



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

11 February 2020

AGENDA

The 180th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

Date: Tuesday, 11 February 2020

Commences: 12.00 PM

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1	Welcome (12.00 PM)		
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4	Identification of Items for Council Policy		
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8	Appointment of Officers for 2020 (12.15 PM, 10 min)	(R)	13
9	Goals and Priorities for the 2020-21 OWP (12.25 PM, 30 min)	(D)	15
10	Sub-Committee for Other Revenue Options (12.55 PM, 10 min)	(R)	28
11	Anglers Notice Review (1.05 PM, 30 min)	(R)	31
12	NZC Strategic Communications Plan (1.35 PM, 30 min)	(D)	43
13	Dumping of Game Bird Carcasses (2.05 PM, 10 min)	(R)	34
14	Kaituna WMR Hunting Stand No. 5 (2.15 PM, 10 min)	(R)	45
15	Species Monitoring Report (2.25 PM, 5 min)	(I)	46
16	Liaison Officers Reports (2.30 PM, 10 min)	(I)	48
17	Operational Reports (2.40 PM, 10 min)		
	17.1 Management Report	(I)	49
	17.2 Health and Safety Report	(R)	61
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	17.4 Licence Sales Report	(I)	71
18	General Business (2.50 PM, 10 min)		
19	Meeting Closes (3.00 PM)		

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

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 179th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH
AND GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME
NEW ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 5th DECEMBER 2019 AT 12.00PM**

Present

Crs David Woolner, Barry Roderick, Lindsay Lyons, Laurance Tamati, Ngahi Bidois, and Alan Baird.

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, Matt McDougall, Anthony van Dorp, Lynne Sands, John Meikle, Carmel Veitch, and Lloyd Gledhill (Eastern Fish & Game); Dave Conley (Department of Conservation).

1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA

1.1 Cr David Woolner (Deputy Chairman) opened the meeting at 12.10pm, and welcomed councillors, staff, and Dave Conley (Department of Conservation), and invited Cr Ngahi Bidois to perform a Karakia.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Crs Murray Ferris, Geoff Thomas, Ken Coombes, Adam Rayner, and Debbie Oakley; Mark Sherburn, Matthew Osborne, Eben Herbert, and Nigel Simpson (Eastern Fish & Game).

2.2 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Alan Baird) that the apologies for the 179th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [19/12/2.2]*

3.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

3.1 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 12.15 pm from the meeting to consider the transfer of previously considered Public Excluded items to the Public part of the meeting. [19/12/3.1]*

3.2 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Lindsay Lyons) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 12.20 pm. [19/12/3.2]*

3.3 Cr David Woolner provided an explanation for the unscheduled Public Excluded Session which was required to bring the following three items to the Public forum which had been considered within the Public Excluded Session at the meeting held on 17 October 2019:

- Manager's annual performance review – satisfied with performance;
- Council's self-appraisal review – satisfied with performance;
- Appointment of Debbie Oakley (Te Puke) to fill vacant position on Council.

4.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (17 OCTOBER 2019)

4.1 *Agreed (Alan Baird/Barry Roderick) that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [19/12/4.1]*

5.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

5.1 No items were identified for inclusion in Council policy.

6.0 MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Cr Barry Roderick requested an update regarding the concerns raised about communications and media statements, and Lindsay Lyons suggestion that these concerns be relayed to the NZ Council. Andy Garrick advised that the Chairman had addressed a letter to the NZC (copy provided in PFI) but this had not been tabled at the council's meeting because it had not been received in time. Martin Taylor (CE) had however, responded directly to it in a letter to the Chairman though he did not specifically answer the three questions raised in it. His letter appeared to miss the points being made, accused Eastern Region of unwarranted criticism, and pointed out that the NZC is a separate statutory body with a responsibility to advocate at a national level and undertake initiatives such as this in its own right.

7.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Cr Alan Baird – Whitebait
- Cr David Woolner – Staff assessment form for Manager's appraisal
- Cr David Woolner – End of year social event
- Cr Alan Baird – Swan at Stump Bay
- Barry Roderick – Ray Bushell stand, Kaituna reserve

8.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

8.1 No conflicts of interest were identified.

9.0 2018-2019 PERFORMANCE REPORT

9.1 The audited copy of the 2018-2019 Performance Report for the Eastern Fish & Game Region was tabled at the meeting. Andy Garrick advised that the agenda item provided a detailed summary of variances and asked if there were any questions, concerns or comments that Council might have or wish to make in relation to the report?

9.2 Council had received an all but complete draft of the Financial Statement at the October meeting and following no further questions the 2018-19 Performance Report was adopted.

9.3 *Agreed (Laurance Tamati/Alan Baird) that Council adopts the Performance Report for the 2018-2019 year. [19/12/9.3]*

10.0 PRESENTATION ON FISH AND GAME FINANCIAL PROCESSES

10.1 Power Point presentation by Accountant, Carmel Veitch and Office Manager, Kate Thompson.

10.2 The presentation generated discussion around funding of Fish & Game, e.g. primarily based on licence sales with nothing received from Central Government; R3 initiatives, other potential sources of funding; and relationships with iwi.

10.3 The brief for the Strategic Financial Review was discussed as was the extent to which both revenue and budgets varied from one region to another. It was noted that the NZC and National Office which relied solely on income from regions had a substantially higher budget than any of the 12 regions, while some regions which generated insufficient income to be self-sustaining, operated budgets that were quite disproportionate to those of other regions.

10.4 The objectives and membership of the Remuneration Sub Committee were also discussed. Chair of the NZC Lindsay Lyons, advised the objectives of the working party, which had one regional staff person on it, were to ensure parity and transparency across the whole of Fish & Game, both staff and managers. In response to a question

- as to whether this included the Chief Executive of the NZC and his staff, Lindsay advised no it didn't, but there was no reason why it shouldn't.
- 10.5 Cr Barry Roderick questioned Carmel Veitch in her role as accountant for the NZC and National Office whether she was concerned about the size of Eastern Region's budget given the questions concerns periodically raised about staffing levels here? Carmel commented that this region operates a hatchery which supplies fish to not only the Eastern Region's lakes but various other regions throughout the North Island, and manages grounds and facilities such as the children's fish out pond which are open to the public. Operation of the hatchery and associated programmes for liberations and monitoring form a significant part of the operations here. The region also provides administrative and technical services and assistance to both the national office and other regions across a range of functions including compliance and law enforcement, licensing, species monitoring and research.
- 10.6 Barry asked Dave Conley (Taupo Fisheries Manager) what was happening with Taupo licence sales in light of the recent and significant decline in fish licence sales this region had experienced. Dave advised that they typically have two surges in sales, the first at the start of the season in July when the rivers open, the second during the December/January period when lake fishing becomes more popular. He noted that this season had produced some unusual results to date, with August and October seeing a substantial decline on last season's sales, while July, September and November had been on a par with last season. He said the overall result was a decline of 8%, and initial analyses had indicated this to largely be within the short term/day categories which may have been associated with reduced tourist numbers.
- 10.7 Andy Garrick noted that the earlier discussion concerning the Strategic Financial Review had largely focussed on how the committee was set up, and he asked if Lindsay Lyons could provide an update on its progress? Lindsay advised that a report/update had not been received at the last meeting of the NZC. Carmel Veitch, having sat in on the first meeting of the committee, provided a brief overview of where the review had got to. She advised that the committee had come to the conclusion that in order to address financial strategy it needed to broaden the scope of the review to consider organisational structure to some extent, and to this end had circulated a questionnaire to all regional chairs and managers. The responses received back would be collated by the NZ Councillors sitting on the committee in the near future.
- 10.8 Cr David Woolner highlighted the value of the staff within this region as mentioned within the Chairman's report, and on behalf of the Council thanked the staff, and Carmel and Kate for their presentation.
- 11.0 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS**
- 11.1 Council moved on to consider Game Season recommendations, the first of these being the restrictive season regulations in the Reporoa/Broadlands area for the 2020 Season. Matt McDougall advised that the mallard population in the area has always been low and depressed compared to other areas. A major contributing issue was lack of habitat within this area, due in part to the hydroelectric management regime associated with the Waikato River (mitigation for which the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust was established for). Matt noted aerial transect counts had shown the population to be consistently lower than elsewhere and current monitoring had indicated no real improvement. He wasn't confident that anything other than major changes to the population could be picked up through this monitoring but aside from that, wanted Council to be aware that to actually make a real difference he believed

daily bag limits would need to be reduced to one mallard only. Cr Alan Baird commented it was his understanding that many hunters within the area were continuing to take eight birds a day regardless of the regulations, and queried whether a limit of 8 birds over the opening with a reduced bag limit for the remainder of the season would make a difference. Andy Garrick noted this had been debated the previous year and rejected on a number of counts.

- 11.2 ***Agreed (Barry Roderick/Ngahi Bidois) that the restrictive season regulations (four week, four mallard & grey duck daily limit) for the Reporoa/Broadlands area apply for the 2020 season but if pre-season monitoring next year does not indicate a population increase then the season regulations should be brought back into alignment with the rest of the region during the 2021 season. [19/12/11.2]***
- 11.3 The special swan season was discussed with Matt McDougall informing Council that the dates proposed for this were based around the highest tide for the month. Cr Barry Roderick queried Cr Alan Baird's comments about Stump Bay on Lake Taupo where he had heard that swan numbers were up in the area. Dave Conley (Department of Conservation) had no reason to believe that current numbers were problematic and no alarm bells had been triggered for DOC. Matt understood that the population was larger just around the corner at Tokaanu, and that swan numbers in that area had been stable for several years. Cr Alan Baird asked if the limit had been increased for the area and Matt confirmed that it had been.
- 11.4 ***Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that a special swan season be scheduled for the weekend of 27-28 February 2021 in Management Area A1. [19/12/11.4]***
- 11.5 ***Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Alan Baird) that a special pukeko season be scheduled for the weekend of 27-28 February 2021 within the entire Eastern Region. [19/12/11.5]***
- 11.6 Council discussed the need to update the definition of game bird management areas as there were inconsistencies between District Council boundaries and Eastern Fish & Game boundaries. Council supported the recommended definition but agreed with Matt McDougall that a more detailed review should be undertaken as the current maps were not particularly clear.
- 11.7 ***Agreed (David Woolner/Alan Baird) that the Definition of Areas in the Game Gazette Notice includes the statement in the introduction that "The coastal boundaries of management units A1, B1 and, B2 are defined in Infomap 242-2". [19/12/11.7]***
- 11.8 ***Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Alan Baird) to retain the status quo in relation to the cutoff dates for upland game, swan (relaxed season) and pukeko seasons (i.e. the last full week in August). [19/12/11.8]***
- 11.9 ***Agreed (Alan Baird/Lindsay Lyons) that Council will not have an open season for brown quail during the 2020 Game Bird Hunting Season. [19/12/11.9]***
- 11.10 Cr Lindsay Lyons expressed concern that indiscriminate dumping of carcasses appeared to be becoming more prevalent. Anthony van Dorp noted that incorporating a special condition into the Second Schedule of Eastern Region's Game Bird Regulations making it an offence to wilfully dump game birds or their carcasses would give Fish & Game rangers greater ability to deal with these issues than is currently the case because of a technicality in the Litter Act that does not provide for Fish & Game rangers (as opposed to Conservation rangers) being Litter Control Officers. Matt McDougall raised doubt as to whether this was the case and Andy Garrick advised that he would clarify what the legislation provides for at Council's next meeting. In the meantime the current code of conduct in the regulations booklet highlights dumping of carcasses as unacceptable practice while the revised (but yet to be published) national code expresses this in stronger terms still. Andy suggested that regardless of whether

we can take legal action against offenders we need to continue to promote the message that indiscriminate dumping or wanton killing of birds constitutes unacceptable behaviour.

11.11 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that unless it is shown that there are additional benefits over and above what can be accomplished under the Litter Act 1979 (assuming Fish & Game Officers are authorised to be Litter Control Officers under that Act), then there is nothing to be gained from incorporating a special condition into the Second Schedule of Eastern Region's Game Bird Regulations making it an offence to wilfully dump game birds or their carcasses, i.e. the status quo should remain. [19/12/11.11]*

11.12 *[Postscript: Further investigation confirms the Litter Act does not empower Fish & Game rangers to be Litter Control Officers, and this being so this resolution should probably be revisited].*

11.13 John Meikle noted that in the proposed First Schedule for the 2020 Game Season on page 28 of the agenda, Condition 3 pertaining to magazine extensions will need to be amended to be in line with recent reforms to the Arms Legislation.

12.0 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS AND OTHER POSITIONS 2020

12.1 Cr David Woolner suggested that the Appointment of Officers be deferred until next meeting due to the number of Councillors unable to be present at this meeting.

12.2 *Agreed (David Woolner/Laurance Tamati) that the appointment of Officers to the positions of Chair, Deputy Chair, Executive/Manager's Performance and Remuneration Committee, and the New Zealand Council appointee be deferred until the February meeting where it was hoped more Councillors would be in attendance. [19/12/12.2]*

12.3 Cr David Woolner informed Council that the current chairman, Cr Murray Ferris, wished to stand down from the position of Chair, and Cr Barry Roderick advised that he also wished to step down from his position on the Executive/Manager's Performance Remuneration Committee.

12.4 Council proceeded with confirming Matt McDougall's appointment as its representative on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust.

12.5 *Moved (Barry Roderick/Alan Baird) that Council confirms Matthew McDougall as its representative on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust. [19/12/12.5]*

12.6 Cr Ngahi Bidois expressed interest in establishing a sub-committee to investigate other sources of funding. The R3 programme and the employment of the National Business Development manager was briefly discussed, and Andy Garrick suggested the proposal be added to the February meeting agenda for further consideration.

13.0 DATES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2020

13.1 The proposed dates for Council meetings in 2020 were discussed with some changes identified due to conflicting timetables. The meeting time of 12pm to 3 pm was also considered and was acceptable to all present.

13.2 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Alan Baird) that the following schedule of meeting dates and locations be confirmed:*

	Date	Venue/Time	Key Topics
1	11 February 2020	Rotorua, 12pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Priorities • Initiate biennial review of Anglers Notice
2	9 April 2020	Rotorua, 12pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OWP – first draft plus proposed bids for contestable funds • Consider submissions on Anglers Notice
3	11 June 2020	Rotorua, 12pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licence Fees • OWP – second draft • Finalise recommendations on Anglers Notice
4	13 August 2020	Rotorua, 12 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise OWP
5	15 October 2020	Rotorua, 12pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Game Conditions – initial consideration • Annual Performance Report - draft
6	3 December 2020	Rotorua, 12 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Game Conditions – finalise recommendations
AGM	3 December 2020	Rotorua, 3.30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present Annual Performance Report

[19/12/13.2]

- 13.3 It is important to note that the February meeting will be held on a Tuesday but all other meetings will revert to Thursday as is generally the case.

14.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

14.1 *Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board*

No report.

14.2 *Bay of Plenty Conservation Board*

No report.

14.3 *Department of Conservation*

Dave Conley was interested in the recent fish licence sales trends experienced by this region as these were not too dissimilar with what was occurring in the Taupo fishery, which appeared to correlate with a softening in the tourism industry there. The size and condition of fish through traps was very strong, up on last season, but numbers had generally been down across the board. He said it could be related to natural variation in the fishery or we could be seeing an impact of regulatory changes. There was evidence that harvest had increased, and staff will be making a good effort to get more data on the lake fishery this summer.

- 14.4 Cr David Woolner felt that there were a higher than usual number of people fishing the rivers. Dave agreed saying that the fish in the Tongariro catchment were great, and this had resulted in huge pressure. While they had seen fewer licence sales this season there seemed to be more effort being made to get out and fish from those individuals who had purchased.

- 14.5 In response to a question from Cr Woolner, Dave advised that both Czech nymphing and two handed spey casting had really taken off.

- 14.6 Cr Lindsay Lyons queried what had happened with the \$1,000,000 prize promotion? Dave advised that this was to be part of a festival run by a private promoter, but it had not proceeded due to legislative constraints on what had originally been intended.

14.7 *The New Zealand Fish and Game Council*

Cr Lindsay Lyons provided an overview of the recent meeting of the Regional Chairs and NZ Council which he advised was an initiative of the Chief Executive, and added

that the CE had done an exceptional job of chairing the meeting. Lindsay commented on the presentation by Bruce Robertson with regard to regional audits and leadership, and the positive messages that could be taken out of these. He also spoke on the presentation by the Chair of the North Canterbury Council which he said was well received by some but not by others. He noted that the content of the Power Point presented was entirely the work of the presenter. Lindsay advised that outcomes from the Hawke's Bay audit were still to be determined.

A discussion followed on how Fish & Game engages with the dairying/agricultural industry and the messages the NZC is putting out and to whom. Lindsay noted that the NZC has instructed its CE to take the focus off farmers and redirect it to regional councils and regulators.

Concern was expressed that the NZC had at its most recent meeting resolved to leave the final draft of the Infringement Notice System Policy on the table until the CE provided further information on elements of it. Anthony van Dorp spoke to the issues that were raised at that meeting but were unable to be addressed by the staff present, and put these into perspective. Lindsay advised the matter would be discussed further at its next meeting in February 2020.

A frank discussion followed on the disharmony that was becoming increasingly apparent within the organisation, the behaviours of some individuals, and the effect this was having on staff morale. Lindsay was queried as to whether the CE's contract had been extended and advised that it had been, and it was now an open ended contract.

Lindsay thanked Eastern Region staff and councillors for the support they provided.

