



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

10 August 2017

AGENDA

The 165th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

Venue: Eastern Fish & Game Region Offices
Paradise Valley Road
ROTORUA

Date: Thursday, 10 August 2017

Commences: 12.00 PM

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15	General Business (2.45 PM, 15 min)		
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(R) = resolution required, **(D)** = for discussion/advice, **(I)** = for information only

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 164th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH
AND GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME
NEW ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 15th June 2017 AT 12.00PM**

Present

Murray Ferris, Lindsay Lyons, Laurance Tamati, Sandy Bull, Steve Scragg, David Woolner, Neal Hawes, Ken Coombes, Annaka Davis, Alan Baird, Barry Roderick, and Peter Storey (departed 2.50pm).

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, John Meikle, Matt McDougall, Eben Herbert, Anthony van Dorp, Carmel Veitch, and Matt Osborne (Eastern Fish & Game); Ray Dunlop (Taupo); Ken Raureti (Bay Of Plenty Conservation Board, departed 2.40pm); Peter Shepherd (Department of Conservation, Taupo, arrived 12.15pm).

1.0 WELCOME

Cr Murray Ferris opened the meeting at 12.00pm and welcomed Councillors, staff, and visitors.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Helen Neale (Department of Conservation); and Ray Bushell.

2.2 *Agreed (Sandy Bull/David Woolner) that the apologies for the 164th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [17/06/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (6 APRIL 2017)

3.1 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Laurance Tamati) that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [17/06/3.1]*

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

4.1 There were no items for inclusion in Council policy.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Cr Annaka Davis requested an update on item 13.3 relating to notification of aerial 1080 operations. Andy Garrick advised that he had since met with Phillip Dawson the North Island Operation Extensions Officer for OSPRI and a representative from the Public Health Unit (Braden Leonard) to discuss ways of improving communications with our stakeholders and the wider public, and potential impacts on human health from consuming trout that have recently ingested toxic pellets. He felt the meeting was productive with OSPRI acknowledging that there was room for improvement in their notification process. Andy promoted the idea of a common website for all agencies undertaking aerial 1080 operations which Phillip agreed would be great in an ideal world, but not a realistic option as the various agencies using 1080 would not want their operations to be 'tainted' by, or seen to be linked to other parties' operations. He agreed however that OSPRI could or should incorporate a more up to date and informative notification system of operations it has planned as the Department of Conservation has done earlier this year. Andy noted this would mean

- we could provide links to both OSPRI and DOC's webpages on our own website which would be a great improvement on what we're currently able to do.
- 5.2 Council went on to discuss the timing of drops, food safety and the need to ensure adequate safeguards were in place. Andy advised that while the position of other authorities (MPI, DOC and the Public Health Unit) is that a one week exclusion period for consuming trout following an aerial drop is sufficient to protect human health, the question remains whether a trout is safe to eat beyond this period if it has directly ingested one or more poison baits soon after they've found their way into a watercourse? Fish & Game had little success with related enquiries to MPI (Ministry for Primary Industries) as did Andy when he contacted the Public Health Unit who advised they typically accept what MPI advises them in relation to health risks. He raised this question with Phil Dawson who noted it would be good to get a definitive answer and risk assessment concerning this, and said he would investigate whether his organisation could fund the completion of the research which Cawthron had initiated in 2014. Timing of communications and advice well in advance of proposed operations was highlighted as a priority OSPRI needed to address.
- 5.3 Cr Sandy Bull commented on item 14.4 about the Motu River informing Council that a colleague had been catching very good numbers of rainbow trout in both the main stem and its tributaries.
- 5.4 Cr Annaka Davis asked if there had been any advancement on contributions for display items in the meeting room. Andy Garrick advised that we had been offered some old fishing reels but had not otherwise received any other offers.
- 5.5 Cr Murray Ferris welcomed Pete Shepherd (Department of Conservation), Ken Raureti (Bay of Plenty Conservation Board) and Ray Dunlop (Taupo) to the meeting.
- 6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS**
- Cr Alan Baird - Balloting of wetlands
 - Cr Alan Baird - Report on game season restrictions in Reporoa area
 - Cr Peter Storey - Rangitaiki River access
- 7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER**
- 7.1 No conflicts of interest were identified.
- 8.0 DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2017-2018 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN**
- 8.1 Andy Garrick noted that Council had expressed an interest at this time last year in reducing the number of occasions on which it was being asked to review and endorse drafts of the OWP prior to it being presented to Council for its final approval. Andy had given this further consideration but had come to the conclusion that we couldn't depart significantly from the process we currently followed. Projects and priorities need to be reviewed in February; our preliminary budgets and contestable fund bids approved in April prior to going to other managers and the NZ Council; and revised budgets incorporating the outcomes of the latter plus proposed staff hours in June prior to circulation to other parties. Andy noted that staff had endeavoured to reduce the time Councillors needed to put into the April and June reviews by highlighting the principal changes made to the draft document on each occasion so Council could focus on these rather than having to review the entire document from scratch. Andy advised that all contestable funding bids submitted in April had been approved and that these

- had been incorporated into the current draft. Andy highlighted the key changes which had been made to the plan.
- 8.2 ***Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Council receive the latest draft budget and confirm that this can now be circulated to interested parties for comment. [17/6/8.2]***
- 8.3 Andy Garrick advised that any submissions received on the draft would be circulated to Council prior to the August meeting when final approval of the OWP would be sought from Council.
- 9.0 **2017-2018 LICENCE FEES**
- 9.1 The 2017-2018 Licence Fee proposal from the New Zealand Fish and Game Council was discussed briefly and accepted.
- 9.2 ***Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that the Eastern Council support the NZ Council's recommendation of a 2017/18 adult whole season sports fish licence of \$127 and an adult whole season game licence of \$94 (inclusive of a \$3 fee for the Game Bird habitat stamp) inclusive of GST. [17/06/9.2]***
- 9.3 Cr Annaka Davis queried the NZ Council's approved contestable funding bids and which of these had been deemed to be essential as opposed to recommended but not essential projects for 2017-18. Andy Garrick did not have this information on hand but undertook to provide Annaka with the details following the meeting.
- 10.0 **BLACK SWAN**
- 10.1 Andy Garrick briefed Council on the letter from Greg Corbett, Bay of Plenty Regional Council requesting Fish & Game's assistance in managing swan populations to reduce grazing and disturbance to eelgrass beds in the Tauranga and Ohiwa harbours. He said the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board and Waikato University researchers had also expressed concerns in relation to potential impacts of swan on eelgrass. Andy reminded Council of the resolution made in 2013 in response to negative publicity surrounding previous shoots in which it was decided that permits to disturb swan on the Tauranga harbour would not be issued until a management plan had been prepared. He commented on the aerial counts of swan on Tauranga harbour which had been undertaken over the past three years indicating that the resident population varied considerably at different times of the year, and noted that much more needed to be known about where they go, where they breed, and the number of birds that might need to be removed to have a positive effect on the sustainability of eelgrass impact if indeed this would have an effect at all. He said that better understanding of a number of matters was required before a management strategy could be prepared. Andy advised that the University of Waikato and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council had indicated they may be able to commit resources towards answering these questions, and that a meeting was going to be convened with interested parties by the Tauranga based university staff to discuss these issues. Fish & Game would obviously be a part of this. In the meantime Andy sought reaffirmation from Council of its earlier intention not to issue permits to disturb swan on Tauranga Harbour until a management strategy had been prepared or information was presented which demonstrated there was an urgent need to reduce bird numbers.
- 10.2 Cr Annaka Davis queried the need for Fish & Game to be involved at all. Matt McDougall informed Council of pressure from a number of different groups to reduce swan numbers. He noted that while staff accept that swan could contribute to the Zostera problem they were only a small part of it, and that we have responsibilities

under the Sports Fish & Game Management Plan to limit the impact of game bird populations on other resources. Andy Garrick felt it was important to work with these agencies as more understanding of the nature of the issue was required by everyone before any action to reduce numbers could be taken.

- 10.3 Cr Barry Roderick and Lindsay Lyons attended the meeting held at the Western Bay of Plenty Fish & Game Club where Professor Chris Battershill from Waikato University was giving a talk and advised that he had acknowledged and thanked Matt McDougall for his input to that discussion and knowledge.
- 10.4 Cr Ken Coombes provided Council with a bit of history advising that in the mid to late fifties there was a big population of swan in Blue Gum Bay and that hunters were involved with dealing with them back then. He also queried the concern that had been expressed in relation to loss of seagrass beds in the Ohiwa harbour yet swan numbers there had only increased to 60 over the past ten years or so. Matt McDougall suggested the issue there may be more of a catchment related one as has been demonstrated elsewhere.
- 10.5 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Peter Storey) that Council endorses the need to prepare a black swan strategy or strategies based on a more robust understanding than we currently have of the impact these birds have on Zostera beds in the Tauranga and Ohiwa harbours. [17/06/10.5]*
- 10.6 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Peter Storey) that Council reaffirms its earlier intention to not issue permits for disturbing swan on Tauranga Harbour until such time as the strategy has been prepared or information comes to hand identifying an urgent need to reduce numbers. [17/06/10.6]*
- 11.0 **LAKE ROTOITI SPORTS FISHING REGULATIONS**
- 11.1 Prior to Matt Osborne's presentation for discussion on Lake Rotoiti regulations Andy Garrick advised the need for Council to make a resolution around the 2017-18 Anglers Notice. He reminded Council of the policy to review the Anglers Notice biennially unless a significant issue arose that needed to be dealt with in the interim years. Andy confirmed that no submissions had been received for the 2017-18 Anglers Notice.
- 11.2 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Neal Hawes) that Council confirms that the status quo applies for the 2017-2018 Anglers Notice. [17/06/11.2]*
- 11.3 Matt Osborne opened the discussion on the Lake Rotoiti regulations with an overview/summary of the previous meeting's discussion on the Lake Tarawera regulations. The option to "open the lake all year" was raised as something that could be addressed now prior to a review of lakes Rotoiti and Okataina. Considerable discussion followed highlighting pros and cons of doing so. These ranged from increasing opportunity and licence revenue, to the significance of opening events, and the need to rest these lakes for a period. Ken Raureti spoke of the wairua and mauri of Tarawera and the need for the lake to recharge. Life force, energy, wellness. Cr Peter Storey queried whether other lakes such as Rotorua should not be closed for a period also.
- 11.4 Matt Osborne asked Council whether it wished to further consider the option to amend the season for these lakes? Cr Murray Ferris felt that simplification of the regulations could occur without the need to change the season. Council undertook an informal vote which indicated that nine Councillors supported the status quo while the remaining three suggested this should be discussed again in February 2018 when the Anglers Notice is formally reviewed.

- 11.5 Matt Osborne proceeded with a power point presentation identifying issues and options for simplifying the Rotoiti regulations. One inconsistency identified was the fly fishing only zones at stream mouths where boats were unable to troll within 200 metres was not the case at the Ohau Channel delta where this restriction extended to 300 metres. Pete Shepherd from the Department of Conservation Taupo informed Council that the new Taupo fishery regulations had seen a change to 200 metres to better align with Fish & Game adding that navigation markers also applied to a distance of 200 metres.
- 11.6 Council discussed the option of removing the fly fishing only areas to allow spin fishing as well. Staff highlighted the trends seen in the Eastern licence holder database which had shown a gradual shift in the average licence holder age and little growth in the younger age groups. Staff member Lloyd Gledhill, who had on a number of occasions represented Fish & Game at the Auckland Boat show, said that the primary reason salt water anglers gave for not taking up trout fishing was because "the rules are too complicated". Council supported simplification of the regulations to provide increased opportunity for all anglers and to remove barriers to those new to or considering taking up the sport. A show of hands was called for to determine whether there was support for taking the proposal to remove fly fishing only areas forward for further discussion and wider consultation, and 11 Councillors indicated they were in favour of doing this while one abstained. Council acknowledged that the Anglers Notice consultation process was not particularly effective in obtaining the input of anglers that this change was intended for, and suggested that the proposal be included in the upcoming newsletter for wider feedback.
- 11.7 Council also supported the proposed change to reduce the exclusion zone at the Ohau Channel delta from 300 metres to 200 metres, and shifting the downstream boundary of the fly fishing only boundary to the vicinity of the State Highway 33 bridge, i.e. downstream from this point could be a fly/spin area.
- 11.8 Matt Osborne advised that the proposed changes which had been discussed would be included in the proposed changes to the 2018-19 Anglers Notice which would be put out for consultation next year.

12.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

12.1 Reports from other agencies

Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board

Cr Annaka Davis had provided a comprehensive report which was included in the June Papers for Information. Andy Garrick noted that it was encouraging that the Conservation Board is now receiving reports from the Taupo fishery team which did not appear to have previously been the case.

Department of Conservation, Taupo

Pete Shepherd spoke on behalf of the Taupo fisheries team providing Council with some background to changes to be implemented from 1 July. He advised that this season had seen the introduction of an Anglers Notice and detailed some of the key changes relating to bag and size limits, fly fishing definitions, child definition, and licence categories. Cr David Woolner queried the effect the changes to bag and size are likely to have. Pete advised that data had been reviewed from trends over the past 30 plus years and with licence sales having reduced over this time by 50% also, angling pressure has likely to have been significantly reduced. Ultimately this meant that higher numbers of trout were competing for food sources. Kate Thompson asked whether the additional funds gained from the non-resident licence were to be ring

fenced for a particular purpose? Pete confirmed that the additional revenue gained from the non-resident licence was to be utilised for research, particularly into pressures on the fishery generated by international anglers. Cr Annaka Davis added that fishing at Taupo fishing had been incredible lately. Pete Shepherd closed by thanking Andy and his team for their support.

Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

Ken Raureti advised that 1080 had been a hot topic for the Board and that the Department of Conservation position was that this is still the most effective tool they have to control certain pests. Myrtle rust was a high priority currently with it now having been identified in the Bay of Plenty. Seeds of kanuka and manuka had been collected from Tarawera and sent to Massey University to be held in the seed bank maintained there. Stewardship and custodial lands remain an issue for DOC because though they have conservation value the Department has insufficient resources to manage all of them.

At this point Item 12.2 Report from the NZ Council was put on hold to enable the General Business item relating to the Rangitaiki River fishery to be brought forward due to interested parties needing to leave the meeting early.

13.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 13.1 Cr Peter Storey spoke of his concern that Fish & Game is seen by some to be sitting on the Rangitaiki access issue and he would like to see Council move on it. He believed the highly restrictive access was costing the region in licence sales and felt that there was a real risk that access could be lost altogether.
- 13.2 Anthony van Dorp provided Council with some background and history relating to this. Prior to 2008 or 2009 when Kaingaroa was classed as public land, access was readily available subject to conditions set by the forest managers. Access was available through the forest via an easement on Kiorenui Road, foot access was available without a permit, and there was another access point off State Highway 5 at Lochurver Station. He noted that access then was only closed when fire risk was extreme.
- 13.3 Following the Central North Island settlement, Timberlands changed the rules around access to weekends, public holidays, daylight hours, and periods when there is low fire risk. This was in response to a spate of fires, and Health and Safety risks arising from the greater use of stem trucks in addition to the change in management. At the time of the settlement promises were made by politicians that access would not change and as a result Fish & Game did not pursue additional access easements. In years when the fire risk is low, Timberlands have opened access in April and extended this to November giving 5-7 months opportunity to access both Kaingaroa and Waimangu forests, but in other years access has been more restricted. Anthony advised that approaches to Timberland on improving access have never let up, and discussions have included undertakings to provide Health & Safety inductions, obtain liability insurance cover for licence holders, soften the fire risk related restriction from low risk to moderate fire risk, and extending the Kiorenui easement to Flaxy Lake.
- 13.4 Anthony advised that now that Kaingaroa is privately owned land, Fish & Game needs to go through a process of negotiating access for licence holders with the landowners. He advised that Fish & Game is still actively pursuing better access for licence holders and that the key to this is relationship building. Anthony added that he didn't believe that winter access would be lost as there is an obligation on Timberlands through the

forest stewardship certification they hold. He made the point to Council that the iwi owners are no less affected by these restrictions. Pig hunters require a permit and he highlighted the inequality that would arise should anglers be given greater access rights than owners.

