



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

6 October 2022

AGENDA

The 198th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

Date: Thursday, 6 October 2022

Commences: 11.00 AM

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1	Welcome (11.00 AM)		
2	Apologies	(R)	
3	Election of Officers (11.10 AM, 20 min)	(R)	1
4	Minutes of the Previous Meeting (11 August 2022) (11.30 AM)	(R)	3
5	Identification of Items for Council Policy		
6	Matters Arising		
7	Notification of Items for General Business		
8	Conflict of Interest Register		13
9	Operational Reports (11.45 AM, 15 mins)		
	9.1 Health and Safety Report	(R)	15
	9.2 Finance Report	(R)	17
	9.3 Management Report	(I/D)	28
	9.4 Licence Sales Report	(I/D)	41
	LUNCH BREAK (12PM, 15min – working lunch)		
10	2023 Game Season Conditions (12.15 PM, 20 min)	(R)	44
11	Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Fund (12.35 PM, 5 min)	(I)	56
12	2021-2022 Draft Performance Report (12.40 PM, 10 min)	(R)	58
13	Dates for Council Meetings in 2022 (12.50 PM 10min)	(R)	59
14	Feasibility of Year-Round Fishing Season (1.00 PM 25 min)	(I/D)	62
15	Species Monitoring Report (1.25 PM 5 min)	(I)	64
16	Liaison Officers Reports (1.30 PM, 15 min)	(I)	68
17	General Business (1.45 PM, 20 min)		
18	Meeting Closes (2.05 PM)		

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

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ref: 7.02.01

28 September 2022

1. Purpose

To reconfirm or elect a Chair for the Eastern Fish and Game Council, to reconfirm or elect an appointee to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, and reconfirm or elect other Eastern Fish and Game Council officers and appointments for the coming year.

2. Background

Each year the Eastern Fish and Game Council elects or reconfirms its appointee to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in accordance with the Fish and Game Council Elections Regulations 1990 which state the following:

26 Appointment of members of New Zealand Fish and Game Council

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

Cr Debbie Oakley has been the NZC appointee since the inauguration of the present Eastern Fish and Game Council in 2021.

The other positions requiring consideration are that of Chair, Deputy Chair, and the appointment of the staff member as trustee representing Council's interests on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement (WCEET). Current appointees to these roles are as follows:

- Chair – Cr Ngahi Bidois
- Deputy Chair – Cr Murray Ferris
- Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement (WCEET) trustee – Matthew McDougall

The Eastern Fish and Game Council also appoints an Executive/Managers Performance and Remuneration Committee. This has specific Terms of Reference dealing with the compilation of information for the annual Manager's performance review, and also serves as an initial point of contact for the Manager in the event of issues arising that need to be addressed urgently or in between scheduled meetings of Council. The term of appointment for this Committee is three years commencing at the beginning of each Council term, in this case November 2021 to November 2024. The incumbent Councillors are Ngahi Bidois, Murray Ferris, Debbie Oakley and Ken Coombes.

The objectives of the Waikato (WCEET) trust are detailed in an attachment to this item. Matt's role on the WCEET remains largely technical and involved with the evaluation of funding applications and acting as project manager and advisor for a number of projects. The members of the WCEET are mostly staff from agencies including Fish & Game, DOC, territorial authorities, and Mercury Energy.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Council elects a New Zealand Council appointee along with members of Council to fill the roles described above, and confirms the ongoing appointment of Matthew McDougall as its representative on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust.



Taking steps to improve our ecological heritage



Trust Purpose

The Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust was established for the following charitable purposes:

- To foster and enhance the sustainable management of the ecological resources in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments;
- To mitigate adverse effects of the operation of the Hydro Scheme on the ecological environments in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments;
- To maintain and enhance indigenous biodiversity, the sports fishery and game bird populations in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments through appropriate and sustainable species and habitat management by:
 1. identifying important habitats and/or species;
 2. identifying risks and threats to those identified habitats and/or species;
 3. identifying most practicable means to ameliorate or resolve risks and threats to habitats and species in the catchment;
 4. identifying practical means to enhance important habitats and/or species;
 5. establishing an enduring and beneficial working partnership between Mighty River Power and the Trust.

Trust Objectives

Objectives of the trust are:

1. Enhancement of wetland values in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments.
2. Enhancement of indigenous biodiversity in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments.
3. Enhancement of the sports fishery and game bird population in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments.
4. Mitigation of any adverse effects of the operation of the Waikato Hydro System on the ecological environments in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments.

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 197th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND
GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW
ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 11th AUGUST 2022 AT 11.00AM**

Present

Crs Ngahi Bidois, Murray Ferris, Kevin Coutts, Debbie Oakley, Geoff Thomas, Lindsay Lyons, Mike Jarvie, Scott Nicol, Mark Sceats, and Alan Simmons (arrived 11.17am).

IN ATTENDANCE

Arash Alaeinia, Kate Thompson, Matthew Osborne, Anthony Van Dorp, Matt McDougall, Eben Herbert (Eastern Fish & Game); Carmel Veitch (New Zealand Fish and Game Council); and Barry Roderick.

1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA

1.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois (Chairman) opened the meeting at 11.05am with a karakia and welcomed all present.

APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Crs. Jay Tapsell and Ken Coombes.

