

Agenda For The Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council
On 21st July 2022
120 Scotland Street, Roxburgh-I-Site
Starting 12:30pm
(light lunch provided to Councillors from 12pm)

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1.0 Present and Apologies

2.0 Matters to be raised not on the agenda

3.0 Declarations of Interest

4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Minutes of The Meeting of Otago Fish & Game Council On Thursday 26th May 2022 At Hokonui Runanga, 140 Charlton Road Gore

The meeting opened at 1pm, following a warm welcome from Hokonui Runanga members and a shared kai.

1.0 Present and Apologies

Present: Colin Weatherall (chair), Mike Barker, Rick Boyd, John Highton, Adrian McIntyre, Blair Trevathan, Richard Twining (Ngai Tahu).

Present via Zoom: Ray Grubb

In attendance: Ian Hadland (CE), Bruce Quirey (OF&GC communications officer/minutes secretary).

Apologies: Ian Cole, Vicky May (nee Whyte).

Southland Fish & Game Council councillors Dave Harris and David Linklater attended as non-voting observers.

Moved (McIntyre/Barker)

Apologies received

Carried unanimously

The Chair acknowledged Ngai Tahu representative Richard Twining and extended the Council's gratitude to the Hokonui Runanga for their hospitality in hosting the meeting and strengthening relationships between the organisations.

Cr Boyd proposed that in recognition of the knowledge and opportunity shared by Hokonui Runanga, the OF&GC makes a koha to support the runanga's activities in the longer term. The Chair and the chief executive would determine an appropriate amount.

The Chair moved that the resolution by Cr Boyd be put to Council.

Carried unanimously

The Chair declared he had been co-opted to chair the Central South Island Fish and Game Council. He expressed full confidence in OF&GC executive members to assist if he became occupied with CSI responsibilities.

2.0 Matters to be raised not on the agenda

None

3.0 Declarations of Interest

The OF&GC Chair formally declared an interest as interim chair of CSIF&GC.

The Chair also declared an interest in assisting Otago Regional Council with assessments and mediation for cost recovery of RMA processes for water consents.

4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Moved (Cr Boyd/Cr Highton)

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24th March 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried unanimously

The Chair welcomed Southland Fish & Game councillors David Linklater and Dave Harris, who attended the meeting as observers.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Cr Highton sought an update on the Future of Fish mentioned in the CE's report.

Cr Highton queried the RMA report about the outcome of the Plan Change 8 hearing concerning whether provisions governing sediment discharges from residential subdivision development should exclude activities in the Queenstown Lakes district. The CE undertook that the Environmental Officer would provide an update to councillors via email.

6.0 Health and Safety Report

The CE noted that Covid restrictions were still in place at Orange level. Staffing had been more affected by a flu-like bug than Covid.

Moved (Cr McIntyre/Cr Barker)

That the Health and Safety Report be received.

Carried unanimously

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 NZ Fish and Game Licence Fee Recommendation Consultation

The CE opened discussion on licence fee recommendations. He said there was a policy gap concerning the reserves. OF&GC would need to draw on reserves if forecast licence sales were not achieved. The forecasting model for licence sales might need to be revisited. He also expressed concern about how the proposed non-resident fee was determined.

The Chair invited general comment from councillors, prompting a broad exchange of ideas. Councillors debated whether licence fee increases were justified at a time when cost of living increases had increased substantially. As a counterpoint, it was discussed

that the proposed fee increases were in line with the CPI. Fish & Game was entirely reliant on licence fees for funding and councillors needed to have regard to maintaining the work programme and staff remuneration levels. Some councillors said fee increases were justified but queried the amount in certain licence categories. A wider suite of licence options was discussed, such as senior licences, multi-year, joint fish-game, and autorenewal. The CE advised that no movement in licence fees would force the organisation heavily back onto reserves and would cut projects that had been agreed to be funded. He suggested NZC advance the review of licence fee ratio to see if they were still fit for purpose.

Moved (Cr Highton)

Licence Fee Recommendation 1a: That the 2022/23 adult whole season sports fish licence fee is set at \$145 and that the adult whole season game licence is set at \$107 (inclusive of a \$5 fee or the Game Bird Habitat Stamp), with all proportional changes to remaining licence fees and categories including a \$5 fee being added to the sea run salmon licence endorsement (as a cost-recovery mechanism).

That Recommendation 1a be adopted under the proviso there is discussion of additional licence categories.

The recommendation failed due to no seconder.

The Chair invited the councillors to move regarding recommendation 1a or put an amendment.

Moved (Cr Highton/Cr Boyd)

That Recommendation 1a be divided into two parts. The first part is thus:

Recommendation 1a.1 That the 2022/23 adult whole season sports fish licence fee is set at \$145 and that the adult whole season game licence is set at \$107 (inclusive of a \$5 fee or the Game Bird Habitat Stamp).

Not carried (2/3). The Chair and Cr Grubb abstained.

The Chair again asked the Council for clarity on its position.

An amendment to Recommendation 1a.1 was moved (Chair/Cr Highton) thus:

That the 2022/23 adult whole season sports fish licence fee is set at \$143 and that the adult whole season game licence is set at \$105 (inclusive of a \$5 fee or the Game Bird Habitat Stamp).

Carried 4/3 by the Chair's casting vote.

The Chair invited further discussion about the fish licence categories.

Moved (Cr Highton, Cr Boyd)

Recommendation 1a.2

That there be proportional changes to remaining licence fees and categories, except for loyal senior, local area and family licences (for which there would be no increase).

Carried 5/1. Cr Trevathan asked for his vote against to be noted. Cr Grubb abstained.

Cr Grubb asked the Council to consider the issue of adding a \$5 fee to the sea run salmon licence endorsement (as a cost-recovery mechanism).

Moved (Cr Barker/Cr Boyd)

Recommendation 1a.3

That the \$5 fee being added to the sea run salmon licence endorsement (as a cost-recovery mechanism) be approved.

Carried 4/2.

The chair invited open discussion on the Non Resident licence fee recommendation
1b:

That, additional to the above licence fee increase, the adult whole season non-resident licence fee is increased to \$250 and that the fee for the remaining non-resident licence categories are increased on the same ratio.

The CE cautioned the Council against proportionally increasing the fee for the remaining non-resident licence categories as they were very price sensitive.

It was moved (Cr McIntyre/Cr Trevathan) that **Resolution 1b be split into two resolutions, thus:**

That, (1b.1) additional to the above licence fee increase, the adult whole season non-resident licence fee is increased to \$250.

Not carried.

Councillors had further discussion about non-resident licence fees.

Cr Highton moved an amendment

(1b.1) That the whole-season non-resident licence fees be twice the amount of a resident adult whole season licence.

The amendment failed with no seconder.

Moved (Cr Barker/Cr Trevathan)

(1b.1) That the adult whole season non-resident licence fee is increased to \$400.

Not carried 3/4.

Moved (Cr Highton)

(1b.1) That the adult whole season non-resident licence fee is increased to \$300.

The amendment failed with no seconder.

Moved (Cr Barker/Cr Trevathan)

(1b.1) That the adult whole season non-resident licence fee is increased to \$350.

Carried 3/2.

The Chair and Cr Grubb abstained.

Councillors then voted on second part of Recommendation 1b, namely
Recommendation 1b.2.

Moved (Cr Boyd, Cr Highton)

(1b.2) That non-resident day licence categories remain at the same ratio applied in the 2021/2022 season. (1.3 times the resident day licence fee.)

Carried 4/1.

The Council then discussed Recommendation 1c regarding a proposed new licence category called a Designated Waters Licence. The CE advised the Council to reject the new licence category, saying it needed to be part of a wider framework and required more consideration, and more time to implement if approved.

Moved (Cr Highton, Cr Barker) **Recommendation 1c**

That a new licence category is established called a Designated Waters Licence, available as a free season endorsement to resident anglers and as a day licence to non-resident anglers at a fee of \$50.

The Chair sought an amendment to Resolution 1c

That a new licence category is established in the 2023/2024 season called a Designated Waters Licence, available as a free season endorsement to resident anglers and as a day licence to non-resident anglers at a fee of \$50, within a wider pressure sensitive fisheries proposal.

Carried. Cr Grubb abstained.

In view of the amended Resolution 1c, OF&GC does not propose to recommend any waterways as a Designated Water for the 2022/2023 season.

The Meeting adjourned at 2.50pm

The meeting resumed at 3.05pm

Southland Fish & Game Council chief executive Zane Moss delivered a video presentation and talk about mahinga kai opportunities created by enhancing lagoons and wetlands on Ngai Tahu land. The Chair thanked Mr Moss, his team and SF&GC for their co-operation and support. Mr Moss's presentation ended at 3.35pm.

Cr Trevathan asked the Chair for a discussion about the creation of a non-resident whole-season game bird licence. The CE undertook to add that to the feedback provided to NZF&GC on the licence fee.

7.2 2022/2023 Final Anglers Notice Review and Draft Anglers Notice.

The CE outlined to Council the report on the Anglers Notice Review.

The Chair invited councillors to provide direction on the Anglers Notice. There was a question about bag limits on the upper Taieri River. The CE urged councillors not to enter fresh proposals on bag limits at this late stage of the process and that the point could instead be noted. There was also discussion about the final wording on regulations about fishing from non-powered boats in tidal waters. The CE noted the report author was aware that numbering in the Anglers Notice needed to be amended.

Some councillors expressed reservations about Recommendation 2 of the report, which proposed that staff prepare a report on the history and status of the Dean's Bank section of the Clutha for the next Triennial review of the Anglers Notice.

Moved (Cr McIntyre/Cr Boyd)

Recommendation 1 that Akatore Estuary, Catlins Estuary, Kaikorai Estuary – downstream of Abbots Creek confluence and Puerua Estuary are changed from Note 4 to Note 2.

Carried.

