

## **Agenda Item 12:**

**Operational Report** – for the period ended May 2022

**Prepared by:** Dean Kelly – Manager

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### **Introduction**

The Council's adopted governance policies require the manager to provide an Operational Report, specific proposals for capital expenditure and acquisitions as well as major issues and opportunities for the Council. There are further requirements for the Manager to provide assurance that the Management Limitations are being observed. The format of this report is therefore to certify compliance with Governance Policies, Management Limitations and provide other material, responses, or assurance that Council objectives, strategies, plans, performance, risks, operation, resources, and structure are being met.

### **Notifications of intention to purchase unbudgeted capital items more than \$10,000**

A replacement vehicle is on order for LDY407.

### **Matters for the information of council**

#### Staff:

Staff holidays due (days):	Manager, 19
	Officer, 11
	Admin, 6

#### Vehicles:

Managers Vehicle: (start) 144,436 km (fin) 151,799km. Total private for period: 1,740km

Fish & Game Officer Vehicle MML: (start) 82,187 km (fin.) 89,577 km. Total private for period: 2,586 km

### **Bi-monthly report on outputs**

#### 1111 Drift Diving

Report completed and attached.

#### 1113 Spawning Surveys

Salmon spawning surveys underway. Counts completed on the Windbag, MacDonalds Creek, Hokitika tributaries and Taramakau Tributaries. Counts have been below average.

#### 1114 Trend Counts

Pukeko and Greyland trend counts completed. Reports attached.

#### 1115 Sportsfishery Research

Mawheraiti research sites electric fished. Juvenile trout numbers were still good despite the flooding experienced in February and dry spells during the remaining summer.

#### 1116 Backcountry Fisheries Management

Preparation underway for Backcountry survey. There has also been significant discussion between regions regarding future management and pressure sensitive fisheries. There appears to be almost unanimous support for the structure presented going forward.

#### 1121 National Hunter Survey

The Game Harvest survey was taken back in house this year and is progressing well. WC hunters mean bag for opening weekend was 8 gamebirds, consisting of 5 greylards, 2 Parries and either one Pukeko, Swan or Shoveler.

#### 1161 Fisheries Enhancement

2,200 wild mixed sex salmon weighing approximately 100 grams were released into Lake lanthe on 15<sup>th</sup> of April.

### 1171 Regulations/Gazette Notices

The Council's resolutions from the February meeting are being incorporated in the 2022 Gazette recommendation to the Minister.

### 1211 RMA Plans/Policy/Consents

Fish and Game has been involved in the Tai Poutini plan development. Unfortunately, we expect some issues will arise in the notified plan particularly around, activities in wetlands, activity on the surface of water and built structures. Consequently, Ben Farrell from Cue Environmental has been contracted to review the draft Tai Poutini Plan when notified in July.

Non-notified resource consents approved as affected party.

Applicant	Area	Type	Nature of work	Comments
Leisure Land Ltd	Maori Creek	Mining Permit	Alluvial gold Mining	3 pond system and overland flow through tailings with cut-off drains
Elect Mining Ltd	Awatuna	Mining Permit	Alluvial Gold Mining	Consultation re water take and minimum flows
AR &DK Godfrey Family Trust	Kowhiterangi	Land use consent	Stand-off pad	2 pond treatment system before Harris Creek
Belborough Holdings Ltd	Ianthe Forest	Mining Permit	Alluvial Gold Mining	Settling Ponds and no significant trout fisheries

The West Coast Fish and Game Council contributed to a National submission on an application to extend the phase out period of Diazinon use in NZ. The application has subsequently been denied and the phase out period will remain at 2028.

The review of DoC administered stewardship land has been completed and is out for submissions. We are currently reviewing the recommendations and looking at the possible impact on, access, river margins etc.

### 1311 Access

Hunters were provided with access information for game bird hunting.

### 1312 Assisted Hunting

Email sent to all West Coast licence holders to increase engagement and promoting organised hunts. Four hunts are planned targeting areas where complaints have been received. These are mostly focusing on Pukeko.

### 1331 Website/Ezines/Social Media

Regular Facebook engagements have been done, focusing on promoting the upcoming gamebird season and staff field work. Reel life and both barrels completed.

### 1341 Sportsfisheries Guides

Agents regularly stocked with guides.

### 1361 Clubs, Outdoor Recreation Groups

A Gamebird Hunting and Cooking event was held at the Greymouth gun club, promoting the sport and use of the birds. Approximately 20 people attended. The event was promoted on Facebook and in the newspaper.

### 1371 Okuru Hut

The hut is undergoing some internal repairs so will be out of action, other than for staff assisting with the repairs over the coming months.

### 1411 Conservation Boards/Iwi/allied agencies

There has been both local engagement with TeRunanga o Makaawhio and at a higher policy level with Ngai Tahu in Christchurch. Operational Managers met to discuss issues and seek common ground on issues such as; Wildlife Act issues and aspirations, RMA, engagement, Sportfish releases, Habitat

restoration, Gamebird management and induction packages for Ngai Tahu appointees. The Manager has also been asked to give a presentation to the West Coast Conservation Board in June.

#### 1421 Media/Communication

Media release in the rural farming paper about the gamebird season and organised hunts. Media releases promoting the Fish and Game Cookbook and the start to the Game Season.

#### 1511 Compliance

Compliance carried out around Kumara and Lake Brunner for opening weekend. 22 gamebird hunters checked with some minor compliance issues addressed in the Field. Unfortunately, volunteers organised to help with ranging were unavailable on the day leaving staff to do compliance checks singularly. It is not recommended this continues on future opening weekends as there is an increasing presence of Alcohol and unsafe behaviour in the Brunner Catchment.

#### 1531 Prosecutions

One active case for angler fishing without a licence at Lake Paringa.

#### 1611 Licence Production & Distribution

Only two returned licences this period, great to see more care being taken when entering addresses by agents. There has also been a delay in licence purchases and being sent for printing, seems sporadic but has been noted at the admin meetings that sometimes a 12 working day delay can be seen.

#### 1621 Agent Liaison

Regular visit to agents. We have called agents who have had incorrect address details being entered when selling licences – resulting in undeliverable mail.

#### 1721 Council

With the country moving to the Orange Traffic Light setting normal council meetings have resumed. The website has been updated to reflect this.

#### 1811 Sportsfish and Game Management Plan

The Council resolved to get the Sportsfish and Game Management Plan to a draft stage. The draft has been sent to Ben Farrell for formatting and preparation for Iwi consultation. Earlier consultation late last year indicated the plan was substandard regarding Iwi recognition and input. This will be addresses over the coming months.

#### 1821 OWP & Budget

A draft 2022/23 budget was submitted to the National Budget setting process.

#### 1841 National Liaison

Communication with other regions regarding compliance, prosecutions, trend counts, budgeting, licencing and pressure sensitive fisheries.

Further input was requested from the Manager on National Structural Review, and this was declined. The Council encouraged the Manager to step back from this process and provide advice for the region.

#### 1927 Occupational Safety and Health.

See Health and Safety Report.

#### 1950 Office Equipment

Have reset the layout of the meeting room to allow for more function at Council meetings.

Admin tablet replaced with laptop, and better monitor. All new equipment working much faster and more dependable.

#### 1980 Equipment

Staff reviewed field equipment and safety gear and replaced/procured new gear where required.

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#### **Staff Recommendation:**

That this report be received.