

**Agenda for the Meeting of the
Otago Fish & Game Council to be held on
26th November 2015 at
Otago Fish & Game office, Corner Hanover and Harrow Streets
Commencing at 12.15pm**

Please note: A Lunch will be provided at 11.45am

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1 Present and Apologies

2 Declaration of Interest / Health and Safety Report

3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting Council Offices, Dunedin 29th October 2015, Commencing at 12.30pm

1.0 Present:

Monty Wright (Chair), Dr John Jillett, Dan Rae, Vicky Whyte, John Barlow, Adrian McIntyre, Dave Witherow, Alan Hammond, Ian Cole, Colin Weatherall, Rick Boyd and Murray Neilson.

In attendance: Niall Watson (CE) Ian Hadland (OM), Peter Wilson (part meeting)

Apologies were received from Dr Mike Turner
It was **agreed** that apologies be accepted

Election of Chair and NZC Appointee

Chair - The CE took the Chair. He noted that Council traditionally held elections for officeholders at the February meeting but that there was a need to elect a Chair in the interim and there was a legal obligation to elect an NZC appointee at the first Council meeting. He called for nominations for Chair.

Monty Wright (moved Weatherall/seconded Rae)

There being no further nominations Monty Wright was declared duly elected

Mr Wright welcomed Rick Boyd and Colin Weatherall to the meeting.

NZC Appointee – The CE noted the NZC advice that their next meeting (20-22 November) was to be the last meeting of the old council. They had therefore invited both old and new appointees where there was a change. Mr Witherow declined nomination and Dr Jillett was asked if he would consider the position. He advised he had some commitments that could affect his availability for meetings but agreed subject to that.

It was resolved (Witherow/Boyd)

That John Jillett be appointed as the NZC nominee

2.0 Declarations of Interest

The CE noted that a permanent schedule of interests was maintained to record where councillors may have a conflict. In addition councillors were obliged to declare an interest over any specific issue where a conflict may arise. The purpose of the exercise was to enable the Council to manage conflicts of interest that did arise over council business. There were no new interests declared

Health and Safety

Nil

3.0 Minutes

Resolved (Jillett/Cole)

That the Minutes of the meetings on the 20th August 2015 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

4.0 Matters Arising from Minutes

4.1 Lake Tuakitoto – The CE advised there had been no further action over management issues at the lake.

4.2 Mt Burke – Mr Barlow advised that delays in further progress on access proposals to and along the lakeshore at Mt Burke appeared to be as a result on LINZ's non-cooperation

4.3 Fish and Game Magazine – Mr Witherow said he had spoken to the new editor of the magazine, Hamish Carnachan who noted that a broad range of copy was not readily available because:

- No one was writing about bird shooting.
- Most angling writers write about fly-fishing.

Popularity of angling methods had changed significantly over the years and the need for up to date information on angling method trends was noted. Mr Hadland said he understood that a user survey was proposed for the magazine along with a format review.

4.4 Benger Burn – The CE reported that channel works undertaken in the Benger below the State Highway bridge during the spawning season were undertaken under an emergency consent because of erosion to the bridge abutment. He said while the need was real enough a question remained as to whether the emergency works consent was being properly used.

5.0 Communications New Zealand Council

5.1 NZC Correspondence to Otago

Nil

5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC

Nil

6.0 Chief Executive's Report

6.1 Administration

Finance reports for the month to the end of September 2015 were discussed. The CE said the information was not very meaningful given the short period involved. He advised that year end results for the period to 31 August were not yet finalised but it appeared there was a small surplus.

Fishing licence sales trends were discussed and the slightly improved position by comparison with last year was noted. The increase was pleasing given the new licence categories available but a move to online sales may have contributed through improved cash flow.

The cost of the photocopier purchases (2) was confirmed at \$9554+GST.

Mr Hadland said that a significant savings in power supply costs had been achieved by changing supplier which involved entering into a 48 month supply agreement. **Agreed** that the change in power supplier be ratified

Resolved (Whyte/Weatherall)

That Finance and Licence sales reports to the end of September 2015 be approved .

6.2 Species

Spawning surveys

Survey work on the Fern Burn and Quartz Creek was discussed. Mr Boyd noted that the Fern Burn spawning run was earlier and larger than last year. The CE said a report was in preparation for Quartz Creek.

Lower Clutha Salmon

The CE advised that he and Monty Wright had met Contact's Clutha Hydro scheme manager Boyd Brinsdon and Daniel Druce the day before the meeting to discuss mitigation activity and the Council's concerns as outlined in recent correspondence. He advised he would report fully to the next meeting.

6.3 Habitat

Minimum and Residual Flows

Mr Boyd noted the Fern Burn was also affected by a water takes over summer and required a minimum flow.

Lindis River:

The CE reported that hearings on the recently notified minimum flow plan change for the Lindis could be expected early in the New Year and that regional legal pool funding had been granted.

Waiwera Minimum Flow Plan Change

The CE reported that the Waiwera minimum flow decision had been appealed to the Environment Court with a mediation date set down for early December had been released with a 300 l/s summer minimum being set.

Wanaka Fish- Out Pond Subdivision Consent Hearing

Mr Barlow questioned the NZC and Otago policies opposing fish out ponds unless they were an adjunct to a bona fide licenced fish farm. Staff were asked to clarify the specifics of the law and regulations governing fish farms and fish out ponds. He said MPI advised there were no internal guidelines for

Mr Boyd said that to farm a fish it must be gazetted as an approved species for farming.

6.4 User Participation

Access

The lost access at Poison Creek on the Upper Clutha was discussed along with the recent proposals for 'No Hunting' signs at Lowburn on a DOC track and at Bannockburn Inlet. Mr McIntyre expressed concern about hunting closures adjacent to cycle trails and alternatives were discussed. It was **agreed** the matter be referred to the February planning meeting for discussion of practical responses. To potential closures.

Hukarere Station

Alastair Ensor and Quintin Hazlett joined the meeting at 3.00pm to discuss the Hukarere Station tenure review proposals. Mr Ensor expressed serious concern about the Council's position, namely that the proposals were insufficient because they limited practical public access to and along a 12 km reach of the Pomahaka River and could result in exclusive capture. Mr Ensor said the Council's position endangered the tenure review and the long term relationship with the Hazletts. He outlined concerns about lambing season disturbance and farm management.

Council acknowledged the generosity of the Hazletts in allowing access over the years but noted that tenure review was a legitimate opportunity to seek improvements to public access on the river and that it had a statutory obligation to do so. Tenure review was intended to provide increased benefits to farmers in terms of freehold title over farmable land and to the public interest in terms of reserves for conservation, outdoor recreation and public access.

Council noted the comments of Messrs Hazlett and Ensor and there was agreement to a continuing dialogue over identification of practical access to the river but Mr Ensor noted that as far as the Hukarere tenure review was concerned it was the 11th hour.

6.5 Public Interface

The CE advised that the regional MOU with DOC was still awaiting final approval with DOC

6.6 Compliance

Council discussed the proposed ranger appointments - Messrs Smith, Wybrow, Munn and Georalli and the CE confirmed he would seek further character references where necessary.

6.7 Licencing

Discussion deferred to item 8.7

6.8 Council

Election

The CE noted that the election run by *Electionz.com* had gone smoothly with no difficulties to report. He said the process was improving with each successive election.

November Meeting and AGM

Noted that the November Meeting and AGM would be held in Dunedin on Thursday 26th November. The AGM would take place at 3.00pm.

Schedule of Meetings

Dates for meetings for the 2016 Calendar year were agreed as:

Saturday Sunday 13/14 February (Alexandra)

Thursday 21 April

Thursday 16 June

Thursday 18 August

Thursday 20 October

Tuesday 29 November

6.9 Planning and Reporting

Annual Audit

The CE advised that preparation for the audit was well underway but that the timetable for completion was tight which caused difficulties in terms of pre-circulating an audited annual report in advance of the AGM.

National Liaison

The CE reported that there had been a recent meeting of resource management staff an external consultant experts in Wellington but that others involved in RM activity had been denied an invitation despite topics for discussion including funding of RM legal cases. This resulted in a lopsided view of the present situation coming from the meeting. He understood two outcomes of the meeting seemed to be leading toward capture of the pool funding process that had operated successfully for over a decade. This could potentially remove decision-making on what legal actions were taken regionally from Councils (via Managers collectively) to a panel of experts and see internal employment of lawyers to do low level routine work possibly at the expense of regional legal pool funding.

Resolved (Whyte/McIntyre)

That the CE's report be accepted

Resolved (Rae/Cole)

That the Council oppose in the strongest possible terms changes to legal funding arrangements that externalised decision-making or reduce resources for RMA legal activity.

7.0 Committee Reports

7.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust

Mr Rae outlined Trust activity including:

- Work in support of the Lindis minimum flow plan changes
- Kane Road alternative alignment providing access to the Upper Clutha River. QLDC intended to achieve the like-for-like swap of public roads using the Public Works Act
- Investigation of access issue at Poison Creek.

The structure and functions of the CFT were discussed and Mr McIntyre sought additional information on activities

7.2 New Zealand Council

Mr Witherow outlined NZC business including:

- Guides licence was progressing but there was a need to reinforce support with cabinet ministers where possible
- Water Conservation Order legislation was likely to be reviewed next year by Government
- NZC would like to see angling and hunting regulations simplified and standardised.
- The Fish and Game Election Regulations are to be reviewed
- Recent nitrate research funded by Fish and Game had been peer reviewed and found unsatisfactory.

8.0 Technical Reports

8.1 Habitat Enhancement Fund (HEF) - Trotter

Mr Trotter's report was discussed and it was resolved (McIntyre/Barlow)

Resolved (McIntyre/Barlow)

That a grant of \$1500 be made to Scott Armstrong of Becks for fencing and planting of a wetland on his property to enhance nesting and rearing cover.

Alan Hammond declared an interest having hunted on the property.

Resolved (McIntyre/Jillett)

That a grant of \$2000 be made to purchase wetland plants for a Clutha Lagoon (Old River Channel) subject to landholder agreement and fencing set back at least 5 metres.

That styles to provide adequate foot access over fences also be funded from the HEF at cost.

