

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Central South Island Fish and Game Council held in the Boardroom, 32 Richard Pearse Drive, Temuka, on ~~Wednesday~~ ^{Thursday} 18 April 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Present: S Bannister B Growcott
A Brooks M Hall
P Centofanti (from 7:10 pm) D Isbister
D de Joux (Chairperson) L Koevoet
C Fulton C McKenzie
S Gerard A Simpson
J Henry (Ngai Tahu)

In Attendance:

F&G Staff: J Graybill (Chief Executive), B Dolan (Office Administrator), R Adams (Fish and Game Officer), M Webb (Fish and Game Officer), R Cosgrove (NZC Communications Advisor), M Taylor (NZC Chief Executive), and L Lyons (NZC Chairman).

Members of the Public: 15.

19-022 APOLOGIES:

None.

19-023 COUNCILLOR INTEREST REGISTER:

Chairperson queried if Councillors had any new interests to add to the register? S Gerard advised that he is a member of the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers who have made a submission to the Anglers Notice and that his Uncle (Rob Gerard) would be presenting at the meeting on behalf of Jet Boating NZ.

19-024 HEALTH & SAFETY:

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

19-025 NOTIFIED GENERAL BUSINESS:

L Koevoet queried if the discussion and findings of the CSI Audit report would be discussed in open meeting or public excluded? It was AGREED that as the report was final and public then discussion would take place in public session.

19-026 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 13 MARCH 2019

Note: The mover and seconder of the 14 February 2019 Apologies section should read (Gerard/Centofanti) and not (Growcott/Simpson).

Resolved (Koevoet/McKenzie)

19-028

THAT NOTING THE ABOVE CORRECTION THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF 13 MARCH 2019 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.

19-027 BUDGET AND FINANCE:

027.1 Financial Reports & Expense Listing

Resolved (Fulton/Isbister)

19-029

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE FINANCIAL REPORTS AND RATIFIES THE EXPENSE LISTING FOR MARCH 2019 IN THE GST INCLUSIVE AMOUNT OF \$103,586.54.

19-028 PUBLIC ISSUES FORUM:

028.1 Jet Boating NZ

R Gerard addressed the Council advising of Jet Boating NZ's wish to see speeds uplifted to 20 m3/s on the Opihi, Pareora and Orari rivers and responded to questions of clarification. Chairperson extended his thanks for this deputation.

028.2 Submitters to 2019/20 Tri-ennial Anglers Notice Review

G Strahan, K Baker and D Keen spoke to their written submissions to the Anglers Notice Review and responded to questions of clarification from Councillors.

Resolved (Simpson/Centofanti)

19-030

THAT COUNCIL CHANGE THE AGENDA ORDER TO DISCUSS THE 2019/20 TRI-ENNIAL ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW TO ENABLE SUBMITTERS TO HEAR COUNCIL DISCUSSION.

19-029 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:

029.1 Tri-ennial Anglers Notice Review (9.2)

M Webb provided Council with a report outlining submissions received and his recommendations for the 2019/20 Angler Notice.

1. Ashburton, Waitaki and Opihi to be open all year in lower reaches

Resolved (Koevoet/Hall)

19-031

TO RETAIN THE CURRENT WINTER SEASON FOR THE ASHBURTON, RANGITATA, OPIHI AND WAITAKI RIVERS FOR TROUT DOWNSTREAM OF SH1 FROM 1 JUNE TO 30 AUGUST.

Rationale:

- i) *Fish caught in winter can be in poor condition after spawning and can be an easy target for anglers particularly with reduced food availability in winter.*
- ii) *Winter fishing should not be provided in small self-sustaining river and lake fisheries and if provided in fisheries that require stocking then the cost of additional stocking must be considered.*
- iii) *Availability of fishing all year can reduce the social and family experiences associated with opening and closing weekends.*
- iv) *Current seasons largely avoid possible interactions between anglers and waterfowl hunters in May and between anglers and white baiters in August and September.*

2. Lake Hood and Lake Opuha to be open all year

Resolved (Simpson/Hall)

19-032

THAT LAKE HOOD BE OPENED ALL YEAR ROUND.

