

**Agenda for the Meeting of the
Otago Fish & Game Council to be held on 15th June 2017
At St Johns Rooms, Scotland Street, Roxburgh**

Commencing at 12 noon

Please note: A Lunch will be provided at 11.45am

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1 Present and Apologies

2 Declaration of Interest

3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes

**Minutes of Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting
Cromwell Presbyterian Church Building
20th April 2017
Commencing at 12.30 pm**

1.0 Present

Monty Wright (Chair), Adrian McIntyre, John Jillett, John Barlow, Rick Boyd, Dan Rae, Colin Weatherall, Mike Turner and Murray Neilson

In attendance: Ian Hadland (Operations Manager)

Apologies were received from David Witherow, Vicky Whyte and Allan Hammond. Ian Cole is on leave of absence. The CE was absent due to illness and also apologised.

Resolved (McIntyre/Boyd)

That the apologies be received.

Mr Wright welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2.0 Declarations of Interest

- **Declarations of Interest** – Murray Neilson wished to declare that he was now a paid up member of the ‘Opportunities Party’ and requested that be noted.

3.0 Minutes

Resolved (Rae/Barlow)

that the Minutes of the meeting on the 11th February be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Resolved (Rae/Barlow)

That the Minutes of the strategic planning meeting also be confirmed as a true and correct record

4.0 Matters Arising from Minutes

Nil

5.0 Communications New Zealand Council

5.1 NZC Correspondence to Otago

5.1.1 Licence sales and category analysis

Mr Hadland spoke to a NZC paper on fishing licence sales, the various licencing issues and proposals for the next season.

There was a wide ranging discussion on the topic including the impact of a poor salmon season on sales and the potential to rename some licence categories to improve perceived value for money. Cr Rae and Jillet spoke about the rural urban shift and the impact on sales and Cr Turner noted that these societal changes may be hard to unwind, and even with a good marketing strategy may not shift static or declining sales.

There was broad agreement that the fishing licence categories and pricing regime shouldn't be changed until the three year 'bedding in' process had ended.

Allowing all participants named on a Family Licence to fish alone was discussed. The OM pointed out that the original concept was to foster family angling as this was identified in research to be one of the most common ways youth recruited to the sport and that nothing had changed since that research. Cr Rae remarked that the provisions on a Family licence had been relaxed a lot over the years and shouldn't be stretched further.

Resolved (Turner/Weatherall)

That the Council:

1. **Receive** the licence sales and analysis report
2. **Agree** that licence categories and fee ratios remain unchanged for the 2017/18 season.
3. **a. Not Support** the imposition of having a limit on the number of consecutive day licences an individual may have.
b. Agree with the concept of broadening the use of designated fisheries as a management tool provided it didn't impinge on Otago's back country fisheries regime.
c. Not support the name change to 'Premium Licence' but did support the removal of the word 'Whole' from Whole Season Licence
d. Not support further liberalisation of the Family Licence provisions.

5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC

Nil

6.0 Health and Safety

Mr Hadland updated the Council on the various Health and Safety documents noting that the final two parts, the audit schedule and the appendices were being edited at present and should be ready to circulate to Council before the next meeting. The Health and Safety system and hazard analysis components are complete.

The Council's guiding H&S Policy document outlining the councils commitment to health and safety in the workplace was presented.

Resolved (Rae/Barlow)

That the policy be adopted and could now be signed by the CE and Chair

7.0 Chief Executive's Report

7.1 Administration

Finance and licence sales reports to the end of March 2017 were discussed. The OM noted that the Council's fishing licence sales figures were similar to the same time last year and that game sales had been steady so far and also look on par with last season.

Capital purchases

Mr Hadland explained that one vehicle had been sold recently for \$29,500 and a replacement purchased for \$44,323. (both including GST)

Land and buildings

The Wanaka site and ALREC's email were to be discussed under correspondence below.

Resolved (Barlow/Boyd)

That Finance and Licence sales report for the period ending 31 March 2017 be approved.

7.2 Species

Hatchery Operations

The OM reported that the mallard trend count flights were complete.

7.3 Habitat

Complaints

Mr Hadland relayed to the meeting that staff had recently met with the ORC Compliance manager to discuss complaints procedure and the various thresholds for when complaints should be lodged for matter such as sedimentation and discoloured water. He has since provided staff with their own internal guide for bankside pugging.

Cr Rae enquired about the Cameron's Creek complaint that was made to ORC. Mr Hadland said he would follow that up and report back to Councillors.

Minimum Flows/Community Group Meetings

The Council were updated on the Kyeburn Water Users Group consent application which was lodged recently. Up to this point there were still a few outstanding matters for both sides which might mean that a hearing was necessary to protect sportsfish values in the stream. It was also noted that this was the first of the groups of deemed permit holders to go through to lodging an application without affected party sign off. The Council expressed disappointment that it couldn't be resolved through negotiation but it was determined to see the RMA process through.

Contact Energy Clutha Consent

The purpose of the Contact stakeholder meeting was queried along with whether councillors had been invited to the planned meeting in early May to discuss a hatchery option for Lower Clutha mitigation. Mr Neilson explained that he was attending on behalf of the CFT.

Cr Weatherall suggested that having an independent chair might help advance the various matters more quickly.

It was resolved (Weatherall/Rae)

That Contact invite an independent chair to the meeting with the cost being met by Contact.

7.4 User Participation

Access

Hunter River access was discussed including the weak government response to criticism about the OIO process and in particular the Commissioner of Crown Lands dismissive attitude towards the WAC and other NGO's involved.

Cr Barlow said he would take a closer look at the DOC easements currently in place with a view to applying pressure for a better outcome.

7.5 Public Interface

No Discussion

7.6 Compliance

Ranging

Cr McIntyre asked if Otago rangers would be accompanied by Police this gamebird season as they were in Southland. The OM replied that only one constable in the Maniototo had requested to accompany rangers and given the firearms related incident up there last year that this would be supported.

Cr McIntyre was critical of the media reporting around gamebird hunting opening and some of the imagery promoted in social media. The OM explained that staff had little control over either.

Prosecutions

The Council were updated on recent prosecutions including the various penalties handed down.

Reparation Policy

The adjustments to the Councils Reparation Policy were explained, in particular the use of reparation funds. The proposal to include applications for seed funding for research projects related to sportsfish or gamebirds or their habitat was supported. It was resolved (Rae/Weatherall)

That the change to the reparation policy as noted in the agenda be ratified.

7.7 Licencing

No discussion

7.8 Council

No discussion

7.9 Planning and Reporting

Annual planning response document discussed under technical reports

8.0 Committee Reports

8.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust

Mr Jillett reported on trust activity including:

- Ongoing Upper Clutha access work including Kane Road, Gilmore Road and the 'Black Bag' Access.
- Clearance of Lake Dunstan islands for nesting birds
- Agreement to 50% funding of the Cawthron cost associated with bioenergetics modelling in the Clutha River
- Attendance at lagrosiphon meetings

8.2 New Zealand Council

Cr Jillett reported on the recent NZC meeting and noted:

- Announcement that the NZC CE to retire this October. Recruitment process underway.
- NC Region spoke freely about requirement for hatchery in their region including the need to supply other regions and their own youth programmes.
- Policy on the use of reserves was discussed.
- Three legal pool funds were accepted

9.0 Technical Reports

9.1 Sedimentation of South Otago Streams - M Trotter

Morgan Trotters report was discussed at length. Mr McIntyre thought some of the images didn't constitute a breach of the waterplan and he thought some of the farmers deserved credit for doing their best. It was explained that the array of images represented the types of activities likely to lead to sedimentation. It was resolved (Boyd/Barlow)

That the report be received and copies of it sent to the ORC and relevant district councils for their information as well. Mr Trotter to be commended for a quality report.

9.2 Strategic Planning Workshop and Staff Report – N Watson

The report was discussed and the following edits were made;

1211 - Cr Boyd thought the project statement for the Clutha hatchery could be worded more firmly so it was altered by removing the word proposed and replacing it with the word 'designed'.

1115 - Mr Neilson commented that the project which promoted research into Paradise shelduck impact on critical period mallard ducklings could lead to findings which the council would be unable to implement. Cr McIntyre agreed noting that bag limits were a better mechanism for management of the population.

It was eventually **agreed** to leave the project in its current form.

Water quantity – The Council agreed that the body of work coming up regarding the transition of deemed permits to RMA consents, and a larger focus by ORC on minimum flow setting, would put pressure on staff resources.

As such, the Council **resolved** (Jillett/Turner)

That the Council dedicate up to \$150,000 over the next three to five years from reserves to provide external support to those processes.

It was **resolved** (Boyd/McIntyre)

That with those minor adjustments **that the strategic planning document and work plan be approved**

9.3 2017/18 Anglers Notice scoping report

Mr Halford's draft report was considered.

Pomahaka – Concern was expressed about how this might appear and Cr Rae moved that the Pomahaka rivers introduction into the back country fishery regime be deferred for another year and be considered in the wider review. Cr McIntyre disagreed noting that access to the upper Pomohaka hadn't improved as a result of the tenure review.

It was eventually resolved (Rae/Weatherall)

That the status of the Pomahaka not be subject to review for the coming season and the report be received

Councillors requested staff to generate an ownership map of the upper river, the current access points and demarcations of the various regulations for the sake of clarity

10.0 Correspondence

10.1 ORC Environmental Enhancement Grant – Received. Council expressed gratitude for the allocation of \$13,500 towards planting at Takitakitoa wetland

10.2 Late Correspondence from ALREC

The use of the Wanaka Hatchery site by ALREC was discussed:

Councillors expressed concern at the proposal to use land on the western side of the creek and some of the old hatchery buildings for establishment of the proposed research centre. There was agreement that the site, particularly the proposed subdivision area, shouldn't be compromised by any third party at this point.

It was resolved (Barlow/Jillett)

That the new request shouldn't replace the original proposal however to ensure that the ALREC group maintains its momentum the Council allow for relocatable buildings to be established on the site near the staff quarters for research purposes for a term of up to 10 years with no right of renewal. Staff are to respond accordingly.

11.0 General Business

The Operations Manager updated the Council on the Hunter River access issue noting that Federated Mountain Club was seeking legal advice on the OIO role and whether they had acted appropriately through the sale process.

Cr Boyd asked for the matter of the approved fish farm licence at Cameron's Creek to be added to the next agenda so the consequences of that MPI decision could be discussed with a view to responding.

The Chair thanked Councillors for their input

The meeting closed at 4:45 pm

4 Matters arising from the minutes

5 Communications New Zealand Council

5.1 Correspondence from NZC to Otago

5.1.1 Licence Fee Recommendation

TO: Regional Councils

2017/18 LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION

At its meeting on 19 May, the NZ Council (NZC) resolved:

That for the purpose of consultation with regional Fish and Game Councils, the NZ Council recommend a 2017/18 adult whole season sports fish licence of \$127 and the adult whole season game licence of \$94 (inclusive of a \$3 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) inclusive of GST.

1 Background

National policy defines that all expenditure needs to be approved as part of the budget round including expenditure to be funded from the bulk fund for the year, capital expenditure and expenditure from dedicated reserves.

Under the bulk funding regime funding levels are set for the 12 regional councils, the New Zealand Council, and the National budgets which make up the Fish & Game New Zealand budget. The method of increasing the funding level of any individual budget is through an application to the Contestable Fund, for either a one-off funding allocation for a specific project, or for ongoing additional funding. The latter in effect raises the bulk funding level for that council.

2 Reserves

National policy sets regional reserve levels equal to between 30-50% of licence income, or of total budget for those regions which receive a grant. This level of general reserve is considered adequate to provide security against fluctuations in income and to ensure adequate operational cash flow.

Where a region's general reserve exceeds the 50% level, approved contestable funding for that region is allocated from its excess reserve, until such time as that region's general reserve is drawn down to sit within the recommended range. Where a region's reserve is below the 30% level, a contestable fund application can be made to restore the region's general reserve back up to that level.

3 2017/18 Fish & Game NZ Budget Round with review of 2015/16 Financials

3.1 Variance Review

Preparation of the budgets begins with all instances of more or less than 10% variance between budget and audited year-end financial results being identified at the schedule B level, and explanation for those variances being reviewed at the February managers meeting. This becomes a reference towards considering and prioritising contestable fund applications submitted into the 2017/18 Fish & Game NZ (F&G NZ) Budget.