This grant was in support of an ORC fencing initiative

8.2 Wanaka Hatchery

Resolved (Moved from the Chair)

That the meeting got into public excluded session:

See Confidential Minutes

Resolved (Moved from the Chair)

That the meeting come out of public excluded session:

8.3 Hunter Harvest and Effort 2015 Game Season - Trotter

Agreed that the report be received

8.4 Southern Reservoir Take a Kid Fishing - Dixon

Agreed that the report be received

8.5 Lower Clutha Salmon Survey - Keeling

After discussion it was **agreed** that the report be received

8.6 Anglers Notice (AN) Triennial Review Schedule - Halford

The report was discussed. The CE confirmed that the intention was to notify anglers about the review through newsletters, club communications and media releases rather than a public notice requesting submissions on AN changes. Parties could still submit in response to the less formal notice of a review. The more formal public notice approach raised expectations and required an extra round of consultation. The process was questioned on whether it was open enough.

It was noted that the process would be guided by the recently approved Sports Fish and Game Management Plan and would need to address AN issues raised in that process. Staff would report again to the November meeting.

Collection of data on angling trends including trends in methods was discussed.

Agreed that the report be received.

8.7 Licence Sales for 2014/15 - Hadland

The CE said Ian Hadland and Sharon Milne had put in an immense amount of work with agents to smooth the way for new licence categories and encourage online sales during August and September.

Agreed that the report be received.

Staff were asked for an update on progress with the guides licence for the next meeting.

9.0 Correspondence – June and August

9.1 ORC – Advice on the Waiwera minimum flow plan change decision – received

10.0 General Business

10.1 – Meeting with Southland - Staff were asked to arrange for a joint council meeting with Southland.

The meeting closed at 5.45pm

4 Matters arising from the minutes

5 Communications New Zealand Council

5.1 Correspondence from NZC to Otago

5.1.1 Nil

5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC

5.2.1 Nil

6 Chief Executives Report

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2015

6.1 ADMINISTRATION

Finance and Administration

Financial Reports to 31 October 2015

The finance report for the period from 1 September 2015 to 31 September 2015 is attached for your information. I intend to prepare a summary spreadsheet so that the reports to meetings can be more easily compared with the approved budget of \$950,834.

NZC levies for the year have been set at \$850,957 and commission has been budgeted at \$94,831. Key budget figures are included in the front of the Annual Work Plan

Expenditure to date is \$388,761 (including levies \$212,739 and commission \$14021 but excluding depreciation (\$13,052) compared with the annual budget of \$1,896,622 operational expenditure: \$933,451, depreciation: nil, and levies (\$894,033) and excluding commission (\$96,183) .

Total income to date is \$326,143 compared with budget of \$1,981,072. Income is mostly licence income (\$315,492).

Fishing licence sales revenue received for the year to 31 October 2015 is \$315,492 (including commission). The fish budget figures for the full year is \$1,583,698 including commission.

Game licence sales revenue received for the year to date is \$3,910 (including commission). The year's budget for game licence sales is \$312,926 including commission.

Budget and expenditure figures are exclusive of GST

Audit and Annual Report

The audit is all but complete. As soon as it is I will circulate the Financial Reports and Statement of Service Performance so that you can consider them. This is a change from previous years where the Chair and I reviewed the accounts and signed off the report as an accurate record. Now the report is worded so that the full Council takes responsibility for the report's accuracy. Because we have such a tight timetable circulating the main components of the report as pdfs by email is the only way to involve the full Council. Do give me a call if you have any queries

The important points to note are: We are looking at a small surplus of \$20,424 and the auditor has not qualified the audit report in any way.

Licence Sales to 17 November 2015

Sales recorded to 17 November are outlined for fish and game in the attached table from Eyede and compared with last year on the same date. Figures are inclusive of GST. Fishing licence sales whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) at 8836 LEQs are ahead of last year the

same time (7806 LEQs). This remains encouraging given the major change in licence categories but may represent early sales of whole season licences to committed anglers. The budget LEQ figure for the year (whole season adult licence equivalents) is 14688.

The game sales for the period are a late return from last year. The game budget LEQ figure is 15,646.

Funds Position at 31 October 2015

ANZ 00 account	\$206,726.88
ANZ 70 account	\$ 13,216.65

Reparation Trust Account

Account balance to 31 August 2015	\$ 55,368
Revenue for current year to 30 September 2015	\$ 4,030
Less Grants	<u>\$ 3,000</u>
Total	\$ 56,398

Term investments as at 30 September 2015:

ASB 0079	\$302,790.64 @ 3.95% maturing 11 th January 2016
SBS 44624	\$450,000@ 4.55% maturing 23 rd November

The sum of \$73,846 is held by Anderson Lloyd in trust for wetland management via DOC.

Agents and Debts

No liabilities or potential liabilities at the present time

Capital Expenditure

Nothing to Report

Staff

Nothing to Report

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Land and Buildings

CE to report

Recommendation

That the Finance and Licence Sales Report for the period ending 31 October 2015 be received.

6.2 SPECIES

Waterfowl Monitoring (1111)

See separate report on shoveler duck

Spawning Surveys (1112)

Spawning surveys for the season are mostly complete. Rainbow spawning is still occurring in the upper Clutha catchment area. A salvage operation has been conducted on Quartz Creek

Population Monitoring: (1113)

Lindis and Cardrona write ups are continuing

Success & Satisfaction (1122)

Nothing to report

Fish Salvage (1131)

Nothing to report

Hatchery Operations

Some difficulties have been experienced with fry rearing with high mortalities which may be related to water quality (silt, algae) and/or water temperature

Releases (1161)

Releases of fish to put and take fisheries have been continuing. Details will be provided in a future report

Game Notice (1171)

See separate report

Anglers Notice (1172)

See separate report

Game Bird Control (1181)

Nothing to report.

6.3 HABITAT**Resource Management (1211)****Resource Management Complaints 2014/15**

Date/Agency	Issue	Response
May 2015	A complaint was lodged with ORC about channel works in a Central Otago spawning stream in late May.	ORC are investigating.
August 2015	Complaint about a digger in the Bengier Burn during the spawning season	Works done under emergency provisions because of bridge abutments
June 2015	Complaint about grazing adjacent to Waikoikoi	Reported to ORC. Stream was fenced and grazing was not pugging at time of inspection.
September 2015	Complaint about feedlot next to Kaitangata Channel and potential for leakage discharge	ORC still to respond

Resource Consents

Follow up correspondence is planned following the meeting with them on 28th October over:

- consent compliance over mitigation activities (mostly salmon enhancement);
- loss of public access as a result of land disposals adjacent to the upper Clutha;
- the status of the Bendigo Wildlife Reserve area.

CE to report

Planning (1212)

Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group

There have been no recent meetings of the group

Minimum and Residual Flow Setting

Minimum and Residual Flows and Transition from Mining Privileges (TMP)		
River	Activity and status	Status
Lindis	Minimum flow & transition from mining privileges (TMP). Over allocated MALF 1860 l/s	Lindis fisheries research has been completed and is currently being written up. Economic analysis has been undertaken by OPUS and BERL, and now released by ORC. The study states that climate factors, not the level of minimum flows, is the limiting factor on agriculture in the catchment, and that the level set for a minimum flow will have a small extra impact in comparison to climate. ORC notified Water Plan Change 5A on 8 th August including a summer minimum flow of 750 l/s, instead of the 450 l/s previously recommended. The submission period has closed and an ORC hearing date is expected late this year or early in 2016 Evidence preparation in underway Several informal meetings have been held between F&G, CFT, Lindis irrigators, DOC, Ngai Tahu and ORC to share information and narrow areas of disagreement .
Cardrona	Minimum Flow & TMP Over allocated	Mainstem fisheries and flow surveys undertaken over the summer period. A minimum flow proposal is expected late in 2015
Waikouaiti	Minimum Flow Fully allocated MALF 258 l/s	F&G have supported a minimum flow of 220 l/s. Further action on the minimum flow has been deferred pending more research on estuary health which is planned this coming summer

Pomahaka	Minimum flow MALF 4300 l/s	The plan change has been completed setting minimum flows of 3600 l/s (summer) 7000 l/s (winter), primary allocation limit of 1000 l/s, and a supplementary allocation minimum flow of 13,0000 l/s.
Waiwera	Minimum flow MALF 310 l/s	The ORC hearing panel decision set a 300 l/s summer minimum flow instead of the 260 l/s notified. That decision has been appealed to the Environment Court and the matter is set down for Environment Court mediation in early December 2015
Manuherikia	Minimum flow Irrigation scheme investigation. MALF lower river 2126 l/s Over allocated	Collaborative process underway involving F&G The irrigation scheme proposals which are focused on raising the level of Falls Dam are at feasibility study stage. The Manuherikia catchment has over 250 mining privileges or deemed permits in place
Benger Burn	Minimum flow &TMP. Over allocated	Further action by ORC has been deferred pending more research on water resources and aquifer/surface water interaction.
Sow Burn	TMP Over allocated	The Sowburn all-of-catchment consent application remains with the Otago Regional Council. The residual flow requirement is 70 l/s on a stream that is considered to be ephemeral in nature in the middle reaches. F&G staff are liaising with ORC staff and applicants. Off-site mitigation conditions include a covenant over a large area of the Maniototo wetlands
Kye Burn	TMP Over allocated MALF 500 l/s	F&G position is that a mainstem minimum flow between 200-300 l/s is required. Irrigators have requested a meeting to advance discussion on residual flows in early December 2015
Low Burn	Minimum flow TMP Over allocated	No action
Bannock Burn	Minimum flow TMP Over allocated	No action

Quartz Creek	TMP Over allocated	Report on fishery values has been completed and a further field inspection (October 2015) has been completed
Tuapeka River	ORC Management Flow Report MALF 314 l/s	No action
12 Mile Creek (Wakatipu)	ORC Management Flow Report	No action
Fern Burn	Over allocated?	Status of flows and takes to be investigated

CE to Report

Transition from Mining Privileges (MPs) to RMA Consents

There is a continuing risk that processing of individual consent applications replacing mining privileges in over allocated Central Otago catchments will undermine environmental flow setting but recent agreement on affected party status improves the situation.

Reserves Management (1221)

Nothing to Report

Wetland Protection (1232)

Nothing to report

Assisted Habitat (1230)

See confidential report on Habitat Enhancement Fund grants recommendation

River Management (1233)

Nothing to report

6.4 USER PARTICIPATION

Access (1311)

Nothing to Report

Signage (1312)

Nothing to Report

Backcountry Fisheries (1321)

A temporary staff member has been engaged to assist with backcountry fishery monitoring over the summer period.

Magazine Supplements and Newsletters (1331)

Nothing to Report

Reel Life

Monthly contributions to online newsletters Reel Life are continuing

Newspaper Supplements (1332)

Nothing to report

River Reports (1333)

River reports are again underway for the season.

