

Agenda Item 10:

Operational Report – for the period ended July 2023

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 more than \$10,000.

The Council resolved to maintain and upgrade the Okuru hut as funds became available. The builder is progressing the flooring replacement, paint refresh, kitchen cabinetry and bathroom upgrades over the coming months. As the council was made aware at previous meetings there is ample budget set aside for the 2024 works but the majority of the costs may be due before the new financial year.

Matters for the information of Council.

Staff:

Staff holidays estimated (days): Manager, 15
Officer, 15
Admin, 0

Vehicles:

Managers Vehicle: (start) 26,581km (fin) 31,629km. Total private for period: 855km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle PSM: (start) 9,582 km (fin.) 15,682 km. Total private for period: 1,276 km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle MML: (start) 116,555 km (fin.) 120,456 km.

Bi-monthly report on outputs

1113 Spawning Surveys

Report completed and attached.

1114 Trend Counts

Swan report complete. Shoveler Survey being completed at start of August.

1115 Sportsfishery Research

Spawning sites surveys completed. Very low numbers of spawning trout observed. Sports Fishery Research report underway. Salmon management review completed.

1116 Backcountry Fisheries Management

Resubmission of the Designated Waters licencing regime to the Minister was required in response to questions about regional processes for allocating waters. In response only existing Backcountry Waters were included for 23/24. The website is up and running for the new system, the regulations have been updated and new signs are being installed.

1121 National Hunter Survey

Game Harvest surveys complete with a good response rate.

1161 Fisheries Enhancement

No wild salmon arrived at hatchery so wild mixed sex salmon smolt could not be produced and therefore, we will not be able to complete the Lake lanthe enhancement next year.

1171 Regulations/Gazette Notices

2023/24 Sporsfishing regulation reviewed and updated.

1181 Game Bird Control

Two crop predation complaints have been received regarding pukeko and black swans. An organised hunt was held to address the black swan complaint, with fifteen swans taken, and a permit was issued regarding the pukeko.

1211 RMA Plans/Policy/Consents

Non-notified resource consents approved or consulting on as affected party.

Applicant	Area	Type	Nature of work	Comments
West Coast Regional Council	Hokitika River	Land use consent	Stop bank behind WMP	
Gary and Geoff O'Connor	Caledonian Creek, Moonlight	Land use consent	Bridge Construction	Limited wet bed works, less favourable spawning habitat, and long-term benefit to the fishery.
West Coast Regional Council	Waiho River	Land use consent	River diversion for stop bank	
Mt Hercules Farm Ltd	Johnnie Walker (McColloch's Creek)	Land use consent	Divert and remove gravel from lower end of creek	
Campbell Agriculture and Contracting Ltd	Wanganui River	Land use consent	Rock extraction for river works	

Rough River Hydro is progressing their advocacy and seeking support from local authorities. We have discussed our information needs and are now planning to acquire the information to ensure this regionally significant fishery is not adversely affected.

1212 Dairy Industry/Farmer Advocacy

Assisting dairy farmer in the Mawheraiti Catchment to improve water quality and game bird habitat.

1213 DoC

Liaison regarding operative fishing guides in Kahurangi National Park.

1311 Access

Working with BDMA Revolution Ltd completing access mapping over the West Coast region. Boundary signs replaced on Haast Pass and at Lyell Fish and Game boundary. New angler access points installed in Grey valley and Inangahua Valley

1312 Assisted Hunting

Three pukeko drives held during winter game bird season in areas where complaints have previously been received. All three events had between 20-25 hunters attend, predominantly being West Coast hunters. Birchfield was a very successful event, with high success rates in good weather. Barrytown was challenging due to wet weather and a reduced hunting area due to pukeko numbers not being sufficient in some previously hunted areas. Karamea continues to provide great hunting opportunities over two days with vast areas with good pukeko densities.

1331 Website/Ezines/Social Media

Relevant material has been posted on website. Facebook engagements have been done, focusing on game bird hunting opportunities, organised hunts and promoting both barrels. A Facebook post regarding the Barrytown pukeko drive had a reach of 14,755 people, increasing public awareness of the valued game bird. Both barrels completed in June and July. All current council meeting minutes and reports have been signed and uploaded to the website.

1332 Fish & Game Magazine

2024 Sportsfish Supplement was completed.

1341 Sportsfisheries Guides

Looking into either printing our own how to guides and region-specific guides, or via NZC there is still a huge demand for them on the Coast. Working out best options for price point and ease of attainment.

1371 Okuru Hut

Renovations are progressing. Likely finish date early September.

1411 Conservation Boards/Iwi/allied agencies

Swan, Canada geese and Pukeko collected for Runanga cultural groups. Pukoe provided locally to cloak weaver.

1421 Media/Communication

Information to local newspapers regarding the NBEA and our Sportsfish and Game Management Plan. Attendance at National Fish and Hunting forum in Christchurch to align hunting and fishing groups for communications.

1511 Compliance

Compliance during winter months is ad-hoc with incidental angler checks, mostly at river mouths and hunters observed hunting on weekends.

1521 Ranger Training

CERT Training completed by Dan Scoltock.

1531 Prosecutions

One active case which we are working alongside the police who have their own charges in relation to the matter. The Fish & Game chargers are fishing without a licence and failing to provide their full name, date of birth and address.

1611 Licence Production & Distribution

Designated waters database website contribution and licence-holders lists for magazine distribution.

1621 Agent Liaison

Regular visit to agents. Frequently stocked with access guides, how to guides, child licence pads and excess F&G magazine in the office. New Designated waters information being prepared to be given to local agents ahead of the start of season so that they are well informed of the changes and implications on non-resident anglers.

1721 Council

Council servicing and reporting completed.

1811 Sportsfish and Game Management Plan

The draft plan was notified as stipulated in the Conservation Act at the start of the month. At the time of writing this report there had been few responses on the plan. Staff will collate the responses and amend plan (where appropriate) to incorporate submissions.

1841 National Liaison

Communication with other region regarding game bird monitoring, regulations and fishery management.

1940 Office Premises

Regular cleaning, maintenance and signage replacement.

1950 Office Equipment

Office equipment is regularly being upgraded and replaced where required as per budget.

1970 General

Increased licence sales have resulted in \$50k of unbudgeted revenue. Insurance premiums faced a big increase this year, in part due to higher replacement costs on the Hokitika Office and the Okuru hut. Talks

with NZC and other regions about buying power and negotiation of better premiums will be held ahead of the next financial year and budget rounds.

1980 Equipment

Staff reviewed field equipment and safety gear and replaced/procured new gear where required.

Staff Recommendation:

That this report be received.