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Clutha Fisheries Trust

Chairman's Report for 2006-07 Financial Year.

It is my pleasure to report on another successful year of Trust operation and activities. Trust funds continue to be successfully managed. Advice from our fund managers indicates that the profit for the year equated to 9.39% return. This is a very good result.

At the time of writing this report the audited accounts are not available from the auditors. These will be freely available online (www.cft.co.nz) and from the Trust office as soon as they are completed.

There have been no items of major capital expenditure in the calendar year.

During the year there have been changes to the make up of the Trust. Dr Donald Scott retired as a Trustee. Dr Scott's contribution as a founding Trustee, has been vitally important to the long term activities and strength of the Trust. His replacement as nominee of the New Zealand Fish & Game Council is Dr John Jillett, who was previously a nominee of the Otago Fish & Game Council. Mr Ian Cole of Wanaka was nominated as a Trustee by the Otago Fish & Game Council. Dr Gerry Closs of the University of Otago was invited to sit as a co-opted Trustee.

The Trust board is:

Nominees of Otago Fish & Game Council	Mr. Dan Rae Mr. Ian Cole
Nominee of New Zealand Fish & Game Council	Dr. John Jillett.
Nominee of the Minister of Conservation	Mr. Murray Nielson
Nominee of the Minister of Fisheries	Dr. Robert McDowall
Co-opted Member	Dr. Gerry Closs

We successfully appealed a resource Consent application for Perriam Cove Development resulting in agreement by the developers to build a footbridge over the planned inlet for free and unimpeded public use. A very good result for all parties.

We remain very concerned about the ongoing development by private interests of the lake shore in some areas which impacts on access by creating a perception of private ownership which may confuse the public as to their legal right of way.

As Chairman of the Trust I have real concerns about the way the Department of Conservation is promoting foot, horse and mountain bike access only, particularly in regard to their tenure review outcomes. Little or no emphasis is given to the rights of other recreational users i.e. anglers and hunters despite DOC's broad responsibilities for outdoor recreation under the Conservation Act.

Mr Tobias Bickel who completed his Ph.D last year undertook further research for the Trust and Otago Fish & Game this year adding further information to our knowledge base of the Nevis River fishery.

Rasmus Gabrielson, student of the University of Otago was supported by the Trust to undertake his Masters Thesis furthering research on trout otolith study and investigating the Trout Migratory movements in the Upper Clutha. The Trust is delighted to contribute to important new research which will greatly expand our knowledge of fisheries and our

ability to manage them. This is an ongoing project with the potential to upgrade to a full Ph.D programme.

Field Officer Aaron Horrell has had a productive year. A large part of his work programme has been assisting both Mr Bickel and Mr Gabrielson with the practical aspects of their research. Continued work on public access, includes the completion of access laneways to the Upper Clutha River at Lochar Road and Pittaway Lane. These have been completely fenced and now provide for unencumbered public use. Formalisation of other access points along the Upper Clutha River has added to the opportunities for anglers to access the Clutha and a recently completed access pamphlet is freely available from local sports stores and Information centres. Other ongoing work included spawning surveys, Manuherikia River Creel Survey, promotion and public awareness of Didymo issues, and occasional assistance to Otago Fish & Game Council staff. All in all a very good year with some real job satisfaction.

Again I would like to thank all the Trustees and Aaron Horrell for a good effort through out the past year. To Otago Fish & Game Council, thankyou also for your support and cooperation.

Dan Rae
Chairman

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