



## AGENDA

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

14<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2021

## AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

A Meeting of Council will be held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Drive, Hamilton, on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021 commencing at 11 a.m.

### AGENDA

	<u>Page</u>
1. Apologies.	
2. Possible conflicts of interest arising from meeting agenda.	
3. Minutes of previous meeting held on 12 June 2021. *	1
4. Matters arising from previous minutes.	
5. Council correspondence. *	6
6. Chief Executive's bi-monthly report & financial statements.	
6.1 Bi-monthly Chief Executives Report. *	7
6.2 Financial Statements. *	17
7. Drift dive reports (attached as separate reports)	
8. Ward Ranch update. *	29
9. 2021/22 Budget confirmation. *	31
10. Te Mana o te Wai. *	40
11. Te Awa Tupua: nominee for Te Kōpuka and update.*	45
12. Governance Review. *	48
13. Legality of drift shooting in the Auckland/Waikato region. *	55
14. Livestock grazing on Fish and Game wetlands. *	56
15. Lake Waikare and Whangamarino advocacy. *	64
16. NZ Council Meeting 17 <sup>th</sup> June. *	71
17. OSH Update. *	75
18. General Business.	

\* Denotes attachments.

**G. Annan**  
**Chairman**

28/07/2021

## AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

Minutes of a Meeting of Council  
held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton  
on Saturday 12 June 2021 commencing at 11:00am.

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** G. Annan

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

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

**1. APOLOGIES:**

G. Avery, C. Robertson.

It was moved;  
that apologies be accepted.

Sherrard/Smith – CARRIED

The Chairman requested Councillors to observe a minute's silence in memory of the late Mr John Atkinson, former Auckland/Waikato Councillor for many years.

**2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:**

None declared.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF 20<sup>th</sup> March and 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021:**

It was moved;  
that the minutes of the previous meetings of 20<sup>th</sup> March and 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be accepted  
as true and correct records.

Shaw/Kerr – CARRIED

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Councillor Kerr reported that no action had been taken since the previous meeting on the funds held by the recently defunct Te Kauwhata Fish & Game Club.

General discussion over the state of Lake Waikare and the various consents held by the Waikato Regional Council for the lake. It was agreed that staff be asked to prepare a

report providing background on these consents and the recent advocacy work by Fish & Game.

Councillor Williamson stressed the importance of keeping the lake's issues in the "public eye" with an ongoing publicity campaign.

Mr Klee advised that the raising the lake, whilst a step in the right direction, would not improve the overall water quality parameters in the short to medium term. It needs to be recognised that restoration of Lake Waikare will be an intergenerational endeavour.

It was moved;

**That the Minister of the Environment, Hon David Parker, is informed of Councillors concerns with Lake Waikare and that he is invited to visit the lake with Councillors.**

**Sherrard/Williamson – CARRIED**

Councillor Shaw enquired as to whether Mr Klee had contacted the maimai owner on Lake Ngaroto regarding their firing zone in relation to the adjacent walkway. Mr Klee replied that he had contacted the hunter who had shot there for many years and was aware of the walkway.

Staff advised of the complaints and issues that had arisen over the duck season regarding drift shooting on the region's rivers, and especially hunters shooting under power. Staff were asked to prepare a report on the issues and any required changes to the game regulations.

#### **5. COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:**

- A letter was tabled from Ray Grubb, Chair NZF&GC, in reply to Council's letter of 23<sup>rd</sup> March regarding the current budget process.
- An email was tabled from Brendon Masters on the change in shooting hours. Councillors agreed that more publicity should be given to the change to a 6pm closure, and reaffirmed that the change was made so that hunters could clearly identify their target.
- An email was tabled from Geoff Dickey nominating Gary Fraser for a Fish & Game Merit Award for his efforts as President of the Blythen Wetland Society in running and organising the wetland to maximum its potential for the members and other licence holders.

It was moved;

**that Gary Fraser be awarded Council's Merit Award for his leadership and many years of work on the Blythen wetland.**

**Cocks/Williamson – CARRIED**

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

Councillor Juby enquired about the sterile fish project in Lake Arapuni. Dr Daniel replied that sterile fish were being caught at a much lower rate than their non-sterile counterparts, which was encouraging and presumably due to the non-sterile fish reaching early maturity and congregating below the Waipapa dam where they were vulnerable to anglers.