Moved (Cr Boyd/Cr Trevathan)

That Recommendation 2 be removed.

Carried.

Moved (Cr McIntyre/Cr Barker)

Recommendation 3 that Council accept and endorse the Draft Anglers Notice contained in Error! Reference source not found. and Error! Reference source not found., subject to the above recommendations.

Carried.

Moved (Chair/Cr Trevathan)

Recommendation 4 that staff prepare a letter on Council's behalf informing submitters and angling clubs of the outcome of the review and thanking them for their contribution.

Carried.

Moved (Cr Boyd/Cr Barker)

That staff prepare a report on drift boating in Otago.

Carried.

The CE noted that the matter of drift boating and the need for research had been discussed at the February meeting.

7.3 Policy on Theft & Fraud

The CE explained to Council the background for the proposed Policy on Theft & Fraud, to protect the physical and financial resources of Otago Fish & Game Council.

Moved (Cr McIntyre/Cr Highton)

That the updated policy on theft and fraud be adopted and co-signed by the OF&GC Chair and the CE, subject to final checking by NZF&GC legal support staff.

Carried unanimously.

8.0 Public Excluded Items

8.1 Public Excluded Minutes of the OF&GC Meeting 24th March 2022

No public excluded this meeting.

The public excluded minutes of the March 2022 meeting will be confirmed at the July 2022 meeting.

9.0 Financial Report

The CE was questioned about an outstanding debtor and explained the debt would be paid before the end of the financial year. OF&GC general reserves were holding up well, he said.

Councillors highlighted a wrong date reference to the year 2019 and the CE made a note to amend it again.

The Chair requested that the CE provide an email update to councillors on the game bird licence sales season on season.

Councillors asked how the University of Otago proposed its spending on Donald Scott Memorial Trust Fund. The Communications Officer undertook to seek an update from the university.

Moved (Cr Boyd/Cr Barker)

That the financial report be received

Carried unanimously

10.0 Chief Executive's Report May 2022

With regards to species management at Lake Wanaka, the CE was asked whether there was potential for a Lidar survey. It was suggested a lake fisheries management workshop scheduled for winter 2022 be delayed until after an acoustic survey. The CE undertook to check with staff about the Wanaka Lidar survey and a refreshed workshop proposal.

The CE was asked about collaboration on wetland programmes with other groups. He said the Council had agreed to move away from direct involvement in projects that required resource consenting and to focus on work with catchment groups. It was suggested that OF&GC provide advice to the Pomahaka Catchment Group about sediment traps.

The CE advised that legal counsel for F&G had made edits to the proposed Contact Energy/Otago Fish & Game Trust documents and these were now being reviewed by lawyers for Contact Energy. The Chair had written to Contact Energy to keep momentum going for the proposal. The Chair sought feedback around the table about the composition of trustees. Councillors agreed a representative from Ngai Tahu should be invited onto the trust. The Chair suggested the trust be comprised of seven members.

Moved (Cr Trevathan/Chair)

That the CE's report be received.

Carried unanimously.

11.0 RMA Planning and Consents Report

The CE advised that the ORC would shortly provide a staff report about the Pioneer Energy proposal to increase the draw-down rate at Lake Onslow.

Cr Highton discussed policy on grazing wetlands and said the main issue was riparian access. He indicated he would be writing three proposals to Council for discussion, to monitor riparian access; appropriate management of access; and F&G input into planting.

Moved (Chair/Cr Boyd)

That the RMA Planning and Consents Report be received.

Carried unanimously.

The chair thanked the Environmental Officer for his report and congratulated him on the work.

12.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

12.1 CFT

Clutha Fisheries Trust member and OF&GC councillor Cr Boyd that the CFT had recently met principally on administrative issues. No key decisions had been made.

Repairs had been made to the trust building in Cromwell.

F&G had now subleased part of the property which was unused yard area.

Moved (Cr Trevathan/Cr Highton)

That the CFT report be received.

Carried unanimously.

12.2 NZC

NZF&GC chair and OF&GC councillor Grubb thanked Cr Weatherall for his assistance at CSIF&GC.

He advised the new NZC CE would take up the position in early August.

The guides licence would not now be available for the 2022/2023 season, and DOC's policy group had not made available the resources needed to put this in place.

The chair had met Ministers to put recommendations in place from the Ministerial Review.

NZF&GC had completed a review of staff conditions for the remuneration review, to provide consistent remuneration levels around the country and offer career paths and certainty of employment for all staff.

The F&G regions were being considered to amalgamate to seven regions.

Other matters included governance training, new planning systems, centralised budgeting systems, and a communications strategy.
Cr Grubb was questioned on the process of costings to implement the review.

Moved (Chair/Cr Trevathan)

That the NZC chair report be noted.

Carried.

12.3 Ngai Tahu

Ngai Tahu representative Mr Twining advised that South Island F&G staff meet with Ngai Tahu in Christchurch on Monday, June 30. Mr Twining requested that the OF&GC agenda be sent to Ngai Tahu administrative headquarters to assist with cooperation. The meetings of Ngai Tahu and F&G representatives were a step in the right direction, he said.

The Chair thanked Mr Twining for his report and for the invitation for OF&GC to gather at the Hokonui Runanga.

Moved Chair/Trevathan

That the Ngai Tahu representative's report be received.

Carried unanimously.

12.4 Conservation Board

The Chair noted there had been no report from the Conservation Board for several months. The CE undertook to contact the board for an update on its representation.

13.0 Correspondence

13.1 NZC to Otago

13.1.1 Fish & Game Proposal for Pressure Sensitive Fisheries Management Regime

The CE discussed the letter from New Zealand F&G Council seeking feedback on the Pressure Sensitive Fisheries Options Paper. The proposal was deserving of support, he said. Councillors acknowledged the high quality of the report. In feedback from around the table, regions managers were encouraged to hire people to survey non-resident anglers at huts about motivation, time frames, etc. The CE advised the aim was to have the pressure sensitive fisheries framework in place for 2023-2024. Councillors suggested the paper needed an executive summary.

Moved (Cr McIntyre/Cr Trevathan)

That the draft Pressure Sensitive Fisheries Options Paper be generally supported.

Carried unanimously.

5.12pm Cr Grubb departed the meeting

13.2 Otago to NZC

13.2.1 Election Report from Elections NZ

The CE discussed general correspondence.
(Trevathan exited the meeting temporarily.)

13.3 General Correspondence In

Nil

13.4 General Correspondence Out

13.4.1 Aukaha - Memorandum on the Lindis High Court Decision

13.4.2 ORC - Memorandum on the Lindis High Court Decision

13.4.3 Te Ao Marama - Memorandum on the Lindis High Court Decision

Moved (Chair/Cr Highton)

That general correspondence be noted and received.

Carried unanimously.

14.0 Items to be Received or Noted

14.1 Summary of Fishing Competitions for the 2021/22 Season

The CE was asked about the administration fees and levies charged to larger commercial-type competitions.

(Cr Trevathan returned to the meeting.)

14.2 Otago Region Mallard Monitoring Study, April 2022

The CE was questioned on the mallard trend counts and reiterated it was important to continue them to establish long-term patterns. Councillors asked about correlating the trend counts with other data, such as weather, and about the possibility of flying other overland transects.

Moved (Cr Highton/Cr McIntyre)

That the Summary of Fishing Competitions and the Otago Region Mallard Monitoring Study be received.

Carried unanimously

15.0 General Business

The Council queried the QLDC agreement about the storm water control at Bullock Creek. The CE advised that attenuation work higher up in the catchment seemed to have improved impacts. Councillors said clear conditions needed to be set to avoid further degradation of the creek.

Councillors queried the CE about a fish kill in Horn Creek, Queenstown. The CE explained the ORC had not conducted an autopsy because water testing had provided no traces of contaminants.

Ngai Tahu representative Mr Twining delivered a Karakia to conclude the meeting.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 5.30pm.

5.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Maintenance of access along fenced and planted riparian areas – Cr Highton

At the March meeting I presented a document drawing attention to the effects of increased fencing and planting of wetlands and riparian margins. This has been accelerated by the work of Catchment Groups and other environmental organisations. These initiatives are potentially of great value but can affect access for fishing and game bird hunting.

Where areas are fenced rampant growth of introduced grasses, gorse, broom and willows can make access difficult or impossible. It can also threaten biodiversity through suppression of growth of native species.

Where areas are planted with native species access can be prevented when large plants such as flax and trees are planted near to water margins.

At the May meeting Nigel Paragreen tabled a paper on the complex regulations concerning wetlands. In summary weed control is still possible through mechanical means, spraying and grazing with light animals such as sheep.

Because of these developments, I propose the following:

- 1. That Fish and Game Councils monitor riparian access in view of increasing fencing and planting activity on river margins and wetlands*
- 2. That consideration is given to appropriate management of riparian access when this is required*
- 3. That Fish and Game Councils seek input when fencing and planting is planned by Catchment Groups and other bodies, to ensure that planting is done in such a way as to maintain access along riparian margins where this is relevant to fishing and game bird hunting activities.*

Cr John Highton

Staff response

Cr Highton should be commended for his consideration of the topic. It is an important one.

Wetlands

Staff believe it is best to put the issue with wetland planting and access to one side at present because the NPS-FM for wetlands is still to be finalized. NZC has just finished a submission on the regulations and it's important not to unsettle that.

Waterway access and weed growth

The topic can be further narrowed to only waters where fishing takes place. I.e, planting in the tributaries or of critical source areas is of little issue to F&G or its members and is generally seen as positive overall. That leaves riparian projects on larger waters as the priority for active management when it comes to access. Much of the present work by catchment groups isn't focused on these waters – at this stage anyway.

Present monitoring of access

Staff are monitoring the situation in a casual way at present and will continue to respond to any complaints that come in (none to date). Involvement in catchment groups is increasing so we should be able to head off any proposals which might hinder public access to and along waterways in those specific areas. But staff can't be everywhere so there may be situations where riparian planting is progressing which may create weed or access issues. Land moving into production or carbon forestry is an example.

