



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

1 December 2016

AGENDA

For the 161st Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

Venue: Eastern Fish & Game Office
Paradise Valley Road
ROTORUA

Date: Thursday 1 December 2016

Commences: 12.00 PM

	Page
1 Welcome	
2 Apologies	
3 Minutes of the previous meeting (20 October 2016)	5
4 Identification of Items for Council Policy	
5 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting	
6 Notification of Items for General Business	
7 Conflict of Interest Register	15
8 2015-2016 Performance Report (12.15 PM, 15 mins)	17
9 2016 Upland Game Properties Report (12.30 PM, 5 min)	21
10 2016 Game Season Conditions (12.35 PM, 30 mins)	24
11 Hunting Stand Claim Tag (1.05 PM, 25 mins)	38
12 Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund (1.30 PM, 5 mins)	44
13 Dates for Council Meetings in 2017 (1.35 PM, 5 mins)	45
14 Liaison Officers Reports (1.40 PM, 10 mins)	46
15 Operational Reports (1.50 PM, 15 mins)	
15.1 Management Report	47
15.2 Health and Safety Report	59
15.3 Finance Report	61
15.4 Licence Sales Report	76
16 General Business (2.05 PM, 25 mins)	
17 Public Excluded Session (2.30 PM, 30 mins)	83

18 Meeting Closes (3.00 PM)

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 160th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH
AND GAME COUNCIL HELD AT THE SUN COURT HOTEL AND
CONFERENCE CENTRE AT 14 NORTHCROFT STREET, TAUPO
ON THURSDAY 20th OCTOBER 2016 AT 12.00PM**

Present

Murray Ferris, Lindsay Lyons, Barry Roderick, David Woolner, Sandy Bull, Ken Coombes, Annaka Davis, Laurance Tamati, Neal Hawes, Steve Scragg, and Alan Baird.

In attendance

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, Matt Osborne, and Matthew McDougall (Eastern Fish & Game); Graham Whyman (TFAC); Paul Register, Brent Cannard, John Bennett, Brett Wilson Bob Neckelson, Tim Birdsall, Colin Paton, and Ray Dunlop (Wild Fowlers Assn).

1.0 WELCOME

Cr Murray Ferris opened the meeting at 12.15pm and welcomed Councillors, staff and members of the public.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Cr Peter Storey, Ken Raureti (Bay of Plenty Conservation Board), and Ray Bushell.

2.2 *Agreed (Alan Baird/David Woolner) that the apologies for the 160th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [16/10/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (20 October 2016)

3.1 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Sandy Bull) that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 August 2016 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [16/10/3.1]*

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

4.1 There were no resolutions identified for inclusion in Council Policy.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Cr Laurence Tamati queried whether points that he had asked be raised in his absence at the 11 August meeting had been put to the meeting as there was no specific mention of these in the minutes. Andy Garrick confirmed that he had presented his comments to the meeting and these had been incorporated into discussions. The first point related to the discussion on governance policies and the evaluation by Council of the performance of individual members and its Chairperson. Laurance suggested clarity was needed around who was responsible for discussing the results of the Chairperson's evaluation with him/her. Council indicated this matter could be addressed at the same time Council formulated the questions it would ask of its members along with other details of the evaluation process. The second matter related to the land occupier licence agenda item with Laurance suggesting the rights of iwi need to be discussed e.g. would Te Arawa be entitled to free licences given the iwi owns most of the lake beds in the Rotorua region?

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Cr Alan Baird - Predator control in Fish & Game managed wetlands and reserves;
- Cr Alan Baird - Mallard releases;

- Crs Lindsay Lyons, Barry Roderick - Green tag promotion;
- Cr Annaka Davis - Angler participation;
- Andy Garrick – Management services provided to Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council.

7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

7.1 No conflict of interest items were identified.

8.0 STANDING ORDERS

8.1 Andy informed Council of the New Zealand Council's decision to adopt the existing draft wording for Section 1.13 "Conflict of Interest" and provided some background as to where this wording had been drawn from. He added that a description of what constitutes a Conflict of Interest and Potential Conflict of Interest had been added to the 'glossary' of terms in Section 1.1.2. Andy also advised that the amendments proposed at the August meeting had been incorporated into the final draft in addition to one other amendment relating to the definition of 'working day' and that all of these changes could be seen within the tracked changes documentation included within the agenda item.

8.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Laurance Tamati) that Council adopts the Conflict of Interest rules and amended definition of 'working day' recently approved by the NZ Council and approves the Standing Orders subject to these amendments being incorporated. [16/10/8.2]*

9.0 2017 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

9.1 Andy Garrick advised the purpose of the discussion was to provide an opportunity to clarify any of the information provided and to identify any additional items or issues Council wanted staff to consider.

9.2 Cr David Woolner sought clarification over the two models presented (linear/cyclic) and queried Matt McDougall as to whether it was possible that the cyclic model was in fact a falling cycle. Matt McDougall advised that it was possible, that more modelling work was needed to determine this, and that he hoped to be able to provide more information at the November meeting.

9.3 Cr Lindsay Lyons queried whether further consideration was being given to reducing the bag limits in the Broadlands/Reporoa areas to improve populations there? He referred to the maps and suggestions that had been provided for information for last year's Game Season Conditions discussion. Council discussion followed and points covered included:

- Aerial reviews of habitat and counts of mallard and grey duck undertaken in 2016;
- Duck numbers in this area have historically been low and historic hunter diaries consistently indicate this to be one of the worst areas for duck hunting in the country;
- Sparse habitat south of Mihi bridge, but a number of ponds in the northern area;
- Habitat funding opportunities through Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust and the Waikato River Authority;
- Hunter diaries and staff opinion suggest that most of the hunting occurs on opening;
- Captive reared mallard trials;

- Collapse of Waikato lakes' 'duck factories' and a reduction in numbers of birds tracking into the area via the Waikato River;
 - Mighty River Power's ramping regime and the effects of this on wetland habitats and breeding.
- 9.4 Brent Cannard spoke of ponds he knew of located within the former Tahurakuri forest areas (now Wairakei Pastoral) which were unable to be accessed for hunting but could potentially be enhanced for duck breeding. Matt McDougall advised that Mighty River Power had set up mitigation funds which could be accessed for this purpose and suggested that Brent contact John Meikle to discuss these opportunities.
- 9.5 Cr Ken Coombes queried the success of the habitat work undertaken on a number of the Waiotapu oxbows. Andy Garrick advised that outcomes had been varied and there had been issues with some of these such as stock getting into plantings. He said that we had not seen the results that we had hoped for.
- 9.6 Cr Steve Scragg referred back to the information supplied with the maps in November 2015 and queried Matt McDougall as to what harvest level would make a difference? Matt McDougall provided an explanation of graphs included within the agenda item which indicated that a severe reduction in bag limits would be required to make a difference. Cr Steve Scragg queried the public present on their thoughts of a reduced bag and the need to retain a reduced bag over a few seasons?
- 9.7 Bob Neckelson commented on the limited number of ponds in the area and particularly the high number of sterile ponds with no cover. He felt that our focus should be placed on habitat and that cutting the bag limit is likely to see a reduction in licence revenue.
- 9.8 Cr Barry Roderick spoke of the research work currently being undertaken by Jen Sheppard indicating that broods were extremely vulnerable and suggested that releasing captive reared birds might be beneficial. Matt McDougall advised that study's overseas had found that released birds did not usually do well and noted that while Fish & Game had recently released birds in Broadlands, it was difficult to evaluate how useful this might be as a means of restoring local populations. However, he said that releases may be a good option to 'reseed' developed ponds that were not producing. Further discussion followed on;
- Size of hens, bigger eggs, bigger offspring;
 - Longer seasons affecting hen condition;
 - Research showing an average of 10.5 eggs per nest and nesting occurring up to four times per year;
 - Ephemeral wetlands and their value for raising ducklings but their demise due to drainage and conversions to dairy.
- Andy Garrick said that we need to be able to adequately measure the outcomes of captive reared mallard releases, and spoke of the Broadlands release this year and the feeding and protection that were provided in an endeavour to maximise survival and ensure the hens are in good condition during the breeding season. He said that it was early days with this release and that there was no real data available yet but it appeared that there was a predominance of males at the release sites presently suggesting hens were away nesting.
- 9.9 Andy Garrick advised there appeared to be releases of captive reared mallards occurring within the region that Fish & Game has not been informed of as the permits to do so are issued by the Department of Conservation. He said that we are trying to rectify this issue as it is important that Fish & Game, as the statutory manager of game birds, is aware of all releases of captive reared birds.

- 9.10 Council discussed the proposal put forward by the NZ Falconers Association to enable registered falconers the ability to take other game bird species. Questions were raised as to how selective raptors were in terms of the prey they take. Matt McDougall advised that there were only 5-6 registered falconers who usually hunted just a couple of days a season.
- 9.11 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports the proposal to allow registered falconers, who hold a game bird licence and an Authority to Handle birds from the Department of Conservation, to hunt other game bird species as listed within the Game Bird hunting regulations. [16/10/9.11]* Cr Alan Baird opposed the motion.
- 9.12 Andy Garrick provided some background to the Waewaetutuki wetland and its use for novice hunting over the past two game bird seasons. He said that the current novice hunter programme, while popular, was not cost effective in terms of staff time as currently implemented and felt that we could move our focus to events that would benefit a larger number of both newbies and existing but relatively inexperienced hunters. He said that the programme in Waewaetutuki was a great way of introducing novices to the sport and felt it was worth continuing but with a greater involvement of volunteers as opposed to staff. Cr Barry Roderick agreed that it was a project worth continuing and advised that he knew of a number of retired hunters who would be more than happy to assist and put something back into the sport.
- 9.13 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Alan Baird) that Council supports the continuation of the novice hunter programme at the Waewaetutuki wetland but with greater input from volunteers to enable staff to be released for other projects. [16/10/9.13]*
- 9.14 Council discussed the proposal by Equine to extend its upland game property boundaries to include the neighbouring property (C A Cropp Farms Ltd).
- 9.15 *Agreed (Alan Baird/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports the proposal to incorporate the Cropp Farms' property as detailed in Equine's application into the boundaries of the Equine upland game property. [16/10/9.15]* Crs Sandy Bull, Steve Scragg and Ken Coombes opposed the motion, and Cr Annaka Davis abstained from voting.
- 9.16 Cr Barry Roderick wished to confirm that the plugging of guns allowing for no more than 3 shots was to be enforceable next season. Andy Garrick confirmed that this was a voluntary requirement in 2016 but would be mandatory for 2017.
- 9.17 Brent Cannard requested further information in relation to proposals to require the use of non toxic shot in sub gauges. Cr Steve Scragg advised that the original intention had been to ban the use of lead shot in all gauges but as no one was importing non toxic ammunition for sub gauges at the time it was not applied to sub gauges. Now that it is available for 16 and 20 gauges and is likely to be available for all gauges in future the topic is back on the table. Andy Garrick advised that the NZ Council in 2014 had committed to reviewing the exemption for sub gauges in 2017, but the Minister of Conservation had more recently asked Fish & Game to bring a recommendation forward in relation to this. At its last meeting in August the Eastern Council resolved to recommend to the NZ Council that up to date information needed to be compiled and evaluated before a decision was made and that this should be conveyed to the Minister of Conservation.

10.0 STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE PRIORITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

- 10.1 Andy Garrick provided some background to this request from the NZ Council for individual Councils to identify five priorities which they believe should be considered for development as Standard Operating Procedures in 2016-17. Andy felt that a better

use of Council's time would be to focus on priorities for, and development of national policies rather than operational SOPs which are more of a matter for staff's consideration. Andy provided Council with some examples of national policies needing to be developed e.g. release of captive reared mallards, grass/silver carp, 1080, branding etc. Council agreed with this approach and that it is a management role to develop operational procedures. Further items were suggested such as;

- Risk management;
- External communications/social media;
- Accounting & reporting;
- Standardisation of remuneration packages for managers.

Cr Lindsay Lyons suggested that the preliminary list compiled provided by Andy as well as these additions be presented to the NZ Council for consideration, and it be left up to the New Zealand Council to prioritise. Cr Murray Ferris asked those present to submit any further feedback they might have to Andy within the next week.

10.2 Andy Garrick also highlighted the need for the NZ Council to review its draft National Policy document, which appears to have been in draft form since 2009, suggesting this might be an appropriate starting point for the development of national policy.

11.0 INFORMATION FOR THE 2015-2016 DRAFT PERFORMANCE REPORT

11.1 Kate Thompson informed council that the Draft Performance Report and Financial Statements were currently with the auditor and that the auditors had been at the office this week undertaking the required onsite checks. She advised that there is one financial adjustment yet to be made relating to work which was to be funded by the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Fund. Cr Murray Ferris advised that he had received an audit arrangement letter from the auditors advising that their contract was due to expire this year. He felt that the auditors, Owen McLeod & Co. of Hamilton, and their staff were very easy to deal with, and he supported continuation of our arrangements with them. Likewise Cr Barry Roderick added that they were very professional in their approach and supported continuation of their services.

11.2 Cr Laurance Tamati queried the process from here, particularly timing, and the need to present the final report at the Annual Public meeting on December 1. Andy Garrick confirmed that the completed report including audit report and management letter would be circulated to Council before the next meeting of Council. The Council would then need to adopt the report at the December meeting of Council which is followed closely by the Annual Public meeting where the report is presented. He said that the report was all but complete and expected that any amendments would be addressed and notified between now and the next meeting of Council.

11.3 Cr Murray Ferris advised that the Chairman's report was to be available within the next week and that this would be circulated to Council via email.

11.4 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Ken Coombes) that Council receives the draft report comprising the Statement of Service Performance and draft Financial Statements for the 2015-2016 year. [16/10/11.4]*

12.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

12.1 Andy Garrick clarified some minor adjustments to figures reported as these were not available at the time of writing. The adjustments related to the 2015-16 Wairoa Access Programme (\$3,189 amended to \$2,920), and the 2015-16 Survey and Monitoring of Spawning Tributaries (\$13,251 amended to \$13,521).

12.2 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/David Woolner) that Council receives the update and information on the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund. [16/10/12.2]*

13.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

13.1 Council invited Graham Whyman from the Taupo Fishery Advisory Committee to provide a brief report to the meeting. Graham thanked Council for the opportunity to join the meeting and for Andy Garrick's contribution to the Taupo Fishery Advisory Committee. He considered that the recent changes to the Taupo fisheries legislation enabling an Anglers Notice review process and amendments to the Taupo regulations was a huge step forward and said that he would be very interested in hearing more about Fish & Game's deliberations in relation to the first and second schedules of its Anglers Notice. Graham commented on Taupo fishery conditions advising that it had not been spectacular of late but the fish being caught were in very good condition and some larger fish were coming through now. He said that Biosecurity Officers had been active in getting the Didymo message out around the area and commented about our need to be aware of other issues which were occurring overseas such as the parasite infestation which had recently lead to the closure of a river in Yellowstone. Brent Cannard expressed concern over the large number of trout congregating and being caught in the Tongariro? on the lake side of the State Highway bridge querying whether the area should be considered a no fishing area to enable these fish to travel further upstream. Graham advised that it was unlikely to affect the population as there are also a lot of fish seen in the upper pools as well and the regulations restricted catch to 3 fish per day. Graham thanked Council for the invitation to attend its meeting.

13.2 Annaka Davis provided a report from her position on the Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board. She advised that a board member, Laurie Burdett, had been endorsed as the Conservation Board appointment to the Central North Island Sika Foundation. A Board meeting had highlighted that DOC should be generating more funding from tourism. Locally, Destination Great Lake Taupo and the Taupo Fishery were looking at ways they can jointly market the fisheries and it had been suggested the possibility of working with Fish & Game and marketing fishing in both regions should be explored. Annaka highlighted Might River Power's application for an exemption to provide a marginal strip at Whakamaru Power Station which the Minister agreed to without the opportunity for public notification and therefore consultation. The Tongariro-Taupo Board and the Waikato Conservation Board had provided comment to the Minister when making her decision and had recommended a marginal strip be created and the application be publicly notified. Andy Garrick advised that Fish & Game had been involved in the process and advised that he would provide additional detail at Council's next meeting.

13.3 Lindsay Lyons spoke of the recent one day meeting of the NZ Council in Wellington and in particular Sir Geoffrey Palmer's input into discussions surrounding the Inland Revenue Departments proposal to tax Fish & Game. He confirmed that Sir Geoffrey Palmer and Bryce Johnson had met with the IRD and that this proposal is to be reappraised. Lindsay also informed Council of the ongoing NZ Council office review and the need to appoint a new member to the team to assist Robert Sowman. Lindsay confirmed that the President of the NZ Freshwater Federation of Guides, Bryan Colman, was present at the last meeting and that the proposal for a guides licence had been agreed on and they were now ready to meet with the Minister regarding this. Lindsay also commented on recent findings relating to the effects of dissolved

- phosphorus on Didymo and suggestions to trial this in the headwaters of affected rivers. He said that the levels of phosphorus in the North Island were typically higher than in the South, especially around the volcanic plateau, and suggested that this may be why Didymo has not been detected in the North Island. The next meeting of the NZ Council was to be a three day meeting in Whangarei.
- 13.4 Lindsay also commented on the 1080 drops in the Kahurangi National Park two days ahead of opening of the trout fishing season. Andy Garrick provided some background to Fish & Game concerns over eating fish that have ingested 1080 pellets. He said that Fish & Game had taken its concerns to DOC and the National Poison Centre and that MPI had come back saying that there was a potential but extremely low risk to human health. Annaka Davis suggested Fish & Game needs to discuss its concerns with the Medical Officer of Health of the local Public Health Unit who can impose conditions on aerial applications of 1080.
- 13.5 Lindsay advised that Bryce Johnson is looking to retire by the end of 2017 and that the NZ Council was in the process of reviewing the CEO's job description. It was likely that a new CEO would be appointed by July next year to enable a smooth transition.

14.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

- 14.1 Andy Garrick advised that Council had now received Volume One of the Health and Safety Plan and that Carmel Veitch had played a big role in compiling this. Andy advised that this was a live document and subject to ongoing improvement and amendment. Cr Barry Roderick asked whether Council could view the accident register at its meetings. Andy Garrick advised that he would be comfortable with impromptu audit and queried the need to view the register on a regular basis? Barry advised that he was particularly concerned over any serious harm incidents and a need to require drug and alcohol testing. Cr Alan Baird advised that this type of testing needed to be agreed to within employees' employment contracts. Andy Garrick agreed, and advised that staff's employment contracts were currently being reviewed and this was on the items to be incorporated. Cr Lindsay Lyons acknowledged Carmel Veitch's work on this National Health & Safety Plan.
- 14.2 Kate Thompson provided a brief report on licence sales year to date, advising that it was too early to make any assumptions and although the reports within the agenda indicated that sales were up on last season, more recent results to 18 October show that they are down. She noted that this may be influenced by the intensive marketing of the new categories last season which is likely to have prompted people to purchase their licences earlier. Matt McDougall questioned whether there is to be a follow up on the outcomes from the introduction of the new licence categories? He, in particular, had noticed a significant number of day licences out on the lake during this year's opening day. Kate advised that she will be working with the Licence Working Party to identify switching patterns from the season prior to the new categories being introduced and that this should show if there has been a greater shift to the short term categories.
- 14.3 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/David Woolner) that Council receives the Health and Safety Report. [16/10/14.3]*
- 14.4 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/David Woolner) that Council receives the Management, Finance, and Licence Sales reports and approves the payments for July and August 2016 totalling \$291,329.31. [16/10/14.4]*

15.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 15.1 Cr Alan Baird queried the level of predator control occurring within Fish & Game's wetland reserves? Matt McDougall advised that generally there is not a lot of predator control in the reserves though Ray Bushell had undertaken some in the Kaituna WMR for a period and that locals had been looking after Awaiti WMR for some time too though he understood this was no longer the case. Matt advised that Fish & Game undertakes some limited and localised predator control in conjunction with the banding programme but to go beyond this there was a need to involve volunteers and locals. Alan felt that if Fish & Game was seen to be proactive in predator control that this may encourage hunters to do the same. Matt McDougall advised full scale predator control was costly and suggested that if we are going to do it we need to do a good job of it. He noted that the estimated costs of controlling predators in some USA studies equated to approximately \$70 per duck and aside from this there was a need to be mindful of prey switching i.e. the removal of a predator can often open the door for others e.g. hawks and pukeko. Barry Roderick also commented on a study in the USA that had shown that a 20 year long predator control programme had ultimately worsened the situation as a result of prey switching. He added that Jenn Sheppard's study had shown nest survival in NZ to be 56% whereas in the USA it was as low as 14%. Graham Whyman commented on the successes achieved in the upper Waimarino with predator control and the return of the blue duck. Cr Sandy Bull added that he was involved with a significant control programme in Gisborne where the predators just keep coming in from neighbouring areas as fast as they were removed.
- 15.2 Cr Alan Baird queried if the Broadlands release had worked and whether we were looking to do more? Andy Garrick advised that the 2016 release was an opportunistic one resulting from an offer from NZ Game Birds to donate surplus birds to Fish & Game, and while there was some limited funding available in the 2016-17 work plan to devote to captive reared mallard monitoring, a further release would only be an option if birds were again donated. He advised that while we could measure and understand the survival of the birds released it was difficult to measure their productivity and the contribution they might make to local or regional populations.
- 15.3 Cr Lindsay Lyons briefed council on the recent Green tag promotion and the interest and excitement that it had created over opening. He was keen to undertake this type of promotion next season and suggested that we aim to look at opportunities early next year. Cr Barry Roderick said that he was surprised over the lack of children out on opening and suggested that the next promotion include some spot prizes for children. Kate Thompson provided an overview of the outcome of the promotion including tags caught, prizes, participation, and licence uptake. Cr Barry Roderick suggested that some form of sponsorship might induce some additional excitement into local iwi competitions such as the Tangaroa. Lindsay thanked staff for their work on this promotion and Council thanked Lindsay Lyons and Barry Roderick for their sponsorship of the major prize.
- 15.4 Cr Annaka Davis commented on the packs issued by the Harbourmaster of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council on opening day and queried whether Fish & Game should not be doing something similar. Andy Garrick advised that this has been done in the past but more recently we have provided giveaways of lures sponsored by Kilwell to kids on opening day and limited the distribution of pamphlets or other information to those who request such. Matt Osborne advised that the packs produced by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council are funded by Biosecurity NZ. Andy noted that giveaway

packs are something that we could give further consideration to in future if we see a benefit in doing so.

