

Agenda Item 10:

Operational Report – for the period ended January 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.

Chris Silcock, the Builder at Okuru has quoted approximately \$25k to finish the renovations to the Okuru Hut. At the December Council meeting the council resolved to complete renovations and update the hut as funds allow. Licence income is strong, and revenue is up accordingly. This would cover all renovations to be completed in this financial year. I am therefore seeking confirmation to exceed the Okuru Budget and direct the builder to complete the majority of works in this financial year

Matters for the information of Council.

Staff:

Staff holidays estimated (days): Manager, 19
Officer, 9
Admin, 1

Vehicles:

Managers Vehicle: (start) 4,189km (fin) 10,235km. Total private for period: 1,440km

Fish & Game Officer Vehicle MML: (start) 109,182 km (fin.) 116,555 km. Total private for period: 1,920 km

Bi-monthly report on outputs

1111 Drift Diving

Drift Dives completed at the following sites: Mawheraiti @ SH7, Mawheraiti @ Mirfin Bridge, Inangahua @ Blacks Point, Grey River @ Palmers Road & Grey River @ Waipuna. Dives have been completed using local volunteers and WCRC staff, with a large team of proficient divers now readily available improving the ease of getting dives done. Counts have been near to the 10yr average. Mawheraiti @ SH7 & Inangahua @ Blacks Point were well below average. This has been contributed to flood damage and disturbance to dive sections. Mawheraiti @ Mirfin Bridge was well above average, with elevated numbers of each size class. Both Grey sites were slightly below average due reduced numbers of small and medium trout.

1113 Spawning Surveys

Nothing to report.

1114 Trend Counts

Paradise Shelduck and swan monitoring currently underway.

1115 Sportsfishery Research

The second electric fish survey of our research streams in the Mawheraiti catchment have been completed. Despite challenging fishing conditions due to the low flows, the count was above average, with 115 being caught for the day. Afternoon water temperatures are reaching 24°C at one of our monitoring sites and downstream migrations are likely occurring as a result.

1116 Backcountry Fisheries Management

Trail camera monitoring occurring on the upper Grey.

1121 National Hunter Survey

Nothing to report.

1161 Fisheries Enhancement

An estimated 4500 wild-run Salmon fingerlings are being reared at Silverstream for release into Lake lanthe in April 2023. They are growing well and on target.

1171 Regulations/Gazette Notices

Game regulation review complete and the paper on discontinuing the exemption for .410ga shotguns is included in these papers.

Anglers will be consulted over the next couple of months on the introduction of the Designated Waters licencing system with feedback expected for the June regulation setting.

1181 Game Bird Control

Four paradise shelduck complaints received. Three permits issued resulting in thirty-three paradise shelduck being shot. The last complaint was addressed by providing advice.

1211 RMA Plans/Policy/Consents

Fish and Game entered national submissions on the NBEA, Firearms licencing fees setting.

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

Applicant	Area	Type	Nature of work	Comments
Manawa Energy Ltd	Arnold River	Water Permit	New turbine	Allayed concerns regarding turbine survival and impacts. Addendum to AEE to include sportsfish.
Coastwide Forage Solutions Ltd	Dobson	Land use consent	Diversion of a small unnamed creek	Heavily modified small stream, with no sports fish present when electric fished.

1213 DoC

No response/report provided from the Stewardship Land Review yet.

Liaison with DOC regarding drone use on public conservation land was required with a satisfactory approval for bird surveys now in place. Fish and Game had relied on verbal approval by local DoC staff whilst this approval was being processed.

1311 Access

A number of enquiries from anglers regarding river access

1312 Assisted Hunting

The young hunter club was utilised to address a paradise shelduck complaint.

1331 Website/Ezines/social media

All current council meeting minutes have been signed and uploaded to the website.

Regulation guides are also online for the current season. Relevant material has been posted on website. Facebook post have been regular, focusing on summer fishing opportunities and updating anglers on field work.

1332 Fish & Game Magazine

2023 Gamebird supplement completed.

1341 Sportsfisheries Guides

Agents regularly visited and stocked with guides.

1361 Clubs, Outdoor Recreation Groups

Staff ran a measuring station at Lake Brunner Fishing competition. Good chance for community engagement at a family focused competition. This year was the highest level recorded of junior

participating. Fishing Skills and Information session at Lake Brunner during the competition attended by approximately fifteen anglers. Basics of fly-fishing course held at the Taramakau on the 4th of December attended by eight anglers.

1371 Okuru Hut

Chris Silcock a builder at Okuru is stepwise renovating the Hut. So far, the Kitchen wall has been moved to incorporate a better kitchen and stove set-up. Staff and volunteers also painted the roof. See capital expenditure section.

1411 Conservation Boards/Iwi/allied agencies

Engagement with Tai Poutini Runanga regarding Sportsfish, and Game Management Plans, Ministerial Review Implementation and game regulations continues.

1421 Media/Communication

Media release regarding summer angling opportunities, heat and river flows. Regular communication with licence holders, with holiday period resulting in no shortage of visiting anglers.

1511 Compliance

Compliance has been a focus over the period with complaining completed around Lake Brunner, Reefton and South Westland. Five offences detected of fishing without a licence.

1521 Ranger Training

Regular communication with rangers and time spent in the field with Harvey Rubbo to ensure he is proficient to range alone once his warrant is issued.

1531 Prosecutions

Three active FWL cases with all three being offered diversion. Two Non-resident anglers purchased full season non-resident licences in light of failing to successfully obtain a day licence on the day there were observed fishing.

1611 Licence Production & Distribution

Minimal return of licences due to address issues. Seemed to be the website prompting a mailing address and people would only half enter one and this being the address used has resulted in returned mail. Website has now been updated to "only enter mailing address if different" so will hopefully lessen the issues.

1621 Agent Liaison

A few clarifications and licencing issues over the xmas period. Mostly changing of licence categories or details.

1721 Council

The AGM held in December at Greymouth went well and without any technical issues. Still awaiting paperwork from Councillor Taylor – Oath of office and declaration of interests.

1811 Sportsfish and Game Management Plan

A revised draft, based largely on the recently ministerially approved CSI plan, has been prepared and has been provided to local Runanga for consideration. A half day meeting to discuss the plan and re-draft for Council has been proposed by Makaawhio. We hope to get this underway in the coming months.

1821 OWP & Budget

Budgeting and planning for 2023/24 has been initiated.

1831 Annual Public Meeting & Report

Complete and attached. The Annual report was fairly smooth running this year with the Eyede Audit performed on-time.

1841 National Liaison

Communication with other region regarding regulations, sportfish research, drift diving and compliance. Consultation regarding the Designated Waters licencing system implementation is ongoing.

1927 Occupational Safety and Health.

See Health and Safety Report.

1940 Office Premises

General summer tidy and freshen up has begun. New sign for western side of the building is awaiting a quote.

1950 Office Equipment

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

1970 General

All bills paid on time, bank account is sitting at optimal operational amount now that the ute order arrived and has been paid for. Term deposit continues to perform well with rising interest rates, due to mature in March.

1980 Equipment

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

Staff Recommendation:

That this report be received.