

FISH AND GAME NEW ZEALAND  
WEST COAST REGION

# SPORTS FISH AND GAME MANAGEMENT PLAN

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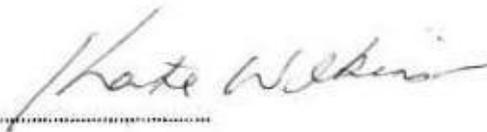
To manage, maintain and enhance the sports fish  
and game resource in the recreational interests of  
anglers and hunters



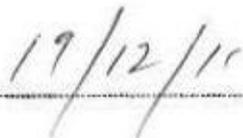
AIRPORT DRIVE  
PO BOX 179 HOKITIKA

Pursuant to section 17M(2)(g) of the Conservation Act 1987,

I hereby approve the Sports Fish and Game Management  
Plan 2011-2021 for the West Coast Fish and Game Region,  
administered by the West Coast Fish and Game Council.

Signed.....

Hon Kate Wilkinson  
Minister of Conservation

Date.....

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**FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

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I am pleased to present the Sportsfish and Game Management Plan for the West Coast Fish and Game Council.

This plan has been prepared in line with the statutory responsibilities of Fish and Game West Coast following extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. It identifies issues and establishes goals, objectives, and implementation methods for all output classes. While it provides an excellent snapshot-in-time of Fish and Game West Coast it should be noted that, as well as ongoing issues, there are likely to be further challenges in the future which will have the potential to impact on angler/hunter opportunities and satisfaction.

To this extent, this plan must be seen as a document designed to be capable of addressing changing requirements by way of the annual workplan and in response to ongoing input from anglers and hunters, as well as other users of fish and game habitat. The West Coast Fish and Game Council welcomes such input.



Andy Harris  
**Chairman**

# SPORTS FISH AND GAME MANAGEMENT PLAN

To manage, maintain and enhance the sports fish and game resource in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The West Coast Fish and Game Council (West Coast Council) is obliged to manage, maintain and enhance the sports fish and game bird resource in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters in its region. This plan sets out the policies which will guide the West Coast Council to meet its statutory responsibilities over the next 10 year time frame.

In particular, the plan summarises the issues which the West Coast Council is obliged to address and the methods it will use to achieve its primary function. The plan also provides summary information on the nature of the sports fish and game bird resource in the region and the relative importance of its subcomponents.

## PART ONE

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### THIS MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Section 26Q(1)(e)(iii) of the Conservation Act 1987 requires each regional Fish and Game Council to prepare a sports fish and game bird management plan. According to the Act, the council in devising the plan should have regard to:

- the sustainability of sports fish and game birds in a Fish and Game region
- the impact that the management of fish and game resources will have on other resources and users of the environment
- provisions which maximise recreational opportunities for anglers and hunters.

It is also intended that the goals and objectives set out in this plan will allow the West Coast Council to meet its statutory requirements under section 17L(3) of the Conservation Act – to maximise the opportunities for sustainable use of the region’s sports fish and game bird resource by anglers and hunters.

The Conservation Act 1987 also requires that nothing in this plan “shall derogate from”:

- any provision of the Act or any other Act
- any policy approved under the Act or any other Act in respect of the region
- any provision in any conservation management strategy or conservation management plan or freshwater fisheries plan.

The overall intent however, is to produce a plan that addresses the management of fish and game resources within the region while taking into consideration the reasonable views of all stakeholders. In this context, there are essentially four target audiences:

1. The councillors and staff of the West Coast Council who will use the plan to direct the management of sports fish and game resources and their recreational use in the West Coast region
2. Statutory authorities such as the West Coast Regional Council, the three District Councils and Department of Conservation must have regard to this plan once approved and recognise the priorities and intentions set out in the plan.
3. Fish and Game licence holders
4. Other user groups of sports fish and game bird habitats

This plan sets out to improve fish and game management in the West Coast region by:

- involving stakeholders in the management process
- reducing conflict among fish and game user groups
- improving the methods used in fish and game management efforts

- improving communication over fish and game management
- maximising angling and hunting opportunities in the region.

The plan promotes goals and objectives, but does not give specific detail about outputs or implementation. More specific projects will come from the West Coast Council's Annual Work Plan and other specific implementation plans.

Prior to submitting a draft of this management plan for approval by the Minister of Conservation, this plan has been prepared and notified according to the requirements of subsection (2) of section 17M of the Act to:

- daily newspapers circulating within the region
- the Director General of Conservation, through the Conservator
- Iwi Authorities
- the Buller, Grey and Westland District Councils and West Coast Regional Council
- West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board
- Federated Farmers and other interested parties

The Plan is divided into five parts. Part One introduces the Plan, Part Two sets out the goals, objectives and outputs, Part Three describes the processes and responsibilities, Part Four provides an overview of the region's resources and Part Five contains supporting material.

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## INTRODUCTION

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The West Coast region is one of twelve Fish and Game regions in New Zealand.

In 1990 the management of New Zealand's sports fish and gamebird resources was restructured by an amendment to the Conservation Act 1987. The former Acclimatisation Societies were replaced by twelve Regional Councils and one National Council. These Councils became Crown Entities with specific functions, responsibilities and powers to manage sports fish and game birds, as specified in Sections 26 Q, 26 R, and 26 S of the Act. Subsequently, with the introduction of the Crown Entities Act 2004, they ceased to be Crown Entities and became Public Entities. Their functions, responsibilities and powers under the Conservation Act and wildlife act remain unchanged.

'Fish and Game New Zealand' is the operating name of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) and the twelve regional Fish and Game councils established to represent the interests of anglers and hunters. Fish and Game councils are the statutory managers of sports fish and game bird resources and their sustainable recreational use by anglers and hunters New Zealand wide, except in the Lake Taupo catchment, where the trout fishery is managed by the Department of Conservation as though it was a Fish and Game Council.

The sports fish and game bird resource and income arising from it are the property of the Crown. Fish and Game councils are empowered to administer these resources on the Crown's behalf.

Fish and Game New Zealand receives no government funding and its activity is financed mainly through the sale of sports fish and game bird licences. Anglers and hunters purchase licences to fish or hunt and in return have input to the sports fish and game bird management in their region. Councillors are anglers and or hunters elected through a democratic process by whole season licence holders.

The West Coast Fish and Game region extends from Kahurangi Point in the North to Awarua Point (Big Bay) in South Westland. It is bounded to the east by the Southern Alps and to the west by the Tasman sea.

The main purpose of the West Coast Council, as set out in Section 26Q is to:

*"Manage, maintain and enhance the sports fish and gamebird resource in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters."*

In fulfilling this purpose, the primary functions of the Council are to:

- assess and monitor sports fish and game populations, habitats and harvests.
- assess and monitor angler and hunter satisfaction.
- maintain and improve the sports fish and game bird resource.
- provide information and promote angling and hunting.
- represent the interests of anglers and hunters in the statutory planning process.

The West Coast Council cannot consist of more than 12 elected members. Only those who hold a current adult whole season licence to fish for sports fish or hunt for game birds are eligible to become members of the Council through the election process.

Council also has a non-voting member from Ngai Tahu under the terms of the settlement Act for that iwi. In addition, the Director General of Conservation or his/her delegate is entitled to attend



## PART TWO

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### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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The objectives presented in this plan have been developed around two goals that reflect the general mission of the West Coast Council.

1. Manage, maintain and enhance the sports fish and game resource
2. Maximise recreational angling and hunting opportunities

Critical to the development of this plan and its subsequent implementation are associated methods for communication and education, which are intertwined with the two goals. The objectives associated with each goal are not prioritised, but managing and maintaining the resource must take priority over maximising and enhancing recreational angling and hunting opportunities should conflicts occur.

In promoting these two goals, the Conservation Act also requires sports fish and game bird management plans to have regard to the impact that the management proposed is likely to have on other natural resources and other users of the habitat concerned.

#### **GOAL 1:           MANAGE, MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THE SPORTS FISH AND GAME RESOURCE**

Most species management in the West Coast region is undertaken through habitat protection. While many species are monitored, there is minimal direct intervention to increase the numbers of fish and game species, other than a limited number of releases of hatchery reared fish into waters where recruitment is insufficient or to enhance fisheries for junior anglers and new entrants into the sport. In managing habitat, maintaining it is more effective than trying to restore it after it is damaged or destroyed. The West Coast Council recognises the direct relationship between the abundance of sports fish and game bird species and the quality and quantity of habitat available to them through the course of their life cycle. Populations of the region's sports fish and game bird species are generally sufficiently well established to sustain a recreational harvest. This means it is possible to manage populations through the management of habitat, the species themselves and the extent of the recreational harvest.

Key objectives for sports fish and game bird management are to:

1. Maintain sustainable populations of harvestable sports fish and game bird species.
2. Protect and increase habitat for sports fish and game.
3. Ensure a sustainable harvest of the resource by setting and enforcing fishing and hunting season regulations.
4. Have regard to the effects of fish and game management activities on other natural resources and resource users.

#### **GOAL 2:           MAXIMISE RECREATIONAL ANGLING AND HUNTING OPPORTUNITY**

Anglers and hunters comprise a diverse group with a broad spectrum of experience, skill, leisure time, financial means and fishing or hunting preferences. In attempting to maximise their fishing and hunting opportunities, the West Coast Council is required to have regard to the impacts of its management on other natural resources and other users of the resource.

Key objectives for maximising recreational angling and hunting opportunity are to:

1. Encourage maximum angler and hunter participation and maintain the quality of the recreational experience.
2. To gain and maintain acceptance of the recreation of sports fishing and game bird hunting in the wider community.
3. Maximise the sale of angling and hunting licences in the region.
4. Provide for the governance of the fish and game system by fish and game licence holders.
5. Ensure the planned and coordinated management of the sports fish and game bird resource.
6. Maintain relationships with landowners/resource managers who provide access to sports fish and game habitat and/or angling and hunting opportunities.

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## POLICY AND METHODS OF IMPLEMENTATION

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The objectives listed above will be achieved through the Council's annual operational work plans. The structure of this section of the Management Plan follows the eight functional areas (output classes) used in Fish and Game New Zealand's annual operational work plans. These output classes are used for management purposes in all Fish and Game regions and at a national level.

### OUTPUT CLASS 1: SPECIES

The Council manages a range of sports fish and game bird species in the West Coast Region. Species management programmes are required for these species to ensure the populations remain healthy and to ensure that there is sufficient annual surplus to enable sustainable harvest by anglers and hunters. The availability of sports fish and game birds is the most fundamental component of angling and hunting making it a core activity for the West Coast Council.

Monitoring of populations and their trends over time and maintaining this information in up to date databases is essential. Sports fish monitoring techniques include drift dive surveys, spawning surveys, electro-fishing, otolith/scale analysis and angler surveys. Game monitoring techniques are derived from Fish and Game standard operating procedures and include annual aerial counts, roadside transects, static counts, annual harvest surveys, hunter surveys with robust statistical analysis applied to data. Funding of species specific research is also an important management tool. Collection of baseline data must be maintained, but reviewed from time to time and changes to programmes made as required.