15.5 Andy Garrick provided an update on the formal and informal arrangements Eastern Region has with the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council, and acknowledged the flexibility and tolerance this Council has demonstrated in allowing him to be involved to the extent he has been over the past 15 months or so. Andy advised that from his perspective it was timely for him to start withdrawing from the management role he has been playing there, as Hawke's Bay now had some good staff on the ground capable of operating much more independently and able to take on more of the management mantle. Andy advised that he had informed the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council that it was his intention to reduce his currently budgeted management services of 25 hrs per month to 8 hours per month as of 1 January 2017 if they wished to retain him in a mentoring capacity. The existing field/admin services contract would continue as budgeted. He said that the Hawke's Bay Council appeared to be comfortable with this arrangement and would look to advertise a manager/field officer position with a view to making an appointment prior to the end of the year. Cr Murray Ferris acknowledged Andy and Eastern staff's contribution to the Hawke's Bay Council and Lindsay Lyons commended Andy on his work with them. Andy expected that the Eastern and Hawke's Bay regions would be working far more collaboratively into the future which would be a good thing for both regions. Andy will provide an update to Council at its next meeting.

15.6 Cr Murray Ferris thanked Council and visitors for their contribution to today's meeting in Taupo.

16.0 MEETING CLOSED

16.1 The meeting was closed at 3.22 pm.

.....
Murray Ferris,
Chairman

.....
Date

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.2 *Agreed (Alan Baird/David Woolner) that the apologies for the 160th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [16/10/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (20 October 2016)

- 3.1 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Sandy Bull) that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 August 2016 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [16/10/3.1]*

8.0 STANDING ORDERS

- 8.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Laurance Tamati) that Council adopts the Conflict of Interest rules and amended definition of 'working day' recently approved by the NZ Council and approves the Standing Orders subject to these amendments being incorporated. [16/10/8.2]*

9.0 2017 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

- 9.11 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports the proposal to allow registered falconers, who hold a game bird licence and an Authority to Handle birds from the Department of Conservation, to hunt other game bird species as listed within the Game Bird hunting regulations. [16/10/9.11]*
- 9.13 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Alan Baird) that Council supports the continuation of the novice hunter programme at the Waeawaetutuki wetland but with greater input from volunteers to enable staff to be released for other projects. [16/10/9.13]*
- 9.15 *Agreed (Alan Baird/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports the proposal to incorporate the Cropp Farms' property as detailed in Equine's application into the boundaries of the Equine upland game property. [16/10/9.15]*

11.0 INFORMATION FOR THE 2015-2016 PERFORMANCE REPORT

- 11.4 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Ken Coombes) that Council receives the draft report comprising the Statement of Service Performance and draft Financial Statements for the 2015-2016 year. [16/10/11.4]*

12.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

- 12.2 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/David Woolner) that Council receives the update and information on the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund. [16/10/12.2]*

14.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

- 14.3 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/David Woolner) that Council receives the Health and Safety Report. [16/10/14.3]*
- 14.4 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/David Woolner) that Council receives the Management, Finance, and Licence Sales reports and approves the payments for July and August 2016 totalling \$291,329.31. [16/10/14.4]*

7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

15 November 2016

1. Purpose

A standing agenda item to disclose any Councillor (“Member”) Conflict of Interest or potential Conflict of Interest, and record this in the Councillor Conflict of Interest Register.

2. Background

The Eastern Fish and Game Council at its October 2016 meeting adopted a policy and rules for dealing with Conflicts of Interest and must provide a standing agenda item to allow Councillors to disclose any Conflict or highlight any potential conflict. The “Interest Register” ring binder will be circulated in the first part of each meeting for Councillors to record any interests. The Council should then discuss how it wants to deal with any interest or perceived interest identified.

Conflict of Interest (refer s2.7 Governance Policies) means when the member can be shown to have actual bias or apparent bias in respect of a matter¹ i.e:

- (i) A member can be shown to have actual bias when a member’s decision or act in relation to a matter could give rise to an expectation of financial gain or loss (that is more than trivial) to the member (and/or to the member’s parent(s), child(ren), spouse, civil union partner, de facto partner, business partner(s)/associate(s), debtor(s) or creditor(s)).
- (ii) A member can be shown to have apparent bias when a member’s official duties or responsibilities to the Council in relation to a matter could reasonably be said to be affected by some other interest or duty that the member has.
- (iii) A member’s “interest or duty” includes the interests of that member’s parent(s), child(ren), spouse, civil union partner or de facto partner that may be affected by the matter at issue. It also includes the interests of a person with whom the member has a close, personal relationship where there is a real danger of personal favouritism.
- (iv) There is no Conflict of Interest where the member’s other interest or duty is so remote or insignificant that it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to influence him or her in carrying out his or her responsibility.

A potential conflict of interest (refer s2.8 Governance Policies) arises when:

- (i) There is a realistic connection between the member’s private interest(s) and the interest(s) of the Council;

¹ “Matter” means:

- (i) The Council’s performance of its functions or exercise of its powers as set out in Part 5A of the Conservation Act 1987, subject to the Council’s statutory purpose set out in section 26P(1) of the Conservation Act; or
- (ii) An arrangement, agreement, or contract made or entered into, or proposed to be entered into, by the Council.

- (ii) The member's other interest could specifically affect, or be affected by, the actions of the Council in relation to a matter;
- (iii) A fair-minded lay observer might reasonably consider that the member's private interest or duty may influence or motivate the actions of the member in relation to a matter; and
- (iv) There is a risk that the situation could undermine public trust and confidence in the member or the Council.

Conflicts of Interest should be dealt with as follows (refer s1.13 Standing Orders):

1.13.1 Every member present at a meeting must declare any direct or indirect conflict of interest that they hold in any matter being discussed at the meeting, other than an interest that they hold in common with the public.

1.13.2 When a conflict of interest arises in respect of a matter, the affected member will:

- (i) not vote on issues related to the matter;
- (ii) not discuss the matter with other members;
- (iii) conform to the majority view of other members present as to whether to be excluded from discussions regarding the matter and/or leave the room when the matter is discussed;
- (iv) not, subject to the discretion of the Chairperson, receive further papers or other information related to the matter.

1.13.3 Where a member can be shown to have a potential conflict of interest, the Council (excluding the affected member) will determine an appropriate course of action, which may include the following:

- (i) applying some or all of the actions applied to a member with a conflict of interest (set out in 1.13.2 i) – iv) above);
- (ii) providing a written explanation outlining why there is no legal conflict of interest that can be made available to all Fish and Game Councils, licence holders and other interested parties.

1.13.4 The conflicted member will be given the opportunity to be heard by the Council on the points raised and the member's submissions will be taken into consideration by the Council.

1.13.5 The minutes must record the declaration and member's subsequent abstention from discussion and voting.

Councillors should take this opportunity to disclose any Conflict of Interest they are aware of now and record it in the circulated Conflict of Interest Register. If during the course of the meeting a conflict or perceived conflict is recognised, then this should be disclosed at that point in time.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Councillors disclose any Conflict or potential Conflict of Interest, record it in the Interest Register, and Council agrees on how to deal with any Conflict of Interest raised.

8. 2015-2016 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.04

11 November 2016

1. Purpose

To adopt the Performance Report for the 2015-2016 year.

2. Background

The Performance Report for the 2015-2016 year has been completed and audited by Owen McLeod. The draft Performance Report was provided for consideration at the October Council meeting, and a final copy which includes the Independent Auditor's Report will be tabled at this meeting.

3. Reporting Standards

This year the Performance Report (formally the Annual Report) has been prepared under a Public Benefit Entity Simple Format reporting - Accrual (Public Sector) (PBE SFR A (PS)). This format was introduced for the 2014-15 financial year.

4.0 Variance against Budget

The profit for the year was \$184,827 against a budget deficit of (\$26,514). This result reflects the reinstatement of the region's reserves (\$65,000), increased revenue from licence sales, and assistance provided by Eastern staff to the Hawke's Bay and New Zealand Fish & Game Councils. Additionally, budgeted spending from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund was not utilised in full.

4.1 Income

The total revenues for the 2015-2016 year were \$207,390 ahead of budget. This total was made up primarily from the following:

Amount	Note
+\$109,512	Increased revenue from staff contracts
+\$32,000	Increase in forestry valuation
+\$23,386	Increased licence revenue
+\$15,722	External funding WCEET
+\$8,733	Gain on sale of Fixed Assets
+\$6,899	Increased sale of fish to F & G regions
+\$4,835	Increased Interest Income - Waikaremoana Fund
+\$6,026	Increased Interest Income - General reserves
+\$3,043	Royal Society of NZ Science Programme
-\$2,559	Reduced income - Waikaremoana Fund Project (due to reduced costs)
+\$1,000	Funding NZ Fish & Game - Fish for Gold Promotion

External funds received for habitat projects were used during the year to meet the outputs for these projects.

4.2 Expenditure (Direct)

4.2.1 Species

The total direct expenditure related to species projects was \$7,837 under budget. Population monitoring direct expenditure budgets were not fully utilised (\$13,795) due to reduced costs associated with waterfowl monitoring, the Waikaremoana survey and access projects, and didymo surveillance. A camera was purchased for trend counts but due to its value was processed through to fixed assets. The remaining surplus funds were utilised to offset the significant increase to the price of fish food which resulted in increased hatchery operations direct expenses (\$6,531).

4.2.2 Habitat

Habitat related direct expenditure ended the year \$26,841 less than budget, however there were significant budgeted funds unspent which related to the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Fund (\$39,000). Pledged funding for weed cordons or other infrastructure at Lake Waikaremoana is still yet to be called upon. Other habitat budgets had reduced expenditure totalling \$3,563.

Additional expenditure not budgeted for related to the Simpson Ruatawiri wetland which was funded by the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust (\$15,722).

4.2.3 Participation and Client Services

The total direct expenditure related to client service projects was \$1,057 under budget and is due primarily to reduced access related costs.

4.2.4 Public Interface

Public Interface direct expenditure ended the year \$10,436 over budget. Increased expenses within the Visitors/Education budgets were due to work undertaken within the property remedying potential hazards and undertaking some deferred maintenance. This additional work was funded by revenue gained within the financial year from staff assisting Hawke's Bay Fish & Game.

4.2.5 Compliance

The overall direct expense in the Compliance Output was under budget by \$370.

4.2.6 Licensing

Licensing costs were lower than budgeted (\$9,988) and this relates primarily to the reduced cost of the Region's Public Online sales. The annual commissions and fees budgets are set on the basis that 5% of budgeted licence revenue is paid as a commission to licence agents. This percentage has also been used as a ball park rate to budget for fees associated with Public Online purchases, but with increased purchasing through this channel and bulk savings achieved the actual cost of sales through the Public Purchasing channel was reduced.

4.2.7 Council

Council related expenditure was \$1,252 under budget. A reduction in Councillor travel expenditure over the year contributed to this result.

4.2.8 Planning & Reporting

Planning and reporting expenditure is \$411 under budget and this is a result of reduced liaison costs.

4.2.9 Administration

The administrative expenses have been split into Employee related costs and Other expenses and the combined end of year variance was \$34,809 (3.4%) over budget.

Employee related expenses were \$42,968 over budget resulting from increased salaries (\$42,382) arising from the employment of contractors to undertake deferred maintenance, and additional work undertaken by staff for other F&G regions. The latter was offset by income from the other Fish & Game Councils for services provided. An increase in fringe benefit tax was sufficiently offset by reduced ACC levies (net \$339). Staff training and health and safety expenses were increased by \$925.

Other expenses were under budget by \$8,159. The staff house expense was higher than budgeted (\$4,131) due to the need to rewire the timber house following an electrical audit. Office premises expenses ended the year \$1,192 over budget and this relates to increased electricity costs. Office equipment expenses were \$418 over budget for the year and relates to a review and replacement of some office chairs for health and safety reasons. Communications expenditure was \$648 higher than anticipated as a result of over charging of services by Vodafone. A credit for this expected in the new financial year as Vodafone has been slow to resolve the matter. General expenses were also over budget by \$831 which is due to a variation between actual loss on the sale of assets to that budgeted. Equipment expenditure ended the year under budget by \$2,608 due primarily to reduced fuel costs and no unanticipated equipment maintenance requirements during the year. Vehicle expenses were less than budget (\$12,771) resulting from savings on insurance, registration, and fuel. The fuel expense was reduced as a result of the reimbursement from the Hawke's Bay Fish & Council for staff mileage while working in the Hawke's Bay Region.

4.2.10 NZ Fish & Game Levies

The levy of \$183,051 was in line with budget.

5.0 Financial Position

5.1 Liquidity

The Council's financial position remains secure with current liquidity ratios, which indicate the amount of working capital or quick assets available of some \$3.67 of current assets to every \$1 of current liabilities (\$3.45 in 2014-15).

The Statement of Cash Flows highlights that cash received from operating activities for the year was \$283,602 compared to \$157,922 last year. The decrease in cash on hand at year end of \$30,374 is a makeup of the inflow from operating \$283,602 and the transfer of cash to investments and fixed assets \$313,976 (outflow).

5.2 Debtors

The figure of \$133,775 is largely made up of current debtors (2014-15 figure, \$141,841). One debtor has an outstanding account from August of \$611, but all other accounts have been paid in full in the months of September and October 2016.

5.3 Fish & Game General Reserves

The National Financial Reserves Policy requires that a region's net current assets (excluding dedicated reserves) shall be managed between 30 - 50% of licence revenue by Councils with income greater than their bulk fund funding. The Eastern Council's general reserves (excluding dedicated reserves but including the Asset Replacement Reserve) to 31 August

2016 totalled \$420,606. The Council's general reserve now sits at the minimum level of 30% of licence revenue.

5.4 Restricted and Dedicated reserves

Note 5 (page 50) in the Accounts gives a summary of the Restricted and Dedicated reserves. These include the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund, the Asset Replacement Reserve, and the Back Country Fisheries Reserve which has been created with the establishment of the non-resident licence fee.

6.0 Statement of Service Performance

The Statement of Service Performance commencing on page 6 of the Performance Report provides information on each output area including Projects & Objectives, Performance Measures, and Actual Results. The Summary Budget and Actual Expenditure table shown on page 6 and the more detailed Summary of Resources tables shown at the commencement of each output area provide a summary of total expenses less income for each output area.

The total expense figures reported within the Summary of Resource tables not only include direct costs but also an allocation of the overhead costs based on the actual hours worked in each output area.

Note 11 on page 53 provides a summary of the total expense for each output area detailing the overhead component and hours that contribute to this.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 That Council adopts the Performance Report for the 2015-2016 year.

9. 2016 UPLAND GAME PROPERTIES REPORT

Ref: 3.01.06

16 November 2016

1.0 Purpose

To review harvest and hunter effort on Registered Upland Game Properties with special conditions in the Eastern Region during the 2016 season.

2.0 Background

Each year the Council reviews the operations of registered Upland Game Properties in the Eastern Region. These properties are operated in accordance with Council Policy and have a list of criteria they need to meet which includes maintaining and submitting an annual register of hunter activity and harvest. This report summarises results for the past 16 years on Upland Game Properties in the Eastern Region. There are currently five registered Upland Game Properties with Special Conditions operating within the region.

3.0 Results

The 2016 returns for the five properties have been received and summary results are presented in the tables below. Hunter activity and harvest overall is shown in Table 1. A comparison of total harvest and total birds released is shown in Table 2.

3.1 Total Harvest

Hunting in the Upland Game Properties during the 2016 season was down on that undertaken in the preceding three years but at 561 hunter days still greater than that for the years 2001 to 2012 inclusive. The total number of pheasants released was comparable to numbers released in 2012 and 2015 but about 4,300 less than the record numbers released in 2013 and 2014. A total of 8,569 pheasants and 8 partridge were recorded as being harvested from 26,800 pheasants and 102 partridge released. This equates to a 32% return on released pheasants, and an 8% return on released partridge. The largest operator advised that approximately half of the pheasants he released this year had succumbed to botulism and this is likely to have been a key factor in the reduced number of pheasants harvested this year.

3.2 Harvest of Hen Birds

The percentage of hen birds in the total harvest this year was 42.40%. This is a little down on the previous 15 year average of 46.8 birds. It is clear that the ability to harvest hen birds continues to be an important aspect of Upland Game Property operations.

3.3 Daily Harvest

The 2016 daily harvest per hunter across all registered Upland Game Properties averaged 15.9 birds per hunter/day. The separation between commercial and syndicate properties remains evident with the commercial type properties accounting for 78% of the total effort and hunters harvesting an average of 20 birds per hunter/day, while the syndicate type properties account for 22% of the effort with hunters averaging 3 birds per hunter/day.

Table 1: Summary of hunter effort and harvest

Season	Days	Number of Hunter Days	Pheasants Shot				Birds Per Hunter
			Cocks	Hens	Total	% Hens	
2001	31	209	828	631	1,459	43.25	7.0
2002	34	220	1,633	1,440	3,073	46.88	14.0
2003	30	251	2,815	2,440	5,255	46.43	20.9
2004	44	320	3,004	3,526	6,530	54.00	20.4
2005	36	334	4,304	3,265	7,569	43.14	22.7
2006	41	263	2,728	1,853	4,581	40.45	17.4
2007	54	399	3,682	3,575	7,257	49.26	18.2
2008	70	556	5,203	4,837	10,040	48.18	18.1
2009	60	496	4,665	4,351	9,016	48.26	18.2
2010	58	475	3,613	3,307	6,920	47.80	14.6
2011	67	532	5,165	4,894	10,701	45.73	20.1
2012	73	548	5,350	5,588	10,484	53.30	19.1
2013	92	655	6,642	6,279	12,916	41.55	19.7
2014	104	733	7,242	6,615	13,877	47.67	18.9
2015	91	613	6,699	5,641	12,340	45.71	20.1
2016	77	561	4,936	3,633	8,569	42.40	15.9

Table 2: Summary of harvest

Season	Pheasants Released	Birds Shot & Recovered	% Harvested
2001	5,938	1,459	24.6
2002	7,400	3,073	41.5
2003	12,400	5,255	42.4
2004	15,200	6,473	42.6
2005	19,400	7,569	39.0
2006	15,200	5,319	35.0
2007	19,700	7,257	36.8
2008	24,436	10,040	41.1
2009	22,004	9,016	41.0
2010	18,200	6,920	38.0
2011	26,389	10,701	40.6
2012	26,820	10,484	39.1
2013	31,084	12,564	40.4
2014	31,084	13,877	44.6
2015	24,631	12,340	50.1
2016	26,800	8,569	32.0

4.0 Discussion

Hunting on Upland Game Properties appears to have tailed off a little within the region but remains twice that seen in the early years. The number of pheasants released remains substantial though overall harvest and pheasants/hunter were substantially down this year as a consequence largely it would seem, of the loss of possibly several thousand birds to botulism on one property.