- 13.5 Cr Sandy Bull queried the number of complaints from anglers wanting access. Anthony advised that there were quite a few complaints in the early stages of the changes being implemented particularly when access to the summer dry fly fishing was effectively removed. He said that a few queries still come through during the summer which staff deal with by informing the anglers of the situation and suggesting alternative access options. Detailed information is also available on the Fish & Game website.
- 13.6 Ken Raureti, a member of the CNI Access Committee, advised that Timberlands are effectively tenants on this land and that with this they have the rights of tenants. He felt that it was unfortunate that the public perception appears to be that iwi had been responsible for the restrictions put in place. As landowners iwi also want access for hunter/gathering but are subject to similar restraints. Some progress has been made in gaining access to other areas but the restrictions remain in Kaungaroa.
- 13.7 Cr Peter Storey asked whether CNI will one day own the forest. Ken advised that Timberlands hold a lease which currently expires in 2044, but with each new planting requiring a 25 year lease period this expiry date is constantly moving further into the future. Iwi currently hold a 2.25% stake but this was at a substantial cost and the cost of acquiring a 100% share would be totally prohibitive.

14.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS CONT....

14.1 Report from the New Zealand Council

Cr Lindsay Lyons updated Council on progress with the CEO position and advised that interviews were to take place next week, and that the successful applicant would be supported by Bryce Johnson in an advisory role. The new CEO would commence in late July/early August and would work alongside Bryce for a period. The key competencies the NZ Council was looking for were being an effective advocate, bringing Fish & Game together, and being an effective manager of staff and the business. Other matters Lindsay discussed were:

- The conflict of interest process adopted by Eastern Council was now being utilised by the NZ Council.
- Concern had been raised over plastic wads in the environment and there was an intention to investigate biodegradable alternatives.
- The New Zealand Council has an audit responsibility and would be looking to form an Audit Committee.
- The Governance Forum is scheduled for next year and a key component will be future proofing Fish & Game.
- Didymo research and Didymo's absence from the North Island, volcanic activity and high levels of dissolved phosphorus being thought to be the reason why.
- Otago Fish & Game had been granted legal funds to look at the use of mining rights to irrigate land.
- Mounting concern about the effects of intensive tourism in NZ.

15.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

15.1 Operational reports were received.

15.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Sandy Bull) that Council receives the Management, Health and Safety, Finance, and Licence Sales reports and approves the payments for March and April totalling \$244,862.33. [17/06/15.2]*

16.0 GENERAL BUSINESS CONT....

16.1 Cr Barry Roderick requested that a discussion on the outcomes of the area in Reporoa subject to season length and bag limit restrictions be postponed until data was available and Council supported this.

16.2 Cr Alan Baird wished to query whether hunters were using children to access more opportunities within the ballot system. Matt McDougall advised that this had occurred in the past and that the under twelves holding a child licence were no longer eligible as they were required to be accompanied by an adult. The system did however allow for juniors to apply for a ballot as they were legally entitled to hunt on their own.

17.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

17.1 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Barry Roderick) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 2.55pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely a discussion on the Eastern Fish and Game Council's self appraisal of its performance. [17/06/17.1]*

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION
Information provided in confidence	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

ITEM	REASON UNDER ACT	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON
Protect the privacy of natural persons.	Sec. 9(2)(a)	Information provided identifies a particular person or can easily be connected with a particular person.	Once the person to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence ... where the	Sec 9(2)(ba)(i)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the relationship with the supplier	Not unless there is a public interest in disclosure of the

<p>making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied</p>		<p>because the supplier may no longer trust the Council to hold its information in confidence.</p>	<p>specific information.</p>
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Note:

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

“(4) Every resolution to exclude the public shall be put at a time when the meeting is open to the public, and the text of that resolution (or copies thereof):

- (a) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
- (b) Shall form part of the minutes of the Council.”

17.2 *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Barry Roderick) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 3.31pm. [16/12/17.2]*

18.0 MEETING CLOSED

18.1 The meeting was closed at 3.32pm.

.....
Murray Ferris,
Chairman

Date

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

- 2.0 APOLOGIES**
- 2.2** *Agreed (Sandy Bull/David Woolner) that the apologies for the 164th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [17/06/2.2]*
- 3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (6 APRIL 2017)**
- 3.1** *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Laurance Tamati) that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [17/06/3.1]*
- 8.0 DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2017-2018 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN**
- 8.2** *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that Council received the latest draft budget and confirmed that this could now be circulated to interested parties for comment. [17/6/8.2]*
- 9.0 2017-2018 LICENCE FEES**
- 9.2** *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that the Eastern Council support the NZ Council's recommendation of a 2017/18 adult whole season sports fish licence of \$127 and an adult whole season game licence of \$94 (inclusive of a \$3 fee for the Game Bird habitat stamp) inclusive of GST. [17/06/9.2]*
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- 10.6** *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Peter Storey) that Council reaffirms its earlier intention to not issue permits for disturbing swan on Tauranga Harbour until such time as the strategy has been prepared or information comes to hand identifying an urgent need to reduce numbers. [17/06/10.6]*
- 11.0 LAKE ROTOITI SPORTS FISHING REGULATIONS**
- 11.2** *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Neal Hawes) that Council confirms that the status quo applies for the 2017-2018 Anglers Notice. [17/06/11.2]*
- 15.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS**
- 15.2** *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Sandy Bull) that Council receives the Management, Health and Safety, Finance, and Licence Sales reports and approves the payments for March and April totalling \$244,862.33. [17/06/15.2]*
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Information provided in confidence	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which

would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

ITEM	REASON UNDER ACT	SECTION	PLAIN ENGLISH REASON
Protect the privacy of natural persons.	Sec. 9(2)(a)	Information provided identifies a particular person or can easily be connected with a particular person.	Once the person to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.
Protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence ... where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied	Sec 9(2)(ba)(i)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the relationship with the supplier because the supplier may no longer trust the Council to hold its information in confidence.	Not unless there is a public interest in disclosure of the specific information.

Note:

Section 48(4) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides as follows:

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- (c) Shall be available to any member of the public who is present; and
- (d) Shall form part of the minutes of the Council.”

17.2 Agreed (Steve Scragg/Barry Roderick) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 3.31pm. [16/12/17.2]

7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

27 July 2017

1. Purpose

A standing agenda item to disclose any Councillor (“Member”) Conflict of Interest or potential Conflict of Interest, and record this in the Councillor Conflict of Interest Register.

2. Background

The Eastern Fish and Game Council at its October 2016 meeting revised its policy and rules for dealing with Conflicts of Interest and must provide a standing agenda item to allow Councillors to disclose any Conflict or highlight any potential conflict. The “Interest Register” ring binder will be circulated in the first part of each meeting for Councillors to record any interests. The Council should then discuss how it wants to deal with any interest or perceived interest identified.

Conflict of Interest (refer s2.7 Governance Policies) means when the member can be shown to have actual bias or apparent bias in respect of a matter¹ i.e:

- (i) A member can be shown to have actual bias when a member’s decision or act in relation to a matter could give rise to an expectation of financial gain or loss (that is more than trivial) to the member (and/or to the member’s parent(s), child(ren), spouse, civil union partner, de facto partner, business partner(s)/associate(s), debtor(s) or creditor(s)).
- (ii) A member can be shown to have apparent bias when a member’s official duties or responsibilities to the Council in relation to a matter could reasonably be said to be affected by some other interest or duty that the member has.
- (iii) A member’s “interest or duty” includes the interests of that member’s parent(s), child(ren), spouse, civil union partner or de facto partner that may be affected by the matter at issue. It also includes the interests of a person with whom the member has a close, personal relationship where there is a real danger of personal favouritism.
- (iv) There is no Conflict of Interest where the member’s other interest or duty is so remote or insignificant that it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to influence him or her in carrying out his or her responsibility.

A potential conflict of interest (refer s2.8 Governance Policies) arises when:

- (i) There is a realistic connection between the member’s private interest(s) and the interest(s) of the Council;

¹ “Matter” means:

- (i) The Council’s performance of its functions or exercise of its powers as set out in Part 5A of the Conservation Act 1987, subject to the Council’s statutory purpose set out in section 26P(1) of the Conservation Act; or
- (ii) An arrangement, agreement, or contract made or entered into, or proposed to be entered into, by the Council.

- (ii) The member's other interest could specifically affect, or be affected by, the actions of the Council in relation to a matter;
- (iii) A fair-minded lay observer might reasonably consider that the member's private interest or duty may influence or motivate the actions of the member in relation to a matter; and
- (iv) There is a risk that the situation could undermine public trust and confidence in the member or the Council.

Conflicts of Interest should be dealt with as follows (refer s1.13 Standing Orders):

1.13.1 Every member present at a meeting must declare any direct or indirect conflict of interest that they hold in any matter being discussed at the meeting, other than an interest that they hold in common with the public.

1.13.2 When a conflict of interest arises in respect of a matter, the affected member will:

- (i) not vote on issues related to the matter;
- (ii) not discuss the matter with other members;
- (iii) conform to the majority view of other members present as to whether to be excluded from discussions regarding the matter and/or leave the room when the matter is discussed;
- (iv) not, subject to the discretion of the Chairperson, receive further papers or other information related to the matter.

1.13.3 Where a member can be shown to have a potential conflict of interest, the Council (excluding the affected member) will determine an appropriate course of action, which may include the following:

- (i) applying some or all of the actions applied to a member with a conflict of interest (set out in 1.13.2 i) – iv) above);
- (ii) providing a written explanation outlining why there is no legal conflict of interest that can be made available to all Fish and Game Councils, licence holders and other interested parties.

1.13.4 The conflicted member will be given the opportunity to be heard by the Council on the points raised and the member's submissions will be taken into consideration by the Council.

1.13.5 The minutes must record the declaration and member's subsequent abstention from discussion and voting.

Councillors should take this opportunity to disclose any Conflict of Interest they are aware of now and record it in the circulated Conflict of Interest Register. If during the course of the meeting a conflict or perceived conflict is recognised, then this should be disclosed at that point in time.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Councillors disclose any Conflict or potential Conflict of Interest, record it in the Interest Register, and Council agrees on how to deal with any Conflict of Interest raised.

8. THE 2017-2018 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

Ref: 8.02.01

27 July 2017

1. Purpose

To approve the Operational Work Plan prepared for the 2017-2018 year after taking into account any submissions received on the draft plan approved for circulation at Council's June meeting.

2. Background

During its February and April Council meetings Council identified and confirmed the priority work areas and projects that it wants to focus on next year. At its last (June) meeting, Council reviewed a revised version of the draft OWP and budget which incorporated staff hours and the additional funding we obtained as an outcome of the contestable funding process that was concluded in May, and agreed (*Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons*) that Council receive the latest draft budget and confirm that this can now be circulated to interested parties for comment. [17/6/8.2]. No amendments to the draft were required.

At this meeting it is necessary for Council to review submissions received and finalise the Operational Work Plan for the 2017-2018 year.

3. Submissions received on the Draft OWP

Copies of the Draft OWP were sent to 15 clubs and stakeholders after the meeting (clubs for whom we have a current address, key staff in the Department of Conservation, the three Conservation Boards within the Eastern Region, and Te Arawa Lakes Trust) with a request that any comments be submitted by 22 July. Two responses only were received from two members of the Wildfowler's Association. These are reproduced in the Papers for Information accompanying this agenda.

Both responses were of a general nature expressing concern between them of the extension of the restrictions on the use of lead shot, the impacts of modern day forestry management and the use of 1080 on upland game birds, and the adverse effects of ramping of the Waikato River on the river margins. One submission suggested Fish & Game should (i) investigate and lobby for more eco- friendly forestry re-establishment processes following logging, (ii) conduct a survey of Landcorp and other large runholders to compile a register of landowners sympathetic to making their properties available for upland game hunting, and (iii) recorded his support for ongoing effort being directed to gaining season round access through Kaingaroa and similar forests for fishing.

Any additional submissions that might yet be received will be tabled for discussion at the upcoming meeting.

4. Recommendations

4.1 That Council approves the Operational Work Plan and budget for the 2017-2018 year subject to the inclusion of any amendments agreed to at this meeting, and

4.2 That Council delegate authority to the Regional Manager to approve expenditure during the year as set out in the Council approved Operational Work Plan and budget.

9. HABITAT MAINTENANCE IN WETLAND RESERVES

Ref: 2.03.02

24 July 2017

1. Purpose

To bring to Council's attention issues associated with sustaining habitat maintenance programmes in Fish & Game managed wetland reserves, and to review options for addressing these issues.

2. Background

Currently Eastern Fish & Game manages habitat in twelve of the twenty wetland sites we have authority to manage waterfowl hunting in within the region. The 12 sites are predominantly within the coastal Bay of Plenty and immediately south of Rotorua.

Fish & Game has a long-established history with these wetlands, as the majority were purchased by game bird hunters licence fees, or gifted to Fish & Game's forebears for hunting purposes. These wetlands are ecologically significant as they collectively comprise much of the shallow freshwater wetland habitat remaining within the Bay of Plenty, and accordingly are of high value for waterfowl breeding, rearing and loafing in particular, and other biodiversity more generally, in addition to hunting.

Annual habitat maintenance requirements vary from site to site depending on the size of the reserve, water input requirements and how water supply is set up, water reticulation requirements, growth and extent of invasive plant species present, access track conditions, and hunter usage/facilities present. Works mostly involve periodic mechanical removal of vegetation from main water reticulation channels, aquatic and terrestrial weed spraying, access track mowing, maimai maintenance, and when budgets allow, importing of fill for track maintenance in high usage reserves.

Currently Eastern Region's annual budget for reserve maintenance works is \$14,000.

3. Issues

Prior to the Department of Conservation's most recent restructure (three years ago), the Department was able to share the costs of maintenance work programmes in these jointly managed reserves and took responsibility for a variety of mutually agreed tasks. Since then however, the district offices' resourcing has been greatly reduced and the Department is no longer in a position to do so. As a consequence Fish & Game has had to prioritise all maintenance requirements and shoulder a greater share of the burden. We have been fortunate in having some ad hoc resourcing from the Regional Council on and off in recent years but there is no certainty this will continue and we certainly cannot budget on it.

Balloted stand holders also make a contribution to annual maintenance requirements and their efforts need to be acknowledged. As a condition of being assigned a stand, ballot holders for many years have been expected to contribute to the maintenance of open water and control of invasive plants within the vicinity of their stand (in addition to maintenance of their maimai). Many have done a reasonable job of it, but it's fair to say that for a number of reasons the standard and quality of these hunter implemented works has spanned the spectrum in terms of what's needed. Last year Fish & Game obtained a legal opinion on the implications of the

Health and Safety Act 2015 in relation to ballot holders, and this needs to be factored into the review we're currently undertaking of how we implement reserve maintenance works in future. The conclusion to be drawn from the opinion is that it is probably no longer practical or prudent to require ballot holders to undertake works involving chainsaws or spraying of agrichemicals unless they have the appropriate qualifications and training to do so, and are equipped with the appropriate personal protective equipment. It's very likely that no more than a small minority of our c.300 ballot holders would meet these standards.

Fish & Game staff, primarily Nigel Simpson, have a hands on involvement in priority maintenance activities (largely mowing and spraying), but other unprogrammable demands during the January to February period (CLE in particular but also fisheries monitoring programmes) coupled with the vagaries of weather, mean the level of effort he is able to put into reserves maintenance cannot be guaranteed from one year to the next.

Mention must be made here of a very impressive voluntary effort on the part of Cr Barry Roderick who has embarked on a one man pampas reduction programme within the Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve. This is highly commendable, but with all due respect to Barry unless he ups this to a fulltime activity we're still only scratching the surface.

The net effect of the situation we are now in is that we're struggling to meet minimum maintenance requirements and hold the bar let alone enhance habitat values and direct additional efforts towards realising the greater potential of these reserves. The perched nature of many of the wetlands along with their weediness and size means deferring essential tasks is very much a case of false economy and only serves to make matters much worse. The recently created habitats in the Kaituna reserve and at Ohaaki that have been added to our wetland inventory have exacerbated the situation.

This issue is not peculiar to the Eastern Region, and Northland, Auckland/Waikato and Taranaki are experiencing similar challenges as other regions are likely to be too.

4. Options for delivering essential activities

4.1 Matters to consider

As a precursor to discussing options there are several 'bottomlines' we could probably agree be taken as read. These are:

- Following an operational review two years ago, Eastern Fish & Game staff determined that the most cost effective approach to mowing access tracks within the reserves was to do so using staff resources solely, and acquired the appropriate machinery for the task. The advantages and efficiency of doing it this way still hold so there is no need to explore other options for undertaking this bi- or tri-annual requirement.
- Mechanical clearance of vegetation within the reticulation channels, and any other machine work such as repairing access tracks or pulling back invasive vegetation from pond margins, needs to be undertaken by an appropriately qualified excavator contractor with experience working in wetlands and a knowledge of what's required to produce good waterfowl habitat.