Mr Klee summarised the technical work that was currently being carried out by consultants on the impacts of the Whangamarino Weir on the hydrological regime, sedimentation, land drainage and ecosystem response as part of the S128 review being undertaken by WRC.

Councillor Cocks expressed his concerns over the impacts of Koi carp on the stock banks upstream from the Weir.

Mr Wilson reported that they had received imbursement from the insurance company for Council's legal expenses for the Ward Ranch proceedings.

It was moved;

**that the Chief Executive's bi-monthly report and financial statements be accepted.**  
**Cocks/Smith – CARRIED**

**7. WARD RANCH UPDATE:**

Mr Wilson updated Councillors on the Ward Ranch case noting that he had not yet heard back from the Environment Court as to whether Council could withdraw from the proceedings.

**8. LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The recommendations of the NZF&GC on the 2021/22 licence fees were tabled.

Councillors expressed their disappointment that the non-resident licence had not been substantially increased. Councillors also agreed that the Licence Working Group should have met to consider the proposed increase to the non-resident licence.

Councillor Sherrard expressed his disappointment at the removal of the \$1 dedicated to game bird research funding. He emphasised that it was crucial that licence holders could see that Fish & Game was active with research. Other Councillors expressed similar views, and it was agreed that these concerns should be conveyed to the NZF&GC.

**9. NATIONAL CONSULTATION: CHANGE FREEZE**

Councillors agreed that expenditure already approved, especially asset replacement, should not be affected by the change freeze. Therefore, while the freeze should apply to extraordinary expenditure, otherwise it was “business as normal”.

It was moved;

that there be no change to the existing budget and approved expenditure.

Williamson/Smith – CARRIED

**10. NATIONAL CONSULTATION: OPENING OF THE FISHING SEASON:**

The proposal from the Eastern Fish & Game council regarding the concept of ‘Saturday-ising’ the opening of the fishing season was considered.

Mr Wilson observed that it was a tradition for many anglers to take the day off work, but that generally “Opening Day” was not the big event that it was in the Eastern region.

It was moved;

that there be no change to the existing date for the opening of the fishing season.

Cocks/Smith – CARRIED

Councillor Kerr requested that his vote in opposition be recorded.

**11. NATIONAL CONSULTATION: SEA RUN SALMON COMMITTEE:**

Councillors agreed that this was a matter for the South Island Councils to consider given the immediate relevance to them.

**12. NZ COUNCIL MEETING 17-18 APRIL:**

Disappointment was expressed that the minutes for this meeting had still not been distributed.

Councillors discussed the current budget process and the potential impact of proposed changes under the organisational review.

**13. OSH UPDATE:**

Mr Wilson advised that the OSH documentation was currently being reviewed and updated.

It was moved;  
that the OSH report for June 2021 be accepted.

Shaw/Kerr – CARRIED

**14. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

Councillor Shaw advised that he was already seeing large broods of ducklings. David Klee noted that this was a positive sign as early nesters often had large clutch sizes and could double clutch (i.e., two nests in a season). It was possibly due to some hens not laying last season due to adverse conditions.

The Chairman complimented Mr Dyer on his article in the pre-season magazine on pheasant hunting. The chairman also recommended the recipe for the skinless gamebird sausages.

**15. GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

Councillors discussed the recommendation in the recent Governance Review that the Auckland/Waikato region amalgamates with Northland region. It was emphasised that there had been no analyse of the financial implications of the proposed amalgamation nor their impact on the delivery of services.

It was moved;  
that the Acting Minister of Conservation be informed of Council's concerns regarding the proposed amalgamation of the Northland and Auckland/Waikato councils.

Cocks/Williamson – CARRIED

Councillor Juby requested that it be recorded that he had abstained from the vote.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 1:25pm.

Hon Kiritapu Allan

MP for East Coast  
Minister of Conservation  
Minister for Emergency Management  
Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage  
Associate Minister for the Environment



23 JUL 2021

Ref: CORM-362

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Tēnā koe Mr Annan

Thank you for your letter of 15 June 2021, about the proposed merging of Fish and Game regions.

I am currently taking advice about the options for the implementation of the recommendations from the Ministerial review, therefore, no decisions have been made yet about mergers. I expect to consult further on the details and potential implications before any decision is made.

Thank you for your region's consideration of the review. I look forward to your continued engagement to position Fish and Game so that it can best serve the interests of anglers and game bird hunters, now and into the future.

