



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

7 November 2024

AGENDA

The 211th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

Venue: Eastern Fish & Game Region Offices
Paradise Valley Road
ROTORUA

Date: Thursday, 7 November 2024

Commences: 11.00 AM

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1 Welcome and welcome to New Councillors (11AM, 10min)	
2 Apologies	(R)
3 Election of Officers (11.10 AM, 15 min)	(R) 3
4 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (10 August 2024) (11.25AM,10min)	(R) 5
4.1 Identification of Items for Council Policy	
4.2 Matters arising from the meeting of 10 August 2024	
5 Notification of Items for General Business	
6 Conflict of Interest Register	11
7 Health and Safety Report (11.40 AM, 10 min)	(R) 13
8 2025 Game Season Conditions (11.50 PM, 25min)	(R) 15
9 Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Fund (12.15PM, 5min)	(R) 26
Working Lunch (12.20PM 25min)	
10 2024-2025 Draft Performance Report (12.50PM 10min)	(I/D) 29
11 Annual Meeting and Budget Calendar (1PM, 10min)	(I/D) 30
12 Eastern F&G Risk Register (1.10PM, 10 min)	(I/D) 36
13 Eastern Standing Orders (1.20 PM, 15 min)	(R) 43
14 Sports Fish & Game Management Plan Guidelines (1.35PM,15 min)	(R) 92
15 Operational Reports (1.50PM, 20 min)	
15.1 Finance Report	(R) 93
15.2 Management Report	(I/D) 104
15.3 Licence Sales Report	(I/D) 120
16 Liaison Officers Reports (2.10PM, 10 min)	(I) 123
17 Farewell to Departing Councillors (2.20PM, 20 mins)	124
18 Meeting Closes (2.40 PM)	

R = resolution required, D = for discussion/advice, I = for information only

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ref: 7.02.01

18 October 2024

1. Purpose

To reconfirm or elect a Chair for the Eastern Fish and Game Council, to elect an appointee to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, and reconfirm or elect other Eastern Fish and Game Council officers and appointments for the coming year.

2. Background

Each year the Eastern Fish and Game Council elects or reconfirms its appointee to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in accordance with the Fish and Game Council Elections Regulations 1990 which state the following:

26 Appointment of members of New Zealand Fish and Game Council

- (1) The first meeting of each newly elected Fish and Game Council shall be held not later than 3 weeks after the date the members came into office.*
- (2) At the first meeting of the Council members shall appoint one of their number to be a member of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.*
- (3) The appointment shall be by majority vote of the Council.*
- (4) Members of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council shall remain in office as long as they remain members of the appointing Fish and Game Council, except that where a majority of the members of the appointing Fish and Game Council pass a resolution that a vote be taken on a new appointment prior to expiry of the term, then a vote shall be taken and the successor shall serve out the remaining period of the term.*

The other positions requiring consideration are that of Chair, Deputy Chair, and the appointment of the staff member as trustee representing Council's interests on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement (WCEET). Current appointees to these roles are as follows:

- Chair – Cr Mark Sceats
- Deputy Chair – Cr Kevin Coutts
- Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement (WCEET) trustee – Matthew McDougall

The Eastern Fish and Game Council also appoints an Executive/Managers Performance and Remuneration Committee. This has specific Terms of Reference dealing with the compilation of information for the annual Chief Executives performance review, and also serves as an initial point of contact for the Chief Executive in the event of issues arising that need to be addressed urgently or in between scheduled meetings of Council. The term of appointment for this Committee is three years commencing at the beginning of each Council term, in this case November 2024 to November 2027. The incoming Councillors are Kevin Coutts, Murray Ferris, Mike Jarvie, Lindsay Lyons, Alec McIver, Scott Nicol, Mark Sceats and Pat Swift.

The objectives of the Waikato (WCEET) trust are detailed in an attachment to this item. Matt's role on the WCEET remains largely technical and involved with the evaluation of funding

applications and acting as project manager and advisor for a number of projects. The members of the WCEET are mostly staff from agencies including Fish & Game, DOC, territorial authorities, and Mercury Energy.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Council elects a New Zealand Council appointee along with members of Council to fill above roles and confirms the ongoing appointment of Matthew McDougall as its representative on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust.



Taking steps to improve our ecological heritage

Trust Purpose

The Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust was established for the following charitable purposes:

- To foster and enhance the sustainable management of the ecological resources in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments;
- To mitigate adverse effects of the operation of the Hydro Scheme on the ecological environments in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments;
- To maintain and enhance indigenous biodiversity, the sports fishery and game bird populations in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments through appropriate and sustainable species and habitat management by:
 1. identifying important habitats and/or species;
 2. identifying risks and threats to those identified habitats and/or species;
 3. identifying most practicable means to ameliorate or resolve risks and threats to habitats and species in the catchment;
 4. identifying practical means to enhance important habitats and/or species;
 5. establishing an enduring and beneficial working partnership between Mighty River Power and the Trust.

Trust Objectives

Objectives of the trust are:

1. Enhancement of wetland values in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments.
2. Enhancement of indigenous biodiversity in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments.
3. Enhancement of the sports fishery and game bird population in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments.

Mitigation of any adverse effects of the operation of the Waikato Hydro System on the ecological environments in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments.

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 209th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND
GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW
ZEALAND ON SATURDAY 10 AUGUST 2024 AT 11.00 AM**

Present

Crs. Mark Sceats, Debbie Oakley, Lindsay Lyons, Kevin Coutts, Alan Simmons Jay Tapsell, and Murray Ferris.

In attendance

Arash Alaeinia, (Eastern Fish & Game); and Barry Roderick.

1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA

1.1 Cr Mark Sceats opened the meeting at 11.59am welcoming all present.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Crs Mike Jarvie, and Scott Nicol.

2.2 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that the apologies for the 209th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [24/08/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (30 MAY 2024)

3.1 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that the minutes of the meeting held on 30 May 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [24/08/3.1]*

3.2 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

No items were identified for inclusion in Council policy from the minutes of the meeting held 30 May 2024.

3.3 MATTERS ARISING

Alan Simmons raised his concern over the decision at the previous meeting to reduce the number of Councillors, which he was unfortunately not present at.

4.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

Kevin Coutts – Okataina Access for Opening

Kevin Coutts – Lack of staff and public at Council meeting

Lindsay Lyons – Okataina

Debbie Oakley – Weekend meetings

Lindsay Lyons – Zebra mussels

Chair concluded that there are only 3 items for General Business, Ōkataina, Weekend Council meetings and Zebra Mussels.

5.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

5.1 Councillors were asked to inform the chair of any conflicts of interest. No conflicts of interest were recorded.

6.0 HEALTH & SAFETY

6.1 Concern raised by Cr Kevin Coutts on the safety of our staff when responding to compliance call outs, noting a recent situation where there were multiple youths and two officers attended and a knife was produced. Arash acknowledged the situation but informed Council that five officers attended, and the knife was produced as it was being used as part of the fishing tools. Arash reassured Council that the staff are well trained in CERT and use several techniques to assess the threat situation and will always retreat or not engage if the threat level is high or increases.

6.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Kevin Coutt) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [24/08/6.2]*

7.0 REDUCTION OF EASTERN REGION SUB REGIONS

7.1 Councillors engaged in a brief discussion on this topic, confirming the rules as set out in the Conservation Act, adding that the Council could allocate additional representation of a Councillor for a particular sub-region should only one person be voted in for that that sub region in the election. Discussion was also had about the communications needed to promote the election, Arash updated Council on the plan that was in place by NZC to communicate with licence holders and encourage them to engage.

7.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Jay Tapsell) that Council confirms its decision to reduce Eastern Fish and Game subregions from six to three being;*
Subregion 1 - Central Lakes (Rotorua Lakes & Taupo)
Subregion 2 – Western Bay (Tauranga & Whakatane)
Subregion 3 – East coast – Gisborne & Wairoa). [24/08/7.2]
Five voted in favour, Alan Simmons against, Mark Sceats abstained.

8.0 2024-2025 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

8.1 –No further discussion occurred over the 2024-25 Operational Workplan.

8.2 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Kevin Couatts) that Council approves the proposed Operational Work Plan and budget for the 2024-2025 year, and delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve expenditure during the year as set out in the Council approved Operational Work Plan and budget. [24/08/8.2]*

9.0 SPECIES MONITORING REPORTS

9.1 Council requested for the report to highlight the catch rates on Lake Rotorua through Fish per Hour as it did for the other lakes. Also, there was some question on the validity that Soft Bait was the highest performing technique for Rotorua. Arash advised that he would review with the Fisheries team and provide an update to Council.

9.2 *Agreed (Alan Simmons/Mark Sceats) that Council receives the summary for the 2023-24 Summer Creel Survey. [24/08/9.2]*

10.0 FLUORIDE AND POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON TROUT

10.1 Cr Alan Simmons spoke to the point and informed Council of his measures to take readings at different points around the lake. He will keep F&G informed of his findings. It was agreed that Eastern Fish & Game will seek any information or updates that MPI may have on the impact of Fluoride on Trout and to monitor any new international papers on the issue.

Council appreciated the work and efforts that Cr Simmons was undertaking in monitoring the fluoride impact but asked that in all his communications and interactions with agencies he operate as a member of the public and not as a Councillor representing Fish & Game as F & G view at this point is neutral.

11.0 WAIKAREMOANA NAVIGATIONAL MARKERS

11.1 Cr Murray Ferris brought the Council up to date with the history of this application and the positive impact the funding will have for safety. It was also acknowledged that this support is helping the wider community of all lake users and will be seen as Fish & Game contributing to the community.

11.2 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Kevin Coutts) that Council supports The Waikaremoana Boating & Fishing Associations application for funding of up to \$15,500, subject to receiving appropriate detailed information of the navigational markers, sites identified for the markers, installation details and appropriate permission from Tuhoe and Department of Conservation. [24/08/11.2]*

12.0 Council adjourned for lunch at 12.04pm reconvening at 12.22pm.

13.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

Finance Report

13.1 Council queried code 1450 on page 25 of a spend YTD of \$3,694 when the budget was \$500. Arash Alaeinia confirmed he would look into and provide details to Council.

13.2 *Agreed (Kevin Coutts/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the finance report approves payments for May and June 2024 totalling \$305,270.22. [24//08/13.2]*

Management Report

13.3 Council acknowledged the amount of work and detail that Matthew McDougall puts into his Game Bird reporting for Council. Some Councillors asked if the detail could be omitted as they viewed the information as too science data based and that the majority of readers just want the outputs and not the workings out. Arash explained that for transparency it was good practice to include the calculations and science behind the decision and that some hunters appreciate the detail and actually cross check the calculations. It was suggested that the summary be in the Council report and the full report to be in the Papers for Information.

A discussion was also had about Council's current policy on setting game bird bag limits and season length. Arash reminded Council that they were given the opportunity to review this Policy last year and accepted to continue with the current policy, unfortunately Cr Mark Sceats was absent from that meeting.

Concern was raised that our hunters do not see value for money for their licence with low bag limits and short seasons, and this is putting a number of hunters off renewing their licences.

13.5 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Jay Tapsell) that Council receives the Management Report. [24//08/13.5]*

Licence Sales Report

13.6 Concern was raised by Cr Lindsay Lyons that year on year our licence sales are on the decline and our fees are rising. Lindsay was pleased to see a marketing planning discussion had taken place at the Eastern offices from information that was on the whiteboard. Lindsay also brought up an opportunity to promote fishing from jet skis as this has a lower cost than owning a boat, yet you can still be out in the lake catching great fish.

Arash informed Council that the team had discussed a marketing plan, that covered promoting licence sales pre the 15 Aug sales date, Facebook campaigns that were planned (take a mate fishing etc), news articles being sent to the media and magazines. Arash also informed Council of Ian Hadland's recent visit to the US to attend an International R3 conference for Fisheries and Hunters and his presentation to the managers was that there is a global decline in these activities, but best to promote to families and we needed to review our Licence category pricing.

Council also asked if we had any knowledge of Taupo's licence sales, Arash to follow up.

13.7 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the Licence Sales Report. [24/08/13.7]*

14.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

14.1 *Report from Bay of Plenty Conservation Board*

No Report

14.2 *Report from Department of Conservation*

No Report

14.3 *Report from New Zealand Council*

Cr Debbie Oakley's report covered:

CEO Corina Jordan and Barrie Barnes are scheduling a meeting with DoC Taupo to discuss the Licence platform that they use. At the last TEFAC meeting licence fee increase was discussed. The Minister for H&F will be attending the next NZC meeting in August and plans to visit all Regional F&G Councils over the course of the following 12 months. Cr Mark Sceats is attending the next NZC meeting as Debbie will be away and Minister has asked for a question from each region. NZC is looking at changes to the Conservation Act and some centralisation work that would help reduce costs for the organisation. Corina Jordan and Barrie Barnes meet with the Minister every 2 months and the Ministers office has full time staff from DOC who work on Hunting and Fishing issues.

15.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

15.1 *Lake Ōkātina*

Council had a very robust discussion on the continued and no firm outcome of guaranteed seven days a week access to Lake Ōkātina. Cr Sceats updated the Council on some recent communications with the Ministers office and the outcomes of those communications also highlighting the staff turnover that he encountered in his period of communications. He also updated Council on the work that NZC were doing in raising this concern to the Minister too. Concern was raised by the Council over the lack of engagement and any consequence for a pole and chain erected on the boat ramp which is a RLC asset and the access being controlled by an entity that has no statutory authority to do so.

Arash updated the Council in his communications that he had engaged in and future appointments that he had scheduled with RLC CEO to discuss F&G concern, as we approach the licence sale period and the opening.

Council was reminded that we need to maintain a relationship with all iwi for long term sustainability of access and being able to manage our fisheries.

Council accepted that the issue needs to be managed by the minister and is not within the capacity of F&G.

Access for the coming season was discussed, Arash was positive that access would be available as long as all necessary MPI regulations were adhered to. MPI was carrying out a review of the Ōkātina CAN and would update all stakeholders once completed. This was behind schedule due to an accident of the person tasked with carrying out the review.

15.2 *Staff/Weekend meetings*

Cr Coutts asked the value of having weekend meetings, as the purpose was to stimulate more general public to attend our meetings. Also he pointed out that the meeting had no staff attending, who are able to add value to the Council meetings. Arash informed Council that the decision to have weekend meetings was not only to stimulate general public attendance but to help support Councillors who have full time jobs and have to take time off to attend Council meetings. Arash acknowledged that his team are already time poor and stacking not only holidays but time in lieu for hours worked so he does not expect them to attend weekend or evening meetings. Crs Coutts and Oakley

requested that meetings return to weekdays. It was accepted that the new Council will also have an oversight over this request moving forward for the next year.

15.3 *Zebra Mussels*

Cr Lyons and Barry Roderick expressed the concern over this possible threat currently in other countries and the devastation that it could bring to our waterways and fisheries. Arash is to follow up with other regional managers if they are aware and with MPI.

16.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

16.1 *Council agreed that there was no need to have a Public Excluded Meeting.*

17.0 MEETING CLOSED

17.1 Cr Mark Sceats closed the meeting 1.58 pm.

.....
Mark Sceats
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

- 2.0 APOLOGIES**
2.2 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that the apologies for the 209th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [24/08/2.2]*
- 3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (30 MAY 2024)**
3.1 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that the minutes of the meeting held on 30 May 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [24/08/3.1]*
- 6.0 HEALTH & SAFETY**
6.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Kevin Coutt) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [24/08/6.2]*
- 7.0 REDUCTION OF EASTERN REGION SUB REGIONS**
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Subregion 3 – East coast – Gisborne & Wairoa). [24/08/7.2]
Five voted in favour, Alan Simmons against, Mark Sceats abstained.*
- 8.0 2024-2025 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN**
8.2 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Kevin Coutts) that Council approves the proposed Operational Work Plan and budget for the 2024-2025 year, and delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve expenditure during the year as set out in the Council approved Operational Work Plan and budget. [24/08/8.2]*
- 9.0 SPECIES MONITORING REPORTS**
9.2 *Agreed (Alan Simmons/Mark Sceats) that Council receives the summary for the 2023-24 Summer Creel Survey. [24/08/9.2]*
- 11.0 WAIKAREMOANA NAVIGATIONAL MARKERS**
11.2 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Kevin Coutts) that Council supports The Waikaremoana Boating & Fishing Associations application for funding of up to \$15,500, subject to receiving appropriate detailed information of the navigational markers, sites identified for the markers, installation details and appropriate permission from Tuhoe and Department of Conservation. [24/08/11.2]*
- 13.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS**
13.2 *Agreed (Kevin Coutts/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the finance report approves payments for May and June 2024 totalling \$305,270.22. [24//08/13.2]*
13.5 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Jay Tapsell) that Council receives the Management Report.
Licence Sales Report*
13.7 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Murray Ferris) that Council receives the Licence Sales Report. [24/08/13.7]*
- 16.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION**
16.1 *Council agreed that there was no need to have a Public Excluded Meeting.*

6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

18 October 2024

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

In 2016 the Eastern Fish and Game Council adopted a revised policy and rules for dealing with Conflicts of Interest and these include providing 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.

7. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

24 October 2024

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 plan – including Health and Safety as an agenda item for staff and 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.

August – October 2024

1. Implementation and Adherence to the Health and Safety Plan Regular (weekly) staff meetings. Minutes from the Health and Safety portion of the meeting are emailed to all staff. Visitors to the office and contractors are required to sign our desk register, and our hazard register is updated as required. Tail Gate forms completed for: Sept 2024 Drift Diving – Tarawera Outlet Sept 2024 Electric Fishing – Waimatao Stream Rotorua Oct 2024 Ranging -Okataina – Fishing Opening Weekend Oct 2024 Ranging -Gisborne Pt – Fishing Opening Weekend Oct 2024 Ranging -Stoney Pt – Fishing Opening Weekend Oct 2024 Ranging -Boat Shed Bay – Fishing Opening Weekend Oct 2024 Ranging -Otaramarae – Fishing Opening Weekend Oct 2024 Ranging -Lake Tarawera – Fishing Opening Weekend Oct 2024 Ranging -Lake Rotoiti – Fishing Opening Weekend 2023-2024 Budget for Health & Safety \$2,000

2. Monitoring and Reporting	
Work Place Accident Register	24/07/2024
Number of Workplace injuries in 2023-2024 year	0
Number of Workplace injuries in 2022-2023 year	4
Number of Workplace injuries in 2021-2022 year	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2020-2021 year	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2019-2020 year	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2018-2019 year	1
Total Number of Workplace injuries since 1 Sept 1995	55
Total number of lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995	5
Total number of days since last lost work injury	455

Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 26/04/23	767
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 21/3/21	245
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 19/7/20	1,053
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 31/8/17	1,363
Days since formal register commenced 1/09/95 to first lost work injury 7/12/13	6,672

3. Risk Management (identification and treatment)

Notes taken for the H&S minutes at the weekly staff meeting and emailed to all staff:

12 Aug 2024	Closed waters - keeping an eye out for poachers.
19 Aug 2024	Closed waters - keeping an eye out for poachers with knives, strong winds, slippery board walks.
26 Aug 2024	Nil new.
2 Sept 2024	Closed waters - keeping an eye out for poachers with knives Changing weather conditions.
9 Sept 2024	Closed waters - keeping an eye out for poachers with knives.
16 Sept 2024	Closed streams activity – poaching. Investigation from worksafe surrounding Leptospirosis. Ensure all staff wash hands after handling animals. Cover cuts and use gumboots out in the field + any appropriate PPE gear. Review of compliance/ranging risks. Inclusive of 1 to 1 boat work during surveys and ranging in areas that are high risk for poaching or busy during summer. Review of staff working alone and risk assessment. AVD to email around further information and action plan for staff input.
23 Sept 2024	High numbers of fish in Waiteti - particularly below road bridge - lots of people and potential issues.
30 Sept 2024	Closed streams still seeing activity High numbers of fish in Waiteti - particularly below road bridge - lots of people and potential issues. Wash hands, cover cuts and wear appropriate PPE when dealing with animals.
7 Oct 2024	Closed streams still seeing activity. High rain fall could be causing streams/rivers etc to be muddy or slips etc Wash hands, cover cuts and wear appropriate PPE when dealing with animals.
15 Oct 2024	Closed streams still seeing activity Constantly changing weather.Wash hands, cover cuts and wear appropriate PPE when dealing with animals.
21 Oct 2024	Closed streams still seeing activity Constantly changing weather Wash hands, cover cuts and wear appropriate PPE when dealing with animals.