*Objective: To maintain sustainable populations of harvestable sports fish and game bird species*

*Achievement of this objective requires:*

- 1. Assessing and monitoring populations of sports fish and game bird species*
- 2. Assessing and monitoring harvest levels*
- 3. Setting regulations for sustainable harvests*
- 4. Mitigating any adverse impacts on sports fish and game bird species*
- 5. Mitigating the impact of sports fish and game bird species on other users and uses of the habitat*
- 6. Releases of hatchery reared fish where required to compensate for insufficient natural recruitment.*
- 7. Recognition that aviation safety in the vicinity of airports is paramount and care must be taken to ensure that population levels and hunter activity do not compromise such.*

#### **Issues:**

1. Without sustainable management of sports fish and game birds there is potential for these resources to become depleted.
2. Without information about the status and trends of sports fish and game bird populations, good management decisions cannot be made.
3. Without monitoring information involvement in Resource Management Act 1991 processes may not be effective.
4. Monitoring must be cost-effective and produce scientifically robust, useful and useable information.
5. Future information requirements can be difficult to identify.
6. It would not be in the long-term interests of recreational hunting to allow gamebird management to compromise aviation safety in the vicinity of airports.

## OUTPUT CLASS 2: HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

There is a direct relationship between the abundance of sports fish and game birds and the quality and quantity of habitat available to them. Natural habitat is for all practical purposes finite in nature and elements of it are often sought by other uses and users.

Intensification of agriculture, fragmentation and inundation of river systems through hydro-electric power schemes, contaminant discharges to waterways, damage to riparian margins, vegetation clearance, mining, wetland drainage and river control works have, or have potential to negatively impacted on sports fish and game bird habitats in the region. Development activities continue to threaten the quality and quantity of available habitat.

The long term effects of *Didymosphenia geminata* on the aquatic ecosystem and sports fishery is unknown and remains a concern. Detected colonisations have generally not developed into full blown infestations in the West Coast region. Fish and Game New Zealand may still have a substantial role to play in the management and control of this and similar invasive organisms and with any ongoing research of their effects on the environment, particularly if proposed hydro-electric power schemes are constructed.

Habitat protection is the specific responsibility of regional territorial councils (Resource Management Act 1991) and the Department of Conservation (Conservation Act 1987). The West Coast Council will continue to seek the implementation of these statutory responsibilities and encourage other habitat users to accept responsibility for avoiding, remedying or mitigating their adverse environmental effects.

Non-statutory processes may also be used to achieve protection of sports fish and game bird habitat. Proactive cooperation with other resource management organisations, iwi, interest groups and individuals in the wider community can be used to realise positive outcomes for fish and game management.

The Council owns 96ha of freehold land designated Part Reserve 1180 at Mahinapua. The reserve is an approximate 20 metre strip encompassing the margins of Lake Mahinapua and its outlet creek. The reserve was gazetted by the Crown as a Fauna and Flora reserve. It is an intact coastal wetland complex with abundant gamebird and wetland bird species. The West Coast Council has sourced funding to fence the boundary with neighbouring farmland to exclude stock and protect important waterfowl breeding areas. The Council has made a section available for the Westland Wilderness Trail as a chance to showcase and advocate for wetland habitats. The Council may well have significant input into the development of interpretive media along the trail.

Habitat maintenance and enhancement is an important tool in the management of the sports fish and game bird resource. Ensuring that sufficient habitat is available to maintain self-sustaining populations of sports fish and game birds and angling and hunting opportunities have become a major activity for Fish and Game New Zealand in recent years.

*Objective To protect and increase suitable habitat for sports fish and game bird species*

*Achievement of this objective requires:*

- *Assessing and monitoring the condition and trend of sports fish and game bird habitat in the region*
- *Advocating for the protection and increase of sports fish and game bird habitats through statutory planning and non-statutory processes*
- *Advocating for the exclusion, eradication or effective management of risks posed by pests and diseases to sports fish and game bird habitats*
- *Managing, maintaining and enhancing game bird habitats owned, managed or supported by the Council*

- *Promoting habitat protection and enhancement on private land through funding providers.*

**Issues:**

1. There has been loss of wetland habitat through land development in the region.
2. It is difficult to manage sports fish and game bird habitat on private land.
3. Modification of lowland catchments has adversely affected trout habitat and angling values.
4. Decisions, such as rules and plans made by external statutory bodies may sometimes have detrimental effects on sports fish and game bird habitat.
5. There is relatively low public awareness of the importance of many ecosystems and habitats, or the degraded state of some of these.

**OUTPUT CLASS 3: PARTICIPATION**

The West Coast Council has a statutory requirement to promote recreation based on sports fish and game bird resources. With its revenue base dependant on licence sales, it is also in the West Coast Council's interest to encourage potential anglers and hunters to take up these recreational activities. It is equally important that current anglers and hunters gain satisfaction from these activities and the factors that may limit participation are minimised. At the same time the West Coast Council must ensure that increased use of the sports fish and game bird resource does not compromise their sustainability or the quality of the experience.

Protection of the quality of the angling experience, which may include feelings of solitude, remoteness and appreciation of natural surroundings and high water quality, must remain a priority for the West Coast Council. Too much angling pressure can diminish the perceived value of the fishery (Walrond and Hayes 1999). Similar pressures have not yet had a major impact on hunting, but it is likely this will occur as the opportunities elsewhere in New Zealand diminish and the reputation of New Zealand as a hunting destination grows.

The maintenance of a positive and mutually supportive relationship with licence holders, including prospective, present and past participants, is critical for the ongoing success of the West Coast Council to enable anglers and hunters to maximise opportunities in the region.

Nationally the availability of access to sports fishing and game bird hunting has been identified as a significant factor in limiting participation. Maintenance and improvement of access opportunities to the region's sports fish and game bird resource is a key responsibility for the West Coast Council.

Despite national trends legal access to water and land for angling and hunting has generally not been a major issue for the region and it is important that licence holders are aware of the opportunities that still exist. Anglers and hunters need to be informed of the areas open to them, how to reach these areas, and where public access points are located. Signposting of significant angling and hunting access points enable licence holders to easily identify opportunities.

With predominantly brown trout fisheries throughout the region there are few opportunities for junior and new anglers to catch naïve fish. In response the West Coast Council has instigated a program to enhance existing rainbow trout fisheries and one intensively stocked 'enhanced fishery' in the Kawhaka Race, near Kumara. The intention is to provide junior and new entrants into the sport with an opportunity to improve their fishing skills. In this way the West Coast Council fulfils its statutory responsibility under the Conservation Act to maintain stocking and breeding programs.

In addition to its statutory requirement to promote recreation based on sports fish and game resources, the West Coast Council also has a role in promoting ethical standards of behaviour.

Ethical standards of behaviour include:

- A desire to have others enjoy their hunting and angling opportunities as much as you.

- Acknowledgment that anglers and hunters often have no audience to ensure they behave ethically and humanely and that such behaviour is self motivated and regulated.
- An individual concern for the well-being of the environment
- Promotion of uses which preserve the diversity, integrity, and beauty of ecosystems and the disapproval of those which do not
- Acknowledgment and use of the accepted rural code of ethics and the importance of maintaining the traditional landowner-recreationalist relationship
- An acceptance that the health of the sports fish and game resource should not be measured by production of game birds and fish alone, but also by its ability to provide intangible values such as an appreciation of wilderness, rivers, lakes and wetlands.

*Objective To encourage maximum angler and hunter participation and maintain the quality of the recreational experience*

*Achievement of this objective requires:*

- *Assessing the success rate and degree of satisfaction of users of the sports fish and game resource*
- *Maintaining and improving angler and hunter access to the resource*
- *Encouraging and providing opportunities for new anglers and hunters to participate in sports fishing and game bird hunting*
- *Publicising matters of interest to licence holders and other users of sports fish and game bird habitats*
- *Defining and promoting ethical standards of behaviour to be followed by anglers and hunters*

#### **Issues:**

1. There is increasing competition for recreational time and money.
2. Young anglers and hunters are an important market and may need assistance to learn about sports fishing and game bird hunting.
3. Anglers and hunters require regular updated information on the sports fish and game bird resources and the recreational opportunities available.
4. Restrictions on access to fishing and hunting opportunities may lead to the creation of exclusive rights to sports fish and game bird populations.
5. Undesirable angler or hunter behaviour may lead to access restrictions or diminish other users' recreational experience.

#### **OUTPUT CLASS 4: PUBLIC AWARENESS**

The protection of sports fish and game and their habitat is dependent on the support of Government, local authorities and the wider community. This requires community appreciation and support for the Fish and Game system.

Management responsibility of the sports fish and game bird resource involves relationships with many other stakeholders, including the Department of Conservation, statutory organisations, iwi, interest groups and members of the wider community. The level of support from these other stakeholders impacts upon the West Coast Council's capacity to successfully achieve its purpose and functions. To be effective, the West Coast Council requires high public awareness of its role and activities, and its contribution to environmental protection and enhancement.

Fish and Game New Zealand is entering a future that involves changing demographics, changing land ownership practices (an increase in overseas, corporate and life-style owners), increasing commercialisation of recreation, and changing attitudes of a growing urban population to practices within the rural sector.

*Objective To gain and maintain acceptance of the recreation of sports fishing and game bird hunting in the wider community and public support for the West Coast Council's statutory role.*

*Achievement of this objective requires:*

- *Having regard to other users of the sports fish and game bird habitat*
- *Promoting recreation based on sports fish and game birds*
- *Keeping the public informed about the statutory role and activities of the West Coast Council.*
- *Liaising with:*

*the Department of Conservation  
landowners and agricultural industry groups  
local Conservation Board and other statutory authorities  
local iwi on matters of potential common interest  
angler and hunter clubs and other environmental interest groups  
media, politicians and wider public*

**Issues:**

1. There is relatively low public awareness of Fish and Game New Zealand's role in sports fish and game bird management and associated conservation work.
2. There is relatively low awareness on the West Coast of the Fish and Game structure, funding and region based management of the sports fish and game resource.
3. The functions and goals of other organisations may affect the interests of the West Coast Council and vice versa.
4. Lack of consultation may result in lost opportunities or unnecessary conflict.
5. With population bases moving towards cities the physical, social and educational benefits of hunting and fishing are becoming less widely recognised.

**OUTPUT CLASS 5: COMPLIANCE**

Maintaining compliance with the region's fishing and hunting season conditions is important to ensure that all anglers and hunters contribute to the costs of fish and game management by purchasing a licence, and to ensure the sustainable management of the sports fish and game resource.

Illegal activities are not condoned by the majority of licence holders. One of the strengths of the Fish and Game system is the ability for users of the resource to self-police their own system.

The size of the West Coast region and the isolation of many of the fishing and hunting areas means that significant coverage by staff is not possible. Honorary Fish and Game Rangers make a large contribution to enforcement and compliance efforts in the region. Fish and Game Rangers are warranted by the Director of the NZ Council and trained and administered by the West Coast Council. Along with staff they are often the front line contact between licence holders and the West Coast Council.

