

**Agenda For The Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council
On Thursday 18th March 2021
At St John Rooms, Suffolk Street, Tapanui
Starting Pomahaka Field Trip 10am**

Contents

1.0	Present and Apologies.....	3
2.0	Matters to be raised not on the agenda	3
3.0	Declarations of Interest.....	3
3.0	Confirmation of Previous Minutes	4
5.0	Matters Arising from the Minutes	11
6.0	Health and Safety Report	12
7.0	Items Requiring Decisions	13
7.1	Risk Management Policy	13
7.2	Operational Workplan and Budget overview 2021-2022	18
8.0	Public Excluded Items.....	27
8.1	Public Excluded minutes from 13 th February 2021	27
8.2	Risk Management Report 2021-2022.....	27
8.3	Proposed Trespass notice – Verbal Update	27
8.4	Property and Staff – Verbal Update	27
9.0	Financial Report.....	28
10.0	Chief Executives Report March 2021	40
11.0	RMA Planning and Consents Report	43
12.0	Committee & Delegate Reports	44
12.1	CFT	44
12.2	NZC.....	44
12.3	Salmon Committee	44
12.4	Ngai Tahu	44
12.5	Conservation Board	44
13.0	Correspondence	45
13.1	NZC to Otago	45
13.2	Otago to NZC	58
13.3	General Correspondence In.....	59
13.4	General Correspondence Out.....	60

14.0 Items to be Received or Noted61
 14.1 Aerial Trend Counts February 2021.....61
15.0 General Business70

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 Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council
On 13th February 2021
At Otago Fish and Game Council Office
Cn Hanover and Harrow Streets Dunedin**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting

Address by Edward Ellison, Otakou Kaumatua, Ngai Tahu.

Mr Ellison addressed the Council on work of Aukaha consultancy and work on water and outlined the journey of Rūnanga on water from settlement to now. He noted they were taking a partnership approach with the Regional Council to secure their rights and to ensure the NPS-FM 2020 being implemented properly.

Mr Ellison spoke of the importance of Plan Change 7, the Regional Policy Statement and the Freshwater Management Unit Processes for water management. Edward and the Council spoke of the importance of deemed permits opportunity to return water to depleted streams also.

‘Te Mana o te Wai’ was discussed as a holistic framework that picks up on all values and aspirations in the community, including Tangata Whenua. It has merit in helping the community to work together and take a catchment level approach.

Work between Fish and Game and Aukaha was noted as being very positive in the last few years.

Further work was discussed for RMA processes, species interaction and cultural harvest.

1.0 Present and Apologies

Present: Monty Wright (chair), Murray Neilson, John Barlow, Ray Grubb, Adrian McIntyre, Vicky Whyte, John Highton, Ian Cole, Rick Boyd, Dan Rae, Mike Barker, Richard Twining (Ngai Tahu) Tayler Davies-Collie (Otago Conservation Board), Edward Ellison (part meeting) Ian Hadland (CE), Nigel Paragreen (F&G Staff)

Apologies: Cr Colin Weatherall, Tara Druce (Chair, Conservation Board).

Moved Ray/Rick, unanimously accepted

1.1 Election of Officers

Mr Wright stepped down

Elections for:

Chairperson (currently Cr Wright)	Cr Wright nominated by Cr Rae, seconded Cr Barlow and Cr Grubb. No further nominations. Cr Wright elected chair. Carried unanimously.
Deputy Chair (currently Cr Weatherall)	C Weatherall nominated, moved Cr Wright and seconded Cr Whyte. No Further Nominations. Cr Weatherall elected Dpt Chair, Carried unanimously.
Executive Committee (currently Cr's Wright, Weatherall, Whyte, Rae and McIntyre)	Nominated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cr Weatherall Cr Cole / Cr Highton - Cr McIntyre Cr Whyte / Cr Boyd - Cr Whyte, Cr Boyd / Cr McIntyre - Cr Rae, Cr Neilson / Cr Cole All elected, Carried unanimously.
NZC appointee (currently Cr Grubb)	Ray Grubb nominated by Cr Wright, seconded Cr Barker. Cr Grubb elected to role Carried unanimously.

2.0 Matters to be raised not on the agenda

No matters raised

3.0 Declarations of Interest

Cr Rae holds party to a small deemed permit.

4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Cr Rae moved that they're a true and accurate record. Seconded by Cr Whyte. Carried unanimously.

Cr Highton noted that Cr Boyd was put as an apology for lateness but was not recorded as present. CE will adjust the previous minutes accordingly.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Nil

6.0 Health and Safety Report

CE spoke to the report, with updates on staff training for vehicles, and difficult visit to the Otago office. Audits for the period have been completed.

The Council spoke of the difficult visitor to the office, who made a threat to Cr Grubb. It was agreed to move that discussion to public excluded section.

Moved Cr McIntyre/Cr Whyte that the report be received. Carried unanimously.

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 Proposed Changes to Otago Governance Policy

CE addressed the report. Specifically, the Terms of reference for the executive is not well described by the governance manual.

Cr Highton suggested an upper limit be placed on the number of members in the executive, at not less than 3 but not more than 5 members. All agreed.

It was noted that all sub-committees must report back to the wider Council, in committee when related to the CE's performance review and remuneration.

Moved Cr Highton/Cr Boyd

Adopt the changes to the 'Committees of Council' sections as proposed, with the addition proposed by Cr Highton above.

The CE will make the relevant adjustments and recirculate the document.

8.0 Public Excluded Items

Moved Cr Whyte/Cr Boyd. That the Council move into Public Excluded Session. Unanimous decision

8.1 Otago Fish and Game Council Public Excluded Minutes 26th November 2020

Moved Cr Rae/Cr Boyd that the previous minutes were a true and correct record Boyd. Unanimously agreed.

8.2 Habitat Enhancement Fund Application – Pilot planting project, Dairy Farm Partnership Wetland

Moved Cr Grubb/Cr Barlow that;

- 1. The application for \$2000 be approved**
 - 2. That the decision go into the public minutes.**
- Unanimously agreed.**

8.3 Prosecutions Update

Moved Cr Rae/Cr Barker that the prosecution report be received and the prosecution action within it be endorsed. Carried

8.4 Staffing Update

Update only

8.5 Lindis High Court Case Memorandum

Update provided on High Court Case

8.6 Wanaka Stormwater and Negotiation Points

Update on negotiations provided

Cr Rae moved that the Council move out of public excluded. Seconded by Cr Barker. Unanimously agreed.

9.0 Financial Report

9.1 *Finance Reports*

CE spoke to the report, noting that the organisation is on budget and has met its income budget for the year to date, due to the good fishing licence sales to date. It was noted that Otago is doing well compared to other regions.

9.2 *Otago Fish and Game Reserves 31st December 2020*

Cr Highton asked whether the Council has the ability to apply general reserves to the wetland reserves. The CE noted that this could be done via Council resolution however the National Council had warned against this type of spending in the current environment. It was agreed it would be discussed at the workshop tomorrow.

9.3 Licence Sales

Cr Cole noted that the next 6 weeks may have lacklustre licence sales due to loss of non-resident licence holders.

Cr Boyd asked about the re-engagement of licence holders, is there work planned through the licencing committee to reach out to this demographic? The CE proposed to undertake analysis for this and work with Southland Fish and Game, who is already working on this topic.

Recommendation

Moved Cr Cole/Cr Nielson that the financial report be received. Carried unanimously.

10.0 Chief Executives Report

CE spoke to the report and thanked Cr Cole for assisting staff with recent fieldwork. Cr Cole commended the staff who participated for their professionalism.

10.1 Progress Against Councils 3 Year Strategic Priorities

CE noted that some projects were on hold (user surveys and lake fisheries seminar) and may not be completed due to funding.

The CE and Chairman visited the executive of the Federated Farmers and had a broad ranging discussion with members.

10.2 Other Staff Activity

10.2.1 SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Cr Whyte asked about the fish kill in the Silverstream and whether work had been done to resolve the issue. The CE said that the Regional Council investigation was ongoing, and a consent application was being considered separately. The CE said that staff will look closely at the consent application and any potential conditions and report back to the next meeting.

Cr Highton asked for the CE to report back to the Council on the extreme low flows and fish kill in Loganburn. The CE will follow up and provide a reply via email to the Council.

10.2.2 HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT – No discussion

10.2.3 USER PARTICIPATION – No discussion

10.2.4 PUBLIC INTERFACE – No discussion

10.2.5 COMPLIANCE – No discussion

10.2.6 LICENCING – No discussion

10.2.7 COUNCIL

Cr McIntyre noted that the Pomahaka Catchment Group was wanting an opportunity to speak with the Council and noticed that an opportunity last year was missing. The CE noted that the next meeting was planned for Tapanui and a field trip with the group had been proposed.

The CE provided an update that the 20 May meeting at the Marae needs to be changed to Monday 25 May which was agreed.

The CE will resend the meeting schedule with this update.

10.2.8 PLANNING AND REPORTING – No discussion

Moved Cr Highton/Cr Neilson. The CE report is to be received. Unanimously agreed.

PUBLIC FORUM

Attendees representing the Teviot Angling Club addressed the meeting. They sought written feedback from the Council on negotiations with Contact Energy to ensure Contact Energy's consent conditions are enforced. The CE will provide written correspondence with the club in due course when the confidential negotiations were concluded but in the interim, he gave a verbal update.

The attendees also spoke about the Lake Onslow and that the Club outright opposes the variation and their disappointment that the Council was not outright opposing it also.

The attendees also raised concern with the tension between environmental advocacy and fishing access to private property. There was discussion between the attendees and Council about how to resolve this tension.

11.0 RMA Planning and Consents Report Report received

12.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

12.1 CFT

Cr Cole provided an update.

- The website is planned to be updated.
- The building renovations have been largely completed.
- The strategic plan sought public comment and none was given.

12.2 NZC

Priorities when Cr Grubb started at NZC – to improve relationships with Regional Fish and Game Councils, to develop a relationship with Iwi and to improve relationships with other agencies. He wants Fish and Game to be a good employer. Cr Grubb considers that NZC are working well on these priorities.

Cr Grubb noted that the contribution of Paul Shortis was greatly appreciated in the acting CE role with the NZC.

12.3 Salmon Committee

Nil

12.4 Ngai Tahu

Nil

12.5 Conservation Board

The Conservation board is looking to implement the Biodiversity strategy, for Fish and Game this will be particularly relevant to the sections relating to valued introduced species.

The Conservation Board is keen to work together in a closer capacity with Fish and Game.

13.0 Correspondence

13.1 NZC to Otago

13.1.1 Game Bird Guide's Licence Latent Provisions

The CE spoke to the request from the NZC and asked for feedback from the Council and reasons why the legislation should be retained. Crs noted that there were costs associated with asking for the legislation to be retained and others remarked that they supported the retention of the legislation. The CE noted that the removal of this legislation would detract from a fishing guide licence.

The Chair will reply to NZC stating a preference for the legislation to be retained.

13.1.2 DRAFT Email Security and Access Policy (Microsoft 365)

CE spoke to the correspondence and the need for higher level NZC policy on email accounts. It was noted that much of the policy was management rather than governance and should be separated accordingly. The Chair is proposing to respond to that effect.

13.2 Otago to NZC

13.2.1 Feedback on Financial Reserves Discussion Document - Noted

13.2.2 Feedback on Draft MOU on Use of Licence Holder Data - Noted

13.3 General Correspondence In

13.3.1 FOBC Position Statement for Fish and Game - Received

To be discussed at strategic planning meeting.

13.4 General Correspondence Out

Nil

14.0 Items to be Received or Noted

Nil

15.0 General Business

Nil

The meeting was closed at 6:00pm.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

6.0 Health and Safety Report

February – March 2021

- Covid 19 restrictions have gone to Level 2 and come back down to level 1, twice. Plans for staff conduct and building protocols are prepared for each level. Stores of PEP are ready if lock down occurs again. The tracer QR code remains available, and all visitors must sign into the building.
- Staff and Council have been involved in creation of a risk management document for managing future potential issues relating to Otago Fish and Game Council. Under the Health and Safety risk section, lone worker was identified as a priority 2 risk.
- Flu vaccine vouchers have been arranged for April/May for all staff.
- Covid vaccines will be encouraged, as part of the Public Service rollout, as soon as they become available.

Events

- Council meeting – Field trip organised. H&S briefing to be given by Landcare Trust.
- Ranging very busy – Reminders given to stay safe on roads and waterways. Lake Onslow full so care taken around hidden boat obstacles. Loganburn road in a terrible condition so extra driver care needs to be taken.

OHS Audits

- Audits completed – Dunedin and Cromwell workshops and personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Next audits – Field equipment safety check and field hazard sheet review. Staff training register update to be completed.

Incidents/Accidents/Near Misses

- Several Fish kills/pollution incidents attended. Reminder to use all PPE gear and take care when collecting samples and refill truck sampling kits after use.
- Slight truck scrape on concrete pillar in parking area Dunedin. Care to be taken when parking near the pillars.
- Wife of a Councillor had a small trip at Council dinner. No ongoing injuries.

Training

- New F&G officer inducted into the Dunedin office and booked for a first aid course.

Recommendation

That is report be received.

Sharon Milne
Administration
March 2021

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 Risk Management Policy

Otago Fish and Game Council RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

INTRODUCTION

A risk is an uncertain event which might occur in the future. The event might prevent or delay the achievement of the objectives of Otago Fish and Game Council (OF&GC). Risks are uncertain but their likelihood and impact can be estimated. Many risks can be managed or reduced, to some degree. Not all risk is unacceptable, and OF&GC must take into account what level of risk it is willing to accept.

The varied activities of OF&GC result in varied kinds of risks, including risks to its reputation, resources and staff. Risks can arise from external factors such as economic, political and environmental effects, as well as from internal culture and management practices.

