

**Agenda for the Meeting of the
Otago Fish & Game Council to be held on
16th June 2016 at
St John's Rooms, 145 Scotland Street, Roxburgh**

Commencing at 11am

Please note: A Lunch will be provided at 12.30

1 Present and Apologies	2
2 Declaration of Interest / Health and Safety Report	2
3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes	3
4 Matters arising from the minutes	10
5 Communications New Zealand Council	11
5.1 Correspondence from NZC to Otago	11
5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC	19
6 Chief Executives Report	20
7 Committee Reports	38
7.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust	38
7.2 NZC Meeting	38
8 Staff and Technical Reports	39
8.1 2016 Game Season Opening - C Halford	39
8.2 1 st Schedule Regulations Working Party Recommendations - C Halford	43
8.3 2015/16 Anglers Notice Review Second Schedule – C Halford	50
8.4 Back Country Compliance, Ranging and Angler Satisfaction Survey 2015/16 - P van Klink	60
8.5 2016 Greenstone Controlled Fishery Satisfaction Survey - H Trotter	68
8.6 Confidential Report – Consent Affected Parties Status – P Wilson	74
9 Correspondence	75
9.1 Office of Auditor General – Audit arrangements for Otago Fish & Game Council – CE To Report	75
9.2 Controller and Auditor General – Advice on governance and accountability	79
9.3 Kenneth McFarland – Complaint about disturbance of duck shooting by anglers. Also letter to the ODT and response	80
10 General Business	84

1 Present and Apologies

2 Declaration of Interest

3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes

**Minutes of Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting
Otago Fish and Game Council Boardroom, Dunedin
21st April 2016
Commencing at 12.15pm**

1.0 Present

Monty Wright (Chair), Dr John Jillett, John Barlow, Adrian McIntyre, Dave Witherow, Ian Cole, Colin Weatherall, Dr Mike Turner, and Rick Boyd.

In attendance: Niall Watson (CE), Ian Hadland (OM), Stu Hayes (University of Otago)

Apologies were received from Dan Rae, Vicky Whyte, Alan Hammond and Murray Neilson.

Resolved (Cole/Barlow)

That apologies be received.

2.0 Declarations of Interest and Health and Safety

- **Declarations of Interest** - There were no new declarations of interest.

- **Health and Safety** – Canopy rear windows had spontaneously shattered on two relatively new vehicles. There were no injuries and replacement had had a protective film applied to them.

3.0 Minutes

Resolved (Weatherall/McIntyre)

That the Minutes of the meetings on the 13th and 14th February be confirmed as a true and correct record.

4.0 Matters Arising from Minutes.

4.1 Lake Dunstan Mai Mai – The CE advised that the unauthorised mai mai structure on Lake Dunstan was in the process of being removed.

4.2 Stu Hayes Presentation – the presentation at the February meeting was discussed and non-resident use of both ‘lowland’ waters and backcountry waters was noted. The CE explained that this was not new information as ‘lowland’ waters such as the Upper Taieri and Mataura had been recognised as being popular with non residents for some time. However, non-residents tended to represent a high proportion of BC fisheries.

Councillors requested urgency over the introduction of the guides licence to enable guides to be identified. Other management options for waters popular with non-residents were discussed in the light of increasing angling pressure.

5.0 Communications New Zealand Council

Mr Wright expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of the recent NZC meeting in Cromwell. Councillors McIntyre, Wright, Neilson, Whyte and Turner had attended along with Messrs Watson and Hadland.

Mr Wright said NZ Councillors were clearly impressed with the field trip and gained first-hand experience of Upper Clutha access, the plight of the Lindis River, and the importance of the Nevis WCO.

He said the meeting had allowed for a very positive interaction between the two councils and Otago representatives had been encouraged to take part in meeting debates. He noted the only off note was the idea, raised in the financial review workshop, that financial reserves of all 13 councils should be centralised in Wellington.

Dr Jillett apologised for his inability to attend the meeting but said he was heartened by the Otago attendance and the very good feedback

5.1 NZC Correspondence to Otago

Nil

5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC

Nil

6.0 Chief Executive's Report

6.1 Administration

Finance and licence sales reports to the end of March 2016 were discussed. Council noted that the expenditure budget was just under 50% spent 58% through the financial year.

Licence Sales

There were no known potential liabilities and licence revenue returns were only 0.7% behind the LEQ sales target despite the introduction of new licence categories including three discounted categories.

In response to a query Mr Hadland advised that nationally LEQs were down 3.9% on target but were within the range for the last four years. There was some discussion on fee adjustments between categories

Oceania Gold

Oceania Gold have offered to renew the contract to host the trout hatchery at Macraes for a further 10 years and covering their material support for hatchery running. Mr Hadland recommended the contract be accepted.

Resolved (Weatherall/Boyd)

That the hatchery contract with Oceania Gold be approved and signed.

Resolved (Barlow/Jillett)

That Finance and Licence sales reports to the end of March 2016 be approved.

6.2 Species

Salmon Fish Out Pond

The CE advised there had been no further action on the proposal other than to commission expert advice on water quality effects. That showed the proposed stocking rate would have adverse effects on water quality. Councillor Boyd said he understood MPI had not yet received a Fish Farm Licence application.

Contact Energy

The CE advised that there had been no further developments on releases or hatcheries since the Council's letter to Contact. Consultants had completed a report on options for habitat enhancement in the lower Clutha

6.3 Habitat

Annual Plan Meeting with ORC

Dr Jillett outlined matters discussed at a recent meeting with the ORC Chair and CE, also attended by Ian Hadland and Peter Wilson. ORC propose:

- Increased staffing on water quality.
- A commitment to minimum flow plan changes
- Support for water user groups involved in transition from mining privileges
- Establishment of a dedicated harbourmaster position for Otago
- Plans for a more inclusive approach with stakeholders
- Plans to improve stock effluent disposal

Pool Burn Channelisation

ORC advise that action is intended over this matter.

Lindis Minimum Flow

The Lindis Minimum Flow hearing was completed on 7th April. A decision was not anticipated for 2 months or so.

6.4 User Participation

Hukarere Station

The CE reported there had been no response from Hukarere Station seeking access to the property for an on-site inspection of access needs through tenure review. He said he was not confident that any advance would be made through further contact with LINZ or the

lessee. A letters of complaint had been written to the Minister of Lands. Some further discussions have been held with DOC.

6.5 Public Interface

The CE and Cr Barlow reported on a recent meeting with Wanaka community representatives to discuss the proposed establishment of a Freshwater Research Centre at the hatchery site. Cr Weatherall had also attended. The meeting had also involved a site visit.

The joint meeting had agreed that the next step would be development of a non-binding heads of agreement. Fish and Game emphasised that it saw Otago University involvement as an essential element in the proposal.

Concerns over stormwater discharges from the Alpha Series subdivision upstream from the hatchery were also discussed. The CE noted the matter was under investigation

6.6 Compliance

Mr Hadland advised there had been a sharp rise in offences detected for the season, up to 59 – which was twice as many as last year.

Council discussed the reparation fee for fishing without a backcountry licence and **confirmed** the fee should be in line with method restriction offences rather than fishing without licence offences. Staff were requested to bring back a full schedule of fees for approval prior to next season.

6.7 Licencing

No discussion

6.8 Council

No discussion

6.9 Planning and Reporting

No discussion

7.0 Committee Reports

7.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust

The CE advised he was stand-in manager for CFT in Chair Dan Rae's post operation absence. He said this involved no greater time than routine liaison.

Trust activity including:

- Support for Lake Hayes research
- Presentation of evidence at the Lindis hearing
- Chasing up the Kane Road agreement which has been signed but lacks appendices.
- Review of SIPO (investment policy) in the light of reduced investment income.
- Proposed improvements to Black Bag access

7.2 New Zealand Council

Dealt with above

8.0 Technical Reports

8.1 Anglers Notice Review - Halford

Mr Halford's report was discussed and decisions were made on proposals as follows:

Arrow River – restriction on treble hooks to protect large fish – **No change.**

Caples River – proposal to manage as a controlled fishery with defined beats – **No change.**

Clutha River Deans Bank – open river reach to all methods – Discussed and in the light of changes to the character of the fishery caused by didymo the matter was **referred to staff for further consideration.**

Upper Clutha Bag Limits – reduce bag limit from 6/day to 2 per day. The matter was discussed along with other proposals no. 9 to adjust daily bag limits in the Upper Clutha catchment from 6 to 4.

Proposals for bag limit changes elsewhere in Otago (both lake and river) were also discussed along with **Lake Wakatipu** proposals for differential bags for salmon and trout raised by Stu Dever. Generally a reduction in bag limit was supported.

Need to:

- take account of consistency with neighbours,
- have regard to sustainability

Resolved (Barlow/Wright)

That the matter be referred bag limit issue to staff for further consideration.

Diamond Creek – make fly fishing only – **No change**

Greenstone River – zero bag and open to winter fishing below swing bridge – **No change.**

Hunter River – establishment of a beat system, possibly voluntary – **No change for coming season but refer to staff for future consideration.**

Kawarau River – close fishing from May to October to stop anglers targeting spawners – **No Change.**

Lake Mahinerangi – Open lake to winter fishing – **Supported. Staff to report back on any consequences.**

Lochy River and Route Burn – move from a zero bag limit to 2 fish per day – **No change**

Makarora River – change to catch and release or increase bag to 2 salmon and 2 trout per day – **No change**. Some councillors reported concerns of anglers over reduced fish numbers in the river.

Manorburn and Poolburn – move to weekend opening and query bag limit – **No change**.

Moke Lake – make fly and spin only – **No change**

Matukituki River – Increase bag limit below Motatapu confluence– **No change**

Nevis River – no change requested – **No change**

Teviot River – a well stock water which could be open all year – staff to **give further consideration**, noting the possible need for a closed reach to protect spawning.

Timaru Creek – lift bag limit from 1 to 2 fish /day – **No change**.

Young and Wilkin Rivers – proposed zero bag limit – **No change**.

Water of Leith – **Close Leith to fishing to protect salmon spawning** – The matter was discussed and it was **agreed** – **the Leith be closed to fishing above Lindsay’s Creek Confluence**.

Bait Fishing – request to ban shellfish as bait, and bait fishing in the Clutha to protect salmon – **Status quo**. Wait for Anglers Notice Schedule 1 working party report.

Use of boats – extend to Makarora below Wilkin – **No change**

Daily Bag Limits - (see above)

Treble Hooks – treble hooks to be prohibited – **No change**. Use of small treble hooks could be encouraged and deserves further consideration by staff.

Catch and Release – open waters for a month of catch and release up to 1st October – **No change**

8.2 Staff Responses to Strategic Planning Report - Watson

The report was discussed and it was **agreed** to project proposals be accepted.

Accepted, noting the South Island staff working party’s progress so far. Councillors were invited to make individual responses to Mr Halford noting that it would come back for Council consideration in a more refined form.

Councillors commented on leaving the gaff provision for Otago in place and the need to discourage the use of light traces (2-3 lb) causing fish to be played to exhaustion.

8.3 Wetland Covenant Update – Wilson

The report was discussed and received

9.0 Correspondence

9.1 – Catchments Otago – Advice of a new University of Otago initiative focussing on freshwater research in Central Otago. CE to respond

9.2 – Alexandra District Club – Thanks for TAKF support
Received

9.3 ORC – Plan Change 3C Waiwera
Received

9.4 ORC – Invitation to participate in rural water quality advisory group.
Received

9.5 – G Todd Law – letter requesting a response on public access conditions to Hunter Valley as part of Overseas Investment Office approval of lease sale.
Agreed that there need to be a tangible benefit to public access and that staff should work with other organisations. The practicality of vehicle access to the head of the lake was discussed
Received

10.0 General Business – Nil

The meeting closed at 5.30 pm

4 Matters arising from the minutes

5 Communications New Zealand Council

5.1 Correspondence from NZC to Otago

5.1.1 2016/17 Licence fee recommendation, response due 20th June – Refer CE's report



TO: Regional Councils

2016/17 LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION

At its meeting on 20 May, the NZ Council (NZC) resolved:

That for the purpose of consultation with regional Fish and Game Councils, the NZ Council recommend a 2016/17 adult whole season sports fish licence of \$125 and the adult whole season game licence of \$93 (inclusive of a \$3 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) inclusive of GST.

1. Background

National policy defines that all expenditure needs to be approved as part of the budget round including expenditure to be funded from the bulk fund for the year, capital expenditure and expenditure from dedicated reserves.

Under the bulk funding regime funding levels are set for the 12 regional councils, the New Zealand Council, and the National budgets which make up the Fish & Game New Zealand budget. The method of increasing the funding level of any individual budget is through an application to the Contestable Fund, for either a one-off funding allocation for a specific project, or for ongoing additional funding. The latter in effect raises the bulk funding level for that council.

2. Reserves

National policy sets regional reserve levels equal to between 30-50% of licence income, or of total budget for those regions which receive a grant. This level of general reserve is considered adequate to provide security against fluctuations in income and to ensure adequate operational cash flow.

Where a region's general reserve exceeds the 50% level, approved contestable funding for that region is allocated from its excess reserve, until such time as that region's general reserve is drawn down to sit within the recommended range. Where a region's reserve is below the 30% level, a contestable fund application can be made to restore the region's general reserve back up to that level.

3. 2016/17 Fish & Game NZ Budget Round with review of 2014/15 Financials

3.1 Variance Review

Preparation of the budgets begins with all instances of more or less than 10% variance between budget and audited year-end financial results being identified at the schedule B level, and explanation for those variances being reviewed at the February managers meeting. This becomes a reference towards considering and prioritising contestable fund applications submitted into the 2016/17 Fish & Game NZ (F&G NZ) Budget.

4. 2016/17 Fish & Game NZ Budget

4.1 Contestable Funding

A total of 32 applications were received, seeking additional funding of \$532,438 exclusive of additional legal/WCO funding, which is funded by the surplus in the contestable fund pool after adoption of licence fees.

Northland, Hawkes Bay, and Southland Fish & Game councils. did not require increases to their base funding levels, as they did not submit applications for contestable funds.

After rating all contestable funding applications with the following rankings:

- 1 Rejected
- 2 Not recommended
- 3 Good to do but not funded 2016/17
- 4 Recommended but not essential for 2016/17
- 5 Essential for 2016/17

It was agreed that only those applications which were rated as (5) *essential for 2016/17* be funded (totalling \$350,232) inclusive of the \$34,274 to be funded from reserves.

Recommended Funding from the licence fee pool:

The successful applications include:

- Salary CPI totalling \$3,048
- Staff performance increases in six regions, totalling \$57,300
- Restoration of Reserves for Eastern for the amount of \$30,000
- New RMA officer position for Auckland/Waikato for the amount of \$60,000
- Mallard monitoring & Habitat management and enhancement, 2 separate applications totalling \$17,800 for Taranaki.
- Replacement of 5 small dinghy boats to meet health & Safety standards at the Novice Training programme for the total amount of \$4,500 for Wellington.
- Three separate applications-Mallard monitoring survey; review of protective equipment; & external legal fees for processing offences totalling \$9,000 for Eastern.
- Development of national fish passage guidelines totalling \$3,500 for C.S.I
- Four separate applications-National finance review; website redesign; Fish & game staff conference; Promotional banners totalling \$126,000 for NZ Council for National projects.

Recommended Funding from Westcoast Regional council's reserves:

The successful application includes:

- Salary CPI totalling \$190 (on-going)
- Staff performance increases totalling \$11,000 (on-going)
- Increase in part-time staff hours \$16,084 (on-going)
- Back country fisheries management \$7,000 (one-off)

Unfunded applications:

6 applications were not recommended for funding this year.

Unsuccessful applications included:

- Funding for salary performance increase – Auckland/Waikato
- Bank interest charges – Auckland/Waikato
- Specialist Recruitment officer –Wellington
- OSH external assessment- Nelson/Marlborough
- New Field Officer position- North Canterbury
- Policy & planning position – NZ Council

4.2 NZC Recommendation:

NZC accepted the recommendation of Managers, approving total contestable funding applications of \$350,232.

Total contestable funds of \$315,958 to be funded by Licence fee pool, and \$34,274 would be provided from regional reserves for 2016/17. Ongoing approved funding beyond 2016/17 from Reserves for two Fish & Game councils (CSI & West Coast) [until the 50% level is drawn down (refer Item 2, Page 1)] is \$103,674, and then this amount will be added to the base fund of the applicable council/s.

Funding of \$129,458 was recommended on an ongoing basis, thereby increasing the bulk funding of the regions concerned and \$707,862 (\$186,500 excluding legal fund) was recommended for the 2016/17 year only, and would therefore be returned to the contestable pool for next F&G NZ budget.