It is important that the West Coast Council effectively encourages reporting of offences and makes use of the assistance of licence holders and the general public to achieve a high level of compliance.

*Objective To ensure a sustainable harvest of the resource by enforcing fishing and hunting regulations*

*Achievement of this objective requires:*

- *Ensuring that there are sufficient resources to enforce fishing and hunting season conditions*
- *Ensuring licence holders and the community are aware of the need for compliance with sports fish and game bird regulations*

- *Achieving an annual 10% coverage of licence holders and seeking a 90% rate of compliance from those anglers/hunters encountered*
- *Undertaking prosecutions for breaches of regulations and seeking publicity of these as a deterrent to others*
- *Recording and monitoring all offences, seizures and court verdicts, ranger register and training programmes*

**Issues:**

1. Poaching and non-compliance with regulations threatens the sustainability of the sportsfish and gamebird resource through reduced funds and decreased populations.
2. In order to protect the interests of law abiding anglers and hunters transgressors must be appropriately dealt with.
3. The West Coast Fish and Game region is vast and sparsely populated. It is difficult to comprehensively enforce regulations across the entire region simultaneously.

**OUTPUT CLASS 6: LICENSING**

The sale of fishing and hunting licences by regions provides the core revenue for Fish and Game New Zealand. Licences purchased in the West Coast region are able to be used nationwide, apart from sports fishing in the Taupo Fishing District.

Part of Fish and Game New Zealand's commitment to improve the services offered to licence holders is to ensure that anglers and hunters can easily purchase a licence. The sale of licences through retail outlets remains the most popular means for anglers and hunters to purchase a licence. However, in recent times, implementation of electronic databases and the internet have meant licences can now also be purchased online from home or outside work hours.

*Objective To maximise the sale of angling and hunting licences.*

*Achievement of this objective requires:*

- *Ensuring licences are readily available for purchase*
- *Maintaining an effective and efficient relationship with the licence administrator, agent and purchaser*
- *Having appropriate licence categories available to suit angler and hunter demographics*

**Issues:**

1. The ease of purchasing a licence often determines the willingness to do so.
2. Changing lifestyles and a move to a 24hr society has the potential to impact on the suitability of licence categories.

**OUTPUT CLASS 7: COUNCIL**

Licence holder ownership of fish and game management and involvement is based upon an elected Council system. The West Coast Council is made up of not more than 12 council members elected for a three year term. The Council is required to meet at least six times each year. The Council is subject to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. All Council meetings are therefore open to licence holders and interested members of the public to attend.

Each Fish and Game council appoints a Manager for the efficient and economic administration of the affairs of the Council. Preparation of agendas, meeting reports and minutes are part of the manager's commitment to Council. Meeting papers are available to licence holders and the general public. Any organisation or individual may contact the Council for consideration of agenda items for discussion at meetings.

*Objective To provide for the governance of Fish and Game on the West Coast by fish and game licence holders*

*Achievement of this objective requires:*

- *Providing for the administration and effective operation of the Council*
- *An informed council and a comprehensive induction process for new council members.*

**Issues:**

1. Council needs to be effectively serviced to carry out its governance role.
2. Licence holders need to be aware of the Council's governance role

**OUTPUT CLASS 8: PLANNING AND REPORTING**

The West Coast Council requires planning and reporting systems that enable it to establish and maintain clear direction and to provide accountability to licence holders. The West Coast Council is expected to show competence and compliance with public sector guidelines and reporting requirements.

In addition to standard business planning practices the Conservation Act 1987 places a number of statutory requirements on Fish and Game Councils. The responsibilities to be met by Council include:

1. Preparation of a Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan. The plan is to set out the ways a council will manage the fish and game resources for the following 10 years.
2. Approval of an Operational Work Plan. The Operational Work Plan (OWP) describes projects to be completed for the year, staff time and costs involved and budgetary requirements. The OWP should address the objectives defined in the Management Plan.
3. Preparation of an Annual Report, including a Statement of Service Performance which is a reflection of the extent to which the Operational Work Plan has been achieved for the financial year. This annual report is presented to the Minister of Conservation to lay before Parliament as soon as practicable after the end of each financial year. It documents activities undertaken for the year and the degree to which objectives are being met by the Council.
4. The Audit Report is to be audited by the Office of the Auditor General

The West Coast Council must also prepare each annual Anglers Notice and Open Season for Game Notice. These notices set out the conditions under which a current licence holder may fish or hunt in the West Coast region. Each notice sets the bag limit and season length plus any restrictions on methods and hours of angling or hunting.

An important aspect of effectively managing fish and game throughout New Zealand is liaison with other regional Fish and Game Councils and the NZ Council. Fish and Game regions can work cooperatively on a regional basis to improve the management of the resource. Opportunities also exist for Councils to work collectively on nationally important issues.

It is necessary for Councils to co-operate to ensure that the most effective use is made of every licence dollar. It is also necessary for the system to achieve excellence of fish and game management and services to anglers and hunters.

*Objective To ensure the planned and coordinated management of the sports fish and game resources*

*Achievement of this objective requires:*

- *Preparing and adopting:  
a Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan  
an annual operational work plan  
an annual report, including a Statement of Service Performance  
annual recommendations to the Minister of Conservation of hunting and fishing regulations*
- *Implementing national policy determined by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council*
- *Identifying and recommending to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council the region's sports fish and game requirements for research*
- *Liaising and coordinating activity with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and other Fish and Game regions*

**Issues:**

1. Without capable planning, management of the fish and game resources in the West Coast region will not be cost effective.
2. Some issues cannot be effectively dealt with in isolation from other Fish and Game regions

## **PART THREE**

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### **ORGANISATIONAL MANAGEMENT**

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The Fish and Game management system is based on twelve regional councils with coordination assistance provided by a New Zealand Council. With inter-availability of fishing and hunting between regions, funding of all thirteen councils is linked through a national budget system which includes the setting of levies and payment of grants to redistribute revenue between all thirteen councils. This means all councils must operate within the financial and human resources available to them. Therefore resources will be allocated according to priorities established annually and will be affected by national priorities.

The resources being managed by each regional Fish and Game council belong to all New Zealanders, and all licence holders have a right to access those resources. When buying a licence, the licence purchaser is contributing to the management of the resource nation-wide – not just a particular region. This plan, however, is directed entirely at the medium to long term management of the West Coast region.

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### **METHODS TO BE USED**

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An important feature of the changes brought in by the Conservation Act was to ensure the public have a say in how resources are managed. The emphasis is on public input, not just input by licence holders alone. One of the basic reasons behind requiring Fish and Game councils to prepare Sports Fish and Game Management Plans is to ensure that decision-making is in accordance with policies approved through a public consultation process.

A management plan can provide guidance and a statutory basis for decision-making by the Council and other decision makers. In addition to the Sports Fish and Game Management Plan, there is a hierarchy that derives from the provisions of the legislation. A Sports Fish and Game Management Plan cannot derogate from a Conservation Management Strategy (CMS). A CMS cannot derogate from any General Policy and a CMS implements General Policies. General Policy implements and cannot derogate from legislation.

Apart from the Annual Meeting, there are other times when some public input into fish and game decisions can occur. The setting of angling and hunting regulations can often become a two-way process with anglers and hunters giving their views and the council providing some of the background information on the state of the resource and the reasons behind the decisions. Council meetings are public meetings. A time for public comment is always set aside during a meeting to allow people to speak on particular matters. Councillors and staff can be approached by licence holders or members of the public seeking consideration of their views on particular topics.

The Council's practice is to invite participation in decision making with affected parties. In addition, the Council is required each year to produce and circulate an annual report which is presented to interested parties at an annual meeting.

### **NON-STATUTORY PROCESSES**

Proactive cooperation with other resource management organisations, iwi, interest groups and the wider community will be used to realise outcomes for sports fish and game bird management. It is also recognised that anglers and hunters make major contributions to habitat protection and enhancement work along with other interested parties.

The West Coast Council routinely provides advice to landowners on wetland and fisheries habitat. It will actively seek to encourage the protection and enhancement of freshwater habitats for sports fish and gamebirds on private and public land. Advice on habitat protection or restoration will be provided to landowners, most effectively in conjunction with funds sourced externally for biodiversity purposes. The West Coast Council will seek support in the provision of advice wherever and whenever this is available. Where resources are required to undertake habitat enhancement, the West Coast Council will seek external funds to assist if appropriate and promote other funding sources available.

#### **FORMAL STATUTORY PLANNING PROCESSES**

The West Coast Council will provide for and recognise Fish and Game interests in all appropriate statutory planning matters. This will involve:

1. consultation under the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act with the appropriate local authorities on all relevant planning documents.
2. submissions in relevant resource and other consent processes to advocate for decisions and conditions that promote sports fish and game bird interests and the interests of anglers and hunters
3. solutions of remediation or mitigation, where adverse effects of activities on sports fish and game bird habitat or recreational values cannot be avoided
4. liaison with the Department of Conservation and West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board on their planning processes as required.

#### **OPERATIONAL WORK PLANS**

Operational work plans are prepared annually. They set out the projects/work to be undertaken and money available for the coming financial year and must give effect to the policies contained in an approved management plan.

The West Coast Council begins to draft its operational work plan around February each year. Once a draft plan has been completed it becomes part of the national budget round in May/June. Usually the operational work plans of the regions are reviewed at meetings of regional managers and their recommendations are considered by the New Zealand Council. Ultimately it is the responsibility of the New Zealand Council, following consultation with the regions, to recommend to the Minister of Conservation a licence fee based on the cost of carrying out essential operating functions nation-wide for that year.

This means that in any one year there may be some projects that have to be cut from regional work plans. However, once the NZ Council has sent its recommendation to the Minister, the recommended fee is used as the basis for finalising the annual operational work plan ready for the start of the new financial year in September.

The West Coast Council's annual operational work plan will detail the outputs and activities necessary to implement the goals and objectives of this management plan as determined each year by the Council.

#### **FISHING AND HUNTING REGULATIONS**

Many anglers and hunters at times pursue their sport in regions other than where they purchase a licence. With nation-wide licences, the rules and regulations should be as similar as possible across all regions, or at least framed on a common basis, where practical.

Although some regulations are nationally applicable, the legislation is set up to provide for regional management and regional regulation through Game and Anglers' Notices, published annually in the Gazette. The main purpose of the regulations is to ensure sustainability of the resource and equitable access to it by anglers and hunters. Fundamental to the West Coast Council responsibility to promote angling and hunting is the avoidance of regulations which would advance elitism or provide for exclusive use of the resource. It is especially important for newcomers to angling and hunting that regulations do not unnecessarily constrain the way they wish to pursue their chosen sport. In particular, this region takes the view that most regulations should be intended to maximise fishing and hunting opportunities. Restrictions should generally only exist for biological reasons and to ensure that sports fishing and game bird hunting remain as sporting activities, available to all who purchase the appropriate licence.

