

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

A Meeting of Council will be held at the
NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Drive, Hamilton,
on Saturday 17 June 2017 commencing at 11a.m.

AGENDA

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| 1. Apologies | |
| 2. Possible conflicts of interest arising from meeting agenda | |
| 3. Minutes of previous meetings held on 8 th April 2017 * | 1 |
| 4. Matters arising from previous minutes | |
| 5. Council correspondence (nil as of 6/6/2017) | |
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M. Young
Chairman

04/06/2017

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

Minutes of a Meeting of Council
held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton,
on Saturday 8th April 2017 commencing at 11.00am.

PRESENT:

Chairman: D. Cocks

Councillors: G. Annan, C. Carey, W. Howard, N. Juby, P. Shaw, C. Sherrard, B. Smith, S. Smith.

Staff: B. Wilson, A. Sintenie, J. Dyer (1.30pm).

Visitors: P. Hardy (DoC), P. Dawson (1.30pm), T. Mills (1.30pm).

1. APOLOGIES

A. Kerr, M. Young, E. Williamson, D. Klee, A. Daniel, M. Davis, R. Tyson.

It was moved;

that the apologies be accepted.

S. Smith/Annan CARRIED

2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

None declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 11 FEBRUARY 2017:

Mr Wilson informed Councillors that Katie Gibb was still analysing the blood samples taken from mallard ducks and that the research report would not be available for about 12 months.

It was moved;

that the minutes of the previous meeting of 11 February 2017 be accepted as a true and correct record.

B. Smith/Juby CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

None.

5 CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter was tabled from the Waikato Regional Council to the Department of Conservation regarding the regional council serving notice of its intention to formally review all conditions of the resource consent for the Whangamarino Weir. The consent for the weir was held jointly by the Department and Fish & Game.

Councillors expressed their disappointment that the regional council was initiating a review during the Healthy Rivers Plan Change and at a time when both Fish & Game and DoC were actively working with the regional council and local landowners to produce a catchment management plan for the Whangamarino Wetland.

The potential costs involved with the review was discussed by the meeting and it was moved;

that \$50,000 be allocated from restricted funds for the Whangamarino Weir Review.

B. Smith/S. Smith CARRIED

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BI-MONTHLY REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Mr Wilson expressed his concerns with the current system of temporary paper tags and especially the presence of an expiry date, which had led to a large number of maimai disputes. He suggested that with the trend towards electronic licenses, tags could be replaced with a registration system.

Councillors discussed the use of electronic licenses and noted potential difficulties due to:

- Lack of reception for mobile phones in many areas
- Privacy issues
- Inability to charge mobile phones in the field.

Councillors congratulated staff on producing an excellent preseason game newsletter.

Mr Wilson updated Councillors on the financial situation to date. Initial game licence sales were encouraging but fish licence sales would be down by about 2.5% - 3%, which was not unexpected given the appalling weather over summer.

Councillor Sherrard informed that the application to the Fish & Game National Legal Fund for \$175,000 to fund the Healthy Rivers campaign had been approved by the NZF&G Council.

It was moved;

that the CE Bimonthly report and Financial Statements be accepted.

Annan/S. Smith CARRIED

7. HAURAKI MARINE SPATIAL PLAN:

Mr Wilson emphasised to Councillors the potential benefits arising from this non statutory plan including a commitment by regional authorities to build a large number of wetlands over the next ten years.

8. WAIKATO HEALTHY RIVERS:

Mr Wilson introduced Council's submission on the Healthy Rivers Plan change noting that similar submissions had been lodged by other environmental agencies and also by some primary sector groups.

Several Councillors expressed their bewilderment over the recent news release by Federated Farmers criticising Fish & Game for not being more involved in the management of Canada geese and koi carp.

It was moved;

that the Healthy Rivers report be received.

Juby/S. Smith CARRIED

9. COUNCILLOR FIELD TRIP:

Two changes were suggested to the itinerary:

- Visit Cathcart wetland rather than the Dean Wetland
- A packed lunch rather than a sit down meal.

10. DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2017/18 BUDGET AND OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN:

Mr Wilson introduced the 2017/18 Budget and Operational Work Plan. After discussion it was moved;

that the 2017/18 Budget and Operational Work Plan of \$777,319 (not including applications of \$45,000) be approved.

