

**Agenda for the Meeting of the Otago Fish & Game Council
to be held on Thursday 18 August 2016
At Presbyterian Church, 10 Elspeth Street, Cromwell
Commencing at 12.15pm**

Please note: A Lunch will be provided at 11.45am

1 Present and Apologies	2
2 Declaration of Interest	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	27
6 Chief Executives Report	31
7 Health and Safety Report	49
8 Committee Reports	49
8.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust	49
8.2 NZC Meeting	49
9 Staff and Technical Reports	50
9.1 Otago Fish & Game Council Offence Guidelines	50
9.2 Compliance Summary Report - I Hadland	55
9.3 Otago Fish & Game Council Response to Anglers Notice Working Party Recommendations - I Hadland	59
9.4 Backcountry Fisheries Angler Survey 2015-2016 - H Trotter	60
9.5 Fernburn Spawning Survey Report 2015 - R Boyd	73
9.6 Manorburn Reservoir Opening Day Angler Survey Results - C Halford	79
9.7 Poolburn Reservoir Opening Day Angler Survey - C Halford	83
9.8 Otago Region Mallard Monitoring Study - P van Klink	86
9.9 Otago Fish and Game Council Wetland Reserves - M Trotter	97
9.10 Confidential Habitat Enhancement Fund Application – M Trotter	111
9.11 Confidential Habitat Enhancement Fund Application – P van Klink and M Trotter	111
10 Correspondence	112
10.1 Minister of Conservation – Approval of 2016/17 Anglers Notice and Fees	112
10.2 Wanaka Gun Club – Letter of thanks for grant to support school clay target competitions	117
10.3 Albert Town Rate Payers - Letter to QLDC about carp in Albert Town lagoon	118
10.4 Inderlee Ltd - Letter regarding water quality issues associated with fish-out pond proposal - CE to report	119
11 General Business	121

1 Present and Apologies

2 Declaration of Interest

3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes

**Minutes of Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting
St John's Rooms, Scotland Street, Roxburgh
16th June 2016
Commencing at 11.00 am**

1.0 Present

Monty Wright (Chair), Dr John Jillett, John Barlow, Adrian McIntyre, Dave Witherow, Rick Boyd, Dan Rae, Vicky Whyte, Alan Hammond and Murray Neilson

In attendance: Niall Watson (CE), Ian Hadland (OM), John Roberts (DOC) Russell Reid (Teviot Angler)

Apologies were received from Ian Cole, Colin Weatherall, Dr Mike Turner.

Resolved (Jillett/Barlow)

That the apologies be received.

Mr Wright welcome back Dan Rae and welcomed John Roberts from DOC.

Mr Roberts outlined his role a Statutory Manager within the department, the purpose of the role being to manage both statutory relationships including the relationship with Fish and Game, and involvement in statutory processes. Mr Roberts said he hoped to attend future meetings when the opportunity arose.

2.0 Declarations of Interest and Health and Safety

- **Declarations of Interest** - There were no new declarations of interest.
- **Health and Safety** – Nothing to report

3.0 Minutes

Resolved (McIntyre/Jillett)

That the Minutes of the meetings on the 21st April be confirmed as a true and correct record.

4.0 Matters Arising from Minutes.

4.1 Lake Dunstan MaiMai – The CE advised that staff were preparing a report on maimai standards for Lake Dunstan. While there were regional and district plan requirements for permitted lake bed structures under the RMA, they did not apply to Lake Dunstan

4.2 Oceania Gold – Mr Hadland confirmed the 10 year hatchery agreement renewal had been signed off.

4.3 Poolburn Creek Channelisation – The CE confirmed the matter was going to Court in July.

5.0 Communications New Zealand Council

5.1 NZC Correspondence to Otago

5.1.1 Budget round approvals and licence fee recommendations.

Council discussed support the proposed licence fee increases of \$1 for fishing and \$1 for game noting that the game licence increase was based on a \$1 increase on the Game Habitat Stamp. The Game Habitat Trust (GHT) had not been successful in generating significant revenue beyond revenue from stamps on licences.

It was resolved (Boyd/Jillett)

That the proposed budgets and licence fee increases be supported subject to encouragement of the GHT to again focus on external revenue generation.

5.1.2 Hunting and Harvest Ethics

The matter was discussed at some length and it was **agreed** that ethical standards should be codified and promoted but not regulated.

It was also **agreed** that hunting technology and things like pond feeding were matter for regional Fish and Game Councils to decide.

Mr Neilson noted that controls on harvest only, worked with bag limits at very low levels.

5.1.3 Council decisions taken impinging on other Councils

The CE noted the matter was already covered by National Policy on Consultation paragraph 2.1.3.3: Cross boundary issues. NZC had been advised.

5.1.4 Game Habitat Trust Board Nomination

Mr Rae noted the recently circulated GHT nomination form and moved

(Rae/McIntyre)

That Murray Neilson be nominated for the GHT Board

5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC

Nil

Takitakitoa Wetland

Mr Hadland made a power point presentation on progress with the Takitakitoa wetland enhancement. The wetland has now backfilled with water up to within 30mm of its design height and it will be held there for the winter to allow the bund to establish full grass cover. One of the five new maimais installed was shot on opening weekend by a Mosgiel father and son with 11 mallards taken. Photo point and other environmental monitoring at the site will continue to document changes in the wetland over time.

6.0 Chief Executive's Report

6.1 Administration

Finance and licence sales reports to the end of May 2016 were discussed. Council noted that the expenditure budget was 75% spent at a point 75% through the financial year.

Licence Sales

There were no known potential agent liabilities. One licence agency (Cromwell Sports) had closed.

Fish licence revenue returns were only 0.4% behind the LEQ sales target despite the introduction of new licence categories including three discounted categories. Game licence sales for the year were just ahead of the sales target (0.3%).

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.

Capital purchases

The 3 quotes for heat pumps for the Dunedin Office were discussed. Costs were averaging \$10,000 (ex GST) for 3 heat pumps but he said it would be more cost effective to install 5. This would replace all the old panel heaters and radiators.

It was resolved (Rae/Witherow)

That staff continue the purchase of up to 5 heat pumps to complete the upgrade of Dunedin Office heating.

It was resolved (Jillett/Whyte)

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

6.2 Species

Sub gauges

There was a discussion on the sub gauge exemption on the prohibition of lead shot and the Ministers recent letter to NZC seeking an accelerated timetable for a review. The letter has not yet been referred to Fish and Game Councils for

comment. Concern was expressed about the position of retailers faced with uncertainty of next season's regulations and trends in controls on lead overseas. Staff noted that trends in sub gauge use were being monitored in the course of ranging and effects of lead shot were discussed. Mr Boyd noted that the matter would inevitably come up again once the Minister's letter was received and requested that discussion be closed.

Messrs Hammond and McIntyre withdrew from the meeting at 2.30pm

Public Forum

Russell Reid from Teviot Anglers addressed the meeting and urged the Council to argue for a reintroduction of lead shot for hunting. He said he thought steel shot was ineffective at killing birds.

Mr Roberts left the meeting at about 2.45pm

Contact Energy

The CE advised that he had had a recent unproductive meeting with Contact Energy over mitigation activities. (Referred to Public excluded)

6.3 Habitat

Lindis Minimum Flow Decision

The CE advised the decision was expected in August

Contact Energy

Referred to public excluded

6.4 User Participation

Hukarere Station

Referred to public excluded

Hunter Valley Station

Referred to public excluded

6.5 Public Interface

No discussion

6.6 Compliance

No discussion

6.7 Licencing

No discussion

6.8 Council

No discussion

6.9 Planning and Reporting

No discussion

Resolved (Rae/Boyd)

That the meeting go into public excluded session

See confidential minutes

Resolved (Rae/Witherow)

That the meeting go into public excluded session

7.0 Committee Reports

7.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust

Dr Jillett reported on trust business from the last meeting including:

Amendments were agreed to the Trust's Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives in light of changes in the investment environment.

Support for Lake Hayes research

- Further monitoring of flows and trout spawning
- Continuing to chase up the Kane Road agreement which has been signed but lacks appendices.
- Reports from Morgan and Helen Trotter on their respective research projects on the Lindis and Lake Hayes.
- Approvals sought for improvements to 'Black Bag' access to Clutha River.
- Consideration of options for retrieval of Poison Creek access to Clutha

7.2 New Zealand Council

Dr Jillett reported on the recent NZC meeting and noted:

- Licence sales nationally were within the bounds of sales for the last 4 years.
- There are access issues on Rainbow Station in Marlborough
- Governance policy is under review
- Standing orders have been updated
- There was discussion of areas where standard operating procedures (SOPs) should apply)
- Extra funding (\$20,000) was approved for legal advice on RMA matters relating to national RM policy.
- Boat licences were discussed (following on from the presentation by Stu Dever in Cromwell) with support from Eastern and Otago.
- Budgets and licence fee recommendations from Managers were supported with an extra dollar proposed for the Game Licence as a result of a \$1 increase in the duck stamp fee

8.0 Technical Reports

8.1 Game Season Opening - Halford

Mr Halford's report was discussed and received

8.2 Response to Anglers Notice Working Party Recommendations

The report of the working party on Anglers Notices Schedule 1 was discussed and some difficulties were identified in the definitions section particularly over the definitions of bait and fly-fishing.

It was **agreed** that Mr Hadland should review the report and report back to Council where improvements could be made.

8.3 Anglers Notice Review - Halford

Mr Boyd expressed his concerns about the report and the process behind it. He said that the end point of the process was a change in law justifications for changes in the report should be explicit.

He requested a more detailed template for the AN review and noted the need for more community consultation given the scope and significance of the bag limit changes proposed and recommended the reviews not be done so regularly.

It was resolved (Boyd/Barlow)

That a Council working party be established to develop a template to assess changes to the Anglers Notice.

Mr Boyd was requested to convene the working party.

Changes to the Anglers notice already contemplated were discussed and it was resolved (Witherow/Boyd)

That Lake Mahineragi be opened to winter fishing.

It was resolved (Boyd/Barlow)

That Items 1, 2 and 3 of the Angler Notice report be held over for 12 months and further work on bag limits be included in the 2016/17 Work Plan.

It was resolved (Whyte/Rae)

That the season for the Teviot River remain unchanged.

8.3 Backcountry Fishery Compliance And Satisfaction – Paul van Klink

The report was discussed and it was resolved (Whyte/Witherow)

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

8.4 Greenstone Controlled Fishery – Helen Keeling

The report was discussed and it was resolved (Rae/Boyd)

That refinements to the booking system, be completed before the 2017 season and that monitoring activities are undertaken on the Greenstone to assess the fish population.

9.0 Correspondence

9.1 – Office of the Auditor General – Advice from the OAG on proposed audit arrangements for the next 3 years with the existing auditor BDO of Invercargill.

The CE advised that the proposal was acceptable and that a proposal on fees from BDO was expected at which time he would report back.

Agreed the letter be received

9.2 – Office of the Auditor General – Covering letter and copy of report entitled ‘Governance and Accountability’.

Received

9.3 Kenneth McFarlane – Request for regulations restricting angling on the opening of the game season and response to ODT letter to the editor.

Received

10.0 General Business

10.1 Standing Order

Mr Boyd noted that current standing orders (approved in 2010) were based on Local Government standards which were now out of date. He requested a report back to Council on the need for an update including coverage of attendance at meetings via audio-visual link and quorum requirements.

The CE noted that NZC had recently updated their standing orders but he was not sure what the update was based on.

10.2 Lower Clutha Access

Vicky Whyte raised the subject of a project on practical access to the Clutha below Roxburgh. The CE advised that it was being included in the Annual Plan.

10.3 Tablets

Mr Hadland distributed the tablets and noted:

- They were being provided to avoid both using paper agendas and post out costs.
- New email addresses were provided for each tablet for Fish and Game related communications.
- Adding too many apps could slow performance which could only be remedied through a factory reset which resulted in the loss of saved items.
- There was software for editing and annotating agendas which councilors should learn to use.

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 Copy of letter from Minister of conservation re sub-gauge exemption for lead shot use – For discussion

BAN ON USE OF LEAD SHOT

Memorandum to: Regional Fish and Game Councils

Prepared by: Robert Sowman, Planning & Policy Manager
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Dated: 26 July 2016

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) at its meeting of 22 – 23 July 2016 considered a letter from the Minister of Conservation on the use of lead shot near waterways and resolved to consult regional Fish and Game Councils before a decision is made:

Resolved (Noel Birchall/Colin Sherrard)

That the letter from the Minister of Conservation be sent to regions noting the Minister's request to bring forward the review of the sub-gauge exemption for the use of lead shot with responses to be received in time for consideration at the November NZ Council meeting.

Your feed-back on this request will be submitted for NZ Council consideration at its 25 – 27 November 2016 meeting. Please provide any comments you wish to make before Friday 11 November for inclusion in that agenda mailout.



24 MAY 2016

Office of Honourable Maggie Barry ONZM

MP for North Shore
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Minister of Conservation
Minister for Senior Citizens

E09
26 MAY 2016

Lindsay Lyons
Chairman
NZ Fish and Game Council
PO Box 13141
Wellington

Dear Lindsay

When the ban use of lead shot in 10 and 12 gauge shotguns near waterways was put in place in 2005, an exemption was made for sub-gauge shotguns because of concerns that the non-availability or high cost of non-toxic shot for sub-gauge guns might prevent youth and women from participating in recreational waterfowl hunting. It seems that the exemption was intended to be for a short time only.

The Minister for the Environment and I have recently received correspondence (copy enclosed) that suggests recreational hunters may be increasingly using sub-gauge guns for hunting waterfowl in order to circumvent the efforts to minimise the use of lead shot in and around waterways. Can you please provide me with any evidence or survey results that might show me what is happening in regard to changes in the use of lead shot in sub-gauge guns for game bird hunting over the past 10 years?

Can you also please advise why lead shot should not be phased out for all waterfowl hunting in New Zealand, given that many other countries are already doing so. I understand you have been planning to revisit the issue in 2017. I would, however, like you to bring this forward, reassess the phasing out of lead shot in all waterfowl hunting and provide me with your advice on this. If there is evidence that alternatives are available and that the lead shot ban can be extended to sub-gauge shotguns used over water, I would welcome any initiative Fish and Game might take to proceed with this.

Yours sincerely

Honourable Maggie Barry ONZM
Minister of Conservation

Encl

5.1.2 Preparation of Resource Management strategy – For discussion

PREPARATION OF AN RM STRATEGY

Memorandum to: Regional Fish and Game Councils

Prepared by: Robert Sowman, Planning & Policy Manager
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Dated: 27 July 2016

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) at its meeting of 22 – 23 July 2016 held a workshop on the Saturday morning to consider the preparation of a strategy to manage RM outcomes. The purpose of such a strategy is to manage Fish and Game's resource management practices. The NZ Council had already resolved in November 2015 to have a national strategy for this purpose. The authors of the attached draft are Phil Teal and Niall Watson (respective Manager/Chief Executive of Wellington and Otago Fish and Game Councils)

The NZ Council brought back into the public meeting the recommendation from the workshop, namely that:

A draft strategy be circulated to regional Fish and Game Councils with feed-back requested before the 23 September 2016 NZ Council meeting.

That at the September 2016 NZ Council meeting the Council will seek to finalise the RM strategy.

Please provide any comments you wish to make before Friday 9 September for inclusion in an agenda mailout the week prior to the Friday 23rd September meeting.

Memo to NZ Fish & Game Council: Draft RM Strategy

Following discussion at the Managers Meetings in February and April 2016 a subgroup of Managers and the Environmental Manager were tasked with defining an RM strategy discussion document for the July NZ Council meeting to focus definition of objectives and outcomes sought in the RM function.

The **strategy** should set the stage and set the desired objectives/goals and why you should go about achieving them – the ‘what’ and ‘why’

The strategy **objectives** were separated into groupings that reflected broad areas of influence:

- Legislation and national policy
- Public awareness, communications, and advocacy
- Organisational capabilities
- Regional RM activity

The **outcomes** sought were further defined into national and regional outcomes to reflect the different roles that regional Fish & Game councils undertake compared with NZ Fish & Game Council, the different stages that they operate in, and their potential area of influence.

Tactics are the specific actions you are implementing to achieve the objectives – the ‘how’. Tactics tend to be easier to focus on as they are more tangible, they are easier to relate to them, and often have compelling and alluring arguments for achieving results. Tactics should, however, be assessed back to achievement of strategic objectives and whether they can be achieved (risks of not achieving) in the limits of resources and authority. Once the tactics and actions are defined/refined they can be considered in the business plan process with allocation of resources - external expenditure or staff resources.

There will be elements of ‘business as usual’ for some actions as Fish & Game will still need to be involved within the current legal and regional planning environment and this is not in their direct control. The ‘blue skies’ paradigm shifts in the way Fish & Game engages in the RM function is a tactical discussion.

A list of potential tactics and actions are in draft form but more appropriate as an exercise in addition to the strategic document.

Phil Teat

Niall Watson

On behalf of Managers Sub-Committee

Fish & Game's RM Strategy (DRAFT)

1. Introduction

Regional Fish and Game Councils (FGCs) and the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZC) both have statutory roles relating to resource management with both vitally interested in the Resource Management Act and its implementation – in particular Part 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991. This relates to sustainable management including safeguarding life supporting capacity of water and ecosystems, and avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities in the environment.

The respective roles of FGCs and NZC are as follows

Conservation Act 1987:

S26P and 26Q(1) (e) Regional Fish & Game Councils were established *to manage, maintain, and enhance the sports fish and game resource in the recreational interests of hunters and anglers. A function of FGCs is to represent the interests and aspirations of anglers and hunters in the statutory planning process.*

S26B and 26C (1) (g) The NZ Fish & Game Council was established *to represent nationally the interests of anglers and hunters and provide co-ordination of the management, enhancement, and maintenance of sports fish and game. A function of the NZ Council is to advocate generally and in any statutory planning process the interests of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and, with its agreement, of any Fish and Game Council in the management of sports fish and game, and habitats.*

The roles of the regional Fish & Game Councils and NZ Fish & Game Council often have linkages but they differ in their focus of engagement:

- the NZ Fish & Game Council's primary role being focused on advocacy of legislation, national planning instruments, and general advocacy in central government and political environment which is influenced by the wider public opinion;
- the regional Fish & Game Councils primary role is to influence outcomes in the regional planning processes where implementation of national and region policies affects the sustainability of sports fish and game bird habitats.

Fish & Game's RM strategy sets out higher level objectives sought by Fish and Game Councils with further identification provided for outcomes sought regionally by regional Fish & Game Councils and nationally by the New Zealand Fish & Game Council. The outcomes in the strategy can be implemented through development of tactics and identification of actions that can be co-ordinated through the annual planning process. The outcomes should remain the key reference measure, with the tactics providing potential for innovation to achieve them.

2. Overarching Outcome

Rivers, lakes, wetland and estuaries sustain healthy functioning aquatic ecosystems that support sustainable populations of sports fish and game birds that are safe for food gathering, and provide a range of quality recreational opportunities for anglers and hunters and other members of the public.

3. Objectives

OBJECTIVE 1 – RESOURCE MANAGEMENT LAW AND NATIONAL POLICY

The recreational and intrinsic values of freshwater and their habitats, and the right of New Zealanders to safe, swimmable and fishable rivers and lakes is recognised by Government and protected in law.

NZ Fish & Game Council advocates nationally for overarching law and national RM Policies that direct regional planning and diminish the need for regional RM activity.

Outcomes - Nationally:

- 1) Legislation that promotes sustainable management of land and water resources, recognise and protect recreational values of freshwater, protect and enhance wetland habitats
- 2) National Policy Statements will recognise and protect the habitat for sports fish and game birds and establishes management frameworks which ensure sustainable and sustainable management of land and water resources.
- 3) Environmental standards are set nationally for water quality and quantity and natural character that protect the ecological health of freshwater and salmonid populations and which ensure that freshwater is suitable for primary contact recreation
- 4) Maintain a science research strategy to provide technical support for national and regional advocacy
- 5) Access to the Environment Court and higher courts is retained as of right within planning processes
- 6) Fish and Game is working strongly and proactively with Government, and other political parties, the ministries, industry, iwi, NGO's, and the public to ensure commitment to: sustainable management of land and water resources; and protection of recreational hunting and angling values of freshwater habitats including using National Policy Statements and setting environmental standards.
- 7) Provisions for Water Conservation Orders are retained and strengthened in resource management legislation to confer greater recognition of recreational, fishery, conservation, amenity, natural character, and intrinsic values.

Outcomes - Regionally:

- 1) Regional Policy Statements, regional plans, resource consents, and standards reflect National Policy Statements and environmental standards that promote the sustainable management of land and water resources, recognise and protect recreational values of freshwater, protect and enhance wetland habitats.
- 2) Consistent and relevant regional plan provisions provide for maintenance or enhancement of the sports fish and game and their habitats
- 3) Regional Government agencies implementing and enforce their regional policies and plans
- 4) Regional Policy Statements and Regional Plans recognise and protect the values in the Water Conservation Orders and environmental standards are implemented to reflect these
- 5) Seek protection of nationally significant waterbodies *that require protection by Water Conservation Orders*

OBJECTIVE 2 – PUBLIC AWARENESS, COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY

Fish and Game through public awareness, communications and advocacy motivates public opinion to lead RM policy agendas to include a requirement to safeguard life supporting capacity, avoiding, remedying and mitigating adverse environmental effects.

Outcomes - Nationally:

- 1) Fish and Game is recognised in the public arena as a professional and credible organisation holding expertise in sustainable land and water management, policy, and science,
- 2) Fish and Game communications promote through media and public awareness issues raised by RM cases, and New Zealanders rights to clean, swimmable, fishable rivers and lakes.
- 3) Fish and Game has strategic alliances with industry groups, other NGO's, politicians, and the media to develop and advance environmentally sustainable agriculture operating under a social license
- 4) New Zealand primary industries are environmentally and economically sustainable, in a way that protects and enhances rivers, lakes and wetland so that fish and game resources flourish

Outcomes - Regionally:

- 1) Fish and Game is recognised in the public arena as a professional and credible organisation holding expertise in sustainable land and water management, policy, and science
- 2) Fish and Game communications promote through media and public awareness issues raised by regional and local RM issues, and New Zealanders rights to clean, swimmable, fishable rivers and lakes.

OBJECTIVE 3 – ORGANISATIONAL

Fish and Game is a united, resilient and professional organisation through co-ordination of regional staff development with technical and planning, communication, advocacy and RM management expertise, and empowering staff to deliver quality RM outcomes.

Outcomes - Nationally:

- 1) Fish and Game to provide an active programme of training and coordination to build expertise and capacity and efficiency within the RM group throughout the country
- 2) Communication and RM technical teams to effectively maximise public awareness opportunities regarding RM issues to promote sustainable land and water management to maintain, or enhance, the fish and game resource.
- 3) Fish and Game provides strategic leadership and advice to other environmental non-government organisations, industry, politicians and ministries.
- 4) Partnerships – maintains and develops partnership with existing and new strategic allies.



OBJECTIVE 4 - REGIONAL RM ACTIVITY

Regional Fish & Game Councils achieve protection of sports fish and game resources and access to those resources using advocacy and statutory planning processes at the regional and district level

Outcomes – Regionally

- 1) Protection of sports fish and game habitat and access to those resources for recreational hunting and angling using advocacy and statutory planning processes at the regional and district
- 2) Sports Fish and Game Management Plans identify waterways that provides habitat for sports fish and game and the values and significance of those habitats – which can subsequently influence Regional Policies and Plans.
- 3) Regional Policy Statements, regional plans, resource consents, and standards set environmental standards/ limits for water quality and quantity which protect sports fisheries, recognise and provide for the natural character of freshwater habitats, protect and enhance wetland habitats.
- 4) Regional Councils implement and enforce regional plans, standards, and management frameworks for sustainable land use.
- 5) Maintain relationships with science/research providers (CRIs and Universities) to support the technical requirements of regional plan

Outcomes – Nationally

- 1) Access to legal, planning, technical, research, and communications expertise and assistance to enable regional Fish & Game Councils to successfully advocate for the rights and interests of hunters and anglers and the recognition and protection of the habitats of sports fish and game.
- 2) Participation in regional planning processes is adequately resourced through adequate budgeting, peer review, and coordinating technical expertise to ensure effective and efficient representation.
- 3) Formal reviews of outcomes achieved from RM cases, post case reviews and summary of lessons learnt, and provide follow up on regional council implementation of the case outcomes.

5.1.3 Functions for SOP Treatment – For Discussion

FUNCTIONS FOR SOP TREATMENT

Memorandum to: Regional Fish and Game Councils

Prepared by: Robert Sowman, Planning & Policy Manager
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Dated: 27 July 2016

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) at its meeting of 20 May 2016 considered the outcomes of the Governors Forum to determine what needs to be actioned. It was agreed regions should be asked for their top 5 priorities of Fish & Game functions that lend themselves to initial SOP treatment. This would allow the NZ Council to prioritise SOP activity for the new financial year.

The Governors Forum, held in Wellington on Saturday 21 March 2015 established the following:

Outcome	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for standardised approach to common tasks. • NZ Council favours the adoption of SOPs for all councils to apply. • Financial efficiencies can be achieved within the planned financial review. • Review and audit of national health and safety policy and implementation. • Training of governors (induction following elections) and in the medium term new managers (health & safety, employment relations). • Chairpersons' training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries SOP & Anglers Notice 1st Schedule are first initiatives started • Work Group formed. Work underway. • Work Group formed. Work underway • NZ Council induction completed.
<p>Other important points raised at the governors workshop that the NZ Council identified and would wish to follow up in subsequent initiatives included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise the significance of the urban population • Uphold the retention of public access to resource • Promoting centres of excellence within the organisation • Promote Rivers Trust. Approach funders or identify a facilitator to do so. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comms staff focus on urban population. • Collaborating with WAC, et al. • Utilising regional staff with resource management, finance, compliance, licensing
<p>It is accepted that there are certain givens such as sustainable fish and game populations that will need to be followed over and above the initial tasks identified above.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing monitoring and research.

The summary of staff perspectives (presented by Anthony van Dorp and Zane Moss):

- Staff proud of the strengths of the organisation
- Strong demand for consistency in operations
- Strong desire for NZ Council to provide leadership
- Need to reduce parochialism and better utilise resources across regions
- Development of appropriate SOPs and an audit system strongly encouraging adherence appears to be supported

Please consider your Council's top 5 priorities of regional Fish & Game functions that lend themselves to initial SOP treatment.

Feed-back on this request will be submitted for NZ Council consideration at its 25 – 27 November 2016 meeting. Please provide any comments you wish to make before Friday 11 November for inclusion in that agenda mailout.