Publications (1342)

Nothing to report

Web Site (1343)

Nothing to report

Fishing and Hunting Events (1351)

Nothing to report

Take-a-kid-fishing (1352)

Staff supported a Teviot Anglers take a kid fishing events at Onslow.

Club Liaison (1361)

Nothing to report

Commercial Use (1362)

Nothing to report

6.5 PUBLIC INTERFACE

Liaison (1411)

The draft MOU between DOC and Fish and Game has been the subject of further discussion with DOC to finalise acceptable wording

Media (1431)

There has been some continuing media coverage in local newspapers and the ODT on subjects including NZC's withdrawal from the Land and Water Forum

Advocacy (1432)

Nothing to Report

Tenure Reviews (1433)

A letter has been written to Hukarere Station (previously circulated) following their attendance at our October meeting but to date there has been no response

6.6 COMPLIANCE

Ranging (1511)

Continuing ranging activity has resulted in further offences being detected

Ranger Support

A ranger training event is planned for later in November and follow up interviews on recent applicants for warrants confirmed the suitability of all candidates

Prosecutions

Nothing to report

6.7 LICENCING

Licensing System (1611)

Nothing to report

Agents (1612)

Three agents are being monitored to ensure revenue returns are not delayed

6.8 COUNCIL

Council (1720)

Nothing to report

6.9 PLANNING AND REPORTING

Strategic Planning (1811)

Nothing to report

Annual Plan

Nothing to report

Audit and Annual Report (1831)

See comments under finance and Administration

National Liaison (1841)

Nothing to report

Niall Watson

Chief Executive

November 2015

**Otago Fish & Game Council
Profit and Loss - Summary
for Period Ended Oct:2015/16**

		-----Month to Date-----			-----Year to Date-----					
		Actual	Budget	% of Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance	Annual Budget	YTD Actual Budget	Last YTD
INCOME										
FISH AND GAME LICENCE SA...										
1000	Fishing Licences Income	312,063	0	0%	311,582	1,583,696	(1,272,114)	1,583,696	20%	315,069
1006	Game Licences Income	3,910	0	0%	3,910	312,926	(309,016)	312,926	1%	3,925
		315,973	0	0%	315,492	1,896,622	(1,581,130)	1,896,622	17%	318,994
OTHER INCOME										
1010	Interest received	398	0	0%	711	35,150	(34,439)	35,150	2%	(1,324)
1020	Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	10	0	0%	10	8,000	(7,990)	8,000	0%	374
1022	Reparations Trust Fund	200	0	0%	(970)	0	(970)	0	0%	(3,000)
1025	Rent Received	4,058	0	0%	6,850	41,300	(34,450)	41,300	17%	8,541
1065	Fishing Competitions	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	104
1075	Commissions Income	265	0	0%	658	0	658	0	0%	515
1090	Sundry Income	0	0	0%	28	0	28	0	0%	5,192
1092	Merchandise Sales/Other	207	0	0%	332	0	332	0	0%	(7,141)
1094	Donations Received	0	0	0%	2,000	0	2,000	0	0%	2,943
1096	RMA Costs Reimbursed	1,031	0	0%	1,031	0	1,031	0	0%	0
		6,169	0	0%	10,651	84,450	(73,799)	84,450	13%	6,205
	TOTAL INCOME	322,142	0		326,143	1,981,072	(1,654,929)	1,981,072		325,199
EXPENDITURE										
SPECIES MANAGEMENT										
	POPULATION MONITOR / MMT	7	834	1%	7	1,668	(1,661)	10,000	0%	68
	HARVEST ASSESSMENT	0	250	0%	0	500	(500)	3,000	0%	0
	FISH SALVAGE	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
	HATCHERY OPERATIONS	622	1,084	57%	701	2,168	(1,467)	13,000	5%	727
	RELEASES	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
	REGULATIONS	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
	CONTROL	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
	SPECIES MANAGEMENT-...	629	2,168	29%	708	4,336	(3,628)	26,000	3%	794
HABITAT PROTECTION										
	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT A...	2,834	376	754%	14,473	752	13,721	4,500	322%	3,857
	WORKS & MMT COUNCIL LAND	635	292	217%	739	584	155	3,500	21%	7,335
	ASSISTED HABITAT	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
	HABITAT PROTECTION-T...	3,470	668	519%	15,213	1,336	13,877	8,000	190%	11,192
PARTICIPATION										
	ACCESS	0	167	0%	183	334	(151)	2,000	9%	1,865
	SATISFACTION SURVEYS	0	167	0%	0	334	(334)	2,000	0%	712
	NEWSLETTERS	(885)	1,250	(71)%	10,387	2,500	7,887	15,000	69%	11,550
	OTHER PUBLICATIONS	52	418	12%	52	836	(784)	5,000	1%	0
	TRAINING	522	584	89%	1,336	1,168	168	7,000	19%	3,465
	CLUB RELATIONS	0	84	0%	0	168	(168)	1,000	0%	112
	HUTS	0	0	0%	17	0	17	0	0%	0
	PARTICIPATION-TOTAL	(311)	2,670	(12)%	11,975	5,340	6,635	32,000	37%	17,705

**Otago Fish & Game Council
Profit and Loss - Summary
for Period Ended Oct:2015/16**

	-----Month to Date-----			-----Year to Date-----			Annual Budget	% of Budget	
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance			
PUBLIC INTERFACE									
LIAISON	0	42	0%	0	84	(84)	500	0%	0
COMMUNICATIONS	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	322
ADVOCACY	0	584	0%	0	1,168	(1,168)	7,000	0%	0
PUBLIC INTERFACE-TOTAL	0	626	0%	0	1,252	(1,252)	7,500	0%	322
COMPLIANCE									
RANGER ADMIN	102	209	49%	729	418	311	2,500	29%	310
RANGER TRAINING	0	375	0%	181	750	(569)	4,500	4%	174
COMPLIANCE	0	334	0%	0	668	(668)	4,000	0%	0
COMPLIANCE-TOTAL	102	918	11%	910	1,836	(926)	11,000	8%	484
LICENCES									
LICENCE PRODUCT/DISTN	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
AGENT SERVICING	0	42	0%	14	84	(70)	500	3%	(13,093)
COMMISSION	13,887	0	0%	14,021	0	14,021	0	0%	28,548
NZFG LEVIES	212,739	70,913	300%	212,739	141,827	70,912	850,957	25%	223,508
LICENSES-TOTAL	226,626	70,955	319%	226,774	141,911	84,863	851,457	27%	238,963
COUNCIL									
COUNCIL ELECTIONS	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
COUNCIL MEETINGS	537	1,000	54%	537	2,000	(1,463)	12,000	4%	1,278
COUNCIL-TOTAL	537	1,000	54%	537	2,000	(1,463)	12,000	4%	1,278
PLANNING / REPORTING									
MMT/STRATEGIC PLANNING	428	0	0%	471	0	471	0	0%	423
REPORTING/AUDIT	4,132	1,000	413%	4,132	2,000	2,132	12,000	34%	3,225
NATIONAL LIAISON	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
PLAN/REPORT-TOTAL	4,560	1,000	456%	4,603	2,000	2,603	12,000	38%	3,648
ADMINISTRATION									
SALARIES	49,927	55,679	90%	99,853	111,358	(11,505)	668,134	15%	131,419
STAFF EXPENSES	854	1,852	46%	2,013	3,704	(1,691)	22,202	9%	(5,212)
STAFF HOUSES	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
OFFICE PREMISES	8,492	6,791	125%	13,549	13,582	(33)	81,450	17%	20,644
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	50	1,235	4%	62	2,470	(2,408)	14,796	0%	1,389
COMMUNICATIONS	2,183	2,348	93%	3,400	4,696	(1,296)	28,164	12%	6,484
GENERAL	721	601	120%	1,072	1,202	(130)	7,200	15%	4,111
GENERAL EQUIPMENT	0	807	0%	0	1,614	(1,614)	9,650	0%	1,739
VEHICLES	6,182	5,544	11.2%	8,092	11,088	(2,996)	66,505	12%	15,043
ADMINISTRATION - TOTAL	68,409	74,857	91%	128,042	149,714	(21,672)	898,101	14%	175,618
DEPRECIATION	6,526	0	0%	13,052	0	13,052	0	0%	13,052
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	310,548	154,862	201%	401,813	309,725	92,088	1,858,058	22%	463,056
Profit (Loss)	11,595	(154,862)		(75,670)	1,671,347	(1,747,017)	123,014		(137,857)

Otago	2014-2015	Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWJ	FWNJ	FWIA	FWIJ	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDJ	Total	Fish LEQ	Fish \$
		Agency	1811	2558	84	0	0	244	2	0	0	0	0	0	110	5	4831	
		Retail Book	88	248	0	0	0	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	2	401	
		Public Online	870	1012	149	0	0	79	5	0	0	0	0	0	244	13	2549	
		Total	2769	3818	233	0	0	366	7	0	0	0	0	0	374	20	7781	\$968,749
Otago	2015-2016	Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWJ	FWNJ	FWIA	FWIJ	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDJ	Total	Fish LEQ	Fish \$
		Agency	1939	2347	123	463	181	246	5	0	0	7	38	599	37	6003		
		Retail Book	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
		Public Online	852	877	181	137	107	87	0	0	0	2	30	366	22	2833		
		Total	2791	3224	304	600	288	333	5	0	0	9	68	965	59	8836	8147	\$1,021,471

Report Parameters; Regions: Otago

Seasons 1: Fishing 2014/15 ; From: 1/01/2014 To: 17/11/2014

Seasons 2: Fishing 2015/16 ; From: 1/01/2015 To: 17/11/2015

Run on 11/17/2015 10:54:36 AM

*24 Hour licence count is based on number of days that the licence is valid for. Books are counted from the day they were Processed.

7 Committee Reports

7.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust

7.2 NZC Meeting

8 Staff and Technical Reports

8.1 Population Monitoring Shoveler Trend Counts 2015 - M Trotter

COUNCIL REPORT OCTOBER 2015

Project 1110 Population Monitoring Shoveler Trend Count

Introduction

In August shoveler ducks congregate on open water bodies before choosing mates and moving to secluded areas to breed (Holden 1990, Williams 1981). This provides Fish and Game staff with an opportunity to monitor a selection of staging grounds throughout the country. These counts are intended to provide trend count estimates which reflect population changes over time and are not a census of the population.

Methods

On 3 and 4 August 2015, Fish and Game staff and volunteers throughout New Zealand visited known shoveler congregation sites. Each Fish & Game region counted a minimum of 10 sites. Otago Fish and Game staff visited 29 sites in the East Coast, South Otago, Maniototo and Central Otago areas. The results of the national monitoring program are analysed by Matthew McDougal from Eastern Region.