Future monitoring of access issues

Additional resourcing has been applied to Catchment Group projects in the 2022/23 OWP and that will be the primary response to this issue. At these meetings it will be possible to have input into how and where planting is done so it doesn't impact on other amenity values such as angling.

A low level scan by staff when they are out and about can also be undertaken and any issues raised with the relevant groups or with landowners directly.

There isn't a specific project on monitoring angler and hunter access around planted sites and it is late at this point to make a project of it. However if the Council feels strongly about the issue then a discussion could be held to generate a proposal, but it may mean dropping another project in the 2022/23 workplan to fit it in. The alternative is to hold the topic over until the February Planning meeting.

For discussion

Ian Hadland

Chief Executive

6.0 Health and Safety Report June-July 2022

Covid 19

- The covid virus continues to spread
- As of 13th April 2022, we are at traffic light level ORANGE
- Staff are following Ministry of Health guidelines for office environments and covid infection
- Rapid Antigen Tests, masks, gloves and sanitizer are available to all staff

General

Standard flu vaccinations have been offered to all staff
Staff reminded to take extra care in vehicles over the winter months

Events

OHS plans are made before any events or field work outings.
Lake Onslow Spawning Surveys JSA completed, no problems

OHS Audits

Completed audits:

- Ranger information, equipment and training
- Staff training and certificate register updated
- Office and building audits undertaken
- Dunedin Boat audit and inspection has been carried out

Next audits:

- Hazardous Chemicals
- Vehicle safety checks

Incidents/Accidents/Near Misses/New Hazards

- While game ranging one ranger hurt his back in an accidental fall while crossing a fence.
- New temporary hazard – Forestry logging trucks are busy on the roads at Takitaitoa, some roads have been damaged. We have closed the wetland access until this has finished (end of July) and roads are fixed.

Training

- One staff member booked for a refresher first aid course

Recommendation

That this report be received

Sharon Milne

Administration Officer

July 2022

7.0 Items Requiring Decisions

7.1 Legislative Compliance 2021-22 Financial Year

Introduction

Council adopted a Legislative Compliance Schedule in August 2015 (see below). The purpose of the schedule is to provide a framework for reporting on legislative compliance across relevant Acts and Regulations.

Changes in legislation

Covid-19 Public Health Response: The most significant change in legislation was related to the Covid-19 Public Health Response. This related to matters such as vaccinations and compulsory isolation when infected etc. F&G Otago has been getting regular updates from the Ministry of Health on changes to this legislation over the year and has been responding to it appropriately through the traffic light levels. Our internal covid response has been reported to Council in the Health and Safety section of the agenda.

Holidays (Increasing Sick Leave) Amendment Bill: The bill extended the Sick Leave entitlement minimum from 5 days to 10 days per annum from the 1st of July 2022. Staff were unaffected as contracted entitlements already exceed this number.

Legislative Compliance

In my opinion the Council has been compliant with its legal obligations under the Acts and Regulations listed.

Recommendation

That Council notes that the Council currently complies with the relevant legislation described below.

Ian Hadland
Chief Executive
July 2022

OTAGO FISH AND GAME COUNCIL - LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE

Adopted August 2015

The Council has to comply with all relevant legislation. This schedule includes the main Acts and Regulations relating to Fish and Game Council activities but is not exhaustive.

Act or Regulations	Key provisions	Comments	Responsibility
Conservation Act 1987	S 17 s26 R, s26S s26T, s26X s26ZD, s40 (1) (5)	Council responsible for: preparation of Fish and Game Plan; compliance with Conservation Act and Wildlife Act, regulations and gazette notice conditions; preparation of Anglers Notices; appointment of staff; production of annual report; holding at least 6 meeting PA.	Chief Executive
- Fish and Game Council Election Regulations 1990	Regulation 3, 20, 26	Council responsible for: appointing a returning officer; returning officer responsible for preparing rolls and conducting elections. Council responsible for meeting post election and appointment of NZ Council member	Council Chief Executive
Crown Entities Act 2004	S150 (3)	Annual Report presented to Parliament	Chief Executive

Public Finance Act 1989	S 43, Part 5, subpart 2, Schedule 4	Council responsible for preparation of annual report including financial statements and statement of service performance	Chief Executive Administration Officer Accountant
Public Audit Act 2001	S4	Council defined as a public entity	
Wildlife Act 1953 - Wildlife Regulations	s15, s39 (1), s44, s53, s54 Parts 2 and 3	Council responsible for: annual game season recommendations; day to day management of Wildlife Management Reserves under delegation from the Minister [Inch Clutha, Little Hoopers Inlet, Styx Basin]; exercise any written authority from the DG for taking or killing of game	Chief Executive Fish and Game Officers Rangers
Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act	Parts 2 and 7	Council responsible for conduct of meetings in accordance with Act and responses to OIA requests	Council Chief Executive
Resource Management Act 1991	Parts 3 and 6	Council responsible for compliance with the Act in terms of buildings, structures and land and water use.	Chief Executive

Employment Relations Act 2000		Amended 2018 for clarity around meal breaks and 90 day trials. Further amended in 2022 to provide for 10 days sick leave.	Council (CE) Chief Executive (staff)
Parental Leave and Employment Protection Act 1987	Parts 1 and 2	Employment contract obligations in respect of parental leave. Parental leave extended to 26 weeks in 2020	Council (CE) Chief Executive (staff)
State Sector Act 1988	s 56, s58	Council responsible for being a good employer	Council (CE) Chief Executive (staff)
Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992	Part 2	Council responsible for taking all practicable steps to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and maintain a safe working environment for employees • Ensure employees are not exposed to hazards while at work • Develop emergency procedures • Ensure employees are trained and supervised • Provide employees with information on hazards • Record, report and investigate accidents • Systematically identify and assess hazards • Control significant hazards 	Chief Executive Council
Maritime Transport Act 1994	Part 2	Council responsible for boat certification and safe use by staff	Operations Manager Chief Executive Council
Privacy Act 2020		Council responsible for appropriate handling of personal information notably licenceholder data; compliance reports; mail lists. CE appointed at 'Privacy Officer' in 2021	Chief Executive Administration Officer

Human Rights Act 1993		Council responsible for compliance with human rights obligations under the Act	Chief Executive Compliance Coordinator
Protected Disclosures Act 2000		Council responsible for compliance with obligations under the Act	Chief Executive
Search and Surveillance Act	S3, Part 4, s169 (2) (3), s171, s172`	Council responsible for compliance with obligations under the Act including annual reporting on exercise of surveillance powers during ranging.	Rangers and F&G and staff. Chief Executive
Holidays Act 2003		Employment contract obligations in respect of annual leave and public holidays. Changes proposed next year	Administration Officer Chief Executive
Crown Entities Act 2004	s25	Council responsible for exercise of its powers and performance of functions under the Act and other Acts	Chief Executive Council
Income Tax Act 2007	Parts CX and RD	Council responsible for FBT returns and PAYE deductions and returns	Administration Officer Chief Executive
Goods and Services Tax Act 1985	Parts 2 and 3	Council responsible for GST payments, deductions and returns	Administration Officer Chief Executive
KiwiSaver Act 2006	Parts 2 and 3	Council responsible for enrolment of staff in Kiwisaver	Administration Officer Chief Executive

7.2 Public Perception and 360 Stakeholder Surveys – Interim Report

Background

Two surveys were proposed in the Otago Fish and Game Council 2021-2022 operational work plan (OWP) for “public interface” outputs: a Public Understanding Survey, and a 360-degree Survey of Stakeholders. The results of the surveys were proposed to inform the development of a communications strategy. A secondary purpose was to benchmark the Council’s position in the minds of the public and our nearest stakeholders for later comparison.

Feasibility investigations now raise questions about cost and robustness of the exercises.

Public Understanding Survey (Code 1412)

This task was to survey the Otago public on their understanding of Fish & Game and its role, to inform communications activity and benchmark for success. The OWP activity briefing was to undertake a survey via a third-party survey site, analyse the responses, and report to Council. An \$8,000 budget was approved.

Expressions of interest were sought from three providers – Kantar Public, NielsonIQ and Primary Purpose – to conduct the survey on behalf of Otago Fish & Game.

Kantar Public (formerly Colmar Brunton), which has conducted surveys for Fish and Game New Zealand Council, advised an overall sample size of 500 or 750 Otago region residents would give sufficiently reliable results and would be feasible based on the number of Otago residents in Kantar Public’s online panels. The company proposed three options:

Approx. \$10,000 budget:

- The yearly Fish & Game NZ “Perceptions of the environment” was run on Kantar Public’s nationwide omnibus, branded as Omnijet. This is a cheaper way of including two questions in a national survey that serves multiple clients. Two questions included on this monthly omnibus would be about \$5,000 each, including reporting. However, Kantar Public anticipated only 50 to 100 responses from within Otago and did not recommend this approach.

Approx. \$16,000 budget:

- Five-minute online survey of 500 Otago residents, coding of one open-ended question into themes, and PowerPoint report. Maximum margin of error +/- 4.4%.
-

Approx. \$20,000 budget:

- Five-minute online survey of 750 Otago residents, coding of one open-ended question into themes, and PowerPoint report. Maximum margin of error +/-3.6%.

Primary Purpose Ltd proposed an online survey of 100 to 200 Otago residents, using a panel provider. Coding of one open-ended question. The margin of error would be about 6.9%. The quote was \$7,140 plus GST. Primary Purposed advised, however, that given the small sample, it would be important to repeat the survey for an extended period to draw a trend line and develop an accurate picture of public perceptions.

NielsonIQ was approached and two discussions were held. The company then sought further information to develop the proposal and assess the feasibility of the general population sample in the region. NielsonIQ favoured expanding the survey to neighbouring regions. It had not provided a quote at the time of this report.

