

## Agenda for The Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council

**On 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**At Cromwell Presbyterian Church, 10 Elizabeth Street, Cromwell**

**Starting 11.45am with a light lunch**

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## **1.0 Present and Apologies**

### **1.1 Election of officers**

- Chair
- Executive
- NZC Appointee

## **2.0 Matters to be raised not on the agenda**

## **3.0 Declarations of Interest**

## 4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

### **Minutes of Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting Otago Fish and Game Council Office, Cnr Hanover & Harrow Streets, Dunedin 18<sup>th</sup> August 2018, commencing at 12.30pm**

#### **1.0 Present:**

Monty Wright (Chair), Dr John Jillett, Dan Rae, Adrian McIntyre, Ian Cole, John Barlow, Rick Boyd, Richard Twining, Vicky Whyte, Colin Weatherall, Murray Neilson

In attendance: Ian Hadland (CE), Niall Watson (OF&GC, part meeting), Helen Trotter (OF&GC, part meeting, and Greg Sligo (acting minutes secretary)

Apologies were received from  
Dave Witherow, Alan Hammond, Dr Mike Turner

#### **2.0 Matters to be raised not on the Agenda.**

Three items were raised for discussion later on in the meeting:

Jet boat restrictions (Ian Cole)

Peter Rhodes and associated issues (Rick Boyd)

Alpine Lakes Research Centre (Murray Neilson)

There was a wide-ranging discussion on electronic distribution of the agenda and associated documents.

It was generally **agreed** that it was desirable to have commonality of settings to ensure access to the documents was reliable and they could easily be annotated.

It was **agreed** that there was a need to persevere with paperless meetings.

Ian Hadland outlined the changes that had been made to the agenda format, with the significant reports being early in the agenda, while other reports submitted for noting now being listed towards the end of the agenda.

#### **3.0 Declarations of Interest**

Dan Rae advised that he was a party to a small water right near Bannockburn.

#### 4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Resolved (Rae/Jillett)

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record.**

#### 5.0 Matters arising from Minutes

There was discussion on the joint Council meeting held with the Southland Council representatives in Tapanui on 4 August. This was also covered in the CE's report. The general consensus was that the meeting had gone well, and while there was no obvious need for common regulations, the meeting had provided a good forum for dialogue, especially discussion on pressure sensitive fisheries and the impact of M Bovis on access.

##### 5.1 Wanaka Hatchery

This was discussed later in the meeting.

#### 6.0 Health and Safety Report

No discussion.

#### 7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

##### 7.1 Annual Operational Workplan Adoption

The CE spoke to the 2018/19 budget and noted that the levies to NZC now exceeded \$1 million. It was suggested that as the Council was facing significant costs to protect habitat through the RMA, managing the payment of these levies to NZC should be investigated.

The CE also spoke to the Annual Operational Workplan, which had been pre-circulated. He highlighted the relevant adjustments which had come through from the strategic planning meeting.

After further discussion it was moved (Rae/Jillett):

**That the Operational Workplan and budget for 2018/19 be adopted.**

Discussion followed on the Harvest Assessment (project 1120) and the benefits of angler surveys. It was **generally agreed** that the activity was a worthwhile information gathering process, and a way of keeping in touch with the relevant area. Cr Boyd noted that he could assist with survey design.

**The motion was then put to council and approved.**

## 7.2 Back Country Fisheries Management in Otago

After the CE had outlined the report from Helen Trotter, there was discussion on the issues raised, and there was general support for the report conclusions.

The Chairman suggested that it go into the library of public reports and could possibly be included in the organisation's magazine.

The report also identified four factors that could be considered in addition to the existing Otago regime. These were:

- Managing conflicts between different user groups (e.g. guided/unguided)
- Use levels/encounter rates are impacting angler satisfaction, causing displacement of some users.
- High levels of guided or commercial activity (including exclusive capture)
- Particular need of intensive management including research and/or monitoring or to highlight the special value of the fishery.

After discussion the recommendations in the report were moved (White/Cole):

**1. That the following matters are raised as priority items for the staff Backcountry and Pressure Sensitive Workshop to be held in September 2018:**

- Establish a national agreed classification system (with criteria) to appropriately categorise fisheries for the purposes of direction NRL revenue and fisheries management, and address issues with the current use of the term backcountry.
- Determine system for changing a nominal fee for Licence Endorsements.
- Develop an inter-regional strategy for 'soft' management mechanisms.

**2. That the preliminary feasibility and design work for a trial Controlled Fishery for the Dingle Burn be undertaken this year.**

The motion was then put and approved.

## 7.3 Offence Guidelines for Otago

This report set out the changes that had been made by way of dealing with offenders with diversion rather than reparation. The CE drew attention to the fact that all prosecutions must meet the provisions of the Solicitor-Generals' Prosecution Guidelines.

Resolved (Whyte/Boyd):

**That Council endorse the *Offence Guidelines for Otago – August 2018* and agree to the Schedule of penalty payments in Appendix 1.**

The motion was put and approved.

#### 7.4 Salmon Committee Report

Members considered the report from the Salmon Committee, which set out Terms of Reference and Strategic Outcomes. The Salmon committee has sought feedback from the Council on those documents. It also set out four actions and asked the Council to consider those. Full details were set out in the letter from the Salmon Committee dated 7 August 2018.

Council expressed concern with some of the proposed actions recommended by the Salmon Committee. It was **agreed** that:

- The first action was underway;
- The Council **agreed** in principle with the second proposed action
- The Council would consider rather than adopt the proposed actions
- The fourth action was premature at this stage

It was **agreed** that the CE would draft a reply to the Salmon Committee.

It was also **agreed** that there was a need to:

- Reinvigorate the wild fishery
- Note that the Clutha River was only one of six rivers involved
- That most salmon fishing is outside the region.

#### 8.0 Public Excluded Items

There were no public excluded items.

#### 9.0 Chief Executive's Report

##### 9.1 Administration

The financial report covering the period 1 September 2017- 31 July 2018 indicated that expenditure was 105% of budget, but the CE indicated that most large expenditure items were now covered, and it was likely that expenditure would be slightly over budget by year end.

Resolved (Weatherall/Jillett):

**That the Finance and Licence Sales Report for the period ending 31 July 2018 be received.**

The CE noted that delegations had now being edited, and updated copies would be circulated to all members of the Council in October.

There was discussion on the ground floor tenancy at the Councils Dunedin building, and the need to spend reserves to renovate the premises (including double glazing) before the lease was renewed.

It was resolved (Rae/Cole):

**That approval be sought from NZC to use funds from reserves, subject to negotiation of a satisfactory long-term lease.**

### 9.2 Species

There was brief discussion on hatchery operations, and the 'Anglers Notice' review.

### 9.3 Habitat

Council then addressed the Bullock Creek stormwater issues and expressed their dissatisfaction with the delays of QLDC in getting stormwater engineering reports and providing information to F&G staff. The option of an official OIA request is to be explored and additional pressure should also be applied via the Wanaka Community Board.

The CE is to follow up with QLDC regarding stormwater and discharges from the Alpha series subdivision, and to write to the Otago Regional Council regarding discharges.

Mr Boyd suggested that development of the hatchery is the next step for Contact Energy and asked that a report on this matter be circulated before the next meeting. Mr Twining endorsed the request and asked if an observatory could be included in the redeveloped hatchery if possible. The CE agreed to circulate the Contact Energy consent condition related to Salmon, and the hatchery assessment provided by Cawthron.

*Niall Watson joined the meeting at 2.55pm to for discussion on Transfers from Mining Privileges (MPs) in general and the effect on the Lindis and Manuherikia rivers in particular.*

After noting that all evidence needed to be lodged by 14 September, and the hearing now had a start date of 5th November 2018 members were concerned to learn that the ORC proposed plan change (which was to have been publicly notified at the end of August) had now been delayed until May 2019. This effectively meant that policy and linkages around minimum and residual flows will remain unclarified in the meantime.

Mr Watson also spoke on the significant costs that would be incurred in this process, and there was discussion on the ORC meeting the costs of irrigators' witnesses' costs.

Council thanked Mr Watson for his efforts and work on these matters, and he left the meeting at 3.12pm.

*The meeting then adjourned at 3.12pm and resumed at 3.32pm.*

#### **9.4 User Participation**

Council considered:

- Recent media attention regarding access to the Hunter Valley
- The close down of the subscriber issues of the F&G magazine

#### **9.5 – 9.7 No discussion**

#### **9.8 Council**

A verbal update was provided to Councillors of the recent Executive meeting held including the move to conclude the Employment subcommittee. It was noted that this could be concluded at the end of the financial year when a number of residual matters related to the change in CE's were resolved to the satisfaction of the Chairman.

It was resolved (Weatherall/Boyd):

**That Council endorse the executive committee resolutions including disbanding the Employment Committee on 31 August 2018.**

### **10.0 Committee & Delegate Reports**

#### **10.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust**

After noting that the CFT was due to meet next week, Mr Cole addressed access issues to the upper Clutha. He noted that Devon Dairies had taken over public roads some years ago and had not provided the required replacement public road around the perimeter of the farm. The company was now using M Bovis as the reason for not complying.

Discussion followed on access to legal roads generally, and the possibility of raising access issues with M.P.I. was discussed.

#### **10.2 New Zealand Council**

Dr Jillett reported details of recent NZC activities including:

- The magazine would no longer be published as it was unprofitable. Two issues (covering F&G special issues) would be retained. There was discussion on the difficulty of maintaining such magazines.
- Only four regions had been officially audited by NZC in nearly two decades. Otago had never been audited by NZC.
- North Canterbury, Central South Island and Hawkes Bay Regions were currently being audited by a third-party following complaint about their performance.

Dr Jillett provided details of the background to that.



## 11.0 Correspondence

### 11.1 NZC to Otago

#### 11.1.1 N.Z. Audit Policy

A letter from the Audit Office on the New Zealand Council's need to audit the activities of Fish and Game Councils had been previously circulated and was discussed at this point.

**11.1.2 IRD Letter** A letter confirming the Otago Fish & game Councils exemption from paying tax on its licence revenue was circulated.

#### 11.1.3 Cawthron Hatchery Report

No discussion

### 11.2 Otago to NZC

Nil

## 11.3 General Correspondence

**11.3.1 Letter to QLDC** (regarding stormwater pipe through the hatchery land) and to ORC (regarding Affected Party decisions) had been circulated and were discussed. The contents of the letters and the concerns expressed were endorsed.

## 12.0 Items to be Received or Noted

### 12.1 Compliance Summary report 2017/18 Season

This report provided a summary of the compliance over the fishing and game seasons, together with prosecutions and changes in Honorary Rangers.

### 12.2 Summary of Fishing Competitions in Otago

This report provided a summary of fishing competitions throughout Otago,

#### 12.2 Summary of Fishing Competitions in Otago

When the meeting resumed Helen Trotter joined the meeting and spoke to her report covering fishing competitions in Otago. The report noted that there were six major competitions held in Otago, and that data from the Lake Wakatipu competition covered competitions since 1987. She also noted that there were no competitions on Lake Wanaka. Members raised that there had been a decline in salmon numbers caught, but that useful data and education was derived from the competitions.

Council members thanked Mrs Trotter for her report, her work for the Council, and wished her well for her proposed maternity leave.

**12.3 Review and Update Fisheries SOPs for Fish and Game Councils: Project 1115**

Members discussed the report and noted that momentum for the project seemed to have stalled.

It was **agreed** that there should be more progress with the proposed national fisheries committee, and the future priorities were endorsed.

**12.4 Assessment of the Upper Clutha River Fishery: Project 1113**

The update on the Assessment (Project 1113) was outlined, and members asked that a summary be prepared for inclusion in the Work Plan for next year.

**12.5 Manuherikia Catchment Flow Assessments: Project 1113**

The report provided a summary of work undertaken, including assessment surveys, and results that were derived.

**12.6 Gamebird Management: Project 1180**

This end of year report provided a summary of gamebird complaints and the Councils response

It was then moved (Jillett/Cole):

**That all staff reports be received.**

**Motion Carried.**

**13.0 General Business**

**13.1** As indicated in item 2.0, Ian Cole raised the matter of jet boating regulations generally, and in the upper Clutha specifically. There was support for the restrictions down to the Luggate bridge to be maintained, and the CE noted that submissions were needed before the end of the month. A draft submission is to be prepared and circulated.

**13.2** Murray Neilson spoke to the Alpine Lakes Research Centre proposal. The CE advised that the organization had been looking at other land and building options.

**13.3** With regards to Mr Rhodes prosecution, the CE advised that he would be talking directly to the Upper Clutha Anglers Club about the matter and that F&G staff would look into recreational use over this summer and report back to the February meeting.

**13.4** Vicky Whyte raised the issue of restricting fishing access to Pinders Pond to only children, and this matter was referred to next year's Anglers Notice Review.

