25	25	25	25
Non CA qualified staff	40	41	42	43	43
Total audit hours	80	81	83	83	83

5.1 Reasons for changes in audit hours

The major reasons for the changes in hours for your organisation's audit are:

Reasons for increased or decreased audit hours compared to previous period <u>budgeted</u> hours:	2022	2023	2024
Other changes in audit hours, which includes additional time involved in the audit and review of the statement of service performance.	3	-	-
Total increase in audit hours	3	-	-



6 Proposed audit fees

Our proposed fees for the next three audits (compared to budgeted and actual data from the previous financial year) are:

Structure of audit fees	2021 budget fees	2021 actual fees charged (*)	2022	2023	2024
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Net audit fee (excluding OAG Audit Standards and Quality Support charge and disbursements)	9,075	9,075	9,708	9,999	10,299
OAG Audit Standards and Quality Support charge	640	640	664	664	664
Total audit fee (excluding disbursements)	9,715	9,715	10,372	10,663	10,963
Estimated Disbursements	610	610	650	650	650
Total billable audit fees and charges	10,325	10,325	11,022	11,313	11,613
GST	1,549	1,549	1,653	1,697	1,742
Total (including GST)	11,874	11,874	12,675	13,010	13,355

The audit fees allow for the audit team to carry out specific tasks identified in the OAG Sector Brief and for the OAG Audit Standards and Quality Support charge. We have also estimated the reasonable cost of disbursements (including travel and accommodation where necessary). Disbursement costs are indicative only and will be charged on an actual and reasonable basis.

6.1 Reasons for changes in audit fees

In table 5.1 we showed the factors that have resulted in a change of audit hours. The cost impacts of those changes are shown in the table below.

Reasons for increased or decreased audit fees compared to previous period <u>budgeted</u> fees.	2022	2023	2024
Predicted staff salary cost movements	273	291	300
Other changes in audit hours, which includes additional time involved in the audit and review of the statement of service performance.	360	-	-
Total increase in audit fees	633	291	300



BDO INVERCARGILL

7 Assumptions relating to our audit fee

You are responsible for the production of your financial statements and anything else that must be audited. Our proposed audit fees are based on the assumption that:

- You will provide to us, in accordance with the agreed timetable, the complete information required by us to conduct the audit.
- Your staff will provide us with an appropriate level of assistance.
- Your organisation's annual report and financial statements (including Statements of Service Performance) will be subject to appropriate levels of quality review by you before being submitted to us for audit.
- Your organisation's financial statements will include all relevant disclosures.
- We will review up to two sets of draft annual reports, one printer's proof copy of the annual report, and one copy of the electronic version of the annual report (for publication on your website).
- There are no significant changes to the structure and/or scale of operations of the entities covered by this proposal (other than as already advised to us).
- There are no significant changes to mandatory accounting standards or the financial reporting framework that require additional work (other than as specified in tables 5.1 and 6.1
- There are no significant changes to mandatory auditing standards that require additional work other than items specifically identified in the tables above.
- There are no significant changes to the agreed audit arrangements (set out in an annual letter we will send you) that change the scope of, timing of, or disbursements related to, this audit.

If the scope and/or amount of work changes significantly, we will discuss the issues and any implications for our audit costs and your audit fees with you and the OAG at the time.

8 What the OAG Audit Standards and Quality Support charge provides

Parliament has indicated that it expects the full cost of annual audits under the Public Audit Act (including an OAG Audit Standards and Quality Support charge) to be funded by public entities.

The OAG Audit Standards and Quality Support charge partially funds a range of work that supports auditors and entities, including:

- development and maintenance of auditing standards;
- technical support for auditors on specific accounting and auditing issues;



BDO INVERCARGILL

- ongoing auditor training on specific public sector issues;
- preparation of sector briefs to ensure a consistent approach to annual audits;
- development and maintenance of strategic audit plans; and
- carrying out quality assurance reviews of all auditors, and their audits and staff on a regular (generally, three-year) cycle.

Appointed Auditors are required to return the OAG Audit Standards and Quality Support charge portion of the audit fee, to the OAG.

9 Certifications required by the Auditor-General

We certify that:

- the undertakings, methodology, and quality control procedures that we have declared to the OAG continue to apply;
- our professional indemnity insurance policy covers this engagement; and
- the audit will be conducted in accordance with the terms and conditions of engagement set out in the audit engagement agreement and schedules.

10 Conclusion

As the Appointed Auditor, I am committed to providing you and the Auditor-General with the highest level of professional service. I intend to work with you, the OAG, and the Auditor-General in a partnership environment to resolve any issues that may arise.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please counter-sign this letter (below) to confirm that you, and the governing body of your organisation, agree with its contents. This letter will then form the basis for a recommendation to the Auditor-General on the audit fee that should be set. The schedules of audit hours and fees will also be incorporated into my audit engagement agreement with the Auditor-General to carry out the audit of your organisation as the agent of the Auditor-General.