2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that the apologies for the 197th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [22/08/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (9 JUNE 2022)

3.1 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [22/08/3.1]*

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

4.1 No items were identified for inclusion in Council policy.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Cr Kevin Coutts queried item 15.8 and particularly Cr Ngahi Bidois' response to Kevin's question regarding whether the iwi groups from Northland, Auckland/Waikato, and Eastern Region could work together. After some discussion Council acknowledge that there could be difficulties in various iwi groups working together however ultimately this would be an area which could be worked through. No change to the minutes was required.

5.2 Cr Ngahi Bidois requested an update from Arash Alaeinia on item 10.9 regarding the funding of ongoing costs relating to the Fish and Game Governance Review. Arash informed Council that the recommendation was sent to the New Zealand Council, and he has been advised by the acting CE that it was in progress. Arash confirmed that he would follow up once again to ensure that the suggested letter is forwarded to the Minister of Conservation.

5.3 Cr Ngahi Bidois also wished to confirm item 15.25 where Council's resolution on the proposed mergers would be reported back to the Implementation Steering Group (ISG). Arash Alaeinia confirmed that Council's resolution along with information on the reasons for the decisions made was reported to the ISG within the required time frame.

5.4 Cr Lindsay Lyons commented on the acknowledgement recorded on page 7 of the minutes regarding Cr Debbie Oakley's representation of Eastern Fish & Game at the New Zealand Fish and Game Council table. Lindsay wished to remind Council that Cr Debbie Oakley's position with the New Zealand Council is as an appointee from the Eastern region and not a representation of the Eastern Fish and Game Council. He advised that

as a New Zealand Council appointee, your role is a Councillor for hunters and anglers all over NZ, you are not there to represent your own Council's views or agenda. Cr Debbie Oakley said that it was known that she was appointed and not a representative and asked whether Lindsay wanted the minutes to be altered to acknowledge this. Lindsay agreed no change was necessary and that it would be appropriate in future to ensure we recognise the position as an appointment.

- 5.5 Cr Lindsay Lyons queried item 15.24 where it was noted that Lindsay had informed Council of some of the views of the Hawke's Bay Council. Lindsay wished to clarify that he did not provide views of the Hawke's Bay Council rather questioned whether we had contacted the Hawke's Bay Council. Cr Ngahi Bidois confirmed his comment that Lindsay had a view of the Hawke's Bay Council after he had informed Council of their wish to engage with this Council about the proposal for an Eastern/Hawke's Bay merger. It was agreed there was no need to alter the minutes.

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

- Cr Ngahi Bidois - Pat Swift letter to Council
- Cr Ngahi Bidois - Cr Geoff Thomas email to Council
- Arash Alaeinia - Keeping Relevant paper
- Mark Sceats - Gisborne meeting
- Kevin Coutts - Timing of receiving minutes
- Kevin Coutts - Items relating to amalgamations in PIF's

7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

- 7.1 Councillors were asked to inform the chair of any conflicts of interest. No conflicts of interest were recorded.
- 7.2 Cr Mark Sceats questioned whether payment to Council members for travel expenses could be seen as a conflict of interest particularly if discussion occurs around these reimbursements. Council agreed that this was not a conflict as reimbursement travel expenses were based on IRD mileage rates and were Council policy.

8.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

- 8.1 *Health and Safety Report* – Arash Alaeinia highlighted that the team operate at a high level of Health & Safety with no incidents since the last meeting of Council. He confirmed that the cable which had caused the injury reported at the June meeting had since been buried underground. Health & Safety was discussed at every Monday morning staff meeting and he commented on the types of potential risks that were raised at those meetings.
- 8.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mark Sceats) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [22/08/8.2]*
- 8.3 *Finance Report* – No questions were raised and a minor correction to the wording for income invoiced was suggested.
- 8.4 *Agreed (Alan Simmonds/Geoff Thomas) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for May and June 2022 totalling \$330,976.66. [22/08/8.4]*
- 8.5 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Lindsay Lyons) that Council confirms the removal of Andy Garrick, Cr Lindsay Lyons, and past Cr Neal Hawes as signatories to the bank accounts held in the name of Eastern Fish and Game Council with the Bank of New*

- Zealand and Westpac Bank and approves the addition of Arash Alaeinia, Chief Executive to replace Andy Garrick as signatory to these accounts. [22/08/8.5]*
- 8.6 Barry Roderick raised a concern over prior managers continuing to provide assistance past their leaving date and requested that any payments that the Eastern Fish and Game Council make in this regard are transparent. Arash Alaeinia informed Council that any consultant payments are made by way of an invoice for work completed and Carmel Veitch confirmed that these would appear on the transaction reports provided to Council within the agenda.
- 8.7 *Agreed (Scott Nicol/Mark Sceats) that Council reconfirms that the signing rules for the Eastern Fish and Game Council bank accounts and online banking facilities will comprise a combination of any two of the named signatories. All signatories will, however, be authorised to make enquiries on bank accounts and term deposits independently. [22/08/8.7]*
- 8.8 *Management Report* – Cr Scott Nicol commented on the Environmental Code of Practice reported on page 35 of the management report and advised that he would be happy to assist if needed.
- 8.9 *Licence Sales Report* – Kate Thompson advised that the 2021/22 fish licence sales are still a little behind last season, and she attributed this to the Covid lockdowns for Auckland and Waikato at the beginning of the season as most other regions apart from the upper North Island were reporting sales higher than last season for the same period. She said that the budget for the year was likely to have been achieved at the time of the meeting.
- 8.10 Cr Ngahi Bidois provided a brief overview of the ballot held by Te Arawa Lakes Trust annually which provided opportunity for its members to obtain a fishing licence at a discounted price with the Trust subsidising 50% of the cost.
- 8.11 Arash Alaeinia informed Council of his recent meeting with the marketing manager of RotoruaNZ (previously Destination Rotorua). The relationship with them was initiated by Andy Garrick two years ago but work to promote fishing opportunities was stalled due to Covid. Arash advised that on reengaging with them RotoruaNZ have since completed a review and have seen that fishing is quite an important aspect of promoting our lakes. Arash advised that they were looking to produce a short video to promote fishing and that he was happy to receive information that Council may have. Cr Geoff Thomas suggested he may be able to assist with some footage on the lakes fishing and he would liaise with Arash about this.
- 9.0 2022-23 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN**
- 9.1 Arash Alaeinia confirmed that there had been no feedback received following the distribution of the draft 2022-23 Operational Work Plan to clubs and stakeholders.
- 9.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that Council approves the proposed Operational Work Plan for the 2022-23 year. [22/08/9.2]*
- 9.3 Arash Alaeinia informed Council that the Council's 10-year plan comes to an end in 2024 and advised that he would like to commence the review of this in the new year.
- 9.4 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Geoff Thomas) that Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve expenditure during the year as set out in the Council approved Operational Work Plan and Budget. [20/08/9.4]*
- 10.0 PRESENTATION**
- 10.1 Matt McDougall provided a 30-minute presentation to Council on methods used for assessing the population size of mallards.