The West Coast Council will draft and approve regional regulations which:

- manage angler and hunter harvest at levels which the resource can sustain
- maximise participation and opportunities for success, while providing a range of fishing and hunting opportunities
- encourage ethical behaviour
- enable all licence-holders fair and equitable access to the resource.

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#### **CROSS BOUNDARY MANAGEMENT**

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Fish and game management in the West Coast region may have impacts beyond its boundary. Therefore, in meeting its responsibilities, the Council will consider the interests of all fish and game users and those of the wider community.

From an administrative point of view, the West Coast Council interacts with a number of agencies in managing sports fish and game birds and their habitats. The obvious and most critical of these are the wider Fish and Game organisation and the Department of Conservation.

#### **NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) was established under Section 26B of the Conservation Act 1987 to represent nationally the interests of anglers and hunters and provide coordination of the management, enhancement and maintenance of the sports fish and game bird resources. The key functions of the NZ Council relevant to this plan are:

- to develop national policies in consultation with regional Fish and Game Councils.
- to audit the activities of Fish and Game Councils
- to collect and redistribute financial resources nationally via an income levy to meet the statutory responsibilities of the organisation.

Even though the NZ Council is a separate body with its own staff, its councillors are all appointed from each of the twelve regional councils. It is through the NZ Council that the organisation as a whole makes decisions. For decisions such as new national policy or setting the cost of a fishing or hunting licence or determining research requirements, a formal consultation process ensures that every council has the opportunity to have a say.

The West Coast Council nominates one of its councillors to sit on the national council. The Manager participates with fellow regional managers in triennial managers' meetings with national office staff. A two-way liaison needs to be maintained at all levels – politically, managerially, technically and administratively.

#### **ADJOINING FISH AND GAME COUNCILS (NELSON MARLBOROUGH, NORTH CANTERBURY AND OTHER SOUTH ISLAND COUNCILS)**

Political or administrative boundaries are not necessarily the best management units for species populations. Each species tends to lend itself to “geographic management units”. For game birds, this means adjoining councils need to manage species in a consistent and coordinated fashion. For example, migratory species such as Black Swan may cross regional boundaries to the east and north respectively. The region works cooperatively with other south island regions over regulation setting, drift diving, ranging/compliance, sports fish transfers and staff training.

#### **GAME BIRD HABITAT TRUST BOARD**

The Trust Board was established under the Conservation Act 1987 primarily to improve New Zealand's game bird habitat and secondarily to improve the habitat of other wildlife. Its main function is to disperse funds by way of grants to any landowner or organisation that satisfies the Board's criteria for the protection, restoration, improvement, creation or procurement of game bird habitat. The income used for this purpose is received from the proceeds of the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Stamp programme administered by Fish and Game Councils. The West Coast Council will apply for grants under this programme should applications meet the prescribed criteria.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION**

The Council's relationship with the Department of Conservation involves close liaison between the two agencies with responsibilities under the same legislation – the Conservation and Wildlife Acts and their associated regulations. There is some overlap in functions due to Section 6 (ab) of the Conservation Act 1987 which gives the Department the task of preserving all indigenous freshwater fisheries and protecting recreational freshwater fisheries and freshwater habitats. This includes freshwater sports fish and habitats. The Department has the responsibility under Section 53(3)(d) to ‘advocate the conservation of aquatic life and freshwater fisheries generally’. The Director General of Conservation can authorise the hunting or killing of gamebirds where they are causing damage to crops or pasture including by the West Coast Council.

The Director General of the Department of Conservation or his nominee is entitled to attend and speak at Council meetings. Regular consultation occurs at a regional level between Fish and Game West Coast staff and Department of Conservation staff.

#### **WEST COAST *TAI POUTINI* CONSERVATION BOARD**

The functions of the Conservation Board are set out in Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987 and in the National Parks, and Reserves Acts. The board focuses on providing advice, planning and strategic direction, not the day-to-day operational details of the Department of Conservation's work. One of a Conservation Board's specific functions is to liaise with Sports Fish and Game Councils (Conservation Act Section 6M(1)f).

A major responsibility for the board is overseeing the West Coast Conservation Management Strategy (CMS). The CMS is a 10-year plan setting out how the Department will manage public conservation lands, waters and species within the conservancy. Once a CMS has been approved by the New Zealand Conservation Authority, the Conservation Board advises on its implementation. A sports fish and game management plan shall not derogate from a CMS (Conservation Act 1987 Section 17L(3)) so that it is important that the CMS is compatible with the objectives and policies in this plan.

The West Coast Council will maintain liaison with the Conservation Board and ensure that the Board recognises and provides for Fish and Game, angling and hunting interests in its work. The West Coast Council will also recognise and provide for Conservation Board interests where these are relevant, particularly in the development of management plans for lands administered by the Department in which Fish and Game, or anglers and hunters, have an interest.

#### **REGIONAL IWI**

Te Runanga O Ngai Tahu is the body representing the collective 18 papatipu runanga of Ngai Tahu. The West Coast Fish and Game region lies within the tribal area of Te Runaka o Kati Waewae and Te Runanga o Koeti Turangi (referred as Te Runanga o Makaawhio) in the Te Runanga O Ngai Tahu Act 1996.

Ngai Tahu has settled their Treaty claims with the Crown and the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 defines what species are recognised as native game birds. The Claims Settlement has also resulted in each South Island Fish and Game Council being asked to co-opt a Ngai Tahu representative to advise on matters affecting native game birds. The West Coast region has agreed with this request.

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#### **SECTION 4 RESPONSIBILITY**

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The Treaty of Waitangi establishes a partnership between the Crown and iwi. Sports fish and game bird resources are managed on behalf of the Crown by Fish and Game Councils.

Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 states that “this act shall be so interpreted and administered as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi”. This places a statutory responsibility on the West Coast Council to act in accordance with these principles. The Council must always consider the application of the Treaty Principles and decide how they are to be weighed in a particular management situation. Any decision, however, must be considered alongside and be consistent with the Council’s other statutory requirements - in particular the provisions of the legislation under which the Council acts and the contents of this Plan. In the event of conflict between these, Fish and Game Councils are obliged to give prime consideration to their specific functions as established in statute.

Fish and Game and iwi generally have a common interest in maintaining clean water and protecting the natural character of rivers, lakes and wetlands. Fish and Game and iwi also have a common cause in seeking to manage wild populations of species for sustainable harvest.

The West Coast Council recognises that the Treaty encourages the partners to act in good faith towards one another. This includes an obligation to consult and have respect for the other’s point of view.

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#### **MONITORING AND REVIEW**

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This plan is to be reviewed within ten years of receiving ministerial approval. Amendments within this period can involve the whole or part of the plan during this ten year period.

The implementation of the plan will be reviewed annually and if necessary amended subject to Section 17M of the Conservation Act 1987.

The purpose of monitoring and reviews is to ensure that the plan is implemented effectively, that the provisions are current and that they best serve the interests of sports fish and game birds, their habitats and the licensed anglers and hunters of the region.

The West Coast Council will continuously monitor the implementation of this plan and review it as necessary, with a complete review to be undertaken within ten years.

## PART FOUR

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### REGIONAL OVERVIEW

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The area managed as the West Coast Region of Fish and Game New Zealand is described in Gazette No. 83 of 24 May 1990.

The region is very diverse, with dramatic landscapes and considerable variation in climate, topography and land use. This is also reflected in the diversity of habitats and fishing and hunting opportunities in the region. The region includes the territorial councils of Buller, Grey and Westland Districts.

Based on the 2006 census, the West Coast has a total population of 31326.

Agriculture, mining, tourism and forestry (to a lesser extent) are major sources of employment in the region.

#### *Topography*

The West Coast has been described as a region of mountains, rainfall and rivers. These features combined with the processes of uplift and erosion - have resulted in a landscape of unique character, two thirds of which is mountainous.

The Alpine Fault runs most of the length of the region. East of the fault are deeply dissected mountain ranges. To the west, rivers and streams are steeply graded - the distance from source to sea seldom exceeding 50 km. Towards the coast alluvial and beach deposits occupy a 10-15 km wide strip which extends inland along river systems. Plains areas are, with some exceptions, generally localised and composed of outwash silts and gravels. Many are subject to frequent flooding.

#### *Climate*

The West Coast has a noticeably milder climate than the east coast regions, with fewer extremes. Greymouth's sunshine hours of 1980, and Hokitika's of 1964 are ahead of Auckland's 1825.

By national and international standards the region receives a generous and reliable rainfall. Near the Main Divide this exceeds 8000 mm annually - declining to a more manageable 2500 mm at the coast. At high altitudes snowfalls may be expected year round. In the region's southern parts this contributes to glaciers that reach to within a few hundred metres above sea level. However, away from these areas, the climate is generally mild and near the coast sunshine hours are similar to those experienced on the east coast. Extended dry periods commonly occur between January and March.

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### HISTORY

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Fish and Game Councils in New Zealand owe their origins to Acclimatisation Societies that began to form during the 1860s. By about 1900 the number of societies had increased to about 40 so that virtually the whole country was covered. Societies were originally established in Buller, Grey and Westland but the former two subsequently merged.

It was not until the formation of Fish and Game Councils in 1990 that West Coast and Westland became united as one of the 12 Fish and Game regions.

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### HABITATS PRESENT WITHIN THE REGION

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Since most of the region's sports fish and game species have self-sustaining populations, maintenance of harvestable populations depends largely upon maintenance of suitable habitat. Therefore, much of the West Coast Council's efforts go into habitat protection primarily through advocacy through the resource Management Act 1991, Conservation Act or related legislation.

#### SPORTS FISH HABITAT

The sporting ethic and the relevant legislation holds that sports fish are a public resource managed by Fish and Game on behalf of licence holders. Sports fisheries are publicly owned and managed irrespective of their location. In addition, the habitat in which sports fisheries are located is publicly administered and those administrative bodies are required to have particular regard to the habitats of trout and salmon and to recognise and provide for the protection of significant habitats of indigenous species. Many habitats of trout and salmon are also significant native fish habitats for species such as eels and whitebait (*Galaxias* spp.).

Sports fish habitat is predominantly a public resource consisting of lakes and rivers, administered by a variety of public bodies according to various legislation. This plan therefore lists as an appendix the various rivers and lakes in the region, and their sports fish and game values. Some habitats, like wetlands and smaller spawning and nursery rivers are not included in this list as not all are known or even recognised. While these might be less important individually, all are extremely important as a whole and policy is required to protect them.

Identification of habitats in this plan ensures local authorities give due recognition to sports fish and game bird resources and habitats in their planning. The Department of Conservation is also required under Section 6(ab) of the Conservation Act 1987 as one of its functions, to "preserve so far as is practicable all indigenous freshwater fisheries and protect recreational freshwater fisheries and freshwater fish habitats". Section 53(3) (d) of the same Act also states that the Director-General "shall advocate the conservation of aquatic life and freshwater fisheries generally".