BDO INVERCARGILL

Yours sincerely

Aaron Higham
BDO Invercargill

I accept the audit fees for the audit of the 3 financial years as stated above.

Full name: _____ Position: _____
 Authorised signature: _____ Date: _____
 Entity name: _____

Actions to take when agreement has been reached:

- 1 Make a copy of this signed proposal and keep it for your file.
- 2 Send the original to:

Aaron Higham
 BDO Invercargill
 136 Spey Street
 Invercargill 9810
 Email: aron.higham@bdo.co.nz

13.4 General Correspondence Out

13.4.1 Wanaka - Cromwell trail - Bendigo Wildlife Reserve

From: Ian Hadland
Sent: Wednesday, 12 January 2022 2:30 PM
To: Dave Howard <dave@southernland.co.nz>
Subject: RE: [# T4303]

Dear David

Without prejudice

Thanks for meeting four of our Fish & Game Councillors to advance the discussion on your cycle trail project. They have now provided feedback to the wider Council at a workshop and the Council has agreed to allow the track to pass through the Bendigo Wildlife Reserve subject to the following;

- The Council's position is that hunting will always retain precedence over cycling within the Bendigo Wildlife Reserve; should there be any conflict between the two, hunting interests will come first.
- The cycle trail within the Bendigo Wildlife Reserve is to be built on the proposed alignment as shown yellow in the plan drawing T4303-3_P1.
- That the Otago F&G council will set the closure periods for the cycle track in the Wildlife Reserve from time to time at its discretion (following consultation with the Trails Trust) to protect hunting opportunity and ensure cyclist safety, particularly at peak hunting times.
- As discussed at the on-site meeting, south of Gilmore Road the cycle track will angle up the slope progressively away from the shore of Lake Dunstan to the northern corner of the Mahaka Katia Reserve to provide separation of cyclists from hunters along that part of the lake shore.
- Most other items in 'strawman list' were agreed. These were seen as practical mechanisms to ensure the primary objectives of ensuring cyclists are not unnecessarily exposed to hunting related risks.

The Council appreciates the Cycle Trails Trust understanding about the value of hunting and wildlife in the area and looks forward to assisting with its advocacy on the topic. It was pleased to see it wishes to recognise hunting in the reserve (and wider area) and inform the public of the wildlife values it contains. Council saw this as a counterbalance to the potential loss of privacy for hunting – something it will have to carefully explain to its licence holders if agreement is reached.

If you could now move forward with drafting an MOU to this effect, I can ensure that goes before the full Council at its next meeting on the 12 February. If we get that well beforehand, then I can circulate a draft to iron out any remaining issues. That will give it the best chance of being signed off at that February meeting. The following meeting is late

March. It would be helpful if you could also provide an updated map showing the agreed final cycle trail alignment from the northern boundary of the Bendigo Wildlife Reserve to the Mahaka Katia Scientific Reserve.

Once the MOU is in place, Council will need to let its licence holders know about the cycle trail passing through the Bendigo Wildlife Reserve and along the lake shore south of Gilmore Road. It may be helpful for the Trails Trust and Otago Fish and Game to work together to do that when appropriate. We need to ensure that licence holders know that the presence of the cycle trail will not compromise hunting opportunity.

We'd welcome further discussion in the interim if its required, perhaps working back through Cr Rick Boyd in the first instance.

Ian Hadland | **Chief Executive**



Cell: 027 254 9700

DDI: +64 3 479 6555

Email: ihadland@fishandgame.org.nz

Web: www.fishandgame.org.nz

Otago Fish & Game Council

PO Box 76

Dunedin

New Zealand

13.4.2 Amalgamations NZ Fish and Game Councils



David Hunt
Structure Review Project Team Chair
FishAndGame@concept.co.nz

Dear David,

Our Council held a special video conference to consider the commentary and the various proposals, some of which they had not seen or considered before.

Overall

Otago Council considered this was a reasonable first cut and very tight summary of the issues and options raised. We note that some of the comments from Otago's submissions were picked up but at this point it would have liked to have seen more emphasis on the purpose of amalgamations and what the ends are to be achieved are (eg save money, improve visibility, reduce duplication of services, improve licence holder understanding of structure, create more engagement). Councillors felt it would be difficult to rank any of the options until those are firmly settled upon.

Otago considered that the following principles should apply;

- Amalgamations should result in relatively even sized regions in terms of physical area, licence holders and financial resources.
- Preference for regions to be grant free as far as possible.
- Governor to licence holder ratio is even and maximised to ensure best representation in areas where activity occurs. Wards may be required to maintain geographic representation.
- Should encapsulate and not split 'communities of interest'
- No net loss of staff and any amalgamations should optimise career paths and provide staff with development opportunities to work across boundaries and to progress to management positions

Super/Mega Regions

Operationally, a super region may be manageable but it would create the need for a new layer of management (operations of field centre managers etc) and that could be advantageous to ambitious staff who want to gain leadership roles. And there could be other efficiencies here too. The flip side is that that the staff costs could be considerably larger than presently.

