



Council Meeting Agenda

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

19 October 2024

To request Agenda items please phone 021 2700239
or email taranaki@fishandgame.org.nz

Saturday 19 October 2024
10:00am
TET Multi Sports Centre
Stratford

AGENDA TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING

Saturday 19 October 2024
TET Multi Sports Centre, Stratford
Commencing at 10:00am

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Agenda Item 1 **Welcome**

Summary

Welcome to Councillors and public.

Acknowledge the passing of Councillor David Potroz

Welcome Message – korero powhiri

Let us look after the water	Kia tiaki tatou i te wai
that flow from Mount Ruapehu and Mount Taranaki	ka rere mai i Maunga Ruapehu me Taranaki Maunga
for the health of the fish and birds	Mo te oranga o nga ika me nga manu
and hunters and anglers	me nga kaiwhakangau me nga kaihao
Let us work together with unity to make good decisions	kia mahi tatou me te kotahitanga ki te whakatau pai

Present and In Attendance

Summary

Record noted of all those who attend meeting in full or in part.

Agenda Item 2 **Apologies**

Summary

Confirm apologies notified to Chairman from those Councillors and public for non-attendance or lateness.

Decision Required

Recommendation/Action

Move motion accepting apologies from those that inform the Council of their non-attendance or lateness to meeting.

Agenda Item 3 **Conflict of Interest**

Summary

Consider the Conflicts of Interest Register to ensure it clearly identifies any perceived or actual conflicts of interest of members in general.

Confirm that there are no additional conflicts of interest to declare –either in general or specific items in the current agenda.

Confirm how the Council will handle any new conflicts of interest identified – including speaking rights, voting rights, exclusion from meeting on specific items, or exclusion of receiving any specific material relating to that item identified.

Decision Required

Recommendation/Action

Move motion accepting any additions to the Conflicts of Interest Register that are declared.

Councillor	Conflict of Interest Identified	Date Declared
Chris Donald	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of Inglewood Rod, Gun and Recreation Club 	14 June 2014
David Potroz	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of Inglewood Rod, Gun and Recreation Club. Application from brother to Hunting & Habitat Scheme 	14 June 2014 9 December 2023
Paul Blewman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None noted 	
Alan Flynn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None noted 	
John Nancarrow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of Inglewood Rod, Gun and Recreation Club 	17 August 2024
Romon Sargeson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None noted 	
Craig McEwen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None noted 	
Gerard Karalus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None noted 	

Agenda Item 4 **Minutes of Meeting of 17 August 2024**

Summary

Consider the unconfirmed and draft Minutes of the Meeting of 17 August 2024 of the Taranaki Fish and Game Council.

Confirmation by two members of the Council present at that meeting that they are a true and correct record of that meeting.

Note any specific additions or alterations required for clarity or correctness.

Decision Required

Recommendation/Action

Move motion accepting confirming that the Minutes of the Meeting of 17 August 2024 are a true and correct reflection of the meeting (subject to any amendments noted).

that the Taranaki Fish and Game Council adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 17 August 2024 be considered as a true and correct record of that meeting.

TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL,
HELD AT TET MULTI SPORTS STADIUM, STRATFORD ON 17 AUGUST 2024
COMMENCING AT 10:00AM

1. The Chairman, Chris Donald called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, staff and Chris Mattock to the meeting.
The Chairman advised the Councillors that he is unable to attend the full meeting and would tender his apologies from after 12:30pm.

PRESENT

Chairman Chris Donald, and Councillors Romon Sargeson, Craig McEwen, John Nancarrow, Gerard Karalus and Alan Flynn. Councillors Paul Blewman and David Potroz joined the meeting via zoom.

IN ATTENDANCE

Staff: Phil Teal (Chief Executive), Jilli Steedman (Secretary), Allen Stancliff (Senior Field Officer). Don Scott (Wellington Fish & Game Councillor) and Chris Mattock.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Rawenata Saunders.

MOVED KARALUS / NANCARROW
THAT THE APOLOGIES RECEIVED, BE ACCEPTED
CARRIED

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Councillor Nancarrow declared a conflict of interest being his membership of the Inglewood Rod, Gun and Recreation Club. There were no other additions noted to the Conflicts of Interest register that had not already been declared at previous meetings. Councillors Blewman and Potroz, attending via zoom, gave verbal notification that they had no conflict of interests other than those already notified.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 25 MAY 2024

Councillor Karalus clarified that contestable funding for the management contract would derived from a one-off funding from the licence fee rather than derived from reserves as recorded – with the minutes to be amended to reflect that.

Councillor Blewman noted that a Karakia had not been included in the meeting agenda item list for this meeting.

MOVED SARGESON / NANCARROW
THAT THE TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL ADOPT THE MINUTES, WITH
AMENDMENT NOTED, OF THE MEETING HELD 25 MAY 2024 AS A TRUE AND CORRECT
RECORD
CARRIED.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Action List Summary

Councillor Sargeson sought inclusion of a Management Plan for the Fish & Game Hawken's Wetland in the action list.

6. NZ COUNCIL BUSINESS

NZ Fish and Game Council appointee, Gerard Karalus gave a summary of the latest NZ Council meeting held on 18 June 2024, via zoom. He noted that the Minister had:

- approved a \$3 increase in licence fee.
- declined an increase for the Designated Waters Licence non-resident fee from \$40 to \$60 per day.
- declined seven additions to the Designated Waters licence.

Councillor Blewman noted his concern with the budgeted nation-wide deficit of \$532,417 (current financial year deficit of \$677,555) and considered this was a disturbing trend which is eroding Fish & Game's strong financial foundations, and that the organisation is not addressing issues around management spending.

Councillor Karalus noted his intention not to stand for the position of National Council Appointee after the upcoming Council election and asked fellow councillors to consider standing for this position.

MOVED KARALUS / NANCARROW

THAT THE NZ FISH AND GAME COUNCIL APPOINTEE'S VERBAL REPORT BE RECEIVED
CARRIED

7. PUBLIC FORUM

The Chairman introduced Chris Mattock and Don Scott to Council and invited them to speak.

Chris Mattock noted he was born in Horowhenua but has lived the last 20 years in Taranaki - his main passion is gamebird hunting.

Don Scott is a current Wellington Fish & Game Councillor and a fisherman. He noted his concerns over the quality of fishable water due to competition of the resource with industry, and would like to see the promotion of perch fisheries and "put and take" fisheries as a tool to encourage junior anglers.

8. CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman provided a verbal overview report of key issues since the previous meeting.

He noted the progression of the field officer staff vacancy, and his regular communications with staff.

He noted his appreciation for the contributions and commitment of councillors who have indicated they will not be seeking re-election to Council at the upcoming election.

MOVED DONALD / POTROZ

THAT THE CHAIRMAN'S VERBAL REPORT BE RECEIVED
CARRIED

9. INTER-REGIONAL BUSINESS

a. Shared Resources Update

Mr Teal gave an update on the progress of shared resources between Taranaki and Wellington Fish and Game Councils.

b. Regional Chairs' Forum Update

The Chairman gave a brief report on interactions of the Fish and Game Regional Chair's group.

- c. Discussion on Topics for Formalising Taranaki – Wellington Arrangement
In order to progress the formal process of amalgamation with the Minister, it was agreed by the joint governor working group that each Council confirm detailed positions and significant issues to confirm points of agreement and/or differences.

Council considered the discussion paper as a basis for systematically considering the following issues:

1. Governance Structure: Geographic representation, numerical proportional representation, total number of councillors, and payment of non-elected governors
2. Coverage of Staff Operations: Effectiveness and efficiency of operations, location of staff
3. Identification of Significant Assets and Management Obligations.
4. Identification of Significant Legacy (extension) Projects of Current Councils
5. Key Project or Management Issues (Emphasis)

There were a wider range of topics discussed:

- Taranaki Councillors preference would be for 3 Councillors from each region (each region having 3 sub-regions).
- Disappointment and frustration over the time it is taking to progress amalgamation
- Options for basing the main administration office of an amalgamated region may be in Palmerston North with satellite offices in New Plymouth and possibly Whanganui.
- Identification of Significant Legacy Projects: the Novice fishing days held at Sattlers Dam, Opunake Lake, the Family fishing day at Lake Rotomanu and the kid's fishing day held in Stratford.
- Councillors thought all staff should attend cultural training courses.
- There was discussion on the potential for there to be only one NZC appointee and therefore a reduction in representation at the national level.

The Chairman asked councillors to send through any potential questions for the Minister regarding the amalgamation to himself or Councillor Karalus.

MOVED KARALUS \ MCEWEN

THAT THE REPORT ON INTER-REGIONAL BUSINESS, BE RECEIVED
CARRIED

10. DRAFT 2024/25 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

Councillor Blewman noted the importance of Council's 5-year Strategic Work Plan and that he would like to see it included as a standing agenda item in Council agendas again, as agreed by Council at its December 2016 meeting. The CE and Chairman noted the need to streamline our agendas. It was noted that the 5-year Strategic Plan had been reviewed at Council's February meeting, but no additions or amendments had been included.

Paul Blewman left the meeting at 12:00

MOVED SARGESON / FLYNN

THAT THE 5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN BE UPDATED TO INCLUDE 2027/28 YEARS AND BE INCLUDED AS AN AGENDA ITEM AT COUNCIL'S NEXT MEETING IN OCTOBER 2024.
CARRIED

MOVED SARGESON / NANCARROW

THAT THE 5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN NOT BE INCLUDED AS A REGULAR AGENDA ITEM BUT BE SENT TO COUNCILLORS APPENDED TO THEIR MEETING AGENDAS AND REVIEWED AT FUTURE FEBRUARY MEETINGS WITH ADDITIONS AND AMMENDMENTS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF.
CARRIED

MOVED SARGESON / NANCARROW

THAT TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL ADOPT THE DRAFT 2024/25 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGET.
CARRIED

11. STRATEGIC MATTERS

a. Risk Management Review

The CE noted the risks associated with Avian Flu and Gold Clam.

b. Iwi Engagement

Staff will be attending a Māori Cultural Wānanga in October.

12. POLICY AND LEGISLATION

a. Wildlife Act Review

There has been no update from the Minister of Conservation as to the priority or timetable in processing this review.

b. Resource Management Act Review

It was noted that RM Reform - Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill for resource management legislative review was being progressed by Government. The Draft Bill excludes the hierarchy of obligations in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) from resource consenting. NZ Council staff have met with Select Committee to present additional submission.

c. Fast Track Approvals Bill

It was noted that the Select Committee hearing submissions on the Fast Track Approvals Bill had concluded their proceedings and were currently considering feedback for a report back to Parliament before any amendments are made to the detail of the First Reading of the Bill.

d. Arms Act Review

It was noted that the Government is advancing consultation on amendments to firearms legislation. They have indicated that this may include rewriting the Arms Act 1983, transferring responsibility for that act to the Ministry of Justice, and transferring the Firearms Safety Authority to another department such as the Department of Internal Affairs.

The Government has started consultation on firearms reforms and have indicated that draft legislation will also likely be introduced to Parliament this Calendar year.

The meeting adjourned at 12.40pm for lunch.

Chairman, Chris Donald left the meeting at 12:40pm.
The meeting reconvened at 1:15pm

The Vice Chairman, Alan Flynn assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting

e. Organisational Policies

Mr Teal noted that he is continuing to liaise with NZ Council and regions regarding defining best practice policy for operational and governance applications.

He noted that there are several Regional Operational and Governance policies that are being actively reviewed. He referred to a list of policies for Wellington and Taranaki that are currently adopted, being actively reviewed, or being considered for development/review.

13. HEALTH AND SAFETY

After brief discussion it was

MOVED NANCARROW / SARGESON

THAT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT FOR MAY AND JUNE, 2024 BE RECEIVED
CARRIED

14. SPECIES MANAGEMENT

a. Research Update

Mr Teal provided a brief update on the progress of publication of research paper in journals for the topics of:

- Trout/native fish interactions – draft submitted to journal (awaiting peer review comments)
- Potential effects of climate change on trout distribution and other native fish distribution in NZ. Draft submitted to journal, refining analysis with additional modeling in response to peer review comments.

15. HABITAT ADVOCACY AND MANAGEMENT

a. Regional Planning Advocacy

A submission has been made by Allen Stancliff, Ami Coughlan and Phil Teal to the Taranaki Regional Council Regional Plan review. Allen Stancliff attended the first public consultation meeting held in Okato.

Horizons Regional Council are continuing with the Oranga Wai consultation – the next generation of Regional Plan changes to reflect NPS FM 2020 – focusing on water quantity and water quality parameters. The timetable to complete the Plan Change revision for public notification has been formally put back to September 2027 from the December 2024 deadline.

b. Resource Consent Advocacy

TLAs within the Horizons region boundaries have been discussing consistency in management approaches and funding models. This is concurrent to Government initiatives and approaches to municipal water management.

c. Hunting and Habitat Scheme Enhancement Projects

There have been no new applications for funding from the Hunting & Habitat Scheme.

Staff noted that a prior year's successful application for the Rakautaua wetland was unable to be uplifted by the deadline due to weather conditions preventing digger work.

MOVED KARALUS / MCEWEN

THAT PAYMENT OF \$1,000 BE MADE TO CRAIG PARTNERSHIP FOR THE RAKAUTAUW WETLAND.

CARRIED

16. PARTICIPATION

a. Access Management

Mr Teal noted there will be an inventory of access signage undertaken in the upcoming financial year, and access point descriptions updated and included on new website.

b. Information to Clients

It was noted that the weekly hunting email newsletter – the Game Bird Hunting Bulletin – was posted weekly to all Taranaki and Wellington licence holders from immediately prior to the season until the end of June. Council expressed their appreciation of the work done by Hamish Carnachan for articles in newsletters, the magazine and the regular fishing and hunting ezines.

c. Licence Holder Engagement – including R3

It was noted that there was engagement with Anglers to provide feedback on the TRC consultation on targets in their regional planning process public engagement exercise.

17. PUBLIC AWARENESS / COMMS

a. Iwi engagement

Allen's attendance at Te Kopuka hui was discussed, with two visits to marae planned in September & October.

b. Public Awareness

It was acknowledged that staff continued to contribute to NZ Council co-ordinated public awareness campaign – *Re Wilding*

c. Communications

Councillor McEwen inquired as to whether the footing on the Kaupokonui Glenn Road weir had been removed.

18. LICENCE SALES & LICENCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

a. Licence sales update

After brief discussion it was

MOVED SARGESON / MCEWEN

THAT THE REPORT ON LICENCE SALES FOR THE 2023/24 FISH SEASON AND FOR 2024 GAME SEASON TO 4 JULY 2024, BE RECEIVED

CARRIED

b. Licence Management System – March and April 2024

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of the performance of the Licencing Management System noting that it was performing well with no issues of continuity of service.

- c. Licence Price Optimisation Research
Mr Teal noted that this project would be commenced in September 2024 using an external provider.

19. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

Councillor Karalus asked about discharges from Ballance Agri-nutrients into Kapuni Stream. Allen Stancliff noted that there was little prospect the proposed change in cooling tower biocide would have any adverse effects on Kapuni Stream and he appreciated their notification.

Councillor Flynn is concerned about the stress placed on trout that are caught and released during periods of high summer water temperature.

MOVED NANCARROW / SARGESON
THAT THE BUDGET REPORT TO 30TH JUNE 2024 AND PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT TO 25 JULY 2024, BE RECEIVED
CARRIED

20. FINANCIAL REPORTS

MOVED POTROZ / NANCARROW
THAT THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO 30TH JUNE 2024, BE RECEIVED
CARRIED

21. CORRESPONDENCE

MOVED POTROZ / KARALUS
THAT THE CORRESPONDENCE SCHEDULES TO 2 AUGUST 2024, BE RECEIVED.
CARRIED

22. RECOGNITION AWARDS

Councillors were given nomination papers for the recipient of this year's Bruce McKenzie Award for outstanding service to Taranaki Fish & Game.

23. CONSERVATION BOARD LIAISON

Consider formal (re) engagement with Taranaki / Whanganui Conservation Board – noting that under legislation that this should occur.

24. GENERAL BUSINESS

Councillor Sargeson would like included in our 5-year Strategic Plan the production of pamphlets for perch fishing opportunities to promote fishing to young anglers.

Councillor Nancarrow noted that the AGM of the Inglewood Rod, Gun & Recreation Club was being held on Tuesday 20th August at 7pm. Senior Field Officer, Allen Stancliff confirmed he would attend. Councillor Nancarrow also noted that the IRG&RC needed to be an Incorporated Society to receive NZCT and Pub Charity Funds. He also noted that Hynds have community funds available that could be used to enhance fishing opportunities at Lake Rotomanu. It was also noted that the Club had found land to lease for a clay target range. The Inglewood Rod, Gun & Recreation Club would also like acknowledgement of the letter they sent to Council in October 2023 and Council's decisions regarding Lake Mangamahoe fishing regulations.

Councillor Flynn noted a private members bill by MP Cameron Luxton intending to give authority to appoint 2 members with hunting backgrounds from Fish & Game/Big Game Council(via a recommendation) and the NZ Deer Stalkers Association to the NZ Conservation Authority.

Councillor Potroz noted that there was an opportunity to create a wetland at the old Oaonui fire testing site owned/leased by Andy Whitehead.

25. CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on 19 October 2024, in Stratford.

26. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the acting Chairman declared the meeting closed at 2:40pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____

Agenda Item 5 **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Summary

a. Action List Summary

Consider the Action List from the Minutes of the Meeting of 17 August 2024 and consider the actions undertaken – including completed actions, partially completed actions, and actions pending.

b. Other Matters Arising

Consider any other items that are noted in the Minutes where further updates and clarification are sought – where they are not addressed in other agenda items for the meeting.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Note any specific clarifications relating to follow-up actions undertaken that relate to items discussed at the previous meeting.

Actions from 17 August 2024 Meeting

Action	Responsibility	Status
Update Conflicts of Interest Register – John Nancarrow's member of Inglewood RRR Club	Phil	Completed
the 5-year Strategic Plan be updated to include 2027/28 years and be included as an agenda item at Council's next meeting in October 2024.	Allen	Completed
the 5-year strategic plan not be included as a regular agenda item but be sent to councillors appended to their meeting agendas and reviewed at February strategic meetings.	Phil	Completed
adopt the draft 2024/25 Annual Operational Work Plan - Taranaki Fish and Game Council	Governors	Completed
payment of \$1,000 be made to Craig Partnership for the Rakautaua Wetland for wetland enhancement project that completion dates delayed because of adverse weather.	Phil/Allen	Completed
Send confirmation letter to Inglewood RRR Club regarding liberalising fishing techniques on Lake Mangamahoe.	Phil/Allen	Pending
Consider development of access information for perch fishing opportunities in Taranaki (including pamphlet) . Consider in strategic planning considerations.	Phil/Allen	Pending

Actions from previous Meetings

Action	Date	Responsibility	Status
Develop a management plan for raupo control on Hawken's Lagoon	25 May 2024	Phil/Allen	Pending
Arrange a Special meeting with Wellington Fish and Game Council in May or June to reengage on a Councillor to Councillor basis	25 May 2024	Phil/Chris	Partially complete – agreed in principle
That the Taranaki and Wellington Liaison Working Group meet to largely align the two Council's Strategic Priority Statements	15 February 2024	Phil/Governors	Partially complete – agreed in principle

Agenda Item 6 **NZ Fish and Game Council Business**

Summary

NZ Council Appointee to cover key issues from NZ Council Meeting and business conducted.

- a. NZ Council Meeting – 23 and 24 August 2024
 - Attendance by the Minister of Hunting and Fishing
- b. Changes in Approach to Budget Process
 - Proposal and implementation of a Zero Based Budget (ZBB)
- c. Other NZ Council Business
- d. Draft Policy – Consultation on Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan (SFGMP)
 - Consultation Policy on SFGMPs
 - Key Elements to be included in a SFGMP
 - Policy in Drafting SFGMP
 - Mana Whenua Engagement – Guidance document
- e. Draft NZC Meeting Schedule

FEEDBACK REQUIRED

Recommendation/Action

Council to move motion to receive the report from the Taranaki Council appointee to NZ Council on NZ Fish and Game Council business for the previous period – including meetings and key issues/actions.

Council to provide feedback to NZ Council on changes to proposed budgeting approach to include Zero Based Budget

Council to provide feedback on policy and guidance documents relating to development of Sports Fish and Game Management Plans.

Council to provide feedback on the draft NZ Council meeting schedule – indicating support/amend/not support



29 August 2024

NZC CEO Update to Regional Managers

Summary of Fish & Game National Council Meeting #170 (23 & 24 August 2024)

Tēnā koutou,

Below, you'll find a summary of the topics and decisions from our latest NZC meeting. Hot button issues to note were around future contestable funding rounds, development of a National Sportsfish and Gamebird Monitoring Program, and the NZC risk register. I encourage you to review the summary closely.

Executive Overview:

August hui

The August meeting of the NZC was the last before the upcoming elections and we farewelled two councillors who have decided not to stand again, Dean Phibbs and Dave Harris. They have both contributed significantly and we will wish them well.

The meeting, held in Wellington, had a typically full agenda and I highlight a few areas of focus below.

Annual Meeting and Budget Timetable, and Contestable Funding Process:

The Annual Meeting and Budget Timetable was approved. It was explained the timetable was based around meeting the production schedule for licence setting and other regulatory work. In considering the NZC meetings the Council shared views on how challenging it was to meet online or just for a single day.

The timetable is attached for formal consultation. It has been amended in line with the Council's decisions.

Please provide feedback by November 29 2024.

It was also agreed in-person managers' meeting/s are at the discretion of the CE within the budget provided. However, the Council also directed that they did not



require an in-person managers' meeting to be held to advise NZC ahead of its budget meeting/s.

In considering the annual meeting and budget timetable the Council discussed the process for the budgeting meeting. The report highlighted the involvement of managers in contestable funding applications in the past. The Council considered that advice and modified the report and the motion in the agenda.

The update to the report was that the following note be added after para 21 on pg47: *"Managers have no statutory role to advise NZC on the process. The process that has been established, to workshop, and then advise NZC on budgets has no foundation in legislation."*

The NZC resolved that there will no longer be a Contestable Fund budget round. Instead NZC, on an annual basis, 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 organisational budgets moving forward.

The NZC also discussed levies and resolved that using regional reserves is lawful and NZC will consider levying regional reserves as part of this process. The legal advice behind this decision was considered in another item of the agenda and is attached for your information.

We appreciate this is a significant change in the process. The NZC staff will be engaging with appropriate experts to formulate a paper for the NZC December meeting considering how to implement this new process and how to support the regions through this change.

National budget approval

The Council approved the Total National Budget for 2024-25 of \$13,255,721 across all Regions and the NZC/National Budget. The Forecast Deficit for the year is \$532,417. We have attached separately the 2024-25 budget confirmation paper 26 August 2024.



Budget and workplan approval NZC/National

The Council received the information and approved the rollover and reallocation of \$207,500 unused 2023-24 budget to the 2024-25 financial year. It also approved the Financial NZC/National Budget Deficit of \$257,431 for 2024-25.

NZC delegated to the Chief Executive the authority to spend within the Budget approved for the 2024-25 year.

The Council adopted the NZC workplan with an amendment to be clear about which Ministerial Review recommendations we are implementing and which recommendations are outside of our control.

Risk Register

I presented a risk register and discussion document to the NZC covering risks to the entire organisation and NZC office.

The discussion highlighted the importance of the risk register and what mitigations are in place.

Issues raised included potentially impactful external risks such as High Pathogenic Avian Influenza and challenges with culture and internal cohesion. The structure of the organisation, lack of cohesion and issues with lack of clarity of roles and responsibilities were highlighted.

A clarification was offered after some commentary that the full-time equivalent staff for NZC was the same as at 2018, with 7.6 staff. In 2019 there was an overlap with new staffer Jack Kos commencing and Robert Sowman staying on so numbers were 8.4 for a year.

The NZC adopted the risk register with amendments, with an action that this be sent to regions with the suggestion that the regions supply their risk register back to NZC. The updated risk register is attached.



Rationale of HS System

The Council agreed for a continued review of Health & Safety and Wellbeing policies and delegated to the Chief Executive the authority to review and provide proposals for recommended changes.

The information was discussed with the Health and Safety committee who provided input prior to the hui.

The Council also resolved that all new councillors are inducted into health and safety requirements.

This will require the development of a health and safety induction programme.

The accountability matrix is attached.

RMA Fund Update

There were no new applications to consider. The current allocated funds in the RMA budget are \$722,276 on 21 July 2024.

The remaining budget is \$72,772. This does not include contestable funds for next year of \$200,000 which was confirmed in the budgets in July.

NZC confirmed RMA fund decisions:

- a) Fund 50% of \$35,000 for the joint North Canterbury / Central South Island and Southland Fish and Game High Court Case (as noted in minutes from meeting 169).
- b) Fund 50% of the \$75,000 costs for joint Otago / CSI Fish and Game application for funding (as discussed in 4 June NZC workshop).



Sports Fish and Game Management Plan Policies and Guidance

The Council agreed to adopt the SFGMP consultation guidelines, draft elements SFGMPs and guide to drafting SFGMPs as NZC policy, which is binding on the regions (26C(1)(a),(j) and 26Q (1)(e)(v)). It adopted the mana whenua engagement SFGMP work as guidance.

The SFGMP supporting documents have been through a comprehensive development process including engagement with the Department of Conservation. Fish & Game managers/CEs are Fish & Game's RMA experts.

The draft SFGMP documents were discussed with managers at the 21 September 2023 Managers' Meeting. Managers generally wanted the SFGMP to be briefer and adhere to the minimum requirements of the Conservation Act.

Managers were also concerned about incorporating spawning sites as part of the SFGMP as this was seen not to have the flexibility needed to update records and mapping. It was suggested that holding this information in a national database would be better than in a plan that required public consultation and that only got updated once every 10 years.

At the 28 March 2024 managers' meeting, it was recommended that this body of work go to the RMA team for further comments. The documents went to the RMA team for review in June 2024 and feedback mainly recommended that the mana whenua engagement work be adopted as guidance only.

At the 1 August 2024 Managers meeting, the following was discussed:

- Amendments to the consultation guidance so that NZC and other regions are consulted in the first steps of the process rather than before public notification. Removal of internal consultation step preceding public notification. These amendments have been incorporated into the attached version.
- Support for the four items to be adopted as guidance only, as per recommendation in the ministerial review.



- Managers have suggested utilising cross region staff resources for writing management plans.
- Managers have noted that the consultation processes can end up being the time-consuming and costly part of the process rather than the drafting of the management plan.
- Managers note that the guidance cannot be adopted as NZC policy as some of the work relates to best practice, which is more onerous than what the Conservation Act 1987 requires.
- Managers suggested asking the Minister for advice from iwi advisory forums on what they want to see in these plans to provide cost savings to licence holders.
- Managers recommended that the mana whenua engagement work was to remain as guidance at this stage rather than being adopted as a policy. Other minor wording changes have also been considered.

DOC has been consulted regarding the draft guidelines and key elements. NZC staff were initially intending to develop SFGMP containing only the mandatory elements listed in the Conservation Act. However, external experts including the team at DOC advised additional information was necessary including policies, outcomes and monitoring of species.

I also attached a letter from the Minister outlining his expectations about future SFGMPs.

[Ap 5 Letter from Minister WC SFGMP.pdf](#)

The papers' links are provided below. **Please consult with your regional councils and provide feedback by 29 November.**

[Ap 1 SFGMP Consultation Policy.docx](#)

[Ap 2 Key Elements SFGMP Policy.docx](#)

[Ap 3 SFGMP Policy.docx](#)

[Ap 4 Mana Whenua Engagement guideline.docx](#)



Standing Orders Review

I also attach the revised standing orders for your information. The key point highlighted at the hui was that the change meant decisions made at online meetings are able to stand and don't need to be ratified at subsequent in person hui.

Staff received feedback that while some papers can be provided electronically agendas needed to be sent in paper. Councillors requested better organised papers grouped in thematic order.

Correspondence Received

NZC discussed a letter from Hawke's Bay entitled: Development of a National Game Bird Population Monitoring Programme and Standard Operating Procedures.

The Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Council is seeking that NZC urgently develop a National Game Bird Population Monitoring Programme and Standard Operating Procedures.

Population Monitoring is a key function of councils under the Conservation Act, and as it constitutes a significant portion of regional budgets, it is vital that the organisation's approach to monitoring game bird populations is scientifically robust and defensible.

Once the future direction of this programme is established, the Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Council is fully committed to implementing this programme.

NZC directed me to fast-track development of a National Game Bird Population Monitoring Programme and Standard Operating Procedures for the February NZC meeting. I will be engaging with regional teams and relevant external experts on this.

We also received correspondence from Nigel Juby, chair Auckland/Waikato with regards to the Risk Register.



Public Excluded resolutions

These are the resolutions brought out of public excluded:

Maritime

NZC received a report.

The NZC CEO is now working to put in place a contract for the maritime coordinator position.

Rakaia

An update on Rakaia WCO from North Canterbury was received.

Levies

A legal opinion on levies was received and Councillors agreed to circulate it to the regions. This is attached.

Diversions

NZC has considered our diversion process. We note that we are fast tracking an infringement process.

NZC directs regions to meet the making amends component of the Solicitor General's guidelines [Solicitor-General's Guidelines For Payments Connected To Plea Arrangements Or Diversion, dated 6 August 2021 paragraph 1.2](#)". The purpose of these Guidelines is to reinforce the need to ensure that payment of reparation is not the principal reason for entering plea arrangements or offering diversion."

The NZC advises regions to carefully also consider paragraph 3.8 "*Enforcement agencies should avoid the appearance of any private bargain with defendants and be cautious before incorporating payment of fines and costs into diversion conditions,*" and consider diversion fines be made to an external charity.



CEO report

The Council made several resolutions based on the report:

- The NZC commends Hamish Carnachan and the NZ Hunter team for their outstanding work. The fish special edition is another outstanding piece of work from the team, showcasing Fish & Game in a positive light, the benefits of freshwater angling, and the diversity of our anglers
- Publish the CE report with commercially sensitive material redacted.
- Raised concerns about biosecurity and recommended a higher level of risk due to the potential impact of new invasive species in the future.

The redacted report is attached.

Southland – Otago Chairs' letter

The Council discussed a joint letter from the Southland and Otago Regional Fish & Game Councils sent to the Minister dated 16 August 2024.

NZC endorsed the chairs to work on a letter to the Minister to rectify the Southland-Otago Chairs' letter.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Corina Jordan', is enclosed in a rectangular box.

Corina Jordan
CEO New Zealand Fish & Game Council

Zero Based Budgeting Approach.

Full implementation is likely to take a couple of years.

Broadly the organisation has been calling for changes to the way we do our budgeting, and there is general acceptance that we are not currently fiscally sustainable in the longer term.

At its simplest level Zero Based Budgeting is about reviewing and considering each budget item against strategic priorities and revenue:

- What are the key operational activities that deliver on the strategic priorities;
- What can be ditched, what can be delayed, what is essential;
- Where efficiency gains can be made;
- Revenue generating opportunities.

Section 26Q(1)(d) of the Act requires that regional Fish and Game Councils shall:

- a. "Assess the costs attributable to the management of sports fish and game"; and*
- b. Develop and recommend to the New Zealand Council "appropriate licence fees to recover costs".*

From: Corina Jordan <cjordan@fishandgame.org.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 19 September 2024 2:22 pm
To: Regional Managers <regionalmanagers@fishandgame.org.nz>; Kerry Meehan <kmeehan@fishandgame.org.nz>
Cc: NZ Fish & Game Council <nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz>; Helen Brosnan <HBrosnan@fishandgame.org.nz>; Maggie Tait <mtait@fishandgame.org.nz>
Subject: Re: CEO letter re NZC meeting 170

Good afternoon all,

As set out in the original correspondence dated 30 August, the New Zealand Fish & Game Council are seeking the following feedback from Regional Fish and Game Councils by the 29 November 2024.

1. Feedback on proposed NZC policy (26C(1)(a),(j) and 26Q (1)(e)(v)) on development of 10 year Sportsfish & Gamebird Management Plans (documents attached):
 - a. AP1 SFGMP Consultation Policy
 - b. AP2 Policy Key Elements SFGMP
 - c. AP3 SFGMP Policy

This is policy that is proposed to be implemented by Regional Fish and Game Councils

- Section 26C(1)(a) to develop, in consultation with Fish and Game Councils, national policies for the carrying out of its functions for sports fish and game, and the effective implementation of relevant general policies established under the [Wildlife Act 1953](#) and this Act
- Section 26Q(1) The functions of each Fish and Game Council shall be to manage, maintain, and enhance the sports fish and game resource in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters, and, in particular (e) in relation to planning (v) to implement national policy determined by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Please also note Section 26(1)(j) which enable NZC to audit the activities of Fish and Game Councils. As such NZC can audit Regional Fish and Game Councils on Policy implementation as established under section 26C(1)(a).

2. Feedback from the Regional Fish and Game Councils on proposed NZC guidance to Regional Fish and Game Council on the following document:
 - a. Ap4 Mana whenua engagement guideline
3. Feedback on the 2024/25 Meeting and Budget Calendar (attached)

I hope this provides the clarity required. Please let me know if you have any other questions, or give me a call.

Ngā Mihi

Corina Jordan | Chief Executive

New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Draft SFGMP Consultation Policy

The development of a Sprots Fish and Game Management Plan (SFGMP) is carried out under the Conservation Act 1987, in accordance with the Conservation Management Strategy and Conservation General Policy. The following guidelines provides a number of steps relating to consultation for developing new SFGMP.

In addition to this policy, we are developing a mana whenua engagement guideline and have developed SFGMP key elements & guidance.

This consultation policy is designed specifically to provide a good practice process to assist with developing SFGMP rather than general public consultation.

Step 1 Engage with mana whenua

Each region is responsible for the development of relationships with key mana whenua with interests in the Fish and Game region. Discussions with mana whenua could include the extent to which they want to be included in the process and what issues are key to them. Supplementary guidance for mana whenua engagement is provided in Draft Fish and Game Mana Whenua engagement guidelines.

Consultation should be consistent with the mana whenua engagement advice provided (Kahu Environmental August 2023) and legal advice "Giving Effect to Treaty Principles, advice on the application of s4 of the Conservation Act 1987" (Rachel Ennor and Elana Geddis Feb 2023).

Step 2 Discussion with key stakeholders

Regions should seek input from the following organisations prior to drafting:

- Department of Conservation and Conservation Board
- Regional council / district council
- herengaanuku (walking access NZ)
- Game Animal Council
- Other bordering fish and game councils
- NZC
- Licence holders

The focus on this round of consultation is to ask who wants to be involved in the build and to discuss what values everyone would expect to see.

Early discussions may also start conversations about key issues.

Step 3 Drafting

This step ideally commences after a number of meetings with key stakeholders and ideally collaborative drafting is undertaken where possible. Section 17L of the Conservation Act prescribes minimum requirements of a SFGMP. Our Key Elements and Guide document also covers what SFGMP should contain.

17L. Sports fish and game management plans

- (1) The purpose of a sports fish and game management plan is to establish objectives for the management of sports fish and game, or both, within any region or part of any region.
- (2) Each Fish and Game Council shall prepare for approval by the Minister such sports fish and game management plans as are necessary for the management of sports fish and game within its area of jurisdiction.
- (3) Nothing in any sports fish and game management plan shall derogate from—
 - (a) any provision in this Act or any other Act; or
 - (b) any policy approved under this Act or any other Act in respect of the area to which the plan relates, or any part of that area; or
 - (c) any provision in any conservation management strategy or conservation management plan or freshwater fisheries management plan.
- (4) When preparing a draft sports fish and game management plan, the Fish and Game Council shall—
 - (a) have regard to the sustainability of sports fish and game in the area to which the plan relates; and
 - (b) have regard to the impact that the management proposed in the draft is likely to have on other natural resources and other users of the habitat concerned; and
 - (c) include such provisions as may be necessary to maximise recreational opportunities for hunters and anglers.

Section 17L: inserted, on 10 April 1990, by section 13(1) of the Conservation Law Reform Act 1990 (1990 No 31).

Step 4 Adoption of draft SFGMP for consultation and provide draft SFGMP to NZC

Step 5 Statutory Consultation process 40 working days

Formal consultation of draft must adhere to section 17M of the Conservation Act. This includes a notice of the draft plan in newspapers and notice of the draft plan to the director general (which is delegated to the local DOC office). Notice of the draft plan should also go to iwi authorities and regional councils or territorial authorities. The fish and game council may give further notice of the draft plan as the Fish and Game Council thinks fit.

Step 6 End of submission period and summary of submissions

Hearings can be carried out by a sub-committee of the region.

Significant changes may require a second consultation period of 40 days

Step 7 Final draft SFGMP must be adopted by the regional F & G council

Step 8 Provide copy of SFGMP to NZC along with summary of submissions¹

Section 26C Functions of New Zealand Fish and Game Council include (k) to perform such other sports fish and game functions as the Minister may require. The minister will usually request comments from NZC regarding the SFGMP.

Step 9 Region to provide SFGMP to the Minister of Conservation

Region to provide Draft SFGMP with outcome of consultation to go to the minister of conservation.

Step 10 The Minister of Conservation can request changes or approve the SFGMP

Step 11 Approval

Once the SFGMP is approved, circulate to those who participated in the process, NZC and other regions for information. The approved plan should also be added to the F&G web page so the public can easily obtain a copy of the SFGMP.

¹ It is also a good idea to include a record of all consultation that you carried out even if this has not resulted in formal comments or submissions.

Draft Policy: Key Elements Sports Fish and Game Management Plans

Giving Effect to the Principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi

- Engagement with mana whenua must happen before F&G Councils start drafting SFGMPs to allow mana whenua interests and aspirations to be actively taken into account during the planning and drafting process. This should be undertaken in accordance with the F&G Guide for Engaging with Mana Whenua. *[Under development]*
- The structure and content of SFGMPs will therefore be determined as part of engaging with mana whenua.
- It will be important to comply with and refer to relevant Treaty Legislation and have regard to iwi planning documents.
- Examples of issues that have arisen in the past include:
 - Intrinsic value of waterways vs utility for fishing and hunting
 - Customary use of indigenous species
 - Māori Rights to non-indigenous species
 - Predation of indigenous species by sports fish
 - Prosecution of Māori for hunting or fishing without licences
 - Concessionary licences for Māori to fish and hunt introduced species
- Note that some issues raised may be beyond the scope of a SFGMP. Discussing the issues however, will likely be important to mana whenua, and F&G may want to consider other avenues to address any matters raised.

Approval Page

- This section confirms the SFGMP has been approved by the Minister.

[See Appendix One: Example of an Approval Page.](#)

Contents Page

Introduction

- Consider the following elements for an Introduction:
 - Role of F&G – opportunity to tell F&G's story
 - Vision for the region
 - Legislative Context
 - Consistency with law and relevant planning documents
- Key questions to consider:
 - Does this information help achieve one or more of the purposes of the SFGMP?