#### GAME HABITAT

In the case of gamebirds, there are different pressures operating on the provision of habitat. For waterfowl, much of the habitat is on public land, but a high proportion of suitable habitat, particularly smaller wetlands drains and water bodies are on private land. Land development for improved pasture drainage or subdivision has the potential to impact wetlands on private property.

Often, at the most minimal level, Fish and Game can offer advice to landowners which can assist management of their private land to provide habitat. Fish and Game expertise in this field is now sought by landowners and other parties. There are opportunities to seek funding support to facilitate this process.

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### SPECIES PRESENT WITHIN THE REGION

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Sports fish and game birds in New Zealand are a public resource. This is one of the underlying principles of the angling and hunting tradition in New Zealand.

The West Coast region offers diverse opportunities for angling and hunting. The region extends from Kahurangi point, north of Karamea, to Awarua point south of Haast. In between lies some 2m hectares, much of it wilderness.

Brown trout occupy a diverse range of habitats between the mountains and the sea including lakes, rivers, spring fed river tributaries and estuaries. Barriers to access for anglers are, for the most part, dictated only by climate and terrain.

Gamebirds comprise of almost entirely wetland dependent species apart from small isolated populations of captive reared upland game.

## **SPORTS FISH**

### **BROWN TROUT**

The region is best known nationally and internationally for its diverse wild brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) fishery. This resource is recognised and enjoyed by anglers from throughout New Zealand and visitors from other countries. A large number of variously sized rivers and lakes provide brown trout habitat and fishable water in a range of scenic settings. The Lake Brunner catchment receives the most use (Unwin 2008) closely followed by the Grey River catchment. At the other extreme are the numerous highly valued back country or wilderness fisheries that have good numbers of trophy-sized fish but relatively low usage by anglers.

### **RAINBOW TROUT**

The most significant rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) fishery is the Hokitika / Whitcombe catchment. This is a regionally important fishery which is highly valued as providing a different angling experience than the region's predominantly brown trout fisheries. Early rainbow liberations successfully established in the Taramakau catchment where there are still opportunities for enhancement, however although many other catchments throughout the region received liberations as recently as the 1970's rainbows consistently failed to establish as a viable wild recreational resource.

Liberations have been ad hoc but have continued in catchments where rainbow trout previously predominated. Recent research indicates existing rainbow trout populations in the region are limited by relying solely on wild recruitment to populations. Recent liberations have focused on enhancing the opportunities in the existing Hokitika and Taramakau populations. Rainbow trout are also the predominant fish species used for an enhanced junior/novice fishery in the Taramakau catchment.

### **CHINOOK SALMON**

Chinook or Quinnet salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) have been the subject of numerous efforts over the past 100 years to establish wild populations from the Buller River catchment to Haast. Contemporary literature suggests salmon populations are naturally restricted by water temperatures at sea, which increase by several degrees in a northerly direction up the West Coast of the South Island. Accordingly the most reliable and consistent salmon fisheries are established in the Moeraki, Paringa and Mapourika catchments, although in some years successful angling occurs in most major rivers south of, and including the Grey catchment.

Similar to rainbow trout, liberations of salmon have been ad hoc but have continued in response to angler requests to improve the fisheries. Enhancement through liberations of hatchery reared wild stock may continue if recent enhancement results in an improvement to the West Coast salmon fishery.

## COARSE AND OTHER NON-SALMONID SPORTS FISH

The region has one coarse fish species present. Perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) are established in the Lake Kaniere, Mahinapua and some smaller lakes for over a century and are popular amongst junior anglers and family groups.

## GAME

### DABBLING DUCKS

Dabbling ducks are the mainstay of gamebird hunting in New Zealand and this region is no exception. Mallard ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos*) are widespread, after expanding their range and abundance greatly since the early releases. They are now common and abundant particularly in the more developed parts of the region. Grey ducks (*A. superciliosa*) appear relatively common in less developed habitats such as remote coastal wetlands and upland areas. Grey duck are defined as native game birds in the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. Because of their interbreeding with mallards grey duck are considered to be a threatened species nationally, although there is no evidence cited by Williams that this is influenced either by hunting or their status as a gamebird.

The region offers diverse freshwater wetlands for dabbling ducks throughout its length and breadth. Small ponds, streams and drains associated with developed land provides consistently reliable breeding habitat for dabbling ducks as does extensive riverbed habitat. Where large open water bodies such as lakes and coastal wetlands are in proximity to feeding areas large concentrations of dabbling ducks may be expected. Reliable spring rainfall usually produces optimum conditions to assist the survival rate during the hatching / rearing period and through to the hunting season.

Recent genetic analysis shows that many dabbling ducks are hybrids (Williams, 1999), even those appearing to be either of the two species, so for the purposes of wildlife management the two nominal species must effectively be managed as one population. The numbers of both species but particularly mallards increased dramatically during the late 1970s and early 1980s throughout the whole country, so the numbers of all dabbling ducks in the region are much greater than they were in previous years. Overall there is no evidence of a change in the greylard harvest over the past five seasons (Barker 2007) and variations in the harvest between seasons is not likely to be related to population size.

New Zealand Shoveler ducks are now known from a number of specific locations in the region with suitable habitat. Their speed of flight and seasonal migration to other parts of the country makes population estimates difficult. The estimated West Coast total season bag in 1997 was 75 birds compared with 203 in 2005 illustrating the fact that Shoveler can be locally abundant at times and are considered part of a national and highly mobile population. Being small, fast flying and uncommonly seen in many areas, this species is targeted by few hunters. Fish and Game undertakes a national shoveler trend count in August each year.

### PARADISE SHELDUCK

Once thought to be in decline, paradise Shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*) have now adapted well to improved pasture, especially in cattle grazing country. Shelduck are a form of goose and feed upon pasture grasses. They frequent the high country where they are generally widespread but in low numbers, often in pairs or family groups, however in lowland river valleys they sometimes form nuisance flocks for farmers, especially before and after the moult in January. Shelduck may also feed on grain fed to deer in winter.

Although once not favoured by hunters, paradise shelduck (or parrie) have become more popular to hunt in recent years as the techniques to hunt them have become better known, such as decoying, calling and use of camouflage. As numbers have increased due to pasture improvement, there is both better opportunity for the hunter and a greater call for their control by landowners. Groups organised by Fish and Game and others have undertaken special parrie hunts in places such as Grey valley and in South Westland. Paradise shelduck have a slow breeding rate compared to mallard ducks, a factor contributing to a risk of over-harvest. For this reason, Fish and Game undertakes trend counts of parrie numbers during the moult in January to ensure the bag limits and seasons are appropriate. Aerial and land based counts are made of known moult sites distributed throughout the region. Counts in 2009 over the management area south of the Taramakau show an increase of approximately 40% compared to 2008 levels but over thirteen years there has been a steady increase of around 2% per annum. Numbers observed in the management area north of the Taramakau show an increase of approximately 30% compared to 2008 levels but a steady increase of around 4% per annum over the last decade. Increased interest in the special March season is increasing harvest but the annual harvest is still insufficient to curb steady population growth. Paradise Shelduck are defined as native game birds in the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

#### BLACK SWAN

The major coastal lagoons, located primarily between Buller and Cook river mouths support resident black swan populations in the order of 5000 birds while inland lakes and wetlands such as Moeraki, Ianthe Grove swamp and Brunner are important breeding and/or feeding habitats. Such habitats also appear to be seasonally important for birds trading south from the major breeding site at farewell spit.

Black swan are favoured by few hunters as evidenced by the 2010 harvest of only 90 birds for the season.

#### PUKEKO

Pukeko (*Porphyrio porphyrio*) are an underrated and little harvested game bird very common throughout the region. As a member of the rail family rather than a species of waterfowl, their behaviour is quite different from that of the other water-based game species and pukeko populations have definitely benefited from modern farming methods. Localised population size varies from year to year in response to habitat and land-use change, however long term monitoring trends point to an overall stable population.

Due to their highly territorial nature, prolific breeding under suitable conditions, willingness to live in close proximity with people and destructive tendencies, pukeko can create a considerable nuisance at times particularly on new pasture and winter forage crops. During the open season landowner complaints are normally dealt with by directing hunters to problem areas, and at other times by the use of scare guns or permits to disturb/control. Pukeko are defined as native game birds in the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

#### UPLAND GAME

While small pockets of California quail and pheasant habitat exist, the region's climate is generally unsuited to the establishment of a viable upland gamebird resource. A small-scale upland gamebird hunting area exists at the Gloriavale Christian Community property at Haupiri. The rearing and releasing of birds was approved by the Department of Conservation. The West Coast Council has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide season regulations subject to minimum criteria being met. This area provides an upland gamebird hunting opportunity for those prepared to pay, while benefitting non-paying licenceholders in the form of spillover birds outside

the Gloriavale boundary. The MOU provides for a free hunting opportunity for junior hunters each season.

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### RECREATIONAL USE

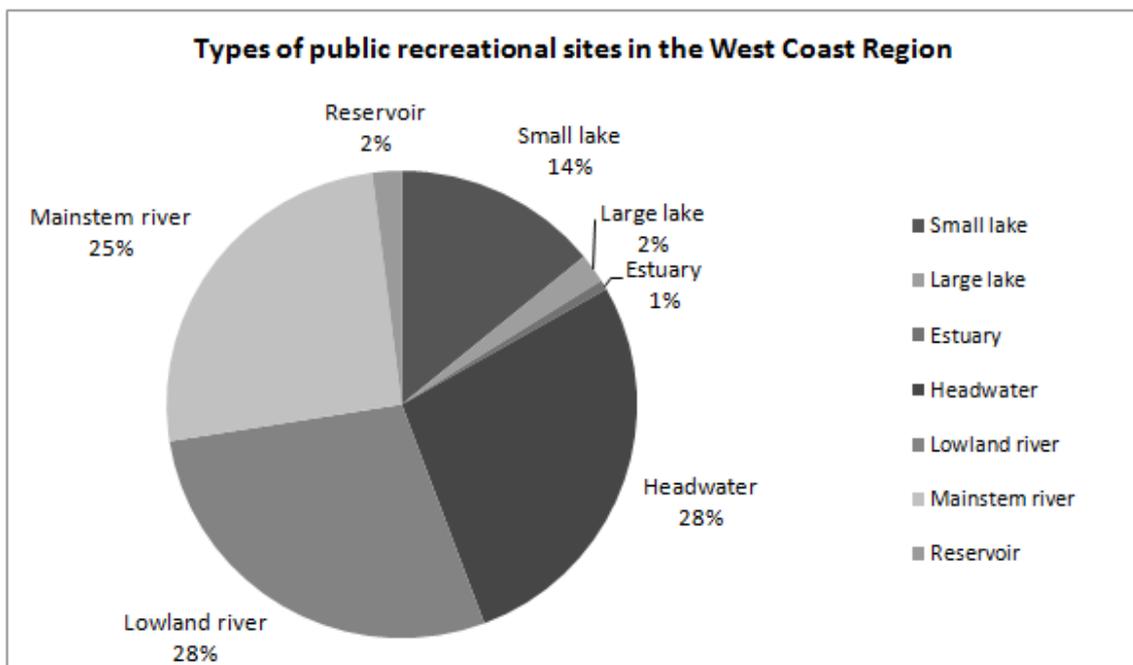
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The major accessible habitats in the regions have been assessed as to their relative recreational significance and the extent to which they contribute to the provision of a range of opportunities to undertake angling and hunting across the region. It should be noted that the majority of recreational hunting occurs on private land mainly farm ponds and small natural lakes (Figure 2). Moreover, landowners can hunt on their own properties without requiring a licence and the numbers of landowners who use this opportunity is unknown but is likely to be significant. By contrast, angling is almost entirely undertaken on areas which are publicly accessible and are usually public waters.

