



PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE

SOUTHLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2023**

Presented to the House of Representatives pursuant to Section 26X of the Conservation Act 1987.

20 December 2023

Hon Tama Potaka
Minister of Conservation
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Minister

I have the honour to submit, pursuant to Section 26Q (1) of the Conservation Act 1987 and Section 44 of the Public Finance Act 1989, the Performance Report of the Southland Fish and Game Council for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Yours faithfully

Lindsay Withington
Chair
Southland Fish and Game Council

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ENTITY INFORMATION

Legal Name

Southland Fish & Game Council.

Type of Entity and Legal Basis

The Southland Fish and Game Council is a Public Entity under the Public Finance Act 1989 (Schedule 4). The Council was established on 4 May 1991 with the passing of the Conservation Law Reform Act 1990.

Mission and Statutory Functions

The Southland Fish and Game Council was established for the purposes of the management, maintenance, and enhancement of sportsfish and game in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters.

The Council has statutory responsibilities established by the Conservation Act 1987 (including the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983) and the Wildlife Act 1953 (incl. the Wildlife Regulations 1955)

Particular functions of The Southland Fish and Game Council include:

- monitoring sports fish and game populations;
- monitoring the success and satisfaction of users;
- monitoring the condition and trend of ecosystems as habitats for sports fish and game;
- maintaining and improving access;
- maintaining and enhancing the habitat of sports fish and game;
- formulating and establishing regulations and policies which ensure the maintenance of sports fish and game populations and the recreational experience;
- securing compliance with sports fish and game regulations;
- promoting recreational angling and game bird hunting;
- representing the interests of anglers and hunters in the statutory planning process;
- keeping anglers and hunters informed.

The Council's operations are based upon a national statement of purposes and priorities, a Sports Fish and Game Management Plan which sets long term goals and policies, and an annual Operational Work Plan, which sets out the specific work programme and budget.

Structure of The Southland Fish and Game Council

The Council currently consists of 9 councillors who were elected in November 2021. Councillors are elected three yearly by fish and game licence holders in the Council's region. The Council also has Ngai Tahu representative who is co-opted to the Council. The Council meets are held on a minimum of six times each year at sites around the region that enable licence holders to attend one or more Council meetings should they desire.

The Regional Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operations and reports to the Council. Six other full and part time staff support the Regional Manager in delivering the Councils objectives.

Lindsay Withington is the Current Chair and Dave Harris was elected by the Council as an appointee to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.

Council and Staff

Council Members	Sub Region	Meetings Attended	
Lindsay Withington	Southland	6	
Dave MacGregor	Southland	6	
Dave linklater	Southland	6	
Lyndon Norman	Southland	6	
Mike Hartstonge	Southland	5	
Mike Turner	Southland	6	
Corey Carston	Southland	5	
Craig Horrell	Southland	5	
Dave Harris	Southland	5	
Stevie-Rae Blair	Southland	3	Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu

Staff Members

Zane Moss
Chief Executive Officer

Steve McCartney
Administration Manager

Jacob Smyth
RMA Officer

Cohen Stewart
Fish & Game Officer

Bill Jarvie
Fish & Game Officer

Ben Febery
Fish & Game Officer

Dwight Grieve
Fish & Game Officer

Auditors

BDO Invercargill

Bankers

BNZ

Offices

The Council office is located at 17 Eye Street, Invercargill

Phone - 03 215 9117

Email – southland@fishandgame.org.nz

Website – fishandgame.org.nz/southland

CHAIRS REPORT

For the year ended 31 August 2023

I am pleased to report that the 2022/23 financial year has been a year of significant progress and positivity for Southland Fish & Game. Sales of sports fish and game bird licences have remained strong, and we're encouraged by the return of our valued non-resident anglers following the global challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout the year, we have achieved noteworthy milestones. One standout achievement was the successful development and implementation of the Designated Waters Licence. The Designated Waters Licence represents a significant stride in effectively managing angler pressure on our sensitive fisheries, safeguarding the angling experience for both our resident and non-resident anglers.

Substantial progress has been made in the proceedings of the Southland Water and Land Plan too, which I'm sure is sometimes a rather thankless task, as it's been going since 2016. Given the complexities of the case, which is reflected in the fact that so far nine interim decisions have been released by the Court, I'd like to commend staff for the excellent work they've done on this.

Our project initiatives this year have yielded commendable benefits for our sports fish and gamebird populations, as well as Southland's hunters and anglers. Notably, so far, the wetland development project at the Waituna Mahinga Kai Pa site has resulted in the establishment of over 20 hectares of open water wetland. This achievement not only provides a vital habitat for waterfowl and native fish but also contributes to Ngāi Tahu and mana whenua aspirations to reconnect with mahinga kai in the area; values closely aligned with those of anglers and hunters.

The study on perch and eel interactions at the Rakatu-Redcliff wetland stands as an excellent example of how a non-native species can positively impact our native eel populations. Increasingly, we're hearing gripes from keyboard warriors casting aspersions on the value of our introduced species, based on a rather simplistic view that because they're introduced, they're intrinsically bad. It's refreshing having this example to encourage people to consider broader ecosystem and cultural values, that may be influenced by our presumptuous views.

Certainty around access is a well-recognised value for anglers. Our newly-introduced online angler access maps are poised to become an invaluable resource for anglers seeking to explore fishing opportunities within the Southland region and we've had great feedback.

In terms of staffing, we are pleased to welcome two valuable additions to the Southland Fish and Game team. Following Erin Garrick's resignation in August 2022, who moved North with her young family, Ben Febery was appointed. Additionally, the creation of a new Te Anau-based position has led to the appointment of Dwight Grieve. Both new staff members bring excellent skillsets with them that will greatly benefit Southland Fish & Game.

Lastly, I extend my gratitude to Zane and his dedicated team for their enthusiasm and commitment this year. Their contributions have played a crucial role in the successes we've achieved.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Withington
Chairman, Southland Fish & Game

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

20 December 2023

The Council and Management of the Southland Fish and Game Council, accept responsibility for the accuracy of and judgements used in the preparation of the following Financial Statements and Performance Report, the establishment and maintenance of systems of internal control designed to provide reasonable assurance of the integrity and reliability of financial reporting and the end of year performance information.

In our opinion, the information set out in the following statements and attached notes to these statements fairly reflects the financial position and service performance of the Southland Fish and Game Council, for the year ended 31 August 2023.

Lindsay Withington
Chair

Zane Moss
Chief Executive Officer

STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE

Introduction

The following is a summary of performance relating to objectives provided for in the 2022-23 Operational Workplan, as adopted by Council for commencement on 1 September 2022.

Annual Operational Workplan

The annual operational workplan is structured within eight broad outputs.

“Budget” and “Actual” costs are comprised of internal costs (proportion of staff time multiplied by overheads) and external costs established for each project.

Main Sources of Cash and Resources

Southland Fish and Game Council derives revenue for funding its operations from various sources.

- a) Sale of Fish and Game Bird licences (88.7%)
- b) Contract work (8.4%)
- c) Grants/donations/sponsorships/diversions (.5%)
- d) Interest (2.3%)
- e) Other (0.1%)

Outcomes – Achievements

During the year Council completed a number of tasks for the benefit of anglers and hunters.

Summary Budget and Actual Expenditure for each output area.

Project Cluster	Budget			Actual		
	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
Species Management	\$92,746	\$0	\$92,746	\$123,695	\$0	\$123,695
Habitat Protection	\$455,769	\$135,000	\$320,769	\$288,968	\$116,169	\$172,799
Angler & Hunter Participation	\$81,275	\$0	\$81,275	\$211,399	\$2,000	\$209,399
Public Interface	\$101,799	\$0	\$101,799	\$151,578	\$0	\$151,578
Compliance	\$107,772	\$30,000	\$77,772	\$102,571	\$37,542	\$65,029
Licensing	\$75,366	\$1,515,246	-\$1,439,880	\$71,735	\$1,540,269	-\$1,468,534
Council	\$45,822	\$0	\$45,822	\$30,490	\$0	\$30,490
Planning & Reporting	\$30,437	\$0	\$30,437	\$35,270	\$0	\$35,270
Total Outputs	\$990,986	\$1,680,246	-\$689,260	\$1,015,706	\$1,695,980	-\$680,274
Administrative Expense offset by administrative income	\$3,850	\$3,850	\$0	\$1,936	\$1,936	\$0
Levies, Interest	\$765,227	\$11,735	\$753,492	\$765,227	\$38,715	\$726,512
	\$1,760,063	\$1,695,831	\$64,232	\$1,782,869	\$1,736,631	\$46,238

OUTPUT 1: SPECIES MANAGEMENT

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project Cluster	Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1110	Species Monitoring	\$72,169	\$0	\$72,169	\$91,855	\$0	\$91,855
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$5,223	\$0	\$5,223	\$6,294	\$0	\$6,294
1130	Fish Salvage	\$845	\$0	\$845	\$2,711	\$0	\$2,711
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1150	Game Farm	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1160	Liberations	\$10,286	\$0	\$10,286	\$9,182	\$0	\$9,182
1170	Regulations	\$2,534	\$0	\$2,534	\$9,586	\$0	\$9,586
1180	Control	\$1,689	\$0	\$1,689	\$4,067	\$0	\$4,067
Total		\$92,746	\$0	\$92,746	\$123,695	\$0	\$123,695

POPULATION MONITORING

Project 1111 Trout spawning monitoring

Goal: To quantify fish use of spawning streams where changes in land use or angler harvest are occurring or may occur.

Pamela Burn fish capture

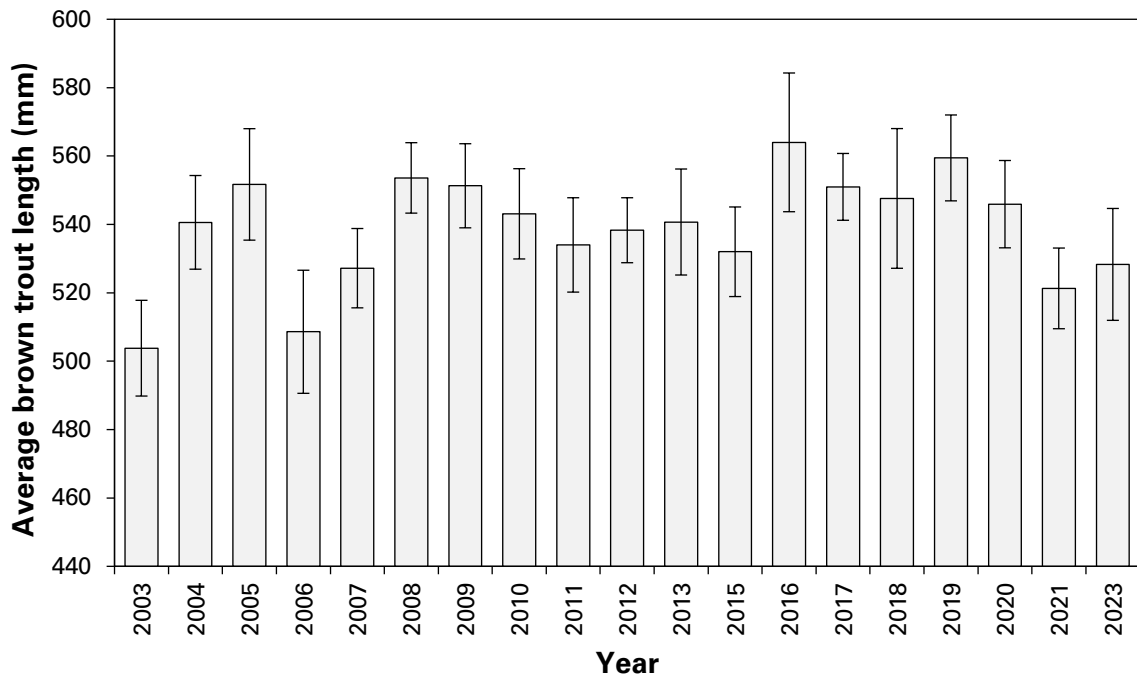
In September 2022, staff captured and measured a representative sample of spawning rainbow trout from the Pamela Burn, a key spawning tributary of Lake Monowai. On average, the rainbow trout were 469mm in length, which is a typical size for this fishery.

Waituna fish capture and spawning survey

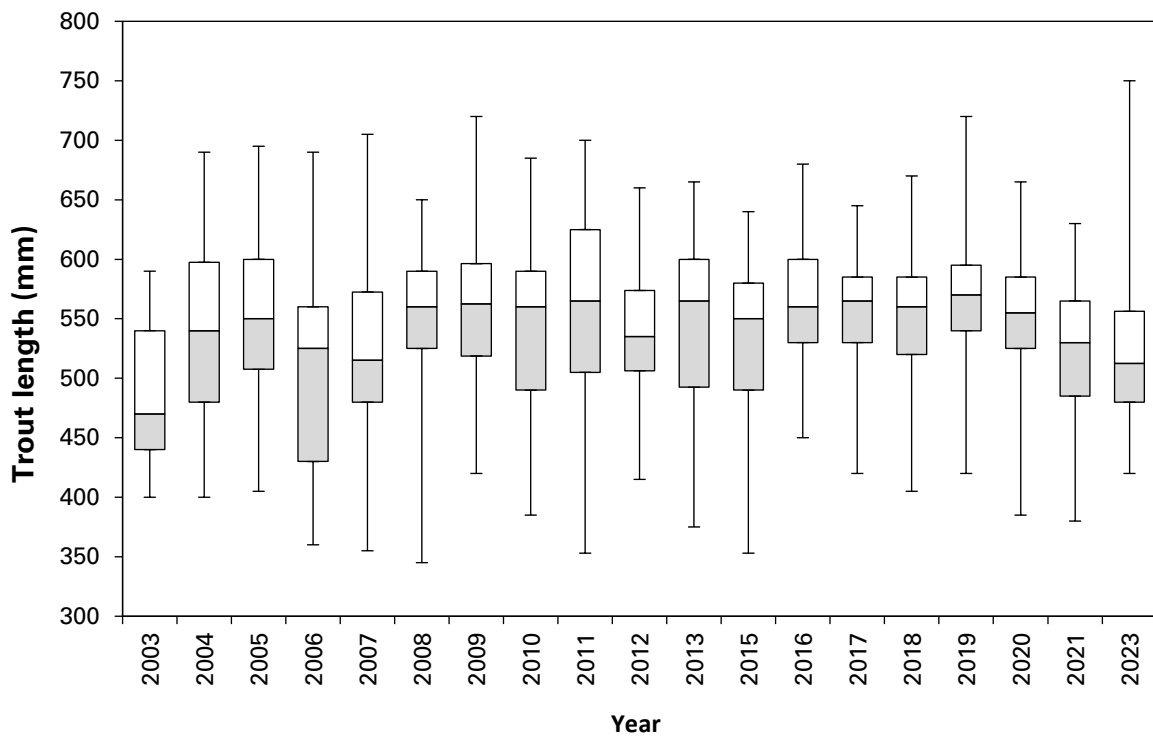
In July 2023, staff captured a representative sample of spawning brown trout from the Waituna Creek. On average, the captured brown trout were 528mm in length which is in line with the long term average. Notably, staff captured the largest spawning brown trout on record – 750mm.