Nāku noa, nā

Hon Kiritapu Allan  
**Minister of Conservation**

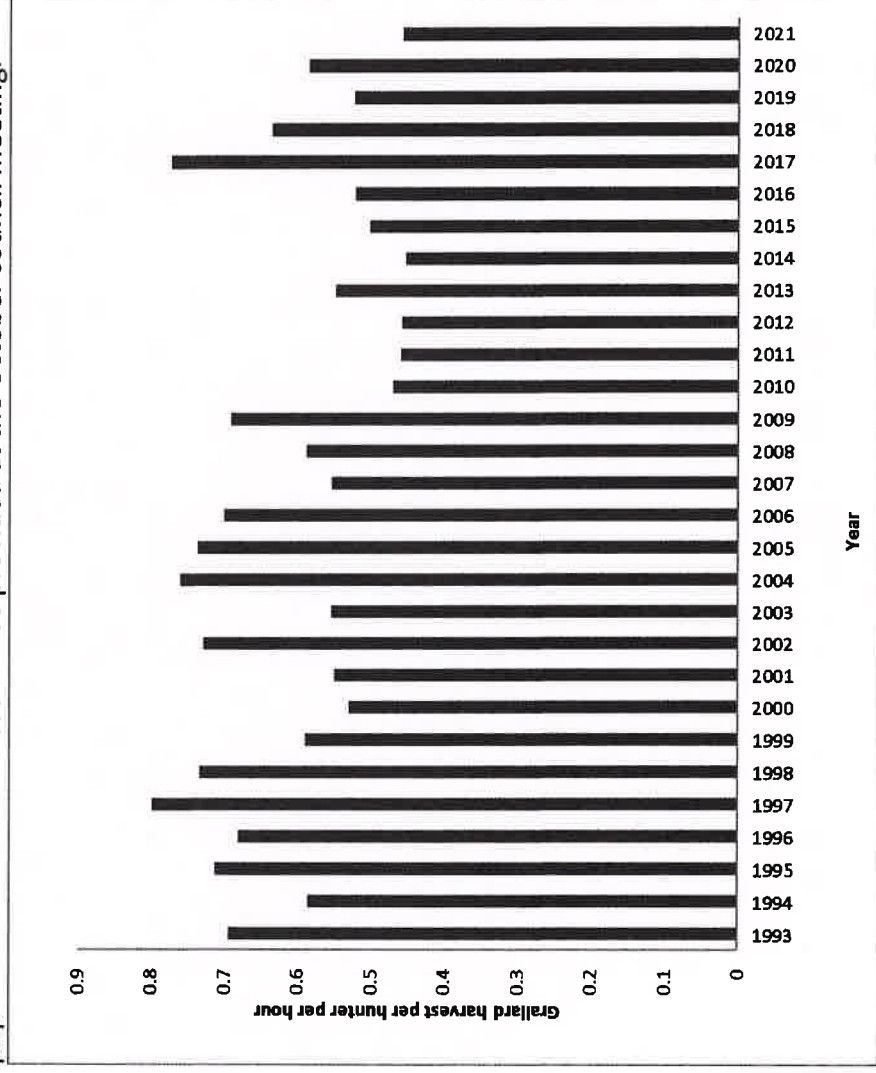


**Bi-Monthly Chief Executive’s Report  
Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Meeting August 2021**

**OUTPUT 1: SPECIES MANAGEMENT**

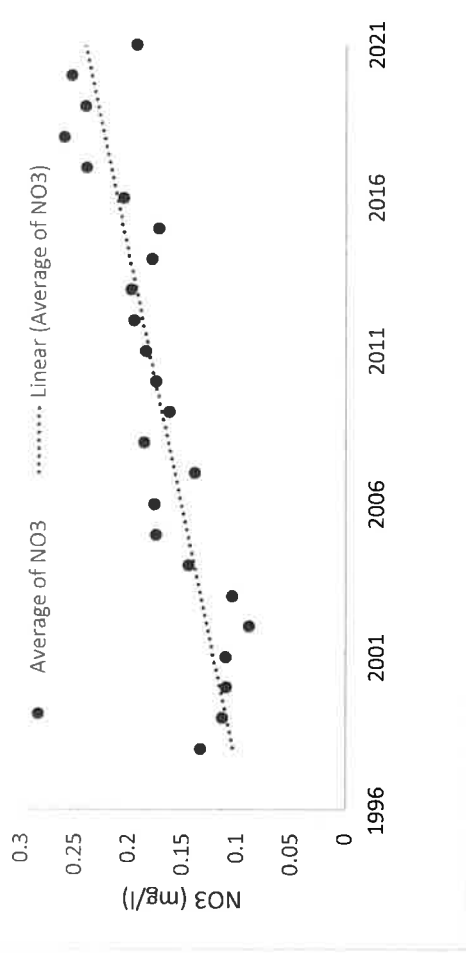
**Project 5112: Banding**

**Harvest Surveys and Band Returns:** As anticipated, total harvest and average harvest were low this year. Number of ducks shot per hour of hunting was also one of the lowest ever recorded (see graph below). Band returns are still trickling in, and we are in the process of obtaining final reporting rate estimates from this month’s harvest survey, but we had a relatively high proportion of first year band returns despite low total harvest which indicates that the populations estimates are likely to be low. Once all regions have completed and entered their harvest survey data, we will be able to get final harvest stats and calculate population estimates. These will be provided at the October council meeting.

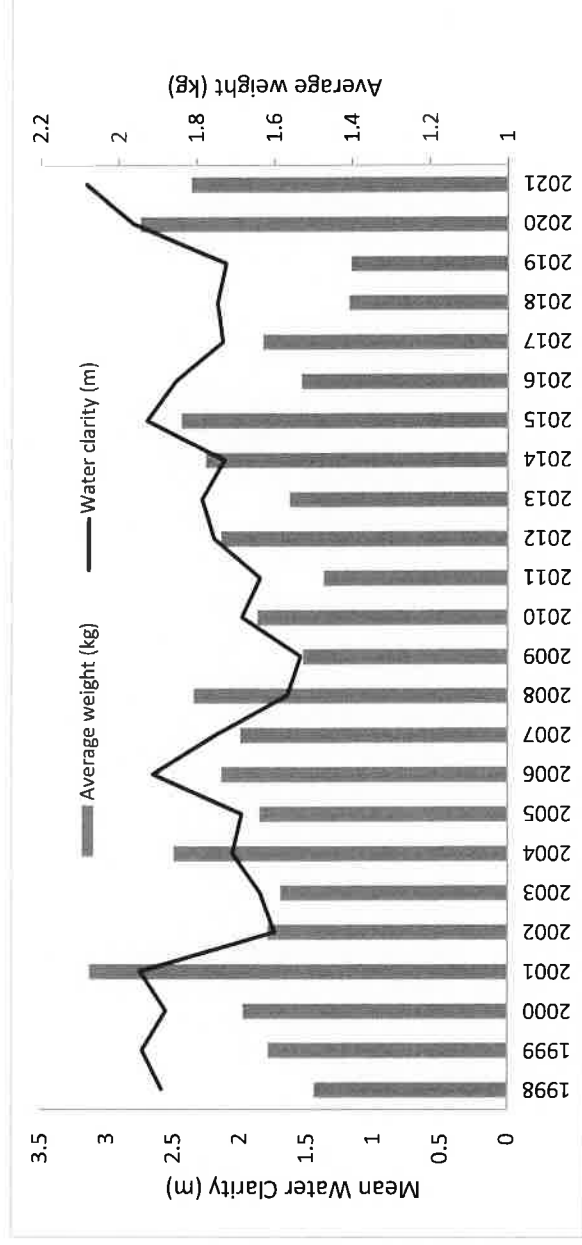


**Project 5121: Harvest survey**

Adam completed the Arapuni report with data collected from the annual Arapuni Fishing Competition (**Review of Tag returns and Competition data for Lake Arapuni**). Data collected by the regional council shows a steady increase in nitrate nitrogen in the Waikato River (Figure 2) and although alarming the current level is about 1/3 of where an impact would be expected on aquatic life. The water quality data also indicates increased fish size is correlated to improved water clarity (Figure 3).



**Figure 2.** Nitrate nitrogen from 1996-2021 Waipapa Dam tailrace. Data from Waikato Regional Council.



**Figure 3.** Average fish weight at the Arapuni Fishing Competition and mean annual water clarity in Lake Arapuni from 1998-2021.

**Project 5161: Trout Releases**

One-year-old rainbow trout were released into Lake Whatihua. Drive up access was granted by the landowner and it may be possible to release 2-year-old fish in the future.