There was concern expressed at the meeting and described in the councils previous submission about the potential disconnect between users and governance brought about by creation of a mega region. The knock-on impact to this being less participation in governance and/or the need for ward structures to ensure large urban centre candidates didn't capture governance roles.

Use of activity data (DEQ)

While this appears a tidy way to compare and contrast regions, there are some holes in this approach and it was suggested that the review team look more widely in their analysis because;

- The NAS data is quite out of date and angler use has changed, particularly the north to south drift of sales which is most probably following angler effort.
- Landowner hunting activity isn't recorded
- 2019 expenditure data was used rather than base funding. Several regions had approval to spent into reserves that year (Otago included at around \$350k) which skews the analysis
- Demographics are changing

Further research required

Otago staff produced a number of options where 2019 base fund was used alongside DEQ to help compare options and look for outliers. Some of those charts are attached as Appendix 1. This should be expanded upon and checked for accuracy.

This same analysis sees Otago at, or on the trend line which confirms it is an ideal region size. When compared with other regions it strikes the right balance between staff, funding and DEQ use.

Comments on options and further analysis

CSI as a standalone region (option 6.2, 6.3, 6.4) - Presently CSI region is benefitting from massive use of the canal fishery. There is risk here in using that as a basis for future modelling. Cast 20 years ahead one might see real changes to the way caged salmon are perceived, access to these privately owned hydro canals could be limited for H&S reasons, disease and discharge of salmon waste to the wider environment could attract criticism and reduce the scale of the canal salmon farming operations, and the sports fishery based around it. So there are concerns that CSI might not be as self sufficient in the future.

7.2 Appears the most sound option in Otago's view. It creates a relatively even set of regions which strikes a tidy balance between the distribution of resources, angler and hunter effort and maintaining representation at a governance level.

7.3 which has an amalgamation of the two Canterbury regions would create a 'super region' to some extent but it would lower the risk if the canal fishery fails for any reason. 7.3 could be further improved with some boundary changes which carve off the top and tail of the joined Canterbury region (Kakanui to Otago and Hurunui catchment north to Nelson/Marl – WC regions). This should be reanalysed by shifting that DEQ data for those carved off areas so see if it makes a difference in models.

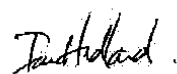
6.5 is one that deserves more analysis. (2 north island regions and 4 south island) There is a general trend in angling activity from north to south, so what looks like a mega region in the upper north (AW,E and Northland) is unlikely to last. Sales are diminishing and at current trends, lower revenue will see them fall into line with the other regions resulting in an even sized suite of regions in the future.

8.1 and 8.2 also have merit and probably results in the least disruption to the organisation. Some boundary changes may be required so that catchments fall entirely within regions (Whanganui for instance).

Best options - 7.2 is the best fit for Otago followed by 7.3 (with adjusted boundaries). 6.5 has considerable merit as does 8.1 and 8.2 which both provide a decentralised structure that allows good governance and representation.

Otago Council thanks you for allowing input at this early stage and we would welcome further opportunities to provide feedback as the project progresses.

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive
20.12.2021



Colin Weatherall, Chair

13.4.3 Conflict of Interest on the Otago Regional Council



13 January 2022

Hon. Nanaia Mahuta
Private Bag 18888
Parliament Buildings
Wellington, 6160

Conflict of Interest on the Otago Regional Council

Dear Nanaia,

I am writing to detail evidence of a continuing conflict of interest by Cr Gary Kelliher, of the Otago Regional Council (ORC) in Council decision-making.

The decision in question relates to how the ORC is to proceed with setting environmental flows for the Manuherehia catchment. This was primarily discussed at the Council table on 25 August 2021 but the decision is not yet fully resolved. In the highlighted segments of the attached emails,¹ Cr Kelliher:

- provides feedback on proposed ORC Councillor requests with respect to the decision;
- both solicits and receives requests to discuss the decision and wider issues in person;
- engages in discussion about the decision with ORC and Central Otago District Councillors; and
- at times uses private email accounts which have been redacted in the information request.

Cr Kelliher has been identified by the Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) as having a financial interest in the Water Permits Plan Change, due to his connection with two deemed permits in the Manuherehia catchment. It is clear to me that the logic of that OAG's finding also holds here. In the minutes from the August 25 meeting, Cr Kelliher declared a conflict of interest on the decision in question.²

I find it disturbing that Cr Kelliher has been able to participate in discussions behind the scenes, despite his clear conflict of interest.

Cr Kelliher is privileged to have free access to scarce water resources for irrigation. I am concerned that he is attempting to work around public interest safeguards and use his position of power as a councillor to influence how water resources may be allocated in future. Ultimately, this conduct may undermine public trust in the ORC and in the fair implementation of the Resource Management Act.