- Health and Safety concerns and the associated risks for Fish & Game arising from using ballot holders to spray terrestrial and aquatic weeds within the vicinity of their stands means this approach to controlling invasive plants and maintaining open water is arguably, if not categorically, no longer appropriate.
- Engaging an agrichemical spraying contractor or employing a suitably qualified and experienced agrichemical applicator who knows one weed from another, and how best to deal with it, would not only reduce or eliminate health and safety risks, but is more likely to deliver a better quality and more cost effective outcome than could be expected from an average hunter who is less likely to be able to identify a pest plant from a valued species.
- Maintenance of maimai is a task that has largely been undertaken by the balloted stand holders and is an activity that could continue to be delivered by them. It involves maintaining/enhancing the condition of the maimai they have been allocated, and removing derelict materials and/or other inorganic rubbish that has been left lying about within the vicinity of the stand.

If these 'bottomlines' are accepted, the outstanding issue in relation to implementing our annual reserves maintenance programmes at this point in time is what is the best approach to undertaking the weed spraying programmes and how do we resource these?

4.2 Operational options and estimated costs

Taking into account the matters raised above our options are as follows:

- (i) Permanent staff do all the spraying with the assistance of a casual worker employed to assist with the approximately six week programme. The cost of engaging a field assistant is estimated at c.\$3k/annum over and above the \$14k currently budgeted in our OWP for reserves maintenance programmes. The downside to this option is that during the January-February period staff are fully committed to other projects, and in the case of Nigel Simpson are often called upon to deal with unforeseen demands or are compromised by weather conditions during the period when the work has been scheduled and his time has been allocated to it.
- (ii) An agrichemical spraying contractor is commissioned to deliver the prescribed spraying programmes. This is what currently occurs at Awakaponga and at Ohaaki for willow control. Based on the costs of implementing those programmes the cost of undertaking all weed spraying within the reserves is estimated at c.\$9.5k/annum over and above the \$14k currently budgeted in our OWP for reserves maintenance programmes.
- (iii) Two suitably qualified and experienced casual staff are employed over a 6-8 week period to undertake all but the Ohaaki willow control spraying programmes using a Fish & Game vehicle allocated to the project for its full duration. The cost of this is estimated at c.\$8.5k/annum over and above the \$14k currently budgeted in our OWP for reserves maintenance programmes.

5. What are our options for resourcing annual spraying programmes?

5.1 Review our total annual operating budget and allocate additional \$\$ to reserves maintenance

Implications of this include (i) that up to \$9.5k would need to be drawn from another project(s) at the expense of that project(s), (ii) it could be argued that ballot holders would be getting better value for licence money than the majority of game bird hunters within the region, and (iii) anglers could make the claim that a greater proportion still of fishing licence income was being siphoned away from sports fish projects to support game bird programmes.

5.2 Apply for ongoing contestable funding to increase our bulk funding

As a consequence of unexpended budgets within the Output 2 Habitat Project clusters this year, it is unlikely that Eastern Fish & Game will meet eligibility criteria for contestable funding in the 2018-19 OWP year. Furthermore, sentiments expressed at the Managers' Meeting earlier this year suggest there may not be a lot of appetite nationally for topping up regional budgets from licence fee increases for maintenance programmes of this nature, though this warrants, and will undoubtedly be the subject of further discussion.

5.3 Lobby the Department of Conservation to re-instate funding for jointly managed reserves

This is ongoing, and even if the Department was able to pick up where it left off we would still have a shortfall in the order of \$4k or more for essential maintenance activities.

5.4 Apply for funding from other external sources e.g. regional councils, community trusts, mitigation funds

Staff are unaware of any funds which provide resourcing for maintenance programmes per se.

5.5 Introduce a 'Habitat Management Contribution' fee from ballot holders

The upsides to this include:

- Introduces more of a user pays principle;
- Funds would be held specifically for habitat works within the balloted reserves and spraying in the first instance;
- Provides a cost effective and efficient means of implementing our annual spraying maintenance programmes and ensures greater consistency and a greater prospect of meeting our predetermined objectives and standards;
- Provides Fish & Game with greater control in relation to managing health and safety risks;

- Reduces work requirements imposed on ballot holders saving them both time and costs associated with travel and purchase of chemicals.

Potential downsides might be:

- Ballot holder discontent;
- Fewer hunters entering the ballot.

6. Concluding remarks

- 6.1 Of the three operational options presented in section 4.2 above, the most viable and cost effective option is (iii), the employment of two casual staff for 6-8 weeks or thereabouts, one of whom would have the appropriate qualifications, including certifications and experience to deliver a prescriptive maintenance schedule prepared in advance by staff.
- 6.2 The cost of this is estimated to be in the order of \$8.5k/annum over and above our current OWP budget of \$14k for reserves habitat maintenance.
- 6.3 An option worthy of Council's consideration which could deliver most if not all of the deficit we're currently faced with, is to introduce an annual habitat management fee of some sort for successful ballot holders. There is precedent for this within Fish & Game already – the Northland Region currently charges an annual fee (\$25 or \$45) to ballot holders in specific reserves which is used to fund predator control programmes. Some resistance was experienced when this was initially introduced with a few hunters walking away from the ballot but since then the fee appears to have gained more widespread acceptance. The Auckland/Waikato Region charges a development fee (\$3,000 approximately) to all hunters for developing and maintaining ponds on Fish & Game owned land. In exchange the hunters are provided with the right to occupy their stand in perpetuity as long as they meet conditions such as attending compulsory working bees and undertaking prescribed maintenance activities. There is apparently, a waiting list of prospective hunters keen to take up any new or vacated opportunities of this sort in these wetlands.
- 6.4 Currently Eastern Region has c.290 ballot holders, 85% of whom are adults, 10% juniors, and 5% children under the age of 12. For illustrative purposes, if adults were to be charged \$30pp/pa and juniors say \$15pp/pa (and children no charge) this would generate something in the order of \$7,845 per annum. If adults were to be charged \$20pp/pa and juniors \$10pp/pa (and children no charge) this would generate something in the order of \$5,230 per annum. A maintenance fund set up along these lines could go a long way towards meeting the cost of an annual spraying programme delivered as described in 6.1 above.
- 6.5 Actual costs would be closely monitored and with time would be able to be more accurately defined. Council could review the amount to be charged each year ahead of the balloting process so hunters could be advised well in advance.
- 6.6 The concept currently proposed is intended as a means of funding the bulk of invasive plant and weed control in both water reticulation canals and hunting ponds. Should the concept be well received and/or alternative means of funding obtained for annual

spraying programmes, the annual fee could potentially be retained to assist with the funding of other reserve habitat enhancement programmes (e.g. aerial spraying, removal of old maimai, maintenance or improvement of access tracks, enhancement planting, and/or predator control programmes).

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 *That Councillors discuss options for resolving habitat maintenance issues in Fish & Game managed wetland reserves, and provide feedback to staff on the concept of introducing an annual fee for balloted stand holders.***

10. DEFINING BACK COUNTRY FISHERIES

Ref: 1.07.01

27 July 2017

1. Purpose

To discuss criteria and attributes that could be used to identify 'Back Country Fisheries' in the Eastern Fish & Game Region.

2. Background

The Non-Resident Licence was brought into circulation in the 2014-15 season. The Minister of Conservation, in a letter dated 9 September 2012, stipulated that the licence be set "*at a cost of 1.3 times the adult whole of season fishing licence, with any increased revenue obtained being directed to specific management to improve back country fisheries*".

In July 2014 the New Zealand Council resolved "*that for the purposes of fisheries management a back country fishery is taken to mean any New Zealand freshwater (river and or lake) that provide some truly spectacular angling experiences, are popular with non-resident anglers and are inherently sensitive and need careful management*".

Fisheries that fit into the back country definition can be interpreted therefore, to mean those that have some particular attribute(s) attractive to, or of significance to anglers, be popular with visiting anglers, and have some additional or special requirement for management which could be taken to include research and/or monitoring. The NZ Council's resolution makes it clear that the term "back country" does not need to be interpreted in a strictly literal sense, and this can be further extended to suggest that what might constitute a back country fishery in one region may not necessarily measure up to what a back country fishery would be regarded to be in another. Council is clearly able to exercise a great deal of flexibility and latitude when it comes to determining what lake or river, or section of such, if any it would classify as a back country fishery in the Eastern Region.

In September 2015 the NZ Council resolved "*that each region maintain a dedicated fund based on the extra revenue from non-resident licence sales for specific management to improve back country fisheries in regions*". Eastern Region sold 391 non-resident licences in 2014-15, 501 in 2015-16, and YTD 2017-18 has sold 552, and currently holds a total of \$44,623 in its Back Country Fisheries Reserve.

The Eastern Council needs to decide what criteria or approach it will use to determine whether a waterbody in the Eastern Region is worthy of being designated a 'back country fishery'. Once this has been established, Eastern's back country fisheries can be identified, and management prescriptions can be drawn up for each and incorporated into our annual Operational Work Planning processes.

There are two approaches Council could use to identify its 'back country fisheries'. Feedback could be sought from anglers and guides, staff and councillors on rivers and lakes that would fit the brief in terms of meeting the three overarching characteristics that the NZ Council listed in July 2014. Nelson Marlborough Fish & Game Region recently undertook an exercise of this nature in conjunction with previously undertaken studies to designate four of its

wilderness rivers as Back Country Fisheries. This is essentially, a qualitative or intuitive exercise.

A second more objective process, which may be more appropriate in the Eastern Region where it could be argued we don't have the same 'stand out' fisheries in a back country sense as do some other regions in the country², would be to rank waters against a pre-determined set of attributes or criteria. This approach has been used in other Fish & Game regions to identify the significance of waters, an example being the RIVAS programme first conducted in Nelson Marlborough and later in Hawke's Bay to determine the significance of water bodies for salmonid angling and inform Regional Council planning processes.

A matrix approach in which a series of attributes are listed and assigned a numerical value (e.g. 1-5) to describe the relative value of each waterway could be employed. A score of 1 would represent the lowest ranking for a particular attribute, and a 5 the highest ranking. At the conclusion of the exercise the rankings for each waterway would simply be summed, with those scoring above a certain threshold being deemed to be the region's Back Country Fisheries.

3. Quantifiable attributes for the three overarching characteristics identified by the New Zealand Council

3.1 Waters providing some truly spectacular angling experiences

The term 'truly spectacular angling experiences' will represent different meanings to different anglers. One or more of the following attributes may apply.

Remoteness

How far anglers are willing to travel to reach an angling destination or what lengths they are willing to go to in order to get into an angling area may be a useful indicator of the value some anglers place on remoteness (e.g. having to hire a helicopter or walk for half a day or more). Distance from urban centres or road corridors could be a useful index for this attribute.

Catch rate or fish size or perception of such

The perception of, or opportunity to catch lots of fish or large trophy sized fish is likely to capture the interest of many anglers and draw them to those areas.

Water quality

Water quality may be a parameter that makes some areas more attractive to anglers than others.

Scenic attractiveness and sense of wilderness

Being in an environment that is natural and unspoiled with attractive scenery and wilderness values is an important aspect in providing spectacular angling.

² The 2007-08 National Angler Survey noted that "Visitors showed a strong preference for South Island waters and an equally strong preference for river fisheries as opposed to lake fisheries. Back Country and Headwater river fisheries accounted for 41% of their total effort as compared to 9.4% for New Zealand Residents".

Low numbers of other anglers

From an angling point of view, the sense of peacefulness and having a resource largely to yourself may play a key role in your perception of a truly spectacular and or memorable angling experience. If so, encountering significant numbers of other people/anglers would probably tarnish the experience. For some this includes seeing footprints of other anglers along river beds.

3.2 Waters popular with non-resident anglers

Fish & Game has estimates of angling pressure on rivers and lakes nationally from National Angler Surveys (NAS) which have been conducted on four occasions from 1995-96. During the 2007-08 and 2014-15 surveys, a number of non-resident anglers were contacted and interviewed as to where they had fished just as NZ resident anglers had been though the interviews were conducted at the conclusion of the surveys rather than at the end of each 2-monthly survey period. Incorrectly recorded contact details, time zone issues and language difficulties meant only 253 out of 1,108 attempted calls were successful during the 2014-15 survey, and this coupled with other sampling issues associated with the 2014-15 survey mean the accuracy of the results obtained are less robust than those obtained in 2007-08. Nevertheless the relative use of Eastern Region waters as indicated from these surveys is informative, and can be viewed in the table appended to this agenda item.

Within the Eastern Region, the majority of angling is based around the Rotorua lakes. These fisheries attract a high number of non-resident anglers during the summer period, especially the Lake Rotorua Stream mouths (Awahou/Hamurana), while the shorelines of Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina are popular during the winter period. Staff encounter North American, British, European, Australian and Asian anglers around the Rotorua lakes. Many are return visitors that spend a great deal of time fishing lake inflows for the high catch rate available over the summer period and the large fish returning to beaches and tributaries in the winter. Non-resident anglers also visit river systems on short term and multi day trips.

3.3 Waters that are inherently sensitive and need careful management to retain values (e.g. close monitoring and/or additional constraints)

Areas that may be experiencing increases in angling or harvest pressure, or facing threats affecting fishery values need to be identified. If catch rate or large fish are the key attributes of a fishery, greater pressure or harvest will reduce angler satisfaction. If the perception of wilderness character or solitude is the primary factor attracting anglers, a greater number of people utilising these areas or dropping in on top of those already there will detract from the experience of all.

4. Recommendation

4.1 That Council identifies criteria and/or attributes that can be used to define 'Back Country Fisheries' within the Eastern Region.

Lake/River name	2007-08	SE	2014-15	SE
Rangitaiki River	1 010	560	230	190
Lake Rotorua	930	280	670	290
Lake Tarawera	770	350		0
Ngongotaha Stream	460	180	80	50
Ruakituri River	350	250	20	20
Whirinaki River	320	130		0
Motu River	300	220		0
Lake Rotoiti	260	130	40	40
Ohau Channel	200	120		0
Tarawera River	200	170		0
Lake Flaxy	160	130	60	60
Waoeka River	150	70	40	30
Ruahihi Canal	120	120		0
Lake Okataina	120	90	330	290
Waiau River	110	90	100	100
Utuhina Stream	80	80		0
Waiteti Stream	80	80		0
Wheao River	80	60		0
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	50	50		0
Lake Tikitapu (Blue Lake)	50	50		0
Lake Aniwhenua	50	40	150	90
Flaxy Canal	50	50	60	60
Lake Ngapouri	40	40		0
Waimana River	30	30	20	20
Waipaoa River	30	30		0
Wairoa River (Gisborne)	30	30		0
Lake Waikaremoana	30	30		0
Lake Waikareiti	30	30		0
Hangaroa River	30	30	20	20
Ohourere Stream		0	20	20
Lake Rotoehu		0	210	200
Wairata Stream		0	20	20
Otara River		0	20	20
Waikato River		0	40	30
Lake Ohakuri		0	40	40
Total	6 110	910	2 190	530

Table 1: The number of non-resident angler visits to specified locations within the Eastern Region during the 2007-08 and the 2014-15 seasons. Sorted by popularity during the 2007-08 season. Note that issues with the integrity of the 2014-15 survey meant that (i) no information is available for some areas, and (ii) sample sizes were affected for others hence the relatively high SE figures for some of the more popular locations.

11. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SPORTS FISHING

Ref: 1.07.01

28 July 2016

1. Purpose

To consider a draft Code of Conduct for sports fishing and provide feedback to the New Zealand Council on it.

2. Background

The July 2017 New Zealand Fish and Game Council meeting considered regional feedback on Angling Ethics - Catch & Release, a paper that had been circulated to Fish and Game Councils in July 2016. The Eastern Fish and Game Council registered its support for the preparation of a Code of Conduct (*Agreed (Ken Coombes/Alan Baird) that staff conveys Council's position that a policy on the ethics of catch and release fishing is inappropriate, but a Code of Conduct should be developed. [16/08/14.2])* as did most other regions. In addition to reviewing regional feedback, the NZ Council considered a draft Code of Conduct prepared by Otago Region staff and resolved that this be circulated to regions for comment prior to it being finalised. The draft Code and additional background relating to it is provided in the pages which follow.