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 That Council receives the summary of hunter effort and harvest on Upland Game Properties in 2016.

10. 2017 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

Ref: 1.07.03

16 November 2016

1. Purpose

To determine game season conditions for the 2017 hunting season.

2. Background

Council has established policies and criteria for determining game season regulations based on monitoring programmes undertaken in the January preceding the game season concerned. These are set out in Appendix 1 to this Agenda Item.

In November 2014, Council agreed to revert to the threshold management approach to setting mallard harvest regulations. This involves using information obtained from trapping and banding operations to determine the conditions that will apply. Mallard and grey duck are combined, as genetic introgression means the species cannot be visually differentiated. No information has come to hand to suggest the threshold approach or conditions associated with it that Council agreed should be applied to the Eastern Region as a whole need to be reviewed, but consideration does need to be given to whether a different set of conditions is warranted in the Reporoa/Broadlands area where mallard numbers are believed by many to be very low. This topic was raised at Council's meetings in October and November 2015, and again at the October 2016 meeting where a number of Reporoa hunters were present. Aerial transect count data obtained earlier this year supports the proposition that the mallard and grey duck population in parts of this area at least is particularly low. Council needs to decide whether it wishes to try and address this issue through more restrictive regulations.

Black swan regulations are based on population size estimates and trends over the past fourteen years, and paradise shelduck regulations on population trends alone. Aerial counts of swans and parries are undertaken in mid-January. Analysis of this data is usually completed by Waitangi Weekend. Shoveler duck populations are assessed from ground based counts undertaken throughout New Zealand in August each year, but unlike other waterfowl species there are no established criteria for setting season regulations other than applying a conservative approach to the trend counts obtained. For the past few years Council has recommended a four week season and two bird bag limit for shoveler. The 2016 shoveler monitoring programme indicated that the long term population trend for this species is stable, so no change is recommended to the status quo.

Upland game regulations also tend to remain the same from year to year. We undertake some monitoring of pheasant populations by conducting crow counts in November, but this provides only limited insight as it is undertaken prior to the breeding season. At this stage we do not have a robust means of measuring upland game populations that can be applied to setting regulations or monitoring the impacts of these. If anecdotal information is available indicating a possible collapse of populations, or there are other reasons warranting a change from the status quo, this is brought to Council's attention.

In the 2000 game bird season the Eastern Fish and Game Council made provision for magazines to hold more than one shell. Concern has been widely expressed that this may be inappropriate so Council have agreed to restrict capacity to 3 shells (i.e. 2 in the magazine

and one in the breech). This can be achieved by using a dowel spacer (i.e. magazines do not need to be pinned in a manner that can't be altered in the field as was the case prior to 2000).

At the October 2016 Council meeting it was agreed to increase the number of game species that can be hunted by permitted falconers (they use Australasian harriers) who hold a game bird licence.

Appendix 2 provides the proposed schedule and regulations for the 2017 game season. The content of the highlighted cells in the schedule is subject to the outcomes of summer monitoring in January 2017 and will be finalised as per the policy direction indicated in Appendix 1. Council will be advised in early February of the results of the summer monitoring programmes (trend counts and banding/modelling), and the consequent regulations that will apply.

3. Considerations for 2017

3.1 Reporoa/Broadlands Mallard and Grey Duck Regulations

At its November 2015 meeting Council passed the following resolution:

12.9 Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that the proposal to constrain the mallard and grey duck bag limit in the Reporoa/Broadlands/upper Waikato River areas be reviewed in November 2016 following further investigations by staff and the establishment of baselines for monitoring populations in these areas. [15/11/12.9]

Since then staff have conducted random aerial transect (10km) counts of mallard and grey duck in the Reporoa basin. Reporoa counts were significantly lower than all the other areas we flew (Figure 1). We also conducted another flight to locate and record waterfowl habitat/potential habitat in the Reporoa basin.

It was readily apparent from the aerial surveys that the northern area had a reasonable number of ponds/wetlands but south-east of Whirinaki Arm dabbling duck habitat was scarce. Leathwick et al. (2003) describe this area as relatively low fertility rhyolitic ash with good drainage and a slight annual water deficit which are conditions, an environment which does not lend itself to good wetland habitat. The Waikato River environs are further compromised by hydro power management of water levels, and adjacent land use dominated by forestry or dairy, none of which provides for extensive and/or quality mallard habitat. As discussed in the October 2016 agenda papers this area has not shot well compared with the rest of the country since at least the late 1960s, but clearly (according to hunter reports) it has deteriorated further in recent years.

Council needs to decide if it wishes to introduce more restrictive hunting regulations for the Reporoa area and if so, the boundaries of the area to which these should apply.

Regulatory options include:

- (i) Maintaining the status quo (i.e. keep the regulation for mallard and grey duck the same as elsewhere in the region).
- (ii) Introducing more restrictive bag limits;
- (iii) Introducing a shorter season;
- (iv) A combination of options (ii) and (iii);
- (v) Harvesting drakes only;

- (vi) Closing the season altogether;
- (vii) Using other methods such as prohibiting robo ducks or grain feeding.

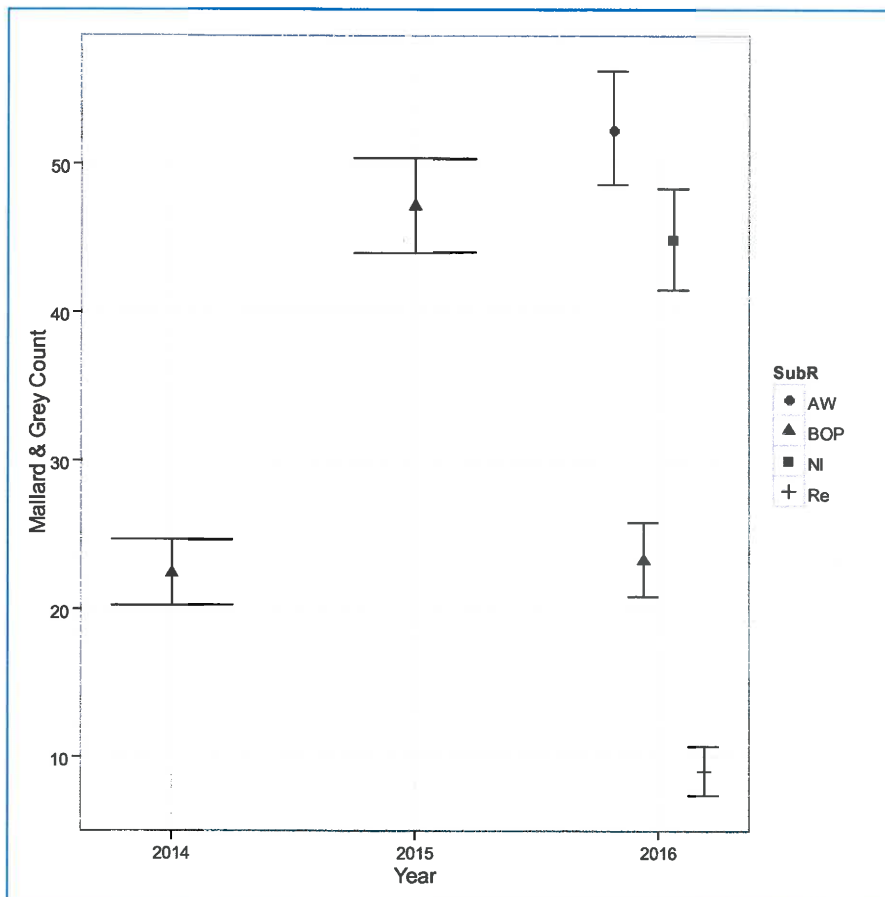


Figure 1. Mallard and grey duck counts (mean± 95% credible interval) from aerial transects flown at 100m AGL 2014 –2016. Sub-regions: AW=Auckland/Waikato, BOP=Bay of Plenty, NI= Northland and Re=Reporoa.

Staff comments on options:

(i) Status quo

When duck numbers are low regulations may be superfluous according to the law of diminishing returns (Strickland et al., 1996) which suggests that hunters hunt less when there is less game around i.e. they are self governing and harvest is reduced accordingly. There is however, very little evidence that Opening Weekend success has an influence on the rest of season hours hunted by Eastern licence holders e.g. there was no correlation between opening weekend harvest and days hunted in Matthew McDougall’s combined analysis of five 8 week long seasons ($R=0.242$, $t_{(4)} = 0.4994$, $P = 0.64$). Furthermore, if ducks per hour is used as an index of a good season, hunters did not increase days hunted in high ducks per hour years (measured over 12 seasons) ($R=0.112$, $t_{(11)} = 0.3745$, $P = 0.72$) (McDougall, 2012).

(ii) Bag Limits

As can be seen from Figure 2, bag limits need to be very restrictive (less than 5) before they start having an influence on Eastern harvest but it is likely that given the

low number of ducks in Reporoa area they would need to be significantly less than this (e.g. 2) to make any discernible difference to harvest in this area.

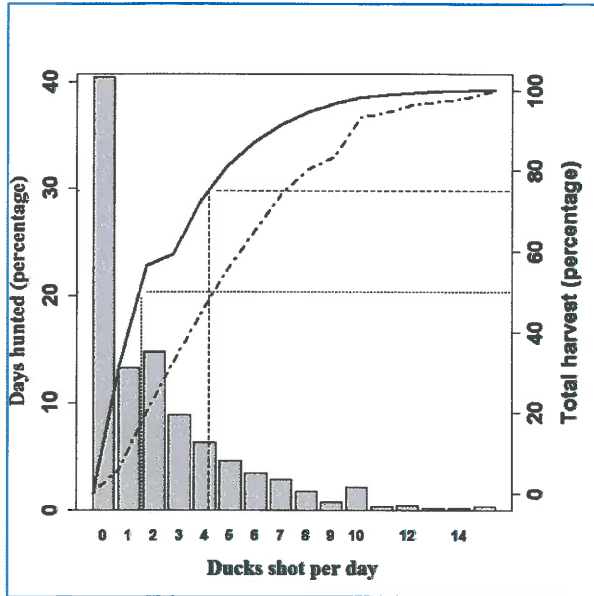


Figure 2. Percentage of days hunted in the Eastern Region, New Zealand from 1997–2012 ($n = 10,279$) where 0, 1, 2, ...15 mallards or grey ducks per day were shot. For example on 40% of days hunted, hunters shot 0 ducks and on 13% of days hunters shot 1 mallard or grey duck. The right y-axis shows the cumulative harvest (percent), dot-dash line. For example hunters that bagged 7 ducks or less per day accounted for 75% of the total harvest. The black solid line represents the estimated harvest under bag limits of 0, 1, 2, ...15. For example bag limits of <2 and <5 represents 50% (dotted line) and 75% (dashed line) respectively, of the total harvest.

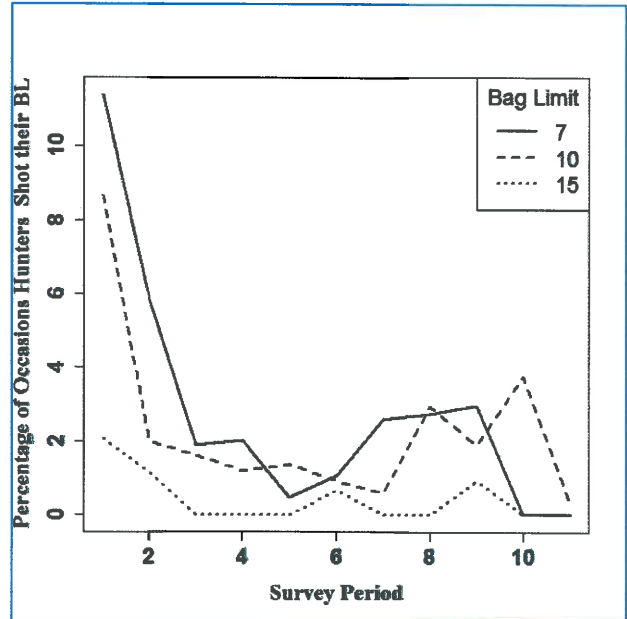


Figure 3. Percentage of hunters that shoot the bag limit by survey period (period 1= Opening Weekend, subsequent periods are weeks).

(iii) Season Length

In the Eastern Region a large proportion of the harvest occurs over opening weekend. Between 1997-2012 total hours hunted ($\bar{x} = 42\%$; range = 38–49%) occurred over opening weekend, which accounts for an average of 44% (range = 38–55%; Table 1, Figure 4) of total mallard and grey duck harvest (McDougall, 2012). The number of active hunters drop off markedly after opening weekend (Figure 5).

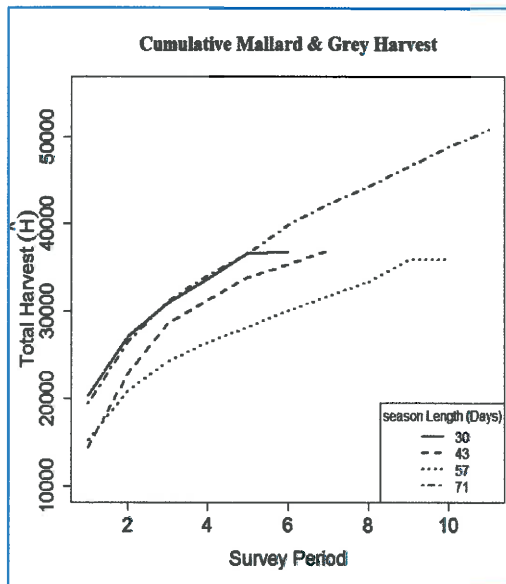


Figure 4. Cumulative harvest in the Eastern Region (1997 – 2012) by season length. About 44% of the total harvest occurs over opening weekend (period 1=the first survey period, the remaining periods are fortnights).

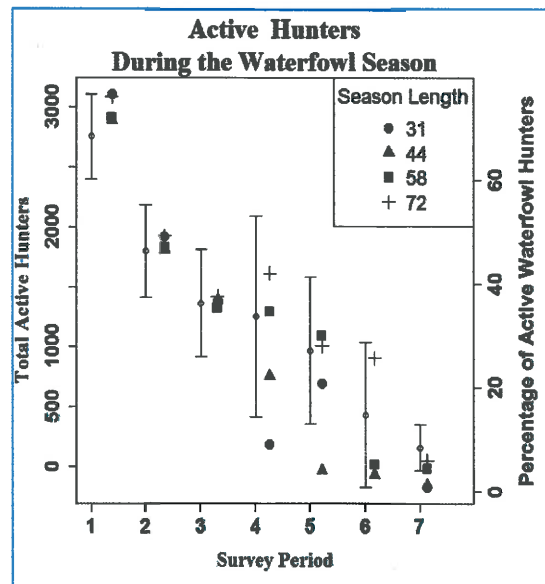


Figure 5. Total (mean \pm 95%CI; left y-axis) and percentage (right y-axis) of active hunters by survey period (period).

Table 1. Percentage harvest by survey period (period 1 is opening weekend) and season length in the Eastern Region 1997 – 2012.

<i>Pd</i>	<i>SL31</i>	<i>SL44</i>	<i>SL58</i>	<i>SL72</i>
1	55.2%	39.0%	42.5%	38.3%
2	73.7%	62.0%	58.3%	52.2%
3	84.1%	77.3%	67.5%	61.4%
4	91.5%	84.6%	73.5%	67.3%
5	99.7%	91.8%	78.2%	71.9%
6	100.0%	95.7%	83.4%	78.6%
7		100.0%	88.1%	83.3%
8			92.7%	87.3%
9			99.8%	91.8%
10			100.0%	96.1%
11				100.0%

(iv) Bag Limit and Season Length

It appears that harvest is best explained by hours hunted and bag limit, and that hours hunted is best explained by a year effect (i.e. hunters are hunting less over time; Figure 6) and the mallard population size (McDougall and Amundson, 2015). So although we saw above that success does not appear to be driving hunter effort perceived population size might be.

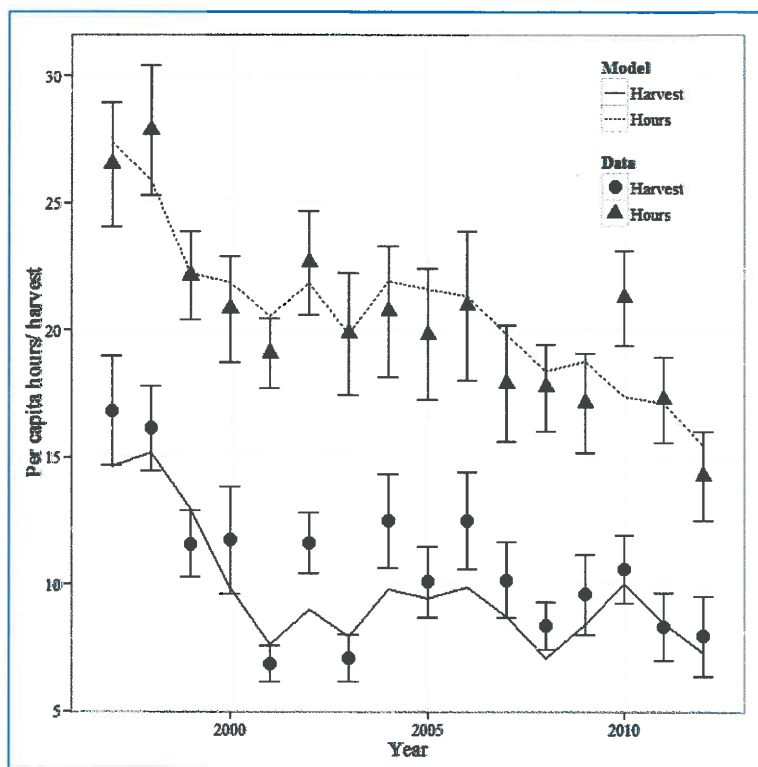


Figure 6. Harvest and hours hunted in the Eastern Region (1997 – 2012). Harvest is best explained by hours hunted and bag limit (solid line) while hours hunted was best explained by a year effect and the mallard population (dashed line) i.e. when the population was high hunters hunted longer.

(v) No season

Political suicide? Not a realistic option without widely canvassing hunters.

(vi) Drakes only

A good option but difficult for hunters, given that drakes are not always easy to identify and that most of the harvest occurs in the first and last periods of the day when light is poor. When we introduced this regulation in the past many hunters were not happy.

(vii) Method restrictions

Matthew McDougal surveyed Hawke's Bay hunters some years ago to see if they pond fed and related this to their harvest. There was no significant difference ($P \leq 0.05$) in harvest of mallard duck by hunters that pond fed as opposed to hunters that did not pond feed when the periods were examined independently, or combined to include all periods.

When Auckland/Waikato Region staff canvassed hunter opinion they found that 40% supported restrictions on baiting and 32% didn't (Figure 7).

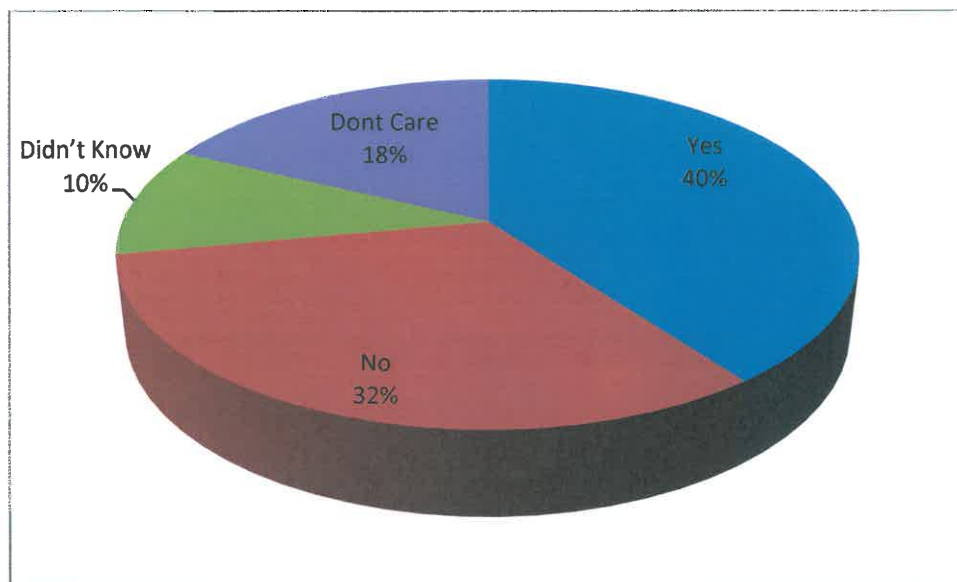


Figure 7. Response when hunters were asked if they supported the restriction on waterfowl baiting. 2013 GBHS, n = 118. (Auckland/Waikato Hunters; Dave Klee).

