

**CONFIRMED REPORT OF THE 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
EASTERN FISH AND GAME COUNCIL HELD AT THE FISH & GAME NEW  
ZEALAND EASTERN REGION OFFICE, ROTORUA  
1<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2016**

**Present**

Crs Lindsay Lyons (Deputy Chairman), Neal Hawes, Barry Roderick, Ken Coombes, Annaka Davis, Alan Baird, Sandy Bull, Laurence Tamati.

**In Attendance**

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, Lloyd Gledhill, Matt McDougall, Lynne Sands, John Meikle, Carmel Veitch, Nigel Simpson, Matt Osborne (F&GNZ); Ray Bushell, Trevor Richardson, and Brian Sampson.

**1.0 Welcome**

The Council Deputy Chair, Cr Lindsay Lyons, opened the meeting at 4.00 PM and welcomed all in attendance.

**2.0 Apologies**

2.1 Apologies were received from Crs Steve Scragg, Peter Storey, David Woolner, and Murray Ferris; Alan Robinson, Paul Badger, David Withers and Helen Neale.

2.2 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Ken Coombes) that the apologies for the 2016 Annual General Meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained.*

**3.0 Report from the previous Annual General Meeting (18 November 2015)**

3.1 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Alan Baird) that the report of the Annual General Meeting held on 18 November 2015 be confirmed as true and correct.*

**4.0 Matters Arising from the previous meeting**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2015.

**5.0 2015-2016 Annual Report**

5.1 *Operational Highlights:* Andy Garrick (Regional Manager) advised that staff would again provide a brief overview of achievements during the past financial year.

5.2.1 Matt McDougall spoke of his highlights this year being the opportunity to collaborate with the US Geological Service on the effects of regulations on hunter effort, harvest and the survival of mallards and grey ducks, and the presentation of a poster on this work to the Duck Symposium in Washington. He described the study he had been undertaking with Brigitta Nieuwboer, who had been sponsored by the Royal Society of NZ as part of its Science Teacher Leadership Programme, on the use of drains in the coastal Bay of Plenty by mallards. He talked also, of the Duck Management Unit project he had underway, and the significant involvement Eastern Region had had with the Hawke's Bay Region this year. This included providing assistance with banding, trend counts, and the Game Bird magazine supplement and newsletter. He spoke of the National Shoveler Trend count now in its 17th year, and the banding programme which had now been running 20 years which had provided the impetus to get Jen Sheppard involved. Matt had also contributed to the Waikato catchment Environmental Enhancement Trust during the year which saw \$560,000 granted for