11.0 Council broke for a 15 min lunch break at 12.30pm. returning at 12.45pm.

12.0 FISH AND GAME NZ COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY 2022

12.1 Arash Alaeinia had shared the FGNZ Communications Strategy 2022 within the Papers for Information and advised that this first draft of the strategy was presented for consultation. He provided Council with the opportunity to discuss or alternatively to email him with any comments or feedback they might wish to provide.

12.2 Some initial feedback included:

- Fish & Game appears to maintain relatively good communications with our existing licence holders through social media platforms and magazines however communications with the general public who know little of Fish & Game needed more attention.
- There was opportunity to improve public communications through the R3 programme and the proposed joint promotion with RotoruaNZ.
- Fish & Game also needed to educate current licence holders as many anglers and hunters are unaware of the role of Fish & Game and what goes on behind the scenes.
- Fish & Game is not particularly good at public relations and marketing. Seen as more of an administrative operation.
- Survey of licence holders conducted 5 years ago had shown that many licence holders saw Fish & Game as an organisation such as DOC or MPI.
- Engagement with licence holders has been lacking for a very long time and this document aims to improve that through various channels.

12.3 Arash Alaeinia added that it's easier to retain existing licence holders than going out and finding new people. Not everyone is a hunter or angler and most usually become interested through the connections that come from friends and family. He felt that this communications strategy ticks the boxes and gives us an opportunity to build on and needs to be coupled with a marketing strategy and what our ideas are going to be for licence sales, added value and experience.

13.0 LIAISON OFFICER REPORTS

13.1 Report from the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board.

Arash Alaeinia advised that Sarah Cowley was unable to attend today's meeting and relayed her emailed report to Council. Sarah had also supplied a report from DOC which was distributed to Council. Cr Geoff Thomas had noted the report on the community groups undertaking pest control in the Rotorua district and informed Council of the Lake Tarawera community-based pest control programme. He said that volunteers were maintaining 430 bait stations for rats from the top of Spencer Road to end with the support of the Regional Council providing the baits and commented on the significant increase in birds in the area now as a result of the trapping programme.

13.2 Report from the New Zealand Council

Cr Debbie Oakley provided an update from the New Zealand Council (NZC).

- The June meeting was via Zoom, the primary topic was the confirmation of licence fees.
- The Implementation Strategy Group were due to provide an update shortly, they have met with the new Minister and DOC officials.
- The Remuneration Committee continues its work with Strategic Pay however there have been some delays due to Covid.
- Policy setting for consistency within the regions.
- Proposing to review the financial system including the licence revenue and grants and levies systems.

- Strategic Planning meeting is scheduled for September.
- Richard McIntyre has been appointed to the Chair of the dairy division of NZ Beef Farmers and has resigned from the Executive Committee but will retain his position on the New Zealand Council.

14.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

14.1 Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 1.00pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, to approve draft meeting minutes of the Public Excluded session for the Council Meeting of 9 June 2022. [22/08/14.1]

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
Confirmation of public excluded minutes from Council meetings on 9 December 2021 and 7 April 2022.	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):

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

14.2 Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that Council moves out of public excluded at 1.10 pm. [22/08/14.2]

14.3 Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 1.11pm. [22/08/14.3]

15.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

15.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois suggested that Council take Pat Swifts letter as information at this point due to the item he raised being proposed for discussion at the October meeting of Council. However, he advised that Geoff Thomas' communication via email related in part to that letter and due to Geoff being unavailable for the October meeting he wanted to provide Geoff with the opportunity to speak to his email now.

15.2 Cr Geoff Thomas acknowledged the comments submitted by Pat Swift and put forward a question he had thought about for a long time, that being "why do we have a closed season on the lakes at all"? If there was no scientific reason for closing the lakes for winter, why not leave them open? It was unlikely that there would be a huge number of people fishing over winter as the weather was often too poor for boating. Leaving the lakes open would mean there was no official opening, but Geoff suggested there was no reason why anglers could not still celebrate the opening of the new season. Geoff asked Council for their thoughts and if they supported the idea then the next step would be to progress to public submissions and discussions. Council was generally supportive of the proposal with the following comments noted:

- Council had amended the open dates for Lake Waikaremoana to all year around and initially there was an uproar, but it is now long forgotten, people still celebrate the 1 October start of season.
- No issues providing there is no scientific evidence against the proposal.
- Increased opportunity and potential to increase licence revenue.
- Resting of the lake over winter.
- Needs to go out for consultation and we need to listen to what anglers want and vote accordingly.
- Opening on the 1st of October has always provided a good marketing opportunity at the commencement of the fishing season.

