

**Agenda For The Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council
On Wednesday 24th May 2023
At Otago Fish and Game Council Office
Cnr Hanover and Harrow Streets, Dunedin
Starting 12.30pm**

Timetable	Item
11:15am	Executive only meeting
12.00pm	Lunch
12.30 pm	Presentation from Cr's McIntyre and Trevathan on 'future of duckhunting'.
1:00pm	Full council meeting begins with Chairs address
2:45pm	Public Forum
3:00pm	Afternoon Tea
3:45 pm	Full council meeting
5.00 pm	Meeting Ends

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1.0 Present and Apologies

2.0 Matters to be raised not on the agenda

3.0 Declarations of Interest

4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Minutes For The Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council On 23rd March 2023 At 120 Scotland Street, Roxburgh Service Centre

1.0 Present and Apologies

Present: Colin Weatherall (Chair), Adrian McIntyre, Mike Barker, Rick Boyd, Ian Cole, Blair Trevathan, Richard Twining (Ngāi Tahu).

Present via Zoom: Ray Grubb, John Highton. Zoom presentation by Marcus Girvan (Boffa Miskell) and Tracey Burton (Toitū Te Whenua/LINZ).

In attendance: Ian Hadland (CE), David Priest (Central Otago Operations Manager), Bruce Quirey (Communications Officer).

Apologies: Vicky May.

The Chair opened the meeting at 12.25pm. He noted an apology from Cr May and welcomed a reporter from 'The News – Central Otago and Wanaka'.

He advised Council there would be a presentation about lagorasiphon via video conference from Marcus Girvan (Boffa Miskell) and Tracey Burton (Toitū Te Whenua/LINZ) and the opportunity to discuss the Lagorasiphon Programme report tabled by Central Otago Operations Manager David Priest.

The public-excluded session in the agenda was re-ordered to the end of the meeting to accommodate the media.

2.0 Matters to be raised not on the agenda

The Chair his acting role in governance support at Central South Island Fish and Game Council was almost complete. CSI had appointed a new CE, Steve McKnight, and chair, Linn Koevoet.

3.0 Declarations of Interest

The Chair asked Councillors to update and sign Declarations of Interest. Declarations were tabled. See attachment.

Cr McIntyre verbally declared an interest as a benefactor of the Glenkenic Water Scheme

4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Moved (Cr McIntyre /Cr Cole)

That the minutes of the Council Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council held on 18th February 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried unanimously.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Investments - The CE followed up on the last meeting's questions regarding Council investments. He confirmed other regions' councils were investing surplus funds in a similar way. Fish & Game councils were limited to investing with a government-approved list of banks.

The CE suggested Otago F&GC should pay its NZC levy in monthly instalments to better manage cash flow. Additional cash could be put into short term investments.

Moved (Cr Cole/Cr Boyd)

1. **Invest a greater portion of available cash into term investments but still ensuring there is sufficient to maintain positive cashflow at all times.**
2. **Move to monthly instalments for NZC levies and any other significant fixed costs to better smooth to cashflow over the year.**

Carried unanimously.

Deputy Chair - Cr Highton raised the matter of the need to appoint a deputy chair. Cr Weatherall encouraged the Council to appoint two deputy chairs as done in the previous term.

Moved (Cr Weatherall/ Cr Boyd)

That Crs May and McIntyre be reappointed as deputy chairs of Otago F&GC.

Carried unanimously.

6.0 Health and Safety Report

Poor road conditions after heavy rain forced Fish & Game staff to abandon a drive to Lake Onslow to assess the fishery. They returned the following week. In a separate incident, a staff member in a Fish & Game vehicle was narrowly missed by an object falling from a truck.

Following discussion, the CE undertook to find out who was responsible for maintaining the road to Lake Onslow, and to check staff were up to date with driver training.

Moved (Cr Barker/Cr Boyd)

That the Health and Safety Report be received.

Carried unanimously.

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 Draft Operation Workplan and Budget 2023/24

The CE thanked councillors for their input into the draft operational workplan and budget. He had narrowed their input into a summary of goals and draft strategic objectives which were developed into the draft workplan.

The Chair suggested Council discuss the three recommendations separately, beginning with the draft three-year strategic plan priorities and objectives.

Cr Highton raised an opinion regarding the strategic priority “tangata whenua/manu whenua engaged”. He suggested the first sentence should be divided into two parts thus: “Iwi and Otago F&G aspirations agreed and shared. To achieve greater protection of freshwater and wetland values through RMA/NBEA processes.”

Cr Cole said under “strategic relationships and advocacy enhanced” clear language was needed to help public understanding. He also suggested the addition of the word “heritage” in the last sentence.

Cr Boyd suggested in the same sentence the word “people” be changed to “communities”.

Under the first item, “sportsfish/gamebird species and habitat maintained and improved”, Cr Barker suggested the addition of the word “better” in the first sentence should read thus: “Better understand climate change impacts on critical habitat and species abundance and distribution.”

Moved (Cr Boyd/Cr Cole)

Endorse the draft three-year strategic plan priorities and objectives.

Carried unanimously.

The Council then discussed the draft 2023/24 operational workplan and budget. Concerning climate change, Cr Boyd said a literature review of potential outcomes should be conducted at a national level. The CE said NZC had made it a priority and it aligned with work by Otago locally. An Otago staff member was keen to engage in that work.

Cr Grubb said the CE had done an excellent job in developing strategic priorities. He suggested expected outcomes should be defined in a third column against the objectives.

Cr Weatherall said if the Council was happy to accept the draft document, the CE could provide an update on progress of the reporting mechanism in the July meeting.

Councillors agreed it should not be using reserves to fund ongoing operational costs such as staffing expenditure.

Regarding regulations, Cr Trevathan asked why Otago was consulting with neighbouring regions to align regulations. The CE replied the consultation was a commitment given in the 10-year management plan and because bird populations crossed regional boundaries.

In regards to the Council's engagement with tangata whenua/mana whenua, Mr Twining, the Ngāi Tahu representative to Otago F&GC, asked the CE at what level the Council was engaging. The CE replied the Council usually engaged with TRONT (Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu) but, depending on the matter, the Council tried to engage at a more local level. He said Ngāi Tahu had asked the Council to engage at both hapu and rūnanga levels. Mr Twining noted game bird regulations affecting cultural harvest affected various rūnanga within the Council's statutory boundaries.

Moved (Cr Weatherall/Cr Barker)

Agree to the draft 2023/24 draft operational workplan and budget, and the CE to confirm at the July meeting the mechanism for reporting outcomes.

Carried unanimously.

The Chair said that due to privacy matters, discussion about salaries under Contestable Funding Bids would be moved into the public excluded session of the meeting.

In other Contestable Funding Bid matters, the CE said increasing office and general expenses could no longer be absorbed. He discussed the desire to commission an external consultant to develop a communications strategy. Wanaka hatchery site maintenance should be funded out of the Historic Property Reserve, given the property is being prepared for subdivision.

Moved (Cr Boyd/Cr Barker)

On Contestable Funding Bid items 2, 3 and 4

Confirm the contestable funding bids from the national pool and notification of the proposed spending from reserves.

Carried unanimously.

The Chair thanked the CE and staff for their significant work on the plan.

7.2 Change To OF&GC Governance Policy

CE outlined an amendment to include the NZC appointee on the Executive Committee.

Moved (Cr Cole/Cr McIntyre)

That the Governance Policy document be updated as above (on Page 31, 2.3.4.2) to ensure the New Zealand Council appointee is a member of future Executive Committees.

Carried unanimously.

Public excluded items were deferred to the latter part of the meeting.

8.0 Public Excluded Items

8.1 Confirm Draft OF&GC Public Excluded Minutes from 18th February 2023

Moved (Cr Barker/Cr McIntyre)

That the public excluded minutes of the meeting on 18th February 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried unanimously.

8.2 Otago Fish & Game Council Habitat Enhancement Fund (HEF) Application

Moved (Cr Cole/Cr Trevathan)

That Council approve the Habitat Enhancement Fund application seeking \$3,000 from the Otago Fish and Game Council HEF grants towards overall cost for the Bendigo Wildlife Reserve Enhancement Plan.

Carried unanimously.

8.3 Bullock Creek Stormwater

8.4 Wanaka Subdivision Update

8.5 Contact Energy Trust Update

Work is continuing to negotiate the trust deed agreement with Contact Energy.

In addition:

7.1 Draft 2023/24 OWP activity related to priorities

Contestable funding bids - Salaries up to market rates plus CPI

10.8 Chardonnay Street property (Cromwell)

9.0 Financial Report

The Chair invited questions on the Financial Report.

Cr Highton asked if resource consents to replace mining rights were being monitored satisfactorily. The CE said the consents were being monitored and he would ask the environmental officer to provide the report.

The CE recommended the Mining Right Reserve be closed with the remaining balance returned to the Council's General Reserve.

Moved (Cr Grubb/Cr Boyd)

That the Mining Rights Reserve be closed with remaining funds being transferred back into the Council's General Reserve.

Carried unanimously.

There was discussion about a decline in resident licence sales, Contact Energy mitigation payments, vehicles, the NZC group advising on fish licence sales, and the salmon endorsement.

Moved (Cr Barker/Cr McIntyre)

That the finance and licencing report be received.

Carried unanimously.

Presentation on Lagorasiphon Control

The agenda business was adjourned to receive a presentation via video conference from Marcus Girvan, from Boffa Miskell, and Tracey Burton, from Toitū Te Whenua LINZ, about lagorasiphon management in Lake Wanaka.

The CE discussed a report to Council on lagorasiphon tabled by Central Otago operations manager David Priest, then invited Mr Girvan and Ms Burton to speak.

Ms Burton opened by presenting information about aquatic plants native to Lake Wanaka at various depths, displayed photos of the lagorasiphon removal programme in Paddock Bay and explained the vision, goals and some challenges. The presentation discussed the use of hessian matting and diquat.

Mr Girvan shared a web portal showing data where the work was being done. He noted some issues with poor quality hessian, wave disturbance and boat propellers. He said Paddock Bay was in the best shape for many years. Weed was down to very low levels.

Councillors were invited to ask questions.

Crs Barker, Highton and Cole expressed concerns about the decline of the Paddock Bay fishery, monitoring methods, lack of baseline data, and repeated defoliation. Cr Barker said fishing in Paddock Bay was worst it had ever been from an angler's point of view. He asked what base line studies had been done at Paddock Bay into invertebrates and sediment properties, and how long diquat persisted in the sediment. Cr Highton said his view was similar to Cr Barker's. He was more concerned about effects of repeated defoliation.

The CE asked Ms Burton if NIWA reports on the lagorasiphon programme were being distributed among stakeholder parties. Ms Burton encouraged Fish & Game to provide a representative at an annual stakeholder meeting in May to provide input.

Mr Girvan commended Mr Priest for his research and report.

The Chair thanked Ms Burton and Mr Girvan for the presentation and said there would be further discussion as a Council.

The meeting adjourned at 2.25pm and resumed at 2.30pm.

The Chair brought forward the Ngāi Tahu delegate's report to Council and invited Mr Twining to speak.

12.3 Committee & Delegate Reports - Ngāi Tahu

Mr Twining said at the last meeting questions had been raised about the Clutha River, and he said there were more than one rūnanga connected to the area. In regards to surveying on the Clutha River and Pomahaka, Mr Twining asked to be kept informed if kanakana/lamprey were identified. Mr Twining also said Ngāi Tahu was keeping in contact regarding the investigation into the Lake Onslow Battery Project. He encouraged the Council to engage more with its neighbouring Fish & Game councils. He suggested Fish & Game should provide councillors a copy of their obligations under Section 4 of the Conservation Act.

The CE replied NZC had sought legal advice on the obligations and noted it should be circulated to councillors. He undertook to get an update on the status of the legal advice. He said a depth of work could be needed to meet the responsibilities.

Cr Grubb said that when he was NZC chair he had started negotiations with Ngāi Tahu to discuss the rangatiratanga claim and the ongoing relationship with Fish & Game. The Ministerial Review had made it clear that Fish & Game's responsibilities to mana whenua had not been fully discharged.

Cr Weatherall said the key element was it was an ongoing discussion, and it was important not to predetermine outcomes. He was very conscious of the matters Mr Twining had raised.

Mr Twining proposed to invite a more senior Ngāi Tahu representative to join the Council meeting at a later date. Cr Weatherall said the Council would welcome that opportunity.

Moved (Cr McIntyre/Cr Barker)

That the Ngāi Tahu report be received.

Carried unanimously.

The Chair asked Cr Barker to follow up with NZC regarding the status of the legal advice.

Mr Twining left the meeting at 2.45pm.

The meeting advanced in the agenda to:

Item 14.1 Lagorasiphon Programme

Councillors entered discussion about concerns over the Lagorasiphon Programme in Lake Wānaka.

The CE said as a statutory authority Fish & Game needed to be more closely engaged in planning of the next stages of the Lagorasiphon Programme. Councillors said there did not seem to be adequate information about the programme's effects on key elements of trout habitat in Paddock Bay; the effects on invertebrates and native fish; the benefits in the littoral zone for all other wildlife; and a regeneration profile by depth.

Moved (Cr Boyd/Cr Grubb)

That Otago Fish & Game, under its obligations as a statutory agency to represent the interests of licence holders and sport fish habitat, seek involvement in the planning and implementation of lagorasiphon controls in the lakes in Hawea and Wākana.

Carried unanimously.

10.0 Chief Executive's Report

The CE said the acoustic survey had been completed and was being analysed. The survey report would be due in May or June. There was potential to repeat acoustic monitoring as a long-term tool.

The Lower Clutha Trout Fishing Competition had been successful and was well profiled.

Discussion about the Chardonnay Street property would be moved into the public excluded session because it dealt with financial matters.

Councillors asked for a copy of the survey on the Designated Waters proposal and the CE offered to present preliminary survey results later in the meeting.

Regarding wetlands, Grubb raised the recent matter of wastewater discharged as a permitted activity into Whangamarino wetland in the North Island. He said the same issue had occurred at Silver Stream. It seemed there was a deficiency in the way local government authorities approached the issue and NZC should be encouraged to pick it up.

Moved (Cr Weatherall/Cr Boyd)

That the Chief Executive's Report be received and comments noted.

Carried unanimously.

11.0 RMA Planning and Consents Report

The CE reiterated he had made a note on Cr Highton's request for a report from the environmental officer on the monitoring of resource consents to replace mining rights.

Moved (Cole / Trevathan)

That the RMA Planning and Consents Report be received.

Carried unanimously.

12.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

12.1 CFT

Cr Cole, the CFT chair, said the trust had been advised commencement of work to develop a cycle trail adjacent to the Bendigo Wildlife Reserve had been delayed until late 2024. CFT was looking to commission consultants to generate a wildlife habitat report on Lake Dunstan. Regarding finances, he said CFT had had a disappointing return on investments, but short to medium term fixed-term interest rates were looking much better. Regarding the Cromwell building, sump work had been completed but he had had no notification the work was going to be done.

Regarding Bendigo wildlife management area, CFT would redirect nesting island funds to planting and management of the Bendigo wildlife reserve.

CFT had received a report from Cardrona Valley research over summer into sports fish and native fish interactions. The findings were that Clutha flathead galaxiids were struggling in the upper reaches of Cardrona, however, on a positive note two new populations had been discovered. CFT had requested a survey of requirements needed for access track maintenance. The trust was also awaiting results of the lakes acoustic survey.

Moved (Cr Barton/Cr McIntyre)

That the CFT report be received.

Carried unanimously.

12.2 NZC

Cr Barker, the Otago representative to NZC, said NZC had not met since the last meeting of Otago, and there had been almost no correspondence.

Cr McIntyre asked the Otago communications officer to inform duck hunters about the .410 decision on the F&G website. Crs Trevathan and McIntyre raised concerns about the ethics of using nontoxic shot for sub-gauge ammunition; other sources of lead poisoning in waterways; and the difficulties of reborning .410s.

The CE reminded councillors the Minister had given hunters a one-year transition period to stop using toxic ammunition in .410 shotguns. F&G needed to promote this through its communication channels the move away from toxic shot.

Cr Trevathan asked if the issue could be included in the agenda for the next Council meeting.

Moved (Cr Weatherall/Cr Boyd)

That the NZC report be received.

Carried unanimously.

12.3 Ngāi Tahu

As discussed and noted above.

12.4 Conservation Board

No representative from the Conservation Board was present. The CE noted a Conservation Board representative would attend the next Council meeting in Dunedin.

13.0 Correspondence

13.1 NZC to Otago

13.2 Otago to NZC

Nil

13.3 General Correspondence In

13.3.1 Alexandra District Club

13.4 General Correspondence Out

Nil

Moved (Cr Boyd/Cr Cole)

That correspondence be received and noted.

Carried unanimously.

The CE said the Council received a large volume of email correspondence. If the Council was happy with the way correspondence was reported at present, he would continue.

14.0 Items to be Received or Noted

14.1 Lagarosiphon Programme – Concern of Councillors

As discussed and noted above.

14.2 Summer Advocates 2022-23

The CE discussed the report by Fish & Game officer Mason Court on the summer advocates programme. The CE said he did not know if the Council would repeat the programme the same way again. Mr Priest said the advocacy roles required a high degree of knowledge and experience. Angler encounter rates were lower than anticipated. The report also did not factor that boat use had plummeted since the cost increase of fuel.

Moved (McIntyre / Barker)

That the Summer Advocates report be received.

Carried unanimously.

The Chair thanked Mr Priest for co-ordinating the programme. The principle was good, and the experience was informative for the future.

14.3 Lake Onslow netting March 2023

The CE said the Lake Onslow netting project was developed in response to councillors' concerns over the Lake Onslow fishery, and to challenge information gathered by NIWA for the Battery Project, which had stated there were no terrestrials or koura in the trout's diet. He said the poor fish condition factor was of concern but not surprising with low lake levels. Trout stomach samples would be analysed, and isotopic analysis conducted if there was enough money.

Asked if the Pioneer Energy resource consent could be reviewed to improve habitat at Lake Onslow, the CE said the only way for that to happen would be if adverse effects could be identified that would not have happened under the approved conditions of the consent.

Councillors suggested a research project to monitor the koura population. The CE said he would ask staff to put the idea to the University of Otago. The Council could redirect priorities in the Species Management workplan to focus more work on Lake Onslow.

The CE complimented Otago Fish & Game staff member Jayde Couper on the quality of the Lake Onslow report.

Moved (Cr Barker /Cr Cole)

That the Lake Onslow Gillnetting Report be received.

Carried unanimously.

Moved (Cr Trevathan/Cr Cole)

That the meeting move into public-excluded items.

Carried unanimously.

15.0 General Business

Designated waters survey

The CE presented preliminary findings of the designated waters licence consultation. He said a report for the 2023/24 Anglers Notice would be presented to the next Council meeting.

The meeting ended at 6pm.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

6.0 Health and Safety Report April/May 2023

Pandemic Responses -Covid 19 and Flu

- Staff agreed to continue relaxed covid policy for work and meetings, and to work from home if potentially infectious.
- One staff member was infectious with covid and stayed home for 7 days.
- Flu vaccinations have been offered to all staff.