4. Training Programme

Nil

5. H&S Incidents

Nil

6. Recommendation

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

8. 2025 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

Ref: 1.07.03

14 October 2024

1. Purpose

To review the 2024 Eastern Game Season Conditions (see Appendix 1) and highlight the 2025 game season issues needing further consideration at Council's December meeting.

2. Introduction

Issues relating to game season regulations for the upcoming season need to be identified at this meeting of Council. Every 3 – 5 years Council reviews its policies and criteria for setting game bird regulations (see resolutions Appendix 2). Last year Council reviewed the criteria for setting the game bird regulations and agreed to keep the status quo (11.2, 7 December 2023 minutes). The status quo includes mallard and grey duck (grey/mallard) regulations which are based on the predicted population size ("threshold management"). Threshold management has three sets of regulatory constraints, these being restricted, intermediate, and relaxed conditions. If for example, the Eastern mallard population was predicted to be equal to, or below 350,000 birds then a restricted set of conditions would apply. If the population is predicted to be above 350,000 and below 450,000 birds an intermediate set would apply, and if the population was predicted to be greater than 450,000 birds this would trigger a relaxed set of conditions (see Figure 3).

Paradise shelduck and black swan regulations are also based on their respective population status. Criteria for setting regulations for these species are given in Appendix 2.

National monitoring of shoveler populations indicates the population is stable (see Shoveler Report in PFI).

Game season conditions are generally proposed at Council's meeting in December and confirmed or refined by staff for recommendation to the Minister of Conservation at the end of January once additional population information is available from summer monitoring programmes.

3. Issues

In addition to any other issues Council might wish to discuss, there are four topics that require Council's consideration and input for next season as follows:

1. Special black swan season

A special black swan season has been gazetted for the weekend of 1 – 9 February 2025 in Area A1 where there has for many years been an unlimited daily bag limit. The special season was first proposed in 2018 following rapidly increasing numbers on Tauranga Harbour (Figure 1).

The Western Bay of Plenty Fish and Game Club usually organises a shoot over the special season in February with the aim of reducing numbers on the harbour but have not had much luck with the weather in recent years.

Council needs to consider whether it wishes to hold another special season in February 2026 and if so, is it supportive of a season lasting 9 days (two weekends + one week).

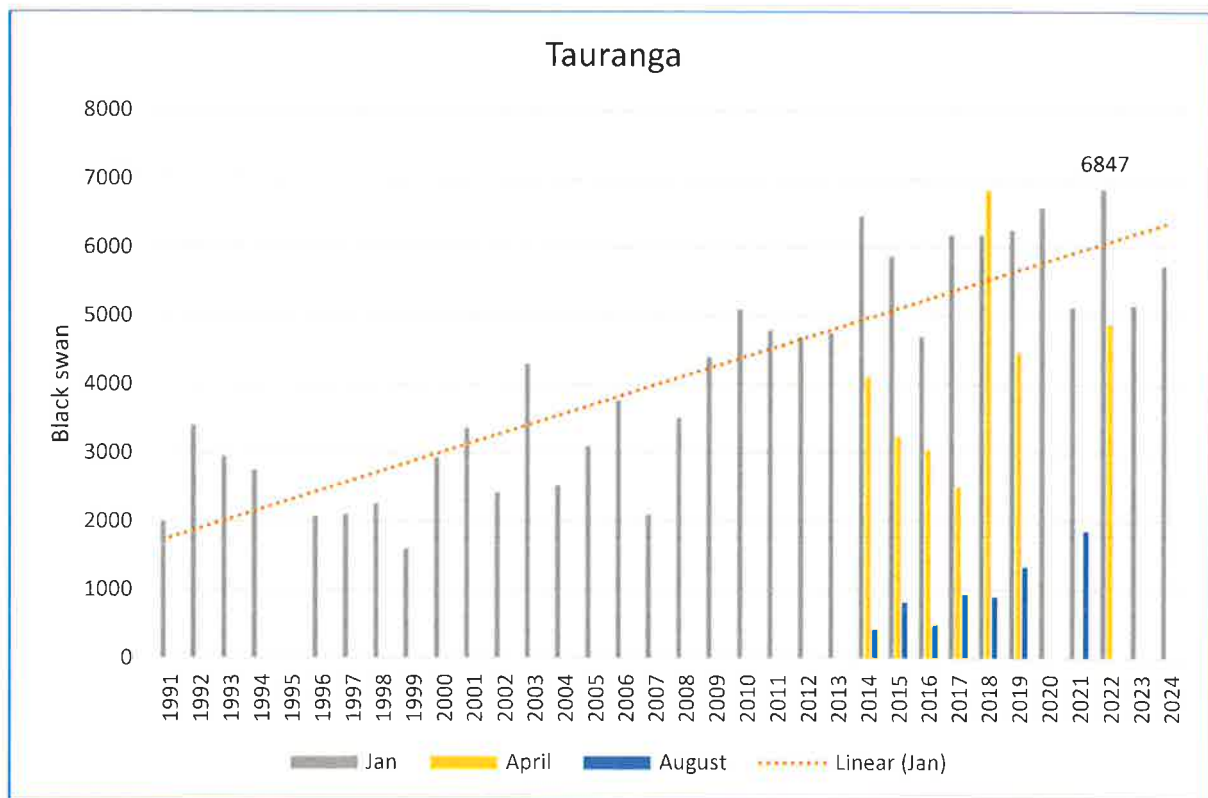


Figure 1. Black swan counts on Tauranga harbour 1991–2024 (grey columns). April and August counts are shown in yellow and blue respectively. Counts are made from a Cessna 172 aircraft flying at 300’ using two observers. The 2021 count was delayed because of Covid-19 lockdown and did not occur until 13 September.

2. Special pukeko season

A special season for pukeko has been aligned with the black swan season 7 – 9 February 2025 with a daily bag limit of 10 which applies across the entire Eastern Region. The special season was initially proposed to alleviate crop damage, reduce mallard and grey duckling predation, and was based on the limited harvest recorded during the game bird season (2024 season: 2,920; 95% CI 1, 1,215 –7,018; see Hunter Survey report in PFI). It is unclear if hunters choose to participate.

Between 2015–2022 the number of permits issued to disturb pukeko decreased (Figure 2) but has since been increasing. Council needs to decide if it wishes to hold another special pukeko season in 2026 and if so, should the season align with the special swan season (if that is to occur)? Further it was suggested at the December 2023 meeting that the limit be increased to 20 for the special season.

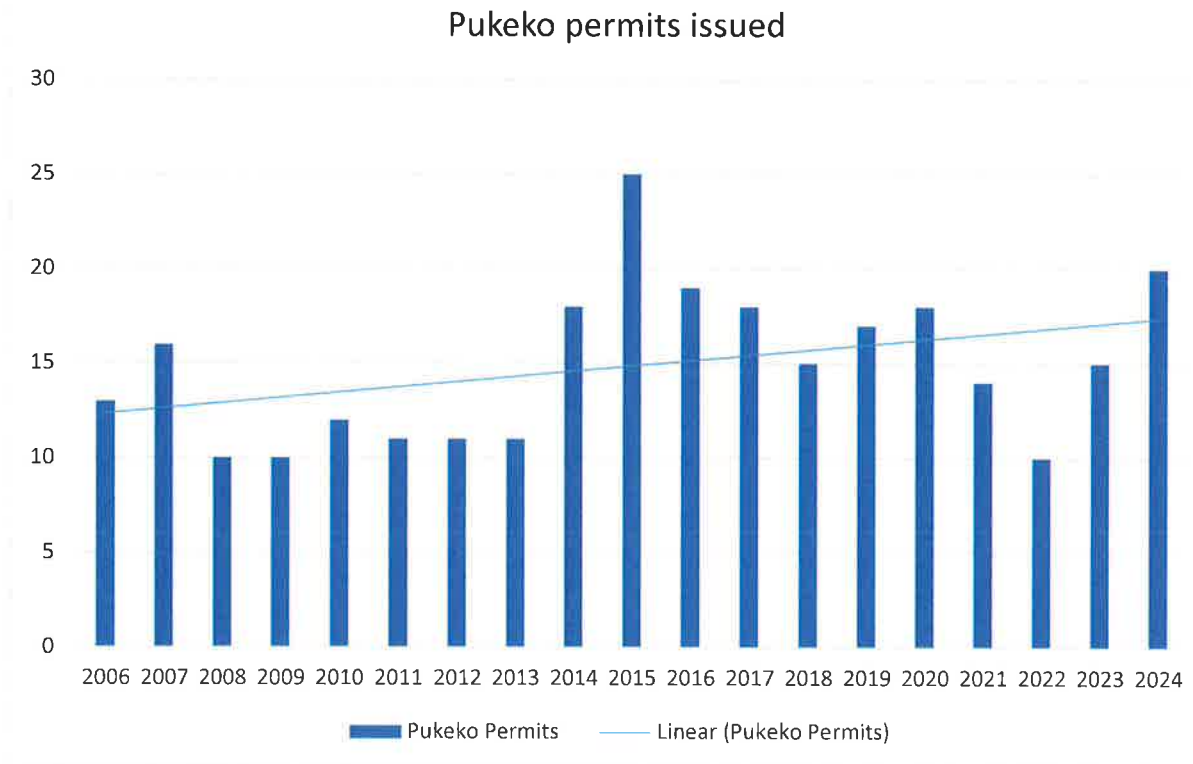


Figure 2. Number of pukeko permits to disturb issued by year in the Eastern Region.

3. *Brown quail*

In 2020 – 2024 there was no open season for brown quail in the Eastern Region. This came about because of a perceived decline in the population. There has been no reported harvest (hunter survey) for many years (although one was reported shot last year despite a closed season). Council needs to consider if a closed season should continue for the 2025 season. We have had no request to open the season over the past four years.

After today’s meeting, clubs will be invited to comment on any issues they wish to raise for consideration at Council’s next meeting (December 2024).

3. Additional Information

3.1 Threshold Approach and Mallard and Grey Duck Population Estimates

Refer to the Papers for Information December 2023.

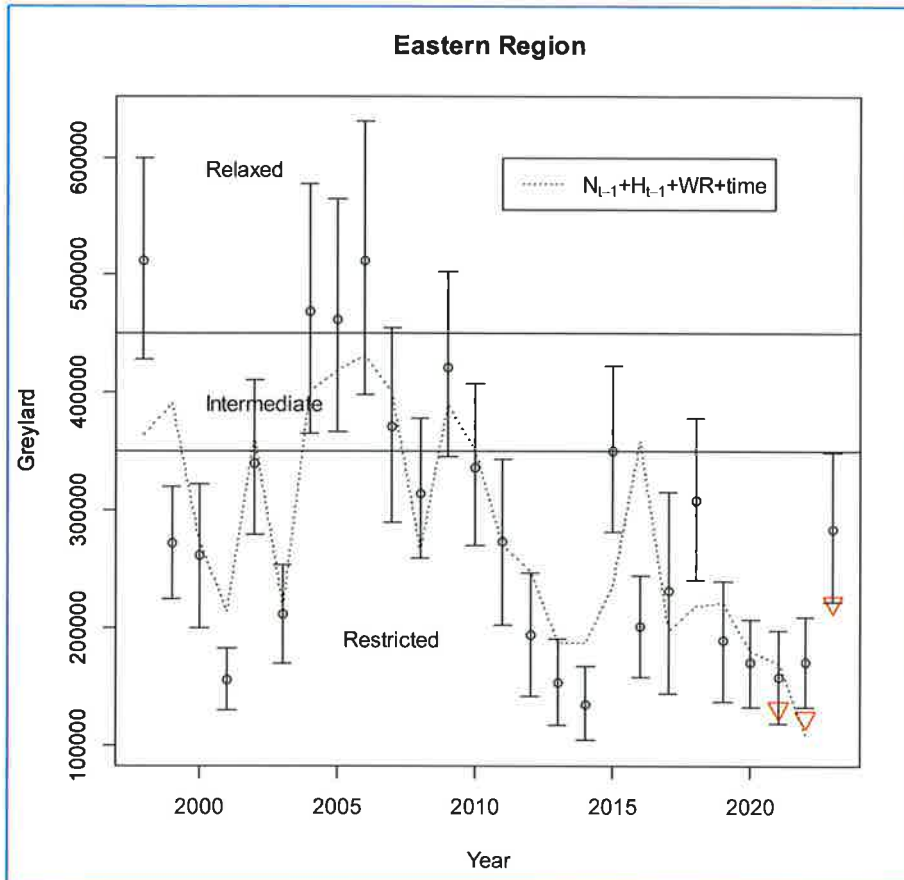


Figure 3. Eastern Region mallard population (open circle; mean \pm 95% BCI) 1998–2023, with three zones of regulation constraint, Restricted, Intermediate and Relaxed (demarked by the horizontal lines). The dashed line shows the model $N(t) = N(t-1) + H + WR + \text{time}$ where $N(t)$ =mallard population in year t , H = greylard harvest in year $t-1$, WR =total winter rain (recorded at the Whakatane weather station), $\text{time} = \text{year } (t)$. The upside-down red triangle represents the predicted 2021–2023 greylard population.

4. Recommendation:

4.1 That Council identifies any other game season condition matters it would like further information on, or consultation with hunters about, before its December 2024 meeting.

1 Appendix 1

First Schedule

This notice revokes all previous Open Season for Game Notices and shall come into force on **4 May 2024**.

Hunting conditions generally common to all fish and game regions

1. Bag limits

1. No person shall take or kill, on any one day, more than the number of game birds specified as the daily bag limit for the Fish and Game Region in which the game is taken.
2. No person shall possess, on any one day, more than the number of game birds specified as the daily bag limit for the Fish and Game Region in which the game is taken, except on Sunday 5 May 2024, when that person may have in their possession twice the number of game birds specified as the daily bag limit for Saturday 4 May 2024.
3. A person may possess more game than specified in clause 1(2) of this Schedule, if all such game is labelled with the following details:
 - a. The name and address of the person by whom the game was taken;
 - b. The number of the licence to hunt or kill game held by the person by whom the game was taken;
 - c. The name of the Fish and Game Region by which that licence was issued;
 - d. The name of the Fish and Game Region in which the game was taken; and
 - e. The date on which the game was taken.

2. Waiver of Restrictions on Baiting for Waterfowl

A person may hunt or kill game of the family Anatidae (waterfowl) during the open season for game in all Fish and Game Regions, except Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region, where food has been cast, thrown, placed or planted any time during the year.⁴ In the Second Schedule, Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region, Special Condition 4(10), applies to restrictions on baiting.

3. Magazine Shotguns

A person may hunt or kill game birds, as specified, in any Fish and Game Regions with any magazine shotgun of a calibre 10 gauge or less, which includes magazine extensions that comply with the Arms Act 1983,⁵ other than in the:

- a. Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region;
- b. Eastern Fish and Game Region;
- c. Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Region;
- d. Wellington Fish and Game Region;
- e. Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Region;
- f. West Coast Fish and Game Region.

For these six Regions special conditions in the Second Schedule apply.

4. Shot Size

No person shall use, in any shotgun used for the purposes of hunting and killing game, any cartridge containing any shot size having a larger retained, per-pellet energy at 90 metres than lead BB.

5. Use of Lead Shot Prohibited

1. No person may possess lead shot, or use lead shot, while hunting or killing waterfowl within 200 metres of open water with any gun. Non-toxic alternative shot must be used, such as steel.
2. For the purposes of this requirement, “waterfowl” means any of the following game species:

Black swan (*Cygnus atratus*);

Grey duck (*Anas superciliosa*) and any cross of that species with any other species, variety, or kind of duck;

Mallard duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and any cross of that species with any other species, variety, or kind of duck;

Paradise shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*) also known as Paradise duck;

Australasian shoveler duck (New Zealand shoveler) (*Anas rhynchotis*);

Pūkeko (*Porphyrio porphyrio melanotus*).

3. For the purposes of this requirement, “open water” means either:
 1. any area of land or seabed covered permanently or seasonally by water wider than 3 metres; or
 2. any area which is temporarily covered by water wider than 3 metres at the time of such possession or use, and that is contiguous to an area referred to in paragraph (3)(a).
 - 3.

6. Camouflaged Rowboats

A person may hunt or kill game within the following Fish and Game Regions, from unmoored camouflaged rowboats, subject to the excluded periods for the regions specified below:⁶

Northland – no excluded period

Auckland/Waikato – excluding 4 and 5 May 2024 for the whole Auckland/Waikato region and excluding 4 to 6 May and 11 and 12 May 2024 for the Waikato River north of the boat ramp at the confluence of the Mangawara Stream

Eastern – excluding 4 and 5 May 2024

Hawke’s Bay – excluding 4 and 5 May 2024

Taranaki – no excluded period

Wellington – excluding 4 and 5 May 2024

Nelson/Marlborough – no excluded period

West Coast – no excluded period

North Canterbury – excluding 4 and 5 May 2024

Central South Island – excluding 4 and 5 May 2024

Otago – excluding Clutha River 4 to 12 May 2024 inclusive

Southland – excluding the Mataura, Aparima, Oreti, Waiau and Waimatuku rivers and their tributaries 4 to 31 May 2024 inclusive and excluding that part of the Oreti River below the Dunn’s Road bridge for the whole season.