3. Recommendation

3.1 *That Council reviews the memorandum and draft Code of Conduct received from the New Zealand Council and provides its feedback on the draft.*

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR SPORTS FISHING

July 2017

Memorandum to: Fish and Game Councils

Prepared by: Robert Sowman, NZ Council Policy & Planning Manager

The July 2017 New Zealand Fish and Game Council meeting considered feedback on Angling Ethics – Catch & Release, a paper that had been circulated to Fish and Game Councils back in July 2016. Consultation with regions found a good deal of support. This will complement planned pamphlets educating anglers on handling and releasing fish and practicing selective harvest.

As part of its feedback, Otago Fish and Game Council contributed a draft code prepared by staff member Helen Trotter. Helen was a recipient of the Staff Development Grant and attended the 7th World Recreational Fisheries Conference (7WRFC) in Brazil. Based on the contacts made in Brazil, she searched the publications for model codes and found several useful examples with common points of emphasis. The proposed Code of Practice Helen has prepared, has been adapted from that of RecFish Australia. Reference has also been made to the 1998 Anglers Code of Conduct published by Central South Island Fish and Game Council and catch and release guidelines published by DOC Taupo.

The style and format is intended to highlight the key messages and provide relevant easy to follow guidelines on angler responsibilities as ethical fishers. Helen proposes that when finalised, the Code of Practice be published widely including in regulation guides, on the website, and in brochures or factsheets.

The New Zealand Council found Helen's code worthy of wider consideration and supported the proposal that it be circulated to regions for comment before being finalised and put on the website with an abbreviated version updating what is in the regulations guide.

Resolved: (John Jillett/John Cumberpatch)

That the NZ Council:

- 1. thanks the efforts of Helen Trotter from Otago Fish and Game Council for putting together a useful code of conduct.*
- 2. that this code of conduct be circulated to regions for feedback before finalising.*
- 3. provides educational material on handling of caught fish*
- 4. promotes the hooking & landing per angler of no more than 6 fish a day.*

Recommendation

That Fish and Game Council's consider and provide feedback to the NZ Council on the attached code of conduct with the intention that it be finalised and published.

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR FRESHWATER SPORT FISHING

Freshwater angling is a favourite kiwi pastime loved by hundreds of thousands of New Zealanders across the country. New Zealand's fisheries are also internationally renowned, with tourist anglers making significant contribution to the economy. With the enjoyment of a natural resource comes a responsibility to support its sustainability and to behave ethically, in order to safeguard the future of freshwater angling for all New Zealanders.

Fish and Game New Zealand (comprised of 12 regional Fish & Game Councils across New Zealand and one national Council) are the statutory managers of freshwater sport fishing in New Zealand and represent the interests of anglers. This Code of Practice has been developed to set standards of practice which clearly outline our responsibilities as freshwater anglers in order to support the practice of ethical angling.

Summary

The Code of Practice for Recreational Fishing outlines our four key responsibilities as anglers:

- 1. Treat fish humanely**
- 2. Protect our fisheries**
- 3. Care for the environment**
- 4. Respect the rights of others**

These four key responsibilities incorporate 12 specific principles:

- **Quickly and correctly return any fish to be released**
- **Quickly and humanely kill any fish to be kept for consumption**
- **Value our fish and respect the food and recreational resource they provide**
- **Understand and observe all fishing regulations and licensing requirements**
- **Support enhancement and management activities**
- **Take no more than our immediate needs**
- **Remove all rubbish and prevent pollution**
- **Prevent the spread of freshwater pests**
- **Use established tracks and roads**
- **Be considerate of other users**
- **Respect private property and always ask for access permission**
- **Be aware of our safety and the safety of others when fishing**

1. Treat fish humanely

QUICKLY AND CORRECTLY RETURN ANY FISH TO BE RELEASED

Fish may need to be released to comply with regulations, because the fish is not of sufficient quality to eat, or because we choose to practice catch and release fishing. Following correct catch and release practice will minimise the duration and stress resulting from the direct handling of fish and will ensure fish released will have a good chance of survival.

Quickly and correctly returning fish means:

- *Minimise air exposure*

- Keep the fish's mouth and gills fully submerged in the water as much as possible during handling
- *Eliminate contact with dry surfaces*
 - Attempt to land fish in the water
 - If possible leave the fish in the water and unhook it without handling it
 - Wet hands prior to handling (or use wet cotton or untextured gloves)
 - Hold the fish in or slight above the water, away from dry or hard surfaces
 - Never let a fish flap around on the floor of your boat or on the ground
- *Reduce angling duration and handling*
 - Land fish as quickly as possible without playing it to exhaustion
 - Use tackle matched to the target species – use strong line so you can land fish quickly
 - Use barbless hooks and hook removal devices (long nose pliers or forceps)
 - Fish with a knotless or rubber landing net
 - Avoid large hooks and treble hook lures
 - If the fish to be released is bleeding excessively it should be humanely dispatched (where taking of the fish is permitted)
 - When bait fishing, if the fish to be released is deeply hooked the line should be cut close to the mouth
- *Be prepared if intending to take photographs*
 - Photograph wet fish
 - Keep the fish as close to the water as possible if removing from the water momentarily, and fully submerge the fish between pictures
- *Carefully revive fish*
 - Hold the fish lightly without squeezing, gently support the body under the front fins and grip the tail (never hold a fish up by the tail only)
 - Face the fish into the current and gently release the fish when it has revived
 - Do not pull fish back and forth through the water
 - Never throw a fish back into the water

QUICKLY AND HUMANELY KILL ANY FISH TO BE KEPT FOR CONSUMPTION

Quickly and humanely killing fish means:

- Minimising handling prior to dispatch to reduce stress on the fish and increase the quality of the flesh
- Immediately and humanely dispatching fish by:
 - Cranial concussion - administering an accurate, sharp blow to the head, with a blunt object and a blow of appropriate force for the size of the fish to render the fish unconscious; followed by bleeding out, or decapitation. This method ensures the fish is unconscious at the time of death and bleeding out ensures high quality flesh is maintained.
 - Ike jime - driving a spike through the brain, when done correctly results in immediate death and high quality flesh. This is considered the fastest and most humane method of killing fish.

VALUE OUR FISH AND RESPECT THE FOOD AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCE THEY PROVIDE

Our treatment and handling of fish is a direct reflection of the respect we have for sport fish, our appreciation of the food and recreational resource they provide, and our commitment to protecting the angling tradition for future generations.

Respecting the resource means:

- Never leaving fishing gear unattended
- Use appropriate gear for the species and size being targeted
- Storing harvested fish in a cool place away from sunlight, preferably in a chilly bin or cooler bag
- Avoiding waste and never discarding any retained fish
- Treating non-target fish with the same care and respect as that is given to targeted sport fish

2. Protect our fisheries

UNDERSTAND AND OBSERVE ALL FISHING REGULATIONS

Fish and Game New Zealand set and enforce regulations to manage our fisheries and the quality of the angling experience. Regulations safeguard the sustainability of the fishery by placing limits on harvest and protecting of spawning areas. They also outline acceptable methods and rules for different fisheries.

Understanding and observing all fishing regulations means:

- Obtaining the required licence(s) - carry it at all times when fishing, and produce it if requested by a Fish and Game Ranger
- Becoming familiar with Fish and Game's regulation guide, including both the First Schedule for regulations generally common to all regions, and the Second Schedule for regional fishing regulations
- Checking the method, bag limit, season length regulations of the fishery *before* commencing fishing
- Being aware of the additional licencing requirements and regulations for designated Backcountry Fisheries
- Reporting any illegal fishing activity or inappropriate animal welfare behaviour to the local Fish and Game office

TAKE NO MORE THAN OUR IMMEDIATE NEEDS

We can limit pressure on fisheries and conserve fish stocks by limiting our catch and taking only the fish we require for our own immediate needs.

When harvesting fish for consumption taking no more than our immediate needs means:

- Only killing fish we intend to eat, and not taking more than we need

This principle also applies to catch and release angling. Even when we practice correct catch and release techniques we still exert pressure on the fishery. This may impact the quality of the fishery and the catchability of sports fish, particularly for some backcountry rivers which may be subject to high levels of catch and release angling.

When catch and release fishing ‘taking no more than our immediate needs’ means limiting our fishing pressure by:

- Selecting and targeting a limited number of trout rather than trying to catch as many fish as possible in one day
- Spreading our effort across fisheries and avoiding camping out on the same stretch of river for extended periods
- Measuring success on the overall experience and angling challenge, not the number of fish landed

SUPPORT SPORT FISH AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT AND ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Sustainable and productive fisheries rely on the maintenance and protection and enhancement of freshwater ecosystems.

Supporting efforts to manage our fisheries and freshwater ecosystems means:

- Cooperating with the collection of recreational catch and effort data
- Participating in research, educational and enhancement projects
- Participating in public processes concerning environmental management and protection
- Participating in Fish and Game elections and submitting on consultative and long term planning processes
- Promoting ethical fishing practices and sharing knowledge and skills with others, especially youth

3. Care for the environment

REMOVE ALL RUBBISH AND PREVENT POLLUTION

Rubbish and pollution can affect the health of the environmental and wildlife and can degrade the outdoor experience of others.

Caring for the environment means:

- Taking all rubbish away from fishing sites including waste nylon, hooks, tackle packaging and personal litter
- Dispose of fish offal and carcasses responsibly – offal and other waste must not be left unburied on the river bank or lake shore
- Report pollution of waterways to the local council or Fish and Game office

PREVENT THE SPREAD OF FRESHWATER PESTS

New Zealand has a large number of pristine rivers and lakes which are threatened by invasive freshwater species including algae, weeds and pest fish.

Preventing the spread of invasive freshwater species means:

- Being aware of biosecurity risks in all waterways and treating every waterway as a potential source of invasive pest species

- Always **CHECK** (remove all plant matter from your gear) **CLEAN** (spray or soak with 5% detergent solution) and **DRY** (completely dry for 48 hrs) when moving between waterways
- Never transferring any fish, fish ova (eggs), or other aquatic organisms between waterways
- Reporting any observations of pest species to Ministry of Primary Industries or the local Fish and Game office

USE ESTABLISHED TRACKS AND ROADS

Off-road access can contribute to erosion, vegetation loss and disturb riverbeds. Using established tracks and roads means:

- Using designated access points and roads, and avoid straying from established tracks
- Sticking to marked tracks on riverbeds or parking and walking to the fishing site
- Using established fords when crossing rivers where possible
- Avoid obstructing access when parking vehicles

4. Respect the rights of others

BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER USERS

We each fish for a variety of reasons and may take particular enjoyment from different aspects of our angling. It is important to acknowledge these factors may vary between anglers, and to recognise that our behaviour has the potential to impact on the experience of others.

Being considerate of other users means:

- Never cutting-in on, or crowding anglers already on the water
- Communicating our intentions when we encounter another angler – the reasonable distance covered in day will vary between anglers and fisheries so where practical a quick conversation will ensure enough water is left before the second angler begins fishing
- Looking out for other anglers when accessing a fishery by helicopter/plane. Provide a generous allowance for anglers already on the water to continue fishing (remember they may have walked several hours to get there)
- Fishing upstream from beat markers where they are present – attempting to gain more water by first walking downstream is unfair to other anglers
- When fishing from a boat give way to anglers fishing from the shore, adhere to all boating rules and restrictions and be considerate of the impacts of our boat noise and wake on other anglers
- Respecting the rights all outdoor users (e.g. swimmers) to enjoy our rivers and lakes even if their activity is not ideal for our own fishing

RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY AND ALWAYS ASK FOR ACCESS PERMISSION

Public access to our rivers and lakes is at heart of our Kiwi way of life and angling traditions. However sometimes access over private land is required and this privilege is given at the discretion of the landowner. As an angling community we all have a responsibility to behave appropriately while on private land to ensure continued access into the future.

Respecting private property means:

- Asking the land owner for access if there is no Fish and Game signage
- Leaving gates as they are found
- Not disturbing stock, crops, machinery or other property

BE AWARE OF OUR SAFETY AND THE SAFETY OF OTHERS WHEN FISHING

Caring about safety means:

- Being aware of the dangers fishing around river mouths and when crossing rivers
- Gaining local knowledge about boating hazards and carry safety equipment onboard
- Checking the weather and be prepared for the conditions
- Notifying someone of our intentions, particularly when boating, heading into the backcountry or to a remote fishing location (i.e. out of cell phone coverage).

Example summary for regulations book

CODE OF PRACTICE

Fish and Game New Zealand actively promotes responsible and ethical freshwater fishing practices. As licenced freshwater anglers we have the following responsibilities when fishing, as detailed in the National Code of Practice:

- **TREAT FISH HUMANELY**
 - **Quickly and correctly return any fish to be released**
 - Minimise air exposure, keep mouth and gills submerged at all times
 - Eliminate contact with dry surfaces
 - Reduce angling duration and handling
 - **Quickly and humanely kill any fish to be kept for consumption**
 - **Value our fish and respect the food and recreational resource they provide**

- **PROTECT OUR FISHERIES**
 - **Understand and observe all fishing regulations and licensing requirements**
 - **Support enhancement and management activities**
 - **Take no more than our immediate needs**

- **CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**
 - **Remove all rubbish and prevent pollution**
 - **Prevent the spread of freshwater pests**
 - **Use established tracks and roads**

- **RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS**
 - **Be considerate of other anglers**
 - **Respect private property and always ask for access permission**
 - **Be aware of our safety and the safety of others when fishing**

For further guidance on how to meet these responsibilities read the full National Code of Practice for Sport Fishing at www.fishandgame.org.nz

Current Sports Fishing Regulations Code of Conduct

Regulations

CODE OF CONDUCT

Please consider the rights of others and observe the anglers' code of conduct

- Always ask permission from the land occupier before crossing private property unless a Fish & Game access sign is present.
- Do not park vehicles so that they obstruct gateways or cause a hazard on the road or access way.
- Always use gates, stiles or other recognised access points and avoid damage to fences.
- Leave everything as you found it. If a gate is open or closed leave it that way.
- A farm is the owner's livelihood and if they say no dogs, then please respect this.
- When driving on riverbeds keep to marked tracks or park on the bank and walk to your fishing spot.
- Never push in on a pool occupied by another angler. If you are in any doubt have a chat and work out who goes where.
- However if agreed to share the pool then always enter behind any angler already there.
- Move upstream or downstream with every few casts (unless you are alone).
- Fish being returned to the water should be released as carefully and quickly as possible. Ideally leave the fish in the water and remove the hook with long-nosed pliers without handling the fish.
- While catch and release fishing is widely promoted by some as a conservation minded approach to angling it remains the anglers choice. However the catching of large numbers of fish in a day can impact on individual fish and also on the angling experience for others. Fish & Game advocate hooking and landing a limited number of fish per day.
- Fish being returned should be killed as quickly as possible, ideally by spiking or stabbing the brain slightly behind and above the eye (also known as *iki ike* – pronounced "iki ike").
- Always respect the environment, wildlife, other anglers and members of the public.
- Remove waste nylon and personal litter from the river banks and parking places.
- The only way we can protect our rivers in the long term is to **CLIMB, CLEAN and DRY** all your gear before entering another river or lake anywhere in New Zealand.

REMEMBER TO TREAT OTHERS AS YOU WOULD WISH TO BE TREATED YOURSELF!

12. SPECIES MONITORING REPORTS

Ref: 1.01.08

28 July 2017

1. Purpose

To receive the Executive Summaries for the 2017 Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan Trend Counts and 2017 Aerial Transect Counts of Mallard and Grey Duck reports.

2. Background

The Council annually resources a number of species monitoring programmes for sports fish and game populations. The information collected from these programmes enables the Council to make informed decisions on species management to ensure sustainable populations are maintained for recreational harvest. These programmes also provide valuable information for other parties such as Regional Councils who can use sports fish and game bird data to assess the effects of habitat changes on biological systems. This agenda item presents the executive summaries for two game bird monitoring reports; copies of the full reports are available in the Papers for Information accompanying this agenda.

3. Report Summaries

3.1 2017 Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan Trend Counts Report

Trend counts of paradise shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*) and black swan (*Cygnus atratus*) were conducted in the Eastern Fish and Game Region during the period 11 to 16 January 2017. Sites were counted (or photographed if a reasonable count could not be obtained) from a plane. Results were analysed and presented using two different methodologies, total count with a fitted regression line, and a variant of the route regression method (Geissler and Sauer, 1990).