Otago Fish & Game investigated the idea of extending the survey to neighbouring regions, to share the cost with other Fish & Game regions and expand the sample size. However, this was ruled out because neighbouring Fish & Game regions were deemed unlikely to participate, and public perceptions in neighbouring regions would be swayed by local matters which were not relevant in Otago.

360 degree Stakeholders Survey (Code 1411)

The 360 Stakeholders Survey aimed to record attitudes towards organisation and F&G effectiveness. This survey was among several proposed OWP activities for liaison. A \$1,000 budget was approved for liaison in general.

Consideration was given to recruiting a University of Otago student on a casual employment contract to conduct a 360 stakeholders perceptions survey on behalf of Fish & Game. Fish & Game advertised the role and received five applications. Due to OWP budget constraints for the 360 stakeholders survey, this idea was suspended, and it was deemed appropriate to seek further direction from the Council.

Kantar Public was invited to provide a quote for a stakeholder survey and advised a budget of about \$10,000 would be sufficient.

Summary:

The OWP 2021-22 budget is clearly insufficient to deliver robust results for either proposal. Sample-size constraints for an Otago Public Perceptions Survey, and perhaps the need to repeat the survey long-term, raise the question whether added cost would be considered a prudent use of licenceholder funding.

The Council might consider better value could be derived from a 360 Stakeholder Survey. While understanding how the organisation is perceived by the public remains desirable, to inform communications and advocacy efforts, considered and strategic communications with stakeholders is likely to have a bigger and more enduring impact.

Recommendation:

Suspend the Public Understanding Survey and transfer the OWP 2021-22 funding to the 360 Stakeholders Survey. Spend additional reserves (\$2-4k) to complete task as soon as practicable.

Bruce Quirey

Communications Officer

July 2022

7.3 Adoption of 2022/23 Operational Workplan and Budget

Background

In March the OWP and budget was circulated as a draft for approval and got the agreement of Council to be put forward into the national equation to establish licence fees and levies. Since then, the Minister has approved the licence fees for next season which were promoted by the New Zealand Council after having assessed all budgets, including its own.

The organisation continues to operate with lean budgets which have not been restored since the Covid related 5% cuts were imposed. In addition, all regions are expected to fund 1.03% of their budget reserves to top up operating expenses next year. Part of the reason for this is a large one off budget expense at NZC of \$500,000 for the Ministerial Review implementation. The outcome is that Otago is expected to draw down \$10,852 from its general reserves to fund its own operating expenses. Coupled with spending from reserves on other approved projects, the budget end of year position is a forecast deficit of \$89,282.

Workplan

The final draft Operational Work Plan (OWP) for next year has previously been circulated to you. We do try to retain as much flexibility as possible, but any additional work added to the workplan at this point will mean having to let some other tasks go.

Otago Budget

The budget and levies have now been confirmed by NZC. The split for each output is provided for below, along with a comparison with last year.

Output	2021-22	2022-23	Change
Species Management	\$165,003	\$247,401	50%
Habitat Protection & Management	\$255,134	\$240,658	-6%
Angler/Hunter Participation	\$120,358	\$156,269	30%
Public Interface	\$233,861	\$226,928	-3%
Compliance	\$92,645	\$94,593	2%
Licensing	\$24,849	\$11,979	-52%
Councils	\$53,509	\$54,539	2%
Planning/Reporting	\$81,546	\$93,251	14%

Contestable funding bids

NZC approved and confirmed our contestable funding bids and the spending from our own reserves. These have now been included in the budget. A full budget spreadsheet is attached.

Spending from Non Resident Reserve:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| • Lake wardens | \$24,000 |
| • Acoustic Surveys | \$38,930 |

Spending from Otago General Reserves

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| • Staff Training | \$12,000 |
| • Asset replacement fund reserve | \$4,222 |

Contestable funding bids approved (from licence fee):

- | | |
|---|------------|
| • CPI on salaries | \$41,960 |
| • Lost interest income (removed from budgets) | (\$13,967) |
| • Vehicle fuel and maintenance | \$8,000 |

TOTAL OWP BUDGET 22/23	\$1,129,840
-------------------------------	--------------------

Levies

The NZC has established levies for Otago at \$1,200,082 for 22/23 FY.

In loose terms this is calculated as the difference between budget expenditure and predicted licence income. Predicted income is expected to improve with the return of non residents but the modelled increasing trend in Otago licence sales may not eventuate which could leave the Council with a larger year end deficit.

To put Otago levies in context, this is;

- 25% higher than this current years levy (of \$959,240)
- Otago contribution is 31% of total levies taken nationally
- 53% of Otago Councils income
- ~ \$150k (14%) more than our budget expenditure for the year.

This is a topic which must be addressed through the NZC's Regional Resource Allocation Project.

Recommendation

That the Council adopt the 2022/23 Operational Workplan and Budget.

Ian Hadland

Chief Executive

12 July 2022

SCHEDULE B : PROJECT SUMMARY : BUDGET 2022-2023							
Code	Project/Category Item	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%
1110	Population Monitoring	\$ 48,930	1400	\$ 89,281	\$ -	\$ 138,211	55.9
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,000	600	\$ 38,263	\$ -	\$ 40,263	16.3
1130	Fish Salvage	\$ -	24	\$ 1,531	\$ -	\$ 1,531	0.6
1140	Hatchery	\$ 9,000	500	\$ 31,886	\$ -	\$ 40,886	16.5
1150	Game Farm	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
1160	Releases	\$ 1,000	160	\$ 10,204	\$ -	\$ 11,204	4.5
1170	Regulations	\$ -	200	\$ 12,754	\$ -	\$ 12,754	5.2
1180	Control	\$ -	40	\$ 2,551	\$ -	\$ 2,551	1.0
	Species Management Expend	\$ 60,930	2924	\$ 186,471	\$ -	\$ 247,401	
1210	RMA	\$ 1,000	2900	\$ 184,940	\$ -	\$ 185,940	77.3
1220	Works/Management	\$ 5,000	400	\$ 25,509	\$ 1,300	\$ 29,209	12.1
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ -	400	\$ 25,509	\$ -	\$ 25,509	10.6
1240	Assessing/Monitoring	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 6,000	3700	\$ 235,958	\$ 1,300	\$ 240,658	
1310	Access	\$ 2,500	300	\$ 19,132	\$ -	\$ 21,632	13.8
1320	Satisfaction Survey	\$ -	150	\$ 9,566	\$ -	\$ 9,566	6.1
1330	New sletters	\$ 500	430	\$ 27,422	\$ -	\$ 27,922	17.9
1340	Other Publications	\$ 24,000	250	\$ 15,943	\$ -	\$ 39,943	25.6
1350	Training	\$ 2,000	610	\$ 38,901	\$ -	\$ 40,901	26.2
1360	Club Relations	\$ 1,000	240	\$ 15,305	\$ -	\$ 16,305	10.4
1370	Huts	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
	Angler/Hunter Participation	\$ 30,000	1980	\$ 126,269	\$ -	\$ 156,269	
1410	Liaison:Consv.Bds/DoC	\$ 1,000	1000	\$ 63,772	\$ -	\$ 64,772	28.5
1420	Communication int. Organisations	\$ -	700	\$ 44,641	\$ -	\$ 44,641	19.7
1430	Advocacy	\$ 3,000	1700	\$ 108,413	\$ -	\$ 111,413	49.1
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 1,000	80	\$ 5,102	\$ -	\$ 6,102	2.7
1450	Visitor Fac/Education/Interpretation	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
	Public Interface	\$ 5,000	3480	\$ 221,928	\$ -	\$ 226,928	
1510	Ranging	\$ 2,500	850	\$ 54,207	\$ -	\$ 56,707	59.9
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 3,000	250	\$ 15,943	\$ -	\$ 18,943	20.0
1530	Compliance	\$ 5,000	250	\$ 15,943	\$ 2,000	\$ 18,943	20.0
	Compliance	\$ 10,500	1350	\$ 86,093	\$ 2,000	\$ 94,593	
1610	Licence Prod/Distribution	\$ -	100	\$ 6,377	\$ -	\$ 6,377	53.2
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ 500	80	\$ 5,102	\$ -	\$ 5,602	46.8
1630	Commission	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
	Licensing	\$ 500	180	\$ 11,479	\$ -	\$ 11,979	
1710	Cncl Elections	\$ -	20	\$ 1,275	\$ -	\$ 1,275	2.3
1720	Cncl Meetings	\$ 15,000	600	\$ 38,263	\$ -	\$ 53,263	97.7
	Councils	\$ 15,000	620	\$ 39,539	\$ -	\$ 54,539	
1810	Management/Strategic Planning	\$ -	300	\$ 19,132	\$ -	\$ 19,132	20.5
1820	OWP/Budget/Lic Fee setting	\$ -	100	\$ 6,377	\$ -	\$ 6,377	6.8
1830	Annual/Other Reporting	\$ 16,000	80	\$ 5,102	\$ -	\$ 21,102	22.6
1840	National Liaison	\$ 2,000	700	\$ 44,641	\$ -	\$ 46,641	50.0
	Planning/Reporting	\$ 18,000	1180	\$ 75,251	\$ -	\$ 93,251	
	PROJECT BUDGET	\$ 145,930	15414	\$ 982,988	\$ 3,300	\$ 1,125,618	
OVERHEADS							
		External Costs			Income	Net Cost	%
1910	Salaries	\$ 818,935			\$ -	\$ 818,935	83.3
1920	Staff Expenses	\$ 32,000			\$ -	\$ 32,000	3.3
1930	Staff Houses	\$ -			\$ -	\$ -	0.0
1940	Office Premises	\$ 104,839			\$ 56,386	\$ 48,453	4.9
1950	Office Equipment	\$ 2,500			\$ -	\$ 2,500	0.3
1960	Communications/Consumables	\$ 21,900			\$ -	\$ 21,900	2.2
1970	General	\$ 3,900			\$ -	\$ 3,900	0.4
1980	Gen Equipment	\$ 3,300			\$ -	\$ 3,300	0.3
1990	Vehicles	\$ 52,000			\$ -	\$ 52,000	5.3
	Administration	\$ 1,039,374			\$ 56,386	\$ 982,988	

