

## **AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME NEWSBRIEF**

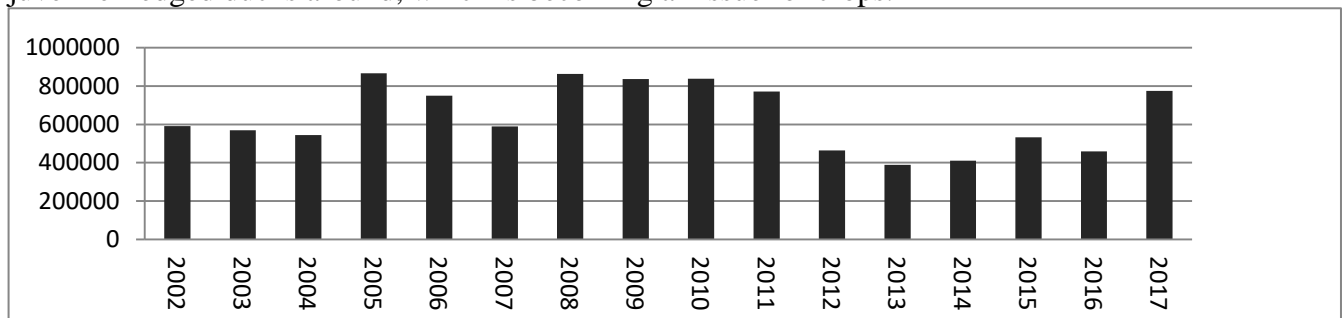
If you require further elaboration or clarification of items contained herein, or any other matters relating to F&GC business, please don't hesitate to contact your local ward councillor or the office.

### **Matters arising from Council Meeting and AGM of 9 December 2017**

1. Dr Daniel introduced his report on triploid trout emphasising that the initiative to use sterile trout arose from concerns over the stocking of Lake Arapuni with hatchery fish and the subsequent collapse of the wild rainbow trout fishery. The triploid process involved pressure shocking trout eggs and not genetic manipulation. Extensive publicity requesting comment had been undertaken including articles in the preseason Fish Newsletter and Reel Life. Support for the use of triploid trout had been received from the Te Awamutu Fish & Game Club, NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers, and individual anglers. No negative feedback had been received. This would be a 2 year trial, with all the triploid fish tagged. In reply to a question Dr Daniel stated that the triploid trout were not known to be any more or less aggressive than non-triploid fish. Mr Graham Carter informed Councillors that he had circulated the proposal amongst the member clubs of the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers and no concerns had arisen. Council agreed that the trial of triploid trout in Lake Arapuni involving up to 2,000 tagged fish proceed.
2. Mr Wilson provided an update on the Ward Ranch action noting that a Statement of Defence had been lodged with the High Court by Susan Hughes QC on behalf of Council.
3. Extensive discussion ensued on the recent work by the Waikato Regional Council on the Flax Block Wetland with concern expressed at the decision of the regional council, supported by DoC, to lower the weir to 1.5m rather than the previously agreed level of 1.7m.
4. Councillor B Smith advised that the regional council was currently monitoring the impact of the Flax Block on flood levels on the Hauraki Plains. Councillors agreed that no action could be taken until after this report had been received.
5. Mr Klee informed Councillors that the mallard banding programme would start before Christmas at a new banding site on the Hauraki Plains.
6. Dr Daniel described the recent Tokoroa fishing competition as a fantastic day. The competition was held at Lake Moananui by the Tokoroa Sports Fishing Club and had attracted 320 young competitors. Ten 2-year old rainbow trout (tagged) had been released prior to the competition and 3 of these fish were caught by competitors. The largest fish entered in the competition was about 3kg.
7. It was agreed that Martin Taylor, CE of the NZF&G Council be invited to the February meeting..
8. Mr Russell Gaston was awarded a Merit Certificate in recognition of his long involvement with Fish and Game and advocacy efforts regarding the Awakino River. Mr Gaston has been a delegate and Chairman of the Piopio Aria Fish & Game Club for over 50 years. As a landowner in the headwaters of the Awakino River, Mr Gaston had long been an active supporter of the drift dive programme and was well known for his advocacy for these waters.
9. Dr Daniel distributed Councillor Juby's proposed schedule for a field trip to the Taumarunui area. Dr Daniel emphasised the importance of the Whanganui/Whakapapa Rivers, noting that this was the second most heavily fished catchment in the region. Councillors expressed their enthusiasm for the field trip but several Councillors advised that February/March was unsuitable due to other commitments, including the mallard banding project. At the suggestion of Councillor Williamson it was agreed that a November date would be more suitable.

## Matters Arising From Chief Executive's Report

**Population Estimates:** Estimates for dabbling ducks are given below and indicate an increase in 2017. Reports received by staff are indicating many large clutches late in brood rearing and there are plenty of juvenile fledged ducks around, which is becoming an issue for crops.



**Lake Arapuni:** The annual Lake Arapuni release of 2000 rainbow trout was conducted October 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Healthy Rivers (PC 1):** We're currently reviewing the submissions on this plan change.

**Clevedon quarry expansion:** We are in the final stages of working out an agreement with Fulton Hogan concerning their application to expand their existing quarry at McNicol Road near Clevedon.

**Cleanfill site:** There is a proposal to build a very large "clean-fill" dump at 62 Bluff Road near Pokeno. We have serious concerns with the proposed site which is upstream of Fish & Game's Cathcart Wetland.

**Lake Waikare Section 128 Review:** Work briefs and scoping have been developed for the two preferred options. This work has commenced and will provide a detailed feasibility assessment.

**Whangamarino Weir Section 128 Review:** David and Anna met with DOC and WRC representatives to discuss the review process and determine a way forward.

**Waikare/Whangamarino Catchment Management Plan:** David attended the open day held in Te Kauwhata and highlighted some of the opportunities that landowners currently have in regards to wetland restoration in these catchments based on works Fish & Game is currently conducting.

**Whangamarino Weir, High Court action:** Funding (\$30,000) has been sought from the National Legal Fund for this defence.

**Te Awamutu Waste Water Treatment Plant:** Pre application liaison was undertaken with Waipa DC representatives and consultants.

**Fonterra Te Rapa and Fonterra Te Awamutu consent applications:** Currently being reviewed.

**Te Kauwhata Proposed Private Plan Change 20:** Anna drafted a submission on the Private Plan Change application for a large subdivision next to Lake Waikare.

**Awakino River:** We've met several times with NZTA over the last year to discuss their proposal for major works on State Highway 3 alongside the Awakino River. We've emphasised that this is a good opportunity to enhance public access to the river. The proposed works will consist of two new bridges and will bypass the existing single lane tunnel. They've also agreed to a new Rest Area from which a footpath will run alongside the river on the old road.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL  
AND ALL THE BEST FOR 2018**