4. 2017/18 Fish & Game NZ Budget

4.1 Contestable Funding

A total of 37 applications were received, seeking additional funding of \$622,706 exclusive of additional legal/WCO funding, which is funded by the surplus in the contestable fund pool after adoption of licence fees.

After rating all contestable funding applications with the following rankings:

- 1 Rejected
- 2 Not recommended
- 3 Good to do but not funded 2017/18
- 4 Recommended but not essential for 2017/18
- 5 Essential for 2017/18

It was agreed that only those applications which were rated as (5) *essential for 2017/18* be funded and (4) *Recommended but not essential for 2017/18* (totaling \$448,941) inclusive of the \$78,306 to be funded from reserves.

Recommended Funding from the licence fee pool:

The successful applications include:

- Salary CPI totaling \$57,720
- Staff performance increases in seven regions, including two regions increasing staff hours, totaling \$46,500
- Restoration of Reserves for NZC for the amount of \$47,568
- New Field officer position for Northland (including) associated costs for the amount of \$85,300
- Habitat management and enhancement for Taranaki for the amount of \$15,000.
- Novice angler/hunter recruitment & training & Predator Control-Wetland Environments for Wellington totaling \$20,000
- Junior fishing development & refurbishment of office totaling \$25,000 for Nelson/Marlborough.
- Three separate applications-National finance review; Licence management; Development of strategy for marketing totaling \$54,860 for NZ Council for National projects.
- TV Series sponsorship totaling \$20,000 for NZ Council.

Recommended Funding from Westcoast Regional council's reserves:

- Salary CPI totaling \$2,622 (on-going)

Recommended Funding from Hawkes Bay Regional council's reserves:

- Staff CPI totaling \$3,089 (on-going)

Recommended Funding from North Canterbury Regional council's reserves:

- Salary CPI & FBT costs totaling \$26,030 (on-going)

Recommended Funding from CSI Regional council's reserves:

- Purchase of Boat for research & compliance work on lake fisheries totaling \$37,000 (one-off)

Recommended Funding from Otago Regional council's reserves:

- Staff CPI totaling \$9,565 (on-going)

Unfunded applications:

3 applications were not recommended for funding this year.

Unsuccessful applications included:

- Reserve restoration as Reserve underfunding calculation used did not include Asset replacement fund – Auckland/Waikato, Wellington & Southland

4.2 NZC Recommendation:

NZC accepted the recommendation of Managers for a \$2.00 increase to the Adult whole season fish licence, and has additionally recommended that the adult whole season game license be increased by \$1.00. NZC also has recommended approving total contestable funding applications of \$448,941

Total contestable funds of \$370,635 to be funded by Licence fee pool, and \$78,306 would be provided from regional reserves for 2017/18. Ongoing approved funding beyond 2017/18 from Reserves for four Fish & Game councils (North Canterbury, West Coast, CSI & Otago) [until the 50% level is drawn down (refer Item 2, Page 1)] is \$138,980 (inclusive of ongoing funding from reserves since 2014) and then this amount will be added to the base fund of the applicable council/s.

Funding of \$185,790 was recommended on an ongoing basis, thereby increasing the bulk funding of the regions concerned and \$532,450 (\$147,568 excluding legal fund) was recommended for the 2017/18 year only, and would therefore be returned to the contestable pool for next F&G NZ budget.

4.3 Research Fund Allocation

The managers' recommended projects totaling \$95,000 for 2017/18 financial year. The budget is retained at \$100,000 plus \$34,000 for Mallard Research.

4.4 RMA & WCO Legal Fund Allocation

The recommended licence fee would provide legal funding of \$384,882 in addition to the \$140,000 existing allocation within NZC budget for this purpose, giving a total 2017/18 budget allocation of 524,882.

5 Conclusion

The 2017/18 licence fee recommendation would result in a \$2 increase to the Adult Whole Season Fish licence fee (from \$125 to \$127) which equates to a 1.016% increase, and a \$1 increase for the Game Licence increasing the Adult Whole Season Game licence fee (from \$93 to \$94 -inclusive of the \$3 Game Bird Habitat Stamp) which equates to a .989% increase.

Regional council responses on the proposed 2017/18 licence fees need to be received **no later than Monday 19th June 2017** so that they can be circulated to NZ Council and considered prior to a telephone conference on Wednesday 21st June 2017.

The NZC will then recommend to the Minister the new schedule of licence fees.

Alison Lyall

Finance and Administration Manager

26 May 2017

5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC

5.2.1 Response On Licence Sales Category Discussions



10 May 2017

New Zealand Council
Fish and Game New Zealand
PO Box 13 141
Wellington 6440

Attn: Mr Robert Sowman

Re: Response to NZC licence sales and licence category discussion paper

The Council discussed your paper at its last meeting on the 20th April 2017 and wishes to make the following comments:

1 Sales Reports

Firstly, the Council wishes to extend its appreciation for the high level of analysis on licence sales which has been provided recently. This is an area of reporting which has been particularly underdone in the past.

2 Fee Ratios

OFGC agree with the recommendation that the fee ratios remain the same for the 2017/18 season. That will completed the three year 'bedding in' phase and allow for more proper analysis of switching and changes in revenue.

3a Limit on consecutive days for Day Licences

There was sympathy for the issue but without interrogating the numbers further, there was little support for a change. The fix described is clumsy and would require a complex adjustment to the licencing system and even then, adding them self as a new customer would create a work-around to the issue.

The Council was also of the view that if this was predominantly an issue with non resident licence holders then a better mechanism would be to extend the range of designated fisheries which require a whole season licence to fish them. We suspect that this is the reason that Otago has sold a higher proportion of NRL than other regions.

3b Broadening the use of designated fisheries

As alluded to above, OFGC fully supports broadening the use of designated fisheries. They would not want to see that interfere with the Backcountry Fisheries regime in the short term as this is running very smoothly.

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

Otago Fish and Game Council

Cnr Hanover & Harrow Sts, PO Box 76, Dunedin 9054, New Zealand. Telephone (03) 477 9076
www.fishandgame.org.nz

3c Changing the name of Adult Whole Season to 'Premium Licence'

The Council agreed that this category represented the best licence offering however did not agree that a name change to 'Premium Licence' would create any better perception of value. Some councillors thought it could create the opposite view (Premium licence = premium price).

They did consider alternatives and eventually recommended that the word 'whole' be dropped so that a licence holder who purchase such a licence part way through the season wouldn't feel as aggrieved.

3d Allowing all Family Licence participants to fish alone.

The Council did not agree with the proposed change noting that it went against the licence categories original intention. Market research which prompted the Family licence introduction showed that most people get into angling through a family member (most notably their parents) and the licence was intended to facilitate that.

The change could also have an impact on revenue with some adult partners who each buy an adult season licence at present being able to buy a discounted family licence to fish separately.

4 Marketing Strategy Development

OFGC fully support the development of a marketing strategy with a focus on growing participation.

Thank you

Niall Watson
Chief Executive

6 Health and Safety Report

The Operations Manager will speak to the following three papers.

- Aerial Monitoring of Mallards – separate paper on helicopter use for annual monitoring of mallards
- Self audit schedule and CE annual checklist – this is part of OFGC H&S plan.

Opening weekend ranging H&S – rangers had a pre opening day ranging meeting and were refreshed on H&S matters and also trained in the handling and unloading of various shotgun types. A Job Safety Analysis for ranging was updated following a minor incident last year. There were no accidents, incidents or new hazards identified this opening day by any of the ranging teams involved.

There are no other incidents or accidents to report.

For discussion/information

6.1 Mallard Monitoring Using A Robinson R22 Helicopter

Background

The Department of Conservation ceased using Robinson helicopters in 2016 and this caused Otago Fish and Game Council staff to also review its use of that class of helicopter. DOC's decision was primarily based on concerns raised by the Transport Accident Investigation Commission (TAIC) about the safety record of the Robinson helicopter in New Zealand.

Mallard Monitoring

Fish & Game Otago use a Robinson 22 helicopter for completing aerial monitoring of mallard populations in south Otago (and on occasions for spawning surveys). The work has been completed annually for 3 years (2015 – 2017). It involves one staff member and one pilot completing approximately 5.0 – 6.0 hours of low level flying under fine weather conditions. The helicopter is operated by Otago Helicopters Ltd.

Robinson Aircraft Safety

TAIC added Robinson helicopters to their Watchlist¹ following a number of 'mast bumping' accidents concerning Robinson 22 and 44 class helicopters. It made a number of recommendations to Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) for implementation across all Robinson helicopters. CAA in turn has adopted those recommendations, adjusted pilot operating manuals and updated the owners of those types of machines. Those modifications included more specific training for low gravity situations, restrictions on flying in adverse weather and minimum levels of experience for pilots – all aspects which are thought to have contributed to 'mast bumping' and in-flight breakup.

The Operations Manager contacted CAA directly on the safety of Robinson 22's in February 2017 and was reassured by CAA that Robinson 22 class helicopters are still suitable (with those modifications outlined above) and allowed for commercial work under good flying conditions.

Alternative Helicopters

The use of other helicopter models has been considered to undertake the mallard monitoring. It is thought that other larger helicopter models (i.e Hughes 500, Jet Ranger) would cause additional disturbance to the mallard ducks. This is because larger helicopters cause more rotor wash and are generally louder. This additional disturbance would affect the variability of the data collected and data from previous surveys could not be compared. They are almost prohibitively expensive for this task.

¹ <http://www.taic.org.nz/Watchlist2016/RobinsonhelicoptersmastbumpingaccidentsinNZ/tabid/293/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Conclusion

The continued use of a Robinson 22 helicopter is required for the ongoing monitoring of the mallard populations in Otago. Any change in helicopter make or model may add an additional complexity to the variables in the dataset collected.

As the CAA has determined them to be safe for commercial work under certain conditions then staff can see no reason for not continuing to use them subject to a few conditions:

- That only suitably experienced pilots be used.
- That the mallard monitoring is only completed in suitable weather conditions.
- That the Fish & Game staff member is comfortable flying in the Robinson 22 helicopter to undertake the monitoring.
- If for any reason the staff member becomes concerned at any stage before or during the flight with conditions and/or with the competency of the pilot they must terminate the flight.

Recommendations

This report be received

That the conditions are added into the H&S hazard management plan for the activity

Paul van Klink
Field Officer
May 2017

6.2 H&S 1 ANNUAL HAZARD AND AUDIT TIMETABLE 2017

Review on month shown and prepare for discussion at next staff meeting

Task	Review Date	Review By	Date Meeting Discussed	Time Frame
PPE Checklist (make list)	January	Ian		Annual
Ranger/volunteer training, support, policy	March	Morgan		Annual
Training Schedule	April October	Sharon		6 monthly
Equipment Safety Checks (Make list)	April	Helen/Cliff		Annual
Workshops	May	Steve/Paul		Annual
Council Policy	August	Niall		Annual
Office Hazards	Jan/July	Sharon/Cliff		6 monthly
Vehicle Hazards and Safety Equipment	August	Steve		Annual
OWP - outcomes	August	Ian		Annual
Boats - MTOP -	September	Steve/Cliff		Annual
Field Hazards	October	Ian		Annual
Macraes Hatchery Hazards	November	Steve		Annual
Hazardous Substances & spill kit	December	Steve Dn + Hatchery Cliff Cromwell Paul Wanaka		6 monthly
Manager Audit Checklist	December	Niall/Sharon		Annual

6.3 H&S 2 MANAGEMENT AUDIT CHECK LIST

Record of compliance with F&G Councils OSH systems, policies and procedures for regional area sites

OSH

	Action required	Notes – Evidence of completion
	Policies displayed or available	
	Hazards register current and dated	
	Notes of H&S meetings assembled	
	H&S Minutes circulated to staff	
	MSD (Material safety data) sheets current	
	Offices, Workshops, Hatchery audits complete	
	First Aid/ Fire Extinguishers checked	
	PPE Safety Equipment and Field Equipment Audits done	
	MTOP Boat information current	
	Contractors/Volunteers induction records filed	
	H&S being promoted to staff	

ACC

	Action required	Notes – Evidence of completion
	Accident Register complete	
	Investigations results fed back	
	Return to work processes and procedures understood and used	
	Evidence of annual review of H&S processes and performance	
	Near-miss reports filed	
	Incident/hazard corrective actions documented and completed where possible	
	Accident/Injury Prevention Initiatives	
	New Staff/Contractor Induction records	
	Emergency Staff Evacuation drills and training for designated staff	
	Training/Support for H&S rep	

Completed by Chief Executive Signed: _____

Date: (December) _____

7 Chief Executives Report

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT JUNE 2017

7.1 ADMINISTRATION

Finance and Administration

Financial Reports to 1 May 2017

The finance report for the period from 1 September 2016 to 31 May 2017 is attached for your information.