Field officer Ben Febery with a 750mm long brown trout from Waituna Creek.



Bar graph showing the average spawning brown trout lengths (mm) in the Waituna Creek.



Box-and-whisker graph showing the lower, median and upper quartile and range of spawning brown trout lengths (mm) in the Waituna Creek.

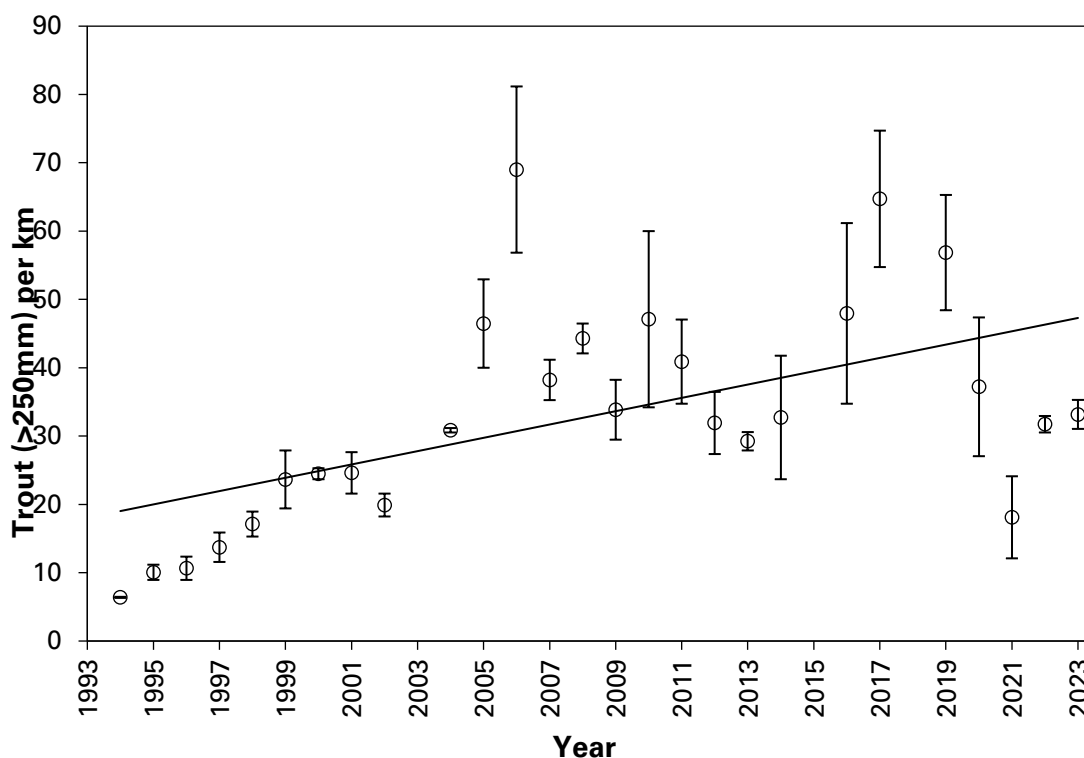
Project 1112 Fisheries Monitoring

Goal: To monitor trout populations in the reaches of our main rivers where drift diving is an appropriate method. Work to include assessment of trout numbers in relation to habitat variables (water depth, pool area, cover) during drift dive counts where appropriate.

Output: Favourable river conditions during the summer period enabled staff to conduct drift dive surveys on the upper Mataura, upper Oreti, Monowai, upper Waiau and lower Waiau.

Upper Mataura

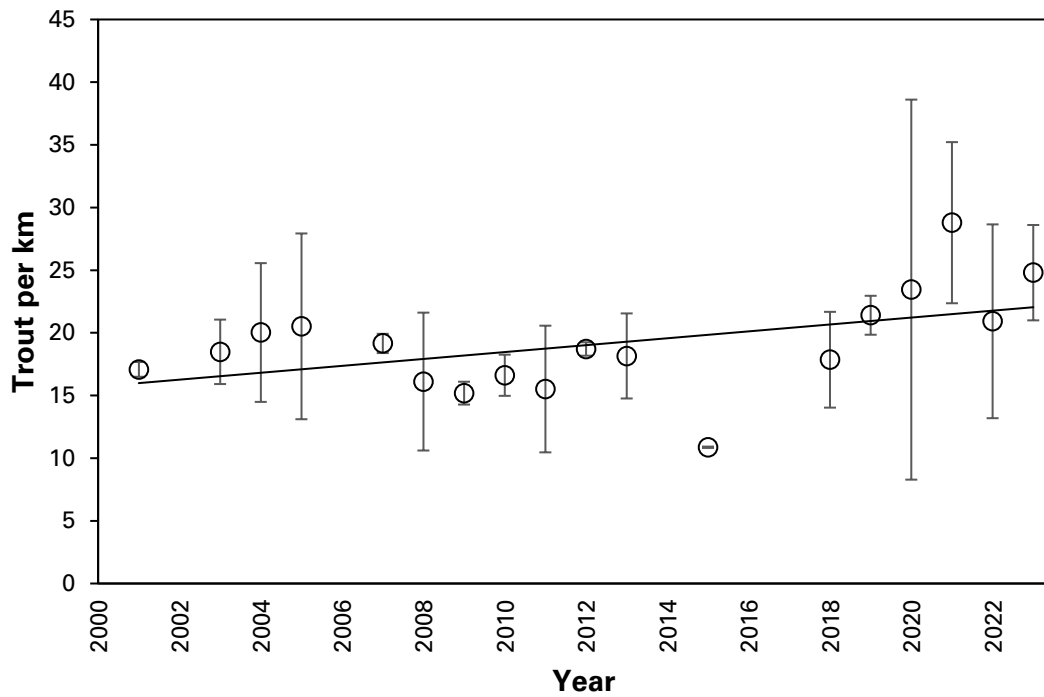
Staff conducted a drift dive survey on the upper Mataura River. Staff counted 35 large trout (>250mm) per km. Results were in line with the long term average. Staff noted that most trout were in excellent condition and there were large schools of juveniles.



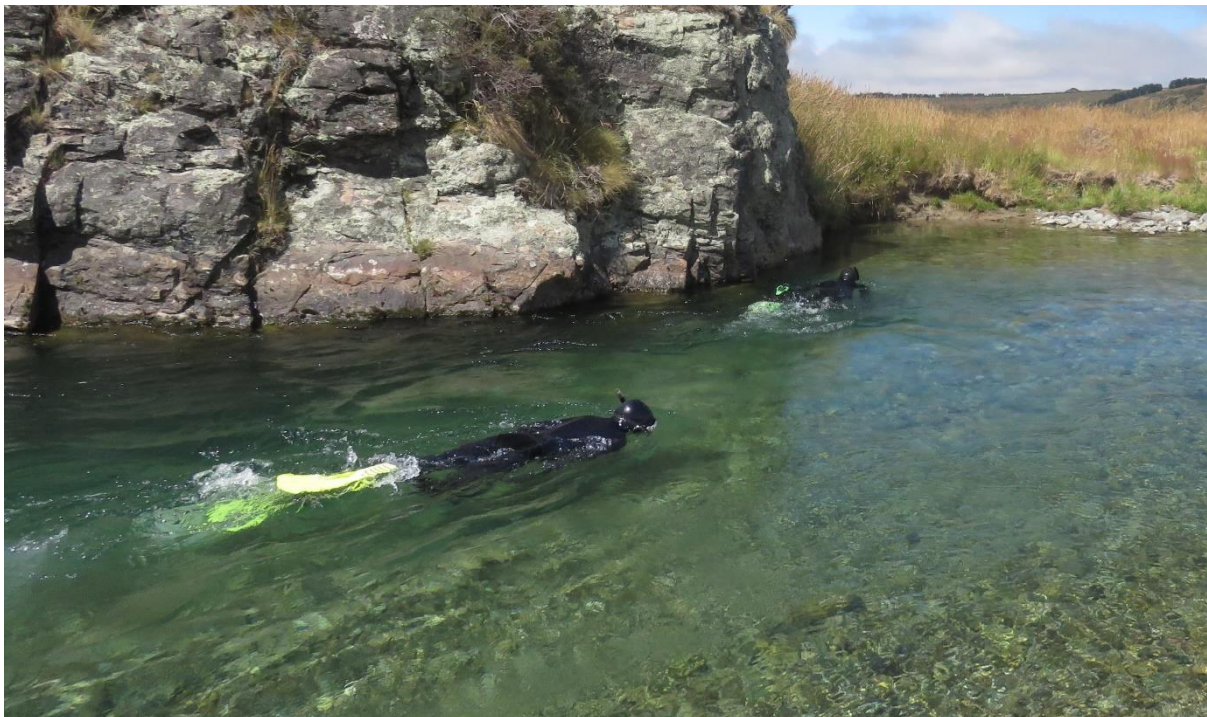
Average number of brown trout per kilometre in the upper Mataura River.

Upper Oreti

Staff conducted their annual drift dive on the upper Oreti River near the Three Kings. Staff observed 23 trout per km which is in line with the long-term average.



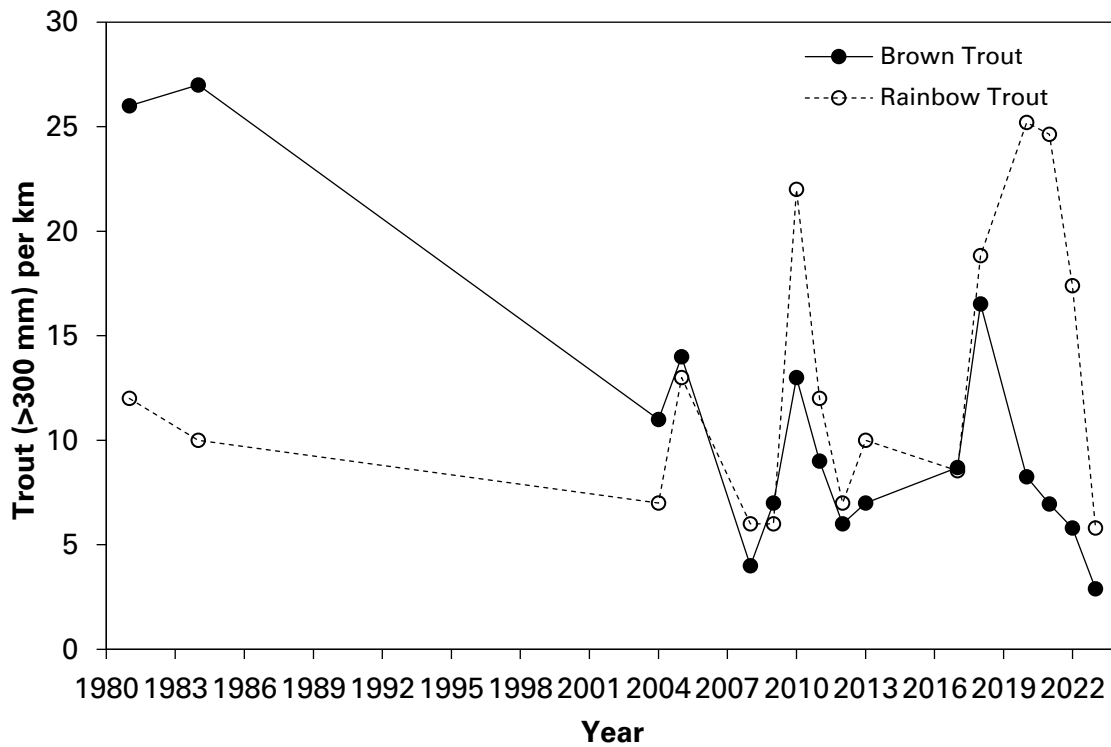
Average number of brown trout per kilometre in the upper Oreti River.



Field staff drift diving on the upper Oreti River

Monowai River

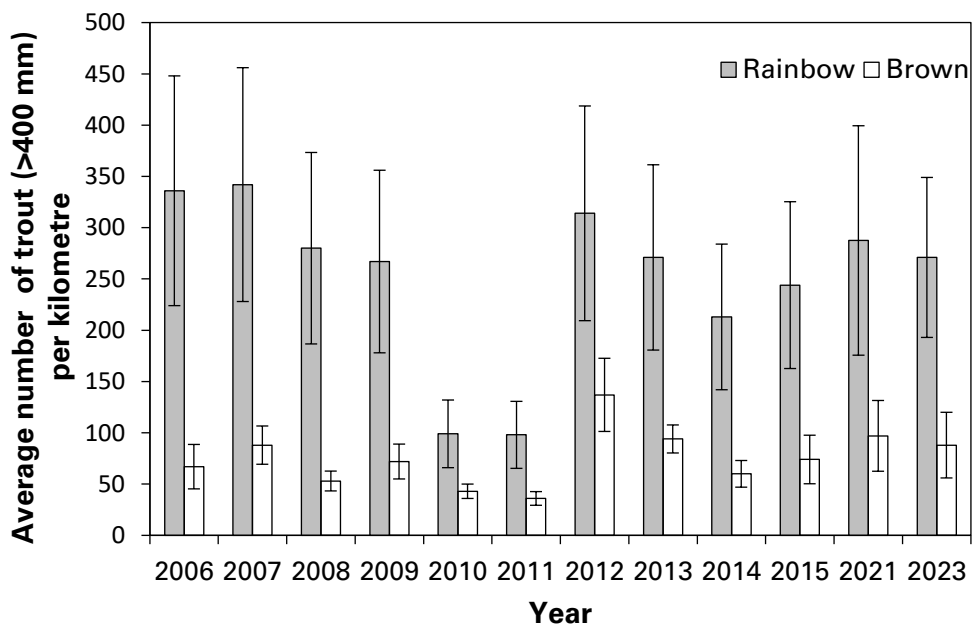
Both brown and rainbow trout counts were down significantly relative to previous years. On average, Staff observed six rainbow trout and three brown trout per kilometre. In response to the low counts, a spawning assessment of the Monowai River has been planned.