REGION: 0							
SCHEDULE C : OUTPUTS BUDGET SUMMARY - 2022-2023							
Code	Output	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%
1	Species Management Expend	\$ 60,930	2924	\$ 186,471	\$ -	\$ 247,401	22.0
2	Habitat Protection & Managemen	\$ 6,000	3700	\$ 235,958	\$ 1,300	\$ 240,658	21.4
3	Angler/Hunter Participation	\$ 30,000	1980	\$ 126,269	\$ -	\$ 156,269	13.9
4	Public Interface	\$ 5,000	3480	\$ 221,928	\$ -	\$ 226,928	20.2
5	Compliance	\$ 10,500	1350	\$ 86,093	\$ 2,000	\$ 94,593	8.4
6	Licensing	\$ 500	180	\$ 11,479	\$ -	\$ 11,979	1.1
7	Councils	\$ 15,000	620	\$ 39,539	\$ -	\$ 54,539	4.8
8	Planning/Reporting	\$ 18,000	1180	\$ 75,251	\$ -	\$ 93,251	8.3
9	Administration						0.0
	Total Overhead Staff Hours		0				
	TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 145,930	15414	\$ 982,988	\$ 3,300	\$ 1,125,618	
	Less Interest income					\$ -	
	Plus ARF					\$ 4,222	
	Plus other Capital items eg principle repayments on Loans					\$ -	
	Plus Reinstatement of Reserves					\$ -	
	TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET					\$ 1,129,840	
	Made up from:						
	Bulk Funding					\$ 987,483	
	Contestable Pool Funding - Ongoing					\$ 63,927	
	Contestable Pool Funding - One off					\$ -	
	Regional Reserve Funding - One off					\$ 78,430	
	Plus Reinstatement of Reserves						
	TOTAL BUDGET	2022-2023				\$ 1,129,840	

8.0 Public Excluded Items

8.1 OF&GC Public Excluded Minutes 24th March 2022

8.2 Contact Energy Trust Update

8.3 Wanaka Hatchery Site Update

8.4 Staffing Update – Verbal update from CE

8.5 CE Performance Review – Update from the Chair

9.0 Financial Report

Finance and Licence Sales 30th June 2022

9.1 Draft Finance Reports

The draft financial Profit and Loss report and Balance sheet for the period from 1st September 2021 to 30th June 2022 are below.

Expenditure at the 30th June 2022 for the 2021/22 financial year is \$1,842,363 (including levies \$719,430, agent commission \$83,615, depreciation \$49,373. This also includes \$61,147 of spending from our reserves. Ten months (83%) into the financial year 75% spent of budget. The annual expenditure budget \$2,137,042.

Budget and expenditure figures are exclusive of GST.

The draft accounts show a surplus at 30th June 2022 of \$574,263

Bank Funds Position at 30th June 2022

ANZ 00 account \$183,526.21

ANZ 70 account \$291,475.83

Term Investments as at 30th June 2022

ASB 0079 \$566,824 @ 1.5% Maturing on 11th July 2022

ANZ \$501,110 @ 2.35% Maturing on 16th November 2022

Donations and Grants (not in budget)

Who	For	Amount GST excl
General	Donation	9
QLDC	Bullock Creek Plantings	470
Rippon Vineyard	Bullock Creek Planting	300
Kaiwhakahaere Kaupapa Taiao	Bullock Creek Planting	269
Soho McCulloch	Bullock Creek Planting	600
Donation Tin Bullock Creek	For Bullock Creek	331
Otago Community Care Trust	Take Kid Fishing Events	2,020
Total		\$3,999

Doubtful Debtors

nil

Capital Expenditure and Sales

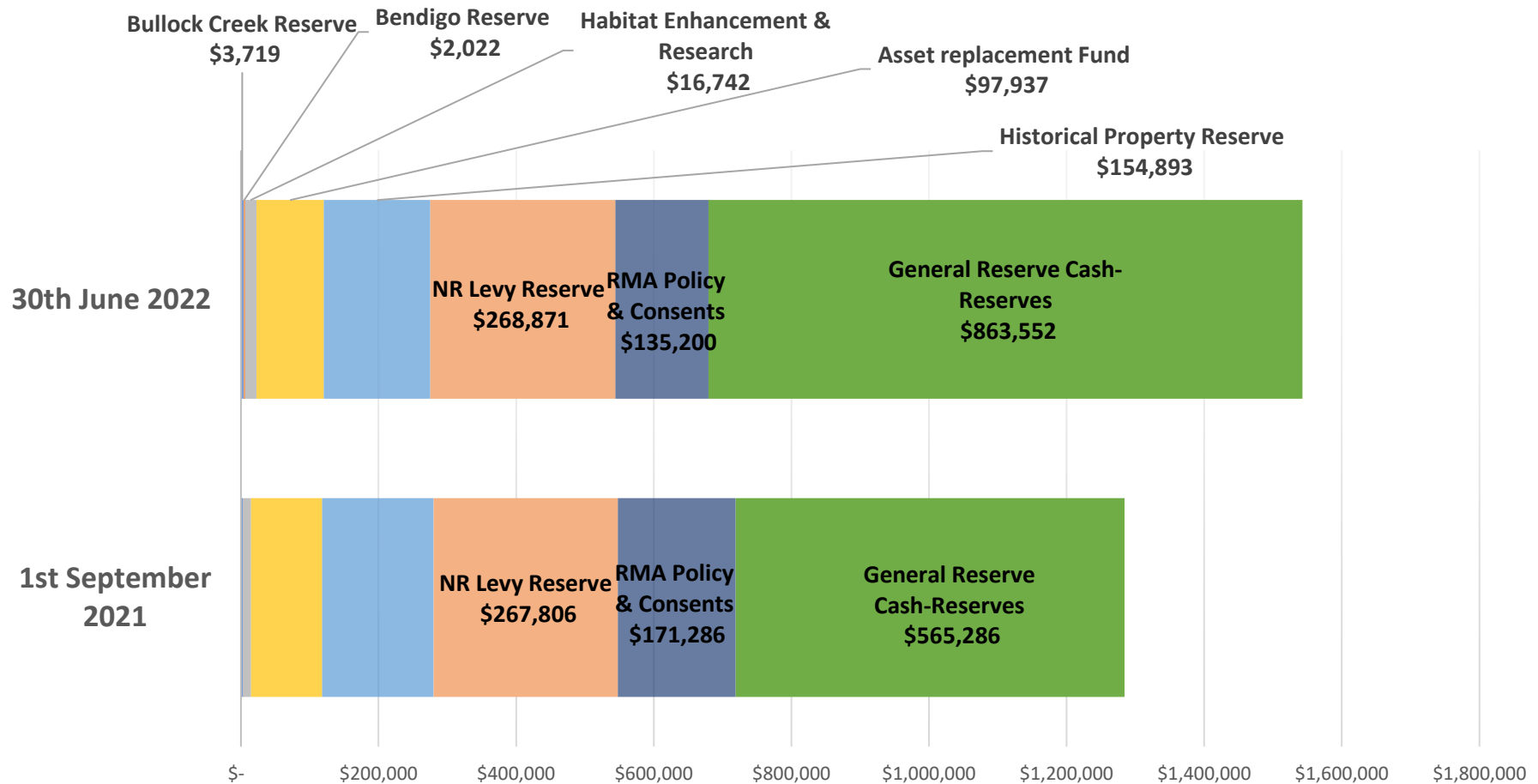
Two laptop computers

Otago Fish and Game Reserves 30th June 2022

Otago Reserves Movements	Balance August 2021	Income (To) Reserve	Note	Outgoing (From) Reserve	Balance June 2022
Back Country Non-resident Levy	\$267,806	\$6,065	1	\$5,000	\$268,871
Habitat Enhancement & Research	\$11,756	\$10,800	2	\$5,814	\$16,742
Bullock Creek Reserve	\$2,806	\$4,217		\$3,304	\$3,719
Bendigo Reserve		\$3,414	9	\$1,392	\$2,022
Mining Rights Reserve	\$17,537		3	\$	\$17,537
Priority Consents Reserve	\$55,507		7	\$13,809	\$41,697
Historical Property Reserves	\$161,678		4	\$6,785	\$154,893
Renovation Reserves	\$2,767			\$2,767	\$0
Regional Policy Statement Reserve	\$59,349		5	\$14,459	\$44,890
Priority Plan Changes	\$38,893		6	\$7,817	\$31,076
Total				\$61,147	\$581,447
NZC RMA/Legal Funding					
Regional Policy Extra		\$60,000	8	\$	\$60,000

- Note 1 \$5000 a year for five years is to be taken from the Non resident fund for the Dr Donald Scott University Fund beginning. Agreed by Council May 2021. 2021/22 is year two.
- Note 2 Balance is \$16,742. Less committed but not yet paid out of \$9,500 so balance of \$7,242 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, used on development of the Wanaka site
- 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 August 2021 NZC approved the use of \$60,000 to be reimbursed by the Regional RMA legal fund towards our Regional Policy Planning Costs
- Note 9 May 2022 council agreed to Habitat Enhancement funds