Key budget figures are included in the front of the Annual Work Plan

Expenditure to date is \$1,583,329 (including levies \$629,802 and commission \$81,035 but excluding depreciation (\$58,734) compared with the annual budget of \$1,866,562 (operational expenditure: \$993,826, depreciation: nil, and levies: \$839,736 and excluding commission: \$95,504). Expenditure represents 78% of budget at a point 75% through the financial year

Total income to date is \$2,051,818 compared with budget of \$1,986,629 or 102% of budget.

Fishing licence sales revenue received for the year to 31 May 2017 is \$1,621,945 (including commission). The fish budget figures for the full year is \$1,596,522 including commission.

Game licence sales revenue received for the year to 31 May 2016 is \$315,369 (including commission). The year's budget for game licence sales is \$313,552 including commission.

Budget and expenditure figures are exclusive of GST

Licence Sales to 31 May 2017

Sales recorded to 31 May are outlined for fish and game licences in the attached table from Eyede and compared with last year on the same date. Figures are inclusive of GST. Fishing licence sales to date in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) at 15,041 LEQs are slightly behind this time last year (14,465 LEQs). The budget LEQ figure for the year (whole season adult licence equivalents) is 14,688.

Game sales for the period stand at 4208 LEQs by comparison with 4076 are well ahead last year. The budget Game LEQ figure is 4,007.

Funds Position at 31 May 2017

ANZ 00 account	\$131,491.42
ANZ 70 account	\$543,146.00

Reparation Trust Account

Account balance to 31 August 2016	\$ 62,448
Revenue for year to 31 May 2017	\$ 10,050
Less grants to May 2017	<u>\$ 28,165</u>
Total	\$ 44,333

Backcountry Management

Account balance to 31 August 2016	\$38,585
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Term investments as at 31 May 2017:

ASB 0079	\$319,514.80 @ 3.75% maturing July 2017
SBS 44624	\$477,099.78 @ 3.75% maturing June 2017

The sum of \$76,110 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

One truck has been ordered as part of our routine vehicle replacement programme.

Staff and Health and Safety

No incidents or injuries.

*Land and Buildings***Research Centre**

I have replied to the Lake Wanaka Trust over the possibility of interim arrangements to support a lakes research programme noting that the Council:

- is agreeable to placement of temporary moveable buildings to provide a freshwater research facility adjacent to the existing staff huts at Wanaka Hatchery. The facility to be based on relocatable buildings (eg portacombs) but able to be plumbed in to water/wastewater/power services.
- the refurbishment/use of existing buildings such as the old hatchery building is not supported as it would introduce an undesirable degree of inflexibility over future land use.

Funds for Riparian Planting

Funds were collected for riparian planting through the 'Million Metres Stream Project' (a trust that aims to replant riverbanks) in memory of the late Maggie Lawton. The Trust has proposed they be used for riparian planting along Bullock Creek within the hatchery property. This offer would be a welcome assistance to the restoration effort and one which has been gratefully accepted. The funds will go directly to Te Kakano Trust who are already heavily involved in providing trees and assisting with planting.

I understand:

- there is no restriction on where plants can be planted because of the nature of the site (wetland/springs/stream) so will be incorporated within the current restoration plan
- Over \$8500 was raised so that will buy a lot of plants for the site.

CE to Report

Recommendation

That the Finance and Licence Sales Report for the period ending 31 May 2017 be received.

7.2 SPECIES

Waterfowl Monitoring (1111)

Mallard transect counts for the year have been completed. A full report will be available for the June meeting. Numbers are consistent with the last two years

Spawning Surveys (1112)

Spawning surveys are underway

Population Monitoring:

Nothing to report

Success & Satisfaction (1122)

Nothing to report

Fish Salvage (1131)

Nothing to report

Hatchery Operations

There was a fish kill at the Macraes hatchery resulting from a wild fish entering the system and blocking a water supply pipe. About 200 2 year old fish were killed. While this is a disappointment it will not impact significantly on the put and take fishery programme with some 2000 2 year olds in hand at the hatchery and the ability to grow on replacements.

Further measures to prevent incursions by wild fish are being developed.

Releases (1161)

Captive Reared Mallards

A copy of Murray William's recent report on 'captive reared mallards' has been previously circulated by email. While it is not presently an issue in Otago it may be worth considering the implications of the report

For Discussion

Game Notice (1171)

Nothing to report

Anglers Notice (1172)

See separate report

Game Bird Control (1181)

Nothing to report.

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

Date/Agency	Issue	Response
October/November 2016	A complaint was lodged with ORC about silt contamination in both Mill Creek (Lake Hayes) and Bullock creek (Wanaka)	Abatement notices issued by QLDC. ORC investigation complete. No further action planned
January 2017	A complaint was lodged with ORC by a third party about stream channel works in Camerons Creek outside Wanaka	Under investigation by ORC

Resource Consents

Contact Energy held a stakeholder meeting on lower Clutha salmon fisheries mitigation options on 2nd May in Dunedin involving DOC, Clutha Fisheries Trust, Otago Regional Council and Fish and Game. Ngai Tahu were also invited but were not able to attend.

The outcome of the meeting was positive with useful discussion on existing consent conditions, the value of a review of consent conditions, the effects of a lower Clutha salmon hatchery operation and key issues in developing a salmon hatchery; the value in integrating habitat enhancement programmes for native and introduced fish.

Stakeholder feedback so far raised no significant issues over the hatchery option for Lower Clutha salmon run enhancement.

The next steps are:

- Confirm feedback from stakeholders
- Develop a timeline for the hatchery investigation project

CE to Report

Planning (1212)

Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group

There have been no significant developments coming out of the MCWSG in terms of Falls Dam development options.

Minimum and Residual Flow Setting

Manuherikia Minimum Flow – Plan Change 5C

ORC are still analysing responses to the second round of feedback sought by ORC on Manuherikia minimum flow options. There has been some media coverage of the dire consequences of higher minimum flow levels from irrigators, particularly in relation to the storage capacity of Falls Dam.

The dam operators already try to maintain a summer river flow of 900 litres/second at Alexandra campground. This is done on a voluntary basis. Manuherikia Strategy Group hydrology workshops have concluded that a contribution to lower river flows could achieve 1500 litres per second in the same location with enhanced storage in Falls Dam. The key issue is that with over 220 deemed permits within the catchment there is potential for progressive contributions to downstream flows as those permits are converted to RMA consent and have residual flow conditions applied. Contrary to the implications of the media coverage the responsibility for maintaining an environmental flow in the lower Manuherikia does not rest entirely with Fall Dam operators. Achievable minimum flows in the mainstem Manuherikia requires careful consideration of residual flows in all applications to replace deemed permits even though some takes are quite modest. It is the cumulative contribution of water to environmental flows from replacement consent that is critically important.

Kye Burn

Kye Burn irrigators application for RMA consents to replace about 30 deemed permits (mining privileges) within the catchment has been referred to an ORC hearing in late June . The application represents a significant allocation of water from a river with important values under the Water Plan namely:

Water Plan Schedule 1 Natural and Human Use Values

- a. A large water body supporting high numbers of particular species
- b. Having unimpeded access from mountains to sea
- c. Significant trout spawning
- d. Significant trout rearing
- e. Presence of rare indigenous fish threatened with extinction
(NB. F and G support protection of tributary non-migratory galaxiid habitats and Swin Burn and have not sought higher flows there)
- f. Significant presence of eel
(NB. Adult eels are not restricted to the river above the state highway but occur throughout the mainstem including the river below the last take. Juvenile eels have been found in areas where juvenile trout and galaxiids occur. Eel habitat needs to be seen as a priority value for the mainstem with considerable habitat diversity being available in the Kye Burn)
- g. Significant presence of trout

As reported previously there are two contentious areas to the application:

- The summer residual flow - the mainstem Kye Burn below the last take commonly disconnects and there is a need for a meaningful flow in this reach during high summer to provide for eels, non-migratory galaxiids and juvenile trout
- The method of take - the vast majority of takes are via open raceways and bund diversions. These pose a risk to migrating fish

Minimum and Residual Flows and Transition from Mining Privileges (TMP)		
River	Activity and status	Status
Lindis	Minimum flow & transition from mining privileges (TMP). Overallocated MALF 48601750 l/s	ORC decision on Water Plan Change 5A set a summer minimum of 900 l/s. The decision was appealed and went to mediation on 8/9 December in Cromwell. Mediation was adjourned in order to undertake various studies over summer on how the river behaves at different flows and related matters. That material has been reference to an 'expert conference' to determine the extent of agreement between parties on the underlying science and the mediation will restart on 4 th June
Cardrona	Minimum Flow & TMP Overallocated	ORC are actively working on drawing together known information on the Cardrona but it is unlikely a minimum flow will be notified before next year. Fish and Game staff are continuing to monitor fisheries, flows and temperatures.
Waikouaiti	Minimum Flow Fully allocated MALF 258 l/s	F&G supported a minimum flow of 220 l/s proposed through community consultation. Further action on the minimum flow has been deferred pending more research by ORC on estuary health.
Pomahaka <i>(Concluded)</i>	Minimum flow MALF 4300 l/s Min Flow 3600l/s (84% MALF)	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 <i>(Concluded)</i>	Minimum flow MALF 310 l/s Min Flow 280 l/s (90% MALF)	The ORC hearing panel decision set a 300 l/s summer minimum flow instead of the 260 l/s notified. That decision was appealed to the Environment Court and the matter was resolved through mediation in early December 2015 with agreement on 280 l/s.

<p>Manuherikia</p>	<p>Minimum flow Irrigation scheme investigation.</p> <p>MALF Ophir 3,200 l/s (± 800)</p> <p>MALF Campground 3,900 l/s (± 600)</p> <p>Overallocated</p>	<p>A collaborative process involving Fish and Game representation (Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group) is looking at irrigation scheme proposals which are focussed on raising the level of Falls Dam and environmental considerations.</p> <p>The Manuherikia catchment has over 220 mining privileges (or deemed permits) in place. The present minimum flow at Ophir at 820 l/s is considered inadequate and ORC are planning to set a minimum flow for the lower river at the Alexandra Campground.</p> <p>ORC have recently initiated a minimum flow plan change for the Manuherikia River but a minimum flow figures have still to be formally notified.</p>
<p>Benger Burn</p>	<p>Minimum flow &TMP. Overallocated</p>	<p>Further action by ORC has been deferred pending more research on water resources and aquifer/surface water interaction.</p>
<p>Sow Burn <i>(Concluded)</i></p>	<p>TMP</p> <p>Overallocated</p> <p>Residual flow of 70 l/s + off-site mitigation</p>	<p>The Sowburn all-of-catchment consent has been granted by ORC.</p> <p>The residual flow requirement is 70 l/s on a stream that is considered to be ephemeral in nature in the middle reaches.</p> <p>Off-site mitigation conditions include a protective covenant over a large area of the Maniototo wetlands</p>
<p>Kye Burn</p>	<p>TMP</p> <p>Overallocated</p> <p>MALF 530 l/s but under review</p>	<p>F&G position is that a mainstem environmental flow between 200-300 l/s is required and that it probably has to be in the upper half of that range (250+ l/s)</p> <p>Meetings have been held with irrigators since 2013 but with little agreement emerging. An application for consents will be heard by ORC in late June.</p>

Low Burn	Minimum flow TMP Overallocated	Catchment group meeting held early 2017
Bannock Burn	Minimum flow TMP Overallocated	Catchment group meeting held late 2016
Arrow River	TMP Overallocated	Catchment group meetings held early 2017
Quartz Creek	TMP Overallocated	Reports on fishery values have been completed along with a reports on fish salvage. There is little information on stream hydrology.
Tuapeka River	ORC Management Flow Report MALF 314 l/s	No action
Upper Clutha		ORC has undertaken research on flow requirements for fish in the Clutha to inform a minimum flow setting process
12 Mile Creek (Wakatipu)	ORC Management Flow Report	Stream survey work is being undertaken
Fern Burn	Overallocated	Status of flows and takes needs to be investigated. Spawning surveys have been undertaken by Upper Clutha Anglers.
Coal Creek	TMP	Catchment group meeting held May 2017

CE to Report

Transition from Mining Privileges (MPs) to RMA Consents.