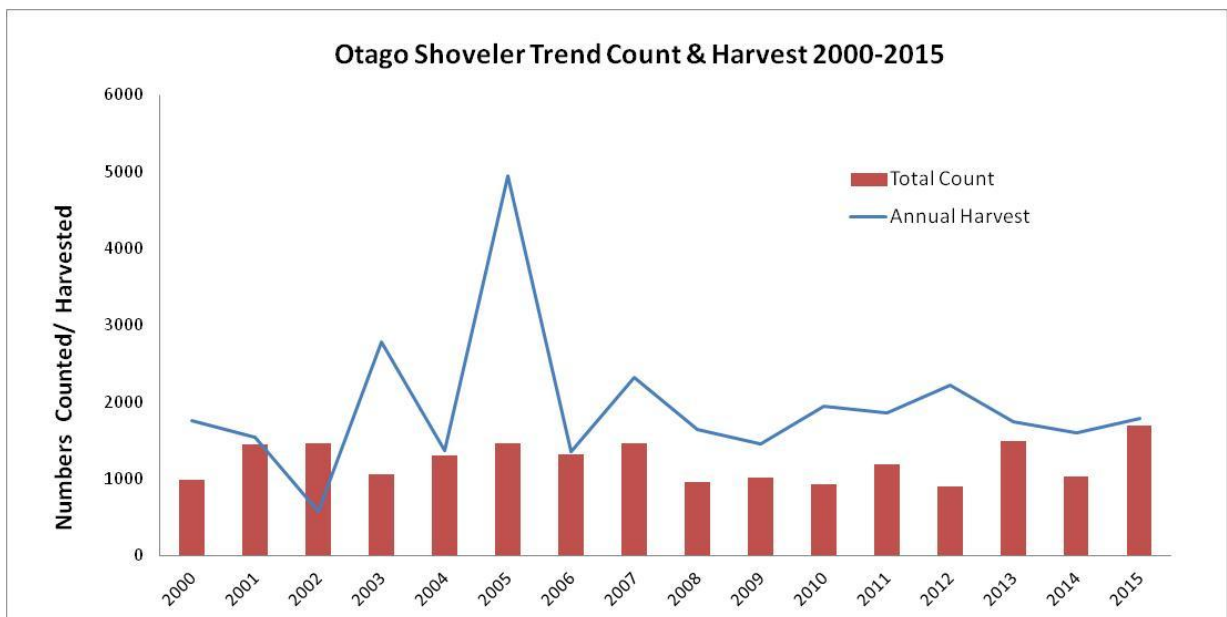


Figure 1: Total shoveler counts and estimated hunter harvest for Otago 2000-2015

Between 2000 and 2015 the total number of shovelers counted at Otago sites has varied between approximately 900 and 1700 birds. The 2015 total was 1696, in 2014 it was 1032, and in 2013 it was 1497. In 2015 most birds were concentrated on Lake Tuakitoto, and Taieri Lake and Blakleys Dam in the Maniototo.

It is pleasing to note that the 2015 Otago trend count total was higher than last year (figure 1). However there are a number of variables that affect count accuracy such as localized weather patterns, and natural bird movements that need consideration when interpreting these results. Taking these variables into account it is appropriate to interpret count differences from year to year with caution, a consistent trend over several years is more likely to be indicative of an actual change in the shoveler population.

Telephone surveys of Otago hunters indicate that the annual Otago harvest in recent years has varied between approximately 1600-2200 birds. The 2015 hunter harvest results were higher than last year but also lie within the range of historic records.

National Count Results (statistical summary provided by Mathew McDougall)

The 2015 results mixed with the long term trend data (route regression method) indicate no change, while the sites counted over the last five years possibly indicate a gradual increase in numbers. The sum of the short term percentage change over the 16 years is approximately zero also indicating no long term change.

Summary

Given that recent Otago and National results are similar to historic levels there is no recommendation for any regulation adjustment.

Recommendation

That this report be received.

Morgan Trotter
Fish & Game Officer
October 2015

References

Caithness T, 1982, Gamebird Hunting, Problems Questions and Answers, Fish and Fowl Series No 2, The Wetland Press.

Fish & Game Hunter Harvest Surveys, 2015, Unpublished Results from Telephone Surveys

Barker L, 2008. National Gamebird Hunter Survey Results 2008. Fish & Game New Zealand Wellington.

Holden P, 1990, Wild Game, Hunting Gamebirds, Small and Feral Game in New Zealand, Hodder & Stoughton.

McDougal M, 2015. A Trend Count of New Zealand Shoveler Duck, Fish & Game NZ, Eastern Region Report, Rotorua, NZ.

Williams M, 1981, The Duck Shooters Bag, An Understanding of New Zealand's Wetland Gamebirds. The Wetland Press.

8.2 Confidential Habitat Enhancement Fund Application – M Trotter

8.3 2016 Game Bird Season Regulations - C Halford

COUNCIL REPORT NOVEMBER 2015

2016 Game Bird Season Regulations

Last Season Regulation Changes

Apart from the alteration to dates to fall in line with the first Saturday in May opening and weekend closing dates the only change to the regulations last season was the removal of conditions for the Craigneuk hunting preserve which the owners decided to close.

Mallard Population Monitoring

Otago staff undertook aerial monitoring last season (Council Report – *Mallard Monitoring Pilot Survey, M. Trotter 2015*) based on methodology used by Southland Fish and Game which will be repeated again in April this season prior to the game season opening.

At this early stage and in considering this season's counts staff aren't envisaging changes to grey/mallard hybrid bag limits for next season, but a precautionary approach may be the most sensible management option in the future.

Aligning regulations and conditions with neighbouring Fish and Game Regions is desirable in the longer term and will require acceptance from individual council's and good communication with hunters. Regional variation does reflect differences in weather, topography and land use so some differences should be expected.

Recent communication with Central South Island Fish and Game staff has indicated that it is unlikely there will be regulation changes for their region next season.

The Southland Fish and Game Council has considered limiting shotgun magazine capacity to 5 shells which has been referred to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council. I understand there has been a good breeding season in Southland so some consideration may be given to lengthen the grey/mallard hybrid season to 2.5 months. In 2015 their season closed on June 28.

Southland's bag limits are higher on the opening weekend compared to the rest of the season. In 2015 the daily bag for grey/mallard on the opening weekend was 15 and 10 thereon. With good duck numbers anticipated it is possible that bag limits could be raised to say 20 and 15

Recommendations for 2016 season

There is a very tight deadline for confirmation of gamebird regulations to the NZC Office immediately after the January trend count in order to obtain Ministerial approval and get regulations printed in time for the season.

To avoid complications with seeking Council approval after the fact (the February Council meeting occurs after the Ministerial deadline), staff seek provisional approval of the regulations listed below subject to season duration date changes.

There are no significant changes to last season's regulations proposed, provided Otago harvest and population trends remain consistent with historic trends. Should January trend counts indicate a significant increase or decrease Council will be consulted immediately via email.

Last season's regulations have been attached as appendix 1.

Recommendation

That the report be received noting that the only proposed changes are to the season opening and closing dates for mallards (7 May to 31 July 2016) paradise (7 May to 28 August 2016) upland game (4 June to 28 August 2016)

Cliff Halford
Fish and Game Officer
November 2015

Appendix

Table 1: Last Seasons Game Regulations

OTAGO FISH AND GAME REGION¹

1.0 Game That May be Hunted or Killed—Duration of 2015 - 16 Season

Species	Season Duration (dates inclusive)	Daily Bag Limit	Hunting Area
Grey/mallard duck and any hybrid of those species	2 May to 26 Jul 2015	25	All areas
NZ shoveler duck	2 May to 26 Jul 2015	2	All areas
Paradise shelduck	2 May to 30 Aug 2015 5 Mar 2016	12 5	All areas All areas junior hunting day (refer to clause 5.4 for this region)
Pukeko	Closed season	0	All areas
Black swan	Closed season 2 May to 30 Aug 2015	0 5	Area A Area B
California quail	30 May to 30 Aug 2015	10	All areas
Pheasant	30 May to 30 Aug 2015 2 May to 30 Aug 2015	5 No limit	All areas excluding upland game properties with special conditions specified in clause 7 for this Region Upland game properties with special conditions specified in clause 7 for this Region
Red-legged partridge	2 May to 30 Aug 2015	No limit	Upland game properties with special conditions specified in clause 7 for this Region
Chukar	30 May to 30 Aug 2015	2	All areas

2.0 Definition of Areas

2.1 Area A: The Clutha River catchment upstream from the Clyde Dam.

2.2 Area B: The Clutha River catchment downstream from the Clyde Dam; the Taieri River catchment and all the coastal catchments between Shag Point and The Brothers Point on the east coast of the South Island.

3.0 Shooting Hours

Area A: 7.00am to 6.45pm

Area B: 7.00am to 6.30pm

4.0 Decoy Limit

No limit.

5.0 Special Conditions

5.1 No person shall use or cause to be used on any water within the region for the hunting or killing of game, any fixed stand, pontoon, hide, loo or maimai, except within a distance of 10 metres from the water margin in non-tidal waters, or from the low water mark in tidal waters, or from the outside edge of the raupo growth where raupo abounds, without the prior consent of the Otago Fish and Game Council.

5.2 No person may leave on the hunting ground the bodies or parts of bodies of Black swan or other game shot in the Otago Fish and Game Region.

5.3 Shooting from a boat is prohibited on the Clutha River from 2 to 10 May (refer to first schedule regulation 7).

5.4 The summer paradise duck season is open on 1 March 2016 for junior licence holders only, and is restricted to locations 200 metres or more from open water.

6.0 Refuges and Closed Game Areas

The following wetland refuges and closed game areas are closed to hunting:

Refuges Location

6.1 Lake Hayes Queenstown/Arrowtown highway

6.2 Hawkesbury Lagoon Waikouaiti – East Otago

6.3 Finegand Balclutha

Closed Game Areas

6.4 Ashley Downs Near Clinton, South Otago

6.5 Tomahawk Lagoon Dunedin

6.6 Kawarau River outlet From Lake Wakatipu downstream to the Shotover River Confluence

7.0 Upland Game Properties with Special Conditions

7.1 Rough Ridge: The total area of Rough Ridge Farm with special conditions is described as Rough Ridge and defined as approximately 900 hectares of Rough Ridge Farm near Oturehua that includes Section 24 Block XV1, Section 2 Block XV11 Blackstone Survey District, Section 3 Block V1 Poolburn Survey District, and Section 42 PT and Section 10 Block XV1 Blackstone Survey District. The boundaries are marked with signposts reading “Rough Ridge Game Preserve”. The property “Rough Ridge” is owned by Fraser and Murray McKnight.

