

Agenda Item 10:

Operational Report – for the period ended March 2024

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.

Matters for the information of Council.

Staff:

Staff holidays estimated (days): Manager, 16
Officer, 14
Admin, 2

Vehicles:

Managers Vehicle: (start) 52,210 km (fin) 58,114km. Total private for period: 1,820km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle PSM: (start) 30,963 km (fin.) 38,731 km. Total private for period: 786 km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle MML: (start) 132,833km (fin.) 136,987km.

Bi-monthly report on outputs

1111 Drift Diving

Drift dives are largely completed with one possible repeat dive planned for the Mawheraiti River to assess change over the summer period.

1114 Trend Counts

Paradise Shelduck moult count and report completed. Swan monitoring currently underway, with final counts being completed during greylard counts in April.

1115 Sportsfishery Research

One more electric fishing day planned for Mawheraiti. Lower river trout diet work underway.

1116 Designated Waters Fisheries Management

Data being collected on Reefton Rivers as potential designated waters. Meeting with Designated waters coordinators fortnightly reviewing currents DW and data collection. Compliance trip completed into the Mokihinui River. See summary information as separate agenda item regarding sportsfish regulations.

1121 National Hunter Survey

Summer season harvest survey will be included with the opening season survey this year as the data collected is minimal compared to time spent conducting the phone calls.

1171 Regulations/Gazette Notices

2023/24 game bird hunting regulations have been Gazetted. Council will need to review designated waters and propose any changes for consultation with licence holders at this April meeting.

1181 Game Bird Control

Three crop predation complaints have been received for paradise shelduck. One paradise shelduck complaint was responded to with an organised hunt completed during the summer season. The other paradise shelduck complaint was addressed by wavering the requirement to be 200m from open water (but

still over paddocks and over 200 meters from a moult site) to allow hunters to hunt paradise shelduck during the summer season on properties that have crop predation issues near to open water.

1211 RMA Plans/Policy/Consents

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

Applicant	Area	Type	Nature of work	Comments
Walter Delany	Ngahere	Discharge Permit	Dairy discharge renewal	No issues
Henry Adams Contracting	Hokitika River	Land use consent	Gravel Extraction extension	No issues
West Coast Regional Council	Hokitika River	Land use consent	Lower Hokitika stop bank works	No issues
Buller District Council	Falls Creek, Karamea	Land use consent	Replace Culvert and install fish passage	No issues
Stephen Begg	Duffers Creek	Land use consent	Consent renewal for gravel extraction, works in the riparian margin & discharge of contaminants into water.	Re issue
Campbell Agriculture and Contracting Ltd	Tartare Stream, Franz Josef	Land use consent	Extract rock upstream of Tartare bridge on SH6. For flood protection works	No issues
Agri Partners Ltd	Waimea Creek	Land use consent	Diversion for mining, gravel extraction	No fishery

Fish and Game have prepared evidence for the public access portion of the TtPP. Our submission for this part specifically focuses on the recognition of unformed legal road access to waterways in the region.

1213 DoC

Consultation regarding game bird control at airports.

1311 Access

Access signage issues in the lower Crooked resolved. Replacement signage stocked up.

1312 Assisted Hunting

Young hunter club utilised to address a paradise shelduck complaint. Communication with landowners and hunters during the summer season to maximise hunting opportunities and aid farmers. Organised hunts for the winter season preparation are underway.

1331 Website/Ezines/Social Media

Reel life completed. Facebook posts regarding Reel life, sea conditions for salmon and the upcoming gamebird season opportunities. All current council meeting minutes and reports have been signed and uploaded to the website. The new website has now launched and seems to be a lot more user friendly.

1332 Fish & Game Magazine

Game Magazine address list was checked and provided to NZC – magazines were due to ship by the 25th March.

1341 Sportsfisheries Guides

Agents regularly visited and stocked with guides. Continued use of the West Coast Sportsfisheries Guides in South Westland as the visitor numbers seem to be on a steady increase. A boxful of guides was distributed to the area at the end of March.

1361 Clubs, Outdoor Recreation Groups

Staff attended and spoke at the Canterbury Power Boating Club children fishing participation event. Estimated to be twenty adults and twenty children present.

1371 Okuru Hut

General maintenance and utilisation by staff. We have implemented an online booking form and health and safety induction for use of the Okuru Hut that links directly to a live spreadsheet to track bookings easily. Bookings remain open to West Coast staff, councillors, and volunteers to the region only.

1411 Cons.Bds. Iwi, Allied Groups

Assisted WCRC by providing staff time and boat for lake monitoring.

1421 Media/Communication

Nothing to report in this period.

1511 Compliance

Compliance carried out focusing on salmon fishing, South Westland, and the Reefton area. Three non-compliance detected of non-resident anglers fishing without licences. One at Lake Brunner and two in Haast. Due to low numbers of salmon and the importance of lake fish for sustaining the population a sustained presence on the south westland lakes will be required over April. Gamebird opening compliance planning is underway, with requested assistance from the police.

1521 Ranger Training

Currently meeting with rangers and reviewing performance in preparation of the re-warranting occurring in October and CERT training occurring in August or September.

1531 Prosecutions

The three non-resident anglers detected fishing without licence have completed diversion.

1611 Licence Production & Distribution

Licence sales to NZ residents so far this season are below budget and last year's sales. Upgrades to licence purchases are being received more frequently.

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. West Coast Agents have been contacted ahead of the Game Bird licences going on sale, there was some disappointment in the delay of the Game Regulations being produced and delivered on time to the store ahead of licence sales going live.

1721 Council

Council servicing and reporting completed.

1811 Sportsfish and Game Management Plan

The draft plan has been submitted to the Hunting and Fishing Minister. The NZ Council has subsequently not supported the document and has asked the Minister to put the plan on hold. The NZ Council will be discussing the plan at their April meeting.

1821 OWP & Budget

The draft 2024 Budget has been developed and provided to the NZ Council for review. The workplan will follow once funding has been finalised.

1831 Annual Public Meeting & Report

AGM facilitated and annual report presented.

1841 National Liaison

Communication with other regions regarding game bird monitoring, Designated Waters, sports fishery management/research, compliance, budgeting and SFGMP's.

1910 Staff Salaries & Payroll

No concerns around leave or TIL balances.

1940 Office Premises

Regular cleaning, maintenance, and replacement of worn items.

1970 General

All accounts payable continue to be paid on time, all providers to us are emailing accounts directly rather than posting so this is also minimising delays. Accounts receivable are also paid on time where applicable.

1980 Equipment

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

Staff Recommendation:

That this report be received.