Fish and Game Council Functions as set out in the Conservation Act 1986

26Q Functions of Fish and Game Councils

(1) The functions of each Fish and Game Council shall be to manage, maintain, and enhance the sports fish and game resource in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters, and, in particular,—

- (a) to assess and monitor—
 - (i) sports fish and game populations; and
 - (ii) the success rate and degree of satisfaction of users of the sports fish and game resource; and
 - (iii) the condition and trend of ecosystems as habitats for sports fish and game:
- (b) to maintain and improve the sports fish and game resource—
 - (i) by maintaining and improving access; and
 - (ii) by maintaining the hatchery and breeding programmes, where required for stocking or restocking the sports fisheries and game habitat; and
 - (iii) by formulating and recommending to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council conditions for fishing and game seasons; and
 - (iv) by ensuring that there are sufficient resources to enforce fishing and hunting season conditions; and
 - (v) by undertaking such works as may be necessary to maintain and enhance the habitat of sports fish and game, subject to the approval of the Minister, the land owner, or the administering authority, as the case may require:
- (c) to promote and educate—
 - (i) by defining and promoting ethical standards of behaviour to be followed by anglers and hunters; and
 - (ii) by promoting recreation based on sports fish and game; and
 - (iii) by keeping anglers and hunters informed on matters affecting their interests:
- (d) in relation to costs,—
 - (i) to assess the costs attributable to the management of sports fish and game; and
 - (ii) to develop and recommend to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council appropriate licence fees to recover costs and game bird habitat stamp fees; and
 - (iii) to represent the region's interests with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in the determination and distribution of levies on licences:
- (e) in relation to planning,—
 - (i) to represent the interests and aspirations of anglers and hunters in the statutory planning process; and
 - (ii) to formulate and adopt an annual operational work plan; and
 - (iii) to prepare draft sports fish and game management plans in accordance with this Act; and
 - (iv) to identify and recommend to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council the region's sports fish and game requirements for research; and
 - (v) to implement national policy determined by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council; and
 - (vi) to liaise with local Conservation Boards; and
 - (vii) to advocate the interests of the Council, including its interests in habitats:
- (f) to issue—
 - (i) licences to hunt or kill game, and game bird habitat stamps, in accordance with the Wildlife Act 1953 and any regulations made under it; and
 - (ii) licences to take sports fish, in accordance with this Part and any regulations made under this Act; and
 - (iii) game hunting guide licences in accordance with the Wildlife Act 1953 and sports fishing guide licences in accordance with this Act:
- (g) to sell or arrange the sale of, in New Zealand or outside New Zealand, game bird habitat stamps and associated products:
- (h) to recommend to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council the form of game bird habitat stamps.

(2) Each Fish and Game Council shall have such other functions as are conferred on it by or under this Act or any other Act

5.1.4 Land Occupier licence to Fish and Hunt – For Discussion

LAND OCCUPIER LICENCE TO FISH AND HUNT

Memorandum to: Regional Fish and Game Councils

Prepared by: Robert Sowman, Planning & Policy Manager
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Dated: 26 July 2016

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) at its meeting of 22 – 23 July 2016 considered a paper that Glenn Maclean and Robert Sowman had originally prepared for discussion at a meeting of managers:

Resolved (Kevin Williams/Andy Harris)

That the NZ Council consult with regions on a proposed free fish and game licence for land occupiers when fishing or hunting on their own property.

That regional Fish and Game Councils be asked to respond to this proposal by 14 November for consideration by the NZ Council at its 25 – 27 November 2016 meeting.

The NZ Council also requested that the relevant wording of the legislation be included, noting that it uses wording “without a licence” meaning that another word than a “free licence” may need to be applied.

Conservation Act 1986

26ZO Occupier may fish without licence

(1) Subject to this Act, any person who is the lawful occupier of any land may fish on such land or waters within such land without a licence or payment of fee, within the period and upon such terms and conditions, as may be specified in any notice issued pursuant to [section 26ZL](#), or in any Anglers Notice applying, or in any regulations made under [section 48](#) or [section 48A](#), without being liable to any penalty for so doing.

(2) For the purposes of this section, the term *lawful occupier* includes the owner of the land and any person who has the right to occupy the land pursuant to a written agreement for a period of not less than 6 months; but does not include the manager of a marginal strip.

(3) Every person who claims to be the lawful occupier of any land pursuant to an agreement referred to in subsection (2) shall produce the agreement on demand by a warranted officer or fish and game ranger or at any office of the Department or Fish and Game Council within 7 days of a demand by a warranted officer or fish and game ranger.

Wildlife Act 1953

19 Licence to hunt or kill game

- (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), every person who hunts or kills game of any species during an open season in any area, unless that person is the holder of a licence under this Act to hunt or kill game of that species available in that area during that season, commits an offence against this Act and is liable on conviction to the penalty set out in [section 67E\(3\)](#).
- (2) [Repealed]
- (3) Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this section, the occupier of any land, and the wife, husband, civil union partner, or de facto partner and any one son or daughter of the occupier, may, during an open season, hunt or kill on that land without a licence (but subject to all other restrictions imposed by or under this Act) any game that may lawfully be hunted or killed under a licence in the district within the boundaries of which that land is situated.
- (4) In subsection (3) the term *occupier*, in relation to any land, means—
 - (a) the person whose permanent and principal or only place of residence is on the land, if he resides on the land by virtue of the fact that he is—
 - (i) the owner of the fee simple of the land; or
 - (ii) the owner of a lease or licence of the land and the owner of the fee simple does not himself personally reside on the land; or
 - (iii) the manager of a farming business carried on on the land by such an owner who does not himself personally reside on the land; or
 - (iv) the sharemilker under a sharemilking agreement entered into with such an owner who does not himself personally reside on the land;
 - (b) where there are several such persons, such one of them as is, by notice in writing signed by all of them and delivered to the Fish and Game Council for the area concerned, appointed to be the occupier for the purposes of that subsection. Every such appointment shall continue in force during the whole of the open season in respect of which it is made and shall lapse at the end of that season.
- (4A) In subsection (3) the term *occupier*, in relation to any land, does not include a person appointed under the [Conservation Act 1987](#) to be the manager of a marginal strip.

5.1.4 Anglers Ethics – Catch & Release – For Discussion

ANGLING ETHICS – CATCH & RELEASE

Memorandum to: Regional Fish and Game Councils

Prepared by: Robert Sowman, Planning & Policy Manager
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Dated: 26 July 2016

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) at its meeting of 22 – 23 July 2016 considered a paper from the West Coast Fish and Game Council on angling ethics. The NZ Council agreed to support the recommendation contained in that paper:

Resolved (Paul Dixon-Didier/Kevin Williams)

In order to instigate wider debate, regions be invited to discuss whether Fish and Game should develop a policy on the ethics of catch and release fishing, and if so what such a policy might include.

Your feed-back on this proposal will be submitted for NZ Council consideration at its 25 – 27 November 2016 meeting. Please provide any comments you wish to make before Friday 11 November for inclusion in that agenda mailout.

ANGLING ETHICS – CATCH AND RELEASE

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting, July 2016

Prepared by: Andy Harris, NZ Council West Coast Fish and Game Council Appointee

1. Concern has been expressed to West Coast Fish and Game over the high number of fish being landed by some [mostly guided] anglers leaving some fisheries stressed and the fish uncatchable by local and less skilled anglers.
2. After discussion it was resolved to promote a voluntary code of ethics proposing a 6 fish limit per angler per day for fish landed and released, and also to promote best practice handling of catch and release fish.
3. Fish and Game is required to promote ethical standards of behaviour by anglers and hunters, and catch and release is an area where our ethics are potentially open to criticism.
4. Although voluntary, such a code would at least raise the issue of overfishing on our more sensitive fisheries. It would also give guides who are disposed to do so some support to encourage clients to be more selective in the fish they target rather than endeavouring to catch every fish in the river.
5. It would help to promote better survival outcomes for released fish. DOC has a publication for the Taupo Area Fishery detailing best practice for releasing fish and it would be good if Fish and Game had something similar.

Recommendation

In order to instigate wider debate, regions be invited to discuss whether Fish and Game should develop a policy on the ethics of catch and release fishing, and if so what such a policy might include.

5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC

5.2.1 Reply on Fish & Game Council Election Report - For Your Information



4 August 2016

Lindsay Lyons
Chair
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
Po Box 13-141
WELLINGTON

Dear Lindsay

Fish and Game Council Elections

Otago Council considered Warwick Lampp's report on the 2015 Fish and Game Council elections at its February meeting. Otago supported recommendations 4, 6 and 7 (encourage recording of email addresses by licenceholders; improve database updating procedures; extend time limits for return of postal votes) as these all work towards improved communication or improved participation in elections.

As far as recommendation 3 is concerned my Council was uncertain as to the intent of the change but would support changes to ensure licenceholders had to choose one Council election when enrolling to vote. This supports the principle of subsidiarity on which the devolved fish and game management regime is based by ensuring informed constituents participate in their chosen local election.

My Council does not support recommendations 1, 2, and 5 for the following reasons:

1. Engage Electionz.com as the sole Returning Officer

Holding triennial elections is a statutory responsibility of each Fish and Game Council under s26Z of the Conservation Act and the decision on appointment of Returning Officers is a choice for each Council to make under regulation 3 of the Fish and Game Council Election Regulations.

While Mr Lampp may claim to be a 3rd party he is contracted by, and answerable to, New Zealand Fish and Game Council staff and presumably he takes instructions and receives advice from them as the elections proceed. In some respects this approach compromises the separate statutory role of the NZ Council under s26C(1)(d) of the Conservation Act 'to oversee the electoral system by which members of Fish and Game Councils are elected'. In the event of a major problem with an election NZC might end up investigating its own performance.

Otago has so far chosen to delegate the Returning Officer role to its Chief Executive and has done so without any difficulties for all nine successive elections since establishment. But it is important to note that the common engagement of Electionz.com for conducting all 12 elections regardless of returning officer appointments means that all the efficiencies of using one contractor are achieved. If there is any further efficiency to be gained from having a common returning officer it is likely to be negligible and would be done at the expense of a certain rigour that comes from an having additional element of quality control. There is of course no advantage in terms of election documents because each election requires a separate set of unique papers.

Having said that, Otago Council is entirely satisfied with Electionz.com's performance in providing election services.

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

Otago Region

Cnr Hanover & Harrow Sts, PO Box 76, Dunedin 9054, New Zealand. Telephone (03) 477 9076 Facsimile (03) 477 0146

2. Automatic enrolment or registration up to the close of voting

Otago Council supports neither. Automatic enrolment has been canvassed and rejected before. It is a cosmetic move to address the low enrolment rates but is likely to have little effect on actual participation rates in elections. A key issue which gets ignored is the fact that it could markedly reduce the quality of voters. It is also worth noting that Elections.com are conflicted in their repeated advocacy for automatic enrolment because they could potentially benefit from the extra business.

Registration up to the close of voting would be likely to encourage migration of voters from regional elections where they have traditionally voted in to other elections where for example some controversy has arisen. This might also magnify movements of enrolled voters from regions where elections are not required to regions where elections are being held.

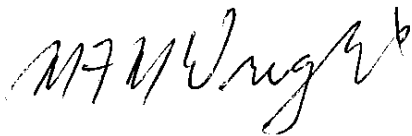
5. Remove opportunity for submission of candidate profile in writing

This proposal is considered to be retrograde because it could actually limit participation in elections as candidates where a potential candidate doesn't have access to a computer or typewriter.

Conclusion

Fish and Game Council elections are a vital element in the devolved system of fish and game management operating in New Zealand. Low participation rates are a concern and elections need to be promoted on an ongoing basis. That is likely to be achieved by slowly building the profile of Fish and Game Councils as regional organisations that make a difference for anglers and hunters and act in the public interest. One issue worth considering is that the present brand – Fish and Game New Zealand - masks the devolved nature of fish and game management and diminishes the true nature of democratically elected Councils in the eyes of the public.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Wright', written in a cursive style.

Monty Wright
Chair

5.2.2 Reply On Decision Impinging On Other Councils



4 August 2016

Lindsay Lyons
Chair
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
Po Box 13-141
WELLINGTON

Dear Lindsay

Council Decisions Impinging on Others

While I agree decisions or actions of any of the 13 Councils can impinge on other Councils the existing National Policy on Consultation mostly covers this matter, particularly under paragraph 2.1.3.2. as follows:

Council Decisions with Significant Cross-boundary Implications.

Council decisions (either New Zealand Council or Regions) relating to internal operations need not be subject to consultation requirements except where they significantly affect other Councils. Council decisions which do require consultation at either a national or regional level are ones which:

- *have significant cross boundary effects (eg: management of a common fish or game population occurring in more than one region)*
- *could significantly affect resourcing (eg: canvassing for licence sales outside a designated Region)*
- *set precedents which could be applied to other Councils (eg: agreeing to a changed tax status).*
- *bind other Councils.*

The Decision to Consult

Each Council (or Manager) needs to trigger consultation with affected parties having made a value judgement on how significant the issue is to other interested parties. This decision whether or not to consult is critical and should be guided by criteria including asking the following questions:

- *Is there a policy or position guiding the issue on which a decision is sought? (If not then consult)*
- *Will the proposed response to the issue change a policy or position? (If so then consult)*
- *Are there significant cross boundary effects relating to the issue? (If so then consult)*

Under the circumstances I don't think there is a need for further policy development but I do think all councillors should be urged to fully familiarise themselves with existing policy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Monty Wright'.

Monty Wright
Chair

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

Otago Region

Cnr Hanover & Harrow Sts, PO Box 76, Dunedin 9054, New Zealand. Telephone (03) 477 9076 Facsimile (03) 477 0146
www.fishandgame.org.nz

5.2.3 Reply On Hunting And Harvest Ethics



4 August 2016

Lindsay Lyons
Chair
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
Po Box 13-141
WELLINGTON

Dear Lindsay

Hunting and Harvest Ethics

Otago Council considered Robert Sowman's report on the above at its June 2016 meeting. We agree that ethical standards should be codified and promoted but do not consider they should be regulated through the setting of conditions in the Game Gazette or adoption of National Policy.

The complexity of ethical considerations is described well in Mr Sowman's report, paragraphs 3 to 7 and my Council believes development of ethical standards should be kept separate from enforceable hunting conditions.

Hunting technology and conditions such as restrictions on decoy numbers or pond feeding are matter for regional Fish and Game Councils to decide in consultation with constituent licenced hunters.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Monty Wright'.

Monty Wright
Chair

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

Otago Region

Cnr Hanover & Harrow Sts, PO Box 76, Dunedin 9054, New Zealand. Telephone (03) 477 9076 Facsimile (03) 477 0146
www.fishandgame.org.nz

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT AUGUST 2016

6.1 ADMINISTRATION

Finance and Administration
Financial Reports to 31 July 2016

The finance report for the period from 1 September 2015 to 31 July 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 \$1,897,944 (including levies \$850,957 and commission \$82,725 but excluding depreciation (\$71,786) 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 \$2,113,187 compared with budget of \$1,981,072.

Fishing licence sales revenue received for the year to 31 July 2016 is \$1,591,253 (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 31 July 2016 is \$329,800 (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 26 July 2016

Sales recorded to 26 July 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 14,907 LEQs are very slightly behind last year at the same time (14,941 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 26 July 2016 in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) are 4072 LEQs, slightly ahead of last year at the same time (4036 LEQs). The budget Game LEQ figure is 3999.

Funds Position at 29 July 2016

ANZ 00 account	\$224,650.33
ANZ 70 account	\$483,133.67

Reparation Trust Account

Account balance to 31 August 2015	\$ 55,368
Revenue for year to 31 July 2016	\$ 19,332
Less Grants	<u>\$ 9,252</u>
Total	<u>\$ 65,448</u>

Backcountry Management

Account balance to 31 August 2015	\$30,076
-----------------------------------	----------

Term investments as at 31 July 2016:

ASB 0079	\$314,286.45 @ 3.30% maturing January 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.

Capital Expenditure

A quote has been accepted for the installation of heat pumps in the Dunedin Office and a costing is being sought for an upgrade to the Dunedin Office ceiling panels.

A flow meter for measuring flows of small rivers and streams is to be purchased at a cost of about \$3000. This will enable staff to measure stream flow at the same time as undertaking fisheries survey work.

Staff and Health and Safety

No accidents or near misses to report. One staff member completed a first aid certificate update.

Steve Dixon has been invited to present a paper at a trout conference in North America. This is a direct consequence of his staff scholarship two years ago. I have offered to contribute towards his costs of attendance but he is covering the rest of the cost himself

Land and Buildings

See separate report

CE to report

Recommendation

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

6.2 SPECIES

Waterfowl Monitoring (1111)

Shoveler and Pukeko counts have been completed for the year. Results will be reported to Council once analysis is complete

Spawning Surveys (1112)

Spawning surveys are underway

Population Monitoring: (1113)

Cardrona write up is continuing.

Success & Satisfaction (1122)

See Staff and Technical Reports

Fish Salvage (1131)

Nothing to report

Hatchery Operations

All hatchery liberations are complete for the 2015/16 season. Remaining stock include:

8000 yearlings

1600 two yr olds

24 three yr olds

Every year sediment/algae from the Taieri River covers the eggs during incubation. On two occasions during the hatching stage numbers of sac fry have been lost due to high amounts of sediment/algae on the bottoms of the troughs. This stage from fertilisation to swim up is the most sensitive and the one where water quality should be at its purest.

Although there is a small amount of sediment filtration at the intake pond and at the header tank, this is minimal especially when the Taieri River is sometimes high and dirty between September - November.

Steve Dixon has experimented with different types of filtration methods without resolving the issue and has recently installed a bio filter which has been set up between the header tank and the incubator/troughs and will filter out sediment, algae and other impurities. The bio filter cost was approximately \$700 and should be operational by the time of the Council meeting.

Releases (1161)

Liberations for the 15/16 season are as follows:

28/08/2015	Coalpit Dam	500	yoy	<10g
31/08/2015	Butchers Dam	500	yoy	<10g
1/09/2015	Southern Reservoir	60	2yrs	800g+
3/09/2015	Southern Reservoir	60	2yrs	800g+
10/09/2015	Southern Reservoir	30	2yrs	800g+
14/09/2015	Southern Reservoir	70	2yrs	800g+
16/09/2015	Southern Reservoir	150	2yrs	800g+
17/09/2015	Southern Reservoir	150	2yrs	800g+
21/09/2015	Southern Reservoir	160	2yrs	800g+
22/09/2015	Southern Reservoir	160	2yrs	800g+
23/09/2015	Southern Reservoir	160	2yrs	800g+
12/10/2015	Hamiltons Dam	200	1yr	100g +
13/10/2015	McAtamneys Head pond	300	1yr	100g +
14/10/2015	Mathias Dam	300	1yr	100g +
15/10/2015	Sulivans Dam	70	2yrs	1kg
16/10/2015	Sulivans Dam	70	2yrs	1kg
19/10/2015	Pinders Pond	200	1yr	100g +
20/10/2015	Perkins Pond	300	1yr	100g +
21/10/2015	Rutherfords Dam	500	1yr	100g +
22/10/2015	Blakleys Dam	300	1yr	100g +
23/10/2015	Lake Johnson	300	1yr	100g +
27/10/2015	Moke Lake	500	1yr	100g +
9/11/2015	Tomahawk Lagoon	300	1yr	100g +
16/11/2015	Nenthorne Dam	200	1yr	100g+
18/11/2015	Earnscleugh Pond	50	2yrs	1kg+
4/12/2015	Southern Reservoir	50	2yrs	1kg+
16/12/2015	Earnscleugh Pond	50	2yrs	1kg+
20/02/2016	Southern Reservoir	70	1yr +	300g
8/04/2016	Southern Reservoir	60	1yr +	300 - 400g
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)

Nothing to report

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.	The matter went to Court and resulted convictions for four parties and total fines of \$37,345
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

A meeting has been held with Contact Energy on lower Clutha mitigation and a further meeting is planned.

The Court case over unauthorised channelization of Pool Burn resulted in convictions and fines as follows:

The fines imposed by the Court were as follows:

- Oliverburn Farm Limited was fined \$10,700.00 and ordered to pay Court costs of \$130.00, solicitors fees of \$113.00 and disbursements of \$772.80;
- Mr Gibson was fined \$10,700.00 and ordered to pay Court costs of \$130.00 and solicitors fees of \$113.00;
- Weir Contracting Limited was fined \$7,100.00 and ordered to pay Court costs of \$130.00 and solicitors fees of \$113.00; and
- Mr Weir was fined \$7,100.00 and ordered to pay Court costs of \$130.00 and solicitors fees of \$113.00.

Planning (1212)

Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group

The MCWSG is continuing to prepare information packs to farmers seeking support for a water supply scheme based on raising Falls Dam by up to 20 metres.

Minimum and Residual Flow Setting

ORC have made flow setting for Manuherikia River mainstem (minimum flows) and tributaries (residual flows) a high priority. Public consultation is underway on values with drop in sessions within the catchment on 23, 24 and 25 August.

Otago Fish and Game's has identified the following issues:

- The 820 l/s minimum flow at Ophir is inadequate and needs to be increased because:
 - It was set over 15 years ago at a time when mining privileges has 20 years to run and reflects the reality of that time
 - The minimum rarely comes into effect because the flow is masked by the presence of irrigation transport water which keeps flows well above 1000 l/s most of the summer. This means the public has no experience of an 820 l/s flow.
 - It represents only 40% of the mean annual low flow if MALF at Ophir is about 2000 l/s (but it MALF) has been estimated well above that.
 - The Ophir minimum flow is being used by consultants and others as a benchmark for minimum and residual flows elsewhere in the catchment

I understand ORC has a review planned for the Ophir minimum flow

- Past proposals to set a lower mainstem minimum flow at the Alexandra Camp ground appeared to work off the Ophir minimum flow, with 900 l/s being proposed informally by ORC staff at the time. The MCWSG workshop saw 1500 l/s as achievable with a contribution from a larger capacity Falls Dam but that did not take full account of the potential contribution from the transition from mining privileges to RMA consents. Any environmental contribution from new storage should not displace the obligations on existing mining privilege holders to relinquish water so a higher minimum flow may be possible.
- There are over 220 mining privileges in the catchment, many on small tributaries and it is essential that they all relinquish some water via residual flows to restore instream values both on site and downstream because:
 - The cumulative beneficial effect of doing so is significant even though the individual effect may be seen as minor
 - Values assessments are difficult because there is limited hydrological information on naturalised flows and biological assessments are based on impacted sites
 - There needs to be equity between irrigator over their individual contributions to environmental flows.
- Increased availability of water from an enlarged Falls Dam is currently not seen as causing landholders difficulties in meeting Plan Change 6A standards or causing a breach of the Schedule 15 limits within the Manuherikia. Fish and Game is uncomfortable with this conclusion and believes a more precautionary approach is required due to the low predictions of N leaching, based on

‘Overseer’, as nitrogen may be lost on a long timescale. Higher loss scenarios should be modelled to be precautionary.

- There is an urgent need to address the issue of supplementary allocation in the Manuherikia in a fair way that reflects the different hydrological characteristics of the tributaries and ensures that the instream benefits of freshes and higher flows are also recognised, as well as the ability for storage.

In addition the potential effects of increasing the height of Falls Dam need to be considered and adverse effects mitigated.

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 Fish and Game evidence was presented by four staff, Cawthron Institute and Lincoln Agritech. A decision is expected in August.
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	Minimum flow MALF 4300 l/s Min Flow 3600l/s (84% MALF)	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.

Waiwera	Minimum flow MALF 310 l/s Min Flow 280 l/s (90% MALF)	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.
Manuherikia	Minimum flow Irrigation scheme investigation. MALF lower river 2126 l/s Overallocated	There is a collaborative process underway involving F&G.(Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group) to look at irrigation scheme proposals which are focused on raising the level of Falls Dam. A 20 metre raise is contemplated The Manuherikia catchment has over 220 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
Benger Burn	Minimum flow &TMP. Overallocated	Further action by ORC has been deferred pending more research on water resources and aquifer/surface water interaction.
Sow Burn	TMP Overallocated Residual flow of 70 l/s + off-site mitigation	<u>The Sowburn all-of-catchment consent has been granted by ORC.</u> The residual flow requirement is 70 l/s on a stream that is considered to be ephemeral in nature in the middle reaches. Off-site mitigation conditions include a protective covenant over a large area of the Maniototo wetlands
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) completed 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 undertaken by Upper Clutha Anglers.

CE to Report

Transition from Mining Privileges (MPs) to RMA Consents

As previously advised ORC is organising irrigators in Central Otago into catchment groups and arranging meetings involving irrigators and stakeholders such as DOC, Ngai Tahu, and Fish and Game. The risk that processing of individual consent applications replacing mining privileges in overallocated Central Otago catchments will undermine environmental flow setting appears to be diminishing following discussions with ORC over the affected party issue.

The first of these meetings is focusing on the Bannock Burn

Reserves Management (1221)

See separate report – Managed Wetlands (Trotter)

Wetland Protection (1232)

Nothing to report

Assisted Habitat (1230)

See separate report- HEF grants (Trotter)

River Management (1233)

Nothing to report

6.4 USER PARTICIPATION

Access (1311)

Nothing to report

Signage (1312)

Nothing to report

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)

There has been considerable agency liaison with DOC, Walking Access Commission, Otago University and ORC over various matters.

Media (1431)

There has been media coverage on Hukarere Station access, Inderlee fish out pond proposal, Takitua Wetlands, and Upper Clutha track access upgrade.

Advocacy (1432)

There has been continuing dialogue with ORC about the effectiveness of minimum flows, their relationship to residual flows and further input on affected party status.

Tenure Reviews (1433)

There has been no further reply to the letter to the Minister of Lands on Hukarere Station. A submission has been made on the OIO application for Hunter Valley Station

6.6 COMPLIANCE

Ranging (1511)

Nothing to report

Ranger Support

Nothing to report

Prosecutions

A separate report summarises compliance and prosecutions for the 2015/16 season and an update “Prosecution Guidelines” is before council this meeting.

Since reporting we should note that the Lake Hawea offender who has applied for a discharge without conviction has managed to push forward his hearing until mid November. A further offender in the Queenstown District Court has plead guilty to FWL but intends to defend the providing misleading information charge on the basis he didn't know he didn't have a licence when he signed the declaration of being a licence holder. He has been remanded for a Case Review Hearing on 5th September 2016.

6.7 LICENCING

Licensing System (1611)

The Eyede licensing system continues to operate well.

Agents (1612)

Nothing to report

6.8 COUNCIL

Council (1720)

This will be the first paperless meeting with the exception of those councillors who have not got their tablets yet.

6.9 PLANNING AND REPORTING

Strategic Planning (1811)

Nothing to Report

Annual Planning (1821)

The draft Annual Plan and Budget for 2016/17 is enclosed for your consideration and approval. It has been adjusted from the last draft to include the additional bulk funding (\$24,000) approved in the budget round and to reflect the minor changes to projects request by Council in recent meetings concerning the Anglers Notice and backcountry fisheries management.

Recommendation;

That the Annual Plan and Budget for 2016/2017 be amended in line with the above adjustments

Audit and Annual Report (1831)

See confidential correspondence.