15.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

15.1 Cr Alan Baird queried the reasons for the large drop off in numbers of hunters who had applied for a balloted hunting stand this year. Matt McDougall confirmed that new applications were half the number we usually received, and it would be a real concern if this was also reflected in the number of game licences we sell in 2020. Andy Garrick noted there were a number of possible reasons for the decline in the applications for ballots but rather than speculate on what these were we wanted to find out why via the hunters themselves and would be looking at this in the New Year.

15.2 Cr Ngahi Bidois asked if staff were aware of any trends in the number of catfish present in lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti. Andy Garrick advised that the programme co-ordinator, William Anaru, had commented that the numbers of catfish that they were catching had been declining, but whether this was a result of a decrease in population size or simply the effects of variation in catchability due to seasonal conditions or some other factor is unknown. Anthony van Dorp advised that there was no real talk of numbers at the recent Lakes Water Quality meeting, rather the focus was more on biosecurity measures.

15.3 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Alan Baird) that Council receives the Health and Safety Report, and Management Report. [19/12/15.3]*

15.4 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Adam Rayner) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for September and October 2019 totalling \$278,022.24. [19/12/15.4]*

15.5 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Adam Rayner) that Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance and Cash Flow for the 2019-2020 financial year. [19/12/15.5]*

15.6 Kate Thompson provided a brief update on licence sales commenting that an improvement had been seen in Eastern Region's sales since the licence sales report had been prepared, and that it seemed other regions had also recovered a little ground.

15.7 Ngahi Bidois asked where the responsibility for improving licence sales lies? Andy Garrick advised that ultimately the buck stops with him, but all staff contribute in some way. The new national business development role and the implementation of the R3 programme have been established to address falling participation and consequently licence sales.

16.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

16.1 Cr Alan Baird's Stump Bay swan item had been covered earlier. Alan did however wish to raise management of whitebait and whether this should be regulated as trout and game birds are. He would be writing to the Minister and wondered whether this would be something others would do also. Cr David Woolner advised that while all would probably agree with his points, whitebait was not a mandated species for Fish & Game and therefore Fish & Game could not put its name to it.

16.2 Cr David Woolner informed staff that the manager's performance assessment document had been reformulated and this updated version would be used next year.

16.3 Cr David Woolner suggested that in lieu of the usual BBQ following the AGM, staff and Councillors may wish to get together for a social gathering sometime within the next couple of months and that the timing for this would be confirmed in due course. Andy Garrick also advised Council that anyone interested in joining staff for January's duck banding programme were very welcome.

16.4 Cr Barry Roderick asked that his request to discuss the late Ray Bushell's hunting stand in the Kaituna reserve be included for discussion on the February Council meeting agenda.

17.0 MEETING CLOSED

17.1 The meeting closed at 3.02pm.

.....
David Woolner
Deputy Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.2 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Alan Baird) that the apologies for the 179th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [19/12/2.2]*

3.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

- 3.1 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 12.15 pm from the meeting to consider the transfer of previously considered Public Excluded items to the Public part of the meeting. [19/12/3.1]*
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- 12.5 *Moved (Barry Roderick/Alan Baird) that Council confirms Matthew McDougall as its representative on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust. [19/12/12.5]*

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4	<i>13 August 2020</i>	Rotorua, 12 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalise OWP
5	<i>15 October 2020</i>	Rotorua, 12pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions – initial consideration• Annual Performance Report - draft
6	<i>3 December 2020</i>	Rotorua, 12 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions – finalise recommendations
AGM	<i>3 December 2020</i>	Rotorua, 3.30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present Annual Performance Report

[19/12/13.2]

15.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

15.3 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Alan Baird) that Council receives the Health and Safety Report, and Management Report. [19/12/15.3]*

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7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

21 January 2019

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹ “Matter” means:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Recommendation

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

8. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS AND OTHER POSITIONS FOR 2020

Ref: 7.02.01

26 January 2020

1. Purpose

To elect a new Chair for the Eastern Fish and Game Council, and elect or reconfirm the Council's appointee to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council along with other Eastern Fish and Game Council officers for the coming year.

2. Background

As of 31 October 2018, a new Eastern Fish and Game Council comprising 10 members took office, and on 1 November it elected a member to be its appointee to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in accordance with the Fish and Game Council Elections Regulations 1990 which state the following:

26 Appointment of members of New Zealand Fish and Game Council

- (1) The first meeting of each newly elected Fish and Game Council shall be held not later than 3 weeks after the date the members came into office.*
- (2) At the first meeting of the Council members shall appoint one of their number to be a member of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.*
- (3) The appointment shall be by majority vote of the Council.*
- (4) Members of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council shall remain in office as long as they remain members of the appointing Fish and Game Council, except that where a majority of the members of the appointing Fish and Game Council pass a resolution that a vote be taken on a new appointment prior to expiry of the term, then a vote shall be taken and the successor shall serve out the remaining period of the term.*

The member elected was Cr Lindsay Lyons who was subsequently re-appointed as Chair of the NZC by that Council.

On 1 November 2018 the Eastern Fish and Game Council also appointed its other officers for the next twelve months, a process which is undertaken annually, and confirmed the ongoing appointment of a staff member as a trustee representing Council's interests on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement (WCEET). These roles and those who were appointed then are as follows:

- Chair – Cr Murray Ferris.
- Deputy Chair – Cr David Woolner.
- Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement (WCEET) trustee – Matthew McDougall.

Murray indicated at the time that he would most likely take on and be available for the role of Chair for one year only to provide continuity while the new Council was settling in.

The Eastern Fish and Game Council also appoints an Executive/Managers Performance and Remuneration Committee. This has specific Terms of Reference dealing with the compilation of information for the annual Manager's performance review, and also serves as an initial point of contact for the Manager in the event of issues arising that need to be addressed urgently, or in between scheduled meetings of Council. The term of appointment for this Committee is three years commencing at the beginning of each Council term, in this case November 2018 to November 2021. The incumbent Councillors are Murray Ferris, Lindsay Lyons, Barry Roderick and David Woolner.

This agenda item was scheduled to have been dealt with at Council's last meeting on 5 December 2019. However, because only six Councillors were present at that meeting, it was decided that with the exception of the re-appointment of Matthew McDougall as Council's representative on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust [19/12/12.5], all other appointments would be deferred until the February meeting in 2020 [19/12/12.2]. At that meeting the Acting Chair, Cr David Woolner, informed Council that the current chairman, Cr Murray Ferris, had confirmed his intention of standing down from the position of Chair, while Cr Barry Roderick advised that he wished to step down from his position on the Executive/Manager's Performance Remuneration Committee.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That Council elects or re-affirms its New Zealand Council appointee along with members of Council to fill the roles of Chair and Deputy Chair, and determines whether it wishes to recruit another Councillor to the Executive/Manager's Performance Remuneration Committee.***

9. GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE 2020-2021 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

Ref: 8.02.01

26 January 2020

1. Purpose

To review Council's goals and priorities for the 2019-2020 year, and identify changes in priorities or work areas and projects that Council would like to see incorporated into the 2020-2021 Operational Work Plan.

2. Background

Operational Work Plans (which come into force on 1 September each year) are developed over several months from February onwards, and involve a review by Council of strategic priorities, core functions, project objectives, allocation of resources, and performance measures. The process may include seeking Council's approval for the submission of applications to the national Contestable Fund to increase bulk funding for specific purposes.

The steps involved in developing the OWP for the 2020-2021 year are as follows:

- Council reviews priorities and project areas it wishes to focus on over and above core functions (this meeting).
- Staff compile a draft work plan and budget (excluding internal costs), and identify potential contestable funding bids it believes warrant consideration. The draft budget and bids are submitted to the NZ Council by 25 March for collation and presentation to the Managers Meeting on 16 April and the combined Managers/NZ Council meeting on 17 April. Prior to those meetings however, the draft work plan, budget and bids will have been considered by the Eastern Fish and Game Council at its meeting on 9 April which will enable any changes/additions/deletions it wants to be communicated to the Managers and NZ Council ahead of their meetings.
- Staff revise projects and resourcing including hours and internal costs to take into account outcomes of the combined Managers/NZ Council meeting on 17 April, and circulate the second draft of the OWP to Council ahead of its 11 June meeting.
- The second draft of the OWP is considered at the June meeting and projects, budgets and targets are reviewed and refined as necessary.
- This draft is then circulated to clubs for comment if they wish to.
- Club comments are considered and incorporated if Council considers appropriate into the final OWP presented for approval at Council's meeting on 13 August.

As indicated above, the operational planning cycle commences as of now with a review of current priorities and goals. Council needs to determine whether changes to these are needed within the next OWP year in response to changing circumstances or other factors. The current OWP took into account outcomes from the preliminary strategic planning workshop Council had in November 2018, and incorporated several new R3 initiatives into the programme arising from discussions staff had with Steve Doughty, recently appointed Business Development Manager for the NZ Council. Decisions on any changes that Council wishes to make are required now so that staff can undertake initial planning and costing of projects ahead of 25 March.

3. Current (2019-2020) Priorities

- A. **Access** - making it easier for anglers and hunters to locate and utilise resources;
- B. **Increasing revenue** – through increasing participation (as opposed to increasing licence fees) and developing alternative sources of income;
- C. **Maximising fishery opportunities;**
- D. **Enhancement of habitat for greylard production** – in particular, activities that increase duck numbers and as a result, hunter opportunities;
- E. **Water quality and quantity** – addressing in particular, the pressures on our free-flowing water resources and the water quality of the Rotorua lakes.

The order in which the current priorities are listed does not reflect how Council saw their relative importance on a scale of 1-5. However, at its strategic planning workshop in November 2018, those present were generally of the view that Access, Increasing Revenue, and Maximising Fishery Opportunities were Council's highest priorities in the short term at least. Without access to sports fish and game bird resources we have little to offer to many licence holders, and without adequate revenue we are unable to perform many of the operational undertakings needed to provide sustainable populations of sports fish and game birds for recreational harvest. Maximising fishery opportunities was seen as a means of increasing participation, and revenue.

The Council has also previously undertaken to support long standing aspirational outcomes for Fish & Game agreed to by the NZ Council, and bear these in mind when preparing its OWP each year. These aspirations have for many years been as follows:

- Fish & Game NZ is well recognised and well regarded as a manager of fish and game resources based on a user says/user pays system.
- Fish & Game's values and aspirations continue to be reflected in statute.
- Sports fish and game birds are recognised as valued public resources and access to such cannot be charged for.
- There is general recognition that wildlife habitat is a finite resource that must be protected.
- Water Conservation Orders are finalised and defended.
- The New Zealand public is sympathetic to Fish & Game NZ's goals.

It is presumed these aspirations still hold.

The current (2019-20) regional priorities, with the exception of the second listed (increasing revenue) which was introduced last year having for the two years prior to that been focussed on increasing licence revenue only, have been a focus of the Eastern Council for well over a decade. Over the years we have gained a much greater understanding of what can and can't be influenced in terms of achieving the outcomes Council is seeking, and with this understanding we have adaptively managed our approach and refined projects or changed our focus more towards what can be done to do so. An overview of achievements and significant issues identified for each of the key priority areas are provided below. Project areas and associated tasks for the current OWP year are presented in the tables appended to each of the overviews given below.

A. Regional Priority: Access

- We have maintained extensive physical access tracks and signage for angling to priority waters for over a decade. The current programme is only just manageable however, and is subject to unforeseeable demands in other areas (e.g. CLE) that need to be addressed then and there on occasions. Maintaining hunter access to our reserves is undertaken in conjunction with other habitat management activities and is currently achievable with the resources that are being directed into this area.
- Forest access for both angling and hunting has been affected by Treaty of Waitangi Settlements, and forest managers, e.g. Timberlands. Many of our access problems arise due to land ownership issues and the rights of landowners (or occupiers/managers in the case of Timberlands) to control access across their land. Restoring access to these areas depends on relationship building with landowners and is time consuming and frustratingly slow at times. On a positive note we have recently secured angler access across private land to one of the Putere lakes in the Wairoa district, and worked with DOC to re-establish and erect signage advising access over public land to another of the Putere lakes that had in recent years been obstructed by the adjoining landowner.
- We maintain comprehensive printed access information and continue to expand our inventory of information that is available digitally. We update access information as required, and we have an ongoing desire to undertake more extensive access investigations in relation to East Coast fisheries i.e. within the eastern Bay of Plenty and north of Gisborne. We have also been investigating opportunities for enhancing access to parts of the Rangitaiki River below Murupara to offset loss of summer opportunity further upriver. We have recently secured access across
- We continue to work collaboratively with the Walking Access Commission developing and exploring opportunities for access to sport fisheries in particular.

Current (2019-20) OWP

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Projects/Programmes</i>
Secure and Maintain Physical Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain current access tracks to the Rangitaiki River and its tributaries (and investigate new opportunities there), the Waioeka, Tarawera and Waikaretaheke Rivers, and the Ngongotaha and Waiteti Streams. • Improve access to Wairoa catchment tributaries including those in the Waiau River, and continue investigation of East Coast fisheries north of Gisborne as opportunity permits. • Allocate balloted hunting stands. • Advocate for improved access through forestry and resolution of identified captured access areas. Submit to regional/district plans for improved angler/hunter access. Continue to press for greater access to the Rangitaiki River fishery and the Otamatea summer fishery in particular. • Liaise with the Walking Access Commission and lobby for provision for public access in Treaty of Waitangi Settlements and Overseas Investment Act sale and purchase conditions. • Maintain the Fish & Game hut at Wairua.
Provide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade signs to brand specifications where required, check annually

Information	<p>and replace as required, and maintain signage database.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update access pamphlets and website as required to ensure angling and hunting access information readily available.
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B. Regional Priority: Increasing revenue

- Based on the ongoing decline in licence revenue that this region has been experiencing for many years now, Council has quite rightly identified this issue as being a significant risk to Fish & Game's operations. To that end a number of projects have been identified in the last few years' OWPs as initiatives worthy of putting effort into. The future and membership of the national Licence Working Party that we were previously involved with, which was originally set up to investigate ways of increasing licence revenue via a wider range of licence categories and pricings is uncertain, but we continue to undertake licence sales analyses not only for this region but for the country as a whole. We have implemented activities such as a tagged fish event, kids fishing days, 'how to be successful' events, and a novice hunting programme, and we've publicised the release of some XL sized fish to add value to existing licence holders and recruit or reactivate participants. Some activities, such as the tagged fish event we've been running for several years now hold much greater potential than we've been able to realise so far, but warrant further effort. During the current year we've run an introductory workshop on kayak fishing, and just before Christmas we emailed 3,500 previous licence holders who had not yet purchased a licence, and invited them to purchase a full season licence within the next three weeks to go into a draw to be one of three lucky persons to have the cost of their licence reimbursed. We are still in the process of looking for opportunities to establish an enhanced fishery in the western Bay of Plenty, and in the near future we're hoping to engage more closely with Destination Rotorua to explore marketing opportunities aimed at the tourism and visitors' sector. Some projects which we're keen to get underway have continually had to be put on hold due to staff resourcing constraints we've had, but we need to find a way to make more effective progress in this area.
- Last February Steve Doughty from the NZ Fish & Game office introduced this Council to the R3 programme (Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation) that has been used very successfully to boost participation in sport fisheries in the United States. Since then he has produced an R3 roadmap for Fish & Game which Councillors should each have received a copy of. Steve will be spending three days with Eastern staff in early February putting together some ideas for Council to contemplate incorporating into next year's OWP.
- As an organisation there is now recognition and widespread agreement on the need to establish alternative and additional sources of income. We have over the past two years already made a start down this track with the renovation of the two former staff houses onsite and letting these out at a market based rental. We have also leased the former DOC Fire Store to FENZ on a year to year basis and these three initiatives are in combination now returning approximately \$50k/annum. We're now about to investigate options for the Ngongotaha trap cottage and associated paddocks and there are a number of other options we could potentially generate income from based around our Paradise Valley assets. As a matter of course we also derive income from quite a number of other sources which are set out on page 48 of our annual Performance Report for the year ended 31 August 2019.

- A proposal has been put forward to establish a sub-committee of Council (see next item on Agenda) to explore other revenue generating options, and the terms of reference for this group should include looking at how we can investigate, develop, and manage other income streams taking into account the demands on staff time associated with implementing core activities alone.

Current (2019-20) OWP

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Projects/Programmes</i>
Niche Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct further research into ‘licence churn’, establish reasons why particular demographics drop out (e.g. first time licence holders and young adults), and devise strategies to reduce this. • Develop and implement regional R3 strategies (retention, recruitment, reactivation) in accordance with national initiatives to maintain and increase participation. • Investigate ways of increasing sales of licences to non-resident anglers.
Promotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate and develop strategies with Destination Rotorua and other marketing agencies. • Investigate opportunities for promoting hunting and fishing in partnership with organisations such as travel agencies, accommodation providers, real estate agencies, and hunting and fishing outlets. • Investigate means of, or incentives for agents to up sell licence types. • Run a tagged fish event and consider attending a fishing and/or boat show. • Run ‘how to be successful’ events.
Opportunity Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise the profile of under-utilised fisheries e.g. Waikato River, and develop and market ‘new’ opportunities e.g. summer river fisheries.
Licensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to contribute to the national Licence Working Party and explore opportunities for increasing revenue via fine tuning licence categories and/or pricing of such.