4.3 Research Fund Allocation

The managers' recommended projects totalling \$125,300 for 2016/17 financial year. The budget is retained at \$134,000 plus \$34,000 for Mallard Research.

4.4 RMA & WCO Legal Fund Allocation

The recommended licence fee would provide legal funding of \$521,362 in addition to the \$140,000 existing allocation within NZC budget for this purpose, giving a total 2016/17 budget allocation of \$661,632.

5. Conclusion

The 2016/17 licence fee recommendation would result in a \$1 increase to the Adult Whole Season Fish licence fee (from \$124 to \$125) which equates to a .81% increase, and a \$1 increase for the Game Bird Habitat stamp increasing the Adult Whole Season Game licence fee (from \$92 to \$93 -inclusive of the \$3 Game Bird Habitat Stamp) which equates to a 1.1% increase.

Regional council responses on the proposed 2016/17 licence fees need to be received **no later than Monday 20th June 2016** so that they can be circulated to NZ Council and considered prior to a telephone conference on Wednesday 22nd June 2016.

The NZC will then recommend to the Minister the new schedule of licence fees.



Alison Lyall

Finance and Administration Manager

25 May 2016

5.1.2 Hunting and Harvest Ethics, response due by Nov 16 CE To Report

Agenda Item No. 4.11

HUNTING AND HARVEST ETHICS

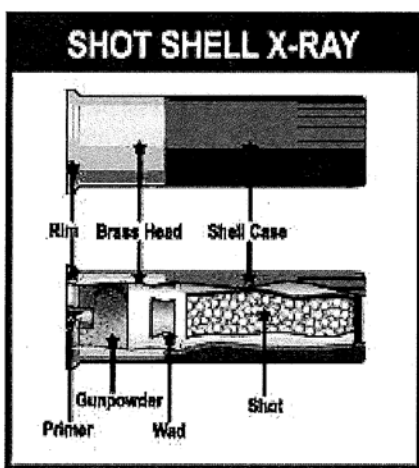
New Zealand Fish and Game Council, May 2016

Prepared by: Robert Sowman, Policy & Planning Manager

1. Recent emails received from licence holders on hunting gadgetry and scattered empty plastic shot shells have been considered by the staff Game Committee. The following summary of their comments is intended to encourage wider debate.
2. The NZ Council Office received an email from a concerned hunter asking what consideration is being given to banning electronic calls for waterfowl, as has occurred across America. Similar concerns are heard over the use of flapping and motorised decoys, jerk-a-spreaders or wind driven decoys. More recently some Fish and Game Councils have taken steps to limit the number of shells held in a shotgun at a time when certain game bird population numbers are low.
3. The Conservation Act 1987 assigns a promotion and education function to regional Fish and Game Councils - (s.26Q(c)(i) requires them to define and promote *ethical standards of behaviour to be followed by anglers and hunters*. Ethical standards or behaviour is an individual, as well as collective, responsibility. It involves integrity, honesty and fairness. It also implies a sense of responsibility and obligation to comply with laws and show respect about the way the heritage has evolved.
4. Ethics includes an element of courtesy to the hunted, with unnecessary harvest frowned upon. They also focus on animal welfare — an animals' wellbeing in terms of flourishing, or suffering. Such standards include protecting particular species or populations and protecting the ecosystems of which wildlife form a part.
5. The often acclaimed father of wildlife conservation in American, Aldo Leopold is quoted as saying “Ethical behaviour is doing the right thing when no one else is watching- even when doing the wrong thing is legal.” In his 1949 book *A Sand County Almanac*, he wrote “our tools for the pursuit of wildlife improve faster than we do, and sportsmanship is the voluntary limitation in the use of these armaments”.
6. A lot of Fish and Game’s angling or hunting heritage is based on sportsmanship or ethical rules. The classic hunting ones being prohibiting the use of any live decoy, shooting from a vehicle or vessel propelled by mechanical power, or shooting of game not in flight. Others vary between regions, such as allowing pond feeding, extension tubes, etc..
7. Arguably these are more to do with aspirations or ethos under a loosely defined term of ‘sportsmanship’ than true controls. If the concern is more about the number of particular species being harvested than the population size can sustain then possibly controls such as season lengths and bag limits will have greater impact than new tools that might improve individual hunter’s success. Admittedly this raises the question of whether season length and bag limits are actually regulating harvest but this is another debate altogether. It also

brings into question whether a limit is a limit, regardless of how it is obtained, and what is the need for further complexity of rules? Another subject of debate.

8. A related email was also received asking about Fish and Game's policy on plastic wads, pointing out Fish and Game are very vocal about water quality in NZ but silent on phasing out the current plastic wads and promoting biodegradable alternatives. Consideration of this subject at the recent meeting of managers concluded there is little immediately that Fish & Game can do apart from agree the spread of plastic wads is an environmental issue. Newer plastics that are UV biodegradable are available, but much more expensive and not widely available. Plus the type of 'plastic' used in the manufacture of steel shot 'enviro wad' will take a couple of years to break down. Older versions of non-plastic wads typically made from coconut fibre and similar material are apparently not good for non-lead shot users. All steel shells require a "shot-cup" wad to protect the barrels from damage from the very hard steel shot, which is why fibre wads are not compatible with steel shells. Action ultimately depends on international ammunition companies responding to growing international interest in such wads, and provides biodegradable wads for steel shot in the not too distant future.



9. Empty shells themselves if not properly disposed of, can have a negative impact on a wetland and its inhabitants. Shotgun shells are generally made of plastic and brass and if they are left in the wetland they will remain there as they don't break down.



10. As licence holders, we are all stewards of the outdoors and need to do everything we can to help take care of it. The more conscientious hunter pick-up their spent shells, but the assumption is most don't. One simple step might be for Fish and Game to encourage hunters to use biodegradable wadding and pick up cartridge cases. A new gadget that might help make a difference is the MOJO Pick Stick that makes picking up empty shotgun hulls in blind, range, or field much easier. The magnetic staff will pick up as many as 25 hulls at a time.
11. These recent email enquiries raise important points about hunter and harvest ethics and what could be Fish and Game's policy response. Should Fish and Game be setting its own code of ethics and best practice? Should Fish and Game have a consistent view on the introduction of technical aids for hunters?
12. Such questions are not new. Bryce raised similar points in a Chief Executive's comment in the Fish & Game Magazine's March 2013 Special Edition. He posed the question as to whether 'gear and gadgets' were putting hunters at an unsustainable and unfair advantage over their quarry.
13. Clearly it requires wider debate and the need to go out to regions for discussion with the outcome dependant on a predominant view.
14. If there were to be any suggestion to introduce restrictions it would need a phased in period over several years in recognition that hunters may have recently purchased a piece of kit that they can no longer use. It would also require a signal to retailers/importers as early as possible that such action could be pending. Many have already invested significant sums in bringing them into New Zealand.

Recommendation

That regional Fish and Game Councils be invited to discuss whether Fish and Game should have a national policy on hunter and harvest ethics, and if so what that policy response might be.

5.1.3 Decisions taken potentially impinging on other councils. CE
Comment - This issue is already controlled by national policy on consultation



13 May 2016

Regional Chairmen
Fish and Game Councils

Dear

At the March 2016 NZ Council meeting the attached paper by Andrew Morris, the appointee from Wellington, was discussed. The paper highlights the possible actions by one council having the potential to impinge on another by setting a precedent or limiting further options that council might take on the same subject.

The NZ Council resolved that I write to regional chairs encouraging individual Fish and Game Councils to consult before finalising positions on matters that may then influence options available for other Councils when considering similar matters.

Therefore I submit the attached for your Council's consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lindsay Lyons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Lindsay Lyons
NZ Council Chairperson

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

New Zealand Council
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**DECISIONS TAKEN POTENTIALLY IMPINGING ON OTHER
COUNCILS**

NZ Council Meeting March 2016

Prepared by: Andrew Morris, NZ Councillor

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to raise discussion on action taken by one council having the potential to impinge on another by setting a precedent that may preclude any alternative action. Thereby removing the individual autonomy that would otherwise allow each Council to form its own conclusions
2. This situation is most likely to occur from business interests wanting to further the activity in another Fish and Game region. It has a workable outcome after consultation with the initial Fish and Game Council and an expectation that this will apply elsewhere.
3. Examples where this has happened in the past and had the potential to impede an opposing view elsewhere include:
 - a. The stance taken by Auckland/Waikato not to allow upland game preserves to operate in its region.
 - b. Introducing a hen pheasant bag limit in the Eastern region where hens were not permitted elsewhere
 - c. Determining silver carp were of little or no concern to Fish and Game in the Auckland/Waikato and Eastern regions.
4. In all of these examples, the right of the respective Fish and Game Councils to come to this conclusion and make these decisions is not in question. The potential issue is in arriving at this position it limits or even prevents other Councils maintaining opposing positions.
5. For example, another Council less certain about the science behind silver carp may have wanted to take the precautionary position of opposing it, certainly if a like application were to be made in its own region. However, now one council has taken the "not opposed" stance it makes it commercially difficult to introduce reasons opposing them.
6. The conclusion is a need for a process or set of procedures to be followed that encourages inter-council consultation and allows for a shared view to influence the outcome. This is no different to forming national policy where the NZ Council prepares its policy and consults with regions before finalising and adopting that policy.

Recommendation

That individual Fish and Game Councils are encouraged to consult before finalising its position on matters that will influence commercial behaviour

5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC

5.2.1 Nil

6 Chief Executives Report

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT JUNE 2016

6.1 ADMINISTRATION

Finance and Administration

Financial Reports to 31 May 2016

The finance report for the period from 1 September 2015 to 31 May 2016 is attached for your information.

NZC levies for the year have been set at \$850,957 and commission has been calculated at \$94,831. Key budget figures are included in the front of the Annual Work Plan

Expenditure to date is \$1,491,074 (including levies \$638,218 and commission \$81,318 but excluding depreciation (\$58,734) compared with the annual budget of \$1,896,622 (operational expenditure: \$950,834, depreciation: nil, and levies: \$850,957 and excluding commission: \$94,831).

Total income to date is \$2,020,965 compared with budget of \$1,981,072.

Fishing licence sales revenue received for the year to 31 May 2016 is \$1,577,905 (including commission). The fish budget figures for the full year is \$1,583,698 including commission.

Game licence sales revenue received for the year to date is \$302,105 (including commission). The year's budget for game licence sales is \$312,926 including commission.

Budget and expenditure figures are exclusive of GST

Licence Sales to 31 May 2016

Sales recorded to 31 May 2016 are outlined for fish and game licences in the attached table from Eyede and compared with last year on the same date. Figures are inclusive of GST. Fishing licence sales in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) at 14,751 LEQs are very slightly behind last year at the same time (14,817 LEQs). This remains encouraging given the major change in licence categories. The budget LEQ figure for the year (whole season adult licence equivalents) is 14688.

Game sales to 31 May 2016 in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) are 4033 LEQs, slightly ahead of last year at the same time (4022 LEQs). The budget Game LEQ figure is 3999.

Funds Position at 31 May 2016

ANZ 00 account	\$177,424.06
ANZ 70 account	\$ 418,427.50

Reparation Trust Account

Account balance to 31 August 2015	\$ 55,368
Revenue for year to 31 May 2016	\$ 18,380
Less Grants	<u>\$ 7,500</u>
Total	\$ 66,248

Backcountry Management

Account balance to 31 August 2015	\$30,076
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Term investments as at 31 May 2016:

ASB 0079	\$308,819.91 @ 3.55% maturing July 2016
SBS 44624	\$469,149.43 @ 3.38% maturing December 2016

The sum of \$73,846 is held by Anderson Lloyd in trust for wetland management via DOC.

Agents and Debts

No liabilities or potential liabilities at the present time. One Central Otago agent (Cromwell Sports) has closed

Capital Expenditure

Councillor tablets have been purchased and will be made available at the June meeting.

Quotes have been sought for Dunedin office heating using heat pumps. At present the main office is heated with a heat pump but other rooms and the board room are not. Individual heat pumps are required for each separate office/room of which there are 3. There are economies of scale in installing several at once. A ducting system is more expensive.

CE to report

Staff and Health and Safety

There is nothing to report from a health and safety perspective.

Morgan Trotter's received a distinction for his MSc thesis on Lindis low flows. Helen Trotter's MSc project on Lake Hayes is progressing well and is now about 25% complete.

Land and Buildings

A valuation has been completed for the Cromwell site.

CE to report

Recommendation

That the Finance and Licence Sales Report for the period ending 31 May 2016 be received.

See also my confidential CE report which updates on a number of sensitive issues

6.2 SPECIES

Waterfowl Monitoring (1111)

Nothing to report

Spawning Surveys (1112)

Spawning surveys are underway

Population Monitoring: (1113)

Cardrona write up is continuing.

Success & Satisfaction (1122)

The salmon creel survey on the Lower Clutha has been completed for the season

Fish Salvage (1131)

Nothing to report

Hatchery Operations

The hatchery operation is running normally.

Releases (1161)

Hatchery running as normal.

Releases (1161)

Date	Water	Number	Age	Weight Range
4/05/2016	Tomahawk Lagoon	10	2yr +	2 - 3KG
18/05/2016	Sullivans Dam	10	2yr+	2 - 3KG
20/05/2016	Southern Reservoir	10	2yr+	2 - 3KG

Game Notice (1171)

A paper from NZC (see NZC communications) raises issues concerning hunter and harvest ethics and seeks a regional response on the basis that Fish and Game Councils have as a function the promotion of ethical standards [Conservation Act s 26Q(c) (i)]. Ethical standards for angling and hunting have been discussed in the past and the need to distinguish between enforceable rules and non-enforceable ethical standards has been recognised. Ethical standards are better promoted through non-regulatory codes of conduct and kept separate from rules.

The paper also raises the issue of litter arising from hunting – shell cases and wads and notes, hunters should collect up such litter as far as possible. That is more difficult for plastic wads than for shell cases and NZC should be supported in seeking an ammunition industry response to this issue through the development of biodegradable wads.

The paper includes mention of technology changes – use of robo ducks; magazine extensions; pond feeding etc – and questions whether these impact on sustainability. Bag limits and season lengths should remain the primary mechanism for managing sustainability in my view and the introduction of rules to control equipment should be resisted so that hunters have as much choice as possible over the hunting methods they employ.

For discussion

The Minister of Conservation has apparently asked New Zealand Fish and Game Council to hasten its planned review of the lead shot exemption on sub gauge shotgun use. A review was already planned for 2017. The motivation for this is unclear and the shorter timetable upsets Fish and Game Councils collection of background information ahead of decision-making.

Anglers Notice (1172)

See separate report

Game Bird Control (1181)

Nothing to report.

6.3 HABITAT

Resource Management (1211)

Resource Management Complaints 2014/15

Date/Agency	Issue	Response
May 2015	A complaint was lodged with ORC about channel works in a Central Otago spawning stream in late May.	ORC are investigating. They have confirmed this is going to Court
August 2015	Complaint about a digger in the Bengier Burn during the spawning season	Works done under emergency provisions because of damage to bridge abutments
June 2015	Complaint about grazing adjacent to Waikoikoi	Reported to ORC. As stream was fenced and grazing was not causing pugging at time of inspection no offence was committed
September 2015	Complaint about feedlot next to Kaitangata Channel and potential for leachate discharge	ORC still to respond

Resource Consents

There has been no further response from Contact Energy over Fish and Game's previous letter on the mitigation programme.

CE to report

Planning (1212)

Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group

The MCWSG is preparing to send out a package to farmers seeking support for a scheme based on raising Falls Dam by up to 20 metres

Minimum and Residual Flow Setting

Minimum and Residual Flows and Transition from Mining Privileges (TMP)		
River	Activity and status	Status
Lindis	Minimum flow & transition from mining privileges (TMP). Overallocated MALF 1860 l/s	ORC heard submissions on Water Plan Change 5A on 31 March to 7 April 2016. The plan change proposes a summer minimum flow of 750 l/s, instead of the 450 l/s previously recommended. Fish and Game has sought a summer minimum of 1000 l/s Evidence was presented by four staff, Cawthron institute and Lincoln Agritech. CFT Councillors and anglers also presented submissions in person. DOC and Ngai Tahu's submissions were well aligned with Fish and Game . A decision is expected in the next month or so.
Cardrona	Minimum Flow & TMP Overallocated	Mainstem fisheries and flow surveys were undertaken over the 2014/15 summer period and follow-up work on spawning, flows and temperature is planned. A minimum flow proposal is expected late in 2016 but there is no firm timetable
Waikouaiti	Minimum Flow Fully allocated MALF 258 l/s	F&G have supported a minimum flow of 220 l/s proposed through community consultation. Further action on the minimum flow has been deferred pending more research by ORC on estuary health.