I respectfully ask that you urgently look into this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive.

cc Paul James, Secretary for Internal Affairs, c/o Department of Internal Affairs, info@dia.govt.nz

¹ Gathered by Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 requests.

² I have attached the OAG decision and relevant excerpt of the minutes from this meeting for your reference.
Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitat

13.4.4 Conflict of Interest on the Otago Regional Council



13 January 2022

Hon. David Parker
Private Bag 18888
Parliament Buildings
Wellington, 6160

Conflict of Interest on the Otago Regional Council

Dear David,

I am writing to detail evidence of a continuing conflict of interest by Cr Gary Kelliher, of the Otago Regional Council (ORC) in Council decision-making.

The decision in question relates to how the ORC is to proceed with setting environmental flows for the Manuhereka catchment. This was primarily discussed at the Council table on 25 August 2021 but the decision is not yet fully resolved. In the highlighted segments of the attached emails,¹ Cr Kelliher:

- provides feedback on proposed ORC Councillor requests with respect to the decision;
- both solicits and receives requests to discuss the decision and wider issues in person;
- engages in discussion about the decision with ORC and Central Otago District Councillors; and
- at times uses private email accounts which have been redacted in the information request.

Cr Kelliher has been identified by the Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) as having a financial interest in the Water Permits Plan Change, due to his connection with two deemed permits in the Manuhereka catchment. It is clear to me that the logic of that OAG's finding also holds here. In the minutes from the August 25 meeting, Cr Kelliher declared a conflict of interest on the decision in question.²

I find it disturbing that Cr Kelliher has been able to participate in discussions behind the scenes, despite his clear conflict of interest.

Cr Kelliher is privileged to have free access to scarce water resources for irrigation. I am concerned that he is attempting to work around public interest safeguards and use his position of power as a councillor to influence how water resources may be allocated in future. Ultimately, this conduct may undermine public trust in the ORC and in the fair implementation of the Resource Management Act.

I respectfully ask that you urgently look into this matter.

Yours faithfully,

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive.

cc Vicky Robertson, Secretary for the Environment, c/o Ministry for the Environment,
info@mfe.govt.nz

¹ Gathered by Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 requests.

² I have attached the OAG decision and relevant excerpt of the minutes from this meeting for your reference.
Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitat

Otago Fish & Game Council

14.0 Items to be Received or Noted

14.1 2022 Game Bird Moulting Count

Introduction

The endemic paradise shelduck congregates to moult on large bodies of water all around New Zealand in late January/ early February. The birds take around three – four weeks to replace all their flight feathers (Williams, 1981), leaving them flightless and vulnerable to predation. During this period the typically geographically sparse species is mobbed together on ponds that are utilised year after year, providing a valuable opportunity for game bird managers to survey numbers in the lead into the game bird hunting season.

The flight also counts the black swans and Canada geese that are present at each site. Black swans typically moult in large numbers on a few select coastal estuaries (Williams, 1981). The sites have been selected with paradise shelduck moult sites as the top priority followed by black swans. Canada geese are counted to maintain historic records.

Due to more dams being built over time and the extensive nature of moult sites a full population count (census) is not possible, however by counting a large number of sites it is possible to confidently identify long term population trends, particularly for paradise shelduck.

Method

Moult sites are circled at low level in a fixed-wing light aircraft, typically a Cessna 172 due to its low stall speed and high mounted wing which make it easier for observers to count waterfowl. Low density mobs of waterfowl are counted while circling. If high densities are spotted from the plane, estimates are made at the time and the mobs are photographed (Figure 6). Counts are then carried out later using computer software. A small number of sites are counted on foot with binoculars and spotting scopes. This year there were 78 total moult sites counted.



Figure 6: High densities of paradise shelduck moulting on an irrigation pond near Alexandra. Note the high numbers on the banks.

Efforts are made to minimise variation between each year's survey, this includes keeping the aircraft the same, maintaining the same observers, surveying consistent sites and carrying out the count at the same time of year. Despite best efforts at consistency, factors such as new ponds being built, staff changes and not being able to access all sites every year due to weather mean that the total bird count does not always fully explain trends in populations. To account for this the data has also been run through a route regression process.

Route regression is a Fish & Game standard operating procedure (Teal, 2003) that minimises the effects of yearly variation, by averaging the long-term trends of natural logged counts at each site over set time periods (Stevens, 2021). Counts are natural logged to prevent variation in very large moult sites e.g., Lake Waihola from overwhelming the data. A full scientific review by Sauer & Droege (1990) showed that "route-regression methodology is most efficient in the estimation of long-term (>5 year) trends and tends to provide conservative results for low-density species".

Results

Total counts

Figure 7 shows the long-term total counts for each monitored species as well as the trend for the period.