OF&GC recognises that risk management is an integral part of good governance and managerial best practice.

This Risk Management Policy sets out a methodical approach to risk management, which involves identifying, analysing, evaluating and treating each of the risks that OF&GC faces.

OF&GC will implement this Risk Management Policy to manage the risks it faces.

THE RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Risk management is the coordinated governance and management activities which are intended to manage the risks that arise in any operating environment.

Managing risk involves four steps:

1. **Risk Identification** - what could happen, how and where could it occur, and what is the potential impact?
2. **Risk Analysis** - what is the likelihood of the risk occurring and how great is the potential impact if it does occur? Is the level of risk acceptable?
3. **Risk Treatment** - what steps should OF&GC take to reduce the likelihood, reduce the impact, eliminate the risk, or share the risk?
4. **Risk Monitoring** -- Ongoing monitoring and reporting, and regular review of the OF&GC's risks and their management are essential to maintain focus on what risks exist and what is being done about them.

Step One: Risk Identification

Risk identification involves considering what might happen, why it might happen and what the impact might be.

Risks to OF&GC could be identified having regard to the following categories - this list is not exhaustive and should be expected to change over time:

- Operational/assets
- Financial
- Human resource
- Governance
- Strategic
- Reputational
- Social/demographic
- Hatchery and releases
- Species/Population
- Political
- Compliance and prosecutions
- Environmental
- Contractors/third party risks
- Health & Safety

For each of these categories of risks, it is necessary to consider the particular types of risks that arise.

More than one kind of risk might exist in each category. Additional categories of risks might also be relevant to OF&GC. Those risk categories (and individual risks identified within these categories) are contained in the ***Risk Register*** attached as Appendix 1

Step Two: Risk Analysis

For each kind of risk identified in Step One, it is necessary to analyse the likelihood of that risk (i.e., how likely is it to happen) and what the likely impact might be (i.e., how serious would the consequences be) if the risk were to occur.

It is important to analyse the likelihood and consequence of residual risk. That is, the level of risk which exists after taking account of the controls already in place.

OF&GC already has a number of controls already in place which might lessen the likelihood of certain risks, or their impact. These controls include management policies and procedures, separation of duties, staff training, and physical structures such as locking external doors and access controls. These controls need to be assessed annually against each risk which has been identified and a view formed about whether the relevant control is strong enough and therefore effectively mitigates the risk.

After considering the controls that are already in place, it is necessary to consider the likelihood of the risk and the impact (or consequences) for OF&GC if the risk were to occur.

The use of a Risk Matrix (below) allows the risks identified to be rated 1-4 and will indicate the more serious risks which must be treated and actively monitored. Those risks which are in the red (Bottom left corner) are more likely to occur and would have greater impact if they do occur. They clearly should attract more attention. It would be expected that approximately

three to five risks would be sufficiently serious that they make it into the red zone in the Risk Matrix.

Risk Matrix			Impact			
			Acceptable	Tolerable	Unacceptable	Intolerable
			Little or No Effect	Effects are Felt but Not Critical	Serious Impact to Course of Action and Outcome	Could Result in Disasters
Likelihood	Improbable	Unlikely to Occur	4	4	3	2
	Possible	Will Likely Occur	4	3	2	1
	Probable	Will Occur	3	2	1	1

OF&GC will evaluate each risk and decide whether the risk is acceptable or unacceptable. After evaluating the risks, OF&GC will decide whether to:

- Cease performing an activity, or refrain from starting a project, case or other initiative; or
- Accept the risk and take no action; or
- Prioritise the actions required if the risk is complex and requires action; or
- Take positive action to treat the risk.

Step Three: Risk Treatment

A risk might be acceptable if the likelihood and impact are very low (4) and if the cost of treating the risk is high and the benefits of treatment are low. Otherwise, a risk should be regarded as unacceptable and action should be taken to treat that risk.

Risk treatment strategies are intended to protect OF&GC by reducing the likelihood or impact of a risk. Risk treatment can also involve strategies intended to assist in achieving strategic goals and therefore add value.

After working through the above steps of identification and analysis of relevant risks, OF&GC will decide what action to take. Possible action could include:

- **Reducing the likelihood.** Where possible, OF&GC will take action to reduce the likelihood of a risk occurring. For example, by training staff or developing new policy. This is not always possible where the cause is likely to be external to OF&GC and therefore outside the OF&GC's control. For example, OF&GC has no control over

whether external funding is provided or paid on time.

- **Reducing the impact.** Even where the likelihood of a risk can be reduced, v will also take action to reduce the impact. For example, having clear resource allocation processes, which are matched to the strategic plan, will allow the OF&GC to respond appropriately if funding is not available to the anticipated level, or within the expected timeframe.
- **Sharing the risk.** In some cases, it may be possible to obtain insurance or the risk can be shared by contract. For example, by engaging experts and external legal counsel to assist with court cases.
- **Eliminating the risk.** If the risk is highly likely, and the impact too great, OF&GC may elect not to proceed with a project. For example, if there is a risk that a case with unclear legal precedent and unreliable witnesses might result in an unhelpful precedent, OF&GC might decide not to pursue that case. Elimination of a risk is not always possible, particularly with respect to safety hazards.
- **Accepting or tolerating the risk.** There may be some risks, which should be accepted, having regard to their low likelihood and low impact. In these cases, the cost of treatment may far exceed the benefit from treating the risk. These situations may be documented in the Risk Management Plan, because circumstances may change, and the cost benefit equation could alter.

Step Four: Risk Monitoring

Risk management is a cyclical process and treatment plans can be long term. For example, developing a policy to improve IT security and reduce the risk of inappropriate disclosure of confidential information will take time. After the policy is developed, training will be required for all staff to ensure that the policy is appropriately implemented.

The CE will prepare and regularly update a **Risk Register** which sets out the major risks the organisation faces, and the plans for treatment of each kind of risk.

The CE will provide Council with a Risk Management Report, complete with the Risk Register annually.

In each Risk Management Report, each kind of risk will be evaluated according to the effectiveness of the treatment plan, so that the residual risk to the OF&GC is apparent and can readily be considered by Councillors.

CONCLUSION

OF&GC recognises that risk management is an ongoing process. Risks must be identified, analysed and treated. The analysis process will provide a rating for each risk and the significant risks will be the subject of treatment plans to reduce the likelihood of them occurring and to reduce their impact if they do occur.

Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting Thursday 18th March 2021

Adopted by resolution of Council

Date:

Chair

Otago Fish & Game Council

7.2 Operational Workplan and Budget overview 2021-2022

Attached is the draft workplan and budget for the Councils consideration. If approved this will be fed into the New Zealand Councils (NZC) budgeting and licence fee setting process with the final 2021/22 workplan being adopted at our July meeting.

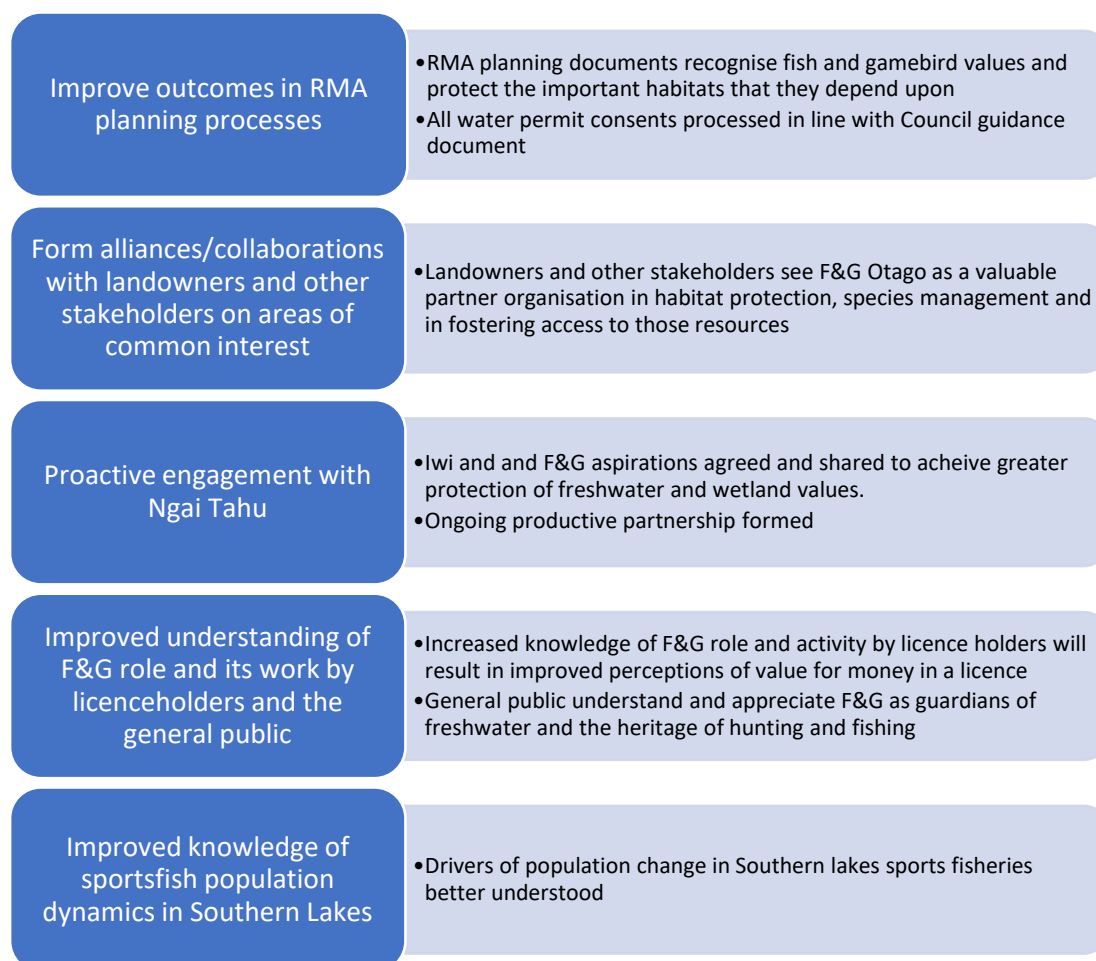
NZC guidance on budgets

New Zealand Council has provided guidance on budgets which indicates that bulk funds similar to last year should be used for budgeting purposes with any additional spending having to go through the contestable funding process at a national level.

Cr's will be aware that the current financial year bulk fund for Otago was reduced 5% (as it was across the country) to allow for a Covid related reduction in licence revenue. That reduced Otago's operating budget by around \$50,000. Those austerity measures remain in place at this point.

2020-2023 Strategic priorities

At its February meeting Council reconfirmed the following five strategic priorities formulated the previous year. Its worth noting that they are in alignment with policy and objectives in the Councils (10 year) Sportsfish and Gamebird Management Plan.



Second order priorities and other activity

The Council had a number of other priorities under headings such as participation, access and compliance. Much of this is business as usual but I have gone through and revised the workplan projects for each of those.

There are a number of other tasks which are outside of those identified below which might be regarded as core business (gamebird monitoring counts, hatchery operations) in annual operational work plans and those have been included in the budget. I doubt the Council wants any of this to be stopped altogether to pursue only those goals above. I have also built in some projects around Risk Management which the council developed at the planning meeting.

Weaving this all together into a coherent OWP is no easy task and despite efforts to simplify, the wider budget system is still stubbornly overcomplicated.

Funding the priorities

As noted at the meeting, some of the priority projects have been put on hold due because of the request to not spend from Reserves. I'm not sure that can continue when the Council has identified a strategic direction and has sufficient resources at hand to fund the objectives and work towards those goals. As such, I have proposed a number of contestable funding bids and spending from reserves to move the Council forward.

Budget

As you are aware around 85% of our budget is overheads (mostly salaries) with only around \$90,000 available to externally fund projects and other activities. As savings have been made in overhead costs (leases, technology savings etc) I have been shifting these across to fund external projects. Unfortunately as costs rise this is doing little more than maintaining the project expenditure.

The table below shows the split between the output areas. You will note that this is similar to last year.

Output	2020-21	2021-22	Change
Species Management	\$137,021	\$139,226	1.5 %
Habitat Protection & Management	\$249,623	\$247,295	0.9 %
Angler/Hunter Participation	\$136,292	\$134,581	-1.2%
Public Interface	\$208,252	\$210,329	0.5%
Compliance	\$89,549	\$90,032	0.5%
Licensing	\$23,900	\$24,084	0.7%
Councils	\$51,137	\$52,315	2.2%
Planning/Reporting	\$76,158	\$79,549	4.2%
TOTAL Bulk Fund Budget	\$961,612	\$961,612	0%

Funding from Reserves

At the bottom of the Budget spreadsheet (attached) you will see that a number of contestable funding bids are proposed.

1. ***CPI on Salaries (1.4%) - \$9,467 from national contestable fund.*** This was the subject of a recent letter to NZC related to being 'good employers' and outlining staff retention issues. There were no CPI increments in the current year despite CPI running at 1.9%. That essentially means staff salaries are going backwards. 1.4% doesn't hold the line in reality.
2. ***Performance increments - \$6,500 from national contestable fund.*** We have a number of high performing and deserving staff which require rewarding. This may be necessary to retain them in the short to medium term.
3. ***Office premises rent increase – \$9,904 from national contestable fund.*** Revaluation of rented space in Cromwell has seen a lease increase of \$9,904pa. This can't be covered from elsewhere in the budget.
4. ***Lost interest income - \$15,823 from national contestable fund.*** NZC suggestion to remove interest income from budget due to its annual variability. Proposal to remove it from all regional budgets.
5. ***Lake Fisheries Monitoring Workshop - \$22,000 one-off spending from Non Resident levy fund.*** Workshop to bring together science and practitioners of lake fisheries management. This will assist in developing long term strategies for monitoring and management.
6. ***Colmar Brunton Poll of Otago public - \$8000 one off spending from Otago General Reserves.*** Survey of general Otago public for understanding of F&G, its role and activities. Results to feed into communications strategy formation and implementation in years 2 and 3.
7. ***Asset Replacement Fund Drawdown – (notification only) of spending from dedicated reserve - \$15,799 .*** For replacement of one (perhaps two vehicles) in the year.