Fish and Game staff have been supporting ORC catchment group meetings involving irrigators and other stakeholders – DOC and Ngai Tahu.

Inderlee Fish Farm

A copy of Inderlee Fish Farm's Licence will be circulated for discussion in Public Excluded Session

Reserves Management (1221)

Takitakitoa Wetland

Monitoring of wetland water levels and outfalls has continued

Wetland Protection (1232)

Covenant documents for Maniototo wetland areas owned by Dairy Farm Partnerships have been signed off. There are other wetland protection opportunities arising in the same area.

CE to Report**Assisted Habitat (1230)**

Nothing to report

River Management (1233)

There are now three applications for global consents to clear river channels being prepared by landholder catchment groups. This is a new trend and replaced ORC river management activity. Nigel Paragreen is reviewing the implications of this change and considering consent conditions that would make the consents acceptable.

7.4 USER PARTICIPATION**Access (1311)**

While the OIO decision on Hunter Valley Station has attracted some media coverage the situation has not changed. The purchaser believes the access to Hunter Valley has improved and probably the next step is to directly take the specific matter of angler access up with them.

For discussion in Public Excluded Session (additional material to be circulated)**Signage (1312)**

Nothing to report

Backcountry Fisheries (1321)

Monitoring has continued with ranging activity on about four of the eight backcountry rivers so far. Monitoring was undertaken recently in conjunction with salmon spawning surveys in the Hunter.

Pomahaka River

Expressions of concern over upper Pomahaka trout fishery trends coming from two long term upper Pomahaka anglers were discussed at the April meeting. A survey of long term anglers' perception of fishery trends for the upper river is being developed for implementation this winter. This will include maps to show land tenure, access points and regulation boundaries as requested.

CE to report**Magazine Supplements and Newsletters (1331)**

Nothing to report.

Reel Life/Both Barrels

Monthly contributions to online newsletters are continuing

Newspaper Supplements (1332)

Nothing to report.

Publications (1342)

Nothing to report.

Web Site (1343)

The web site has been upgraded nationally and feedback is being given on its look and functionality. Please advise if you spot any problems.

Fishing and Hunting Events (1351)

Nothing to report

Take-a-kid-fishing (1352)

Nothing to report

Club Liaison (1361)

Staff (Helen Trotter) made a presentation to Fly Flingers and Stream Bashers

Commercial Use (1362)

Nothing to report

7.5 PUBLIC INTERFACE

Liaison (1411)

DOC have provided a draft MOU (to be circulated) which seems to be a very useful agreement given the current issues we all face over water resources management amongst other things. This is the culmination of several years of discussion and will be circulated separately from the agenda for your consideration.

Recommendation

That the Council approve the MOU for signing

Media (1431)

There has been good media coverage of fish and game issues over the autumn period with specific coverage of our concern over winter cropping and impacts on habitat quality.

Advocacy (1432)

A follow up meeting with ORC senior staff has been arranged on the winter cropping issue for late June.

Tenure Reviews (1433)

There has been no further action on tenure reviews.

7.6 COMPLIANCE

Ranging (1511)

Opening weekend ranging efforts were focused on the Maniototo, lower Taieri, Tapanui and Tokomairiro and Manuherikia areas. Of those, offences were detected in the Maniototo and Manuherikia valley but in low numbers considering the volume of ponds and hunters checked. Three no hunting licence offences and four instances of lead shot possession were detected. All should be resolved by way of reparation by the time of the meeting.

OM to update.

Ranger Support (1520)

One Mosgiel ranger retired and another Dunedin ranger has been appointed. He has working alongside staff in the latter part of summer on compliance duties.

Prosecutions (1530)

The Queenstown angler who had an arrest warrant issued for failing to appear but later turned himself into Westport Police has had the matter dismissed. Staff are following up how this unfolded.

Another reparation defaulter who was being prepared for court prosecution had a last minute change of mind and has since completed the terms (paid fine) The matter is now resolved.

7.7 LICENCING

Licensing System (1611)

The Eyede licensing system continues to operate well.

Agents (1612)

Nothing to report

7.8 COUNCIL

Council (1720)

A date for a joint evening meeting with Southland Council in Clinton has been set for Tuesday 18th July 2007 commencing with a meal at 5.30pm. The meeting will be held at the Oak Tree Inn, Gorge Road, Clinton (The hotel is on the corner of the main road and Gorge Road). We should have a good attendance from Otago – final numbers still need to be confirmed. Winter cropping and backcountry fisheries are on the agenda so far.

For discussion

Standing Orders

Standing Orders were discussed in June 2016 with a request they be updated and include provisions for attendance through audio-visual technology and clarify quorum requirements. At about the same time NZC circulated redrafted standing orders which picked up on both those matters and were based on the latest local government standing orders draft.

The new draft will be circulated separately as an email attachment.

Recommendation:

That the draft standing orders dated 15 June 2017 be adopted as Council's Standing Orders, replacing the existing Standing Orders dated 15 April 2010

7.9 PLANNING AND REPORTING

Strategic Planning (1811)

Nothing to report

Annual Planning (1821)

The recommended budgets for 2017/18 have been circulated following the budget round Managers Meeting (see item 2.1.1). Otago's general financial reserves have been progressively restored over the last few years to the point where our 'general reserves' are greater than 50% of annual income. At that point under current financial policy our budget increase draws on our own reserves rather than the years licence revenue. The implications of this are not significant.

The draft annual plan is still in preparation and will on the August agenda

CE to Report

Annual Report (1831)

Nothing to report

National Liaison (1841)

Nothing to report

Niall Watson
Chief Executive
June 2017

Balance Sheet
Otago Fish & Game Council
 Balance Sheet
 As at 31 May 2017

CAPITAL		This Year	Last Year End
7500	Opening Equity	1,039,201.00	1,039,201.00
9015	Retained Earnings Brght Fwd	<u>1,519,497.04</u>	<u>1,437,918.74</u>
		2,558,698.04	2,477,119.74
	Plus Current Year Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	468,488.99	81,578.30
	TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS	<u><u>3,027,187.03</u></u>	<u><u>2,558,698.04</u></u>
REPRESENTED BY			
CURRENT ASSETS			
5005	Cash on Hand	200.00	200.00
5022	Stock on Hand	11,004.00	11,004.00
5030	Accrued Interest	5,431.03	5,431.03
5040	Prepayments	7,589.77	7,589.77
5060	ASB Investments	319,514.80	314,286.45
5080	SBS Investments	477,099.78	469,149.43
5800	GST Paid	4,666.95	9.13
6040	PAYE Control	9,005.91	0.00
6805	GST Payments/Refunds IRD	166.29	0.00
ACCREC	Trade Debtors	331,403.65	142,602.75
ASB_00	ASB 00 Account	10.98	10.98
NB00	National/ANZ 00 Account	131,388.02	131,754.48
NB70	National/ANZ 70 Account	543,146.00	272,619.93
SBS00	SBS Account	24.66	24.66
UNBANK	Unbanked	<u>231.30</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		1,840,883.14	1,354,682.61
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
6000	Sundry Creditors	19,681.95	19,681.95
6010	Holiday Pay Accrued	42,701.40	42,701.40
6040	PAYE Control	0.00	2,529.70
6800	GST Received	47,280.70	0.00
6810	Funds received in Advance	178,472.13	178,472.13
ACCSPAY	Trade Creditors	<u>26,340.82</u>	<u>99,224.09</u>
		314,477.00	342,609.27
	NET WORKING CAPITAL	1,526,406.14	1,012,073.34
TERM ASSETS			
5070	Anderson Lloyd Investment	<u>76,110.10</u>	<u>76,110.10</u>
		76,110.10	76,110.10
FIXED ASSETS			
7000	Vehicles Purchases	293,685.01	280,794.82
7001	M/V Accum Deprn	(169,461.04)	(135,261.04)
7020	Boat Purchases	100,497.93	100,497.93
7021	Boat Accum Deprn	(81,395.30)	(77,975.30)
7200	Plant Purchases	72,806.18	72,806.18
7201	Plant Accum Deprn	(60,790.89)	(54,724.89)
7300	Furniture & Fittings	30,847.94	30,847.94
7301	Furniture Accum Deprn	(29,662.26)	(28,582.26)
7400	Field Equipment Purchases	34,610.96	34,610.96
7401	Field Eq Accum Deprn	(25,334.52)	(24,974.52)
7440	Land Purchases	414,410.77	414,410.77
7450	Buildings Purchases	642,892.49	642,892.49
7451	Buildings Accum Deprn	(332,495.33)	(321,857.33)
7460	Land @ Fair Value	426,260.00	426,260.00
7462	Building @ Fair Value	162,085.11	162,085.11
7463	Buildings @ FV - Accum Deprn	<u>(54,286.26)</u>	<u>(51,316.26)</u>
		1,424,670.79	1,470,514.60
	NET ASSETS	<u><u>3,027,187.03</u></u>	<u><u>2,558,698.04</u></u>

**Otago Fish & Game Council
Profit and Loss - Summary
for Period Ended May:2016/17**

		-----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 Dn Agency	0	0	0%	1,117	0	1,117	0	0%	1,787,907
1002	Fishing Licences Income	47,478	133,043	36%	1,621,945	1,197,393	424,552	1,596,522	102%	0
1006	Game Licences Income	268,834	26,129	1,029%	315,369	235,165	80,204	313,552	101%	302,105
		316,312	159,172	199%	1,938,431	1,432,558	505,873	1,910,074	101%	2,090,012
OTHER INCOME										
1010	Interest received	217	2,629	8%	15,156	23,668	(8,512)	31,555	48%	29,215
1020	Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	969	416	233%	5,391	3,752	1,639	5,000	108%	630
1022	Reparations Trust Fund	1,400	0	0%	(18,115)	0	(18,115)	0	0%	11,380
1025	Rent Received	2,743	3,333	82%	29,034	30,001	(967)	40,000	73%	26,456
1065	Fishing Competitions	373	0	0%	1,046	0	1,046	0	0%	742
1075	Commissions Income	37	0	0%	619	0	619	0	0%	1,072
1090	Sundry Income	183	0	0%	1,866	0	1,866	0	0%	5,137
1092	Merchandise Sales/Other	67	0	0%	1,001	0	1,001	0	0%	(6,500)
1094	Donations and Grants Received	0	0	0%	28,630	0	28,630	0	0%	22,160
1096	RMA Costs Reimbursed	8,601	0	0%	48,960	0	48,960	0	0%	61,490
		14,590	6,378	229%	113,387	57,421	55,966	76,555	148%	151,782
	TOTAL INCOME	330,902	165,550		2,051,818	1,489,979	561,839	1,986,629		2,241,794
EXPENDITURE										
SPECIES MANAGEMENT										
	POPULATION MONITOR / MMT	87	1,000	9%	9,348	9,000	348	12,000	78%	8,056
	HARVEST ASSESSMENT	0	250	0%	0	2,250	(2,250)	3,000	0%	0
	FISH SALVAGE	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
	HATCHERY OPERATIONS	6	833	1%	7,159	7,501	(342)	10,000	72%	4,464
	RELEASES	0	0	0%	25	0	25	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-...	93	2,083	4%	16,532	18,751	(2,219)	25,000	66%	12,520
HABITAT PROTECTION										
	RESOURCE MANAGEMENT A...	8,601	374	2,300%	53,439	3,378	50,061	4,500	1,188%	79,905
	WORKS & MMT COUNCIL LAND	3,523	291	1,211%	13,764	2,627	11,137	3,500	393%	11,547
	ASSISTED HABITAT	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	1,000
	HABITAT PROTECTION-T...	12,125	665	1,823%	67,204	6,005	61,199	8,000	840%	92,452
PARTICIPATION										
	ACCESS	0	166	0%	732	1,502	(770)	2,000	37%	1,776
	SATISFACTION SURVEYS	989	0	0%	7,037	0	7,037	0	0%	5,166
	NEWSLETTERS	1,500	1,458	103%	20,889	13,126	7,763	17,500	119%	16,309
	OTHER PUBLICATIONS	2,626	291	902%	5,112	2,627	2,485	3,500	146%	105
	TRAINING	109	333	33%	1,480	3,001	(1,521)	4,000	37%	1,642
	CLUB RELATIONS	133	333	40%	936	3,001	(2,065)	4,000	23%	495
	HUTS	25	0	0%	81	0	81	0	0%	820
	PARTICIPATION-TOTAL	5,380	2,581	208%	36,267	23,257	13,010	31,000	117%	26,312

