



## **Sports Fish and Game Management Plan for West Coast Region**

West Coast Fish and Game Council  
2 Bert Mercer Drive  
Hokitika

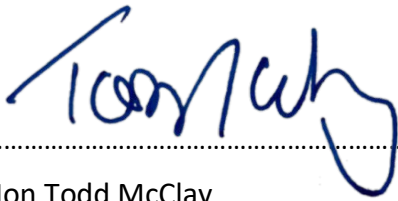
**APPROVAL**

The purpose of this sports fish and game management plan is to establish objectives for the management of sports fish and game within the West Coast Fish and Game Region<sup>1</sup> (section 17L(1) of the Act).

This sports fish and game management plan was prepared by the West Coast Fish and Game Council in accordance with sections 17L(2), 17M, and 26Q(1)(e)(iii) of the Conservation Act 1987.

The purpose of this sports fish and game management plan is to establish objectives for the management of sports fish and game within the West Coast Fish and Game Region (section 17L(1) of Act).

This plan is approved under sections 17M(2)(g) and 26A(1)(a) of the Act.



.....

Date: ..... / ..... / .....  
Date: 18 / 06 / 2024

Hon Todd McClay  
**Minister for Hunting and Fishing**

---

<sup>1</sup> The West Coast Fish and Game Region means the area defined as such in the notice in the Gazette dated 24 May 1990, at page 1861, as amended by notice in the Gazette dated 29 August 1991, at page 2786.

# Contents

## APPROVAL 2

- PART I BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW ..... 5**
- 1. Plan Overview ..... 5**
  - 1.1 Term of the Plan ..... 5
  - 1.2 Fish and Game Council Role and Responsibilities ..... 5
- 2. Partners and Stakeholders ..... 6**
  - 2.1 Ngāi Tahu and Te Rūnanga ..... 6
  - 2.2 Te Papa Atawhai/Department of Conservation ..... 7
  - 2.3 Regional Council ..... 8
  - 2.4 Territorial Authorities ..... 8
  - 2.5 New Zealand Walking Access Commission/Ara Hīkoi Aotearoa..... 8
  - 2.6 West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board..... 8
- 3. Statutory processes ..... 9**
- 4. Non-statutory processes ..... 9**
  - 4.1 Reserves Owned or Managed by the Council..... 10
- 5. Cross boundary management..... 10**
- 6. Operational Work Plan ..... 10**
  
- PART II MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND POLICY RESPONSES .....11**
- 7. Mission Statement..... 11**
- 8. Sports Fish and Game Bird Populations ..... 12**
  - 8.1 Outcome ..... 13
  - 8.2 Issues ..... 13
  - 8.3 Objectives ..... 14
  - 8.4 Policies ..... 15
- 9. Habitat ..... 17**
  - 9.1 Outcome ..... 18
  - 9.2 Issues ..... 18
  - 9.3 Objectives ..... 19
  - 9.4 Policies ..... 20
- 10. Angler and Hunter Participation..... 22**
  - 10.1 Outcomes..... 22
  - 10.2 Issues ..... 23
  - 10.3 Objectives ..... 25
  - 10.4 Policies ..... 26
- 11. Public Interface ..... 29**
  - 11.1 Outcome ..... 29
  - 11.2 Issues ..... 29
  - 11.3 Objectives ..... 30

11.4	Policies .....	30
<b>12.</b>	<b>Compliance .....</b>	<b>32</b>
12.1	Outcome .....	32
12.2	Issues .....	32
12.3	Objectives .....	32
12.4	Policies .....	33
<b>13.</b>	<b>Administration and Statutory Servicing .....</b>	<b>34</b>
13.1	Outcome .....	34
13.2	Issues .....	34
13.3	Objectives .....	35
13.4	Policies .....	36
<b>14</b>	<b>Plan Implementation .....</b>	<b>37</b>
14.1	Target Dates for Key Actions .....	37
<b>PART III</b>	<b>RESOURCE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>West Coast Fish and Game Region.....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>16.</b>	<b>Habitats present within the Region .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>17.</b>	<b>Sportsfish Habitat .....</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>18.</b>	<b>Game Habitat .....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>19.</b>	<b>Sports Fish Populations.....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>20.</b>	<b>Game Bird Populations .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>21.</b>	<b>Resource Use.....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>22.</b>	<b>Sports Fish and Game Resources in the West Coast .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>23.</b>	<b>Angling &amp; Hunting Recreational Opportunity Spectrum for the West Coast .....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>24.</b>	<b>Sports Fish and Gamebird Resource Significance &amp; Criteria .....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>.....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1.</b>	<b>Map of the West Coast Fish and Game Region.....</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2.</b>	<b>Legislation .....</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>APPENDIX 3.</b>	<b>Species Managed by Fish and Game .....</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>APPENDIX 4.</b>	<b>West Coast significant fisheries and Game Hunting areas.....</b>	<b>64</b>

## **PART I      Background and Legislative Overview**

### **1.          Plan Overview**

The Sports Fish and Game Management Plan for the West Coast Fish and Game Region ('the plan') provides a framework for the management of the West Coast's sports fish and game bird resources. The plan has a ten-year horizon and is both strategic, in outlining issues and providing long term organisational outcomes, and operational in outlining management objectives and policies.

Part I provides background information on the plan and explains the role and responsibilities of the West Coast Fish and Game Council ('the Council'). The Council is one of twelve Fish & Game Councils (FGCs) established under the Conservation Act 1987 for the management of sports fish and game resources within defined regions. A thirteenth council, the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZFGC), coordinates the twelve FGCs and provides national advocacy.

Part II of the plan is divided into sections based largely on the functional areas currently used for FGC annual planning and reporting. This part of the plan lists the issues identified through the plan development process and the policy responses to them.

#### **1.1      Term of the Plan**

This plan was made operative on the date shown on page 2 and will remain in effect until such time as it is reviewed, which should be not later than 10 years from the date of its approval.

The plan will be reviewed in ten years from the date of its approval by the Minister unless it requires amendment sooner. Plan reviews are provided for under section 17M of the Conservation Act 1987.

#### **1.2      Fish and Game Council Role and Responsibilities**

Fish and Game councils represent 150,000 anglers and hunters nationally, making their interests and recreational pursuits a valued and considered part of recreation in New Zealand. Across the country, both local and overseas licence holders enjoy some of the most diverse angling and hunting opportunities in the world. These opportunities depend on the effective management of the sports fish and game bird resource that each Fish and Game region is responsible for and on the health and well-being of ecosystems and habitats, which is managed by regional councils and territorial authorities under the Resource Management Act 1987 (RMA).

The core function of the West Coast Fish and Game Council, as set out in section 26Q(1) of the Conservation Act is to:

***Manage, maintain and enhance the sports fish and game resource in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters.***

There are twelve Fish and Game regions throughout New Zealand. Each region's boundaries are defined in the New Zealand Gazette (NZ Government, 1990). The West Coast Fish and Game region extends from Kahurangi Point in the North to Awarua Point (Big Bay) in South Westland. It is bounded to the east by the Southern Alps and to the west by the Tasman Sea. This area is described in Gazette No. 83 of 24 May 1990 (see map in Appendix 1).

The thirteenth council, the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZFGC), coordinates the twelve Fish and Game Councils and provides national advocacy under section 26C of the Conservation Act. Each regional Fish and Game Council appoints one of its members to form the NZFGC. The brand name 'Fish & Game New Zealand' is used to represent the thirteen councils collectively.

Fish and Game councils receive no government funding to carry out their legislative responsibilities. Funding for all Fish and Game councils is derived almost exclusively from licence sales (with occasional donations, bequests, etc.). The use of that funding and the roles carried out by Fish and Game councils across the country have a substantial benefit to the wider public, beyond anglers and hunters.

Fish and Game councils have responsibilities conferred by legislation, including both the Conservation Act and the Wildlife Act. Fish and Game councils interact with a number of other statutory bodies and engage with other legislation, such as the Resource Management Act. The legislation is set out in detail in Appendix 2.

## 2. Partners and Stakeholders

### 2.1 Ngāi Tahu and Te Rūnanga

The West Coast Fish and Game Region is within the traditional boundaries of Ngāi Tahu. Ngāi Tahu is the largest iwi in Te Waipounamu (the South Island) and comprises people who descend from the tribe's five primary hapū (Ngāti Kuri, Ngāti Irakehu, Ngāti Huirapa, Ngāi Tūāhuriri and Ngāi Te Ruahikihiki) as well as earlier Rapuwai, Hawea, Waitaha and Kāti Mamoe ancestors. The collective of all of these genealogies is known today as Ngāi Tahu whānui.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu is the mandated iwi authority for Ngāi Tahu whānui and was established by the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996. Within Ngāi Tahu whānui, Papatipu Rūnanga are representative bodies of the whānau and hapū of traditional marae-based communities. While Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu accepts its statutory responsibilities as the representative voice of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu "for all purposes" it also respects the rights of local Ngāi Tahu whānau and hapū to represent and express their own respective rights, values and interests as mana whenua through their local Papatipu Rūnanga.

The hapū who hold mana whenua in the West Coast are Ngāti Mahaki o Makaawhio and Ngāti Waewae. Together they are known as Poutini Ngāi Tahu. The rohe of Poutini Ngāi Tahu extends over the entire West Coast Region from Kahurangi Point to Piopiotahu (Milford Sound) and inland to Ngā Tiritiri o te Moana (the Southern Alps):

- **Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae** is the mandated representative body of Ngāti Waewae, a hapū of Ngāi Tahu. Their takiwā is centred on Arahura and Hokitika and extends from the north bank of the Pouerua River to Kahurangi and inland to the main divide. Ngāti Waewae shares the area between Hokitika and Pouerua with Ngāti Māhaki. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae is based at Arahura Marae, where the whare tipuna (meeting house) is Tuhuru, named after a great fighting chief of Poutini Ngāi Tahu.
- **Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio** is the mandated representative body of Ngāti Māhaki o Makaawhio, a hapū of Ngāi Tahu. Their takiwā is centred at Makaawhio (Jacobs River) and Mahitahi (Bruce Bay) and extends from the south bank of Hokitika River to Piopiotahi and inland to the main divide. Ngāti Māhaki share the area between Pouerua and Hokitika with Ngāti Waewae. Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio is based at Te Tauraka Waka a Māui Marae at Mahitahi, where the whare tipuna is Kaipo, named after an ancestor of all Poutini Ngāi Tahu.

The West Coast Fish and Game Council shall recognise and have regard to the following iwi management plans:

- Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Freshwater Policy
- Pounamu Management Plans prepared by Ngāti Mahaki o Makaawhio and Ngāti Waewae

The West Coast Fish and Game Council has explicit obligations it must meet under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. Sections 278-280 of the Act details these obligations as follows:

- Te Rūnanga is appointed as a statutory adviser to Council; and
- Te Rūnanga may provide advice to Council in relation to conditions for hunting seasons for native game birds; and
- Te Rūnanga may provide advice to parts of the draft sports fish and game management plan that relates to native game birds.

The West Coast Fish and Game Council shall work in partnership with Ngāi Tahu and Papatipu Rūnanga to give effect to the principles of Te Tiriti and shall undertake consultation as a means to achieve informed decision-making on matters of potential common interest. The West Coast Fish and Game Council will work as partners with rūnanga when an action or policy may have a potential impact on indigenous biodiversity including habitats, spawning areas and the distribution of populations.

The West Coast Fish and Game Council recognises the following Poutini Ngāi Tahu Values, Principles and Practices and respective priorities as set out in relevant resource management legislation and policy:

- Kaitiakitanga
- Tino Rangatiratanga
- Mauri
- Mahinga kai
- Ki Uta Ki Tai
- Wāhi tapu
- Taonga

### **Resources of Significance to Poutini Ngāi Tahu**

The West Coast Fish and Game Council recognises the region has many places and resources of value to Poutini Ngāi Tahu. Many coastal areas are places near waterbodies on in Te Tai o Poutini are rich in mahinga kai resources. The values of some of these areas have been degraded as a result of land use and development, and it is important to Poutini Ngāi Tahu that remaining mahinga kai resources are restored, sustained and enhanced.

#### Treaty Settlement Requirements

The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, in addition to recognising the rangatiratanga of Ngāi Tahu, includes specific provisions that provide for exercise of rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga of Poutini Ngāi Tahu in respect to resource management matters. These include rights in relation to the management of specified significant areas (statutory acknowledgement areas and nohoanga).

## **2.2 Te Papa Atawhai/Department of Conservation**

The Council's relationship with DOC is one of liaison between two agencies with responsibilities under the Conservation Act 1987. There is some overlap in functions due to section 6 (ab) of the Conservation Act which gives DOC the task of preserving so far as is practical "all indigenous freshwater fisheries and protect[ing] recreational freshwater fisheries and freshwater fish habitats". This includes freshwater sports fisheries and habitats. While DOC is active in the fisheries/freshwater habitat conservation area, the relationship is complementary where water resource allocation, planning, and aquatic habitat issues are concerned. West Coast Fish and Game's responsibilities under s26 of the Act fit well with the Department of Conservation's powers to advocate for the conservation of natural and historic resources under s6(b) of the Act.

The Director General of the Department of Conservation or his nominee is entitled to attend and speak at Council meetings.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been developed and adopted at a national level by DOC and the NZFGC to guide the working relationship of the two organisations.

### **2.3 Regional Council**

The Council's relationship with the West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) is multi-faceted. The West Coast Fish and Game Council is a statutory agency, landowner, ratepayer, and often an affected party on resource consents and planning processes under the Resource Management Act 1991. The WCRC have significant influence over sports fish and gamebird habitat through their river management functions, the establishment of regional policies and plans for water resources, and their decision-making role on resource consent applications. WCRC functions and activities are of critical importance to the Council and so engagement with them is frequent and at all levels.

Freshwater ecosystems and fish and game resources only really have 'security of tenure' through RMA legislation, policy, and plans. The West Coast Fish and Game Council, manages sports fish and gamebird species, whilst the West Coast Regional Council (for the most part) is the primary manager and regulator of their habitat.

### **2.4 Territorial Authorities**

There are three territorial local authorities (TLAs) in the West Coast Fish and Game Region. These are:

- The Westland District Council
- The Grey District Council
- The Buller District Council

Council's primary relationship with the TLAs is through official processes under the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Local Government Acts 1974 and 2002.

### **2.5 New Zealand Walking Access Commission/Ara Hiko Aotearoa**

The relationship between the West Coast Fish and Game Council and the New Zealand Walking Access Commission and its field advisors is important as both organisations have a statutory responsibility for maintaining and improving access for outdoor recreation.

### **2.6 West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board**

The West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board is the community's voice in conservation management in their regions. The board provides advice to DOC on local conservation matters and carry out important planning roles such as the development and implementation of the West Coast Te Tai o Poutini Conservation Management Strategy 2010, and the and the respective National Park Management Plans for Westland Tai Poutini, Aspiring, Paparoa and Kahurangi National Parks. These statutory plans identify and establish objectives for the integrated management of natural and historic resources within the region. Section 6M of the Conservation Act requires each Conservation Board to liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board.



### **3. Statutory processes**

The West Coast Fish and Game Council is one of many statutory agencies that has a role and functions involving environmental conservation and recreation. The West Coast Fish and Game Council shares many of the same values as other statutory agencies in terms of conservation and safeguarding ecosystems and habitats. Often, the advocacy role of the West Coast Fish and Game Council as defined in the Conservation Act interacts with other statutory agencies in the planning environment. Resource consent applications, local authority plans and regional plans often require input and submissions from the West Coast Fish and Game Council in order to uphold its statutory responsibilities.

The West Coast Fish and Game Council seeks to ensure that sports fish and game birds and their habitats and the interests of anglers and hunters are recognised in appropriate planning matters as follows:

- consultation under the First Schedule of the RMA on all relevant planning documents; and
- submissions in relevant resource consent and other consent processes to advocate for decisions and conditions that promote sports fish and game bird interests and the interests of anglers and hunters; and
- development of effective protocols with other resource management authorities to manage key environmental impacts; and
- liaison with the DoC, West Coast Conservation Board, and Papatipu Rūnanga (and others) on their planning processes as required.