7. Restriction on Taking of Game

No person shall use any vehicle propelled by mechanical power (including motorised watercraft) to chase or kill game, except in such circumstances and at such times as authorised by the Conservation Act 1987 and Wildlife Act 1953.⁷

8. Pegging Day

1. Stand claimants who claimed and occupied a stand during the 2023 Game Season may claim that stand at any time prior to pegging day (up to 10.00am on 7 April 2024) following the purchase of the 2024 game licence. If you are in the Auckland/Waikato Region, then the above mentioned applies **only to Adult Whole-Season Licence Holders** and does not apply to Junior Licence Holders as it does in all other Fish and Game Regions.
2. Otherwise, unclaimed stands can only be claimed any time after 10.00am on 7 April 2024 in all Fish and Game Regions.
3. A stand may be claimed by planting on it a stake having either a board or identifying label attached, plainly identifying the name of the claimant and the number of his/her licence. The hunting stand claim tag provided with the licence must be completed with the name of the claimant and affixed to the board or identifying label.
4. The licence holder claiming a stand must be present in person at the stand when marking it up.
5. No one can claim more than one stand.
6. A stand cannot be claimed closer than 90 metres to a stand already claimed by another person without that person's consent.
7. Any stand not occupied by the claimant within one hour after the opening hour of hunting, on any day, can be occupied by another licence holder for the remainder of the day.
- 8.

9. Conditions

These conditions will expire at the end of the open season for game.

Eastern Fish and Game Region¹¹

1. Game That May be Hunted or Killed—Duration of 2024/2025 Season

Species	Season Duration (dates inclusive)	Daily Bag Limit	Hunting Area
Grey/mallard duck	4 May to 3 Jun 2024	6	All areas
NZ shoveler duck	4 May to 3 Jun 2024	2	All areas
Paradise shelduck	4 May to 30 Jun 2024	6	Area A1, A2
	4 May to 30 Jun 2024	10	Area B2 and that part of B1, which lies south of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay

	4 May to 14 Jul 2024	20	That part of B1, which lies north of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay
Pūkeko	4 May to 25 Aug 2024	10	All areas
	1 Feb to 9 Feb 2025	10	All areas
Black swan	4 May to 25 Aug 2024	No limit	Area A1
	1 Feb to 9 Feb 2025	No limit	Area A1
	4 May to 30 Jun 2024	5	Area A2
	Closed season	0	Area B1 & B2
Bobwhite (Virginian) quail	Closed Season	0	All areas
Brown quail	Closed season	0	All areas
California quail	4 May to 25 Aug 2024	No limit	Area A1 & A2
	4 May to 25 Aug 2024	5	Area B1 & B2
Cock pheasant	4 May to 25 Aug 2024	5	All areas

2. Definition of Areas

The following descriptions refer to Management Units within the Eastern Region (described on Infomap 242B-2 Land Information New Zealand). The Management Units are defined using both District Council and Eastern Region Fish and Game boundaries. The coastal boundaries of Management Units A1, B1, and B2 follow the coastline as per Infomap 242-2.

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. **Area A2:** Those parts of the South Waikato District west of State Highway 1 within the Eastern Fish and Game region, Taupō District and Ruapehu District, which lie within the Eastern Fish and Game region.
3. **Area B1:** Gisborne District.
4. **Area B2:** That part of Wairoa District within the Eastern Fish and Game region.

3. Shooting Hours

6.15am to 6.15pm in all areas for all species during their respective seasons.

4. Decoy Limit

No limit.

5. Special Conditions

1. No person may hunt or kill game birds, as specified, within the Eastern region with any magazine shotgun unless the shotgun:
 1. has a magazine of any type adjusted with a one-piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun; or
 2. the magazine is pinned in accordance with Regulations made under this Act; so that the magazine shotgun is incapable of holding more than 2 shells in the magazine, with no more than 3 shells in the magazine and chamber combined, at any one time.
2. Any game bird licence holder who has a Department of Conservation authorisation to take or kill wildlife for the purpose of hawking or falconry may hunt with an Australasian Harrier (*Circus approximans*) to take game birds. This is subject to the season length and bag limit for game birds specified in clause 1 of this notice for this Region and subject to any condition imposed by the Director-General of Conservation under such a permit.
3. No person shall wilfully within the Eastern Fish and Game Region, in or on any public place, or in or on any private land without consent of the land occupier:
 1. deposit any type of litter, including any carcass or part of it, of any shot game.
 2. having deposited any type of litter, including carcasses or parts thereof, of any shot game, leaves it after having been deposited.
 3. for the purposes of this regulation litter includes any refuse, animal or game remains, or waste matter or items of any type used in the course of hunting, which is abandoned or intended to be abandoned.
4. A person must not use a drone to disturb game birds.

6. Hunting From a Boat Under Power

No person may possess a firearm that can be rapidly deployed in or on any unmoored vessel, except

1. where the unmoored vessel is not being propelled at the time by a motorised device, or
2. the firearm is needed to retrieve wounded game. For the purpose of this subclause a firearm is considered unable to be rapidly deployed if it has been dismantled or secured in a case, gunslip or other secure compartment.

2 Appendix 2

GAME SEASON CONDITION POLICIES

2.1 Mallard and Grey Duck (greylard)

- (i) *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]*
- (ii) *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]*
- (iii) *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]*
- (iv) *11.2 Agreed (Mike Jarvey/Murray Ferris) that the mallard and grey duck population thresholds and associated regulations currently used i.e the status quo shown in table 1 of the agenda item remain until further evidence points to an alternative approach. [23/12/11.2]*

2.2 Other Species

- (i) *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that paradise shelduck and black swan thresholds and regulations remain the status quo and subject to January monitoring results. [15/11/12.5]*
- (ii) *Agreed (Ian Pirani/Lindsay Lyons) that Council authorises staff to make a decision on Game Season Regulations outside of policy when an issue has been flagged. [12/10/8.2]*

Rationale for (v) as per October 2012 Council minutes:

“Cr Barry Roderick commented on the greylard population estimates being the lowest in 8 years and the mystery, last summer, with a very high ratio of juveniles in the traps. Matt McDougall said that in the last decade something had occurred in some years that's throwing us off track. Last year he was concerned over the reduced adults in the traps and those concerns were later vindicated by harvest results. Council discussed the policy for setting the season regulations and the short time frame available before these are presented to the Minister for approval. Rob Pitkethley said that in 4 out of 5 years the modelling policy would be used, but in the occasional year staff would like the ability to alter the policy direction if unusual results suggested something else was occurring. Staff were seeking guidance on how this unusual process could work and Cr Steve Scragg said that he would be comfortable with Matt McDougall and Rob Pitkethley making the appropriate call and providing confirmation by email to Council.”

- (iii) *Agreed (Alan Baird/Adam Rayner) that Council supports changing the “Intermediate” regulations for black swan from a daily bag limit of 2 to 5 birds (i.e, when the population is assessed at 1,000-3,000 birds) to provide more incentive to hunt swan once the mallard season finishes. [18/11/10.15]*

2.3 Threshold Criteria for Paradise shelduck

Table 1: Eastern Paradise Shelduck threshold levels

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

Table 2: Eastern Paradise Shelduck season conditions (Season per Table 1)

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

2.4 Threshold Criteria for Black Swan

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 per Table 3)

SEASON	SPECIFIC CONDITIONS (LENGTH AND DAILY BAG).
Restricted	No season.
Intermediate	8-week season with a 5-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.

9. WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Ref: 2.01.07.01

17 October 2024

1. Purpose

To provide an end of year summary of expenditure of funds from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund during the 2023-2024 year.

2. Background

In 1999 ECNZ made a commitment to create a trust known as the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Trust ("Trust") as part of its consent for the Waikaremoana Power Scheme before its transfer to Genesis. The Trust was set up in response to concerns about the environmental, recreational, social, cultural and economic effects of the Waikaremoana Power Scheme ("WPS"). Due to Inland Revenue issues and the Trust being subject to taxes on interest, the Trust was disbanded soon after its formation, and the settlement was paid to Fish & Game to form the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund ("Waikaremoana Fund").

The objective of the Trust and now the Waikaremoana Fund is:

"To sustain and enhance habitat for sports fish within the Wairoa River catchment and enhance access of the public to recreational sports fish therein".

In addition to this key objective, there are a number of additional purposes that include:

- *To undertake research that furthers the objectives of the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund;*
- *Identify and evaluate areas in the catchment worth protection, restoration, enhancement, etc.;*
- *Carry out creel surveys;*
- *Carry out trials and monitoring on improving sports fish habitat;*
- *To create, improve, maintain signage and access to sports fisheries.*

The Fund contained an initial investment of \$250,000. When the Fund was established in 2000 the Council agreed that the principal should be protected with an inflation-based adjustment and spending from the Fund should be maintained within the interest generated.

The table below shows expenditure on projects and work areas since 2001. The items highlighted in yellow are projects undertaken/expenses incurred in 2023-2024.

Work Area	Amount funded (\$)
Information & access pamphlets	6,177
Signage & Information panels	7,046
2002 Angler Creel Survey	4,130
Contributions to Access through jetties, gangplanks, carparks etc	13,333
Habitat studies (Lake & River (2) Inventories, Wildlands reports)	9,521
2007 Angler Creel Survey	5,376
Fish research (River fish age/source otolith analysis)	928
Buoy construction share and installation	21,577
Buoy maintenance/servicing expenses	6,752

2012 Angler Creel Survey	5,944
Lagarosiphon Project	1,000
Water Quality Monitoring Report	4,990
Waikaremoana Buoy Maintenance	250
2014-15 Wairoa Catchment Access Investigations	5,204
2015-16 Survey Project	13,521
Waikaremoana Buoy	2,560
2015-16 Wairoa Access work and brochure	2,920
2016-17 Survey, Monitoring and Access	12,010
Waikaremoana Buoy	2,459
Lowrance Transducer/Transceiver - Parera	7,129
2017-18 Survey and Monitoring	5,061
2018-19 Survey, Monitoring, Access and 1/3 rd share of Buoy repairs	10,885
2019-20 Survey, Monitoring and Access	5,208
2020-21 Surveys, Access, Buoy Maintenance & Repairs	6,930
2021-22 Surveys, Access, Buoy Maintenance & Repairs, OxyGuard meter	6,128
2022-23 Surveys, Access, Buoy Maintenance & Repairs	6,078
2023-24 Surveys, Access, Buoy Maintenance & Repairs, Headwater River fisheries investigation (Waiiau R.), Electric Fishing Machine	32,104
TOTAL	\$205,222

3. Discussion

Overview of 2023-2024 Expenditure

June 2023 Council meeting

Funding of up to \$6,500 for the 2023-2024 OWP year from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund was approved for ongoing survey and monitoring of key spawning tributaries at Waikaremoana, the continuation of access related work within the Wairoa catchment, and monitoring buoy maintenance. *Confirmed Minutes [23/06/5.7]*

Staff advised that they were considering options for carrying out investigations into Wairoa River tributaries in the wake of cyclones Hale and Gabrielle and would approach Council with a further bid for draw down from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Fund to support this work.

December 2023 Council meeting

Funding of up to \$2,000 was approved to be drawn down from Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund to undertake a river fishery assessment of the Waiiau River. *Confirmed Minutes [23/12/8.3]*

February 2024 Council meeting

Council approved \$25,000 to be drawn down from the fund to purchase a new electric fishing machine for use in river fisheries assessments. *Confirmed Minutes [24/02/8.4]*

Of the \$33,500 approved for the 2023-24 OWP year, \$32,104 was spent. This included \$24,247 to fund the purchase of the electric fishing machine (Smith Root model LR-24), \$1,666 was drawn from the fund for the Waiiau River headwater investigation (\$1,500 for helicopter flights, and \$166 for food expenses). A total of \$6,190 was drawn down from the fund to undertake key work around Lake Waikaremoana and the Wairoa catchment which included staff time and expenses associated with survey and access work and monitoring buoy servicing.

Reports on other activities undertaken at Waikaremoana during the year were reported in the bi-monthly Operational Reports provided in Council's 2023-24 agendas.

Planned expenditure for 2024-2025

The May 2024 Council meeting saw Council approve further funding of up to \$6,500 for the 2024-25 OWP year to offset staff time and expenses associated with the monitoring, access and buoy maintenance. *Confirmed Minutes [24/05/13.2]*

At the August 2024 meeting Council approved the funding of up to \$15,500 for Navigational Markers for Lake Waikaremoana sought by the Lake Waikaremoana Boating and Fishing Association subject to receiving appropriate detailed information of the navigational markers, sites identified for markers, installation details and appropriate permission from Tuhoe and the Department of Conservation. *Unconfirmed August 2024 [24/08/11.2]*

4. Recommendation

4.1 That Council receives this update.

10. 2023-2024 DRAFT PERFORMANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.04

21 October 2024

1. Purpose

To review the draft Statement of Service Performance report and draft Financial Statements for the 2023-2024 Performance (Annual) Report.

2. Background

- The finalised Performance Report for the 2023-2024 year will be presented to the public annual general meeting to be held on 7 December 2024 as per the requirement of Sections 26W and 26ZD(7) of the Conservation Act 1987.
- The annual Performance Report contains a Statement of Service Performance (SOSP) so that readers can assess the performance of the Council against the targets set out in the 2023-2024 Operational Work Plan (OWP). The Performance Report aligns with the OWP to clearly show actual outcomes against targets identified in the annual work planning process.
- The purpose of this paper is to enable early consideration of the material being developed for inclusion in the Performance Report. A draft of the SOSP has been prepared, along with draft unaudited Financial Statements, and these will have been circulated to Councillors prior to this meeting.

The reports will be revised after Council consideration and feedback from the independent external Auditor then compiled into the final Performance Report. This then needs to be approved at Council's 7 December 2024 meeting held immediately prior to the public annual general meeting where it will be presented to the public.

The draft report is presented separately.

3. Recommendation:

- 3.1 *That Council receives the draft reports comprising the Statement of Service Performance and Financial Statements for the 2023-2024 year, and provides any feedback it might have on the drafts before the Performance Report for the 2023-2024 year is completed.***

11. ANNUAL MEETING AND BUDGET TIMETABLE

Ref: 7.02.01

21 October 2024

1. Purpose

To set Council's 2025 meeting dates and venues and provide feedback to the NZC on its draft 2024/25 Meeting and Budget Timetable.

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 needs to fit within a national schedule. Meetings are generally held at bi-monthly intervals in February, March, May, August, October, and December to consider, amongst other items, the topics listed in the table below.

Council decided to trial Saturday meetings in 2024, these were deemed not successful, so decision at the August 2024 meeting was to revert back to Thursday/weekday meetings. Meetings generally commence at 11am with a 20-minute working lunch break and aim to conclude by 3pm. Meetings are held at the Eastern Fish and Game Council Offices in Rotorua.

Council needs to determine what dates it will meet on in 2025 taking into account the provisional 2024/25 Annual Timetable prepared by the NZC which is appended to this agenda item. Council may also wish to review the venue and times at which it meets.

The NZC has requested feedback on its draft schedule by 29 November 2024.

Proposed meeting dates for Council to meet on a Thursday. These are compatible with NZC's draft Meeting and Budget Timetable for 2024/25.

	Date	Venue	Key Topics
1	<i>Thurs 13 February 2025</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Priorities,• Anglers Notice – initial consideration
2	<i>Thurs 13 March 2025</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OWP - first draft plus proposed budget
3	<i>Thurs 29 May 2025</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Licence Fees• OWP - second draft• Anglers Notice – finalise recommendations
4	<i>Thurs 7 August 2025</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalise OWP
5	<i>Thurs 16 October 2025</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions - initial consideration• Annual Performance Report – draft
6	<i>Thurs 11 December 2025</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions - finalise recommendations
AGM	<i>Thurs 11 December 2025</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 2025.

3.2 That Council advises any feedback it wants communicated to the NZC on its draft meeting and budget timetable for 2024/25.

CONSULTATION:	2024/25 MEETING & BUDGET SCHEDULE
TO:	Regional Chairs
CC:	Regional Managers, Administrators
AUTHOR:	Corina Jordan, CEO, NZ Fish and Game Council
DATE:	26 08 24
FEEDBACK DUE:	29 11 24
FEEDBACK TO:	nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz

Recommendations - Ngā taunaki

1. The New Zealand Fish and Game Council seeks consultation from regional councils on the following points:
 - i. Five NZC meetings in the 2024-25 financial year;
 - a) 13th and 14th December 2024- Wellington
 - b) 26th Feb (online 6pm-8pm) and 28th Feb 2025 – Wellington
 - c) 11th and 12th April 2025 – Wellington
 - d) 17th and 18th June 2025 – online (6pm- 8pm)
 - e) 27th August (online) and 29th August – 2025 Wellington
 - ii. One Governors Forum – (Chairs and NZC)
 - a) 1st March 2025 – Wellington
 - iii. Two in-person Managers meetings
 - a) Time and location TBC (Feb and October)

Discussion - Kōrerorero

Proposal

2. The Meeting and Budget Timetable for 2024-25 sets out the important dates that need to be considered for the NZC to fulfil its statutory obligations of co-ordination of the Anglers Notice, Licence Fees and Forms and Elections.
3. Meeting dates have been set to ensure Regional Councils are consulted and that there is adequate time for regional feedback.

Background

4. The Draft 2024-25 Annual Budget and Meeting Schedule was presented to the NZC for approval to go out for consultation at the 170th NZC meeting.
5. The meeting schedule highlights the processes that need to be followed for the budget setting process, regulations, and licence fees to be approved by the Minister.
6. Regional Councils **need to set their meetings to fit within the NZC meeting dates** to ensure feedback on licence fees and regulations can be given.
7. The NZC office has worked closely with DOC and the Minister's Office to ensure the process is run more efficiently. DOC and the Ministers office have asked that the Licence Fee proposal, Anglers Notice and the Sports Fish Licence Fees and Forms Notice be presented together.
8. Regional Councils need to ensure they hold meetings to fit in with this timetable and to give adequate time to consult with the licence holders on any regulation changes.
9. Under legislation, the NZC must hold at least two meetings per year

Budget & Meeting process

10. Most meetings have been set to comply with the NZC to fulfil its statutory obligations of co-ordination of the Anglers Notice, Game Notice, the Sports Fish Licence Fees and Forms Notice (SFLFFN), and the Elections.
11. The meeting dates set for September 2024 to December 2024 were consulted on and approved by the NZC in August 2023 and November 2023. These dates consider the timing required to have meetings post an Election.
12. The December 2024 meeting has been set over two days – Friday 13th and Saturday 14th December. This will be the inaugural meeting of the new NZC council. The second day has been set aside for a Strategy Day for the new Council.
13. In order to reduce costs the NZC have decided to trial a hybrid approach by reducing in person meetings where possible to 1 day and holding a 2 hour online meeting prior to cover the administrative tasks.
14. The February meeting will be the first meeting of this type with the online part of the meeting on Wednesday 26th Feb and then the Face to face meeting on Friday 28th February.
15. The Governors meeting scheduled for 1st March 2025 is a meeting where the NZC and the Chairs of the Regional Councils meet. This is important for the 2024-25 year as following elections in 2024, there may be newly elected Chairs and NZC members.
16. The funds for this meeting may be used for governance training and/or targeted consideration of the NZC strategy.
17. Two face-to-face meetings have been approved by the NZC for Managers/CEs in the 2024-25 year. These dates are yet to be determined and the NZC CE will consult with the Managers/CE for an appropriate time.
18. The NZC resolved at the 170th meeting that there would no longer be a Contestable Fund budget

round. Instead the NZC, will be taking a zero-based budget approach, whereby the entire budget of a region will be reviewed annually, and in setting both licence fees recommendations, and organisation budgets moving forward. The NZC CEO will provide advice and support to the Regions in transitioning to a zero based budgeting approach for the organisation.