**Otago Fish & Game Council
Profit and Loss - Summary
for Period Ended May:2016/17**

	-----Month to Date-----			-----Year to Date-----			Annual Budget	% of Budget	
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance			
PUBLIC INTERFACE									
LIAISON	0	41	0%	9	377	(368)	500	2%	63
COMMUNICATIONS	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
ADVOCACY	0	333	0%	292	3,001	(2,709)	4,000	7%	0
PUBLIC INTERFACE-TOTAL	0	374	0%	301	3,378	(3,077)	4,500	7%	63
COMPLIANCE									
RANGER ADMIN	580	208	279%	1,461	1,876	(415)	2,500	58%	2,541
RANGER TRAINING	98	375	26%	3,862	3,375	487	4,500	86%	4,093
COMPLIANCE	0	250	0%	18,093	2,250	15,843	3,000	603%	2,980
COMPLIANCE-TOTAL	678	833	81%	23,417	7,501	15,916	10,000	234%	9,614
LICENCES									
LICENCE PRODUCT/DISTN	0	1,000	0%	0	9,000	(9,000)	12,000	0%	0
AGENT SERVICING	71	41	174%	304	377	(73)	500	61%	292
COMMISSION	14,906	0	0%	81,035	0	81,035	0	0%	81,318
NZFG LEVIES	0	69,978	0%	629,802	629,802	0	839,736	75%	638,218
LICENSES-TOTAL	14,977	71,019	21%	711,141	639,179	71,962	852,236	83%	719,828
COUNCIL									
COUNCIL ELECTIONS	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
COUNCIL MEETINGS	248	1,000	25%	10,720	9,000	1,720	12,000	89%	12,950
COUNCIL-TOTAL	248	1,000	25%	10,720	9,000	1,720	12,000	89%	12,950
PLANNING / REPORTING									
MMT/STRATEGIC PLANNING	0	0	0%	1,538	0	1,538	0	0%	2,109
REPORTING/AUDIT	0	1,083	0%	13,146	9,751	3,395	13,000	101%	5,884
NATIONAL LIAISON	750	0	0%	1,030	0	1,030	0	0%	0
PLAN/REPORT-TOTAL	750	1,083	69%	15,714	9,751	5,963	13,000	121%	7,993
ADMINISTRATION									
SALARIES	55,241	59,871	92%	506,029	538,849	(32,820)	718,462	70%	467,173
STAFF EXPENSES	5,950	1,545	385%	19,315	13,929	5,386	18,564	104%	12,870
STAFF HOUSES	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
OFFICE PREMISES	3,297	6,763	49%	49,089	60,911	(11,822)	81,200	60%	54,599
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	95	624	15%	2,666	5,628	(2,962)	7,500	36%	1,806
COMMUNICATIONS	1,342	2,090	64%	14,516	18,830	(4,314)	25,100	58%	19,245
GENERAL	46	499	9%	5,047	4,503	544	6,000	84%	11,396
GENERAL EQUIPMENT	22	291	7%	1,030	2,627	(1,597)	3,500	29%	3,520
VEHICLES	4,848	4,207	115%	45,606	37,879	7,727	50,500	90%	49,090
ADMINISTRATION - TOTAL	70,841	75,890	93%	643,298	683,156	(39,858)	910,826	71%	619,700
DEPRECIATION	6,526	0	0%	58,734	0	58,734	0	0%	58,734
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	111,618	155,528	72%	1,583,329	1,399,978	183,351	1,866,562	85%	1,560,166
Profit (Loss)	219,284	10,022		468,489	90,001	378,488	120,067		681,628

Summary of Draft Profit and Loss Statement Expenses 31st May 2017
As At 6/06/17

Expense	Total Budget	Actual Expenditure	YtD %	Comment
		Ytd		
Projects				
Species	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 16,532.00	66%	
Habitat	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 67,204.00	840%	Includes expenditure to be reimbursed \$48960 and donations \$28630
Participation	\$ 31,000.00	\$ 36,267.00	117%	Fish News letter postage increased
Public Interface	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 301.00	7%	
Compliance	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 23,417.00	234%	Expensive prosecutions
Licences	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 304.00	2%	Production now national
NZC Levies	\$ 839,736.00	\$ 629,802.00	75%	
Agent Commission	\$ -	\$ 81,035.00		
Council	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 10,720.00	89%	
Planning	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 15,714.00	121%	Audit 2016
Projects Total	\$ 922,736.00	\$ 881,296.00	96%	
Administration				
Salaries	\$ 718,462.00	\$ 506,029.00	70%	
Staff Expenses	\$ 18,564.00	\$ 19,315.00	104%	
Office Premises	\$ 81,200.00	\$ 49,089.00	60%	
Office Equipment	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 2,666.00	36%	
Communication	\$ 25,100.00	\$ 14,516.00	58%	
General	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,047.00	84%	
General Equipment	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,030.00	29%	
Depreciation		\$ 58,734.00		
Vehicles	\$ 50,500.00	\$ 45,606.00	90%	
Administration Total	\$ 910,826.00	\$ 702,032.00	77%	
Total	\$ 1,833,562.00	\$ 1,583,328.00	86%	

Summary of Position 31st May 2017

Total Expenditure		\$	1,583,328.00
Less Depreciation			58734.00
Less Levies	\$ 839,736.00	\$	629,802.00
Less Commission		\$	81,035.00
Less RMA Reimbursed	\$ 25,039.00	\$	48,960.00
Net Expenditure		\$	764,797.00
Budget		\$	974,834.00
% Spent			78%

Summary of Profit and Loss Statement Income 31st May 2017 As At 6/06/17

Income	Total Budget	Actual Income	YtD %	Comment
		Ytd		
Fish	\$ 1,596,522.00	\$ 1,623,062.00	102%	
Game	\$ 313,552.00	\$ 315,369.00	101%	
Prosecutions	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 15,156.00	108%	
Rent	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 29,034.00	73%	
Interest	\$ 31,555.00	\$ 15,156.00	48%	
Grants Donations	\$ -	\$ 28,630.00		
	\$ 1,986,629.00	\$ 2,026,407.00	102%	

Otago Fish and Game - Game Sales 2016 and 2017

Otago	2016 - 2017	Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ	Game \$
	Part Season	Agency Online	3,507	280	97	18	0	3,902		
		Eyede Call Centre	2	0	0	0	0	2		
		Mail Order	0	0	0	0	0	0		
		Public Online	624	59	25	19	0	727		
		Retail Book	0	0	0	0	0	0		
		Total	4,133	339	122	37	0	4,631	4,208.20	\$392,631.00
Otago	2015 - 2016	Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ	Game \$
	Full Season	Agency Online	3,390	279	89	39	1	3,798		
		Eyede Call Centre	2	0	0	0	0	2		
		Mail Order	0	0	0	0	0	0		
		Public Online	595	63	16	44	5	723		
		Retail Book	4	1	0	0	0	5		
		Total	3,991	343	105	83	6	4,528	4,076.87	\$375,938.00

GWA Full Season Adult, GWJ Full season Junior, GWC Full season Child, GDA Day adult, GDJ Day Juinor

Season 1 Dates used in this Report:

Game 2017 01/01/2017-31/05/2017

Season 2 Dates used in this Report:

Game 2016 01/01/2016-31/05/2017

Otago Fish & Game - Fish Licence Sales 2015/16 and 2016/17

2016 Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWJ	FWNJ	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDJ	Total	Fish LEQ	Fish \$
2017 Agency Online	2,636	3,542	505	511	270	479	28	145	58	311	4,287	285	13,057		
Eyede Call Centre	10	6	7	11	0	5	1	0	0	2	14	0	56		
Mail Order	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Public Online	1,581	1,750	801	229	262	226	26	89	47	247	3,628	184	9,070		
Retail Book	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Total	4,227	5,298	1,313	751	532	710	55	234	105	560	7,929	469	22,183	15,041.78	\$1,930,116.00
2015 Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWJ	FWNJ	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDJ	Total	Fish LEQ	Fish \$
2016 Agency Online	2,879	3,624	537	505	404	526	24	203	67	395	5,109	374	14,647		
Eyede Call Centre	40	36	7	22	1	2	0	1	1	2	37	1	150		
Mail Order	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Public Online	1,419	1,460	609	164	275	201	17	84	37	254	3,737	175	8,432		
Retail Book	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	30	2	36		
Total	4,338	5,123	1,153	691	680	730	41	288	105	651	8,913	552	23,265	15,133.50	\$1,919,215.00

FWF (Family), FWA (Adult), FWNZ (Non Resident), FSLA (Senior Loyal), FLAA (Local Area),
 FWJ (Junior), FWNJ (Junior Non resident), FLBA (Long Break), FSBA (Short Break), FDA (Adult Day), FDJ (Junior Day)

Season 1 Dates used in this Report:

Fishing : 01/01/2016-31/05/2017

Season 2 Dates used in this Report:

Fishing : 01/01/2015-31/05/2017

*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.

8 Committee Reports

8.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust

8.2 NZC Meeting

9 Staff and Technical Reports

9.1 2017/18 Anglers Notice Approval – C Halford

COUNCIL REPORT JUNE 2017

2017/18 Anglers Notice Approval

Introduction

Under the Conservation Act 1987 - Section 26R Fish and Game Responsibilities sets the provisions which apply to the Anglers' Notice.

The purpose of the Anglers' Notice is to set out the conditions under which a licence holder may fish for sports fish within a given Fish and Game region.

Background

The Council has decided on a new procedure for reviewing the Anglers Notice for the 2018/19 season and agreed that no changes be made to the fishing regulations for the 2017/18 season.

An edited draft of the 2016/17 Anglers Notice incorporating seasonal updates for the 2017/18 fishing season is included as Appendix 1 in this report.

Recommendation

That Council approve the Anglers Notice for the 2017/18 season provided in this report as Appendix 1.

Cliff Halford
Fish and Game Officer
June 2017

Appendix 1.

OTAGO FISH AND GAME REGION

Reference to Description: *New Zealand Gazette*, No. 83, 24 May 1990, page 1861

1. DEFINITIONS

See First Schedule.