### **4. Non-statutory processes**

Outside of the statutory processes, proactive cooperation and engagement with other resource management organisations, iwi, interest groups, licence holders and the wider community will be used to understand any impacts on other natural resources and other users of the habitat concerned and to realise outcomes for sports fish and game bird management.

Given the large rural landscape of the region, considerable areas of sports fish and game bird habitats are on or adjacent to private land. Although the requirements for managing people conducting recreation on private property are less onerous than those conducting business, access arrangements to resources through private property vary in the region from, landowners wanting signage to direct people through property, to others wanting specific control mechanisms to ensure hazards and risks can be communicated to recreational users. It is important for the West Coast Fish and Game Council to work with landowners and managers to encourage the creation, maintenance and enhancement of sports fish and game bird habitats on their land and to maintain and enhance access across and onto private land to provide angling and hunting opportunities to licence holders.

In addition to the collaborative engagement by the West Coast Fish and Game Council with stakeholders and the wider community, the West Coast Fish and Game Council owns and manages two Reserves for the purposes of enhancing wetland habitat, providing game bird hunting, and fishing opportunities and enhancing biodiversity values. The West Coast Fish and Game Council controls and manages the Mahinapua Creek and Lake Reserve. The reserve was established by act of parliament in 1893 and is managed for protection of the fauna and flora present on the reserve along with recreational game bird hunting opportunities.

The management and/or ownership of these areas by the West Coast Fish and Game Council has far-reaching benefits beyond those provided to game birds, anglers, and hunters; they also provide diverse habitats for other species, both flora and fauna. The Lake Kaniere Reserve was designated a reserve for acclimatisation purposes in the Gazette 1922 to be held by the Westland Acclimatisation Society (subsequently the West Coast Fish and Game Council). It was traditionally held for hatchery and rearing purposes to the Kaniere River with an associated accommodation building. Currently a nominal lease is in place with the Hokitika Angling Club and the land is held for its ecological values.

#### 4.1 Reserves Owned or Managed by the Council

Name	Location	Status	Owner	Area Ha.	Gazette or Title Reference
Lake Mahinapua and Creek	Ruatapu - Hokitika	Fee Simple	West coast Fish and Game Council	100	The Mahinapua and Creek Reserves Act, 1893. Gazette #18, 1893
Lake Kaniere	Lake Kaniere	Fee simple	West coast fish and Game Council	40.5	Reserve #913, Block XI, Kaniere Survey District. Vested in Gazette 4 Sept 1922.

#### 5. Cross boundary management

The management of the sports fish and game bird resource in the West Coast Fish and Game Region will have impacts beyond its legislative boundary due to migration patterns, climate, habitat and angler and hunter participation and use.

The West Coast Fish and Game Council will consider the interests of all fish and game licence holders, those of the wider community and Papatipu Rūnanga when performing any function or exercising any power, particularly in relation to resource management and regulations.

#### 6. Operational Work Plan

Each year, regional Fish and Game councils must develop operational work plans that set out and define projects, work programmes and a budget for the upcoming financial year. The Operational Work Plan must give effect to the policies set out in an approved management plan and thereby achieve the outcomes and objectives of the Sports Fish and Game Management Plan. Some projects are ongoing and require the same work to be undertaken year after year (i.e., monitoring a population)

## **PART II      MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND POLICY RESPONSES**

Part II of this plan is divided into sections based on the functional areas currently used for the West Coast Fish and Game Council annual planning and reporting. It details the issues identified through the plan development process and the policy responses to them.

'Outcomes' describe the future aim or goal, in a way that allows one to envisage future possibilities, both positive and negative. These outcomes are standard within second generation conservation planning documents written under the Conservation Act 1987 and the Conservation General Policy 2005.

'Issues' identified under each section describe the current situations which require active management - the "Where are we?" of the planning process.

'Objectives' give weight to the outcomes, describing more succinctly "Where we want to go" in terms of the future or the desired result.

'Policies' have been developed which describe in more specific terms the course of action intended to achieve the desired result or "How we are going to get there". Milestones for all functional areas are then specified jointly at the end of the plan.

The plan will be implemented progressively by assigning staff resources and funds to specific projects within each annual plan. A timetable for implementation of key action is included in section 12.

### **7.      Mission Statement**

The West Coast Fish and Game Council mission statement takes a sustainable, long-term view of the sports fish and game bird resource and encapsulates all aspects of Fish and Game's functions as set out in the Conservation Act. Healthy ecosystems and habitats that provide for sustainable populations of sports fish and game birds to satisfy licence holders is the driver behind much of West Coast Fish and Game Council's work.

*To manage, maintain, and enhance sports fish and game bird resources on a sustainable basis in the recreational interest of anglers and hunters.*

## 8. Sports Fish and Game Bird Populations

The sports fish and game bird resources of the West Coast provide a spectrum of recreational opportunity for anglers and hunters from within the region, from elsewhere in New Zealand and from overseas (discussed in Part III of this Plan). Sports fisheries and game bird populations represent a significant natural, self-sustaining resource of benefit to the regional community both in providing recreational amenity and from the economic activity arising from angling and hunting.

In almost all cases sports fish and game species within the region are based on wild self-sustaining populations.

The principle underlying harvest management is that a wild population will produce each year a surplus above that required to replace natural mortality. That surplus can be harvested on a sustainable basis where all other factors, such as water quality and quantity, are stable. The difficulty lies in identifying the threshold between sustainable harvest and unsustainable harvest given both the elasticity and dynamics of any given population, and then reflecting this in angling and hunting regulations, given the difficulty in obtaining information about population trends. Regulations need to take a precautionary approach to avoid over harvest.

The West Coast Fish and Game Council is required under the Conservation Act to manage the sports fish and game bird resource in the recreational interests of licence holders. The West Coast Fish and Game Council directly manages harvest and angler and hunter impact. The West Coast Fish and Game Council uses its advocacy function to seek and promote healthy habitats and ecosystems and uphold the concept of Te Mana o te Wai in the interests of anglers and hunters in planning processes and community engagement opportunities.

The main methods available to West Coast Fish and Game Council to manage the recreational harvest of the sports fish and game bird resource are:

- to recommend for approval by the Minister of Conservation through the New Zealand Fish and Game Council angling and hunting conditions<sup>2</sup> that control open season duration, bag limits and permitted equipment and methods for angling and hunting; and
- to educate anglers, hunters, landowners, and the general public about environmental and species needs; and
- to advocate that decision-makers (such as local, regional, and national government) make decisions responsive to environmental imperatives.

---

<sup>2</sup> Colloquially the conditions contained in the Anglers Notice and Open Season for Game Notice are known as regulations, however they are technically conditions and will be referred to as such throughout this document.

## 8.1 Outcome

Throughout the West Coast Fish and Game region, resources are thriving within natural habitats and areas. Wild fish and game resources maintain a population which produces enough for a self-sustaining annual harvest in the long term. Brown trout continue to provide the mainstay of fishing opportunity in the West Coast, with Salmon runs in the rivers from the Grey south and the South Westland lakes providing seasonal opportunities for anglers. Some fisheries will continue to be enhanced where opportunities and needs arise to provide specific opportunities for user groups and to manage pest species where appropriate. Wild fish and game species are valued by the community for the recreational opportunity that they provide, for the potential to harvest them for food, and as part of the West Coast's natural heritage.

## 8.2 Issues

- 8.2.1 There is a statutory requirement to manage sports fish and game to ensure species and population sustainability. There is an ongoing need for information on sports fish and game populations dynamics and factors affecting their abundance, including harvest, as well as a precautionary approach to their management. Declining water quality and quantity may also lead to reduced fish habit value and fishery productivity. As such, there is a need to demonstrate a cautious management approach in light of any perceived decline in fisheries.
- 8.2.2 Sports fish and game populations and management activities may impact on other resources and these external effects need to be carefully assessed. For example, the perception that sportfish populations can impact native species. There are also opportunities for co-operation with other freshwater fisheries agencies over management initiatives. Also, there are concerns amongst landholders that game birds can impact on crops and pasture in some circumstances.
- 8.2.3 There is a demand amongst anglers and hunters for a diverse range of recreational opportunities. Anglers are interested in the enhancement of seasonal salmon runs in the region.
- 8.2.4 There is increasing interest in commercial activities based on sports fish and game resources through the provision of services to anglers and hunters. The provision of guiding and access services such as aircraft transportation have the potential to affect the quality of angling and hunting experience, and this combined with subsequent promotion may lead to capacity pressures.
- 8.2.5 There are continuing concerns amongst hunters and anglers about the non-target primary and secondary impacts of chemical-based pest control operations on gamebirds and sportfish and a desire to see poisoning practices adjusted to minimise potential effects on bird and aquatic life.
- 8.2.6 The introduction of new organisms into waters where they do not presently exist has the potential to adversely impact on sports fisheries and their habitats. Examples are the accidental introductions of Didymo, Lagarosiphon and Rudd which have the potential to adversely some fisheries and ecosystem dynamics in the West Coast region.
- 8.2.7 There is a continued need for Fish and Game to adopt evidence-based decision making for actions involving sports fish and gamebird resources. This includes sustaining and undertaking a systematic and cost-effective approach to scientific investigation and monitoring of fisheries and habitats and the creation of mechanisms and processes to share and disseminate these findings.

8.2.8 Periodically gamebird populations can affect aviation safety in the vicinity of airports. It would not be in the long-term interests of recreational hunting to allow gamebird populations in these areas to compromise safety.

### **8.3 Objectives**

8.3.1 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.

8.3.2 To primarily focus sports fisheries management on wild, self-sustaining fish populations.

8.3.3 To optimise angling and hunting opportunity and maintain or improve the recreational fishing opportunities available in the West Coast.

8.3.4 To manage sports fisheries and game populations in the West Coast within their existing ranges except where a risk assessment shows there is no significant effect from extending the distribution on indigenous biodiversity and Kāi Tahu values. Consultation with interested parties, including Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, and DOC, will be undertaken as part of the process for approval under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 and similar laws.

8.3.5 To manage liberations of sports fish so that new sports fisheries will not be created where there are likely to be significant adverse effects on rare or threatened indigenous fish species.

8.3.6 To have regard to the effects of fish and game management activities on other natural resources and resource users.

8.3.7 To cooperate with other freshwater fisheries agencies over freshwater fisheries conservation and habitat protection.

8.3.8 To protect the West Coast's sports fisheries from the adverse effects of releases of other exotic freshwater fish or other unwanted organisms

8.3.9 To maximise angling opportunity in the West Coast by conducting and supporting programs to enhance the fisheries through fish releases where:

*a) the benefits are measurable and bear a reasonable relationship to costs.*

*b) there is a strategic benefit in doing so.*

*c) there is no significant adverse effect on other natural resources or the users of those resources.*

8.3.10 To manage commercial activity relating to sports fish and game to avoid or minimise adverse effects on angling and hunting and ensures pressure-sensitive fisheries are not over-utilised.

8.3.11 To clearly define Council's jurisdiction over sports fish and game resources where commercial interests encroach on the interests of anglers and hunters.

8.3.12 To minimise conflict between game birds and agricultural production and aviation.

8.3.13 To control game bird populations primarily through hunter harvest by licence-holders.

## 8.4 Policies

It is the policy of the West Coast Fish and Game Council to:

### Species management

- 8.4.1 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.
- 8.4.2 Establish and maintain an inventory of sports fish and game resources in the West Coast including:
- a) classification of individual sports fisheries and game habitats to allow management based on significance, key characteristics and the recreational opportunity provided within a spectrum.
  - b) defined spawning grounds and characteristics
  - c) links to water quality and quantity information
  - d) links between fish and game data and place, space, and time (i.e. a geospatial database)
- 8.4.3 Prioritise sports fish and game species management activities through:
- a) population trend monitoring
  - b) angler and hunter harvest and opinion surveys
  - c) identification of species management threats and opportunities
  - d) assessments of the effectiveness of species management activities.
- 8.4.4 Manage game bird populations in order to provide a level of abundance and distribution acceptable to hunters while taking account of the effects of game birds on other resource users.
- 8.4.5 Protect the significant sports fishing characteristics of the West Coast's spectrum of fishing opportunities.
- 8.4.6 Prohibit sports fish liberation in waters where the creation of new sports fisheries would significantly impact on rare or threatened indigenous fish species or is not supported by Tai Poutini Runanga.
- 8.4.7 Respond appropriately to reports of adverse effects arising from fish and game management projects on other natural resources or resource users. This may include discussions with landholders and/or their representatives.
- 8.4.8 Actively liaise with the Ministry of Primary Industries, the Department of Conservation and Ngai Tahu over freshwater fisheries management issues and protection of freshwater habitats.
- 8.4.9 Support the enhancement of sports fisheries in the region.

- 8.4.10 Maintain a current and historical database of sports fish and game species and their population trends.

Commercial use

- 8.4.11 Monitor and/or manage commercial uses of sports fish and game birds to maintain licence holder access and sporting opportunities. Commercial uses that require monitoring include:
- a) angling and hunting guiding
  - b) angling and hunting competitions for direct or indirect commercial gain to ensure that they meet the aims of this plan and that the harvest is consistent with the long-term management ambition for the specific fishery
  - c) sports fish displays
  - d) hunting and game preserves.
- 8.4.12 In fulfilling Fish and Game's responsibilities under the Conservation Act to "have regard for the impact of gamebird population management on other natural resources and other users of the habitat concerned whilst maximising opportunities for hunters", the Fish and Game council will assist landholders and Airport Managers to manage situations where there is conflict between game birds and agricultural production and aviation, despite the statutory responsibility and legislative tools remaining with the Director General of Conservation to manage the effects of game outside of hunting seasons.
- 8.4.13 Improve the skills of hunters in hunting for individual game species with potential to cause nuisance.
- 8.4.14 Use enhancement to extend the spectrum of angling opportunity in the West Coast by improving Salmon Fisheries.
- 8.4.15 Oppose any releases of exotic freshwater fish which pose a risk to sports fisheries or their habitats.
- 8.4.16 Support efforts to prevent accidental transmission of unwanted aquatic organisms under the Biosecurity Act 1993.



## 9. Habitat

The distribution and abundance of fish and game species is largely related to the quality and extent of fish and game habitats. The West Coast Fish and Game Council has a broad range of responsibilities under section 26Q of the Conservation Act 1987. These include:

- to manage, maintain, and enhance the sports fish and gamebird resource
- to monitor the condition and trend of ecosystems as habitats for sports fish and game
- to maintain and improve access
- to maintain hatchery and breeding programmes, where required for stocking or restocking the sports fisheries and game habitat
- to undertake such works as may be necessary to maintain and enhance the habitat of sports fish and game (subject to appropriate approvals)
- to promote recreation based on sports fish and game
- to advocate for the interests of the Council, including its interests in habitats.

As such, the protection, maintenance and enhancement of rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands as habitats and ecosystems is vitally important in the maintenance of fish and gamebird resources. The maintenance and enhancement of water quality, water quantity, water flow and water level regimes, and natural habitat characteristics (for example channel variability and riparian cover) are essential requirements.

Community use of land and other resources for productive purposes often has adverse impacts on fish and game habitats.

Major impacts may result from:

- intensification of land use including forestry, dairying, mining (including gravel extraction) and urban development
- nutrient and sediment discharges to waterways and non-point source pollution
- flood control works in rivers and streams
- wetland drainage and modification of wetland vegetation.
- the damming of rivers and lakes
- the introduction of unwanted organisms such as didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) and other aquatic pests.

The Council recognises that for the greater part habitat protection must be achieved through advocacy because the control and management of water and land resources lies with private interests or other statutory agencies. Under common law, water is assumed to be owned by no person. There are many ways to approach advocacy for habitat, and some of these are outlined below:

- the RMA resource consent application process
- district and regional policy and plan development and reviews under the RMA
- development of legislation affecting resource management
- the pastoral lease tenure review process under the Crown Pastoral Lands Act 1998
- policies, plans and strategies developed under other Acts
- raising public awareness
- participating in catchment committees and other strategic groups

- alternative ways of securing sufficient water to maintain and enhance fisheries.
- Non-statutory processes may also be used to achieve protection of sports fish and game bird habitat. Proactive cooperation with other resource management organisations, iwi, interest groups and individuals in the wider community can be used to realise positive outcomes for fish and game management.

