



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

14 June 2018

AGENDA

The 170th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

Date: Thursday, 14 June 2018

Commences: 12.00 PM

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(R) = resolution required, **(D)** = for discussion/advice, **(I)** = for information only

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 169th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 5th APRIL 2018 AT 12.00PM

Present

Lindsay Lyons, Barry Roderick, Neal Hawes, Peter Storey, Sandy Bull, Alan Baird, Laurance Tamati, and Annaka Davis (arrived 12.10).

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick, Matt McDougall, Kate Thompson, Lynne Sands, Eben Herbert, John Meikle, Lloyd Gledhill, Anthony van Dorp, Matt Osborne, Carmel Veitch, and Mark Sherburn (Eastern Fish & Game), and Ray Bushell.

1.0 WELCOME

Andy Garrick spoke to the meeting informing Council that Murray Ferris (Chairman) had sent his apologies, and as per Council's Standing Orders the meeting would be chaired today by the Deputy Chairman in his absence, Cr Lindsay Lyons.

- 1.1 Cr Lindsay Lyons took the chair, opened the meeting at 12.05pm and welcomed Councillors, staff, and Ray Bushell.

2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Crs Murray Ferris, David Woolner, Steve Scragg and Ken Coombes; and Helen Neale (Department of Conservation).

- 2.2 *Agreed (Sandy Bull/Peter Storey) that the apologies for the 169th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [18/04/2.2]*

- 2.3 Following the February meeting some Councillors reiterated concerns in relation to their ability to hear speakers due in part to the poor acoustics of the meeting room. Andy Garrick advised that staff had sought expert advice on options to overcome this including use of microphones and/or other devices to amplify the voices of those speaking. The outcome of those enquiries was that an investment of \$2,000 or more would be required to do this and that there was a very real risk that we wouldn't achieve the results we desire. It was agreed that the main issue arose when other people were talking amongst themselves while the meeting was taking place. This could be managed with a reminder to all present of the need to remain quiet while a speaker was addressing the meeting. In addition, those who continued to have trouble hearing could seat themselves on the side table so as to be a little closer to the front tables which could, and would in future be repositioned to reduce the distance between these and the rear tables.

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (15 FEBRUARY 2018)

- 3.1 *Agreed (Alan Baird/Neal Hawes) that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to the following changes;*

- (i) *Amend Item 9.2 from "Matt Osborne suggested for practical reasons that gathering and disseminating information and consulting with interested parties should be deferred until the following review of the Anglers Notice. Council voted in favour of postponing the exercise for a further year so that dialogue could take place with*

interested parties in the meantime” to “Matt Osborne suggested for practical reasons that gathering and disseminating information and consulting with interested parties should be deferred until the following review of the Anglers Notice. Council registered their support for further consultation being undertaken with interested parties in relation to spin fishing in the lower Ruakituri prior to a decision being made to include this in the next review (2020) of the Anglers Notice”, and;

- (ii) *Amend Item 10.1 from “Cr Barry Roderick suggested that meeting on a weekday was likely to be a prohibiting factor” to “Cr Barry Roderick suggested that meeting on a weekday was likely to be a prohibiting factor for people attending”. [18/04/3.1]*

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

- 4.1 Items 11.5, 11.11, 11.13, 11.16, 11.18, and 11.20 relating to ‘Release of Captive Reared Mallards’ were identified for inclusion in Council Policy.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

- 5.1 Cr Sandy Bull queried Item 9.2 regarding the Anglers Notice relating to the Ruakituri River. Sandy suggested there could be some confusion with reference to postponing the intended review for a further year when the next Anglers Notice review was not due until a year after that. Andy Garrick commented that consultation on this item would be needed well in advance of the 2020/21 Anglers Notice review meaning consultation with interested parties would need to be commenced in 2019.
- 5.2 Cr Barry Roderick requested that Item 11.8 relating to “releasing CRMs as a tool that could be used to hasten the recovery of wild populations that are at low levels...”, be revisited at the next meeting of Council (June 2018). Barry advised that he and some others present at that meeting had not completely understood the objective or implications of the question and therefore recommended that the item be reconsidered before being incorporated into Council policy. Council supported this course of action.

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Cr Sandy Bull - access above Waitangi Falls, Ruakituri River
- Andy Garrick - 2018 Election, Council performance appraisal, and Marketing Analysis report prepared for Fish & Game NZ (if time permitted).

7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

- 7.1 No conflict of interest items were identified.

8.0 2018-2019 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

- 8.1 Andy Garrick advised that we were now into the second stage of the Operational Work Planning process where staff’s provisional budget and proposed contestable funding bids needed to be reviewed and approved by Council before being considered at the upcoming managers and New Zealand Council combined meeting. He briefly summarised a number of minor changes to direct costs within the 2018-19 budget for existing projects, and provided more detail about proposed new work relating to investigations into establishing a fish out pond off site, increasing summer surveys in order to obtain more robust data, annual maintenance programmes in reserves to be

- partially funded from Stand Holders Habitat Management Contribution fees, and establishing a connection with Destination Rotorua through their Partners Programme.
- 8.2 Andy summarised the three proposed Contestable Fund bids staff have proposed, and adjustments to staff time allocated to, and reimbursed by the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council. He also provided a more detailed overview of the recent Supreme Court decision that had removed Fish & Game's ability to utilise reparation as a tool to deal with minor offences. This is likely to result in more prosecutions having to be taken, and therefore, increased prosecution costs for all Fish & Games regions. Cr Lindsay Lyons informed Council of Fish & Game's recent submission to a Parliamentary Select Committee to be included in a proposed 'Infringement Notice System', and encouraged Councillors to make their own submissions adding that these were due to close on 6 April.
- 8.3 Andy also advised Council that the research work planned for Lake Tarawera this year was unlikely to be commenced in the current OWP year (2017-18) as there was still a significant shortfall in funding for the project. Andy requested that this item be carried forward to the 2018-19 OWP, and suggested that Council consider increasing its seed funding for the project to leverage additional support from other external parties. Andy proposed that an amount of \$20,000 be resourced from the Region's Non-Resident Levy Reserve, and that this combined with that already approved from the National Research Fund (\$15,000) and Eastern's own budget (\$5,000) would increase Fish & Game's funding for the proposed project to \$40,000. Council had previously agreed on a set of criteria and a process for drawing funds down from the region's Non-Resident Levy Reserve, and on the basis of these Andy considered that the project was without doubt a justifiable option for using some of those funds. Council supported this proposal recognising that the funds would only be utilised once all additional funding had been sourced.
- 8.4 Cr Barry Roderick noted that the annual performance review of the manager, by Council, was not listed as a role of Council within the OWP. Andy Garrick said this could be included within the workplan under Output 7 Council and advised that he would update the plan to incorporate this item.
- 8.5 Cr Sandy Bull queried the work proposed for monitoring of spawning runs in the Waiotukupuna Stream, and whether this was to be carried out by contracted workers or staff? Matt Osborne advised that changes to the brown trout monitoring programme were being considered and that the proposed work would need to be undertaken by staff. Sandy Bull suggested that he might be able to source volunteers from the Gisborne and Wairoa Anglers clubs if needed. Matt Osborne thanked Sandy for the offer, but commented that due to more stringent Health & Safety requirements this was unlikely to be an option.
- 8.6 Cr Lindsay Lyons wished to highlight to Council that the proposed new project relating to reviewing options for a 'Fish Out' pond in the Bay of Plenty was intended to be an initial enquiry only at this early stage. He acknowledged that the additional resources required to implement such a project needed to be carefully considered as those resources would need to be sourced from elsewhere within the Region's work plan. Lindsay also advised that he was keen to ramp up the Fish for Gold promotion again this year.
- 8.7 ***Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Peter Storey) that Council receives the draft budget and approves the proposed contestable funding bids for the 2018-2019 Operation Work Plan. [18/04/8.7]***

9.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

9.1 Andy Garrick provided a brief overview of work which had been undertaken as a result of approved funding from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 operational years. He said that while the intensive three-year survey and monitoring programme had drawn to a close in 2017 there remained a need for ongoing monitoring, access, and buoy related work which would require further funding during the 2018-19 operational year. Cr Laurance Tamati felt that if the proposed work fell within the objectives of the fund, which he believed it did, and the requirements to maintain the principal were being satisfied, then the application should be approved.

9.2 *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Neal Hawes) that Council approves up to \$8,500 to be drawn from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund for the reduced but ongoing monitoring, access and buoy related programme. [18/04/9.2]*

10.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

10.1 Cr Lindsay Lyons opened the Anglers Notice discussion and asked that staff contribute to the discussion.

10.2 Cr Barry Roderick requested that Agenda Item 6, "Potential change required to Anglers Notice Policy 2003", be brought forward to be discussed prior to the other proposed changes to the Anglers Notice as the outcome of this discussion had the potential to affect a number of the proposals being considered. Council agreed to this item being brought forward.

10.3 Matt Osborne provided an overview of the changes that would be required to the Anglers Notice Policy 2003 in order to accommodate some of the proposed changes to the Anglers Notice. He noted that the biological regulations would remain unchanged as these were aimed at sustainability, but the current Policy 2.1 Social Regulations and more particularly method restrictions, which were determined by level of use, needed to have levels reduced or removed to enable some of the amendments proposed for the 2018-19 Anglers Notice to proceed.

Cr Neal Hawes expressed concern that by agreeing to Social Regulation changes within the policy that they were committed to those changes and as a result many fly fishing only (FFO) areas would be automatically subject to change. Matt Osborne advised that the proposed change would not automatically lead to the removal of FFO areas, but would provide the flexibility to amend some of the FFO regulations if Council wished to do so. Cr Barry Roderick provided examples of situations where intensity of use varied in accordance with the location e.g. stream mouths versus more extensive beach areas where anglers tended to be more spread out.

Cr Sandy Bull advised that he supported the Rotorua Anglers Assn. submission to retain the status quo and retain all FFO areas around the shorelines of the Rotorua lakes, and highlighted the minimal number of FFO areas the region had when compared to the likes of the Taupo fishery. Sandy also quoted a statement he had read on the National pages of Fish & Game's website where it is stated that "incompatible methods are kept separate".

Cr Barry Roderick commented on the staff view that there were very few conflicts in current fly/spin locations and reminded Council of its aim to simplify regulations and provide more opportunity for new anglers wishing to take up trout fishing.

Cr Neal Hawes was comfortable with the proposal so long as Council had the opportunity to retain the status quo for specific areas if Council so decided.

Matt Osborne advised that he would clarify and refine the amendments suggested and that this would be included for further discussion at the June meeting of Council.

10.4 Remove the "Fly Fishing Only" designation from Rotorua lakes shoreline areas

Crs Neal Hawes and Sandy Bull supported the Rotorua Anglers Assn. (RAA) submission to retain the status quo, particularly at stream mouths where they considered there was high intensity use. Cr Barry Roderick reiterated his earlier comments about simplifying regulations which staff had also indicated was needed as they were too complicated for many. He added that any regulation change could be reversed if it was not seen to be working because of conflict between angler methods. Andy Garrick asked what the specific issues were with spin fishing and whether there were spin anglers within the RAA who had views on the matter? Cr Neal Hawes advised that there were spin anglers involved with the club who did not have anything against retaining the status quo, adding that most of them used both methods. Neal felt that there were sufficient spin fishing locations around the lakes for those who wished to spin fish, and that the Te Wairoa Stream mouth, as an example, was a special place for fly anglers and the level of use it received demonstrated this. Other areas however, such as the Orchard, the Landing, Twin Creeks, and Wairua were of less concern. Cr Lindsay Lyons suggested that Council consider Option (iii) which would remove FFO designation from some shoreline areas around the Rotorua lakes. Cr Laurance Tamati supported this action as a common sense approach as he believed all anglers should have equal opportunities. Cr Neal Hawes also supported this approach on the basis that Council would have the opportunity to identify the specific areas that they felt would be appropriate for both methods. Andy Garrick advised that staff would compile a list of locations they considered where this might be appropriate and this would be presented to the June meeting of Council.

10.5 ***Agreed (Neal Hawes/Alan Baird) that Council supports the proposal to remove the Fly Fishing Only designation from some shoreline areas around the Rotorua Lakes. [18/04/10.5]***

10.6 Allow artificial fly/spinner in the lower Ohau Channel (River) downstream of the SH33 bridge or open Ohau Channel in its entirety to spin fishing

Cr Laurance Tamati tabled a further two submissions in support of opening the Ohau Channel/River in its entirety to spin fishing bringing the total in favour of this proposal to 7, versus 5 in favour of opening just the lower Ohau Channel to fly and spin. Laurance supported the option to open the Ohau Channel to both methods as he believed this would provide opportunity for all, including children, and commented on the high number of tourists passing through. He also agreed with staff comments regarding level of use in the upper part of the channel during the earlier parts of the season, and a suggestion from one of the submitters to retain FFO at the very top end of the channel but allow fly/spin downstream of the Ramada Resort. Matt Osborne noted that if this was to be adopted a landmark pole would be required to define the Fly Fishing Only area as a business name could not be utilised for obvious reasons.

10.7 ***Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Neal Hawes) that Council supports a fourth option (not listed) relating to the Ohau Channel (River) which would permit Fly Fishing Only from Lake Rotorua to a landmark pole located approximately 100 metres downstream, and fly and spin methods below this landmark. [18/04/10.7]***

- 10.8 Amend the wording for 7.2(a) Use of Boats
Council supported the proposed amendment to the wording of 7.2(a) from “in waters that, at any times of the year, are reserved for fly fishing only except in Lake Whakamarino (Tuai)” to “within 200 metres of a landmark pole”.
- 10.9 **Agreed (Barry Roderick/Peter Storey) that regulation 7.2(a) regarding “Use of Boats” be amended to read “7.2 No licence holder shall fish from an unanchored boat within 200 metres of a landmark pole”. [18/04/10.9]**
- 10.10 Amend the wording for 7.2(c) Use of Boats
Council agreement to the earlier amendment to 7.2(a) meant that the proposed amendment to 7.2(c) and the existing regulation under 7.2(b) were no longer required and should be deleted.
- 10.11 **Agreed (Peter Storey/Neal Hawes) that regulations 7.2(b) and 7.2(c) relating to unanchored boats should be deleted. [18/04/10.11]**
- 10.12 Remove the maximum wild size limit for wild trout on Lake Tarawera (Regulation 9.4)
Council agreed with staff comment that this regulation was poorly understood and redundant at this time due to the current size of Tarawera stock.
- 10.13 **Agreed (Annaka Davis/Neal Hawes) that Council supports the removal of Regulation 9.4 relating to the maximum size limit for wild trout taken on Lake Tarawera. [18/04/10.13]**
- 10.14 Amend Section 3.0 ‘Closed Waters’ to provide greater protection to trout that are contained in ponds or structures for management and educational purposes
Council agreed that this anomaly which had been identified by staff needed to be rectified and supported the introduction of the draft regulations detailed within the agenda item.
- 10.15 **Agreed (Neal Hawes/Sandy Bull) that the following draft regulations be adopted for inclusion within the “Closed Waters” section of the 2018-19 Anglers notice:**
- 3.6 **Any waters in which sports fish are held in captivity for display, breeding, hatching, monitoring or other purposes (excepting 3.7 below).**
- 3.7 **Ngongotaha Hatchery Educational Fishery (known as Children’s Fishing Pond) except by special authorisation. [18/04/10.15]**
- 10.16 Amend Regulation 3.1 Closed Waters to redefine the downstream limit of the Lake Tarawera Spawning Sanctuary as the Tarawera River Walk Bridge approximately 150m downstream of the Lake Outlet
Council agreed with staff comments regarding a clearer definition for the spawning sanctuary.
- 10.17 **Agreed (Neal Hawes/Peter Storey) that Regulation 3.1 Closed Waters relating to the Tarawera Spawning Sanctuary be amended to redefine the downstream limit from “extending approximately 150m downstream to landmarks in the river” to “extending approximately 150m downstream to the Tarawera River Foot Bridge”. [18/04/10.17]**
- 10.18 Prohibit the use of multi-point hooks within Eastern Region Fish & Game waters
Cr Lindsay Lyons informed Council that the Eastern Council was alone in its opposition to multi-hooks which had been introduced nationally some years ago. Council had varying opinions in favour of and against the proposed change as follows:
In favour
- Fish & Game NZ website item “Looking after your trout” advises against the use of treble hooks.

- Prohibiting the use of multi-hooks will bring the region more in line with Taupo.
- Scientific evidence (such as that suggesting there is no impact on fish welfare or survival from use of treble hooks) cannot always be relied upon.
- Fish are often foul hooked outside of the mouth with more than one hook and considerable damage can be done removing the hooks if the fish is needing to be released.
- Animal welfare needs to be taken into account.
- The majority of feedback from anglers is overwhelmingly in support of prohibition.

Against

- Scientific studies have concluded that there is no greater mortality in fish that have been caught and released using multi-point hooks than those caught and released using a single hook.
- There is a belief that mortality is higher in fish caught with single hooks as they are far more able to be deeply ingested and get hooked up in the gill plates.
- Prohibiting these hooks would result in regulations being made more complex and would be out of proportion to the extent to which these hooks are used.
- When the use of multi-point hooks was previously debated and introduced, the Minister of Conservation wanted more consistency within Fish & Game regional regulations than had been the case. Eastern Region therefore, has an 'obligation' to remain consistent with the rest of Fish & Game
- If the Eastern Region decides to prohibit the use of multi-point hooks it will generate confusion and have issues for compliance. The Solicitor-General's public interest test for taking a prosecution would generally be met, and Fish & Game would be unable to enforce the regulation which would only lead to further non-compliance
- Rather than regulate this could be better dealt with by discouraging the use of multi-point hooks

Cr Barry Roderick felt that a change to this regulation should be considered and made at a national level rather than a regional level as he noted that this was something the Hawke's Bay Council had also been interested in. Cr Neal Hawes proposed a motion in favour of the change, but a seconder did not come forward. Andy Garrick commented that a national review of First Schedule sports fishing regulations had been commenced last year and though on hold since then could be put back on the agenda if support was registered from regions for doing so. Andy and Cr Lindsay Lyons advised they could put this to the upcoming Managers and New Zealand Council meetings later this month and more specifically advise that the Eastern Fish and Game Council wished to revisit the subject of treble/multi-point hooks. Neal commented that he was prepared to withdraw his motion if this was to take place, and Andy and Lindsay confirmed that they would do so.

10.19 Bring forward the opening hours of sportfishing from 5am to 4am around the Rotorua lakes

Council supported staff comments and rationale as detailed within the agenda item.

