



## AGENDA

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

17<sup>th</sup> August 2024



## AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

**A Meeting of Council will be held at the Waikato Deer Stalkers Hall, Wairere Drive, Hamilton on Saturday 17 August 2024 commencing at 11.00 a.m.**

### AGENDA

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**N Juby**  
**Chairman**

30/07/2024

# AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME



Minutes of a Meeting of Council  
held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton  
on Saturday 08<sup>th</sup> June 2024 commencing at 11:00am.

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** N. Juby.  
**Councillors:** E. Williamson, D. Cocks, P. Shaw, C. Sherrard, M. Barker,  
B. Barnes, T. Clark, G. Annan.  
**Staff:** D. Klee, J, D. Lelievre, B. Jarvis-Child  
**Visitors:** L. Altham, P. Hardy

**1. APOLOGIES:**

G. Dickey, A. Daniel,

It was moved;

**that apologies be accepted.**

**Shaw/Cocks – CARRIED**

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

Nil.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024:**

Councillor Barnes noted that L. Altham was a visitor at the meeting.

It was moved;

**That subject to the addition of L Altham being present, the minutes of the previous meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024 meeting be accepted as true and correct records:**

**Sherrard/Annan – CARRIED**

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

Nil.

**5. INWARDS COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:**

Letter from Geoff Tremain.

The chairman indicated that he had spoken to Geoff who was very understanding once everything was explained. Part of the discussion established the potential to put together a simple document for 5 easy public access points and highlight this on the F&G website. The CE will discuss with staff and put together a shortlist.

The C.E. explained mapping system updates and noted new objective in draft OWP, regarding access project.

Discussion around H&S provisions which were mentioned in the letter. The Chair raised need to highlight with rural community to explain H&S provisions in terms of recreational access and the fact landowners are not liable for recreational users.

### **Consultation Document Licence Costs and forecasting**

The CE explained that the feedback letter from the Auckland/Waikato Council had been dispatched and had not changed significantly from the draft circulated to councillors previously. The deadline for feedback was at the end of May, hence the response could not be considered at this meeting.

Councillor Barnes explained that if a good reason were given to minister, a licence fee increase could be possible. Councillor Williamson raised concerns with decrease in licence sales and inaccurate forecasting. He noted budget increases based on regional reserves in the appended table it indicates this expenditure comes from licence fees not regional reserves. The Chair agreed that forecasting is an issue and budgets need to have a greater buffer. The Chair also noted that DOC fees have gone up significantly. e.g. campsite passes this year.

Councillor Barnes stated that there was no decision at this stage by the NZ council and that the final decision would be made at the upcoming meeting subject to regional feedback. Councillor Barnes personal position is that the licence should go up and that there is a need for a clear directive from minister as to what his plans are for Fish & Game.

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

It was moved;

**that a letter of thanks to Theunis Miedema be sent for all his work as an honorary ranger.**

**Annan/Cocks – CARRIED**

**Extra Work:** Councillor Sherrard noted all the extra work that Roslyn does and wanted to extend his thanks.

**Ranging Participation:**

The Chair asked about ranging participation with the CE explaining that new staff are registered for CERT course and plan to assist Eastern on opening weekend for their ranging activities. The plan is to increase the number of teams active during next year’s duck shooting season.

**Honorary Rangers:**

Issues around honorary rangers pulling out due to complexities with processes. Councillor Barnes raised work safe regulations, and that these are out of our control. Chair raised prospect of pairing up with police. The CE explained that he is happy to have dialogue with police and conduct joint compliance exercises if that is something the council wish staff to do more of. The CE mentioned that rangers Kerr and Matthews had expressed interest in attending the next meeting to share their perspective. This topic will be added as an agenda item for that meeting.

**Facebook Ranging:**

Social media ranging – CE explained how we are using social media to check for noncompliance and get information from the public.

It was moved;

**that the Chief Executive’s Bimonthly Report and Financial Statements be accepted.**

**Annan/Sherrard – CARRIED**

**7. FUTURE STRUCTURE WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS TO NZC:**

The future structure report was discussed with councillors providing their preliminary feedback. Points agreed/disagreed with notes in Table below in blue. Councillor Barnes explained the both the futures report had not been considered by NZ Council yet and this was only the preliminary information for regions. Further in-depth consultation would occur later in the year with ample time for regions to provide feedback.

| Recommendations to NZFGC   |
|--|
| <b>That the Chair of NZFGC be elected from among the FGC councillors and serve a three-year term. No, should be able to remove.</b>  |
| <b>That the chair’s appointment to NZFGC and all regional chairs be confirmed no later than the 28<sup>th</sup> of February each year. Yes</b>   |
| <b>That the Chair of NZFGC be a paid position. No</b><br><b>NB: Legislation change required</b>  |
| <b>That the composition of the NZFGC include members who are either elected or appointed by the regions. Their appointment should be for a three-year term. Three-year terms should extend beyond the three-year election cycle that is held in the regions so that major changes to the NZFGC does not occur every three years following the regional elections. No should be confirmed annually.</b> |

**That** the size of NZFGC reflect the number of regions, with the NZFGC empowered to appoint additional independent members with relevant expertise as needed to cover skill gaps. These appointments should be for a specified term and would be in addition to the regular members elected or appointed by the regions. This could include Te Ao Māori appointments with full voting rights. **Yes in part, disagreement regarding voting rights**

**That** all Fish and Game Councillors receive financial compensation in the form of a meeting allowance payable on meetings attended. **No**

**That** the voting process for NZFGC and FGC elections be retained with licence holders casting one vote for the FGC and each FGC either elect or appoint one of their members to NZFGC. Note: FGC nominees on the NZFGC provide a direct link back to the regional councils. **Yes**

**That** the existing regional structure be retained, while also considering the potential for merger or amalgamation of smaller regions with larger ones. **Yes**

**That** there should be no more than 7 Regional Managers, focused on key operational functions, within the organisation. Note: This will require some Regional Managers having to manage staff across several regions. The current structure is not sustainable with too many managers and too much duplication of functions across the smaller regions. This situation needs to be addressed with urgency. **No, there is no benefit unless mergers occur as it duplicates work across 2 regions. No cost savings shown for voluntary mergers to date.**

**That** each FGC comprise a maximum of 9 members, with a maximum of 8 elected, and the option of an iwi nominee with full voting rights. This option will be pursued if desired by Māori. **No, the option for 12 councillors should be retained.**

**NB: Legislation change required**

**That** each region has no more than 3 subregions, with 1 person to be elected from each subregion. Note: Regions that have merged may require additional subregions which can be determined during the merger process. **No**

**That** candidates hold a primary residential address applicable to the region or subregion they wish to represent, as shown on the NZ Electoral Roll. **No, if councillors primarily partake in hunting and fishing in another region they should be able to stand there.**

**NB: Legislation change required**

**That** the electoral roll automatically includes any NZ resident licence-holders from the previous year with no opt-in requirement. **Yes**

**NB: Legislation Change required**

**That** the electoral system becomes an electronic one with a postal option to those who request it. Note: The election process is becoming a very expensive one for NZFG and any means that will increase participation and reduce costs should be pursued. **Yes**

**That** the NZFGC should review the eligibility requirements for voting in respect to type of licence held with 2 adults on a current season family licence being able to vote individually.

**NB: Legislation Change required No**

**That** a "fit and proper" test for candidates be implemented to maintain high standards of governance. Note: This will require legal advice but could include police vetting and/or the signing of an affidavit when standing for election.

**NB: Legislation Change required No**

## **8. FUTURE FINANCE:**

The Chair took us through the Future Finance report.

### **Recommendation 1: Shared RMA**

The CE noted some uncertainty regarding how regional priorities would be considered at a national level and whether there would always be alignment and regions may lose the ability to determine what processes are prioritised. Benefits of having items such as regional and district plans run through a central team to ensure national consistency and efficient use of staff were noted.

