

**Agenda for the Meeting of the
Otago Fish & Game Council to be held on 10th February 2018
at the Gate Cromwell**

Commencing at 10.00am

Please note: A Lunch will be provided at 12.30pm

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1 Present and Apologies

2 Declaration of Interest

3 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes

**Minutes of Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting
Otago Fish and Game Council Office, Dunedin
30 November 2017,
Commencing at 12.30pm**

1.0 Present:

Monty Wright (Chair), Dr John Jillett, Dan Rae, Adrian McIntyre, Ian Cole, Dr Mike Turner, John Barlow, Rick Boyd, Richard Twining, Murray Neilson and Colin Weatherall.

In attendance: Niall Watson (CE) Ian Hadland (OM), and ODT reporter

Apologies were received from

Dave Witherow, Alan Hammond, Ian Cole, Bruce Jeffries (OCB) and Vicky Whyte.

(Rae/Jillett)

That apologies be accepted.

2.0 Declarations of Interest

Nil

3.0 Minutes

Resolved (Rae/McIntyre)

That the Minutes of the meetings on the 19 October 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

4.0 Matters Arising from Minutes

4.1 Wetland development

Wetland development at Takitakitoa was discussed along with the potential use of the wetland funds held in trust by the Council for DOC. Those funds were available for use in Otago wetlands with agreement from DOC.

The likelihood of a large area of upper Taieri wetlands being available for improved management was noted and it was **agreed** that wetland development options including Otokia and Taieri Lake should be considered further at the February planning meeting.

Game Habitat funding was also discussed and it was proposed that the Council invite Andrew Tannock, chair of the GBHT, down to see local wetlands.

5.0 Communications New Zealand Council

5.1 NZC Correspondence – Nil

5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC

5.2.1 Response on National Financial Policy proposals – noted (second page to be circulated)

6.0 Health and Safety – nothing to report

7.0 Chief Executive's Report

7.1 Administration

Finance reports to the end of October 2017 were discussed with expenditure running at 18% after two months or 17% of the financial year. Fish licence sales were slightly ahead of the same date last year.

A drone was purchased for use in river monitoring for a cost of \$1720 excluding GST

Resolved (Turner/Barlow)

That Finance and Licence sales reports to the end of October 2017 be approved

7.2 Species

Lake Wanaka

Concerns about Lake Wanaka not fishing well were discussed and the dominance of boat angling was noted. The CE advised creel surveys would be undertaken again this summer and other methods (boat ramp surveys) were discussed. Anglers were reporting reduced catches of salmon in Wanaka by comparison with Hawea.

Hatchery

Harvest of fish from Lone Pine dam at Macraes was reported to be more that desirable in a recent club fishing day. Tighter controls would apply in future

Angler Notice Review

The planned series of public meetings at the end of January 2018 was noted and councillors were encouraged to attend to receive feedback where possible.

Game Season

The importance of communicating regulations changes to the rural community was noted.

7.2 Habitat

Contact Energy

Agreed that Council should press Contact for progress on the hatchery option.

Kye Burn

Council noted the invitation from Kye Burn Catchment Limited to visit the catchment and **agreed** to look for a suitable date. Negotiations over residual flows was ongoing.

Cardrona

The current state of the Cardrona with the river disconnecting at a flow of about 1.5 cumecs was noted.

Wetlands

Three Overseas Investment Office assessments of wetlands were reported as being underway in the Taieri catchment. Where purchase of land by overseas investors was approved conditions on protection of natural features or access could be imposed.

Tucker Beach Wildlife Management Reserve

The Council reluctantly noted the situation at Tucker Beach WMR with encroachment of residential dwellings resulting in DOC declining to issue further hunting permits for safety reasons. The reserve had originally been established because of upland game habitat values. **Agreed** staff should look at the hunting potential of alternative reserve areas given the shrinkage in available hunting areas

7.4 User Participation

Agreed that the TAKF programme and recruitment retention and reactivation to be including on the planning meeting agenda

7.5 Public Interface

No discussion

7.6 Compliance

The Chair requested that councillors be notified of ranger training courses so that they had the opportunity to attend and demonstrate an interest in their activities.

7.7 Licencing

No discussion

7.8 Council

Noted the AGM was scheduled for 3.00pm

7.9 Planning and Reporting**Annual Report**

The Council noted the Annual Report for the year ending 31 August 2017 was completed and had been signed off by the auditor without qualification

8.0 Committee Reports

8.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust – Mr Cole’s email message advised that recent Trust activity included:

- Trustee field trip to look at Bendigo area, upper Clutha access, Pittaway Lane, Kidds Creek, Kane Road
- Manuherikia water quality (conductivity) monitoring continuing
- Liaison with Guardians of lake Dunstan
- Submission on Lake Dunstan and Navigation bylaws

8.2 New Zealand Council

Dr Jillett reported on the recent NZC meeting and field trip:

- It was the first meeting for the new NZC CE Martin Taylor
- There is an NZC office review underway with some structural change likely.
- Minister for Conservation Eugenie Sage addressed the meeting at some length and was encouraging of Fish and Game’s advocacy and involvement in planning processes.
- Captive reared mallards is a current issue.
- Martin is to represent Fish and Game on the Landcare Trust.
- Unfortunately the Guides Licence was not necessarily a top priority for NZC
- A salmon conference had been held on 16 -18 October in Ashburton
- The very large size of NZC agendas was noted

The Council meeting adjourned at 3.00pm for the Annual General Meeting

9.0 Technical Reports

9.1 Long Term Planning for Recreational Amenity of Surface Water – Paragreen

The report was discussed at some length and it was resolved (Jillett/Barlow)

That the report be received

9.2 2018 Game Bird Season Regulations - Halford

The report was discussed and it was agreed that in future the preliminary approval of the game season regulations should occur at the October meeting.

The need to communicate the 4 year transition from lead shot for sub gauges was noted.

It was resolved (Rae/McIntyre)

That Council approve the 2018 Game Season regulations in line with the 2017 season subject to satisfactory monitoring results.

9.3 Otago Backcountry Fisheries Surveys 2016-17 Season – H Trotter

The report was discussed at some length and sample sizes and error bars requested for future reports and numbers as well as proportions for Figure 2.

Resolved (Weatherall/Turner)

Received with thanks

9.4 Summary of Sportsfish and Gamebird Licence Sales for 2016/17 - Hadland

The report was discussed. Age demographics for game licence holders were requested along with Game LEQs for the South Island.

Resolved (Rae/Barlow)

That the report be received

9.5 Southern Reservoir – TAKF 2017 and Beginner Adults Fishing Classes 2017 - Dixon

Noted the number of participants for the Reservoirs TALK may be too high.

Agreed that the topic be included on the planning meeting agenda for February 2018 to consider whether the Council was achieving what it wanted to out of the program.

Council noted it's thanks to Steve Dixon and his volunteer helpers.

Resolved McIntyre/Boyd

That the report be received

9.6 Manorburn Angler Survey - Halford

The report was discussed along with its usefulness for determining fishery trends was resolved (Whyte/Rae)

That the report be received

Resolved (Grubb/Jillett)

That the meeting go into public excluded:

(See confidential minutes)

Resolved (Rae/Jillett)

That the meeting move out of public excluded

10.0 Correspondence

10.1 Wyndham Anglers – Letter of support for Kiwi Anglers First - Received

10.2 Casting for Recovery – Letter of thanks – received

11.0 General Business

11.1 Gold Medal Competition

The issue of harvest in fish competitions was raised

11.2 Recruitment of Chief Executive

Mr Hadland left the meeting.

Resolved (Rae/Weatherall)

Meeting go into public excluded session

See confidential minutes

Resolved (Jillett/Rae)

Meeting come out of public excluded session

11.3 Dairy Farms ‘Opening the Gates’

The proposed Fonterra open day was noted. Concern was expressed about ORC monitoring of run-off in winter

The meeting closed at 5.10pm

4 Matters arising from the minutes

5 Communications New Zealand Council

5.1 Correspondence from NZC to Otago

5.1.1 Release of Captive Reared Mallards

Agenda Item: 2.6

RELEASE OF CAPTIVE REARED MALLARDS

Meeting of NZ Fish and Game Council November 2017

Prepared by: Robert Sowman, Policy & Planning Manager, NZ Council Office &
Andy Garrick, Regional Manager, Eastern Fish & Game

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to invite discussion on the release into the wild of captive reared mallards (CRMs) with a view to developing national policy for the guidance of regional Fish and Game Councils, the Department of Conservation (DOC), and people applying to DOC for authorisation to undertake this and related activities.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

The rearing, supply and release of mallards into the wild is a growing enterprise in parts of the North Island, with the practice being promoted as a means of augmenting wild populations. Over the past 3 or 4 years we are aware of up to 6,500 birds per annum being released into sites in the Eastern, Hawke's Bay, and Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game regions. We understand that mallards have also been released into the Wellington region. Typically, groups of hunters purchase in the order of 100 up to 1,200 juvenile CRM each year and release these onto private land prior to the game season, where they are encouraged to remain or return, by ad lib feeding and a constant supply of food. Suppliers of the mallards maintain the position that they are not selling the birds but are solely seeking recovery for the costs of producing them.

Unlike pheasants on gazetted upland game properties with special conditions, bag limits and all other game season regulations for hunting wild mallards apply to the hunting of these released birds. However, interest has been expressed, in the Eastern Region if not others, in obtaining dispensation for less restrictive bag limits at specific locations/properties where CRM have been released. There have been indications from some quarters too, of a desire to establish commercial operations along the lines of those run by a number of upland game properties.

There are a variety of potential issues and downsides associated with the release of CRM. Some of these could be significant if not appropriately recognised and provided for via conditions attached

to the permits by DOC. These are issued to individuals or collectives to undertake these activities (e.g. to capture, rear, hold, transfer and/or release birds). Some issues, however, may not be able to be addressed via such conditions.

Potential issues relate to genetic introgression and behavioural and morphological maladaptation in captivity, disease, compliance and law enforcement, impacts on wild mallard monitoring programmes, negative impacts on hunting opportunities in neighbouring areas, public perception, legislation (buying and selling of birds and hunting opportunity), and additional workloads for Fish & Game staff.

On the other hand, the concept theoretically has potential upsides, including augmentation or re-establishment of depleted wild populations, and additional or alternative opportunities for hunters. There is therefore a need to develop national policy and/or guidelines to determine whether Fish & Game NZ is supportive of, or wishes to promote the release of CRM and if so, what conditions or controls should apply to the practice.

2.2 Legal Position

The Wildlife Act 1953 is the key legislation governing the catching, holding, rearing, transfer and release of game birds, and the sale of game and shooting rights. The following provides an overview and brief commentary of the provisions of the Act relevant to this agenda item.

2.2.1 First Schedule - Wildlife Declared to be Game

The First Schedule specifically provides that the mallard or associated mallard hybrid is wildlife that is declared to be game for the purposes of the Wildlife Act. The declaration in the First Schedule is not restricted by any reference to “not being a domestic bird” or similar caveats/delineation.

However, the Schedule creates a distinction between pheasants that are deemed to be game versus pheasants that are deemed to be domestic birds – a distinction that does not apply to mallards or other gamebirds. That distinction is elaborated on in the definition of a “domestic bird” in s2, which provides that the restriction in relation to pheasants being defined as domestic birds is limited to pheasants bred/raised for the predominant purpose of sale of pheasant meat or live pheasants for human consumption, excluding:

1. Any pheasant living in a wild state; or
2. Any pheasants held pursuant to a permit under sections 23, 53 and 56 for the purposes of liberation at large as game “shall not be deemed to be a domestic bird”.

The effect of this is that a pheasant that is bred/held in captivity for subsequent liberation to be hunted/killed as game is similarly defined as “game”.

