

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Central South Island Fish and Game Council held on Wednesday 17th April 2024 at 6:30 pm.

Present: S Bannister L Koevoet (Chair)
P Centofanti C McKenzie
J DeWit A Simpson

In Attendance: S McKnight (CE), H Stevens (Fish & Game Officer).

24-016 APOLOGIES:

J Henry (Ngai Tahu) and D Rattray.

Resolved (Centofanti/Simpson)

24-013

THAT THE APOLOGIES OF J HENRY AND D RATTRAY BE ACCEPTED.

24-017 HEALTH & SAFETY:

CE pointed out exit points of the building and assembly point for evacuation of the premises in case of an emergency.

24-018 COUNCILLOR INTEREST REGISTER:

Chair queried if Councillors had any new interests to add to the register; or considered that the business of today's meeting would give rise to any actual or perceived conflict with their interests? None were advised.

24-019 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:

019.1 Matter of Urgency: Contract with Winnemem Wintu People (3.1)

CE spoke to his report explaining that CSI have been actively engaging with the Winnemem Wintu people of California around rematriation of salmon back to their ancestral home as agreed by CSI Council at its March 2023 meeting and are now in a position to enter into a contract that will allow the Winnemem Wintu people to secure funding from the California government to drive the project forward.

The main decision for Council is how many salmon it will allow Winnemem to take from the spawning population each year that they are wanting to do the rematriation understanding that these wild fish will be lost to our population. I.e if Council takes a 'threshold limit' approach 2 % this would allow 24 fish to be taken (this is 2% of the low limit of 1200 spawners). If we drop into the severe management band this could drop to a 0 fish take. It was further pointed out that a threshold approach (applying management bands) is retrospective and may bear no resemblance to what is happening with spawning in the current year.

H Stevens explained the rematriation project of taking eggs back to California includes pathogen sample testing from post-spawned fish and as those fish have already laid down their eggs it poses little risk to our salmon population. He noted that as we can't predict what numbers of fish counted each year there needs to be discussion as to how many fish can be taken each year as when looking at this current year the numbers counted to this point are historically low which leaves him concerned that this could be the lowest spawning season on record. He further added that the fish are in very poor condition across all the rivers in Canterbury. H Stevens then responded to various questions of clarification from Councillors.

There was concern there is no mechanism for scope change in the contract and a preference was expressed for there to be a contract that doesn't specify numbers and instead look at materials and time spent and/or milestones. It was felt that further work and discussion was needed on the Contract before Council was in a position to agree.

Resolved (Simpson/DeWit)

24-014

THAT COUNCIL THANKS THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, S MCKNIGHT, FOR HIS DILIGENT EFFORTS IN NEGOTIATION OF THE INDEPENDENT CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH THE INDIAN CULTURAL ORGANISATION; REQUESTS THE CE TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS IN RELATION TO PAYMENT, PUBLICITY, AND SCOPE OF WORK TERMS; AND PRESENT A FURTHER DRAFT OF THE AGREEMENT TO COUNCIL AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY."

Council expressed its appreciation to H Stevens on the significant amount of work and long hours he has put in with the Winnemem Wintu project over the past month.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Council Meeting: Thursday 16 May 2024 at 7.15 pm.

Meeting closed: 9:54 pm.

Signed *Chloe Kowart*
Chair

Date *23-5-24*