Events/Work Requiring OHS Planning

- Game season ranging on opening day – planning complete and executed
- Wetland planting days

OHS Audits

Completed audits:

- Staff training register updated
- Workshops, field equipment and PPE gear check complete

Next audits:

- Ranger/Volunteer training, Support, Policy
- Hazardous Substances - Cromwell and Dunedin

Incidents/Accidents/Near Misses/New Hazards

- A firearm was accidentally discharged while being unloaded in a maimai during a compliance check by Rangers. No harm done as firearm was safely pointed skyward. An incident report has been completed and staff are looking into protocols around game season compliance to minimise the risk of this happening again. This includes discussion of the incident with other F&G regions to canvas views from other compliance leaders.
- A planting auger has been brought and hazards associated with it use defined.

Training Completed

- Three staff members training for a Boatmaster course
- Refresher training for OHS representative achieved.
- Two staff first aid refresher courses booked
- Game ranging pre opening day, update and discussion evening

General

- Proposed 4 wheel drive course
- Extra staff member to do OHS representative training - booked
- All Staff to attend a 'Building Resilience' workshop

Recommendation

That this report be received

Sharon Milne

Administration Officer May 2023

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 2023-24 Anglers Notice Review

2023-24 Anglers Notice Review

Introduction

This year's Anglers Notice is following a major triennial review last year and because of this there are only two main topics that require Council decisions. These topics are the introduction of the Designated Waters management system and the correction of an error made in last year's review regarding boat fishing on the upper reaches of the Clutha River.

As work on the Designated Waters legislation and wording continues, a draft version of the Anglers Notice with tracked changes is not yet available. However, staff have provided draft wording where possible.

Since last season, only one other submission has been received. This submission requests the inclusion of information on seasonal road closures in the regulation book for fisheries such as Logan Burn and Lake Onslow. Staff feel this issue is not a matter of urgency and that it can be resolved in the introductory blurb for the Otago Region. This issue could also be added to the next triennial review (2025-26).

Designated Waters

The proposal for Designated Waters aims to alter the management approach for fisheries that are impacted by excessive angler pressure. The information sheet provided has been compiled by the Fish and Game National Council staff:



Designated Waters Licence System Overview for Councils

The Designated Waters (DW) licence system is designed to manage and redistribute angling pressure in sensitive fisheries (comprising approximately 2% of all fisheries) whilst increasing the opportunity for resident anglers to fish these sensitive fisheries. It replaces the Backcountry licence system and introduces a number of novel management mechanisms.

The DW licence system distinguishes between resident and non-resident anglers and applies different management mechanisms to each group to achieve the system's objectives. Any angler, regardless of residency, seeking to fish a DW would need to hold a valid DW licence. For both resident and non-resident anglers only whole season licence classes would be eligible for DW licences.

For resident anglers, the DW Licence will:

- Apply for the entire angling season.
- Be available free for the angler's home Fish and Game region.
- Cost c.\$5 (TBC through the licence fee setting process) for each subsequent Fish and Game region.
- Not restrict the frequency in which an angler can access rivers that are classified as DWs.

For non-resident anglers the DW Licence will:

- Apply for a specific Fish and Game region for a specific day.
 - o N.B. the licence issued would allow the angler to fish any of that region's DWs on the specified day as opposed to being purchased for a specific river/catchment.
- Cost c.\$35.00-50.00 (TBC through the licence fee setting process) per day.
- Limit the number of DW day licences that a non-resident angler can purchase to five licences per Fish and Game region.

Controlled Fisheries will operate separate from the DW system (currently they are linked to the Backcountry system). This means that a fishery could be either a DW or a Controlled Fishery or, in exceptional stances (given that Controlled Fisheries provide a means to control total angling pressure), both. A fishery should only be made a Controlled Fishery and a DW

where there is a) a need to manage extremely high angling pressure through booking or ballot and b) a demonstrable need to create increased opportunity for anglers to book or be successful in a ballot.

Your council now needs to determine which waters it wants to recommend as DWs through the Anglers Notice process. In making this decision the default for the first year should be to migrate all current designated Backcountry Fisheries (as set out in the Sports Fish Licences Fees and Forms Notice 2022) to DWs unless there is a reason not to (i.e. angling pressure has shifted since it became a Backcountry Fishery and the fishery is no longer subject to unsustainable angling pressure). Additional DWs that are not currently Backcountry Fisheries will require more substantial justification/evidence.

Designated Waters Evidence Requirements

When Fish & Game regions are deciding to classify a waterbody as a Designated Water (DW) there needs to be clear rationale and supporting evidence that (1) the angling experience is being negatively affected by excessive angling pressure and (2) other management mechanisms (voluntary beats, booking/ballot systems etc.) are not a suitable for the fishery in question. There are several ways regions can collect evidence to support the transition of a fishery that has 'normal' or less restrictive management mechanisms (voluntary beats) to DWs management.

(1) Angler origin assessments

The DWs management approach has been designed to help manage NR angling pressure on specific fisheries. As such, regions should know the ratio of resident to non-resident use of a fishery. This ratio is best determined using on-the-ground surveys.

Through careful consideration, regions should be able to identify their own threshold for what constitutes excessive NR angler use of a particular fishery. Exceeding 50% NR use is an obvious starting point. However, regions should consider the proportion of resident and NR backcountry licence holders before setting a NR angler use threshold. For example, if only 15% of backcountry users are non-resident anglers in a particular region, but they comprise 40% of use on a certain fishery this could be displacing resident anglers.

(2) Angler displacement surveys

In 2019, the Otago and Southland F&G Councils commissioned Dr Stu Hayes and Professor Brent Lovelock (University of Otago, Department of Tourism) to undertake an angler displacement survey. This study assessed the extent to which anglers were either fully or partially displaced from fisheries of concern. They also assessed whether anglers (both residents and NRs) were prepared to pay for management mechanisms to control crowding.

The Hayes and Lovelock (2019) report provides a series of questions which regions could ask anglers to help assess the degree of displacement that is occurring on their fisheries. Once displacement has been quantified, regional F&G Councils can set their own thresholds for the

degree of angler displacement they are prepared to accept. There is also a need to review whether the additional regulations are causing any displacement.

See: Hayes, S., & Lovelock, B.A. (2019). *Angler displacement on and from pressure-sensitive rivers in Otago and Southland*. Dunedin, New Zealand. Centre for Recreation Research, Department of Tourism, University of Otago.

(3) Angler use surveys

Angler use surveys can provide fisheries usage estimates and an insight into crowding. There are several methods that can be used to quantify fisheries usage.

- (1) Angler phone or email surveys. These could be conducted bimonthly to quantify angler usage of fisheries for a given period. This approach is advantageous as it allows other factors such as satisfaction and perceptions (around crowding) to be addressed as well.
- (2) Trail camera surveys. Trail cameras can be setup overlooking known angler carparks, beats or at popular pools. This can provide insight into the number of days anglers are fishing on a certain stretch of water.
- (3) On-the-ground foot surveys. These are the most time consuming surveys but do allow fishing licences to be checked and can be coupled with a bankside survey.

Satisfaction surveys

At the end of the fishing season, angler satisfaction surveys are a quick and easy way to collect information on satisfaction and those factors that have affected satisfaction. If crowding is identified as an important reason for dissatisfaction, this can help regions justify movement to DWs management.

As detailed in the preceding report, the Designated Waters proposal represents a major change in the way that pressure sensitive fisheries are managed, particularly regarding usage by non-resident anglers. The legislative change will be in the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice but information for anglers will be provided in a guide at the start of the regulation book. Wording around Designated Fisheries is not yet available as National Council staff are still working with DOC to finalise, however the following draft is how the Otago Schedule 2 section on Designated Waters and Controlled Fisheries is expected to look:

- Note 8 8.1 **Designated Waters Fishery.** All licence holders who fish in a Designated Waters fishery (as defined by the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2023) must first obtain a Designated Waters licence (as defined by the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2023, the provisions of that notice apply to this notice).
- 8.2 The use of any legal lure with more than one hook with one point in a Designated Waters fishery is prohibited.
- Note 9 9.1 **Controlled Area.** In the controlled area, a controlled period applies. All licence holders who fish in the controlled area must first obtain a controlled period licence (as defined by the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2022).
- 9.2 **Controlled Period.** Controlled period means the period beginning on 1 February 2024 and ending on 31 March 2024.
- 9.3 **Controlled Period Licence.** A controlled period licence means a licence that entitles the following persons to fish for sports fish in the controlled area during the controlled period, but only during the day and on the reach, specified in the licence.
- 9.3.1 the holder of the controlled period licence; and
- 9.3.2 if the holder also holds a controlled licence that is endorsed on a family licence, the holder's spouse or partner and, if accompanied by the holder or the holder's spouse or partner, any member of the holder's family; and
- 9.3.3 any one or more companion anglers named in the controlled period licence who hold specified licences (as defined in the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice 2023).

Council needs to decide on two key things, which fisheries are designated and whether the Greenstone Controlled Fishery is retained. The above report suggests that the “default for the first year should be to migrate all current designated Backcountry Fisheries to Designated Waters unless there is a reason not to”. Staff agree with this direction and believe it offers a year to see how anglers react to the new regulations as well as collect more data on the usage of our most pressured fisheries. It's possible that Designated Waters may need to be added

or removed in the future, and the information collected during the first year of this system will be valuable in guiding this decision-making process.

The second item requiring decision is whether to retain the Greenstone Controlled Fishery. The upper reaches of the Greenstone River are currently managed through a booking system for February and March. The above report mentions that fisheries should only be both Designated and Controlled in “exceptional circumstances”. Staff believe that the Greenstone fishery meets that standard due to its remoteness well documented pressure issues and also feel that changing only one regulation this year will allow us to monitor the effects of the change more effectively.

Upper Clutha Boating Regulations

During the 2022-23 triennial review, Council consolidated a significant number of rules related to boat fishing into three simplified regulations. Additionally, the number of regulated sections on the Clutha River was reduced from six to three.

A staff oversight in combining these two changes meant that the Clutha River above the Roxburgh Dam (excluding Deans Bank) was incorrectly gazetted as Note 4 (*No licence holder may fish from any boat, canoe, pontoon or flotation device except in the tidal reaches of this waterway if applicable*) rather than Note 3 (*Licence holders may fish from any boat, canoe, pontoon or flotation device provided it is not being propelled by a motor*). As this is the result of a typo and unnecessarily restricts angler opportunity, staff recommend That the Upper Clutha is amended to Note 3.

Recommendations

- 1.1 That the current Back country fisheries; the Dingle Burn and Greenstone, Caples, upper Lochy, Nevis, Hunter, Young, Wilkin and upper Pomahaka rivers are gazetted as Designated Waters.
- 1.2 That the Controlled Fishery on the Greenstone River is retained.
- 2.1 That the Clutha River above Roxburgh (excluding Deans Bank) is amended from Note 4 (*No licence holder may fish from any boat, canoe, pontoon or flotation device except in the tidal reaches of this waterway if applicable*) to Note 3 (*Licence holders may fish from any boat, canoe, pontoon or flotation device provided it is not being propelled by a motor*).

Jayde Couper,
Fish & Game Officer
April 2023

7.2 Licence Fee Recommendations 2023-24 From NZC



CONSULTATION:	LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION 2023-24
TO:	Regional Managers
CC:	Regional Chairs, NZC and Administrators
AUTHOR:	Corina Jordan, CEO NZ Fish and Game Council
DATE:	08/05/2023
FEEDBACK DUE:	12/6/2023
FEEDBACK TO:	nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz
LINK TO REGISTER:	Consultation Register

Recommendations - Ngā taunaki

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council seeks consultation from Regional Fish and Game Councils on the following points:

1. That the 2023/24 adult whole season sports fish licence fee is set at \$153 and that the adult whole season game licence is set at \$113 (inclusive of a \$5 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp), with all proportional changes to remaining licence fees and categories including a \$5 fee being added to the sea run salmon licence endorsement (as a cost-recovery mechanism).
2. That a new licence category is established called a Designated Waters Licence, available as a \$5 annual licence per Fish and Game region for resident anglers and as a day licence to non-resident anglers at a fee of \$40.

Discussion - Kōrerorero

Proposal

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZC) is seeking to consult with Fish and Game regional councils on the 2023/24 licence fee recommendations.

The NZC met on the 22 and 23 April 2023 to consider the 2023/24 budgets and licence fees. Following that meeting, NZC agreed to recommend an increase of \$8 to the sports fish adult whole season licence (\$153 for 2023/24) and an increase of \$6 to the game adult whole season licence (\$113 for 2024). In recommending these fees, NZC also recommended that all other licence categories increase on the agreed proportions. A full list of recommended licence fees and categories is detailed in the Schedule attached (**Appendix 2**).

Background

Legislation provides for the following:

Section 26Q of the Conservation Act 1987 sets out the functions of Fish and Game Councils.

Subsection (1)(d)(a) requires councils:

To assess the costs attributable to the management of sports fish and game;

Section 26Q(1)(d)(ii) requires Fish and Game councils:

To develop and recommend to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council appropriate licence fees to recover costs and game bird habitat stamp fees;

Section 26C(l)(e) requires NZC:

To recommend to the Minister of Conservation an appropriate fee for fishing and hunting licences, after considering the views and recommendations of Fish and Game Councils.

Section 26C(l)(ia) also requires NZC:

To recommend to the Minister, after considering the views and recommendations (if any) of Fish and Game Councils and the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board, an appropriate fee in respect of any game bird habitat stamp and the form of such stamps (the form of the stamp to be approved as part of the 2011 Game Notice).

Operationally, the national policy of NZC specifies that all expenditure needs to be approved as part of the budget round, including capital expenditure and expenditure from reserves for all councils.

Policy

At the May 2020 NZC meeting, in response to COVID-19, the NZC set the minimum level of reserves at 20% of total budget for all councils. This level of general reserve is considered adequate to provide security against fluctuations in income and to ensure adequate operational cash flow. In a separate consultation document, NZC is consulting with regional councils on a reserves policy to clarify this position.

The budget policy specifies that all expenditure from general and dedicated reserves needs to be notified/approved by NZC as part of the budget round, or by making an application for Exceptional Funding. There are consequences across all sectors of the organisation when any council's reserves are reduced in a manner inconsistent with this policy.

Budget Process

The method of increasing funding levels for individual councils is through a contestable funding application at the April budget setting meeting. Applications can be for either a one-off funding allocation for a specific project, or for ongoing additional funding. The latter in effect raises the total baseline funding level for that council.

The funding required to cover base funds and approved contestable funding is assessed against the expected licence sales for the year ahead (established from analysis of the last two-year sales trends, considering the implications of COVID-19 and border restrictions) to determine the new licence fees.

This process is summarised in the following budget cycle:

Feb	NZC set regional base funds for the 2023/24 year at \$10,600,219. All council budgets reviewed against audited actual expenditure. Budgets over or under 10% variance are reported against, reviewed and discussed at a meeting of regional managers. The variance reports for the 2021/22 year are prepared and discussed.
March	Preparation of business and operational work plans for new financial year (NFY). Draft budgets developed by NZC and regional councils.
April	Councils apply for 'new' contestable funding with applications circulated beforehand, reviewed against criteria, considered and prioritised at the meeting of regional managers, which recommends the allocation of contestable funds, research and legal fund allocations and new licence fees. NZC meet (by Zoom) with the Chairs of each region to consider the contestable funding applications.
April/May	NZC make recommendation on licence fees, having considered base funding levels and contestable fund applications, and send to regional councils for consideration.
May/June	Regional councils consider NZC licence fee recommendation. Due back to NZC 12 June.
June	NZC consider regional response and finalise licence fee recommendations for approval by the Minister of Conservation. (15 June)

The recommended licence fee is effectively set by dividing the sum of the proposed budgets of the

13 Councils by the number of the adult whole season licence equivalents that Fish and Game NZ expects to sell during the year (LEQ targets).¹

2023/24 Licence LEQ Forecast

The following table represents the approved forecast for the Licence sales for Fish and Game for the 2023/24 season. Total LEQ Fish 74,060 and Game 31,763.

The forecast which was recommended by the Licence Working Party. The Forecast has taken into consideration:

- The return of overseas anglers (post COVID-19).
- The impact of Cyclone Gabrielle on the Hawke's Bay region.
- The Non-Resident licence levy being included in the licence fee calculation.

	Actual 2020/21		Actual 2021/22		Budget 2022/23		Projected 23/24	
	Fish	Game	Fish	Game	Fish	Game	Fish	Game
Northland	262	1,630	213	1,578	218	1,626	370	1,552
Auckland\Waikato	3,792	6,516	3,204	6,306	2,966	6,515	3,729	6,201
Eastern	9,197	3,042	8,652	3,022	8,564	3,041	8,663	3,012
Hawkes Bay	2,572	1,849	2,462	1,916	2,532	1,849	1,879	1,916
Taranaki	897	1,111	855	1,113	855	1,110	938	1,113
Wellington	3,252	3,406	3,229	3,409	3,312	3,406	2,807	3,409
Nelson-Marlb	3,483	923	3,444	899	3,753	923	4,599	887
Nth Canterbury	11,490	2,507	10,951	2,423	10,816	2,507	11,148	2,381
West Coast	1,875	392	1,733	369	1,805	391	2,208	358
Central SI	11,680	2,173	11,580	2,233	11,648	2,172	12,937	2,233
Otago	14,539	4,179	14,823	4,079	15,541	4,179	15,614	4,029
Southland	7,739	4,834	8,062	4,726	8,617	4,834	9,167	4,672
NZC only								
National inc Research								
TOTAL	70,780	32,562	69,208	32,073	70,627	32,553	74,060	31,763

Note the projected LEQ for Fish Licence sales is higher than the previous years due to the Non-Resident levy portion now being incorporated into the Licence fee. This increase equates to approximately 4,000 additional LEQ's.

Following Components Featured in the 2023/24 Budget Discussions:

Contestable Funding Applications

A total of 90 contestable funding applications were received (up from 83 last year), seeking additional funding of \$2,965,090 (last year \$1,748,254). A major factor in this was the contestable funding applications for remuneration and CPI, following the NZC recommendation to ensure all staff were paid at "meeting the market" at the NZC February 2023 meeting.

During the managers' meeting, the managers recommended that meeting the current market was

¹ A licence equivalent (LEQ) sets the adult whole season licence as the standard unit of measure with a value of one (1) and other categories of licence are amalgamated as adult whole season equivalents in accordance with their proportionate value of the adult whole season licence. For example, the value of a junior whole season licence is 20% of an adult whole season licence. Therefore 5 junior whole season licences equal 1 LEQ.

required and the figures were updated to reflect the most up to date market information.

Budgets for all councils making application for increased funding were received and circulated for review prior to the April Managers meeting.

Contestable Funding Recommendations

Managers considered all contestable funding applications and assigned each a priority rating. These recommendations were put forward to the NZC.

NZC considered the Managers recommendations and the comments provided by Chairs. Applications totalling \$2,700,560 (\$668,371 from reserves) have been approved for funding, including provision for national RMA/legal funding.

Of this, \$765,000 was recommended for funding on a one-off basis from the Licence fee, meaning this funding would be freed-up and become available in next year's budget round.

Research Fund Allocation

To avoid inflating the budget in any one year an allocation is made annually to the Research Fund. The annual Research Budget (\$130k) has been split between General Research (\$75k), the National Anglers Survey (\$30k) and the Research for PhD (Cawthron \$25k).

There were three applications to the Research fund considered by the Managers and NZC;

- a. Australasian Shoveler management research \$8,000
- b. Licence sale insights \$21,000; and
- c. Trout populations and relationships with habitats \$38,700

The NZC agreed to fund all three applications.