### **Recommendation 2: Separate wages/budgets.**

Salaries – Council suggested that salaries should stay within budgets but if not used for salaries they go back into central pool. Staff performance and remuneration to stay a function of regional managers as they are best placed to evaluate performance of staff.

### **Recommendation 3: Bulk funding of budgets.**

Wide ranging discussion around best allocation framework. Generally agreed some change may be necessary but uncertainty regarding proposal and how it work in practice. Need to see working example including actual budgeted figures under proposal. It was noted that it would not address the fundamental issue of allocation in particular that NZ council continue to approve CF bids for regions and the national office to hire staff. These choices are continuing to increase the proportion of the total budget going to fixed costs (staff salaries) and does not appear to be sustainable.

### **Recommendation 4: NZC conduct more audits.**

Some uncertainty around what further audits are proposed. Financial audits are done by independent auditor annually, need to ensure any extra audits don't create a lot of extra workload for staff. If the suggestion is simply that independent audits are passed to NZC this may be appropriate.

**Recommendation 5:** Yes, agree that current forecasting is not fit for purpose and this needs to change. Proposed system makes more sense than existing one.

**Recommendation 6:** Yes agree.

## **9. DRAFT OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN:**

The Chair and CE outlined additions to the operational workplan in particular addition of the new organisational strategy. The CE outlined that there are still some uncertainties regarding how the strategy should be reflected in the OWP and at this stage no guidance has been received regarding implementation. The chair outlined his core aims he would like considered.



- i) More ducks, equating to increased opportunity for licence holders
- ii) Access, especially for trout fishing.
- iii) Focus on external revenue gathering and funding.
- iv) Communication: More regular communication with licence holders.

There appeared to be general consensus that that these were appropriate aims and the CE advised he would make some updates to the strategy for final approval at the August meeting.

## 10. OSH:

### Defibrillator

This has been purchased. Beau conducted a cost analysis and determined that over 10 years the cell AED was the most cost-effective option for us and was also compact and suitable for outdoor activities. This should be available for the team leader at all working bees.

### OSH protocols

The CE gave an update regarding new protocols being implemented with staff. The team will now have monthly meetings which will have an OSH component and review of key documents e.g. the accident register, noting any near misses or accidents and how these will be captured in hazard register and tailgate forms. It will also provide staff a formal process where they can raise any H&S concerns. The minutes of these meetings will be provided in future agendas.

Staff will also begin to use the Fish and Game online intentions log. This is to be completed by staff before leaving the office/home prior to conducting field activities. The staff will also further develop tailgate forms. These include a risk assessment process which all members undertaking the activity go over prior to beginning the days fieldwork. It is used to determine ways to eliminate or minimise risks. The forms are then signed by everyone prior to commencing the activity and completed forms are stored on SharePoint. These will also need to be completed by volunteers for working bees on our wetlands.

It was moved;

**that the OSH report is accepted.**

**Annan/Shaw – CARRIED**

## **11. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

### **Voting:**

Councillor Clark raised issue about how licence holders to see if they are registered to vote. The CE noted that he had just received an election update which involved a coms plan from national office leading up to the election. Roslyn can check who is registered to vote.

### **Trapping:**

Councillor Shaw gave a trapping update.

### **Thanks:**

Councillor Annan passed on that Ben and John gave their thanks for their retirement gifts of engraved bird and trout knives, given to them at their farewell dinner.

### **Fishing regulations:**

This is to follow the same process as Game regulations. Staff report and licence holder feedback needs to be considered. Adam is working on preparing staff recommendations and coms currently with a final decision to be made by council at the February meeting.

### **Hamilton Anglers, adopt a river:**

The club wish to adopt a section of the Waihou River where they can assist in updating angler access signs and doing enhancement projects. Staff and Councillor Juby to work with them on this project.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3.10pm.

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for 17th of August 2024.



### Fish & Game New Zealand Submission

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| <b>Date:</b> | 3 July 2024 |
|--------------|-------------|

### Minister for Hunting and Fishing

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Subject:</b>       | <b>2024-2025 SPORTS FISHING AND GAME HUNTING LICENCE FEES</b>  |
| <b>Action sought:</b> | Approval for Fish and Game Licence Fees for the 2024/25 seasons.   |
| <b>Deadline:</b>      | As soon as practical before 11 July 2024 to allow for drafting and Ministerial approval of the Sports Fishing Licences Fees and Forms Notice 2023, 28 days before sports fishing licences go on sale on 15 August 2024. The Sports Fishing Licences Fees and Forms Notice is submitted to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing upon approval of this notice, and the Anglers Notice submitted to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing. |

| <b>Paper type:</b> | <b>Risk assessment:</b>                      | <b>Level of risk:</b> | <b>F&amp;G priority:</b> |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Statutory          | Negative angler/hunter or political reaction | Medium                | High                     |

| <b>Contact for telephone discussion (if required)</b> |                        |                  |                 |
|---|------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Name</b>   | <b>Position</b>        | <b>Telephone</b> |                 |
| Corina Jordan   | Chief Executive        |                  | (m) 021 426 350 |
| Richard Cosgrove                                      | Deputy Chief Executive |                  | (m) 021 646 245 |

## 2024/2025 SPORTS FISHING AND GAME HUNTING LICENCE FEES

### Proposal

1. This paper seeks your approval for the 2024/25 sports fishing and game hunting licence fees and proposed budget for the 13 Fish & Game Councils for the financial year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025.


### Summary


2. Section 26Q(1)(d)(ii) of the Conservation Act 1987 requires the recommendation of appropriate licence fees to recover costs attributable to the management of sports fish and game and game bird habitat stamp fees. All Fish and Game Councils draw from the same fund, which is generated each year by pooling all of the collected licence fees. The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council), in consultation with all Fish and Game Councils, determines the budget for every Council.
3. The process for setting licence fees is the NZ Council makes an interim decision on licence fees and categories. The NZ Council then consults with the 12 regional Fish and Game Councils. After considering the views and recommendations of the regional councils, the NZ Council finalises its recommendation (to you as Minister of Conservation) about the appropriate fee for fishing and hunting licences in the new financial year.
4. The proposed budget for the 13 Fish and Game Councils for 2024/25 is \$13,255,720 (Last year \$13,300,779) a reduction in budget of \$45,059. (exclusive of GST). Anticipated Net Licence Revenue and Interest/other income is \$12,723,303 (last year \$12,623,224.)
5. Use of Reserves of \$532,417 is made up of two categories. Firstly, Regions have requested to use reserves for specific projects – these total \$359,376 and secondly, the NZC Council is proposing \$173,042 to come from Regional Reserves to cover the shortfall in Revenue and Costs.
6. After completing this process, the proposed 2024/25 adult whole season licence (inclusive of GST) is: \$156 for sports fish (\$3 increase): \$116 for game (\$3 increase) inclusive of the \$5 Game Bird Habitat Stamp fee (no increase).
7. This year, the NZ Council is recommending fee increases across both sports fishing and game hunting licences.
8. The NZ Council also recommends the increase of the Designated waters Licence for Non Residents from \$40 to \$60 per day.
9. No other changes are proposed to the other sports fishing or game bird hunting licence fees, or game bird hunting licence types. The lists of waters to which the existing designated waters, controlled-period and Sea-run Salmon licences types apply to are provided in a separate submission for your approval.
10. Once sports fish and game licences and licence fees are approved, the Department of Conservation will work with the Parliamentary Counsel Office to prepare the Sports Fish Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice and the Game Licences, Fees and Forms Notice. These Notices are then submitted to you for final approval pre-publication.
11. Should the Minister decline a licence fee increase, then NZC proposes Councils use a total of \$432,783 from reserves to fund the shortfall between Revenue and Costs. Currently, the organisation has a forecast of \$6.7 million of reserves as at 31 August 2024. NZC policy is to retain 20% (\$2.65 million) of the operating budget as reserves. The NZC consider it prudent to maintain Reserves over 20% in order to continue management of fish, game and habitat in the case of threats from the likes of biosecurity incursions, pandemics and similar challenges such as loss of Licence income. Based on the use of \$432,783 from reserves, then one region falls below the 20% and would be topped up by NZC as per policy.