2. OPEN SEASON, PERMITTED METHODS, DAILY BAG LIMITS (subject to clauses 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 for this region)

Permitted Methods definition

F = Fly fishing only

FS = Fly or Spin fishing only

FSB = Fly, Spin or Bait fishing permitted

2.1	<i>Rivers / Lakes</i>	<i>Open Season</i>	<i>Permitted Methods</i>	<i>Daily Bag Limits</i>
	All lakes, rivers and streams upstream of Clyde Dam not mentioned in clause 2.3 for this region	1 Nov – 30 Apr	FSB	1
2.2	<i>Rivers / Lakes</i>	<i>Open Season</i>	<i>Permitted Methods</i>	<i>Daily Bag Limits</i>
	All lakes, rivers and streams downstream of Clyde Dam and any other catchments flowing to the sea not mentioned in clause 2.3 for this region	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3

2.3 Fishing Regulations for the Otago Rivers and Lakes:

<i>Rivers / Lakes</i>	<i>Open Season</i>	<i>Permitted Methods</i>	<i>Daily Bag Limits</i>
Akatore Estuary	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	2
Akatore River	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2
Albert Burn	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1
Arrow River	1 Nov – 31 May	FSB	1
Blakelys Dam	1 Nov – 15 Apr	FSB	1
Butchers Dam	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	3
Caples River and tributaries (<i>refer to clause 11 for this region</i>)	1 Nov – 31 May	F	1
Cardrona River	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	1
Careys Creek	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Careys Creek downstream of the rail line Bridge	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	3
Catlins Estuary downstream of State Highway 92 Bridge	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6
Catlins River	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	6
Clutha River upstream from Luggate Bridge (except Deans Bank Section)	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FS	6
Clutha River Deans Bank Section (defined by landmark posts 1km downstream of Lake Wanaka and 600m upstream of Albert Town Bridge)	1 Oct – 31 May	F	6
Clutha River downstream of Luggate Bridge	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6
Coalpit Dam	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	1
Conroys Dam	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	1
Contour Channel	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3

Dart River	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FS	1
Dart River tributaries not mentioned in clause 2.3 for this region	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1
Deep Stream	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Diamond Creek	1 Oct – 31 May	FS	1
Diamond Lake	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FS	3
Dingle Burn (<i>refer to clause 11 for this region</i>)	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1
Falls Dam	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	6
Fraser Dam	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Fraser River downstream of dam	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Fraser River Upper	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	1
Glenorchy Lagoons	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FS	1
Greenstone River and tributaries (<i>refer to clause 11 for this region</i>)	1 Nov – 31 May	F	1
Greenstone River downstream of the Greenstone Station Road car park swing bridge	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1
Greenstone River upstream of Sly Burn confluence (<i>refer to clause 11 for this region</i>)	1 Feb – 31 Mar Controlled fishery period	F	1
Hamiltons Dam	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	1
Hawea River	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FS	6
Hoffmans Dam	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	1
Hores Control Pond	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6
Hunter River and tributaries (<i>refer to clause 11 for this region</i>)	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1
Ida Burn Dam	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Kaihiku Stream	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Kaikorai Stream	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3

Kaikorai Estuary downstream of Abbotts Creek confluence	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	3
Kawarau River	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6
Knights Dam	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Kuriwao Stream	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Kye Burn	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Lake Dispute	1 Oct – 31 May	FS	3
Lake Dunstan	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6
Lake Hawea	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6
Lake Hayes	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	3
Lake Johnson	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	1
Lake Kirkpatrick	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FS	3
Lake Mahinerangi	1 Oct – 30 Sept	FSB	6
Lake Onslow	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	10
Lake Roxburgh, Highway Bridge at Alexandra downstream to the Roxburgh Dam	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6
Lake Sylvan	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6
Lake Tewa	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FS	1
Lake Tuakitoto including the outlet channel and inlet channel	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6
Lake Waihola including the outlet and waterways interconnected with Lake Waipori	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6
Lake Waipori	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6
Lake Wakatipu	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6
Lake Wanaka	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6
Lee Stream	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Lindis River	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	1

Lochy River and tributaries downstream of Disputed Creek confluence	1 Nov – 31 May	F	1
Lochy River and tributaries upstream of Disputed Creek confluence <i>(refer to clause 11 for this region)</i>	1 Nov – 31 May	F	0
Loganburn Dam	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	6
Maclennan River	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	6
Makarora River and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1
Makarora River downstream of Wilkin River confluence	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FS	1
Manorburn Dam Lower	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	6
Manorburn Dam Upper	1 Nov – 31 May	FSB	6
Manuherikia and tributaries	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	1
Mathias Dam	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Matukituki River and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1
Matukituki River downstream of Motatapu confluence	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FS	1
McAtamney's Head Pond	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6
Meggat Burn	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Mill Creek junior fishery above Waterfall Park <i>(refer to clause 12 for this region)</i>	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	1
Mill Creek downstream of Speargrass Flat Road Bridge	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	1
Moke Lake	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	3
Molyneux Pond	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	1
Motatapu River and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1
Nenthorn Pond	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	1
Nenthorn Stream	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3

Nevis River and tributaries (<i>refer to clauses 10 and 11 for this region</i>)	1 Oct – 30 Apr	F	1
Owaka River	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	6
Owaka River downstream of State Highway 92	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6
Perkins Pond	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	1
Pinders Pond	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	1
Pleasant River	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Pomahaka River	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	6
Pomahaka River downstream of Swans Bridge (Clydevale Road)	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6
Pomahaka River upstream of Park Hill Bridge (Switzers Road)	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Poolburn Dam	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Puerua Estuary downstream of State Highway 92 Bridge	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6
Puerua Stream	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Rees River and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1
Rees River downstream of Muddy Creek	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FS	1
Reid Lake	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FS	1
Routeburn River and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	F	0
Rutherfords Dam	1 Nov – 15 Apr	FSB	1
Shag River	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Shag River downstream of State Highway 1 Bridge	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	3
Shotover River	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6
Silverstream	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3

Southern Reservoir (<i>refer to clause 3 for this region</i>)	1 Oct – 31 Aug	FS	1
Styx Weir Pond	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6
Sullivans Dam	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FS	1
Sutton Stream	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Tahakopa River	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	6
Tahakopa River downstream of Maclennan River confluence	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6
Taieri River	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	6
Taieri River downstream of Silverstream confluence	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6
Teviot River	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	6
Three O’Clock Stream	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Timaru River and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1
Timaru River downstream of Timaru Road Bridge	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FS	1
Tokomairiro River	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Tokomairiro River downstream of Coal Gully Road Bridge	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6
Tomahawk Lagoon	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	1
Tuapeka River	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Victoria Dam	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Von Lake	1 Nov – 31 May	F	1
Von River and tributaries	1 Nov – 31 May	F	1
Waipahi River	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	6
Waipori River upstream of Lake Waipori	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Waipori River downstream of Lake Waipori	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	6

Waitahuna River	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Waitati River	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Waitati River downstream of Orokonui Stream confluence	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	3
Waiwera River	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	6
Waikouaiti River	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	2
Waikouaiti River downstream of State Highway 1 Road Bridge	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	2
Waters of Leith downstream of the Lindsay Creek confluence to the Leith Street Foot Bridge	1 Oct – 30 Apr	FSB	3
Waters of Leith downstream of Leith Street Foot Bridge	1 Oct – 30 Sep	FSB	3
Wilkin River and tributaries (<i>refer to clause 11 for this region</i>)	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1
Young River and tributaries (<i>refer to clause 11 for this region</i>)	1 Nov – 31 May	FS	1

3. CLOSED SEASON

Fishing for sports fish is not permitted at any time in the following specified waters:

Bullock Creek, from Lake Wanaka to source.

Horne Creek, from Lake Wakatipu to source.

Lake Wakatipu, within the waters of Queenstown Bay bounded by a straight line drawn from the outermost point of Queenstown Gardens to the point where the south bank of One Mile Creek meets Lake Wakatipu.

Lake Wanaka, within 150m of any part of the launch wharf at the township of Wanaka, within 150m of any part of the public jetty at the Wanaka Marina, and anywhere within 150m of the shoreline between the wharf and the jetty.

Lake Wakatipu, within 100m of any part of the wharf in Black Bay (commonly known as the Walter Peak Jetty).

Mill Creek (which flows into Lake Hayes), from the Speargrass Flat Road Bridge to Waterfall Park.

Southern Reservoir in September except for Otago Fish and Game Council controlled fishing events.

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.

Waters of Leith upstream of the Lindsay Creek confluence and including Lindsay Creek.

4. AUTHORISED TACKLE

4.1 When playing a salmon in the Clutha River downstream of Roxburgh Dam, a gaff may be used to secure or land that salmon if it is greater than 450mm. Refer to 2.3 of this part of the Notice.

5. FLY FISHING ONLY WATERS

Refer to 2.3 of this part of the Notice.

6. BAIT FISHING WATERS

6.1 Refer to 2.3 of this part of the Notice.

6.2 No person shall fish with a float or floating device on the line in that section of the Clutha River downstream of Roxburgh Dam to the Roxburgh Township Bridge.

7. COARSE FISHING WATERS

There are no designated coarse fishing waters in Otago.

8. USE OF BOATS

8.1 No anglers shall fish from, or tow any lure from, any boat which is being mechanically propelled on Lake Dispute, Lake Hayes, Lake Johnson, Moke Lake or Reid Lake.

8.2 No anglers shall fish from a boat on Lake Kirkpatrick.

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

8.4 No anglers fishing for sports fish shall troll from any boat, which is being mechanically propelled on any river or stream except the Taieri River downstream of the Otokia Bridge on State Highway 1, the Waipori River downstream from the Contour Channel and the Clutha River downstream from Balclutha.

8.5 No anglers shall fish for trout from any boat, canoe, pontoon or any flotation device on any river or stream except:

Clutha River from the Albertown Bridge to the sea.

Matukituki River from Glenfinnan Stream confluence to Lake Wanaka.

Kawarau River from its source at Lake Wakatipu to Lake Dunstan.

The Taieri River from Outram to the sea.

Waipori River from Contour Channel confluence to the Taieri River confluence.

All tidal reaches of rivers.

9. DAILY BAG LIMITS

9.1 Except in the case of perch for which there is no daily limit, no person shall on any one day take and kill or be in possession of more than the prescribed daily limit from the waters specified in 2.3.

9.2 No more than 2 salmon: All waters except the Clutha River catchment upstream of Roxburgh Dam.

9.3 No more than 6 sports fish per day:

9.4 Subject to the restrictions set out in 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 9.1 and 9.2 above, no person shall on any 1 day take or kill or be in possession of more than 6 sports fish per day from any waters except Lake Onslow (refer to 2.3).

A licence holder may continue to fish for a particular species of sports fish on any day on which he or she has already killed the limit bag for that species as long as any fish taken are immediately returned with as little injury as possible into the water from which it was taken.

10. FISH LENGTH

10.1 No person shall take or be in possession of any salmon less than 450mm taken from the Clutha River or its tributaries downstream of Roxburgh Dam and all other waters running into the sea.

10.2 No person shall take or be in possession of any fish greater than 400mm taken from the Nevis River.

10.3 In all other waters there shall be no minimum length.

11. OTAGO BACKCOUNTRY FISHERIES

Backcountry fishery

11.1 Definition:

backcountry fishery in this Region is defined as—

- (a) **the Greenstone River backcountry fishery** which means the Greenstone River catchment, namely—
 - (i) the Greenstone River upstream of the swing bridge at the car park end of Greenstone Station Road; and
 - (ii) all tributary streams flowing into the Greenstone River, including the Caples River.
- (b) **the Dingle Burn backcountry fishery** which means the Dingle Burn upstream of the bridge on the Dingle Burn Station access road.

- (c) **the Lochy River backcountry fishery** which means the Lochy River catchment upstream of the confluence with Disputed Creek.
- (d) **the Nevis River backcountry fishery** which means the Nevis River catchment upstream of the confluence with the Kawarau River.
- (e) **the Hunter River backcountry fishery** which means the Hunter River catchment upstream of the river's mouth where the river enters Lake Hawea.
- (f) **the Young River backcountry fishery** which means the Young River catchment upstream of the confluence with the Makarora River.
- (g) **the Wilkin River backcountry fishery** which means the Wilkin River catchment upstream of the confluence with the Makarora River.

11.2 All anglers who fish in the backcountry fishery (as defined by the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2017) must first obtain a backcountry licence (as defined in the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2017) and the provisions of that notice apply to this Notice:

Controlled Area

11.3 Definitions:

controlled area means the **Greenstone River (and its tributary streams)** between the river's source and its confluence with the Sly Burn.

controlled period means the period beginning on 1 February 2018 and ending on 31 March 2018.

controlled-period licence means a licence that entitles the following persons to fish for sports fish in the controlled area during the controlled period, but only during the day, and on the reach, specified in the licence:

- (a) the holder of the controlled-period licence; and
- (b) if the holder also holds a backcountry licence that is endorsed on a family licence, the holder's spouse or partner and, if accompanied by the holder or the holder's spouse or partner, any member of the holder's family; and
- (c) any 1 or more companion anglers named in the controlled-period licence who hold backcountry licences.

11.4 In the controlled area, a controlled period applies. All anglers who fish in the controlled area must first obtain a controlled-period licence (as defined by the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2017).

12 WATERS RESTRICTED TO PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS

12.1 No person shall fish in waters designated as a “junior fishery” in clause 2.3 for this region unless they are a child or junior licence holder under the age of 18 years on 1 October 2017.