Resolved (Simpson/Centofanti)

19-033

THAT LAKE OPUHA HAS NO WINTER SEASON.

Rationale:

Lake Hood - Council agreed that Lake Hood is an easily accessed fishery and further relaxation of fishing conditions would encourage junior anglers to fish.

Lake Opuha - The time for making further decisions on increased angler access to Lake Opuha will be when rainbow spawning has plateaued, and angler harvest has stabilized. Staff surveyed juvenile trout production in tributaries to Lake Opuha in 2018. While brown trout were reasonably abundant, rainbow trout numbers were low. This finding supports a conservative approach being maintained for angler access to the lake outside of the traditional fishing season.

3. Restrict fishing areas and times in the canals

Resolved (Simpson/Centofanti)

19-034

THAT THE CURRENT CONDITIONS FOR THE CANALS BE RETAINED.

Rationale:

Council is aware of the concerns of many canal anglers around the taking of spawning fish by other anglers. Staff have recommended to Council that otolith (ear bone) microchemistry of Tekapo Canal angler caught adult rainbow trout be used to help identify the proportion of the catch that have a natal origin from upstream of the canal. This project should establish the relative importance of spawning within the canals and migration of juveniles into the canals from upstream, for maintaining the fishery

4. Increase sockeye bag limit on lake to six per day

Resolved (Hall/Isbister)

19-035

THAT THE CURRENT CONDITIONS FOR THE SOCKEYE SALMON BAG LIMIT OF 2 SALMON PER DAY BE RETAINED.

Rationale:

It is likely that angling restrictions will be relaxed if spawning population levels counted in 2018 are retained in 2019 and 2020. Until completion of the sockeye programme it is not recommended that fishing regulations are changed to facilitate increased harvest.

5. Coarse fish bag limit

Resolved (Hall/Isbister)

19-036

1. THAT IN DESIGNATED COARSE FISHING WATERS –
 - A) DAILY LIMIT BAG OF ONE TENCH AND A MINIMUM SIZE OF 450MM.
 - B) NO LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF PERCH THAT MAY BE TAKEN AND A MINIMUM SIZE OF 250MM.
2. THAT IN ALL OTHER WATERS - NO LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF COARSE FISH THAT MAY BE TAKEN AND NO MINIMUM SIZE.

Rationale:

Over the last decade CSIFG has recognised the value of coarse fish through provision of designated coarse fisheries where specified coarse fishing techniques can be practiced. Council has also assisted with development of coarse fisheries in Saltwater Creek and Centennial Park Lake through advocacy with the Department of Conservation and stocking. There are indications that designated coarse fisheries may now need controls on harvest to protect the high-value fisheries that have developed.

6. A daily limit bag of two trout for the Rangitata River

Resolved (Hall/Simpson)

19-037

THAT THERE BE A DAILY LIMIT BAG OF 2 TROUT FOR THE RANGITATA RIVER.

Rationale:

Council considered that the number of river resident trout in the lower reaches and sea-run trout had declined in the last three to five years.

7. Deep Stream (Lake Aviemore) season demarcation

Resolved (Centofanti/Koevoet)

19-038

1. THAT DEEP STREAM FROM THE LAKE AVIEMORE JUNCTION UPSTREAM TO RETAIN ITS CURRENT CONDITIONS.
2. THAT THE ARM OF LAKE AVIEMORE BETWEEN THE AKATARAWA ROAD BRIDGE AND THE MOUTH OF DEEP CREEK TO HAVE THE SAME CONDITIONS AS LAKE AVIEMORE –
 - A) OPEN 1 OCTOBER TO 30 SEPTEMBER;
 - B) FLY, SPIN AND BAIT METHODS PERMITTED; AND
 - C) BAG LIMIT OF 4 TROUT AND 2 SALMON.

Rationale:

Current regulations prohibit fishing east of the bridge over the gorge before November to protect spawning fish, however there is no spawning habitat in the slow, deep arm of the lake. To make the area consistent with other lakes and tributaries, Council recommends the November protection should remain for the flowing waters at the head of the arm. The section of Lake Aviemore/Deep Stream gorge that currently opens on First Saturday in November will revert to all-year fishing to match the rest of Lake Aviemore.