**The meeting closed at 4.57pm.**

## **5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

## 6.0 Health and Safety Report

### Self-Audit of H&S Procedures – Interim Report

The CE is responsible for an annual self-audit of the Councils Health and Safety Plan and procedures. This is usually conducted in December and reported on at the February meeting. I have recently completed the 21 point checklist audit and have found a number of minor deficiencies including:

- Only partially completed hazard audit of office and workshop in Cromwell
- Personal Protective Equipment list incomplete
- No near miss reports filed (none known)
- Long time between office evacuation drills
- Ongoing training for our H&S rep required.

None of the above matters are critical but will be resolved over the next month in preparation of Decembers full self-audit.

#### Weekly meetings

Weekly staff meetings have a dedicated section for Health and Safety. It is an opportunity to record any events, new hazards or near misses. It is also an opportunity to seek updates on outstanding H&S tasks. The outcomes of those meetings are being converted to actions where necessary and filed with other H&S documentation.

#### Incidents

A staff member was struck in the eye while loading branches onto a trailer. There was no harm done and no further issues.

Staff have been reminded about the importance of protective eyewear when in the field. The incident was reported immediately, and mitigation action signed off.

#### Recommendation

That this Health and Safety report be received.

Ian Hadland  
Chief Executive

## 7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

### 7.1 Council Support for Friends of Bullock Creek Incorporated (FOBC)

#### Outline of FOBC

FOBC formed in September 2018 and it is envisaged that it will be a significant community organisation in Wanaka. At present it is fronted by Andrew Waterworth (President) and Roger Gardiner (Secretary) and they have recently been approved as a charitable organisation (Charity Registration Number CC55737).

FOBC have an email list of over 200 people who have expressed interest in one way or other to become a member/supporter of the group. The group intends to support Fish & Game with the restoration of the Bullock Creek Hatchery Springs as a priority project and promote the protection and enhancement of Bullock Creek from its source to Lake Wanaka.

FOBC have a number of activities to get the newly formed group up and running. These include:

- Growing the contact of interested persons.
- Developing a website so people can easily find FOBC on line and learn about what the group is about.
- Evaluating merits of a registered 'seal' that businesses could licence, indicating their ongoing support towards this environmental group.
- Continuing to provide supervision for the work being done by the Department of Corrections work parties at the Bullock Creek Hatchery Springs.
- Making contact with residents adjacent to Bullock Creek to understand their history, interests and ideas regarding the creek.
- Meet with QLDC Councillors and the Wanaka Community Board to brief them on the community role of FOBC.

There has been a considerable amount of momentum and interest in improving the Bullock Creek Hatchery Springs largely lead by the Wanaka Residents Association, but our understanding is that this group is winding up. This new group appears to be a well-intentioned spin-off with many of the same dedicated people involved in the FOBC group.

#### MOU required

The FOBC recognise the need to have a MOU in place to allow ongoing work to be conducted at the F&G Hatchery Springs site. This will also ensure that both parties are clear regarding their roles and responsibilities. This should be developed as soon as possible and could include a consideration that a Fish & Game representative attend FOBC committee meetings.

### **Seed Funding**

The group have requested a small amount of funding from Otago Fish & Game Council to continue the clearing and planting work at the hatchery Springs site. Past experience shows that members of this group have been able to convert small amounts of seed funding into substantial grants (for the walkway and plantings etc) source funding for works at the Bullock Creek Hatchery Springs in conjunction with FOBC. One option is to fund an annual grant of \$2000 from the HERF fund, provided that expenditure is dedicated to work at our site.

### **Recommendation**

1. That staff work with FOBC to develop an MOU to allow work to continue at the Hatchery Springs site.
2. That if (1) above is agreed, that Otago Fish & Game Council (OFGC) approve \$2,000.00 per annum from the HERF Fund to assist with works on the Fish & Game property.

Ian Hadland  
Chief Executive.  
8 October 2018

## 7.2 Proposed Code of Practice for Game Bird Hunting

### Background

In 2017 an updated code of conduct for freshwater sports fishing was developed and presented to the NZ Council as part of the Otago Council's response on the issue of angling ethics and catch and release. Further discussions with staff identified potential to similarly review the code of conduct for game bird hunting. In particular the current code of conduct does not place adequate emphasis on the humane treatment of game birds and could be clearer in communicating key aspects of ethical behaviour for hunters.

The following draft code of conduct for game bird hunting has been developed in the same format as the angling code of conduct, grouping the key ideas under four responsibilities. These four responsibilities align with the angling code of conduct to enable clear and consistent messaging across Fish and Game regarding the expected standard of behaviour for licence holders; both when hunting and fishing.

### INTRODUCTION

Game bird hunting is a treasured pastime for New Zealanders across the country. With the enjoyment of a natural resource comes a responsibility to ensure its sustainability and to behave responsibly and ethically, in order to safeguard the future of hunting for all New Zealanders. Fish and Game New Zealand (comprised of 12 regional Fish & Game Councils across New Zealand and one National Council) are the statutory managers of game bird hunting in New Zealand and represent the interests of hunters. This Code of Practice outlines our responsibilities as game bird hunters in order to support the practice of ethical hunting.

### SUMMARY

The Code of Practice for Game Bird Hunting outlines our four key responsibilities as hunters:

- **Hunt humanely**
- **Protect game bird resources and our hunting traditions**
- **Care for the environment**
- **Respect the rights of others**

These four key responsibilities incorporate 13 specific principles:

#### **HUNT HUMANELY**

1. Shoot only within the effective range of our firearm and our capabilities, and only when a quick, clean kill is likely
2. Retrieve all shot birds promptly and dispatch wounded game birds quickly and humanely
3. Respect the resource and value our game birds and eat what we shoot

**PROTECT GAME BIRD RESOURCES AND OUR HUNTING TRADITIONS**

4. Understand and observe all hunting regulations and licensing requirements
5. Support game bird management and habitat enhancement activities
6. Take no more than our immediate needs
7. Share our knowledge and foster ethical attitudes and behaviour in hunting companions and youth

**CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

8. Remove all rubbish from the hunting area and dispose of offal and carcasses responsibly
9. Use non-toxic shot
10. Use established tracks and roads

**RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS**

11. Respect private property and always ask for access permission
12. Be considerate of non-hunters
13. Be aware of our safety and the safety of others when hunting

**CODE OF PRACTICE FOR GAME BIRD HUNTING****TREAT GAME BIRDS HUMANELY**

- 1. Shoot only within the effective range of our firearm and our capabilities, and only when a quick, clean kill is likely**

By understanding the effective range of our firearm, using the appropriate legal ammunition, patterning our shotguns and practicing to improve our skills, we ensure a quick, clean kill is likely. This gives regard to the welfare of the game birds and ensures a successful and enjoyable hunting experience. **We ensure a quick, clean kill is likely by:**

- Making sure our gun fits properly
- Practicing our shooting skills before the season opens
- Patterning our shotgun to determine effective load/choke combinations and effective range (normally a maximum of 30 – 40 m)
- Waiting until the bird are close and within range, never shooting at birds out of range or 'skyblasting', and avoiding shooting at birds flying away

- 2. Retrieve all shot birds promptly & dispatch wounded game birds quickly and humanely**

By retrieving all harvested birds promptly, you reduce predation by scavenging species such as harrier hawks, and also reduce the potential for meat to spoil and ensure that any wounded birds are dispatched quickly. It also allows an accurate count of shot birds to be kept so that bag limits are not exceeded. **Retrieve shot birds and dispatch wounded birds efficiently by:**



- Only shooting when confident the shot bird can be recovered
- Retrieving birds immediately – do not wait until the end of the hunt to recover birds
- Using a trained gun dog or having another means ready to retrieve birds when hunting around water
- Dispatching wounded game birds quickly and humanely by rapid dislocation of the neck or using specially designed game bird dispatching tool

### **3. Respect the resource and value our game birds**

Our treatment and handling of game birds is a direct reflection of the respect we have for game birds, our appreciation of the resource, and our commitment to protecting the hunting tradition for future generations.

#### **Respecting the resource means:**

- Use appropriate ammunition for the species and size being targeted
- Storing game birds in a cool shady place away from direct sun and making appropriate preparations to store dressed carcasses/meat so that it does not spoil
- Avoiding waste and never discarding any harvested game birds

## **PROTECT GAME BIRDS RESOURCES AND OUR HUNTING TRADITIONS**

### **4. Understand and observe all hunting regulations and licencing requirements**

Fish and Game New Zealand set and enforce regulations to manage our game birds and the quality of the hunting experience. Regulations safeguard the sustainability of the hunting population by placing limits on harvest, season length and methods.

#### **Understanding and observing all hunting regulations means:**

- Obtaining the required licence and permits, carry it at all times when hunting, and produce it if requested by a Fish and Game Ranger
- Becoming familiar with Fish and Game's regulation guide, including both the First Schedule for regulations generally common to all regions, and the Second Schedule for regional hunting regulations
- Checking the bag limit and season length regulations of the targeted game bird *before* commencing hunting
- Ensuring we can accurately identify and distinguish game birds and protected species
- Reporting any illegal game bird hunting activity or inappropriate behaviour to the local Fish and Game office

### **5. Support game bird management and habitat enhancement activities**

Sustainable and productive game bird populations rely on the maintenance, protection and enhancement of wetlands and other game bird habitats. **Support efforts to manage our game birds and their habitat by:**

- Cooperating with the collection of harvest and hunting effort data
- Reporting any banded game birds harvested
- Participating in research, educational and enhancement projects
- Participating in public processes concerning matters involving game birds and their habitats
- Participating in Fish and Game elections and submitting on consultative and long-term planning processes

#### **6. Take no more than our immediate needs**

We can limit pressure on game bird populations by limiting what we harvest; taking only the game birds we require for our own immediate needs.

**When hunting game birds taking no more than our immediate needs means:**

- Only killing game birds we intend to eat, and not taking more than we need
- Treating bag limits as limits, not as targets

#### **7. Share our knowledge and foster ethical attitudes and behaviour in hunting companions and youth**

Introducing and mentoring new hunters and youth is important to safeguard the future of our hunting traditions. **We share our knowledge and foster ethical attitudes by:**

- Being generous sharing our knowledge, skills, and hunting opportunities with novice hunters
- Being a good example of a safe and competent hunter, obeying all regulations and always behaving in an ethical manner, even when there is no one else there to observe our behaviour
- Promoting ethical game bird hunting practices and choosing not to hunt with unethical companions

### **CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

#### **8. Remove all rubbish from the hunting area and dispose of offal and carcasses responsibly**

Rubbish and pollution can affect the health of the environment and wildlife and can degrade the outdoor experience of others. **Removing rubbish and caring for the environment means:**

- Taking all rubbish and gear away from hunting sites including decoys, empty cartridges, wads and personal litter
- Dispose of game bird offal and carcasses responsibly – offal and other waste must not be left at the hunting site or dumped in public areas. Bury or discard discretely out of sight.
- Report pollution of waterways to the local council or Fish and Game office
- Preventing the spread of aquatic pests when moving between waterways: **CHECK, CLEAN, DRY** all hunting equipment, including dogs

## 9. Use non-toxic shot

Lead is a toxic heavy metal which has been found to have detrimental effects on the health of game bird populations, other wildlife and the environment. There is no known level of lead exposure that is considered safe for humans. **Using non-toxic shot means:**

- Using appropriate non-lead ammunition when hunting game birds
- Complying with all regulations regarding the use of non-toxic shot

## 10. Use established tracks and roads

Off-road access can contribute to erosion, vegetation loss and disturb riverbeds. **Using established tracks and roads means:**

- Using designated access points and roads, and avoid straying from established tracks
- Sticking to marked tracks on riverbeds or parking and walking to the hunting site
- Using established fords when crossing rivers where possible
- Avoid obstructing access when parking vehicles

## RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

### 11. Respect private property and always ask for access permission

Public access to our rivers and waterbodies is at the heart of our Kiwi way of life and hunting traditions. However sometimes access over private land is required and this privilege is given at the discretion of the landowner. As a hunting community we all have a responsibility to behave appropriately while on private land to ensure continued access into the future.

