

## CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Central South Island Fish and Game Council held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 6:45 pm.

Present: C Weatherall (Zoom) L Koevoet (Chair)  
S Bannister (Zoom) D Rattray  
P Centofanti A Simpson  
J deWit

In Attendance: S McKnight (CE), M Webb (Fish and Game Officer), H Stevens (Fish and Game Officer), N Dellaway (Fish and Game Officer), R Adams (Fish and Game Officer)

### 23-029 APOLOGIES:

C McKenzie, J Henry (Ngai Tahu).

Resolved (Weatherall/Rattray)

23-047

**THAT THE APOLOGIES BE RECEIVED.**

### 23-030 COUNCILLOR INTEREST REGISTER:

Chair queried if Councillors had any new interests to add to the register or any conflicts, or perceived conflicts, between their current interests and the business of tonight's meeting? None were forthcoming.

### 23-031 HEALTH & SAFETY:

CE pointed out exit points of the building and assembly point for evacuation of the premises in case of an emergency.

### 23-032 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

Resolved (Simpson/Centofanti)

23-048

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 16 MARCH 2023 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.**

### 23-033 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

J deWit requested to discuss minutes of February 2022 meeting on licence holder surveys. Chair advised the minutes Council were approving were March 2023 and asked Mr deWit to stay within the boundaries of the minutes of the March meeting. Mr deWit continued and the Chair asked Mr deWit to either please be quiet or leave the room. Mr deWit continued on and after a short discussion Mr deWit was advised he could bring his issues up as a notice of motion at the next meeting as his topic is not part of the March minutes. Mr deWit agreed to this.

It was **AGREED** to change the order of the agenda to allow discussion on the CE report to be undertaken earlier in the meeting.

## 23-034 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:

### 034.1 Upper Ohau River Spring Season 2022 (8.1)

CE spoke to this report advising that the Upper Ohau is an important destination fishery for many anglers with a high public profile whereby any decision Council makes on this is likely to be closely scrutinised. He advised that CSI is currently in negotiations with Meridian with re-consenting and the Upper Ohau is prominent in these considerations. He further noted that the Upper Ohau is specifically mentioned in CSI's SFGMP (8.2.13) that has been approved by the Minister.

R Adams spoke to his report noting the controlled fishery proved to be popular with an 89% response rate to the survey of anglers who fished the Upper Ohau which showed the high engagement of anglers with this fishery.

Discussion ensued and staff responded to various queries from Council including concern about whether fishing for spawning fish is sporting behaviour. Others felt happier to allow fishing with half the amount of angling pressure than the previous season and continuation of undertaking surveys. Council recognised that this is a unique fishery with unique opportunities for the angler.

**Resolved (Simpson/Centofanti) (4 for, 2 against)**

**23-049**

- 1. TO UNDERTAKE ANNUAL 'PEAK SEASON' BROWN TROUT SPAWNING SURVEYS TO PROVIDE FURTHER MONITORING OF THE INTERCONNECTED FISHERY'S SPAWNING POPULATION AND PROVIDE INSIGHT INTO FISHERY SUSTAINABILITY INFLUENCES BEYOND THE SPRING SEASON'S TROUT HARVEST.**
- 2. THAT THE 2023 SPRING SEASON BALLOT SCHEDULE IS SET AS SET OUT IN SCHEDULE 1.**
- 3. THAT THE 2024 SPRING SEASON BALLOT SCHEDULE BE REVIEWED AND ADOPTED BY MAY 2024.**
- 4. TO ADOPT A MINIMUM 80% SATISFACTION TARGET FOR MAINTAINING ACCEPTABLE ANGLER SATISFACTION.**

R Adams was thanked for his hard work on this report as well as the contribution from both staff and anglers.

### 034.2 Designated Waters (8.2)

Council were advised that a Designated Water licence system is being introduced to replace the backcountry licence system for the 2023/24 fishing season. To justify classifying a designated water there needs to be clear rationale and supporting evidence that the angling experience is being negatively affected by excessive angling pressure, and that other management mechanisms (voluntary beats, booking/ballot system etc.) are not suitable for the fishery in question.

General discussion ensued. It was noted that the Upper Ahuriri could be considered but this would need further investigation and surveys to make an informed decision.