Recommendation

That the Council;

- Endorse the three year strategic plan priorities and objectives as circulated
- Agree to the draft 2021/22 draft operational workplan and budget
- Confirm the contestable funding bids from the national pool and notification of the proposed spending from reserves.

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
10th March 2020

SCHEDULE B : PROJECT SUMMARY : BUDGET 2020/21

Code	Project/Category Item	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%
1110	Population Monitoring	\$ 9,000	570.0	\$ 32,788	\$ -	\$ 41,788	30.0
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 3,000	530.0	\$ 30,487	\$ -	\$ 33,487	24.1
1130	Fish Salvage	\$ -	24.0	\$ 1,381	\$ -	\$ 1,381	1.0
1140	Hatchery	\$ 9,000	500.0	\$ 28,761	\$ -	\$ 37,761	27.1
1150	Game Farm	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
1160	Releases	\$ 1,800	160.0	\$ 9,204	\$ -	\$ 11,004	7.9
1170	Regulations	\$ -	200.0	\$ 11,505	\$ -	\$ 11,505	8.3
1180	Control	\$ -	40.0	\$ 2,301	\$ -	\$ 2,301	1.7
	Species Management Expend	\$ 22,800	2024.00	\$ 116,426	\$ -	\$ 139,226	
1210	RMA	\$ 2,000	3200.0	\$ 184,073	\$ -	\$ 186,073	75.2
1220	Works/Management	\$ 5,000	500.0	\$ 28,761	\$ 1,300	\$ 32,461	13.1
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ -	500.0	\$ 28,761	\$ -	\$ 28,761	11.6
1240	Assessing/Monitoring	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 7,000	4200.00	\$ 241,595	\$ 1,300	\$ 247,295	
1310	Access	\$ 2,500	350.0	\$ 20,133	\$ -	\$ 22,633	16.8
1320	Satisfaction Survey	\$ -	300.0	\$ 17,257	\$ -	\$ 17,257	12.8
1330	Newsletters	\$ -	350.0	\$ 20,133	\$ -	\$ 20,133	15.0
1340	Other Publications	\$ -	244.0	\$ 14,036	\$ -	\$ 14,036	10.4
1350	Training	\$ 2,000	750.0	\$ 43,142	\$ -	\$ 45,142	33.5
1360	Club Relations	\$ 1,000	250.0	\$ 14,381	\$ -	\$ 15,381	11.4
1370	Huts	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
	Angler/Hunter Participation	\$ 5,500	2244.00	\$ 129,081	\$ -	\$ 134,581	
1410	Liaison:Consv.Bds/DoC	\$ 1,000	800.0	\$ 46,018	\$ -	\$ 47,018	22.4
1420	Communication int. Organisations	\$ -	1100.0	\$ 63,275	\$ -	\$ 63,275	30.1
1430	Advocacy	\$ 7,000	1500.0	\$ 86,284	\$ -	\$ 93,284	44.4
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 1,000	100.0	\$ 5,752	\$ -	\$ 6,752	3.2
1450	Visitor Fac/Education/Interpretation	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
	Public Interface	\$ 9,000	3500.00	\$ 201,329	\$ -	\$ 210,329	
1510	Ranging	\$ 2,500	950.0	\$ 54,647	\$ -	\$ 57,147	63.5
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 4,000	250.0	\$ 14,381	\$ -	\$ 18,381	20.4
1530	Compliance	\$ 5,000	200.0	\$ 11,505	\$ 2,000	\$ 14,505	16.1
	Compliance	\$ 11,500	1400.00	\$ 80,532	\$ 2,000	\$ 90,032	
1610	Licence Prod/Distribution	\$ -	250.0	\$ 14,381	\$ -	\$ 14,381	59.7
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ 500	160.0	\$ 9,204	\$ -	\$ 9,704	40.3
1630	Commission	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
	Licensing	\$ 500	410.00	\$ 23,584	\$ -	\$ 24,084	
1710	Cncl Elections	\$ 500	40.0	\$ 2,301	\$ -	\$ 2,801	5.4
1720	Cncl Meetings	\$ 15,000	600.0	\$ 34,514	\$ -	\$ 49,514	94.6
	Councils	\$ 15,500	640.00	\$ 36,815	\$ -	\$ 52,315	
1810	Management/Strategic Planning	\$ -	300.0	\$ 17,257	\$ -	\$ 17,257	21.7
1820	OWP/Budget/Lic Fee setting	\$ -	150.0	\$ 8,628	\$ -	\$ 8,628	10.8
1830	Annual/Other Reporting	\$ 16,000	120.0	\$ 6,903	\$ -	\$ 22,903	28.8
1840	National Liaison	\$ 2,000	500.0	\$ 28,761	\$ -	\$ 30,761	38.7
	Planning/Reporting	\$ 18,000	1070.00	\$ 61,549	\$ -	\$ 79,549	
	PROJECT BUDGET	\$ 89,800	15488	\$ 890,911	\$ 3,300	\$ 977,411	

OVERHEADS		External Costs		Income	Net Cost	%
1910 Salaries	\$	760,305	0.0	\$ -	\$ 760,305	85.3
1920 Staff Expenses	\$	19,000	0.0	\$ -	\$ 19,000	2.1
1930 Staff Houses	\$	-		\$ -	\$ -	0.0
1940 Office Premises	\$	85,696		\$ 50,590	\$ 35,106	3.9
1950 Office Equipment	\$	2,500		\$ -	\$ 2,500	0.3
1960 Communications/Consumables	\$	22,800		\$ -	\$ 22,800	2.6
1970 General	\$	3,900		\$ -	\$ 3,900	0.4
1980 Gen Equipment	\$	3,300		\$ -	\$ 3,300	0.4
1990 Vehicles	\$	44,000		\$ -	\$ 44,000	4.9
Administration	\$	941,501	941501.00	\$ 50,590	\$ 890,911	

REGION: OTAGO
SCHEDULE C : OUTPUTS BUDGET SUMMARY - 2020/21

Code	Output	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%
1	Species Management Expend	\$ 22,800	2024.0	\$ 116,426	\$ -	\$ 139,226	14.2
2	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 7,000	4200.0	\$ 241,595	\$ 1,300	\$ 247,295	25.3
3	Angler/Hunter Participation	\$ 5,500	2244.0	\$ 129,081	\$ -	\$ 134,581	13.8
4	Public Interface	\$ 9,000	3500.0	\$ 201,329	\$ -	\$ 210,329	21.5
5	Compliance	\$ 11,500	1400.0	\$ 80,532	\$ 2,000	\$ 90,032	9.2
6	Licensing	\$ 500	410.0	\$ 23,584	\$ -	\$ 24,084	2.5
7	Councils	\$ 15,500	640.0	\$ 36,815	\$ -	\$ 52,315	5.4
8	Planning/Reporting	\$ 18,000	1070.0	\$ 61,549	\$ -	\$ 79,549	8.1
9	Administration						0.0
	Total Overhead Staff Hours		3927.0				
	TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 89,800	19415.0	\$ 890,911	\$ 3,300	\$ 977,411	

Less Interest income		\$0
Plus Asset Replacement Fund	Ian Hadland:	\$0
Plus other Capital items eg principle repayments on Loans	Removed. NZC	-\$15,799
Plus Reinstatement of Reserves	CF Bid	\$0
TOTAL BUDGET		\$ 961,612
Made up from:		
Bulk Funding		
TOTAL BUDGET		\$ 961,612.00

Contestable funding applications or notification of spending from Reserves

Contestable Pool Funding - CPI Salaries 1.4%	\$ 9,467.00
Contestable Pool Funding - Performance increments	\$ 6,500.00
Contestable Pool Funding - Office premises rent increase	\$ 9,904.00
Contestable Pool Funding - Interest income	\$ 15,823.00 (NZC suggested)
Spending from NR reserves (one off) - Lake Fisheries Workshop	\$ 22,000.00
Spending from General Reserves (one off) - Colmar Brunton Poll of Otago general public	\$ 8,000.00
Spending from Asset Replacement reserve - Vehicle replacement	\$ 11,000.00

DRAFT OPERATIONAL WORKPLAN 2021-2022

Strategic priorities agreed in 2020 (and reaffirmed February 2021) are marked in yellow cells. Other items are secondary priorities.

SF&GMP Output	Goals 2020-2023	Objectives (Specific, timebound and measurable)	2021/2022 Operational Workplan Items
Species Management	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	<i>Regular creel surveys to continue at Southern lakes with a focus on Wanaka/Hawea to monitor catch rates and species abundance in bags. These to be supported by peak use surveys over high summer.</i> <i>Salmon and trout spawning surveys in southern lakes tributaries (priority given to Makarora and Matukituki)</i> <i>Collaboration with Lake Wanaka Catchment Group with eDNA work and fisheries surveys in tributaries.</i> <i>*implement indigenous fish protection project in Otago</i> <i>Run a lake fisheries management workshop (delayed due to funding)</i> Additional funding: \$22,000 for Workshop
	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.	<i>Research programme to be developed as part of Contact commitment to salmon via Trust.</i> <i>On hold pending Contact/F&G Trust development for salmon research</i>

		Salmon spawning sites surveyed and documented	<i>Salmon spawning surveys (aerial) in the upper and lower catchment to continue with the support of Contact Energy.</i>
Habitat Protection & Management	Improve outcomes in RMA planning processes – Plans reflect F&G input	<p>Submissions reflecting F&G positions made on time and hearings attended for all planning matters impacting on F&G managed species, habitat and users.</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><i>Submissions to plans, particularly the Regional Policy Statement and local Freshwater Management Units will continue. Engagement in technical working groups to continue.</i></p> <p><i>*Staff hours committed ORC assistance with habitat and fish surveys for FMU values assessments – Taieri</i></p> <p><i>Governor to governor meeting when new council forms (after Dec 2021)</i></p> <p><i>CE and staff to continue with regular liaison with ORC, QLDC, CODC, DCC, DOC and Aukaha.</i></p> <p><i>Continue to maintain our key relationships through meetings and sharing of submissions, particularly at staff level.</i></p> <p><i>Staff meet regularly with Aukaha and DoC to generate consistent submissions on Planning and consenting matters. Continue to work towards agreement through working together as above (agreement document may be considered a stretch goal)</i></p>
	Create or improve more wetland areas with emphasis on irrigation dams as habitat and headwater wetlands	10 ponds/wetlands on private land developed or enhanced or protected annually (30 wetlands/ponds by 2023)	<i>Investigations for new pond development reduced in favour of increased hours committed to catchment group support which should deliver greater benefits to licence holders.</i>

Angler & Hunter Participation	Maintain or improve current participation levels, especially among females	Maintain current participation levels Improve female participation by 5% by 2023	<i>Staff time committed to national marketing initiatives and local R3 efforts. Retention strategy developed for new licence holders recruited during pandemic.</i> <i>The survey of female anglers complete –take learnings and develop marketing campaign and implement.</i>
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.	<i>Complete.</i> <i>Focus on generating 5? new access points in each catchment in 2021/22</i>
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	<i>Continue to use the magazine, social media and other contact opportunities to highlight work being done by OF&GC.</i> <i>Repeat survey to check progress and report to February planning meeting.</i>
	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	<i>Negotiations related to a hatchery and information site at Roxburgh hosted by Contact Energy to continue. Formation of trust to be completed by years end.</i> <i>Public understanding survey not completed due to funding. Completion dependant on external provider being funded for survey</i> Additional Costs: \$8000 For survey
	Proactive engagement with Ngai Tahu	MOU/Principles document extended to cover wider Otago water and wildlife values and agreed by 2022.	<i>Relationship building via Aukaha and Ngai Tahu. Cultural harvest opportunities to be explored in 2021/22 as a project</i>

			Additional Costs: \$3000 Staff and council training in Māoritanga
	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	<i>Stretch target. Increase staff hours for compliance/survey programme during peak use periods using both staff and honorary rangers (links with Compliance below)</i>
	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	<i>Delayed due to funding. Stakeholder survey to be completed, possibly through a communications student instead. *More staff time dedicated to Catchment Group support and involvement.</i>
Administration	Find alternative sources of income to support F&G activities	At least 20% of external expenditure is from alternative sources	<i>Continue to seek funding from alternative sources including grants for events and via Contact Energy Sportsfish Management Plan</i>
Compliance	Regulations understandable by licence holders	Make regulations easier to interpret through simplification and improved user interfaces, especially online	<i>Staff time dedicated to national working groups for app development and regulations review. *Triennial review year for angling regulations an opportunity to simplify local regulations</i>
	Improved compliance rates	Improve compliance rate from 95% to 97%	<i>Increased visibility and signage as above to meet target. Monitoring system in place.</i>
	Prosecutions completed in a compassionate and professional way	Revisit prosecution guidelines annually (Sept) and sign off alongside diversion payment schedule	<i>Prosecution guidelines to be reviewed and adopted at November 2021 meeting.</i>

8.0 Public Excluded Items

8.1 Public Excluded minutes from 13th February 2021

8.2 Risk Management Report 2021-2022

8.3 Proposed Trespass notice – Verbal Update

8.4 Property and Staff – Verbal Update

9.0 Financial Report

Finance and Licence Sales 28th February 2021

9.1 Finance Reports

The draft finance Profit and Loss report and Balance sheet for the period from 1st September 2020 to 28th February 2021 is below. Other expenses are yet to arrive for the February period.

