



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

10 February 2022

AGENDA

The 194th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

Venue: Online Zoom Meeting
Date: Thursday, 10 February 2022
Commences: 12.00 PM

			<u>Page Number</u>
1	Welcome (12.00 PM)		
2	Apologies	(R)	
3	Minutes of the Previous Meeting (9 December 2021)	(R)	1
4	Identification of Items for Council Policy		
5	Matters Arising		
6	Notification of Items for General Business		
7	Conflict of Interest Register		12
8	Operational Reports (12.15 PM, 15 mins)		
	8.1 Health and Safety Report	(R)	14
	8.2 Finance Report	(R)	17
	8.3 Management Report	(I)	28
	8.4 Licence Sales Report	(I)	37
9	Goals and Priorities for the 2022-23 OWP (12.30 PM, 20 min)	(D)	38
10	Anglers Notice Review (12.50 PM, 10 min)	(R)	52
11	Progress Report on Recruitment of CEO (1.00 PM, 5 mins)	(I)	59
12	Liaison Officers Report (1.05 PM, 5 min)	(I)	60
13	General Business (1.10 PM, 20 min)		61
14	Meeting Closes (1.30 PM)		

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

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 193rd MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH
AND GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME
NEW ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 9th DECEMBER 2021 AT 12.00PM**

Present

Crs Ngahi Bidois, Murray Ferris, Debbie Oakley, Ken Coombes, Geoff Thomas, Lindsay Lyons, Scott Nicol, Mike Jarvie, Kevin Coutts, Jay Tapsell, and Mark Sceats.

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, Matthew McDougall, Mark Sherburn, Eden Mutton, Nerida Evans (Eastern Fish & Game); Carmel Veitch (New Zealand Fish & Game); Barry Roderick.

1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA

1.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois (Chairman) opened the meeting at 12.10pm with a karakia and welcomed councillors, staff, and Barry Roderick.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 An apology was received from Cr Alan Simmons with a request that it be put on record that he had been excluded from this meeting due to vaccine passport requirements under traffic light "Red" being imposed. Cr Ngahi Bidois acknowledged and thanked Alan for not attending on this occasion and reducing the risks to all others in attendance.

2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Geoff Thomas) that the apologies for the 193rd meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [21/12/2.2]*

3.0 Andy Garrick provided a brief overview of the contents of the Governance Manual and updates which had been provided to each Councillor.

4.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (11 NOVEMBER 2021)

4.1 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Mike Jarvie) that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [21/12/4.1]*

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 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2021.

7.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Cr Mark Sceats - NZ Hunter magazine article
- Cr Mark Sceats - NZFGC re firearms licences
- Cr Mark Sceats - Auckland/Waikato Facebook page

8.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

8.1 Councillors were asked to inform the chair of any conflicts of interest. No conflicts of interest were recorded.

9.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

- 9.1 Andy Garrick provided an overview of Health and Safety related activities. Cr Ngahi Bidois queried whether there was a defibrillator on site. Andy Garrick advised that we had made some enquiries regarding funding a defibrillator previously and we could revisit that. Cr Ken Coombes queried who was ultimately responsible for Health and Safety matters and Andy advised that as Manager and “Officer” for the PCBU (which is what Eastern Fish & Game is, i.e. a “Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking”) he was personally responsible and could be prosecuted for such. Cr Kevin Coutts queried then the need to review at Council level? Cr Ngahi Bidois responded by noting that Council had a duty of care for Health and Safety matters.
- 9.2 ***Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that Council receives the Health and Safety, Management, and Licence Sales reports. [21/12/9.2]***
- 9.3 Cr Debbie Oakley questioned whether a planned review of income had taken place to enable a decision to be made on retaining or returning the Government wage subsidy which had been applied for and received in August. Carmel Veitch advised that she will be undertaking the review for all regions which had received the subsidy and would be informing managers of the outcome of this at their next meeting. Cr Ngahi Bidois suggested that this was a management decision that should be left with the manager, Andy Garrick.
- 9.4 Debbie queried the high cost of the Waikaremoana hut electricity bill considering there was currently no access to Waikaremoana. Kate Thompson informed Council that line charges made up the major part of the power costs for the hut due largely to its remoteness. Andy Garrick noted that although the lake was closed for fishing, staff had recently been undertaking access work and other activities in areas which were not affected by the closure and had stayed at the hut as had another party. Debbie had one further query regarding PAYE which Kate advised that she would clarify for Debbie after the meeting.
- 9.5 ***Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Ken Coombes) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for September and October 2021 totalling \$252,891.93. [21/12/9.5]***
- 9.6 ***Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Ken Coombes) that Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance and Cash flow for the 2021-2022 financial year. [21/12/9.6]***
- 9.7 Cr Mark Sceats requested an update on the lake closure at Waikaremoana. Andy Garrick advised that this was a political issue which was currently sitting with the Minister, the Department of Conservation, and the Tuhoe Board, and his latest understanding was that the lake would remain closed until January.
- 9.8 Cr Geoff Thomas requested an update on whether the end of year smelt monitoring programme on Tarawera had been undertaken. Andy advised that the transects had been surveyed last week but it would be some time before they were properly analysed.
- 9.9 Kate Thompson commented on recent licence sales and looked forward with interest to summer sales performance once Aucklanders were able to travel out of their region when covid restrictions were eased next week. She said that although we were down slightly on last year’s results for the same period, we were also working to a reduced budget so there was no need to be overly concerned at this point in time.

10.0 2022 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

- 10.1 Andy Garrick advised that this agenda item followed on from where Council had got to in its November meeting, and that Matthew McDougall had added more background to the proposed recommendations.
- 10.2 Cr Ken Coombes raised concern over the proposed black swan season for 25-26 March 2023 as he felt that this was too close to the duck breeding season for the region, and suggested that the proposed special swan season be limited to the Tauranga harbour or east of the Kaimai Ranges to prevent disturbance to ducks in other areas.
- 10.3 Cr Kevin Coutts questioned whether the limit on pukekos could be lifted? Matt McDougall was not averse to this but advised that hunters tend not to shoot many and increasing the limit would be very unlikely to increase harvest.
- 10.4 Cr Lindsay Lyons asked whether we could promote hunting of Canada geese to Federated Farmers? Matt McDougall reminded Lindsay of a prior Council policy that staff have nothing to do with Canada geese following their removal from the game bird schedule.
- 10.5 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Mike Jarvie) that Council supports there being a special black swan season in Management Area A1 for 25 February – 5 March 2023 (i.e. one week and two weekends). [21/12/10.5]***
- 10.6 *Agreed (Geoff Thomas/Scott Nicol) that Council supports there being a special black swan season in the Tauranga harbour for 25–26 March 2023. [21/12/10.6]***
- 10.7 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Debbie Oakley) that Council supports there being a special pukeko season 25 February – 5 March 2023 (i.e. one week and two weekends). [21/12/10.7]***
- 10.8 *Agreed (Kevin Coutts/Jay Tapsell) that the season for brown quail in the Eastern Region remains closed for the 2022 season. [21/12/10.8]***
- 10.9 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Ken Coombes) that Council notes the exclusion of the Pirini Family Trust upland game property from the 2022 Game Gazette Notice. [21/12/10.9]***
- 10.10 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Debbie Oakley) that the restrictive conditions for mallard and grey duck be a daily limit of six mallard and grey duck for the period extending from the first Saturday in May until the end of Queens Birthday Weekend (6 June 2022). [21/12/10.10]***
- 10.11 *Agreed (Scott Nicol/Ken Coombes) that the ballot rules for the Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve (and possibly the Awaiti WMR) allow hunting of pukeko for the first eight weeks of the game bird season. [21/12/10.11]***
- 10.12 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Jay Tapsell) that reference to bob white quail is removed from the 2022 Game Gazette Notice. [21/12/10.12]***
- 11.0 Cr Ngahi Bidois welcomed member of public Julian Hughes to the meeting at 12.30 pm informing Council that Julian wished to comment on the agenda item relating to opening dates for lakes Rotoiti, Okataina and Tarawera.

12.0 TAKE A MATE HUNTING

- 12.1 Andy Garrick provided a summary of the uptake of the 'Take a Mate Hunting' concessionary licences which were available within the Eastern Region last year. Six licences were issued in total and he noted that there was mixed feedback on how many of those participants might take up duck hunting in the future.
- 12.2 The lack of uptake of this campaign sparked a discussion about promotion of such incentives. Cr Mike Jarvie felt that the organisation was very poor on promotion and

suggested that Fish & Game needed to look at opportunities through not only paper media but radio and television also. Cr Geoff Thomas suggested a simple poster in sports shops had potential to get the message out there. Andy Garrick commented that a range of media has been used previously and unfortunately retail licence agents tended not to want any additional advertising clogging up their shop frontage. He said it was clear we need to use a range of media to capture all age groups given that readership of traditional news media was falling off – but still important for some of our constituents - in favour of social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram. Cr Debbie Oakley informed Council that a working group had been established at the recent New Zealand Council meeting to engage a PR company. Cr Ngahi Bidois queried Debbie on progress on the R3 programme and provided a brief overview of the programme for new Council members. Debbie advised that unfortunately the R3 programme had not been a topic of discussion in recent meetings with the review currently taking top priority.

12.3 Cr Scott Nicol pointed out that Facebook was not used by the younger generation.

13.0 TAGGED TROUT EVENT

- 13.1 Andy Garrick provided new Councillors with some background to the Tagged Trout promotion which had run for five years from 2015 to 2019. He highlighted the issues in obtaining sponsorship of a major prize after the first year, which had been underwritten, following underwriters no longer providing insurance cover for these types of events, and informed Council that in the years following the major prize was kindly sponsored by private individuals including two of our Councillors. While the promotion had provided a great opportunity for existing licence holders and added value for them there hadn't been great buy in from new participants which was its fundamental aim. The return on investment was marginal with income from new licence holders barely if indeed covering costs. He said there had been discussion around running the promotion later in the season as the opening of the fishing season had not proven to be successful in attracting new participants and there may be a more optimal time of year to do this (February/March 2022 having been proposed in this year's OWP).
- 13.2 Cr Kevin Coutts questioned whether it was Fish & Game's role to run this type of promotion and whether competitions such as this should better be undertaken by outside organisations as had been done in the past. Cr Murray Ferris advised that it was not run as a competition, more of a promotion to encourage participation.
- 13.3 Cr Geoff Thomas queried the actual number of prizes drawn from the competition tag returns? Mark Sherburn advised that returns ranged from 1-3 tags per promotion. Geoff wondered whether this created a lot of work for staff for very little benefit.
- 13.4 Cr Mark Sceats suggested that all tags (i.e. including growth and condition monitoring tags) returned be eligible for a prize draw. It was pointed out that all datawatch tag returns currently do go into an annual draw for a free season licence (which more recently has received sponsorship).
- 13.5 Cr Lindsay Lyons commented on the buzz that the event created on opening and for those who had caught tags. He had attended the opening of the prize envelopes and witnessed the excitement of the successful anglers and felt very strongly that it was a worthwhile promotion.
- 13.6 There was some discussion around types of prizes that could be offered and whether they needed to be significant to be successful in attracting new participants. Cr Debbie Oakley pointed out that there is not only the cost of prizes and promotion but also the

cost of staff time, and questioned whether this could be better utilised. While some felt that it was worth proceeding with the promotion and trialling it at a later date as had been suggested (e.g. 29 January to 7 February 2022), others were not convinced that the return warranted the effort required.

