

**Agenda For The Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council
On 26th November 2020
At Otago Fish and Game Office Dunedin
Starting 12noon**

Timetable	
11.20am – 12:00noon	Lunch for Councilors
12:00noon – 2.45pm	Council meeting
2.45pm – 3pm	Afternoon tea
3:00pm – 3:30pm	AGM Public Forum
3:30pm – 4:00pm	Meeting resumes
4.00pm – 5pm	Public excluded session and Speaker - M Baker-Galloway (by Zoom)

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Otago Fish & Game Council Annual General Meeting

AGM

3pm, Thursday 26th November 2020

To be held at Otago Fish & Game Council Office

Cnr Hanover and Harrow Streets, Dunedin

Agenda

- 1. Present**
- 2. Apologies**
- 3. Presentation of Annual Report**
- 4. Questions from the floor**

1.0 Present and Apologies

2.0 Matters to be raised not on the agenda

3.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

**Minutes of the Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting,
Oceana Macraes Mine – Board Room
Thursday 24 Sept 2020, commencing at 12.30 pm.**

1.0 Present:

Monty Wright (Chair), Colin Weatherall, Murray Neilson, Mike Barker, Dan Rae, John Highton, Vicky Whyte, Ian Cole, Ray Grubb and John Barlow.

In attendance: Ian Hadland (CE), Nigel Pacey (OF&GC and minute secretary), Donald Lousley (Conservation Board), Nigel Paragreen (OF&GC), Richard Twining (Ngai Tahu)

Apologies were received from Adrian McIntyre and Rick Boyd Resolved (Weatherall/Cole).

2.0 Matters to be raised not on the Agenda.

Nil

3.0 Declarations of Interest

Nil

4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

4.1 Moved (Grubb/Barker)

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23rd July 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record without any amendments.

Carried – Unanimously

5.0 Matters arising from Minutes

5.1 Cr Highton asked about progress with the “Jobs for Nature”. CE responded that it is still a work in progress and will follow up.

5.2 CE informed council that the NZC licencing sub-committee has met and policy work is underway to ensure the smooth running of the system on behalf of the collective of regions. CE gave some background to the previous ‘licence working party’ (LWP) and policy development.

It was **agreed** that;

The Council should write to the NZC strongly suggesting that the Licence Working Party (LWP) be re established as part of the national policy development and also recommend that the governance group which includes regional managers be disestablished when the licencing policy has been adopted.

Carried – Unanimously

6.0 Health and Safety Report

6.1 Moved (Rae/Whyte)

That the Health and Safety report be received

Carried – Unanimously

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 Lowland Fisheries Review: Follow-up Recommendations

CE updated council and suggested that the report be discussed again at the February planning meeting so that some of the recommendations can be added to the operational work plan for 2021/22.

Cr Highton passed on his thanks to the staff and hoped that some of the recommendations are brought to fruition in the future.

7.2 2020/21 Anglers Notice Triennial Review Schedule

CE gave some background in the review. He noted that other regions were also keen for a review and simplification of the first schedule. The timeframe for this to occur will be tight if it is to be in place for the 2021/22 season.

Moved (Grubb/Barker)

That the Council postpone the anglers notice review by 12 months to allow the first schedule review to occur first.

Carried – Unanimously

7.3 Legislative Compliance 2019-20 Financial Year

CE gave some background to the need to report on legislative compliance and made special mention of the following;

7.3.1 Health and Safety – continual development occurring

7.3.2 Changes to the Conservation Act – Indigenous Fish Bill introduced and will require some work to identify implications for the OF&GC.

7.3.3 Parental Leave and Employment Act – procedures have been revisited.

7.3.4 Local Government and Meetings Act was changed due to COVID disruptions

Moved (Neilson/Grubb)

That the Council notes that it currently complies with the legislation in the schedule and the summary report be received

Carried - Unanimously

8.0 Public Excluded Items

Moved (Weatherall/Barker)

That the meeting moves into the public excluded session.

Carried – Unanimously

8.1 Confirm previous public excluded minutes

Resolved (Weatherall/Cole)

That the public excluded minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23 July 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record without any amendments.

Carried – Unanimously

8.2 Habitat Enhancement Application – Simon Norwick – Waterfowl Habitat Enhancement, Patearoa

Moved (Whyte/Neilson)

The application be approved for \$2000

Carried - Unanimously

8.3 Property Update

8.4 Suspicious Swan Deaths

8.5 Staff Update – Received and acknowledged

Moved (Rae/Weatherall)

That the meeting moves out of the public excluded session.

Carried – Unanimously

9.0 Finance and Licence Sales report to 31st August 2020

9.1 Finance Reports – CE spoke to reports including the changes in reserves and revenue.

9.2 Approval of Draft Set of Accounts for Auditing

Recommendation 1: Moved (Grubb/Rae)

That the draft set of year-end financials be circulated to the Council members for approval, and with any queries satisfactorily explained, the Chairperson be authorised to approve the 2019/20 draft set of accounts for Auditing on behalf of the council.

Carried – Unanimously

9.3 Otago Fish & Game Reserves

Recommendation 2 (amended): Moved (Rae/Weatherall)

To leave the Non-resident levy Reserve separate from the General Reserve rather than amalgamate the two.

Carried – Unanimously

It was agreed to notify NZC and other regions of the decision.

Recommendation 3: Moved (Grubb/Neilson)

That the council authorize the CE to spend up to \$81,000 (in the first instance) from the Priority Plan Change Reserve and keep the council up to date on progress.

Carried – Unanimously

9.4 Licence Sales – CE spoke to report

9.5 Agent Debts – none as at 31st Aug 2020.

Recommendation 4: Moved (Cole/Barlow)

That the Financial Report and Licence sales report be received

Carried – Unanimously

10.0 Chief Executives Report

CE spoke to the report contained in the agenda.

10.1 SPECIES:

Noted that the triennial review of regulations has been postponed until 2021.

See item 7.2

10.2 HABITAT:

Contact Energy Consents:

Contact Energy have indicated their willingness to consider alternative options including the establishment of a trust to meet the conditions of their consent conditions to operate the Clyde Dam. Discussion around other possible options continue.

Cr Barker said a hatchery should still be on the cards if the science stacks up and Cr Whyte expressed her ongoing wish for a hatchery to be built in Roxburgh.

CE spoke about the idea of a small scale hatchery that could be upscaled if east coast searun salmon populations rebound.

Moved (Highton/Cole)

That the CE should meet with Neil Gillespie of Contact Energy to continue the negotiations with Contact Energy and report back to the November meeting.

Carried - Unanimously

10.3 USER PARTICIPATION:

Mt Burke access – some progress made with QLDC having costed out options for joining the end of Maungawhera road with the lakeside marginal strip.

There is still some negotiation to determine who covers the cost.

10.4 PUBLIC INTERFACE:

The NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Board met in Dunedin and visited the Takitakitoa Wetland. The group were very complimentary of the work done by the OF&GC.

The chair of the NZGBHT passed on his thanks to the Otago staff and council.

Chairperson Wright also acknowledged the staff who made and continue to make Takitakitoa a wonderful place.

10.5 COMPLIANCE: No discussion**10.6 LICENCING:** No discussion**10.7 COUNCIL:** No discussion**10.8 PLANNING AND REPORTING:** The CE noted the Annual Report was in preparation and that Auditors were due to visit the Dunedin office.

Moved (Rae/Neilson)

That the CE report be received

Carried – Unanimously

11.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

11.1 CFT:

Cr Cole presented his report.

- The Cromwell building renovations are progressing well with approximately two weeks of work remaining.
- The CFT is continuing its work on developing a new Strategic Plan and Annual Work Plan
- There have been changes to administrative support, accounting systems and fund manager provider.
- The timing of the Nesting Islands work at Bendigo needs to be revisited. All work needs to be completed by the end of July in the future.

11.2 NZC:

Cr Grubb presented his report.

- The request from the NZC to the Chair of the Hawkes Bay Fish and Game Council to resign has been withdrawn.
- NZC have essentially run out of reserves but have allocated \$100k for the Lindis case High Court case and \$150k for an NPS-FW test case which may be in Otago.
- NZC Chair has met with the NZ Conservation Authority and they have agreed to work together towards a common interest with the implementation of the NPS-FM.
- The NZC require an MOU with the regions to allow the use of any database information.
- The trout farming media coverage hasn't been accurate. The NZC has decided to develop a body of research to better inform their current position of opposition to trout farming.
- The Ministerial Review is ongoing and the review team is still keen to hear from stakeholders.
- NZC resources are tight with two major projects underway: Reserves Management paper out soon for consultation and the Allocation of Resources terms of reference have been developed.
- A proposed meeting with the Chair of NZC and Otago council (via zoom) regarding the allocation of resources project and the makeup of the reference group/committee.

The chair commented that there was huge frustration with the lack of government funding for all the environmental work Fish and Game do.

11.3 National Sea Run Salmon Committee:

No report

11.4 Ngai Tahu

Richard Twining reported that work is underway to hold a joint council meeting (Otago and Southland) with the Hokonui Runanga in Gore.

11.5 Conservation Board

Donald Lousley was welcomed to the council and he gave his report. He provided some background to the work that the Conservation Board was involved in around Otago.

12.0 Correspondence

Correspondence (circulated with agenda) was noted.

12.1 NZC to OF&GC

12.1.1 2020/21 Annual Timetable NZC – Noted

12.1.2 Non-Resident Levy – CE to reply about lack of consultation and that the Otago Council intends to keep the reserve fund separate from general reserves for the time being.

12.1.3 NZC Feedback required – Customs Importation Prohibition Order
CE to reply that the ban should continue.

12.1.4 NZC Policy feedback Required on Commercial Origin Salmon Release Policy – CE to reply with small edits to ensure that wild landlocked salmon would be able to be used as broodstock if necessary.

12.2 OF&GC to NZC

12.2.1 Regulations and App development - Approved

12.3 General Correspondence In

12.3.1 Mt Burke Public Access to Lake Wanaka - Noted

12.4 General Correspondence Out

12.4.1 Rainbow Stocking of Lake Mahinerangi

Moved (Neilson/Cole)

That the correspondence be received/noted

Carried – Unanimously

13.0 Items To Be Received Or Noted

13.1 Compliance Summary Report

CE noted that the report would be the last from part time law student Ashleigh Grenfield who has been with the organisation for two years. Council expressed their gratitude and wished her well for the future.

13.2 Planning and Consenting Report

Nigel Paragreen presented the report.

Donald Lousley asked about Crown Pastoral Leases and commented that access was still a big issue. The conservation board are working on making submissions regarding access and a combined effort may increase traction.

Cr Barlow asked if there was any further update on the proposal to change the draw-down regime at Lake Onslow. Nigel Paragreen replied that there was nothing further to add – work in progress

13.3 Upper Clutha Catchment Land-locked Salmon Spawning Surveys

Cr Grubb commented that many spawners were seen in the Hunter River in May – may need to consider regulations to protect these fish.

14.0 General Business

14.1 Cr Highton commented that Otago Fish & Game Officer Morgan Trotter has been helping a group of Maniototo farmers try to secure \$5 million in funding for fencing wetlands etc. There are some issues with allowing some managed grazing in the fenced-off land – currently, this isn't possible. Research is planned to measure the effect of managed grazing on ecological outcomes.

The meeting was closed at 5:00 pm

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

6.0 Health and Safety Report Sept-Nov 2020

Covid 19 restrictions have relaxed as there has been no cases here in Dunedin. Two staff have been tested after travelling to the Nth Island. Both negative. Stores of PEP and plans are ready if lock down occurs again. The tracer QR code remains available and all visitors required to sign into the building.

Events

- Health and safety plans were developed for TAKF events, soft bait clinics and Takitakitoa planting day. Added measures for Covid safety.
- Boat audits for safe ship management are complete.
- Contractors working in Cromwell office on the building upgrade have all been notified on OHS hazards and OSH work plans.

OHS Audits

- field equipment safety Audits completed - checks and PPE check list, General hazards register updated.
- Next audits – office audit and audit check list for the year

Incidents/Accidents/Near Misses

- A ranger interviewed a disagreeable fisher person. All rangers and staff reminded to back away and to seek police assistance if required.
- It was noted at some of the TAKF events that too many parents are on the phone and not monitoring their children. We are to encourage/remind all parents they are responsible for watching their own children at these events.
- Gamebird Cull Investigation -Staff were in need of extra protective equipment. Vehicles will now require secure boxes for sample collection, these will be made up with overalls, gloves, sample bottles etc. This has been added to the PEP equipment and vehicle audits.
- Dunedin garage door was activated when another vehicle was reversing out. Minor damage to door and vehicle. New protocol to observe door when opening and closing.

Training

- 4 Wheel drive course organised for staff in December 2020
- Sharon – Gun licence renewal
- Alana Harris inducted to work in the Dunedin office.

Recommendation

That is report be received.

Sharon Milne
Administration
November 2020

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 Preliminary 2021 Game Bird Season Regulations

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend the draft 2021 Game Gazette Regulations to Council.

Late 2020 Season Regulation Changes – Covid-19

Last years agreed Game Gazette was revisited in April as a result of a Covid 19 related delay in the start of the hunting season. The start date adjusted accordingly (see Appendix 1) The Councils previous agreement to shorten the main mallard season by two weeks (to finish in mid-July) was rescinded in favour of an end of July finish to maximise the season length for hunters.

Sub gauge shotgun and nontoxic ammunition

From the 2021 season, a hunter hunting waterfowl within 200m of open water (with anything other than a .410) on public or private land must use non-toxic shot, nothing else. This ends a 5 year transition away from lead pellets for waterfowl hunting near water in all sub gauge shotguns apart from .410 calibre. An exemption will remain for the 410-gauge due to the unavailability of non-toxic shot for this firearm.

Changes proposed

Reinstate mid-July closing of the main waterfowl season

The 2020 Game Season recommendation (which was adopted by this Council) to reduce the 12 week season to 10 weeks for Mallard/grey and Shoveler to close mid July. The reasons and justification for the earlier closing still apply. For 2021 season this would mean a start date of 1 May and a proposed closing date of the 11th July.

Increase Black Swan bag limit from 5/day to 10/day for Area B (Coastal Otago and Taieri catchment)

Swan complaints are on the rise and two alleged illegal culls (one aerial and one poisoning) of the species indicate a level of frustration by affected landowners. Our understanding is that a group of upper Taieri River landowners have applied for a permit from DoC for a cull because of the high numbers in the catchment.

Swans are rarely targeted by hunters and staff don't believe there will be a big increase in total harvest as a result of an increase in the bag limit, but it will provide opportunity for organised hunts to address localised issues.

Gamebird Species Monitoring

Mallards

Last season aerial mallard mallard counts were unable to be completed due to the Covid lockdown. They are scheduled for April next year. Staff observations point towards a higher than usual abundance of adult birds coming out of winter and successful breeding season to date. There are no indications that there is an issue with sustainability of the population.

Paradise Shelduck

Last season’s January aerial trend counts showed a small decrease in the Paradise shelduck population from 22786 to 20575 in 2020. That is still within the long term range of between 16,000 and 23,000 so there is no cause for concern. Paradise Shelduck trend counts will be completed in January and the final bag limit is usually reconsidered in light of the population trend. If no significant changes in the population are noted, then the status quo should remain.

Black swan

Monitoring data of Black swan doesn’t show a large increase in abundance, but we undertake this count alongside our Paradise shelduck monitoring in January. The time they cause the most harm to pasture is in early spring.

The aerial black swan count in January showed an increase from 760 birds to 900 in 2020 F&G Officer Trotter noted that it was hard to get accurate estimates on large waters like Waihola and Waipori.

Pukeko and shoveler

Counts are undertaken annually to understand trends in the population and for setting game regulations. Data suggests there was no significant change overall on monitored sites therefore no change to the 2021 regulations are proposed for those species.