**Project 5162: Pheasant Releases**

A complaint was received by John Dyer about someone selling apparently wild pheasants within our region on Trademe. Trademe were contacted and the advert removed. This information was passed on to DoC who issue permits to people to legally hold pheasants. One of the difficulties of Fish & Game not issuing these permits ourselves is that we have no idea

who is or isn't permitted. Permit holders by law can only sell pheasants to other permit holders, although if it is for release and not to hold in captivity, this is less clear.

## **OUTPUT 2: HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT**

### **Project 5211: RMA**

**Implementation Steering Group feedback on ministerial review recommendations from F&G RMA group:** Mischa and Clare provided feedback to the national F&G RMA staff working group, on the Governance Review Report, specifically in regard to Recommendation 2 of the review - that the Minister of Conservation's powers be expanded to include a mandatory power of direction for an addition or amendment to a draft management plan. Currently the Minister has a role to approve or decline a sport fish and game management plans but cannot determine management policy relating to sports fish or game birds. However, if Recommendation 2 is implemented it will essentially give the Minister power to determine management policy relating to sports fish and game. This would interfere with Fish and Game's statutory responsibility to manage, maintain, and enhance the sports fish and game resource in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters.

The reason behind this recommendation is concern that Fish and Game Councils may not give adequate regard to any adverse impacts that the sports fish and game bird species may have on natural resources and other users of the habitat, especially when conflict occurs. When preparing management plans, Fish and Game Councils are required by section 17L(4) to have regard to the impact that the management proposed in the draft is likely to have on other natural resources and other users of the habitat concerned.

The feedback document included an extensive table illustrating how Fish and Game Council's Sport Fish and Game Management Plans have specific policy to meet the statutory requirement of s17L(4)(b), highlighting that Fish and Game does well at meeting that obligation and that Recommendation 2 is unnecessary.

**Grazing on wetlands:** Mischa prepared a paper highlighting the various district, regional and national rules that apply to livestock grazing on Fish and Game wetlands, which have come about mainly via the recent freshwater management policy and regulations. In summary under the new legislation, virtually all Fish and Game land is considered to be a natural wetland and all stock must be excluded from the beds of wetlands, however stock do not need to be excluded from land within three metres of the bed if there was a permanent fence in place on 3 September 2020. On top of this the Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 requires:

- Registration with the Waikato Regional Council for each property that is farmed greater than 4.1 ha.
- Nitrogen Leaching Loss Rate must be calculated for all properties over 20ha.
- Minimum standards must be implemented, which include excluding livestock from any wetland greater than 50m<sup>2</sup> (3m setback) including constructed wetlands.
- A Farm Environment Plan for every farm over 4.1 ha.

**Summary of Te Mana o Te Wai:** Mischa prepared a report summarising the various policy and legislation changes regarding the way freshwater is managed known as the Essential Freshwater Package. Central to the package is the concept of Te Mana o te Wai which refers to the vital importance of water and recognises that protecting the health of freshwater supports the health and well-being of the wider environment.

The freshwater package encompasses five key policy changes:

1. National Policy Statement-Freshwater Management (NPS-FM)
2. National Environmental Standard for Freshwater (NES) which includes regulation to:
  - Prevent further loss of natural wetlands.
  - Preserve connectivity of fish habitat.
  - Control farming activities including winter grazing, applications of synthetic fertilizer to pastoral land, feedlots and stockholding areas, and agricultural intensification including land use conversions, irrigation and dairy support land.
3. New Stock Exclusion regulations under section 360 of the RMA
4. Resource Management (Measuring and Reporting of Water Takes) Regulations 2010 amendments
5. RMA amendments to enable mandatory and enforceable farm plans, and to alter timeframes for delivery of regional freshwater planning documents.

Understanding and implementing Te Mana o te Wai and the Essential Freshwater Package is important in our role as managers of the fish and game resource.

**Waikato Regional Council – Waikato Coastal Plan Review:** The Waikato Regional Council are currently reviewing the Waikato Coastal Plan. In May they released a document for public feedback called the Coastal Plan Review – Policy Directions Papers.

We made a submission pointing out that the paper only addresses the management of discharges within the Coastal Marine Area (CMA), which are a small proportion of catchment contributions to coastal aquatic degradation. Land use has by far the biggest impact on Waikato harbours and estuaries. A more integrated management approach is required.

We sought that any changes to rules regarding noise should allow for noise associated with recreational hunting such as shooting and bird-disturbance cannons.