Average number of brown trout per kilometre in the Monowai River.

Upper Waiiau

Staff conducted a drift dive survey on the upper Waiiau between the Te Anau Lake Control and Balloon Loop. On average, staff counted 271 rainbow trout and 88 brown trout per kilometre. This count is in line with the long-term average.

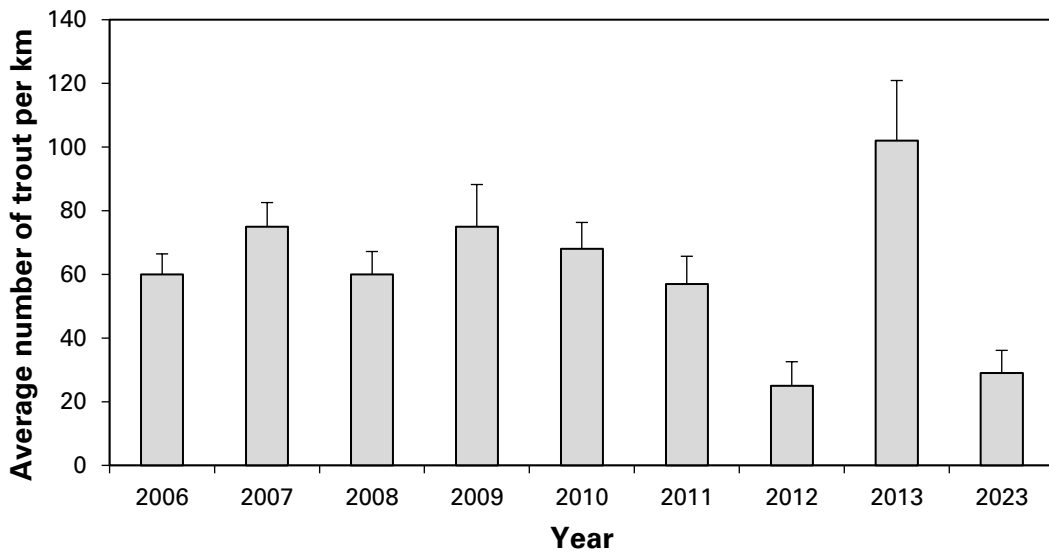


Average number of brown and rainbow trout per/km on the upper Waiiau River.

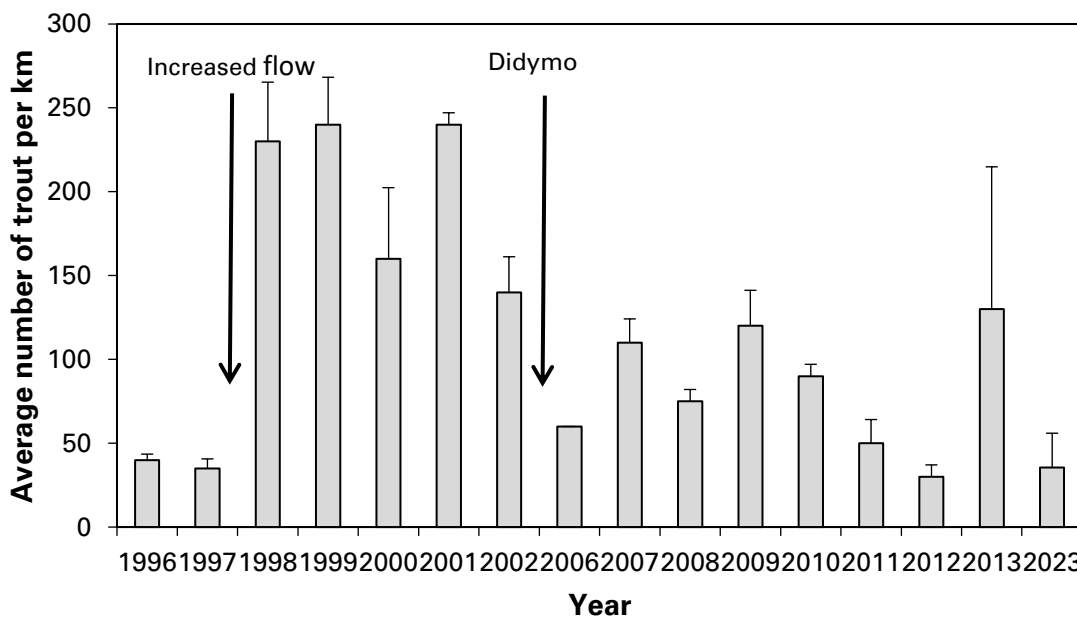
Lower Waiau

Staff conducted a drift dive survey on the lower Waiau River between the Manapouri Lake Control and Jericho. Unfortunately, the count was low and on average, staff counted 29 trout per km. There was significant didymo cover on the rocks and the didymo had captured large amounts of silt, which was subsequently released by divers thereby reducing visibility, and therefore observability of trout.

Drift dive records on the lower Waiau go back to 1996 for the river reaches near Excelsior Creek and Redcliff Creek. For these two reaches, we observed 36 trout per km. The figure below clearly shows how the increased flow (in 1998) and arrival of didymo (2005) affected the lower Waiau trout populations.



Average number of brown and rainbow trout per/km on the lower Waiau River.



Average number of trout per/km on two lower Waiau River reaches near Excelsior Creek and Redcliff Creek.

Aparima and Mararoa Rivers

Due to unsuitable river conditions (high river flows, excessive didymo, poor water clarity), staff have been unable to complete the Aparima or Mararoa drift dives this year.

Project 1113 Salmon population monitoring

Goal: To monitor the changes in the number of Chinook salmon that spawn in tributaries of the Oreti River.

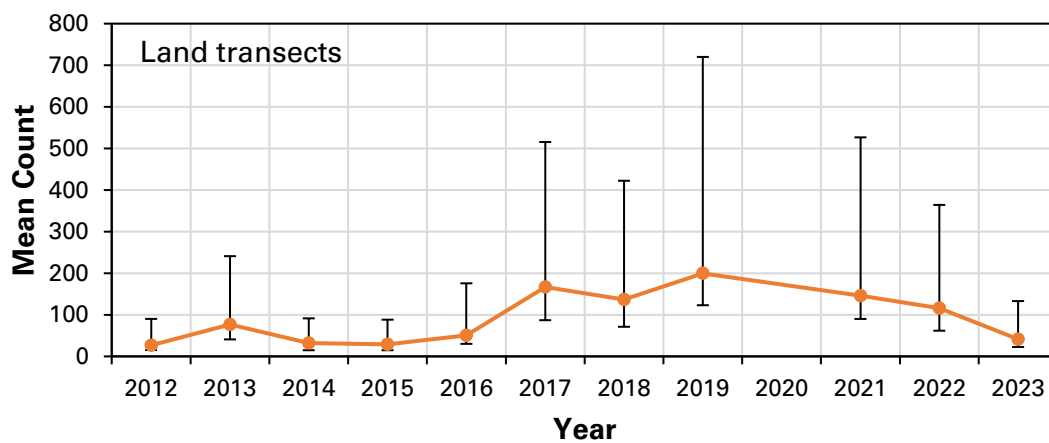
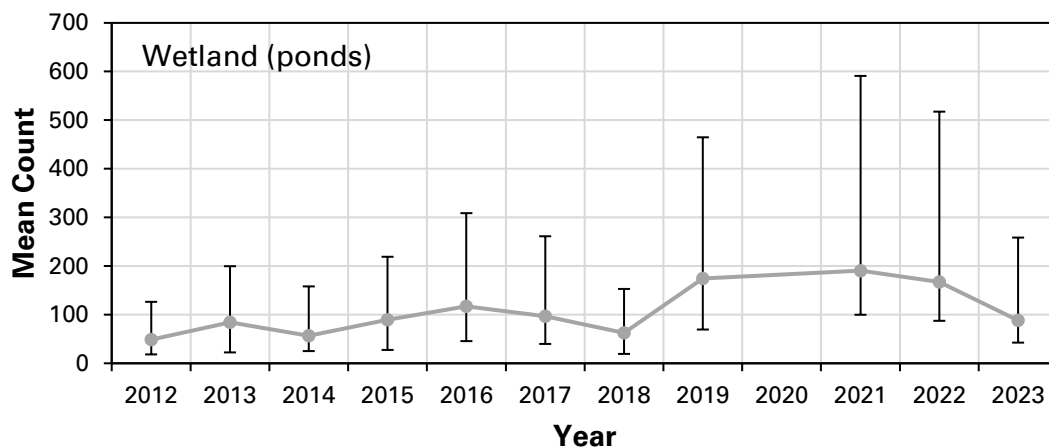
Irthing Stream

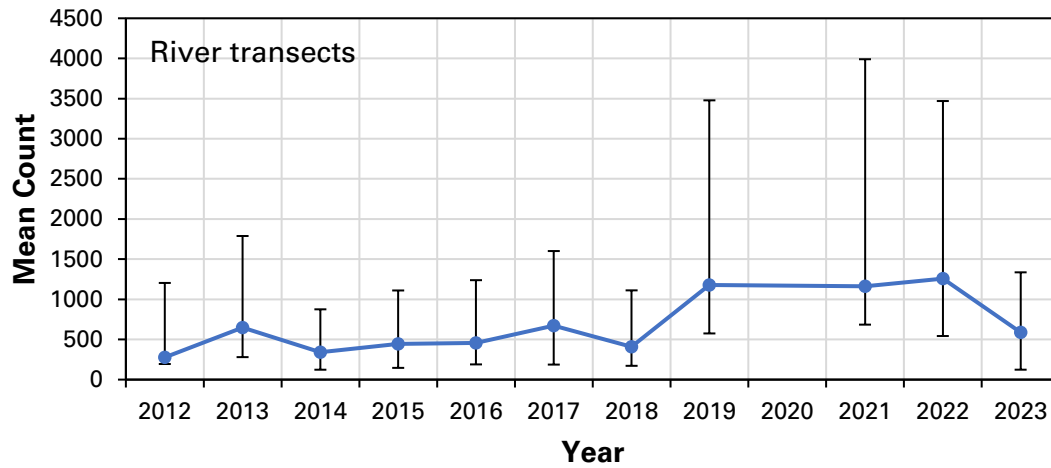
Due to unfortunate timing of a flood that occurred in early May, staff were unable to conduct a planned salmon spawning survey on the Irthing Stream. Anecdotally, high numbers of salmon had been observed in this tributary earlier in May, so it was disappointing not to be able to record this.

Project 1114 Mallard monitoring

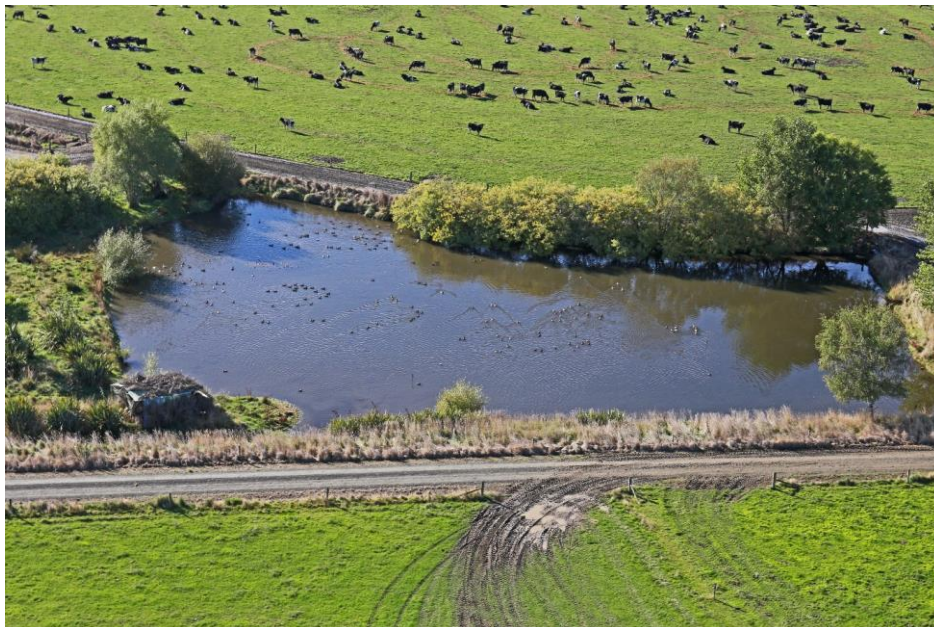
Goal: To quantify relative mallard duck productivity and survival and influencing factors.

Output: In March 2023 staff conducted aerial monitoring of the Southland mallard duck population. The counts were down somewhat relative to the counts between 2019-2022. However, our counts were in line with the long-term average.





Mean Southland mallard count by feature (2012-2023).



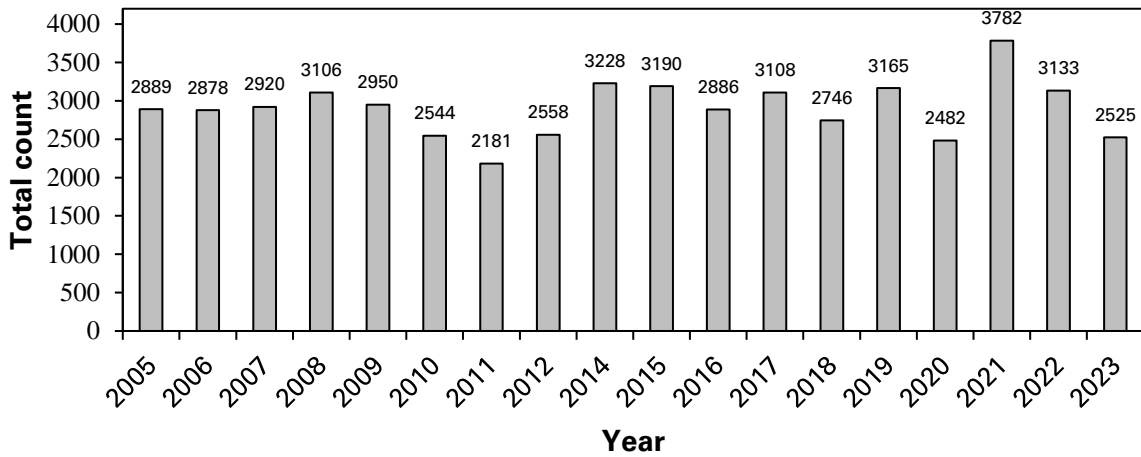
Aerial photo of mallard ducks on a wetland taken during the mallard monitoring flights.