12.2 The Waters this clause applies to is:

Mill Creek upstream of Waterfall Park.

9.2 Luggate Creek Spawning Survey - P van Klink

COUNCIL REPORT JUNE 2017

Luggate Creek Spawning Survey

Introduction

Luggate Creek is a tributary of the Clutha River which enters the Clutha River some 500m north-west of the township of Luggate (Figure 1). The Luggate catchment covers an area of 12,360 hectares and drains the northern slopes of the Pisa Range. There is some conservation land in the headwaters of Luggate Creek however most of the catchment is farmed by Lake Mckay Station. Water from the Luggate Creek catchment is used to irrigate some areas of the Cardrona catchment and is over allocated due to deemed permits. The Luggate Creek catchment has a minimum flow of 180l/s (Land, Air, Water Aotearoa).

Fish Barrier

In May 2016 Luggate residents contacted Otago Fish & Game concerned that brown trout were unable to migrate up Luggate Creek due to a flood prevention barrier directly below SH6. A large number of brown trout had been observed in May 2016 below this impasse (Figure 2) and it was thought that fish could only migrate upstream past this point during high water flows.

With funding secured through the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) local Luggate resident Jim Bryson built a fish ladder to trial during the spawning run in 2017 (Figure 3). The fish ladder was installed on 6 March 2017 and brown trout were observed migrating upstream after a fresh in the stream on 27 March 2017. Several other runs of brown trout were observed migrating upstream during 2017 however fish numbers were not as numerous as the run noted in 2016.



Figure 2. Dozens of brown trout stranded below the Luggate Creek impasse, May 2016.



Figure 3. The Luggate Creek fish ladder which was built and installed by local resident Jim Bryson.



Figure 4. Luggate Creek showing sections surveyed for sports fish spawning activity (blue) (Total 1.13 km) and the location of where brown trout (green) and redds (red) were observed.

Spawning Survey

A spawning survey of Luggate Creek and its tributary stream Alice Burn was conducted on 5 May 2017 (Figure 4). The survey covered 1.13 km of the most accessible parts of the creek within Lake McKay Station. The spawning survey was conducted by two observers walking upstream slowly and observing and recording all trout and spawning redds. Data recorded included river flow and clarity, weather conditions and grid references for all trout and redds observed.

Results

A total of 25 brown trout and 5 redds were observed over the 1.13 km surveyed. Most of the redds observed were in an irrigation channel that is diverted from the Alice Burn, a tributary of Luggate Creek (Figure 4). No rainbow trout were observed. Water turbulence, water clarity and low winter afternoon light made viewing conditions for difficult for both fish and redds. The counts are therefore a conservative estimate of the spawning activity in this section of Luggate Creek.

Discussion

Brown trout were observed migrating up Luggate Creek via the fish ladder in March and April 2017. Trout are using the newly installed fish ladder to access the mid and upper reaches of Luggate Creek during the autumn spawning run. This improved access for salmonids has opened up substantial areas for spawning which was previously only reached by fish when river levels were high and when fish could negotiate the impasse at SH6.

The spawning survey conducted in May has provided an indication of what the spawning run was this season. The survey was not extensive nor did it cover all the available spawning habitat. Extensive areas of willow and scrub made the surveying of some sections of Luggate Creek difficult.

The small irrigation channel which is diverted off Alice Burn contained three of the five redds observed. This irrigation race currently has no visible fish screens on the race and pipeline. Any progeny from these redds could inadvertently migrate downstream and be lost to the irrigation scheme.

The installation of a fish ladder on Luggate Creek has undoubtedly been beneficial for the spawning run of brown trout in Luggate Creek. Residents of Luggate are interested in completing annual spawning surveys and this will be encouraged.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Jim Bryson and other Luggate residents who designed, built and installed the Luggate Creek fish ladder. Thanks to Jock Meehan, manager of Lake McKay Station who granted access for the spawning survey.

References

Land, Air, Water Aotearoa (LAWA). <https://www.lawa.org.nz>

Recommendation

That is report be received.

Paul van Klink
Fish & Game Officer
May 2017

9.3 2017 Game Season Opening - C Halford

COUNCIL REPORT JUNE 2017

2017 GAME SEASON OPENING

Seasons Predictions

Most of the Otago region experienced consistent rainfall and inclement weather conditions throughout spring which continued into January. More settled conditions prevailed through February, with March and early April mostly dry. A brief spell of rain in late April enhanced river levels and improved ponds and wetlands.

Central Otago farmers experienced one of the best spring/summer periods on record with good nesting conditions and healthy duck numbers prior to the season opening. Aerial transect counts of mallard ducks in Coastal and South Otago during mid April showed an increase on previous seasons and it was anticipated that hunting in the south of the region would be reasonably good.

Fine calm weather was forecast for the opening weekend which would affect hunting success but increased duck numbers were expected to help.

Pre Season Promotions

Two pages were provided for the national magazine, an eight page newsletter mail out was sent to licence holders, information was posted on the Fish and Game website Both Barrels, and a range of articles featured in regional newspapers. The national F&G office presented a solid preseason media package.

Staff attended pre-season gun club shoots in Dunedin (2) Wanaka (1). A promotional evening at H&J's Outdoor World in Queenstown was attended by staff and supported by approximately 60 hunters. Agents reported a steady interest in product and licence sales in advance of the opening day.

A complete promotions and media schedule has been provided as an appendix to this report.

Ranging Training and the Opening Day Exercise

A ranger training evening in Dunedin on May 3rd focused on preparing rangers for the opening day covering safety in the field, relevant legislation, firearms handling and procedural guidelines for interviewing and processing offences.

On the opening day 6 teams of rangers inspected ponds and waterways in the Manuherikia Valley and lower Ida Valley, Gimmerburn and Ranfurly, Tapanui and Mahinerangi/Taieri. The Ranfurly team was accompanied by a police constable.

A further team interviewed hunters at Lakes Waipori and Waihola over the weekend.

Results and Summary of Offences

There was a high level of respect shown towards rangers and compliance was generally pleasing.

A total of 83 waterways/ponds were visited including Lakes Waihola and Waipori accounting for 212 hunter interviews in total.

Offence notices were issued for three no licence offences and four lead shot offences. Three hunters failed to produce licences (FTP) when interviewed but this was quickly resolved from licence data records.

This provides overall compliance of 95% (FTP included) which is similar to last season at 94% and 96% in 2015. While the non compliance is disappointing the overall statistics are pleasing. The high number of hunters carrying licences was particularly good.

Success and Satisfaction

The forecast calm weather prevailed causing some frustration but generally hunters weren't concerned and were enjoying the day with some ducks bagged for their efforts.

Limit bags (25 each) of mallards were shot in the Tapanui area and there were a few very good bags shot around Milton, Poolburn, and in the Ida Valley. Hunters on the Lower Clutha reported seeing good numbers of ducks throughout the day.

Positive comments were received about the healthy condition of the birds.

Overall it was a steady start to the 2017 season.

Recommendation

That this report be received

Cliff Halford
Fish and Game Officer
June 2017

Appendix 1.
2017 Game Season Promotions and Media

Newspaper	Print Date	Advertising	Comments
Clutha Leader	Thursday April 27	Provided by F&G	Good season predicted by aerial duck counts. Final preparation advice. CH
Clutha Leader	Thursday May 4	No	Picture and comments from a Catlin's farmer about the opening and the good nesting season.
Wanaka Sun	Thursday May 4	No	Water safety, licence requirements and equipment.
Otago Daily Times	Friday May 5	No	Good season predicted, early licence sales, Police and firearms safety. IH
The Country	Friday May 5	No	Vintage season forecast, licence sales up on last season. Basic rules by the police. IH
National News	Saturday May 6	No	Saturday field report to Grant Dyson and regional round up. CH
Otago Daily Times	Monday May 8	No	Police and F&G praise hunter's behavior. Hunter success, ranger activity and offences. IH
Otago Daily Times	Monday May 8	No	Fishermen frustrating hunters on the opening day on the Taieri River.
Otago Daily Times	Monday May 8	No	Family tradition at Lauder. Duck hunter widows brunch at Chatto Creek. Norman Clark 70 th consecutive opening.
Taieri Herald	Wednesday May 10	No	Caption and picture of two junior hunters on the Taieri on opening day. IH
Wanaka Sun	Thursday May 11	No	Summary of the opening, few incidents and generally good behavior with police comments. PvK.

Note – We had planned to provide editorial and advertising in the Central Otago Mirror prior to the opening day but the feature was pulled from the edition.

Promotional Area	Publication/Venue	Comments
Fish and Game Nationally	Magazine	Mail out to hunters
Otago Region	Newsletter	In circulation to licence holders in mid April. MT
National F&G Web Site	Both Barrels	Regular updates on the season CH
Otago Region	Thursday March 30 Queenstown H&J Outdoor World duck hunters Promotional evening	Presentation to approximately 60 hunters. CH and PvK.
Otago Region	Sunday April 9 Dunedin Gun Club	Liaison with hunters and spoke at the end of the event. IH
Otago Region	Sunday April 23 Hunting & Fishing Shoot, Dunedin	Liaison with hunters. IH
Otago Region	Tuesday April 25 Wanaka Gun Club Duck Hunter Shoot	Approx 80 shooters. Supplied giveaway material and communicated with hunters. CH

9.4 Otago Mallard Monitoring Study April 2017 - P van Klink

COUNCIL REPORT JUNE 2017

Otago Region Mallard Monitoring Study, April 2017

Introduction

Mallard ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos*) were first introduced to New Zealand from 1870 onwards and their colonisation has been so successful they are now considered to be New Zealand's premier game bird. Soon after the initial releases, the mallard hybridised with the endemic New Zealand grey duck (*Anas superciliosa*) (Williams & Basse, 2006). Hybridisation has been so widespread that pure grey ducks are so rare they are classified as nationally critical (Robertson et. al., 2012) and the mallard/grey duck hybrids are now largely considered to be one population.

Despite the success of early mallard duck colonisation, their biology and population dynamics have been under close scrutiny in recent years due to concern about their populations declining in some parts of New Zealand. There are many factors that affect mallard population dynamics, including weather patterns, climate change, changes in breeding habitat, predation and hunting.

Fish and Game Councils and universities have coordinated together to spearhead recent research into mallard duck populations. As part of the research for Otago, mallard population monitoring has been undertaken to determine long term trends which are necessary to manage game birds sustainably. Accurate information on population trends will allow Fish and Game managers to make informed decisions when setting game bird harvest regulations. The intension in future will be to look at the relationship between the mallard monitoring results and the Otago hunter harvest and effort estimates which are sourced from game bird hunter telephone surveys.

Otago Fish and Game completed a pilot mallard monitoring project in 2015. This report is on the past three years of the mallard monitoring study (2015 – 2017).

Methods

The methods used for the mallard monitoring in Otago are largely based on methodology used by Southland Fish and Game, which has been refined over the past few years. The flight was conducted on April 18 2017. The Otago site selection criteria and methodology for selecting the sampling units (ponds and transects) is attached in Appendix 1.

The mallard monitoring aerial survey methodology follows;

General

- Counts are undertaken between April 07 and 18.
- An Otago Helicopters Robinson Class 22 is used for the survey.
- The pilot provided assistance in locating the sampling unit (pond or transect) with GPS and looking for birds where safety was not compromised.

- The shortest route between ponds and transects was flown.
- The weather was fine and wind < 12 knots.
- The survey was undertaken between 0900 and 1700 hours.
- Species other than mallards, particularly geese, paradise shelduck, grey teal, scaup and shoveller were identified and excluded from the count.
- The helicopter was positioned to enable the clearest view of the survey area.
- If birds were seen under trees or scrub the count was done when these had emerged.
- The helicopter could be positioned so that birds slowly came out from cover without making them fly off.
- When birds did fly off an estimate of the number departing was made and added to the total count.
- Groups of more than about 30 birds were photographed and the birds were counted on the computer using Microsoft paint. The paintbrush application allowed the user to count individual mallard ducks on the image which ensured that no mallards were double counted.

Ponds

- If there were < 30 birds on the pond they were counted manually otherwise they were photographed.
- The helicopter flew at a height so that the mallard ducks did not fly off from the pond but could be clearly counted or photographed.