8.4 2015 Anglers Notice Review (Preliminary Report) - C Halford

COUNCIL REPORT NOVEMBER 2015

2015 Anglers Notice Review Preliminary Report

Background

This report provides an overview of the review process, legislation, Sports Fish and Game Management Plan, and recommended Anglers Notice changes by staff.

In our Sports Fishing Newsletter distributed in September, anglers were invited to contribute to the Anglers Notice review process.

A staff report (*Anglers Notice Triennial Review Schedule, C Halford*) was approved by Council at the October meeting.

Review Process

Recommended changes to the Anglers Notice for Otago have been provided in this report for Council consideration. Council's decisions will then be communicated to the public through media and angling clubs. Feedback and Council decisions will be summarised and reported on at the February meeting. Draft changes will be reported for Council consideration at the April meeting with a final report and Council approval at the June meeting.

South Island Regulations Working Party

A working party has been formed with representatives from South Island Fish and Game Councils to review the Anglers Notice and Sports Fishing Regulation Guide with the main purpose to;

- Review current format for clarity and try to reduce content
- Try to improve consistency between regional regulations
- Review historical regulations and eliminate anachronisms
- Review regulations that we tend not to take action over
- Consider whether introductory material in regulations guide books is really necessary

The working party met on November 16 and a summary of the discussion will be reported in the next phase of the Anglers Notice Review to February council meeting.

Conservation Act

This Council is established under section 26P of the Conservation act 1987. Its functions are detailed in Section 26Q of the Act. The general function of the Council is to...

'manage, maintain and enhance the sports fish and game resource in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters'

Section 26R “Fish and Game Council Responsibilities” lays out the provisions that apply to the Anglers Notice.

Sport Fish and Game Management Plan for Otago Fish and Game Region (SFGMP)

The SFGMP for the Otago Fish and Game Region provides the framework for the management of Otago’s sports fish and game bird resources.

The plan was prepared in accordance with section 17L of the Conservation Act 1987 and requires the council;

- To have regard to the sustainability of sports fish and game birds in the area to which the plan relates; and
- To have regard to the impact that the management proposed in the plan is likely to have on other natural resources and other users of the habitat concerned; and
- To include such provisions as may be necessary to maximize the recreational opportunities for anglers and hunters.

Relevant SFGMP Objective and Policy Statement

- 5.3.1 To manage sports fisheries and game resources having regard to sustainability to meet the interests and recreational needs of present and future generations of anglers and hunters.
- 5.3.3 To optimise angling and hunting opportunity and maintain or improve the recreational fishing opportunity spectrum available in Otago.
- 5.4.1 Achieve sustainability through the following approach:
- (a) Ensure that the sustainability of the resource has precedence over utilisation (i.e., utilisation will be dependent on sustainability).
 - (b) In the absence of reliable information or in the face of uncertain information, a precautionary approach will be adopted in managing fish populations.
 - (c) Management decisions will be based on the best available information.
 - (d) The absence of information will not be used as a reason for failing to adopt management measures.
- 7.3.2 To minimize and simplify regulations controlling angling and hunting so that they do not become an impediment to participation, but not at the expense of precautionary management.
- 7.4.2 Review annually angling and hunting conditions and assess them for relevance, clarity and simplicity.
- 7.4.3 Liaise with other regions over the annual review of angling and hunting conditions and to seek consistency between regions.

Recommended Changes By Staff And Items For Discussion

1.0 Route Burn River, and Lochy River upstream of Disputed Creek – change the bag limit to 1 fish

At present these rivers have the following regulations;

Open season 1 November - 31 May Fly Only Bag limit 0

Background

Other backcountry or main lake tributaries in the lakes area of the region have the 1 November to 31 May season length but have a 1 fish daily bag limit. Other “fly only” waters in the Queenstown area include the Greenstone, Caples and Von Rivers. Spin fishing is permitted in other waters during the 1 November to 31 May open season.

The Upper Lochy is mostly fished by guided clients who generally release their catch so permitting a one fish limit will have little effect on fish stocks and will allow anglers to legally take a fish injured during capture. Anecdotal feedback on the Routeburn River suggests that anglers have been seeing and catching fish which suggests there is no significant reason to have a nil bag limit.

Following major damaging flooding in the late 1990s relocation of fish from the Lower Lochy River to the Upper River was undertaken in an attempt to improve the fishery. Flood damage has since repaired and the fishery is reported to be in better shape in recent seasons.

The original nil bag limit was a response to angler submissions on perceived low fish density in the river. There has been little fisheries management work on the Routeburn River in recent years.

Rationale

- A one bag limit allows anglers to legally take a fish if it has been injured during capture or if they chose to.
- Changing the bag to one fish per day would be consistent with other similar rivers and main lake tributaries in the lakes area.
- The regulation change is furthering our intention to simplify regulations and improve consistency.

Option 1

Keep the status quo and do not change the bag limit

Option 2

Change the bag limit to one fish per day and retain the current season length and method; 1 November - 31 May and fly only.

2.0 Change the definition of the Swing Bridge Boundary on the Greenstone River

Clauses 2.3 and 11.1 Definition: **Backcountry Fishery** of the regulations currently read;

Greenstone River downstream of Swing Bridge at the rivers mouth where it enters Lake Wakatipu.

Background

The swing bridge is approximately 2 kilometers from the river mouth and identifies the upstream boundary of the spin fishing section of the river from Lake Wakatipu. It also defines the downstream boundary of the Greenstone River backcountry fishery. The present definition is not clear.

Rationale

- Boundaries need clear definition to provide anglers with correct information.
- Boundaries separating different angling method restrictions need to be clearly defined for anglers and enforcement purposes.

Option 1

Keep the status quo

Option 2

Change the definition to the following wording (subject to DOC legal approval)

Greenstone River downstream of the swing bridge at the car park at the end of Greenstone Station Road.

3.0 Changes to catchment tributary regulations to ensure consistency with season length, method and bag limits on adjoining waters.

Clause 2.3 Fishing Regulations for the Otago Rivers and Lakes;

Identifies the individual water, Open Season, Permitted Method and Daily Bag Limit.

Clause 2.1 Rivers / Lakes

All lakes, rivers and streams upstream of Clyde Dam not mentioned in *clause 2.3* for the region

1 November – 30 April fly, spin, and bait 1 fish per day

Background

Main lake tributaries in the lakes area named in *clause 2.3* open on November 1 and close on 31 May with either fly, or fly and spinning methods permitted. If a small water or tributary stream is not identified in *clause 2.3* it defaults back to *clause 2.1* as explained above, thereby closing a month earlier on April 30 with bait as a legal method and a 1 fish bag limit.

For consistency the regulations need to align tributary waters to ensure season length, method and bag limits are the same. An example of this is Camerons Creek which flows into the Makarora River. The Makarora River is identified in *clause 2.3* whereas Camerons Creek sits

under *clause 2.1* of the regulations. Many of the unnamed smaller streams are important spawning sites therefore a precautionary approach should be considered.

Rationale

- Season length, method and bag limits on small stream tributaries need to be consistent with adjoining waters for ease of interpretation.
- Consistency would ease temptation to illegally use bait in adjoining waters that only permit either fly, or fly and spin as legal methods.
- Restricting the use of bait in small spawning tributaries would be precautionary in the absence of reliable fisheries information.

Option 1

List all the remaining smaller streams and waters under *clause 2.3* of the regulations

Option 2

Change the season length and method in *clause 2.1* as follows:

1 November – 31 May fly and spin 1 fish per day

4.0 Sports Fish Held for Display Purposes

Background

This Council has previously discussed public submissions regarding the holding of sports fish for display purposes. Fish have been fed at the Queenstown Wharf for many years which are semi protected from angling due to the closed season in Queenstown Bay. This was originally put in place for navigation purposes.

More recently a submission has been received seeking approval to have a section of the Kawarau River downstream of the Highway Bridge adjacent to a Wildlife Park closed to angling to protect “pet” wild fish that are regularly fed.

In addition the Council considered a staff report (*Anglers Notice 2014/15 – C. Halford*) which detailed a response to a public inquiry regarding angling activity at the Blue Pools near the Makarora River where DOC has a public viewing platform and wild trout can be observed in a pristine environment. The submitter requested that the Blue Pools on the Blue River be closed for angling. The letter was treated as a public submission for the SFGMP review and earmarked for future consideration in this review.

The Council needs to consider whether closing waters for the purpose of displaying sports fish is desirable in some circumstances and should consider each application on its merits. The two current examples are:

- adjacent to the Wildlife Park on the Kawarau River and
- at the Blue Pools near the confluence with the Makarora River.

Any closures will fall under *Clause 3. Closed Season* of the Anglers Notice as follows;

All waters in which sports Fish are held in captivity for display, hatching or other purposes, or within a distance of 100m from any part of the outer boundaries of such waters.

5.0 Southern Reservoir- Restrict the take to Junior Anglers only

Background

Southern Reservoir in Dunedin is annually stocked with rainbow trout for local anglers and to facilitate Fish and Game TAKF programs. In 2013 the Council agreed to close the reservoir during September except for Otago fish and Game controlled fishing events - to protect released fish stocks. See *Clause 3* of the regulations.

Current regulations that apply under *clause 2.3*

Southern Reservoir 1 October – 31 August fly and spin 1 fish per day

Due to hatchery releases this fishery has become very popular to local adult and novice anglers outside of TAKF programs. While there is a high level of catch and release many fish are harvested. Adult anglers shouldn't be restricted from fishing the reservoir but regulations could be adjusted to a zero bag for adults so that the current 1 fish per day would only apply to junior anglers. The reservoir is a put and take fishery.

Rationale

- More fish would be available for junior anglers.
- Restricting the take for adult anglers could make hatchery releases go further and reduce costs

However choice of option 2 below means that elimination of zero bags within Otago is not achieved and there may be some disappointment amongst adult anglers who want to take a fish.

Option 1

Keep the status quo and stay with the current regulation

Option 2

Change the regulations to restrict adult anglers to a zero bag

6.0 Regional Bag Limits

Background

Bag limits have been part of regular discussions during previous Anglers Notice reviews and there have been numerous submissions to lower bags especially in the Lakes District. The Lakes District is experiencing significant population growth and local Wanaka anglers in particular have reported seeing less fish giving the perception that the fishery is under pressure and suggesting lower bag limits should be applied. Past submissions by the Upper Clutha Angling Club has broadly supported this view.