C. Regional Priority: Maximising fishery opportunities

- We have a successful supplementary stocking programme on the Rotorua lakes geared at maximising returns to anglers. We undertake intensive monitoring of these fisheries and regularly review stocking rates. We have modified our liberation strategies based on the results of this research and we adaptively manage liberations to maximise returns and effectiveness to the extent it is possible to within the various constraints imposed by environmental conditions.
- Five years ago we instigated a more intensive fisheries monitoring programme at Waikaremoana to fill some gaps, and assess concerns raised in an earlier petition and submission to Council for regulation changes. This work has produced some very useful information and while we have scaled it back to enable other programmes to proceed elsewhere, it needs to be ongoing.
- Most monitoring and angler survey effort within the Rotorua lakes is directed towards lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti, Okataina and Rotorua. It’s appropriate that these lakes continue to be the primary focus for this effort but there is arguably a need to periodically monitor

some of the ‘lesser’ lake fisheries i.e. Rotoma, Rotoehu, Okareka, Rerewhakaaitu and the Waikato River lakes.

- A year ago we instigated a research programme developed in conjunction with Waikato University and a recent post doctorate student now employed by Cawthron Institute, to better understand the impacts of water quality on Lake Tarawera’s trout fishery, and other valued species, and the mechanisms underlying these. Our aim is to be in a better position to predict downturns ahead of time, and offset these if it’s possible to do so, by implementing a management response such as modifying our liberation strategy or introducing a change to fishing regulations. The programme includes a twice yearly acoustic monitoring trial of smelt which got underway in November 2018 in conjunction with DOC and NIWA. Sampling for the first year of the main programme commenced in January 2019 and was completed towards the end of 2019. We are expecting analysis of the data and a report on the project to be completed in the near future. Costs for the first year of the programme (c.\$40k) are being met by Fish & Game. All going well, subsequent years will be funded through an MBIE grant to the University of Waikato’s Rotorua Lakes initiatives.
- Non-resident licence income is being held in a dedicated fund and currently amounts to approximately \$114k of which \$20k has been committed to the Lake Tarawera programme. Council has developed criteria for identifying and prioritising fisheries eligible for funding from the “Non-Resident Levy Reserve”, and there may be projects worthy of funding from this source during the 2020-2021 OWP year.
- We distribute information and advice on fishing opportunities available to our angling licence holders through both printed and electronic channels. We need to maintain if not step up our social media presence to ensure licence holders are aware of the opportunities available to them. Hopefully we might also see long awaited improvements made to our website this year so that this medium is more user friendly and accessible to anglers wanting insight into where to go and what’s available to them. Council has simplified some of its regulations to reduce barriers to participation, and can probably do more in this area (see Agenda Item 11), and we have increased angler training efforts to enhance success. There is also potential to increase participation and open up opportunities for new and novice anglers by encouraging a greater involvement by clubs and/or partnering with other groups within the region.

Current (2019-20) OWP

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Projects/Programmes</i>
Species Monitoring and Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor growth and performance of liberations into lake fisheries via the Datawatch programme. • Monitor the Lake Rotorua, Ngongotaha, and Ohau Channel fisheries. • Monitor the Lake Waikaremoana fishery. • Monitor Lake Tarawera wild spawning runs. • Assess smelt abundance in Lake Tarawera. • Conduct final field sampling programme for preliminary investigation into Lake Tarawera food web and factors affecting trout growth and survival. • Provide support to external research projects aimed at better understanding lake fisheries.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review opportunities for establishing a trophy trout fishery in Lake Okataina.
Harvest Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake lake fisheries creel surveys to monitor angler catch and satisfaction, and Opening Day surveys to evaluate stocking programmes. Extend current programme on Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina to some of the smaller fisheries (Rotoma, Rotoehu, Okareka, Rerewhakaaitu) resources permitting.
Hatchery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce c.80,000 quality fish to maintain trout fisheries within the region.
Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain/enhance sports fish resources by reviewing and refining if necessary, the Anglers Notice using a policy driven review process. Look for opportunities to increase participation and remove barriers to fishing by for example, simplifying regulations in some fisheries.
RMA planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Represent anglers in water quality and quantity planning and consenting processes and advocate for improved habitat, angling experience and access opportunities.
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and enhance access, and publicise more widely. Increase angler communication and information using social media and identify options for increasing participation. Support childrens' and adult fishing programmes, angler training and angling competitions, and maintain club relations. Investigate options for enhancing a fishery within easy access of Tauranga.
Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a high level of participant contact to ensure the protection and sustainability of fisheries.
Licensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make fishing licences readily available and continue to investigate licence holder behaviour and licence holders' needs.

D. Regional Priority: Enhancement of habitat for greylard production

- Over the past decade we have developed, or facilitated the development of significant areas of wetland within the region using both licence holders' income and external funding from trusts, regional councils and other funding agencies. Projects have been implemented on both private and public lands. Additional hunting opportunities have almost always been created, but some projects, particularly smaller private land initiatives, have not always resulted in habitat as productive as we'd have liked in terms of greylard productivity. There have been a number of reasons for this and we have, and will continue to learn from these. Given the positive track record we have with funding agencies there are ongoing opportunities for projects of this nature, particularly where collaboration with other parties or individuals is involved. One of the issues that it's imperative we keep in mind and provide for in doing this though, is ensuring we don't overburden ourselves with ongoing management requirements and ever increasing commitments. We already have a large number of habitats we need to maintain (e.g. our existing Wildlife Management Reserves), and we need to be confident we have, or can find the means and resources needed to prevent these areas from going backwards as we add new habitat to our management register, and/or other agencies such as DOC withdraw funding from these. Over the few years we have become involved in managing a number of projects with, or on behalf of other organisations e.g. for Bay of Plenty Regional Council within the Lower Kaituna wetland, another being for a

collective comprising DOC, Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaeo, Te Arawa Lakes Trust and Waikato Regional Council at Lakes Ngapouri and Tutaeinanga. We need to continue looking at ways such as these as a means of leveraging resourcing and the outcomes we're seeking.

- We have increased our expectations and requirements of ballot holders in Fish & Game managed reserves in relation to maintaining habitat and hunting opportunities, and in late 2018 Council agreed to the concept of levying an annual Habitat Maintenance Fee on ballot holders to contribute to the costs of essential maintenance works (weed control and water reticulation) in these wetlands. While adequate resourcing is critical to maintaining these wetland habitats and maximising their potential for producing more ducks, it appears there may be another, or other limiting factors to productivity coming into play in some of the wetlands that are not being addressed. Much of the open water habitat that has been developed in areas such as the Lower Kaituna WMR has been created in peaty soils and/or into inorganic sandy substrates which typically support quite different invertebrate communities than 'mineralised' wetlands like the old river loops. Aquatic invertebrates are a critical source of protein for ducklings and its possible some of these excavated wetlands are deficient in this regard. We need to establish whether this is the case, and what options we might have to improve the situation.
- We have concluded that a stronger focus on habitat quality rather than quantity (the latter being the case in the past) is a better option for increasing duck numbers, and there is much more to be done in this area including leveraging the assistance of other parties and encouraging greater input from volunteers and interest groups as indicated above.
- Intensive regional research and monitoring has provided us with a good insight into the effects of harvest and game season conditions on greylard populations and productivity in ensuing seasons. We also know that trying to manage harvest through our current regulation options is very difficult due to changes in hunter behaviour resulting from regulation manipulation, and licence holders' expectations in relation to season length and bag limits. If regulations are to make a difference when mallard populations are depressed, it's apparent that very restrictive harvest conditions need to apply and there are political implications/difficulties in the use of these tools. Having said that, our research shows that extended game seasons impact on the survival of hens, and therefore, may negatively affect next season's productivity. This needs to continue being taken into account during the annual regulation setting process.
- The national mallard research programme has demonstrated that duckling survival rates, and to a lesser extent survival rates of nesting hens can have a profound effect on juvenile recruitment and hence population size going into the game season. Facilitating a relatively small increase in the numbers of ducklings that fledge from each clutch laid has the potential to significantly lift productivity. Other outcomes of the research projects in the Waikato and Southland indicate the extent to which predators prey on ducklings and nesting females, and the information derived from these studies will be useful for guiding when, where and how to target predators to get maximum bang for bucks. This is critical, as predator programmes are really only effective if they're well targeted, sufficiently intensive to reduce predator numbers to predetermined levels, and well executed. Programmes such as these are also, very resource demanding particularly on a larger landscape scale.

- Bay of Plenty Regional Council is funding the development of a predator control plan for the wider Kaituna wetland complex, and we have undertaken to manage implementation of the plan subject to being able to source external and ongoing funding for it.
- Productivity is a key driver for “more ducks”, and as stated above, quality rather than quantity is a more effective area in which to place our efforts than simply creating more habitat of the type we have focussed on in the past. We do not have the resources to put significantly more effort into enhancing productivity ourselves without impacting on resources that are currently being utilised elsewhere, or finding external resources to cover what is needed. Expanding habitat programmes requires additional and/or novel approaches to resourcing. Providing advice and technical support to landowners, or helping them to access funding rather than directing our own funds towards these projects as tended to be the case in previous years, is an area in which we need to be more proactive, but again subject to staff resourcing. As a starting point we have over the past couple of years undertaken aerial surveys of parts of coastal Bay of Plenty and the Waikite area to identify existing wetlands and or bodies of open water that could be readily enhanced if landowners could be encouraged or enticed into doing so. Many such areas are also present on the East Coast.
- Each year we gain a rudimentary insight into duckling production on lowland Bay of Plenty drains, and three years ago we implemented a field programme to identify the physical characteristics of drains utilised by mallards more than others during brood rearing. We found that drain width explained the presence of ducks and broods better than any other factor, while presence of floating vegetation in the drain, extent of grass cover on the banks, the presence of a small number of overhanging trees and shrubs, and no recent drain maintenance activity having been undertaken were all important in explaining the number of mallards and broods observed in the drains.
- A five year strategic plan for greylard research and management and a five year plan for habitat enhancement are in draft form awaiting completion.
- Eastern Region has had an ongoing input to National research projects on mallards and factors affecting productivity, and it is appropriate that it continues to do so by contributing to the identification and delivery of research priorities. We have also made promising progress over the past year or so identifying some of the critical factors influencing population size within the Eastern Region, these being winter temperature and summer rainfall.

Current (2019-20) OWP

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Projects/Programmes</i>
Species Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboratively monitor greylard populations within proposed Duck Management Units with adjoining Fish & Game regions via a combination of trapping/banding, aerial surveys, and brood counts to investigate productivity, survival, harvest and movements. • Monitor the status of greylard populations in the Reporoa/Broadlands area. • Undertake the annual game bird hunter survey. • Review game season conditions and make changes where needed to address issues impacting on greylard populations and productivity.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to national research programmes on mallards. • Refine as appropriate the draft regional five-year strategic research and management work plan for greylards.
Wildlife Management Reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement, monitor, and refine if necessary, the annual maintenance strategy supported in part by a habitat management fee imposed on ballot holders that was developed in 2017-2018. • Review rotational maintenance programmes undertaken by staff in Fish & Game managed wetlands and re-assess/confirm existing priorities.
Assisted Habitat on Non-Public Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in statutory planning processes and make submissions to regional and district plans to amend rules that are barriers to habitat enhancement or hunter opportunities, and support or oppose consent applications that impact on game bird habitat values or hunter access. • Develop positive working relationships with landowners and other parties with an interest or involvement in rural land management including local and regional authorities, DOC, Federated Farmers, Fonterra and Dairy NZ.
Habitat Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice to enable and encourage hunters/landowners to develop quality, productive wetland habitat. • Advocate for better drain management and enhance habitat in drainage canals. • Provide advice on enhancement of stock ponds and implement enhancement projects. • Make at least two external funding applications for wetland habitat development. • Participate on Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust and oversee appropriate projects.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

E. Regional Priority: Water quality and quantity

- We have had a very active role in the Rotorua Lakes Action Planning processes to improve water quality in the Rotorua Lakes. Many of the lakes have shown marked improvements with the interventions the Bay of Plenty Regional Council has put in place. Lake Tarawera's water quality however, has continued to deteriorate and we suspect this is a primary factor for the protracted decline in the size and condition of trout we were observing there from 2012 through to the last year or so. Some of Regional Council's interventions may have had some negative impacts on some fisheries (e.g. Ohau Channel Diversion Wall), but improved water quality is benefitting or will benefit other fisheries. In the case of the Ohau Channel wall there is an ongoing requirement to monitor fisheries to ensure that any impacts as a result of interventions are detected and if necessary mitigated for. Fish passes were installed into the wall two years or so ago, and a new panel of Fisheries Experts has been appointed to monitor effects.
- The BOPRC's Regional Policy Statement has outlined plans for land use change in sensitive lake catchments to ensure nutrient inputs from agriculture decrease, and processes associated with this are ongoing and likely to be for some time. We retain a strong presence in regional water quality planning and collaborative processes advocating for sustainable land use and a reduction in nutrient and sediment leaching,

and over the past three years have been heavily engaged with Gisborne District Council planning processes and the Gisborne Freshwater Plan.

- We have highlighted Rangitaiki River water quality issues to the BOPRC and the Rangitaiki River Forum. Water quality issues have been acknowledged and provisions made in the RPS to use the Forum to create a catchment management plan for the river. Efforts need to be ramped up in this area as water quality this year is again no better than it has been over the past four years or so to the extent we've been unable to conduct drift dives in it for four years running and this is likely to be the case again this year. We are also involved with other "Freshwater Futures Community Groups in the Kaituna, Pongakawa, Tauranga, Whakatane, Ohiwa Harbour/Waiotaha and Tarawera catchments.
- There are other catchments within the region, e.g. the upper Motu, where intensification of land use and conversion from lesser nutrient leaching dry stock farming to higher nutrient leaching dairy farming has been mooted or is well underway. In some areas we have limited ability under current plans to influence these activities and their subsequent impacts on water quality, but we need to continue to advocate effectively for such during plan change processes. We need to have robust evidence and be able to present strong cases to support our position and secure the outcomes we seek, and to this end we have attempted to conduct annual drift dives to back up our concerns for the Motu. We are currently seeking confirmation from the Gisborne unitary authority that the Motu catchment will be the next cab off the rank to have a catchment plan developed for it. Elsewhere we have to prioritise what we can and can't get involved with.
- Last September the Ministry for the Environment releases its long awaited draft National Policy Statement for Fresh Water, and the NZ Fish & Game co-ordinated a submission identifying amendments we wish to see incorporated into it such as the inclusion of the MCI (Macroinvertebrate Community Index), revision of the standard concerned with nitrate toxicity along with a considerable number of other changes. Eastern Region also lodged a submission on the document and we're hopeful that once adopted the new policy will make a big difference to freshwater management in NZ. The draft has generated a great deal of controversy and opposition in parts of the primary sector and there has yet to be any form of feedback or decisions taken it would appear on what the final NPS is going to look like. In the meantime the 2014 NPS-FW largely remains the reference point for planners.
- There is a far greater awareness and concern within the wider community now in relation to water issues, and we have had a government for the past two years that has been far more sympathetic to environmental issues than was the case for the previous nine years before it came into power. As an organisation we have an opportunity to harness and encourage public support more widely to effect change for the better i.e. by using political pressure and the 'court of public opinion' in addition to engaging in RMA processes. To effectively advocate for the protection of freshwater habitats both approaches are going to be required because we simply don't have the resources or capacity to engage in statutory advocacy alone.

Current (2019-20) OWP

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Projects/Programmes</i>
Rivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to monitor trout populations, water clarity and other measures of water quality in regional river fisheries including the Rangitaiki

	<p>River, and communicate water quality issues to Regional Council and freshwater futures groups established to consult with communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in collaborative processes and submit on water allocation processes in planning and consenting matters on sensitive waters.
Lakes Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Rotorua lakes fisheries monitoring programmes and participate in fisheries research projects. • Monitor and support the Waikaremoana water quality buoy programme. • Participate in Rotorua lakes' collaborative processes and use creel survey and NAS results to advocate for improved water quality.

Regional support for New Zealand Council aspirational outcomes

The NZ Council has long had a focus on increasing public awareness and support of Fish & Game as managers of sports fish and game bird resources, and as advocates for the interests of anglers and hunters. Protecting and enhancing habitats and access to wild areas and resources is an important and fundamental role of Eastern Fish & Game. In addition to this the Council contributes significant regional resources to supporting national projects associated with species monitoring and management, public awareness, compliance, licensing and administrative (e.g. financial management) outputs.

Current (2019-20) OWP

<i>Project Area</i>	<i>Projects/Objectives</i>
Public Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the national public awareness network and support national public awareness events. • Manage our website and use social media to increase awareness of Fish & Game activities. • Produce regular media releases and support the NZ Council North Island PA Adviser. • Engage and communicate with the rural community and landowners. • Promote Fish & Game at appropriate events and in the rural media. • Give presentations to schools and outside organisations and use the Ngongotaha hatchery and grounds to promote Fish & Game to the wider public.
Statutory Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Manager to periodically meet with senior local and regional authority managers, senior DOC staff, Conservation Boards, and MPs where appropriate. • Continue to meet with Te Urewera iwi entities towards the development of a MOU with Eastern Region Fish & Game. • Develop a closer/more formal working relationship with Te Arawa iwi. • Regional Manager to attend meetings of the Taupo Fisheries Advisory Committee as the NZ Fish & Game Council representative.
Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the improvement of water quality in the Rotorua lakes via Regional Council planning and collaborative processes. • Utilise river investigation projects to advocate for improved water quality in key regional rivers. • Review and support/oppose plans and consents that impact significantly upon sports fish/game bird habitat values, or angler and

	<p>hunter access.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain inventory of wetlands, assess their vulnerability and identify wetland deficient areas and opportunities for enhancement through stakeholder collaborative processes.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for improved access and submit to the Walking Access Commission on key issues, and ensure provision for public access is made in relevant Treaty of Waitangi settlements.