Hunter Harvest

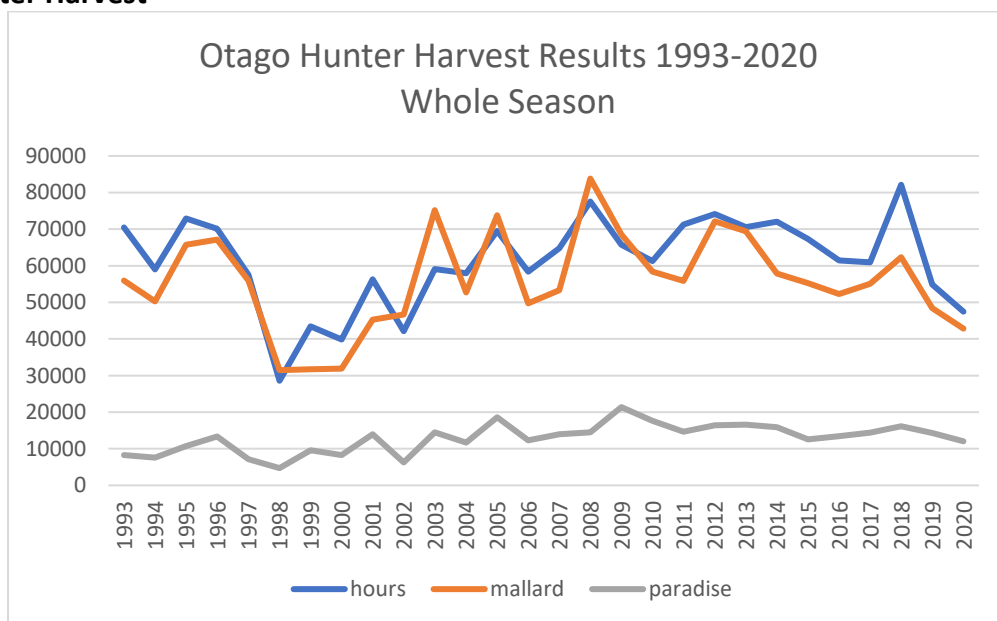


Figure1 provides the estimated total gamebird harvest and hunter hours for the Otago region from 2000-2020

Total seasonal harvest largely hinges on the success of opening weekend when a high proportion of the birds are taken (and the amount of time spent hunting). Weather conditions can play a major role in the success of individual hunters and arguably have a bigger bearing on harvest than the abundance of birds.

Liaison with neighbouring Fish and Game Regions

I have communicated with both Central South Island and Southland staff over regulation changes for their respective regions.

CSI are looking at maintaining the status quo with their regulations for the coming season. Their review of the 50 bird mallard limit was concluded last year and they agreed to keep that daily bag limit in place.

Southland are considering an increased opening weekend bag to align with ours (25 grey/mallards per day) and continuing with a lesser bag (10/day) for the remainder of the season.

Recommendations for the 2020 game bird hunting season:

- 1. That the Black Swan Bag limit for Area B be increased from 5 to 10 birds per day***
- 2. That the season for Grey/Mallard and Shoveler be 10 weeks (ending on the 11th July 2021)***
- 3. That the Paradise shelduck bag remain at 12/day subject to the population falling between 16,000 and 23,000 birds in the annual aerial moult count surveys.***

Last season's regulations have been attached as appendix 1.

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
November 2020

Appendix 1

Otago Fish And Game Region (covid impacted) Game Gazette Notice 2020

1. Game That May be Hunted or Killed—Duration of 2020/2021 Season

Species	Season Duration (dates inclusive)	Daily Bag Limit	Hunting Area
Grey/mallard duck and any hybrid of those species	23 May to 26 Jul 2020	25	All areas
NZ shoveler duck	23 May to 26 Jul 2020	2	All areas
Paradise shelduck	23 May to 30 Aug 2020	12	All areas
	6 Mar to 14 Mar 2021	5	All areas junior season (refer to clause 5(4) for this Region)
Pukeko	Closed season	0	All areas
Black swan	Closed season	0	Area A
	23 May to 30 Aug 2020	5	Area B
California quail	30 May to 30 Aug 2020	10	All areas
Chukar	30 May to 30 Aug 2020	2	All areas
Cock Pheasant	30 May to 30 Aug 2020	5	All areas
Red-legged partridge	Closed season	0	All areas

2. Definition of Areas

1. **Area A:** The Clutha River catchment upstream from the Clyde Dam.
2. **Area B:** The Clutha River catchment downstream from the Clyde Dam; the Taieri River catchment and all the coastal catchments between Shag Point and The Brothers Point on the east coast of the South Island.

3. Shooting Hours

1. **Area A:** 7.00am to 6.45pm
2. **Area B:** 7.00am to 6.30pm

4. Decoy Limit

No limit.

5. Special Conditions

1. No person shall use or cause to be used on any water within the region for the hunting or killing of game, any fixed stand, pontoon, hide, loo or maimai, except within a distance of 10metres from the water margin in non-tidal waters, or from the low water mark in tidal waters, or from the outside edge of the raupo growth where raupo abounds, without the prior consent of the Otago Fish and Game Council.
2. No person may leave on the hunting ground the bodies or parts of bodies of Black swan or other game shot in the Otago Fish and Game region.
3. Shooting from a boat is prohibited on the Clutha River from 23 May to 31 May 2020 (refer to First Schedule clause 6).
4. The summer paradise shelduck season is open from 6 March to 14 March 2021. Firearm licensed Junior game licence holders can hunt independently (under supervision where required) but an adult game bird licence holder must be accompanied by a junior hunter, and hunting is restricted to locations 200 metres or more from open water.

6. Refuges and Closed Game Areas

The following wetland refuges and closed game areas are closed to hunting:

Refuges

Location

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| (1) Lake Hayes | Queenstown/Arrowtown highway |
| (2) Hawksbury Lagoon | Waikouaiti – East Otago |
| (3) Finegand | Balclutha |

Closed Game Areas

Location

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| (4) Ashley Downs | Near Clinton, South Otago |
| (5) Tomahawk Lagoon | Dunedin |
| (6) Kawarau River outlet from Lake Wakatipu downstream to the Shotover River confluence | |

7.2 2021 Otago Fish & Game Council Meeting Schedule

Below is the draft schedule of meetings including the rolling agenda items for consideration. This has been pre circulated and some amendments made as a result of feedback on timing etc.

NZC Meeting Cycle

NZC have circulated a draft schedule of meetings and important dates. I have checked these proposed dates so they don't clash and so there is enough time for consultation on important matters such as the licence fee setting. I have responded that there are no conflicts with our proposed meeting schedule.

Potential Tapanui Meeting 18th March 2021

This was cancelled this year because of Covid outbreak and subsequent lockdown but it would be good to reconnect with the area, and particularly the Pomahaka water care group ahead of our afternoon meeting.

Other Potential Meeting Sites

Hopefully we can get a booking into one or other of the Marae in our area for the May meeting. Richard Twinning has suggested that Hokonui would be happy to host and this could be a separate joint meeting with Southland Council. We can look again at options in the new year.

Policy Updates

The rolling policy review is only a draft, so if you have suggestions for other policy - either for development, or review, then let's discuss this at the meeting so it can be scheduled in.

Recommendation

That the 2020/21 Meeting Schedule be Adopted

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
10 November 2020

2021 Calendar of Meetings and Events

Date	13th & 14th February 2021	18th March 2021	20th May 2021	22nd July 2021	23rd September 2021	25th November (+AGM)
Venue	Dunedin	Tapanui (Field trip)	Marae?	Dunedin	Cromwell	Dunedin
Planning, Licence fees and Budgets	Strategic Planning session including SF&GMP milestone review	Approve draft Operational Workplan and budget	Final Licence fee recommendation	Adopt final OWP and Budget	Approve draft set of accounts for audit	Adopt Annual Report
Governance		Executive meeting (CE review)	Exec meeting - Finalise CE review		Confirm meeting schedule for following year	
Regulations		Scoping report on Anglers Notice changes	Approve Anglers Notice			Approve Draft Game Gazette
Health and safety	H&S self Audit report	Bi monthly report	Bi monthly report	Bi monthly report	Bi monthly report	Bi monthly report
Policy Review and other	H&S Policy		Sensitive Expenditure Policy	Schedule of legislative compliance	Compliance Guidelines	Induct new Council following election

7.3 Offence Guidelines for Otago – November 2020

The purpose of these guidelines is to guide staff and rangers on the relative seriousness of fish and game offences as the Council sees them. In establishing the guidelines it is important to stress that each case will be considered on its individual merits. The Council has delegated decisions on enforcement action to the Chief Executive.

Offending by minors

Offences relating to children are very difficult to deal with. In the field, rangers are instructed to be very cautious in their approach to them when investigating any offending. An explanation of what they are doing wrong and asking them to stop is ordinarily all that is required.

For more serious offences, rangers and staff are asked to request their name, address and telephone number so that the Council can follow the matter up with a parent or guardian. The Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1989 requires that persons under 17 years of age must have their rights explained including not having to make a statement and having a legal guardian or lawyer present when they do.

OF&GC has never taken prosecutions against minors since establishment in 1990.

Offending by adults

Offences by adults can be dealt with in three ways:

a) Prosecution through the Courts

This is appropriate for more serious offences and for ones where significant non co-operation is encountered. Court action is expensive and fines, court costs and legal fees rarely do more than cover lawyers costs and staff time. There is also a degree of uncertainty over the outcome. A judge may accept an offenders excuses; perceive fish and game offences as relatively trivial, and/or find against the Council. In going to Court we have to weigh up the chances of success and risks from failure.

All Court prosecutions must meet the provisions of the 'Solicitor- Generals Prosecution Guidelines - July 2013.'¹

¹ <http://www.crownlaw.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Prosecution-Guidelines/prosecution-guidelines-2013.pdf>

b) Diversion through the Courts

This may be appropriate for single offences or for offences where there are no aggravating circumstances such as obstruction. The prosecution prepares charging documents and submits these to the registrar. A hearing date is fixed. In the time ahead of the fixture date a diversion arrangement is agreed to and completed and then the prosecution is withdrawn. If diversion is not completed, the matter carries right through to full court prosecution.

c) Warnings

Warnings can be given where there are clear mitigating circumstances or for less serious offences. While not encouraged, rangers have the ability to give an on the spot warning. If they have any doubts they should complete an offence notice. In those cases a more formal written warning may be given or alternative action taken.

Diversion

For practical reasons, a simple financial contribution to the Councils Habitat Enhancement and Research Fund (HERF) is requested. (see schedule below) If the diversion offer is accepted and the contribution is made, the matter is resolved quickly saving considerable Fish & Game and Court time. It also saves the offender from having a conviction recorded against their name. However, their details are recorded on our national compliance database so they are not given the same opportunity to resolve offending by diversion at some future point or in another Region.

Diversion is appropriate for offenders who:

- Are first time offenders against Conservation or Wildlife Act
- Fully cooperated with Ranger at time of apprehension
- Were not involved in any aggravating circumstances eg. obstruction, false details or misleading information
- Have not committed 3 or more regulation offences or, in the case of fishing/hunting without a licence, any additional offences.

Diversion may be also be offered to other offenders under special circumstances on a case by case basis. Examples might include:

- Young adult offenders (university students for instance)
- Overseas tourists
- Offenders intending heading overseas before a potential court date

Diversion Amount

The size of the diversion payment is graduated according to the seriousness of the offence and where possible is largely based on the average fines handed down by the court for the same or similar offences. A table below contains a scale of payments for various offences. These figures have been set after discussion with compliance staff in other regions and will be reviewed and adjusted periodically.

Use of Diversion Payment Funds

Any diversion payments made are receipted and will be banked into a dedicated Habitat Enhancement and Research Fund and not used for general operational expenses and must be used within Otago Region. The fund will be distributed by grants or used for projects in three areas:

- **Sportsfish Habitat Enhancement** e.g. streamside restoration projects, subsidised plantings, fencing of spawning areas.
- **Gamebird Habitat Enhancement** e.g. wetland creation projects, grants to private landowners, wetland fencing and plant subsidies
- **Sportsfish or gamebird research** eg Seed funding for MSc or PhD students dedicated to research of sportsfish or gamebirds or their habitats.

Grants are to be made from the fund in accordance with the Otago Councils HERF application and approval process. A document containing 'preferred criteria' has been established to help guide applicants.

Failure to complete Diversion

Failure or refusal to complete Diversion will result in court prosecution. As such, in all cases where diversion is offered a prima facie case must first be established.

Action guidelines table for common offences

Sports Fisheries Offences

Offence	Act/Regulations	Course of Action
Fishing without a sportsfish licence	Conservation Act s26Z1	Diversion
Fishing without a backcountry licence	Conservation Act s26Z1	Diversion
Fishing outside of nominated region	Conservation Act s26Z1	Diversion
Non-compliance with Anglers Notice (eg Using more than one rod)	Conservation Act s26 R (6)	Diversion
Failure to produce licence	Fresh.Fish. Regs s20	Warning
Disturbing spawning fish/grounds	Conservation Act s26ZJ(1)	Court Prosecution
Obstruction	Conservation Act s41	Court Prosecution
Fishing out of season	Conservation Act s26ZP	Diversion
Failure to give name & address	Fresh.Fish. Regs. s20	Court Prosecution
FWL when coupled with other offences (Obstruction etc) three or more regulations offences	Conservation Act	Court Prosecution

Gamebird Offences

Offence	Act/Regulations	Course of Action
Hunting without a licence	Wildlife Act s19(1)	Diversion
Breach of Game Gazette conditions (eg. Over bag limit, lead shot)	Wildlife Act s6(3)	Diversion
Failure to produce licence	Wildlife Act s61(2)	Warning
Using more than one shotgun	Wildlife Act s18	Diversion
Obstruction	Wildlife Act s40	Court Prosecution
Hunting out of season	Wildlife Act s67	Court Prosecution
Taking absolutely protected wildlife	Wildlife Act s63	Court Prosecution
Taking (<2) partially protected wildlife (eg Grey Teal)	Wildlife Act s63	Diversion
Failure to give name & address	Wildlife Act s66 (2)	Court Prosecution
HWL when coupled with other offences (obstruction etc) or three or more regulations offences	Wildlife Act	Court Prosecution

Diversion levels for common categories of offences –

Offence	Section	Diversion Fee	Average Fine	Range
Fishing without a licence	Conservation Act s26ZI	\$500*	\$513	\$200 - \$700
Fishing without a backcountry licence	Conservation Act s26ZI	\$200*	No cases	No cases
Fishing outside of area named on Local Area licence	Conservation Act s26ZI	\$200*	No cases	No cases
Non-compliance with Anglers Notice (eg Using more than one rod etc)	Conservation Act s26 R (6)	\$200*	No cases	No cases
Fishing out of season	Conservation Act s26ZP	\$200*	No cases	No cases
Hunting without a licence	Wildlife Act s19(1)	\$600*	\$510	\$300-\$700
Breach of Game Gazette conditions (eg. Over bag limit, lead shot)	Wildlife Act s6(3)	\$500*	\$487	\$250 - \$700

- Plus summons service fee of \$150 (if summons served)

Additional Notes:

- Diversion levels are in line with Southland and Central South Island Region levels.
- Average fines do not include court costs (generally \$130) or solicitors fees (range between \$75 and \$250) or the forfeiture of shotguns or fishing equipment
- Information based on last 5 years of prosecutions in Otago and Southland Region.
- Prosecution guidelines and diversion donation levels last approved by Council in August 2018

Recommendation

That the prosecution guidelines be adopted, and the schedule of diversion payment levels be confirmed for use from this point onwards.

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
November 2020

8.0 Public Excluded Items

- 8.1 Public Excluded Minutes from 24th September 2020**
- 8.2 Habitat Enhancement Fund Application Royalburn Station**
- 8.3 RMA Projected Evidence Workload for 2021**
- 8.4 Contact Energy Sports Fish Management Plan Update**
- 8.5 Property Update**
- 8.6 Report on Application to Vary Lake Onslow Drawdown Rate**
- 8.7 Lindis High Court Case Update (Verbal Maree Baker-Galloway)**

9.0 Financial Report

9.1 Finance Reports

The finance profit report and Loss and Balance sheet for the period from 1st September 2020 to 31st October 2020 is below.

Expenditure at the 31st October for the 2020/21 financial year is \$441,813 (including levies \$177,951, agent commission \$37,967 and depreciation \$10,121 compared with the annual expenditure budget of \$1,805,609 (inclusive of levies and agent commission).

Total income to date is \$ 955,883. The annual budget income is \$1,707,421
Budget and expenditure figures are exclusive of GST.

The draft accounts show a profit for the year of \$514,070

Funds Position at 31st October 2020

ANZ 00 account \$23,995.35
ANZ 70 account \$660,090.54

Term Investments as at 31st October 2020

ASB 0079 \$359,369.87 @ 1.70% maturing January 2021

Donations and Grants (not in budget)

Date	Who	For	Amount GST excl
Sept/Oct	Mixed	Bullock Creek Plantings	\$300
Sept	Community Care Trust	Take A Kid Fishing	\$1,733
Total			\$2,033.00

Debtors

There are no bad or doubtful debts at the 31st October 2020

Capital Expenditure and Sales

No capital expenditure this period

9.2 Otago Fish and Game Reserves 31st October 2020

Otago Reserves Movements	Balance August 2020	Income (To) Reserve	Note	Outgoing (From) Reserve	Balance Oct 2020
Back Country Non-resident Levy	\$266,789	\$1121		\$747	\$267,163
Habitat Enhancement & Research	\$10,995	\$3,000	2	\$0	\$13995
Bullock Creek Reserve	\$5033	\$300		\$575	\$4,758
Mining Rights Reserve	\$23,947		3	\$4,443	\$19,504
Priority Consents Reserve	60,000		7		\$60,000
Historical Property Reserves	\$172,044		4	\$10,366	\$161,678
Renovation Reserves	\$8,175				\$8,175
Regional Policy Statement Reserve	\$60,000		5		\$60,000
Priority Plan Changes	\$118,485		6	\$752	\$117,732
Total					\$709,159

Note 2 Balance is \$13,995, adjusted up due to unused commitments now cancelled, less committed but not yet paid out of \$8,500. Balance of \$2495 is available for dispersal by way of grants.