Recommendation

National Liaison (1841)

I attended the last meeting of The NZC in Wellington and spoke in support of the RM Strategy draft prepared in conjunction with Phil Teal, Corina Jordan and Bryce Johnson. (see NZC correspondence)

CE to Report

Niall Watson
Chief Executive
August 2016

Otago Sales YTD to 26 July 2016

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWJ	FWNJ	FWIA	FWJD	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDJ	Total	Fish LEQ	Fish Var	Fish \$
Otago Agency Online	2,594	3,734	416	0	0	434	6	140	21	0	0	836	55	8,236			
Retail Book	613	1,111	0	0	0	197	0	109	13	0	0	3,643	321	6,007			
Public Online	1,326	1,553	563	0	0	148	19	70	7	0	0	1,790	93	5,569			
Eyede Call Centre	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	10			
Total	4534	6400	980	0	0	779	25	320	41	0	0	6274	469	19822	14941		\$1,598,007
Agency Online	2,879	3,624	534	505	402	521	24	186	0	65	371	4,450	330	13,891			
Retail Book	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	10			
Public Online	1,419	1,460	607	164	275	201	15	69	0	35	236	3,327	160	7,968			
Eyede Call Centre	40	36	7	22	1	2	0	1	0	1	2	36	1	149			
Total	4338	5120	1148	691	678	724	39	256	0	101	609	7822	492	22018	14907	-0.2%	\$1,607,337

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, FWJI - Junior Winter, FLBA - Long Break, FLASB - Short Break, FDA - Adult Day, FDJ - Junior Day

Otago Sales YTD to 26 July 2016

Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ	Game Var	Game \$
Otago Agency Online	2,459	210	81	52	3	2,805			
Retail Book	933	64	25	6	1	1,029			
Public Online	556	50	23	30	2	661			
Eyede Call Centre	4	0	0	0	0	4			
Total	3952	324	129	88	6	4,499	4036		\$ 312,320.00
Agency Online	3,390	278	88	38	0	3,794			
Retail Book	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Public Online	595	63	15	43	5	721			
Eyede Call Centre	2	0	0	0	0	2			
Total	3987	341	103	81	5	4,517	4072	0.9%	\$ 318,649.00

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

Summary of Draft Profit and Loss Statement Expenses 31st July 2016

As At 03/08/16

Expense	Total Budget	Actual Expenditure	YtD %	Comment
		Ytd		
Projects				
Species	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 16,228.00	58%	
Habitat	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 20,195.62	252%	less reimbursed legal fund, less Takitakitoa development Grant, Less contact grant
Participation	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 22,237.00	74%	Less BC expenses to be covered by Non resident extra
Public Interface	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 650.00	9%	
Compliance	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 14,845.00	135%	
Licences	\$ 500.00	\$ 292.00	58%	
Council	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 13,671.00	114%	
Planning	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 17,503.00	146%	
Projects Total	\$ 107,000.00	\$ 105,621.62	99%	
Administration				
Salaries	\$ 685,517.00	\$ 579,744.00	85%	
Staff Expenses	\$ 22,202.00	\$ 22,396.00	101%	
Office Premises	\$ 81,450.00	\$ 59,774.00	73%	
Office Equipment	\$ 14,796.00	\$ 2,571.00	17%	
Communication	\$ 28,164.00	\$ 22,640.00	80%	
General	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 9,726.00	54%	
General Equipment	\$ 9,650.00	\$ 3,383.00	35%	
Vehicles	\$ 66,505.00	\$ 47,710.00	72%	
Administration Total	\$ 926,284.00	\$ 747,944.00	81%	
Total	\$ 1,033,284.00	\$ 853,565.62	83%	

Summary of Profit and Loss Statement Income 31st July 2016

As At 03/08/16

Income	Total Budget	Actual Income	YtD %	Comment
		Ytd		
Fish	\$ 1,583,696.00	\$ 1,591,253.00	100%	
Game	\$ 312,926.00	\$ 329,800.00	105%	Habitat grant yet to be paid
Prosecutions	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 833.00	10%	
Rent	\$ 41,300.00	\$ 34,920.00	85%	
Interest	\$ 35,150.00	\$ 37,352.00	106%	
Grants Donations	\$ -	\$ 39,519.00		
	\$ 1,981,072.00	\$ 2,033,677.00		

Summary of Position 31st July 2016

Total Expenditure		\$ 1,969,730.00
Less Depreciation		\$ 71,786.00
Less Levies		\$ 850,957.00
Less Commission		\$ 82,725.00
Less BC Expenses		\$ 28,033.00
Less RMA Reimbursed		\$ 61,490.00
Net Expenditure		\$ 902,772.00
Budget		\$ 950,834.00
% Spent		95%

Balance Sheet
Otago Fish & Game Council

Balance Sheet
As at 31 July 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)	143,456.34	20,423.91
	TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS	<u><u>2,620,576.08</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	314,286.45	302,790.64
5080	SBS Investments	469,149.43	450,000.00
5800	GST Paid	39,296.21	27.13
6000	Sundry Creditors	28.41	28.41
6040	PAYE Control	46,436.70	0.00
6800	GST Received	0.00	61.16
6805	GST Payments/Refunds IRD	0.00	2,897.76
ACCREC	Trade Debtors	34,855.53	146,594.97
ASB_00	ASB 00 Account	41.15	1.15
NB00	National/ANZ 00 Account	224,570.43	165,546.50
NB70	National/ANZ 70 Account	<u>483,133.67</u>	<u>136,283.86</u>
		1,638,151.58	1,230,585.18
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
6010	Holiday Pay Accrued	60,780.56	60,780.56
6800	GST Received	2,529.52	0.00
6810	Funds received in Advance	210,002.00	210,002.00
ACCSPAY	Trade Creditors	<u>277,924.64</u>	<u>57,280.36</u>
		551,236.72	328,062.92
	NET WORKING CAPITAL	1,086,914.86	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	(148,326.09)	(106,526.09)
7020	Boat Purchases	100,497.93	100,497.93
7021	Boat Accum Deprn	(76,524.66)	(72,344.66)
7200	Plant Purchases	72,806.18	56,644.10
7201	Plant Accum Deprn	(54,560.64)	(47,146.64)
7300	Furniture & Fittings	30,847.94	30,847.94
7301	Furniture Accum Deprn	(29,100.15)	(27,780.15)
7400	Field Equipment Purchases	34,610.96	34,610.96
7401	Field Eq Accum Deprn	(23,005.40)	(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	(319,560.20)	(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>(50,894.13)</u>	<u>(47,264.13)</u>
		1,459,815.28	1,500,751.54
	NET ASSETS	<u><u>2,620,576.08</u></u>	<u><u>2,477,119.74</u></u>

**Otago Fish & Game Council
Profit and Loss - Summary
for Period Ended Jul: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	10,147	0	0%	1,591,253	1,583,696	7,557	1,583,696	100%	1,760,365
1006	Game Licences Income	3,329	0	0%	329,800	312,926	16,874	312,926	105%	318,605
		13,477	0	0%	1,921,053	1,896,622	24,431	1,896,622	101%	2,078,970
OTHER INCOME										
1010	Interest received	5,938	0	0%	37,352	35,150	2,202	35,150	106%	39,412
1020	Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	90	0	0%	833	8,000	(7,167)	8,000	10%	911
1022	Reparations Trust Fund	(920)	0	0%	8,580	0	8,580	0	0%	2,754
1025	Rent Received	3,250	0	0%	34,920	41,300	(6,380)	41,300	85%	39,633
1065	Fishing Competitions	277	0	0%	1,018	0	1,018	0	0%	1,049
1075	Commissions Income	10	0	0%	1,082	0	1,082	0	0%	2,000
1090	Sundry Income	1,000	0	0%	6,137	0	6,137	0	0%	17,944
1092	Merchandise Sales/Other	38	0	0%	1,203	0	1,203	0	0%	(6,724)
1094	Donations and Grants Received	0	0	0%	39,519	0	39,519	0	0%	2,963
1096	RMA Costs Reimbursed	0	0	0%	61,490	0	61,490	0	0%	0
		9,661	0	0%	192,134	84,450	107,684	84,450	228%	99,942
TOTAL INCOME		23,158	0		2,113,187	1,981,072	132,115	1,981,072		2,178,912
EXPENDITURE										
SPECIES MANAGEMENT										
POPULATION MONITOR / MMT										
		600	1,000	60%	8,656	11,000	(2,344)	12,000	72%	17,076
HARVEST ASSESSMENT										
		0	250	0%	0	2,750	(2,750)	3,000	0%	0
FISH SALVAGE										
		0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
HATCHERY OPERATIONS										
		3,237	1,083	289%	7,572	11,917	(4,345)	13,000	58%	10,533
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-...		3,837	2,333	164%	16,228	25,667	(9,439)	28,000	58%	27,609
HABITAT PROTECTION										
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT A...										
		0	374	0%	79,905	4,126	75,779	4,500	1,776%	18,686
WORKS & MMT COUNCIL LAND										
		735	291	253%	21,752	3,209	18,543	3,500	621%	(935)
ASSISTED HABITAT										
		203	0	0%	1,203	0	1,203	0	0%	0
HABITAT PROTECTION-T...		938	665	141%	102,860	7,335	95,525	8,000	1,286%	17,751
PARTICIPATION										
ACCESS										
		54	166	32%	1,927	1,834	93	2,000	96%	3,549
SATISFACTION SURVEYS										
		22,867	0	0%	28,033	0	28,033	0	0%	2,215
NEWSLETTERS										
		0	1,250	0%	16,309	13,750	2,559	15,000	109%	17,877
OTHER PUBLICATIONS										
		500	416	120%	675	4,584	(3,909)	5,000	13%	494
TRAINING										
		0	583	0%	1,642	6,417	(4,775)	7,000	23%	4,608
CLUB RELATIONS										
		154	83	185%	859	917	(58)	1,000	86%	694
HUTS										
		6	0	0%	826	0	826	0	0%	123
PARTICIPATION-TOTAL		23,581	2,498	944%	50,270	27,502	22,768	30,000	168%	29,559

**Otago Fish & Game Council
Profit and Loss - Summary
for Period Ended Jul: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	459	(396)	500	13%	0
COMMUNICATIONS	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	539
ADVOCACY	587	583	101%	587	6,417	(5,830)	7,000	8%	0
PUBLIC INTERFACE-TOTAL	587	624	94%	650	6,876	(6,226)	7,500	9%	539
COMPLIANCE									
RANGER ADMIN	0	208	0%	2,541	2,292	249	2,500	102%	633
RANGER TRAINING	0	375	0%	4,093	4,125	(32)	4,500	91%	2,447
COMPLIANCE	5,231	333	1,571%	8,211	3,667	4,544	4,000	205%	36
COMPLIANCE-TOTAL	5,231	916	571%	14,845	10,084	4,761	11,000	135%	3,116
LICENCES									
LICENCE PRODUCT/DISTN	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
AGENT SERVICING	0	41	0%	292	459	(167)	500	58%	666
COMMISSION	519	0	0%	82,725	0	82,725	0	0%	91,226
NZFG LEVIES	212,739	70,913	300%	850,957	780,044	70,913	850,957	100%	894,033
LICENSES-TOTAL	213,258	70,954	301%	933,974	780,503	153,471	851,457	110%	985,925
COUNCIL									
COUNCIL ELECTIONS	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
COUNCIL MEETINGS	17	1,000	2%	13,671	11,000	2,671	12,000	114%	9,028
COUNCIL-TOTAL	17	1,000	2%	13,671	11,000	2,671	12,000	114%	9,028
PLANNING / REPORTING									
MMT/STRATEGIC PLANNING	498	0	0%	2,607	0	2,607	0	0%	1,698
REPORTING/AUDIT	0	1,000	0%	14,884	11,000	3,884	12,000	124%	3,835
NATIONAL LIAISON	12	0	0%	12	0	12	0	0%	34
PLAN/REPORT-TOTAL	510	1,000	51%	17,503	11,000	6,503	12,000	146%	5,567
ADMINISTRATION									
SALARIES	50,534	57,125	88%	579,744	628,382	(48,648)	685,517	85%	535,586
STAFF EXPENSES	6,284	1,848	340%	22,396	20,354	2,042	22,202	101%	9,472
STAFF HOUSES	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
OFFICE PREMISES	6,264	6,786	92%	59,774	74,664	(14,890)	81,450	73%	68,878
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	219	1,232	18%	2,571	13,564	(10,993)	14,796	17%	3,242
COMMUNICATIONS	1,694	2,346	81%	22,640	25,818	(3,178)	28,164	80%	26,574
GENERAL	471	1,499	31%	9,726	16,501	(6,775)	18,000	54%	9,442
GENERAL EQUIPMENT	16	803	2%	3,383	8,847	(5,464)	9,650	35%	5,654
VEHICLES	1,485	5,540	27%	47,710	60,965	(13,255)	66,505	72%	54,068
ADMINISTRATION - TOTAL	67,167	77,179	87%	747,943	849,105	(101,162)	926,284	81%	714,916
DEPRECIATION	6,526	0	0%	71,786	0	71,786	0	0%	71,786
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	321,653	167,169	205%	1,969,730	1,729,072	240,658	1,886,241	104%	1,865,796
Profit (Loss)	(298,495)	(157,169)		143,456	252,000	(108,544)	94,831		313,116

7 Health and Safety Report

8 Committee Reports

8.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust

8.2 NZC Meeting

9.1 Otago Fish & Game Council Offence Guidelines

OTAGO FISH AND GAME COUNCIL



OFFENCE GUIDELINES

August 2016

Offence Guidelines for Otago

The purpose of these guidelines is to guide staff and rangers on the relative seriousness of fish and game offences as the Council sees them. In establishing the guidelines it is important to stress that each case will be considered on its individual merits. The Council has delegated decisions on enforcement action to the Chief Executive.

Offending by minors

Offences relating to children are very difficult to deal with. In the field, rangers are instructed to be very cautious in their approach to them when investigating any offending. An explanation of what they are doing wrong and asking them to stop is ordinarily all that is required.

For more serious offences, rangers and staff are asked to request their name, address and telephone number so that the Council can follow the matter up with a parent or guardian. The Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1989 requires that persons under 17 years of age must have their rights explained including not having to make a statement and having a legal guardian or lawyer present when they do.

The Council has never taken prosecutions against minors since establishment in 1990.

Offending by adults

Offences by adults can be dealt with in four ways:

a) Prosecution through the Courts

This is appropriate for more serious offences and for ones where significant non co-operation is encountered. Court action is expensive and fines, court costs and legal fees rarely do more than cover lawyers' costs and staff time. There is also a degree of uncertainty over the outcome. A judge may accept an offender's excuses; perceive fish and game offences as relatively trivial, and/or find against the Council. In going to Court we have to weigh up the chances of success and risks from failure.

All Court prosecutions must meet the provisions of the 'Solicitor- Generals Prosecution Guidelines - July 2013.'¹

b) Diversion through the Courts

This may be appropriate for single offences or offences where there are no aggravating circumstances such as obstruction. The prosecution goes to the Court but our legal counsel reports that an agreement has been reached on diversion and the prosecution is withdrawn after that agreement has been fulfilled. There is still a relatively high level of staff time and legal costs involved.

c) Warnings

Warnings can be given where there are clear mitigating circumstances or for less serious offences. While not encouraged, rangers have the ability to give an on the spot warning. If they have any doubts they should complete an offence notice. In those cases a more formal

¹ <http://www.crownlaw.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Prosecution-Guidelines/prosecution-guidelines-2013.pdf>

written warning may be given or alternative action taken. The Council has delegated decisions on enforcement action to the Chief Executive

d) Reparation (or out-of-court settlement)

Reparation involves offering the offender an option to 'make amends' for the impact of the offence (costs, wasted time, impacts on natural resources say from overharvest) as an alternative to having the matter referred through the courts. A financial contribution is required and is regarded as a penalty payment. If the reparation offer is accepted and the contribution is made, the matter is resolved quickly saving considerable Fish and Game and Court time. It also saves the offender from having a conviction recorded against their name. Their details are recorded on our national compliance database so they are not given the same opportunity to resolve offending by reparation at some future point or in another Region.

Reparation is appropriate for offenders who:

- Are first time offenders against Conservation or Wildlife Act
- Fully cooperated with Ranger at time of apprehension
- Were not involved in any aggravating circumstances e.g. obstruction, false details or misleading information
- Have not committed 3 or more regulation offences or, in the case of fishing/hunting without a licence, any additional offences.

Reparation may also be offered to other offenders under special circumstances on a case by case basis. Examples might include:

- Young adult offenders (university students for instance)
- Overseas tourists
- Offenders intending heading overseas before a potential court date

Note: The Council adopted the National Reparation Policy in June 2016 and the process for reparation is laid out in that document.

Reparation Amount

The size of the reparation payment is graduated according to the seriousness of the offence and where possible is largely based on the average fines handed down by the court for the same or similar offences. Appendix 1 contains a scale of payments for various offences. These figures have been set after discussion with compliance staff in other regions and will be reviewed and adjusted periodically.

Use of Reparation Funds

Any reparation payments made are receipted and will be banked into a separate and dedicated Habitat Enhancement Fund and not used for general operational expenses. The fund will be distributed by grants or used for projects in two areas:

- **Sportfish Habitat Enhancement** e.g. streamside restoration projects, subsidised plantings, fencing of spawning areas.
- **Gamebird Habitat Enhancement** e.g. wetland creation projects, grants to private landowners, wetland fencing and plant subsidies

Grants are to be made from the fund in accordance with the application and approval process adopted by Council in August 2011 and updated in February 2013 to include 'preferred criteria' to help guide applicants

Failure to complete Reparation

Failure or refusal to complete Reparation will result in court prosecution. As such in all cases where reparation is offered a prima facie case must first be established.

Action guidelines table for common offences

Sports Fisheries Offences

Offence	Act/Regulations	Course of Action
Fishing without a sportsfish licence	Conservation Act s26ZI	Reparation
Fishing without a backcountry licence	Conservation Act s26ZI	Reparation
Fishing outside of nominated region	Conservation Act s26ZI	Reparation
Non-compliance with Anglers Notice (eg Using more than one rod)	Conservation Act s26 R (6)	Reparation
Failure to produce licence	Fresh.Fish. Regs s20	Warning
Disturbing spawning fish/grounds	Conservation Act s26ZJ(1)	Court Prosecution
Obstruction	Conservation Act s41	Court Prosecution
Fishing out of season	Conservation Act s26ZP	Reparation
Failure to give name & address	Fresh.Fish. Regs. s20	Court Prosecution
FWL when coupled with other offences (Obstruction etc) three or more regulations offences	Conservation Act	Court Prosecution

Gamebird Offences

Offence	Act/Regulations	Course of Action
Hunting without a licence	Wildlife Act s19(1)	Reparation
Breach of Game Gazette conditions (eg. Over bag limit, lead shot)	Wildlife Act s6(3)	Reparation
Failure to produce licence	Wildlife Act s61(2)	Warning
Using more than one shotgun	Wildlife Act s18	Reparation
Obstruction	Wildlife Act s40	Court Prosecution
Hunting out of season	Wildlife Act s67	Court Prosecution
Taking absolutely protected wildlife	Wildlife Act s63	Court Prosecution
Taking (<2) partially protected wildlife (eg Grey Teal)	Wildlife Act s63	Reparation
Failure to give name & address	Wildlife Act s66 (2)	Court Prosecution
HWL when coupled with other offences (obstruction etc) or three or more regulations offences	Wildlife Act	Court Prosecution

Appendix 1

Reparation levels for common categories of offences –

Offence	Section	Reparation Fee	Average Fine	Range
Fishing without a licence	Conservation Act s26ZI	\$500	\$513	\$200 - \$700
Fishing without a backcountry licence	Conservation Act s26ZI	\$200	No cases	No cases
Fishing outside of area named on Local Area licence	Conservation Act s26ZI	\$200	No cases	No cases
Non-compliance with Anglers Notice (eg Using more than one rod etc)	Conservation Act s26 R (6)	\$200	No cases	No cases
Fishing out of season	Conservation Act s26ZP	\$200	No cases	No cases
Hunting without a licence	Wildlife Act s19(1)	\$600	\$510	\$300-\$700
Breach of Game Gazette conditions (eg. Over bag limit, lead shot)	Wildlife Act s6(3)	\$500	\$487	\$250 - \$700

Notes:

Reparation levels are in line with Southland and Central South Island Region levels.

Average fines do not include court costs (generally \$130) or solicitors fees (range between \$75 and \$250) or the forfeiture of shotguns or fishing equipment

Information based on last 5 years of prosecutions in Otago and Southland Region.

Last review October 2014

9.2 Compliance Summary Report - I Hadland

COUNCIL REPORT AUGUST 2016

Compliance Summary Report 2015/16 Season

Purpose

This report provides a brief summary of the compliance effort for the 2015/16 fishing and hunting seasons to date including Court prosecutions undertaken by the Council and reparations made by offenders.

It also reports on achievement of internal regional compliance guidelines of:

- Checking 10% of fish or game adult full season licence holders annually
- Maintaining 95% compliance with laws and regulations.

Fishing Season Compliance

Documented fish licence holder contacts	1201
Total whole season adult and family licence holders	11975
% Checked (target >10% Adult licence holders)	10%
Number of offenders (excluding Failure to Produce or “FTP’s”)	64
% Compliant (target >95%)	94.7%

There were 1201 recorded interviews (as of end of July) with anglers – around 30 more than the full previous year. Of these, around 23% were undertaken as part of an organised creel or peak use survey. The remainder of fishing licence checks were undertaken at random by both staff and our dedicated honorary ranging team spread throughout the region.

The above table shows that the compliance team met its target of 10% client contacts. This is pleasing as one of the Councils most active rangers (Mr Wells) retired the previous year and he alone used to regularly account for ~20% of annual licence checks.

The 64 fishing offenders dealt with was over double the number last season. The overall compliance rate was just under the 95% threshold and this is quite rare. Over the last 5 years compliance has ranged between 97% and 98% In addition to the high number of offences, a further 33 anglers failed to produce a licence on demand (FTP’s) and had offence notices issued. All of these were given verbal or written warnings.

Tourist angling offences up

As previously reported to Council, the number of tourist offenders being encountered in the lakes areas is well up on previous years. Our Queenstown rangers in particular have been undertaking regular compliance visits to freedom camping areas and detecting higher than

usual offending. This increase in compliance activity combined with increased tourist numbers generally (particularly freedom campers) is thought to be the reason for the increased reported offending.

Fortunately, swift dialogue (mostly via email as this helps with any language barriers) with such fast moving offenders has led to a very good completion rate with reparations. In the most part reparations have been paid within days of apprehension and the anglers reunited with their gear.

Types of fishing offences

Fishing without a licence is still by far the most common offence. Seven of the offenders provided false particulars, all but one of those claiming that they were licenced to fish when they were not and some going on to provide false names and addresses.

Fishing Prosecution Summary

- 38 offenders accepted Councils reparation option and were dealt with out of court.
- Two angling offenders have been prosecuted (details below)
- One is awaiting a hearing after applying for a discharge without conviction during sentencing.
- 4 other offenders are presently being prepared for prosecution.
- 3 were untraceable and one further tourist is suspected to have left the country.
- 15 written warnings were given for minor offences.

Fishing Prosecutions

Pearson – Mr Pearson was caught fishing at Glenorchy and initially provided false details before later coming clean about his true identity. Reparation was offered but refused so the matter was referred to court for prosecution. As he was of no fixed abode, service of the summons proved very difficult and there were several failed attempts in Dunedin, Pukekohe and Masterton. An arrest warrant was eventually issued in lieu of service. He appeared in Masterton District Court and despite his protestations about the way the case had been handled, including our heavy handed approach, he was fined \$400 for fishing without a licence, \$400 for providing false information, \$250 solicitors fees and \$130 court costs. Disappointingly the judge turned down our request for prosecution expenses under §45 of the Conservation Act meaning that we were unable to recover some of the large legal costs associated with this protracted case.

Ruri – This offender was also caught on the edge of Lake Wakatipu fishing and claimed to have left his licence at home. A failure to produce offence notice was written but he never provided a valid licence and the database eventually revealed he was unlicensed. He was subsequently prosecuted for fishing without a licence and providing false information, fined \$750 plus \$250 solicitors fees and \$130 court costs.

The remaining cases to be prosecuted are a mixture of straight fishing without a licence and false information offences. These will be reported on as results come to hand

Game Season Compliance

Game season compliance activity has been briefly reported on but below is a short summary

Total documented Game licence holder contacts	163
Total whole season adult and family licence holders	3985
% Checked (target: >10% Adult licence holders)	4%
Number of offenders (excluding FTP's)	7
% Compliant (target: > 95%)	95.8%

The target of 10% of gamebird licence holders was not achieved again this year. This contact rate is an almost unattainable target, especially when much of our compliance work is focused on opening weekend and on individual farm ponds with a small but fit group rangers.

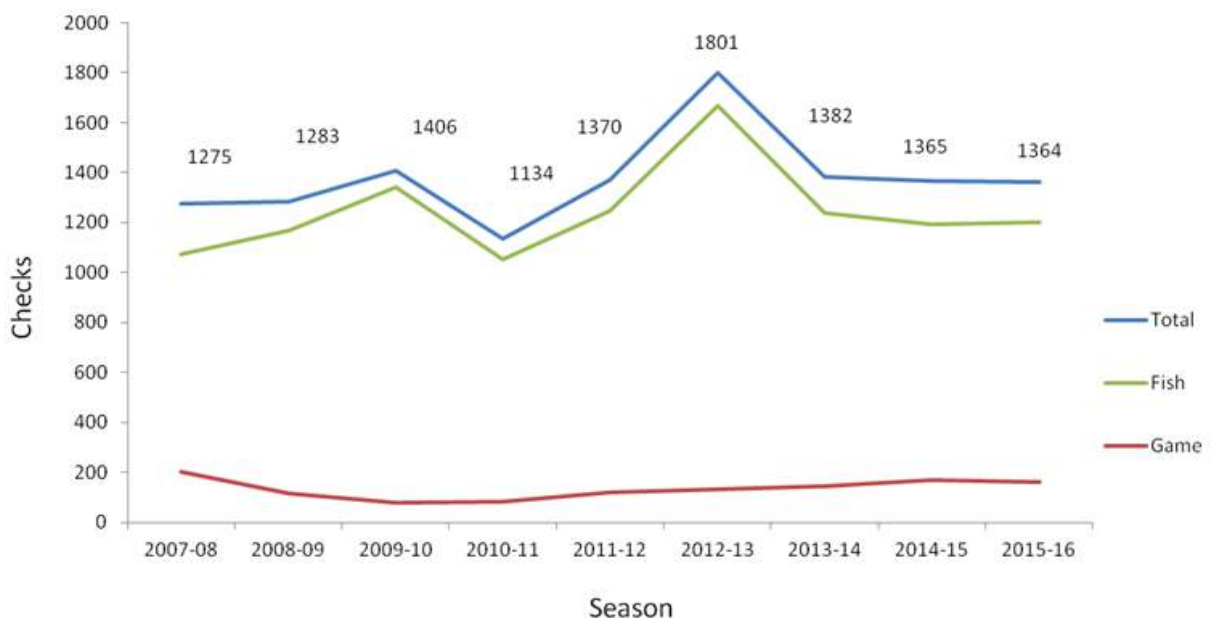
The compliance target was met and in general hunters were well behaved. There were three unlicensed hunters caught, one using lead shot. Two offenders were caught with more than the daily bag limit and two further offenders were caught taking protected or partially protected species.

Gamebird Season Prosecution Summary

- All 6 offenders offered the councils reparation package completed its terms.
- 1 warning letter was issued for shooting of a partially protected species (Grey Teal)
- 5 hunters that failed to produce their licences on the day did so within 7 days.
- No court prosecutions required

Trends In Ranging Activity

Otago Ranger Licence Checks 2007-2016



Changes in honorary rangers

Ranger warrants were renewed last year and 4 new rangers have been taken on since the last report. One has been let go for lack of activity. The Council remain well serviced by 26 rangers with a good geographical spread. 7 staff also remain warranted.