4. Concluding Remark

As previously noted, the most challenging element of this business planning process for Council is not so much about identifying new projects, programmes or priorities it wants to introduce to next or future year's operational work plans, as identifying what programmes it wishes to drop or scale back in order to accommodate the proposed changes.

5. Recommendations

5.1 That Council reviews its priorities and programmes for the 2019-2020 year, and identifies any changes it wishes to see incorporated into its draft operational work plan for the 2020-2021 year.

10. SUB-COMMITTEE TO EXPLORE OTHER SOURCES OF INCOME

File: 7.02.01

30 January 2020

1. Purpose

To discuss the merits of establishing a sub-committee of Council to explore and/or contribute to the development of alternative sources of income for the Eastern Fish and Game Council, and if appropriate, to determine the membership and key terms of reference for that committee.

2. Background

At its last meeting in December, Cr Ngahi Bidois suggested a sub-committee be formed to investigate other sources of funding for this Council (see Item 12.6 on page 5 of the draft minutes included with this agenda).

Provisions relating to committees of the Council contained within Eastern Region's Governance Policies and Standing Orders are provided on the pages following.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Council determines whether a sub-committee of Council should be established to investigate other sources of income, and if so what the membership and key undertakings of that committee should be.

Extract from Eastern Fish and Game Governance Policies adopted August 2016:

2.3 COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

- a. Council committees will be formed only when it is efficient or necessary to facilitate efficient decision-making.
- b. Council committees will observe the same rules of conduct and procedure as the Council unless the Council determines otherwise.
- c. Council committees will only speak or act for the Council when so authorised.
- d. Council may maintain standing committees with the following roles:
 - d.1 An Executive Committee, consisting of not less than three members shall be charged with the following:
 - o To carry out the functions of a Committee of the Council in a manner consistent with the Council's Governance Policies and Standing Orders;
 - o To assist and advise the Manager in the consideration and action of matters of urgency, confidentiality and sensitivity and inform the Council in a manner deemed appropriate whilst ensuring adherence to the Council's high standards of ethics, corporate behaviour and transparency;
 - o To provide advice, guidance and support to the Manager on an as requested basis but without impinging on the Manager's delegated powers;
 - o At the Chairperson's discretion, the Executive Committee may collectively assume the Chairperson's representation and communication role outside of Council meetings as prescribed in Governance Policy 1.5 The Role of the Chairperson and specifically as regards policies 1.5.a.3 and 1.5.a.4;
 - o To temporarily act in the place of the Chairperson in the event of the Chairperson's unavoidable or unexpected absence or unavailability in any period prior to the next Council meeting;
 - o Attend to the preparation and completion of the Manager's annual performance appraisal;
 - o Report to Council on its activities;
 - o To assume such other responsibilities as Council deems appropriate.
- e. All committees, either standing or ad hoc, will be formally constituted by Council resolution and have well defined terms of reference.

Extract from Eastern Fish and Game Standing Orders adopted October 2016:

1.4 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

- 1.4.1 The members of a committee may, but need not be, elected members of the council, and a council may appoint to a committee a person who is not a member of the council if, in the opinion of the council, that person has the skills, attributes, or knowledge that will assist the work of the committee.
- 1.4.2 Despite 1.3.8 above, at least 1 member of a committee must be an elected member of the council; and an employee of a council acting in the course of his or her employment may not act as a member of any committee unless that committee is a subcommittee.
- 1.4.3 The minimum number of members is 3 for a committee; and 2 for a subcommittee.

[cl. 31, Schedule 7, LGA]

- 1.4.4 The chairperson is a member of every committee of the council. Any member of the council may attend any meeting of any committee. They may put a question to the chairperson and may take part in the meeting's discussions. However, if the member of the council is not a member of the committee, they may not vote on any matter before the committee.
- 1.4.5 Prior committees or subcommittees are, unless the council resolves otherwise, deemed to be discharged on the coming into office of the members of the council at, or following, the triennial election of members.

11. ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

File: 1.07.01

28 January 2020

1. Purpose

To review the 2019-2020 Anglers Notice and identify any changes to the current regulations that might be warranted in the 2020-2021 season.

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.

Council has developed a comprehensive approach to dealing with the Anglers Notice. The policy approach 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 taking into account biological objectives associated with sustainability, harvest allocation, and specific population manipulations. Any changes to the Anglers Notice must not conflict with the Anglers Notice policy which is provided in Appendix 1 to this item.

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

A full review of the regional regulations (Schedule 2) is undertaken every second year. A less comprehensive process is conducted in the year between. This year, a full review is required which will involve:

1. At this February Council meeting, a number of previously discussed and identified items as well as 'carry over' proposals to the Anglers Notice will be presented to the Council for discussion. The Council will consider which submissions have merit and warrant further investigation. Staff will produce an 'Issues and Options' paper for distribution to clubs and public.
2. Prior to the April meeting, Councillors will receive feedback from staff and submitters via the pre-circulated Agenda. At the April meeting, all submissions received will be debated, and Council will resolve either to adopt some or all of these at that meeting, or defer some or all until the next meeting for further discussion.
3. At its June 2020 meeting, Council will receive any additional information it might have required or been forwarded before finalising the recommendations it wishes to submit to the Minister of Conservation for the 2020-2021 Anglers Notice.

4. Initial suggestions for consideration

There have been a number of suggestions proposed by Council and submitters during and following the last review including held over items. These suggestions are outlined below for consultation and consideration:

4.1 Remove all 'Fly Fishing Only' designations from Lakes Tarawera and Rotoiti shoreline areas

Background

During the Anglers Notice Process for the 2018-19 fishing season, the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council amended the angling regulations to remove 'fly fishing only' designations from a number of sites on lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti and Tarawera. Lake Rotorua is now open to fly and spin methods in all areas. On Lake Rotoiti, all sites are open to fly/spin from 1 October to 31 March, but from 1 April through to 30 September, Ruato Bay and 'the Pipe' (Hinehopu) 'fly fishing only' within 200m of their landmark poles. Similarly on Lake Tarawera, the entire lake is open to fly/spin methods from 1 October until 1 April after which two of the winter shoreline fishing locations (The Landing and Te Wairoa Stream mouth) become 'fly fishing only'.

The removal of the 'fly fishing only' monopoly from sites within Eastern Region has been very well received with very few grumbles being passed onto staff. Amending the regulations to open up areas to spin fishing is a move to be more inclusive, attract new and inexperienced anglers to the sport, and provide greater opportunity for those who can no longer handle a fly rod.

Participation in freshwater sports fishing is declining. Regional licence sales indicate an ongoing downward trend, and complex regulations and confusion around these are barriers to inclusion. Council has previously indicated support for simplification of the rules as a matter of principle and as a means of removing these impediments.

Discussion

Removal of the fly fishing only status around the remainder of the Rotorua lakes shoreline would increase participation in angling and reduce complexity in the rules, both which have been goals of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council.

The 'fly only' designation is a historic practice which converted to a social rule under the Anglers Notice Policy 2003. The angling pressure at a site reaches a threshold level of use, above which the fly only designation kicks in, theoretically to reduce conflict between angler groups. Council altered the Anglers Notice Policy and criteria relating to threshold levels for designating 'fly fishing only' waters during the 2018-19 Anglers Notice review process. This does not preclude Council from recognising 'fly fishing only waters' but provides greater opportunity to foster participation.

Where fly fishing and spin fishing now overlap, e.g. at Hamurana, Ngongotaha, Waiteti and Awahou on Lake Rotorua, 'the Transformer' and Hauparu Bay on Lake Rotoiti, and at Waitangi Bay, 'the Orchard', Otumutu Lagoon and the Wairua Stream mouth on Lake Tarawera, issues arising between anglers using these fishing methods appear to be very rare and no greater than those which arise amongst anglers using the same method. The majority of spin angling occurs within daylight hours, whereas a large proportion of fly angling occurs after dark, certainly at winter shoreline destinations. We have also observed that where fly

and spin fishing can take place side by side, the predominant method used by far is fly fishing.

There may be a negative response from fly anglers to this proposal on the grounds they feel they are losing 'rights'. Conversely, spin anglers can argue that they pay the same price for their licences as fly anglers, but are discriminated against as they are unable to use their preferred method at all locations fly anglers are able to.

The Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council made all of its fly fishing only areas open to fly and spin some years ago. This generated negative comment from some quarters for a relatively brief period before becoming more generally accepted.

From a biological perspective there have been numerous studies which have looked at catch rates and hooking induced mortality of fish caught by fly fishing versus those caught by spin fishing. The consensus is that spin fishing is no more effective than fly fishing in terms of catching fish, and spin fishing does not result in greater mortality of fish released compared to fly only methods. Research is clear that permitting the use of spin fishing in a water does not affect the biological sustainability of a fishery.

The regulations pertaining to 'fly fishing only' areas at the winter shoreline areas on Lakes Rotoiti and Tarawera were relaxed for the 2012-13 season to allow spin fishing for part of the season, and have remained so since. While this was timed to reduce potential angler conflict during the higher intensity periods when spawning fish are aggregating in these areas, we have never received reports of conflict arising as a consequence of the regulations being relaxed.

We are aware however, that having differing regulations over the course of the season creates confusion around what may be used where and at what times. With declining participation and fewer anglers utilising these areas, there appears to be no reason for retaining this somewhat discriminatory approach.

Options

- (i) Retain the status quo and retain current 'fly fishing only' areas around the shorelines of Lake Rotoiti and Lake Tarawera.
- (ii) Remove fly fishing only designation from all lake shoreline areas on lakes Rotoiti and Tarawera.

4.2 Remove the winter angling restriction on the Otara River downstream of the Otara East Road Bridge

Background

The Otara River and its tributaries are currently open 1 October to 30 June for both fly and spin fishing. The lower Otara is highly accessible from Opotiki township and has little spawning value in its lower to mid reach sections. High value trout spawning habitat is present in its tributaries including the Pakihi, Te Waiti, and Tutaetoko streams.

Discussion

The Otara River receives little angling pressure (estimated 290 ± 220 angler visits over the 2007-08 season). With declining participation in freshwater angling within many areas, having more waters with easy access open year round will provide greater opportunity for anglers (including youth and elderly anglers) to participate in the sport.

Options

- (i) Retain the status quo, i.e. the Otara River in its entirety remains open to fly/spin methods 1 October to 30 June.
- (ii) The section of the Otara river downstream of the Otara East Bridge to Opotiki Harbour is opened to fly/spin methods all year-round.

4.3 Amend Lake Whakamarino's (Tuai) Authorised fishing methods to allow fly and spin fishing methods

Background

Lake Whakamarino (Tuai) is a hydro operated impoundment within the Waikaremoana hydro-electric power scheme. It is currently open 1 October to 30 June and is open to fly fishing only. It was once a renowned fishery producing trophy sized trout up to 30 pounds. In recent years, and due to a range of factors including a reduction in habitat, shallower water as a consequence of siltation, and weed encroachment, trout struggle to reach very large size. One of the main fishing sites previously used by anglers was from a platform immediately above the power station turbine outflow, but access to this is no longer available as it was blocked off by Genesis Energy as a Health and Safety measure prompted by Worksafe NZ.

Discussion

Lakes Waikaremoana and Kaitawa, and the Waikaretaheke River on either side of Lake Whakamarino are open year-round to fly and spin. Kaitawa and Whakamarino are hydro impoundments that provide alternative options for anglers to the main lake and river, and sheltered angling when Lake Waikaremoana is too rough to fish. Extending spin fishing to Whakamarino would make fish positioned in the station outflow more accessible to anglers than was available when access to the platform above the outflow was removed.

Tuai is a small community that would benefit from its junior anglers being able to spin fish in the lake on their doorstep. No issues have arisen through both fly and spin methods being able to be used in Lake Kaitawa immediately above Whakamarino.

Options

- (i) Retain the status quo, i.e. retain current wording under Authorised fishing methods as "fly fishing only (F)", or;
- (ii) alter current wording under 'Authorised fishing methods' to "fly, spin (FS)".

4.4 Open Lake Kaitawa and Lake Whakamarino (Tuai) to year round angling

Background

Lakes Kaitawa and Whakamarino are hydro impoundments within the Lake Waikaremoana Hydro-electric Power Scheme. The lakes in the past 20 years or so have had low angling use. Lake Whakamarino angling visits dropped markedly between 1994/95 (1,200 ± 460 angler visits) and 2014-15 (180 ± 110 angler visits) according to National Angler Surveys (NAS). The intervening NAS years 2001/02 (20 ± 20) and 2007/08 (50 ± 30) report even lower usage estimates. Lake Kaitawa was reported as having 180 ± 180 angler visits in 1994/95 and 80 ± 80 angler visits in 2014/15.

The lakes are stocked annually so do not rely on natural recruitment for sustainability meaning harvest rates could be offset by lifting stocking if required.

Discussion

Opening these lakes for an extra three months a year is likely to have little effect on harvest. However, there would be a positive effect of increasing the areas available for anglers to fish especially when the main lake (Waikaremoana) is too rough to allow angling.

Options

- (i) Retain the status quo, i.e. For Lakes Kaitawa and Whakamarino; Open Season “1 October – 30 June”, or;
- (ii) Alter the Open Season for Lakes Kaitawa and Whakamarino to “1 October – 30 September”.

4.5 Amend the wording relating to Lake Waikaremoana and the landmark poles located at the Mokau and Hopuruahine Streams

Background

The distance from the landmark poles downstream to the Hopuruahine and Mokau Stream mouths varies according to the level of Lake Waikaremoana. As a hydro power reservoir the level of the lake can fluctuate by up to 3m, this being the operating range for the lake.

There are two entries for Lake Waikaremoana in the current regulation guide as follows:

Waikaremoana Lake - excepting area below - 1 Oct -30 Sep - fly, spin.

Waikaremoana Lake - within 200m downstream of the Mokau and Hopuruahine landmark poles - 1 Oct -30 Sep - fly fishing only

This causes unnecessary complexity in two ways. Firstly, the entries relating to the Mokau and Hopuruahine Streams downstream of the landmark poles appear under Lake Waikaremoana which is inconsistent with how other streams are laid out in the guide. Secondly, a definition of ‘*within 200m downstream of*’ is a subjective measure. To avoid this and make everything clearer, it would be simpler to allow fly and spin from Lake Waikaremoana up to the landmark poles year round, and retain the upstream sections of the streams important for trout spawning to fly fishing only from 1 December to 30 June.

What is proposed is to reword Lake Waikaremoana as:

Lake Waikaremoana – 1 Oct - 30 Sep, fly, spin (FS)

and insert new entries for the streams as follows:

Hopuruahine Stream – downstream of landmark pole, year-round, fly, spin (FS)

Hopuruahine Stream – upstream of landmark pole, 1 Dec – 30 Jun, fly only (F)

Mokau Stream – downstream of landmark pole, year-round, fly, spin (FS)

Mokau Stream – upstream of landmark pole, 1 Dec – 30 Jun, fly only (F)

Discussion

The current wording in the regulation guide is unclear and the manner in which the waters downstream of the landmark poles are listed is inconsistent with how other waters are laid out in the guide. What is proposed would remedy this and make the rules easier to interpret.

The Hopuruahine Stream environment downstream of the landmarks is generally silty and slow flowing and unsuitable for trout spawning. The pressure within these stream systems is low, and being able to spin fish up to the landmark poles would provide additional opportunity for spin anglers without impacting on the resource.

Options

- (i) Retain the status quo i.e. the current wording under Mokau, Hopuruahine and Waikaremoana Lake, or;
- (ii) Amend wording under Mokau, Hopuruahine and Waikaremoana Lake to reflect the areas downstream of landmark poles on Mokau and Hopuruahine Streams are open year round to fly, spin (FS) and upstream of the Mokau and Hopuruahine landmarks are open 1 Dec to 30 Jun, fly fishing only (F).

4.6 Saturday'ising the opening of trout fishing in Eastern Region waters (lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina)

Background

Currently (within Eastern Region) the trout fishing season opens on 1 October each year excluding some areas of special spawning significance that open on 1 December. It has been suggested that moving the opening date for the three 'renowned' Rotorua lakes (Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina) to the first Saturday in October would enable more anglers to participate in the occasion, and Fish & Game could take advantage of this and generate more of a 'carnival' atmosphere to attract new licence holders and/or retain a proportion of those who might otherwise not bother to renew their licence.

Council has considered this proposition on a number of occasions over the years. Some of the resolutions arising from more recent of these discussions are as follows:

2014:

The proposal to change the opening of the fishing season to the 1st Saturday in October was discussed and Rob Pitkethley provided Council with a summary of an earlier attempt to do so in the late 90's. The idea progressed from just opening Lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina on the first Saturday to opening all Fish & Game waters on this day but it was not supported nationally and so the idea did not progress further through the Anglers Notice review. [14/08/7.4]

2015:

Cr Barry Roderick queried progress on the proposal to change opening day to the first Saturday in October. Cr Annaka Davis noted that this idea had been dropped following consultation with staff and other regions. [15/04/8.9]

2016:

Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Neal Hawes) that Council does not support, at this time, the submission to adjust the season opening date for lakes Rotoiti, Tarawera and Okataina so that it falls on the first Saturday in October each season, but notes that the opening of the 2016/17 season on 1 October this year falls on a Saturday and this provides an opportunity to investigate some of the positives and negatives of the proposal. [16/06/10.13]

We know from the somewhat qualitative and statistically limited survey undertaken on the Saturday opening of the 2016-17 season, that anglers were split approximately 50:50 for and against Saturday'ising the opening of the season on Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina. There were also quite a number of anglers who weren't concerned and commented their tradition is to go fishing whatever day it falls on.