Project 1115 Paradise shelduck, black swan population assessment

Goal: To assess an index of abundance and distribution of paradise shelduck and black swan in Southland to ensure populations are being maintained to maximize hunting opportunity.

Output: Black swan (Kakīānau) counts were conducted in Awarua Bay, the Oreti Estuary and Waituna Lagoon in January 2023. In total, staff counted 2525 swans. Although our count was lower relative to the previous two years, the 2023 count remains in line with the long-term average.

Southland Black Swan Counts

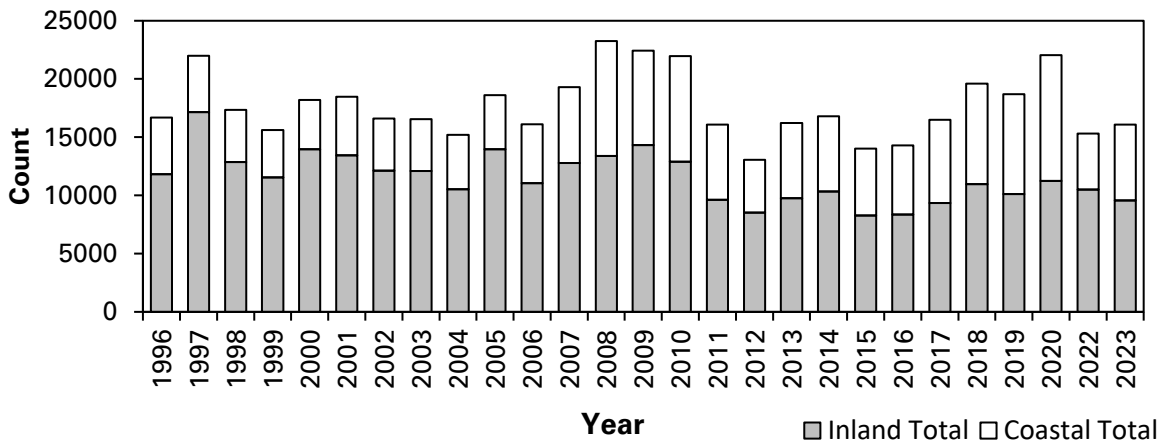


Southland black swan count 2005-2023.

Paradise Shelduck Counts

The annual Paradise Shelduck (Pūtangitangi) count was undertaken in early January, when they are congregated in large flocks on big bodies of water. Staff counted 9571 paradise shelduck at the inland sites and 6502 at the costal sites (16,073 total). These counts are in line with the long term average.

Paradise Shelduck Mout Count



Southland paradise shelduck mout count 1996-2023.



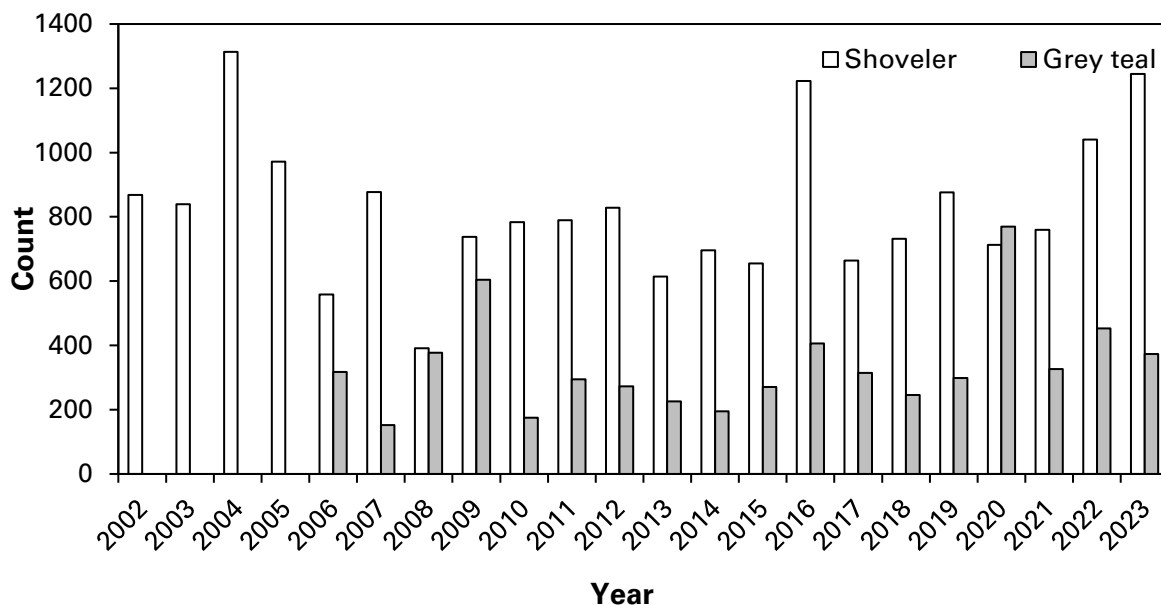
Aerial photo of paradise shelduck on a wetland taken during the paradise shelduck monitoring flights.

Project 1116 Shoveler and grey teal population assessment

Goal: To quantify the relative abundance of shoveler and grey teal in Southland as part of a national census.

Output: Fish and Game New Zealand assisted with the national count of Australasian shoveler duck (Kuruwhengi). This count is timed at the end of hunting seasons and before females become cryptic prior to breeding. This is the 23rd annual count (2000-2023) to monitor the New Zealand shoveler population. The population of shoveler at the Southland monitoring sites indicate little or no long-term change. Males were more numerous than female and nationally, outnumbered females ca. 2:1.

Grey teal (Tētē-moroiti), while not currently a game bird, could possibly have their status changed in the future. Because they are often found in the same habitat as shoveler, counts of these birds are included. Staff counted 373 grey teal which is in line with the long-term average.



Shoveler and grey teal count in Southland.

Project 1119 Native-non-native fish interactions

Goal: To undertake survey work to highlight the fact that sports fish aren't necessarily detrimental to native fish at a population level.

Output: Staff assessed the predator-prey dynamics of native eels and non-native perch in the Rakatu-Redcliff wetland complex. The results from this work were published in the journal *Ecology of Freshwater Fish*. The title of this paper is: "Can non-native perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) support native eel populations in a wetland complex?" This study examined how the availability of non-native perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) as prey could benefit populations of the endemic longfin eel (*Anguilla dieffenbachii*) and the native shortfin eel (*Anguilla australis*) in two neighbouring open-water wetlands in the Rakatu-Redcliff wetland complex. The Redcliff wetland fish community comprised native fish only, while the Rakatu wetland comprised native fish and non-native perch.

Staff compared the size, condition, population density, population size structure and diet of eels in these wetlands. Although eels were not larger or better conditioned in Rakatu wetland, their population density was three times higher than the Redcliff wetland, with young-of-the-year perch comprising ca. 40% of their diet. Furthermore, juvenile eel density was four times lower in Redcliff wetland, suggesting that high levels of cannibalism may occur in the in the Redcliff to support the existing eel population. The findings show that the predator-prey dynamics of both native and non-native fish need to be considered before removing non-native species or there could be unintended negative consequences for native eels.



Field officer Cohen Stewart and University of Otago student Blake Harper processing captured eels in Rakatu Wetland.

HARVEST ASSESSMENT

Project 1121 Gamebird hunter telephone survey

Goal: To quantify trends in hunter success rate and harvest rate and evaluate hunter’s views on issues affecting hunters as required.

Output: Staff conducted fortnightly gamebird harvest surveys throughout the gamebird season. Total season harvests for each gamebird are featured in the table below.

Whole season gamebird harvest estimates for Southland (95% CI).

Gamebird	Harvest (95%CI)
Mallard	111,710 (101,173 – 123,345)
Paradise Shelduck	13,074 (9,285 – 18,409)
Shoveler	406 (188 – 876)
Black Swan	345 (148 – 807)
Canada Geese	394 (174 – 893)
Pheasant	Nil
California Quail	Nil

Except for shoveler harvest, the overall season harvest of all Southland gamebirds remained consistent with their long-term averages.

The 2023 shoveler harvest was the lowest on record and was three times lower than the 2022 harvest (2022 shoveler harvest in Southland was 1,268 (781 – 2,059)). The lower 2023 shoveler harvest is likely due to the ‘drake only’ harvest regulation which was implemented for the first time in 2023. This measure seems to have effectively reduced

shoveler harvest while still providing hunters with the opportunity to target shoveler drakes, which are more abundant and favoured due to their vibrant plumage.

This is a particularly significant result, as shoveler are a taonga species for mana whenua, who, through their representative on the Southland council, highlighted the desire to reduce the harvest of this species.

FISH SALVAGE

Project 1131 Fish salvage

Goal: Remove stranded fish from streams where significant numbers of fish are involved and where continued survival of the salvaged fish is assured.

Output: Due to low flows, fish salvage was conducted in the Whitestone River and relocated to the Mararoa River.

RELEASES

Project 1161 Put and take fisheries

Goal: To maintain/establish put and take fisheries in the region.

Output: Sanford again donated several hundred chinook smolt to be reared-on for release to the McGregor Pond Child & Junior angler fishery. In August a water supply blockage at the rearing tank resulted in near 100% mortality of these fish. 150+ rainbow trout were sourced from Otago F&G to provide for the annual Labour Weekend TAKF event. With most of the released trout remaining uncaught during the event, they provided child and junior anglers with fishing opportunities throughout the remainder of the season. The annual Labour Weekend event and subsequent season-long opportunity has made this little fishery a great introductory experience for families and schools.

A young angler with a rainbow trout captured during the Labour Weekend TAKF event held at McGregor Pond.



REGULATIONS

Project 1171 Anglers' Notice

Goal: To produce an anglers' notice that maximizes opportunities without adversely affecting the sustainability of the resource.

Output: Council received various requests proposing changes to the anglers' notice. Staff assessed those against the project goal and recommended the proposed changes were not adopted. Based on staff recommendations, Council made no changes to the Anglers' Notice for the 2022/23 season. Southland Staff worked with NZC staff to produce the 2023/24 Anglers' Notice.

Project 1172 Game Gazette

Goal: To produce a game gazette notice that maximises opportunities without adversely affecting the sustainability of the resource. To consult with Ngai Tahu over regulations affecting native game birds.

Output: A game notice was produced based on robust surveying of hunter preference, population monitoring and knowledge of waterfowl breeding ecology. Based on feedback from Council's Ngai Tahu representative, the bag limit for shoveler was changed to drakes only, which reflects that population imbalance, allowing for ongoing harvest of drakes, without impacting the population's fecundity.

Project 1173 Cultural Harvest

Goal: To ensure the Southland Fish & Game Council fulfils its obligations to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in its interpretation and implementation of the Conservation Act.

Output: Council formally recognised the need to enable the cultural harvest of black swan eggs. Unfortunately, despite expressed interest in undertaking the activity, harvest didn't occur. Hopefully ongoing engagement with iwi will assist for the following season.

Project 1181 Crop protection

Goal: To minimize crop predation by game birds, by encouraging landowners to manage any problems themselves, with assistance as required.

Output: Complaints were responded to as required and in addition to providing advice around management, seven permits were issued to disturb and disperse mallards and paradise shelduck from crops.

OUTPUT 2: HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project Cluster	Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1210	RMA	\$92,917	\$0	\$92,917	\$189,304	\$74,361	\$114,943
1220	Works & Management	\$7,168	\$0	\$7,168	\$3,583	\$0	\$3,583
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$254,220	\$0	\$254,220	\$48,958	\$0	\$48,958
1240	Assessment	\$50,682	\$0	\$50,682	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
	Total	\$404,987	\$0	\$404,987	\$242,845	\$74,361	\$168,484

Project 1211 RMA plan/policy investigation

Goal: To ensure management plans prepared by regional and local authorities or government departments have regard for sports fish and game bird habitats.

Project 1212 RMA consents evaluation

Goal: To ensure consents issued under the Resource Management Act do not allow activities that detrimentally impact on the sports fish and game resource.

Output: Sixty resource consents were received and considered by Fish & Game as an affected party, which are summarized by topic below.

Resource consents received and considered by Fish & Game as an affected party.

Take & use of water	Instream works	Discharges	Gravel / rock
10 consent applications	7 consent applications	5 consent applications	11 consent applications

Project 1213 Southland Water & Land Plan Environment Court Appeal

Goal: To achieve a planning framework that appropriately addresses habitat quality for sports fish and gamebirds.

Output: Fish & Game has remained involved in an Environment Court appeal against the Proposed Southland Water and Land Plan, publicly notified in mid-2016. More recently, the Environment Court has considered Topic B matters that were unable to be resolved at mediation – the focus being on policies and rules relating to land use activities and discharges to freshwater (both point source and diffuse). Evidence before the Environment Court is that water quality is degraded in parts of Southland and having a significant adverse effect on aquatic life.

As of August 2023, eight interim decisions have been issued by the Environment Court. The Environment Court has focused on how freshwater degradation will be addressed and the mechanisms for improvement. Fish & Game’s case has sought to

address this issue through presentation of expert evidence, planning and freshwater ecology, and legal submissions.

WORKS AND MANAGEMENT - COUNCIL CONTROLLED LAND

Project 1221 Wildlife management reserves

Goal: To maintain and manage wildlife management reserves in the region. The reserves are Redcliff, Kakapo Swamp, Dawson City, Home Creek, and Mandeville ponds.

Output: Noxious weeds were controlled, hunter access maintained, and habitat protected.

ASSISTED HABITAT

Project 1232 Pond/Wetland identification and advice

Goal: To provide advice and financial support to landowners as appropriate to promote building and enhancement of ponds useful as habitat and for hunting.