Annan/Shaw CARRIED

11. OSH REPORT:

Mr Wilson presented the OSH Report noting that two bridges in the Aka Aka Wetland had been repaired, and timber had been purchased for a new bridge in the Blythen Wetland.

It was moved;

that the OSH Report for April 2017 be accepted.

12. NZF&GC MEETING 24 - 26 MARCH 2017:

Councillor Sherrard reviewed the NZF&GC meeting of 24-26 March 2017.

Councillor Sherrard was asked whether he thought that the large amount of time that the NZ Council spent in committee was justified. Councillor Sherrard replied that the issues discussed in committee could not be discussed in public due to their confidential nature involving privacy issues.

13. LICENCE SALES YTD AND LICENCE ANALYSIS.

Mr Robert Sowman's report on licence sales was discussed with Councillors considering the following recommendations, after Mr Wilson had read out Dr Daniel's written comments.

1. That the March 2017 licence sales tables and licence system update be received for information.
Agreed
2. That the licence categories and fee ratios remain unchanged for the 2017/18 financial year.
Opposed because the fee ratios needed to be adjusted to compensate for the reduction in licence revenue
3. Regional Fish and Game Councils be consulted on support for:
 - a. Imposing a limit on the number of consecutive days that a day licence can be issued for, with the proposed limit being three-days and not renewable for a further five working days.
Agreed
 - b. Broadening the use of designated fisheries as a useful management tool in the promotion of more whole season (including non-resident) licenses.
Opposed
 - c. Changing the name of the "Adult whole season" licence to "Premium" licence with an expiry date of September 30.
Opposed because the whole season is not the most expensive licence, and thus it was confusing.
 - d. Permitting all named people to use the family licence, i.e. primary, secondary and named children, as a fish-alone licence.
Agreed
 - e. Change the name from Day or 24 Hour licence to "Have-a-go" licence.
Opposed

4. That ways to grow participation rates become part of a proposed marketing strategy.
Opposed because it failed to take into consideration the decline in rural population and the shift from Europeans to Asian immigrants.

Concern was expressed by Councillor Juby that many trout fisheries were already heavily fished by anglers and he questioned whether we needed to increase the promotion of our river fisheries.

Councillor S. Smith requested that Mr Sowman be asked to produce graphs in future reports that are decipherable when photocopied in black & white.

It was moved;

that Mr Robert Sowman's report on licence sales be received, and Mr Sowman be informed on whether his recommendations are approved or opposed by Council.
S. Smith/Juby CARRIED

Council rose for lunch at 1.00pm and resumed at 1.40pm.

Anna Sintenie left the meeting. Mr Tom Mills and Mr Phil Dawson joined the meeting.

14. OSPRI 1080 PRESENTATION:

Mr Phil Dawson (OSPRI) gave a presentation on the use of 1080 in NZ and their proposed programme for the use of 1080 in the Williamson Wetland. He noted that the programme in the Whangamarino Wetland should eliminate the threat of TB from the area. The proposal included the use of bait stations along the existing tracks in the Williamson Wetland, including an increased in the number of existing bait stations. However away from the tracks the wetland was inaccessible by foot and thus it was impractical to carry out a ground based programme. Therefore Mr Dawson stated that only aerial control could be used away (100m) from the tracks. Both Mr Dyer and Councillor Cocks agreed that access away from the tracks was impractical and possibly dangerous.

Mr Dawson stated that the advantages of the 1080 programme would be:

1. Removal of predators
2. Probably the last time that control would be needed to stop TB in the Whangamarino.
3. Waikato could move to a TB free state
4. Possible contribution by OSPRI to the existing F&G bait station and trapping programme.

The Chairman reminded Councillors of Council's existing policy to oppose the aerial application of 1080. Any change to this policy could not be implemented at the current meeting but would need to be agended for another council meeting.

It was agreed that Council's policy on the aerial use of 1080 in areas where foot access is impractical be agended for the June 2017 meeting.

15. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Councillor Shaw asked whether cats kill stoats and ferrets. There was general agreement that cats would kill stoats and ferrets but they were not preferred prey.

Mr Wilson reported that he has been contacted by Mr Stuart Muir about the Franklin Acclimatisation Society purchasing the bait stations currently supplied by TB Free NZ in the Waikato Delta and continuing the predator control programme. Mr Wilson suggested that Council could contribute towards the cost of the baits.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 2.50pm and wished Councillors all the best for the upcoming game season.