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2021 TO 30TH JUNE 2022



Balance Sheet

Otago Fish and Game Council As at 30 June 2022

	30 JUN 2022	31 AUG 2021
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank	475,223	720,937
Receivables		
Accounts Receivable	186,492	23,078
Total Receivables	186,492	23,078
GST	9,841	28,120
Investments	1,066,512	563,977
Inventory	17,222	17,222
Accrued Interest	803	803
Accounts Receivable - Other	50	-
Total Current Assets	1,756,143	1,354,137
Fixed Assets		
Property Plant & Equipment	1,348,567	1,359,279
Total Fixed Assets	1,348,567	1,359,279
Credit Card SM 6180	(1,141)	-
Total Assets	3,103,570	2,713,416
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	23,785	45,252
Other Payables	151,376	163,393
Employee Entitlements	33,152	53,331
Total Current Liabilities	208,313	261,977
Total Liabilities	208,313	261,977
Net Assets	2,895,257	2,451,439
Equity		
Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated Funds	1,607,045	1,364,081
Current Year Earnings	440,404	242,964
Transfer (To)/From Reserves	168,425	122,678
Total Accumulated Funds	2,215,874	1,729,722
Dedicated Reserves		
Non Resident Levy Reserve	268,871	267,806
Habitat Enhancement & Research	16,742	11,756
Priority Plan Changes Reserve	31,076	38,893
Priority Consents Reserve	41,697	55,507
Regional Policy Statement Reserve	44,890	59,349
Mining Privileges Reserve	17,537	17,537

Balance Sheet

	30 JUN 2022	31 AUG 2021
Historical Property Reserve	154,893	161,678
Renovation Reserve	-	2,767
Asset Replacement Funding	97,937	103,618
Total Dedicated Reserves	673,642	718,910
Restricted Reserves		
Bullock Creek Reserve	3,719	2,806
Bendigo Reserve	2,022	-
Total Restricted Reserves	5,741	2,806
Total Equity	2,895,257	2,451,439

Profit and Loss

Otago Fish and Game Council For the 10 months ended 30 June 2022

	MAY 2022	JUN 2022	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Income								
Licence Sales								
Fish Licence Sales	11,720	10,239	1,876,807	1,690,619	186,188	111%	1,690,619	1,682,748
Non-Resident Licence Revenue	555	1,006	6,065	-	6,065	-	-	6,839
Game Licence Sales	144,410	1,786	340,910	323,364	17,546	105%	323,364	341,516
Total Licence Sales	156,686	13,031	2,223,781	2,013,983	209,798	110%	2,013,983	2,031,103
Other Income								
Contact Energy Mitigation Income	-	36,660	94,109	-	94,109	-	-	53,911
Govt Grants	-	600	1,210	-	1,210	-	-	-
Interest Income	1,202	115	3,457	4,030	(573)	86%	4,840	5,064
Fines - Fishing & Game Offences	-	-	202	2,000	(1,798)	10%	2,000	1,714
Rent Received	6,446	5,632	49,618	42,160	7,458	118%	50,590	68,479
Fishing Competitions	-	-	458	-	458	-	-	1,526
Profit on Sale of Fixed Assets	-	-	22,080	-	22,080	-	-	21,198
Donations & Grants	600	91	3,999	-	3,999	-	-	2,674
Merchandise Sales/Other	-	-	330	-	330	-	-	(249)
RMA Costs Reimbursed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49,853
Sundry Income	503	119	6,582	-	6,582	-	-	1,537
Diversion - Habitat Enhancement and Research Fund	1,900	200	10,800	-	10,800	-	-	6,500
Total Other Income	10,651	43,418	192,846	48,190	144,656	400%	57,430	212,207
Total Income	167,337	56,449	2,416,627	2,062,173	354,454	117%	2,071,413	2,243,309
Gross Profit	167,337	56,449	2,416,627	2,062,173	354,454	117%	2,071,413	2,243,309

	MAY 2022	JUN 2022	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Expenses								
Species Management								
Population Monitoring	250	-	13,594	26,334	(12,740)	52%	31,000	10,568
Harvest Assessment	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000	2,704
Hatchery Operations	-	-	5,715	7,500	(1,785)	76%	9,000	7,983
Releases	144	-	823	1,600	(777)	51%	1,800	585
Total Species Management	394	-	20,131	35,434	(15,303)	57%	44,800	21,840
Habitat Protection & Mngt								
Contact Sports Fish Management Plan	1,641	2,571	46,554	-	46,554	-	-	36,219
Resource Mngt Act	-	-	56,840	1,668	55,172	3,408%	2,000	1,266
Works & Management	-	-	3,079	4,168	(1,089)	74%	5,000	7,277
Habitat Enhancement Research Fund Grants	3,414	-	3,414	-	3,414	-	-	5,739
Total Habitat Protection & Mngt	5,055	2,571	109,887	5,836	104,051	1,883%	7,000	50,501
Participation								
Access and Signage	63	124	1,574	2,084	(510)	76%	2,500	1,892
Back Country Surveys/Monitoring	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	822
OF&G Training Events	-	-	1,849	2,000	(151)	92%	2,000	804
Club Relations and Grants	-	-	465	1,000	(535)	46%	1,000	918
Total Participation	63	124	3,888	5,084	(1,196)	76%	5,500	4,437
PUBLIC INTERFACE								
World Wetlands	-	-	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	1,000	-
Liaison	478	27	522	8,834	(8,312)	6%	9,000	111
Media Releases	8	-	585	5,836	(5,251)	10%	7,000	833
Total PUBLIC INTERFACE	486	27	1,107	15,670	(14,563)	7%	17,000	944
COMPLIANCE								
Ranger Training and Expenses	841	26	4,976	6,500	(1,524)	77%	6,500	1,795

	MAY 2022	JUN 2022	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Compliance	-	-	-	4,167	(4,167)	-	5,000	8,621
Total COMPLIANCE	841	26	4,976	10,667	(5,691)	47%	11,500	10,415
LICENCING								
Agent Servicing	54	46	254	500	(246)	51%	500	177
Commission/Fees	6,873	506	83,615	90,629	(7,014)	92%	90,629	81,876
Total LICENCING	6,927	552	83,868	91,129	(7,261)	92%	91,129	82,054
COUNCIL								
Elections Council	-	-	-	500	(500)	-	500	-
Council Meetings	858	-	12,416	13,000	(584)	96%	15,000	8,080
Total COUNCIL	858	-	12,416	13,500	(1,084)	92%	15,500	8,080
PLANNING & REPORTING								
Reporting/Audit	-	-	3,844	16,000	(12,156)	24%	16,000	17,689
National Liason	231	-	248	1,667	(1,419)	15%	2,000	421
Total PLANNING & REPORTING	231	-	4,092	17,667	(13,575)	23%	18,000	18,110
ADMINISTRATION								
Salaries	88,886	57,833	599,380	646,896	(47,516)	93%	776,272	675,407
Staff Expenses	5,836	349	17,312	15,002	2,310	115%	19,000	23,279
Office Premices	5,688	5,242	90,863	81,290	9,573	112%	95,600	100,740
Office Equipmment	89	435	2,437	2,084	353	117%	2,500	5,409
Communications	823	2,170	17,178	18,996	(1,818)	90%	22,800	20,836
General Exp (incl Insurance)	5,528	(5,501)	2,859	3,484	(625)	82%	3,900	3,173
General Field Equipment	418	3	2,904	2,800	104	104%	3,300	1,334
Vehicles	2,450	3,779	45,804	37,834	7,970	121%	44,000	43,901
Total ADMINISTRATION	109,717	64,312	778,737	808,386	(29,649)	96%	967,372	874,079
Approved Reserve Expense	2,221	5,924	49,457	-	49,457	-	-	141,000
Depreciation	5,030	5,183	49,373	-	49,373	-	-	61,476

	MAY 2022	JUN 2022	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	% OF YTD BUDGET	ANNUAL BUDGET	LAST YEAR
Loss on Disposal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	188
NZ Fish & Game Levies	239,810	-	719,430	719,430	-	100%	959,241	711,804
Office General (was Petty cash)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51
Wanaka Subdivision	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,366
University of Otago Research Grant	-	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
Total Expenses	371,632	78,720	1,842,363	1,722,803	119,560	107%	2,137,042	2,000,346
Net Profit	(204,294)	(22,271)	574,263	339,370	234,893	169%	(65,629)	242,964

9.2 Licence Sales

Fish Licence Sales 2021/22 Season to 30 June 2022

See appendix 1 for a table showing fish licence sales categories and numbers. This table shows fish licences sales for seasons 2021/22 and 2020/21 to the end of June of the season.

In summary, fishing licence sales in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) 14,615.60 LEQs compared with 14,404.68 LEQs for the same period last year

Fish licence revenue from the Profit and Loss statement for the 2021/22 season recorded to 30th June 2022 total \$1,882,872 compared with \$1,810,967 for the 2020/21 season. These figures include both resident and non resident sales. Figures exclude GST and commission to agents.

The 2021/22 budget for fish licence sales is \$1,690,619 exclusive of GST.

Game Licence Sales 2022

See table following for game licence sales categories and numbers at opening of season 2022 to 30th of June and the full season 2021.

In summary, game licence sales in whole season licence equivalents (LEQs) 4,072.69 LEQs for the 2022 season compared with 4,179.16 LEQs for the full 2021 season.

Game licence revenue from the Profit and Loss statement for the 2022 season recorded to 30th June 2022 total \$340,910 compared with \$340,457 for the 2020/21 season. There was a \$2 licence fee increase.

The 2022 budget for Game Licence Sales is \$323,364 exclusive of GST.

