

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Central South Island Fish and Game Council held in the Boardroom, 32 Richard Pearse Drive, Temuka, on Thursday 20 May 2021 at 7:00 pm.

Present: A Brooks D Isbister
S Gerard L Koevoet
S Bannister C McKenzie
B Growcott A Simpson (Chair)
M Hall C Fulton via video link

In Attendance:

F&G Staff: J Graybill, B Dolan, R Adams, M Webb, A Christensen, H Stevens
Public: C Smith.

21-026 APOLOGIES:

J Henry and C Fulton (couldn't attend in person and joined via video link).

Resolved (Growcott/Koevoet)

21-024

THAT THE APOLOGY OF J HENRY BE ACCEPTED.

21-027 COUNCILLOR INTEREST REGISTER:

Chair queried if Councillors had any new interests to add to the register or any conflicts, or perceived conflicts, between their current interests and the business of tonight's meeting? C McKenzie advised he was an unpaid beater at Craigmore Game Preserve and B Growcott advised that he was currently undertaking contract work at Lower Waitaki Irrigation Company.

21-028 HEALTH & SAFETY:

Chief Executive pointed out exit points of the building and assembly point for evacuation of the premises in case of an emergency.

21-029 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 18 March 2021

Page 843 of the Minutes - 022.2 (Draft 2021/22 OWP).

S Gerard requested that the words "S Gerard considered there was sufficient time" be inserted after the second sentence in the second paragraph.

Resolved (Isbister/McKenzie)

21-025

THAT WITH THE ABOVE ADDITION, THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 18 MARCH 2021 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.

21-030 RECEIVE OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS:

Resolved (Koevoet/Brooks)

21-026

THAT THE OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS OF 20 MAY 2021 BE RECEIVED.

21-031 BUDGET AND FINANCE:

031.1 Financial Reports & Expense Listing (7.1)

Chief Executive gave Council an update on the CSI financial situation noting that fishing licence income was better than expected but it was too early to come to conclusions about the gamebird licence income.

Resolved (McKenzie/Brooks)

21-027

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE FINANCIAL REPORT AND RATIFIES THE SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR MARCH 2021 AND APRIL 2021 IN THE GST INCLUSIVE AMOUNTS OF \$87,812.88, AND \$141,689.37, RESPECTIVELY.

21-032 CHAIR'S REPORT:

032.1 Report on Ministerial Review of Fish and Game (8.2)

Chair thanked those that attended the informal meeting with NZC Chair, Ray Grubb and Brian Anderton. It was suggested that Council meet to discuss the Review report and consider what comments on the Review's recommendations Council might provide to the Implementation Group.

032.2 Sports Fish and Game Management Plan (8.3)

Chair thanked A Christensen for the work she had undertaken on the Draft Sports Fish and Game Management Plan and urged members to provide comments to Angela before June 18th.

032.3 Ngai Tahu Letter

Chair advised that he had requested Ngai Tahu's Statement of Claim from the High Court and a directions hearing was set down for 26 May 2021.

21-033 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT:

033.1 Anglers Notice 2021/22 (9.1)

Council was provided with a report outlining submissions received and staff recommendations for the 2021/22 Angler Notice. The following recommendations resulted from Council deliberations. These recommendations will be forwarded to the NZ Council.

1. Daily Limit Bag Hydro Canals

Moved (Growcott/McKenzie)

"That the daily bag limit for the Mackenzie hydro canal fisheries (Ohau B and C, Ohau, Pukaki – Ohau A and Tekapo canals) be two sports fish."

Moved (Koevoet/Bannister)

That the recommendation be amended to include "*Lake Ruataniwha*".

The amendment was put and declared **CARRIED**.

The substantive motion was then put.

THAT THE DAILY BAG LIMIT FOR THE MACKENZIE HYDRO CANAL FISHERIES (OHOU B AND C, OHOU, PUKAKI – OHOU A AND TEKAPO CANALS) AND LAKE RUATANIWHA BE TWO SPORTS FISH.

Rationale

Due to the difficulties for many anglers in species identification, understanding of current bag limit regulations and actively measuring their catch it was felt that a simpler set of regulations be introduced for the canal and Lake Ruataniwha. A two-sports-fish daily limit should be easy for anglers to understand and does not require them to positively identify species or measure their catch beyond the 300mm minimum size limit for salmon.