State of the Environment – Species, Habitats and Threats

- Consider including a section on the state of the environment, covering the sports fish and game bird resource, habitat values, as well as threats to those values.
- Consider including maps of sports fish and game habitat and spawning areas.
- Consider identifying significant fishing values of waterways, including for outstanding waterways consistent with resource management legislation. Also identify resource by locally, regionally and nationally significant.
- Make explicit links to objectives and policies and significant values of waterways
- Key questions to ask:
 - Is there a link to between significant values of waterways and the objectives and policies?
 - Is the description of the state of the environment based on evidence, including mātauranga Māori and science?
 - How will the description assist in resource management and conservation advocacy?

Community Engagement

- Consider including issues, objectives and policies that relate to how F&G engages with diverse members of the community.
- Include licence holders, iwi, DOC, local councils, conservation boards, private landowners, New Zealand Walking Access Commission/Ara Hikoi Aotearoa.

Sustainability of Sports Fish and Game Bird Populations

- Include issues, objectives and policies that will help F&G manage sports fish and game bird populations.
- Consider addressing the following matters, amongst others:
 - Data requirements
 - Appropriate angling and hunting conditions
 - Planned release/s
 - Degraded fisheries or game bird resources requiring restoration
- Including issues, objectives and policies on monitoring that:
 - Provide direction for monitoring priorities for operational workplans
 - Implement national species monitoring programmes and Standard Operating Procedures (if any).
- Consider what impacts F&G management decisions could have on other natural resources and other users of the habitat concerned, including in relation to:
 - Risks to aviation safety from game birds
 - Impacts on crops from game birds

[See Appendix Two: Example of issues, objective and policies for Sustainability of Sports Fish and Game Birds Populations](#)

Habitat Protection

- Include issues, objectives and policies that address habitat protection.
- Consider including issues, objectives and policies that address the following matters:
 - Priority outcomes for resource management and conservation advocacy to influence planning documents
 - Climate change impacts on habitat values

- Degraded wetlands requiring restoration.
- Consider what impacts F&G management decisions could have on other natural resources and other users of the habitat concerned, including in relation to:
 - Interactions between sports fish and indigenous fish
 - Fish passage and impacts on indigenous fish

[See Appendix Three: Example of issues, objective and policies for habitat protection](#)

Recreational Opportunities for Hunters and Anglers

- Include issues, objectives and policies that address the following:
 - Protecting and improving access to recreational opportunities
 - Maintaining and improving awareness of existing recreational opportunities for hunters and anglers
 - Guiding
 - Ethical behaviour of anglers and hunters
 - Equitable access to the resource for all licence holders
- Consider including issues, objectives and policies that address how F&G involves licence holders in decision-making.
- Consider what impacts F&G management decisions could have on other natural resources and other users of the habitat concerned.

Compliance

- Consider including issues, objectives and policies on compliance.
- Key issues to consider:
 - Training for F&G rangers
 - Monitoring requirements to assist compliance activity. Monitoring is key to the work we do so we can set bag limits and know when there are adverse changes to bird and fish populations. A Standard Operating Procedure is currently been developed to set a framework for monitoring work. We would expect to see the following monitoring work as a minimum:
 - Annual long running game bird counts and banding.
 - Water quality monitoring, investigations to fish passage obstructions, drift diving / electric fishing population monitoring, trout spawning surveys, gravel maintenance to enhance spawning where applicable, sports fish tagging programme, participate in fish screen working party / advocacy where applicable,

Plan Implementation and Review

- Consider including a section describing how the plan will be implemented and reviewed.
- Key questions to consider:
 - Is making links to the Operational Work Plan helpful?
 - Would identifying targets and timeframes be helpful?

General

- Engagement with mana whenua and stakeholders will identify additional elements.
- Be brief, don't repeat issues.
- Think high level, 10 year-horizon.

Appendix One – Template for Approval

APPROVAL

The purpose of this sports fish and game management plan is to establish objectives for the management of sports fish and game within the **[Name]** Region as per section 17L(1) of the Conservation Act 1987 (the Act).

This sports fish and game management plan was prepared by the **[Name]** Fish and Game Council in accordance with sections 17L(2), 17M, and 26Q(1)(e)(iii) of the Act.

This plan was approved by **[Name]**, Minister of Conservation, under sections 17M(2)(g) and 26A(1)(a) of the Act.

..... / /
Minister of Conservation

DRAFT

Appendix Two: Example of Issues, Objective and Policies for Sustainability of the Resource

Issues:

[Issue defined as: problem requiring action]

There is an ongoing need for information on sports fish and game populations dynamics and factors affecting their abundance, including harvest, to develop appropriate management responses. There are growing concerns that the sea-run salmon fishery and the sea-run trout fishery are in decline, as there are fewer fish returning to sustain the population.

Sports fish and game bird populations can also impact other users of the resource, including potential risks to aviation safety and impacts on crops.

Objective:

[Objective defined as: what F&G would like to achieve to resolve an issue]

Achieve sustainability of sports fish and game bird species through management, and support anglers and hunters enjoying a sustainable and highly valued recreational experience.

Policies:

[Policy defined as: action to achieve the objective:

1. Maintain information in an up-to-date database detailing sports fish species, population monitoring, trends and harvest.
2. Draft angling and hunting conditions and recommendations that:
 - a) Manage angler and hunter harvest at sustainable levels
 - b) Are based on the best available information
 - c) Adopt a precautionary management approach in the absence of reliable information
3. Undertake the following in relation to the sea-run salmon fishery and the sea-run trout fishery:
 - a) Identify highly-valued areas
 - b) Monitor the resource to determine whether it is in decline
 - c) If resource is declining, investigate factors contributing to the decline
 - d) Consider management options to improve the fishery
4. Prioritise sports fish and game bird species management activities through:
 - a) Population trend monitoring
 - b) Angler and hunter harvest and surveys
 - c) Identification of species management threats and opportunities assessments of the effectiveness of species management activities.
5. Stock fish stocks through the planned release of species, only in waterbodies where:
 - a) sports fish species are already present
 - b) they will not have significant adverse effects on indigenous species
 - c) habitat is deemed suitable, and/or
 - d) limitations on natural spawning and/or rearing habitat limit adult sports fish populations below their carrying capacity.

6. Recognise the potential risks to aviation from game birds in the vicinity of airports and work with airport managers and hunters to provide for aviation safety, whilst protecting established game bird populations.
7. Assist landholders where there is a conflict between game birds and agricultural production to minimise impacts.
8. Improve the skills of hunters in hunting for individual game species with potential to cause adverse impacts.

DRAFT

Appendix Three: Example of Issues, Objective and Policies for Habitat Protection

Issues:

[Issue defined as: problem requiring action]

Almost half of the country's lakes are in poor health, vast lengths of our rivers are adversely impacted by nitrogen and phosphorous inputs, with almost a fifth severely degraded by nutrient pollution. Overallocation of water in rivers is causing the ecology in the rivers to decline and degrading the habitats of sports fish and game birds. Major impacts result from:

- Intensification of land use including forestry, dairying, mining (including gravel extraction) and urban development
- Nutrient and sediment discharges to waterways and non-point source pollution
- Flood control works in rivers and streams
- Wetland drainage and modification of wetland vegetation
- Damming of rivers and lakes
- Development of rivers for the generation of hydroelectricity or alteration of flows through irrigation
- Introduction of unwanted organisms such as didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) and other aquatic pests.
- Mining or gravel extraction
- Climate change

Advocacy is an essential management tool, because other statutory bodies are responsible for the control and management of water and land resources.

Objective:

[Objective defined as: what F&G would like to achieve to resolve an issue]

Legislation, policy and plans enable the quality, water levels and natural characteristics of rivers, lakes and wetlands to support natural ecosystems and productive and diverse fish and game bird populations.

Policies:

[Policy defined as: action to achieve the objective]

1. Advocate in legislative and policy development, resource management and conservation statutory processes, and community-based processes, for the protection, maintenance and enhancement of the quality and extent of sports fish and game bird habitats, including for the following:
 - a) Water quality standards and flow regimes in plans that reflect the requirements of healthy and productive sports fish and game populations and the different stages in their life cycles.
 - b) Identification and protection of sports fishing values of waterways in Freshwater Management Units in regional plans, including significant values in outstanding water bodies.
 - c) Eradicating or effectively managing the risks posed by pests and diseases to sports fish and game bird habitats.
 - a) Wetlands are identified, maintained, improved and restored, in terms of quality, diversity and species productivity and the overall area of wetlands is increased, underpinned by the regional focus on protection of regionally significant and other smaller wetlands.
 - b) A holistic assessment of the catchment's ecosystem values and needs.
 - c) Effects of climate change are considered in decision-making.
 - d) Water conservation orders.

2. Press for appropriate action by agencies directly responsible where non-compliance with resource management, conservation, or other laws, and plans and policies written under these laws is detected.
3. Assess and monitor the condition and trend of sports fish and game bird habitat in the region, prioritising habitat with resource and use issues, consistent with a national monitoring approach.

DRAFT

Appendix Four: Example of Issues, Objective and Policies for Access

Issues:

[Issue defined as: problem requiring action]

Access to sports fish and game bird hunting opportunities is a significant factor limiting participation. Much of the sports fish and game bird resource is on private land, or only accessible by crossing private land. Restricted or preferential access arrangements across private land can result in 'exclusive capture' of fishing and hunting and reduces overall opportunities to licence holders. Having the correct legal and physical works in place is crucial to providing access to angling and game bird hunting areas.

Objective:

[Objective defined as: what F&G would like to achieve to resolve an issue]

Maintenance and improvement of public access to a wide range of sports fishing and game bird hunting opportunities within the region.

Policies:

[Policy defined as: action to achieve the objective]

1. To advocate and negotiate for the protection and creation of access on public and private lands to and along rivers, lakes and wetlands and to upland game hunting areas.
2. Work with landowners and other agencies to promote access to angling and game bird habitats.
3. Continue communication and advocacy work to raise the awareness of angling and game bird habitats both for recreation, food gathering and amenity.
4. Work with landowners and other agencies when access is closed (which was previously provided for) to see if alternative access can be established and or issues can be resolved.
5. Work with landowners to minimise the problem of "exclusive capture" which is the restriction on access to fishing and hunting opportunities through restricted or paid access across private property.
6. Work with the Walking Access Commission to utilise mapping resource and work with them to create new legal and physical public access.
7. Work towards developing online mapping showing legal and physical access to fishing and hunting areas.
8. Identify Treaty of Waitangi settlements that have resulted in loss of Crown and Forest lands that have previously been available for public access. Initiate discussions with a view to securing ongoing access.

Policy to Drafting Sports Fish and Game Management Plans

Introduction

1. The guidance document identifies statutory requirements for Sports Fish and Game Management Plans (SFGMPs) and identifies additional optional elements that could be included to help achieve the purpose of SFGMPs.
2. At the outset, F&G Councils will need to engage early with mana whenua¹ at the beginning of the process of preparing SFGMPs in order to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.² Accordingly, this Guide does not pre-determine specific content or format that would necessarily meet Mana Whenua aspirations. This will need to be determined after genuine engagement with mana whenua and as set out in the Mana Whenua engagement guidelines consultation should commence with a blank page, rather than with a drafted document.
3. This document should be read in conjunction with the document, "Draft Elements – Sports Fish & Game Management Plans" that sets out key elements to consider including in SFGMP based on this guidance.
4. This guidance document is structured as follows:
 - a) Context
 - b) Te Tiriti o Waitangi
 - c) Purpose of SFGMPs
 - d) Statutory requirements of SFGMPs
 - e) Optional elements to consider including in SFGMPs.

Context

5. In considering what elements to recommend for inclusion in a Guide to Drafting SFGMPs, I have reviewed the SFGMPs for CSI 2022-2032, West Coast (draft), Auckland Waikato 2021-2031, and Otago 2015-2025.
6. I have also considered the Review of the Governance of Fish and Game New Zealand and the Regional Fish and Game Councils prepared for the Minister of Conservation, Engaging with Mana Whenua, A Discussion Document Exploring Best Practice For Fish & Game.
7. Based on reviewing those documents, the legislative requirements and discussions with F&G planning staff, key context is set out below.

Public process for developing SFGMPs

8. The process for developing SFGMPs is set out in s 17M of the Conservation Act 1987. Key elements include the requirement to publicly notify draft SFGMPs, provide copies to iwi authorities and local authorities, and invite written submissions. F&G Councils must give full consideration to submissions and provide opportunities for any person to appear before F&G Council representatives to be heard in support of their submission.
9. The F&G Council must send the draft SFGMP, a summary of submissions received, and of public opinion made known about the draft SFGMP to the Minister of Conservation. The F&G Council must also send the Minister a written statement of any matters of content on which the Director-General of Conservation and the F&G Council are unable to agree.

¹ Te Aka Māori Dictionary: "(noun) territorial rights, power from the land, authority over land or territory, jurisdiction over land or territory - power associated with possession and occupation of tribal land. The tribe's history and legends are based in the lands they have occupied over generations and the land provides the sustenance for the people and to provide hospitality for guests." Section 2 Conservation Act 1987 states "Manawhenua means customary authority exercised by an iwi or hapu or individual in an identified area".

² Section 4 of the Conservation Act states that "This Act shall so be interpreted and administered as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi."

10. In addition to the specific steps outlined in the legislation, F&G is developing guidelines for engaging with mana whenua and stakeholders.

Ministerial approval

11. The Minister must approve a draft SFGMP or send it back to the F&G Council for further consideration before approving it.³ There is no legislative requirement to make any changes sought by the Minister.⁴ The F&G Council will however, need to demonstrate that they have properly considered any comments or recommendations from the Minister before re-submitting the SFGMP for approval. If the F&G Council does not make any changes sought by the Minister, this may lead to the Minister declining to approve the SFGMP.⁵

10-year timeframe

12. The Conservation Act requires F&G Councils to review SFGMPs no later than 10 years after the date of approval.⁶ It can take 1-3 years from initial engagement to final approval of a SFGMP. The time taken to prepare a SFGMP can mean that issues become outdated by the time the SFGMP is approved. While the SFGMP, or part of the SFGMP can be reviewed more frequently than 10 years,⁷ the same process for developing a SFGMP applies to any review.

Implementation of SFGMPs

13. While there is no explicit provision in the Conservation Act requiring F&G Councils to comply with SFGMPs, it is implied from the provisions governing SFGMPs that F&G Councils will exercise their functions in accordance with SFGMPs. The Ministerial Review recommended however, that the Minister should have the power to require adherence to an approved SFGMP.
14. New Zealand Fish and Game have adopted an Organisational Strategy, and in accordance with that each region should have a SFGMP. F&G Councils are required to prepare operational work plans annually. If there is no approved SFGMP for the region, the OWPs require Ministerial approval. The Minister can amend OWPs.

Users of SFGMPs

15. F&G operational teams appear to be the primary users of the SFGMPs, although it is unclear how often SFGMPs are referred to and how they impact F&G Councils' day-to-day work. For some regions, the SFGMP may not serve any purpose beyond meeting the statutory requirement to prepare them. Some F&G Councils use SFGMPs' schedules of significant waterbodies to determine whether a F&G Council is an affected party in relation to applications for resource consent. Many of the SFGMPs I reviewed are lengthy. For example, the CSI SFGMP (approved in 2022) is 78 pages, which can impact on its usability.

Key stakeholders need to state their values and work out where they align and where they don't. SFGMP can be useful for regional council to "have regard to" in Resource Management processes. SFGMP can also be useful for DOC work as it confirms where valued introduced species are located.

Purposes of Sports Fish and Game Management Plans

Legal requirements

³ Section 17M(2)(g) of the Conservation Act states: "the Minister shall approve the draft or send it back to the Fish and Game Council for further consideration before approving it."

⁴ The Ministerial Review recommended that the Minister's powers be expanded to include a mandatory power of direction for an addition or amendment to a draft SFGMP. Recommendation 2, page 10, Ministerial Review.

⁵ The Department of Conservation (DOC) considers that the Minister of Conservation may exercise the power under s 17M(2)(g) to send a draft SFGMP back to a F&G Council for further consideration more than once. DOC considers that this is in line with the general principle of statutory interpretation that a power conferred by legislation may be exercised more than once (see s 51 of the Legislation Act 2019). If a F&G Council sends a SFGMP to the Minister, and the Minister uses their power under s 17M(2)(g) to send the draft back to the F&G Council for further consideration, when the F&G Council sends a revised draft SFGMP to the Minister, the Minister may approve the draft or send it back to the F&G Council for further consideration.

⁶ Section 17M(5)(b) of the Conservation Act.

⁷ Section 17M(5)(a) of the Conservation Act.

16. F&G Councils are required under s 17L of the Conservation Act to prepare such SFGMPs as are necessary for the management of sports fish and game in their region.

Guide operational work plans

17. F&G Councils are required to prepare OWPs annually.⁸ While there is no explicit legal requirement for an OWP to be consistent with a SFGMP, if there is no SFGMP, then the OWP requires approval from the Minister of Conservation.⁹

Engagement with licence holders

18. SFGMPs provide an opportunity to connect with licence holders and reflect their interests and aspirations relating to managing sports fish and game birds.

Engagement with mana whenua

19. SFGMPs provide an opportunity to engage with mana whenua on their rights, interests and aspirations in relation to managing sports fish and game birds. Refer also to the SFGMP Consultation Guidelines and Draft Fish and Game Mana Whenua engagement guidelines.

Planning tool to assist F&G Councils meet functions

20. SFGMPs could be used to guide F&G work to meet their statutory functions and help prioritise work programmes.

Transparency

21. As set out in the context, SFGMPs must go through a public process before approved by the Minister. This provides for transparency in terms of how F&G Councils exercise their statutory functions.

Influence conservation planning documents

22. Under the Conservation Act, the Director-General of Conservation must consider SFGMPs in developing freshwater fisheries management plans¹⁰ and conservation management plans.¹¹ It is important that SFGMPs include provisions covering how sports fish and game birds are managed in conservation areas, to ensure that F&G's interests will be properly taken into account on conservation planning documents.

Identification of spawning areas

23. It is an offence to carry out an activity that disturbs or is reasonably likely to disturb a declared spawning area of sports fish, unless authorised by the Director-General of Conservation.¹² The Director-General may declare areas to be spawning areas on the recommendation of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in relation to sports fish.¹³ While it is not uncommon to disturb sports fish spawning areas, and prosecutions are not brought, identifying spawning areas in SFGMPs that are important to F&G will lay the foundation for better protection.

Influence resource management planning documents

24. Advocating for the protection of sports fish and game bird habitats in resource management processes is one of F&G most effective tools.¹⁴ In addition to making submissions on plans and resource consents, F&G Councils can influence planning documents through SFGMPs as decision-makers must consider SFGMPs in preparing or changing policy statements and

⁸ Section 26Q(3)(a) of the Conservation Act.

⁹ Section 26Q(3)(e) of the Conservation Act.

¹⁰ Note that there are currently no freshwater fisheries management plans.

¹¹ Sections 17J and 17E(9) of the Conservation Act. SFGMPs may also be a mandatory consideration when developing Conservation Management Strategies under s.17D(8).

¹² Section 26ZJ of the Conservation Act.

¹³ Section 26ZJA(2) of the Conservation Act.

¹⁴ F&G Councils have a statutory function to advocate the interests of the Council, including its interests in habitats. See s 26Q(e)(vii) of the Conservation Act.

plans under the RMA.¹⁵ Key areas are set out below in relation to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM):

- a) When developing fish passage provisions regional councils must take into account any SFGMPs approved by the Minister.¹⁶
 - b) Fishing is relevant to compulsory value human contact and fishing is an optional value for Freshwater Management Units, requiring the identification of an environmental outcome.¹⁷
 - c) The fishing value of a waterway can be used to identify outstanding water bodies.
 - d) Regional councils must identify and map natural wetlands in their region.¹⁸
25. Where SFGMPs identify values consistent with the framework in the NPS-FM, it will provide a strong basis to advocate for the protection of those values. Conversely, if the SFGMP does not align with the statutory requirements or identify areas requiring protection for their fishing values, it may undermine subsequent submissions on planning documents or resource consents.

Statutory Requirements for Sports Fish and Game Management Plans

26. This section outlines the statutory requirements of SFGMPs.

Giving effect to Treaty Principles

27. To meet the requirements of s 4 of the Conservation Act, F&G Councils must take account of, and give weight to, Treaty rights and interests alongside its statutory responsibilities to manage, maintain and enhance the sports fish and game resources in the interests of anglers and hunters.
28. In relation to developing SFGMPs, the legislative requirements in relation to iwi (summarised above) do not represent the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.¹⁹ F&G Councils need to develop ways to engage with mana whenua as partners, rather than stakeholders in developing SFGMPs. Kāhu Environmental advise F&G should assess ways to involve mana whenua in the development of SFGMPs, and in particular to start by asking mana whenua about what role they should have in the process. Initial conversations should explore common objectives e.g. habitat/wetland restoration, water quality and freshwater management.
29. This engagement needs to happen before F&G Councils start drafting SFGMPs to allow iwi/hapū interests and aspirations to be actively taken into account during the planning process.
30. The Ministerial Review also recommended that F&G NZ develop, in collaboration with Māori, a national policy on consultation and engagement with Māori and a standing advisory panel on Treaty issues and engagement with Māori. Engagement with mana whenua should utilise those resources when available.
31. F&G Councils must do the background mahi before engaging with mana whenua. This includes being familiar with relevant Treaty Settlement Acts, Waitangi Tribunal Reports, iwi management plans, environmental management plans, statutory acknowledgements and sites of significance to iwi in the region. Reference to relevant Treaty Settlement Act is particularly important, as many include specific obligations in relation to SFGMPs.
32. F&G Councils should also be familiar with key issues likely to be raised by iwi in relation to managing sports fish and game and Treaty interests, and have an open mind when

¹⁵ Sections 74(2)(b)(i), 61(2)(a)(i), 66(2)(c)(i). Note there are the same requirements under the Natural and Built Environment Act (NBA) in relation to natural and built environment plans (s 174(2)(d)). The incoming National government policy is to repeal the NBA.

¹⁶ Clause 3.26(3)(a) of the NPS-FM.

¹⁷ Appendices 1A and 1B of the NPS-FM.

¹⁸ Clause 3.22 of the NPS-FM.

¹⁹ Kāhu Environmental Engaging with Mana Whenua, A Discussion Document Exploring Best Practice For Fish & Game

discussing those issues with mana whenua in terms of possible ways to provide for those interests. Potential issues include:²⁰

- a) Intrinsic value of waterways vs utility for fishing and hunting
- b) Customary use of indigenous species
- c) Māori Rights to non-indigenous species
- d) Predation of indigenous species by sports fish
- e) Prosecution of Māori for hunting or fishing without licences
- f) Concessionary licences for Māori to fish and hunt introduced species

33. Note that some of these issues may be beyond the scope of a SFGMP. Discussing the issues however, will likely be important to mana whenua, and F&G Councils may want to consider other avenues to address matters raised in discussion with mana whenua if possible.

Issues, Objectives and Policies

34. SFGMPs must include objectives for the management of sports fish and game birds, within any region or part of any region.²¹ In the SFGMPs that I reviewed, issues, outcomes and objectives and policies were all included to help guide F&G Council actions. Current SFGMP however contained considerable overlap in content between issues, outcomes, objectives and policies. There needs to be a clear link between the issues, objectives and policies.

35. Guidance:

- a) Consider including, issues, objectives and policies that all directly relate to each other, using the following definitions:

- i. **Issue: problem requiring action**

e.g. Issue for Sustainability of the Resource: There are growing concerns that the sea-run salmon fishery and the sea-run trout fishery are in decline, as there are fewer fish returning to sustain the population.

- ii. **Objective: what F&G Council would like to achieve to resolve an issue**

e.g. Achieve sustainability of sea-run salmon fishery and the sea-run trout fishery through management, and support anglers and hunters enjoying a sustainable and highly valued recreational experience.

- iii. **Policy: action to achieve the objective**

e.g. Policies for Sustainability of the Resource: Undertake the following actions in relation to the sea-run salmon fishery and the sea-run trout fishery:

- Monitor the resource to determine whether it is in decline;
- If resource is declining, investigate factors contributing to the decline; and
- Consider management options to improve the fishery and or game resource.

- b) When considering objectives and policies to include in SFGMPs, consider the long-term (i.e. 10 years) vision for the region, to avoid the SFGMP becoming outdated too quickly.

Consistency with Legislation

36. SFGMPs must not derogate from the Conservation Act or any other Act.²² As noted above, there are a number of Treaty Settlement Acts that confer specific obligations on F&G Councils, including in relation to developing SFGMPs.

²⁰ Ministerial Review

²¹ Section 17L(1) of the Conservation Act provides that "purpose of a sports fish and game management plan is to establish objectives for the management of sports fish and game, or both, within any region or part of any region."

²² Section 17L(3)(a) of the Conservation Act.

37. Guidance:

- a) *Ensure all applicable references to Treaty Settlement Acts are included in SFGMPs.*
- b) *Engage with mana whenua on the provisions referencing Treaty Settlements.*

Conservation Policy

38. SFGMPs cannot derogate from policy approved under the Conservation Act or any other Act in respect of the area to which the plan relates, or part of that area.²³

39. Guidance:

- a) *Consider all relevant policies in the CGP; and*
- b) *Include a clear statement in SFGMPs that it is consistent with the CGP.*

Conservation statutory planning documents

40. SFGMPs cannot derogate from any provision in any conservation management strategy or conservation management plan or freshwater fisheries management plan.²⁴

41. Guidance:

- a) *Review conservation management strategies and conservation management plans applicable to your region when drafting SFGMPs.*
- b) *Include a clear statement in the SFGMP that it is consistent with applicable conservation statutory planning documents.*

Sustainability of sports fish and game

42. When preparing a draft SFGMP, F&G Councils must have regard to the sustainability of sports fish and game in the area to which the plan relates.²⁵ Existing SFGMPs generally include a separate section on the sustainability of sports fish and game birds that sets out objectives and policies. This approach is useful.

43. The content of this section, (i.e. issues/objectives/policies) will be driven by engagement with mana whenua, views of stakeholders and the local situation. There are however, some issues that are likely to be relevant across the country. For example, monitoring the sports fish and game bird resource to understand the state of the resource is an issue relevant to all regions.

44. Guidance:

- a) *Consider the following matters when considering issues, objectives and policies to include in a SFGMP in relation to the sustainability of the resource:*
 - i. *Ensure appropriate angling and hunting conditions in Anglers Notice and Open Season for Game Notice to ensure the sustainability of the resource*
 - ii. *Planned releases of sports fish consistent with the CGP*
 - iii. *Potential areas of high use requiring more intense management*
 - iv. *Degraded fisheries and game bird populations requiring restoration*
 - v. *Risks and opportunities from fishing competitions and organised culls*
 - vi. *Airspace, e.g. wind turbines and bird strike*
- b) *Consider including issues, objectives and policies on monitoring that:*

²³ Section 17L(3)(b) of the Conservation Act.

²⁴ Section 17L(3)(c) of the Conservation Act.

²⁵ Section 17L(4)(a) of the Conservation Act.

- i. *Provide direction for monitoring priorities for operational workplans*
- ii. *Work towards a national species monitoring programme and standard operating procedures.*

Impact on other natural resources and other uses of the habitat concerned

45. When preparing a draft SFGMP, F&G Councils must have regard to the impact that the management proposed in the draft is likely to have on other natural resources and other users of the habitat concerned.²⁶ This requirement has two distinct parts. F&G Council must consider the impact that the management proposed has on both:
- a) Other natural resources
 - b) Other users of the habitat concerned.
46. The Ministerial Review noted that it appears F&G Councils "rarely if ever take into account of the impact or concerns of other users."²⁷ The SFGMPs I analysed did include some specific provisions addressing impacts on other natural resources. For example, in the CSI SFGMP there is a policy that provides for remediating fish passage barriers, recognising the potential for adverse effects on indigenous fish populations from, and where it would not significantly impact on rare or threatened indigenous fish species.²⁸ Similarly, in the Otago SFGMP there is a policy to manage hunting in reserves or other wetlands in ways which minimise effects on habitat quality.²⁹
47. One objective is worded "To have regard to the effects of fish and game management activities on other natural resources and resource users." This objective repeats the statutory direction, and should not be included in SFGMPs.
48. Rather, when drafting SFGMPs, you must consider for every objective and policy whether it will have an impact on other natural resources or other users of the habitat concerned. If there is an impact, F&G Councils should consider whether the management measure is appropriate to discharge F&G statutory functions, and if yes, whether any mitigation measures could be implemented.

49. Guidance:

- a) *When developing SFGMP objectives and policies consider the likely impact of proposed management on both:*
 - i. *other natural resources; and*
 - ii. *other users of the habitat concerned.*
- b) *Consider the following issues, amongst others, in relation to impacts on other natural resources:*
 - i. *Interactions between indigenous fish and sports fish*
 - ii. *Potential impacts of loss of fish passage barriers on indigenous fish*
- c) *Consider the following issues in relation to impacts on other users of the resource:*
 - i. *Risks to aviation safety from game birds*
 - ii. *Impacts on crops from game birds*
- d) *Include a clear statement that the impacts of proposed management on other natural resources and users of the habitat concerned has been considered.*

²⁶ Section 17L(4)(b) of the Conservation Act.

²⁷ Page 34 of the Ministerial Review.

²⁸ Policy 9.4.16 of the CSI SFGMP.

²⁹ Policy 6.2.12 of the Otago SFGMP.

Recreational opportunities for hunter and anglers

50. SFGMPs must include such provisions as may be necessary to maximise recreational opportunities for hunters and anglers.³⁰ Current SFGMPs sections included separate sections covering angler and hunter participation in fishing and game bird hunting. Some also included provisions on angler and hunter participation in F&G management. Both issues are important.

51. **Guidance:** Consider including issues, objectives and policies in SFGMPs on:

- a) Maximising recreational opportunities for hunters and anglers; and
- b) Involving anglers and hunters in F&G decision-making. Evidence of this wider consultation will be needed for ministerial sign off. This is one of the steps of the consultation policy.

Optional Elements

52. This section provides guidance on optional elements. These are elements that F&G Councils could consider raising for discussion with mana whenua and stakeholders for inclusion in draft SFGMPs. Mana whenua and stakeholders may also have other elements they wish to see included.

Background

53. Having background information in the SFGMP is useful, although brevity is key to ensure the SFGMP is user-friendly. It will be important to tell F&G's story, including the legislative role of F&G Councils, past achievements and future aspirations.

54. **Guidance:** Consider including critical background information in a background section such as:

- a) Mission statement
- b) Role, Term or Intent of the Plan
- c) Role of F&G Councils
- d) Legislative context (see discussion below)

Partners and Stakeholders

55. The two most recent SFGMPs I analysed³¹ both included a section on Partners and Stakeholders. It is important to acknowledge mana whenua as Treaty partners, and not equate mana whenua with stakeholders in the same section.

56. In terms of mana whenua, the SFGMPs I analysed included a description of the F&G Council relationship with local iwi. In my view, this is consistent with the F&G Council's Te Tiriti obligations, but will need to be considered as part of engagement with mana whenua.

57. In terms of stakeholders, this includes DOC, local councils, New Zealand Walking Access Commission/Ara Hīkoi Aotearoa and the local Conservation Board. Some SFGMPs included descriptions of the statutory functions of these stakeholders. Other stakeholders could include land owners, including farmers.

58. Including descriptions of stakeholders doesn't contribute to any of the purposes of the SFGMPs identified above. There may be value however, in including descriptions of stakeholders in terms of relationships with those stakeholders. This could be addressed in a separate section on community engagement (see discussion below). Community engagement is important to understanding the impacts of F&G Council management on other users of habitat.

³⁰ Section 17L(4)(c) of the Conservation Act.

³¹ CSI and West Coast

59. **Guidance:**

- a) *Discuss with mana whenua including information on F&G's relationship with iwi and reference to iwi management plans in SFGMPs.*
- b) *Consider describing the relationships with diverse members of the community in a Community Engagement section (see discussion below).*

Habitat protection

60. One of the purposes of SFGMPs identified above is influencing both resource management and conservation planning documents. F&G advocacy for habitat protection in particular, is essential to the viability of sports fish and game bird resources, as it is dependent on habitat values. Habitat protection is also an area where F&G Councils could work with mana whenua, as well as stakeholders where there are shared interests.

61. **Guidance:**

- a) *Consider including issues, objectives and policies in relation to habitat protection.*
- b) *Ensure provisions on habitat protection align with:*
 - i. *Conservation planning documents*
 - ii. *Resource management decision-making framework under the RMA and NPS-FM, including for regional plans:*
 - iii. *F&G priorities for habitat protection*
 - iv. *F&G practice notes for RMA advocacy see <https://www.waigoodpolicy.org.nz/>*
- c) *Consider including issues, objectives and policies that address the following matters:*
 - i. *Impacts of pest control on sports fish and game bird habitats*
 - ii. *Climate change impacts on habitat values*
 - iii. *Monitoring priorities*
 - iv. *Degraded wetlands requiring restoration and removal of wetlands requiring re-establishment*
 - v. *Reverse sensitivity effects*

Public Relations/Public Advocacy and Education

62. The SFGMPs I analysed all included a section on public interface, recognising that protecting sports fish and game birds requires the support of government, local councils and the wider community. The elements of this section could be included in a broader community engagement section, i.e. how F&G Councils engage with mana whenua, DOC, local councils, landowners, local conservation boards, and the wider community.

63. **Guidance:** *Consider including issues, objectives and policies in relation to community engagement.*

Administration

64. The SFGMPs I analysed all include a section covering how the F&G Council manages its financial resources and performs its statutory functions in line with legal requirements. This is not a statutory requirement of SFGMPs.

65. **Guidance:** *Do not include provisions relating to how F&G manages its financial resources and performs its statutory functions in SFGMPs.*

66. The CSI SFGMP also included an objective and policy on climate change. The provisions relate to how the CSI F&G Council will reduce its emissions (e.g. through purchasing decisions). This is not relevant to managing sports fish and game birds. This is best

addressed through developing a national policy on how F&G will reduce its emissions to meet the 2050 climate target.

67. **Guidance:** *Do not include provisions on how F&G Councils will reduce emissions to meet the 2050 climate target in SFGMPs.*

Compliance

68. All of the SFGMPs I looked at had compliance sections. Compliance is essential to the management of sports fish and game birds. The compliance section should not include objectives and policies relating to conditions addressing the sustainability of the resource.

69. **Guidance:**

- a) *Consider including in SFGMPs issues, objectives and policies related to compliance.*
- b) *Consider including provisions on conditions relating to the sustainability of the resource in the section of the SFGMP dealing with sustainability of the resource.*

Resource Summary

70. All of the SFGMPs I analysed include detailed sections describing the sports fish and game resource within their region. Describing the state of the sports fish and game resource, including habitat values is essential to set objectives and policies.

71. The resource summary sections include a Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) and Significance Criteria, with waterways identified in the appendices according to how they rate using the ROS and Significance Criteria. Some of the resource descriptions also identified spawning areas.

72. The SFGMPs also included policies that link management to the resource classification. For example, in the CSI SFGMP, Policy 9.4.4 provides:

Give priority to the monitoring and management of fish and game bird habitats within the CSI Fish and Game Region which are of national or regional significance and those that have the highest levels of angler and hunter participation.

73. Policy 8.4.2 of the draft West Coast SFGMP provides:

Establish and maintain an inventory of sports fish and game resources in the West Coast including:

- a) classification of individual sports fisheries and game habitats to allow management based on significance, key characteristics and the recreational opportunity provided within a spectrum.

74. Despite the policy direction in the SFGMPs, feedback from F&G planners is that the classification of waterways based on the ROS and significance criteria didn't necessarily determine management decisions. For at least one region however, the classification did determine affected party status in terms of resource consent processes under the RMA.

75. The classification system used in the SFGMPs does not directly link to the protection of habitat values in the RMA and NPS-FM, and planning documents, in particular in relation to the outstanding values of waterways for fishing (see purposes of SFGMs outlined above).

76. There are no maps of the habitat of sports fish and game birds in the SFGMPs I analysed, or of spawning areas. Including mapped areas that are important to F&G Councils will enhance F&G resource management advocacy for habitat protection. Maps of spawning areas will assist with ensuring those areas are protected.

77. It will be important to engage with mana whenua on describing the resource to ensure mātauranga Māori and Māori values are appropriately reflected.

78. **Guidance:** *Consider including the following in SFGMPs:*

- a) *Description of the State of the Environment – Species, Habitat and Threats*

- b) *Maps of sports fish and game bird habitat, including on public conservation land and private land. We note that some regions have this in their work programme to deliver over a two year period.*
- c) *Maps of spawning areas - We note that some regions have this in their work programme to deliver over a two year period.*
- d) *Criteria for identifying the values of the sports fish and game resource that aligns with resource management national direction and regional plans, including fishing values in freshwater management units in regional plans and outstanding natural waterways and identifying waterways that meet the criteria*
- e) *Maps of wetlands that are game bird habitat*
- f) *Explicit links to objectives and policies and significant waterways*

Legislative context

- 79. The SFGMPs I analysed all include a section describing relevant legislation, usually in an appendix. Some also included summaries of the wider legislative context, e.g. the National Parks Act, Public Works Act and Local Government Act. Including a description of all relevant legislation does not directly achieve any of the purposes of SFGMPs as outlined above.
- 80. Including a description of the relevant provisions of the Conservation Act, in terms of the functions of F&G, the legislative basis for SFGMPs and the relationship between SFGMPs and conservation planning would however, assist in terms of the purpose of influencing conservation planning documents. So too does including any Water Conservation Orders in the Region.
- 81. Resource management legislation is also directly relevant to the purpose of influencing resource management planning documents, particularly in relation to habitat protection and public access to recreational resources.
- 82. **Guidance:** *Consider including legislative context in relation to:*
 - a) *Conservation Act, in terms of F&G Council functions, SFGMPs legislative direction and relationship with conservation planning documents.*
 - b) *Resource management provisions that support F&G's advocacy for habitat protection.*

Plan Implementation and Review

- 83. The CSI SFGMP includes a section that identifies key actions and target dates for implementing key actions. It is important to have a road map to implement the SFGMP. Setting targets with specific timeframes for achieving them may assist. Additionally, SFGMPs should include provisions relating to reviewing the SFGMP to ensure it is fit for purpose over time, and the objectives are being met.
- 84. **Guidance:** *Consider including in SFGMPs:*
 - a) *Plan Implementation section that refers to key objectives and policies, including targets and timeframes.*
 - b) *Consider including review provisions.*

Appendices

- 85. The SPFGMPs I analysed all included a variety of appendices.
- 86. **Guidance:**
 - a) *Consider including the following appendices in SFGMPs:*
 - i. *Map of the region*
 - ii. *Access points for angling and hunting*

iii. Reserves Owned or Managed by the F&G Council – including, and linking to specific objectives

b) Consider not including the following in SFGMPs:

- i. Prioritisation Principles – as these could change within the 10-year timeframe*
- ii. Recreational Opportunity Spectrum – unless tied to objectives*

Guidance to engaging with Mana Whenua on the preparation of Sports Fish and Game Management Plans

Purpose

This guidance is for regional fish and game staff to help them fulfil their statutory and Te Tiriti obligations when preparing Sports Fish and Game Management Plans (SFGMP). This guidance sets out best management practice that will assist regional staff engaging with mana whenua.

