

Agenda Item 10:

Operational Report – for the period ended May 2024

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, 15
Officer, 17
Admin, 4

Vehicles:

Managers Vehicle: (start) 58,114km (fin) 66,472km. Total private for period: 2,295km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle PSM: (start) 38,731km (fin.) 45,554km. Total private for period: 660km.
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle MML: (start) 136,987km (fin.) 140,783km.

Bi-monthly report on outputs

1111 Drift Diving

Drift Dives completed on the Mawheraiti River. Report completed and attached.

1113 Spawning Surveys

Spawning counts completed on MacDonalds and Windbag creeks, with an improvement in numbers from last year. Spawning surveys completed at known spawning sites in the Taramakau and Hokitika catchments. Only brown and rainbow trout observed.

1114 Trend Counts

Greylard, Pukeko, and Swan counts completed.

1115 Sportsfishery Research

Electric fishing completed at Mawheraiti research sites.

1116 Designated Waters Fisheries Management

Meeting with Designated Waters coordinators fortnightly reviewing current DWs and data collection. Survey of licence holders completed.

1121 National Hunter Survey

Surveys are underway with hunters reports mixed results for opening. Those that are targeting recently harvested maize crops appear to have done well.

1171 Regulations/Gazette Notices

Report compiled for Council and Minister on gazette changes for designated waters. Summary included in Council papers.

1181 Game Bird Control

Three more crop predation complaints have been received, two for Paradise Shelduck and one for Pukeko. One paradise shelduck complaint in regarding to aviation safety was responded to by issuing a permit. The

other paradise shelduck complaint was addressed by assisting with organising hunting pressuring during the winter game bird season. The Pukeko complaint was addressed with a permit.

1211 RMA Plans/Policy/Consents

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

| Applicant | Area | Type | Nature of work | Comments |
|---------------------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Dnasin Sharemilking Company Ltd | Murray Creek | Discharge Permit | Dairy Effluent discharge | 2 pond system and slurry tanker when fine |
| Lifestyle Mining Ltd | Hokitika River | Mining Permit | Alluvial Gold Mining | No discharge to water and sufficient bunding of creek |
| Belborough Holdings Ltd | Ianthe Forest | Mining Permit | Alluvial gold mining. | No fishery |

Fish and Game made our final submission on the TTPP regarding access and the importance of unformed legal roads. It was disappointing to encounter the poor level of understanding by the panel regarding public access.

1213 DoC

Nothing to report.

1311 Access

Advice on public access and liaison with the WAC regarding public roads.

1312 Assisted Hunting

Three organised hunts planned during the winter game bird season in areas where complaints have previously been received. All West Coast game bird licence holders with a valid email address received a hunting bulletin at the start of the season which included an organised hunts calendar.

1331 Website/Ezines/Social Media

Relevant material has been posted on website. Facebook engagements have been done, focusing on game bird hunting opportunities and promoting both barrels. Reel life and both barrels completed.

1332 Fish & Game Magazine

Preparations have been made for the Sportsfish Supplement and budgetary change for the magazine costs to regional reserves.

1341 Sportsfisheries Guides

Nothing to report.

1361 Clubs, Outdoor Recreation Groups

Per-season gun club field shoots were attended by staff and sponsorship of some licences was provided.

1371 Okuru Hut

General maintenance and installation of spare key holder.

1411 Cons.Bds. Iwi, Allied Groups

Nothing to report in this period.

1421 Media/Communication

Media releases before opening weekend as well as in the Top of the South Farming paper regarding game bird hunting. Communications regarding compliance at Lake Brunner.

1511 Compliance

Compliance carried out focusing on salmon, Lake Brunner, and game bird opening weekend. Six noncompliance's detected, two fishing without licences and four hunting without licences. One angler on the Waitangitaona and the other at Lake Brunner. Gamebird opening compliance completed with the police

in the Lake Brunner area, no offences detected. Second team, not accompanied by police, detected four hunters hunting without licences in the Grey Valley.

1521 Ranger Training

Met with rangers and reviewed performance in preparation of the re-warranting occurring in October, six rangers will be re-warranted. CERT training occurring at the end of August.

1531 Prosecutions

The two anglers detected fishing without licence have completed diversion. The four hunting with licence cases are still active. Fish and Game have new requirements for the storage of confiscated items. We have had to upgrade our facilities.

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. West Coast Agents have been contacted ahead of the Game Bird licences going on sale, there was some disappointment in the delay of the Game Regulations being produced and delivered on time to the store ahead of licence sales going live.

1721 Council

Council servicing and reporting completed.

1811 Sportsfish and Game Management Plan

The NZ Council

1821 OWP & Budget

The draft 2024 Budget has been developed and provided to the NZ Council for review. The workplan will follow once funding has been finalised.

1831 Annual Public Meeting & Report

Audit fees are high across all councils, meeting with Minister to see what can be done.

1841 National Liaison

Communication with other regions regarding game bird monitoring, Designated Waters, sports fishery management/research, compliance, budgeting and SFGMP's.

1910 Staff Salaries & Payroll

No concerns around leave or TIL balances.

1940 Office Premises

Regular cleaning, maintenance, and replacement of worn items.

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.