2. Minimum Size for Salmon Caught in Lakes

Resolved (Isbister/Koevoet)

21-029

2.3.1. THE DAILY BAG LIMIT IN LAKES PUKAKI, OHOU, BENMORE, AVIEMORE AND WAITAKI SHALL BE 4 SPORTS FISH

2.3.2. THE MINIMUM SIZE FOR SALMON IN CSIFG REGION LAKES SHALL BE 250MM

2.3.3. THE OPEN SEASON FOR TROUT FISHING IN LARCH STREAM SHALL BE FROM THE 1ST SATURDAY IN NOVEMBER TO 30TH APRIL.

Rationale:

It was recognised that anglers struggle to differentiate between any of the four salmonid species present in the Waitaki Lakes (sockeye, Chinooks, browns and rainbows) and that their identification is worse on smaller fish. A change to a “sports fish” limit rather than a “trout” and “salmon” limit is easier for anglers to understand and for rangers to enforce. A reduction in the size limit from 300mm to 250mm in all lakes in the CSIFGC Region was accepted to encourage and allow the harvest of smaller salmon. This regulation also allows the harvest of sockeye in years where the fish are smaller.

3. Upper Ohau River Spring Season

Resolved (Isbister/Growcott) 6 For, 3 Against

21-030

THE UPPER OHOU RIVER -

3.4.1 OPEN SEASON SHALL BE 1 OCTOBER 2021 TO 30 APRIL 2022

3.4.2 SPRING SEASON SHALL BE 3 SEPTEMBER TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

3.4.3 SHALL BE DESIGNATED AS A BACKCOUNTRY FISHERY

3.4.4 FROM 1 SEPTEMBER TO 30 SEPTEMBER SHALL BE DESIGNATED AS A CONTROLLED-PERIOD FISHERY.

L Koevoet, S Bannister and S Gerard asked that their vote against the motion be recorded.

Resolved (Isbister/Growcott) 6 For, 2 abstentions

21-031

3.5.1 ADOPT GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS 5. TO 13. ON PAGES 47/48 OF APPENDIX 2 IN RELATION TO IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE UPPER OHOU RIVER BACKCOUNTRY FISHERY AND CONTROLLED-PERIOD DESIGNATIONS.

Rationale:

The 2020 upper Ohau River Spring Season creel survey established that angler use increased notably from 2019 and it was observed that the fishery had gained an international profile through social media like YouTube. Anglers harvested very few fish, preferring to catch and release. It was assessed that left without further regulation, Spring Season angler use would continue to increase. To maintain and enhance the established values and satisfaction of anglers and the high-country fishery aesthetics and to ensure catch and harvest has low risk of compromising the sustainability of the fishery, angler use should be limited.

4. Season Bag Limit for Sea-Run Salmon

Moved (Isbister/McKenzie)

“If the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations are not amended to permit a season bag limit to be implemented for the 2021/22 season –

- 1.1 CSIFG Council and NCFG Council recommend for their regions -
 - 1.1.1 Retention of a daily bag limit of one sea-run salmon, and**

- 1.2 CSIFG Council recommends-
 - 1.2.1 for the Waitaki River, that the open season for sea-run salmon fishing shall be from 1 December to 31 March, and*
 - 1.2.2 for the Ashburton, Orari and Opihi rivers and the Rangitata River below Turn Again Point, that the open season for sea-run salmon fishing shall be from 1 December to the last day of February, and*
 - 1.2.3 for the Rangitata River and tributaries above Turn Again Point, that the open season for sea run salmon fishing from 1 December to 31 January, and*
 - 1.2.4 for Lake Heron, that the sport fishing season shall be from the 1st Saturday in November to 30 April and the minimum length for salmon killed shall be 250mm and the maximum length shall be 450mm [unchanged] and*
 - 1.2.5 for Lake Stream, that the sea-run salmon season remains closed [unchanged], and*
 - 1.2.6 for remaining sea-run salmon fisheries listed in the AN for CSIFG Region there shall be an open season for sea-run salmon fishing from 1 December to the last day of February.**

- 2.1 CSIFG Council and NCFG Council recommend for their regions-
 - 2.1.1 a season bag of two sea-run salmon, and*
 - 2.1.2 there be no daily bag limit for sea-run salmon, and**