Output: We continue to provide a subsidy program aimed at supporting pond development or enhancement projects that are beneficial for waterfowl habitat and hunting opportunities. Additionally, we offer *Carex secta* plants for new ponds or those in need of habitat enhancement.

Wetland surveying and advice was conducted on 19 sites, with construction supervision also provided for five sites. A pond subsidy was provided for one wetland build. In addition, we provided *Carex secta* plants to six wetland projects.



A newly created 1.3 hectare wetland constructed in Northern Southland.

Project 1233 Waituna Mahinga Kai Pa

Goal: To work collaboratively with iwi using the experience and skills of our staff to enable the creation and establishment of large open water wetlands adjoining Waituna Lagoon.

Output: Staff designed and worked with engineers to obtain resource consent for the construction of two further wetlands on the mahinga kai pa site at Waituna. The first of the two was completed in early May, with further work to complete the overflow with rocking conducted in June, once the wetland was full and overflow was flowing. These created wetlands now exceed 20 hectares of open water wetland, providing habitat for waterfowl and native fish but also contributes to Ngāi Tahu and mana whenua aspirations to reconnect with mahinga kai in the area.



Dozer and digger working in combination to construct dam for Eastern Wetland.



Eastern Wetland looking towards Fortrose. Note meandering outlet to provide for low gradient fish passage.



Recently-rocked meandering overflow, enabling future fish passage

Project 1236 Estuarine health study

Goal: To identify the significance of smelt to our lower river trout fisheries and ecosystems.

Output: This project is now in its final stages. The masters thesis for this project will be submitted by the end of 2023. Once completed, staff will work with University of Otago staff to write up the results as a formal manuscript. Preliminary results show that smelt provide approximately 70% of the diet of trout and eels through these lower reaches. Across all sampling periods, no whitebait were found in any of the trout or eels, suggesting whitebait are negligible in their contribution to diet of these species.



University of Otago students taking mucus samples from trout and eels for stable isotope analysis.

ASSESSING & MONITORING

Project 1241 – Waiau River Hydro Power effects

Goal: To complete work relating to effects of flow manipulation of the Lower Waiau River as a consequence of hydropower generation.

Outputs: Monitoring of periphyton biomass was completed on the Mararoa and lower Waiau Rivers, in consultation with Meridian and NIWA, to establish when it was necessary to provide flushing flows to control excessive growth of didymo in the river.

During the rainbow trout spawning period staff liaised with Meridian Energy regarding river flow management to ensure redds did not become dewatered by flow river manipulations.

Staff participated in the Waiau Working Party and ensured Fish & Game’s statutory interests were represented.

Project 1242 Mararoa Weir (MLC) Fish Pass maintenance

Goal: Ensure the fish pass is maintained to maximize suitability for salmonid passage.

Output: Staff delivered services to Meridian Energy in relation to the fish pass at the MLC and other sports fish-related issues as required.

Project 1244 – Water quality and ecosystem monitoring

Goal: To assist in the gathering of data on water quality and ecosystem health for external organisations.

Output: Services were provided where such activity was consistent with Fish & Game's core work and added to staff knowledge and expertise, which included water sampling for Department of Conservation.

OUTPUT 3: ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION AND SERVICES

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

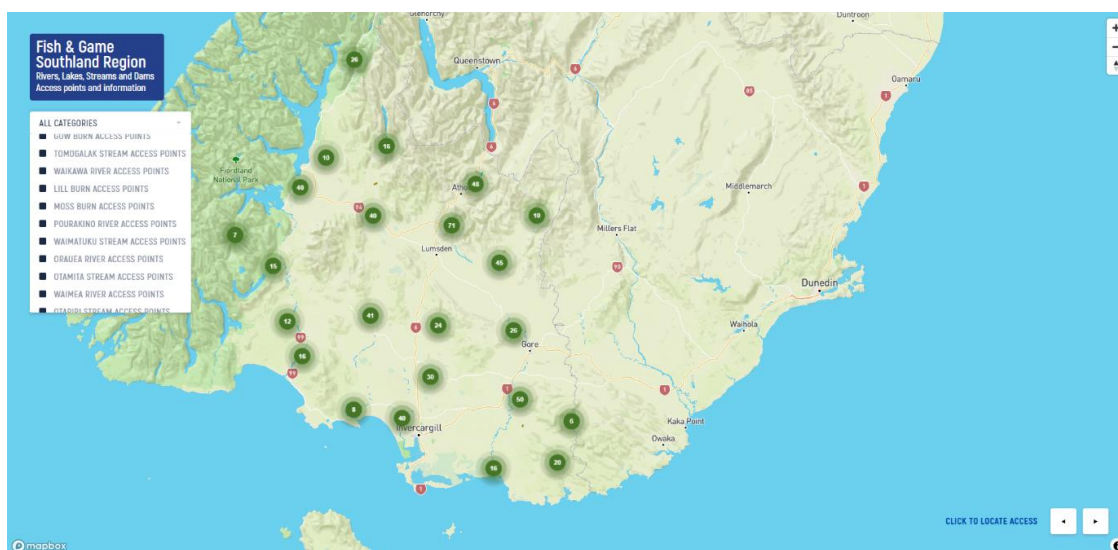
Code	Project Cluster	Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1310	Access	\$49,034	\$0	\$49,034	\$146,630	\$0	\$146,630
	Pressure Sensitive Fisheries	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$55,178	\$0	\$55,178
1320	Satisfaction Survey	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1330	Newsletters	\$25,362	\$0	\$25,362	\$0	\$0	\$0
1340	Other Publications	\$3,345	\$0	\$3,345	\$2,256	\$0	\$2,256
1350	Training	\$2,689	\$0	\$2,689	\$5,108	\$2,000	\$3,108
1360	Club Relations	\$845	\$0	\$845	\$2,227	\$0	\$2,227
1370	Huts	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Total	\$81,275	\$0	\$81,275	\$211,399	\$2,000	\$209,399

ACCESS

Project 1311 Maintenance, protection & enhancement of access

Goal: To maintain access and inventory of access to rivers and lakes and publish access points.

Output: This year staff increased the visibility of our angler access points by replacing old access signs and erecting new access signs around the region. In total, over 120 new angler access signs were erected. Staff were also involved in producing a new online angler access map that provides angler access locations and descriptions to over 500 access points.



Southland’s new online angler access map.

To help manage angler pressure on the upper Mataura River between Ardlussa and the Robert's Creek confluence, staff developed a beat system on the upper Mataura. The beat system comprises 44 beats and will be in place for the 2023/24 season.

Staff have liaised with the Southland District Council, Gore District Council, Environment Southland, Rayonier NZ Ltd and the Walking Access Commission, to ensure access is maintained at several important access points.

Project 1313 Monowai Jetty Development

Goal: To work with Pioneer Energy and Southland District Council on the installation of a jetty at Lake Monowai to improve access for boat-based anglers

Output: Unfortunately, this project hasn't progressed as rapidly as anticipated due to covid-related delays and a subsequent change in perspective from Pioneer Energy, who are now requiring a Licence to Occupy agreement and have been somewhat tardy in their feedback to our drafting. It is anticipated that this will be resolved in the next financial year.

Project 1314 Pressure sensitive fisheries

Goal: To improve the experience of anglers fishing our most popular waters.

Outputs: Designated Waters Licence

Southland staff collaborated with regional and NZC staff to explore potential management strategies for addressing overcrowding on pressure sensitive fisheries in the South Island. After thorough consideration of various management options and extensive consultation with anglers nationwide, the Designated Waters (DW) licence was chosen as the preferred mechanism to manage angler pressure on these sensitive fisheries. Following the confirmation of the DW licence as Fish & Game's chosen method, the Southland Council engaged in regional consultation with Southland licence holders. Southland resident anglers expressed strong support for DW licencing on the upper Oreti River (upstream of Mossburn) and mid/upper Mataura River (upstream of Ardlussa). However, in general, non-resident anglers did not support the use of the DW licence on these fisheries. After considering advice from the New Zealand Fish & Game Council staff, the Southland Council established the requirement for a DW licence on the upper Oreti for the 2023/24 season.



Newly erected Designated Waters signage on the upper Oreti.

Clinton/Worsley controlled fishery

The Clinton and Worsley controlled fisheries were administered through a balloting system. These fisheries continue to experience substantial demand, as indicated in the Table below. Given the ballot had been in place for three seasons, staff conducted a phone survey of the controlled fishery users to gauge their satisfaction ahead of the 2022/23 Anglers’ Notice review. The results showed overwhelmingly positive support for the Clinton and Worsley ballot. Specifically, 88% of anglers rated their overall angling experience on the Clinton/Worsley as either "very good" or "excellent." Furthermore, when asked about the value of having exclusive access to the river without interruptions from other anglers due to the ballot system, 87% of respondents expressed a high level of appreciation for this benefit.

Worsley/Clinton ballot allocation result summary for the 2023/23 season

Period	Date	Worsley		Lower Clinton		Upper Clinton		Total
		Weekday	Weekend	Weekday	Weekend	Weekday	Weekend	
1	Nov 1- Nov 15	4/4	2/2	4/4	2/2	3/4	3/2	17/18
2	Nov 16- Dec 29	2/4	0/2	2/4	2/2	2/4	2/2	10/18
3	Nov 30- Dec 13	1/4	2/2	4/4	2/2	1/4	2/2	12/18
4	Dec 14- Dec 27	4/4	1/2	3/4	2/2	2/4	2/2	14/18
5	Dec 28- Jan 10	3/4	2/2	3/4	0/2	0/4	1/2	9/18
6	Jan 11- Jan 17	2/4	2/2	2/4	1/2	1/4	0/2	8/18
7	Jan 18- Feb 7	1/4	2/2	2/4	2/2	0/4	1/2	8/18
8	Feb 8- Feb 21	4/4	2/2	2/4	0/2	0/4	1/2	9/18

9	Feb 22- Mar 7	3/4	2/2	1/4	1/2	0/4	0/2	7/18
10	Mar 8- Mar 21	2/4	1/2	2/4	2/2	2/4	1/2	9/18
11	Mar 22- Apr 4	4/4	2/2	3/4	2/2	0/4	1/2	12/18
12	Apr 5- Apr 18	0/4	1/2	0/4	2/2	0/4	1/2	4/18
13	Apr 19- May 2	1/4	0/2	0/4	0/2	0/4	0/2	1/18
14	May 3- May 16	1/4	1/2	1/4	0/2	1/4	0/2	4/18
15	17 May- 31 May	0/4	0/2	0/4	0/2	0/4	1/2	1/18
Allocation rate		32/60 (53%)	20/30 (67%)	29/60 (48%)	18/30 (60%)	12/60 (20%)	14/30 (46%)	
Season allocation rate		52/90 (58%)		47/90 (52%)		26/90 (29%)		125/270 (45%)

Project 1331 Promotion of fishing, hunting & Fish & Game via media

Goal: To encourage participation in angling and hunting, and increased awareness of what Fish & Game does, through use of the media.

Output: Leading up to both the sports fish and gamebird hunting seasons, stories were written for dissemination through local newspapers. Special attention was given to key periods, such as the Christmas holiday season. Radio interviews were also conducted.

Staff contributed to articles on topical issues, such as management of Waituna Lagoon, the Southland Water & Land Plan, management of gravel, management of river corridors and intensive winter grazing.

Project 1332 Promotion of fishing/hunting via magazine, internet & print

Goal: To encourage participation in angling and hunting through promotion by feature articles in newspapers, internet and the F&G magazine.

Outputs: Staff promoted fishing and hunting through various channels, including the Fish & Game magazine, Facebook and e-zines, all with a strong focus on the R3 initiative. The fish edition of the magazine centred around upskilling anglers, informing anglers of the new online angler access maps, communicating the value of introduced species and the importance of the Check, Clean, Dry message. Articles in the game edition of the magazine provided tips for hunting paradise shelduck, creating wetlands and informing hunters about the results from our gamebird monitoring.

The Southland Fish & Game Facebook page served as an important platform for engaging with licence holders. Regular weekend fishing tips were shared throughout the fishing season, spotlighting local fishing spots and offering advice for improved success.

E-zines "Reel Life" and "Both Barrels" were issued monthly during the respective fishing and hunting seasons. The content of these e-zines furnished pertinent and timely information for Southland anglers and hunters.

Project 1334 Recruitment, retention, reactivation (R3)

Goal: Focus any material produced on new anglers, or lapsed anglers, and provide tailored fishing advice to increase the perceived value of their fishing licence, enhance their success rate and increase the chances of their continued participation.

Outputs: Pre-Christmas email marketing – trout fishing

Staff sent a pre-Christmas email to licence holders with instructional material and videos. A similar email was also sent to lapsed licence holders to help them up-skill and encourage them to purchase a licence and go trout fishing over the summer holidays.

The three email groups that received this email were as follow:

Group 1 - All those who had already purchased a 2022/23 licence.

Group 2 – The previous year’s full season and family licence holders who had not yet purchased their new season licence.

Group 3 – Lapsers - did not buy a licence last season but had purchased a licence at some point during the previous two seasons.

Results

Group	Emails sent	Open rate	Buy licence ‘clicks’	Video link clicks
1	3,437	1,636 (48%)	NA	868
2	1,653	624 (38%)	44	105
3	1,054	390 (37%)	12	30

It is difficult to quantify the influence of the email marketing on licence buying purchasing because not all licence holders buy their licence online. However, from the number of link clicks for the videos within our marketing we can see there is significant demand for instructional material that helps anglers be more successful.

Pre-season email marketing – gamebird hunting

Prior to the start of the waterfowl hunting season, staff released a pre-season email marking campaign. The email provided hunters with an update on our mallard monitoring results as well as some tips on how hunters could have a more successful season.

There were some very interesting learnings from this email marketing campaign. This year, our email open rate was 49% (much higher than industry standards) and we had 240 clicks on our video links and 152 clicks on our ‘buy licence’ link. Last year, our open rate was 36% and we had 131 clicks on video links and 85 clicks on the ‘buy licence’ link. The major difference in the 2022 and 2023 promotional emails was that in 2022, our promotional email was sent on the 11th of April. This year, our promotional email was sent on the 2nd of May. The timing of the marketing campaign is likely to have had an influence on open and link click rates. It’s likely that there were higher levels of excitement closer to the season opening so hunters were more motivated to open email

correspondence from us. In future promotions, we will release promotional content closer to the Opening Weekend. This will enable us to achieve better pre-season engagement levels.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Project 1341 Books, handouts, pamphlets and internet

Goal: Produce information on regulations, access points and provide angling and hunting tips for the region in various formats.