Note 3 \$150,000 (Mining Rights) approved prior to 2018 by NZC from our reserves. Includes \$80,000 of Lindis expenses, agreed by Council July 2019.

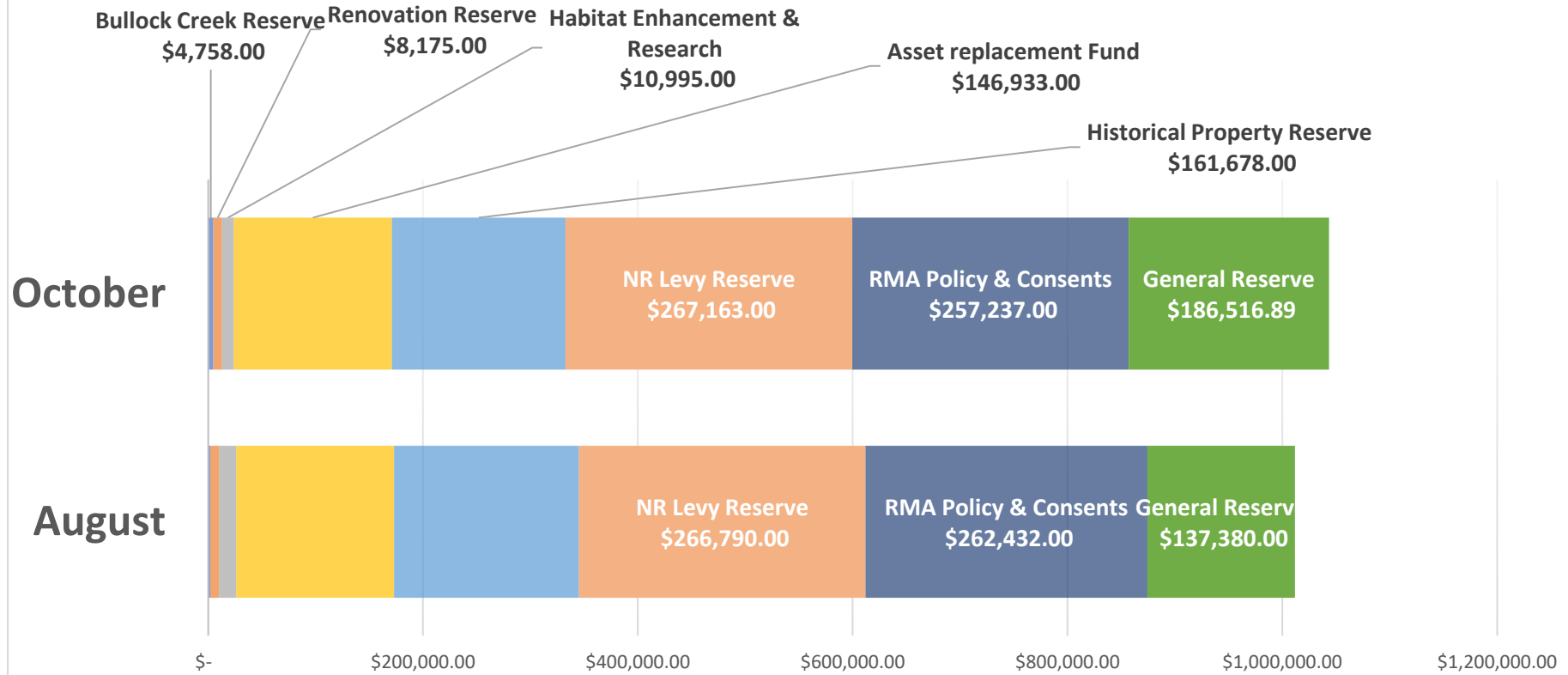
Note 4 Historical Property Reserve May 2020 \$15,000 and July 2020 \$25,000 was allocated to Wanaka subdivision by the Otago Council.

Note 5 OF&GC agreed to \$60,000 May 2020. NZC notified.

Note 6 OF&GC agreed to \$120,000 May 2020. NZC notified. \$81,000 agreed to be spent by council September 2020.

Note 7 OF&GC agreed to \$60,000 May 2020. NZC notified.

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES FROM AUGUST TO OCTOBER 2020



9.3 Licence Sales

Fish Licence Sales 2020/21 to 1st November 2020

See table following for fish licence sales volume for various categories. This table shows fish licences sales for season 2020/21 to the 1st November with a comparison to 2019/20 season. These figures include commission.

In summary, fishing licence sales to 1st November 2020 in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) 8138.79 LEQs compared with 7462.36 LEQs for the same period last season.

Fish licence revenue from the Profit and Loss statement for the 2020/21 season recorded to 31st October 2020 total \$942,821 compared with \$815,310 for the 2019/20 Season.

The 2020/21 budget for fish licence sales is \$1,324,365 exclusive of GST.

9.4 Agents Debts

There are several outstanding invoices late for payment from agents as at 31st October 2020. A total \$828.41.

Part of this may have been related to Eyede Ltd (NZ Fish and Game Licensing) having a name and logo change (to Data Transaction management) and their invoices have come out differently due to converting to Xero. All agents have now been contacted and invoices will be paid.

9.5 Recommendation

That this report be received

Sharon Milne
Administration Officer
16/11/2020

Balance Sheet

Otago Fish and Game Council As at 31 October 2020

	31 OCT 2020	31 AUG 2020
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank	684,286	652,613
Receivables		
Accounts Receivable	851,824	118,479
Total Receivables	851,824	118,479
GST	(101,914)	40,644
Investments	359,370	359,370
Inventory	20,958	20,958
Accrued Interest	870	870
Total Current Assets	1,815,394	1,192,934
Fixed Assets		
Property Plant & Equipment	1,375,351	1,385,472
Total Fixed Assets	1,375,351	1,385,472
Total Assets	3,190,746	2,578,406
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	236,169	74,257
Other Payables	149,888	231,585
Employee Entitlements	82,230	64,175
Total Current Liabilities	468,287	370,017
Total Liabilities	468,287	370,017
Net Assets	2,722,459	2,208,389
Equity		
Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated Funds	1,712,801	1,651,962
Current Year Earnings	514,070	60,838
Transfer (To)/From Reserves	(235,383)	(250,845)
Total Accumulated Funds	1,991,488	1,461,955
Dedicated Reserves		
Back Country Fisheries Reserve	267,163	266,789
Habitat Enhancement & Research	10,995	10,995
Priority Plan Changes Reserve	117,733	118,485
Priority Consents Reserve	60,000	60,000
Regional Policy Statement Reserve	60,000	60,000
Mining Privileges Reserve	19,504	23,947
Historical Property Reserve	161,678	172,044
Renovation Reserve	8,175	8,175

	31 OCT 2020	31 AUG 2020
Asset Replacement Funding	118,926	118,926
Total Dedicated Reserves	824,175	839,361
Restricted Reserves		
Bullock Creek Reserve	4,758	5,033
Total Restricted Reserves	4,758	5,033
Wetland Styx Development	(97,960)	(97,960)
Total Equity	2,722,459	2,208,389

Profit and Loss

Otago Fish and Game Council For the 2 months ended 31 October 2020

	SEP 2020	OCT 2020	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
Income								
Licence Sales								
Fish Licence Sales	425,804	515,896	941,700	700,000	241,700	135%	1,324,365	1,683,279
Non-Resident Licence Revenue	275	846	1,121	-	1,121	-	-	70,828
Game Licence Sales	-	-	-	-	-	-	321,903	316,109
Total Licence Sales	426,079	516,742	942,821	700,000	242,821	135%	1,646,268	2,070,216
Other Income								
Interest Income	21	26	47	-	47	-	-	16,177
Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	134	31	166	334	(168)	50%	2,000	723
Rent Received	3,850	4,603	8,453	9,863	(1,410)	86%	59,153	53,498
Fishing Competitions	-	35	35	-	35	-	-	1,635
Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,489
Donations & Grants	1,953	80	2,033	-	2,033	-	-	73,526
Merchandise Sales/Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67
Sundry Income	17	2,311	2,329	-	2,329	-	-	17,128
Diversion - Habitat Enhancement and Research Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,635
Total Other Income	5,975	7,087	13,062	10,197	2,865	128%	61,153	198,879
Total Income	432,055	523,828	955,883	710,197	245,686	135%	1,707,421	2,269,095
Gross Profit	432,055	523,828	955,883	710,197	245,686	135%	1,707,421	2,269,095
Other Income								
Govt Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85,726
Total Other Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85,726

	SEP 2020	OCT 2020	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
Expenses								
Species Management								
Population Monitoring	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,000	6,348
Harvest Assessment	4	-	4	-	4	-	3,000	2,700
Hatchery Operations	1,092	57	1,149	1,400	(251)	82%	9,000	3,912
Releases	127	63	190	300	(110)	63%	1,800	838
Game Bird Control compliants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	119
Total Species Management	1,222	121	1,343	1,700	(357)	79%	22,800	13,916
Habitat Protection & Mngt								
Contact Sports Fish Management Plan	35	-	35	-	35	-	-	58,197
Resource Mngt Act	3,929	1,267	5,195	334	4,861	1,555%	2,000	32,449
Works & Management	811	1,616	2,426	834	1,592	291%	5,000	14,196
Assisted Habitat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Habitat Enhancement Research Fund Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,435
Total Habitat Protection & Mngt	4,774	2,882	7,657	1,168	6,489	656%	7,000	117,288
Participation								
Access and Signage	95	104	199	416	(217)	48%	2,500	1,628
Back Country Surveys/Monitoring	747	-	747	-	747	-	-	6,037
Promotion Articles and Advertising	-	-	-	250	(250)	-	1,500	998
Publications and Web Site	-	-	-	70	(70)	-	700	1,085
OF&G Training Events	257	291	548	1,400	(852)	39%	2,000	1,266
Club Relations and Grants	-	9	9	166	(157)	5%	1,000	1,388
Fish Competitions and Data	27	-	27	-	27	-	-	-
Total Participation	1,126	404	1,530	2,302	(772)	66%	7,700	12,403
PUBLIC INTERFACE								
NZC National Water Campaigns	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	-

	SEP 2020	OCT 2020	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
Liaison	-	5	5	250	(245)	2%	1,500	122
Communication	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	690
Media Releases	312	-	312	1,334	(1,022)	23%	7,000	1,068
Total PUBLIC INTERFACE	312	5	316	1,584	(1,268)	20%	9,500	1,880
COMPLIANCE								
Ranger Training and Expenses	68	-	68	250	(183)	27%	7,500	4,779
Compliance	-	-	-	500	(500)	-	5,000	1,282
Total COMPLIANCE	68	-	68	750	(683)	9%	12,500	6,061
LICENCING								
Agent Servicing	-	-	-	250	(250)	-	750	257
Commission/Fees	17,547	20,420	37,967	19,788	18,179	192%	59,360	81,950
Total LICENCING	17,547	20,420	37,967	20,038	17,929	189%	60,110	82,207
COUNCIL								
Council Meetings	959	49	1,008	2,000	(992)	50%	15,000	15,167
Total COUNCIL	959	49	1,008	2,000	(992)	50%	15,000	15,167
PLANNING & REPORTING								
Reporting/Audit	-	5,100	5,100	8,000	(2,900)	64%	16,000	17,236
National Liason	-	-	-	200	(200)	-	2,000	73
Total PLANNING & REPORTING	-	5,100	5,100	8,200	(3,100)	62%	18,000	17,309
ADMINISTRATION								
Salaries	85,289	51,827	137,115	125,754	11,361	109%	754,500	769,829
Staff Expenses	314	3,376	3,690	1,430	2,260	258%	17,000	11,067
Office Premices	15,938	11,728	27,666	21,504	6,162	129%	88,996	80,359
Office Equipemnt	281	22	304	420	(116)	72%	2,500	2,340
Communications	1,167	2,053	3,220	3,668	(448)	88%	22,000	20,167
General Exp (incl Insurance)	1,530	104	1,634	1,900	(266)	86%	2,900	3,485

	SEP 2020	OCT 2020	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
General Field Equipment	23	125	148	390	(242)	38%	2,300	2,531
Vehicles	9,864	4,745	14,609	15,168	(559)	96%	51,000	45,823
Total ADMINISTRATION	114,406	73,980	188,386	170,234	18,152	111%	941,196	935,601
Depreciation	5,068	5,053	10,121	-	10,121	-	-	72,461
Loss on Disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
NZ Fish & Game Levies	-	177,951	177,951	177,951	-	100%	711,803	1,011,763
Wanaka Subdivision	8,630	1,736	10,366	-	10,366	-	-	7,924
Total Expenses	154,113	287,700	441,813	385,927	55,886	114%	1,805,609	2,293,982
Net Profit	277,942	236,128	514,070	324,270	189,800	159%	(98,188)	60,838

Otago Fish Licence Sales to 1 November of the year

2020/2021

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	Total	Fish LEQ	Fish \$
Agency	1,707	2,225	6	614	90	0	40	120	3	190	0	12	0	0	0	5,007		
Eyede	5	6	0	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20		
Online	1,007	1,282	21	238	120	1	40	260	21	148	0	38	0	0	0	3,176		
Total	2,719	3,513	27	860	210	1	80	381	24	338	0	50	0	0	0	8,203	8,138.79	\$1,084,042.00

2019/2020

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	Total	Fish LEQ	Fish \$
Agency	1,683	2,314	57	570	98	5	27	87	166	194	1	9	10	3	12	5,236		
Eyede	0	6	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	17		
Online	703	825	164	180	97	1	38	177	199	115	5	11	4	2	3	2,524		
Total	2,386	3,145	221	757	197	6	65	264	365	311	6	20	14	5	15	7,777	7,462.36	\$1,008,349.00

FWF (Family), FWA (Adult), FWNA (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)
 FDNJ (day non resident Junior), FWNC (non resident Child), FDNC (day non Resident child day)

10.0 Chief Executives Report November 2020

10.1 Progress Against Councils 3 year Strategic Priorities

SF&GMP Output	Goals 2020-2023	Draft Objectives (Specific, timebound and measurable)	Update
Species Mgt	Improved knowledge of Sportsfish population dynamics in Southern Lakes	Robust monitoring system for southern lakes fisheries established by 2022 with enough sensitivity to detect population change. Research proposal to investigate drivers for that change lodged to NZC for funding by 2023	Creel surveys for monitoring were interrupted by a staff change but expect to resume in mid December A hold of funding (from reserves) to run a lake fisheries management workshop means that this project is on hold.
	Improve Clutha River Salmon knowledge	Contribution of southern lakes salmon population to lower river searun fishery researched by 2022. Options for enhancement of downstream migration by 2023. Benefits and risks of further liberations reported on by 2021. Salmon spawning sites surveyed and documented (ongoing)	Contact Energy have recently confirmed funding for a number of Clutha salmon related projects including spawning surveys in the upper and lower catchment. They will commence in April
Habitat Protection & Mgt	Improve outcomes in RMA planning	Submissions reflecting F&G positions made on time and hearings attended for all planning matters	The RMA consenting and planning report in the agenda highlights the depth of work going on and a separate report hints at the strain on staff

	<p>processes – Plans reflect F&G input</p>	<p>impacting on F&G managed species, habitat and users (lumpy workload so no dates fixed)</p> <p>Additional advocacy in the form of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once yearly Governor to governor meetings with ORC • Twice yearly meetings between CE's of orc and territorial authorities, iwi and DOC. (Same at a staff level) • Pre circulation of key submissions (two weeks ahead) to allies for comment and to seek alignment. <p>By 2022, establish three way agreement (Aukaha, DOC, F&G) on freshwater values and bottom lines for input into FMU process.</p>	<p>resources to keep up, particularly our ecologist and planner. That is not unique to F&G Otago.</p> <p>In the meantime we continue to maintain our key relationships through meetings and sharing of submissions, particularly at staff level.</p> <p>The CE has liaised with the ORC CEO, QLDC CEO, DOC community relations manager and had a brief discussion with Aukaha Chair Edward Ellison during the period.</p>
	<p>Create or improve more wetland areas with emphasis on irrigation dams as habitat and headwater wetlands</p>	<p>10 ponds/wetlands on private land developed or enhanced or protected annually (30 wetlands/ponds by 2023)</p>	<p>One potential wetland site on private has been inspected and a fund application has been made to the Councils habitat enhancement fund</p>
<p>Angler & Hunter Participation</p>	<p>Maintain or improve current participation levels, especially among females</p>	<p>Maintain current Participation levels and improve female participation by 5% by 2023</p>	<p>Staff are contributing to national marketing efforts to increase participation in angling among NZ based holiday makers. At present licence sales are up 8% on the same time last year.</p>