This guidance isn't meant to be a one size fits all. Each iwi and hapu around the country will have differing views on issues and different needs, aspirations and interest in being involved in our SFGMP processes.

This guidance is not a comprehensive overview of all statutory obligations and Te Tiriti principles. You can find that here: [[Legal Advice - application of s4 \(FINAL\).pdf](#)] Being a good Te Tiriti partner involves long term relationship building and a commitment to working together. Engaging on a SFGMP should be seen as part of that ongoing process, not as the end point or focus of that relationship.

Review

This guidance is interim. This document is intended to provide guidance to assist with the short term need to prepare SFGMP. Ultimately what is needed, is working towards ongoing and long term relationships. This guidance has been developed internally, based on expert advice, but tangata whenua have not been engaged with its preparation. We acknowledge that engagement and co-development of an integrated approach is the next important step and we intend to undertake that step. This guidance will be reviewed and updated by August 2025 (1 year from adoption).

Context

Section 4 of the Conservation Act requires our organisation to be good treaty partners. This requires going further than sending copies of a draft SFGMP to iwi for comment. This guidance forms part of a suit of policy and guidance to assist the regions to prepare SFGMP. Other relevant guidance includes :

- Cover report
- SFGMP Consultation Guidelines
- SFGMP guide
- SFGMP Key Elements

Guidance

We anticipate that you have the following (and other) questions in mind. Central to any work we do is the idea that good communications, whakawhanaungatanga and partnership provides a good starting point. Relationship building is central to this guidance.

When should I start?

Now! Before you start preparing the SFGMP. The earlier you begin engagement the better the opportunity to ensure mana whenua interests are reflected in the structure and content of

the plan. If mana whenua want to be involved in writing the management plan, giving them that opportunity before the content has been written better reflects a good faith approach to the partnership.

What should I do before I start?

Start by building your knowledge. A basic background to Te Ao Māori and how it relates to the work of Fish and Game can be found in [kāhu report link]. You should Identify the iwi and hapū groups that are in your region (see 'Who should I talk to?' for more information) and in particular the groups associated with any particularly significant waterbodies from Fish and Game's perspective. Next learn about the history, context and aspirations of these groups – many Māori groups find it frustrating to have to articulate again and again their values or aspirations when these are clearly set out in publicly available documents. Useful documents for building this knowledge include:

- Treaty of Waitangi Deeds of Settlement, Settlement acts and Waitangi Tribunal reports.
- Statutory acknowledgments.
- Environmental management plans.
- Iwi management plans.

Who should I talk to?

- If you do not already have a good database of your own contacts, a good place to begin is [Te Kahui Mangai](#) which is a database of all iwi, hapu and marae contacts maintained by Te Puni Kokiri. Your local regional or district council should also have a register of contacts and iwi planning documents. Your local DOC office will also have contacts for mana whenua engagement. You should be prepared to consult with more than one mana whenua group as there are often overlapping interests within a particular location.

How should I engage?

- Initial contact could be by email or phone call, but should include a face to face meeting early on appropriate tikanga should be included in these meetings – this can include karakia and kai. Tikanga varies from place to place – the guidelines in the references section give a good generic background, but if you are unsure find someone in Fish and Game, DOC or a local contact to guide you.
- Begin by starting a whakawhanaungatanga
Whakawhanaungatanga is the process of establishing good relationships and understanding about each other. This is an opportunity for you to connect with mana whenua to build a relationship based on mutual understanding. Ideally this will happen at each level of the organisation; governance, management, and on the ground staff – but don't hold off on engagement at one level waiting for the other – relationship building is ongoing and not hierarchical.
- Engagement should be ongoing. Early on in the process you should ask the best way to continue the engagement (who, how, how long) and whether you need to provide any resources or funding to support that engagement.

What should I be prepared to discuss?

- You should be prepared to discuss the history, structure and responsibilities of Fish and Game – some mana whenua have a good idea of what Fish and Game does, and some have none.
- You should be prepared to hear about past practices or relationships that have not gone well, and the possibility that harm may have been done by Fish and Game or previous organisations to places and values that mana whenua

hold dear. You may need to acknowledge, apologise or discuss what can be done to restore/reciprocity/ any past harms before moving into discussions about future shared values or working relationships.

- There is an opportunity to explore shared goals, expertise and working together on future processes. Protection of the natural environment and harvesting food from it are shared values for both Fish and Game and mana whenua – this can form a firm base for a future relationship if you develop a shared understanding of each others priorities and support each other in partnership..
- You should be prepared to discuss what Fish and Game can bring to the partnership with mana whenua – are there opportunities to share information, resources, monitoring programmes? Can Fish and Game support mana whenua in RMA processes? Is there opportunity to provide mana whenua with training, information or fishing licences to support their aspirations? If there is a lot of work to do before any of these options can be implemented, but a real desire to work towards them a Relationship Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding that sets out how the organisations will work together could be a useful tool and first step in that work.

What about the formal consultation part?

Section 17M (2) (a) (v) of the Conservation Act requires you to “consult with such other persons or organisations, in such manner, as the Fish and Game Council considers practicable and appropriate;” Our previous advice notes therefore that you should:

- After meeting with iwi to discuss topics relevant to them,
- Invite iwi to be involved with drafting the plan
- Or provide a copy of the draft plan to iwi
- Receive written submissions from iwi
- Give iwi the opportunity to be heard on their submission
- Present summarised iwi submissions to the Minister of Hunting and Fishing.

It is important you see these as minimum requirements, not what’s needed to fulfil your Treaty partnership responsibilities. In order to fulfil these minimum requirements you should:

- Let your mana whenua partners know well in advance when they should expect the draft SFGMP so they can plan their time and resources.
- Allow sufficient time for them to make comments. Take into account that they may need to have a board approve their submission, so find out when their board meetings are and plan around those.
- Schedule a meeting to discuss the draft SFGMP before comments are due, if mana whenua would like that. It’s a good opportunity to discuss any issues and potential solutions before formal submissions are made.
- Offer to hear their submissions at the place of their choosing – this may be at a marae or other place close to the waterbodies being discussed.
- Take time to consider their submission and respond in detail to each point raised, with reasons for your decision. If its within your powers to accept any points, you should seriously consider doing so. Send mana whenua your response and the reasons for your decision.
- Include that detailed response and reasons in the summary you send the Minister.

What else can I offer into the partnership?

- Are there any projects that mana whenua are interested in eg Wetland restoration work. Is their any monitoring projects that mana whenua are

interested in. Can we share any of the work that we have been doing on a particular consent or project?

What can I give mana whenua?

- Is there a particular issue or grievance that mana whenua would like acknowledged? Are there conflicting interests on any issues that we need to re-consider our stance on?

What can we do together?

- If the relationship is a new one ideally you can find a project to work on to build trust and good working relationships.

Useful references

The following links provide some useful background reading:

chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/media/1265/lessons-for-successful-mana-whenua-engagement_final-print.pdf

[Fish Game NZ mana whenua engagement FINAL .pdf](#)

Need help?

We are working on the idea of identifying Māori liaison staff and or Te Ao Advisors within Fish and Game. For further specific information we may also be able to get further assistance from Kahu and DOC staff regarding Treaty Settlements.

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) 27^h 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 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 Chats & 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	
Oct-2025	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
	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)

Agenda Item 7 Public Forum

Summary

Invite public for an opportunity to speak to any issues – this may be up to 5 minutes allotted per speaker but is at the Chairman's discretion to allow more time

No Decision Required

Recommendation/Action

Note any issues brought to the attention of Council during the Public Forum.

Agenda Item 8 Regional Business - Governance

Summary

a. **Chairman's Report for Previous Period**

Chairman to provide an overview report of key issues since the previous meeting.

This will focus on issues relevant to governance functions but provide an overview of key operational outcomes where appropriate.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council to move to receive the report presented by the Chairman for the previous period since the last meeting of Council.

Agenda Item 9 **Inter-Regional Business - Governance**

Summary

a. **Regional Chairs' Forum Update**

Brief report from the Chairman of any interactions of the Fish and Game Regional Chairs' Group.

Confirmation of the outcome of regional Chairs' response to Minister of Hunting and Fishing to Southland and Otago Fish & Game Councils' letter on resource allocation and other matters

b. **Shared Resources Update**

Update on the progress of shared resources between Wellington and Taranaki Fish and Game Councils.

c. **Progressing Formal Arrangement - Taranaki – Wellington Amalgamation**

In progressing a formal process of amalgamation with the Minister, it was agreed by the joint governor working group that each Council confirm detailed positions and significant issues to confirm points of agreement and/or differences.

Discussion required by both Councils (post Fish and Game election) of the commitment to progress.

Topics:

1. Governance Structure: representation
2. Coverage of Staff Operations: Effectiveness and efficiency of operations
3. Identification of Significant Assets and Management Obligations.
4. Identification of Significant Legacy (extension) Projects of Current Councils
5. Key Project or Management Issues (Emphasis)
6. How are we going to be placed to meet future challenges and opportunities?

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council to move to receive the report presented by the Chairman for the previous period since the last meeting of Council.

Discussion on topics for how Fish and Game can define any process for amalgamation and any issues that need to be addressed at a joint meeting of Councils.

Agenda Item 10 Strategic Matters

Summary

a. Risk Management Review

Update risk management issues associated with:

- Avian influenza H5N1 Strain (HPAI – High Pathogenic Avian Influenza) – no change is risk level
- Golden Clam – samples found in accommodation lodge at Owhango

Compare (and incorporate if required) items in the NZ Fish and Game Council risk assessment register to provide additional organisational perspective.

The Risk Management Matrix will be referred to February when considering strategic planning.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Update as required. No specific changes to the Council's Risk Management Register.

b. Iwi Engagement

- Te Kōpuka has requested formal confirmation of Allen Stancliff as Fish and Game's representative – as a sign of commitment to the approach being taken.

Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game has not indicated a desire to become the principal contact but wish to retain a strong interest in progress

- Developing a strategic approach to engaging with Mana Whenua and how to incorporate a co-operative process in decision-making.
- Undertake a detailed register of interest in Mana Whenua groupings and contacts (initiated).
- Develop an education programme to upskill staff and governors on tikanga and processes for engagement.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Confirm Allen Stancliff as Fish and Game's representative for Te Kōpuka.

No action is required.

c. 5 year Strategic Plan - update

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Discuss and confirm updated 5 year Strategic Plan.

Risk Register

As at 23 August 2024

Risk Type	Description	Mitigation	Risk Code
Operational/assets			1 to 4
	Flood, fire, theft, earthquake	Insurance, alarms, theft prevention, key codes changed	3
	Internet, files storage and security	Security software up to date, internet supplier agreement in place	4
	Physical files	Security software up to date, internet supplier agreement in place	3
Financial	Reliance on licence income	Secure other sources of income "friends of fish and game"	2
	Ongoing or new pandemic impact on Non residents	Use of reserves	3
	Investment income weak	Reduced reliance on interest revenue	2
	Depleted reserves	review and update reserves policy. Include consideration of cost of winding up the business, and predicted/ potential impacts such as HPAI on income	3
	Fraud	Fraud prevention measures in place and audited	3
	Declining licence sales	R3 programme	3
	Licensing system failure	Contracts in place and being monitored. Development of a modern licensing system including executive dashboards and CRM. Customer focus	3
	Agent commission increase	Progressive movement to online sales	3
	NZC levies/constraints on reserves	Levy setting system being reconsidered, current policy on reserves across regions and NZC to be reviewed & socialised	3
Human resource			
	Pay and conditions of staff	Retain good working conditions, review JD's & job stings 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	CE to have succession plans in place to ensure transition of institutional knowledge.	2
	Recruitment	Reassessment of staffing budget against needs of office, go to market on existing positions, plan to address perceived staffing gaps.	2
	Staff stress and wellbeing	Monitoring in place and regular contact through one on one meetings. Seeking to fill one vacancy. Development of individualised My Plans linked to strategic priorities. Encourage staff to take time off. Lack of a research position within NZC for the 2024/25 financial year is a significant risk as Research is a core statutory function for NZC, and lack of this position poses a gap in both organisational capacity as well as capacity within the NZC team.	2
	NZC Office Culture	Maintain positive and transparent workplace culture	1
	Inter-office staff culture	Cultural challenges across organisation continue despite investment in culture and leadership training, resilience training and staff conference in 2023. The current organisational structure and budgeting approach creates conflict. Minister of Hunting and Fishing legislation changes for F&G will foundational for cultural change. Continue to work on the cultural challenges across F&G, more face time, build subject matter teams across organisation, and ongoing training.	1
Governance			
	NZC Governor/NZC staff culture	Training on culture, reestablishing boundaries, building trust and cohesion, creating culture of kindness.	1
	Governance and Cr skill level	Governance and chair training, coopting specialist skills and education	2
	Rogue Councillors	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.	2
	Representation	Encouragement of diversity (and gender) at elections, encourage diverse appointments to NZC	2
	Councillor safety	No addresses, limited personal info	4
	Culture	Cultural challenges across organisation continue despite investment in culture and leadership training, resilience training and staff conference in 2023. The current organisational structure and budgeting approach creates conflict. Minister of Hunting and Fishing legislation changes for F&G will foundational for cultural change. Ongoing training for governors on culture and governance. Induction for new councils in 2024.	1
	Disconnect between customers and governors	Increase awareness of process of NZC and opportunities for public engagement.	1
Strategic			
	Lack of organisation strategy	Organisational strategy built collectively across the organisation, and socialised.	1
	Lack of organisational strategic implementation plans	Work across organisation to implement organisational strategy. Review how the organisation builds annual operational work plans to ensure these are linked to the organisational strategy, and annual SSP. Build consolidated annual reporting which links to organisational strategy.	2

Risk Register

As at 23 August 2024

Risk Type	Description	Mitigation	Risk Code
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, commissioning analysis report summarising last decade of environmental activities undertaken by Fish and Game. Pull together report looking at public benefit organisation has provided.	3
	Public perceptions of Fish and Game	Broaden awareness and respect for Fish and Game through social licence campaign, including comms and advocacy	3
	Perceptions of trout	Promote value of trout- economic, recreational, tablefare.	3
	Catch and release	Promote sustainable harvest	3
	Perceptions around hunting	Promote sustainable harvest and ethical shooting.	2
	Diversity of membership and Council	Recruitment at elections, encouragement of diversity through R3 planning.	2
	Low trust for alternative sources of income (NC example)	Positive projects promoted with alternative sources of income (bequests)	3
	Seen as adversarial and litigious	Comms strategy to better articulate reasons of objections and legal actions	3
Social/Demographic	Perceived value of introduced trout and ducks diminishing?	Value to be promoted through communications plan	1
	Population is diversifying and increasingly urban	R3 programme to target specific audiences	3
	Older population (baby boomers) aging out of sport	R3 programme	3
	Rural community trust in F&G low	Regain trust via regular contact on positive projects - Catchment groups, wetland enhancement projects (strategic priority 20-23)	2
Species/Population	Sedimentation of waterways	Govt intervention should slow the pace of inputs. Removal may be challenging.	2
	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.	2
	Ducks as pests/contributor to ecoli levels	Research and social messaging	3
	Searun Salmon fishery collapse	Season bag limit - adaptive management	2
	New incursions of pest fish species	Monitoring and awareness	3
	Increase in gamebird populations/increased crop predation.	Population monitoring for Mallards and Parries in place	3
	Cultural Harvest	Facilitate and encourage engagement with iwi & consideration to support legislative changes	3
Political	DOC advocacy positions	Strategic priority 22 - 27 to engage and support stakeholder groups and build relationships	3
	Review of the New Zealand's Environmental Management Legislation (RMA Reform)	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).	2
	Wildlife Act Review	Engagement with DOC and GAC. Consider legislative changes, and build policy positions.	2
	Conservation Act Review	Engagement with DOC, GAC, and eNGO's	3
	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	3
	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	3
	Relationship with Minister of Conservation	Maintain quarterly senior leadership meetings, and monthly operational meetings	3
	Relationship with DOC	Continue to build strong relationships with DOC.	3
	Treaty of Waitangi and our obligations	Strategic priority 22 - 27 to engage with iwi more regularly and meaningfully	2
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.	2

Risk Register

As at 23 August 2024

Risk Type	Description	Mitigation	Risk Code
Environmental	Didymo, lake snow 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	2
	Declining water quality and quantity	Pressure on regional councils plans and recording of complaints	2
	Biosecurity - fish and bird diseases, invasive species	Work collaboratively with government agencies - Bimonthly meetings with MPI and DOC senior leadership. Representation in cross organisational expert forums. Directly engage with Ministry for Health and leading experts. Collaboratively build HPAI Action Plan and implement across agencies. Monitoring and reporting of incidents and observations to MPI and NZC. Standing NZC board paper outlining and providing updates on risks and management. Proactive comms and engagement plans. Promote safe handling of sportfish and gamebird species and hygiene. Engagement with Ministries and Ministers re funding support in the event of an outbreak.	2
	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.	2
	Carbon Farming - Forestry in headwaters	National advocacy, supporting regional engagement with district plans	2
	Contractors/ third party risks	Check values align. Annual work programmes from FOBC	2
	Rangers and Volunteers	CE working with National Compliance Coordinator to review current systems.	2
Health & Safety	Mental stability, stress, personal conflicts	Open door policy with CE for raising issues. H&S manual covers identification of risk factors	2
	Fire and emergency	Regular fire drills, emergency contacts on list at office.	3
	Ranger Safety	Vetting and approval process	3
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.	2
	Reduced access availability	Identification of public access points (project in 2020-2023 priorities). Improved relationships with landowners	2

Likelihood	Impact			
	Minor Little or No Effect	Moderate Effects are Felt but Not Critical	Major Effects are Significant	Critical
Improbable Unlikely to Occur	1	2	3	4
Possible May Occur	2	3	4	5
Probable Will Likely Occur	3	4	5	6
Risk Key				
	1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8

HIGHLY PATHOGENICITY AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) UPDATE

1 July – 30 September 2024

Summary of HPAI Readiness Working Group

1 October 2024

Phil Teal, Matt McDougall (Fish and Game Co-ordinator)

HPAI Strain of Concern: H5N1

Current Risk of Entering NZ: The likelihood of the introduction of HPAI H5N1 on pathways that we manage is low (MPI).

Current Risk to Human Health: Very low (MoH)

Changes in Last Three Months: No changes in risk or detection

Summary of Actions:

1. Department of Conservation:

- Vaccines trialed: Results might be known by end of calendar year, but only very limited practical use as only considered for critically endangered birds

2. Ministry of Primary Industry:

- Investigations logged on map for any bird deaths >3 sick or dead wild birds in a group that are reported to Biosecurity New Zealand's Exotic Pest and Disease Hotline on 0800 80 99 66.
- Restructure – response groups refining their actions for various work streams
- Communications: public information pages posted on website confirmed and updated

3. Fish and Game Actions:

- Communications: public information page developed and updated for website.
- **Draft Response Plan confirmed and circulated to other agencies for comment.**

Actions Update:

Continued Focus on Potential Transfer Pathways

Site monitoring by MPI will focus on potential transfer pathways – via Antarctica (Ross Sea and sub-Antarctic islands), and Northern Hemisphere wader migratory routes.

Continued surveillance at North Island sites planned for summer 2025.

MPI will continue monitoring sites for avian infection of H5N1 strain – including Fish and Game mallard banding sites

Tiered response for Field Operatives

Current response for field operatives depending on detection of H5N1 strain in potential pathways – currently no detection on mainland NZ or pathways. BAU with good hygiene practices and appropriate PPE being used.

Human Health Risk - Monitoring Global Experiences

Human infection has been rare and generally only found in people who have had a lot of contact with infected birds or other infected mammals. Demonstrated examples in Europe and US of mammal-to-mammal transfer. Recent human infections in US with H5N1 have a substantially lower case fatality rate than Asian experience.

Involvement of Regional Councils in Potential Response

Regional Councils and TLAs have been informed that their staff resources may be required to assist in clean up of mass mortality events of avian species. This may require upskilling of staff and provision of appropriate PPE equipment.

Actions Required:

- **No change to NZ risk assessment.**
- **Collaborative approach with MPI and DOC with monthly meeting - watching brief only.**



'If it gets here, it's too late': Warning against invasive clam

24 September 2024 [Moana Ellis](#), Local Democracy Reporter



Whanganui River users are being urged to adopt the Check, Clean, Dry protocol to prevent gold clams from spreading. Photo: Moana Ellis / LDR

Whanganui River iwi are banding together with councils, the Department of Conservation (DOC) and others to avert a potential biosecurity disaster.

They say only a coordinated, focused and urgent response can prevent the highly invasive freshwater gold clam, *Corbicula fluminea*, from entering the catchment.

Scientists warn that without intervention, large-scale invasion could cause significant and irreversible economic, social, cultural and ecosystem losses.

"If it gets here, it's too late," said Nancy Tuaine, kaihautū of iwi river entity Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui. "Once it's here, it's too significant to try to control or stop it."

Horizons Regional Council biodiversity and biosecurity manager Craig Davey said there is no known way of eliminating or controlling the exotic species once it has invaded a waterway.

"What we can do is stop it from spreading from where it is to somewhere else," Davey told Local Democracy Reporting.

"If these clams get into another waterway, it would be one of the worst things that could happen to our country."

The clam is native to eastern and southeast Asia but was found in several locations in the Waikato River catchment in May 2023.

Gold clams are prolific breeders and can produce up to 400 juveniles a day, up to 70,000 a year.



Whanganui River users are being urged to adopt the Check, Clean, Dry protocol to prevent gold clams from spreading. Photo: Moana Ellis / LDR

"They exist as an adult from a size that is microscopic, the size of the smallest ridge on a \$2 coin. A clam that size is able to reproduce and survive out of water for two days."

The clam has become invasive throughout Europe, South and North America.

They tolerate a range of habitats and can easily be transported between connected waterways or by human activities, for example as unwanted 'hitchhikers' on boats or recreational gear.

"How they came here, we don't know. They've come into our country with something that has been wet - it could have been a boat, wakeboard gear or other equipment," Davey said.

"Unfortunately it could even be something that is absorbent. Wetsuits can carry clams, because they have a sticky foot, so they can stick themselves to things."

The clams grow from the shoreline and in deeper water to about 14 metres, typically forming a concrete-like edge on lakes and rivers. They can also live in mud, gravel or sand.

A second species of invasive clam native to Australia, *Corbicula australis*, has also been found in New Zealand.

The Ministry for Primary Industries declared the two species unwanted organisms under the Biosecurity Act in August 2023.

NIWA announced last week it has been awarded \$10.2 million for research into managing the invasion and mitigating impact.

Leading the five-year Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment-funded research programme, principal scientist freshwater ecology Dr Deborah Hofstra said the best chance to stop further spread was to act early.

"This species breeds rapidly and densely, with tens of thousands of individuals occupying a single square metre. This means they successfully compete against native species for food and space, whilst also clogging up critical infrastructure such as water treatment plants."

She said New Zealand lacked detailed understanding of how the species would respond in local conditions, how readily they would spread, how severe the impacts would be, and what the most effective ways were to intervene.



In Whanganui, Ngā Tāngata Tiaki kaihautū Nancy Tuaine (left), DOC river ranger Jane Taylor and Horizons Regional Council biodiversity and biosecurity manager Craig Davey team up to tackle the gold clam threat. Photo: Supplied via LDR

'Now or never'

"These clams could be devastating, so we must move quickly; it is now or never."

In the meantime, the multi-agency approach in the Whanganui catchment is focusing on containment and prevention.

"This multi-faceted approach has been established because we need to come together and work together," Tuaine said.

"We need a preventative model to increase awareness and understanding of the threat, and in particular how we can prevent it.

"Our river system is big, so we need to share knowledge with as many people as we can, particularly those moving between water that is currently affected and our river system."

The key message was for recreational lake and river users to adopt a rigorous Check, Clean, Dry protocol when moving between waterways: removing anything visible like mud, weed or clams from watercraft and gear and draining all river or lake water; washing down gear and craft including special treatment where appropriate; and drying craft and gear inside and out for two days.

Joining iwi, Horizons and DOC in spreading the message are Ruapehu and Whanganui district councils, Ministry for Primary Industries, Genesis and river user groups.

"With all of us carrying the message, adhering to it within our own organisations, and talking with the people who run events and enjoy the river on a day-to-day basis, the collective hope is that we can have a behaviour change," Davey said.

LDR is local body journalism co-funded by RNZ and NZ On Air.

TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

The Chairman

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

FISH & GAME NOMINEE FOR TE KŌPUKA

The Te Awa Tupu (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act was passed in 2017. This legislation recognises the special relationship between the Whanganui River and Whanganui iwi.

The Act also made provision for Te Kōpuka nā Te Awa Tupua (“Te Kōpuka”) which is a strategy group comprising representatives of persons and organisations with interests in the Whanganui River, including iwi, local and central government, commercial and recreational users and environmental groups. NZ Fish & Game is one of the 17 members of this group. However, representatives are not there to represent their parent agency but rather work together for the greater good of Te Awa Tupua.

During 2023 and early 2024, Te Kōpuka developed a draft Te Heke Ngahuru strategy, which was put out for public consultation and subsequently finalised. The strategy represents a very different approach based on local governance and is all inclusive but with iwi at the front and centre. It has a fundamental focus on the environment but also recognises the importance of addressing economic, cultural and social needs as well. In reality these 4 aspects go hand in hand in terms of achieving a healthy awa which ultimately will benefit all, including anglers and gamebird hunters.

Now that the Te Heke Ngahuru strategy document has been developed, the next steps are to develop action plans, which will recommend actions to deal with the issues identified in the strategy.

With the departure of Glenn McLean from Taranaki Fish & Game in 2021 the Council, in association with Auckland/ Waikato Fish & Game Council who also have an interest in Te Awa Tupua, agreed that Allen Stancliff would become the new nominee, in part because the meetings are typically held in Whanganui. Allen’s 3-year term has now come to an end, but in accordance with the legislation he may be reappointed. This will require agreement by both the Auckland/Waikato and Taranaki Fish & Game Council’s.

RECOMMENDATION

That Taranaki Fish & Game Council reappoint Allen Stancliff from Taranaki Fish & Game to be the NZ Fish & Game representative on Te Kōpuka.

Phil Teal

Regional Manager

24 September 2024

Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act 2017

Membership of Te Kōpuka

32. Appointment of members

(1) Te Kōpuka consists of not more than 17 members, appointed by the appointers as follows:

(a) 1 member appointed by the trustees:

(b) up to 5 members appointed by the iwi with interests in the Whanganui River:

(c) up to 4 members appointed by the relevant local authorities:

(d) 1 member appointed by the Director-General of Conservation:

(e) 1 member appointed by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council or its successor:

(f) 1 member appointed by Genesis Energy Limited or its successor:

(g) 1 member appointed to represent environmental and conservation interests:

(h) 1 member appointed to represent tourism interests:

(i) 1 member appointed to represent recreational interests:

(j) 1 member appointed to represent the primary industries sector.

(2) The Manawatu–Wanganui Regional Council must make the appointments under subsection (1)(g) to (j), but only after it has consulted any groups representing the interests referred to in those paragraphs, the relevant departments of State, and other relevant agencies.

(3) The appointers must use their best endeavours to appoint members not later than 40 working days—

(a) after the settlement date; or

(b) after the commencement of any subsequent term.

(4) Before making an appointment under subsection (1), each appointer must—

(a) be satisfied that the person to be appointed has the mana, skills, knowledge, or experience—

(i) to participate effectively in Te Kōpuka; and

(ii) to contribute to achieving the purpose of Te Kōpuka; and

(b) have regard to any members already appointed to Te Kōpuka so as to ensure that the membership reflects a balanced mix of skills, knowledge, and experience.

(5) In this section and section 33(3), appointers means the persons responsible for making appointments to Te Kōpuka under subsections (1) and (2).

Schedule 4 Te Kōpuka nā Te Awa Tupua and Te Heke Ngahuru ki Te Awa Tupua

Part 1 Te Kōpuka

Administrative matters

1 Terms and conditions of appointment of members of Te Kōpuka

(1) Members of Te Kōpuka are appointed for a term of 3 years, unless a member resigns or is removed by an appointer during that term.

(2) Members may be reappointed or removed by, and at the sole discretion of, the relevant appointer.

(3) If a vacancy arises in the membership of Te Kōpuka, the relevant appointer must, as soon as is reasonably practicable, fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term of office of the relevant member.

(4) A vacancy does not prevent Te Kōpuka from continuing to perform its functions.

(5) To avoid doubt, the members of Te Kōpuka are not members of a local authority by virtue of their appointment as members of Te Kōpuka.

2 Participation in Te Kōpuka

(1) The members of Te Kōpuka must act in a manner that promotes the effective performance of the functions of Te Kōpuka (see section 30).

(2) Te Kōpuka must convene plenary sessions on a regular basis for the purpose of—

(a) reporting to—

(i) groups and organisations (including iwi and hapū with interests in the Whanganui River) that are represented by the members appointed under section 32(1); and

(ii) relevant departments of State; and

(iii) any other relevant agencies; and

(b) offering an opportunity for the groups and organisations referred to in paragraph (a) to provide information to Te Kōpuka.

(3) Te Kōpuka may invite other persons and organisations (including departments of State and other agencies) to participate in meetings and contribute to the work of Te Kōpuka.

(4) Unless otherwise agreed, members of Te Kōpuka are not paid or reimbursed for their participation in Te Kōpuka from the fund referred to in clause 9(4).

Legal status of Te Kōpuka

33. Status of Te Kōpuka

(1) Despite Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, Te Kōpuka is a permanent joint committee for the administrative purposes of—

- (a) the Manawatu–Wanganui Regional Council; and
- (b) the Ruapehu District Council; and
- (c) the Stratford District Council; and
- (d) the Whanganui District Council.

(2) The relevant local government legislation does not apply to Te Kōpuka.

(3) In this section, permanent joint committee means a joint committee described in clause 30(1)(b) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 except that the committee must not be discharged other than with the written and unanimous agreement of the appointers.

Collaboration in freshwater planning

34. Collaborative planning process

If at any time the Manawatu–Wanganui Regional Council adopts, under any legislation, a collaborative planning process to develop a policy statement or plan relating to freshwater management in the Whanganui River catchment, Te Kōpuka is to be the group appointed by the Council for that process.

Te Heke Ngahuru ki Te Awa Tupua

35. Purpose of Te Heke Ngahuru

The purpose of Te Heke Ngahuru is to provide for the collaboration of persons with interests in the Whanganui River, in order to address and advance the health and well-being of Te Awa Tupua.

36. Contents of Te Heke Ngahuru

(1) Te Heke Ngahuru must—

- (a) identify the issues relevant to the health and well-being of Te Awa Tupua; and
- (b) provide a strategy to deal with those issues; and
- (c) recommend actions to deal with those issues.

(2) Provisions relating to the development, approval, notification, and review of Te Heke Ngahuru are set out in Part 2 of Schedule 4.

37. Legal effect of Te Heke Ngahuru

(1) Persons exercising or performing functions, powers, or duties under any of the Acts referred to in subsection (2) must have particular regard to Te Heke Ngahuru.

(2) The Acts are as follows:

- (a) the Acts listed in clause 1 of Schedule 2; and
- (b) the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014; and
- (c) the rest of the Resource Management Act 1991.

(3) The obligations under subsection (1) apply—

- (a) if the exercise or performance of that function, power, or duty relates to—
 - (i) the Whanganui River; or
 - (ii) an activity within the Whanganui River catchment that affects the Whanganui River; and
- (b) in a manner that is consistent with the purpose of the Act under which that function, power, or duty is exercised or performed; and
- (c) if, and to the extent that, Te Heke Ngahuru relates to that function, power, or duty.

(4) If the exercise or performance of a function, power, or duty referred to in this section is the subject of a written report, decision, or document, the report, decision, or document must state how subsection (1) has been complied with.

(5) A person exercising or performing a function, power, or duty to which this section applies may, in his or her discretion, adopt or implement Te Heke Ngahuru, wholly or in part, including as part of an RMA planning document, but may do so only in accordance with the applicable statutory process.

(6) In this section and section 38, RMA planning document means a regional policy statement, regional plan, or district plan as these terms are defined in section 43AA of the Resource Management Act 1991.

38. Review of RMA planning documents

(1) Each time Te Heke Ngahuru, or an amendment to it, is approved, each relevant local authority—

- (a) must consider its RMA planning documents in light of the Te Awa Tupua status, Tupua te Kawa, and Te Heke Ngahuru; and
- (b) may, in its discretion, initiate a review of an RMA planning document under section 79 of the Resource Management Act 1991 in order to meet its obligations under sections 15(2) and (3) and 37(1).

(2) If a relevant local authority initiates a review under subsection (1), on completion of that review,—

- (a) the local authority must inform Te Kōpuka and Te Pou Tupua of the outcome of the review; and

(b) if it considers that an RMA planning document requires alteration, it may propose to change the document under Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991; but

(c) if it considers that an RMA planning document does not require alteration, it need not give public notice of that document despite section 79 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

BACKGROUND

Between 1999 and 2014, Whanganui Iwi negotiated with the crown for settlement of the Whanganui River claim which had been filed in the Waitangi Tribunal in 1990. The lodgement of the claim in 1990 itself followed an unbroken one-hundred-and-fifty-year struggle by te Ati Haunui a Paparangi, Whanganui Iwi, to have their mana (sovereignty) in respect of the Whanganui River, recognised. In 2008 Whanganui Iwi decided to seek a new status for the River, that of Te Awa Tupua, through which the sovereignty of the River and its people could be recognised at once i.e Te Mana o Te Awa me Te Mana o Te Iwi.

Following the signing of Ruruku Whakatupua, the Whanganui River Settlement in 2014, the Whanganui River was consequently recognised at law as a living and indivisible whole called Te Awa Tupua. Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act 2017, obligates the Government, local authorities, and all communities to recognise the inalienable relationship of hapū and iwi with the River and approach all decision making through a set of intrinsic values, called Tupua Te Kawa. Under Tupua Te Kawa, the River is recognised at law as an indivisible physical as well as metaphysical whole for which the hapū and iwi of the River system hold an inalienable connection to. All communities are obligated to work together to provide for the health and wellbeing of the River.

Called Te Pā Auroa na Te Awa Tupua, the Te Awa Tupua settlement framework as a whole returns sovereignty (mana) to the River and therefore sovereignty to its hapū and iwi.

Te Kōpuka nā Te Awa Tupua (Te Kōpuka) is the strategy group comprising of persons and organisations with interests in the catchment of the Whanganui River, including iwi, local and central government, commercial and recreational users and environmental groups. The purpose of Te Kōpuka is to act collaboratively to advance the environmental, social, cultural and economic health and wellbeing of Te Awa Tupua.

The primary function of Te Kōpuka is to develop and approve Te Heke Ngāhuru ki Te Awa Tupua (Te Heke Ngahuru). Te Heke Ngahuru is the Te Awa Tupua strategy to address and advance the environmental, social, cultural and economic health and wellbeing of Te Awa Tupua. Other functions of Te Kōpuka include;

- monitoring the implementation of Te Heke Ngahuru;
- reviewing Te Heke Ngahuru;
- providing a forum for discussion of issues relating to the health and wellbeing of Te Awa Tupua;
- exercising any function that may be delegated to it by a local authority; and
- taking any action that is considered by Te Kōpuka to be appropriate in relation to achieving its purpose and exercising its functions.