Council requested Arash and his team prepare a discussion paper for consideration at the October meeting of Council.

15.3 Cr Mark Sceats asked for Council support to have staff and maybe a few Councillors host a public meeting one evening in mid to late September in Gisborne. The background for his request was to provide opportunity for licence holders and potentially new participants to come and see what Fish & Game is about and to provide some background to some of the decisions we make and to give Fish & Game a face in Gisborne and listen to their feedback and concerns. Council was supportive of Mark's suggestion and Arash Alaeinia would liaise with him about suitable dates.

15.4 Council discussed the draft paper "Keeping Fish & Game Relevant" supplied in the papers for information. Arash Alaeinia felt that it was an excellent report written by the team in Wellington in consultation with the regions. He said the document highlighted all the valuable work that Fish & Game has achieved and want to continue to achieve, and the organisations strengths and opportunities. He acknowledged that there would always be areas for improvement which would not be dissimilar to other Government organisations in the environmental forefront. Arash advised that he had received staff feedback and invited Council to do the same and he would collate and forward to the New Zealand Council office. It was highlighted by some Councillors the work that Fish & Game does in advocating for freshwater and the costs of doing so was borne by licence holders, yet the outcomes would generally benefit all members of the public who use the resource and even those who don't. They felt that we needed to promote sharing the costs

with the likes of the Regional Councils and the DOC Taupo fisheries who manage Lake Taupo.

15.5 Cr Kevin Coutts requested that the draft meeting minutes be distributed to Council earlier than the current 5-6 week turnaround. Arash Alaeinia after consulting with Kate Thompson agreed that we will aim to have a draft available for review within 3-4 weeks of the meeting or sooner if time permitted.

15.6 Cr Kevin Coutts questioned the papers submitted to the Implementation Steering Group (ISG) on the proposed amalgamation options as the two papers presented very different views. Cr Ngahi Bidois advised that one paper was submitted from a governance perspective whilst the other was from management, and he felt it was important to provide both views as the more information that was made available the better. Kevin was surprised that the report written by Arash Alaeinia implied that Council did not listen to staff feedback regarding the proposed options and that the paper Ngahi supplied seemed to indicate that Council was against amalgamation with anyone due to the potential for iwi groups being unable to work with each other and questioned whether it was Te Arawa's wish not to work with other iwi groups? Ngahi advised that the iwi relationships were only a small part of the document he presented, and he asked Arash to provide background to his paper. Arash advised that at the prior meeting Council was asked what its approach would be to the amalgamation proposals presented. He said Council agreed that in the first instance the preference would be to stand alone and secondly, if required, to amalgamate with the Hawke's Bay region. When this information was relayed to the ISG they asked for the reasons for Council's decisions. Arash therefore put together a pros and cons paper on the proposal to stand alone and highlighted to the ISG the previous feedback which had already been supplied by Andy Garrick and Kate Thompson with regard to the earlier options which were to merge with the Auckland/Waikato and Northland regions or with the Hawke's Bay region. Arash also supplied Council with a report of his view of the process adding that although that was his view, he would be committed to carry out our Council's wishes. Arash Alaeinia added the cultural aspects certainly needed consideration as in some areas there could be potential for issues and Cr Murray Ferris agreed but at a governance level it is more about tikanga as individuals will always have their personal views.

Kevin asked whether there was a timeline for a decision to be made? Cr Debbie Oakley advised that while there was a lot that could be completed now, the legislation would hold up the formal amalgamation of regions. Carmel Veitch confirmed that some regions could amalgamate prior to legislation going through as the legislation provided for up to 12 regions, however this would result in significant legal costs associated with changes to ownership of assets etc whereas these costs would not be incurred once the legislation had been updated. Cr Alan Simmonds was concerned that our licence holders had not been part of this process. Cr Debbie Oakley advised that once the options were agreed on the paper would go to the Department of Conservation and once accepted would go out for public consultation and it was the New Zealand Council's aim to have this part of the process underway by December.

15.7 Cr Ngahi Bidois asked for closing comments of which many believed that it was extremely important to consult with our licence holders on the proposed amalgamations and the draft communications strategy was a great step in the right direction to informing our licence holders of who we are and what we do. Many long-standing licence holders are still unaware that Councillors are volunteers and Fish & Game does not receive any form of Government funding.

16.0 MEETING CLOSED

The meeting closed at 2pm with a karakia by Cr Ngahi Bidois.