			The survey of female anglers is scheduled for the new year.
Access (under Participation in SF&GMP)	No net loss of access	Identify and log current access points by 2021 20% More access points identified in Otago region available to anglers and hunters by 2023.	This project is scheduled for mid 2021.
Public interface	High licence holder understanding of F&G organisation and its work on their behalf	Improve licence holder knowledge of F&G activities (by two unit points in licence holder survey) by 2023	Social media activity has spawned an increasing following by licence holders of our activity. We have increased the number of Otago pages in the F&G magazine to 8 to better showcase more of the work we are doing. A repeat survey will be required to see if there is progress against the objective.
	Improved understanding by the general public of F&G role and work	Establish information portal including option of an educational facility in conjunction with Contact energy by 2023 Generate and conduct general public survey of understanding by 2021 to establish base metric. PR/PA programme established and implemented by 2021. Follow up survey 2023 to check progress	Negotiations related to a hatchery and information site at Roxburgh hosted by Contact Energy are continuing. PR survey is on hold due to funds from reserves being held back at present.
	Proactive engagement with Ngai Tahu	MOU/Principles document extended to cover wider Otago water and wildlife values and agreed by 2022.	Relationship is in its infancy but slowly building at a staff level, especially with Aukaha. The CE and Environmental Officer attended Aukaha's Hui-a-tau (AGM) in mid November

	Improved FGO and Ranger visibility	15% of Otago fish licence holders and 10% of game licence holders have direct contact via CLE or through other F&G activities on an annual basis	Ranger training is planned for early December and this is typically a catalyst for more ranger activity. A summer ranging plan has been established for southern lakes. Targets may not be met due to staff changes and a delay in recruitment.
	Form alliances/collaborations with landowners (and stakeholder organisations) on areas of common interest	360 degree survey of all stakeholders and other groups on organisational attitude and effectiveness by 2021. Draft and implement strategic communications plan for stakeholders by 2022. Review for positive progress and report 2023	Stakeholder survey on hold as funding from Reserves on hold.
Administration	Find alternative sources of income to support F&G activities	At least 20% of external expenditure is from alternative sources	A good portion of the target figure for this year has been secured through the Contact Energy Sportsfish Management Plan. (\$100,800 worth of work)
Compliance	Regulations understandable by licence holders	Make regulations easier to interpret through simplification and improved user interfaces, especially online	Otago anglers notice review has been delayed by decision of this Council. Simplification project is now part of a nationally lead project and changes will be integrated into the website rebuild proposed for 2021
	Improved compliance rates	Improve compliance rate from 95% to 97%	Low early season offence rate points to the target being achieved but this will become clearer after the holiday break.

	Prosecutions completed in a compassionate and professional way	Revisit prosecution guidelines annually (Sept) and sign off alongside diversion payment schedule	Prosecution guidelines updated for approval at this November meeting.
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10.2 Other Staff Activity

10.2.1 SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Gamebird Monitoring

Gamebird monitoring reporting has been completed and this feeds directly into the game Season recommendations which will be covered at the meeting.

Wanaka Creel Surveys

Staff changes and a delay in boat certification has left a small hole in the annual dataset but this project will be back on track in mid December.

Hatchery Operations

Liberations of yearling class rainbow trout to our schedule of approved waters is now complete. Grading of stock is now being undertaken and liberation of surplus 1+ and 2+ stock to popular waters will continue while the weather remains cool enough to transport the fish.

10.2.2 HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Reserves Management

800 trees have been planted by Naylor Love staff at Takitakitoa wetland during the period another 400 native trees have been secured for next year from the 'Trees that Count' organisation following a successful application to them. Clearing and planting at Bullock creek wetland continues at pace with Friends of Bullock Creek leading the charge.

10.2.3 USER PARTICIPATION

Mt Burke Station Access

The QLDC are looking at a joint funding approach to resolve longstanding access issues at Mt Burke Station. While we have been positive and have indicated financial support, the final contribution and just what will be achieved with that is unclear. I have asked the QLDC to confirm if it is the original (2015) proposal of swapping unformed legal road alignments for new road access to the lake shore which was generated by QLDC, F&G, CFT, UC Anglers, Walking Access Commission, and DoC. LINZ have refused to contribute to funding the solution which is disappointing.

Fishing events

Five Take a Kid Fishing Events have been completed as well as a number of adult learn to fish classes. Two soft bait clinics will have been conducted by the time of the meeting. The first one at Outram Glen on the Taieri was very successful by all accounts.

10.2.4 PUBLIC INTERFACE

Liaison

Staff continue to maintain contact with catchment groups (Pomahaka Watercare Group, Upper Taieri Water Users Group and Waiholo Waipori Wetland Society). It does consume time but the relationships are seen as important.

10.2.5 COMPLIANCE

Ranging

Ranger activity has slowed up and resulted in a corresponding reduction in the offences being encountered. We are expecting compliance activity to increase again following the ranger training session in early December. All warrants will be renewed for a further three years following successful completion of the ranger safety course.

10.2.6 LICENCING

Licensing System

Licensing policy and the MOU on use of licence holder data is before the Council for consultation. The CE has been involved in early drafts via the NZC Licence subcommittee but was not privy to the final documents which the NZC circulated for consultation. The policy for the licensing system is important because it links together the various regions with the NZC who are charged with coordinating the third party contract (with Eyede) on our behalf.

10.2.7 COUNCIL

Staffing

Following the departure of a F&G officer from our Cromwell office we have appointed a Senior F&G officer into the role and have since appointed a field officer into the Cromwell office role on a short term contract. He will start mid December. We will look at this position again in the second quarter next year with a view to filling the F&G Officer Cromwell role permanently. In the meantime, we may have to contract out some tasks in the Operational Workplan to get them completed as we still are operating with a full staff member down.

Meeting Schedule and possible Zoom meetings

The proposed meeting schedule is in this agenda but council might give thought to having one or two zoom meetings to workshop or get updates on some of the topics that will inevitably come up next year. The resource allocation project and ministerial review are two such items but there could be more.

10.2.8 PLANNING AND REPORTING

Annual Report

The annual report and audit is near completion and seemed to go more smoothly this year. Accounting for the Styx Wetland purchase transaction is causing some last-minute discussion with the auditors but hopefully that is resolved before the AGM.

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
18th November 2020

11.0 RMA Planning and Consenting Report

17 September – 17 November 2020

Please note, the format and content of this report has been changed:

- *Planning matters have been incorporated, which were previously reported within the Chief Executive's report.*
- *Notifications and subsequent submissions made during the period are identified.*
- *Incremental updates on key consents have been replaced with a summary of all written approval requests to the Council at the time of writing.*

Should Councillors want a copy of a submission or an update on a specific application, this can be provided to in writing or via a presentation to a Council meeting when requested. This will provide an opportunity for a more full update, which doesn't require Councillors to review previous reports.

Updates of note

Long Term Visions

The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) requires the Otago Regional Council (ORC) to create long-term visions for every Freshwater Management Unit (FMU), or sub-sets of FMUs, and insert it into the Regional Policy Statement (RPS). This requirement has caused the ORC to push back its planned notification of a revised RPS by six months, to mid-2021.

The ORC is currently seeking feedback to help them develop the long-term visions for the catchment. Staff are preparing a submission. Feedback is open until 27 November and can be made in person at consultation meetings or via an online survey.

Consents for Intensive Winter Grazing

As part of regular discussions with the ORC, staff were informed that over 1000 land use consents for winter grazing activities may be received in coming years, due to regulation within the National Environmental Standards on Freshwater 2020. This workload is significant if Fish and Game is to be considered an affected party. Staff were afforded an opportunity to provide feedback on draft consent conditions being considered by the ORC for this activity. Extensive feedback was provided and staff are grateful for the opportunity.

Current legislation, policy and planning processes

Central Government – Crown Pastoral Land Reform Bill

It was reported last meeting that staff are working on a submission for this Bill alongside staff from the Central South Island and North Canterbury Fish and Game Councils. That draft is expected to be completed on 30 November and could be submitted soon after.

Staff have also made contact with members of the Otago Conservation Board to discuss the Bill and the submission.

Otago Regional Council – Plan Change 7 to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago

Staff reported last meeting on this plan change, that submissions had been written and sent to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). During the reporting period, a further submission was also sent to the EPA. The EPA has now handed the plan change over to the Environment Court, who has set a hearing timetable. This would see evidence written by the end of January and a hearing between March and May. The documents requesting to participate in the hearing have been lodged with the Court.

Otago Regional Council – Plan Change 8 to the Regional Plan: Water for Otago and Plan Change 1 to the Regional Plan: Waste for Otago

Staff reported last meeting on this plan change, that submissions had been written and sent to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). During the reporting period, further submissions were also sent to the EPA. The EPA has now handed the plan change over to the Environment Court; however, no further information has been received. The documents requesting to participate in the hearing have been lodged with the Court.

Dunstan Downs Tenure Review

Land Information New Zealand is seeking feedback on a preliminary proposal for tenure review on the Dunstan Downs property. This block straddles a ridge between the Otago and Central South Island Fish and Game Council areas. Staff from both Councils have worked together to produce submissions, which will be submitted separately. Staff have also made contact with members of the Otago Conservation Board to discuss submission contents. The submission is due 24 November 2020.

Current Notification processes

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
<i>Otago Regional Council applications</i>		
Various abstractors within the Pigburn catchment	To abstract water from the Pigburn.	A submission in opposition was put forward and a pre-hearing held. However, the application was then amended at the applicants' request, re-notified and staff have made a submission in opposition was made on the amended application. Staff are currently in discussions with the applicant regarding potential off-sets.
Hawkdun Pastoral Ltd.	To abstract water from Mata Creek.	A submission in opposition has previously been written. A pre-hearing has been held and broad agreement was reached with the applicant on all relief bar term. As a result, staff have requested not to be heard. Recently, the application was amended to include a diversion activity. Staff are re-considering the application in light of the amendment.
JN & CA Davis	To abstract water from the Stratford and Colour Burn Creeks.	A submission in opposition was written in response to being limited notified. No hearing date has been set.

Written approval requests being processed

Applicant	Activity	Status
<i>Otago Regional Council applications</i>		
Queenstown Lakes District Council	To abstract groundwater connected to surface water from the Arrow River.	In discussion with applicant regarding term of consent, which is the only remaining point of contention.
Lone Star Farms Ltd.	To abstract water from various waterways in the Strath Taieri.	The applications are lodged together but it is not clear if they will be assessed together. Staff are reviewing the applications.
Various abstracters within the Strath Taieri		
Janefield Family Trust and Stephen and Michelle Holland		
John and Pauline Curruthers		
A R Murdoch and J L Yee-Murdoch	To abstract water from Duohys and the Lowburn Creeks.	Staff will seek additional information from applicants.
Pioneer Energy	To vary existing consents to store and use water at Lake Onslow to increase the drawdown rate.	Staff are developing adaptive management conditions with the applicant. Please see the associated report for additional details.
Mount Earnslaw Station	To extract and divert water from the Earnslaw Burn for irrigation and hydropower.	Staff are awaiting additional information from the applicant
RJS & SJ Elliot	To abstract water from Spiller Creek.	Staff are reviewing the application.
Trustpower Ltd.	To divert water from Crystals Creek to Lake Mahinerangi.	Staff are reviewing the application.
Willowcroft Ltd.	To extract gravel from the Taieri River and Mill Stream, near Outram.	Awaiting information from applicant.
Glenorchy Community Association Inc.	To extract gravel from the Buckler Burn, near Glenorchy.	Applications amendments agreed with applicant, awaiting confirmation they have been made.
Wanaka River Journeys	To expand the number of jet boat trips up the Matukituki River.	In discussion with the applicants.
F S Mee Development Company Ltd.	To abstract water from the Kawarau River.	In discussion with the applicants.
Queenstown Hardfill Management Company Ltd.	To extract gravel from the Rees River.	Awaiting additional information from the applicant.

K R & R Ross (Tahakopa River tribs)	To clear water courses of sediment and vegetation.	Staff are awaiting information from the applicant. For Delmont, staff are reviewing the application, which has been amended. Affected party approval has been given in the past and is to be formally withdrawn.
S J Clark and J E Paul Partnership		
Delmont		
Cullen Farms Limited		
GT Davidson and partners (Tuapeka tributary)		
Roberts Family Trust – McDougalls Block	To subdivide and develop property near Cardrona and alter the bed of nearby waterways.	Awaiting information from the applicant.
Waitaki District Council	Global consent for road works instreams.	Awaiting information from the applicant.
Dunedin City Council	To discharge from the Forrester Park Landfill to a tributary of Lindsay Creek.	Awaiting information from the applicant.
Rees River Supplies Limited (Dart River Safaris)	To undertake instream works involving the disturbance of the bed, blasting rock, removal of gravel, logs, and material in the Dart River.	Awaiting information from the applicant.
Tom Overton (IP solutions)	To extract gravel from the dry bed of the Matukituki River	In discussion with applicant.
Earthworx Taieri	To extract gravel from sections of the Taieri River	Staff are reviewing the application.
Penvose Farms	Water permit to dam water for the purpose of irrigation	Staff are reviewing the application.
Otago Regional Council	Discharge from the Silverstream Pumpstation	Staff are reviewing the application.
Arrow Irrigation Company	To abstract water from the Arrow River	Staff are reviewing the application.
Lindis Crossing and Pritchard- Jones	To abstract groundwater connected to the Lindis River	Staff are reviewing the application.

Written approval provided during the period

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
<i>Otago Regional Council applications</i>		
Queenstown Lakes District Council	Repair and extend the existing rock buttress upstream of the Albert Town Bridge.	Written approval was provided.
Road Metals Ltd.	To construct temporary culverts in Otago waterways for gravel extraction.	The application was amended to include consent conditions specifying a minimum standard for culvert design and consideration of the spawning season. Written approval was provided.
Queenstown Lakes District Council	To abstract groundwater connected to surface water from the Arrow River.	The applicant provided additional information to allay staff concerns and reduced the term to 15 years. Written approval was provided on that basis.
Central Otago District Council	To discharge treated wastewater to land.	Written approval was provided.
Andrew Haulage	To extract gravel from the wetted bed of the Clutha River.	Additional information was provided which allayed staff concern. In addition, amendments were made to the application regarding sediment discharge, the volume to be extracted and limits to the number of extraction events per year. Written approval was provided on this basis.

No written approvals were provided during the period for consents from the following bodies:

- Queenstown Lakes District Council
- Central Otago District Council
- Dunedin City Council
- Clutha District Council
- Waitaki District Council

Recommendation:

1. That this report be received.

Nigel Paragreen
Environmental Officer

Jack Harland
Environmental Officer (RMA Support)
17 November 2020

12.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

12.1 CFT

12.2 NZC

12.3 Salmon Committee

12.4 Ngai Tahu

12.5 Conservation Board

13.0 Correspondence

13.1 NZC to Otago

13.1.1 Feedback Sought on Financial Reserves Policy Discussion Document

The Chair of the NZC Standing Finance Committee has requested feedback on their discussion document which will be used to create National Policy on use of financial reserves across the organisation.

Below is a request from its Chair Ray Grubb and is self-explanatory. I have reviewed the document and offer the following comments which may be included in a draft response:

Overriding principles

- Agree that each individual F&G Council is its own entity and should manage their own reserves.
- Agree that any committee setup to consider the use of reserves or changes to thresholds etc should be made up of a mix of both NZC and regional governors and staff.
- Agree that reserve levels should be separated by those that are levy paying regions, and those that are grant receiving regions, as the exposure to financial risk is different. A grant receiving region isn't exposed to the same level of risk as a large levy paying region for say a catastrophic drop in licence sales. 30-50% of income may be excessive and could be reviewed downwards towards 20-40% and a more appropriate range.
- Agree that trigger levels for notification and/or approval when reserves over and above thresholds are an important part of monitoring the entire organisation.

Reserves to maintain cashflow

- General reserves are required for cashflows in most regions to even out lumpy revenue throughout the year. The extent of reserves required for this purpose should be modelled to calculate a minimum requirement.
- Consideration should be given to smoothing out levy and grant payments so they better match revenue gaps and surpluses. Monthly payments instead of quarterly. (Otago first quarterly levy, ~\$250k, falls in September before many of the angling season sales come in)

NZC Reserves

- These need to be clearly separated – those that are held on behalf of regions, which reserve funds are contestable (RMA fund) and which reserves are accessible in an emergency for regional reserves top up.

Reserve categories

- These need to be clearly defined for and explained.

Auditing

- Agree that an Auditing system is required to ensure there is both transparency and compliance with the system. Any separate Audit and Risk Committee should have a balance of governors and managers to ensure there is a broad understanding of the issues. Power to co-opt (externally if required) should also be provided for.

Ian Hadland

Chief Executive

15 November 2020

Dear Councils,

NZ Council is now asking for feedback from your Councils regarding a new National Policy for Reserves.