Pomahaka	<p>Minimum flow</p> <p>MALF 4300 l/s</p> <p>Min Flow 3600l/s (84% MALF)</p>	<p>The plan change has been completed setting minimum flows of 3600 l/s (summer) 7000 l/s (winter), primary allocation limit of 1000 l/s, and a supplementary allocation minimum flow of 13,0000 l/s.</p>
Waiwera	<p>Minimum flow</p> <p>MALF 310 l/s</p> <p>Min Flow 280 l/s (90% MALF)</p>	<p>The ORC hearing panel decision set a 300 l/s summer minimum flow instead of the 260 l/s notified. That decision was appealed to the Environment Court and the matter was resolved through mediation in early December 2015 with agreement on 280 l/s.</p>
Manuherikia	<p>Minimum flow</p> <p>Irrigation scheme investigation.</p> <p>MALF lower river 2126 l/s</p> <p>Overallocated</p>	<p>There is a collaborative process underway involving F&G.(Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group).</p> <p>The irrigation scheme proposals which are focussed on raising the level of Falls Dam are about to be the subject of an offer to catchment farmers. A 20 metre raise is contemplated</p> <p>The Manuherikia catchment has over 250 mining privileges (or deemed permits) in place. The present minimum flow at Ophir at 820 l/s is considered inadequate and ORC are planning to set a minimum flow for the lower river</p>
Benger Burn	<p>Minimum flow &TMP.</p> <p>Overallocated</p>	<p>Further action by ORC has been deferred pending more research on water resources and aquifer/surface water interaction.</p>
Sow Burn	<p>TMP</p> <p>Overallocated</p> <p>Residual flow of 70 l/s + off-site mitigation</p>	<p><u>The Sowburn all-of-catchment consent has been granted by ORC.</u></p> <p>The residual flow requirement is 70 l/s on a stream that is considered to be ephemeral in nature in the middle reaches.</p> <p>Off-site mitigation conditions include a protective covenant over a large area of the Maniototo wetlands</p>

Kye Burn	TMP Overallocated MALF 500 l/s	F&G position is that a mainstem environmental flow between 200-300 l/s is required. A meeting was held with irrigators in early December 2015. Their present position is outside the above range at which flow the Kye Burn is unlikely to connect in a meaningful way to the Taieri River. Connection is a key value.
Low Burn	Minimum flow TMP Overallocated	No action
Bannock Burn	Minimum flow TMP Overallocated	No action
Quartz Creek	TMP Overallocated	Reports on fishery values (2) competed along with a report on fish salvage. There is little information on stream hydrology.
Tuapeka River	ORC Management Flow Report MALF 314 l/s	No action
Upper Clutha		ORC is planning research on flow requirements for fish in the river to inform a minimum flow setting process
12 Mile Creek (Wakatipu)	ORC Management Flow Report	Stream survey work is being undertaken
Fern Burn	Overallocated	Status of flows and takes needs to be investigated. Spawning surveys have been completed in the past

CE to Report

Transition from Mining Privileges (MPs) to RMA Consents

The ORC is organising irrigators in Central Otago into catchment groups – similar to the Sowburn and Kyeburn groups in the Taieri. Over 50 groups have been proposed. A timetable for group meetings has been prepared and shared, and on Fish and Game advice, stakeholders such as DOC, Ngai Tahu, and Fish and Game will be able to jointly present their preliminary values and desired outcomes to these groups at their second meetings. Information gaps will also be identified and action plans developed to resolve these gaps. The Arrow River will be the first group requiring a presentation from Fish and Game, in June.

There is a continuing risk that processing of individual consent applications replacing mining privileges in overallocated Central Otago catchments will undermine environmental flow setting.

Fish and Game is denied the opportunity to be involved in the consent process where ORC determines that it is not an 'affected party' for an individual consent application.

Based on previous meetings with ORC our understanding was that we would be treated as an affected party for consent applications replacing mining privileges but this protocol has not been followed recently. A real risk is if Fish and Game presents information early on in the process, this information will be later used to claim that Fish and Game has already had its say, and be denied affected party status. This is how Central South Island Fish and Game were treated in the Borst case for instance.

See separate report.

Reserves Management (1221)

The wet period of weather has begun filling the Takitua Wetland behind the bund. A report on the completed bund has been provided to the ORC to meet consent conditions

OM to report PPT

Wetland Protection (1232)

Nothing to report

Assisted Habitat (1230)

Nothing to report

River Management (1233)

Nothing to report

6.4 USER PARTICIPATION

Access (1311)

See confidential report

Signage (1312)

Signs installed: Salmon anglers information sign (Yacht Club boat ramp), Lake Wakatipu x 3 (Kinloch, Kelvin Heights, mouth of one mile stream), Toko mouth (wetland reserve), Waters of Leith (gardens), Clutha mouth north branch (replace foot access only sign) Otokia (wetland reserve), Angler access (Grovers Hill Rd, Roxbrough), Pinders Pond (replace sign that's been removed), Angler Access (at the end of Soper Rd), Angler Access (mouth of Bengier Burn)

Backcountry Fisheries (1321)

See separate reports

Magazine Supplements and Newsletters (1331)

Nothing to report

Reel Life/Both Barrels

Monthly contributions to online newsletters are continuing

Newspaper Supplements (1332)

Nothing to report

River Reports (1333)

Nothing to Report

Publications (1342)

Nothing to report.

Web Site (1343)

Nothing to report

Fishing and Hunting Events (1351)

Nothing to report

Take-a-kid-fishing (1352)

Nothing to report

Club Liaison (1361)

Nothing to report

Commercial Use (1362)

Nothing to report

6.5 PUBLIC INTERFACE

Liaison (1411)

The meeting with ORC was productive and positive and attended by Monty, Murray, Adrian, Ian and me. Monty has since written to the ORC Chair reiterating our positive view of the current situation.

Southland Fish and Game Council have requested the joint meeting with them be held on 21st July which is a Thursday. A Clinton venue is being organised with the same format proposed as last time – meet early evening for a meal.

Environmental Officer Peter Wilson has represented Fish and Game at meetings with the Otago Regional Council on plan change 6A (external stakeholder advisory), low flows, deemed permits/plan change 1C implementation, and river management strategies (Strath Taieri and Pomahaka). There has been a marked increase in the level of engagement with the ORC at a technical level.

Media (1431)

There has been good media coverage on compliance, minimum flows and environmental matters.

Advocacy (1432)

There has been some interaction with ORC about the effectiveness of minimum flows and responses to drought conditions. The key issue is whether or not the existing minimum flows are doing their job – that is, are all the surface water takes upstream of those points being progressively required to cease when the various minimum flows are breached.

The ORC reports that they investigated over 300 irrigation takes during the summer and only found two instances of taking that breached consent conditions or minimum flows, which were issued with formal warnings. Given the extent and severity of the drought, this is an excellent outcome. Of course, residual and minimum flow conditions on consents may not provide adequate downstream flows to maintain instream values, but this can only be addressed through consent reviews.

Tenure Reviews (1433)

Some time has gone into writing to the Minister of Lands about the unsatisfactory nature of public access conditions coming out of tenure review and liaising with DOC over marginal strip issues. See confidential report

6.6 COMPLIANCE

Ranging (1511)

Coordinated ranging on opening day of the gamebird hunting season resulted in a handful of offences being detected. Two of the 6 ranging teams were supported by local police constables (at their request) Both were very happy with what they observed in terms of hunter behaviour and we doubt their attendance alongside F&G rangers will become a regular activity.

Ranger Support

Nothing to report

Prosecutions

One offender, of no fixed abode, is proving difficult to serve a summons with the last attempt by Pukekohe police being another failure. That case has been adjourned. One further offender is due to be served a summons to appear in the Queenstown Court at the end of July for fishing without a licence and providing false information.

6.7 LICENCING

Licensing System (1611)

The Eyede licensing system continues to operate well.

Agents (1612)
Nothing to report

6.8 COUNCIL

Council (1720)
Nothing to report

6.9 PLANNING AND REPORTING

Strategic Planning (1811)
Nothing to Report

Annual Plan

The proposed budget and licence fee increased have been determined by NZC and circulated for consultation. This is in line with managers' recommendations which proposed a dollar increase on the whole season fishing licence.

NZC has also proposed an extra dollar on the game licence in order to bring the habitat stamp cost up to \$3. That adds revenue for game habitat development and enhancement but the Game Bird Habitat Trust could also usefully fund advice on how to increase external revenue generation from other than the habitat stamp sales. See NZC communication

Recommendation

That the proposed budgets and licence fees be supported subject to conditions relating to the increase in the game habitat stamp

Audit and Annual Report (1831)
See correspondence.

National Liaison (1841)

NZC have circulated a memo requesting nominations for the Game Bird Habitat Trust Board (previously circulated). The appointment is for a 3 years term and appointments are made by the Minister of Conservation

For discussion

Niall Watson
Chief Executive
June 2016

Balance Sheet
Otago Fish & Game Council
 Balance Sheet
 As at 31 May 2016

CAPITAL		This Year	Last Year End
7500	Opening Equity	1,039,201.00	1,039,201.00
9015	Retained Earnings Brght Fwd	<u>1,437,918.74</u>	<u>1,417,494.83</u>
		2,477,119.74	2,456,695.83
	Plus Current Year Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	471,157.09	20,423.91
	TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS	<u><u>2,948,276.83</u></u>	<u><u>2,477,119.74</u></u>
REPRESENTED BY			
CURRENT ASSETS			
5005	Cash on Hand	200.00	200.00
5022	Stock on Hand	10,510.50	10,510.50
5030	Accrued Interest	1,728.58	1,728.58
5040	Prepayments	13,914.52	13,914.52
5060	ASB Investments	308,819.91	302,790.64
5080	SBS Investments	469,149.43	450,000.00
5800	GST Paid	4,260.61	27.13
6000	Sundry Creditors	28.41	28.41
6040	PAYE Control	38,166.54	0.00
6800	GST Received	0.00	61.16
6805	GST Payments/Refunds IRD	0.00	2,897.76
ACCREC	Trade Debtors	306,985.15	146,594.97
ASB_00	ASB 00 Account	41.15	1.15
NB00	National/ANZ 00 Account	177,424.06	165,546.50
NB70	National/ANZ 70 Account	<u>418,427.50</u>	<u>136,283.86</u>
		1,749,656.36	1,230,585.18
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
6010	Holiday Pay Accrued	60,780.56	60,780.56
6800	GST Received	45,950.43	0.00
6810	Funds received in Advance	210,002.00	210,002.00
ACCSPAY	Trade Creditors	<u>24,751.59</u>	<u>57,280.36</u>
		341,484.58	328,062.92
	NET WORKING CAPITAL	1,408,171.78	902,522.26
TERM ASSETS			
5070	Anderson Lloyd Investment	<u>73,845.94</u>	<u>73,845.94</u>
		73,845.94	73,845.94
FIXED ASSETS			
7000	Vehicles Purchases	290,980.17	276,292.51
7001	M/V Accum Deprn	(140,726.09)	(106,526.09)
7020	Boat Purchases	100,497.93	100,497.93
7021	Boat Accum Deprn	(75,764.66)	(72,344.66)
7200	Plant Purchases	66,198.01	56,644.10
7201	Plant Accum Deprn	(53,212.64)	(47,146.64)
7300	Furniture & Fittings	30,847.94	30,847.94
7301	Furniture Accum Deprn	(28,860.15)	(27,780.15)
7400	Field Equipment Purchases	34,610.96	34,610.96
7401	Field Eq Accum Deprn	(22,925.40)	(22,565.40)
7440	Land Purchases	414,410.77	414,410.77
7450	Buildings Purchases	629,287.49	629,287.49
7451	Buildings Accum Deprn	(317,196.20)	(306,558.20)
7460	Land @ Fair Value	426,260.00	426,260.00
7462	Building @ Fair Value	162,085.11	162,085.11
7463	Buildings @ FV - Accum Deprn	<u>(50,234.13)</u>	<u>(47,264.13)</u>
		1,466,259.11	1,500,751.54
	NET ASSETS	<u><u>2,948,276.83</u></u>	<u><u>2,477,119.74</u></u>

**Otago Fish & Game Council
Profit and Loss - Summary
for Period Ended May:2015/16**

		-----Month to Date-----			-----Year to Date-----					
		Actual	Budget	% of Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance	Annual Budget	YTD Actual Budget	Last YTD
INCOME										
FISH AND GAME LICENCE SA...										
1000	Fishing Licences Income	37,579	0	0%	1,577,905	1,583,696	(5,791)	1,583,696	100%	1,725,027
1006	Game Licences Income	247,094	0	0%	302,105	312,926	(10,821)	312,926	97%	201,101
		284,673	0	0%	1,880,010	1,896,622	(16,612)	1,896,622	99%	1,926,127
OTHER INCOME										
1010	Interest received	8,959	0	0%	30,943	35,150	(4,207)	35,150	88%	33,751
1020	Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	516	0	0%	630	8,000	(7,370)	8,000	8%	891
1022	Reparations Trust Fund	5,100	0	0%	11,380	0	11,380	0	0%	2,754
1025	Rent Received	3,358	0	0%	26,456	41,300	(14,844)	41,300	64%	31,802
1065	Fishing Competitions	0	0	0%	742	0	742	0	0%	742
1075	Commissions Income	23	0	0%	1,072	0	1,072	0	0%	1,954
1090	Sundry Income	1,478	0	0%	5,137	0	5,137	0	0%	9,153
1092	Merchandise Sales/Other	0	0	0%	1,105	0	1,105	0	0%	(6,882)
1094	Donations Received	0	0	0%	2,000	0	2,000	0	0%	2,963
1096	RMA Costs Reimbursed	10,021	0	0%	61,490	0	61,490	0	0%	0
		29,455	0	0%	140,955	84,450	56,505	84,450	167%	77,127
TOTAL INCOME		314,128	0		2,020,965	1,981,072	39,893	1,981,072		2,003,254
EXPENDITURE										
SPECIES MANAGEMENT										
POPULATION MONITOR / MMT		0	1,000	0%	(649)	9,000	(9,649)	12,000	(5)%	17,039
HARVEST ASSESSMENT		0	250	0%	0	2,250	(2,250)	3,000	0%	0
FISH SALVAGE		0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
HATCHERY OPERATIONS		0	1,083	0%	1,423	9,751	(8,328)	13,000	11%	10,575
RELEASES		0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
REGULATIONS		0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
CONTROL		0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
SPECIES MANAGEMENT-...		0	2,333	0%	774	21,001	(20,227)	28,000	3%	27,614
HABITAT PROTECTION										
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT A...		6,453	374	1,725%	72,472	3,378	69,094	4,500	1,610%	11,768
WORKS & MMT COUNCIL LAND		117	291	40%	11,547	2,627	8,920	3,500	330%	(1,461)
ASSISTED HABITAT		0	0	0%	1,000	0	1,000	0	0%	0
HABITAT PROTECTION-T...		6,570	665	988%	85,019	6,005	79,014	8,000	1,063%	10,307
PARTICIPATION										
ACCESS		168	166	101%	1,776	1,502	274	2,000	89%	2,554
SATISFACTION SURVEYS		710	0	0%	5,166	0	5,166	0	0%	2,102
NEWSLETTERS		(950)	1,250	(76)%	16,309	11,250	5,059	15,000	109%	14,762
OTHER PUBLICATIONS		0	416	0%	105	3,752	(3,647)	5,000	2%	0
TRAINING		13	583	2%	1,642	5,251	(3,609)	7,000	23%	4,300
CLUB RELATIONS		0	83	0%	495	751	(256)	1,000	50%	694
HUTS		0	0	0%	820	0	820	0	0%	95
PARTICIPATION-TOTAL		(59)	2,498	(2)%	26,312	22,506	3,806	30,000	88%	24,507

