

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Central South Island Fish and Game Council held in the Boardroom, 32 Richard Pearse Drive, Temuka, on Thursday 21 April 2016 at 7:00 pm.

Present: S Gerard K Payne
B Growcott G Rooney (Chairman)
M Hall Will Spry
D Isbister B Whipp
L Koevoet J Henry (Ngai Tahu)

In Attendance:

Staff: J Graybill, B Dolan, J Couper, A Christensen, M Webb, H Stevens, R Adams.

DoC: D Winterburn

Members of the Public: Approx 20

16-012 APOLOGIES:

J Cruden, P McLauchlan

Resolved (Hall/Payne)

16-006

THAT THE APOLOGIES OF J CRUDEN AND P MCLAUGHLAN BE ACCEPTED

16-013 COUNCILLOR INTEREST REGISTER:

Chairman queried if Councillors had any new interests to add to the register. None were forthcoming.

16-014 NOTIFIED GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Categories of Licences (LK)
- River Control Works on Ashburton River (SG)

16-015 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 18 February 2016

S Gerard noted that in the second paragraph on page 643 of the minutes it says '8 years' where he believed it should say '4 years.'

Resolved (Whipp/Koevoet)

16-007

THAT WITH THE ABOVE NOTATION THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF 18 FEBRUARY 2016 BE ACCEPTED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD.

Chief Executive Note: Upon checking the handwritten minutes from the 18 February 2016 it was confirmed that '8 years' was what was said at the meeting.



16-016 BUDGET AND FINANCE:

016.1 Financial Reports & Expense Listing

Resolved (Koevoet/Isbister)

16-008

THAT COUNCIL RECEIVES THE FINANCIAL REPORTS AND RATIFIES THE EXPENSE LISTINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2016 AND MARCH 2016 IN THE GST INCLUSIVE AMOUNTS OF \$340,101.94 AND \$116,263.39, RESPECTIVELY.

16-017 DOC LIAISON:

D Winterburn updated Council on various works undertaken by DoC including:

- Rangitata predator trapping programme
- Progress of Rangitata fencing programme
- Invasive weed spraying on Rakaia and Rangitata
- Waitaki River islands – bird nesting protection programme
- Blue Mountain tenure review completion
- Rural fire district areas restructured.

16-018 OPERATIONS AND STAFF REPORTS:

018.1 Activity Reports & Operations Reports (7.1)

Staff responded to general queries from Councillors related to topics reported in their activities and operations reports. Topics included Plan Change 6A, Hinds Drains Working Party outcomes, Island Stream fish stranding, salmon information collected and Upper Ohau fishery assessment.

018.2 Ashburton District Council Stockwater Consent Application (7.4)

A Christensen provided a report to Council on the details of the ADC Stockwater consent as requested by Council at its February meeting.

M Hall stated he believed the retirement of water is going into new irrigation and not back to the river and felt that this was in breach of Zone Committee work and a previous agreement.

Resolved (Isbister/Koevoet)

16-009

THAT THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, A CHRISTENSEN, M WEBB AND M HALL MEET TO DISCUSS OPTIONS ON FINDING A WAY FORWARD ON THE ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL STOCKWATER CONSENT APPLICATION.

018.3 Six Monthly Meeting of Riparian Trust and Fish and Game (7.5)

Chief Executive advised that consents for diversion, take and discharge at McKinnons was up for renewal. ECan's initial approach was to put in permanent data loggers. CSI were able to convince ECan that only 80 metres was diverted so that requirement was not needed. CSI have now been granted the consent.

16-019 PUBLIC ISSUES FORUM:

No discussion.



16-020 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

020.1 2016/17 Anglers Notice Review (8.1)

Part 1. 2016/17 Triennial CSI Region Angler Notice Review

M Webb provided Council with a report outlining submissions received and his recommendations for the 2016/17 Angler Notice.

Secretary's Note: For the full details of the submission and staff recommendations refer to the 2016/17 Anglers Notice Review Report in the 21 April 2016 meeting papers.