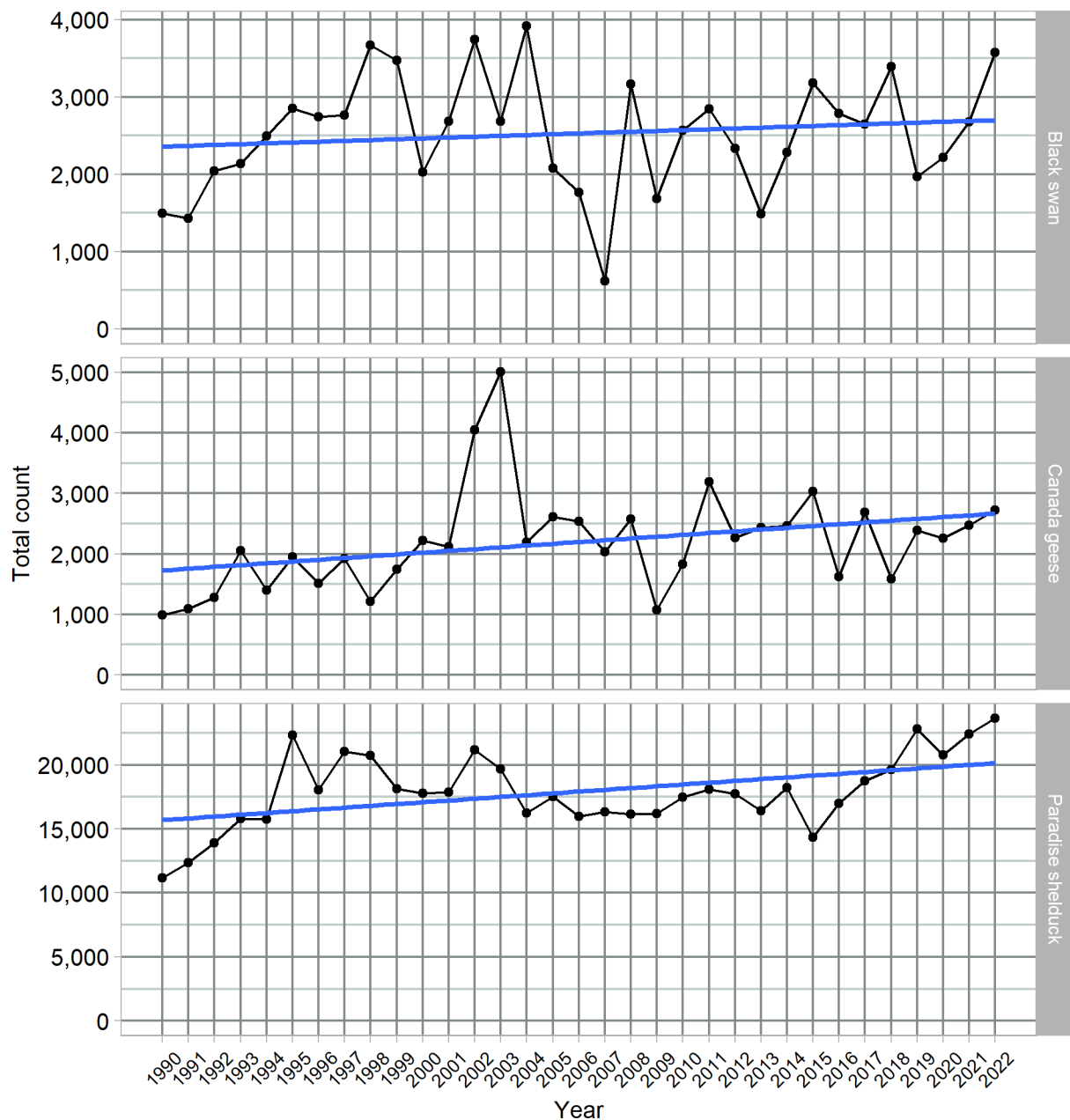


Figure 7: Long-term (1990-2022) count totals for three waterfowl species. Long-term linear trend shown in blue.

The paradise shelduck count reached its highest point this year at 23,660, in excess of the 23,000-threshold required to open the March shelduck season to adult hunters in addition to junior licenceholders. Paradise shelduck were counted at almost 90% of the surveyed sites. Only five sites contained more than 1,000 shelduck. These five sites accounted for over 35% of the total shelduck that were counted.

Black swan moult numbers have continued to increase to 3,570, their highest levels since 2004. Black swans tended to be seen at coastal sites and were only present at 29 of the 78 monitored sites. Just over 70% of the swans counted were at 4 sites in the Waihola/ Waipori wetland complex.

All three monitored species have shown an increasing trend over the surveyed period; however, these data are confounded by the number of sites surveyed over the period also increasing from an average of just over 60 in the 1990's to almost 80 in the 2010's.