There was also an application within the Contestable Funding round for \$25,000 per annum (ongoing) towards the General Research Fund, which was approved. This increases the Annual Research budget to \$155k. (General \$100k, NAS \$30k and Cawthron PhD \$25k)

Staff Development Fund

A staff scholarship of \$10,000 is available annually for Fish and Game staff to apply for support from the organisation for national and international study, work experience or participation in events or conferences.

There was one application to this fund for the 2023/24 year. The application from Steve Dixon was approved to the total value of \$6,000.

RMA/Legal Fund Allocation

The RMA/Legal fund receives budget allocations on a reimbursement basis. It covers payment of costs through a national fund rather than separate funding allocations in individual council's budgets where approved legal projects occur.

It was agreed that contestable funding of \$440,000 be allocated to the national legal pool fund for this 2023/24 year, an increase of \$90,000 from last year.

The NZC approved \$100,000 to Auckland Waikato for the Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 (Healthy Rivers).

The application from North Canterbury for \$180,000 for the Rakaia River Water Conservation Order was also approved.

2023/24 NZC Contestable Funding Approval and 2023/24 Budgets

The NZC approved contestable funding applications at a total value of \$2,700,560. Of this, \$1,267,189 were ongoing from the Licence fee, \$765,000 were one off from the Licence fee and \$668,371 were one-off from reserves.

The attached Table 5 (**Appendix 1**), sets out the full list of approved contestable funding applications with the approval rating from the Managers and the final approval from the NZC. Any figures highlighted in yellow have been adjusted from the original application during the Managers or NZC meetings to reflect the approved value.

The proposed budget for the 13 Fish and Game councils for 2023/24 (including funding from reserves) is \$13,300,779. Individual budgets are shown in the Table 2 below alongside the previous financial year (both shown as GST exclusive).

Note that of the \$1,047,832 approved for the National budget, the ongoing amount includes a total of **\$891,832** which has been allocated to the Remuneration Review. At present, this budget sits within the National budget and will be allocated to regions as the remuneration is distributed amongst the regions with this process to take place over the next month in consultation with Corina, Jane and the regions. When this remuneration process has been undertaken, the budget will move from the National budget to the appropriate region.

Table 2: National Approved Budget - DRAFT

	Original Base Line Budget 2023 24	Approved CF Licence Fee ongoing	Approved CF from Licence Fee - One off	Approve d CF from Reserves - One off	Approved Budget 2023/24 (inc from Reserves)
Northland	462,860	81,060	0	10,537	554,457
Auckland\Waikato	855,684	10,000	0	38,137	903,821
Eastern	1,151,697	8,960	0	43,209	1,203,866
Hawkes Bay	380,624	0	0	96,226	476,850
Taranaki	370,769	3,000	0	1,244	375,013
Wellington	734,853	17,000	0	14,242	766,095
Nelson-Marlb	508,575	11,950	0	32,704	553,228
Nth Canterbury	874,882	13,887	0	74,521	963,290
West Coast	351,136	0	0	5,895	357,031
Central SI	776,533	8,000	0	119,184	903,717
Otago	1,051,410	11,500	0	70,819	1,133,729
Southland	700,801	25,000	0	161,655	887,456
NZC only	1,169,795	29,000	50,000	0	1,248,795
National inc Research	1,210,600	1,047,832	715,000	0	2,973,432
TOTAL	10,600,219	1,267,189	765,000	668,371	13,300,779 ²

NZ Game Bird Habitat Stamp

The NZC recommended the Game Bird Habitat Stamp for 2023/24 remain at \$5.

² National issues include the cost of shared services benefiting the organisation nationwide, such as the special editions of the FISH AND GAME magazine, the FISH AND GAME NZ website, licence administration system, administration of elections, ranger health & safety training, etc.

Licence Fee Recommendations

At the February 2023 NZC meeting, the NZC recommended an indicative licence fee of \$149 for Fish and \$109 for Game.

The Managers recommend a licence fee of \$152 for Fish and \$112 for game (inclusive of the GBHT \$5 levy).

The Managers also recommended a \$5 Designated Waters annual licence fee for all regions for resident anglers and a \$40 Designated Waters day licence for non-resident anglers.

NZC Licence Fee Recommendation

The NZC recommend that the 2023/2024 licence fee be based on a sports fish adult whole season fee of \$153 and the game adult whole season licence \$113 (inclusive of the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) (GST inclusive) and for all other licence categories to increase proportionally. This represents an increase of 5.5% for Fish and 5.6% for Game against a December 2022 CPI figure of 7.2%.

The NZC recommended that the Sports Fish and Game licence categories be maintained at the same ratios as previous years.

Recommended licence fees are set out in the schedule at the end of this letter.

Total income including interest is \$12,623,224. The Cost of Sales (COS) is the commission and bank transaction charges relating to the sale of licences is budgeted at 4.5% of licence income.

Table 3: Total Income Summary 2023/24					
TOTAL Licence Income					
	Net Licence				
	TOTAL F & G	Total COS	Income	Interest	Net Income
Northland	194,951	8,773	186,178	10,304	196,482
Auckland\Waikato	1,078,474	48,531	1,029,943	10,413	1,040,356
Eastern	1,435,443	64,595	1,370,848	31,617	1,402,466
Hawkes Bay	429,893	19,345	410,548	29,522	440,069
Taranaki	229,350	10,321	219,030	6,441	225,471
Wellington	693,635	31,214	662,421	29,638	692,059
Nelson-Marlb	695,168	31,283	663,885	7,883	671,768
Nth Canterbury	1,706,775	76,805	1,629,970	21,452	1,651,422
West Coast	327,334	14,730	312,604	15,140	327,744
Central SI	1,930,891	86,890	1,844,001	37,798	1,881,800
Otago	2,455,777	110,510	2,345,267	56,757	2,402,024
Southland	1,658,371	74,627	1,583,745	42,769	1,626,514
NZC only	0	0	0	65,050	65,050
National inc Research	0	0	0	-	-
TOTAL	12,836,062	577,623	12,258,439	364,785	12,623,224

Modification to Licence Categories and Ratios with whole Season Fees

The NZ Council agreed that the sports fish categories and ratios be broadly maintained the same as previous years.

There are, however, three exceptions to this:

1. Sea run salmon licence endorsement

To recoup on the administrative costs of running the sea run salmon season bag limit system the \$5 will continue to be charged for the sea run salmon licence endorsement. This fee will only be applicable to regions that are operating a season bag limit scheme – currently, North Canterbury and CSI.

2. Designated waters licence category with fee

NZC, following consultation with all regions, have agreed to a new licence category called a 'Designated Waters Licence', which will replace the Backcountry Licence. This licence category would operate as a daily fee of \$40 for non-resident anglers and as a \$5 annual licence per Fish and Game Region for resident anglers.

Regional Fish and Game Councils will recommend the waterways for which a Designated Waters Licence would be required as part of their Anglers Notice recommendations.

NZC also agreed that the income from the sale of Dedicated Waters licences will accrue in a dedicated reserve within the region that sold the licence for the management of sensitive fisheries.

Overall Forecast Position and Use of Reserves

The recommendation for licence fee of \$153 and \$113, along with the recommendation of a total budget of \$13,300,779 creates an overall deficit of \$677,555

Net Licence Sales				12,258,439
Interest				364,785
Total Income				12,623,224
Less Approved Budget				13,300,779
Total Surplus/(Deficit)				-677,555

Approval for regions to use their reserves to cover one off projects for the year totals \$668,371. Most of this is being drawn from the non-resident levy reserve. Additionally, regions are required to use their reserves to cover the shortfall of \$9,184. This latter amount represents an additional 0.07% use of reserves. (\$668,371 plus \$9,184 equals the total deficit of \$677,555).

One region, Nelson/Marlborough may fall below the 20% reserves and require a top up of \$29,916. However, this is dependent on the non-resident levy that is earned in the current financial year.

Conclusion

The NZ Council seeks consultation from Fish and Game regional councils on the following points:

1. **The licence fees and categories as set out in the appended schedule (Appendix 2) and specifically:**
 - a. **That the 2023/24 adult whole season sports fish licence fee is set at \$153 and that the adult whole season game licence is set at \$113 (inclusive of a \$5 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp), with all proportional changes to remaining licence fees and categories including a \$5 fee being added to the sea run salmon licence endorsement (as a cost-recovery mechanism).**
 - b. **That a new licence category is established called a Designated Waters Licence, available as a \$5 annual licence per Fish and Game region for resident anglers and as a day licence to non-resident anglers at a fee of \$40.**

To enable the NZC to consider feedback and make recommendations to the Minister of Conservation at its 15 June 2023 meeting, responses to these changes are requested to be submitted by the close of business on **12 June 2023**.



Corina Jordan
Chief Executive
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Appendix 1

Table 5: Contestable Fund Application Summary 2023-2024																
App No	Region	Project Code	Description	L	B	Additional \$ Sought	MM Recommendation	NZC Recommendation	1 Not Recommended (1)	2 Good To Do but not essential (2)	3 Recommended but not essential (3)	4 Essential Whole Organisation & Or individual Council (4)	5 Withdrawn (5)	APPROVED Ongoing Licence Fee	APPROVED One Off Licence Fee	APPROVED from Reserves
Northland																
NTH 001	\$ 482,880	1910	Additional REM moved to National	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NTH 002		1910	Salaries for Far North Position	L	B	81,060	1	4	0	0	0	81,060	0	81,060	0	0
NTH 003		1631	Prosecutions	R	O	3,000	3	4	0	0	0	3,000	0	0	0	3,000
NTH 004		ARF	New Spray Unit	R	C	6,000	3	4	0	0	0	6,000	0	0	0	6,000
NAT		DW	% cost of DW program	R	O	1,537	4	4	0	0	0	1,537	0	0	0	1,537
NTH 005		1910	REM Salaries - moved to National	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Northland						91,597			0	0	0	91,597	0	81,060	0	10,537
Auckland/Waikato																
AW 001	\$ 855,684	1990	Vehicles Costs	L	B	8,000	3	4	0	0	0	8,000	0	8,000	0	0
AW 002		1911	Additional REM - Moved to National	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AW 003		1110	Population Monitoring	L	B	2,000	3	4	0	0	0	2,000	0	2,000	0	0
AW 004		1911	REM Salaries - Moved to National	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAT		DW	% cost of DW program	R	O	8,137	4	4	0	0	0	8,137	0	0	0	8,137
AW 005	CF Missed	1911	Salaries for Trainee	R	O	30,000	1	4	0	0	0	30,000	0	0	0	30,000
TOTAL Auckland/Waikato						48,137			0	0	0	48,137	0	10,000	0	38,137
Eastern																
East 001	\$ 1,151,697	1119	Population Monitoring	L	B	3,000	4	4	0	0	0	3,000	0	3,000	0	0
East 002		1721	Council Expenses	L	B	1,500	3	4	0	0	0	1,500	0	1,500	0	0
East 003		1900	Insurance and Rates	L	B	4,460	4	4	0	0	0	4,460	0	4,460	0	0
East 004		ARF	ARF Funding	R	O	10,155	3	4	0	0	0	10,155	0	0	0	10,155
EST a		1910	Additional REM moved to National	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East 005		1910	REM Salaries - moved to National	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAT		DW	% cost of DW program	R	O	13,054	4	4	0	0	0	13,054	0	0	0	13,054
East 006		1144	Lake Tarawera Food Web Monitoring	R	O	20,000	4	4	0	0	0	20,000	0	0	0	20,000
TOTAL Eastern						52,169			0	0	0	52,169	0	8,960	0	43,209
Hawke's Bay																
NAT	\$ 380,624	DW	No CF Applications for 2023 24	R	O	5,652	4	4	0	0	0	5,652	0	0	0	5,652
			Use of Reserves for reduction in Fish Sales	R	O	90,574	4	4	0	0	0	90,574	0	0	0	90,574
TOTAL Hawke's Bay						96,226			0	0	0	96,226	0	0	0	96,226
Taranaki																
Tara 001	\$ 370,769	1910	REM Salaries - Moved to national	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tara 001a		1910	Additional REM - Moved to National	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAT		DW	% cost of DW program	R	O	1,244	4	4	0	0	0	1,244	0	0	0	1,244
Tara 002		1110	Population Monitoring	L	B	3,000	3	4	0	0	0	3,000	0	3,000	0	0
TOTAL Taranaki						4,244			0	0	0	4,244	0	3,000	0	1,244

Table 5: Contestable Fund Application Summary 2023-2024

App No	Region	Project Code	Description	L	B	Additional \$ Sought	MM Recommendation	NZC Recommendation	1 Not Recommended (1)	2 Good To Do but not essential (2)	3 Recommended but not essential (3)	4 Essential Whole Organisation & Or Individual Council (4)	5 Withdrawn (5)	APPROVED Ongoing Licence Fee	APPROVED One Off Licence Fee	APPROVED from Reserves
	Wellington								0	0	0					
Well 001	\$ 734,853	1910	REM Salaries - Moved to National	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Well 002		1910	Additional REM - moved to National	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Well 003		ARF	ARF Funding	R	O	11,151	3	4	0	0	0	11,151	0	0	0	11,151
Well 004		1922	FBT	L	B	7,000	3	4	0	0	0	7,000	0	7,000	0	0
Well 005		1990	Vehicles Costs	L	B	10,000	3	4	0	0	0	10,000	0	10,000	0	0
NAT 018		DW	% cost of DW program	R	O	3,091	4	4	0	0	0	3,091	0	0	0	3,091
	TOTAL Wellington					31,242			0	0	0	31,242	0	17,000	0	14,242
	Nelson/Mariborough															
NelM 001	\$ 508,575	1121	Game Harvest Survey	L	B	1,500	3	4	0	0	0	1,500	0	1,500	0	0
NelM 002		1834	Audit Fee	L	B	2,150	3	4	0	0	0	2,150	0	2,150	0	0
NelM 003		1900	Insurance	L	B	1,300	3	4	0	0	0	1,300	0	1,300	0	0
NelM 004		1222	Works and Mngt Willow Control- NEW	L	B	7,000	3	4	0	0	0	7,000	0	7,000	0	0
NelM 005		1910	Additional REM - moved to national	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NelM 006		1940	REM Salaries - Moved to National	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NelM 007		NEW	Relationships with Iwi	R	O	17,380	4	4	0	0	0	17,380	0	0	0	17,380
NAT 018		DW	% cost of DW program	R	O	15,324	4	4	0	0	0	15,324	0	0	0	15,324
	TOTAL Nelson/Mariborough					44,654			0	0	0	44,654	0	11,950	0	32,704
	North Canterbury															
NC 001	\$ 874,882	1910	REM Salaries - movd to National	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NC 002		1910	Additional REM - moved to National	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NC 003		1110	Population Monitoring	L	B	8,887	3	4	0	0	0	8,887	0	8,887	0	0
NC 004		1970	Insurance	L	B	5,000	3	4	0	0	0	5,000	0	5,000	0	0
NC 005		NEW	Designated Waters	R	O	60,136	4	4	0	0	0	60,136	0	0	0	60,136
NAT 018		DW	% cost of DW program	R	O	14,385	4	4	0	0	0	14,385	0	0	0	14,385
	TOTAL North Cant					88,408			0	0	0	88,408	0	13,887	0	74,521
	West Coast															
NAT 018	\$ 351,136	DW	No CF Applications for 2023 24 % cost of DW program	R	O	5,895	4	4	0	0	0	5,895	0	0	0	5,895
	TOTAL West Coast					5,895			0	0	0	5,895	0	0	0	5,895
	Central South Island															
CSI 001	\$ 776,533	1110	Population Monitoring - Spawning	L	B	6,000	3	4	0	0	0	6,000	0	6,000	0	0
CSI 002		1150	Population Monitoring - Gamebird	L	B	2,000	3	4	0	0	0	2,000	0	2,000	0	0
CSI 003		1152	Population Monitoring - Shelduck	L	O	2,500	1	1	2,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CSI 004		2230	Devil's Bridge Mngt and Reconsenting	R	O	6,000	5	5	0	0	0	0	6,000	0	0	0
CSI 005		1110	Population Monitoring - Lake Benmore Trout	R	O	10,300	3	4	0	0	0	10,300	0	0	0	10,300
CSI 006		ARF	Capex for digny/trailer/monitoring RMA	R	C	26,000	3	4	0	0	0	26,000	0	0	0	26,000
CSI 007		2320	Deep Stream restoration RMA	R	O	5,000	3	4	0	0	0	5,000	0	0	0	5,000
CSI 008		3240	Canal Fishery Valuation RMA	R	O	44,000	3	4	0	0	0	44,000	0	0	0	44,000
CSI 009		1910	New Staff Member	L	B	120,000	1	1	120,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CSI 010		1910	REM Salaries - Moved to National	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CSI 011		1910	Additional REM - moved to National	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CSI 012		ARF	Use Funds in ARF Reserve	R	O	15,000	4	4	0	0	0	15,000	0	0	0	15,000
NAT 018		DW	% cost of DW program	R	O	18,884	4	4	0	0	0	18,884	0	0	0	18,884
	TOTAL Central South Island					255,684			122,500	0	0	127,184	6,000	8,000	0	119,184
	Otago															
OTG 001	\$ 1,051,410	1940	Office Cost increases	L	B	11,500	3	4	0	0	0	11,500	0	11,500	0	0
OTG 002		1910	REM Salaries -Moved to National	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTG 003		1910	Additional REM - moved to National	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTG 004		1420	Communications Strategy	R	O	24,000	3	4	0	0	0	24,000	0	0	0	24,000
OTG 005		1220	Wanaka Hatchery Maintenance 2 years	R	O	15,000	3	4	0	0	0	15,000	0	0	0	15,000