This will simplify regulations and provide licence holders with more fishing options especially in windy conditions.

8. Boat fishing Lake Middleton

Resolved (Bannister/Koevoet)

19-039

THAT FISHING FROM ANY UNMOORED, NON-MOTORISED BOAT IS PERMITTED IN LAKE MIDDLETON.

Rationale:

The current fishery is dominated by large numbers of small rainbow trout, mostly under 1kg. Evidence from the translocation trial showed that Lake Middleton could benefit from increased harvest and this may potentially benefit the angling experience by providing larger fish for licence holders.

9. Annual Review of salmon season April closures

Resolved (Koevoet/Isbister)

19-040

- 1. TO RETAIN CURRENT APRIL CLOSURE CONDITION ACROSS THE REGION FOR THE 2019/20 SEASON.**
- 2. TO RECONSIDER CONTINUED APRIL CLOSURE DURING ANGLER NOTICE REVIEW IN APRIL 2020.**

Rationale:

The regional target of 3,650 angler caught salmon has not been exceeded in any of the nine seasons since removal of April from the fishing season. Resolution 06-037 determines that before salmon fishing in April is reconsidered the target must be exceeded in three consecutive years.

10. Salmon daily limit bag of 1 fish

Resolved (Isbister/Fulton)

19-041

THAT THERE BE A DAILY LIMIT BAG OF 1 SALMON IN ALL CSI REGION SEA-RUN SALMON FISHERIES.

Rationale:

Council felt the current low state of the salmon fishery justifies the implementation of this conservation measure.

11. Daily limit bag of 2 trout in current coastal river winter fisheries

Resolved (McKenzie/Koevoet)

19-042

THAT THERE BE A DAILY LIMIT BAG OF 2 TROUT IN CURRENT COASTAL RIVER WINTER FISHERIES.

Rationale:

Removal of winter season salmon angling will make the CSI regulations consistent with those of the North Canterbury Region.

12. Prohibit fishing at night for salmon

Resolved (Centofanti/McKenzie)

19-043

THAT NO LICENCE HOLDER SHALL FISH FOR, TAKE OR KILL SEA-RUN CHINOOK SALMON IN ANY RIVER BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 11PM AND 4AM IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY, AND BETWEEN 10PM AND 5AM FOR ANY OTHER MONTH.

Rationale:

Council decided to bring the CSI regulation into line with that of NC. There is anecdotal evidence over a number of years of illicit activity at night supported by changed fish behaviour for early morning anglers.

13. Matters of Co-ordination between NC and CSI Councils on salmon management

Resolved (Fulton/Simpson)

19-044

THAT A JOINT WORKSHOP OF NORTH CANTERBURY AND CSI COUNCILLORS BE HELD IN MAY 2019 TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST INCLUDING INCONSISTENCY IN SALMON FISHING REGULATIONS AND IN PARTICULAR IMPLEMENTATION OF A SEASON BAG LIMIT AND ITS SIZE, UPRIVER CLOSURES, POTENTIAL SEASON CLOSURES IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER AND MARCH/APRIL.

It was **AGREED** that the preferred time for the workshop was for it to be held one evening on a weeknight.

029.2 Review of Governance and Management of CSI Fish and Game Council (9.1)

Chairman invited M Taylor to speak to the NZ Council letter with the CSI Audit Report. M Taylor advised there were two aspects to the report with the first being managing conflicts of interest and the second being Council delegations and responsibilities.

D Isbister commented that the audit report clearly states that CSI Council and Chairman handled procedures correctly. M Taylor confirmed that the findings are clear that CSI Council issues were appropriately managed.

D Isbister queried if other F&G Councils have management plans re Conflict of Interest (CoI). M Taylor responded that it varies. D Isbister asked if NZ Council has a CoI management plan? M Taylor responded that it did not.

L Koevoet stated that the complaints from S Gerard were not substantiated and believed it has come at significant cost to the CSI Council outside of what was funded by DoC.

J Henry stated that his observations at meetings were that Mr Rooney acted in a very apt manner. He is a well-known businessman and people like to take pot shots. Mr Rooney was shot down in the public because rumours had been spread that came from persons around this Council table.

