



AGENDA

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

13th NOVEMBER 2021

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

A Meeting of Council
will be held by Zoom on Saturday 13 November 2021 commencing at 10.00am

AGENDA

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* Denotes attachments

B. Wilson
Chief Executive
01/11/2021

GENERAL EXPLANATION OF VARIOUS LAWS AFFECTING COUNCILLORS:

In accordance with Standing Orders, at the first meeting of a newly elected Council, a general explanation should be given on the relevant sections of the following legislation:

1. Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968

Councillors shall not vote on or take part in the discussion of any matter before the Council or any Council committee in which the councillor has, directly or indirectly, any pecuniary interest, other than an interest in common with the public.

2. Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Right of Council to exclude public: Council may by resolution exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting on the following grounds:

- that the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.

Epidemic notice in force for COVID-19

If it is reasonably practicable, enable access to Council meetings by broadcasting live the audio or video of the meeting (for example, by broadcasting it on an Internet site); and

as soon as practicable after the meeting ends:

- makes an audio or a video recording of the meeting available on its Internet site:
- or makes a written summary of the business of the meeting available on its Internet site.

Maintenance of order

The Chairman may, if that person believes, on reasonable grounds, that the behaviour of any member of the public attending that meeting is likely to prejudice or to continue to prejudice the orderly conduct of that meeting if that member of the public is permitted to remain in that meeting, require that member of the public to leave the meeting.

If any member of the public who is required to leave a meeting of a local authority—

- refuses or fails to leave the meeting; or
- having left the meeting, attempts to re-enter the meeting without the permission of the person presiding at the meeting,—

any officer or employee of Council may, at the request Chairman, remove or, as the case may require, exclude that member of the public from the meeting.

3. Secret Commission Act 1910

Gifts to agent without consent of principal an offence

Every person is guilty of an offence who corruptly gives, or agrees or offers to give, to any agent any gift or other consideration as an inducement or reward for doing or forbearing to do, or for having done or forborne to do, any act in relation to the Council's affairs or business (whether such act is within the scope of the agent's authority or the course of his employment as agent or not), or for showing or having shown favour or disfavour to any person in relation to the Council's affairs or business.

Acceptance of such gifts by agent an offence

Every agent is guilty of an offence who corruptly accepts or obtains, or agrees or offers to accept or attempts to obtain, or solicits from any person, for himself or for any other person, any gift or other consideration as an inducement or reward for doing or forbearing to do, or for having done or forborne to do, any act in relation to the Council's affairs or business (whether such act is within the scope of the agent's authority or the course of his employment as agent or not), or for showing or having shown favour or disfavour to any person in relation to the principal's affairs or business.

Duty of agent to disclose pecuniary interest in contract

Every agent is guilty of an offence who makes a contract on behalf of Council and fails to disclose to Council, at the time of making the contract or as soon as possible thereafter, the existence of any pecuniary interest which the agent has in the making of the contract, unless to the knowledge of the agent the existence of such pecuniary interest is already known to his Council.

Giving false receipt, invoice, etc, to agent an offence

Delivery of false receipt, etc, to principal an offence

Receiving secret reward for procuring contracts an offence

Aiding and abetting offences

Offences by persons acting on behalf of agents

Customary nature of gift to be no defence

4. Crimes Act 1961

Official means any person in the service of the Sovereign in right of New Zealand (whether that service is honorary or not, and whether it is within or outside New Zealand)

Corruption and bribery of official

- (1) Every official is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 7 years who, whether within New Zealand or elsewhere, corruptly accepts or obtains, or agrees or offers to accept or attempts to obtain, any bribe for himself or herself or any other person in respect of any act done or omitted, or to be done or omitted, by him or her in his or her official capacity.

- (2) Every one is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 7 years who corruptly gives or offers or agrees to give any bribe to any person with intent to influence any official in respect of any act or omission by him or her in his or her official capacity.