**Respecting private property means:**

- Asking the land owner for access
- Leaving gates as they are found
- Not disturbing stock, crops, machinery or other property
- Ensuring our dogs are under control at all times and vaccinations and worming are up to date

### 12. Be considerate of non-hunters

We all hunt for a variety of reasons and may take particular enjoyment from different aspects of our hunting experience. People unfamiliar with hunting may not understand why we hunt or may even disagree with hunting. Be aware that for some people the presence of firearms, hunters wearing camouflage or dead animals may be intimidating or uncomfortable. Ensuring the ongoing acceptability of hunting will be determined by the views of hunters and non-hunters alike. It is important that we are respectful and considerate of the perspectives and feelings of non-hunters and remember that our behaviour will reflect on people's opinion of all hunters. **Being considerate of non-hunters means:**

- Being thoughtful about displaying, transporting and disposing of hunted birds and/or carcasses
- Keeping firearms stored safely and out of sight when travelling
- Communicating respectfully with people who have different views to our own
- Respecting the rights of all outdoor users even if their activity is not ideal for our own hunt
- Being respectful about what we post on social media

### **13. Be aware of our safety and the safety of others when hunting**

#### **Caring about safety means:**

- Checking the weather and being prepared for the conditions
- Notifying someone about your intentions, particularly if hunting remotely or from a boat
- Wearing appropriate high visibility clothing, particularly when upland game hunting
- Always following the 7 Firearms Safety Rules:
  1. Treat every firearm as loaded
  2. Always point firearms in a safe direction
  3. Load a firearm only when ready to fire
  4. Identify your target beyond all doubt
  5. Check your firing zone
  6. Store firearms and ammunition safely
  7. Avoid alcohol and drugs when handling firearms

#### **Recommendation**

- That report is received.
- That the draft code of conduct for game bird hunting is presented to the NZ Council for consideration and subsequently circulated to the regions for further review.

**Helen Trotter**  
**Fish and Game Officer**

#### **Appendix**

Hunter information flyer based on proposed COP produced for 2018 opening day ranging

**And Remember...**

**Chasing waterfowl from motorised boats is unethical and illegal.**

Under Section 18 of the Wildlife Act 1953 it is illegal to use any aircraft or vehicle propelled by mechanical power (including drones and boats) to unduly disturb, chase or kill game.

**Pattern your gun to determine its most effective load/choke combinations and maximum range**

This will normally be between 30 – 35 m. It's a good idea to place markers at this distance from your hunting position to gauge when ducks are in range.

**We wish you all the best for a safe and enjoyable game bird hunting season.**

**For more information or to report any non compliant or unethical behaviour please contact us:**

**otago@fishandgame.org.nz  
03 477 9076**

**OTAGO FISH & GAME COUNCIL**

[www.fishandgame.org.nz](http://www.fishandgame.org.nz)



## 7.3 Legislation Compliance 2017/18 Financial Year

### Introduction

Council adopted a Legislative Compliance Schedule in August 2015 (see below). The purpose of the schedule is to provide a framework for reporting on legislative compliance across relevant Acts and Regulations.

### Legislative Compliance

In my opinion the Council has been compliant with its legal obligations under the Acts and Regulations listed. There are three matters which deserve specific mention:

1. **Health and Safety** – The Councils staff have continued to develop health and safety systems throughout the year. (see separate self-audit report)
2. **Tax Status** – IRD has finalised its inquiry into at Fish and Game Councils' Public Authority Tax Status. IRD confirmed that our current exemption from income tax can be upheld on the basis that F&G Councils are a "body promoting amateur games and sports"
3. **Parental Leave and Employment Protection Act** – A staff member requesting Parental Leave prompted a review of procedures. The CE's response was checked for compliance with legislation by an Employment Lawyer.

### Recommendation

**That Council notes it currently complies with legislation and that this report be received**

**Ian Hadland**  
**Chief Executive**

## OTAGO FISH AND GAME COUNCIL - LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE

**Adopted August 2015**

**The Council has to comply with all relevant legislation. This schedule includes the main Acts and Regulations relating to Fish and Game Council activities but is not exhaustive.**

| Act or Regulations                                | Key provisions                                 | Comments   | Responsibility  |
|---|--|--|---|
| Conservation Act 1987                             | S 17 s26 R, s26S s26T, s26X s26ZD, s40 (1) (5) | Council responsible for:<br><br>Preparation of Fish and Game Plan; compliance with Conservation Act and Wildlife Act, regulations and gazette notice conditions; preparation of Anglers Notices; appointment of staff; production of annual report; holding at least 6 meeting PA. | Chief Executive   |
| - Freshwater Fisheries Regulations                | Regulation 51                                  | Authorisation of use of electric fishing machines within region  | Chief Executive   |
| - Fish and Game Council Election Regulations 1990 | Regulation 3, 20, 26                           | Council responsible for:<br><br>appointing a returning officer; returning officer responsible for preparing rolls and conducting elections.<br><br>Council responsible for meeting post-election and appointment of NZ Council member  | Council<br><br>Chief Executive  |
| Crown Entities Act 2004                           | S150 (3)                                       | Annual Report presented to Parliament  | Chief Executive   |
| Public Finance Act 1989                           | S 43, Part 5, subpart 2, Schedule 4            | Council responsible for preparation of annual report including financial statements and statement of service performance   | Chief Executive<br><br>Administration Officer<br><br>Accountant (Adair Craik) |

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| Public Audit Act 2001                                  | S4   | Council defined as a public entity   |  |
| Wildlife Act 1953<br><br>- Wildlife Regulations        | s15, s39 (1), s44, s53, s54<br><br>Parts 2 and 3 | Council responsible for:<br><br>annual game season recommendations; day to day management of Wildlife Management Reserves under delegation from the Minister [Inch Clutha, Little Hoopers Inlet]; exercise any written authority from the DG for taking or killing of game | Chief Executive<br><br>Fish and Game Officers<br><br>Rangers |
| Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act | Parts 2 and 7                                    | Council responsible for conduct of meetings in accordance with Act and responses to OIA requests   | Council<br><br>Chief Executive                               |
| Resource Management Act 1991                           | Parts 3 and 6                                    | Council responsible for compliance with the Act in terms of buildings, structures and land and water use.  | Chief Executive<br><br>Operations Manager                    |
| Employment Relations Act 2000                          |  | Employment contract obligations in respect of restructuring  | Council (CE)<br><br>Chief Executive (staff)                  |
| Parental Leave and Employment Protection Act 1987      | Parts 1 and 2                                    | Employment contract obligations in respect of parental leave   | Council (CE)<br><br>Chief Executive (staff)                  |
| State Sector Act 1988                                  | s 56, s58  | Council responsible for being a good employer  | Council (CE)<br><br>Chief Executive (staff)                  |
| Crown Entities Act 2004                                | s25  | Council responsible for exercise of its powers and performance of functions under the Act and other Acts   | Chief Executive<br><br>Council                               |



|  |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 | Part 2                                | <p>Council responsible for taking all practicable steps to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide and maintain a safe working environment for employees</li> <li>• Ensure employees are not exposed to hazards while at work</li> <li>• Develop emergency procedures</li> <li>• Ensure employees are trained and supervised</li> <li>• Provide employees with information on hazards</li> <li>• Record, report and investigate accidents</li> <li>• Systematically identify and assess hazards</li> <li>• Control significant hazards</li> </ul> | <p>Operations Manager<br/>Chief Executive<br/>Council</p>                   |
| Maritime Transport Act 1994              | Part 2                                | Council responsible for boat certification and safe use by staff  | <p>Operations Manager<br/>Chief Executive<br/>Council</p>                   |
| Privacy Act 1993                         |                                       | Council responsible for appropriate handling of personal information notably licenceholder data; compliance reports; mail lists   | <p>Chief Executive<br/>Operations Manager<br/>Administration Officer</p>    |
| Human Rights Act 1993                    |                                       | Council responsible for compliance with human rights obligations under the Act  | <p>Chief Executive<br/>Operations Manager<br/>Compliance Coordinator</p>    |
| Protected Disclosures Act 2000           |                                       | Council responsible for compliance with obligations under the Act   | <p>Chief Executive</p>  |
| Search and Surveillance Act              | S3, Part 4, s169 (2) (3), s171, s172` | Council responsible for compliance with obligations under the Act including annual reporting on exercise of surveillance powers during ranging.   | <p>Rangers and F&amp;G Staff<br/>Operations Manager<br/>Chief executive</p> |

|                                       |                    |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| Holidays Act<br>2003                  |                    | Employment contract obligations<br>in respect of annual leave and<br>public holidays | Administration<br>Officer<br><br>Chief Executive |
| Income Tax Act<br>2007                | Parts CX and<br>RD | Council responsible for FBT<br>returns and PAYE deductions and<br>returns            | Administration<br>Officer<br><br>Chief Executive |
| Goods and<br>Services Tax Act<br>1985 | Parts 2 and 3      | Council responsible for GST<br>payments, deductions and<br>returns                   | Administration<br>Officer<br><br>Chief Executive |
| KiwiSaver Act<br>2006                 | Parts 2 and 3      | Council responsible for enrolment<br>of staff in Kiwisaver                           | Administration<br>Officer<br><br>Chief Executive |

## **8.0 Public Excluded Items**

### **8.1 Pressure Sensitive & Backcountry Fisheries Workshop**

### **8.2 Lindis River Hearing: Combined Minimum Flow Plan Change and Catchment Consents**

## 9.0 Chief Executives Report

### 9.1 ADMINISTRATION

#### Finance

The format of Otago Fish & Game Council accounts will change now that the transition to Xero accounting software is complete. It took effect on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018.

#### *Audit*

BDO Invercargill has begun the 2017/18 financial audit and propose to return for a single day on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

A draft of the 2017/18 accounts will be circulated before the meeting for approval to be submitted to the Auditor. An approved set of accounts for that financial year will be provided in the annual Report presented at the AGM meeting next month.

#### Recommendation

**That the draft set of financial accounts for 2017/18 be approved for presentation to the Auditor**

#### *Financial Reports To Date*

With the assistance of Carmel Veitch (NZC Finance) we are developing new financial reports that will begin in the November agenda.

#### *Licence Sales 2017/18 Season*

Fishing licence sales revenue received for the 2017/18 season is \$1,744,747 (including commission). The fish budget figures for the full season is \$1,670,050 including commission.

Fishing licence sales for the 2017/18 season in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) are 15,445.98 LEQs compare with 15452.16 for the previous 2016/17 season.

Game licence sales revenue received for the 2017/18 Season is \$327,483 (including commission). The year's budget for game licence sales is \$322,536 including commission. The Habitat Trust Fund of \$3 per licence, has been deducted.

Game licence sales for the season so far in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) are 4136.63 LEQs compare with 4254.53 for the 2016/17 Season.

#### *Licence Sales 2018/19 Season*

Fish licence sales for the 2018/19 season recorded to 10<sup>th</sup> October total 5235 LEQ's compared with \$5543 LEQ's for the 2017/18 Season.

All sales for the 2017/18 season and beginning of the 2018/19 season are outlined for fish and gamebird licences in the attached tables. Figures are inclusive of GST.

*Funds Position at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018*

|                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| ANZ 00 account | \$208816.15 |
| ANZ 70 account | \$111636.43 |

*Reparation Trust Account*

|                                   |                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Account balance to 31 August 2018 | \$41989        |
| Revenue for year to 17 Oct 2018   | \$ 0.0         |
| Less grants to 17 Oct 2018        | <u>\$ 6050</u> |
| Total                             | \$ 35939       |

*Backcountry Management Reserve*

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Account balance to 31 August 2018 | \$71,052.95 |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|

*Term investments as at 30 September 2018:*

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| ASB 0079  | \$337,031.86 @ 3.50% maturing January 2019 |
| SBS 44624 | \$505,278.44 @ 3.55% maturing April 2019   |

The sum of \$71046.10 is held by Anderson Lloyd in trust for wetland management via DOC.

**Recommendation**

**That the Finance and Licence Sales Report for the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 be received.**

A request has been sent to the ORC to waive the outstanding bill of \$5,389.87 associated with consenting fees for the Takitakitoa Wetland Enhancement Project which has been held 'under review' since 2013. \$8395.18 has already been paid.

**Agents and Debts**

No liabilities or potential liabilities at the present time.

**Capital Expenditure**

*Vehicles*

One truck replacement truck has been purchased this financial year (\$43892.20 excluding GST).

Two vehicles were disposed of at the end of last financial year. A staff Toyota Hilux was sold via public auction for \$24134.78 excluding GST and the ex CE's Skoda was sold by direct sale for \$22,000 (including GST)

*Building*

The request to spend up to \$66,000 (excl GST) from Reserves was approved by NZC at its last meeting which means that the refurbishment of the tenanted space on the ground floor of the Dunedin building and the front entrance can begin. The tenants (window Treatments) have agreed in principle to a further 5 year lease.

*Equipment*

The Councils water flow meter has failed a calibration test and is presently in Australia being checked.

**Staffing**

Five candidates were interviewed for the FGO role. Two turned the job down and the remainder proved unsuitable. Re-advertising with a more specific job description is underway.

One staff member is now on 12 months maternity leave and that role has been partly filled by a casual employee based in Alexandra. His work will be dominated by Manuherikia River data gathering but he will also be undertaking back country surveys and reporting on the status of the Upper Clutha fishery.