UNCONFIRMED

Bi Monthly Managers Report

Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Meeting June 2017

OUTPUT 1: SPECIES MANAGEMENT**Project 1115 Population Surveys**

Adam Daniel has been processing the Arapuni tags and some impressive fish have been coming in but there has not been a jump in wild spawning fish.

Project 1117 Gamebird Research

PhD Project Mallard Productivity: Jenn Sheppard has spent the last 5 weeks in Alaska, working closely with Dr Courtney Amundson and analysing the various components of the data. Things are processing rapidly, and it looks like all the analysis should be completed and a thesis submitted by the end of August. Generally, it takes around 3 months from thesis submission to finalization, so we expect to have the thesis ready to publish around November.

Unfortunately, due to embargo policies from prospective journals, we cannot readily release results until the thesis is finalized (i.e. accepted), or a manuscript has been published. The first manuscript, "Effects of surgically implanted transmitters on reproduction and survival in mallards" has been accepted for publication to the *Wildlife Society Bulletin*. We just need to complete final edits, pay for the publication fees, and once it is published, these results will be made readily available.

The second manuscript, "Nest ecology of female mallards in New Zealand", is currently under review by co-authors/advisers, but is near complete. It should be submitted within the next couple of months, mostly likely to the scientific journal *Condor*. Professor Todd Arnold has prepared a code that will help us determine duckling survival rates and detection probabilities. Once the code has been proofed (using Erin Garrick's data), we will run it with the entire suite of data and obtain our final duckling survival results. This should be done relatively soon, but a manuscript may not be submitted until after the thesis has been defended.

The final chapter will be a sensitivity analysis and will determine which survival rates have the largest influence on population growth rates. I am currently working on this analysis at the moment, and final results won't be too far away. However, it's likely we will not have time to submit this manuscript for publication until later in the year (following the thesis defence).

Masters Project Heavy Metal Concentrations: All samples have now been processed by the lab and Katie Gibb is working on her statistical analysis. Total sample numbers tested are as follows; liver = 331, pre-season bloods = 170, post-season bloods = 140, eggs = 60, gizzards=343. Preliminary results show Southland with significantly higher cadmium loads compared to the Waikato, while the Waikato has higher levels of lead. Gizzard's have been tested and of the total 343 x-rayed, we found 16% with ingested shot- only 2.3% of those were lead. Waikato had a slightly higher lead ingestion (3.5%) compared to Southland (1.2%). Analysis will continue over the next few weeks at which time more results will be available.

GBHS and Hunter Feedback: As expected we have received contrasting of views regarding bird numbers this season and harvest results seem to indicate similar trends. Hunters in some of the large wetlands like the Kopuatai, Opuatia and Whangamarino are reporting the best

season in years whilst those big hill country farm dams that hold hundreds of birds in drought years are largely devoid of ducks. Lakes and rivers have been mixed results and birds are well dispersed in flooded paddocks and willow wetlands, where they are difficult to hunt and remain largely undisturbed.

Like the last wet summer in 2011, we have again been inundated with calls about early ducklings and have witnessed them ourselves. This is likely due to the increased condition that birds are in and the availability of high protein diet which gives hens the nutrients required for egg production. Indications from the telemetry study are that early nesters produce bigger clutches and are more successful, however we don't have those results for duckling survival yet so it's too early to tell whether or not the onset of an early breeding season is a positive. The high water levels early during the breeding season should hopefully mean that birds will nest out of flood zones as vegetation in low lying areas is no longer suitable for nesting.

Project 1161 Trout Releases:

Adam has been investigating stocking Triploid fish in lakes to reduce the impact of hatchery fish on wild trout breeding and competing with wild spawning fish.

Lake Pupuke: The Lake Pupuke release was a big success with stepped up media releases and Event Finder listing. Over 100 attended with 65 kids participating in the raffle after the release. The raffle was sponsored by Berkley NZ for the second year in a row.

Also releases at the Waiuku dune lakes and Lake Moananui.

Fish Tank: Adam has also ordered a release tank that will double as a display tank for the back of the truck to be used at events and school visits.

Project 1172 Game Gazette.

Answered many hunters' questions regarding marking up in floods when the access was difficult or impossible. Advised them not to risk their lives and do the best they could in the circumstances and we would take that into consideration. Some marked up the nearest fence post that they could find from their maimai, for instance. Everyone marked up somehow and, best of all, no one drowned.

