

Dave Harris

I am a retired Electrical Engineer. I have been on the Southland Fish & Game Council since 2012 and the NZ Fish & Game Council since 2020.

My main interest is trout fishing, especially fly fishing and I am the President of the Southland Fly Fishing Club. This allows me to help in promoting the sport and I enjoy helping out junior and beginner anglers.

I also take an interest in protecting access and habitat for both fishing and hunting as these are important NZ traditions. We need to keep our environment as pure as possible and ensure that the habitat for both trout and game birds is maintained to allow these species to thrive.

I see a need to act against capture of the fishing and hunting resources for private gain at the expense of the general public. I also see a need to reduce crowding on our premium rivers.

We need to continue to make hunting and fishing licences affordable while continuing to provide sufficient income for Fish & Game to manage our hunting and fishing resources. I also see a need to try and obtain some income from other sources, especially those who profit from using the hunting and fishing resources, including the introduction of a guide's licence.

Michael Hartstonge

I'm a passionate duck hunter and fisherman. I've enjoyed five terms as a councillor and want to represent those wanting to preserve the great hunting and fishing we have here in Southland.

With complaints from kiwi anglers on the rise again over the return of foreign anglers and guides I believe there's an opportunity to bring in some sensible regulation to ensure that kiwis can have a fair crack. We don't want our rivers to become like the Great Walks where kiwis miss out on access.

I want to see a guides licence introduced so that guides, particularly foreign guides, can be managed and potentially capped if needed.

When I'm not out hunting with my dog and kids you'll find me shooting claybirds. I'm a current NZ team rep in skeet shooting and love coaching gamebird hunters on ways to improve their skills to ensure more success in the field.

I believe we're the duck hunting capital of NZ. I want to ensure we continue to have season lengths and regulations based on good science to allow this to continue.

With the Ministerial Review findings still being implemented we need licence holders in charge of the decision making. The findings were significant. Changes do need to be made. As licence holders we need to do what's required to future proof our organisation. We need experience around the table.

A vote for me will be for someone who will fight for Southlanders to continue to be able to hunt and fish.

Dave Linklater

I am a 71-year-old retired farmer who has a huge passion for fly fishing and Southland rivers. I lived all my life at Waipahi until retiring 7 years ago to the outskirts of Gore. As a young boy I would ride my bike the 3 miles to the Waipahi river to fish. I have held a licence every year since. I am currently a sitting council member having served one term on the council, and have completed a Governance training programme run by Fish and Game. I believe that this experience will be of great value to serve the licence holder should I be elected for a further term. Passionate licence holders governing Fish and Game is the key to its success and I will advocate strongly to protect this.

Immediate challenges going forward.

- Tourist Angling overuse. Currently our best fly fishing rivers are being overused by non-residents at a ratio of two non-residents to one resident. This needs managed. I believe that tourist angling needs to be managed at a level that does not compromise the quality of the experience for New Zealanders.
- Government review. Progressing slowly but may have good outcomes for Southland. Need to keep a close eye on it.
- National council reviews. Funding review of special interest to Southland.

Now that I am retired I have the time to put the effort into the role and am out there doing it on a weekly basis so have my finger on the pulse.

Lyndon Norman

I am an avid hunter, fisherman, and farmer. I believe its time we took more control of the future of our sport.

In a time of anti-hunting and the anti-gun propaganda within the media and our community, I believe the Council and Fish and Game as a whole need to push forward the idea that we are more than just duck hunters and fisherman but in fact the people to maintain our wetlands, rivers and streams, the people to create new places for waterfowl to breed.

In my eyes, we should push the fact that we are the conservationist hunters leading the way in wetland creation and retention providing habitat not only for the mallard but also for the natives including Whitebait, Teal, and Scaup. No longer should we be blaming the farmer for our dirty water, they know things need to change. There needs to be an alternate direction offering help instead of blame. Educate and cooperate are two keywords that have been lost, without cooperation access for the hunter and fisher could be very sparse, let's hope it never gets to that situation.

Let's get Fish and Game back on track producing waterfowl in the sky and fish in the streams of Southland. Stop selling our resources to tourism and get back to helping make habitat for breeding. Change the public perception that Fish and Game is not an opening day police force, instead an organization to help provide a thriving plentiful environment for our future generations.

Wednesday, 21 August 2024

The Returning Officer
Fish and Game Council

Candidate Profile Statement

Kristina Placko

As an avid angler and keen bow hunter I passionately advocate for sustainable fishing and hunting practices and I am committed to preserving and enhancing New Zealand's fish and game resources for future generations. My experience as a business owner in the outdoor recreation industry, through Stray South NZ, has deepened my understanding of the vital role responsible stewardship as kaitiaki plays in maintaining our natural heritage.

If elected to the Fish and Game New Zealand Council, my focus will be on exploring and promoting sustainable initiatives, supporting habitat conservation efforts, and ensuring that the voices of local communities are heard in decision-making processes. I am particularly committed to advancing educational programs that encourage responsible fishing practices and engage the next generation of anglers in conservation efforts.

I also believe strongly in fostering gender diversity and equality within the outdoor recreation community. I will advocate for initiatives that make fishing and game activities more accessible and welcoming to all, regardless of gender or background. By encouraging greater participation from diverse groups, we can ensure a richer and more inclusive future for our resources and outdoor way of life.

Your support would allow me to collaboratively work towards a future where New Zealand's fish and game resources are safeguarded, and where everyone has the opportunity to connect with and protect our natural environment, as our right of passage.

Mike Turner

I am a dedicated Angler and Conservationist.

Having fished extensively in both islands .

My fishing is now largely in Southland,where I have fished for 30 years.

Southland is New Zealand's most precious region.

I have served Otago Fish and Game as a ranger ,and Councillor (3 terms) Southland fish and Game (1 term)

There are issues that need to be addressed :-

Angling pressure has increased significantly in recent years .

Particularly with Non Resident visiting anglers.There needs to be management of this group by limiting the number days fishing ,especially sensitive fisheries.

To address this Southland Fish and Game submitted for Designated Water status on the Upper Mataura and Wakaia rivers this was not implemented.

I would continue working to have these rivers Designated Waters.

Guiding has increased to an unacceptable level .A guides license is long overdue.

a register of guides,and a limitation of the number of times that they can escort clients to sensitive Designated Waters.

River health is vital ,specifically flow and quality.

This will only be achieved by cooperation and communication with farmers and other stakeholders.

Climate change has effects on river flows ,floods are more frequent,with consequences on river courses and invertebrates.

Duck Hunting has to be supported by Wetland development and pond creation.

Poisoning of birds with Diazinon in the Te Anau region was unfortunate and should not happen again.

An INDEPENDANT Fish and Game in Southland is what I want to work with.

Candidate profile for Lindsay Withington

I have been a Southland Fish and Game councillor for approximately 20 years, I have fished for nearly 50 years and am a keen duck hunter, enjoying the hunt, working the dog, savouring the harvest. I thank you for the opportunity to represent licence holder interests again.

During this last term I was entrusted with the chairmanship of our council, and I have tried to lead an effective council. This hasn't been without its challenges, but I believe that our council is working together for the interests of hunters and fishermen. The council has to also work within the legislation that is in place.

I have a good understanding of the role a councillor plays in governance and how important it is for the success of Fish and Game.

There are many challenges ahead and I look forward to navigating them on behalf of my fellow licence holders. I ask for your support to once again be part of the Southland Fish and Game council.