

Agenda Item 10:

Operational Report – for the period ended November 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, 101
 Officer, 93
 Admin, 43

Vehicles:

Managers Vehicle: (start) 76,546km (fin) 82,099km. Total private for period: 1,850km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle PSM: (start) 55,852km (fin.) 62,198km. Total private for period: 1,713km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle MML: (start) 140,783km (fin.) 144,173km.

Bi-monthly report on outputs

1111 Trout Surveys.

Preparation underway for drift dive trout surveys.

1112 Lake Netting

Lake netting completed at Lake Mapourika. Size and catch rate were above average relative to other West Coast lakes. Report being compiled for presentation at February Meeting.

1113 Spawning Surveys.

Nothing to report in this period.

1114 Trend Counts.

Nothing to report in this period.

1115 Sportsfishery Research.

First survey completed on Mawheraiti research streams. The survey was slightly below the six-year average for the November electric fish survey. Electric fishing and habitat assessments of potential spawning streams around the Rough River or those vulnerable to intensification underway.

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 revised National Policy on Management of these fisheries. Designated Water licence sales have been minimal to date.

1121 National Hunter Survey.

Nothing to report in this period. A south Island monitoring report is currently being finalised.

1161 Fisheries Enhancement.

Wild mixed salmon have been successfully sourced, with planned liberations in summer/autumn 2025 at Lake Ianthe, Taramakau and Hokitika Rivers in accordance with Council Strategy.

1171 Regulations/Gazette Notices.

Preparations underway for the triennial Sportfish Regulations Review.

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 |
| Sluys Farming | Inangahua | Land use Consent | River Protection | Consultation regarding condition, timing and maintenance |

1212 Dairy Industry/Farmer Advocacy

Minor visits for s95 consent approval process.

1213 DoC.

The Conservation board has notified the CMS review and promoted upcoming consultation/workshops. We are currently reviewing the material.

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.

Reel life completed in October and November. All current council meeting minutes, meeting reports and other information have been signed and uploaded to the website. Updated Councillor information and meeting dates have also been updated on the website. Social Media posts regarding HPA1 have been sent through for us to share should an outbreak start in NZ.

1332 Fish & Game Magazine

Nothing to report in this period.

1341 Sportsfisheries Guides.

Agents regularly visited and stocked with guides.

1361 Clubs, Outdoor Recreation Groups.

Assisting with the Lake Brunner fishing competition, in conjunction with running a skills and information session at Lake Brunner on the 30th of November. Running a basic of fly-fishing course at the Taramakau on the 8th of December.

1371 Okuru Hut.

One side of Roof and Entranceway painted. Shelves installed in cupboard. Old kitchenware removed and replaced. The hut still needs a Table, Chairs and Couch. The windows will also need to be replaced gradually over the next year or two.

1411 Conservation Boards, Iwi, Allied Groups.

Nothing to report in this period.

1421 Media/Communication.

Four Media releases regarding; spring fishing/school holidays, opening of the 2024/25 season, promoting the season being off to a great start, and the Lake Mapourika trout survey/the quality of our lake fisheries.

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.

Summer compliance work is being conducted. The focus has been in South Westland river lower reaches in the evenings and holiday spots during public holidays.

1521 Ranger Training.

Nothing to report in this period.

1531 Prosecutions.

Nothing to report in this period.

1611 Licence Production & Distribution.

Steady flow of licence sales for both Family and Adult for this season. Good numbers of juniors and children also attaining licences.

1621 Agent Liaison.

Regular visit to agents. Frequently stocked with access guides, how to guides, child licence pads and excess F&G magazine from 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 was required in the West Coast Region as there were less than 9 nominations. A first meeting of the new Council took place on 12th November. Peter Bayliss was appointed Chair and Sam Speight was appointed NZ Council Member.

1831 Annual Public Meeting & Report.

The Annual report audit process is complete with some minor amendments to internal processes recommended. See Audit Report from BDO.

1841 National Liaison.

Communication with other region regarding regulations, field equipment, spawning habitat assessment and fishery management. One in person Managers meeting attended which covered Budgeting, HPAI protocols, Staffing, RMA, and Public Awareness. The Administrators group has been meeting regularly to discuss administrative issues such as Annual Reporting and Budgeting.

1910 Staff Salaries & Payroll.

Baylee Kersten was promoted to Senior Fish and Game Officer.

1940 Office Premises.

General Maintenance including lawns and cleaning.

1950 Office Equipment

A laptop was purchased and set up for the Temporary Field Officer role.

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.

1990 Vehicles

All vehicles are up to date for their on-road requirements. New retailer in Hokitika for a Bridgestone agent, we can use AOG pricing there which has proved very good pricing on excellent quality tyres for the work vehicles.

Staff Recommendation:

That this report be received.