2.2.2 Section 2 - Interpretation

Game is defined as “all animals and game birds for the time being specified in the First Schedule”. The First Schedule specifically provides that grey and mallard duck and any associated hybrid, are wildlife declared to be “game”. In order for a captive mallard to be defined as a “domestic bird”, it would have to be accepted that a general reference to any domestic duck overrides specific mention of the mallard duck as “game”.

Wildlife means any animal living in a wild state, and includes any such animal, egg or offspring of any such animal held, hatched or born in captivity. In turn, the definition of animal includes any bird not considered a domestic bird.

The discretion to grant/decline permits under sections 23, 53 and 56 in relation to wildlife, (including game) for these activities rests with the Director-General of Conservation as opposed to Fish & Game, notwithstanding Fish & Game's statutory role in the management of game populations and setting of associated hunting regulations.

2.2.3 Sale of Game and Sale of Shooting Rights Prohibited

Section 23(1) of the Wildlife Act provides that, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the Director-General of Conservation, it is lawful for a person to buy or sell game or game eggs. Such consent can be provided on a conditional basis.

It is noted that s26Q(b)(ii) of the Conservation Act contemplates Fish & Game Councils maintaining and improving the game resource by maintaining hatchery and breeding programmes where required for the stocking or restocking of game habitat. Hence, game breeding/stocking is an anticipated Fish & Game Council function. Further, it is legally permissible under the Wildlife Act for individuals to undertake this activity, subject to their holding the necessary permits under sections 23, 53 and 56 of the Act.

However, people undertaking these activities cannot legally sell or let the right to hunt or kill liberated mallards, including those bred/raised in captivity, because of the restriction in s23(2) of the Wildlife Act.

The real issue from Fish & Game's perspective is whether the Director-General of Conservation is required to consult with Fish & Game in exercising that discretion to provide consent to buy or sell game or game eggs and, if so, the extent to which they are required to take into account Fish & Game's view(s).

It seems somewhat inappropriate that consent is to be obtained from the Director-General of Conservation, rather than Fish & Game, given that Fish & Game Councils are specifically tasked with management of game populations, with issuing licences to hunt or kill game (see s26Q of the Conservation Act) and with setting regulations in relation to the harvest of game by way of Game Notices promulgated under the Wildlife Act.

As a minimum requirement, the Director-General of Conservation and delegated staff should consult with the relevant Fish & Game region in light of Fish & Game's specific statutory functions in relation to game.

Furthermore, any decision making by the Director-General of Conservation and delegated staff should take account of the relevant sports fish and game management plan for the relevant Fish & Game region.

Notwithstanding that someone may be able to legally buy or sell game or game eggs, including mallards and their eggs, it remains unlawful under s23(2) to sell/let for reward the right to hunt or kill game on any land or on any water-adjointing land. This means that if someone legally purchased mallards for liberation, they cannot subsequently legally sell the right to hunt them.

2.2.4 Director-General may Authorise Taking or Killing of Wildlife for Certain Purposes

Section 53(1) provides that the Director-General of Conservation may authorise a specified person to catch or kill game for an approved purpose if such hunting or killing is not permitted at the time.

2.2.5 Restrictions on Liberation or Export of Animals, Birds, etc

Section 56(1) provides that, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the Director-General of Conservation, it is lawful to liberate wildlife, which - as explained above - includes game birds such as mallards. Under s56(2) this approval can be granted on either a conditional or an unconditional basis. The Director-General or delegated staff should consult with Fish & Game in making any such decision regarding liberation.

2.3 Biological, Behavioral, Ecological, and Operational Considerations

2.3.1 Overview

As indicated earlier, there are potential concerns of a biological, behavioural and ecological nature, e.g. genetics/development of maladaptive traits; disease transmission; negative interaction with wild mallards; and interspecific hybridisation. There are also matters of an operational nature that need to be evaluated in relation to monitoring and management of wild populations (e.g. impacts on aerial transects/counts, banding studies, harvest surveys, population estimates, and regulation setting); reduced hunting opportunity in neighbouring areas (decoy effect of large numbers of released birds in an area and/or cafeteria feeding); and issues relating to compliance and law enforcement (arising from the concept of 'property rights', where more liberal hunting regulations have been approved for properties on which CRMs have been released, compared to the regulations applying elsewhere).

There are however, potential benefits that could arise from releasing mallards, e.g. as a tool to hasten the recovery of wild populations that are at low levels as a consequence, for example, of a series of poor breeding seasons or serious botulism outbreaks, or over harvesting (as opposed to a lack of quality habitat); providing 'put and take' hunting for groups of hunters at specific locations akin to that provided by upland game properties; and providing additional hunting opportunity for game bird hunters more generally and/or further afield.

Earlier this year Fish & Game commissioned an independent review by Dr Murray Williams of the potential pros and cons of releasing CRM into the wild in New Zealand. His key findings are outlined below. The full report was considered by Fish & Game managers in August 2017, who agreed it be accompanied by commentary by the legal and ethical practices and forwarded to the NZ council with a recommendation that it be circulated for consultation to regions.

Managers agreed Dr Williams' full report needs to be read in its entirety prior to determining whether or not, and under what circumstances, the release of CRM is something that Fish & Game should support or enable.

2.3.2 Synopsis Extracted from Dr Williams' Report (note that where provided, *italicised* page references relate to discussions on the topic concerned in the main body of the report)

- This report provides a review of literature detailing the nature and scale of releases of captive-reared mallards (CRMs) internationally, and the efficacy and biological consequences for wild mallards of these release programmes. Drawing upon those findings, it outlines the potential consequences (positive and negative) of more extensive mallard releases in New Zealand.

- A distinction is made between “put-and-take” releases, which are intended to improve hunter opportunity and satisfaction, and releases designed to supplement the wild mallard population.
- Large-scale releases of CRMs dominate in Western Europe and United Kingdom; 3-5 million are released annually and the bulk of mallards shot by hunters are released birds. Numbers released considerably exceed the wild mallard population resident or wintering in many European countries.
- Prolonged captive-rearing of mallards in Western Europe has resulted in birds being released having larger bodies, reduced flight capability, greater human tolerance and reduced anti-predator responses relative to wild mallards - all a consequence of captive mallards being selected for captive rather than wild traits. None of these changes have yet become manifest in the wild population.
- Despite captive-rearing facilities having been identified as potential concentrations of disease, transfer of diseases from captive to wild birds has not yet been detected in either Western Europe or USA. The reverse has, however, been detected (*e.g. transfer of influenza virus from wild birds to captive birds*), and throughout Western Europe, captive flocks and wild birds are kept separate during winter months. Newly-released captive birds lack immunity to wild pathogens and have been found to act as amplifiers of avian flu viruses already circulating in the wild.
- In the USA, there is a century-long tradition of releasing CRMs onto commercial hunting preserves. There is an equally long record of State and Federal wildlife management agencies releasing CRMs to augment wild mallard populations, especially in response to major declines in wild mallard populations.
- In the USA, large-scale releases of CRMs to supplement the wild population have conflicted with State and Federal waterfowl management activities, including population monitoring, band reporting rates, and annual harvest surveys. Similar conflicts have arisen in Nordic countries.
- In the USA, such has been the lamentable ineffectiveness of all releases intended to supplement wild mallard populations that Federal and most State agencies no longer do so, and instead focus on habitat creation and enhancement under the North American Waterfowl Management Programme. A plethora of published research has failed to demonstrate anywhere that population supplementation has worked without complementary habitat-focused initiatives.
- Private releases of CRMs in New Zealand, conducted under permits (*Wildlife Act 1953*) issued by the Department of Conservation, are (knowingly) of 5-year duration and, most recently (2017), resulted in 6000 mallards being released within 4 North Island Fish & Game regions. Since 2012, the DOC has issued 36 permits to individuals or corporate bodies to release mallards, and for periods of 3-11 (mostly 5-7) years (*refer pp 8, 9*).
- All CRMs released are required to be banded, and banding details supplied to the DOC Banding Office. There is already strong evidence for bands retrieved from released CRMs being hoarded and not reported to the Banding Office, or not being reported in the year(s) in which the birds were shot. Thus, determining what proportion of the released birds are shot is problematic. Inevitably, bands from wild birds will be caught up in any reluctance to report a band (*refer pp 10, 11, 12, 15*).
- In New Zealand, CRM releases should be viewed as intended solely to improve hunter opportunity and satisfaction. The wild mallard population is constrained by habitat availability and quality, and habitat expansion and management is the key to its expansion. Releasing CRMs as a stand-alone response to its modern decline will prove entirely ineffective (*refer pp 13, 18*).

- CRM releases are regulated by permits issued by the Department of Conservation. Fish & Game Councils, having statutory responsibilities to manage the gamebird resource, are not formally involved in approving permits and/or setting permit conditions. They should be (*refer p 14*).
- CRM releases have the potential to compromise some of Fish & Game's waterfowl monitoring and assessment activities (*refer pp 14, 15*).
- The requirement to band all CRMs released is challenged because it is without obvious purpose, may compromise band returns from wild mallards, and imposes an unnecessary burden on the DOC Banding Office and Fish & Game administrations (*refer p 15*).
- CRM releases pose no identifiable disease risk to the wild mallard population, nor to its size or genetic integrity (*refer pp 16, 17*).
- The potential for present-scale private CRM releases to expand into commercial-scale waterfowl hunting preserves is foreshadowed (*refer p 14 and Appendix 4*).

2.4 Public Perception, Animal Welfare, and Philosophical Considerations

In his report, Dr Williams notes on page 3:

“There is considerable variability in the way mallard “put-and-take” operations are conducted in Europe, UK and USA, and much of this is a response to the cost of maintaining birds in confinement, or in the wild, for the protracted interval between fledging and the onset of the hunting season. For example, commercial facilities that breed and hold birds for multiple weeks (or months) are compensated by high prices for the birds they sell or for the right to hunt on their preserve. In Europe, most sales of mallards from duck farms are as downy ducklings and the costs of maintenance are born by the hunters, hunters’ organisations, or estates that undertake the releases. Other approaches include releasing birds onto selected ponds at 6-12 weeks of age and maintaining the birds there by constant provisioning until the commencement of the hunting season”.

And on page 22:

“In most countries where restocking takes place, regulations or guidance that define best practice are limited or non-existent. Furthermore, current practices differ considerably from one country to another. In France, Mallards mostly come from a handful of breeding facilities that sell day-old ducklings. Such birds are then hand-reared in aviaries in the region of release, which generally occurs at the age of 6–9 weeks, about two months before the start of the hunting season. In order to keep hand-reared Mallard on the hunting estate, the provision of corn, wheat or rice is common practice. Hand-reared Mallard are thus likely to be highly faithful to the place where they were released, at least until the hunting season commences”.

On page 13:

“The mallard in New Zealand has lost places in which to live in safety and in which to breed successfully. Unless this loss of space and habitat quality is addressed, releasing CRMs into the wild to increase population size will be without enduring effect. And in the absence of appropriate habitat management there will be some who may consider such releases to be ethically questionable given that most, or all, ducks released will knowingly starve, or be predated”.

In Appendix 2 he describes some of the approaches and manner in which hunting of CRMs takes place overseas:

“Traditionally, shooting preserves released their flighted mallards from towers. This release method consists of holding birds in pens until their release from high towers and their flight directed towards waiting hunters. The hunters are positioned on a flight path towards a pond with which the birds are familiar, and released birds not shot but which land in the pond, are trapped and taken back to pens or, if they are trained to do so, return to the pens by themselves. This method of release is cost-effective, since most birds are either shot immediately upon release or the survivors are later gathered up and contained for a subsequent release. An estimated 70% of the CRMs are shot immediately on their release (USFWS 2013). This “put-and-take” method prevents the CRMs intermingling freely with wild ducks, and ensures few escape to the wild.