13.7 *Agreed (Scott Nicol/Geoff Thomas) that Council supports the option of utilising funds from its current Operational Work Plan to put towards a tagged fish event from 29 January to 7 February 2022 conditional upon gaining suitable prize sponsorship in the coming weeks. Carried 8/3. [21/12/13.7]*

14.0 OPENING DAY FOR THE FISHING SEASON

14.1 Cr Lindsay Lyons raised a point of order regarding this agenda item and the proposed review of the opening date for the boat fishing season on lakes Tarawera, Okataina and Rotoiti that had been scheduled at Council's last meeting (11 November 2021). Lindsay advised that this Council was addressing a prior Council recommendation and therefore required a signed letter from one third of the members of the old Council ten working days prior to the meeting to revoke or alter the motion as per standing order 3.9.3. Andy Garrick pointed out that the formal Anglers Notice review was scheduled to commence in February 2022 and that support had been registered at Council's 11 November meeting to bring consideration of this particular item brought forward to enable earlier discussion and a review of the results of a licence holders' survey that was about to be undertaken then in relation to the opening date. There was further discussion as to whether the item needed to be held over for the February meeting, at which point Andy informed Council of its ability to temporarily suspend standing orders - which could be applied to 3.9.3 under standing order 3.8.13 which would enable this discussion to take place at this meeting if Council wished to do so.

14.2 *Agreed (Scott Nicol/Mike Jarvie) that Council temporarily suspends standing order 3.9.3 "Requirement to give notice of motion for revocation or alteration of a resolution" to enable Council to discuss and vote on the recommendation to review and either reconfirm or revise its position on the anglers notice regulation relating to the opening date for the boat fishing season on lakes Tarawera, Okataina and Rotoiti. Carried 8/2, 1 abstained. [21/12/14.2]*

14.3 Cr Ngahi Bidois, as Chair, provided each Councillor with the opportunity to express their views on the matter and feedback from Councillors included the following:

- As a duck shooter, where everyone looks forward to the first Saturday in May, would have thought that the first Saturday in October would be more favourable.
- Tradition for angling is 1st of October, does not enjoy fishing on Saturdays in school holidays with increased use of lakes for watersports, jet skis etc.
- Previous Council had tried to simplify regulations, this has introduced a complication, would like to see returned to 1st of October.
- Return to the 1st of October, it is what anglers want, has not heard a positive response to first Saturday. Lots of anglers didn't fish opening this year because it was a Saturday.
- No angling experience, but need to listen to the people, the 1st of October is the tradition.
- No strong opinion either way, survey indicated people want it to go back to the 1st of October.
- Was changed to the 1st way back to align with the rest of the country. Need to put survey into the context of no Aucklanders being able to participate in the

opening due to Covid restrictions. To change again will only confuse, all he had spoken to, primarily out of towners, wanted first Saturday.

- Those that wish to fish opening will take the time off. Simplify regulations, consider impacts on management and staff resources. Carparks already overloaded, supposed to be a tranquil sport. It's the weather not day of the week that dictates numbers. Results of survey gives a good indication. Speaking with anglers for 2 months since opening and 100% were against the change. Dedicated anglers will be there regardless, return to 1st of October.
- Run for a trial period, it's not set in stone and can be altered in future. Next year 1st of October falls on a Saturday anyway.
- Eastern used to be the number one in the country for licence sales. Challenge is to increase licence sales - this is an honest attempt by Council to do so.
- Council made the decision to change it on good grounds, made for the right reasons, next year falls on a Saturday anyway and there'll be opportunity for some more robust information gathering next year.

Julian Hughes added that it was interesting to hear the various comments/views and reminded Council that in 2023 anglers would be waiting until the 7th of October for the lakes to open.

14.4 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Mike Jarvie) that Council revises its position on the anglers notice regulation relating to the opening date for the boat fishing season on lakes Tarawera, Okataina and Rotoiti and reinstates the prior regulation to open these three lakes on 1st October. Not carried, initially 5 in favour, 5 against and 1 abstention, after which Chair had casting vote which elevated the vote to 6 against. [21/12/14.4]*

14.5 Cr Ngahi Bidois confirmed the status quo remains for the next season.

15.0 GOVERNANCE EXERCISE

15.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois briefly reminded Council of the exercise they had undertaken at the November meeting where Councillors were asked to indicate their particular strengths, knowledge and expertise over a range of areas. He felt that the exercise was more relevant now in light of receiving manager Andy Garrick's resignation. Ngahi overviewed the process to appoint a replacement manager and advised that the process would be inclusive and provide opportunity for all members to be present for interviews.

15.2 Ngahi asked Council to provide their ranking of what they felt was of more importance from the following categories; Organisational knowledge, Experience, Leadership competence, and Personal attributes while acknowledging that all are of importance.

16.0 FINANCIAL PROCESSES (PRESENTATION BY CARMEL VEITCH & KATE THOMPSON)

16.1 Due to time constraints this item was deferred for a later meeting.

17.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

17.1 Report from the New Zealand Council

Cr Debbie Oakley reported on the following from the most recent New Zealand Council meeting.

- Reviewing current budgeting process and more particularly grants and levies system. Is there a better way to do it?

- Statutory advocacy is demanding a lot of time at NZC level due to the Labour Government pushing through a large number of changes. Fish & Game needing to be reactively involved.
- Carbon credits and Government encouraging planting of pines and natives – NZC of view that pines are not good for our rivers and streams as natives in terms of nutrient discharge and slash and sediment issues.
- A communications workshop team has been put together and will go out with recommendations via NZC to regions. This will provide a national perspective and will include use of social media.
- Concept of a disability licence being created will be going out to the regions for consultation after a complaint that Fish & Game was discriminating against the disabled due to some not being able to utilise access tracks for fishing but still having to pay full licence fees.
- At NZC's February meeting strategic planning and three year budgets will be discussed. A joint meeting with Regional Chairs is also planned.

Debbie also discussed the regional structure review process underway and advised that feedback from this Council on the progress report circulated to Councillors a few days ago is needed prior to NZC's February meeting. She advised that Council needed to consider not only the proposed regional mergers but also the boundary changes that had been suggested, and asked whether Andy Garrick and staff had a view of what they consider would be appropriate. Andy advised that the review team's progress report that we had just received had included a wide range of merger options along with potential boundary adjustments, and his view was that before taking this any further, a consensus and decisions were required on what criteria should be used to evaluate the various options.

The Chair asked Councillors to indicate their level of support for each of the options involving Eastern Fish & Game. Councillors could vote on each of the following scenarios:

Eastern remains independent	11 of 11 Councillors indicated they would support this
Eastern - Hawke's Bay merger	4 Councillors would support this
Eastern - Auckland/Waikato merger	No support was registered for this
Lose area the Waikato River south of Mihi	No support was registered for this

Cr Geoff Thomas was keen to hear management's thoughts but the Chair dismissed this on the basis that separate feedback was required from both Council and management. Cr Debbie Oakley would summarise Council feedback for the review panel.

18.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 18.1 Cr Mark Sceats clarified an issue which had been raised at the November meeting regarding the Minister of Conservation's visit to Ngamatea Station, and advised that this was an event which had been run for a number of years and was open to all parliamentarians and had resulted in a six page Q & A session with the Minister of Conservation which had been published in the NZ Hunter magazine.
- 18.2 Cr Mark Sceats advised that hunters needed to get their firearms licences sorted well before next season due to long processing delays being experienced.

19.0 Prior to Council moving into Public Excluded, Julian Hughes thanked Council for allowing him to sit in and provide comment on the fishing season opening date for lakes Rotoiti, Okataina and Tarawera, and congratulated Ngahi Bidois on his appointment to Chair. Julian left the meeting at 2.45pm.

20.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

20.1 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Mark Sceats) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 2.47 pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely to discuss the manager’s resignation, and the process and schedule for recruiting a successor. [21/12/20.1]*

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

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION
Manager’s letter of resignation and recruitment of a successor.	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii)

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 9 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

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

Note:

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

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

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

20.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Geoff Thomas) that the incumbent Manager, Andy Garrick and minute recorder Kate Thompson remain present for the Public Excluded discussion. [21/12/20.2]*

20.3 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Mark Sceats) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 3.06pm. [21/12/20.3]*

21.0 **MEETING CLOSED**

21.1 The meeting closed at 3.07pm with a closing karakia by Cr Jay Tapsell.

.....
Ngahi Bidois
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Geoff Thomas) that the apologies for the 193rd meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [21/12/2.2]*

4.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (11 NOVEMBER 2021)

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20.3 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Mark Sceats) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 3.06pm. [21/12/20.3]*

7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

25 January 2022

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

Eastern Fish and Game Council has a 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. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

8.1 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

19 January 2022

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 and 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.

November 2021 - January 2022

1. Implementation and Adherence to the Health and Safety Plan

Regular (weekly) staff meetings.

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

Visitors to the office and contractors are required to sign our desk register, and our hazard register is updated as required.

Tail Gate forms completed for:

November 2021	Acoustic monitoring – Lake Tarawera
December 2021	Streams opening - Ranging
January 2022	Reserves - Banding

2021-2022 Budget for Health & Safety \$2,000

2. Monitoring and Reporting

Work Place Accident Register

	31/12/2021
Number of Workplace injuries in 2021-2022 year	0
Number of Workplace injuries in 2020-2021 year	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2019-2020 year	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2018-2019 year	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2017-2018 year	1
Total Number of Workplace injuries since 1 Sept 1995	50
Total Number of lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995	4
Total number of days since last lost work injury	285
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 21/3/21	245
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 19/7/20	1,053
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 31/8/17	1,363
Total number of days since formal register commenced 1/09/95 to first lost work injury on 7/12/13	6,672

3. Risk Management (identification and treatment)

COVID 19

The following procedures remained in place during “Red” traffic light level.

- Property closed to public, additional Covid signage put up in the office.
- If unwell stay at home
- Sanitiser available throughout office for visitor and staff use
- Morning teas and lunch to occur in specified seating in the boardroom

The property reopened to public on 17 January 2022 under “Orange” traffic light level. In addition to above measures the following additional measures were put in place for interaction with members of public visiting the site.

- Face masks to be worn in any buildings on site
- Limit of 2 persons to reception area at one time
- Table placed in front of reception counter to maintain social distancing and sign erected excluding public access from tabled area
- All visitors to use front entrance of administration building
- Digital or manual sign in mandatory, additional sanitiser placed on front table for use by visitors
- Staff to wear masks when interacting with public
- Public to utilise toilets on grounds (not office) and these are to be cleaned by cleaners fortnightly
- Mail to be delivered and collected from back door area of office
- Maintain social distance when interacting with public on the site
- Additional signage reminding all of requirements placed in various locations

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

29 Nov 2021 Sunscreen to be purchased for vehicles, trenches still open by rearing ponds – be mindful of these
5 Dec 2021 No new hazards identified
13 Dec 2021 Trench hazard tape now on ground so no need to step up and over
20 Dec 2021 No new hazards identified
27 Dec 2021 No meeting – skeleton staff
3 Jan 2022 No meeting – skeleton staff
10 Jan 2022 Covid discussion
17 Jan 2021 Trenches for water line still open – clearly identifiable but be mindful

4. Training Programme

Nil

5. H&S Incidents

Nil

6. Recommendation

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

8.2 FINANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.01

21 January 2022

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the end of year financial position and approve payments for the months of November and December 2021.