A further casual employee has been hired as legal support to assist with the preparation of diversions and prosecutions throughout the summer.

*CE to report***9.2 SPECIES****Waterfowl Monitoring (1111)**

See separate report on Shoveler monitoring Item 12.1

See separate report on Pukeko monitoring. Item 12.5

**Monitor Fisheries (1113)**

A report on the status of the upper Clutha Fishery is being drafted. Examination of previous data points towards a decline in the fishery over the last decade. A project plan to add additional angling information into the report is being developed. This might include creel surveys and recording of discussions with long term anglers to gain their perception of changes in the fishery over time.

**Success & Satisfaction (1122)**

Creel Survey Report for 2017/18 season has been delayed due to illness It will appear in the November agenda.

Planning for the Lake Wanaka Creel Survey is advancing with the first of the random sampling days due to be undertaken over labour weekend.

***Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018***

**Fish Salvage (1131)**

Staff are preparing for annual salvage of rainbow trout which strand in Quartz Creek. Upper Clutha Anglers Club member have again committed members to assist.

**Hatchery Operations (1141)**

The hatchery continues to operate smoothly. The adult stock has now been stripped with a satisfactory number of eggs in the incubator.

**Releases (1161)**

Scheduled releases from Macraes Hatchery have begun for the spring season and should largely be complete by the time of the meeting.

**Anglers Notice (1172)**

The Anglers Notice has been finalised.

The definition of 'non-resident' or what constitutes and 'ordinary NZ resident is still being decided by Crown Law but in the meantime, we have been using the Immigration Act definition as we have for previous seasons.

One area of the Anglers Notice which has attracted feedback has been the removal of bait fishing from the upper Pomahaka River during its transfer to a designated backcountry fishery. Several anglers who regularly bait fish that area have contacted the office in surprise at the move and the lack of consultation about that specific change. It was promoted in both summary documents including the final report to Council, so it did get a fair public hearing.

**9.3 HABITAT****Resource Management (1211)****Consents**

See separate report 12.3

**Resource Management Complaints**

| <b>Date/Agency</b> | <b>Issue</b>  | <b>Response</b>             |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| January 2018       | Complaint lodged over significant unauthorised channel works in the Shag River            | Under investigation by ORC  |
| May 2018           | Bullock Creek<br>Sediment and stormwater runoff from subdivision reported to ORC and QLDC | Under discussion. See below |

|             |  |   |
|-------------|--|---|
| August 2018 | Stock Pugging riverbank – Waitati Stream | Stock moved, and landowner spoken to, no further action     |
| August 2018 | Stock pugging a drain near Henley        | ORC responded that didn't look like issue was near a river. |
| August 2018 | Sediment laden water in Leith Stream     | ORC too slow to investigate. No further response.           |

### **Bullock Creek Complaint**

Staff had a skype meeting with QLDC engineers and the developer the 7<sup>th</sup> September to discuss progress towards resolving ongoing stormwater and sedimentation issues. The land development phase nears completion, so it is expected that the potential for major discharges of sediment should diminish.

There has been movement on both issues. QLDC have also recently refused to accept that the Sediment Management Plan (SMP) supplied by Alpha Series subdivision engineers to be suitable to contain construction phase stormwater onsite. The consequences of not maintaining an adequate SMP and risking water and sediment discharging downstream needs to be seen unfortunately, but QLDC are now in a position to take appropriate action if this does occur. In addition, the QLDC is currently holding on further subdivision consents within Meadowstone Alpha Series until the permanent stormwater system (soakage to ground) is shown to operate as designed. We await the outcome of that report. The ORC continues to monitor the site, and a range of others including North Lake subdivision, very closely.

### **Contact Energy Consents**

Staff have met with Neil Gillespie on the hatchery proposal and there has been agreement on a timetable for action. Although there is some early slippage, we continue to apply pressure to keep the project moving. Contact Energy have recently hired a salmon farming consultant to develop a construction proposal for them and the CE meet with that consultant separately and has provided him with additional information.

### **Minimum and Residual Flow Setting**

See separate report on Manuherikia, Cardrona and Arrow Rivers. Item 12.2

### **Reserves Management (1221)**

By the time of the meeting additional planting will have been undertaken with volunteers at Takitakitoa wetland. This was again part funded by Ricoh with their staff again making a major contribution of labour.

The CE presented a summary of the Councils Takitakitoa Wetland Enhancement Project to the National Wetlands Symposium in Napier. The talk was very well received.



## **Bullock Creek**

The opening day of the Bullock Creek Hatchery Springs walk was a major success with well over 100 people in attendance. There was also a considerable amount of positive media coverage that followed.

The formation of a Friends of Bullock Creek group which proposes to continue the weed clearing and restoration plantings at the site will be useful to maintain momentum. A MOU with the group will be needed.

See Item 7.1

## **9.4 USER PARTICIPATION**

### **Access (1311)**

An easement (in favour of Walking Access Commission) to facilitate access along the new boardwalk at the Bullock Creek Hatchery Springs Wetland has now been submitted to LINZ and we await confirmation that it has been finalised.

The Hunter River access issue took a step forward with the Orange Lakes and DOC signing an agreement to allow vehicle access through the station. Under the agreement, up to six 4WD vehicles per day may be granted access to Hunter Valley Station farm track between December and April. Winter conditions from 1 May to 30 November mean public access for 4WD vehicles during that time is generally unavailable. Mountain bike, foot and horse access will be available year-round, outside of a closure for lambing 1 October to 1 December. There will be an online booking system developed and a \$35 fee for each vehicle to contribute to road maintenance. It is not known if the same arrangement applies to us for management purposes which is provided for under the OIO provisions on the lease.

### **Signage (1312)**

Updates to signage following regionwide changes to bag limits is largely complete. Pomahaka signage for the new designated back country fishery has now been installed at road access points and neighbouring farmers visited to explain the changes.

### **Backcountry Fisheries (1321)**

See confidential report. Item 8.1

### **Magazine Supplements and Newsletters (1331)**

The magazine has been distributed and a local electronic newsletter will be produced over the next month for distribution in November

### **Reel Life/Both Barrels**

Monthly contributions to online newsletters are continuing.

**Fishing and Hunting Events (1351)**

Nothing to report

**Take-a-kid-fishing (1352)**

The Councils TAKF events in Dunedin. 430 kids attended the event and there was again very good media coverage in local papers. A follow up survey to look at event improvements and opportunities to provide follow up support has been distributed. Both will be reported on at the November meeting.

A school group was supported in their water study with a dedicated trip to the Lowburn inlet. Fishing instruction was given, and two trout were caught.

**Club Liaison (1361)**

The CE has spoken at the Upper Clutha Anglers and at Otago Anglers Association during the period. FGO Trotter has spoken at the Fly Flingers.

**Commercial Use (1362)****Guides Licence**

In Robert Sowman's absence, Helen Keeling met with DOC officials in Wellington recently to explain the finer points of the proposed guides licence.

**9.5 PUBLIC INTERFACE****Liaison (1411)**

The Chairman and CE attended the Upper Taieri Water Resource Management Group meeting recently. Once the grievances over the Kyeburn outcome had been aired by all parties, there was some useful discussion on the future of water resource management in the catchment including how to improve the health of the river and associated wetlands.

Geoff Crutchley is Chair of that group and will address the meeting in the public session. He is also proposing a field trip on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November for the group (along with as many F&G Councillors as are able to attend) to look around the Kyeburn catchment.

***For discussion.***

**Public Advocacy (1430)**

As previously circulated, a Conservation Act Amendment (Indigenous Fish Bill) has been introduced to the House with little or no reference or consultation with Fish & Game. Anglers have been made aware through various media channels and evidently the Minister Sage is being swamped with submissions. We have asked the NZC if regions should be writing submissions in support of the NZC submission and they assure us that theirs will cover the issues. I have emailed local MP's and requested meetings. Two replied and the one meeting that was arranged has now been cancelled.

***CE to update***

***Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018***

**Media (1431)**

There has been quite a lot of coverage on the Hunter River Access issue and on minimum flow plan changes in Central Otago. The opening of the fishing season was also covered well with many photos and articles on the TAKF events in Dunedin.

**9.6 COMPLIANCE****Ranging (1511)**

Two angling offenders have been apprehended since the start of the financial year. One is being offered diversion under the new arrangement.

**Ranger Support (1521)**

23 Honorary Ranger warrants have been reissued for the next three-year term. With the addition of seven staff warrants, this should provide good CLE coverage for the Region.

**Prosecutions (1531)**

One gamebird hunting season offender has now been prosecuted. The unlicensed landowner was fined a total of \$3687.74 for shooting a number of grey teal, black scaup and for possession of lead shot. The case and its outcome attracted considerable media coverage.

**9.7 LICENCING****Licencing System (1611)**

The Eyede licencing system is running smoothly.

**Agents (1612)**

The Administration officer has sent out an agent's newsletter describing the current season changes to bag limits and licence categories. Agents have been very cooperative over the introduction of the new non-resident categories so far.

**9.8 COUNCIL****Elections (1710)**

The election has run smoothly but there was a disappointing turnout. Big increases in voting were seen following well timed reminder notices to email addresses of eligible licence holders. These were supported locally by two media releases (one on Dr John Jillett's standing down and another on the voter turnout)

| Year | Voted (% of eligible) | Total votes | Online | Post |
|------|-----------------------|-------------|--------|------|
| 2009 | 21.2%                 | 719         | 0%     | 100% |
| 2012 | 17.74%                | 892         | 26%    | 74%  |
| 2015 | 22.27%                | 707         | 32%    | 68%  |
| 2018 | 19.88%                | 988         | 42%    | 58%  |

**Council (1720)**

The next meeting of the Otago Council is 29<sup>th</sup> November in Dunedin. It is also the Councils AGM.

**Wanaka Site (1721)**

It is proposed to get the hatchery managers house site into an easily maintainable (lawn) state before January. The building is ready for removal now and that will leave the foundations to tidy away. As previously reported, there is no budget for works at the site and this may need to be addressed.

**9.9 PLANNING AND REPORTING****Annual Planning (1821)**

The Annual Operational Workplan and budget has been circulated and a further copy is in the folders that will be issued at the meeting.

**Annual Report (1831)**

The Statement of Service Performance document nears completion, and this forms the bulk of the annual report. That will be completed before the AGM.

The managers group has agreed to report normally this year in Annual Reports and look to implement the new reporting standards being promoted by the Audit Office next year.

**National Liaison (1840)**

Staff have made contributions to nationally lead initiatives such as the Guides Licence and Licence Working Party.

Staff have also spent time with Steve Doughty who is spearheading the NZC's R3 (recruitment, retention, and reactivation) strategy development. He has had a very close look at our initiatives as part of a four-region pilot.

Ian Hadland  
Chief Executive  
October 2018

## Otago Fish Licence Sales - Full Seasons 2016/17 and 2017/18

### 2017 - 2018

| Channel       | FWF          | FWA          | FWNA         | FSLA       | FLAA       | FWIA       | FLBA      | FSBA       | FDA          | FDNA         | FWJ        | FWNJ      | FDJ        | FDNJ       | Total         | Fish LEQ         | Total Value           |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Agency Online | 2,568        | 3,579        | 498          | 549        | 233        | 125        | 36        | 283        | 1,378        | 2,999        | 550        | 24        | 106        | 152        | 13,080        |                  |                       |
| Eyede         | 12           | 5            | 13           | 8          | 1          | 2          | 0         | 4          | 1            | 21           | 2          | 0         | 0          | 0          | 69            |                  |                       |
| Public Online | 1,694        | 1,835        | 809          | 223        | 269        | 99         | 42        | 238        | 1,585        | 3,617        | 284        | 23        | 130        | 138        | 10,986        |                  |                       |
| Retail Book   | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0          | 2            | 0            | 0          | 0         | 0          | 0          | 2             |                  |                       |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>4,274</b> | <b>5,419</b> | <b>1,320</b> | <b>780</b> | <b>503</b> | <b>226</b> | <b>78</b> | <b>525</b> | <b>2,966</b> | <b>6,637</b> | <b>836</b> | <b>47</b> | <b>236</b> | <b>290</b> | <b>24,137</b> | <b>15,445.98</b> | <b>\$2,011,802.00</b> |