It should also be noted that our volunteer rangers are among the top performing in the country for effort and offence detection. FGO Trotter's recent attendance at the national compliance coordinators meeting highlighted that many other regions are struggling to find suitable recruits and having difficulty in getting their appointed rangers to undertake anything but highly coordinated ranging. Ours volunteer rangers by contrast have done an exceptional job detecting and professionally reporting on 40% of the total offences encountered in Otago. That is in addition to their attendance at TAKF days and assisting with other field work.

Reparation levels

Over the last four years, around 90% of offenders have taking up the Councils reparation package as offered. This indicates that the current reparation levels are appropriate. If that proportion were to decrease below say 80% there would be a significant increase in the number of court prosecutions and with it, an increase in associated costs. At present, it typically costs more to prosecute an offender in court than is ever recovered by way of fines. However, the Council has a very high success rate in terms of convictions and it is acknowledged as a necessary component of CLE activities.

Direction on matters of prosecution are guided by the Council adopted "Offence Guidelines" and an updated version is to be considered alongside this report. This includes a revised schedule of reparation levels.

Recommendations

Volunteers Rangers be thanked sincerely for their continued professional effort.
Council receive this report.

Ian Hadland
Operations Manager
10/08/2016

9.3 Otago Fish & Game Council Response to Anglers Notice Working Party Recommendations - I Hadland

COUNCIL REPORT AUGUST 2016

Otago Council Response to Anglers Notice Working Party Recommendations

At the June meeting the Council was presented with a paper on potential changes to the First Schedule of the Anglers Notice. I was asked to review the changes put forward by the South Island Anglers Notice Working Party and report back to this meeting.

By and large, the working party has arrived at some sensible changes and provided clarity where it was necessary. It is my view is that this hasn't gone far enough. There are also references to the layout of the regulation guide booklet which should arguably be dealt with separately from this exercise.

Recommendations

- *That the Council receives the report and notes the initiative shown by the group.*
- *That Council defer the implementation of any changes to the first schedule and recommend a more aggressive nationwide review of the angling regulations with a view to simplifying, clarifying and standardising the format for both the First and Second Schedule.*

Justification

The regulations remain lengthy, overly complex and in some cases ambiguous. Some licence holders find them difficult to follow and interpret (and staff on occasion too). There is plenty of overseas evidence that complex regulations can have a negative impact on participation. They are not in a form which one would happily hand to a member of the general public new to angling, yet we do.

The cumbersome process for having regulations gazetted simply invites opportunities for errors at nearly every step. A more simple set of regulations in a more standard format will help to reduce errors and allow for more efficient review of annual changes.

Process

Real progress will require committed buy-in from all Regions as changes to the First Schedule have to be agreed upon by 12 individual Councils before being formatted by NZC and recommended to the Minister.

The best approach would be to seek broad approval for a review of the Regulations by regions and have a realistic timescale to consult, propose and implement any changes. Such a commitment from Regions would provide for the best chance of acceptance of an updated set of First Schedule Regulations in the future.

Ian Hadland
Operations Manager

9.4 Backcountry Fisheries Angler Survey 2015-2016 - H Trotter

COUNCIL REPORT AUGUST 2016

Otago Backcountry Fisheries Angler Survey 2015-2016 Season

Introduction

Sports Fishing Regulations require anglers to obtain a Backcountry Licence Endorsement for a Full Season Sports Fishing Licence to fish designated backcountry fisheries. The Otago Region has eight designated backcountry waters: Caples, Dingle Burn, Hunter, Nevis, Upper Lochy, Wilkin, Young, and Greenstone Rivers. The aim of the Backcountry Licence Endorsement is to provide a means of monitoring angler use and satisfaction in backcountry rivers, allowing trends and management issues to be identified.

Survey Method

Backcountry monitoring is undertaken via two separate annual online surveys. An initial survey of anglers who use the Greenstone Controlled Period Fishery is undertaken (reported to the June Council meeting), followed by a wider survey of all holders of an Otago Backcountry Licence Endorsement. This is the tenth year anglers have been surveyed in this manner. Since 2012 assessment of angler satisfaction has been simplified; anglers were asked to rate their satisfaction 'overall' rather than in sub-categories

Anglers were asked to report their fishing activity and to rate their overall angling experience on a 5-point likert scale for each river they fish. Perceptions of angler and fish encounter were also assessed and additional questions were asked regarding current and future management of Otago's backcountry fisheries. Of the 1767 anglers who acquired a Backcountry Licence Endorsement in 2016 the database was able to validate 1443 email addresses for survey distribution. This disparity is attributed mainly to duplication of emails and some invalid (incorrectly entered) addresses.

Results

The current survey received 702 responses; a response rate of 49% overall. Response rates were lower for non resident anglers compared to resident anglers (42% and 54% respectively). Sixty percent of respondents reported they had fished a backcountry river during the season (Table 1). Based on this participation level and the total number of backcountry endorsements issued, the estimated total number of active Otago backcountry anglers for the 2015-2016 season was 1062 (Table 1). This is an increase in users compared to previous seasons.

Table 1: Backcountry participation estimates 2010 - 2016

<i>Season</i>	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
<i>BC Endorsements Issued</i>	1193	1100	1326	1318	1151	1356	1767
<i>Participation Rate</i>	-	-	72%	73%	70%	63%	60%
<i>Estimated Total BC Anglers</i>	-	-	954	962	806	858	1062
<i>Estimated Total BC Angler Days</i>			4220	3805	2915	3101	4129
<i>Estimated Average BC Days per Angler</i>				3.97	3.6	3.6	3.9

There was almost even proportion of non resident and resident backcountry anglers (Table 2). The proportion of non resident anglers appears to have increased in recent years; however this may be influenced by the introduction of the Non Resident Licence in 2014 improving the accuracy of reporting. Participation rates were the same for residents and non residents (60%). Use of guides was similar compared to the previous seasons with 17% of all respondents hiring a guide for their backcountry fishing (Table 2). Reported use of guides was significantly more common amongst non resident anglers with 41% hiring a guide (up from 35% in 2014-15), compared to just 4% of resident anglers.

Table 2: Otago backcountry endorsement angler demographics 2010 – 2015

<i>Season</i>	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
<i>Resident Anglers</i>	56%	59%	60%	58%	59%	53%	51%
<i>Non Resident Anglers</i>	44%	41%	40%	42%	41%	47%	49%
<i>Guided Anglers</i>	18%	22.5%	20%	16%	18%	21%	17%

Women made up less than 7% backcountry anglers overall, however represented 12% of non resident anglers. Junior anglers were also a small component of the fishery, with just 31 anglers under the age of 20 applying for a backcountry endorsement. The youngest angler was

13 and the eldest was 90 years of age (Figure 1). Most resident anglers had purchased Adult Whole Season or Family Fishing Licences (Figure 2).

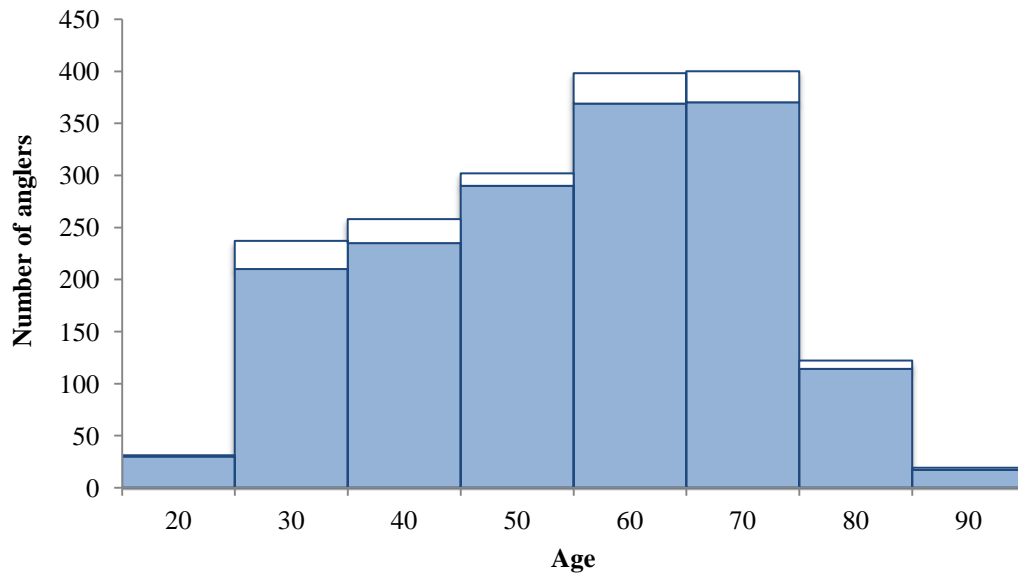


Figure 1: Age frequency of male (blue) and female (white) Otago backcountry anglers 2015-2016

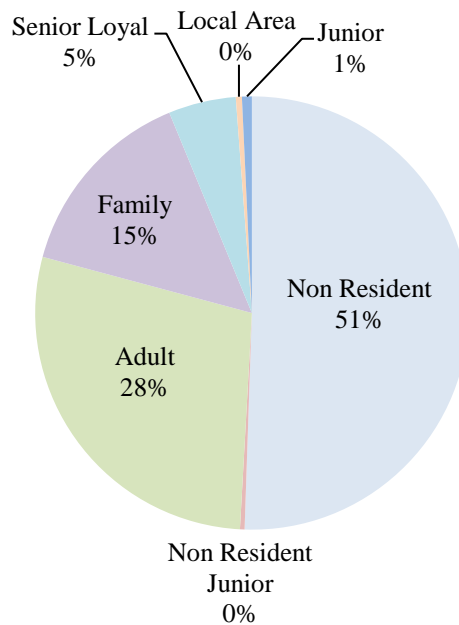


Figure 2: Licence categories for Otago backcountry anglers 2015-2016

Non-Participation

Participation rates have remained consistent over the last few seasons with around 60-70% of Backcountry Licence Endorsement holders actually making it to the backcountry during the season (Table 1). The predominant reasons given for non participation were a lack of available time or a change in circumstances, and inclement weather conditions or river flows.

Angling Effort

Estimates of angling effort increased across all rivers, except the Dingle Burn (Table 1, Figure 3). The largest increases were reported for the Caples, Greenstone, Nevis and Wilkin Rivers. The Greenstone Controlled Period, where anglers must hold a Backcountry Licence Endorsement to access a Controlled Period Licence, also experienced its highest level of use in recent years (Figure 3). The total estimated number of backcountry angling days was 4129, the highest total since this survey programme began.

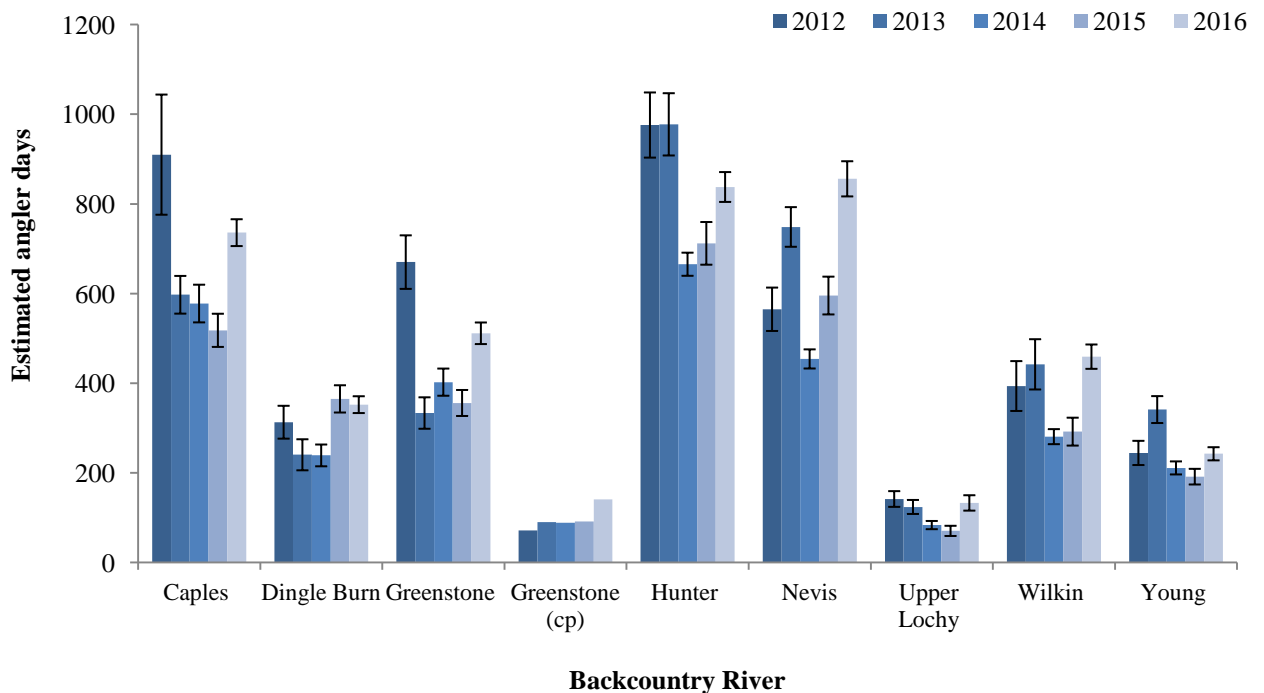


Figure 3: Estimated angler days ($\pm 1SD$) on Otago Backcountry Rivers 2012-2016²; Greenstone controlled period (cp) does not have error bars because angler days are taken from bookings rather than estimated.

² Estimates of total angler days have been calculated using responses for all anglers combined to maintain consistency of method across years; calculation of total angler days when data was stratified by resident and non resident anglers resulted in slightly different estimates.

Guided Angling Pressure

The estimate of total guided angling days was 450. Guiding activity was largely consistent with the previous seasons. The most guided days were on the Hunter and the least guided days occurred on the Upper Lochy.

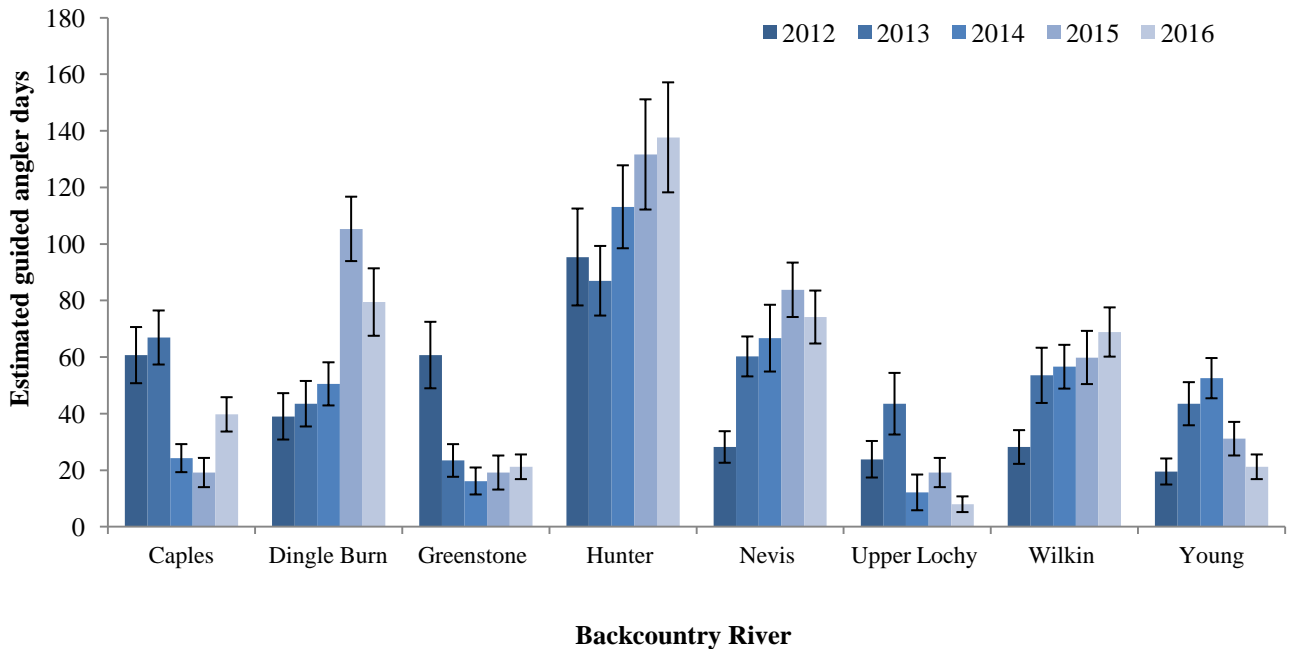


Figure 4: Estimated total guided angler days ($\pm 1SD$) on Otago Backcountry Rivers 2012-2016

Comparison of angler days across different user groups found that non resident anglers accounted for 37% of total effort across Otago Backcountry Rivers (Figure 5). The highest proportion of non resident use was on the Young River where non residents accounted for 44% of total effort. The Dingle Burn, Hunter and Wilkin Rivers had this highest proportion of guided angling, with ~30% of effort on these rivers guided. Reported guided angling days contributed 7-31% of total estimated angling days across the Otago backcountry rivers (Figure 5).

Overall Angler Satisfaction

Anglers are asked to rate their satisfaction with the overall backcountry angling experience for each river they fished. Satisfaction is measured on a 5-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.

For the current season the majority of anglers continue to report being 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with their angling experience for all Otago backcountry rivers (Figure 6), although scores were lower for all rivers compared to the previous season, except for the Wilkin River. Generally however, satisfaction scores have been relatively consistent across seasons.

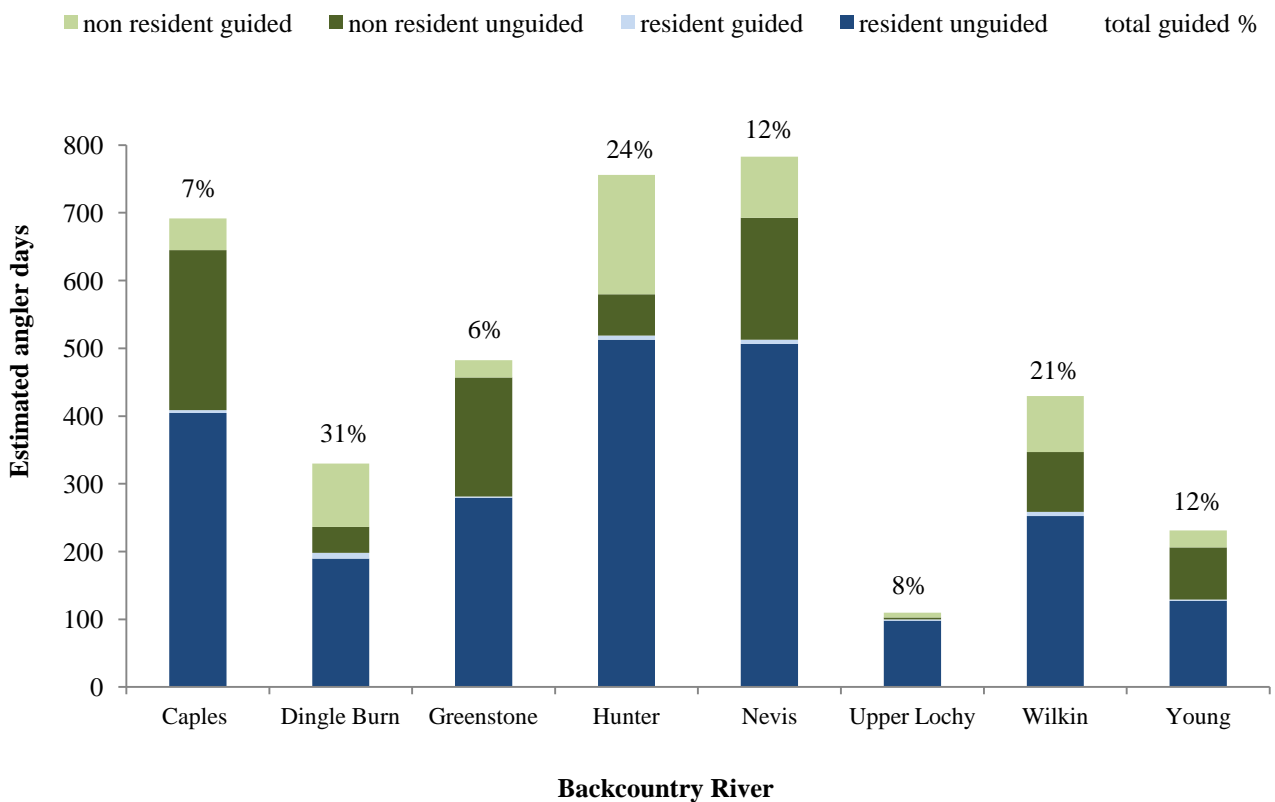


Figure 5: Estimated angler days for resident (blue) and non resident anglers (green) for Otago Backcountry Rivers in the 2015-16 season; guided days are shown in the lighter shade

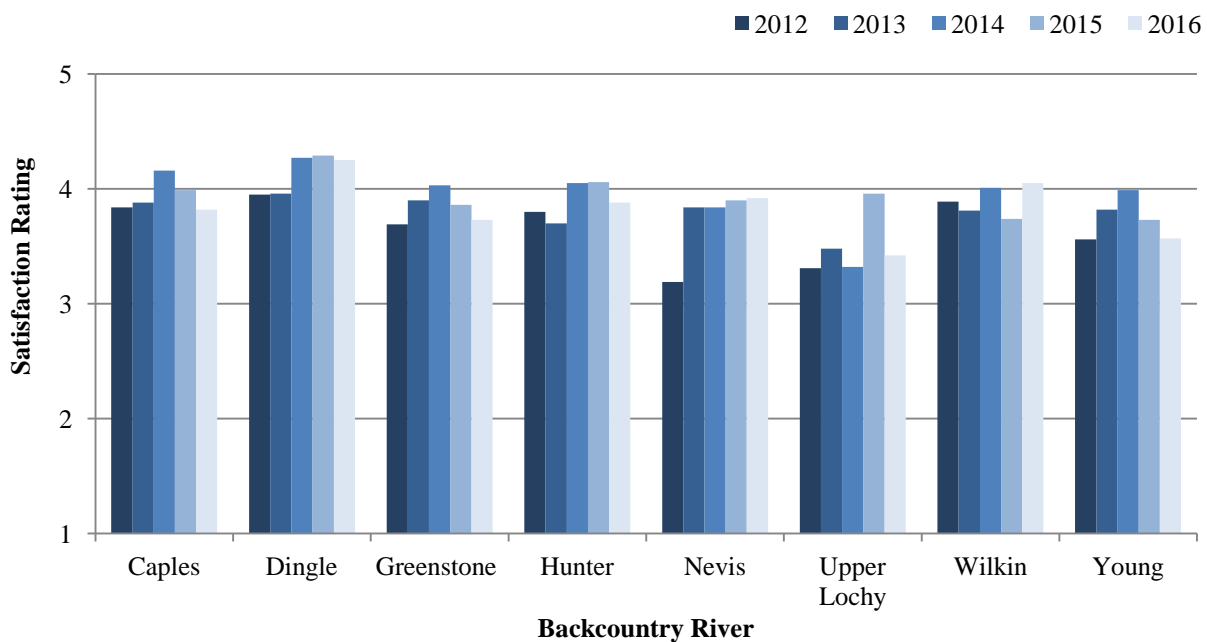


Figure 6: Average angler satisfaction score for Otago backcountry rivers 2012-2016

Angler Dissatisfaction

Respondents were asked to identify the main reasons for any dissatisfaction with their backcountry angling experience. Results remain largely consistent with previous seasons. Perceived low fish numbers continues to be the most often cited reason for angler dissatisfaction. Anglers also complained that fish were excessively ‘spooky’ presumably as a result of high pressure. Angler numbers, non resident and guide numbers and helicopter pressure were further significant factors causing angler dissatisfaction, particularly where anglers had been jumped on the river. Dissatisfaction was higher among resident anglers compared to non resident anglers.

Angler Encounter Levels (Crowding)

For all backcountry rivers the majority of anglers reported encounter levels were ‘as expected’ (Figure 7). The Caples and Young Rivers had the highest proportion of anglers who reported they encountered more anglers than expected (29% and 27% respectively).

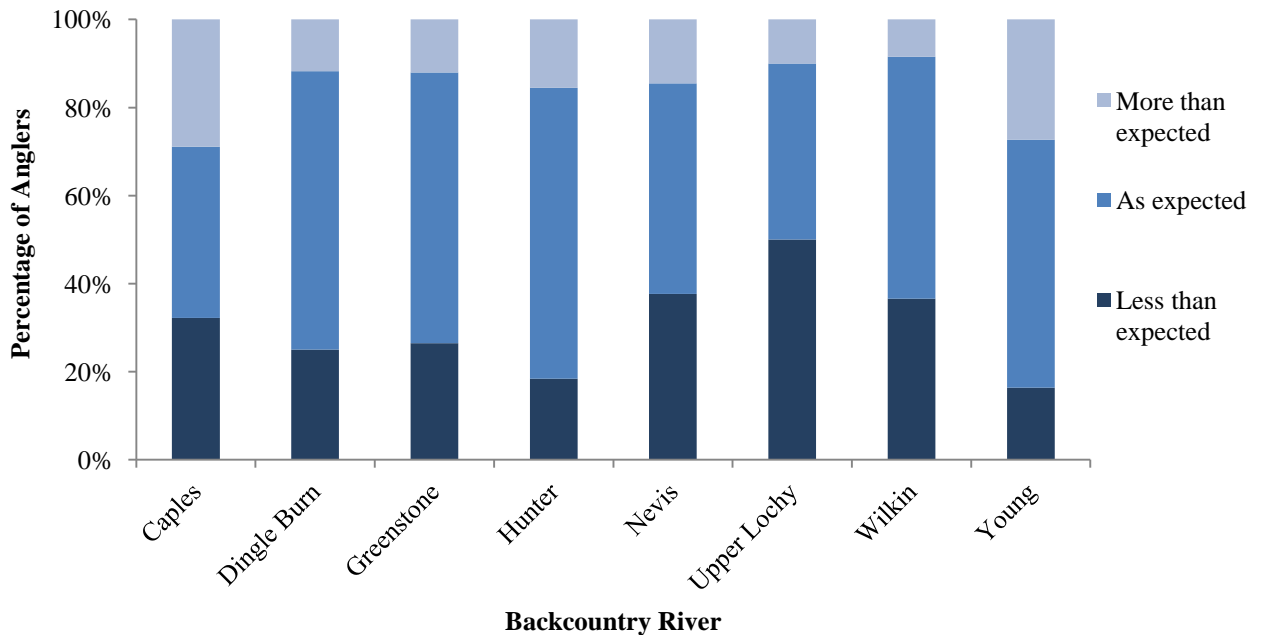


Figure 7: Angler encounter ratings for Otago backcountry rivers 2015-16

Fish Encounter Levels and Catch Rate

Most anglers found that the number of fish they encountered was ‘as expected’ or ‘less than expected’, with very few anglers reporting fish numbers were ‘more than expected’. On average anglers spent between two to three days on each of the rivers they fished and landed on average between two and seven fish (Figure 8). Estimated catch rates (the average number of fish landed/average number of days fished) were lower for most rivers compared to the

previous seasons. The Dingle Burn had the highest catch rate and the Nevis River had the lowest (as in 2015). It should be noted that this estimate of catch rate is coarse and is probably most useful for comparing relative catch rates across the backcountry rather than determining accurate trends in catch rate over time for a given fishery.