Staff comments on where to implement the regulations:

If Council wishes to implement constraints on harvest for the Reporoa area there needs to be an area that is easy to describe and reflects the lack of mallard/mallard habitat. Either of two areas comply, these being:

- (1) That area bounded by Waikite Valley Road, SH 5 to Broadlands Road, SH 1 and SH 30.
- (2) That area bounded by Waikite Valley Road, SH 5, SH 1 and SH 30.

4.0 Recommendation

- 4.1 *That Council re-affirms the threshold approach to setting mallard and grey duck harvest regulations (where grey duck are treated as mallard due to the difficulty in distinguishing between the species).*
- 4.2 *That the threshold levels are set at 350,000 and 450,000 such that at or below 350,000 a set of restricted conditions apply; above 350,000 and, at or below 450,000 a set of intermediate harvest regulations apply; and above 450,000 a relaxed set of conditions apply.*
- 4.3 *That restricted conditions shall comprise a 4-week season (including Queens Birthday when appropriate) with a bag limit of 6 mallard and grey duck; intermediate conditions shall comprise a 6-week season with a bag limit of 8 mallard and grey duck; and relaxed conditions shall comprise an 8-week season with a bag limit of 10 mallard and grey duck.*

- 4.4 *That Council considers the proposal to further constrain the mallard and grey duck bag limit in the Reporoa/Broadlands/upper Waikato River area.*
- 4.5 *That paradise shelduck and black swan thresholds and regulations remain the status quo and are subject to January monitoring results.*
- 4.6 *That the 2017 season conditions for shoveler duck be a two bird bag limit for four weeks.*
- 4.7 *That the remaining conditions for 2017 are as per Appendix 1.*
- 4.8 *That the Waewaetutuki Wetland be closed to the general ballot and walk in permit system for the 2017 game bird hunting season, and a novice hunt programme comparable to that instigated in 2015 be repeated.*

REFERENCES

- LEATHWICK, J., WILSON, G., RUTLEDGE, D., WARDLE, P., MORGAN, F., JOHNSTON, K., MCLEOD, M. & KIRKPATRICK, R. 2003. *Land Environments of New Zealand*, David Bateman Ltd., Auckland.
- MCDUGALL, M. 2012. *Towards Adaptive Management of Parera and Mallard Duck in New Zealand*. Conservation Biology Thesis, Massey.
- MCDUGALL, M. & AMUNDSON, C. L. 2015. The Effect of Harvest Regulations on Hunter Effort, Harvest Rates, and Annual Survival of Mallards and Grey Ducks in New Zealand.
- STRICKLAND, M. D., HARJU, H. J., MCCAFFERY, K. R., MILLER, H. W., SMITH, L. M. & STROLL, R. J. 1996. *Harvest Management*, Bethesda, Maryland, The Wildlife Society.

APPENDIX 1: CURRENT POLICY AND CRITERIA

1. GREYLARD (Mallard and Grey Duck) POLICY

- 12.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that Council re-affirms the threshold approach to setting mallard and grey duck harvest regulations (where grey duck are treated as mallard due to the difficulty in distinguishing between the species). [15/11/12.2]*
- 12.3 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that the threshold levels are set at 350,000 and 450,000 such that at or below 350,000 a set of restricted conditions apply; above 350,000 and, at or below 450,000 a set of intermediate harvest regulations apply; and above 450,000 a relaxed set of conditions apply. [15/11/12.3]*
- 12.4 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that restricted conditions shall comprise a 4-week season (including Queens Birthday when appropriate) with a bag limit of 6 mallard and grey duck; intermediate conditions shall comprise a 6-week season with a bag limit of 8 mallard and grey duck; and relaxed conditions shall comprise an 8-week season with a bag limit of 10 mallard and grey duck. [15/11/12.4]*

2. NON-GREYLARD POLICY

2.1 Shoveler Duck

- 12.6 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that the 2016 season conditions for shoveler duck be a two bird bag limit for four weeks. [15/11/12.6]*

2.2 Paradise Shelduck

Threshold Criteria

- 12.5 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that paradise shelduck and black swan thresholds and regulations remain the status quo and are subject to January monitoring results. [15/11/12.5]*

Table 1: Eastern Paradise Shelduck threshold levels.

LONG TERM POPULATION TREND	SEASON
Negative ie. population declining	Restricted
Zero ie. population stable	Intermediate
Positive ie. population growing.	Relaxed

Table 2: Eastern Paradise Shelduck season conditions

SEASON	Area	Specific Conditions	
		Length (weeks)	Bag Limit
Restricted	A1 & A2	4	4
	B2 & B1 South of true right bank Uawa River	4	4
Intermediate	A1, A2	8	6
	B2 & B1 South of the true right bank Uawa River	8	10
Relaxed	A1, A2, B2 & B1 South of the true right bank Uawa River Mouth	10	10
Fixed Season condition	B1 North of the true right bank Uawa River Mouth	10	20

2.3 Black Swan

Threshold Criteria

Table 3: Eastern Black Swan threshold levels

POPULATION SIZE	TREND	SEASON
Low (below 1,000)	Negative	Restricted
Low (below 1,000)	Zero	Restricted
Low (below 1,000)	Positive	Restricted
Moderate (between 1,000 and 3,000)	Negative	Intermediate
Moderate (between 1,000 and 3,000)	Zero	Intermediate
Moderate (between 1,000 and 3,000)	Positive	Relaxed
Greater than 3,000	Negative	Relaxed
Greater than 3,000	Zero	Relaxed
Greater than 3,000	Positive	Relaxed

Table 4: Eastern Black Swan season conditions

SEASON	SPECIFIC CONDITIONS (LENGTH AND DAILY BAG)
Restricted	No season.
Intermediate	8-week season with a 2-bird limit for Management Units A1, A2 and B1. 6-week season with a 4-bird limit for Management Unit B2
Relaxed	16-week season with a no-bird limit.

3. HUNTING WITH AUSTRALASIAN HARRIERS POLICY

- 9.11** *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports the proposal to allow registered falconers, who hold a game bird licence and an Authority to Handle birds from the Department of Conservation, to hunt other game bird species as listed within the Game Bird hunting regulations. [16/10/9.11] Cr Alan Baird opposed the motion.*

APPENDIX 2: PROPOSED 2017 GAME SEASON SCHEDULE

EASTERN FISH AND GAME REGION²

Table 2. Game That May be Hunted or Killed—Duration of 2017

Species	Season Duration (dates inclusive)	Daily Bag Limit	Hunting Area
Grey/mallard duck	<i>Subject to Monitoring (see Appendix 1)</i>		All areas
Shoveler duck	6 May to 4 June 2017	2	All areas
Paradise shelduck	<i>Subject to Monitoring See Appendix 1 Tables 1 and 2</i>		Area A & A2
			Area B2 and that part of B1, which lies south of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay
			That part of B1, which lies north of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay
Pukeko	6 May to 27 Aug 2017	10	All areas
Black swan	<i>Subject to Monitoring See Appendix 1 Tables 3 and 4</i>		Area A1
			Area A2
			Area B1 & B2
Bobwhite (Virginian) quail	6 May to 27 Aug 2017	No limit	All areas
Brown quail	6 May to 27 Aug 2017	5	All areas
California quail	6 May to 27 Aug 2017	No limit	Area A1 & A2
	6 May to 27 Aug 2017	5	Area B1 & B2
Cock pheasant	6 May to 27 Aug 2017	5	All areas excluding Upland Game Properties with special conditions specified in clause 6 for this Region
Pheasant, both sexes	6 May to 27 Aug 2017	No limit	Upland Game Properties with special conditions specified in clause 6 for this Region
Cock pheasant	28 Aug to 17 Sep 2017	No limit	Upland Game Properties with special conditions specified in clause 6 for this Region (junior hunters only)
Red legged partridge	6 May to 27 Aug 2017	No limit	Upland Game Properties with special conditions specified in clause 6 for this Region

²Reference to Description: *Gazette*, No. 83, of 22 May 1990, at page 1861

2 Definition of Areas

The following descriptions refer to Local Authority Boundaries described on the Infomap 242B-2 Department of Survey and Land Information (now Land Information New Zealand) for the Eastern Region Fish and Game Region.

- 2.1 **Area A1:** Tauranga District, Western Bay of Plenty District, that part of the South Waikato District within the Eastern Fish and Game region and east of State Highway 1, Rotorua District, Kawerau District, Whakatane District and Opotiki District.
- 2.2 **Area A2:** Those parts of the South Waikato District west of State Highway 1 within the Eastern Fish and Game Region, Taupo District and Ruapehu District, which lie within the Eastern Fish and Game Region.
- 2.3 **Area B1:** Gisborne District.
- 2.4 **Area B2:** That part of Wairoa District within the Eastern Fish and Game Region.

3 Shooting Hours

Species	Area	Date	Hours
All species	All areas	7 May – end of their respective seasons 2016	6.15am–6.15pm

4 Decoy Limit

No limit.

5 Special Conditions

- 5.1 Magazine shotguns must be restricted in such a way that the shotgun is incapable of holding more than two shells in the magazine, with no more than 3 shells in the magazine and chamber combined at any one time.
- 5.2 No maimai shall impede the use of navigable channels in the Tauranga Harbour, Ohiwa Harbour, Little Waihi Estuary, Lake Aniwhenua and Lake Taupo.
- 5.3 Maimais erected in the Little Waihi Estuary, Lake Aniwhenua, Ohiwa Harbour, Stump and Waihi bays of Lake Taupo must be dismantled and removed within 2 weeks of the close of the season (i.e. by 17 September 2017).
- 5.4 Australasian Harriers (*Circus approximans*) may be used to take game birds subject to the season length and bag limit prescribed in Error! Reference source not found. and any conditions imposed by the Minister of Conservation under the permit to hold for the purpose of falconry.

6 Upland Game Properties with Special Conditions

- 6.1 **Pirini Family Trust:** The property is located 8 kilometres up the Bush Road from Pongokawa. It is bounded by Pongakawa River, Rotoehu Forest and Bush Road, Sections 4, 5 and 7 SO 7437 Block IX Waihi South Survey District.
- 6.2 **Equine Farm:** The property is located approximately 6 kilometres in a north-west direction from Lake Rotoehu with Rotoehu Road and Fletcher Challenge's Rotoehu Forest on the main boundaries. It is made up of 283 hectares being entirely enclosed within deer fence, DPS 17091. The property is owned by Equine Estate Limited. Also the boundary "Cropp Farms" described as seven kilometres in a north-west direction from Lake Rotoehu it is bounded by Rotoehu road to the east and Christophers Forest

to the North. The western boundary is formed by Pongakawa stream, Equine Estate being 316ha Sec 17 SO 17091 Secs 22 23 SO 49960 Blk 1 Rotoma SD.

- 6.3 Prime Pine:** The property is located on the Matata Highway and consists of some 120 hectares of pine forest. DPS 58240. It is bounded by Hingston, Fraser, Prinz and Knight properties. The property is owned by Prime Pine Partnership.
- 6.4 Harakeke Station Taupo:** 1034 State Highway 1, RD 1, Wairakei, being 946.37 hectares in total and consisting of Tatua East No 25 Block, Tatua East No 27 Blocks I, II and VI Tatua Survey District, Tatua East No 29 Blocks V and VI Tatua Survey District, Tatua East No 28 Block V Tatua Survey District, Part X2A Block V Tatua Survey District, Lot 1 DP 330092, Lot 2 DPS 11900, Part Tatua East 11E1B MI 16902, Block V, Tatua Survey District, Lot 1 DPS 90819 Lot 1 DPS 10147 Part Tatua East 8 ML 14696, Block V, Tatua Survey District, Tatua East 11C1 ML 14696 Block V, Tatua Survey District 11B ML 14696 Tatua East Survey District 11A ML 14696 Tatua East Survey District Tatua East 12E1 MI. The property is owned by Harakeke Company Limited.
- 6.5 Totara Lodge Taupo:** The property covers an area of 1478 hectares bounded by State Highway 1 and Bouma, Speed, Pepper, Lowry, Perrott, Robertson, Bull and May properties. It consists of Tatua East 17 Blocks II IV Tuhingamata West Survey District, Lot 3 DP 338327, Lots 1, 2, 4 and 5 DPS 61926 Tatua East 18 Block V Tatua Survey District, Blocks II and IV Tuhingamata West Survey District, and Lot 9 DP 358455 Tatua East 16A ML 18532, Tuhingamata West Survey District The property is owned by E. F. Deadman Limited.

11. HUNTING STAND CLAIM TAG

Ref: 1.07.03

17 November 2016

1. Purpose

To discuss the claiming of hunting stands and provide feedback to the NZ Council on queries it has raised.

2. Background

The Policy and Planning Manager for the NZ Council has recently sent a memo (see following pages) to regional Fish & Game councils summarizing the current regulations and policy around hunting stand claim tags. Several issues have been identified with the current practices and feedback is sought from regional Fish and Game Councils on the direction policy should take in relation to these issues.

3. Recommendation

3.1 *That Council determines its position in relation to the queries raised in the memo and advises any other recommendations it might wish to convey to the NZ Council.*

HUNTING STAND CLAIM TAG

Memo to regional Fish and Game Councils

Prepared by: Robert Sowman, Policy & Planning Manager, NZ Fish and Game Council

A hunting stand claim tag seems such a simple thing but raises a number of issues and cause untold outbursts (via email and in the field) each season.

What the regulations say:

Wildlife Regulations 1955

19 *No person shall hunt or kill game while occupying any stand, hide, shelter, maimai, mudhole, loo, louvre, or position (hereinafter referred to as a stand) which has been duly claimed by any other licence holder in accordance with the following provisions:*

(a) a stand may be claimed by planting thereon, subsequent to such time on such day as is decided by the society, of a stake having either a board or identifying label attached having plainly marked thereon the name and address of the claimant and the number of his or her licence and such additional tag or marker (if any) containing such other particulars as is decided by the society:

(b) no person shall claim more than 1 stand:

(c) no stand shall be claimed within 90 metres of a stand which has already been duly claimed by any other person, except with the consent of the last mentioned person:

provided that any stand not occupied by the claimant within 1 hour after the opening hour of shooting in that district as prescribed by the Minister's notification may be occupied on that day by any other licence holder:

provided further that nothing in this regulation shall be deemed to affect in any way whatsoever the rights of the occupier of the land as defined in section 19(4) of the Act.

The relevance of pegging day

1. At one time pegging day was a tradition and resulted in hunters out in number staking their claim at such time on such day as specified by the acclimatisation society. The logic behind this being that that a stand (hide, shelter, maimai, mudhole) was not always obvious and by requiring it to be claimed on a specific day and time meant all other hunters could see where this was happening.
2. Different systems for claiming hunting stands operated within the many acclimatisation society districts. Originally licences were issued by each society without tags but with instructions how to claim a stand. For example, in 1938 the North Canterbury Society specified a "stake with board attached" marked with name, address and licence number. Metal tags taped to licences were later used by some societies before the more common practice was adopted of a tear-off portion on the licence providing stand claim tag and licence number details.

3. Pegging day for many hunters during this period often became social gatherings or reunions and even working bees to tidy up access tracks, etc. Today pegging day tends to have greatest relevance for new hunters wanting to claim an unused stand.
4. For return hunters using established stands (or for that matter all hunters marking up a new spot) there is no longer the need to wait until the specified 'such day' to peg but to do so prior to the specified day and as soon as a new season licence is purchased.
5. For many hunters this means claiming their stand then heading off for the roar or attending to other matters and not returning to these stands until opening morning.

Who rightfully should receive a stand claim tag?

1. There have been complaints about a child licence holder utilising a stand claim tag. There is no statement in the regulations that prohibits this happening. However there is wide acceptance within Fish & Game that child licence holders should not be able to claim hunting stands.
2. If there was no habitat stamp, the child licence, as for fishing, would be free. Hence the child is not contributing to recovering costs attributable to managing the resource. Therefore arguably they should not be entitled to any 'privileges', such as being able to claim a hunting stand.
3. Furthermore, according to the Arms Act 1983, "*anyone under 16 years of age must always be under the 'immediate supervision' of a firearms licence holder or a person 18 years of age or older*". Logic implies, if the child cannot use a firearm in a hunting stand alone, they are not old enough to claim the stand in their own name. (but they can be supervised by a non-hunting adult.)
4. It has also been reported that agents are being asked to falsify the date of birth for the customer's children, so they can obtain an adult licence for them to gain additional stand tags. Once again, there is no policy preventing this. Although Fish & Game might welcome the 'extra' revenue where this does occur it should not support fraud.
5. Auckland/Waikato is the only region to specify an age restriction – it permits only holders of adult whole season licences to claim hunting stands.
6. By default, it can be implied that the other 11 regions accept all age categories being entitled to claim a hunting stand. If not children, then certainly adults and juniors, even where the junior may be under 16 years of age and without a firearms licence.
7. All game hunters buying a whole season licence (with the exception of juniors in Auckland/Waikato) receive a stand claim tag whether they use it or not.

The status of a stand claim tag

1. In recent seasons 'temporary' tags were introduced so that hunters purchasing licences online could print one out with their licence 'receipt' and the tag could be used immediately to claim a stand. It was provided in recognition that issuing a

licence online meant the plastic licence and claim tag can take 5 to 10 days later to arrive by courier or surface mail once the licence was purchased.

2. However the word 'temporary' implied it did not have long-term status. This was reinforced by an expiry date being added on the tag that meant it was only valid up to the second weekend of the season.
3. Hunters began questioning the status of a 'temporary' tag with some worried that another hunter with a 'permanent' plastic tag might over-rule the temporary claim. This of course was not Fish & Game's intent but without its authority to rule on the spot an argument in the field could possibly result.
4. Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council obtained a legal opinion that said an expiry date on temporary tags does not have any legal standing. This opinion states the Wildlife Regulations intended that once properly and validly claimed, Fish and Game cannot remove the rights for the season.
5. Fish and Game managers in considering these issues accepted that the word 'temporary' should no longer be used for a licence receipt or stand claim tag. Hence, the word 'temporary', or reference to an expiry date has now been removed from the receipt form of licence and tag. The authorising agent information has now been added on the receipt along with space for the holder's signature, making both forms (receipt and plastic) eligible as licenses.

Tagging two or more separate hunting stands

1. The concern with using the receipt stand claim tag is that once a permanent plastic tag arrives in the mail is that some people interpret this as a means to utilise two stand claim tags (even though the Regulations state *no person shall claim more than 1 stand*).
2. Further, there is an additional concern that people can print off or copy multiple licence receipts. As valid as this concern may be it is hard to see why this practice of making copies would be any easier than replicating a "stake with board attached" in earlier times?
3. The Wildlife Regulations (19(b) above) state that "no person shall claim more than one stand", which is also stated in the First Schedule of the game regulations but not on the tags themselves.
4. The Wildlife Act 1953 does provide for a prosecution laid by Fish & Game in the relevant District Court under section 16(2) if there was reliable and admissible evidence of an identifiable person claiming more than one hunting stand contrary to Regulation 9.6 set out in the game notice. However, this may not always be a simple matter to prove.
5. Fish and Game managers in consideration of this point agreed to make provision for one tag per licence, by retaining a tag receipt that can be printed and to do away with the plastic tag and its associated cost of printing and posting/couriering out to hunters.