However, a liberal interpretation of USFWS regulations saw shooting preserves adopt another release method whereby greater numbers of free-flying CRMs mallards were released and the birds “trained” to move freely among several impoundments on the preserve that serve as feeding and loafing areas. Once they are released, the birds are not trapped or put back into captivity, but instead visit flooded grain crops and other feeding sites which the preserves provide. In this way the ducks remain on, or near to, the preserve. While hunters derive a more “wild” hunting experience, fewer of the CRMs are shot (approx. 40%; USFWS 2013) and a greater number escape to mingle with the wild population”.

It is unclear the extent to which predator control and supplementary feeding are undertaken at sites into which CRMs are released in New Zealand, and whether these activities continue beyond the end of the game season. The manner in which CRMs are harvested in New Zealand is also unclear, though staff are aware that some of the hunters who release birds hunt them from their maimai as they would wild birds. Anecdotal reports have been received from third parties, however, that driven hunts are also conducted, in which birds are encouraged to fly over hunters from one point to another, e.g. between feeding and roosting areas. Reports have also been received of birds being spotlighted on ponds, and birds that were reluctant to fly being chased into the air.

These are matters that need to be considered from a public perception and/or animal welfare point of view.

There is similarly a need to consider the philosophical and judicial appropriateness of authorising the captive rearing and release of mallards for ‘put and take’ operations - particularly if these were to be commercialised given the history and intent behind Fish & Game and its predecessors, and the organisations’ ‘reason for being’.

3. FISH & GAME’S POSITION

As a precursor to drafting policy, Fish & Game needs to determine what its position is in relation to the following matters:

- (i) Is Fish & Game supportive of releasing CRMs as a tool to augment wild populations?
- (ii) Is Fish & Game supportive of releasing CRMs as a tool that could be used to hasten the recovery of wild populations that are at low levels as a consequence for example, of a series of very poor breeding seasons or serious botulism outbreaks arising from climatic conditions, or over harvesting?

- (iii) Does Fish & Game support the concept of ‘put and take’ operations where CRMs are released for the principal purpose of providing an immediate hunting opportunity?
- (iv) If the latter is something Fish & Game wishes to facilitate, support or promote, would we accept the development of commercial enterprises run along the lines of many upland game operations, or would we require ‘put and take’ operations to be of a non-commercial nature only? [An argument to consider is if Fish & Game allows commercial pheasant/quail/partridge hunting, should it not also allow commercial exploitation of mallards or other gamebirds and change the law to enable this if necessary?].
- (v) If Fish & Game allows release of ‘put and take’ operations, would we wish to see the birds hunted in a similar way to how wild mallards are hunted now, or would we be accepting of the upland game equivalent of ‘driven hunts’, where birds are encouraged to fly over hunters from point A to point B, or some other approach?

Once these questions have been answered, and any others that might be raised, policy, criteria, and conditions or controls can be developed.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the New Zealand Council:

- (i) receives Dr Williams’ report and notes his key findings**
- (ii) agrees to make it available to interested parties with an invitation to provide comment on it back to the NZ Council by 1 March 2018**
- (iii) agrees to send Dr Williams’ report and this memorandum to Fish and Game Councils asking them to respond by 1 March 2018 to each of the five questions raised under 3. Fish & Game’s Position above.**

From: Robert Sowman [<mailto:rsowman@fishandgame.org.nz>]

Sent: Tuesday, 28 November 2017 10:07 a.m.

To: Andy Garrick; Ben Wilson ; Dean Kelly; Glenn Maclean; Jay Graybill; Mark Venman; Niall Watson; Phil Teal; Rhys Barrier; Rod Cullinane; Rudi Hoetjes; Zane Moss

Cc: Alison Lyall; Bernadette Dolan; Northcanterbury; Karen Crook; Kate Thompson; Kim McPherson - Fish and Game West Coast; Kym Nairne; Lynne Sands; Cheryl Mason; Sharon Milne; Robyn Lingard; Jilli Steedman; Fay Stodart; Sue Wray; Christine Tuck

Subject: Captive Reared Mallard

Hello all

Last Friday, NZ Council considered Captive Reared Mallard as an agenda item. The minutes of that meeting record:

The subject of captive reared mallard is a growing practice in parts of the North Island and has generated diverse opinion on its legal and ethical position. There is a wish to develop policy that can be followed in a consistent way across all of Fish and Game, hence a paper for discussion to be shared with regional Fish and Game councils with the feedback available for further discussion by NZ Council in the New Year.

Resolved: (Andrew Morris/Andy Harris)

That the NZ Fish and Game Council:

- i) Receive Dr Williams' report and notes his key findings**
- ii) Agrees to make it available to interested parties on request with an invitation to provide comment on it back to the NZ Council by 1 March 2018.**
- iii) Agrees to send Dr Williams' report and this memorandum to Fish and Game Councils asking them to respond by 1 March 2018 to each of the questions raised in the memorandum under 3. Fish & Game's Position.**

Please note and have your council respond to iii) in the resolution by 1 March 2018 on the questions set out on page 7 of the memorandum..

Cheers

Robert Sowman

Policy & Planning Manager

Otago Fish & Game Council Meeting Saturday 10th February 2017

5.1.2 Terms of Reference for a Fish & Game NZ National Salmon Committee

NATIONAL SALMON COMMITTEE

New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Prepared by: Robert Sowman, Policy & Planning Manager

The purpose of this memorandum is to invite consultation and feedback from regional Fish and Game Councils on establishing the terms of reference for a Fish & Game NZ National Salmon Committee.

The attached recommendations have been prepared by Matthew Hall, Central South Island Fish and Game Councillor, appointee to the NZ Council and co-convenor of the Salmon Symposium Steering Committee. These recommendations have been circulated to and approved by the Symposium Steering Committee.

Feedback on the attached is required in time for consideration by the NZ Fish and Game Council at its March 2018 meeting. For this to occur, please provide feedback to the NZ Council Office by Friday 2 March 2018.

New Zealand Fish and Game Salmon Committee.

This is a brief paper prepared for the purposes of establishing terms of reference for a New Zealand Fish and Game Salmon Committee.

At the New Zealand Council Meeting – Friday 24th November 2017 it was resolved

That

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council scope out the formation of a salmon committee and the terms of reference needed to deal with restoring the Sea Run Salmon Fishery here in New Zealand. In achieving these objectives, the council will

- I. **Consult with Fish and Game Councils requesting them to recommend their preferred terms of reference.**
- II. **List out and where appropriate speak to, other stake holders who would form part of the committee.**
- III. **Give advice on the committee's responsibility to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and or other Councils.**
- IV. **In setting up the committee consider the various recommendations that were collated from the workshop at the Salmon Symposium.**
- V. **Research and advise how a South Island Salmon Management Plan could be integrated into various Species Management Plans so that the recommendations on salmon had status under the Conservation Act and the Resource Management Act. This forming part of the scoping exercise in considering the functions of a Salmon Committee.**
- VI. **Cost out the running of the committee for a year of operation.**
- VII. **Report on and make recommendations to the first council meeting in 2018.**

Suggested recommendations that would lead to Terms of Reference for a National Salmon Committee

1. **The name of the Committee shall be the National Salmon Committee. (Alternative National Sea Run Salmon Committee?)**
2. **The Committee shall be a committee of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.**
3. **The purpose of the committee is to develop a co-ordinated approach within Fish and Game and key stakeholders to ways that will maintain and enhance the sea run salmon fishery in the interest of anglers. (The current crisis facing the salmon fishery drives this purpose.)**
4. **The New Zealand Council shall approve the terms of reference for the National Salmon Committee after consultation with the regions.**
5. **To gain the best expertise, advice and advocacy, membership of the committee shall be invited from those organisations that have as part of their objectives the future well-being of the sea run salmon fishery. Individuals dedicated to the salmon fishery or who can provide valuable support may also be invited to join the committee.**
6. **The committee shall be chaired by a person approved by the New Zealand Council. (An alternative that the chairman shall be a member of the New Zealand Council)**
7. **The committee shall report to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and shall be bound the Governance Policies established by the Council.**

8. The committee shall be funded from the National Budget.
9. Initially the terms of reference for the committee shall be reviewed annually.

10. The committee shall

- 1) Meet as required, but at least twice a year.
- 2) Meet in Christchurch or at such other location that the committee so decides.
- 3) For membership, draw on the voluntary contribution of governors within Fish and Game who have a special interest in the salmon and staff with expertise in matters relating to the salmon fishery.
- 4) For membership, the committee can call on representation from the wider community and also from groups with a special interest in the sea run salmon fishery. (The objective is not to limit membership; the objective is to add as much value as possible to Fish and Game's efforts in protecting the fishery)
- 5) Assist in the review of the South Island Salmon Management Plan with a view of making better use of its strategic base.
- 6) Advocate the interests of the salmon fishery. (In the widest possible sense)
- 7) Recognise the autonomy Regional Fish and Game Councils have and their statutory function to manage salmon. The purpose of the National Salmon Committee is, to where possible, support and enhance the work of the regions.
- 8) Seek the support of government and other statutory entities and the ways they can support the welfare of salmon.
- 9) Prioritise the recommendations from the Salmon Symposium, work on them and where appropriate include them in the Salmon Management Plan.
- 10) Look at any gaps in the science relating to salmon and on a needs basis recommend the studies required. (Make the best use of the scientists who can contribute to the fishery)
- 11) Investigate and promote ways to fund the work on the salmon fishery. Where appropriate this funding to be accounted for through New Zealand Fish and Game)
- 12) The Committee and indeed Fish and Game accepts that there are other stakeholders who financially and in some cases voluntarily contribute towards the welfare of the sea run salmon fishery. The National Salmon Committee will support the work of these stakeholders. (Other than where this is not deemed to be prudent)
- 13) Complete a budget for the work of the committee and have this approved by the New Zealand Council. (Note – no expense can be incurred by the committee without the approval of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council unless covered elsewhere within the budgetary processes used by Fish and Game.)
- 14) Report on activities primarily to the New Zealand Council but also to Regional Councils and those parties who form the membership of the committee.
- 15) Recommend to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and changes to the terms of reference of the Committee that the committee believes will improve its functioning.

5.1.3 Camouflage Rowboats

CAMOUFLAGE ROWBOATS

New Zealand Council Meeting, November 2017

Prepared by: Robert Sowman, Policy & Planning Manager

At the November 2017 meeting of the New Zealand council, in consideration of the Operational Report a question was asked under:

Project 1130: Fishing and Hunting Regulations

As to whether the word “camouflage” can be changed to “any unmoored boat”. Why camouflage? Staff were to provide a response and circulate the answer to councillors.

The actual statement in question in the Wildlife Act 1953 under section 18: Restrictions on the taking of game no person shall for the purpose of hunting or killing any game use, is:

18(1)(f)(iv) **any unmoored floating stand, hide, shelter, maimai, or louvre, or any unmoored boat artificially dressed or covered in any way**

This is interpreted in the 1st Schedule of the Game Notice under section 7 to mean:

A person may hunt or kill game within the following Fish and Game Regions, from unmoored camouflaged rowboats, subject to the excluded periods for the regions specified ...:

The reason for this provision is twofold.

1. Firstly, to stop people (usually during opening weekend when there are larger numbers of hunters’ present) drifting down a river or along a lake edge accidentally shooting at rising waterfowl and firing pellets at someone in their maimai on the water’s edge.
2. Secondly, to prevent an unmoored boat dressed-up in such a way as to make it blend in with the surroundings and encroach undetected within an unsafe distance on an actual tagged and manned maimai.

The rule is designed to make unmoored vessels stay away from other hunters. If the words “artificially dressed or covered”, or “camouflaged” might exclude non-dressed or covered or non-camouflaged vessels then it suggest an oversight in the rule.