Major lakes and many rivers have current limits of 6 fish per day which have been static for many years and prior to the establishment of Fish and Game. Otago has some of the highest bag limits in the South Island and while there is little biological evidence that fisheries are in decline due to over harvest, research suggests that bag limits need to be lowered considerably to make a difference to harvest rates as most anglers don't achieve a limit bag of killed fish.

The main lakes support healthy populations of landlocked Chinook salmon which are often caught in high numbers and targeted regularly for their eating qualities. Bags limits for both trout and salmon could be considered together or split as other Fish and Game Regions have done.

The Upper Clutha River fishery has shown signs of deterioration in recent years since the establishment of didymo and a bag limit reduction should be considered to recognize the decline in fish numbers and loss of angler opportunity.

Other waters that have a 6 bag daily limit include;

Catlins River, Falls Dam, Hawea River, Hores Control Pond, Kawarau River, Lake Mahinerangi, Lake Roxburgh, Lake Sylvan, Lake Tuakitoto, Lake Waihola, Lake Waipori, Logan Burn dam, MacLennan River, Manorburn Dam (upper and lower), McAtamney's Head Pond, Owaka River, Pomahaka River, Puerua Estuary, Shotover River, Styx Weir Pond, Tahakopa River, Taieri River, Teviot River, Tokomairiro River, Waipahi River, Waipori River and Waiwera River.

The council needs to consider sustainability, the impacts of growth and increasing angling pressure, and the angling communities' perception of value for their licence fee. Consistency with neighboring Fish and Game Regions would help refine regulations throughout the South Island.

In the Central South Island Fish and Game Region waters that contain salmon and trout have a maximum daily bag of 4 of which no more than 2 can be trout. In the Southland Fish and Game Region maximum bags are commonly 4 and 2.

Rationale

- Lowering bags can be considered a precautionary approach in the absence of reliable information
- Provides better consistency with neighboring Fish and Game Regions

The following points have been provided for consideration.

Points to Consider

- Reasons for retaining a status quo
- Impacts of populations growth and increased harvest
- Lowering bags to align with neighboring Fish and Game Regions
- Splitting daily bags for trout and salmon
- Angler perceptions in retaining current bags or reducing limits
- Maintaining sustainability into the future
- Value to the licence holder

Option 1

Keep the status quo and stay with the current daily bag limits of 6 fish per day

Option 2

Lower maximum bag limits to 4 fish per day on all waters that currently have a 6 fish bag daily limit.

Option 3

Lower bag limits to 4 fish per day on selected waters - and including Lakes Dunstan, Hawea, Wanaka, Wakatipu and the Clutha River.

Option 4

Split bag limits on Lakes Hawea, Wanaka and Wakatipu to allow a greater salmon harvest, and include Lake Dunstan for consistency.

Regulation to read – *6 sports fish of which no more than 4 to be trout*

Other Regional Bag Limits

Bag limits in Otago vary from 0, 1, 2, 3, 6, 10 and some consideration should be given to standardizing them on their classification. 0 bag limits on the Upper Lochy and Routeburn Rivers have been described in *Point 1* above, and there is no recommendation to change daily bags on waters currently with a 1 fish daily bag limit.

Daily bag limits of 3 could be dropped to 2 which would align with neighboring Fish and Game Regions for consistency but this should also be considered in line with any decisions on *Point 6* above which provides options for daily bags of 4. I will provide further details for the next round of reporting to the February meeting incorporating outcomes and decisions of this meeting.

7.0 Legal Baits

Legal baits require better definition due to the introduction of new synthetic imitations and how the current regulation on their use is interpreted. The South Island Regulations Working Party meeting which I attended on November 16 discussed this at some length and I will be summarizing the views of the group to the February meeting.

8.0 Use of Boats

An angler wrote to this council expressing concern about his experience with kayakers trolling very close to him while he was fishing from shore near the Dart River Mouth at Lake Wakatipu.

Under Use of Boats - clause 8.3 of our regulations reads;

Subject to clause 8.4 for this region, anglers fishing from boats which are being mechanically propelled, must stay at least 100 meters from any anglers fishing from the shore.

There is no provision restricting kayakers or other manually powered vessels that are being used for fishing either stationary or moving and trolling.

Under schedule 1 of the regulations boat is interpreted as;

“boat” means any manned flotation device

The Council should consider whether it wants to extend the 100m regulation from mechanically propelled boats to all anglers in boats under 8.3 of the regulations thereby restricting kayaking anglers.

Option 1

Status Quo and keep the 100m restriction to mechanically propelled boats only

Option 2

Include kayakers and similar manually powered boats in the current regulation so that all “boats” are treated the same.

Note The regulations working party will be looking at boat definitions and their use which currently has several different references in the regulations.

Recommendation

That the report be received and any decisions be incorporated into in the next phase of the Anglers Notice review reporting round for the February Council meeting.

That anglers be alerted to the scope of the Anglers Notice review to date and informed of the review timetable

**Cliff Halford
Fish and Game Officer
November 2015**

8.5 Fern Burn Spawning Survey Report 2014 - R Boyd

COUNCIL REPORT NOVEMBER 2015

FERN BURN SPAWNING SURVEY REPORT 2014

1.0 Introduction

In 2013 the Upper Clutha Angling Club approved a 'Future Proofing' project in the Upper Clutha basin as part of a strategy to better document trout habitat in some of the areas smaller streams and rivers in the Upper Clutha basin. The overall objective is to ensure that there is high quality information on all of the streams that contribute to the trout populations in the district so that they can be recognised and protected in the face of future pressure for development and water abstraction in the Wanaka and Hawea catchments. The first stage was a pilot rainbow trout spawning survey of the Fern Burn stream in the spring of 2013. The pilot survey was successful and the Club determined that it would undertake two further annual rainbow trout spawning surveys in the Fern Burn to better document any variability in the timing, distribution and numbers of spawning fish.

The Fern Burn is a small catchment draining into Lake Wanaka at Glendhu Bay. This small stream drains mostly steep tussock country with some remnant beech forest until it leaves the Stack Conservation Area and gradually drops into lower lying open farmed land approximately 5.5 km from where it enters Glendhu Bay just west of the motor camp. From the Stack Conservation area to Lake Wanaka, the Fern Burn has been observed to hold reasonable numbers of spawning rainbow trout in the spring. Most of the trout drop back into Lake Wanaka by the middle of November. From about 500 m below the Stack Conservation area to Lake Wanaka, the Fern Burn is mostly in open flat ground and easily accessed on foot. Flows drop very quickly after freshes with good water clarity. Just above the Motatapu Station road about 2.5 km upstream from its outlet into Lake Wanaka, Glendhu Station diverts water from the Fern Burn into an irrigation water race under what is believed to be historical water rights (Fig. 1).



Figure 1. Glendhu Station's earth and rock barrier on the Fern Burn stream used to divert water into its water race (on right).

2.0 Survey Methods

Commencing on 9 September 2014, the same 2 km section of the Fern Burn (Fig. 2) was monitored for the presence of rainbow trout every week to 10 days. This section of the stream was selected for regular inspection because in 2013 it held the most spawning rainbow trout. It is also easy to access by vehicle and has an adjacent walking track, the Motatapu Track, starting at the Ford where the stream is crossed by the Motatapu Road. This 2km stretch of the stream runs upstream to about 500 metres below the boundary of the Stack Conservation Area at a point where there is an exposed large exposed rocky bluff on the true left bank where the stream turns to the left when looking upstream (referred to in this report as Top Bluff).

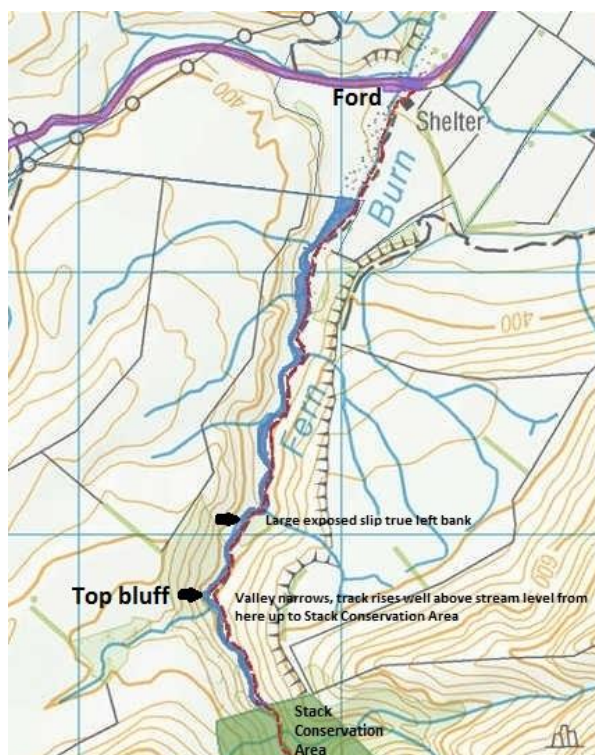


Figure 2. Monitoring area, Fern Burn stream from Motatapu Station Road (Ford) to Top Bluff

Using the build up of spawning numbers from the monitoring inspections and observations of the commencement of active spawning, it appeared that trout numbers had reached a peak at the end of the third week of October. The full spawning survey was therefore undertaken on 22 October 2014 during bright and sunny conditions. The full spawning survey covered the Fern Burn Stream up to the boundary of the Stack Conservation Area, commencing from a point adjacent to the large Hay Barn on the Motatapu Road approximately 1.8 km below the Motatapu Road Ford. There was no coverage of the Fern Burn downstream of the Hay Barn to its outlet into Lake Wanaka.

Following the main survey on 22 October, a follow up survey was conducted on 29 October of the 2 km stretch from the Ford to Top Bluff to determine whether there was any change in the numbers of spawners. Trout numbers had fallen by a third in this stretch compared to a week earlier and no further surveys were undertaken. From 1 November, the stream is heavily fished and the remaining post-spawning trout become increasingly harassed and spooky, making further surveys difficult.

3.0 Survey Results

The regular monitoring inspections of the Ford to Top Bluff showed a steady buildup of trout numbers from early October and then a rapid increase in the third week of October (Fig. 3). Rain events coincided with increases in numbers of fish seen in the stream.

