

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME NEWSBRIEF

October 2024

If you require further elaboration or clarification of items contained herein, or any other matters relating to F&G business, please don't hesitate to contact your local councillor or the office.

Matters arising from the Council Meeting of 12 October 2024

1. **Body Cameras:** It was raised the prospect of body cameras for all rangers to wear. Dr Daniel will investigate with the possible options at a future meeting.
2. **Whakapapa River:** Councillors requested an update access to the Whakapapa River. The C.E. replied that his last two emails to DOC have had no reply.
3. **Hamilton Anglers Club:** The Chair asked for update with the proposal of the kids coarse fishing at Horseshoe Lake and then feeding the fish to zoo animals. The zoo has been contacted and a meeting would be done the following day. An update will be done at the next meeting.
4. **Response Plan:** There is an urgent need to develop a response plan with roles and responsibilities for High Pathogenic Avian Influenza. Staff are concerned that the country is not well prepared for an incursion should it arrive.
5. **Sports Fish & Game Management Plan:** Three proposed NZC policies and one guideline documents were discussed and agreed that they were useful as guidance documents but should not be passed as national policy.
6. **Letter of Condolence:** A letter of condolence to Vanessa Hammond was sent.

Matters Arising from the Chief Executive's Report

Drift Diving

A report should be completed for the November meeting.

Banding: Return Rate Survey

A SMS message was sent to as many adult and junior gamebird licence holders asking if they shot a banded bird. It successfully generated a reporting rate of 52%. The final report will be available at a later meeting.

Annual Shoveler Survey

The annual Shoveler survey was carried out spending a day visiting Lake Waikare and Whangamarino practising identifying and sexing spoonies and teal. The remaining sites were covered at a later date.

Lake Arapuni Spawning Survey

To determine if natural spawning could replace hatchery stocking at Lake Arapuni, spawning was surveyed during the 2024 spawning season.

Harvest Survey

The harvest survey has finished for this year. 892 licence holders were contacted.

Quarry Lake Fish Release

A final release at Quarry Lake will be completed during October school holidays.

Mine Discharge Ohinemuri

Waikato Regional Council placed an emergency closure on the Ohinemuri river because of discharge from an abandoned mine shaft. The event should have no longer term adverse effect on the river.

Update to Pond Holders

A letter was sent to all pond holders regarding any planned/completed works in preparation for reports to Waikato Regional Council. We are required to provide an annual works programme under our comprehensive consent.

Te Aroha Wetland

2650 native grasses, shrubs and trees were planted around the southern extent of the Te Aroha wetland with the assistance of the Te Aroha club. Thanks to all of those who attended.

Stone Jug Road Easement

A meeting was held with Ngāti Hāua Iwi Trust and Ngāti Manunui at the stone jug road property to walk through the proposed access sites. A sign acknowledging the significance of the site should be placed at the gate.

Ranger Update

All existing volunteers and staff rangers have completed renewals of their warrants.

Lake Waihi Operation

A call out to Lake Waihi in response to reports of netting in the lake. Nets were checked and no perch were found. The men had caught one Rudd, but the four men were adamant it was a goldfish. An educational approach was taken with fish ID information and warning given.