2023/24 – 2027/28 Strategic Plan

Approved:

Work Area (why are we undertaking this objective?)	Key Result (what are we actually doing and how this contributes to objective?)	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
<p>Participation</p> <p>Add value to our licence holders to increase their success and satisfaction so they remain in the sport</p> <p>Recruit (and re-activate) new licence holders to protect revenue required for effective management and to maintain</p>	<p>Signage</p> <p>Provide anglers with helpful on-site information re access, regulations and techniques to make it easier to go fishing</p>	<p>Replace or erect new signs on rivers and lakes around the region consistent with the priorities identified.</p> <p>2-3 signs replaced per year</p>	<p>Erect regulation information signs on Retaruke and Whanganui Rivers (the Araroa trail users)</p>			
<p>licence holders to protect revenue required for effective management and to maintain</p> <p>Licence holder contact</p> <p>Contact licence holders (mail, email, social media and individually by phone or face to</p>	<p>Review Ruatiti information sign and update as necessary.</p> <p>By Aug 2025 identify any changes and agree process to upgrade with other parties</p> <p>Produce Wellington/Taranaki fishing newsletter sent to licence holders shortly after the start of each season</p> <p>Produce Wellington/Taranaki hunting newsletter sent to licence holders and RD box holders prior to each season</p> <p>Produce 2 or 3-page magazine supplement for each issue of F&G Magazine</p> <p>Implement and utilise social media including Facebook consistent with National Office policy</p> <p>Develop and utilise licence holder email list to highlight information of specific value such as upcoming children's fishing days.</p>					

<p>support for and recognition of the importance of fish & game resources and their use</p>	<p>face) to share information that encourages and assists users to make best use of the F&G resource</p>	<p>Information on fishing days emailed to licence holders Produce weekly content for the "lower North Island lowdown" ezine during the fishing and game bird hunting seasons.</p>		
<p>Angling and hunting web pages</p>	<p>How to and where to go information is readily available, easily understood and up to date to assist & guide licence holders and prospective participants</p>	<p>Review information and effectiveness of web links annually or when issue identified.</p>		
<p>Children and family fishing days and opportunities</p> <p>Provide opportunities for children and families to go fishing easily and on an ongoing basis, so they potentially become lifelong anglers. To engender support for fishing and the</p>	<p>Information is current and easily found</p> <p>Introduction to duck hunting opportunities in the Taranaki Region</p> <p>Draft text and video links prepared by Aug 2025 for incorporation into new F&G website</p> <p>Explore options for ongoing fishing opportunities for kids and families based on local ponds and threshold experiences.</p>	<p>Implement preferred options</p>		
<p>Hold, and seek external funding for, annual family trout fishing promotions at Lake Rotomanu (New Plymouth) and Stratford (Scout Den pool, Patea River).</p> <p>Liaise annually with the Department of Conservation (Tongariro National Trout Centre Turangi) regarding the availability of rainbow trout for autumn release into Sattler's Dam. Explore options to enhance the habitat at Sattler's Dam.</p>	<p>Hold, and seek external funding for, annual family trout fishing promotions at Lake Rotomanu (New Plymouth) and Stratford (Scout Den pool, Patea River).</p>	<p>Liaise annually with the Department of Conservation (Tongariro National Trout Centre Turangi) regarding the availability of rainbow trout for autumn release into Sattler's Dam. Explore options to enhance the habitat at Sattler's Dam.</p>		

<p><i>activities of Fish & Game among the general public</i></p>	<p>Incorporate national branding and approaches as per R3 strategy in Children's Fishing Programme</p>			
<p>Increase participation <i>Encourage past and prospective hunters and anglers into the sport through initiatives which make it easy to have a go</i></p>	<p>Survey of aspirations of trout anglers</p>	<p>Survey of aspirations of duck hunters</p>	<p>Re-survey of aspirations of upland game hunters</p>	<p>Re-survey of aspirations of duck hunters</p>
	<p>Develop web based introductory package for anglers and hunters utilising information on the new F&G website and highlighting easy opportunities including access and methods to get started.</p>	<p>Review and refine anglers' package in response to feedback</p>	<p>Review and refine hunters' package</p>	
	<p>Explore and develop mentoring schemes for hunters including public instruction/information days.</p> <p><i>Identify possible option(s) by Aug 2025</i> <i>Implement most promising option identified by May 2026</i></p>	<p>Review and refine mentoring programmes</p>		

<p>and/ or provide support.</p>	<p>Continue to explore opportunities for increased angling access around Lake Mangamahoe through provision of third angling platform.</p>			
<p>Angler & hunter aspirations <i>In order to best manage the resource and opportunities in the best interests of anglers & hunters it is essential to understand the aspirations of Taranaki licence holders and what they seek from their fishing & hunting experience.</i></p>	<p>Review and refine permit process and conditions for gamebird hunting</p>		<p>Review how new permit system is working</p>	
<p>Improve angler/ hunter access <i>Fundamental to participation is that licence holders need to be able to readily access and utilise the available fish & game populations.</i></p>	<p>Review access information and where appropriate identify contact details/ negotiate access. Complete Waingongoro review Aug 2025 Review Kaipokonui River access (including Mangawhero Stream) by Aug 2025</p>	<p>Review effectiveness of strategy and implementation</p>		
	<p>Implement strategy to achieve appropriate hunter behaviour. <i>Initial actions in place by May 2025</i></p>			

	<p>Manage hunter behaviour <i>Maximise hunter enjoyment and participation and also general public support so as to minimise the threat to the sport from anti-hunting groups</i></p>	<p>Locate and publicise quality trout and perch recipes, including those in the Fish & Game cookbook</p> <p>Provide support, service and upskilling of licence agents to operate as effective licence outlets and sources of valued information on opportunities and techniques.</p>	<p>Review and collate suitable game bird recipes online</p>		
<p>Promote table qualities of the resource. <i>An important part of the sport is the taking of prime food for the table, and which adds additional value to their sport. Making use of shot game as a natural, healthy food also makes hunting more acceptable to the general public</i></p>	<p>Review regulations annually with an objective to achieve simplicity and consistency across the region and between regions as opportunities allow. Ensure information is easy to find and follow.</p>				
<p>Minimise barriers <i>An effective network of licence administration minimises the barriers to purchasing a licence, and in turn can add</i></p>					

	<p><i>significant value for the purchaser in terms of providing information and equipment.</i></p> <p><i>Utilise simple, consistent and easy to understand regulations that are both effective and that minimise uncertainty and reluctance to have a go</i></p>	
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Work Area (why are we undertaking this objective?)	Key Result (what are we actually doing and how this contributes to objective?)	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Sports fish monitoring and management To obtain necessary information and undertake effective management	Obtain baseline information for key streams To better understand key fisheries and identify threats and opportunities to the maintenance of important angling resources	Complete review of Waingongoro River fishery (yr 2 of 2). Assess juvenile recruitment in the Waiongana/Mangaoraka Stream catchment to compare with baseline information from other catchment surveys.	Assess and report on the fishery in the Manganui River and tributaries (yr 1 of 2). Undertake electric fishing surveys in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waitaiki Stream • Kapuni Stream 	Assess and report on the fishery in the Manganui River and tributaries (yr 2 of 2) Undertake an electric fishing survey in Kapuni Stream	Assess and report on the fishery in the Tokiahuru / Waitaiki Stream.	Assess and report on the fishery in the Taungatara Stream. Assess and report on the fishery in the Otakeho Stream.
actions to sustainably manage sports fish populations across the region so as to foster angler success and satisfaction such that they remain in the sport.	Investigate value of streams and lakes To ensure any stocking programme is effective in terms of an increased return to the angler, is socially appropriate and a sound use of what are limited resources	Prepare and undertake annual stocking plan <i>Achieve proposed stocking programme each year</i> Undertake further trial releases of 2yr old trout into lower Patea River				Review stocking plan Review results and develop position on release of trout into lower Patea River
		Monitor success of trout releases into the lower Patea River and Hangatahau (Stony) River.				

	<p>Investigate opportunities to restore fisheries <i>Some previously important fisheries have declined over time and there may be opportunities to restore some of these to the benefit of local anglers</i></p>				<p>Assess juvenile recruitment along the Timaru Stream following removal of the Tataraimaka weir to document effects on fish passage.</p>	
<p>Angler surveys & diaries <i>These provide a mechanism to effectively monitor many of the regions fisheries which otherwise would be outside the resources available to F&G. This information is important for assessing angler satisfaction, making management responses including regulation setting and also in promoting the importance of the fishery in resource consent and</i></p>	<p>Undertake angler diary scheme programme annually. <i>Each year promote the scheme and produce an annual report of results</i></p>					
		<p>Review diary system and effectiveness</p>				

	<p><i>community processes</i></p>					
	<p>Hatchery <i>Stocking appropriate waterways with trout is an effective way to increase angling opportunity. In particular stocking man-made lakes and impoundments close to urban centres can be highly valued by family and other groups contributing to a healthier lifestyle and enhancing support for fishing and F&G whilst not impacting unreasonably on indigenous fish species. It is also an important tool to introduce budding anglers to fishing and</i></p>	<p>Maintain effective hatchery operations utilising volunteer support</p>			<p>Review options for the hatchery to ensure that hatchery operation is efficient, effective and sustainable re meeting future stocking requirements. Will be influenced by the National Council stocking review, R3 needs also community/iwi aspirations.</p>	<p>Implement decisions</p>

	<i>protecting the licence base</i>			
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Work Area (why are we undertaking this objective?)	Key Result (what are we actually doing and how this contributes to objective?)	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
<p>Gamebird monitoring and investigations</p> <p>To obtain necessary information and undertake effective management actions to sustainably manage gamebird populations across the region to maximise hunter satisfaction so they remain in the sport.</p>	<p>Mallard Duck monitoring Obtaining an accurate estimate of the duck population annually to set season regulations is fraught with difficulties and is resource intensive. Furthermore the regulation setting timetable means substantial population changes may occur between any monitoring and regulation setting and the new hunting season. However potentially hunting mortality may either be negligible, compensatory and/or naturally reduce when populations</p>	<p>Implement banding protocol for Whanganui area.</p> <p>Review site selection and undertake full banding including recovery of bands. Complete report of banding results August 2025</p>	<p>Review monitoring programme for the region taking into account banding results and including regulation setting requirements</p>	<p>Review effectiveness and value of the monitoring programme.</p>		
		<p>Undertake annual aerial counts of dabbling duck transects across the Taranaki ringplain</p> <p>Count data is summarised in annual discussion paper re recommended Game Gazette conditions.</p>				
		<p>Participate in and meet data entry requirements for the National Hunter Survey</p> <p>Target for number of interviews is achieved and data summarised in annual discussion paper re recommended Game Gazette conditions</p>				

	<p>are low anyway. The alternative approach if the population is robust & hunting mortality is relatively minor is to focus on maintaining consistent regulations which allow for a reasonable bag and season length at minimal risk to the population. This manages hunter expectations and allows them to invest with some certainty to the future while freeing up management resources</p>	
<p>Undertake paradise shelduck moult counts across the region in January each year.</p>		
<p><i>Produce an annual report detailing trends in numbers</i></p>		
<p>Implement recommendations from review of moult sites monitored and how the data is reported.</p>	<p>Review count methods, including effectiveness and cost of returning to aerial counts</p>	<p>Implement decisions arising from review of count methods</p>
<p>Paradise shelduck monitoring Paradise shelduck are an important resource for Taranaki hunters. However in large numbers they can impact on farming operations. Numbers can be effectively</p>		

	in Hill Country and Coastal areas		
<p>monitored by undertaking moult counts across the region and the information used to manage numbers sufficient to provide valued hunting opportunities without unreasonably impacting on landowners</p>	<p>Review hunting regulations for paradise shelduck and including possible Area boundaries</p>		
<p>Pukeko monitoring Large aggregations of pukeko create problems for landowners and create a hunting opportunity for licence holders. However over much of the region numbers are very low so it is essential to have sound monitoring information so as to set effective regulations which maximise opportunity while ensuring the</p>	<p>Investigate re-starting April pukeko monitoring in the Whanganui area.</p>	<p>Implement pukeko monitoring in the Whanganui area.</p>	<p>Review monitoring methodology and implement recommendations.</p>
	<p>Undertake monitoring of Taranaki ring plain pukeko populations.</p> <p><i>Count data is summarised in annual discussion paper re recommended Game Gazette conditions.</i></p>		<p>Review monitoring methodology and implement recommendations.</p>

	<p><i>sustainability of the regional populations.</i></p> <p>New opportunities <i>There are potentially several ways the resource may be supplemented and hunting undertaken. So long as any new approach does not unreasonably impact on other hunters or indigenous biodiversity then this is an opportunity that may be valued by a segment of licence holders.</i></p>	<p>Review and develop position on release of upland game birds.</p> <p>Review criteria/ policy to rear and release upland game birds.</p>	
<p>Dispersal Manage problem aggregations of gamebirds to minimise their impacts on landowners and protect/ create hunting opportunities for licence holders</p>	<p>Quickly and efficiently respond to landowner concerns as required. Implement Special Season for paradise shelduck as and where appropriate.</p>		

Work Area (why are we undertaking this objective?)	Key Result (what are we actually doing and how this contributes to objective?)	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Compliance Protect resource sustainability and user experience to maintain licence holder satisfaction	Compliance Make best use of available resources to implement the objectives of the Compliance Policy so as to best protect the sports fish & game resource and its use	Review Compliance Strategy	Review Compliance Strategy Undertake effective opening day ranging across the region and at other key times or in response to identified issues. Annual compliance report presented to Council	Consider other options to undertake compliance if and when these become available		
	Honorary Rangers Safe use of honorary rangers to provide effective and valued compliance coverage across the Taranaki region	Ranger training in implementing R3 principles All rangers receive introduction to R3			Ranger warrant renewals Paperwork submitted by Aug 2024	Ranger warrant renewals Paperwork submitted by Aug 2027

Work Area (why are we undertaking this objective?)	Key Result (what are we actually doing and how this contributes to objective?)	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
<p>Iwi and public interaction Implementing the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (partnership, protection and participation) requires Council work proactively and collaboratively with iwi regarding the management of natural resources and their use and protection. It is recognised that there may be a natural tension</p>	<p>Iwi Liaison Proactively foster close and productive working relationships with iwi at all levels and collectively share expertise and knowledge to achieve greater protection of freshwater and wetland habitats and species. To also enable robust and helpful discussion and decision making on issues affecting licence holders and iwi including use of shared resources, protection</p>	<p>Take opportunities to involve and work with iwi at all levels on shared matters affecting natural resources and their use, including welcoming iwi participation in Council. Represent F&G and provide valued input to Te Awa Tupua process Identify opportunities and actively work with individual iwi and hapu on local shared issues Identify possible options to increase iwi involvement in Council Take opportunities to work on joint habitat improvement and river restoration projects</p>			<p>Actively involve iwi at all levels in the development of the Sports Fish and Game Management Plan (dependant on completion of regional amalgamations).</p>	

<p>around the possible impact of sports fish in particular on indigenous taonga like inanga and tuna, however collectively we also share a concern and determination to look after and improve freshwater and wetlands so as to protect the wairua and for the benefit of all species.</p>	<p>of indigenous taonga and access</p>	<p>Help Taranaki Iwi (Te Whikura Hehata) with fishery investigations in Kāpōhāia and Otahi streams</p>			
<p>There are many groups whose decisions and actions impact on the fish & game resource. By working closely and constructively with these groups more can be achieved to protect and enhance resource sustainability and user experience</p>	<p>Effective Liaison with Statutory Managers Develop and maintain strong working relationships and involvement with DOC and local and regional councils to effectively represent the interests of hunters and anglers in formal decision-making processes</p>	<p>Proactively work with Taranaki and Horizons Regional Council staff</p> <p>Involve regional council staff in GBHT and H&H applications as appropriate</p> <p>Develop and maintain constructive relationships with DOC staff as opportunities arise</p>			

<p><i>In the face of an increasing urban population and support for indigenous biodiversity to ensure hunting & fishing is valued by the general public who recognise that these activities contribute to wider good such as a better environment and healthy lifestyle/ kai and in turn support protecting these resources and the opportunity to participate.</i></p>	<p>Community Involvement & Advocacy <i>Actively seek to contribute to the wider community as part of undertaking F&G activities and highlight these broader benefits to engender wider support for F&G, angling and hunting.</i></p>	<p>Recognise and pursue opportunities to contribute to the wider community as part of undertaking core F&G activities.</p> <p><i>Participate in Wild for Taranaki</i> <i>Contribute to and support the activities of Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust</i></p> <p>Take opportunities to work with community and industry groups on habitat improvement and river restoration projects and initiatives.</p>
<p>Effective use of the Media <i>Maintain positive profile which encourages prospective participants and fosters support and understanding among the general public.</i></p>	<p>Review media strategy</p>	<p>Implement revised strategy</p> <p>Post regularly on the Council's Facebook page on F&G activity and up-and-coming events.</p> <p>Review and regularly update information on the F&G website.</p>
		<p>Review media strategy</p>

Work Area (why are we undertaking this objective?)	Key Result (what are we actually doing and how this contributes to objective?)	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
<p>Habitat management</p> <p>Protecting / improving habitat for sports fish & game is a fundamental and effective means to sustaining the fish & game resource in the interests of licence holders</p>	<p>Taranaki Natural Resources Plan</p> <p>Sports fish and game habitat will be better protected by effective provisions in this Plan. This will also limit the resources F&G expends on addressing individual consent applications freeing these resources up to be used elsewhere</p>	<p>Actively engage in the process to protect and enhance the interests of Taranaki hunters and anglers.</p> <p>Process deadlines to contribute and submit are met.</p>				
	<p>Effectively engage in RMA consent processes.</p> <p>In the absence of greater direction in regional plans it is necessary to engage in individual consent applications to ensure protection of Fish and Game resources and access to these</p>	<p>Engage in relevant specific consent applications to protect F&G interests</p> <p>Seek favourable environmental outcomes as part of Manawa Energy's (formerly Trustpower) consenting of the Mangorei and Motukawa hydro schemes.</p>		<p>Review strategic approach re: engagement in individual consent processes.</p>		

		<i>(Dependent on progress with Taranaki Natural Resources Plan)</i>			
		<i>(Continue to investigate establishment of environmental award)</i>			
			Work with other parties to remove the Timaru Stream Weir		
			Explore options to remove the "Riverlands Eltham" weir on the Waingongoro River and improve fish passage at the Normanby weir.		
			Promote and explore opportunities to improve water quality in Lake Rotomanu		
			Promote and develop quality wetland and upland game habitats in association with private landowners and other agencies and including by promoting the GBHT and H&H funds.		
			At least 3 applications to GBHT & H&H fund per year		
			Keep up to date with current predator control techniques and operations and actively seek to promote effective programmes as opportunities arise.		
			Orautoha/Manganuioteao riparian protection works.		
			Complete annual work programme as per funding application. Apply for new funding if there is sufficient interest from landowners.		

Work Area (why are we undertaking this objective?)	Key Result (what are we actually doing and how this contributes to objective?)	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
<p>Planning & Administration</p> <p>The Taranaki Sports Fish & Game Management Plan is a statutory requirement and formally reflects the aspirations of hunters and anglers. The Plan provides high level direction and guidance for management activities and also other</p>	<p>Review Management Plan</p> <p>The Plan is required to be reviewed in whole no later than 10 years after it was approved. Any review will include the opportunity for submissions by hunters and anglers and F&G will also consult with other parties, iwi and agencies as appropriate and consistent with Treaty of Waitangi</p>	<p>Seek 3-year extension to the Plan review to allow review to occur following regional amalgamations</p>			<p>Undertake plan review to incorporate any changes in F&G organisation from ministerial and internal reviews and amalgamations. Actively involve iwi and community in this plan as well as hunters and anglers</p>	

		<p>Review 5-Year Strategic Plan annually and as required</p>	<p>obligations to ensure the plan is comprehensive, effective and of value.</p> <p>Strategic planning Implement Management Plan through ongoing review and refinement of 5-year Strategic Plan to provide clear and agreed direction regarding future work programmes and resource allocation and requirements. This strategic plan to guide development of a timely, planned and effective Annual Operational Workplan that</p>	<p>statutory plans in the interests of the resource and users</p> <p>Strong and effective governance to ensure that the activities of Council are appropriate, well run and reflect the aspirations of all licence holders</p> <p>Effective and concise</p>

<p><i>administration with accurate reporting to support sound financial management and efficient use of resources in the best interests of the licence holder and fish & game resource</i></p>	<p><i>reflects the aspirations of hunters and anglers</i></p>	<p>Identify possible options and strategies to increase the diversity of Council</p>	
<p>Focus on governance Achieve appropriate diversity across the Council and provide Councillors with professional governance support to best represent the interests of all licence holders</p>	<p>Implement key options identified</p>	<p>Review and update governance policy</p>	<p>Co-ordinate Council Election</p>
<p>Simplify operational outputs and coding Provide effective and helpful reporting while minimising unnecessary detail and the time and resources this involves which</p>	<p>Undertake governance training provided nationally</p>	<p>Undertake governance training</p>	<p>Implement any outcomes of National Council financial review</p>

	<p><i>can be used elsewhere</i></p>					
<p>New Plymouth and Whanganui offices <i>Provide effective and healthy office space including storage which is also obvious and accessible to our users and the general public</i></p>						
<p>Administrative improvements <i>Make best use of new systems and technology to maximise administrative efficiencies and minimise costs so resources are available for use elsewhere</i></p>						
<p>Support for Council <i>Provide valued support to</i></p>						
<p>Incorporate any changes as part of Ministerial and Internal F&G reviews and amalgamations.</p>						
<p>Recommend changes to 5-Year Strategic Plan, prepare draft Annual Operational Plan and draft Performance Report Prepare concise and complete agenda papers including with a recommended course of action</p>						

	<p><i>Council which facilitates effective Council governance and operation</i></p> <p>Health & Safety <i>Maintain effective systems to ensure a safe and healthy working environment and the safety of staff and visitors</i></p>	<p>Implement and review Health & Safety Policy, Manual and systems and processes as per identified timetable.</p> <p><i>Annual audit and other identified requirements are reported to Council</i></p>
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Review: February 2025 Council Meeting

Agenda Item 11 Policy and Legislation

Summary

a. Wildlife Act Review

In September 2023 the Minister of Conservation announced the formal review of the Wildlife Act – which was to begin in March 2024.

There has been no update as to the priority or timetable in progressing this review.

EDS released another volume of policy work to advocate for updating the Wildlife Act and Conservation Act to prioritise native biodiversity. NZ Council staff responded accordingly to advocate for acknowledgement of valued introduced species.

b. Resource Management Act Review

Earlier this year, the Coalition Government outlined a reform plan to replace the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) with two new acts: one focused on environmental management and the other on urban development and infrastructure. This transition includes the introduction of several bills aimed at streamlining the resource management system.

The government's objectives for the new system are to promote housing and business development, improve infrastructure quality, and support growth in the primary sector, all while protecting the environment. Key features of the reform include:

1. **Clear and Efficient Regulations:** The new framework will focus on controlling only "material" adverse environmental effects, providing greater certainty for developers through enhanced national standards and reduced regional plans.
2. **Prioritizing Property Rights:** The reforms aim to enhance property rights by minimizing objections to development and implementing a low-cost dispute resolution process.
3. **Elevating National Standards:** Activities complying with national standards will no longer require resource consents, shifting the focus to compliance monitoring instead.

Additionally, changes to the Infrastructure Funding and Financing Act will facilitate infrastructure development for housing. An Expert Advisory Group will finalize the new system's core features by late 2024, with public consultation planned before introducing the legislation, expected to be passed by the end of 2026.

c. Fast Track Approvals Bill

- Fast Track Approvals Bill – introduced into Parliament in early March 2024. Submissions heard at Select Committee proceedings and currently considering feedback for a report back to Parliament before any amendments are made to the detail of the First Reading of the Bill.
- On October 6, 2024, the New Zealand government announced the inclusion of 149 projects in the Fast Track Approvals Bill aimed at addressing the housing crisis, enhancing energy security, and tackling infrastructure deficits. The selection process involved open applications, independent assessments, and final Cabinet decisions. Once the Bill passes, these projects will undergo evaluation by expert panels, which can also decline approvals if necessary. Key highlights include:
 - **Aquaculture and Farming:** Seven projects aimed at boosting Māori development with a projected output of 143,000 tonnes annually.
 - **Infrastructure Projects:** 43 initiatives to create at least 180 km of new transport routes, enhancing connectivity and supporting economic growth.

- **Renewable Energy:** 22 projects aimed at increasing generation capacity by 3 gigawatts to strengthen energy security and meet climate goals.

d. Arms Act Review

The Government announced in February 2024 that firearms legislation will be reviewed. This includes rewriting the Arms Act 1983, transferring responsibility for that act to the Ministry of Justice, and transferring the Firearms Safety Authority to another department such as the Department of Internal Affairs.

Nicol McKee, The Minister responsible for firearms reform has come under pointed criticism from advocacy groups including the Police Association. She says the firearms registry review has not started yet, and the Association will be able to make submissions in later phases of the reforms.

the consultation process for the government's firearms registry review has included 17 firearms interest groups in a targeted consultation process for the review, and eight other groups who may take a differing view.

The Government has started consultation on firearms reforms and have indicated that draft legislation will also likely be introduced to Parliament this Calendar year.

e. Organisational Policies

Continuing to liaise with NZ Council and regions regarding defining best practice policy for operational and governance applications.

One operational policy for review is:

- **Vehicle Use Policy**

The purpose of the Vehicle Use Policy is to provide the Fish and Game Council, Employees, Elected Representatives, and Volunteers with a clear framework of the use of Council vehicles for business use and personal use, and personal vehicles for business use, including the required processes, procedures and general expectations.

Higher Level Principles:

- The Council will provide a safe vehicle and ensure that it is well maintained.
- The employees (and volunteers) will conduct themselves with a safe approach that complies with health and safety, and traffic regulations.

Feedback

Recommendation/Action

Adopt this vehicle use policy – this can be used as a basis for good practice policy for each region should they be updating or implementing a contemporary vehicle use policy.

EDS's Restoring Nature Report Sets Out Pathway To Modernise The Conservation System



Tuesday, 27 August 2024, 5:27 pm

Press Release: [EDS](#)

27 August 2024

The Environmental Defence Society has today launched a report called Restoring Nature: Reform of the Conservation Management System which sets out a comprehensive package of recommendations for a new conservation system.

“All of our core conservation legislation predates the dual climate change and biodiversity crises. There is an urgent need to bring these laws in line with modern conservation practice, to better reflect ti Tiriti, current values and aspirations and to ensure that the system is responsive to the challenges ahead,” said report coauthor Dr Deidre Koolen-Bourke.

“The report builds on EDS’s 2023 reviews of the Wildlife Act and the Conservation Management Planning system. It demonstrates a clear need to prioritise indigenous biodiversity, shift management towards restoration, and strengthen a science-based approach across the system.

“DOC is charged with managing around a third of our country’s land, and it contains our most iconic landscapes, and irreplaceable natural and historical heritage. However, the Department has never been sufficiently funded to do this job. The report therefore looks closely at how the Department can increase its income,” says report co-author and EDS Policy Director Raewyn Peart.

Key recommendations set out in the report include:

- Updating the conservation system so that Māori values and aspirations are recognised and provided for. This includes providing clear direction on how Treaty Principles, under section 4, are to be given effect to.
- Updating the definition of “conservation” so that it distinguishes between introduced and indigenous species, prioritising the later.
- Setting a clear overriding statutory purpose for the conservation system, centered on protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity and the ecological integrity of native ecosystems.
- Recognising connection and relationship with the environment as a secondary purpose, and the economic wellbeing of communities as a tertiary purpose.
- Specifically defining and providing a management framework for tourism.
- Requiring climate change mitigation and adaptation to be taken into account in all planning, operational and concessions decisions and providing statutory recognition for DOC’s Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan.

- Modernising the Conservation Management Planning System to improve its functionality through a new more directive Conservation Policy Statement linked to National Conservation Standards.
- Replacing the plethora of conservation management plans and strategies with Regional Conservation Plans that implement national policies and link to Regional Operational Plans that direct DOC operations at place.
- Strengthening DOC's capacity and reporting requirements at the regional level, aligned with a strengthened planning role of Conservation Boards and tangata whenua.
- Reforming the concessions system to provide a broader range of allocation mechanisms, adjusting fees to ensure fair market value, prioritising activities that deliver conservation gains, and clarifying that some priority should be accorded tangata whenua.
- Strengthening oversight and accountability of the system including by increasing the functions and powers of the New Zealand Conservation Authority.
- Reforming the Wildlife Act 1953 to prioritise the prevention of species extinction and the protection, management and restoration of all indigenous biodiversity, and to better address threats.

“Our recommendations are designed to provide a starting point for a national conversation on conservation reform. They highlight the critical gaps and pinch points that need to be addressed as matters of urgency. Our ageing conservation system is failing and it is crucial we get the settings right,” says Ms Peart.

EDS would like to thank the invaluable expertise of co-authors Billy van Uitregt and Clare Dowsett.

Environmental Defence Society Report Downplays Valued Introduced Species

Press Release: [Fish and Game New Zealand](#) Tuesday, 27 August 2024, 6:20 pm

A report by the Environmental Defence Society (EDS) downplaying the importance of valued introduced species such as trout and salmon is wide of the mark, says Fish & Game New Zealand.

The EDS Restoring Nature report recommends replacing the Wildlife Act and Conservation Act with a new law that gives greater priority to threatened and indigenous species over valued introduced species.

"We accept the need to reform the Wildlife and Conservation Acts and acknowledge the report has some sound recommendations; however, overall it demonises valued introduced species," says Corina Jordan, chief executive of Fish & Game New Zealand.

"The report ignores the fact that environmental degradation, habitat loss and climate change pose the greatest challenge to threatened and indigenous species.

"If these recommendations were ever adopted, they would effectively reduce the protection of trout and salmon, which legislation has long safeguarded. These laws have recognised the national importance of valued introduced species and the reason why we need to protect their habitats - that's to safeguard the habitat of all freshwater fish.

"By recognising these species and protecting their habitat, we are also protecting all freshwater species. That's because trout and salmon have some of the highest freshwater quality and quantity requirements out of our freshwater species.

"It would also mean that trout or salmon in an angler's favourite river will be classed as 'second class citizens' even when indigenous species are not threatened.

"Ultimately, these recommendations place a question mark over the future of freshwater fishing, the species we harvest for food and our critical role in managing these species and their habitats on behalf of New Zealanders."

The report also explores different options for the management of introduced species, including replacing Fish & Game with a public agency similar to the former Wildlife Service or combining it with the Game Animal Council.

"Historically, Fish & Game has been the 'last man standing' in representing the public good in the fight to ensure New Zealand has a healthy environment people can enjoy.

"Anglers and hunters are out there, off track, in New Zealand's wild places. They're involved in predator trapping, endangered birds' recovery programmes and habitat enhancement. They're among New Zealand's greatest conservationists and really care about the environment and our iconic native species."

EDS is also wrong to suggest valued introduced species always pose a threat to indigenous species.

"The latest scientific research demonstrates native fish and trout can co-exist with careful management. What's most important is habitat quality over competition for food.

"The overlap between trout and vulnerable species is, in fact, limited. Any impact is localised to a fraction of New Zealand's waterways. Habitat degradation has been identified as a more significant threat than trout predation.

"The evidence shows climate change will have a greater impact on our freshwater fish than trout and salmon will ever have."

Among a host of recommendations, the report is also suggesting the reclassification of conservation and riparian land. "Changes to the reclassification of land would need to ensure that access for hunting and angling is recognised and protected."

Freshwater Farm Plans rollout on hold

Farmers Weekly

September 3, 2024

The government is pausing the rollout of Freshwater Farm Plans until system improvements are finalised.

Minor amendments to the Resource Management Act will be required to enable the pause, which ministers said will allow them to make changes to make implementing the plans more cost effective and fit for purpose.

The government will work with the sector, iwi and regional councils to simplify requirements and enable more local catchment-level solutions.

Several regions have already started implementing Freshwater Farm Plans in specific areas, including Waikato, Southland, the West Coast, Otago, and Manawatū-Whanganui.

Simmonds to stay involved with ORC

Otago Daily Times

16 September 2024

Environment Minister Penny Simmonds will continue engaging with the Otago Regional Council (ORC) following a meeting where council leaders discussed the costs of their upcoming land and water plan. The ministers advised pausing the council's plan processes to align with a new national policy statement for freshwater management, which is expected by mid-next year.

Since December Ms Simmonds has urged the council to pause work towards notifying its plan and await the new national policy statement "to avoid unnecessary costs and compliance duplication for councils and ratepayers".

Southland freshwater plan slated for lack of clarity

Farmers Weekly

17 September 2024

Environment Southland confirmed changes to Southland Water and Land Plan and Regional Policy Statement, giving full effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, will be notified by the end of 2027 or earlier. They confirmed nutrient limits (yet to be determined) will form part of the 2027 plan change. The council will be working with communities over the next two years to develop catchment plans that detail the actions the community wishes to take to improve freshwater.

As part of the 2025 plan change, Environment Southland will be updating the farming rules in the Southland Water and Land Plan to provide an option of using a farm plan as a potential alternative to some consenting requirements.

Vehicle Use Policy

Purpose	The purpose of the Vehicle Use Policy is to provide the Fish and Game Council, Employees, Elected Representatives, and Volunteers with a clear framework of the use of Council vehicles for business use and personal use, and personal vehicles for business use, including the required processes, procedures and general expectations.
Scope	This policy applies to all staff and representatives of the Council who may, at some stage in the course of their employment, be supplied with or use a Council vehicle or use their personal vehicle for business use. This includes elected representatives and approved employees or volunteers. This policy does not apply to the use of plant and machinery such as Side by Side 4WD, motorbikes, or boats.
Policy	<p>Principles:</p> <p>The Council recognises the importance of having Fish and Game owned vehicles available for staff to carry out work activities around the Fish and Game region. It is important that all employees (including volunteers) conduct themselves in a manner that complies with all health, safety and traffic legislation and regulations at all times. Staff and Council representatives are representing the Council at all times and, as such, all duties need to be carried out with a focus on maintaining the positive reputation of the organisation and ensure that the public good is at the forefront of all activity.</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>To ensure that workers who drive vehicles in the course of their work demonstrate safe, efficient driving skills and other good road safety habits at all times.</p> <p>To maintain all company vehicles in a safe, clean and roadworthy condition to ensure the maximum safety of the drivers, occupants and other road users – this also applies to personal vehicles used for work purposes.</p> <p>Code of Conduct:</p> <p>While driving Fish and Game vehicles or own vehicles for work purposes, workers must comply with traffic legislation, be conscious of road safety and demonstrate safe driving and other good road safety habits.</p>
Definitions	
	<p>Fish and Game Owned Vehicle - vehicles owned by Fish and Game that are used for business purposes.</p> <p>Private Vehicle – vehicle that is privately owned by the driver but is used for business purposes.</p>
<p>References</p> <p>Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Safety Policy • Drug and Alcohol Policy • Code of Conduct (Staff) Policy <p>Legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WorkSafe New Zealand Act 2013 • Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 • Employment Relations Act (ER) 2000 	

<p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Agreements • Code of Conduct • New Zealand Road Code 	
<p>Guidelines</p>	<p>https://legalvision.co.nz/employment/vehicle-use-policy/ https://www.ird.govt.nz/vehicle-expenses</p>
<p>Responsibilities</p>	<p>Employee – including Volunteer/Representative</p> <p>All drivers of Fish and Game vehicles must be responsible and accountable for their actions when operating a Fish and Game owned company vehicle or driving for the purposes of work.</p> <p>This means displaying the highest level of professional conduct at all times while driving for work, and adhering at all times to the New Zealand Road Code https://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/roadcode/. This includes adherence to the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004. This includes Section 7.3A “ Ban on use of mobile phones while driving” http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2004/0427/latest/DLM2510830.html. Use of cellphones is prohibited in any capacity in Fish and Game vehicles, unless hands free capacity is available.</p> <p>Additionally, every driver of a Fish and Game vehicle will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive within the legal speed limits, including driving to the conditions. This includes consideration of the safety of your vehicle, the weather, other traffic on the road, and your level of experience; • Complete a vehicle pre-start check before each journey; • Complete a Vehicle Inspection Form on a monthly basis (within a week of the first of the month); • Ensure that any Road User Charges has a distance licence that are pre-paid for the provision for the distance you’re going to travel. It is the responsibility of the driver to report immediately to their Manager (Chief Executive) the requirement to pre-pay for additional distance licence. • Avoid distraction when driving – the driver should endeavour to adjust car stereos/mirrors etc. before setting off, or pull over safely in order to do so; • Never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs, including prescription and over-the-counter medication if they cause drowsiness; • Not smoke in any Fish and Game vehicle; • Think ahead and leave plenty of time for your journey, even short ones; • Travel on roads that are the safest and be aware of roadside hazards; • Report any near-miss events, crashes and scrapes to their Manager (Chief Executive) including those that do not result in injury, and follow the crash procedures outlined in this policy; • Report vehicle defects to the Chief Executive before the next vehicle use; • Where reported vehicle defects are significant, do not drive the vehicle until the defects are remedied; • If the staff member is involved in an accident, then the driver of the Fish and Game vehicle must report this incident to the Chief Executive without delay. • If a staff member commits a traffic offence in a Fish and Game vehicle, the staff member must advise his/her Manager (Chief Executive) immediately. Any traffic fines incurred by the staff member whilst driving a Fish and Game vehicle are the responsibility of the staff member. This includes speeding and parking fines. Where fines are directed to Fish and Game for payment, the staff member involved will be required to remit the cost of the charge to the Fish and Game Council.

- Hitchhikers are not permitted in Fish and Game vehicles for reasons of safety, and only authorised Fish and Game employees (or volunteers) covered under this policy are permitted to drive a Fish and Game vehicle.
- In respect of travel times, it is required that all drivers:
 - Take regular and adequate rest breaks, at least every two hours;
 - Stop when tired; Plan their journeys, taking into account pre-journey work duties, the length of the trip and post-journey commitments;
 - Stay overnight if driving time and non-driving duties exceed ten (10) hours in one day;
- The employee (or volunteer) must not carry loads for which the vehicle is unsuited.

PCBU - Fish and Game Council

The Fish and Game Council will take all reasonably practicable steps to ensure Fish and Game company vehicles are safe and will not require staff to drive under conditions that are unsafe and/or likely to create an unsafe environment, physical distress, fatigue, etc. Fish and Game will do this by undertaking the following:

Ensuring All Vehicles are Well Maintained and That Equipment Promotes Driver and Passenger Safety

This is achieved by:

- Servicing the vehicles according to manufacturers' recommendations;
- Setting up procedures where workers check vehicles' oil, water, tyre pressures on a monthly basis, then record the inspections;
- Following the maintenance schedules in the vehicles' manuals;
- Setting up a procedure to identify and rectify faults as soon as practicable.

Monitoring And Managing Work Schedules to Ensure They Do Not Encourage Unsafe Driving Practices

This is achieved by:

- Recommending staff to have ten (10) hours' minimum continuous rest and ten (10) hours' maximum driving time every 24 hours;
- Recommending drivers to take ten (10) minute breaks every two (2) hours of driving.

Identifying Driver Training Needs and Arranging Appropriate Training or Re-Training

This is achieved by providing:

- A thorough induction to Fish and Game's Vehicle Use Policy and road safety procedures;
- Advanced driver training or specific practical training (such as 4WD training modules) as required and identified.

Giving Priority to Safety Features When Selecting New Vehicles

The Council will supply and maintain a fleet of vehicles that is fit for purpose.

This is achieved by:

- Purchasing vehicles that rate five or more stars on the ANCAP (Australasian New Car Assessment Programme) tests. Where a five-star fit-for-purpose option does not exist a rating of four stars is the minimum requirement.
- Fitting all vehicles with first aid kit, fire extinguisher, reflective vest, torch, and emergency triangle.

The person responsible for ensuring this is followed is the Chief Executive

Entitlement

Council vehicles may only be driven by staff employed by the Council who hold a current valid Driver's Licence. Other drivers may be approved at the discretion of the Chief Executive.

Driver's Licence

All drivers of Council vehicles must supply a valid copy of a current Driver's Licence for their personnel records, whether they intend to drive a Council vehicle or not.

Everyone must carry their current valid Driver's Licence with them at all times when driving a Council vehicle. Anyone driving a Council vehicle is responsible for ensuring they are within the terms of their licence at all times.

Where any driver has their licence revoked for any reason, this must be reported to the Council immediately. Staff are required to report to the Chief Executive when their demerit point balance exceeds 60 points. Any person who does not hold a current valid licence is not permitted under any circumstances to drive a Council vehicle.

The council reserves the right to use Drivers Check or any similar system to track any fines, demerit points, or changes to status of a worker's licence.

Use of Council Vehicles for Private Use

Regular private use of Council vehicles is not permitted unless permission has been obtained from the Chief Executive. Private use is defined as anything other than journeys for business purposes originating from and concluding at a place of business. Stopping at the shops on the way to or from work does not constitute private usage.

- If Personal Use is allowed, then no-one else (such an employee's spouse) other than the employee can drive the vehicle unless authorised by the Chief Executive/Manager.
-

GPS Monitoring

Council vehicles may be installed with fleet management maintenance systems which can also track and monitor individual vehicle routes taken. This includes locations visited, speed of the vehicle at any time during the journey and the speed limit of the road being driven.

GPS monitoring device monitoring systems can identify driver behaviour trends. These trends may be assessed by the Chief Executive and use this information to address any issues with any individual concerned.

–

Maintaining the vehicle log

Employees may be required to log their business use (and private use) of Fish and Game vehicles. This may be made available in reviewing each vehicle's use and ensuring that Fringe Benefit Tax reporting is accurate.