The Council owns 96ha of freehold land designated Part Reserve 1180 at Mahinapua. The reserve is an approximate 20 metre strip encompassing the margins of Lake Mahinapua and its outlet creek. The reserve was gazetted by the Crown as a Fauna and Flora reserve. It is an intact coastal wetland complex with abundant gamebird and wetland bird species. A condition of the title is to make the are available to local authorities for tracking or roading. As such, the lower section is utilised by the Westland Wilderness Trail.

A key strategy in the Council's advocacy activities will be the development of co-operative relationships with agencies and stakeholders with an interest in habitat, particularly the West Coast Regional Council, Department of Conservation, Ngai Tahu, Landcare groups, Federated Farmers, Crown Research Institutes, and other scientific conservation, recreation and community groups.

## 9.1 Outcome

Water quality ranges between good and excellent in West Coast rivers, lakes and wetlands. River flows and lake or wetland water levels combine with the natural characteristics of waterways to support natural ecosystems functioning at a level that supports productive and diverse fish and game populations. Rivers are swimmable, fishable, and safe for food gathering. The West Coasts wetlands are maintained or improved in terms of quality, diversity and species productivity and the overall area of wetlands is not declining, underpinned by the regional focus on protection of regionally significant and other smaller wetlands. Overall, rivers and wetlands are highly valued by the public for their intrinsic qualities and amenity values.

## 9.2 Issues

Issues affecting fish and game habitats are significant and complex. Fish and game habitats in the West Coast Region are currently affected by a broad range of resource and land use activities causing incremental declines in habitat quality and extent. Trends of particular concern include the loss or degradation of river and wetlands ecosystems and accelerated enrichment of rivers and lakes with non-point source pollutants including silt.

- 9.2.1 Point and diffuse source pollution and sediment can be a serious issue affecting water and habitat quality. Of particular concern are intensive agricultural land uses, particularly unconstrained and poorly managed dairying.
- 9.2.2 Wetlands in the West Coast region have been lost or degraded through sedimentation, drainage, damage from stock, and vegetation modification. Sedimentation primarily comes from the human or animal disturbance of soil without adequate buffers to trap the sediment between the land use activity and the waterway.
- 9.2.3 Modification of lowland catchments has degraded fish and game habitats in the past and may degrade or enhance habitats and associated recreational amenity in the future depending upon the management regime employed. Management of riparian areas on waterways is of major strategic importance in the protection and enhancement of fish and game habitats and recreational amenity.

- 9.2.4 Development of rivers for the generation of hydroelectricity or alteration of flows through irrigation has the potential to seriously impact on rivers, river fisheries and angling opportunity in the West Coast Region, but well-designed water storage schemes have the potential to improve flows. Dams and weirs block fish passage both up and down stream and flows fluctuate unnaturally downstream from dams.
- 9.2.5 These multiple stressors on waterways are exacerbated by the many and often conflicting systems for resource administration that exist, such as different types of resource consent, subsequent minimum flow provisions, and differing interpretations on existing resource consents. There is an urgent need for a holistic consideration of catchments.
- 9.2.6 The spread of didymo and other aquatic pests (such as lagarosiphon) has also had an impact on fisheries, and for didymo no effective eradication methods exist.
- 9.2.7 There are water allocation and issues in terms of water abstraction for out of stream uses, resulting in degradation of aquatic habitats in the Grey Catchment. In tributaries such as the Mawheraiti use for irrigation has serious adverse effects on aquatic ecosystems and current allocation constrains sustainable water resource management.
- 9.2.8 Climate change may alter the hydrological patterns across the West Coast region and consideration for the effects of climate change needs to be built into decision making.
- 9.2.9 Development and management of wetland reserves is undertaken to protect, restore or enhance habitat values by maintaining or increasing habitat diversity. Management of hunting in reserves or on other wetlands is undertaken in ways which minimise effects on habitat quality.
- 9.2.10 Mining and gravel extraction adjacent to or within waterways can have serious adverse impacts on fishery values, particularly for fish spawning, if not managed closely and under appropriate consent conditions.
- 9.2.11 Access opportunities to waterways can be lost through incremental changes, such as subdivision, the loss of accessways such as unformed legal roads, and changes in landholder values.
- 9.2.12 The protection and enhancement of lowland fisheries offers an opportunity to better balance harvest pressure across the West Coast Fish and Game Region.
- 9.2.13 The Inangahua tributaries near Reefton experience high angling pressure as a result of beech masting and the promotion of Trophy Trout years to non-resident anglers. The health of the fishery needs to be carefully monitored and recommendations made on future management regimes.

### **9.3 Objectives**

- 9.3.1 To protect, maintain and enhance the quality and extent of fish and game habitats in the West Coast as a priority, with advocacy as the primary tool.
- 9.3.2 To advocate for the exclusion, eradication or effective management of risks posed by pests and diseases to sports fish and game bird habitats.
- 9.3.3 To actively promote targets for habitat quality and quantity, and where necessary, actively defend these targets.

- 9.3.4 To assess and monitor the condition and trend of sports fish and game bird habitat in the region.
- 9.3.5 Promote and improve habitat protection and enhancement on private land by landowners and/or through collaborative mechanisms.

## 9.4 Policies

- 9.4.1 Priority is to be given to achieving outcomes through RMA planning processes and focussing in the first instance on habitat areas identified as nationally or regionally significant in section 5.6 and 5.7 of this plan or those at risk from a specific threat.
- 9.4.2 Promote the protection, maintenance and enhancement of habitats through either public processes and public advocacy including:
  - a) resource consent application processes
  - b) regional and district policy and plan development
  - c) legislation and policy development under other Acts.
  - d) Department of Conservation planning processes
  - e) Department of Conservation concession application processes
- 9.4.3 Maintain co-operative working relationships with the Department of Conservation, Tai Poutini Runanga, West Coast Regional Council, District Councils, conservation and recreation NGOs, community groups and resource user groups including Federated Farmers via liaison, formal and informal meetings, and working groups for information sharing.
- 9.4.4 Undertake a coordination role with other like-minded groups when engaged in similar work and where requested.
- 9.4.5 Promote community awareness of habitat issues and encourage support for environmental management benefiting fish and game habitats through:
  - a) liaison with agencies and community groups
  - b) media releases and advocacy.
- 9.4.6 Protect fish and game habitats, particularly wetlands, by way of:
  - a) promotion of public (Crown or local body) reserve establishment
  - b) negotiation of covenants over freehold land by negotiation to maintain or improve ecosystems and/or sports fish and gamebird resources.
  - c) inclusion of protective mechanisms in the regional planning process
  - d) water conservation order applications

*Note: Priority will depend on the value of the habitat concerned, present or future risks to habitat values, the practicality of protection, and opportunity for protection.*
- 9.4.7 Take an interagency approach and press for appropriate action by agencies directly responsible where non-compliance with resource management, conservation, or other laws, and plans and policies written under these laws is detected.

- 9.4.8 Give priority to the monitoring and management of fish habitats within the West Coast which have resource and use issues.
- 9.4.9 Actively encourage projects by community groups that protect, maintain or enhance fish and game habitats.
- 9.4.10 Develop the potential of Council owned or managed wetlands as habitats and as hunting areas and contribute generally to improved wetland management in the West Coast Region.
- 9.4.11 Actively encourage landholders to create or enhance habitat and to understand the many benefits from such enhancement including the benefits to downstream water quality.
- 9.4.12 When advocating the Council's interest in habitats, undertake a holistic assessment of the catchments ecosystem values and needs.
- 9.4.13 Protect fish and game habitats and amenity values of rivers, streams, and lakes in the West Coast by way of:
  - a) involvement in consent and permission processes
  - b) involvement in the development of RMA policies and plan changes.
  - c) applications for water conservation orders
  - d) involvement in collaborative community-based processes.
- 9.4.14 To ensure that water quality standards and flow regimes reflect the requirements of healthy and productive sports fish and game populations and the different stages in their life cycles.

## 10. Angler and Hunter Participation

The West Coast Council has a statutory requirement to promote recreation based on sports fish and game bird resources. With its revenue base dependant on licence sales, it is also in the West Coast Council's interest to encourage potential anglers and hunters to take up these recreational activities. It is equally important that current anglers and hunters gain satisfaction from these activities and the factors that may limit participation are minimised. At the same time the West Coast Council must ensure that increased use of the sports fish and game bird resource does not compromise their sustainability or the quality of the experience.

Protection of the quality of the angling experience, which may include feelings of solitude, remoteness and appreciation of natural surroundings and high-water quality, must remain a priority for the West Coast Council. Too much angling pressure can diminish the perceived value of the fishery (Walrond and Hayes 1999). Similar pressures have not yet had a major impact on hunting, but it is likely this will occur as the opportunities elsewhere in New Zealand diminish, and the reputation of New Zealand as a hunting destination grows.

Despite national trends legal access to water and land for angling and hunting has generally not been a major issue for the region and it is important that licence holders are aware of the opportunities that still exist. Anglers and hunters need to be informed of the areas open to them, how to reach these areas, and where public access points are located. Signposting of significant angling and hunting access points enable licence holders to easily identify opportunities.

This functional area has two important components:

- a) participation in the recreational activities of angling and hunting, and
- b) participation in fish and game management as key stakeholders in the West Coast's fish and game resources.

There is a need to assess user satisfaction in both respects.

### 10.1 Outcomes

**10.1A Access** - Free, certain, enduring, and practical public access is available to all public fish and game areas in the West Coast and information on this access is readily available to anglers and hunters from a variety of sources. The value of public access to waterways, wetlands, and other fish and game resources is well understood and protected by local authorities and other agencies responsible for land, water, and public recreation. The value of providing access for possible future recreational needs is also understood by all agencies with responsibilities for managing public access ways. West Coast Fish and Game continues to advocate for public access where needed, recognising the interests of the rural community. Formed and unformed legal roads remain as the 'gold standard' for public access and the Council places a first preference on their retention or establishment to meet access requirements. It is also widely acknowledged that substantial 'public-good' is associated with private initiatives to provide angling and hunting initiatives.

**10.1B Participation** – The West coast community and visitors to the region have ready access to a balanced range of fishing and hunting licences through convenient sales channels utilising new technology. Fishing and hunting opportunities enjoyed by licence holders are diverse and high quality. Anglers and hunters are well informed on fish and game management issues and actively contribute by standing as candidates or voting in Council elections or supporting promotional or advocacy initiatives.

## 10.2 Issues

- 10.2.1 Undesirable angler or hunter behaviour may lead to loss of 'Social Licence' and create access restrictions or diminish other users' recreational experience.
- 10.2.2 There is a demand for clear and simple angling and hunting regulations and anglers and hunters want liberalisation of method and season restrictions. Angling and hunting methods must cater for all including the young and the elderly. Regulations must also be backed up by scientific research of the fishery or game bird population, and the precautionary principle needs to be applied where the science is not clear.
- 10.2.3 There is increasing competition for recreational time and money.
- 10.2.4 Young anglers and hunters are an important demographic and may need assistance to learn about sports fishing and game bird hunting.
- 10.2.5 Environmentally damaging methods and materials may reduce the 'social licence' to hunt and fish.
- 10.2.6 Participation levels, user density and methods of angler access are impacting on the quality of recreational experience in some circumstances such as in 'backcountry' and 'remote' fisheries where wilderness values are important. Problems with fisheries at this end of the recreational opportunity spectrum may require active management to avoid conflicts between users over user densities.
- 10.2.7 There is a demand for more detailed information on the physical access available to fish and game resources in the West Coast and a demand for more detailed information on how to hunt and fish.
- 10.2.8 Public access to fish and game resources is becoming progressively more restricted due to changing attitudes within the community resulting from:
- a) closer settlement and intensification of land use
  - b) concern over health and safety requirements
  - c) a hardening of attitude towards private property rights and concerns about security
  - d) increased awareness of commercial opportunities.
- Secure practical public access to fish and game resources via road reserves, marginal strips and esplanade reserves is important but sometimes it is difficult to identify on the ground. Many landholders acknowledge the security that they gain from granting access to responsible anglers and hunters who can keep landholders informed about issues on their property. There are increasing instances of denied access due to the health and safety and liability concerns.
- 10.2.9 Non-resident anglers and hunters are perceived to be gaining access to angling and hunting without contributing equitably to management of the resource. A non-resident fishing license, at a fee 1.3 times greater than the regular full season adult fishing license has been introduced.
- 10.2.10 Fishing competitions require management because:
- a) they have the potential to focus angling pressure in specific locations, leading to potential impacts on fish stocks and normal patterns of angling; and
  - b) they can be commercial in nature and can generate revenue for the organisers.

*Note: Those operating fishing competitions need to explain the overall rationale for the competition in order for its sustainability and contribution to Council objectives to be assessed prior to its approval.*



## 10.3 Objectives

### Participation and behaviour

- 10.3.1 To promote and encourage angler and hunter ethics and utilisation of environmentally sound methods and materials with a goal to have anglers and hunters recognised as responsible resource users and good neighbours.
- 10.3.2 To minimise 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.
- 10.3.3 To manage fishing competitions in order to maximise benefits, minimise adverse impacts and to ensure there is an equitable contribution to fish and game management from any revenue generated.
- 10.3.4 To foster greater awareness of and participation in conservation initiatives amongst anglers and hunters.
- 10.3.5 To utilise new technology, including mobile technology to promote understanding and participation amongst fish and game license holders.
- 10.3.6 Assessing the success rate and degree of satisfaction of users of the sports fish and game resource

### Access and recreation

- 10.3.7 To maintain and improve secure public access to rivers, lakes and wetlands and land areas supporting fish and game resources.
- 10.3.8 To recognise the impact that access, particularly informal access arrangements, can have on landowners and their farming operations, and to negotiate access arrangements as far as possible.
- 10.3.9 To maintain and improve public access opportunities across private land as far as practicable, keep up-to-date with health and safety responsibilities and advocate for recreational access.
- 10.3.10 To set limits on angler or hunter use of fisheries and hunting areas where pressure of use threatens or adversely affects the quality of recreational experience and to actively manage those areas for their key characteristics.
- 10.3.11 To keep anglers and hunters informed over access to fish and game resources and angling and hunting techniques.
- 10.3.12 To protect those elements of the public estate with importance to angling and hunting, particularly:
  - a) marginal strips,
  - b) esplanade reserves, esplanade strips and access strips
  - c) recreation and conservation reserve land
  - d) formed and unformed legal roads
  - e) any government or local body owned land with value for angling and hunting, access, or fish and game habitat.

### Licencing

- 10.3.13 To provide a range of licence categories that meet the needs of specific end users in terms of both coverage and affordability.
- 10.3.14 To provide licence purchase options to meet the needs of all clients.

#### Democracy

- 10.3.15 To facilitate angler and hunter participation in fish and game management.

### **10.4 Policies**

#### Participation and behaviour

- 10.4.1 Promote angler and hunter codes of conduct for fish and game resource use and access in conjunction with the 'New Zealand Outdoor Access Code'. Ethical standards of behaviour include;
- A desire to have others enjoy their hunting and angling opportunities as much as you.
  - Acknowledgment that anglers and hunters often have no audience to ensure they behave ethically and humanely and that such behaviour is self-motivated and regulated.
  - An individual concern for the well-being of the environment
  - Promotion of uses which preserve the diversity, integrity, and beauty of ecosystems and the disapproval of those which do not.
  - Acknowledgment and use of the accepted rural code of ethics and the importance of maintaining the traditional landowner-recreationalist relationship.
  - An acceptance that the health of the sports fish and game resource should not be measured by production of game birds and fish alone, but also by its ability to provide intangible values such as an appreciation of wilderness, rivers, lakes and wetlands.
- 10.4.2 Review 3 yearly angling and hunting conditions and assess them for their relevance, clarity and simplicity.
- 10.4.3 Liaise with other regions over the annual review of angling and hunting conditions and to seek consistency between regions.
- 10.4.4 Seek outcomes in RMA plans and other statutory plans that manage conflicts between recreational users over matters including modes of access, compatibility of activities and user densities.