Tables within this report:

Table 1	Variance Report to 31 December 2021
Table 2	Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021
Table 3	Profit and Loss to 31 December 2021
Table 4	Bank Transactions 1 to 30 November 2021
Table 5	Bank Transactions 1 to 31 December 2021
Table 6	Credit Card Transactions 1 November to 31 December 2021

2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the period ending 31 December is attached (Table 3).

Income

Licence revenue is reporting just below budget (\$2,461) and includes \$16,135 collected for game hunter ballots. A more up to date and detailed picture of licence sales performance YTD can be found within the licence sales report.

Revenue from other sources over the period totalled \$55,995 and was made up of the following: hatchery (\$30,780), fishing competitions (\$857), habitat fees (\$3,304), and rentals (\$10,298). Fines from prosecutions collected through the courts totalled \$337 and funds were also received from diversion processes for expense recovery, and junior education programmes (\$100 and \$350 respectively). Contract income was processed from the Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Council (\$3,206), the New Zealand Fish & Game Council (\$2,160), and Genesis Energy (\$1,959). Flight costs associated with aerial counts of black swan in BOP harbours was recovered from the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, and additional income was also received from mowing, Zon gun hire, and the sale of the old stone letterbox.

Species Management

The Population Monitoring expenditure relates to Datawatch fish tags which are imported from Australia, and maize for the duck banding projects.

Hatchery expenses for the period included costs associated with repairs and painting of hatchery tanks, a small order of fish food, and materials purchased for the emergency water line and O² kits. A small garden shed was purchased to replace the shed at Fort Knox which had been destroyed by a tree fall. The usual expenses associated with fuel, registration, electricity, and oxygen are also reported. The Hatchery operations budgets are overspent YTD \$5,051, due primarily to unbudgeted expenses associated with the hatchery emergency water reticulation works (which are to be funded from the reserve set up for this purpose), and vehicle maintenance expenses which were higher than anticipated for replacement of tyres on the flat deck truck.

The bird scarers (Zon guns) were repaired in November and these costs are reported within the Game Bird Control budget.

Habitat

Works and Management spending for the period related to pest control products for the Awakaponga WMR solar power shed, a replacement padlock for the Kaituna WMR gate, and sprays for weed control. Within budget YTD.

Participation

Within the Participation output, expenses are reported relating to accommodation and meal expenses for Waioeka/Motu/Waikaremoana work. The cost of post-paid envelopes was also allocated to the Hunter Ballot budget. Hut expenses related to electricity and rodent bait. Within budget YTD.

Public Interface

Public Interface spending relates to the bulk email to licence holders to survey the change to the opening date for lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti, and Okataina (\$240), and rodent bait purchased for the hatchery grounds. The small overspend reported against budget will clear over the coming months.

Compliance

The Compliance expenses for the period related to the 0800 Poaching service and cell phone, a small gift for retiring honorary ranger, Wayne Stevens, and legal fees for prosecutions. Within budget YTD.

Licensing

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

Council

Expenses were incurred relating to the purchase of books as gifts for departing Councillors, and catering and travel reimbursement for the November and December meetings. The Council budget is overspent YTD (\$1,705) due primarily to increased travel reimbursement.

Planning

The audit fee was paid in December offsetting the amount accrued for this at year end. Within budget YTD.

Administration

Notes on individual areas:

Salaries	Within budget YTD.
Staff Expenses	Expenses are reported related to first aid training for nine staff (\$1,815). This expense was higher than anticipated due to Waikato staff being unable to attend during lockdown and our need to get it done for boat operator certification. Expenses are also reported for staff clothing, meal expenses, and staff Christmas lunch. Within budget YTD.
Staff Houses	Staff houses spending for the period relates to rodent bait, and cleaning equipment and electricity for the staff quarters. Within budget YTD.
Office Premises	The usual expenses relating to electricity, cleaning, rubbish removal, and alarm monitoring were incurred. Over budget

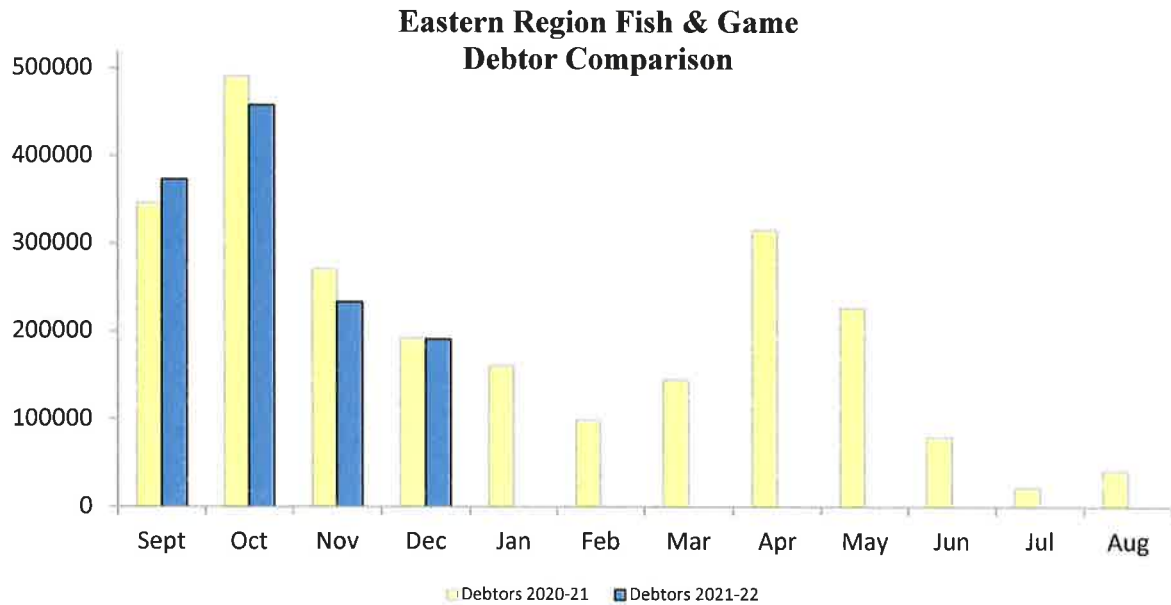
	\$162.
Office Equipment	Minor expenses are reported replacing staff cell phones, and the standard phone and eftpos lease is also reported. With the abrupt shutdown of the Vodafone Sure signal units (i.e. with no prior warning from Vodafone) the only option for cell phone calling within the office following this was WiFi calling through the broadband connection. As most staff cell phones were not WiFi calling-enabled, Vodafone offered an upgrade to nine phones for minimal cost to enable this feature to be used. While coverage is still poor due to our broadband speeds, we are at least receiving calls and able to return calls via the land line. We are also in the process of setting up a “Starlink” satellite connection to improve broadband speeds within the office. Other users within the valley are getting excellent results from this system so we are hopeful that this will improve our communications significantly. Within budget YTD.
Communications/ Consumables	Standard communications expenses are reported for the period including phones, broadband, stationery, and photocopying. Computer expenses were incurred relating to our back up software and antivirus renewal. Within budget YTD.
General	Minor expenses are reported for the Survey Monkey subscription, bank fees and morning teas. Over budget \$907 YTD due to increased insurance costs.
General Equipment	Equipment expenses include a replacement life jacket, a personal locator beacon for reserves and remote ranging, and the purchase of prezzy cards totalling \$150 for three farmers who assisted with the recovery of the reserves’ tractor when it became stuck in the Kaituna WMR. Field equipment and boat fuel expenses are also reported. Within budget YTD.
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the period included scheduled servicing of si vehicles, registration for six, and fuel/RUCs. Within budget YTD.

Cash Position: As at 31 December 2021

\$1,066,000 (includes \$86,785 Asset Replacement Reserve)
\$ 463,784 (Waikaremoana SFHEF – Restricted Reserve)
\$1,529,784 Total

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$190,711 as at 31 December 2021 (\$192,476 as at 31 December 2020).

Eastern Region Fish and Game - Debtors Balance Comparison 2020/21-2021/22



Debtors outstanding as at 31 December relate primarily to licence sales and hatchery income from other Fish & Game regions. All debtors are current.