19. The NZC Council Budgeting meeting, is scheduled for 11th and 12th April. The Chairs of each region will be invited to zoom into the meeting in order to speak to their regions budget proposals.
20. Following the April meeting, The Regions **must** hold a meeting between 16th April and 29th May 2025 to give feedback to the NZC by 30 May on the licence fee proposals, Angler Notice & SLFFN, Designated waters proposals and sea-run salmon limit changes.
21. The June meeting for the NZC is online – over two nights, 17th and 18th June (6-8 pm). The main objective of this meeting is to consider the licence fee, Anglers notice, and SFLFFN.
22. The August 2025 will also be a hybrid meeting with the online part 1 held on Wednesday 27th and the face to face on 29th August.
23. The meeting scheduled for 28th and 29th November 2025 is over two days – with one day being set aside for the 2026-27 strategy workshop.

Conclusion

24. Feedback on the Meeting and Budget timetable is required by **29th November 2024**.
25. **Regional Councils need to set meeting dates for the 2024 25 year at times that ensure a Region can meet and respond to Consultation. The Regions must** hold a meeting between 16th April and 29th May 2025 to give feedback to the NZC by 30 May on the licence fee proposals, Angler Notice & SLFFN, Designated waters proposals and sea-run salmon limit changes.

Yours sincerely



Corina Jordan
Chief Executive Officer New Zealand Fish & Game Council

2024-25 Annual Budget & Meeting Schedule - For Regional Consultation

Month	Date	Meeting/Activity	Location
Sep-2024	Sunday 1 Sep	Fish & Game New Financial Year	
	Wednesday 11 Sep	Election Roll Closes	
	Thursday 19 Sept	Fish & Game Election Papers Out	
Oct-2024	Tuesday 1 Oct	Sports Fishing Opening	
	Tuesday 15 Oct	Election Postal dates Close	
	Monday 28 Oct	Labour Day	
	Wednesday 30 Oct	Elected members take Office	
Nov-2024	Friday 1 Nov	High Country Sports Fishing Opening	Otago/Sthland
	Saturday 2 Nov	High Country Sport Fishing Opening	Nth Cant/CSI
	Thursday 7 Nov	Regional Managers/CEs Meeting <i>(Feed into 13 & 14 Dec NZC Meeting)</i>	Online
	Wednesday 20 Nov	New Regional Councils Last Day to hold Inaugural Meeting <i>(3 weeks after taking office)</i>	
Dec-2024	Friday 13 & Saturday 14 Dec	NZ Council Meeting (Held over 2 days) <i>(2025/26 Strategy)</i>	Wellington
	Friday 20 Dec	Variance Reports & Reserves Schedules sent to CFO	
	Wednesday 25 Dec	Christmas Day	
	Thursday 26 Dec	Boxing Day	
	Tuesday 31 Dec	All Regional Council 2024 Meetings to be complete/held	
Jan-2025	Wednesday 1 Jan	New Year's Day	
	Thursday 2 Jan	New Year's Day Observed	
	Friday 24 Jan	Variance Reports & Reserves Updates Distributed	
	Friday 31 Jan	Licence Working Party Licence Sales Forecast	
	Friday 31 Jan	Regulation Details Due for Game Notice <i>(From all Regional Councils)</i>	
Feb-2025	Sunday 2 Feb	World Wetland Day/Release of 2025 Habitat Stamp	
	Monday 3 Feb	Draft Game Notice Submission to DOC for comment	
	Wednesday 5 Feb	Variance reports Final Circulation back to Managers	
	Thursday 6 Feb	Waitangi Day	
	Friday 7 Feb	Game Regulation Guide Content Due to NZC Office	
	Feb/March	Regional Managers/CEs Meeting <i>(held over 2 days)</i>	Wellington
	Monday 17 Feb	Game Notice & Submission to MOC & Gazette Office	
	Friday 21 Feb/or the following week	Publish Game Notice in NZ Gazette	
	Wednesday 26th Feb	NZ Council Meeting (Part 1 of 2)	Online 6-8pm
Friday 28 Feb	NZ Council Meeting - (Part 2 of 2)	Wellington	
Mar-2025	Saturday 1 Mar	Governors Forum - Regional Chairs & NZC (Planning)	Wellington
	Thursday 13 Mar	Game Bird Hunting Licences on Sale <i>(2nd Thursday)</i> Draft Regional budgets due to CFO	
	Friday 14 Mar	Draft Game Notice Submission to DOC for comment Staff Development Grant Applications Close	
	Monday 17 Mar	Game Magazine Released	

Month	Date	Meeting/Activity	Location
	Thursday 20 Mar	Regional Managers/CEs Meeting (feed into NZC 11/4)	Online
Mar-2025	Friday 28 March	Budgets, Budget Summaries Circulated back to Regions	
Apr-2025	Sunday 6 Apr	Mark-up/Pegging Day (4 weekends before opening)	
	Friday 11 Apr	NZ Council Budget meeting	Wellington
	Saturday 12 Apr	NZ Council Meeting	Wellington
	Wednesday 16 April	Licence Fee Consultaion doc distributed to Regions (3 working days after NZC meeting)	
	Friday 18 April	Good Friday	
	Monday 21 Apr	Easter Monday	
	Friday 25 Apr	Anzac Day	
May-2025	Saturday 3 May	Game Bird Season Opening	
	Thursday 22 May	Regional Managers/CEs Meeting (feed into NZC 17/6)	Online
	Friday 30 May	Regional responses to Licence Fee proposals, Anglers Notice & SFLFFN DW/sea run salmon Due to NZC Office	
Jun-2025	Monday 2 June	King's Birthday	
	Tue 17 June & Wed 18 June	NZ Council Meeting (6pm -8pm) (Consider Licence Fee, Anglers Notice & SFLFFN)	Online 6pm-8pm
	Friday 20 June	Matariki	
	Monday 23 June	Licence fee, Anglers Notice & SFLFFN submission to MOC	
	Thursday 26 June	GBHT Grant Applications Close	
Jul-2025	Wednesday 9 July	GBHT Grant Applications Distributed to Board	
	Thursday 17 July	Anglers Notice Published in NZ Gazette	
	Monday 28 July	GBHT Board Meeting (11am)	Online
Aug-2025	Friday 22 Aug	GBHT Field Trip	Hamilton
	Saturday 23 Aug	GBHT Board Meeting	Hamilton
	Monday 25 Aug	Fishing Magazine published	
	Wednesday 27 Aug	NZ Council Meeting (Part 1 of 2)	Online 6-8pm
	Friday 29 Aug	NZ Council Meeting - (Part 2 of 2)	Wellington
	Sunday 31 Aug	Fish & Game End of Financial Year	
	Thursday 1 Sept	Sports Fishing Licences on Sale	
Wednesday 1 Oct	Sports Fishing Opening		
	Wed/Thu 16/17th Oct	Regional Managers/CEs Meeting in Person	TBC
Oct-2025	Monday 27 Oct	Labour Day	
	Saturday 1 Nov	High Country Sports Fishing Opening (CSI & NC 1st Sat Nov)	
Nov-2025	Thursday 6 Nov	Reg Managers/CEs Meeting(feed into NZC 27/11)	Online
	Friday 28 Nov & Saturday 29 Nov	NZ Council Meeting (Held over 2 days) (2026/27 Strategy)	Wellington
	Friday 19 Dec	All Variance & Reserves Schedules to CFO	
Dec-2025	Wednesday 31 Dec	All Regional Council 2025 Meetings to be complete/held	

KEY	Public Holiday
	NZ Council Meeting
	Regional Managers/CEs Meeting
	GBHT Board Meeting
	Governors Forum (Regional Chairs & NZC)

12. EASTERN FISH & GAME RISK REGISTER

17 October 2024

1. Purpose

The Risk Register (RR) creates a broad picture of operational, economic, environmental, social and governance risks that can have a multitude of different levels of effects on the Eastern Fish & Game region and the organisation nationally. By creating and annually reviewing the risks and their risks level will help both Council and Management to mitigate and plan for possibilities.

2. Background

NZC has recently created a Risk Register (RR) and have suggested that the regions also create a RR and send back to NZC.

A RR allows the organisation to identify risks, allocate a risk level that reflects the probability and impact and look at how it can mitigate those risks.

The risk register looks at both internal and external sources and these are broken down into 13 categories;

1. Operational/Assets
2. Financial
3. Human Resources
4. Governance
5. Strategic
6. Reputational
7. Social/Demographic
8. Species/Population
9. Compliance/Prosecutions
10. Environmental
11. Contractors/Third Party Risks
12. Health & Safety
13. Produce Quality/Value

The risk assessment is the identification and analysis of relevant risks to achieving the council's objectives and forms a basis for determining how risk should be managed. The risk assessment will inform the development of our annual Operational Work Plan and budgets and should be reviewed prior to introducing new process or activities or any organisational change.

The level of the risk is ascertained by using the below key and the register uses a colour code and numbering to identify high (3-4 orange and red) to low (1-2 green and yellow).

Likelihood	Description
Probable	<p><i>Expected to occur at some point</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expected to occur on an annual basis or in other F&G regions in the past few years • Circumstances are in train that will cause it to happen • Has occurred in the last few years or has occurred recently in other F&G regions • Circumstances have occurred that will cause it to happen in the next few years
Possible	<p><i>Might possibly occur at some time</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has occurred at least once in the history of F&G or in similar agencies/organisations
Improbable	<p><i>Not expected to occur</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has never occurred in F&G but has occurred infrequently in other agencies/organisations • Has not occurred to date in F&G or any other similar agency/organisation
Impact	Description
Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Result in consequences that can be dealt with by routine operations • Minor delays in providing services or achieving objectives • Threaten the efficiency of effectiveness of some aspect of the program/activity/business unit but can be dealt with internally • Have minor political/community sensitivity • Minor dissatisfaction of beneficiaries, licence holders or other key stakeholders • Programme suffers minor adverse financial impact • Minor breach of accountability requirements • Minor damage to property or one minor injury
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate delays in providing services or achieving key objectives • Programme subject to unplanned review or changed ways of operation • Have moderate political/community sensitivity resulting in limited adverse publicity or criticism • Limited dissatisfaction of beneficiaries, licence holders or other key stakeholders, moderately damaging to the F&G reputation • Programme suffers moderate adverse financial impact • Moderate breach of accountability requirements or information security • Moderate damage to property • One serious injury or multiple minor injuries
Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major delays in achieving key objectives • Threaten the survival or continued effective function of the program/activity/business unit • Have major political/community sensitivity resulting in significant adverse publicity or criticism • Significant dissatisfaction of beneficiaries, licence holders or other key stakeholders, significantly damaging the F&G's reputation and relationships • Programme suffers major adverse financial impact • Major breaches of accountability requirements, legislative/contractual obligations or information security • Major damage to property or moderate damage to multiple properties • One life-threatening injury or multiple serious injuries
Critical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical business failure resulting in non-achievement of key objectives • subject to unplanned external review/inquiry • Have severe political/community sensitivity resulting in extensive adverse publicity or criticism • Extensive dissatisfaction of beneficiaries, licence holders or other key stakeholders, severely damaging F&G's reputation and loss of stakeholder and/or Government confidence • suffers severe adverse financial impact • Severe breaches of accountability requirements, legislative/contractual obligations or information security • Extensive damage to property resulting in loss of property or major damage to multiple properties • One death or multiple life-threatening injuries

Impact

		Minor	Moderate	Major	Critical	
		Little or No Effect	Effects are Felt but Not Critical	Serious Impact to Course of Action and Outcome	Could Result in Disasters	
Likelihood	Improbable	Unlikely to Occur	4	4	3	2
	Possible	Will Likely Occur	4	3	2	1
	Probable	Will Occur	3	2	1	1

Risk Key

4	Low
3	Moderate
2	High
1	Very High

The RR should be reviewed annually as risks and impact levels can change. This annual review is to be carried out and presented to the council at the first presentation of Eastern’s OWP to Council, this is usually in May.

3.Recommendation

That Council accepts the Risk Register for Eastern, supports its annual review to coincide with the first draft of the regions Operational Work Plan and forwards a copy to NZC.

Risk Register Eastern Fish & Game		as at 6 September 2024	Risk Code
Risk Type	Description	Mitigation	1 to 4
Operational/assets			
	Flood/fire, theft, earthquake, volcano	Insurance, alarms, theft prevention, individual key codes, cameras	3
	Internet, files storage and security	Security software up to date, Internet supplier agreement in place	4
	Physical files	Historical files stored in plastic sealed boxes in storage shed	3
	Slips, environmental terrorism, purposeful misadventure	Cameras, security contract, insurance, dedicated team member & secondary water pipes (consider appropriate security roadside fencing)	2
	Damage or loss of other property incl Vehicles/Boats/Equipment	Staff training for use of equipment and boats. Insurance maintained on all property.	2
Financial			
	Reliance on licence income	Limited due to statutory regulations. Additional income - rental properties	3
	Ongoing or new pandemic impact on Non residents	Use of reserves	2
	Bird flu and other environmental disasters	Use of reserves	1
	Investment income weak and variable	Regularly reviewing best investment terms and have investments spread. Long term reduce reliance on interest revenue	2
	Depleted reserves	Work on a basis of keeping reserves at a min of 20% of budget	4
	Fraud	Fraud prevention measures in place and audited	4
	Uneconomical increase in running a Trout Hatchery	Use of reserves, review of hatchery production numbers.	4
	Hatchery or Wild Trout Disease	Use of reserves	3
	Declining licence sales	R3 programme & OWP priorities	3
	Licencing system failure	Contracts in place and being monitored by NZC	3
	Agent commission increase	Progressive movement to online sales	4
	NZC levies	Proposed changes to NZC levy payments be based on actual sales rather than budgeted sales.	3
Human resource			
	Pay and conditions of staff	Retain good working conditions, provide JD's & job sizing with Strategic Pay and test against market.	3
	Loss of key staff and recruitment of required skills	Promote professional development opportunities, incorporate resilience and cultural support and address capacity and capability gaps.	2
	Succession planning	Key team members to capture, save and update their workings so as to support succession in place to ensure transition of institutional knowledge.	2
	Staff stress and wellbeing	Constant engagement with the staff and 2 monthly one on meetings. Promote team social activities and help create a transparent, approachable and respectful working culture between all team members and with CE. Encourage staff to take time off. Provide stable management structure & consistency for staff.	2
	Eastern Team Culture	Maintain positive, transparent and respectful workplace culture.	3
	Inter-regional team culture	The current organisational structure and budgeting process creates conflict between regional autonomy and oversight of each region and the relationship and direction with NZC. Minister of Hunting and Fishing's legislation changes for F&G will create foundation for cultural change. Past regional and national conflicts between staff and council's have created some historic and ego centric barriers to relationship building between regional teams and with NZC.	4
	Eastern Governor/staff culture	Training on culture, establishing boundaries, building trust and cohesion, creating culture of kindness, tolerance and understanding. As per 2024 Governance Code of Conduct Policy.	2
Governance			
	Governance and Cr skill level		3
	Councillor behaviour	Governance and chair training, coopting specialist skills and education, being led by national office	2
	Representation	Use and knowledge of standing orders and governance policies. Minister of Hunting and Fishing legislative review for F&G will be foundational in addressing challenges around policy implementation and enforcement. Code of conduct, oath of office and Councillor Guide for all incoming Councillors will help create expectation and roles and responsibilities	3
	Councillor safety	Encouragement of diversity of culture, age and gender at elections led by NZC.	2
	Culture	No addresses made public, limited personal info	4
	Disconnect between customers and governors	Ongoing training for governors on culture and governance. Induction for new councils in 2024.	3
	Lack of organisation strategy	Increase awareness of Council role and responsibility in representing the interest of licence holders. Also relationship and process of NZC, appointee position and opportunities for public engagement.	4
Strategic			
	Lack of organisational strategic implementation plans	Organisational strategy built collectively across the organisation, and socialised. Led by NZC and regional plan created with input from team.	4
	Lack of organisational strategic implementation plans	Build annual operational work plans to ensure these are linked to the Regional strategy and supports NZC organisational strategy, and annual SSP. Contribute to consolidated annual reporting which links to organisational strategy.	3

Risk Register Eastern Fish & Game		as at 6 September 2024
Risk Type	Description	Mitigation
Reputational		
	Social Licence	Gather insights on what licence holders, wider stakeholders and public think and feel of Fish and Game to inform social licence campaign, increasing social media profile of organisation. Support and feed into national campaign by NZC
	Public perceptions of Fish and Game	Broaden awareness and respect for Eastern and national Fish and Game through social licence campaigning, including comms and advocacy
	Perceptions of trout	Promote value of trout- economically to regions and national GDP, income generated by anglers, international tourism, recreational both in mental wellbeing & in environmental applications, tablefare – affordable natural food.
	Catch and release	Promote ethical and sustainable harvest
	Perceptions around hunting	Promote sustainable harvest and ethical shooting.
	Diversity of membership and Council	Recruitment at elections, encouragement of diversity through national planning and promotion.
	Seen as adversarial and litigious	Comms strategy to better articulate reasons of objections and legal actions mainly through NZC
Social/demographic		
	Perceived value of introduced trout and ducks diminishing?	Value to be promoted through communications plan, social licencing and educational opportunities with schools and iwi groups
	Population is diversifying and increasingly urban	R3 programme to target specific audiences. Appropriate use of social media tools.
	Older population (baby boomers) aging out of sport	R3 programme, promote environmental benefits of F&G and licence fee.
	Rural community trust in F&G low	Regain trust via regular contact on positive projects - Catchment groups, wetland enhancement projects (NZC strategic priority 20-23)
Species/Population		
	Sedimentation of waterways	Govt intervention should slow the pace of inputs. Removal may be challenging.
	Species interactions - natives v introduced	Engage and support research on this. Collaborate with manawhenua on research projects to build understanding of values & joint ownership of solutions.
	Ducks as pests/contributor to ecoli levels	Research and social messaging
	New incursions of pest fish species	Monitoring
	Increase in gamebird populations/increased crop predation.	Population monitoring for Mallards and Parries in place
	Cultural Harvest	Facilitate and encourage engagement with iwi & consideration to support legislative changes
	Trout seen as pests	Value to be promoted through communications plan, social licencing and educational opportunities with schools and iwi groups. Build strong relationships with other statutory organisations, ie DOC, Forest & Bird to help change the mindset.
Political		
	DOC advocacy positions	Strategic NZC priority 22 - 27 to engage and support stakeholder groups and build relationships, this is also reflected in Eastern's priorities
	RMA review	Govt announced review of RMA, NES FW, and NPS FW. Continue to work closely with the government on environmental legislative reform, along with key stakeholders (such as GAC, EDS, F&B, Hunting and Fishing Influencers, Clubs etc), and Ministries (DOC, MPI, MfE).
	Wildlife Act Review	Engagement with DOC and GAC. Consider legislative changes, and build policy positions.
	Conservation Act Review	Engagement with DOC, GAC, and eNGO's
	F&G Legislative Review	Details to come. Will be essential to address cultural challenges across the organisation and to effectively implement F&G Organisational Strategy
	NPS -FM/NES implementation for wetlands and maimai's	Propose regulatory changes to enable the protection, enhancement, and establishment of wetlands in supporting the work of F&G, GBHT, and Hunters
	Relationship with DOC	Continue to build strong relationships with DOC.
	Treaty of Waitangi and our obligations	Strategic NZC priority 22 - 27 and Eastern OWP priority to engage with iwi more regularly and meaningfully
Compliance and prosecutions		
	Perceptions about F&G prosecutions	Prosecution guidelines in place and regularly reviewed. Public interest test considered. Build and implement an infringement system. Messaging is Engagement, Education, Empowerment, Enforcement! Stringent vetting process for Honorary Rangers and yearly training for all warranted officers.
	Honorary rangers	Work alongside employed F & G Staff