We supported the papers position to include new provisions on maintaining and enhancing public access and providing for public recreation and clarifying the situations where public access may be restricted.

With regards to amendments to the Coastal Plan to bring the provisions for maimai in line with the regional plan, we made the point that any changes based on the recent National Environmental Standards for Freshwater (NES-F) would not apply in the CMA. This is because of the recent Environment Court ruling that the NES-F does not apply in the CMA. Therefore, any maimai within this area would not be regulated by the rules under the NES-F or the regional plan whose rules come via the NES-F.

**Healthy Rivers:** The Waikato Regional Council came back to us mid-May with their response on our Environment Court appeals to the proposed Plan Change 1 (Healthy Rivers) for the Waikato River catchment. The WRC stated whether they supported or opposed each of our 121 appeals and the reasons for this.

Sarah Ongley (consultant RMA lawyer) and Clare are going through the appeal points and the WRC responses, to work out which appeals require further evidence for the mediation meetings which are scheduled for September.

A response was provided back to the WRC for each identified appeal points and in the beginning of July, WRC then further responded to these appeals. Working with DoC, Clare has identified similar appeal points which may require further evidence which can be worked on together, or whether they can be worked through in grouped (likeminded groups) meetings. There is no indication of when these grouped meetings will be as of yet.

**Paeroa Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Submissions:** Clare made a submission on the Paeroa WWTP application for 5-year temporary consent.

A meeting was held between HDC, WDC representative, Clare, David, and Adam to try to work through the consent conditions. Our main concern is the high nutrient level applied for, and we believe that significant reductions are necessary. Our other concern is to ensure that they have in place a long-term Strategy, which includes a development plan for what happens at the end of the 5 year consent. We would also like to ensure a co-developed Botulism Management Plan is taken on board. After consultation, the consent conditions were altered to address our concerns with nutrient reductions, a Botulism Management Plan was added, and a condition outlining the intent for the Strategic Plan.

**Waikato Regional Council - Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP):** Misha and Clare made a submission on the Waikato Regional Councils Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP).

Since then, Clare and I met with the WRC staff to discuss our concerns and submission points. Our main concern is that the list of pest species identified in the RPMP has been significantly reduced and as a result those species previously considered pests now have inadvertent protection through other rules and regulations.

WRC discussed how they intend on resolving the reduced pest species list. The intention is that further pests will be located on the webpage, where site led programs will be applicable for landowners maintaining or resorting wetlands. A site-led programme is about protecting the values at the site, so the RPMP will not specify the level of control required, rather it is up to the landowner/community group undertaking weed control in the wetland to decide what they are trying to achieve at that particular site. A Good Neighbour Rule means that if there is some form of control within a wetland, then the adjoining land occupier also needs to undertake control along the boundary to prevent the pest spreading back into the wetland.

**RMA Reform – NBEA Exposure Draft:** Mischa and Clare have been working with the national RMA staff on the RMA reform with the new Natural and Built Environments Act Exposure draft (NBEA).

The RMA staff have been joint working on the submission which will be at national F&G level with the help of Helen Marr. One key point is the removal of Trout and Salmon, and therefore it is essential that appropriate wording is included which accounts for valued introduced species.

Other points include, having the environment listed as a hierarchy, the use of language to ensure Fish and Game can effectively advocate for environmental protection and enhancement, and to protect key freshwater resources from inappropriate development, along with methods for improving efficiency.

**Comprehensive consent for wetland maintenance:** A consultation letter and the draft consent were sent to four iwi groups within the area of AWWFG wetlands in the Waikato District. We requested that they respond by the end of May. So far, Tainui are the only ones to respond to this letter and they have expressed an interest to visit the wetlands. After receiving no further response from Tainui, the comprehensive consent proposal for wetland maintenance was completed and sent to both WRC and WDC July 14<sup>th</sup>.

We are now waiting to hear back from council in regards to moving forward with the consent.

**Whangamarino Weir Section 128 Review:** David has reviewed the latest technical documents prepared by consultants and provided feedback. A further meeting was held to discuss the document and some changes are being made. If finalised in time for the next meeting this will be sent out to councillors. It gives a good synopsis of the Whangamarino system, past, present and discusses potential future options.