3. Variance Report (Table 1)

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

2021/2022 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

as at 31 December 2021

Schedule B Code	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	Variance	%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual			
1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 39,450	\$ 11,435	2,150	564	\$ 136,855	\$ 32,096	\$ 8,000	\$ 1,959	\$ 168,305	\$ 41,572	\$ 126,733	24.7	
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,900	\$ 21	793	334	\$ 50,477	\$ 18,979	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,377	\$ 19,000	\$ 34,377	35.6	
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 75,020	\$ 32,371	3,564	1,436	\$ 226,862	\$ 81,721	\$ 56,500	\$ 31,905	\$ 245,362	\$ 82,187	\$ 163,195	33.5	
1160	Releases	\$ -	\$ -	234	59	\$ 14,895	\$ 3,358	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,895	\$ 3,358	\$ 11,537	22.5	
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	133	2	\$ 8,466	\$ 85	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,466	\$ 85	\$ 8,381	1.0	
1180	Control	\$ 500	\$ 568	36	22	\$ 2,292	\$ 1,252	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,792	\$ 1,820	\$ 972	65.2	
	TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT	\$ 117,870	\$ 44,395	6,970	2,416	\$ 439,847	\$ 137,491	\$ 64,500	\$ 33,864	\$ 493,217	\$ 148,022	\$ 345,195	30.0	
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ 200	\$ -	1,412	555	\$ 89,879	\$ 31,584	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 90,079	\$ 31,584	\$ 58,495	35.7	
1220	Works & Management	\$ 18,000	\$ 1,611	934	350	\$ 59,453	\$ 19,918	\$ 12,150	\$ 6,720	\$ 65,303	\$ 14,809	\$ 50,494	22.7	
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 2,700	\$ -	770	137	\$ 49,013	\$ 7,796	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,713	\$ 7,796	\$ 43,917	15.1	
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	72	0	\$ 4,583	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,583	\$ -	\$ 4,583	0.0	
1250	Lake Waikaremoana	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	
	TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION & MAN	\$ 20,900	\$ 1,611	3,188	1,042	\$ 202,928	\$ 59,299	\$ 12,150	\$ 6,720	\$ 211,678	\$ 54,190	\$ 157,488	25.6	
1310	Access	\$ 10,700	\$ 1,450	702	351	\$ 44,685	\$ 19,946	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,385	\$ 21,396	\$ 33,989	38.6	
1330	Newsletters/Information	\$ -	\$ -	318	76	\$ 20,242	\$ 4,325	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,242	\$ 4,325	\$ 15,917	21.4	
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ -	44	0	\$ 2,801	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,801	\$ -	\$ 4,801	0.0	
1350	Training	\$ 800	\$ -	826	161	\$ 52,578	\$ 9,162	\$ 7,000	\$ 2,010	\$ 46,378	\$ 7,152	\$ 39,226	15.4	
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	32	4	\$ 2,037	\$ 228	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,037	\$ 228	\$ 1,809	11.2	
1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 353	46	4	\$ 2,928	\$ 199	\$ 400	\$ 156	\$ 3,978	\$ 396	\$ 3,582	9.9	
	TOTAL - ANGLER & HUNTER PARTICIP	\$ 14,950	\$ 1,802	1,968	595	\$ 125,270	\$ 33,861	\$ 7,400	\$ 2,166	\$ 132,820	\$ 33,497	\$ 99,324	25.2	
1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	72	8	\$ 4,583	\$ 455	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,583	\$ 455	\$ 4,128	9.9	
1420	Communication	\$ 500	\$ 480	116	29	\$ 7,384	\$ 1,650	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,884	\$ 2,130	\$ 5,753	27.0	
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 4,500	\$ -	122	1	\$ 7,766	\$ 28	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,266	\$ 28	\$ 12,237	0.2	
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 500	\$ 45	454	22	\$ 28,899	\$ 1,224	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,399	\$ 1,269	\$ 28,130	4.3	
	TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE	\$ 5,500	\$ 525	764	59	\$ 48,631	\$ 3,358	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,131	\$ 3,883	\$ 50,249	7.2	
1510	Ranging	\$ 1,000	\$ 311	956	300	\$ 60,853	\$ 17,073	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,853	\$ 17,384	\$ 44,469	28.7	
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 480	108	13	\$ 6,875	\$ 740	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,875	\$ 740	\$ 7,135	9.4	
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,075	336	97	\$ 21,388	\$ 5,520	\$ 6,000	\$ 646	\$ 20,388	\$ 5,949	\$ 14,439	29.2	
	TOTAL - COMPLIANCE	\$ 7,000	\$ 1,386	1,400	410	\$ 89,115	\$ 23,333	\$ 6,000	\$ 646	\$ 90,115	\$ 24,073	\$ 66,043	26.7	
1610	Licensing	\$ 600	\$ -	134	37	\$ 8,530	\$ 2,106	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,130	\$ 2,106	\$ 7,024	23.1	
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	158	24	\$ 10,057	\$ 1,366	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,057	\$ 1,366	\$ 8,691	13.6	
	TOTAL - LICENSING	\$ 600	\$ -	292	61	\$ 18,587	\$ 3,471	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,187	\$ 3,471	\$ 15,715	18.1	
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	4	1	\$ 255	\$ 57	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 255	\$ 57	\$ 198	22.4	
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,705	477	166	\$ 30,363	\$ 9,447	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,363	\$ 13,152	\$ 23,211	36.2	
	TOTAL - COUNCILS	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,705	481	167	\$ 30,617	\$ 9,504	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,617	\$ 13,209	\$ 23,409	36.1	
1810	Management Planning	\$ 8,500	\$ -	240	4	\$ 15,277	\$ 228	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,777	\$ 228	\$ 23,549	1.0	
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	66	2	\$ 4,201	\$ 114	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,201	\$ 114	\$ 4,087	2.7	
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 9,750	\$ 353	429	147	\$ 27,307	\$ 8,366	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,057	\$ 8,366	\$ 28,692	22.6	
1840	National Liaison	\$ 100	\$ -	242	21	\$ 15,404	\$ 1,195	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,504	\$ 1,195	\$ 14,309	7.7	
	TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING	\$ 18,350	\$ -	977	174	\$ 62,190	\$ 9,902	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,540	\$ 9,902	\$ 70,638	12.3	
	TOTAL	\$ 191,170	\$ 53,424	15,960	4,924	\$ 1,017,186	\$ 280,218	\$ 90,050	\$ 43,396	\$ 1,118,306	\$ 290,246	\$ 828,060	26.0	

		EXTERNAL COSTS		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	
1910	Salaries	\$ 925,841	\$ 267,678	\$ 17,366	\$ 17,366	\$ 914,141	\$ 250,312	\$ 663,829	\$ 663,829	27.4
1920	Staff Expenses	\$ 26,000	\$ 3,642	-	-	\$ 26,000	\$ 3,642	\$ 22,358	\$ 22,358	14.0
1930	Staff Houses	\$ 13,060	\$ 3,443	\$ 50,000	\$ 19,662	\$ (36,940)	\$ (16,219)	\$ (20,721)	\$ (20,721)	43.9
1940	Office Premises	\$ 18,750	\$ 8,285	-	-	\$ 18,750	\$ 8,285	\$ 10,465	\$ 10,465	44.2
1950	Office Equipment	\$ 4,100	\$ 1,013	-	-	\$ 4,100	\$ 1,013	\$ 3,087	\$ 3,087	24.7
1960	Communications/Consumables	\$ 18,307	\$ 4,892	-	-	\$ 18,307	\$ 4,892	\$ 13,415	\$ 13,415	26.7
1970	General	\$ 11,278	\$ 9,948	\$ 1,500	\$ 4,860	\$ 9,778	\$ 5,068	\$ 4,710	\$ 4,710	51.8
1980	General Equipment	\$ 17,700	\$ 5,500	-	-	\$ 17,700	\$ 5,500	\$ 12,200	\$ 12,200	31.1
1990	Vehicles	\$ 45,350	\$ 17,724	-	-	\$ 45,350	\$ 17,724	\$ 27,626	\$ 27,626	39.1
	Administration	\$ 1,080,386	\$ 322,126	\$ 63,200	\$ 41,908	\$ 1,017,186	\$ 280,218	\$ 736,968	\$ 736,968	27.5
	Total Overhead Net Cost					\$ 1,017,186	\$ 280,218			
	Total Outputs Staff Hours					15,980	4,924			
	Internal Cost Per Hour					63.65	56.91			

2021/2022 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

Schedule C	Code	Output	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		Variance	%
			Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		
	1	Species Management	\$ 117,870	\$ 44,385	6,910	2,416	\$ 439,847	\$ 137,491	\$ 64,500	\$ 33,864	\$ 483,217	\$ 148,022	\$ 345,195	30.0
	2	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 20,900	\$ 1,611	3,188	1,042	\$ 202,928	\$ 59,299	\$ 12,150	\$ 6,720	\$ 211,678	\$ 54,190	\$ 157,488	25.6
	3	Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 14,950	\$ 1,802	1,968	595	\$ 125,270	\$ 33,861	\$ 7,400	\$ 2,166	\$ 132,820	\$ 33,497	\$ 99,324	25.2
	4	Public Interface	\$ 5,500	\$ 525	764	59	\$ 48,631	\$ 3,358	-	-	\$ 54,131	\$ 3,883	\$ 50,249	7.2
	5	Compliance	\$ 7,000	\$ 1,386	1,400	410	\$ 89,115	\$ 23,333	\$ 6,000	\$ 646	\$ 90,115	\$ 24,073	\$ 66,043	26.7
	6	Licensing	\$ 600	\$ -	292	61	\$ 18,587	\$ 3,471	-	-	\$ 19,187	\$ 3,471	\$ 15,715	18.1
	7	Councils	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,705	481	167	\$ 30,617	\$ 9,504	-	-	\$ 36,617	\$ 13,209	\$ 23,409	36.1
	8	Planning, Reporting	\$ 18,350	\$ -	977	174	\$ 62,190	\$ 9,902	-	-	\$ 80,540	\$ 9,902	\$ 70,638	12.3
	9	Administration												
		Total Overhead Staff Hours			7,156	1,998								
		TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 191,170	\$ 53,424		6,922	\$ 1,017,186	\$ 280,218	\$ 90,050	\$ 43,396	\$ 1,118,306	\$ 290,246	\$ 828,060	
		Licence Income 2021-2022								17%		26%		
		2021-22 Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,019,001	\$ 753,404							\$ 1,118,306	\$ 290,246		
		Less Commission	\$ 45,855	\$ -										
		Net Fish Licence Income	\$ 973,146	\$ 753,404										
		2022 Game Licence Income	\$ 229,867	\$ 16,135										
		Less Commission	\$ 10,344	\$ -										
		Net Game Licence Income	\$ 219,523	\$ 16,135										
		Total Licence Income	\$ 1,248,868	\$ 769,539										
		Total Commission	\$ 56,199	\$ 28,424										
		Total Net 2021-22 Licence Revenue	\$ 1,192,669	\$ 741,115										
		Subtotal								\$ 120,498	\$ (394,159)			
		Adj to OWP budgets - Waikararimoana Fund												
		Less Waikararimoana Fund Interest								\$ (4,174)	\$ 323			
		Plus Waikararimoana Fund Expenses								\$ 8,000	\$ -			
		Adj to OWP budgets - Non Res Reserve - Lake Tarawera project												
		Adjusted Budget								\$ 124,324	\$ (393,836)			

Table 2

Balance Sheet
Eastern Fish and Game Council
As at 31 December 2021

Assets	31 Dec 2021	31 Aug 2021
Bank		
Investments	\$702,965.62	\$760,162.98
Petty Cash	\$486.90	\$132.40
Waikaremoana Fund Investments	\$356,327.84	\$475,375.43
Westpac Call Account	\$440,134.19	\$23,726.55
Westpac Current Account	\$29,869.75	\$33,328.28
Total Bank	\$1,529,784.30	\$1,292,725.64
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	\$190,711.25	\$40,875.49
Accounts Receivable - Hawkes bay & External parties	-\$734.44	\$0.00
Accounts Receivable - Staff Recovery	-\$57.60	\$0.00
Inventory - Fish Stock	\$171,007.00	\$171,007.00
Prepayments and Accrued Income	\$0.00	\$5,139.57
Total Current Assets	\$360,926.21	\$217,022.06
Fixed Assets		
Accum Dep Land & Buildings	-\$710,842.95	-\$701,567.23
Accum Dep Motor Vehicles	-\$136,089.67	-\$126,823.59
Accum Dep Office Equipment	-\$50,093.36	-\$48,540.17
Accum Dep Plant & Equipment	-\$155,164.15	-\$152,353.57
Buildings	\$1,043,849.38	\$1,043,849.38
Land	\$102,000.00	\$102,000.00
Motor Vehicles	\$351,510.30	\$351,510.30
Office Equipment	\$57,595.20	\$57,105.20
Plant & Equipment	\$193,768.74	\$193,768.74
Total Fixed Assets	\$696,533.49	\$718,949.06
Total Assets	\$2,587,244.00	\$2,228,696.76
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$31,150.23	\$36,944.48
Accruals and Prepaid Licences	\$80,561.00	\$106,397.06
Business Credit Card	-\$1,158.19	\$370.74
Employee Entitlements	\$92,407.36	\$99,051.59
GST	\$29,987.46	-\$12,103.05
PAYE Clearing	\$20,972.18	\$31,742.64
Rounding	\$0.03	\$0.00
Staff Social Club	\$2,045.10	\$3,729.32
Wages Payable - Payroll	-\$25,121.37	\$0.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$230,843.80	\$266,132.78
Total Liabilities	\$230,843.80	\$266,132.78
Net Assets	\$2,356,400.20	\$1,962,563.98
Equity		
Accumulated Funds	\$1,238,310.06	\$1,193,406.53
Asset Replacement Reserve	\$92,797.00	\$92,797.00
Back Country Fisheries Reserve	\$128,532.65	\$127,266.65
Breeding Programme Reserve	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Current Year Earnings	\$393,836.22	\$46,169.53
Fish for Gold Reserve	\$10,500.00	\$10,500.00
Hatchery Water Reticulation Reserve	\$23,640.00	\$23,640.00
Waikaremoana Sportsfish Habitat Enhancement Fund Reserve	\$463,784.27	\$463,784.27
Total Equity	\$2,356,400.20	\$1,962,563.98

