

Agenda Item 10:

Operational Report – for the period ended September 2024

Prepared by: Dean Kelly – Manager

Introduction

The Council's adopted governance policies require the manager to provide an Operational Report, specific proposals for capital expenditure and acquisitions as well as major issues and opportunities for the Council. There are further requirements for the Manager to provide assurance that the Management Limitations are being observed. The format of this report is therefore to certify compliance with Governance Policies, Management Limitations and provide other material, responses, or assurance that Council objectives, strategies, plans, performance, risks, operation, resources, and structure are being met.

Matters for the information of Council.

Staff:

Staff holidays estimated (hours): Manager, 90
 Officer, 80
 Admin, 41

Vehicles:

Managers Vehicle: (start) 71,496km (fin) 76,546km. Total private for period: 1,355km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle PSM: (start) 50,632km (fin.) 55,852km. Total private for period: 1,433km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle MML: (start) 140,783km (fin.) 140,783km.

Bi-monthly report on outputs

1111 Drift Diving.

Nothing to report

1113 Spawning Surveys.

Preparation underway for netting Lake Mapourika.

1114 Trend Counts.

Shoveler and Grey Teal survey completed. The 2024 Shoveler was well above average both locally and nationally.

1115 Sportsfishery Research.

Sports Fishery Research report completed.

1116 Designated Waters Fisheries Management.

Participation in the National Working Group on Pressure Sensitive Fisheries. Current work is assembling data and reviewing implementation of designated waters for a response to the Minister

1121 National Hunter Survey.

The Gamebird hunting surveys are now complete for this season. Assistance from the Gymnastics group was helpful, improved accuracy now they have helped for two years. National Hunter Survey report completed and attached.

1161 Fisheries Enhancement.

Wild mixed salmon have been successfully sourced, with us on track for planned releases in summer/autumn 2025. Unspent funds from 2023-24 have been accrued for future utilisation.

1171 Regulations/Gazette Notices.

Fishing regulations were presented to the Minister. The proposed additional designated waters were rejected.

1181 Game Bird Control.

No crop predation complaints have been received during this period.

1211 RMA Plans/Policy/Consents

Non-notified resource consents approved or consulting on as affected party.

Applicant	Area	Type	Nature of work	Comments
M&M Aggregates Ltd	New River Road	Mining Permit	Alluvial Gold Mining	No issues. No discharge or take from surface
NZTA	Snowy River	Land use consent	River protection	Spawning exclusion
Westland District Council	Hokitika Beachfront	Land use consent	Seawall construction	No issues
W Begg & Son Ltd	Duffers Creek, Totara Flat.	Land use consent	Gravel Extraction	

1212 Dairy Industry/Farmer Advocacy

Nothing to report in this period.

1213 DoC.

The Conservation board has updated us on the progression of the regions CMS and upcoming consultation/workshops.

1311 Access.

Access signage and access audit underway. We are also contributing to a national initiative to highlight and address access issues in the regions.

1312 Assisted Hunting.

Nothing to report in this period.

1331 Website/Ezines/Social Media.

Facebook engagements have been made - focusing on Fish & Game elections and start of the fishing season. Reel life completed in August and September. The new website is user friendly and up to date with Council papers and minutes.

1332 Fish & Game Magazine

The magazine has been distributed with minimal returns this year. Returns mostly seem to be from people who have moved house and not updated. Returns are being redistributed from the office.

1341 Sportsfisheries Guides.

Nothing to report in this period.

1361 Clubs, Outdoor Recreation Groups.

Nothing to report in this period.

1371 Okuru Hut.

General maintenance and checks. Looking out for replacement furniture which will complete the renovations.

1411 Conservation Boards, Iwi, Allied Groups.

Nothing to report in this period.

1421 Media/Communication.

Responded to enquiries regarding fishing opportunities, regulations, access, licencing and resource consents. Newspaper articles have focussed on the fishing season opening.

1431 Political Advocacy

The response from the Hunting and Fishing Minister regarding licencing and designated waters was reviewed and actions taken to provide a response in due course.

1511 Compliance.

Compliance completed around lower reaches of rivers and Lake Brunner.

1521 Ranger Training.

CERT training completed at our regional office with all rangers now up to date.

1531 Prosecutions.

A legal opinion provided by the A/W region concludes that Fish and Game's diversion process could be improved by making any diversion funds received separate from operational funds. It is therefore proposed to transfer the surplus funds received in the prosecutions project to the habitat reserve with the end goal having a process where community groups can apply for the funds for projects that benefit sportfish and game.

1611 Licence Production & Distribution.

Licence sales to NZ residents so far this season are below budget and last year's sales. Upgrades to licence purchases are being received more frequently.

1621 Agent Liaison.

Regular visit to agents. Frequently stocked with access guides, how to guides, child licence pads and excess F&G magazine in the office. Agents have been issued with the new user manuals as provided by Eyede, and NZ Fish & Game.

1721 Council.

Council servicing and reporting completed. Licence-holder lists were provided to the returning officer for elections and all nomination enquiries were forwarded to sub-region Councillors. No Election is required in the West Coast Region as there were less than 9 nominations. A first meeting of the new Council will be notified after the new Council takes office on 30th October. The meeting will need to be before Wednesday 20th November. In person, with a quorum of members present.

1811 Sportsfish and Game Management Plan.

See attached correspondence from NZC regarding SFGMP proposed policy.

1821 OWP & Budget.

See attached NZC correspondence regarding a zero-based approach to budgeting for 2025/26. The budget for the new financial year has been entered into Xero and the OWP updated to reflect the approved budget.

1831 Annual Public Meeting & Report.

The Annual report audit process is underway. A draft has been produced and being audited for accuracy.

1841 National Liaison.

Communication with other region regarding staffing, annual reporting, RMA review, access, regulations, field equipment, spawning habitat assessment and fishery management.

1910 Staff Salaries & Payroll.

Staff performance reviews are being conducted. Helen's recovery is going well and she is back in the office for the majority of her contracted work hours. The temporary Summer Field Officer has started back with the region. He will be focused on compliance, spawning site assessments and access to the resource over the summer.

1940 Office Premises.

Some further painting and upkeep of internal surfaces is being completed on an ad-hoc basis.

1970 General.

All accounts payable continue to be paid on time, all providers to us are emailing accounts directly rather than posting so this is also minimising delays.

1980 Equipment

Staff reviewed field equipment and safety gear and replaced/procured new gear where required.

Staff Recommendation:

That this report be received.