

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Central South Island Fish and Game Council held ONLINE, on Thursday 21 May 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Present: A Brooks
S Bannister
C Fulton
S Gerard
B Growcott
D Isbister
L Koevoet
C McKenzie
A Simpson (Chair)
J Henry (Ngai Tahu)

In Attendance:

F&G Staff: J Graybill (Chief Executive), B Dolan (Office Administrator), R Adams, M Webb, H Stevens and J Couper (Fish and Game Officers).

20-026 APOLOGIES:

M Hall.

Resolved (Koevoet/Gerard)

20-025

THAT THE APOLOGY OF M HALL BE ACCEPTED.

20-027 COUNCILLOR INTEREST REGISTER:

Chair queried if Councillors had any new interests to add to the register? None were advised.

20-028 HEALTH & SAFETY:

None required due to online meeting.

20-029 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 19 MARCH 2020:

Resolved (McKenzie/Koevoet)

20-026

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 19 MARCH 2020 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.

20-030 DOC LIAISON:

No representative from DoC attended the meeting.

20-031 ECAN LIAISON:

No representative from Environment Canterbury attended the meeting.

20-032 RECEIVE OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS:

Resolved (Isbister/Koevoet)

20-027

THAT THE OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS OF 21 MAY 2020 BE RECEIVED.



20-033 BUDGET AND FINANCE:

016.1 Financial Reports & Expense Listing

Chief Executive gave Council an update on the CSI financial situation and noted that overall income will be down on account of the Covid-19 situation. Some Councillors expressed concern at the high levy CSI still pays into the system with its income being down. Chief Executive explained that the levy is set at the beginning of each financial year and is the difference between projected income and budgeted expenditure. Chair advised that our decrease in income will be reflected in next year's levies.

Resolved (Brooks/Gerard)

20-028

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND RATIFIES THE SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2020 IN THE GST INCLUSIVE AMOUNTS OF \$85,820.83, AND \$87,595.06, RESPECTIVELY.

20-034 CHAIR'S REPORT:

034.1 CSI Finances (8.1)

Chair advised that CSI would be under severe financial pressure for the rest of this term of Council. He advised the CE has proposed some savings cutting back on discretionary expenditure.

034.2 NZ Council Communication (8.2)

Chair advised that the NZ Council Chair, Paul Shortis joined the meeting of SI Chairs for an informal discussion of issues confronting regions. Paul advised he wished to maintain collaboration with Regional Chief Executives and Chairs with the mind to have regional input into review of Fish and Game.

034.3 CSI Strategic Planning Workshop (8.3)

Chair advised that Geoff Thorn was pleased to receive input from Councillors as requested and proposed that the next meeting to fine tune strategic goals and outcomes be held on 27 May. This was agreed to by Council.

20-035 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:

035.1 Risk Register (9.1)

Chief Executive presented the Risk Register as requested by Council for review. He advised that this was a working document so sought input or suggestions. It was noted that the decline of the sea-run trout fishery could be added, and CE agreed to look at this.

035.2 Angler Notice 2020/2021 (9.2)

Council were provided with a report outlining submissions received and staff recommendations for the 2020/21 Angler Notice.

1. Season Bag Limit for Sea-Run Salmon

Chair noted that S Gerard had put a late paper to Council and invited him to speak to it. S Gerard felt that the limit for salmon for a season bag should be 2 instead of the staff recommendation of 4. He cited the Willis report and the salmon fishery being in crisis for his reasoning. Councillors felt that moving to a limit of 2 for a season bag was too restrictive for anglers as a starting point and recognised that staff from CSI and NC have undertaken a significant amount of work on an adaptive management regime. It was noted that both regions had agreed that a season bag of 4 was a reasonable starting point at a joint workshop of NC and CSI Councils in late 2019.

a staff report,

A SEASON BAG LIMIT OF FOUR SEA-RUN SALMON IN TOTAL FOR ALL OF THE CSIFGC REGION'S SEA-RUN SALMON FISHERIES FOR THE 2020/21 SEASON.

Rationale

The season bag provides a simpler and more even-handed method for implementing significant control on angler catch instead of a number of less significant area or season restrictions. Only one condition is required to achieve a saving on harvest to meet the spawning target and this is particularly important when a 20% or greater improvement in spawning population size is required.

[Statement of Intent: That if North Canterbury Fish and Game also adopt a 4-season limit bag on sea-run salmon then the bag would be 4 sea-run salmon across both regions and not 4 for each individual region].

AMEND CONDITION 6.1 OF SCHEDULE 1 (NATIONAL REGULATIONS) SO THAT RESTRICTIONS APPLYING TO FISHING AFTER TAKING A LIMIT BAG ALSO APPLY TO A SEASON BAG.

2. Close Rangitata River for Salmon Fishing above Klondyke

Council received two submissions from anglers re the Upper Rangitata River season length for salmon. One was to close salmon fishing above RDR intake at Klondyke and the other was for no change to the current regulation.