Table 3 Profit and Loss Council

Eastern Fish and Game Council for the 2 months ended 31 December 2021

Income	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Total Budget	Variance YTD	Var YTD %
Licence Income	88,488	111,439	768,273	772,000	1,248,868	(3,727)	0%
Non-Resident Licence Levy Revenue	71	469	1,266	0	0	1,266	0%
Other Income	24,961	31,034	84,915	60,975	168,375	23,940	39%
Total Income	113,521	142,943	854,454	832,975	1,417,243	21,479	3%
Operating Expenses							
Depreciation	5,727	5,727	22,906	23,620	70,861	(714)	-3%
1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT							
1110 Population Monitoring	0	8,729	11,435	11,050	39,450	385	3%
1120 Harvest Assessment	0	0	21	900	2,900	(879)	-98%
1140 Hatchery Operations	4,035	3,005	32,371	27,320	75,020	5,051	18%
1180 Game Bird Control	568	0	568	500	500	68	14%
Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT	4,603	11,734	44,395	39,770	117,870	4,625	12%
1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT							
1210 Resource Management Act	0	0	0	0	200	0	0%
1220 Works & Management	531	66	1,611	2,000	18,000	(389)	-19%
1230 Assisted Habitat	0	0	0	1,350	10,700	(1,350)	-100%
Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MGT	531	66	1,611	3,350	28,900	(1,739)	-52%
1300 PARTICIPATION							
1310 Access	184	740	1,450	3,700	10,700	(2,250)	-61%
1340 Other Publications	0	0	0	0	2,000	0	0%
1350 Training	0	0	0	200	800	(200)	-100%
1370 Huts	87	127	353	500	1,450	(147)	-29%
Total 1300 PARTICIPATION	271	867	1,802	4,400	14,950	(2,598)	-59%
1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE							
1420 Communication	240	0	480	200	500	280	140%
1440 Public Promotions	0	0	0	0	4,500	0	0%
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education/Interpretation	0	45	45	150	500	(105)	-70%
Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE	240	45	525	350	5,500	175	50%
1500 COMPLIANCE							
1510 Ranging	57	124	311	350	1,000	(39)	-11%
1520 Ranger Training	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	0%
1530 Compliance	550	0	1,075	1,665	5,000	(590)	-35%
Total 1500 COMPLIANCE	607	124	1,386	2,015	7,000	(629)	-31%
1600 LICENSING							
1610 Licence Prod/Distrib	0	0	0	0	600	0	0%
1630 Commission	2,966	4,014	28,424	33,840	56,199	(5,416)	-16%
Total 1600 LICENSING	2,966	4,014	28,424	33,840	56,799	(5,416)	-16%
1700 COUNCIL							
1720 Council Meetings	1,126	2,189	3,705	2,000	6,000	1,705	85%
Total 1700 COUNCIL	1,126	2,189	3,705	2,000	6,000	1,705	85%
1800 PLANNING/REPORTING							
1810 Management & Strategic Planning	0	0	0	0	8,500	0	0%
1830 Reporting/Audit	0	9,550	0	300	9,750	(300)	-100%
1840 National Liaison	0	0	33,738	33,788	135,051	(50)	0%
Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING	0	9,550	33,738	34,088	153,301	(350)	-1%
1900 ADMINISTRATION							
1910 Salaries	69,275	71,535	267,678	277,950	925,841	(10,272)	-4%
1920 Staff Expenses	2,141	414	3,642	6,200	26,000	(2,558)	-41%
1930 Staff Houses	4	116	3,443	3,430	13,060	13	0%
1940 Office Premises	875	820	8,285	8,123	18,750	162	2%
1950 Office Equipment	304	163	1,013	2,068	4,100	(1,055)	-51%
1960 Communications/Consumables	1,418	931	4,892	6,260	18,307	(1,368)	-22%
1970 General	86	304	9,948	9,041	11,278	907	10%
1980 General Equipment	1,082	563	5,500	8,200	17,700	(2,700)	-33%
1990 Vehicles	4,544	4,648	17,724	18,550	45,350	(826)	-4%
Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION	79,728	79,493	322,126	339,822	1,080,386	(17,696)	-5%
Total Operating Expenses	95,800	113,810	460,617	483,255	1,541,567	(22,638)	-5%
Net Profit	17,721	29,133	393,836	349,720	(124,324)	44,116	13%

8.3 MANAGEMENT REPORT

22 November 2021

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

1111 River Fisheries Investigations

Rangitaiki River Water Quality Monitoring

Fish & Game staff are scheduled to drift dive the Rangitaiki River within Kaingaroa Forest in February. Fish & Game undertook drift dive monitoring in the Rangitaiki River during the 1997-98 to 1999-2000 period and have continued to do so from 2007-08. If river conditions are unsuitable for drift diving due to poor visibility as was evident in the pre-Christmas period, then water quality parameters (temp, oxygen and secchi disc) will be collected at long term drift dive sites along with other sites sampled since March 2017. In the four-year period spanning 2016-2019, staff were unable to undertake drift dive trout counts due to extremely low visibility in the water column but measured water over three of those years (2017-2019). During the 2020 summer, the river cleared to a point where drift dive trout counts were once again possible.

1112 Datawatch

During the four and a half months following the season opening, a total of 154 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database. The distribution is as follows:

Lake Hawkstone (HB)	0
Lake McLaren	1
Lake Okareka	2
Lake Okataina	54
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	7
Lake Rotoehu	5
Lake Rotoiti	21
Lake Rotoma	7
Lake Rotorua	5
Lake Tarawera	49
Lake Tutira (HB)	3
Lake Waikaremoana	0

**Datawatch returns (entered to 13/01/2022)*

This total is 64 tags down on the number returned during the same approximate period in both 2020 and 2021. Lake Okataina is 12 up on returns but the most fished lakes, Rotoiti and Tarawera are down by 33 and 29 returns respectively.

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Lake Waikaremoana Monitoring Buoy Update

The Lake Water Quality Monitoring buoy remains offline as access to Lake Waikaremoana has remained closed. Once access has been restored staff will retrieve the sensor chains and control console for assessment.

1114 Lake Tarawera

A MSC dissertation relating to the Lake Tarawera food web study initiated in 2019 was recently completed by a University of Waikato student, Rebecca Pora. Rebecca prepared many of the samples collected by Eastern Region staff for laboratory stable isotope analysis and produced a largely descriptive overview of results. Dr Simon Stewart from the Cawthron Institute) is looking more closely at this data with a view to quantifying seasonal diets over time and putting these into the context of longer term patterns in growth and condition of trout.

Staff resampled acoustic smelt monitoring transects in Lake Tarawera in late November 2021 and this work will be repeated in April.

1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

Ngongotaha Fish Trap

The Ngongotaha fish trap was operated for eight nights during December 2021. The trap had been inoperable for a period of six months prior to this, and thanks are due to Bay of Plenty Regional Council Rivers and Drainage staff for removing the logs and other instream debris that had been the cause of this. A large run of brown trout was recorded moving upstream early in the month as water temperatures in Lake Rotorua rose above 19 degrees Celsius. The largest fish measured through the trap during the 8-night period was a 720mm, 5.1kg brown female. Few rainbows, including post spawning out migrating rainbows were trapped. The largest rainbow trapped was a female that measured 630mm and 2.4kg.

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (December 2021)

	<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>	506	1.63	24	3	0	
<i>Brown</i>	580	2.95	541	68	1	96%

1116 Waterfowl Monitoring

Aerial trend counts of paradise shelduck and black swan within the Eastern Region were undertaken in early January and the results of these are provided in the Papers for Information accompanying this agenda.

Mallard and grey duck banding is well underway as at 31 January and results will be reported at a later date.

1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys

Summer Creel Survey 2021-22

The Summer Angler Creel Surveys started in late October and will continue until April. In mid to late January 2022, conditions across the Rotorua lakes were very hot with little wind during the New Year period. 309 angler interviews were undertaken over 18 surveys across the four lakes surveyed. A total of 231 fish were presented for measuring. Six fewer survey events were able to be conducted compared to the 2020-21 summer, and the number of anglers contacted per survey (17.16) were just below those interviewed in 2020-21 (18.29). Number of fish measured per survey have to date been lower (12.8) than those measured last summer (15).

With warmer lake conditions prevailing earlier this summer, the Lake Rotorua shoreline fishery kicked off to an early start as fish were drawn to the stream mouths for cold water refuge. Large numbers of anglers were on the scene with some claiming they had caught and released 30-50 fish per day.

Fish condition has been excellent on lakes Rotoiti and Okataina. Condition of Lake Rotorua fish has been good, though not as good as that seen during the 2020-21 New Year period when they continued to improve well into February. Given the extremely warm conditions in the lake this summer it is likely that condition will deteriorate if water temperatures continue to be elevated and the fish continue to remain where they are concentrated in the cold-water flows. Tarawera fish have been a mixed bag in terms of body condition with some very nice fish seen and then some quite poor two-year-olds which look to have gone backward since opening day. There has been a heavy algal bloom up the Wairua Arm towards Hotwater Beach which could have exacerbated this by reducing visibility for feeding fish.

1141 Hatchery Operations

The period since last reporting has been used to complete several overdue maintenance projects on the grounds and at the hatchery.

A new emergency flow water line to the hatchery has also been installed and is due to be completed in early February.

Fish locations at 20th January 2022:

Location	Type	Age	Qty (approx)	Comment
Hatchery	Rt	0+	60,000	2021 season fry, 0+
Tank A	Rt	0+	500	0+ 'best of' progeny
Tank B	Rt	0+	1,000	Summer liberations 2022
Tank C	Tiger	0+	800	Autumn liberations 2022
Tank D	Rt	0+	1,000	Akl/Wai F&G liberation spring 2022
Tank E	Rt	1+	10	Best of brood, 1+ for 2023
Tank F	Bt	0+	1,050	0+ for 2022 liberation
Pond 4	Rt	0+	6,000	0+ for 2022 autumn liberation
Pond 5	Rt	0+	7,000	0+ for 2022 autumn liberation
Pond 6	Rt	0+	6,750	0+ for 2022 autumn liberation
Pond 7	Rt	0+	7,000	0+ for 2022 autumn liberation
RW2	Rt	1+	6,500	Rising 1+ for KF programmes
Kids	Rt		2,000	2+ for Eastern KF programme 2021/22

1161 Sports Fish Liberations

Liberations, Eastern Region 18 November – 20 January 2022

Water	Date	Mark	Tag	Species	Age	Number
Tuai/Kaitawa	06/12/2021	Lp	-	BT	1+	200
Tuai/Kaitawa	06/12/2021	Lp	-	RT	1+	500

Fish were also delivered to the Wellington and Hawke's Bay Fish & Game regions.

1171 Sports Fishing Regulations

Last year was an intermediary year in the biennial Anglers Notice process for Eastern Fish & Game. This year, commencing with this meeting, a formal review will be undertaken which will conclude with finalisation of the regulations for the 2022-23 angling season at Council's June 2022 meeting.

HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

1211 RMA Planning

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Fish & Game is continuing to liaise with BOPRC on the review of the Schedule of Important Trout Habitats in the region. BOPRC is looking at getting various plan changes underway by the end of the year in order to meet new obligations under the National Policy Statement (Freshwater) 2020. Consultation via the RESOF group has begun. Nothing new to report.