Risk Register Eastern Fish & Game

as at 6 September 2024

Risk Type	Description	Mitigation	Risk Code
Environmental			
	Didymo, Catfish, Corbicula etc. more pests	Assisting Biosecurity with messaging. Promotion of Check, Clean, Dry through our own publications	2
	Climate change - heat/flooding	Climate change research? Return of flows to rivers through plan changes	1
	Declining water quality and quantity	Pressure on regional councils plans and recording of complaints	1
	Biosecurity - fish and bird diseases	Monitoring and reporting of incidents and observations to BNZ. Working collaboratively to develop action plans.	3
	Intensive land use/ urban sprawl - reduced access	Pressure on regional councils to monitor. Reporting on issues	2
	Gravel extraction/ river straightening/ willow problems	Regional councils global consent for river works up for renewal. F&G input with other stakeholders.	4
	Carbon Farming - Forestry in headwaters	National advocacy, supporting regional engagement with district plans	2
	Reduced Habitat	Research & monitoring. Work alongside and build strong relationships with Regional Councils, District Councils and iwi and commercial/farming entities	2
Contractors/third party risks			
	Contractors	Check values align. Annual work programmes from FOBC	4
	Rangers and Volunteers	NZ CE working with National Compliance Coordinator to review current systems. Eastern reviewing CLE& Boating risk matrix and policy. Messaging is Engagement, Education, Empowerment, Enforcement! Stringent vetting process for Honorary Rangers and yearly training for all warranted officers.	2
	Agents	Maintain regular relationships, help educate and train staff.	4
Health & Safety			
	Mental stability, stress, personal conflicts		
	Fire and emergency	Open door policy with CE for raising issues. H&S manual covers identification of risk factors. Team H&S discussion weekly	2
	Ranger Safety	Annual fire drills, emergency contacts on list at office.	3
	Alone work	Vetting and approval process. Review of risk matrix and policy. Stringent CLE engagement. PPE - Stab proof vests, video recording and comms.	3
	Firearms	Intentions and contact process, PLB & InReach	1
		Game Ranging well coordinated and preseason training on fire arms. Close working relationship with Fire Arms Safety Authority	1
Product quality/value			
	Decreasing perception of value of trout and ducks	Trout/Ducks promoted as highly valued species through comms channels	2
	Reducing perception of value for money in licence	Communications plan to sell benefits. R3 plan to make people more successful. Ranging to check licences.	2
	Licence category choices	Review of licence categories initiated by NZC	4
	Reduced access availability	Access concerns raised to NZC for a national coordinated approach. Identification of public access points. Improved relationships with landowners, Walking Access, Iwi and DOC.	2

Impact

Likelihood	Impact			
	Minor Little or No Effect	Moderate Effects are Felt but Not Critical	Major Effects are significant	Critical Effects are critical
Improbable Unlikely to Occur	4	4	3	2
Possible May Occur	4	3	2	1
Probable Will Likely Occur	3	2	1	1
Risk Key				
	4	Low		
	3	Moderate		
	2	High		
	1	Very High		

Likelihood	Description
Probable	<p><i>Expected to occur at some point</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expected to occur on an annual basis or in other F&G regions in the past few years Circumstances are in train that will cause it to happen Has occurred in the last few years or has occurred recently in other F&G regions Circumstances have occurred that will cause it to happen in the next few years
Possible	<p><i>Might possibly occur at some time</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has occurred at least once in the history of F&G or in similar agencies/organisations
Improbable	<p><i>Not expected to occur</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has never occurred in F&G but has occurred infrequently in other agencies/organisations Has not occurred to date in F&G or any other similar agency/organisation
Impact	Description
Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Result in consequences that can be dealt with by routine operations Minor delays in providing services or achieving objectives Threaten the efficiency of effectiveness of some aspect of the program/activity/business unit but can be dealt with internally Have minor political/community sensitivity Minor dissatisfaction of beneficiaries, licence holders or other key stakeholders Programme suffers minor adverse financial impact Minor breach of accountability requirements Minor damage to property or one minor injury
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate delays in providing services or achieving key objectives Programme subject to unplanned review or changed ways of operation Have moderate political/community sensitivity resulting in limited adverse publicity or criticism Limited dissatisfaction of beneficiaries, licence holders or other key stakeholders, moderately damaging to the F&G reputation Programme suffers moderate adverse financial impact Moderate breach of accountability requirements or information security Moderate damage to property One serious injury or multiple minor injuries
Major	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major delays in achieving key objectives Threaten the survival or continued effective function of the program/activity/business unit Have major political/community sensitivity resulting in significant adverse publicity or criticism Significant dissatisfaction of beneficiaries, licence holders or other key stakeholders, significantly damaging to the F&G's reputation and relationships Programme suffers major adverse financial impact Major breaches of accountability requirements, legislative/contractual obligations or information security Major damage to property or moderate damage to multiple properties One life-threatening injury or multiple serious injuries
Critical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critical business failure resulting in non-achievement of key objectives subject to unplanned external review/inquiry Have severe political/community sensitivity resulting in extensive adverse publicity or criticism Extensive dissatisfaction of beneficiaries, licence holders or other key stakeholders, severely damaging F&G's reputation and loss of stakeholder and/or Government confidence suffers severe adverse financial impact Severe breaches of accountability requirements, legislative/contractual obligations or information security Extensive damage to property resulting in loss of property or major damage to multiple properties One death or multiple life-threatening injuries

Impact

	Minor	Moderate	Major	Critical
Little or No Effect	1	2	3	4
Effects are Risk but Not Critical	2	3	4	5
Serious Impact as Course of Action and Outcome	3	4	5	6
Could Result in Disasters	4	5	6	7

Likelihood

Unlikely to Occur	1
Will Likely Occur	2
Will Occur	3

Risk Key

Low
Moderate
High
Very High

13. EASTERN STANDING ORDERS

Ref: 7.02.01

18 October 2024

1. Purpose

To review and update our Standing Orders to reflect changes and advancements in technology and to be more fit for purpose. Eastern's Standing Orders have been changed and modified in conjunction with NZC's updated Standing Orders.

2. Background

NZC has recently reviewed and updated its Standing Orders to reflect a capacity to be more streamlined, use video conferencing for meetings and save on costings. The sections that have been updated are;

- 2.3.2 Agenda – already provides for the agenda to be provided electronically. It is our intention going forward that this will be the only agenda that you will receive, whereas previously, you have also usually received paper agendas. At the same time that we send out the electronic agenda, we will also send it to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing. We will also endeavour to get the agenda on the F&G website at least 48 hours before the meeting for the public to view.
- 2.3.14 Agenda – this section proposes amendments so that only electronic agendas will be provided.
- 2.6.1 electronic attendance – we have reviewed this provision so that in-person meetings will be held twice yearly, and most other meetings will be held online. If you are unable to attend the in-person meeting, you can attend online. Workshop and committee meetings will also generally be held online. The chief executive will take reasonable steps to enable online meetings. However, it is anticipated that you will BYOD (bring your own device) for online meetings.
- 2.7 The teleconferencing section has been amended to online meetings. This includes the ability to be able to make decisions at meetings, provided the quorum is met, where previously only discussions can be held but decisions need to be confirmed at the next meeting.
- 3.1 Our meetings must be open to the public and the press. This can, however, be achieved via online meetings if a live link is provided on our web page. Agendas must also be viewable online before the meeting.
- 3.4.1 an addition to the disrespect section to encourage respectful discussions.
- 3.5.7 How to deal with a Points of Order breach.
- 3.12.5 Minute Book inspection in hard copy – we have amended this so that electronic files are kept.
- 3.14.1 Council may pay expenses incurred attending meetings.

3. Recommendation

That Council reviews the updated NZC Standing Orders and accepts the changes and updates for the Eastern Standing Orders. Feedback is given on any changes to the NZC paper by the 29 November.

STANDING ORDERS

Fish & Game
NEW ZEALAND





SAMPLE RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

s 48(3), (4), (5), (6) LGOIMA

Schedule 2A: inserted, on 1 October 1991, by section 8 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Amendment Act 1991 (1991 No 54).

Section 48, *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*

I move that the public be excluded from—

- *a. the whole of the proceedings of this meeting; or
- *b. the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely,—

[state agenda items]

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
*	*	*
*	*	*
*	*	*
*	*	*

*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 6** or **section 7** of that Act or **section 6** or **section 7** or **section 9** of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

[give particulars]

standing orders

*I also move that [*name of person or persons*] be permitted to remain at this meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of [*specify*]. This knowledge, which will be of assistance in relation to the matter to be discussed, is relevant to that matter because [*specify*].

Delete if inapplicable.

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 local authority."



WEBCASTING PROTOCOLS

- The default camera shot will be on the chair or a wide-angle shot of the meeting room.
- Cameras will cover a member who is addressing the meeting. Cameras will also cover other key participants in a meeting, including staff when giving advice and members of the public when addressing the meeting during the public input time.
- Generally interjections from other members or the public are not covered. However if the chair engages with the interjector, the interjector's reaction can be filmed.
- PowerPoint presentations, recording of votes by division and other matters displayed by overhead projector may be shown.
- Shots unrelated to the proceedings, or not in the public interest, are not permitted.
- If there is general disorder or a disturbance from the public gallery, coverage will revert to the chair.

14. NZC POLICY ON 10 YEAR SPORTS FISH AND GAME MANAGEMENT PLAN

18 October 2024

1. Purpose

This paper introduces the proposed Sports Fish and Gamebird Management Plan (SFGMP) guidelines for consultation, developed by NZC (incorporating feedback and involvement by the Resource Management Act working parties) is to assist and give a standardised framework for regions as they embark to consult and draft together this piece of work.

2. Background

The Governance review of Fish and Game in 2021 recommended that NZFGC (NZ F&G Council) should develop guidelines to guide a process for community input for regional councils to follow in developing their management plans, recommendation No. 34 and, that NZFGC adequately discharges its duty as set out in s17m (2) (ii) of the Conservation Act of giving notice of the draft management plan as per recommendation No. 36.

Also under our s4 obligations of engaging with mana whenua, NZC obtained legal advice as to best practice until new legislation is introduced. This was provided by Elana Geddis and Rachael Ennor as well as report from Dave Milner on “Mana Whenua Engagement Discussion on how Fish and Game can engage with Mana Whenua”. This was a topic piece at the 2023 staff conference.

The new Minister of Hunting and Fishing has also expressed his desire for Fish and Game Councils to set a standard and ensure consistency in their approach to developing regional plans.

Eastern Fish & Game RMA Officer has been involved in the national workshops that have landed in developing and creating these guidelines.

All supporting and information paper work is Paper For Information.

3. Recommendation

That Council adopts the consultation key elements and guide as policy and the mana whenua consultation as guidance.

15. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

15.1 FINANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.01

23 October 2024

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the year-end financial position and approve payments for the final two months of the 2023-2024 financial year. All end of year accruals have been completed, however some adjustments may be recommended by our auditors before the final copy of the 2023-2024 Financial Statements are completed.

Tables within this report:

Table 1	Variance Report to 31 August 2024
Table 2	Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024
Table 3	Profit and Loss to 31 August 2024
Tables 4 & 5	Bank Transactions July and August 2024
Tables 6 & 7	Credit Card Transactions July and August 2024

2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the period ending 31 August is provided in Table 3.

Summary

The net position at year end is \$29,040 deficit against the budgeted deficit for the financial year of \$52,350, net variance \$23,310.

The net variance of \$23,310 is a result of income received being higher than that budgeted by \$37,422, and reduced expenditure \$14,112. Revaluation of trout stock at year end contributes to the increased income \$19,424.

Income	Var YTD	Expenses	Var YTD
Licence Sales	58,525 ▼	Depreciation	3,515 ▼
Other Income	76,522 ▲	Operating Expenses	10,757 ▼
Trout stock revaluation	19,424 ▲	Administration Expenses	28,383 ▲
	37,422 ▲		14,112 ▲
		Net	23,310 ▲

A more detailed summary is provided in the following notes.

Income

Licence Sales

Total licence revenue ended the year \$58,525 below budget. This is offset in part by reduced costs associated with the Designated Waters system development and reduced commission and fees resulting from reduced sales (\$19,752).

Other Income

Revenue from other sources over the final two months of the financial year totalled \$81,044 and was made up of the following:

Fishing competitions	\$840	Interest General	\$19,751
Rentals	\$11,557	Interest Waikaremoana	\$12,708
Fines	\$899	Contract Services (H/Bay)	\$1,923
Fish food, tours	\$142	Contract Services (NZC)	\$6,345
Gain on Sale of Assets	\$1,114	Hatchery	\$20,421
Sponsorship	\$5,000	Donations	\$344
		Total	\$81,044

Other income is currently reporting to be \$76,522 ahead of budget, \$9,000 of this offset's expenditure within the Reserves budget for Awaiti WMR and, \$10,000 for Waihi WMR weir upgrade which will occur before year end. \$1,680 was received from MPI for maize purchased within the Waterfowl Monitoring budget, and \$1,600 from sponsors offsetting spending within the R3 budget. The Agrodome 2011 Ltd Partnership have kindly sponsored the children's fishing programme and this revenue was received in August (\$5,000). Contract revenue is \$36,387 ahead of budget and results from increased chargeable work for other Fish & Game regions and unbudgeted revenue from Genesis Energy. General interest income ended the year ahead of budget (\$11,062) and the Waikaremoana Fund interest was \$8,742 ahead of budget for the year.

Species Management

Expenditure within the Population Monitoring budgets related the purchase of waders, wire netting for duck traps, and transfer of the complimentary licences issued for band returns to the correct output. Under budget for the year \$10,080 and this is primarily due to reduced expenditure for the Tarawera Acoustic Surveys (\$7,950). Cost reductions were also made in the Waterfowl monitoring budgets and River Fisheries.

Harvest assessment spending relates to the Game Hunter Surveys. Under budget at year end \$445 because of staff completing some of this work.

The most significant cost within the Hatchery budgets for the period was related to rust repairs on the Tanker chassis which required the removal and refitting of the stainless tank \$12,157. The final fish food order for the year was processed at \$8,504. Other Hatchery costs included the usual electricity, oxygen, fuel, and minor maintenance costs associated with the set up of the two new tanks in the hatchery. Hatchery Spending ended the year \$13,061 over budget and this is primarily due the unanticipated tanker repairs.

Habitat

There is expenditure reported in the Works & Management budgets related to works being carried at the DoC wetland at Little Waihi, these works were funded by the Department of Conservation. The transfer of costs for Waikaremoana work is also reported in August within the Assisted Habitat budget. The Habitat output ended the year \$9,939 over budget and this overspend is offset by external funding.

Participation

Participation spending over the period related to hut electricity, the children's fishing programme and adjustments to access mapping on the website. The participation output ended the year under budget \$4,019 due to reduced spending in access and signage.

Public Interface

The spending within the Public Interface output was related to replacement keys and cleaning of the public toilets. Over budget at year end (\$2,431) due to costs associated with tidying up the fire store compound in preparation for new lease. The fire store has now been leased.

Compliance

Compliance expenditure relates to the usual 0800 Poaching service and cell phone costs, and catering and travel expenses for the August ranger training event. The Compliance output is under budget at year end (\$2,528), a result of reduced costs associated with fewer prosecutions going through the courts.

Licensing

Licensing costs include agent commissions, and the fees associated with the Public Online sales. The licensing output is under budget YTD (\$19,752) due to lower than budgeted development costs for the Designated Waters system and lower commissions in part due to reduced licence sales. This surplus offsets reduced licence revenue this season.

Council

Expenses are reported within the Council budgets relating to catering and travel reimbursement for the August meetings of Council. Overspent at year end (\$877).

Planning

Management and Strategic Planning costs related to the 4 x 4 Expo, Chamber of Commerce membership, TALT 100-year celebration cake, and morning tea with Kilwell. The audit fee is accrued to the Reporting budget and levies to National Liaison. The planning output is over budget at year end (\$259).

Administration

Salaries	Staff salaries are over budget at year end \$17,449 due to increased cost of leave and an increase in leave owed.
Staff Expenses	Staff expenses included ACC levies, AI seminar costs, and minor Health & Safety costs. The negative figure in August is related to accruals for prepaid accounts. Staff expenses are overbudget \$1,094 at year end.
Staff Houses	Rental agent commission and fees and spouting cleaning costs are reported within the Staff Houses expense budgets. Rates were paid in July as budgeted. Under budget at year end (\$241). A new wood burner needed to be installed into the timber house and this has been allocated to fixed assets at a cost of \$5,654.
Office Premises	Rates were paid and the usual expenses relating to electricity, cleaning, rubbish removal, and alarm monitoring were incurred. Over budget at year end \$1,635 and this is due primarily to increased rates and insurance.

Office Equipment	Office Equipment expenses include the phone system and eftpos lease costs. Over budget at year end \$1,424 due to an upgrade of the phone system at a slightly higher cost, calling costs however have reduced.
Communications/ Consumables	Telephone expenses are made up of cell phones, 0800 service, Garmin InReach, and 2Talk calling plan needed to utilise the IP phones. Expenses are also reported relating to renewal of the antivirus protection, stationery, Starlink, stationery, and photocopying. Under budget at year end \$2,047.
General	Expenses are reported for the Survey Monkey subscription, morning teas, and bank charges. August spending is significant with the need to complete a valuation of the property for insurance purposes. Over budget at year end \$3,356 due primarily to increased insurance costs.
General Equipment	General equipment and maintenance spending related to refitting of the Parera sounder to Kotare, minor equipment purchases, and Seaflux charges. Parera is to be sold to reduce overall Maritime costs. Under budget \$161 at year end.
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the period were significant and included servicing of three vehicles, two insurance excesses, RUC's and fuel. The vehicles budgets are overspent at year end \$5,874 due to increased maintenance, fuel, and insurance costs.

Cash Position: As at 31 August 2024

\$ 684,185 (includes \$93,543 Asset Replacement Reserve)
\$ 506,426 (Waikaremoana SFHEF – Restricted Reserve)
\$1,190,611 Total

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$109,337 as at 31 August 2024 (\$105,483 as at 31 August 2023).