Output: Appropriate stocks of access brochures for all areas of the region, and other material such as maps of our main lakes, shotgun patterning sheets, wetland and maimai designs etc were maintained. Other information that may be of interest to anglers and hunters, such as marine fish regulations, maps, Department of Conservation brochures and hunting permits were also maintained. Distribution of this information was given to anglers, hunters, information outlets and licence agents as requested.

TRAINING

Project 1351 Hunter and angler recruitment and retention

Goal: To identify opportunities to recruit participants and to assist hunters and anglers with skills necessary to enjoy their sports.

Output:

Trout fishing wellbeing study

Staff worked with Dr Shyamala Nada-Raja (Va'a o Tautai, Centre for Pasific Health, University of Otago) and University of Otago medical student Iritana Bennett-Fakahau to conduct a qualitative (interview based) study seeking to explore the relationship between trout fishing and wellbeing. Through the interviews with anglers, it was revealed that anglers believed trout fishing enhanced their wellbeing by fostering positive states of being, cultivating connection with self, others, place and nature, allowing for disconnection from stressors and providing physical exercise. The results of this study have been submitted for publication in a social science journal.

Women angler study

The Southland and North Canterbury Fish and Game Councils collaborated with Dr. Stu Hayes and Professor Brent Lovelock from the University of Otago, Centre for Recreation Research, to conduct a study focused on improving women's involvement in trout fishing. The study encompassed surveys and interviews with women and a separate survey of men for comparative analysis. The primary objectives, results, and recommendations are detailed below.

Key objectives:

- Characterise the demographics of existing women licence holders and investigate current and past levels of participation, interest, and specialisation in freshwater fishing.
- Understand women anglers' current and past motivations for freshwater fishing.

- Explore the relationship between freshwater fishing and identity.
- Investigate socialisation factors to do with women anglers' participation in freshwater fishing.
- Identify factors that constrain and/or facilitate women anglers' participation in freshwater fishing.
- Evaluate the values and ethics of women anglers.
- Explore women anglers' views in relation to representations of women in FGNZ material, and the willingness of women anglers to be involved with freshwater fisheries governance.

Key findings:

- Around a quarter of women anglers have had to contend with gender stereotypes whilst fishing.
- Well over a third of women anglers believe that fishing continues to be moulded after men and, relatedly, many call for better representation in marketing material and within FGNZ governance structures.
- Almost all women anglers wish they could fish more often, but are constrained by a host of factors, most notably a lack of time and family/work commitments. Some constraints, such as a lack of confidence, are more gender specific. Certain constraints, such as the cost of fishing or a perceived lack of skill, can be partially addressed with the support of FGNZ.
- Around one-third of women anglers feel that there are inadequate FGNZ initiatives aimed at fostering women's involvement in freshwater fishing.
- Despite wishing to see better representation of women within FGNZ, half of all women anglers feel that standing for a FG council is currently a daunting prospect, and one-third of women anglers feel that their opinions and ideas would currently not be heard.

Key recommendations:

- Develop workshops, educational materials, and events tailored to the needs of women anglers.
- Provide support for the development and strengthening of new and existing networks of women anglers.
- Work to increase the visibility of women anglers within FGNZ promotional materials and publications.
- Work to increase representation of women within Fish and Game councils.
- Work to improve feedback mechanisms for existing women anglers to communicate with FGNZ management.
- Evaluate the family licence with a view to loosening existing restrictions.

Project 1361 General liaison angling or hunting clubs

Goal: To encourage recruitment and retention of anglers and hunters, who wish to take up the sport, through the mentoring provided by angling or hunting clubs.

Output: Staff delivered presentations to the Southland Fly Fishing Club and the Wyndham Angling Club.

OUTPUT 4: PUBLIC INTERFACE

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project Cluster	Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1410	Liaison	\$5,068	\$0	\$5,068	\$12,685	\$0	\$12,685
1420	Communication	\$66,559	\$0	\$66,559	\$111,877	\$0	\$111,877
1430	Advocacy	\$15,305	\$0	\$15,305	\$7,843	\$0	\$7,843
1440	Public Promotions	\$4,353	\$0	\$4,353	\$11,856	\$0	\$11,856
1450	Visitors/Education	\$10,514	\$0	\$10,514	\$6,807	\$0	\$6,807
	Total	\$101,799	\$0	\$101,799	\$151,068	\$0	\$151,068

LIAISON

Project 1411 Liaison with Conservation Boards

Goal: To attend relevant conservation board meetings

Output: The manager interacted with members of the Conservation Board to ensure that if issues that were relevant to Fish & Game arose and that our needs were represented. He also gave a presentation to the Conservation Board, outlining work relevant to DOC interests and seeking ongoing support.

Project 1412 Liaison with DoC

Goal: To maintain a close and harmonious working relationship with Department of Conservation over matters of common interest.

Output: Staff maintained close relationships with DOC personal and had frequent contact over RMA issues, particularly the WAL Plan.

COMMUNICATION

Project 1421 Communication with conservation groups

Goal: To maintain good relations with conservation groups.

Output: Staff maintained good relationships with conservation groups, especially with Forest & Bird, where we had a lot of engagement, as we share legal and planning costs of our respective Environment Court cases.

Project 1422 Communication with iwi

Goal: To work with iwi where there are opportunities to improve our mutual advocacy for shared values, such as freshwater quality, quantity and wetlands.

Output: Staff maintained close relationships with Iwi, and had frequent contact over RMA issues, particularly the WAL Plan. Staff were particularly involved in the wetland developments associated with the Waituna Mahinga Kai pa site, speaking at hui at Bluff Marae, Waituna and Te Ao Marama.

Project 1423 Communication with farmers

Goal: To maintain good relations with Federated Farmers, individual farmers and landowners.

Output: Farmers' questions and concerns were dealt with in a professional and friendly manner. Staff attended relevant meetings when anglers' and hunters' interests were likely to be affected.

Project 1424 Communications with local authorities

Goal: To maintain good relations with the local authorities

Output: Attendance at relevant meetings when anglers' and hunters' interests were likely to be affected, as well as specific meetings with various senior regional council staff.

Project 1425 Communications with politicians

Goal: To maintain good relations with politicians.

Output: Staff met with politicians on various occasions through the year to discuss Southland Fish & Game Council views.

Project 1426 Communication with Anglers & Hunters

Goal: To maintain good relations with anglers and hunters.

Output: Anglers' and hunters' interests and concerns were addressed in a professional, helpful, friendly and timely manner.

Project 1427 Communication with Fish & Game staff in other regions

Goal: To provide input or seek advice and respond to requests from other Fish & Game regions.

Output: Staff worked with Fish and Game staff from other regions, sharing expertise and information on numerous issues, particularly work supporting pressure sensitive fisheries management and the development of the Designated Waters licence.

Project 1428 Maintenance of Fish and Game Web Site

Goal: To maintain up to date and informative information on the Southland Region's page of the NZFGC website.

Output: Information was provided to New Zealand council staff to highlight anglers' and hunters' opportunities. Southland specific content within the website was added/adjusted as required.

ADVOCACY

Project 1431 Photographic imagery databank

Goal: To ensure Fish & Game has all the requisite imagery for any promotional opportunities.

Output: Staff have continued to take and catalogue images that Fish & Game is likely to need for promotional purposes (website, F&G Magazine, social media).

Project 1432 Media liaison

Goal: To identify and utilise media opportunities that highlight the positive work and advocacy that Fish & Game does.

Output: Staff were proactive in identifying opportunities to utilise media contacts to create stories that reflect the positive work that Fish and Game undertakes on behalf of not only anglers and hunters, but our society more generally.

Project 1441 Fishing Competitions

Goal: To ensure all fishing competitions are authorised and comply with Council Policy to encourage participation rather than competition.

Output: Applications for fishing competitions were reviewed and comply with Council Policy. Fish & Game had a presence at significant fishing competitions (>50 entrants) and provided information on successful fishing methods, access and general assistance to the organisers and participants.

VISITOR INTERFACE/EDUCATION/INTERPRETATION

Project 1452 Schools/youth organisations

Goal: To provide information & assistance to schools, students and youth groups as requested.

Output: Five schools were involved in the Fish in Schools (FIS) program this year. Classes received a fish tank, water chiller, water filter system and eyed ova (which grow into juvenile salmon). By growing salmon in the classroom, students learnt about salmon habitat requirements and factors that affect ecosystem health.

Project 1453 Talks to interest groups

Goal: To provide information to interested groups on request.

Output: Staff gave various presentations throughout the year, highlighting some of our accomplishments and the work we do. Presentations to catchment groups were particularly common, and these groups have increased to nearly 40 across Southland now.

OUTPUT 5: COMPLIANCE

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

		Budget			Actual		
Code	Project Cluster	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1510	Ranging	\$49,192	\$0	\$49,192	\$40,795	\$0	\$40,795
1520	Ranger Training	\$17,015	\$0	\$17,015	\$12,940	\$0	\$12,940
1530	Compliance	\$41,565	\$30,000	\$11,565	\$48,836	\$37,542	\$11,294
	Total	\$107,772	\$30,000	\$77,772	\$102,571	\$37,542	\$65,029

RANGING

Project 1511 River angling ranging duties

Goal: To have river anglers comply with relevant fishing regulations.

Output: Staff and honorary rangers conducted angler interviews throughout the season. The prerequisite to have a current whole season licence before entering the ballot to fish the Clinton and Worsley rivers is a factor in positive licencing compliance.

Project 1512 Lake angling ranging duties

Goal: To have lake anglers comply with relevant fishing regulations.

Output: Staff and honorary rangers conducted boat-based interviews with lake anglers over six lakes. Where possible these trips were combined with 'Check Clean & Dry' advocacy and sampling work.

Staff liaise with the organisers of the two annual Te Anau-based fishing competitions ensuring licencing compliance by the entrants. The total number of licenced anglers for the larger Labour Weekend event was 1758. The purchase of licences for this competition early in each season is a positive factor that drives early-season purchasing of licences, resulting in people being more likely to fish throughout the season.

Project 1513 – Game season ranging duties

Goal: To have hunters comply with relevant game bird hunting regulations.

Output: Over the opening weekend of the gamebird hunting season, staff conducted hunter compliance checks on private wetlands across the Southland region. Staff visited 49 wetlands and spoke with 98 licenced hunters. In total, four offences were detected. Three hunters were found hunting without a gamebird hunting licence and one hunter was found in possession of 12g lead shot ammunition.

RANGER TRAINING

Project 1521: Honorary Ranger Appointments

Goal: To appoint efficient, motivated honorary rangers to join the existing team.

Output: No new honorary rangers have been appointed this year. However, there is one new appointment pending.

Project 1522 Honorary Rangers' Team

Goal: To maintain a team of effective honorary rangers.

Output: Honorary rangers have been contacted with relevant information throughout the year. Honorary rangers are encouraged where possible to assist with Fish & Game field activities in addition to ranging.

Assessments are made each season and rangers not reaching expectations are encouraged to lift their performance.

Internal training and externally-delivered compliance training continue to be coordinated with neighbouring regions for cost efficiency reasons. An Honorary Ranger training day was held in conjunction with Otago F&G at Roxburgh in November 2022.

All staff and honorary rangers have met the national standards for the processing of warrant-renewals.

Project 1531: Informations, prosecutions

Goal: To expedite alleged offences to the courts in an efficient and timely manner.

Output: All informations were filed within 6 months of offence detection. First-time offenders with no previous convictions for related offending were offered diversion, which was unanimously accepted, and charges were formally withdrawn. One offender charged with hunting without a licence was not offered diversion because of his history of previous related convictions. He was dealt with by way of a formal proof hearing.

Project 1532: Maritime Operator Safety System (MOSS).

Goal: To ensure Fish & Game's boats are operated in accordance with our approved Maritime Transport Operator Plan.

Output: Both boats (SFG1, SFG2) are currently in survey. Both boats continue to be operated in accordance with our MOSS and our Health and Safety plan, with maintenance and training schedules kept up to date.

OUTPUT 6: LICENSING

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project Cluster	Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1610	Licence Production	\$422	\$1,515,246	-\$1,514,824	\$62,246	\$1,540,269	-\$1,478,023
1620	Agent Servicing	\$6,758	\$0	\$6,758	\$9,489	\$0	\$9,489
1630	Agent Payments	\$68,186	\$0	\$68,186	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Total	\$75,366	\$1,515,246	-\$1,439,880	\$71,735	\$1,540,269	-\$1,468,534

LICENCE MANAGEMENT

Project 1611: Liaison with fishing & gamebird hunting licence sales agents

Goals: To liaise with licence agents to ensure they understand and recognise Fish & Game’s role in management of sports fishing and gamebird hunting in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters and that they recognise the value of the service they provide to stakeholders as mutually beneficial.

Output: All Agents were supplied with new fish and game season information, so they were well informed before licences went on sale. Particular support was provided to agents to help them understand the new Designated Waters licence. All Agents performed well with all monies owing from licence sales to Fish & Game current. All queries from licence agents were attended to in a timely manner.

FISHING LICENCES	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Adult Whole Season	2866	2819	3121	3350	2969
Non-Resident Whole Season	1170	1080	97	77	722
Loyal Senior Whole Season	476	507	560	582	571
Local Area Whole Season	239	235	307	288	304
Family Fishing	2449	2207	2484	2545	2478
Adult Day	1294	1074	1363	1327	1330
Non-Resident Day	1567	1051	79	95	1174
Adult Winter	118	122	98	107	99
Adult Short Break	356	349	378	423	421
Adult Long Break	29	19	15	21	29
Junior Whole Season	564	574	645	710	780
Junior Non-Resident Whole Season	35	29	3	7	35
Junior Day	134	145	138	121	152
Junior Non-Resident Day	50	35	0	2	23
Child Non-Resident Whole Season	16	11	0	0	14
Child Non-Resident Day	43	24	1	0	13

Southland Fish and Game Council

GAME LICENCES	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Adult Whole Season	4763	4530	4735	4624	4522
Adult Day	47	55	30	38	37
Junior Whole Season	429	429	4612	474	488
Junior Day	2	2	1	0	2
Child Whole Season	146	142	179	180	169

OUTPUT 7: COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

		Budget			Actual		
Code	Project Cluster	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1710	Council Elections	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
1720	Council Meetings	\$45,822	\$0	\$45,822	\$30,490	\$0	\$30,490
	Total	\$45,822	\$0	\$45,822	\$30,490	\$0	\$30,490

DATABASE OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS

Project 1711: SFGC Angler/Hunter Database

Goal: To liaise with the NZC licence administration provider to maintain a roll of anglers and hunters as required for electoral purposes, for distribution of the magazine and for compliance monitoring.