### 2016 - 2017

| Channel       | FWF          | FWA          | FWNA         | FSLA       | FLAA       | FWIA       | FLBA       | FSBA       | FDA          | FDNA         | FWJ        | FWNJ      | FDJ        | FDNJ       | Total         | Fish LEQ         | Total Value           |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Agency Online | 2,636        | 3,543        | 520          | 511        | 270        | 190        | 61         | 343        | 1,650        | 3,616        | 489        | 28        | 164        | 198        | 14,219        |                  |                       |
| Eyede         | 10           | 6            | 7            | 11         | 0          | 5          | 0          | 2          | 17           | 11           | 5          | 1         | 0          | 0          | 75            |                  |                       |
| Public Online | 1,583        | 1,752        | 812          | 229        | 263        | 132        | 48         | 275        | 1,389        | 3,056        | 227        | 26        | 111        | 116        | 10,019        |                  |                       |
| Retail Book   | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0          | 7            | 0            | 0          | 0         | 1          | 0          | 8             |                  |                       |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>4,229</b> | <b>5,301</b> | <b>1,339</b> | <b>751</b> | <b>533</b> | <b>327</b> | <b>109</b> | <b>620</b> | <b>3,063</b> | <b>6,683</b> | <b>721</b> | <b>55</b> | <b>276</b> | <b>314</b> | <b>24,321</b> | <b>15,452.16</b> | <b>\$1,982,402.00</b> |

FWF (Family), FWA (Adult), FWNA (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 2017/18 01/01/2017-10/10/2018

Fishing 2016/17 01/01/2016-10/10/2018

## Otago Fish Licence Sales YTD to 10 October 2018

| 2017/18       |             |             |            |            |            |          |           |            |            |            |          |           |          |          |          |              |              |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|--------------|
| Channel       | FWF         | FWA         | FWNA       | FSLA       | FLAA       | FLBA     | FSBA      | FDA        | FDNA       | FWJ        | FWNJ     | FDJ       | FDNJ     | FWNC     | FDNC     | Total Fish   | Fish LEQ     |
| Agency Online | 1,157       | 1,506       | 54         | 390        | 64         | 2        | 11        | 62         | 97         | 201        | 4        | 20        | 2        | 0        | 0        | 3,570        |              |
| Public Online | 634         | 673         | 143        | 152        | 53         | 1        | 6         | 70         | 126        | 84         | 5        | 7         | 4        | 0        | 0        | 1,958        |              |
| Eyede         | 5           | 3           | 0          | 5          | 0          | 0        | 0         | 1          | 0          | 1          | 0        | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0        | 15           |              |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>1796</b> | <b>2182</b> | <b>197</b> | <b>547</b> | <b>117</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>133</b> | <b>223</b> | <b>286</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>5,543</b> | <b>5,395</b> |

| 2018/19       |             |             |            |            |            |          |           |            |            |            |          |           |           |          |          |              |              |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|--------------|--------------|
| Channel       | FWF         | FWA         | FWNA       | FSLA       | FLAA       | FLBA     | FSBA      | FDA        | FDNA       | FWJ        | FWNJ     | FDJ       | FDNJ      | FWNC     | FDNC     | Total Fish   | Fish LEQ     |
| Agency Online | 1,163       | 1,474       | 50         | 405        | 62         | 1        | 8         | 37         | 94         | 126        | 5        | 13        | 6         | 0        | 3        | 3,447        |              |
| Public Online | 544         | 625         | 123        | 169        | 49         | 0        | 10        | 69         | 101        | 62         | 3        | 12        | 7         | 0        | 4        | 1,778        |              |
| Eyede         | 3           | 1           | 1          | 4          | 0          | 0        | 0         | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0        | 1         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 10           |              |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>1710</b> | <b>2100</b> | <b>174</b> | <b>578</b> | <b>111</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>106</b> | <b>195</b> | <b>188</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>5,235</b> | <b>5,176</b> |

FWF (Family), FWA (Adult), FWNA (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)  
 FDNJ (non resident Junior), FWNC (non resident Child), FDNC (non Resident child day)

Decrease 4.1%



## Otago Game Licence Sales - Full Seasons 2017 and 2018

| 2017 - 2018       |              |            |            |           |          |              |                 |                     |
|-------------------|--------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Channel           | GWA          | GWJ        | GWC        | GDA       | GDJ      | Total        | Game LEQ        | Total Value         |
| Agency Online     | 3,490        | 254        | 94         | 35        | 0        | 3,873        |                 |                     |
| Eyede Call Centre | 3            | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0        | 3            |                 |                     |
| Public Online     | 568          | 52         | 12         | 40        | 1        | 673          |                 |                     |
| Retail Book       | 0            | 0          | 0          | 0         | 0        | 0            |                 |                     |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>4,061</b> | <b>306</b> | <b>106</b> | <b>75</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>4,549</b> | <b>4,136.63</b> | <b>\$390,060.00</b> |

| 2016 - 2017       |              |            |            |            |          |              |                 |                     |
|-------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|----------|--------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Channel           | GWA          | GWJ        | GWC        | GDA        | GDJ      | Total        | Game LEQ        | Total Value         |
| Agency Online     | 3,525        | 283        | 98         | 55         | 0        | 3,961        |                 |                     |
| Eyede Call Centre | 2            | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0        | 2            |                 |                     |
| Public Online     | 635          | 59         | 25         | 65         | 3        | 787          |                 |                     |
| Retail Book       | 0            | 0          | 0          | 0          | 0        | 0            |                 |                     |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>4,162</b> | <b>342</b> | <b>123</b> | <b>120</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4,750</b> | <b>4,254.53</b> | <b>\$397,158.00</b> |

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

## **10.0 Committee & Delegate Reports**

**10.1 CFT**

**10.2 NZC**

**10.3 Salmon Committee**



## 11.0 Correspondence

### 11.1 NZC to Otago

#### 11.1.1 Don Rood - Indigenous Fish Bill Update

**From:** Don Rood

**Sent:** Friday, 5 October 2018 3:53 PM

**Subject:** Indigenous Fish Bill Update

Dear Regional chairs and managers,

This email is to update you on what is happening with the Conservation (Indigenous Freshwater Fish) Amendment Bill.

As you know, this bill represents a serious threat to trout, salmon and other sports fish, as well as anglers and Fish & Game.

I and Fish & Game's chair have met with the Conservation Minister to express our organisation's concerns about the Bill's contents and the lack of consultation over it. It was a robust exchange.

All political parties have been personally made aware of our views.

Accompanied by Sir Geoffrey Palmer QC, we have also met with DoC officials to discuss the key issues and hope to resolve our differences.

For the moment, we are avoiding a high media profile to allow time for our discussions with DoC to produce results in the next two weeks.

However, we remain committed to continuing our lobbying and galvanising anglers, fishing organisations and clubs to express their concern in writing to the Prime Minister, cabinet members, party leaders and other politicians.

Licence holders have been alerted to the threat by direct email and a further direct email will be going to them in coming days.

We are also suggesting anglers make submissions to the select committee considering the Bill.

Fish & Game New Zealand will be making both a written and oral submission to the committee.

Rather than send the select committee submissions from all regions, I encourage you to instead focus on personally lobbying your politicians and liaising with your licence holders and angling clubs to encourage them to act and make their voices heard.

***Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018***

One of the most important things you can do as a region is make appointments with your local MPs – electorate and list - and express your concerns to them directly in person.

In your meetings, stress the importance of trout angling to your licence holders, their families' recreation and if relevant, the region's economy.

Also point out that with 110,000 thousand fishing licences sold every year, trout anglers represent a powerful political force.

Guidelines on what to do and politicians' contact details are available on the Fish & Game website; <https://fishandgame.org.nz/threat-to-trout/>

While I have spoken to some of you about this, I haven't spoken to everyone so feel free to ring and discuss what is happening and if you need it, advice on how to lobby your MPs and what to say.

Regards,

Martin Taylor

**Don Rood** | Communications Manager

**New Zealand Fish & Game Council**

Level 2, Dominion Building, 78 Victoria Street, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 25-055, Wellington 6146

P +64 4 499 4767 | Mobile 021 862 976 | DDI +64 4 974 5049

E [drood@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:drood@fishandgame.org.nz) | W [www.fishandgame.org.nz](http://www.fishandgame.org.nz)



## 11.2 Otago to NZC

### 11.2.1 National Searun Salmon Committee



27 August 2018

Fish and Game New Zealand  
PO Box 25 – 055  
Wellington 6146

Dear Committee members,

**Re: National Searun Salmon Committee**

Thank you for circulating the minutes, strategic objectives and terms of reference of the Searun Salmon Committee. As you will be aware, Otago Cr Rick Boyd is a representative on that committee and has been keeping our Council well informed.

In a letter dated 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018, you have requested feedback on several questions which were heard and discussed at last weeks Council meeting.

#### 1. Complete the table

Completion of the table is complicated by:

- The small number of returns to the Clutha River of hatchery marked stock.
- The difficulty in getting meaningful data on spawning numbers and locations of wild fish due to low returns.
- The future hatchery option and its capacity to establish a put and take fishery
- Natural outmigration from Southern lakes landlocked population

| River       | Wild Fish Spawn  | Wild F Harvest                               | Hatchery Fish Spawn (released)  | Hatchery Fish Harvest  | Total Harvest  | Percentage Change From 2018 To 2021   |
|-------------|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| Clutha 2018 | <500 (likely 100-200). Flights not completed due to poor conditions.   | Unknown                                      | Unknown how many hatchery fish spawned. Returns expected to have originated from 2016 release of 200,000 fish.  | Unknown<br>30 % (60,000) fish released in 2016 were marked with an adipose fin clip. Harvest of 1 marked fish was reported. Based on the total reported harvest this would indicate a very low return rate, (below 0.1%)   | 41-80 (some survey responses of high catches still to be verified) | No significant change in harvest expected by 2021 as there will be no releases in 2019. |
| Target 2021 | Some, although it is expected that the wild fish return rates will be negligible<br><br>Contact consent condition to establish a self-sustaining run of 5000 salmon. | Very few, if any wild fish will be harvested | There will no be hatchery fish expected to spawn in 2021 (other than strays) as there will have been no releases in the relevant previous years.<br><br>By 2021 it is expected that a new hatchery will have been established on the Lower Clutha in partnership with Contact Energy and will release ~250,000 or more fish | Few in 2021 but should improve over time, dependant on volume of Contact liberations 3 years prior.<br><br>Releases were halted by Contact in 2017 so the number of fish which return in 2019 (and therefore determine the possible run size in 2021) will be more reflective of the residual wild run and influence of previous outmigration from the Southern Lakes. |  | Nil, but should improve over time.  |

*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

## 11.3 Other Correspondence

### 11.3.1 – Trevor Beck Quail Hunting Report

#### California Quail

#### Hunting Report for the 2018 Season

Compiled from interviews with experienced hunters from the Maniototo, Ida Valley, Omakau, Alexandra and those that hunted throughout the Lindis.

All the hunters more or less agreed that it was one of the best seasons for some years with the number of quail seen and the size of a few coveys.

Overall it was said it had been a fantastic breeding year, especially where habitat hadn't been affected by spraying or mulching operations.

Some of the hunters saw several coveys ranging from 80-100 or possibly more. Quite a few in various areas also 40-60 in number, as well there is still the smaller coveys scattered in suitable habitat throughout Central Otago.

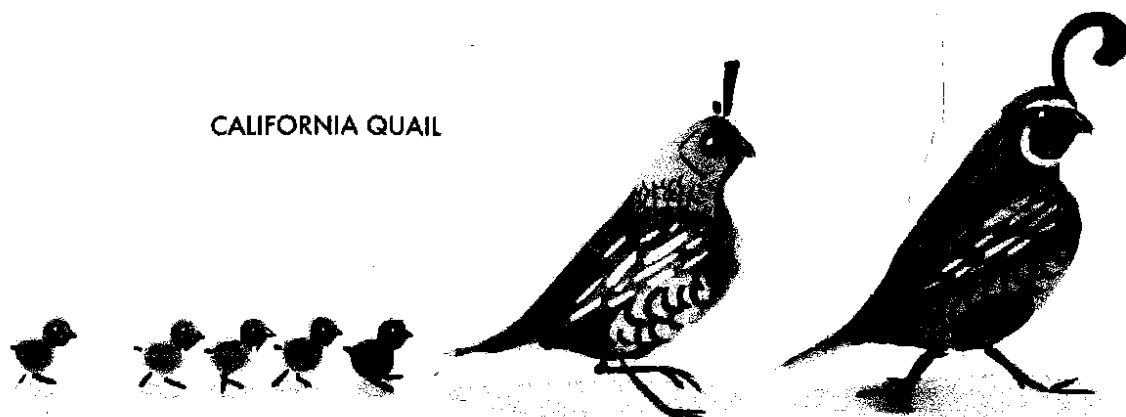
One hunter who has kept a shooting diary for many years of his results of quail shot and seen, reported this season that 40% of the total that he and his mates' shot were young birds. Truly indicating that quail had certainly bred well this year.

Thanks to the people interviewed who gave out their results and experiences of their hunting of the California Quail this 2018 season.