- various habitat projects. Matt advised that with help of Lynne Sands 333 hunters were provided with ballots.
- 5.2.2 Matt Osborne commented on the improvements seen within the fisheries this year including the improved fish size in Lake Rotorua and improved catch rates and smelt runs in the Ohau Channel. He said that Lake Tarawera also had good smelt in both numbers and size, and that fish condition appeared to have also improved. Matt was pleased with the communication and relationship formed between Fish & Game and the Tarawera Fishing Club. Staff were establishing an understanding of what was occurring within the Lake Waikaremoana fishery with a number of surveys and visits over the last year. On the downside he was disappointed that programmed drift dives were unable to be completed this year due to narrow windows of opportunity, weather conditions, and our increased commitments to the Hawke's Bay Region. He was looking forward to the coming summer.
- 5.2.3 John Meikle was pleased to report on the positive relationships that we were developing with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, particularly with Tauranga based staff. He said that this year there had been less activity focussed on development of habitat on private land, and commented too on the significant effort Eastern staff had put into assisting the Hawke's Bay Region. Andy Garrick noted that one of the projects John had been working closely with the Regional Council on was the development and enhancement of the Kaituna WMR which had included the creation of a series of ephemeral wetlands. He said this project presented huge opportunities there and the relationship John was culturing was very important for Fish & Game.
- 5.2.4 Lloyd Gledhill reported that work in the Hatchery changes little each year and he was pleased to report that again there were no emergencies experienced this year. He summarised how they go about selecting the best quality fish for liberation into our lakes through the Selective Breeding Programme. Lindsay Lyons said that he had heard great reports of Mark Sherburn's and Lloyd's engagement with the public through both onsite work and whilst out and about delivering fish, checking traps and so forth. Matt Osborne also added that Mark Sherburn's recent work with the Ngongotaha School and "Fish in Schools" programme had been very well received.
- 5.2.5 Nigel Simpson spoke on behalf of the compliance team, and advised that it had been a quieter year in terms of issues associated with winter spawning with no major incidents. He said it was pleasing to see locals who the compliance team had dealt with previously, out there doing the right thing and enjoying their sport legally.
- 5.2.6 Kate Thompson said that the 2015-16 Season saw the introduction of new licence categories and commented on how these were integrated seamlessly into our licensing system in terms of processing and reporting. She advised that while results were down on a very good year in the prior season it appeared that we had seen a good increase in participation, particularly to the short term categories. Lapsing appeared to have only improved slightly with a number of previous season participants choosing the discounted season categories. She said that the overall objective of the change had been to improve perception of value for money whilst not impacting on total revenue.
- 5.2.7 Lynne Sands said that her year had been a challenge following her accident in March, but her highlight was being able to return to work full time. She thanked Andy and the staff for their support and Camel and Kate for their efforts in covering her position during her recovery.
- 5.2.8 Carmel Veitch thanked Council for allowing her to contribute to National projects such as the Financial Review Committee, Health & Safety, and to the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council. She felt that Eastern Region's contribution nationally

strengthened our relationships with other Fish & Game regions. Carmel advised that the updated Health & Safety Manual had been distributed to regions and that it was now up to all of us to implement. Her work with the Financial Review Committee saw all regions utilising the updated Financial statement templates which she had developed following the introduction of new accounting standards.

- 5.2.10 Andy Garrick also spoke of the new legislation in relation to Health & Safety and our need to change our culture and the way that we approach everyday tasks. He said that the Eastern Region contributes a great deal to Fish & Game nationally, and acknowledged the significant demand placed on staff in their support of Hawke's Bay this past year. Andy summarised some of the National work undertaken by staff including Anthony van Dorp's role as National Compliance co-ordinator and his appearance before the select committee in relation to the Parliamentary Wildlife Act Amendment Bill, Kate Thompson's work with the Licence Working Party, Carmel Veitch with Health & Safety and the Financial Review Committee, Matt Osborne in relation to standard operating procedures for fisheries work, and Matt McDougall's involvement with banding programmes, data analysis and mallard research. Andy advised that he also has an involvement with a number of national initiatives and appreciated everyone's input.
- 5.2.11 Matt McDougall acknowledged and thanked the Eastern Fish and Game Council members for their contribution and for being a great Council to work with. Lindsay Lyons added that this region was held in high regard and was proud to be part of it.

## **6.0 Questions from the Public**

- 6.1 Brian Samson said that it was a relief to hear these comments today as he didn't believe we would make the progress we have made. He didn't think we had the resources to do it and was pleased with the relationships we had developed with other organisations.
- 6.2 Ray Bushell commented on mallard breeding in the Kaituna Road drain advising that he had seen an increase in clutches from an average of 3.1 in September to 7.1 last week. He queried Matt Osborne over the degradation of the Ohau Channel wall and noted that Pim de Monchy from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council holds Fish & Game in high regard. Matt Osborne advised that of the few options available for remedying the rusting sheet metal within the Ohau Channel wall the most cost effective method was to replace the rusting sheet metal with plastic supported by the sheet piles.

## **8.0 Closure**

- 8.1 Lindsay Lyons in closing thanked the members of public present for their attendance and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year, and looked forward to new challenges next year.

**The meeting was closed at 4.57pm**