Output: Duplicate entries of fishing licences and game licences, contact details & address accuracies for mailing lists & compliance are identified and removed/corrected on an ongoing basis from the database to keep it up to date and as accurate as possible for the electoral roll, compliance and mailing lists when required.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Project 1721: Council servicing

Goal: To provide councillors with full meeting agendas and minutes of meetings on the weekend prior to the council meetings and relevant information as it becomes available.

Output: All agendas & reports provided to Council by mail or courier and email prior to Council meetings.

Project 1724: Staff attendance at Council meetings

Goal: To ensure that staff provide adequate technical information to underpin Council's planning and policy development.

Output: Specific reports completed, and presentations delivered when required by Council. Good relationships between staff and Council were maintained.

Project 1725: Staff attendance at staff meetings

Goal: To ensure that the Southland Fish & Game team operate efficiently.

Output: Staff attended internal meetings as and where necessary.

OUTPUT 8: PLANNING & REPORTING

SUMMARY OF RESOURCES

Code	Project Cluster	Budget			Actual		
		Total Expense	Income	Net Cost	Total Expense	Income	Net Cost
1810	Management Plan	\$1,014	\$0	\$1,014	\$4,842	\$0	\$4,842
1820	Annual Planning	\$2,534	\$0	\$2,534	\$3,099	\$0	\$3,099
1830	Reporting	\$13,668	\$0	\$13,668	\$12,979	\$0	\$12,979
1840	National Liaison	\$13,221	\$0	\$13,221	\$14,300	\$0	\$14,300
	Total	\$30,437	\$0	\$30,437	\$35,220	\$0	\$35,220

MANAGEMENT/STRATEGIC PLANNING

Project 1811: Management Plan

Goal: To renew the statutory Sports Fish and Game Management Plan.

Output: The review of the SFGMP is well advanced, however, with the proposed amalgamations of the Otago & Southland regions the work was put on hold. It has now been socialised with iwi, as we determine how they wish to engage with the plan renewal.

ANNUAL OWP/BUDGET/FEE SETTING

Project 1821: Operational Work Plan/budget and fee setting

Goal: To prepare annual operational work plans and budget for approval by Council and subsequent presentation at the Managers meeting.

Output: Operational Work Plan (OWP) and budget was considered and approved by Council.

REPORTING/AUDIT REQUIREMENTS

Project 1831 - Preparation of Annual Report

Goal: To prepare the 2020/2021 Annual Report by the due date.

Output: The Annual Report was presented to licence holders at the AGM before the end of December 2022 and presented to Parliament by due date.

Project 1832 - Annual General Meeting

Goal: To hold an Annual General Meeting before the end of December 2022

Output: The Annual General Meeting was advertised and held on the 1st of December 2022. Agendas were sent out prior to the date of the meeting. Persons attending the previous AGM were mailed agendas.

Project 1833 - Quarterly reports to the national office

Goal: To forward quarterly actual figures compared to budget predictions for each quarterly period other than the last quarter of the year.

Output: All reports forwarded on time.

NATIONAL LIAISON

Project 1841 - Policy development, Manager's meetings, national committees

Goal: To provide F&GNZ with information as requested and to ensure Southland Fish & Game Council interests are well represented at a national level.

Output: Staff have attended relevant meetings, and contributed significantly to various issues, in particular the Natural and Built Environments Act, the NPSFM and the NES for Intensive Wintering.

Project 1842 - National liaison

Goal: To provide input and expertise to working parties and research committees as required.

Output: Staff continued to advance the Council's objective of improving management of Pressure Sensitive Fisheries.

INPUT 9 - ADMINISTRATION

Project 1913 - Maintenance and office administration

Goal: To ensure the council's offices in Invercargill and Te Anau (including the other buildings at the Wildlife Park) are run efficiently and maintained (including vehicles and equipment).

Output: Due to the relative difficulty in securing builders and a cost-effective painter, upgrading the back fence at the Invercargill office was deferred for a year, as was painting the Eastern wall of the Invercargill office.

Project 1915 Te Anau Wildlife Park Development

Goal: To investigate the collaborative development of promotional infrastructure at the Te Anau Wildlife Park that showcases Fish & Game values and those of other related parties, particularly Ngai Tahu.

Output: Staff worked with Oraka-Aparima Runaka and Great South on a proposal to assess the feasibility of a significant development. At the end of the financial year, this work was underway, with an appropriately experienced consultancy engaged in the work.

Project 1916 – Staff training and Health & Safety

Output. All Council equipment operating efficiently. Efficient and effective service to persons making enquiries to the offices.

- Goal:** a) Ensure staff always act in accordance with F&G's health and safety plan.
b) Ensure staff receive appropriate training.

Output: Staff have conducted their work in a safe manner and have adhered to the H&S procedures outlined in the H&S Plan. H&S is regularly discussed by staff at staff meetings. Staff receive ongoing relevant training to enable them to conduct their work safely and to upskill.

Compliance with Legislation.

The Southland Fish & Game Council is required to be compliant with relevant NZ legislation.

A spreadsheet is kept of all relevant legislation we work under and updated each year to ensure we are compliant with current legislation.

Important legislation we work under is: Conservation Act 1987, Wildlife Act 1953, Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, Wildlife Regulations 1955, Resource Management Act 1991, Walking Access Act 2008, Crown Entities Act 2004, Public Finance Act 1989, Employment Relations Act 2000, Health & Safety at Work Act 2015, Income Tax Act 2007, Goods and Services Act 1985, Privacy Act 1993, Local Government Official Information & Meetings Act 1987 and the COVID-19 Public Health Response Amendment Act 2020. The council has not recorded any breaches of legislation.

SOUTHLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE
 For the year ended 31 August 2023

	Note	Actual 2023 \$	Budget 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$
REVENUE				
Fish and Game licence sales	1	1,540,269	1,515,246	1,348,811
Grants and donations	1	2,000	-	38
Interest	1	39,420	11,735	12,710
Other revenue	1	154,942	168,850	205,643
Total Revenue		1,736,631	1,695,831	1,567,202
EXPENSES				
Outputs				
Species management	2	21,249	18,414	22,446
Habitat protection & management	2	78,168	90,691	130,946
Angler & Hunter participation	2	25,098	8,800	7,334
Public interface	2	3,911	1,280	1,508
Compliance	2	6,031	31,750	9,229
Licensing	2	62,246	68,186	59,949
Council	2	5,217	9,500	8,754
Planning & reporting	2	9,317	9,150	8,410
Overheads				
Employee related costs	2	635,360	617,462	550,190
Depreciation	4	57,236	15,163	60,580
Other expenses	2	113,809	124,440	100,318
Total Expenses		1,017,642	994,836	959,664
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		718,989	700,995	607,538
Less Other Expenses				
Levies to NZFGC		765,227	765,227	596,104
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		(46,238)	(64,232)	11,434

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

SOUTHLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at 31 August 2023

	Note	Actual 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Bank accounts and cash	3	379,403	445,422
Debtors and prepayments	3	97,076	25,624
Investments	3	723,933	695,678
Other current assets	3	15,347	17,055
Total Current Assets		1,215,759	1,183,779
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4	536,033	535,030
Investments	3	-	-
Total Non-Current Assets		536,033	535,030
Total Assets		1,751,792	1,718,809
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenses	3	200,463	169,178
Employee costs payable	3	88,838	40,899
Total Current Liabilities		289,301	210,077
Total Liabilities		289,301	210,077
NET ASSETS		1,462,491	1,508,732
EQUITY	5	1,462,491	1,508,732

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

Southland Fish & Game Council

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

For the year ended 31 August 2023

	Actual 2023	Actual 2022
	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash was received from:		
Licence sales	1,540,994	1,430,942
Grants, donations and fundraising	2,000	38
Interest	37,350	12,710
Other revenue	140,478	205,643
Cash was applied to:		
Payments to suppliers	1,110,112	885,747
Payments to employees	587,421	550,554
GST (net)	2,815	(2,049)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	20,474	215,081
CASHFLOW FROM INVESTING & FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Cash was received from:		
Sale of property, plant and equipment	-	17,066
Sale of investments/deposits	-	-
Cash was applied to:		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	58,238	97,253
Purchase of investments/deposits	28,255	11,926
Net Cash Flows from Investing & Financing Activities	(86,493)	(92,113)
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash	(66,019)	122,968
Opening Cash	445,422	322,454
Closing Cash	379,403	445,422
This is represented by:		
Bank accounts and cash	379,403	445,422

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

Southland Fish & Game Council
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES
For the year ended 31 August 2023

ACCOUNTING POLICIES APPLIED

Reporting Entity

Southland Fish and Game Council is a Public Entity under the Public Finance Act 1989 (Schedule 4). The Council was established on 4 May 1991 with the passing of the Conservation Law Reform Act 1990.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Section 153-6 of the Crown Entities Act 2004.

Basis of Preparation

Southland Fish and Game has elected to apply PBE SFR-A (PS) Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting - Accrual (Public Sector) on the basis that it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses of equal to or less than \$2,000,000. All transactions in the Performance Report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. The Performance Report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The Council is registered for GST. All amounts are recorded exclusive of GST, except for Debtors and Creditors which are stated inclusive of GST.

SPECIFIC ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Revenue Recognition

Southland Fish and Game Council derives revenue through the sale of fish and game licences, interest, contracts, rentals, grants, and miscellaneous sales.

Licence Revenue

Licence revenue is recognised in the period the licence fee is earned, for example, a fish licence sold in August of the current year which relates to the next fishing season is treated as income in advance.

Grants Received

Grants are recognised as revenue when they become receivable unless there is an obligation in substance to return the funds if conditions of the grant are not met. If there is such an obligation, the grants are initially recorded as grants received in advance and recognised as revenue when the condition of the grant is satisfied.

Interest

Interest revenue is recorded as it is earned during the year.

Other Income

Income from contracts, rentals and miscellaneous sales are recorded as revenue in the period they are earned.

Outputs

The Council has allocated expenditure based on the 8 output codes - Species management, Habitat protection & management, Angler & Hunter participation, Public interface, Compliance, Licensing, Council, and Planning & reporting. These are expensed when the related service has been received.

Employee related costs

Wages, salaries, and annual leave are recorded as an expense as staff provide services and become entitled to wages, salaries. Performance payments are recorded when the employee is notified. Superannuation contributions are recorded as an expense as staff provide services.

Levies to NZFGC

A levy is paid each year to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council for the administration of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, or redistribution to other Councils and for advocacy and research.

Bank accounts and cash

Bank accounts and cash comprise cash on hand, cheque or savings accounts, and deposits held at call with banks.

Debtors and prepayments

Debtors are initially recorded at the amount owed. When it is likely the amount owed (or some portion) will not be collected, a provision for impairment is recognised and the loss is recorded as a bad debt expense.

Investments

Investments comprise investments in term deposits with banks. Deposits with banks are initially recorded at the amount paid. If it appears that the carrying amount of the investment will not be recovered, it will be written down to the expected recoverable amount.

Other current assets

Goods for distribution (maps and other items) are subsequently measured at cost and written down if they become obsolete.

Property, plant, and equipment

Property, plant, and equipment is recorded at cost, less accumulated depreciation, and impairment losses.

Significant donated assets are recognised upon receipt at valuation. Significant donated assets for which current values are not readily obtainable are not recognised.

Depreciation is charged on all property, plant and equipment other than land, so as to spread the cost of the asset over its useful life. Depreciation for each of the major categories of assets is calculated on the basis noted below:

	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Depreciation Method</u>
Buildings	3%	Diminishing Value
Plant & Equipment	9.5% -67%	Diminishing Value
Motor Vehicles	9.5%- 30%	Diminishing Value
Office Fittings, Furniture & Equipment	9.5%- 67%	Diminishing Value

Creditors and accrued expenses

Creditors and accrued expenses are measured at the amount owed.

Game Bird Habitat Stamp levy

Levies are collected and paid to New Zealand Fish and Game Council per the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Stamp Regulations 1993. The levy is \$5 for every game licence sold within the financial year.

Employee costs payable

A liability for employee costs payable is recognised when an employee has earned an entitlement. These include salaries and wages accrued up to balance date and annual leave earned but not yet taken at balance date. A liability and expense for long service leave and retirement gratuities is recognised when the entitlement becomes available to the employee.

Restricted and dedicated reserves

Restricted and dedicated reserves are those reserves subject to specific conditions accepted as binding by the Council and which may not be revised by the Council without specified purposes or when certain conditions are met.

Asset Replacement Reserve

The asset replacement reserve is a reserve set up to enable Council to replace property, plant, and equipment.

Back Country Fisheries Reserve

The back-country fisheries reserve is for the purpose of management of "back country fisheries". The reserve was established with the introduction of the Non-Resident Licence in 2014. A portion of the non-resident licence fee is transferred to this reserve based on the number of non-resident licence sales made within the financial year.

Angler Diversion Scheme

Income from Diversion Scheme Fishing is used for Fish in Schools programmes and other programmes to encourage new anglers into the sport.

Game Diversion Scheme

Income from Diversion Scheme Game is used programmes to improve access and Hunters into the sport.

Building Reserve

A reserve set up to maintain the building.

Hunting and Habitat Scheme

A reserve set up from the sale of a wetland.

Special Fisheries/Access Project

A reserve set up from a donation that was specified to be used for access.

Hydro Mitigation

Mitigation receive from Pioneer Energy regarding the Monowai Hydro scheme for access.

Te Anau Wildlife Park

Funds received from the sale of a house in Quintin Drive.

BNZ Public Trust Funds

Proceeds from the sale of a property. Interest earned can be used for projects.