3. Variance Report (Table 1)

The variance report is shown on the following two pages. The complete year 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.

Table 1 2023/2024 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

as at 31 August 2024

Schedule B Code	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETTABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	Variance	%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual			
1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 53,700	\$ 43,620	2,119	1,865	\$ 158,476	\$ 148,199	\$ -	\$ 1,680	\$ 212,176	\$ 190,139	\$ 22,038	\$ 89.6	
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,900	\$ 2,455	690	922	\$ 51,604	\$ 73,265	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,504	\$ 75,720	\$ (21,216)	\$ 138.9	
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 97,050	\$ 110,111	2,996	3,366	\$ 224,066	\$ 267,473	\$ 68,000	\$ 62,897	\$ 253,116	\$ 314,687	\$ (61,571)	\$ 124.3	
1160	Releases	\$ -	\$ -	134	204	\$ 10,022	\$ 16,210	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,022	\$ 16,210	\$ (6,188)	\$ 161.8	
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	76	57	\$ 5,684	\$ 4,529	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,684	\$ 4,529	\$ 1,155	\$ 79.7	
1180	Control	\$ 500	\$ -	36	30	\$ 2,692	\$ 2,384	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,192	\$ 2,384	\$ 808	\$ 74.7	
	TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT	\$ 154,150	\$ 156,186	6,051	6,444	\$ 452,544	\$ 512,060	\$ 68,000	\$ 64,577	\$ 538,694	\$ 603,669	\$ (64,975)	\$ 112.1	
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ -	\$ -	1,432	1,573	\$ 107,097	\$ 124,995	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 107,097	\$ 124,995	\$ (17,899)	\$ 116.7	
1220	Works & Management	\$ 17,500	\$ 33,874	940	966	\$ 70,301	\$ 79,145	\$ 11,650	\$ 29,865	\$ 76,151	\$ 83,154	\$ (7,003)	\$ 109.2	
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 700	\$ -	770	291	\$ 57,587	\$ 23,124	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58,287	\$ 23,124	\$ 35,163	\$ 39.7	
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	72	72	\$ 5,385	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,385	\$ -	\$ 5,385	\$ 0.0	
1250	Lake Waikaremoana	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.0	
	TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION & MAN	\$ 18,200	\$ 33,874	3,214	2,860	\$ 240,370	\$ 227,264	\$ 11,650	\$ 29,865	\$ 246,920	\$ 231,273	\$ 15,646	\$ 93.7	
1310	Access	\$ 5,500	\$ 2,342	708	583	\$ 52,950	\$ 46,327	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 58,450	\$ 48,669	\$ 9,781	\$ 83.3	
1330	Newsletters/Information	\$ -	\$ -	342	157	\$ 25,578	\$ 12,476	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,578	\$ 12,476	\$ 13,102	\$ 48.8	
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,019	38	3	\$ 2,842	\$ 238	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,842	\$ 1,257	\$ 3,585	\$ 26.0	
1350	Training	\$ 850	\$ 728	776	596	\$ 57,961	\$ 46,565	\$ 7,000	\$ 9,580	\$ 51,811	\$ 37,713	\$ 14,098	\$ 72.8	
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	32	110	\$ 2,393	\$ 8,741	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,393	\$ 8,741	\$ (6,348)	\$ 365.2	
1370	Hulls	\$ 1,450	\$ 1,682	46	32	\$ 3,440	\$ 2,543	\$ 400	\$ 496	\$ 4,490	\$ 3,739	\$ 751	\$ 83.3	
	TOTAL - ANGLER & HUNTER PARTICIP	\$ 9,800	\$ 5,781	1,941	1,471	\$ 145,164	\$ 116,890	\$ 7,400	\$ 10,076	\$ 147,564	\$ 112,595	\$ 34,969	\$ 76.3	
1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	72	53	\$ 5,385	\$ 4,212	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,385	\$ 4,212	\$ 1,173	\$ 78.2	
1420	Communication	\$ -	\$ -	116	45	\$ 8,675	\$ 3,576	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,675	\$ 3,576	\$ 5,100	\$ 41.2	
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 1,000	\$ 105	114	119	\$ 8,526	\$ 9,456	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,526	\$ 9,561	\$ (35)	\$ 100.4	
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 500	\$ 3,826	633	376	\$ 47,341	\$ 29,878	\$ -	\$ 306	\$ 47,841	\$ 33,398	\$ 14,443	\$ 69.8	
	TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,931	935	593	\$ 69,927	\$ 47,122	\$ -	\$ 306	\$ 71,427	\$ 50,747	\$ 20,680	\$ 71.0	
1510	Ranging	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,933	930	690	\$ 69,553	\$ 70,722	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 70,553	\$ 72,655	\$ (2,102)	\$ 103.0	
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 789	104	97	\$ 7,778	\$ 7,708	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,778	\$ 8,497	\$ 281	\$ 96.8	
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 4,000	\$ 750	336	194	\$ 25,129	\$ 15,416	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,970	\$ 24,129	\$ 12,196	\$ 11,933	\$ 50.5	
	TOTAL - COMPLIANCE	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,472	1,370	1,181	\$ 102,460	\$ 93,846	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,970	\$ 103,460	\$ 93,348	\$ 10,112	\$ 90.2	
1610	Licensing	\$ 13,654	\$ 8,646	124	167	\$ 9,274	\$ 13,270	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,928	\$ 21,916	\$ 1,011	\$ 95.6	
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	148	42	\$ 11,069	\$ 3,337	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,069	\$ 3,337	\$ 7,731	\$ 30.2	
	TOTAL - LICENSING	\$ 13,654	\$ 8,646	272	209	\$ 20,342	\$ 16,608	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,996	\$ 25,254	\$ 8,743	\$ 74.3	
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	0	1	\$ -	\$ 79	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79	\$ (79)	#DIV/0!	
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 6,500	\$ 7,377	474	285	\$ 35,450	\$ 22,647	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,950	\$ 30,024	\$ 11,926	\$ 71.6	
	TOTAL - COUNCILS	\$ 6,500	\$ 7,377	474	286	\$ 35,450	\$ 22,726	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,950	\$ 30,103	\$ 11,846	\$ 71.8	
1810	Management Planning	\$ 8,500	\$ 8,150	281	231	\$ 21,016	\$ 18,356	\$ -	\$ 1,600	\$ 29,516	\$ 24,906	\$ 4,610	\$ 84.4	
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	64	42	\$ 4,786	\$ 3,337	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,786	\$ 3,337	\$ 1,449	\$ 69.7	
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 10,100	\$ 10,547	408	332	\$ 30,514	\$ 26,362	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,614	\$ 36,929	\$ 3,685	\$ 90.9	
1840	National Liaison	\$ 50	\$ 212	228	517	\$ 17,052	\$ 41,082	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,102	\$ 41,294	\$ (24,193)	\$ 241.5	
	TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING	\$ 18,650	\$ 18,909	981	1,122	\$ 73,367	\$ 89,158	\$ -	\$ 1,600	\$ 92,017	\$ 106,467	\$ (14,449)	\$ 115.7	
	TOTAL	\$ 228,454	\$ 238,176	15,238	14,166	\$ 1,139,624	\$ 1,125,674	\$ 92,050	\$ 110,394	\$ 1,276,028	\$ 1,253,456	\$ 22,572	\$ 98.2	

Table 2

Balance Sheet
Eastern Fish and Game Council
As at 31 August 2024

Assets	31 Aug 2024	31 Aug 2023
Bank		
Westpac Current Account	52,742	101,445
Westpac Call Account	31,850	170,930
Petty Cash	367	170
Investments	602,135	579,406
Waikaremoana Fund Investments	506,426	368,823
Total Bank	1,193,520	1,220,774
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	109,337	105,483
Inventory - Fish Stock	209,951	190,527
Prepayments and Accrued Income	14,343	18,978
Total Current Assets	333,631	314,989
Fixed Assets		
Buildings	1,049,503	1,043,849
Land	102,000	102,000
Motor Vehicles	409,517	415,992
Office Equipment	65,935	58,606
Plant & Equipment	222,119	198,899
Accum Dep Land & Buildings	(782,836)	(757,222)
Accum Dep Motor Vehicles	(137,349)	(140,776)
Accum Dep Office Equipment	(47,840)	(45,234)
Accum Dep Plant & Equipment	(158,838)	(167,610)
Total Fixed Assets	722,212	708,505
Total Assets	2,249,363	2,244,268
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	50,311	30,127
Accruals and Prepaid Licences	137,476	154,813
Employee Entitlements	117,649	87,798
GST	(2,488)	(2,560)
PAYE Clearing	23,571	21,104
Staff Social Club	721	1,796
Westpac Business Credit Card - A Alaeinia	314	618
Westpac Business Credit Card - K Thompson	2,595	2,317
Total Current Liabilities	330,148	296,014
Total Liabilities	330,148	296,014
Net Assets	1,919,214	1,948,255
Equity		
Accumulated Funds	1,218,909	1,150,098
Asset Replacement Reserve	60,942	93,543
Non Resident Levy Reserve	155,412	167,182
Breeding Programme Reserve	1,018	1,018
Fish for Gold Reserve	14,000	14,000
Hatchery Water Reticulation Reserve	16,109	16,109
Hunter Ballot Reserve	7,265	4,814
Waikaremoana Sportsfish Habitat Enhancement Fund Reserve	474,600	476,971
Current Year Earnings	(29,040)	24,519
Total Equity	1,919,214	1,948,255

Table 3

Profit and Loss - Council
Eastern Fish and Game Council
For the two months ended 31 August 2024

Income	Jul 2024	Aug 2024	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Total Budget	Variance YTD	Var %
Licence Income	9,216	6,971	1,376,639	1,435,443	1,435,443	(58,804)	-4%
Non-Resident Licence Levy	0	0	279	0	0	279	0%
Other Income	14,432	66,612	307,707	231,185	231,185	76,522	33%
Total Income	23,647	73,583	1,684,626	1,666,628	1,666,628	17,998	1%
Operating Expenses							
Depreciation	7,444	0	76,910	80,674	80,674	(3,764)	-5%
Loss on Disposal	0	249	249	0	0	249	0%
Trout Inventory Revaluation	0	(19,424)	(19,424)	0	0	(19,424)	0%
1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT							
1110 Population Monitoring	565	873	43,620	53,700	53,700	(10,080)	-19%
1120 Harvest Assessment	360	48	2,455	2,900	2,900	(445)	-15%
1140 Hatchery Operations	11,026	12,662	110,111	97,050	97,050	13,061	13%
1180 Game Bird Control	0	0	0	500	500	(500)	-100%
Total 1100 SPECIES MNGMNT	11,951	13,583	156,186	154,150	154,150	2,036	1%
1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT							
1220 Works & Management	7,979	941	33,873	17,500	17,500	16,373	94%
1230 Assisted Habitat	0	1,265	2,765	9,200	9,200	(6,435)	-70%
Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECT	7,979	2,207	36,639	26,700	26,700	9,939	37%
1300 PARTICIPATION							
1310 Access	0	559	2,342	5,500	5,500	(3,158)	-57%
1340 Other Publications	0	0	1,019	2,000	2,000	(982)	-49%
1350 Training	160	52	728	850	850	(122)	-14%
1370 Huts	0	394	1,692	1,450	1,450	242	17%
Total 1300 PARTICIPATION	160	1,006	5,781	9,800	9,800	(4,019)	-41%
1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE							
1440 Public Promotions	0	0	105	1,000	1,000	(895)	-90%
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education	81	50	3,826	500	500	3,326	665%
Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE	81	50	3,931	1,500	1,500	2,431	162%
1500 COMPLIANCE							
1510 Ranging	68	41	1,933	1,000	1,000	933	93%
1520 Ranger Training	0	586	789	1,000	1,000	(211)	-21%
1530 Compliance	0	0	750	4,000	4,000	(3,250)	-81%
Total 1500 COMPLIANCE	68	628	3,472	6,000	6,000	(2,528)	-42%
1600 LICENSING							
1610 Licence Prod/Distrib	0	26	8,646	13,654	13,654	(5,008)	-37%
1630 Commission	406	191	49,852	64,595	64,595	(14,743)	-23%
Total 1600 LICENSING	406	216	58,497	78,249	78,249	(19,752)	-25%
1700 COUNCIL							
1720 Council Meetings	55	1,436	7,377	6,500	6,500	877	13%
Total 1700 COUNCIL	55	1,436	7,377	6,500	6,500	877	13%
1800 PLANNING/REPORTING							
1810 Mgmt & Strategic Planning	414	355	8,150	8,500	8,500	(350)	-4%
1830 Reporting/Audit	0	10,547	10,547	10,100	10,100	447	4%
1840 National Liaison	31,144	16	124,663	124,501	124,501	162	0%
Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORT	31,559	10,918	143,360	143,101	143,101	259	0%
1900 ADMINISTRATION							
1910 Salaries	117,992	193,812	1,060,443	1,042,994	1,042,994	17,449	2%
1920 Staff Expenses	2,690	(1,030)	30,094	29,000	29,000	1,094	4%
1930 Staff Houses	952	1,167	14,359	14,600	14,600	(241)	-2%
1940 Office Premises	2,579	1,212	23,345	21,710	21,710	1,635	8%
1950 Office Equipment	263	244	4,024	2,600	2,600	1,424	55%
1960 Communications	1,823	662	14,153	16,200	16,200	(2,047)	-13%
1970 General	225	1,414	16,256	12,900	12,900	3,356	26%
1980 General Equipment	211	1,541	16,639	16,800	16,800	(161)	-1%
1990 Vehicles	1,415	4,306	61,374	55,500	55,500	5,874	11%
Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION	128,151	203,328	1,240,687	1,212,304	1,212,304	28,383	2%
Total Operating Expenses	187,854	214,197	1,713,666	1,718,978	1,718,978	(5,312)	0%
Net Profit	(164,206)	(140,614)	(29,040)	(52,350)	(52,350)	23,310	-45%

15.2 MANAGEMENT REPORT

22 October 2024

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

1112 Datawatch

During the 2023-24 trout fishing season, a total of 710 datawatch tags were returned (from anglers and the Te Wairoa Trap data) and entered into the database since 1 October 2023. The distribution is as follows:

Lake McLaren	0
Lake Okareka	35
Lake Okataina	113
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	38
Lake Rotoehu	9
Lake Rotoiti	112
Lake Rotoma	46
Lake Rotorua	2
Lake Tarawera	355

data entered to 30 September 2024

The datawatch programme was advertised in the latest Fish & Game magazine (fish supplement) and on the Fish & Game website to encourage anglers keep sending in datawatch tags.

Tag returns (angler and trap) for the 2023-24 season, entered into the datawatch database between 1 October 2023 - 31 September 2024 were increased by 19 tags compared to the same approximate period of the 2022-23 season. Lakes Okareka (up 14 tag returns), Rerewhakaaitu (up 19 returns), Rotoma (up 32 returns), and Tarawera (up 12 returns) were all increased compared to the same period during the 2022-23 season. All other lakes were behind including notably Lake Rotoiti (down 26 tag returns) and Lake Okataina (down 36 returns). Lake Okataina had periods of the 2023-24 season with restricted access due to CAN orders from MPI to restrict the likelihood of spread of the invasive Golden clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) that is currently restricted to the Waikato River System. The opening day angling at Lake Okataina usually produces a higher-than-average number of returns compared to lakes Tarawera and Rotoiti that also open following a closed period. All other lakes were within several tag returns of the previous season.

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Waikaremoana Water Quality Monitoring Buoy

The Lake Waikaremoana water quality monitoring buoy has been transmitting data consistently over the past month. Longer days with more sunlight have the battery charging up and retaining a greater level of capacity well over and above its 11.5V low battery cut off control. The sensor cables and anodes are due for a clean to remove algal build up. Staff will action this maintenance during the next scheduled boat work at Waikaremoana.

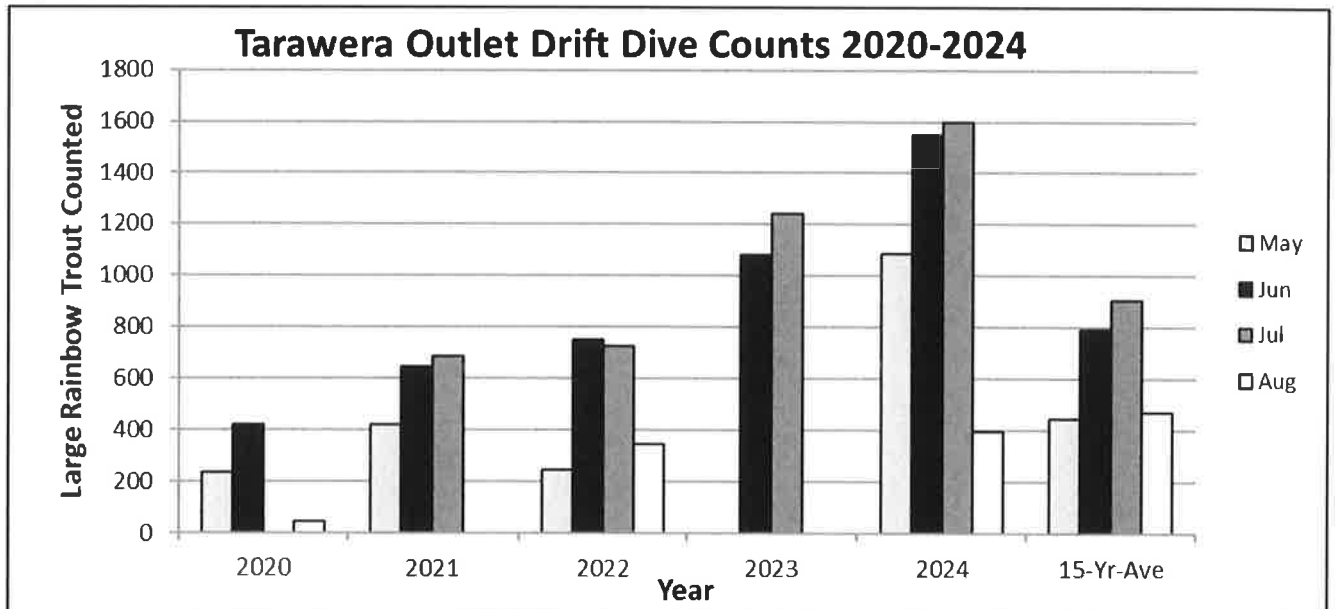
1114 Lake Tarawera

Tarawera Outlet Drift Dives

Fish & Game staff completed 4 drift dive counts of the Tarawera Outlet during the 2024 winter. The May count was undertaken on 31 May. The representative count for June was undertaken on 4 July, the July count was undertaken on 26 July and the representative count for August was undertaken on 5 September. The counts were undertaken in this manner around staff availability and weather.

	Size range			2024	2023	2022
	<i>Small</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Large</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
May	0	9	1,086	1,095	-	245
June	0	3	1,549	1,552	1,095	757
July	0	2	1,600	1,602	1,298	723
August	0	0	396	396	-	355

Trout counts in the Tarawera Outlet during the 2024 winter exceeded the past 15-year average for the months of May, June and July. The ‘August’ dive, undertaken at the start of September noted a large reduction in the number of fish present. As with the Te Wairoa trap run, large spawning trout were present in the Tarawera tributaries earlier than most years. This is likely due to the excellent condition of the mature fish this autumn and winter.