**Otago Fish & Game Council
Profit and Loss - Summary
for Period Ended May:2015/16**

	-----Month to Date-----			-----Year to Date-----			Annual Budget	% of Budget	
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance			
PUBLIC INTERFACE									
LIAISON	0	41	0%	63	377	(314)	500	13%	0
COMMUNICATIONS	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	539
ADVOCACY	0	583	0%	0	5,251	(5,251)	7,000	0%	0
PUBLIC INTERFACE-TOTAL	0	624	0%	63	5,628	(5,565)	7,500	1%	539
COMPLIANCE									
RANGER ADMIN	384	208	185%	2,541	1,876	665	2,500	102%	609
RANGER TRAINING	0	375	0%	4,093	3,375	718	4,500	91%	2,266
COMPLIANCE	454	333	136%	2,980	3,001	(21)	4,000	74%	36
COMPLIANCE-TOTAL	839	916	92%	9,614	8,252	1,362	11,000	87%	2,911
LICENCES									
LICENCE PRODUCT/DISTN	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
AGENT SERVICING	28	41	68%	292	377	(85)	500	58%	666
COMMISSION	13,714	0	0%	81,318	0	81,318	0	0%	83,911
NZFG LEVIES	0	70,913	0%	638,218	638,218	0	850,957	75%	670,525
LICENSES-TOTAL	13,742	70,954	19%	719,828	638,595	81,233	851,457	85%	755,102
COUNCIL									
COUNCIL ELECTIONS	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
COUNCIL MEETINGS	2,624	1,000	262%	15,323	9,000	6,323	12,000	128%	8,288
COUNCIL-TOTAL	2,624	1,000	262%	15,323	9,000	6,323	12,000	128%	8,288
PLANNING / REPORTING									
MMT/STRATEGIC PLANNING	0	0	0%	2,109	0	2,109	0	0%	1,270
REPORTING/AUDIT	0	1,000	0%	14,884	9,000	5,884	12,000	124%	3,835
NATIONAL LIAISON	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	34
PLAN/REPORT-TOTAL	0	1,000	0%	16,993	9,000	7,993	12,000	142%	5,139
ADMINISTRATION									
SALARIES	50,995	57,126	89%	479,900	514,142	(34,242)	685,517	70%	431,752
STAFF EXPENSES	7,944	1,848	430%	13,854	16,658	(2,804)	22,202	62%	4,866
STAFF HOUSES	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
OFFICE PREMISES	4,991	6,786	74%	49,213	61,092	(11,879)	81,450	60%	58,670
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	55	1,232	4%	1,517	11,100	(9,583)	14,796	10%	1,966
COMMUNICATIONS	2,145	2,346	91%	17,451	21,126	(3,675)	28,164	62%	24,937
GENERAL	345	1,499	23%	9,117	13,503	(4,386)	18,000	51%	9,213
GENERAL EQUIPMENT	362	803	45%	3,122	7,241	(4,119)	9,650	32%	5,841
VEHICLES	3,428	5,541	62%	42,973	49,884	(6,911)	66,505	65%	49,061
ADMINISTRATION - TOTAL	70,266	77,181	91%	617,148	694,746	(77,598)	926,284	67%	586,306
DEPRECIATION	6,526	0	0%	58,734	0	58,734	0	0%	58,734
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	100,507	157,171	64%	1,549,808	1,414,733	135,075	1,886,241	82%	1,479,448
Profit (Loss)	213,621	(157,171)		471,157	566,339	(95,182)	94,831		523,806

Summary of Draft Profit and Loss Statement Expenses 31st May 2016
As At 07/06/16

Expense	Total Budget	Actual Expenditure	YtD %	Comment
		Ytd		
Projects				
Species	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 8,842.00	34%	less Lindis Masters claim
Habitat	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 23,529.00	294%	less reimbursed legal fund
Participation	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 26,312.00	88%	
Public Interface	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 63.00	1%	
Compliance	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 9,614.00	87%	
Licences	\$ 500.00	\$ 292.00	58%	
Council	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 15,323.00	128%	
Planning	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 16,993.00	142%	
Projects Total	\$ 107,000.00	\$ 100,968.00	94%	
Administration				
Salaries	\$ 685,517.00	\$ 479,900.00	70%	
Staff Expenses	\$ 22,202.00	\$ 13,854.00	62%	
Office Premises	\$ 81,450.00	\$ 49,213.00	60%	
Office Equipment	\$ 14,796.00	\$ 1,517.00	10%	
Communication	\$ 28,164.00	\$ 17,451.00	62%	
General	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 9,117.00	51%	
General Equipment	\$ 9,650.00	\$ 3,122.00	32%	
Vehicles	\$ 66,505.00	\$ 42,973.00	65%	
Administration Total	\$ 926,284.00	\$ 617,147.00	67%	
Total	\$ 1,033,284.00	\$ 718,115.00	69%	

Summary of Profit and Loss Statement Income 31st May 2016
As At 07/06/16

Income	Total Budget	Actual Income	YtD %	Comment
		Ytd		
Fish	\$ 1,583,696.00	\$ 1,577,905.00	100%	
Game	\$ 312,926.00	\$ 302,105.00	97%	
Prosecutions	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 630.00	8%	
Rent	\$ 41,300.00	\$ 26,456.00	64%	
Interest	\$ 35,150.00	\$ 30,943.00	88%	
	\$ 1,981,072.00	\$ 1,938,039.00	98%	

Summary of Position 31st May 2016

Total Expenditure		\$ 1,549,808.00
Less Depreciation		\$ 58,734.00
Less Levies		\$ 638,218.00
Less Commission		\$ 81,318.00
Less RMA Reimbursed		\$ 61,490.00
Net Expenditure		\$ 710,048.00
Budget		\$ 950,834.00
% Spent		75%

Fishing Licence Sales YTD to 31 May 2016

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWJ	FWNJ	FWIA	FWIJ	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDJ	Total	Fish LEQ	Fish Var	Fish \$
Otago Agency	2594	3734	408	0	0	434	6	104	14	0	0	770	51	8115			
Online																	
Retail	613	1111	0	0	0	197	0	91	12	0	0	3470	300	5794			
Book																	
Public	1325	1553	559	0	0	148	19	61	4	0	0	1687	86	5442			
Online																	
Eyede	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	10			
Call																	
Centre																	
2014-2015 Total	4533	6400	968	0	0	779	25	257	30	0	0	5932	437	19361	14817		\$1,584,757
Agency	2878	3623	528	505	402	516	23	147	0	65	359	4129	292	13467			
Online																	
Retail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	10			
Book																	
Public	1419	1459	599	164	275	198	13	50	0	35	229	3076	149	7666			
Online																	
Eyede	40	36	7	22	1	2	0	1	0	1	2	32	1	145			
Call																	
Centre																	
2015-2016 Total	4337	5118	1134	691	678	716	36	198	0	101	590	7246	443	21288	14751	-0.4%	\$1,590,527

FWF - Family, FWA - Adult Season, FWNA - Non Resident full season, FSLA - Senior Loyal, FLAA - Local Area, FWJ - Junior Season, FWNJ - Non resident junior, FWIA - Adult Winter, FWIJ - Junior Winter, FLBA - Long Break, FLB - Short Break, FLBA - Adult Day, FDJ - Junior Day

Game Licence Sales YTD to 31 May 2016

	Channel						Game			Game \$
	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	LEQ	Var		
Otago	2455	208	80	38	3	2784				
Agency Online										
Retail Book	933	64	25	2	1	1025				
Public Online	554	50	23	14	0	641				
Eyede Call Centre	4	0	0	0	0	4				
2014-2015	3946	322	128	54	4	4454	4022		\$311,285	
Agency Online	3374	276	88	4	0	3742				
Retail Book	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Public Online	586	61	15	11	1	674				
Eyede Call Centre	2	0	0	0	0	2				
2015-2016	3962	337	103	15	1	4418	4033	0.3%	\$315,645	

GWA - Adult season, GWJ - Junior season, GWC - Child season, GDA - Day adult, GDJ - Day junior

7 Committee Reports

7.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust

7.2 NZC Meeting

8 Staff and Technical Reports

8.1 2016 Game Season Opening - C Halford

COUNCIL REPORT JUNE 2016

2016 GAME SEASON OPENING

Seasons Predictions

The El Nino dominated weather pattern over spring resulted in some good rain to the south of the region but brought dry conditions to the north, central and east of the region. The Lakes Area had sufficient rainfall in the spring to maintain adequate breeding success. Strong El Nino weather conditions prevailed through the summer and into autumn which affected the entire region. In the New Zealand Climate Update produced by Niwa, rainfall was well below normal (<50% of normal) in parts of Otago for the month of April.

Leading up to the opening day conditions were very dry with most rivers low, and a significant number of ponds and wetlands across the region were either dry or had little water. Clear calm hunting conditions were forecast for the opening weekend which would likely have an impact on hunting success overall and possibly licence sales.

Pre Season Promotions

Two pages were provided for the national magazine, an eight page newsletter mail out was sent to licence holders, information was posted on the Fish and Game website Both Barrels, and a range of articles with advertising featured in regional newspapers. Coverage nationally was very good.

Otago staff interacted with shooters and spoke at pre-season gun club shoots in Dunedin (2) Wanaka (1). Shotgun patterning sheets were widely distributed and well received. Promotional evening events at the Mornington Tavern in Dunedin and H&J's Outdoor World in Queenstown were attended by staff and well supported by hunters. Agents reported a steady interest in product sales with licence sales picking up as the season approached. The larger agents were particularly busy on the Friday evening prior to opening and reported strong late sales.

A complete promotions and media schedule has been provided as an appendix to this report.

Ranging Training and the Opening Day Exercise

A pre-season ranger training evening focused on preparing rangers for the opening day was held in Dunedin on April 19. The programme covered safety in the field, relevant legislation, firearms handling and procedural guidelines for interviewing and processing offences.

On the opening day 7 teams of rangers inspected ponds and waterways around the Catlins area, Clinton, Clydevale and Inch Clutha, Omakau, Ranfurly and Waihola. The Central teams were assisted by a local police constable.

Particularly pleasing to staff was the diligence of rangers especially the new appointees that experienced their first opening day game ranging. This proved the value of training and the preseason briefing.

Results and Summary of Offences

A total of 83 waterways were visited (including Waihola) and 163 hunters interviewed. 5 hunters were found hunting without licences, there were 5 lead offences, 2 protected species offences, and 1 hunter with an excess bag of paradise shelduck. 4 hunters not carrying licences were later cleared.

This provides overall compliance of around 94% which is similar to last season at 96% and 98% in 2014. Hunters caught using lead shot cartridges always tell the same story about not being able to tell the two sorts of ammo apart. They say it's confusing because lead is not marked with 'lead' in the same way as steel shot rounds are marked with 'steel.' This is no excuse and all hunters are required to check what ammunition they are using before going hunting.

Success and Satisfaction

As forecast calm weather made hunting difficult for the majority of hunters and success across the region was mixed. Some hunters on traditionally good ponds had their worst opening in years while others did better than expected. Some good bags were achieved on the Taieri and Lower Clutha areas and in some parts of Central Otago. Generally ducks were in good condition which pleased hunters.

Overall it was a slow start to the 2016 season but since the opening weekend rain has replenished ponds and waterways providing valuable winter feeding opportunities for ducks and improved hunting conditions for the remainder of the season.

Recommendation

That this report be received

**Cliff Halford
Fish and Game Officer
June 2016**

Appendix 1.

2016 Game Season Promotions and Media

Newspaper	Print Date	Advertising	Comments
Mirror	Wednesday April 13	Provided by F&G	Hunting dogs and Sheep measles. Firearms safety
Central Otago News	Thursday April 14	Provided by F&G	Seasons prospects and Police on safety
Clutha Leader	Thursday April 28	Provided by F&G	Patterning your gun and Dogs, Sheep measles
Otago Daily Times	Wednesday May 4	No	Police on firearms safety and IH on rules and penalties.
Otago Daily Times	Friday May 6	No	Police and alcohol, MT pond water levels and prospects. HT opening weekend ranger presence.
Otago Daily Times	Saturday May 7	No	Police on Firearms safety and hunting incidents and alcohol. Quotes from Mountain Safety Council
Otago Daily Times	Monday May 9	No	IH on opening weekend hunting success, licence sales and compliance. Father and daughter profile.
Taiari Herald	Thursday May 12	No	Picture of children holding ducks. IH on hunting success and compliance.
Otago Daily Times	Friday May 13	No	Ian Hadland, Letter to the editor responding to the police and defending hunter integrity.

Promotional Area	Publication/Venue	Circulation
Fish and Game Nationally	Magazine	Mail out to hunters
Otago Region	Newsletter	In circulation to licence holders in mid April
National F&G Web Site	Both Barrels	Regular updates on the season IH
Otago Region	Queenstown H&J Outdoor World duck hunters Promotional evening	Presentation to approximately 50 hunters. CH and PvK.
Otago Region	Thursday April 25 Wanaka Gun Duck Hunter Shoot	100+ shooters. Supplied giveaway material and communicated with hunters. CH
Otago Region	Dunedin Gun Club	Liaison with hunters and spoke at the end of the event. IH
Otago Region	Allan Millar's shoot, Dunedin	Liaison with hunters. IH
Otago Region	Mornington Tavern	Attendance at the Duck calling evening. IH

8.2 1st Schedule Regulations Working Party Recommendations - C Halford

COUNCIL REPORT JUNE 2016

Response to Anglers Notice Working Party Schedule 1 Recommendations

Background

At the February 2016 Council Meeting, Council discussed a report from the Anglers Notice Working Party outlining recommended changes to the First Schedule of the Anglers Notice. Council acknowledged the report and recognised that staff would present a more refined format for further consideration at a later meeting.

The report has been presented to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and circulated to regional Fish and Game Councils for comment. All regional feedback will be summarised as soon as possible but any changes to the regulations won't now happen until the 2017/18 fishing season.

The constraints that other Acts and Regulations may place on the content of the Anglers Notice have not been assessed by the working party and additionally Department of Conservation staff will advise on legal correctness of the new wording.

Recommended Changes to the Introductory Content

The ANWP identified that the introductory content needed changing to clearly direct and draw anglers attention to the First Schedule that was applicable to all regions. In the current format it was considered that anglers skipped the First Schedule opting for the regional content in the Second Schedule.

It was identified a need for bold and simple instructions **“How to Use this Book”**

Advertising on the Inside cover page 2 should be removed and replaced with a section on fishing tips, general information and access directing the reader to the website. The working party felt the Code of Conduct section, the National Regulations section and the section titled “Stop the Spread of Freshwater Pests” did not justify prominence at the start of the regulation booklet and that they could be repositioned to the back of the booklet if considered necessary.

Further reformatting and deleting pages identified above would save 3 pages from the Regulation Guide

Recommendation

That the proposed changes to the Introduction be supported

Recommended Changes to the First Schedule

1. Definition of bait

The current definition is;

“bait” means

- Natural insect.
- Natural spider.
- Natural worm or worms.
- Natural crustacean.
- Natural fish, excluding fish ova, or any portion of a fish, or shellfish (mollusc), except where stated otherwise in the Second Schedule of this notice.
- Uncoloured bread dough.

- Any scented lure, soft bait and other synthetic imitations with chemical attractant properties, except where stated otherwise in the second schedule of this notice.

Recommended definition of bait:

“bait” means any natural invertebrate, or synthetic lure, or any fish, excluding sports fish either whole, or in part, or their ova.

Justification

- Simplifies the current list of baits.
- Includes provision for soft baits/synthetic lures etc.
- Maintains prohibition on use of whole, or parts, or extracts of sports fish.
- Provides for continued use of non-sports fish as bait (e.g. bullies, silveries) and avoids conflicts with bag limits and size limits if sports fish were able to be used.
- The working party believes it has always been counter to sports fishing principles to be able to use real fish as lures for sports fishing. With the advent of so many types of lures with and without attractants and emphasis now on having anglers catch fish rather than how they catch fish, it seems there should be a relaxation in the use of fish as bait. However using sports fish or any part of a sports fish should remain prohibited.
- Definition of “synthetic lure” added separately to interpretation.

2. Definition of “bait fishing”

The current definition is “bait fishing” means to fish for sports fish with bait.

Recommended definition of bait fishing:

“bait fishing” means to fish for sports fish with bait where that is either a hook rigged with a number of baits or a single bait rigged with a number of hooks, and no more than one such bait assembly may be used.

Justification

- Removes the need to separately define bait assembly
- Current definition included with some expansion is simplified for the angler so they have less places to look in the regulation book and negates the need for *clause 2.3.3* in the current regulation booklet.

3. Definition of “fly fishing”

The current definition of fly fishing is; “fly fishing” means to fish for sports fish with fly rod and fly reel and fly line and artificial lure.

Recommended definition of “fly fishing”

“fly fishing” means to fish for sports fish with a fly rod and fly reel and fly line and no more and three artificial flies.

Justification

- Clarifies current definition and negates the need for *clause 2.3.2*.
- In combination with Recommendation 6, clause 2.3.2 can be removed

4. Definition of “synthetic lure”

There is currently no definition of “synthetic lure” in the regulations.