9.5 Agents Debts

Nil

9.6 Recommendation

That the financial report be received

Sharon Milne
Administration Officer
11/07/2022

Fishing Licence Sales to the 30th June of the Season

2021/22

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	Total	Fish LEQ
Agency	2,414	3,494	13	749	166	132	10	215	719	51	409	0	71	2	0	6	8,451	
Eyede	11	10	0	5	1	2	1	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	
Online	2,117	2,565	82	306	417	201	25	411	2,490	134	466	7	254	3	2	1	9,481	
Total	4,542	6,069	95	1,060	584	335	36	635	3,210	185	875	7	325	5	2	7	17,972	14,615.60

2020/21

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWNC	FDNC	Total	Fish LEQ
Agency	2,497	3,497	27	711	171	128	14	243	865	51	413	0	119	4	0	0	8,740	
Eyede	8	13	0	9	0	0	0	1	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	
Online	1,964	2,499	90	282	414	161	28	402	2,248	174	422	4	228	6	1	3	8,926	
Total	4,469	6,009	117	1,002	585	289	42	646	3,118	226	835	4	347	10	1	3	17,703	14,404.68

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)

Game Season Licence Sales to the 30th June 2022 Compared with Full Season Sales of 2021

2022							
Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ
Agency	3,183	240	68	14	0	3,505	
Eyede/ESL	5	0	0	0	0	5	
Online	813	82	25	26	1	947	
Total	4,001	322	93	40	1	4,457	4,072.69

2021							
Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ
Agency	3,384	262	82	19	0	3,747	
Eyede/ESL	3	1	0	0	0	4	
Online	709	87	35	42	2	875	
Total	4,096	350	117	61	2	4,626	4,179.16

GWA Full Season Adult, GWJ Full season Junior, GWC Full season Child

GDA Adult Day, GDJ Junior Day

10.0 Chief Executives Report July 2022

10.1 Progress Against Councils 3 Year Strategic Priorities

SF&GMP Output	Goals 2020-2023	Draft Objectives (Specific, timebound and measurable)	Update
Species Mgt	Improved knowledge of Sportsfish population dynamics in Southern Lakes	Robust monitoring system for southern lakes fisheries established by 2022 with enough sensitivity to detect population change. Research proposal to investigate drivers for that change lodged to NZC for funding by 2023	Creel surveys on lake Wanaka for the third consecutive year have now concluded. Results are included in this (July) agenda. An application for funding (from Otago Council NR Reserves) to undertake acoustic surveys in the three southern lakes has been approved and is scheduled for this summer. The lake fisheries management workshop which was scheduled for winter 2022 has now been delayed due to staffing issues. It is now expected to be delivered in the 2022/23 year.
	Improve Clutha River Salmon knowledge	Contribution of southern lakes salmon population to lower river searun fishery researched by 2022. Options for enhancement of downstream migration by 2023. Benefits and risks of further liberations reported on by 2021. Salmon spawning sites surveyed and documented (ongoing)	Contact Energy Sports Fish Management programme for the 21/22 season has largely concluded and a report is in preparation. Most of the work programme was completed and the budget expended. The eDNA kits for use on the Lower Clutha to identify Salmon spawning were deployed and very little by way of salmon DNA was found. Results will be included in the report back to Contact energy and this same report will appear in the September Meeting Agenda
Habitat Protection & Mgt	Improve outcomes in RMA planning processes – Plans reflect F&G input	Submissions reflecting F&G positions made on time and hearings attended for all planning matters impacting on F&G managed species, habitat and users (lumpy workload so no dates fixed) Additional advocacy in the form of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once yearly Governor to governor meetings with ORC • Twice yearly meetings between CE's of 	The RMA consenting and planning report is provided by way of update in this agenda. Over the period CE met with an ORC director and had contact with their Compliance team leader. The CE has not made contact with the ORC interim CEO at this point.

		<p>ORC and territorial authorities, iwi and DOC. (Same at a staff level)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>Regular meetings of stakeholders on the Regional Policy Statement is helping to narrow the issues between parties, particularly around the treatment of trout and salmon in the early drafts.</p> <p>Any formal three way agreement looks unlikely, however the groups continue to cooperate on matters of mutual interest.</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)	<p>Investigations for new pond development has slowed considerably – There was one enquiry to follow up with during this period.</p> <p>Staff continue to build involvement in catchment groups as an alternative.</p>
Angler & Hunter Participation	Maintain or improve current participation levels, especially among females	Maintain current participation levels and improve female participation by 5% by 2023	<p>Staff are regularly contributing to national marketing efforts including upgrades licencing system.</p> <p>Participation levels for angling are being maintained. Game sales are a down a bit on the previous year</p> <p>The survey of female anglers has been developed and accepted as a University research proposal and now been funded by the NZC Research Fund.</p>
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.	Additional signage has been installed in the Strath Taieri area and additional points added to the database.
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	<p>The licence holder engagement survey has been completed for 2022.</p> <p>Social media activity continues to rise with 2,950 followers on the Councils Facebook page.</p>
	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	Negotiations related to a hatchery and information portal at Roxburgh hosted by Contact Energy are now concluding with the formation of a trust. See separate paper on Stakeholder and general public perceptions survey in this agenda.

		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	Staff have been involved in a national level Communications strategy which will guide the formation of a local version.
	Proactive engagement with Ngai Tahu	MOU/Principles document extended to cover wider Otago water and wildlife values and agreed by 2022.	Relationship with Aukaha continues to build with regular meetings and communication around planning and consenting matters. The CE had a meeting with Ngai Tahu staff member to discuss operational matters. This was most helpful.
	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	Staff are presently summarising contact numbers for the annual report. This and overall compliance for the season will be reported to the September meeting.
	Form alliances/collaborations with landowners (and stakeholder organisations) on areas of common interest	360 degree survey of all stakeholders and other groups on organisational attitude and effectiveness by 2021. Draft and implement strategic communications plan for stakeholders by 2022. Review for positive progress and report 2023	Stakeholder survey was proposed for this financial year but has not begun due to matters outlined in a sperate agenda paper. NZA has upgraded its Communication Strategy using an external agency so some guidance may be provided by that.
Administration	Find alternative sources of income to support F&G activities	At least 20% of external expenditure is from alternative sources	As previously advised, a good portion of the target figure for this year has been secured through the Contact Energy Sportsfish Management Plan
Compliance	Regulations understandable by licence holders	Make regulations easier to interpret through simplification and improved user interfaces, especially online	The anglers notice review is now complete. A number of areas, including boating restrictions, have been streamlined.
	Improved compliance rates	Improve compliance rate from 95% to 97%	Compliance rates will be summarised ahead of the September meeting but high number of offences over the holiday break may point to weaker compliance.
	Prosecutions completed in a compassionate and professional way	Revisit prosecution guidelines annually (Sept) and sign off alongside diversion payment schedule	Prosecution guidelines were adopted in September 2021 – Complete. Report on prosecutions and updated schedule of fees to be provided to September 2022 Meeting.

10.2 Other Staff Activity

10.2.1 SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Spawning surveys

Surveys have been completed in Thompsons Creek, Lake Onslow, Shag River, Logan Burn, Poolburn and in the Catlins River. Results have been added to the database.

Staff used funding provided by MBIE to get helicopter access to tributaries of Lake Onslow to investigate trout spawning at very short notice. The report is attached to this agenda. The summary makes sobering reading with over 99% of the spawning areas being flooded as a result of the proposed increase in Lake Onslow level for the battery project.

Regulations

The Anglers Notice Review has been finalised and expected to be Gazetted by the time of the meeting.

Lake Fisheries Workshop

Staff illness and other priorities have held this project up and it now looks as if it will not be completed by years end. The funding (\$22,000 from our own reserves) to run the event will remain unspent. It may be prudent to push that funding forward by resolution into the next financial year to ensure there is funding available for it to be run.

Resolve to: To carry forward the allocated funding of \$22,000 from the Non Resident Reserve for Lake Fisheries Workshop.

10.2.2 HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Contact Energy – Lower Clutha Sportsfish Management Plan Implementation

The sportsfish and habitat projects funded by Contact Energy are nearing completion and are in the reporting phase.

Pioneer Energy - Onslow consent variation

Staff attended the hearing for a consent variation to increase the draw down speed of the lake. This was done alongside Teviot Angling Club members. The decision has recently been published and the result was as we had expected. The consent variation was granted with a few additional conditions. Thanks to the Executive for helping guide staff on appropriate action around hearing attendance.

10.2.3 USER PARTICIPATION

Access

The local media picked up on the signage work completed to improve angling access in the Strath Taieri. We should at this point extend our appreciation to those landowners for helping to facilitate practical access to the river in that reach.

F&G Magazine

Staff have submitted articles and a draft of our 4 pages has been approved. The fishing issue of the magazine is due out mid August.

10.2.4 PUBLIC INTERFACE

Media

Media coverage was quieter during this period but Otago continues to generate a solid stream of media content readily picked up by print publications. The reports to be adopted in this agenda will no doubt generate media interest.

Stakeholder and general public survey

See Item. Unfortunately, staff didn't scope the cost of the project clearly enough and there was insufficient funding allocated to complete either task this financial year.

The response data from the surveys was supposed to be used to help develop our own communications strategy but it should be noted that we have a staff member working on the national level strategy which presumably will require adoption at a local level. Nevertheless, we still think it important to seek feedback from our own local stakeholders to ensure our communication is effective.

10.2.5 COMPLIANCE

Prosecutions

Most of the hunting offences and the backlog of angling offences gathered over the summer have been cleared with all being resolved by way of Council approved Diversion. There will be a full report next meeting.

Rangers

Training for ranger safety has been scheduled for the end of August. By then we should have one new recruit on board. We are still looking for more volunteers to fill a few vacancies in our ranger team

10.2.6 LICENCING

Licence system upgrade

An upgraded licencing system is due to go live late July. Agent training will be necessary although the new system does look self-explanatory.

10.2.7 COUNCIL

Organisational Review and Amalgamations

Outward correspondence has a letter back to NZC on amalgamations. This, and the other elements of the review need to progress with more urgency.

10.2.8 PLANNING AND REPORTING

Budget and Contestable funding bids

The OWP and Budget for 2022/2023 financial year are before you for final adoption. We have been successful in most of our funding bids and have an improved overall budget compared to the current year.