How to provide a future tag with the advent of a digital licence

1. Fish & Game needs to look ahead to a time when the plastic licence and stand claim tags may be phased out (or made optional) due to increased costs and a growing preference for an electronic (digital) licence record.
2. In an effort to reduce costs and time delays in sending out plastic licences to anglers and hunters, work has already commenced on the creation of a digital licence option that would allow the angler or hunter to receive their licence instantly following confirmation of payment. The digital licence would ultimately lend itself to inclusion in a Fish and Game app which is also being explored.
3. A QR code (a readable barcode label on each image that contains information about the holder & licence) is to be created for each licence holder that would be added to each digital licence to overcome the loss of a signature and continue to allow the licence to be checked to ensure it is in fact the licence owner who is using the licence.
4. The difficulty going digital presents is that in doing away with a tangible physical product that is sent out to the hunter, the holder/agent must print off their own claim tag or adopt the old practice of a 'stake with board attached' clearly showing the name and number of the claimant's licence. The alternative, as one advisor quipped, was nailing the smartphone to the stand.
5. A further option might involve a store of 'blank' tags to be made and kept by retail agents. When a Hunter asks the Agency for a tag to go with their digital licence, the Agent could bring up the licence in the F&G licence system and scan the barcode on the tag to associate that tag number with the licence. The group that would miss out with this option would be those buying licences through Public Online.
6. For the immediate future it is likely that there would be three options for the licence buyer to select to receive just, a receipt, a plastic or a digital licence.

Recommendations

That Council agree yes or no to the following and/or provides additional recommendations for the NZ Council to consider:

a.	No one (outside of Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game region) under the age of 16 is entitled to claim a hunting stand. In the Auckland/Waikato region no one under the age of 18 can claim a hunting stand.	Yes / No
b.	The wording of Wildlife Regulations 19(b) be added to the information on the tag - <i>no person shall claim more than one stand.</i>	Yes / No
c.	As an interim step, hunters when completing online licence applications can opt out of receiving plastic licences and plastic stand claim tags, accepting just the receipt or digital licence version.	Yes / No

d.	Longer term (in two-three seasons time) make provision for just one tag per licence – the digital tag.	Yes / No
e.	A digital hunting claim tag to be made available for printing with hunters encouraged to ‘mark-up’ a stand utilising the printed tag.	Yes / No
f	Make writing the name of the claimant and the number of their licence, as was once the practice, an acceptable peg claim method.	Yes / No

12. WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Ref: 2.01.07.01

18 November 2016

1. Purpose

To obtain approval to draw down an additional \$6,000 from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund to salvage the monitoring buoy.

2. Background

At its meeting in April 2016, Council approved funding for 2016-2017 from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund to the value of \$19,000 for ongoing survey and monitoring of key spawning tributaries at Waikaremoana, the continuation of access related work within the Wairoa catchment, and costs associated with the extraction and repair of the Water Quality Monitoring Buoy that is stuck fast to an unknown obstacle or lake bed structure and is no longer transmitting data.

In October 2016 Council was advised that an unsuccessful attempt had been made in August using contract divers to free the buoy which left us with only one practical option, this being to deploy a ROV (remotely operated vehicle) to recover the sensors suspended from the buoy. The cost to do this was estimated to be in the vicinity of \$10k exclusive of accommodation expenses. It's possible that on top of this we may be confronted with repair costs but we won't be in a position to determine this until we've recovered the equipment.

3. Discussion

We've recently consulted with other interested parties and have received a commitment from Genesis Energy and Hawke's Bay Regional Council to contribute \$3,000 each to the costs of recovering the buoy. Staff would like to programme this to occur early in the New Year when conditions are more settled, and seek an additional \$6,000 to make up the difference in the estimated cost for recovery along with a contingency for unforeseen expenses and/or a contribution to the cost of repairs.

4. Recommendation

4.1 That Council approves this application for an additional \$6,000 to be utilised for the recovery of the Waikaremoana monitoring buoy.

13. DATE FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2017

Ref: 7.02.01

15 November 2016

1. Purpose

To set Council's 2017 meeting dates.

2. Background

The Council is required to meet on at least six occasions between 1 February and 31 December each year. Due to a need to supply regional feedback to the New Zealand Council on important matters such as regulation and licence fee setting, the timing of these meetings must fit within a national bi-monthly schedule. Meetings need to be held in February, April, June, August, October and November to consider the issues indicated in the table below. Prior to 2016 meetings were typically scheduled to take place on Wednesday evenings in the third week, and sometimes the second week of these months. This year meetings were put back a day to Thursday to accommodate the Regional Manager's attendance at meetings of the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council which are conducted on Tuesday evenings

The Eastern Council has in past years set its annual schedule at the February meeting when the proposed meeting dates for the New Zealand Council meetings have been advised, but these dates are now available and if it wishes to do so Council can decide now what dates it wishes to meet on for all of its meetings in 2017. Council may also wish to review the time at which it meets and the venue.

Proposed meeting dates if Council continues to meet on a Thursday, proposed venue, and key issues for discussion.

	Date	Venue	Key Issues
1	<i>16 February 2017</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Priorities
2	<i>6 April, 2017</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OWP – initial draft• Anglers Notice – initial consideration
3	<i>15 June 2017</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Licence Fee• OWP – 2nd draft• Anglers Notice – finalise recommendations
4	<i>10 August 2017</i>	Alternate venue?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalise OWP
5	<i>19 October 2017</i>	Alternate venue?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions – initial consideration• Annual Performance Report - draft
6	<i>30 November 2017</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions – finalise recommendations
APM	<i>30 November 2017</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present Annual Performance Report

3. Recommendation

3.1 *That Council decides on the time, dates and locations at which it meets in 2017.*

14. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

14.1 Conservation Boards

- *Bay of Plenty Conservation Board*
- *Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board*
- *East Coast/Hawkes Bay Conservation Board*

14.2 Reports from Other Agencies

- Department of Conservation, Central North Island Region (Taupo/Tongariro/Central Plateau, Rotorua/Tauranga, Whakatane/Opotiki/Whirinaki, Te Urewera)
- Department of Conservation, Lower North Island Region (East Coast/Hawke's Bay)

14.3 Report from New Zealand Council

15. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

15.1 MANAGEMENT REPORT

15 November 2016

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

1111 River Fisheries Investigations

Drift Dive Investigations 2016

A schedule has been created for the river monitoring programme over the 2016-17 summer. The plan involves the Motu and Takaputahi rivers in the week 13-17 February with a back up for bad river conditions in the week 20-24 February.

The Rangitaiki River in the upper Kaiangaroa Forest is due to be dived in early March 2017.

Upper Streams Opening – Check, Clean, Dry Promotion

The upper sections of Lake Rotorua's tributaries open to angling on 1 December. Fish & Game staff will be promoting the Check, Clean, Dry message at the upper Ngongotaha, Waiteti and Utuhina Streams. Staff will also be checking compliance with regulations and licensing.

1112 Datawatch

During the first six weeks following the season opening, a total of 112 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database. The distribution is as follows:

Lake Okareka	3
Lake Okataina	36
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	5
Lake Rotoehu	9
Lake Rotoiti	20
Lake Rotoma	1
Lake Rotorua	1
Lake Tarawera	36
Lake Tutira	0
Lake Waikaremoana	1

**Datawatch returns (entered to 11/11/2016)*

Last year at 10 November (the first six week period) there had been 127 tags returned and entered in the datawatch database. This season's returns are slightly behind on Rotoehu and Rotoiti but about equal across all other lakes. One tagged return has been reported from Lake Waikaremoana so far this season. With tagged fish being released there in both April 2015 and April 2016, we would expect to see tagged fish returning to the Hopuruahine Stream to spawn during the 2017 winter period.

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Lake Waikaremoana Monitoring Buoy Update

On 17 and 18 August staff along with contracted divers attempted to retrieve the sensor chains of the monitoring buoy. Ropes were attached at 5m and 20m to haul from different directions in attempts to free the snag. This proved unsuccessful. We managed to remove some of the shallower hardware (1m light and dissolved oxygen meters, and 1m ChlA and turbidity meters along with the control console). This leaves 10m PAR and DO, the 28m and 40m ChlA and turbidity meters, temp sensors to 70m and finally the deep DO at 120m. The backbone holding everything together is an 8mm nylon rope that goes right to 120m and this has a breaking strain in the vicinity of 750kg.

It appears that the anchoring system has enough slack to allow the unit to wander enough within its footprint to snag on trees protruding from the lakebed or the substrate itself. Lake level changes during the year are likely to exacerbate this.

Staff have had dialogue with a Bay of Plenty based company that undertakes technical diving/salvage solutions. One of the systems they have access to is a deep Remote Operating Vehicle (ROV) capable of operating to a depth of 150m. They have operated within Waikaremoana previously so understand the environment and working conditions.

Being able to use a ROV will hopefully enable the complete retrieval of the sensor lines rather than some of the gear only which will reduce reinstatement costs associated with putting the buoy back into service, and is the appropriate thing to do environmentally. The ROV has a grab on the front along with a cutting shear if required.

Genesis Energy and Hawkes Bay Regional Council (HBRC) have been contacted to see if they are able to contribute to costs.

As far as time frames go, the work will be dependent upon the schedules of the contractor and weather windows. To operate down to 120m with the ROV will require several days of extremely light breezes.

1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

Ngongotaha Stream Trap

During September the Ngongotaha trap was operated for a period of 6 nights. Flooding within the catchment rendered the trap inoperable for the remaining 4 nights it would normally be deployed. Largest fish was a 545mm, 2.5kg brown female.

September 2016

	<i>Av. Length</i>	<i>Av. Weight</i>	<i>Trap Run</i>	<i>Fish/night</i>	<i>10 pound+</i>	<i>% Brown</i>
<i>Rainbow</i>	465	1.41	34	6	0	
<i>Brown</i>	545	2.50	1	<1	0	3%

The Ngongotaha trap was in place for 10 nights during October. The brown trout have begun to leave Lake Rotorua for the cooler tributary streams. This happened towards the end of the trap set with numbers increasing from 28 October. Three brown trout exceeded 4kg, with the largest a 660mm, 4.6kg female. The largest rainbow trout was a 615mm, 2.9kg female.

October 2016

	<i>Av. Length</i>	<i>Av. Weight</i>	<i>Trap Run</i>	<i>Fish/night</i>	<i>10 pound+</i>	<i>% Brown</i>
<i>Rainbow</i>	491	1.54	70	7	0	
<i>Brown</i>	590	2.99	10	1	1	13%

Ohau Channel Fishery Research Panel Meeting

The Ohau Channel Fishery Panel meeting was held on 10 November. Fish & Game staff presented information from the 2015-16 Ohau Angler Creel Survey, NIWA presented smelt trapping data, Ian Kusabs presented Koura and Kakahi monitoring results and University of Waikato presented boat electro-fishing survey information. With the reconsementing of the diversion wall occurring during 2017, there is likely to be further monitoring of the fishery (both trout and smelt) continuing in some format. Staff see this as important to document any changes that may eventuate following the fish pass installation that is expected at the start of 2017.

1116 Waterfowl Monitoring

Brood Counts

Annual duck brood counts were undertaken within the coastal Bay of Plenty drainage network during the last week of October. Observations were also received from Ray BBushell and Barry Roderick. Results will be reported at the next Council Meeting.

1119 Upland Game Assessments

Annual pheasant call counts were conducted in Kaingaroa Forest during the first week of November. Results will be reported at the next Council Meeting.

1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys

Winter Creel Surveys

The 2015-16 Winter Creel Survey data has been entered into the database and analysed. A report is currently being written.

Summer Creel Survey 2015-16

The programme for the 2016-17 summer creel surveys has been formulated. This will cover Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti, Tarawera and Okataina. The surveys are due to start mid November 2016 and go through to the end of April 2017.

Staff are also scheduled to undertake Waikaremoana creel surveys over the 2016-17 summer (weather permitting) during December, January and February.

1122 Opening Day Creel Surveys

The 2016-17 Opening Day Survey information from 1 October 2015 is currently being entered into the opening database prior to analysis and report writing.

1141 Hatchery Operations (27 September - 11 November 2016)

Final spring liberations were completed during the reporting period and are shown in the table below. In addition fish were transported for liberation to various destinations within the Hawke's Bay, Taranaki and Wellington Fish & Game regions.

Fish locations at November 11, 2016:

Location	Type	Qty (approx)	Comment
Tank A	1+ Brook	300	Eastern liberations 2016
Tank B	1+ Brown	500	Eastern liberations 2016
Tanks 1-9	0+ Rt	135,000	Eastern 2017 liberations plus orders for rising 2 yr olds
Pond 3	1+ Rt	5,000	Eastern and Hawke's Bay liberations 2016
Pond 9	1+ Rt	6,000	Various for 2+ in 2017
RW 2	2+ Rt	1,000	Other regions as 2+ in 2016

1161 Sports Fish Liberations

Liberations, Eastern Region 27 September – 11 November 2016

Water	Date	Mark	Tag	Species	Age Class	Quantity
Rotoma	28/09/2016	Rp		RT	1+	2000
Rotoma	28/09/2016	Rp	D16	RT	1+	500
Rotorua	4/10/2016		A16	RT	1+	1000
Okareka	5/10/2016	Rp		RT	1+	2000
Okareka	5/10/2016	Rp	D16	RT	1+	500
Rerewhakaaitu	11/10/2016	Rp		RT	1+	3500
Rerewhakaaitu	11/10/2016	Rp	I16	RT	1+	500
Tarawera	12/10/2016	Rp		RT	1+	2500
Okataina	13/10/2016	Rp		RT	1+	500
Rotoma	13/10/2016	Rp		Tiger	1+	391
Rotoiti	19/10/2016	Rp		RT	1+	6500
Okataina	9/11/2016	Rp		RT	1+	500
Tarawera	9/11/2016	Rp		RT	1+	1000

HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

1211 RMA Planning

Gisborne District Council – Freshwater Advisory Group and Freshwater Plan

Following the work of the Freshwater Advisory Group the Gisborne District Council notified its proposed freshwater plan in October 2015. Overall the notified plan is pretty good from a Fish & Game perspective. A submission on a number of topics in the plan was lodged in December, and further submissions lodged in February 2016. Pre-hearing meetings were attended in July and September, as well as hearings in August, October and November. Hearing 4 is set down for early December.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Bay of Plenty Regional Council has established a Regional Water Advisory Panel. This is a collaborative group with representatives from a wide range of sectors which has been set up to

provide context and direction for how freshwater resources are managed in the Bay of Plenty. Community groups to consider catchment specific regulations have been established in three catchments. Fish & Game representatives have been accepted on each of them.

In late October Bay of Plenty Regional Council notified Proposed Plan Change 9 which addresses water quantity issues throughout the region. Submissions are due by mid December.

Water Quality

Following the adoption of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management in 2014, Regional Councils are required to implement its provisions. Fish & Game remains involved on the Bay of Plenty Regional Water Advisory Panel. This collaborative group comprises representatives from a wide range of sectors and was established to assist the councils with freshwater management planning, to provide context and direction for how freshwater resources are managed, and to assist in the implementation of the National Policy Statement.

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council has also established community groups to look at values and limits within the Rangitaiki, Kaituna/Maketu and Pongakawa/Waitahanui Water Management Areas. Fish & Game is represented on each of them. Community groups will also be established in the other seven Water Management Areas in the future.

The Gisborne District Council has identified ten Water Management Areas and is expected to follow a similar process of establishing community groups. The Waipaoa Catchment Plan was notified with the Proposed Freshwater Plan, and there are indications that the Motu Catchment may be considered next.

1212 Consent Applications

Date In	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
13-Oct-16	RLC	Verdonk & McCracken	LUC- earthworks in excess of 100m2 by water course	Ohau Channel	No concerns
31-Oct-16	BOPRC	Rotorua Lake Council	LUC/DP- wastewater treatment plant for Rotoiti/ Rotoma	Land adjacent to Lake Rotoiti	No action required

Consent of Note

BOPRC is drafting a resource consent to discharge a herbicide (Endothall) for invasive aquatic plant control in the Rotorua Lakes. We have no issues with the chemical itself but are concerned regarding large scale habitat loss for trout, and food sources (invertebrate, snails) for both trout and waterfowl. We remain in discussions with BOPRC regarding possible consent conditions in relation to application times, maximum areas to be treated, and monitoring required, and will keep the Council updated of the application's progress.

Lagarosiphon Meeting

Staff attended a Lagarosiphon Steering Committee meeting at the Aniwanuiwa Field Centre on 29 September. Changes to the lead person monitoring lagarosiphon have been made. John Adams who had been leading the diving programme and monitoring is now to be replaced by Shade Smith who has been actively working under John for several years. There have also been some changes to funding streams, with Genesis reducing involvement. The use of

NIWA expertise is also to be cut back. There are to be some changes to signage around the lake going into a more organised kiosk arrangement. The new Waikaremoana Tribal headquarters will be formally opened on 23 December and some disruption to public use is likely due to the festivities.

1221 Reserves Management

General

Summer 2016/17 reserve maintenance works have commenced with mowing access tracks occurring in all wetland reserves, and water reticulation works completed in the Lower Kaituna WMR.

We have been informed that the joint (DOC, Fish & Game, Te Arawa Lakes Trust, Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa and the Waikato Regional Council) funding application lodged with the Waikato River Authority for restoration of Lakes Ngapouri and Tutaeinanga has been approved to the value of \$150,000. Additional funding will be sourced from the Waikato Regional Council and the Department of Conservation. Te Arawa will manage the finances and Fish & Game staff will manage the operational part of the contract (fencing, planting and spraying). Final discussions are yet to occur with neighbouring property owners and contractors. First stages of the restoration plan are to commence in February 2017, with the full project managed over five years.

DOC and Fish & Game are still in the process of working through a draft Management Agreement template that can be applied to all jointly managed/gazetted Crown owned wetlands within the Eastern Region. Renewal of the gazette notices is not required but we need to undertake a review of the conditions imposed and develop Management Agreements for each reserve. Management Agreement are expected to be finalised by February 2017.

Awakaponga WMR

The Awakaponga WMR has experienced no break ins since the erection of the security pole in front of the concrete pump shed door and the forestry styled gate at the entrance. We have engaged contractors to re-instate the solar batteries and inverter previously stolen in early November to ensure water is inflowing during the summer months. A hidden camera has also been installed to observe entrants to the reserve.

Kaituna WMR

There is no additional news on the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Lower Kaituna wetland expansion. The monitoring programme for water levels, flows and salinity continues and the modelling draft is being progressed with consultants, but no designs have been sighted as yet. Fish & Game is actively involved providing advice and participating in planning discussions. This is a very large and expansive wetland project (in excess of 80 hectares) and will take five years plus to design and construct.

The ephemeral wetland scrapes proposal in the paddocks adjoining the Lower Kaituna WMR have been constructed and fencing up-graded early November. At the request of BOPRC staff we have also dug experimental drains in the paddock area, to investigate the merits of various designs. The new wetland area equates to an additional 3.5 hectares of long vegetation mixed with shallow water areas within this part of the reserve. Native plants will be planted mid next year. BOPRC has provided \$30,000 for this project which Fish & Game is managing.

1231 Maintain and Enhance Game Bird Habitat

Landowner Information

No new landowner requests have been received since the last Council meeting.

Training

While undertaking construction of the ephemeral scrapes in the Lower Kaituna WMR paddocks, Fish & Game staff ran a wetland construction training seminar. This was well received with 18 BOPRC and two DOC staff attending. The training followed similar lines to that provide by the USA wetland specialist sponsored by Fish & Game 18 months ago. We will look for opportunities to undertake similar training opportunities in the future.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

Annual access track and access point maintenance has been carried out on the Ngongotaha Stream, the Waiteti Stream, Kaituna River, and is underway in the Rangitaiki River system within Kaingaroa Forest.

Other work in other areas is pending, time and weather permitting.

1331 Electronic Newsletters

Reel Life was produced for October covering prospects and fishing news, children's fishing, opening day results, fish for gold results.

1333 Fish & Game Website

Updates or changes to the Eastern Web site included Council agendas and minutes, opening day report, Fish for Gold, and forest access information. Our Twitter account has 405 followers and received 10,800 impressions for the reported period.

Fishing prospects were added to the web for the period and numerous reports featured on Twitter.

1341 Information Pamphlets

The new brochure covering the Waiau, Waikaretaheke, Hangaroa and Wairoa River systems is near completion.

1351 Children's Fishing Programme

Three children's fishing events were successfully run for the period.

1352 Angler Hunter Training

No angler hunter training seminars were held within the period.

1354 Fishing Competitions

Five fishing competition permits were processed for the period.

1361 Fish & Game Club Communications

Two club visits were attended for the period.

PUBLIC INTERFACE

1421 Public Communications

Lake Waikaremoana Genesis Consultative Meeting

The Genesis Consultative meeting was held at Tuai on Wednesday, 16 November. Fish & Game staff attended and presented information from the Waikaremoana monitoring programmes underway, East Coast access publication and works, National Angler Survey, monitoring buoy update and Waikaremoana/Tuai lakes trout liberations. Genesis Energy, Department of Conservation staff, iwi and local anglers were present at the meeting.