Recommended definition of synthetic lure;

“synthetic lure” means any lure made by a chemical process or with chemical attractant properties.

Justification

- Defines synthetic lure as used in the proposed bait definition to cover scented soft baits etc.

5. Definition of “spinner”

The current definition is “spinner” means any artificial lure other than an artificial fly.

Recommended definition of spinner:

“spinner” means any artificial or synthetic lure to which a continuous action is applied.

Justification

Retains the current definition of spinner/lure but allows for the use of synthetic lures and artificial flies when fished as a spinner. If synthetic lures are used passively they may only be used in waters where bait fishing is permitted.

6. Definition of “spin fishing”

The current definition is; “spin fishing” means to fish for sports fish with a spinner.

Recommended definition of “spin fishing”

“spin fishing” means to fish for sports fish with no more than three spinners.

Justification

- Combines new spinner definition and *clause 2.3.2*.
- The proposed definition of spinner qualifies a synthetic lure as a spinner only if it is actively fished. A synthetic lure that is not actively fished cannot be used in spin fishing waters unless bait is also permitted

7. Definition of “freshwater”

The current definition is included in clause1 of the First Schedule.

Recommendation

Remove the definition of freshwater

Justification

- *Freshwater* is not referred to in any South Island regional regulations in the Second Schedule of the Anglers Notice.
- If it is needed it could be transferred into the National Regulations advice currently on page 5 of the Guide but recommended to come after the Second Schedule.

8. Authorised Tackle.

Title for clause 2 of the First Schedule.

Recommendation

Replace *Authorised Tackle* with *Authorised Equipment*

Justification

- The current title of this section does not make immediately obvious the scope of equipment covered.
- To most anglers tackle refers only to what they have on the end of the cast. *Authorised Equipment* has wider association with all gear used while fishing.

9. Fishing for sports fish clause 2.1

Clause 2.1 currently states;

No licence holder shall fish for sports fish except by using a rod and running line and authorised lure (as defined in clause 7 of this First Schedule)

Recommendation

Replace current clause 2.1 with;

No licence holder when fishing for sports fish shall use other than one rod and running line and authorised lures (as defined in clause 7 of this First Schedule) except when fishing for coarse fish in coarse fishing waters.

Justification

- Incorporates clause 2.3.1

10. Clauses 2.2 and 2.3

Currently clause 2.2 has specific information on nets and gaffs while clause 2.3 has information of more general application.

Recommendation

Reverse the order of current clauses 2.2 and 2.3.

Justification

- What is currently clause 2.3 is more important information and applies to more anglers than clause 2.2.

11. Clause 2.2.1

Currently clause 2.2.1 states that when playing a sports fish, a landing net may be used to secure or land that fish.

Recommendation

Delete clause 2.2.1

Justification

- Provided use of landing nets is not contrary to other Acts or Regulations there should be no need to specifically permit it.
- Use of landing nets is widely practiced and accepted.

12. Clause 2.2.3

Currently clause 2.2.3 states no licence holder shall use a gaff to secure or land a sports fish except where provided for in the Second Schedule of this notice.

Recommendation

No licence holder shall use a gaff to secure or land a sports fish except in the Otago Fish and Game Region under clause 4.1 of their Second Schedule.

Justification

- Current wording gives anglers no guidance as to whether the Region they are fishing allows use of gaffs and they are required to search the Second Schedule to be sure.
- Proposed wording identifies that unless they are in the Otago Fish and Game Region then use of a gaff is not permitted.

13. Clause 2.3.5

Currently clause 2.3.5 states that no licence holder when fishing for sports fish shall use in waters other than those where bait fishing is permitted any lure treated with any chemical preparation other than that used solely to control the buoyancy of an artificial fly, except where stated otherwise in the second schedule of this notice.

Recommendation

Delete clause 2.3.5

Justification

- The first part of the clause is covered in the new definition of bait.

- The second part allows for the use of chemical preparation solely for the purpose of buoyancy for flies. The working party considers the practice of applying buoyancy to dry flies is common practice and does not require a specific condition authorising its use.

14. Additional Changes

The working party has also identified other sections in the First Schedule where better wording and formatting can be applied that doesn't alter current regulations but make the guide more presentable and easier to interpret.

Recommendation

That Otago Council support the above changes as recommended by the Anglers Notice Working Party.

**Cliff Halford
Fish and Game Officer
June 2016**

8.3 2015/16 Anglers Notice Review Second Schedule – C Halford

COUNCIL REPORT JUNE 2016

2015/2016 Anglers Notice Review Second Schedule – Final Report

Introduction

At the 2016 April Council Meeting the Council discussed a range of proposals on the Anglers Notice submitted by anglers through a public consultation process. Some matters were referred back to staff for further consideration and are covered below. This is the final report to complete the triennial review and changes for the 2016 Gazetting process.

Relevant sections of Sport Fish and Game Management Plan for Otago Fish and Game Region (SFGMP) have been provided for information and guidance.

Sport Fish and Game Management Plan for Otago Fish and Game Region (SFGMP)

The SFGMP for the Otago Fish and Game Region provides the framework for the management of Otago's sports fish and game bird resources.

The plan was prepared in accordance with section 17L of the Conservation Act 1987 and requires the council;

- To have regard to the sustainability of sports fish and game birds in the area to which the plan relates; and
- To have regard to the impact that the management proposed in the plan is likely to have on other natural resources and other users of the habitat concerned; and
- To include such provisions as may be necessary to maximize the recreational opportunities for anglers and hunters.

Relevant SFGMP Objective and Policy Statement

5.3.1 To manage sports fisheries and game resources having regard to sustainability to meet the interests and recreational needs of present and future generations of anglers and hunters.

5.3.3 To optimise angling and hunting opportunity and maintain or improve the recreational fishing opportunity spectrum available in Otago.

5.4.1 Achieve sustainability through the following approach:

- (a) Ensure that the sustainability of the resource has precedence over utilization (i.e., utilization will be dependent on sustainability).
 - (b) In the absence of reliable information or in the face of uncertain information, a precautionary approach will be adopted in managing fish populations.
 - (c) Management decisions will be based on the best available information.
 - (d) The absence of information will not be used as a reason for failing to adopt management measures.
- 7.3.2 To minimize and simplify regulations controlling angling and hunting so that they do not become an impediment to participation, but not at the expense of precautionary management.
- 7.4.2 Review annually angling and hunting conditions and assess them for relevance, clarity and simplicity.
- 7.4.3 Liaise with other regions over the annual review of angling and hunting conditions and to seek consistency between regions.

1 Upper Clutha Catchment Bag Limits

Extracts from an earlier report (*2015 Anglers Notice Review Preliminary Report, C Halford*) have been provided along with additional information.

Bag limits have been part of regular discussions during previous Anglers Notice reviews and there have been numerous submissions to lower bags especially in the Queenstown/Lakes District. Queenstown/Lakes District is experiencing significant population growth and local Wanaka anglers in particular have reported seeing less fish giving the perception that the fishery is under pressure and suggesting lower bag limits should be applied. Past submissions by the Upper Clutha Angling Club have broadly supported this view.

Lake Wakatipu is experiencing a thriving landlocked Chinook salmon population and some local anglers are becoming increasingly concerned about the impacts on the trout population which they feel is in decline. While fisheries run in cycles it appears that salmon have been in the ascendency in recent years.

The main lakes - Hawea, Wanaka and Wakatipu all support healthy populations of landlocked Chinook salmon which are often caught in high numbers and targeted regularly for their eating qualities. Bags limits for both trout and salmon could be considered together or split as is done in other Fish and Game Regions.

Otago's major lakes and many rivers have current limits of 6 fish per day which have been in place for many years. Otago has some of the highest bag limits in the South Island and while there is little biological evidence that fisheries are in decline due to over-harvest (research suggests that bag limits need to be lowered considerably to make a difference to harvest rates as most anglers don't achieve a limit bag of killed fish) there is a consistent demand for more conservative bag limits, there is a perception that catch rates have declined and angler use has increased significantly on some major lakes particularly Lake Wanaka.

The Council needs to consider sustainability, the impacts of natural population growth, tourism, increasing angling pressure, and the angling communities' perception of value for their licence fee.

In the Central South Island Fish and Game Region waters that contain salmon and trout have varied limits between 4 and 2 fish per day. In the Southland Fish and Game Region maximum bags for their major lakes are 2 fish per day and 4 on their larger rivers.

The overall debate about Otago's bag limits suggests that a reduction in the daily bag limits should be applied:

- as a precautionary approach in the absence of reliable information,
- because submissions promote a reduction, and
- to be consistent with neighboring Fish and Game Regions as far as possible.

While the three major lakes of Hawea, Wanaka and Wakatipu have their independent qualities a common daily bag should be applied for consistency. Any adjustments should then follow on to Lake Dunstan and possibly other waters.

The following options have been provided for consideration

Option 1

Reduce the bag limit on Lakes Hawea, Wanaka and Wakatipu to 4 fish per day with no differential for salmon and trout.

This would provide a modest reduction in the daily bag and is probably not seen as being too restrictive by the majority of anglers. Species identification would not be an issue and the daily limit has some consistency with neighboring Fish and Game Regions. This would also provide a stepping stone for consistency on other waters within the region that currently have a 6 fish daily limit.

The 4 fish limit would allow a reasonable harvest on "a good day" and not overly restrict angling experience and expectation. Some Wakatipu anglers may be concerned about a reduction to salmon harvest.

Option 2

Retain the daily bag of 6 for salmon and reduce the daily bag to 4 for trout with an overall limit for both species of 6 fish.

“Total daily bag of 6 fish of which no more than 4 to be trout”

This would allow for the continued harvest of salmon at the present rate and would recognize the concerns about perceived declines in trout numbers. It allows for continued harvest of salmon within the present daily bag, particularly on Lake Wakatipu, but may not be ideal for salmon harvest on the other lakes.

While small landlocked salmon may be seen as a nuisance by some anglers wanting to catch trout, populations fluctuate and their value should not be understated. They are regularly targeted for eating and can often be the first catch for novice anglers. A 6 fish daily bag has suited anglers for a considerable time and there is little indication the species is being overharvested, however a precautionary approach is advisable because there is not a great deal known about their spawning grounds.

Option 3

Retain the daily bag of 6 for salmon and reduce the daily bag to 2 for trout.

“Total daily bag of 6 fish of which no more than 2 to be trout”

The issues with retaining the 6 fish daily limit for salmon have been outlined in **Option 2** above. Having a split bag of 2 trout will appease some Wakatipu anglers concerned about the Lake Wakatipu trout population but it is a significant reduction when the other lakes are considered.

Lake Hawea has a productive trout fishery and a sharp reduction from 6 to 2 will likely spark some criticism. The 6 fish daily bag limit has been in place for many years and it will take some time for regular anglers to accept a modest change. Further bag limit adjustments can be considered in successive seasons as more reliable information is available and anglers become more aware that adjustments are necessary to maintain healthy and sustainable fisheries into the future.

Recommendation

That bag limits for Lakes Hawea, Wanaka and Wakatipu be reduced to 4 fish per day for the 2016/17 fishing season in line with Option 1

2 Clutha River Deans Bank

At the April meeting the Council discussed the option of relaxing the fly only restriction at Deans Bank to allow all methods but referred the issue back to staff for further consideration.

Deans Bank is a well known and respected fly fishing section of the Upper Clutha River that has been highly regarded nationally, regionally and internationally. Summer evening hatches were regular occurrences and it was not uncommon to see several anglers lined on both banks.

In recent years evening hatches of cadis have declined which is the likely result of didymo. Consequently fish numbers and fish condition through this reach and downstream have reportedly declined as well.

The upper boundary of Deans Bank starts approximately 1 kilometer downstream of Lake Wanaka with the lower boundary situated approximately 600 metres above the Albert Town Highway Bridge.

The season length is 1 October to 31 May with permitted method- Fly Only.

Considerable trout spawning is undertaken throughout the reach which is the main reason for the winter closure from May 31 until 1 October annually.

The river reach from the outlet to the Deans Bank upstream boundary is open 1 October to 30 September with permitted methods including fly and spin.

From the downstream boundary of Deans Bank to the Luggate Bridge the season is 1 October to 30 September with permitted methods including fly and spin.

A further regulation on the river from the Luggate Bridge downstream to Lake Dunstan allows fishing from 1 October to 30 September with permitted methods fly, spin, and bait.

A boating restriction is imposed from 10am – 4pm standard daylight hours and 10am - 6pm daylight saving hours within the QLDC boundary which ends near Sandy Point. 5 knots is required at all times from the Lake Wanaka Outlet to the Upper Boundary of Deans Bank which is at the first rapid. These restricted hours have been in place for many years to protect the angling experience with many attempts from boating enthusiasts to have them removed.

Relaxing the fishing method for the Deans Bank section would alleviate historical compliance issues with anglers regularly reported in the area spin and bait fishing. The area is very popular with overseas anglers because of its location to Wanaka.

A regulation change would make it easier for anglers to interpret the regulations particularly for those anglers (a large majority of spin anglers) that move between the outlet and Albert Town and have the hurdle of the Deans Bank fly fishing area in the middle. At this time any consideration to allow bait fishing could diminish the prestige of the area and may be seen as being too exploitive.

However in considering any regulation changes it is proposed the entire stretch of river from the Lake Wanaka Outlet to Lake Dunstan is considered as detailed below. Any proposed changes may require further public consultation due to the long standing historical significance of the Deans Bank area.

The following is proposed.

1. No change to the current regulations From the Lake Wanaka Outlet to the upstream boundary of Deans bank.

Season 1 October to 30 September, Method - fly and spin.

2. Upstream boundary of Deans Bank to the Albert Town Bridge.

Season 1 October to 31 May, Method - fly and spin.

3. Albert Town Bridge to Lake Dunstan

Season 1 October to 30 September, Method – fly, spin and bait.

Due to the short time frame to process changes for the 2016 Anglers Notice it may not be possible to get feedback from the public and summarise comments, therefore any agreed changes may have to be considered for 2017 if further consultation is to be undertaken.

Recommendation Either:

The Council agrees to the proposed regulation changes for the Clutha River from the Lake Wanaka Outlet to Lake Dunstan.

or

The Council agrees to the proposed regulation changes “in principle” for the Clutha River from the Lake Wanaka Outlet to Lake Dunstan outlined above subject to consultation with anglers, and that any agreed changes are made for the 2017/18 fishing season.

2.1 Clutha River Bag Limits

In light of the decline in the Upper Clutha fishery and the intention to refine regulations it seems appropriate that bag limits on this section of river and possibly downstream are reduced. At the April meeting Council generally supported a bag reduction for the upper river. This could be extended downstream below the Clyde Dam for consistency.

The following options have been provided.

Option 1

Reduce the daily bag limit on the Upper Clutha River from the Lake Wanaka Outlet to Lake Dunstan to 4 fish per day.

This would flow on nicely with any reduction to the main lakes as outlined in *point 1* above and compensate for the possible relaxing of fishing methods at Deans Bank. Fish numbers and fish conditions are reported to have declined which also supports a daily bag reduction.

Option 2

Reduce the daily bag limit on the Upper Clutha River from the Lake Wanaka Outlet to Lake Dunstan to 2 fish per day.

Reducing the bag from 6 to 2 is a significant move but it was suggested in the public consultation round by a fishing guide on the river who is quite concerned about the health of the fishery since the establishment of didymo.

Option 3

Reduce the daily bag limit on the Clutha River from the Lake Wanaka Outlet downstream to the sea to 4 fish per day.

This runs along with Option 1 and allows for consistency. 4 fish is still a healthy bag limit on the lower river.

Recommendation

That the bag limit for the Clutha River from the Lake Wanaka Outlet to the sea be reduced to 4 fish per day for the 2016/17 fishing season in accord with Option 3

3. Regional Bag limits

At the April meeting the Council discussed bag limit changes elsewhere in Otago. Presently our limits vary from 1, 2, 3, 6, (and 10 for Lake Onslow). It would be useful to regroup bag limits to fit within desirable limits for consistency within the region, our neighboring regions and for ease of interpretation and clarity.

Regional Bag Limits Are Set For The Following Waters.

Main lake tributaries and Back Country Fisheries have a 1 fish daily limit.

The Akatore and Waikouaiti Rivers have a 2 fish daily limit.