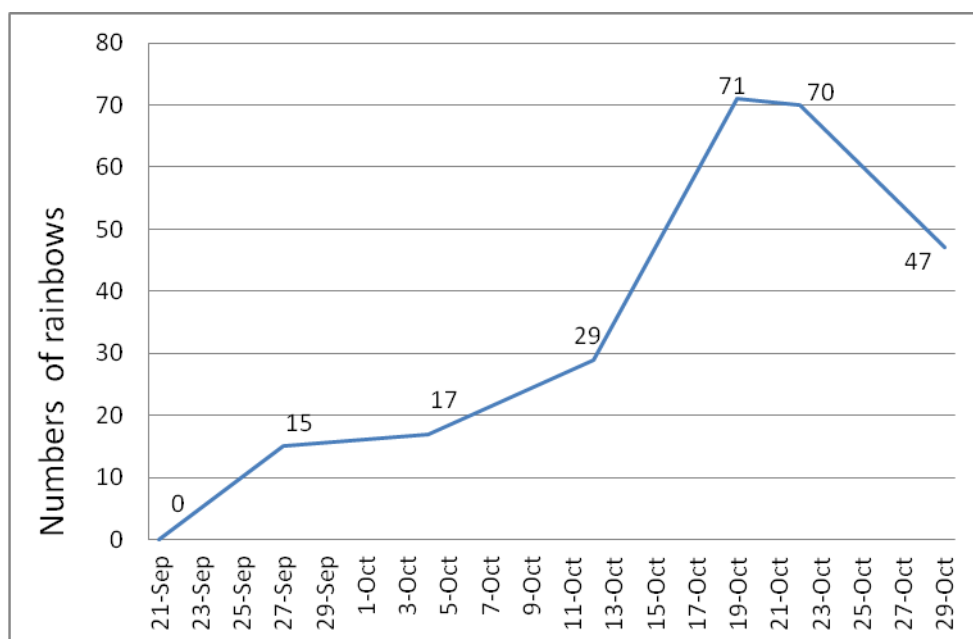


Figure 3. Timing of rainbow trout spawning run, Fern Burn 2014 based on the numbers of fish observed during regular inspections of the stream from the Ford to Top Bluff section only.

A total of 99 rainbows were counted in the main spawning survey undertaken on 22 October, with 18 counted in the 1.8 km reach below the Ford (Hay Barn upstream to the Ford), and 81 counted from the Ford to the boundary of the Stack Conservation Area.

A GPS unit on loan was available for the counts in the reach above the Ford on 22 October and also for a followup survey on 29 October. Counts for the main spawning survey are given in Appendix 1, the counts being the numbers of fish observed from each GPS mark to the next mark upstream. The GPS marks and counts from the followup survey are given in Appendix 2. In the followup survey the numbers of rainbows observed in the section of the stream from the Ford to Top Bluff had dropped from 70 fish on 22 October to 47 fish on 29 October, indicating the peak of the spawning run had passed. Fig. 4 shows the distribution of the GPS Marks (and thus the approximate distribution of spawners) from the combined 22 and 29 October surveys. This shows that spawning was well distributed above the Ford although the majority of the fish were seen between the first deer fence (Mark 30 in Fig. 4) and Top Bluff (Mark 36 in Fig. 4) where there is more streamside vegetation. GPS coordinates and numbers observed in each reach are given in Appendix 1. Field notes are given in Appendix 3.

Numbers of rainbow trout observed in 2014 were similar to 2013. In both years, about 80% of the total, were present in the stretch from the Ford upstream to the Stack Conservation Area boundary.

Timing of the peak numbers in 2014 appeared to be about 1 week earlier compared to 2013, possibly a result of the very mild winter.

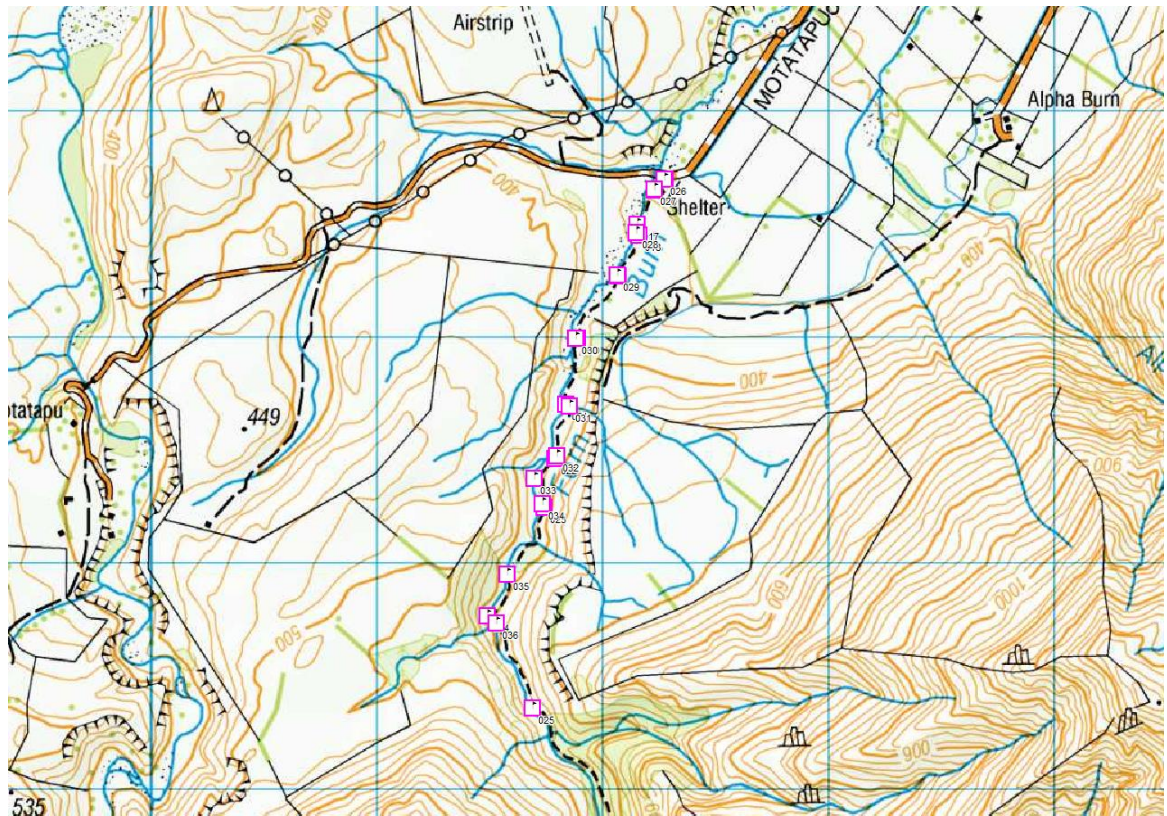


Figure 4. Distribution of GPS marks – from the spawning survey data in Appendices 1 & 2.

4.0 Discussion

The spawning survey in 2014 can be considered as successful overall. Regular monitoring of the most accessible portion of the Fern Burn allowed the timing of the spawning run to be determined as well as ensuring the full survey took place close to the peak numbers present. In 2014, as in 2013, the survey did not include that portion of the stream downstream of the Hay Barn to its outlet into Lake Wanaka. The availability of a GPS unit on loan to the Club allowed a more accurate record of the location of spawning rainbows above the Ford on the Motatapu Station Road.

The availability of suitable gravel for spawning in the Fern Burn is patchy, mostly seen as small pockets of gravel amongst larger stones and rocks. This may limit the potential of the Fern Burn as a spawning habitat.

It would be desirable to extend the survey downstream of the Hay Barn as well as recording GPS locations for the full extent of the survey area. The Club intends to consider this for the 2015 survey now that Otago Fish and Game have donated a GPS unit for the Club to use in future spawning surveys.

5.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to all Club members who assisted in the surveys especially Brian Knapp, Jim Reveley, Gareth Roberts, Mike Turner and Peter Wilson. Also thanks to Cliff Halford, Otago Fish and Game for his support and advice.

**Rick Boyd
Upper Clutha Angling Club
Wanaka**

Appendix 1: Main Fern Burn Spawning Survey Data – 22 October 2014

Weather: clear and sunny

Stream conditions: clear and about normal

Species: Rainbow trout

Personnel: Hay Barn to Ford – Peter Wilson & Jim Reveley, above Ford, Rick Boyd & Mike Turner

GPS Mark ID	NZTM East	NZTM North	GPS reference marks & or description (start and finish point of each reach of the stream)
No GPS			Hay Barn - survey starting point to a shingle slide
No GPS			Shingle Slide to Lone Poplar bend
No GPS			Lone Poplar bend to Shingle Slide/Willow
No GPS			Slide to Old Fence
No GPS			Old Fence to First Fence across river
No GPS			First Fence to 2 nd Fence
No GPS			2 nd Fence to Double Fence
No GPS			Double Fence to Ford
15	1282273.15	5043703.75	Mark 15 to 16 – Ford to first stile
16	1282224.64	5043656.09	Mark 16 to 17 – first stile to water race pool
17	1282149.95	5043502.06	Mark 17 to 18 – race pool to second stile
18	1282156.01	5043454.27	Mark 18 to 19 – second stile to third stile
19	1282065.13	5043275.67	Mark 19 to 20 – third stile to deer fence
20	1281884.42	5043001.87	Mark 20 to 21 – first deer fence to pool at large rock
21	1281833.09	5042707.59	Mark 21 to 22 – pool at large rock to first slip
22	1281783.79	5042467.22	Mark 22 to 23 – first slip to second slip true right bank
23	1281735.39	5042251.07	Mark 23 to 24 – second slip to Top Bluff
24	1281482.26	5041772.37	Mark 24 to 25 – Top Bluff to Stack Conservation Area
25	1281683.61	5041365.06	Mark 25 – end point of survey at deer fence marking start of Stack Conservation area

Total spawning rainbows counted

Numbers counted from Ford Mark 20 to Top Bluff Mark 24

Appendix 2: Follow up Fern Burn Spawning Survey Data – 29 October 2014 – Ford to Top Bluff

Weather: clear and sunny

Stream conditions: clear, about normal flow

Species: Rainbow trout

Personnel: Rick Boyd, Brian Knapp

GPS Mark ID	NZTM East	NZTM North	GPS reference marks & or description (start and finish point of each reach of the stream)
26	1282269.06	5043702.09	Mark 26 to 27 – Ford to first stile
27	1282225.08	5043659.16	Mark 27 to 28 – first stile to second stile
28	1282142.87	5043467.55	Mark 28 to 29 – second stile to third stile
29	1282061.69	5043279.81	Mark 29 to 30 – third stile to first deer fence
30	1281876.31	5042999.20	Mark 30 to 31 – first deer fence to pool at large rock
31	1281846.17	5042701.41	Mark 31 to 32 – pool at large rock to first slip
32	1281790.88	5042480.54	Mark 32 to 33 – first slip to dead tree
33	1281692.97	5042380.85	Mark 33 to 34 – dead tree to second slip
34	1281727.79	5042267.27	Mark 34 to 35 – second slip to pool & 2 large rocks true left bank
35	1281572.77	5041954.12	Mark 35 to 36 – pool & 2 large rocks true left bank to Top Bluff
36	1281523.99	5041739.86	Mark 36 – Top Bluff – end of survey

Total spawning rainbows counted from Ford Mark 26 to Top Bluff Mark 36

Appendix 3: Fern Burn 2014 Spawning Survey Field Notes – R Boyd

9 September 2014 – covered stream from Ford to Top Bluff

Stream low and clear, no recent rain. Inspected stream from Ford upstream to point where track rises well above stream level (Top Bluff). All pools and runs checked. No fish seen.