Regional paradise shelduck counts

Figure 8 shows the short-term paradise shelduck count totals broken down by subregion. The subregional count totals show less consistent trends than the Otago Region aggregated data. All the subregional totals were at relatively high levels except for the West Otago and the Ida/ Manuherekiia subregions which were slightly down on average. The counts for this year were at the highest for the period for the Queenstown, South Otago and Upper Clutha subregions. As the totals have not been normalised by the number of ponds counted per subregion or the size of each subregion, inferences on differences between subregional populations cannot be made.

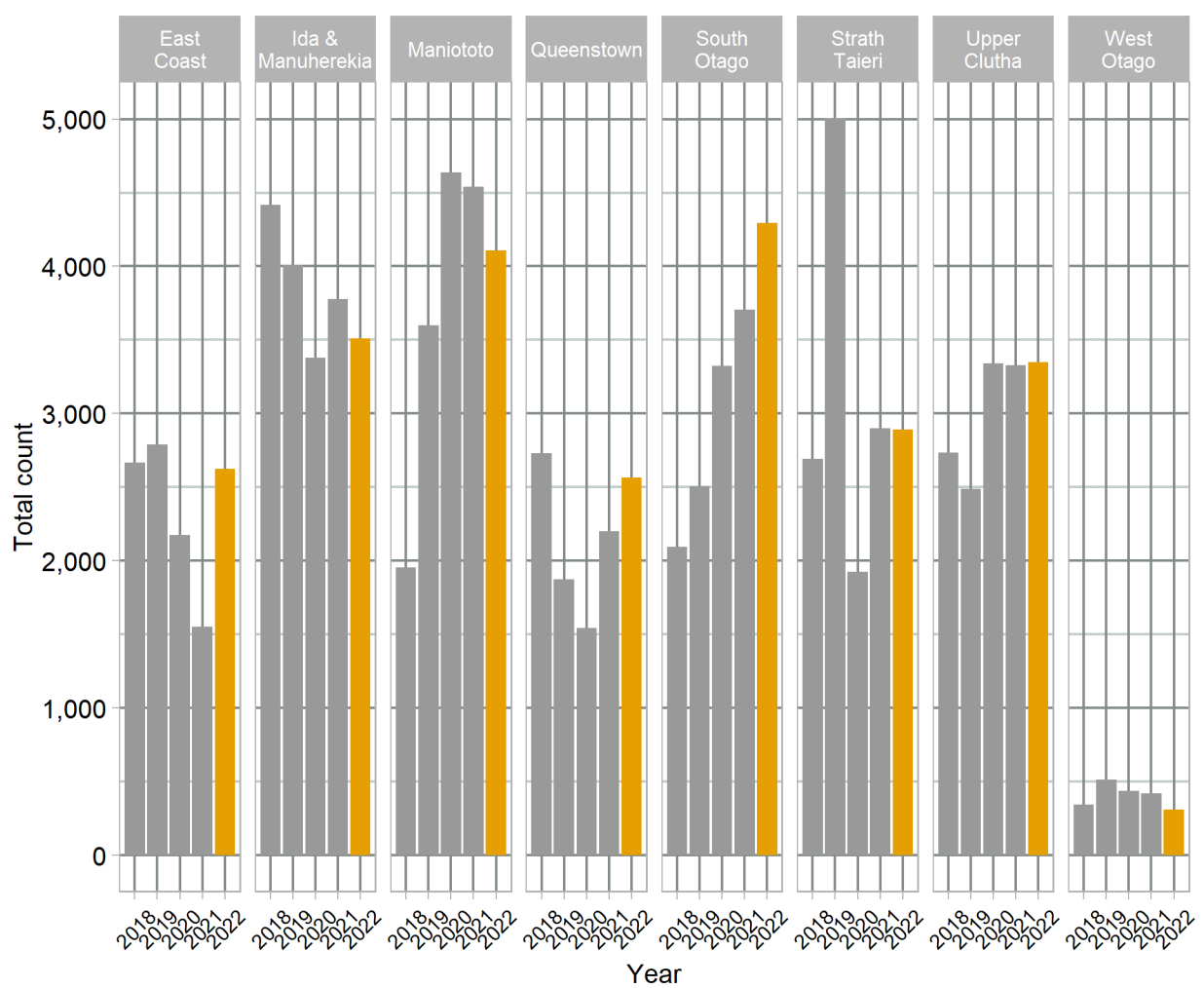


Figure 8: Short-term paradise shelduck count broken down by subregion. Current year shown in orange.

Route regression

Figure 9 show a route regression analysis that looks at proportional changes between a series of two-year periods. As the analysis only includes sites that were surveyed in each two-year pairs, it is unaffected by sites that were not able to be surveyed in either year.