Fisheries with a 3 fish daily limit include:

Careys Creek, Contour channel, Deep Stream, Diamond Lake, Fraser Dam and lower river, Ida Burn Dam, Kaihiku Stream, Kaikorai Stream, Kaikorai Estuary, Knights Dam, Kuriwao Stream, Kye Burn, Lake Dispute, Lake Kirkpatrick, Lee Stream, Mathias Dam, Meggat Burn, Moke Lake, Nenthorn Stream, Pleasant River, Pomahaka river upstream of Park Hill Bridge, Poolburn Dam, Puerua Stream, Shag river, Silverstream, Sutton stream, Three O’Clock stream, Tokomairiro Stream, Tuapeka river, Victoria dam, Waipori river upstream of Lake Waipori , Waitahuna river, Waitati River and waters of the Leith.

Fisheries with a 6 fish daily limit include:

Catlins River, Clutha River, Falls Dam, Hawea River, Hores Control Pond, Kawarau River, Lake Dunstan, lake Hawea, Lake Mahinerangi, Lake Roxburgh, Lake Sylvan, Lake Tuakitoto, Lake Waihola, Lake Waipori, Lake Wakatipu, Lake Wanaka, Logan Burn Dam, MacLennan River, Manorburn Dam (upper and lower), McAtamney’s Head Pond, Owaka River, Pomahaka River Puerua Estuary, Shotover River, Styx Weir Pond, Tahakopa River, Taieri River, Teviot River, Tokomairiro River, Waipahi River, Waipori River and Waiwera River.

Categorising bag limits as 1, 2, and 4 fish per day could be considered. Waters with a 1 fish limit should be retained. 3 fish limits could be reduced to 2 and 6 fish limits could be reduced to 4.

Clause 2.1 – All other waters in the district upstream of the Clyde Dam not mentioned in 2.3 (schedule of waters) - bag limits would be retained at 1 fish per day.

Clause 2.2 – All other waters in the district upstream of the Clyde Dam and any other catchments flowing to the sea not mentioned in 2.3 would need to be reduced from 3 fish per day to 2.

Adjustments described would show that the Council is giving weight to fishery sustainability and that the Council has accepted the need for clarity and simplicity of regulations, and some consistency with neighboring Fish and Game Regions.

Recommendations

- 3.1 That fisheries with a current 1 fish daily bag limit remain unchanged.**
- 3.2 That fisheries with a current 3 fish daily bag limit be reduced to 2 fish per day.**
- 3.3 That fisheries with a current 6 fish daily bag limit be reduced to 4 fish per day.**
- 3.4 That the daily bag limit of 10 fish for Lake Onslow remains unchanged.**
- 3.5 That the daily bag limit for unspecified fisheries which fall within in *clause 2.2* of the regulations be reduced from 3 fish per day to 2 fish per day.**

4. Lake Mahinerangi – Open to Winter Fishing.

Lake Mahinerangi was created when the Dunedin City Council dammed the Waipori River for hydroelectric generation in the early decades of this century. The lake is around 400 meters above sea level and is quite large at 21 square kilometers with an extensive shoreline area of over 100 kilometers.

The fishery is predominately brown trout with perch and to a lesser extent rainbow trout. The lake presently sustains angling pressure of between 2000 and 4750 angler days PA which is moderate by comparison with other lakes and suggests winter fishing will have little impact.

Spawning is protected with the closure of spawning tributaries on 30 April annually.

Recommendation

That Lake Mahinerangi be open to fishing from the 1 October to 30 September with permitted methods including fly, spin and bait, and a bag limit of 6 fish per day as is currently allowable.

(Note a drop in the daily bag to 4 fish per day occurs if the staff recommendation (3) in Point 3 - Regional Bag Limits is agreed to.)

5. Teviot River - Open to Winter Fishing

Council discussed the option of opening the Teviot River to winter fishing at the April meeting and requested that staff provide further information.

Opening the river up to winter fishing will allow anglers to target spawning fish but they are abundant and small in size by comparison with other rivers and fisheries in the area. Only the hardy angler will brave the cold winter conditions so angling use is likely to be low and a low to moderate harvest should have little impact on the fishery.

Councilor Whyte communicated with members of the Teviot angling club and the general response was they felt that spawning fish should be protected and that the river should be treated like other small waterways and closed at the end of April.

There was also some unease about access to the river during the winter. Roads were considered “dry weather tracks” and anglers could be enticed to the river without fully understanding the roading and winter driving conditions.

Road damage and winter driving conditions contributed to the closure of Poolburn Reservoir to winter fishing several years ago.

Recommendation

That the current season length of 1 October to 30 April be retained for the Teviot River.

Summary

Decisions of this meeting will conclude the 2015/16 Anglers Notice Triennial Review for the Otago Region and all changes agreed to by this council since November 2015 will be incorporated in the 2016 Anglers Notice.

I wish to thank all councilors and staff for their input.

**Cliff Halford
Fish and Game Officer
May 2016**

**8.4 Back Country Compliance, Ranging and Angler Satisfaction Survey 2015/16 -
P van Klink**

**COUNCIL REPORT
JUNE 2016**

**Backcountry Fishery Compliance Ranging and Angler Satisfaction
Survey 2015/2016 Season**

Introduction

The Otago Fish and Game Region has eight designated backcountry fisheries: Greenstone, Caples, Upper Lochy, Nevis, Dingle Burn, Hunter, Wilkin and Young Rivers. The Greenstone River is also managed as a Controlled Fishery. Anglers wishing to fish backcountry fisheries must obtain a backcountry endorsement which can only be obtained by having a Whole Season Sports Fishing Licence.

Compliance and Monitoring Programme Background

During the 2014/15 season non-resident anglers made up approximately 50% of all participation in Otago's Backcountry fisheries (Keeling, 2015). Currently non-resident anglers pay an additional premium of \$37 on each non-resident licence (NRL) fee above that of an ordinary Whole Season Licence. The Otago Fish and Game Council agreed in August 2015 that this extra revenue from non-resident licence sales should be used to improve backcountry fisheries management. It was recommended that a fishery and compliance monitoring programme be developed for backcountry fisheries. This report reviews the Backcountry Fishery monitoring programme for the 2015/2016 season.

Survey Method

Compliance

Compliance monitoring was undertaken for two reasons. Fish and Game's primary responsibility is to enforce the Sports Fishing Regulations. Additionally Fish and Game rangers gathered information on guided fishing operators on behalf of the Department of Conservation. Pre-season Backcountry information letters were sent to a number of Backcountry fishery users including;

- accommodation providers,
- fishing lodges,
- fishing guides (including NZPFGA members),
- New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (Southern Branch),
- New Zealand Jet Boat Association (Otago Branch),
- Aircraft operators,

- All successful hunting parties in the Wanaka Roar Ballot and the Greenstone / Caples Ballot.

Timing of Surveys

Backcountry fishery monitoring was undertaken throughout the 2015/2016 season (1 November - 31 May) but with an emphasis on high use periods over the summer months of January – March (Table 1).

Resources

James Smith was contracted by Fish and Game to complete a set amount of days for the Backcountry Fishery Monitoring Programme. The rest of the surveys were undertaken by staff or in one case an honorary ranger (Table 1). Rangers undertook the monitoring of the Backcountry Rivers on foot and an ATV and boat was used for gaining access to the Hunter and Lochy Rivers respectively.

Satisfaction Surveys

A basic angler interview survey form was drafted for interviewing anglers encountered on the river. Anglers were interviewed in the field to gauge overall satisfaction of their Backcountry fishing experience (Appendix 1).

Quantifying Angler Use

Monitoring angler use in Backcountry Rivers has always been difficult to quantify and has largely been based on e-mail or telephone surveys which are completed retrospectively. Being able to accurately quantify angler use allows Fish & Game to better understand potential pressure on a fishery and where necessary look at management options if required. A pilot trial using two Moultrie Trail Cameras was conducted in the Caples River. One camera was installed in the lower reaches and one in the upper reaches of the Caples in March 2016. The cameras were retrieved in May 2016. The methodology for this trial was based off a similar study in the North Island (Daniel, 2015).

Results

Sports Fishing Regulations Compliance

Rangers completed 67 licence checks which included 15 fishing guides that were encountered in the Backcountry Rivers surveyed (Table 1). Thirty were non-resident anglers (58%) and 22 were

Table 1: Backcountry Ranging Effort 2015-2016

Location	Person	Dates	Number of days ranging (incl. access)	No. of guides encountered	No. of licence checks completed	No. of offences detected	No. of interviews conducted
Nevis River	Paul van Klink	18 November 2015	0.5	1	6	0	0
Greenstone River	James Smith	10-13 December 2015	4	0	2	0	0
Caples River	Paul van Klink	18-19 December 2015	2	0	0	0	0
Wilkin River	Paul van Klink	27 December 2015	0.5	0	0	0	0
Nevis River	Paul van Klink	28 December 2015	1	4	11	0	0
Caples River	Fraser Hocks	17 January 2016	1	0	2	0	2
Dingle Burn	James Smith	15 -18 January 2016	4	2	6	0	4
Lochy River	Steve Dixon	29 - 31 January 2016	3	0	0	0	0
Caples / Greenstone Rivers	Paul van Klink	29 January - 1 February 2016	4	0	8	1 x NBCL* 1 x wrong licence type	5
Hunter River	James Smith	28 January - 1 February 2016	4.5	4	14	4 x NBCL*	7
Caples River	Paul van Klink	22 - 23 February 2016	2	1	4	2 x NBCL*	1
Dingle Burn	Paul van Klink	1- 2 March 2016	2	0	0	0	0
Caples River	Paul van Klink	9 March 2016	1	2	8	1 x wrong licence type	4
Greenstone River	James Smith	25 – 27 March 2016	3	1	5	0	2
Caples River	Paul van Klink	27 – 28 May 2016	2	0	1	0	0
			34.5	15	67	9	25

*NBCL= No Back Country Licence

Table 2. Angler Details and Overall Satisfaction 2015-2016

BC River	No. of anglers in party	Resident (R) / Non-resident (NR)	Guided Y/N	Access	No. of anglers encountered	Overall satisfaction	Preference for future management	Other comments
Caples	1	NR	N	Walk	0	Very satisfied	Status quo	Increase the number of BC rivers
Caples	2	NR	N	Walk	5	Dissatisfied	Controlled fishery	Low numbers of fish compared to expectation may need management due to increase in popularity
Caples	2	NR	Y	Heli	0	Very satisfied	Status quo	n/a
Caples	2	NR	Y	Heli	0	Very satisfied	Status quo	n/a
Caples	2	NR	Y	Heli	1	Very satisfied	Status quo	n/a
Caples	1	NR	N	Walk	0	Neutral	Status quo	Had just started fishing, no fish seen
Caples	2	NR	N	Walk	3	Very dissatisfied	Status quo	Guided heli party flew & landed upstream of them
Caples	2	NR	Y	Heli	2	Very satisfied	Status quo	n/a
Dingleburn	2	NR	N	Walk	0	Very satisfied	Not completed	n/a
Dingleburn	2	NR	N	Walk	0	Very satisfied	Not completed	n/a
Dingleburn	1	NR	Y	Heli	1	Satisfied	Status quo	Enough fish but bigger would have been better
Dingleburn	1	NR	Y	Heli	1	Very satisfied	Status quo	n/a
Hunter	2	NR	Y	Heli	0	Very satisfied	Status quo	n/a
Hunter	2	NR	Y	Heli	1	Very satisfied	Status quo	Charge a small fee for BC licences
Hunter	2	NR	Y	Heli	0	Very satisfied	Status quo	Need more cattle fences
Hunter	2	NR	Y	Heli	0	Very satisfied	Status quo	Restrict jet boats in the backcountry
Hunter	1	R	N	Walk	0	Very satisfied	Status quo	No fly zones on BC fisheries
Hunter	2	NR	Y	Walk	4	Very satisfied	Status quo	n/a
Hunter	2	NR	Y	Walk	4	Very satisfied	Status quo	n/a
Greenstone	2	R	N	Walk	0	Very satisfied	Status quo	Controlled fishery is good
Greenstone	2	R	N	Walk	0	Very satisfied	Status quo	n/a
Greenstone	3	R	N	Walk	0	Very satisfied	Controlled fishery	n/a
Greenstone	3	R	N	Walk	0	Very satisfied	Status quo	n/a
Greenstone	1	NR	N	Walk	2	Very satisfied	Status quo	Need to know more about controlled fishery
Greenstone	1	NR	N	Walk	0	Satisfied	Status quo	n/a

resident anglers (42%). Seven anglers (13%) failed to produce a Backcountry licence and two anglers (4%) had the wrong licence type (Table 1). Two of the anglers that failed to produce a Backcountry licence were being guided. Note that anglers that Failed to Produce (FTP's) a licence were not reported on.

Non-resident Anglers and Guided Angling

Twenty anglers interviewed (80%) were non-resident and of these 60% were guided (Table 2). Two resident anglers (8%) were also guided.

Satisfaction Surveys

Twenty-five angler satisfaction surveys were completed which equated to 49% of anglers encountered. Fishing guides and anglers who had just arrived at the river are not included in this survey.

Overall Angler Satisfaction

Anglers were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with their backcountry experience for the day they were interviewed. Satisfaction is measured on a five point Likert scale: very dissatisfied (1), dissatisfied (2), neutral (3), satisfied (4), highly satisfied (5), and the responses for each river can be averaged to give an overall satisfaction score. Of the 25 interviews conducted the majority of anglers (80%) said that they were '*very satisfied*' with their angling experience on Otago backcountry rivers (Table 2).

Angler Dissatisfaction

Two anglers (8%) interviewed were dissatisfied with their angling experience. One of these anglers had a perception that fish numbers were low despite the fact that his companion had caught and released several trout. The other angler had a guided fishing party land by helicopter just upstream of them which had been disappointing considering the angler had walked into the river.

Department of Conservation concessionaire compliance

All 15 Fishing Guides encountered had a valid concession from either the lodge they were working for or they were members of the New Zealand Professional Fishing Guides Association (NZPFGA). Three NZPFGA members were encountered guiding in the Caples River. The Caples River is not listed in Schedule 3 of the NZPFGA guiding permit (Concession Number WC-32264-GUI) and their details have been forwarded to the Department of Conservation, Dunedin.

A microlight aircraft was observed landing in the Hunter Valley and the aircraft registration details and pilot information was forwarded to the Department of Conservation, Wanaka Office.

Quantifying Angler Use

Initial results from images recorded on two Trail Cameras have captured a minimum of 5 anglers at two locations in the Caples River (Figure 2). Trail camera placement and set-up

was slightly problematic. Both cameras were triggered repeatedly by moving vegetation in the foreground which led to an excessive number of images being captured.



Figure 2. An image of a fishing guide and a client with a fish on captured on a Trail Camera in the lower Caples River, April 2016.

Discussion

The Otago Backcountry Fisheries management regime and the backcountry fishing licence structure has been in place ten years. Backcountry Rivers are identified as being amongst Otago's blue ribbon fisheries and most people that fish these rivers are dedicated anglers. It is perhaps a little disappointing that 17% of anglers encountered (included 2 guided anglers) were non-compliant with the Sports Fishing Regulations. Given the high number of fishing guides encountered it was encouraging to observe all fishing guides working under a valid Department of Conservation concession.

It is expensive to access the Backcountry for fishery and compliance monitoring and that this is one reason why it has been a low priority in recent years. The use of helicopters for access and additional ranger staff wages are the two biggest expenses when considering all of the project costs. The 2015-2016 Backcountry fishery monitoring programme was completed without the use of helicopters and the amount of work completed was considerably more than recent years. It is likely that in future helicopters will be used for access as the programme grows. The additional revenue gained from non-resident licences presents Fish and Game with an opportunity to expand and build on the work that was completed during the 2015-2016 season. This is particularly relevant when tourism is expected to continue to grow in New Zealand and pressure on blue ribbon fisheries is likely to increase as a result.

Angler satisfaction levels were high for most of the anglers surveyed and where satisfaction levels were low the explanations for the low satisfaction were obvious and identifiable.

Quantifying angler use of backcountry rivers through the use of Trail Camera technology is a promising prospect. The pilot trial in the Caples River captured some good angler use information. Through expansion of the use of Trail Cameras it will be possible to quantify angler use on a particular river or section throughout the season length.

Proposed work for 2016-2017 (Project 1321)

- Continue to communicate and liaise with Backcountry Fishery user groups in an effort to achieve a higher level of compliance.
- Complete Sports Fishing Regulation training with Department of Conservation staff hut wardens (planned for October 2016).
- Develop a Backcountry Fisheries monitoring programme across all of the Otago Backcountry fisheries.
- Continue to liaise with Department of Conservation on concession monitoring and reporting.
- Increase the number of angler satisfaction surveys to be completed.
- Extend the use of Trail Cameras in an order to quantify angler usage in the Caples River.