#### *Fishing competitions*

- 10.4.5 The following policy will be used to guide staff in determining whether an application will be approved, and, if so, the conditions that shall apply.
- Applications will be approved subject to conditions where:
  - The competition is held in conjunction with, or as part of a "take a kid fishing" or family day.
  - The competition is a minor angling club competition without significant prizes or entry fee.

- The competition is community based, aims to promote an area rather than a commercial business, and benefits sports fisheries management.
- Applications for competitions which are commercial in nature or have prizes with a significant dollar value will be considered on a case-by-case basis and approved only when:
  - The sustainability of fish stocks is not at risk.
  - Angling opportunity is not adversely affected.
  - Council costs are recovered.
  - Competition conditions and rental are agreed to the Manager’s satisfaction.
- Applicants will be encouraged to adopt rules providing for a ‘mystery’ weight/length as opposed to the heaviest/longest fish.

*Note: This policy will be reviewed within the term of Council on a three yearly basis.*

#### Access and Recreation

- 10.4.6 Establish where necessary controlling mechanisms for utilisation of, fisheries within defined carrying capacities.
- 10.4.7 Manage and advocate for appropriate social carrying capacities to protect pressure sensitive remote or backcountry fisheries and to manage within those capacities to preserve high quality recreational experiences and the spectrum of fishing and hunting opportunity in the West Coast.
- 10.4.8 Provide accurate information to anglers and hunters on access to fish and game resources and angling and hunting techniques. Access information should be prepared in consultation with landowners and their representatives.
- 10.4.9 Participate in public processes relating to public land acquisitions and disposals including tenure reviews, reserving of marginal strips, subdivisions and road stopping or taking to provide for public access, recreation and fish and game habitats.
- 10.4.10 Contribute to a register of secure public access ways to and along rivers, lakes and wetlands and to upland hunting areas, such as that operated by the NZ Walking Access Commission.
- 10.4.11 Establish access-ways across private land to fish and game resources through negotiation with landholders, and particularly when land use is changing or intensifying. A variety of options exist for negotiation, including legal easements and access covenants, through to informal marked accessways.
- 10.4.12 Advocate to maintain the existing unformed legal road network in the West Coast where this provides secure access to fish and game resources and agree to road stopping only where:
  - a) There is no impact on present or future public access.
  - b) An alternative ‘like for like’ road access alternative is offered.
- 10.4.13 Undertake awareness programmes to educate anglers and hunters about access issues.

- 10.4.14 Investigate methods of reducing angler conflict across pressure sensitive fisheries, including modern management techniques.
- 10.4.15 Actively engage with territorial local authorities on policy for formed and unformed legal roads and other accessways.
- 10.4.16 Coordinate recreational and access advocacy groups where necessary.
- 10.4.17 Work with the Walking Access Commission and its regional field advisors in establishing and maintaining public access to fish and game-bird resources.

#### Licencing

- 10.4.18 Regularly review the range of licences offered and where necessary or desirable develop and promote new options.
- 10.4.19 Maintain and improve licence purchase options.
- 10.4.20 Provide supporting information for licence sales.
- 10.4.21 Support the co-ordination of licensing arrangements nationally and actively seek improvements in line with the expectations of the regional users.

#### Democracy

- 10.4.22 Encourage licence-holder participation in Council elections as voters and candidates.
- 10.4.23 Ensure Council activities and processes are open and accessible to encourage maximum angler and hunter participation.

## 11. Public Interface

The protection of sports fish and game and their habitat is dependent on the support of Government, local authorities and the wider community. This requires community appreciation and support for the Fish and Game system.

Management responsibility of the sports fish and game bird resource involves relationships with many other stakeholders, including the Department of Conservation, statutory organisations, iwi, interest groups and members of the wider community. The level of support from these other stakeholders impacts upon the West Coast Council's capacity to successfully achieve its purpose and functions. To be effective, the West Coast Council requires high public awareness of its role and activities, and its contribution to environmental protection and enhancement.

Fish and Game New Zealand is entering a future that involves changing demographics, changing land ownership practices (an increase in overseas, corporate, and life-style owners), increasing commercialisation of recreation, and changing attitudes of a growing urban population to practices within the rural sector.

### 11.1 Outcome

Waterways are seen by the public as the arteries of the land, with a healthy rivers or streams being a sign of healthy land use. Similarly, wetlands are valued for both their recreational hunting opportunities and for their role in filtering water from land use and maintaining wildlife biodiversity. Anglers, hunters, and the general community value introduced sports fish and gamebird species for the recreation and harvest that they provide, as well as seeing them as barometers of ecological health. The user pays, user says democratically accountable fish and game system continues to be promoted and endorsed by New Zealanders as an effective model for the management of public fish and game resources.

### 11.2 Issues

- 11.2.1 The Council will be most effective in its advocacy for fish and game resources and angler and hunter interests where it has community support. There is relatively low public awareness of Fish and Game New Zealand's role in sports fish and game bird management and associated conservation work. The public needs to be kept informed and have a high level of awareness of the Council's work and the wider benefits arising from it. The Council also faces risks where the wider community does not have a good understanding of recreational harvesting and its importance in community recreation. An example is the risk arising from anti-hunting groups arguing for restrictions or prohibitions on hunting.
- 11.2.2 The effectiveness of advocacy and public awareness within the West Coast also depends on the collective efforts of the other 12 regional Fish and Game Councils and particularly the national advocacy efforts of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council. There is relatively low awareness on the West Coast of the Fish and Game structure, funding and region-based management of the sports fish and game resource.
- 11.2.3 The achievement of fish and game management objectives will be assisted by developing and maintaining positive working relationships with all sectors of the community. The functions and goals of other organisations may affect the interests of the West Coast Council and vice versa. Lack of consultation may result in lost opportunities or unnecessary conflict.

- 11.2.4 Due to its statutory requirement to act as an advocate for freshwater habitat, the Council may from time to time find itself engaged in potentially unpopular advocacy. This is likely to be most contentious when the advocacy involves the setting or recognition of limits on economic growth. Currently, the most contested issue is in the setting of limits to protect water quality and appropriate natural flows, but other areas are likely to emerge as economic activity arrives at further physical and biological limits. One area likely to become controversial is the issue of mining on public conservation land, another is the further drainage of wetlands to create pasture.
- 11.2.5 The methods by which the Council communicates with licence-holders and the public is also changing. Online tools of communication, such as websites and email, are becoming more important as the readership rate of traditional tools, such as newspapers and physical mail is dropping. The same applies with the shift to cellular phones. The Council needs to maintain both physical and electronic forms of communication, but slowly shift as demographics shift to electronic communication where possible.
- 11.2.6 With population bases moving towards cities the physical, social, and educational benefits of hunting and fishing are becoming less widely recognised.
- 11.2.7 Licence sales agencies and rangers play an important role in the public perceptions of the organisation as do rangers. They are often the everyday face of Fish and Game.
- 11.2.8 A functional working relationship with resource users is necessary to achieve fish and game management objectives. Important sector groups include farmers, miners, foresters, tourism interests and power companies.

### **11.3 Objectives**

- 11.3.1 To project a positive public image as a regional organisation involved in environmental and natural resource management and to be perceived as professional, accessible, responsive, friendly, fair and community based.
- 11.3.2 To ensure the public has a good understanding of the wider benefits of the Council's work, the issues facing fish and game resources and the case for recreational harvesting.
- 11.3.3 To project a positive public image of recreation based on sports fish and game birds.
- 11.3.4 To support the national advocacy efforts of the New Zealand Fish & Game Council and the collective advocacy and public awareness efforts of other Fish and Game Councils.
- 11.3.5 To develop and maintain positive working relationships with groups within the community, especially Te Runanga O Ngai Tahu, local bodies, resource user groups, politicians, conservation and recreation groups and government departments.

### **11.4 Policies**

- 11.4.1 Educate and inform anglers and hunters so that they can in turn inform the community about fish and game management issues.
- 11.4.2 Promote and explain the Council's role and its activities to the public through the media.

- 11.4.3 Liaise with groups within the community involved in environmental protection or resource management, especially Runanga, local bodies, resource user groups, politicians, conservation and recreation groups and government departments.
- 11.4.4 Work with primary industry representatives, such as Federated Farmers.
- 11.4.5 Keep opinion leaders within the community informed of fish and game issues.
- 11.4.6 Liaise closely with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and other regional Fish and Game Councils over the co-ordination of public awareness activities and advocacy.
- 11.4.7 Work co-operatively with other community groups where there is a mutual benefit in doing so.
- 11.4.8 Advocate the Council's position on legislation, policy and/or development proposals affecting fish and game resources, their use or public access.
- 11.4.9 Promote public appreciation of sports fish and game birds as a natural resource and their recreational use by anglers and hunters.

## 12. Compliance

Maintaining compliance with the region's fishing and hunting season conditions is important to ensure that all anglers and hunters contribute to the costs of fish and game management by purchasing a licence, and to ensure the sustainable management of the sports fish and game resource.

Illegal activities are not condoned by the majority of licence holders. One of the strengths of the Fish and Game system is the ability for users of the resource to self-police their own system.

The size of the West Coast region and the isolation of many of the fishing and hunting areas means that significant coverage by staff is not possible. Honorary Fish and Game Rangers make a large contribution to enforcement and compliance efforts in the region. Fish and Game Rangers are warranted by the Director of the NZ Council and trained and administered by the West Coast Council. Along with staff they are often the front-line contact between licence holders and the West Coast Council.

### 12.1 Outcome

There is a high level of compliance with and acceptance of the need for fishing and game hunting regulations applying to the West Coast. Compliant anglers and hunters continue to support the Council and its rangers in ensuring that non-compliance is kept to a minimum. Anglers and hunters themselves, and license agents, are educated to provide information to their peers about fish and game regulations to further boost compliance. Regulations are reviewed to ensure that they remain accurate and appropriate.

### 12.2 Issues

- 12.2.1 Poaching and non-compliance with regulations threatens the sustainability of the sportsfish and gamebird resource through reduced funds and decreased populations.
- 12.2.2 Management of sports fish and game bird populations requires ongoing compliance monitoring at levels which provide an effective deterrent. Compliance monitoring requires active co-ordination and support because concentrated compliance monitoring activities can cause irritation to law abiding anglers and hunters.
- 12.2.3 Non-compliance with resource management laws and plans can cause damage to fish and game habitats. Licence-holders expect that compliance with laws controlling angling and hunting will be strictly enforced. However, prosecution of offences through the courts is costly and results are variable.
- 12.2.4 The West Coast Fish and Game region is vast and sparsely populated. It is difficult to comprehensively enforce regulations across the entire region simultaneously.

### 12.3 Objectives

- 12.3.1 To be perceived as professional, consistent, fair, and reasonable in carrying out compliance monitoring and enforcement activities relating to fish and game laws, regulations and conditions.
- 12.3.2 To undertake prosecutions for breaches of regulations and seeking publicity of these as a deterrent to others
- 12.3.3 To maintain and manage and effective compliance monitoring and enforcement capability based on staff and voluntary Fish & Game rangers.



- 12.3.4 To secure action by the statutory agency directly responsible for offences under other legislation which adversely affect fish and game resources.
- 12.3.5 Achieving an annual 10% coverage of licence holders and seeking a 90% rate of compliance from those anglers/hunters encountered
- 12.3.6 To have majority community support for Council compliance activities including legal action.

#### **12.4 Policies**

- 12.4.1 Support staff and voluntary rangers involved in compliance monitoring by providing appropriate training, equipment, information, and support.
- 12.4.2 Liaise with other agencies involved in natural resource compliance monitoring and enforcement including Ngai Tahu.
- 12.4.3 Encourage appropriate action by the West Coast Regional Council over resource use offences affecting sports fish and game resources. Staff and Management will adhere to the Fish and Game National Policy on Prosecutions.

## **13. Administration and Statutory Servicing**

The Fish and Game management system is based on twelve regional Fish and Game Councils and the New Zealand Fish & Game Council and is described in section 2.1 above. Funding of all Councils is linked through a national budget system which includes the setting of levies and payment of grants to redistribute revenue between all 13 Councils.

Fish and Game is effectively a co-management system involving a delegation of management responsibility for fish and game resources from Government to elected anglers and hunters within regional communities. As such communication, openness, accountability, accessibility to the decision-making process and the fostering of participatory democracy are important elements of the system. This system, with some changes, has effectively been in operation in New Zealand for 150 years, and has proven to be a sound, well supported and cost-effective model for the management of these resources.

The Council is elected from nominated adult whole season licence holders in triennial elections. Holders of West Coast adult whole season licences can enrol to vote and take part in those elections as voters or as candidates for Council. The West Coast Council is made up of not more than 12 council members elected for a three-year term. The Council is required to meet at least six times each year. The Council is subject to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

The West Coast Fish and Game Council is a Public Entity. It reports annually to Parliament and the Minister of Conservation and presents its annual report to a publicly advertised annual general meeting. The Council governs fish and game management in the West Coast Fish and Game Region. Each Fish and Game council appoints a manager for the efficient and economic administration of the affairs of the Council.

### **13.1 Outcome**

Fish and Game continues to prudentially manage its finances and resources, mindful of the basis on which all of its income is derived. Underlying this is an appropriate and fit for purpose planning framework that meets also meets legislative requirements. The categories, availability and affordability of licenses are reviewed in a timely manner, designed to both ensure that the fish and game system receives adequate funding and also to ensure that anglers and hunters pay a fair price for licenses, to further encourage the growth of the sport. Council staff and rangers continue to be grounded in the community and provide positive, helpful, and professional advice to all who seek it, consistent with Fish and Game's unique role.

### **13.2 Issues**

- 13.2.1 Fish and game management must be transparent, accountable, accessible, and responsive. The accessibility is important as the Council is seen as part of the community, rather than as a more remote centrally controlled agency. This aspect is vital to continued acceptance and success. Furthermore, some anglers and hunters want to have the opportunity to actively participate in fish and game management and particularly to participate in the review of angling and hunting licence conditions.
- 13.2.2 Fish and Game Councils all derive the revenue they need to operate from licence sales. To a large extent the sale of licences in the West coast is related to the quality and extent of fish and game resources within the region and ease of purchasing a licence.

- 13.2.3 The West Coast's fish and game resources are the natural capital the Council is charged with maintaining. The recreational use of the resources and the harvest of fish and game is the return provided on that natural capital.
- 13.2.4 The West Coast Region needs to:
- a) optimise its licence sales to balance use pressure for lower fees and more flexibility within the license system with the need to generate income;
  - b) financially support the fish and game system, and;
  - c) as a priority protect the region's fish and game resources and adequately service its client base on behalf of the 'owners', licence-holders.
- 13.2.5 The Council is confronted with a substantial workload across a range of functional areas yet the fish and game system is resource short and is liable to remain so. It must manage its assets carefully.
- 13.2.6 In the West Coast, the Council has limited staff and financial resources to cover its workload in promoting angling and hunting, in managing fish and game resources and in adequately covering the vastness of the region. To an extent this resourcing issue can be addressed by internal co-operation particularly with neighbouring regions. Fish and game management cannot afford to be bureaucratic or unfocussed.
- 13.2.7 Without capable planning, management of the fish and game resources in the West Coast region will not be cost effective.
- 13.2.8 In 2021 the Minister of Conservation commissioned an Independent Review of Fish and Game. A report with recommendations was accepted by the Minister and an Implementation group consisting of DoC and Fish and Game representatives was given responsibility of implementing the recommended changes. This has the potential to cause considerable disruption and increase regional workloads during the transitional period.