If employees have provision for limited private use (with reimbursement of private use to Fish and Game) then the employee must log their private use and any information required to calculate the reimbursement of fuel and Road User Charges (RUC) or as specified in the employment agreement.

Use of Personal Vehicles for Business Purposes

Whenever a suitable Fish and Game vehicle is unavailable or impractical to use, staff may, after prior approval from their Manager, use their own vehicle on Fish and Game business. This approval will only be given if the vehicle has a current warrant of fitness and registration. It is the responsibility of the employee to ensure that their vehicle is road worthy and safe.

Mileage expenses can be claimed through "Mileage Claim Form" and the current IRD rate per kilometre will be paid.

Fish and Game will have Motor Vehicle insurance policy that will cover Fish and Game vehicle and third party liability in the event of an accident.

Fish and Game will not have a Motor Vehicle insurance policy that will cover Vicarious Liability for accidents to private vehicles. The private vehicle owner and driver must cover their own insurance cover in all instances.

Withdrawal of Vehicle Use

The Chief Executive may withdraw the use of a Council vehicle on a temporary or permanent basis from any person who:

- Is deemed by a qualified practitioner to be unfit to drive on health grounds;
- Is convicted of operating a motor vehicle when impaired by drugs or alcohol;
- Knowingly drives a vehicle that is unsafe to drive;
- Is identified as the driver of a Fish and Game vehicle where GPS information (via eRoad or similar system) indicates the location of the car and/or speed at which the car was travelling is deemed to be in breach of this policy and/or NZTA traffic regulations;
- Is convicted of dangerous, reckless, careless or negligent use of a Council vehicle;
- Has their licence revoked as a result of any criminal or vehicle related offence or conviction;
- Has their licence revoked as a result of exceeding 100 demerit points on their drivers licence within a two year period;
- Has a record of inconsiderate driving and consistently flouting traffic regulations;
- Willfully contravenes the standards set out in this Policy.

Any of the above situations and actions may also be considered misconduct or serious misconduct, and may therefore result in additional disciplinary action.

Agenda Item 12 Health and Safety Report

Summary

Consider the Health and Safety Report July 2024 and August 2024.

Regular discussions on Health and Safety topics are undertaken at weekly staff meeting.

No accidents or notable incidents are reported that are required to be brought to the attention of Council.

Review of Health and Safety Policy being co-ordinated by NZ Council.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council to move to receive staff report on Health and Safety for July 2024 and August 2024

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

As part of the commitment to Health and Safety and providing a safe workplace the Taranaki Fish & Game Council requires at each meeting describing:

1. Implementation and adherence with the Health and Safety manual/policy.
2. Risk Management (identification and treatment) – new issues or hazards that have arisen and addressed, emergency procedures, dealing with on-site contractors and members of public,
3. Risk Management – On-going issues or hazards
4. Training, and awareness raising programme – information sharing and training of staff and volunteers,
5. Audits, reviews, and meetings – making sure the planning is implemented
6. H&S incidents – near misses or injuries sustained, plus updates on past events,
7. Follow up from Council Meeting - Subjects raised under H&S agenda item for staff and ranger meetings
8. Recommendations

Bi-Monthly Update – July and August 2024

1. Implementation and adherence with the Health and Safety manual/policy.	
<i>Status</i>	
Development of Health and Safety Manual/Policy	Manual developed and in use.

2. Risk Management - New Issues or Hazards	
<i>Status</i>	
COVID19 Coronavirus Transmission	All restrictions recommended by Government were lifted on 15 August 2023.

3. Risk Management - On going Issues	
<i>Status</i>	
Drift Dive/Electric Fishing/Spawning Survey Field Intention Sheets developed for each site	Entry/exit points to be identified – completed
Safe vehicle use	All personnel reminded of safe use practices compliant with road code.
Safe vehicle	All personnel undertake vehicle check on monthly basis.

	First Aid kits for vehicles checked -- update as required.
Fire Extinguishers for Office and Vehicles checked	Regular maintenance schedule. Inventory maintained

4. Training, and awareness programme	
	<i>Status</i>
First aid certificates for field staff	Valid for field and technical staff.

5. Audits, reviews, and meetings	
	<i>Status</i>
Health & Safety Staff Meeting – July 2024	Weekly meetings with feedback sought and required actions noted.
Health & Safety Staff Meeting – August 2024	Weekly meetings with feedback sought and required actions noted.
Reviewed Vehicle Inspection Forms for August 2024	Regular checks for updates encouraged. Any work on vehicle is also encouraged to be completed and up to safe requirements.
Review Health & Safety Manual for Council information	Seeking advice from provider for review. NZ Council reviewing best practice policy to refine Health and Safety Policy
Review first aid kits to ensure practical items included in kits	Reviewed and options considered to make up bespoke first aid kits.

6. H&S incidents - Near misses or injuries	
	<i>Status</i>
None reported	Consider proactive actions as arise in response to near misses.

7. Follow Up from Council Meeting	
	<i>Status</i>
No follow up required	Consider list as required and updated

Action:

Receive Health and Safety Summary Report for July 2024 and August 2024

Agenda Item 13 Project Reports for the 2023/2024 Financial Year

Summary

a. Presentation of draft Project Reports to regional Fish and Game Council

Project reports are presented, points of clarification provided, and then received by Council.

These are contained as a separate document to the agenda – will be posted on the Fish and Game website (once Council has received the reports) – and these will provide the basis for linking to SSP Outcome Reporting.

For Decision

Recommendation/Action

Council to receive the Project Reports for the 2024/2025 Financial Year

Agenda Item 14 Species Management

Summary

a. Game Notice Considerations

Staff have analysed the mallard transect counts – and show the trend downwards. It still falls between a 'normal' season range but consideration would be given to reducing the limit to ten birds per hunter per day rather than the current 12 birds.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

That Taranaki Fish & Game Council receives the draft 2025/26 Game Gazette Notice report.

TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

The Chairman

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

DRAFT 2025/26 GAME SEASON GAZETTE NOTICE

This report is a preliminary assessment of population monitoring and harvest information for the Council's information, with draft recommended conditions to be approved at Council's December 2024 meeting and re-confirmed following results of the January 2025 trend counts for Paradise shelduck and Black swan.

Background

Since 2016 the Council has had a policy of retaining consistent game regulations from year to year unless new information supports a need to make significant changes to protect the resource.

This reflects that detailed analysis of long-term harvest data from the Eastern Region indicates that large changes in bag or season length would be required to make any meaningful difference to the duck harvest.

There is also increasing evidence that maximising bag limits does not necessarily maximise hunter satisfaction. To maximise sustainable harvest also requires precise and accurate monitoring. However, with such patchily distributed and highly mobile species like ducks, it is both difficult and very resource intensive to achieve robust estimates. This is further complicated by the timing of the gazettal process which requires that Council agree next season's recommendations in December before we can measure this spring's production.

Second, total harvest is directly related to total effort and analysis by Eastern Fish and Game found annual changes in effort were best explained by changes in the duck population size. In other words, in years of low duck numbers, hunters spend less time in the field and the total harvest is inherently smaller irrespective of any regulation changes. Hunter behaviour in Taranaki is expected to display a similar trend.

Collectively, all these factors suggest that rather than trying to maximise bag limits every year Council is better to set consistent season conditions which they can be confident do not impact on resource sustainability while providing sufficient opportunity and setting realistic expectations which ultimately result in greater overall hunter satisfaction.

This consistency from year to year also provides hunters with confidence that they are adhering to season regulations and can invest in equipment and/or habitat development and predator control programmes to improve the game bird resource. This paper is therefore presented from the perspective of whether there is any good reason to depart from the status quo for each gamebird species.

However, having said that, given the decision to amalgamate the Taranaki and Wellington Fish & Game regions, it is also important to have regulations as consistent as possible across the wider region. For this reason, Taranaki adopted a daily bag limit of 12 grey/mallard duck for the 2024 game season, an increase of two birds from the usual 10-bird limit. This follows a 15-bird limit for opening weekend of the 2023 season.

Current Population Status

Grey and Mallard Duck (Greylard/rakiraki)

Given the degree of interbreeding and hybridisation between mallard and grey duck these species are treated as a single population for this discussion.

From 2016 - 2019 annual aerial counts along 20 randomly selected transects were undertaken around the Taranaki ringplain in early April using a helicopter. After missing two years of flights (2020 and 2021) owing to Covid-19 lockdowns and covid-related budget cuts, aerial helicopter transect flights resumed in April 2022. The 2024 count of 1,491 birds, was higher than the 1,273 greylards counted in 2023 (Figure 1), but still below the average of 1,751 birds for the seven years of counts. Conditions for the 2024 count were very good, as flying in the morning reduced glare from the water on ponds and the pilot kept to the 500 feet observation level, meaning that the count accuracy was likely better than in 2023.

However, what was evident was that traditional farm dairy oxidation ponds on the coastal and south Taranaki ringplain which provide habitat for ducks are gradually being replaced with vertical-sided round metal ponds or steep-sided polythene-lined ponds as farms upgrade their effluent disposal systems. This highlights the importance of working with willing landowners to create open water wetlands to off-set the loss of habitat.

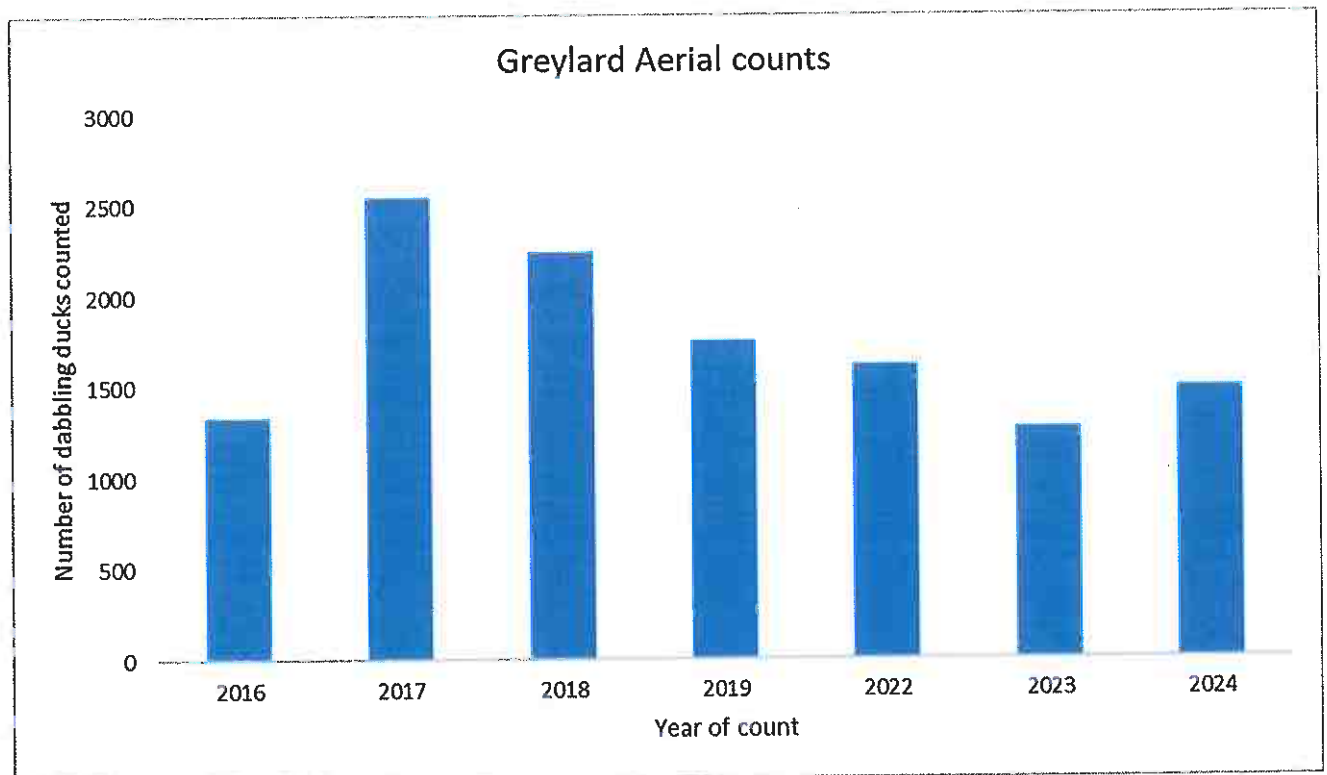


Figure 1. Total Greylards counted during helicopter aerial transects in the Taranaki ringplain, 2016 – 2024 (note: no counts undertaken in 2020 and 2021).

Hunter survey results for the 2024 season indicate that there was a decrease in hunter success rate for greylard duck from 2023 (Figure 2) and as hunting hours remained stable, this resulted in a decrease in overall harvest compared with 2023 (Figure 3).

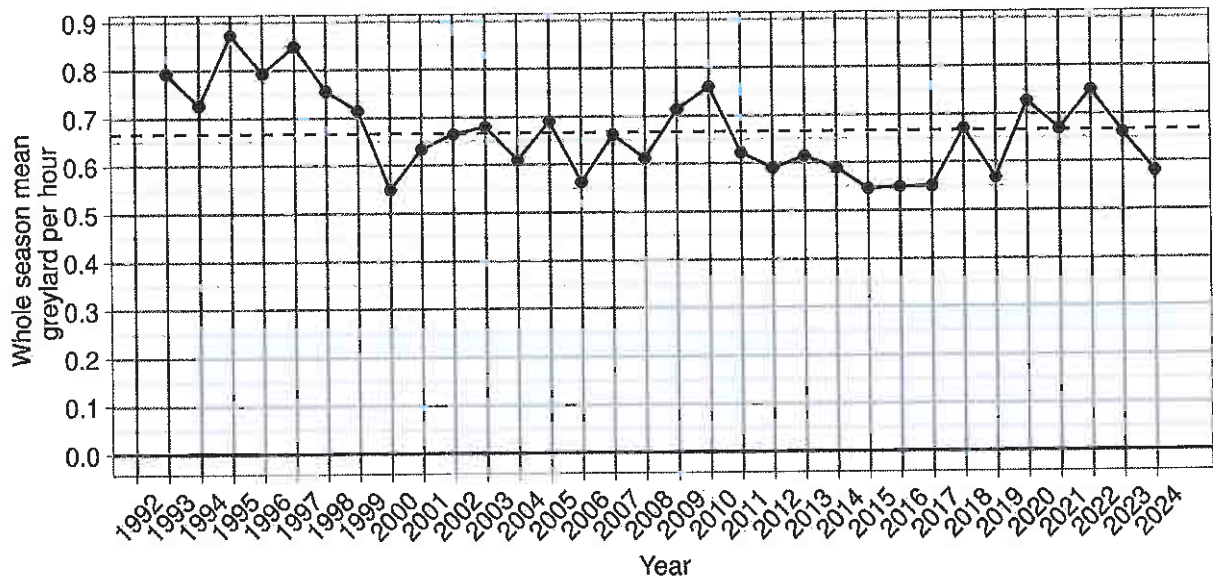


Figure 2. Average hunter harvest rate of greylards (ducks per hour) from the National Hunter Survey 1993 to 2024 seasons.

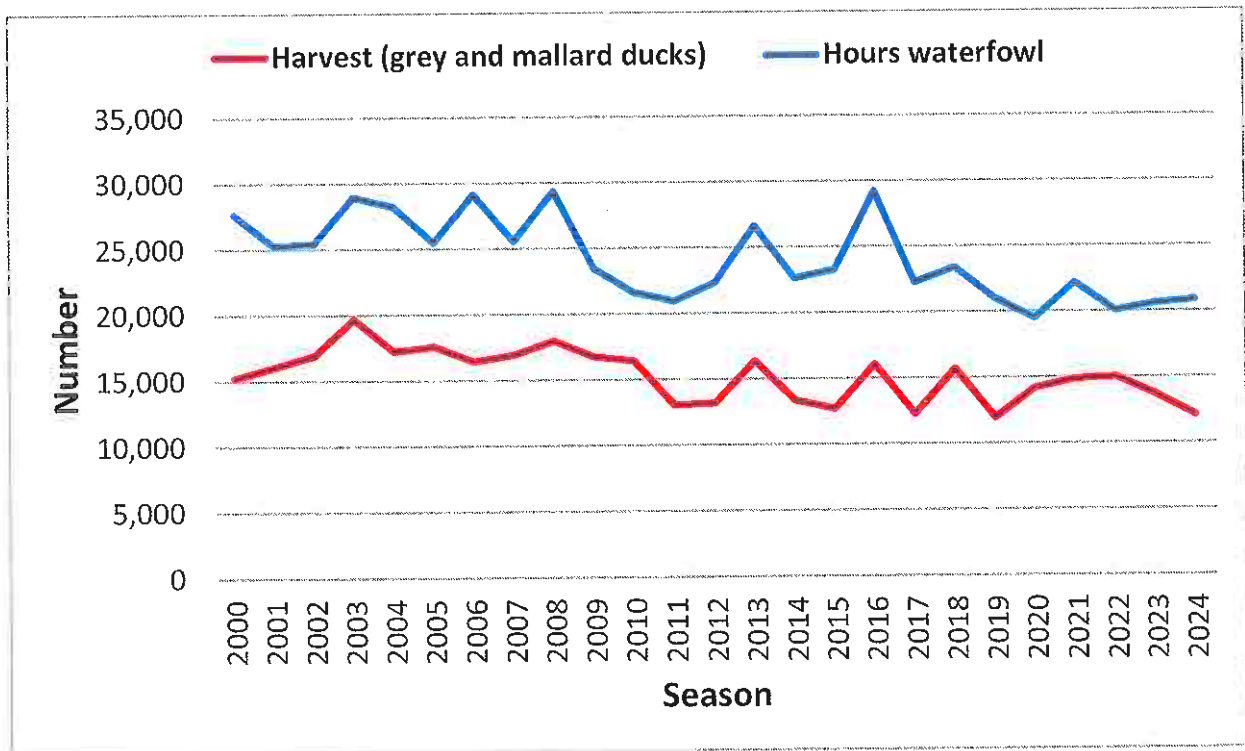


Figure 3. Total hunting effort (hours) and harvest of greylards in the Taranaki region 2000 to 2024.

A 15-bird opening weekend bag limit for greylard duck in 2023 and a 12-bird limit in 2024 (rather than the usual 10) did not result in an increase in the average opening weekend bag taken by hunters (Figure 4). In fact, the 2024 average opening weekend bag was below average, which may well have been due to the fine, clear and calm weather conditions which firmly favoured the ducks.

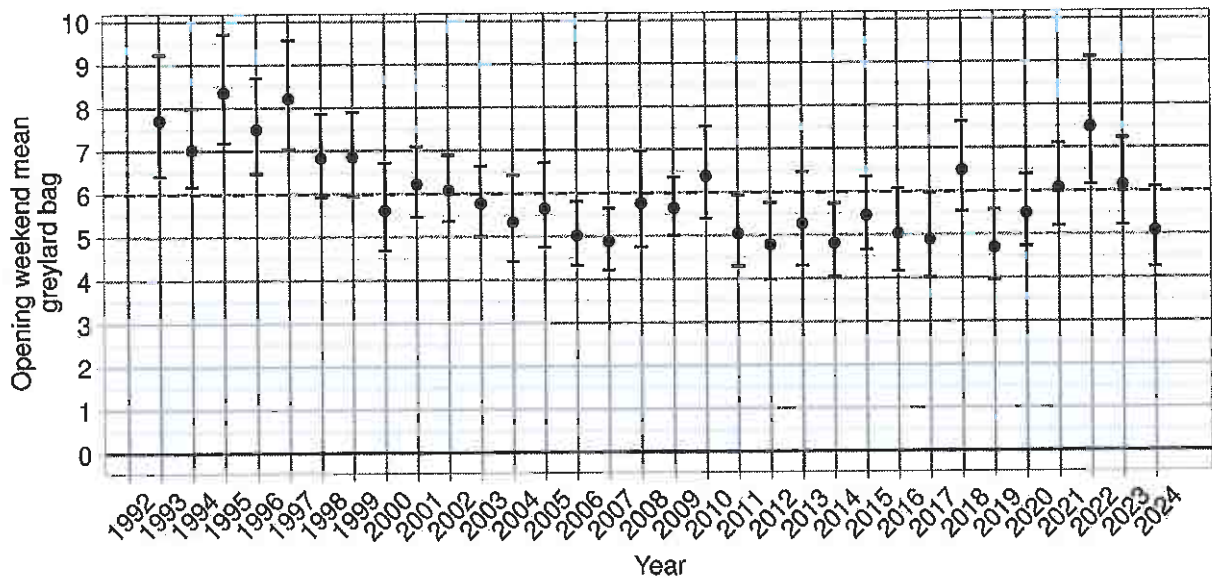


Figure 4. Average opening weekend bag for greylard duck in the Taranaki region 1993 to 2024.

Given this analysis, and the intention to align regulations between the Wellington and Taranaki regions where practicable, it is recommended that the Council revert to the usual 10-bird limit for greylard duck for the whole of the proposed 8-week season in 2025.

Shoveler Duck

Monitoring of known aggregations of Australasian Shoveler Duck (Kuruwhengi) has occurred in early August each year since 2000. At this time, birds congregate to select mates before dispersing to secluded breeding sites. Monitoring occurs concurrently throughout New Zealand to reflect the view that the population is a single national population with birds moving throughout NZ.

Across the Taranaki region 459 shoveler duck were counted at 27 sites on 4th & 5th August 2024, which was higher than the 422 counted in 2023 and 26% higher than the long-term average (363 ducks). Results of the 2024 national count are not yet available, although early indications are that there has been an increase.

The low level of harvest during the 2024 game season (an estimated 22 birds, Figure 5) was consistent with recent seasons and the low numbers suggest shoveler are not generally targeted by Taranaki hunters and/or are not particularly prevalent in Taranaki during the game season. Given the low level of harvest, it is recommended that the status quo of a 2-bird bag limit and 8-week season be retained for 2025.

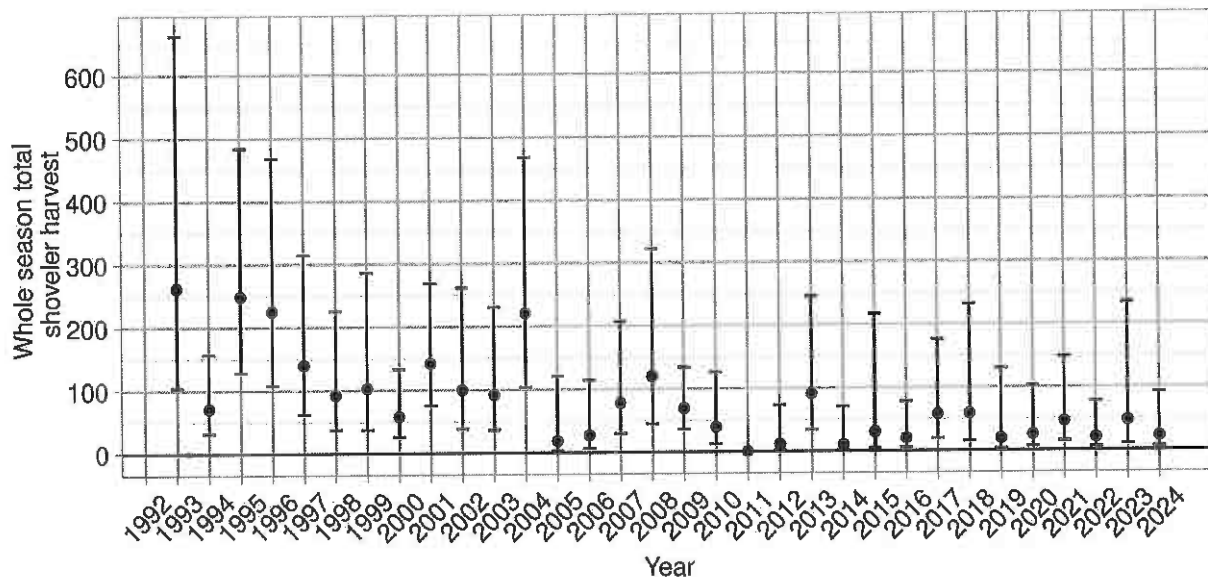


Figure 5. Estimated Shoveler duck harvest in the Taranaki Region 1993 to 2024 seasons (National Hunter Survey).

Paradise Shelduck

The paradise shelduck (Pūtangitangi) moult count in January 2024 in the Waimarino area (2,849 paradise shelduck) represented 204 birds per moult site which is lower than in recent years, but similar to 2023 (Figures 6 & 7). Counts around the Taranaki ringplain showed a decrease in total birds from 14,063 to 12,569, but only a slight decrease in birds per site (327 to 314 per moult site) and the total count was still above the long-term average of 11,905 birds. The Whanganui count remained at a low level, with this year being the lowest recorded count of 1,566 birds, or 157 birds per moult site.

The counts suggest that the population is stable but at the 'low end' of the historical range of abundance in the Waimarino. The continued downward trend in the Whanganui count is of concern and suggests possible overharvest. The count in Taranaki looks to be decreasing but is still at a relatively high level.

The operational amalgamation between Taranaki and Wellington will allow monitoring of the Waimarino and Whanganui paradise shelduck populations to be added into the Wellington aerial counts. Aerial counts of existing and potential moult sites should help to answer the question as to whether there are moult sites that are not being counted, or whether the current count accurately reflects what is happening in the population. If counts in Whanganui continue to decrease, then a review of season length and bag limits should be undertaken.

In respect of the harvest, the estimated total regional harvest of 7,411 paradise in 2024, was an increase on the 6,044 birds in 2023, but the long-term trend is still one of decline (Figure 8). Reasons for the gradual reduction in harvest could be related to declining numbers in the Waimarino/ Whanganui/ Waverley area. However, the whole season harvest rate of 0.36 birds per hour for paradise shelduck was an increase on 2023 (0.24 birds per hour) and just above the long-term average of 0.35 birds per hour (Figure 9).

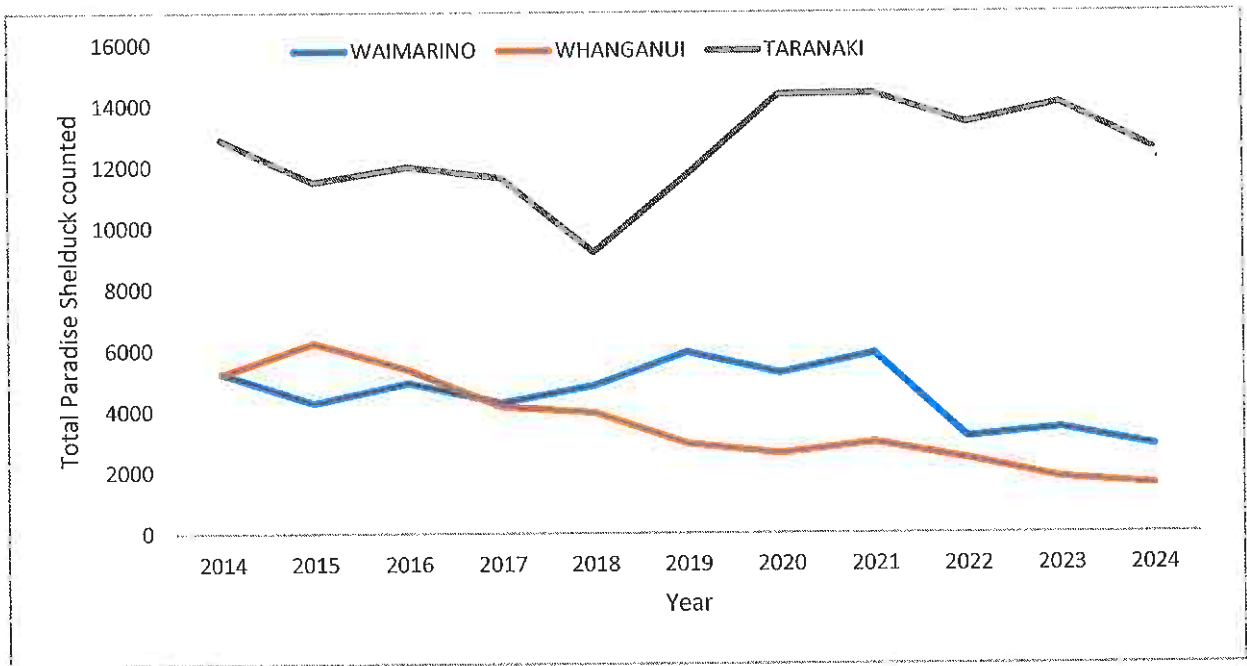


Figure 6. Total January trend count of Paradise shelduck in the Waimarino, Whanganui and Taranaki areas from 2014 to 2024.

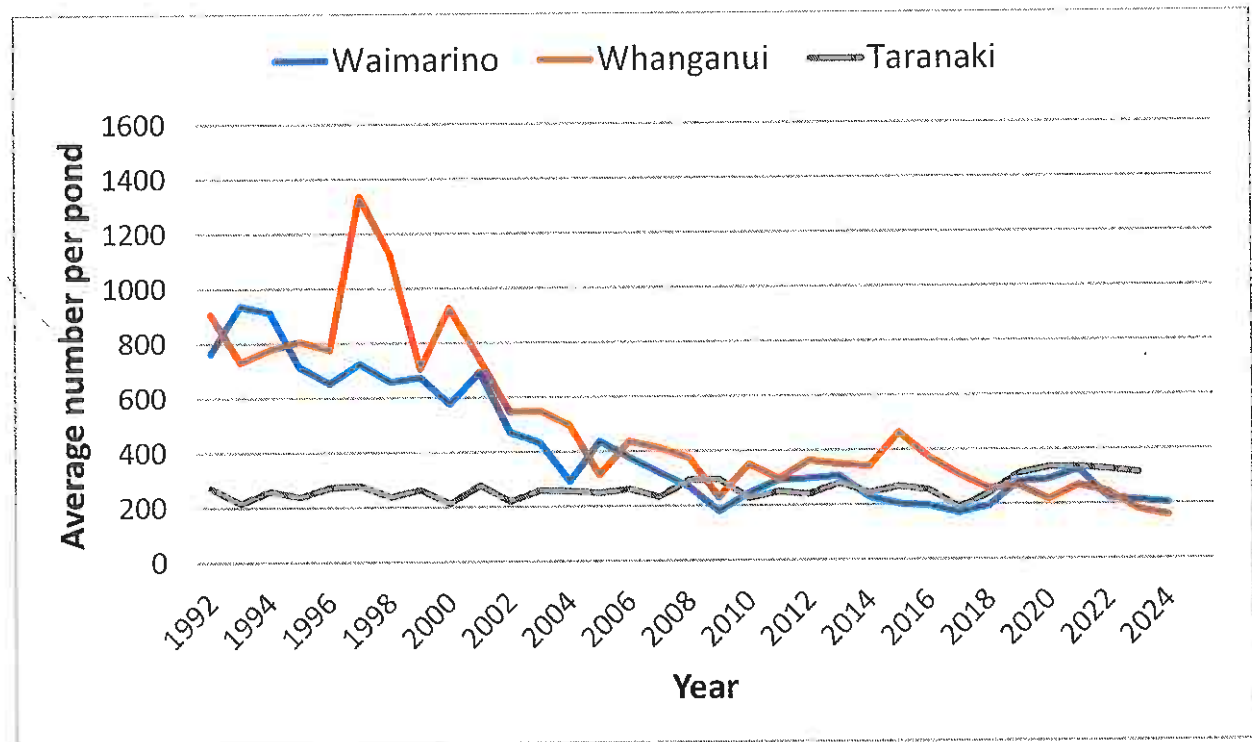


Figure 7. Average number of Paradise shelduck per moult site counted across the Waimarino, Whanganui and Taranaki areas from 1992 to 2024 moult counts.

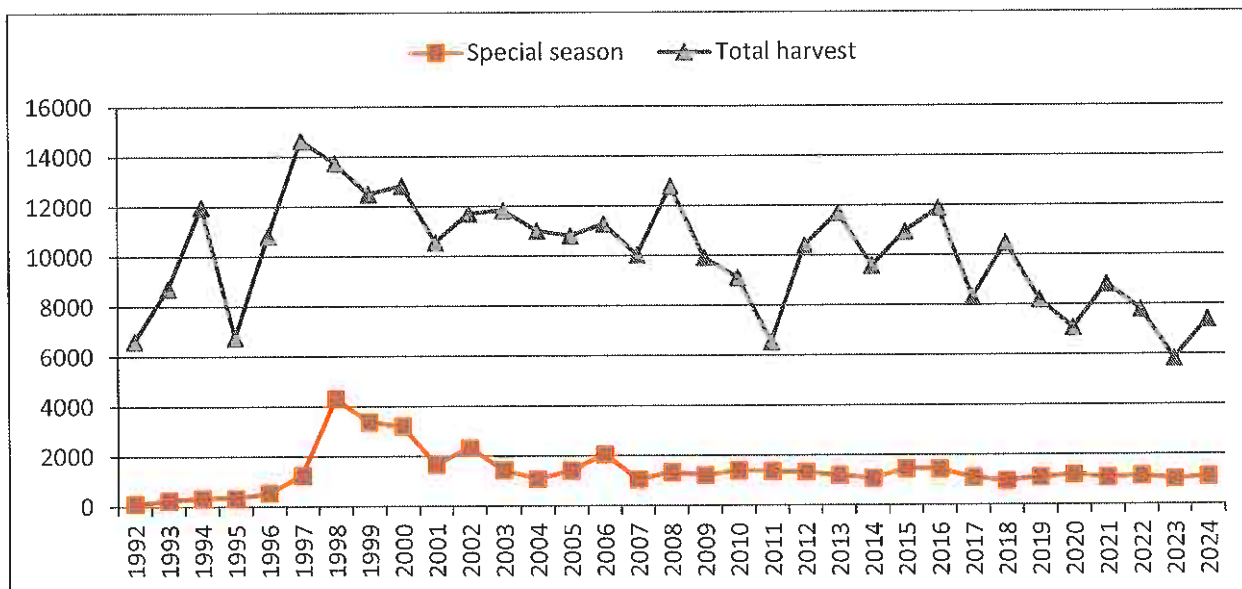


Figure 8. Estimated special season harvest and total annual Paradise shelduck harvest across the Taranaki region, 1992 to 2024.

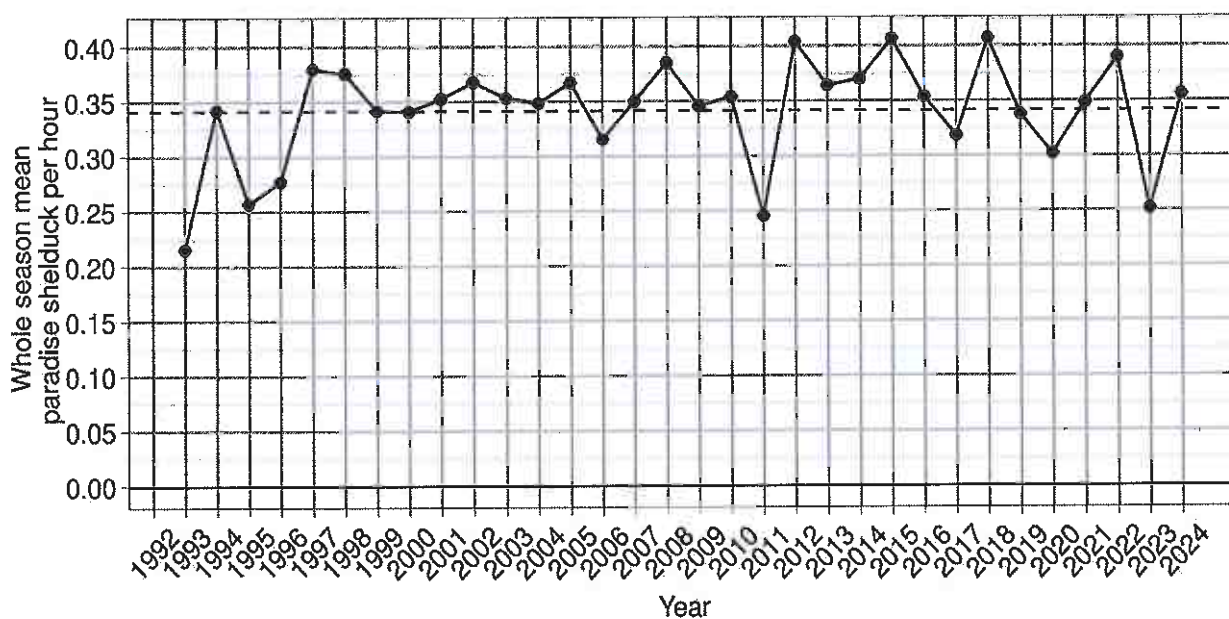


Figure 9. Whole season harvest rate for Paradise shelduck (birds per hour) in the Taranaki Region, 1993 - 2024. Data excludes harvest during the special summer season.

The special summer season for paradise shelduck in Area C continues to play an important role in the dispersal of post-moult birds that cause a nuisance to farmers by grazing and fouling areas of new grass, recovering hay paddocks and fodder crops like chicory. It also provides an additional hunting opportunity for licence holders and land occupiers. As Figure 8 shows, the harvest from the special summer season is consistently around 1,000 birds per year and this remains a small but significant proportion of the total annual harvest.

Manipulating the harvest is complicated by the need to set the special season regulations more than a year in advance, however it is recommended that the Council retain the current special season conditions. With population numbers in Areas A and B at the lower end of abundance, any additional harvest from a special season is not supported in those areas. Any impacts from aggregations of birds are best managed by working directly with the impacted landowners.

In respect of the special season in Area C, the Council resolved to extend season to 3 weekends including Taranaki anniversary day (total 7 days) in 2023. The 2025 dates are already set in the 2024 Gazette Notice and are 22/23 February, 1/2 March and 8/9/10 March 2025.

In 2026, Taranaki Anniversary Day falls on Monday 9th March, so the special season dates will be 21/22 February, 28th February/1st March, and 7/8/9/ March 2026. Including an extra weekend in 2023 and 2024 resulted in the same hunting effort being spread out over a longer timeframe with a similar harvest. A 7-day season does allow for greater dispersal of paradise shelduck from moult sites and more hunter opportunity. Disturbance of mallards will occur a little closer to the main season, but the impact is unlikely to be significant.

On the basis that paradise shelduck populations generally appear stable, along with a moderate existing harvest, it is recommended that Council retain the status quo with an extension to the special season in Area C to include Taranaki Anniversary weekend. That is:

- A 10-bird daily limit for Areas A, B & C for an 8-week main season (as is also recommended for the Wellington F&G Region);
- A 3-weekend special season in Area C for 2026 (21/22 February, 28th February/1st March, and 7/8/9/ March 2026).

