

**NORTHLAND FISH & GAME COUNCIL
CONFIRMED MINUTES OF A MEETING
HELD AT THE NORTHLAND FISH & GAME OFFICE
NELL PLACE, WHANGAREI
7.00 PM WEDNESDAY 24th May 2019**

PRESENT:

Chairman: Phil Durham

Councillors: Noel Birchall, Kris Batelaan, Russell Daniels, Mike Newson, Darryl Reardon, Cameron Shanks

Department of Conservation: Ross Atkinson

Staff: Rudi Hoetjes (Manager),
Fay Stodart & Rachael Quin (Office Administrators)

The Chairman welcomed the Councillors to the Council table and made a special welcome to Rachael Quin, who is newly employed by Northland Fish & Game to job share in the administration position.

APOLOGIES: Chris Lynch, Mark McGinley, Dave Nicholson, Wayne Pepper, John Skeates

The Conflict of Interest register was circulated around the table for all councillors to sign and declare any conflicts.

Previous Minutes

It was resolved: *That the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th March 2019 are confirmed as true and correct.*

Russell Daniels / Cameron Shanks *CARRIED.*

Matters Arising

NZFGC Meeting

Chairman Phil Durham gave a brief summary on the NZFGC meeting in Wellington on 15th February 2019. The issues discussed in the meeting highlighted how well Northland Fish and Game region are doing as a region and thanked the staff.

Manager's Report

The Council considered the operational report with discussions on the following items:

1121 Kai Iwi Lakes Fisheries Survey and Research

The research on trout feeding and gut analysis is being undertaken by North Tec 3rd year student Claire Heyns. The manager commented on the fish size and the condition of the trout

1315 Trout Fishing Competition

The sponsors are finalised and the ticket fees have increased to cover costs. Tickets will be on sale in early June from the sports agents in Dargaville, Hunting & Fishing Whangarei and the regional office. The manager also asked for councillor's help for that weekend.

1312 Hunter and Angler Access

A new sign has been made for the Wairua River Wildlife Reserve recognising the co-management agreement with the Department, Ngati Hau Trust Board and Northland Fish and Game.

The manager thanked Ross Atkinson for his help in dealing with a landowner and hunter access issue near Kerikeri.

It was moved: *That the Manager's Activity report is received.*

Kris Batelaan / Cameron Shanks **CARRIED.**

Field Officer's Reports

The council discussed ranging on opening weekend and the botulism in the Far North.

It was moved: *That the Field Officer's Activity Report is received.*

Darryl Reardon / Russell Daniels **CARRIED.**

NZFGC Update

Councillor Birchall attended a NZFGC meeting in Wellington on the 5th and 6th April 2019. The unconfirmed minutes were circulated to all councillors for their information.

Councillor Birchall highlighted the following points:

- Regional budgets and contestable funding applications. Northland's application is to come out of reserves.
- A recommendation for an increase in licence fees.
- Asset Replacement Funding. Other regions are not using the system as they should. Councillor Birchall commented on the Northland region finances operates better than most regions.
- Habitat Stamp art collection. This collection is costing NZ Council to store so other options are being considered.
- Non-resident levy.

2019-2020 License Fee Recommendations

The Council discussed and agreed to support the NZ Council licence fee recommendations subject to the licence fee increase approved by the Minister of Conservation.

It was moved: *That Northland Fish and Game support the NZFGC recommendation for the 2019/2020 adult whole season sports fish licence of \$133 and an adult whole season game licence fee of \$98 (inclusive of a \$4 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) inclusive of GST*

Kris Batelaan / Mike Newson **CARRIED.**

It was moved: *That the Adult non-resident whole season license become \$180 with all other non-resident license prices staying the same.*

Cameron Shanks / Darryl Reardon **CARRIED.**

Northland Fish and Game Council supported both resolutions.

NZFCG Correspondence

New Audit Contract

The Auditor General has proposed to reappoint BDO Northland to carry out the audit for Northland Fish and Game for the next three years. A contract from BDO Northland was received, stating their fees, hours and charges.

It was moved: *That Northland Fish and Game Council accept the contract from BDO Northland.*

Noel Birchall / Mike Newson **CARRIED.**

Conservation Infringement Systems Policy

Anthony Van Dorp (Eastern F&G), Jacob Smyth (Southland F&G) and Robert Sowman has prepared a draft policy document for the Fish & Game regions' consideration. Ross Atkinson commented on the proposed draft policy as a very good sound policy.

It was moved: *That Northland Fish & Game Council recommends the Conservation Infringement Policy be adopted.*

Darryl Reardon / Russell Daniels **CARRIED.**

National Policy on Prosecutions

The national policy on prosecutions was revised by NZ Council which removed reference to reparation, introducing diversion and cross-references with compliance and law enforcement policy required to issue infringement notices.

It was moved: *That Northland Fish & Game Council recommends the revised policy on prosecutions be adopted.*

Cameron Shanks / Kris Batelaan **CARRIED.**

Executive Limitations Report

It was moved: *That the Executive Limitations Report is received.*

Russell Daniels / Darryl Reardon **CARRIED.**

Health and Safety Report

Northland Fish & Game is required to give a Health & Safety report at each Council meeting detailing:

- The implementation and adherence to Health & Safety policy/manual
- Any new issues or hazards that have arisen and how these have been addressed.