### **13.3 Objectives**

- 13.3.1 To establish and maintain governance and management arrangements which allow for efficient and effective use of Council resources including staff.
- 13.3.2 To ensure Council meetings and other Council processes are open and accessible to licence-holders and the public.
- 13.3.3 To ensure governors are informed and provided with Governance training and support.
- 13.3.4 To Prepare and adopt;
- a) a Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan
  - b) an annual operational work plan
  - c) an annual report, including a Statement of Service Performance
  - d) annual recommendations to the Minister of Conservation of hunting and fishing regulations
- 13.3.5 To ensure the Council is adequately resourced to protect the fish and game resources on which licence sales are based and to support existing clients.

- 13.3.6 To cooperate actively with other Fish and Game Councils and the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and to ensure the latter is fully informed on the views and aspirations of anglers and hunters in the West Coast.
- 13.3.7 To support local businesses in the purchase of goods and services.

#### **13.4 Policies**

- 13.4.1 Assess the cost effectiveness of Council activities where possible.
- 13.4.2 Routinely supply the public with Council agendas, reports and media releases to keep them informed of Council activities.
- 13.4.3 Invite anglers and hunters, and Ngai Tahu to participate in Anglers Notice and Game Gazette reviews.
- 13.4.4 Partake in any review of the fish and game financial allocation process.
- 13.4.5 Liaise closely with other Fish and Game Councils and the NZFGC over fish and game matters and resource sharing.
- 13.4.6 Actively co-operate with neighbouring Councils in the sharing of information and resources.
- 13.4.7 Manage the Council's assets prudently.
- 13.4.8 Pro-actively engage in the Ministerial Review Implementation and provide staff and resourcing where appropriate.

## 14 Plan Implementation

The Sports Fish and Gamebird Management Plan for the West Coast is implemented through the Council's annual planning process. The life of the plan is ten years from the date of approval, at which time it will become due for review. However, part or the entire plan may be reviewed and amended at any time should the Council consider it necessary to do so. Plan reviews must be conducted in accordance with Section 17M(5) of the Conservation Act 1987.

### 14.1 Target Dates for Key Actions

The plan will be progressively implemented over its ten-year life and each year the Council will review priorities depending on the circumstances at the time. Successive annual work plans will detail the relative allocation of efforts and funds to the implementation of the plan in each financial year within the overall directions set by the Plan. Many actions requiring implementation through annual plans are routine and will arise annually or at regular intervals. Others identified below with their target completion date have been identified as key actions or projects which will move fish and game management forward a significant step.

#### 14.1.1 Key actions intended to be completed by the end of the second year after plan approval include:

- Strengthen relationships with Ngāti Mahaki o Makaawhio and Ngāti Waewae.
- Increase Tai Poutini Runanga consultation and involvement in major decisions and planning.
- Joint participation in improvement and clarification of the relationships and responsibilities between Fish and Game regions and the New Zealand Fish and Game Council through a suite of nationally consistent corporate policies.
- Improve Council governance effectiveness through training.
- Increased use of Risk Management considerations in deciding management and governance initiatives at a local level.
- Increase habitat advocacy through increased resourcing and effectiveness.
- Increase public awareness of Fish and Game's 'public-good' role to ensure sportfish and game remain valued introduced species.
- Replace and supersede Appendix 4 of this plan with a robust and publicly available database of significant sportfish and game resources in the region including modelled and verified sportfish spawning habitat.

#### 14.1.2 Key actions intended to be completed by the end of the third year after plan approval include:

- Improved cultural understanding by both staff and governors, as well as an understanding of Tai Poutini Runanga values and their integration with Fish and Game's activities and goals, considering statutory requirements.
- Advocate for the NPS-FM and Te Mana o te Wai to be implemented and upheld in Regional and District planning provisions.
- Ensure Fish and Game West Coast allocates resources and staffing to promote thriving ecosystems with abundant fish and game for the benefit of all New Zealanders.
- Have a customary harvest regime in place and working to the mutual satisfaction of Tai Poutini Runanga and West Coast Fish and Game.

- Have an understanding and resolution of the role of the Lake Mahinapua Acclimatisation Reserve in Iwi Management.

**14.1.3 Key actions intended to be completed by the end of the fifth year after plan approval include:**

- The West Coast Fish and Game Region Resource Assessment and Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) listed in Appendix 4 to this Plan is reviewed and up to date.
- The West Coast Fish and Game Council will develop an inventory database to guide the prioritisation of West Coast Fish and Game Council's work to ensure the Council's resources are used wisely and the objectives of this Plan are being achieved.
- An increase in licence-holder participation and engagement with the West Coast Fish and Game Council including on the management of the fish and game resource, and elections.

**14.1.4 Key action intended to be completed by the end of the eighth year after plan approval includes:**

- The West Coast Fish and Game Council will begin the review of this Plan including an assessment against its implementation and outcomes achieved.

## **PART III     Resource Summary**

### **15.    West Coast Fish and Game Region**

The West Coast Fish and Game region extends from Kahurangi Point in the North to Awarua Point (Big Bay) in South Westland. It is bounded to the east by the Southern Alps and to the west by the Tasman Sea. This area is described in Gazette No. 83 of 24 May 1990.

The region is very diverse, with dramatic landscapes and considerable variation in climate, topography and land use. This is also reflected in the diversity of habitats and fishing and hunting opportunities in the region. The region includes the territorial councils of Buller, Grey and Westland Districts.

Based on the 2018 Statistics NZ figures, the West Coast has a total population of 32,400.

Agriculture, mining, tourism and forestry (to a lesser extent) are major sources of employment in the region.

#### Topography

The West Coast has been described as a region of mountains, rainfall, and rivers. These features combined with the processes of uplift and erosion - have resulted in a landscape of unique character, two thirds of which is mountainous.

The Alpine Fault runs most of the length of the region. East of the fault are deeply dissected mountain ranges. To the west, rivers and streams are steeply graded - the distance from source to sea seldom exceeding 50 km. Towards the coast alluvial and beach deposits occupy a 10-15 km wide strip which extends inland along river systems. Plains areas are, with some exceptions, generally localised and composed of outwash silts and gravels. Many are subject to frequent flooding.

#### Climate

The West Coast has a noticeably milder climate than the east coast regions, with fewer extremes. Greymouth's sunshine hours of 1980, and Hokitika's of 1964 are ahead of Auckland's 1825.

By national and international standards, the region receives a generous and reliable rainfall. Near the Main Divide this exceeds 8000 mm annually - declining to a more manageable 2500 mm at the coast. At high altitudes snowfalls may be expected year-round. In the region's southern parts this contributes to glaciers that reach to within a few hundred metres above sea level. However, away from these areas, the climate is generally mild and near the coast sunshine hours are similar to those experienced on the east coast. Extended dry periods commonly occur between January and March.

The West Coast Fish and Game Region's waterways contains many discrete and interconnected freshwater sports fisheries supporting angler use. Similarly West Coast's waterways and wetlands collectively support valued populations of waterfowl.

## 16. Habitats present within the Region

Since most of the region’s sports fish and game species have self-sustaining populations, maintenance of harvestable populations depends largely upon maintenance of suitable habitat. Therefore, much of the West Coast Council’s efforts go into habitat protection primarily through advocacy through the resource Management Act 1991, Conservation Act or related legislation.

126 named sports fisheries have been identified through the National Anglers Survey (NAS) conducted by NIWA once every five to seven years. The NAS provides a reliable and comparable long term reference point for the use of sports fishery resources by anglers, but the number of fisheries in the West Coast is larger again than the number of named fisheries because fishing waters with very low response rates are not included in the survey results.

There are a large number of rivers which are available, particularly for the angler, in the region. A high proportion of these in comparison with other Fish and Game regions are Headwater Fisheries. A significant proportion of the public hunting opportunity is on small lakes/wetlands.

### TYPES OF PUBLIC RECREATIONAL SITES IN THE WEST COAST REGION

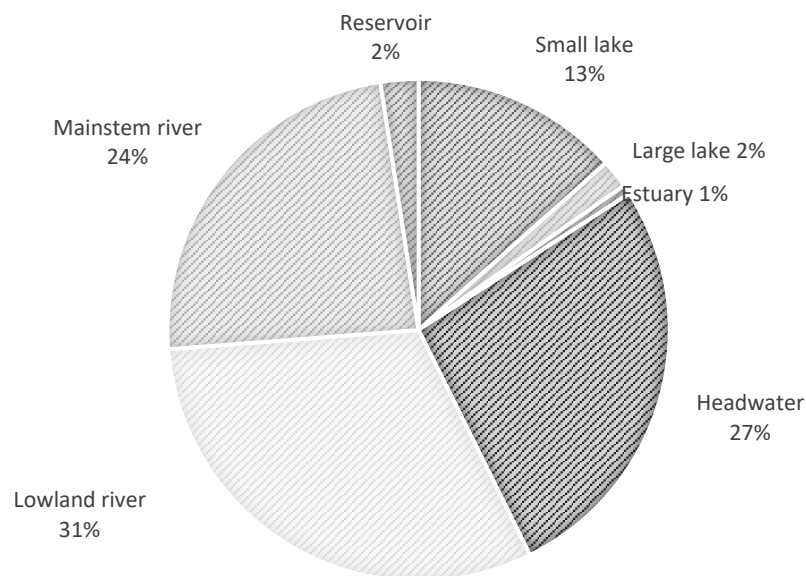


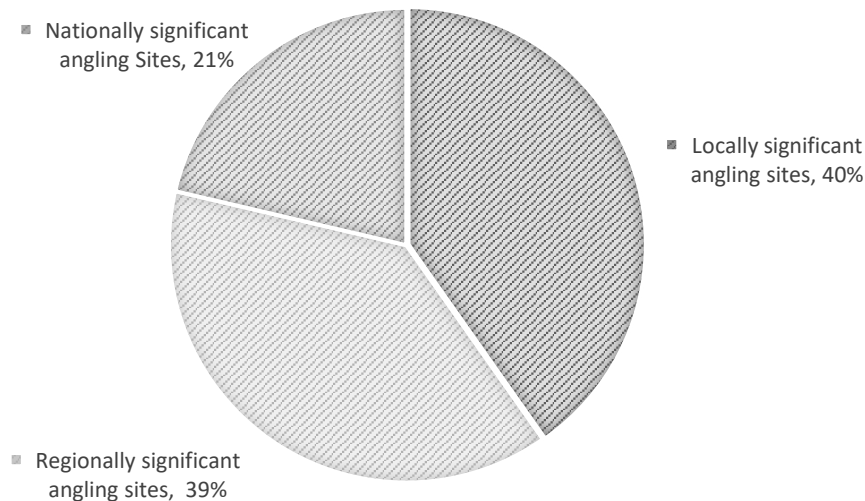
Figure 1: Types of public recreational opportunities in the West Coast Region



Therefore, when considering the relative significance of sports fisheries within the West Coast it is important to recognise that there is a spectrum of significance from national to regional to local. That significance rating is not equivalent to fishery quality (or value). A locally significant fishery, for example, may be a high or low quality fishery or somewhere in between.

Significance criteria are included in the plan in Section 4 but assessments of quality need to take account of all available information on fishery characteristics and attributes. Significance was determined against criteria described in Section 4 which have subsequently been applied to the whole National Angler Survey dataset. Use data were taken from NAS data or regional surveys, while the origin of anglers is taken from regional surveys or staff experience based upon compliance or other Fish and Game management activity. A user day is taken as being an occasion when an angler fished at a particular water body on a given day, without any minimum or maximum fishing time.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF WEST COAST ANGLING RECREATIONAL SITES



*Figure 2: Relative significance of different public angling and hunting recreational opportunities in the West Coast Region*

### 17. Sportsfish Habitat

The sporting ethic and the relevant legislation holds that sports fish are a public resource managed by Fish and Game on behalf of licence holders. Sports fisheries are publicly owned and managed irrespective of their location. In addition, the habitat in which sports fisheries are located is publicly administered and those administrative bodies are required to have particular regard to the habitats of trout and salmon and to recognise and provide for the protection of significant habitats of indigenous species. Many habitats of trout and salmon are also significant native fish habitats for species such as eels and whitebait (*Galaxias spp.*).

Sports fish habitat is predominantly a public resource consisting of lakes and rivers, administered by a variety of public bodies according to various legislation. This plan therefore lists as an appendix the various rivers and lakes in the region, and their sports fish and game values. Some habitats, like wetlands and smaller spawning and nursery rivers are not included in this list as not all are known or even recognised. While these might be less important individually, all are extremely important as a whole and policy is required to protect them. It is the intention that Fish and Game West Coast will make a publicly available databases of sportfish spawning habitat in the region over the life of this plan.

Identification of habitats in this plan ensures local authorities give due recognition to sports fish and game bird resources and habitats in their planning. The Department of Conservation is also required under Section 6(ab) of the Conservation Act 1987 as one of its functions, to “preserve so far as is practicable all indigenous freshwater fisheries and protect recreational freshwater fisheries and freshwater fish habitats”. Section 53(3) (d) of the same Act also states that the Director-General “shall advocate the conservation of aquatic life and freshwater fisheries generally”.

## **18. Game Habitat**

In the case of gamebirds, there are different pressures operating on the provision of habitat. For waterfowl, much of the habitat is on public land, but a high proportion of suitable habitat, particularly smaller wetlands, drains, and water bodies are on private land. Land development for improved pasture drainage or subdivision has the potential to impact wetlands on private property. Often, at the most minimal level, Fish and Game can offer advice to landowners which can assist management of their private land to provide habitat. Fish and Game expertise in this field is now sought by landowners and other parties. There are opportunities to seek funding support to facilitate this process.

## **19. Sports Fish Populations**

Sports fish in New Zealand are a public resource. This is one of the underlying principles of the angling and hunting tradition in New Zealand. The West Coast region offers diverse opportunities for angling and hunting. The region extends from Kahurangi point, north of Karamea, to Awarua point south of Haast. In between lies some 2m hectares, much of it wilderness. Brown trout occupy a diverse range of habitats between the mountains and the sea including lakes, rivers, spring fed river tributaries and estuaries. Barriers to access for anglers are, for the most part, dictated only by climate and terrain.

### Brown Trout

The region is best known nationally and internationally for its diverse wild brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) fishery. This resource is recognised and enjoyed by anglers from throughout New Zealand and visitors from other countries. A large number of variously sized rivers and lakes provide brown trout habitat and fishable water in a range of scenic settings. The Lake Brunner catchment receives the most use (Unwin 2008) closely followed by the Grey River catchment. At the other extreme are the numerous highly valued back country or wilderness fisheries that have good numbers of trophy-sized fish but relatively low usage by anglers.

### Rainbow Trout

The most significant rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) fishery is the Hokitika / Whitcombe catchment. This is a regionally important fishery which is highly valued as providing a different angling experience than the region's predominantly brown trout fisheries. Early rainbow liberations successfully established in the Taramakau catchment where there are still opportunities for enhancement, however although many other catchments throughout the region received liberations as recently as the 1970's rainbows consistently failed to establish as a viable wild recreational resource.

Liberations have been ad hoc but have continued in catchments where rainbow trout previously predominated. Recent research indicates existing rainbow trout populations in the region are limited by relying solely on wild recruitment to populations. Recent liberations have focused on enhancing the opportunities in the existing Hokitika and Taramakau populations. Rainbow trout are also the predominant fish species used for an enhanced junior/novice fishery in the Taramakau catchment.

### Chinook Salmon

Chinook or Quinnet salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) have been the subject of numerous efforts over the past 100 years to establish wild populations from the Buller River catchment to Haast. Contemporary literature suggests salmon populations are naturally restricted by water temperatures at sea, which increase by several degrees in a northerly direction up the West Coast of the South Island. Accordingly, the most reliable and consistent salmon fisheries are established in the Moeraki, Paringa and Mapourika catchments, although in some years successful angling occurs in most major rivers south of and including the Grey catchment.

Similar to rainbow trout, liberations of salmon have been ad hoc but have continued in response to angler requests to improve the fisheries. Enhancement through liberations of hatchery reared wild stock may continue if recent enhancement results in an improvement to the West Coast salmon fishery.

### Perch

Perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) have been established in Lakes Kaniere, Mahinapua and some smaller lakes for over a century and are popular amongst junior anglers and family groups.