10.20 Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Sandy Bull) that Council does not support bringing forward the opening hours of sportfishing from 5am to 4am around the Rotorua lakes. [18/04/10.20]

- 10.21 *Boat fishing anglers when fishing solo should be able to fish with two rods*
Council supported staff comments and rationale as detailed within the agenda item.
- 10.22 *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Peter Storey) that Council does not support anglers fishing solo from boats being able to fish with two rods. [18/04/10.22]*
- 10.23 *Close the Te Wairoa Stream Mouth area (Lake Tarawera) from 1 May to 30 September*

Matt Osborne advised that this proposal had been sent in with the submission from the Rotorua Anglers Association. Council concluded that the item required more discussion and consultation, and therefore would be retained for consideration at the next Anglers Notice review in 2020.

11.0 FIRST MEETING OF NEW COUNCIL

- 11.1 Andy Garrick apologised to Council for this being the third review of the meeting schedule for 2018 which had come about after receiving the election schedule and the requirement for the newly elected Council to meet within 21 days of the newly elected members taking office (31 October 2018). To accommodate this Andy proposed that the Council meeting scheduled for 18 October be pushed out to 1 November 2018 and that the 29 November meeting and public AGM be moved to 6 December 2018. This would mean members of the new Council would sit alongside members of the departing Council for both the strategy meeting and Council meeting on 1 November 2018, and the Council and AGM meetings scheduled for 6 December. Cr Lindsay Lyons kindly offered his accommodation in Rotorua for those attending the 1 November meeting as it was likely that a number of Councillors needing to travel might wish to stay overnight.
- 11.2 *Agreed (Alan Baird/Neal Hawes) that Council confirms the revised dates of 1 November 2018 and 6 December 2018 for its last two meetings of the year, and 6 December for the public AGM. [18/04/11.2]*

12.0 SPECIES MONITORING REPORTS

- 12.1 Cr Neal Hawes expressed his concern over the size and condition of trout reported in the Opening Day Survey report for lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina. Matt Osborne informed Council that it appeared that fish were slower coming into condition this season than in other years but more recently we had received reports of some very good conditioned trout having been caught in all of these lakes including Tarawera.
- 12.2 Cr Sandy Bull queried Matt McDougall whether he could foresee black swan returning to the schedule in areas B1 and B2? Matt advised that trend counts had not indicated a sufficient improvement in the populations of black swan in those areas to support this, as numbers remained below the Council policy threshold of 1,000 birds required to hold a season.
- 12.3 *Agreed (Annaka Davis/Alan Baird) that Council receives the 2017 Executive Summary for the Rotorua Lakes Opening Day Survey Report and the Summary for the 2018 Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan Trend Counts Report. [18/04/12.3]*

13.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

13.1 Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board

Annaka Davis advised that she had been unable to attend the most recent meeting of the Board and therefore had nothing to report.

13.2 New Zealand Council

Cr Lindsay Lyons reported on the recent New Zealand Council meeting which was held in Greymouth in the West Coast Region. Lindsay advised that the West Coast Council was made up of only eight Councillors which meant the region seldom required an Election. West Coast speakers addressed the meeting with concerns over farm dumps and highlighted that salmon fishing had really taken off within the region. Federated Farmers President, Katie Milne, who resides on the West Coast, was to have attended the meeting but unfortunately had to withdraw as she was a member of the local Volunteer Fire Service and had been called out to an incident. Martin Davies, Conservator for the Department of Conservation, spoke about 1080, arsenic, the impact of dairy, and the Department no longer utilising R22 helicopters. Lindsay confirmed that the Eastern Council bid to the legal fund had been approved for the work Eben Herbert was undertaking on the proposed Gisborne Regional Freshwater Plan regarding crop protection and water allocations, and highlighted that the outcome of this had the potential to set a precedent for elsewhere in the country. Nelson/Marlborough region had been experiencing issues with forest debris in water systems which had caused flooding, and Lindsay suggested that the Rangitaiki could be prone to this also. Andy Garrick agreed and noted that this was not dissimilar to the situation we currently had in the Waioeka River. John Meikle asked what the New Zealand Council's position was in relation to farmers and farming in general. Lindsay advised that the New Zealand Council wishes to highlight ongoing issues with Regional Councils, and that the pressure would remain on non-compliant activities. Andy Garrick voiced concern from a regional level that current media campaigns Fish & Game was running were putting Fish & Game's social licence to operate with farmers who were compliant and doing the right thing at risk, an outcome being there was increasing talk of denying access to fish and game resources. Lindsay advised that the focus was on non-compliance and acknowledged the need also, to highlight the good work many landowners were doing. Cr Barry Roderick felt that some farmers were using the Health & Safety requirements as a reason for removing access and suggested that some 50% of access in his area had been lost. Ray Bushell agreed as he had seen a significant loss of access in his area too. Lindsay asked if Council had had the opportunity to review the Walking Access Mapping System as there was a wealth of information on it. Anthony van Dorp informed Council that the system had changed very recently with the removal of information about large areas of Crown land from the system. He had been advised that LINZ administered Crown land had been removed because much of it was leased and/or being used for other purposes. Anthony suggested that if someone had reason to believe a particular area might fall into this category enquiries could be made to LINZ to establish whether the land was accessible to the public. Lindsay advised that the New Zealand Council had recommended Bryce Johnson for a position on the Walking Access Commission which would be good for Fish & Game.

14.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

14.1 Andy Garrick highlighted a few of the items that were included within the management report including the Council's submission to the proposed Te Arawa Lakes Fishery Bylaws, a research proposal to establish the economic impact of trout fishing in our region and elsewhere in New Zealand that he was taking to the upcoming combined managers and NZC meeting, and Carmel Veitch's appointment

- as an independent contractor providing financial and accounting services to the New Zealand Council for the next year or so.
- 14.2 Cr Barry Roderick understood that the Auckland/Waikato Region provided opportunity for newbies to get into hunting through their "Take a Mate Hunting" programme and wondered whether this is something that Eastern Region staff had considered for those wishing to take up trout fishing. John Meikle advised that the Auckland/Waikato programme was not as popular as thought with only 12 taking up the opportunity this year. Kate Thompson had received a similar enquiry from a licence holder recently and had forwarded the suggestion to the Licence Working Party. While the idea had not been dismissed there appeared to be considerably more fish hooks associated with management of it when compared with the Auckland/Waikato programme and as a result would require some careful consideration.
- 14.3 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Alan Baird) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [18/04/14.3]*
- 14.4 *Agreed (Annaka/Davis/Laurance Tamati) that Council receives the Management, Finance, and Licence Sales reports, and approves payments for January and February 2018 totalling \$428,101.09. [18/04/14.4]*
- 15.0 **GENERAL BUSINESS**
- 15.1 Cr Sandy Bull expressed concern over the use of helicopters accessing the Ruakituri River above the Waitangi Falls as he had received information that large trout were being taken and that those taking them were unlicensed or utilising incorrect gear. Andy Garrick asked whether these concerns had been forwarded to Te Uru Taumatua or the Waikaremoana Tribal Authority for their information as the area above the Waitangi Falls was gazetted as a Wilderness Area which prohibited helicopters to land. Anthony van Dorp advised that staff had also received reports of this nature and that he had investigated the Wilderness Area boundaries and determined that there were potentially one or two areas, which included part of the river, that lay just outside of the Wilderness Area boundary. Anthony said that this could be a loop hole allowing helicopters to land right beside the Wilderness Area, and may be something that Te Urewera Board would want to rectify.
- 15.2 Andy Garrick wanted Council to be aware that the Election timetable had been included within the April Papers for Information. He also advised that Council's annual self appraisal of its performance was initiated in June last year, and that forms would be distributed for this year's evaluation at the next meeting of Council. Cr Lindsay Lyons asked that these be returned promptly as it is difficult to undertake an evaluation when all of the information was not to hand. Andy also commented briefly on the last document included in the Papers for Information which comprised the Marketing Analysis Report commissioned by the New Zealand Council. Andy noted that this would be on the agenda for Council's June meeting and asked Councillors to take the time to review it prior to the meeting as the NZ Council had requested feedback on it.
- 15.3 Ray Bushell wished to know whether the Kaituna Reserve access tracks were to be built up following the higher, and more appropriate, water levels that had persisted within the wetland this season. John Meikle advised that there was no funding allocated for this, but something staff would promote in upcoming discussions with Bay of Plenty Regional Council and DOC staff in relation to hydrological and habitat enhancement planning within and adjacent to the reserve.

16.0 MEETING CLOSED

16.1 The meeting was closed at 3.01pm.

.....
Lindsay Lyons
Acting Chairman

DRAFT

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.2 *Agreed (Sandy Bull/Peter Storey) that the apologies for the 169th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [18/04/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (15 FEBRUARY 2018)

- 3.1 *Agreed (Alan Baird/Neal Hawes) that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2018 be confirmed as a true and correct record subject to the following changes;*

- (i) *Amend Item 9.2 from “Matt Osborne suggested for practical reasons that gathering and disseminating information and consulting with interested parties should be deferred until the following review of the Anglers Notice. Council voted in favour of postponing the exercise for a further year so that dialogue could take place with interested parties in the meantime” to “Matt Osborne suggested for practical reasons that gathering and disseminating information and consulting with interested parties should be deferred until the following review of the Anglers Notice. Council registered their support for further consultation being undertaken with interested parties in relation to spin fishing in the lower Ruakituri prior to a decision being made to include this in the next review (2020) of the Anglers Notice”, and;*
- (ii) *Amend Item 10.1 from “Cr Barry Roderick suggested that meeting on a weekday was likely to be a prohibiting factor” to “Cr Barry Roderick suggested that meeting on a weekday was likely to be a prohibiting factor for people attending”. [18/04/3.1]*

8.0 2018-2019 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

- 8.7 *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Peter Storey) that Council receives the draft budget and approves the proposed contestable funding bids for the 2018-2019 Operation Work Plan. [18/04/8.7]*

9.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

- 9.2 *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Neal Hawes) that Council approves up to \$8,500 to be drawn from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund for the reduced but ongoing monitoring, access and buoy related programme. [18/04/9.2]*

10.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

- 10.5 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Alan Baird) that Council supports the proposal to remove the Fly Fishing Only designation from some shoreline areas around the Rotorua Lakes. [18/04/10.5]*
- 10.7 *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Neal Hawes) that Council supports a fourth option (not listed) relating to the Ohau Channel (River) which would permit Fly Fishing Only from Lake Rotorua to a landmark pole located approximately 100 metres downstream, and fly and spin methods below this landmark. [18/04/10.7]*
- 10.9 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Peter Storey) that regulation 7.2(a) regarding “Use of Boats” be amended to read “7.2 No licence holder shall fish from an unanchored boat within 200 metres of a landmark pole”. [18/04/10.9]*
- 10.11 *Agreed (Peter Storey/Neal Hawes) that regulations 7.2(b) and 7.2(c) relating to unanchored boats should be deleted. [18/04/10.11]*
- 10.13 *Agreed (Annaka Davis/Neal Hawes) that Council supports the removal of Regulation 9.4 relating to the maximum size limit for wild trout taken on Lake Tarawera. [18/04/10.13]*
- 10.15 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Sandy Bull) that the following draft regulations be adopted for inclusion within the “Closed Waters” section of the 2018-19 Anglers notice:*
- 3.6 *Any waters in which sports fish are held in captivity for display, breeding, hatching, monitoring or other purposes (excepting 3.7 below).*
- 3.7 *Ngongotaha Hatchery Educational Fishery (known as Children’s Fishing Pond) except by special authorisation. [18/04/10.15]*
- 10.17 *Agreed (Neal Hawes/Peter Storey) that Regulation 3.1 Closed Waters relating to the Tarawera Spawning Sanctuary be amended to redefine the downstream limit from “extending approximately 150m downstream to landmarks in the river” to “extending approximately 150m downstream to the Tarawera River Foot Bridge”. [18/04/10.17]*

- 10.20** *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Sandy Bull) that Council does not support bringing forward the opening hours of sportfishing from 5am to 4am around the Rotorua lakes. [18/04/10.20]*
- 10.22** *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Peter Storey) that Council does not support anglers fishing solo from boats being able to fish with two rods. [18/04/10.22]*
- 11.0** **FIRST MEETING OF NEW COUNCIL**
- 11.2** *Agreed (Alan Baird/Neal Hawes) that Council confirms the revised dates of 1 November 2018 and 6 December 2018 for its last two meetings of the year, and 6 December for the public AGM. [18/04/11.2]*
- 12.0** **SPECIES MONITORING REPORTS**
- 12.3** *Agreed (Annaka Davis/Alan Baird) that Council receives the 2017 Executive Summary for the Rotorua Lakes Opening Day Survey Report and the Summary for the 2018 Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan Trend Counts Report. [18/04/12.3]*
- 14.0** **OPERATIONAL REPORTS**
- 14.3** *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Alan Baird) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [18/04/14.3]*
- 14.4** *Agreed (Annaka/Davis/Laurance Tamati) that Council receives the Management, Finance, and Licence Sales reports, and approves payments for January and February 2018 totalling \$428,101.09. [18/04/14.4]*

7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

28 May 2018

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:

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.

- (i) There is a realistic connection between the member's private interest(s) and the interest(s) of 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. DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2018-2019 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

Ref: 8.02.01

29 May 2018

1. Purpose

To receive the updated draft Operational Work Plan prepared for the 2018-2019 year beginning 1 September 2018 and approve its circulation to clubs and other interested parties.

2. Background

Operational Work Plans are developed over several months from February onwards, and involve a review by Council of strategic and overall priorities in addition to core functions, project themes and allocation of resources. During its February meeting Council identified the priority work areas that it wants to focus on for the next operational year, and these and related projects were incorporated into a draft OWP along with external costs which were presented to and approved by Council in April. At this meeting Council also supported a staff recommendation that two applications for contestable funding be made to the NZ Council. One of these, which was for CPI adjustments to salaries and minor performance adjustments for some staff, was subsequently amended by withdrawing the performance component (\$3,000) on advice that the national budget was going to be seriously oversubscribed. These applications were subsequently submitted to and approved by regional Fish & Game managers and the NZ Council, and have been inserted into the second draft of the 2018-2019 OWP which has been provided in this agenda's PFI. The latest draft of the plan also includes updated hours and internal costs.

3. Resourcing the Work Plan

The first draft of the 2018-2019 Draft OWP and budget was prepared in accordance with NZ Council's budgeting process and a base funding limit of \$1,093,578.

The applications made to the national contestable funding pool comprised an additional \$14,346 for CPI, and \$3,000 to boost our prosecution budget. Incorporating these sums means our revised total budget for 2018-2019 to \$1,110,924 subject to Ministerial approval of Fish & Game's proposed licence fees for 2018-19 (see next Agenda Item).

In addition to the contestable fund bids, the draft OWP and budget incorporates income of \$25,200 from Hawke's Bay Fish & Game in exchange for financial, administrative, and operational support to be provided by Eastern Region. Hawke's Bay Fish & Game staff will in turn provide Eastern Region with field services valued at \$2,520. The draft work plan also incorporates \$8,500 to be drawn down from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund to offset staff time and expenses, as agreed to by Council in April [18/04/9.2].

4. Comparison of Resourcing for the 2018-2019 OWP and the 2017-2018 OWP

The main changes to the 2018-19 OWP versus the 2017-2018 OWP at an output class level are as below:

Output	2018-19 external costs	2017-18 external costs	2018-19 hours	2017-18 hours
Species	\$110,700	\$106,500	6,649	6,572
Habitat	\$29,900	\$23,600	3,314	3,326
Participation	\$23,550	\$25,800	2,118	2,284
Public	\$7,000	\$5,000	1,172	1,209
Compliance	\$10,600	\$7,600	1,408	1,408
Licensing	\$700	\$800	506	522
Council	\$10,000	\$10,000	898	884
Plan/Report	\$9,285	\$9,300	1,123	1,075

The total output hours for the draft 2018-19 OWP are 17,188 hours compared to 17,280 hours last year, and overhead/administration staff hours are 6,327 compared to 6,220 hours last year. Output hours have been adjusted in a number of areas with the most notable being in Participation where time allocated for hunter ballots, pamphlets, and the website have been reduced in line with the actual hours that have been worked in these areas more recently. Updating of the Fish & Game website is primarily carried out by NZ Council Communications staff as regional staff have been given only very limited access over since the site was redesigned. The increase in overhead/administration hours arises from an increase in the number of hours allocated for leave (statutory holiday entitlements have been increased from 10 to 11 days and sick leave allocations increased from 2 days to 3 days per person on average to better reflect leave actually used.

5. Next Steps

- Staff will incorporate any amendments to the draft 2018-2019 plan that Council might seek as an outcome of this meeting.
- The draft will then be circulated to clubs and interested parties for comment with feedback required prior to the end of July.
- Council will formally approve the plan at its August meeting after taking into account any submissions received on it and determining whether these require amendments to the plan.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1** *That Council receives the latest draft of the 2018-2019 OWP and identifies any amendments needing to be made to it prior to its circulation to other parties for comment.*

9. 2018-2019 LICENCE FEES

Ref: 6.01.04

28 May 2018

1. Purpose

To consider the licence fees recommended for the 2018-2019 year and provide feedback to the NZ Council on its proposal to introduce four new non-resident fishing licence categories and adjust the ratios and fees for three other licence categories.

2. Background

At their joint meeting on 27 April 2018, regional managers and the NZ Council considered licence fee recommendations for the coming 2018/2018 fishing and hunting seasons. The group agreed to adopt, as a basis for consultation with regions, the recommendation that the sports fish licence fees be based on an adult whole season licence fee of \$130 (incl. GST), and the game licence fees be based on an adult whole season licence fee of \$96 (incl. GST and \$3 Game Bird Habitat Stamp). These fees reflect a \$3 increase (+1.02%) to the adult whole season fishing licence from last year and a \$2 increase (+1.02%) to the price of the game bird licence. A supporting paper from the NZ Council office is attached.

In addition to the increases to licence fees as above, the NZ Council resolved (Andrew Morris/Paul Dixon-Didier) at its independent meeting the next day, **“That Noel Birchall draft new ratio and licence categories to be included for consideration by regions at the same time as they are consulted about 2018/19 licence fees.”** Noel, who is the Northland Fish and Game Council appointee to the NZ Council, has provided additional information relating to this proposal in the table and explanatory email appended to the NZ Council paper below.

3. Discussion

All regional budgets along with the NZ Council budget are assessed in April in accordance with national budget policy. A key element of the policy is that budgets provide a level of base funding sufficient to meet the core operations of each region and the NZ Council. Any increase to base funding for a particular region or the NZ Council must be done through a contestable bidding process. Once forecasted licence sales and overall funding requirements for Fish & Game nationally have been assessed the NZ Council recommends licence fees for both the fish licence and the game licence, as presented here.