**Resolved (Simpson/Centofanti)** (4 for, 2 against)

**23-050**

**THAT NO DESIGNATED WATERS BE RECOMMENDED FOR THE CSI REGION AT THIS STAGE.**

**034.3 2023/24 Anglers Notice Review (8.3)**

The council was provided with a staff report with recommendations for the 2022/23 Angler Notice. (*Note: Please refer to the 2023/24 Anglers Notice Review report for detail*). The following recommendations resulted from Council deliberations. These recommendations will be forwarded to the NZ Council.

**1. Fishing from Boats on Ahuriri River Lagoons**

**Resolved (Centofanti/Simpson)**

**23-051**

**TO MAINTAIN CURRENT CONDITION THAT PERMITS BOAT USE ON THE AHURIRI TARNs.**

**2. Season Bag Limit for Hatchery Origin Sea-Run Salmon**

**Resolved (Centofanti/Simpson)**

**23-052**

- 1. TO MAINTAIN A SEA-RUN SALMON SEASON BAG LIMIT THAT APPLIES TO THE SUM OF WILD AND HATCHERY-ORIGIN SALMON.**
- 2. TO RECONSIDER THE INTRODUCTION OF AN ADDITIONAL SEASON BAG FOR HATCHERY-ORIGIN FIN-CLIPPED SALMON DURING THE 2025/26 TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF FISHING CONDITIONS.**
- 3. THAT THE REVIEW OF THE GROUNDS FOR INTRODUCING AN ADDITIONAL SEASON BAG LIMIT FOR HATCHERY-ORIGIN SALMON SHALL INCLUDE BUT SHALL NOT BE LIMITED TO -**
  - I. ADMINISTRATION REQUIREMENTS, AND**
  - II. AN ASSESSMENT OF THE SUSTAINABILITY OF MCKINNONs AND WRES ORIGIN RETURNS TO THE RANGITATA AND WAITAKI RIVERS RESPECTIVELY, TO SUPPORT ADDITIONAL HARVEST, AND**
  - III. THE IMPACT OF EXTENDING SALMON ANGLER ACTIVITY FOR HATCHERY-ORIGIN FISH ON BYCATCH OF WILD SEA-RUN SALMON.**

**3. Sea-Run Salmon Season Bag Limit (CSI & NC F&G Staff)**

**Resolved (Centofanti/Rattray)**

**23-053**

- 1. THAT THE SEA-RUN SALMON SEASON BAG LIMIT FOR 2023/24 FOR THE CSIFG AND NCFG REGIONS COMPLIES WITH THE THRESHOLD MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND BE BASED ON THE FINAL ESTIMATES OF THE COMBINED WAIMAKARIRI, RAKAIA AND RANGITATA SEA-RUN SALMON SPAWNING POPULATION SIZE AVAILABLE NO LATER THAN 15 JUNE 2023, AS FOLLOWS-**
  - I. COMBINED SPAWNING POPULATION SIZE IN EXCESS OF 5,100 FISH – RETAIN 2 FISH SEASON BAG LIMIT**
  - II. COMBINED SPAWNING POPULATION SIZE BETWEEN 1,200 AND 5,100 FISH – RETAIN 2 FISH SEASON BAG LIMIT**

**III. COMBINED SPAWNING POPULATION SIZE OF LESS THAN 1,200 FISH – IMPLEMENT 1 FISH SEASON BAG LIMIT.**

034.4 2023/24 Licence Fee Recommendation (8.4)

CE advised that both the Managers and the NZ Council have worked very hard to keep the cost of the proposed licence fee under inflation.

**Resolved (Centofanti/Rattray)**

**23-054**

**THAT COUNCIL APPROVE LICENCE FEES AND CATEGORIES AS SET OUT IN THE APPENDED SCHEDULE (APPENDIX 2) AND SPECIFICALLY:**

- A. THAT THE 2023/24 ADULT WHOLE SEASON SPORTSFISH LICENCE FEE IS SET AT \$153 AND THAT THE ADULT WHOLE SEASON GAME LICENCE IS SET AT \$113 (INCLUSIVE OF A \$5 FEE FOR THE GAMEBIRD HABITAT STAMP), WITH ALL PROPORTIONAL CHANGES TO REMAINING LICENCE FEES AND CATEGORIES INCLUDING A \$5 FEE BEING ADDED TO THE SEA-RUN SALMON LICENCE ENDORSEMENT (AS A COST-RECOVERY MECHANISM).**
- B. THAT A NEW LICENCE CATEGORY IS ESTABLISHED CALLED A DESIGNATED WATERS LICENCE, AVAILABLE AS A \$5 ANNUAL LICENCE PER FISH AND GAME REGION FOR RESIDENT ANGLERS AND AS A DAY LICENCE TO NON—RESIDENT ANGLERS AT A FEE OF \$40.**

034.5 Resident/Non-Resident Definition (8.5)

CE advised this is being addressed for Fish and Game to align its definition of resident and non-resident with the Immigration Act and DOC Taupo.