## **20. Game Bird Populations**

The game bird resource in the West Coast region is comprised of five species of waterfowl, one rail, and one upland game species. Pheasants are essentially confined to the Private Upland Game Hunting Area at Haupiri run by the Gloriavale Christian Community.

### Dabbling Ducks

Dabbling ducks are the mainstay of gamebird hunting in New Zealand and this region is no exception. Mallard ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos*) are widespread, after expanding their range and abundance greatly since the early releases. They are now common and abundant particularly in the more developed parts of the region. Grey ducks (*A. superciliosa*) appear relatively common in less developed habitats such as remote coastal wetlands and upland areas. Grey duck are defined as native game birds in the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. Because of their interbreeding with mallards grey duck are considered to be a threatened species nationally, although there is no evidence cited by Williams that this is influenced either by hunting or their status as a gamebird.

The region offers diverse freshwater wetlands for dabbling ducks throughout its length and breadth. Small ponds, streams and drains associated with developed land provides consistently reliable breeding habitat for dabbling ducks as does extensive riverbed habitat. Where large open water bodies such as lakes and coastal wetlands are in proximity to feeding areas large concentrations of dabbling ducks may be expected. Reliable spring rainfall usually produces optimum conditions to assist the survival rate during the hatching / rearing period and through to the hunting season.

Genetic analysis shows that many dabbling ducks are hybrids (Williams, 1999), even those appearing to be either of the two species, so for the purposes of wildlife management the two nominal species must effectively be managed as one population. The numbers of both species but particularly mallards increased dramatically during the late 1970s and early 1980s throughout the whole country, so the numbers of all dabbling ducks in the region are much greater than they were in previous years. Harvest monitoring indicates that greylard harvest has decreased over the past 2 decades. This is due to reduced hunter effort in the region, rather than a reduction in population, which remains stable.

New Zealand Shoveler ducks are now known from a number of specific locations in the region with suitable habitat. Their speed of flight and seasonal migration to other parts of the country makes population estimates difficult. The estimated West Coast total season bag in 2020 was 105 birds compared with 30 one year later in 2021 illustrating the fact that Shoveler can be locally abundant at times and are considered part of a national and highly mobile population. Being small, fast flying and uncommonly seen in many areas, this species is targeted by few hunters. Fish and Game undertakes a national shoveler trend count in August each year.

#### Paradise Shelduck

Once thought to be in decline, paradise Shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*) have now adapted well to improved pasture, especially in cattle grazing country. Shelduck are a form of goose and feed upon pasture grasses. They frequent the high country where they are generally widespread but in low numbers, often in pairs or family groups, however in lowland river valleys they sometimes form nuisance flocks for farmers, especially before and after the moult in January. Shelduck may also feed on grain fed to deer in winter.

Although once not favoured by hunters, paradise shelduck (or parrie) have become more popular to hunt in recent years as the techniques to hunt them have become better known, such as decoying, calling and use of camouflage. As numbers have increased due to pasture improvement, there is both better opportunity for the hunter and a greater call for their control by landowners. Groups organised by Fish and Game and others have undertaken special parrie hunts in places such as the Grey valley and in South Westland. Paradise shelduck have a slow breeding rate compared to mallard ducks, a factor contributing to a risk of over-harvest. For this reason, Fish and Game undertakes trend counts of parrie numbers during the moult in January to ensure the bag limits and seasons are appropriate. Aerial and land-based counts are made of known moult sites distributed throughout the region. Counts in 2009 over the management area south of the Taramakau show an increase of approximately 40% compared to 2008 levels but over thirteen years there has been a steady increase of around 2% per annum. Numbers observed in the management area north of the Taramakau show an increase of approximately 30% compared to 2008 levels but a steady increase of around 4% per annum over the last decade. Increased interest in the special March season is increasing harvest but the annual harvest is still insufficient to curb steady population growth. Paradise Shelduck are defined as native game birds in the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

### Black Swan

The major coastal lagoons, located primarily between Buller and Cook river mouths support resident black swan populations in the order of 5000 birds while inland lakes and wetlands such as Moeraki, lanthe, Grove swamp and Brunner are important breeding and/or feeding habitats. Such habitats also appear to be seasonally important for birds trading south from the major breeding site at farewell spit.

Black swan are favoured by few hunters as evidenced by the 2010 harvest of only 90 birds for the season.

### Pukeko

Pukeko (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) are an underrated and little harvested game bird very common throughout the region. As a member of the rail family rather than a species of waterfowl, their behaviour is quite different from that of the other water-based game species and pukeko populations have benefited from modern farming methods. Localised population size varies from year to year in response to habitat and land-use change, however long-term monitoring trends point to an overall stable population.

Due to their highly territorial nature, prolific breeding under suitable conditions, willingness to live in proximity with people and destructive tendencies, pukeko can create a considerable nuisance at times particularly on new pasture and winter forage crops. During the open season landowner complaints are normally dealt with by directing hunters to problem areas, and at other times by the use of scare guns or permits to disturb/control. Pukeko are defined as native game birds in the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

### Upland Game

While small pockets of California quail and pheasant habitat exist, the region's climate is generally unsuited to the establishment of a viable upland gamebird resource. A small-scale upland gamebird hunting area exists at the Gloriavale Christian Community property at Haupiri.

## **21. Resource Use**

The West Coast has excellent trout, salmon and perch fisheries as well as highly sought-after gamebird hunting. Over half the hunting and fishing in the region is from anglers and hunters from neighbouring regions and international visitors (NIWA, 2016). Our pristine backcountry fisheries and spring creeks are popular with international anglers due to the ability to 'sight' fish to be targeted in clear water. This is now rare in many parts of New Zealand, and the rest of the world. Ease of access to fisheries and gamebird hunting areas and a lack of 'crowding' are also reasons for the popularity of the West Coast region. Our numerous lakes with good populations of trout and salmon are popular with boat anglers from neighbouring regions. The rise in popularity of lake Brunner (The West Coast regions most fished waterbody) coincides with road improvements from Canterbury for towing vehicles. South Westland is now popular with boat owners from the burgeoning Central lakes area.

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council contract NIWA to survey 'Angler Usage of Lake and River Fisheries managed by Fish & Game – New Zealand'. This is known commonly as the National Angler Survey ("NAS"). This is a nation-wide program which is conducted by interviewing a randomised selection of anglers by telephone over the fishing season. The primary objective of the survey is to obtain consistent estimates of annual angler usage for all New Zealand lake and river fisheries managed by Fish & Game. It has been conducted four times since its inception, 1994/95, 2000/01, 2007/08 and the 2014/15 season. The following trends were noted in the 2014/15 survey;

- Over half of the effort recorded on the West Coast in 2014/15 was associated with visitors from other regions. The largest contribution came from North Canterbury, followed by Otago, Central South Island, and Nelson/Marlborough.
- Just under half of the fishing conducted in the region was in the Grey catchment, mostly attributable to Lake Brunner and its proximity to Christchurch.
- This diversity of angling opportunity, over a broad geographical range, is a distinguishing feature of the West Coast fishery.
- In South Westland total angling effort has increased markedly.

## **22. Sports Fish and Game Resources in the West Coast**

Sports fish and game resources is the overall term used to describe the combination of populations of sports fish and game bird species and the habitats that they live in. Assessments of the significance of fish and game resources need to cover habitat values, fish and game population characteristics, and fishing and hunting amenity and attributes (usually managed within a recreational opportunity spectrum). Significance may change over time considering things like increasing user participation, changes in the distribution of the West Coasts human population, changes in attitudes towards angling, hunting, and wild harvest, and changes in recreational settings or fish/game habitat values. Habitat values and settings may improve or deteriorate due to external impacts from resource use activities, such as the intensification of agriculture, hydroelectric development, and adjacent subdivision.

The following components have been incorporated into this significance assessment:

- Existing published reports or articles.
- Recognition of the fishery or game bird resource in law (such as water conservation orders), regional plans, or other statutory documents
- Angler use, as reported in the 7-yearly national angler survey, conducted by NIWA on behalf of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.
- The recreational opportunity spectrum for the fishery or game bird resource
- Surveyed angler perceptions of the attributes of the fishery, such as the 1979 and 2013 angler attribute surveys.
- Geographical location.
- Underlying land status and recreational opportunity setting of the resource.

## 23. Angling & Hunting Recreational Opportunity Spectrum for the West Coast

To assist planning and management a recreational opportunity spectrum (ROS) has been developed for angling and hunting in the West Coast. This draws on ROS theory outlined in Conservation Management Strategies and recreation planning literature (e.g. Clark & Stankey, 1982, Taylor, P.C. DOC 1993, DOC 2003). The ROS recognises the diversity of recreational angling and hunting opportunities within the region and classifies them within a spectrum based on key characteristics, primarily recreational settings. The following criteria were used for the opportunity spectrum (refer Appendix 4):

Key Characteristics:

a) **Settings** - the combination of social physical, biological and managerial conditions that give value to a place. Six setting attributes have been identified namely:

1. access into and within the area
2. other non-recreational resource uses and their compatibility
3. on-site management
4. social interaction (user density);
5. level of regimentation (regulations)
6. acceptable level of visitor impacts.

b) **Activities** – the specific things people do: fly fish, hunt upland game, troll from a boat etc. It is important to identify potential users, their expectations and the style of activity in which they participate.

c) **Experiences** - the combination of activities (chosen by users) and the settings (managed as far as possible) result in experiences including challenge, risk, solitude, and companionship.

A recreational opportunity is defined as... 'a chance for a person to participate in a specific recreational activity in a specific setting in order to realise a predictable recreational experience'.

The Council's long term aim is to maintain (or enhance) the range, quality and extent of angling and hunting opportunity in the West Coast to meet the preferences of individual users and provide the widest achievement of desired experiences. To achieve this aim the Council requires in some cases a better understanding of recreational user preferences and needs to actively manage settings for user experiences.

The following represents an opportunity spectrum based on five broad categories: Urban, Rural, Natural, Backcountry and Remote.

### Urban

- Setting is within or adjacent to urban area
- Duration of activity is relatively short
- Access is easy by road and travel is short
- User encounter rates are relatively high
- Water is man-made or highly modified
- Fishery may be stocked
- Experience is characterised by open space but within a built or modified environment.

### **Rural**

- Setting is rural and modified by farming activity
- Duration of activity may be short or long
- Access is relatively easy by road and duration of activity is commonly up to a day
- User levels can be high and encounter rates are moderate
- Fishable water area is extensive
- Hunting opportunity for waterfowl is extensive.
- Experience is characterised by feelings of being away from urban areas
- Experience is associated with companionship or family recreation activities, such as swimming.
- A variety of fishing methods are employed
- Catch rates and size of fish are average.

### **Natural**

- Setting is not greatly modified and unmodified remnants are common
- Duration of activity is usually longer and commonly over 4 hours
- Access is easy by road, track or boat and travel distance is relatively long
- Location is usually distant from centres of population
- Use is commonly associated with camping, swimming, and the use of huts or holiday houses
- User encounter rates are moderate
- Water is little modified and catch rates/size of fish are average or better
- Fishable water area is extensive
- Game-bird hunting opportunity is less extensive but more diverse (including upland game )
- Experience is characterised by scenic beauty and is commonly associated with family activities such as boating, picnicking, and walking.

### **Backcountry**

- Setting is largely unmodified natural landscape and human intrusion is limited
- Duration of activity is usually longer and commonly over 4 hours
- Access is by gravel road, walking track, boat or aircraft and travel distance is relatively long
- Location is usually distant from centres of population
- Use is commonly associated with camping, swimming, and the use of huts or holiday houses
- User encounter rates are low
- Water is little modified and catch rates/size of fish are average or better and can include trophy trout
- Fishable water area is limited
- Game-bird hunting opportunity is very limited



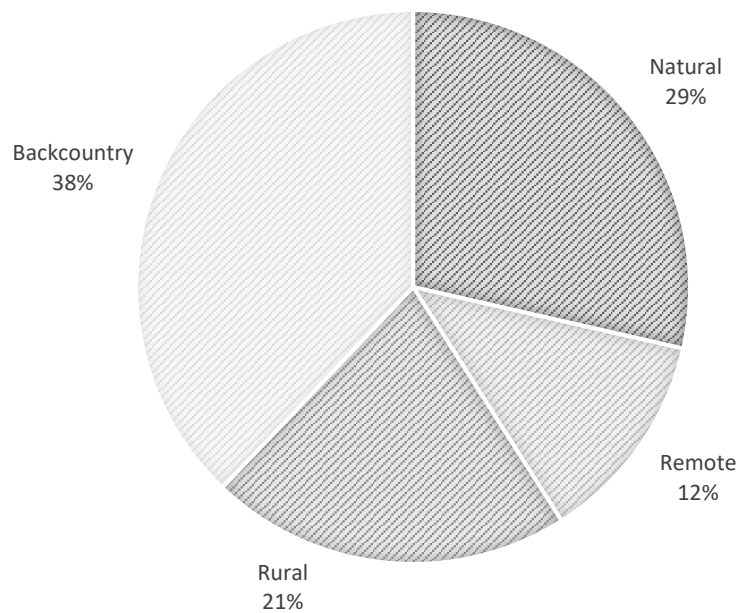
- Experience is characterised by scenic beauty and feelings of solitude and is commonly associated with activities such as tramping and camping
- Access methods can impact on the experience of others.

**Remote**

- Setting is natural landscape with very little human intrusion
- Duration of activity is usually long and involves more than a day
- Access is by foot, aircraft or jet boat and travel distance is long
- Location is remote from centres of population
- Use is commonly associated with camping, tramping and hunting
- User encounter rates are low
- Water is clear and size of fish is larger than average
- Fishable water area is limited and pressure sensitive
- Experience is characterised by scenic beauty and feelings of peace and solitude
- Access methods can impact on the experience of others.

Much of the recreational opportunity occurs across the rural environment, while there are few opportunities in the urban area. The region has a high proportion of natural, back country and remote sites, by comparison with many other parts of the country.

## RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM BY CATEGORY



*Figure 3 Distribution of different ROS categories in the West Coast Region*

The importance of the region’s brown trout fishery and to a lesser extent for duck hunting is borne out by this data and, in contrast, the small number of public sites where upland game hunting can be undertaken.

## RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BY SPECIES

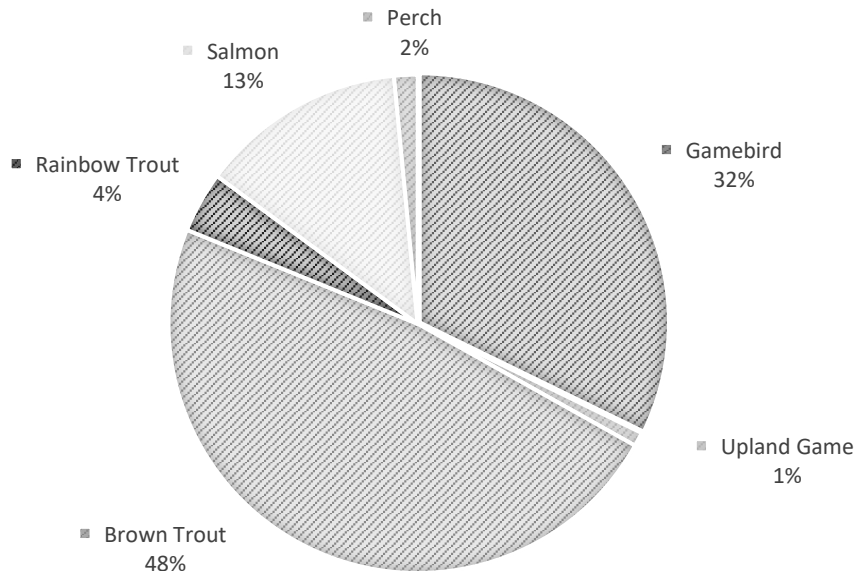


Figure 4: The proportion of all 167 sites having particular sports fish and game bird recreational opportunities.

The following is a table of the identified fisheries and gamebird hunting areas utilised in the ROS process. It is by no means an exhaustive and complete list of the regions resources. It has been compiled from; Angler and Hunter Survey Data, Councillor Feedback and Staff Enquiries.