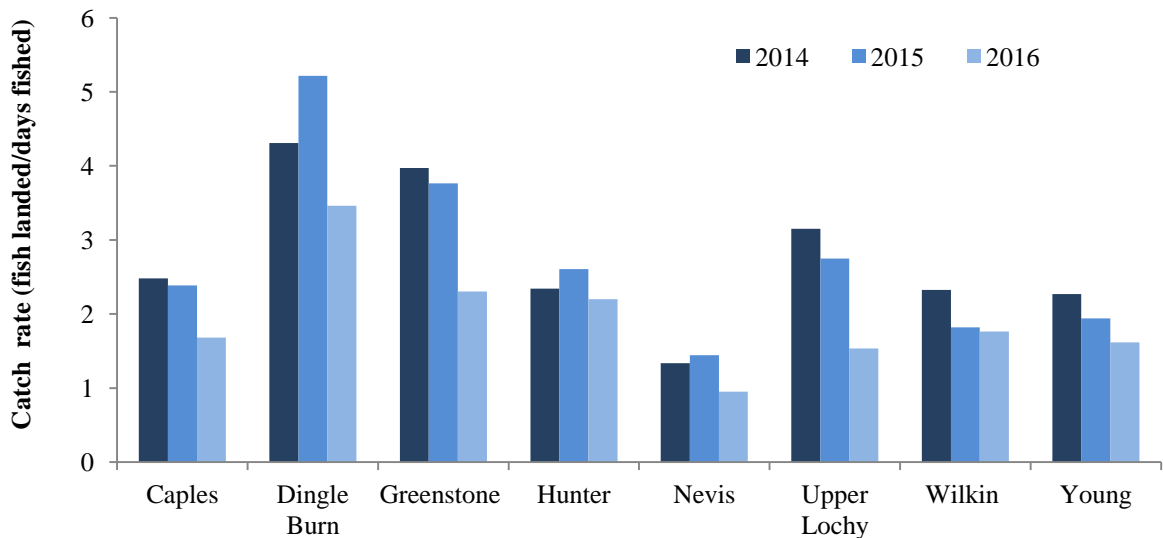


Figure 8: Catch rate (average fish landed per angler day) for Otago backcountry rivers 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 seasons

Management of Otago Backcountry Rivers

Licensing

Both resident and non resident anglers were supportive of a Guides' Licence (Table 3), with support among resident anglers being particularly high (88%). Angler comments reflected a greater awareness of the proposed licence and better understanding of the licence as a management mechanism for commercial gain from the public resource.

Table 3: Response to the question: 'do you support the introduction of a Guides' Licence?'

	NZ Resident	Non Resident
Yes	88%	61%
No	6%	11%
I don't know	6%	28%

Anglers were asked whether guided angling should be limited by for example, setting a quota for guided days or limiting the number of days guides could access a particular river (Table 4).

There was strong support for this idea from resident anglers (70%), while non resident anglers (who make up the majority of guided anglers) were moderately supportive (46%).

Table 4: Response to the question: ‘do you support the idea limiting guided angling?’

	NZ Resident	Non Resident
Yes	70%	46%
No	20%	33%
I don't know	10%	21%

A further question was asked regarding a proposed voluntary daily limit for catch and release angling which has been developed by West Coast Fish and Game Council in response to concerns about catch and release pressure and its impact on the quality of its backcountry fisheries:

With intense rainfall events, the West Coast Region's rivers are a volatile environment for Brown Trout reproduction. In response, the regions fisheries are subject to significant population fluctuations and poor stock replacement. To sustainably manage these fisheries, and retain catchability of these trout for anglers, Fish and Game encourages anglers to hook and land no more than six trout per day when exercising catch and release. The catching and playing of fish and poor handling, often results in death of the fish at a later stage. In the more popular fisheries this has the potential to create a depleted and uncatchable trout fishery. Fish and Game West Coast therefore encourages experienced anglers to pick and choose up to 6 trout rather than try to catch as many fish as possible in one day.

West Coast Fish and Game Council

Anglers were asked whether they would support the promotion of this concept (without reference to a specific number of fish). The wording of the question aimed to give some background and context without being overly leading:

Catch and release fishing is widely promoted as a conservation minded approach to angling, however the playing and handling of fish can still lead to negative sub-lethal effects or even death of fish at a later stage. Regulations currently allow unlimited angling, as long as any fish landed above the bag limit are released.

Would you support the promotion of a voluntary daily limit for catch and release fishing in the backcountry? (i.e. a recommendation that anglers land up to 'x' number of fish, rather than trying to catch as many as possible)

It was clear from the comments that some anglers did not understand the meaning or intention of the proposal, and a few felt that the question was leading, despite our best efforts. Nonetheless over 50% of resident anglers were supportive of the idea (Table 5), and comments reflected that many anglers recognised the need to limit their impact even when practicing catch and release. Anglers who were not supportive discounted the idea for various reasons including that it could not be enforced, they did not think catch and release angling has significant negative impacts on fishery quality, or because they thought that promotion of correct catch release practice would be a more effective measure. Several anglers also

commented that fish numbers were generally low and if they did have a good day they wouldn't want to be limited and not take advantage of it.

Table 5: Response to the question: 'would you support the promotion of a voluntary daily limit for catch and release fishing in the backcountry?'

	NZ Resident	Non Resident
Yes	56%	47%
No	31%	41%
I don't know	13%	12%

To gauge whether the 6 fish limit proposed by West Coast Region was in line with angler expectations a follow up question asked 'how many fish do you like to land to feel satisfied with a day's angling?' The average number of fish was 4, with most anglers answering between 2-8 fish. A number of anglers responded that the number of fish landed was not important to their satisfaction; however it is also noted that many anglers note lack of fish as a key cause of dissatisfaction. Just a few anglers expressed wishing to catch as many as possible.

Anglers were finally asked to provide their thoughts and suggestions on future management of Otago backcountry fisheries in general. The key management issues identified by anglers were:

- Controls on helicopter access
- More controls on guided angling (e.g. licencing, limits on total guided days allowed)
- Increased charges and more controls for non resident anglers
- More education about angling ethics and etiquette and catch and release techniques
- Increased ranging and monitoring

Discussion

This survey received a good response rate (~50%), which has been consistent across several years. However it should also be noted that ~300 email addresses could not be validated so these licence holders were not surveyed. Furthermore a limitation of this data is that there has been no assessment of non response bias however measures to reduce this have been made including thorough testing of the survey, an extended data collection period, and sending of reminders. It is interesting to note that the estimates of effort made here are generally comparable to that of the National Angling Survey conducted by NIWA.

Reducing the number of invalid email addresses, as a result of erroneous data input or commercial operators not providing client details when purchasing licences, could improve the accuracy of the information collected. An assessment of non response bias would also be useful to determine the accuracy of these results. In particular it would be interesting to further investigate response rates amongst guided anglers as it is suspected that guided anglers

who have had licences purchased on their behalf by commercial operators may be less engaged with Fish and Game/fisheries management and less likely to respond to survey requests. A Guides' Licence would also improve the ability to measure guided effort and could in the future be a useful mechanism to access monitoring data.

Integration of the application process with the Eyede Licencing system was very successful and some further minor refinements are planned for the coming season. The 2015-2016 season had the highest number of Backcountry Licence Endorsements issued since the management system was implemented over 10 years ago. The participation rate was slightly down this season; however the estimate of total angler days was still as significant increase on the previous season with over 4000 angler days across the Otago Backcountry. These results support anecdotal reports received during the season about increased pressure on Otago fisheries and growing tension between recreational and commercial users.

While overall satisfaction remains high across the backcountry, fish numbers continue to be commonly cited factor leading to dissatisfaction. Estimated catch rates (while only a coarse measure) were down across all backcountry rivers however further investigation to elucidate the factors driving catch rate would be required as a variety of factors not limited to fish stocks, angler skill level, weather and pressure could be at play. Fisheries monitoring will be required to address trends in backcountry fish populations and current data would improve our ability to communicate the status of the fishery to anglers and manage expectations. Additional revenue generated from the Non Resident Licence could be applied here.

The introduction of the Non Resident Licence continues to be very popular with backcountry anglers and opposition from disgruntled non resident anglers seems to have waned, with very few negative comments made in the survey. However some anglers feel the cost of the Non Resident Licence is too little and anglers are now concerned about the management of non resident guides.

Anglers support for a Guides' Licence was very high and was increased compared to the previous season. Anglers seemed to be more aware of issues around increasing commercial pressure and made informed comments in support of their answers. Fewer anglers were unsure of their position compared to the previous survey. Given current high level of support it hoped that work continues to finalise the proposed licence and it is implemented as soon as possible. Further investigation of possible approaches to limiting guided angling should be investigated given the high level of support for such restrictions; however this will require significant consideration and consultation and would be more feasible following the introduction of Guides' Licence.

Although not currently proposed in Otago the initial level of support for the proposed voluntary limit for catch and release fishing was interesting and warrants further consideration of the concept. Comments made by anglers indicate that further education would be required about what the intention of the voluntary limit is, along with some supporting information on the behavioural and physiological effects of catch and release angling. A suggested limit on catch and release would provide a reasonable measuring point for anglers which could assist

with managing angler expectations, and could encourage anglers to be more selective and mindful of the pressure they exert on the fishery. Although it remains uncertain as to whether the promotion of a voluntary, non-enforceable limit could actually reduce pressure on backcountry fisheries. What anglers did make very clear in comments relating to this question was that they wanted to see more education and promotion from Fish and Game about best practice catch and release techniques and angling etiquette.

The backcountry management system has now been operating for over 10 years and has resulted in the development of two successful management tools. The Backcountry Licence Endorsement has established an accurate database of users and has enabled targeted annual surveys which have monitored use and angler satisfaction and perceptions over time. Furthermore it has also been a mechanism for cost recovery by requiring the purchase of a full season licence (preventing tourist anglers from accessing these premier fisheries on short-term licences), which is considered by managers and resident anglers to more fairly reflect the status and more intensive management activity that these sensitive fisheries demand. Secondly, the Controlled Period has been developed as an effective tool for limiting angler effort and encounter rates, and managing conflict between fly in and walk in anglers.

From this foundation we are now well placed to consider further development of this system to address the challenges currently faced and those which will emerge into the future. Continued growth of the tourism industry as well as increasing spread of knowledge via the internet and particularly social media is likely to see further increases in demand for backcountry fisheries. Exclusive capture and helicopter use (which are often associated with guided non residents) are likely to continue to be key issues however pressure is also likely to increase from the more budget minded end of the market. The rise of self-drive touring and freedom camping in New Zealand could influence changes to patterns of use by visiting anglers with some licence holders already voicing concerns about anglers camping out on rivers for extended periods. Concern has also been expressed about ‘once guided’ anglers, who return for subsequent trips with a group of friends for whom they act as a guide. Remaining aware of trends in the wider tourism industry and investigating further innovative management measures will be important in meeting these challenges and maintaining the quality of the backcountry fishery experience in Otago.

Future Management

Future considerations for backcountry management should include:

- Development of a fisheries population and compliance monitoring program for backcountry rivers
- Continued pursuit of a Guides’ Licence, working towards implementation for the 2017-2018 season
- Investigation of approaches to limits for guided angling, non resident angling and exclusive capture

- Development and promotion of a Code of Practice for freshwater sport fishing with emphasis on ethical angling behaviour and best practice guidelines for catch and release fishing
- Continued improvements to liaison with guides, accommodation providers and travel agencies regarding correct licencing of clients.

Recommendation

That this report be received

Helen Trotter
Fish & Game Officer
August 2016

Appendix

Updated estimated resident and non resident angler days for Otago Backcountry Rivers in the 2014-2015 season (corrected from that published in the August 2015 Council Report).

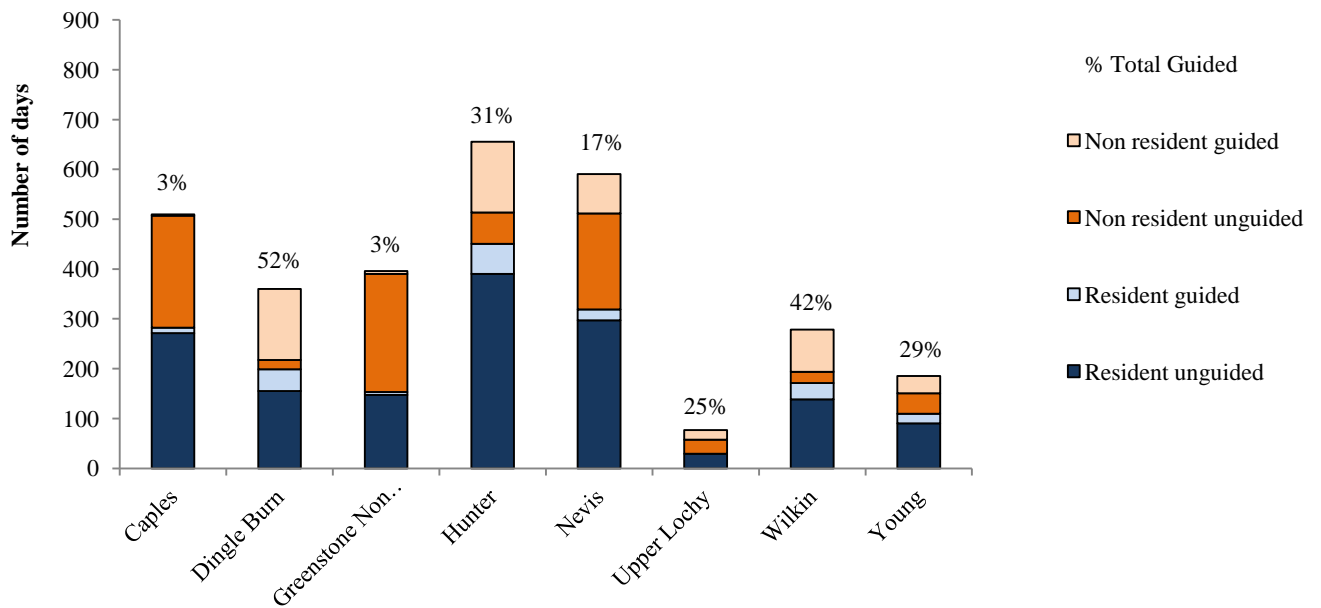


Figure 9: Estimated angler days for resident (blue) and non resident anglers (green) for Otago Backcountry Rivers in the 2015-16 season; guided days are shown in the lighter shade

9.5 Fernburn Spawning Survey Report 2015 - R Boyd

COUNCIL REPORT AUGUST 2016

Fernburn Spawning Survey Report 2015

1.0 Introduction

This report provides the results of the spring 2015 rainbow trout spawning survey in the Fern Burn. In 2013 the Upper Clutha Angling Club approved a 'Future Proofing' project in the Upper Clutha basin as part of a strategy to better document trout habitat in some of the areas smaller streams and rivers in the Upper Clutha basin. The overall objective is to ensure that there is high quality information on all of the streams that contribute to the trout populations in the district so that they can be recognised and protected in the face of future pressure for development and water abstraction in the Wanaka and Hawea catchments. The first stage was a pilot rainbow trout spawning survey of the Fern Burn stream in the spring of 2013. The pilot survey was successful and the Club determined that it would undertake further annual rainbow trout spawning surveys in the Fern Burn to better document any variability in the timing, distribution and numbers of spawning fish.

2.0 Survey Methods

The survey method was unchanged from the two previous years. The same 2 km section of the Fern Burn from the Ford to 'Top Bluff' was monitored every week to 10 days for the presence of rainbow trout, with the monitoring commencing in mid September. This section of the stream was selected for regular inspection because in 2013 and 2014 it held the most spawning rainbow trout. It is easy to access by vehicle and lies adjacent to the Motatapu Track (Fig 1). Based on the build up of rainbow trout numbers observed in the first half of October, the full spawning survey was undertaken on 20 October to coincide with the expected peak numbers of spawning fish in the stream.

A GPS unit had been provided to the Club by Fish and Game Otago, allowing the survey to more accurately document the numbers of trout present in various reaches of the stream.

Using the buildup of spawning numbers from the monitoring inspections and observations of the commencement of active spawning, it appeared that in 2015 trout numbers peaked on or about 16 October. The full spawning survey was therefore undertaken on 20 October 2014 during bright and sunny conditions. All fish observed were counted and no attempt was made to identify redds or fish sitting on redds. The full spawning survey commenced at a point adjacent to the large Hay Barn on the Motatapu Road approximately 1.8 km below the Motatapu Road Ford. The survey continued upstream from the Ford to the boundary of the Stack Conservation Area. There was no coverage of the Fern Burn downstream of the Hay Barn to its outlet into Lake Wanaka.

Following the main survey on 20 October, a follow up survey was planned to document the tail end of the spawning period prior to 1 November but weather conditions meant

that the follow up survey was not able to be completed. From 1 November the stream is heavily fished, with a number of fishing parties present almost every day until most of the fish have migrated back to Lake Wanaka.

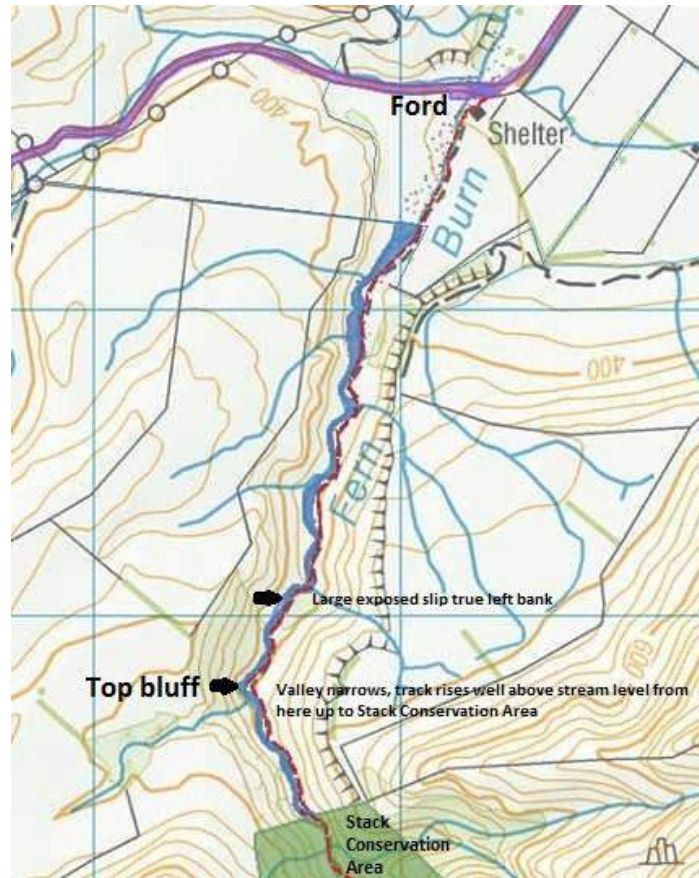


Figure 1. Monitoring area, Fern Burn stream from Motatapu Station Road (Ford) to Top Bluff

3.0 Survey Results

3.1 Timing of Spawning

The regular monitoring inspections of the most accessible section from the Ford to Top Bluff (Fig. 1) showed a buildup of rainbow trout numbers from late September followed by a large jump in numbers at the end of the second week of October (red line in Fig. 2) with a peak on 16 October. Rain events coincided with increases in numbers of fish seen in the stream. The timing of the peak numbers seen in 2015 was about 1 week earlier than seen in 2014 (blue line in Fig 2.)

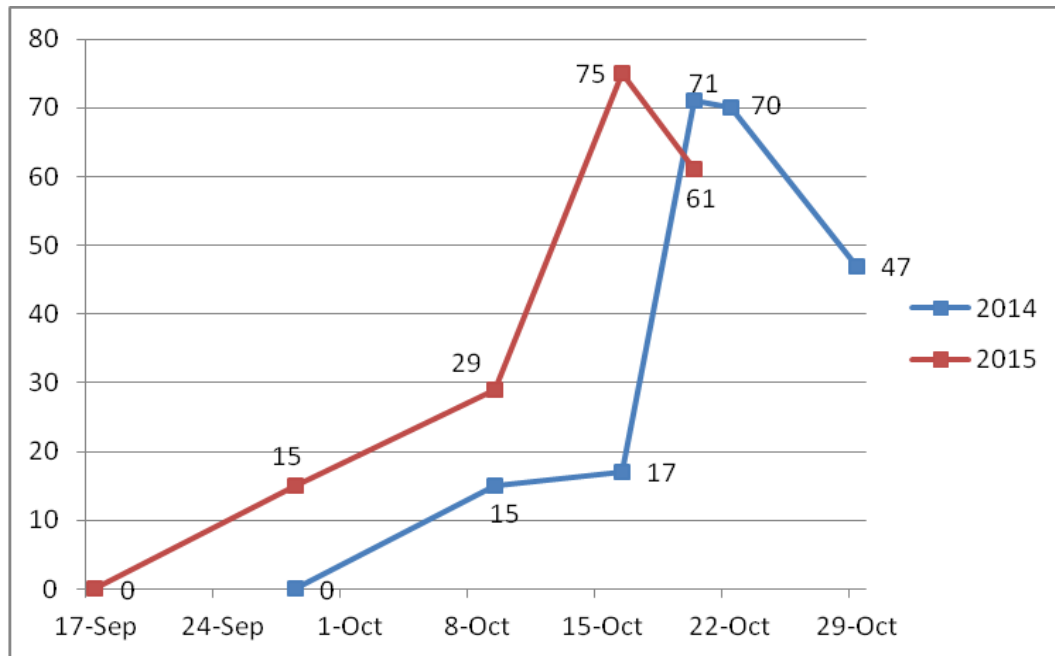


Figure 2. Numbers of spawning rainbow trout observed, Fern Burn 2015 and 2014 from the Ford to Top Bluff.

3.2 Results of the Main Spawning Survey

Variable weather meant that stream conditions did not permit the full 2015 spawning survey until 20 October. A total of 111 rainbows were counted in the 20 October survey. A total of 44 fish were counted from the Hay Barn upstream to the Ford and 67 from the Ford to the Stack Conservation Area. As can be seen in Figure 2, the numbers of rainbows observed above the Ford had already started to drop in the four day period between 16 and 20 October.

From observations of their behavior it appeared that some of the fish seen below the Ford on 20 October were in the process of migrating downstream back to Lake Wanaka. Most of the spawning rainbows present appeared to be about 0.75 to 1.0 kg in size. However, notable in the 2015 survey was the presence of a number of larger rainbow trout (estimated at up to 1.5kg) that were not observed in 2014.

Counts for the main spawning survey are given in Appendix 1 and the distribution of fish observed is shown in Appendix 2. The numbers of rainbow trout were recorded between GPS marks rather than recording the individual position of each fish. Spawning was well distributed throughout the stream wherever there was suitable gravel. Marks 44 and 45 overlap on the map.

Personnel undertaking the survey also noted that *Didymosphenia germinata* is present in places throughout the stream.

Although the Fern Burn stream is relatively small with clear water and good visibility, it is likely that a few fish lying in sheltered locations are not seen and the survey count should be considered as a minimum. It is also known that some fish spawn above the upper limit of the survey at the boundary of the Stack Conservation Area where a few fish have been seen. The survey has not extended into the Stack Conservation Area

because of more difficult terrain and dense bush where streambed access and visibility is more limited.

4.0 Discussion

The Fern Burn spawning survey in 2015 can be considered as successful overall. Regular monitoring of the most accessible portion of the Fern Burn allowed the timing of the spawning run to be determined so that the main survey took place close to the time when the most spawning fish were present. The availability of the GPS unit provided by Fish and Game allowed a more accurate record of the location and distribution of spawning rainbow trout.

The availability of suitable gravel for spawning in the Fern Burn is patchy, mostly seen as small pockets of gravel amongst larger stones and rocks. In spite of this the numbers of spawning rainbow trout is relatively high given the small size of this stream.

As in 2013 and 2014, the survey did not include that portion of the stream downstream of the Hay Barn to its outlet into Lake Wanaka. It would be desirable to extend the survey downstream of the Hay Barn to Lake Wanaka and this will be considered in 2016.

5.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to all Club members who assisted in the survey. Also special thanks to Cliff Halford, Otago Fish and Game, for his support and advice.

Rick Boyd
Upper Clutha Angling Club
Wanaka

Appendix 1: Fern Burn Spawning Survey Data – 20 October 2015

Weather: clear and sunny

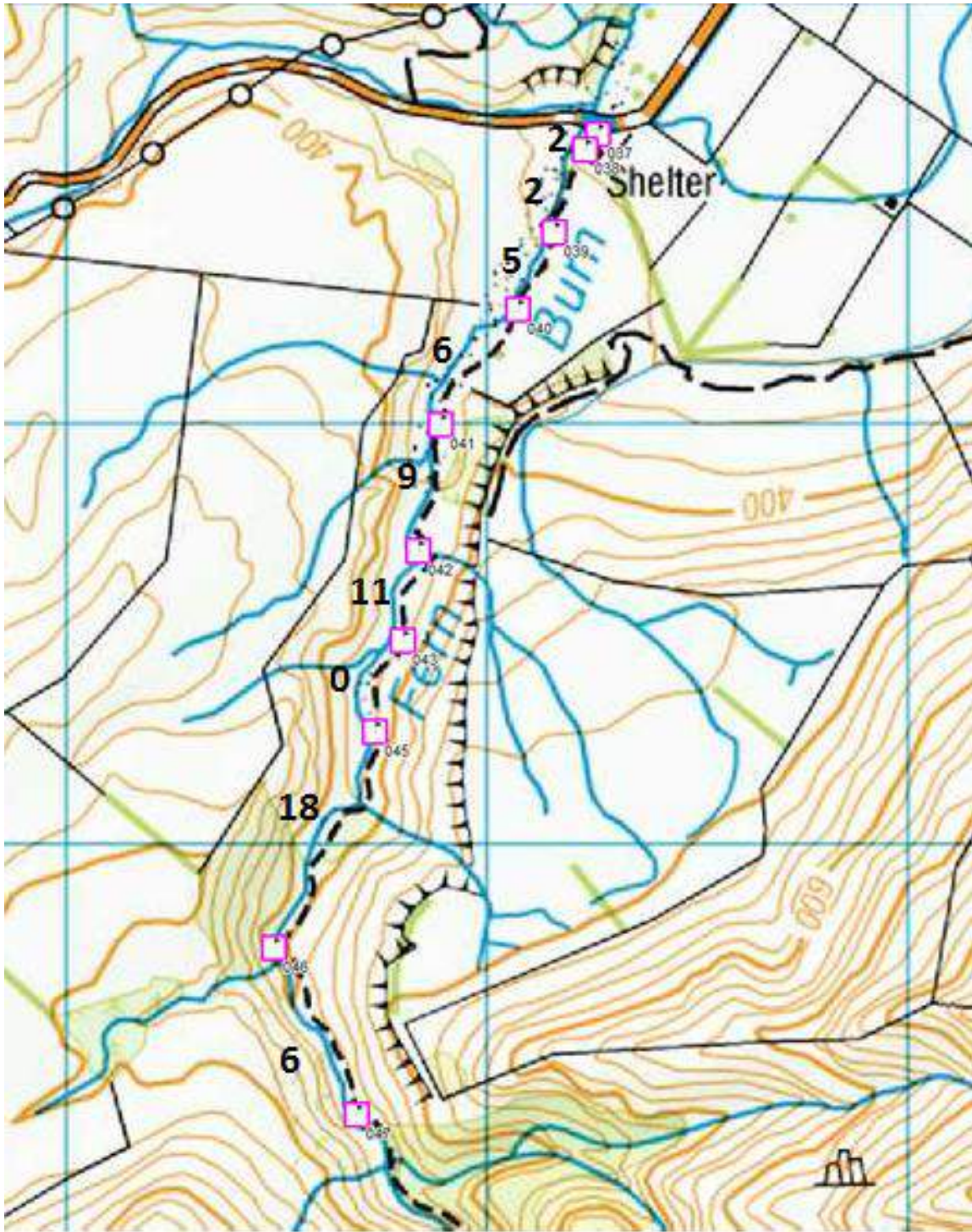
Stream conditions: clear and about normal

Species: Rainbow trout

Personnel: J & M Barlow, R Boyd, M Turner

GPS Mark ID	NZTM East	NZTM North	GPS reference marks & or description (start and finish point of each reach of the stream)	Numbers of rainbow trout
005	1283102	5044539	Mark 005 Hay Barn to 006	10
006	1283054	5045239	Mark 006 to 007	9
007	1282964	5044862	Mark 007 to 008	4
008	1282839	5044563	Mark 008 to 009 Ford on Motatapu Station Road	21
009	1282292	5043726	Fence at the downstream side of the ford on Motatapu Station Road – end point of this section	
037	2192246.1	5605416.2	Mark 37 to 38 - Mark 37 at culvert upstream side of the ford, Motatapu Station Road	2
038	2192216.0	5605381.1	Mark 38 to 39	2
039	2192142.5	5605183.3	Mark 39 to 40	5
040	2192055.3	5605002.4	Mark 40 to 41	6
041	2191872.1	5604727.3	Mark 41 to 42	9
042	2191820.4	5604428.7	Mark 42 to 43	11
043	2191782.3	5604216.3	Mark 43 to 44	0
044	2191714.9	5603998.2	Mark 44 to 45	8
045	2191714.9	5603998.3	Mark 45 to 46	18
046	2191477.8	5603487.4	Mark 46 to 47	6
047	2191672.5	5603089.5	Mark 47 – end point of survey at deer fence marking start of Stack Conservation area	
Total spawning rainbows counted 20/10/2015				111

Appendix 2: Map of GPS Marks 37 to 47 (above the Ford) showing distribution of spawning rainbows 20 October 2015



9.6 Manorburn Reservoir Opening Day Angler Survey Results - C Halford

COUNCIL REPORT JULY 2016

Project 1122 Manorburn Reservoir Opening Day Angler Survey

Introduction

This report summarises results of the 2015 Manorburn Reservoir opening day angler survey and provides comparisons with previous opening day surveys undertaken since 2010.