Expenditure at the 28th February for the 2020/21 financial year is \$1,017,377 (including levies \$355,902, agent commission \$61,807 and depreciation \$30,415 compared with the annual expenditure budget of \$1,805,609.

Total income to date is \$ 1,596,188. 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 \$632,725

Funds Position at 28th February 2020

ANZ 00 account \$190,976
ANZ 70 account \$1,003,755

Term Investments as at 28th February 2021

ASB 0079 \$362,449 @ 0.85% Maturing on 11th July 2021

Donations and Grants (not in budget)

Date	Who	For	Amount GST excl
Sept- Feb21	Mixed	Bullock Creek Plantings	\$530
Sept21	Community Care Trust	Take A Kid Fishing	\$1,733
Feb21	Contact Energy	Projects: Manuka Island, Brown Trout Origin, Harvest Monitoring	16,065
Total			\$18,328

Debtors

There are no bad or doubtful debts at the 28th February 2021

Capital Expenditure and Sales

One new laptop and one new desktop computer purchased to replace Windows 7 Units which were out of date.

Otago Fish and Game Council Meeting Thursday 18th March 2021

9.2 Otago Fish and Game Reserves 28th February 2020

Otago Reserves Movements	Balance August 2020	Income (To) Reserve	Note	Outgoing (From) Reserve	Balance Feb 2021
Back Country Non-resident Levy	\$266,789	\$4,129		\$747	\$270,171
Habitat Enhancement & Research	\$10,995	\$4,100	2	\$2,000	\$13,095
Bullock Creek Reserve	\$5,033	\$530		\$1,593	\$3,969
Mining Rights Reserve	\$23,947		3	\$6,410	\$17,537
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	\$25,384	\$93,101
Total					\$687,726
NZC Grant Movements					
Priority Plan Changes		50,000	8		50,000

Note 2 Balance is \$13,095. Less committed but not yet paid out of \$10,500 so balance of \$2,595 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.

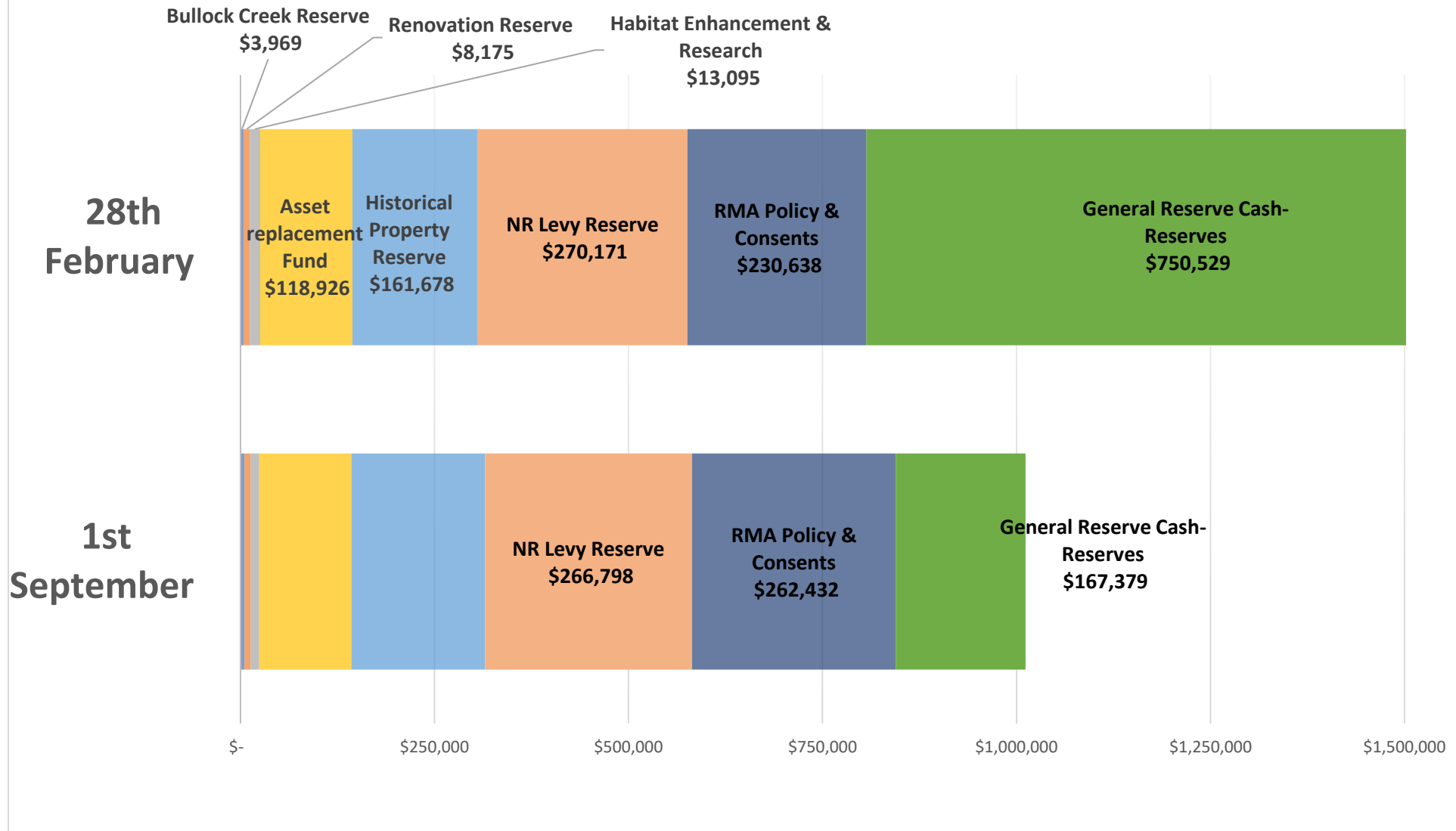
Note 5 OF&GC agreed to \$60,000 May 2020. NZC notified.

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.

Note 8 Feb 2021 NZC allocated the use of \$50,000 to be reimbursed by the Regional RMA legal fund towards Plan Changes 7 and 8 of ORC Waterplan

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES FROM SEPTEMBER TO FEBRUARY 2021



Balance Sheet

Otago Fish and Game Council

As at 28 February 2021

28 FEB 2021 31 AUG 2020

Assets

Current Assets

Bank	1,194,932	652,613
Receivables		
Accounts Receivable	157,725	118,479
Total Receivables	157,725	118,479
GST	859	40,644
Investments	362,450	359,370
Inventory	20,958	20,958
Accrued Interest	870	870
Total Current Assets	1,737,794	1,192,934

Fixed Assets

Property Plant & Equipment	1,356,254	1,385,558
Total Fixed Assets	1,356,254	1,385,558

Total Assets	3,094,048	2,578,492
---------------------	------------------	------------------

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	19,388	74,257
Other Payables	149,332	231,585
Employee Entitlements	84,128	64,175
Rounding	-	-
Total Current Liabilities	252,848	370,017

Total Liabilities	252,848	370,017
--------------------------	----------------	----------------

Net Assets	2,841,200	2,208,475
-------------------	------------------	------------------

Equity

Accumulated Funds

Accumulated Funds	1,364,081	1,651,962
Current Year Earnings	632,725	(29,076)
Transfer (To)/From Reserves	37,742	(258,805)
Total Accumulated Funds	2,034,548	1,364,081

Dedicated Reserves

Back Country Fisheries Reserve	270,171	266,789
Habitat Enhancement & Research	13,095	10,995
Priority Plan Changes Reserve	93,101	118,485
Priority Consents Reserve	60,000	60,000
Regional Policy Statement Reserve	60,000	60,000
Mining Privileges Reserve	17,537	23,947
Historical Property Reserve	161,678	172,044

	28 FEB 2021	31 AUG 2020
Renovation Reserve	8,175	8,175
Asset Replacement Funding	118,926	118,926
Total Dedicated Reserves	802,683	839,361
Restricted Reserves		
Bullock Creek Reserve	3,969	5,033
Total Restricted Reserves	3,969	5,033
Total Equity	2,841,200	2,208,475

Profit and Loss

Otago Fish and Game Council For the 6 months ended 28 February 2021

	JAN 2021	FEB 2021	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
Income								
Licence Sales								
Fish Licence Sales	135,035	66,152	1,592,060	1,213,365	378,695	131%	1,324,365	1,683,279
Non-Resident Licence Revenue	689	523	4,129	-	4,129	-	-	70,828
Game Licence Sales	-	-	-	-	-	-	321,903	316,109
Total Licence Sales	135,723	66,676	1,596,188	1,213,365	382,823	132%	1,646,268	2,070,216
Other Income								
Interest Income	3,127	71	3,316	-	3,316	-	-	16,177
Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	55	35	287	1,002	(715)	29%	2,000	723
Rent Received	4,832	4,832	26,101	29,579	(3,478)	88%	59,153	53,498
Fishing Competitions	-	-	563	-	563	-	-	1,635
Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,418
Donations & Grants	-	16,116	18,329	-	18,329	-	-	208,526
Merchandise Sales/Other	165	52	296	-	296	-	-	67
Sundry Income	-	31	422	-	422	-	-	17,128
Diversion - Habitat Enhancement and Research Fund	700	3,900	4,600	-	4,600	-	-	13,635
Total Other Income	8,879	25,037	53,914	30,581	23,333	176%	61,153	330,808
Total Income	144,603	91,713	1,650,102	1,243,946	406,156	133%	1,707,421	2,401,025
Gross Profit	144,603	91,713	1,650,102	1,243,946	406,156	133%	1,707,421	2,401,025
Other Income								
Govt Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85,726
Total Other Income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85,726

	JAN 2021	FEB 2021	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
Expenses								
Species Management								
Population Monitoring	2,880	-	2,880	9,000	(6,120)	32%	9,000	6,348
Harvest Assessment	-	-	4	-	4	-	3,000	2,700
Hatchery Operations	-	-	1,197	3,000	(1,803)	40%	9,000	3,912
Releases	-	-	338	900	(562)	38%	1,800	838
Game Bird Control compliants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	119
Total Species Management	2,880	-	4,419	12,900	(8,481)	34%	22,800	13,916
Habitat Protection & Mngt								
Contact Sports Fish Management Plan	1,776	474	2,285	-	2,285	-	-	58,197
Resource Mngt Act	-	10,820	31,795	1,002	30,793	3,173%	2,000	32,449
Works & Management	289	870	4,003	2,502	1,501	160%	5,000	14,196
Assisted Habitat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	225,012
Habitat Enhancement Research Fund Grants	-	-	2,000	-	2,000	-	-	12,435
Total Habitat Protection & Mngt	2,065	12,163	40,083	3,504	36,579	1,144%	7,000	342,288
Participation								
Access and Signage	592	4	881	1,248	(367)	71%	2,500	1,628
Back Country Surveys/Monitoring	-	-	747	-	747	-	-	6,037
Promotion Articles and Advertising	-	-	-	750	(750)	-	1,500	998
Publications and Web Site	-	-	-	350	(350)	-	700	1,085
OF&G Training Events	-	-	632	1,900	(1,268)	33%	2,000	1,266
Club Relations and Grants	-	-	9	498	(489)	2%	1,000	1,388
Fish Competitions and Data	-	-	27	-	27	-	-	-
Total Participation	592	4	2,296	4,746	(2,450)	48%	7,700	12,403
PUBLIC INTERFACE								
NZC National Water Campaigns	-	-	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	1,000	-

	JAN 2021	FEB 2021	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
Liaison	-	19	32	750	(718)	4%	1,500	122
Communication	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	690
Media Releases	-	-	312	3,702	(3,390)	8%	7,000	1,068
Total PUBLIC INTERFACE	-	19	344	5,452	(5,108)	6%	9,500	1,880
COMPLIANCE								
Ranger Training and Expenses	-	-	74	4,250	(4,176)	2%	7,500	4,779
Compliance	-	-	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	5,000	1,282
Total COMPLIANCE	-	-	74	6,750	(6,676)	1%	12,500	6,061
LICENCING								
Agent Servicing	-	-	120	550	(430)	22%	750	257
Commission/Fees	4,668	2,423	61,807	39,574	22,233	156%	59,360	81,950
Total LICENCING	4,668	2,423	61,928	40,124	21,804	154%	60,110	82,207
COUNCIL								
Council Meetings	-	3,557	6,188	9,000	(2,812)	69%	15,000	15,167
Total COUNCIL	-	3,557	6,188	9,000	(2,812)	69%	15,000	15,167
PLANNING & REPORTING								
Reporting/Audit	-	-	16,364	16,000	364	102%	16,000	17,236
National Liason	-	-	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	2,000	73
Total PLANNING & REPORTING	-	-	16,364	17,000	(636)	96%	18,000	17,309
ADMINISTRATION								
Salaries	49,273	54,229	379,990	377,254	2,736	101%	754,500	769,829
Staff Expenses	425	120	8,298	5,498	2,800	151%	17,000	11,067
Office Premices	11,639	4,927	55,841	48,504	7,337	115%	88,996	80,359
Office Equipemnt	420	118	1,258	1,252	6	101%	2,500	2,340
Communications	1,435	4,310	12,895	11,004	1,891	117%	22,000	20,167
General Exp (incl Insurance)	20	32	2,413	2,300	113	105%	2,900	3,485

	JAN 2021	FEB 2021	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR 2019
General Field Equipment	191	43	586	1,204	(618)	49%	2,300	2,531
Vehicles	3,529	2,934	27,718	29,504	(1,786)	94%	51,000	45,736
Total ADMINISTRATION	66,934	66,713	488,999	476,520	12,479	103%	941,196	935,514
Depreciation	5,096	5,097	30,415	-	30,415	-	-	69,392
Loss on Disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
NZ Fish & Game Levies	177,951	-	355,902	355,901	1	100%	711,803	1,011,763
Wanaka Subdivision	-	-	10,366	-	10,366	-	-	7,924
Total Expenses	260,186	89,976	1,017,377	931,897	85,480	109%	1,805,609	2,515,826
Net Profit	(115,583)	1,737	632,725	312,049	320,676	203%	(98,188)	(29,076)

9.3 Licence Sales

Fish Licence Sales 2020/21 to 28th February 2021

See table following, for fish licence sales volumes for various categories. This table shows fish licences sales for season 2020/21 to the 28th February 2021 with a comparison to 2019/20 and 2018/19 seasons. I have included the extra years details as 2019/20 was a complicated year due to the covid 19 pandemic that continues to impact non resident sales. Resident anglers have greatly increased this season. These figures include commission.