1. Prohibit Night Fishing

Resolved (Koevoet/Growcott)

16-010

THAT COUNCIL RETAIN CURRENT FISHING HOURS IN THE CSI REGION.

Rationale:

This submission was based on the banning of night fishing in the North Canterbury Region and the submitter believed most of the illegal activities on the Rangitata are occurring at night where those involved are hidden from scrutiny by darkness. F&G has not been provided with factual information to support this and no information of this type has been recorded by rangers. It was felt that banning night fishing for salmon doesn't increase the deterrence for those who may be involved in illegal activity i.e removing law abiding anglers from the river who may witness and report illegal activity would be considered an advantage to those who may wish to fish illegally at night. More surveillance is a deterrent, not less.

Resolved (Hall/Whipp)

16-011

THAT THE ISSUE RAISED BY MR COOPER BE REVIEWED AND STAFF BRING A FURTHER REPORT ON THIS TO THE APRIL 2017 COUNCIL MEETING.

2. Remove Fly Fishing Only Waters

Submitter Kurt Burrows spoke to his submission expressing his wish to abolish fly fishing only waters. He felt it was elitist and the regulation restricts opportunity and was there to protect fly fishing guides. He wished to take his family to all water to fish but instead is being denied the opportunity in some waters for what he saw as no valid reason.

K Payne declared his conflict of interest as he is a Fly Fishing Guide. He clarified that some of it is tradition but some are fly fishing only to protect sustainability. He explained that a high percentage of fly anglers are catch and release and typically spin fishermen kill more fish.

It was clarified that Fish and Game set bag limits to address the issue of sustainability so therefore there was no argument that waters be fly fishing only due to sustainability and if an angler catches a fish they are entitled to keep it. A general discussion then ensued on types of fishing, sustainability (harvest limits) and it was

Resolved (Hall/Koevoet) (6 For, 3 Against)

16-012

**That Lakes Mystery, Roundabout and Emily and their tributaries, and the Maori Lakes and its tributaries retain fly only status,
Lake Poaka and Ahuriri River Lagoons retain fly only status,**



**Lochs Cameron and Merino to become fly and spin fisheries,
Hinds and Tengawai rivers to become fly and spin fisheries,
Hakataramea River above SH82, Maerewhenua River above SH83, and Omarama
Stream above SH8 to become fly and spin fisheries,
Lakes Denny, Donn, and Spider to become fly and spin fisheries, and
High country tarns and lagoons to become fly and spin fisheries**

3. **Permit Bait Fishing from Boats in Lakes Benmore and Ohau**

Staff submitted that the historical purpose for restricting use of bait from boats was to exclude boats from the shallow, wadeable waters at the heads of these lakes where shore anglers were given preference. In reality these fisheries now support widespread use of soft baits that are defined as bait and fished as a spinner. The use of soft baits from boats is now the dominant boat fishing method and its increased popularity has not caused additional conflict with shore anglers. Removal of the restriction will update the regulations to match current accepted practice and should have no impact on current fishing methods.

Resolved (Isbister/Spry)

16-013

**REMOVE BAIT FISHING RESTRICTION WHEN FISHING FROM BOATS ON
LAKES BENMORE AND OHAU.**

4. **Annual Review of Salmon Season April Closure**

J Key spoke to his submission on change the closure date for salmon fishing to the last day of April. He was supported by approx. 20 members of the public. His reasons for wanting to change the closure date and staff response are listed below.

1. Submitter statement: Other regions allow salmon fishing in April.

Response: It is only North Canterbury F&G that have comparable salmon fisheries to CSI. The NC region has the upper reaches of its rivers closed to salmon fishing all year as an alternative means for achieving reduction in angler catch. CSI Council would have a problem with implementing a restriction that closes all angling in a particular reach as unfair in that one group of anglers take all of the restriction while others continue unaffected.

2. Submitter statement: The original reason for the closure of April is no longer relevant.

Response: The Council's objectives when introducing the April closure were to improve the chances of adult salmon spawning so as to maximize the freshwater production of juvenile salmon. Without knowing what factors are controlling salmon population size, by maximizing or at least increasing freshwater production we are improving the likelihood of more adult salmon coming back. This solution is not a quick fix like a salmon hatchery, it is a long-term sustainability project that may take many returning salmon generations for benefits to become apparent.