Season regulations are set as a function of the long term trend for paradise shelduck and black swan but swan also incorporate population size thresholds.

The paradise populations, reported by Management Units (A1, A2, B1, B2), were relatively stable over the long term (fifteen years), although B1 may have decreased. The short term (two years) trend confidence intervals span zero suggesting no detectable change.

Paradise counts from sites that have been counted each year in the Eastern Region ($n=19$) since 1991 indicate the population may be in a 13 year cycle (259 times more support than the linear regression model).

Long-term counts of black swan indicate that the population is fairly stable in all Management Units, although B1 may have increased. Populations in B1 and B2 are below the threshold (1,000 birds) to hold a season while A1 is above the relaxed season threshold of 3,000.

Sites where black swan have been counted each year since 1991 ($n=20$) show a cyclical pattern (11 years; 18 times the support of the linear regression model).

Recommended game season conditions for paradise shelduck and black swan in the Eastern Region are given in **Error! Reference source not found.** and 12.

3.2 2017 Aerial Counts of Mallard and Grey Duck Report

Fish and Game staff conducted aerial transect counts of mallard and grey duck in the northern part of New Zealand during the period 24-26 April 2017. The 2017 counts of mallard and grey duck were statistically similar to last year. The mean count of mallard and grey in the northern Duck Management Unit (DMU1) was greater than that in DMU2 (the Reporoa area).

4. Recommendation

4.1 That Council receives the 2017 Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan Trend Counts Report and the 2017 Aerial Transect Counts of Mallard and Grey Duck Report.

13. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

13.1 Conservation Boards

- *Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board*
- *East Coast/Hawke's Bay Conservation Board*
- *Bay of Plenty Conservation Board*

13.2 Reports from other agencies

- Department of Conservation

13.3 Report from New Zealand Council

(note summary report from Robert Sowman provided in August PFI)

14. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

14.1 MANAGEMENT REPORT

28 July 2017

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

1111 River Fisheries Investigations

Didymo monitoring

Staff undertook the quarterly didymo delimiting survey in the Ngongotaha on Friday 30 June. Didymo remains absent from North Island waters according to the most up to date survey results.

1112 Datawatch

During the ten months following the season opening (1 October), a total of 461 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database. The distribution is as follows:

Lake Okareka	13
Lake Okataina	125
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	18
Lake Rotoehu	13
Lake Rotoiti	98
Lake Rotoma	12
Lake Rotorua	13
Lake Tarawera	168
Lake Waikaremoana	1
Lake Tutira	0
Maraetotara	0

data entered to 12 July 2017

The total number of tags returned since the opening of the angling season on 1 October is 29% behind that returned to the same approximate point in July 2016. The datawatch programme has been advertised in the latest Fish & Game magazine (fish supplement and newsletter) and on the Fish & Game website to ensure anglers keep sending in tag returns.

Tag returns are ahead on Lake Okataina (compared to last season) by 5%. One tag has been returned from Lake Waikaremoana compared to none at the same point in time in the 2015/16 season. All other lakes are behind, with the greatest drops being on Rotoehu (down 65%), Rotoiti and Rotorua (down 39%), Tarawera (down 33%) and Rotoma (down 30%). Lake Tutira (Hawkes Bay) which is still suffering from lake water quality issues and a large-scale fish kill event, has had just no tags returned from it for the current season.

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Monitoring Buoy

A quote has been received from University of Waikato for repairing the Waikaremoana buoy sensor lines. This provides for reinstatement of the buoy as it was prior to the damage

occurring. There has been some discussion as to whether all of the sensors previously attached to the buoy are required, and/or whether it would be appropriate to incorporate others e.g. to monitor “lake snow”. Staff have yet to come to a decision in relation to this and will need to involve Genesis Energy, Hawke’s Bay Regional Council and others in this process.

Lake Waikaremoana Surveys

Fish & Game staff travelled to Waikaremoana on Thursday 8 June to survey anglers fishing the streams prior to closing and undertake spawning trout counts. Due to SH38 being closed, this involved a detour via Taupo and Wairoa. No anglers were located in the streams. The Hopuruahine access road had just been reopened after clearance of large slips. Few trout were detected within the stream. Little spawning activity was underway as evidenced by the low number of fish counted and lack of redds visible. The Mokau Stream similarly had very few fish present and had seen large changes including a shift in the channel due to flooding.

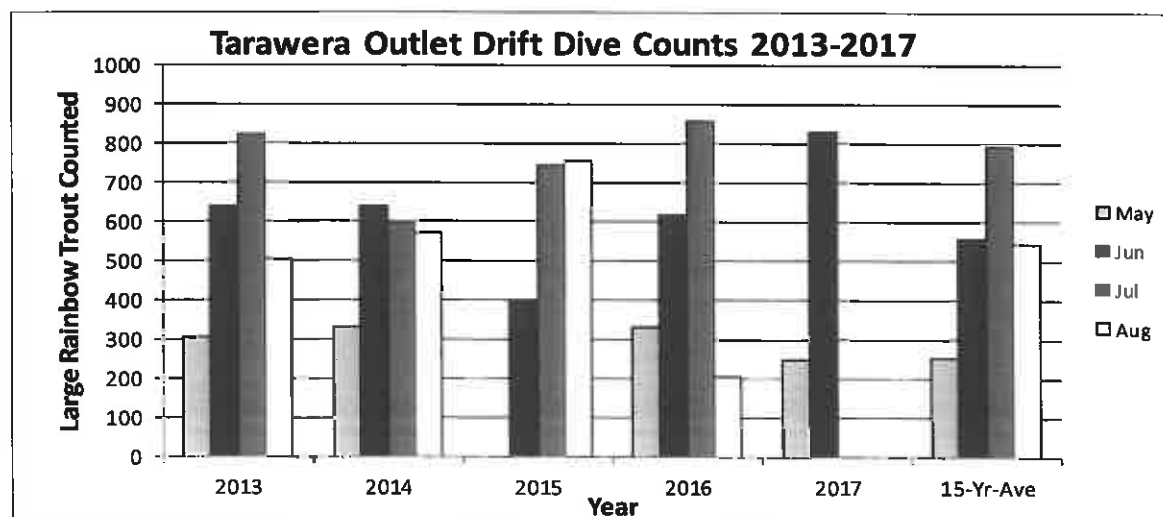
1114 Lake Tarawera

Tarawera Outlet Drift Dives

Fish & Game staff have completed two drift dive counts of trout in the Tarawera Outlet so far this winter. The May dive was undertaken on May 16. A total of 246 large trout, 0 medium trout and 3 small size class trout were counted. The number of large spawning trout are on par with monitoring undertaken in May during previous years. However, numbers of small and medium size class fish were a long way below usual May counts. This could be due to the high flows experienced at that time compared to other years from high lake level and autumn storms giving cues to fish to leave the outlet. The June drift dive (June 16) resulted in 830 large size class fish being counted compared to the past 15-year June average of 556 large fish.

	Size range			2017	2016	2015
	Small	Medium	Large	Total	Total	Total
May	3	0	246	249	695	
June	0	16	830	846	636	681
July						
August						

The July Outlet drift dive is yet to be undertaken (at time of writing) due to staff being at conference and more recently a shortage of healthy staff being available.



Wairua Angling data

The Fish & Game Wairua Stream hut facility was available for hire to anglers over the 2017 autumn and early winter period (1 March - 30 June). A low level of interest was shown for use of the hut. The hut angling log has yet to be retrieved from the hut facility.

Lake Tarawera Fishery Monitoring Project Update

A costed proposal for a post doctorate research programme investigating Lake Tarawera's food webs and limnetic trout food supply was presented to the Fish & Game managers meeting and subsequently went on to be considered by the NZ Council as previously indicated. Approval was obtained for the preliminary funding sought from the national research fund, and coupled with the \$5k allocated to the project by Eastern Region means we have 25% of the funds required to implement the project. More recently we have met with David Hamilton who is now based in Brisbane but still involved with the lakes' programmes, and he has expressed enthusiasm and support for the project. Once we have incorporated a few refinements into the proposal that he has suggested we will start knocking on the doors of other potential funding partners.

1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

Ngongotaha Trap-run

The trap was installed for eight nights during May. A large flooding event interrupted trapping during the middle of the period and only runs were only able to be monitored over five nights due to water levels. The largest fish was a 650mm, 4.0kg brown female. No trout were recorded exceeding ten pounds.

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (May 2017)

	<i>Av. Length</i>	<i>Av. Weight</i>	<i>Trap Run</i>	<i>Fish/night</i>	<i>10 pound+</i>	<i>% Brown</i>
<i>Rainbow</i>	485	1.50	11	2	0	
<i>Brown</i>	574	2.54	17	3	0	61%

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (June 2017)

The Ngongotaha fish trap was unable to be set during June due to persistent flooding.

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (July 2017)

The Ngongotaha trap has yet to be set for the July period due to unavailability of staff and flooding.

1116 Waterfowl Monitoring

Aerial Transect Counts

Fish & Game staff conducted aerial transect counts of mallard and grey duck in the northern part of New Zealand during the period 24-26 April 2017. The 2017 counts of mallard and grey duck were statistically comparable to last year. The mean count of mallard and grey in the northern Duck Management Unit (DMU1) was greater than that in DMU2 (the Reporoa area).

Band Returns

We have experienced a large (60%) increase in reported bands since hand-reared banded mallards have been released. This has markedly increased total processing time for staff.

Once the hunter season has finished these returns will be analysed to help assess survival and population size. In the meantime we have started to build more duck traps to avoid the bottle necks we have had during banding operations in recent years.

Game Bird Research

Three brief presentations on game bird research in the Eastern Region were given at the staff conference in Dunedin in early July. These and other game bird talks highlighted the game bird research progress we have made over the last five years. Once Jenn Sheppard’s PhD is completed it will be timely to plan where we want to be in another five years time.

1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys

Ohau Creel Survey

The Ohau River channel survey has been completed for the 2016-17 season. The data has been compiled into the Fish & Game Database, and analysis is underway. We have now nine years of creel survey data following completion of the Ohau Delta Channel Wall, on top of two years pre-installation. A new monitoring regime will be commenced under the oversight of a new Expert Fisheries Panel following the consenting process that was finalized in June 2017.

Winter Creel Surveys

Winter creel surveys have been completed for the 2016-17 season. The data collected will now be entered into a database for analysis.

1123 Game Bird Hunter Survey

600 game hunter surveys have been completed this year (i.e. 5 of the 7 surveys). Hunters generally appear to be happy with the way the season has gone. Results to date suggest that the mallard and grey duck (greylard) season was fairly similar to last year’s (Figure 1). A full report will be prepared once the season has finished.

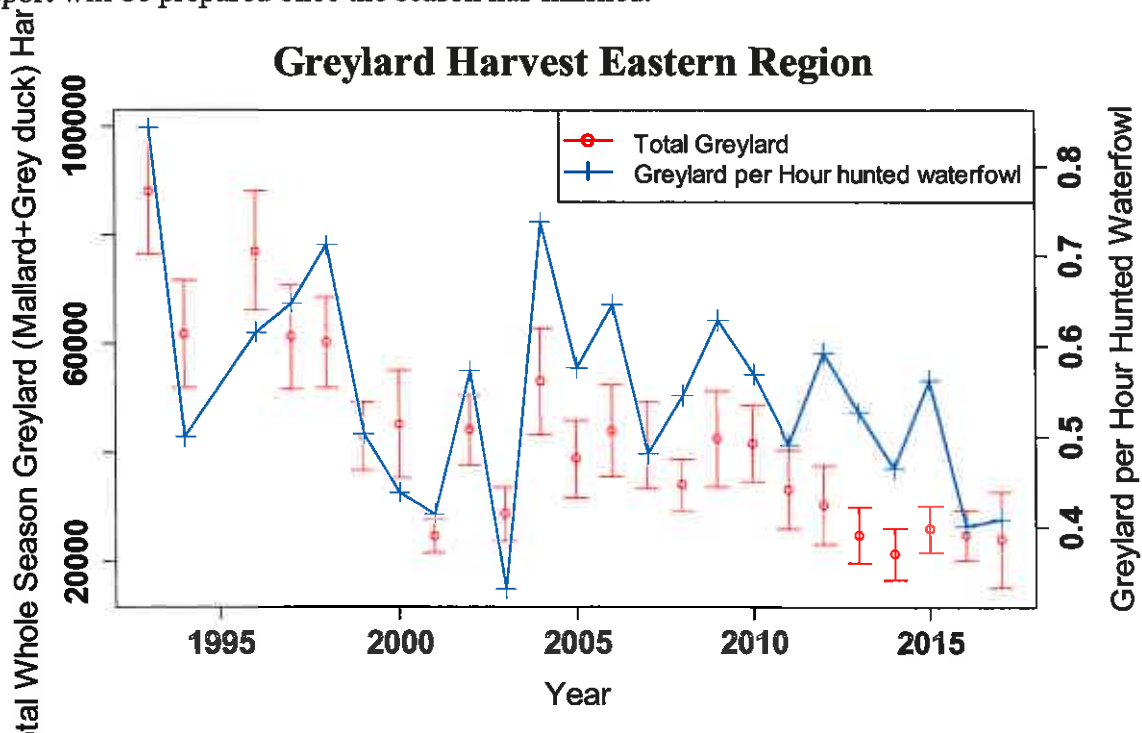


Figure 1. Total mallard and grey duck harvest in the Eastern Region 1993–2017.

1141 Hatchery Operations (30 May - 25 July 2017)

Brood stock have been collected from the Te Wairoa fish trap and transported back to the hatchery for stripping. Forty-eight crosses have been taken for the period and these have produced approximately 210,000 ova. The season's early crosses have swum-up, are feeding well, and will soon be ready to be moved into rearing tanks.

Liberations for the Eastern Region are shown in the table below. Eyed ova were shipped to Taranaki Fish & Game region.

Fish locations at July 25, 2017:

Location	Type	Qty (approx)	Comment
Tank A	1+ Brook	20	Brood
Tank B	0+ Brown	2,000	Eastern liberations and orders 2017
Tanks 4,5	0+Rt	5,000	Spring and autumn reserve
Pond 2	0+Rt	22,000	Spring liberations 2017
Pond 3	0+Rt	18,300	Spring liberations 2017
Pond 4	0+Rt	2,750	Late autumn liberations 2017, HB, Waikaremoana
Pond 9	0+Rt	5,250	Various for 2+ in 2018
RW2	1+Rt	2,250	Other regions 2+ in 2017

1143 Te Wairoa Trap

A total of 630 fish were put through the Te Wairoa trap to 20 July 2017. These fish averaged 538mm and 1.82kg overall (both wild and hatchery) which is 3mm shorter and 190g lighter than the average sized fish entering the trap during the 2016 winter (541mm and 2.01kg). There have been no ten-pound (4.54kg) fish this season as has been the case since the winter trapping programme in 2012. The largest fish to date has been a 660mm, 3.7kg Ad clipped male. Wild fish have made up 26.5% of the total run compared with 29% to the same point of time in 2016, 35% in 2015 and 28% in 2014. The measured run this season is currently 366 fish behind the 2016 winter run to the same date. The wild fish this winter have averaged 497mm and 1.51kg. The wild fish trapped have been 12mm shorter and 190g lighter than the 2016 wild fish through the trap. Hatchery liberated fish have averaged 552mm and 1.93kg. This is 3mm smaller and 220g lighter than the hatchery liberated fish through the trap during the 2016 winter.

1161 Sports Fish Liberations

Liberations, Eastern Region 30 May – 25 July 2017

Water	Date	Mark	Tag	Species	Age Class	Number
Okareka	31/5/17	Lpad	-	Rt	1+	2,500
Rerewhakaaitu	6/6/17	Lpad	-	Rt	1+	3,500

1171 Sports Fish Regulations

The 2017-18 Anglers Notice for Eastern Region Fish & Game was finalized at the 15 June Council meeting. The New Zealand Council was notified of the decision to retain the same regulations as have applied this season (2016-17) and the Minister has since approved these

recommendations and signed off on the Gazette Notice for the 2017-18 season (see Papers for Information).

Letters will be sent to clubs notifying them of these decisions.

HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

1211 RMA Planning

Gisborne District Council

Freshwater Plan hearings were concluded in December, and we are awaiting the release of decisions.