The main purpose of this rule in the 1st Schedule of the Game Notice is to stop the use of unmoored vessels unsafely encroaching on hunters in legitimately tagged maimai on the water’s edge. It is difficult to imagine any opposition to the removal of the word camouflage, but the question should be asked.

Recommendation

That the word “camouflage” be changed to unmoored vessel.

5.2 Correspondence from Otago to NZC

5.2.1 Nil

6 Health and Safety Report

7 Chief Executives Report

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT FEBRUARY 2018

7.1 ADMINISTRATION

Finance and Administration

Financial Reports to 31 January 2018

The finance report for the period from 1 September 2017 to 31 January 2018 is attached.

Key budget figures are included in the front of the Annual Work Plan

Expenditure to date is \$854,675 (including levies \$229,531 and commission \$54,098 but excluding depreciation (\$32,630) compared with the annual budget of \$1,955,764 (operational expenditure: \$984,399, depreciation: nil, and levies: \$918,122 and excluding commission: \$99,630).

Total income to date is \$1,446,050 compared with budget of \$2,074,287

Fishing licence sales revenue received for the year to 31 January 2018 is \$1,330,070 (including commission). The fish budget figures for the full year is \$1,670,050 including commission.

Game licence sales revenue received for the year to 31 January 2018 is \$nil (including commission). The year's budget for game licence sales is \$322,536 including commission.

Budget and expenditure figures are exclusive of GST

Licence Sales to 23 January 2018

Sales recorded to 23 January 2018 are outlined for fish and game licences in the attached table and compared with last year on the same date. Figures are inclusive of GST. Fishing licence sales for the season so far in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) are 13,499 LEQs compare with 13,106 for the same period last year.

Game sales have not commenced.

Funds Position at 31 January 2018

ANZ 00 account \$ 176,568.72

ANZ 70 account \$ 843,953.60

Reparation Trust Account

Account balance to 31 August 2017	\$ 44,333
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Revenue for year to 31 Jan 2018	\$ 6,900
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Less grants to 31 Jan 2018	<u>\$ 8,144</u>
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Total	\$ 43,089
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Otago Fish & Game Council Meeting Saturday 10th February 2017

There is presently a commitment in grants approved but not spent of approximately \$13,250

Backcountry Management

Account balance to 31 January 2018 \$70,468

Term investments as at 31 January 2018:

ASB 0079 \$331,362.83 @ 3.45% maturing July 2018

SBS 44624 \$496,855.05 @ 3.40% maturing July 2018

The sum of \$77,745 is held by Anderson Lloyd in trust for wetland management via DOC.

Agents and Debts

No liabilities or potential liabilities at the present time.

Capital Expenditure

The Council recently bought a drone (\$1721.00) and flow gauging equipment (flowtracker) for use on small streams (\$5210)

Staff and Health and Safety

A minor vehicle accident occurred during the reporting period with minor damage to a vehicle but no injury. Staff (2) have had office seating assessments.

Land and Buildings

Freshwater Research Centre Wanaka

ALREC is in the process of preparing a draft lease for our consideration to cover their temporary research facility on our Wanaka land for our consideration

Boardwalk

The Bullock Creek boardwalk is progressing well and is expected to be finished in 4 to 6 weeks. There needs to be further consideration of signage, conditions of use and health a safety.

Hatchery House

The tenancy for the hatchery house has finished and the tenants are in the process of moving out.

Dunedin Office

The replacement of ceiling tiles and insulation at Dunedin office is continuing but is not yet complete. Delays have been caused by extraordinary demand for the service.

Recommendation

That the Finance and Licence Sales Report for the period ending 31 January 2018 be received.

7.2 SPECIES

Waterfowl Monitoring (1111)

Refer staff and technical reports

Spawning Surveys (1112)

Nothing to report

Population Monitoring:

Nothing to report

Success & Satisfaction (1122)

Backcountry Fishery surveying and compliance has been completed in the Hunter and Wilkin. See separate report on the Pomahaka River.

Fish Salvage (1131)

No fish salvage has been undertaken in the current reporting period. There have been a number of reports of stranded fish in Central Otago waterways (Cardrona and Lindis for example). In line with past practice there has been no salvage attempted because strandings in overallocated Central Otago waterways are common and widespread and salvage of mostly juvenile fish is not a productive use of staff time.

Fish strandings and mortalities are a function of a lack of minimum and residual flows on overallocated waterways where water takes are based on historic mining privileges are common

Hatchery Operations

Fish rearing at the Macraes hatchery is being closely monitored because of high water temperatures. So far there have been no problems

Releases (1161)

Scheduled releases have been completed for the year

Game Notice (1171)

See separate report

Anglers Notice (1172)

Public meetings, in association with angling clubs, have been arranged for early February seeking feedback on the Anglers Notice review.

Game Bird Control (1181)

Nothing to report.

7.3 HABITAT

Resource Management (1211)

Resource Management Complaints 2014/15

Date/Agency	Issue	Response
January 2017	A complaint was lodged with ORC by a third party about stream channel works in Camerons Creek outside Wanaka	ORC prosecution was successful. Sentencing pending
January 2018	Complaint lodged over significant unauthorised channel works in the Shag River	Under investigation by ORC

Resource Consents

There have been further positive discussions with Contact Energy about lower Clutha salmon fisheries mitigation options involving a Clutha catchment hatchery.

CE to report.

Planning (1212)

Minimum and Residual Flow Setting

Manuherikia Minimum Flow – Plan Change 5C

ORC held a workshop on catchment hydrology recently with the aim of getting a consensus on naturalised flows amongst other things. ORC is yet to report on favoured minimum flow options.

Kye Burn Residual Flows

Otago Fish and Game's appeal over ORC's decision on Kye Burn went to Environment Court mediation on Friday 20th October. Discussions are continuing directly with Kyeburn Catchment Limited in an effort to resolve differences.

CE to Report

Lindis Minimum Flow Plan Change

Environment Court mediation concluded in July last year without resolution. A surprising outcome from mediation was an agreement between ORC and Lindis Catchment Group to support a reduced minimum flow (down from 900 to 550 l/s) where current irrigation abstraction by way of large water races is replaced by a number of 'gallery' intakes spread along the river. Fish and Game's view is that the change, which is supported by some other parties is not a realistic comparison and that irrigators would gain from such a change at the expense of the environment.

All parties agreed that Lindis Catchment Group's consents should be lodged and referred directly to the Environment Court to be heard in conjunction with the minimum flow. Those consents were publicly notified late last year and the period for submissions closed in mid January. Fish and Game lodged an objection.

An Environment Court hearing date for the consents and the minimum flow has still to be scheduled but is not expected until at least mid 2018.

Minimum and Residual Flows and Transition from Mining Privileges (TMP)		
River	Activity and status	Status
Lindis	<p>Minimum flow & transition from mining privileges (TMP).</p> <p>Overallocated</p> <p>MALF 1750 l/s</p>	<p>ORC decision on Water Plan Change 5A set a summer minimum of 900 l/s. Decision appealed and went to mediation on 8/9 December 2016 in Cromwell and was concluded in early July 2017 without resolution.</p> <p>ORC and LCG agreed on a reduced minimum flow of 550 l/s with gallery intakes replacing large race takes.</p> <p>Lindis Catchment Group's consents lodged and to be heard concurrently with the minimum flow.</p> <p>Environment Court hearing date has still to be scheduled but is not expected until at least mid 2018.</p>
Cardrona	<p>Minimum Flow & TMP</p> <p>Overallocated</p>	<p>ORC held a field trip to provide feedback on surface and groundwater hydrology investigations on the river in January 2018.</p>
Waikouaiti	<p>Minimum Flow Fully allocated</p> <p>MALF 258 l/s</p>	<p>F&G supported a minimum flow of 220 l/s proposed through community consultation. Further action on the minimum flow has been deferred pending more research by ORC on matters including estuary health.</p>
Pomahaka <i>(Concluded)</i>	<p>Minimum flow MALF 4300 l/s</p> <p>Min Flow 3600l/s (84% MALF)</p>	<p>Plan change complete, setting minimum flows of 3600 l/s (summer) 7000 l/s (winter), primary allocation limit of 1000 l/s, and a supplementary allocation minimum flow of 13,0000 l/s.</p>

<p>Waiwera <i>(Concluded)</i></p>	<p>Minimum flow MALF 310 l/s</p> <p>Min Flow 280 l/s (90% MALF)</p>	<p>Plan change complete, setting minimum flows of 280 l/s (summer)..</p>
<p>Manuherikia</p>	<p>Minimum flow Irrigation scheme investigation.</p> <p>MALF Ophir 3,200 l/s (± 800)</p> <p>MALF Campground 3,900 l/s (± 600)</p> <p>Overallocated</p>	<p>The Manuherikia Catchment Water Strategy Group process has been completed and a new water company has been established looking at proposals focussed on raising the level of Falls Dam. It is understood that these focus on low-raise dam options</p> <p>The Manuherikia catchment has over 220 mining privileges (or deemed permits) in place. The present minimum flow at Ophir at 820 l/s is considered inadequate and ORC are planning to set a minimum flow for the lower river at the Alexandra Campground and possibly elsewhere in the catchment.</p> <p>A minimum flow plan change for the Manuherikia River is underway but a minimum flow figures and sites have not yet been notified.</p>
<p>Benger Burn</p>	<p>Minimum flow &TMP. Overallocated</p>	<p>Further action by ORC deferred pending more research on water resources and aquifer/surface water interaction.</p>
<p>Sow Burn <i>(Concluded)</i></p>	<p>TMP</p> <p>Overallocated</p> <p>Residual flow of 70 l/s + off-site mitigation</p>	<p>The Sowburn all-of-catchment consent has been granted by ORC.</p> <p>The residual flow requirement is 70 l/s on a stream that is considered to be ephemeral in nature in the middle reaches.</p> <p>Off-site mitigation conditions include a protective covenant over a large area of the Maniototo wetlands</p>

Kye Burn	TMP Overallocated MALF 490 l/s	A consent application was heard in June 2017 and an ORC decision setting a mainstem residual flows of 180 l/s reducing to 160 l/s at the lowest take point on the river was appealed to the Environment Court. The matter went to mediation on 20 th October. Discussions are continuing in an effort to resolve differences F&G position has been that a mainstem environmental flow between 200-300 l/s is required.
Low Burn	Minimum flow TMP Overallocated	Catchment group meeting held early 2017
Bannock Burn	Minimum flow TMP Overallocated	Catchment group meeting held late 2016
Arrow River	TMP Over-allocated	ORC has held catchment group meetings and community consultation. Minimum flow options have been released for submissions. Fish and Game has supported minimum flows at the upper end of the range
Quartz Creek	TMP Overallocated	Internal reports on fishery values have been completed. Some discussion have been held with landholder
Tuapeka River	ORC Management Flow Report MALF 314 l/s	No action
Clutha		ORC called for submissions on the Clutha River seeking feedback on the river's attributes as a first step towards setting a minimum flow
12 Mile Creek (Wakatipu)	ORC Management Flow Report	Stream survey work is being undertaken
Fern Burn	Overallocated	Status of flows and takes needs to be investigated. Spawning surveys have been undertaken by Upper Clutha Anglers.
Coal Creek	TMP	Catchment group meeting held May 2017

CE to Report

Transition from Mining Privileges (MPs) to RMA Consents.

A number of smaller applications to transition from mining privileges to RMA consents have been dealt with and there are several under consideration. There have been recent difficulties in securing residual flows on small tributary water takes and these are being taken up with ORC

Reserves Management (1221)**Takitakitoa Wetland**

Plantings have been under pressure with all the hot weather

Wetland Protection (1232)

Concerns over wetland management issues at Lake Tuakitoto and Clutha River Mouth Lagoon have been the subject of meetings with ORC and staff, have given feedback on consents for the intake structure for Robson's Lagoon at Lake Tuakitoto

CE to report

Assisted Habitat (1230)

Nothing to report

River Management (1233)

Recent complaint lodged with ORC over Shag River works.

