

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Central South Island Fish and Game Council held in the Boardroom, 32 Richard Pearse Drive, Temuka, on Thursday 16 August 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Present: J Cruden P McLauchlan
B Growcott G Rooney (Chairman)
M Hall W Spry
D Isbister J Henry (Ngai Tahu)
Bill Whipp

In Attendance:

Staff: J Graybill (Chief Executive), B Dolan (Office Administrator), A Christensen (Resource Officer), R Adams (Fish and Game Officer), H Stevens (Fish and Game Officer), M Webb (Fish and Game Officer) and J Couper (Fish and Game Officer).

18-031 APOLOGIES:

L Koevoet

AGREED that the apology of L Koevoet be accepted

18-032 COUNCILLOR INTEREST REGISTER:

Chairman queried if Councillors had any new interests to add to the register. No additions were notified.

18-033 HEALTH & SAFETY:

Chief Executive pointed out exit points of the building and assembly points for evacuation of the premises.

18-034 NOTICE OF GENERAL BUSINESS:

- RDR Hearings (MH)
- Fish and Game Website (MH)

18-035 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 14 June 2018:

Resolved (Spry/Whipp)

18-023

THAT THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF 14 JUNE 2018 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.

18-036 BUDGET AND FINANCE:

036.1 Financial Reports & Expense Listing

Resolved (Cruden/Isbister)

18-024

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE FINANCIAL REPORTS AND RATIFIES THE EXPENSE LISTINGS FOR JUNE AND JULY 2018 IN THE GST INCLUSIVE AMOUNTS OF \$118,374.90 AND \$70,260.40, RESPECTIVELY.



18-037 PUBLIC ISSUES FORUM:

037.1 RDR Consents

P Hodgson addressed Council on behalf of salmon anglers advising that the South Canterbury Salmon Anglers Association have appealed against the decision from the Hearing Panel re RDR consents. He read out the following for Council to consider:

“That CSIFG join the angler’s appeal, via section 274, so that FG’s resources, expertise, and experts are made available to support salmon anglers in their appeal against the RDR Hearing Decisions for the benefit of salmon fishery.”

G Rooney declared his conflict of interest and offered to leave the Council boardroom if Council or any one member of the public wished him to do so. As no one present expressed their wish for G Rooney to leave the view of the Council was that G Rooney remain. G Rooney handed over the chairing of the meeting for this discussion to the Chief Executive advising that Council were happy to listen to what the anglers had to say.

Chief Executive read out the position of CSI Fish and Game on the RDR consents appeal. The position is as follows:

- *CSI is joining an appeal against Canterbury Regional Council’s decision on applications by Rangitata Diversion Race Limited as a S274 party.*
- *CSI is joining on the appeal points raised by Paul Hodgson, South Canterbury Salmon Anglers Association, Future Rivers Trust and NZ Salmon Anglers Association Inc. These points include:*
 - o *Construction and maintenance of the fish bypass,*
 - o *The 5-cumec take and discharge for operation of the fish pass,*
 - o *Construction of the fish screen, and*
 - o *The additional 10-cumec take by the RDR as it relates to effects on the lower river.*
- *CSI Fish and Game has the same goal of restoring the salmon fishery of the Rangitata that is in a serious state of decline.*
- *CSI will be assisting the anglers by being involved in the appeal and mediation processes and retaining its experts who have given consideration to the concerns they raise.*
- *CSI won’t be speaking further on the matter as it is a “live” appeal. It should also be noted that matters addressed at mediation are done so on a strictly confidential basis.*

Chief Executive advised that he was made aware that one of CSI’s expert witnesses had been contacted directly by Mr Hodgson. He stated it is not usual protocol for an appellant to consult with another party’s expert witness without the knowledge of that party. Chief Executive requested that any requests or discussions with CSI’s expert witnesses by Mr Hodgson in future are to come through the Chief Executive.

General discussion ensued. Chief Executive presented flow data over the last 5 decades to help address anglers concerns on the issue of sediment. He re-iterated this question to the appellants: “can they bring forward new evidence that is likely to convince the Environment Court to change the Panels decision?”