.....
Ngahi Bidois
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

APOLOGIES

2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that the apologies for the 197th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [22/08/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (9 JUNE 2022)

3.1 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [22/08/3.1]*

8.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

8.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mark Sceats) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [22/08/8.2]*

8.4 *Agreed (Alan Simmonds/Geoff Thomas) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for May and June 2022 totalling \$330,976.66. [22/08/8.4]*

8.5 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Lindsay Lyons) that Council confirms the removal of Andy Garrick, Cr Lindsay Lyons, and past Cr Neal Hawes as signatories to the bank accounts held in the name of Eastern Fish and Game Council with the Bank of New Zealand and Westpac Bank and approves the addition of Arash Alaeinia, Chief Executive to replace Andy Garrick as signatory to these accounts. [22/08/8.5]*

8.7 *Agreed (Scott Nicol/Mark Sceats) that Council reconfirms that the signing rules for the Eastern Fish and Game Council bank accounts and online banking facilities will comprise a combination of any two of the named signatories. All signatories will, however, be authorised to make enquiries on bank accounts and term deposits independently. [22/08/8.7]*

9.0 2022-23 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

9.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that Council approves the proposed Operational Work Plan for the 2022-23 year. [22/08/9.2]*

9.4 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Geoff Thomas) that Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve expenditure during the year as set out in the Council approved Operational Work Plan and Budget. [20/08/9.4]*

14.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

14.1 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 1.00pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, to approve draft meeting minutes of the Public Excluded session for the Council Meeting of 9 June 2022. [22/08/14.1]*

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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	Sec 9(2)(ba)(i)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the	Not unless there is a public interest in

<p>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.</p>		<p>relationship with the supplier because the supplier may no longer trust the Council to hold its information in confidence.</p>	<p>disclosure of the specific information.</p>
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Note:

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- (d) Shall form part of the minutes of the Council.”

14.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that Council moves out of public excluded at 1.10 pm. [22/08/14.2]*

14.3 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 1.11pm. [22/08/14.3]*

8. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

26 September 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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

- (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.

9. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

9.1 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

28 September 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.

July - September 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:

August 2022	Fish traps – set up & take down
August 2022	Lake Waikaremoana monitoring
August 2022	Wetland works
August 2022	Cottage riparian planting
Sept 2022	Tarawera Outlet Drift dive
Sept 2022	Fin marking and loading for liberations

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

2. Monitoring and Reporting	
Work Place Accident Register	30/09/2022
Number of Workplace injuries in 2021-2022 year	1
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	51
Total number of lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995	4
Total number of days since last lost work injury	406
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

Masks are no longer required in office spaces. Lunches etc in conference room if there are too many staff present to keep safe distances in staff road.

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

- 2 Aug 2022 Cut overgrown grasses – boardwalk, care on icy roads, reminder to record all near misses to improve safety
- 8 Aug 2022 Boardwalk - grasses have been cut & holes in wire mesh repaired
- 15 Aug 2022 Icy roads, take extra care
- 22 Aug 2022 Awareness of poachers at spawning streams
- 29 Aug 2022 Sunstrike while driving
- 5 Sept 2022 Care driving, cold, warm clothing
- 12 Sept 2022 Slippery grass around grounds, poaching repeat offenders, PV Rd to SH 5 turnoff, take good care as ute pillars block traffic coming from left
- 19 Sept 2022 Spawning streams particularly Utuhina & Mangakakahi
- 26 Sept 2022 Nothing new to report

4. Training Programme

Nil

5. H&S Incidents

Nil

6. Recommendation

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

9.2 FINANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.01

22 September 2022

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the year-to-date financial position and approve payments for the final two months of the 2021-2022 financial year. Only a small number of accruals are remaining to be completed relating to accounts which cross the months of August/September, and any items that have not yet come to notice. Transfers to and from reserves are also to be completed and will be shown within the completed Financial Statements for the year.

Tables within this report:

Table 1	Variance Report to 31 August 2022
Table 2	Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2022
Table 3	Profit and Loss to 31 August 2022
Tables 4 & 5	Bank Transactions July and August 2022
Table 6	Credit Card Transactions July and August 2022

2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the period ending 31 August is provided in Table 3.

Income

Fish and Game licence revenues are reporting to be ahead of budget YTD (\$10,291 and \$21,743 respectively). A more up to date and detailed picture of licence sales performance as at 31 August 2022 can be found within the licence sales report.

Revenue from other sources over the period totalled \$50,446 and was made up of the following: hatchery income (\$15,774), grazing (\$5,200), fishing competitions (\$726), rentals (\$9,588), and fines from prosecutions collected through the courts (\$616). Contract revenue was invoiced to New Zealand Fish & Game (\$4,236), and covid subsidies were applied for and approved for staff requiring to self-isolate (\$600). Donations were received for the children's fishing event and for a Mobility Centre group visit (\$459). Interest accruals were completed at year end resulting in interest reporting within the period on general reserves of \$7,473, and on the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement funds \$5,734. Other Income ended the year \$54,845 over budget due in part to increased hatchery revenue (\$9,005), contract revenue to Genesis Energy and the NZ Fish & Game Council (\$23,336), Covid subsidies (\$16,918), rentals (\$4,566), and interest (\$11,436). Areas that ended the year under budget fines (\$2,543), fishing competitions (\$921), and Gain on Sale of fixed assets (\$8,154) due to the delay in sale of vehicles.

Species Management

The Population Monitoring expenditure relates to expenses associated with the Genesis Energy contract at Waikaremoana, and to Cawthron Institute for isotope analyses for the Tarawera food web study. The credit amount shown in August (\$1,299) is due to duck bands being prepaid and as a result accrued to the 2022-23 financial year. The Population Monitoring budgets are reporting to be \$8,028 under budget at year end. This is due to several factors including funds yet to be utilised for the Tarawera project (\$12,216) which is reduced by increased costs associated with flights for trend counts, and wages and fuel for the banding project.

Within the Harvest Assessment budget, expenses are reported for Game Bird Hunter surveys.