7.4 USER PARTICIPATION**Access (1311)**

Two confidential OIO applications in Central Otago have been the subject of field inspections and reports. Both have significant wetland frontages and opportunities to enhance access for hunters and anglers.

Signage (1312)

Nothing to report

Backcountry Fisheries (1321)

A survey commissioned to assess expert angler opinion of trends in the Upper Pomahaka fishery has been completed and will be available for the April meeting.

Magazine Supplements and Newsletters (1331)

An e-newsletter was distributed

Reel Life/Both Barrels

Monthly contributions to online newsletters are continuing

Newspaper Supplements (1332)

Nothing to report.

Publications (1342)

Nothing to report.

Web Site (1343)

Anglers notice review material has been lodged on the website.

Fishing and Hunting Events (1351)

Nothing to report

Take-a-kid-fishing (1352)

Nothing to report

Club Liaison (1361)

Nothing to report

Commercial Use (1362)

Helen Trotter has had further input into support papers for the implementation of a guide licence being prepared by NZC.

7.5 PUBLIC INTERFACE**Liaison (1411)**

Meetings have been held with the ORC staff on matters including management of regional wetlands, transition from mining privileges, water quantity and minimum flows.

Staff attended an ORC hydrology workshop on the Manuherikia River

Staff and Councillors attended a field day with Lindis Catchment Group representatives. Both parties agree there is value in keeping a dialogue going on Lindis River issues

Media (1431)

There has been significant public debate about water issues (minimum flows, overallocation, water storage, land use impacts etc) in the local media, particularly the ODT. The angling season continues to get good coverage locally about minimum flow and mining right renewal issues.

Advocacy (1432)

There are a number of generic issues relating to the transition from mining privileges to RMA consents, minimum and residual flows that have been or are being taken up with ORC. These include affected party decision-making; relationships between residual flows (conditions on consents) and minimum flows (rules in plans); definition of the 'existing environment' being the baseline from which effects are to be measured when considering resource consents.

Tenure Reviews (1433)

Mt Burke Station is re entering tenure review

7.6 COMPLIANCE

Ranging (1511)

22 angling offenders were apprehended during the period which includes the summer holiday break. 14 have completed reparation payments and five warnings have been issued. Five of the offences were related to use of more than one rod – the most we have detected in a single season.

Ranger Support (1521)

Ranger training was completed in November in conjunction with Southland as previously reported.

Prosecutions (1531)

One offender is in the process of being served a summons for fishing without a licence and obstructing a ranger. He is due to appear in Dunedin District Court on the 12th March.

7.7 LICENCING

Licencing System (1611)

The Eyede licencing system continues to operate well. Negotiations for a contract renewal are continuing.

OM to report on licence sales trends

Agents (1612)

Nothing to report

7.8 COUNCIL

Council (1720)

The proposed Council meeting schedule of the 2018 calendar year is as follows:

10/11 February 2018 Planning - Cromwell
 19 April 2018 - Dunedin
 21 June 2018 - Roxburgh
 16 August 2018 - Dunedin
 18 October 2018 - Cromwell
 29 November 2018 Dunedin
 9/10 February 2019 - Dunedin

Recommendation

That the meeting schedule be approved

7.9 PLANNING AND REPORTING

Strategic Planning (1811)

See separate agenda

Annual Planning (1821)

Variance reporting for 2016/17 year has been completed and expenditure came out at 102.9% of budget. Budgeting for the 2018/19 year is underway.

Annual Report (1831)

Nothing further to report but queries arising from the 2017 annual report can be discussed.

National Liaison (1841)

The NZC's Chair Lindsay Lyons and Policy Manager Robert Sowman have been invited down and will be attending the meeting. Martin Taylor his unable to attend because of a prior engagement.

Niall Watson
Chief Executive
February 2018

Summary of Draft Profit and Loss Statement Expenses 31st January 2018
As At 01/02/18

Expense	Total Budget	Actual Expenditure	YtD %	Comment
		Ytd		
Projects				
Species	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 7,247.00	29%	
Habitat	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 97,181.00	1215%	Includes legal expenditure to be reimbursed and donated projects cost
Participation	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 12,286.00	74%	Includes donated TAKF cost and newsletters done
Public Interface	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 333.00	33%	
Compliance	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 4,840.00	40%	Ranger training completed
Licences	\$ 500.00	\$ 209.00	42%	
NZC Levies	\$ 918,122.00	\$ 229,531.00	25%	
Agent Commission		\$ 54,098.00		
Council	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 7,148.00	48%	
Planning	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 14,454.00	111%	Audit costs finished
Projects Total	\$ 1,009,122.00	\$ 427,327.00	42%	
Administration				
Salaries	\$ 757,913.00	\$ 320,818.00	42%	
Staff Expenses	\$ 15,564.00	\$ 5,054.00	32%	
Office Premises	\$ 82,504.00	\$ 35,305.00	43%	Wanaka base over spend
Office Equipment	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 331.00	13%	
Communication	\$ 25,100.00	\$ 7,293.00	29%	
General	\$ 6,561.00	\$ 3,323.00	51%	Radio advertising extra
General Equipment	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 1,144.00	33%	Extra repairs
Depreciation		\$ 32,630.00		
Vehicles	\$ 49,500.00	\$ 21,451.00	53%	Maintenance and fuel up
Administration Total	\$ 943,142.00	\$ 427,349.00	45%	
Total	\$ 1,952,264.00	\$ 854,676.00	43%	

Summary of Position 31st January 2018

Total Expenditure		\$	854,676.00
Less Depreciation			32630.00
Less Levies	\$ 918,122.00	\$	229,531.00
Less Commission		\$	54,098.00
Less RMA Reimbursed		\$	28,965.00
Net Expenditure		\$	509,452.00
Budget		\$	984,399.00
% Spent			52%

Summary of Profit and Loss Statement Income 31st January 2018

As At 01/02/18

Income	Total Budget			Comment
Fish	\$ 1,670,050.00	\$	1,328,426.00	
Game	\$ 322,536.00	\$	81.00	
Prosecutions	\$ 5,000.00	\$	602.00	
Rent	\$ 43,100.00	\$	17,192.00	
Interest	\$ 33,601.00	\$	17,452.00	
Grants Donations	\$ -	\$	52,276.00	
	\$ 2,074,287.00	\$	1,416,029.00	

Otago Fish & Game Council

Balance Sheet

As at 31 January 2018

CAPITAL	This Year	Last Year End
Anderson Lloyd Investment	(77,745.39)	(77,745.39)
Opening Equity	1,039,201.00	1,039,201.00
Retained Earnings Brght Fwd	<u>1,671,288.48</u>	<u>1,519,497.04</u>
	2,632,744.09	2,480,952.65
Plus Current Year Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	591,374.38	151,791.44
TOTAL CAPITAL FUNDS	<u><u>3,224,118.47</u></u>	<u><u>2,632,744.09</u></u>
REPRESENTED BY		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash on Hand	200.00	200.00
Stock on Hand	18,111.00	18,111.00
Accrued Interest	5,957.15	5,957.15
Prepayments	25,078.97	25,078.97
ASB Investments	331,362.83	325,456.46
SBS Investments	496,855.05	486,209.07
GST Paid	9,614.08	0.00
Trade Debtors	236,230.56	163,031.90
ASB 00 Account	10.98	10.98
National/ANZ 00 Account	176,568.72	120,842.51
National/ANZ 70 Account	843,953.60	397,122.48
SBS Account	<u>24.66</u>	<u>24.66</u>
	2,143,967.60	1,542,045.18
LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	22,688.31	22,688.31
Holiday Pay Accrued	43,091.12	43,091.12
PAYE Control	862.86	3,418.25
GST Received	43,725.45	61.04
GST Payments/Refunds IRD	2.12	0.00
Funds received in Advance	191,877.47	191,877.47
Trade Creditors	<u>35,811.49</u>	<u>92,066.33</u>
	338,058.82	353,202.52
NET WORKING CAPITAL	1,805,908.78	1,188,842.66
FIXED ASSETS		
Vehicles Purchases	281,931.54	281,931.54
M/V Accum Deprn	(149,695.71)	(130,695.71)
Boat Purchases	100,497.93	100,497.93
Boat Accum Deprn	(84,379.81)	(82,479.81)
Plant Purchases	78,023.57	72,806.18
Plant Accum Deprn	(65,069.07)	(61,699.07)
Furniture & Fittings	34,347.94	34,347.94
Furniture Accum Deprn	(29,822.45)	(29,222.45)
Field Equipment Purchases	36,331.83	34,610.96
Field Eq Accum Deprn	(27,101.82)	(26,901.82)
Land Purchases	414,410.77	414,410.77
Buildings Purchases	642,892.49	642,892.49
Buildings Accum Deprn	(345,484.24)	(339,574.24)
Land @ Fair Value	426,260.00	426,260.00
Building @ Fair Value	162,085.11	162,085.11
Buildings @ FV - Accum Deprn	<u>(57,018.39)</u>	<u>(55,368.39)</u>
	1,418,209.69	1,443,901.43
NET ASSETS	<u><u>3,224,118.47</u></u>	<u><u>2,632,744.09</u></u>

**Otago Fish & Game Council
Profit and Loss - Summary
for Period Ended Jan:2017/18**

		-----Month to Date-----			-----Year to Date-----					
		Actual	Budget	% of Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance	Annual Budget	YTD Actual Budget	Last YTD
INCOME										
FISH AND GAME LICENCE SA...										
1000	Fishing Licences Dn Agency	(143)	0	0%	(1,644)	0	(1,644)	0	0%	178,751
1002	Fishing Licences Income	292,129	139,171	210%	1,330,070	695,855	634,215	1,670,050	80%	1,278,555
1006	Game Licences Income	0	26,878	0%	81	134,390	(134,309)	322,536	0%	339
		291,985	166,049	176%	1,328,506	830,245	498,261	1,992,586	67%	1,457,645
OTHER INCOME										
1010	Interest received	16,852	2,800	602%	17,452	14,001	3,451	33,601	52%	8,768
1020	Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	139	417	33%	602	2,085	(1,483)	5,000	12%	3,845
1022	Reparations Trust Fund	3,000	0	0%	(1,044)	0	(1,044)	0	0%	(3,885)
1025	Rent Received	3,195	3,592	89%	17,192	17,960	(768)	43,100	40%	15,708
1065	Fishing Competitions	0	0	0%	485	0	485	0	0%	468
1075	Commissions Income	54	0	0%	184	0	184	0	0%	489
1090	Sundry Income	144	0	0%	958	0	958	0	0%	9
1092	Merchandise Sales/Other	22	0	0%	475	0	475	0	0%	(6,484)
1094	Donations and Grants Received	42,607	0	0%	52,276	0	52,276	0	0%	4,800
1096	RMA Costs Reimbursed	0	0	0%	28,965	0	28,965	0	0%	29,896
		66,014	6,809	970%	117,543	34,046	83,497	81,701	144%	53,613
TOTAL INCOME		357,999	172,858		1,446,050	864,291	581,759	2,074,287		1,511,258
EXPENDITURE										
SPECIES MANAGEMENT										
POPULATION MONITOR / MMT										
		0	1,000	0%	78	5,000	(4,922)	12,000	1%	5,266
HARVEST ASSESSMENT										
		0	250	0%	0	1,250	(1,250)	3,000	0%	0
FISH SALVAGE										
		0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
HATCHERY OPERATIONS										
		22	833	3%	7,169	4,169	3,000	10,000	72%	7,293
RELEASES										
		0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	25
REGULATIONS										
		0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
CONTROL										
		0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
SPECIES MANAGEMENT-...		22	2,083	1%	7,247	10,419	(3,172)	25,000	28%	12,584
HABITAT PROTECTION										
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT A...										
		4,799	375	1,280%	47,133	1,879	45,254	4,500	1,047%	31,917
WORKS & MMT COUNCIL LAND										
		31,886	292	10,920%	50,048	1,460	48,588	3,500	1,430%	8,072
ASSISTED HABITAT										
		0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
HABITAT PROTECTION-T...		36,685	667	5,500%	97,181	3,339	93,842	8,000	1,215%	39,989
PARTICIPATION										
ACCESS										
		502	250	201%	545	1,250	(705)	3,000	18%	421
SATISFACTION SURVEYS										
		1,077	0	0%	6,592	0	6,592	0	0%	2,203
NEWSLETTERS										
		0	375	0%	1,849	1,875	(26)	4,500	41%	14,326
OTHER PUBLICATIONS										
		0	83	0%	60	419	(359)	1,000	6%	312
TRAINING										
		0	333	0%	3,000	1,669	1,331	4,000	75%	1,299
CLUB RELATIONS										
		141	333	42%	241	1,669	(1,428)	4,000	6%	804
HUTS										
		0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	57
PARTICIPATION-TOTAL		1,721	1,374	125%	12,286	6,882	5,404	16,500	74%	19,422