In summary, fishing licence sales to 28th February 2021 in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) is 13,716.48 LEQs compared with 13,465.39 LEQs for the same period last season.

Also see graph showing Otago Region daily cumulative sales chart dated 9th February 2021 below licence sales tables. (made by Kate Thompson).

Fish licence revenue from the Profit and Loss statement for the 2020/21 season recorded to 28th February 2021 totals \$1,596,188 compared with \$1,754,107 for the full 2019/20 Season. The 2020/21 budget for fish licence sales is \$1,324,365 exclusive of GST.

9.5 Agents Debts

Some small Farmlands invoices still outstanding. More a problem with their system not fitting with ours. These will be paid.

9.6 Recommendation

That this report be received

Sharon Milne
Administration Officer
11/03/2021

Otago Fish Licence Sales to the 28th February of the Season

2020/21

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	Total	Fish LEQ	Total Value
Agency	2,470	3,461	24	710	167	10	154	581	16	391	0	85	3	0	0	8,072		
Eyede	8	12	0	9	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	35		
Online	1,909	2,436	64	281	391	27	284	1,627	92	384	3	178	1	1	1	7,679		
Total	4,387	5,909	88	1,000	558	37	439	2,212	109	775	3	263	4	1	1	15,786	13,716.48	\$1,829,983.00

2019/20

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	Total	Fish LEQ	Total Value
Agency	2,489	3,523	323	673	200	26	164	655	1,066	405	20	60	63	19	47	9,733		
Eyede	3	11	4	10	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	36		
Online	1,419	1,676	608	223	316	40	200	1,220	1,543	291	33	128	53	14	50	7,814		
Total	3,911	5,210	935	906	518	67	364	1,876	2,611	698	53	188	116	33	97	17,583	13,465.39	\$1,873,962.00

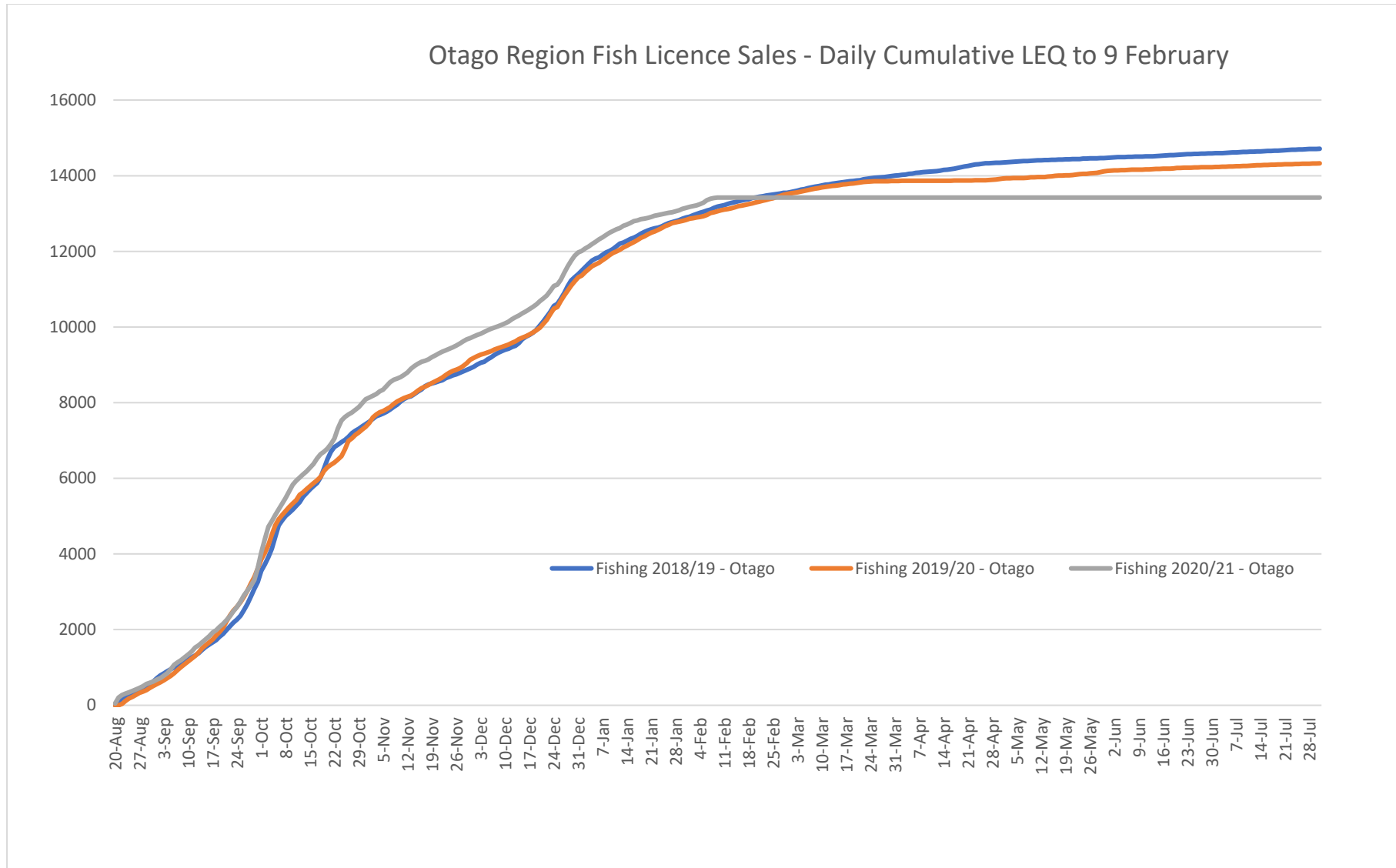
2018/19

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	Total	Fish LEQ	Total Value
Agency	2,445	3,154	404	573	200	16	169	689	1,288	392	28	64	78	14	76	9,590		
Eyede	11	3	3	5	1	0	0	8	8	0	0	3	0	0	2	44		
Online	1,608	1,780	711	244	312	31	185	1,148	1,571	246	17	97	67	15	69	8,101		
Total	4,064	4,937	1,118	822	513	47	354	1,845	2,867	638	45	164	145	29	147	17,735	13,521.01	\$1,845,064.00

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 March 2021

10.1 Progress Against Councils 3 Year Strategic Priorities

Due to the short timeframe between meetings, there is little by way of an update against the priorities. Focus has instead been on planning for the 2021/2022 operational workplan and budget.

10.2 Other Staff Activity

10.2.1 SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Gamebird Monitoring

Gamebird monitoring (Paradise Sheduck counts) were delayed by a week for bad weather and have now been reported on (see item 14.1).

Hatchery Operations

A meeting with Oceanagold staff to confirm hatchery arrangements was held. An alternative Oceanagold staff person has been trained to assist with hatchery duties.

Silverstream and Kaikorai Estuary fish kills

Staff understand that Ryders Consulting is investigating both fish kills and these will be reported on shortly. Both have generated considerable media coverage and hint that ORC may have caused or exacerbated both kills through their own actions during floods and from artificially lowering water levels in the estuary. That is still to be determined.

10.2.2 HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Contact Energy – Lower Clutha Sportsfish Management Plan Implementation

Staff have nearly completed the electric fishing of lower Clutha tributaries and the otoliths are being extracted for later analysis. Planning is underway for the spawning surveys which will include aerial surveys of some upper Clutha River tributaries..

Contact Energy have sought a repricing of an alternative hatchery option for Roxburgh. That is due by the end of this month. In the meantime discussions will continue about trust options to run the hatchery and wider sportsfish management plan.

Plan Change 7

At the time of writing the Plan Change 7 (mining rights) hearings are underway. The hearings have become deeply complex and staff may need to come back to the Council at the next meeting with a revised budget. Its heading for a slight overspend. Staff have been successful

in getting alternative funding from other parties (including NZC) to fund one of our ecology experts.

Other Consenting and Planning matters

No report this period – Staff are fully engaged in hearing preparation and attendance.

10.2.3 USER PARTICIPATION

Mt Burke Station Access

The QLDC have met with the lessee and are now looking at a slightly altered version of that agreed in 2015. Its advancing so slowly that they could both be accused of foot dragging on the issue. F&G and Walking access commission staff are doing our best to keep the issue live with QLDC.

10.2.4 PUBLIC INTERFACE

Liaison

Staff continue to maintain contact with catchment groups (Pomahaka Watercare Group, Upper Taieri Water Users Group). It is consuming time but the relationships are seen as important.

Media

Having new staff person in the communications role is paying immediate dividends with a number of media releases getting picked up and social media interaction increasing.

10.2.5 COMPLIANCE

Ranging and prosecutions

Ranger activity has continued into late summer with a steady stream of offends being processed – largely by way of diversion and fines. Preparations are now being made for game season ranging efforts.

Two prosecutions are being taken through the court at present and both are proposed to be head before the end of March.

10.2.6 LICENCING

Agents

The Administration Officer will have distributed the Gamebird Regulations books and information by the time of the meeting. Licences have gone on sale this week.

Fish licence sales have remained ahead of last years sales for the same time period and Otago is a standout performer for volume this year. Staff are confident that will continue into the autumn.

10.2.7 COUNCIL

Staffing

As you know F&G Officer Morgan Trotter has resigned to take up the role with the Maniototo Tiaki who have received \$4.5m from the governments freshwater package to enhance the wetlands and waterway habitat in that area. It's an exciting opportunity for him, and our organisation and I know you will join all of our staff in wishing him well.

I propose we look at replacement of this position after the ministerial review and perhaps run the process in parallel to the recruitment exercise to appoint a F&G Officer to the Cromwell role permanently.

Elections

A question has been raised about Otago's appointment of me as the regions returning officer for the upcoming elections. All other regions have appointed Elections NZ (the contracted online manager of the elections) to be their returning officers. It might be cleaner (and more efficient) if we were to fall into line with the 11 other regional councils.

For discussion and decision

10.2.8 PLANNING AND REPORTING

Annual Planning

The draft annual Operational Workplan is before you this meeting. Following final edits this will be submitted, along with any additional bids for funding, to New Zealand Council for consideration and formulation of a licence fee for next financial year. That meeting is proposed for mid April. As already noted, staff have taken the approach that it will be business as usual (with the exception of the 5% Covid related budget cut) for next financial year and budgeted accordingly.

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
11 March 2021

11.0 RMA Planning and Consents Report

Nil - Due to Plan Change 7 hearing time constraints.

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 Federated Farmers Working Relationship



Building a Positive Fish and Game/Federated Farmers Working Relationship

To: Fish & Game Regional Council Chairs
Federated Farmers Provincial Presidents

You will be aware of the discussions Federated Farmers and NZ Fish & Game have been having at the national level.

We have been building a positive working relationship nationally where we can share information, discuss issues, identify and work on problems, and make a phone call when we perceive a need or have something to work on.

We are completely aware we will not agree on everything, but if and when we do disagree we have agreed to do so with respect for each other's position, without acrimony and at a times seeking to understand and respect the other party's view. This is a start to repairing a positive working relationship – somewhat fallen into disrepair in recent times.

Both our National Councils commend the building of relationships between our respective organisations at a regional/provincial level. This will be particularly important not only with respect to regional and district plans but also in working together on on-the-ground initiatives involving local Fish & Game personnel, farmers and community groups.

To that end attached is a spreadsheet showing relevant contact details for you to follow up when you are able. We understand that many of you have already held productive regional/provincial meetings.

There has been 150 years of relationships between farmers, game bird hunters and anglers. Many lifelong friendships have been made. Sure, there are always hiccups, but in the big picture we see relating to each other as organisations sets the right kind of message for our members to do the same.

Kind regards

Ray Grubb
Chair
NZ Fish and Game Council

Andrew Hoggard
National President
Federated Farmers of NZ (Inc)

13.1.2 National Environmental Standards (NES) for Freshwater – Wetland Regulations

The New Zealand Council has sought feedback on its position related to the NES section on wetlands. The position also doubles as a submission back to the Ministry for the Environment.

Staff comment

The document is a good summary of some of the floors in the regulations and the difficulties that they create for hunters and for F&G Councils to undertake wetland enhancement activities.

Its likely that the provisions related to construction of utility structures like maimais and the maintenance of them was simply overlooked at the time of drafting. However, if they remain there then resource consent would be required for some fairly basic tasks related to maimai construction, maintenance of waterways and bunds, and for plant pest removal.

Staff consider the position a sound one and agree that the regulations need further adjustment to ensure that wetland enhancement activities in particular are encouraged as far as possible.