A submission was lodged on the Gisborne District Council Proposed Pest Management Plan in late February. The hearing was held in July, and we are now awaiting the release of decisions.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Proposed Plan Change 9 (Water Quantity) submissions were lodged in mid December. The further submission process closed at the end of June and hearings are scheduled to commence in November.

Fish & Game remains involved in the Bay of Plenty Regional Water Advisory Panel, and community catchment groups. The next advisory panel meeting is scheduled in August.

A submission was lodged on the Bay of Plenty Proposed Pest Management Plan in May.

Te Maru o Kaituna

A submission was lodged on the Proposed Kaituna River Document in July.

Waikato Regional Council

In March, Auckland/Waikato and Eastern Fish and Game Council's lodged a joint submission on Waikato Regional Council's Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora: Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1.

1212 Consent Applications

Date In	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
16-Jun-17	WRC	Taupo District Council	LUC – culvert replacement	Tributary of Lake Whakamaru Waikato River	S95E3A

Koaro Monitoring

No dates have been set for future koaro restoration meetings.

Catfish Incursion Lake Rotoiti

Nothing new to report since last meeting.

Perch Incursion Papamoa Lakes

Four perch were netted in one of the Papamoa lakes in February this year during a fish survey commissioned by Tauranga City Council to investigate alleged sightings of koi carp (which subsequently were concluded to be goldfish). Staff met with Regional Council and Department of Conservation managers in mid July shortly after this information was made known to the Regional Council. A follow up programme will be jointly developed by Regional Council and Fish & Game staff, and a joint media release issued in due course.

1221 Reserves Management

No reserves management has been undertaken since the conclusion of the mallard hunting season. All managed reserves are currently closed to hunting and inundated with high water levels due to the substantial rainfall that has been experienced over the past month.

The BOPRC is currently abstracting material from the sand ridge within the leased grazing area of the Lower Kaituna WMR for the Kaituna River diversion into the Maketu estuary project. Approximately 30,000 cubic metres of sand is to be abstracted before the end of the year. As a result of the sand abstraction, significant new open water habitat will be created and a new water inlet channel created to support the new wetland areas. This will result in an additional three hectares of wetland habitat. BOPRC land management staff are working closely with Fish & Game staff to ensure the best outcome possible.

In addition to the sand abstraction site, staff are working with BOPRC to develop additional ephemeral scrapes between the Kahikatea block and the sand ridge, with mechanical works scheduled for November this year. Fish & Game staff will oversee excavation works to ensure habitat is suitable for both game bird and protected species, and this will represent our contribution to the project. Funding for this has been provided by BOPRC and will result in an additional two hectares of wetland being developed from land that is currently grazed.

The Ngapouri and Tutaeinanga lakes restoration project continues with all properties fully surveyed, two properties fully fenced with the other two fencing projects to be implemented in August 2018. The decision was made to plant all newly fenced off riparian areas in September 2018 as the required 17,000 plants will then be available. All landowners are now fully on board and a good working relationship has been established with them.

A Lake Aniwhenua working group has been established to look at catchment issues and investigate means of managing high water flows to reduce damage, and sediment deposition in the Rangataiki River and Lake Aniwhenua. Participants include local community members and farmers, BOPRC rivers and drainage staff and land management staff, Whakatane District Council councillors, iwi, Nova Energy, DOC and Fish & Game. This group is also considering the potential effects of a proposed walkway/cycle around the perimeter of Lake Aniwhenua on wildlife and game bird hunters. The group acknowledges Fish & Game's concerns and will endeavour to develop the proposal so there is minimal impact.

Kaituna WMR

No recent news or developments regarding the 80 hectare Bay of Plenty Regional Council Lower Kaituna wetland expansion has been received.

1231 Maintain and Enhance Game Bird Habitat

Landowner Information

Two new landowner requests have been received since the last Council meeting. One requires a brief site visit to advise on predator control in a well established wetland. This visit will take place at the same time as a visit to another Gisborne landowner who is seeking advice on converting stock ponds to wetlands for waterfowl. The other landowner request relates to a request for advice on plants that will attract waterfowl to a small pond in the Taupo area.

Upper Ngongotaha Stream Working Group

Nothing new to report regarding this group except to state that no works have occurred to remedy the significant private access issues to properties as a result of the recent rain events. Plans have been drawn up and some emergency works have been undertaken to prevent further erosion, but long term plans for stream management have yet to be developed. Fish & Game continues to offer moral support to landowners and liaise with Council engineers, and when community meetings recommence will offer use of the boardroom for meetings.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

Winter recreational access remains open to Kaingaroa Forest and Rotoehu Forest, and through Waimangu Forest to Lake Rotomahana. Kaingaroa and Waimangu forest access is set to remain open through to end of September – possibly longer for Kaingaroa if fire risk is low in spring. Rotoehu forest access is available through to the end of the upland game season at the end of August.

Access to the upper Whirinaki River was hindered in the last months of the season due to road closures beyond Murupara caused by storm damage and repair work. Access was available via a detour through Kaingaroa Forest but was much longer and more difficult. The same road closures caused loss of access to Waikaremoana through the old SH38 from Murupara, resulting in fewer angler visits other than by those who accessed Waikaremoana from the Hawke's Bay side.

Investigations into the rivers in the Rangitaiki system in the Murupara/Galatea area found there were considerable effects arising from the recent storms and flooding. The floods have however, opened up some areas and enabled better river bed access, e.g. in the lower Whirinaki River, Waihua River, and Mangamako River.

Staff have liaised with the Walking Access Commission with regard to new angler access provisions stemming from Overseas Investment Office conditions relating to land and a Waikato River tributary near Atiamuri. It will be some time before this becomes a reality as considerable work is required.

Other access matters have included working with DOC on an issue involving landowner encroachment onto a marginal strip on the Ngongotaha Stream.

1331 Electronic Newsletters

Reel Life was not produced during the months of June and July 2017.

1333 Fish & Game Website

Work continues with the new website and most minor issues are being resolved as they arise. There remain however, some major issues and concerns.

1354 Fishing Competitions

Four fishing competition permits were processed for the period.

1371 Fish & Game Huts

Maintenance was carried out as required.

PUBLIC INTERFACE

1411 Statutory Liaison

A meeting was held with the CEO and planning staff of Te Uru Taumatua to discuss Te Urewera Board's draft management plan for Te Urewera, Te Kawa o Te Urewera. A written submission was subsequently prepared and forwarded to the Board, and Andy Garrick presented this verbally to the Board at a hearing held in late July.

1421 Public Communications

Media Releases

The game bird food festival generated media releases, with one targeted at Rotorua's Daily Post highlighting a local participating restaurant.

Another release in June highlighted the 'last chance to fish one of the three iconic Rotorua lakes' before their closure from July 1.

No other releases were issued during May and June, reflecting both staff illness and Grant Dyson's absence who took extended leave from late May until late June.

Some early discussions have been held with staff on how to handle potentially contentious issues including developments over black swan in Tauranga harbour and the presence of perch in Papamoa lakes.

Grant arrived back in time to organise and co-ordinate the Both Barrels June edition. He worked with Matt McDougall on Eastern Region's contribution, as well as editing those from all other regions. During May, Grant spent some time working on Eastern website pages. Some urgent additions and corrections were made to Eastern hunting pages in advance of the new game bird season.

Website work has continued on other fronts. Grant made submissions to Fish & Game's website company Hothouse and the NZ Council seeking increased editing access to Eastern

pages for officers and admin staff. Some training in the new content management system was also provided to staff.

1451 Education

One tour of the grounds and hatchery was carried out within the reporting period and Lloyd Gledhill spoke to a Probus Group offsite about Fish & Game activities.

1452 Grounds

The risks posed by the trees close to the road behind the staff house immediately inside the front gate have been eliminated following the felling of a large gum and five wattles by a contractor. Risks imposed by large trees within the grounds, particularly large blue gums, are likely to be ongoing, and we will need to develop a strategy for dealing with these which may include harvesting some trees within the grounds if this is viable, as a means of generating revenue to offset the quite considerable costs of felling trees threatening people and/or infrastructure.

COMPLIANCE

1511 Ranging

Angler surveys and compliance checks have continued around the Rotorua Lakes and district. Ranging and angler checks have also been made in other areas around the region. Several persons have been found fishing in closed waters areas following the closure of many areas at the end of June. These have mostly been due to a lack of awareness and/or failing to properly check regulations.

Monitoring of spawning streams continues with some sign of poaching activity in some areas. Covert camera monitoring is being used as appropriate.

No further issues have arisen over the remainder of the game bird hunting season.

A visit to Waikaremoana was made in June to monitor compliance in conjunction with spawning surveys. Due to road closures from the Rotorua and Murupara side access was via Hawkes Bay/Wairoa which hindered further efforts at Waikaremoana.

Angler and hunter contacts to end of June totalled 2,682. Angler contacts have been fewer than in recent years.

Overall compliance rate is in excess of 98 %.

Contacts: Year 2016-2017 to 30/06/2016

Month	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Last 5 yr average
September	82	66	50	59	29	57
October	997	984	960	1223	903	1013
November	129	175	112	20	62	100
December	598	387	392	293	310	392
January	497	355	381	335	217	357

February	234	151	395	418	293	298
March	300	279	275	253	191	277
April	195	299	264	53	214	203
May	516	446	498	272	292	405
June	209	325	203	277	171	237
July	120	79	120	107		107
August	131	77	76	42		82
Total	4,008	3,623	3,726	3,352	YTD 2,682	3,818

1521 Ranger Training

North Island/National CLE role

This role continues with input into CLE/training/prosecutions and legal matters.

Rangers

Rangers continue to contribute around the region. A training day is scheduled for mid August.

1531 Prosecution of Offenders

Prosecutions

Currently 10 offenders have offences pending resolution, details as per the table below.

Of these six have warrants to arrest either in lieu of summons or for failing to appear in court. Two are currently pending court prosecution resolution, and two matters are pending reparation processes.

Offences Year to Date 2016-2017 Year

For the year 2016- 2017 year to date we have dealt with 43 persons for 70 offences as tabled below.

Offence table 2016-2017 year (to 20/07/2017)

Offence name	Number of offences
Fish without licence	20
Fish without licence – aid and abet	2
Fish closed waters	16
False details	5
Disturb spawning gravels	6
Take sports fish with net, spear, gaff or device.	7
Fish with more than 1 rod	1
Hunt without licence	2
Hunt during closed season	1
Trap/snare game bird	1
Hunt/shoot protected species	1
Unplugged gun magazine	3
Possess lead shot ammunition within 200 m open water	1
Careless use of firearm	4
Total	70

Pending Resolution

To date (20/07/2017) 22 separate offences by 10 offenders are pending resolution.

The table below shows offences currently pending resolution:

Offence name	Numbers
Fish without licence	10
Illegal tackle	2
Possess spear-gaff	2
Fish closed waters	6
False details	2
Total	22

LICENSING

1613 National Licence Management

Kate Thompson attended a Licence Working Party meeting in July just prior to the staff conference in Dunedin and the following items were covered:

- Preparation for the 2017-18 Fishing Season including the near complete phase out of paper licences, and inclusion of additional back country fisheries for the Nelson Marlborough region.
- Demand for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp and stand claim tags for the 2017 game bird hunting season.
- Preparation of licence system for the Fish & Game Elections to be held in October 2018.
- Significant number of duplicate customer records being created and remedies for this.
- Schedule for review of licence categories and ratios for 2018.
- Wellington's proposal to develop a game version of the back country booking system.
- Fish & Game licence Service Agreement renewal and timetable for this.

1621 Licence Agent Support

Staff continue to liaise with licence agents as required. Agents with back up licence books have been contacted for their return in preparation for the year end accounts.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1841 National Liaison

In addition to staff contributing to a wide range of national projects and work areas, all staff with the exception of Mark Sherburn, Eben Herbert, and Nigel Simpson attended the 2017 Staff Conference hosted in Dunedin by Otago Fish & Game over the period 4-7 July.

ADMINISTRATION

1920 Staff

Annual Leave

Staff annual leave accruals are reported each month. Due to employment anniversary dates, the leave accruals for individuals vary depending on the time of the year. We have established leave for individual staff as at 23 July 2017. We currently have one staff member four weeks behind where we would like them to be, one staff member three weeks behind, and five staff one week behind. The remainder are in a neutral leave position.

1960 Communications

Computer software

Staff have spent quite a bit of time investigating office software options. This has culminated in all of Eastern's PC's running Office 365 on a lease arrangement (monthly payments per licence). The cost of this upgrade has been meet by the NZFGC. The server is also being replaced. The operating software for the server is cheaper now as we no longer require Microsoft Exchange.

14.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

28 July 2017

1. Background

As part of its commitment to Health and Safety and providing a safe workplace, the Eastern Fish and Game Council is provided with a report at each meeting describing:

1. Implementation and adherence to the Health and Safety policy/manual – including Health and Safety as an agenda item for staff & ranger meetings;
2. Monitoring and Reporting – in accordance with the Health and Safety plan;
3. Risk Management (identification and treatment) – any new issues or hazards that have arisen and how these have been addressed;
4. Training programme – information sharing and training of staff and volunteers;
5. Health and Safety incidents – near misses or injuries sustained, plus updates on past events;
6. Recommendations.

2. May/June 2017 Update

1. Implementation and Adherence to the Health and Safety Plan

Staff are still developing a more user friendly Where am I "Intentions Board" to assist office staff to track individual's movements. This Board will be purchased in the new Financial Year.

Staff continue to be reminded to prepare Health and Safety plans before they embark on field work and when engaging in hazardous work around the site though remembering to do this has improved considerably.

Our Health and Safety plan and procedures are continually being reviewed and Carmel is ensuring all hazards identified on tail gate forms are being transferred to our master Hazard Registers. All tail gate forms are scanned and filed.

Regular Contractors have been sent a Contractors agreement which outlines our requirements for them as Contractors. With this we have sent a copy of our hazard register for the contractors to be aware of.

Visitors coming on site are required to sign in.

Weekly staff meetings have Health and Safety on the agenda as a standard item.

Health and Safety signs have been laminated and put in the Staff Quarters for persons using the Staff quarters.

Hans our weekend hatchery assistant and groundsman has been inducted with the Health and Safety plan.

Treescaping (onsite Contractors) were briefed and signed the Contractors Induction Checklist (21 June 2017)

We are currently undertaking an Audit of our processes – this has been sent to all Fish & Game Regions by the NZC.

2. Monitoring and Reporting

Work Place Accident Register

As at 30 June 2017

Number of workplace injuries in 2016-2017 year	0
Number of workplace injuries in 2015-2016 year	1
Number of workplace injuries in 2014-2015 year	1
Number of workplace injuries in 2013-2014 year	3
Total number of workplace injuries since 1 Sept 1995	29
Total number of days lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995	1
Total number of days since last lost work injury (7/12/13)	1,301
Total number of days prior to last lost work injury since 1 Sept 1995	6,672

3. Risk Management (identification and treatment)

Tailgate forms were prepared for the Wetland work that took place on 7 June 2017.

One Staff member undertook a Medical for Drift Diving.

Treescapes were contracted to top the large gum tree and remove the 6 wattles near the timber house following the risk assessment from the recent storms – where the large gum fell over and out onto the road.

4. Training Programme

Nine staff members attended the Staff Conference in Dunedin. Health and Safety was a topic within the Administration session. A new app that has been developed by the Nelson Marlborough Region was demonstrated to all staff. The app has drop down boxes for tailgate forms and the ability for staff to check into the office. It also creates a paper trail. This looks great and staff made a few suggestions for improvement. Once these have been implemented Carmel would like Eastern to trial the app.

Hans has undertaken the Growsafe and approved handlers course for the handling of hazardous substances.

All Staff will undertake their Refresher First Aid training course in August.

5. H&S Incidents

No notifiable (serious harm) incidents or near misses to report.

6. Recommendation

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

14.3 Finance Report

Ref: 8.03.01

21 July 2017

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of its current financial position, and approve payments for the months of May and June 2017.

2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the two months ending 30 June 2017 is attached. This report documents the income and direct expenditure for the period.

Income

Fish licence revenue is currently reporting at \$18,122 below budget YTD with \$38,122 left to meet budget for the year. The fish licence sales YTD total is lower than previously reported as a year end accrual has been reversed. This accrual related to 1/12th of last year's season licence revenue and 1/6th of the winter licence revenue and will be reversed out again at the end of the financial year when the next accrual will be processed. We expect that fish licence revenue will fall short of budget at year end by some \$12,000, but we need to also bear in mind that our total fish licence sales include the back-country fisheries levy on non-resident licences which is not budgeted for, and this is currently estimated to be \$16,000.