Some hunters interpreted the new paper licence expiry date to mean that they could take over long-marked up ponds from their historic owners. Explained that this date was only a recommendation and probably had no standing in law. This seemed to settle things down.

OUTPUT 2 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT

Project 1211 R.M.A.

Awakino State Highway realignment: Met with consultants to Transit NZ to discuss realignment of SH3 alongside the Awakino River from the gorge down to Mt Messenger. We gave some initial feedback on preferred option, especially in regards to angler access.

Waikare/Whangamarino Catchment Management Plan: The Waikato Regional Council has retained an environmental consultancy to draft a Catchment Management Plan for the Waikare/Whangamarino Catchment. This will be done in parts, with the first stage being the catchment overview, and then an "implementation and action plan" will be drafted. The

intention is that this all be done by collaborative process, with input from all the stakeholders. We were asked for input on the catchment overview. Anna Sintenie reviewed and made comment on the draft, but in addition to this there was a request that F&G draft certain segments of the plan from scratch. The review requested more clarity on the overall mission for the plan before we engage in giving detailed input, particularly in the context of the 'implementation and action plan'. It is important that we know what the plan will be used for and how it will be used. This is even more relevant in light of the fact that a Catchment Management Plan for the Whangamarino is one of the methods required under the Proposed Healthy Rivers Plan Change.

Healthy Rivers (PC 1): On-going work for the Healthy Rivers Plan Change by Anna has been:

- Reviewing other submissions to identify which may raise significant issues for us to support or oppose in the further submission process;
- Drafting a submission for the north eastern catchment which was withdrawn from the Plan Change. This primarily relates to the Whangamarino Wetland and catchment. This has been done after review of the position taken by DOC in light of our shared interests in the Whangamarino, particularly in regards to the Whangamarino Weir. It may be subject to some change once the north eastern portion of the catchment is re-notified.
- Initiating a draft of F&G's Further Submissions, which will be built on after the Council's summary of Submissions is released.

Whangamarino Weir consent review: Anna and Mischa Davis have done preliminary research into the procedural requirements and whether these had been met by the Council, as well as an initial review of some of the substantive matters raised by the Council. This has been done in anticipation of being approached directly by the Council, who have so far dealt solely with DOC. DOC is negotiating an extension of 10 months with the Council.

Pukekohe Wastewater Treatment Consent: We recently learned from the applicant that this consent application will proceed to hearing and that the date had been set for the 26th of June. At this point and time we had not heard anything from the Waikato Regional Council post submission other than that our submission had been received. David Klee has questioned why the applicant was informed that a hearing date had been set, yet none of the submitters were informed? Also, why no attempts were made to meet with submitters and the applicant, discuss outstanding issues and try and find some resolutions or at least narrow the scope of those issues. The lack of leadership and communication shown by WRC in this case has been unsatisfactory. We are also struggling to obtain relevant information which will help formulate our case from the processing officer, with emails being ignored. Timeframes are tight with expert evidence exchange set for June 16.

Anna is preparing planning evidence, particularly in relation to the applicant's claim that a small decrease in phosphorous mass load can be used to offset a doubling of nitrogen mass load, and therefore remove cumulative effects and contribute to restoration of the Waikato as required by the Vision and Strategy.

Mischa is preparing legal submissions in support of this position, namely challenging the 'existing environment' definition that they have calculated the permitted baseline test on in that it is flawed and incorrect, and raising the concern that the precedent this consent would set if it is approved in allowing a doubling of nitrogen discharge into a river.

Waikeria Prison Expansion Project: The Department of Corrections has put in an application to expand the Waikeria Prison as a response to meet the rising demand for prisoner

places in New Zealand. The proposal states that the wastewater from the new facility will be treated and disposed of through the Te Awamutu wastewater treatment plant (TA WWTP) rather than being discharged into the river as it is now. Of concern to Fish & Game is that the TA WWTP is coming up for consent renewal now. We are concerned that the TA WWTP will not be able to cope with this increased wastewater and effectively put pressure on the surrounding rivers and ecosystem there. Another issue is access to the Mangatutu Stream, which is a popular trout fishery and defines the eastern boundary of the Waikeria Prison. The public can currently drive through the prison to the Mangatutu Stream but it is technically off limits for shooters and anglers. Mischa drafted a submission requesting that the wastewater not be transferred unless there is a guarantee that the treatment plant can cope, and also requesting access to the Mangatutu Stream for hunters and anglers.