**Recommended Action**

It is recommended that you

|     |  | <b>Minister's decision</b> |
|-----|--|----------------------------|
| (a) | <b>Note</b> The proposed 2024/25 adult whole season licence fee of \$156 (Fish) and \$116 (Game) represents a minor increase to all licence categories from last year.   |                            |
| (b) | <b>EITHER</b>  |                            |
|     | (i) <b>Approve</b> The schedule of proposed fees for the different <u>sports fishing</u> licence categories (except designated waters licences) on page 4 of this submission; and                              | (yes / no)                 |
|     | (ii) <b>Approve</b> The schedule of proposed fees for the different <u>game hunting</u> licence categories on page 4 of this submission.   | (yes / no)                 |
|     | <b>OR</b>  |                            |
|     | (iii) <b>Approve</b> The continuation of the current fees for all <u>sports fishing</u> and <u>game hunting</u> licence categories (other than designated waters licences) given on page 4 of this submission. | (yes / no)                 |
| (c) | <b>EITHER</b>  |                            |
|     | (i) <b>Approve</b> The schedule of proposed fees for <u>designated waters fishing</u> licence categories listed on page 4 of this submission.  | (yes / no) no              |
|     | <b>OR</b>  |                            |
|     | (ii) <b>Approve</b> A continuation of the current fees for designated waters fishing licences listed on page 4 of this submission.   | (yes / no) yes             |
| (d) | <b>Approve</b> The continuation of all existing types of game bird hunting licences.   | (yes / no)                 |
| (e) | <b>Approve</b> A Game Bird Habitat Stamp fee of \$5 (incl GST) for the 2025/26 game season when sold as part of a game licence, and \$10 otherwise.  | (yes / no)                 |
| (f) | <b>Note</b> Council Reserves of between \$173,042 and \$432,783 will be used to cover the shortfall of Revenue and Costs for the 2024/25 year, depending on the decisions made above.                          |                            |
| (g) | <b>Agree</b> That drafting instructions be provided to Parliamentary Counsel Office for the notices required to give effect to the decisions in this paper.  | (yes / no)                 |

  
.....  
Corina Jordan  
Chief Executive  
New Zealand Fish and Game Council

  
.....  
The Hon Todd McLay  
Minister for Hunting and Fishing



## Fish & Game New Zealand Submission

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| <b>Date:</b> | 1 July 2024 |
|--------------|-------------|

### Minister for Hunting and Fishing

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Subject:</b>       | <b>2024-2025 SPORTS FISHING LICENCE TYPES APPROVAL</b>  |
| <b>Action sought:</b> | Approval for the continuation of existing types of fishing licences, and existing designated waters, controlled, and sea-run salmon fisheries for the 2024-2025 season. Also sought is approval of additional designated waters and controlled fisheries.   |
| <b>Deadline:</b>      | To allow the Minister time to consider the approval or non-approval of additional waters to the designated waters and controlled-period fisheries licences as soon as practical before 11 July 2024. This is normally 28 days before sports fishing licences go on sale on 15 August 2024. The Sports Fishing Licences, Fees, and Forms Notice and Anglers Notice 2024 will be drafted by PCO and submitted to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing following decisions from this submission. |

| Paper type: | Risk assessment:                             | Level of risk: | F&G priority: |
|-------------|--|----------------|---------------|
| Statutory   | Negative angler/hunter or political reaction | Medium         | High          |

| Contact for telephone discussion (if required) |                        |           |                 |
|--|------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Name   | Position               | Telephone |                 |
| Corina Jordan                                  | Chief Executive        |           | (m) 021 426 350 |
| Richard Cosgrove                               | Deputy Chief Executive |           | (m) 021 646 245 |

## 2024/2025 SPORTS FISHING TYPES

### Proposal

1. This paper seeks your approval for the continuation of existing types of sports fishing licences, and the existing designated waters fisheries, controlled fisheries and sea-run salmon waters for the 2024-2025 season. Also sought is your approval of additional designated waters and controlled fisheries.

### Summary

2. Each year we require your approval for the continuation of all existing sports fishing licence types, and the already existing designated waters, controlled fisheries and sea-run salmon waters.
3. Any additional waters proposed to be added to the list of designated waters, controlled period fisheries and sea-run salmon waters must be approved by the Minister, under section 48A(2A)(a) and (b) of the Conservation Act 1987. You have discretion as to the scope and effect of different licence types, which in this case includes which waters are covered and not covered by these licences.
4. This paper aims to provide you with the information to allow you to either accept or reject those proposals as listed below.


### Recommended Action

It is recommended that you:

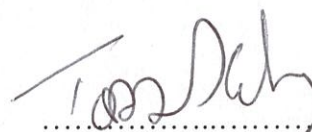
|     |   | <b>Minister's decision</b> |
|-----|---|----------------------------|
| (a) | <b>Approve</b> The continuation of all existing types of sports fishing licences  | (yes / no)                 |
| (b) | <b>Approve</b> The continuation of all existing designated waters fisheries, controlled fisheries, and sea-run salmon waters, as listed in appendices 1, 3, and 5 of this submission. | (yes / no)                 |
| (c) | <b>Approve</b> The renaming of the Hope River fishery as the Lewis Pass fishery   | (yes / no)                 |
| (d) | <b>Approve</b> The addition of the Upper Mataura River and tributaries upstream of the Ardlussa bridge as a trial Designated Waters fishery for the months of February and March      | (yes / no)                 |
| (e) | <b>Approve</b> The addition of the Waikaia River and tributaries as a Designated Waters fishery for the months of February and March  | (yes / no)                 |
| (f) | <b>Approve</b> The addition of the Upper Grey River and tributaries upstream of the confluence of Clarke River as a Designated Waters fishery.  | (yes / no)                 |
| (g) | <b>Approve</b> The addition of the Waitahu River and tributaries upstream of the confluence of Inangahua River as a Designated Waters fishery.  | (yes / no)                 |



- |     |                |   |  |
|-----|----------------|---|--|
| (h) | <b>Approve</b> | The addition of the Rough (Otututu) River and tributaries upstream of the confluence of Mirfins Creek as a Designated Waters fishery.         | (yes / <input checked="" type="radio"/> no)  |
| (i) | <b>Approve</b> | The addition of the Larry's Creek and tributaries upstream of the confluence of Inangahua River as a Designated Waters fishery.               | (yes / <input checked="" type="radio"/> no)  |
| (j) | <b>Approve</b> | The addition of the Wangapeka River and tributaries upstream of the Newport Road Bridge as a Designated Waters fishery.                       | (yes / <input checked="" type="radio"/> no)  |
| (k) | <b>Approve</b> | The Hurunui River North Branch Designated Waters Fishery becoming a trial Controlled fishery  | ( <input checked="" type="radio"/> yes / no) |
| (l) | <b>Approve</b> | The Hurunui River South Branch Designated Waters Fishery becoming a trial Controlled fishery  | ( <input checked="" type="radio"/> yes / no) |
| (m) | <b>Agree</b>   | That drafting instructions be provided to Parliamentary Counsel Office for the notice required to give effect to the decisions in this paper. | ( <input checked="" type="radio"/> yes / no) |