3. Submitter statement: This fishing season the number of salmon being caught has been low. Most fishermen and women spoken toare all very disappointed at the low salmon numbers. All would like the season extended until the end of April so anglers can catch more salmon.

Response: In the Rangitata there is a very clear relationship between the size of the total run of salmon and the proportion caught by anglers. Since the 2006/07 season between 27% and 39% (average 33%) of all returning wild salmon are caught by



anglers. This means that regardless of the returning run size anglers will still take about one-third of the run. If the returning run is poor then anglers also have a lean year. It is recognised anglers would like to catch more salmon but they should recognise that the most likely reason for their poor catch is that the salmon are not there. In this situation Council's efforts to have more fish spawn are even more important and the continued closure of April is justified.

4. Submitter Statement: By extending the fishing season, licence holders would feel happier about getting more value for their fees.

Response: If the salmon fishery is lost there will be no salmon fishing. While Council has responsibility to assess and monitor angler success and satisfaction this is secondary to maintaining fisheries capable of sustaining harvest. Council's highest priority must be for the long-term sustainability of the salmon fishery. Satisfying the immediate and short-term needs of anglers should not compromise that objective.

Council and members of the public held a general discussion on protection and sustainability of the fishery, bag limits and salmon counts.

Council expressed concern that there was nothing evident in the submission where consideration had been given to the sustainability of the fishery. All Council was hearing was 'we want to catch fish'. Councillors explained that the April closure resulted in significantly more eggs being deposited to assist sustainability that otherwise would not have been deposited if those fish had been caught.

Resolved (Isbister/Spry)

16-014

- 1. RETAIN CURRENT APRIL CLOSURE FOR SALMON FISHING IN THE RANGITATA RIVER FOR THE 2016/17 SEASON.**
- 2. RECONSIDER CONTINUED RANGITATA RIVER CLOSURE DURING ANGLER NOTICE REVIEW IN APRIL 2017.**

K Payne wished to have his vote against the motion recorded.

5. Reduce Canal Salmon Bag Limit

Resolved (Isbister/Hall)

16-015

RETAIN CURRENT BAG LIMITS FOR THE HYDRO CANALS.

Rationale:

The canal fisheries of the upper Waitaki produce large numbers of large fish. They are in most cases easily caught and there are no signs that the fisheries are overharvested.

There are no wild salmon populations upstream to sustain the canal population by straying and all salmon presence is from accidental losses from commercial salmon farms on the canals. The capacity of the salmon pens and the size of salmon that escape largely determines the number and size of salmon available for anglers to catch.

It is doubtful that any of the canals could sustain tens of thousands of takeable salmon released instantaneously into the canal in addition to the resident trout population and the quicker that salmon numbers can be reduced the better for trout and the better will be the condition of salmon that anglers are catching. The boom and bust nature of the canal



salmon fishery is its “normal” state given how unnatural it is compared to wild self-sustaining fisheries.

6. Children to Fish region-wide by all methods

Moved (Isbister/Whipp)

That Child Licence Holders be permitted to fish in all waters of the Region with all legal Methods.

The motion was put and declared **LOST**.

Rationale:

This regulation could be open to abuse. I.e. children have a licence to fish but adults don't and then if the adults are caught fishing they use the excuse of 'helping' the children.

Part 2. 2016/7 Angler Notice CSI, 2nd Schedule Format

7. Second Schedule Format

Resolved (Hall/Growcott)

16-016

THAT COUNCIL RECOMMEND TO THE NZ FISH AND GAME COUNCIL THAT THE ALPHABETICAL FORMAT OF THE CSI ANGLERS NOTICE BE INCLUDED IN THE CSI SECTION OF THE REGULATION BOOKLET FOR THE 2016/17 FISHING SEASON.