Recommendation

That the proposed work programme be incorporated into the 2016/17 Annual Plan

References

Daniel, A. 2015. Monitoring Angler Use of New Zealand Backcountry Fisheries with Trail Cameras. Fish & Game, Auckland/ Waikato

Keeling, H. 2015. COUNCIL REPORT AUGUST 2015. Backcountry Rivers Online Satisfaction Survey 2014-2015 Season. Fish & Game, Otago

**Paul van Klink
Fish & Game Officer
June 2016**

Appendix 1

OTAGO FISH & GAME BACKCOUNTRY RIVERS SURVEY 2015- 2016

Interview details

DateRiver

Interviewer Interview #

No. Anglers in party 1 2 3 4 5 6

Angler Licence #

Guided Yes No Guide name

Effort

Hours fished today Total days on river

Access

Walk Helicopter Fixed wing Jetboat

Encounter

How many anglers have you encountered today?

01 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

How did your encounters (or lack of encounters) impact your overall experience?

Negative Positive Neutral

Satisfaction

How would you rate you overall satisfaction with your backcountry fishing experience today?

Very Satisfied Satisfied Neutral Dissatisfied Very dissatisfied

Please explain/why?

BC Management Preference (for this fishery)

Status quo Controlled Fishery (online booking e.g. Greenstone)

Voluntary beats (marked sections of river to help anglers share)

Do you have any suggestions or comments relating to the management of Otago's backcountry fisheries?

8.5 2016 Greenstone Controlled Fishery Satisfaction Survey - H Trotter

COUNCIL REPORT JUNE 2016

2016 Greenstone Controlled Fishery Satisfaction Survey

Introduction

The Greenstone Controlled Fishery (GCF) operates over three beats, from above the Sly Burn confluence to Lake McKeller, on the Greenstone River in February and March each year. Each beat may be booked by one angler (and one companion). Bookings may only be made up to five days in advance. The GCF aims to maintain a high quality backcountry angling experience by controlling angler encounter rates. An annual online satisfaction survey is conducted at the end of each GCF season to gauge angler use and satisfaction with the fishery and the controlled fishery system. The survey also helps to identify issues and areas for improvement.

Method

The bookings database for the 2016 GCF was reviewed to determine user numbers, demographics, angler days, and beat preferences. Valid email addresses were available for 56 anglers. An online survey was distributed to anglers via email. The survey asked questions relating to overall experience/satisfaction, fish numbers, and future management.

Results

Angler Demographics and Pattern of Use

The 2016 GCF was utilized by a total of 66 anglers (although this includes at least two guides listed as companion anglers and it is unclear whether these guides fished themselves). The total number of angler days booked during the 2016 GCF was 141, a significant increase from 92 in 2015. The increase was due to greater uptake of primary capacity rather than increase in use by companion anglers; 78% of the primary capacity was booked compared to just 36% in 2015. More days were booked in February (97), than March (44) and effort was spread relatively evenly across the beats, with 37 days on Beat 1 and, 53 and 51 days on Beats 2 and 3 respectively (Figure 1). Most anglers (44%) booked 2-day trips, while 26% booked 3-day trips and 24% booked 1-day trips.

Forty-one angler days were guided. Most guiding (59%) occurred on beat 2, followed by beat 1 (24%) and beat 3 (17%) (Figure 1). This is a stark contrast to the 2015 controlled period when beat 1 received almost twice the guiding pressure of beats 2 and beats 3 (Figure 1). More guiding effort occurred in February (63%) than March. While the number of guided anglers (22/33% of total) was comparable with the previous season (20/36%), guided effort was higher with twice as many guided angler days in 2016 compared to 2015.

Table 1: GCF angler effort and demographics 2008-2016

Season/Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of anglers						40	43	55	66
Total capacity allocated	51%	46%	46%	61%	27%	27%	25%	26%	39%
NZ Resident anglers	40%	54%	34%	41%	51%	47%	42%	29%	38%
Non-Resident anglers	60%	46%	66%	59%	49%	53%	58%	71%	62%
Guided anglers	21%	20%	34%	32%	43%	10%	16%	36%	33%

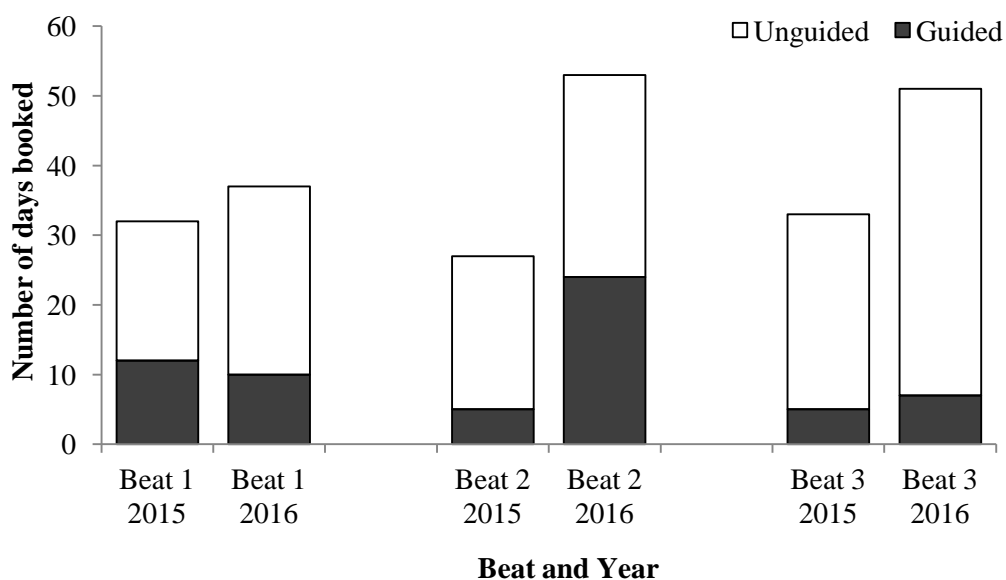


Figure 1: Guided and unguided anglers days by beat for the 2015 and 2016 GCF

Non residents made up 62% of users, down from a peak of 71% in 2015 (Table 1). The origin of non resident users largely followed the typical pattern (Figure 2) being predominately from North America and Australia, with small numbers from the United Kingdom (Figure 2). There may have been an increase in European users up from 4% in 2015 to 8% in 2016, however there was also a significant number of non resident anglers (9%) for whom origin was not reported.

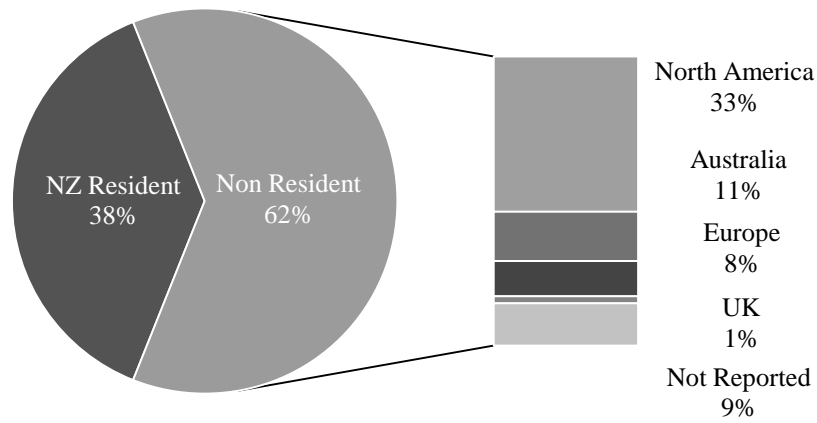


Figure 2: Origin of anglers who participated in the 2016 GCF

Overall Experience Satisfaction

Thirty-seven responses to the online satisfaction survey were received (66% response rate; consistent with previous years). Eighty-nine percent of anglers indicated that they fished their booking. Weather and flow conditions were the listed reasons for not fishing bookings as planned.

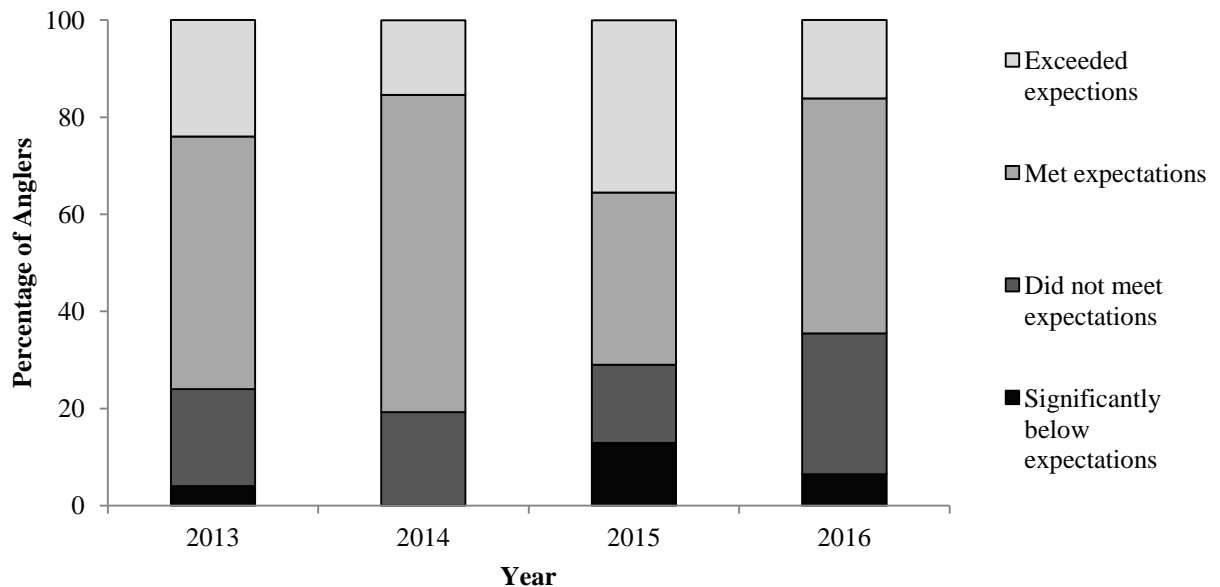


Figure 3: Overall experience ratings for the 2013- 2016 GCF

Overall satisfaction levels are assessed by asking anglers how their experience compared to their expectations. Satisfaction levels decreased for the 2016, with 65% of anglers reporting their expectations were met or exceeded (Figure 3). While most anglers remain satisfied, dissatisfaction was reported at the highest level in recent years, with 35% of anglers reporting their expectations were not met, or their experience was significantly below their expectations (Figure 3). The factors driving dissatisfaction were low fish numbers, didymo, cattle in the river and poor weather or river conditions.

The majority of anglers reported fish numbers met their expectations (Figure 4). Individual anglers landed between 0 and 20 fish (although there is some uncertainty about high

numbers reported by guides in one or two instances as it is unclear whether the catch reported was for the entire party) (Figure 6).

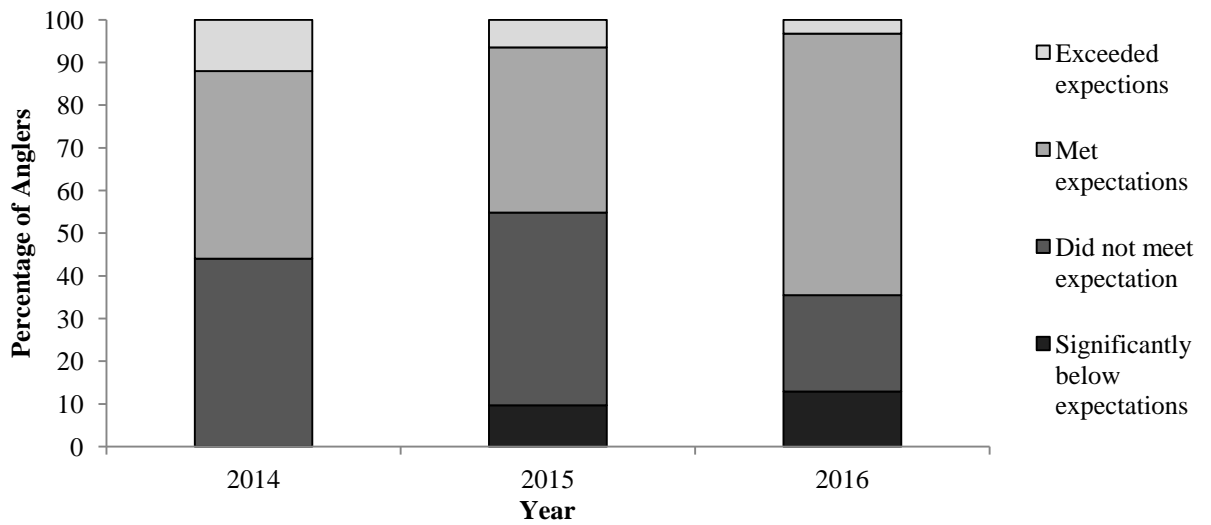


Figure 4: Fish encounter ratings for the GCF 2014-2016

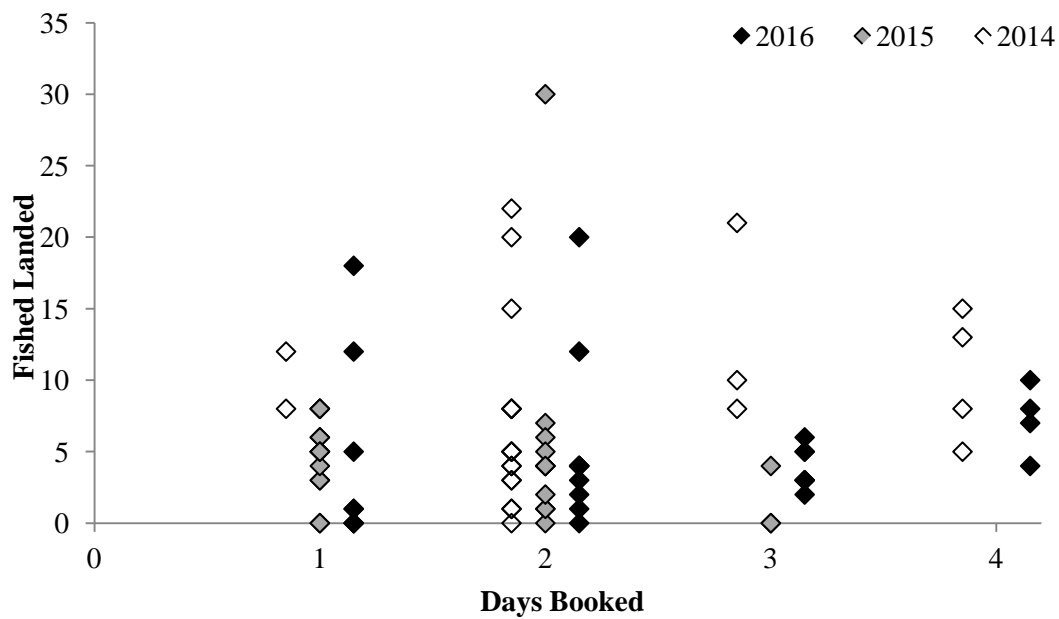


Figure 6: Number of fish landed and number of days booked by anglers for the GCF 2014 - 2016

Online Booking System

The number of anglers able to book their preferred beat and date was decreased compared to 2015 (82%) and 2014 (96%). This is an expected consequence of higher rates of use. The booking system was rated and reported the system was ‘easy’ or ‘very easy’ to use by 89% of anglers.

Future Management

Support for further use of Controlled Periods on backcountry rivers remains high among GCF users. General feedback on the GCF was largely favourable and there was no significant management issues identified.

Discussion

In contrast to 2015 the continued increase in user number in 2016 was also associated with a significant increase in total use. The significant increase may be attributable to a number of factors including extended periods of fine, calm weather in the 2016 season and increased use by commercial operators. In particular on two occasions one operator booked clients across all three beats for multi-day trips. While not in violation of any regulations, this type of use is perhaps inconsistent with intentions of the system and does raise questions about how the river was fished during these bookings (did anglers remain within assigned beats or were they guided across the length of the river, or were all clients on one beat at a time). Also because these bookings were all made by a guide at one time (with a single log-in to the booking system), they were able to book up all the available beats for a number of days. Other anglers did not have an opportunity to access the system while these bookings were made and complaints were received about lack of availability during these times.