Hatchery expenditure for the period included fish food (\$10,691), rates and water consent (\$1,242), and fuel and RUC's (\$1,577). Various minor maintenance and equipment purchases are also reported as are the usual expenses associated with electricity, and oxygen. The Hatchery operations budgets are overspent \$25,004 at year end. The costs associated with the installation of an emergency water supply were not budgeted, however these costs are covered by insurance proceeds which are currently held in a dedicated reserve for this purpose (\$7,069). The costs associated with the refurbishment of fort knox were also unbudgeted and funded by a donation also retained in a dedicated reserve for this purpose (3,982). The fish food expense for the year was over budget \$8,747 due to increased food and freight costs. Fuel and vehicle maintenance expenses are also higher than budgeted (\$5,338).

Habitat

Within the Habitat output expenses are reported in the reserves budget for posts, flood gate repairs, maintenance to the Awakaponga solar pump system, and a bee keepers suit for reserves work where wasps might be present. Spot spraying was undertaken at the cottage by the Ngongotaha stream in preparation for planting. Fuel and food expenses for survey/access work in Waikaremoana are reported within the Waikaremoana fund budget. The Habitat area is reporting to be \$15,498 under budget with \$6,000 which was allocated for ballot holder habitat maintenance remaining unspent due to other parties contributing to works. Council agreed that these funds will be transferred to a dedicated reserve at year end to enable them to be utilised in the coming year. The Waikaremoana Fund spending is \$6,962 below budget as the staff time component of the survey/access works at Waikaremoana are reported within the salaries budgets.

Participation

Access spending included the costs of signs, stickers, and posts. A new brochure was printed covering the Waiau, Ruakituri and Hangaroa streams and a reprint was ordered on the popular boat fishing brochure. New fly reels and tackle was purchased for the children's fishing programme and expenses were also incurred for hut maintenance and electricity. The participation output ended the year \$3,093 under budget due primarily to lower than anticipated costs for the new Whirinaki access track and the continued contribution from Timberlands for the Rangitaiki access track maintenance.

Public Interface

The new season email campaign was paid for from the promotions budget and costs are also reported here relating to morning teas for various meetings undertaken by the new CEO with licence agents and stakeholders. The Public Interface has ended the year under budget (\$3,511) with funds earmarked for a tagged fish promotion remaining unspent.

Compliance

Compliance expenses are reported relating the 0800 Poaching service and cell phone and legal fees for prosecutions. The Compliance output has ended the year under budget (\$2,827) which is due to fewer prosecutions going through the Courts.

Licensing

The Licensing cost includes agent commissions and the fees associated with the Public Online and 0800 sales. Licensing costs have ended the year under budget (\$6,553) and this can be attributed to increased sales through the Public Online facility where our costs are lower than commissions paid to agents.

Council

Expenses are reported within the Council budgets relating to catering and travel reimbursement for the August meeting of Council. The Council budgets are overspent \$1,871 YTD due to increased travel expenses for meetings related to the employment of the new CE.

Planning

Levies were paid as budgeted and minor costs are reported for CE meetings with various stakeholders. The accrual of the audit fee reported in August. The Planning output has ended the year under budget (\$8,424) as a result of the funds allocated to the R3 programme remaining unspent largely due to changes to staff in the NZ Council office and within the Eastern team.

Administration

Salaries	The Salaries expense ended the year \$7,121 over budget as a result of changes to staffing within the year.
Staff Expenses	ACC levies were paid in July and a portion accrued in August resulting in the negative figure shown. Other staff expenses related to safety boots, facemasks, morning tea expenses, and staff clothing. The Staff Expenses area ended the year \$11,835 over budget. Reduced expenditure was seen in the staff training and expenses budgets however this was offset by unanticipated recruitment costs (\$15,435).
Staff Houses	Rates were paid and minor expenses incurred relating to gas bottles and staff quarters cleaning. The Staff Houses budgets were underspent by \$4,923 at year end. Funds which were allocated for maintenance of the cottage were unspent and utilised for the replacement of the shade sail at the Octagon (reported within fixed assets \$2,720).
Office Premises	Rates were paid as budgeted. The usual expenses relating to electricity, cleaning, rubbish removal, and alarm monitoring were incurred. The Office Premises area ended the year \$1,130 over budget due primarily to increased cleaning and document destruction expenses.
Office Equipment	Office Equipment expenses include the phone system and eftpos lease costs. A deep clean of AC unit was also undertaken. Over budget at year end \$1,298 due to equipment requirements for new staff.
Communications/ Consumables	Standard communications expenses are reported for the period including phones, broadband, stationery, and photocopying. Additional expenditure was incurred relating antivirus software and back up disks. Underbudget at year end \$1,146.
General	General expenses were incurred relating to an insurance valuation for the property, and new memberships to the Rotorua Chamber of Commerce, and Rotorua X. Expenses are also reported for the survey monkey subscription, bank fees, and morning teas. Over budget at year end \$942 due to increased insurance costs and memberships described above were not budgeted.
General Equipment	Equipment purchases for the period include: waders, F&G caps, and a ladder for compliance/access work. Maintenance expenses included a service of the John Deere tractor, boat engine service (Parera), WoF for boat trailer, and padlock repairs. Field equipment fuel expenses are also reported. Spending within the