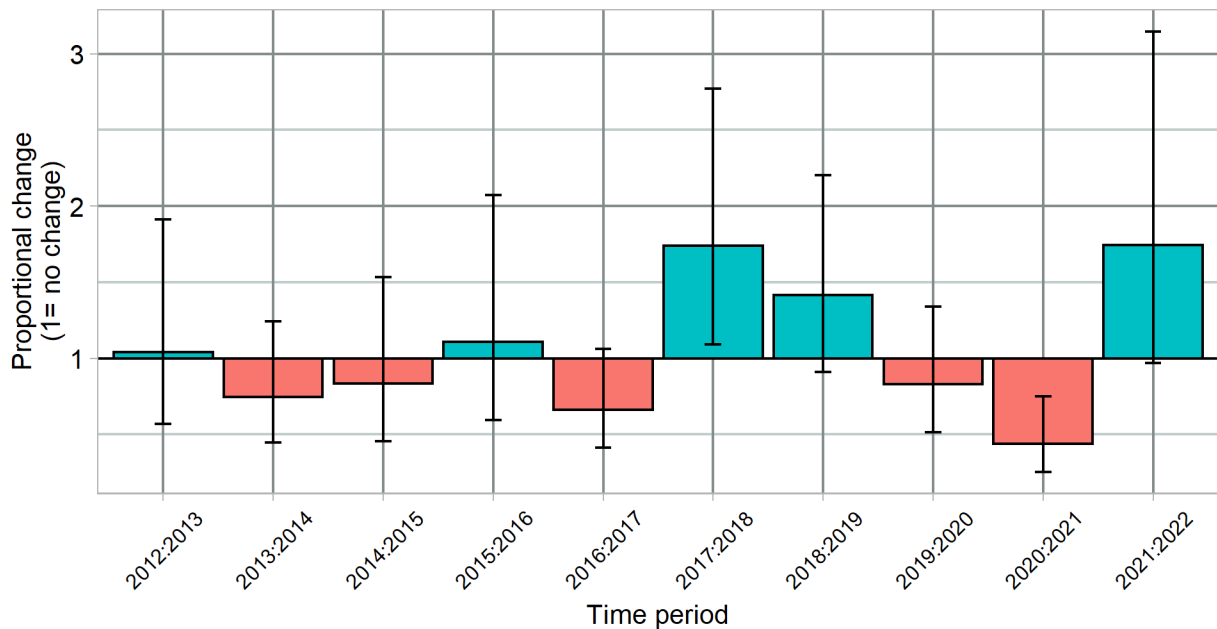


Figure 9: Yearly proportional change in paradise shelduck numbers with 95% confidence intervals. Increasing trend for period shown in blue, decreasing trend in red.

A value of over one suggests a positive trend over the period. Paradise shelduck numbers showed an increase this year over last year, however as the confidence interval spans zero, the change should be considered statistically insignificant.

As the route regression analysis is suited to longer term (>5 years) data, the proportional changes over any two-year period should be only treated as an indication of how the population is moving and this is reflected in the relatively wide confidence intervals.

Figure 10 shows the changes over a number of longer terms, it suggests that paradise shelduck populations in the Otago region are very consistent. The 7-,10-,15- and 20-year periods all show positive trends, however all of these except the 15-year period have a confidence interval that spans zero. This suggests that there is a small chance there has been a drop in population over these periods but if so, it is likely to only be a very minor.