For discussion and feedback to NZC

Ian Hadland

Chief Executive

National Environmental Standards for Freshwater – wetland regulations amendments

1. The National Environmental Standards for Freshwater regulations restrict restoration and simple structures in wetlands (such as maimai, boardwalks and signs) so much that they will discourage people from caring for and making wetlands accessible. The regulations will have a considerable detrimental impact on Fish and Game licence holders and on Fish and Game Council's own operations regarding the maintenance and construction of maimai and other activities in wetlands, including wetland restoration works. We believe these perverse outcomes will also affect all regional councils and NGO's who routinely undertake wetland restoration and

maintenance. This submission seeks amendment to the NES-FW regulations to provide for those activities in wetlands.

2. Fish and Game supports:
 - the overarching intent of the NES-FW, which is to regulate activities that pose risks to freshwater and freshwater ecosystems; and
 - the inclusion of standards in the NES-FW that are designed to protect existing inland and coastal wetlands.

3. Given the continued loss of wetlands and flow on effects to a wide variety of species that rely on them, Fish and Game understand the need for stricter regulation to safeguard wetland environments, however the framework needs to be carefully considered to provide for wetland construction and restoration activities.

4. An unintended consequence from the NES-FW is that activities with little to no environmental effect on wetlands have been captured by the regulations. As currently written, the new regulations now pose a major impediment to anyone wishing to build a new maimai or restore a wetland. Access to and enjoyment of wetlands is a powerful tool in raising awareness of the values of wetlands, water quality, vegetation and biodiversity. Fish and Game's ability to carry out wetland restoration and maintenance projects on its own wetlands will be very much constrained.

5. Fish and Game acknowledges that the NES-FW provides a pathway for activities in wetlands by way of resource consent. However, actions designed to restore wetlands should be incentivised by enabling them to be pursued without a resource consent. Resource consents can create a barrier to wetland restoration and creation projects. They generate an extra cost burden for projects which are already financially strained. Simply put, the uncertain costs and outcomes associated with the consent process to restore wetlands may act as a disincentive to undertake the activity, which should be actively encouraged. Some of the changes recommended by Fish and Game have been proposed with this in mind.

6. Fish and Game have identified two main areas of concern where we wish to see an amendment to the NES-FW regulations – these are the maintenance and construction of wetland utility structures, and wetland restoration work.

Wetland utility structures

7. Wetland utility structures listed in the NES-FW regulations include maimai, signs, jetties, walking tracks, and bird watching hides. Wetland utility

structures are common on both public and private land; and are accepted around much of New Zealand as a permitted activity under relevant regional and district plans. They provide important opportunities for people to engage and interact with the natural environment, and are part of valued social activities such as walking, hunting and bird watching. Some wetland utility structures may be large, be part of a bigger project, or have more than minor impacts on wetlands. More commonly they will be small scale, undertaken by community groups or individuals and have less than minor effects on the wetland.

8. The right to build, tag and use maimai is a fundamental part of duck shooting in New Zealand and managing this activity is a core function of Fish and Game. A wide range of structures are used as maimai, including permanent and temporary structures. Fish and Game have spent considerable effort in recent years successfully advocating for the construction of maimai as a permitted activity in district and regional plans.
9. The construction and maintenance of signs is also a critical aspect of managing game bird shooting and sports fish angling activities in New Zealand and are important functions of Fish and Game. Fish and Game signs typically have brief information about legal access points, licence requirements, applicable hunting/angling regulations (i.e. local restrictions like “fly fishing only”), and /or the need for licence holders to take precautions against the spread of aquatic pests. In some court proceedings involving illegal fishing and similar offending, the presence of adequate signage has been pivotal in pre-warning the person charged that they were committing an offence. These signs are accepted around much of New Zealand as a permitted activity.
10. Wetland utility structures, like signs and maimai, are not provided for as permitted activities in the NES-FW. Instead the construction of a wetland utility structure (such as maimai, boardwalks, signs) in or near a natural wetland will require resource consent from the relevant consent authority where it involves:
 - earthworks or vegetation clearance in a natural wetland or within 10 m from it, or
 - the taking, use, damming, diversion, or discharge of water within a natural wetland, or within a 100 m from it.¹
11. The definitions of earthworks and vegetation clearance are so broad the circumstances in which a wetland utility structure would be able to be built without these triggering the NES-FW regulations are very limited. This means that every new

¹ Reg 42

maimai, boardwalk or wetland interpretive sign in or near a wetland requires a resource consent. Only a very small structure on top of the land that does not require any digging or vegetation clearance, such as a temporary manuka hide, will not trigger the regulations, and will not need a resource consent. The requirement for every new maimai or other wetland utility structure to seek and be granted a resource consent imposes significant cost to those wanting to undertake these projects and significant inefficiencies for projects that are at the minor end of the effects spectrum.

12. A maimai could be constructed without a resource consent if it were built 10m away from the edge of any wetland vegetation. However, the reason hunters build their maimai very close to waterbodies is that the maximum range of shotguns (i.e. the maximum range at which they can humanely shoot gamebirds), is at best 30-40 metres. Therefore, any maimai located back from the wetland that is being hunted on can make hunting impractical, inhumane, and unsafe. This is especially a concern when considering that many of the most popular wetlands for hunting are extensive in size. For example, the Whangamarino Wetland in the Waikato region, which contains 738 ha of Fish and Game owned and managed wetlands, is one of the most intensively hunted in New Zealand for waterfowl, attracting high densities of gamebird hunters and as such many maimai have been established. Without a maimai, people can stand wherever they feel inclined to, and shoot in whatever direction they want meaning a lot less control over safe firing zones. Maimai are the safer option yet would require a resource consent to be constructed within 10m of a wetland.

13. The NES-FW regulations are inconsistent in how they treat maimai and how they treat other activities that have same or greater adverse effects. The NES-FW permits vegetation clearance, earthworks, land disturbance and diversion of water for some activities without consent despite some of those permitted activities potentially having a detrimental effect on the wetland (for example Regulation 46). Some of those permitted activities can affect up to 500m² of a wetland. Many of the activities are poorly defined or not defined at all and could include a wide range of activities, with unknown merit or effects.

Examples include:

- Restoration activities up to 500m² or 10% of wetland area (reg 38).
Restoration work is anything aimed at restoring ecosystem, biodiversity or hydrological function
- Scientific research up to 10m² per site or 100m² in total (reg 40).

There is no definition of scientific research

- Maintaining specified infrastructure or other infrastructure up to 500m² or 10% of wetland area (reg 46).

Specified and other infrastructure definitions includes public flood control and drainage works, all regionally significant infrastructure and other utilities.

- Existing sphagnum moss harvesting with no limit on size (reg 48).
- Natural hazard works with no limit on size (reg 51).

Natural hazard works is works to remove material, such as trees, debris and sediment deposited as the result of a natural hazard, and likely to cause an immediate hazard to people or property.

14. Taken together these provisions provide a wide permitted baseline and precedent for considering maimai (and other wetland utility structures) as permitted activities. Maimai (and other wetland utility structures) have as much utility and social significance as other activities provided for as permitted, and can be provided for with a much smaller footprint and minor adverse effects.
15. The maintenance of wetland utility structures is also disproportionately regulated across the regulations, compared to other activities. Maintenance of *specified infrastructure* is permitted, despite the significant scale and potential for significant effects.
16. Vegetation growing around and over maimai can pose a safety concern when hunting. We therefore seek to increase the allowable area for vegetation clearance specifically for maimai under regulation 43 condition (4)(d).

Relief sought:

17. Fish and Game seek that the construction of wetland utility structures be provided for as a permitted activity in the NES-FW with an area disturbance limit of 15m² to allow for the construction of a maimai of up to 10m².²
18. We seek the following amendments:

Construction of wetland utility structures

42 Permitted activities

² 10m² is the size limit provided for in Fish and Game's Maimai Construction Guidelines and is often the size limit provided for as permitted in district and regional plans.

(1) Vegetation clearance within, or within a 10 m setback from, a natural wetland is a permitted activity if it –

(a) is for the purpose of constructing a wetland utility structure; and

(b) complies with the conditions

(2) Earthworks or land disturbance within, or within a 10 m setback from, a natural wetland is a permitted activity if it –

(a) is for the purpose of constructing a wetland utility structure; and

(b) complies with the conditions

(3) The taking, use, damming, diversion, or discharge of water within, or within a 100 m setback from, a natural wetland is a permitted activity if it—

(a) is for the purpose of constructing a wetland utility structure; and

(b) complies with the conditions.

Conditions

(4) The conditions are that—

(a) the activity must comply with the general conditions on natural wetland activities in regulation 55; and

(b) if the activity is vegetation clearance, earthworks, or land disturbance, the activity must not occur over a single area within the natural wetland that is more than 15m².

43 Restricted discretionary activities

(1) Vegetation clearance within, or within a 10 m setback from, a natural wetland is a restricted discretionary-activity if it is for the purpose of constructing a wetland utility structure;

(2) Earthworks or land disturbance within, or within a 10 m setback from, a natural wetland is a restricted discretionary activity if it is for the purpose of constructing a wetland utility structure;

(3) The taking, use, damming, diversion, or discharge of water within, or within a 100 m setback from, a natural wetland is a restricted discretionary-activity if it—

(a) is for the purpose of constructing a wetland utility structure; and

(b) complies with the conditions.

Conditions

(4) The conditions are that—

(a) the activity must be undertaken only for as long as necessary to achieve its purpose; and

(b) before the activity starts, a record must be made (for example, by taking photographs) of the original condition of the natural wetland's bed profile and hydrological regime that is sufficiently detailed to enable compliance with paragraph

(c) to be verified; and

(c) the bed profile and hydrological regime of the natural wetland must be returned to their original condition no later than 30 days after the start of the activity.

(5) However, the condition in subclause (4)(c) does not apply to any part of the bed that is in direct contact with the wetland utility structure.

Matters to which discretion restricted

(6) The discretion of a consent authority is restricted to the matters set out in regulation 56.

Maintenance of wetland utility structures

44 ~~43~~ Permitted activities

(1) Vegetation clearance within, or within a 10 m setback from, a natural wetland is a permitted activity if it—

(a) is for the purpose of maintaining a wetland utility structure; and

(b) complies with the conditions.

(2) Earthworks or land disturbance within, or within a 10 m setback from, a natural wetland is a permitted activity if it—

(a) is for the purpose of maintaining a wetland utility structure; and

(b) complies with the conditions.

(3) The taking, use, damming, diversion, or discharge of water within, or within a 100 m setback from, a natural wetland is a permitted activity if it—

(a) is for the purpose of maintaining a wetland utility structure; and

(b) complies with the conditions.

Conditions

(4) The conditions are that—

(a) the activity must comply with the general conditions on natural wetland activities in regulation 55; and

(b) the activity must not be for the purpose of increasing the size of the wetland utility structure; and

(c) the activity must not result in the formation of new pathways, boardwalks, or other accessways; and

(d) if the activity is vegetation clearance, earthworks, or land disturbance, the activity must not—

(i) occur over more than 2 m² around the base of each pile or post of the wetland utility structure, or 10% of the area of the natural wetland, whichever is a smaller area in total; or

(ii) occur more than 1 m away from the structure, if the activity is vegetation clearance, or 5 m if the structure is a maimai.

Wetland restoration work

19. If the loss and degradation of wetlands is to be addressed, encouraging wetland maintenance and restoration is vital. Relying on the preservation of remnant wetlands alone, will be insufficient at preventing wetland degradation caused by anthropocentric alteration to natural ecosystem functioning. The NES-FW must find a balance that allows for interventions that aim to minimise impacts, and restore hydrological functionality where it has been compromised and create new wetlands.
20. Fish and Game has had, and continues to have, an important role in maintaining and restoring wetlands nationally. Fish and Game work with willing landowners by conducting earthworks to help restore hydrological functionality to wetlands. The activities can often best be described as ‘reverse drainage’ where the original hydrology is restored to sites through the infilling of drains or creating small bunds and earth dams to create a preferential hydrological regime to restore wetland ecosystems.
21. Under the NES-FW regulations wetland restoration work in a natural wetland is a permitted activity provided any vegetation clearance, earthworks, or the taking, use, damming, diversion, or discharge of water, complies with the general conditions on

natural wetland activities contained in Regulation 55.³ This includes the requirement that a plan be lodged with the relevant regional council at least 10 days before the activity begins – the plan must include the following:

- (a) a description of the activity
- (b) a description of, and map showing, where the activity will be undertaken
- (c) a statement of when the activity will start and when it is expected to end
- (d) a description of the extent of the activity
- (e) contact details.⁴

22. Vegetation clearance, earthworks, or land disturbance is limited to less than 500 m² or 10% of the area of the natural wetland, whichever is smaller⁵. If these conditions cannot be met then a resource consent is required from the relevant regional council accompanied by a detailed Restoration Plan⁶
23. Fish and Game strongly support providing for wetland restoration work in a natural wetland as a permitted activity, however some of the conditions that apply to these regulations are overly onerous and thereby inhibit important activities.

Relief sought:

Wetland area restriction and vegetation clearance conditions

24. Simple wetland restoration activities such as clearing pest species like willows, alligator weed, yellow iris, and pampas, are captured by the vegetation clearance conditions and require prior notification to the relevant regional council, and are further limited to 500m² or 10% of the natural wetland area, whichever is smaller, otherwise a resource consent is needed.
25. When considering creating, then maintaining and keeping clear a wetland because it has become overgrown with pest plants the area of 500m² is a very small area. A good wetland from a hunter's perspective is around 40 - 65 metres long and wide. This a reasonable area of water to attract waterfowl and still allow for an effective shooting range with a shotgun on waterfowl. The actual area size of a 45 x 65 metre pond is 2925 square metres. 500 square metres is only a 6th of that size.
26. In many cases vegetation needs to be physically and mechanically removed to maintain open water areas. Spraying vegetation does not result in open water as

³ Reg 38(4)(a)

⁴ Reg 55(2)

⁵ This condition does not apply if the earthworks or land disturbance is for planting – Reg 38(5)

⁶ Reg 39(5)

over time the rotting vegetation infills the ponds and they become a quagmire of decomposing vegetation, becoming peat.