020.2 Draft Budget & OWP (8.2)

Budget

Chief Executive advised that this draft budget is largely a hold-the-line budget with suggested expenditure to reflect actual expenditure for the past and current year. He advised that the CPI target for this budget round is 0.1% and CSI's bulk fund level is \$684,636. He indicated that no contestable fund applications from CSI are recommended this year.

Resolved (Isbister/Koevoet)

16-017

THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE DRAFT BUDGET FOR THE 2016/2017 FINANCIAL YEAR.

OWP

After a query from S Gerard on when Councillors are able to have input to the OWP the Chief Executive explained how the process worked. Discussion ensued and M Hall explained that the OWP has been compiled over many years of CSI Councils who, along with experienced staff, have put together the fundamentals of the Councils OWP where a lot of the projects are ongoing. He felt that new Councillors would have a clearer understanding and appreciation of what the issues are around the region if there was a day or two set aside to take a familiarisation tour of the region. Councillors added that most of the Operational Work Plan is business as usual and with the limit of staff hours available there is very little opportunity to add projects i.e if a project gets added then what project is to come off?

Resolved (Isbister/Growcott)

16-018

THAT COUNCIL APPROVE THE DRAFT OWP FOR THE 2016/2017 FINANCIAL YEAR.



020.3 2015 Regional Fish and Game Council Election (8.3)
Council **AGREED** that this item lie on table until next meeting.

16-021: NZ COUNCIL MATTERS:

M Hall provided a written report on NZC meeting held at Cromwell in March. Topics included: Outcome of the Fish and Game election, downward trend in licence sales, review of National Office structure, proposed changes in RM Act, water quality issues, approval of CSI funding, Finance Review Committee, National Angler Survey, no changes to licence categories for upcoming fishing season.

M Hall also advised that he was unable to attend the 20th May NZ Council meeting and would be indisposed for a time thereafter so Council

Resolved (Rooney/Growcott)

16-019

THAT DANIEL ISBISTER SHALL BE APPOINTED THE CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND MEMBER ON THE NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL, REPLACING MATTHEW HALL. THAT SUCH APPOINTMENT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN TIME FOR DANIEL TO HAVE FULL MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS AT THE NEW ZEALAND COUNCIL MEETING PLANNED FOR 20TH MAY 2016.

16-022: GENERAL BUSINESS:

022.1 Licence Categories (LK)

L Koevoet advised that he had been approached by two local licence agents who told him that Non-Residents should be able to buy a 9-day licence or a licence similar to the short break option. Chief Executive clarified that a 24-hour licence is available for Non-Residents if they did not wish to buy the Whole Season licence.

022.2 River Control Works on the Ashburton River (SG)

S Gerard advised that M Langlands, a fishing guide, ran into dirty water in the Ashburton area due to river control work and queried if there was a way people could be made aware of river control works being undertaken in rivers.

Chief Executive responded that he was not in a position to answer this query as he had received no prior notice of this issue before the meeting. He advised that if S Gerard or M Langlands wished to provide more details and information he could get staff to investigate.

022.3 Regulations (KP)

K Payne queried when regulations can be changed re fly fishing. He was advised that a submission needs to be made to the Council and then an assessment/review would need to be undertaken before being brought to the Council for decision making at the time of the Anglers Notice Review.

Chief Executive cautioned any 'knee jerk' reaction and advised that it was importation to let a regulation settle in and operate for a time before a true assessment can be made on a need for change. Chairman reinforced that the process undertaken at this meeting was the correct one as it allowed Council to make informed decisions.



**16-015 (Continued) CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC EXCLUDED MINUTES
– 18 FEBRUARY 2016**

Resolved (Koevoet/Whipp) (at 10:40 pm)

16-020

**THAT COUNCIL MOVE INTO PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION TO PROTECT
THE PRIVACY OF NATUAL PERSONS.**

Council resumed in public session at 11 pm

Linn Koevoet requested a leave of absence as he was not in a position to attend the June and August Council meetings due to an extended trip overseas.

Meeting closed: 11:05 pm

Next Council Meeting – 23 June 2016 – 7 pm

Signed _____



Date _____

23/6/16.