The secondary discussion relating to new fishing licence categories and changes to ratios and fees for some sub categories culminated in a resolution at the joint managers/NZ (Noel Birchall/Colin Sherrard) **“Agreed to set up a review of licence ratios to improve income and maintain customer satisfaction.”** Price adjustments proposed for consideration included day licence, local area and 3-day or short break licences along with new categories involving a day non-resident licence and a child day non-resident licence. The resolution made at the joint meeting followed points made by managers that amendments to fees and categories should not be undertaken without a market assessment of what the likely impacts the changes might have on licence purchasing behaviour - and therefore, projected revenue - and that Fish & Game had an established Licence Working Party (LWP) that was mandated,

or so it had been widely assumed, to undertake this very exercise once the new categories had been in place for a period of three years. This was effectively overturned the following day when the NZ Council passed a further resolution on the matter as recorded in “2. Background” above. The draft minutes accompanying that resolution noted that while there was a need to consult with regions, discussions in relation to licence category ratios were undertaken with a view of them being implemented in time for the coming fishing season.

Regional Manager’s Comments

1. Cr Birchall and the NZ Council are to be congratulated for being progressive and doing the maths and thinking about how revenue can be lifted, but its simplistic to do the numbers alone. Assessing the implications of putting fees up or down over various categories goes beyond just multiplying fees against number of licences sold in these categories last year and in previous years – buyer behaviour and angler responses to changes are critical factors needing to be taken into account. It can’t be quantified with great certainty, but we can and should be doing our best to project likely outcomes based on an insight into what licence buyers need and are looking for – there’s no future in putting up fees if this results in a critical number of anglers seeking cheaper options or dropping out altogether. I think Council acknowledged this too in the resolution they passed on Friday afternoon in the joint meeting with managers that there was a need to carry out an analysis and review before implementing what are otherwise ad hoc changes. The LWP was set up/is well placed to undertake this sort of work and my impression was that it would be undertaking or co—ordinating such a review at the conclusion of this licence year. The modelling/research originally undertaken was I understand a major exercise(s), but these days we could get more rapid feedback from anglers both current and lapsed via well thought out online surveys we could run in house.
2. I imagine that the Minister would require a case to be made for any fee changes proposed resulting from ration changes, and that the justification she would be looking for would extend beyond an account of how much additional revenue Fish & Game would generate from any change(s), and what difference that might make to our ability to do our job. I’ve little doubt she would also want to know what it would mean for licence holders, and how they would perceive and respond to the changes imposed.
3. If the new fees were implemented and it became apparent a year or so down the track that this had led to a decline in participation and/or less revenue, what would the response of our licence holders be if we needed to yet again adjust fees within a relatively short time frame? I can’t see it as being a good way to inspire support or confidence in Fish & Game.
4. If a new fee structure was to be implemented for 2018-19 as has been proposed, would this exclude or compromise the possibility/value of introducing a new appropriately priced category such as a “give it a go” licence at a later point in time? Would it preclude a change(s) to the categories we now have if this was deemed to be desirable without again undermining licence holder confidence in Fish & Game?
5. Should not a review of licence fees and categories be undertaken in conjunction with input from the R3 co-ordinator who has recently be contracted, and be closely linked to

initiatives and undertakings designed to increase participation (refer Marketing/Increasing Participation Report provided in April 2018 Papers for Information)?

6. I, and other managers, believe the NZ Council is jumping the gun here. We're acutely aware of the need to increase revenue, but think just a bit more patience is required i.e. another year, to have greater confidence that the right changes are being made.

Feedback is required from the regions (by 15 June) to enable recommendations to be finalised and forwarded to the Minister for approval ahead of the 2018-2019 fishing season.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 *That the Eastern Fish and Game Council supports the proposed licence fees for 2018-2019 of \$130 (GST inclusive) for the Adult Whole Season Fishing licence, and \$93 for the Adult Whole Season Game licence plus \$3 for the Game Bird Habitat Trust (GST inclusive).*
- 4.2 *That the Eastern Fish and Game Council reviews the NZ Council's proposal to introduce four new non-resident fishing licence categories and adjust the ratios and fees for three other licence categories in time for the 2018-2019 fishing season.*



TO: Regional Council Chairs and Managers

2018/19 LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION

1. Proposal

The NZ Council met with regional managers on 27th April to consider the 2018/19 budgets and licence fees. As a result of the meeting, both groups agreed:

That for consultation with regional Fish and Game Councils, a 2018/19 recommended adult whole season sports fish licence fee of \$130 and an adult whole season game licence fee of \$96 (inclusive of a \$3 fee for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp) inclusive of GST be accepted.

2. Background

Our legislation specifies that the NZ Council has the obligation to set the budgets of regional councils by way of levying and redistributing licence income between regions. Operationally, national policy of the NZ Council specifies that all expenditure needs to be approved as part of the budget round, including capital expenditure and expenditure from reserves for all councils.

The method of increasing funding levels for individual councils is through a contestable funding bid at the budget setting meeting. Bids can be for either a one-off funding allocation for a specific project, or for ongoing additional funding. The latter in effect raises the total baseline funding level for that council.

3. Reserves

National policy sets reserve levels equal to between 30–50% of licence income for those councils which generate licence sales income above their budget, or of total budget for those councils which receive a grant. This level of general reserve is considered adequate to provide security against fluctuations in income and to ensure adequate operational cash flow.

Where a council's general reserve exceeds the 50% level, approved contestable funding for that council will be allocated from its excess reserve, until such time as its general reserve is drawn down to be within the recommended range.

Where a council's reserve is below the 30% level, a contestable fund application can be made to build that council's general reserve back up to that level. There is no requirement to allocate funding to build regional operational reserves this year.

The budget policy specifies that all expenditure from general reserves needs to be approved as part of the budget round, or by making an application for Exceptional Funding. There are consequences across all sectors of the organisation where any council's reserves are reduced outside of policy.

Regarding the NZ Council/National general reserve, a level of 50-70% of annual expenditure has been agreed. The reason for the higher reserve level is because the National budget needs to provide cash flow to produce co-ordinated outcomes, and reimbursement of approved regional RM/legal costs.

4. 2018/19 National Budget Round

4.1 Variance Review

Variances between budgeted and actual audited expenditure and income for all councils were measured and reported. Variances were reviewed by Regional Managers in February 2018. North Canterbury (over expenditure of 15%/\$113,333) council was written to and requested to ensure future expenditure did not exceed approved budgeted funding.

In terms of a variance across all thirteen Fish and Game councils it is modelled that the organisation will over spend its budget 2017/18 budget by \$651,691. This has largely been driven by the costs associated with the current WCO, RMA/Legal and from North Canterbury's overspend.

4.2 Contestable Funding Applications

A total of 43 (last year 45) contestable funding applications were received, seeking additional funding of \$783,095 (last year \$573,293).

Budgets for all councils making application for increased funding, (with comparisons of the current year's budget and the latest audited actual) were received, checked and circulated for review prior to the May managers meeting.

4.3 Contestable Funding Recommendations

Managers considered all contestable funding applications and assigned each a priority rating. It was recommended that applications totalling \$426,168 be funded, including provision for national legal funding.

Of this, \$287,852 was recommended for funding on a one-off basis, meaning this funding would be freed-up and become available in next year's budget round.

4.4 Research Fund Allocation

To avoid inflating the budget in any one year an allocation is annually made to the Research Fund. In past years this allocation has been \$134,000. For the 2018/19 financial year funding was made available to two proposals for a total amount of \$80,000.

4.5 RMA & WCO Legal Fund Allocation

The legal fund receives budget allocations on a reimbursement basis. It covers payment of costs through a national fund rather than separate funding allocations in individual council budgets where approved legal projects occur.

It was agreed that contestable funding of \$500,000 be allocated to the national legal pool fund for this 2018/19 year and a further \$100,000 to the WCO. This will not fully cover all agreed legal expenditure but is considered the amount we are likely to spend in the 2018/19 year.

5. Licence Fee Recommendation

Based on the estimated LEQs (extrapolated from the last two completed actual years – 2015/16 & 2016/17) providing 2018/19 budget targets of generated revenue, established base funds, approved contestable funding, plus research and legal fund allocations, the NZ Council recommends:

the 2018/19 licence fees be based on an adult whole season fee of \$130 and the game licence to be based on an adult whole season fee of \$93 plus \$3 for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp (GST inclusive).

6. Modification to licence categories and ratios with whole season fees

The NZ Council discussed concerns that have been raised over a lack of differential pricing for non-resident junior and day licences and propose that in this consultation phase for the 2018/19 licence fees, regional Fish and Game Councils consider the resulting modification to licence categories and ratios set for fixing category fees against the adult whole season fees.

The Council is proposing four new non-resident sub-categories of licence be introduced – whole season junior, adult day, junior day and child day (see yellow cells in table below).

At the same time the Council wishes to adjust the ratio for three other sub-categories – local area, short-break and NZ resident adult day licences (see blue cells in table below).

These modifications are highlighted in the appended table.

6.0 Conclusion

Regional Fish and Game Councils are asked to consider the proposed 2018/19 Fish and Game licence fees and modifications to categories. To enable the New Zealand Council to consider feedback and make recommendations to the Minister of Conservation responses to these changes are requested by 15 June.

Martin Taylor
Chief Executive

**Schedule of F&G NZ's proposed Licences & Fees for 2018/19
(inclusive of GST)**

Sports Fish Licence		2017/18	2018/19	
Category of licence	Class of applicant	Current fee	Proposed fee	Fee difference
Whole season (1 Oct – 30 Sep)	Adult	127	130	\$3.00
	Junior	25	26	\$1.00
	Child	free	free	nil
Family		165	169	\$4.00
Winter (1 Apr – 30 Sep)	Adult	76	78	\$2.00
	Adult	108	111	\$3.00
Loyal senior				
Local area	Adult	102	111	\$9.00
Short-break	Adult	46	59	\$13.00
Long-break	Adult	89	91	\$2.00
Day	Adult	20	26	\$6.00
Long-break	Junior	5	5	nil
Non-resident Day	Adult		34	New
	Junior		20	New
	Child		20	New
Non-resident whole season	Adult	165	169	\$4.00
	Junior		34	New
		free	free	nil
Back country		free	free	nil
Controlled-period				

Game Bird Licence*		2018	2019	
Category of licence	Class of applicant	Current fee	Proposed fee	Fee difference
Whole season (1 st Sat in May to 30 April)	Adult	\$94.00	\$96.00	\$2.00
	Junior	\$21.00	\$22.00	\$1.00
	Child	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$nil
Day (available from 2 nd Monday of season)	Adult	\$21.00	\$22.00	\$1.00
	Junior	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$nil

- ❖ All other licence category fees are set as a percentage of the fish or game adult whole season fee and rounded to the nearest \$, hence in some instances the fee difference remains nil.
- ❖ Game bird hunting licence fee includes the \$3.00 NZ Game Bird Habitat Stamp.

Notes:

- A **junior** means a person aged 12 years or over, but under 18 years at the start of the season
- A **child** means a person aged under 12 years at the start of the season
- **Back country** and **controlled-period** licence means an endorsement on an adult or junior whole season or family fish licence with special conditions for fishing specified waters.
- **Whole Season** for sports fish extends from 1 October through to 30 September the following year.
- **Whole Season** for game birds can extend from first the Saturday in May to beyond the traditional closing dates for upland game hunting at the end of August due to special season conditions between February to April the following year for some species, eg. Paradise shelduck and Pukeko

- A **Game Bird Habitat Stamp** fee of \$3.00 (incl GST) is payable on all categories of game hunting licence and is included in the fees shown in the game hunting licence table above

**FURTHER INFORMATION IN RELATION TO PROPOSED FISHING LICENCE
SUB CATEGORY FEE CHANGES**

From: Noel Birchall <nbbirchall@gmail.com>
Sent: 15 May 2018 08:41
To: Martin Taylor <mtaylor@fishandgame.org.nz>; Robert Sowman <rsowman@fishandgame.org.nz>; 'Lindsay Lyons ' <flylyonz@gmail.com>
Subject: Licence fee rationale

Hi All,

On re reading the Licence Fee Recommendations paper that was sent out to Regions we appear to be a bit light on rationale for the proposed ratio changes, the NZFGC have had the info but not all the regions, I have attached a suggested paper that could bring the regions up to speed. *(see below)*

Regards

Noel B

(Northland Fish and Game Council appointee to the NZC)

Rationale for Licence Fee Ratio Proposed Changes

Since we introduced the new the new fish licence categories in 2014/2015 we have seen a reduction in LEQs on average of 1739 per season, the most significant ratio change was the adult day licence which was reduced from 0.2 to 0.16. To endeavour to recover from the lower LEQs it is proposed to increase the adult day licence ratio back to 0.2 and to increase the short break ratio to 0.45 to maintain the relationship to the day licence. Based on 2016/17 sales this has the potential to increase LEQs by 1804.

A further option is to increase the Local Area licence from 0.8 to 0.85 the same as the Loyal Senior, this has the potential to increase LEQs by a further 247, but it was noted that the adult categories under the new introduced ratios had increased LEQs on average by 1379 compared to the previous two years.

10. ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

Ref: 8.02.01

30 May 2018

1. Purpose

To review the 2017-2018 Anglers Notice and identify any changes to the current regulations that might be warranted in the 2018-2019 season, and to consider changes that might be required to Council's Angler Notice Policy or are warranted.

2. Background

The Anglers Notice review provides an opportunity to amend regional sport fishing regulations. Licence holders and the public are able to submit on issues they may have identified with the current regulations for consideration by Council.

In 2003 Council developed a comprehensive approach and policy for dealing with the Anglers Notice (see Appendix 1, page 31 of February 2018 agenda). The policy splits regulations into those that serve a social function and those that serve a biological function. Social regulations are those that affect the angler and principally relate to angling methods. Waters are categorised based on trout densities, and levels of angler use. These categories are used to determine how social based regulations should be applied. Biological regulations are those that affect trout populations and include bag and size limits. A matrix was developed that takes into account biological objectives associated with sustainability, harvest allocation, and specific population manipulations.

This approach has greatly simplified the task of reviewing the Anglers Notice and enables regulations to be confirmed or amended quickly and efficiently.

Any changes to the Anglers Notice that depart from the Anglers Notice policy require a change(s) to the policy. This will apply to the review currently underway if Council decides to proceed with changes it discussed over the course of two meetings in 2017 and again in February and April 2018 concerned with simplifying social rules and more particularly those relating to fishing methods. This will be discussed in Section 4 of this agenda item. There are also, some additional changes/updates required to the policy and these are discussed in Section 5.

A full review of the regional (Second Schedule) sports fishing regulations is undertaken every second year. A less comprehensive process is conducted in the year between. This year, a full review is required which has involved, or will involve:

1. At the February Council meeting, a number of previously discussed items as well as 'carry over' proposals to the Anglers Notice being presented to the Council for discussion. The Council considered which submissions had merit and warranted further investigation. Staff produced an 'Issues and Options' paper that was distributed to clubs and public via website, ezine and press avenues.

2. At its April Council meeting, feedback from consultation was discussed along with staff comments on the matters raised. Council chose to adopt a number of the suggestions proposed as well as eliminating several freshly raised proposals from further discussion and consultation. Two suggestions, along with possible amendments to the Anglers Notice Policy, were held over until the June meeting for further discussion (Section 4 below).
3. At this, its June 2018 meeting, Council will receive the additional information it requested at its April meeting, and will finalise its recommendations to be submitted to the Minister of Conservation for the 2018-19 Anglers Notice.

3. Remaining proposals to be considered

The proposals identified by Council at its April 2018 meeting to be considered further are as follows:

3.1 Remove the “Fly Fishing Only” designation from ‘some’ of the Rotorua lakes shoreline areas

Background

There are currently 18 ‘fly fishing only’ areas around the shorelines of Lakes Rotorua (2), Rotoiti (6), Okataina (3), and Tarawera (7). These fly fishing only areas create confusion and reduce opportunity for some licence holders who would prefer to spin fish, e.g. the areas within 200m of the Awahou Stream mouth and within 200m of the Ohau Channel on Lake Rotorua are designated “fly fishing only” all year. Similarly, on lakes Rotoiti and Tarawera, high use areas such as Ruato Bay Stream mouth (Rotoiti) and The Landing (Tarawera) are fly and spin from 1 October to 31 March, but are fly only from 1 April to 30 September when higher intensity use kicks in. These regulations add confusion and complexity. The Eastern Council previously indicated that it was keen to reduce confusion, simplify regulations, and enhance angler participation.

At its April 2018 meeting, Councillors voted to adopt the option:

Agreed (Neal Hawes/Alan Baird) that Council supports the proposal to remove the Fly Fishing Only designation from some lake shoreline areas around the Rotorua Lakes. [18/04/10.5]

Staff Comments

Given the resolution to remove the “Fly Fishing Only” designation from some lake shoreline areas around the Rotorua lakes, staff recommend the following:

Lake Rotorua: Retain “Fly Fishing Only” status within 200m of the Awahou Stream mouth landmark, and remove “Fly Fishing Only” status from within 200m of the Ohau Channel.

Lake Rotoiti: Retain “Fly Fishing Only” status within 200m of the Ruato Bay Stream mouth and “The Pipe” landmarks, and remove from all other locations.

The currently gazetted “Fly Fishing Only” areas within the winter shoreline fishing area that are open year-round occur are located within 200m of the Tapuaekura Bay, Hauparu Bay,

Ruato Bay and Waiti Stream mouths, and 'The Pipe'. One other area currently gazetted fly fishing only closing at the end of June is within 300m of the Ohau Channel Delta. This will be fly and spin from 1 October 2018 as Council voted to permit fly and spin methods downstream of the landmark pole that will be placed 200m below the Lake Rotorua Outlet weir structure.

Lake Tarawera: Retain "Fly Fishing Only" status within 200m of the Te Wairoa Stream and "The Landing" landmarks, and remove from all other locations.

The designated 'fly fishing only' areas within the winter shoreline fishing areas (open year-round) are located within 200m of "The Landing", "The Orchard", and Waitangi Stream mouths. The 'fly fishing only' areas that close at the end of June are located within 200m of the Te Wairoa Stream mouth, the Tarawera Outlet, the Wairua Stream mouth, and Twin Creeks. The most intensely fished of these locations are the Te Wairoa Stream mouth and "The Landing".

Lake Okataina: Remove "Fly Fishing Only" status from each of the currently gazetted fly fishing only areas.

The three currently gazetted fly fishing only areas are located within 200m of the "Logpool", "Rayners 1" and "Rayners 2" stream mouths.

These areas are accessed and fished by boat and receive low to moderate pressure. If an occasional spin fishing angler goes to the lengths of accessing these areas by boat, there seems no good reason for prohibiting them from spin fishing at these locations.