Rotorua Lakes Recreation Forum

Matt Osborne attended the Rotorua Lakes Recreation Forum meeting on 19 October and presented a post 2016 Winter and 2016-17 Opening Day report to the attendees.

Media Releases

The start of October was especially busy as Fish & Game played host to media who had been invited to cover the opening of lakes Tarawera, Okataina and Rotoiti. Grant Dyson worked cooperatively with Destination Rotorua, and their Tauranga-based public relations company, to organise media coverage of the opening.

We arranged for the media to attend the colourful pre-opening haggis ceremony at The Landing, Lake Tarawera on September 30. A Crowd Goes Wild reporter and cameraman filmed the event and interviewed Andy Garrick who we had put forward as an expert commentator. Fish & Game also took Fairfax lifestyle reporter Britt Mann and colleague Mark Taylor, a Fairfax “visual journalist” (photographer / videographer) to the event.

This was followed up with a fishing trip out on Lake Tarawera next day for all the media, hosted by Lindsay Lyons, who provided personal insights and information on fishing techniques. Trout (which Lindsay had caught early on opening day!) were taken to CBK Rotorua restaurant where we had arranged to film their chef filleting and preparing the fish for cold smoking. The result of this hosting was some extensive coverage in Fairfax publications including The Dominion, Waikato Times and Stuff website. The stories published included film of The Landing festivities, Lindsay explaining fishing techniques, and shots of trout being prepared and smoked at CBK restaurant in Rotorua.

Grant Dyson also followed up the Fish for Gold promotion which had given anglers the chance to catch a green-tagged fish worth \$10,000. Media releases were written to cover developments including the first green tag fish caught on Opening Day 1 October in Lake Tarawera, along with the prize draw ceremony. Fish & Game was fortunate in that the anglers who caught green tag fish (and automatically won vouchers) were personable and enthusiastic and happy to be photographed and filmed at the Eastern Region Offices.

Grant had also liaised with Fishing News in advance of the new fishing season, and worked to meet their early deadlines by producing a package of information and photos to help the magazine preview the new season.

In another film-related initiative, Grant worked with Destination Rotorua to arrange for the children's TV programme What Now to film at a kids fish out day at the hatchery in August, with assistance from Mark Sherburn. We supplied script notes to assist a "kid reporter" named Nik. The result (partly thanks to Mark's on screen talents), was an entertaining and inspiring piece aimed at youngsters which screened in early October.

Grant also assisted cameraman Dave Shaw as Eastern Fish & Game Officer Mark Sherburn was filmed for a new fly fishing show. Mark showed how to properly handle and release a trout.

In total, only around six media releases were issued over this period but Grant says, "the hugely satisfying amount of media coverage generated, as noted earlier, came from our hosting efforts and direct contact with media."

COMPLIANCE

1511 Compliance

Monitoring of spawning locations and closed waters areas continues especially in the Lake Rotorua catchment where there are typically late spawning runs through into late November or even December. Following a quiet period there has recently been a number of incidents that we have dealt with, one involving two offenders armed with make shift spears attempting to spear trout in a closed spawning area, and another incident in the same location where two more offenders were found in possession of a large gaff, and they had also attempted to take spawning fish. Surveillance of spawning streams continues, with a number of youths having been photographed by hidden camera. Some of these youths have been subsequently identified and spoken to regarding their actions, with follow up with their next of kin.

Opening Day itself on 1 October only resulted in two persons out of 769 checked being found committing offences. These were one fishing without a licence and one trolling with more than one rod, both offences being committed on Lake Rotoiti.

The three persons prosecuted in relation to being found at a spawning stream in possession of 17 freshly killed spawning trout in May were sentenced in October to 100 hours community work each, as well as being ordered to pay a contribution to prosecution costs.

Liaison and co-operation with Police is ongoing in different areas within the region.

Waikaremoana compliance checks have continued to be undertaken in association with spawning monitoring.

Overall compliance rate is in excess of 98%.

Contacts Year to Date.

Angler contacts year to date total 930.

Contacts: Year 2016-2017 to 31/10/2016

Month	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Last 5 yr average
September	82	66	50	59	29	57
October	997	984	960	1223	901	1013
November	129	175	112	20		109
December	598	387	392	293		418
January	497	355	381	335		392
February	234	151	395	418		300
March	300	279	275	253		277
April	195	299	264	53		203
May	516	446	498	272		433
June	209	325	203	277		254
July	120	79	120	107		107
August	131	77	76	42		82
Total	4008	3623	3726	3352		3818

1521 Ranger Training

Our Eastern Region rangers continue to assist staff with operational matters, and make a valuable and valued contribution to the overall compliance effort. This is especially so given the new fishing season and the summer period approaching.

North Island/National CLE role

This role continues with Anthony Van Dorp ongoing input into CLE/training/prosecutions and legal matters.

1531 Prosecution of Offenders**Prosecutions**

Currently nine offenders have offences pending resolution, details as per the table below.

4 of these offenders have warrants to arrest either in lieu of summons or for failing to appear in court. The other 5 matters are more recent and are pending court prosecution processes.

Offences Year to Date 2016-2017 Year

We have dealt with 15 persons for 33 offences for the 2016- 2017 year to date as tabled below.

Offence Table 2016-2017 year

Offence name	Number of offences
Fish without licence	7
Fish closed waters	11
False details	1
Disturb spawning gravels	6
Take sports fish with net, spear, gaff or device.	7
Fish with more than 1 rod	1
Total	33

Pending Resolution

To date (14/11/2016) 23 separate offences committed by nine offenders are pending resolution.

The table below shows offences currently pending resolution (as at 14/11/2016):

Offence name	Numbers
Fish without licence	9
Illegal tackle	2
Possess spear-gaff	4
Fish closed waters	6
False details	2
Total	23

LICENSING

1613 National Licence Management

Kate Thompson has continued to supply national sales reports for regions and the New Zealand Council. Following completion of the 2015-16 licensing year Kate has completed and provided a summary of licence category switching to the licence working group. Comparisons of previous years' trends were also completed along with lapsing information, individual regional summaries, and an assessment of duplicate customer records sitting within the licence system. A further analysis of YTD changes in licence purchasing behaviour for the 2016-17 Season will be completed at the end of January when a good proportion of season purchasers will have renewed.

1621 Licence Agent Support

We have seen a reduction in support requirements for agents with 100% of the region's licence agents now utilising the Agent Online system. The Lake Waikaremoana Holiday Park is not entirely online this season but it is envisaged that they will be for the 2017-18 licensing year. The office receives a small number of calls each week relating to licence fix ups and requests for brochures. Staff continue to drop in on agents on their travels around the region.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1841 New Zealand Fish & Game Liaison

Several staff provided ongoing input to national projects including Kate Thompson, Carmel Veitch, Anthony van Dorp, Matthew McDougall, and Andy Garrick. Andy continued to provide managerial services to the Hawke's Bay Region, and other staff, particularly Carmel, provided remote assistance with a variety of matters.

ADMINISTRATION

1920 Annual Leave

Staff annual leave accruals are reported each month. Due to employment anniversary dates, the leave accruals for individuals vary depending on the time of the year. We have established leave for individual staff as at 13 November 2016. We currently have one staff

member three weeks behind where we would like them to be, three staff members two weeks behind and one staff member one week behind. The remainder are in a neutral leave position.

15.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

8 November 2016

1. Background

As part of its commitment to Health and Safety and providing a safe workplace, the Eastern Fish and Game Council is provided with a report at each meeting describing:

1. Implementation and adherence to the Health and Safety policy/manual – including Health and Safety as an agenda item for staff & ranger meetings;
2. Monitoring and Reporting – in accordance with the Health and Safety plan;
3. Risk Management (identification and treatment) – any new issues or hazards that have arisen and how these have been addressed;
4. Training programme – information sharing and training of staff and volunteers;
5. Health and Safety incidents – near misses or injuries sustained, plus updates on past events;
6. Recommendations.

2. October/November 2016 Update

1. Implementation and Adherence to the Health and Safety Plan

Staff are still reading the latest version of the new Health and Safety Plan and several have made some good suggestions for amendments. Once the Plan has been read by all staff we will discuss and finalise at a staff meeting.

Weekly staff meetings have Health and Safety on the agenda as a standard item. Staff are given an opportunity to raise any issues, and as a team we develop procedures to minimise the risks of such. Any new risks are included in the weekly email so that all staff are aware of the risk should they be absent from the weekly meeting.

Staff are communicating with the Office to let the office know that they are safe and/or on the way back to the Office. Staff are still utilising the "staff whereabouts" board to help monitor where staff are on a daily basis.

Staff have been discussing a variation to their contracts to include reference to General Health and Safety obligations and Drug and Alcohol testing. Discussions are also being undertaken regarding a new Use of Vehicle procedure. This new procedure covers some areas relating to Health and Safety such as driver fatigue.

Tailgate forms were developed and used for Wetland Operations, Pheasant Call Counts and Mallard Brood Counts.

Carmel has been asked from National office to keep in touch monthly with all regions to keep them reminded of Health and Safety. It has been suggested that she send out a monthly tip and a reminder of the work areas to be audited/reviewed in the month.

15.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

8 November 2016

1. Background

As part of its commitment to Health and Safety and providing a safe workplace, the Eastern Fish and Game Council is provided with a report at each meeting describing:

1. Implementation and adherence to the Health and Safety policy/manual – including Health and Safety as an agenda item for staff & ranger meetings;
2. Monitoring and Reporting – in accordance with the Health and Safety plan;
3. Risk Management (identification and treatment) – any new issues or hazards that have arisen and how these have been addressed;
4. Training programme – information sharing and training of staff and volunteers;
5. Health and Safety incidents – near misses or injuries sustained, plus updates on past events;
6. Recommendations.

2. October/November 2016 Update

1. Implementation and Adherence to the Health and Safety Plan

Staff are still reading the latest version of the new Health and Safety Plan and several have made some good suggestions for amendments. Once the Plan has been read by all staff we will discuss and finalise at a staff meeting.

Weekly staff meetings have Health and Safety on the agenda as a standard item. Staff are given an opportunity to raise any issues, and as a team we develop procedures to minimise the risks of such. Any new risks are included in the weekly email so that all staff are aware of the risk should they be absent from the weekly meeting.

Staff are communicating with the Office to let the office know that they are safe and/or on the way back to the Office. Staff are still utilising the "staff whereabouts" board to help monitor where staff are on a daily basis.

Staff have been discussing a variation to their contracts to include reference to General Health and Safety obligations and Drug and Alcohol testing. Discussions are also being undertaken regarding a new Use of Vehicle procedure. This new procedure covers some areas relating to Health and Safety such as driver fatigue.

Tailgate forms were developed and used for Wetland Operations, Pheasant Call Counts and Mallard Brood Counts.

Carmel has been asked from National office to keep in touch monthly with all regions to keep them reminded of Health and Safety. It has been suggested that she send out a monthly tip and a reminder of the work areas to be audited/reviewed in the month.

15.3 FINANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.01

16 November 2016

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the current financial position, and approve payments for the months of September and October 2016.

2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the two months ending 31 October 2016 is attached. This report documents the income and direct expenditure for the first period of the new financial year. You will note that its format has been changed since our last report as we have been able to create and extract this information directly from Xero. The YTD budget is no longer shown but comments are made throughout the finance report should any variance of direct costs from budget occur during the year. The budget included within the Profit and Loss statement corresponds with the financial statement budget which is included for approval within this report.

Income

With almost all licence sales now being made electronically it is easier to compare licence sales YTD in dollar terms. When compared to the same time last year licence income is \$3,738 down which is in line with the current licence sales reports. Licence sales by category and LEQ are reported in detail within the licence sales report and will provide a more accurate picture of licence sales YTD.

Revenue from other sources over the period was made up of the following; sale of fish to other regions (\$13,788), fishing competitions (\$857), children's fishing (\$172), reparation for children's fishing (\$130), rentals (\$3,746), fines (\$590) and grazing (\$900). Funds were also received from the New Zealand Council for Carmel Veitch's work on health & safety and financial reporting (\$2,552), and interest totalled \$401 for the period. Included within the September totals is \$35,748 received in the last financial year and accrued as income received in advance. This relates to funding received for proposed works at the Kaituna WMR and from the insurance claim for the Awakaponga Pump shed.

Species Management

Harvest Assessment expenditure is reported relating to the Game Hunter surveys and opening day expenses.

Hatchery expenses for the period included fish food (\$24,254), hatchery and vehicle insurance (\$5,259), vehicle maintenance (\$159), the purchase of consumables (\$581), and the consent fee for the water take (\$294). The usual expenses are also reported relating to rates, electricity, oxygen, and fuel. Within budget YTD.

Habitat

Habitat spending for the period was related to securing of the Awakaponga Reserve, particularly the solar pump shed. A new wetland area was also fenced off in the Kaituna WMR and paid for with funding received from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Within budget YTD.

Participation

Access budget expenditure is reported relating to advertising and postage for the hunter ballots, and accommodation and maintenance materials for the Gisborne-Wairoa signs run.

Within the Newsletters budget the expenses relate to the accrual for the 2016-17 fish newsletter and the region's costs associated with 2016-17 Fish & Game magazine supplement. \$79 overspent YTD.

Public Interface

Promotions spending for the period related to advertising and ezine costs associated with the "Fish for Gold" promotion. Expenses are also reported under the Visitor Facilities budget relating to grounds maintenance. Within budget YTD.

Compliance

The Compliance expenses for the period related the 0800 Poaching service, food expenses for the CERT training day, and legal fees associated with prosecutions. Within budget YTD.

Licensing

The fees associated with the 0800 and Internet sales are included within the commission expenditure and are within budget YTD.

Council

Room hire, catering and travel expenses are reported within the Council budgets relating to the October meeting of Council. Within budget YTD.

Planning

A credit is shown within the Reporting budget due to our year end accrual of the Audit fee. Levies were paid as budgeted in October. Within budget YTD.

Administration

Notes on individual areas:

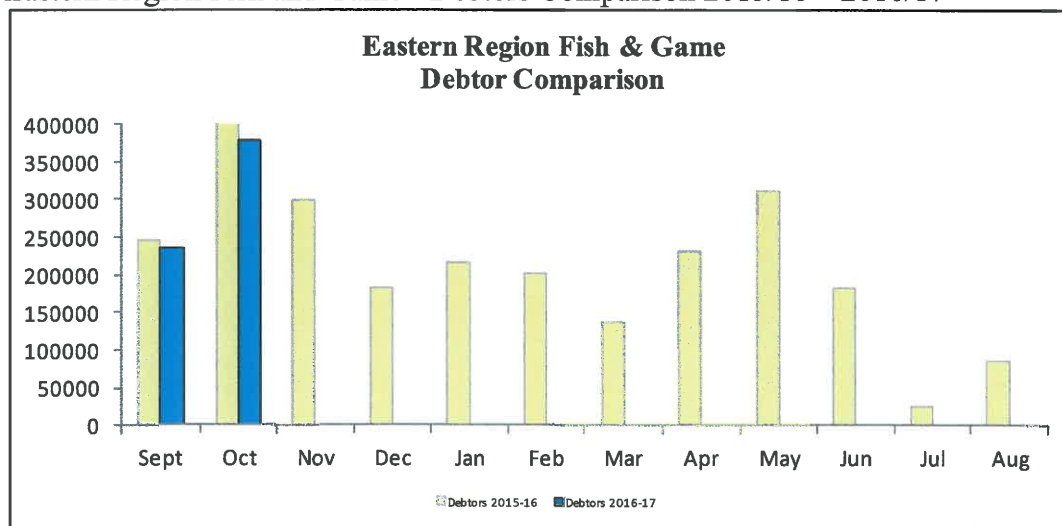
Salaries	Within budget YTD
Staff Expenses	The end of year accrual for ACC levies is reported in September, in addition to minor staff expenses. Within budget YTD.
Staff Houses	Insurance was paid on the staff houses in September (\$1,559), and rates were paid as budgeted in October. Metal was purchased for the cottage driveway, and expenses are also reported relating to an inspection of a pot belly. Within budget YTD.
Office Premises	Insurance and rates were also paid on office premises totalling \$3,581. The standard electricity, cleaning, and security expenses are also reported. Within budget YTD.
Office Equipment	A stand up work station was purchased from Hawke's Bay Region and the monthly expense relating to the phone and eftpos leases are reported. This area is over budget YTD and this will reduce as the year progresses.
Communications/ Consumables	Communications expenses for the period included phones, broadband, stationery, and photocopying. Computer expenses are reported relating to IT services and the annual payroll licence fee. Year end accruals and increased phone expenses mean that this area is reporting to be over budget YTD (\$397). A credit has been received from Vodafone in November for a longstanding issue relating to overcharging (\$1,200) which will bring this area

	back under budget.
General	Insurance was paid in September (\$5,812) covering Public, Statutory, and Employers liabilities, and all other buildings and contents on the property not classified elsewhere. A complimentary licence was paid for from the Valuation budget relating to our forestry valuation and minor expenses are reported for bank audit confirmation reports and morning teas. Within budget YTD.
General Equipment	Equipment maintenance expenses for the period included WoF's, registration and repairs to the Whio boat trailer, the single axle and tandem trailers. A radio inspection was carried out on Whio and expired flares were replaced. Repairs were undertaken on the Walker mower, and various minor parts purchased for the tractor. The insurance of equipment was also paid totalling \$2,981 and the standard fuel expenses were also incurred. Within budget YTD.
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the period included insurance (\$2,838), servicing of three vehicles (\$1,105), brake pads and rotor skimming (\$267), registration (\$175), and the standard fuel expenses. Within budget YTD.

Cash Position: \$961,481.52 (includes \$103,683 for asset replacement reserve and \$451,248 for Waikaremoana Fund) as at 31 October 2016.

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$377,891 as at 31 October 2016 (\$419,531 as at 31 October 2015).

Eastern Region Fish and Game - Debtors Comparison 2015/16 – 2016/17



The Region's debtors as at 31 October consisted primarily of licence sales relating to the new fishing season (\$360,152). Settlements have since been paid totalling \$213,916. Three agents are overdue with payments totalling \$1,914 and these are being followed up by administration staff.

3. Variance Report

The variance report is shown on the following two pages. YTD actual including staff hours are entered for each project area to provide Council with an overview of the staff time component of the Operational Work Plan.