Waikato Regional Council

In March 2018 the Auckland/Waikato and Eastern Fish and Game Councils lodged a joint submission on Waikato Regional Council's Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora: Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1. Council hearings were held in mid-2019. Decisions were released in May. Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council, with support from Eastern, have appealed a number of matters. Nothing new to report.

Gisborne District Council

Following the conclusion of the Gisborne Freshwater Plan, the Motu Catchment Plan process is now underway. Fish & Game has so far had some input in identifying values, and we expect to have a greater involvement in its development during the second half of 2021. Nothing new to report.

Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy

The public notification of the draft Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy was revoked earlier in the year. We were advised the purpose of the revocation was to ensure further engagement opportunities were provided. The Department intended to re-notify the draft in April. Nothing new to report.

Other Planning Related Activities

Fish & Game was previously involved in the Bay of Plenty Regional Water Advisory Panel and community catchment groups. Plan Change 9 was eventually withdrawn and the groups stalled. Council has since established a new group to provide advice in relation to policy development for NPSFM implementation. Fish & Game is part of this Rural and Environmental Sector Organisation Forum. Nothing new to report.

Fish & Game regions are currently collaborating in an effort to amend some parts of the NES-Freshwater 2020 that are unworkable. Of particular interest to Eastern Region are some unreasonably strict regulations around physical works in wetlands, and on the construction of maimai. Some other areas of involvement at a national level include intensive winter grazing provisions, and the Essential Freshwater Work Programme involving Freshwater Farm Plans and Stock Exclusion Regulations. Nothing new to report.

Fish & Game recently submitted and attended a hearing on the WBOPDC Long Term Plan. The Plan allocates funding to create a new cycle/walkway along the stop bank adjoining the Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve. Fish & Game is concerned that this proposal may have significant impacts on the wildlife values and use of the wetland and have opposed its creation. Council has since indicated that they will be happy to meet with Fish & Game to discuss our concerns. Nothing new to report.

1212 Consent Applications

Date	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
1 Jan 22	BOPRC	Wheyland Farms Ltd	DP- Effluent irrigation	Pongakawa Canal	No concerns email

Consents of Note

- BOPRC Integrated Catchments Group resource consent renewal of their erosion and flood protection works in non-Rivers and Drainage scheme within the Bay of Plenty. Fish & Game presented at the Hearing into this, and we received a decision in mid-January which was in line with previously proposed conditions. The consent will ensure we will be consulted around habitat issues in trout spawning watercourses and this will provide opportunity for advocating for both protection and enhancement. The Commissioners stated it was not within their mandate to enforce any updating of Rivers and Drainage Works Code of Practice which we believe is deficient. This being so we will need to pursue updates to the Code of Practice via other avenues.
- BOPRC approached us a while back for a variation of consent to increase the percentage of lake areas that can be chemically sprayed to remove aquatic pest plants in any one round. We are awaiting additional information before we can fully assess this application.
- A meeting was held in December with consents and compliance staff at Gisborne District Council regarding issues we have in relation to forestry harvesting activities on some sites in their district. We explained our mandate, the environmental concerns we have, and discussed ways in which we could assist Council. All parties agreed to work more closely together and to streamline consenting processes to ensure better outcomes for important water courses in the district.

1221 Reserves Management

The second round of reserve mowing for the summer has been undertaken, and water reticulation, track maintenance, and invasive plant spraying is planned for February.

Access will be opened to ballot holders from 7am on Saturday 5 February to enable stand and pond maintenance and will be closed from 5pm Sunday 3 April.

1231 Respond to Landowner Requests for Assistance

No new landowner requests received since Council's last meeting.

1232 Habitat Creation and Enhancement

Essential stream works are currently being undertaken in the Rotorua catchment by BOPRC Rivers and Drainage staff under the provisions of Kaituna Catchment Scheme Authority approval (Ngongotaha and Waiteti streams), and by contractors working on behalf of Rotorua Lakes Council under Emergency Works provisions within the RMA (Mangakakahi Stream).

Both agencies have been in regular contact with Fish & Game to discuss the works involved, and ensure trout habitat isn't compromised, and if possible, enhanced. Some discolouration of waters was unavoidably generated in the lower Waiteti, but this was not an issue from a Fish & Game point of view. All other works in recognised sites of spawning importance are being undertaken outside of the spawning period.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

Access maintenance and enhancement work in the Rangitaiki River system within Kaingaroa Forest is continuing with work being carried out by staff and with some by contractors. This is concentrating on providing access to key areas of high quality fishing water.

The Whirinaki River access enhancement work in the Minginui area is pending the contractor's availability but should be carried out in the near future. A rahui put in place from prior to Christmas through to the end of January 2022 has asked visitors to refrain from visiting the Whirinaki Forest Park over the summer holiday period due to concerns from locals regarding spread of Covid 19.

Similarly, access to Waikaremoana and other Te Urewera fisheries has been closed to public for an extended period due to similar concerns the Te Urewera Board has.

Signage has been maintained and updated as required.

1331 Electronic Newsletters

Reel Life E-zine was produced for December and January covering local fishing opportunities and tips, and promotion of the boat fishing tuition at Tarawera.

1333 Fish & Game Website

Updates or changes to the Eastern website included Council agendas and minutes, Tarawera boat fishing tuition, weed spraying notices, and changes to hunting ballot information.

1334 Social Media

Recent Facebook posts include a variety of fishing results, access work, catch and release messages, hatchery liberations and news. The page continues to attract around 15,000 views per month, involves mostly positive interaction with licence holders, and has over 1,300 followers. An Instagram page has been set up and this is attracting a good following.

1352 Angler/Hunter Training

A how-to boat fishing talk was held at Lake Tarawera on 8 January, was attended by 32 people, and provided some very positive feedback.

1354 Fishing Competitions

Four fishing competition permits were processed for the period.

1361 Fish & Game Club Communications

No club visits were conducted during the reported period.

1371 Fish & Game Huts

Nothing to report regarding the Wairua and Waikaremoana Huts.

PUBLIC INTERFACE

1451 Education

No school visits were made for the reported period (due to closure of the property under the “Red” traffic light level).

COMPLIANCE

1511 Ranging

Ranging continued through the holiday period, and in particular, around the Rotorua Lakes, and the Rotorua stream mouths where at times large numbers of anglers have been fishing for trout seeking refuge in the cold water entering the lake. Few offences have been detected over this period, and none have been of a serious nature.

Contacts Year to Date 2021-2022

To end of December, 1,017 persons have been checked for compliance. Overall compliance has been in excess of 98 %.

Contacts: Year 2021-2022

Month	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	Last 5 yr average
September	21	21	46	16	51	31
October	836	893	726	724	718	779
November	69	20	126	16	66	59
December	390	309	237	287	182	281
January	195	442	246	404		322
February	137	307	265	155		216
March	199	180	23	164		142
April	178	124	7	153		116
May	226	252	143	297		230

June	172	168	162	124		157
July	80	63	75	45		66
August	33	54	20	22		32
Total	2536	2833	2076	2407	1,017	2174

National CLE Liaison Role

This role continues with input from Eastern Region. CERT training co-ordination is continuing.

1521 Ranger Training

A CERT training (ranger safety and communications) refresher day is scheduled to be hosted here at Eastern Region on 5 March. This will include rangers from several North Island regions.

Rangers

Honorary Rangers continue to be active and contributing in various parts of the region.

1531 Prosecutions

Prosecutions have been proceeding well with most matters being resolved via diversion processes.

Offences 2021-2022 Year

16 persons dealt with for 20 offences as tabled below.

Offence table 2021-2022 year

Offence name	Number of offences
Fishing without licence	7
Fishing in closed waters	4
Fishing with more than 1 rod	2
Possession of spear	7
Total number of offences	20

Offences Pending Resolution

Currently 11 offenders have offences pending resolution, details as per the table below. Some are historic and have warrants for arrest, and the others are include court prosecutions and diversion processes.

To date (19/01/2022) 22 separate offences by 11 offenders are pending resolution.

The table below shows offences currently pending resolution:

Offence name	Numbers
Fish without licence	12
Illegal tackle	1
Possess net-spear-gaff	1
Fish closed waters	4
False details	2
Obstruction	2
Total number of offences	22

LICENSING

1621 Licence Agent Support

Agent requests for licence corrections, brochures, and information was attended to as and when required. Nine staff visits to agents have occurred since the prior report.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1841 NZ Fish & Game Liaison

Kate Thompson continued to provide regular updates of licence sales and other information requests to the New Zealand Council and regions. Kate has also been providing ongoing input to discussions regarding the licence system upgrade, and assisted Andy Garrick providing feedback to the Regional Structure Review team on the pros and cons of various Fish & Game region amalgamation scenarios from a staff perspective (see Papers for Information accompanying this agenda).

8.4 LICENCE SALES REPORT

21 January 2022

1. 2021-2022 Fish Licence Sales

- 1.1 Fish licence sales for the 2021-22 season comparison against the 2020-21 season YTD are summarised in Table One and are reporting to be 6.7% below 2020-21 season results. Nationally the current variance YTD is 2.6% below last season.
- 1.2 Over the summer period Eastern licence sales have improved from the 7.3% variance reported in November to 6.7% as at 20 January 2021. By mid-January five North Island regions were reporting reduced sales ranging from 5.1% in Hawke's Bay to 19% in Auckland/Waikato. Only three regions in the country are reporting sales ahead of 2020-21 results YTD, they are Wellington, Otago, and Southland.

Table One: Fish Licence Sales 2021-22 vs 2020-21 YTD results to 20 January 2021

Licence Category	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2020-21	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2021-22	Inc/Dec on prior Season
Fish Adult							
Family	1,130	1,261	2,391	1,028	1,243	2,271	-120
Season	967	1,070	2,037	911	1,030	1,941	-96
Season Non-Resident	18	24	42	3	16	19	-23
Loyal Senior	265	242	507	259	255	514	7
Local Area Adult	894	575	1,469	833	529	1,362	-107
Winter Adult	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long Break Adult	18	12	30	8	9	17	-13
Short Break Adult	201	347	548	85	235	320	-228
Day	615	1,146	1,761	425	1,064	1,489	-272
Day Non-Resident	7	48	55	9	39	48	-7
Total Adult	4,115	4,725	8,840	3,561	4,420	7,981	-859
Fish Junior							
Season	165	159	324	139	160	299	-25
Season Non-Resident	2	2	4	0	3	3	-1
Day	69	128	197	48	95	143	-54
Day Non-Resident	3	4	7	2	4	6	-1
Total Junior	239	293	532	189	262	451	-81
Fish Child							
Season Non-Resident	0	0	0	0	2	2	2
Day Non-Resident	0	0	0	0	3	3	3
Total Child	0	0	0	0	5	5	5
Total Fish	4,354	5,018	9,372	3,750	4,687	8,437	-935
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			7,371			6,878	-493
Variance between Seasons							-6.7%
\$ (excl GST)			\$852,512			\$819,398	-\$33,114

Summary 2021-2022 Season YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2021-22 Annual Budgeted FISH LEQs	8,554	100.0%	\$1,019,001
2021-22 Actual	6,878	80.4%	\$819,398
Variance to budget	-1,676	-19.6%	-\$199,603

9. GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE 2022-2023 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

Ref: 8.02.01

27 January 2022

1. Purpose

To review Council's goals and priorities for the 2021-2022 year, and identify changes in priorities or work areas and projects that Council would like to see incorporated into the 2022-2023 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 NZC has short to medium term plans to review Fish & Game's annual budgeting process but is unlikely to be making substantive changes to it this planning round. Based on the steps that customarily involved, the process and schedule for the 2022-2023 Operational Work Plan (OWP) will be as follows:

1. Council reviews priorities and project areas it wishes to focus on over and above core functions (this meeting).
2. 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 have to be submitted to the NZ Council by 23 March for collation and presentation to the Managers Meeting currently scheduled for 28 April and the combined Managers/NZ Council meeting on 29 April. Prior to those meetings the draft work plan, budget and bids will have been considered by this, the Eastern Fish and Game Council at its meeting on 7 April which will enable any changes/additions/deletions it wants to be communicated to the Managers and NZ Council ahead of their late April meetings.
3. Staff revise projects and resourcing including hours and internal costs to take into account outcomes of the combined Managers/NZ Council meeting on 29 April, and circulate the second draft of the OWP to Council ahead of its 9 June meeting.
4. The second draft of the OWP is considered at the June meeting and projects, budgets and targets are reviewed and refined as necessary.
5. This draft is then circulated to clubs and other interested parties for comment if they wish to.
6. Feedback from this consultation is considered and incorporated, if Council considers appropriate, into the final OWP presented for approval at Council's meeting on 11 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 and/or other factors. The current OWP took into account outcomes from the preliminary strategic planning workshop Council had in late 2018, and incorporated several R3 initiatives into the programme arising from discussions staff had with the Business Development Manager for the NZ Council.

Since then COVID has had a significant impact on budgets and operational activities, and with the emergence of the Omicron variant will undoubtedly do so for some time to come. So too will changes Fish & Game is likely to implement in response to recommendations and outcomes from the Ministerial Review, and internal operational, regional resourcing, and budgeting reviews that are underway. Timing is up in the air, and at this early stage in the 2022-2023 planning round it makes sense for Council to proceed on the basis that substantive changes are unlikely to be introduced within the next few months, and to discuss changes if any it might wish to make to current goals and priorities. Decisions on this are needed now so that staff can undertake initial planning and costing of projects ahead of 23 March.

3. Current (2021-2022) 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 greyland 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.

At Council's February meeting 12 months ago Council concluded that the key regional priorities for 2021-2022 should remain the same as those that applied during the two years prior to that. It was acknowledged that some of Council's priorities continue to be of greater importance than others, for example, those that are critical to maintaining the viability and operational sustainability of Fish & Game. Higher priorities are considered to be Access, Maximising Fishery Opportunities, and Increasing Revenue, the arguments being that without access to sports fish and game bird resources the opportunities available to many licence holders are limited, 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 licence holders to 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.

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. Overviews of what we have achieved more recently and issues associated with 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 provided 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 over the past 2-3 years 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 been obstructed by the adjoining landowner. More recently we have gained access for upland game hunters to Oji Fibre Solution forest holdings in Kinleith Forest and eastern Bay of Plenty, and have negotiated draft access provisions to a section of the Waioeka River with the OTS for a Crown/Whakatohea treaty settlement process that's currently underway. Several months ago we were very pleased to be advised by Te Runanga o Ngati Whare that we had their support for a proposal we had put forward to upgrade access to a section of the Whirinaki River. This will be welcomed by anglers.
- 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. Most recently we revised the Waikato River and Hydro Lakes brochure and promoted the fishery via social media which generated an enormous amount of interest.
- We continue to work collaboratively with the Walking Access Commission developing and exploring opportunities for access to sport fisheries in particular.

Current (2021-22) 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 continue to 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 Waiiau 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 advocate for greater access to the Rangitaiki River fishery. • 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 Stream.
Provide Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade signs to brand specifications where required, check annually and replace as required, and maintain signage database. • Update access pamphlets and website as required to ensure angling and hunting access information readily available.

B. Regional Priority: Increasing revenue

- Based on the ongoing decline in licence revenue that this region has experienced for many years now and the potential for it to continue, Council sees this issue as being a significant risk to Eastern Fish & Game’s ongoing operations. A variety of projects have been incorporated into more recent OWPs as initiatives worthy of trialling and putting effort into in an endeavour to reverse the decline. The national Licence Working Party originally set up to investigate ways of increasing licence revenue via a wider range of licence categories and pricings that we were previously involved with has been re-activated to some degree, and 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 released and publicised the release of XL sized fish in several reas to add value to existing licence holders and recruit/re-activate participants. Some activities, such as the tagged fish event we’ve been running for several years now, may offer more than we’ve been able to realise so far, but are dependent in staff’s opinion, on locating a sponsor prepared to put up a substantially more attractive major prize(s) than we’ve been able to offer. Timing and duration of the event also warrants review. We’ve emailed lapsed licence holders and promoted opportunities as they arise via various media, and two years ago instigated an annual release of ‘trophy’ sized fish into the lake which generated a great deal of interest on both occasions. That programme too has potential for being refined and targeted more directly and effectively at yet to be anglers. We’ve engaged with Destination Rotorua to explore marketing opportunities aimed at the tourism and visitors’ sector and i-SITE and see considerable potential there, particularly when our border reopens to international visitors.

- We have an R3 roadmap for Fish & Game and have had a commitment for some time from the NZC Office Business Development Manager to work alongside Eastern Fish & Game on developing and implementing new and targeted initiatives tailored to untapped markets and promoting what this region has on offer. COVID and other issues in the NZC office last year effectively put that programme on hold, and our plans for this year have also taken a hit with an announcement at the end of January that the Business Development Manager had tendered his resignation and was unlikely to be able to assist us.
- 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 few years made a start down this track with the renovation of former staff houses and letting these out at market rentals. We negotiated and formalised a lease with FENZ to occupy the former DOC Fire Depot on-site, and we were in the process of investigating revenue generating options for the Ngongotaha trap cottage and its associated paddocks until COVID induced belt tightening meant we didn't have the resources to pursue this at this point in time. There are also, other options based around our Paradise Valley assets that we could potentially generate income from. As a matter of course we derive income from quite a number of other sources which are set out on page 47 of our annual Performance Report for the year ended 31 August 2021.

Current (2021-22) 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 '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 a national Licence Working Party and explore opportunities for increasing revenue via fine tuning licence categories and/or pricing of such.
Other sources of Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities for generating additional revenue via other means e.g. hire and/or rental of facilities including Octagon, Conference Room, staff quarters and staff houses within Hatchery grounds in addition to cottage adjacent to Ngongotaha Trap, contracting out staff services.

C. Regional Priority: Maximising fishery opportunities

- We have a successful supplementary stocking programme on the Rotorua lakes aimed at maintaining sustainable harvests and optimising returns to anglers. The productivity, value and appeal of these “put and take” fisheries is entirely dependent on this stocking programme. 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 strike a balance between maximising catch rates and maximising growth rates and survival to the extent it is possible to within the various constraints imposed by environmental conditions.
- Several years ago we instigated a more intensive fisheries monitoring programme at Waikaremoana, and this work has produced some very useful information. While we have scaled it back somewhat to enable other programmes to proceed elsewhere, it is important that it be ongoing. Over the past two years a by-product of the programme has been the generation of additional income for Eastern Fish & Game via contracts we’ve undertaken for Genesis Energy.
- 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 if resourcing enabled it, it would be useful to periodically monitor some of the ‘lesser’ lake fisheries, i.e. Rotoma, Rotoehu, Okareka, Rerewhakaaitu and the Waikato River lakes.
- Three years ago we instigated a research programme developed in conjunction with Waikato University and a 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 was, and remains, 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 twice yearly acoustic monitoring of smelt which got underway in November 2018 in conjunction with DOC and NIWA and this needs to be maintained. Sampling for the first/pilot year of the larger programme commenced in January 2019 and was completed towards the end of 2019. Analysis of samples and data, and a report on the project was scheduled to be completed in mid 2021 but this has since been put out to early this year. Costs for this component of the programme (c.\$40k) are being met by Fish & Game. Two years ago we were optimistic that the programme would be extended with funding provided through an MBIE grant to the University of Waikato’s Rotorua Lakes initiatives but this fell by the wayside. Cawthron Institute has however late last year secured five year funding from MBIE’s Endeavour Fund for a programme investigating interactions between native fish and introduced species, and an element of this programme they have advised will involve further research into food webs and environmental factors affecting growth and condition of trout in Lake Tarawera.
- Non-resident Eastern Region licence income is being held in a dedicated reserve and as at 31 August 2021 amounted to approximately \$127k. Council has a framework and criteria it developed which it uses for identifying and prioritising fisheries projects eligible for funding from the “Non-Resident Levy Reserve”, and has previously allocated up to \$20k to be drawn down to go towards the Lake Tarawera programme. A further

\$48k has been committed to fisheries related projects in this year's OWP, and it may be possible to access funding from this source for additional fisheries work in 2022-2023 (subject to NZC approval in addition to this Council's).

- We distribute information and advice on fishing opportunities available to our angling licence holders through both printed and digital channels. We have stepped up our social media presence to ensure licence holders are aware of the opportunities available to them, but need to put increasing effort into this area as users of traditional forms of communications become an ever decreasing proportion of the communities we most need to connect with. A year ago we expressed hope that we would see long awaited improvements made to our website prior to now so that this medium is more user friendly and accessible to anglers wanting insight into where to go and what's available to them – unfortunately that hasn't yet come to pass. Council has made good progress over the past few years simplifying some of its regulations to reduce barriers to participation, and there may be more that can be done in this area. We have increased angler training efforts to enhance success, and there is potential to increase participation and open up opportunities for new and novice anglers by encouraging a greater involvement by clubs and/or by partnering with other groups within the region.

Current (2021-22) 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. • Promote extension of Lake Tarawera food web investigations and factors affecting trout growth and survival. • Provide support to external research projects aimed at better understanding lake fisheries.
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 c70,000 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

	<p>identify options for increasing participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support children's and adult fishing programmes, angler training and angling competitions, and maintain club relations. • Continue to promote Lake McLaren fishery.
Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a sufficient 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 is 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 has funded 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. We weren't successful in doing this last year, but are hopeful funding opportunities for programmes such as this will become more available.
- 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 recent 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.

- A major impediment not only to the creation or enhancement of wetlands on private property, but the maintenance and enhancement of wetlands anywhere was passed into law when the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater were introduced in 2020. While the intention of these regulations was to afford wetlands greater recognition and protection - which has been long awaited, a perverse and unintended outcome was to not only provide a disincentive to creating and enhancing wetlands, but to put many freshwater ecosystems such as those we manage in the Bay of Plenty wetland reserves at serious risk of being detrimentally impacted as a result of management activities no longer being permitted or enabled via wetland management agreements with the BOPRC, or otherwise constrained in space and time. In response to loud and widespread lobbying, in September last year the Ministry for the Environment called for submissions on proposed amendments to wetland provisions to correct these anomalies in the legislation. Fish & Game regions prepared a collective submission addressing issues such as amending the definition of 'natural wetland' to make it clearer and easier for councils and resource users to interpret and implement, and amending the regulations for the 'restoration' of wetlands, to make restoration activities easier and provide for maintenance and biosecurity activities. We also lodged a joint supplementary submission with Dairy NZ focussing on the need for the regulations to provide for latter without onerous consenting barriers for farmers and other landowners more generally. We await the outcomes of this and in the meantime have largely had to put proactive approaches to landowners on hold.
- Each year we gain a rudimentary insight into duckling production on lowland Bay of Plenty drains, and several 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.
- 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 two years in identifying some of the critical factors influencing population size within the Eastern Region, these being winter temperature and summer rainfall.