3.2 Prohibit the use of use of multi-point hooks within Eastern Region Fish & Game waters

Background

It has been submitted that multi-point or treble-hooks cause greater harm and distress to sports fish needing to be released. Within Eastern Region Fish & Game Waters, the Rotorua lakes have a 350mm size limit. Any fish under that size must be released, and it has been suggested that damage to these fish may affect their post release survival. Currently, wild male trout caught at the Te Wairoa Stream Mouth at Lake Tarawera must also be released along with all wild fish in excess of 620mm caught on the lake. The Te Wairoa trap provides the bulk of the breeding stock used for the Ngongotaha Hatchery, and it has been argued that the use of multi-point hooks may affect the viability of the breeding programme as a consequence of a greater number of spawning males being injured or killed during the process of unhooking and releasing them.

Staff Comments

Multi-point hooks were legalised within Eastern Region waters fifteen years ago in a national move to standardise regulations between regions. At the time the Eastern Fish and Game Council opposed the move but was outvoted by other regions. Published literature suggests there is no greater mortality to fish following release from multi-point hooks than from single-point hooks. Public and angler perception concerned with animal stress and what is or isn't considered to be humane treatment are however, topics worthy of discussion. Catch and

release is an important element of freshwater sports fishing, and whether a fish is hooked with a single or a multi-point hook, anglers need to be aware of the need to promptly and gently release fish that they are unable, or not wanting to keep, and how to go about this.

At Council's last meeting Councillors deliberated over the pros and cons of retaining versus prohibiting the use of multi-point hooks within the Eastern Region and varying views were expressed as follows:

Pros of prohibiting treble hooks (April 2018 meeting)

- Fish & Game NZ website item "Looking after your trout" advises against the use of treble hooks.
- Prohibiting the use of multi-hooks will bring the region more in line with Taupo.
- Scientific evidence (such as that suggesting there is no impact on fish welfare or survival from use of treble hooks) cannot always be relied upon.
- Fish are often foul hooked outside of the mouth with more than one hook and considerable damage can be done removing the hooks if the fish is needing to be released.
- Animal welfare needs to be taken into account.
- The majority of feedback from anglers is overwhelmingly in support of prohibition.

Cons of prohibiting treble hooks (April 2018 meeting)

- Scientific studies have concluded that there is no greater mortality in fish that have been caught and released using multi-point hooks than those caught and released using a single hook.
- There is a belief that mortality is higher in fish caught with single hooks as they are far more able to be deeply ingested and get hooked up in the gill plates.
- Prohibiting these hooks would result in regulations being made more complex and would be out of proportion to the extent to which these hooks are used.
- When the use of multi-point hooks was previously debated and introduced, the Minister of Conservation wanted more consistency within Fish & Game regional regulations than had been the case. Eastern Region therefore, has an 'obligation' to remain consistent with the rest of Fish & Game.
- If the Eastern Region decides to prohibit the use of multi-point hooks it will generate confusion and have issues for compliance. The Solicitor-General's public interest test for taking a prosecution would not generally be met, and Fish & Game would be unable to enforce the regulation which would only lead to further non-compliance.
- Rather than regulate this could be better dealt with by discouraging the use of multi-point hooks.

A national review of the First Schedule sports fishing regulations was commenced in 2017 but has been on hold since. Council agreed it would be useful to see this review re-activated in the near future and Andy Garrick and Cr Lindsay Lyons advised they would request this at the upcoming combined Managers and New Zealand Council meeting. The topic was subsequently discussed at the Managers meeting and the meeting notes arising from this record that this Council wishes to see the possibility of banning treble/multi-point hooks to be included in that review.

Options

- (i) Retain the status quo, i.e. the use of multi-point hooks (doubles, trebles) remains legal within Eastern Region Fish & Game waters; or
- (ii) Defer further discussion on the treble hook debate so that the topic can be discussed nationally during a NZ Council review of First Schedule Regulations;
- (iii) Prohibit the use of multi-point hooks (anything other than a single hook) within Eastern Region Fish & Game waters.

3.3 Amend the wording for 7.1(a) Use of Boats

Background

While amending changes to the Gazette Notice in preparation for Ministerial signoff, staff noted a regulation that is repeated in three areas of the Gazette which can and should be simplified.

Regulation 7.1 states that *No licence holder shall fish from a boat in the following waters:*

- (a) That section of the Tarawera Outlet enclosed by landmarks.

This rule is also covered in:

Section 3. Closed Waters:

No Licence holder shall fish for sports fish at any time from the following waters:

3.1 All streams flowing into Lake Tarawera and that portion of the Tarawera River enclosed by landmarks at the Lake Tarawera Outlet and extending approximately 150m downstream to the Tarawera Track walk bridge over the river, otherwise known as the Tarawera Spawning Sanctuary;

and within:

Regulation 7.1 Note 1) No boats are allowed to pass through the Tarawera Outlet Spawning Sanctuary at any time.

Staff Comments

This alteration has not been put out for consultation to anglers and public but is merely a deletion of a repeated rule that is superfluous and takes up space within the regulation guide.

Options

- (i) Retain the status quo, i.e. retain the current wording for Regulation 7.1(a) “No licence holder shall fish from a boat in the following waters: That section of the Tarawera River enclosed by landmarks”, or;
- (ii) Delete Regulation 7.1(a) as it is covered in Section 3 Closed Waters and within Regulation 7. Note 1).

4. Changes required to the Anglers Notice Policy 2003 if proposed changes are made to fly fishing only areas

If Council wishes to make changes to some of the current fly fishing only areas within the the Rotorua lakes and Ohau Channel areas some changes to Policy 2.1 will be required.

To accommodate these changes the Anglers Notice Policy could either be modified by deleting Policy 2.1, or by altering the threshold criteria for level of use of water.

Policy 2.1 currently states:

Water Category	Level of use of water (threshold)	Methods Available
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake edge fisheries and associated migratory spawning waters 	Low Intensity Use (< 10 anglers/100m/season)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All methods, Bait*
	Moderate Intensity Use (10-200 anglers/100m/season)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fly, Bait*, Spin No unanchored boats
	High Intensity Use (>200 anglers/100m/season)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fly only, Bait* No spin fishing No unanchored Boats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower density river fisheries based on resident trout populations 	Low Intensity Use (<24 anglers/100m/season)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All methods, Bait*,
	High Intensity Use (>=24 anglers/100m/season)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fly only, Bait*

*Bait fishing has a biological effect on trout populations and because of the high hooking mortality shall not be applied where fish may be legally required to be released due to size limits or restrictive bag limits. Bait fishing would only therefore apply in waters where there were no bag or size limits.

An alternative to deleting Policy 2.1 is to make the following changes to the policy as highlighted:

Water Category	Level of use of water (threshold)	Methods Available
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake edge fisheries and associated migratory spawning waters 	Low Intensity Use (< 30 anglers/100m/season)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All methods, Bait*
	Moderate to High Intensity Use (>30 anglers/100m/season)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fly, Spin, Bait* No unanchored Boats at stream mouths, high intensity locations and lake outlets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower density river fisheries based on resident trout populations 	Any Intensity of Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All methods, Bait*

*Bait fishing has a biological effect on trout populations and because of the high hooking mortality shall not be applied where fish may be legally required to be released due to size limits or restrictive bag limits. Bait fishing would only therefore apply in waters where there were no bag or size limits.

It is important to note that removing the “fly only” option at high levels of angling intensity from the current Social Regulations Framework would not prevent the ongoing declaration of current fly fishing only waters, but would give Council greater flexibility to determine which methods it wishes to allow, or exclude, at specific locations.

5. Other Updates/Amendments to the Anglers Notice Policy 2003

Since the Policy was drafted in 2003 there are elements of it that need updating or reworking. For example, inclusion of scented soft baits under the definition of baits and updating the use of boats within designated shoreline areas. A revised draft incorporating these amendments is provided below. Other than repositioning the sections on social and biological regulations to better recognise the importance of the latter from a sustainability perspective, the key changes proposed are highlighted in yellow.

ANGLERS NOTICE POLICY 2003

Ref: 1.07.01

Revised 14 June 2018

1. Background

Fish and Game New Zealand spends a significant amount of time each year considering changes to the Anglers Notice. Changes to the regulations have, in the past, generally occurred in an ad hoc fashion, often in response to specific requests from anglers. Council has recognised that this has resulted in the inconsistent application of regulations across the region. To resolve this situation Council has developed policy which determines how and when regulations apply. The underlying approach taken to developing the policy has been to clearly identify the need for regulations or the issues, which may prompt specific regulations to be considered. The purpose of this policy is to remove inconsistencies and simplify the regulations and reduce the amount of time that council are required to devote to the process.

The policy has been established around two key groups of regulations within the Anglers Notice. The first group of regulations are those that have a biological effect on the fisheries and may have direct effects on trout populations. The biological regulations are the primary focus of the Anglers Notice Policy and have been developed to ensure ongoing sustainability of the fishery resource.

The second group of regulations are those that serve a social function and relate to the way anglers interact with each other.

2. Biological Regulations

Biological regulations are required to ensure the sustainability of the trout populations or fishing opportunities, or to provide for specific management objectives. Criteria for biological based regulations will generally be qualitative in nature and based upon dive counts, trap runs, angler surveys etc.

Policy 2.1 The biological regulations applied to waters shall be based upon the following table:

Category	Description	Regulation Applied
<p><i>Sustainability I</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure adequate recruitment of juveniles to provide later harvest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect spawning rearing waters. Closure of waters and season length most effective tool. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close waters to fishing if they provide significant proportion of recruitment. Length of closure related to importance of contribution, availability of other spawning, fishing opportunity potentially provided and duration of spawning.
<p><i>Sustainability II</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure adequate survival of adults to spawn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect sufficient fish through to maturity to enable them to spawn. Size limits most effective tool for protecting fish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Size limits guarantee protection of fish to maturity. Size limits can be adjusted based upon knowledge of harvest rates.
<p><i>Harvest Allocation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To share available harvest Bag limit most effective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate or high demand & limited fish availability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River fisheries that attract moderate to high use and/or contain limited numbers of fish (currently 2 fish bag limit).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High demand & high fish availability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restrict excessive fish harvest to enable equitable allocation (currently 8 fish).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low demand & high fish availability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No bag limit.
<p><i>Management Objective</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance specific component 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance specific component of fishery for deliberate management objective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combinations of size limits, season length and bag limits. Requires specific project proposal and justification.

3. Social Regulations

The Anglers Notice contains a number of regulations that affect anglers rather than the fish they are targeting. These regulations can be considered social in nature and are set to control the impacts that anglers have upon each other. These regulations are imposed to maximise

the opportunities available and the quality of the angling experience. Social regulations generally relate to how anglers are allowed to fish (permitted methods) and are applied based on the intensity of the angling that occurs, and therefore the potential for anglers to impact upon each other.

Council has stated a desire to reduce barriers to participation such as over regulating by making rules simpler for anglers to understand. Measures of angler use have been reworked and greater clarity given to where anglers may fish from unanchored boats so that shore-based anglers are not disproportionately affected by boats drifting or trolling within close proximity.

The Policy no longer preferentially allocates 'fly fishing only' waters at stated pressure levels, however, this does not preclude Council from recognising 'fly fishing only' areas. What it does allow is for Council to exercise greater flexibility in which waters are reserved solely for fly only anglers.

Fishing methods

Policy 3.1 Setting of method restrictions for waters shall be based upon the following framework:

Water Category	Level of use of water (threshold)	Methods Available
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lake edge fisheries and associated migratory spawning waters 	Low Intensity Use (< 30 anglers/100m/season)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All methods including bait in certain circumstances*
	Moderate to High Intensity Use (>30 anglers/100m/season)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fly, spin, bait (in certain circumstances)* No unanchored boats at stream mouths, high intensity locations and lake outlets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower density river fisheries based on resident trout populations 	Any Intensity of Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All methods including bait in certain circumstances*

*Bait fishing has a biological effect on trout populations and because of the high hooking mortality shall not be applied where fish may be legally required to be released due to size limits or restrictive bag limits. Bait fishing would only therefore apply in waters where there were no bag or size limits.

Bait

Policy 3.2 (i) Bait fishing will only be permitted in waters that have no bag limits or no size limits.

(ii) Bait in the Eastern Region shall only include; Natural fly.

Natural insect.
Natural spider.
Natural worm or worms.
Natural crustacean.
Natural fish (excluding fish ova, or any portion of a fish, or shellfish (mollusc).
Fish can only be sourced from the water where the fishing is to occur).
Uncoloured bread dough.
Scented soft baits (artificial lures that are biodegradable and/or contain chemical attractants).

Boats in winter shoreline areas

Policy 3.3 Fishing from a boat shall not be permitted in designated winter shoreline fishing areas from 1 July to 30 September.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1** *That Council identifies and confirms any changes it agrees should be adopted and incorporated into the 2018-19 Anglers Notice Regulations for Ministerial signoff.*
- 6.2** *That Council approves recommended changes to the Anglers Notice Policy 2003.*
- 6.3** *That Council concludes the Anglers Notice Process for the upcoming 2018-19 season.*

11. AUCKLAND WAIKATO FISH & GAME STERILE TROUT TRIAL

Ref: 1.04.02

31 May 2018

1. Purpose

To provide feedback to staff on a request from Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game for the Eastern Fish and Game hatchery to raise up to 2,000 triploid rainbow trout for release into Lake Arapuni and/or other Waikato hydro lakes.

2. Background

Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game approached us last September to establish whether we could rear a batch or more of triploid trout for experimental release into Lake Arapuni. Our response was that we might have the capacity to rear 1,000 fish with our existing facilities, but before proceeding with that would want to table the proposal with Council given concern it has previously raised in relation to the rearing and release of triploids. That concern related in part to the belief that members of the public would perceive triploid trout to be genetically modified organisms despite this not being the case, and that that perception could lead to widespread hysteria in the media, or worse still, acts of sabotage by extremists as had not long been experienced at Scion's facilities in Rotorua. Given the potential backlash on Fish & Game as a whole, staff requested consultation on the proposal to rear and release triploid trout be undertaken with other regions. Adam Daniel from Auckland Fish & Game subsequently produced a paper which was presented to the Managers Meeting in February this year, the outcome of which was Managers concluded it was a matter to be decided by the Eastern and Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Councils.

An updated background paper prepared by Adam is attached below, and Adam is hoping to be present to speak to the paper and address any queries Council might have.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Council determines its position on use of the hatchery for the rearing of triploid/sterile rainbow trout.

Using sterile trout to improve hydro
lake fisheries in the Auckland/Waikato
Region
Background information



Author: Dr Adam Daniel
Publication date: 21 May 2018
Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game
Hamilton New Zealand

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Consultation

This report was written at the request of Andy Garrick, Manager Eastern Region, to provide regional Fish and Game managers with information on the use of sterile hatchery trout “triploid trout” for an experimental release in the Auckland/Waikato Region with the aim of improving wild rainbow trout survival. During the February 2018 managers meeting it was decided that “Ultimately, it is the call of the two councils involved – Eastern is rearing the fish and Auck/Waik in releasing them.” The Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council has unanimously agreed that triploid trout should be trialed. In addition, consultation with local clubs including information provided in the annual newsletter posted to all licenced anglers has resulted in endorsements from the Federation of Freshwater Anglers and Te Awamutu Fish and Game Club who hold an annual fishing tournament on Lake Arapuni where the trial is planned. No negative feedback has been received to date.

Reason for trial

Over the last five years, Auckland/Waikato anglers have complained about the decline of naturally spawning rainbow trout in the Waikato hydro lakes. Both NIWA and Fish & Game’s trout population data show a sharp decline in naturally spawning fish in all the Waikato River hydro lakes monitored. Naturally spawning fish have limited spawning habitat in Lake Arapuni and could easily be impacted by drought conditions like those experienced in 2014 and 2015 where warm lake temperatures force fish into the mouths of small cool tributaries making small rainbows easy prey for birds and brown trout.

Additionally, stocking hatchery fish is likely to be putting pressure on naturally spawning fish in Lake Arapuni. Trout are genetically diverse with the potential for multiple local adaptations such as spawning timing and life history traits. One of the drawbacks to stocking lakes with hatchery rainbows is that less genetically suited hatchery fish can breed and compete with wild spawning fish, continually diluting local adaptations that allow wild fish to survive better. Research conducted in the United States has shown that hatchery fish survive

at a much lower rate than wild spawned fish, and when hatchery fish inter-breed with highly adapted local strains of fish, their offspring have comparatively low survival and reproductive success. New Zealand trout have not had millions of years to adapt to local conditions but there could still be a similar negative impact from stocking our lakes. Recent genetic work suggests that trout can adapt rapidly (Eatherley, 2015) to changing conditions and it is possible that wild spawning trout in small warm Arapuni tributaries are genetically different from stocked trout from Rotorua that have adapted to rearing in cold spring fed ponds.

Sterilisation

One method of avoiding issues with using hatchery reared trout is to stock sterile fish. Unfortunately, a risk adverse culture has prevented the use of sterile fish in New Zealand. The notion that the sterilisation process (heat or pressure treatment of ova) genetically modifies fish is simply not true. Sterilisation forces fish to retain an extra set of chromosomes, which are normally ejected from the ova, leaving the fish genetically identical to their wild counterparts. Sterile fish have three sets of chromosomes (triploids) instead of two (diploids) so they can't reproduce but are otherwise normal fish. Triploid fish are found in the wild, albeit rarely.

An added benefit of triploid trout is that they don't waste energy on ova production and can out-grow their wild spawning counterparts. The 48 lb IGFA world record rainbow trout caught by Sean Konrad of Saskatchewan, Canada, is thought to have been a triploid. There is potential that triploids will grow to trophy size 10lb. + in Lake Arapuni creating a valuable fishery for the region.

GMO misnomer

Triploid trout are not genetically modified, have no genetically altered material or added genetic material. Genetically modified organisms (GMO) are altered using genetic engineering techniques that introduce new genetic material, remove or alter their DNA. If pressure treatment fails, the resulting triploid trout can breed and are genetically identical to their nontreated counterparts with no addition or modification of genetic material.

International experience

New Zealand is one of the few trout fishing nations that has not adopted triploid trout as a management tool. Over the last two decades most state fisheries programs in the United States (Washington, Oregon, California, Montana, Alaska, Idaho, Utah, Colorado....) have included triploid trout in their hatchery programs. In addition, Canada, Australia and the UK have begun production of triploid trout to reduce hatchery/ wild interactions and to produce trophy fish. The United Kingdom ("National Trout & Grayling Fisheries Strategy Indicative Native Trout Waters," 2004) and the state of California have taken the additional step of requiring the use of triploid trout where wild trout are present to allow for fish stocking while preserving wild spawning genetics.

Research into the performance of triploid rainbow trout is largely positive with triploids thriving in clean lakes (Koenig & Meyer, 2011) and performing as well as diploid hatchery trout in most situations (Kozfkay, Dillon, & Schill, 2006). Similarly triploid brook trout have been reported to perform similar to diploid hatchery reared fish (Taylor et al., 2012). The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (UK) reported that: 1. Farmed diploid (fertile) and triploid (infertile) trout are equally likely to take dry flies, 2. The fighting ability of farmed diploid and triploid trout is similar in anglers' experience, 3. The visual condition of farmed

diploid and triploid trout provide a similar angler experience (www.gwct.org.uk). Most importantly there is a lack of any negative impacts resulting from the stocking of triploid trout reported to date.