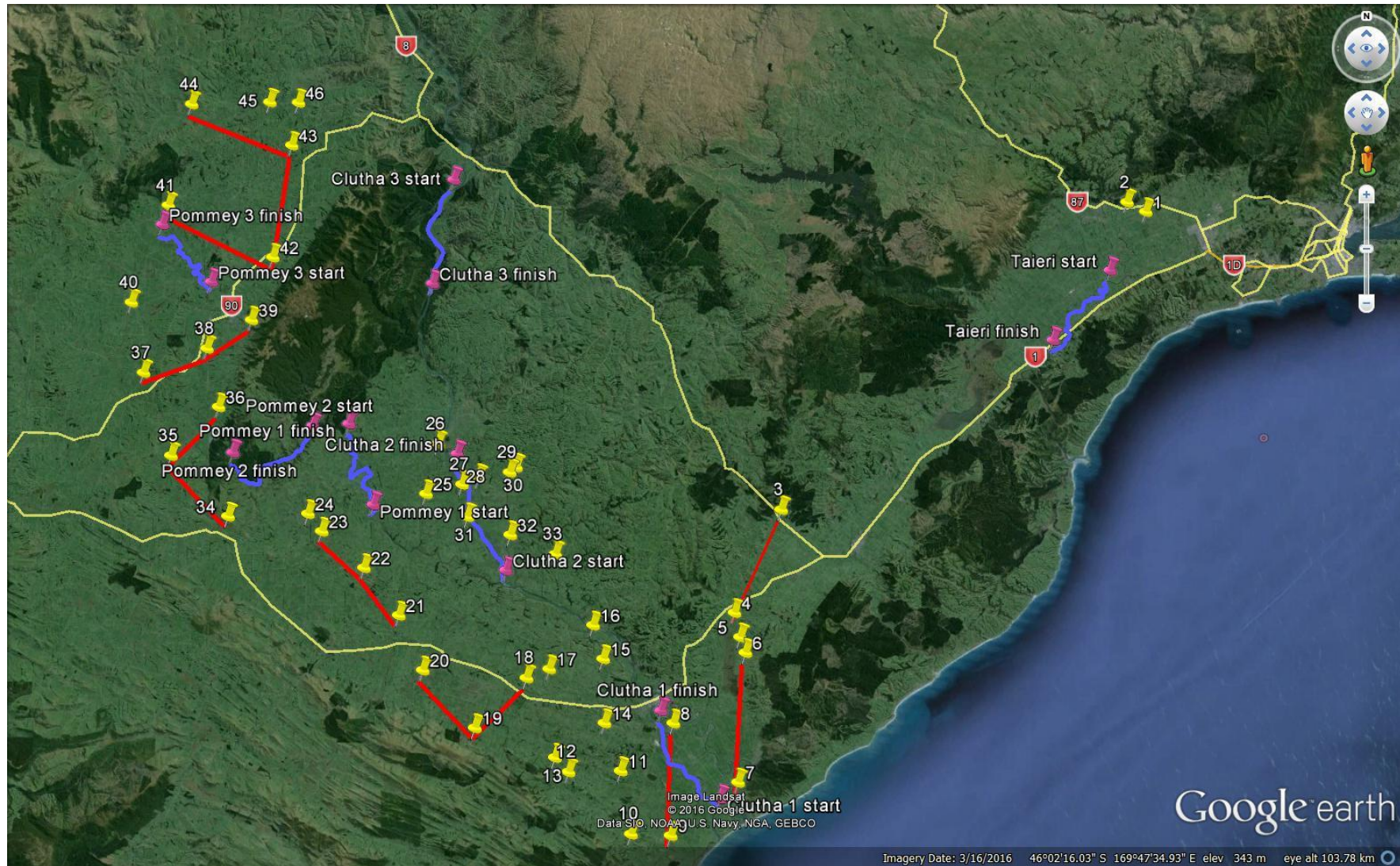
River transects

- Main river backwaters were not surveyed if they were more than about 100m from the main channel, otherwise they were and included as part of the river transect.
- For the river transect the helicopter slowed to a hover over or adjacent to the willow lined sections so that the ducks would swim out to become visible to observers and then easily counted.

Cross country transects

- Mallards were counted within 100m either side of the helicopter as it flew along, the transect.
- This gave a fixed width of no more than about 200m from the line of the survey.
- The helicopter flew at an approximate fixed height so that birds could be easily seen and identified as mallards.
- Generally the transect was undertaken at a fixed cruising speed but if an accumulation of mallards was found, e.g. a pond was on the transect line, the helicopter was slowed so the birds could be accurately counted.
- Birds were not generally encountered unless there was a water feature present.

The initial flight plan in 2015 comprised of 46 ponds, seven 10 km river transects and ten 10 km cross country transects (Figure 1).



Results

All of the original 2015 flight plan was completed except for one river transect (Pomahaka 2), 1 pond (5), and 1 cross country transect (transect 1) (Figure 1, Table 1). Over the past three years a number of sampling units have not been completed. Reasons for not completing all the counts have included;

- The helicopter had to return to base to refuel
- An aerial hazard (wire) was identified on Pomahaka 2 river transect and it was dropped from subsequent monitoring for safety reasons
- Ponds were not correctly identified from the air and nearby ponds were counted instead (these have not been included in the results)
- Sampling units were missed (from the flight plan or during the count) and these oversights were only realised after the counts were complete

Table 1. The number of mallard monitoring counts completed 2015 - 2017

	No. of ponds counted (*46)	No. of river transects counted (*7)	No. of cross-country transects counted (*10)
2015	41	6	8
2016	44	6	10
2017	45	6	9

* Denotes the original number of sites selected

A total of 5853 mallards were counted in 2017 compared to 5279 mallards in 2016 and 5265 in 2015 (Table 2). The number of mallards counted for each of the survey sampling units is shown in the sub-totals for 2015 - 2017 (Table 2). There were a number of variables that have changed between the 2015 and 2017 surveys. These minor changes include;

- A different pilot in 2016
- A different and Fish and Game observer in 2015
- A different number of counts completed over all years
- A different amount of time surveying (flying hours)
- Different cameras for taking photos during the counts

Table 2: Otago mallard duck monitoring results showing the separate strata (ponds, river and cross-country transects) and total counts for 2015 - 2017 (NC = no count)

Pond No.	2015	2016	2017
1	2	0	30
2	0	0	3
3	32	148	71
4	0	0	0
5	0	NC	NC
6	0	157	30
7	0	0	1
8	44	239	43
9	71	77	242
10	17	0	33
11	0	0	0
12	13	40	24
13	3	0	13
14	56	67	14
15	22	51	10
16	16	81	49
17	0	4	0
18	13	0	9
19	35	20	111
20	2	0	5
21	0	6	12
22	430	379	6
23	2	0	83
24	12	3	4
25	62	0	116
26	11	0	12
27	0	0	0
28	77	142	84
29	0	6	84
30	9	8	2
31	0	NC	0
32	0	0	0
33	26	6	5
34	2	0	35
35	0	13	0
36	16	0	0
37	3	11	28
38	6	38	31
39	40	10	2
40	NC	284	135
41	NC	45	177
42	61	61	76
43	0	20	0
44	NC	35	0
45	NC	0	0
46	21	40	4
Sub-total Ponds	1104	1991	1574

River Transect	2015	2016	2017
Taieri transect	1560	1408	662
Clutha 1 transect	610	639	912
Clutha 2 transect	225	63	174
Clutha 3 transect	47	10	128
Pomahaka 1 transect	683	736	570
Pomahaka 2 transect	39	NC	NC
Pomahaka 3 transect	NC	97	364
Sub-total River Transects	3164	2953	2810
Cross Country Transect			
Transect 1	101	48	NC
Transect 2	182	26	656
Transect 3	58	119	417
Transect 4	3	0	42
Transect 5	595	116	37
Transect 6	27	0	22
Transect 7	6	0	60
Transect 8	NC	26	112
Transect 9	25	0	108
Transect 10	NC	0	5
Sub-total Cross Country Transects	997	335	1459
TOTAL	5265	5279	5853
Total flying time (Hours)	4.8	5.4	6.2

Discussion

The Robison Class 22 helicopter provides a stable platform to undertake the aerial counts which were completed successfully in 6.2 hours flying time.

Large concentrations of mallards were noted on some of the river and cross-country transects and a select number of ponds throughout the survey area (Table 2). The number of mallard ducks counted on ponds was about the average of all three years and river transects counts were similar between all years (Table 2). The numbers of mallards counted on cross country transects showed the most variation (Table 2) which may have been reflected by the conditions. The 2017 counts were completed after a period of wet weather which allowed ephemeral wetlands to form in low-lying pasture areas. Mallard ducks had flown to these temporary feeding areas which were encountered periodically when flying along the cross country transects.

In the 2016 monitoring flight it was reported that reflective light coming off the helicopter polycarbonate windows led to problems with the SLR camera focus. This caused many of the

images to be out of focus. This issue has now been rectified by going back to a point and shoot camera which was used in 2015. The photographs taken of mallards in the 2017 survey were much clearer than the images taken in 2016.

One of the main considerations for future mallard monitoring is to reduce the number of independent variables. Efforts will be made in future surveys to use the same observer, same helicopter and pilot, complete the original flight plan and count the same number of sampling units. Comments and recommendations from MacKenzie (2016) have been noted and these improvements to the monitoring will be incorporated where possible to improve the overall mallard monitoring study.

As this is the third year of monitoring no inferences about mallard population trends in South Otago have been made from this limited amount of data collected over three surveys. The relationship between the mallard survey results and the annual hunter harvest for Otago has not been investigated. At the time of writing the annual game hunter survey results for 2017 were not complete. This data will be looked at in more detail once the mallard monitoring survey and methodology is refined and a meaningful dataset is produced at which time it will become more useful in informing the process for setting the Game Season regulations.

Recommendation

That this methodology is repeated annually to gather population information.

That this report be received

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Grant Smith from Otago Helicopters Ltd for undertaking the mallard monitoring flight. Grant's excellent GPS and observational skills made the mallard monitoring flight more efficient and effective.

**Paul van Klink
Fish and Game Officer
June 2017**

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Appendix 1

Otago Mallard Monitoring Methodology

Otago Fish and Game established mallard monitoring sites and completed a pilot monitoring study in 2015. The methodology for selecting the 46 ponds, seven 10km river transects and 10 10km cross-country transects was completed by Southland staff. The monitoring was conducted by Otago staff.

Monitoring Area Selection Criteria

Habitat characteristics;

- All land in South Otago was considered.
- Areas more than 200m above sea level were excluded to avoid surveying in hill-country which tends to be less favourable waterfowl habitat.
- Densely forested areas were also excluded due to the lack of duck habitat.
- Google earth maps were used for identifying the location of ponds, river and cross-country transects.

Pond selection criteria;

- All ponds >20m in diameter were identified and recorded in an Excel spreadsheet.
- From the identified ponds 46 “good” ponds were randomly selected.
- Ponds were deemed unsuitable for a variety of reasons, but generally because they were too close to buildings, were near places of common human activity, such as beside tracks or other structures, or they had been modified and did not meet the original size criteria, e.g. had been fully or partially drained.
- For the 80 or so unsuitable ponds, the next closest ponds that did meet the size and isolation criteria were used instead.

- On-going replacement of ponds will be necessary if surveyed ponds become unsuitable, which will be assessed annually.
- Ponds in excess of 20ha were also excluded because they are too difficult to count accurately and prone to annual variations in the distribution of birds.

River transect selection criteria;

- The upper limit of the transect count was based on known mallard habitat within the survey area;
- The total km of the river was calculated and 1 km potential start points were assigned
- Random numbers were chosen which was the distance from the sea (km) for the downstream start point for the 10km transect.
- Up to five transects were selected within the total distance of the river to be surveyed.
- To ensure transects did not overlap, start points were randomly selected until five 10 km non-overlapping transects were selected.

Cross- country transect selection criteria;

- Ten 10km cross-country transects were selected.
- The start points chosen were randomly selected ponds (as described above) where there was a minimum distance of 10 km between that point and the next randomly selected pond.
- This enabled the completion of a transect while flying to the next pond location, thereby minimising flight-time.

10 Correspondence

Nil

11 General Business