As you will be aware this review was triggered by a lack of consistent application of the current policy, and reservations as to whether it was ever formally adopted as a National Policy.

The process to date has been the issue of an informal discussion document to which we received 16 detailed responses from 11 Regions and 5 individuals. Summarising those has resulted in the attached discussion document.

The objectives for the Reserves Review are as follows;

- 1. To ensure all regions have adequate cash reserves (general and dedicated combined) to meet emergencies*
- 2. To ensure licence holder funds are not held unused for too long a time*
- 3. To identify non cash reserves and have them entered on balance sheets*
- 4. To have a central register of reserves and their use*
- 5. To ensure there is full knowledge of and confidence in the Policy*

And the constraints we have identified;

- 1. Regions control their own reserves as legally independent Bodies Corporate*
- 2. NZC Statutory role is to co-ordinate*
- 3. The levy system cannot be used by NZC to compel Regions to use Reserves*

And the risks

- 1. Use of reserves in such a way that other Regions have to provide financial support*
- 2. Region(s) ignore National policy*

This is of course part of a 3 tiered review of our resource administration initiated by the NZ Council;

- reserves*
- resource allocation (under way)*
- levy and budget system*

All of this is integrated as much as possible with the Ministerial review team.

Please take the attached document to your Councils and provide any feedback they may wish to make. We would like to take a summary to the Standing Finance Committee and then to the NZ Council November meeting if possible. We also understand that as this is a summary of Regional views some may not wish to comment further.

We look forward to your feedback

Regards

Ray Grubb, Chair, Standing Finance Committee, NZ Fish and Game Council

Discussion Document on the Accumulation, Management and Application of Reserves within Fish and Game

Author: Ray Grubb, Chair of the Standing Finance Committee, NZC

Definitions

General and Dedicated Reserves are defined as unused licence holder funds which have no restrictions on their use. They can be accumulated from a number of sources.

Restricted Reserves have specific limitations on their use, usually involving third party conditions, that render them unable to be used for any other purpose.

General and Dedicated Reserves

Overriding Principles

1. Both the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZC) and the Regional Fish and Game Councils, as individual Bodies Corporate under the Conservation Act (1987), have individual responsibility to manage financial resources under the Public Finance Act (1989). They therefore manage their own reserves.
2. Councils accept there is a collective responsibility for the financial health of the overall organisation and accept the need for a National Reserves Policy and an associated reporting and monitoring system.
3. General Reserves are held for:
 - a. Risk management
 - b. Cashflow support
4. Dedicated Reserves are held for defined future purposes.
5. General and Dedicated Reserves can be amalgamated at any time for the purpose of risk management or cashflow support (and therefore become General Reserves).
6. A Committee of the NZC will be established called the 'National Audit and Risk Committee'. This Committee is a financial governance group and will perform an overview and monitoring role. The Committee will comprise representatives of Regional governance and NZC governance. The Committee may co-opt independent members to assist. The Committee itself cannot make decisions; its role is to make recommendations to the NZ Council which may make any decisions it see fit
7. For Levy paying regions, the total of General and Dedicated Reserves should be maintained at between 30% and 50% of licence income.
8. For Grant receiving Regions, the total of General and Dedicated Reserves should be maintained at between 30% and 50% of annual operational budget.
9. For the NZC, the total of General and Dedicated Reserves should be maintained at between 30% and 50% of annual Operational Budget.
10. Reserves should not be held for unnecessarily long periods of time. As a general rule, they should be used for current licence holder benefit.
11. Every Region shall adopt a Risk Management Policy

Policy

1. Every council that holds more than 50% General and Dedicated Reserves for a financial year shall seek NZC approval through the Audit and Risk Committee to continue to hold elevated reserves.
2. Every Council that wishes to reduce its General and Dedicated Reserve below 30% for a period greater than six months shall seek NZC approval through the Audit and Risk Committee.
3. the Audit and Risk Committee may require a management plan be entered into to return reserves to the 30%/50% band.
4. Following consultation, the NZC can change and set new levels of reserves in this policy in response to circumstances that affect the organisations overall financial wellbeing.
5. Every Council shall report quarterly to NZC on its;
 - a. Level of General Reserve
 - b. Movement in the level of its General Reserve for the quarter
 - c. Details of expenditure of General Reserve for the preceding quarter.

Dedicated Reserves

1. Dedicated Reserves may be established by any council at any time
2. Every Dedicated Reserve shall be established with a standard template and set of rules that include:
 - a. The singular purpose of the reserve
 - b. The means for approving the actual expenditure of the reserve
 - c. The period of time within which the reserve shall be used
 - d. The process for annual review of continuing purpose of the reserve.
3. Every council shall report quarterly to NZC on its
 - a. Level of Dedicated Reserves
 - b. Movement in the level of Dedicated Reserves
 - c. Establishment, level, and conditions surrounding new Dedicated Reserves
 - d. And report annually on changes resulting from the annual review of continuing purpose.

NZC Reserves

NZC will operate in the same way as regions, that is, have an audit and risk policy and General and Dedicated Reserves held within the same 30%-50% bands of income.

1. NZC General and Dedicated Reserves are to support cashflow and make provision for financial risk.
2. The NZC Dedicated Reserves should be set aside to meet Statutory obligations (RMA and Research) with levels set by the Audit and Risk Committee in consultation with the regions and approved by NZC.
3. NZC shall report quarterly on General and Dedicated Reserves.

Assets and Trust Funds

These include fixed assets (land and buildings), non-fixed assets such as vehicles and machinery. Trust Funds are those for which Fish and Game has a level of financial responsibility.

Policy

1. They should be shown in the region's balance sheet.
2. A comprehensive asset register of all assets and trust funds should be held centrally with NZC.

3. Liability provisions should be reported annually, and a register of liabilities should be maintained by NZC. Each council must hold liability insurance against failure of an asset where the failure may affect other parties. (For example, a wetland managed by Fish and Game causes flooding to nearby farmland).
4. Depreciation should be standardised.

Note

Opinion in responses to the reserves discussion document was divided as to whether a central risk management fund, separate to the NZC Reserves, should be introduced. Comment on this is requested

13.1.2 MOU on Licence Database Use – Feedback to NZC required

The New Zealand Council has asked for feedback on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) it has developed for the use of the data held on behalf of regions in the national licence database. The covering letter from NZC explains that the MOU has had feedback from three managers (including myself) but unfortunately, we were not party to this final draft.

Licence data is held and used for a narrow range of specific purposes. Its use has to be carefully managed to ensure that licence holders privacy is maintained and so they do not receive unwanted correspondence, particularly electronically. It also provides a ready means to contact our members so it is critically important pathway for communicating with them.

MOU or Policy? - There is no real provision for Memorandum of Understandings between regions and the NZC in the Conservation Act but NZC can set national policy. I see this MOU as part and parcel of the Licencing System Policy. As such it would make more sense to consider them together or as part of the one policy document.

NZC access and use of Otago licence holder email addresses - NZC assert that they need access to regional F&G Council databases to carry out their statutory function to advocate on behalf of hunters and anglers but my reading of the Conservation Act envisages NZC advocating outwards (and upwards to the minister) rather than back down to regional licence holders directly. That is the role of the Regional F&G Council. The NZC may help to coordinate regional activity and that is indeed one of their functions.

This Council has previously discussed some of the content direct mailed to our licence holders over firearms reform, and also the provocative imagery used in its NPS-FM campaign mailout. It was the latter which sparked the need for a communications strategy and greater regional input into broadscale electronic mailouts.

Schedules – The schedules of agreed work are well laid out and if they can be settled then it's only the occasional outlier which would require NZC (or any other region) to ask for direct permission to use a regions database. That provides a mechanism to check each communication with our Otago licence holders and ensure that it doesn't present any risk to our reputation etc.

Alternative MOU developed – In order to assist the consultation process, the regional managers group have developed a slightly altered version which most regions should find agreeable. If this council thinks it is a more appropriate version, then we can return that as a draft rather than bullet pointing out the various changes required to get our signoff. That is attached as **APPENDIX 1**. I am sure other regions will be presenting this alternative to their Councils too. I will speak to that at the meeting.

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
15 November 2020

DRAFT Memorandum of Understanding
on
Use of Data Collected through the Sales of Licences
Between
NZ Council and Regional Fish and Game Councils

Context

1. The sale of fishing and game bird licences creates a data set of licence holder details (the database).
2. The principal purpose of the database is to support regional Fish and Game councils (Regional Councils) to carry out their statutory functions at a regional level and to support the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) to carry out its statutory functions at a national level.
3. The principle functions at a regional level are to validate a sports fishing or game bird hunting licence, communicate and promote recreation with licence holders, compliance monitoring, and to assess and monitor the success rate and satisfaction of licence holders.
4. The principle functions at a national level are to advocate in the best interests of all licence holders, co-ordinate across regions and research.

Purpose

5. The purpose of this MOU is to agree on the access to licence holder data between Regional Councils and between Regional Councils and the NZ Council.

Regional Council's Access to Licence Holder Data

6. A Regional Council has access to licence holder details contained in the database to carry out its statutory functions, including
 - communication with, and promotion of the recreation to, licence holders within its region
 - monitoring of compliance and enforcement of regulations for all licence holder details,
 - assessment and monitoring success rate and satisfaction of licence holders within its regions.
7. Tasks which may be typically undertaken by Regional Councils are described further in Schedule 1.
8. Regional Councils may access the database for the reasons listed in Schedule 1 without the need to consult with other Regional Councils or the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.

NZ Council's Access to Licence Holder Data

9. The NZ Council has access to licence holder details contained in the database to carry out its statutory functions, including:
 - a. Advocating in the best interests of all licence holders

- b. Co-ordinating the distribution of Fish & Game print and electronic magazines, marketing campaigns and the election of Fish & Game councils.
- c. Research, such as the National Angler Survey, licence holder surveys, market analysis.

10. Tasks which may be typically undertaken by the NZ Council are set out in Schedule 2.

11. The NZ Council may access the database for the reasons listed in Schedule 2 and will consult with Regional Councils when it uses the national database to carry out its statutory functions. Where NZ Council seeks access to the database for reasons other than those listed in Schedule 2 it requires the permission of the relevant Regional Council.

Schedule 1 Regional Councils

- Communication with Licence Holders in its own regions, such as:
 - Newsletter distribution by post and email
 - Weekly reports distributed by email
- Promotion and Management of Recreation Resource:
 - Marketing: Part of regional marketing programme, e.g. contacting previous year's licence holders but 'yet to purchase' current season
 - Part of regional marketing programme to re-engage lapsed licence holder – e.g. assessment of licence holder purchase patterns
 - Surveys of back country licence holders for the express purpose of management of those designated fisheries.
- Compliance and Enforcement
 - Assessing whether an alleged offence has occurred – e.g. licence /no licence, or licence purchase history
- Assessment and Monitoring of Success Rate
 - Assessing harvest rate from Game Bird Harvest Survey
- Assessment and Monitoring Licence Holder Satisfaction
- Assessing hunter or angler opinion on issues relating to satisfaction
- Research
 - Assess patterns of a region's licence holder purchase patterns and licence category switching

Schedule 2 NZ Fish and Game Council

- Advocacy
 - Contact licence holders to seek views and support on national level issues
 - Contact licence holders to inform them on national level issues
- Coordination:
 - Co-ordinating Fish & Game's financial viability from an organisational perspective
 - Fish and Game magazine distribution
 - Electronic Magazine distribution, such as Reel life and Both Barrels ezines

- Marketing to promote programmes, including marketing communication actions e.g. early bird licence communications to previous year's licence holders for the upcoming new season.
- Triennial Fish and Game elections
- Research
 - National Angler Survey
 - Licence holder surveys
 - User surveys to test licencing, categories, switching and other buyer behaviour
 - Marketing analysis
 - Financial viability analysis
 - Licence holder behaviour analysis

APPENDIX 1 Alternative Version

Memorandum of Understanding on Use of Data Collected through the Sales of Licences Between NZ Council and Regional Fish and Game Councils

Context

1. The sale of fishing and game bird licences creates a data set of licence holder details - the database.
2. The principal purpose of the database is to collect personal details as a requirement to validate a sports fishing or game bird hunting licence and to collectively store this data set of licence holder details for all regions.
3. The secondary purpose of the database is to support regional Fish and Game councils (Regional Councils) to carry out their statutory functions at a regional level and to support the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) to carry out its statutory functions at a national level.
4. The principal functions at a regional level² are to:
 - . assess and monitor the success rate and degree of satisfaction of users (licence holders) of the sports fish and game resource within its region,
 - a. promote and educate by promoting recreation based on sports fish and game,
 - b. promote and educate by keeping anglers and hunters informed on matters affecting their interests, and
 - c. issue licences to hunt game and/or to take sports fish and maintain a register of current sports fishing or game bird hunting licence holders, for compliance monitoring.
5. The principal functions at a national level³ are to:
 - . represent and advocate nationally the interests of anglers and hunters (licence holders), and
 - a. provide co-ordination of the management, enhancement, and maintenance of sports fish and game, including development of a research programme promoting the management of sports fish and game.

² Conservation Act 1987 section 26Q Functions of Fish and Game Councils.

³ Conservation Act 1987 section 26B and 26C Functions of New Zealand Fish and Game Council.

Purpose

6. The purpose of this MOU is to agree on how Regional Councils and NZ Council will have access to licence holder data contained in the national database, and to work constructively and respectfully in a co-ordinated way in the interests of licence holders.

Regional Council's Access to Licence Holder Data

7. A Regional Council has access to licence holder details contained in the database to carry out its statutory functions including:
 - communication with licence holders within its region to promote the recreation based on sports fish and game and to educate by keeping anglers and hunters informed on matters affecting their interests,
 - monitoring of compliance and enforcement of regulations for all licence holders, and
 - assessment and monitoring success rate and degrees of satisfaction of users (licence holders) of the sports fish and game resource within its regions.
8. Tasks which may be typically undertaken by Regional Councils are described further in Schedule 1.
9. Regional Councils may access the database for compliance purposes without the agreement of other Regional Councils.
10. Regional Councils may access the database for all other tasks listed in Schedule 1 within their regions and by agreement of other Regional Councils or as part of an agreed work plan (e.g., an agreed collective Marketing Plan with defined tasks).

NZ Council's Access to Licence Holder Data

11. The NZ Council has access to licence holder details contained in the database to carry out its statutory functions including:
 - . representing and advocating nationally in the interests of anglers and hunters (licence holders),
 - a. co-ordinating the communications and marketing tasks agreed with Regional Councils, and
 - b. Undertaking research as part of an agreed research programme.
12. Tasks which may be typically undertaken by the NZ Council are set out in Schedule 2.
13. The NZ Council may access licence holder details from the database for the tasks listed in Schedule 2 which are part of an agreed work plan (e.g., an agreed collective Marketing Plan with defined tasks).

14. The NZ Council will consult with Regional Councils when it uses the national database to carry out its advocacy functions. This consultation will be critiqued by a reference panel of at least two regional managers, with the NZ Council chairman signing off permission.
15. If NZ Council is required to make use of the database and there is an urgency in a response, then consultation with the regions will be via a reference panel of at least two regional managers, with the NZ Council chairman signing off permission.
16. Where NZ Council seeks access to the database for reasons other than those listed in Schedule 2 it requires the approval of the relevant Regional Council(s). From time to time there will be new tasks that need to be considered which will be dealt with by the consultation process outlined in paragraph 14 and paragraph 15 (for urgent items).

Schedule 1 - Regional Councils

- **Communication with Licence Holders in its own region, such as:**
 - Newsletter distribution by post and email.
 - Weekly reports distributed by email.
- **Promotion and Management of Recreation Resource:**
 - Marketing: Part of regional marketing programme, e.g., contacting previous year's licence holders but 'yet to purchase' current season.
 - Marketing: Part of regional marketing programme to re-engage lapsed licence holder – e.g., assessment of licence holder purchase patterns.
 - Surveys of back country licence holders for the express purpose of management of those designated fisheries.
- **Compliance and Enforcement**
 - Investigating an alleged offence – e.g., licence /no licence, or licence purchase history
- **Assessment and Monitoring of Success Rate**
 - Assessing harvest rate from Game Bird Harvest Survey and sports fish harvest surveys.
- **Assessment and Monitoring Licence Holder Satisfaction**
 - Assessing hunter or angler opinion on issues relating to satisfaction.
- **Research**
 - Assess patterns of a region's licence holder purchase patterns and licence category switching.
- **Governance**
 - Triennial Fish and Game elections

Schedule 2 - NZ Fish and Game Council

- **Advocacy**
 - Contact licence holders to seek views and support on national level issues (refer to paragraph 14 and paragraph 15 regarding regional consultation).
 - Contact licence holders to inform them on national level issues (refer to paragraph 14 and paragraph 15 regarding regional consultation).
- **Coordination:**
 - Distribution of Fish and Game NZ magazine.
 - Distribution of Electronic Magazine (E-zine), such as Reel life and Both Barrels ezines.
 - An agreed programme of marketing communication actions e.g., early bird licence communications to previous year's licence holders for the upcoming new season.
- **Research** – under an agreed research work programme for each of the following potential tasks:
 - National Angler Survey (co-ordination).
 - Licence holder surveys.