.....  
 Corina Jordan  
 Chief Executive  
 New Zealand Fish and Game Council



..... 10/07/24  
**Hon Todd McLay**  
**Minister for Hunting and Fishing**



**Schedule 1 of F&G NZ's Proposed Licences & Fees for 2024/25  
(Inclusive of GST)**

| <b>Sports Fish Licence</b>       |                           | 2023/24               | 2024/25                |                       |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Category of licence</b>       | <b>Class of applicant</b> | <b>Current fee \$</b> | <b>Proposed fee \$</b> | <b>Fee difference</b> |
| Whole season<br>(1 Oct – 30 Sep) | Adult                     | 153                   | 156                    | \$3.00                |
|                                  | Junior                    | 31                    | 31                     | Nil                   |
|                                  | Child                     | free                  | free                   | Nil                   |
| Family                           |                           | 198                   | 203                    | \$5.00                |
| Non-resident Whole season        | Adult                     | 264                   | 270                    | \$6.00                |
|                                  | Junior                    | 50                    | 51                     | \$1.00                |
|                                  | Child                     | 50                    | 51                     | \$1.00                |
| Winter (1 Apr – 30 Sep)          | Adult                     | 92                    | 94                     | \$2.00                |
| Loyal senior                     | Adult                     | 130                   | 133                    | \$3.00                |
| Local area                       | Adult                     | 122                   | 125                    | \$3.00                |
| Short-break                      | Adult                     | 55                    | 56                     | \$1.00                |
| Long-break                       | Adult                     | 107                   | 109                    | \$2.00                |
| Day                              | Adult                     | 24                    | 25                     | \$1.00                |
|                                  | Junior                    | 5                     | 6                      | \$1.00                |
| Non-resident Day                 | Adult                     | 37                    | 38                     | \$1.00                |
|                                  | Junior                    | 22                    | 23                     | \$1.00                |
|                                  | Child                     | 22                    | 23                     | \$1.00                |
| Controlled-period                | All classes               | free                  | free                   | Nil                   |
| Sea-Run Salmon                   | All classes               | 5                     | 5                      | Nil                   |

| <b>Designated Waters Licence</b>     |                           | 2023/24               | 2024/25                |                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Category of licence</b>           | <b>Class of applicant</b> | <b>Current fee \$</b> | <b>Proposed fee \$</b> | <b>Fee difference</b> |
| Designated Waters Season (Resident)  | All classes               | 5                     | 5                      | Nil                   |
| Designated Waters Day (Non-resident) | All classes               | 40                    | 60                     | \$20.00               |

| <b>Game Bird Licence*</b>                            |                           | 2024                  | 2025                   |                       |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Category of licence</b>                           | <b>Class of applicant</b> | <b>Current fee \$</b> | <b>Proposed fee \$</b> | <b>Fee difference</b> |
| Whole season<br>(primarily 1st Sat in May to 31 Aug) | Adult                     | 113                   | 116                    | \$3.00                |
|  | Junior                    | 26                    | 27                     | \$1.00                |
|  | Child                     | 5                     | 5                      | Nil                   |
| Day (available from 2nd Monday of season)            | Adult                     | 26                    | 27                     | \$1.00                |
|  | Junior                    | 10                    | 10                     | Nil                   |

❖ All other licence category fees are set as a percentage of the fish or game adult whole season fee and rounded to the nearest \$, hence in some instances the fee difference remains nil.

\* Game bird hunting licence fee includes the \$5.00 NZ Game Bird Habitat Stamp.

Notes:

- A **junior** means a person aged 12 years or over, but under 18 years at the start of the season.
- A **child** means a person aged under 12 years at the beginning of the season.
- **Designated Waters** and **Controlled-period** licence means an endorsement on an adult or junior whole season or family fish licence with special conditions for fishing specified waters.
- **Whole Season** for sports fish extends from 1 October through to 30 September the following year.
- **Whole Season** for game birds can extend from the first Saturday in May to beyond the traditional closing dates for upland game hunting at the end of August due to special season conditions between February to April the following year for some species e.g. Paradise shelduck and Pukeko.
- A **Game Bird Habitat Stamp** fee of \$5.00 (incl GST) is payable on all categories of game hunting licence and is included in the fees shown in the game hunting licence table above.



19 July 2024

TM01788

Barrie Barnes, Chair  
Corina Jordan, Chief Executive  
New Zealand Fish and Game Council  
[cjordan@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:cjordan@fishandgame.org.nz)  
[bbarnes@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:bbarnes@fishandgame.org.nz)

Dear Barrie Barnes and Corina Jordan,

On 7 and 10 July 2024 I approved your 2024-2025 Sports Fishing and Game Hunting Licence Fees and Licence Types submissions. As you are aware, I did not agree to the proposed new designated waters in Southland, Nelson/Marlborough, and West Coast regions, nor to the proposed 50% increase in non-resident designated waters licence fees (from \$40 to \$60).

This letter sets out the rationale for those decisions, which I would be grateful if you passed on to council members, and requests that work is undertaken to review the designated waters policy.

Unlike the 2024-2025 adult whole season licence increase, no analysis was provided to justify or explain the rationale for increasing the non-resident designated waters licence fee from \$40 to \$60. It is my expectation that for any future proposed increases in fees that there is a solid evidential basis presented to me. This would include the likely incentive or disincentive to anglers wishing to fish, the impacts of angling pressure across affected waters, and financial implications for the respective regional councils.

The designated waters system was implemented for the first time in the 2023-2024 fishing season, with objectives to spread the fishing efforts of overseas tourists to a wider range of waters, achieve at least 50/50 resident/non-resident 'equitable use', and reduce pressure on sensitive fisheries. Many of the proposals to expand the designated waters system did not appear to meet these criteria. For instance, the licence types submission noted that the Wangapeka River is already at 50/50 resident/non-resident angler usage. The West Coast proposals provided evidence that non-resident licence holders made up just 38% of anglers on the proposed rivers, so the justification for a designated waters fishery is unclear.

It is important that Fish and Game Councils, licence holders, and other stakeholders share a common understanding of the purpose and intended outcomes for designated waters fisheries, as well as the basis on which a designation should be made. It is not evident that this is the case at the moment. I am therefore of the view that the designated waters policy would benefit from a review before any new waters are considered for designation. I would like the objectives of the policy to be more clearly defined, and for clear criteria to be

determined, against which all current and potential future designated waters and licence types can be assessed. I would like a review to assess the impact of existing designated waters in meeting the policy objectives (for instance, has the imposition of designated waters had the intended effect where they have been put in place). I would also like it to consider how the policy could be adjusted so that Australian guides are treated in the same way as local guides to ensure consistency with New Zealand's obligations to service providers under the Closer Economic Relations (CER) Agreement.

I look forward to continuing discussion, among other issues, at the upcoming NZ Council meeting over 23-24 August.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd McClay", with a large, stylized flourish underneath.

Hon Todd McClay  
**Minister for Hunting and Fishing**

Adam Daniel, Fisheries Manager  
Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council  
156 Brymer Road  
RD9  
HAMILTON 3289

29 May 2024

Dear Adam

**Enhanced Access Grant application 23-04: Enduring public access to Stone Jug Road**

Thank you for your application to the Enhanced Access Grant (EAG) seeking funding assistance for creating enduring public access to Stone Jug Road.

I am pleased to advise you that we have approved a grant of up to \$8,800.00 (plus GST if evidence of GST registration is provided), specifically towards survey costs. This is conditional on:

- registration of an esplanade strip and two public access easements on the relevant record of title
- Herenga ā Nuku's logo to be included on any relevant signs (e.g. at track entry point)
- signage design must be reviewed by Herenga ā Nuku prior to manufacture of any signs.

Grant payment will be made on completion of the work and upon you providing Herenga ā Nuku with sufficient evidence to support payment.

Please confirm that you wish to go ahead with this grant. Should you wish to proceed, we will require Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council to enter into an agreement with Herenga ā Nuku to formalise the arrangement. A draft contract will be forwarded to you for your review.

Our communications team may contact you to discuss local media opportunities to promote your project and the EAG, at an appropriate time in future.

If you have any questions, in the first instance, please contact Joy Yang, Principal Advisor – Corporate, on (04) 815-8518 or email [joy.yang@herengaanuku.govt.nz](mailto:joy.yang@herengaanuku.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



Ric Cullinane  
Chief Executive

# Hamilton Anglers Club Inc.



## Registered Office

37 Kakanui Ave

Hillcrest

Hamilton 3216

[hamiltonanglers@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonanglers@gmail.com)

[www.hac.org.nz](http://www.hac.org.nz)

## TO: The Chairman AWF&G Council

This letter was written by a human on behalf of the Hamilton Anglers Club (HAC) and is a proposal for the Auckland Waikato Fish and Game council to please consider and potentially support.