**Otago Fish & Game Council
Profit and Loss - Summary
for Period Ended Jan:2017/18**

	-----Month to Date-----			-----Year to Date-----			Annual Budget	% of Budget	
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance			
PUBLIC INTERFACE									
LIAISON	0	0	0%	7	0	7	0	0%	9
COMMUNICATIONS	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
ADVOCACY	0	84	0%	326	420	(94)	1,000	33%	2,174
PUBLIC INTERFACE-TOTAL	0	84	0%	333	420	(87)	1,000	33%	2,183
COMPLIANCE									
RANGER ADMIN	0	208	0%	37	1,044	(1,007)	2,500	1%	50
RANGER TRAINING	0	375	0%	4,804	1,875	2,929	4,500	107%	3,764
COMPLIANCE	0	417	0%	0	2,085	(2,085)	5,000	0%	7,161
COMPLIANCE-TOTAL	0	1,000	0%	4,840	5,004	(164)	12,000	40%	10,975
LICENCES									
LICENCE PRODUCT/DISTN	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
AGENT SERVICING	0	42	0%	209	210	(1)	500	42%	190
COMMISSION	11,507	0	0%	54,098	0	54,098	0	0%	52,939
NZFG LEVIES	0	76,510	0%	229,531	382,552	(153,022)	918,122	25%	419,868
LICENSES-TOTAL	11,507	76,552	15%	283,837	382,762	(98,925)	918,622	31%	472,997
COUNCIL									
COUNCIL ELECTIONS	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
COUNCIL MEETINGS	66	1,250	5%	7,148	6,250	898	15,000	48%	5,064
COUNCIL-TOTAL	66	1,250	5%	7,148	6,250	898	15,000	48%	5,064
PLANNING / REPORTING									
MMT/STRATEGIC PLANNING	490	0	0%	1,046	0	1,046	0	0%	1,039
REPORTING/AUDIT	0	1,083	0%	13,408	5,419	7,989	13,000	103%	4,146
NATIONAL LIAISON	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	280
PLAN/REPORT-TOTAL	490	1,083	45%	14,454	5,419	9,035	13,000	111%	5,466
ADMINISTRATION									
SALARIES	85,566	63,452	135%	320,818	317,260	3,558	761,413	42%	232,133
STAFF EXPENSES	686	1,297	53%	5,054	6,493	(1,439)	15,564	32%	6,237
STAFF HOUSES	0	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%	0
OFFICE PREMISES	9,829	6,875	143%	35,305	34,387	918	82,504	43%	33,947
OFFICE EQUIPMENT	13	208	6%	331	1,044	(713)	2,500	13%	2,414
COMMUNICATIONS	875	2,082	42%	7,293	10,464	(3,171)	25,100	29%	8,206
GENERAL	96	547	18%	3,323	2,739	584	6,561	51%	3,138
GENERAL EQUIPMENT	338	208	162%	1,144	2,044	(900)	3,500	33%	594
VEHICLES	3,875	4,125	94%	21,451	20,629	822	49,500	43%	23,574
ADMINISTRATION - TOTAL	101,277	78,804	129%	394,719	395,060	(341)	946,642	42%	310,243
DEPRECIATION	6,526	0	0%	32,630	0	32,630	0	0%	32,630
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	158,293	162,897	97%	854,675	815,555	39,120	1,955,764	44%	911,554
Profit (Loss)	199,706	9,961		591,374	48,736	542,638	118,523		599,705

Otago Fishing Licence Sales - To 23 Jan 2016/17 and 2017/18

2017	Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWJ	FWNJ	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDJ	Total	Fish LEQ	Fish \$
2018	Agency Online	2,516	3,427	328	545	217	512	13	23	146	1,967	152	9,846		
	Eyede Call Centre	11	5	7	8	1	2	0	0	2	3	0	39		
	Public Online	1,612	1,720	584	221	240	261	20	32	127	2,573	165	7,555		
	Total	4,139	5,152	919	774	458	775	33	55	275	4,543	317	17,440	13,499.59	\$1,749,372.00
2016	Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWJ	FWNJ	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDJ	Total	Fish LEQ	Fish \$
2017	Agency Online	2,527	3,365	312	505	243	441	18	38	169	2,333	189	10,140		
	Eyede Call Centre	10	4	3	11	0	2	1	0	0	4	0	35		
	Public Online	1,496	1,634	550	226	224	194	22	30	133	1,869	104	6,482		
	Total	4,033	5,003	865	742	467	637	41	68	302	4,206	293	16,657	13,106.72	\$1,671,210.00

FWF (Family), FWA (Adult), FWNZ (Non Resident), FSLA (Senior Loyal), FLAA (Local Area),
 FWJ (Junior), FWNJ (Junior Non resident), FLBA (Long Break), FSBA (Short Break), FDA (Adult Day), FDJ (Junior Day)

8 Committee Reports

8.1 Clutha Fisheries Trust

8.2 NZC Meeting

9 Staff and Technical Reports

9.1 Aerial Trend Counts 2018 – M Trotter

COUNCIL REPORT FEBRUARY 2018

Aerial Trend Counts

Abstract

Annual counts of paradise duck, Canada goose and black swan are conducted in late January on a selection waterfowl molting sites throughout Otago. This report provides an update of recent count results. The methodology employed is not intended to be a census of populations but to reflect population trends. The total number of paradise ducks observed this January was similar to recent year's results. Observed swan and Canada goose numbers were similar to historic counts. There is no recommendation for paradise duck or swan regulation adjustment.

Methods

Approximately 90 waterfowl molting sites throughout the Otago were investigated on 22 and 23 January and birds counted. Flights were made in a fixed-wing light aircraft. Molting sites were circled at low level and the numbers of each species (paradise shelduck, black swan and Canada geese) are estimated by Fish & Game staff. Photographs are also taken and these are counted at a later date to validate counts and increase accuracy. Some sites are counted from the ground where practical.

Results

The total number of paradise ducks counted in 2018 was 19,636, in 2017 it was 18,753 and in 2016 it was 16,997. The highest count (2700) was on Patersons storage Dam in the Ida Valley.

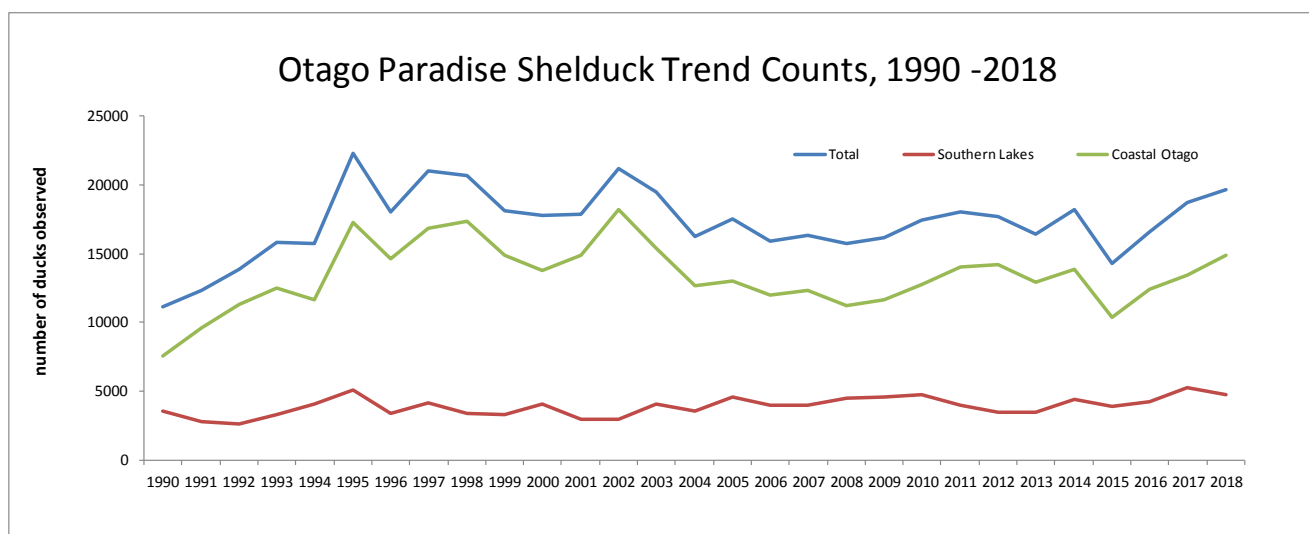


Figure 1: January aerial trend counts of paradise shelduck in the Otago Region, 1990 - 2018

Table 1: Otago region paradise duck summer trend counts: raw data 2016 - 2018 (nc = not counted).

Site	Area	2018	2017	2016
Kaikorai Estuary	E C	250	370	825
Tomahawk Lagoon	E C	567	490	482
Hoopers Inlet	EC	nc	nc	nc
Papanui Inlet	EC	nc	nc	nc
Waikouaiti Estuary	E C	0	0	0
Waikouaiti Sewage	E C	1170	1100	710
Hawksbury Lagoon	E C	0	0	0
Macraes Flat Ponds	ST	435	445	576
Two Johns Dam	ST	590	145	225
Peat Bog	ST	0	0	24
Billy's Flat	ST	204	475	57
Stewarts Dam	ST	0	0	0
Shinglea Road Dams	ST	40	20	0
Hunterleigh East Dams	ST	0	nc	nc
Sutton Pond	ST	0	0	nc
Middlemarch Sewage	ST	nc	nc	nc
Kidds Rd (Bruhnes)	ST	235	122	8
Salt Lake	ST	0	0	0
Andersons Pond, Deep Stream Sth	ST	750	nc	nc
Springfield Dams	ST	510	1100	nc
Rocklands Road Ponds	ST	20	0	560
Dunstan Rd Rocklands	ST	660	0	21
Loaganburn Dam	M	0	0	410
Styx Basin	M	700	825	155
Linburn Dissipation	M	0	0	5
Linnburn Dam	M	180	0	62
Falconers Dam	M	2	20	0
Totara Creek Confluence	M	0	0	0
Maniototo Taieri River	M	0	0	0
Duffys Lane	M	0	0	0
Pateoroa/Creamery Rd Pond	M	265	270	600
Mathias Dam	M	10	0	0
Taieri Lake	M	295	275	390
Rutherfords Dam	M	0	0	0
Ranfurly Sewage	M	nc	nc	0
Blakleys Dam	M	0	0	0
Smiths Dam Wedderburn	M	190	0	0
White Sow Rd Ponds	M	nc	0	80