1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

Ngongotaha Trap-run

The Ngongotaha fish trap was operated for 4 nights during August 2024. The largest fish running the trap was a rainbow female measuring 630mm and weighing 3.4kg. Rainbow trout are averaging 23mm and 120g heavier than the rainbows running into the stream during August 2023. This highlights the improved growth conditions that have occurred within Lake Rotorua and the other Rotorua lakes over the past year.

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (August 2024)

	<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>	519	1.85	27	7		
<i>Brown</i>	590	3.0	1	<1		4%

The trap was operated for 4 consecutive nights during September. The majority of running through that period were rainbow trout. The largest fish was a 625mm, 3.55kg rainbow female.

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (September 2024)

	<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>	513	1.77	37	9		
<i>Brown</i>	535	2.3	1	<1		3%

1116 Waterfowl Harvest Management

Game Bird Harvest

Game bird harvest in the Eastern Region has declined over the last 32 years (1993–2024) except for paradise shelduck which shows no change over time.

Mallard and grey duck (greylard) harvest is explained by hours hunting waterfowl and daily bag limit. Hours hunting waterfowl is explained by season length and a year effect. The decline in hours hunted over time explains the decline in mallard harvest.

The decline in grey duck harvest was not tied to hours hunted but rather a year effect which is consistent with a declining population or possibly a change in hunters' ability to accurately identify a grey duck. Nevertheless, grey duck harvest was up on the 2023 harvest. Shoveler harvest was also up on the 2023 season.

Declining hours hunted may be due to other competing hobbies or it may be due to a decreasing population (i.e., the law of diminishing returns - hunters hunt less when there is less game). Nevertheless, greylard per hour hunting does not show an increasing or decreasing trend (Figure 1). The 2024 greylard per hour was the highest since 2012, however hunters hunted for fewer hours in total. This was due to fewer hunters who hunted for less hours on average.

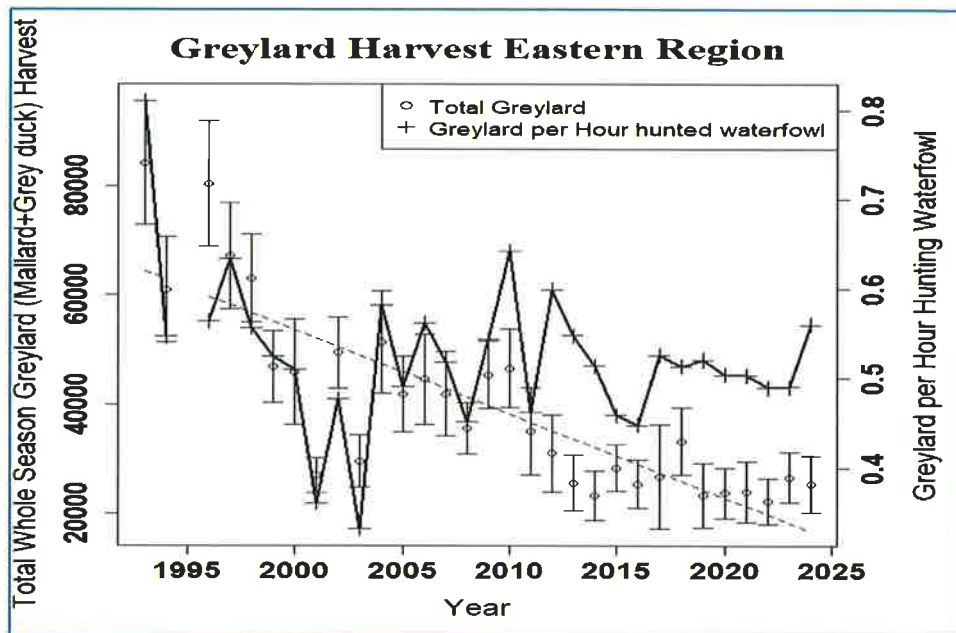


Figure 1. Greyland (mallard + grey duck) whole season harvest (mean=open circles; with 95% confidence bars) in the Eastern Region 1993 – 2024 (NB the survey was not carried out in 1995 in the Eastern Region). The solid line (with crosses) is greyland per hour hunting waterfowl.

Upland game hunters did not fare well with less pheasant and quail harvested than last year. *The full report is provided in PFI (7 November 2024).*

Shoveler Survey

Fish and Game New Zealand conducted a national count of kuruwheangi, Australasian shoveler duck (*Spatula (Anas) rhynchotis*) on 5 August 2024. This is the 25th annual count (2000 – 2024) to monitor change in the New Zealand shoveler duck population.

Four indices were examined, (1) total national count ($n=277$ survey sites), (2) the sum of counts from sites that have been counted every year ($n=73$), (3) a two-year trend of each site (2023–2024; $n=250$) and (4) a 25-year trend of each site (2000–2024; $n=268$). The trends are derived from a regression line, i.e., a linear slope, fitted to the annual log count for each site. The 2024 total count (12,514) was the 20th highest ranked count in the 25 years and similar to last year's count of 12,359 ($n=259$). There were however 18 more sites counted in 2024 cf. 2023.

The long-term trend indicates a stable population (average change = -0.006; 95% CI -0.087 – 0.075; Figure 2) despite a decrease in the last two years (average change = -0.09; 95% CI -0.17 – -0.015).

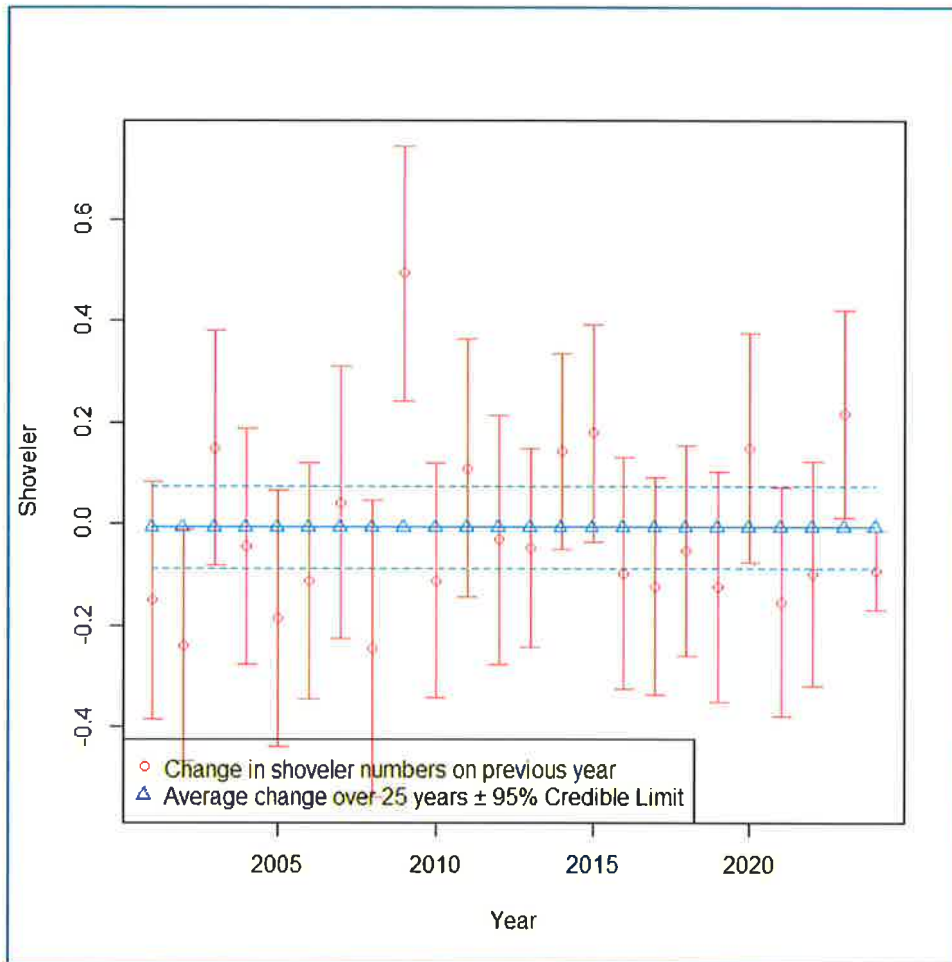


Figure 2. Annual change in shoveler count (red point estimates $\pm 95\%$ CI). Blue line is change over the 25 years ($\pm 95\%$ CI; $n=268$).

The total counts at the 73 sites that have been counted every year was the fourth lowest (4,350; last year was the lowest at 3,884 shoveler duck) since 2000. A linear regression line fitted to these 73 sites suggest no change in the shoveler population at these count sites over the 25 years ($\beta_{\text{year}} = -2.82$; $P = 0.948$).

Sex ratios were examined using a chi-squared test. Reported observations of females were significantly fewer ($P < 0.0001$) than males with a ratio of 0.59 females to males. This sex imbalance is consistent with ratios from previous years (0.63 females to males).

The national survey is an index of population change. Count sites were not randomly selected so inference about national shoveler populations must be made with caution.

All indices, except the short term (2023 – 2024) counts, point to a stable shoveler population. Following a small decrease detected in the 2022 count Southland and Otago Fish and Game regions introduced more restrictive conditions (daily bag limits) which may explain the change in population trends.

The full report is provided in PFI (7 November 2024).

1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys

Ohau Creel Survey

Over the coming 2024-25 season, creel surveys have been contracted out by Bay of plenty Regional Council to Te Arawa Lakes Trust (as was the 2023-24 survey schedule) and funded through the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Surveys are undertaken October, November, April, May and June and are undertaken to continue monitoring effects of the Ohau Channel Water Quality Diversion Wall.

Opening Day 2024 Creel Surveys

Fish & Game staff were joined by volunteers, honorary rangers, councillors and University of Waikato students on Tuesday 1 October to undertake opening day creel surveys on Lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Ōkātaina.

A total of 448 anglers were interviewed across the 3 lakes.

Site	Anglers	Fish	Harvest est.
Stoney Pt. Ramp	67	110	
Boat shed Bay Ramp	103	136	
Boat	88	90	
Tarawera Total	258	336	1.45
Okātaina Beach			
Okātaina Total	29	50	1.72
Gisborne Point Ramp	27	41	
Boat	90	58	
Otaramarae Ramp	44	52	
Rotoiti Total	161	151	1.31
Total	448	537	

Lake Tarawera was the standout for growth over the past year with spring released 2-year-olds significantly longer (16mm), heavier (345g) and in better condition compared to the 2023 opening. The autumn released 2-year-olds were significantly longer (38mm), heavier (593g) and in better condition compared to the 2023 opening and the best autumn 2's recorded from Tarawera since 2002. One of the tagged 2-year-olds (23T) released in May 2023 at around 170mm and 65g weight was measured this opening at 625mm and 3.25kg after 15 months in the lake. The largest fish recorded from Tarawera was a 3.43kg 3-year-old. The Tarawera harvest rate was also very good at 1.45 fish per angler.

On Lake Rotoiti, the spring released 2-year-olds from Sept/ Oct 2023 were just shorter (3mm) but heavier than their equivalents at the 2023 opening day. The autumn 2-year-olds longer, significantly heavier and in better condition than the 2022 autumn releases. The harvest rate was high for an opening day on Rotoiti at 1.31 fish per angler and the largest fish weighed cross the 3 lakes came from Rotoiti on opening, being a 640mm, 4kg 3-year-old.

At Lake Ōkātaina, the spring released 2-year-olds were longer 20mm and 50g heavier and the autumn 2-year-olds were 27mm longer and 350g heavier than the same aged fish measured at the 2022 opening day. The 2023 opening day survey at Ōkātaina did not occur due to closure of the lake by Controlled Area Notice (C.A.N order) under MPI order. A harvest rate of 1.72 fish per angler was recorded at Ōkātaina, which usually produces the highest opening day catch rate.

The Ohau Channel started very well with reports of very fat and well-conditioned rainbows. Catch rates were positive. In the evening, several brown trout were landed one of which is known to have exceeded 10 pounds. Surveys at the channel are again being undertaken by Te Arawa Lakes Trust to provide information toward the Ohau water Quality Diversion Wall Consent.

Summer Creel Surveys

The 2024-25 summer creel survey schedule has been created. The strategy for the 2024-25 summer (as per recent summer creels) is to retain coverage of the four large high use lakes, and if possible, provide some level of presence/ monitoring across the lesser utilised lakes. The aim this summer is to begin Summer Creel Surveys from early November and have a significant staff presence and compliance coverage across the lakes. An angler diary scheme is also running in the expectation of gaining greater reports and coverage from lesser covered waters within the Eastern Region.

1123 Game Bird Hunter Survey

An Eastern Region hunter satisfaction survey was conducted over the 2024 season.

Hunters were asked to rank their satisfaction from 1 – 5 for the 2024 opening weekend of the game bird season, where one was very dissatisfied and five was very satisfied.

- 61% of Eastern hunters said they were either satisfied or very satisfied.
- 14% were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied.

Hunters were asked the reason for their satisfaction ranking.

- almost 50% said there were plenty of ducks while 52% said that they enjoyed having time with family and friends.

Hunters were also asked what Fish & Game could do to improve their hunting.

- about 4% thought the licence was poor value,
- while 15% suggested a cheaper licence,
- 16% wanted a longer season, and
- 13% wanted larger daily bag limits.

A full report will be provided to council at a later date.

1143 Te Wairoa Trap

The Te Wairoa Fish Trap (Lake Tarawera) was removed on the 3rd of September. The total run recorded running upstream during the 2024 winter was 1,948 fish. This total was higher than the number of trout trapped during the 2023 winter (1,575) which was highly affected by prolonged rainfall and high lake levels for much of the winter season allowing the opportunity for trout to bypass the trap structure. The heaviest fish through the trap was a 660mm, 4.1kg Lp female (4-year-old). The average size of the fish trapped this winter (577mm and 2.52kg) was significantly longer (16mm), significantly heavier (430g) and in significantly better condition (4.71 CF points), ($P < 0.001$ for all variables) than the average size of fish trapped during the 2023 winter. Hatchery released fish trapped over the 2024 winter measured 589mm and 2.66kg compared to 575mm and 2.21kg during the 2023 winter. These were significantly longer (14mm), significantly heavier (450g) and in significantly better condition (4.94 CF points), ($P < 0.001$ for all variables). The average size of the wild fish trapped over the 2024 winter measured 547mm and 2.17kg compared to 530mm and 1.79kg during 2023. As with the hatchery fish, wild fish were significantly longer (17mm), significantly heavier (380g), and in

significantly better condition than the 2023 trap run wild fish (4.21 CF points), ($P < 0.001$ for all variables).

Year	Total run	Wild run	Wild %	Ave length	Ave weight
2020	1245	286	23.0	549	1.89
2021	2312	636	38.0	537	1.95
2022	2651	715	26.9	553	2.09
2023	1575	465	29.5	561	2.09
2024	1948	549	28.2	577	2.52

1141 Hatchery Operations

The final crosses for the year were taken in July and August from some of the best brood fish observed in many years. Fry hatched and were gradually moved to the rearing tanks for on growing. Spring liberations commenced in September as outlined in the table below.



Photo: Ova being stripped

Fish locations at 21 October 2024:

Location	Type	Age	Qty (approx.)	Comment
Hatchery	Fry	0+	140,000	Liberations 2025
Tank A	Bt	1+	850	Spring liberations 2024
Tank B	Bt	0+	1000	Spring liberations 2025
Pond 3	Rt	0+	10,500	Spring liberations 2024
Pond 9	Rt	1+	6500	2+ in 2025
RW1/2	Rt	1+	2000	For 2+ in 2024

1161 Sports Fish Liberations

Liberations, Eastern Region 22 June to 21 October 2024

Water	Date	Mark	Tag used	Species	Number marked/tagged
Tarawera	9/09/2024	Rp		RT	3.000
Tarawera	9/09/2024	Rp	H24	RT	500
Rotoiti	10/09/2024	Rp		RT	6.500
Rotoiti	10/09/2024	Rp	B24	RT	500
Okataina	16/09/2024	Rp	E24	RT	500

Okataina	18/09/2024	Rp		RT	750
Rotoma	24/09/2024	Rp		RT	2.000
Rotoma	24/09/2024	Rp	D24	RT	500
Rotoma	24/09/2024	Rp		Tig	420
Rotoehu	26/09/2024	Rp		RT	1.500
Rotoehu	26/09/2024	Rp	C24	RT	500
Okareka	27/09/2024	Rp		RT	1.500
Okareka	27/09/2024	Rp	G24	RT	500
Rerewhakaaitu	2/10/2024	Rp		RT	2.500
Rerewhakaaitu	2/10/2024	Rp	I24	RT	500
Tarawera	16/10/2024	Rp		RT	1.000

Fish were also delivered to Wellington Fish & Game, University of Waikato, Taranaki Fish & Game and to NIWA.

HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

1211 RMA Planning

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Fish and Game is continuing to liaise with BoPRC on the review of the Schedule of Important Trout Habitats in the region. Consultation via the RESOF group is continuing. Regional Council's work to implement the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPSFM) is underway and early discussions are occurring on some early drafts of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and chapters of the Regional Natural Resources Plan (RNRP). Comments have recently been submitted on a draft version of the fish passage provisions for the RNRP. Comments have also been submitted on the *Changes to Freshwater Management in the Bay of Plenty* document. Due to the recent change in Government, BoPRC has recently put this freshwater management planning, extending planned notification of the RNRP until late 2025. No new developments.

In September a submission was lodged on some proposed amendments to the Regional Pest Management Plan

Waikato Regional Council

In March 2018 Auckland/Waikato and Eastern Fish and Game Council's lodged a joint submission on Waikato Regional Council's Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora: Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1. Council hearings were held mid-2019. Decisions were released in May. A/W Fish and Game Council, with support from Eastern, have appealed a number of matters. No new developments.

Gisborne District Council

Following the conclusion of the Gisborne Freshwater Plan, the Motu Catchment Plan process is now underway. Fish and Game has so far had some input in identifying values, and recently provided comments on a draft version of the catchment plan. Consultation has recently started on the Waiapu Catchment Plan. Additionally, stakeholder consultation is scheduled to begin shortly on the Regional Policy Statement, Freshwater Plan amendments, and the Waimata, Uawa, Waipaoa, Wharehika and Hangaroa catchments. GDC is also beginning a topic by topic review of the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan. No new developments.

Other

Bay of Plenty Regional Council has established a group to provide advice in relation to policy development for NPSFM implementation. Fish and Game is part of this Rural and Environmental Sector Organisation Forum.

A Forest Industry Discussion Group meeting was attended in August. These meetings are scheduled quarterly.

Various Fish and Game regions have been collaborating on a submission to amend some parts of the NES-Freshwater 2020 that are viewed as unacceptable to us. Of particular interest to Eastern Region are some unreasonably strict regulations around physical works in wetlands, and on the construction of maimai. Work is currently underway to rewrite and submit some more workable provisions.