- User surveys to test licencing, categories, switching and other buyer behaviour.
- Marketing analysis.
- Licence holder behaviour analysis.

13.2 Otago to NZC

13.2.1 Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order

From: Ian Hadland
Sent: Monday, 28 September 2020 12:19 PM
To: Jack Kos <jkos@fishandgame.org.nz>; Regional Managers <regionalmanagers@fishandgame.org.nz>
Subject: RE: Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order

Hi Jack,

The Otago F&G Council considered this request at its September 23 Meeting. It made the following points by way of feedback:

- Agreed that the ban should continue – its original purpose is still valid (including potential for generation of black market for trout flesh utilising spawning stock illegally harvested from accessible spawning streams)
- Relaxation could act as a precursor to support a move to remove legislative barriers to trout farming.

Council also questioned why this was distributed for consultation to regional Councils. They agreed it was a technical matter which could have been handled adequately by the managers group or by way of email circulation to relevant staff.

Thank you

On behalf of chair,

Ian Hadland | **Chief Executive**

Cell: 027 254 9700
DDI: +64 3 479 6555
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Web: www.fishandgame.org.nz

Otago Fish & Game Council
PO Box 76
Dunedin
New Zealand

13.2.2 Feedback on Release of Commercial Origin Salmon Policy



27 September 2020

Mr Paul Shortis
Chair New Zealand Fish & Game Council
Via email

Dear Paul,

Re:

Our Council considered the NZC paper on this topic at its 23rd September meeting. The following feedback is provided;

- Otago Fish and Game Council agrees with the thrust of the policy. It supports what it is trying to achieve, namely that release of stock into the wild with inappropriate genetics may impact on the wellbeing of wild (naturalised) salmon.
- The Council appreciates that as a wide ranging species that national consistency is required. A lack of consistency could lead to releases in one region impacting upon another regions stocks, or being used as leverage for the authorisation of releases in other areas.
- In Otago, we may in the future want (or need) to use landlocked chinook salmon from Southern Lakes as brood stock in a hatchery programme for release into an open system – they are not sea run’ but are still wild stock. [Edit 5 in the policy to include non anadromous wild lake stock]
- Council felt that wild sea run stock’ could be more specifically defined – like wild stock are salmon with ‘*parents or brood stock originating directly (F1) from naturalised ocean-origin chinook salmon*’. (F1’ is first generation – meaning that you can’t use second generation fish as brood stock because they can increasingly lose their ‘wildness’ genes.)
- Similarly, the definition of ‘hatchery reared commercial origin chinook salmon’ needs clarification. What exactly is ‘commercial origin’? We should be concerned about any release of fish that do not originate from wild salmon.
- The definition of ‘open system’ needs to be clearer so that it includes liberations of commercial reared stock to water outside of F&G jurisdiction (such as seawater) as adult salmon may later re enter freshwater fisheries when they return to spawn and mix with wild stock.

Please let us know if you need any assistance with wording for the final draft.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Monty Wright, Chair, Otago Fish & Game Council

13.3 General Correspondence In
Nil

13.4 General Correspondence Out
Nil

14.0 Items to be Received or Noted

14.1 Shoveler Trend Count - Project 1110 Population Monitoring

Summary

Every August shoveler ducks are monitored on a selection of open water sites where the congregate before pairing and moving to secluded areas for nesting and brood rearing (Caithness 1982, Holden 1990, Williams 1981). These counts are a census but reflect population trends over time. This year's Otago regional count was very similar to last year's total. Analysis of 240 sites across the country indicates that the population is stable (McDougal M, 2020). There is no recommendation for any regulation adjustments (the daily bag is presently two).

Methods

On 3 August 2020, Fish and Game staff and volunteers throughout New Zealand visited shoveler congregation sites. Otago Fish and Game staff were assisted by ranger Trevor Beck and counted 35 sites.

Otago Region Results

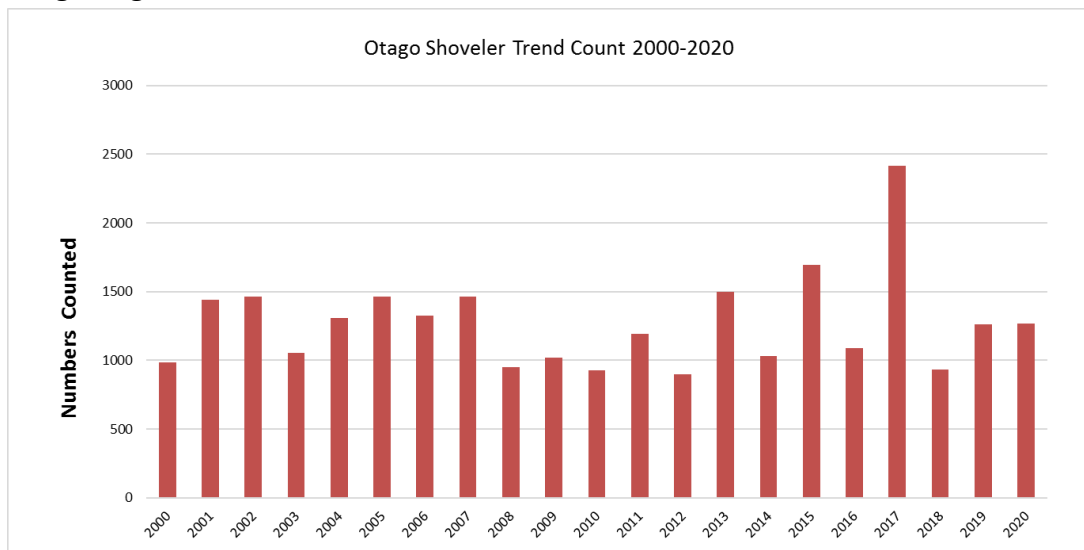


Figure 1: Total shoveler counts for Otago 2000-2020

The 2020 total was 1265 very similar to last year's count (1261) and it was 935 in 2018. Over the last twenty-one years the total number of shoveler counted has varied between approximately 900 and 2400 birds.

National Population Analysis (by Mathew McDougal)

Population change at sites monitored throughout the country was examined using two methods (1) a variant of the Route Regression method (Geissler and Sauer, 1990) and, (2) totals from 81 sites that have been counted each year for the 21 years.

A total of 11,325 shoveler duck were counted at 240 sites. Over the 21 years the population at these sites appears to be stable, (percentage change = -1.3; 95% Credible Interval -2.4 – -0.01; $n=237^4$). Short term (2019-2020) there was no detectable change. The 2020 total count for sites that have been counted every year ($n=81$) however, was 18% below the average for the period 2000 – 2019 and was down 29% on last year's count. The long-term trend at these 81 sites indicate no linear increase over the last 21 years.

Otago Hunter Harvest Trends

The estimated total season harvest for shoveler duck in Otago (from hunter telephone surveys) was 1801, up on recent seasons (figure 2). Overlapping confidence intervals would suggest this difference is not significant. When considering long term trends in harvest (Figure 2) it is important to keep factors such as change bag limits in mind. The Otago shoveler bag limit was reduced from 5 to 2 in 2008.

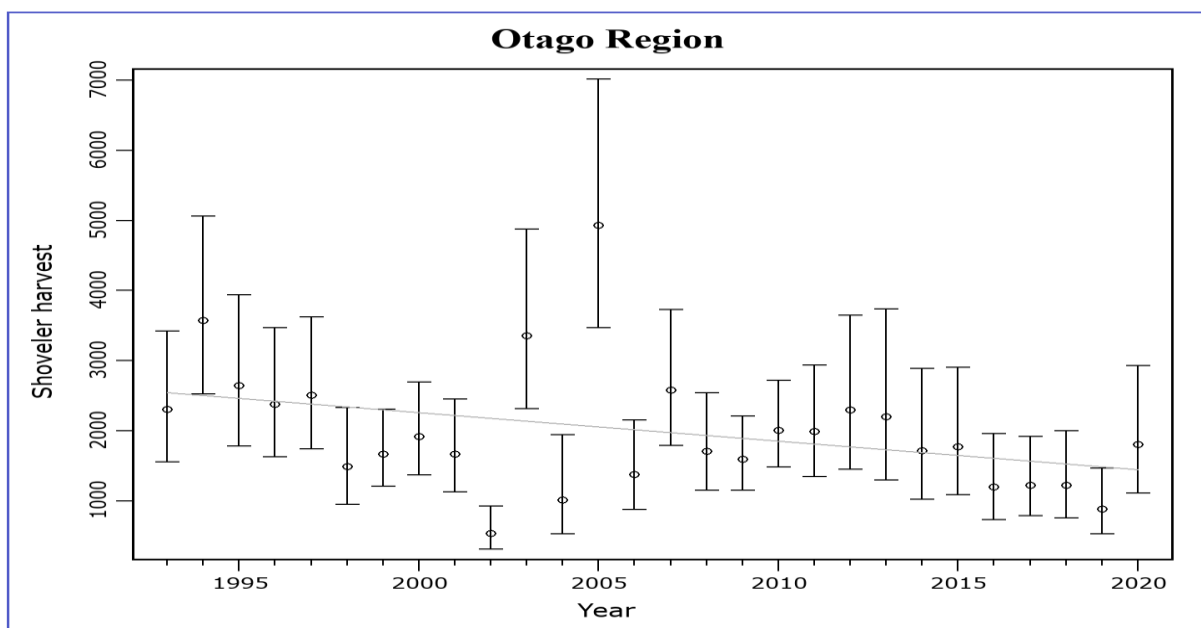


Figure 2. Estimated total harvest of shoveler duck in Otago 1993-2020.

⁴ With the 95% credible interval there is a 95% chance that the true estimate lies within the interval, whereas 95% confidence limit is a random variable (LINK, W. A. & BARKER, R. J. 2010. *Bayesian Inference with ecological applications*, London, Elsevier. whereby if the sampling were repeated numerous times 95% of these confidence intervals would encompass the true mean (MCCARTHY, M. A. 2007. *Bayesian Methods for Ecology*, New York, Cambridge University Press.).

Conclusion

Statistical analysis of nationwide results over the last 21 years indicates the population is stable and this year's regional total was similar to last year.

There is no recommendation for any regulation adjustment.

Recommendation

That this report be received.

Morgan Trotter
Fish & Game Officer
October 2020

References

Caithness T, 1982, Gamebird Hunting, Problems Questions and Answers, Fish and Fowl Series No 2, The Wetland Press.

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McCarty, M. A. 2007. Bayesian Methods for Ecology, New York, Cambridge University Press.

McDougal M, 2020. A Trend Count of New Zealand Shoveler Duck, Fish & Game NZ, Eastern Region Report, Rotorua, NZ.

Williams M, 1981, The Duck Shooters Bag, An Understanding of New Zealand's Wetland Gamebirds. The Wetland Press.

14.2 Otago Pukeko Monitoring Report 2020

Introduction

The purpose of monitoring Pukeko is to enable an annual estimate of population change within a geographic region. The monitoring is conducted at the same time as the Shoveler trend counts which are surveyed at beginning of August each year.

Method

The most practical monitoring technique for Pukeko is a roadside survey. Randomly selected transects (roadways) of 8-30kms are driven at slow speed and the number of Pukeko clearly identified with the naked eye from each side of the vehicle are recorded by two observers.

Sites selected

The sites selected were from historical sites surveyed in the 1980s.

- *Inch Clutha*

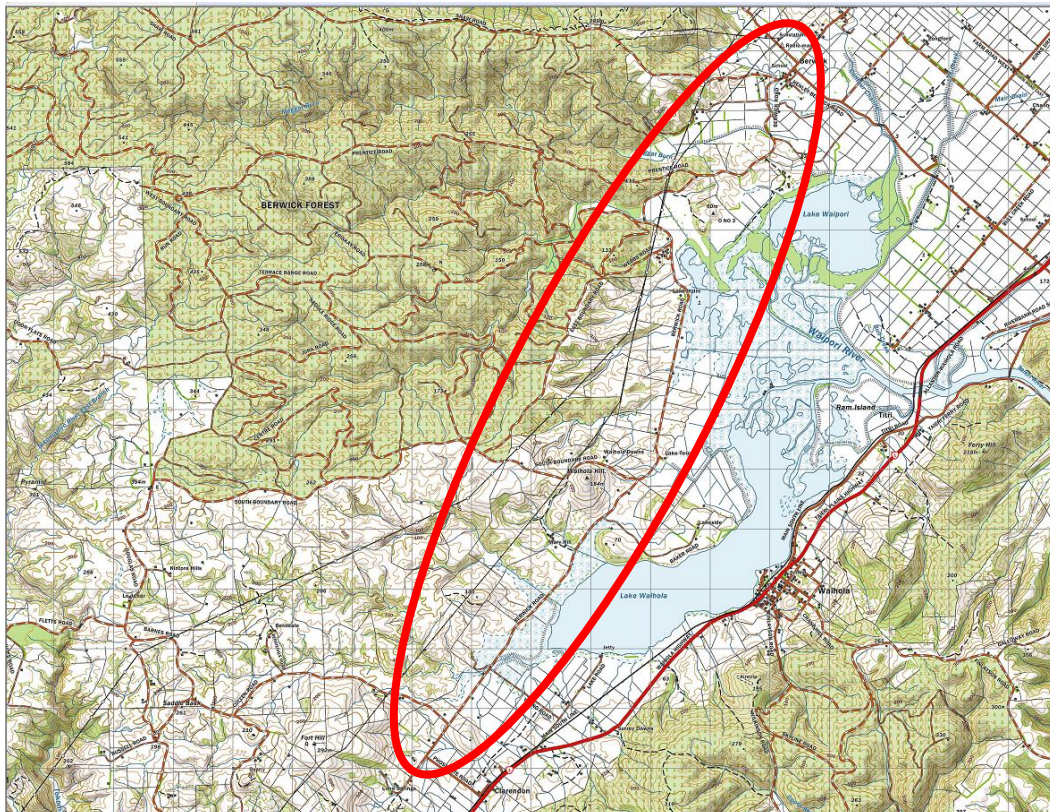


- **Puerua**



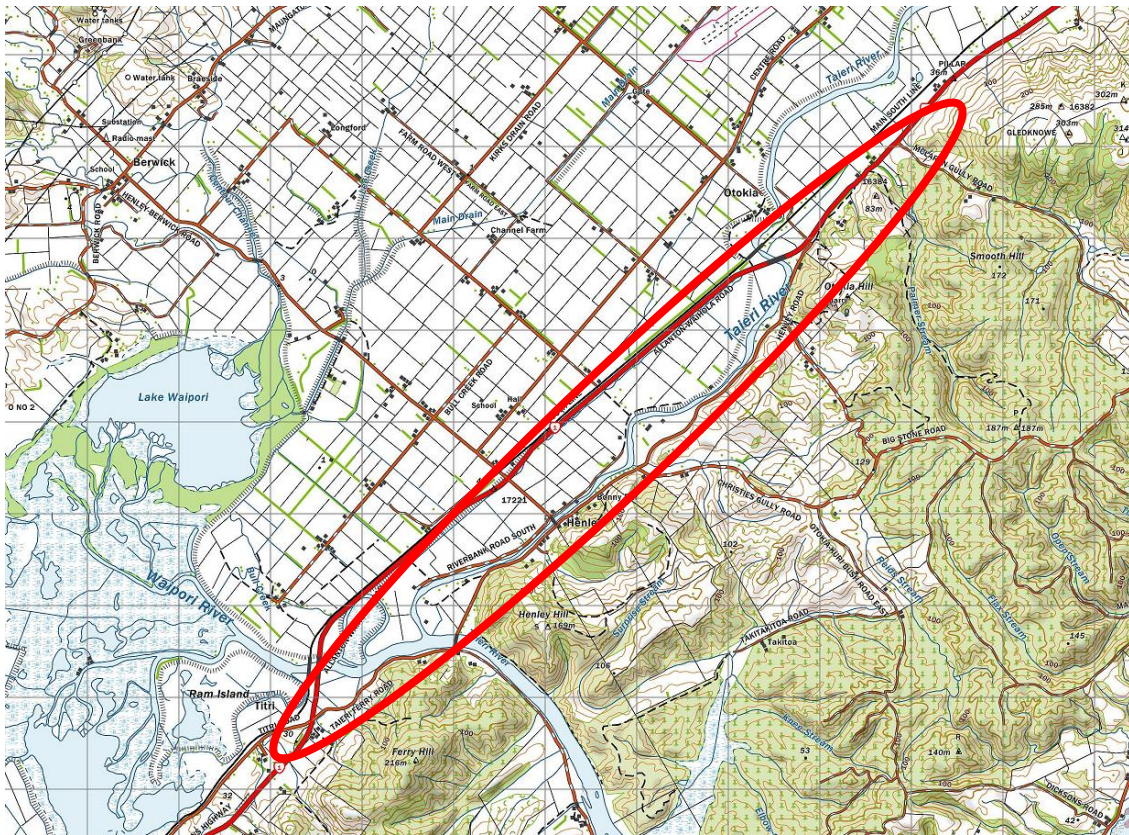
- **Berwick**

The length of Berwick Road from the intersection of Phosphate Road to Berwick



- **Flood Free (Borrow Pit)**

From the Otokia Reserve to the bridge over the Waipori River on State Highway one.