Fish & Game staff have observed over many years of opening day surveys, that the day of the week does not have the same effect on attendance on opening that weather does. Fine, calm weather openings produce more attractive conditions on the lakes than rough, windy and wet weather and influence participation to a much greater extent than whether it falls on a weekend or not.

Discussion

Some points to consider in favour:

- Would benefit those who can't get time off during the week or are going to school, and might mean more anglers get out than would otherwise have been the case subject to the weather on the day;
- Might mean more families and/or groups of friends could participate or get together around the occasion;
- Could make it into a bigger event and provide an opportunity to promote it in combination with other activities;
- It would be like the opening of duck hunting opening in which most participants know it's the first Saturday in May, and in addition to turning it into more of a tradition, it could reduce some occasional compliance issues (this might only be the case however, if all Fish & Game regions chose to open on the first Saturday in October because not all do).

Some potential downsides:

- Would penalise those who have to work on Saturdays and weekends;
- Confusion and compliance issues are likely to be created if just the three lakes (Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina) were opened on the first Saturday of October and other areas in the region, along with most other regions (including our immediate neighbours), opened on 1 October.

- If changing the opening of the three lakes to a Saturday did have the effect of substantially increasing participation, the additional congestion on the lakes as occurs on most openings when weather conditions are particularly favourable is likely to detract from the experience of many of those who are out on the day (due to the behaviour of some boatees, added congestion at boat ramps, and issues with finding a place to park). This could be counterproductive.
- Boat ramps and car parking infrastructure is already overloaded locally.
- Some people might feel they are missing out on their licence fee due to a few less days being available to fish in (some years more so than others).

A carnival atmosphere and promotion to recruit, retain or reactivate licence holders could potentially be just as effective if it was scheduled for the first weekend in October, or another later one, even if the season had actually opened some days beforehand.

Options

- (i) Retain the status quo i.e. Lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina open on 1 October, or;
- (ii) Change the season opening date for lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina to the first Saturday in October each season.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1** *That Council agrees to the consultation process and time frame for considering changes to the 2020 -2021 Anglers Notice.*
- 5.2** *That Council identifies any issues for further discussion it wants incorporated into an 'Issues and Options' paper to be prepared and circulated for comment following this meeting.*

APPENDIX 1. Anglers Notice Policy

Ref: 1.07.01

Updated 14 June 2018

1. Background

Fish and Game New Zealand spend 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. 	Moderate or high demand & limited fish availability.	River fisheries that attract moderate to high use and/or contain limited numbers of fish (currently 2 fish bag limit)
	High demand & high fish availability.	Restrict excessive fish harvest to enable equitable allocation (currently 8 fish)
	Low demand & high fish availability.	No bag limit.
<p><i>Management Objective</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance specific component 	Enhance specific component of fishery for deliberate management objective.	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 overregulating 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.

12. NZ COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

File: 8.04.05

30 January 2020

1. Purpose

To review the draft Fish & Game New Zealand Strategic Communications Plan the NZ Council has requested feedback on from regional Fish and Game Councils.

2. Background

A long awaited national communications strategy has been drafted by Mike Jaspers (a former journalist, press secretary, and more recently, chief communications adviser to the Prime Minister), in consultation with the NZC office. This has been forwarded to Council for comment with feedback required by 2 April 2020.

The document is included in the Papers for Information for this agenda as some of its content needs to remain confidential. If Council wishes to discuss content of this nature it will need to go into a Public Excluded Session. Some fundamental elements of the plan are not however, and could be discussed without doing so, for example organisational goals, communication objectives, high level messages (as presented in the plan), and spokesperson and media protocols. Other matters could also be considered outside of a Public Excluded Session, and in particular questions such as does this plan address all that is needed or we're looking for in a communications strategy?

Council may have insufficient time during this meeting to adequately review all of the content presented in this document. Position statements for example, which would need to be reviewed with public excluded, could occupy an entire meeting if Council wanted to comprehensively address these items.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 *That Council determines whether it wishes to review all items contained within the draft at this point in time, or whether it will instead focus for now on fundamental matters such as those listed above, and review other content later on.***
- 3.2 *That Council highlights any concerns, issues or suggestions it might have for feedback to the NZ Council.***

13. DUMPING OF GAME BIRD CARCASSES

Ref: 8.04.10

31 January 2019

1. Purpose

To reconsider the resolution passed at Council's December meeting concerning the inclusion of a special condition into the Second Schedule of Eastern Region's Game Bird Regulations making it an offence to wilfully dump game birds or their carcasses.

2. Background

At Council's last meeting Cr Lindsay Lyons expressed concern that indiscriminate dumping of carcasses appeared to be becoming more prevalent. Anthony van Dorp noted that incorporating a special condition into the Second Schedule of Eastern Region's Game Bird Regulations making it an offence to wilfully dump game birds or their carcasses would give Fish & Game rangers greater ability to deal with these issues than is currently the case because of a technicality in the Litter Act that does not provide for Fish & Game rangers (as opposed to Conservation rangers) being Litter Control Officers. This point was queried, and staff undertook to establish what the legislation provides for and clarify this for Council at this meeting. In the meantime Council made the following resolution:

"Agreed (Barry Roderick/Lindsay Lyons) that unless it is shown that there are additional benefits over and above what can be accomplished under the Litter Act 1979 (assuming Fish & Game Officers are authorised to be Litter Control Officers under that Act), then there is nothing to be gained from incorporating a special condition into the Second Schedule of Eastern Region's Game Bird Regulations making it an offence to wilfully dump game birds or their carcasses, i.e. the status quo should remain." [19/12/11.11]

Further investigation confirmed that the Litter Act does not empower Fish & Game rangers to be Litter Control Officers, and this being so this resolution should probably be revisited.

Six other Fish & Game regions had a special condition in their Second Schedule for the 2019 Game Season relating to the wilful dumping of game birds or their carcasses². One of these, Southland, also included shotgun cartridge cases in its condition.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Council reviews the draft policy and provides its comments for feedback to the NZ Council.

² No person may willfully leave on the hunting ground any game bird(s) shot or parts of any game birds shot.

14. KAITUNA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT RESERVE STAND NO. 5

Ref: 3.01.05

31 January 2020

1. Purpose

To discuss future allocation arrangements for Hunting Stand No. 5 in the Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve.

2. Background

In 2013 Council discussed the work undertaken by Ray Bushell of Maketu, and noted the unparalleled effort he had put into the Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve in the interests of waterfowl and hunters. Council passed the following resolution:

“Agreed (Murray Ferris/Steve Scragg) that Council recognises Ray Bushell’s extraordinary efforts and extends the duration for his balloted stand tenure for an additional 9 years. [13/10/9.5]”

Ray Bushell passed away last year and a decision is required on how the stand will be allocated when the nine year tenure expires at the conclusion of the 2020 game season.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Council determines its position in relation to the future allocation of Stand No. 5 and whether it should be put back into the general ballot pool.

15. SPECIES MONITORING REPORT

Ref: 1.02.01

31 January 2020

1. Purpose

To receive the Rotorua Lakes 2019 Winter Creel Survey report.

2. Background

The Eastern Council operates a significant species monitoring programme for both sports fisheries and game birds across the region. This monitoring involves investigations on the populations we manage and the characteristics of the harvest on these species. Understanding what we manage, and key characteristics of how our licence holders use these resources is a fundamental aspect to fish and game management.

The winter creel surveys were established in the late 1990s to monitor changes in the highly valued winter shoreline fishery on Lakes Rotoiti, Okataina and Tarawera. The first survey in 1997 established total effort from this group of anglers and ascertained characteristics of the catch as well as angler perceptions, attractions and detractions. These surveys have continued annually to monitor the catch from these fisheries each year. Data collected has been used to adjust seasonal liberations into the lakes to increase opportunities for winter anglers, as well as monitor regulation changes to try and further enhance these fisheries.

The full Rotorua Lakes 2019 Winter Creel Survey Report will be emailed out to Council with this meeting's Papers for Information, and will be posted on the Eastern Region pages of the www.fishandgame.org.nz web site. The Executive Summary is replicated below.

3. Rotorua Lakes 2019 Winter Creel Survey Report

Executive Summary

- The creel survey of winter shoreline anglers on Lakes Rotoiti, Okataina and Tarawera has been undertaken in a relatively unchanged format for the past twenty-three years. A total of 158 angler encounters were recorded during the 2019 winter period. This is less than hoped for, and attributable in part to staff resourcing for the creel again being constrained by other regional operating demands.
- Lake Rotoiti anglers experienced a lower average catch rate compared with the 2018 winter. Few fish were sighted and weighed in during surveys, but the fish measured were larger and heavier on average than the fish caught during the 2018 winter, and the heaviest recorded since the 2012 winter. The average angler's level of satisfaction was down slightly when compared to the 2018 winter with 93% of Rotoiti winter anglers saying they were satisfied with their fishing.
- Lake Okataina creel surveys undertaken over the 2019 winter resulted in few anglers contacted. Anglers' catch rates at Lake Okataina during the 2019 winter were lower than during the 2018 winter and were the lowest recorded in surveys at Lake Okataina. Just 5 fish were recorded, but length and weight were better than those measured during the 2018 winter. The rating given for angler satisfaction was unchanged from the 2018

winter with 100% of anglers interviewed stating they were satisfied with their 2019 winter's fishing at Okataina.

- Lake Tarawera anglers interviewed over the 2019 winter were recorded as having a much reduced catch rate compared to the 2018 winter. This catch rate was at odds with the magnitude of the winter spawning run recorded through the Te Wairoa fish trap which produced a record total of 2,757 fish. As a low number of fish (n=2) were presented during surveys, data from angler diaries was utilised. The 2019 angler caught fish were smaller and lighter than the 2018 surveyed fish, but Te Wairoa trapped fish were shown to be both significantly longer and heavier than 2018 run fish ($P < 0.001$ for both variables). The satisfaction level of anglers fishing at Lake Tarawera during the 2019 was slightly down on that recorded during the 2018 winter creel.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Council receives the Rotorua Lakes 2019 Winter Creel Survey report.

16. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

16.1 Conservation Boards

- *Bay of Plenty Conservation Board*
- *Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board*
- *East Coast/Hawkes Bay Conservation Board*

16.2 Reports from Other Agencies

- Department of Conservation

16.3 Report from New Zealand Council

17. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

17.1 MANAGEMENT REPORT

28 January 2020

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

1111 River Fisheries Investigations

Regional River Fisheries Monitoring

This summer, staff intend to undertake another drift dive survey of the Whirinaki River at the two sites (Mangamate waterfall and upstream of Troutbeck Road Bridge) visited during summer 2019. Investigations are also being planned for the Ngamuwahine and Pongakawa streams.

Rangitaiki River Water Quality Monitoring

Fish & Game staff will be measuring water quality parameters at sites in the upper Rangitaiki River within Kaingaroa Forest during February. Over the past three seasons, staff have been unable to undertake drift dive trout counts due to low visibility in the Rangitaiki River water column but have continued to take measurements of water quality parameters secchi disk readings. *[Stop press 30 January; staff undertaking access work in Kaingaroa today report crystal clear conditions which will enable traditional sites to be drift dived early next week for the first time in four years provided rain doesn't fall within the catchment.]*

1112 Datawatch

During the four and a half months following the season opening, 168 datawatch tags have been returned in total and entered into the database. The distribution is as follows:

Lake Hawkstone (HB)	0
Lake Okareka	4
Lake Okataina	48
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	8
Lake Rotoehu	1
Lake Rotoiti	46
Lake Rotoma	7
Lake Rotorua	10
Lake Tarawera	42
Lake Tutira (HB)	2
Lake Waikaremoana	0

**Datawatch returns (entered to 16/01/2020)*

This total is 87 tags behind that during the same approximate period in 2019 and on par with that in 2018. Lakes Rotoiti and Okataina are behind by approximately 20%. Lake Tarawera returns are down by more than 50%. All other lake tallies are comparable to those in 2019. Rotoehu has a bloom that has probably been keeping anglers away, and constant wind is likely to have played a significant role in reducing angler numbers on the lakes this summer.

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Waikaremoana Water Quality Monitoring Buoy

The Lake Water Quality Monitoring buoy sensor strings are due to be re-installed into the buoy in January 2020. The buoy is logging data, but is not being received by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council. HyQuest (environmental data acquisition services) have been engaged to solve the issue. *[Stop press 31 January; the issue has been resolved and appears to have been due to a change in HBRC's IP address not having been notified.]*

1114 Lake Tarawera

Lake Tarawera Fishery Monitoring Project Update

As reported in December, the fourth and final collection round of benthic and pelagic samples for the first year of the Lake Tarawera food web study in association with Cawthron Institute and University of Waikato was undertaken in mid October and early November. Cawthron Institute is still working on the samples and computer mixing models prior to releasing a preliminary report. Datawatch growth data, Te Wairoa fish trap information and liberation figures have been provided by Fish & Game to incorporate into the analyses, and we hope to have received an initial report by the end of February.

1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

Ngongotaha Stream Trap

The Ngongotaha fish trap was operated for four nights during November. The November trapping period saw a steady number of both rainbow and brown trout entering the stream. Two brown trout exceeded the 10-pound mark. The largest fish was a 715mm, 5.1kg brown female. Rainbow trout moving into the stream were larger and heavier compared to those measured in November 2018 (latter 18mm and 90g smaller) though the larger mature fish were in poor condition as they had recently finished spawning. Brown trout entering the stream were 17mm smaller but 30g heavier on average than those fish trapped in November 2018.

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (November 2019)

	<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>	509	1.53	64	16	0	
<i>Brown</i>	574	2.59	313	78	0	83%

The Ngongotaha fish trap was also operated for four nights in December. A large run of brown trout was recorded moving upstream as Lake Rotorua water temperatures increased above 19 degrees Celsius early in the month. The largest movement recorded occurred on 10 December when 118 brown trout were trapped. One brown trout measured exceeded the 10-pound mark. The largest fish was a 670mm, 4.85kg brown male.

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (December 2019)

	<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>	504	1.51	25	6	0	
<i>Brown</i>	574	2.64	396	99	0	94%

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (January 2020)

The fish trap has not been able to be operated at the time of this report. Flooding within the Ngongotaha catchment over the Christmas period (25 and 26 December 2019) resulted in several large logs being deposited on top of the trap. This has created both Health & Safety and operational issues. Regional Council has indicated it can probably remove the logs for us but timing has yet to be advised.

Lakes Research

Otago University is conducting a project investigating the genetic diversity of smelt across New Zealand. Eastern staff have contributed to the project by collecting and forwarding samples of smelt from Lake Tarawera and several coastal rivers (Waioatahe and Waioeka).

Members of the Tarawera Anglers Club have been sending through diary reports of angling data and records of trout caught over the summer with gut content and size of smelt that the trout are feeding upon.

1116 Waterfowl Monitoring

Mallard and Grey Duck Banding

Banding is winding to a close. At this stage we have banded in the order of 1,300 birds. The hot weather has made it challenging as birds need to be processed quickly to minimize any stress. Gisborne had its challenges (possums putting holes in the traps and the birds stopping feeding for some unknown reason) but several hundred were trapped in the end.

Trend Counts

Trend count flights were completed in early January and Matt McDougall at the time of writing was well into through the process of counting birds off aerial photographs. The Tauranga swan population was a very healthy 6,500 and it appears that paradise shelduck populations are similar to those of last year.

Brood Counts

Annual duck brood counts were undertaken at sites located within the coastal Bay of Plenty drainage network during October and November 2019.

1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys

2019 Winter Creel Survey

The results of the 2019 creel survey of winter shoreline anglers on Lakes Rotoiti, Okataina and Tarawera has been written up and an executive summary is available in Agenda Item 15.

2019/2020 Summer Creel Survey

The summer angler creel survey programme got underway in November and will continue through until April. To mid-January 2020, wind has been a significant factor affecting both angler numbers on the lakes and the ability of Fish & Game staff to undertake surveys. To date 423 angler interviews have been undertaken during 21 survey events across the four surveyed lakes. A total of 219 fish have been presented for measuring. This number of contacts is comparable to the that during the same period during the 2018-2019 summer programme (458 contacts from 24 surveys).

Fish condition has remained solid across all of the surveyed lakes. The Rotorua shoreline fishery came on early in the summer as evidenced by a rapid increase in angler numbers at the Awahou, Hamurana and Waiteti stream mouths.

Lake Waikaremoana Fishery Investigations/Summer Creel

Honorary rangers have been present at Waikaremoana undertaking compliance work over the holiday period but staff have held off pending the resolution of issues with the monitoring buoy. Now that those have been sorted a trip will be organised shortly. Winter surveys and spawning investigations will be programmed and undertaken in accord with Genesis Energy and HBRC consent conditions.

1122 Opening Day Angler Survey

The 2019-20 Opening Day Survey information has been analysed and report writing is underway.

1141 Hatchery Operations

In the final hours of Christmas day/early hours of Boxing Day 2019 a significant landslide occurred at the hatchery site after torrential rain. The raceway water supply line was broken and left inoperative. Several thousand rising 2-year-old rainbows for children's fishing events were lost unfortunately. Staff have been working on repairs and cleaning up since then, and a stocktake of what 2-year-old rainbows we have remaining will be undertaken in the near future.