Cost and availability

Fish & Game has been offered the use of a ram cylinder to sterilize eggs free of cost. Monitoring the trial releases will cost an additional one or two thousand dollars to cover the cost of tags and tagging that will be covered by Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game from restricted reserves. Eastern Region Fish and Game Council will have to approve raising the fish and make room to hold the fish within their hatchery. If additional rearing tank capacity is needed Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game will cover the additional costs of production, again from restricted reserves.

Staff Recommendation

The overwhelming advantages of triploid technology and a lack of any negative feedback makes the Arapuni experiment very low risk. I recommend approving a trial of triploid releases in lake Arapuni of up to 2000 fish for two years and evaluating both hatchery and wild trout catch rates via tag returns and the annual Lake Arapuni Fishing Competition. Although it is unlikely that large trophy fish will be produced in Lake Arapuni due to water quality issues, triploid trout will be a useful PR and management tool for Fish & Game. Previous misinformation has needlessly prevented the use of triploids in New Zealand stocking programs and left New Zealand Fish & Game as a late adaptor of the sterile trout stocking. I believe that the consultation undertaken, and good PR can head off any misinformed negative reactions that could occur. This is highlighted by the endorsement from Federation of Freshwater Anglers president Graham Carter who is also the owner of the Fishing and Outdoors newspaper.

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Appendix A: Consultation feedback
Submission 1



Federation of Freshwater Anglers
PO Box 10580, Te Rapa
president@nzffa.co.nz
Hamilton 3210

021 02600437

December 4th, 2017

Adam Daniel, PhD
Fisheries Manager
Fish & Game New Zealand
Auckland/Waikato Region

Cell (022) 030 9033
Office (07) 849 1666

Hi Adam

I have had discussions with most of the executive of the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers and we would like to express our full support for the introduction of Triploid trout into the Waikato River.

Please advise me if there is any assistance we can offer to this venture and please keep us informed.

Cheers

Graham Carter
President
Submission 2

Te Awamutu Fish and Game Club

Hi Adam,

At a recent club meeting of the Te Awamutu Fish and Game we discussed using sterile trout in Lake Arapuni to improve the lake fishery. The club has raised concern about the lack of natural spawning trout being caught via our annual fishing contest which has been held on the third weekend in March for the past 23 years, also feedback from anglers in general.

The club feels trialing of sterile trout in the lake should have a positive effect on the fishery as there should not be any spawning pressure from sterile fish, also with the ample food supply that is present there should be trophy sized fish with the introduction of the sterile fish once the fish get established.

Kind regards

Grant Annan

Submission 3

From: Bert Robinson [mailto:te-ika-iti@hotmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, 26 November 2017 10:09 p.m.

To: Admin

Cc: Bert Robinson

Subject: Triploid trout

To: Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game

My name is Bert Robinson. I am very interested to see Triploid trout released into the lower hydro lakes as they will be of major benefit and interest to anglers. I fished for trips while in Washington state in the USA and though I didn't land any large ones friends of mine did - in excess of 20lbs some of them. I hold a national fishing license and would increase the number of days that I fish Auckland/Waikato region exponentially as these fish are highly sought after, as would many anglers from outside the region. The amount of food available to them is rudd, catfish and goldfish and would ensure that they would grow very large very quickly. I am all for the release of these fish!!! As for the argument regarding genetic modification. The change is genetic and they are modified. The difference is that they can be found in the wild on occasion and are not DNA spliced which is the main bone of contention with the majority of people

Bert Robinson

Life member Hamilton Anglers Club

Fishing Columnist Rotorua Daily Post and Bay of Plenty Times

Submission 4

From: Ian [mailto:wildeflyman@griffinhealthcare.co.nz]

Sent: Tuesday, 28 November 2017 4:04 p.m.

To: Admin

Subject: Triploids

Great idea to try , Regards Ian Wilde. Loyal senior .

Appendix B: Triploid fact sheet



Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game

What is a triploid trout?

Triploid trout can occur naturally but in a hatchery situation they are created by forcing the egg (heat or pressure) to retain a chromosome that is normally ejected during egg development. The fish then develops normally but does not sexually mature.

How are triploids trout made?

Fish & Game will place fertilized eggs in a pressure vessel and apply 10,000 psi. of pressure for 5 minutes soon after fertilization. During this time, the third chromosome cannot be ejected due to the pressure. Eggs are then hatched and reared like normal hatchery trout.

Triploid fish are not genetically modified!

Triploid trout are not genetically modified, have no genetically altered material or added genetic material. If pressure treatment fails, the resulting fish can breed and are genetically identical to their non-treated counterparts with no addition or modification of genetic material.

Can triploid trout pass the sterile trait on to wild fish?

No, triploid trout cannot breed and are not genetically modified, so they cannot pass on their inability to breed to other fish.

How big do they get?

The 48 lb world record rainbow trout is believed to have been a triploid, and triploid fish can grow larger than diploid fish in cold clean water. However, it is unlikely that triploid rainbow trout will be significantly bigger than wild spawning fish due to the water quality.

Do triploid trout behave differently?

The UK based Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust has reported that triploid trout take flies, fight, and look like their diploid hatchery counterparts. There is no evidence that triploid trout feed or behave any differently than fish that can spawn.

12. RELEASING CAPTIVE REARED MALLARDS AS A TOOL FOR HASTENING THE RECOVERY OF SEVERELY DEPRESSED POPULATIONS

Ref: 1.07.04

31 May 2018

1. Purpose

To reconsider the question posed in section 3(ii) of Agenda Item 11 “Release of Captive Reared Mallards” for Council’s February 2018 meeting, and the resolution Council made in relation to this.

2. Background

In the minutes from Council’s last meeting in April 2018, Cr Barry Roderick requested [18/04/5.2] that “Item 11.8 (of the February 2018 minutes) relating to “releasing CRMs as a tool that could be used to hasten the recovery of wild populations that are at low levels...”, be revisited at the next meeting of Council (June 2018). Barry advised that he and some others present at that meeting had not completely understood the objective or implications of the question and therefore recommended that the item be reconsidered before being incorporated into Council policy. Council supported this course of action.

The resolution concerned is:

“Agreed (Peter Storey/Barry Roderick) that Eastern Fish and Game Council does not support releasing CRMs as a tool to hasten the recovery of wild populations that are at low levels. Carried four/three, four abstained. [18/02/11.8]”.

Andy Garrick subsequently noted that Council might have misinterpreted what this particular proposition was concerned with, it being about populations that had been severely affected by, for example, a major botulism outbreak or avian epidemic of short duration but serious consequences, and most importantly, where habitat values and carrying capacity had not been diminished. If CRMs were released as a means of hastening the recovery of a population affected in such a manner it would be highly likely that hunting, if any, would have to be very restricted for a period while the population was being nursed back to its former level.

The question put to Council in section 3(ii) was:

“Is Fish & Game supportive of releasing CRMs as a tool that could be used to hasten the recovery of wild populations that are at low levels as a consequence for example, of a series of very poor breeding seasons or serious botulism outbreaks arising from climatic conditions, or over harvesting?”.

Dr MJ Williams was contracted by Fish & Game NZ to prepare an independent assessment of the pros and cons of releasing captive reared mallards in New Zealand, and in Section 1.2.2 of his report he addresses this matter as below (refer italicised text):

1.2.2 Supplementing the wild population. A perceived or real decline in a wild population can be the stimulus for releases of captive-reared birds. Simply adding birds is viewed as a way to make things better.

While supplementation using captive-reared stock is a practice supporting several NZ endangered bird conservation programmes e.g. for brown teal, blue duck, black stilt, their success is utterly dependent on the causes of decline being addressed e.g. predation, habitat destruction. [As a graphic example, releases of c.1000 captive-reared brown teal into regions of Northland 1984–1994 failed to establish a single new population of this endangered duck, nor increase any existing population; no complementary environmental management accompanied these releases⁽³⁶⁾.] The same requirement exists for supplementation of gamebird populations to prove effective. The number of ducks in any area reflects the distribution, abundance and quality of their habitat i.e. the “carrying capacity” of the environment. Adding more ducks without providing more habitat, or having improved the existing habitat e.g. by predator control, providing escape cover, increasing food supply and/or wetland areas, simply induces immediate competition between the resident and released birds until, by death or emigration, the number quickly returns to that which the environment previously supported.

On the other hand, supplementing a population after a heavy mortality event e.g. from excessive hunting or seasonal disease like botulism, may assist its recovery more quickly than by natural processes alone, but only up to its former size.

Evidence of the ineffectiveness of supplementation as a stand-alone response to population decline is widely chronicled in literature from the past 50 years, and especially so from USA (see Appendix 2) where the topic has been researched *ad nauseam*⁽⁷⁾. Nevertheless, the practice persists because of its seductive simplicity and because it may also provide an immediate, albeit temporary, increase in the number of birds available to local hunters.

3. Recommendation

3.1 *That Council reviews the resolution it made in February 2018 and either confirms it will be incorporated into Council policy, or passes another resolution to supercede it.*

13. INCREASING PARTICIPATION REPORT

Ref: 8.01.03

31 May 2018

1. Purpose

To consider a report on “Developing Revenue Through Increased Participation” and provide feedback on it to the NZ Council for inclusion at its July 2018 meeting.

2. Background

The NZ Council received a report from Steve Doughty in March 2018 which explores strategies for increasing revenue, which other than continually putting the licence fee up or attracting sponsorship and/or donations, can only happen if participation is increased. The report recognises there is a need for a greater customer focus within the organisation, and looks at ways of promoting participation. A copy of the report was circulated with the April Papers for Information but for convenience sake has been included again with this meeting’s Papers for Information.

3. Recommendation

3.1 *That Council reviews the report and provides any feedback it might have on its content.*

14. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

14.1 Conservation Boards

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

14.2 Reports from other agencies

- Department of Conservation

14.3 Report from New Zealand Council

15. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

15.1 MANAGEMENT REPORT

28 May 2018

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

1111 River Fisheries Investigations

Didymo Monitoring

Staff are due to undertake the quarterly didymo delimiting survey in the Ngongotaha in early June. Didymo remains absent from North Island waters according to the most up to date survey results and information.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council is assessing the regional didymo sampling regime in light of NIWA recommendations that it could be scaled back a little. The regime may be altered to cover fewer sites on a twice-yearly basis rather than the quarterly sampling currently undertaken. The sites selected may be those with lower levels of phosphate loading as streams high in phosphate have shown to be unlikely to support didymo growth.

1112 Datawatch

During the eight months following the season opening (1 October), a total of 366 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database. The distribution is as follows:

Lake Okareka	9
Lake Okataina	80
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	14
Lake Rotoehu	5
Lake Rotoiti	76
Lake Rotoma	20
Lake Rotorua	11
Lake Tarawera	147
Lake Tutira	1
Lake Waikaremoana	3

**Datawatch returns (entered to 18/05/2018)*

The total number of tags returned is up by 18 on approximately the same date during the 2016-17 season. Lakes that have increased most in returns are Lakes Rotoma (up 11) and Tarawera (up 44) which has had a high number of tagged fish returning through the Te Wairoa fish trap. The lakes with highest shortfalls compared with last year are lakes Okataina (down 18) and Rotoehu (down 7).

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Spawning Tributaries

Staff travelled to Waikaremoana on 28 May to undertake a reconnaissance of the Waikaremoana spawning tributaries to ground truth how future monitoring work may be undertaken. Compliance checks on the main lake were also undertaken as well as bathymetric mapping.

Lake Waikaremoana Monitoring Buoy Update

Rebuild of the Lake Waikaremoana Water Quality Monitoring Buoy is nearing completion. The sensor lines have been refitted and kept to a shallower depth to avoid a recurrence of the fouling experienced on the last occasion it was deployed. The logger unit has also been upgraded to a digital version.

1114 Lake Tarawera

Tarawera Outlet Drift Dives

The Lake Tarawera Outlet was drift dived by Fish & Game staff on 22 May. This included the lake edge in front of the Outlet and covered approximately 1km of the upper Tarawera River including the spawning sanctuary. A total of 575 large trout, 25 medium trout and 33 small size class trout were counted. This is the highest early run recorded in drift dives at the Tarawera Outlet since the 2012 winter and follows what is being seen this winter at the Te Wairoa Stream fish trap. The number of juvenile fish counted was low due to the larger spawning fish moving in and displacing them. Further Tarawera Outlet drift dives will be undertaken during early June, July and August as part of the 2018 Lake Tarawera spawning monitoring programme.

Te Wairoa Trap Run

The trapping season at the Fish & Game fish trap (Te Wairoa Stream) at Lake Tarawera started on 4 April when the trap was installed. Through April, a total of 135 rainbow trout ran into the stream compared with 90 during April 2017 and 53 during April 2016. Up to 21 May we have trapped 635 fish compared with 253 to the same point during the 2017 winter. During the 2017 run, three cyclones affected the catchment and high water levels resulted in the stream running around either side of the trap enabling some fish to bypass the structure. The average size of the trout running this winter is 522mm and 1.79kg compared with 527mm and 1.74kg to the same period during May 2016. Wild origin fish have made up 39% of the run to 21 May compared to 42% at the same point in time during the 2016 winter. The wild fish this winter have been 1mm larger and 100g heavier and in better condition on average than the 2017 wild fish. The hatchery marked fish up to 21 May 2018 have been 11mm shorter but 10g heavier on average and in better condition those at the same time in 2017.

Lake Tarawera Fishery Monitoring Project update

The post graduate project is still seeking buy in from backers and sponsors. On the smelt monitoring front, Matt Osborne joined up with Michel Dedual (DOC Taupo) to take part in the Lake Taupo acoustic monitoring programme. Matt was run through the basic principles of the survey technique. It is hoped Eastern Fish & Game may be able to run the same protocols on Tarawera to gauge the pelagic prey biomass from year to year. This will give better understanding of major productivity shifts between years.

1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

Ngongotaha Stream Trap

The trap was operated for 10 nights in March 2018. Stream flows were stable although rain fell during the trapping session. The largest fish was a 645mm, 3.1kg brown female. The number of brown trout running was lower than expected compared to previous March runs. Brown trout condition factor was also down, fish being long but lean fish though these were made up from a lower sample size.

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (March 2018)

	<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>	466	1.28	29	3		
<i>Brown</i>	574	2.33	6	1		17%

During April the Ngongotaha trap was operated for five nights prior to the largest rainfall on record hitting Rotorua leading to extreme flooding in the Ngongotaha Stream. The largest fish was a 610mm, 3.3kg brown male. Brown trout made up 77% of the monthly run.

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (April 2018)

	<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>	491	1.58	7	1		
<i>Brown</i>	553	2.25	24	5		77%

During May, the trap was operated for only five nights due again to flooding. A heavy silt load is continually moving downstream and causing ongoing issues with deposition in front of the trap.

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (May 2018)

	<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>	494	1.60	9	2		
<i>Brown</i>	565	2.31	13	3		59%

1116 Waterfowl Monitoring

Aerial Counts

Eastern staff completed aerial transect counts of mallard and grey duck in the Eastern, Hawke's Bay, Auckland/Waikato and Northland Fish and Game regions. The count analyses have not been done yet but the gut feeling is that numbers may have been up in most places with very large numbers in the Waikato and Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve.

In addition black swan were counted on Tauranga harbour. This is the fifth year we have counted swan at this time of the year and this is the highest count we've recorded (6,840), up 173% on last year at the same time and higher than the highest number we have ever counted (6,458 in January 2014).

Band Returns

A large number of bands have been reported to date, probably a combination of a good banding year and almost 3,000 CRM having been released in the Hawke's Bay and Eastern regions. To date 143 band recovery details have been entered and letters have been sent to hunters advising of where and when the bird was banded.

1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys

Summer Creel Survey

The 2017-18 summer survey has been completed. The data has been entered into an Access database. Analysis of the data will now be undertaken.

Winter Creel Survey

The 2018 winter shoreline survey for Lakes Rotoiti, Tarawera and Okataina began in late April. Shoreline fishing could be described as hit and miss across all three lakes through May. Encounter rates during surveys were low as there just didn't, and don't still seem to be many anglers around. There have been some very solid catches reported with anglers limiting out on Okataina on some storm driven nights, but struggling to get a strike on other similarly wet and stormy nights. Rotoiti and Tarawera angling has been described as hard by many in contrast to what has been recorded in the Te Wairoa trap run. Reports coming from Tarawera tell of fish up to 7 pounds (3.3kg) from various locations indicative of the growth that has occurred in the past three months.

Amendment to 2017 Winter Creel Survey Report

Following the presentation to Council in February 2018 of the 2017 Winter Shoreline Creel Report, additional data sheets for Lake Tarawera came to light that supplemented the creel information the report was previously based on. The Tarawera text has since been updated and a revised version is provided below. A revised copy of the full report is available in this meeting's Papers for Information.

Lake Tarawera anglers experienced a slightly lowered catch rate over the 2017 winter compared to the 2016 winter. Just seven shoreline caught fish were measured during Tarawera creel surveys. Both length and weight of fish measured were significantly smaller than the 2016 catch ($P=0.017$, $P<0.001$ respectively). The winter spawning run recorded through the Te Wairoa fish trap indicated a decline in fish condition illustrating a downturn in lake productivity over the past year. The average angler's perceptions during the 2017 winter were poorer for catch rate, fish size and condition compared with their 2016 ratings. Anglers rated their level of satisfaction as being poorer than during the 2016 winter. 87% of Tarawera anglers interviewed stated however, that they were satisfied with their winter's fishing.

Table 9: Comparisons of Lake Tarawera fish measured.

Feature	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Number fish measured	7	10	15	32	25	42	31	28
Mean length	520mm	561mm	546mm	571mm	578mm	591mm	558mm	564mm
Mean 3 yr old length	550mm	554mm ^{Rp}	544mm ^{Lp}	563mm ^{Rp}	587mm ^{Lp}	592mm ^{Rp}	578mm ^{Lp}	571mm ^{Rp}
Mean wild length	483mm	-	-	555mm	535mm	545mm	559mm	520mm
Mean weight	1.58kg	2.08kg	1.91kg	2.33kg	2.38kg	2.58kg	2.21kg	2.26kg
Largest measured	570mm, wgt not recorded	580mm, 2.30kg	600mm, 2.55kg	630mm, 3.5kg	635mm, 3.3kg	700mm, 4.4kg	600mm, 3.4kg	650mm, 3.0kg
% Hatchery fish	57%	100%	93%	91%	76%	90%	81%	79%

Table 10. Lake Tarawera angling data.