27. For example, one of Fish and Game's wetland properties in Northland is approximately 50 hectares in total area and has 12 shooting ponds allocated to hunters. This wetland needs constant maintenance to maintain open water areas for waterfowl and fish life. Every year the Northland Fish and Game Council allocates time and some limited resourcing for maintenance in this wetland property. The maimai holders themselves also undertake their own weed clearing work, however for some the task is becoming too difficult and mechanical removal is required to dig out the pest species. If we used the 10% rule of 50 hectares that would be 5 hectares with which we could work and be efficient in time and resource dollars of hiring a digger etc., but if the lesser area of 500 squares metres applies then only a drain that is 100 metre long and 5 metre wide could be cleared without a resource consent. If we can only clean out part of a pond each year then by the time year 12 comes along the pond will be completely infilled and gone, with the habitat as well as any hunting opportunity being lost.
28. Clearing weeds over a larger area than 500m² or 10% requires a resource consent and detailed restoration plan. This becomes an impediment to the crucial ongoing restoration and maintenance work carried out to protect wetlands by Fish and Game and many other NGO's and regional councils. The extra cost of restoration plans and resource consents will mean that less weed clearance is carried out in the future than it has been in the past.
29. We therefore propose to amend condition 38(5) so that the size limit restriction under regulation 38(4)(b) does not apply the removal of non-indigenous vegetation.
30. We seek the following wording:
(5) However, the condition in subclause (4)(b) does not apply if the vegetation clearance, earthworks or land disturbance is for planting, or for the removal of non-indigenous vegetation.
31. We also propose a new condition be included under Regulation 55 (9) that excludes subclause (2) (the notification requirement) from applying to activities that involve the removal of non-indigenous vegetation. We consider this requirement overly onerous and unnecessary when weighed against the risks of environmental effects - by can adding extra cost for landowners and delay restoration works.
32. We seek the following wording:
55(9) The general conditions relating to vegetation and bird and fish habitats are as follows:

(f) the condition in subclause (2) does not apply if vegetation clearance is for removing non-indigenous vegetation.

33. As highlighted above we have concerns that the area restriction for vegetation clearance, earthworks, and land disturbance under 38 (4)(b) is too small and inhibits beneficial restoration activities in wetlands. We seek that the area be increased from 500m² to 1000m² before triggering the requirement for a resource consent. We also seek that the 10% threshold be removed as it inhibits restoration works in smaller wetlands, and when restoring multiple smaller wetlands condition (4)(b) will almost always be breached.
34. With the amendments we propose earthworks or land disturbance associated with restoration works will still be required to have prior notification to the relevant regional council and be required to comply with Regulation 55 conditions which consider effects.
35. We seek the following wording:

38(4)(b) "if the activity is vegetation clearance, earthworks or land disturbance the activity must no occur over more than ~~500m²~~ 1000m² or 10% of the area of the natural wetland, ~~whichever is smaller.~~"

Water quality and movement conditions

36. We are further concerned that Regulation 38 (3) *The taking, use, damming, diversion, or discharge of water within, or within a 100 m setback from, a natural wetland is a permitted activity for natural wetland restoration* – is contradicted by the Regulation 55 (3)(c) and (d) conditions relating to water quality and movement :
- (c) the activity must not alter the natural movement of water into, within, or from any natural wetland (but see subclause (5)); and*
- (d) the activity must not involve taking or discharging water to or from any natural wetland (but see subclause (5));*
37. The conditions are all encompassing and would apply to any natural wetland including ones that are being restored. It is often necessary to change water levels or divert water back into wetlands to restore the natural hydrological functioning of a wetland. Past drainage and diversion schemes have lowered water levels in wetlands, restoring that flow of water is necessary to restore the ecological values of a wetland. That work would be permanent so would not be covered by the exclusion for temporary diversion in 55(5). The conditions in 55(3)(c) and (d) mean

that any time someone is to install a small bund or dam, or filling in drains to restore hydrological functioning of a wetland the permitted conditions could not be complied with and a resource consent would be required for the restoration work. Water levels and flow paths can be altered through damming and diversion for wetland restoration without any adverse environmental effects. We therefore seek that an exception be made for these conditions when the activity is for restoring the hydrology of natural wetlands.

38. Fish and Game seek the following amendments to Regulation 38 conditions:

(4) The conditions are that—

(a) the activity must comply with the general conditions on natural wetland activities in regulation 55 (but regulation 55 (3)(c) and (3)(d) do not apply if the activity is for the purpose of restoring the hydrology of natural wetlands); and

(b) if the activity is vegetation clearance, earthworks, or land disturbance, the activity must not occur over more than 1000 m² ~~500 m² or 10% of the area of the natural wetland, whichever is smaller.~~

(5) However, the condition in subclause (4)(b) does not apply if the vegetation clearance, earthworks or land disturbance is for planting, or for the removal of non-indigenous vegetation.

13.2 Otago to NZC
Nil

13.3 General Correspondence In
13.3.1 Alexandra District Club - Thanks

ALEXANDRA DISTRICT CLUB,
FISHING SECTION
35 Centennial Ave.
Alexandra

16-02-2021

Fish & Game

Hi, Paul On behalf of the Fishing Section of the District Club they would like to convey their thanks for the support you gave us at our recent Take a Kid Fishing held on 14th February 2021 at Dunstan Hills Orchards Pond It was a great success.

The fish were good to catch this year, they were just a good size and gave the kids plenty of fun.

About 97 kids fishing from all over Central Otago. (68 fish caught) not as many as last year, and 38 families.

Without support from people and companies like you we would not be able to run these types of events, which involve families, kids, etc to have a great day out, with a BBQ at the end of the day.

Thanks for stocking the pond and delivering the fish.

It was unfortunate that Fish & Game were unable to attend the event, but it is a busy time of year.

Thankyou once again for your support.

Regards

Bob Mason

Secretary

13.4 General Correspondence Out
Nil

14.0 Items to be Received or Noted

14.1 Aerial Trend Counts February 2021

Abstract

Waterfowl counts are conducted on a selection of molting sites every January. These counts do not provide a census. They are aimed to reflect population trends over time. Total Paradise duck numbers have been moderately high (when compared to historic data) over the last three seasons and a repeat of the of the March junior hunter paradise duck season is proposed. Black swan and Canada goose numbers were like last summer’s counts.

Methods

Approximately 90 waterfowl molting sites were investigated on 30 January 2020. Flights were made in a fixed-wing light aircraft. Molting sites were circled at low level and the numbers of each species (paradise shelduck, black swan and Canada geese) estimated. Photographs are also taken, and these are counted to validate counts and increase accuracy. Some sites are counted from the ground where practical.

Results

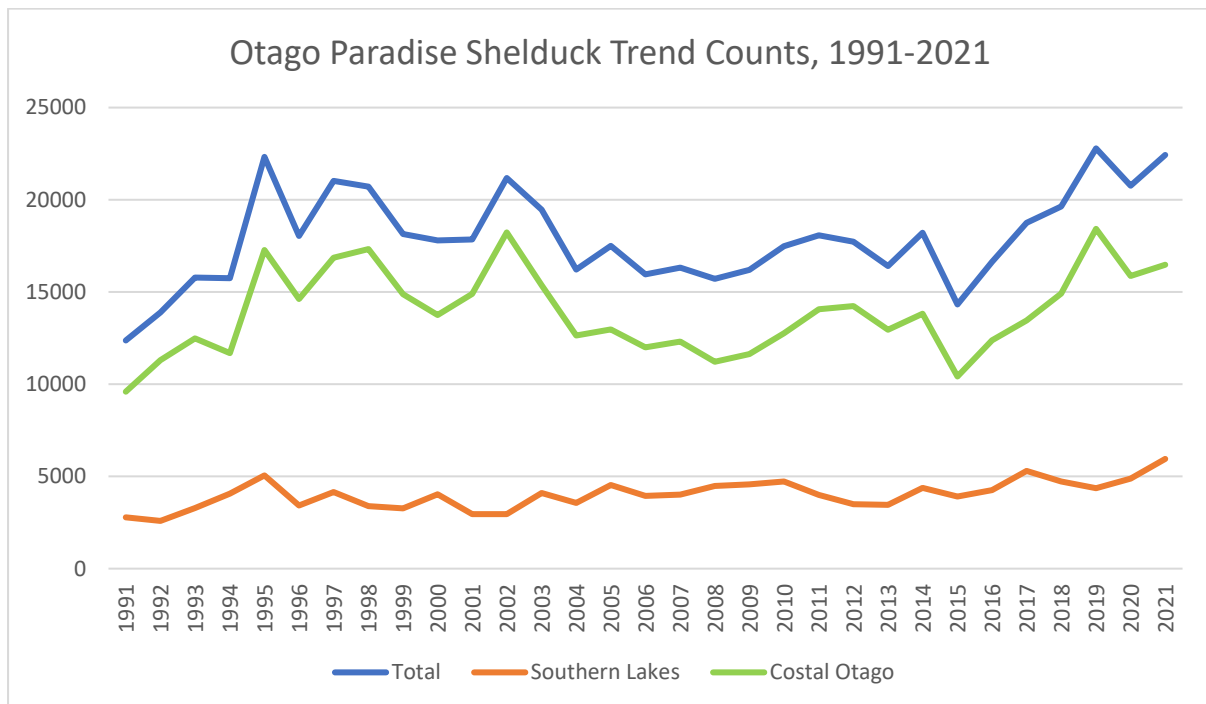


Figure 1: January aerial trend counts of paradise shelduck in the Otago Region, 1991 - 2021

The total number of paradise ducks counted in 2021 (22,425) was similar to 2019 (22,786) and slightly higher than 2020 (20,757). The highest counts were on Styx Basin in the Maniototo (2,010) and McBreens/Patersons in the Ida valley (2,238) and Lake Tuakitoto (1,845).

Table 1: Otago region paradise duck summer trend counts: raw data 2018 - 2020 (nc = not counted).

PARADISE DUCK MOULT SITE TREND COUNTS				
	Area	2021	2020	2019
Kaikorai Estuary	E C	120	195	185
Tomahawk Lagoon	E C	230	300	240
Hoopers Inlet	EC	nc	18	nc
Papanui Inlet	EC	nc	0	nc
Waikouaiti Estuary	E C	0	0	20
Waikouaiti Sewage	E C	1042	920	1265
Hawksbury Lagoon	E C	20	nc	6
Macraes Flat Ponds	ST	290	425	468
Two Johns Dam	ST	0	675	655
Peat Bog	ST	0	0	0
Billy's Flat	ST	0	28	211
Stewarts Dam	ST	0	0	12
Shinglea Road Dams	ST	0	50	620
Hunterleigh East Dams	ST	0	13	nc
Sutton Pond	ST	0	nc	31
Middlemarch Sewage	ST	nc	nc	nc
Kidds Rd (Bruhnes)	ST	1115	nc	1580
Salt Lake	ST	nc	0	nc
Andersons Pond (Deep Stream Sth)	ST	nc	nc	nc
Springfield Dams	ST	906	nc	nc
Rocklands Road Ponds	ST	0	687	880
Dunstan Rd Rocklands	ST	589	45	550
Loaganburn Dam	M	0	104	82
Styx Basin	M	2010	2169	1300
Linburn Dissipation	M	0	0	0
Linnburn Dam	M	70	0	65
Falconers Dam	M	0	12	549
Totara Creek Confluence	M	0	0	65
Maniototo Taieri River (nearby irrigation pond)	M	1346	535	0
Duffys Lane	M	0	0	0
Pateoroa/Creamery Rd Pond	M	250	255	nc
Mathias Dam	M	0	15	0
Taieri Lake	M	0	545	320
Rutherfords Dam	M	832	145	0

Ring Fence Rd pond (near rutherfords)				
Ranfurly Sewage	M	nc	nc	0
Blakleys Dam	M	0	0	0
Smiths Dam Wedderburn	M	20	17	330
White Sow Rd Ponds	M	0	110	30
Gillespies Ida Ponds	I	629	230	190
McSkimmings Dam	I	0	11	0
Falls Dam	MK	25	66	400
Pennyweight Ponds	MK	15	124	160
Poplar Pump Ponds	MK	nc	292	200
Satinburn	MK		725	700
Merton Hill	MK	279	245	30
McBreens, Patersons	I	2238	1910	2500
Speargrass Dam	I	12	135	294
Upper Manorburn Dam	I	549	290	195
Poolburn Dam	I	30	76	40
Lake Onslow	MK	0	0	2
Raes Pond Teviot	MK	12	4	155
Chitocks Moa Flat	WO	395	380	470
Toropuke Kelso	WO	25	55	44
Upper Waiwera Pond	SO	90	281	98
Mathersons Dam Waipahi	SO	1084	465	325
Dunvagan Dam Waipahi	SO	543	470	570
Upper Owaka	SO	0	0	0
Catlins Lake	SO	0	250	600
Puerua Estuary	SO	100	54	82
Old River Channel	SO	45	75	30
Lake Tuakitoto	SO	1845	1730	800
Lake Waihola	E C	80	240	750
Sinclair Wetland	E C	0	195	145
Lake Waipori	E C	60	307	180
McLarens-Waipori	E C	0	0	0
Ram Island-Waipori	EC	0	0	0
Mt Nicholas Lagoon	Q	400	305	290
Von Lake	Q	nc	nc	nc
Pondburn	Q	nc	nc	nc
Lower Dart	Q	8	6	4
Routeburn Station	Q	0	nc	nc
Lake Sylvan	Q	45	15	85
Upper Dart	Q	0	10	8
Diamond Lake	Q	380	375	506
Reids Lake	Q	205	25	14
Lower Rees	Q	0	18	0
Glenorchy Lagoons	Q	12	32	32
Lake Luna	Q	nc	nc	nc
Moke Lake	Q	238	19	199
Lake Dispute	Q	nc	nc	nc