Method

The lake creel survey methodology was used to interview all anglers by boat and from the shore and the standard reporting sheet was used to document angler and catch information with fish inspected weighed and measured. All survey information has been recorded on a data base.

Results

In 2015 70 anglers caught 96 fish for 242.5 hours angling effort providing a catch rate of 0.39 fish per hour. This equals the highest number of anglers interviewed with the 2010 season, and also shows a very comparable catch rate for both seasons in Table 1 below.

Conditions were calm for the morning which allowed interviews by boat to be carried out efficiently. Around midday boaties parked up and bait fished during their lunch session and later returned to fish from the shoreline on return to huts which typically occurs each opening day. There were very few fly or spin anglers present as the results indicate.

Table 1. Manorburn Reservoir Opening Day Catch Rate for 2010- 2015

Season	Total Interviews	Total Angling Hours	Total Fish Caught	Released	Catch Rate
2015	70	242.5	96	24	0.39
2014	59	223.5	63	23	0.28
2013	50	180.75	160	84	0.88
2012	40	157.75	172	109	1.09
2011	51	208.5	168	81	0.80
2010	70	284	109	33	0.38

Table 2. Manorburn Reservoir Opening Day Harvest Rate for 2010- 2015

Season	Total angling Hours	Total Fish Caught	Total fish Kept	Harvest Rate
2015	242.5	96	72	0.30
2014	223.5	63	40	0.18
2013	180.75	160	76	0.42
2012	157.75	172	63	0.40
2011	208.5	168	87	0.41
2010	284	109	76	0.27

Table 3. Manorburn Reservoir Opening Day Average Lengths and Weights for 2010- 2015

Season	Total Fish Kept	Average Length mm	Average Weight kg
2015	72	412	0.802
2014	40	419	0.858
2013	76	404	0.806
2012	63	403	0.945
2011	87	422	0.923
2010	76	436	0.960

In 2015 lengths were recorded from 60 fish with 35 of those inspected whole enabling their weights to be recorded. Of the total fish harvested n=72, 51% were either headed and, or cleaned and could not have their measurements or weights recorded.

2015 average lengths and weights are comparable with previous seasons but there is a slight drop in fish condition by comparison with previous seasons as indicated by length and weight data in Table 3 above.

Table 4. Manorburn Reservoir Opening Day Angling Effort by Method for 2010- 2015

Season	Bait	Fly	Spin	Troll
2015	43%	7%	3%	47%
2014	61%	0	0	39%
2013	48%	1%	10%	41%
2012	36%	5%	22%	37%
2011	16%	4%	0	80%
2010	37%	9%	3%	51%

In 2015 trolling was the most utilized method then closely followed by bait. N=30 (78%) of trollers used top lines with the remaining 6 anglers opting for lead lines and 2 anglers using a downrigger. Only six fly anglers and three spin anglers were interviewed on the day for 10% of the total angling effort.

Table 5. Manorburn Reservoir Opening Day Catch Rate by Method for 2010- 2015

Season	Bait	Fly	Spin	Troll
2015	0.35	0.25	0.14	0.46
2014	0.22	0	0	0.37
2013	0.45	0.50.	0.38	1.52
2012	0.87	1.05	0.85	1.42
2011	0.72	1.42	0	0.80
2010	0.32	0.24	0.94	0.43

Trolling in 2015 was the most successful method accounting for 54 fish (56% of the total catch). Bait followed with 37 fish (39% of the total catch). 4 fish were shared between 6 fly anglers and 1 fish was shared between 3 spin anglers, which made up the remaining 5% of the catch.

Of the 70 anglers interviewed in 2015, n= 47 (67%) caught at least one fish and they released 24 fish, (25%) of the total catch.

Table 6. Manorburn Reservoir Angler Licence Categories for 2010- 2015

Season	Family	Adult Season	Adult Day	Junior	Child Free	Loyal Senior	Local Area
2015	30 (43%)	22 (31%)	10 (14%)			4 (6%)	4 (6%)
2014	31 (52%)	20 (35%)	7 (11%)	1 (2%)			
2013	26 (52%)	21 (42%)	2 (4%)		1		
2012	14 (35%)	25 (63%)	1 (2%)				
2011	17 (33%)	31 (61%)	3 (6%)				
2010	32 (46%)	34 (48%)	4 (6%)				

Angler Origin and Licence Categories

In 2015, 70 anglers were interviewed with n= 62 (89%) recorded from the Otago Region. The remaining anglers were visitors from Southland n=2, Hokitika n= 2, and Christchurch n= 4. The high incidence of Otago resident anglers is a similar trend to previous seasons.

One angler represented in the Adult Day category had a short break licence and there was an interest for the Loyal Senior and Local Area licences which were introduced for the first time this season. There is a notable preference for day licences over the past two seasons as shown in Table 6 above.

Conclusions

Manorburn Reservoir continues to be popular on the opening day with regional anglers, and good catch rates have continued over the six seasons since 2010. Fish condition in 2015 was slightly down on previous seasons but most fish were in respectable order. Some anglers commented that fish size appeared to be dropping in recent seasons.

A full summary of results covering surveys from 2010 to 2015 will be prepared for distribution to anglers as an A4 handout Fact Sheet for the 2016/17 season.

Recommendation

That this report be received

Cliff Halford
Fish and Game Officer
July 2016

9.7 Poolburn Reservoir Opening Day Angler Survey - C Halford

COUNCIL REPORT JULY 2016

Project 1122 Poolburn Reservoir Opening Day Angler Survey Results

Introduction

Opening day angler surveys at Poolburn Reservoir have been undertaken since 2011. This report summarises results for the 2015 season opening and provides comparisons with previous surveys.

Method

The lake creel survey methodology was used to interview all anglers by boat and from the shore, and the standard reporting sheet was used to document angler and catch information. All survey information has been recorded on a data base.

Results

Conditions were fine and calm at the start of the day then a northerly wind picked up as the day progressed. Anglers were scattered throughout the various bays using the full range of legal angling methods which included bait, fly, spinning and trolling. Few fish were caught in the morning but the fishing improved around midday and into the afternoon.

Sixty three anglers were interviewed for a total of 140.5 hours angling effort and a catch of 54 fish. 22 fish were released. Of the 32 fish harvested 15 fish were weighed and measured and 7 fish had their length only recorded. The remaining 10 harvested fish were inspected cleaned and headed.

Angler numbers were the highest recorded since surveys began in 2011.

Table 1. Poolburn Reservoir Opening Day Catch Rate for 2011- 2015

Season	Total Interviews	Total Angling Hours	Total Fish Caught	Fish Released	Catch Rate
2015	63	140.5	54	22	0.38
2014	54	175.75	77	54	0.43
2013	26	98.25	86	63	0.85
2012	42	138.5	18	8	0.13
2011	40	97	30	1	0.31

Table 2. Poolburn Reservoir Opening Day Harvest Rate for 2011- 2015

Season	Total angling Hours	Total Fish Caught	Total fish Kept	Harvest Rate
2015	140.5	54	32	0.22
2014	175.75	77	23	0.13
2013	98.25	84	21	0.21
2012	138.5	18	10	0.07
2011	97	30	29	0.30

Table 3. Poolburn Reservoir Opening Day Average Lengths and Weights for 2011- 2015

Season	Total Fish Kept	Average Length mm	Average Weight kg
2015	32	431	0.860
2014	23	551	1.430
2013	21	491	1.415
2012	10	510	1.643
2011	29	532	1.617

Average lengths this season have been calculated from 22 of the 32 harvested fish and average weights calculated from 15 fish due to fish being either cleaned, or cleaned and headed.

The fish inspected cleaned and headed were on average in the smaller range and would have likely dropped the average weight if they were in a measurable state.

Table 3 above confirms anglers' comments that fish size this season was on average smaller than previous seasons.

Table 4. Poolburn Reservoir Opening Day Angling Effort by Method for 2011- 2015

Season	Bait	Fly	Spin	Troll
2015	25%	12%	23%	40%
2014	40%	29%	23%	8%
2013	58%	30%	7%	5%
2012	64%	15%	10%	11%
2011	30%	0	1%	69%

Table 5. Poolburn Reservoir Opening Day Catch Rate by Method for 2011- 2015

Season	Bait	Fly	Spin	Troll
2015	0.45	0.29	0.30	0.41
2014	0.25	0.46	0.65	0.61
2013	0.49	0.78	2.52	3.37
2012	0.15	0.14	0.07	0.06
2011	0.33	0	0	0.31

Catch Rate and Method

With reasonable early morning conditions trollers accounted for 40% of the total angling effort and caught 23 (43% of the total catch) achieving a good catch rate of 0.41 fish per hour.

Bait anglers accounted for 25% of the total angling effort catching 16 fish (30% of the total catch) but their catch rate of 0.45 fish per hour was the best recorded.

Fly and spin anglers at 0.29 and 0.30 fish per hour respectively showed that all methods on the day were successful.

Of the 63 anglers interviewed this season 25 (39%) caught at least one fish and of the total fish recorded, successful anglers returned 22 fish or 40% of the total catch.

Angler Origin

The 63 anglers interviewed in 2015 included 53 (84%) from the Otago Region, Christchurch n=6, Timaru n=2 and Invercargill n=2, a similar trend to previous seasons.

Table 6. Poolburn Reservoir Angler Licence Categories for 2010- 2015

Season	Family	Adult Season	Adult Day	Junior	Child Free	Loyal Senior	Local Area
2015	22 (35%)	19 (30%)	0	4 (6%)	5 (8%)	10 (16%)	3 (5%)
2014	25 (46%)	26 (48%)	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	1 (2%)		
2013	11 (42%)	15 (58%)	0	0	0		
2012	12 (28%)	25 (60%)	1 (2%)	2 (5%)	2 (5%)		
2011	19 (47.5%)	14 (35%)	1 (2.5)%	2 (5%)	4 (10%)		

Licence trends are similar to previous seasons with the Family and Adult Season categories the most common but it is interesting to see good support for the Loyal Senior Licence and to a lesser extent the Local Area Licence which were introduced for the 2015/16 season.

Two junior and two child anglers recorded on family licences have been summarized in the Junior and Child Free sections in the table above to clearly identify their presence.

Conclusions

Poolburn Reservoir continues to attract anglers on the opening day and catch rates this season were reasonably good by comparison with other seasons. Some anglers commented about the increased numbers of smaller fish and the scarcity of larger fish that Poolburn Reservoir is renowned for but anglers were most happy to catch fish regardless of their size.

A full summary of results covering surveys from 2011 to 2015 will be prepared for distribution to anglers as an A4 handout Fact Sheet for the 2016/17 season.

Recommendation

That this report be received

Cliff Halford
Fish and Game Officer
July 2016

9.8 Otago Region Mallard Monitoring Study - P van Klink

COUNCIL REPORT

AUGUST 2016

Otago Region Mallard Monitoring Study

Introduction

Mallard ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos*) were first introduced to New Zealand from 1870 onwards and their colonisation has been so successful they are now considered to be New Zealand's premier game bird. Soon after the initial releases, the mallard hybridised with the endemic New Zealand grey duck (*Anas superciliosa*) (Williams & Basse, 2006). Hybridisation has been so widespread that the mallard/grey duck hybrids are now largely considered to be one population.

Despite the success of early mallard duck colonisation, their biology and population dynamics have been under close scrutiny in recent years due to concern about their populations declining in some parts of New Zealand. There are many factors that affect mallard population dynamics, including weather patterns, climate change, changes in breeding habitat, predation and hunting.

Fish and Game Council's and universities have collaborated in spearheading recent research into mallard duck populations. As part of the research for Otago, mallard population monitoring has been undertaken to determine long term trends which are necessary to manage game birds sustainably. Accurate information on population trends will allow Fish and Game managers to make informed decisions when setting game bird harvest regulations. The intention in future will be to look at the relationship between the mallard monitoring results and the Otago hunter harvest and effort estimates which are sourced from game bird hunter telephone surveys.

Otago Fish and Game completed a pilot mallard monitoring project in 2015. This reports on the second year of the mallard monitoring study.

Methods

The methods used for the mallard monitoring in Otago are largely based on methodology used by Southland Fish and Game, which has been refined over the last three years. The Otago site selection criteria and methodology for selecting the sampling units (ponds and transects) is attached in Appendix 1.

The mallard monitoring aerial survey methodology follows;

General

- Counts are undertaken between April 07 and 17.
- An Otago Helicopters Robinson R22 was used for the survey.
- The pilot provided assistance in locating the sampling unit (pond or transect) with GPS and looking for birds where safety was not compromised.
- The shortest route between ponds and transects was flown.
- The weather was fine and wind < 12 knots.
- The survey was undertaken between 0900 am and 1700.

- Species other than mallards, particularly geese, paradise shelduck, grey teal, scaup and shoveler were identified and excluded from the count.
- The helicopter was positioned to enable the clearest view of the survey area.
- If birds were seen under trees or scrub the count was done when these had emerged.
- The helicopter could be positioned to slowly drive the birds from cover without making them fly off.
- When birds did fly off an estimate of the number departing was made and added to the total count.
- Groups of more than about 30 birds were photographed and the birds were counted on the computer using Microsoft paint. The paintbrush application allowed the user to count individual mallard ducks on the image which ensured that no mallards were double counted.

Ponds

- If there were < 30 birds on the pond they were counted manually otherwise they were photographed.
- The helicopter flew at a height so that the mallard ducks did not fly off from the pond but could be clearly counted or photographed.

River transects

- Main river backwaters were not surveyed if they were more than about 100m from the main channel, otherwise they were and included as part of the river transect.
- For the river transect the helicopter slowed to a hover over or adjacent to the willow lined sections so that the ducks would swim out to become visible to observers and therefore easily counted.

Cross country transects

- Mallards were counted within 100m either side of the helicopter as it flew along the transect.
- This gave a fixed width of no more than about 200m from the line of the survey.
- The helicopter flew at an approximate fixed height so that birds could be easily seen and identified as mallards.
- Generally the transect was undertaken at a fixed cruising speed but if an accumulation of mallards was found, e.g. a pond was on the transect line, the helicopter was slowed so the birds could be accurately counted.
- Birds were not generally encountered unless there was a water feature present.

The initial flight plan in 2015 comprised of 46 ponds, seven 10 km river transects and ten 10 km cross country transects (Figure 1).

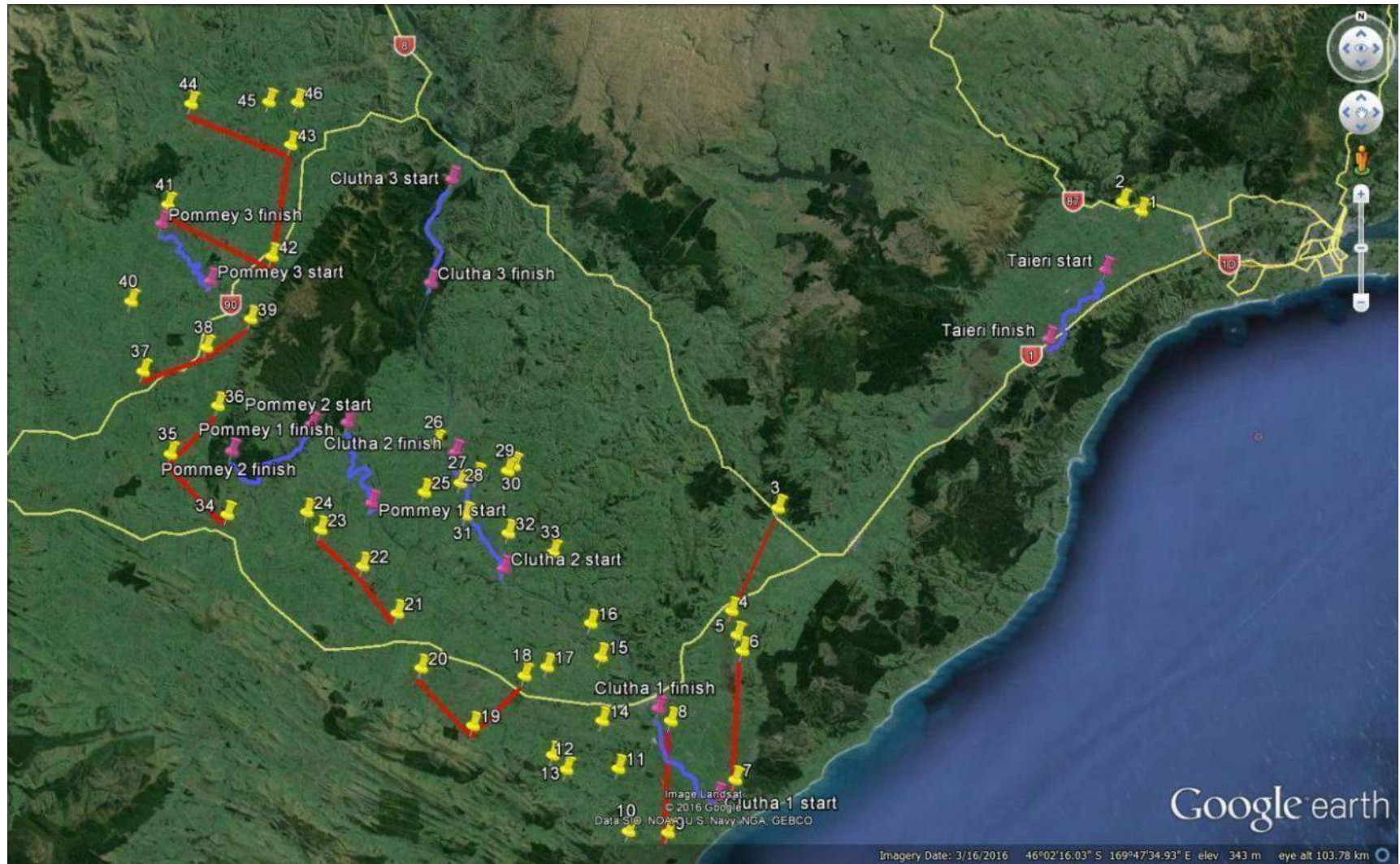


Figure 1. Otago Mallard Monitoring flight plan showing the original total of 46 ponds (yellow), seven 10km river transects (blue) and ten 10km land transects (red)

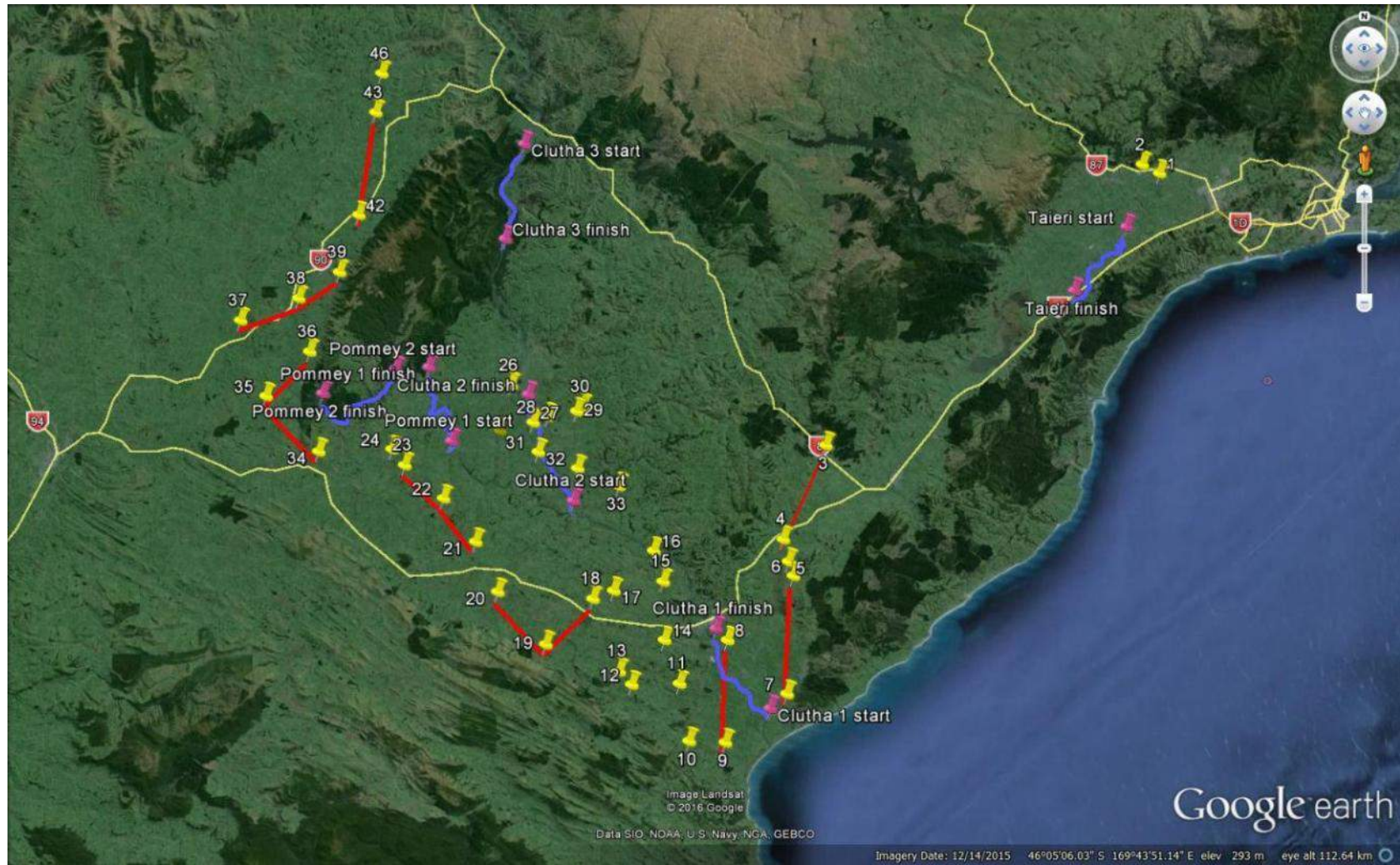


Figure 2. Otago Mallard Monitoring Survey 2015 showing a total of 41 ponds (yellow), six 10km river transects (blue) and eight 10km land transects (red)

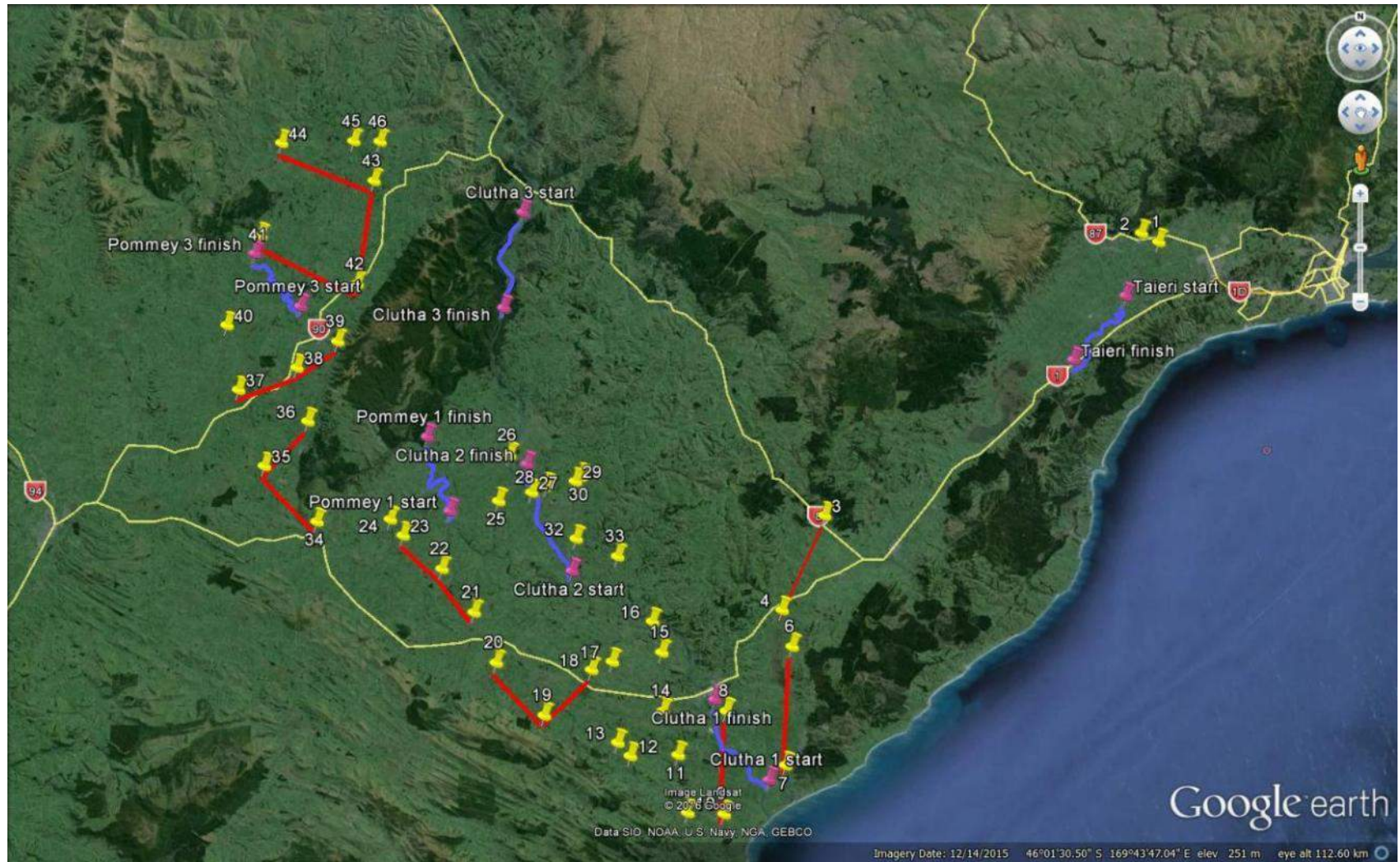


Figure 3. Otago Mallard Monitoring Survey 2016 showing a total of 44 ponds (yellow), six 10km river transects (blue) and ten 10km land transects (red)

Results

The number of sampling units (ponds and transects) surveyed each year has changed from the original number selected (Figure 2, Figure 3, Table 1). In 2015 approximately 90% of the flight plan was completed before the helicopter had to return to base to refuel. In 2015 an aerial hazard (wire) was identified on Pomahaka 2 river transect and it was recommended to drop this transect for safety reasons. A further 2 ponds were not completed in 2016 because they were identified incorrectly from the air and nearby ponds were counted instead (which have not been included in the results).