Gillespies Ida Ponds	I	320	60	420
McSkimmings Dam	I	0	4	230
Falls Dam	I	346	40	90
Pennyweight Ponds	I	0	0	0
Poplar Pump Ponds	I	50	400	370
Merton Hill	I	450	300	710
McBreens, Patersons	I	2700	2600	1300
Speargrass Dam	I	nc	260	175
Upper Manorburn Dam	I	500	72	140
Poolburn Dam	I	50	0	0
Lake Onslow	M	300	68	925
Raes Pond Teviot	M	12	495	20
Chitocks Moa Flat	WO	275	284	19
Toropuke Kelso	WO	70	0	0
Upper Waiwera Pond	SO	40	0	90
Mathersons Dam Waipahi	SO	345	30	10
Dunvagan Dam Waipahi	SO	250	1260	670
Upper Owaka	SO	15	0	nc

Site	Area	2018	2017	2016
Catlins Lake	SO	531	570	630
Puerua Estuary	SO	12	0	nc
Old River Channel	SO	nc	0	nc
Lake Tuakitoto	SO	900	480	710
Lake Waihola	E C	150	780	590
Sinclair Wetland	E C	80	0	0
Lake Waipori	E C	450	60	160
McLarens-Waipori	E C	0	25	235
Ram Island-Waipori	EC	0	10	60
Mt Nicholas Lagoon	Q	375	467	283
Von Lake	Q	nc	nc	nc
Pondburn	Q	nc	nc	nc
Lower Dart	Q	6	12	6
Routeburn Station	Q	nc	85	12
Lake Sylvan	Q	132	185	145
Upper Dart	Q	4	0	0
Diamond Lake	Q	305	521	395
Reids Lake	Q	6	46	6
Lower Rees	Q	0	0	0
Glenorchy Lagoons	Q	145	15	67
Lake Luna	Q	nc	0	nc
Moke Lake	Q	223	128	nc
Lake Dispute	Q	nc	nc	nc
Lake Johnson	Q	1	0	2
Hunter Road Pond	Q	6	10	4

Mooneys Pond	Q	87	55	19
QT Sewage	Q	692	402	628
Ham Hons Pond	Q	nc	7	nc
Dingle Lagoon	UC	82	165	475
Hunter Valley	UC	14	22	12
Hunter Mouth	UC	345	342	215
Makaroroa Mouth	UC	430	1035	54
Wilken Ponds	UC	nc	nc	4
Minaret Station	UC	265	130	380
Matukituki Valley	UC	535	357	118
Luggate Airport (was STP)	UC	43	296	n/a
Big Boggy Lagoon	UC	386	405	585
Lovelocks pond Hawea flat	UC	nc	296	no water
Lake Dunstan area	UC	635	317	843
Total Region		19636	18753	16997
Total East Coast		2667	2835	3062
Total Strath Taieri		3444	2307	1471
Total Ida & Manuherikia		4728	4299	4380
Total West Otago		345	284	19
Total South Otago		2093	2340	2110
Total Queenstown		1982	1933	1567
Total Upper Clutha		2735	3365	2686
Total Maniototo		1642	1390	1702

A number of additional moulting sites were noticed during the flight. These include dams near Atkins Road in the Styx (869 paradise ducks), near Becks (550 ducks), a pond north of Omakau (550 ducks) and pond at Browns Road in Manuherikia (600 ducks). These have not been included in the trend count analysis.

Black Swan

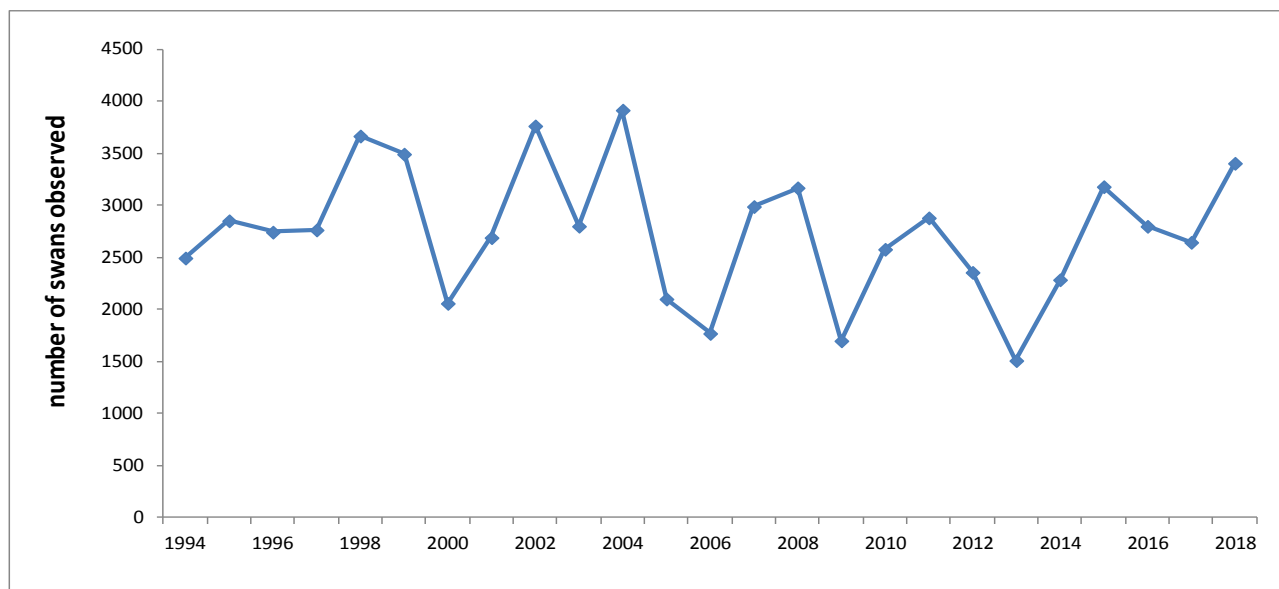


Figure 2: January aerial trend counts of black swans in the Otago region, 1994-2018

The total number of black swans counted in 2018 was 3404 (up from 2,644 in 2017). The increase in birds observed was largely due to a concentration of 2800 on Lake Waiholo.

Table 2: Otago region black swan summer trend counts: raw data 2016-2018

Site	Area	2018	2017	2016
Kaikorai Estuary	E C	0	35	370
Tomahawk	EC	0	25	45
Waikouaiti	EC	30	11	49
Hawkesbury Lagoon	E C	1	70	0
Loganburn Dam	M	0	8	0
Styx Basin	M	16	24	37
Linnburn Dam	M	0	0	0
Falconers	M	0	14	0
Maniototo	M	0	0	76
Kidds Rd	M	0	0	0
Mathias Dam	M	3	0	0
Taieri Lake	M	2	0	0
Rutherfords Dam	M	0	15	0
Falconers Dam	M	0	0	0
Blakleys Dam	M	0	0	0
Lake Onslow	M	0	3	0
Falls Dam	I	0	0	0

Gillespes Ida	I	0	5	0
McBreens Pond	I	20	6	0
Upper Manorburn	I	12	0	0
Poolburn Dam	I	0	0	0
Mathersons Dam (Waipahi)	SO	0	0	0
Catlins Estuary	SO	2	21	2
Puerua Estuary	SO	2	60	40
Lower Clutha Mouth	SO	nc	nc	nc
Clutha Ponding	SO	nc	nc	nc
Lake Tuakitoto	SO	210	450	110

Site	Area	2018	2017	2016
Old River Channel	SO	25	4	100
Tokomairoro Estuary	SO	nc	nc	nc
Lake Waihola	EC	2800	1350	1680
Lake Waipori	EC	17	280	120
Sinclair Wetland	EC	20	12	25
Ram's Island Waipori	EC	0	0	35
Makarora Mouth	UC	0	0	0
Big Boggy	UC	0	0	0
Paddock Bay	UC	0	0	0
West Wanaka Lagoons	UC	12	0	14
Dingle Lagoon	UC	0	0	0
Hunter Mouth	UC	32	0	0
Lake Dunstan	UC	97	145	0
Mt Nicholas	Q	17	23	0
Diamond Lake	Q	24	0	nc
Reid Lake	Q	45	10	30
Glenorchy Lagoon	Q	17	73	65
Lake Johnson	Q	0	nc	nc
Total Region		3404	2644	2798
East coast		2868	1783	2324
Maniototo		21	61	113
Ida Valley & Manuherikia		32	14	0
South Otago		239	535	252
Upper Clutha		141	145	14
Queenstown/ Glenorchy		103	106	95

Canada Geese

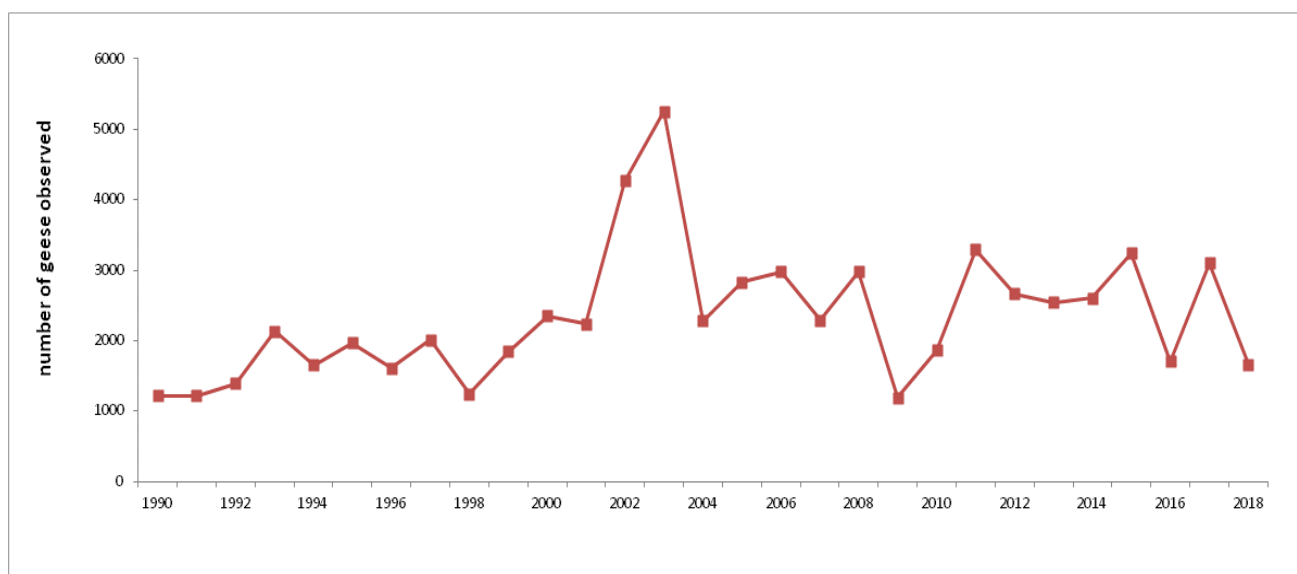


Figure 3: January aerial trend counts of Canada geese in the Otago Region, 1990-2018

The summer Canada goose count was 1,662 in 2018 and it was 3,104 in 2017.