2016/2017 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

As at 31 October 2016

Schedule E Code	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST Variances	%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		
1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 35,100	\$ -	2,494	285	\$ 141,520	\$ 15,540	\$ 17,000	\$ -	\$ 159,620	\$ 15,540	\$ 144,079	9.7
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,150	\$ 614	856	217	\$ 48,573	\$ 11,846	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,723	\$ 12,460	\$ 38,263	24.6
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 66,150	\$ 32,861	2,809	503	\$ 159,394	\$ 27,428	\$ 78,500	\$ 13,894	\$ 147,044	\$ 46,395	\$ 100,649	31.6
1160	Releases	\$ 500	\$ -	200	62	\$ 11,349	\$ 3,381	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,849	\$ 3,381	\$ 8,468	28.5
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	96	20	\$ 5,447	\$ 1,063	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,447	\$ 1,063	\$ 4,384	19.5
1180	Control	\$ 200	\$ -	64	3	\$ 3,632	\$ 164	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,832	\$ 164	\$ 3,668	4.3
	TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT	\$ 104,100	\$ 33,475	6,519	1,090	\$ 369,915	\$ 59,422	\$ 95,500	\$ 13,894	\$ 378,515	\$ 79,003	\$ 299,512	20.9
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ 200	\$ -	1,215	311	\$ 68,944	\$ 16,972	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 69,144	\$ 16,972	\$ 52,172	24.5
1220	Works & Management	\$ 49,748	\$ 4,297	1,038	256	\$ 58,900	\$ 13,973	\$ 41,248	\$ 36,695	\$ 67,400	\$ (18,425)	\$ 85,826	-27.3
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 9,400	\$ -	970	113	\$ 55,042	\$ 6,162	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 64,442	\$ 6,162	\$ 58,280	9.6
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	120	0	\$ 6,809	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,809	\$ -	\$ 6,809	0.0
	TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION & MAN	\$ 59,348	\$ 4,297	3,343	681	\$ 189,696	\$ 37,106	\$ 41,248	\$ 36,695	\$ 207,796	\$ 4,708	\$ 203,087	2.3
1310	Access	\$ 7,000	\$ 1,138	714	191	\$ 40,515	\$ 10,415	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,515	\$ 11,553	\$ 35,962	24.3
1330	Newsletters	\$ 13,000	\$ 8,080	409	13	\$ 23,208	\$ 709	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,208	\$ 8,789	\$ 27,420	24.3
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ -	102	12	\$ 5,788	\$ 627	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,788	\$ 627	\$ 7,161	8.1
1350	Training	\$ 1,350	\$ -	1,012	210	\$ 57,425	\$ 11,437	\$ 13,500	\$ 1,160	\$ 45,275	\$ 10,277	\$ 34,998	22.7
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	120	29	\$ 6,809	\$ 1,581	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,809	\$ 1,581	\$ 5,228	23.2
1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 136	36	0	\$ 2,043	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ 91	\$ 3,093	\$ 44	\$ 3,049	1.4
	TOTAL - ANGLER & HUNTER PARTICIP	\$ 24,800	\$ 9,354	2,393	454	\$ 135,789	\$ 24,769	\$ 13,900	\$ 1,251	\$ 146,689	\$ 32,872	\$ 113,817	22.4
1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	216	49	\$ 12,257	\$ 2,672	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,257	\$ 2,672	\$ 9,585	21.8
1420	Communication	\$ 500	\$ -	289	23	\$ 16,399	\$ 1,254	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,899	\$ 1,254	\$ 15,645	7.4
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 3,500	\$ 715	172	110	\$ 9,760	\$ 5,988	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,260	\$ 6,713	\$ 6,547	50.6
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 1,000	\$ 196	634	144	\$ 35,976	\$ 7,838	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,976	\$ 8,034	\$ 28,942	21.7
	TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE	\$ 5,000	\$ 910	1,311	326	\$ 74,392	\$ 17,763	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79,392	\$ 18,673	\$ 60,719	23.5
1510	Ranging	\$ 2,100	\$ 70	981	166	\$ 55,666	\$ 9,065	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 57,766	\$ 9,135	\$ 48,631	15.8
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 73	103	16	\$ 6,128	\$ 872	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,128	\$ 945	\$ 6,183	13.9
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 5,500	\$ 639	348	26	\$ 19,747	\$ 1,418	\$ 6,000	\$ 580	\$ 19,247	\$ 1,466	\$ 17,781	7.6
	TOTAL - COMPLIANCE	\$ 8,600	\$ 782	1,437	208	\$ 81,541	\$ 11,355	\$ 6,000	\$ 590	\$ 84,141	\$ 11,547	\$ 72,594	13.7
1610	Licensing	\$ 800	\$ -	378	66	\$ 21,449	\$ 3,572	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,249	\$ 3,572	\$ 18,678	16.1
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	204	24	\$ 11,576	\$ 1,281	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,576	\$ 1,281	\$ 10,294	11.1
	TOTAL - LICENSING	\$ 800	\$ -	582	89	\$ 33,025	\$ 4,853	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,825	\$ 4,853	\$ 28,972	14.3
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,156	772	73	\$ 43,806	\$ 3,953	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,806	\$ 6,109	\$ 47,697	11.4
	TOTAL - COUNCILS	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,156	772	73	\$ 43,806	\$ 3,953	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,806	\$ 6,109	\$ 47,697	11.4
1810	Management Planning	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	180	0	\$ 10,214	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,214	\$ -	\$ 10,214	0.0
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 9,400	\$ (1,860)	514	179	\$ 29,166	\$ 9,761	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,566	\$ 7,901	\$ 30,666	20.5
1840	National Liaison	\$ 250	\$ 9	284	39	\$ 16,115	\$ 2,127	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,365	\$ 2,135	\$ 14,230	13.0
	TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING	\$ 9,650	\$ (1,851)	978	218	\$ 55,496	\$ 11,887	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,146	\$ 10,036	\$ 55,110	15.4
	TOTAL	\$ 222,298	\$ 49,122	17,335	3,138	\$ 983,660	\$ 171,109	\$ 156,648	\$ 52,430	\$ 1,049,310	\$ 167,801	\$ 881,509	16.0

		EXTERNAL COSTS		NETTABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
1910	Salaries	\$ 895,330	\$ 144,742	\$ 43,840	\$ 2,553	\$ 851,490	\$ 142,190	\$ 709,300	\$ 16.7
1920	Staff Expenses	\$ 26,400	\$ 1,634	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,400	\$ 1,634	\$ 24,766	\$ 6.2
1930	Staff Houses	\$ 6,220	\$ 2,353	\$ 21,020	\$ 3,595	\$ (14,800)	\$ (1,242)	\$ (13,558)	\$ 8.4
1940	Office Premises	\$ 20,100	\$ 5,554	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,100	\$ 5,554	\$ 14,546	\$ 27.6
1950	Office Equipment	\$ 3,900	\$ 677	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,900	\$ 677	\$ 3,223	\$ 17.4
1960	Communications/Consumables	\$ 21,000	\$ 3,675	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,000	\$ 3,675	\$ 17,325	\$ 17.5
1970	General	\$ 8,620	\$ 6,221	\$ 750	\$ 30	\$ 7,870	\$ 6,191	\$ 1,679	\$ 78.7
1980	General Equipment	\$ 17,000	\$ 4,426	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,000	\$ 4,426	\$ 12,574	\$ 26.0
1990	Vehicles	\$ 50,700	\$ 8,004	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,700	\$ 8,004	\$ 42,696	\$ 15.8
	Administration	\$ 1,049,270	\$ 177,287	\$ 65,610	\$ 6,178	\$ 983,660	\$ 171,109	\$ 812,551	\$ 17.4
	Total Overhead Net Cost					\$ 983,660	\$ 171,109		
	Total Outputs Staff Hours					17,335	3,138		
	Internal Cost Per Hour					56.74	54.53		

2016/2017 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

Schedule C Code	Output	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETTABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
1	Species Management	\$ 104,100	\$ 33,475	6,519	1,090	\$ 369,915	\$ 59,422	\$ 95,500	\$ 13,894	\$ 376,515	\$ 79,003	\$ 299,512	\$ 20.9
2	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 59,348	\$ 4,297	3,343	681	\$ 189,696	\$ 37,106	\$ 41,248	\$ 36,695	\$ 207,796	\$ 4,708	\$ 203,087	\$ 2.3
3	Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 24,800	\$ 9,354	2,383	454	\$ 135,789	\$ 24,769	\$ 13,900	\$ 1,251	\$ 146,689	\$ 32,872	\$ 113,817	\$ 22.4
4	Public Interface	\$ 5,000	\$ 910	1,311	326	\$ 74,392	\$ 17,763	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79,392	\$ 18,673	\$ 60,719	\$ 23.5
5	Compliance	\$ 8,600	\$ 782	1,437	208	\$ 81,541	\$ 11,355	\$ 6,000	\$ 590	\$ 84,141	\$ 11,547	\$ 72,594	\$ 13.7
6	Licensing	\$ 800	\$ -	582	89	\$ 33,025	\$ 4,853	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,825	\$ 4,853	\$ 28,972	\$ 14.3
7	Councils	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,156	772	73	\$ 43,806	\$ 3,953	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,806	\$ 6,109	\$ 47,697	\$ 11.4
8	Planning, Reporting	\$ 9,650	\$ (1,851)	978	218	\$ 55,496	\$ 11,887	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,146	\$ 10,036	\$ 55,110	\$ 15.4
9	Administration												
	Total Overhead Staff Hours			6,066	715								
	TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 222,298	\$ 49,122	23,401	3,953	\$ 983,660	\$ 171,109	\$ 156,648	\$ 52,430	\$ 1,049,310	\$ 167,801	\$ 881,509	

Licence Income 2016/17

	Budget	Actual
2016/17 Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,158,370	\$ 560,716
Less Commission	\$ -	\$ -
Net Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,100,451	\$ 560,716
2017 Game Licence Income	\$ 242,687	\$ 7,870
Less Commission	\$ -	\$ -
Net Game Licence Income	\$ 230,553	\$ 7,870
Total Licence Income	\$ 1,401,057	\$ 568,585
Total Commission	\$ -	\$ -
Total Net 2016/17 Licence Revenue	\$ 1,331,004	\$ 548,444

	Budget	Actual	% of OWP budget spent
OWP Bulk Fund	\$ 1,049,310	\$ 167,801	16%
Adjustment to OWP budgets - National Approved Budget	\$ -	\$ -	
less Interest	\$ (7,273)	\$ 563	
Plus NZ Fish & Game Levies	\$ 223,257	\$ 55,814	
Less Licence Revenue	\$ (1,401,057)	\$ (568,585)	
Plus Commission Expense	\$ 70,053	\$ 20,141	
Plus Gain Loss on Sale/Revaluation	\$ 2,812	\$ -	
Depreciation	\$ 70,202	\$ 11,161	
Subtotal	\$ 7,304	\$ (313,105)	
Adjustments to OWP budgets - Waikaremoana Fund	\$ -	\$ (965)	
Less Waikaremoana Fund Interest	\$ (11,029)	\$ -	
Plus Waikaremoana Fund Expenses	\$ 76,000	\$ -	
Adjusted Budget	\$ 72,275	\$ (314,070)	

Profit & Loss
Eastern Fish and Game Council
For the period ended 31 October 2016

	Sep-16	Oct-16	YTD Actual	Total Budget	Variance	Var %
Income						
Licence Income	322787	245798	568585	1401057	-832472	-59%
Other Income	38806	20204	59010	240560	-181550	-75%
Total Income	361593	266002	627595	1641617	-1014022	-62%
Less Operating Expenses						
Depreciation	5663	5498	11161	70202	-59041	-84%
Loss on Disposal	0	0	0	2812	-2812	-100%
1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT						
1110 Population Monitoring	0	0	0	35100	-35100	-100%
1120 Harvest Assessment	520	93	614	2150	-1536	-71%
1140 Hatchery Operations	9340	23521	32861	66150	-33289	-50%
1160 Releases	0	0	0	500	-500	-100%
1180 Control	0	0	0	200	-200	-100%
Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT	9861	23614	33475	104100	-70625	-68%
1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT						
1210 Resource Management	0	0	0	200	-200	-100%
1220 Works & Management	153	4145	4297	49748	-45451	-91%
1230 Assisted Habitat	0	0	0	85400	-85400	-100%
Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION	153	4145	4297	135348	-131051	-97%
1300 PARTICIPATION						
1310 Access	548	590	1138	7000	-5862	-84%
1330 Newsletters	8080	0	8080	13000	-4920	-38%
1340 Other Publications	0	0	0	2000	-2000	-100%
1350 Training	0	0	0	1350	-1350	-100%
1370 Huts	40	96	136	1450	-1314	-91%
Total 1300 PARTICIPATION	8668	686	9354	24800	-15446	-62%
1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE						
1420 Communication	0	0	0	500	-500	-100%
1440 Public Communications	315	400	715	3500	-2785	-80%
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education	107	89	196	1000	-804	-80%
Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE	422	489	910	5000	-4090	-82%
1500 COMPLIANCE						
1510 Ranging	35	35	70	2100	-2030	-97%
1520 Ranger Training	73	0	73	1000	-927	-93%
1530 Compliance	289	350	639	5500	-4861	-88%
Total 1500 COMPLIANCE	397	385	782	8600	-7818	-91%
1600 LICENSING						
1610 Licence Production	0	0	0	800	-800	-100%
1630 Commission	11011	9130	20141	70053	-49912	-71%
Total 1600 LICENSING	11011	9130	20141	70853	-50712	-72%
1700 COUNCILS						
1720 Council Meetings	0	2156	2156	10000	-7844	-78%
Total 1700 COUNCILS	0	2156	2156	10000	-7844	-78%

Profit & Loss cont...
Eastern Fish and Game Council
For the period ended 31 October 2016

	Sep-16	Oct-16	YTD Actual	Total Budget	Variance	Var %
1800 PLANNING/REPORTING						
1830 Reporting/Audit	-1860	0	-1860	9400	-11260	-120%
1840 National Liaison	0	55823	55823	223507	-167684	-75%
Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING	-1860	55823	53963	232907	-178944	-77%
1900 ADMINISTRATION						
1910 Salaries	41396	103346	144742	895330	-750588	-84%
1920 Staff Expenses	1407	227	1634	26400	-24766	-94%
1930 Staff Houses	1563	790	2353	6220	-3867	-62%
1940 Office Premises	3915	1639	5554	20100	-14546	-72%
1950 Office Equipment	222	455	677	3900	-3223	-83%
1960 Communications	1746	1930	3675	21000	-17325	-82%
1970 General	6149	72	6221	8620	-2399	-28%
1980 General Equipment	3615	811	4426	17000	-12574	-74%
1990 Vehicles	4075	3928	8004	50700	-42696	-84%
Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION	64088	113199	177287	1049270	-871983	-83%
Total Operating Expenses	98402	215124	313526	1713892	-1400367	-82%
Net Profit	263192	50878	314070	-72275	386345	535%

The following is a reconciliation of the OWP to the Financial Statement Budget:

Approved Bulk Fund- per OWP	(1,107,872)
<u>Adjustments required for Financial Budgets:</u>	
Plus Licence revenue	1,401,057
Plus Reinstatement of Reserves	30,000
Less Commission	(70,053)
Less Levies	(223,257)
Less Depreciation	(70,202)
Less loss on Sale	(2,812)
Plus External Funding re Kaituna WMR	30,030
Less proposed project expenditure Kaituna WMR	(30,030)
Plus Insurance Claim re Awakaponga solar power	5,718
Less Reinstatement re Awakaponga solar power	(5,718)
Plus Waikaremoana Interest	11,029
Less Waikaremoana Spending	(76,000)
Plus Asset Replacement Allowance	35,835
<u>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</u>	<u>(72,275)</u>

Eastern Fish and Game Council - BUDGET

Statement of Financial Performance

For the year ended

31 August 2017

	Note	Budget 2017 \$	Actual 2016 \$
REVENUE			
Fish and Game licence sales	1	1,401,057	1,415,410
Grants and donations	1	30,030	20,026
Interest	1	18,302	29,798
Other revenue	1	192,228	313,193
Total Revenue		1,641,617	1,778,427
EXPENSES			
Outputs			
Species management	2	104,100	100,063
Habitat protection & management	2	135,348	54,759
Angler & Hunter participation	2	24,800	22,993
Public interface	2	5,000	15,136
Compliance	2	8,600	7,230
Licensing	2	70,853	60,413
Council	2	10,000	8,748
Planning & reporting	2	9,650	9,539
Overheads			
Employee related costs	2	921,730	936,485
Depreciation	4	70,202	73,652
Other expenses	2	130,352	121,531
Total Expenses		1,490,635	1,410,549
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		150,982	367,878
Less Other Expenses			
Levies to NZFGC		223,257	183,051
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		(72,275)	184,827

Eastern Fish and Game Council - BUDGET

Statement of Financial Position

As at
31 August 2017

	Note	Budget 2017 \$	Actual 2016 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Bank accounts and cash	3	140,990	111,705
Debtors and prepayments	3	140,000	133,775
Investments	3	735,029	819,867
Inventory	3	140,360	140,360
Total Current Assets		1,156,379	1,205,707
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4	813,109	844,223
Investments	3	-	-
Forestry Asset	3	109,000	109,000
Total Non-Current Assets		922,109	953,223
TOTAL ASSETS		2,078,488	2,158,930
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenses	3	200,000	203,976
Employee costs payable	3	120,000	124,191
Total Current Liabilities		320,000	328,167
TOTAL LIABILITES		320,000	328,167
NET ASSETS		1,758,488	1,830,763
EQUITY		1,758,488	1,830,763

Eastern Fish and Game Council - BUDGET

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended

31 August 2017

	Budget	Actual
	2017	2016
	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash was received from:		
Licence Sales	1,394,832	1,486,857
Grants, donations and fundraising	30,030	20,026
Interest	18,302	26,595
Other revenue	192,228	264,172
Cash was applied to:		
Payments to suppliers	723,124	579,335
Payments to employees	925,921	927,367
GST (net)	-	7,346
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(13,653)	283,602
CASHFLOW FROM INVESTING & FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Cash was received from:		
Sale of property, plant and equipment	73,000	57,137
Sale of investments/deposits	84,838	-
Cash was applied to:		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	114,900	72,425
Purchase of investments/deposits	-	298,688
Net Cash Flows from Investing and Financing	42,938	(313,976)
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash	29,285	(30,374)
Opening Cash	111,705	142,079
Closing Cash	140,990	111,705
This is represented by:		
Bank accounts and cash	140,990	111,705

5.0 Recommendation

5.1 That the payments for September and October 2016 totalling \$271,405.25 be approved.

<i>September</i>	<i>132,423.73</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>138,981.52</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>271,405.25</i>

5.2 That Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Performance & Cash flow for the 2016-2017 financial year.

15.4 LICENCE SALES REPORT

Ref: 6.01.05

18 November 2016

1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of licence sales for the initial months of the 2016-2017 season. The following tables and charts show a comparison of sales between the 2016-2017 season and the 2015-2016 season as at 15 November 2016.

2. 2016-2017 Fish Licence Sales (Table One)

- 2.1 Fish licence sales for the 2016-2017 season YTD are summarised in Table One and are currently reporting to be down on the 2015-16 season YTD results by 1.2%.
- 2.2 A total of 51.9% of the annual sales target has been achieved.
- 2.3 The LEQ target for licence sales for the 2016-17 licensing year remains at 10,657 LEQ's (unchanged on 2015-16).
- 2.4 Whilst Family licences are down on last season by 40 licences we can see a good return to the Adult Whole Season category of 126 licences YTD. This shift may have come from last season's local area purchasers reverting back to the premium whole season licence as the local area category has seen a decline YTD. Anglers may have found that their decision to purchase local area at the start of the season was more restrictive than expected?
- 2.5 Short Break licence sales are also down on 2015-16 results YTD (39 licences), and day licence sales YTD are on a par with last season. Short term licence sales are more likely to be impacted by poor weather, which this region has seen its fair share of over the last couple of months.
- 2.6 Nationally Fish licence sales to the 15 November are reporting to be 1.5% down on the previous season. We need to bear in mind that the increased publicity that occurred last season may have influenced the early season sales. Communications are to be made to lapsed participants from the previous two seasons within the next few weeks and further media publicity is planned.

Table One

Comparison of Fish Licence LEQs to 15 November 2016

SALES CHANNEL	Family Season		Adult Season		Adult NonRes		Adult Loyal Senior		Adult Local Area		Junior Season		Adult Winter		Adult Long Break		Adult Short Break		Adult Day		Junior Day		Whole Season Equiv.	% Increase/Decrease on 2015-16
	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season		
Agent Online Sales	1195	793	65	178	790	117	117	3	125	587	53	3366	-4.3%											
Agent Book Sales		1								6	3	2	-93.1%											
Direct Sales*	804	603	55	127	275	51	51	6	119	437	35	2163	5.4%											
Total Fish 2016-2017	1999	1397	120	305	1065	168	168	9	244	1030	91	5531	-1.2%											
Agent Online Sales	1241	712	67	192	957	144	144	7	179	615	64	3518												
Agent Book Sales	9	8	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	62	7	30												
Direct Sales*	790	551	57	122	258	40	40	8	104	351	24	2052												
Total Fish 2015-2016	2040	1271	124	314	1215	185	185	15	283	1028	95	5600												

TARGETS	Family Season		Adult Season		Adult NonRes		Adult Loyal Senior		Adult Local Area		Junior Season		Adult Winter		Adult Long Break		Adult Short Break		Adult Day		Junior Day		Whole Season Equiv.	Actual to date % of Target
	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season	Season		
2016-2017 Total	3050	2001	500	400	2000	500	500	750	150	1500	500	6400	51.9%											
Budget	3025	1947	499	356	1976	500	500	635	142	1489	526	10511	52.6%											
2015-2016 Total Sales																								
2016-2017 Estimated year end													97.4%											

* Direct Sales - Internet, 0800 Licence

3. 2016-17 Fish Licence Sales Visual (Charts 1-5)

3.1 Charts 1 to 3 provide a visual comparison of daily sales by category, compared to the 2015-16 season YTD. Note for black & white viewers the lighter colours represent the previous season results while the darker colours represent the 2016-17 YTD results. Charts 4 and 5 show a comparison of the 2016-17 YTD sales in terms of total LEQs compared with the previous four seasons. Note Chart 5 is a zoomed in view of Chart 4 as Chart 5 shows the upcoming sales trends.