Feature	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Average CPUE	0.22	0.28	0.28	0.19	0.16	0.21	0.22	0.12
% successful anglers	27%	23%	25%	29%	26%	28%	28%	22%

CPUE (or catch rate) = (fish kept + legal sized fish returned) / hours fished. Average CPUE is calculated from the average of individual anglers catch rates. The % of successful anglers includes those that have kept fish and/or released oversized fish.

Table 11: Lake Tarawera angler perceptions

Feature	Ave.	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Average rate for CPUE (1=Excellent, 3=Average, 5=Terrible)	3.10	3.40	3.13	3.40	3.04	2.77	3.02	3.13	2.89 P<0.001
Average rate for fish size (1=Excellent, 3=Average, 5=Terrible)	2.71	3.00	2.94 P=0.01	3.48 P<0.001	2.55	2.50	2.29 P=0.005	2.67 P=0.006	2.26 P<0.001
Average rate for satisfaction (1=Very satisfied, 4=Very dissatisfied)	2.07	2.13	2.00	2.11	2.06	2.07	1.99	2.11	2.06 P<0.001
% anglers satisfied	89%	87%	100%	86%	94%	86%	92%	85%	85%

(t Test or Mann-Whitney tests for rates, Binomial Comparative Trial testing for % anglers satisfied).

Game Bird Hunter Survey

The first hunter survey (Opening Weekend) has been completed (see below), and the second is well under way at the time of writing.

Opening Weekend 2018 Game Bird Harvest Results

The opening weekend harvest survey indicates the harvest of mallard and grey duck was an improvement on the previous two years (Figure 1). Ducks per hour were up as were hours hunted (Figure 2; Table 1). Active hunters as opposed to all hunters (the survey includes all licence holders some of which do not hunt waterfowl or hunt pheasant only) ended up with one more duck in their bag compared with last year. Total harvest will also be up as licence sales were on par with last year (3438 vs. 3435).

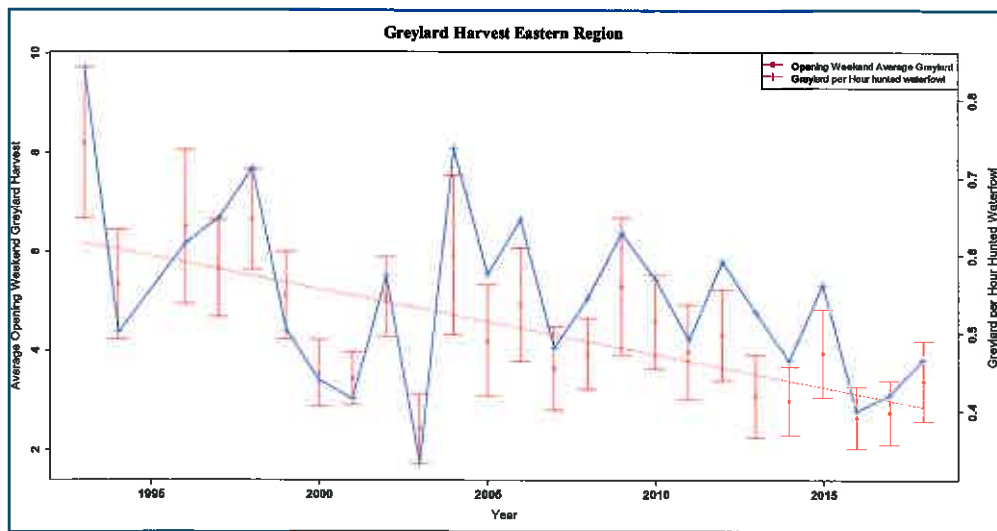


Figure 1. Mallard and grey duck (greylard) harvest (mean \pm 95% CI) for opening weekend in the Eastern Fish and Game Region 1993 – 2018 for all licence holders with regression line (red dotted line). The right y-axis shows greylard per hour (blue solid line).

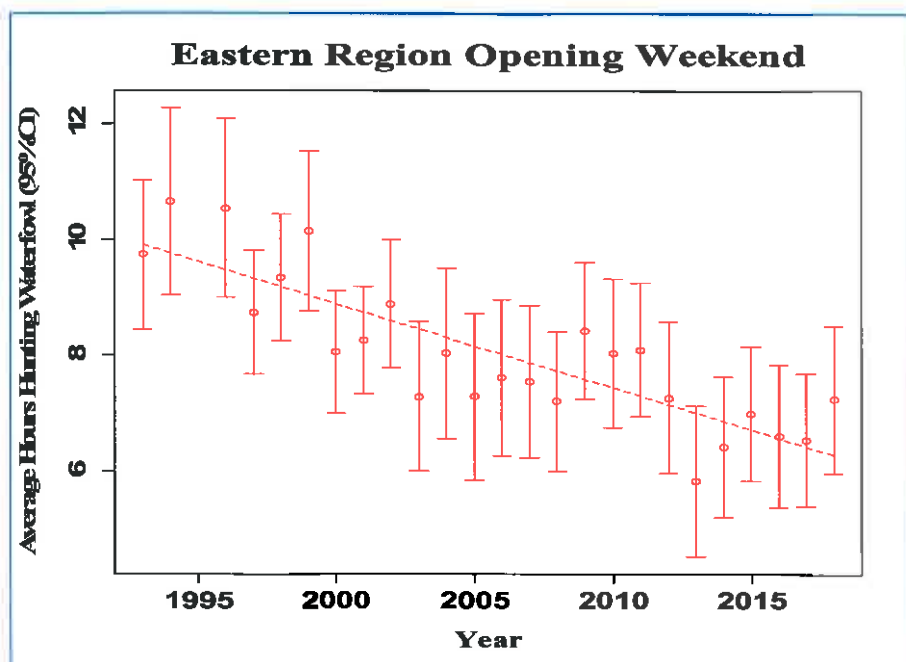


Figure 2. Hours hunting waterfowl (mean \pm 95% CI) over opening weekend and regression line (red dashed line) in the Eastern Fish and Game Region 1993–2018.

Table 1. Harvest (mean mallard and grey duck) and hours hunted (mean) in the Eastern Region 1993–2018.

Year	Hours (var)	Mallard (var)	Grey (var)
1993	9.74 (0.432)	6.49 (0.536)	1.7 (0.068)
1994	10.65 (0.679)	4.69 (0.296)	0.64 (0.023)
1996	10.54 (0.62)	5.42 (0.572)	1.06 (0.057)
1997	8.74 (0.295)	4.86 (0.232)	0.8 (0.02)
1998	9.33 (0.313)	5.61 (0.223)	1.03 (0.04)
1999	10.14 (0.493)	4.52 (0.187)	0.59 (0.017)
2000	8.06 (0.291)	2.99 (0.109)	0.54 (0.009)
2001	8.25 (0.222)	2.83 (0.063)	0.59 (0.01)
2002	8.88 (0.316)	4.01 (0.13)	1.07 (0.038)
2003	7.29 (0.431)	2.26 (0.125)	0.16 (0.003)
2004	8.03 (0.561)	4.76 (0.381)	1.16 (0.296)
2005	7.29 (0.536)	3.77 (0.309)	0.43 (0.016)
2006	7.62 (0.476)	4.54 (0.333)	0.38 (0.01)
2007	7.55 (0.445)	3.28 (0.179)	0.35 (0.006)
2008	7.21 (0.378)	3.23 (0.113)	0.7 (0.019)
2009	8.43 (0.36)	4.58 (0.47)	0.72 (0.025)
2010	8.04 (0.427)	4.12 (0.225)	0.45 (0.01)
2011	8.09 (0.344)	3.57 (0.21)	0.4 (0.025)
2012	7.27 (0.446)	3.72 (0.19)	0.58 (0.03)
2013	5.83 (0.437)	2.76 (0.167)	0.31 (0.012)
2014	6.42 (0.38)	2.71 (0.113)	0.26 (0.007)
2015	6.99 (0.348)	2.88 (0.145)	1.04 (0.06)
2016	6.61 (0.394)	2.39 (0.097)	0.25 (0.005)
2017	6.54 (0.342)	2.4 (0.099)	0.34 (0.01)
2018	7.25 (0.42)	3.26 (0.162)	0.12 (0.003)

Table 2. Harvest of waterfowl in the Eastern Region 1993–2018. Greyland per hour is per hour hunting waterfowl.

Year	Hours	Greyland	Shoveler	Paradise	Swan	Pukeko	Greyland/Hr
1993	9.735	8.188	0.238	1.356	0.109	0.228	0.841
1994	10.651	5.325	0.181	1.470	0.024	0.084	0.500
1996	10.535	6.485	0.182	1.394	0.293	0.172	0.616
1997	8.736	5.652	0.137	1.385	0.050	0.484	0.647
1998	9.333	6.641	0.183	1.549	0.028	0.169	0.712
1999	10.144	5.102	0.136	1.048	0.061	0.054	0.503
2000	8.058	3.530	0.043	0.713	0.024	0.061	0.438
2001	8.250	3.422	0.103	1.022	0.049	0.114	0.415
2002	8.880	5.082	0.082	1.204	0.061	0.429	0.572
2003	7.285	2.416	0.040	1.119	0.079	0.178	0.332
2004	8.033	5.917	0.146	1.219	0.198	0.083	0.737
2005	7.294	4.198	0.020	1.327	0.188	0.050	0.576
2006	7.618	4.919	0.054	1.027	0.090	0.108	0.646
2007	7.554	3.630	0.074	1.289	0.089	0.215	0.480
2008	7.210	3.930	0.171	1.558	0.109	0.302	0.545

2009	8.429	5.292	0.042	2.217	0.200	0.125	0.628
2010	8.039	4.569	0.043	1.983	0.138	0.267	0.568
2011	8.091	3.965	0.070	1.139	0.139	0.122	0.490
2012	7.271	4.300	0.000	1.375	0.083	0.250	0.591
2013	5.833	3.067	0.092	1.033	0.050	0.025	0.526
2014	6.420	2.975	0.034	1.294	0.168	0.193	0.463
2015	6.992	3.926	0.050	1.785	0.083	0.074	0.561
2016	6.613	2.642	0.033	1.825	0.033	0.092	0.399
2017	6.538	2.742	0.042	1.817	0.067	0.075	0.419
2018	7.246	3.372	0.050	1.570	0.545	0.099	0.465

Table 3. Upland Game harvest in the Eastern Region 1993–2018

Year	Hours	Pheasant	Cal_Quail	Brown_Quail
1993	0.887	0.168	0.208	0.000
1994	0.500	0.108	0.120	0.000
1996	0.707	0.040	0.192	0.000
1997	0.538	0.093	0.012	0.000
1998	0.455	0.176	0.049	0.000
1999	0.887	0.299	0.231	0.014
2000	0.806	0.213	0.030	0.006
2001	0.639	0.173	0.103	0.000
2002	0.871	0.279	0.109	0.007
2003	0.247	0.139	0.010	0.000
2004	0.087	0.094	0.021	0.010
2005	0.129	0.050	0.000	0.000
2006	0.300	0.117	0.054	0.000
2007	0.397	0.089	0.007	0.007
2008	0.336	0.132	0.047	0.000
2009	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
2010	7.892	0.233	0.138	0.000
2011	0.265	0.052	0.000	0.000
2012	0.767	0.250	0.050	0.033
2013	0.142	0.092	0.017	0.000
2014	0.227	0.050	0.000	0.000
2015	0.579	0.149	0.000	0.000
2016	0.267	0.108	0.000	0.000
2017	0.508	0.067	0.100	0.000
2018	0.095	0.050	0.000	0.000

1141 Hatchery Operations

Autumn fish liberations took place in March, April and May as shown in the table below. Fish were delivered to and collected by staff from the Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Region.

Fish locations at 25 May 2018

Location	Type	Qty (approx)	Comment
Tank A	1+ Brook	20	Brood
Tank B	0+ Tiger	20	Display
Tank C	1+ Bt	1,430	Liberations spring 2018
Tank D	1+Bt	1,290	Liberations spring 2018
Pond 2	0+Rt	23,000	Spring liberations and orders 2018
Pond 3	0+Rt	23,000	Spring liberations and orders 2018
Pond 4	0+Rt	3,900	Autumn liberations Northland F&G 2018
Pond 9	1+ Rt	5,000	Various for 2+ in 2019

1143 Te Wairoa Trap

A number of quality brood fish have been collected from the Te Wairoa fish trap and to date seven crosses, producing around 32,000 green ova have been obtained. Staff have been impressed with the quality of the fish being selected at the trap.

1161 Sports Fish Liberations

Liberations, Eastern Region 16 March – 25 May 2018

Water	Date	Mark used	Tag used	Species	Age Class	Number
Okataina	10/04/2018	RpAd		RT	1+	250
Tarawera	10/04/2018	RpAd		RT	1+	1,000
Rotoiti	12/04/2018	RpAd		RT	1+	5,000
Rotoma	24/04/2018	RpAd		Tiger	1+	1,155
Tarawera	7/05/2018	RpAd		RT	1+	1,000
Tarawera	7/05/2018	Rpad	18T	RT	1+	500
Okataina	8/05/2018	RpAd	O18	RT	1+	500
Rotoiti	8/05/2018	RpAd	18R	RT	1+	500
Rotoiti	9/05/2018	RpAd		RT	1+	5,000
Rerewhakaaitu	15/05/2018	RpAd		RT	1+	3,500
Rotoma	16/05/2018	RpAd		RT	1+	2,000
Rotoehu	17/05/2018	RpAd		RT	1+	2,000
Okareka	24/05/2018	RpAd		RT	1+	2,500

1172 Game Bird Regulations

Change to the Gazette Notice

The swan season lengths in Management Areas A1 and A2 were incorrectly printed in the Gazette Notice and the regulation guide (they were swapped so that A1 was short and A2 long). We have requested an amendment to the season length for A1 to bring it in line with

previous seasons and left A2 as it is (i.e. closes 26 August 2018). It appears that the amendment is on track to be implemented before the end of the A1 season so there shouldn't be any issues. A2 can cope with a longer season as the population is very near the upper threshold that would give it the longer season, and furthermore we wouldn't be able to police the regulations as the guide states the season finishes on 26 August.

1181 Game Bird Control

Authority to Disturb

Eastern staff have been trying to obtain a delegation or an Authority to issue permits to disturb for all of Fish & Game since May 2013. A draft Authority has eventually been forwarded to us from DOC for Fish & Game comment.

HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

1211 RMA Planning

Gisborne District Council – Freshwater Advisory Group and Freshwater Plan

Hearings decisions were released in August 2017. An appeal on parts of these decisions was lodged in September 2017. The appeal points relate to some fish passage provisions, the activity status for new maimai, crop survival water allocation provisions, and activities in riparian margins. Mediation was attended during the first two weeks of May 2018 with positive outcomes on most of our appeal points.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Proposed Plan Change 9 (Water Quantity) submissions were lodged in mid December 2017. The Hearing was attended in March, and recommendations from the Panel are scheduled to be released in August.

Waikato Regional Council

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

Bay of Plenty Water Advisory Panel

Fish & Game remains involved in the Bay of Plenty Regional Water Advisory Panel, and community catchment groups.

Bay of Plenty Draft Regional Pest Management Plan

Comments were lodged on the Bay of Plenty Draft Regional Pest Management Plan in 2017 opposing the inclusion of sports fish (perch and tench) in the document. The existing Pest Management Plan remains in operation until September 2018. Regional Council intends to notify the next plan before the current one expires.

Lake Okareka Working Group

The most recent Okareka Working Group meeting was attended in April. This group is looking at ways to better manage water levels in Lake Okareka, while also managing flows in the outflowing Waitangi Stream, which is an important trout spawning stream discharging into Lake Tarawera.

1212 Consent Applications

Date In	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
29-Mar-18	BOPRC	BOPRC and LINZ	DP- diquat for pest weed control	Rotorua Lakes	S96 OPPOSED
20-Apr-18	BOPRC	Mangaone Farms Ltd	WP- irrigation renewal	Tarawera River	APPROVED S95E3A
7-May-18	BOPRC	BOPRC	DP- Alum for phosphorus capture	Puarenga & Utuhina Streams Rotorua	APPROVED S95E3A

Resource consents of note

Rotorua Lakes

The BOPRC and LINZ resource consent renewal for discharging Diquat to the Rotorua lakes was opposed by Fish & Game because it provided the opportunity to spray up to 25% in any one operation. This could enable the entire spraying of weed bases within any one lake in one year. This could significantly affect trout habitat and food sources. We have suggested that a maximum limit should be declared to restrict the percentage of total weed biomass able to be sprayed in any one calendar year. We have not received comment back from the applicants and this application may go to a hearing.

Awaiti Canal

The Fish & Game and DOC commissioned engineering report has been received and provided to all the water abstractors on the Awaiti Canal renewing their applications concurrently, to ascertain how and if their water takes affect the water inflows into the Awaiti Wetland WMR. Minimum flows and canal water levels have been determined to sustain the wetland within its minimum and maximum permitted water levels. BOPRC has developed draft conditions fair to all parties and sent them off to applicants for consideration. We have not received any formal response yet. Council will be informed of progress of this process as Awaiti WMR is a key wetland that we manage.

Hamurana Koaro Restoration Project

Design options are being investigated by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council for a revamped weir structure to replace the current trout barrier in the Hamurana Stream tributary. It is intended to reduce the buildup of algal matter and sludge that has been present upstream of the trout barrier since its installation.

Pest Weed Incursions

The autumn round of aquatic weed spraying was completed on the Rotorua lakes on 9 May. No information has been received regarding the Lagarosiphon programme at Lake Waikaremoana.

Catfish Incursion Lake Rotoiti

Since 1 January the number and distribution of catfish caught has increased dramatically. 26,132 catfish had been caught to mid-April 2018 over 25 trapping nights. Catches have also been made within the Ohau Channel and as close as 150m from Lake Rotorua. Surveillance has continued within areas of Lake Rotorua though presence of catfish has not been confirmed at this stage. Field trials of a NIWA developed pheromone bait are to be undertaken following lab trials which have shown positive results in terms of attracting catfish to fyke nets.

Perch in Papamoa waterways

Further investigative measures are being undertaken within the Papamoa waterways to search for juvenile redfin perch. The Tauranga City Council's fish biosecurity contractor is undertaking the work. Fish & Game has provided permits to catch and remove (destroy) perch (listed as a sports fish) from the waterways. To date no further perch have been located. A single tropical sucker mouth catfish (possibly *H. plecostomus*) was caught during netting. It was thought improbable that it could have survived to this point given Papamoa water temperatures (15°C) and the species lower tolerance level of 15.5°C. This highlights the issue of public releasing unwanted aquarium specimens into waterways.