Trevor Beck



Hon. Fish and Game Ranger



## 11.3.2 – Audit Arrangements



**OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL**  
Te Mana Arotake

Level 2, 100 Molesworth Street, Thorndon 6011 Telephone: +6  
PO Box 3928, Wellington 6140, New Zealand Facsimile: +64

Email: [info@oag.govt.nz](mailto:info@oag.govt.nz)  
Website: [www.oag.govt.nz](http://www.oag.govt.nz)

14 August 2018

Our ref: EN/FGC-0007

Mr Niall Watson  
Chief Executive  
Otago Fish and Game Council  
PO Box 76  
Dunedin 9054

**20 AUG 2018**

Dear Mr Watson

### **AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS: OTAGO FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

The contract for BDO to complete the audit of your organisation on behalf of the Auditor-General expires with the completion of the audit for the financial year ended 31 August 2018. Normally at the completion of an audit contract, the Auditor-General (who is your organisation's statutory auditor) would renew the auditor's appointment for a further term unless there were compelling reasons not to. From a review of the recent history of your audit, and discussions with your Sector Manager, this office is not aware of any such reasons. If you have a different view of that, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Otherwise, the Auditor-General intends to renew the appointment of BDO to undertake the audit on his behalf. The Auditor-General may require a change of appointed auditor within that firm, and BDO will discuss that with you if necessary.

The contract renewal term would normally be 3 years. If it needs to be for a different period, BDO will discuss that with you.

### **Audit Proposal**

I have asked your appointed auditor to prepare a draft Audit Proposal (in due course) for discussion with you, and those discussions may have already commenced. The proposal will cover the statutory basis for the audit, key staff assigned to the audit, and the audit hours and fees for each year of the audit – together with explanations and justification for any changes from the previous contract.

Importantly, it also contains the appointed auditors' key expectations of your organisation in relation to the audit. You should take the opportunity to discuss those expectations with your appointed auditor, as well as jointly looking for other factors within your control where the audit can be made less time consuming and more efficient, and possibly reduce audit costs.

Once you and the appointed auditor have agreed the terms of the audit, they will ask you to countersign the proposal as evidence of your organisations' acceptance of the terms, and they will send it to me, leaving you a copy for your records. The proposal will eventually form part of the appointed auditor's contract with the Auditor-General.

Below is a link to our report about how auditors are appointed and audit fees set in the public sector. You should find this information useful in preparing for discussions with BDO.

<http://www.oag.govt.nz/2011/appointing-auditors-and-setting-audit-fees>

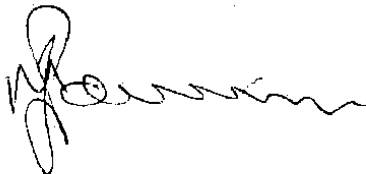
### **Auditor Independence**

The Auditor-General sets independence standards for auditors acting on his behalf, which include the standards set by the External Reporting Board. There are also limits set on the nature and amount of work (other than normal assurance work typically undertaken as an extension of the annual audit engagement) that can be undertaken for an entity by any audit service provider. Such additional work also includes anything done by other offices of the same auditing firm while that firm is engaged to audit your entity on behalf of the Auditor-General.

If you have any concern that some work your organisation expects your auditor to undertake, or may ask your auditor to undertake, may breach these independence standards, the attached summary may be helpful. You are also welcome to seek a view from this office.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of the re-appointment process, or, after discussion with your auditor, require my analysis of the proposed audit fee, please contact me on 04 917 1522, or e-mail [murray.powell@oag.govt.nz](mailto:murray.powell@oag.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray Powell', with a long, wavy horizontal line extending to the right.

Murray Powell  
Director Auditor Appointments

### 11.3.3 – Wanaka Gun Club

WANAKA GUN CLUB

13.09.2018

Albert Town/Hawea highway

TO THE MANAGER, STAFF AND COUNCILORS

FISH AND GAME OTAGO

P O BOX 76,

DUNDIN.

Dear Sirs

On behalf of all the members of the Wanaka Gun Club Inc, I would like to express our sincere thanks for your sponsorship of our secondary school students inter-collegiate clay target competition which was held on Saturday September 1st. We gave out 8 trophies and 31 medals to the winners and gridders in each of four events, for Seniors and Juniors. The trophies and medals are engraved in the first instance acknowledging "Otago Fish and Game".

This event is becoming more popular each year at Wanaka with very good attendances. This year 75 students from 12 schools as far north as Timaru, and south to Invercargill attended. The level of competition is of a very high standard.

I would also especially like to thank Paul for coming along and being involved in the presentation of the trophies and medals. I know he was greatly impressed with the standard of the competition and the way the students presented themselves.

**Thank you, Your continued support is greatly appreciated.**

Yours faithfully,

Fraser McGarvie

Immediate Past President

992 Aubrey Road, Wanaka. Phone 034432408 Cell 0274 531 474

## 12.0 Items to be Received or Noted

### 12.1 Project 1110 Population Monitoring Shoveler Trend Count

#### *Abstract*

Shoveler ducks are monitored on a selection of staging grounds where they congregate before breeding every August. This year's regional count was less than last year's count (the highest on record) but lies within the historic range. Shoveler duck migrate throughout New Zealand in search of productive feeding grounds (Caithness 1982, Holden 1990 Williams 1981). Statistical analysis of the National population indicates that although this years count was down, the overall trend over the last 19 years is stable (McDougal M, 2018). There is no recommendation for any bag adjustments (the daily bag is presently two).

#### *Introduction*

Shoveler congregate every August on open wetlands to form breeding pairs and then seek secluded areas to nest and raise their young (Caithness 1982, Holden 1990, Williams 1981). Counts at these staging grounds are used to infer population changes. The number of birds observed each year can be impacted by weather patterns and natural migrations due to availability of feeding habitat. They prefer shallow nutrient rich wetlands. It is advisable to observe a continuous trend over several years before making inferences about population changes. Trend counts do not provide a census of the population.

#### *Methods*

On 6 August 2018, Fish and Game staff and volunteers throughout New Zealand visited shoveler congregation sites. Otago Fish and Game staff were assisted by ranger Trevor Beck and counted 38 sites. Statistical analysis for nation-wide results is conducted by Matthew McDougall from Eastern Region.



**Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018**



## Results

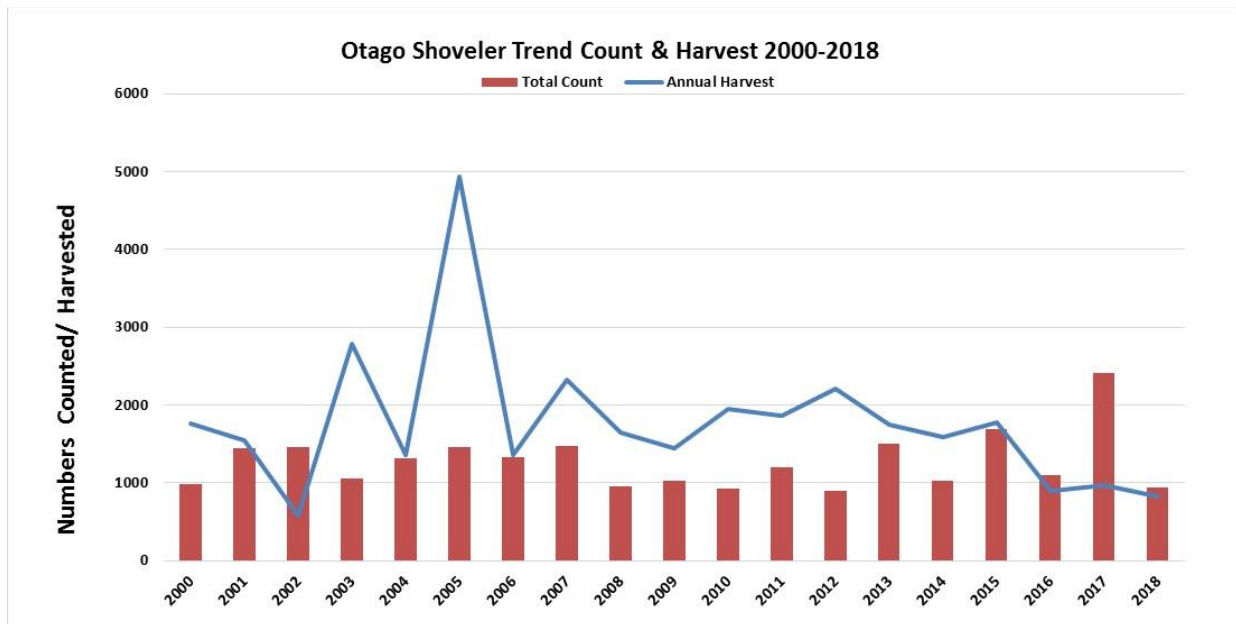


Figure 1: Total shoveler counts and estimated hunter harvest for Otago 2000-2018

The 2018 total was 935, in 2017 it was 2417, in 2016 it was 1091 and in 2015 it was 1696. Over the last eighteen years the total number of shoveler counted has varied between approximately 900 and 2400 birds.

### National Population Analysis (by Mathew McDougal)

A total of 11,201 were counted at 250 sites. Over the 19 years the population at these sites appears to be stable, (percentage change = -1.2; 95% Credible Interval -2.6 – 0.21;  $n=244^1$ ). Short term (2017-2018) there was no detectable change as the credible interval estimate spans zero (mean=-4.5%; -20.1 – 15.1, 95% Credible Interval;  $n=242$ ). The 2018 total count for sites that have been counted every year ( $n=83$ ) however, was 80% of the average for the period 2000 – 2017 and was down 46% on last year's count.

### Otago Hunter Harvest Estimate

Hunter harvest estimates (from telephone surveys) have been similar over the last three seasons. The 2018 Hunter harvest estimate was 820 birds (95% CI 508-1325). The 2017 hunter harvest estimate was 971 (95 % Confidence Interval 583 – 1623) and in 2016 it was

<sup>1</sup> With the 95% credible interval there is a 95% chance that the true estimate lies within the interval, whereas 95% confidence limit is a random variable (LINK, W. A. & BARKER, R. J. 2010. *Bayesian Inference with ecological applications*, London, Elsevier. whereby if the sampling were repeated numerous times 95% of these confidence intervals would encompass the true mean (MCCARTHY, M. A. 2007. *Bayesian Methods for Ecology*, New York, Cambridge University Press.).

897 (95 % Confidence Interval 514 – 1565). The number of hunters interviewed during game harvest surveys who report shoveler is relatively low resulting in wide confidence intervals.

### *Discussion and summary*

The 2018 count was less than last year but similar to historic results. Much of the Maniototo was affected by hore-frost and parts of south Otago were experiencing paddock flooding on the day of the count. These factors may have dispersed birds from their regular staging grounds. Analysis of nationwide results indicates a stable population. There is no recommendation for any regulation adjustment at this stage.

### *Recommendation*

**That this report be received.**

Morgan Trotter  
Fish & Game Officer  
October 2018

### *References*

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

Link, W. A. & Barker, R. J. 2010. Bayesian Inference with Ecological Applications, London, Elserier.

Fish & Game Hunter Harvest Surveys, 2018, Unpublished Results from Telephone Surveys

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

McCarty, M. A. 2007. Bayesian Methods for Ecology, New York, Cambridge University Press.

McDougal M, 2018. A Trend Count of New Zealand Shoveler Duck, Fish & Game NZ, Eastern Region Report, Rotorua, NZ.

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

## 12.2 Minimum and Residual Flow Setting Update

### Kye Burn Residual Flows

Agreement has now been reached on consent conditions and on an MOU with Kye Burn Catchment Limited. The agreements are in the process of being formalised.

### Lindis Minimum Flow Plan Change

The Environment Court hearing is scheduled to commence in Wanaka on the week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> November and will continue in Cromwell on the week commencing the 12<sup>th</sup> November.

Fish and Game witnesses and witnesses for allies (Clutha Fisheries Trust, Upper Clutha Anglers, NZPFGA, COES, and individuals) have submitted evidence to the Court and reviewed rebuttal evidence from LCG/ORC. The next step is expert conferencing which is to be undertaken between expert witnesses in each discipline from 17<sup>th</sup> October onwards

In response to our OIA complaint the Ombudsman declined to require ORC to release their Social Impact Assessment report for the Lindis catchment.

***See Niall Watsons separate report in Public Excluded section***

### Minimum Flows On Arrow, Cardrona and Manuherikia

ORC's proposed omnibus plan change for minimum flows on the Arrow, Cardrona and the Manuherikia Rivers has been put on hold again. A key concern with a delay is that the elements within the plan change that seek to clarify existing water policy and plan rules around the linkages between minimum and residual flows remain unclarified.