M Hall stated that he found the whole process to be hugely upsetting and if he thought G Rooney was out of line, he would not hesitate to pull him up. When this audit was announced it knocked his trust in the NZ Council and as far as he was concerned it was a PR nightmare involving a lot of money being spent on it. It was all about attacking the person, not only Gary Rooney but Jay Graybill also. He felt NZ Council seriously erred on this matter. A lot of money has been spent on this that could have been spent on the salmon fishery. He felt CSI is being singled out and CoI relates to this current Council as well.

D Isbister noted this whole audit resulted from S Gerard's complaint and asked to hear what S Gerard had to say. S Gerard responded that it was his belief the auditors didn't refer to the correct standing orders. L Koevoet felt that S Gerard's position at the Council table was untenable and that S Gerard should resign.

M Taylor stated that NZ Council has sent CSI a letter with 4 recommendations and it will be expecting a response either from this meeting or the next meeting.

Resolved (Simpson/Brooks) (7 for, 3 against)

19-045

THAT COUNCIL REVIEW AND UPDATE ITS GOVERNANCE POLICY TO REFLECT GOOD PRACTICE INCLUDING A MORE VISIBLE APPROACH TO MANAGING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND THE ASSOCIATED PERCEPTIONS – INCLUDING, IF WARRANTED, THE USE OF A DOCUMENTED CONFLICT OF INTERESTS MANAGEMENT PLAN.

Resolved (Simpson/Brooks)

19-046

THAT CSI AGREE TO GIVE CONSIDERATION TO RECOMMENDATIONS 2, 3 AND 4 AND AS SOON AS PRACTICAL AND ADVISE THE NZ COUNCIL OF ITS DECISION.

19-030 OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS:

030.1 RDR Hearings

M Hall stated that mediation for the RDR consents is scheduled for 21/22 May. The reason he is a s274 party was to support the appellants but has not heard a word from them. Chief Executive advised that CSI was in the same position. CSI have requested information from the appellants on their sediment studies for their sediment expert to review. He noted that CSI has retained their expert sedimentologist and geomorphologist so he can provide his expertise to the mediation process.

Resolved (Centofanti/Bannister)

19-047

THAT BEING 10:35 PM COUNCIL CONTINUE WITH THE AGENDA AND CONCLUDE THE MEETING AT 11 PM.

19-031 NZFGC MATTERS:

D Isbister provided an update on NZC matters from the April meeting of the NZ Council. Topics included:

- CSI audit report concluded with the outcome being that the previous CSI Council had managed all procedures appropriately.
- Hawkes Bay audit still ongoing
- Contestable funding decisions made – commended the CSI Chief Executive on all CSI's contestable fund applications being approved, including new projects to advance knowledge of key CSI fisheries.
- 1080 in trout – discussion about Fish and Game's responsibilities.
- Licence fees potentially increasing \$3 for fish and \$1 for game.

19-032 GENERAL BUSINESS AND LATE AGENDA ITEM:

032.1 2019/20 Licence Fee

Chief Executive had pre-circulated a late paper from the NZ Council on the 2019/20 licence fee recommendation. No discussion was held, and it was:

Resolved (Centofanti/McKenzie)

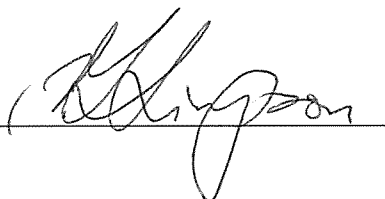
19-048

1. THAT THE CSI COUNCIL SUPPORTS A 2019/20 RECOMMENDED ADULT WHOLE SEASON SPORTS FISH LICENCE FEE OF \$133 AND AN ADULT WHOLE SEASON GAME LICENCE FEE OF \$98 (INCLUSIVE OF A \$4 FEE FOR THE GAME BIRD HABITAT STAMP) INCLUSIVE OF GST.
2. THAT THE ADULT NON-RESIDENT WHOLE SEASON LICENCE BECOME \$180 WITH ALL THE OTHER NON-RESIDENT LICENCE PRICES STAYING THE SAME.

Meeting closed: 11:10 pm.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday 20 June 2019.

Signed



Date