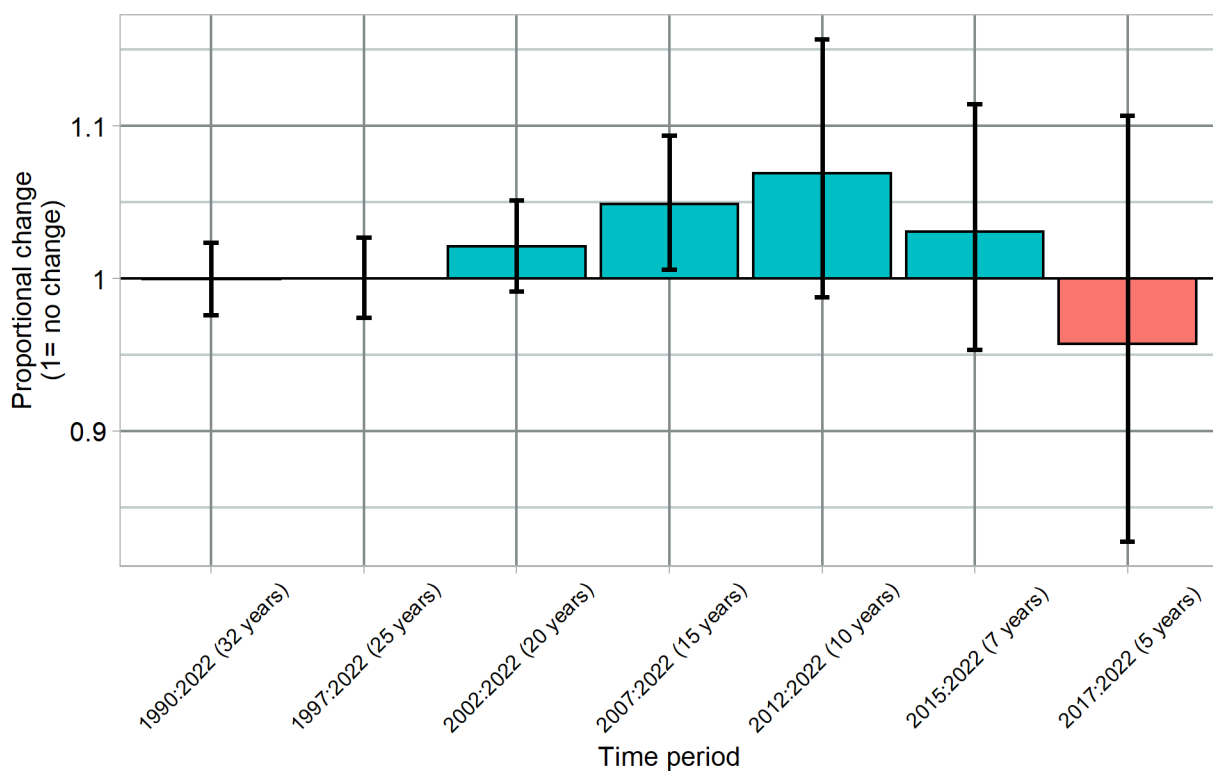


Figure 10: Proportional change in paradise shelduck numbers over varying periods with 95% confidence intervals. Increasing trend for period shown in blue, decreasing trend in red.

The previous 5-year period shows a negative trend, although it's a relatively minor drop and comes with a reasonably high level of uncertainty as shown by the relatively wide confidence intervals.

The 25- and 32-year trends are both very close to one, suggesting there has been no significant change at a population level. The confidence intervals for these trends are very narrow meaning we can have high confidence that there has been no large change in paradise shelduck numbers.

Discussion

Following an increase in the March paradise shelduck junior season in 2021 from one to nine days, Council voted at the November meeting to open the season to adult hunters if the regional trend count total reached a threshold level of 23,000. As the count is in excess of this, the season should go ahead.

There has been a large increase in the number of irrigation storage dams (and moult sites) in the Otago Region across the surveyed period (1990-2022). To account for these the number of sites that are counted has had to increase. The increase in sites has been necessary to provide suitable coverage of the moulting population, however, the number of surveyed sites cannot increase indefinitely due to increased cost and staff time. Before the next survey, staff should investigate which sites have been monitored most consistently since 1990 and which ones contribute the most to variability in the total count.

Although increasing the number of sites over time has been crucial to monitor the changing landscape it has the potential to artificially inflate total numbers and possibly even hide downturns in game bird populations. A route regression analysis has been carried out as an alternative way of looking at changes over time to be considered alongside total count. One of the key goals as game bird managers is to provide the optimum amount of hunting opportunity whilst maintaining strong populations. Council and staff should be pleased that the route regression analysis suggests very stable populations over long time periods. This stability suggests that Councils management of shelduck harvest and habitat over the years has maintained a sustainable population for its hunters. The high confidence around these trends also suggests that the Otago Region's significant investment in collecting data from a large number of sites across a long time period has been worth it for the sustainable long-term monitoring and management of this species.

As black swans tend to congregate in very large numbers on a few select coastal sites, estimates for their trend in abundance come with lower confidence. Black swans are also more difficult to count accurately than the other species as they tend not to be as mobbed together (B Quirey, pers comms). Although black swans were only present at under 40% of the sites counted, their numbers were relatively high, and they likely represent a significant proportion of the regional population. Despite a recent change to less restrictive harvest regulations, black swan numbers appear to be increasing and were particularly high for this count.

Canada goose numbers appear to be increasing however an analysis should be carried out to determine whether there is enough suitable data to come to a strong conclusion on this. As the surveyed sites have been chosen to estimate paradise shelduck trends, the data for Canada geese is likely to be less accurate.

References

Sauer, J., & Droege, S. (1990). *Survey Designs and Statistical Methods for the Estimation of Avian Population Trends*. Washinton, DC: US Fish and Wildlife Service - U.S. Department of the Interior.

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Williams, M. (1981). *The duckshooter's bag*. Wellington: The Wetland Press.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Ian, Bruce and Ben who battled nausea (mostly successfully) carrying out the aerial counts and Paul who counted sites from the ground. Thanks to the Otago Fish & Game staff, particularly Sharon and Khalym who counted a huge number of parries in photos. Thanks also to Hamish Stevens from Central South Island Fish & Game who provided a large amount of assistance and advice on route regression analysis.

Recommendations

- 1. That the report is received.**
- 2. That Council endorse the decision made at the November Council Meeting to open the March paradise shelduck season to adult hunters.**

Jayde Couper,
Otago Fish & Game Officer
31/01/2022

15.0 General Business