Whakapapa Wastewater Treatment Consent: DOC is seeking resource consents from the Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council for a number of discharge permits for the Whakapapa wastewater treatment plant which includes an adaptive management approach. Mischa will draft a submission on the applications requesting that the consent conditions will ensure an improvement in water quality and that if a staged approach is used that it is spelled out in the conditions. The adaptive management approach needs boundaries in the form of discharge limits (nitrogen, phosphorus, suspended solids and E. Coli) and time frames so we can hold them to each proposed level of enhanced treatment. We are also requesting that a bird management plan be included.

Mallards nesting on roadside verges: Mischa has been doing research into how to implement a ban on roadside spraying and mowing during the months of August and September in order to better protect nesting mallards. Mischa will draft a memorandum to the Waikato District Council requesting a ban.

Lake Waikare/Whangamarino Flood Scheme: We are awaiting the next experts report due any day. No major 'show stoppers' have been identified by any potentially affected parties relating to the 3 options that are being proposed for further investigation.

Inghams application: David had another meeting with Inghams consultants and have subsequently supplied a tracked changes version of consent conditions. There are a few outstanding points that still need to be addressed but we hope this consent will settle without the need to go to hearing.

Project 1221 Council Land

Williamson & Cock's Wetland: Assisted Cocks Wetland user group with wasp control options. These large nests are above ground in trees so may have survived the flooding since. Flooding also meant that their planned destruction using Vespex did not proceed at that time.

Piggott Wetland: Inspected Piggott Wetland during flooding coinciding with high tide and noted the points at which possible sewage contaminated water enters across our stopbank, thereby indicating where this needs to be raised.

McKenzie Wetland: Counties Power removed 4 old and no longer needed power pylons from our Dean and McKenzie properties using a work crew and helicopter. Flooding has hampered this work and steel scrap is still beside the McKenzie Wetland entrance.

We have had a number of padlock related issues at this Wetland, this year. Padlocks have been linked together wrongly so locking some groups out, or the gate has been taken off its

hinges. In one case the padlocks at one gate simply disappeared and padlocks locked back to fences have seen the fences cut. Part of the problem may be that many hunters now want to take their quad-bike hunting and they're not prepared to have to walk. However access over railway land is conditional and not a right. Anyone interfering with padlocks in an unauthorised way is likely to be trespassed. The road to this Wetland is a private road that we control.

Poison/trap signs: These have been distributed to many Council wetlands, largely to discourage neighbours from using our wetlands as their private dog exercise areas and/or from dumping their cats off at Christmas time.

Project 1231 Non Council Land

Flooding on the Hauraki Plains: Met with Adam Munro, Section Manager for the catchment works on the Hauraki Plains. Some of the local landowners have blamed the magnitude of the recent flooding in the Hauraki Plains on weirs in the Kopuatai Wetland including the main weir on the Flax Block, which was originally put in by Fish & Game. The regional council is currently carrying out investigations/modelling to see whether the structures played a role (-ve or otherwise) in the recent flood events.

Whangamarino: we were contacted by several hunters and spoke to DoC staff just before April regarding a large fish kill in the Whangamarino, from roughly Raeo Arm to Island Block Road. Presumed to relate to a drop in water oxygen levels caused by rotting flooded vegetation and not unprecedented.

Lake Waikare: The large bright yellow refuge marker buoy in the south west corner disappeared. F&G staff found it shortly afterwards hard up against a maimai (which could have complicated things for them!), but DoC has since quickly replaced it.

Beehives: Complaints have been fielded about beehives too close to entrances of DOC public hunting land near Coalfields Rd leading to multiple stings. This has since been sorted, though some access problems around off road parking and inconsiderate maimai locations still need to be worked through.

WCEET Wetland Projects: David lodged an application for 8 projects in conjunction with landowners to conduct wetland restoration and predator control work. The 5 wetland projects were all successful with \$80,000 (GST incl). This will be matched by landowner contributions. Unfortunately, the 3 predator control projects were unsuccessful. The reason given was that "funding of this nature should be available through the Waikato Regional Council Small scale Community Initiatives Fund." We have applied to this fund in the past with mixed success but will do so again for these 3 projects.

Waikato University Research: Resilient Rivers Functional Floodplains. Unfortunately this application which we supported was unsuccessful.