Table 3: Otago region Canada geese summer trend counts: raw data 2016-2018

Site	Area	2018	2017	2016
Shag Estuary	EC	nc	nc	0
Two Johns Dam	M	0	0	0
Loganburn Dam	M	0	550	450
Styx Basin	M	210	450	250
Linnburn Dam	M	0	0	0
Maniototo Basin/Taieri Lake	M	50	220	40
Rutherfords Dam	M	0	0	0
Blaiklies Dam	M	0	0	0
Lake Onslow	I	450	350	0
Gillespies Ida Ponds/Patersons	I	70	10	0
McSkimmings Dam	I	20	0	0
Falls Dam	I	0	60	40
Speargrass Dam	I	nc	75	40
Upper Manorburn Dam	I	300	0	0
Poolburn Dam	I	10	250	0
Lake Waihola	EC	105	100	170
Hawkesbury Lagoon	EC	0	12	25
Dunvagan Dam	SO	0	0	0
Lower Clutha	SO	15	100	0

Lake Tuakitoto	SO	35	80	270
Dingle Lagoon	UC	0	0	120
Dingle Mouth	UC	0	0	0
Hunter Mouth	UC	0	350	180
Hunter Valley	UC	240	0	0
Hawea Neck	UC	0	0	0
Makarora Mouth Area	UC	25	202	45
Wilken	UC	0	0	0
Paddock Bay Wanaka	UC	0	0	0
Matukituki Valley	UC	0	75	0
Big Boogey	UC	55	105	75
Mt Nicholas Lagoon	Q	0	75	0
Von Lake	Q	0	nc	0
Pondburn	Q	0	nc	0
Lower Dart	Q	0	0	0
Route Burn Station	Q	0	0	0
Lake Sylvan	Q	12	0	0
Rockburn	Q	0	0	0
Upper Dart	Q	0	0	nc
Diamond Lake	Q	65	40	nc
Reid Lake	Q	0	0	nc
Lower Rees	Q	0	0	0
Glenorchy Swamp	Q	0	0	0
Lake Wakatipu (general)	Q	0	0	0
Wyuna Pond	Q	nc	nc	0
Caples	Q	nc	nc	nc
Total Region		1662	3104	1705
Total Queenstown Area	Q	77	115	nc
Total Upper Clutha	UC	320	732	420
Total Maniototo	M	260	1220	700
Total Ida & Manuherikia	I	850	745	120
Total South & East Coast	SO EC	155	292	465

Discussion & Conclusions

Paradise duck

Given the dry conditions throughout Otago this summer, staff are pleased to note that paradise duck numbers observed were similar to last summer. This may be due to the majority of the birds observed on molting sites being age 1+ and 2+ which would better reflect previous seasons breeding success. Many of the mature birds with this year's young are still on their breeding grounds. The general increase in pasture development in many areas across Otago could also be

expected to buffer paradise duck populations. And also increase carrying capacity across the region.

We are continuing to notice an increase of irrigation storage dams (and molting sites) which presents a challenge for maintaining the integrity of our dataset. The best way forward maybe to move to sub-catchment footprint's whereby all molting sites within a specific area are counted annually. Staff intend to discuss this issue with other regions.

Again I would like to thank Ranger Trevor Beck who was able to verify some challenging sites (due to high bird concentrations) such as Paterson's storage Dam in Ida Valley from the ground.

Canada Geese

Geese are recorded when seen in order to maintain the database. There is no alteration of flight plans to increase coverage of molting geese. Their numbers observed decreased by approximately 1450 birds since last summer.

Black swan

The 2018 total was approximately 760 birds higher than last summer but similar to historic counts. This recent increase was largely due to a concentration of 2800 birds on Lake Waihola. Swans are a migratory bird and may have concentrated on the lake due to dry conditions impacting habitats elsewhere.

Otago Hunter Harvest

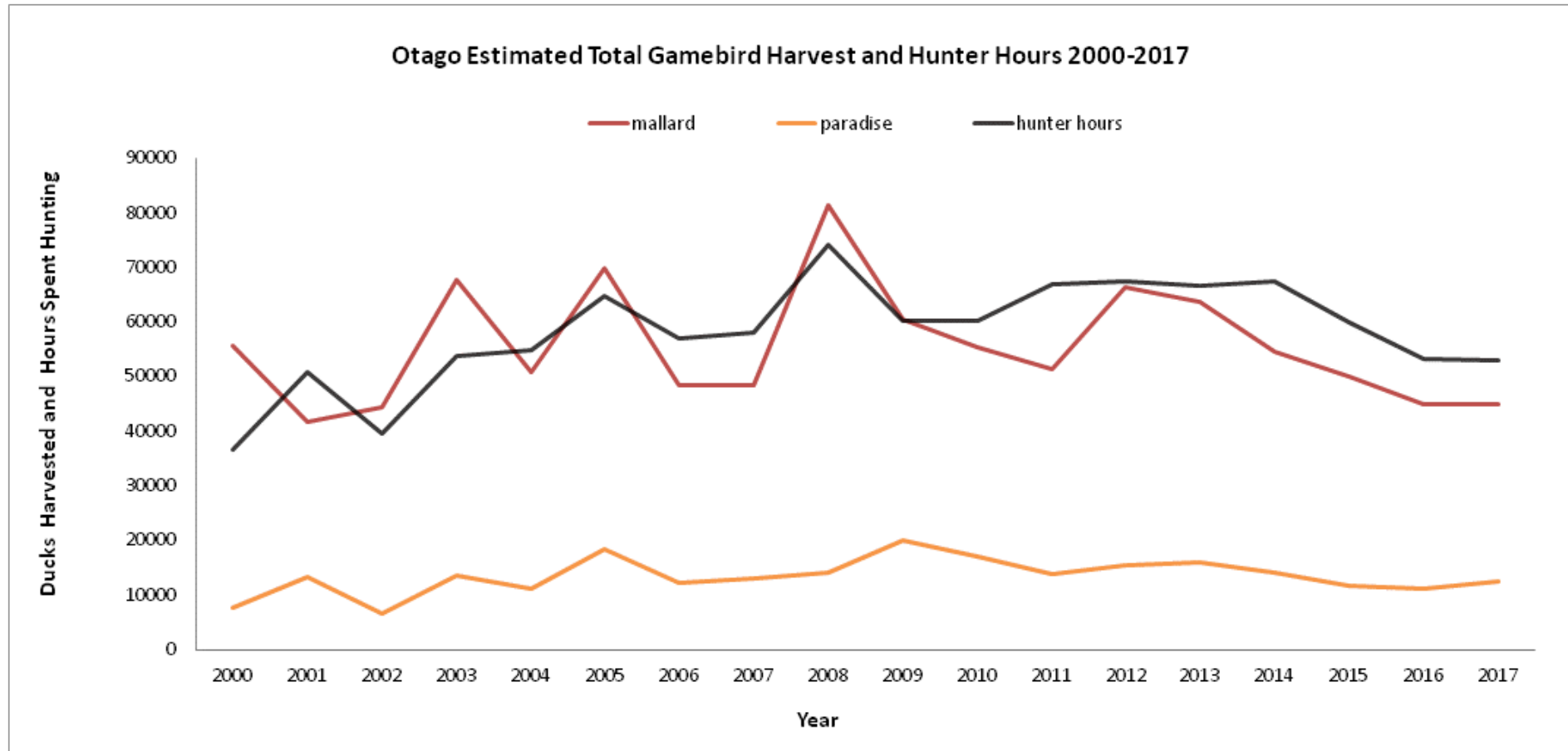
A summary of hunter harvest results (from telephone surveys) is provided in the appendix. Hunter hours and mallard (including grey hybrids) and paradise duck harvest in 2017 was similar to previous seasons. Trends in the amount of birds harvested generally match hunter effort.

Recommendation

That this report is received.

Morgan Trotter
Fish and Game Officer
28/01/18

Appendix



10 Correspondence

10.1 Upper Clutha Angling Club – Thanks

18 Kowhai Drive,
Wanaka.
20th November, 2017.

Hi Cliff,

As you are aware on Sunday 19th November the annual TAKF initiative was undertaken at Lake Hawea between the Neck and Kidd's Bush.

The facts put simply –

- Circa 26 kids participated – with eight boats employed.
- Accompanying parents/.guardians were accommodated on a boat (over two trips)
- All boats caught fish – some were very successful.
- Fish caught were predominately rainbow trout, but salmon were also secured.
- Boats were on the water around 10.30am with a lunch break/barbeque around 1.00pm
- Conditions were very favourable in the morning (perhaps too good for fishing).
- Over the lunch period various ‘on shore ‘ activities were arranged.
Accurate casts were rewarded with prizes – compliments of Fish and Game.
All participating kids received a fishing lure – also compliments of Fish and Game.
- Weather improved for fishing post lunch break (light wind) with boats trolling from Kidds Bush back to the Landing position at the Neck. Catches improved in the afternoon run. Fishing concluded around 4 pm.
- To my knowledge, no parasites were found in the fish retained.
- Thankfully, sandflies had a rest day.

All in all, a good day was enjoyed by everyone – all boats catching fish was a big factor in the success of the day. Apparently the overall fish catch as reported by boat owners was strong, but below last year's achievements.

No injuries or adverse incidents occurred.

Thanks to Fish and Game for their donation of \$450 as a contribution to the Angling Club's costs which amounted to \$681.00. We also purchased a Weber BBQ for TAKF and other activities - cost \$613.90.

Direct costs were down on last year with less boats and the contribution of starter packs and lures from Fish and Game.

Cliff, your contribution was much appreciated .
Thanks again on behalf of the Upper Clutha Angling Club.

Yours faithfully,

G. O. POOLE,
President
UPPER CLUTHA ANGLING CLUB.

10.2 Ross Dungey – Clutha River Jet Boats

1083 Aubrey, Road Albert Town
6/1/18

Otago Fish and Game Council
Box 76
Dunedin

(CC Harbour Master, QLDC)

Dear Councillors, I had a request from a friend to teach a young lad fly fishing and since I am not so old that I cant remember how much fun I had as a kid, and in fact all my life, fly fishing I was happy to oblige. Harry is 10 years old and with his new Xmas fly rod and reel we began with a lesson or two on the lawn to begin to develop technique and line control.

A friend of Harrys had advised that he had seen fish in the Clutha River behind an Island just below the Luggate Creek confluence so we set off in the company of Harrys Dad on Saturday the 6th of January to check the spot out. It seemed to hold promise because it was sheltered from the wind and was off the main river where jet-boats and jet-skis can often compromise ones fishing, particularly during the holiday season.

The location was better than expected with several fish demonstrating feeding behaviours in a range of habitats such as pool and backwater cruising and sitting on the edge of a drop off moving back and forward intercepting food items. At the downstream end of the back channel was a great pool with well defined drop off and most importantly, room for a developing back cast, no small consideration when beginning fly fishing. It was a perfect set up for a budding angler.

We were standing about 4m from the waters edge, so as not to spook any fish that might be lurking on the drop off, rods in hand, discussing strategy for how a young lad might fish this piece of water, across and down through the riffle into the deep water and watching for a tell tale sip in the little patch of foam eddying in our corner. Our discussion was interrupted by a large red and white jet-boat coming downstream in the main channel, he stopped opposite us out in the main channel but then to our collective surprise and disappointment accelerated through the pool and over the riffle we were standing beside and then held position again in the pool above. He was close enough that I could have cast a fly over him, the channel width was only about 15m. He held position there talking to his passengers.

I indicated clearly and unambiguously that I considered his actions selfish and uncalled for as he had all the rest of the river available to him, he shrugged his shoulders and raised his hands as if to say “who cares” and held his position there for a few minutes before powering through what was left of the sheltered channel we had hoped to fish.

It was a very disappointing experience, unnecessary and very disruptive on the part of the jet-boat. It highlights the need for regulation of this sort of activity since some operators cannot be relied upon to consider other river users. I was so surprised by this action that I failed to take a photograph but since the jet-boat was so close and with a Company name it wasn't difficult to track him down. I enclose some photos of the boat and driver later that day as he exited the river at the Albert Town boat ramp.

Small channels such we were attempting to fish are few and far between on the upper Clutha so safe haven from the wake of boats is limited as are little spots like this where other river users can seek some shelter. It would not have compromised this operators clients experience at all not to have motored up this channel but it certainly put an end to our day out.

I have, unfortunately, had similar experiences on the upper Clutha River while conducting research projects. Regardless of the presence of official 5 knot limit marker buoys and diver below flags jet boats and jet skis have sped through the river reach while we were working there.

Yours sincerely,
Ross Dungey.



11 General Business