Table 1. The number of mallard monitoring counts completed in 2015 and 2016

	Original no. sites selected	2015	2016
No. of ponds counted	46	41	44
No. of river transects counted	7	6	6
No. of cross-country transects counted	10	8	10

A total of 5265 mallards were counted in 2015 compared to 5279 mallards in 2016 (Table 2). The number of mallards counted for each of the survey sampling units is shown in the sub-totals for 2015 and 2016 (Table 2). There were a number of variables that changed between the 2015 and 2016 surveys. Minor changes include; a different helicopter pilot and Fish and Game observer, a different number of counts which led to a different amount of time surveying (flying hours) and the use of different cameras for taking photos of mallards.

Table 2: Otago mallard duck monitoring results showing the separate strata (ponds, river and cross-country transects) and total counts for 2015 & 2016 (NC = no count)

Pond No.	2015	2016	Comments
1	2	0	
2	0	0	Dry in 2015 and 2016
3	32	148	
4	0	0	Dry in 2015
5	0	NC	Dry in 2015, wrong pond counted in 2016
6	0	157	
7	0	0	
8	44	239	
9	71	77	
10	17	0	
11	0	0	Dry in 2016
12	13	40	
13	3	0	
14	56	67	
15	22	51	
16	16	81	
17	0	4	

18	13	0	
19	35	20	
20	2	0	
21	0	6	
22	430	379	
23	2	0	
24	12	3	
25	62	0	
26	11	0	
27	0	0	
28	77	142	
29	0	6	
30	9	8	
31	0	NC	Counted the wrong pond in 2016
32	0	0	
33	26	6	
34	2	0	
35	0	13	
36	16	0	
37	3	11	
38	6	38	
39	40	10	
40	NC	284	
41	NC	45	
42	61	61	
43	0	20	
44	NC	35	
45	NC	0	
46	21	40	
Sub-total Ponds	1104	1991	
River Transect	2015	2016	
Taieri transect	1560	1408	
Clutha 1 transect	610	639	
Clutha 2 transect	225	63	
Clutha 3 transect	47	10	
Pomahaka 1 transect	683	736	
Pomahaka 2 transect	39	NC	Hazard -Wire across river, NC in 2016
Pomahaka 3 transect	NC	97	
Sub-total River Transects	3164	2953	
Cross Country Transect	2015	2016	
Transect 1	101	48	
Transect 2	182	26	

Transect 3	58	119
Transect 4	3	0
Transect 5	595	116
Transect 6	27	0
Transect 7	6	0
Transect 8	NC	26
Transect 9	25	0
Transect 10	NC	0
Sub-total Cross Country Transects	997	335
TOTAL	5265	5279
Total flying time (Hours)	4.8	5.4

Discussion

The R22 helicopter provided a stable platform to undertake the aerial counts which were completed successfully in 5.4 hours flying time. All of the original 2015 flight plan was completed except for one river transect (Pomahaka 2) and 2 ponds (5 and 31).

Large concentrations of mallards were noted on some of the river transects and a select number of ponds throughout the survey area (Table 2). The number of mallard ducks counted on river transects were similar between 2015 and 2016 whereas there was a lot more variation in the numbers counted on some of the ponds and cross country transects (Table 2). It is hoped that the number of independent variables that changed between the two surveys will be reduced in future surveys. Efforts will be made in future surveys to use the same observer, complete the original flight plan, count the same number of sampling units and refine the methodology to reduce variability.

The observers in the 2015 and 2016 surveys found it easier to count mallards later from landscape photographs taken in the field. The photographs taken in the 2015 survey were much clearer than the images taken in 2016. In 2015 a point and shoot camera was used and in 2016 an SLR camera was used. It is thought that the reflective light coming off the helicopter polycarbonate windows caused the SLR camera to have problems focusing which led to many of the images being out of focus. Fortunately most of the images were able to be used for counting mallards on the computer. It is acknowledged that the accuracy of these counts would not have been as good as the 2015 survey results.

As this is the second year of monitoring no inferences about mallard population trends in South Otago have been made from this limited amount of data collected over two surveys. The relationship between the mallard survey results and the annual hunter harvest for Otago has not been investigated. At the time of writing the annual game hunter survey results were not complete for 2016. However the opening weekend average bag limits for active hunters was 8.4 in 2015 and 7.9 in 2016. This data will be looked at in more detail once the mallard monitoring survey and methodology is refined and a meaningful dataset is produced.

Recommendation

That this mythology is repeated annually to gather population information and at a later point, be used to inform the Game Bird Regulation setting process.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Maurice Rodway (ex Southland Fish and Game), Zane Moss and Erin Garrick, Southland Fish and Game and Morgan Trotter for their assistance with drafting the mallard monitoring methodology.

Paul van Klink
Fish and Game Officer

July 2016

References

MacKenzie, D. I. 2016. Review of Fish and game Regional 2015 Mallard Reports. Unpublished report, Proteus Wildlife Research Consultants.

Williams, M., & Basse, B. 2006. Indigenous grey ducks, *Anas superciliosa*, and introduced mallards, *A. platyrhynchos*, in New Zealand: processes and outcome of a deliberate encounter. *Acta Zoologica Sinica* 52(Supplement), 579–582.

Robertson H.A, Dowding J.E, Elliott G.P, Hitchmough R.A, Miskelly C.M, O'Donnell C.F.J, Powlesland R.G, Sagar P.M, Scofield R.P, Taylor G.A 2012. Conservation status of New Zealand birds, 2012. New Zealand Threat Classification Series 4. Wellington, Department of Conservation.

Appendix 1

Otago Mallard Monitoring Methodology

Otago Fish and Game established mallard monitoring sites and completed a pilot monitoring study in 2015. The methodology for selecting the 46 ponds, seven 10km river transects and 10 10km cross-country transects was completed by Southland staff. The monitoring was conducted by Otago staff.

Monitoring Area Selection Criteria

Habitat characteristics;

- All land in South Otago was considered.
- Areas more than 200m above sea level were excluded to avoid surveying in hill-country which tends to be less favorable waterfowl habitat.
- Densely forested areas were also excluded due to the lack of duck habitat.

- Google earth maps were used for identifying the location of ponds, river and cross-country transects.

Pond selection criteria;

- All ponds >20m in diameter were identified and recorded in an Excel spreadsheet.
- From the identified ponds 46 “good” ponds were randomly selected.
- Ponds were deemed unsuitable for a variety of reasons, but generally because they were too close to buildings, were near places of common human activity, such as beside tracks or other structures, or they had been modified and did not meet the original size criteria, e.g. had been fully or partially drained.
- For the 80 or so unsuitable ponds, the next closest ponds that did meet the size and isolation criteria were used instead.
- On-going replacement of ponds will be necessary if surveyed ponds become unsuitable, which will be assessed annually.
- Ponds in excess of 20ha were also excluded because they are too difficult to count accurately and prone to annual variations in the distribution of birds.

River transect selection criteria;

- The upper limit of the transect count was based on known mallard habitat within the survey area;
- The total km of the river was calculated and 1 km potential start points were assigned
- Random numbers were chosen which was the distance from the sea (km) for the downstream start point for the 10km transect.
- Up to five transects were selected within the total distance of the river to be surveyed.
- To ensure transects did not overlap, start points were randomly selected until five 10 km non-overlapping transects were selected.

Cross- country transect selection criteria;

- Ten 10km cross-country transects were selected.
- The start points chosen were randomly selected ponds (as described above) where there was a minimum distance of 10 km between that point and the next randomly selected pond.
- This enabled the completion of a transect while flying to the next pond location, thereby minimising flight-time.

9.9 Otago Fish and Game Council Wetland Reserves - M Trotter

COUNCIL REPORT AUGUST 2016

Otago Fish and Game Council Wetland Reserves

Introduction

This scoping report describes wetlands owned or managed by the Otago Fish and Game Council and identifies future work priorities.

Council Owned Wetlands

Takitakitoa Wetland (near Lower Taieri)

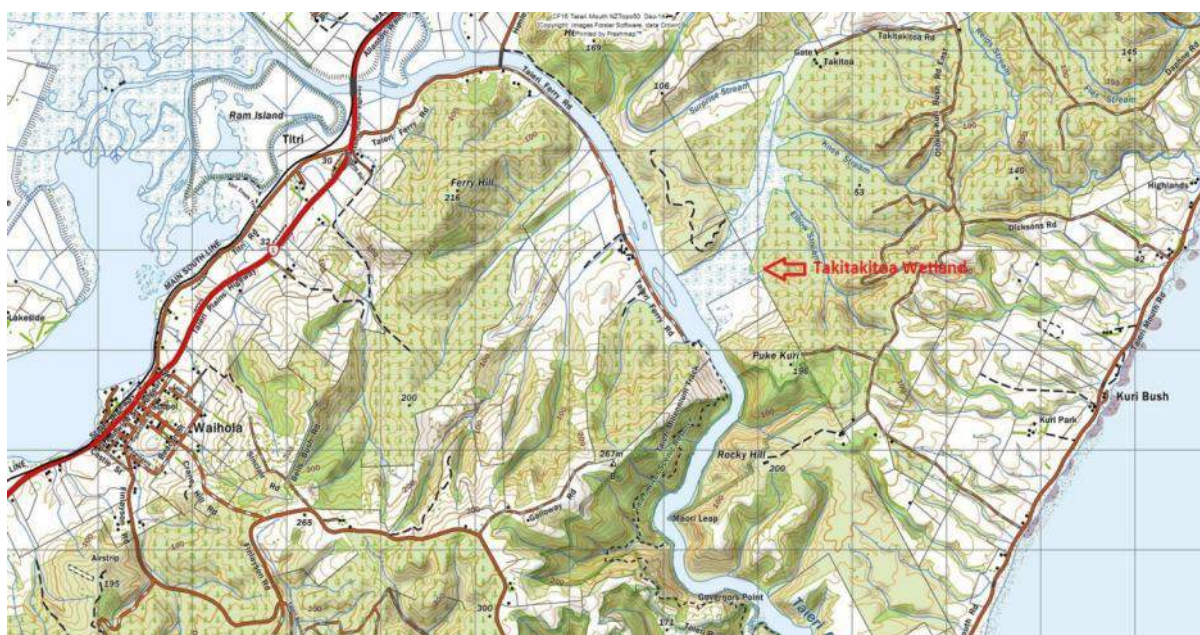


Figure 1: Location of the Takiakitoa Wetland

This 70 hectare wetland which is owned by Council is located in a side gully of the lower Taieri River (Figure 1). A significant restoration project is being conducted to increase surface water habitat (see Council Report June 2016). A bund wall with flood management options has been installed and the wetland which was historically drained is now beginning to fill with water once again (Figure 2).

This area is likely to become a very important wetland for resident and migratory waterfowl. Once full, up to 35 hectares of open water will be created (Figure 2). It is expected that the amount of surface water will vary depending on seasonal conditions. As water recedes during dry periods grasses will establish and then become inundated after heavy rain creating good dabbling duck feeding conditions.

Five new mai-mais have been installed, and once the wetland is filled these hunting positions will be prioritised for novice hunters. Last opening weekend one position was available and allocated to a novice hunter who enjoyed a successful hunt. Future management will largely

entail pest plant control, maintenance of the access track and water level management to maximise dabbling duck habitat.



Figure 2: Position of new bund wall and approximate location of maximum water level when completely filled.

Waitepeka Wetland (near Balclutha)

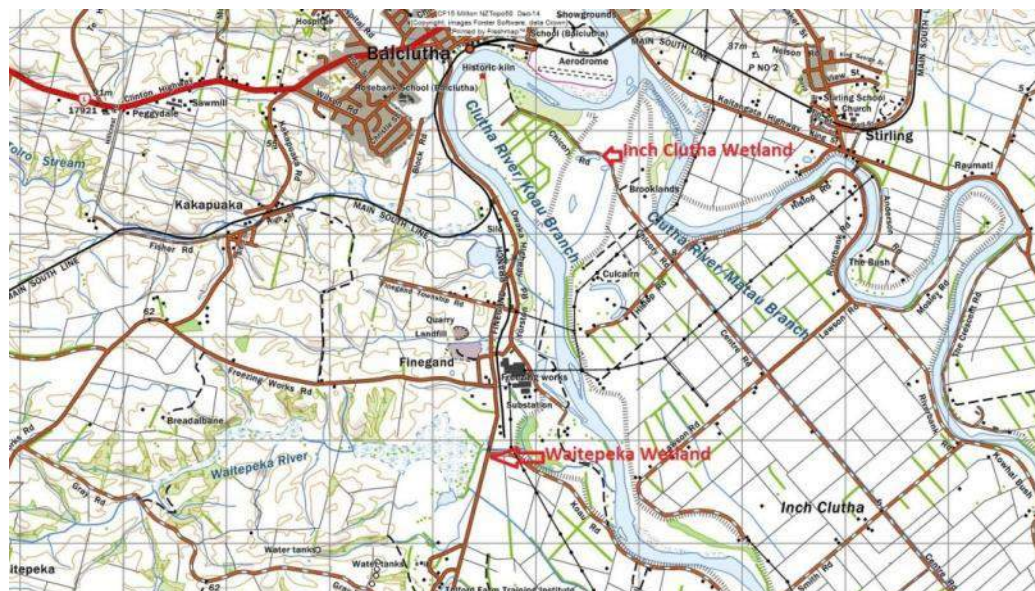


Figure 3: Location of the Waitepeka and Inch Clutha Wetlands

The 35 hectare Waitepeka Wetland is located near Balclutha (Figure 3) and is also owned by Council. It was subjected to an enhancement project in the early 2000s that was funded by

the NZ Gamebird Habitat Trust. This aimed to create areas of open water and initially seemed to have been very successful (Figure 4). However in recent seasons low water table levels have left many of the ponds virtually dry (Figure 5). The invasive pest plant *Glyceria maxima* (which has been present for a long time) maybe also be contributing to the reduction in open water by infilling pond margins (Figure 6). While it is a natural process for wetlands to eventually fill with sediment and become *terra firma* this pest plant seems to be accelerating this process. Willows, poplars and blackberry also present ongoing management challenges. In 2015 ORC contractors sprayed a significant amount of glyceria and willows within the wetland (Figure 5). An inspection in summer 2016 revealed that pest plant growth (including glyceria, black berry and gorse) was chest high across the majority of the wetland, making walking access difficult. To assist in the management of pest plants a stock grazing trial has been conducted in the western part of the wetland with the cooperation of nearby farmers Michael and Dave Inders. This involves light grazing during dry periods (outside of the waterfowl breeding period). Light grazing is not expected to limit nesting cover as the vast majority of the 35 hectare area remains very heavily vegetated. It is hoped controlled grazing will open some areas and increase sunlight penetration. The Inders have been cooperative with staff and hunter access to the wetland via their farm lane and are presently undertaking a major wetland project of their own.



Figure 4: Waitepeka Wetland 31/1/2002, not long after the ponds had been excavated during high water table conditions and shows significant areas of surface water.



Figure 5: Waitepeka Wetland 16/3/2016 during low water table conditions and showing reduced surface water (when compared to when the ponds were first put in). The willows on the right hand side have been sprayed. After the ponds were initially created, up to five different parties hunted the area. Last opening there was sufficient open water for two hunters (both novices). One obtained 12 ducks.



*Figure 6: The pest plant *Glyceria maxima* encroaching on open water habitat.*

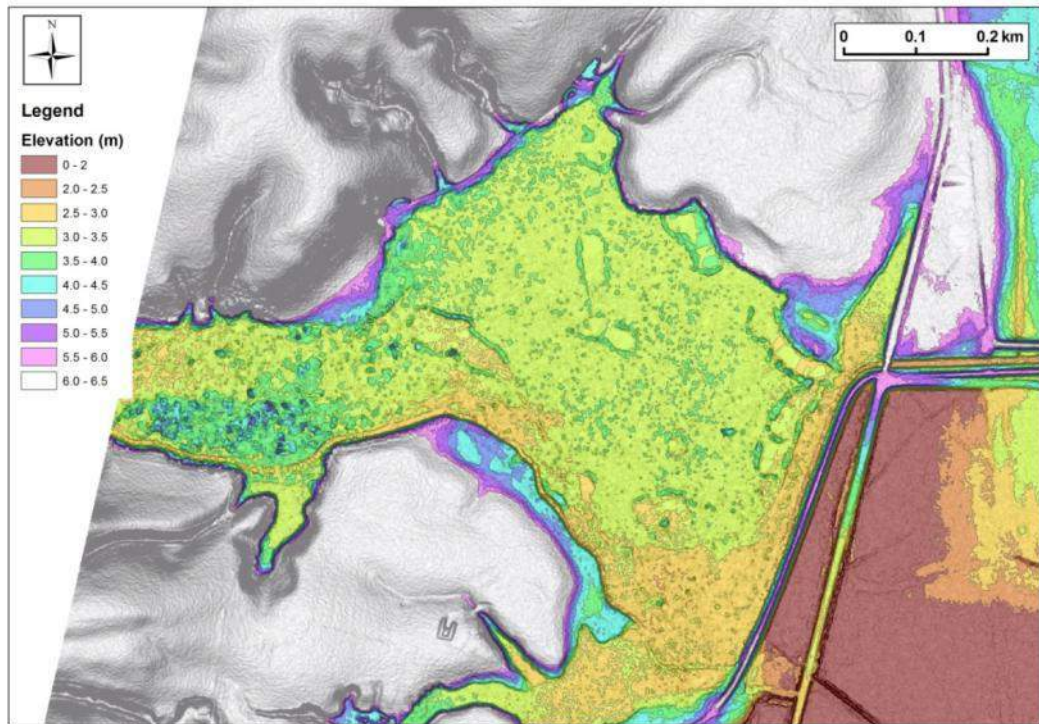


Figure 7: Lidar imagery showing the contours of the Waitepeka Wetland area. Unfortunately much of the wetland appears to be perched above the surrounding land (brown/yellow shades are the lowest elevation), especially when compared with land towards the south/east.

During dry periods a general lack of water reduces the waterfowl habitat values of the area. Unfortunately the site appears to be perched above much of the surrounding land (Figures 5 and 7) which makes increasing open water habitat challenging.

Potential options to increase open water habitat include:

- further mechanical excavation
- the use of explosives
- damming Waitepeka Stream to back flood the wetland
- diversion of Waitepeka Stream into the wetland.

Managing pest plants over 35 hectares of land heavily infested with *Glyceria maxima* as well as blackberry, broom, gorse, willow and poplar will be an ongoing challenging. The use of aerial herbicide when ORC contractors are working nearby is probably the most cost effective option. The stock grazing trial will be closely monitored and may become a part of the ongoing management. It is hoped that improved control of pest plants may also help to increase open water habitat.

Tokomairiro Mouth Wetlands

Council own two wetlands in the Tokomairiro Estuary (Figure 8). They are considered Regionally Significant under the ORC Water Plan. Values listed include high degree of naturalness, biodiversity and the presence of threatened species.

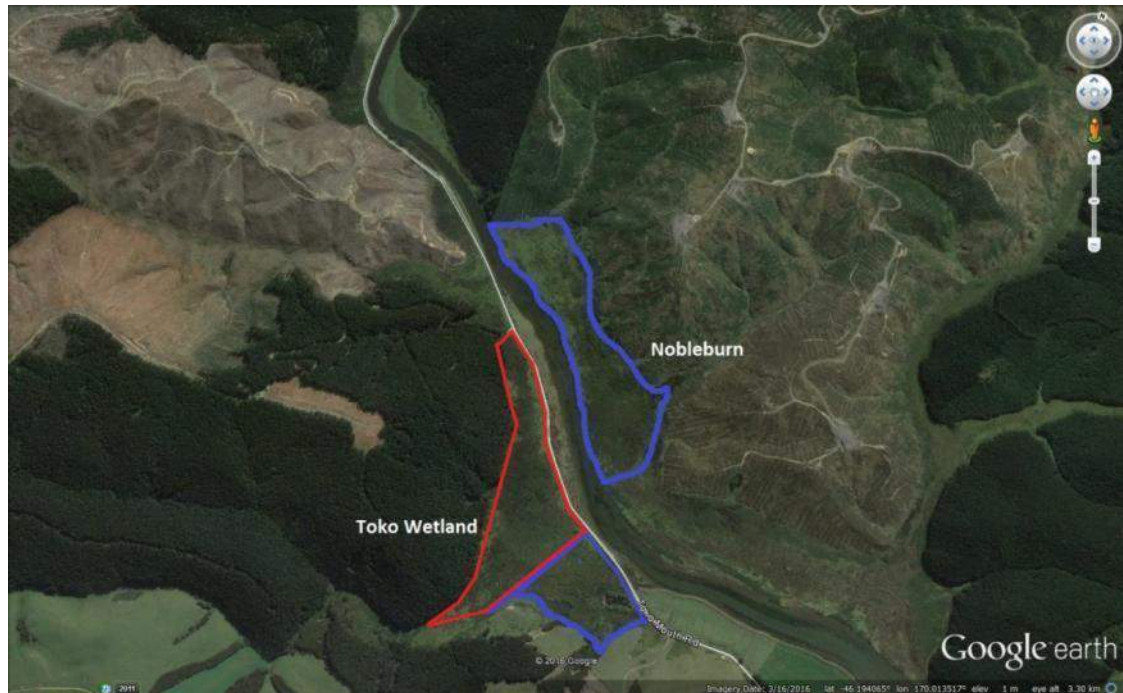


Figure 8: Lower Tokomairiro Wetlands owned by Council (blue lines). The wetland area shown in red is owned by City Forests.



Figure 9: The Tokomairiro Wetland lies in the foreground and the Nobleburn in the background.

Nobleburn Wetland

This 35 hectare flax swamp (Figure 8 and 9) contains very little open water (the river's edge is a marginal strip) but retains significant native plant and bird (fern and bellbirds etc) biodiversity values. Given the significant native biodiversity values present it is recommended that staff contact the Queen Elisabeth Trust to discuss long term protection of this area.

Tokomairiro Wetland

On the other side of the river from the Nobleburn another flax swamp of approximately 5 hectares is also owned by Council. It contains very little open water. This area is linked to another larger parcel of flax wetland owned by City forests. Two small ponds were excavated approximately 15 years ago by Fish and Game in cooperation local mining company. A new mai-mai was positioned on the biggest pond and allocated to some novice hunters on opening day, who were not very successful. The biggest risk to both wetlands is probably the spread of willows which require active control. This wetland is protected from development by a Queen Elisabeth Trust Covenant. A field officer from the trust has advised that some fence maintenance and willow control is required.

Waihola Wetland

Approximately 8.5 hectares of the western shoreline of Lake Waihola is owned by the Council. This is part of the much larger Regionally Significant Waipori/Waihola Wetland. Values listed include Regionally Significant habitat for water fowl, high diversity of indigenous species, significant hydrological values, high degree of naturalness and habitat for rare and threatened species.

The Waipori/Waihola Wetland Society has conducted a major pest plant control program targeting willows and poplars over recent years. It is pleasing to note the natural regeneration of native plant species along much of the shoreline. However pest plants will require ongoing maintenance.

Council Managed Wetlands

Inch Clutha Wildlife Management Reserve

This 15 hectare area located at Inch Clutha (Figure 3) is owned by the Crown and managed by the Otago Fish and Game Council. It is designated a wildlife management area. It was probably originally set aside as a wildlife management area as it at risk of inundation when the Clutha River is in flood. Most of the land is developed pasture, approximately 3 hectares contains open water and wetland values. Presently it is leased to a farmer (Russell Mosley). There is potential to increase surface water habitat by damming a swale/drain to back flood a low lying area near the existing ponds (Figures 10). It is estimated this would cost approximately \$2400 for digger works (1 digger at 1.5 days) and \$1000 for fencing (estimated maximum). The leasee has agreed to this suggestion.



Figure 10: Wetlands of the Inch Clutha Wildlife management area. The red arrows show where two new maimais were put in for novice hunters. One pair of novices obtained 46 mallards on opening day! The red shaded area denotes the site of a planned extension to open water habitat.



Figure 11: There is potential to create approximately 0.47 hectares of open shallow water by damming the outlet drain and swale

Otokia

This wetland is owned by ORC and managed by Council. It is identified as a Regionally Significant wetland under the ORC Water Plan.

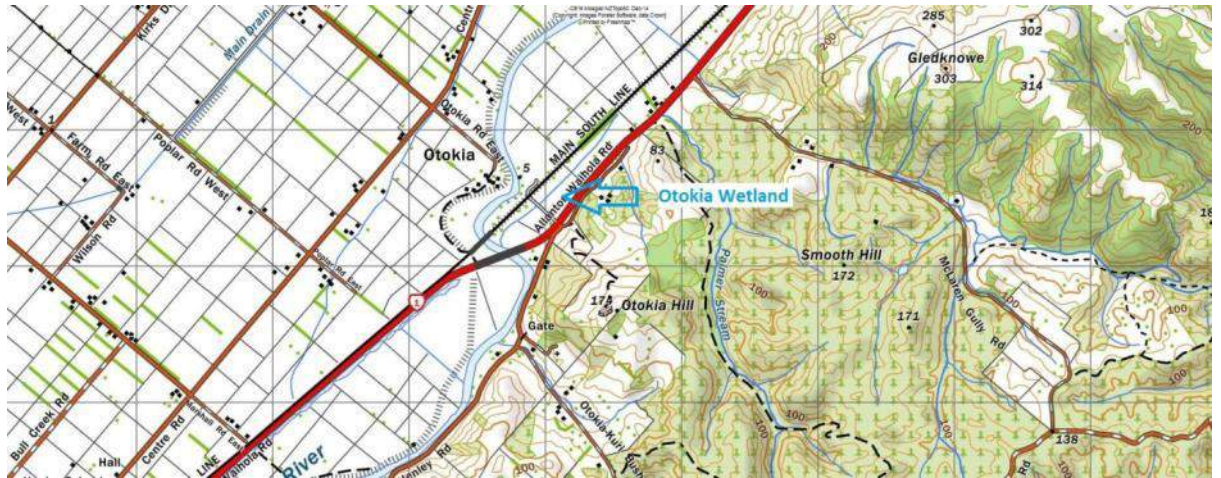


Figure 12: Location of the Otokia Wetland



Figure 13: Aerial view of the Otokia Wetland showing perimeter drainage (red arrows). The blue line is a small water catchment that could potentially be diverted into the wetland.