Table 5: Contestable Fund Application Summary 2023-2024

App No	Region	Project Code	Description	L	B	Additional \$ Sought	MM Recommendation	NZC Recommendation	1 Not Recommended (1)	2 Good To Do but not essential (2)	3 Recommended but not essential (3)	4 Essential Whole Organisation & Or individual Council (4)	5 Withdrawn (5)	APPROVED Ongoing Licence Fee	APPROVED One Off Licence Fee	APPROVED from Reserves
NAT 018		DW	% cost of DW program	R	O	31,819	4	4	0	0	0	31,819	0	0	0	31,819
	TOTAL Otago					82,319			0	0	0	82,319	0	11,500	0	70,819
	Southland															
STH 001	\$ 700,801	1910	REM Salaries -Moved to National	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STH 001a		1910	Additional REM - moved to national	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STH 002		1910	Salaries for For Te Anau	R	O	83,675	3	4	0	0	0	83,675	0	0	0	83,675
STH 003		1310	Access using Diversion Scheme	R	O	57,000	3	4	0	0	0	57,000	0	0	0	57,000
STH 004			Loss of Income - NIWA	L	B	25,000	3	4	0	0	0	25,000	0	25,000	0	0
NAT 018		DW	% cost of DW program	R	O	20,980	4	4	0	0	0	20,980	0	0	0	20,980
	TOTAL Southland					186,655			0	0	0	186,655	0	25,000	0	161,655
	NZC															
NZC 001	\$ 1,169,795	1710	Council Meetings - Board Pro	L	B	2,500	5	5	0	0	0	0	2,500	0	0	0
NZC 002		1820	Audit Fee	L	B	4,000	4	4	0	0	0	4,000	0	4,000	0	0
NZC 003		1840	CEO travel	L	B	10,000	4	4	0	0	0	10,000	0	10,000	0	0
NZC 004		1720	Council Meetings -Add meeting	L	B	15,000	4	4	0	0	0	15,000	0	15,000	0	0
NZC 005		1720	REM Salaries - Moved to National	L	B	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NZC 006		1910	New Staff Member - HR	L	O	50,000	4	4	0	0	0	50,000	0	0	50,000	0
Barrie			Council Working Groups	L	O	12,000	2	1	12,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL NZC					93,500			12,000	0	0	79,000	2,500	29,000	50,000	0
	National															
NAT 001	\$1,210,600	1822	Maritime Compliance	L	B	5,000	4	4	0	0	0	5,000	0	5,000	0	0
NAT 002		1710	Regulations	L	B	10,000	4	4	0	0	0	10,000	0	10,000	0	0
REM		1910	National REM to be allocated by Councils	L	B	891,832	4	4	0	0	0	891,832	0	891,832	0	0
NAT 003		1332	National Magazine	L	B	50,000	3	1	50,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAT 004		1213	Lexis Nexis - RMA	L	B	9,000	4	4	0	0	0	9,000	0	9,000	0	0
NAT 005		1221	Research	L	B	25,000	4	4	0	0	0	25,000	0	25,000	0	0
NAT 006		1811	Managers Meetings	L	B	15,000	3	3	0	0	15,000	0	0	0	0	0
NAT 007		Reserves	Top up reserves	L	O	160,000	4	4	0	0	0	160,000	0	0	160,000	0
NAT 008		NEW	HR Subscription	L	B	20,000	4	4	0	0	0	20,000	0	20,000	0	0
NAT 009		NEW	RMA Training	L	B	10,000	1	1	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAT 010		1810	RMA Team Meeting	L	B	10,000	4	4	0	0	0	10,000	0	10,000	0	0
NAT 011		1281	Social Licence	L	B	28,000	2	4	0	0	0	28,000	0	28,000	0	0
NAT 012		1612	Licensing Support	L	B	10,000	4	4	0	0	0	10,000	0	10,000	0	0
NAT 013		1512	Compliance Support	L	B	12,000	4	4	0	0	0	12,000	0	12,000	0	0
NAT 014		1424	Communication Support	L	B	27,000	4	4	0	0	0	27,000	0	27,000	0	0
NAT 015		1211	RMA - Legal Fund	L	O	440,000	4	4	0	0	0	440,000	0	0	440,000	0
NAT 016		1220	Research - Optimisation model	L	O	45,000	4	4	0	0	0	45,000	0	0	45,000	0
NAT 017		1815	HR Support - Travel to regions	L	O	10,000	4	4	0	0	0	10,000	0	0	10,000	0
NAT 018		NEW	Designated Waters - NR Reserves	R	O	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAT 019		1810	Comms and Advocacy Team Meeting	L	B	15,000	1	1	15,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAT 020		1820	Fish Specialist Team meeting	L	B	15,000	1	1	15,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAT 021		1821	Game Specialist Team meeting	L	B	15,000	1	1	15,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NAT 022		NEW	Population Monitoring and Analysis SOP	L	O	60,000	4	4	0	0	0	60,000	0	0	60,000	0
	TOTAL National					1,882,832			105,000	0	15,000	1,762,832	0	1,047,832	715,000	0
	TOTAL					\$ 2,963,560			\$ 239,500	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ 2,700,560	\$ 8,500	\$ 1,267,189	\$ 765,000	\$ 668,371

APPENDIX 2

Schedule of FISH AND GAME NZ's proposed Licence & Fees for 2023/24 (inclusive of GST)

Sports Fish Licence		2022/23	2023/24	
Category of licence	Applicant Class	Current fee \$	Proposed fee\$	Fee difference
Whole season (1 Oct – 30 Sep)	Adult	145	153	\$8.00
	Junior	29	31	\$2.00
	Child	free	free	Nil
Family		188	198	\$10.00
Non-resident Whole season	Adult	250	264	\$14.00
	Junior	47	50	\$3.00
	Child	47	50	\$3.00
Winter (1 Apr – 30 Sep)	Adult	87	92	\$5.00
Loyal senior	Adult	123	130	\$7.00
Local area	Adult	116	122	\$6.00
Short-break	Adult	52	55	\$3.00
Long-break	Adult	101	107	\$6.00
Day	Adult	23	24	\$1.00
	Junior	5	5	Nil
Non-resident Day	Adult	35	37	\$2.00
	Junior	21	22	\$1.00
	Child	21	22	\$1.00
Controlled-period		free	free	Nil
Sea Run Salmon		\$5	\$5	Nil
Designated Waters-resident	Season	Nil	\$5	\$5
Designated Waters- non-resident	Day	Nil	\$40	\$40

Game Bird Licence*		2023	2024	
Category of licence	Applicant Class	Current fee \$	Proposed fee\$	Fee difference
Whole season (primarily 1st Sat in May to 31 Aug)	Adult	107	113	\$6.00
	Junior	25	26	\$1.00
	Child	5	5	Nil
Day (available from 2nd Monday of season)	Adult	25	26	\$1.00
	Junior	9	10	\$1.00

All licence category fees are set as a percentage of the fish or game adult whole season fee and rounded to the nearest \$, hence in some instances the fee difference remains nil.

*Game bird hunting licence fee includes the \$5 NZ Game Bird Habitat Stamp.

Notes:

- A junior means a person aged 12 years or over, but under 18 years at the start of the season.
- A child means a person aged under 12 years at the start of the season.
- Designated Waters, Sea Run Salmon and Controlled-Period licence entitles an adult or junior whole season or family fish licence holder to fish in specified waters or for specified species.
- Whole Season for sports fish extends from 1 October through to 30 September the following year.
- Whole Season for game birds can extend from the first Saturday in May to beyond the traditional closing dates for upland game hunting at the end of August due to special season conditions between February to April the following year for some species, eg. Paradise shelduck and Pukeko.
- A Game Bird Habitat Stamp fee of \$5.00 (incl GST) is payable on all categories of game hunting licence and is included in the fees shown in the game hunting licence table above.

8.0 Public Excluded Items

- 8.1 Minutes of Otago Fish and Game Council meeting 23rd March 2023**
- 8.2 Habitat Enhancement Application – Bullock Creek**
- 8.3 Draft National Remuneration Policy**
- 8.4 Wanaka Storm Water Update**
- 8.5 Contact Energy Update**

9.0 Financial Report

Finance and Licence Sales 30th April 2023

9.1 Finance Reports

The financial Profit and Loss report and Balance sheet for the period from 1st September 2022 to 30th April 2023 are below.

Expenditure at the 30th April for the 2022/23 financial year is \$1,721,683 (including levies \$800.055, agent commission \$75,676, depreciation \$37,024.

This also includes \$102,661 of approved spending from our reserves.

The annual expenditure budget including levies is \$2,505,806.

Budget and expenditure figures are exclusive of GST.

The draft accounts show a surplus at 30th April 2023 of \$484,907.

Bank Funds Position at 30th April 2023

ANZ 00 account \$163,881.22

ANZ 70 account \$239,832.53

Term Investments as at 30th April 2023

ASB 0079 \$376,399.25 @ 4.55% Maturing 11th July 2023

ANZ \$507,013.76 @ 3.75% Maturing on 16th May 2023

ANZ \$400,000 @ 5.05% Maturing on 25th September 2023 (NEW March 2023)

Donations and Grants (not in budget)

Donation/Grant from	For	Amount GST excl
RICOH	Native Trees	1,000
Mt Aspiring Station	Bullock Creek Planting	60
Kaiwhakahaere Kaupapa Taiao	Bullock Creek Planting	300
Otago Community Trust	Take a Kid Fishing	2,900
W Houliston	Take a Kid Fishing	200
NZ Salmon Angers (Otago Branch)	Take a Kid Fishing	1,500
Total		\$5,960

Doubtful Debtors

nil

Capital Expenditure and Sales

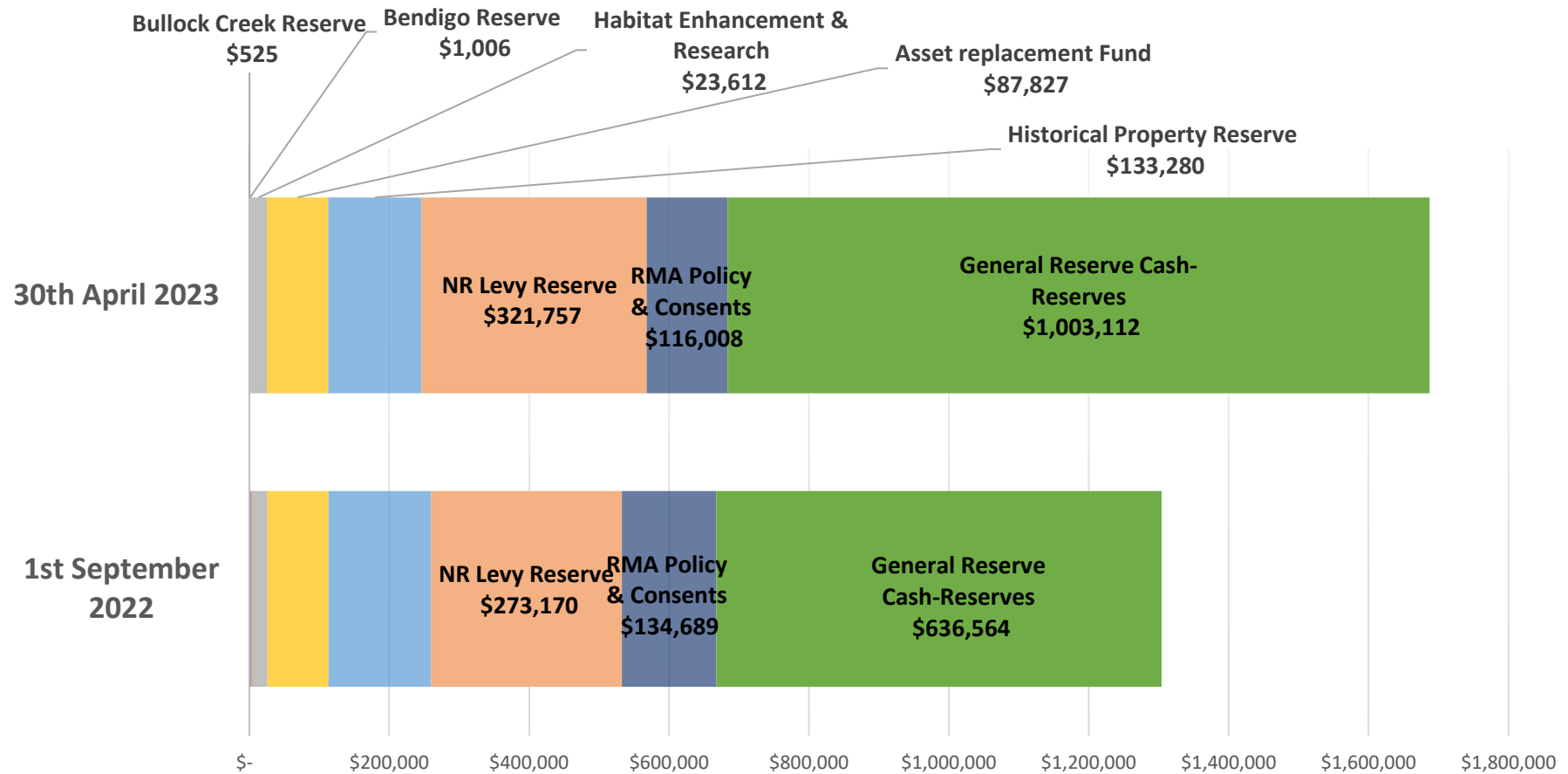
Niro electric car arrives on 17 May 2023 at a cost of \$57,559.20 plus GST

Otago Fish and Game Reserves 30th April 2023

Otago Reserves Movements	Balance August 2022	Income (To) Reserve	Note	Outgoing (From) Reserve	Balance Feb 2023
Back Country Non-resident Levy	\$273,170	\$96,307	1	\$47,720	\$321,757
Habitat Enhancement & Research	\$20,642	\$5,970	2	\$3,000	\$23,612
Bullock Creek Reserve	\$3,121	\$360		\$2,956	\$525
Bendigo Reserve	\$2,039	\$3,000	9	\$4,033	\$1,006
Mining Rights Reserve	\$17,537		3	\$17,537	0
Priority Consents Reserve	\$41,697		7	\$	\$41,697
Historical Property Reserves	\$146,433	\$13,118	4	\$26,271	\$133,280
Regional Policy Statement Reserve	\$44,379		5	\$1,144	\$43,235
Priority Plan Changes	\$31,076		6	\$	\$31,076
Total	\$580,094	\$118,755		\$102,661	\$596,188
NZC RMA/Legal Funding					
Regional Policy Extra	60,000	\$	8	\$42,449	\$17,551.00

- Note 1 \$5000 a year for five years is to be taken from the Non resident fund for the Dr Donald Scott University Fund beginning. Agreed by Council May 2021. 2021/22 is year three. Budget for 2022/23 Acoustic Central lake surveys \$38,930 and Lakes summer advocates \$24,000 from this reserve.
- Note 2 Balance is \$23,612. Less committed but not yet paid out of \$10,500 so balance of \$13,112 is available for dispersal by way of grants.
- Note 3 \$150,000 (Mining Rights) approved prior to 2018 by NZC from our reserves. Includes \$80,000 of Lindis expenses, agreed by Council July 2019. **Remaining balance \$17,537 was put back into general reserves 23rd March 2023 as agreed at March meeting**
- Note 4 Historical Property Reserve, used on development of the Wanaka site
- Note 5 OF&GC agreed to \$60,000 May 2020. NZC notified.
- Note 6 OF&GC agreed to \$120,000 May 2020. NZC notified. \$81,000 agreed to be spent by council September 2020.
- Note 7 OF&GC agreed to \$60,000 May 2020. NZC notified.
- Note 8 August 2021 NZC approved the use of \$60,000 to be reimbursed by the Regional RMA legal fund towards our Regional Policy Planning Costs
- Note 9 May 2022 and March 2023 council agreed to Habitat Enhancement funds for Bendigo

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2022 TO 30TH APRIL 2023



Balance Sheet

Otago Fish and Game Council As at 30 April 2023

	30 APR 2023	31 AUG 2022
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank	403,894	432,082
Receivables		
Accounts Receivable	351,014	77,117
Total Receivables	351,014	77,117
GST	(12,434)	42,695
Investments	1,283,413	872,159
Inventory	21,151	21,151
Accrued Interest	-	4,959
Accounts Receivable - Other	199	-
Total Current Assets	2,047,237	1,450,162
Fixed Assets		
Property Plant & Equipment	1,315,336	1,348,413
Total Fixed Assets	1,315,336	1,348,413
Credit Card SM 6180	(1,175)	(3,799)
Total Assets	3,361,398	2,794,777
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	166,018	74,951
Other Payables	202,246	192,806
Employee Entitlements	39,017	60,441
Rounding	-	-
Salmon Endorsement	2,722	91
Total Current Liabilities	410,003	328,289
Total Liabilities	410,003	328,289
Net Assets	2,951,395	2,466,488
Equity		
Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated Funds	1,622,094	1,607,045
Current Year Earnings	484,907	15,049
Transfer (To)/From Reserves	160,378	176,937
Total Accumulated Funds	2,267,379	1,799,031
Dedicated Reserves		
Non Resident Levy Reserve	321,757	273,170
Habitat Enhancement & Research	23,612	20,642
Priority Plan Changes Reserve	31,076	31,076
Priority Consents Reserve	41,697	41,697

	30 APR 2023	31 AUG 2022
Regional Policy Statement Reserve	43,235	44,379
Mining Privileges Reserve	-	17,537
Historical Property Reserve	133,280	146,433
Renovation Reserve	-	-
Asset Replacement Funding	87,827	87,363
Total Dedicated Reserves	682,484	662,296
Restricted Reserves		
Bullock Creek Reserve	525	3,121
Bendigo Reserve	1,007	2,039
Total Restricted Reserves	1,532	5,161
Total Equity	2,951,395	2,466,488

Profit and Loss

Otago Fish and Game Council For the 8 months ended 30 April 2023

	MAR 2023	APR 2023	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Income								
Licence Sales								
Fish Licence Sales	18,655	71,866	1,805,167	1,959,517	(154,350)	92%	1,959,517	1,750,886
Non-Resident Licence Revenue	4,426	14,275	96,307	-	96,307	-	-	10,364
Game Licence Sales	64,611	152,440	217,318	247,106	(29,788)	88%	370,659	340,189
Total Licence Sales	87,692	238,581	2,118,792	2,206,623	(87,831)	96%	2,330,176	2,101,439
Other Income								
Contact Energy Mitigation Income	12,790	8,153	20,943	-	20,943	-	-	94,109
Reserves Mngt Income	-	-	-	864	(864)	-	1,300	-
Govt Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,210
Interest Income	1,471	824	14,436	10,218	4,218	141%	15,322	14,008
Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	28	-	137	1,336	(1,199)	10%	2,000	265
Rent Received	3,699	1,811	37,125	37,584	(459)	99%	56,386	60,320
Fishing Competitions	558	-	1,523	-	1,523	-	-	493
Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,080
Donations & Grants	-	-	5,960	-	5,960	-	-	4,249
Merchandise Sales/Other	17	17	200	-	200	-	-	196
Sundry Income	-	-	1,503	-	1,503	-	-	7,582
Diversion - Habitat Enhancement and Research Fund	500	1,650	5,970	-	5,970	-	-	14,700
Total Other Income	19,063	12,456	87,798	50,002	37,796	176%	75,008	219,212
Total Income	106,756	251,037	2,206,590	2,256,625	(50,035)	98%	2,405,184	2,320,651
Gross Profit	106,756	251,037	2,206,590	2,256,625	(50,035)	98%	2,405,184	2,320,651

	MAR 2023	APR 2023	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Expenses								
Species Management								
Population Monitoring	10	3,825	37,401	32,624	4,777	115%	48,930	12,844
Harvest Assessment	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000	3,500
Hatchery Operations	2,418	-	9,469	6,000	3,469	158%	9,000	1,792
Releases	-	-	473	668	(195)	71%	1,000	911
Game Bird Control compliants	-	-	444	-	444	-	-	750
Total Species Management	2,428	3,825	47,787	39,292	8,495	122%	60,930	19,797
Habitat Protection & Mngt								
Contact Sports Fish Management Plan	6,429	8,153	16,738	-	16,738	-	-	53,487
Resource Mngt Act	-	10	10	668	(658)	2%	1,000	57,010
Works & Management	-	50	861	3,336	(2,475)	26%	5,000	3,131
Habitat Enhancement Research Fund Grants	-	-	2,870	-	2,870	-	-	-
Total Habitat Protection & Mngt	6,429	8,213	20,479	4,004	16,475	511%	6,000	113,628
Participation								
Access and Signage	389	-	1,767	1,668	99	106%	2,500	2,681
Back Country Surveys/Monitoring	-	-	116	-	116	-	-	-
Publications and Web Site	450	-	3,350	-	3,350	-	-	-
OF&G Training Events	703	474	2,441	1,834	607	133%	2,000	2,023
Club Relations and Grants	-	-	-	668	(668)	-	1,000	1,132
Total Participation	1,542	474	7,674	4,170	3,504	184%	5,500	5,836
PUBLIC INTERFACE								
World Wetlands	-	-	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	1,000	-
Liaison	-	-	200	666	(466)	30%	1,000	566
Media Releases	4,667	4,666	14,013	9,994	4,019	140%	14,840	361
Total PUBLIC INTERFACE	4,667	4,666	14,212	11,660	2,552	122%	16,840	927