Corrupt use of official information

Every official is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 7 years who, whether within New Zealand or elsewhere, corruptly uses or discloses any information, acquired by him or her in his or her official capacity, to obtain, directly or indirectly, an advantage or a pecuniary gain for himself or herself or any other person.



AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

Minutes of a Meeting of Council
held on Zoom
on Saturday 16th October 2021 commencing at 10:00am.

PRESENT:

Chairman: G. Annan

Councillors: E. Williamson, D. Cocks, P. Shaw, C. Sherrard, S. Smith,
N. Juby, W. Howard, A. Kerr

Visitors: B. Barnes, G. Ralph, D. du Preez, G. Dickey, M. Barker

Staff: B. Wilson, J. Dyer, D. Klee, A. Daniel

1. APOLOGIES:

Councillor Sherrard advised that he would only be able to attend until 11am.

Councillor Juby advised that his internet connection to the meeting was likely to be intermittent.

It was moved;
that apologies be accepted.

Shaw/Cocks – CARRIED

2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

None declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 14th August 2021:

It was moved;
that the minutes of the previous meeting of 14th August 2021 be accepted as true and correct records.

Sherrard/Cocks – CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The Chairman noted that the issues arising from drift shooting were discussed further in the Chief Executive's bimonthly report.

Councillor Cocks asked for an update on Lake Waikare. Mr Wilson replied that under the new legislation (National Policy Statement for Freshwater) the Waikato Regional Council must include Lake Waikare in a FMU (Freshwater Management Unit) that will identify environmental outcomes/targets to be achieved. Fish and Game will have ample opportunities to take part in this process.

Councillor Cocks enquired whether hunters on commercial game preserves required a game licence. Councillor Juby replied that the preserves had a code of conduct that required all hunters to have a licence. He understood that having a code of conduct was a prerequisite for being listed in Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Act.

5. COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Councillor Cocks expressed his concern that the Minister of Conservation's action in placing pheasants and partridge on Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Act for commercial pheasant preserves was illegal.

Councillors agreed that Ms Davis is asked for her legal opinion on the legality of placing pheasant and partridges on Schedule 3.

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

The Chairman admired the new sign at the Murry Young Wetland. Councillor Cocks noted that the Williamson Wetland required similar signage.

In response to a question, Mr Dyer undated the meeting about the commercial sale of pheasants on Trademe. He emphasised that legal sales could only be between permit holders.

The results of the National Shoveler study were discussed with Mr Klee agreeing that the long-term trend indicated that the population was stable.

Mr Barker enquired as to whether the results of the banding programme could be produced earlier in the year. Mr Klee explained that the report from the banding programme was based on both the annual harvest survey and band returns, and thus could not be produced any earlier.

Financial Report

Mr Wilson introduced his report observing that the surplus for the previous financial year was some \$200k greater than budgeted; however, fish licence sales for the new financial year had been slow due to the lockdowns in Auckland and Hamilton with revenue down 30%.

Mr Wilson reported that because of the high price achieved with the recent sale of a Ford Ranger Ute, he had moved forward the purchase of another Ranger to take advantage of the current prices. Councillor Williamson enquired as to whether it would be desirable to replace any other vehicles. Mr Wilson replied that he would investigate but was unsure whether they could be purchased before the surcharge was imposed.

It was moved;

that the Chief Executive's bi-monthly report and financial statements be accepted.

Smith/Cocks – CARRIED

7. WHANGAMARINO WEIR, SECTION 128 REVIEW:

Mr Klee updated the meeting on the ongoing Section 128 review of the consents held by DOC and Fish & Game for the Whangamarino weir. Mr Klee stated that they were waiting for data from ICM on the impact of other structures, especially the Whangamarino flood gates on water levels in the wetland.

Mr Klee observed that Fish & Game had a good understanding of the water levels that would enhance waterfowl productivity in the wetland. He emphasised that it made good sense to operate all structures in a coherent manner to optimise habitat values rather than solely concerning on flood relief.