P Hodgson thanked Council for the discussion and G Rooney resumed chairing the meeting.



18-038 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:

038.1 National Sea-Run Salmon Committee Report

The CSI Council considered the report of the Salmon Committee received via email on 7 August. It was noted that the report was received two days before the CSI Council meeting papers were sent to Councillors, which left little time for a background review to be prepared for the Council.

The CSI Council considered each of the four actions in turn.

Action 1 – *“Fill in the attached tables on wild salmon numbers and hatchery salmon numbers.”*

Council noted it had little time to attempt this task.

Action 2 – *“We also ask your Council to agree that the decline in spawning numbers has to stop as a matter of priority and we ask you to support the action below.”*

Council **AGREED** that the decline in spawning numbers has to be addressed as a matter of priority however Council believe there is insufficient information to support the specific action mentioned but agreed in principle that a threshold could be considered.

Action 3 – *“We would like Councils to adopt some or all of the following options when they next set angling resolutions.”* Nine actions were listed.

Council **AGREED** that each of the actions listed has merit, but do not agree that they must be “adopted” one year in advance of the next angler notice review. However, it was **AGREED** that they are worthy of consideration at the next angler notice review. Reasons for opposing “adopting” these now is that clarification and definition of the individual actions is needed, there needs to be co-ordination amongst South Island regions to ensure consistency of regulations between regions and measures need to be taken to inform anglers and to “bring them along”.

Action 4 – *“Support for amending the 2018/19 anglers notice to reduce salmon catch rates to halt the decline in spawning numbers.”*

Council noted that similar problems as described for Action 3 above, apply here. Time would be too short to gain a consistent approach amongst regions, it would be sprung on anglers without any notice or consultation, it would be expensive to reprint regulation booklets and additionally, could cause compliance issues. Examples of the latter would be that if an angler received an infringement notice based on the “new regulations”, all they would have to do is present to the court the booklet with the “original” regulations and the case would likely fail to achieve conviction.

General View

The CSI Council **AGREED** that the best it could do with limited time for review was to note that aspects of the actions have merit but there needs to be lead time for due consideration in order to co-ordinate with regions, make consistent, and involve and inform anglers.



Resolved (Whipp/Spry)

18-025

THAT CHIEF EXECUTIVE ADVISE THE NATIONAL SEA-RUN SALMON COMMITTEE OF COUNCILS VIEWS ON THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT AS DETAILED ABOVE.

Salmon Committee Terms of Reference

The Salmon Committee Terms of Reference were provided with the Salmon Committee report with the request for feedback on these documents.

Specific Terms of Reference that the CSI Council queried are as follows:

ToR 9 – *“The committee shall for membership, draw on the voluntary contribution of governors within Fish and Game who have a special interest in the salmon and staff with expertise in matters relating to the salmon fishery”*

Council noted that as far as they were aware no Fish & Game staff with expertise in the salmon fishery management had been invited to assist or give advice to the Committee. Council felt that tapping such expertise would add value to the workings of the Salmon Committee.

Resolved (Growcott/Whipp)

18-026

THAT THE SALMON COMMITTEE ACTION ‘TOR 9’ TO INCLUDE FISH AND GAME STAFF WITH EXPERTISE RELATED TO THE SALMON FISHERY MANAGEMENT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE.

It was noted that two Terms of Reference that the CSI Council had reviewed and commented on in February 2018 had been significantly altered when compared to the Terms of Reference provided on 7 August in the Salmon Committee paper. These included:

1. The February draft ToRs makes mention of *“Assist in the review of the South Island Salmon Management Plan with the view of making better use of its strategic base”*. Council noted that this provision had been dropped from the recent ToR. They believed that the Salmon Management Plan covers most of the issues being addressed by the Salmon Committee and they encouraged all members to become acquainted with this plan to avoid repeating the work already done and outcomes that have already been achieved.

Resolved (Hall/Isbister)

18-027

THAT A COPY OF THE SOUTH ISLAND SALMON MANAGEMENT PLAN BE PROVIDED TO THE SALMON COMMITTEE AS INPUT TO THEIR CONSIDERATIONS AND ACTIONS MOVING FORWARD.