Black Swan

In 2016 the daily bag limit for black swan (Kakīānau) was increased from 1 bird to 2. Most Taranaki hunters choose not to harvest swan and the increase allowed the few who do to take an extra bird for the table. The harvest has generally fluctuated between 20 and 300 swan, with 150 harvested in 2024 (Figure 10). The 2016 increase in the daily bag limit doesn't appear to have significantly increased the harvest, which remains small overall.

Counts of black swan undertaken in January 2024 were above the long-term average in Whanganui (563 cf an average of 345 swan), Waimarino (45 cf an average of 33 swan) and Taranaki (490 cf an average of 374 swan). The total count of 1,098 swan was nearly 300 greater than in 2023 (805 birds) with Lakes Kaitoke (281 swan) and Marahau (102) showing significant increases.

Black swan are relatively mobile and it is thought that a single population extends over central New Zealand, if not further afield. The January 2024 trend counts in Wellington, Nelson/Marlborough (including Farewell Spit) showed a decrease from 2023, but remain at a relatively high level (Figure 11).

On the basis that the Taranaki harvest is small, and that the counts are also relatively small, it is recommended that the status quo (2 bird daily limit for an 8-week season) remain.

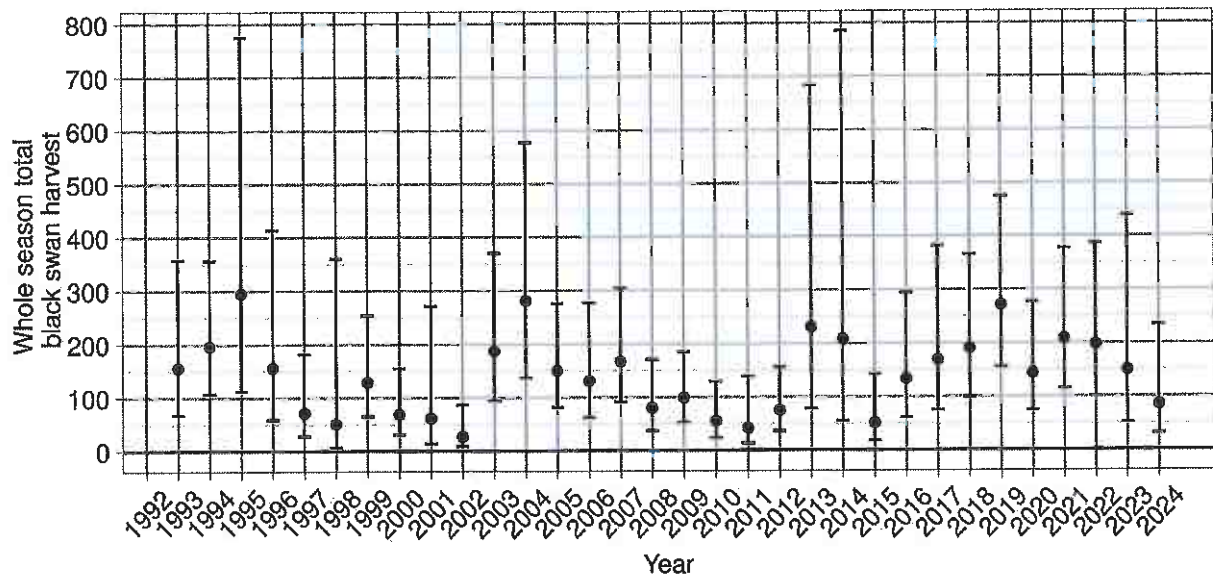


Figure 10. Estimated black swan harvest in the Taranaki Fish and Game region 1993 to 2024.

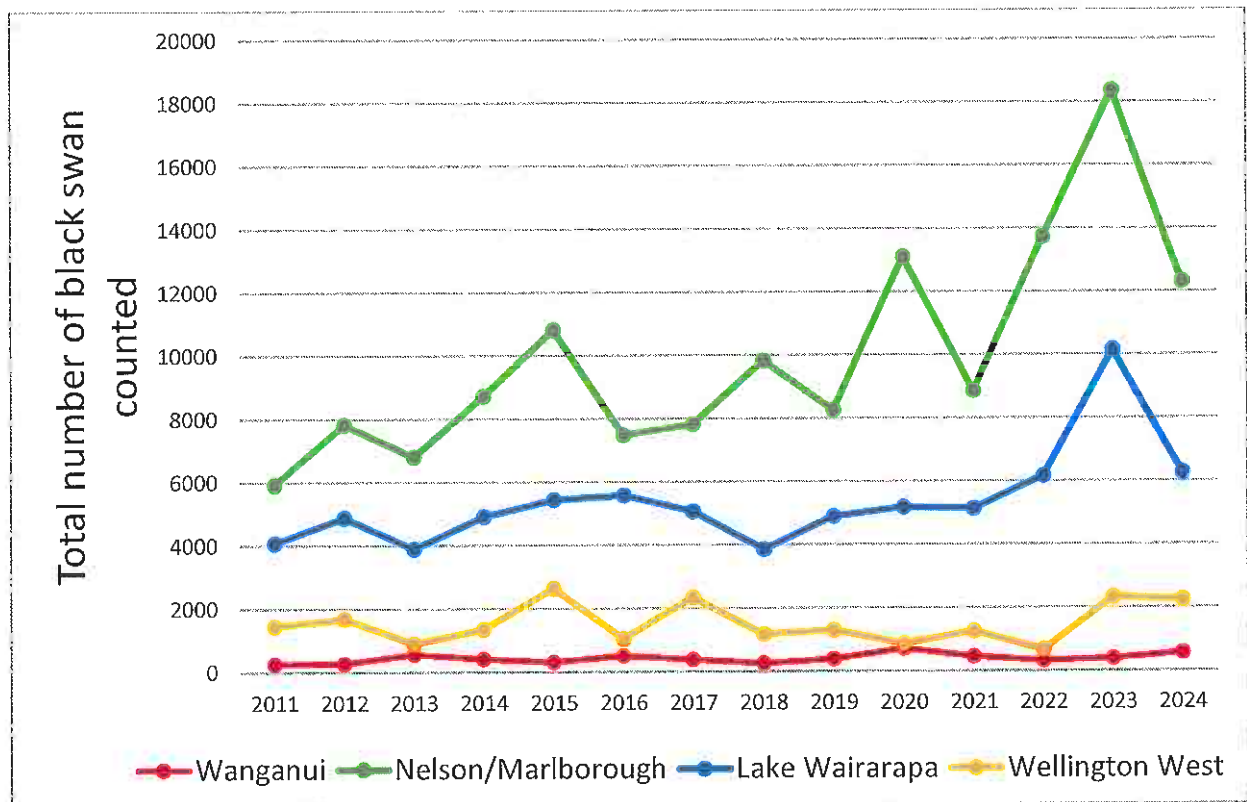


Figure 11. January black swan trend counts for the Taranaki, Wellington and Nelson/Marlborough regions 2010 to 2024.

Pūkeko

Early April counts of pūkeko have been made along 17 randomly selected transects around the Taranaki ringplain since 2005, although no counts were undertaken in 2020 owing to the covid-19 lockdown. Total counts have varied between 91 and 336 birds, with an average of 178. The April 2024 count was 274 pūkeko which was the highest since 2017.

The 19-year trend analysis (Figure 12) indicates that the population remains stable or slowly increasing, although birds are patchy in distribution with greater numbers in the wetter north and central Taranaki areas.

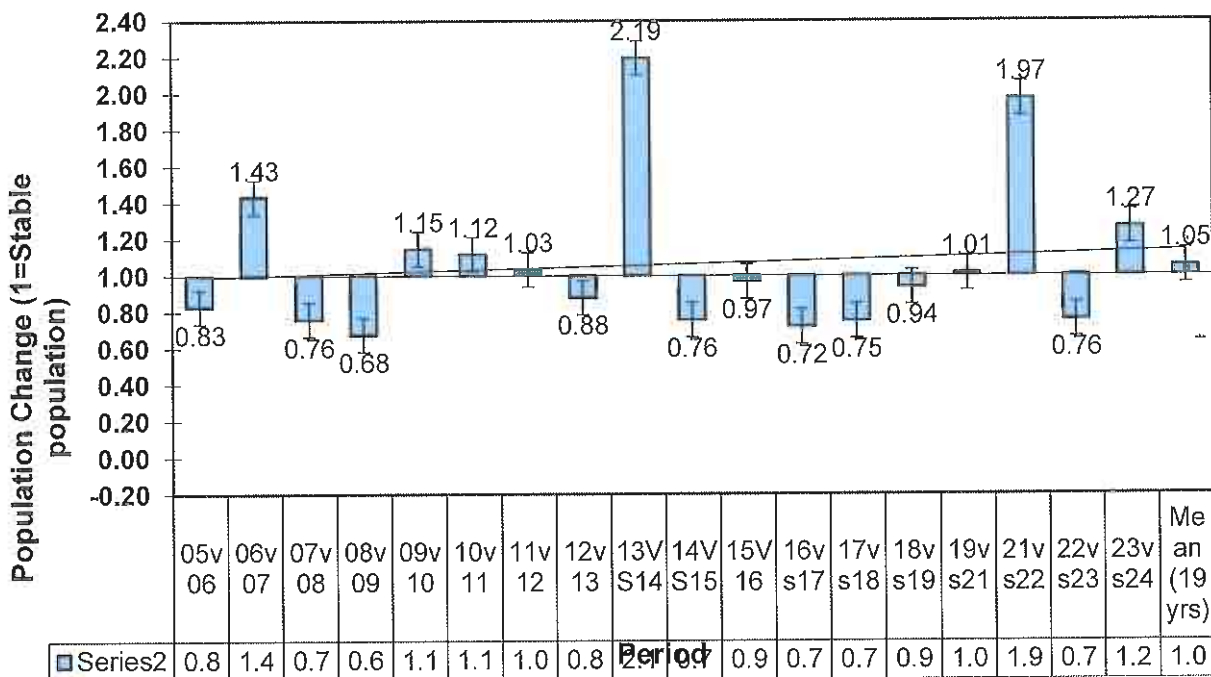


Figure 12. Route regression analysis of pūkeko counts along 17 randomly selected road transects around the Taranaki ringplain, 2005 to 2024.

Counts in Whanganui were restarted in 2023 following initial counts from 2015 to 2017. These are also done in April and consist of 10 randomly selected road transects between Waverley and Turakina. The total count in Whanganui in 2024 was 55 birds compared with 122 in 2023. The Whanganui area was very dry prior to the count, and this may have been a significant influence. There is not yet enough data from Whanganui to conduct trend analysis.

During the 2023/24 year there were 49 permits issued to disturb pūkeko with 20 in urban areas and 29 in rural areas. The majority of these urban permits were issued for New Plymouth.

Harvest during the 2024 gamebird season showed a substantial decrease from last year with an estimated 629 pūkeko harvested compared with 1,422 in 2023 (Figure 13). This was also below the long-term average harvest of 1,143 birds. This year, the hunter survey did not find any harvest of pukeko occurring during the 2-month extended season, compared with 42% of the season total harvested during the extended season in 2023 (Figure 14).

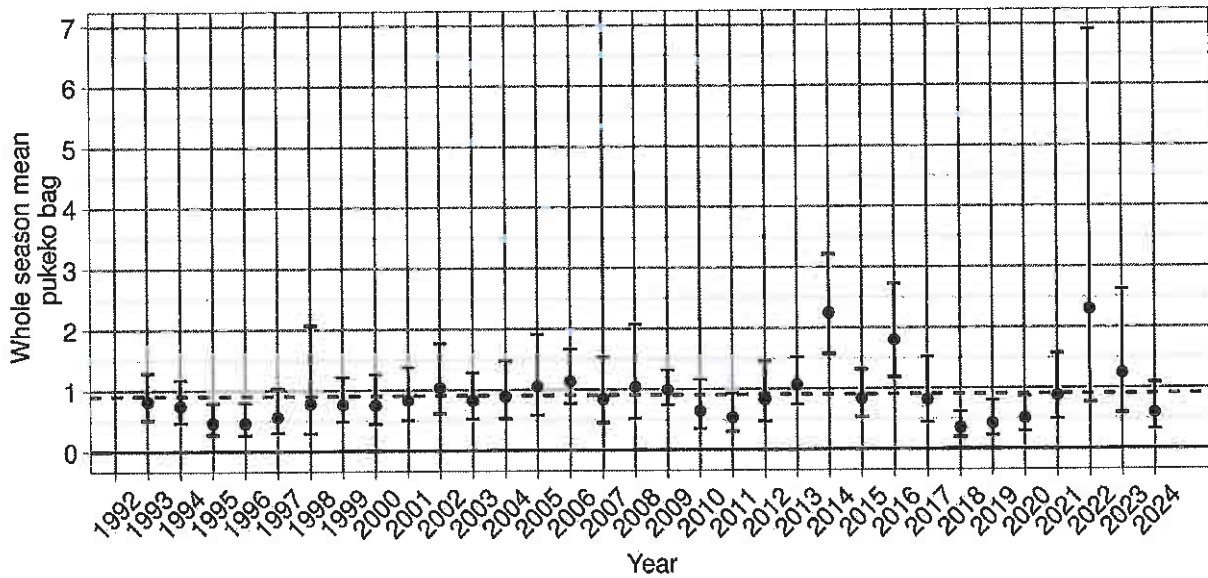


Figure 13. Estimated annual pukeko harvest in the Taranaki region 1993 to 2024.

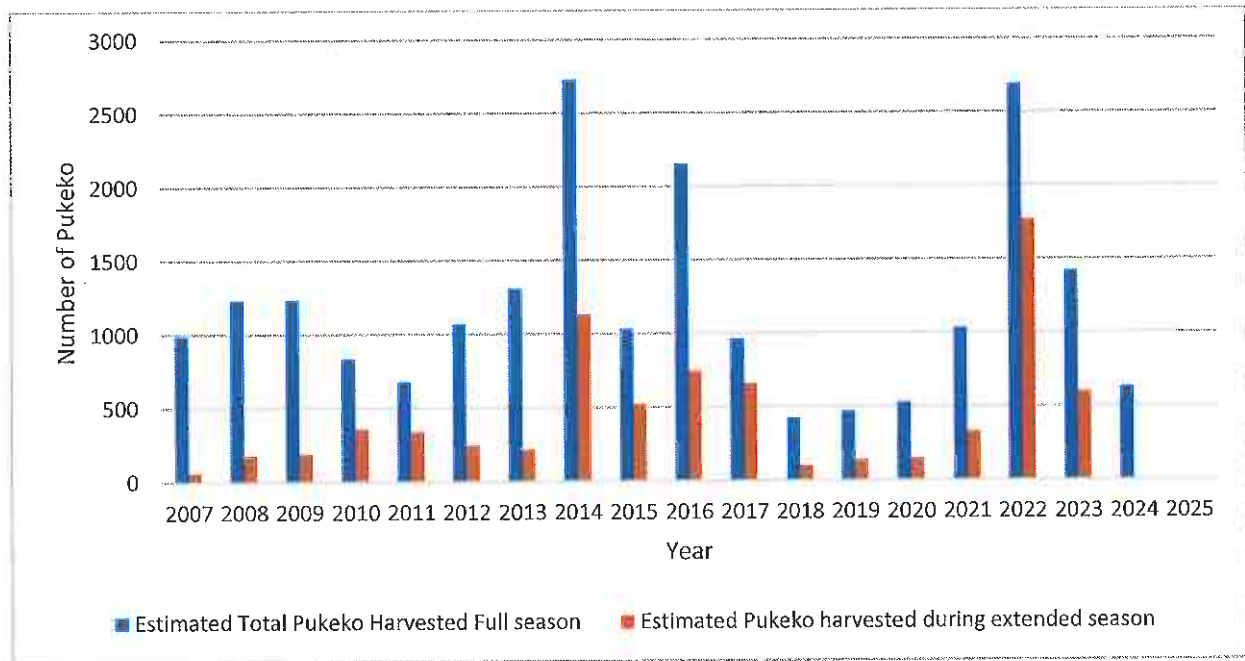


Figure 14. Estimated pukeko harvest during the Taranaki full season and the proportion taken during the extended season using gamebird hunter survey results.

Area C currently has a 10-bird daily bag limit for pukeko along with a 4-month season through to the last Sunday in August. The extended season enables hunters to target localised aggregations of pukeko scattered over the ringplain and in problem areas around New Plymouth to address their impacts on agriculture and horticulture as well as to create additional hunting opportunity after the main duck season has ended. Past monitoring suggests that the Whanganui and Waimarino populations might struggle under this level of harvest if it was mis-directed, but in the case of the Taranaki ringplain population it appears that the harvest may be self-limiting. In other words, as the larger mobs are controlled, hunters may be less inclined to target pukeko.

Given that monitoring indicates that pūkeko populations in Area C remain stable, it is recommended that Council continues with a 10-bird limit in Area C and a 5-bird limit in Areas A and B.

The Wellington Region is likely to recommend a 5-bird limit for pūkeko with the same season length extension as Taranaki and their 5-bird limit aligns with that recommended for Whanganui and the Waimarino.

Pheasant

The harvest of pheasant in the 2024 season was estimated at 116 birds, down from 252 birds in 2023 and the lowest estimate since 2011 (Figure 15). Hunting hours were (857, Figure 16) were a little higher than in 2023 (553 hours) but still well below average. The harvest rate of 0.14 pheasant/hour was the lowest since 2011 (Figure 17).

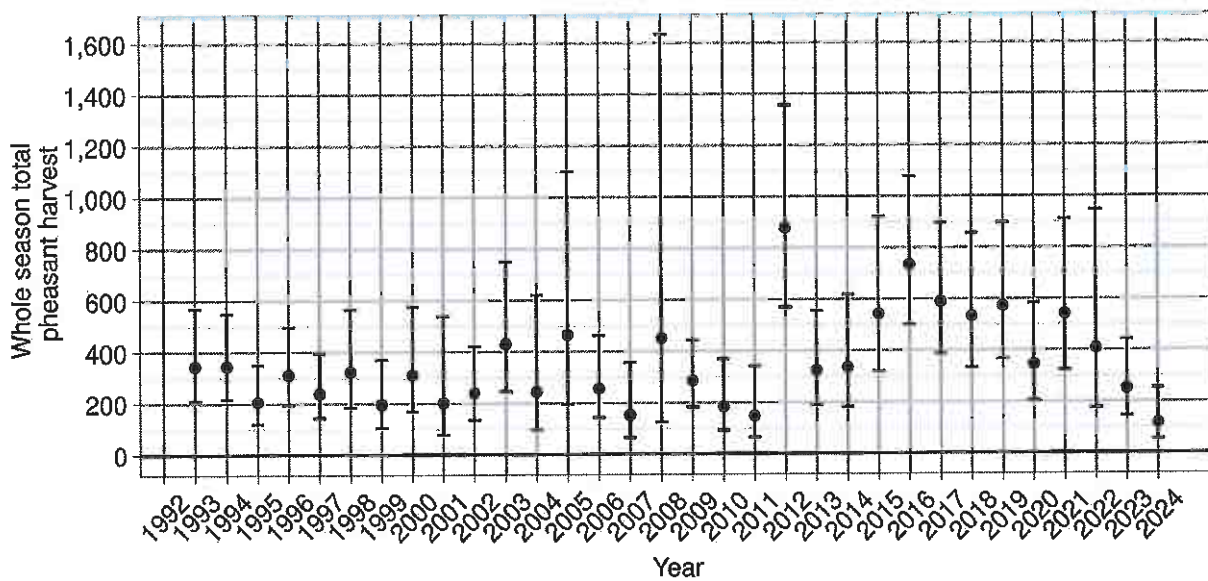


Figure 15. Estimated annual pheasant harvest in the Taranaki Region 1993 to 2024.

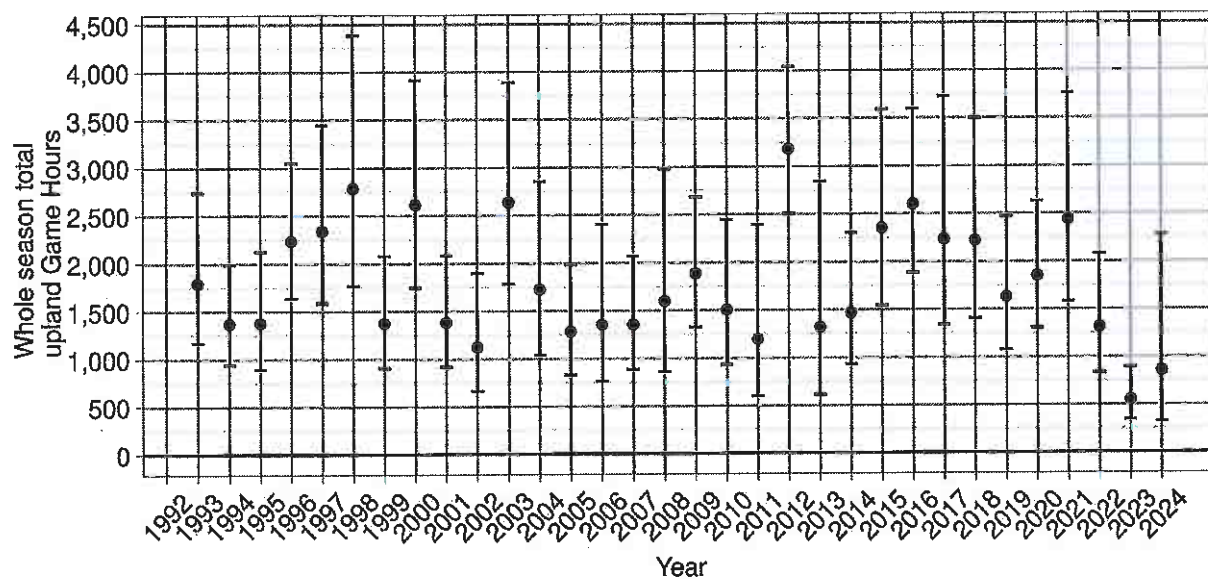


Figure 16. Estimated upland game hunting hours in the Taranaki Region 1993 to 2024.

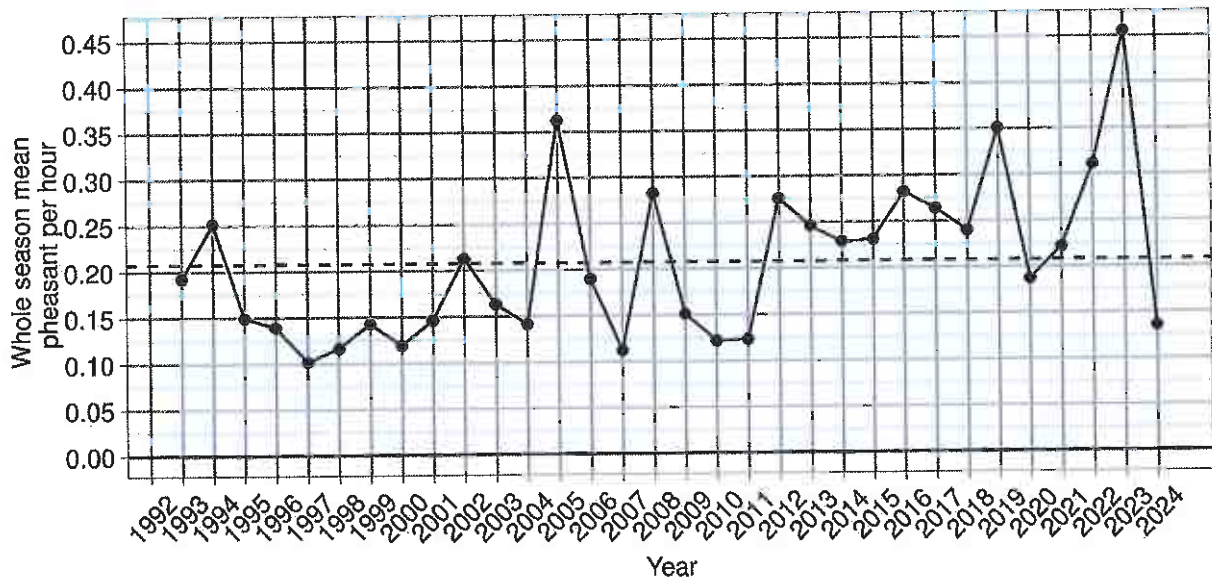


Figure 17. Harvest rate (birds per hour) of pheasant in the Taranaki Region 1993 to 2024.

While we do not have an estimate for the current size of the pheasant population, they have been very visible around much of the region in recent years. This may well reflect that large-scale predator control programmes and the planting of manuka, woodlots and riparian areas are potentially having a positive impact. As it is apparent that many populations still go largely un-hunted, the current level of effort and harvest suggests there is no need to further restrict the harvest, nor does there appear any justification to liberalise the regulations. Results of the gamebird hunter survey reported to Council in December 2018 indicate very strong support for the status quo of a 2-bird daily limit and four-month season. It is therefore recommended that these conditions be retained. The same conditions are likely being recommended for the Wellington Region.

California Quail

California quail are restricted in distribution with few substantial coveys remaining, though there has been comment that they are being seen more frequently, similar to the apparent increase in pheasant numbers. With such low numbers, hunters generally perceive hunting them as difficult and/or inappropriate. Harvest totals are small (an estimated 22 birds in 2024; Figure 18) and variable, which in part is an artefact of the hunter survey design and the fact that just a few hunters shoot quail.

Such low levels of harvest indicate that the daily bag limit of 5 is for the most part irrelevant, however it does allow hunters to make use of the opportunity provided by large coveys where these still exist. As such, it is recommended that the status quo of a 5-bird limit for a 4-month season remains. The same season length and bag limit is likely being recommended for the Wellington Region.

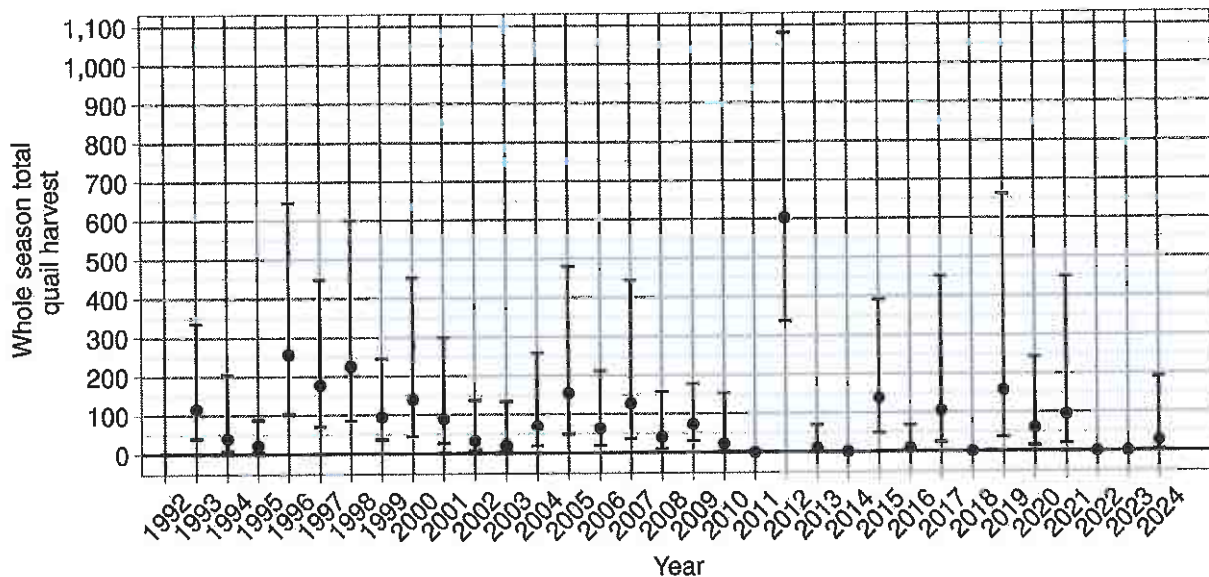


Figure 18. Estimated annual harvest of California quail in the Taranaki Region 1993 to 2024.

Bobwhite and Red-legged Partridge

Some backyard breeders have permits from the Department of Conservation to breed and release these species and there could also potentially be escapees from game preserves. The Council has therefore provided an opportunity for game bird hunters to harvest these species where they exist in the region.

Upland game property with special conditions

A Gazette listing for an upland game property with special conditions to enable syndicate (non-commercial) shoots for ring-necked pheasant on a property at 336A Kauarapaoa Road, Brunswick, Whanganui was approved for the 2024 season. The applicant met the requirement to release at least 400 pheasant and provide information to the Council pursuant to Clause 6.8 of the Notice. It is therefore recommended that the listing be approved for the 2025 game season.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Taranaki Fish & Game Council receives the draft 2025/26 Game Gazette Notice report.

Allen Stancliff
 Senior Field Officer
 26 September 2024

TARANAKI FISH AND GAME REGION¹

1 Game That May be Hunted or Killed—Duration of 2025/2026 Season

Species	Season Duration (dates inclusive)	Daily Bag Limit	Hunting area
Grey/mallard duck	3 May to 29 June 2025	10	All areas
NZ shoveler duck	3 May to 29 June 2025	2	All areas
Paradise shelduck	3 May to 29 June 2025	10	All areas
	21 and 22 Feb 2026	10	Area C
	1 Feb and 1 March 2026	10	Area C
	7 to 9 March 2026	10	Area C
Black swan	3 May to 29 June 2025	2	All areas
Pūkeko	3 May to 31 August 2025	5	Area A&B
	3 May to 31 August 2025	10	Area C
California quail	3 May to 31 August 2025	5	All areas
Cock pheasant	3 May to 31 August 2025	2	All areas
Bobwhite (Virginian) quail	3 May to 31 August 2025	5	All areas
Red legged partridge	3 May to 31 August 2025	2	All areas
Pheasant, both sexes	3 May to 31 August 2025	No limit	Upland game properties with special conditions in clause 6 for this Region.

2 Definition of Areas

2.1 Area A: That area within the following boundary commencing at Waiaruhe Road; then by that road, Owhakura Road, Whangaehu Valley Road and Fields Track to Kakatahi; then by straight lines to Pipiriki and Tawhata; then by Tawhata Road to the boundary; then by the generally eastern boundary of the region to Waiaruhe Road.

2.2 Area B: That area within the following boundary commencing at Waiaruhe Road; then by that road, Owhakura Road, Whangaehu Valley Road and Fields Track to Kakatahi; then by straight lines to Pipiriki and Makakaho Junction down the eastern bank of the Waitotara River to the sea; then by the sea coast and generally eastern boundary of the region to Waiaruhe Road.

2.3 Area C: The balance of the region contained by the westerly boundaries of Area A and B and the sea coast between the Mokau River and Waitotara River mouths.

3 Shooting Hours

¹Reference to Description: *Gazette*, No. 83, of 27 May 1990, at page 1861

6.30am to 6.15pm.

4 Decoy Limit

No limit.

5 Special Conditions

5.1 Special Paradise Shelduck Season

Area C only: For the Special Paradise Shelduck Season on 21 February, 22 February, 28 February, 1 March, 7 March, 8 March and 9 March 2026, the hours of hunting are extended 6.30am to 8.00pm. In addition, all hunters, including land occupiers, must, within a month of the end of the season, provide the Taranaki Fish and Game Council with particulars of: the dates and locations where they hunted paradise shelduck; the hours hunted each day; the number of birds taken each day; and the number of birds not retrieved.

5.2 No person shall hunt, as specified, within 100m of any urban sewage oxidation pond.

5.3 No person may wilfully leave on the hunting ground any game bird(s) shot or parts of any game birds shot.

5.4 No person may shoot game from a boat on the Whanganui River downstream of Kemps Pole (Kauarapaoa Stream confluence).

5.5 Any licensed game bird hunter who has a Department of Conservation permit to take or kill wildlife for the purpose of hawking may hunt with an Australasian Harrier (*Circus approximans*) to take gamebirds. This is subject to the season length and bag limit for each gamebird species in clause 1 of this notice for this region and subject to any conditions imposed by the Director-General of Conservation under such a permit.

6 Upland Game Properties with Special Conditions

6.1 This clause applies to the following specified property only:

Paetawa station. 366a Kauarapaoa Road Whanganui being lots 1-2 DP 29356. Waipukurau SD. 1307.9440ha administered by Hienni investment Ltd.

6.2 Where hunting takes place in any specified property defined in this notice, no person shall have in that person's possession outside that specified property any game taken from that specified property, unless affixed to the game is a label with the name of the specified property where that game was taken or killed written legibly on it, and the additional words on the label, "for personal consumption, not for sale or profit" written legibly on it.

6.3 A person must not clip the wings of a bird released on any specified property after the bird is 8 weeks old.

6.4 A person must not clip the beak of any bird released on any specified property at any time.

6.5 A person must not hunt a pheasant before it is 18 weeks old.

6.6 A person must not hunt waterfowl on a specified property on the same day that a pheasant hunt takes place on that property.

6.7 The unlimited daily bag limit for the specified property shall only apply when at least 400 pheasants have been released on to that specified property within 5 months of the opening day of the season, otherwise the daily bag limit shall be cock pheasants.

6.8 A property owner listed in subclause (1) or a lessee of that property owner must keep a register of:

(a) the names and addresses of hunters and all other persons who take game from that property;

(b) the number and type of birds taken by those persons;

(c) the description of that person's role in the hunting and killing of game birds on that day.

Summary

a. Regional Planning advocacy

Horizons Regional Council are continuing with the Oranga Wai consultation – the next generation of Regional Plan changes to reflect NPS FM 2020 – focusing on water quantity and water quality parameters. The timetable to complete the Plan Change revision for public notification has been officially put back to **September 2027** from the December 2024 deadline.

Horizons Regional Council are continuing with their Plan Change 2 of the Regional Plan (One Plan) to introduce an additional tool – Nitrogen Loss Risk Scorecard - to deal with nitrogen leaching from intensive farm use. Awaiting decision from Environment Court.

The Whaitua Committee for Kapiti area have released their recommendations – including noting potential removal of sports fish.

Recommendation 23

Design and initiate the following pest and weed control programmes, with actions including:

- 1. As a high priority, undertake active removal of exotic aquatic weeds (eg.; hornwort, oxygen weed) with priority given to "hot spots" identified by the programme;*
- 2. Active control of pest populations that contribute to poor water quality, including geese, carp, perch, rudd, gambusia, brown trout and tench; and*
- 3. Active control of any other species identified in partnership.*

b. Resource Consent advocacy

TLAs within the Horizons region boundaries have been discussing consistency in management approaches and funding models. This is concurrent to Government initiatives and approaches to municipal water management.

c. Habitat Enhancement Projects

Nothing to report on habitat enhancement projects. Advice provided to support applications to Game Bird Habitat Trust – staff to act as referee where appropriate.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action required.

Agenda Item 16 Participation

Summary

a. Access Management

- Access Point descriptions and information updated for new season on website.
- Updating access sign inventory.
- Active management of access requirements to multiple sites undertaken.
- **Supporting NZ Council initiated campaign with an access focus.**

b. Information to Clients

- Assisted in early bird licence purchase e mail communications.
- The website has been substantially refreshed – updated items.
- 2024/2025 Fish Season Magazine articles prepared and magazine distributed in August.

c. Licence Holder Engagement

No specific activity this period

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Confirm support for Access Campaign

Access Campaign – Fish and Game:

Corina Jordan (NZC CE) is initiating an **Access Campaign** given that issues around access awareness or loss of access is a top issue perennially raised by hunters and anglers.

The Minister for Hunting and Fishing is intending on releasing an **Access Charter** within the next month, and Fish and Game is planning to run a wider campaign off the back of this.

Some early ideas include:

- Being as collaborative as possible – joint campaign with GAC, Mountain Safety, Deerstalkers, and Herenga ā Nuku (WAC);
- Working closely with DOC and LINZ;
- Working closely with Primary Sectors;
- Connecting with anglers and hunters to get them to identify where access has been lost, why, and where they want it back;
- Underpinned by insights on loss of access, why, and solutions;
- Social media aspect of the campaign;
- Solutions focussed.

NZC has requested that they hold a workshop for regional teams to brainstorm geographically where access has been lost, identify why possible reasons for loss of access, and where you would prioritise access being restored?

Next steps:

- Understanding the context of the draft Access Charter FYI;
 - Regional support for workshop based on a template with regional teams and provide the outcomes;
 - Develop a brief for the wider Access Campaign by the end of October.
-

Agenda Item 17 Public Awareness/Communications

Summary

a. Iwi Engagement

Attended Te Kopuka meetings as required.

b. Public Awareness

Contributed to NZ Council co-ordinated public awareness campaign – *Re Wilding*

c. Communication

Press Releases on opening of the Fishing Season 2024.

d. Promotions

No specific promotion events attended in July or August.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action required.

Agenda Item 18 Licence Sales & Licence Management System Performance

Summary

a. Fish Licence Sales Update – until 31 August 2024

- **Licence Sales Report for 2023/2024 Fishing Season YTD**
Confirmation of licence sales indicating YTD – comparison with previous year.

- ↓ LEQ sales down 1.4% compared to previous year (1,016 c.f. 1,031)
- ↑ Total Number of Sales of licences up 30% compared to previous year (1,979 c.f. 1,683)
- ↓ Nationally licence sales value LEQ is down 1.8% (73,044 c.f. 74,367).

b. Game Licence Sales Update – until 31 August 2024

- **Licence Sales Report for 2023/2024 Game Season YTD until 31 August 2024**
Confirmation of licence sales indicating YTD – comparison with previous year.

- ↓ LEQ sales down 8.4% compared to previous year (991 c.f. 1,082)
- ↓ Total Number of Sales of licences down 7.8% compared to previous year (1,136 c.f. 1,233)
- ↓ Nationally licence sales value LEQ is down 2.2% (30,978 c.f. 31,674).

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council move to receive Licence Sales Report for 2023/2024 Fishing Season YTD (31 August 2024) and for 2024 Game Season YTD (31 August 2024)

c. Licence Management System – July and August 2024

The Licencing Operational Group overview the performance of the Licencing Management system outlining:

- No issues with continuity of service
- A list of bugs and fixes required under agreed contract.
- Completing requirements of development phase of contract

Each regional Fish and Game Council is a signatory to the agreement for ESL to provide services to manage electronic licence sales (Public on Line and Agent on Line) and data capture. This contract is valid until 31 August 2025 – with a right of renewal for two years.

Consideration to scoping and developing an RFP for the next iteration of the Licence Management System and associated support software – which may include: CRM function (customer relationship management software), digital licence, Fish and Game App.

d. Licence Price Optimisation Research

This project is being undertaken by an external provider

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council move to receive the update report from the Licencing Operational Group for contract management of provider of services to manage the licencing platform and database management.