**Resolved (Bannister/Centofanti)**

**23-055**

**THAT CSI AGREE FOR FISH AND GAME TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF RESIDENT AND NON-RESIDENT WITH THE IMMIGRATION ACT AND DOC TAUPO.**

034.6 Draft National Reserves Policy (8.6)

NZ Fish and Game is seeking feedback from regions on its Reserves Policy where it proposes to codify the status quo approach to reserves and provide clarity to all councils on the thresholds and processes associated with reserves. CE advised that CSI reserves stands at near 50% but with the contestable funds on reserves put forward by CSI this will show a reduction to our reserves. After a brief discussion Council noted the draft policy but felt it was not in a position to make any decisions or give a response at this meeting.

034.7 North End Hut Holder Rates Payment for Alexandrina Hut (8.7)

CE advised that Council received notification from North End Hut Holders Assn that they had not received payments towards Lake Alexandrina Hut rates from 2020 through 2023. He confirmed that over that period CSI did not receive any invoices or notification to pay these rates and sought Council's approval to pay this from reserves.

Resolved (Simpson/Centofanti)

23-056

**THAT COUNCIL APPROVES THE PAYMENT OF THE FULL AMOUNT OF \$2,250 RATES DEMAND FOR THE FISH AND GAME HUT AT LAKE ALEXANDRINA FROM NON-RESIDENT RESERVES TO MAINTAIN THE GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HUT HOLDERS ORGANISATION AND TO ENSURE THAT THIS YEAR'S FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE IS NOT IMPACTED.**

034.8 Otuwharekai Collaboration with North Canterbury Fish and Game (8.8)

CE advised that he wishes to collaborate with North Canterbury at an operational level to address the concerns surrounding the sea-run salmon fishery at the headwaters of the Rakaia River. North Canterbury have concerns about Lake Heron whereas CSI are more comfortable in terms of the research it has done. He felt it would be useful for the two regions to collaborate to undertake further detailed research together to understand the potential negative impacts of the current bag limit regulation and other environmental concerns.

Resolved (Rattray/Centofanti)

23-057

**THAT COUNCIL APPROVES CSI CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO MEET WITH NORTH CANTERBURY CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY TOWARDS ADDRESSING CONCERNS AROUND OTUWHAREKAI AND LAKE HERON.**

034.9 OWP Progress (8.9)

CE advised that due to CSI not being able to secure a full complement of staff we are 2,000 hours short. He and staff have worked on prioritising objectives for the current year and have cut significant hours however it is still 600 hours short. He advised that he has engaged two consultancies to undertake work on resource consents/submissions and has also sought support from other F&G regions. He planned to present a revised 2022/23 OWP at the July meeting. He further advised that the 2023/24 OWP includes hours for a staff member that CSI were unsuccessful at gaining approval for so that OWP will need to be amended also.

034.10 Health & Safety (8.10)

CE advised that Councils health and safety policy has been updated to ensure that it meets the requirements of the current state of legislation. The updated policy provides clear guidance to our employees on their responsibilities regarding health and safety in the workplace.

Resolved (Simpson/Centofanti) (5 for, 1 against)

23-058

- 1. THAT THE CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL ADOPTS THE REVIEWED HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE HSWA ACT 2015.**
- 2. THAT THE COUNCIL DELEGATES THE AUTHORITY TO THE CHAIR TO SIGN THE POLICY ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL, AND THAT**

**THE POLICY BE POSTED IN THE WORKPLACE FOR ALL EMPLOYEES TO REVIEW AND ABIDE BY.**

- 3. THAT THE PROCEDURES UNDER THIS POLICY WILL BE REVIEWED AS WE GO FORWARD TO ENSURE THAT WE ARE CONTINUALLY IMPROVING AND MAINTAINING A SAFE WORK ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL EMPLOYEES.**

034.11 Risk Register

CE advised that Council needs to conduct a review of the risk register and risk treatment plan to ensure it remains relevant and effective in identifying and mitigating potential risks, ultimately ensuring the safety and wellbeing of staff, stakeholders, and the public.