***See separate report by Nigel Paragreen***

| <b>Minimum and Residual Flows and Transition from Mining Privileges (TMP)</b> |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>River</b>  | <b>Activity and status</b>  | <b>Status</b>   |
| Lindis  | Minimum flow & transition from mining privileges (TMP).<br>Overallocated<br>MALF 1750 l/s | ORC decision on Water Plan Change 5A set a summer minimum of 900 l/s.<br>Decision appealed to Environment Court by Lindis Catchment Group<br><br>ORC and LCG subsequently agree on a reduced minimum flow of 550 l/s with gallery intakes replacing large race takes leaving Fish and Game to defend their hearing decision<br><br>Environment Court hearing scheduled for 5 <sup>th</sup> November 2018. |

***Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018***

|               |  |   |
|---------------|--|---|
| Cardrona      | Minimum Flow & TMP<br>Overallocated  | Minimum flow plan change on hold  |
| Waikouaiti    | Minimum Flow<br>Fully allocated<br>MALF 258 l/s  | F&G supported a minimum flow of 220 l/s proposed through community consultation in 2016. Very much on the back burner.  |
| Manuherikia   | Minimum flow<br>Irrigation scheme investigation.<br>MALF Ophir 3,200 l/s ( $\pm$ 800)<br>MALF Campground 3,900 l/s ( $\pm$ 600)<br>Overallocated | Minimum flow plan change on hold  |
| Benger Burn   | Minimum flow & TMP.<br>Overallocated   | Further action by ORC deferred pending research on water resources and aquifer/surface water interaction.   |
| Kye Burn      | TMP<br>Overallocated<br><br>MALF 490 l/s   | Agreement has been reached with Kyeburn Irrigation Company for a residual flow below the last mainstem take of 200 l/s after 5 year period.<br>Agreement reached on an MOU on fisheries management<br>Agreements still has to be formalised |
| Low Burn      | Minimum flow<br>TMP<br>Overallocated   | Catchment group meeting held early 2017   |
| Bannock Burn  | Minimum flow<br>TMP<br>Overallocated   | Catchment group meeting held late 2016  |
| Arrow River   | Minimum Flow<br>TMP<br>Over-allocated  | Minimum flow plan change on hold  |
| Quartz Creek  | TMP<br>Overallocated   | Internal reports on fishery values completed.<br><br>Discussion continuing with landholder  |
| Tuapeka River | ORC Management<br>Flow Report<br>MALF 314 l/s  | No action   |
| Clutha        |  | ORC called for submissions on the Clutha River seeking feedback on the river's attributes as a first step towards setting a minimum flow  |

|                          |                                     |  |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 12 Mile Creek (Wakatipu) | ORC Management Flow Report          | No Action  |
| 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  |
| Long Gully Creek         | TMP<br>Overallocated<br>MALF 30 l/s | Negotiations continuing over water takes from this Lake Dunstan tributary which provides for trout spawning and rearing has an intermittent flow in its lower reaches. |

#### **Transition from Mining Privileges (MPs) to RMA Consents.**

Smaller applications to transition from mining privileges to RMA consents are still coming through and ORC has held a recent meeting for applicants and stakeholders with the aim of clarify generic issues arising for all parties

**Nigel Paragreen, Environmental Officer  
& Niall Watson  
11 October 2018**

## 12.3 RMA Consenting Update

The following is an update of the RMA consents for the period 16 August 2018 – 11 October 2018

### ***Consents potentially of interest to Council***

***Lake Onslow:*** Fish and Game has received a request for written approval for an application to vary the drawdown rate on Lake Onslow from 0.2m per 7 days to 0.5m per 7 days. Fish and Game staff are currently working productively with Pioneer Energy to identify consent conditions that will ensure the current, stable management regime is not affected.

***Long Gully:*** In 2017, an application was submitted to the ORC to apply for a water permit, replacing a deemed permit in Long Gully. Fish and Game were originally not identified as an affected party but that decision was overturned when Fish and Game presented evidence of a rainbow trout spawning run in the stream. It is thought that the abstraction in November may restrict the outmigration of fish and Fish and Game has received complaints about stranded fish and reports of people moving stranded fish themselves in this catchment. An agreement in principle has been made with the applicants for fish salvage operations to be undertaken annually at the consent holder's expense. Staff are working with the applicants currently to develop consent conditions to reflect this.

### ***Further note on Moutere Station***

Final written approval was provided on all applications involving Moutere Station Ltd during this period. However, Fish and Game's experience with these application does warrant discussion.

In 2016 Fish and Game received requests for written approval for applications for consents regarding deemed permit takes in Laheys, Campbells, Center, Young Hill and Turnipy Creeks in the Manuherikia. Staff felt the consultation process was not undertaken by the applicants in good faith, which increased the cost and time required to participate in the process. In 2017, the applicants decided to split the remaining application into two parts. One, concerning galaxiid management which had unanimous agreement, was provided with written approval by Fish and Game and it was agreed it would be submitted. The other related to a very large proposed take on Young Hill Creek, a 169.8L/s instantaneous rate of take on a creek with a MALF of ~26L/s, as well as a small take on Turnipy Creek and Fish and Game advised that written approval would not be provided. Both consents were submitted, processed and issued; with the latter not having Fish and Game's approval.

The mistake was discovered and raised with the ORC by Fish and Game staff after the consent was issued. The ORC acknowledged the mistake and offered to either review the consent or ask the applicants to renegotiate an agreed position with the Fish and Game. The latter chosen by Fish and Game staff and an agreed position was found with the applicants, by which the Young Hill Creek take would have fish screens installed and the rate of take would be reduced from 169.8L/s to 100L/s.

It's understood that the applicants do not use a rate of take above 100L/s; therefore, this allocation may fall into the category of 'paper water'. The final decision to agree to remove potential paper water from the consent by Fish and Game staff was made in an effort to limit the adverse effects that the consent poses, which staff believe may still be substantial for this small stream.

It's questionable as to whether such a high instantaneous rate of take should have ever been granted as primary allocation by the ORC on such a small stream. The decision to reach the negotiated resolution was considered by staff to be the most practical outcome achievable given the situation. The alternative of undertaking a judicial review would have been too resource intensive to be a realistic option on a stream as small as Young Hill. If more cases such as this occur, such drastic action may be warranted to ensure the deemed permit transition process is being implemented properly.

***Written approval provided for ORC consents during the period***

| Applicant                          | Activity   | Outcome  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Chard Farm Ltd.                    | Abstract from an unnamed tributary of the Kawarau River  | Written approval provided as application had minimal effect on sports fish or game bird populations.   |
| Greenvale Forest Ltd.              | Construct of a culvert over an unnamed tributary of the Leithen Burn   | Application was changed upon request to volunteer fish passage condition and written approval was provided.  |
| Waterfall Park Developments Ltd.   | Disturb, place structures and alter the bed of Mill Creek; earthworks, planting and construction related to building near the creek; and the discharge of stormwater to Mill Creek | Over a number of months, Fish and Game staff worked with the applicants and undertook field visits to assess the impact of the proposed activities and identify consent conditions which would avoid or mitigate those impacts. Written approval was provided on the 15 August and updated on 29 <sup>th</sup> August. |
| The Central Otago District Council | Discharge treated sewage from the Omakau WWTP into the mainstem of the Manuherikia River.  | Fish and Game sought additional information about the impact of the discharge on local water quality. This was provided by way of an external ORC report which satisfied staff's concerns and written approval was provided.   |
| A. Childs                          | Straighten a ~20m section of an unnamed tributary of Lake Wakatipu   | Written approval provided as application had minimal effect on sports fish or game bird populations.   |
| R. W. Greatbanks and J. Greatbanks | Discharge treated sewage to land from a residential property   | Written approval provided as application had minimal effect on sports fish or game bird populations.   |

|                            |  |  |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| The Otago Regional Council | Remove, construct and maintain structures to divert water around and dam water within the Robsons Lagoon, part of the Lake Tuakitoto Regionally Significant Wetland. | Since 2017, staff from have been consulting with the ORC regarding this consent. In August, a series of conditions were proposed which would significantly reduce the ability of the public to tamper with the water levels in the wetland and set in place a robust monitoring program to monitor the impact of the proposed management regime. Results of monitoring will be reported to the ORC and affected parties after 5 years and the review conditions are sufficient to enable the ORC to act if adverse effects are identified as a result. On that basis, written approval was provided. |
| Glen Dene Holdings Ltd.    | Abstract from the Number 3 Creek, a tributary of Lake Hawea.   | After additional information was requested by staff and provided by the applicants, written approval provided as application had minimal effect on sports fish or game bird populations.   |
| Gary Todd Architecture     | Disturb the bed of Bullock Creek to replace it with a rock wall.   | After discussions and a site visit with the applicant, consent conditions were negotiated which would mitigate impacts of the application and written approval was provided.   |
| Electricity Southland Ltd. | Place underground and temporary overhead power lines across the Kawarau River.   | Written approval provided as application had minimal effect on sports fish or game bird populations.   |
| G. R. Moore                | Extend an already consented culvert piping an unnamed tributary of Lake Wakatipu.  | The extension was for a small distance on so that it would connect to a road culvert, and therefore reduce the threat of erosion between the two structures. Written approval was provided as application had minimal effect on sports fish or game bird populations.  |
| Mouere Station Ltd.        | Abstract water from the Young Hill and Turnipy Creeks.   | See the Further Note on Mouere Station section above for detail.   |



**Written approval provided for QLDC consents during the period**

| Applicant                  | Activity   | Outcome   |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| Miles Away Limited         | Operate commercial packrafting trips in the Rees, Matukituki, Wilkin and Makarora Rivers, as well as the Siberia Stream. | Councillors were consulted on the application and based on their feedback, proposed consent conditions to mitigate or avoid impacts to anglers were drafted. These were agreed to by the applicant and written approval was provided. |
| The Otago Regional Council | Install a permanent mooring and monitoring buoy in Lake Hayes for the purpose of water quality monitoring.               | Written approval provided as application had minimal effect on sports fish or game bird populations.  |

**Recommendation: That this report be received.**

**Nigel Paragreen  
Environmental Officer  
11 October 2018**

## 12.4 Coastal Otago Pukeko Monitoring

### Introduction

The purpose of monitoring Pukeko is to enable an annual estimate of population change within a geographic region.

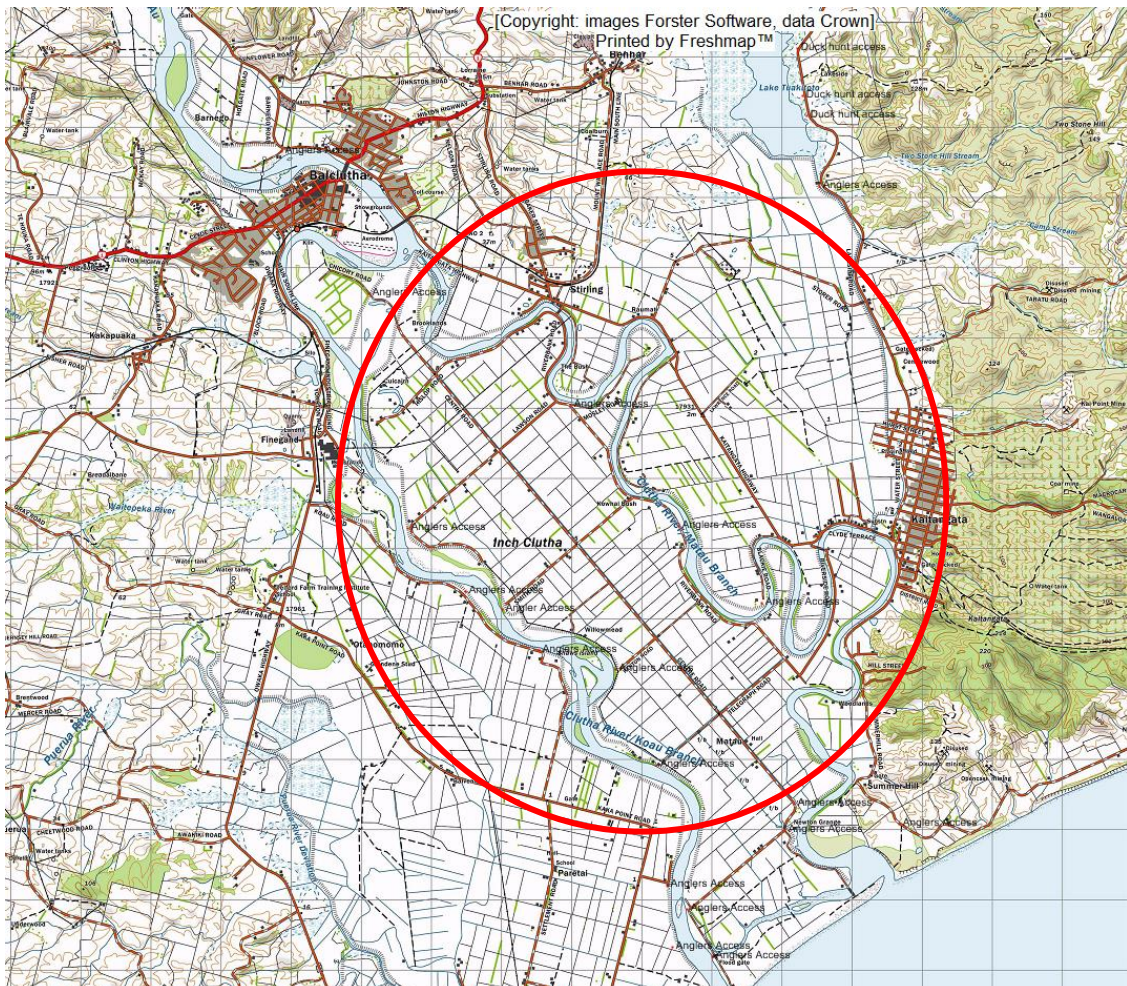
### Method

The most practical monitoring technique for Pukeko is a roadside survey. Randomly selected transects (roadways) of 8-30kms are driven at slow speed and the number of Pukeko clearly identified with the naked eye from each side of the vehicle are recorded by two observers.