SUBJECT TO ACCEPTANCE OF RECOMMENDATION 1 FOR A SEASON BAG LIMIT OF 4 SALMON FOR ALL CSI AND NC SEA-RUN CHINOOK SALMON FISHERIES, NO CHANGE IS RECOMMENDED TO THE SEASON OPENING AND CLOSING DATES FOR SALMON FISHING ABOVE THE RDR INTAKE AT KLONDYKE.

Rationale

That harvest restrictions should be applied evenly to spread the hardship rather than target a particular angling method or area.

3. Open Season for Sea-Run Salmon Fishing

Moved (Isbister/Fulton)

Subject to Council's adoption of recommendations 1. to 3., in the Central South Island Fish and Game Region the Open Season shall be 1 October 2020 to 30 April 2021.

The motion was put and declared **LOST**.

Resolved (Koevoet/Brooks) (6 for, 2 against)

20-032

SUBJECT TO COUNCIL'S ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS 1. TO 3., IN THE CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME REGION THE OPEN SEASON FOR FISHING FOR SEA-RUN SALMON IN THE CSIFG REGION SHALL BE FROM 1 OCTOBER TO 31 MARCH.

Resolved (Gerard/Koevoet) (4 for, 2 against)

20-033

THE DAILY BAG LIMIT SHALL BE ONE SEA-RUN SALMON.

4. Reduction in Lake Heron Salmon Bag Limit

S Gerard spoke to his paper that he wished to reduce the daily limit of sports fish on Lake Heron to 0 instead of the staff recommendation of a limit of 4 sports fish. He cited the Willis report and the salmon fishery being in crisis for his reasoning.

Chairman asked H Stevens to speak to his recommendation of 4 sports fish. H Stevens advised that within Lake Heron the three-year old lake-type salmon provide an important recreational fishery that is highly valued by anglers. This area has had a higher harvest than 4 fish for the last 30 years and the fishery is currently sustaining this harvest. He believed reducing the bag limit from 6 to 4 sports fish is an adequate signal to anglers that change may be coming in the future.

Resolved (Koevoet/Growcott) (5 for, 4 against)

20-034

LAKE HERON DAILY BAG LIMIT BE FOUR SPORTS FISH. THE MINIMUM LENGTH FOR SALMON KILLED IN LAKE HERON SHALL BE 250MM AND THE MAXIMUM LENGTH SHALL BE 450MM.

5. Upper Ohau River Spring Season Opening

Moved (Fulton/McKenzie)

That Council notify a 1 October 2020 to 30 April 2021 open season for the upper Ohau River.

The motion was put and declared **LOST**.

Resolved (Isbister/Fulton) (6 for, 2 against)

20-035

TO REVOKE THE PREVIOUS MOTION DUE TO CONFUSION AS TO WHAT THE RECOMMENDATION MEANT.

Resolved (McKenzie/Brooks) 4 for, 2 against, 1 abstention

20-036

THAT COUNCIL NOTIFY A 1 OCTOBER 2020 TO 30 APRIL 2021 OPEN SEASON FOR THE UPPER OHAU RIVER.

Rationale

Angler surveys over the 2019/20 season established that the September-October 2019 spring-season on the upper Ohau River provided a highly valued and satisfying fishing

experience. This validated the efforts of CSI and Meridian to invest in spawning habitat enhancement and to introduce the unique spring-season.

Given staff concern at the potential for angler use and catch in September 2021 to reach unsustainable levels and anglers to become dissatisfied with the experience it is recommend that for the spring-season of 2021, a precautionary approach is taken and the month of September 2021 is closed to fishing in the upper Ohau River.

035.3 CSI Council Financial Position (9.3)

Chief Executive noted that he had updated Council on its financial position during an informal workshop held on 30 April via video conference. At that time, he presented a recast 2019/20 budget showing savings to the end of the 2019/20 FY. He recommended that Council receive that budget.

Resolved (Koevoet/Brooks)

20-037

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE RECAST 2019/20 BUDGET AS AT 30 APRIL 2020.

20-036 NZFGC REPORT:

D Isbister gave a verbal update on issues that NZ Council have before them noting a significant amount of work was undertaken to enable hunters to have their game season under Covid-19.

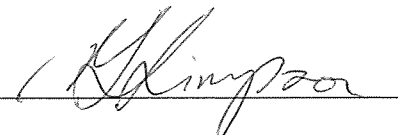
He advised NZC has a new Chair, Paul Shortis, and felt that his appointment was positive move for the organisation going forward. He added that there has been an indication from the Minister that she is keen on reviewing Fish and Game but as yet the Ministry doesn't appear to have decided on any details.

20-037 INWARD CORRESPONDENCE:

None, due to mail restrictions of Covid-19 lockdown.

Meeting closed: 10:08 pm.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday 16 July 2020

Signed  Date 16 July 2020