The HAC is an incorporated society founded to foster freshwater fishing in the Hamilton area of New Zealand. I have been a member of the HAC for 10 years and on the committee for 6 years with one of my roles being the junior/kid's fishing contact/coordinator. In those 10 years the HAC has run 3 kids fishing days at Lake Te Koo Utu with the 4<sup>th</sup> being cancelled due to COVID which may have been a blessing due to the huge amount of interest. These kids fishing days were promoted as bring free for under 12's and were run with help from Fish and Game fisheries manager Adam Daniel. As a fresh water anglers club, we get approached from time to time from the general public asking where to take kids fresh water fishing in the Hamilton area. This question posed some difficulty to answer yet it should not. I have engaged in discussions with Fish and Game fisheries manager Adam Daniel regarding establishing a dedicated 'Kids fish out pond' but practical and ethical considerations make it an unlikely prospect.

This got me thinking about utilising the non-trout freshwater fishing that are already available in the Hamilton, Cambridge, Te Awamutu areas. Somewhere safe for children with amenities, plenty of parking and within a short traveling distance. Lakes Rotoroa, Te Koo Utu and Ngaroto fit the bill apart from the dangers associated with poor water quality. Perhaps opportune with Ngaroto's RMP review asking for input. There may be other lakes too worthy of consideration.

The HAC proposes that the Auckland Waikato Fish and Game council consider supporting the proposal for the establishment of designated kids fishing areas at these lakes. Designated areas with embankments, jetties, stabilized pontoons or the like ensuring a safe environment for children and their guardians and no danger to the public. Informational signage or QR codes would educate visitors about local fish species, necessary equipment, fishing techniques, and proper handling of catches. Furthermore, links to local fishing equipment suppliers could be provided, offering pre-assembled packages for purchase, thereby facilitating a seamless experience for newcomers.

By promoting safe, accessible fishing spots, these facilities would encourage families to engage with these lakes. This proposal aligns with Fish and Game's 'hooked on fun' and would contribute positively to our communities.

Sincerely,

Gavin Hall  
Junior/Kids Fishing Coordinator  
Hamilton Anglers Club

## Outgoing correspondence

13 June 2024

Theunis Miedema,  
39 Rata Street  
Matamata  
3400

Dear Theunis,

At Council's meeting last Saturday Grant Annan and the staff brought to Council's attention the extremely long hours and sterling service put in by yourselves as an honorary ranger over the years at Lake Karapiro. Bereft of any form of recompense on behalf of licence holders, the council wishes to formally thank you and wishes you all the best.

Many thanks

Yours sincerely

**David Klee**  
**Chief Executive**

27<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Corina Jordan  
CEO NZ Fish and Game Council  
[nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz)

**Feedback on 2024/2025 licence fee recommendation and national policy consultation.**

Dear Corina/Barrie

At its recent meeting the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council (AWFGC) resolved to provide feedback on recently circulated draft national policy statements and licence fee recommendations/LEQ forecasting.

**Forecasting and Budgeting**

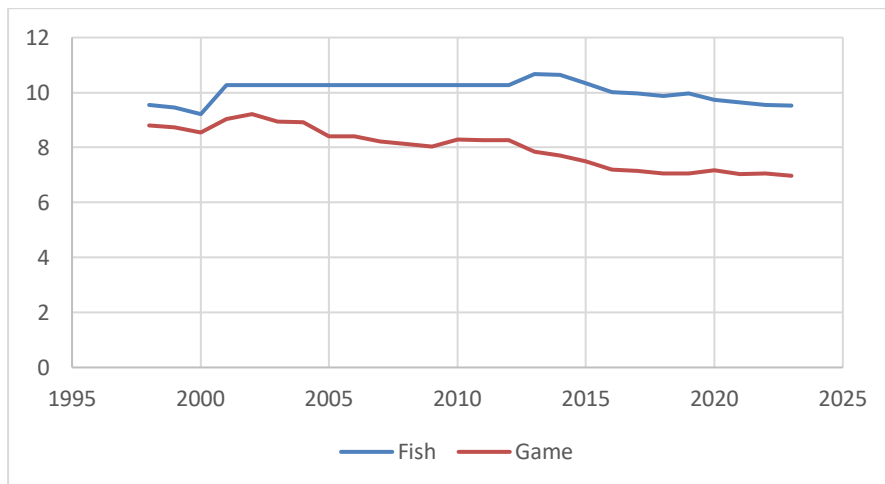
**Forecasting:** The AWFGC remains disappointed at NZ councils' refusal to enter a negotiated settlement regarding the 2023-24 LEQ budgeting process for fish licences. It was noted that despite being one of the only regions achieving an increase in sales, it remained well below its budget target. The AWFGC considers that due process has not been followed in this instance, as the effects of covid lockdowns were not adequately considered when extrapolating out licence budgets. The Future Finance Working Group recommendation may solve this issue in future.

**2024-25 Budgets:** The AWFGC considers it entered this year's budgeting process in good faith and did its utmost to reduce costs. It is noted that we were the only region that made the requested 3% saving and did not put in a contestable funding bid. It was acknowledged that this was made possible in part through staff changes and subsequent reductions in salary budget and the region's ability to leverage funds from external revenue sources. Overall, the AWFGC expressed some concerns around the financial security of the organisation especially regarding ongoing approved CFs from licence fees and the drawing down of regional reserves to cover increased costs. It is unclear to AWFGC how these budgets will be maintained especially given the predicted decrease in licence fish licence sales, the recommendation of no licence fee increase, and an apparent reliance on interest payments which are likely to decrease. It is also felt that the organisation relies too heavily on licence sales as its sole source of revenue and not enough is being done to encourage staff to secure funding from other sources. This makes Fish and Game less financially resilient and more susceptible to unforeseen events such as the covid pandemic or an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza, which could have serious ramifications on game licence sales.

**Licence Fees:** The AWFGC considers that licence fee increases especially for games are warranted. Figure 1, maps licence fee as a percentage of average male weekly wage and highlights that whilst fish licence sales have remained relatively consistent over the past 30 years, there has been a gradual and consistent decrease since the early 2000s for game. The AWFGC remains unclear



what directive has been provided to the NZ council by the minister to freeze licence fees given the significant cost increase we will incur in the current high inflation environment. The AWFGC believes that NZC should ask the minister for an increase. It is difficult to understand the reluctance to do this. Fish and Game appears to have a habit of allowing the minister to suggest changes and then not pushing back. Applying to the minister for an increase in license fees demonstrates our needs and, if declined, will likely put us in a better position to get an increase next year.



**Figure 1:** Licence fee as a percentage of average male weekly wage.

**Draft National H&S Policy for Rangers:** Concerns were raised around the requirements to implement policies 1 – 9 especially for honorary rangers. For example, first aid requirements. Is it envisaged that every honorary ranger would have to complete first aid training and if so, has that been budgeted for, noting that in our region we have 15 honorary rangers? It was also unclear what level of detail will be required to comply with reporting conditions to the National office. Concern was expressed that requiring the NZC CEO to understand and sign off 13 different plans was inefficient and unworkable - a template issued by NZC which allowed for regional variation would simplify matters and provide clarity around reporting expectations.

**Draft National Health and Safety Policy:** In general, the council supports the introduction of a National Health and Safety Committee. A priority in this region is the integration of an app-based H&S system for staff and it would be helpful if this were progressed at national level to ensure consistency and cost efficiency.

Yours sincerely,

David Klee

**Auckland/Waikato Chief Executive**

Nigel Juby

**Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Chair**

# Bi-Monthly Chief Executive’s Report

## August 2024

### Foreword

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The last two months has seen things return to some form of normality. New staff are starting to settle into their positions and beginning to take over workstreams. We are still short staffed on the RMA front with Clare away on maternity leave and Mischa has been focused on some large cases in the Northland Region.