Income tax

The Council is a Public Benefit Entity and is exempt from the payment of Income tax in terms of the Income Tax Act 2007.

Budget figures

The Budget figures are derived from the Council budget that was approved at the Council meeting in April 2022.

Tier 2 PBE Accounting Standards applied.

The Council has not applied any Tier 2 Accounting Standards in preparing its financial statements.

CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES

There have been no changes in accounting policies.

Southland Fish & Game Council
NOTES TO THE PERFORMANCE REPORT
for the year ended 31 August 2023

Note 1: ANALYSIS OF REVENUE	Actual 2023 \$	Budget 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$
Licence sales			
Fish licence	1,052,944	1,086,491	948,291
Non Resident Fish Licence Levy	76,388	-	6,583
Game licence	410,937	428,755	393,937
Total Licence sales	1,540,269	1,515,246	1,348,811
Grants and donations			
Donations/koha from the public	2,000	-	38
Total Grants and donations	2,000	-	38
Interest			
Other Interest for Funds held on Behalf of	705	-	225
Other interest	38,715	11,735	12,485
Total Interest	39,420	11,735	12,710
Other revenue			
Diversion Scheme Game	2,100	-	-
Diversion Scheme Fishing	4,602	-	1,800
Department of Conservation contracts	-	-	3,860
Fines and prosecutions	840	5,000	1,641
Gain on sale of fixed assets	-	-	73,464
Merdian Energy Contracts	-	-	11,755
MLC Fish Pass	10,511	10,000	-
Niwa Monitoring	31,297	25,000	33,770
NZFGC Southland Water & Land Plan	74,361	-	-
Rentals - Eye Street	1,952	1,800	2,102
Sale of Products	(721)	2,050	2,251
Waiiau River Surveys	30,000	25,000	30,000
Waituna Mahinga Kai Pa	-	100,000	45,000
Total other revenue	154,942	168,850	205,643

Note 2: ANALYSIS OF EXPENSES	Actual 2023 \$	Budget 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$
Species management			
Population monitoring	21,169	17,264	20,799
Harvest assessment	-	1,000	1,500
Releases	80	150	147
Total Species management	21,249	18,414	22,446
Habitat protection & management			
Resource management	348	100	57
Proposed Sthld Water & Land Plan	64,005	-	91,314
Works & management	-	2,100	43
Assisted habitat	12,066	88,491	35,919
Assessing & monitoring	749	-	63
Pond Subsidies (from Game Diversions)	1,000	-	3,550
Total Habitat protection & managemen	78,168	90,691	130,946
Angler & Hunter participation			
Access	23,268	1,900	2,244
Newsletters	-	3,400	-
Other publications	223	2,500	4,563
Pressure sensitive fisheries	275	-	61
Training & R3	1,332	1,000	466
Total Angler & Hunter participation	25,098	8,800	7,334
Public interface			
Communication	2,555	250	1,009
Public promotions	43	130	15
Advocacy	-	100	-
Visitor facilities	803	800	292
Fish in schools programme	510	-	192
Total Public interface	3,911	1,280	1,508
Compliance			
Ranging	417	200	-
Ranger training	255	3,500	-
Compliance	5,359	28,050	9,229
Total Compliance	6,031	31,750	9,229
Licensing			
Commission	62,246	68,186	59,949
Total Licensing	62,246	68,186	59,949

Note 2: ANALYSIS OF EXPENSES

Continued...

	Actual 2023 \$	Budget 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$
Council			
Council elections	-	-	-
Council meetings	5,217	9,500	8,754
Total Council	5,217	9,500	8,754
Planning & reporting			
Annual planning	50	-	-
Reporting	614	1,000	726
National liaison	161	550	-
Audit fee	8,492	7,600	7,684
Total Planning & reporting	9,317	9,150	8,410
Employee related costs			
Salaries and wages	597,816	578,425	514,447
Fringe benefit tax	4,855	5,600	6,678
KiwiSaver contributions	22,123	23,137	20,548
ACC levies	1,640	1,300	1,412
Staff Training and Other expenses	8,926	9,000	7,105
Total Employee related costs	635,360	617,462	550,190
Other expenses			
Communications	16,960	19,400	15,005
Field equipment	6,854	4,500	757
General	31,318	29,606	26,688
Loss on sale of disposal of assets	-	-	668
Office equipment	6,173	9,000	3,334
Office premises	20,193	19,700	14,814
Vehicles	32,311	42,234	39,052
Total Other expenses	113,809	124,440	100,318

Note 3 : ANALYSIS OF ASSETS AND LIABILITES	Actual 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$
Bank accounts and cash		
Current account balance	123,899	94,711
Deposits held on Call	255,454	350,661
Cash on hand	50	50
Total	379,403	445,422
Debtors and prepayments		
Accounts receivable	66,342	14,573
Prepayments and accrued income	16,868	-
GST Receivable	13,866	11,051
Total	97,076	25,624
Investments		
<i>Current portion</i>		
Term Deposits	723,933	695,678
<i>Non- Current portion</i>		
Term Deposits	-	-
Total	723,933	695,678
Other current assets		
Fishing & game books, maps, DVD's etc	15,347	17,055
Total	15,347	17,055
Creditors and accrued expenses		
Trade and other payables	57,472	66,891
Income in advance	140,923	100,998
BNZ Business Credit Card	2,068	1,289
GST Payable	-	-
Total	200,463	169,178
Employee costs payable		
Accrued salaries and wages	21,492	15,019
Annual leave and time in lieu	67,346	25,880
PAYE owing	-	-
Total	88,838	40,899

Note 4 : PROPERTY PLANT & EQUIPMENT**2023**

Asset Class	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Sales/ Disposals	Current Year Depreciation and Impairment	Closing Carrying Amount
Land	133,065	-	-	-	133,065
Buildings	261,341	-	-	7,840	253,501
Plant & Equipment	20,326	1,615	-	5,872	16,069
Vehicles	103,357	55,295	-	40,673	117,979
Furniture & Fittings	16,941	1,328	-	2,850	15,419
Total	535,030	58,238	-	57,235	536,033

2022

Asset Class	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Sales/ Disposals	Current Year Depreciation and Impairment	Closing Carrying Amount
Land	133,065	-	-	-	133,065
Buildings	269,424	-	-	8,083	261,341
Plant & Equipment	26,547	2,165	-	8,386	20,326
Vehicles	69,196	91,252	17,066	40,025	103,357
Furniture & Fittings	17,192	3,836	1	4,086	16,941
Total	515,424	97,253	17,067	60,580	535,030

All assets are measured on a cost basis. No revaluation of any asset has occurred.

Significant Donated

Assets – Not Recorded

Redcliff Wetlands:

The Council holds title to property title 5C/1060,5C/903 and 7A/490 in the Takitimu District, which are held as wetland reserves. As title was given by the owner on the basis that ownership would revert should the property be transferred the asset is not listed in the Financial Statements.

Te Anau Fish Hatchery/Wildlife Park:

The Dept. of Conservation has vested the Te Anau Wildlife Park with the Southland Fish & Game Council for access & use by the Council as well as partial access & use by the Department of Conservation. The vesting is at nil consideration and the land title is not transferred to the Southland Fish & Game Council. If the Council do not require the property in the future the title will revert with the Crown.

Note 5: EQUITY

	Actual 2023	Actual 2022
	\$	\$
Accumulated Funds		
Balance as at 1 September	739,909	713,807
Surplus/(Deficit)	(46,238)	11,434
Transfer to Reserves	(82,808)	(10,249)
Transfer from Reserves	103,507	24,917
Total Accumulated Funds	714,370	739,909
<i>Dedicated Reserves</i>		
Asset Replacement Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	135,907	160,364
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	-	-
Transfer to Accumulated Funds	-	(24,457)
Balance at 31 August	135,907	135,907
Non - Resident Levy Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	161,509	154,987
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	76,388	6,583
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	(102,000)	(61)
Balance at 31 August	135,897	161,509
Angler Diversion Scheme		
Balance as at 1 September	81,701	78,260
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	4,320	3,441
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	(510)	-
Balance at 31 August	85,511	81,701
Game Diversion Scheme		
Balance as at 1 September	42,050	42,050
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	2,100	-
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	(1,000)	-
Balance at 31 August	43,150	42,050
Building Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	113,165	113,165
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	-	-
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	-	-
Balance at 31 August	113,165	113,165

Note 5: EQUITY

Continued...

	Actual 2023 \$	Actual 2022 \$
Hunting & Habitat Schemes		
Balance as at 1 September	110,000	110,000
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	-	-
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	-	-
Balance at 31 August	110,000	110,000
<i>Total Dedicated Reserves</i>	<i>623,630</i>	<i>644,332</i>
<i>Restricted Reserves</i>		
Special Fisheries/Access Project		
Balance as at 1 September	10,000	10,000
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	-	-
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	-	-
Balance at 31 August	10,000	10,000
Hydro Mitigation		
Balance as at 1 September	17,426	17,600
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	-	-
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	-	(174)
Balance at 31 August	17,426	17,426
Te Anau Wildlife Park		
Balance as at 1 September	81,543	81,543
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	-	-
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	-	-
Balance at 31 August	81,543	81,543
BNZ Public Trust Funds (see Note 8)		
Balance as at 1 September	15,522	15,522
Transfer from Accumulated Funds (Income)	705	225
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	(705)	(225)
Balance at 31 August	15,522	15,522
<i>Total Restricted Reserves</i>	<i>124,491</i>	<i>124,491</i>
Total Equity	1,462,491	1,508,732

Note 6: COMMITMENTS & CONTINGENCIES

	2023	2022
	Actual	Actual
Commitments		
Nil	-	-

Contingency

There are no contingent liabilities as at 31 August 2023 (Last Year - nil)

Note 7: OTHER

Goods or Services Provided to the Entity in Kind

Description	Amount
Honorary ranging activities	No Charge
Councillor meetings and event	No Charge

Note 8: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Interest – Public Trust

The 1919 property held under Section 96 of the reserves and other Lands Act 1915 was sold. The proceeds were held by the Public Trust until 28th April 2010, when the balance of the common fund, then \$15,521.94 was transferred to the control of the Southland Fish & Game Council. The Act provides that the Council cannot uplift the capital fund and on wind-up of the Council the capital fund will be dealt with by the Government of the day. Interest received from deposit for the year \$706 (2022 \$225)

Note 9: RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Related-party disclosures have not been made for transactions with related parties that are within a normal supplier of client/recipient relationship on terms and conditions no more or less favourable than those that it is reasonable to expect the Council would have adopted in dealing with the party at arm's length in the same circumstances.

		2023 \$	2022 \$	2023 \$ Amount Outstanding	2022 \$ Amount Outstanding
Related Party	Description	Value	Value	Amount Outstanding	Amount Outstanding
<i>Paid to:</i>					
New Zealand Fish and Game Council	Levies pd to NZC	765,227	596,104	-	-
Zane Moss	Carex Secta plants purchased from Managers Children	-	2,050	-	-
Dr Jane Kitson	Managers Wife - rents office space at 17 Eye St.	1,800	2,102	-	-

Note 10: EVENTS AFTER BALANCE DATE

There were no events that have occurred after the balance date that would have a material impact on the Performance Report. (Last Year Nil)

Note 11: ALLOCATION OF OVERHEADS TO OUTPUT AREAS FOR 2023

In the Statement of service performance, overheads are allocated across the 8 Output areas based on the hours worked within those Outputs over the year. Below is the calculation for distributing the overheads across the output area.

ACTUAL 2023

Output Area	Actual Direct \$	Actual Hours	Allocation of Overheads	Total Costs per Output
Species management	21,249	1,058	102,446	123,695
Habitat protection & management	78,168	2,177	210,800	288,968
Angler & hunter participation	25,098	1,924	186,301	211,399
Public interface	3,911	1,525	147,667	151,068
Compliance	6,031	997	96,540	102,571
Licensing	62,246	98	9,489	71,735
Council	5,217	261	25,273	30,490
Planning & reporting	9,317	268	25,951	35,218
Totals	211,237	8,308	804,467	1,015,144

Actual Overheads

Employee related costs	635,360
Depreciation	57,236
Other expenses	113,809
Less Administrative Income	(1,936)
Total Overheads to Allocate	804,469

BUDGET 2023

Output Area	Budget Direct \$	Budget Hours	Allocation of Overheads	Total Costs per Output
Species management	18,414	880	74,332	92,746
Habitat protection & management	90,691	4,322	365,078	455,769
Angler & Hunter participation	8,800	858	72,475	81,275
Public interface	1,280	1,190	100,519	101,799
Compliance	31,750	900	76,022	107,772
Licensing	68,186	85	7,180	75,366
Council	9,500	430	36,322	45,822
Planning & reporting	9,150	252	21,288	30,438
Totals	237,771	8,917	753,216	990,987

Budget Overheads

Employee related costs	617,462
Depreciation	15,163
Other Expenses	124,440
Less Administrative income	(3,850)
Total Overheads to Allocate	753,215

Note 12: MINISTERIAL REVIEW

In February 2021, the Minister of Conservation presented the review for Governance of Fish and Game New Zealand and the New Zealand Fish and Game Councils. This report sets out [36 recommendations](#) to be implemented for the future of Fish and Game.

A review implementation team was established, including the then Chair of the NZFGC, Ray Grubb, Brian Anderton, the acting CEO of the NZFGC, and DoC representatives. After 18 months, the ISG Report from this Committee was drafted but was never approved by the Minister. In November 2022, the Minister disbanded this group. The NZC had been waiting on this report for the direction to implement the Review, as many of the recommendations were reliant on legislative changes. One of the recommendations was for the amalgamation of Councils (reducing the number of Councils from 12 to 6).

In October 2022, the Regional Fish and Game Chairs wrote to the NZC asking them to implement the non-legislative parts of the Review. In November 2022, the NZC, agreeing with the Regional Chairs, instructed the NZC CEO to implement the non-legislative parts of the Review. On 6 December 2022, Sia Aston, Deputy Director – Public Affairs on behalf of the Department of Conservation, wrote to the New Zealand Council, advising that Fish and Game should proceed with implementing the review recommendations that do not require legislative changes.

In February 2023, The New Zealand Council established two work groups - Future Finance and Future Structures, which are working on structural and financial considerations for the organisation.

Due to the time lost with the ISG, the implementation of many of these recommendations only commenced at the end of November 2022.