	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Natural</b>	<b>Back country</b>	<b>Remote</b>
<b>Setting</b>	In or near urban area	Rural	Little modified or largely protected land	Largely unmodified natural landscape	Usually unmodified public land
<b>Duration of activity</b>	Usually short	Short or long	Usually longer than 4 hours	Commonly over 4hrs	Usually a day or more
<b>Access</b>	Easy, by road	Road or sometimes boat	Road (often unsealed), track, boat or aircraft	Road (often unsealed), track, boat or aircraft.	Point access only, walking, boat or aircraft
<b>Travel Distance for most anglers</b>	Short	Medium	Medium to distant	Relatively long. Distant from main centres.	Distant from main centres
<b>Use levels</b>	Often high	Low to high	Low to medium	Low to medium,	Very low to medium
<b>Tolerated User Encounter Rates</b>	High	High to medium	Moderate to low	Moderate to low	Low to very low
<b>Ideal Numbers/Type of Fishing</b>	Many fish	Many fish	Fewer, larger fish, usually sight fishing, chance of trophy fish.	Fewer, larger fish, usually sight fishing, chance of trophy fish.	Trophy Fish potential, sight fishing
<b>Frequency of visits by individual.</b>	Either frequent or never	Frequent to common	Common to occasional	Occasional to rare.	Rare
<b>Fishery Stocked?</b>	Possibly	Possibly	Not usually	No	No
<b>Catch Rate.</b>	Low to high	Medium	Medium to low	Medium to low	Usually relatively low
<b>Angling Methods available?</b>	All	All	All	All	All
<b>Species Available</b>	All, incl. coarse spp	Salmonids	Usually, salmonids	Brown or Rainbow Trout	Brown or Rainbow Trout
<b>Social Experience</b>	Close to home	Family/Away from home	Attractive landscape, clear water, often associated with camping, overnight stay, getting away	Attractive landscape, clear water, often associated with camping, overnight stay, getting away	Scenic beauty and feelings of solitude, no human influence

*Table 1: West Coast Angling and Hunting Recreational Opportunity Spectrum Categories*

## 24. Sports Fish and Gamebird Resource Significance & Criteria

The following criteria have been considered in determining the significance of fish and game habitats, fisheries and hunting areas within West Coast.

The significance of a fishery or game resource is not the same as the quality or value of that resource. For example a locally significant fishery can be high, medium or low quality or value depending on its condition, character or specific fishery characteristics or attributes.

A habitat, fishery or hunting population/area needs to meet one or more of the criteria to be graded as nationally regionally or locally significant.

### Nationally significant

- Habitat, fishery or hunting area is recognised as outstanding in a Water Conservation Order; or of high significance in a decision from a public process or in a published technical report or statutory plan.
- Backcountry fishery in an area designated as an outstanding natural landscape in a district plan or within public conservation land and recognised as outstanding in national terms.
- Fishery sustaining 5,000 or more angler visits/year
- Hunting area sustaining more than 500 hunter visits per year
- Habitat, fishery or hunting area with more than one exceptional attributes as determined by formal angler or hunter surveys.
- Wetland habitat of 400 hectares in area or more.
- High level of use by international anglers
- High level of use by resident anglers from outside the West Coast
- Fishery or hunting area has significant attributes identified by survey or community consultation.
- Habitat that provides spawning, breeding, rearing areas for a nationally significant fishery or game habitat.
- Habitat that provides a migratory pathway or corridor for a nationally significant fishery or game habitat.

### Regionally significant

- Habitat, fishery or hunting area is recognised as regionally important in a decision from a public process or in a published technical report or statutory plan.
- Backcountry fishery in an area designated as an outstanding natural landscape in a district plan or within public conservation land'
- Fishery sustaining between 2000-5000 angler visits per year
- Hunting area sustaining between 150 to 500 hunter visits per year
- Habitat, fishery or hunting area with at least one exceptional attribute as determined by formal angler or hunter surveys.
- Wetland habitat over 40 to 400 hectares in area
- Noticeable level of use by international anglers
- Noticeable level of use by resident anglers from outside the West Coast
- Degraded habitat with potential for restoration to meet one or more of the above criteria

- Fishery or hunting area has significant attributes identified by survey or community consultation.
- Habitats that provide spawning, breeding, rearing areas for a regionally significant fishery or game habitat
- Habitat that provides a migratory pathway or corridor for a regionally significant fishery or game habitat.

### **Locally significant**

- Habitat, fishery or hunting area is recognised in surveys including NIWA National Anglers' Survey, in a decision from a public process or in a published technical report or statutory plan
- Fishery sustaining up to 2000 angler visits/year
- Hunting area sustaining up to 150 hunter visits per year
- Habitat fishery or hunting area that is close to a centre of population (within 45 minutes drive)
- Degraded habitat with potential for restoration to meet one or more of the above criteria
- Fishery or hunting area has significant attributes identified by survey or community consultation.
- Habitats that provide spawning, breeding, rearing areas for a locally significant fishery or game habitat
- Habitat that provides a migratory pathway or corridor for a locally significant fishery or game habitat.

### **Review of significance**

Habitat significance may be reviewed or amended in the light of new information and any changes that results will be incorporated into the plan by way of section 17M (3) of the Conservation Act 1987.

### **Information Sources**

Multiple information sources are used to determine the significance of sports fish or gamebird resources. The highest significance rating determined in one source of information is the significance that applies to the fishery. These include:

#### Existing published reports or articles.

The primary source of published reports and articles on the significance of fisheries was published reports by Acclimatisation Societies or the Ministry of Fisheries Research Division in the 1980s. These reports contained detailed assessments of the significance of rivers, lakes and wetlands and their catchments.

#### Recognition of the fishery or gamebird resource in law

Law includes statutory instruments (formerly referred to as "regulations" such as national water conservation orders, former local water conservation notices (which have been since amalgamated with regional water plans), references to fishery and gamebird values within subordinate legislation such as regional policy and plans, district plans, and also other documents such as Department of Conservation Management strategies and plans. Resource consents, particularly 'global' consents that deal with whole catchments or sub-catchments, may also contain reference to fishery and gamebird values.

### Angler and hunter use

Angler use, as reported in the 7-yearly national angler survey, conducted by NIWA on behalf of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council. This survey has a dataset dating back to the mid 1990s.

Hunter use is reported primarily through the hunter diary scheme.

### Angling and hunting recreational opportunity spectrum

The West Coast Fish and Game region has an operative recreational opportunity spectrum which classifies fisheries and gamebird resources based on setting, type of activity, and type of user. Recreational opportunity spectra are used as a conservation management tool when there is a diverse range of recreational experiences within a region.

### Angler perceptions

Anger perception surveys have been undertaken in New Zealand in 1978 and 2013 Unwin (2009, 2013; New Zealand Acclimatisation Societies, 1978). These are large-scale exercises which require participants to rank their experiences, perceptions and values of fishing in different rivers. The following criteria have been used:

- *Close to home* – ('close to where you normally live')  
This relates to travel distance to a fishery
- *Close to holiday location* – ('close to where you live while on holiday')  
This also relates to travel distance
- *Ease of access*
- *Large areas of fishable water*
- *Scenic beauty*
- *Wilderness character*
- *Anticipation of a good catch rate*
- *Anticipation of landing large fish*

Anglers are also asked to identify the "overall" value of a fishery on a 1-5 scale, based on the following criteria:

1. *This fishery can provide enjoyable angling, but is not exceptional;*
2. *This fishery often provides enjoyable angling, but is not exceptional;*
3. *This fishery consistently provides enjoyable angling;*
4. *This fishery provides a very enjoyable angling experience, and is one of my personal favourites;*
5. *This fishery provides an exceptional angling experience, and has few peers.*

### Degraded Habitats and Populations

Where a fishery or hunting area or population has been degraded or has deteriorated over time because of identified or unidentified external factors its former significance status and potential for restoration deserve recognition. No fishery or game hunting area/population should be removed from a former status of nationally or regionally importance due to a human-induced decline in water quality or physical habitat. Instead, the appropriate response is to note the change and the reasons for the change in status and suggest remediation.

### Habitat components of significance

Significance of fish or game habitats will include the following habitat considerations:

- the size or value of the fish or game population supported including for game, the proportion of a national population
- the importance to the life cycle requirements of a fishery or game population including spawning or breeding areas, areas for juvenile rearing
- role as migratory pathways or habitat corridors
- special characteristics of the habitats.

### Review of habitat significance

Habitat significance may be reviewed or amended in the light of new information and any changes that results will be incorporated into the plan by way of section 17M (3) of the Conservation Act 1987.

# Appendices

## APPENDIX 1. Map of the West Coast Fish and Game Region



The procedure for the preparation of the plan is set out in Section 17M of the Act. The legal status of the Council and the context within which it operates is described below:



## **APPENDIX 2.        Legislation**

### **Legal Context**

#### Conservation Act 1987

The Council is established under section 26P of the Conservation Act 1987 as a body corporate. Its functions are detailed in Section 26Q of the Act.

The general function of the Council is to... 'manage, maintain and enhance the sports fish and game resource in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters. Particular functions include:

- assess and monitor sports fish and game populations.
- assess and monitor angler and hunter success and satisfaction.
- assess and monitor the condition and trend of ecosystems as habitats for sports fish and game.
- maintain and improve access to sports fish and game resources.
- maintain and improve hatchery breeding programmes for restocking fish and game habitats where necessary
- provide information on sports fish and game and promote angling and hunting.
- ensure compliance with angling and hunting conditions and promote ethical standards
- represent the interests and aspirations of anglers and hunters in statutory planning processes, including advocating for their interests in habitats.
- implement Fish and Game national policies

The Council's responsibilities for management of fish and game resources cover the whole of the West Coast Fish and Game Region (refer Appendix 2, Map of West Coast Region), and are not limited to public conservation lands and waters.

Regulations can be made under sections 48 and 48A of the Conservation Act which relate to fish and game management. Current regulations include the Fish and Game Council Elections Regulations 1990.

The Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 are made under the Fisheries Act 1983, but apply mainly to the Conservation Act 1987. Broadly they cover sports fish and licencing, protecting of marked fish, canning, storage and smoking of fish, ensuring that fish passage is maintained, the use of electric fishing machines, and the management and authorisation of fishing competitions. Schedule 1 of the Regulations lists the species of fish in New Zealand waters legally declared to be sports fish, and thus governed by Fish and Game Councils (Appendix 1.).

In addition, section 26ZL of the Act enables the Director General of Conservation, at the request of the Council, to declare restrictions on fishing including conditions controlling entry to specified waters and prohibiting fishing by notice in newspapers circulating in the area concerned.

The Council is composed of twelve councillors elected from whole season fishing and hunting licence-holders in triennial elections conducted by postal ballot. The Council appoints one of its members to the NZFGC.

The NZFGC's primary role is to represent nationally the interests of anglers and hunters and co-ordinate the activities of the regional FGCs. Supporting functions are to:

- develop national policies for the carrying out of its functions for sports fish and game in consultation with regional Fish and Game Councils
- advise the Minister of Conservation on issues relating to sports fish and game.
- participate in the development of research programmes for the management of sports fish and game.
- advocate in the interests of sports fish and game management.
- report to Fish and Game Councils on issues affecting sports fish and game management.
- co-ordinate the production of the annual Angler's Notice and Game Gazette
- advise the Minister of Conservation on sports fish and game licences and their fees having regard to the recommendations of with Fish and Game Councils.

There are 12 defined Fish and Game Regions in New Zealand, although, at the time of writing, these regions and their boundaries are under review. Their boundaries are described in the New Zealand Gazette (NZ Government, 1990). The 12 regional Fish and Game Councils and the New Zealand Council operate collectively under the brand name Fish & Game New Zealand. The 13 Councils are independent public entities and funds are redistributed between Councils to meet national and regional needs by way of a levy and grant system. Fish and Game funding is derived almost exclusively from licence sales, and the use of that funding and the role carried out by Councils across the country has a substantial benefit to the wider public beyond anglers and hunters.

The relationship of the plan to other Conservation Act policies and plans is defined in Section 17L of the Act. These provisions require that nothing in any sports fish and game management plan 'shall derogate' from any provisions of the Act or any other Act, any policy approved under the Act or any other Act, any Department of Conservation (DOC) conservation management strategy, conservation management plan, or freshwater fisheries management plan. DOC plans must 'have regard' to existing sports fish and game management plans.

Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 governs the Council's relationship with Ngai Tahu. It is discussed below in 4.1 'Relationship with Ngai Tahu.'

The Act also defines "freshwater" in section 2 as extending 500 metres offshore from the low tide mouth of any stream or river, which effectively means that Council's jurisdiction for sports fish extends 500 metres offshore in those locations.

Fish and Game Councils in New Zealand owe their origins to Acclimatisation Societies that began to form during the 1860s. By about 1900 the number of societies had increased to about 40 so that virtually the whole country was covered. Societies were originally established in Buller, Grey and Westland but the former two subsequently merged.

It was not until the formation of Fish and Game Councils in 1990 that West Coast and Westland became united as one of the 12 Fish and Game regions.

#### Wildlife Act 1953

The Wildlife Act 1953 includes provisions relating to game bird management which:

- enable the Minister of Conservation to declare open seasons for game and the conditions controlling the taking of game.
- allow the Director-General of the Department of Conservation to authorise the Council to take game for certain purposes.
- describe the powers of rangers.

- define wildlife species declared to be 'game' in the First Schedule to the Act and thus governed by Fish and Game Councils (Appendix 1)

In addition, the Act allows for the making of regulations including the Wildlife Regulations 1955.

## **Wider Legal Context**

Management of sports fish and game bird resources occurs within a legal context defined by a number of key statutes described below:

### Local Government Act 1974

Navigational Safety Bylaws are developed by territorial local authorities under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1974. These regulations control recreational boating and allow the setting of speed limits on inland waterways.

Part 21 of the Local Government Act 1974 described local authority responsibilities for the maintenance and accessibility of local roads along waterways, including unformed legal road. Section 342 and Schedule 10 cover the temporary closure of public roads and the procedure for the legal stopping of a road.

### Reserves Act 1977

The Reserves Act is the statute under which much of the Crown's wetland reserve land is managed. The Council is able to be appointed to carry out day to day control and management of reserves, particularly Government Purpose Reserves for Wildlife Management.

The Council has been declared to be a local authority under section 2 of the Act to enable it to exercise the powers and functions of a local authority under this Act (NZ Government, 2001). Also, the Council is recognised as a covenanting body under this Act.

### National Parks Act 1980

National Parks are managed in accordance with the National Parks Act 1980. There are four National Parks within the West Coast Fish and Game Region:

- Mt Aspiring National Park
- Westland Tai Poutini National Park
- Paparoa National Park
- Kahurangi National Park

These National Parks are important for conservation and recreation. These National Parks all contain a number of important trout fisheries.

### Public Works Act 1981

Section 45 of the Public Works Act 1981 allows local authorities to lease or license any land held for a road, including adjacent unformed legal road, to adjacent landowners for activities such as grazing.

### Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

The Council is subject to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. Council meetings are open to the public and must be advertised. All business must be transacted in open meeting unless it meets criteria defined in the Act.

### Public Finance Act 1989

The Council is subject to the provisions of the Public Finance Act 1989. It is audited annually by the auditors appointed by the Office of the Auditor General and must produce an annual report including a statement of objectives and a comparative statement of service performance. The report must be presented to a publicly advertised annual general meeting and to Parliament. The Council is a Public Entity in terms of the Act.

#### Resource Management Act 1991

The Resource Management Act 1991 (the RMA) is the primary statute in New Zealand for resource management and planning. It places a strong emphasis on matters relevant to the habitat protection and access functions of Fish and Game Councils. It also provides linkages between statutory plans and opportunities for FGCs to have input into resource planning across regional and territorial local authorities.

Section 5 of the RMA describes the purpose of the RMA as being to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. It defines sustainable management in a qualified way that requires the safeguarding of the life supporting capacity of ecosystems and the management of adverse effects on the environment where resource use occurs.