As alluded to in the OSH report, we have begun to implement several new initiatives for staff to better comply with Council H&S policies. Emphasis has also been placed on staff to continue to upskill and receive necessary training.

Post the previous council meeting, staff have made a concerted effort to put more regular content out on social media highlighting the work we do. This is beginning to grow the number of followers we have.

### OUTPUT 1: SPECIES MANAGEMENT

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#### **Project 1111 Drift Diving**

The Drift diving reports, including the Whakapapa Gennesis report, due by the end of July, have been delayed but will be completed in time for the next council meeting.

**Summary table of legal trout per km of watercourse, 2024 drift dive surveys.**

| Year | Waihou     |          | Awakino    |          | Waitawheta |          | Whakapapa  |          | Kauaeranga |          |
|------|------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|
|      | 30-40 (cm) | 40+ (cm) | 30-40 (cm) | 40+ (cm) | 30-40 (cm) | 40+ (cm) | 30-40 (cm) | 40+ (cm) | 30-40 (cm) | 40+ (cm) |
| 2020 | 38         | 12       | 7          | 0        |            |          | 11         | 32       |            |          |
| 2021 | 19         | 6        | 1          | 22       |            |          |            |          |            |          |
| 2022 | 24         | 14       | 6          | 30       | 2          | 6        |            |          |            |          |
| 2023 | 42         | 17       | 4          | 9        |            | 3        | 1          | 13       |            |          |
| 2024 | 23         | 6        | 9          | 13       | 4          | 6        | 6          | 30       | 3          | 0        |

#### **Project 1112 Banding**

Beau is in the process of piloting an SMS survey to estimate the band return rate. The hope is that this method will be straightforward to complete and garner reasonable response rates at a relatively low cost.

## **Project 1115 Population Surveys**

**Lake Arapuni Spawning Survey:** The initial Lake Arapuni spawning survey was completed in June with spawning fish found in both Trib C and Makomako Stream. The initial findings indicate there were spawning fish in multiple streams, limited but likely adequate gravel available, and ¼ of spawning rainbow trout were hatchery tagged fish. Due to the sterile trout program all hatchery fish in the lake are tagged giving a unique opportunity to determine the proportion of hatchery fish contributing to the spawning population during the 2024 surveys.

Recent publications including a comprehensive review of hatchery stocking have indicated that stocking of hatchery reared fish is often detrimental to the overall population and should only be used where there is no natural production or to sustain endangered populations. Hatchery fish retain traits that are detrimental to survival in the wild and their offspring survive at a lower rate than wild fish. For every 10-surviving offspring of wild fish hatchery fish will produce 0.2-7 fish with hatchery fish from other catchments (Arapuni hatchery fish are from Rotorua Lakes) performing the worst. Adding hatchery fish can actually reduce the overall population by reducing the survival of wild spawned fish potentially making the current hatchery releases in Lake Arapuni detrimental.



Figure 1. Spawning gravel from Trib C.

**Karapiro Stream Water Pollution:** A landowner reported damage to a spawning stream near Cambridge caused by a large concert held on the stream annually. The stream was largely unknown to staff but may receive significant groundwater from the Karapiro Reservoir. Adam visited the Karapiro Stream 2 June 2024 (listed as spawning habitat) and observed trout in the stream with ample habitat that has not been surveyed for spawning. Waikato Regional Council and the WRA have funded significant work in the stream in recent years but there are still sediment issues. It is likely that the stream provides both spawning habitat and thermal refuge for trout. Karapiro Stream is one of the only spawning habitats in the Waikato River mainstem. Adam will follow up to determine if successful

spawning is occurring and will prepare to take water samples during the concert as the consent for the event has been granted.

**Project 1121: Fish Harvest Surveys**

**Arapuni Fishing Competition:** Adam began work on the Arapuni Fishing comp data after finding issues with the identification of hatchery fish. The data set was reviewed back to 2013 and although there were anomalies only a couple of years had significant shifts in the wild vs hatchery returns. The report has been delayed allowing Adam to work on waterfowl compliance and should be completed in August 2024.

**Project 1122: Gamebird Harvest Surveys**

**Harvest Survey:** Six of the seven rounds of harvest surveys have been completed, and 671 people have responded. Beau will share a full report on this later in the year. In the meantime, here are some initial figures:

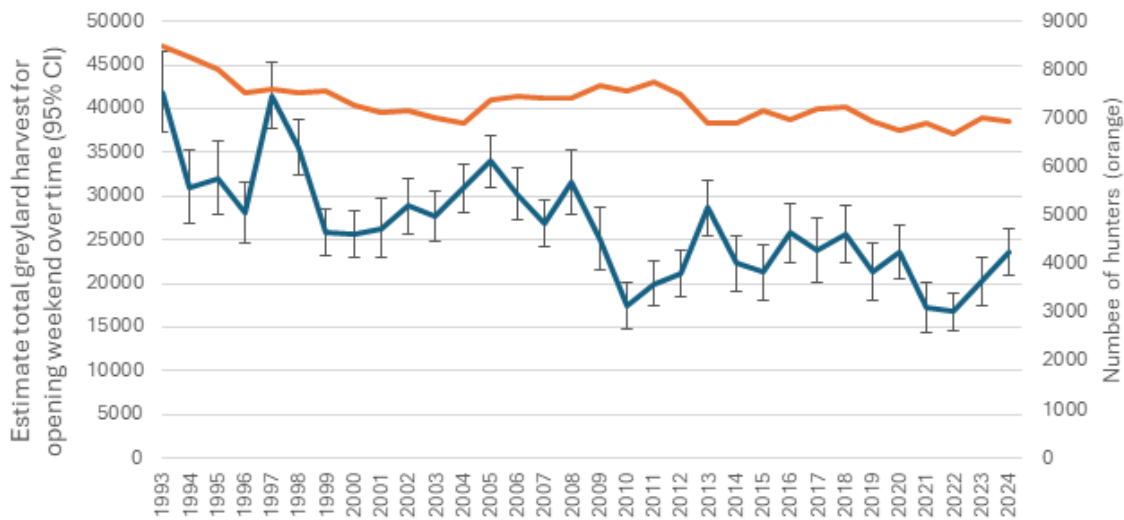


Figure 1: Estimated total greylard harvest on opening weekend with 95% CI. Calculated from mean harvest, total number of licence holders, and proportion of individuals hunting. Note, harvest seems to be higher this opening weekend – due mainly to an increase in mean harvest (Figure 3).

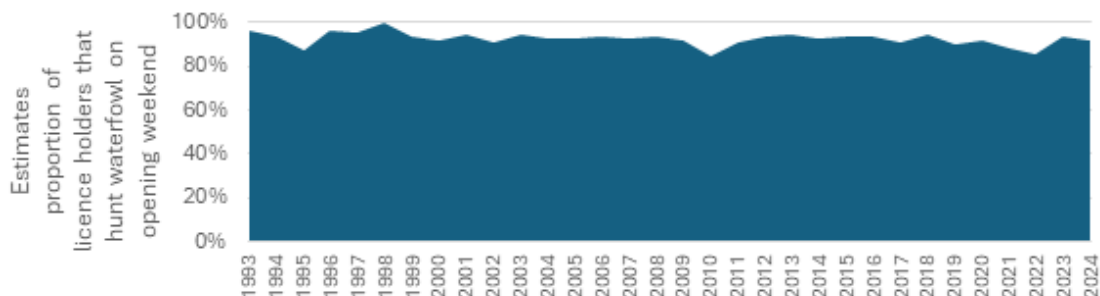


Figure 2: Average proportion of licence holders who hunted waterfowl on OW.