The new Government has suggested that a number of changes may be forthcoming with regards to the RMA and conservation legislation amendments that the previous Government was working through. The first changes proposed in this area includes the Fast Track Bill which Fish and Game has submitted on.

The Department is currently in the early stages of a Wildlife Act review process. Fish and Game staff have been collaborating at a national level to have input into the process. No new developments.

The NZ RMA team has been very active recently with a number of important workstreams on the go – including development and consultation on Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plans, freshwater fish species interaction and passage, water allocation and limit setting, and the development of practice notes.

1212 Consent Applications

Date	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
8 Aug	GDC	GDC	LUC – replacement bridge Ruakaka Rd	Hangaroa River, Gisborne	No concerns email
26 Aug	GDC	Inka Investments Ltd	LUC- bridge install, Ruakaka Rd	Lower Hangaroa River, Gisborne	No concerns email
6 Sept	BOPRC	G&M Firth	LUC- boardwalk and gabion baskets	Lake Rotoiti	No concerns email
16 Sept	BOPRC	Rayonier Forests	LUC- forest harvest	Lower Rangitaiki tribs	No concerns email

Resource Consents of note: staff have attended site visits, plus undertaken discussions with the applicants and their consultants regarding the renewal of hydro generation resource consents for:

- a) Manawa Energy Wheao hydro scheme – which have just been approved by the Government for fast tracking
- b) Southern Generation for the Aniwhenua hydro scheme; expiry 2026 and in early stages of discussions. No changes to existing scheme are proposed.

1221 Reserves Management

Fortnightly walk overs of the key infrastructure of all the wetlands commenced in October. Water management structures within all the managed wetlands have been inspected to programme and budget for the coming maintenance period. Some structures will need some minor works and one 300mm butterfly valve purchased.

Spraying of pest plants around the water control structures and main reticulation channel will occur late November.

The first mowing cycle of access tracks within the main wetlands has been completed.

Due to the National success of the wheelchair maimai at Kaituna WMR and the promotion for more to be introduced to the regions staff have agreed to reimplement a mobility impaired stand (1) at Awaiti WMR.

1231 Respond to Landowner Requests for Assistance

One new landowner request has been received since last Council meeting. A site visit occurred on one property providing verbal and then follow up written specific planting designs and water inlet requirements. A second property wetland is to be visited in late November for this same landowner.

The Burt Wetland (Te Puke) remains outstanding for any works to occur – as we await the BOPRC Land Management Section to decide if resource consents are required under the revised NES- W rules. This project has landowner funding, NZGBHT funding and has become a very drawn-out process due to lack of clarity of Government and Regional Council rules. We are hoping some decision is made prior to Christmas so works can occur this summer.

Lake Rotoiti Catfish Update

Plenty of school groups are still participating in the Te Arawa Lakes Trust led community catfish programme (Te Arawa Catfish Killas). This provides hands on assistance to the catfish removal programme as well as educating students about pest species and the need to look after our freshwater species and habitats.

Heading into spring, water temperatures increase, and catfish begin to seek out new habitat. With increased movement, the use of fyke nets becomes effective.

At this time of year larger catfish (>200mm) tend to be caught compared to large groups of juvenile catfish that are encountered in summer. Areas of key spawning habitat such as around rocky areas (Rotorua lake front) and Te Weta Bay will receive additional netting effort in attempts to remove mature adult fish prior to spawning.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

Spring angler access work is commencing at various locations around the region, and will include work at the Ngongotaha Stream, Waiteti Stream, Kaituna River, Waioeka River, and the Rangitaiki River system including within Kaingaroa Forest, as well as other locations as required. Timberlands forest access for angler access into the Rangitaiki River system, Flaxy Lakes, and through Waimangu Forest to Lake Rotomahana closed at the last weekend of September and this remains closed through summer; the winter access season runs from the first weekend of May to the last weekend of Sept. We have attempted to obtain increased summer access for anglers however this has been unsuccessful over many years due to a number of complexities around the private land tenure of the forests, factors around access rights for beneficial landowners which are no more than for anglers, and issues around summer fire season.

Extensive signage checks, and maintenance work has been carried out including almost all signs around the region excluding the East Coast signs which are yet to be visited, however plans are in place to get to those signs and access points as soon as possible.

Lake Okataina: Angler access is enabled with conditions as per the MPI order for washing boats. This is an ongoing situation.

Access investigations are underway into other areas including work and liaison with the Walking Access Commission. This includes some access into an East Coast fishery north of Gisborne, which we have been looking into for some time.

1312 Signage

Checks have been made on signage in various areas and this is ongoing, with maintenance carried out as required with old and damaged signage removed and replaced as appropriate.

1313 Hunter Ballots

Hunters that either hold a ballot or have been in the ballot have been sent their ballot forms by email this year (where we have an email address). We are trying to reduce postage costs, but there is a real concern that hunters will not read their emails.

1331 Electronic Newsletters

Reel Life copy was produced for September and October.

1333 Fish & Game Website

Election page added to the Web site including the updated Eastern sub regions. We also added a new page that promotes the hatchery and grounds and are in the process of creating an additional page to support our Educational ability through the Rotorua Education Network.

1334 Social Media

Social media posts continue to be made via Facebook and Instagram. Angler./hunter inquiries are being received via social media. Our Facebook has over 2,800 organic followers .

1341 Information Pamphlets

Adequate stocks of all brochures are being held.

1354 Fishing Competitions

Three fishing competition permits were processed for the period.

1352 Angler/Hunter Training

We supported Rotorua Anglers association with their A to Z Fishing course in September.

1361 Fish & Game Club Communications

Three children's fishing events were held and supported by staff during this reporting period. Mark Sherburn was invited to attend Rotorua Anglers Association 75th birthday lunch and give a talk. This was well received.

1371 Fish & Game Huts

No further maintenance or issues with either the Waikaremoana Hut or Wairua Hut during this period.

PUBLIC INTERFACE

1411 Statutory Liaison and Political Awareness

We have endeavoured to maintain positive and engaging relationships with all our stakeholders and acknowledge that at times we will not always agree or see the same picture, but hopefully we can all agree that our actions and activities lead for maintaining and enhancing our environment and the species that abode therein, plus we all work towards giving opportunity for people to harvest kai sustainably.

There have not been as many engagements this period with statutory and iwi authorities.

We continue to work with Ngāti Tarāwhai on finding a suitable access process and are currently working on an automated gate system. We continue to work closely with MPI and have 2 monthly meetings with DOC Rotorua Operations Manager.

Taupo Fishery Advisory Committee (TFAC)

Matt Osborne attended the TFAC meeting held in Taupo on 18 July and provided a management update on behalf of the Eastern fishery. Next meeting is 6 November.

1441 Public Promotions

Media articles promoting the Winter shoreline fishing and the run up to the 1 October fishing season created a lot of anticipation of how great the condition and catch rates were and that our data was showing it to be the in 20 years. These were well picked up by media sources in Tauranga, Whakatane, Gisborne and Rotorua.

Godzone magazine printed another article highlighting the great fish and fishing that was being had in the Rotorua region. A local free coffee table print also printed one of our articles prior to the opening.

We created a radio advert that ran for 3 weeks over school holidays and over the opening of the season across Huaraki, Coast, NewsTalkZB and Flava promoting the regions great fishing. 2 weeks of this was free as we had won a voucher from NZME.

Our opening media article was again well received by many regional news hubs and was front page of the Rotorua Daily Post with the follow up having its headline on the front page of the Daily Post too.



1451 Education

No educational tours were held for the reporting period.

COMPLIANCE

1511 Ranging

Our ranging capacity has been down during this period due to a staff absence. Other staff have acted to assist with ranging due to this as they have been able to.

The game season (upland game) closed at the end of August without any issues. Fishery compliance work has continued with an increase of issues at times in the Ngongotaha area especially when there has been a run of fresh trout in local easily accessed areas. We have had at times persons decamp from rangers and or give false details.

We are conducting a review of how we carryout compliance work and boat-based compliance and survey work to ensure that we are operating in accordance with best practice and health and safety requirements.

Contacts 2023-2024 year.

2252 contacts have been made for the 2023 – 24 year which is well above contacts made in the last year. Overall compliance is in excess of 98 %.

Contacts: Year 2023-2024 year

Month	2019-20	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	Last 5 yr average
September	46	16	51	35	36	34
October	726	724	718	520	856	716
November	126	16	66	16	161	49
December	237	287	182	182	224	239
January	246	404	352	212	217	331
February	265	155	140	12	117	176
March	23	164	93	111	185	114
April	7	153	238	25	69	109
May	143	297	203	203	175	220
June	162	124	141	52	48	129
July	75	45	57	36	59	55
August	20	22	32	13	29	28
Total	2,076	2,407	2,273	1,417	2,252	2,201

1521 Ranger Training

We hosted a ranger training day in August, and this included some staff and rangers from Eastern Region, Hawkes Bay Region, and Northland Region. Training was delivered by CERT Systems LTD, and by Fish & Game staff, and covered situational safety and communications, and rangers' powers along with how to conduct offender interviews and reporting of offences.

Rangers

Honorary Rangers warrant renewal processes have been completed and we currently have 6 honorary rangers who were issued with warrants for the Oct 2024 to Sept 2027 period. We have 1 trainee ranger in the Rotorua area, who requires further training before we can issue a ranger warrant to him. Honorary Rangers continue to assist as they can and have been especially helpful carrying out ranging on the East Coast rivers

1531 Prosecutions

A number of fishery matters are pending resolution, some via court prosecutions. A number of matters have been resolved via diversion.

Offences 2023-2024 Year:

For the 2023-24 year we have dealt with 27 offenders for 43 offences as tabled below.

Offence table 2023-2024 year

Offence name	Number of offences
Fishing without licence	20
Fishing in closed waters	10
Fish with illegal tackle	5
Fish with more than 1 rod	1
False details	2
Hunt without licence	3
Hunt game during closed season	1
Hunt game – firearm other than shotgun	1
Total number of offences	43

Offences Pending Resolution

Offences table – pending resolution as at end Sept 2024

Offence name	Number of offences
Fishing without licence	5
Fishing in closed waters	2
Total number of offences	7

Offences 2024-2025 Year:

For the 2024-25 year we have dealt with 2 offenders for 2 offences as tabled below. However, we are also carrying out enquiries in an effort to identify several offenders we have deal with during this time period who have been uncooperative and have either failed to provide details or have given false information.

Offence table 2024-2025 year to end September

Offence name	Number of offences
Fishing without licence	1
Fishing in closed waters	1
Total number of offences	2

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1812 R3 Programme

We continue to promote the fishing season through our usual media channels. As per the national ReWild campaign all our social media posts contain the #ReWild hash tag to increase awareness and following. As highlighted in our public promotions, there was great coverage of our media articles promoting the fishing season and we were able to also utilize radio advertising.

We ran a photo competition through fb and promoted ‘take a friend fishing’ also through our social media. These all had limited uptake.

We had a large stand at the 2024 Hunting, Fishing and 4x4 Expo held in August at the Rotorua Energy Events Centre. This expo had over 8,000 people attend over the weekend. There was substantial engagement with members of the public and current and past licence holders. The feedback was mostly positive with only 2 people who expressed disappointment with F&G. The messaging that we were promoting, was; What we do (help with building social licence & similarities with other activities) and encouraging regional licence purchasing and renewals.

1841 NZ Fish & Game Liaison

Licensing

Kate Thompson continues to provide regular updates of licence sales and other information requests to the New Zealand Council and regions. Kate continues to assist ESL with resolution of outstanding system issues and supports the F & G organisation with coordination of magazine databases, and licensing requirements through the seasons.

National CLE Liaison Role

This role is continuing led from this region. This includes recently work for NZC in respect of ongoing efforts to get an infringement notice system in place for dealing with most offences which would be a huge time and cost saving greatly reducing prosecution costs and dealing with less serious offences in an appropriate manner.

15.3 LICENCE SALES REPORT

24 October 2024

1. 2023-2024 Fish Licence Sales

1.1 Fish licence sales for the 2023-24 complete season compared with the 2022-23 season are summarised in Table One.

1.2 Fish licence sales for the 2023-24 season are reporting to be 1.6% (139 LEQ's) below 2022-23 complete season results. Note: these results will vary from Financial Statements for the year ending 31 August 2024 as the Financial Statements include sales of 2022/23 licences which occurred in September 2023, sales for the 2023/24 Season up to 31 August 2024 and adjustments for refunds.

Table One: Fish Licence Sales 2023-24 vs 2022-23 complete season results

Licence Category	Agency Online	Public Online	Total YTD 2022-23	Agency Online	Public Online	Total YTD 2023-24	Inc/Dec on prior Season
Fish Adult							
Family Season	995	1,330	2,325	926	1,266	2,192	-133
Season Non-Resident	880	1,033	1,913	776	1,032	1,808	-105
Loyal Senior	115	199	314	117	184	301	-13
Local Area Adult	240	271	511	238	260	498	-13
Winter Adult	775	668	1,443	852	567	1,419	-24
Long Break Adult	176	311	487	164	257	421	-66
Short Break Adult	24	37	61	25	54	79	18
Day	224	645	869	277	771	1,048	179
Day Non-Resident	757	2,550	3,307	843	3,057	3,900	593
Total Adult	4,614	7,827	12,441	4,689	8,407	13,096	655
Fish Junior							
Season	187	243	430	191	301	492	62
Season Non-Resident	11	12	23	6	24	30	7
Day	89	398	487	144	475	619	132
Day Non-Resident	18	18	36	21	26	47	11
Total Junior	305	671	976	362	826	1,188	212
Fish Child							
Season Non-Resident	2	7	9	0	8	8	-1
Day Non-Resident	11	20	31	6	18	24	-7
Total Child	13	27	40	6	26	32	-8
Total Fish	4,932	8,525	13,457	5,057	9,259	14,316	859
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			8,643			8,504	-139
Variance between Seasons							-1.6%
\$ (excl GST)			\$1,089,744			\$1,131,397	\$41,652

Summary 2023-2024 Season YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2023-24 Annual Budgeted FISH LEQs	8,663	100.0%	\$1,152,577
2023-24 Actual	8,504	98.2%	\$1,131,397
Variance to budget	-159	-1.8%	-\$21,180

- 1.3 98.2% of the annual fish licence sales target was met for the season.
- 1.4 Nationally 2023-24 fish licence sales ended the season 1.8% (1,367 LEQ's) down on 2022/23 results, and 1.4% (1,052 LEQ's) below budget.

2. 2023-2024 Game Licence Sales

- 2.1 Game licence sales for the 2023-24 season compared with the 2022-23 season to 31 August are summarised in Table Two.
- 2.2 Game licence sales are reporting to be 6.7% (191 LEQ's) below 2022-23 season results for the same period.
- 2.3 88.3% of the annual sales target has been met for the Season YTD to 31 August. Very few sales will occur between now and the end of the game bird season.

Table Two: Game Licence Sales 2023-24 vs 2022-23 YTD results to 31 August 2024

Licence Category	Agency Online	Public Online	Total YTD 2022-23	Agency Online	Public Online	Total YTD 2023-24	Inc/Dec on prior Season
Game							
Adult Season	2,327	446	2,773	2,186	396	2,582	-191
Adult Day	31	83	114	30	97	127	13
Junior Season	219	66	285	191	84	275	-10
Junior Day	0	2	2	0	1	1	-1
Child Season	99	38	137	117	34	151	14
Total Game	2,676	635	3,311	2,524	612	3,136	-175
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			2,851			2,660	-191
Variance between Seasons							-6.7%
\$ (excl GST)			\$252,899			\$249,829	-\$3,070

2023-24 Annual Budgeted Game LEQs	3,012	100.0%	\$282,866
2023-24 Actual	2,660	88.3%	\$249,829
Variance to budget	-352	-11.7%	-\$33,037

- 2.4 Nationally 2023-24 game bird licence sales ended the season 2.2% (695 LEQ's) down on 2022/23 results, and 2.5% (784 LEQ's) below budget.

3. 2024-2025 Fish Licence Sales

3.1 Fish licence sales for the 2024-25 season compared with the 2023-24 season YTD to 23 October are summarised in Table three.

3.2 Fish licence sales for the 2024-25 season are reporting to be 6.1% (226 LEQ's) ahead of 2023-24 season results. A positive outcome following excellent opening week.

Table Three: Fish Licence Sales 2024-25 vs 2023-24 YTD results to 23 October 2024

Licence Category	Agency Online	Public Online	Total YTD 2023-24	Agency Online	Public Online	Total YTD 2024-25	Inc/Dec on prior Season
Fish Adult							
Family	643	637	1,280	605	707	1,312	32
Season	478	460	938	469	504	973	35
Season Non-Resident	8	18	26	11	23	34	8
Loyal Senior	190	192	382	199	234	433	51
Local Area Adult	517	251	768	560	295	855	87
Winter Adult	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long Break Adult	0	6	6	1	6	7	1
Short Break Adult	45	82	127	27	96	123	-4
Day	83	277	360	90	283	373	13
Day Non-Resident	10	62	72	32	35	67	-5
Total Adult	1,974	1,985	3,959	1,994	2,183	4,177	218
Fish Junior							
Season	72	80	152	72	109	181	29
Season Non-Resident	0	1	1	1	1	2	1
Day	7	25	32	9	55	64	32
Day Non-Resident	0	1	1	1	2	3	2
Total Junior	79	107	186	83	167	250	64
Fish Child							
Season Non-Resident	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day Non-Resident	0	1	1	0	3	3	2
Total Child	0	1	1	0	3	3	2
Total Fish	2,053	2,093	4,146	2,077	2,353	4,430	284
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			3,732			3,958	226
Variance between Seasons							6.1%
\$ (excl GST)			\$496,583			\$536,978	\$40,395

Summary 2024-2025 Season YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2024-25 Annual Budgeted FISH LEQs	8,363	100.0%	\$1,134,459
2024-25 Actual	3,958	47.3%	\$536,978
Variance to budget	-4,405	-52.7%	-\$597,481

16. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

16.1 Conservation Boards

- Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

16.2 Reports from Other Agencies

- Department of Conservation

16.3 Report from New Zealand Council

- Cr Debbie Oakley

17. FAREWELL TO DEPARTING COUNCILLORS AND AN HONORARY RANGER

Ref: 7.02.03

18 October 2024

1. Purpose

To acknowledge the commitment and contribution of those members of Council whose term in office has now concluded, and the resignation of a longstanding Honorary Ranger.

2. Background

The 3 yearly elections process for Fish and Game Councillors has resulted in the departure of three Councillors. Debbie Oakley, Jay Tapsell and Allan Simmons, all have dedicated their time and energies into promoting the interests of sport anglers and gamebird hunters both at a regional level and at a national level.

Murray Ferris has been an honorary ranger for the Eastern Fish and Game Council for more than 28 years.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 *That Council acknowledges and records its appreciation for the contributions of Debbie Oakley, Jay Tapsell and Allan Simmons have made to Eastern Fish and Game Council and to NZ Fish and Game Council.
And for the contribution Murray Ferris has made as an Eastern Region Honorary Ranger.***