Ngai Tahu engagement was raised, and Council re-iterated its commitment to ensuring this remains high priority for this Council. It was felt it should be a routine agenda item to allow our Ngai Tahu representative to have input.

**23-035 BUDGET & FINANCE:**

CE advised that game licences sales are tracking to be on a par with the previous season.

**Resolved (Rattray/deWit)**

**23-059**

**THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND RATIFIES THE SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR MARCH 2023 AND APRIL 2023 IN THE GST INCLUSIVE AMOUNTS OF \$181,437.28, AND \$100,289.78, RESPECTIVELY.**

**23-035 COUNCILLOR REPORTS:**

035.1 Further Governance Training for Members (A Simpson) (9.1)

A Simpson reported that whilst Council has made great progress in improving its governance policies and underlying procedures since 2010, he felt these improvements need to be complemented by ongoing governance training. He drew attention to his September 2021 recommendation to Council to fund members' participation in the accredited governance training programmes that are offered online by the NZ Institute of Directors. He felt CSI Council could achieve a significant improvement in their understanding of the principles of good governance and understanding their role as governors.

**Resolved (Simpson/Centofanti)**

**23-060**

**THAT COUNCIL APPROVES FUNDING FROM RESERVES FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN THE "GOVERNANCE ESSENTIALS" COURSE OFFERED BY THE INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS (OR EQUIVALENT PROGRAMME) DURING 2023.**

035.2 Meeting of South Island Chairs (A Simpson) (9.2)

A Simpson advised that during the term of the previous Council he held two informal meetings of the South Island Chairs to exchange information and identify issues significant for the South Island to gain consensus on important issues. He felt there are issues that uniquely concern the South Island and suggested the CSI Chair could extend

an invitation to the other 5 South Island Chairs (or their nominee) to meet with the view of exploring issues of common interests.

**Resolved (Simpson/Centofanti)**

**23-061**

**THAT THIS COUNCIL DIRECTS THE CHAIR TO INVITE THE OTHER 5 SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL CHAIRS (OR THEIR NOMINEE) TO ATTEND AN INFORMAL WORKSHOP IN TEMUKA TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTERESTS AT THEIR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.**

**23-036 NOTICE OF MOTION:**

036.1 Election of Deputy Chair (L Koevoet) (10.1)

L Koevoet advised he would like Council to elect a Deputy Chair in the advent of his unavailability to undertake Chair duties.

Nomination

A Simpson

Mover/Seconder

L Koevoet/P Centofanti

D Rattray was nominated but declined the nomination.

As there were no further nominations for Chairman were forthcoming A Simpson was **declared elected** to the position of Deputy Chairman unopposed.

036.2 Email Addresses on Website (J deWit) (10.2)

J deWit spoke to his motion where he had requested Council members email addresses be put on the Fish and Game website. General discussion from each of the members reflected that they did not wish their contact details added to the website. It was suggested that this item could be considered for subsequent Councils.

036.3 Governance Policy Committee (J DeWit) (10.3)

It was **AGREED** that this matter be deferred to the July 2023 Council meeting.

At 10:20 pm it was:

**Resolved (Centofanti/Koevoet)**

**22-062**

**THAT THE MEETING CONTINUE FOR 30 MINUTES.**

**23-037 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION:**

**Resolved (Rattray/Centofanti) at 8:30 pm**

**23-063**

**THAT THE PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE FOLLOWING PARTS OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THIS MEETING.**

**THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED WHILE THE PUBLIC IS EXCLUDED, THE REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER, AND THE SPECIFIC GROUNDS UNDER SECTION 48(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987 FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

### 037.1 Confirmation of Public Excluded Minutes: Meeting of 16 March 2023

General Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter [i.e., OIA interest protected]	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Approval of Public Excluded Minutes.	OIA section 9(2)(j)	That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982.

### 037.2 Draft Remuneration Policy

General Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter [i.e., OIA interest protected]	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Draft Remuneration Policy	OIA section 9(2)(b)(ii)	Would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

### 037.3 Chairs Report

General Subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter [i.e., OIA interest protected]	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
Chairs Report	OIA section 9(2)(a)	To protect the privacy of natural persons.

### **PUBLIC MEETING RESUMED:**

Council resumed in open session at 10:39. pm.

### **NEXT MEETING DATES**

Next Council Meeting: Thursday 20 July 2023 at 7 pm.

Meeting closed: 10:39 pm

Signed AKK

Date 27-7-23