Chart 1: Cumulative Adult Season Fish Licence Sales comparison 2015-16 and 2016-17 YTD to 15 November

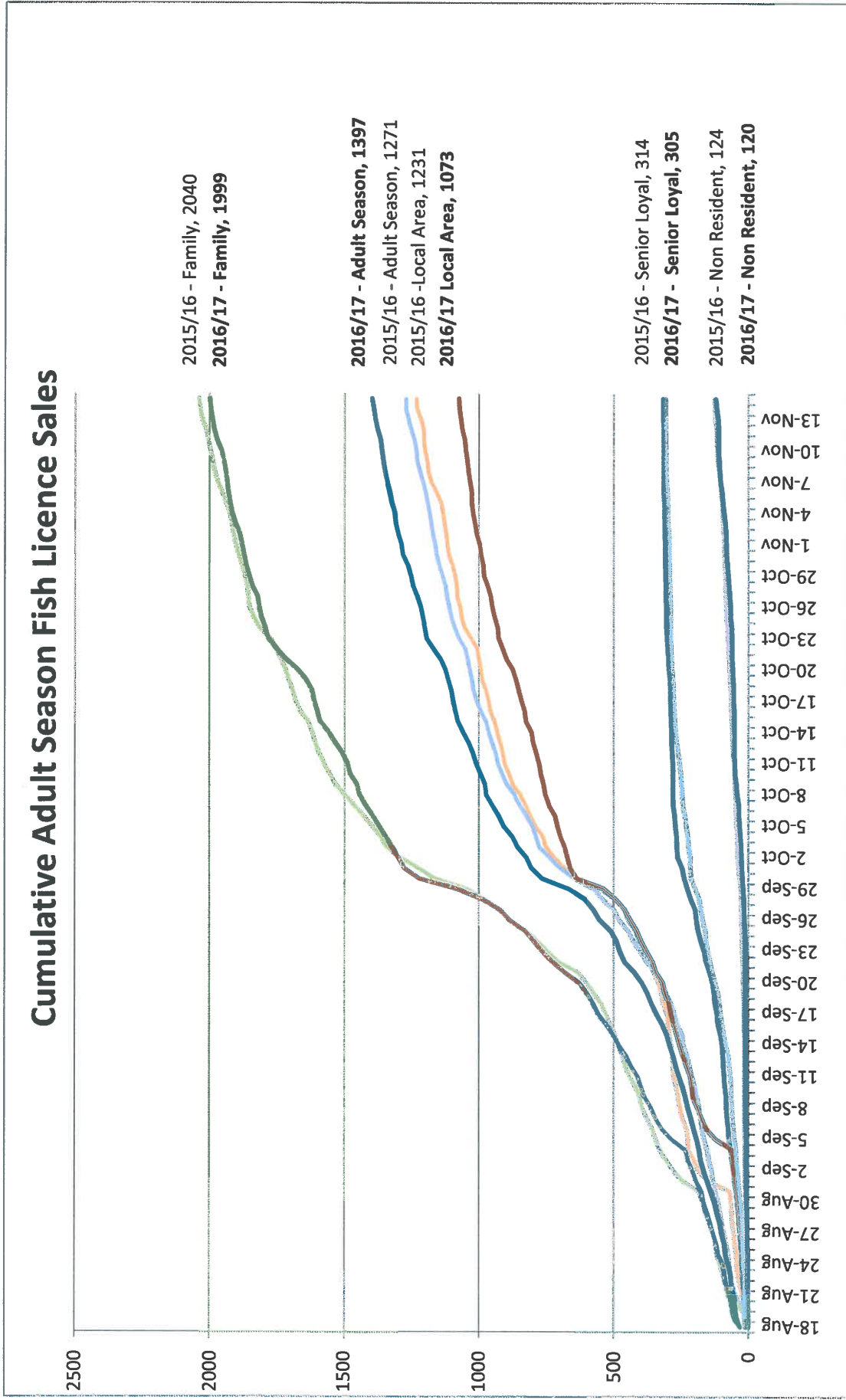


Chart 2: Cumulative Adult Short Term Fish Licence Sales comparison 2015-16 and 2016-17 YTD to 15 November

Cumulative Adult Short Term Fish Licence Sales

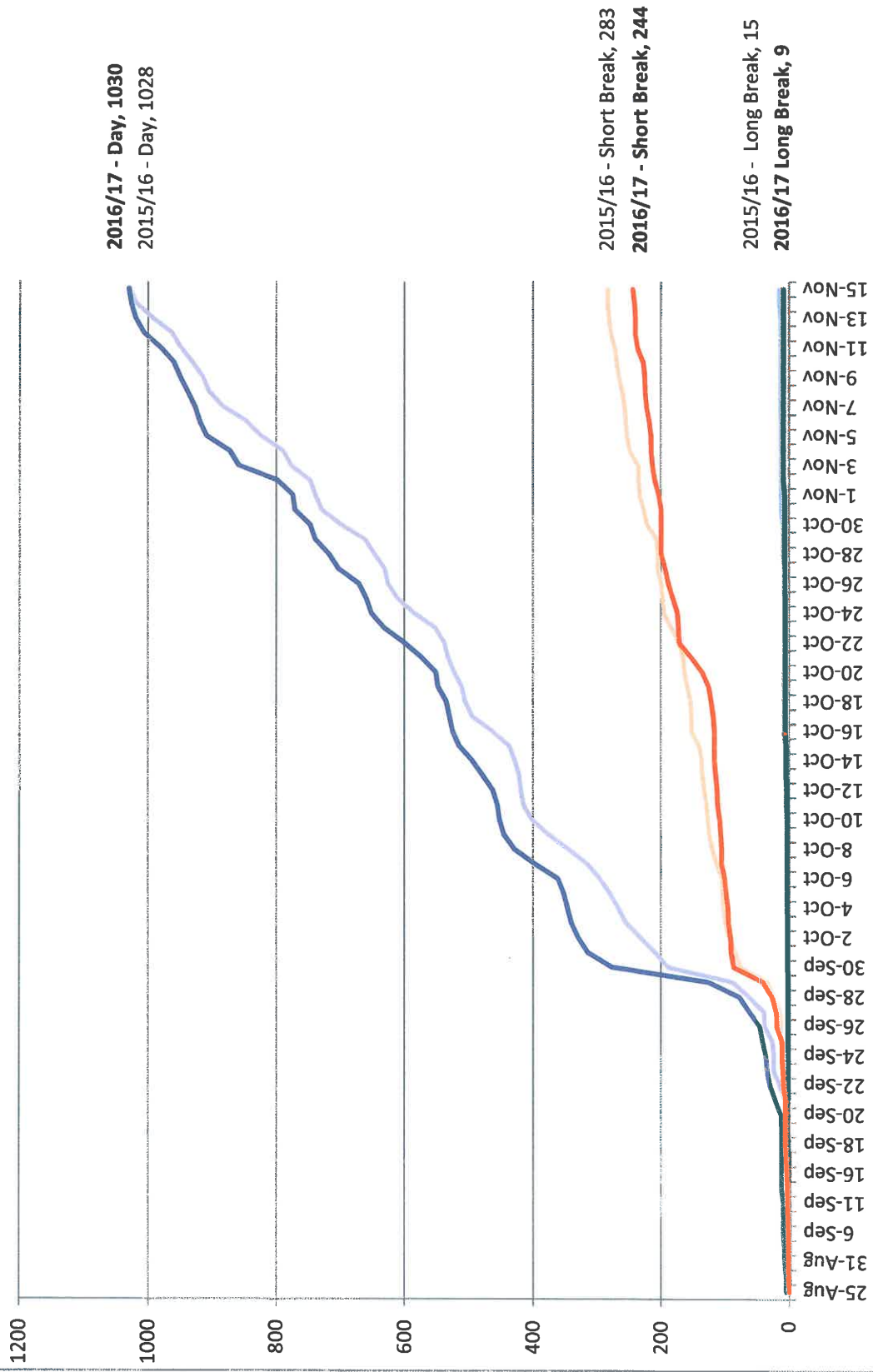


Chart 3: Cumulative Adult Short Term Fish Licence Sales comparison 2015-16 and 2016-17 YTD to 15 November

Cumulative Junior Fish Licence Sales - All Categories

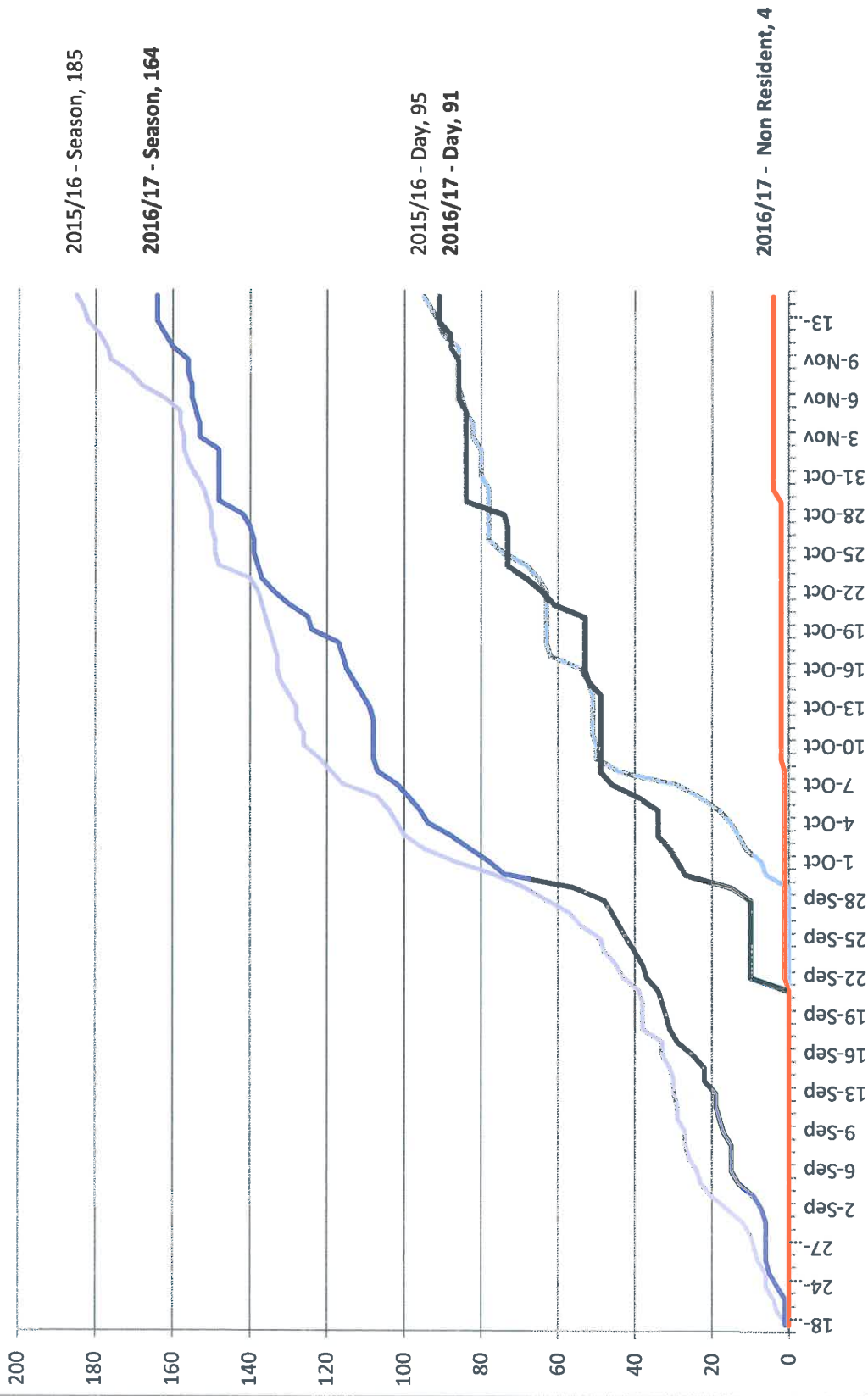


Chart 4: Cumulative LEQ (Whole Season licence equivalent) comparison 5 seasons

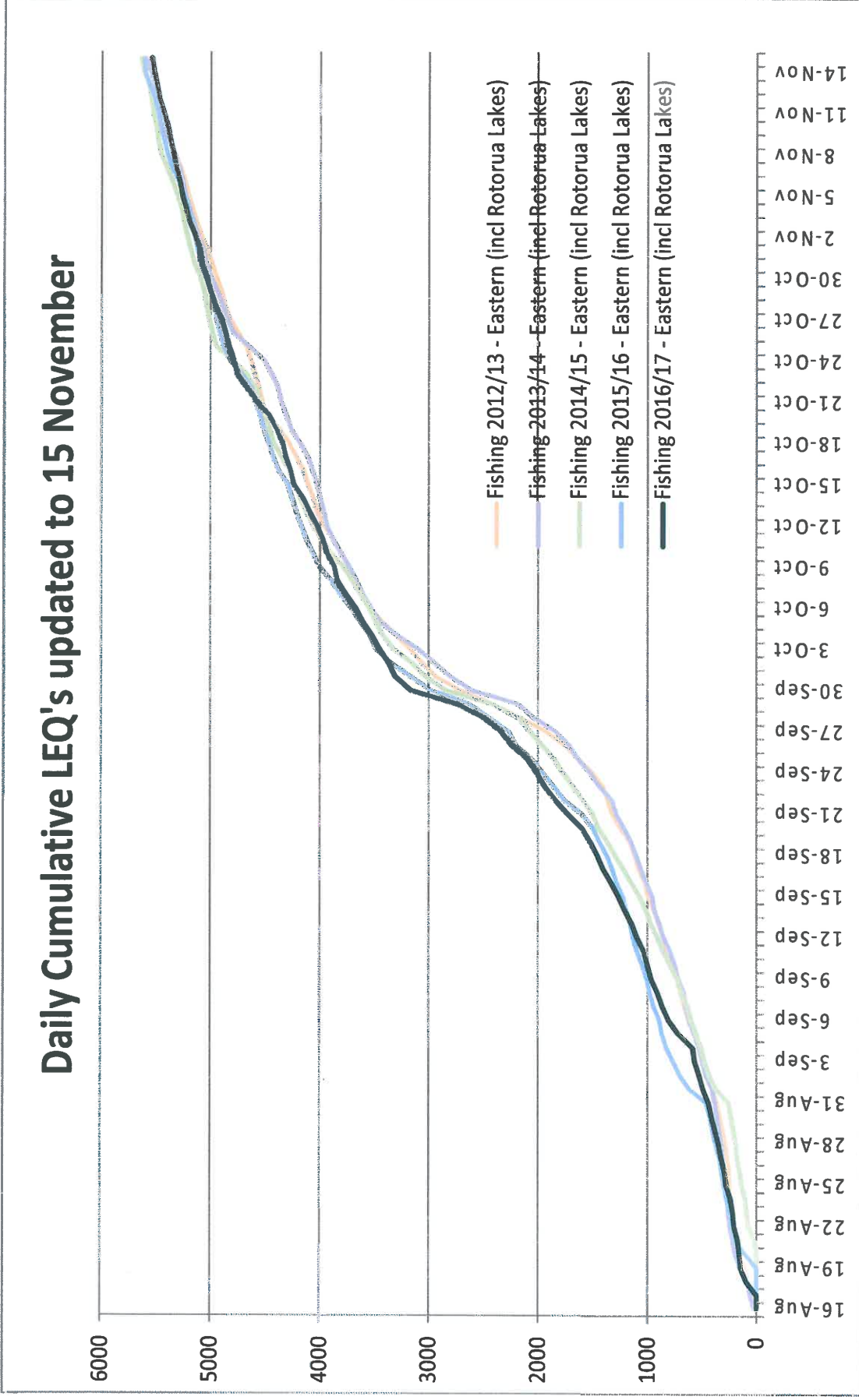
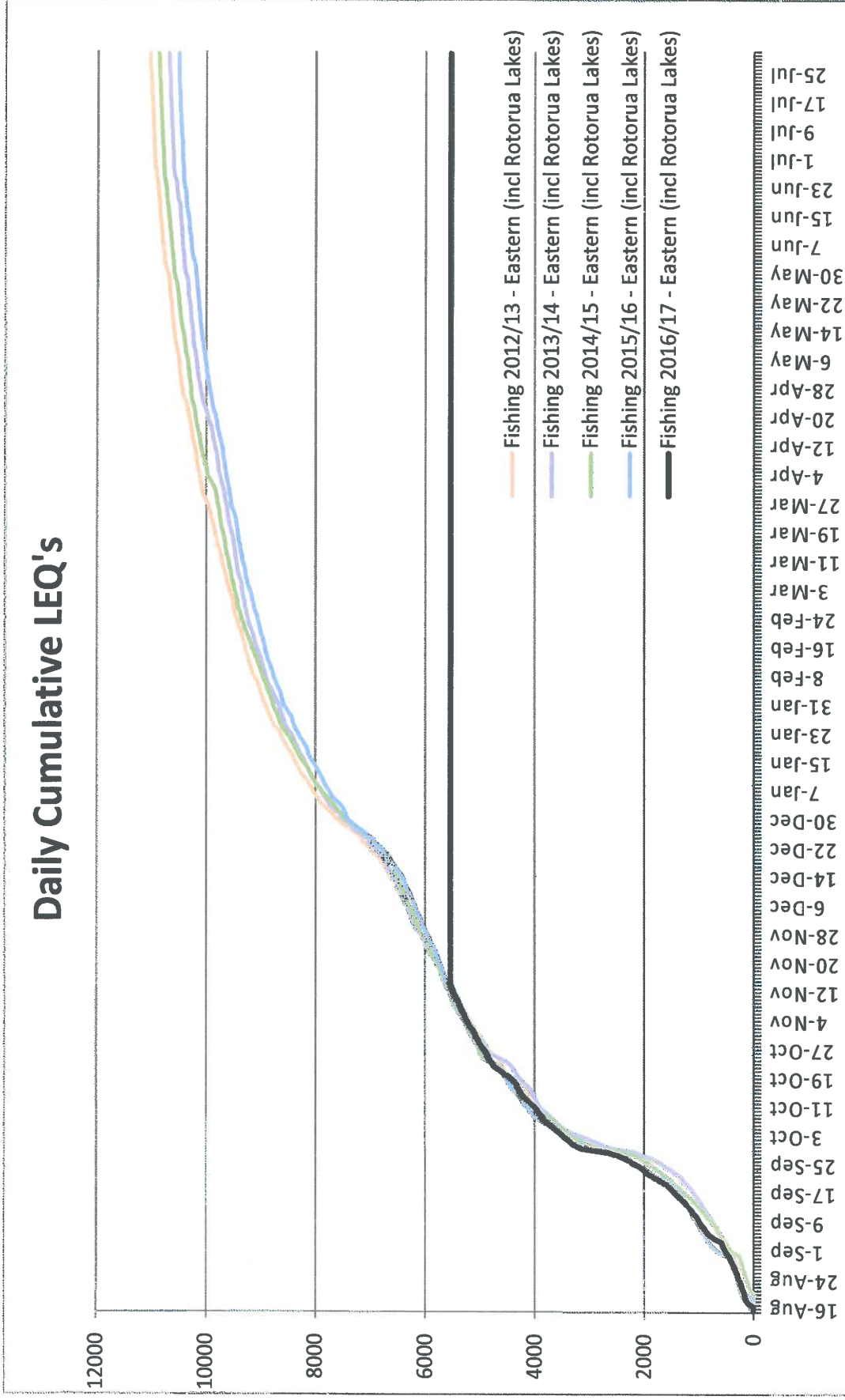


Chart 5: Cumulative LEQ (Whole Season licence equivalent) comparison 5 seasons updated to 15 November



17. CONSIDERATION OF STAFF RELATED MATTERS

Ref: 9.01.03

18 November 2016

1. Purpose

To complete the manager's performance review.

2. Background

Annually the Council carries out a 360 degree appraisal of the Eastern Region Manager's performance with input from staff, Councillors, stakeholders such as the New Zealand Council, and the manager. The Council needs to consider the outcomes of the annual review process and discuss their findings with the manager, and it is appropriate that these discussions take place with the public excluded.

3. Recommendations

3.1 *That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely a discussion on the Manager's annual performance review.*

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION
Discussion on the Regional Manager's performance review	Good reason to withhold exists under section 7 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982 which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

ITEM	REASON UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON
16 3.1	Protect the privacy of natural persons	Sec. 7(2)(a)	Discussion between the Regional Manager and the Council on the Manager's performance review and any negotiations on employment conditions should occur in private between these parties.

Note

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

"(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):

- (a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
- (b) Shall form part of the minutes of the Council".