As background to preparing this plan, the public recreational sites used by anglers and hunters have been listed and included in the appendix. These are based largely upon those water bodies identified by anglers during the National Angler Surveys (Unwin and Brown, 1998; Unwin and Image, 2003) but have been extended to include wetlands and any public areas accessible to upland game or waterfowl hunting. As part of the list, each site was assessed as to its relative size, significance, recreational opportunity spectrum category and the species present which would support the recreation.

The appendix lists both the public sites and the species available to the angler or hunter. The data can be summarised in the following pie graphs, however, to illustrate and summarise the range of types of recreation available in the region.

Figure 1: Types of public recreational opportunities in the West Coast Region



It is evident from this chart that there are a large number of rivers which are available, particularly for the angler, in the region. A high proportion of these in comparison with other Fish and Game regions are Headwater Fisheries. A significant proportion of the public hunting opportunity is on small lakes/wetlands.

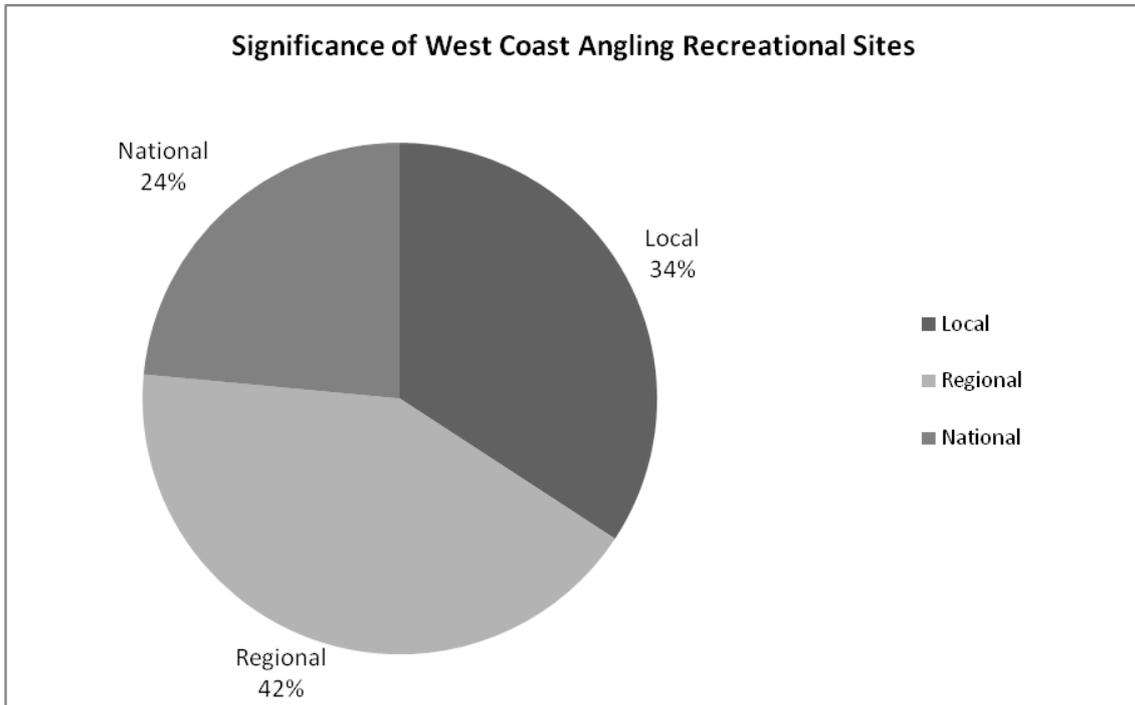


Figure 2: Relative significance of different public angling and hunting recreational opportunities in the West Coast Region

Significance was determined against criteria which have subsequently been applied to the whole National Angler Survey dataset (Deans, 2005), as below. Use data were taken from NAS data or regional surveys, while the origin of anglers is taken from regional surveys or staff experience based upon compliance or other Fish and Game management activity. A user day is taken as being an occasion when an angler fished at a particular water body on a given day, without any minimum or maximum fishing time.

*Local*

*The majority of participants in this activity are from the immediate locality and/or fewer than 1000 user days occur each year.*

*Regional*

*The majority (over 50%) of participants in this activity are from the wider region or beyond rather than just the immediate locality and/or more than 1000 but fewer than 5000 user days occur each year.*

*National*

*At least 20% of the participants in this activity have come from areas **outside** the region **specifically** to participate in the activity in this location and/or more than 5000 user days per annum.*

Each site was also assigned into a Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Category. This approach is used extensively in the USA and now in New Zealand by the Department of Conservation to maintain a range of settings in which recreation can take place. These enable managers to ensure that a wide range of settings is maintained and manage the sites to maintain the full range of recreational opportunities. It is sometimes difficult to assign the full length of a given river such as the Grey to a particular category. Some sites will vary in character in different parts; the predominant character was assigned in each case. The table used has been modified from that

used by the Otago Fish and Game Council in its Sports Fish and Game Management Plan and since applied for sports fisheries across the whole country.

<b>Setting</b>	<b>Urban</b> In or near urban area	<b>Rural</b> Rural	<b>Natural</b> Little modified or largely protected land	<b>Back country</b> Largely unmodified natural landscape	<b>Remote</b> Usually unmodified public land
<b>Duration of activity</b>	Usually short	Short or long	Usually longer than 4 hours	Commonly over 4hrs	Usually a day or more
<b>Access</b>	Easy, by road	Road or sometimes boat	Road (often unsealed), track, boat or aircraft	Road (often unsealed), track, boat or aircraft.	Point access only, walking, boat or aircraft
<b>Travel Distance for most anglers</b>	Short	Medium	Medium to distant	Relatively long. Distant from main centres.	Distant from main centres
<b>Use levels</b>	Often high	Low to high	Low to medium	Low to medium, Moderate to low	Very low to medium
<b>Tolerated User Encounter Rates</b>	High	High to medium	Moderate to low	Moderate to low	Low to very low
<b>Ideal Numbers/Type of Fishing</b>	Many fish	Many fish	Fewer, larger fish, usually sight fishing, chance of trophy fish.	Fewer, larger fish, usually sight fishing, chance of trophy fish.	Trophy Fish potential, sight fishing
<b>Frequency of visits by individual.</b>	Either frequent or never	Frequent to common	Common to occasional	Occasional to rare.	Rare
<b>Fishery Stocked?</b>	Possibly	Possibly	Not usually	No	No
<b>Catch Rate.</b>	Low to high	Medium	Medium to low	Medium to low	Usually relatively low
<b>Angling Methods available?</b>	All	All	All	All	All
<b>Species Available</b>	All, incl. coarse spp	Salmonids	Usually salmonids	Brown or Rainbow Trout	Brown or Rainbow Trout
<b>Social Experience</b>	Close to home	Family/Away from home	Attractive landscape, clear water, often associated with camping, overnight stay, getting away	Attractive landscape, clear water, often associated with camping, overnight stay, getting away	Scenic beauty and feelings of solitude, no human influence

*Table 1: West Coast Angling and Hunting Recreational Opportunity Spectrum Categories*

The following pie chart summarises the regional distribution of ROS categories. Clearly much of the recreational opportunity occurs across the rural environment, while there are few opportunities in the urban area. The region has a high proportion of natural, back country and remote sites, by comparison with many other parts of the country, however.

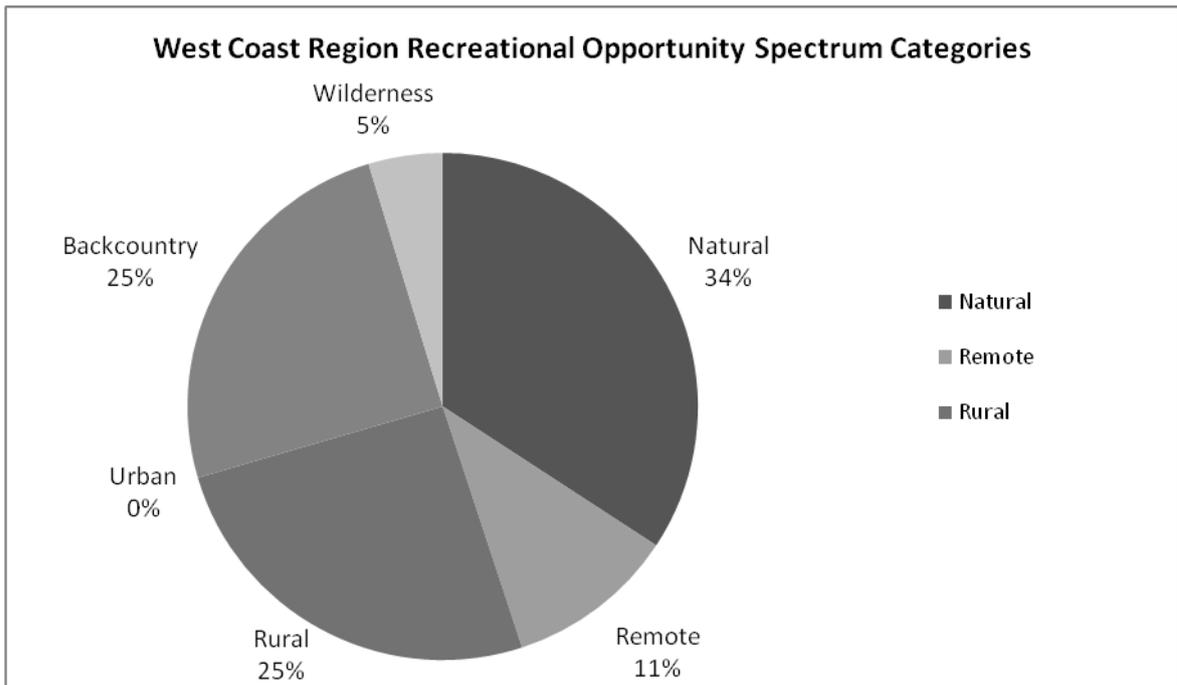


Figure 3 Distribution of different ROS categories in the West Coast Region

Once again, the importance of the region’s brown trout fishery and to a lesser extent for duck hunting is borne out by these data and, in contrast, the small number of public sites where upland game hunting can be undertaken.