	MAR 2023	APR 2023	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
COMPLIANCE								
Ranger Training and Expenses	1,306	228	4,339	4,666	(327)	93%	5,500	6,543
Compliance	-	-	-	3,332	(3,332)	-	5,000	26
Total COMPLIANCE	1,306	228	4,339	7,998	(3,659)	54%	10,500	6,569
LICENCING								
Agent Servicing	-	-	106	336	(230)	32%	500	441
Commission/Fees	4,535	9,439	75,676	87,380	(11,704)	87%	104,858	85,709
Total LICENCING	4,535	9,439	75,783	87,716	(11,933)	86%	105,358	86,150
COUNCIL								
Council Meetings and Agendas	486	48	7,983	10,000	(2,017)	80%	15,000	14,080
Total COUNCIL	486	48	7,983	10,000	(2,017)	80%	15,000	14,080
PLANNING & REPORTING								
Reporting/Audit	-	-	15,990	16,000	(10)	100%	16,000	16,891
National Liason	-	-	233	1,332	(1,099)	17%	2,000	248
NZC Liaison	-	-	16	-	16	-	-	-
Total PLANNING & REPORTING	-	-	16,239	17,332	(1,093)	94%	18,000	17,139
ADMINISTRATION								
Salaries	70,485	57,938	487,837	545,954	(58,117)	89%	818,935	745,060
Staff Expenses	3,090	87	13,754	21,672	(7,918)	63%	32,000	20,914
Office Premices	2,151	12,801	82,001	69,892	12,109	117%	104,839	105,980
Office Equipment	14	48	976	1,666	(690)	59%	2,500	2,802
Communications	4,649	1,639	14,952	14,602	350	102%	21,900	20,367
General Exp (incl Insurance)	106	57	3,352	3,068	284	109%	3,900	2,794
General Field Equipment	560	617	2,569	2,204	365	117%	3,300	2,962
Vehicles	3,019	2,309	39,561	37,000	2,561	107%	52,000	55,113
Total ADMINISTRATION	84,074	75,496	645,003	696,058	(51,055)	93%	1,039,374	955,993

	MAR 2023	APR 2023	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Approved Reserve Expense	3,245	2,362	21,293	-	21,293	-	-	60,289
Depreciation	4,651	4,650	37,024	2,808	34,216	1,319%	4,222	60,101
Media Release	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	854
NZ Fish & Game Levies	100,007	100,007	800,055	800,048	7	100%	1,200,082	959,241
Publications	400	-	400	-	400	-	-	-
University of Otago Research Grant	-	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
F&G Advocacy at Popular Fisheries	-	-	14,856	24,000	(9,144)	62%	24,000	-
Weekly Fishing Reports/ social media	700	700	2,940	-	2,940	-	-	-
Staff Employment Expenses	-	-	618	-	618	-	-	-
Total Expenses	214,468	210,107	1,721,683	1,705,086	16,597	101%	2,505,806	2,305,602
Net Profit	(107,713)	40,929	484,907	551,539	(66,632)	88%	(100,622)	15,049

9.2 Licence Sales

Fish Licence Sales 2022/23 Season to 30th April 2023

See Appendix 1 for a table showing fish licence sales categories and numbers. This table shows fish licences sales for seasons 2021/22 and 2022/23 to the end of April of the season.

In summary, fishing licence sales in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) 14,480.32 LEQs compared with 14,435.75 LEQs for the same period last year.

Adult and family resident licence sales are down this year. All Non resident categories and day licences are up due to increased international tourism.

Fish licence revenue from the Profit and Loss statement for the 2022/23 season recorded to 30th April 2023 total \$1,901,474 compared with \$1,859,350 for the 2021/22 season. These figures include both resident and non resident sales.

Figures exclude GST and commission to agents.

The 2022/23 budget for fish licence sales is \$1,959,517 exclusive of GST so are on target to meet budget.

Game Licence Sales at Opening Day of the Season

The Gamebird licence sales began online and at agencies on the 9th of March 2023.

A full adult licence has an increase of \$7 from the previous year.

See table following for game licence sales categories and numbers at opening of season 2022 and 2023.

In summary, game licence sales in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) 3,903.16 LEQs for the 2023 opening day compared with 4,000.14 LEQs for the same period 2022 season.

Income from game licence sales can only be shown for sales up to the 30th of April 6 days before opening. Income for May sales will not arrive until June 2023.

Game licence revenue from the Profit and Loss statement for the 2022/23 season recorded to 30th April 2023 total \$ 217,318 compared with \$ 193,209 for the 2021/22 season also to the 30th April of the season.

Figures exclude GST and commission to agents.

The 2022/23 budget for game licence sales is \$ 370,659 exclusive of GST.

9.3 Agents Debts

Nil

9.4 Recommendations

- 1. That the finance and licencing report be received.**

Sharon Milne

Administration Officer 15/05/2023

Otago Region Fish Licence Sales to 30th April of the Season

2022/23

Sales	FWFA	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	Total	Fish LEQ
Public	2099	2353	532	362	397	128	34	321	2403	1835	524	36	341	72	15	37	0	13208	7,245.21
Agency	2188	3059	199	698	155	62	18	134	610	904	390	19	71	57	8	13	626	9226	7,235.11
Total	4287	5412	731	1060	552	190	52	455	3013	2739	914	55	412	129	23	50	626	22434	14,480.32

2021/22

Sales	FWFA	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	Total	Fish LEQ
Public	2119	2571	73	311	417	141	26	377	2303	90	462	6	248	1	1	1	0	10471	6,718.34
Agency	2412	3491	7	749	171	83	9	190	651	22	404	0	67	0	0	1	0	8276	7,717.41
Total	4531	6062	80	1060	588	224	35	567	2954	112	866	6	315	1	1	2	0	18747	14,435.75

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 (day non resident Junior), FWNC (non resident Child), FDNC (day non Resident child day)
 SRSE (Salmon Endorsement)

Otago Region Game Licence Sales to the Day of Opening of the Season

2023							
Sales	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ
Public	751	83	42	0	0	876	767.27
Agency	3090	234	90	0	0	3414	3,135.88
Total	3841	317	132	0	0	4290	3,903.16

2022							
Sales	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ
Public	785	80	21	0	0	886	800.83
Agency	3152	239	68	0	0	3459	3,199.3
Total	3937	319	89	0	0	4345	4,000.14

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

10.0 Chief Executives Report May 2023

10.1 SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Lakes Fisheries Monitoring

Angler surveys on Lake Hawea are drawing to a close. Angling activity is decreasing rapidly now. A report on Poolburn angler surveys and the wider fishery is in preparation now.

Aerial Gamebird Surveys

Aerial flight counts of Mallards were completed at the end of April and a report is attached to this agenda. The Mallard numbers were around average compared to longer term data hinting at a more moderate population available for harvest.

Acoustics Survey of Southern Lakes

Acoustic surveys of Hawea, Wakatipu, Wanaka and Dunstan were completed and the report is in its final draft. That will be available before the July meeting. A staff member is undertaking training on how to interpret the data from acoustic surveys which is a further step towards being able to complete the monitoring on our own and also on a more regular basis.

Gamebird Harvest Surveys

The first round of data has been gathered from opening weekend hunters and as predicted there was a weaker harvest than in previous years. Hunters found the fine, clear windless opening day conditions particularly challenging to bring waterfowl low enough to harvest. A report on opening weekend harvest is attached to this agenda. Harvest surveys by telephone continue on a fortnightly basis for the entire three-month season.

Hatchery

Staffing changes at Oceanagold are creating additional work for our hatchery supervisor both in cover for their regular fish feeding and in training of new staff. We have recently made the company's management aware. They are trying to recruit with some urgency.

Regulations

The Anglers Notice submission needs to be with NZC by the end of June. A report on proposed changes is under matter to be decided in this agenda. In brief, the only major change proposed by staff is to incorporate all present designated Back Country waters into the new Designated Waters list. All other items including drift boat use and combined bag limits for southern lakes have been deferred until the next major review. This will allow some room for the Designated waters proposal to be promoted and bedded in, particularly with non residents.

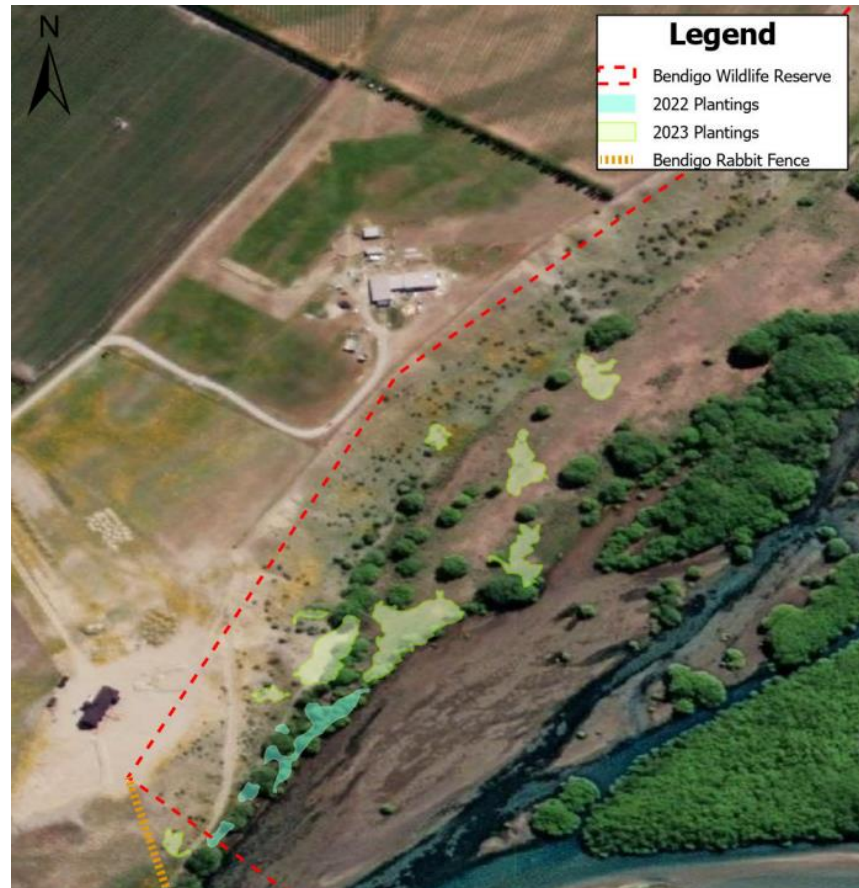
10.2 HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Contact Energy – Lower Clutha Sportsfish Management Plan Implementation

An item in the Public Excluded part of the agenda will provide an update to the proposed Trust Deed and funding agreement. The lawyers continue to exchange views on the funding agreement but it does need to have absolute certainty around it for both parties.

Wetland/Reserve work

Staff have spent some time conducting willow control and undertaking planting at the Bendigo Reserve area. Planting is being supported by the Cromwell Youth Trust who have planted over 500 plants in the area over two days already. They propose to dedicate multiple days to planting in the reserve under F&G staff supervision.



10.3 USER PARTICIPATION

Backcountry Fisheries

The Designated Waters proposal is proposed to be implemented in the new fishing season if it gets ministerial approval. There is a short window between then and the start of the fishing season to promote the changes and prepare signage and information for distribution. The website will be the primary portal for the licencing system and information on the new regime but we will also have to train guides and agents in its use. NZC staff with regional staff support are preparing that material now.

Publications

The magazine content for the next fishing season issue has been finalised and sent to the publishers.

Weekly river reports for the angling season will begin again in late September. These were emailed to around 11,000 Otago licence holders and the feedback has been very positive. This is part of our R3 strategy to stay in better touch with Otago licence holders and while we have not analysed read rates, staff believe that it is a useful platform.

10.4 PUBLIC INTERFACE

Media

A steady stream of media releases were distributed over the period. The ODT coverage of the hunting season opening was particularly positive.

Advocacy

In addition to our local advocacy efforts, the Communications officer has been engaged by NZC to assist with a national campaign related to legislation changes coming down the line which could have an impact on the future of the organisation.

Stakeholder Survey

The stakeholder survey results have been published and they presented a favourable view of how OFGC engage with others. The final report has been emailed to you. There is some helpful suggestion on improvements and these will be built into the communications strategy to be developed next year,.

Presentation on key results later in meeting

10.5 COMPLIANCE

Compliance activity

Ranging on opening weekend of the gamebird season saw 9 offence notices written for various offences. Rangers checked over 160 hunters on opening day so the overall compliance rate was good at around 94%.



Prosecutions

Most angling cases continue to be resolved by way of diversion. One unlicensed angler was due to appear in the Alexandra District Court this week.

CE to update

Rangers

One ranger has resigned, and Otago has inherited a trained honorary ranger from another region. Two new Ranger applicants have been interviewed and accepted and are awaiting ranger safety training. They should be warranted by the start of the new angling season.

10.6 LICENCING

The licencing system ran without a glitch during the busiest time of the year – the leadup to the Gamebird hunting season. The CE and other staff have also been involved in supporting the NZC to get the designated waters licencing system integrated into the national online licencing system.

10.7 COUNCIL

Next Council Meeting

Just a reminder that the next Council meeting is in Tapanui on the 20th July 2023.

10.8 PLANNING AND REPORTING

Budgets for 2023/2024

Once the licence fee is confirmed by the Minister in late June, staff can provide the council with a final budget and workplan for the next financial year. It will include any spending from our own reserves to begin implementing the Councils three year objectives. That will come to the July meeting for final adoption.

Recommendation

That this report be received

**Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
May 2023**

Output	Goals 2020-2023	Objectives	December 2022 Update
Species Mgt	That OF&GC have sufficient understanding of Southern Lakes sportsfish populations to meet management needs	<p>Robust monitoring system for southern lakes fisheries established by 2023 with enough sensitivity to detect long term population change.</p> <p>Research proposal to investigate drivers for that change lodged to NZC for funding by 2024</p>	<p>Random angler surveys are being undertaken at Lake Hawea to gather fisheries and effort data. These conclude in May. Peak use surveys have been completed at other southern lakes over summer.</p> <p>Acoustic monitoring by NIWA of Lakes Dunstan, Hawea, Whakatipu and Wanaka has been completed. A draft report has been provided by NIWA and will be tabled at the July meeting after staff have provided feedback.</p> <p>Lakes fisheries workshop is on hold while staff explore the multitude of other activities being undertaken by agencies in the southern lakes area. These include the ORC who are developing a 'Lakes Strategy'.</p>
Habitat Protection & Mgt	Improve outcomes in RMA planning processes – Plans reflect F&G input	<p>Submissions reflecting F&G positions made on time and hearings attended for all planning matters impacting on F&G managed species, habitat and users.</p> <p>Joint freshwater and habitat outcomes developed with partner agencies and promoted through planning processes.</p>	<p>Submissions have been made to both the Regional Policy Statement and the Land and Water Plan. Staff consider both to be reasonable documents but there is a wish to see the habitat of trout and salmon given greater emphasis.</p> <p>Discussions with DoC, Iwi and other agencies continue with regular meetings between the parties, and also occasional meetings of the same group and ORC policy and planning staff.</p>
Licence holder communication	High licence holder understanding of F&G organisation and its work on their behalf	<p>Improve licence holder knowledge of F&G activities by 10%- or two-unit points (in licence holder survey) by end of 2023</p> <p>15% of fish and 10% of game licence holders have one face to face contact with F&G annually</p>	<p>No action. Survey to be completed late in 2023.</p> <p>No specific metrics at this point but angler contact rates should be up with increased staff effort, summer interns, and creel surveys at both Hawea and Poolburn this year</p>

Public awareness and strategic relationships	Improved understanding by the general public of F&G role and work	<p>Survey results from perceptions of F&G stakeholder survey analysed.</p> <p>PA programme established and implemented, based on an overall communications strategy, by end of 2023.</p>	<p>Stakeholder survey has now been completed and will be reported to the July meeting.</p> <p>No change. NZC have developed a draft communications strategy and are seeking to refine this. Otago can ride the back of that work. Otago communication strategy is now a OWP item for the 2023/24 financial year.</p>
	Proactive engagement with Ngai Tahu	<p>Iwi and F&G aspirations for freshwater outcomes shared, and aligned where possible, to achieve longer term protection of Otago freshwater and wetlands.</p> <p>Engage with Ngai Tahu in a conversation on cultural harvest of gamebird species under F&G management.</p>	<p>Environmental Officer has been regularly engaging with Aukaha over RMA planning and consenting matters including Regional Policy Statement and Land and Water Plan</p> <p>Staff attended a hui at Otakou Marae on the Nga Awa protect for the Taieri River. Opportunity was taken to build on relationships already formed at the hui.</p> <p>CE has met briefly with a local Ngai Tahu member and discussed cultural harvest. A further meeting is planned for next month.</p>
	Form alliances/collaborations with landowners (and rural stakeholder organisations) on areas of common interest	<p>90% of catchment group meetings attended by staff to engage and communicate F&G values.</p> <p>100% of wetland development/enhancement enquiries are visited with 50% resulting in Habitat fund applications</p>	<p>Staff have been attending catchment groups meetings and activities where time permits.</p> <p>Wetland development applications have slowed considerably. No private pond applications this reporting period but there are two to visit. Issues with overly complicated consenting remains an sticking point.</p>

11.0 RMA Planning and Consents Report

Planning and Consenting Report

9 February – 15 May 2023

Current Legislation, Policy and Planning Processes

Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement (PORPS)

Fish and Game staff have been engaging with both the Freshwater Planning Process (FPP) and the non-FPP within the PORPS. Within each process:

1. The non-FPP hearing is close to closing. Staff presented to the panel in April and May.
2. The FPP submission has been written and further submissions were recently completed. Deadlines for evidence preparation was recently set, needing to be submitted towards the end of June. The hearing is expected to take place across a couple of weeks in August and/or September.

Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP)

The Minister for the Environment has accepted a proposal from the Otago Regional Council to extend the date of notification on the LWRP within their agreed workplan. This will see the LWRP notified mid 2024 and it is likely that there will be multiple opportunities for consultation between now and then.

Annual Plans

Staff submitted on two annual plans since last reporting to Council:

1. The Otago Regional Council, seeking for a prioritisation of work to restore the Clutha Lagoon.
2. The Queenstown Lakes District Council, seeking that expenditure on the Stone Street pipeline project not be delayed.

Proposed Adjustments to Craig Road

Staff submitted on a proposed Road Stopping at Craig Road, near Clydevale. Staff opposed the road stopping proposal by the applicants and noted that the current arrangement is also not adequate in practice. It proposed a 'like-for-like' swap aimed at resolving the issues identified by the applicant and retaining enduring public access. Staff continue to work with the Clutha District Council and Walking Access Commission to achieve an agreeable outcome.

Current Notification processes

There are no current notification processes.