2. Council noticed that ToR 17 had been altered to remove the provision for the Salmon Committee to report on activities to “regional Fish and Game Councils” yet it states that the Committee is to report on activities to “other stakeholders.”

Resolved (Whipp/Spry)

18-028

THAT ‘TOR 17’ BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE THAT THE SALMON COMMITTEE REPORT ON ACTIVITIES TO REGIONAL FISH AND GAME COUNCILS.

18-039 OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS:

039.1 Activity Reports & Operations Reports (10.1)

Staff responded to general queries from Councillors related to topics in their activities reports that were provided for information.

18-040 NZFGC MATTERS:

M Hall provided an update on NZC matters from the 16th August 2018 meeting held in Wellington. Topics included:

- John Cumberpatch (North Canterbury Councillor) resignation
- National consistency on financial reporting and accounting
- RMA funds and cash reserves of regions
- Ways to increase LEQ’s by 1,800
- Audit policy for F&G regions
- CSI licence sales continue to increase
- Fish and Game elections
- National Sea-run Salmon Committee
- Horizons District Council and associated media coverage.

18-041 GENERAL BUSINESS:

041.1 CSI Website (MH)

M Hall noted that even though all Councillors are in receipt of the report on the Trial of the Effectiveness of a Rock Bund for excluding fish it is yet to be discussed by the CSI Council.

Resolved (Hall/Isbister)

18-029

THAT THE REPORT ON THE TRIAL OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A PERMEABLE ROCK BUND FOR EXCLUDING FISH AT THE RANGITATA WATER LIMITED INTAKE BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA FOR THE 18TH OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING.

Resolved (Whipp/Spry) at 10:10 pm

18-030

THAT COUNCIL MOVE INTO PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION TO MAINTAIN LEGAL PROFESSIONAL PRIVILEGE.

Meeting resumed in open forum at 11:40 pm.



041.3 RDR Hearings

It was resolved in the public excluded session (Spry/Hall) that the following resolutions adopted in public excluded be recorded in the public minutes.

Resolved (Cruden/McLauchlan)

18-031

THAT CSIFG WRITES TO ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY TO SIGNAL THE NEED FOR A PLAN CHANGE TO CHAPTER 12 - ALPINE RIVERS OF THE LWRP TO ADDRESS HIGH FLOW ALLOCATION IN THE RANGITATA RIVER.

Resolved (Whipp/Spry)

18-032

THAT CSIFG WRITES TO THE NZ FISH AND GAME COUNCIL, AFTER CORRESPONDENCE HAS BEEN SENT TO ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY, TO ADVISE THEM OF CSIFG'S ACTION OF SIGNALLING TO ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY THE NEED FOR A PLAN CHANGE TO CHAPTER 12 - ALPINE RIVERS OF THE LWRP TO ADDRESS HIGH FLOW ALLOCATION IN THE RANGITATA RIVER.

Resolved (Whipp/Isbister)

18-033

THAT CSIFG DOES NOT WRITE TO THE MINISTERS ABOUT THE OMISSION IN THE RANGITATA WATER CONSERVATION ORDER AND THE LACK OF PLANNING UNDER CANTERBURY LAND AND WATER REGIONAL PLAN.

Resolved (Isbister/Spry)

18-034

THAT CSIFG DOES NOT WRITE TO THE HEARING PANEL FOR THE RDR CONSENT.

Resolved (Growcott/Whipp)

18-035

CSIFG MAKES NO COMMENT AS TO THE INADEQUACY OF THE WCO AND CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THESE STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS.

Resolved (Cruden/Hall)

18-036

THAT CSIFG ARE FIRM ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT ACTION NEEDS TO BE TAKEN TO ADDRESS THE INADEQUACY OF THE LAND AND WATER REGIONAL PLAN.

Meeting closed: 11:42 pm.

Next Council Meeting – 18 October 2018.

Signed _____

Date 18/10/18