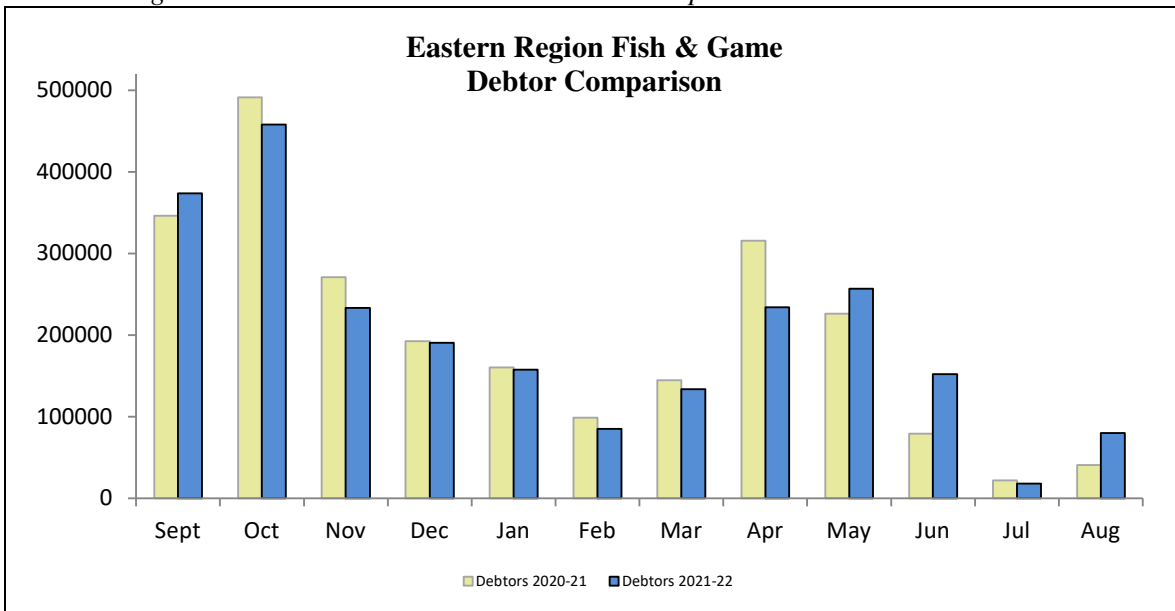
	Equipment area ended the year \$2,794 under budget primarily due to reduced equipment maintenance costs.
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the period included scheduled servicing of four vehicles, a wheel alignment, registration, and fuel/RUCs. The Vehicles' budgets ended the year overspent by \$3,653. Although maintenance costs were down on budget \$2,812, the fuel expense is significantly higher than budget at \$6,527.

Cash Position: As at 31 August 2022

\$ 751,102 (includes \$86,785 Asset Replacement Reserve)
 \$ 470,050 (Waikaremoana SFHEF – Restricted Reserve)
\$1,221,152 Total

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$80,402 as at 31 August 2022 (\$40,875 as at 31 August 2021).

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



Debtors outstanding as at 31 August are double what was owing for the same period last season and this is due to licences going on sale earlier for the 2022-23 season. Two small debts are outstanding to agents which are being followed up by office staff.

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.