Timing

Surveys are conducted in August in conjunction with the annual Shoveler trend count.

Data Collection

The information recorded at each transect:

Date, transect name, start time, finish time, weather, and the number of Pukeko seen from each side of the vehicle over the section or subsection.

Travel Speed

20-50kph, depending on the amount Pukeko cover.

Limitations

- Weather appears to effect Pukeko activity and hence visibility.
- Observers may have difficulty identifying birds at distance.
- There may be some variance between observer vision

Results

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
Flood free	18	49	24	110	105	133	158	98	33	135	
Puerua	13	5	0	0	12	89	6	5	34	28	
Berwick	74	81	27	143	112	84	105	2	131	88	
Inch Clutha	15	6	1	35	1	26	27	20	7	37	

Figure 1: Pukekos counted since 2011

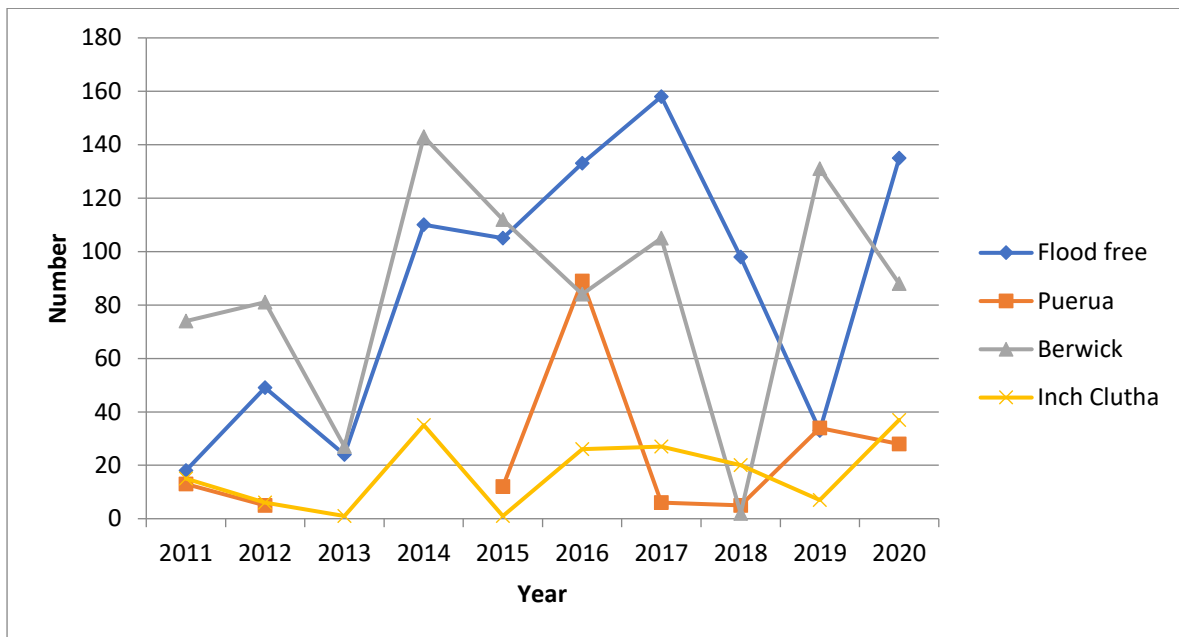


Figure 2: Total Pukeko Counts from 2011 - 2020

Between 2011 and 2020 the total number of Pukeko's counted at Otago sites has varied a lot. Compared to last year there was an increase on the flood free & Inch Clutha and a decrease at Berwick and Puerua. (Figure 2).

There is likely to be variation in the number of Pukeko's seen on any given day due to food availability and weather patterns etc.

Field Officers have noticed Pukeko's colonising areas outside of the monitored transects in recent years for example, parts of Arrowtown, Waitati and North Otago. Pukeko's have appeared in areas where they have not been seen for a long time. They are a very territorial bird, and it is likely that as any habitat can only sustain a certain amount of birds before competition results in birds moving out to colonise new locations.

This may explain why we have not seen a large increase in population across our monitored transects but we are observing birds moving into new areas.

Conclusions

The observed Pukeko population in the monitored areas varies over time. There is little evidence that the nil bag limit on the species has resulted in a increase in abundance on the monitored areas. As such the current bag limit of zero need not be adjusted.

Pukeko's have been reported to be colonising areas outside of the monitored areas which may indicate an increasing regional population.

Recommendations

- **That this report be received.**

Steven Dixon
Fish & Game Officer
November 2020

14.3 Southern Reservoir - Take a Kid Fishing 2020 and Adult Beginner Classes 2020

On the weekends of the 26th & 27th September and 3rd & 4th October 2020, the Otago Fish & Game Council held four 'Take a Kid Fishing' (TAKF) events at the Southern Reservoir.

Planning

The DCC approved four Fish & Game Council TAKF events at the Southern Reservoir. A conditional agreement has been reached to use the venue for future events.

Sponsorship

The Otago Community Trust generously donated \$1733.00 towards the event. The money was used for things such as toilet hire, traffic management, fish transportation & promotions.

Promotion

The TAKF day was promoted on the Otago Fish & Game Facebook page which was then shared to "Dunedin News" and a range of other sites. The response to the post was overwhelming with 30,000 views and 2,500 engagements. 280 families signed up for the events with a total of 461 kids registered.

Access

The Southern Reservoir is closed for fishing for September. This is to facilitate the liberation of trout and help improve catch-rates for the events. This year, due to COVID restrictions, the final two days were held in October. This presented some challenges as the reservoir was technically open for a few days before the final TAKF weekend. We placed signage at the reservoir requesting the public not to fish so that the kids had the best chance of success

Support

Traffic Management & Control LTD supplies and erects all the road signage for the event. Hirepool supplied the toilets for the weekends.

Entries

All entries were done online using "Survey Monkey". This captures details of the attendees so they can be later contacted for follow up surveys.

There were four sessions over the two weekends (one session per day). All the sessions were held from 10 am to 12 pm. On the day of the event, participants lined up at the registration table and received a numbered lanyard.

The "Take Me Fishing" trailer was set up beside the registration table, children that didn't have a fishing rod or the rod they bought along was not suitable for trout fishing could borrow one for the event.

The TAKF trailer has 40 rod and reel sets for loan and many of the rods were used across the four sessions

Stocking of the Southern Reservoir

Eight hundred two-year-old rainbow trout and a number of larger fish were set aside at the Macraes Hatchery for the event. 400 fish were transported and released into the reservoir before the 26th of September. Another 400 fish were released into the reservoir the week after the first weekend.

Events

Saturday 26th September: 102 children registered. 79 attended (23 didn't show – 23%)

Sunday 27th September: 123 children registered. 74 attended (49 didn't show – 40%)

Saturday 3rd October: 116 registered. 52 attended (64 didn't show – 55%)

Sunday 4th October: 120 registered. 60 attended (60 didn't show – 50%)

Overall registered = 461

Overall attended = 265

Overall no show = 196

This equates to a 43% no show rate.

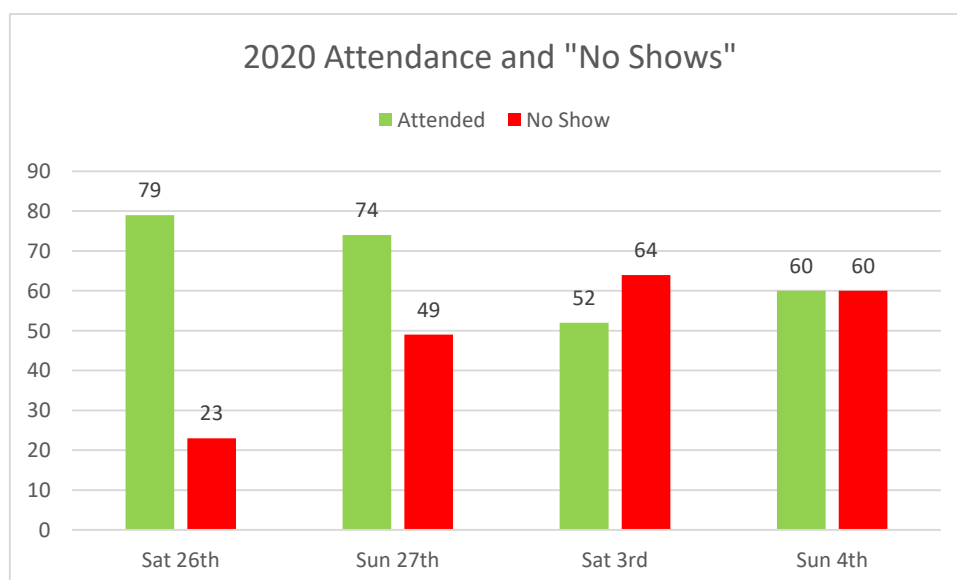


Figure 1: Attendance rates for all 4 sessions

This year, there was no form to fill out with catch data. In past years, the form was returned with just a name for the lucky draw and little by way of catch information. This year, it was decided to survey all attendees to gather information and then do a prize draw from those that returned the online survey. We gave out 16 tackle boxes complete with lures to randomly drawn survey entrants.

Survey Results and feedback

280 families were sent the survey, with 124 complete responses.

55 fish were harvested across the 4 days.

71 fish were caught and returned to the reservoir across the 4 days.

The catch rate for survey respondents was 45%

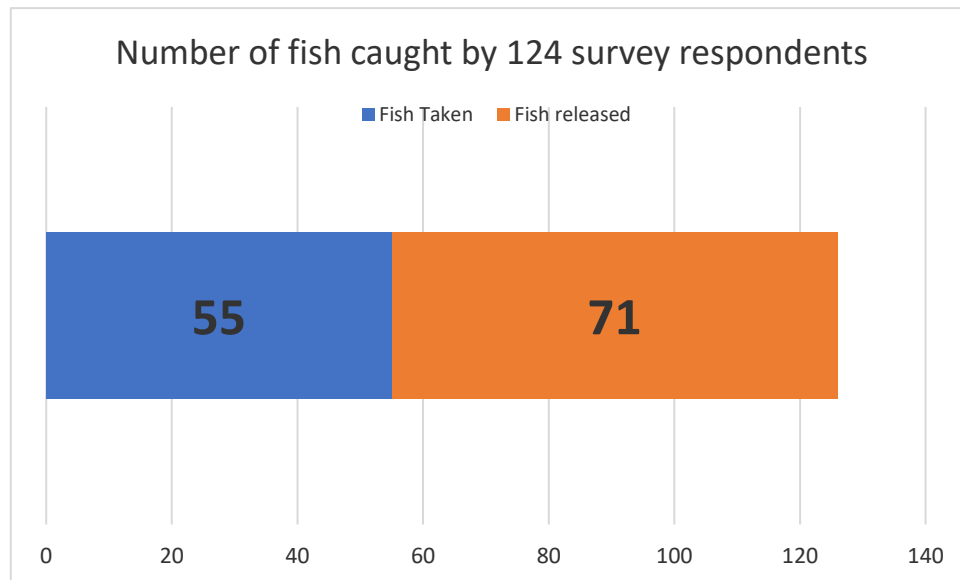


Figure 2: Overall catch rates from survey respondents

Children that caught fish were able to keep the fish if they wished which were gutted and cleaned by Fish & Game rangers.

Fish & Game rangers and volunteers walked around the reservoir giving advice on knot tying, casting and assisting with the landing and releasing of fish.

Participants were also asked if they had any suggestions for future events. All responses are summarised below

No, Really well run days....
None was a very well run event
Great event, kids enjoyed it and seemed plenty of kids catching fish!
Some shelter tent to keep away from the rain and the wind may be nice
Great event, plenty of room, good amount of people fishing (not too crammed), helpful rangers. Parking seemed a bit all over the show - event parking manned for a little bit but minority weren't using it, most parking close to reservoir anyway
It would appear the second day of a weekend is harder.after the initial burst of takes. Maybe live bait then which may increase the chances. Most kids did not catch a fish (Dunedin)
No suggestions, it was a great morning, the boys had a great time and learnt a lot from the experienced anglers like how to gup a fish and advice on how to cook it.
Outstanding event, even given Covid and the weather. Well done
Very well run event. It was very good that they had spare fishing gear available. The fish were bigger this year than previous years which was a bonus. Most rangers were friendly and helpful (bar one grumpy one)
No, went well.
Really enjoyed it thanks
Great event. Thank you.
Tackle / retrieval tips on entry would be good - having said that I'm sure that it'd be forthcoming if I asked
We had fun, it was our first time going.
No suggestions, I think these events are fantastic, the F&G staff are really helpful, and I would definitely do it again :)
Only 1 of the rangers walking around talked to us about fishing with kids eg where to fish, what sort of times best. Gave us tips and tricks to try get them on the line. Every single other ranger walked past us and "told off" the adults for casting the rods. It was unbelievable how we were spoken to by some of the rangers. Very very rude. It really ruined it for us. You could clearly see we weren't catching anything and if there was a bite the rod was handed to the children immediately (which is how we weren't catching anything). I think the rangers should of been talking to us about fishing eg how many fish you can catch legally in different places etc. Please inform your rangers that Parents who take their children to these events are not there to bend the rules. We had a 6 and a 3 year old and they lost interest quickly but would come back and forth between us casting the rods. To be told we were being watched was despicable and petty!! I'm not sure I would attend again of this was going to happen. The kids themselves had a great time, but for the adults to walk away feeling like was a dampener on the whole thing.
<i>Response to this feedback: This group of people started off well letting the children fish by themselves but after a while the adults took over the fishing and the children watched (this does become a common occurrence towards the end of the event, but this group started halfway through the session) They were politely asked by the rangers to let the children fish, adults could assist with casting but let the children retrieve. They didn't take much notice of our advice and just did what they wanted.</i>

No, I think it's really well run - it was great having some spare rods there as we broke our reel in the first 10 mins and didn't have a spare so good to be able to borrow one.
No. It was a fun event and my son was proud to get his first catch. Thanks for running these events.
no, we had a great time
No, it was fantastic and so organised and staff were so helpful.
Nope, it was good just as it was.
No a great event thankyou
Kids comment they miss the sticker and lure entry pack on arrival at event.
No, it was awesome and the people were very friendly and helpful. Thanks a ton.
No it was a great day for to he family. Well done to all who put this event together
Not really, my 2 kids had massive fun on the day, I took them 3 days in a row (at their request) after the 5th when the reservoir reopened but with no luck!!
No. Everyone was very helpful and it was great to have spare rods etc available as my boys setup failed miserably and there was fishing line everywhere and one of your guys saw this and told me to get one of your set ups. Thanks.
maybe some demonstrations
none, a brilliant event!
Great event excellent way to introduce my family to our new family time of fishing. My children had to sit and wait and be patient. They didn't like it but did it. They are used to instant gratification. They learnt new skills. Got to spend one on one time with their Daddy. They were so disappointed we didn't catch a fish. But so keen to try it out again. Master 4yr and Miss 6yr. Thankyou for providing this opportunity.
Such a great event the only thing I would change is the weather haha we had constant rain.
Loved the event! It was our first time and the staff were really helpful. It's also a great environment to fish.
No it was an awesome well run event and my children had a great time!
We really love the take a kid fishing.
More promotion at hunting and fishing store, I was late to register, thanks for letting us in. Great friendly staff on hand for advice
Not sure, we were only there for 20mins before the weather got bad and we had to leave.
Enjoyed the whole morning. No suggestions
No, every year you guys do a great job. THANKS
I thought it was well run and wouldn't change anything!
Make one of the days an introduction for those (adults) who are new to fishing and starting out with their kids.
Was an wonderful event my kids really enjoyed it would go again
2 hour event for small children was a little long. concentration turned away after 60min. otherwise great event. thanks.
no, maybe more people to show kids how to cast properly, as I don't know
No as I think it is a very well run event! Fantastic effort from all involved.
Postpone it if the weather's ghastly. The cold really did make it challenge to enthuse our three sons. The fishing wardens were marvellous but perhaps we could have been spaced out by then.
A lolly scramble or food trucks/ coffee trucks at entrance. More fish released to increase chance of catching one.