### Sites selected

The sites selected were from historical sites surveyed in the 1980s.

### Inch Clutha



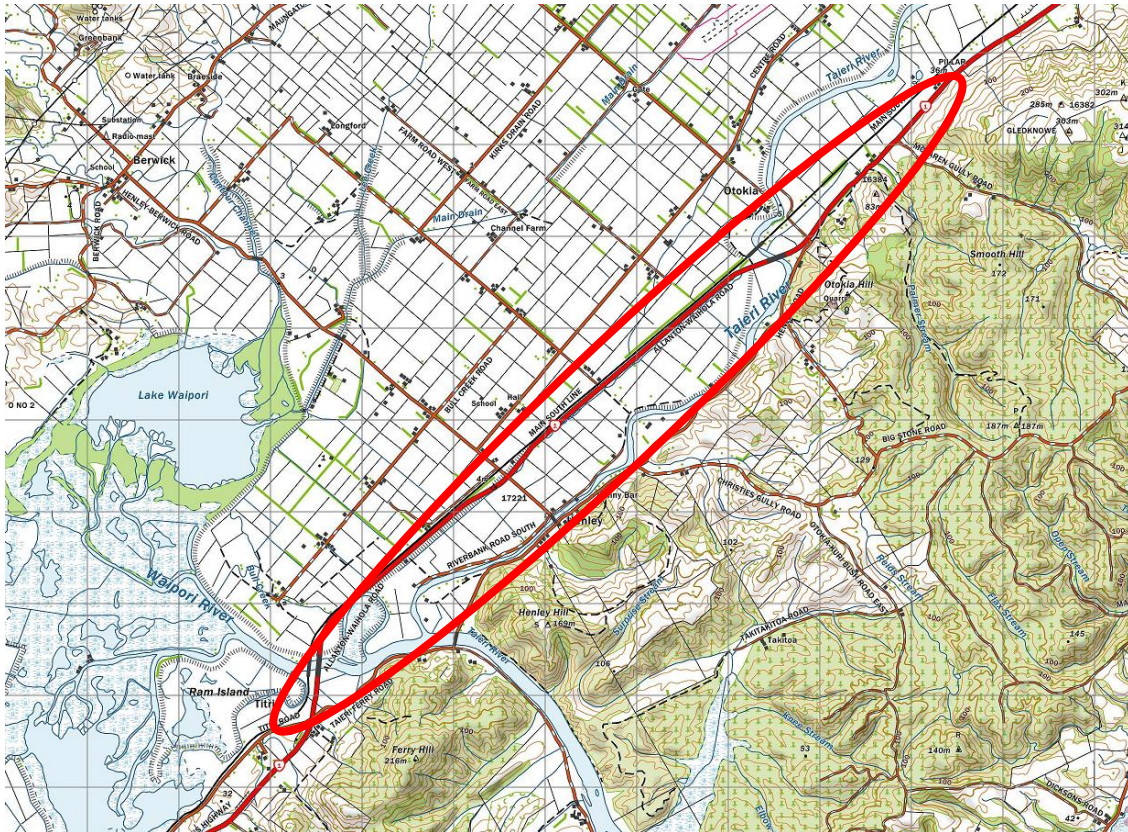






### ***Flood Free (Borrow Pit)***

From the Otokia Reserve to the bridge over the Waipori River on State Highway one.



### ***Timing***

Surveys are conducted in August in conjunction with the annual Shoveler trend count.

### ***Data Collection***

The information recorded at each transect:

Date, transect name, start time, finish time, weather, and the number of Pukeko seen from each side of the vehicle over the section or subsection.

### ***Travel Speed***

20-50kph, depending on the amount Pukeko cover.

### ***Limitations***

Weather appears to effect Pukeko activity and hence visibility.

Observers may have difficulty identifying birds at distance.

There may be some variance between observer vision

## Results

|             | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Flood free  | 18   | 49   | 24   | 110  | 105  | 133  | 158  | 98   |
| Puerua      | 13   | 5    | 0    | 0    | 12   | 89   | 6    | 5    |
| Berrick     | 74   | 81   | 27   | 143  | 112  | 84   | 105  | 2    |
| Inch Clutha | 15   | 6    | 1    | 35   | 1    | 26   | 27   | 20   |

Figure 1: Pukekos counted since 2011

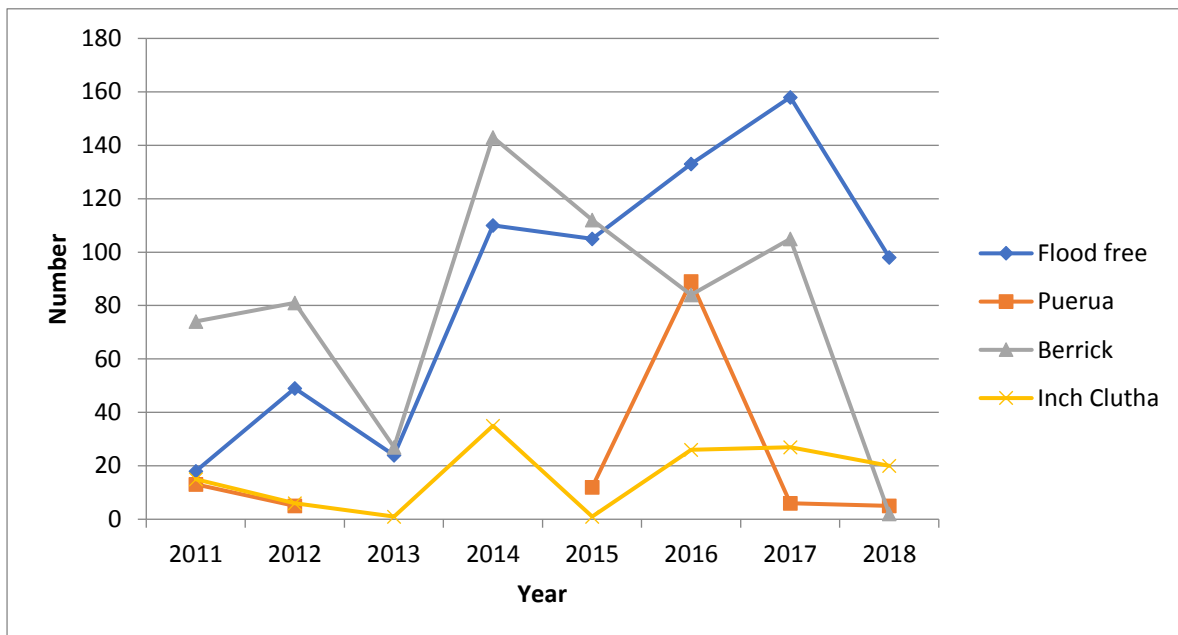


Figure 2: Total Pukeko Counts from 2011 - 2018

Between 2011 and 2018 the total number of Pukekos counted at Otago sites has varied. This year all sites showed a decrease in numbers. (Figure 2).

It is unknown why Pukeko numbers vary from year to year but what is known is that Pukeko are aggressive and territorial and limitations such as bird movement (birds moving to other habitats outside the monitored areas) must be taken into consideration.

Other factors such as changing weather patterns and time of year may also need to be considered when looking at these results.

## Conclusions

The results have shown the Pukeko population in the monitored areas have declined but there is no real observable trends.

## Recommendations

That this report be received.

**Steven Dixon**

**Fish & Game Officer**

Oct 2018

**Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

## 12.5 Minimum and Residual Flows Plan Change

For upwards of two years, the Otago Regional Council ('ORC') has been consulting on minimum flow plan changes in the Manuherikia, Cardrona and Arrow catchments. The plan changes were targeted to provide an additional policy framework during the deemed permit transition. Those permits will expire in October 2021 and if users want to keep using the water, they must be transferred to Resource Management Act ('RMA') consents. The initial proposal was to limit the scope of the plan changes to minimum flows within these catchments and uncontroversial changes to residual flow setting policies, so as to provide the best opportunity of completing the process before 2021.

On 12 September 2018 after intense lobbying from irrigators, mostly in the Manuherikia and Cardrona catchments, the ORC ratified a motion regarding this plan change. The motion stated:

***Notice of Motion:***

*For the purposes of ensuring both constructive policy-making and good faith communications with those most likely to be adversely affected by any proposed plan change relating to imposing minimum flows upon the Arrow, Cardrona and Manuherikia catchments:*

***Resolution***

1. *That any proposed minimum flow change follow the full process outlined in the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management ('NPS-FM'. This to include identifying appropriate Freshwater Management Units ('FMUs'), catchment management objectives, environmental flows and allocation limits.*
2. *That water allocation limits for the above catchments also be included in any proposed plan change.*

As a result, ORC staff will need to revise the plan change and are currently doing so.

To date, water quantity plan changes in the Regional Plan: Water ('RPW') have focussed on setting minimum flows and primary allocations and not yet implemented key parts of the NPS-FM, which include identifying FMUs; setting freshwater objectives and limits across the region; and phasing out over-allocation. However, the current policy framework in the RPW does not lend itself well to implementing these aspects of the NPS-FM.

It's becoming increasingly clear that this is causing issues in the deemed permit transition process. Rather than setting targets to ensure water is provided back to the environment, the RPW contains perverse incentives which encourage the expansion of irrigation through a 'use it or lose it' approach. This makes phasing out over-allocation increasingly more difficult and costly to the irrigation industry as farm businesses become increasingly more sensitive to the changes in reliability of supply which will inevitably occur when a more even balance is struck with environment, as is required in RMA processes.

The minimum and residual flows plan change was intended to make small, targeted changes which would be in place before 2021. This would aid the deemed permit transition by providing more certainty to permit holders about what some environmental limits will be. By comparison, the full process discussed in the resolution will provide more certainty once it is complete but is more complex and not likely to be completed by 2021.

Furthermore, because the RPW is not currently designed to implement the NPS-FM, any future plan change encompassing the resolution likely require plan changes to set a new policy framework. In doing this, the impacts of the motion could be significant on the region. It would likely develop an FMU setting process, which will ultimately set minimum flows and allocation limits. To undertake a 'full process' from the NPS-FM, the plan change should also address the related issue of over-allocation; however, this has been left out of the motion and it isn't clear why that is the case.

The 2021 deadline for the deemed permit transition means there's likely no easy solution from this point onwards. At this late stage it'll be difficult to give deemed permit holders any level of certainty with a complex plan change process before 2021. The recent Central Government release of the Essential Freshwater Work Programme further complicates matters. A new NPS-FM is planned to be released in 2020, as is a new National Environmental Standard, which may substantially change the policy framework just one year out from the deemed permit expiry deadline.

In the time it takes to complete the plan change processes as intended in the motion, the ORC is required to continue processing applications to transition deemed permits to RMA consents. There is a risk that the transition process may not achieve the intended outcomes if an adequate policy framework cannot be developed in time. A compromised deemed permit process must be avoided as the highest priority.

However the ORC chooses to tackle the situation they find themselves in, are a number of points which are important to Fish and Game:

- 1) A framework for FMU and over-allocation processes must be developed at the regional level, rather than on a catchment by catchment basis.
- 2) Environmental limits such as minimum flows and allocation should be set to safeguard the life-supporting capacity of the environment, as directed by the NPS-FM.
- 3) Policies around the way residual flows are set need to be clarified as a matter of urgency.
- 4) If the policy framework required to effectively transition deemed permits to RMA consents cannot be put in place in the time required, a plan should be developed to ensure it's not compromised.

I recommend that the Council debate this issue and consider writing to ORC Councillors to flag their concerns.

**Recommendations:**

- **That this report be received.**
- **That the Council consider writing to ORC Councillors to express their concerns**

**Nigel Paragreen  
Environmental Officer  
16 October 2018**

## **13.0 General Business**