The Game licence budget for the year has been met, and following the payment of the Game Bird Habitat stamp levies it is expected that Game revenue will have exceeded the year end target by some \$8,500.

Revenue from other sources over the period was made up of the following: sale of fish to other Fish & Game regions (\$26,711), fishing competitions (\$722), reparation for children's fishing (\$913), rentals (\$3,053), fines (\$204), boat shed lease (\$478), and donations (\$100). Funds were also received from the Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Council for field and administration services (\$7,210), and interest income totalled \$14,736 for the period which included \$10,942 for the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund. Two areas within "Other Income" are under budget YTD and they are rentals (\$3,773) and fines (2,227). Interest income on general reserves is expected to exceed budget by an estimated \$7,000.

Species Management

Within the Population Monitoring budgets expenses are reported relating to a Tumonz upgrade, materials for making duck traps, and food for staff working in Waikaremoana. Within budget YTD.

Harvest Assessment expenditure is reported relating to the game hunter surveys. Over budget YTD (\$828) due to timing of payments for Game hunter surveys.

Hatchery expenditure for the period included the purchase of fish food (\$4,514), various minor equipment purchases, and fire equipment servicing. Standard expenses are reported relating to electricity, fuel, and oxygen. Vehicle expenses included RUCs for tanker and a service of the flatdeck. The hatchery area is currently \$5,243 over budget due to continued higher cost of fish food and unanticipated repairs to the tanker. The variance will reduce over the coming months but it is likely that a reasonable variance will remain at year end. It is expected that the

income from the sale of fish will exceed the target for the year which will offset a portion of the additional expenditure incurred within the Hatchery budgets.

Habitat

There was no Habitat related expenditure within the period.

Participation

Access spending for the period included the clearing of the Wheao and Ngapouri access tracks (\$1,121). Expenses are also reported within the Training budget relating to the portaloos hire for the duck hunter day, and hut electricity and the purchase of a gas regulator through the Huts budget.

Public Interface

Public Interface expenditure relates to various grounds maintenance works. Within budget YTD.

Compliance

The Compliance expenses for the period related to the 0800 Poaching service, and food and accommodation expenses for the game bird opening weekend ranging. Legal fees associated with seven prosecutions are also reported within the period. Within budget YTD.

Licensing

Licence agent commission is reported within the period and includes the fees associated with the internet and 0800 sales. Commission expenses are in line with sales YTD and within budget.

Council

Travel expenses are reported relating to the April and June meetings of Council and catering expenses are reported for the June meeting. Within budget YTD.

Planning

A minor expense was incurred within the Liaison budget relating to airport parking and meeting expenses. Within budget YTD.

Administration

Notes on individual areas:

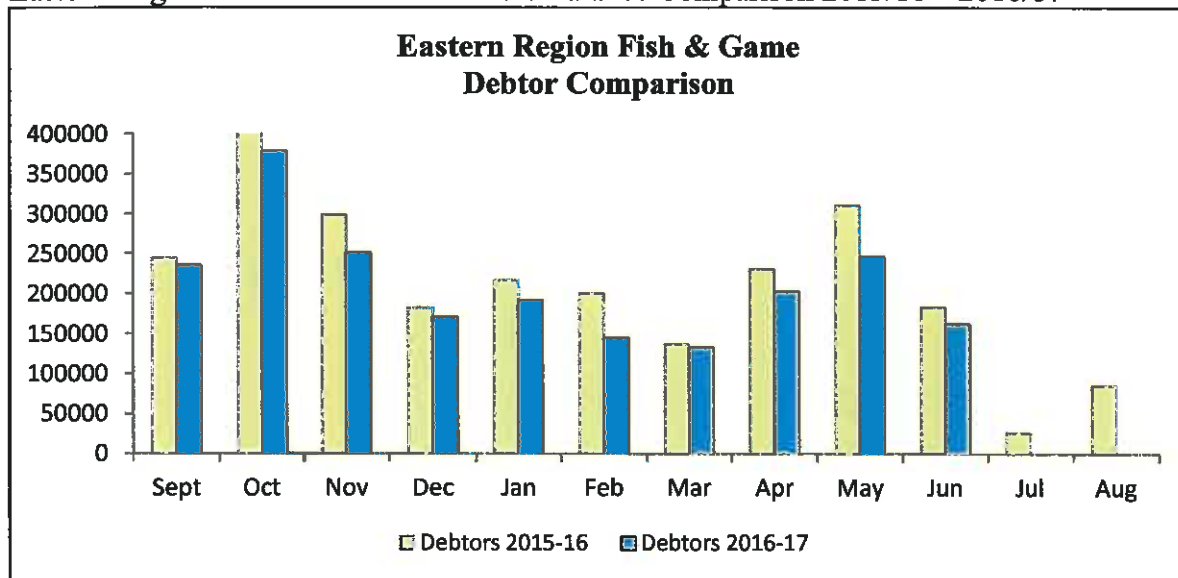
Salaries	Within budget YTD
Staff Expenses	FBT was paid as budgeted in May. Other staff expenses for the period included flu vaccines, a dive medical, and a physio health and safety appointment. An unanticipated expense relating to the removal of trees posing a potential health and safety risk near one of the houses is also reported. This expense was \$3,600 and is offset by reduced expenditure within other staff expense areas. Within budget YTD.
Staff Houses	Staff houses expenditure for the period included plumbing and electrical repairs \$894, curtains \$247, smoke alarms, fire equipment servicing and other minor maintenance purchases. The staff houses area is \$10,093 over budget YTD. This is offset in part by a transfer of budget from Hatchery maintenance which was to have occurred for this financial year but omitted (\$3,000) and the budgets for vehicles and communications will not be fully utilised through savings in those areas (est. \$5,000). In the long

	term the rental income for this property will see a significant increase which will recover the costs associated with the refurbishment of the property.
Office Premises	Maintenance expenses relate to lining a ceiling in garage storage room, replacement light bulbs, a smoke alarm and fire equipment servicing. The usual expenses relating to rubbish removal, electricity, cleaning, and security are reported. Within budget YTD.
Office Equipment	Equipment purchases for the period included two replacement cell phones and covers, and a laser pointer. Equipment maintenance expenses are reported relating to a fault on the hatchery phone line and servicing of three heat pumps. The usual expenses relating to the phone and eftpos lease are also reported. The Office equipment area is overbudget \$842 YTD.
Communications/ Consumables	Communications expenditure for the period was increased with the renewal of antivirus software for 3 years (\$1,155), and the purchase of A4 prepaid envelopes and various sizes of courier bag packs (\$1,222). Other communications expenses included phones, broadband, stationery, IT services, and photocopying. Courier expenses were also reported for sending ova to various schools in Wellington and this expense was recovered to the "Other Income" account. Within budget YTD.
General	Expenses are reported for staff morning teas and bank charges. Within budget YTD.
General Equipment	Equipment maintenance expenses for the period included WoF checks on the Kotare and Parera trailers, and fire equipment servicing. A set of waders and a tyre pump were purchased and the standard fuel expenses were also incurred. Within budget YTD.
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the period included servicing of four vehicles and the standard fuel expense was incurred including Road User Charges for four vehicles. Vehicle expenses are under budget \$6,331 YTD due to reduced registration, insurance, and fuel costs.

Cash Position: \$1,074,324 (includes \$103,683 for asset replacement reserve and \$463,023 for Waikaremoana Fund) as at 30 June 2017.

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$162, 481 as at 30 June 2017 (\$183,275 as at 30 June 2016).

Eastern Region Fish and Game - Debtors Balance Comparison 2015/16 – 2016/17



The May and June debtor balances include invoicing of Agents for Game sales. A majority of these invoices were settled 5 July with the remainder to come through in early August. All debtor accounts are current.

3. Variance Report

The variance report is shown on the following two pages. YTD actual including staff hours are entered for each project area to provide Council with an overview of the staff time component of the Operational Work Plan.

2016/2017 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

As at 30 June 2017

Schedule & Code	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETTABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		NET COST %
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	
1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 35,100	\$ 25,136	2,494	1,983	\$ 141,520	\$ 114,421	\$ 17,000	\$ -	\$ 159,620	\$ 139,567	\$ 20,063	\$ -	87.4
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,150	\$ 1,628	856	778	\$ 48,573	\$ 44,917	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,723	\$ 46,545	\$ 4,178	\$ -	91.8
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 65,150	\$ 67,545	2,809	2,527	\$ 159,394	\$ 145,818	\$ 78,500	\$ 63,208	\$ 147,044	\$ 150,167	\$ (3,112)	\$ -	102.1
1150	Game Farm	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
1160	Releases	\$ 500	\$ -	200	177	\$ 11,349	\$ 10,230	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,849	\$ 10,230	\$ 1,619	\$ -	86.3
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	96	134	\$ 5,447	\$ 7,748	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,447	\$ 7,748	\$ (2,301)	\$ -	142.2
1180	Control	\$ 200	\$ -	64	37	\$ 3,632	\$ 2,107	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,832	\$ 2,107	\$ 1,725	\$ -	55.0
	TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT	\$ 104,100	\$ 94,309	6,519	5,635	\$ 369,915	\$ 325,240	\$ 95,500	\$ 63,208	\$ 378,515	\$ 356,343	\$ 22,172	\$ -	94.1
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ 200	\$ -	1,215	1,134	\$ 69,944	\$ 65,435	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 69,144	\$ 65,435	\$ 3,709	\$ -	94.6
1220	Works & Management	\$ 49,748	\$ 29,421	1,038	982	\$ 59,900	\$ 50,905	\$ 41,248	\$ 38,698	\$ 67,400	\$ 43,630	\$ 23,770	\$ -	64.7
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 3,400	\$ 3,499	970	583	\$ 55,042	\$ 33,662	\$ -	\$ 3,400	\$ 64,442	\$ 33,761	\$ 30,680	\$ -	52.4
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	120	85	\$ 6,809	\$ 4,891	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,809	\$ 4,891	\$ 1,918	\$ -	71.8
	TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION & MAN	\$ 59,348	\$ 32,920	3,343	2,684	\$ 189,896	\$ 154,893	\$ 41,248	\$ 40,098	\$ 207,796	\$ 147,718	\$ 60,078	\$ -	71.1
1310	Access	\$ 7,000	\$ 4,731	714	515	\$ 40,515	\$ 29,723	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,515	\$ 34,454	\$ 13,061	\$ -	72.5
1330	Newsletters	\$ 13,000	\$ 11,725	409	292	\$ 23,208	\$ 13,390	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,208	\$ 25,114	\$ 11,094	\$ -	69.4
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000	102	37	\$ 5,788	\$ 2,135	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,768	\$ 3,135	\$ 4,652	\$ -	40.3
1350	Training	\$ 1,350	\$ 878	1,012	637	\$ 57,425	\$ 36,779	\$ 13,500	\$ 8,991	\$ 45,275	\$ 28,466	\$ 16,809	\$ -	62.9
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	120	61	\$ 6,809	\$ 3,492	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,809	\$ 3,492	\$ 3,318	\$ -	51.3
1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 1,157	36	25	\$ 2,043	\$ 1,443	\$ 470	\$ 321	\$ 3,093	\$ 2,279	\$ 814	\$ -	73.7
	TOTAL - ANGLER & HUNTER PARTICIP	\$ 24,800	\$ 19,290	2,993	1,507	\$ 135,789	\$ 86,963	\$ 13,900	\$ 9,312	\$ 148,689	\$ 96,941	\$ 49,748	\$ -	66.1
1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	216	172	\$ 12,257	\$ 9,913	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,257	\$ 9,913	\$ 2,344	\$ -	80.9
1420	Communication	\$ 500	\$ -	289	80	\$ 16,399	\$ 4,588	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,899	\$ 4,588	\$ 12,311	\$ -	27.2
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 3,500	\$ 715	172	228	\$ 9,760	\$ 13,044	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,260	\$ 13,758	\$ (498)	\$ -	103.8
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,390	634	711	\$ 35,976	\$ 41,050	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,976	\$ 42,430	\$ (5,454)	\$ -	114.8
	TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,095	1,311	1,188	\$ 74,392	\$ 68,595	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79,382	\$ 70,689	\$ 8,702	\$ -	89.0
1510	Ranging	\$ 2,100	\$ 725	981	883	\$ 55,666	\$ 50,934	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 57,766	\$ 51,659	\$ 6,107	\$ -	89.4
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 215	108	36	\$ 6,128	\$ 2,078	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,128	\$ 2,292	\$ 4,836	\$ -	32.2
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 5,500	\$ 2,140	348	201	\$ 19,747	\$ 11,615	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,773	\$ 19,247	\$ 10,982	\$ 8,265	\$ -	57.1
	TOTAL - COMPLIANCE	\$ 8,600	\$ 3,079	1,437	1,120	\$ 81,541	\$ 64,627	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,773	\$ 84,141	\$ 64,933	\$ 19,208	\$ -	77.2
1610	Licensing	\$ 800	\$ -	378	419	\$ 21,449	\$ 24,197	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,249	\$ 24,197	\$ (1,948)	\$ -	108.8
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	204	119	\$ 11,576	\$ 6,893	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,576	\$ 6,893	\$ 4,683	\$ -	59.5
	TOTAL - LICENSING	\$ 800	\$ -	582	539	\$ 33,025	\$ 31,090	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,825	\$ 31,080	\$ 2,745	\$ -	91.9
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 10,000	\$ 7,323	772	540	\$ 43,806	\$ 31,137	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,806	\$ 38,460	\$ 15,346	\$ -	71.5
	TOTAL - COUNCILS	\$ 10,000	\$ 7,323	772	540	\$ 43,806	\$ 31,137	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,806	\$ 38,460	\$ 15,346	\$ -	71.5
1810	Management Planning	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	180	96	\$ 10,214	\$ 5,454	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,214	\$ 5,454	\$ 4,760	\$ -	53.4
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 3,400	\$ 7,410	514	367	\$ 29,166	\$ 20,576	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 38,566	\$ 27,986	\$ 10,581	\$ -	72.6
1840	National Liaison	\$ 250	\$ 97	284	248	\$ 16,115	\$ 14,169	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,365	\$ 14,266	\$ 2,099	\$ -	87.2
	TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING	\$ 9,650	\$ 7,507	978	697	\$ 55,496	\$ 40,189	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,146	\$ 47,706	\$ 17,440	\$ -	73.2
	TOTAL	\$ 222,298	\$ 166,523	17,335	13,909	\$ 983,660	\$ 802,733	\$ 156,648	\$ 115,387	\$ 1,049,310	\$ 853,869	\$ 195,441	\$ -	81.4

OVERHEADS		EXTERNAL COSTS		NETTABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance
1910	Salaries	\$ 885,330	\$ 728,775	\$ 43,240	\$ 39,888	\$ 851,490	\$ 688,887	\$ 162,603	\$ 80.9
1920	Staff Expenses	\$ 20,400	\$ 19,906			\$ 26,400	\$ 19,906	\$ 6,494	75.4
1930	Staff Houses	\$ 6,220	\$ 15,740	\$ 21,020	\$ 13,747	\$ (14,800)	\$ 1,893	\$ (16,793)	-13.5
1940	Office Premises	\$ 23,100	\$ 16,305			\$ 20,100	\$ 16,305	\$ 3,795	81.1
1950	Office Equipment	\$ 3,900	\$ 4,302			\$ 3,900	\$ 4,302	\$ (402)	110.3
1960	Communications/Consumables	\$ 21,000	\$ 16,715	\$ 750	\$ 1,675	\$ 21,000	\$ 16,715	\$ 4,285	79.6
1970	General	\$ 8,620	\$ 7,218			\$ 17,000	\$ 12,413	\$ 4,587	73.0
1980	General Equipment	\$ 17,000	\$ 12,413			\$ 50,700	\$ 36,669	\$ 14,031	72.3
1990	Vehicles	\$ 50,700	\$ 36,669						
	Administration	\$ 1,049,270	\$ 858,044	\$ 65,610	\$ 55,310	\$ 983,660	\$ 802,733	\$ 180,927	81.6
	Total Overhead Net Cost			\$ 983,660	\$ 802,733				
	Total Outputs Staff Hours			17,336	13,909				
	Internal Cost Per Hour			56.74	57.72				

