

Operational Report.

Operational Report – for the period ended May 2020

Prepared by: Dean Kelly – Manager

Introduction

The Council's adopted governance policies require the manager to provide an Operational Report, specific proposals for capital expenditure and acquisitions as well as major issues and opportunities for the Council. There are further requirements for the Manager to provide assurance that the Management Limitations are being observed. The format of this report is therefore to certify compliance with Governance Policies, Management Limitations and provide other material, responses or assurance that Council objectives, strategies, plans, performance, risks, operation, resources and structure are being met.

Notifications of intention to purchase unbudgeted capital items in excess of \$10,000

All regions including the NZ Council have committed to no capital expenditure over this period.

Matters for the information of council

Staff:

Staff holiday entitlements: Manager, 9 days
 Hokitika Officer, 16 days
 Northern Officer, 13 days

Vehicles:

Managers Vehicle: (start)77,525km (fin)79,862km. Total private for period:320km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle: MML 13,080km (start) 16,866 (finish) Total private for period: 544km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle: (start) 47,898 km (fin.) 52,899 km Total private for period: 524km

Bi-monthly report on outputs

1113 Spawning Surveys

Salmon Spawning surveys completed in the Hokitika River (Diedrich, Minnow and Doctor Creeks), Wanganui River (Amethyst Ravine), Lake Mapourika (Mummy, Redjacks and McDonalds) and Lake Paringa (Windbag). Very low numbers of salmon observed in the Hokitika and Wanganui Rivers while numbers of salmon observed in Mapourika and Paringa have increased significantly from last years counts. Spawning surveys underway on Taramakau tributaries. Good salmon numbers in the additional sites monitored but Clear & Black Creek have very low numbers in the first two surveys.

1114 Trend Counts

Both Pukeko and Greylard counts completed. Reports being compiled.

1115 Sportsfishery Research

Third round of electric fishing completed. Variance in recruitment success between sites becoming evident with last round of electric fishing. First spawning survey completed with some exceptionally large trout observed. Sonde remains in New River collecting environmental data.

1116 Backcountry Fisheries Management

Backcountry survey completed and report being compiled. Waiting on the last of the trail camera data. Attempt was made to retrieve camera post covid-19 lockdown but was unsuccessful due to serious track damage.

1121 National Hunter Survey

Survey lists completed for SIT to complete work. The first Survey has been completed.

1161 Fisheries Enhancement

MPI approval sought and granted for the transfer of salmon from Salmon Smolt NZ Winchmore Hatchery to Lake lanthe. Preparations made to complete the movement of the fish by end of May. Funding made available by Fulton Hogan as mitigation for damage caused at MacDonalds Creek spawning area.

1171 Regulations/Gazette Notices

Worked with Jack Kos to finalise changes to sportsfishing regulations and alterations to the game notice.

1181 Game Bird Control

Paradise Shelduck complaints continue to be frequent in the Grey Valley. Scaring advise given predominately and hunters have been organised to ensure they properties experiencing issues receive hunting pressure opening morning.

1211 RMA Plans/Policy/Consents

Resource Consent application received, and approval given for Oceania Gold water discharge and a dairy discharge for Nathan Molloy at HariHari. There are 5 pending consents seeking approval.

1212 Dairy Industry/Farmer Advocacy

Continued work building relationship with farmers that have been affected by the increase in the paradise shelduck population. We will utilise these areas to facilitate organised hunting in the gamebird season. Liaison with farmers increased over COVID concerns regarding access for the gamebird season.

1213 DOC

Liaised with DOC on the revised gamebird season and maimai erection on PCL. Consulted with Greymouth and Westport office about maximising gamebird hunting access. Liaison with DoC regarding work under Level 3 and access to the Mokihinui.

1311 Access

Signs checked during compliance checks and discussed hunting location options for new hunters. There has been no progress sorting the access and Gillows Dam with Orica. Have aided hunters with hunting locations as well as facilitated the hunting of areas where complaints have been received.

1312 Assisted Hunting

Additional locations secured for organised hunts, now awaiting covid-19 restriction review and budget implications to ascertain if these will go ahead.

1331 Website/Ezines/Social Media

Relevant material has been posted on website. Regular Facebook engagements have been done, focusing on promoting winter fishing and gamebird hunting as well as keeping licence holders informed regarding COVID 19 restrictions. Submitted West Coast Reel life for April.

1361 Clubs, Outdoor Recreation Groups

Facilitated a field day for Haast School kids at Paringa looking at Salmon lifecycles and helping with enhancement.

1371 Okuru Hut

Hut visited post Covid-19 lock down and lawns mowed. A Southland Fish and Game Officer and a researcher are using the hut to collect grey duck samples for a research project.

1421 Media/Communication

Numerous media releases have occurred over past two months keeping hunters and anglers informed of how covid19 has influenced hunting and angling as well as promotional material to encouraging increased participation/retention of licence holders for both gamebird hunting and fishing.

1511 Compliance

Angling compliance focused on South Westland area post lockdown while completing spawning surveys. Also targeted traditional and revised gamebird opening day. 3 staff were operating, 2 in the HariHari/Waitaha area and 1 in the Grey Valley on opening weekend. 1 angler was encountered hunting without a licence and with an irregular gun.

1531 Prosecutions

Two anglers issued warnings for fishing closed water.

1621 Agent Liaison

Liaison with agent required over invoicing issues and ammunition availability pre game season.

1841 National Liaison

Manager are meeting frequently via internet meetings with the rapidly changing financial and regulatory environment. Health and Safety protocols have also been a focus.

1927 Occupational Safety and Health

Attended staff H&S meetings. Review of field safety management plans completed over lockdown.

1980 Offices

The office is intermittently open when staff members are present with few visitors encountered. All have been met at the door with any interactions outside the building.

Staff Recommendation:

That this report be received.