

## **Agenda Item 10:**

**Operational Report** – for the period ended November 2023

**Prepared by:** Dean Kelly – Manager

---

### **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.

### **Matters for the information of Council.**

#### Staff:

Staff holidays estimated (days): Manager, 13  
Officer, 9  
Admin, 4

#### Vehicles:

Managers Vehicle: (start) 36,715 km (fin) 44,582km. Total private for period: 2050km  
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle PSM: (start) 19,499 km (fin.) 23,295 km. Total private for period: 964 km  
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle MML: (start) 121,046km (fin.) 126,632 km.

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

#### 1111 Drift Diving

Preparation for the summer program.

#### 1112 Lake Netting

Survey work for Lake Haupiri complete and report attached.

#### 1113 Spawning Surveys

Nothing to report in this period.

#### 1114 Trend Counts

National Gamebird monitoring meetings have been attended with good progress towards SOP's across the organisation.

#### 1115 Sportsfishery Research

First electric fish of research streams in the Mawheraiti Catchment. The average count from November is 106 fry. This year's count was below average, only being 60. This is likely due to a combination of low numbers of adults being observed during spawning and flooding that occurred during spring. On 23<sup>rd</sup> of September the Mawheraiti peaked at 749m<sup>3</sup>/s, the largest flood observed since monitoring started for the recruitment project in May 2019.

#### 1116 Designated Waters Fisheries Management

Data being collected on Reefton Rivers as potential designated waters. Meeting with Designated waters coordinators fortnightly reviewing currents DW and data collection. Implementation and adherence is going well. We expect to perform some backcountry enforcement over the peak summer period.

#### 1121 National Hunter Survey

Data and analysis complete. Report attached.

#### 1161 Fisheries Enhancement

Nothing to report in this period.

#### 1171 Regulations/Gazette Notices

A nation-wide review and simplification process has been initiated.

#### 1181 Game Bird Control

Two crop predation complaints have been received, one each regarding Pukeko and paradise shelducks. Advice was given in response to both complaints.

#### 1211 RMA Plans/Policy/Consents

Non-notified resource consents approved or consulting on as affected party.

Applicant	Area	Type	Nature of work	Comments
PM & KE Hunter Family Trust	Ahaura	Land use consent	Divert creek to original bed.	Dean consulting
Gold & Green Resources Ltd	Mawheraiti	Mining Permit	Alluvial Gold Mining	Dean consulting
Buller District Council	Mokihinui	Land use consent	Reinstating De Melmanches Road	No issues
Buller District C	Mokihinui	Land use consent	Reinstating Seddonville Road	No Issues
Titan Resources Ltd - Riley Perkins	Bell Hill	Water Permit	Application to take Surface Water from Deep Creek	Dean consulting
Buller District Council	Little Wanganui	Land use consent	Road reinstatement and protection	No issues
Buller District Council	Arapito Road	Land use consent	Road reinstatement and protection	No issues

Fish and Game presented to the first set of hearings to the TTPP. The topics Fish and Game presented evidence on was Fish and Game as a Conservation Agency and a general overview of issues and importance with sportsfish and game. Hearing will proceed into the new year with the next topic being MaiMai construction as temporary structures.

#### 1212 Dairy Industry/Farmer Advocacy

Nothing to report in this period.

#### 1213 DoC

Liaison regarding freshwater fisheries management and fish passage.

#### 1311 Access

BDMA Revolution Ltd completing access mapping over the West Coast region. All sites have been provided, finished product should be completed and on the new Fish and game website around Christmas. New sign required due to wilful damage at Lake Haupiri.

#### 1312 Assisted Hunting

Nothing to report in this period.

#### 1331 Website/Ezines/Social Media

Reel life completed. Facebook posts regarding compliance, fishing opportunities, clubs involvement events and notifying anglers of lagarosiphon control. All current council meeting minutes, meeting reports and other information have been signed and uploaded to the website.

#### 1332 Fish & Game Magazine

A national discussion regarding the future of the magazine is in process.

#### 1341 Sportsfisheries Guides

Agents regularly visited and stocked with guides.

#### 1361 Clubs, Outdoor Recreation Groups

Lake Brunner fishing competition given approval. Staff aiding with measuring station (longest fish competition to allow for catch release with the use of rulers). Staff running a Fishing Skills and Information session at Lake Brunner during the competition but open to everyone, and a basics of fly-fishing course at the Taramakau on the 10th of December.

#### 1371 Okuru Hut

Renovations are finished. Our part-time ranger has been utilising and maintaining the hut at fortnightly intervals.

#### 1411 Cons.Bds. Iwi, Allied Groups

Nothing to report.

#### 1421 Media/Communication

Media release regarding the start of sports fishing season. Regular communication with licence holders, with recent long weekends being popular with visiting anglers. A publicity event was attended by the Manager, Andy Harris and Sam Speight regarding getting people back into the outdoors. We intend to continue contributing regional content to this initiative over summer.

#### 1511 Compliance

Compliance carried out focusing on lower reaches of rivers and lakes during weekends, evenings and holidays. Rivers focus of mid-week compliance, encountering non-resident anglers and visiting anglers. Two offences detected in the period.

#### 1521 Ranger Training

Nothing to report

#### 1531 Prosecutions

Two active cases, one angler found to be fishing without licence at Lake Brunner and one angler fishing two rods at Lake Ianthe.

#### 1611 Licence Production & Distribution

Licence sales to NZ residents so far this season are below budget and last year's sales. Upgrades to licence purchases are being received more frequently.

#### 1621 Agent Liaison

Regular visit to agents. Frequently stocked with access guides, how to guides, child licence pads and excess F&G magazine in the office.

#### 1721 Council

Council servicing and reporting completed.

#### 1811 Sportsfish and Game Management Plan

The draft plan was amended by the working group to incorporate submission points where needed. The final draft has been provided to the NZ Council for presentation to the new Minister Tama Potaka when they assume office.

#### 1821 OWP & Budget

Nothing to report.

#### 1831 Annual Public Meeting & Report

New audit team from BDO this year run from Southland for 4 regions. A successful audit was completed by 27<sup>th</sup> November. The Audit Report notes that Capital Items associated with the Office had not been journalled correctly. This was rectified in the final report and manual journal entries will now be provided to Council for review at regular intervals. Depreciation rates were also corrected as some were inappropriate for usable life of items. Advice was also provided on GST.

#### 1841 National Liaison

Communication with other regions regarding game bird monitoring, Designated Waters, sports fishery management/research, compliance annual reports/audits and policy development.

1910 Staff Salaries & Payroll

No concerns around leave or TIL balances.

1940 Office Premises

Regular cleaning, maintenance, and replacement of worn items.

1950 Office Equipment

A new and larger screen was purchased for the meeting room to allow for improved electronic meeting attendance.

1970 General

All accounts payable continue to be paid on time, all providers to us are emailing accounts directly rather than posting so this is also minimising delays. Accounts receivable are also paid on time where applicable.

1980 Equipment

Staff reviewed field equipment and safety gear and replaced/procured new gear where required.

---

**Staff Recommendation:**

That this report be received.