**FISH & GAME NZ – WEST COAST REGION**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20/04/2016**

**AT HOKITIKA AT 7:00 P.M.**

Meeting commenced at 7:00 p.m. with a welcome to members.

**PRESENT:**

Andy Harris (Chair), Rob Roney, Jan Derks, Mark Smith, Dean Phibbs,
Bruce Erickson, David Heine, Owen Smith.

*In attendance:* Sean Climo (Ngai Tahu), Dean Kelly (Manager), Lee Crosswell (Field Officer), Kim McPherson (Office Administrator & Minute Taker), Tim Shaw (DoC).

**APOLOGIES:**

There were no apologies.

**CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:**

No conflicts of interest were registered.

**DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**

No councillors declared any new interests.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

Some corrections were made to the agenda for the current meeting and to the minutes of the previous Council and Annual Public Meetings of 09/12/2015.

Motion proposed: **That the Minutes of the 09/12/2015 Council Meeting and Annual Public Meeting with amendments noted, be approved as a true and correct record of those meetings.**

*Proposer:* ***B Erickson*** *Seconder:* ***J Derks*** *Outcome:* ***Carried***

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

No motions were proposed from the minutes.

# CORRESPONDENCE (as per pre-circulated schedule):

Mr Harris provided a copy of the Neil Hayes correspondence.

The pre-circulated schedule of correspondence was reviewed.

*Motion proposed:* ***That the correspondence be received.***

*Proposer:* ***D Phibbs*** *Seconder:* ***J Derks*** *Outcome:* ***Carried***

# FINANCIAL REPORT:

The pre-circulated financial report was reviewed.

*Motion proposed:* ***That the Financial Report be received.***

*Proposer:* ***R Roney*** *Seconder:* ***D Phibbs*** *Outcome:* ***Carried***

# MANAGERS REPORT:

Mr Kelly presented the pre-circulated bi-monthly operational report and responded to questions and comments.

Mr Crosswell presented the Drift Dive Survey Report 2016 and the Paradise Shelduck Moult Survey and provided responses to comments and questions.

Mr Kelly presented the Access Agreement with the Gloriavale Christian Community Trust and responded to comment/questions.

The Council thanked the Manager for the thorough and professional manner in which he had handled the Heaphy Road access issues.

*Motion proposed:* ***That the Manager’s report and associated Drift Dive and Paradise Shelduck Moult Survey Reports be received.***

*Proposer:* ***J Derks*** *Seconder:* ***R Roney*** *Outcome:* ***Carried***

# NZ COUNCIL REPORT:

Mr Harris provided an overview of the pre-circulated report.

*Motion proposed:* ***That the NZ Council report be received.***

*Proposer:* ***A Harris*** *Seconder:* ***J Derks*** *Outcome:* ***Carried***

**8:00pm** Lindsay Arthur and Brent Trolle joined the meeting.

**2016/17 FISHERIES REGULATION REVIEW**

Mr Harris asked for comment on the pre-circulated licence holder feedback summary regarding proposed regulation changes.

Lindsay Arthur, a visiting angler from Coromandel, stated that he spends a lot of time fishing on the West Coast and that sometimes the proposed changes would affect him. But, in reality, most of the time he returns fish.

Brent Trolle and ex fishing guide and experienced West Coast angler spoke about the proposed changes to regulations. He stated that he was in support of reduction of the brown trout bag limit. His son guides now, he understands locally that one river can stand a large take but other rivers can’t. He informed the council of the number of fish that get caught and released by guided anglers and stated that if these were ‘taken’ it would be extremely detrimental to the West Coast fishery. He suggested that sometime Fish and Game will have to put a level on this amount of take, to retain quality of fishing for New Zealanders. He also suggested providing more advice on how to handle fish in catch and release circumstances to facilitate their recovery/survival post-release.

Mr Phibbs provided an overview of a guides meeting in Nelson.

*Motion proposed:* ***That the West Coast Fish and Game Council prescribe a 2 fish bag limit (brown trout), for all fisheries on the West Coast.***

*Proposer:* ***J Derks*** *Seconder:* ***D Phibbs*** *Outcome:* ***Carried***

*Motion proposed:* ***The West Coast Fish and Game Council implement a back country fishery designation for the Karamea River and Mokihinui River.***

*Proposer:* ***J Derks*** *Seconder:* ***D Phibbs*** *Outcome:* ***Carried***

*Motion proposed:* ***Retain the current salmon fishing season for the Okarito River.***

*Proposer:* ***J Derks*** *Seconder:* ***None*** *Outcome:* ***Withdrawn***

*Motion proposed:* ***That the Okarito River closes for salmon fishing at the end of March.***

*Proposer:* ***R Roney*** *Seconder:* ***D Phibbs*** *Outcome:* ***Carried***

*Motion proposed:* ***That the West Coast Fish and Game Council publish a best practice guideline for the West Coast, setting a six fish limit landed for any given angler per day.***

*Proposer:* ***J Derks*** *Seconder:* ***B Erickson*** *Outcome:* ***Carrie*d**

Mr Roney provided an overview of the Murchison meeting with the Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Council in February 2016.

Mr Shaw (DoC) informed the council of staff changes in the DoC. He suggested getting the Walking Access Commission representative to the next meeting.

*Motion proposed:* ***That at 9:39 p.m. the West Coast Fish and Game Council move into a publicly excluded session to protect the privacy of an individual.***

*Proposer:* ***A Harris*** *Seconder:* ***R Roney*** *Outcome:* ***Carried***

**9:44 p.m.** Public meeting resumes.

**2016/17 OPERATIONAL WORKPLAN REVIEW**

A review of the 2016/17 Operational Workplan was completed.

**10:12 p.m**. Meeting Closed

Chair……………………………………… Date…………………….