Section 6 outlines 'Matters of National Importance', requiring persons exercising powers and functions under the RMA to recognise and provide for priority matters. Those relevant to fish and game management are as follows:

- a) The preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area), wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development:
- b) The protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development:
- c) The protection of areas of significant vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna:
- d) The maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine areas, lakes, and rivers.

Section 7, 'Other Matters' list other priority matters. Those of relevance to sports fish and game management objectives are:

- (c) The maintenance and enhancement of amenity values:
- (d) Intrinsic values of ecosystems:
- (f) Maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment:
- (h) The protection of the habitat of trout and salmon.

Other elements of Part II of the RMA relate to the priority placed by the Act on Maori cultural matters in sections 6(e), 7(a) and 8.

Sports Fish and Game Management Plans are linked to regional and district council policy and plan development through sections 61, 66, and 74 of the RMA. These sections require regional and district councils to 'have regard' to management plans and strategies prepared under other Acts in the preparation of policy statements and plans. Other RMA provisions include Part 9 water conservation order application procedures which may be used where outstanding amenity or intrinsic values are present in waterways.

#### Biosecurity Act 1993

The Biosecurity Act includes provisions on the humanitarian treatment of animals and the control of pests which can impact on Council's management activities. It also controls the introduction of new species into New Zealand.

#### Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

Te Kerēme, the Ngāi Tahu Claim, was lodged with the Waitangi Tribunal in 1986. The Ngāi Tahu Deed of Settlement was signed at Takahanga Marae, Kaikoura, in 1997. The subsequent Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 appoints Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu as a statutory advisor to the West Coast Fish and Game Council. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu may provide advice to the West Coast Fish and Game Council on the conditions for hunting seasons for native game birds and the preparation of those parts of draft sports fish and game management plans which relate to native game birds. The West Coast Fish and Game Council must have particular regard to that advice.

The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act defines native game birds as the following species (s 77):

- Maunu/Pārerera (Grey duck- *Anas superciliosa*); and
- Pākura/Pūkeko (Pūkeko- *Porphyrio porphyrio*); and
- Pūtakitaki (Paradise shelduck- *Tadorna variegata*); and
- Tētē (Shoveller- *Anas rhynochotis*).

The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act sets out areas and waters within the West Coast Fish and Game Region that Ngāi Tahu has cultural associations with. The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act recognises these as '**Statutory Acknowledgements**' or 'Deeds of Recognition' when they relate to public conservation land. Statutory Acknowledgements recognised in the West Coast Fish and Game Region are as follows:

- Ōkāri Lagoon
- Taramakau River
- Kōtukuwhakaoka (Lake Brunner/Moana)
- Lake Kaniere
- Pouerua-hāpua (Saltwater Lagoon)
- Ōkārito Lagoon
- Makaawhio (Jacob's River)
- Karangarua Lagoon
- Lake Paringa

The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act also recognises **Nohoanga** entitlements provide a right of seasonal occupation and use for Poutini Ngāi Tahu whānui of specified areas of Crown-owned land near water bodies for harvest of natural resources (sections 255 to 268, Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998). Nohoanga entitlements provided in Te Tai o Poutini/West Coast are in the following locations:

- Cascade River
- Karangarua River
- Lady Lake
- Lake Brunner/Moana

- Lake Haupiri
- Lake Kaniere
- Mahitahi River
- Mikonui River
- Ōkarito
- Waiatoto River
- Punakaiki River
- Taramakau River
- Waita River and Māori Lakes
- Waiatoto Lagoon

The Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act also vested the bed (fee simple) of Lake Mahināpua with Ngai Tahu. All lawful rights of public access to, and of recreational use and enjoyment affecting, the bed of Lake Mahināpua at the time of transfer (not including the use of maimais) were to remain unaffected by the vesting of the fee simple estate in the bed of Lake Mahināpua in Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, for as long as, and to the extent that, such rights otherwise remain lawful.

Vesting of the bed of Lake Mahināpua with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu did not confer any rights or impose any obligations on Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu of ownership, management, or control of; the waters of Lake Mahināpua, the aquatic life of Lake Mahināpua or any structures attached to or in the bed of Lake Mahināpua.

#### Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998

The Crown Pastoral Land Act establishes procedures for changing the tenure of Crown pastoral lease lands in the South Island high country.

#### Walking Access Act 2008

The Walking Access Act 2008 established the New Zealand Walking Access Commission, which has the objectives of providing the New Zealand public with “free, certain, enduring, and practical walking access to the outdoors”. Specific responsibilities of the Commission include placing a priority on negotiating access over private land to parts of rivers and lakes where there is not already walking access, and to sports fish and game resources (s11, Walking Access Act, 2008). These responsibilities align closely with the responsibilities and roles of Fish and Game Councils for access under the Conservation Act 1987. As such, the West Coast Fish and Game Council will work closely with the Commission and its regional field advisors in identifying mutual priority areas for access that require focus and resourcing.

### **APPENDIX 3. Species Managed by Fish and Game**

#### **Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, First Schedule:**

Brown trout

Rainbow trout

American brook trout or char

Lake trout or char

Atlantic salmon

Quinnat or chinook salmon

Sockeye salmon

Perch

Tench

Rudd (found or taken in the Auckland Fish and Game Region)

and includes any hybrid and the young, fry, ova and spawn and any part of any such fish

#### **Wildlife Act 1953, First Schedule:**

Black swan

Chukar

Duck –

Australasian shoveler

Grey duck and any cross of that species with any other species, variety, or kind of duck

Mallard duck and any cross of that species with any other species, variety, or kind of duck

Paradise shelduck

Partridge –

Grey partridge

Red legged partridge

Pheasant (non-domestic and outside of game preserves)

Pukeko

Quail –

Bobwhite quail

Brown quail

California quail

## **APPENDIX 4. West Coast significant fisheries and Game Hunting areas**

The following is a table of the identified fisheries and gamebird hunting areas utilised in the ROS and significance processes. It is, by no means, an exhaustive and complete list of the region's resources. It could be considered a work-in-progress as each year through survey responses and angler and hunter feedback Fish and Game gain more information on the regions hunting and fishing resource.



<b>Water Body</b>	<b>ROS Category</b>	<b>Water type</b>	<b>Rec significance</b>	<b>Brown Trout</b>	<b>Rainbow Trout</b>	<b>Salmon</b>	<b>Perch</b>	<b>Game</b>
Ahaura Lake	Back country	Small lake	Local	n	n	n	n	y
Ahaura River	Back country	Mainstem river	National	y	n	y	n	y
Arahura River (lower)	Rural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	y	n	y
Arahura River (upper)	Back country	Mainstem river	Regional	y	n	n	n	n
Arawata River	Back country	Mainstem river	Regional	y	n	y	n	y
Arnold River (lower)	Rural	Lowland river	Regional	y	n	y	n	y
Arnold River (upper)	Rural	Lowland river	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
Arthur Lake	Natural	Small lake	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Awarau River (Larry's Ck)	Back country	Headwater	National	y	n	n	n	n
Barrytown Lagoons	Rural	Small lake	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
Beautiful River	Remote	Headwater	National	y	n	n	n	n
Berry Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	Y	n	n	n	y
Big River	Natural	Mainstem river	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
Blackwater River	Natural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	n
Blue Grey River	Back country	Headwater	National	y	n	n	n	y
Bradshaws Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Brown Grey River	Back country	Headwater	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
Bruce Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
Brunner Lake	Rural	Large lake	National	y	n	n	n	y
Buller River	Rural	Mainstem river	National	y	n	y	n	y
Burke River	Back country	Headwater	Local	y	n	n	n	n
Burton Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Cascade River	Remote	Mainstem river	Regional	y	n	y	n	y
Clarke River	Remote	Headwater	Regional	y	n	n	n	n
Clear Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	y	n	y

Coal Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Collins Dam	Rural	Small lake	Local	n	n	n	n	y
Cook River	Natural	Mainstem river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Copland River	Remote	Headwater	Regional	y	n	n	n	n
Crooked River	Rural	Lowland river	National	y	n	n	n	y
Crow River	Remote	Headwater	National	y	n	n	n	n
Deadmans Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Deep Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Duck Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	Y	n	n	n	y
Eastern Hohonu River	Rural	Lowland river	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
Ellery Lake	Remote	Small lake	Regional	y	n	y	n	y
Ellis Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
Fox River	Natural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Gillows Dam	Rural	Small lake	Local	n	n	n	n	y
Grey River (Lower)	Rural	Mainstem river	Regional	y	n	y	n	y
Grey River (upper)	Back country	Headwater	National	y	n	?	n	y
Groves Swamp	Natural	Small lake	Local	y	n	n	y	y
Haast River	Natural	Mainstem river	Regional	y	n	y	n	y
Hapuka River	Natural	Lowland river	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
Harris Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
Haupiri Lake	Rural	Small lake	Regional	y	n	y	n	y
Haupiri River (lower)	Rural	Lowland river	National	y	n	y	n	y
Haupiri River (Upper)	Back country	Headwater	National	y	n	n	n	y
Heaphy River	Remote	Mainstem River	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Hochstetter Lake	Remote	Small lake	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
Hohonu River (Greenstone)	Rural	Lowland river	Local	n	n	n	n	n
Hokitika River (lower)	Rural	Mainstem river	Regional	y	n	y	n	y

Hokitika River (Upper)	Back country	Headwater	Regional	y	y	y	n	n
Hope River	Remote	Mainstem river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Hunts Creek	Natural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Ianthe Creek	Natural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Ianthe Lake	Natural	Small lake	Regional	y	n	y	n	y
Inangahua River (lower)	Rural	Mainstem river	National	y	n	n	n	y
Inangahua River (upper)	Natural	Headwater	Regional	y	n	n	n	n
Jackson River	Natural	Headwater	Regional	y	n	y	n	n
Jacobs (Makawhio) River	Natural	Mainstem river	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
Johnson River	Remote	Headwater	National	y	n	n	n	n
Kakapotahi River	Remote	Headwater	Local	y	n	n	n	n
Kangaroo Lake	Natural	Small lake	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Kaniere Lake	Natural	Large lake	Local	y	y	y	y	n
Kaniere River	Rural	Lowland river	Local	y	y	y	n	n
Kapitea Reservoir	Rural	Reservoir	Regional	y	y	y	y	y
Karamea River (lower)	Natural	Mainstem river	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
Karamea River (upper)	Remote	Headwater	National	y	n	n	n	n
Karangarua River	Remote	Mainstem river	Regional	y	n	y	n	n
Kawhaka Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Kawhaka Hydro	Rural	Reservoir	Local	y	y	y	n	y
Kohaihai River	Rural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Kokatahi River	Rural	Headwater	Regional	y	y	y	n	y
Kumara Dredge Ponds	Rural	Reservoir	Local	y	y	n	n	y
La Fontaine Stream	Rural	Lowland river	National	y	n	n	n	y
Lady Lake	Natural	Small lake	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Landsborough River	Back country	Headwater	Regional	y	n	y	n	n

Leslie River	Remote	Headwater	National	y	n	n	n	n
Little Wanganui River	Natural	Mainstem river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Mahinapua Creek	Natural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	y	y
Mahinapua Lake	Natural	Small lake	Regional	y	n	n	y	y
Mahitahi River	Natural	Mainstem river	Regional	y	n	y	n	n
Mapourika Lake	Natural	Large lake	National	y	n	y	n	n
Martins Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	n
Martyr River	Remote	Lowland River	Regional	y	n	n	n	n
Mawheraiti River	Rural	Lowland river	Regional	y	n	y	n	y
Mikonui River	Natural	Mainstem river	Local	y	n	y	n	n
Moeraki Lake	Natural	Small lake	National	y	n	y	n	y
Moeraki River	Remote	Headwater	Regional	y	n	y	n	n
Mokihinui River (lower)	Natural	Mainstem river	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
Mokihinui River (upper)	Remote	Headwater	National	y	n	n	n	n
Molloy Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
Montgomerie River	Remote	Headwater	Regional	y	n	n	n	n
Moonlight Creek	Back country	Headwater	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
Murray Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Ngahere Dredge Ponds	Rural	Reservoir	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Nelson Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
New Creek	Natural	Headwater	Local	y	n	n	n	n
New River	Rural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Ngakawau River	Rural	Mainstem river	Local	y	n	n	n	n
Nicholas Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Nile River	Rural	Mainstem river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Ogilvies Lagoon	Remote	Small lake	Local	n	n	n	n	y
Ohikaiti River	Remote	Headwater	Regional	y	n	n	n	n

Ohikanui River	Backcountry	Headwater	National	y	n	n	n	n
Ohinetamatea River	Natural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	n
Okari Pond	Rural	Small Lake	Local	y	y	n	n	y
Okari River	Rural	Lowland river	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
Okarito Lagoon	Natural	Estuary	Regional	y	n	y	n	y
Okarito River	Natural	Lowland river	Regional	y	n	y	n	n
Okuru River	Natural	Mainstem river	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
Omoeroa River	Natural	Mainstem river	Local	y	n	n	n	n
Oparara River	Natural	Mainstem river	Local	y	n	n	n	n
Orangipuku River	Rural	Lowland river	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
Orowaiti River	Rural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Otira River	Natural	Headwater	Local	y	y	n	n	n
Paringa Lake	Natural	Small lake	National	y	n	y	n	n
Paringa River	Remote	Mainstem river	Regional	y	n	y	n	n
Poerua Lake	Rural	Small lake	National	y	n	n	n	y
Poerua River	Rural	Lowland river	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
Poerua River(HH)	Rural	Mainstem river	Local	y	n	y	n	y
Pororari River	Rural	Mainstem river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Pratt Lake	Natural	Small lake	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Punakaiki River	Rural	Mainstem river	Local	y	n	y	n	y
Red Jacks Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Roaring Lion River	Remote	Headwater	National	y	n	n	n	n
Robinson River	Back Country	Headwater	National	y	n	n	n	n
Rotokino Lake	Remote	Small lake	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Rough River	Back Country	Headwater	National	y	n	n	n	y
Saltwater Lagoon	Remote	Small lake	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Seven Mile Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	n
Silverpine Lagoons	Remote	Small lake	Local	n	n	n	n	y

Stillwater Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Stony (Te Wharau) River	Backcountry	Headwater	National	y	n	n	n	n
Styx River	Natural	Headwater	Local	y	y	y	n	y
Swan Lake	Remote	Small lake	Local	n	n	n	n	y
Taipō River	Back country	Headwater	Regional	y	y	y	n	y
Taramakau River	Back country	Mainstem river	Regional	y	y	y	n	y
Ten Mile Creek	Natural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	n
The Windbag	Natural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	y	n	y
Thomas River	Back country	Headwater	Regional	y	n	n	n	n
Toaroha River	Back country	Headwater	Regional	y	y	n	n	y
Totara River(Ross)	Rural	Mainstem river	Regional	y	n	n	n	n
Totara River	Natural	Mainstem river	Regional	y	n	n	n	n
Trent River	Remote	Headwater	National	y	n	y	n	n
Turnbull River	Rural	Mainstem river	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
Ugly River	Remote	Headwater	National	y	n	n	n	n
Vickers Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Wahapo Lake	Reservoir	Small lake	Local	y	n	y	n	y
Waiatoto River	Remote	Mainstem river	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
Waiheke River	Back country	Headwater	Local	y	n	n	n	n
Waiho River	Natural	Mainstem river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Waikiti River	Back Country	Headwater	Regional	y	n	n	n	n
Waikukupa River	Natural	Mainstem river	Regional	y	n	n	n	n
Waimangaroa River	Rural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	y
Waita River	Remote	Headwater	Regional	y	n	n	n	y
Waitaha River	Rural	Mainstem river	Regional	y	n	y	n	y
Waitahu River	Back country	Headwater	National	y	n	n	n	n
Waitangi-taona River	Rural	Lowland river	National	y	n	y	n	y
Wanganui River	Rural	Mainstem river	Local	y	n	y	n	y

Whakapohi River	Remote	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	n
Whareatea River	Rural	Lowland river	Local	y	n	n	n	n
Whataroa River	Rural	Mainstem river	Local	y	n	y	n	y
Whitcombe River	Remote	Headwater	Regional	y	y	n	n	n