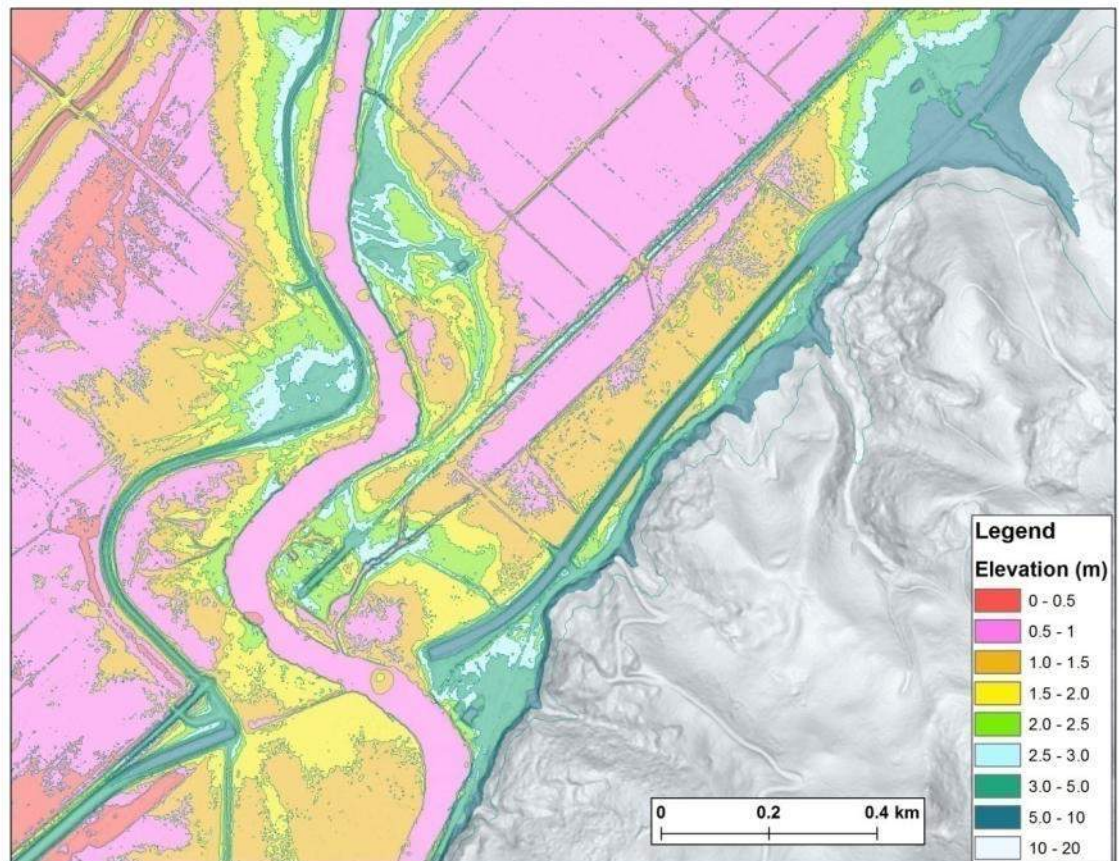


Figure 14: Lidar Image of the Otokia wetland area. It would appear that much of the wetland area is on higher ground than the paddock to the north (purple shades are the lowest elevation).

The wetland is flanked by open water drains (red arrows Figure 13) and during dry periods it appears to be perched well above the water table. When it was originally excavated the outside bund wall was intended to capture and hold run-off from the surrounding hillside. This could potentially be augmented somewhat by connecting another nearby catchment (blue line in Figure 13) into the wetland.

There is now some concern that the bund wall maybe leaking into the perimeter drainage (red arrows in Figure 13) lowering the water table within the wetland during dry periods. As this area is identified under the Water Plan as a Regionally Significant wetland any corrective earthworks would require resource consent approval.

Potential options to try and improve surface water habitat include:

- Reinstatement of the bund wall where it may be leaking
- Diversion of additional hillside catchment into the wetland
- Swapping the land area for a more suitable site (lower lying)
- Extending the present wetland area to capture the low lying paddocks to the north and associated drainage

Other Wetlands of Interest

Finegand Wildlife Refuge

This Wildlife Refuge (no hunting allowing) is located by the Finegand Freezing Works at Balclutha (Figure 15). Water levels were historically managed by a weir on the Waitepeka Stream. However this practice was discontinued after ongoing discussions (during the 1970s-80s) with the Otago Catchment Board regarding the legality of the structure and what height the wetland should operate at. It appears that over time problems with sedimentation of the wetland and the associated weir complicated the management of the area. There were also complaints from a nearby landholder regarding flooding of pasture. Water levels are now determined by the Waitepeka Stream height and the wetland fills periodically during flood events. This wetland requires ongoing management of willows to maintain open water habitat values. Willows are sprayed periodically by the ORC

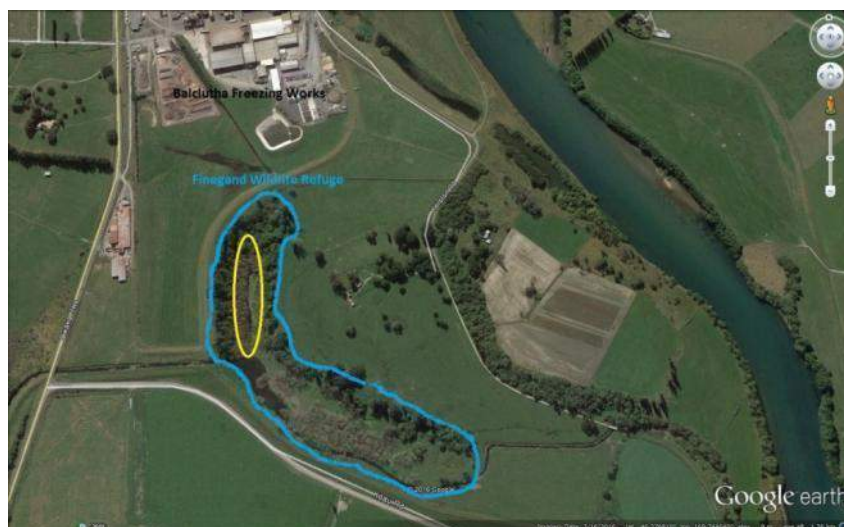


Figure 15: This shows the approximate boundary of the Finegand Wildlife Refuge (light blue). The willows in the yellow circle have recently been sprayed and it is hoped this will improve open water habitat values.

Hoopers Inlet

This small arm of the Hoopers Estuary Inlet (Figure 16) is designated a Wildlife Management Reserve and owned by the Crown. Fish and Game administer hunter permits for the area. However due to the presence of nearby houses and roads suitable hunting positions are limited.



Figure 16: Location (green area) of the Hoopers Inlet Wildlife Management Reserve

Fish and Game Covenants

Staff are currently finalising three Fish and Game covenants to protect and enhance wetlands on private land (see Council Report April 2016). A brief summary follows.

Taiari Scroll Plain

Two covenants covering an area of approximately 30 ha of the Taiari Scroll Plain wetland (Figure 17) are being negotiated as mitigation for summer irrigation from the Sow Burn. There is significant potential to develop and enhance this area which will be the subject of a separate Council report once the covenants have been finalised.

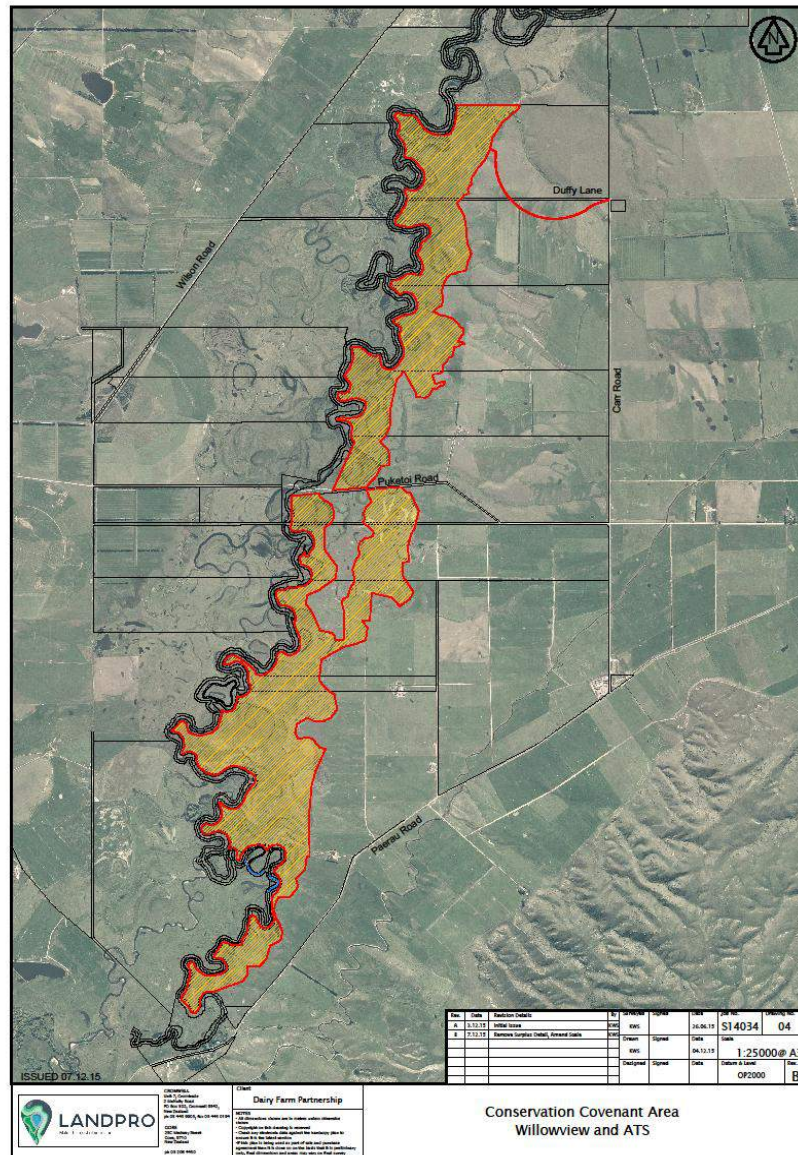


Figure 17: Location of the proposed Fish and Game Taiari Scroll Plain Wetlands

Lochar Downs Covenant

This covenant is to be located on the Lochar Downs property, which is on the true right bank of the Clutha River immediately above Lake Dunstan (Figure 18), and adjacent to the Bendigo Wildlife Management Reserve (status pending). The proposed covenant is approximately 7 hectares in area, and covers much of the catchment of a small spring-fed stream and flax and Carex swamp.



Figure 18: Approximate location of Lochar Downs Wetland

Bendigo Wildlife Management Reserve (status pending)

Approximately 153 hectares of wetland area located at the head of Lake Dunstan has Wildlife Management Reserve status pending. This area was originally set aside and gazetted in recognition of habitat values to be created prior to the filling of Lake Dunstan. However the gazette status was uplifted by Electrocorp in an attempt to permit the establishment of a hydro lake operating easement. Unfortunately the reserve status was never reinstated.

Bullock Creek Wetland

Council owned land at the Wanaka Hatchery site is to be set aside as a wetland reserve and covenant. This is to assist in the long term protection of water yield from springs that are the source of Bullock Creek. The area to be protected has still to be formally defined

Recommendations

- Potential enhancement options for the Otokia and Waitepeka wetlands are investigated and reported back to Council
- A protective Covenant is requested to cover the Nobleburn Wetland
- Up to \$1000 of HEF is funding is approved for fence maintenance of the Tokomairiro Wetland
- Up to \$1500 of HEF is funding is approved for willow control on the Tokomairiro Wetland
- Up to \$2400 of HEF funding is approved to increase open water habitat at the Inch Clutha Wetland
- Staff advance covenants in the Bullock Creek, Lochar Downs and the Taieri Scroll Plain
- Letters are sent to Land Information NZ and DOC requesting the reinstatement of the Bendigo Wildlife Management Reserve status.
- That this report is received

Morgan Trotter
Fish and Game Officer
August 2016

9.10 Confidential Habitat Enhancement Fund Application – M Trotter

9.11 Confidential Habitat Enhancement Fund Application – P van Klink and M Trotter

10 Correspondence

10.1 Minister of Conservation – Approval of 2016/17 Anglers Notice and Fees



Office of Honourable Maggie Barry ONZM

MP for North Shore
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
Minister of Conservation
Minister for Seniors

G04
15 JUL 2016

11 JUL 2016

Bryce Johnson, Chief Executive
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
PO Box 13141
WELLINGTON 6440

Dear Bryce

The Minister has approved the draft Anglers' Notice for the 2016 – 2017 season as proposed by Fish and Game in its submission dated 5 July 2016.

Please find the relevant signed documentation enclosed for your reference. An abridged copy has been sent to the Department of Conservation for record keeping.

Yours sincerely

Kayla Kingdon-Bebb
Private Secretary (Conservation)


Executive Summary

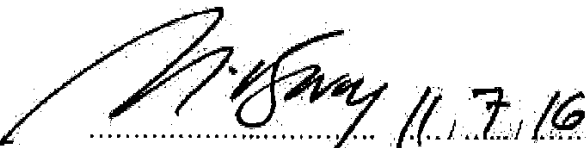
1. The purpose of the Anglers' Notice is to set out the conditions under which a licence holder may fish for sports fish in a particular area. Each regional fish and game council is responsible for determining sports fishing conditions, bag limits, closed waters and other details in its own region. The First Schedule of the Notice provides for fishing conditions common to all regions.
2. Northland, Hawke's Bay and Southland Fish & Game Councils propose no changes from the previous season, other than standard date changes and typographical corrections.
3. Nelson/Marlborough and West Coast both seek to designate two new backcountry fisheries and use the 'extra' fee generated from the non-resident licence to better manage those waterways.
4. Proposed general changes from other regions are unlikely to be controversial and involve adjusting:
 - (a) season length
 - (b) daily bag and size limit
 - (c) permitted methods and authorised tackle
 - (d) fishing boundaries.
5. The draft Notice has been considered by the Department of Conservation. In cases where key changes have been proposed, consultation has also taken place with the Department's relevant office.
6. Pages 3 to 5 that follow provide detailed background of this one page summary.

Recommended Action

It is recommended that you:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| | Minister's
decision |
| (a) Approve | the attached Gazette Notice for the 2016/17 Anglers' Notice for Fish and Game Regions by signing and dating the last page of that Notice. (yes / no) |
| (b) Note | that once signed, the NZ Fish and Game Council office will arrange for the Notice to be published in the NZ Gazette. (yes / no) |


 Bryce Johnson
 Chief Executive
 New Zealand Fish and Game Council


 Honourable Maggie Barry ONZM
 Minister of Conservation

- 11.3 All anglers who fish in the backcountry fishery (as defined by the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2016) must obtain a backcountry licence (as defined by the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2016) and the provisions of that notice apply to this Notice.

Controlled area

11.3 Definitions:

controlled area means the **Etrick Burn** from its confluence with Lake Te Anau to the upstream limit of Log Cabin Slip at NZTOPO 50-CC07 796753.

controlled period means the period beginning on 1 November 2016 and ending on 31 May 2017.

controlled period licence means a licence that entitles the following persons to fish for sports fish in the controlled area during the controlled period, but only during the day specified in the licence:

- (a) the holder of the controlled period licence; and
- (b) if the holder also holds a backcountry licence that is endorsed on a family licence, the spouse or partner, and if accompanied by the holder or the holder's spouse or partner and any member of the holder's family; and
- (c) up to 3 companion anglers named in the controlled period licence who hold backcountry licences, provided that the maximum size of any group for any one permit is 4.

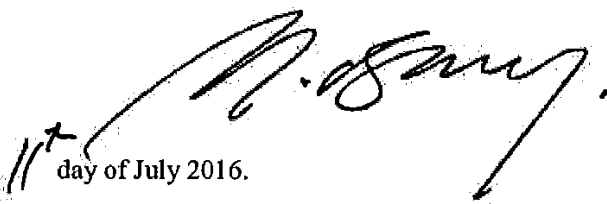
- 11.4 In the controlled area, a controlled period applies. All anglers who fish in the controlled area must first obtain a controlled period licence (as defined by the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2016).

12. WATERS RESTRICTED TO PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS

- 12.1 No person shall fish in waters designated as a "junior fishery" in clause 2 for this region unless they are a child or junior licence holder under the age of 18 years on 1 October 2016.

- 12.2 Waters this clause applies to is:

Lake Henry.

Approved at Wellington this  day of July 2016.

HONOURABLE MAGGIE BARRY ONZM
Minister of Conservation

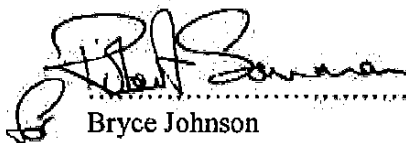
Recommended Action

It is recommended that you:

Minister's
decision

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------|---|------------------------|
| (a) | Note | the proposed 2016/17 adult whole season licence fee of \$125 (Fish) and \$90 (Game) represents an increase from last year of:

i. \$1 (incl GST), for sports fishing
ii. \$0 (incl GST), for game hunting. | (yes / no) |
| (b) | Note | The \$1 fee increase to the fish whole season adult licence means other fish licence category fees are adjusted accordingly (being based on set percentages of the whole season adult fee). These fees are adjusted to the nearest dollar, meaning that not all fish category licence fees change – as shown in the schedule on page 5. | |
| (c) | Approve | the schedule of proposed fees for the different <u>sports fishing</u> licence categories on page 5 of this submission. | (yes / no) |
| (d) | Approve | the schedule of proposed fees for the different <u>game hunting</u> licence categories on page 5 of this submission. | (yes / no) |
| (e) | Approve | the \$3 (incl GST) Game Bird Habitat Stamp fee for the 2017 game season. This represents an increase from last year of \$1.00. | (yes / no) |
| (f) | Agree | that the Parliamentary Counsel Office be instructed to draft notices to put in place the proposed deemed regulations for the fishing and hunting licences in this paper. | (yes / no) |


Bryce Johnson
Chief Executive
New Zealand Fish and Game Council


Honourable Maggie Barry ONZM
Minister of Conservation

**Schedule of F&G NZ's proposed Licences & Fees for 2016/17
(inclusive of GST)**

Sports Fish Licence		2015/16	2016/17	
Category of licence	Class of applicant	Current fee	New season fees	Fee difference
Whole season (1 Oct – 30 Sep)	Adult	\$124.00	125	<i>\$1.00</i>
	Junior	\$25.00	25	<i>nil</i>
	Child	free		<i>nil</i>
Family		\$161.00	163	<i>\$2.00</i>
Non-resident	Adult	\$161.00	163	<i>\$2.00</i>
Winter (1 Apr – 30 Sep)	Adult	\$74.00	75	<i>\$1.00</i>
Loyal senior	Adult	\$105.00	106	<i>\$1.00</i>
Local area	Adult	\$99.00	100	<i>\$1.00</i>
Short-break	Adult	\$45.00	45	<i>nil</i>
Long-break	Adult	\$87.00	88	<i>\$1.00</i>
Day	Adult	\$20.00	20	<i>nil</i>
	Junior	\$5.00	5	<i>nil</i>
Back country		free	free	<i>nil</i>
Controlled-period		free	free	<i>nil</i>

Game Bird Licence*		2016	2017	
Category of licence	Class of applicant	Current fee	New season fees	Fee difference*
Whole season (primarily 1 st Sat in May to 31 Aug)	Adult	\$92.00	\$93.00	<i>\$1.00</i>
	Junior	\$20.00	\$21.00	<i>\$1.00</i>
	Child	\$2.00*	\$3.00	<i>\$1.00</i>
Day	Adult	\$20.00	\$21.00	<i>\$1.00</i>
	Junior	\$6.00	\$7.00	<i>\$1.00</i>

* game bird hunting licence fee incl. the \$3.00 Game Bird Habitat Stamp

Notes:

- A **junior** means a person aged 12 years or over, but under 18 years at the start of the season
- A **child** means a person aged under 12 years at the start of the season
- **Back country** and **controlled-period** licence means an endorsement on an adult or junior whole season or family fish licence with special conditions for fishing specified waters.
- **Whole Season** for game birds can extend beyond the traditional closing dates for upland game hunting at the end of August, with special season conditions through to March/April in the following year for some species, eg. Paradise shelduck and Pukeko
- A **Game Bird Habitat Stamp** fee of \$3.00 (incl GST) is payable on all categories of game hunting licence and is added to the fees shown in the game hunting licence table above

10.2 Wanaka Gun Club – Letter of thanks for grant to support school clay target competitions

The Chairman
Otago Fish and Game Council
P. O. Box 76
Dunedin
9054

18 MAY 2016

Dear Mr Chairman,

I am writing to you, on behalf of the Wanaka Gun Club, to ask if Otago Fish and Game will continue its already very well received sponsorship of the Wanaka Gun Clubs Intercollegiate Clay Target Competition.


Our shoot is part of the lower South Island circuit shoot for secondary school clay target shooters. Our shoot is held annually on the first Saturday of September. The Secondary Schools Island and New Zealand championships are then on the first weekend of the school holidays in late September.

Our shoots are attended by around 60 secondary school shooters from Southland, Otago and South Canterbury. We run three DTL events which are 20 target single rise, 20 target point score, and 10 target single barrel. Then a separate event, a 25 target skeet match for the more experienced shooters.

The cost of the miniature trophies, medals and engraving is approximately \$390 and we would ask for you to please favorably consider continuing sponsoring this amount. If possible we also ask if a local councilor and or staff member would be able to attend our shoot to promote Fish and Game and help with the presentation.

We currently have a team of young Mt Aspiring students shooting on Wednesday after school. The head coach and I spend considerable time teaching clay target shooting. Our shooters will be attending all the circuit shoots over the winter before our own shoot in early September. We will have a team going to Christchurch 24th-26th September to contest the South Island and New Zealand championships

All these kids are very keen duck shooters and a few even go quail shooting. Our young shooters are taught all aspects of safe and responsible gun handling.

Kind regards
Fraser McGarvie

President
Wanaka Gun Club

992 Aubrey Rd
Albert Town
Wanaka 9305
Phone: 443 2408

10.3 Albert Town Rate Payers - Letter to QLDC about carp in Albert Town lagoon

P.O Box 1
Albert Town
Wanaka
hebbard@xtra.co.nz
1st July 2016

The Chief Executive
Queenstown Lakes District Council
Private Bag 50072
Queenstown 9348
Dear Mr Theelen,

At the recent Committee meeting of the Albert Town Community Association we discussed the problem of the Koi Carp which has been confirmed to inhabit the ponds in the Riverside Wetland Reserve and the Albert Town Lagoon. This fish species are described as an unwanted organism and a noxious species on the Department of Conservation (DOC) website.

A local resident and his son have actually helped DOC to get rid of these pests within last year or so by electric stunning and netting. They have observed a number of varieties, from goldfish (relatively small) to larger brown ones which grow much bigger (up to 20-25cm) and they believe there are large numbers of them in the wetlands. Their experience has found them to be a 'cunning' fish and difficult to capture. The brown coloured ones are particularly difficult to see in the murkier water. They have observed them actually going into the storm water drain behind McLennan Place and therefore dropping down to the Lagoon, so he wasn't surprised they have been reported being seen there.

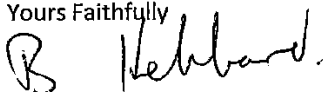
Our committee is concerned as after recent rainfall the Albert Town Lagoon is at its high level and the lagoon outflow is now discharging through the storm water system via the fisherman's access into the Clutha River.

We are naturally concerned that this pest could be established in Lake Dunstan downstream as well as the environmental damage they are causing within the Albert Town wetland area.

We are writing to you in the first instance as owner of the two wetland properties although the solution to this problem could be shared by other agencies such as the Department of Conservation and Fish and Game as they will have expertise in the eradication of these pests.

We trust you will give this matter your urgent attention.

Yours Faithfully



Bruce Hebbard

Chairman Albert Town Community Association

C. C: Councillor Ella Lawton, Rachael Brown Wanaka Community Board, Annette Grieve Department of Conservation, Mike Tubbs Department of Conservation, Niall Watson Fish and Game

10.4 Inderlee Ltd - Letter regarding water quality issues associated with fish-out pond proposal - CE to report

Inderlee Ltd
85 Halliday Road
RD 2
Wanaka

7th July 2016

To: Council of Otago Fish and Game,

On the behalf of Inderlee Limited we wish to thank you for sharing Dr Greg Ryder's report as we realise the commissioning of the report comes at significant cost to Fish and Game. We have found his report to be of great support to our project as it reiterates the professional opinions of both Ross Dungey of 'Ross Dungey Consulting' and Peter Decker of 'Mahurangi Technical Institute'.

We have taken the time to further summarise Dr Greg Ryders findings in the tables below.

Pond outflow character-averages	
Nitrate-nitrite	Dissolved reactive Phosphorus
0.9 mg/L	0.019 mg/L

Wetlands outflow character-averages	
Nitrate-nitrite	Dissolved reactive Phosphorus
0.025 mg/L	0.005 mg/L

The Otago Regional Council stipulates that these rates apply by 2020.

Discharge Thresholds Area 2 Catchments	Nitrate-nitrite nitrogen	Dissolved reactive Phosphorus	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Escherichia Coli
Cardrona	1.0 mg/L	0.035 mg/L	0.2 mg/L	550 cfu/100 mL

After viewing Peter Wilson's cover letter which was attached to Dr Ryder's report, we found a paragraph a little confusing and wish to clarify Dr Ryders findings. Peter states "The report confirms that due to the high stocking rates proposed for the pond, that the quality of water leaving the pond will exceed the environmental standards and limits placed on the is waterway by the Regional Water Plan. It is for this reason that Fish and Game encourages Inderlee Limited to assess and reduce the rate of stocking in order to ensure that environmental standards are maintained".

However, Peter Wilson has failed mention that the water leaving the fish ponds then enters wetlands before entering Cameron's Creek at which stage all nutrient rates are compliant with both ORC and QLDC standards (Current standards and New Standards as of 2020). In fact, Dr Ryder's finding suggest that we could possibly look at the option of higher stock rates in the future of the project.

(A more thorough description of this information is all available in Dr Ryder's report.)

Furthermore, it is clearly stipulated in our ORC and QLDC conditions of consent that our fish ponds will only operate in conjunction with the constructed and protected wetlands.

If you have any question or wish for further explanation, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Graham Lee

0272213345

11 General Business