National Fish Licence Sales YTD to 31 August

Channel	2023-2024												Total Fish	Fish LEQ	Fish Var									
	PWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWTA	FLBA	FSEA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ				FDJ	FDNJ	FWC	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	DWLR	N	DWL
Public Online	87	233	95	31	25	22	1	45	132	234	43	3	35	5	182	4	5	0	0	0	0	1,182		
Agency Online	37	198	10	52	18	12	2	17	28	10	46	2	5	0	47	0	0	15	0	0	0	501		
Total	124	431	105	83	43	34	3	62	160	244	91	5	40	5	229	4	5	15	0	0	0	1,683	1,031	
Public Online	58	216	91	33	25	25	3	56	165	266	59	4	48	3	311	3	0	0	0	0	0	1,366		
Agency Online	46	201	7	51	20	14	4	35	41	14	52	0	12	0	83	0	0	11	22	0	0	613		
Total	104	417	98	84	45	39	7	91	206	280	111	4	60	3	394	3	0	11	22	0	0	1,979	1,016	-1,456

Channel	2022-2023												Total Fish	Fish LEQ	Fish Var									
	PWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWTA	FLBA	FSEA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ				FDJ	FDNJ	FWC	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	DWLR	N	DWL
Public Online	234	834	153	154	111	81	6	42	283	126	125	5	96	2	499	3	2	-0	0	0	0	2,756		
Agency Online	168	671	18	146	83	36	5	19	61	42	93	0	34	0	191	0	0	52	0	0	0	1,619		
Total	402	1505	171	300	194	117	11	61	344	168	218	5	130	2	690	3	2	62	0	0	0	4,375	2,977	
Public Online	224	807	124	155	146	97	10	73	544	284	232	3	153	7	804	3	2	0	261	76	4,005	4,005		
Agency Online	155	655	11	142	104	43	3	26	83	39	162	0	50	2	166	0	0	43	65	0	0	1,749		
Total	379	1462	135	297	250	140	13	99	627	323	394	3	203	9	970	3	2	43	325	76	4,005	5,754	3,032	1.9%

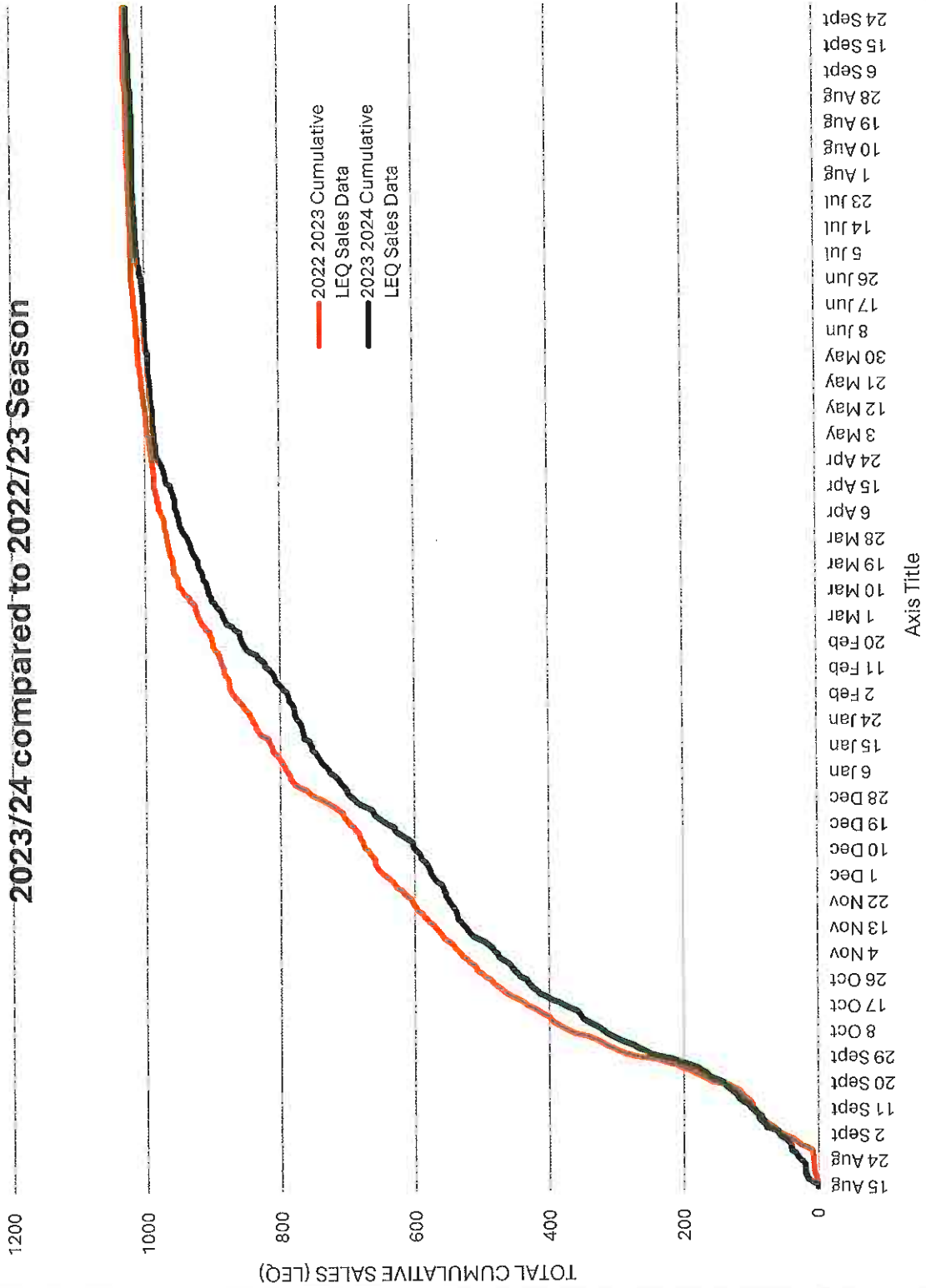
Channel	2023-2024												Total Fish	Fish LEQ	Fish Var									
	PWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWTA	FLBA	FSEA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ				FDJ	FDNJ	FWC	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	DWLR	N	DWL
Direct AOL	8,617	11,628	3,201	2,047	2,196	1,446	196	2,906	14,615	7,385	2,702	147	2,026	191	10,132	97	137	4,754	0	0	0	74,423	36,697	
Agency AOL	9,333	13,732	1,137	3,568	2,080	934	134	1,401	4,616	3,206	2,213	66	586	148	1,615	31	61	8,137	0	0	0	52,998	35,670	
Total	17,950	25,360	4,338	5,615	4,276	2,380	330	4,307	19,231	10,591	4,915	213	2,612	339	11,747	128	198	12,891	0	0	0	127,421	74,367	
Direct AOL	7,907	11,273	3,221	2,028	2,157	1,248	257	3,708	18,424	9,418	3,244	184	2,967	324	11,696	95	178	4,499	5,438	2,146	88,412	38,541		
Agency AOL	8,723	13,213	1,183	3,668	2,163	802	158	1,495	4,450	3,110	2,287	49	690	147	1,612	26	105	7,123	6,130	625	57,749	34,503		
Total	16,630	24,486	4,404	5,686	4,320	2,050	415	5,203	20,874	12,528	5,531	233	3,657	471	13,308	121	283	11,622	11,568	2,771	146,161	73,044	-1.8%	

Fish Licence Sales 2023/ 2024 – until 31 August 2024

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TARANAKI REGION - Cumulative Fish Licence Sales (LEQs)

2023/24 compared to 2022/23 Season



	Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDU	Total	Game LEQ	Game Var
Taranaki	Agency Online	841	63	28	14	0	946		
	Public Online	215	25	18	29	0	287		
	Total	1056	88	46	43	0	1233	1081.7	
	Agency Online	776	68	31	7	0	882		
2022-2023	Public Online	192	30	15	17	0	254		
	Total	968	98	46	24	0	1136	991.7	-8%
Wellington	Agency Online	2573	243	118	41	1	2976		
	Public Online	626	84	52	88	4	854		
	Total	3199	327	170	129	5	3830	3289	
	Agency Online	2562	235	94	50	2	2943		
2022-2023	Public Online	570	109	40	142	9	870		
	Total	3132	344	134	192	11	3813	3237	-2%
NP TOTAL	Agency Online	24768	2150	841	234	3	27996		
	Public Online	6124	847	409	746	35	8161		
	Total	30892	2997	1250	980	38	36157	31673.294	
	Agency Online	24469	2149	849	305	8	27780		
2022-2023	Public Online	5661	959	432	939	44	8035		
	Total	30130	3108	1281	1244	52	35815	30978.63	-2%
2023-2024									
	Total							-695	

GAME LICENCE SALES 2024

Monthly Performance Report – Licence Management System

July 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Licence System Performance

1. **Total number of licences sold in period:** 2872
2. **System Availability:** 99.99% uptime vrs KPI 99.9%
 - Variance Explanation: There were no outages during July.

B. Licence System Maintenance

1. **Bug Fixes and Improvements:** Thirteen
2. **Removing Duplication:** No auto de-duplication updates were run in July

C. System Development

1. **Salmon Licence Endorsement:** Business as usual operation
2. **Designated Waters Licence:** Business as usual operation
3. **Booking Systems:** The booking system for back country waters is operational. An evaluation is to be undertaken to assess if this current functionality will satisfy other needs.

D. Business Services

1. **Call Centre Activity:** A total of 176 telephone and email support requests received during the month. 91 of these calls were received as general enquiries from the public.
2. **Response times:** All support requests responded to within SLA. Two voicemail messages (unanswered calls) were responded to within 1 hour.
3. **Invoicing Agents:** Agent invoices reconciled and dispatched within the first 10 days of the month. 3rd Party Accountant reviewed and confirmed compliance.
4. **Licence Delivery Process:** Proposed and agreed changes to the new ABCorp Agreement to include a right to terminate without cause on 6 months' notice. Sent Hothouse monthly client contact list.
5. **Licence Refunds and Cancellation:** One POL refund, five cancellations, and one Licence re-issue were processed, which is consistent with expectations.
6. **Variable Charges:** Two invoices raised, ABCorp charges and recovery of courier bags expense, consistent with expectations

E. Contract Performance

1. **System Upgrade:** MVP completed
2. **System Development:** Considering the opportunity to extend the current Booking System to meet other needs.
3. **Business Services Function:** Compliant with KPIs
4. **Scoping Additional Functionality:** On-going discussion regarding the opportunity to integrate the Licence System with a CRM and Microsoft Business Intelligence reporting.

DETAILED REPORTING

A. Licence System Performance

1. Total number of licences sold in period

Licence Type	Number Sold
Fish Licences 2023/2024	2657
Game Licences 2024	215
Designated Water Licences	0
Salmon Endorsement Licence	0

2. System Availability

System Availability – uptime 99.99% vs. SLA objective of 99.9%

System Availability is obtained from a third-party monitoring service (Pingdom).

Availability is calculated as (Total available hours 24hrs x days in the month) – (down time) / (Total available hours) expressed as a %

System Reliability

- All browsers support is up to date.
 - Underlying technology is at supported versions.
-
- Variance Explanation:
Consistent with or better than SLA

1. Licence System Maintenance

Bug Fixes and Improvements: Seven released on July 10th

ESL ID	Description
9466	Enable the printing of the entire licence holder details page/s in one print request
9886	Change the wording on the error message if a person tries to purchase a Day licence when they already have a Season licence
10091	Able to create a user against a deactivated agency
10169	Unable to exit from Salmon region dialog box
10352	UAT - emphasise the text presented when asking about Salmon or DWL additional licences (F&G 40)
10377	Adding 'Include sale sold outside the region' function to DWL and Salmon reports
10564	Physical Address not appearing against product holder records when selecting to merge

A further six system improvements were also released or resolved during the month

ESL ID	Description
9897	Date of Birth & Licence Number Search can be buggy
10375	F&G Admin the Payment Management page is not loading
10735	Users against deactivated agencies are still showing as active
10736	Users deactivated when an agency is deactivated are not getting a history event added
10741	Remove the additional text added to the ticket on 15/05
10770	New Fish Season: Email Receipts image

2. Removing Duplication:

No Auto deduplication undertaken in the month

B. System Development

1. **Salmon Licence Endorsement:** Business as usual
2. **Designated Waters Licence:** Business as usual
3. **Booking Systems:** The booking system for back country waters is operational. An evaluation is to be undertaken to assess if this current functionality will satisfy other needs.
4. **Continuous Improvements:** The next release of improvements has been deferred until September as a risk mitigation measure against possible disruption during the commencement of sales for the new fishing season in August.

C. Business Services

1. **Call Centre Activity:** A total of 176 support requests were received via telephone, email or voice mail.
 - a. 91 requests were identified as "Public Misc" which are general enquiries seeking advice, some of these enquiries are passed to the Regions for their action.
 - b. Any Licence related complaints are referred directly to the Region concerned.
 - c. No Licence system performance related complaints we received.

Request Type	Number of Requests
Buy A Licence	2
Change of Address	1
Duplicate Payment	1
eSOMS Support	1
FNG duplication Report	22
Habitat Stamp	4
Invoice Enquiries	9
Licence Re-issue	8
Lost Licence	1
National/Regional Office Correspondence	27
Public Misc	91
Purchase Order	1
Remittance Advice	4
Returned Mail	1
Salmon Endorsement Query	2
Taupo Enquiry	1
Total	176

2. Response times:

- a. All unanswered calls go to voicemail.
- b. Two voicemail calls received and responded to within 1 hour
- c. Emails responded to within 24 hours with an average response of 1hrs 49min.

3. Invoicing Agents:

- a. Agent invoices sent on the 8th of July, within the first 10 days of the month as required under SLA.
- b. All invoices reviewed by an independent accountant.

4. Licence Delivery Process:

Liaison with external providers:

- **Hothouse Communications**
 - Monthly report on follow-up contacts (de duplicated) supplied.






- **AB Corp** – New Card Supply Contract negotiations – agreement reached to include a termination without cause condition, subject to 6 months' notice.
5. **Licence Refunds and Cancellation:**
 - **Refunds** – One POL refunds processed
 - **Cancellations** – Five Licence cancellations processed
 - **Re-Issues** – One licence reissued
 6. **Variable Charges:**

Invoices provided for ABCorp and NZ Post:

 - a. ABCorp charges in accordance with supply agreement
 - b. NZ Post courier bags for returned mail processing

F. Contract Performance

1. **System Upgrade:**
 - a. MVP development completed and in operation
 - b. Designated Waters development completed and in operation
 - c. Sea Run Salmon development completed and in operation.
2. **System Development:**
 - a. Booking System enhancement - Fish and Game considering the opportunity to extend the current Booking System to meet other needs.
 - b. 16 x system improvements (Bug fixes/Enhancements) are scheduled for development and release on 11th of September
3. **Business Services Function:**

Function	SIA Compliance
Call Center Response Time	
Agent Invoicing	
Liaison with external providers	
Licence refunds and Cancellations	
Variable Charges	

4. Scoping Additional Functionality:

On-going discussion regarding the possible integration of the Licence System with CRM and Intelligent Business Reporting applications. ESL to prepare options and approach for Licence Working Party consideration.

Monthly Performance Report – Licence Management System

August 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Licence System Performance

1. **Total number of licences sold in the period:** 5,780
2. **System Availability:** 99.99% uptime vrs KPI 99.9%
 - Variance Explanation: There were no outages during August.

B. Licence System Maintenance

1. **Bug Fixes and Improvements:** Nil
2. **Removing Duplication:** No auto de-duplication updates were run in August

C. System Development

1. **Salmon Licence Endorsement:** Business as usual operation
2. **Designated Waters Licence:** Business as usual operation
3. **Booking Systems:** The booking system for back country waters is operational. An evaluation is to be undertaken to assess if this current functionality will satisfy other needs.

D. Business Services

1. **Call Centre Activity:** A total of 222 telephone and email support requests were received during the month. 118 of these calls were received as general enquiries from the public.
2. **Response times:** All support requests responded to within SLA. Three voicemail messages (unanswered calls) were responded to within 1 hour.
3. **Invoicing Agents:** Agent invoices reconciled and dispatched within the first 10 days of the month. 3rd Party Accountant reviewed and confirmed compliance.
4. **Licence Delivery Process:** Signed new 3-year Agreement (1st July 2024 to 30th June 2027) with ABCorp to supply card services to Fish and Game. Sent Hothouse monthly client contact list.
5. **Licence Refunds and Cancellation:** Three POL refunds, and no cancellations were processed within the month.
6. **Variable Charges:** Two invoices raised, both for recovery of ABCorp charges. One for Artwork for new season and the other the card order for the new fishing season.

E. Contract Performance

1. **System Upgrade:** MVP completed
2. **System Development:** Considering the opportunity to extend the current Booking System to meet other needs.
3. **Business Services Function:** Compliant with KPIs
4. **Scoping Additional Functionality:** On-going discussion regarding the opportunity to integrate the Licence System with a CRM and Microsoft Business Intelligence reporting.

DETAILED REPORTING

A. Licence System Performance

1. Total number of licences sold in period

Licence Type	Number Sold
Fish Licences 2023/2024	5721
Game Licences 2024	59
Designated Water Licences	955
Salmon Endorsement Licence	547

Note: 24/25 Fishing Season on sale date deferred by one week until August 22nd due to delays in gaining Ministerial approval.

2. System Availability

System Availability – uptime 99.99% vs. SLA objective of 99.9%

System Availability is obtained from a third-party monitoring service (Pingdom).

Availability is calculated as (Total available hours 24hrs x days in the month) – (down time) / (Total available hours) expressed as a %

System Reliability

- All browsers support is up to date.
- Underlying technology is at supported versions.
- Variance Explanation:
Consistent with or better than SLA

1. Licence System Maintenance

Bug Fixes and Improvements:

As a risk mitigation measure against possible disruption to the commencement of the 25/26 Fishing Season, no changes were made to the Licence System during August.

The next release is scheduled for 11th of September.

2. Removing Duplication:

No Auto deduplication undertaken in the month

B. System Development

1. **Salmon Licence Endorsement:** Business as usual
2. **Designated Waters Licence:** Business as usual
3. **Booking Systems:** The booking system for back country waters is operational. An evaluation is to be undertaken to assess if this current functionality will satisfy other needs.
4. **Continuous Improvements:** The next release of improvements was deferred until September as a risk mitigation measure against possible disruption during the commencement of sales for the new fishing season in August.

C. Business Services

1. **Call Centre Activity:** A total of 222 support requests were received via telephone, email or voice mail.
 - a. 118 requests were identified as "Public Misc" which are general enquiries seeking advice, some of these enquiries are passed to the Regions for their action.
 - b. 24 Requests were received over weekends.
 - c. Any Licence related complaints are referred directly to the Region concerned.
 - d. No Licence system performance related complaints we received.

Request Type	Number of Requests
Agent Misc	13
Buy A Licence	4
Change of Address	7
Duplicate Payment	6
eSOMS Support	2
FNG duplication Report	28
Habitat Stamp	8
Invoice Enquiries	1
Licence Re-issue	3
National/Regional Office Correspondence	20
Public Misc	118
Purchase Order	1
Refund Request	2
Remittance Advice	2
Returned Mail	1
Salmon Endorsement Query	5
Taupo Enquiry	1
Total	222

2. **Response times:**
 - a. All unanswered calls go to voicemail.
 - b. Three voicemail calls received and responded to within 1 hour
 - c. Emails responded to within 24 hours with an average response of 56min.

- d. Requests received over the weekend/public holidays are responded to the next business day.

3. Invoicing Agents:

- a. Agent invoices sent on the 7th of August, within the first 10 days of the month as required under SLA.
- b. All invoices reviewed by an independent accountant.

4. Licence Delivery Process:

Liaison with external providers:

- **Hothouse Communications**
 - Monthly report on follow-up contacts (de duplicated) supplied.
- **AB Corp** – New 3-year (July 2024 to June 2027) Card Supply Agreement signed.

5. Licence Refunds and Cancellation:

- **Refunds** – Three POL refunds processed
- **Cancellations** – Nil Licence cancellations processed
- **Re-Issues** – Nil licences reissued

6. Variable Charges:

Invoices provided for ABCorp and NZ Post:

- a. ABCorp charges in accordance with the supply agreement. One for Artwork and the other for Card supply for 24/25 Fishing Season.

F. Contract Performance






1. System Upgrade:

- a. MVP development completed and in operation
- b. Designated Waters development completed and in operation
- c. Sea Run Salmon development completed and in operation.

2. System Development:

- a. Booking System enhancement - Fish and Game considering the opportunity to extend the current Booking System to meet other needs.
- b. 16 x system improvements (Bug fixes/Enhancements) are scheduled for development and release on 11th of September

3. Business Services Function:

Function	SIA Compliance
Call Center Response Time	
Agent Invoicing	
Liaison with external providers	
Licence refunds and Cancellations	
Variable Charges	

4. Scoping Additional Functionality:

On-going discussion regarding the possible integration of the Licence System with a CRM and Intelligent Business Reporting applications. ESL to prepare options and approach for Licence Working Party consideration.

Agenda Item 19 **Operational Summary**

Summary

Summary of activities undertaken in July and August 2024

Nothing material required to be highlighted

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council receive staff report on Operational progress to 31 August 2024

Taranaki Fish & Game Council
Budget and Progress Report to 31 August 2024

OUTPUT	Budget external costs	YTD external costs (31/8/24)	Comments on significant variations	Budget Hours	YTD hours
Population Monitoring	17,227	15,343		520	347.25
Harvest Assessment				60	55.75
Hatchery	10,000	14,333		60	50.75
Liberations	6,000	6,273		150	112.75
Season Regulations				50	34.25
Gamebird Dispersal	2,500	2,009		120	95.25
RMA		12		500	249.75
Habitat Management & Enhancement	20,000	11,348		400	54.75
Assessing & Monitoring				100	35.5
Hunter / Angler Access	1,000	148		100	14.5
Satisfaction Survey				40	4.25
Magazine / Newsletter / Ezine	9,500	11,827		200	83.25
Hunter / Angler support	1,000				
Clubs	300	300		10	11.75
Statutory Liaison				30	14
Iwi Liaison	100	103		60	79
Information to Clients				100	60.75
General Advocacy	1,100	11		100	65.5
Hunting & Angling Promotions	3,300	2,420		140	51.75
Ranger Management	1,000	4,307		112	80.5
Compliance	2,100			170	86.5
Licensing & Commission	12,565	9,575		50	23.5
Council Meetings & Administration	9,500	5,760		280	308.75
Management, Strategic & Policy	1,000	34		80	11
Business Planning				40	23.5
OSH & Other Reporting	6,340	7,539		65	43.5
National Liaison	100			160	68.25
Total Expenditure	104,632	91,342		3697	2066.25

Project Income	Budget Income	YTD Income
Fish Population Assessment	200	478
Harvest Assessment – Summer Season	500	400
Liberations		1,790
Gamebird Dispersal	750	640
Taranaki Hunting & Habitat Scheme	15,000	
Compliance	1,000	
Total Income	17,450	3,308
Net Expenditure	87,182	88,034

	Budget	YTD
Overheads	278,880	241,416
1910 Salaries & Management Contract	3,500	2,933
1920 Staff Expenses	22,200	22,311
1940 Office Premises	2,000	2,955
1950 Office Equipment	7,250	5,655
1960 Communications / Consumables	2,870	2,977
1970 General	6,000	251
1980 General Equipment	15,375	17,453
1990 Vehicles	338,075	295,951
Total Overheads		

	Budget	YTD
Other Income & Expenses	6,441	25,760
Interest	4,000	8,652
Wellington Fish & Game Admin		
Donations & Other Income		
Total Other Income & Expenses	10,441	34,412

Nett Project, Overhead and Other Expenditure/Income	Budget	YTD
	414,816	349,573 (85%)

MOVEMENTS IN RESERVES

From	To	Reason	Amount	Date Paid
Hunting & Habitat Project	Rakautaua Wetland (R & S Craig)	Fencing & digger work	869.57	20.8.2024
Hunting & Habitat Project	Parynimine Trust (N Watson)	Wetland construction	4,849.57	20.9.2024

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

2023/2024 Annual Plan – Planned Result	Progress to date
<p>Objective: Obtain accurate and pertinent information to guide and enable effective management decisions to maximise user success and satisfaction while ensuring the sustainability of sports fish and gamebird populations across the region</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess juvenile trout recruitment in Waiongana/ Mangaoraka Stream to compare with baseline information from other catchment surveys. 2. Complete resource inventory of the Waingongoro River catchment to determine current status of the trout fishery and identify threats and opportunities (yr 2 of 2) 3. Monitor and report information on the status of the region's trout fisheries sufficient to measure overall angler success (through a diary scheme), set effective regulations and inform management directions. 	<p><i>Electrofishing survey of 11 sites in the Waiongana/ Mangaoraka Stream catchment surveyed on 11/12 December 2023.</i></p> <p><i>Report in preparation.</i></p> <p><i>2023/24 season angler diaries sent to 29 anglers at the start of the new season. Staff helped Bart Jansma of Riverwise Consulting with an electric fishing survey of Kapuni Stream (11/10/2023). Trout fry were present at all but one site, with 47 rainbow fry and 2 brown trout fry captured. A F&G fisheries team meeting was attended on 2/11/2023.</i></p> <p><i>Staff helped Riverwise Consulting with fish salvage from the site where the Mangorei Stream Scout Road weir was about to be removed (31/01/2024).</i></p> <p><i>Liaised with TRC scientists (13/02/2024) regarding causes of fish kills in the lower reaches of some south Taranaki streams during a period of extreme heat (18–22 January 2024). It was likely a combination of high water temperature, high pH and oxygen supersaturation.</i></p> <p><i>Staff were notified on 5/03/2024 that there had been an erosion event in the Pyramid Stream headwater tributary of the Hangatahua (Stony). This resulted in the river running grey with ash for several weeks along with significant sand inundation. The river has now cleared and is in recovery mode.</i></p> <p><i>Following notification by an angler via Wellington SFO Matt Kavermann (18/04/2024) there was liaison with Ngati Rangi Iwi, DOC & Horizons RC regarding a substantial kill of koura in Waitangi Stream near Karioi. No obvious cause has been found, but it's likely to be spraying of a crop or pine forest with the synthetic pyrethroid insecticide Cypermethrin. This class of chemicals is currently being reviewed by the</i></p>

<p>4. Implement an effective grey and mallard duck banding programme in the Whanganui area to obtain an estimate of the population size and level of hunting harvest which will guide future monitoring requirements and regulation setting (yr 5 of 5).</p> <p>5. Monitor and report information on the status of the region's mallard and grey duck, paradise shelduck, shoveler, swan and pukeko populations sufficient to assess harvest, identify and manage any population impacts, set effective regulations and inform management directions. As part of this, review count methods for paradise shelduck, including the effectiveness, efficiency and cost of returning to aerial counts for some parts of the region.</p> <p>6. Participate in the National Hunter Survey to derive a robust estimate of annual game bird harvest and hunter success.</p> <p>7. Recommend effective regulations that are timely, easily understood and which maximise licence holder opportunity while ensuring resource sustainability and public support.</p>	<p><i>EPA and this incident was brought to their attention (16/08/2024).</i></p> <p><i>Trout spawning surveys carried out in Mangamahoe Stream and the lake inlet (21/06/2024 & 10/07/2024) and Mangorei Stream (10/07/2024).</i></p> <p><i>Collated (limited) angler diary returns for report.</i></p> <p><i>With help from Eastern & Wellington F&G staff and volunteers, 383 ducks were banded on 20/21 February 2024 at two Whanganui sites. There were also an additional 92 banded ducks recaptured on day one and 18 on Day 2. Unfortunately, a feral cat was trapped at the main banding site and no ducks were caught there on day 2. Band returns collated for report.</i></p> <p><i>The final report on the August 2023 National Shoveler Survey was received from the Eastern Region's Matt McDougall on 14/10/2023. Trend counts for paradise shelduck and black swan carried out in the Waimarino, Whanganui and Taranaki areas in January 2024.</i></p> <p><i>Aerial monitoring of dabbling duck along 20 randomly selected transects around the Taranaki ringplain was carried out with Wellington F&G SFO Matt Kavermann (8/04/2024). Pukeko monitoring was carried out on the Taranaki ringplain (15,16 & 19/04/2024) and Whanganui (22/04/2024). 27 sites visited to count shoveler duck on 4/5 August 2024 for National Shoveler Survey.</i></p> <p><i>2023 game season results received and incorporated into the draft 2024/25 Game Gazette Notice Report for Council's 9/12/2023 meeting. Interviews for Opening weekend 2024, which included questions on hunter satisfaction, were conducted. Fortnightly/monthly interviews conducted during the season and results collated for report.</i></p> <p><i>Early draft of 2024/25 Game Gazette Notice Report prepared for Council's 14/10/2023 meeting, with final draft presented on 9/12/2023. There was liaison with DOC head office (Michael Gee) regarding wording changes to the requirement to hold a permit for the special paradise hunting season</i></p>
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<p>8. Provide advice and support practical and effective predator control opportunities that assist game bird populations.</p>	<p>(2/2/2024). A 2024/25 draft Anglers Notice Report, including a review of regulations for the Lake Mangamahoe fishery, was prepared for Council's 25 May 2024 meeting. No changes made to the 2024/25 Notice (same as 2023/24).</p> <p><i>Early draft of 2024/25 Game Gazette Notice Report prepared for Council's 14/10/2023 meeting.</i></p> <p><i>Advice provided on request.</i></p>
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Supplement trout fishing opportunities with appropriate stocking that is valued, cost effective in terms of the return to the angler and which retains community support.

9. Undertake an annual trout stocking programme which concentrates on creating and maintaining valued lake fisheries.

Rainbow trout yearlings from the Hawera hatchery were released into Lake Mangamahoe (175 fish) and the Waiaua River (303) on 20/09/2023. 500 2-year-old rainbow trout from the Eastern Region's Ngongotaha hatchery were released into Lake Rotomanu on 19/10/2023. A 2022/23 Hatchery & Trout Liberations report was prepared for Council's 14/10/2023 meeting.

Hawera hatchery rainbows were released into the Lower Patea River (120) and the Hangatahua River (100) on 13/11/2023. Councillor Flynn and Ranger Alan Candy released 300 Hawera rainbows into the Patea River's scout den pool on 1/12/2023 for a kids' fishing promotion. Hawera hatchery rainbows were released into Lake Mangamahoe (101) and the Hangatahua River (113) on 20/12/2023, being the last of the 2022 year class.

A F&G hatchery teams meeting was attended (9/11/2023).

A proposed 2024 trout release programme was prepared for Council's 16 March 2024 meeting.

DOC's Tongariro National Trout Centre confirmed there were 100 rainbows available for release into Sattler's Dam and a release of 120 took place on 26/03/2024.

A release of 400 fin-clipped Hawera hatchery rainbow trout fingerlings was made into the Waiaua River on 24/04/2024.

An order of 500 2-year-old rainbows from the Eastern F&G Region for 2025/26 was confirmed (1/03/2024).

A total of 303 fin-clipped Hawera hatchery rainbow trout were released into Lake Mangamahoe on 14/05/2024 and a further 702 rainbows released in the Wellington Region (Marton reservoir & Rangitikei River quarry ponds) on 16/05/2024.

Fish transport trailer refurbished after failing a warrant.

<p>10. Undertake release of up to 200 16-month rainbow trout into the lower Patea River to assess the potential for a long-term programme (yr 5)</p> <p>11. Undertake monitoring of angler returns from the 2017-2021 releases of tagged brown and rainbow trout into the lower Patea River.</p> <p>12. Operate Hawera hatchery in an effective, cost efficient and sustainable manner utilising volunteer support to meet the identified stocking objectives.</p>	<p><i>A total of 420 fin-clipped Hawera hatchery rainbow trout were released into Lakes Ratapiko (200), Mangamahoe (60), Rotomanu (60) and Ngangana (100) on 26/08/2024.</i></p> <p><i>120 released on 13/11/2023. It was confirmed (28/02/2024) that Manawa Energy will fund the release of up to 200 17-month Hawera hatchery brown and rainbow trout into the lower Patea River for the next five years (2024 – 2028) with a review of results in 2029.</i></p> <p><i>Monitoring difficult, as access to the Patea Dam tailrace has been shut off for H&S reasons.</i></p> <p><i>A dinner for Hawera hatchery volunteers was held on 11/09/2023. 300kg feed ordered from Biomar and received 12/02/2024. The 2023 year-class survived the January 2024 heat and 2,572 rainbow trout fingerlings were fin-clipped on 28/03/2024. The brown trout were smaller and were clipped on 21/05/2024, with a count of 836 fish. The hatchery freezer stopped working on 2/04/2024 and a new 688 litre freezer was installed on 24/04/2024. 3,000 eyed ova (2,000 rainbow & 1,000 brown) arrived at the Hawera hatchery from Eastern F&G on 23/05/2024, with hatching complete by 31/05/2024. 400kg of feed ordered from Biomar and received early July 2024. A dinner for Hawera hatchery volunteers was held on 24/06/2024. <i>A hatchery & trout liberations report was prepared for Council's 19 October 2024 meeting.</i></i></p>
<p>Provide effective compliance to protect resource sustainability (including revenue base) and user experience to maintain licence holder satisfaction.</p>	
<p>13. Review and renew ranger warrants and maintain a skilled honorary ranger team of at least 12 rangers consistent with requirements and objectives of the Compliance Policy and Strategy and also R3 principles.</p>	<p><i>A Ranger training day held in New Plymouth on 30/09/2023 was attended by 9 Honorary Rangers and 1 staff. A CERT 1-day refresher was held on 13/04/2024 at New Plymouth attended by 5 rangers and 1 staff. Police vetting and ranger warrant renewal forms were completed for 11 Honorary</i></p>

<p>14. Undertake safe and effective compliance coverage across the Taranaki Region, including a target of 100 licence checks of anglers and also of hunters.</p>	<p>Rangers and one staff on 18/07/2024. Three rangers decided not to renew their warrants due to a range of factors.</p> <p>Compliance checks were undertaken for the opening of the 2023 fishing season. A report of an angling offence on the Manganuioteao River was received on 24/10/2023. It appears the angler gave false details.</p> <p>A parent was spoken to about a junior angler fishing in the scout den pool without a licence (19/12/2023).</p> <p>Compliance checks were undertaken for the opening of the summer hunting season for paradise shelduck (24/02/2024).</p> <p>2024 game season ranging was undertaken for the Waimarino & Taranaki ringplain areas. Wellington F&G SFO Hamish Carnachan carried out a compliance letter mail drop in the Ohakune area prior to the season. Five teams comprising 9 honorary rangers, 1 staff and the Raetihi sole-charge Policeman carried out ranging on opening weekend with 50+ hunters checked and no significant non-compliance detected.</p> <p>Notified on 28/05/2024 of 21 dead ducks (16 paradise, 5 mallards) on a brassica crop near Whanganui which appeared to be poisoned with wheat laced with alphachloralose. An adjacent landowner also picked up 4 harrier hawks, 3 of which were revived after transporting to Wildbase. Farmer who spread the grain was interviewed by Wellington SFO Matt Kavermann.</p> <p>A Compliance annual report was prepared for Council's 19 October 2024 meeting.</p>
<p>Proactively manage problem aggregations of gamebirds in the interests of both hunters and property owners and managers.</p>	
<p>15. Process detected offences in a fair and timely way consistent with national prosecution guidelines.</p>	<p>Two fishing offences from the 2022/23 season, processed via diversion, were finalised. An angler found preparing to go fishing in the Manganuioteao River without a current licence was issued with a formal warning on 14/08/2024. Three young men were found fishing in the Waingongoro River during a close season (30/07/2024). They had never</p>

<p>16. Manage problem aggregations of gamebirds through implementation of a special Paradise shelduck season in Area C and proactively responding to and assisting landholders.</p>	<p><i>held fishing licences and were unaware of the regulations.</i></p> <p><i>72 permits to disturb were issued during the reporting period: 49 for pukeko (29 rural, 20 urban), 19 for paradise shelduck (5 including mallard and one including pukeko) and 4 for mallard duck. Gas guns were collected from farmers prior to the start of the special paradise season. Permits were prepared for the paradise season, posted to land occupiers and distributed to two licence agents.</i></p>
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HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Protect/ improve habitat for sports fish & game as a fundamental and effective means to sustain the fish & game resource in the interests of licence holders and with biodiversity benefits for the wider community.

1. Provide valued advice and support to licence holders, landowners and the wider community regarding the importance of and how to protect and enhance habitat and also undertake predator control/ management to benefit both fish & game and wider indigenous biodiversity resources.
2. Promote, encourage and support landowners to create, enhance and protect wetlands by providing sound technical advice and assistance to make successful applications to the GBHT and Hunting & Habitat Funds, including 1 billion trees programme.

Peko Contracting was re-contacted (26/02/2024) regarding raupo spraying at F&G's Hawken wetland. Spraying completed before 2024 game season, but raupo required hand cutting to create sufficient open water for hunting.

Both Taranaki applications to the GBHT 2023 funding round were successful with one being allocated \$4k and the other \$5k (incl. gst).

The Howatson wetland at Huiroa was visited (6/10/2023) to sign off the final 25% payment for their one-billion trees plantings. The Howatson's subsequently won a TRC Environmental Award for Environmental Leadership in Farming.

A meeting was attended with TRC consents and ecology staff (9/11/2023) to discuss consenting requirements for the 2 Taranaki wetland projects allocated GBHT funding. While one could be done as a permitted activity, it was estimated that consents for the other would cost \$10K, making the project uneconomic.

A site visit was made to the Eco-Blue wetland (9/11/2023) to sign off the

<p>3. Proactively take opportunities to make effective representation in statutory and other community processes to best achieve sports fish and game bird habitat protection and enhancement.</p>	<p>initial 75% payment for their one-billion trees plantings.</p> <p>A site visit was made to the Ohakune / Raetihi Road wetland (10/01/2024) which was allocated GBHT & H&H funding in 2021. The project is now part-way through with 3 open water areas created so far.</p> <p>A visit was made (15/12/2023) to discuss progress with a farm trust that could provide ongoing contributions to the H&H fund. F&G will not be a trustee as originally proposed but will be a beneficiary.</p> <p>An update on the two Taranaki one-billion trees projects (total 3,750 trees) was provided to the GBHT (29/02/2024).</p> <p>Met with Beca (Meghan Stenner) 15/03/2024 regarding the restoration of Tangaroa Stream in the Waitara River estuary.</p> <p>Made a site visit to upper Mangorei Road property to provide advice on converting disused farm oxy ponds into duck ponds (5/06/2024).</p> <p>Information was provided to the GBHT on the Takahuri wetland project at Kaiwhaiki, for a 5-year review (30/07/2024).</p> <p>No Taranaki applications were forwarded to the GBHT this year, but two potential applications may come to the H&H Scheme.</p> <p><i>A site visit was made the Rakautaua wetland project at Whangaehu (6/08/2024) and a referee's final report prepared recommending that grants from the GBHT (\$4,600) and the H&H fund (\$1,000) be paid out.</i></p> <p><i>A site visit was made to the Watson Wetland development at Hurford Road New Plymouth (30/08/2024) and a final referee's report prepared recommending that a grant from the H&H fund (\$5,577) be paid out.</i></p> <p>Council's request to be heard was withdrawn in relation to applications by Horizon Trust to expand a quarry at Whenuku Road, adjacent to the Waingongoro River (12/10/2023).</p>
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Management plans for the quarry were reviewed (13/06/2024).