Waitangi Stream Flow Investigation

Updated consent conditions are being sought for Lake Okareka levels and for flow rates within the Waitangi Stream. Fish & Game staff met with Bay of Plenty Regional Council on site at the Waitangi Stream where it enters Tarawera and viewed a range of water flows through the stream as the Okareka outlet was reduced and opened. A number of issues and options within the stream environment were discussed aimed at maintaining and enhancing fish passage and spawning. Staff will continue to work through the process with Regional Council.

1221 Reserves Management

A final inspection of the wetland reserves was undertaken in the week prior to opening weekend and all were found to have acceptable water levels, reasonable access tracks, and gates unlocked for opening weekend.

Subsequent walks around two key sites (Awaiti and Lower Kaituna) have found significant vehicle track degradation from opening weekend, and in line with current practice the main gates were locked Tuesday after opening to minimise damage and reduce theft/undesirable practices. Complaints have been received about quad access only to the Lower Kaituna for those stand holders who don't own quads and whose stands are considerable distances from the main gate. Staff are investigating options for enabling better 4WD access to key distant carpark areas post opening without opening up access to all tracks. Problems arising from 4WD access to other wetland sites have not been detected.

In line with programmed works, planting in the newly contoured borrow pit and ephemeral scrapes in the grazing paddocks within the Lower Kaituna wetland is to commence in June. The contractor employed by BOPRC for the Kaituna River diversion into the Maketu estuary has expressed an interest in obtaining more sand from the grazing paddocks, meaning more open water habitat and plantings will be created. Discussions with DOC and BOPRC have been ongoing in relation to the development of the remainder of the grazing paddocks into wetland and hydrological enhancement including new water inlet options.

All of the agreed boundary fencing for the Ngapouri and Tutaeinanga lakes restoration project has been completed and within budget. Native plants have been ordered and boundary pest plant spraying undertaken in preparation for plantings in September. The contractor engaged to plant and release spray for the next three years will be fully briefed on site in July. Fish & Game staff continue to manage the day to day operations associated with the project.

1231 Maintain and Enhance Game Bird Habitat

Landowner Information

No new wetland developments or enhancement requests have been received since the last Council meeting.

1232 Habitat Creation

Applications for Funding to Create Habitat in the Waikato Catchment

Almost 30 applications for habitat creation/enhancement funding have been received by WCEET. The applications have been reviewed by Fish & Game staff ahead of a Trust meeting at the end of May.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

Annual access track and access point checks maintenance continues as required. Recent checks in the Tarawera River system determined that access is in good condition following recent logging in the forest. Liaison with forest/land owners and managers regarding access has been ongoing.

Permit to Hunt in DOC Reserves

Fish & Game staff met with DOC staff to discuss issuing of permits to hunt in DOC reserves. The Conservation Act does not allow DOC to delegate issuing of hunting permits despite Sports Stores issuing permits for many years. We appear to have come up with a solution that DOC staff are happy with.

1312 Signage

Sign maintenance has been carried out as required around the region.

1313 Hunter Ballots

Ballots and Walk-in Permits

271 hunters hunted in the balloted stands and another 49 walk-in permits have been issued to date.

1331 Electronic Newsletters

Reel Life was produced for March, April and May 2018 covering angling reports, soft baits, fishing tips, fish liberations, Anglers Notice, and social media.

1333 Fish & Game Website

Updates or changes to the Eastern Web site included: aquatic weed spraying notice, a compliance story, and Council agendas and minutes. Our Twitter account has 457 followers and received approximately 12,000 impressions for the reported period. An Eastern Fish & Game Facebook page has been started at <https://www.facebook.com/easternfishandgame/>

1334 Social Media

Fishing prospects and conditions were added to the web site and communicated via Reel News and Facebook and Twitter.

1354 Fishing Competitions

Four fishing competition permits were processed for the period.

1361 Fish & Game Club Communications

One club visit was undertaken during the period.

1371 Fish & Game Huts

Wairua Hut

The concession process for the site the hut occupies is continuing and is taking longer than expected. Hut toilet maintained/cleaned out – this is receiving high usage and not from our hut users but from other visitors to the area.

COMPLIANCE

1511 Ranging

Seasonal priorities were on monitoring autumn angling locations these largely being lake shoreline areas. Summer surveys have now concluded. Relatively few fishery related offences have been detected during this period, and monitoring of spawning streams is underway.

In relation to the gill netting incident at the Hopuruahine Stream mouth at Lake Waikaremoana, the offender who was charged with offences in relation to this failed to appear in the Wairoa District Court in April, and a warrant for his arrest has been issued.

In relation to the group of four offenders who had been charged for being unlawfully on the Fish & Game hatchery grounds and poaching/fishing from hatchery ponds in January - to date three of these offenders have had action against them resolved, one via court sentencing and two via court diversion processes. One remaining offender is due to be sentenced in Court in early June.

The game bird hunting season Opening Weekend ranging was carried out jointly with Police across most of our operations. 106 hunters were located and checked. Overall, compliance was good in most areas, the exception being nine persons being issued with offence notices in the Whakatane area (many of these at the minor end of the scale). This is an area which we have ranged in extensively in past years, and will continue to receive attention. Offences were for using guns without magazine restrictions, and for using/possessing lead shot within 200m of open water.

Ranging has been carried out around much of the region, including many river systems and at Waikaremoana.

Liaison with Police continues.

Overall compliance rate continues to be in excess of 98 %.

Contacts Year to Date. Contacts year to date are at 2,131 angler and hunter contacts and include the game hunting opening weekend contacts.

Contacts: Year 2017-2018 to May 2018.

Month	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Last 5 yr average
September	66	50	59	29	21	57
October	984	960	1,223	903	836	1,013
November	175	112	20	62	69	100
December	387	392	293	310	390	396
January	355	381	335	217	195	357
February	151	395	418	293	137	298
March	279	275	253	191	199	260
April	299	264	53	214	178	205
May	446	498	272	292	106	405
June	325	203	277	171		237
July	79	120	107	94		104
August	77	76	42	27		71
Total	3,623	3,726	3,352	2,803	2,131	3,502

North Island/National CLE role

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

Involvement with the infringement system proposal including appearing before the Parliamentary Select Committee hearing this Bill as well as other ongoing matters relating to compliance activities and prosecution advice nationally.

Rangers

The ranger team continues to contribute. Preparations are underway for the three yearly ranger warrant renewal process due by September. Warrant renewal will involve the application of strict criteria to ensure new warrants are issued only to rangers who are fully trained and active.

1531 Prosecutions

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

Some of these offenders have warrants to arrest either in lieu of summons or for failing to appear in court, and some of these are now becoming quite old. Others are pending resolution in the courts.

Following the demise of reparation as a resolution option, we are using, as appropriate, prosecution with court diversion. This is working well, although it is considerably more time consuming and potentially more costly depending on the legal costs involved.

Oral submissions were made to the Conservation (Infringement Systems) Bill which is currently before Parliament. No update on this matter is available.

Offences Year to Date 2017-2018 Year:

For the year 2017- 2018 year to date we have dealt with 30 persons for 48 offences as tabled below. Note some of these offences are representative of multiple offences by the same offenders.

Offence table 2017-2018 year to 25/05/2018

Offence name	Number of offences
Fish without licence	17
Fish closed waters	5
False details	1
Disturb spawning gravels	1
Take sports fish with net, spear, gaff or device.	1
Possession of net/spear	1
Illegal tackle	3
Obstruction	1
Exceed bag limit - fish	1
Unlawfully on property	4
Fish with more than 1 rod	1
Unrestricted gun magazine	7
Lead shot	5
Total	48

Offences Pending Resolution

To date 16 separate offences are pending resolution, by nine offenders.

The table below shows offences currently pending resolution, as at 25/05/2018:

Offence name	Numbers
Fish without licence	6
Possess spear-net- gaff	1
Fish closed waters	1
False details	1
Unlawfully on property	1
Unrestricted gun magazine	3
Lead shot	3
Total	16

LICENSING

1612 Analysis of Licence Information

Kate Thompson continues to provide regular updates of licence sales for all regions. Additional reports are also supplied to the Licence Working Party.

1621 Licence Agent Support

Administration staff continued to liaise with licence agents as required and field staff drop in to various retail agents when in the area.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1821 Operational Work Planning

A second draft of the 2018-19 OWP and budget has been prepared (see main Agenda Item 8).

1841 National Liaison

In addition to staff's ongoing contribution to a wide range of national projects and work areas, Andy Garrick provided ongoing input to enquiries and discussions associated with a NZC Council national remuneration audit, Hawke's Bay governance and management related issues, and proposed amendments to fishing licence categories and fees (see Agenda Item 9).

ADMINISTRATION

Vehicles

As part of the normal fleet management, three vehicles have been sold to the same buyer.

15.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

25 May 2018

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 plan – 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. April/May 2018 Update

1. Implementation and Adherence to the Health and Safety Plan

Tail Gate Forms were used by staff out on site for the Tarawera & Ngongotaha trap, opening weekend of the Game Season and Drift diving at the Tarawera outlet.

Regular (weekly) staff meetings.

New contractors issued with H & S agreement and inductions (Treescapes and R Twyman Contracting).

The whiteboard is continually being used by staff which has improved communication between staff and makes it easier to know where staff are.

A draft document (6/3/18) has been prepared by MS “Safe Procedure for Operators of the Fish Traps, Eastern Fish and Game Region”. At present this is a draft document that has been circulated for comment amongst fisheries staff. At the time of this report this document is still being consulted on.

Carmel to follow up with Staff the Safety app developed by Nelson Marlborough.

2. Monitoring and Reporting

Work Place Accident Register

	25/5/18	23/3/18
Number of workplace injuries in 2017-2018 year	1	1
Number of workplace injuries in 2016-2017 year	2	2
Number of workplace injuries in 2015-2016 year	1	1
Number of workplace injuries in 2014-2015 year	1	1
Number of workplace injuries in 2013-2014 year	3	3
Total number of workplace injuries since 1 Sept 1995	35	35
Total number of days lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995	9	9
Total number of days since last lost work injury (31/8/2017) <i>Note the lost work days were in Dec/Jan 17/18 after remedial surgery, not immediately after the injury.</i>	267	204
Total number of days prior to last lost work injury since 1 Sept 1995	8,035	8,035

3. Risk Management (identification and treatment)

Notes taken for the H&S minutes at the weekly staff meeting:

3/4/18 – Top track beyond hatchery is closed due to trees hung over track – Area has been taped off. Cabbage tree outside Hatchery has died and needs to be removed. Staff to follow safety guidelines when operating the Tarawera Trap. Take care driving with sun strike. Reminder to complete Tail gate forms, CV to follow up on H & S app.

9/4/18 – As above re Top track - taped off area

16/4/18 - As above re Top track - taped off area

23/4/18 - As above re Top track - taped off area & take care ranging the spawning streams.

30/4/18 - As above re Top track - taped off area, watch out for debris after the floods and take care working around traps after the storm.

7/5/18 - As above re Top track - taped off area and Treescapes on site Monday to remove all identified trees posing risk.

14/5/18 – Keep out of Redwoods on windy days – area taped off to the Public. LG acknowledged back issues that affect some of his activities. He is taking care with lifting and carrying. Trap duties to be undertaken in pairs.

21/5/18 – Nil.

4. Training Programme

PB2 Training Course for MM, LG, JM & MO.

CV attended a H & S Consultation workshop 23/5/18 Hosted by Worksafe and MBIE.

5. H&S Incidents

None to report

6. Recommendation

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

15.3 FINANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.01

24 May 2018

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the current financial position and approve payments for the months of March and April 2018.

2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the period ending 30 April 2018 is attached. This report documents the income and expenditure for the period.

Income

Game bird hunters purchased their licences earlier this season with nearly three quarters of the annual target being sold in March and April, and due to these earlier sales, the actual Game revenue processed YTD is reporting to be \$21,379 ahead of budget. Fish licence revenue however is currently reporting to be below budget by \$40,881. This result is consistent with the licence sales report which shows fish licence sales to be down on 2016-17 results by 3.1% and also taking in to consideration the increased target for 2017-18 being some \$8,200 higher than last season. We have altered the reporting of the Fish Licence revenue to highlight the additional revenue collected through the levy on the Non-Resident season licence. This additional revenue is not budgeted and is transferred into the Non-Resident Levy Reserve on completion of the financial year. In future we intend to incorporate a budget for this in order to display a more accurate picture of fish revenue against the nationally set target. Licence sales by category and LEQ are reported in detail within the licence sales report and this provides a more up to date picture of licence sales YTD.

Revenue from other sources over the period was made up of the following: hatchery (\$9,083), fishing competitions (\$243), rentals (\$6,087), and interest (\$456). Fines from prosecutions collected through the courts totalled \$545 and funds were also received from diversion processes for expense recovery and junior education programmes (\$261 and \$609 respectively). Legal expenses were reimbursed by the New Zealand Council relating to the Gisborne Fresh Water Plan appeal (\$5,040) and funds were received from the Department of Conservation for their contribution to works at the Kaituna WMR (\$400). A non-cash item is also reported in April relating to the gain on sale of motor vehicles (\$3,907).

Species Management

Population monitoring expenditure for the period included flights for transect counts, the purchase of datawatch tags from Australia, didymo sampling equipment, and meal expenses for Waikaremoana work. Within budget YTD.

Hatchery expenses for the period related to fish food (\$2,742), reglazing of two windows, and the purchase of customwood. Equipment purchases included waders, tagging guns, and various minor maintenance materials. The Te Wairoa trap expenses related primarily to securing the trap with a fabricated hasp and staple, rekeyed padlocks, and materials to install. Other trap expense were for a replacement rain gauge and thermometer. Expenses are also reported relating to a CoF for the tanker, rates, and the regular expenses for rubbish removal, electricity, fuel, and oxygen. Hatchery expenditure is over budget \$3,207 YTD and this is due primarily to timing of fish food purchases.

Habitat

Reserves spending for the period included Contract wages and fuel for spraying of reserves (\$3,315), an engineer's assessment of Awaiti inlet & canal (\$683), and a small expense for wasp bait.

Resource management expenditure was significant and related to professional advice and legal expenses associated with the Gisborne Regional Freshwater Plan (\$5,040). These expenses have been reimbursed from the New Zealand Council's legal fund. Excluding this funded expenditure all other Habitat areas are within budget YTD.

Participation

The game magazine supplement and newsletters were paid for in March, and a small expense is reported related to casual wages for access work. Lures and a box were purchased for Ronald McDonald House for use by children staying there. A hot water cylinder switch was replaced at the Waikaremoana hut and coal and kindling purchased for Wairua. Various other minor purchases of cleaning and maintenance materials were also purchased for the huts. Within budget YTD.

Public Interface

Grounds maintenance expenditure related to metal and bob cat work on parking area and cleaning of the public toilets. This area as a whole is within budget YTD.

Compliance

The Compliance expenses for the period related to the 0800 Poaching service and cell phone, a Ranger warrant was renewed, and compliance pads purchased. Catering for three days of ranger training is also reported. Legal expenses were incurred on two prosecutions and for document serving. Within budget YTD.

Licensing

The Commission budget includes agent commissions and the fees associated with the Public Online and 0800 sales. The total for commission and fees paid YTD is under budget as a result of reduced licence sales but also due to the increased use of Public Online and reduced costs associated with these sales.

Council

Council expenditure for the period related to catering and travel expenses for the April meeting of Council. Within budget YTD.

Planning

The expenditure reported within the Planning budgets in April was for levies which were paid to the New Zealand Council. Within budget YTD.

Administration

Notes on individual areas:

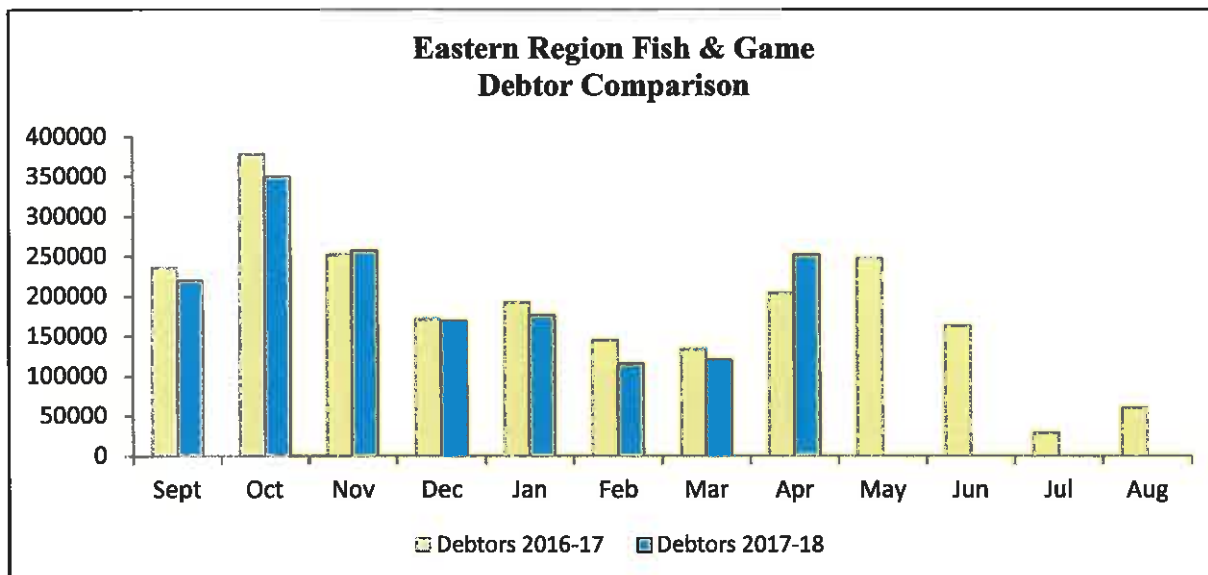
Salaries	Within budget YTD.
Staff Expenses	Staff training expenses for the period related to Power Boat L2 training for four staff and minor expenses are also reported for road tolls and meal expenses. Within budget YTD.
Staff Houses	Staff houses maintenance included the replacement of a bathroom fan/light unit and stove elements in the timber house, and the replacement of clay pipe drains in the brick house which had been

	overrun by tree roots. Rates were paid in April and a small expense is reported relating to staff quarters electricity. Within budget YTD.
Office Premises	Rates were paid in April and the usual electricity, cleaning, and security expenses are reported for the period. An expense was also incurred relating to plumbing repairs. Office premises expenses are over budget YTD (\$589) and this is due to timing of electricity accounts.
Office Equipment	A data projector was purchased in April for \$667 and this replaces the Council's very old Dell projector. The usual expenses relating to the phone and eftpos lease are also reported. Within budget YTD.
Communications/ Consumables	Standard communications expenses are reported for the period including phones, broadband, stationery, and photocopying. The spending reported in March also included the Gisborne directory listing and the purchase of courier tickets in bulk, and in April IT services for a laptop set up. Within budget YTD.
General	Minor expenses are reported for morning teas and bank fees. This area is over budget (\$899) due to increased insurance costs which are offset by reduced insurance costs elsewhere e.g. Vehicles.
General Equipment	Within the general equipment budget purchases included a set of waders, and flares for Parera. Equipment maintenance expenses were incurred for servicing and repairs of the Suzuki outboard on Whio and the grounds hand mower. Field equipment fuel expenses are also reported. Within budget YTD.
Vehicles	Vehicle maintenance expenses for the period included servicing of four vehicles and a set of tyres. Registration was paid on one vehicle and the standard fuel expenses are reported which include RUC's on four vehicles. Within budget YTD.