8. HEALTHY RIVERS UPDATE:

Mr Wilson reported that he had not yet heard back from the Waikato Regional Council as to whether they were going to proceed with the current Environment Court proceedings for Healthy Rivers.

Councillor Sherrard left the meeting.

9. FISH & GAME REVIEW:

Councillor Cocks expressed his concern that there had been no consultation with licence holders and that the whole process was being rushed.

Other Councillors agreed and expressed concerns as to how the committee had been formed.

It was moved;

That the New Zealand Fish & Game Council and other Fish & Game regions be informed of Council's concerns that:

1) the process was being unduly rushed.

2) with the way that committee had been setup and the composition of the committee.

3) the need to consult with licence holders and adjacent regions.

Cocks/Williamson – CARRIED

Councillor Juby left the meeting.

10. OSH UPDATE:

It was moved;

that the OSH Report for October 2021 be accepted.

Smith/Kerr – CARRIED

11. POLICY REVIEW:

It was moved;

that existing policies be reaffirmed.

Cocks/Shaw – CARRIED

12. AUCKLAND/WAIKATO COUNCIL GOVERNANCE REPORTS:

It was moved;

that the Governance Reports be accepted.

Cocks/Williamson – CARRIED

13. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Councillor Shaw updated the meeting on his efforts to repair the banding cages and he suggested that the “legs” on the runnels be removed. Mr Klee observed that some sites, such as silage pits, required the tunnels to have legs but they were a nuisance on hard ground. It was agreed to remove the legs from half of the tunnels.

Councillor Shaw requested that name tags be available for the next in-person meeting. Mr Wilson agreed to arrange.

14. NZ COUNCIL MEETING 27TH & 28TH AUGUST

Councillor Juby introduced the minutes noting that the NZC had supported the Auckland/Waikato Council’s concern that the status of pheasant preserves was a regional issue.

Concern was expressed that the implementation committee was proceeding in a direction that differed from the messaging of the minister.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 11:30am.



18 October 2021

Regional Chairs
Via email

Dear Regional Chairs

Structure Review Project

At our meeting on Saturday 16th October, the Auckland/Waikato Council considered the letter from David Hunt requesting feedback on amalgamations and boundaries. Our council has decided not to participate in the process at this stage for the following reasons and would like other councils to consider taking a similar approach.

1. We believe that the implementation group has no mandate to carry out this study. The Minister of Conservation has communicated that she wants Fish and Game to propose its own responses to the review. While the combined feedback on the review comprehensively backed more research into amalgamations, this work should be done by Fish and Game itself, not the Implementation Group (IG).
2. We believe that the IG hasn't worked well with regions so far and appears to be following its own agenda. This was apparent immediately following the review's release when two members of the IG toured the regions with a strong message of "the review will be implemented as recommended by the reviewers and the best that we can hope for is minor tweaks". This has proved not to be the case at all.
3. While we think highly of all the people involved in the Regional Structure Review Project Team, the group lacks diversity. Members of this group all have either a strong bias or represent regions that stand to make significant gains depending on their recommendations.
 - The members all come from regions that are supportive of amalgamating.
 - The team is considering boundary criteria changes that will potentially benefit the regions involved.
 - All members come from grant receiving regions - none are from levy paying regions.
 - No large regions are represented.
 - Only two of the proposed six regions are geographically represented on the group (NM/WC and Well/Tar).

Auckland/Waikato Region

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It appears to us that the members were chosen because they were likely to come back with conclusions that backed the views of the IG and review rather than the best outcome for F&G.

4. We believe that the time frames laid out are ridiculously short. Regions are asked to respond without even considering the questions at a scheduled meeting.
5. F&G had no input into the terms of reference and some of the questions David has asked go way beyond the scope of the TOR.
6. The group appears to believe that they should report to the Minister directly. This is neither appropriate nor in the interest of F&G. The Minister has been clear that F&G has direct contact to her, not just through the IG or her own officials.