A review of trout stocking in the lower Patea River, required by consents, was finalised and sent to Manawa Energy (12/10/2023).

A Fonterra Kapuni stakeholders meeting was attended on 27/09/2023. Repairs to the Fonterra weir in Kaupokonui Stream were completed on 14/03/2024.

A meeting was attended (17/11/2023) with NPDC staff to discuss their proposed stormwater strategy, which will to deliver environmental benefits including fish passage improvements, while reducing the risk of flooding and erosion. A submission was made on the NPDC's 2024-2034 LTP (19/04/2024).

There was consultation with Ernslaw-One (1/11/2023; Lynette Baish) regarding renewal of consents to use concrete fords in the Wahianoa catchment in Karioi Forest. A response was sent (8/02/2024) seeking a commitment to modify at least one of the fords to provide for the upstream passage of rainbow trout. A response was received on 17/04/2024 and following further discussions it was agreed that Ernslaw would fund F&G to carry out an electrofishing survey to obtain more information on the Wahianoa trout population. **There was further discussion about consent conditions on 27/08/2024.**

In conjunction with Wellington F&G an email was sent to Taranaki angling licence holders regarding Horizons Oranga Wai consultation on water quality targets (7/12/2023).

There were reports of the Opunake hydro sluice gate being opened (1/11/2023) to flush out sediment prior to re-starting the power scheme, but little appears to have happened since.

Comments were provided to Manawa Energy (12/02/2024) on three Patea HEPS fish passage and ecological

monitoring reports required by consents. A stakeholders meeting was attended on 26/06/2024.

A Fonterra-convened Kaitiaki Group meeting was attended (2/02/2024) to discuss up-coming consents, including for Fonterra's Tawhiti Stream weir where F&G suggested that the current fish pass be expanded to a full-width rock ramp.

Further Kaitiaki Group meetings were attended on 3/05/2024 & 2/08/2024 to discuss options for fish passage improvement in the Tawhiti Stream catchment.

A submission to the TRC's 2024-2034 LTP was made (11/04/2024).

Horizons RC (Nigal Jordan) contacted F&G re: "emergency" rock work in Mangateitei Stream for erosion repair near a walkway bridge (10/06/2024), but work was deferred after it was determined that the stream is an important trout spawning area and a consent would be required.

There were discussions with Lowe Corporation (Derek Bowman; 28/05/2024) about re-consenting of their water take and discharge from Tawhiti Stream and later with consultants Mitchell-Daysh (Luke Balchin), with comments on the AEE and potential impacts on the Hawera trout hatchery provided on 22/07/2024.

Comments were provided to Ballance Agri-nutrients (Karl Henderson; 20/05/2024) regarding a proposal to change cooling tower biocides and the potential for impacts on Kapuni Stream.

Comments were made (Terry Calmeyer, Inspire consultants, 15/05/2024) on a draft AEE for screening the two NPDC lake intakes at Lake Mangamahoe. A new screened intake will be positioned 30m from the F&G casting platform.

Staff attended a Greenfern Industries stakeholder meeting (26/06/2024) to discuss consent compliance for the Normanby power scheme on the

<p>4. Investigate the establishment of an environmental award to acknowledge and highlight outstanding contributions to the protection of sports fish or gamebird habitat.</p> <p>5. Seek effective environmental outcomes as part of the re-consenting of the Mangorei and Motukawa hydro schemes.</p>	<p>Waingongoro River. Gfi is currently not earning enough to finance construction of its vertical-slot fish pass on the weir. A complaint was made to the TRC and Gfi about breaches of minimum flows in the Waingongoro River (17/08/2024).</p> <p>A pre-hearing meeting for STDC's limited-notified consents to take water from Kapuni Stream for Hawera supply was attended (12/07/2024).</p> <p>NPDC (Kim Smith) contacted F&G about replacement of a sewer pipeline under the bed of Mangaotuku Stream in New Plymouth and a meeting was attended on 8/08/2024 with NPDC staff, the contractor and Ngāti Te Whiti Hapū Board Chairperson Julie Healey.</p> <p>Photos of the NZTA Te Henui Stream SH3 motorway culvert fish pass were sent to the TRC (29/07/2024) to highlight the inadequacy of the metal ramp passes for native fish and trout.</p> <p>There have been discussions with TRC about F&G sponsoring the "Environmental Action in Water Quality Improvement" section of its annual awards, but this opportunity has now been taken up by SLR Consulting.</p> <p>F&G submissions lodged to notified consents – awaiting TRC processing. TRC is proposing a joint hearing of both applications. Recent media reports indicate Manawa Energy's assets, including the Mangorei and Motukawa hydro schemes, are being sold to Contact Energy.</p>
<p>Work collaboratively and proactively with landowners, other groups and iwi recognising the synergistic benefits and wider outcomes that can be achieved by this approach.</p>	
<p>6. Promote and explore opportunities to improve water quality in Lake Rotomanu.</p>	<p>Awaiting TRC processing of NPDC consent to divert water into Lake Rotomanu from the Waiwhakaiho River. Submission made to NPDC's 2024-2034 LTP. Further follow-up with TRC was undertaken in early July</p>

<p>7. Engage proactively and collaboratively with iwi & community groups to identify and protect/ enhance shared resource values including contributing to water related matters through the Taranaki Maunga Settlement process.</p> <p>8. Represent Fish & Game and provide valued input to the Te Awa Tupua process.</p> <p>9. Explore options with other parties to remove weirs in Timaru Stream at SH45 and in the Waingongoro River at Eltham.</p>	<p>2024 to confirm that F&G is an affected party.</p> <p>Manager & SFO attended signing ceremony for Taranaki Maunga Deed of Settlement at Owae Marae on 1/09/2023. A short submission was made in support of the Collective Redress Bill for Taranaki Maunga (15/05/2024).</p> <p>Te Kopuka zoom meetings were attended on 8/09/2023; 13/10/2023; 20/12/2023; 7/06/2024; 26/07/2024 & 23/08/2024. Day 2 of the Whanganui River Symposium was also attended (6/08/2024). A zoom meeting with the A/WF&G Manager & staff was held on 31/10/2023 to discuss the Te Heke Ngahuru strategy document which has been released for public feedback. A meeting to receive feedback from the Whangamomona community was attended on 25/01/2024. A public on-line meeting was attended (30/01/2024) to receive feedback on the Te Heke Ngahuru strategy document. An on-line meeting to support a presentation of Te Heke Ngahuru to a joint meeting of the Tongariro and Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Boards in Ohakune (22/02/2024) was also attended. An on-line working group meeting was attended (10/05/2024).</p> <p>TRC consents for Timaru Stream weir removal were finalised in December 2024, but contractor availability was an issue, then it got wet, and removal will now occur in summer/autumn 2024/25.</p> <p>There have been discussions with TRC staff regarding the process to remove the Riverlands Eltham weir on the Waingongoro River. A submission was made to the TRC's 2024-2034 LTP.</p>
<p>Development of an effective Natural Resources Plan that protects freshwater and wetland habitats and which will also minimise Council costs in consent processes and free up resources for other management responses.</p>	

<p>10. Investigate whether there is sufficient landowner support for an application to the Whanganui River Enhancement Trust (WRET) for funding assistance to continue the Horizons / F&G joint Orautoha Stream / Manganuioteao Riparian Project to protect water quality in this catchment and the many values it supports.</p>	<p><i>Horizons RC (Scotty Moore) got in touch (8/02/2024) regarding funding for a landowner wanting to do 600m of conventional fencing along the Manganuioteao River. Of the \$15k cost it was agreed that Horizons would fund 40% with WRET and Taranaki F&G each funding 30% (\$4,500 + gst). This work has now been completed & a final report and invoice received (18/06/2024).</i></p>
<p>11. Engage in and actively advocate for provisions which protect and/ or enhance sports fish & game bird habitat in the Taranaki Natural Resources Plan development process.</p>	<p><i>Ami Coughlan & the SFO attended a TRC workshop (3/10/2023) to discuss proposed objectives and outcomes in relation to the 6 FMU's. Comments were provided in writing on 25/10/2023. A F&G initiated tick-box survey was also sent to Taranaki licence holders, which resulted in a further 109 submissions to the TRC. An Okato roadshow event was attended (17/06/2024) for the TRC's consultation on "targets & limits", along with a zoom meeting (3/07/2024) and a face-to-face meeting at the TRC (16/07/2024) also attended by Phil Teal and Ami Coughlan. A F&G initiated tick-box survey was sent to Taranaki licence holders, which resulted in 47 submissions to the TRC. A comprehensive written response has also been sent (2/08/2024).</i></p>

PARTICIPATION

2023/2024 Annual Plan – Planned Result	Progress to date
<p>Objective: Add value to licence holders by increasing their opportunity, success and satisfaction and so retain them in the sport.</p>	
<p>1. Maintain and improve the Taranaki pages on the new Fish & Game website so how to and where to go information is readily available, easily understood and up to date.</p> <p>2. Work with National Office to populate new website with information including an 'Introduction to duck hunting in the Taranaki Region'.</p> <p>3. Continue posting on the Council's facebook page in line with any National Policy to regularly inform licence holders using this forum.</p>	<p><i>Taranaki information reviewed with oversight from Roslyn Simmonds (A/W).</i></p> <p><i>New Fish & Game website went live 7/02/2024.</i></p> <p><i>Six posts were made during the reporting period relating to kids fishing days, fish releases, an electric fishing survey and trout season opening. The page now has 240 followers and 167 likes.</i></p>

Objective: Encourage past and prospective hunters and anglers into the sport through initiatives which make it easy to have a go and/or provide support.

<p>4. Develop and utilise licence holder email list to keep hunters and anglers up to date.</p>	<p><i>Licence list utilised for TRC NRP mailout and Lower NI Lowdown ezine and lapsed participant email (29/11/2023).</i></p>
<p>5. Complete Reel Life and Both Barrels supplements consistent with national R3 recommendations.</p>	<p><i>Reel Life articles prepared 21/09/2023, 17/10/2023, 20/11/2023, 19/12/2023, 23/01/2024, 26/02/2024, 15/03/2024 & 23/04/2024. River and angling information were provided for the "Lower North Island Lowdown" ezine each Thursday until early April 2024. Articles for the "Both Barrells" Ezine were prepared on 14/03/2024; 21/04/2024, 17/05/2024, 21/06/2024 & 23/07/2024. Taranaki information was provided to the Wellington F&G weekly hunting email newsletter from 23/04/2024.</i></p> <p><i>A paragraph on Taranaki region angling opportunities was provided for a NZC national email (23/08/2024).</i></p>
<p>6. Provide a quality 2-page regional supplement in each edition of Fish & Game Magazine.</p>	<p><i>2-page supplement prepared for hunting special issue 58 (2/02/2024) and proofed 28/02/2024. A 3-page supplement was prepared for fishing special issue 59 (1/07/2024) and proofed on 29/07/2024.</i></p>
<p>7. Publication of valued hunting and fishing newsletters sent to regional licence holders and hunting landowners. Hunting newsletter also distributed to all rural box holders in the region.</p>	<p><i>Joint 8-page Wellington – Taranaki regional fishing newsletter prepared and posted to licence holders. Joint 8-page Wellington – Taranaki regional hunting newsletter prepared and posted to licence holders and Taranaki rural box holders.</i></p>
<p>8. Proactively provide timely and useful information to licence holders when requested.</p>	<p><i>Information provided on request. Checked Taranaki information in the 2024 game bird hunting guide (21/02/2024). Attended IRG&RC AGM (20/08/2024).</i></p>
<p>9. Replace/ erect 2 -3 new signs which provide anglers with helpful on-site information re access and regulations consistent with identified priorities.</p>	<p><i>Liaised with Ernslaw-One regarding angler access to Lake Namunamu. Confirmed that access is restricted until forest harvest is complete, with access for a fish release scheduled for April 2026 (3 years after the last one).</i></p> <p><i>Liaised with a local Waimarino angler regarding provision of stiles over fencing on Atihau land adjacent to Taonui Stream (25/06/2024). Atihau have given permission.</i></p>

<p>10. Continue to explore opportunities to install 3rd angling platform on Lake Mangamahoe.</p> <p>11. Provide organised fishing opportunities in Lake Rotomanu and the Patea River in Stratford consistent with R3 objectives and branding and in association with volunteer groups for kids and families.</p> <p>12. When fish are available, release 2-year rainbow trout into Sattler's Dam to provide opportunities for kids and families.</p> <p>13. Review, negotiate, publicise and issue access permits to publicly available hunting areas and actively seek and develop new opportunities.</p> <p>14. Identify and explore mentoring schemes to support new hunters.</p> <p>15. Develop web based introductory package for anglers highlighting access opportunities and methods to get started.</p> <p>16. Proactively take opportunities to make effective representation in statutory and other community processes to maintain or enhance hunting or angling access and opportunity.</p> <p>17. Complete review of Kaipokonui and Waingongoro catchment angler access information and implement identified opportunities to assist access.</p>	<p><i>A successful Lake Rotomanu family trout fishing day was held on 28/10/2023 in conjunction with the Inglewood Rod, Gun & Recreation Club, Taranaki Hunting & Fishing and Hynds Pipe Systems.</i></p> <p><i>In conjunction with the Stratford Fishing Club, a funding application for the Stratford kids' trout fishing day was submitted to the Taranaki Electricity Trust on 12/10/2023, with a grant of \$2,718 approved on 17/11/2023. A successful Stratford kids' trout fishing promotion was held on 2/12/2023, with plenty of fishing activity in the following weeks.</i></p> <p><i>Short-break fishing licences were provided to nine anglers from the Reel Recovery Retreat for a fishing weekend in the Waimarino on 2 – 3 March 2024.</i></p> <p><i>A NPDC Lake Rotomanu venue hire agreement was completed (21/08/2024) for the 20th October family trout fishing day.</i></p> <p><i>Liaised with DOC's Tongariro National Trout Centre (16/02/2024) and confirmed availability of trout, with release occurring on 26/03/2024.</i></p> <p><i>Contacted forest managers and confirmed access arrangements for the 2024 season. Ernslaw-One forest access policy reviewed (4/06/2024).</i></p>
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<p>18. Assess satisfaction and success of Taranaki Region anglers using catch rates from a voluntary diary scheme and online satisfaction survey.</p> <p>19. Locate and publicise quality trout, perch and game bird recipes that enable anglers and hunters to make good use of these species.</p> <p>20. Assess satisfaction of Taranaki Region hunters using an online satisfaction survey.</p> <p>21. Implement actions to influence hunter behaviour as identified in hunter behaviour strategy to maximise enjoyment and participation and also public support for gamebird hunting.</p> <p>22. Provision of ready and valued support and assistance to licence agents such that they are kept up to date, resourced and operate as effective agents</p>	<p>Angler diaries sent to 29 anglers. <i>Data collated from eight returns for fishery monitoring report.</i></p> <p><i>Liaised with staff nationally to develop up to four questions to be asked in the opening weekend hunter survey.</i></p> <p><i>Assistance to Licence agents provided as and when required.</i></p>
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IWI & PUBLIC INTERACTION

2022/2023 Annual Plan – Planned Result	Progress to date
<p>Objective: Work proactively and collaboratively with iwi at all levels consistent with Treaty of Waitangi obligations and responsibilities regarding the protection and use of natural resources.</p>	
<p>1. Proactively engage, work and collectively share with iwi and hapu within the region on matters affecting wetland and freshwater resources or their use.</p>	<p><i>Attended meeting with Pukerangiora hapu environmental staff (8/03/2024) to discuss re-consenting of the NPDC's water take from Ngatoro Stream for Inglewood supply.</i></p> <p><i>Liaised with Ngati Rangi Iwi regarding koura deaths in Waitangi Stream (18/04/2024).</i></p> <p><i>Liaised with Te Atiawa (Sera Gibson 3/07/2024) regarding F&G electric fishing sites where piharau ammocoetes have been found recently;</i></p> <p><i>Attended meeting with Te Atiawa (11/07/2024) regarding Manawa Energy consents for the Mangorei & Motukawa HEP Schemes and TRC plan consultation;</i></p> <p><i>Liaised with Nga Iwi o Taranaki (Maria Hokopaura) re: TRC plan consultation (5/07/2024);</i></p> <p><i>Attended meeting with Ngati Ruanui (Nicola Coogan, Graham Young) & Fonterra, Silver Fern Farms, Lowe Corp. & TRC to discuss Tawhiti Stream remediation (18/07/2024).</i></p> <p><i>Liaised with Ngati Rangi re: update on koura deaths in Waitangi Stream (14/08/2024).</i></p>
<p>Objective: Strong relationships and involvement with DOC and local and regional councils to effectively represent the interests of hunters and anglers in formal decision-making process.</p>	
<p>2. Liaise with Department of Conservation and Conservation Boards and proactively engage and work with Regional and District councils and community & industry groups.</p>	<p><i>Liaised with DOC, Horizons RC & Iwi regarding a plan to deal with any eel death events in the Whanganui River catchment</i></p>

	<p>over summer and with DOC re: koura deaths in Waitangi Stream (18/04/2024) and koi carp removal from an Inglewood pond (9/05/2024).</p> <p>Liaised with DOC/TRC regarding unauthorised tracks and rubbish at Tapuarau (Hawkens) Lagoon (20/11/2023 & 18/03/2024).</p> <p>Liaised with DOC re: Umutekai hunting access.</p> <p>Attended Horizons RC "Jobs for Nature" governance group meeting (23/07/2024) to receive updates on progress with riparian fencing & planting and fish barrier identification and remediation in the Horizons region. Attended a zoom meeting (12/08/2024) to decide on regional freshwater community grants.</p> <p>Issued sports fishing authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLR Consulting to carry out fish monitoring using electric fishing in the Patea catchment upstream of Patea Dam on behalf of Manawa Energy Ltd. (19/12/2023); • Vaipuhi and Waikokopu Consulting to investigate fish distribution and fish health in a section of the Mangaehuehu Stream, using fyke and G-minnow netting and electrofishing (15/01/2023). • NZDF (Clare Ridler) to carry out fish monitoring using electric fishing in the Waitangi Stream (3/04/2024).
<p>Objective: Engender support for hunting and fishing and the activities of Fish & Game by the general public and others who recognise that these activities contribute to a better environment and healthy lifestyle and in turn who support protecting these resources and the opportunities to participate</p>	
<p>3. Recognise and pursue opportunities to contribute to the wider community including 'Wild for Taranaki' and 'Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust'.</p>	<p>Wild for Taranaki's annual Biodiversity Forum was attended on 26/10/2023. In conjunction with Wellington F&G staff and volunteers (Ami Coughlan, Matt Kavermann & Colin Shore), a workshop to introduce volunteers to bird banding (e.g. Rapanui grey-faced petrel trust) was held in New Plymouth on 28/29 November 2023. Liaised with WfT (12/02/2024) regarding availability of volunteers to help with duck banding in Whanganui (2 responses but both cancelled). Feedback was provided to the Rotokare Trust (Fiona Gordon; 27/11/2023) regarding a proposal to establish new populations of brown mudfish.</p> <p>Attended WfT biodiversity quarterly catch-up (6/06/2024).</p>

<p>4. Take opportunities to promote the value of protecting freshwater, wetland and upland game habitats and the wider benefits from this.</p> <p>5. Represent the interests of hunters and anglers and promote the validity of fishing and gamebird hunting including as a means of collecting natural organic foods and engaging in a physical healthy lifestyle.</p> <p>6. Maintain a positive and constructive profile in the media which encourages prospective participants and fosters support and understanding among the general public.</p> <p>7. Implement revised media strategy and including incorporating any National Policy</p>	<p><i>Liaised with Jetboat NZ (Ross Goldsack; 14/05/2024) regarding one-off event speed limit uplift for the Tongaporutu River.</i></p> <p><i>Met with Lisa Berndt, regional coordinator for Wai Connection (7/08/2024).</i></p> <p><i>Attended meeting of Biosecurity Taranaki (21/08/2024) and signed Taranaki F&G up as a member.</i></p> <p><i>Liaised with TRC staff about consenting requirements for wetland creation and enhancement work.</i></p> <p><i>2023 fish season information was provided to the Taranaki Daily News and was printed in the North Taranaki Midweek and South Taranaki Star on 4/10/2023. An angling advertorial was placed in the Whanganui Chronicle (25/09/2023) and also in the Ruapehu Bulletin's "Summertime Bulletin" (31/10/2023). An advert was placed in the Nth Taranaki Midweek (18/10/2023) publicising the Lake Rotomanu family trout fishing day. A press release was sent to the Hawera Star and Stratford Press (+ advert) to promote the Stratford kids' trout fishing day (7/11/2023) and a More FM Breakfast interview was done (14/11/2023). Publicity was undertaken for the summer paradise season, which included adverts in the Taranaki Daily News (1/02/2024) and Taranaki Farming Lifestyles publications (23/02/2024), articles in the Stratford Press (9/02/2024), South Taranaki Star & Daily News (12/02/2024) and a More FM Breakfast interview (13/02/2024).</i></p> <p><i>2024 Game season advertorial organised in the Ruapehu Bulletin, Whanganui Chronicle & Taranaki Farming Lifestyles publications. Game season articles sent to the Stratford Press, South Taranaki Star & Daily News (23/04/2024).</i></p>
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2023/2024 Annual Plan – Planned Result	Progress to date
<p>Objective: Sound and effective governance which facilitates a co-operative and supportive relationship between Council, staff and licence holders that enables effective management of resources in the best interests of the licence holder and the fish & game resource.</p>	
<p>1. Not less than six meetings of Council are held and meetings are conducted consistent with provisions of the Standing Orders.</p> <p>2. Council undertakes governance training provided nationally, preferably in conjunction with Wellington Fish & Game Council.</p> <p>3. Identification and implementation of options and strategies to increase the diversity of Council and iwi involvement.</p> <p>4. The 5-Year Strategic Plan is reviewed and agreed by Council by March 2024.</p> <p>5. Formulation and adoption of an Annual Operational Plan and Budget for 2024/25 consistent with the 5-Year Strategic Plan.</p> <p>6. Presentation by Council of its audited annual report for 2022/23 not later than 31 December 2023. Report to be consistent with tier 2 Service Performance standards and requirements.</p> <p>7. Effective regional policies are developed, adopted and reviewed as required and are consistent with any National Policy requirements.</p> <p>8. Progress reporting of licence sales, work progress and financial position is timely and accurate and supports sound financial and operational management and oversight.</p>	<p><i>Council meetings were held at Opunake on 14/10/2023, the AGM and ordinary meeting in Raetihi on 9/12/2023 & a meeting held via zoom on 15/02/2024. Council meetings were attended in Stratford on 16/03/2024; 25/05/2024 & 17/08/2024.</i></p> <p><i>The Manager and SFO attended a Taranaki/Wellington joint zoom meeting of the Councillor amalgamation team (28/07/2024).</i></p> <p><i>A Councillor and staff attended the funeral of F&G life member David Dannefaerd on 13/10/2023. Councillors attended the funeral of Pogat Moratti on 25/01/2024. Councillors and staff attended the funeral of David (Potty) Potroz on 29/08/2024.</i></p> <p><i>Draft 2024/25 Annual Plan presented at Council's 16/03/2024 meeting.</i></p> <p><i>Audited annual report prepared and presented for adoption at the AGM on 9th December 2023.</i></p> <p><i>Included in all agendas</i></p>

<p>9. Effective administration such that the Council is within annual budget ($\pm 5\%$), operates consistent with best practice and at least 90% of its annual plan is completed.</p> <p>10. Effective staff management including performance reviews completed and new objectives agreed for staff, and regular staff meetings such that staff are aware of what is generally occurring and have ready opportunity for input into decisions and management direction.</p>	<p><i>Weekly staff meetings held each Monday morning.</i></p> <p><i>Field Officer Jacob Morison took 12 months unpaid leave from 25/09/2023. Resignation letter from Jacob received on 2/07/2024. Advert for new staff member placed on Seek on 8/07/2024. On-line interviews of a short-list of 6 applicants were conducted on 28/08/2024 & 30/08/2024.</i></p>
<p>Objective: Operate consistent with National Policy and make valued contributions to the management of the resource and Fish & Game nationally in the interests of all licence holders.</p>	
<p>11. Implement any outcomes and directions from Fish & Game Ministerial Review and /or National Council reviews.</p> <p>12. Progress amalgamation discussions with the Wellington Fish & Game Council and implement agreed measures which don't require legislative change.</p>	
<p>Objective: Make best use of new systems, processes and technology to maximise administrative efficiencies and minimise costs do resources are available for use elsewhere.</p>	
<p>13. Effective communication and liaison with NZ Fish & Game Council and other Fish & Game regions including valued input and comment on Fish & Game issues and attendance at Fish & Game Managers meetings.</p>	<p><i>Staff participated in the following national group meetings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Gamebird Monitoring: 7/09/2023</i> • <i>CLE Group: 27/09/2023, 30/01/2024, 30/04/2024 & 13/05/2024</i> • <i>Hatchery Group: 9/11/2023</i> • <i>Fisheries Group meeting 15/02/2024.</i> <p><i>All staff attended the F&G Staff conference in Rotorua on 12 – 14 September 2023.</i></p> <p><i>The CEO attended managers zoom meetings on 7th, 21st and 25th September and 5th and 19th October 2023.</i></p>
<p>Objective: Demonstrate a commitment to Health & Safety and ensuring the welfare of staff and others through effective policy, systems, resourcing and oversight.</p>	
<p>14. Contribute to National Office by providing valued advice, assistance and feedback on national issues and processes as requested.</p> <p>15. Refine financial administration, reporting and analysis working with NZF&G Council and staff.</p> <p>16. All processes and activities are undertaken consistent with Council Health & Safety Policy and Manual.</p> <p>17. Staff are actively involved in implementing HSAW policy and ensuring a safe workplace, including by undertaking</p>	<p><i>Taranaki provided a contribution to a "National Legacy Document".</i></p> <p><i>Provided region's response to request for information from the Minister of Hunting & Fishing.</i></p> <p><i>SFO completed 1-day First Aid refresher (15/08/2024).</i></p> <p><i>HSAW is included in each weekly staff meeting held on Monday mornings.</i></p>

<p>two monthly staff meetings where HSAW is a specific agenda item.</p> <p>18. Compliance with HSAW requirements and policy including scheduled reviews and audits along with any issues identified or near misses routinely reported to each meeting of Council.</p>	<p><i>Field staff passed RPAS (drone) practical test in Palmerston North on 6/09/2023. Garmin "inreach" reactivated and carried by staff (along with epirb and gps) during summer fieldwork. H&S Plan prepared (14/03/2024) for Sattler's Dam fish release and liaised with Raetihi Police re: potential for poaching. Excess LPG cylinders lodged in off-site lock-up (6/03/2024). Polaris SxS serviced 24/04/2024.</i></p>
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Recommendation

That the Budget Report and Project Progress Report to 31st August 2024 be received.

Agenda Item 20 Financial Reports – Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet

Summary

Confirmation and clarification of financial reports -

Profit & Loss and from 1 September up to end August 2024 (2023/2024 Financial Year to date).

- a. Profit & Loss as at 31 August 2024
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

- b. BNZ Statement of Accounts as at 30 August

Nothing to highlight

Agenda Item 20c – PUBLIC EXCLUDED

- c. Capital Expenditure Considerations

Vehicle Replacement for Taranaki region – requires Council authorization

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council move to receive Financial Statements for Year-to-Date for the 2023/2024 Financial Year – Profit & Loss up to end August 2024 and Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024.

Approve capital expenditure for vehicle replacement.

Profit and Loss For Council

Taranaki Fish and Game Council For the year ended 31 August 2024

	2024	YTD BUDGET	2024 OVERALL BUDGET	VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
Revenue					
Licence Income					
Fish Licence Income	131,964	124,845	124,845	7,119 ↑	6% ↑
Game Licence Income	93,584	104,505	104,505	(10,921) ↓	-10% ↓
Less Commission and Fees	(8,753)	-	-	(8,753) ↓	- —
Total Licence Income	216,795	229,350	229,350	(12,555)	-5%
Grants	193,916	193,916	193,916	0 ↓	0% ↓
Interest Received	25,760	6,441	6,441	19,319 ↑	300% ↑
Other Income	11,960	21,450	21,450	(9,490) ↓	-44% ↓
Gross Profit	448,431	451,157	451,157	(2,726)	-1%
Operating Expenses					
SPECIES MANAGEMENT					
Population Monitoring	15,343	17,227	17,227	(1,884) ↓	-11% ↓
Hatchery Operations	14,333	10,000	10,000	4,333 ↑	43% ↑
Releases	6,273	6,000	6,000	273 ↑	5% ↑
Control	2,009	2,500	2,500	(491) ↓	-20% ↓
Total SPECIES MANAGEMENT	37,957	35,727	35,727	2,230	6%
HABITAT PROTECTION / MANAGEMENT					
Resource Management Act	12	-	-	12 ↑	- —
Assisted Habitat	11,348	20,000	20,000	(8,652) ↓	-43% ↓
Total HABITAT PROTECTION / MANAGEMENT	11,360	20,000	20,000	(8,640)	-43%
PARTICIPATION					
Access	148	1,000	1,000	(852) ↓	-85% ↓
Newsletters Magazine Web pages	11,828	9,500	9,500	2,328 ↑	25% ↑
Training	-	1,000	1,000	(1,000) ↓	-100% ↓
Clubs	300	300	300	- —	- —
Total PARTICIPATION	12,276	11,800	11,800	476	4%
PUBLIC INTERFACE					
Liaison	103	100	100	3 ↑	3% ↑
Advocacy	2,431	4,400	4,400	(1,969) ↓	-45% ↓
Total PUBLIC INTERFACE	2,534	4,500	4,500	(1,966)	-44%
COMPLIANCE					

	2024	YTD BUDGET	2024 OVERALL BUDGET	VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
Ranging	766	500	500	266 ↑	53% ↑
Ranger Training	3,542	500	500	3,042 ↑	608% ↑
Compliance	-	2,100	2,100	(2,100) ↓	-100% ↓
Total COMPLIANCE	4,307	3,100	3,100	1,207	39%
LICENCING					
Licence Agents	-	2,244	2,244	(2,244) ↓	-100% ↓
Licencing	822	10,321	10,321	(9,499) ↓	-92% ↓
Total LICENCING	822	12,565	12,565	(11,743)	-93%
COUNCIL					
Council Meeting Expenses	5,760	9,500	9,500	(3,740) ↓	-39% ↓
Total COUNCIL	5,760	9,500	9,500	(3,740)	-39%
PLANNING & REPORTING					
Management / Strategic Planning	34	1,000	1,000	(966) ↓	-97% ↓
Reporting Audit	7,539	6,340	6,340	1,199 ↑	19% ↑
National Liaison	-	100	100	(100) ↓	-100% ↓
Total PLANNING & REPORTING	7,573	7,440	7,440	133	2%
OVERHEADS					
Salaries	241,416	278,880	278,880	(37,464) ↓	-13% ↓
Staff Expenses	2,933	3,500	3,500	(567) ↓	-16% ↓
Office Premises	22,311	22,200	22,200	111 ↑	1% ↑
Office Equipment	2,955	2,000	2,000	955 ↑	48% ↑
Communications / Consumables	5,655	7,250	7,250	(1,595) ↓	-22% ↓
General	2,977	2,870	2,870	107 ↑	4% ↑
General Equipment	251	6,000	6,000	(5,749) ↓	-96% ↓
Vehicles	17,453	15,375	15,375	2,078 ↑	14% ↑
Total OVERHEADS	295,952	338,075	338,075	(42,123)	-12%
Depreciation	-	16,826	16,826	(16,826) ↓	-100% ↓
Total Operating Expenses	378,541	459,533	459,533	(80,992)	-18%
New Surplus/(Deficit)	69,891	(8,376)	(8,376)	78,267	934%

Balance Sheet

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

As at 31 August 2024

31 AUG 2024

Assets

Bank

BNZ Current Account	179,280.44
BNZ Term 3031	413,520.64
MRP	1,694.77
Total Bank	594,495.85

Current Assets

Accounts Receivable	62,539.18
Prepayments and Accrued Income	212.42
Total Current Assets	62,751.60

Fixed Assets

Accum Dep Vehicles	(53,404.65)
Accum Dep Buildings	(16,451.00)
Accum Dep Office Equipment	(20,621.12)
Accum Dep Plant & Equipment	(18,050.93)
Buildings	16,451.00
Office Equipment	25,022.63
Plant & Equipment	26,474.26
Vehicles	114,907.26
Total Fixed Assets	74,327.45

Total Assets

731,574.90

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	15,871.50
Accruals and Prepaid Licences	6,954.00
BNZ Credit Card - Allen	327.96
Designated Waters Licence	105.29
Duck Stamp Levy Clearing	5,000.02
Employee Entitlements	43,263.59
GST	27,449.07
Income in advance	15,520.61
PAYE Clearing	4,937.18
Rounding	0.03
Sea Run Salmon Endorsement	45.11
Total Current Liabilities	119,474.36

Total Liabilities

119,474.36

Net Assets

612,100.54

Equity

31 AUG 2024

Accumulated Funds	146,208.68
Asset Replacement Funding	11,578.00
Back Country Fisheries Reserve	20,139.79
Current Year Earnings	69,890.70
Fisheries Project	7,386.30
Hunting & Habitat Scheme	327,679.74
Manganuioteao River Riparian Project	4,149.29
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	25,068.04
Total Equity	612,100.54





THE SECRETARY
TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL
PO BOX 4152
WHANGANUI 4541


Bank of New Zealand
Wanganui Store
124 Victoria Avenue
Wanganui
Telephone 0800 800 468
Facsimile 06 345 5439
WWW www.bnz.co.nz

Statement of Accounts as at 30 August 2024

Your Accounts at a Glance

Account	Account Number	Maturity Date	Balance
 Non Profit Org A/C	02-0792-0332133-000		179,280.44
 MRP	02-0792-0332133-001		1,694.77

Your Other Accounts at a Glance

Account	Account Number	Maturity Date	Balance
 Term Deposit	36332133-03031	02 Feb 2025	413,520.64

Our investment statements and current disclosure statement may be obtained free of charge from any Bank of New Zealand store, or viewed at www.bnz.co.nz.

Agenda Item 21 Correspondence

Summary

Correspondence:

No items directly addressed to Council not already addressed in agenda.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council move to receive the inwards and outwards correspondence to 7 October 2024

Inwards Correspondence

Date	Meeting	From	Staff Councillor	Subject
7.8.24	Oct-24	Logan Brown – Horizons	Allen Phil Matt	Regional Freshwater Community Grant applications
7.8.24	Oct-24	Biosecurity Taranaki	Allen	Biosecurity Matters Taranaki
13.8.24	Oct-24	Abby Lagula TRC	Allen	Invite to BNZ's pre-season/induction Check Clean Dry training
14.8.24	Oct-24	Fred McLay TRC	Allen	Kapuni water take – draftemail seeking comments
23.8.24	Oct-24	Lynette Baish – Ernslaw One	Allen	Draft, APP-2019202672.01, Karioi Forest use of existing fords
28.8.24	Oct-24	Lynette Baish – Ernslaw One	Allen	Further to email 23.8.24 – Karioi Forest use of existing fords
1.9.24	Oct-24	Rob Browning	Allen	Upland Game tallies – Paetawa Station
3.9.24	Oct-24	Karl Henderson – balance	Allen	Consultation on intended changes to Kapuni Stream
5.9.24	Oct-24	Ministry for the Environment	Allen	Macroinvertebrate and electric fishing frequency
6.9.24	Oct-24	Fred McLay – TRC	Allen	Freshwater farm plans pause announced
10.9.24	Oct-24	Rose Hogwood – NPDC	Allen	Kapuni water take – updated for submitters consent
11.9.24	Oct-24	Marius Alers – Horizons	Allen	Lowering of Lake Rotomanu
16.9.24	Oct-24	Taranaki Regional Council	Allen	Removal of fallen trees – Ohakune
24.9.24	Oct-24	Danielle Gibas – Wild for Taranaki	Allen	Hatchery inspection notice
26.9.24	Oct-24	Kahu Aki – Te Kopuka	Allen	Biodiversity Forum registration reminder
26.9.24	Oct-24	Abby Lagula TRC	Allen	Agenda for Te Kopuka hui
3.9.24	Oct-24	Kahu Aki – Te Kopuka	Allen	Biosecurity Taranaki monthly meeting – minutes 25.9.24
				Summary notes for Agenda for Te Kopuka hui

Outwards Correspondence

Date	Meeting	To	Staff Councillor	Subject
7.8.24	Oct-24	Matt McDougall – EFGC	Allen	Taranaki Region shoveler counts 2024
13.8.24	Oct-24	Game Bird Habitat Trust	Allen	Rakautaua Wetland Habitat Grant (2021)
14.8.24	Oct-24	Peter Smith	Allen	Fishing Offence
27.8.24	Oct-24	Lynette Baish – Ermslaw One	Allen	Karioi Forest use of existing fords
27.8.24	Oct-24	Flo Blyde – TRC	Allen	Greenfern – Normanby Power
4.9.24	Oct-24	Karl Henderson – balance	Allen	Consultation on intended changes to Kapuni Stream Macroinvertebrate and Electric Fishing frequency
13.9.24	Oct-24	John Hanning	Allen	Fish & Game ranger application
20.9.24	Oct-24	David Shaw – Whanganui Chronicle	Allen	Whanganui Chronicle advertorial – New Trout Season looks Promising
7.10.24	Oct-24	Sean Donovan – Balance Kapuni	Allen	F&G offer of service for Kapuni Electric Fishing Survey

Agenda Item 22 Recognition Awards

Summary

Consideration of recognising volunteer or exceptional service.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action required

Agenda Item 23 Conservation Board Liaison

Summary

Consider formal (re) engagement with Conservation Board.

Noted under legislation that this should occur.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action required. CE to request meeting timetables and agendas.

Agenda Item 24 **General Business**

Summary

Items of General Business should be alerted to the Chairman at beginning of the meeting.

The Chairman may undertake a brief round table open discussion of members regarding items not covered in the meeting agenda.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action required.

Agenda Item 25 **Confirmation of Next Meeting Date**

Summary

The next meeting of Taranaki Fish & Game Council, will be the first meeting of the new Council, to be held on 2 November 2024 via zoom (the time to be agreed by Councilor's at this meeting), to elect a Chairman for Council and confirm an appointee for NZ Council.

Karakia – Closing

Thanks for your wisdom in making
decisions today

Good health to you all

**Nga mihi mo to whakaaro nui ki te
whakatau i tenei ra**

Kia ora koutou katoa