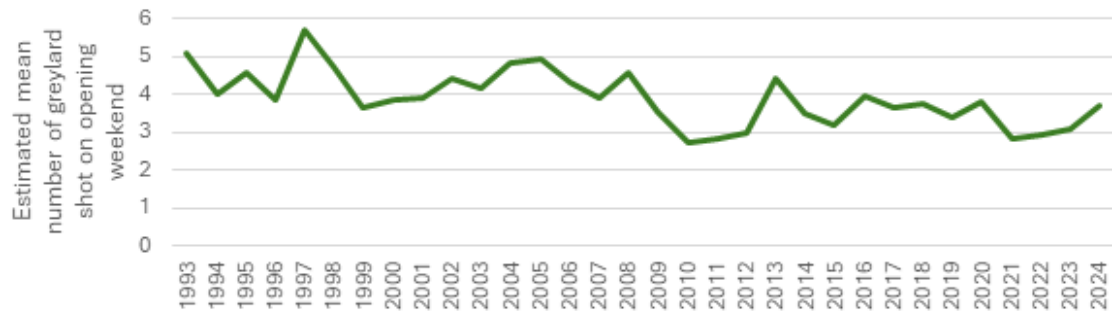


Figure 3: Estimated mean harvest of greylard on opening weekend over time.

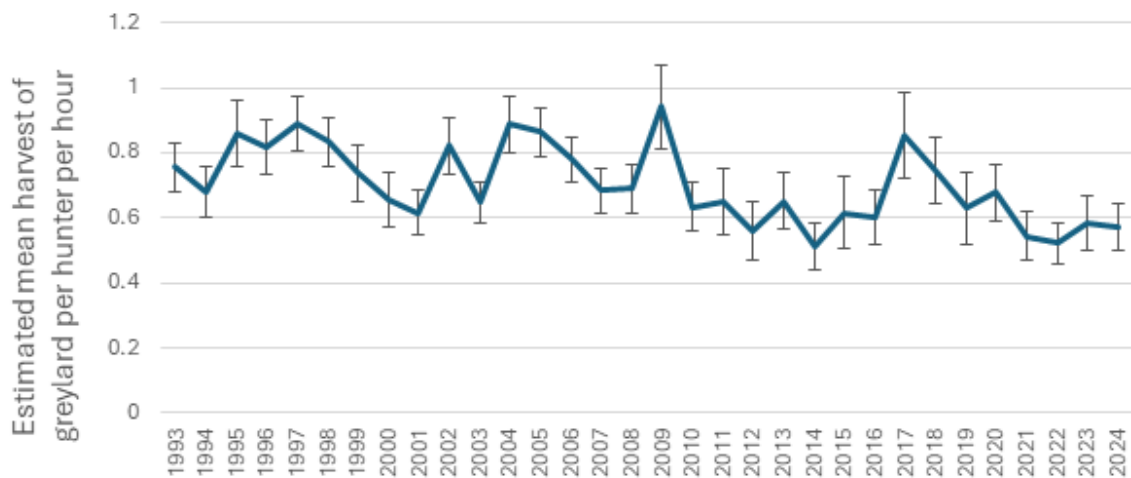


Figure 4: Estimated mean harvest of greylard per hunter per hour with 95% CI.

This year seems to follow a general trend in per hunter per hour harvest – which seems rather stable over the last 4 years.

Alongside the harvest survey, we asked some supplementary questions. The results are presented below. Please note that if councillors have questions, they are interested in asking a random sample of our licence holders, please let us know.

**How have randomly surveyed hunters (n=116) disposed of their offal and carcasses from the duck hunting season thus far?**

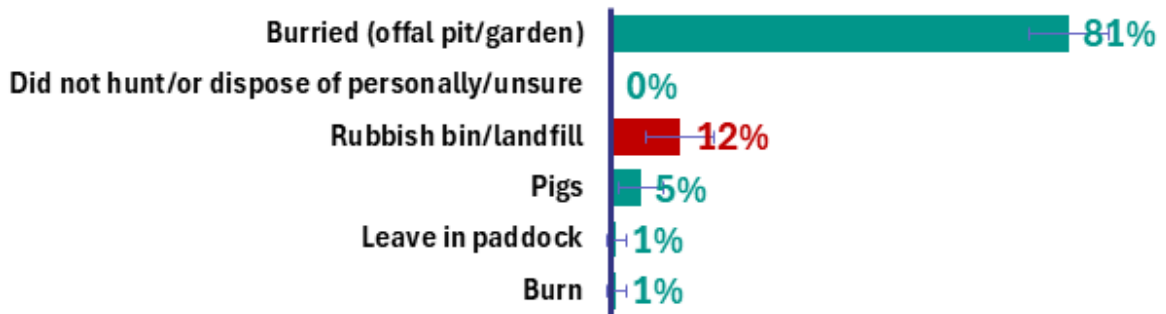


Figure 5: Investigating how hunters dispose of offal and carcasses with 95% CI.

**How do you feel about the recent legislation that prohibits the use of lead shot for 410s? (n=120)**

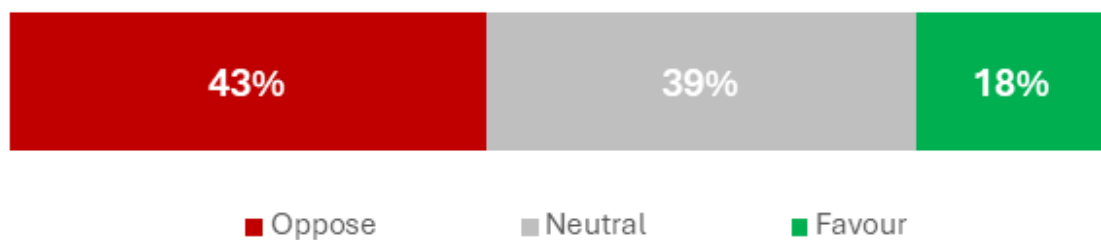


Figure 6: Investigating perceptions of banning lead for 410s.

**Were there more, the same, or fewer mallard and grey ducks in your hunting area this year? (n=129)**

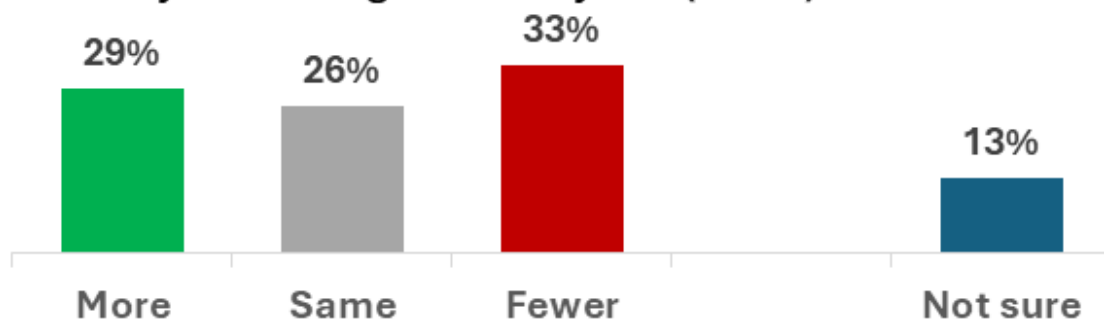


Figure 7: Perceptions of the number of greys and mallards around this season.

## **Project 1161: Trout Releases**

**Quarry Lake Release:** The winter school holiday trout release was quarry lake on 1 July 2024. Adam returned the trout sterilization chamber to Warkworth as the sterile trout breeding is now complete.

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

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### **Project 1211 RMA**

**Proposed Waikato District Plan – mediation:** We have continued to be involved in the Proposed Waikato District Plan appeals process as a s274 party under the RMA. All but one of the appeals points we joined have been resolved through pre-mediation negotiations. We decided not to participate in mediation however considering that there was only the one outstanding appeal point and the mediation itself was going to take up 3 working days, and with a fairly heavy workload it wasn't worth our time to participate. The outstanding appeal point concerns Significant Natural Areas and ensuring that areas that meet the criteria of an SNA are protected as such despite not being recognised as part of the council's mapping system. We hope that the Department of Conservation, who brought the appeal, will be able to resolve this point at mediation. We are pleased with the outcomes that have been reached for all other appeal points that we joined.