**Te Kauwhata WWTP:** David attended the latest meeting of the Te Kauwhata WWTP. Prior to the meeting we received the 3<sup>rd</sup> options report for the new discharge. David asked when there would be enough information to decide on which option would progress? More focus needs to be placed on providing the group with some solid outcomes in future meetings. He also asked for more comprehensive minutes to be taken and circulated for feedback, given key points were missed in the previous meeting minutes. WDC should circulate applications to the mitigation fund in a more expedient manner.

### **Project 5221: Council Land**

Two game cameras have been installed at hotspots where miscreants cause regular issues for us. Despite claims to the contrary, these cameras will pick up NZ number plates.

**Dean Wetland:** Mexico water lily still hangs on here and 4 new plants were recently seen. These are earmarked for control as soon as the weather plays ball. The same plant has been identified on private ponds and their owners advised of how invasive it is.

**Aka Aka Wetland:** Concerns have been expressed in the past about stock damage in wet weather to the flood scheme stopbank, 650m length of which is on our Aka Aka land by Bregman Road. This stopbank has only recently been reworked to repair previous damage, which shooters got the blame for until Mr Dyer identified the actual owner of the tyre tracks. The subsequent new farm manager also began to graze this site in wet conditions. When the resulting damage and implications were pointed out to him by Mr Dyer, he agreed to remove his stock. The Waikato Regional Council has since then decided to update their stopbank grazing guidelines both to prevent similar incidents and to give them more authority if they do occur.

### **Project 5231: Other Land**

The shot-up sign marking the southern boundary of the Waikato River Delta Closed Game Area has now been repaired. Someone standing at Fisherman's Drain, at the northern end, can now line up with this southern marker bearing 126 degrees and passing approximately 1-chain downstream of Potter's Island. This has been the CGA boundary since 1944.



**Photo 1:** Repaired Closed Game Area sign Waikato Delta.

The lower number of mallards this year has stimulated many hunters to ask, what can they do about it. Consequently, we have received a number of requests for assistance to obtain predator traps. At our request DoC provided traps to help groups of hunters around Lake Hotoananga, (Magazine Lake) in 2019. Just recently a group of hunters have also been kitted out with 6 DoC-200, 4 Trapinator (possum kill traps), and 2 Timms traps to blitz Lake Whakatangi, (Lake-A), in Horsham Downs just outside Hamilton. Also 6x DoC 200 stainless traps from Department of Conservation and 2 from Mr Dyer for use beside the Cocks Wetland, Whangamarino, which extends the existing trapping programme already there on private land beside this wetland. These traps are already bearing results. Not long ago we also provided 10x DoC-200 traps for the Williamson Wetland.

In the Auckland area a group of hunters around Patumahoe and Paparata are also using F&G services to make application for trapping assistance. We have not sourced trap funding before for hunters in the Auckland area, (as opposed to Waikato), but we now have a number of

leads from DoC Auckland and also Auckland Council's Senior Grants Advisor as to where the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow might be found.

Trapping stoats, weasels and ferrets also provides drags to teach gundogs how to track these odd-smelling animals that dogs might not otherwise be interested in unless trained to recognise them.

The latest A24 Goodnature traps now come optionally and at an extra \$30 cost, with "chirp". This provides Bluetooth connection between a "chirp" trap and the trappers nearby smartphone, (once synchronised), even if there is no cell-phone reception. It tells the trapper how many times the trap has been triggered and when, also if the gas canister needs replenishing.

A successful applicant to the Game Bird Habitat Trust in the Dairy Flat, Auckland area just needs a last inspection before being reimbursed, now that his ponding is in place, fencing completed and trees planted.

Alligator weed has established at Lake Pupuke and Mr Dyer has several times drawn attention of this to Auckland Council with photos and GPS details, though nothing has since been done about it. However, his most recent reminder this time produced instant results. This very invasive weed is well established at Henderson Reserve beside this lake and also at Smailes Quarry Lake by the rowing club where Auckland Council have already sprayed it. Trout and coarse anglers there need to be careful not to spread this weed in their gear, (landing nets, for instance). It will grow from the smallest fragment.

**Game Bird Habitat Trust:** David has undertaken 7 site visits with landowners in order to assist them with developing plans to enhance game bird habitat on their properties. Projects range from wetland creation and enhancement to predator control. The gamebird habitat trust has partnered with Billion trees and David managed to secure \$26,000 for further planting on existing gamebird habitat projects. He is also assisting with and acting as a referee on a further 5 projects that lodged applications at the end of June.