Fish locations at 24 January 2020:

Location	Type	Qty (approx)	Comment
Tank A	1+Rt	15	Best of selection
Tank B	1+ Bt	100	Auckland/Waikato liberation 2020
Tank C	1+ Brook	12	Brood Stock
Tank D	0+ Bt	3,000	Liberations
Tank E	0+ Tiger	1,400	Liberations, various 2020
Tank F	0+SRt	1,100	Auckland/Waikato liberation 2020
Pond 2	0+ Rt	20,500	Spring liberations 2020
Pond 3	0+ Rt	20,500	Spring liberations 2020
Pond 4	0+ Rt	7,500	Autumn liberations 2020
Pond 5	0+ Rt	7,500	Autumn liberations 2020
Pond 6	0+ Rt	9,000	Autumn liberations 2020
Pond 7	0+ Rt	9,000	Autumn liberations 2020
Pond 8/9	1+ Rt	1,000	Approx, KF programme 2020

1161 Sports Fish Liberations

Liberations, Eastern Region 18 November – 23 January 2020

Water	Date	Mark	Tag	Species	Age Class	Number
McLaren	19/11/19	Lp	PP	Bt	1+	500
McLaren	19/11/19	Lp	WA17	Rt	1+	1,000
Tarawera	26/11/19	Lp	-	Rt	1+	1,000

Tuaitai/Kaitiaki	2/12/19	Lp	-	Rt	1+	500
Tuaitai/Kaitiaki	2/12/19	Lp	-	Bt	1+	200
Rotoma	10/12/19	Lp	-	Rt	1+	1,140

Fish were also despatched or delivered to Paradise Valley Springs and Hawke's Bay Fish & Game.

1171 Sports Fish Regulations

Preliminary information has been compiled for the 2020 Anglers Notice Review process which commences this month (see Agenda Item 11) and concludes in June when recommendations for the 2020-2021 season regulations are forwarded to the Minister of Conservation.

HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

1211 RMA Planning

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Proposed Plan Change 9 (Water Quantity) submissions were lodged in December 2017. The Hearing was attended in March, and recommendations from the Panel were released in October 2018. An appeal was lodged in November relating to the allocation of surface water after minimum flows are reached. Following positive pre-mediation discussions, Council have proposed some amendments to address our concerns. We have good agreement in principle to resolve our appeal and are currently working through wording. The first round of mediation was attended in December and agreement in principal reached to resolve our appeal. A second round of mediation is scheduled in mid-February.

Waikato Regional Council

In March 2018 the Auckland/Waikato and Eastern Fish and Game Council lodged a joint submission on Waikato Regional Council's Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora: Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1. Council hearings were held in mid-2019. There are no new developments to report.

Gisborne District Council

Following the conclusion of the Gisborne Freshwater Plan, it is expected that the Council will now focus its attention on further catchment planning processes. Enquiries have been made to establish dates and timelines for these processes.

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

Bay of Plenty Regional Council's existing Pest Management Plan expired some time ago and a new Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan was released. Submissions on the proposed plan were lodged in November 2018 opposing the inclusion of sports fish (perch and tench) in the document but no further progress appears to have been made on the plan. In the meantime a number of discussions have been held with other parties in relation to reducing the risk of

the accidental transfer of aquatic pests via boats and trailers to lakes with the region in which they are not currently present.

Waikato Pest Management Plan

Waikato Regional Council is in the early stages of proposing changes to its Regional Pest Management Plan and they have scheduled a meeting with us to discuss this in mid-February.

1212 Consent Applications

Date	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
19 Nov	BOPRC	JISFT	LUC-install a pontoon	Lake Okareka	S95E3a
26 Nov	BOPRC	A Bucharner	DP- effluent irrigation	Cutwater Rd Pukehangi	No concerns email
2 Dec	BOPRC	Waiotahi Contractors	LUC – gravel abstraction	Waioeka River	Still in discussions
12 Dec	BOPRC	J&H Coatsworth	DP- effluent irrigation	Waiteti Stream, Rotorua	S95E3a
16 Dec	GDC	M&A Gemmel	LUC - reforestation	Wharekopae River, Gisborne	No concerns email
19 Dec	RLC	Varner Logging Ltd	LUC- yard construction	Lake Ohakuri	No concerns email
9 Jan	BOPRC	G Mains	DP- effluent irrigation	Waitahanui Stream, Te Puke	S95E3a

Consents of note:

Waioeka River gravel extraction

Waiotahi Contractors application to abstract gravel from the Waioeka River is a new application as the Bay of Plenty Regional Council no longer manage gravel in this river for flood mitigation under consent, but by approved management plan. Consequently, Waiotahi needs to apply for its own resource consent. Fish & Game is not opposed in principle to the application, but we do have issues with abstraction within the “wet” areas of the river and some timing constraints. We are working with the applicant to address these issues.

1221 Reserves Management

Lower Kaituna WMR

The wetland expansion works in the Kaituna wetland were commenced on 15 January after karakia and a ceremony involving iwi, BOPRC and Fish & Game was undertaken to bless these. Machines commenced earthworks in the most north westerly section of the reserve and this initial work will result in the re-creation of 21ha of wetland from land that for many years has been grazed pasture. This work is expected to continue until early April. New weirs and culverts will be installed to provide water for the extended wetland, along with new flood gates on existing water inlet structures to supply the entire reserve. BOPRC is financing the entire project. Tracks on the western oxbow, ‘A drain’ and the main access track to the middle oxbow have been upgraded. Water reticulation works are programmed for February and pest plant spraying in the reserve is also underway.

Awakaponga WMR

Work to get the Awakaponga solar water supply system replaced, secured and running is ongoing.

Other Reserves

Water reticulation works within the Waewaetutuki and Awaiti reserves have been undertaken, along with some minor track maintenance works in Awaiti. Planned track works within Bregmans reserve has temporarily been deferred to ensure sufficient budget is available for completion of the Awakaponga solar power system and security upgrade. Mowing within the reserves is on schedule, and pest plant and access spraying is planned to commence early February.

1231 Respond to Landowner Requests for Assistance

No new landowner requests for advice or assistance has been sought since Council's last meeting.

Three wetland enhancement proposals remain on the books in the Gisborne area, with physical work expected to get underway in one in late February with funding sourced from the Game Bird Habitat Trust. The other two wetland proposals require resource consent applications to be lodged with Gisborne District Council and will require more detailed design and planning. Landowners remain keen at this early stage, but further contact with them will be made in early March to confirm whether they intend to proceed with these or not.

1232 Habitat Creation and Enhancement Projects

The investigation into BOPRC Rivers and Drainage works within the Otara, Waioeka, Whakatane and Waimana rivers is ongoing. Two planned site visits have been cancelled due to rain events in the days leading up to these and another date needs to be programmed.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

Timberland Forests recreational access has been closed for the summer fire season. Access through the Hancock managed Tarawera Forest to Lake Tarawera outlet remains open but by permit only, these being issued by the Kawerau Information Centre. As of mid January 2020 the Tarawera Outlet DOC camp ground has been closed pending the resolution of management and visitor issues at the camp.

Sign updates and maintenance work has been undertaken in various parts of the region.

Annual angler access track maintenance work has been carried out at Pueto Stream near Taupo, and other work is pending including completion of contractor undertaken work in Kaingaroa Forest at the Rangitaiki River.

An access problem at Lake Maraetai which was brought to our attention by an angler who found a fence erected across what is Crown land blocking access to the Twin Lakes Arm is being dealt with. Currently we are working with LINZ and their agents Colliers International to achieve a resolution.

We have received reports that campers (who are usually anglers also) freedom camping at Lake Waikaremoana this summer have been approached by Te Urewera staff and been told

they cannot camp there unless at designated campsites, and cannot be in possession of alcohol in Te Urewera. We are seeking clarification around what can and can't be undertaken on and around the immediate shoreline of the lake.

1331 Electronic Newsletters

Reel Life was produced in November, December and January and provided local fishing updates.

1332 Fish & Game Publications

Articles and photographs for the 2020 Game Season magazine were drafted and edited before being forwarded to the publisher.

1333 Fish & Game Website

Updates or changes to the Eastern Web site included Council agendas and minutes, information on the kayak fish tuition event and water safety messages.

1334 Social Media

A number of posts were made from our Facebook and Twitter pages during the reporting period.

1352 Angler Hunter Training

Sixty people attended a kayak fishing how-to event held at the Fish & Game facilities on 30 November 2019.

Fifty-five people attended a boat fishing how-to event at Lake Tarawera on 4 January 2020.

1354 Fishing Competitions

Two fishing competition permits were processed.

1361 Fish & Game Club Communications

Two club visits for the period. The Manager attended and spoke at a Lake Tarawera community smoked trout competition event organised by Cr Geoff Thomas and other local anglers.

1371 Fish & Game Huts

No issues arising since last report. Routine maintenance carried out at each staff visit.

PUBLIC INTERFACE

1411 Statutory Liaison and Political Awareness

The Manager had correspondence and/or other communications with the Office of Treaty Settlements advocating for provisions to preserve angler access to the Waioeka and Waiotaha fisheries being incorporated into a pending Whakatohea settlement; the Director-General of Conservation in relation to clarifying the legal status of the Waikaemoana lakebed as it currently stands, and the implications of such for anglers; the Rotorua Lakes Council re information to be included in a pamphlet to Lake Tarawera residents on arsenic levels in the lake, and senior staff in various other organisations including the Waikato Regional Council and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

1421 Public Communications

Biosecurity

While carrying out work on the lakes we are actively advocating check/clean/drain and dry messages and other biosecurity messages aspects around catfish and pest weeds in particular, when talking to anglers. BOPRC has provided us with brochures to give to anglers when having these conversations.

1451 Education

Two additional fish outs were held in November and December for the Te Awamutu Fish & Game Club's kids fishing programme, and for Carter House Life Care, Te Puke who were hosted by the Rotorua Anglers Club.

The Thursday Strollers walking group visited for their annual end of year lunch.

COMPLIANCE

1511 Ranging

Summer compliance work has largely focused on angler surveys and compliance checks on the Rotorua Lakes and Lake Rotorua stream mouths in addition to other locations within the region. To date compliance has been very good with few offenders dealt with so far this season.

CLE work was undertaken throughout the Christmas and New Year period, this being a busy time on the Rotorua Lakes in particular, with many visiting anglers on the lakes. Boat ramps over this time were often full to capacity with many lake users over summer being non-anglers.

Contacts: Year 2019-2020

<i>Month</i>	<i>2015-16</i>	<i>2016-17</i>	<i>2017-18</i>	<i>2018-19</i>	<i>2019-20</i>	Last 5 yr average
Sept	59	29	21	21	46	38
Oct	1,223	903	836	893	726	924

Nov	20	62	69	20	126	68
Dec	293	310	390	309	237	322
Jan	335	217	195	442		314
Feb	418	293	137	307		310
Mar	253	191	199	180		220
Apl	53	214	178	124		167
May	272	292	226	252		308
Jun	277	171	172	168		198
Jul	107	94	80	63		93
Aug	42	27	33	54		46
Totals	3,352	2,803	2,536	2,833	1,135	2,731

Contacts Year to Date 2019-2020

To end of December, 1,135 persons had been checked for compliance, and compliance rate was in excess of 98%. Some lake angler survey work was and continues to be hindered by poor weather conditions in spring and early summer, and in particular windy weather, and this prevented or made boat work difficult, and deterred anglers from the lakes.

North Island/National CLE liaison role

As required have continued to give advice, and review matters for other regions.

1521 Ranger Training

Rangers

Honorary Rangers continue to contribute around the region.

Honorary Ranger Brett Bosley, who is ill, was visited and presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his long service to Fish & Game, Brett having been a ranger since 1998.

1531 Prosecutions

Most prosecutions are being resolved via diversion processes.

Offences 2019-2020 Year:

Six offenders committed seven offences as tabled below.

Offence table 2019-2020 year (to 15/01/2020)

Offence name	Number of offences
Fishing closed waters	1
Fishing without a licence	6
Total number of offences	7

Offences Pending Resolution

To date (15/01/2020) 11 separate offences are pending resolution, by five offenders who all have active warrants to arrest for Fish & Game matters.

The table below shows offences currently pending resolution:

Offence name	Numbers
Fish without licence	6
Illegal tackle	1

Possess spear-gaff	1
Fish closed waters	1
False details	2
Total	11

LICENSING

1612 Analysis of Licence Information

Kate Thompson continues to provide regular updates of licence sales for all regions. Additional reports have also been supplied to Steve Doughty for reporting to the New Zealand Council.

Marketing

In the lead up to Christmas, licence holders from the 2018/19 Season who had not yet purchased a licence for the 2019-20 season were sent a friendly email with an incentive of three of them winning the value of their licence back if they purchased their full season licence prior to 10 January 2020. A copy of the emails sent to our lapsed season and part season licence holders can be found within the Papers for Information for this meeting.

In short, 3,497 2018/19 licence holders were emailed with this offer, 1,665 previous full season category buyers and 1,832 previous short-term licence buyers. Of the 1,665 full season purchasers from the 2018/19 season who were emailed, 287 repurchased buying 261 full season category licences and 29 short-term licences. Of the 1,832 short-term buyers from the 2018/19 season who were emailed, 84 repurchased buying 35 full season licences and 53 short-term licences.

Overall 10.6% (371) of those who were emailed renewed and the higher rates of renewal were seen in the full season categories. Whether that renewal rate is higher than what would have occurred without our prompt is not known. 92.7% of those that renewed their licences did so in the Eastern Region, 4.9% in the Auckland/Waikato Region followed by Hawke's Bay and Wellington regions at 1.3%.

Of those who repurchased, 160 of them purchased earlier last season meaning the email reminder may have prompted those buyers to buy or on the other hand they might just have delayed their purchase this season.

The three lucky licence holders who were randomly drawn from 295 full season licences purchased prior to 10 January to win the value of their licence back were;

- P Stewart of Tauranga (Local Area licence),
- D Tanner of Mount Maunganui (Adult season licence),
- M Powell of Gisborne (Family licence).

Of the two that have claimed their prizes to date their feedback indicated that they were going to purchase a licence anyway. Further analysis and discussion is to occur with Steve Doughty when he visits in early February to establish the success of this type of promotion.

1621 Licence Agent Support

Administration staff continue to liaise with licence agents as required. Two local long-standing licence agents are closing with the Outdoorsman Headquarters having closed their doors on 17 January and Okeefe's Anglers Depot due to close in the not so distant future. Hamill's in Taupo has recently started selling licences again after a fire on the premises last season, and Telfers Marine Rotorua is in the process of applying to be a licence agent.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1831 & 1832 Performance Report and Audit

The final audit report was received, dated 28 November 2019 and subsequently the 2018-19 Annual Performance Report was adopted at the 3 December 2019 meeting of Council.

17.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

31 January 2020

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.

December 2019/January 2020

1. Implementation and Adherence to the Health and Safety Plan

Regular (weekly) staff meetings.

Minutes from the Health and Safety portion of meeting are emailed to all staff.

Visitors required to sign register; site hazard register updated as required.

Tail gate forms were prepared for:

22/11/19 & 29/11/19

Maimai inspections

Jan 2020

Fire Evacuation Drill

17/01/20

Trapping and Banding

Induction of new 2 x banding staff for health and safety

All Staff that attend compliance call outs have been issued with their own Stab resistant vests. An email reminding staff regarding location of radios and to show caution at call outs.

2. Monitoring and Reporting

Work Place Accident Register

	31/01/2020	20/11/2019
Number of Workplace injuries in 2019-2020 year	0	0
Number of Workplace injuries in 2018-2019 year	1	1
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 since last lost work injury 31/8/17	883	811
Total number of days prior to last lost work injury since 1 Sept 1995	8035	8035

Budget for 2019/20 for Health & Safety is \$2,000

3. Risk Management (identification and treatment)

Notes taken for the H&S minutes at the weekly staff meeting – emailed to all staff:

25/11/19	Electrical repairs in various places in office
02/12/19	Nil to report
09/12/19	Nil to report
16/12/19	Nil to report
06/01/20	Major slip over holiday period. Site closed to public (only access is children's fishing pond and settling pond). Areas cordoned off and signs made to make all persons on site aware. All safety precautions were taken for staff working on site. Manager and staff aware of the major stress this has had on staff both physically and emotionally. Reminder that roads are one of our biggest threats – take care. Also be careful on lakes.
13/01/20	As above. Banding underway – be careful driving and remember tail gate forms.
28/01/20	As above

4. Training Programme

None held in period

5. H&S Incidents

None to report.

6. Recommendation

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

13.3 Finance Report

Ref: 8.03.01

29 January 2020

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the current financial position and approve payments for the months of November and December 2019.

2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the period ending 31 December is attached. This report documents the income and expenditure for the period.

Income

Licence revenue is reporting to be below budget YTD (\$20,440). A more detailed record of licence sales by category and LEQs can be found within the licence sales report included within this agenda.

Revenue from other sources over the period was made up of the following; hatchery (\$13,386), fishing competitions (\$935), rentals (\$7,504), and tours (\$61). Donations were received for the November Rotorua Anglers children's fishing event (\$370), the Te Awamutu Fish & Game Club children's fish out (\$110), Carter House elderly fishing group (\$50), Thursday Strollers walking group (\$30), and Paul Roche who had inadvertently overpaid his licence/ballot fees and kindly donated the overpayment (\$38). Fines from prosecutions collected through the courts totalled \$426 and funds were also received from diversion processes for expense recovery and junior education programmes (\$100 and \$350 respectively). Interest was received on term investments - Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund \$5,552 and general reserves \$1,277.

Species Management

Within the Population Monitoring output the banding project is underway with the purchase of maize, bands, miscellaneous banding materials, and payment of volunteer expenses. Minor staff expenses are reported relating to Waikaremoana work and the cost to courier Lake Tarawera samples to Cawthron in Nelson is also reported. Within budget YTD.

Hatchery expenses for the period related to freight on fish food, materials for replacement and/or repair of shade sales over rearing ponds and trough crowders. The regular expenses for electricity, fuel, and oxygen are also reported. Within budget YTD.