Based on the above factors, our Councillors expressed the view that they would be derelict in their duties as governors if they supported this process.

We agree that analysis needs to be carried out on amalgamations. However, this should be directed by Fish and Game, not the IG. We suggest the NZC take over the process immediately and do it properly with the support of regions.

This way, we will get a result that truly reflects the views, values and goals of Fish and Game and sets a path for the future that we can all support.

Please share this email with your Councillors, their informed feedback will be required in your own region's response.

Yours sincerely



Grant Annan
Chairman

Grant Annan
Auckland Waikato Fish and Game Council
By email to Ben Wilson
Cc (former) Regional Chairs, Regional Managers, (former) NZ Council, NZ Council CE

Dear Grant

I have been forwarded your letter to the (former) Chairs of the Regional Fish and Game Councils notifying your Council's intention to not participate in the Regional amalgamation study.

May I point out some information ?

1. NZ Fish and Game asked the Minister for this study (item 4 in the Exec summary in the letter attached) noting urgency and that it should continue even if it is not completed before the elections
2. The Minister noted that all bar one Fish and Game Region supported amalgamation in principle and noted that the Implementation group was proceeding with the study (letter dated 4 August attached)

Those letters support and legitimise the current process.

May I also refer you to Pages 10-17 of the Ministerial Review Report and recommend that all of your Council become familiar with that material. I stress that neither I nor anyone in Fish and Game had a hand in writing that report, something that is important when looking at the current situation.

The Ministerial Review was and is a Ministerial Review of Fish and Game conducted by independent persons appointed by the Minister. It is not a Review of Fish and Game by Fish and Game. The role of Fish and Game (and the public) is to be interviewed and provide comment in the preparation of the report, and to make submissions once the report is issued. That was done well in the first round.

The same process is being followed here as it is effectively part of the original review. An independent Chair has been appointed. Interviews will be conducted, a report will be prepared, Fish and Game (and the Public) will make submissions and the Minister will make decisions. I have no say in what the team recommends.

Payment for this review is from the Ministerial budget not Fish and Game's. It is essential that the integrity of the process and the correct roles are maintained and respected.

It was initially intended that the Review team would be entirely independent. However advice from Councillors and Managers led to a view that Fish and Game expertise would be valuable in assisting the independent Chair and report writer. These included;

- The overwhelming support in principle from Fish and Game for some form of amalgamation

- advice that the review would be materially aided by assistance from within the Organisation

The selection of those assisting the independent Reviewer, Dean Kelly and Phil Teal (with admin and research support from Rhys Barrier) was again on the advice of others. I discussed both their suitability and their release with their Chairs. They and I are completely confident that Dean Phil and Rhys will be impartial and unbiased in their approach. The terms of reference for this Review also require all members to be neutral. I added NZ Councillor Gerard Karalus to the Review team and he provides a further example of probity in their work as well as a link back to the NZ Council

I also note your comment;

“It appears to us that the members were chosen because they were likely to come back with conclusions that backed the views of the IG and review rather than the best outcome for F&G”

You are completely wrong. The selections were for reasons of availability, workload (which discounted others), competence and ability, ability to be impartial, and because they are from quite different sized regions. The selections were made on the advice of other Managers and Chairs. The Implementation Group will have no involvement whatsoever in the Group’s assessments and recommendations and therefore my own views and those of the other members of the IG are irrelevant. .

Again I consider it is essential that the integrity of the process is both maintained and seen to be maintained.

I think it is likely there will be as many views on amalgamation as there were on other matters when the original Ministerial Review Report was being prepared and the review team will need all the input and support Fish and Game Councillors and staff can offer.

May I presume your current position derives from concerns of some kind ? If that is the case I very strongly encourage you to voice any concerns to the Review team because that is the only way they can be addressed. I am sure David Hunt as Chair will be willing to take any such into account and seek to find solutions.