Nothing, we felt it was run really well.
No the whole day was awesome and the officials were amazing, the kids are very keen to go fishing again and hopefully catch something
None at all we had a amazing day! So impressed with the help on hand from rangers and volunteer's, great day
Being brand new to fishing and supervising 3 children was very stressful. When an official came along we were very appreciative of his help and advice. I would suggest all those in orange vests wander around constantly and offer wisdom to the fisher folk. One out of our three learned lots but no one went near the other two who are also new to this.
Keep up the good work. Although it was raining on our rescheduled day, the kids still had a good time.
Would be great to have an email distribution so we don't rely on facebook each year to register our interest - can easily not see that. A waiting list for dates when people cancel and you could attend at short notice.
Have the nets spread around the reservoir so that fish can be landed
Perhaps a little more emphasis on not crowding others put in the instructions for the day. It is hard to police but it can be annoying when a child is reasonably new to casting, but keen to do it themselves, only to have an adult jump in beside them within a metre.
We had a wonderful family day out - Thank you!!! I would suggest that the fishing times be made earlier. As you know fish are often going of the bite around 10 as happened on the event day. The fishing was hot for the first half hour (even we lost several fish) and then things went quiet.
No very well organised & communicated
More guidance and oversight from rangers - we didn't really know what we were doing and often needed help
Everything was perfect
It's a great event and it is still lots of fun to learn how to use the rod even if no fish is caught. Maybe we'll be lucky next year.
Although the turn-out was lower than F&G would have hoped, it meant there was a lot more space for casting and relaxing without having to feel that you were too close to another family. Everyone had a good amount of room.
I think everything is perfect. My nephews had fun and staff are really helpful.
Some more how to guides on the day would be really useful for novices, maybe a how to gut a fish, how to tie on a lure, some info on rods and reel type etc
No it was well organised
I liked it the way it was (Rhys, 6).
There was no volunteers close to where we were fishing. We would have caught and released all the fish. One we did manage to release but it was found near the end floating on its back so unfortunately had to take it home. Maybe volunteers more evenly spaced out to help release hooks for an easy release.
Instruction on what line, ros, lure to use. How to fish...
We missed the raffles that the take a kid fishing usually has that the end. A wee bit longer at the pond would have been nice it was such a lovely day and the kids were starting to get into it once we caught 1 fish but that was within the last 10min
No. Really cool idea but with really little ones we had to avoid the bad weather.

No, it was run very well! Good pre-event info and organized well on the day. Kids had a blast - didn't matter no fish were caught! Already signed them up for their fishing licenses :-)
Bait allowed or provided to increase chances of catching, a minor cost could be involved to help with this and or make for more fish to be released thanks
More regularly held. Smaller groups
No. Just great to see all the kids there enjoying it.
Nope, it was a well run fun event :)
No it was a well run event ,great fun.
Some safety/ floatation device's on hand in case a kid fell in.
Maybe less people as it was hard to find a big enough spot
No it was fantastic thanks
A bit longer please
No we loved it
Make the sun shine!!
No! It was a brilliant day
No, this was a very well run event. My boy had a great time and its definitely got him keen on fishing.

Beginner Adults Fishing Class

For the last seven years, Otago Fish & Game Council has been running adult beginner fishing classes.

The classes are run in the first week of September and are held at the Fish & Game office. They consist of a 2hr theory session with a powerpoint presentation on equipment, knots, fish species, where fish can be found, licences etc then on the Saturday following, the classes are combined and there is a 1.5hr practical session at the Southern Reservoir. Advertising was by way of the Fish & Game web site and on Facebook.

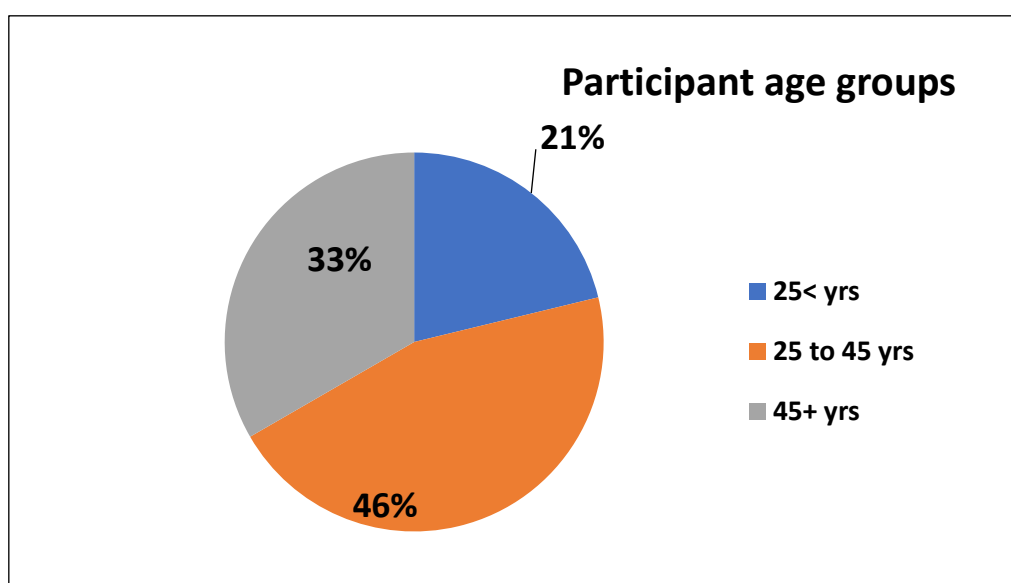


Figure 5: Relative percentage of participants across age groups

There were 31 participants for this year's adult beginner fishing class and of that most caught one if not two fish at the practical session.

Acknowledgements

Otago Community Trust, DCC, Macraes Oceana Gold, Traffic Management & Control LTD, Mike Teasdale Motors

Volunteers/rangers – Ross Taylor, Gordon McManus, Mike Teasdale, Robbie Natta, Gordon Munn, John Burnip, Brian Hutton,

Fish & Game staff - Sharon Milne, Steven Dixon, Nigel Pacey and Ian Hadland

Recommendations

That this report is received.

Steven Dixon and Nigel Pacey

Fish & Game Officers

November 2020

14.4 Project 1122 – Creel Surveys of Lake Wanaka

Executive Summary

Twenty five randomised creel surveys were undertaken on Lake Wanaka over the months of September to August during the 2019/20 fishing season to gather angler and fisheries information, and compliment previous data. 141 anglers were interviewed totalling 174.35 hours of angling effort for a catch of 56 fish, which equates to 1 fish for approximately 3.1 hours fishing. Trolling was the most popular method accounting for 71% of the overall angling effort and 78% of the total catch.

Fly fishing is still popular at 22% of the angling effort with spinning and 1 bait angler making up the remainder. No salmon catches were recorded during surveys but over the season at least six salmon heads were collected from anglers fishing at the Makarora end of the lake.

1. Introduction

Lake Wanaka is located in the Otago region of New Zealand, at an altitude of 278 meters. Covering an area of 192 km² (74 sq mi), it is New Zealand's fourth largest lake. The lake holds populations of brown and rainbow trout and landlocked chinook salmon and is highly valued nationally and internationally for its sports fishing opportunities.

Creel surveys were undertaken from 1998-2001 and summarised (30 years of Creel surveys D Scott and M. Wright, Otago Fish and Game, November 2007). Additional angler and fisheries information has been gathered in recent years during random ranging exercises over peak holiday periods.

This report summarises the Lake Wanaka Creel survey results for the 2019 – 2020 season starting in September 2019 and finishing at the end of August 2020 which compliments the survey work undertaken in the 2018/19 season.

2. Survey Methodology

The survey was a randomised creel survey with a frequency of at least two week and 2 weekend days per month, and randomised starting times. Meeting the requirements of a randomised stratified roving creel survey (Pollock et al 1994).

Two weekdays and two weekend days were selected each month and stratified starting times were randomly selected. During November, December, January, and February three week and three weekend survey days were stratified.

Early random start times were introduced to pick up the early morning holiday anglers and a 5pm start was to try and get information from evening anglers to obtain a broader data set.

Start times

November through February - 7am, 12pm and 5pm.

March through October – 9am and 1pm.

A full schedule of survey days and start times was compiled. Surveys had to be completed within the four or 5 hour survey period. Volunteers were mostly used to support staff on the boat.

Creel survey sheets and a questionnaire were developed to document all the relevant information.

On survey days the Otago Fish and Game Boat, a 5.5 meter kiwi Kraft with a 115hp four stroke Suzuki was used to circumnavigate the lake from a selected boat ramp. The direction of the trip was randomly picked. The Rotary Glendhu Bay Ramp was utilised the most because it enabled easier access and parking during the peak holiday period.

On the lake all anglers were approached. Extra care and consideration was given to approaching shore anglers to ensure that they were not overly interrupted by beaching the boat a fair distance from their fishing position around the shoreline. It was difficult at times in Paddock Bay when lake levels were low. Some boat angler interviews were conducted while anglers continued to fish with the F&G boat pulling alongside.

Anglers were asked about their angling activity for the day along with a standard set of creel questions. In addition, anglers were asked whether they had experienced lake Snow (*Lindavia intermedia*) on their trip, their years of experience on the lake and how many days a year did they commonly fish the lake. Their fishing location was recorded.

With very few salmon being caught on the lake and with concerns about the salmon population, anglers were additionally asked had they last caught salmon in the past and where the location was. It was noted in the 2019/20 season no salmon were inspected by survey staff.

All fish harvested were weighed and measured and data collected was entered onto an excel data base where it has been analysed for reporting.

3. Results and Discussion

A total of 141 angler interviews were obtained from 27 sampling periods. On 7 survey days during the duration of the creel programme for the 2019/20 season no anglers were interviewed. Fourteen survey days were not completed due to poor weather and flooding of the lake in December prevented surveys being undertaken due to an enforcement order by the harbourmaster with concerns about floating debris and the hazard to boating.

Six survey days were cancelled due to the Coronavirus lockdown period in late March, April, and early May, and in August 2020, boating was on hold due to the wait for a hull and equipment survey.

The majority of the survey effort was in the lower third of the lake where anglers were located which was very similar to 2018/19 season and where our monitoring effort was focused.

Matukituki Bay, Paddock Bay and Stevenson's Arm continued to be popular angling areas where fish were commonly caught.

The total catch from the 141 anglers was 56 fish for an overall 174.35 hours of angling effort. Anglers returned 22 fish which was 39% of the total catch. 107 (75%) anglers caught no fish during survey periods. Twenty one anglers had caught 1 fish when interviewed, seven anglers caught two fish each, one angler caught 3 fish and two anglers caught 4 fish. A further two anglers caught five fish each. 3 Anglers had not started fishing when they were approached by survey staff.

4. Catch Rate

The Total Catch Rate (TCR) is calculated from the number of fish caught over the length of angling time. 174.35 divided by 56 fish = 1 fish for 3.11 hours angling effort or (.32) as fish per hour caught.

Of the 56 fish caught 29 were brown trout and 27 were rainbow trout. No salmon were recorded. The harvest rate (HR) is calculated from fish kept divided by total angling effort and shown as fish per hour.

Table 1. Total catch rates (TCR), return rates and harvest rate (HR) for each species

Season	Species	Fish caught and (TCR)	Fish released (TCR) and % returned	Fish kept and (HR)
Sept 2019 -Aug 2020 (inc)	Brown	29 (0.13)	17 (0.09) 58%	12 (0.06)
Nov 2018-Aug 2019 (inc)	Brown	24 (0.15)	12 (0.07) 50%	12 (0.07)
Sept 2019 -Aug 2020 (inc)	Rainbow	27 (0.15)	5 (0.02) 18%	21 (0.12)
Nov 2018-Aug 2019 (inc)	Rainbow	13 (0.08)	5 (0.03) 38%	8 (0.05)

During the 1998-2001 seasons Scott and Wright, recorded (TCR) for brown trout at 0.14, 0.14 and 0.10, respectively. For rainbow trout it was 0.10, 0.16 and 0.08 and for landlocked salmon TCR was 0.04, 0.01, and 0.04 for the respective years.

Total Catch Rates (TCR) summarised by Scott and Wright were very similar to the 2018/19 and 2019/20 results which is interesting when sample size was much greater at 509 fish

caught by 1255 anglers over the full three year period. Noting that the sampling period during 1998-2001 was generally over a full day.

The rainbow catch rate for 2019/20 shows an increase on the 2018/19 season and sits near the upper limit of the 1998-2001 season. Last season anglers commented about the good condition of fish particularly rainbow trout.

5. Catch Rate by Method

Table 2. Fish Caught and Catch Rate (CR) by method as fish per hour

Year	Fish caught Fly and (CR)	Fish caught Spin (CR)	Fish caught Surface Trolling (CR)	Fish caught Deep Trolling (CR)
Sept 2019 -Aug 2020 (inc)	12 (0.22)	0	5 (0.12)	39 (0.37)
Nov 2018-Aug 2019 (inc)	7 (0.21)	1 (0.19)	3 (0.15)	26 (0.27)

Deep trolling including down rigger, lead line and paravane was the most productive method accounting for 39 fish, and 69% of the total catch which was similar to the 2018/19 season at 70%. Fly fishing was next then spinning and surface trolling. Only one bait angler and one angler jigging were interviewed in the 2019/20 season.

Table 3. Total Angling effort for each Method

Year	Angler Numbers and (%) Time Fly fishing	Angler Numbers and (%) Time Spinning	Angler Numbers and (%) Time Surface Trolling	Angler Numbers and (%) Time Deep Trolling
Sept 2019 -Aug 2020 (inc)	18 (22%)	8 (4%)	25 (12%)	87 (59%)
Nov 2018-Aug 2019 (inc)	23 (21%)	15 (7%)	28 (12%)	68 (60%)

Three anglers were interviewed at the start of their trip so there was no effort recorded with their details. Hence the total number of anglers in Table 3 above to calculate total angling effort was 138.

For the past two seasons trolling was the most popular method (Table 3) and most productive (table 2) with deep trolling the standout. Scott and Wright reported similar findings with trolling being the most popular method and between 60-68% of the angling effort for the three survey years from 1998 - 2001.

Surface trolling in the past two seasons remained constant at 12% of the total angling effort and accounted for 9% of the overall catch for all species in the 2019/20 season

Fly fishing is still popular at 21 – 22% of total angling effort for the past two seasons with popular fly fish areas continuing to be Paddock Bay and Stevenson's Arm.

Spinning around the shoreline or from boats wasn't popular with anglers in the 2019/20 season at 4% of total angling effort.

One bait angler at the Matukituki River Mouth made up the remainder of the total angling effort percentages for the 2019/20 season.

6. Catch Details

Table 4. Provides the average length, weight and condition factor of each fish species recorded.

Year	Average Length (mm)		Average weight (Grams)		Average condition factor	
	brown	rainbow	brown	rainbow	brown	rainbow
Sept 2019 -Aug 2020 (inc)	486	452	1225	984	1044	1015
Nov 2018-June 2019 (inc)	443	427	851	1158	981	1282

In the 2019/20 season 21 rainbow trout were weighed and measured, one was solely measured due to the fish being gutted. 10 brown trout were weighed and measured, an additional 2 had been gutted and headed.

In the 2019/20 season brown trout were generally larger than rainbow trout which was reversal from the previous season showing seasonal variation. Scott and Wright did not provide fish weights in their report but average fish lengths for brown trout were very similar over the three seasons at 456mm, 454mm, and 439mm. Last season brown trout on average were larger at 486mm. Scott and Wright recorded rainbow trout at 437mm, 431mm, and 435mm. Last season rainbow were on average longer but their condition was down on the 2018/19 season as shown in Table 4.

7. Angler information

Anglers were again questioned on lake snow (*Lindavia intermedia*). Anglers experienced levels of lake snow occurrence, mostly while trolling but it wasn't as prevalent as the previous season showing seasonal variability. Fly anglers and shore spin anglers experienced no issues.

As with the 2018/19 season anglers were asked when they had last caught a salmon from the lake. Responses were highly variable with some saying they had caught salmon recently. Their responses to this question were likely truthful, however survey staff have experienced and witnessed misidentification of species and noting that no salmon were officially recorded in anglers catches over the past two survey seasons.

Salmon samples have however been collected and verified by staff over the past season from anglers trolling at the head of the lake near Makarora.

8. Summary

Most anglers seem comfortable with the lake Wanaka fishery and aside of the field contact during surveys, angler feedback has been positive with reports of some good fishing and nicely conditioned fish.

Salmon still remain scarce but there is a glimpse of optimism about their presence in the lake with recent catches near Makarora, and samples provided for DNA analysis.

The past two seasons of monitoring angling on Lake Wanaka has provided valuable current fisheries information and there is little doubt a further season of information would be ideal.

A workshop is planned for in the current work year to look at best procedures for long term monitoring of our large lakes which will hopefully provide good guidance and best practise management procedures.

Recommendation

The report be received

**Cliff Halford
November 2020**

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Appendix 1.

Lakes Survey Schedule of Activity

Lake

Season	Date	Weather	Zone and Start Time	Zone Finish Time	Survey Team
Comments					

15.0 General Business