Habitat

Works and Management spending for the period relates to digger hire to maintain water reticulation and tracks at the Waewaetutuki wetland, materials for a new gate at the Kaituna oxbow, treatment of pest plants at Awakaponga WMR, and various other pest plant sprays. Within budget YTD.

Participation

Access and signage expenses included signs for the Waiteti, Hopuruahine, and Ngongotaha streams. Expenses are also reported for accommodation for Waioeka access work, and safety equipment and maintenance materials for both signage and access work.

A small supply of “Advanced Spin Fishing” brochures were purchased from the New Zealand Council office. Refreshments were purchased for the recent Kayak fishing talk, and gas bottles filled and rodent bait purchased for the huts.

As a whole the Participation output is within budget YTD and minor overspends of budgets within the output will resolve as the year progresses.

Public Interface

Spending is reported in the Public Promotions budget relating to the hire and subsequent purchase of a sound system for public presentations such as the recent kayak fishing tuition held on the grounds and the boat fishing tuition held in January at Stoney Point, Lake Tarawera. The hire of a system was \$150 whereas a complete system was purchased for \$299 and will serve well into the future. Other expenses reported under this output relate to Grounds maintenance and cleaning of the public toilets. Within budget YTD.

Compliance

The Compliance expenses for the period related to the 0800 Poaching service and cell phone, and legal fees for two prosecutions. Within budget YTD.

Licensing

The Commission budget includes agent commissions and the fees associated with the Public Online and 0800 sales. Within budget YTD.

Council

Council expenses for the period related to catering for the December meeting of Council. The Council output is well under budget (\$2,338) due to a reduction in the number of Councillors representing the East Coast where travel costs would have normally been paid. The budget for Council travel reimbursement will need to be reviewed in the next planning round.

Planning

The audit fee was paid in December \$8,185. Within budget YTD.

Administration

Notes on individual areas:

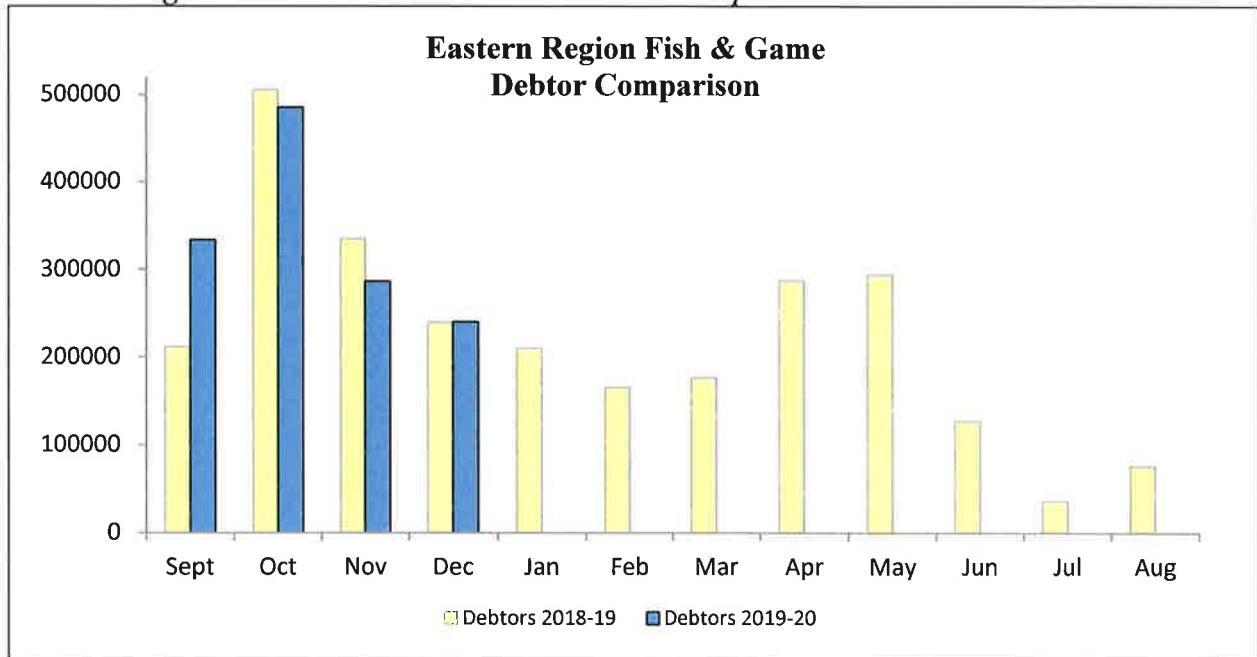
Salaries	Overbudget \$3,382 YTD. In December grocery vouchers were purchased for all staff as a thank you gesture for the year’s work and this expense is reported within the salaries output (\$1,250). In the absence of an agreement with the Hawke’s Bay Fish & Game Council, hours undertaken by Eastern part time staff working for the Hawke’s Bay Council have not been included within the salaries budget which is the primary cause of the current reported variance. The income reported within “Other Income” for these hours worked is also unbudgeted and as a result nets off any additional wages paid.
Staff Expenses	Staff expenses for the period include meal expenses for staff working away from home (\$85), staff BBQ (\$58), airfare to Wellington re Arms Act submission (\$104), morning tea for the Outdoorsman staff (\$54), and greeting cards (\$13). Within budget YTD.
Staff Houses	Minimal expenditure is reported within the Houses budgets and relates to electricity for the staff quarters. Within budget YTD.

Office Premises	The usual expenses for electricity, rubbish removal, cleaning, and security expenses are reported. A minor plumbing expense was also incurred. Within budget YTD.
Office Equipment	The usual expenses relating to the phone system and eftpos leases are reported. An extension lead and brochure stand were also purchased within the period. Within budget YTD.
Communications/ Consumables	Standard communications expenses are reported for the period including phones, broadband, stationery, and photocopying. Computer related expenses included IT services for server issues, a new 1 TB SDD was purchased for backups, IMS payroll licence, Tumonz upgrade, and Survey Monkey subscription. The Communications area is overspent by \$114 YTD and this is due to increased computer related expenditure and will reduce over the coming months.
General	Minor expenses are reported for bank fees and morning teas. Within budget YTD.
General Equipment	Maintenance expenses include repairs to the John Deere tractor and a boat aerial, and re-certification of an inflatable life jacket. Maritime expenses included Coastguard membership and a Launch Operator medical. Boat and field equipment fuel expenses are also reported. Within budget YTD.
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the period included insurance for one new vehicle, two vehicle services, one WoF, six registrations, and a wheel alignment including a puncture repair. Within budget YTD.

Cash Position: \$1,241,189 (includes \$80,877 for asset replacement reserve and \$461,251 for Waikaremoana Fund) as at 31 December 2019.

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$240,106 as at 31 December 2019 (\$239,808 as at 31 December 2018).

Eastern Region Fish and Game - Debtors Balance Comparison 2018/19-2019/20



The total debtors outstanding as at 31 December is made up primarily of agent licence sales (\$235,858) and Hatchery revenue (\$4,163). All debtor accounts are current.

Fixed Assets

The following fixed assets were purchased within the period:

Date	Assets Purchased	Assets Sold
25 Nov 2019	3 x Acer Computers, 2 x Monitors	
6 Dec 2019	2019 Mazda Bounty DC	2016 Mazda Bounty DC to be sold

Profit and Loss - Council

Eastern Fish and Game Council - For the 2 months ended 31 December 2019

Income	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Total Budget	Variance YTD	Var YTD %
Licence Income	117,002	136,249	779,890	800,000	1,406,676	(20,110)	-3%
Non-Resident Licence Levy Revenue	4,316	7,039	16,670	17,000	44,634	(330)	-2%
Other Income	27,221	15,187	96,087	78,675	192,704	17,412	22%
Total Income	148,538	158,475	892,647	895,675	1,644,014	(3,028)	0%
Operating Expenses							
Depreciation	6,009	6,245	24,147	24,732	74,203	(585)	-2%
1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT							
1110 Population Monitoring	965	2,895	3,985	4,300	53,500	(315)	-7%
1120 Harvest Assessment	0	0	121	200	2,400	(80)	-40%
1140 Hatchery Operations	2,091	1,301	47,292	47,605	81,450	(313)	-1%
1180 Game Bird Control	0	0	0	100	500	(100)	-100%
Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT	3,056	4,196	51,398	52,205	137,850	(807)	-2%
1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT							
1210 Resource Management Act	0	0	0	0	200	0	0%
1220 Works & Management	2,954	605	4,810	5,900	21,000	(1,090)	-18%
1230 Assisted Habitat	0	0	331	600	13,050	(269)	-45%
Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION	2,954	605	5,141	6,500	34,250	(1,359)	-21%
1300 PARTICIPATION							
1310 Access	615	682	1,932	2,850	7,200	(918)	-32%
1330 Newsletters	0	0	5,674	6,000	8,500	(326)	-5%
1340 Other Publications	0	160	160	0	2,000	160	0%
1350 Training	66	0	162	0	800	162	0%
1370 Huts	175	154	512	300	1,450	212	71%
Total 1300 PARTICIPATION	856	996	8,440	9,150	19,950	(710)	-8%
1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE							
1420 Communication	0	0	0	0	500	0	0%
1440 Public Promotions	0	449	449	500	4,500	(51)	-10%
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education	242	36	350	550	2,000	(200)	-36%
Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE	242	485	799	1,050	7,000	(251)	-24%
1500 COMPLIANCE							
1510 Ranging	57	57	245	500	1,500	(255)	-51%
1520 Ranger Training	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	0%
1530 Compliance	0	400	931	1,600	5,000	(669)	-42%
Total 1500 COMPLIANCE	57	457	1,176	2,100	7,500	(924)	-44%
1600 LICENSING							
1610 Licence Prod/Distrib	0	0	13	0	700	13	0%
1630 Commission	4,304	5,323	30,917	36,000	63,300	(5,083)	-14%
Total 1600 LICENSING	4,304	5,323	30,930	36,000	64,000	(5,070)	-14%
1700 COUNCIL							
1720 Council Meetings	0	264	962	3,300	9,000	(2,338)	-71%
Total 1700 COUNCIL	0	264	962	3,300	9,000	(2,338)	-71%
1800 PLANNING/REPORTING							
1830 Reporting/Audit	0	8,185	6,040	6,040	9,185	0	0%
1840 National Liaison	0	0	53,888	53,882	215,506	6	0%
Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING	0	8,185	59,928	59,922	224,691	6	0%
1900 ADMINISTRATION							
1910 Salaries	71,518	72,858	285,454	282,072	916,732	3,382	1%
1920 Staff Expenses	209	1,33	2,086	2000	23,900	86	4%
1930 Staff Houses	29	18	3,874	4,035	14,675	(161)	-4%
1940 Office Premises	1,202	537	8,044	8,476	20,570	(432)	-5%
1950 Office Equipment	193	136	642	668	3,600	(26)	-4%
1960 Communications/Consumables	2,615	1,097	7,813	7,699	17,750	114	1%
1970 General	124	90	8,554	9,140	10,598	(586)	-6%
1980 General Equipment	979	370	4,986	5,900	16,200	(914)	-15%
1990 Vehicles	3,403	3,353	18,016	19,400	46,000	(1,384)	-7%
Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION	80,271	78,591	339,468	339,390	1,070,025	(78)	0%
Total Operating Expenses	97,749	105,346	522,390	534,349	1,648,469	(11,959)	-2%
Net Profit	50,790	53,129	370,257	361,326	(4,455)	8,931	2%

15.5 LICENCE SALES REPORT

Ref: 6.01.05

30 January 2020

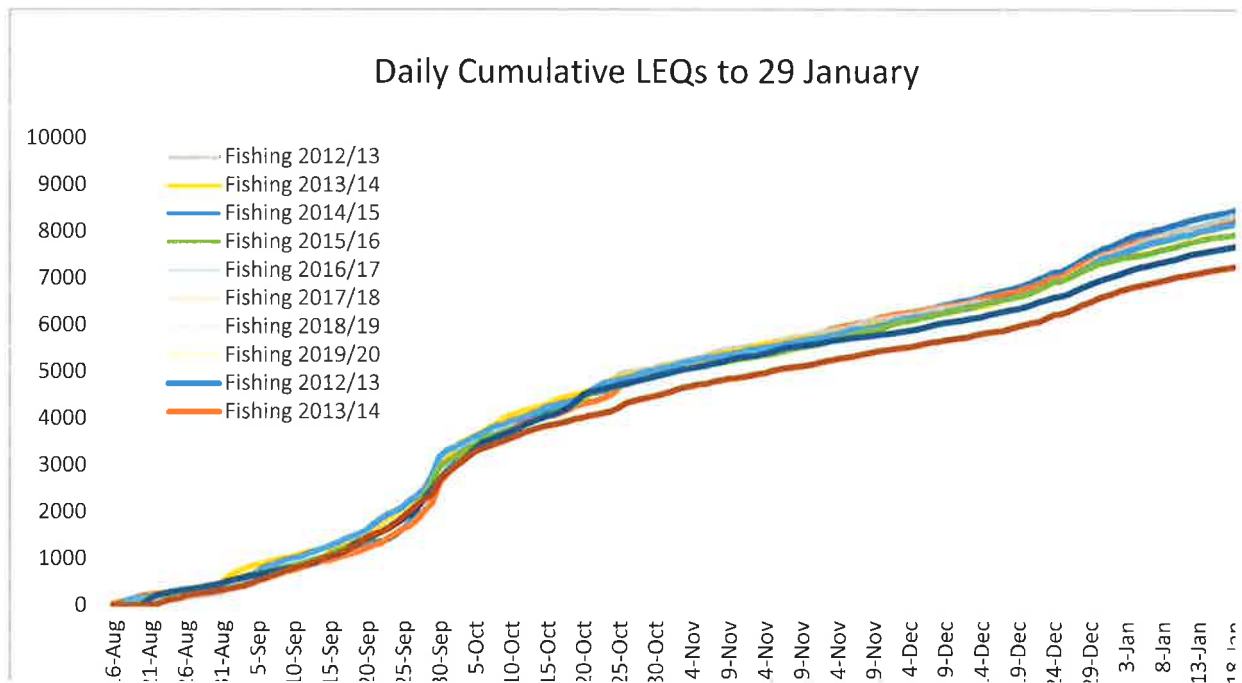
1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of licence sales for the 2019-2020 licensing season YTD to 29 January 2020.

2. 2019-2020 Fish Licence Sales

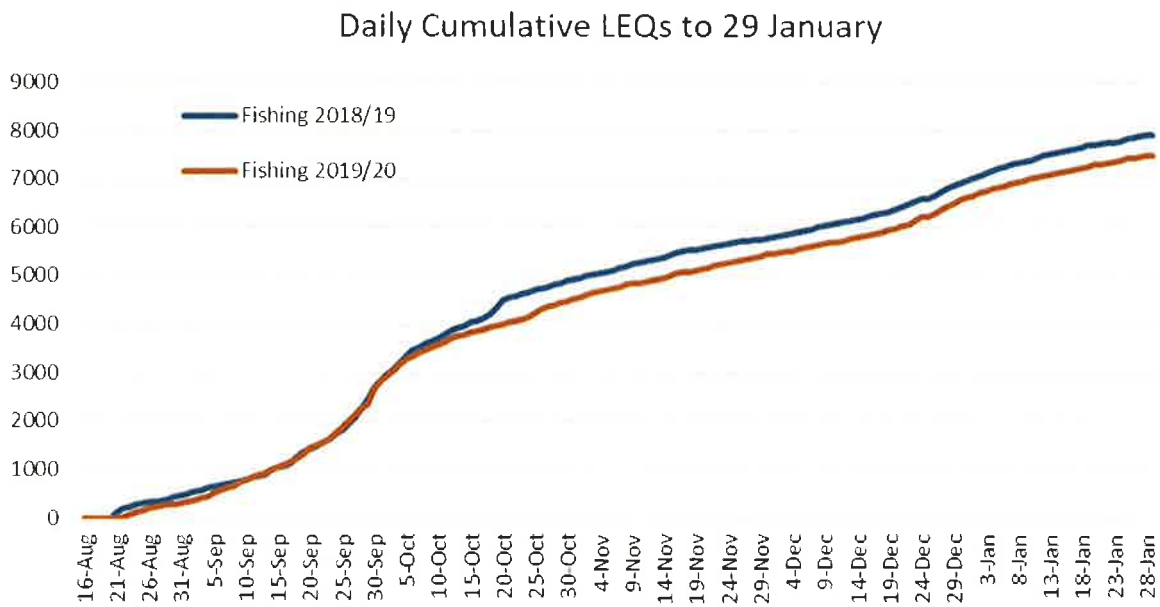
- 2.1 Fish Licence sales for the 2019-20 season comparison against the 2018-19 season are summarised in *Table Two* (see last page).
- 2.2 The 2019-20 fish licence LEQs YTD are 5.5% behind the 2018-19 season results for the same period. 76% of the annual sales target has been achieved for the season to 29 January 2020.
- 2.3 Nationally at the same date, YTD fish licence sales are reporting to be 2.9% below sales reported for the same period in the 2018-19 season.
- 2.4 Daily cumulative LEQs are shown **Graph 1**. Total LEQs as at 29 January for 2019/20 season were 434 below those recorded for the same period in the 2018/19 season. This represents a further small decline in sales since the December report which recorded LEQs at 397 less than the season before.