Current (2021-22) OWP

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Projects/Programmes</i>
Species Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor greylard populations via trapping/banding, brood counts and game bird hunter surveys to investigate productivity, survival, harvest and movements. • Review game season conditions and make changes where needed to address issues impacting on greylard populations and productivity. • Contribute to national research programmes on mallards. • Refine as appropriate the draft regional five-year strategic research and management work plan for greylards.
Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement, monitor, and refine if necessary, the annual maintenance

Management Reserves	<p>strategy supported in part by a habitat management fee levied on ballot holders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Retain involvement with Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust and oversee appropriate projects.
Social and rural media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use media to encourage the creation and enhancement of wetland habitats.

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 couple of years. 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 several years ago, and a panel of Fisheries Experts monitors effects annually.
- 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 likely to be ongoing for some time. We have retained 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 few years have been heavily engaged with Gisborne District Council planning processes and the Gisborne Freshwater Plan. Many of these processes have been put on hold or have been on a go-slow since the new National Policy Statement and National Environmental Standards for Fresh Water were introduced, but will

undoubtedly demand considerable staff time once regional authorities progress planning for implementation of the new requirements.

- 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. Ongoing effort is required because although it appears water quality in terms of visibility is currently better than it generally has been for several years, it may not remain so. We have also been involved with other “Freshwater Futures Community Groups in the Kaituna, Pongakawa, Tauranga, Whakatane, Ohiwa Harbour/Waiotaha and Tarawera catchments, though again these have stalled more recently pending interpretation of the new freshwater standards.
- 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 as an example, to obtain this we conducted drift dives in the Motu for several years as we have also done, and continue to in the upper Rangitaiki. The Motu Catchment Plan process is underway and Fish & Game will have an involvement in its drafting.

Current (2021-22) 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 River, and communicate water quality issues to Regional Council and freshwater futures groups established to consult with communities. • 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 (2021-22) OWP

Project Area	Projects/Objectives
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 Communication Advisers. • 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"> • Manager to periodically meet with senior local and regional authority managers, senior DOC staff, Conservation Boards, and MPs where appropriate. • Meet periodically 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. • Attend meetings of the Taupo Fisheries Advisory Committee as the NZ Fish and 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 hunter access. • 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 previous Councils have noted, one of the most challenging elements of the business planning process for Council is not so much concerned with identifying new projects, programmes or priorities it wants to introduce to next or future years' operational work plans, but to identifying what programmes it would drop or scale back in order to accommodate the proposed changes.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 That Council reviews its priorities and programmes for the 2021-2022 year, and identifies any changes it wishes to see incorporated into its draft operational work plan for the 2022-2023 year.**

10. ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

File: 1.07.01

19 January 2022

1. Purpose

To review the 2021-2022 Anglers Notice and identify any changes to the current regulations that might be warranted in the 2022-2023 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 considering 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 Council's February meeting, any submissions relating to the Anglers Notice that have been received by staff since June last year will be presented for discussion. Council will consider which submissions have merit and warrant further investigation. Staff will (if required) 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 meeting all submissions received will be debated, and Council will resolve whether to adopt some or all of these then, 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 2022-2023 Anglers Notice.

3. Initial suggestions for consideration

Two submissions have recently been received. These suggestions are outlined below:

Note: Submissions on 'Saturdayising' Opening day for lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina have been excluded from this review as Council resolved at its December 2021 meeting that the regulation which came into effect for the 2021-2022 fishing season would remain in force for the 2022-2023 Opening and not be revisited this year.

3.1 Permit the use of all 'soft baits' (scented and unscented) within Eastern Region's lure fishing waters.

Submission received

From: Mike <mike@rotoruahuntfish.co.nz>
Sent: 3 January, 2022 9:06 AM
To: Matt Osborne <mosborne@fishandgame.org.nz>
Subject: Eastern Regions Anglers Notice

To whom it may concern,

I would like to put a submission in for consideration with potential rule changes to the 22/23 fishing season in the Eastern Region.

1, Allow the use of all soft baits in the Eastern region both scented and unscented in lure fishing waters. Scented soft bait packaging is all dry packaged and looks identical to non scented lures. They're fished the same way and in our region especially the Rotorua lakes area where we have lakes that are stocked by fish and game it would make perfect sense.

As a retailer it will make our job much easier when explaining to the customer where they can and can't fish certain lures at present. With both forms of soft baits looking identical to each other on a compliance side a ranger couldn't tell the difference from one brand to another at a glance if the lure is outside of it's original packaging.

This will mean more positive outcomes to the anglers and possibly increase catch rates, if not the placebo effect will enhance their overall experience in the region. Success ultimately leads to longevity in the sport, this will hopefully make it easier for younger anglers to take up the sport and will take away the confusion over so many of our rules at present.

The changing of the scented soft bait regulations will also bring us into alignment with other fish and regions that already allow them to be used in lure fishing waters, these are Southland, North Canterbury and neighbours Auckland/Waikato.

Thank for taking time to consider this.

Best wishes Mike Davis.

Background

Soft bait fishing is highly popular in the marine fishing sector and is catching on with freshwater anglers. Soft baits or soft plastics come in a range of scented and non-scented versions. Scented soft baits or chemically treated soft baits are more common.

Presently, Eastern Region Fish & Game prohibits the use of scented soft baits outside of 'bait' fishing waters. This is due to the lure being treated with a chemical preparation (Regulation 2.3.5, First Schedule Sports Fishing Regulations 2021/2022).

Scented soft baits (containing chemical attractant) are permitted to be used within fly/spin waters in Southland, North Canterbury and the Auckland/Waikato regions. Soft baits tend to be either dropped and jigged, or cast and retrieved by the angler. An angler having a direct line to the lure will hook fish in the mouth rather than the lure being taken deep. This allows release of undersized or unwanted fish.

It is all but impossible to distinguish scented from unscented soft baits when removed from packaging. Labelling on the packaging of imported products purchased online can also make it difficult to determine whether or not the lure contains an attractant. This is due to the wording used, the placement and size of text and/or the language its in.

Discussion

Participation in angling is declining. Regional licence sales indicate an ongoing downward trend in public participation in freshwater sports fishing. Complexity and confusion around regulations are barriers to inclusion. Removing restrictions on scented soft baits would reduce confusion as to whether a soft bait was legal or illegal. Success leads to further success and enjoyment, and these experiences enhance licence sales. Fish & Game wants anglers to be successful and catch fish, and having the ability to use scented soft baits whether successful or not, may inspire anglers to 'give it a go' or continue to be an angler.

The Eastern Council in recent years has been very keen to reduce confusion, simplify regulations and enhance angler participation.

Where scented artificial lures are permitted (Southland, North Canterbury and Auckland/Waikato) it is on the basis that they are "actively retrieved so as to imitate a bait fish". If not they are considered to be "bait" as defined in the First Schedule. The intention of requiring they be actively retrieved is aimed at preventing "bait fishing" e.g. drifting a scented fly under a bubble float, and to promote mouth hooking. This is largely unenforceable - if somebody approaches, the rod can easily be picked up and given a twitch and a wind to make it appear the lure is being actively retrieved.

Staff are unable to find categorically say that allowance of scented baits would be any more effective than non-scented soft baits but note that it's not uncommon for a lot of marketing hype to be placed around new or innovative products that come onto the market.

Increased scented soft bait use potentially could lead to greater post release mortality but we already see high level catch and release (particularly in our lakes fisheries) by some experienced jiggers and fly anglers motivated by 'big fish catch' days. Monitoring of the fisheries would give an indication of this.

North Canterbury Region has noted an increase in the use of soft baits and numbers of skilled spin/soft bait users and the catch rates of these anglers have been elevated. However, due to increased hooking and harvest pressure in back country waters, there may in time be constraints placed on soft bait use within certain fragile fisheries with low numbers of fish per kilometre.

If the use of scented soft baits was permitted, would this encourage anglers using other forms of artificial lure such as flies to add an attractant?

Some anglers are always looking to gain the next edge in angling and push the limits. Potentially, anglers could formulate their own homemade chemical applications and apply them to artificial lures or flies? If permitted and intended solely for soft baits – the regulation would require specific wording to ensure only soft plastics were ‘scented’.

Regulation changes required to implement if adopted

A note would need to be included in “Additional Requirements” for the Second Schedule of the Sports Fishing Regulations for Eastern Fish & Game Region with wording to the effect:

“Artificial lures (known as soft baits) treated with a chemical preparation may be used in fly/spin waters.”

Options

- (i) Retain the status quo and prohibit the use of scented soft baits in waters designated fly/spin. They would remain legal in bait fishing designated waters.
- (ii) Put forward for public distribution and further discussion.
- (iii) Permit the use of scented soft baits in all lure (fly/spin) fishing waters.

3.2 Restrict spinning

Submission received

*From: Peter <pelay1955@gmail.com>
Sent: 23 January, 2022 11:50 AM
To: Matt Osborne <mosborne@fishandgame.org.nz>
Subject: Trout fishing*

I think spinning should be restricted more. Most people who spin are casual anglers who are unlikely to buy a full licence, and of course spinning doesn't sit well with fly fishing. Trout fishing from the shore is rivers and lakes is primarily about fly fishing, and many such anglers practise catch and release.

Options

- (i) Seek further and more specific information from submitter for consideration.
- (ii) Reject on basis Council has discussed spin versus fly fishing at length over the past three years and opened up most fly fishing only areas within the Eastern Region to spin fishing with very little if any negative impact.

5. Recommendations

5.1 That Council agrees to the consultation process and time frame for considering changes to the 2022 -2023 Anglers Notice.

5.2 That Council identifies any issues for further discussion in an ‘Issues and Options’ paper to be prepared for circulation following this meeting.

APPENDIX 1. Anglers Notice Policy

Ref: 1.07.01

Updated 14 June 2018

1. Background

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

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

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

2. Biological Regulations

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

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

Category	Description	Regulation Applied
<p><i>Sustainability I</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure adequate recruitment of juveniles to provide later harvest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect spawning rearing waters. Closure of waters and season length most effective tool. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close waters to fishing if they provide significant proportion of recruitment. Length of closure related to importance of contribution, availability of other spawning, fishing opportunity potentially provided and duration of spawning.
<p><i>Sustainability II</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure adequate survival of adults to spawn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect sufficient fish through to maturity to enable them to spawn. Size limits most effective tool for protecting fish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Size limits guarantee protection of fish to maturity. Size limits can be adjusted based upon knowledge of harvest rates.
<p><i>Harvest Allocation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To share available harvest Bag limit most effective. 	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.

11. PROGRESS REPORT ON RECRUITMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

- Cr Murray Ferris to provide verbal update

12. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

12.1 Report from New Zealand Council

- Cr Debbie Oakley to provide verbal update

13. GENERAL BUSINESS