21 Sept 2014 – Covered stream from Ford to Top Bluff

Stream low and clear, no recent rain. Inspected stream from Ford upstream to Top Bluff. No fish seen.

27 Sept 2014 – Covered stream from Ford to Top Bluff plus a short distance downstream.

Stream remains low and clear but a light rain fell on 25 September. Inspected stream with Gareth Roberts from the Ford upstream to Top Bluff. Total of 13 rainbows spotted above the ford, most in pairs.

Also inspected stream for 100 m below the ford and one pair spotted.

4 October 2014 – Covered stream from Ford to Top Bluff plus a short distance downstream.

Stream remains low and clear, no recent rain. Inspected stream with Mike Turner from the Ford upstream to Top Bluff. Total of 15 rainbows spotted above the ford.

Also inspected stream for 100 m below the ford and one pair spotted – in the act of spawning.

12 October 2014 – Covered stream from Ford to Top Bluff plus a short distance downstream.

Moderate rain during the week (5th & 8th) but stream low and clear on the 12th. Inspected stream from the Ford upstream to Top Bluff. Total of 27 fish spotted above the ford, 10 single fish and the rest in pairs or triples.

Also inspected stream for 150 m downstream –spotted, one fish seen where 2 fish were seen spawning on the 4th, one more hidden below small cascade by willow trees.

19 October 2014 – Covered stream from Ford to Top Bluff plus a short distance downstream.

No appreciable rain since the 12th, stream low and clear. Inspected stream with John Barlow covering the same stretches as in previous weeks. Total of 71 fish seen from and including the ford pool up to the top bluff.

Total of 4 fish seen in the 100m stretch below the ford.

22 October 2014 – no rain since 19th, stream clear. Full Spawning Survey from Hay Barn to Stack Conservation Area

Below the ford down to the Hay Barn (1.9 km), the spawning count was undertaken by Upper Clutha Angling Club members Jim Reveley and Peter Wilson. Above the Ford, the spawning count and GPS coordinates were undertaken by Club members Rick Boyd and Mike Turner. Above the top gate, one large rainbow seen drifting downstream, not included in formal count.

29 October 2014 – no rain since 22nd. Partial survey from Ford to Top bluff

Count undertaken by Club members Rick Boyd and Brian Knapp.

8.6 Quartz Creek Sports Fish Salvage - P van Klink

OTAGO FISH & GAME COUNCIL REPORT NOVEMBER 2015

Quartz Creek Sports Fish Salvage

Background

Quartz Creek is a small stream that enters Stevensons Arm (Lake Wanaka) some seven kilometers north of the township of Wanaka. The stream drains the southern catchment of the hills between Lakes Wanaka and Hawea, including the flanks of Mt Gold (1304m), Mt Burke (1417m) and Mt Maude (1315m). Quartz Creek is a one of three significant spawning areas in the south-eastern area of Lake Wanaka.

The land tenure of the catchment is pastoral lease held by Mt Burke Station Ltd of which Tim Burdon is shareholder and director. The farmland immediately adjacent to the lower Quartz Creek is irrigated through a border dyke system. The water take for the irrigation occurs approximately three kilometers upstream from the inflow into Lake Wanaka. Water allocation is through deemed permits (historic mining privileges that were allocated during the gold rush in the 1860s and transitioned into the RMA in 1991) which are due to expire in 2021.

Historically Quartz Creek has suffered from water abstraction during the spring and summer months. The catchment has a history of fish mortality events involving adult and juvenile trout caused by excessive irrigation take at the guillotine weir intake where all water is diverted from the creek. Consequently Fish & Game have been involved in numerous fish salvage operations on an almost annual basis over the past 20 years.

2015 Field Work

A spawning survey of Quartz Creek was undertaken on 15 October 2015. This is being reported to Council by Cliff Halford.

On 12 November Fish & Game received a call from Mr Burdon to say that the guillotine had been closed some 10 days prior. A survey of Quartz Creek was undertaken the same day followed by planning and preparation for a fish salvage operation. This reports on the finding from the survey and the fish salvage operation.

Results

Fish Survey

A two-kilometer section of Quartz Creek was surveyed to estimate the abundance of live fish remaining that could be potentially salvaged. A minimum of 65 adult rainbow trout were located dead in the section downstream from the guillotine weir (Figure 1). Most had been dead for several days. Water continued to flow for approximately 500m downstream from the

weir and up to a dozen adult fish were seen in the small pools that remained. Immediately below the weir a further 30 adult trout were stranded and over 100 trout were observed upstream of the weir.

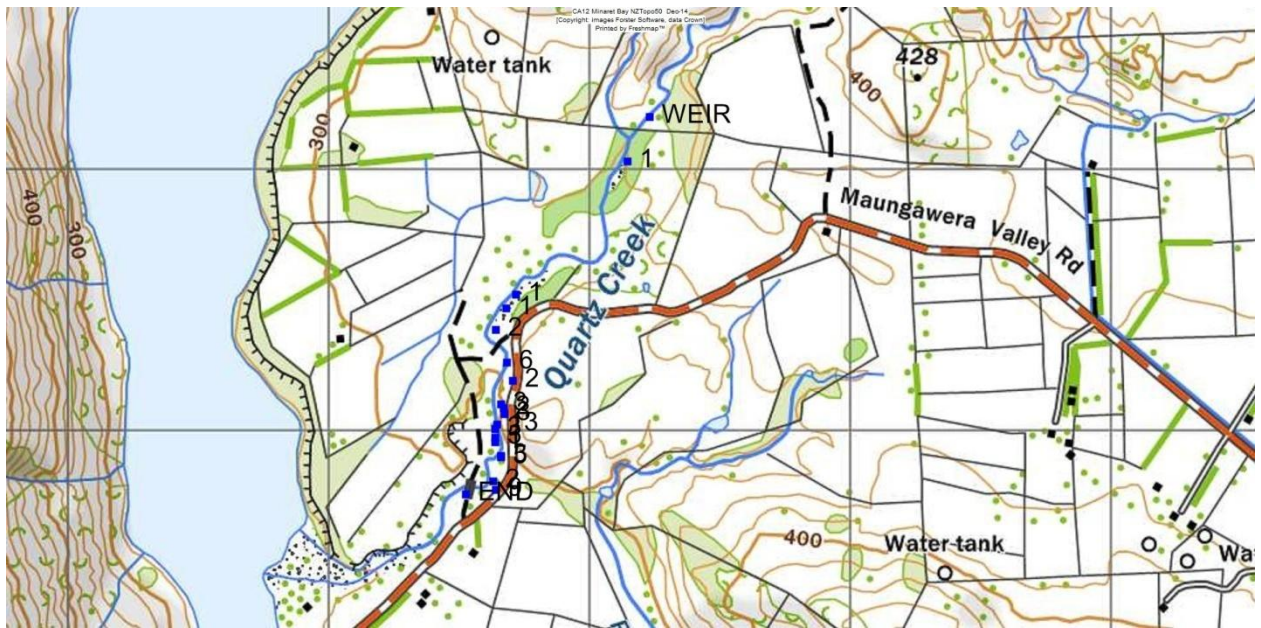


Figure 1. Blue GPS points indicating location and number of dead adult rainbow trout, Quartz Creek

Fish Salvage

A salvage operation focusing on adult rainbow trout immediately upstream and downstream of the weir was initiated and carried out on 14 November. All fish were rounded up in a seine net and removed by dip net into buckets or transferred directly by dip net to the liberation unit (Photos 1, 2, 3). Three transfers of adult rainbow trout were released adjacent to the flax paddock, Stevenson Arm, Lake Wanaka (Photos 4, 5).

The approximate size and number of 218 adult rainbow trout and three juvenile trout were recorded at the time of salvage (Table 1). The majority of the fish were around 300mm in length and weighed approximately 1000 grams.

Table 1. Approximate fish length and number (n=221) of rainbow trout salvaged in Quartz Creek, November 2015.

Fish Length (mm)	80	300	400	500	600
Fish numbers salvaged	3	160	50	7	1

Photo 1 - 3. Rainbow trout being salvaged for transfer, Quartz Creek



Photo 4, 5. Rainbow trout salvaged from Quart Creek being released into Stevenson Arm, Lake Wanaka



Discussion

The fish survey results showed a large number of adult rainbow trout had died since the guillotine weir had been in place around the beginning of November.

The fish salvage operation went well particularly because of the extra volunteers that came from the Upper Clutha Angling Club.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to the Upper Clutha Angling Club members led by Rick Boyd, which included Gareth Roberts, Carl and Monika Bredberg, Matt Butler, Russell Duff and Murray Mattson. Also thanks to councilor Dan Rae and Otago Fish & Game CE Niall Watson.

Further Work

Further up work is planned as follows:

- Staff will continue to liaise with Mr Burdon with the aim of improving communications and encouraging the best possible outcome for stranded sports fish in Quartz Creek.
- Reports on instream values will be forwarded to Otago Regional Council as a precursor to seeking a minimum or residual flows to allow sports fish migration in Quartz Creek. Existing water rights based on mining privileges expire in 2021.
- Fish salvage equipment (liberation unit, seine net and dip net(s)) is being upgraded and maintained to ensure that it is e in good working order and operable prior to field work occurring.
- Further monitoring is to be undertaken annually in October to check on in-stream flows and spawning fish numbers.

Recommendation

That this report be received

Paul van Klink
Fish & Game Officer
Central Otago Field Centre
Cromwell

**8.7 Confidential Report – Does a Salmon ‘Fishout’ Facility Require A
Freshwater Fish Farming Licence? -R Boyd**

9 Correspondence

9.1 Nil

10 General Business