Graph 1



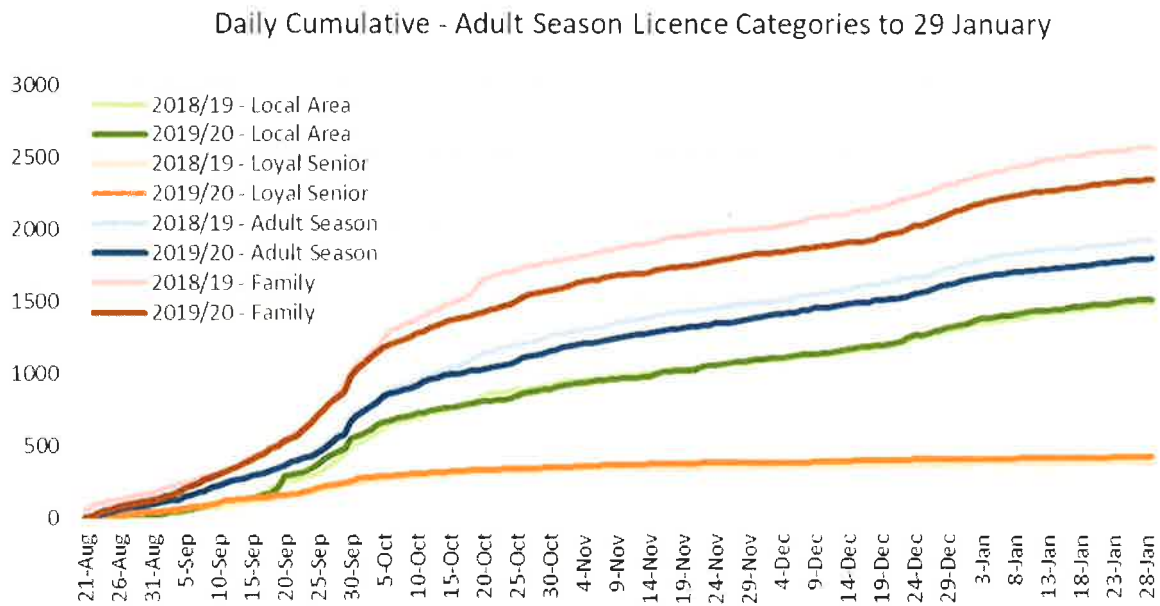
- 2.5 Licence sales have remained steady over the holiday break, and while there is a small decline of 37 LEQs the notable decline this season appears to have occurred in October. **Graph 2** shows a clearer picture of daily Cumulative LEQs for 2018-19 and 2019-20 seasons YTD.

Graph 2



2.6 The Family category sales variance has improved slightly since the last report to 227 down on 2018-19 results YTD (previously 256). Whole Season licence sales have declined slightly further since the December report to 128 licences down on 2018-19 results YTD (previously 109). The Local Area category was reporting at two down on the prior season, but this category is now 19 sales ahead of last season YTD (ref **Graph 3**).

Graph 3

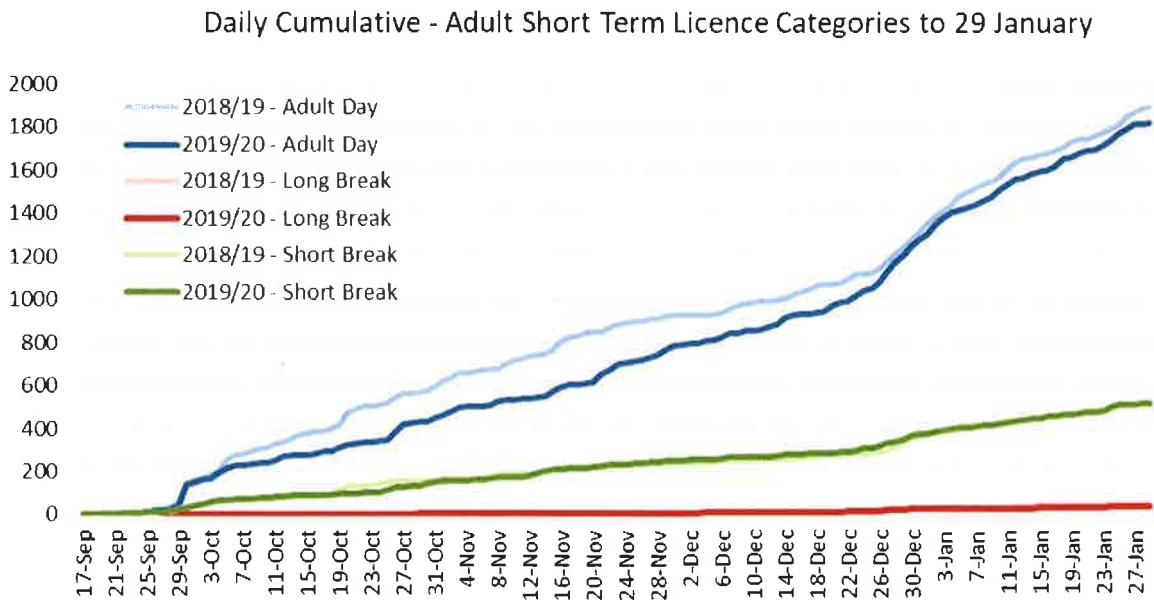


2.7 The Loyal Senior category continues to remain constant with another small increase seen this season YTD (total increase 43). This may be due to more of our loyal customers moving into the eligible age bracket for this licence type or could it be that

we are seeing the effect of retaining customers due to the need to repurchase annually to remain eligible for the Loyal Senior category (refer **Graph 3**).

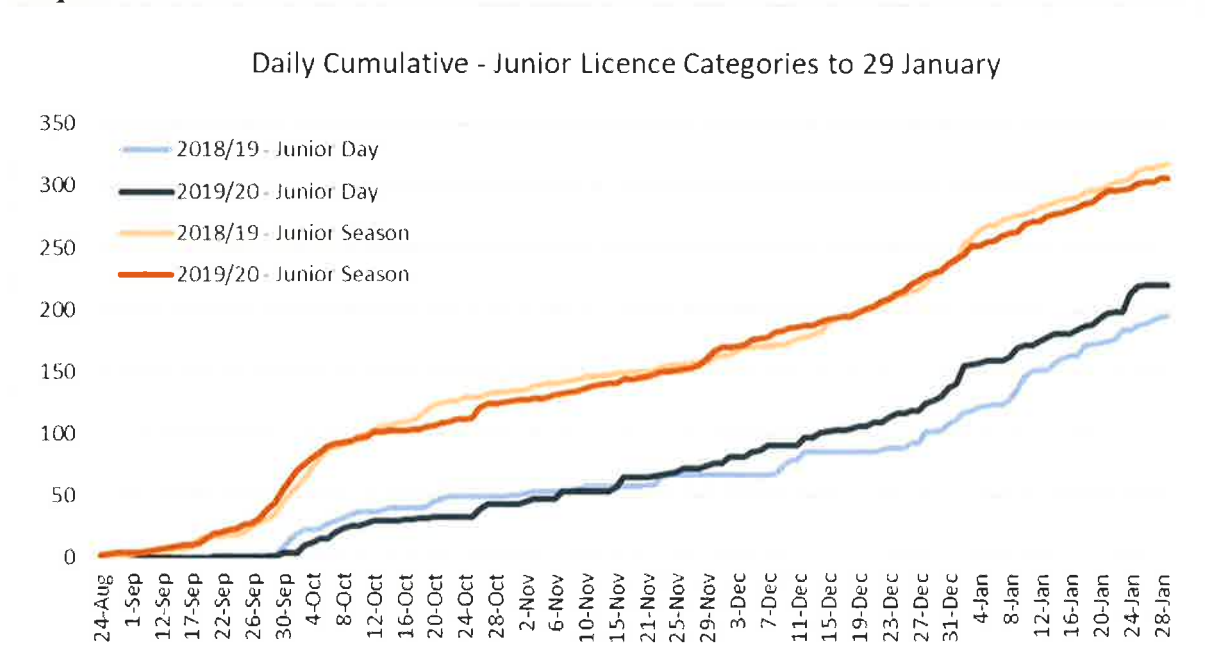
2.8 The Short Break sales are currently level with those reported for the same period of the 2018/19 Season and Long Break sales are now nine below last season. Day licences on the other hand have picked up with the variance moving to 74 below results for the 2018/19 season YTD from the 185 which was reported in December (refer **Graph 4**). The increase in day licence sales could be attributed to fewer Season type licence sales occurring when compared to last season.

Graph 4



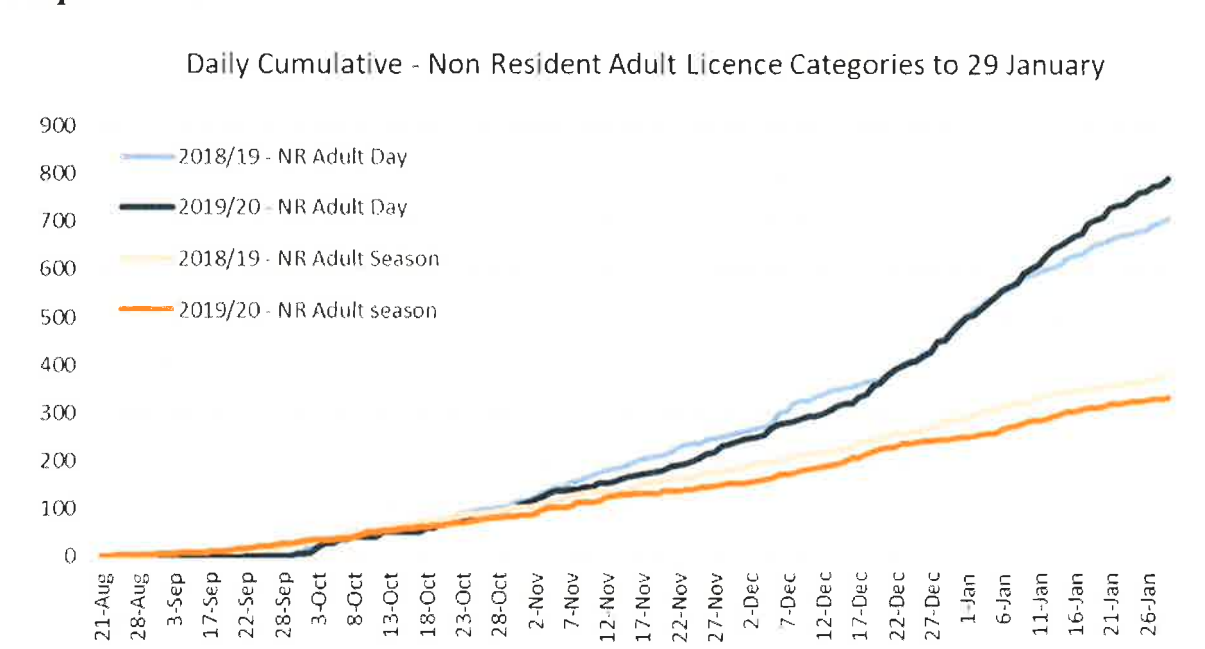
2.10 Junior Day licence sales are ahead of the 2018/19 Season YTD by 25 licences whereas the Season category is showing a decline of 11 licences (refer **Graph 5**).

Graph 5



2.11 The Adult Non-Resident Season categories have declined slightly further since the December report to 46 sales below 2018/19 YTD results (previously 32). The Day category however has seen some improvement and sales of this category are reporting to be 83 licences ahead of the 2018/19 result YTD, an improvement of 115 licences since the last report (refer **Graph 6**).

Graph 6



2.11 **Graphs 7 & Table One** provide an overview of LEQs YTD based on licence holder residence.

Graph 7

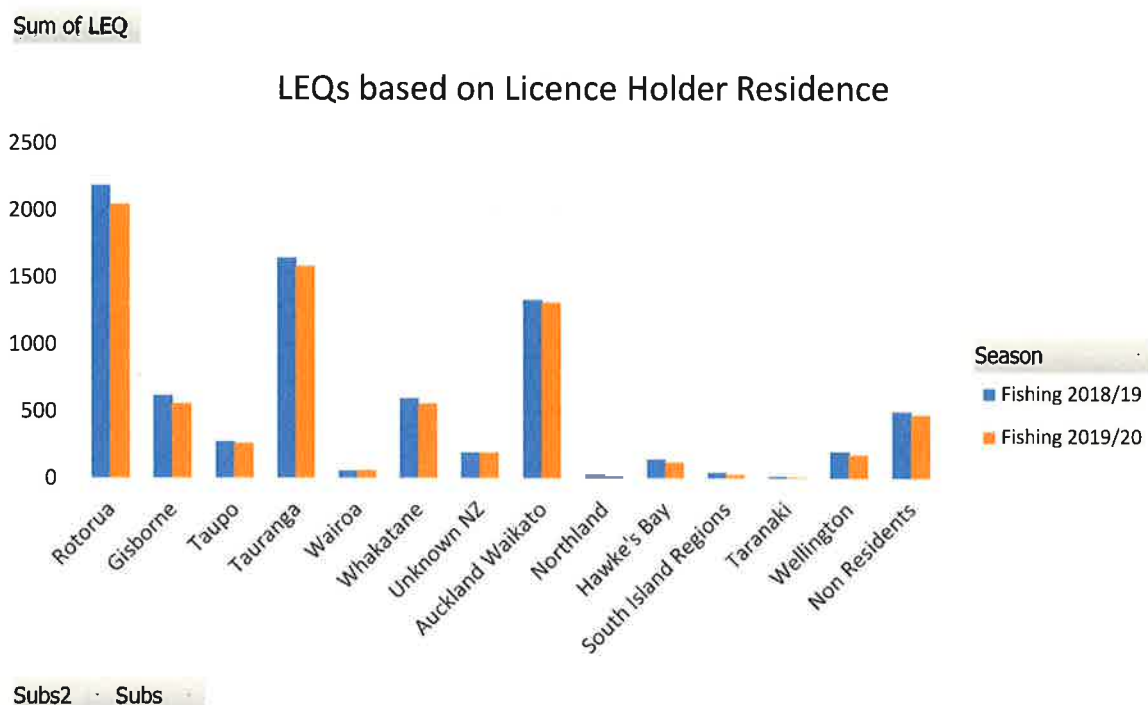


Table One

Region	LEQs 2018/19	LEQs 2019/20	Variance	%
Rotorua	2,195	2,053	-142	-6.5%
Gisborne	625	566	-59	-9.5%
Taupo	280	271	-9	-3.3%
Tauranga	1,650	1,591	-59	-3.6%
Wairoa	63	66	2	3.7%
Whakatane	602	564	-38	-6.3%
Unknown NZ	201	200	-1	-0.4%
Auckland Waikato	1,340	1,319	-22	-1.6%
Northland	44	28	-15	-35.2%
Hawke's Bay	151	129	-22	-14.6%
South Island Regions	50	37	-13	-26.6%
Taranaki	21	13	-8	-37.1%
Wellington	207	183	-24	-11.7%
Non-Residents	504	480	-24	-4.7%
Total	7,934	75,00	-434	-5.5%

3. Staff Response to Reduction in Licence Sales Observed

On 18 December 2019, an email promotion was sent to 3,497 Eastern Region 2018-19 licence holders who had not yet purchased a licence for the current season, or not in this region. Details around this and the outcome of the promotion are provided in the Management Report included in this agenda (see page 59).

Table Two

Fish Licence Sales 2019/20 vs 2018/19 Seasons YTD to 29 January 2020

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWC	FWNC	FDNC	Total Fish
Agency Online	1415	1056	197	226	1017	0	20	273	858	368	197	9	97	12	0	5	12	5,762
Public Online	1152	878	184	153	469	0	32	249	1033	339	121	12	99	7	0	10	7	4,745
Eyede Call Centre	14	4	0	12	7	0	0	0	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	47
Total YTD 2018-19	2581	1938	381	391	1493	0	52	522	1899	708	319	21	196	19	0	15	19	10,554
Agency Online	1298	993	161	261	1024	0	17	233	713	410	178	23	100	21	0	10	14	5,456
Public Online	1040	811	172	166	484	0	26	281	1106	381	130	9	121	14	0	8	6	4,755
Eyede Call Centre	16	6	2	7	4	0	0	8	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49
Total YTD 2019-20	2354	1810	335	434	1512	0	43	522	1825	791	308	32	221	35	0	18	20	10,260

Summary LEQs YTD to 29 January 2020 (Whole Season Licence Equivalent)

Season	Fish LEQ	Fish Var	Fish \$	Inc/Dec
Total YTD 2018-2019	7,934		\$896,871	
Total YTD 2019-2020	7,500	-5.5%	\$867,433	-\$29,438

2019-20 Summary YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2019-20 Annual Budgeted FISH LEQs	9,866	100.0%	\$1,141,024
2019-20 YTD Actual	7,500	76.6%	\$867,433
Remaining to meet budget	-2,366	-24.0%	-\$273,591

Estimate of Complete Season 2019-20 vs Total Budget 2019-20

2019-20 Budgeted FISH LEQs	9,866	100.0%	\$1,141,024
2018-19 Complete Season FISH LEQs	9,894		\$1,118,452
2019-20 Est. year end based on YTD variance	9,353	94.8%	\$1,081,742
Est Shortfall/Surplus 2018-19 Season vs Budget	-513	-5.2%	-\$59,282

Resident Licence Categories

FWF – Family Season, FWA – Adult Season, FLSA – Loyal Senior Season, FLAA – Local Area Season, FWIA – Adult Winter Season, FLBA – Adult Long Break, FSBA – Adult Short Break, FDA – Adult Day, FWJ – Junior Season, FDJ – Junior Day, FWC – Child Season

Non-Resident Licence Categories

FWNA – Adult Season, FDNA – Adult Day, FWNJ – Junior Season, FDNJ – Junior Day, FWNC – Child Season, FDNC – Child Day