- 2.2 CSIFG Council recommends -
 - 2.2.1 for the Waitaki River downstream of a line running beneath the power lines across the river at the Stonewall, that the open season for sea-run salmon fishing shall be from 1 October to 30 April, and*
 - 2.2.2 for the Waitaki River between the Waitaki Dam and a line running beneath the power lines across the river at the Stonewall, or in any tributary of that part of the river, that the open season for sea-run salmon fishing shall be from 1 October to 31 March, and*
 - 2.2.3 for the Rangitata River below Turn Again Point, that the open**

- season for sea-run salmon fishing shall be from 1 October to 30 April, and*
- 2.2.4 *for the Rangitata River and tributaries above Turn Again Point, that the open season for sea-run salmon fishing shall be from 1 October to last day of February, and*
- 2.2.5 *for the Ashburton, Orari and Opihi rivers, that the open season for sea-run salmon fishing shall be from 1 October to 30 April, and*
- 2.2.7 *for Lake Heron, that the sport fishing season shall be from the 1st Saturday in November to 30 April and the minimum length for salmon killed shall be 250mm and the maximum length shall be 450mm [unchanged] and*
- 2.2.7 *for Lake Stream that the sea-run salmon season remains closed [unchanged], and*
- 2.2.8 *for remaining fisheries listed in the AN for CSIFG Region with sea-run salmon fisheries, there shall be an open season for sea-run salmon fishing from 1 October to 30 April."*

The Motion was put and declared **LOST**. 4 for, 5 against.

After some discussion and clarification, it became apparent that some Councillors were confused as to what they were voting for, and it was not their intention to vote against a season bag. It was therefore agreed that Council suspend Standing Orders to allow a new vote.

Resolved (Bannister/Hall)

21-032

THAT STANDING ORDERS BE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED (AS PROVIDED BY S.O. 1.2.5) DUE TO A NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS NOT UNDERSTANDING THE CONTENT OF THE RESOLUTION THAT THEY WERE VOTING ON.

Resolved (McKenzie/Growcott)

21-033

IF THE FRESHWATER FISHERIES REGULATIONS ARE NOT AMENDED TO PERMIT A SEASON BAG LIMIT TO BE IMPLEMENTED FOR THE 2021/22 SEASON –

- 1.1 CSIFG COUNCIL AND NCFG COUNCIL RECOMMEND FOR THEIR REGIONS -**
- 1.1.1 RETENTION OF A DAILY BAG LIMIT OF ONE SEA-RUN SALMON, AND**
- 1.2 CSIFG COUNCIL RECOMMENDS-**
- 1.2.1 FOR THE WAITAKI RIVER, THAT THE OPEN SEASON FOR SEA-RUN SALMON FISHING SHALL BE FROM 1 DECEMBER TO 31 MARCH, AND**
- 1.2.2 FOR THE ASHBURTON, ORARI AND OPIHI RIVERS AND THE RANGITATA RIVER BELOW TURN AGAIN POINT, THAT THE OPEN SEASON FOR SEA-RUN SALMON FISHING SHALL BE FROM 1 DECEMBER TO THE LAST DAY OF FEBRUARY, AND**
- 1.2.3 FOR THE RANGITATA RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES ABOVE TURN AGAIN POINT, THAT THE OPEN SEASON FOR SEA RUN SALMON FISHING FROM 1 DECEMBER TO 31 JANUARY, AND**

- 1.2.4 FOR LAKE HERON, THAT THE SPORT FISHING SEASON SHALL BE FROM THE 1ST SATURDAY IN NOVEMBER TO 30 APRIL AND THE MINIMUM LENGTH FOR SALMON KILLED SHALL BE 250MM AND THE MAXIMUM LENGTH SHALL BE 450MM [UNCHANGED] AND
- 1.2.5 FOR LAKE STREAM, THAT THE SEA-RUN SALMON SEASON REMAINS CLOSED [UNCHANGED], AND
- 1.2.6 FOR REMAINING SEA-RUN SALMON FISHERIES LISTED IN THE AN FOR CSIFG REGION THERE SHALL BE AN OPEN SEASON FOR SEA-RUN SALMON FISHING FROM 1 DECEMBER TO THE LAST DAY OF FEBRUARY.

