

CONFIRMED MINUTES

NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING



At the **NCFG COUNCIL MEETING** on **7 Dec 2023** these minutes were **confirmed as presented**.

Name:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
Date:	Wednesday, 20 September 2023
Time:	5:32 pm to 8:34 pm (NZST)
Location:	NORTH CANTERBURY FISH AND GAME COUNCIL, 595 JOHNS ROAD, HAREWOOD, CHRISTCHURCH
Board Members:	ALAN STRONG (Chair), DAVE BARRON, DAVE COLL, NIALL COSTER, GRAEME NAHKIES, KEN LLOYD, PHILLIP MUSSON, RICHARD O'KEEFE, TREVOR ISITT, TEHAU ANGLEM
Attendees:	DEBBIE AMBLER, RASMUS GABRIELSSON
Apologies:	CHRIS BRANKIN
Guests/Notes:	Paul Hodgson, Peter Ball, David Matravers, Larry Burke and Matthew Garrick (staff)

1. Opening Meeting

1.1 Welcome by Chairman

After completing a health and safety brief, Te Hau Anglem was welcomed to the meeting as the new Statutory Advisor appointed by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to North Canterbury Fish & Game Council. Te Hau provided a brief account of his background.

Council Chair Alan Strong advised:

1. That Council would spend 70% of their meeting time looking forward and considering issues for future goal setting.
2. Confirmation of Draft Minutes will be tabled at the end of each meeting.
3. Councilors are expected to read the Board pack before attending the Council meeting.
4. Staff reports are to be taken as read, however, questions could be asked.
5. To aid Council discussions and decision-making the norm will be for short Council papers (for information or decisions) to be drafted by staff outlining the key analysis and content of Technical Reports of relevance to upcoming discussions and decisions. References and or links to Technical monitoring reports and in-depth studies will be provided as needed.

1.2 Karakia

Te Hau Anglem carried out the Karakia.

1.3 Interests Register

1.4 Council Discussion on Issues and Risks That May Require Council Attention

Following Governance Training Chair Alan Strong explained his thinking behind proposing changes to Council meeting agenda, to focus more forward and set aside more time to discuss risks and opportunities that may need Council direction or decisions.

Councillors were asked to raise and comment on topics or issues that they had been reflecting on recently. The following items were raised during the subsequent discussion:

1. Swan Management - was flagged as a contentious issue. Fish and Game staff are currently working hard with stakeholder groups and our Treaty Partners who have strong and often opposing views.
2. Potential impacts on Fish & Game from a change of government.
3. Reflection on the status of our regional fishery resources, and that over time parts have been degraded to the point that a Status Report should now be completed as to the health of our lowland rivers and trout fishery.
4. Concern regarding the financial future of New Zealand Fish and Game. Licence sales could be low this year, and if so what impact might this have on the organisation?
5. Lack of a shared vision across New Zealand Fish and Game as a whole.
6. The need and benefits of improved communications from Fish and Game to stakeholders.
8. Take A Kid Fishing activities at Lake Roto Kahutu, and perceptions around the safety and health of that waterway.
9. Collaboration with Central South Island Fish & Game, in particular over Lake Heron and areas such as Mellish Stream.
10. How catch and release might be affecting salmon.
11. Councillors being able to talk to other councillors outside of the region.
12. To feature a topic at every meeting from these points raised to enable comment.
13. Reflections on if habitat is featured enough in many staff reports. Should this be considered as a priority for next year?
14. Ensuring that the staff reporting is focused more on "what has been achieved" rather than "what has been done". Communications to the public do not need to be too technical with common language used in executive summaries to make it easy for the public to understand. Ensure the use of fewer acronyms in Reports and in communications to stakeholders.
15. Getting the Fish and Game story out to stakeholders and the general public should be a priority going forward.
16. Consider "Afterpay" as means of a payment method for Fish & Game licences.
17. That more common language be used in Executive Summaries on Reports.

Finally, several Councillors noted that the staff reports were of "outstanding quality" and asked that appreciation be given to H Garrick and R Cosgrove who are seconded to NZC for the work that they do.

2. FOR DECISION

2.1 Financial Reserves

1. Te Waihora (Lake Ellesmere) Access

A request was made to use \$81,000 from the Te Waihora Mai Mai fund to complete various projects that meet Council priorities as well as objectives within the Te Waihora Joint Management Plan. Staff to complete negotiations with DoC and Ngai Tahu, with agreement from all parties being reached before any work is undertaken.



Te Waihora Mai Mai Fund to North Canterbury Fish & Game Council (NCFGC)

- a. Staff recommend NCFGC endorse the expenditure of \$8,500 on the Kaituna parking lot improvements;
- b. Staff recommend NCFGC endorse the expenditure of \$41,000 on fencing vehicle laneways at Greenpark Sands.
- c. Staff recommend NCFGC endorse the expenditure of \$20,000 on cleaning up and removing derelict maimai's and other trash from the lakebed.
- d. Staff recommend NCFGC the expenditure of \$12,000 for buying maimai materials for replacement of F&G managed maimais at Boggy Creek.
- e. Staff recommend NCFGC direct staff to seek endorsement from Ngai Tahu and DoC to progress project(s) agreed above.

Decision Date: 20 Sept 2023
Mover: TREVOR ISITT
Seconder: NIALL COSTER
Outcome: Approved

2. Muriwai (Lake Forsyth) Mai Mai Fund

A request was made to use \$8,000 from the Muriwai Mai Mai fund for the removal of derelict maimais from around the lake. This project meets Council priorities as well as objectives within the Muriwai Management Plan. Staff to complete negotiations with DoC and Ngai Tahu, with agreement from all parties being reached before any work is undertaken.