**Waitomo District Plan – hearing:** We made a submission on the Proposed Waitomo District Plan in December 2022. Overall, we were pleased with the proposed plan and that a lot of our previous concerns were addressed in our initial submission on the draft version of the plan. In leading up to the hearing the s42 Report was released and we were pleased to see that most of our submission points we accepted. In our submission we sought that the plan expands the provision for Benefits Lots (an entitlement to subdivide which is awarded by the Council for providing an environmental benefit to the District) to include not only the Upper Waipa but also the Awakino River catchment, due to its national importance as a trout fishery. This s42 Report supported this but sought further information for clarity on several points. As such Adam Daniel prepared evidence on the national importance of the Awakino trout fishery, it's catchment and mapped area proposed to be captured by the Benefit Lot provisions. His evidence also touched on how public access can be provided for by the provisions. Mischa Davis also provided evidence highlighting the legal mechanisms that could be used to create public access as part of the Benefit Lots. Mischa's evidence touched on other relief sought in Fish and Game submission including reverse sensitivity and that the rules should be strengthened to provide greater protection from conflict to game bird hunters in the Waitomo District. Relief that was accepted in the s42 Report included making recreational hunting a permitted activity in the natural open space and general rural zones, and to have Fish and Game Council included as an agency who may erect an official sign as a permitted activity. Mischa then presented at the hearing on the Proposed District Plan where they accepted all our relief with only our concerns regarding the reverse sensitivity rules being discussed.

**Lake Moana-nui draw down consent:** This consent was found to be expired or non-existent preventing the district council from dewatering the lake to kill aquatic weeds. The Tokoroa

Sports Fishing Assn. Inc had dewatered the lake on behalf of the DC for the past decade as council staff had little knowledge of how to operate the dam valve. Staff informed the club there was no consent to allow the significant sediment discharge into the Pokaiwhenua during spawning season putting them at significant risk of being prosecuted. The council is looking into renewing the consent.

**Kaitaia WWTP:** Adam is continuing to support Northland with their Kaitaia WWTP consent review process

### **Project 1221: Council Land**

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**Te aroha Wetland:** Monitoring of water levels ongoing, site visit observed the water still moving through the ground around the new structures. Further management (likely via the installation of water pumps) is currently being investigated and priced up.

Trees adjacent surrounding houses checked out as recently some landowners have wanted to remove trees (for safety around taller / older trees, but also for opening up views). David reached out to council for their position on the removals.

Funding from 1BT is being used for an upcoming planting day at Te Aroha wetland. These plants have been ordered and in planned for mid-august (exact date tbc). F&G Te aroha are currently carrying out weed control in the areas to be planted, with the planting day to be open to community to come help out (advertised predominantly via facebook).



### **Project 1235: Trees**

**Tree order:** The annual tree order was received and distributed to F&G clubs, committees and individuals for specified projects. For the most part, everyone received what they ordered – with some shortages of flax and cabbage and small discrepancies depending on the size of the trays. In total, around 5000 plants were distributed.



## **OUTPUT 3: PARTICIPATION**

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### **Project 1311: Access negotiation**

**Whanganui River Access:** Adam initiated an investigation into the gate to the Whanganui being locked in Taumarunui last month and the issue was resolved. Unfortunately, local anglers have informed staff there is now another fence being installed cutting off access to the river. Adam has called and emailed District Council staff make sure a gate is added to allow access.

**Stone Jug Road Easement:** Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa (Walking Access NZ) granted funding to place permanent walking access on the Stone Jug Road title. The survey company has been hired and work will ideally be completed by August.

**Other Access:** The access track closure on the upper Mangatutu and access closure on the Puniu have not been actioned due to a lack of time.

### **Project 1331: F&G Newspapers**

**Fish Magazine:** Articles were finished in July. The spring flyer will focus on the new season and potential rule changes.

**Both Barrels:** June and July issues of Both Barrels were prepared by Beau.

**Preseason fish magazine:** Beau engaged with Ollie Basset (NZ rep) and produced a feature article on “getting started fly-fishing”.

### **Project 1341: Other Publications**

**Social Media:** We have created an Instagram account and published several videos to both Facebook and Instagram. Most notably, Adam published a fish release video to the Trout Fishing New Zealand Facebook Page (2.3k reach); Beau published a wetland restoration video and cover photo and shared it to NZ Waterfowler (5.7k reach and 4.4k reach, respectively). With 15 new followers in the last month (770 total on Facebook), sharing our content with Facebook groups seems to be the most successful way of reaching people.

## **OUTPUT 4: PUBLIC INTERFACE**

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### **Project 1431 Liaison/Advocacy**

**Hamilton Anglers Kids Fishing Letter:** Adam has reviewed the Hamilton Anglers letter and supports the idea in principle. However, signs, jetties and designated areas will require funding and significant staff time if consents are required. The Hamilton City Council has opposed and/or attempted to ban fishing at multiple locations in the past. Adam is of the opinion that this is a great initiative that warrants further thought. The new Te Awa Lakes development may offer an opportunity to have trout fishing in a publicly accessible

manmade lake. Adam is following the development that had previously requested fish stocking.



Concept drawing of the Te Awa Lakes development.

## **OUTPUT 5: LAW ENFORCEMENT**

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### **Project 1521 Ranger Training**

**Ranger Renewals:** Adam and I have put in significant time and effort to collate and process applications. We are still waiting on two rangers to complete the required paperwork as they had previously missed sections. Applications were supposed to be sent to national office by the 1<sup>st</sup> of July so if we do not receive the further information shortly their warrants may not get issued.

## **OUTPUT 8: PLANNING REPORTING**

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### **Project 1841 National Liaison**

**Koi in Taranaki:** Adam has continued to act as an expert panel member to advise DOC on their aquatic pest species strategy. DOC staff also requested Adam's help in a Taranaki koi carp removal operation. Adam drove to Taranaki on a day trip and identified over 300 fish to support doc staff to complete the koi removal operation. The help was greatly appreciated by DOC. The individual found with the koi was an exotic pet collector with enclosed recirculating ponds that posed little threat to natural waterbodies.



**Public Awareness Meetings:** Dani and Beau have participated in bi-weekly PA meetings, which have allowed staff across NZ to connect and discuss media strategies and upcoming events. Notably, the aim is to work together to create high-quality “how-to” YouTube videos with a consistent feel. Media for upcoming council elections will also be going out soon.

## **OUTPUT 9: ADMINISTRATION**

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### **Project 1912: Administration**

**Health and Safety Requirements – Hazardous chemical management** Dani updated these to be in line with the legal requirements for the storage of hazardous substances in New Zealand (Health and Safety at Work at Work Act 2015: Hazardous Substances Regulations 2017). Improved control measures include all agri-chemicals now in secondary containment with safety signage around storage access points, along with a spill management plan. Consistent with the Worksafe requirements a F&G Auckland/Waikato chemical registry has been created to track amounts, chemical compatibility, Material Safety Data Sheets etc.

**Maritime NZ:** I completed my 4-yearly Power Boat Level 2 refresher. Adam holds a valid commercial skipper ticket and was able to conduct the review.

### **Project 1924: Staff Training**

**4x4 and LUV Course:** The team spent a day with Amie from Natural Instincts going over safely using 4x4s and LUVs in offroad and muddy terrain. The day was spent in the Kaimais, with steep hills to drive over and lots of mud to drive through. The course had many benefits, including getting to know the capabilities and features of the new and older Ford Rangers and LUV, terrain/hazard assessment, and recovery techniques. ATV trailering straps were replaced, and helmets were found to be out of date and will be replaced.





**Boating:** Dani and Beau completed their Maritime VHF Operator's Certificate, and have both have started working through their Boatmasters Home Study requirements (approximately 10 weeks study at 3.5 hours a week)

### **Project 1973: Donations**

**Fishing Access Fund:** The 2024/25 fishing magazine article will officially launch the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Access Fund. The magazine article asks anglers to contribute to a dedicated fund to purchase access property, create enduring access, and then sell the land to fund future purchases. The fund is the first of its kind in New Zealand and we will attempt to promote the fund with some PR.

**D. Klee**  
**Chief Executive**