OUTPUT 3 PARTICIPATION

Project 1311 Access Negotiation

WAMS: Adam has finally got WAMS to update our map with most of the regions fishing locations. Adam has also worked with WAMS to secure enduring walking access on the

Waipapa River, and has visited the station twice and ordered some self-closing gates for the exterior deer fences.

Adam is also in discussion with WAMS on creating walking access into the upper reaches of the Waipa River.

Project 1331 Magazine/Supplement

Adam has been preparing the 2017 pre-season fishing magazine and supplement with the help of Nigel and Anna.

Project 1341 Other Publications

Adam has been writing the monthly reel life.

Both Barrels: John completed 2 issues in April and May.

Flight: John summarised F&G Becoming an Outdoor Woman, (BOW) program for Ducks Unlimited publication Flight.

Shotgun Plug: One of our leading hunting publications has accepted an article by John showing step by step how to DIY plug a shotgun. With half the North Island now 3-shot, it is hoped this will raise awareness and also compliance.

Banders: John supplied a Banders newsletter article to DoC. In the last 20 years, (1997 to 2017), A/W and Eastern have banded 75,726 mallard ducks and 4,959 grey ducks.

OUTPUT 4 PUBLIC INTERFACE

Project 1431 Liaison Advocacy

DOC 30th anniversary: I attended anniversary celebrations for DOC at the Hamilton Zoo (District) and Hamilton airport Hotel (Regional).

Project 1441 Displays Promotions

Duck nights: John attended Westgate H&F, Warkworth H&F and Franklin H&F. David attended Hamilton H&F, and Franklin Accl. Soc.

Pre-season publicity: Contributed to the usual pre-season interviews with local newspapers and other media.

OUTPUT 5 LAW ENFORCEMENT

Project 1511 Ranging:

No Fish Licence: Adam was able to track down an angler that was found to be fishing without a licence who gave a false address through his car rego.

Opening Weekend: Adam and David ranged on the Waihou River and seized a total of 7 guns. They subsequently patrolled the Waikato River near Huntly for duck shooters hunting under power.

John directed ranging at a large number of hunters, many at relatively remote locations. At one of these the hunter had allegedly boasted he never saw a ranger and never brought a licence. However he and his mates all checked out so perhaps he had second thoughts. Three hunters north of the Harbour Bridge had their firearms seized. One very green young hunter was invited duck hunting just before the season and loaned a magazine shotgun by his father, a lapsed gamebird hunter, who did not know that magazine shotguns now need to be plugged. This highlighted the problem of last minute online licence purchasers not actually getting a regulation booklet in the mail until well into the first week. This case has since been satisfactorily resolved but has highlighted the need to include a download option for the regulations with any online purchase. Experienced hunters will be aware that printed licences used to have a summary of the regulations on their reverse – including that magazines needed to be pinned.

We have also had issues with hunters and nearby lifestyle Wetlands, (usually horse owners). By getting everyone together to explain their safety zones, the range of shot and also by getting hunters to text landowners about their intentions beforehand, possible conflicts seem to have been resolved. If anything, semi-regular shooting conditions nearby horses to accept other loud noises such as backfiring vehicles etc. We should be charging for this service!

Investigated claims of duck poisoning pre-season. No evidence found to support this.

OUTPUT 8: PLANNING REPORTING

Project 1841 National Liaison

Adam has commented on a screen diversion test that was conducted in South Island. The use of inadequate fish guidance devices in the south Island is alarming and will likely have a negative impact on both water quality and fish survival.

OUTPUT 9 ADMINISTRATION:

Project 1912 Administration.

Safety checks were conducted on the boat and ATV. Adam and John were both re-certified by Northland manager Rudi Hoetjes to be boat drivers.

Along with the new Northland F&G field officer Andrew Kirk, John completed a Power Boat Level 2, Part 35 2-yearly renewal using the services of Craig Bridgeman in Raglan, (who has a commercial ticket). It then transpired that the new certificate issued by F&G would only be for the hours of daylight, which doesn't suit some of our ranging work. On further investigation by Rudi Hoetjes, it was found that a declaration from an optometrist that the applicant is not colour-blind, having passed an Ishihara test for such, would overcome this restriction. In fact this test had already been done beforehand by John and the certificate has since been amended. Presumably this requirement is so the boat user can identify red and green buoyage channel markers, though why someone also needs to be able to hear a whispered command or the ticking of a watch, (also requirements), is still a mystery.

B. Wilson
Chief Executive.