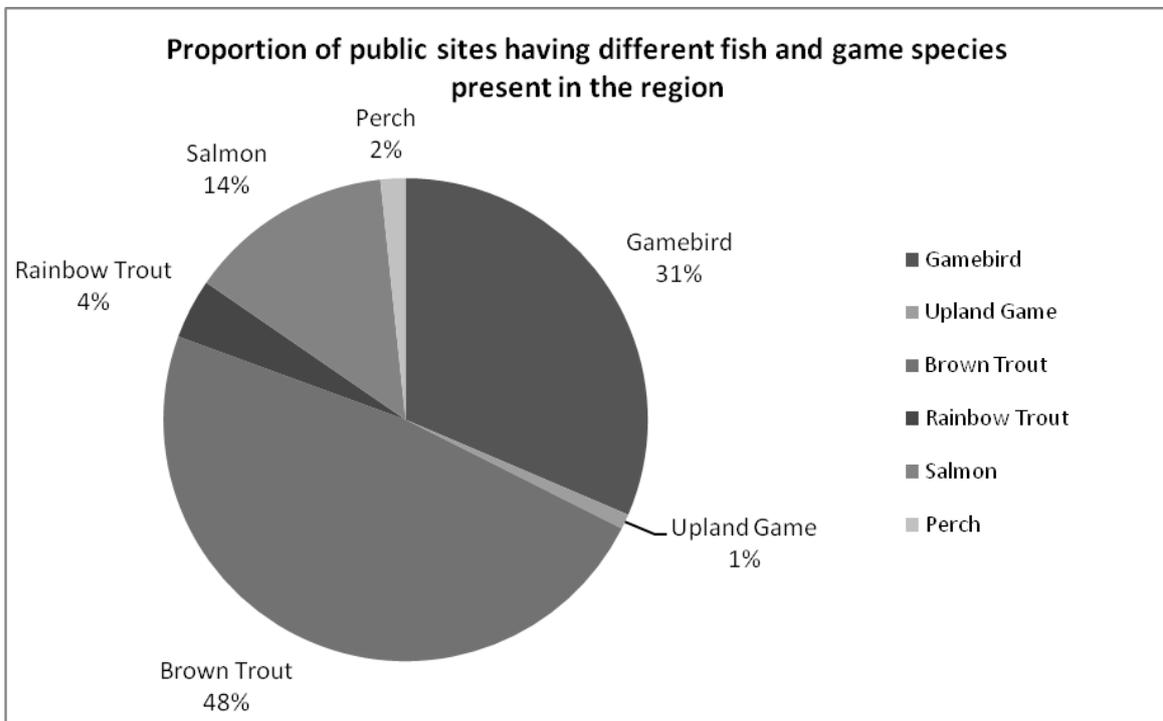


Figure 4 The proportion of all 152 sites having particular sports fish and game bird recreational opportunities

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## ISSUES FOR THE REGION

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There are a number of significant national and regional issues of relevance to Fish and Game's interests. Consistent with its statutory functions Fish and Game New Zealand seeks to take an active role in the policy development processes underpinning many such issues and to perform an active advocacy role to protect its interests.

Some of Fish and Game's most critical concerns relate to the implementation of the Resource Management Act 1991 by local authorities and permissions issued by them to undertake activities in or on, or to discharge contaminants into freshwater bodies, which may adversely affect sports fish and game birds and their habitats<sup>1</sup>. Many of Fish and Game New Zealand's concerns were confirmed in the November 2004 report by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (PCE) entitled "Growing for Good – Intensive Farming, Sustainability and New Zealand's Environment".

Fish and Game seeks to ensure public agencies with responsibilities for protecting ecosystems or habitat actively takes the lead role in tackling issues to safeguard those ecological systems.

Issues identified by the West Coast Council as critical to its interests include:

- **Water quality degradation, largely from land use intensification**
- **Hydro development** - impacting on fish and wildlife habitat, migration and angling opportunities
- **Local authority implementation of the Resource Management Act 1991** – Fish and game relies on local authorities charged with the responsibility of administering the RMA to protect the habitat of sports fish and gamebirds.
- **Recreational access to the outdoors** - in particular access to rivers for fishing and lakes/ponds for hunting
- **Private commercial use of public fisheries, lands and game resources**
- **Treaty of Waitangi claims** - impacting on the ownership and control of natural resources, rivers and lakes
- **Biosecurity threats** - eg. pest fish and aquatic weed species.
- **The protection of the wild trout fishery** and the equity of access to all anglers
- **Increased angling and hunting pressure on the resource** – an increasing and highly mobile angling and hunting population has the potential to threaten angling and hunting experiences.
- **Decreased awareness of hunting and angling ethics** – resulting in a decreased angling and hunting experience.
- **Management of public lands and access to these**
- **Fostering positive societal attitudes towards non-native species and the recreational pursuits of angling and hunting**
- **Changing recreational use patterns** – increased recreational opportunities for the public outside of hunting and fishing

Operational issues are listed in this Plan under the respective output areas described in Part One above.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 7(h) Resource Management Act 1991

## PART FIVE

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### INTERPRETATION

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Coarse fish	family of non-salmonid sports fish often found in still or slow moving waters. Named after the 'coarse' feel of their skin. Perch is the only coarse fish classified as sports fish in the region.
Dabbling duck	typically birds of fresh, shallow wetland, ponds and rivers. They usually feed in water by dabbling or tipping rather than submerging.
Game	those species listed as such in the First Schedule of the Wildlife Act 1953
Habitat	environment in which a particular species or group of species lives. It includes the physical and biotic characteristics that are relevant to the species concerned
Ranger	any person appointed as such pursuant to section 26FA(1) or (2) of the Conservation Act 1987
Salmonids	fish of the family Salmonidae. In New Zealand this family is represented by Chinook, sockeye and Atlantic salmon, rainbow and brown trout and brook char, lake trout and hybrids such as splake
Sports fish	those species listed as acclimatised fish in the First Schedule of the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983
Sustainability	used in an ecological sense in this plan. The use of the components of an ecosystem in ways that allow for the perpetuation of the character and natural processes of that ecosystem
Waterfowl	those species listed as game birds in the First Schedule of the Wildlife Act 1953, specifically mallard duck, grey duck, shoveler duck, paradise Shelduck, pukeko, black swan and Canada goose

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### RELEVANT LEGISLATION

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The West Coast Council operates under its two principle acts – the Conservation Act 1987 and Wildlife Act 1953 - and within a number of other statutes.

#### CONSERVATION ACT 1987

Fish and Game Councils are established under the Conservation Act, which contains the legal authority for the West coast Council to manage the regions sports fish and game bird resources. The Act also contains provisions that are relevant to public access, freshwater fisheries management, controls on fish and game recreation and the requirement for the West Coast Council to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. The Conservation Act also details the functions of the Department of Conservation and requires a ten year Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) to set the general direction for the management of all land administered by the Department in the West Coast Conservancy and particularly areas held under the Conservation Act. Anglers' Notices are promulgated under this Act.

### **WILDLIFE ACT 1953**

The Wildlife Act establishes how the legal authority to manage sports fish and game birds can be exercised. It establishes the right to control hunting through a licensing process, designates those species that are considered game birds, designates powers of Fish and Game warranted officers for the purposes of this Act and sets out penalties for offences under this Act. Game Notices are promulgated under this Act. The act also provides for the ability to disturb or kill gamebirds causing damage to crops and pasture.

### **FISHERIES ACT 1983**

The Freshwater Fisheries Regulations are now promulgated under the Conservation Act 1987. These regulations provide for controls on licensing, controls on fish tagging, use of electric fishing machines, protection of fish passage, regulation on fish transfer and the management of indigenous and noxious fish species.

### **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991**

The Resource Management Act provides for the management of New Zealand's natural and physical resources, including sports fish and game bird habitat, access to waterways and their margins and wilderness, natural character and recreational values. The Act allows Fish and Game New Zealand input to development decisions made by regional and territorial authorities. All activities of Fish and Game are bound by the provisions of the RMA, the regional policy statements and regional and district plans. At the same time, it requires regional and territorial councils to have regard to any management plans and strategies prepared under other acts. These councils therefore need to have regard to the Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan when preparing or reviewing their plans and strategies.

A great deal of Fish and Game time and effort has gone into resource management advocacy to achieve habitat protection.

### **BIOSECURITY ACT 1993**

The Biosecurity Act includes provisions on the treatment of animals, which the West Coast Region must follow in its operations. The West Coast Council must also obtain approval under this Act if new species of sports fish or game birds are introduced to the country. The Biosecurity Act also includes provision for attempting to prevent new pests and diseases from arriving in New Zealand and eradicating or controlling those already present.

The West Coast Council has worked closely with Biosecurity New Zealand over the arrival of the unwanted organism didymo.

### **NGAI TAHU CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT 1998**

The Act enables Fish and Game Councils to invite iwi to recommend a person to attend Fish and Game Council meetings as a statutory advisor to the West Coast Fish and Game Council. Ngai Tahu can also provide advice on the harvest of native game birds and the preparation of those parts of sports fish and game management plans which relate to native game birds. The Council must have particular regard to that advice.

### **FISH AND GAME COUNCIL ELECTIONS REGULATIONS 1990**

These regulations prescribe the procedure for the election of members of Fish and Game Councils and the appointment by such Councils of members of the NZ Council.

## **LOCAL BODIES OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987**

The Council is subject to the Local Bodies Official Information and Meetings Act. Its meetings are open to the public. All meetings must be transacted openly unless criteria defined in the Act have been met.

## **PUBLIC FINANCE ACT 1989**

All Fish and Game Councils are subject to the provisions of the Public Finance Act. This requires them to be audited annually by the Audit Office and to provide an annual report including a statement of objectives and a comparative statement of service performance. The report must be presented to a publicly advertised annual general meeting and to Parliament. Councils are a Crown Entity in terms of this Act. Crown Entities are entities owned by the Crown other than Government Departments, Offices of Parliament or State Owned Enterprises.

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## **NOTIFYING THE PLAN**

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The procedure for preparing and gaining approval of sports fish and game bird management plans is set out in section 17M of the Conservation Act 1987. In summary it requires a council to:

Publish a notice of the draft plan in the newspaper

Give notice of the draft plan to

- the Director-General
- representatives of the appropriate iwi authorities
- regional councils and territorial authorities

Give such further notice of the plan as the Fish and Game Council thinks fit.

Invite persons or organisations to send to the Fish and Game Council written submissions on the proposal before a date not less than 40 working days after the publication of the notice.

Consult with such other persons or organisations, in such manner, as the Fish and Game Council considers practicable and appropriate.

Give full consideration to any submissions and opinion make known to the Fish and Game Council.

It also requires:

Every notice to state that the draft plan is available for inspection at the places and times specified in the notice.

From the date of public notification until public opinion has been made known to the Fish and Game Council, the draft plan is to be made available for public inspection during normal office hours and in such places and quantities as are likely to encourage public participation.

The Fish and Game Council to give every person or organisation in making any submission a chance to be heard in support of the submission.

The Fish and Game Council to prepare a summary of the submissions received on the draft.

The Fish and Game Council to send the draft to the Minister with the summary of the submissions and a written statement of any matters of content on which the Director-General and the Council are unable to agree.

