Agenda Item 10.1:

Operational Report – for the period ended September 2026

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, 19
	Admin, 12(3hr days)

Vehicles:

Managers Vehicle RHG: (start) 29,312 km (fin) 34,888km. Total private for period: 520 km
Fish & Game Officer Vehicle RRS: (start) 12,052 km (fin.) 18,597 km. Total private for period: 640 km
Spare/Temp Vehicle PSM: (start) 113,477 km (fin.) 113,477 km.

Bi-monthly report on outputs

1111 Trout Surveys

Nothing to report in this period.

1112 Lake Netting

Preparation underway for netting Lake Ianthe.

1113 Spawning Surveys

Nothing to report in this period.

1114 Trend Counts

Shoveler and Grey Teal survey completed.

1115 Sportsfishery Research

Spawning surveys completed at Mawheraiti monitoring sites. Sports Fishery Research report completed.

1116 Designated Waters Fisheries Management

Attendance and input into progression of the National Pressure Sensitive Fisheries Policy.

1121 National Hunter Survey.

The National Hunter Survey has been completed - we are now awaiting the production of the South Island Hunter Harvest report.

1161 Fisheries Enhancement

During August 2026, 119,000 salmon were released into Lake Kaniere as part of the put-and-take fishery enhancement programme. This comprised 12,000 salmon (13 g) released at Sunny Bay on 19 August and 107,000 salmon (1.5 g) released at Hans Bay on 20 August. Pre-payment of donation to McKinnon's Hatchery was also arranged.

1171 Regulations/Gazette Notices

Nothing to report in this period.

1181 Game Bird Control
No crop predation complaints have been received during this period.

1211 RMA Plans/Policy/Consents
The below application was given approval as an affected party in the period.

Applicant	Area	Type	Nature of work	Comments
Phillip Hampton	New River	Mining Permit	Alluvial Gold Mining	No surface discharge and no work in riparian margins of New River or tributary.

Consultation has continued with the Rua Gold Team regarding the Auld Creek Gold Mine. Ecological reports and proposed monitoring conditions have been reviewed. At this stage impacts look to be no more than minor if the proposed treatment systems and mitigation gets incorporated into the Consent.

1213 DoC
Nothing to report in this period.

1241 Trout Spawning Habitat
Spawning habitat data was provided to the contractor, and a working group meeting was attended. The updated model output is now being awaited.

1311 Access
Further development of the new Fish & Game access and regulation mapping system is underway. An access signage audit is also underway and nearing completion.

1312 Assisted Hunting
Nothing to report in this period.

1331 Website/Ezines/Social Media
Facebook engagements have been completed, focusing on spring fishing opportunities, promoting upcoming educational fishing events and Reel Life. All current council meeting minutes have been signed and uploaded to the website. All reports that have been received at council meetings have also been uploaded to the website.

1332 Fish & Game Magazine
Magazine database has been provided for the mailout of the 2026 Fishing magazine with minimal returns

1361 Clubs, Outdoor Recreation Groups
Nothing to report in this period.

1371 Council Properties.
Okuru hut was utilised by staff during compliance visits and general maintenance was completed.

1411 Cons.Bds. Iwi, Allied Groups
Staff provided boat support on a cost-recovery basis to the West Coast Regional Council for Lake Brunner and Lake Haupiri water quality monitoring.

1421 Media/Communication
Media releases both pre and post opening of the gamebird season as well as responding to telephone enquires around Gamebird season, and fisheries enhancement.

1431 Political Advocacy

Nothing to report in this period.

1511 Compliance
Compliance carried out focusing on river lower reaches and lakes. No issues to date.

1521 Ranger Training
Nothing to report in this period.

1531 Prosecutions
Nothing to report in this period.

1611 Licence Production & Distribution.
There has been one licencing error corrected in the period.

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. There is still general dissatisfaction feedback to agents with the continued Family licence requirement to name a child.

1721 Council.
Regular bi-monthly reporting and Liaison with Chair. Discussions with North Canterbury Fish and Game council regarding staffing arrangements.

1821 OWP & Budget
2026/27 Bulk Funding confirmation was received from the NZ Council. Figures were checked to ascertain consistency with regional figures. The 2026/27 Workplan is now operative.

1831 Annual Public Meeting & Report.
Draft Statements of Service and Financial Performance are near completion. At the time of writing there was still no Auditor appointed for the West Coast Region although we have been assured by the OAG that this is imminent.

1841 National Liaison
Communication with other regions regarding access maps, sharing of data with third parties, creel surveys budgeting and annual reporting. Sharing staff resources with North Canterbury was also discussed between the regions.

1910 Staff Salaries & Payroll.
Staff performance reviews are scheduled.

1940 Office Premises.
General Maintenance including lawns and cleaning as well as general office tidying.

1950 Office Equipment.
Nothing to report.

1970 General.
All accounts payable continue to be paid on time. GST, FBT and administration of plant was completed.

1980 Equipment.
General maintenance on plant completed.

1990 Vehicles.
All vehicles are up to date for their on-road requirements.

Staff Recommendation:

That this report be received.