Written approval provided during the period

Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting 24th May 2023

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
Otago Regional Council applications		
Manuherikia Catchment Group Inc. and Peter Thomas McLeod	Variation on a consent to build a wetland in a tributary of Thomsons Creek and undertake long term maintenance, including clearing sediment from upstream tributaries, the wetland itself and the mainstem of Thomsons Creek.	The applicant requested twice to extend the stop work date on the consent, which had been set to protect spawning. Working through the list of tasks to be completed, staff and the applicant identified ways to ensure the work could continue without inappropriately affecting spawning. Affected party approval of the variations were provided.
Clutha District Council	To replace the bridge at Walker Road, near Kelso.	Staff negotiated conditions to protect spawning, fish passage and allow for fish to be safely removed from the work site prior to it being drained. With these accepted, affected party approval was provided.
Central Otago District Council		
Peter Francis Hishon and Vicki Jan Hishon	To subdivide a block adjacent to the Manuherikia in Omapau without setting aside an esplanade along the river.	Staff had previously spoken with the applicant to confirm that an esplanade was not necessary as there is already good access along the river adjacent to the property. The applicant now sought affected party approval for the entire application, which was provided.

No written approvals were provided during the period for consents from the following bodies:

- Queenstown Lakes District Council
- Dunedin City Council
- Clutha District Council
- Waitaki District Council

Recommendation:

1. That this report be received.

Nigel Paragreen
Environmental Officer
15 May 2023

12.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

12.1 CFT

12.2 Ngai Tahu

12.3 Conservation Board

12.4 NZC



8 May 2023

NZC CEO Update to Regional Managers/CEs: NZC Meeting 162 (21 – 22 April 2023)

Tēnā koutou,

The NZC met on Friday 21 and Saturday 22 April 2023. Full minutes will be available shortly, aroha mai for the delay in compiling this update (we've had several competing priorities and change over in staff on the NZC team), however, here is a short update on key matters covered and decisions made for your information and to share with your respective councils.

NZC Decisions to Note:

Sub-Committees/Working Groups:

- Daryl Reardon was appointed to the Future Structure Working Group, other members include Dave Harris, Gerard Karalus, Colin Weatherall and Bruce Bates.
- Debbie Oakley invited to attend the Future Structure Working Group for cross pollination with the Future Finance Group.
- The Future Finance Group has also been established and includes, Barrie Barnes, Dean Phibbs, Debbie Oakley, Alan Strong and Nigel Juby.

The Future Structure Working Group and Future Finance Group Terms of Reference are currently being reviewed and will come back to NZC for approval.

Organisation Strategy:

The NZC approved the organisational strategy, subject to incorporation of feedback from its strategy workshop and including a PR overview to ensure language is consistent with our social licence campaign. It is intended to have this back within a month and will be circulated to regions once final.

23/24 Licence Reforecast:

At its last meeting in February 2023, NZC incorporated Non-Resident levy into the licence forecast LEQ. This has increased the LEQ forecast by approximately 4,000 and has off-set the increase required of our licence fee.

Cyclone Gabrielle has impacted the original forecast in licence sales by 20-30% for Hawke's Bay. It was agreed for this reduction in forecast LEQ's for the Hawke's Bay to be paid out of their reserves.

Total projected LEQ for fish 74,060 and game 31,763.

RMA Applications:

The NZC agreed to fund:

- The Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 (Healthy Rivers) \$100,000; and
- The Rakaia River Water Conservation Order \$180,000.

NZC has joined the Rakaia River Water Conservation case given the national significance in relation to determining who is responsible for implementing WCOs. Fish and Game's current position is that this implementation of WCOs falls under regional councils and the RMA. If the court was to rule implementation responsibility is unclear then this would be used to inform legislation change.

Research Applications:

The NZC agreed to fund:

- The Eastern project for Australasian Shoveler Management Project \$8,000.
- Licence Sales Insights \$21,000 (this links to the NZC CF project to develop a licence fee category optimisation model over the next two years).
- State and trends of the NZ trout population and key environmental drivers \$38,790.

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

New Zealand Council

Level 2, The Dominion Building, 78 Victoria Street, Wellington 6011. P.O. Box 25-055, Wellington 6146, New Zealand.
Telephone (04) 499 4767 Email nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz www.fishandgame.org.nz

HR Plan & Remuneration Policy:

Jane Hutchings, the new Fish and Game HR Business Partner, was introduced to NZC and talked through the plan to provide HR functions across the organisation, including the provision and roll out of the HR Hero system and visiting all regions to assist with HR.

The NZC agreed:

- That the draft Remuneration Policy be circulated to the regions for feedback and to come back to NZC for confirmation/approval.

Notifying Designated Waters/Proposed Licence Fees:

The NZC agreed to amend the Designated Waters licence system to:

- Increase the limit on non-resident day licences to five days per region; and
- Decouple Controlled Fisheries and Designated Waters.

It was also agreed to consult with the regions on a \$5 Designated Waters annual licence fee per region for resident anglers and a \$40 Designated Waters day licence fee for non-resident anglers.

Residency Definition:

The NZC agreed to consult with the regions on amending the definition of resident and non-resident to align with DoC Taupō and Immigration Act definitions. NZC staff were also requested to undertake further analysis of potential changes to the definition of resident and non-resident and implications on licence income to feed into the June NZC meeting.

Draft Reserves Policy:

The NZC agreed to consult on the draft Reserves Policy and this is provided for feedback.

Nominations to GBHT:

The NZC recommended to the Minister of Conservation the appointment of: Chantel Whitby; Mark Sutton; and Andy Garrick; as well as endorsing the nomination of Andy Tannock as Chair. Once confirmed, successful nominees will be advised accordingly.

Staff Development Grant:

The NZC approved the allocation of \$6,000 for Steve Dixon's staff development, noting managers' support and recommendation for Steve's application and that there were no other nominations received.

Magazine Update:

The NZC agreed to engage an alternative supplier to complete the 2023 Fishing magazine and to consider future production of the magazine as part of a review of Fish and Game's communication strategy.

Consultation:

The decisions requiring formal consultation from this meeting include:

- Draft Remuneration Policy
- Proposed Licence Fees
- Residency Definition; and
- Draft Reserves Policy.

These will be circulated under separate cover and as per our consultation process, noting the draft Remuneration Policy was previously circulated to managers for informal review.

I hope you and your families enjoyed a safe and successful Game Season Opening weekend.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Corina Jordan

Chief Executive Officer

New Zealand Fish and Game Council

13.0 Correspondence

13.1 NZC to Otago

13.1.1 Resident/Non Resident Definition

CONSULTATION:	RESIDENT/NON-RESIDENT DEFINITION
TO:	Regional Managers
CC:	Regional Chairs, NZC and Administrators
AUTHOR:	Corina Jordan, CEO NZ Fish and Game Council
DATE:	8/05/2023
FEEDBACK DUE:	12/06/2023
FEEDBACK TO:	nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz
LINK TO REGISTER:	Consultation Register

Recommendations - Ngā taunaki

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZC) seeks consultation from Regional Fish and Game Councils on the following points:

1. Amending the definition of resident and non-resident to align with the Immigration Act and DoC Taupō.

Executive Summary - Whakarāpopoto

Currently, our definition of resident and non-resident is inconsistent with the Immigration Act and DoC Taupō. It is proposed to amend these definitions so that they are consistent.

Discussion - Koārerorero

Our current definition of resident and non-resident is as follows:

In the Sports Fish Licences Fees and Forms Notice, Resident is someone who, on 1 October 20XX:

- Is a New Zealand citizen; or
- Ordinarily resides in New Zealand.

We then further define resident at the licence sales point as someone who:

- Holds a residence class, student, or work visa;
- Has lived in New Zealand for at least six of the 12 months immediately prior to their licence purchase; and
- Has New Zealand as their primary place of established residence.

Non-resident is defined in both the Sports Fish Licences Fees and Forms Notice and the licence sales point as:

- Someone who, on October 1, is not ordinarily a resident in New Zealand.

DoC Taupō defines:

Resident as someone who is a:

- New Zealand citizen; or
- Permanent New Zealand resident as defined in the Immigration Act 2009.

Non-resident as someone who is not a:

- New Zealand citizen; or
- Permanent resident as defined in the Immigration Act 2009.

The Immigration Act definitions are as follows:

- New Zealand citizen means someone who has New Zealand citizenship as provided in the Citizenship Act 1977 or the Citizenship (Western Samoa) Act 1982;
- Permanent resident means the holder of a permanent resident visa.

At its April 2023 meeting, NZC agreed to consult with Regional Fish and Game Councils on amending our current definitions to align with the Immigration Act and DoC Taupō because of the increased clarity. It is believed this will also make prosecutions simpler as the definitions are more finite.

Prior to confirming this at its 15 June 2023 meeting, analysis will be undertaken by the Licence Working Party (LWP) on what the prospective implications of this change are from a licence holder and financial perspective.

Options - Ngā kōwhiringa

Regional councils may:

- a. Support amending the definitions; or
- b. Not support the definitions.

Considerations for Decision-Making - Whai whakaaro ki ngā whakataunga

Financial Implications

Analysis will be undertaken by the LWP on the implications prior to confirmation at NZC's June 2023 meeting.

Legislative Implications

If confirmed, this would result in amendments to the Sports Fish Licences Fees and Forms Notice 2023.

Section 4 Treaty Responsibilities

There are no legislative implications raised.

Policy Implications

Consideration needs to be given as to whether this fits within NZC's current policy and strategy, such as National Policy, three-year plan and R3 initiatives etc.

Risks and Mitigations

There is a risk of unforeseen financial implications as a result of amending definitions, however this will be mitigated by undertaking analysis prior to confirmation. There is further a current risk of difficulties in determining residency or prosecuting for fishing with a licence a person is not eligible for because of unclear definitions.

Next Actions - Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei

If supported, and NZC approves these changes at its June 2023 meeting, these will be factored into the Sports Fish Licences Fees and Forms Notice 2023.

RESIDENT/NON-RESIDENT DEFINITION

Page 2 of 3

Corina Jordan (CE)

13.1.2 Draft National Reserves Policy Consultation

CONSULTATION:	DRAFT NATIONAL RESERVES POLICY
TO:	Regional Managers
CC:	Regional Chairs, NZC and Administrators
AUTHOR:	Corina Jordan, CEO NZ Fish and Game Council
DATE:	8/05/2023
FEEDBACK DUE:	28/06/2023
FEEDBACK TO:	nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz
LINK TO REGISTER:	Consultation Register

Recommendations - Ngā taunaki

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZC) seeks consultation from Regional Fish and Game Councils on the following points:

1. Clarifying the status quo reserves policy.

Executive Summary - Whakarāpopoto

This reserves policy proposes to codify the status quo approach to reserves and provide clarity to all councils on the thresholds and processes associated with reserves.

Background - Takenga mai

In 2020, the organisational reserves policy was amended in light of covid to reduce reserves thresholds from 30% to 20% and to require regions to spend a portion of their budget from reserves. NZC also indemnified regional reserves at the 20% level.

Since that point, the treatment of reserves has not been definitively restated, leading to some confusion around what the approach and thresholds are.

Discussion - Kōrerorero

Prior to the COVID-19 amendments to budget policy, reserves were set for levy paying regions as a percentage of licence sales and for grant receiving regions as a percentage of budget. During COVID-19 this was amended to be as a percentage of budget for all regions (whether levy paying or grant receiving). It is proposed that this approach is continued.

The intention of this policy is not to change the approach to reserves, but to clarify the post-Covid status quo. The one minor amendment is the requirement for regions to fund one-off projects from reserves if these are over the upper threshold (currently this is the usual practice but is not prescribed).

Options - Ngā kōwhiringa

Regional councils may:

- a. Support the draft policy; or
- b. Not support the draft policy; or
- c. Propose an amendment to the draft policy.

DRAFT NATIONAL RESERVES POLICY

Page 1 of 2

Considerations for Decision-Making - Whai whakaaro ki ngā whakataunga

Financial Implications

There should be minimal direct financial implications. Long term, this should provide for an all of organisation approach to the maintenance and expenditure of reserves, minimising increases to licence sales.

Legislative Implications

There are no legislative implications raised.

Section 4 Treaty Responsibilities

There are no Section 4 Treaty responsibilities raised.

Policy Implications

If approved, this would reaffirm existing National Policy.

Risks and Mitigations

This policy represents a mitigation step against the financial risk to the organisation from potential mismanagement of reserves.

Next Actions - Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei

If supported, and approved by NZC at its 18 August 2023 meeting, this will become National Policy.

Supporting Document

- [Draft National Reserves Policy](#)



Corina Jordan
Chief Executive
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

DRAFT NATIONAL RESERVES POLICY

Section	Governance
Contact/Owner	NZC CEO/NZC
Last Review	
Next Review	November 2025
Approval	NZC [INSERT MEETING DATE/RESOLUTION]
Effective Date	[INSERT DATE]

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the financial viability of Fish and Game whilst minimising increases to the licence fee by:

- Setting minimum and maximum reserves thresholds; and
- Specifying the course of action taken where reserves fall outside this threshold; and
- Ensuring an all of organisation approach to the expenditure of reserves.

2. PRINCIPLES

The National Reserves Policy covers:

- The types of reserves held by Fish and Game Councils.
- The minimum and maximum amount of reserves a Council should hold.
- The approach when a Council falls below or exceeds the minimum or maximum reserves threshold.
- The process by which different classes of reserves may be spent.

3. TYPES OF RESERVES

Fish and Game Councils hold three different types of reserves:

- a. General reserves, which are accumulated funds.
- b. Dedicated reserves, which are reserves held for a dedicated purpose.
- c. Restricted reserves, which are reserves under Fish and Game's control where an external party sets a restricted purpose.

4. PERCENTAGES OF RESERVES TO BE HELD

- All Regional Fish and Game Councils shall hold a minimum of 20% reserves (comprising general and dedicated reserves, but not restricted reserves) and a maximum of 50% reserves as a percentage of budget.
- The New Zealand Fish and Game Council shall hold a minimum of 30% of reserves (general and dedicated) and a maximum of 50% of reserves as a percentage of budget.
- These percentages are as at 31 August each year.

5. APPROACH TO RESERVES OUTSIDE OF 20-50% RANGE

- **Reserves below 20%:**
 - a. Where a Regional Fish and Game Council's reserves, having operated within budget, fall below 20% (for instance, due to an un-forecast reduction in licence sales), the region may apply for a top of reserves in the next budget round. If the region is unable to operate that financial year (i.e. before the top up of reserves takes affect) the region may apply to NZC for a short term loan.
 - b. Where NZC reserves fall below 30% these will be topped up through the contestable funding round.
- **Reserves over 50%:**
 - a. Where a Regional Fish and Game Council exceeds the 50% maximum threshold, they will not be eligible to apply for one-off or fixed-term funding from the licence fee in the contestable funding round until their reserves are below 50%. These projects must instead be funded from reserves.
 - Ongoing costs, such as salaries, can still be applied for from the licence fee in the contestable funding round.
 - b. Where the New Zealand Fish and Game Council exceeds the 50% reserves threshold all funds over and above this threshold will be available at the next contestable funding round.

6. HOW RESERVES MAY BE SPENT

- **General Reserves:**
A Regional Fish and Game Council must seek approval from NZC prior to spending general reserves.
- **Dedicated Reserves**
A Regional Fish and Game Council must notify NZC if it spends dedicated reserves.
- **Restricted Reserves**
A Regional Fish and Game Council must notify NZC if it spends restricted reserves.

7. DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT CONTROL

Prepared by: Jack Kós, Senior Policy & Legal Advisor
Owned by: NZC/NZC CEO
Authorised by: Fish and Game New Zealand National Council
Date Issued (for Consultation): 8/05/2023
Next Review: November 2025

13.2 Otago to NZC

nil

13.3 General Correspondence In

13.3.1 Central Otago District Council – Lake Onslow Road

From: Roding <Roding@codc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 12:49 PM
To: Ian Hadland <ihadland@fishandgame.org.nz>
Cc: Roding <Roding@codc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: State of Onslow Road

Dear Ian

Thank you for your email concerning Lake Onslow Road.

Lake Onslow Road has been re-metaled this year using local gravel from Sanders Pit that is quite high in clay content. Once this material hardens it works particularly well in Central Otago conditions. I have added an extract from an email sent to some local residents recently by our Infrastructure Manager following some issues we faced due to high rainfall.

“There is no roading aggregate material used for unsealed pavements that will be perfect in all conditions. The next closest alternative to Sanders Pit is Parkers Pit. Whilst it does have slightly less clay content, in hot and dry conditions it does produce significant amounts of dust and corrugate out. The cost difference in re-metalling using Parkers Pit would have been excessive due to long cart distances. At over twice the cost of using Sanders Pit it would have significantly impacted on Council’s maintenance budget for the wider district.

Council and Fulton Hogan put some test strips down of this particular material approx. October/November 2021, on Sanders, Wright and Lake Onslow Roads. They performed very well. It was noted it was a tightly bound clay surface right at the time the test strips were initially put down, but they trafficked and ‘cured’ quickly. Following rain or traffic the rest of the road either side of the test strips corrugated, but the test strips were remained well bound. Higher clay content means we have to put this aggregate down at the beginning of the season to enable sufficient drying time prior to winter, we accept some freeze-thaw of the pavement coming out of winter with high clay bound materials because this gives us a good surface through summer periods. This season has had its challenges with higher than normal rainfall prior to Christmas making work flow and drying more difficult.

The aggregate has a ‘slick’ surface after construction rolling and ‘slushes up’ after its first rain. AP32 is applied to the surface to ‘punch in’ and bind up and help mitigate this issue. After a first grade the stone comes to the surface and provides a good running type course.

The Sanders Pit material has performed well on Minzion / Craig Flat roads. The material after the first significant rain does go soft and unfortunately slick, however, dries and becomes a good well bound surface”.

We continue to monitor the roads and are working on solutions to mitigate the slippery conditions when we get significant rain.

Lake Onslow Road (from Paerau/Styx to the boundary gate at Lake Onslow) is in the roading hierarchy as a “track”. The track gets very little maintenance and is graded annually. Below is an extract from our website in regards to the back country tracks in our district.

Back Country Tracks

Central Otago Council maintains approximately 400km of back country tracks. These are typically dry weather roads that are formed in areas where winter weather conditions are harsh and challenging topography exists. These are generally used for farm and recreational access. These roads are not maintained during winter.

These roads require a suitable vehicle with the appropriate ground clearance. During extreme weather events, these roads may be difficult and require advanced driving skills. During winter a number of these roads are closed as use during the winter would result in damage to the road. Due to the low volume of traffic on these roads and the cost to all ratepayers to maintain them, these roads are not graded very often and generally have a rough surface.

I hope that has answered your questions Ian.

Kind regards



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CODC supports flexible working arrangements, including working outside the office and sometimes at irregular hours.

I may have sent this outside of your working hours and only anticipate a response during your working hours.

If you have received this email and any attachments to it in error, please take no action based on it, copy it or show it to anyone. Please advise the sender and delete your copy. Thank you.

From: Ian Hadland <ihadland@fishandgame.org.nz>

Sent: Sunday, 26 March 2023 9:42 pm

To: Customer Services <info@codc.govt.nz>

Subject: State of Onslow Road

Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting 24th May 2023

You don't often get email from ihadland@fishandgame.org.nz. [Learn why this is important](#)

Kia ora,

At our recent Fish & Game Council meeting the state of the road to Lake Onslow was raised. It was reported to be in a very poor condition and even with minimal moisture, it turns into an impassable, dangerous, muddy mess. I myself turned back in a 4wd recently when it began to start sliding on sloping sections of the road. It seems the very high clay content in its surface material does not help matters.