2016/2017 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

Schedule & Code	Output	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETTABLE INCOME		NET COST		%	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance		
1	Species Management	\$ 104,100	\$ 94,309	6,519	5,635	\$ 325,240	\$ 369,915	\$ 95,500	\$ 63,206	\$ 378,515	\$ 356,343	\$ 22,172	94.1
2	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 59,348	\$ 32,920	3,343	2,684	\$ 154,893	\$ 189,696	\$ 41,248	\$ 40,096	\$ 207,796	\$ 147,718	\$ 60,078	71.1
3	Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 24,800	\$ 19,290	2,393	1,507	\$ 135,789	\$ 86,963	\$ 13,900	\$ 9,312	\$ 146,689	\$ 96,941	\$ 49,748	66.1
4	Public Interface	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,095	1,311	1,189	\$ 74,392	\$ 68,595	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79,392	\$ 70,689	\$ 8,702	88.0
5	Compliance	\$ 8,600	\$ 3,079	1,437	1,120	\$ 81,541	\$ 64,627	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,773	\$ 84,141	\$ 64,933	\$ 19,209	77.2
6	Licensing	\$ 800	\$ -	582	539	\$ 33,025	\$ 31,089	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,825	\$ 31,089	\$ 2,745	91.9
7	Councils	\$ 10,000	\$ 7,323	772	540	\$ 43,806	\$ 31,137	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,806	\$ 38,460	\$ 15,346	71.5
8	Planning, Reporting	\$ 9,650	\$ 7,507	978	697	\$ 55,496	\$ 40,199	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,146	\$ 47,706	\$ 17,440	73.2
9	Administration												
	Total Overhead Staff Hours			6,066	4,947								
	TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 222,298	\$ 168,523	23,401	18,856	\$ 983,660	\$ 802,733	\$ 156,648	\$ 115,387	\$ 1,049,310	\$ 853,669	\$ 195,441	

Licence Income 2016/17		% of OWP budget spent	
	Budget	Actual	
2016/17 Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,158,370	\$ 1,120,248	8.3%
Less Commission	\$ -	\$ 57,919	
Net Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,100,451	\$ 1,120,248	
2017 Game Licence Income	\$ 242,687	\$ 257,751	
Less Commission	\$ -	\$ 12,134	
Net Game Licence Income	\$ 230,553	\$ 257,751	
Total Licence Income	\$ 1,401,057	\$ 1,377,999	
Total Commission	\$ -	\$ 70,053	
Total Net 2016/17 Licence Revenue	\$ 1,331,004	\$ 1,320,851	

Adjustments to OWP budgets - Waikaremoana Fund		Subtotal	
	Budget	Actual	
Adjustment to OWP budgets - National Approved Budget	\$ -	\$ -	
less Interest	\$ -	\$ -	
Plus NZ Fish & Game Levies	\$ 223,257	\$ 167,443	
Less Licence Revenue	\$ (1,401,857)	\$ (1,377,999)	
Plus Commission Expense	\$ 70,053	\$ 57,148	
Plus Gain Loss on Sale/revaluation	\$ 2,812	\$ (1,143)	
Depreciation	\$ 70,202	\$ 57,152	
Subtotal	\$ 7,304	\$ (251,934)	
Adjustments to OWP budgets - Waikaremoana Fund	\$ -	\$ (11,029)	
Less Waikaremoana Fund Interest	\$ -	\$ -	
Plus Waikaremoana Fund Expenses	\$ 76,000	\$ 6,151	
Adjusted Budget	\$ 72,275	\$ (258,424)	

Profit and Loss - Council Eastern Fish and Game Council

For the 2 months ended 30 June 2017

Account	May 2017	Jun 2017	YTD ACTUAL	Total Budget	Variance	% Variance
Income						
1000 LICENCE INCOME						
Fish Licence Income	31151	22059	1120248	1158370	-38122	-3
Game Licence Income	102104	16402	257751	242687	15064	6
Total 1000 LICENCE INCOME	133256	38461	1377999	1401057	-23058	-2
Other Income	15480	38453	195173	240560	-45387	-19
Total Income	148736	76914	1573172	1641617	-68445	-4
Operating Expenses						
Depreciation	5516	5510	57152	70202	-13050	-19
Loss on Disposal	0	0	2288	2812	-524	-19
1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT						
1110 Population Monitoring	257	233	25136	35100	-9964	-28
1120 Harvest Assessment	0	1014	1628	2150	-522	-24
1140 Hatchery Operations	1996	5269	67545	66150	1395	2
1160 Releases	0	0	0	500	-500	-100
1180 Game Bird Control	0	0	0	200	-200	-100
Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT	2252	6516	94309	104100	-9791	-9
1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT						
1210 Resource Management Act	0	0	0	200	-200	-100
1220 Works & Management	0	0	29421	49748	-20327	-41
1230 Assisted Habitat	0	0	11650	85400	-73750	-86
Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION	0	0	41071	135348	-94277	-70
1300 PARTICIPATION						
1310 Access	1121	49	4731	7000	-2269	-32
1330 New sletters	0	0	11725	13000	-1275	-10
1340 Other Publications	0	0	1000	2000	-1000	-50
1350 Training	174	0	678	1350	-672	-50
1370 Huts	96	115	1157	1450	-293	-20
Total 1300 PARTICIPATION	1391	164	19290	24800	-5510	-22
1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE						
1420 Communication	0	0	0	500	-500	-100
1440 Public Promotions	0	0	715	3500	-2785	-80
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education	27	342	1380	1000	380	38
Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE	27	342	2095	5000	-2905	-58
1500 COMPLIANCE						
1510 Ranging	373	35	725	2100	-1375	-65
1520 Ranger Training	0	0	215	1000	-785	-78
1530 Compliance	805	168	2140	5500	-3360	-61
Total 1500 COMPLIANCE	1178	203	3079	8600	-5521	-64
1600 LICENSING						
1610 Licence Prod/Distrib	0	0	0	800	-800	-100
1630 Commission	6058	1497	57148	70053	-12905	-18
Total 1600 LICENSING	6058	1497	57148	70853	-13705	-19
1700 COUNCIL						
1720 Council Meetings	0	1943	7323	10000	-2677	-27
Total 1700 COUNCIL	0	1943	7323	10000	-2677	-27
1800 PLANNING/REPORTING						
1830 Reporting/Audit	0	0	7410	9400	-1990	-21
1840 National Liaison	20	0	167539	223507	-55968	-25
Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING	20	0	174949	232907	-57958	-25
1900 ADMINISTRATION						
1910 Salaries	64976	65521	728775	895330	-166555	-19
1920 Staff Expenses	12156	3667	19906	26400	-6494	-25
1930 Staff Houses	1195	533	15740	6220	9520	153
1940 Office Premises	1544	1550	16305	20100	-3795	-19
1950 Office Equipment	1519	210	4302	3900	402	10
1960 Communications/Consumables	1433	3735	16715	21000	-4285	-20
1970 General	151	131	7218	8620	-1402	-16
1980 General Equipment	126	698	12413	17000	-4587	-27
1990 Vehicles	3174	2731	36669	50700	-14031	-28
Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION	86274	78774	858044	1049270	-191226	-18
Total Operating Expenses	102716	94949	1316748	1713892	-397144	-23
Net Profit	46020	-18035	256424	-72275	328699	19

14.4 Licence Sales Report

Ref: 6.01.05

25 July 2017

1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of licence sales for the 2016-2017 season year to date. The following tables show a comparison of sales between the 2016-2017 season and the 2015-2016 season as at 25 July.

2. 2017 Game Licence Sales (Table One)

- 2.1 The Eastern region annual sales target has been achieved with total sales YTD reporting to be 3.2% ahead of budget despite being 3.3% down on sales reported for the same period last year.
- 2.2 Nationally to 25 July, game licence sales YTD are also ahead of budget 1.6% and are just 0.1% ahead of sales reported for the same period last year.

Table One

Comparison of Game Licence LEQs to 25 July 2017

SALES CHANNEL	Adult Season	Junior Season	Child Season	Adult Day	Junior Day	Whole Season Equiv.	% Increase/Decrease on 2016
Agent Online Sales	2732	291	121	130	5	2816	0.0%
Agent Book Sales	5	1	0	0	0	5	-95.7%
Direct Sales*	358	50	17	60	3	380	2.1%
Total Game 2017	3095	342	138	190	8	3202	-3.3%
<i>Agent Online Sales</i>	<i>2733</i>	<i>298</i>	<i>129</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2817</i>	
<i>Agent Book Sales</i>	<i>116</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>121</i>	
<i>Direct Sales*</i>	<i>353</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>372</i>	
Total Game 2016	3202	344	153	196	9	3310	

TARGETS	Adult Season	Junior Season	Child Season	Adult Day	Junior Day	Whole Season Equiv.	Actual to date % of Target
2017 Total Budget	2997	334	160	180	10	3101	103.2%
2016 Total Sales	3201	343	153	217	10	3315	96.6%
2017 Estimated year end						3206	103.4%

* Direct Sales - Internet, 0800, Mail order

- 2.3 Most of the decline in Eastern's Adult Season Game licence sales in 2017 related to Auckland Waikato region residents (39), followed by South Island residents (20), Eastern (18), Hawke's Bay (14), and International hunters (8).
- 2.4 Of all game licence categories sold through licence agents Taupo saw the largest decline (60), followed by Te Puke (27) and Opotiki (8). Eastern licences purchased through ballots were down 27. Wairoa and Whakatane agents sold 15 more licences each in 2017. Tauranga and Gisborne were near level with last season.

3. 2016-2017 Fish Licence Sales (Table Two)

- 3.1 Fish licence sales for the 2016-2017 season YTD are summarised in Table Two and are currently reporting to be down on the 2015-16 season YTD results by 1.8%.
- 3.2 Nationally Fish licence sales to 25 July are reporting to be 2.3% down on the previous season.
- 3.3 A total of 96.5% of the annual sales target has been achieved YTD.
- 3.4 The variance within the short term categories has grown again since the June report with 1,169 fewer days purchased YTD accounting for 1.4% of the total decline in Fish licence sales. The daily cumulative results for Adult Day and Short Break licences is shown below. Many factors contribute to the variances reported in licence sales from one season to the next i.e. the number of competitions held, poor weather. Met Service historical data has shown considerably more weather events and rain in 2017 compared with 2016.

Chart One

Daily Cumulative Licence sales to 25 July - Adult Day and Short Break categories

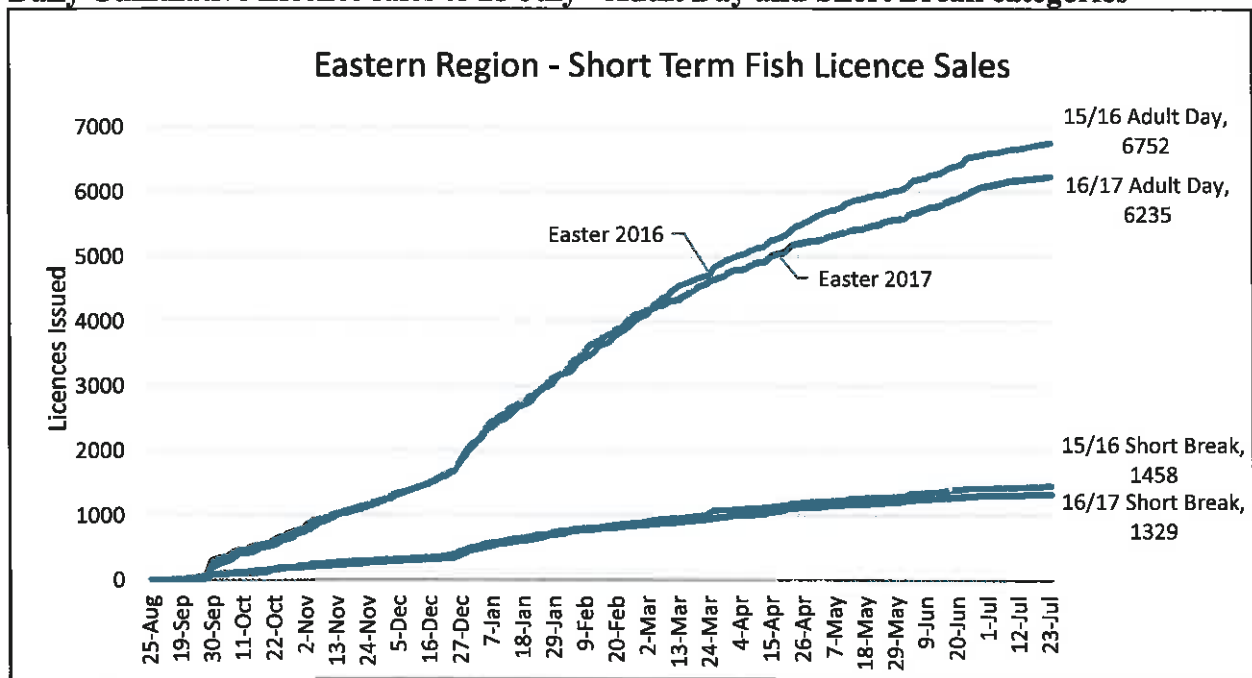


Chart Two

<http://www.metservice.com/towns-cities/rotorua>

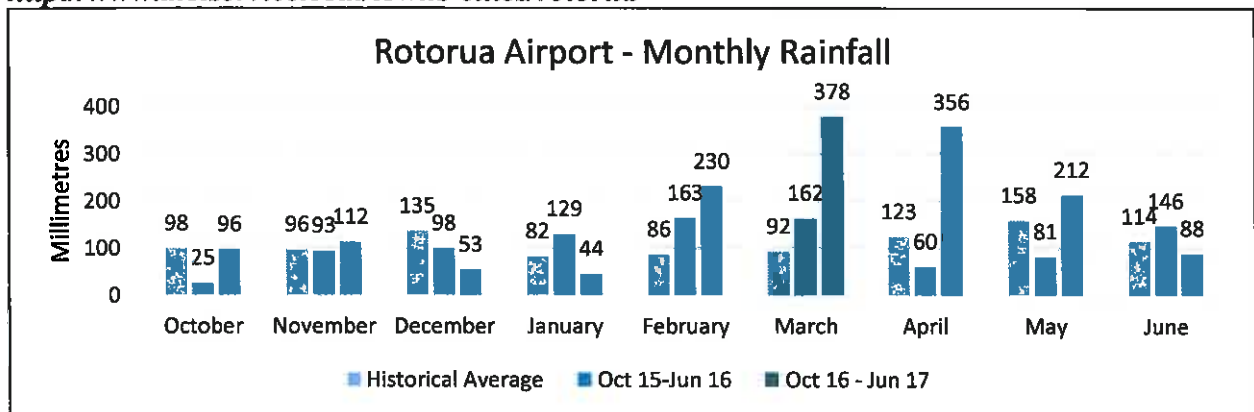


Table Two

Comparison of Fish Licence LEQs to 25 July 2017

SALES CHANNEL	Family Season	Adult Season	Adult NonRes	Adult Loyal Senior	Adult Local Area	Junior Season	Adult Winter	Adult Long Break	Adult Short Break	Adult Day	Junior Day	Whole Season Equiv.	% Increase/ Decrease on 2015-16
Agent Online Sales	1711	1209	351	205	1213	312	331	71	754	3441	296	6080	-5.8%
Agent Book Sales	0	15	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	160	24	43	-73.5%
Direct Sales*	1274	976	201	150	469	158	212	41	575	2634	218	4166	7.8%
Total Fish 2016-2017	2985	2200	552	355	1682	475	543	112	1329	6235	538	10288	-1.8%
Agent Online Sales	1789	1095	357	212	1516	358	396	81	881	3680	283	6455	
Agent Book Sales	41	19	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	517	73	161	
Direct Sales*	1195	841	145	146	466	131	224	60	577	2555	157	3863	
Total Fish 2015-2016	3025	1955	502	358	1982	499	620	141	1458	6752	513	10479	

TARGETS	Family Season	Adult Season	Adult NonRes	Adult Loyal Senior	Adult Local Area	Junior Season	Adult Winter	Adult Long Break	Adult Short Break	Adult Day	Junior Day	Whole Season Equiv.	Actual to date % of Target
2016-2017 Total Budget	3050	2001	500	400	2000	500	750	150	1500	6400	500	10657	96.5%
2015-2016 Total Sales	3025	1947	499	356	1976	500	635	142	1489	6928	526	10511	97.9%
2016-2017 Estimated year end												10320	96.8%

* Direct Sales - Internet, 0800 Licence