Audit

End of year is fast approaching and shortly staff will be contacting the auditors to set out the timelines for audit visit and finalising the Annual Report. The AGM is proposed for the 1st December 2022.

Recommendation

That this report be received

Ian Hadland

Chief Executive

July 2022

11.0 RMA Planning and Consents Report

Planning and Consenting Report 17 May – 11 July 2022

Current Legislation, Policy and Planning Processes

Plan Change 8

A decision on the PC8 urban hearing was released during the reporting period. This affirmed the positions that most of the parties took via the mediation agreement. A summary of the decision has been circulated to Councillors.

Regional Policy Statement

Staff have recently completed three weeks of pre-hearing discussions on the chapters of the regional policy statement. These were productive, though very time consuming. Staff will now turn their attention to evidence writing in preparation for the hearing.

Unfortunately, staff have still not received a decision from the high court on whether the regional policy statement is a freshwater instrument in its entirety. Heading into evidence writing without this decision creates the risk of needing to re-write or substantially amend evidence down the line. Staff have been seeking that the hearing timetable move as quickly as possible without creating undue financial risk on parties.

Lake Onslow variation to drawdown rate

During the reporting period, a hearing was held on the application to vary the drawdown rate of Lake Onslow. Staff attended alongside the Teviot Angling Club and submitted ecology evidence. The hearing has closed, and a decision is pending. Staff expect a decision to be handed down within the next week or so.

Exposure drafts for the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and National Environmental Standard for Freshwater

Central Government has released exposure drafts of these documents for public comment. The changes are generally aimed at improving the practicality of the provisions, with a focus on natural wetlands. Unfortunately, the exposure drafts create pathways for further degradation to natural wetlands and do not fully resolve issues with respect to building maimais or restoring wetlands. Staff have collaborated nationally to develop a joint submission, which was sent off in the reporting period.

Current Notification processes

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
<i>Otago Regional Council applications</i>		
Clutha District Council	To discharge water containing contaminants to Whiskey Gully Creek for the purpose of operating the Tapanui Water Treatment Plant	No outcome as yet. The application had been on hold for a number of years pending advice from the Clutha District Council. The Otago Regional Council has recently intervened, demanding that it be taken off hold. A pre-hearing is proposed to be held where parties can discuss the application and issues.

Written approval provided during the period

Applicant	Activity	Outcome
<i>Otago Regional Council applications</i>		
Queenstown Lakes District Council	To install a stormwater pipe near Bullock Creek, to service the Alpha Series subdevelopment.	Written party approval had already been provided for this application; however, the application was varied slightly to re-align the pipeline. Affected party approval was provided for the variation.
Waitaki District Council	Activities associated with demolishing and replacing Kiwirail bridge 194 over the pleasant river	Affected party approval was provided after some discussion on sedimentation controls.
Otago Regional Council	To extract gravel from the Cardrona River for erosion control and track maintenance	Following discussions, the applicant volunteered consent conditions to protect spawning activity. Affected party approval was provided.
Central Otago Queenstown Trail Network Trust	To construct a track linking the Roxburgh Gorge Trail from Doctors Point to Shingle Creek	Following discussions, the applicant volunteered consent conditions to protect spawning activity. Affected party approval was provided.

<i>Queenstown Lakes District Council</i>		
Mike Johnston	To operate a multi-sport kayaking instruction business on the Matukituki River, the Hawea River, the Clutha River / Mata-Au and Lake Wanaka	Affected party approval was provided following conditions being volunteered to make best efforts to avoid disturbing anglers.

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

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

Recommendation:

- 1. That this report be received**

Nigel Paragreen

Environmental Officer

11 July 2022

12.0 Committee & Delegate Reports

12.1 CFT

12.2 NZC

12.3 Ngai Tahu

12.4 Conservation Board

13.0 Correspondence

13.1 NZC to Otago

13.1.2 Doc's Priorities Initiating Engagement in Advocacy Processes RMA

Penny Nelson
 Director-General
 Department of Conservation
 18 Manners St
 Wellington 6011

4 July 2022

DOC's strategic priorities for initiating engagement in advocacy processes under the Resource Management Act 1991

Dear Penny,

I am writing to you regarding the Department of Conservation's strategic priorities for initiating engagement in advocacy processes under the Resource Management Act 1991.

As you are aware, the failure of successive Governments and especially regional councils to honour the intent of Parliament and implement the Resource Management Act has significantly undermined the ability of statutory bodies with species conservation responsibilities to achieve their statutory purpose.

As a result, Fish and Game Councils have been obliged, perhaps unreasonably, to engage in expensive litigation for habitat protection to achieve our statutory mandate to '*manage, maintain and enhance sports fish and game*' (s.26p Conservation Act).

We consider that because of the impending implementation of the NPS-FM 2020, DOC's RMA Strategy needs to be upgraded to include priority for NPS implementation.

The NPS provides the opportunity for a quantum improvement, perhaps the greatest in our lifetimes, of New Zealand's freshwater. The inclusion of its provisions in the 16 Regional Councils' Land and Water Plans (to be notified by December 2024) will determine the success of the NPS. We consider it essential that the Department changes its priorities and plays a leading role with Fish and Game in this work, which is consistent with the Department's role under the Conservation Act.

While we appreciate the argument that the Department has maintained advocacy for threatened indigenous freshwater species and thereby advocated more widely for freshwater quality, in reality the Department has, by and large, withdrawn once it considers that narrower ambition has been met and left Fish & Game to represent the public good. The effect has been the Department signing off consents when it has met its targets for indigenous species but when overall freshwater targets are yet to be met, and that has significantly undermined positions we have taken that have a public benefit. We should be in partnership with common objectives, and far too frequently, we have not been. This has cost the NZ public freshwater standards and contributed to the failure to maintain high standards under the RMA.

Fish and Game spend around 60% to 70% of our annual budget on freshwater advocacy in various forms, amounting to upwards of \$6 million. We are making a huge commitment to the NPS FM.

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

New Zealand Council

We have coordinated our advocacy specialists and employed additional staff. We are working closely with the Ministry for the Environment on the NES, on-farm plans, stock exclusion, intensive winter grazing and much more.

However, we consider the achievement of the essential provisions in Land and Water Plans will be enhanced with direct involvement from your advocacy team. We have already seen the disadvantages in not doing that in the Manuherikia River submissions to the ORC and in the Southland Land and Water Plan changes advocacy and hearings where consistent coordination and consultation should in our view, have been better managed. We achieved that in both cases with Aukaha and Forest and Bird in Southland.

I look forward to your response and forging a closer working relationship on this subject. If you have any questions I am available to meet to discuss.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Grubb', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ray Grubb
Chair
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

13.2 Otago to NZC

13.2.1 Fish and Game Regional Model



20th June 2022

Implementation Group
C/- NZC, Via Email

Dear Ray/Ngaire,

On the 15th June 2022, our Council held a meeting of its executive to consider the recent proposal from NZC which sought feedback on a seven Region model (agreed for consultation the April NZC meeting) and Mr David Hunt's additional advice letter.

Otago Position

The Otago Council position remains unchanged from its earlier submission. It supports the original report findings which saw the six Region structure well justified. Mr Hunts subsequent letter provides independent support for the six Region model and while he notes that a seven Region structure could work, he points out some of the pitfalls for that - including the process used to get to this alternative. He suggests that if iwi boundaries and present iwi relationships were to be used as a major determinant of regional boundaries for joined up regions then that would mean having to look at amalgamations across the whole country again in that context. Otago agrees with Mr Hunts conclusion on the topic.

In saying this, the Council was sympathetic to the regions proposed for amalgamation. It encourages the Implementation Group to give careful consideration to their wishes as a priority over regions set to stand alone such as Otago.

Information gaps

We appreciate that the focus of the structural review is deliberately narrow but submit that regional amalgamations cannot be considered in isolation of other important component parts of the organisation. For instance, the selection, size and function of New Zealand Council has not to date been covered in any report. Council considers this important because it provides the link between regions and government. Its governance, funding, and staffing all have a direct influence on the resources available to regions to undertake their statutory functions, whatever their future shape or number.

Concern was also expressed that the financial and user information used to make the assessments is out of date and perhaps doesn't reflect the current situation. It should be based on approved budgets, and expected licence revenue, for the most current year. Those figures provide a sobering view of where levies are derived (and grants are paid) and highlight the inequity of our current system. Otago levies are now more than \$1.2m - over 50% of its revenue. The North Island collectively still requires a grant from the system of ~\$160,000 to operate at current levels.

Summary

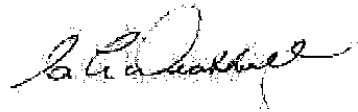
Council agrees with the six region structure as laid out and is supportive of Otago remaining a stand-alone region. Although some regions are geographically large, this probably strikes the best balance between maintaining licence holder engagement with a regional entity and being sizable enough to be economically sustainable, efficient and effective.

Finally, Otago F&G Council again encourages the Implementation Group to advance this body of work with haste so that the organisation doesn't languish for an extended period. That can be particularly abrasive on staff and Councillors.

Yours sincerely



Ian Hadland, Chief Executive



Colin Weatherall, Chair

**13.3 General Correspondence In
Nil**

**13.4 General Correspondence Out
Nil**

14.0 Items to be Received or Noted

Due to the volume, staff project reports have been compiled in a separate document

Recommendation

That the following staff reports be received and noted:

- 14.1 Assisted Habitat – Native Fish Project**
- 14.2 2021 Greenstone Drift Dive Survey Report**
- 14.3 2021-2022 Backcountry Compliance Ranging and Controlled Fishery**
- 14.4 2021-2022 Wanaka Creel Survey Results**
- 14.5 ORC Takitakitoa Monitoring Report**
- 14.6 Investigation into Lake Onslow Spawning Habitat**
- 14.7 Thomsons Creek Spawning Report**
- 14.8 Non Resident Anglers Survey Report 2022**

15.0 General Business