Muriwai (Lake Forsyth) Mai Mai Fund

1. Staff recommend NCFGC endorse the expenditure of \$8,000 on cleaning up and removing derelict maimai's and other trash from Muriwai.
2. Staff recommend NCFGC direct staff to seek endorsement from Ngai Tahu to progress the project agreed above.

Decision Date: 20 Sept 2023
Mover: DAVE COLL
Seconder: PHILLIP MUSSON
Outcome: Approved

2.2 Ratify Council Decision on Salmon in Groyne Lakes



Ratify Council Decision from 18 August 2023 Governance Sprint (via video conferencing)

Background:

Council ratified their decision taken at the 18 August 2023 Governance Sprint to "*Not to Approve Releases of Commercial Origin Salmon into the Groyne Fishing Lakes*".

See 18 August 2023 Governance Spring video meeting notes for details.

Decision Date: 20 Sept 2023
Mover: PHILLIP MUSSON
Seconder: KEN LLOYD
Outcome: Approved

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

3.1 Confirm Minutes Dated 19 July 2023

NCFG Council Meeting 19 Jul 2023, the minutes were confirmed as presented.



Minutes from Council Meeting Dated 19 July 2023

That the Minutes dated 19 July 2023 be confirmed

Decision Date: 20 Sept 2023
Mover: NIALL COSTER
Seconder: KEN LLOYD
Outcome: Approved

3.2 General Business

1. **Compliance Sub Committee** - advised this sub-committee was disbanded and the region now relied on using a national F&G compliance framework. In further discussion, it was noted that all sub-committees were deemed operational and not governance committees. It was noted that governance committees have to have a properly constituted mandate, like the CEO Employment Committee.

2. **Lake Coleridge Fishing Competition** - advised that this Competition does not require approval from the Council as unlike external competitions it is included in the Operational Work Plan to help meet the Council's priority for Participation and Engagement. Staff confirmed that Lake Coleridge could sustain the High Country opening weekend fishing competition.

3. **Budget on Species Monitoring** - noted that much of the staff time was used for trout fishery or habitat monitoring, including spawning counts and with the Designated Waters system now in place, the trout fishery and its management was now at the forefront. The need to measure what is tangible to attribute to NCFG successes and how to communicate this to our stakeholders was discussed.

Noted the Trout Festival was a great success and Council thanked R Gabrielsson and staff for their organisation and efforts.



Sub-Committees

To check on the status of all sub-committees to see if there have been any terms of reference and if they remain relevant.

Due Date: 18 Oct 2023
Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON



Fishing Competition Policy

To develop a Policy around competitions to understand what does and what does not need approval from the Council.

That a Council sprint meeting be held around the rules of the Lake Coleridge Competition.

Due Date: 22 Nov 2023
Owner: RASMUS GABRIELSSON

4. PUBLIC SESSION

4.1 Public Session

1. **Glenariffe Project** - In reply to the question on what the benefit of the Glenariffe project was to the salmon fishery, it was advised that in creating availability and quality of suitable juvenile salmon rearing habitat. Once the Project was completed the habitat, water quality, and possible salmon recruitment and adult returns would be better understood using comparisons of baseline and subsequent monitoring surveys.

5. STANDARD REPORTS

5.1 Chairman's Report

5.2 Operational Update Report

5.3 Finance Report

Notes of interest:

1. Check to see if the Fish & Game building has been issued with a warrant of fitness statement.
2. In the future national Fish & Game grants would be incorporated into the regional budget, to help make it easier to review the Finance Report and monitor budget expenditure.
3. Check with NZC Accountant if Office Premises is a capital expenditure item.
4. The Finance Report format is helpful with the notes added.

5.4 NZC Report

Noted:

1. A copy of the Guides Licence discussion paper be sent to Councillors when received from NZC.
2. Insurance/indemnity - future considerations still in discussion.
3. Budget and meeting schedules confirmed. Noted regional council meetings set in off month to NZC meetings to allow for an effective consultation process.
4. RMA Legal Fund - needs Policy on applying for funding if Councils have 50% of the budget in reserves.
5. Is the National Fish & Game magazines still a viable resource - production, printing and distribution costs are increasing each year.
6. Minutes from last NZC meeting will be sent to NCFG Councillors when available.

5.5 RMA Update

5.6 Health and Safety Report

Note that the Freshwater Improvement Fund Project has its own Health and Safety Policy which is run by the Ministry for the Environment. If F&G provides staff to the Project, then F&G health and safety policy becomes the principal.

Points raised at the Health & Safety sub-committee audit be sent to R Gabrielsson by 30 September 2023 to rectify deficiencies

A fit-for-purpose App for Health and Safety was discussed. Cr Barron to send provider information to R Gabriellsson.

5.7 FIF Project Report

The progress and remaining steps of the Freshwater Improvement Fund (FIF) Projects were discussed. The FIF project finishes up in July 2024, and the Chair noted that at the end of the project we will be able to begin to quantify the benefits of the habitat restoration efforts.

5.8 Updates from Sub-Committees of Council (Verbal)

6. FOR INFORMATION STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Game Bird Hunting Regulations

Staff provided an update to Council on the aims of the proposed regulation changes, as well as the timeline of the consultation process. The Chair commented on the Council approved processes for developing and consulting on proposed regulation changes.

6.2 Annual Game Bird Report

The report was received by Council, who commended staff on the quality of the report. There was discussion around producing simple summaries from technical monitoring reports, to aid communication and engagement goals.

6.3 Compliance Report

The report was received and taken as read.

6.4 Sea Run Salmon Escapement And Harvest Survey Reports

The report was received and taken as read.

7. Close Meeting

7.1 Close the meeting

Next meeting: No date for the next meeting has been set.

Signature: _____

Date: _____