Resolved (McKenzie/Growcott) 7 For, 1 Against

21-034

IF THE FRESHWATER FISHERIES REGULATIONS 1983 ARE AMENDED TO PERMIT A SEASON BAG LIMIT TO BE IMPLEMENTED FOR THE 2021/22 SEASON,

- 2.1 CSIFG COUNCIL AND NCFG COUNCIL RECOMMEND FOR THEIR REGIONS-
 - 2.1.1 A SEASON BAG OF TWO SEA-RUN SALMON, AND
 - 2.1.2 THERE BE NO DAILY BAG LIMIT FOR SEA-RUN SALMON, AND
- 2.2 CSIFG COUNCIL RECOMMENDS -
 - 2.2.1 FOR THE WAITAKI RIVER DOWNSTREAM OF A LINE RUNNING BENEATH THE POWER LINES ACROSS THE RIVER AT THE STONEWALL, THAT THE OPEN SEASON FOR SEA-RUN SALMON FISHING SHALL BE FROM 1 OCTOBER TO 30 APRIL, AND
 - 2.2.2 FOR THE WAITAKI RIVER BETWEEN THE WAITAKI DAM AND A LINE RUNNING BENEATH THE POWER LINES ACROSS THE RIVER AT THE STONEWALL, OR IN ANY TRIBUTARY OF THAT PART OF THE RIVER, THAT THE OPEN SEASON FOR SEA-RUN SALMON FISHING SHALL BE FROM 1 OCTOBER TO 31 MARCH, AND
 - 2.2.3 FOR THE RANGITATA RIVER BELOW TURN AGAIN POINT, THAT THE OPEN SEASON FOR SEA-RUN SALMON FISHING SHALL BE FROM 1 OCTOBER TO 30 APRIL, AND
 - 2.2.4 FOR THE RANGITATA RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES ABOVE TURN AGAIN POINT, THAT THE OPEN SEASON FOR SEA-RUN SALMON FISHING SHALL BE FROM 1 OCTOBER TO LAST DAY OF FEBRUARY, AND
 - 2.2.5 FOR THE ASHBURTON, ORARI AND OPIHI RIVERS, THAT THE OPEN SEASON FOR SEA-RUN SALMON FISHING SHALL BE FROM 1 OCTOBER TO 30 APRIL, AND
 - 2.2.7 FOR LAKE HERON, THAT THE SPORT FISHING SEASON SHALL BE FROM THE 1ST SATURDAY IN NOVEMBER TO 30 APRIL AND THE MINIMUM LENGTH FOR SALMON KILLED SHALL BE 250MM AND THE MAXIMUM LENGTH SHALL BE 450MM [UNCHANGED] AND
 - 2.2.7 FOR LAKE STREAM THAT THE SEA-RUN SALMON SEASON REMAINS CLOSED [UNCHANGED], AND

2.2.8 FOR REMAINING FISHERIES LISTED IN THE AN FOR CSIFG REGION WITH SEA-RUN SALMON FISHERIES, THERE SHALL BE AN OPEN SEASON FOR SEA-RUN SALMON FISHING FROM 1 OCTOBER TO 30 APRIL.

Rationale:

If a season bag limit is available, it should be implemented across CSIFG sea-run fisheries at a limit of two sea-run salmon. A season bag of two is considered a sufficiently increased restriction on harvest that a daily bag limit of one and reductions of the open season outside 1 October to 30 April are not required except for protection of upper Rangitata River spawning areas.

5. Night Fishing on the Hydro Canals

Resolved (Isbister/Growcott) 4 for, 1 against, 3 abstentions

21-035

5.4.1 THAT THERE BE NO CHANGE TO FISHING HOURS FOR THE HYDRO CANALS.

Resolved (Growcott/Koevoet)

21-036

5.4.2 STAFF TO MONITOR ANGLER BEHAVIOUR ON 10 RANDOM AND TARGETED NIGHTS OVER THE 1 OCTOBER 2021 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2022 SEASON WITH TIME AND BUDGET TO BE PROVIDED IN THE 2021/22 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN. SUMMARY REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE PROVIDED TO COUNCIL FOR ANGLER NOTICE CONSIDERATION IN MAY 2023.

Rationale:

CSIFG holds no information on the prevalence of night fishing on the canals; how the catch rate and harvest compare to daylight fishing; and how current nighttime activity may impact on the change-of-light experience. Before making any decision on the future of night fishing on the canals it was felt advisable for staff to undertake nighttime angling surveys.

033.2 2021/22 Operational Work Plan (9.3)

Resolved (Growcott/Koevoet)

21-037

THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE OWP FOR THE 2021/2022 FINANCIAL YEAR.

S Gerard asked that his vote against the motion be recorded.