Continued scrutiny of bookings again found some commercial operators failing to provide correct personal information for clients, despite increased provision of information and increased communication with operators. While this prevents Fish and Game from accessing these anglers for subsequent surveying and monitoring purposes, it does make guided activity easy to spot and has resulted in more accurate information being collected than relying on angler responses alone. Consideration should be given to how best to monitor guided angling and how the proposed guides licence might be included in controlled fishery booking system in future seasons.

A significant upgrade of the booking system was undertaken by Eyede prior to the start of the controlled period, including integration of the system with the licence database. These changes have been largely successful and further refinements and development of additional functionality is to be completed before the next controlled period in 2017.

Following feedback from anglers that booking system was too restrictive, particularly for multi-day trips the booking rules were 'loosened' allowing anglers to book an additional two days (instead of one day as previously) once they had secured a booking for a given day (no more than 5 days in advance). This effectively increased the lead in period allowing anglers to book days further in advance than previously. While this change was appreciated by anglers wanting to make multi-day tramping and fishing trips, it also made it easier for commercial operators to book out the river for multi-day trips on two occasions (as discussed above). Consideration should be given to the risks and benefits of less restrictive booking rules ahead of the 2017 controlled period.

Results from the online survey indicate satisfaction levels continue to be high however there has been a small but ongoing increase in dissatisfaction over the past few seasons (Figure 3). Dissatisfaction may be attributable to both manageable and unmanageable factors. The key factors reported by anglers were didymo, fish numbers and stock access to the river. Fisheries monitoring would enable better understanding population trends would allow for more

informed communication about the status of the fishery with anglers. This could in turn assist with managing anglers' expectations. An assessment of the effects of stock access to the river could also be undertaken to determine whether there is a management issue which needs addressing. Didymo growth is largely determined by the period between flushing flows and is currently considered a largely unmanageable factor in the Greenstone, with proliferations expected to be worse in dry seasons with prolonged periods of low flows. Further research into the impacts of didymo on the fisheries would however be of interest.

The controlled period on the Greenstone River has now operated successfully for over 10 years. It has proven to be an effective and self-policing tool for managing angler encounter rates and maintaining high levels of satisfaction among backcountry anglers. There is certainly considerable potential for further application of the controlled period approach in Otago to address management issues such as exclusive capture, guided angling pressure and conflict between users with different access modes (fly-in versus walk-in anglers). Given the consistency of results over the 10 year survey history consideration could be given to less frequent surveying or combining the controlled fishery survey in the general backcountry satisfaction survey.

Recommendations

**That refinements of the booking system are completed before the 2017 booking system
That monitoring activities are undertaken on the Greenstone River to assess the fish
population**

That this report is received.

**Helen Keeling
Fish & Game Officer
June 2016**

8.6 Confidential Report – Consent Affected Parties Status – P Wilson

9 Correspondence

9.1 Office of Auditor General – Audit arrangements for Otago Fish & Game Council – CE To Report

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL
P.O. Box 100, Wellington

Level 2, 100 Molesworth Street, Thorndon 6011 Telephone: +64 4 917 1500
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Email: info@oag.govt.nz
Website: www.oag.govt.nz

26 April 2016

Our ref: EN/FGC-0007

Niall Watson
Chief Executive Officer
Otago Fish and Game Council
PO Box 76
Dunedin 9054

2,9 APR 2016

Dear Mr Watson

AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS: OTAGO FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

The contract for BDO to complete the audit of your organisation on behalf of the Auditor-General expired with the completion of the audit for the financial year ended 31 December 2015. Normally at the completion of an audit contract, the Auditor-General (who is your organisation's statutory auditor) would renew the auditor's appointment for a further term unless there were compelling reasons not to. From a review of the recent history of your audit, and discussions with the Sector Manager responsible for your entity, this office is not aware of any such reasons. If you have a different view of that, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Otherwise, the Auditor-General, intends to renew the appointment of BDO to undertake the audit on her behalf. The Auditor-General might require a change of appointed auditor within that firm, and BDO will discuss that with you if necessary.

The contract renewal term would normally be 3 years. If it needs to be for a different period, BDO will discuss that with you.

Audit Proposal

I have asked your appointed auditor to prepare a draft Audit Proposal for discussion with you in due course, and those discussions may have already commenced. The proposal will set out the statutory basis for the audit, key staff assigned to the audit, and the audit hours and fees for each audit included in the contract – together with explanations and justification for any changes from the previous contract.

Importantly, it will also contain the appointed auditors' key expectations of your organisation in relation to the audit. You should take the opportunity to discuss those expectations with your appointed auditor, as well as any other factors within your control where the audit can be made less time consuming and more efficient.

Once you and the appointed auditor have agreed the terms of the audit, they will ask you to countersign the proposal as evidence of your organisations' acceptance of the terms, and they will send it to me, leaving you a copy for your records. The proposal will eventually form part of the appointed auditor's contract with the Auditor-General.

If you would like more information about how auditors are appointed and audit fees set in the public sector, please refer to <http://www.oag.govt.nz/2011/appointing-auditors-and-setting-audit-fees>. You should find the information useful in preparing for discussions with BDO.

Auditor Independence

The Auditor-General sets independence standards for auditors acting on her behalf, which include the standards set by the External Reporting Board. The standards include limits on the nature and amount of work that can be undertaken for an entity by any audit service provider, other than normal assurance work typically undertaken as an extension of the annual audit engagement. Such additional work also includes anything done by other offices of the same auditing firm while that firm is engaged to audit your entity on behalf of the Auditor-General.

If you have any concern that some work your organisation expects your auditor to undertake, or may ask your auditor to undertake, may breach these independence standards, the attached summary may be helpful. You are also welcome to seek a view from this office.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of the re-appointment process, or, after discussion with your auditor, require more information about the proposed audit fee, please contact me on 04 917 1522, or e-mail murray.powell@oag.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray Powell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Murray Powell
Director Auditor Appointments

THE AUDITOR-GENERAL'S POLICY ON AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE

This is a summary of the Auditor-General's statement on Independence that applies to Audit Service Providers (including all national or international affiliates of the firm providing audit services to the Auditor-General). If you are in any doubt as to whether the independence of an Audit service Provider is threatened please contact Roy Glass, Director Auditing Policy, Office of the Auditor-General, (04 917 1510 or roy.glass@oag.govt.nz).

While undertaking an audit on behalf of the Auditor-General, the Audit Service Provider and affiliated firms will be permitted to carry out Assurance Engagements at the request of the audit entity without limit. The term assurance is tightly defined, and is essentially in-depth auditing, beyond the scope of the annual audit. Certain consulting or service engagements, at the request of the audit entity, will also be permitted up to a limit of 100% of the annual audit fee in any one year. In each case the work must not:

- Violate the principles set out in the Code of Ethics and Code of Ethics: Independence in Assurance Engagements of the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants; or
- Involve the Audit Service Provider's personnel in any decision-making that should be undertaken by the management or the owner of your organisation; or
- Involve the Audit Service Provider's personnel in both performing and auditing the same work; or
- Impair the integrity or objectivity of either the Audit Service Provider's personnel, or that of the Auditor-General.

Even though an Audit Service Provider may be permitted to carry out an assurance, consulting or service engagement for an entity they audit, the Audit Service Provider is required to obtain the prior approval of the Auditor-General if the engagement is of a sensitive nature or may be subject to media or political interest.

In addition, because of the inherent conflict with auditor independence, certain engagements are prohibited and cannot be carried out by the Audit Service Provider or their affiliates.

Prohibited engagements include:

- Liquidation and receivership of organisations they audit on behalf of the Auditor-General or of subsidiaries or other entities controlled by those organisations;
- Taxation advice that has, or will be, applied in determining the income tax liabilities recorded in the financial statements of the audit entity, and is not in accordance with published Inland Revenue Department policy, or has not been confirmed with the Inland Revenue Department;
- Taxation advice relating to the design or implementation of tax avoidance policies or mechanisms;

- Taxation engagements involving the computation of income tax liabilities or other tax liabilities (or assets) for the purposes of the financial statements or for returns to the Inland Revenue Department;
- Valuation services that result in the product of the valuation giving rise directly to asset or liability determination in the Statement of Financial Position; and
- Roles that are properly those of management or the owner(s), including acting as an entity's internal auditor.

To maintain individual audit staff objectivity, audit personnel may not, in audits over 150 hours, undertake the same audit tasks for more than six (6) consecutive years. Having completed six years, the appointed auditor shall not become eligible to act again in any capacity in relation to that audit for two years. After two years they will again be eligible for audit appointment to that entity only if they have undertaken no other professional and/or consulting engagements with the entity.

9.2 Controller and Auditor General – Advice on governance and accountability



CONTROLLER AND AUDITOR-GENERAL
Tumuaki o te Mana Arotake

Level 2, 100 Molesworth Street, Thorndon 6011 Telephone: +64 4 917 1500
PO Box 3928, Wellington 6140, New Zealand Facsimile: +64 4 917 1549

Email: lyn.provost@oag.govt.nz
Website: www.oag.govt.nz www.auditnz.govt.nz

Lyn Provost

Mr Niall Watson
Chief Executive
Otago Fish and Game Council
PO Box 76
Dunedin

Dear Niall

Enclosed is a copy of our new reflections report on *Governance and accountability*.

Every year, the Office of the Auditor-General applies a theme to its work. We chose *Governance and accountability* for 2014/15 because high standards of public sector governance and accountability are essential to healthy democracies at both national and local levels.

Good governance and accountability need and support each other and, if done well, enhance the public's trust in our system of government. Good governance encourages and can result in good accountability. In turn, accountability is a vital element of good governance.

This report reflects on common issues, and highlights examples of good and emerging practice. Through our work we have identified eight elements of good governance. We also look at some trends that present new challenges and opportunities for enhancing accountability, and talk about governance for government departments, and conflicts of interest.

New Zealand has a well-established public management system with strong accountability foundations. However, we should not take this for granted. We encourage you to use the findings and examples in this report to consider your entity's governance and accountability arrangements.

This report is available on our website at www.oag.govt.nz/2016/reflections. For extra hard copies, please email reports@oag.govt.nz.

I would welcome the opportunity to come to your office and discuss the issues raised in this report with you and your staff.

Kind regards

Lyn Provost
Controller and Auditor-General

5 May 2016

9.3 Kenneth McFarland – Complaint about disturbance of duck shooting by anglers. Also letter to the ODT and response

Fish & Game New Zealand (Otago Region)

A letter of complaint.

My name is Kenneth Mc Farlane, my residence is at 131 Eskdale Road, Papkowhai, Porirua.

Contact details are :

Home phone 04 2379333, cell 027 250 9449,

Email : mcfarlanekenny@hotmail.com

My duck shooting licence number is:4495232, Adult. I am also a fisher person, my fishing licence is:4370543, Adult.

I would like to complain to Fish & Game New Zealand (Otago Region) about those fisher people that consistently come down to an area of the Taieri River known as "Murray's Gate" at the end of Bush Road on the out skirts of Mosgiel, Otago and put their lives in danger on the opening weekend of duck shooting.

This past weekend (Saturday) my hunting companion and I couldn't work out why ducks would come so far into us only to veer off a hundred or so metres out. As a result, I went up to the top of the river bank to see what was causing this and noticed a car parked a hundred and fifty meters away at the south end of the paddock.

On investigating further, I found a man and his 3 year old son set up at the river's edge fishing. I was shocked by this with duck shooters around them on opening weekend; and I asked the man what he thought he was doing.

In response, he stated that he was fishing to within the rules of his license and using the Queen's chain for access which gives him the right to be there. While technically correct about the Queen's chain and his right to be fishing where he was (south of the Silver Stream confluence), I mentioned to him that the private property he has driven through to get to this spot and parked on is not part of the Queen's chain. Unfortunately, the farm owner was himself away duck shooting in Tapanui so not around to speak to the man.

I suggested to the man that if he wishes to use the Queen's chain, he should in fact be parking his car by the last bridge that crosses the Silver Stream on Riverside Road and walking down that length of that waterway (approx 1 km) to access the Taieri River there-by using the Queen's chain.

This discussion gets relatively heated and as I'm quick tempered I left the scene disgusted a fisher would have this attitude.

I have been duck shooting from the same area for the last 40 years since I was 15. While in the last 5 years I have only been around for opening weekend, over these years I have noticed an increasing incidence of fishers being blissfully unaware of the fact it is opening weekend for duck-shooting and that there are shooters in legally marked confines within the vicinity.

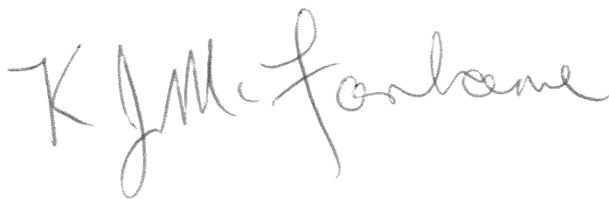
In my mind this creates an accident waiting to happen and it will only be a matter of time before someone will be injured. I believe to keep everyone safe this situation warrants a rule change to the effect that fishers are not allowed to fish on this and other rivers known to be populated by duck-shooters during opening weekend of the duck shooting season. I understand such rules are already utilised on some rivers in Southland.

Therefore, keeping in mind Health and Safety on both sides, I Kenneth McFarlane would like to move for a rule change to this effect from the Otago Region of Fish & Game New Zealand.

In respect of the area I shoot in the rule could read : "All fishing on the Lower Taieri River from the Outram Bridge to the Taieri River Mouth be closed for the Opening Weekend of Duck Shooting each year, that being the first full weekend in May."

I would appreciate hearing from you what more I need to do to have this matter fully considered.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K J McFarlane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'K' and 'M'.

Kenneth James McFarlane

10/05/2016

Niall Watson

From: Niall Watson
Sent: Friday, 13 May 2016 11:13 a.m.
To: 'Cushla Turner'
Cc: Richard Cosgrove; Ian Hadland
Subject: RE: Seeking a response to a letter – K McFarlane

The Editor ODT

While I am sorry to hear that Mr McFarlane's hunting was disturbed on opening weekend of the game season, there have been no similar complaints about disturbance of hunters by angling activity or vice versa in recent game season openings so it is not a widespread problem. Anglers and hunters are welcome to put forward proposed changes to angling and hunting regulation to Otago Fish and Game Council for consideration in regular regulation reviews. Closure of the fishing season for the opening of the duck season does occur on the Mataura River in Southland but there are other recreational river users to consider. Rivers are after all are public spaces which anglers and hunters have to share with others. As far as public safety is concerned the responsibility clearly lies with the hunter.

Yours sincerely

Niall Watson
Chief Executive
Otago Fish and Game Council

-----Original Message-----

From: Ian Hadland
Sent: Friday, 13 May 2016 8:58 a.m.
To: Niall Watson
Cc: Richard Cosgrove
Subject: FW: Seeking a response to a letter – K McFarlane

Where to start on this one?!!!!!!

Cheers, Ian

-----Original Message-----

From: Otago Fish & Game
Sent: Friday, 13 May 2016 8:32 a.m.
To: Ian Hadland
Subject: FW: Seeking a response to a letter – K McFarlane

-----Original Message-----

From: Cushla Turner [<mailto:cushla.turner@odt.co.nz>]
Sent: Thursday, 12 May 2016 11:06 a.m.
To: Otago Fish & Game
Subject: Seeking a response to a letter – K McFarlane

To whom it may concern,

Please see below another letter to the editor to which we would like to give Otago Fish & Game the opportunity to respond. We would appreciate a response of no more than 150 words by May 19. If Fish & Game does not wish to comment, please let us know by this date, and we may choose to publish the letter without your input.

Kind regards,

Cushla Turner
Editor's secretary
Otago Daily Times

I'VE just arrived back to Wellington from my annual duck-shooting trip to Dunedin. I have had this mai mai for 40 years but over the last five years I've had to put up with fisher-people fishing within 200m of me.

It's hard enough calling ducks in at the best of time but when people are moving around I have no show of decoying them in.

I just want to say to all those fisherman that constantly go fishing near my mai mai on opening weekend . . . your days are numbered. I will be starting a process with Fish & Game Otago for a rule change that states "All fishing on the Lower Taieri River from the Outram Bridge down to Taieri Mouth is banned for the opening weekend of duck shooting each year, that being the first weekend in May".

I've had enough of ignorant fisher-people not prepared show us duck-shooters the courtesy of two days out of the calendar year of no fishing, giving us duck shooters a fair go.

It's downright stupidity to be around the river when firearms are involved. The accident that is waiting to happen will be stopped before it does happen. I buy a duck licence which I feel should guarantee me two days free of people fishing. I'm also the holder of a fisher licence as well! What gives people the right to drive down a private road as if they own it and then onto private land?

Ken McFarlane
Wellington

10 General Business