Lake Onslow is popular with anglers throughout the year and most are used to traveling up there in a mixed range of conditions. They accept that there are times in the winter when the road is closed or travel is discouraged - that is sensible. But many are saying that it is deteriorating to the point where even during spring and autumn the road is near impossible to use and there are plenty of occasions where it is unsuitable for towing a boat.

We note that the road may be designated as a 'back country track' (although it looks like a formed public road on the map) but I'll get you to confirm this if you are able to?. I'm guessing that this means a lower standard of care for it.

Could you please let us know what the short, medium and long term plans are for this access road, especially in terms of maintenance and improvement.

Thank you.

Ian Hadland | **Chief Executive**

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Web: www.fishandgame.org.nz

Otago Fish & Game Council

PO Box 76

Dunedin

New Zealand

13.4 General Correspondence Out

NII

Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting 24th May 2023

14.0 Items to be Received or Noted

14.1 Aerial Mallard Monitoring 2023

Aerial Mallard Monitoring 2023

Summary

On April 15th, 2023, staff conducted the eighth aerial mallard monitoring survey in the South Otago Region, counting 4,920 mallards across forty-six ponds, seven 10km river transects, and ten 10 km cross-country transects.

While the overall trend across the eight years is positive, the count was lower than previous surveys' averages, with dry weather affecting the surveyed ponds, and high and dirty river conditions impacting the counts on both the Pomahaka and Taieri rivers.

It is recommended to investigate potential correlations between mallard counts and hunting success in South Otago to inform future decisions about the survey.



Photo 1: Mallard camp on the flooded middle reaches of the Pomahaka

Introduction

In 2015, the Otago Fish and Game Council initiated a pilot project for mallard monitoring, as part of a nationwide push to monitor populations. The aim of the research and monitoring in the Otago Region was to establish long-term trends allowing for sustainable game bird management. The availability of population trend data will enable Council to make well-informed decisions when determining game bird harvest regulations. This report covers the mallard monitoring study's last eight years (2015-2023), excluding 2020 when it was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns.

Method

The Otago mallard monitoring methods are derived from the technique developed by Southland Fish & Game. Details of the Otago site selection criteria and the process of selecting sampling units can be found in Appendix 1. The aerial survey methodology for mallard monitoring is presented in Appendix 2. The flight plan comprised of three strata: forty-six ponds, seven 10km river transects, and ten 10 km cross-country transects (Figure 1). The flight this year was conducted on the 15th of April 2023.

This year, a minor modification was made to the methods; the Fiji image processing package was utilized to count photos, rather than using Paint. This alteration enabled faster photo counting and allowed us to keep a record of the counting process.

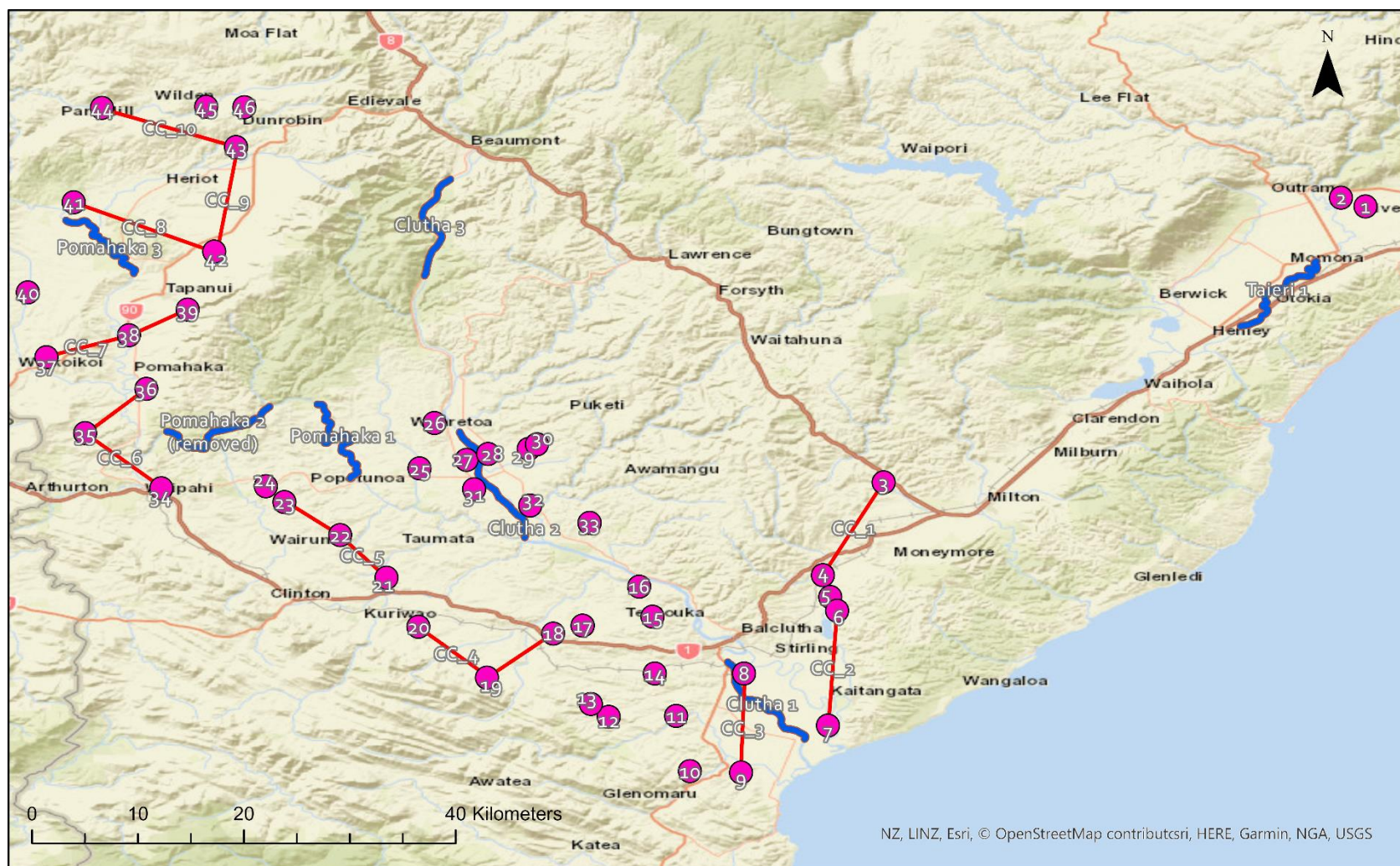


Figure 1: Map of the South Otago Region, showing monitored ponds in pink, cross country transects in red and river sections in blue

Results/ Discussion

Table 1 displays the number of mallards counted in each stratum and the total count for the survey.

Table 1: Mallard counted in each year, broken down by strata.

Year	Pond	Cross Country	River	Total
2015	1,100	1,000	3,160	5,260
2016	1,990	340	2,950	5,280
2017	1,580	1,460	2,810	5,850
2018	1,010	470	1,660	3,140
2019	920	1,470	2,610	5,000
2021	2,090	530	3,010	5,630
2022	2,720	1,700	5,900	10,320
2023	1,580	610	2,730	4,920

The mallard count for the current year's survey was just under 5,000, which is lower than the average of the previous surveys, which was 5,780. The decrease in the count was observed across the region with over half of the sites reporting counts below the previous survey averages (Appendix 3). Despite this observation, the general trend across time is positive.

It is important to take note that in 2022, the mallard count was exceptionally high. If this count is removed from the calculations, this year's count is relatively close to the pre-2022 average for each stratum and the overall total count.

In the leadup to the mallard monitoring survey this year, it was observed that the South Otago Region had experienced a prolonged period of dry weather. This dry spell had a noticeable impact on the ponds that were surveyed, as a number of them were found to be dry. Although the proportion of dry ponds was not found to be significantly higher than previous surveys, it was noted that some of the ponds that were dry this year had previously held high numbers of mallards during the surveys. This suggests that the dry conditions may have affected the distribution and concentration of mallards in the region. Further analysis and monitoring will be required to determine the full extent of the impact of the dry weather on the mallard population in the region.

Another significant factor in this year's survey was the high and dirty conditions of the Taieri and Pomahaka rivers due to significant rainfall in the few days leading up to the survey, despite the previously mentioned dry conditions. According to van Klink 2022, river transects are easier to count when they are low and clear, which may have led to an undercount this year in that strata or may indicate that mallards move to other habitats when the rivers are up. This highlights the importance of considering the effects of weather conditions on the accuracy of the survey results and emphasizes the need for ongoing monitoring to better understand mallard behaviour in response to changing environmental conditions.

A previous review conducted by MacKenzie in 2018 highlighted the need for Councils to determine how the data collected during their mallard population monitoring is to be used within the management process and adjust the timing of surveys accordingly. In the case of Otago's monitoring, the survey is conducted in April after the regulation setting process has been completed. It is assumed that the monitoring is intended to provide an estimation of the population leading up to Opening Weekend and to predict the success of hunting in the region. However, it is unclear if the survey is fulfilling these objectives. Therefore, it is recommended that staff investigate potential correlations between the mallard counts and Opening Weekend hunting success in South Otago. If such links are found, it would be worthwhile to explore whether these correlations extend beyond the South Otago Region and into later stages of the hunting season. This analysis could provide insights into the usefulness of the survey as a tool for predicting hunter success and inform decisions about the future of the survey.

References

MacKenzie, D. I. 2018. Review of Fish and Game Regional 2017 Mallard Reports. Unpublished report, Proteus Wildlife Research Consultants.

Van Klink, April 2022. Otago Region Mallard Monitoring Study. Otago Fish and Game Council internal report.

Acknowledgments

Thanks to Paul van Klink for taking the time to clarify the survey method and for making the project handover as smooth as possible. I would also like to extend my appreciation to Alastair Horne from Otago Helicopters; his flying skills, navigation proficiency, and keen observational abilities greatly facilitated the work.

Jayde Couper,
Fish & Game Officer
April 2023

Appendices

Appendix 1: Otago Mallard Monitoring Selection Methodology

Otago Fish and Game established mallard monitoring sites and completed a pilot monitoring study in 2015. The methodology for selecting the 46 ponds, seven (now 6) 10km river transects and ten 10km cross-country transects was completed by Southland staff. The monitoring was conducted by Otago staff.

Monitoring Area Selection Criteria

Habitat characteristics.

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

Pond selection criteria.

- All ponds >20m in diameter were identified and recorded in an Excel spreadsheet.
- From the identified ponds 46 “good” ponds were randomly selected.
- Ponds were deemed unsuitable for a variety of reasons, but generally because they were too close to buildings, were near places of common human activity, such as beside tracks or other structures, or they had been modified and did not meet the original size criteria, e.g., had been fully or partially drained.
- For the 80 or so unsuitable ponds, the next closest ponds that did meet the size and isolation criteria were used instead.
- On-going replacement of ponds will be necessary if surveyed ponds become unsuitable, which will be assessed annually.
- Ponds in excess of 20ha were also excluded because they are too difficult to count accurately and prone to annual variations in the distribution of birds.

River transect selection criteria.

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

Cross- country transect selection criteria.

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

Appendix 2: Otago Mallard Monitoring Aerial Survey Methodology

General

- Counts are undertaken annually between April 07 and 18.
- An Otago Helicopters Robinson Class 22 or Cabri G2 is used for the survey.
- The pilot provided assistance in locating the sampling unit (pond or transect) with GPS and looking for birds where safety was not compromised.
- The shortest route between ponds and transects is flown.
- The weather was fine and wind < 12 knots.
- The survey was undertaken between 0900 and 1700 hours.
- Species other than mallards, particularly geese, paradise shelduck, grey teal, scaup and shoveler were identified and excluded from the count.
- The helicopter was positioned to enable the clearest view of the survey area.
- If birds were seen under trees or scrub the count was done when these had emerged.
- The helicopter could be positioned so that birds slowly came out from cover without making them fly off.
- When birds did fly off an estimate of the number departing was made and added to the total count.
- Groups of more than about 30 birds were photographed, and the birds were counted on the computer using Microsoft paint. The paintbrush application allowed the user to count individual mallard ducks on the image which ensured that no mallards were double counted.

Ponds

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

River transects.

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

Cross country transects.

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

Appendix 3: Otago mallard duck monitoring results showing the separate sample units and strata (ponds, river and cross-country transects) for 2015 – 2023.

Sample type	Name	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023
Pond	1	2	-	30	134	21	55	11	-
	2	-	-	3	21	2	-	-	65
	3	32	148	71	21	98	248	439	28
	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	6	-	157	30	55	52	88	30	38
	7	-	-	1	-	-	8	3	-
	8	44	239	43	230	85	151	214	70
	9	71	77	242	23	14	27	11	6
	10	17	-	33	8	-	-	4	187
	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	12	13	40	24	13	21	61	49	52
	13	3	-	13	9	-	3	3	2
	14	56	67	14	43	5	-	-	16
	15	22	51	10	32	42	14	19	14
	16	16	81	49	11	105	104	167	24
	17	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
	18	13	-	9	-	-	2	10	2
	19	35	20	111	4	-	100	151	151
	20	2	-	5	11	13	74	3	8
	21	-	6	12	-	-	6	8	11
	22	430	379	6	8	13	9	937	141
	23	2	-	83	16	40	7	71	7
	24	12	3	4	5	30	4	41	32
	25	62	-	116	6	14	420	121	274
	26	11	-	12	6	6	4	21	-
	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	28	77	142	84	8	30	-	-	12
	29	-	6	84	29	17	55	-	45
	30	9	8	2	1	-	8	17	17
	31	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-
	32	-	-	-	7	10	5	-	5
	33	26	6	5	8	39	19	90	48
	34	2	-	35	-	-	-	-	38
	35	-	13	-	-	10	-	-	36
	36	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
	37	3	11	28	48	-	7	-	-
	38	6	38	31	-	20	61	4	-
	39	40	10	2	-	-	37	5	18
	40	-	284	135	100	97	118	267	-

Sample type	Name	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023
	41	-	45	177	-	5	125	1	-
	42	61	61	76	65	61	241	17	130
	43	-	20	-	59	49	-	3	26
	44	-	35	-	-	-	-	-	12
	45	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
	46	21	40	4	25	5	30	-	50
Cross Country	1	101	48	-	90	71	30	159	281
	2	182	26	656	95	189	141	225	154
	3	58	119	417	66	94	96	345	77
	4	3	-	42	22	857	30	53	16
	5	595	116	37	48	87	53	686	6
	6	27	-	22	38	117	75	115	64
	7	6	-	60	67	10	11	50	-
	8	-	26	112	41	16	91	36	-
	9	25	-	108	-	24	2	8	-
	10	-	-	5	4	-	-	18	10
River	Clutha 1	610	639	912	126	174	321	1,044	396
	Clutha 2	225	63	174	69	281	443	874	373
	Clutha 3	47	10	128	42	86	85	171	13
	Pomahaka 1	683	736	570	376	536	538	2,454	1,306
	Pomahaka 3	-	97	364	63	222	407	349	194
	Taieri 1	1,560	1,408	662	981	1,312	1,216	1,008	452

14.2 Opening Weekend Harvest May 2023

Summary

The 2023 Opening Weekend was below average for most of the metrics measured by the game bird harvest survey. Otago hunters spent an average of just over 10 hours in the maimai across the weekend, harvesting just under 10 gamebirds, of which approximately three quarters were greylards.

Just under three percent of hunters achieved the bag limit of twenty-five greylards.

Harvest rates were low compared to recent averages for most of the region except for the Dunedin City District. The low harvest rate this year could be attributed to various factors, but the most likely reasons were the clear calm weather experienced for most of the region and the dry conditions leading into Opening which resulted in a number of ponds having very little water. Additionally, rangers noted a relative lack of greylards moving round the region, this observation was supported by a below average count in the aerial mallard survey carried out in April.



Photo 2: Fletcher Anderson, 8 from Ohai, Jessica Reid, 16 from Tapanui and Carter Hoey, 13 from Rolleston enjoying a sunny South Otago Opening Day.

Introduction/ Methods

This year's Opening Weekend survey consisted of a randomised telephone survey of 205 adult and junior gamebird licence holders and was conducted in the week following Opening Weekend. The survey has been running since 1993 and provides an excellent long-term data set on individual effort and harvest of each of the game bird species. All Fish & Game regions carry out a similar survey and the results are combined nationally, however not all regions' results are available at the time of writing, consequently, this report is based only on the results of survey respondents that held an Otago licence. The report does not account for the activities of child licence holders or landowners hunting under the owner/occupier exemption.

To address the challenge of distinguishing between mallard ducks and grey ducks due to hybridization, the report uses the term "greylard" to refer to mallard ducks, grey ducks, and any hybrid of the two. Additionally, the term "waterfowl" in this report refers to greylards, paradise shelduck, black swans and shoveler.

During the production of this report, it was discovered that the data available for the year 2018 is incorrect due to an unexplained system error. As a result, the 2018 data has been removed from both the charts included in this report and the long-term average calculations.

Results/ Discussion

Just over 6 percent of Otago licence holders did not hunt at all during Opening Weekend and slightly more than a quarter hunted outside the Otago Region, leaving a little over two thirds active in the Otago region. Of the active hunters including those that hunted out of region, 93 percent hunted Saturday while only 51 percent hunted Sunday.

Active Otago Region hunters spent an average of 10.3 hours hunting waterfowl (Figure 2), around 40 minutes less than the long-term average which is indicated by the dotted line in the figure.

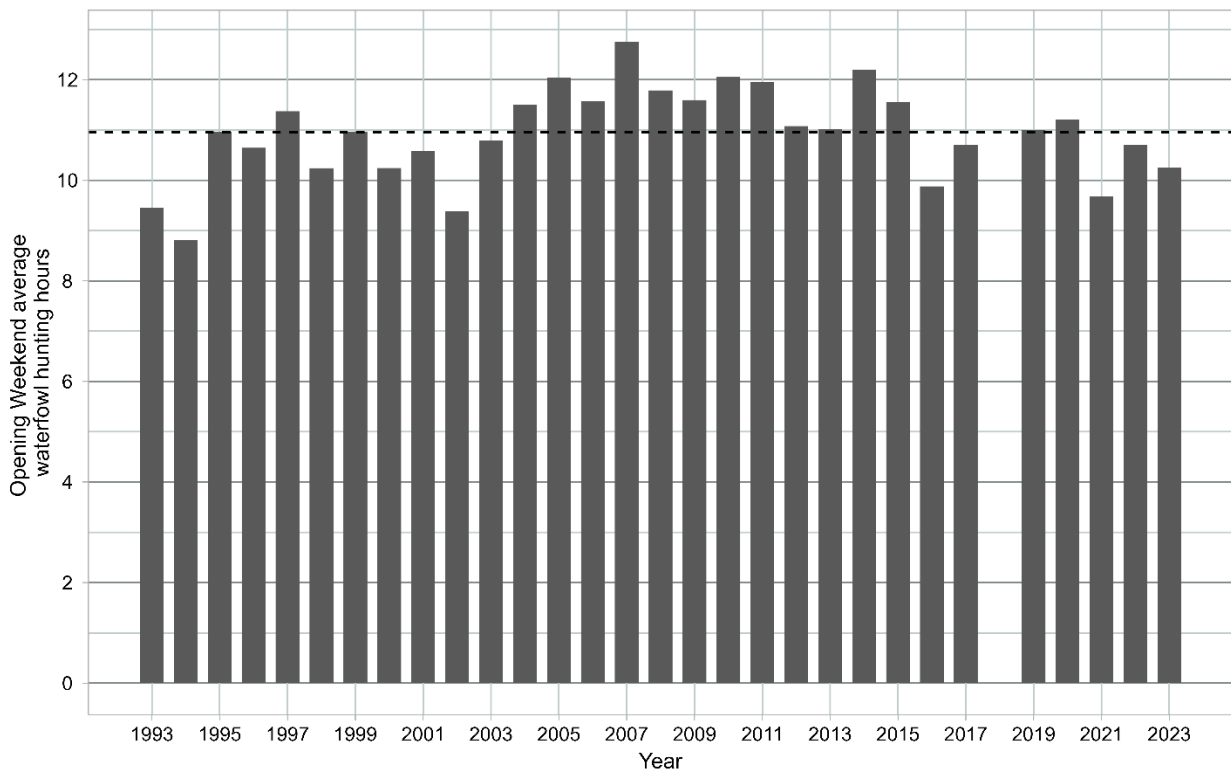


Figure 2: Opening Weekend average waterfowl hunting hours with the long-term average (1993-2022 – dotted line).