033.3 Draft Sports Fish and Game Management Plan (9.4)

Resolved (Koevoet/Growcott)

21-038

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVE THE DRAFT SPORTS FISH AND GAME MANAGEMENT PLAN AND APPROVE THE DRAFT SPORTS FISH AND GAME MANAGEMENT PLAN TIMETABLE.

Chair emphasized that the Sports Fish and Game Management Plan is an important document for Council, as it's a blueprint for the next 10 years. He asked that Councillors

give it attention and provide their comments to Angela before June 18th, to enable Council to comply with the timetable under the *Conservation Act*.

033.4 2021/22 Licence Fee Recommendation (9.5)

D Isbister declared his conflict as a NZ Councillor and advised that he would abstain from voting on the licence fee.

Resolved (Hall/Growcott)

21-039

THAT THE CSI COUNCIL SUPPORTS A 2021/22 ADULT WHOLE SEASON SPORTS FISHING LICENCE FEE OF \$137 AND A 2022 ADULT WHOLE SEASON GAME LICENCE FEE OF \$100 (INCLUSIVE OF A \$4 FEE FOR THE GAMEBIRD HABITAT STAMP) INCLUSIVE OF GST.

Further, Council discussed the licence fee for non-resident fishing licences and considered that the fee should be higher than the current non-resident licence ratio allows. It was **AGREED** that a note be added to the letter, advising NZ Council of CSI's decision on the licence fee, to encourage NZC to raise the non-resident licence fee by reviewing and changing the current ratio.

033.5 Saturday-ising Fish Season Opening (9.6)

Council considered a paper from the Eastern Fish and Game Region that promotes Saturday-ising the opening of the fishing season across the whole of Fish and Game.

Resolved (Growcott/Koevoet)

21-040

THAT THE CSI COUNCIL DOES NOT SUPPORT A NATIONALLY STANDARD FISHING SEASON OPENING DATE OF FIRST SATURDAY IN OCTOBER.

Resolved (Koevoet/McKenzie)

21-041

THAT BEING 10:30 PM COUNCIL CONTINUE WITH THE AGENDA TO 11 PM.

21-034 MEMBER'S REPORT:

034.1 Salmon Management and Draft 5-Year Agreement with Salmon and Riparian Support Trust (A Brooks)

A Brooks spoke to his paper on the above topic highlighting his concerns and stating that he could see no future for the salmon fishery. He believed that the National Salmon Committee had been about to answer some questions on restoration and enhancement of the salmon fishery but felt it was hijacked. He was disappointed in the conditions that were being imposed on the McKinnons hatchery in the revised Draft Agreement and asked for staff and Council to engage in conversation with McKinnons.

CE responded that Council have previously resolved that Council Staff meet with representatives of the Trust to review and update the 5-year agreement. One meeting has been held to discuss a preliminary (incomplete) draft prepared by Staff. Further meetings are planned to discuss further revisions and the Trust has been asked to provide input on their activities to be included in the agreement. Once that process has been completed, a draft agreement will come to Council at a later meeting for consideration and adoption. He added that the agreement must contain robust conditions, including standard

operating procedures and record keeping for the operation of the hatchery. This should be seen as a protection against future challenges and contribute to McKinnons social licence to operate.

CE tabled, for Councillor information, a summary of the CSI's Salmon Management Plan (adopted December 2012), with just the objectives and policies listed. A note was made for each describing the achievement. He noted that this is the plan that Staff continue to work under.

21-035 NZFGC REPORT:

D Isbister gave an update on NZC issues. He advised that the new NZ CE should be announced shortly and that the outcome of the Review of Fish and Game has had mixed feedback.

21-036 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION:

Resolved (Growcott/Isbister) at 10:42 pm

21-042

THAT THE PUBLIC BE EXCLUDED FROM THE FOLLOWING PARTS OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THIS MEETING, NAMELY -

065.1 APPROVAL OF 18 MARCH PUBLIC EXCLUDED MINUTES

THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED WHILE THE PUBLIC IS EXCLUDED, THE REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER, AND THE SPECIFIC GROUNDS UNDER SECTION 48(1) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND MEETINGS ACT 1987 FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:


| General Subject of each matter to be considered | Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter [i.e. OIA interest protected] | Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution |
|---|---|--|
| Approval of Public Excluded Minutes. | OIA section 9(2)(g) | That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7 or section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982. |

20-037 PUBLIC MEETING RESUMED:

Council resumed in open session at 11:00 pm.

Meeting closed: 11:00 pm.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday 15th July 2021.

Signed  Date 15/7/2021