

## **Agenda Item 10:**

**Operational Report** – for the period ended January 2020

**Prepared by:** Dean Kelly – Manager

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### **Introduction**

The Council's adopted governance policies require the manager to provide an Operational Report, specific proposals for capital expenditure and acquisitions as well as major issues and opportunities for the Council. There are further requirements for the Manager to provide assurance that the Management Limitations are being observed. The format of this report is therefore to certify compliance with Governance Policies, Management Limitations and provide other material, responses or assurance that Council objectives, strategies, plans, performance, risks, operation, resources and structure are being met.

### **Notifications of intention to purchase unbudgeted capital items in excess of \$10,000**

Nothing to report.

### **Matters for the information of council**

#### Staff:

Staff holiday entitlements: Manager, 42 hours  
Hokitika Officer, 99 hours  
Northern Officer, 113 hours

#### Vehicles:

The Hokitika based Fish and Game officer vehicle was replaced in the period.  
Managers Vehicle: (start) 63,985km (fin) 70,729. Total private for period: 1,810km  
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle: JSF 153,100km (start) 155,100km (fin.) MML 44km (start) 5,470 (finish)  
Total private for period: 1,596km Fish & Game Officer Vehicle: (start) 34,254 km (fin.) 39,844 km Total private for period: 1,105 km

### **Bi-monthly report on outputs**

#### 1111 Drift Diving

Sportsfish surveys are progressing well, local volunteers and staff are being utilised. Drift dives completed on Mawheraiti River (SH7, mirfins) Grey River (Upper, McVicars, Waipuna), Inangahua River (Blacks Point) and Mokihinui River (Nth Branch below gorge, Sth branch).

#### 1112 Lake Netting

Lakes Poerua and Brunner fish survey reports were completed. 1114 Trend Counts

Preparation has started for paradise shelduck moult counts.

#### 1115 Sportsfishery Research

First round of electric fishing has been completed for Mawheraiti project along with the installation of two temperature loggers. Juvenile trout were found at all three sites.

Staff consulted with Brendan Hicks regarding the status of his salmon otolith microchemistry work. A report yet to be received but final analysis complete.

#### 1116 Backcountry Fisheries Management

Trail cameras have continued capture very few anglers utilising the Mokihinui River. Compliance has been carried out in both Karamea and the Mokihinui with little angling pressure being observed.

#### 1121 National Hunter Survey

Survey report completed.

#### 1161 Fisheries Enhancement

Staff have reviewed and updated the sports fishery enhancement matrix. North Canterbury have closed their Rakaia Hatchery. The Council should have a discussion if the West Coast should be following this initiative considering the evidence for detrimental effects of Hatchery reared fish on locally adapted wild populations.

#### 1171 Regulations/Gazette Notices

Council approved changes to the regulations have required consultation with Jack Kos (NZC) to finalise changes to the gamebird gazette notice. The West Coast Region is considering a submission on the banning of traps in whitebait nets. It is likely bykill of sportfish and their prey species are higher in nets with traps. Concerned anglers have contacted the office in this regard.

#### 1211 RMA Plans/Policy/Consents

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Nature of work</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Jennings	Coal Creek, Westport	Discharge Permit	Discharge of effluent from shed and stand-off pad.	No info regarding stand-off pad
Arnold Contracting Ltd	Wanganui River	Land use consent	Extract Rock for river protection	No issues
NZTA	Nelson Creek	Land use consent	Stream Training for bridge	Condition to complete scheduled works outside spawning
CJ & VAR Jennings	Coal Creek, Westport	Discharge Permit	Dairy discharge and stand off pad	Two pond system for both.
Evan Alexander Percy	HariHari	Land use consent	Hump and Hollowing	Good mitigation with sediment trap and fencing. Small work area as well.
Simmac Farms Ltd	Poerua River valley, Harhari	Land use consent	Divert river channel and undertake river protection work	Limited sports fishery values. Good timing

#### 1212 Dairy Industry/Farmer Advocacy

General liaison with landowners regarding Access and Resource Consenting. 1213 DoC

Discussed use of motorbikes on Old Ghost Road to access trail cams with Westport Office. Discussed option of getting a landing permit for a drift dive site in the Kahurangi Wilderness Area (upper Roaring Lion) with Motueka Office.

#### 1311 Access

Reinstalled signage at Lake Ianthe after high water levels and wave action knocked over signage at carpark. 1312 Assisted Hunting

Discussions around next years events and upping our game to provide variety to encourage more hunting. 1331 Website/Ezines/Social Media

Relevant material been posted on website. Regular Facebook engagements have been done, focusing on promoting family fishing. Submitted West Coast Reel life for December and January.

#### 1332 Fish & Game Magazine

Preparations for the Gamebird supplement are underway.

#### 1361 Clubs, Outdoor Recreation Groups

Attended and assisted with Lake Brunner Fishing Competition. Attended a weigh in of the Mokihinui Fishing Competition and provide them with Fish & Game information to hand out, as well as some magazine to give out for spot prizes. Sent out invite to all West Coast licenceholders to attend fishing educational seminars, had a limited response but have aided many new anglers with advice via email. Compiling responses and a decision will be made on what is our best option to address those interested. Approval form received from South Westland Lions for Lake Mapourika Salmon Comp. Approval letter completed. Discussed option of Fish & Game have presence at King Kahawai competition with event organisers.

#### 1362 Junior Hunting/Fishing Days

Building a group of young gamebird hunters who will receive additional support from West Coast Fish & Game as they learn the sport. Target age is 16-30 as they can get a gun and drivers licence.

#### 1371 Okuru Hut

The hut was visited twice during compliance trips, lawns mowed, weeds sprayed. Other region rangers have used the hut over the period and increased ranger activity in the are as well as completed some maintenance on the property.

#### 1421 Media/Communication

Regular media release promoting family fishing, Lake Brunner as thriving fishery – our survey findings, compliance and large trout being present this season.

#### 511 Compliance

The compliance effort of the xmas/new year period was extensive throughout the region with nights also spent in Karamea and its backcountry. Compliance carried out in the Mokihinui River while servicing cameras. Compliance on Lake Brunner around holidays resulted in three offences detected. Frequent visits to the Grey Valley, Upper Grey, Reefton and lower Buller.

#### 1531 Prosecutions

A 55-year male was charged with fishing without a licence and providing a false address to a warranted officer. Fines includes \$800 for fishing without a licence, \$130 for court costs, \$500 for providing a warranted officer with a false address, \$800 in prosecution costs and the forfeit of his fishing equipment. Total being \$2230 and the forfeit of the rod, reel and lure. I currently have three active cases from the holiday period.

Three other diversion offences were processed and warnings provided to two junior anglers.

#### 1621 Agent Liaison

Agents visited and checked to ensure they are kept in touch with regulations and answer any questions arising from anglers.

#### 1841 National Liaison

Liaison was required for; 2020 Regulations, Communications Strategy, Whitebaiting regulations, Salmon enhancement.

#### 1910 Staff Salaries & Payroll

Staff performance reviews were completed

#### 1980 Equipment

Fish and Game Officer vehicle replaced. Other gear inspected and maintained as used.

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#### **Staff Recommendation:**

That this report be received.