It is entirely your choice as to whether you participate in the process and it is not my position to encourage you either way. However as the former Chair of the NZ Council, working in the best interests of Fish and Game in both my roles, I think a consistent approach across the country will give the best results

Kind regards

Ray Grubb
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Wanaka 9305
E; raygrubb@gmail.com

Bi-Monthly Chief Executive's Report

Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Meeting November 2021

OUTPUT 1: SPECIES MANAGEMENT

David Klee has prepared a short report which gives an overview of the Council's policies, monitoring and research information and how it can be used in the decision-making process for setting harvest regulations for game birds in the Auckland/Waikato Region. As noted in report there is a substantial amount of background information available for any individual councillors who wish to delve deeper into any of the topics raised.

Project 5112: Banding

The appended report has a summary of the latest banding data including harvest and survival rates and population estimates.

Project 5161: Trout Releases

The Covid lockdowns have put a considerable amount of pressure on Auckland's lake fisheries. The extra 2-year-old browns put in Parkinson's Lake have been very popular and Adam has been responding to almost daily requests or call for info on fishing within Auckland.



Similarly, the Quarry Lake release was very popular in 2021 and produced our first good reports from Lake Pupuke since perch took over in the 90's. Considering that rolling lockdowns are planned for the foreseeable future additional improvements to the Auckland stocking could be made. The plan for 2022 is to stock 200 2-year-old rainbows in Parkinson's, 400 in Pupuke (2 lots of 200 in Quarry Lake) and 200 1-year-old fish in Lake Whatihua. To maximise the potential of all three lakes for Aucklanders we could improve opportunity by releasing only 2-year-olds: 300 in Parkinson's, two lots of 300 in Pupuke and 400 in Whatihua. Whatihua is rarely used and offers poor fishing compared to the other two lakes but now that we have negotiated drive up access it may be possible to release 2-year-old fish with the ATV and our live tank making Whatihua a good third option for Aucklanders. The additional cost would be around \$3000 if fish are available.

Project 5181: Control

Crops are still going in the ground, so notwithstanding lockdown restrictions the call for permits to control pukeko and other gamebirds continue to arrive. However, the presence of nearby neighbours and horses often limit the applicants' options. Assuming they meet the threshold to issue a permit to them, we insist they can only use our permits if they can be sure to "safely and humanely" remove problem birds. This buys them time to look at longer term options. For instance, to cover feed troughs, (that attract pukeko), when not in immediate use, or to only feed inside closed off areas and so on. The 4-month gamebird season is the time we much prefer they use recreational hunters to control problem pukeko, whenever circumstances allow this option.

OUTPUT 2: HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT

Project 5211: RMA

Tatua Dairy Company Consent application

We submitted on the application by Tatua Dairy Company for their wastewater discharge to land. We're concerned with the validity of data, especially the accuracy of the nutrient leaching rates and proposed application rates.

Comprehensive consent for wetland maintenance

Our application for consents to carry out maintenance on our wetland properties has been put on hold while we provide additional information, review the application, and wait for the outcome of the current review of the NES-freshwater for any resulting changes relating to wetland restoration and maintenance activities. However, the WRC are also requesting a full environmental impact assessment for each wetland, which we consider to be excessive. At present the consenting pathway for carrying out significance maintenance work in wetlands is onerous, but it is likely to become much easier in the near future if the MfE accepts proposed changes to the NES-Freshwater. We also looking at each wetland individually to get a better idea of what work will be required over the next 25-30 years, as it doesn't look like we can get a comprehensive consent without limits imposed.

Wetland submission: Mischa prepared a submission on behalf of the national Fish and Game Council on the proposed changes to the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater wetland regulations.

We raised concerns that there have been no changes proposed regarding wetland utility structures meaning the construction of maimai, a boardwalk or even a sign in a wetland requires a resource consent (including wetlands on private land).

Any wetland restoration work, even minor work such as removing weeds or planting native species, still requires notifying the relevant regional council and any follow up monitoring of these activities by the council may incur fees. Fulfilling the many requirements that apply to wetland restoration under the regulations will discourage landowners and agencies from conducting wetland restoration activities.