Lake Johnson	Q	1	0	7
Hunter Road Pond	Q	48	8	0
Mooneys Pond	Q	123	165	55
QT Sewage	Q	734	567	648
Ham Hons Pond	Q	6	0	25
Dingle Lagoon	UC	76	17	152
Hunter Valley	UC	0	8	12
Hunter Mouth	UC	110	135	145
Makaroroa Mouth	UC	560	545	360
Wilken Ponds	UC	16	nc	nc
Minaret Station	UC	nc	95	182
Matukituki Valley	UC	810	183	388
Luggate Airport (was STP)	UC		465	0
Big Boggy Lagoon	UC	260	310	445
Carbridge Downs	UC	815	1050	nc
Lake Dunstan area	UC	682	531	805
Total Region		22425	20757	22786
Total East Coast		1552	2175	2791
Total Strath Taieri		2900	1923	5007
Total Ida & Manuherikia		3777	4108	4866
Total West Otago		420	435	514
Total South Otago		3707	3325	2505
Total Queenstown		2200	1545	1873
Total Upper Clutha		3329	3339	2489
Total Maniototo		4528	3907	2741

Black Swan

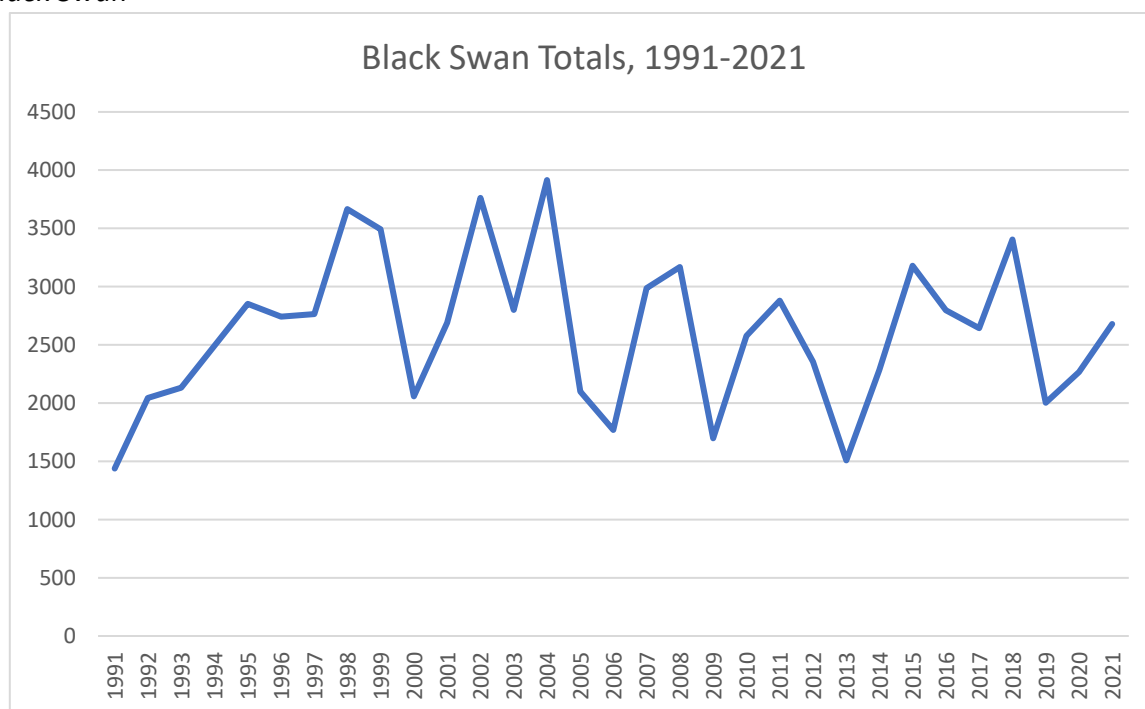


Figure 2: January aerial trend counts of black swans in the Otago region, 1991-2021
The total number of black swans counted in 2021 was 2678, 2020 was 2266.

Table 2: Otago region black swan summer trend counts: raw data 2019-2021

Site	Area	2021	2020	2019
Kaikorai Estuary	E C	30	26	6
Tomahawk	EC	190	9	122
Waikouaiti	EC	15	6	11
Hawkesbury Lagoon	E C	110	nc	12
Loganburn Dam	M	nc	7	8
Styx Basin	M	50	240	60
Linnburn Dam	M	Nc	0	0
Falconers	M	Nc	0	0
Maniototo	M	Nc	12	30
Kidds Rd	M	Nc	0	2
Mathias Dam	M	Nc	0	0
Taieri Lake	M	Nc	6	27
Rutherfords Dam	M	Nc	0	0
Falconers Dam	M	Nc	0	0
Blakleys Dam	M	Nc	0	0
Lake Onslow	M	Nc	24	0
Falls Dam	I	Nc	0	0
Gillespes Ida	I	Nc	0	31
McBreens Pond	I	Nc	31	0
Upper Manorburn	I	Nc	0	0
Poolburn Dam	I	Nc	7	0
Mathersons Dam (Waipahi)	SO	Nc	0	0
Catlins Estuary	SO	6	52	0
Puerua Estuary	SO	0	30	20
Lower Clutha Mouth	SO	Nc	38	0
Clutha Ponding	SO	Nc	nc	nc
Lake Tuakitoto	SO	250	350	15
Old River Channel	SO	35	45	255
Tokomairoro Estuary	SO	Nc	nc	nc
Lake Waihola	EC	1300	900	760
Lake Waipori	EC	370	250	250
Sinclair Wetland	EC	-	25	6
Ram's Island Waipori	EC	Nc	0	0
Makarora Mouth	UC	0	8	14
Big Boggy	UC	4	8	12
Paddock Bay	UC	0	6	14
West Wanaka Lagoons	UC	2	12	16
Dingle Lagoon	UC	5	5	8
Hunter Mouth	UC	6	6	101
Lake Dunstan	UC	188	105	142
Mt Nicholas	Q	4	0	17
Diamond Lake	Q	25	0	nc
Reid Lake	Q	25	0	36
Glenorchy Lagoon	Q	52	57	24
Lake Johnson	Q	11	1	3

Totals Otago		2678	2266	2002
East coast		2015	1216	1167
Maniototo		50	265	127
Ida Valley & Manuherikia		0	62	31
South Otago		291	515	290
Upper Clutha		205	150	307
Queenstown/ Glenorchy		117	58	80

Canada Geese

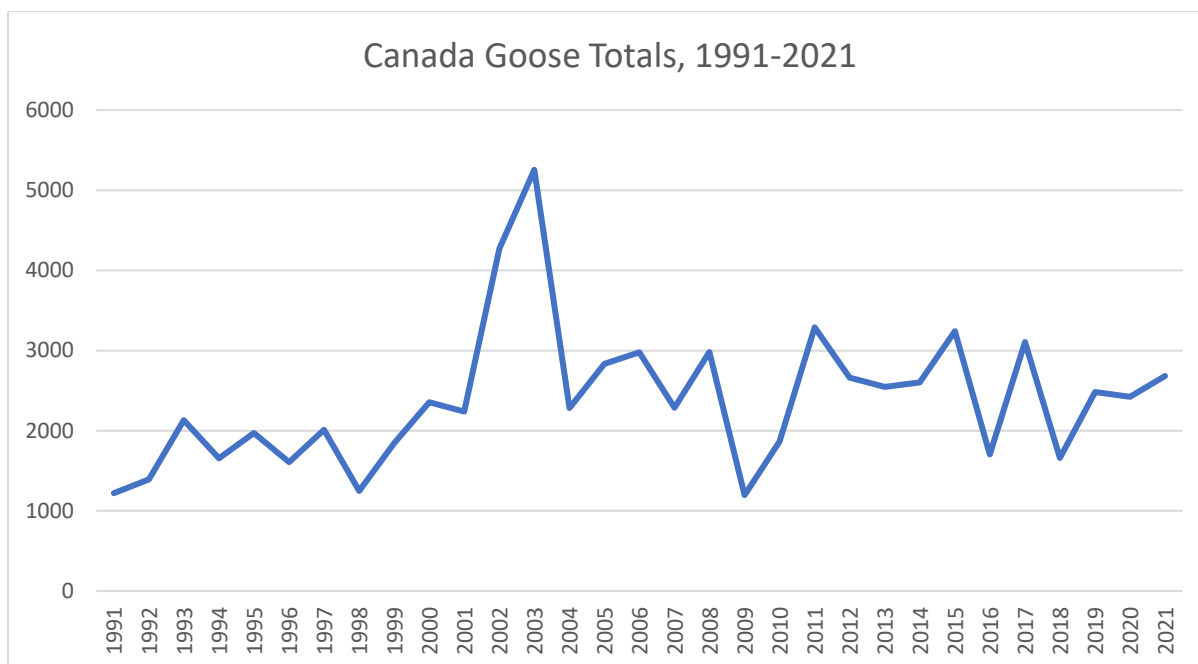


Figure 3: January aerial trend counts of Canada geese in the Otago Region, 1991-2021

This summer's Canada goose count of 2684 birds was slightly up on last year's count of 2423 birds.

Table 3: Otago region Canada goose summer trend counts: raw data 2019-2021

	Area	2021	2020	2019
Shag Estuary	EC	Nc	nc	nc
Two Johns Dam	M	Nc	0	0
Loganburn Dam	M	370	285	450
Styx Basin	M	400	300	30
Linnburn Dam	M	20	0	50
Maniototo Basin/Taieri Lake	M	nc	55	15
Rutherfords Dam	M	120	0	0
Blaiklies Dam	M	nc	0	0
Lake Onslow	I	900	1050	750

Gillespies Ponds/Patersons	Ida	I	nc	0	21
McSkimmings Dam		I	20	0	0
Falls Dam		I	280	45	60
Speargrass Dam		I	20	24	25
Upper Manorburn Dam		I	nc	160	57
Poolburn Dam		I	35	80	120
Lake Waihola		EC	Nc	150	0
Hawkesbury Lagoon		EC	nc	nc	0
Dunvagan Dam		SO	40	4	0
Lower Clutha		SO	Nc	48	0
Lake Tuakitoto		SO	Nc	0	210
Dingle Lagoon		UC	nc	0	52
Dingle Mouth		UC	0	0	0
Hunter Mouth		UC	45	55	60
Hunter Valley		UC	0	12	52
Hawea Neck		UC	0	nc	nc
Makarora Mouth Area		UC	90	0	28
Wilken		UC	0	nc	nc
Paddock Bay Wanaka		UC	30	14	0
Matukituki Valley		UC	20	0	310
Big Boogey		UC	15	25	48
Mt Nicholas Lagoon		Q	0	0	8
Von Lake		Q	nc	nc	nc
Pondburn		Q	nc	nc	nc
Lower Dart		Q	0	0	0
Route Burn Station		Q	0	0	0
Lake Sylvan		Q	0	0	0
Rockburn		Q	0	0	0
Upper Dart		Q	0	0	nc
Diamond Lake		Q	150	0	85
Reid Lake		Q	20	0	0
Lower Rees		Q	0	0	0
Glenorchy Swamp		Q	20	18	0
Lake Wakatipu (general)		Q	0	0	0
Wyuna Pond		Q	nc	nc	nc
Lakes Hayes area ponds		Q	89	98	53
Caples		Q	nc	nc	nc
Total Region			2684	2423	2484
Total Queenstown Area		Q	279	116	146
Total Upper Clutha		UC	200	106	550
Total Maniototo		M	910	640	545
Total Ida & Manuherikia		I	1255	1359	1033
Total South & East Coast		SO EC	40	202	210

Discussion & Conclusions

Paradise duck

This summer has been particularly wet, with high rainfall, especially in the central Otago area. This will increase the grass growth, and subsequent food sources, for grazing waterfowl species, such as paradise shelduck and Canada goose.

Population of paradise shelduck has remained fairly stable based on this season's counts. Some variability in the counting should be expected, as this year Fish and Game Otago used some different staff members to conduct the trend counts than previous seasons.

Special March Paradise Duck Season

In November 2019 Council agreed to extending the junior paradise duck season from a single day in March to two consecutive weekends starting on the first Saturday in March and ending on the second Sunday, (inclusive of the weekdays between). As the counts are similar over the previous years the special season was to be repeated for March 2021. It is hoped this extension will encourage more junior hunting and alleviate farmer crop depredation issues where they occur. The population of paradise shelduck appears to remain stable across the region for this 2021 trend count so this is recommended for the 2022 season.

During the march paradise duck season adult hunters must be accompanied by a junior hunter (to encourage adults to get young hunters out). And hunting is restricted to 200m or more from water. The daily bag limit is 5 paradise ducks a day. Perhaps more clarification is needed in the regulations, stating that only one adult hunter per junior hunter, is necessary.

Canada Geese

Geese are recorded when seen in order to maintain the database. There is no alteration of flight plans to increase coverage of molting geese. The number observed was only slightly higher last year's count.

Black swan

Black swan numbers are stable throughout the region, and overall reflecting the population trends from the previous twenty years of monitoring.

Count Methodology

The Coastal and Manuherikia catchment areas were covered in a morning using a light fixed wing aircraft. Southern Lakes area was simultaneously monitored on the same day, using the same methodology. Some sites were counted from the ground, due to accessibility.

Recommendations

1. Note that the Regulations for the 2022 Gamebird season we approved at the February meeting (based on indicative trend count data from the flights)
2. That this report be received

Ben Sowry
Fish and Game Officer
March 2021

15.0 General Business