Cash Position: \$1,104,980 (includes \$117,011 for asset replacement reserve and \$439,802 for Waikaremoana Fund) as at 30 April 2018.

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$251,557 as at 30 April 2018 (\$203,128 as at 30 April 2017).

Eastern Region Fish and Game - Debtors Balance Comparison 2016/17 – 2017/18



With Game licence purchases occurring earlier this season the amount invoiced in April to licence agents is some \$32,000 higher than reported in April 2017. Two agents required follow up and have since paid amounts due. One other debtor remains overdue \$335 and this is being followed up by staff.

Fixed Assets

The following assets were purchased/sold within the period:

Asset purchased	Asset sales
Daikin Heat Pump (Mngrs Office)	Ford Ranger - HWQ63
	Ford Ranger - HUG500
	Ford Ranger - HRQ307

3. Westpac Business Mastercard

The manager’s business credit card was set up as an account in Xero in October 2017. At this time the payments to the card changed from a direct debit from the current account to a bank transfer between accounts. As bank transfers between our accounts are excluded from transaction lists reported to Council this meant that the spending from the credit card was not approved by Council. The spending was however reported within the applicable finance report. This was an omission by the writer of the finance report being unaware of the change, therefore, the complete transaction list for the Westpac Mastercard account from 1 October 2017 to 30 April 2018 is included for approval within this report.

4. 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.

OVERHEADS		EXTERNAL COSTS		NET TABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance
1910	Salaries	\$ 912,561	\$ 368,019	\$ 42,685	\$ 19,650	\$ 869,876	\$ 588,369	\$ 301,507	\$ 65.3
1920	Staff Expenses	\$ 23,900	\$ 4,440	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,900	\$ 4,440	\$ 19,460	\$ 18.6
1930	Staff Houses	\$ 12,600	\$ 8,834	\$ 21,020	\$ 25,363	\$ (8,420)	\$ (16,528)	\$ 8,109	\$ 196.3
1940	Office Premises	\$ 17,500	\$ 12,754	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,500	\$ 12,754	\$ 4,746	\$ 72.9
1950	Office Equipment	\$ 3,900	\$ 3,728	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,900	\$ 3,728	\$ 172	\$ 95.6
1960	Communications/Consumables	\$ 17,910	\$ 11,846	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,910	\$ 11,846	\$ 6,264	\$ 65.0
1970	General	\$ 8,450	\$ 8,085	\$ 750	\$ 1,985	\$ 7,700	\$ 6,160	\$ 1,540	\$ 80.0
1980	General Equipment	\$ 16,500	\$ 9,380	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,500	\$ 9,380	\$ 7,120	\$ 56.8
1990	Vehicles	\$ 48,700	\$ 30,821	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,700	\$ 30,821	\$ 17,879	\$ 63.3
	Administration	\$ 1,062,021	\$ 677,717	\$ 84,455	\$ 46,948	\$ 997,566	\$ 630,769	\$ 366,797	\$ 63.2
	Total Overhead Net Cost					\$ 997,566	\$ 630,769		
	Total Outputs Staff Hours					17,280	11,089		
	Internal Cost Per Hour					57.73	56.88		

2017/2018 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

Schedule C Code	Output	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NET TABLE INCOME		NET COST		%	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance		
1	Species Management	\$ 106,500	\$ 84,483	6,572	4,859	\$ 379,398	\$ 276,398	\$ 90,500	\$ 54,962	\$ 395,998	\$ 305,929	\$ 89,470	77.4
2	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 41,180	\$ 33,361	3,326	2,183	\$ 192,008	\$ 124,760	\$ 23,080	\$ 23,967	\$ 210,174	\$ 134,174	\$ 75,934	63.9
3	Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 25,800	\$ 20,103	2,284	1,192	\$ 131,854	\$ 67,781	\$ 13,900	\$ 5,949	\$ 143,754	\$ 81,945	\$ 61,809	57.0
4	Public Interface	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,969	1,209	715	\$ 69,795	\$ 40,686	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 74,795	\$ 42,655	\$ 32,140	57.0
5	Compliance	\$ 7,600	\$ 3,351	1,408	777	\$ 81,283	\$ 44,199	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,896	\$ 82,883	\$ 44,654	\$ 38,230	53.9
6	Licensing	\$ 800	\$ -	522	259	\$ 30,135	\$ 14,719	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,935	\$ 14,719	\$ 16,216	47.6
7	Councils	\$ 10,000	\$ 3,877	884	461	\$ 51,033	\$ 26,209	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,033	\$ 30,086	\$ 30,947	49.3
8	Planning, Reporting	\$ 9,300	\$ 6,758	1,075	633	\$ 62,059	\$ 36,007	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71,359	\$ 42,765	\$ 28,594	59.9
9	Administration												
	Total Overhead Staff Hours			6,220	4,020								
	TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 206,180	\$ 153,932	23,500	15,108	\$ 987,566	\$ 630,769	\$ 133,480	\$ 87,774	\$ 1,070,266	\$ 696,927	\$ 373,339	

Licence Income 2017-18		Budget	Actual	% of OWP budget spent	
2017/18 Fish Licence Income		\$ 1,149,957	\$ 1,049,280	67%	65%
Less Commission		\$ 57,495.00	\$ -		
Net Fish Licence Income		\$ 1,092,459	\$ 1,049,280		
2018 Game Licence Income		\$ 262,397	\$ 162,879		
Less Commission		\$ 13,120	\$ -		
Net Game Licence Income		\$ 249,277	\$ 162,879		
Total Licence Income		\$ 1,412,354	\$ 1,212,159		
Total Commission		\$ 70,618	\$ 49,850		
Total Net 2017/18 Licence Revenue		\$ 1,341,736	\$ 1,162,309		
Adjustments to OWP budgets - Waikaremoana Fund					
	Subtotal	\$ 30,671	\$ (243,547)		
	Less Waikaremoana Fund Interest	\$ (9,962)	\$ 2,173		
	Plus Waikaremoana Fund Expenses	\$ 73,000	\$ 216		
Adjusted Budget	Actual(surplus)/deficitYTD	Total \$ 93,709	\$ (241,158)		

**Profit and Loss - Council
Eastern Fish and Game Council**

Income - Period Ended 30 Apr 18	Mar 2018	Apr 2018	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Total Budget	Var YTD	Var %
Licence income	73,152	156,556	1,197,998	1,217,500	1,412,354	(19,502)	(2)
Non-Resident Licence Levy	13,469	692	14,161	0	0	14,161	0
Other Income	4,200	22,527	141,121	127,073	221,246	14,048	11
Total Income	90,821	179,775	1,353,280	1,344,573	1,633,600	8,707	1
Operating Expenses							
Depreciation	6,395	5,434	47,745	47,776	71,662	(31)	(0)
Loss on Disposal	0	294	294	670	670	(376)	(56)
1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT							
1110 Population Monitoring	6,973	2,047	24,594	27,500	34,000	(2,906)	(11)
1120 Harvest Assessment	0	0	290	300	2,150	(10)	(3)
1140 Hatchery Operations	2,877	4,567	59,825	56,618	69,650	3,207	6
1160 Releases	0	0	0	500	500	(500)	(100)
1180 Game Bird Control	0	0	0	200	200	(200)	(100)
Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT	9,851	6,614	84,709	85,118	106,500	(409)	(0)
1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MGMNT							
1210 Resource Management Act	0	5,040	5,484	200	200	5,284	2,642
1220 Works & Management	3,352	683	27,602	30,580	31,580	(2,978)	(10)
1230 Assisted Habitat	0	0	295	3,920	82,400	(3,625)	(92)
Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MGMNT	3,352	5,723	33,381	34,700	114,180	(1,319)	(4)
1300 PARTICIPATION							
1310 Access	0	153	4,946	5,500	7,500	(554)	(10)
1330 Newsletters	3,683	0	11,347	13,000	13,000	(1,653)	(13)
1340 Other Publications	0	0	2,310	2,000	2,000	310	16
1350 Training	0	80	129	1,450	1,850	(1,321)	(91)
1370 Huts	482	161	1,371	1,036	1,450	335	32
Total 1300 PARTICIPATION	4,165	394	20,103	22,986	25,800	(2,883)	(13)
1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE							
1420 Communication	0	0	0	300	500	(300)	(100)
1440 Public Promotions	0	90	490	2,328	3,500	(1,838)	(79)
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education/Interpretation	387	240	1,479	1,000	1,000	479	48
Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE	387	330	1,969	3,628	5,000	(1,659)	(46)
1500 COMPLIANCE							
1510 Ranging	71	234	670	1,400	2,100	(730)	(52)
1520 Ranger Training	563	0	563	1,000	1,000	(437)	(44)
1530 Compliance	365	150	2,118	3,000	4,500	(882)	(29)
Total 1500 COMPLIANCE	999	384	3,351	5,400	7,600	(2,049)	(38)
1600 LICENSING							
1610 Licence Prod/Distrib	0	0	0	0	800	0	0
1630 Commission	3,851	7,319	49,850	60,875	70,618	(11,025)	(18)
Total 1600 LICENSING	3,851	7,319	49,850	60,875	71,418	(11,025)	(18)
1700 COUNCIL							
1720 Council Meetings	0	591	3,877	6,664	10,000	(2,787)	(42)
Total 1700 COUNCIL	0	591	3,877	6,664	10,000	(2,787)	(42)
1800 PLANNING/REPORTING							
1830 Reporting/Audit	0	0	6,702	7,340	9,200	(638)	(9)
1840 National Liaison	9	60,790	182,424	182,437	243,258	(13)	(0)
Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING	9	60,790	189,126	189,777	252,458	(651)	(0)
1900 ADMINISTRATION							
1910 Salaries	69,106	103,204	588,019	597,517	912,561	(9,498)	(2)
1920 Staff Expenses	785	6	4,440	4,964	23,900	(524)	(11)
1930 Staff Houses	2,343	553	8,834	11,907	12,600	(3,073)	(26)
1940 Office Premises	1,158	1,500	12,754	12,165	17,500	589	5
1950 Office Equipment	210	861	3,728	3,100	3,900	628	20
1960 Communications/Consumables	2,096	1,113	11,646	12,764	17,910	(1,118)	(9)
1970 General	78	184	8,095	7,196	8,450	899	12
1980 General Equipment	986	882	9,380	12,280	16,500	(2,900)	(24)
1990 Vehicles	3,852	2,548	30,821	34,700	48,700	(3,879)	(11)
Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION	80,614	110,851	677,717	696,593	1,062,021	(18,876)	(3)
Total Operating Expenses	109,622	198,722	1,112,122	1,154,187	1,727,309	(42,065)	(4)
Net Profit	(18,801)	(18,947)	241,158	190,386	(93,709)	50,772	4

15.4 LICENCE SALES REPORT

Ref: 6.01.05

31 May 2018

1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of licence sales for the 2017-2018 season YTD. The following tables and charts show a comparison of sales between the 2017-2018 season and the 2016-2017 season as at 30 May 2018.

2. 2018 Game Licence Sales

- 2.1 Game licence sales for the 2018 season YTD are summarised in Table One.
- 2.2 Total sales YTD are reporting to be 1.7% ahead of the 2017 season. The total LEQs YTD of 3,208 match sales reported for the whole of the 2017 season.
- 2.3 The target for game sales has increased this season to 3,316 LEQs from 3,101 LEQs in 2017. As a result of this increase it's estimated that the 2018 season will end some 1.6% below the budgeted target i.e. 52 LEQs. Currently 96.8% of the annual sales target has been achieved.
- 2.4 Nationally to 30 May, game licence sales YTD are sitting just below sales reported for the same period last year -0.1%.

Table One

Comparison of Game Licence LEQs to 30 May 2018

SALES CHANNEL	Adult Season	Junior Season	Child Season	Adult Day	Junior Day	Whole Season Equiv.	% Increase/Decrease on 2017
Agent Online Sales	2827	300	137	28	1	2892	3.9%
Agent Book Sales						0	-100.0%
Direct Sales*	307	30	14	18		316	-13.8%
Total Game 2018	3134	330	151	46	1	3208	1.7%
Agent Online Sales	2720	290	118	21	1	2782	
Agent Book Sales	4	1				4	
Direct Sales*	354	49	16	16		367	
Total Game 2017	3078	340	134	37	1	3153	
TARGETS	Adult Season	Junior Season	Child Season	Adult Day	Junior Day	Whole Season Equiv.	Actual to date % of Target
2018 Total Budget	3202	352	142	220	10	3316	96.8%
2017 Total Sales to 31 Aug	3097	342	138	212	8	3208	100.0%
2018 Estimated year end						3264	98.4%

* Direct Sales - Internet, 0800

3. 2017-2018 Fish Licence Sales

- 3.1 Fish Licence sales for the 2017-2018 season YTD are summarised in Table Two and are currently reporting to be down on the 2016-17 season YTD results by 3.1% (306 LEQs). This result is a 0.5% improvement on sales reported for the 18 April meeting of Council.
- 3.2 A total of 93.3% of the annual sales target has been achieved.
- 3.3 The following chart provides a comparison of daily sales YTD by LEQ compared to the prior three seasons. You can see from the chart that LEQ totals reported as at 25 December are very close across the four seasons, in fact there are only 14 LEQs separating the 2014/15 and 2017/18 seasons. The post-Christmas weather for the region was very poor this season and this will have contributed to the drop off in sales seen over the holiday period.
- 3.4 An example of how poor weather can affect licence sales can be seen in this season's Easter holiday period. A very fine Easter weekend this year is most likely to have contributed to the improvement in LEQs since the 18 April meeting. Easter 2018 saw 37 more LEQs sold than during Easter of 2017. This is responsible for a small blip seen on the chart at that time. For interest sake a comparison of the 2017 and 2018 Easter weekends' sales are included in Charts 2 to 5.

Chart 1: Cumulative Fish LEQ comparison 2016-17 and 2017-18 YTD

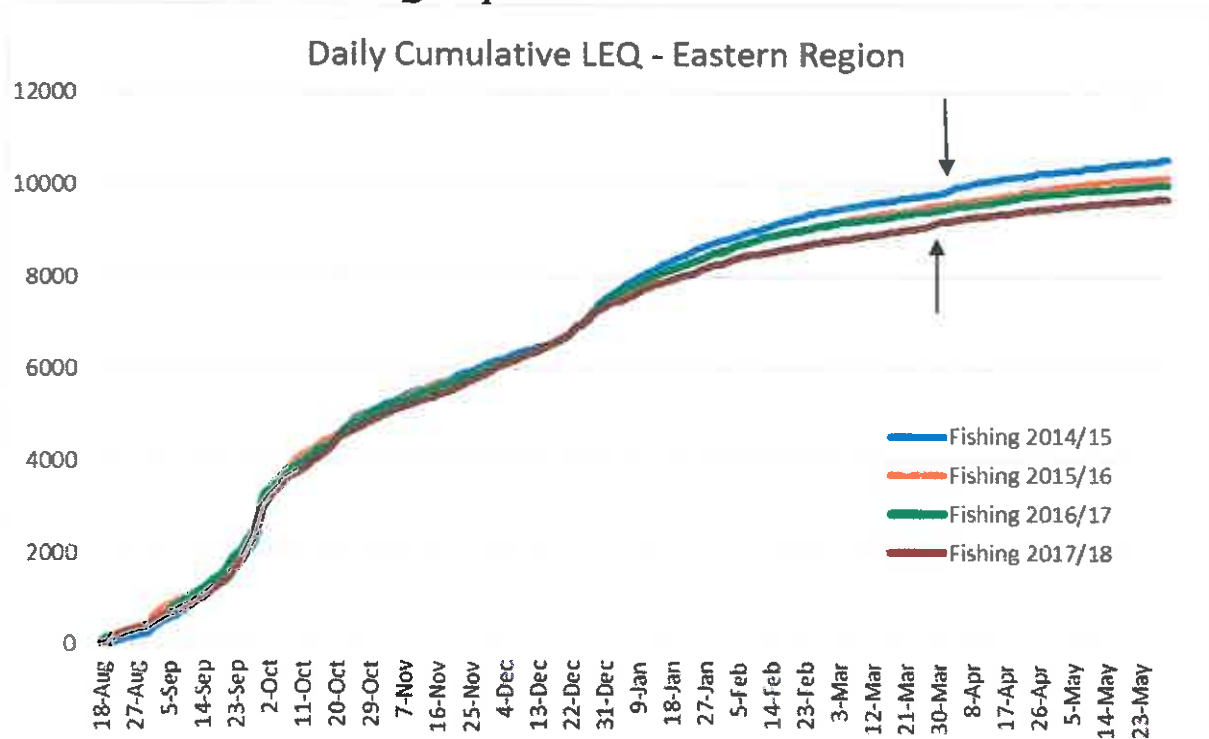


Table Two

Comparison of Fish Licence LEQs to 30 May 2018

SALES CHANNEL	Family Season	Adult Season	Adult NonRes	Adult Senior	Adult Local Area	Junior Season	Adult Winter	Adult Long Break	Adult Short Break	Adult Day	Junior Day	Whole Season Equiv.	% Increase/Decrease on 2016-17
Agent Online Sales	1588	1228	283	240	1130	268	241	62	509	3073	299	5606	-5.3%
Agent Book Sales												0	-100.0%
Direct Sales*	1281	952	185	173	486	155	163	42	514	2646	162	4105	1.3%
Total Fish 2017-2018	2869	2180	468	413	1616	423	404	104	1023	5719	461	9712	-3.1%
Agent Online Sales	1710	1206	344	205	1212	304	233	70	683	3051	274	5918	
Agent Book Sales		16				5				176	24	46	
Direct Sales*	1271	973	194	150	467	142	164	39	527	2356	187	4054	
Total Fish 2016-2017	2981	2195	538	355	1679	451	397	109	1210	5583	485	10018	

TARGETS	Family Season	Adult Season	Adult NonRes	Adult 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
2017-2018 Total Budget	2980	2248	500	400	1700	500	550	150	1500	6300	500	10413	93.3%
2016-2017 Total Sales	2982	2196	553	354	1681	481	568	111	1368	6416	548	10339	93.9%
2017-2018 Estimated year end												10023	96.3%

* Direct Sales - Internet, 0800 Licence

Charts 2-5