We are concerned about the proposed changes to provide consenting pathways for damaging extractive activities such as quarrying and mining in and around wetlands, making the drainage of wetlands much easier for developers, whilst still having overly restrictive regulations for activities that will cause no harm or improve wetland habitat.

Whangamarino Weir Section 128 Review; David attended an online workshop where staff and consultants went through a high-level exercise determining what the potential re-consenting pathways could be moving forward. They developed a scoring system based on feasibility, risks, opportunities. There was general agreement that if possible, utilising current infrastructure in an integrated manner would be the most sensible outcome and should be explored further.

Lake Waikare Water Levels; David provided some feedback regarding the need to maintain water levels near their maximum targeted levels leading into summer to avoid the lake sitting below its targeted minimum levels during dry summers which are becoming more prevalent.

WRC Proposed Annual Works Programmes (PAWPS). David has provided feedback on the Waihou, Piako and 3 zones PAWPS. These are part of integrated catchment managements (ICM) comprehensive consents they use to manage catchment and drainage infrastructure across the Waikato Region. Our main concerns relate to potential adverse effects on lake and wetland hydrology and that the adaptive nature of consents is not being implemented as envisaged. We are uncertain if the required mitigation is being implemented and whether or not the measures being used are successful. On a positive note, the WRC recently commissioned a 'River Styles' report in the Waipa Catchment which provides a coherent overview of the controls on river adjustment to support geomorphologically-informed appraisals of targeted river management and restoration strategies to determine the adequacy of current works including both hard and soft engineering. It concluded that only very limited ~3% of river courses in the Waipā catchment have significant capacity for geomorphic adjustment.

Project 5231: Other Land

Wetland Consent Application Opuatia Project: David has had a preliminary online meeting with RUD staff to discuss the consent application and canvass off some preliminary discussion points in particular relating to the new NES requirements.

Game Bird Habitat Trust Projects: All of the projects David is working on with landowners were successful in securing their full allocation of funding from the Game Bird Habitat Trust and billion trees. Many of these projects had previously secured partial funding from WRC, WRA, WCEET and significant landowner contributions. By securing funding from various sources in concert with our partners it allows us to use funding as a seed source and further leverage. In total just over \$140,000 was secured for dam construction, weir construction and planting from the Game Bird Habitat Trust. A summary of the projects that relate to this funding is given below.

Rumball Healy Project; Punga Punga Wetland.

Total project value: \$403,000

Partnership Agencies: Waikato Regional Council, Waikato RiverCare, Waikato River Authority

Area of wetland to be created: 12 ha mainly ephemeral wetland.

Total Area of project: 55 ha

Principle management actions: Our primary role will be to help secure consents for and construct a weir in an artificial drain restore the hydrology of a large flat floodplain area. Actions led by partners and landowners will be to fence and retire 55 ha of steep hill country and marginal flood plain plus plant 11 ha of marginal wetland and buffer areas.

Shaun and Michelle Good. Waitomo Wetland.

Total project value: \$103,726

Partnership Agencies: Unfortunately the sites falls outside of priority areas for other partners, Fonterra have pledged to supply 1000 plants to the project.

Area of wetland to be created: 2 dams creating approximately 0.6 ha of open water

Total Area of project: 3.4 ha

Principle management actions: Construct 2 dams to create open water ponds, fence and retire a total of 3.4 ha of steep farmland and buffer zones and plant 6000 natives. Our primary role will be to manage the earthworks and dam construction with the landowners conducting the fencing and planting. Fish and Game will procure plants as part of our annual order but will be paid for from the billion trees component of the budget.

Peter Walters: Kawhia Wetland Project

Total project value: \$79,600

Partnership Agencies: Unfortunately the sites falls outside of priority areas for other partners

Area of wetland to be created: 1 ha mainly ephemeral wetland.