The Minister shall approve the draft or send it back to the Fish and Game Council for further consideration before approval.

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#### REFERENCES

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**APPENDIX**

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Table of public recreational sites of interest to anglers and hunters in the West Coast Region;

<b>West Coast Water Bodies</b>	<b>ROS Category</b>	<b>Water Type</b>	<b>Recreational Significance</b>	<b>Brown Trout</b>	<b>Rainbow Trout</b>	<b>Salmon</b>	<b>Perch</b>	<b>Gamebirds</b>	<b>Upland Gamebirds</b>
Ahaura Lake	Natural	Small lake	Local					Yes	
Ahaura River	Back country	Mainstem river	National	Yes		Yes		Yes	
Arahura River (lower)	Rural	Lowland river	Local	Yes		Yes		Yes	
Arahura River (upper)	Back country	Mainstem river	Regional	Yes					
Arawata River	Back country	Mainstem river	Regional	Yes		Yes		Yes	
Arnold River (lower)	Rural	Lowland river	National	Yes		Yes		Yes	
Arnold River (upper)	Rural	Lowland river	National	Yes				Yes	
Arthur Lake	Natural	Small lake	Local	Yes				Yes	
Awarau River (Larry's Ck)	Back country	Headwater	National	Yes					
Barrytown Lagoons	Rural	Small lake	Local	Yes				Yes	
Beautiful River	Wilderness	Headwater	National	Yes					
Big River	Natural	Mainstem river	Regional	Yes				Yes	
Wanganui River	Natural	Mainstem river	Local	Yes				Yes	
Blackwater River	Natural	Lowland river	Local	Yes					
Blue Grey River	Natural	Headwater	National	Yes				Yes	
Bradshaws Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	Yes				Yes	
Brown Grey River	Natural	Headwater	Regional	Yes				Yes	
Bruce Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Regional	Yes				Yes	
Brunner Lake	Rural	Large lake	National	Yes				Yes	
Buller River	Natural	Mainstem river	National	Yes		Yes		Yes	
Cascade River	Remote	Mainstem river	Regional	Yes				Yes	
Clarke River	Remote	Headwater	Regional	Yes					
Coal Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	Yes				Yes	
Cook River	Natural	Mainstem river	Local	Yes					
Copland River	Remote	Headwater	Regional	Yes					
Crooked River	Rural	Lowland river	National	Yes				Yes	

Crow River	Remote	Headwater	National	Yes			
Deadmans Creek	Natural	Lowland river	Local	Yes			Yes
Deep Creek	Rural	Lowland river	National	Yes			Yes
Duck Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	Yes			Yes
Eastern Hohonu River	Rural	Lowland river	Regional	Yes			Yes
Ellery Lake	Remote	Small lake	Regional	Yes	Yes		Yes
Ellis Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Regional	Yes			Yes
Fox River	Natural	Lowland river	Local	Yes			Yes
Gillows Dam	Rural	Small lake	Local				Yes
Grey River (Lower)	Rural	Mainstem river	Regional	Yes	Yes		Yes
Grey River (upper)	Back country	Headwater	National	Yes	?		Yes
Groves Swamp	Natural	Small lake	Local	Yes		Yes	Yes
Haast River	Natural	Mainstem river	Regional	Yes	Yes		Yes
Hapuka River	Natural	Lowland river	Regional	Yes			Yes
Harris Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Regional	Yes			Yes
Haupiri Lake	Natural	Small lake	Regional	Yes	Yes		Yes
Haupiri River (lower)	Rural	Lowland river	National	Yes	Yes		Yes
Haupiri River (Upper)	Back country	Headwater	National	Yes			Yes
Heaphy River	Remote	Headwater	Regional	Yes			Yes
Hochstetter Lake	Back country	Small lake	Regional	Yes			Yes
Hohonu River (Greenstone)	Natural	Lowland river	Local	Yes			
Hokitika River (lower)	Rural	Mainstem river	Local	Yes	Yes		Yes
Hokitika River (Upper)	Back country	Headwater	National	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Hunts Creek	Natural	Lowland river	Local	Yes			Yes
Ianthe Creek	Natural	Lowland river	Regional	Yes			Yes
Ianthe Lake	Natural	Small lake	Regional	Yes	Yes		Yes
Inangahua River (lower)	Rural	Mainstem river	National	Yes			Yes
Inangahua River (upper)	Natural	Headwater	Regional	Yes			
Jackson River	Back country	Mainstem river	Regional	Yes	Yes		
Jacobs (Makawhio) River	Back country	Mainstem river	National	Yes			Yes
Johnson River	Remote	Headwater	National	Yes			
Kakapotahi River	Back country	Headwater	Local	Yes			
Kangaroo Lake	Natural	Small lake	Local	Yes			Yes

Kaniere Lake	Natural	Large lake	Local	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Kaniere River	Natural	Lowland river	Local	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Kapitea Reservoir	Rural	Reservoir	Regional	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Karamea River (lower)	Natural	Mainstem river	Regional	Yes				Yes
Karamea River (upper)	Remote	Headwater	National	Yes				Yes
Karangarua River	Back country	Mainstem river	Regional	Yes		Yes		
Kawhaka Hydro	Rural	Reservoir	Local	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Kohaihai River	Rural	Lowland river	Local	Yes				Yes
Kokatahi River	Back country	Headwater	Regional	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
Kumara Dredge Ponds	Rural	Reservoir	Local	Yes	Yes			Yes
La Fontaine Stream	Rural	Lowland river	National	Yes				Yes
Lady Lake	Natural	Small lake	Regional	Yes				Yes
Landsborough River	Back country	Headwater	Regional	Yes		Yes		
Leslie River	Remote	Headwater	National	Yes				
Little Wanganui River	Natural	Mainstem river	Regional	Yes				Yes
Mahinapua Creek	Natural	Lowland river	Local	Yes			Yes	Yes
Mahinapua Lake	Natural	Small lake	Regional	Yes			Yes	Yes
Mahitahi River	Back country	Mainstem river	Regional	Yes		Yes		
Manukaiauia River	Natural	Mainstem river	Local	Yes				
Mapourika Lake	Natural	Large lake	Regional	Yes		Yes		
Martins Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	Yes				
Martyr River	Remote	Headwater	Regional	Yes				
Mawheraiti River	Rural	Lowland river	Regional	Yes		Yes		Yes
Mikonui River	Natural	Mainstem river	Local	Yes		Yes		
Moeraki Lake	Natural	Small lake	National	Yes		Yes		Yes
Moeraki River	Back country	Headwater	Regional	Yes		Yes		
Mokihinui River (lower)	Natural	Mainstem river	Regional	Yes				Yes
Mokihinui River (upper)	Remote	Headwater	National	Yes				
Molloy Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Regional	Yes				Yes
Montgomerie River	Remote	Headwater	Regional	Yes				
Moonlight Creek	Back country	Headwater	Regional	Yes				Yes
Murray Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	Yes				Yes
Nelson Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Regional	Yes				Yes

New River	Rural	Lowland river	Local	Yes		Yes
Ngakawau River	Natural	Mainstem river	Local	Yes		
Nicholas Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	Yes		Yes
Nile River	Back country	Mainstem river	Local	Yes		Yes
Ogilvies Lagoon	Natural	Small lake	Local			Yes
Ohikaiti River	Back country	Headwater	Regional	Yes		
Ohikanui River	Wilderness	Headwater	National	Yes		
Ohinetamatea River	Natural	Lowland river	Local	Yes		
Okari River	Back country	Lowland river	Regional	Yes		Yes
Okarito Lagoon	Natural	Estuary	Regional	Yes	Yes	Yes
Okarito River	Natural	Lowland river	Regional	Yes	Yes	
Okuru River	Back country	Mainstem river	Regional	Yes		Yes
Omoeroa River	Natural	Mainstem river	Local	Yes		
Oparara River	Natural	Mainstem river	Local	Yes		
Orangipuku River	Rural	Lowland river	Regional	Yes		Yes
Orowaiti River	Rural	Lowland river	Local	Yes		Yes
Otira River	Natural	Headwater	Local	Yes		
Paringa Lake	Natural	Small lake	National	Yes	Yes	
Paringa River	Back country	Mainstem river	Regional	Yes	Yes	
Poerua Lake	Rural	Small lake	National	Yes		Yes
Poerua River	Rural	Lowland river	Regional	Yes		Yes
Poerua River	Back country	Mainstem river	Local	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pororari River	Back country	Mainstem river	Local	Yes		Yes
Pratt Lake	Natural	Small lake	Local	Yes		Yes
Punakaiki River	Back country	Mainstem river	Local	Yes	Yes	Yes
Red Jacks Creek	Rural	Lowland river	Local	Yes		Yes
Roaring Lion River	Wilderness	Headwater	National	Yes		
Robinson River	Back country	Headwater	National	Yes		
Rotokino Lake	Remote	Small lake	Local	Yes		Yes
Rough River	Wilderness	Headwater	National	Yes		Yes
Saltwater Lagoon	Natural	Small lake	Local	Yes		Yes
Seven Mile Creek	Natural	Lowland river	Local	Yes		
Silverpine Lagoons	Natural	Small lake	Local			Yes

Stony (Te Wharau) River	Wilderness	Headwater	National	Yes			
Styx River	Natural	Headwater	Local	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Taipō River	Back country	Headwater	Regional	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Taramakau River	Natural	Mainstem river	Regional	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ten Mile Creek	Natural	Lowland river	Local	Yes			
Thomas River	Back country	Headwater	Regional	Yes			
Toaroha River	Back country	Headwater	Regional	Yes	Yes		Yes
Totara River	Back country	Mainstem river	Regional	Yes			
Totara River	Back country	Mainstem river	Regional	Yes			
Trent River	Back country	Headwater	National	Yes		Yes	
Turnbull River	Back country	Mainstem river	Regional	Yes			Yes
Ugly River	Wilderness	Headwater	National	Yes			
Wahapo Lake	Natural	Small lake	Regional	Yes		Yes	Yes
Waiatoto River	Remote	Mainstem river	Regional	Yes			Yes
Waiheke River	Back country	Headwater	Local	Yes			
Waikiti River	Remote	Headwater	Regional	Yes			
Waikukupa River	Natural	Mainstem river	Regional	Yes			
Waimangaroa River	Rural	Lowland river	Local	Yes			Yes
Waita River	Wilderness	Headwater	Regional	Yes			Yes
Waitaha River	Back country	Mainstem river	Regional	Yes		Yes	Yes
Waitahu River	Back country	Headwater	National	Yes			
Waitakere River	Back country	Headwater	Regional	Yes			
Waitangi-taona River	Rural	Lowland river	National	Yes		Yes	Yes
Wanganui River	Natural	Mainstem river	Local	Yes		Yes	Yes
Whakapohi River	Back country	Lowland river	Local	Yes			
Whareatea River	Rural	Lowland river	Local	Yes			
Whataroa River	Natural	Mainstem river	Local	Yes		Yes	Yes
Whitcombe River	Remote	Headwater	National	Yes	Yes		