It is worth noting that despite the drop experienced this year and the reasonably large variations between years, there has been no statistically significant change in the average number of hours hunted across the survey period. This is indicated by a p value of 0.287 which suggests the average number of hours hunted has remained relatively level since 1993.

Otago hunters harvested an average of 7.6 greylards for the weekend, 0.75 birds less than in 2022 and far below the long-term (1993-2022) average of 10.2 greylards shown by a dotted line in Figure 3.

The average bag for all waterfowl this Opening Weekend was just under 10 birds, significantly less than the long-term average of almost 13 birds (Figure 3).

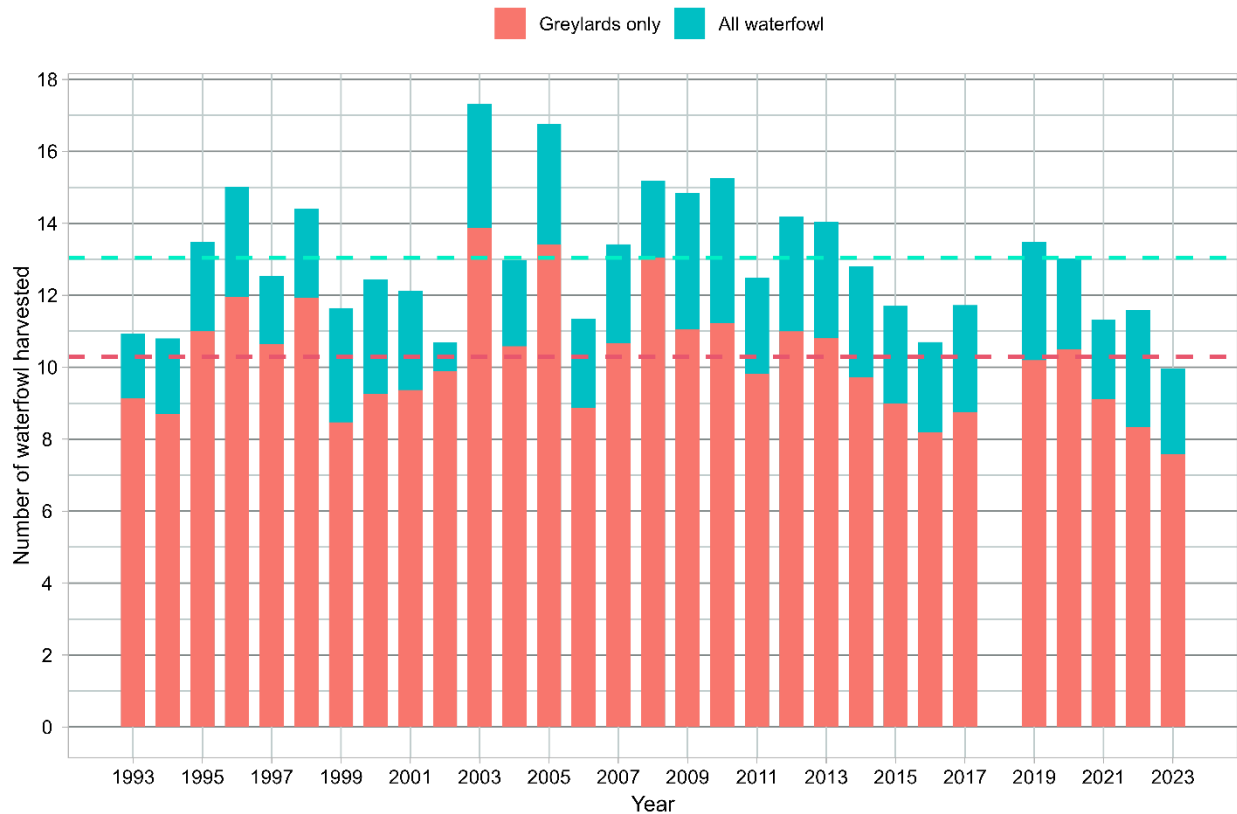


Figure 3: Opening Weekend average greylard and all waterfowl bag with the long-term averages (1992-2022 – dotted lines).

Greylards represented 76% of all birds harvested with paradise shelduck making up most of the remainder with an average of 2.2 birds per hunter. Shoveler and black swan were harvested to a minor extent and combined, represented just under 1.5 percent of Opening Weekend gamebird harvest.

Despite our hunters spending a near-normal number of hours hunting, this year's survey results showed a significant drop in the average weekend bag in Otago compared to previous years. This can be largely explained by a reduction in the harvest rate, particularly of greylards.

Approximately 2.9 percent of hunters achieved a one-day greylard bag of more than twenty birds. Birds harvested in excess of 20 contributed just under three percent of total harvest. We estimate that 2.4 % achieved the bag limit of 25 greylards. These results suggest that the current bag limits are only restricting harvest to a limited extent.

Approximately 7.3% of active hunters did not take any birds for the weekend, far above that of last year's Opening (Figure 4).

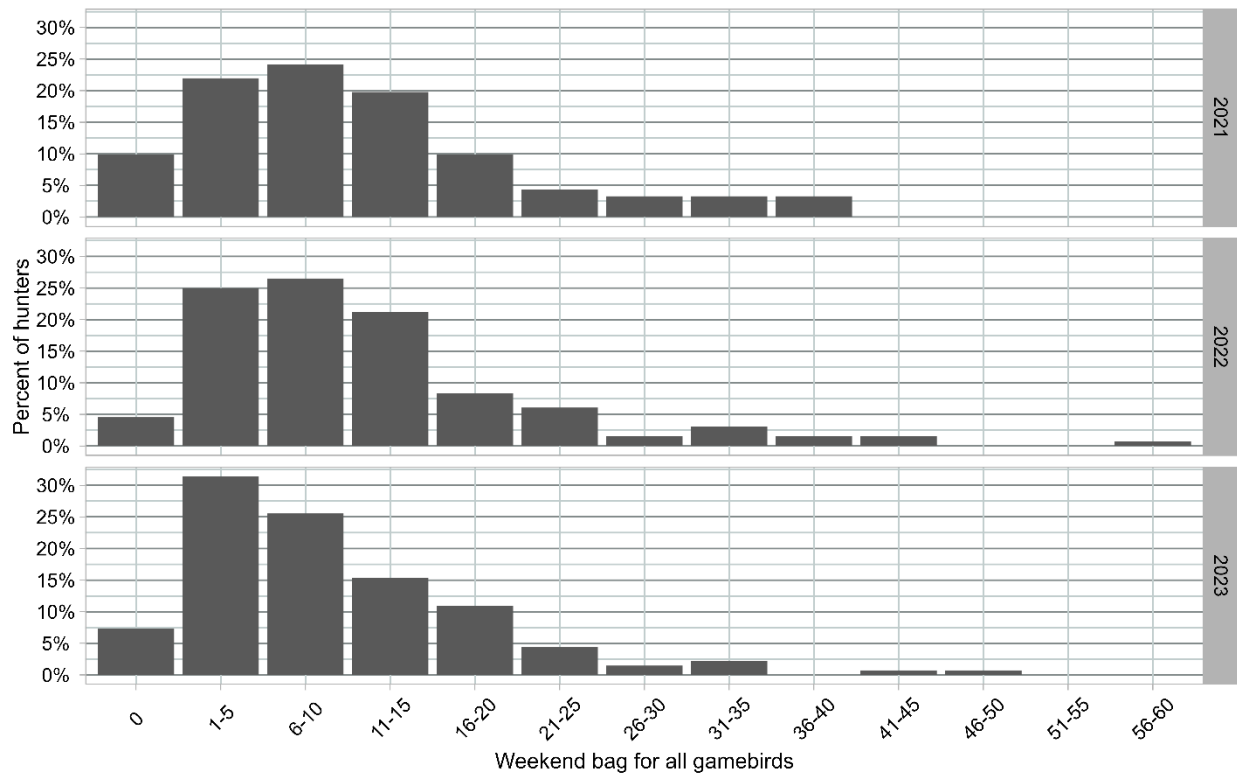


Figure 4: Percentage of surveyed hunters who achieved a particular whole weekend bag range for all waterfowl for the 2021: 2023 Opening Weekends

There was a decline in the number of hunters who achieved large weekend bags this year. The percentage of hunters who harvested more than ten game birds dropped from 44% in 2022 to 36% this Opening. There was also an increase in the proportion of hunters that shot smaller weekend bags of five or less waterfowl, from 29 percent in 2022 to 39% this year.

Figure 5 depicts the average rate of greylards harvested per hour across all the Opening Weekends that this survey covers. This measure is indicative of how fast the hunting action was and is likely to be one of the best indicators of hunter satisfaction. The greylard harvest rate per hour this Opening was slightly lower than that of 2006, resulting in the lowest recorded rate of greylard harvest.

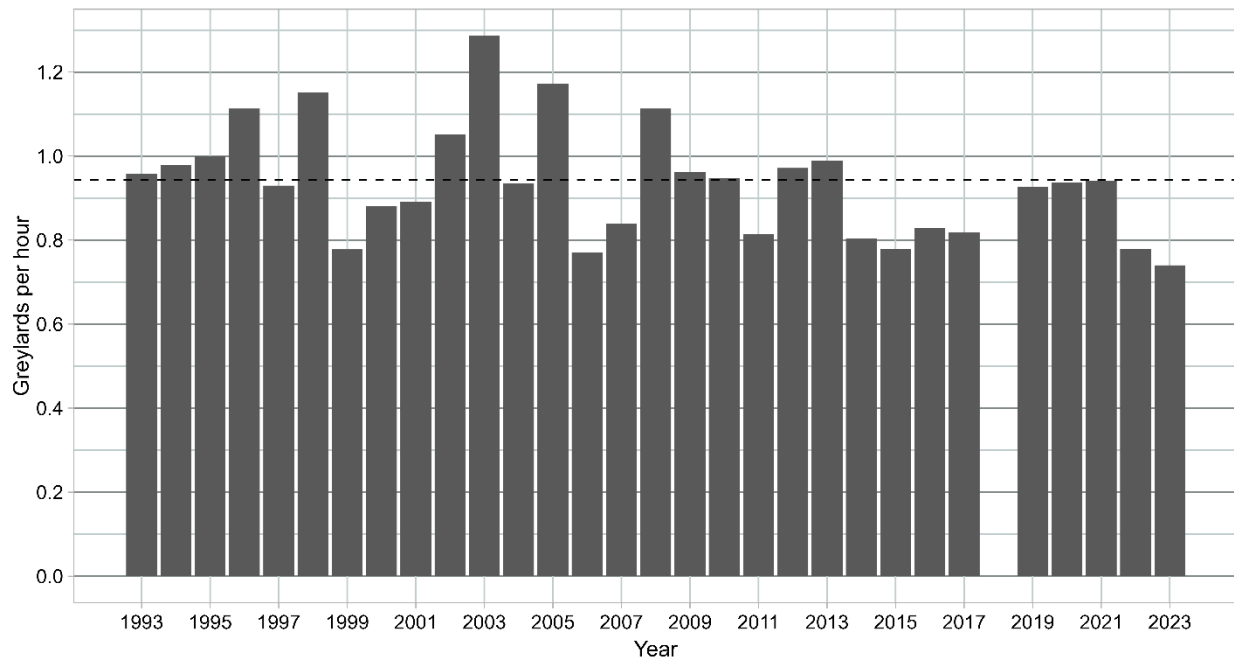


Figure 5: Average Opening Weekend harvest rate of greylards per hour from 1993 to 2023 and the long-term average (1993-2022 – dotted line).

There were several factors that may have contributed to the low harvest rate observed during this year's Opening Weekend. One of the most probable factors was the clear and calm weather that prevailed throughout most of the region, which made it difficult for hunters to bag game. Another contributing factor was the dry conditions leading up to the Opening Weekend, which resulted in a shortage of water in several ponds, as noted by rangers during the Opening Weekend. Additionally, it appeared that there was a relatively low population of greylards in the region, as indicated by the aerial mallard survey that was conducted in April. These factors likely played a role in the very low greylard harvest rate observed during this year's Opening Weekend.

It should be noted that Opening Weekend represents only small proportion of the available days for hunting in the Otago Region and that good overall seasons can follow relatively poor Openings.

In Figure 6, the greylard harvest rate is displayed, broken down by the territorial authority/district council boundary in which the hunting occurred. It should be noted that for this analysis, hunting in the majority of the Waitaki District which lies north of the boundary with the CSI Fish & Game Region has been excluded. It is important to note that due to the previously explained error with the 2018 data, as well as the relatively small size of the Otago section of the Waitaki District and the limited hunting in the Queenstown Lakes District, some

points in the data may have zero values. These zero values should not be interpreted as actual zero harvest rates, but rather as an indication of a lack of survey coverage for these points.

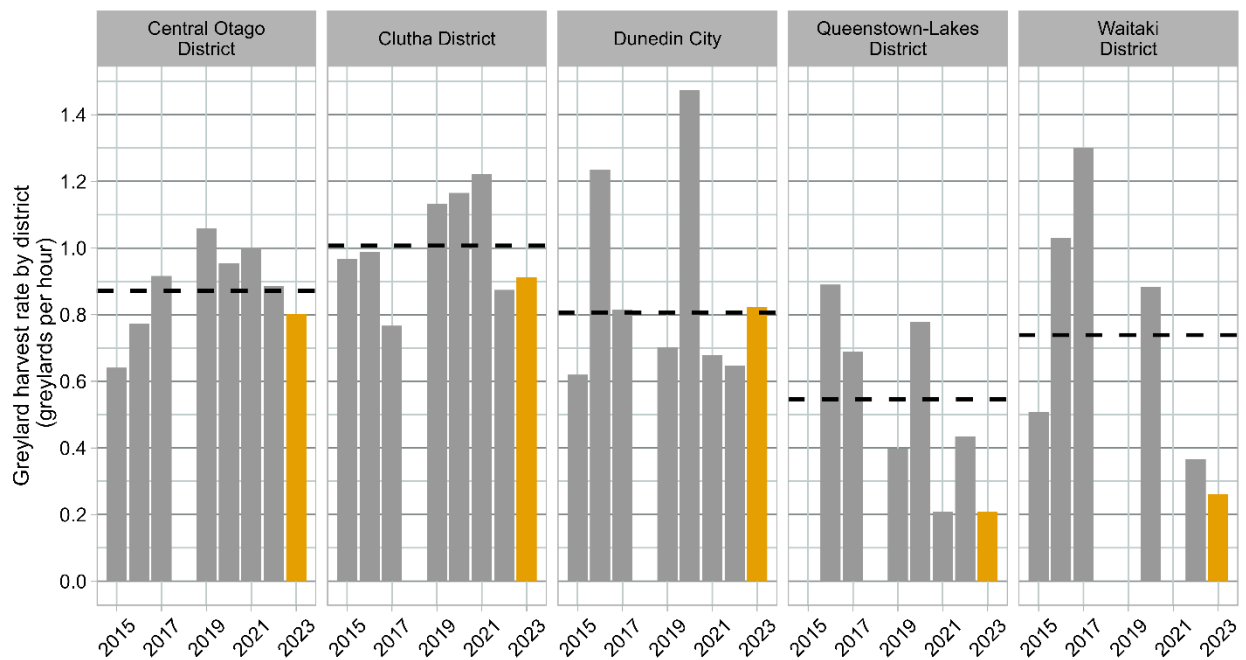


Figure 6: Otago Opening Weekend greylard harvest rate from 2015 to 2023 broken down by district with their averages for 2015-2022 (dotted lines).

The overall downturn in greylard harvest rate displayed in Figure 5 was also present around the region with only the Dunedin City District meeting the average of the previous 7 years.

The decline in greylard harvest rate seen in Figure 5 was not limited to a particular area, as the decrease was observed throughout the region. Only the Dunedin City District exceeded the average harvest rate of the previous seven years.

The regional harvest showed a pattern similar to most years with the Clutha District having the highest harvest rate, which is unsurprising given its favourable gamebird habitat, while the Queenstown Lakes District had the lowest harvest rate observed.

By way of supporting anecdotal feedback, the results of the Opening Weekend survey are consistent with staff and ranger observations of bags from around the region while they were conducting compliance checks. Hunter feedback provided on local social media channels also described the difficulties in bagging birds, particularly on opening day. As always, better prepared hunters had done better than average.

Recommendation

That this report be received

**Jayde Couper,
Fish & Game Officer
May 2023**

14.3 Otago Fish & Game Council Stakeholder Study Outcomes

Background

To stay relevant and be more effective, the organisation needs to understand how we are perceived by stakeholders. A stakeholder study was conducted by research and strategy company Primary Purpose in March-April 2023. The qualitative research study consisted of:

- 16 in-depth interviews of key stakeholders conducted via online video or telephone.
- An online survey emailed to 30 stakeholders. This had 16 respondents.

The finalised report, *Otago Fish & Game Council Stakeholder Study 2023*, was circulated to councillors in April. It was also distributed to survey participants before being tabled in this meeting's agenda.

Summary of findings

- Overall Otago Fish & Game received highly positive ratings from stakeholders for the job we did at engaging and working with stakeholder organisations.
- The few poorer ratings were from respondents of the online survey who were less connected with the organisation.
- The strongest theme was Otago Fish & Game's ability to work constructively around shared interests and a willingness to compromise when needed.

The organisation's three-year strategic objectives and this year's Operational Work Plan covers some of the topic matter that survey respondents suggested we work on, for instance:

- Catchment group work.
- Improving visibility with stakeholders and the general public.
- Continuing to engage on matters of mutual interest through RMA planning and consenting.

Next step – Development of a Communications Strategy

Otago Fish & Game Council intends to develop and adopt a Communications Strategy to improve advocacy and how we engage with stakeholders and other groups. At least three surveys will be used to inform the strategy:

- *Otago F&GC Stakeholder Study* (March-April 2023 – Primary Purpose for OF&GC)
- *Public perceptions from focus groups* (March 2023 – Primary Purpose for NZC)
- *New and Reactivated Anglers Survey* (2021 – OF&GC)

The strategy will also be aligned to NZC direction where possible.

Staff plan to contract external expertise to help develop the communications strategy in the 2023-24 Operational Work Plan. This will be funded from the Council's General Reserve as approved by the NZC at its April budget meeting.

Recommendation

That this report be received

Bruce Quirey

Otago Fish & Game Communications Officer 16 May 2023

15.0 General Business