Total Area of project: 3.3 ha

Principle management actions: Create a 3m high dam, flood and area of marginal farmland and plant 4000 stems in order to establish 2.2 ha of buffers and nesting cover surround the new wetland. Our primary role in the project is to assist with dam construction and procure plants as part of the billion trees component of the project.

Bryce Hazlitt: Mangapiko Wetland Project

Total project value: \$202,393

Partnership Agencies: Waikato RiverCare, WCEET, Waikato Regional Council

Area of wetland to be created: 5.3 ha mainly ephemeral wetland.

Total Area of project: 8 ha

Principle management actions: Create 2 dams in a flat area of marginal grazing land to create a mix of ephemeral and permanent water. Internal contouring to provide habitat features, fencing and retiring 8 ha of grazing land and planting 7000 stems in order to create a large buffer and nesting cover. Install a water control structure and koi trap. Our principle role will be to manage the earthworks component and help design and implement the water control structure and carp trap.

OUTPUT 3: PARTICIPATION

Project 5311: Access negotiation

Adam finished the access trail at the Whenuatupu-Ohinemoa Trust property along the Waimiha River and checked in with landowners who are happy with the signage. Further work will need to be done to potentially open access to the river from the road.

Project 5331: F&G Newspapers

Updated the spring fish newsletter (now an email) but still waiting to send it due to lockdown.

Project 5341: Other publications

John Dyer has completed an article summarising gamekeeper's advice for trapping stoats and other mustelids for the F&G website to encourage hunters to target these animals more effectively.

John Dyer has been assisting Riche Cosgrove, F&G's Communications Advisor, on the proposed F&G gamebird cookbook by providing text on the various gamebird species

One of the interesting comparisons to come out of these summaries, after several years of recent drought having such an effect on our Waikato mallard harvest, is how adapted to drought conditions grey teal are. Mallards need weeks for the necessary courtship to establish their pair bonds and to claim breeding territories. Grey teal need just a couple of days as soon as water conditions come right. Mallards in the wild hardly ever raise two broods in a season, grey teal are one of the few waterfowl in the world to do so regularly. Lastly, grey teal have a sixth sense for where flood waters have arrived, being the first species to turn up there and often in numbers. For instance, over 1,000 birds in our Cocks Wetland and 600 in our Dean Wetland when water levels began to rise there in recent years. This species is the most common duck in the Australian interior where it has adapted over countless thousands of years to cope with droughts. It would seem to be ideally adapted to become our future climate change champion to help take the pressure off our other game ducks.

Project 5361: User Group Costs

Adam gave a talk at the Hamilton Anglers Club the week before opening day.

OUTPUT 4: PUBLIC PROMOTIONS

Project 5431: liaison advocacy

Mr Dyer and Mr David Lawrie, (helping with survey title information), assisted Northland F&G with background historical information on some of their history of establishing and maintaining trout in the Kai-Iwi and other nearby lakes and streams. This to assist with making the case that these lakes should continue to be stocked with trout as they have since 1906 when Mr Dargaville released the first trout fry there.

OUTPUT 5: LAW ENFORCEMENT

Project 5511 Ranging/Training

Adam conducted ranging on the Whakapapa River Oct 1-3 with about six happy and licenced anglers checked each day.

OUTPUT 8: PLANNING REPORTING

Project 5841: National liaison

Adam wrote two requests to the national office and representative staff. The first was a request to create a location on the new web page for tag returns that will automatically forward the return information to the council selected by the angler. Adam also questioned the usefulness of this year's national angler survey as Auckland/Waikato will be in lockdown and the data will not be comparable to other years. The data would also distort the actual use of the Whanganui catchment as A/W anglers have not been able to travel.

Adam also participated as the Fish & Game national representative on the Freshwater Biosecurity Partnership group.

Adam responded the terms of reference for potential regional boundary changes by informing the group they had left licence holders completely out of equation by not considering existing angler use data. For example, 80% of the angler use in the Whanganui catchment are A/W licence holders.

**B. Wilson,
Chief Executive**