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### **OUTPUT 3: PARTICIPATION**

#### **Project 5311: Access negotiation**

The Whenuatupu-Ohinemoa Trust has accepted an access agreement that Adam will action prior to the beginning of the 2021/22 season. The agreement will allow drive up access to the Waimiha Stream when the station is open and a poled route. Once the agreement has been tested further negotiations will take place to hopefully open more of the river to anglers.

Adam also made a sign at the request of the owner of the Waione Station requesting anglers catch and release only. A formal rule revision will take place next season.

There have been some issues with members of the public accessing parts of Kopuatai wetland with vehicles and creating damage. Several maimas have also been broken into with punts, decoys, bbqs and other equipment stolen. DOC have agreed to install a locked pipe gate in



one of the key problem areas with the UPWMA to manage keys for hunters and other legitimate recreational users.

### **Project 5331: F&G Newspapers**

**Both Barrels:** These have been prepared each month to update gamebird hunters on topical matters and to encourage them to get “out there, doing it”, by reminding them that they have 4 months to chase pheasants, quail and pukeko, of the special seasons in February and so on. As well as this, updating them on changes to the use of lead shot in sub-gauges, new alternatives available, (20-gauge steel and cheaper 12-gauge bismuth shot), and other topical issues.

**Pre-season Fish Magazine:** The 2021/22 magazine articles were completed including an article on barriers to women’s fishing.

### **Project 5341: Other publications**

Roslyn has been working on a number of projects for different regions:

- Hawkes Bay – converting their pamphlets into publisher documents so they can be edited and reprinted. This information has also been placed on the website but not published as waiting for photos that need to be added.
- Nelson – creating a map/sign for the Waimea Park fishing ponds.
- Wellington – Working on website for them to use the fill in forms the Roslyn have created for the Auckland/Waikato region’s website.
- NZ council – formatting documents into fill in forms which users can only edit specified parts.

## **OUTPUT 4: PUBLIC PROMOTIONS**

### **Project 5431: liaison advocacy**

**DoC meeting:** We met with the Waikato area office of DoC to discuss local issues, especially the ongoing vandalism of the weir, weed control, and grazing in the North Shepherd.

**Murray Fisher:** Sadly, Murray Fisher died at the end of May, and David and John attended his funeral. There are not many keener shooters than Murray and those that have been to the Fisher pond can attest that the obsession was real! He was a pillar of the local community as could be witnessed by the throngs of people from all walks of life that attended his funeral. If you needed something done on the Hauraki Plains that involved hunting or ducks, Murray was always at the top of the list. He helped us in many ways, for example by doing the annual shoveler counts and was a stalwart of the banding programme, often contributing hundreds of dollars of meat and refreshments to keep the many volunteers going. He was a genuine good bugger and his presence and quick wit will be sorely missed.

Adam has been helping Kilwell to pick up a free fishing program offered by Orvis in the USA. Kilwell is the NZ importer of Orvis and seem to be interested. A lack of tuition in New Zealand was identified as a barrier to entry for fly fishing during research into the barriers to women’s

fishing article. Adam has also been working on setting up a NZ Women's fly fishing Face Book page.

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## **OUTPUT 5: LAW ENFORCEMENT**

### **Project 5511 Ranging/Training**

Adam and David conducted ranging opening day have followed up with proceedings on 2 warnings and five prosecutions.

We received several more call outs towards the end of the dabbling duck season of people shooting under power on the Waikato, Waihou and Waipa Rivers. Unfortunately, we were often unable to locate alleged offenders as they launched from private ramps or had already pulled their boats out by the time we arrived. In one instance several calls were made to police due to boat containing 3 hunters allegedly shooting next to and towards the Waikato Expressway, a person walking their dog and a lady hanging out her washing. In this case they sent their wives to pick up the vehicle and trailer and refused to return to the ramp to give a statement to us and waiting police officers. The trailer was apparently unwarranted and unregistered and therefore the women were told they could not leave with the vehicle, or they would be fined which created a Mexican standoff of sorts and the vehicle and trailer remained there. We are unsure what happened to the boat and hunters. Staff subsequently talked to one of the alleged offenders to whom the vehicle and boat belonged to. He insisted that they were not shooting under power and always had their engine turned off when firing. When we explained that his did not match multiple eyewitness accounts, he responded that in that case they must have just been using the engine to track down and finish off a wounded bird.

**B. Wilson,  
Chief Executive**