Table 1 2021/2022 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME													
as at 31 August 2022													
Schedule B		EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	%
Code	Project	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	
1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 39,450	\$ 31,422	2,150	2,352	\$ 136,855	\$ 158,117	\$ 8,000	\$ 18,959	\$ 168,305	\$ 170,580	\$ (2,275)	101.4
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,900	\$ 2,287	793	835	\$ 50,477	\$ 56,134	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,377	\$ 58,421	\$ (5,044)	109.4
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 75,020	\$ 100,024	3,564	4,086	\$ 226,862	\$ 274,688	\$ 56,500	\$ 65,505	\$ 245,382	\$ 309,207	\$ (63,825)	126.0
1160	Releases	\$ -	\$ -	234	179	\$ 14,895	\$ 12,034	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,895	\$ 12,034	\$ 2,861	80.8
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	133	57	\$ 8,466	\$ 3,832	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,466	\$ 3,832	\$ 4,634	45.3
1180	Control	\$ 500	\$ 568	36	30	\$ 2,292	\$ 2,017	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,792	\$ 2,584	\$ 207	92.6
	TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT	\$ 117,870	\$ 134,300	6,910	7,539	\$ 439,847	\$ 506,822	\$ 64,500	\$ 84,464	\$ 493,217	\$ 556,658	\$ (63,441)	112.9
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ 200	\$ -	1,412	1,471	\$ 89,879	\$ 98,890	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 90,079	\$ 98,890	\$ (8,811)	109.8
1220	Works & Management	\$ 18,000	\$ 12,105	934	915	\$ 59,453	\$ 61,512	\$ 12,150	\$ 12,081	\$ 65,303	\$ 61,536	\$ 3,766	94.2
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 2,700	\$ 259	770	566	\$ 49,013	\$ 38,050	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,713	\$ 38,309	\$ 13,404	74.1
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	72	1	\$ 4,583	\$ 67	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,583	\$ 67	\$ 4,516	1.5
1250	Lake Waikaremoana	\$ -	\$ -	0		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
	TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION & M	\$ 20,900	\$ 12,364	3,188	2,953	\$ 202,928	\$ 198,520	\$ 12,150	\$ 12,081	\$ 211,678	\$ 198,803	\$ 12,875	93.9
1310	Access	\$ 10,700	\$ 8,363	702	660	\$ 44,685	\$ 44,370	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,385	\$ 52,733	\$ 2,652	95.2
1330	Newsletters/Information	\$ -	\$ -	318	198	\$ 20,242	\$ 13,311	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,242	\$ 13,311	\$ 6,931	65.8
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,897	44	9	\$ 2,801	\$ 605	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,801	\$ 2,502	\$ 2,299	52.1
1350	Training	\$ 800	\$ 202	826	576	\$ 52,578	\$ 38,723	\$ 7,000	\$ 5,388	\$ 46,378	\$ 33,537	\$ 12,841	72.3
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	32	28	\$ 2,037	\$ 1,882	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,037	\$ 1,882	\$ 155	92.4
1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 1,395	46	36	\$ 2,928	\$ 2,420	\$ 400	\$ 878	\$ 3,978	\$ 2,937	\$ 1,041	73.8
	TOTAL - ANGLER & HUNTER PARTICI	\$ 14,950	\$ 11,857	1,968	1,507	\$ 125,270	\$ 101,311	\$ 7,400	\$ 6,266	\$ 132,820	\$ 106,902	\$ 25,919	80.5
1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	72	40	\$ 4,583	\$ 2,689	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,583	\$ 2,689	\$ 1,894	58.7
1420	Communication	\$ 500	\$ 780	116	44	\$ 7,384	\$ 2,958	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,884	\$ 3,738	\$ 4,146	47.4
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 4,500	\$ 657	122	35	\$ 7,766	\$ 2,353	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,266	\$ 3,010	\$ 9,256	24.5
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 500	\$ 552	454	286	\$ 28,899	\$ 19,227	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29,399	\$ 19,779	\$ 9,620	67.3
	TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE	\$ 5,500	\$ 1,989	764	405	\$ 48,631	\$ 27,227	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,131	\$ 29,216	\$ 24,916	54.0
1510	Ranging	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,020	956	999	\$ 60,853	\$ 67,159	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,853	\$ 68,179	\$ (6,326)	110.2
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 493	108	58	\$ 6,875	\$ 3,899	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,875	\$ 4,392	\$ 3,482	55.8
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 5,000	\$ 2,661	336	244	\$ 21,388	\$ 16,403	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,957	\$ 20,388	\$ 15,107	\$ 5,280	74.1
	TOTAL - COMPLIANCE	\$ 7,000	\$ 4,174	1,400	1,301	\$ 89,115	\$ 87,462	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,957	\$ 90,115	\$ 87,679	\$ 2,436	97.3
1610	Licensing	\$ 600	\$ 691	134	137	\$ 8,530	\$ 9,210	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,130	\$ 9,901	\$ (771)	108.5
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	158	93	\$ 10,057	\$ 6,252	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,057	\$ 6,252	\$ 3,805	62.2
	TOTAL - LICENSING	\$ 600	\$ 691	292	230	\$ 18,587	\$ 15,462	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,187	\$ 16,153	\$ 3,034	84.2
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	4	1	\$ 255	\$ 67	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 255	\$ 67	\$ 187	26.4
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 6,000	\$ 7,871	477	347	\$ 30,363	\$ 23,328	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,363	\$ 31,199	\$ 5,164	85.8
	TOTAL - COUNCILS	\$ 6,000	\$ 7,871	481	348	\$ 30,617	\$ 23,395	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,617	\$ 31,266	\$ 5,352	85.4
1810	Management Planning	\$ 8,500	\$ -	240	88	\$ 15,277	\$ 5,916	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,777	\$ 5,916	\$ 17,861	24.9
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	66	62	\$ 4,201	\$ 4,168	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,201	\$ 4,168	\$ 33	99.2
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 9,750	\$ 9,650	429	321	\$ 27,307	\$ 21,580	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 37,057	\$ 31,230	\$ 5,828	84.3
1840	National Liaison	\$ 100	\$ 275	242	113	\$ 15,404	\$ 7,597	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,504	\$ 7,872	\$ 7,633	50.8
	TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING	\$ 18,350	\$ 9,925	977	584	\$ 62,190	\$ 39,260	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,540	\$ 49,185	\$ 31,354	61.1
		\$ 191,170	\$ 183,171	15,980	14,867	\$ 1,017,186	\$ 999,458	\$ 90,050	\$ 106,768	\$ 1,118,306	\$ 1,075,861	\$ 42,445	96.2

OVERHEADS		EXTERNAL COSTS		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	
1910	Salaries	\$ 925,841	\$ 932,962	\$ 11,700	\$ 34,995	\$ 914,141	\$ 897,967	\$ 16,174	98.2
1920	Staff Expenses	\$ 26,000	\$ 37,835	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,000	\$ 37,835	\$ (11,835)	145.5
1930	Staff Houses	\$ 13,060	\$ 8,137	\$ 50,000	\$ 54,566	\$ (36,940)	\$ (46,429)	\$ 9,489	125.7
1940	Office Premises	\$ 18,750	\$ 19,880	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,750	\$ 19,880	\$ (1,130)	106.0
1950	Office Equipment	\$ 4,100	\$ 5,398	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,100	\$ 5,398	\$ (1,298)	131.7
1960	Communications/Consumables	\$ 18,307	\$ 17,161	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,307	\$ 17,161	\$ 1,146	93.7
1970	General	\$ 11,278	\$ 12,220	\$ 1,500	\$ 8,484	\$ 9,778	\$ 3,736	\$ 6,042	38.2
1980	General Equipment	\$ 17,700	\$ 14,906	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,700	\$ 14,906	\$ 2,794	84.2
1990	Vehicles	\$ 45,350	\$ 49,003	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,350	\$ 49,003	\$ (3,653)	108.1
	Administration	\$ 1,080,386	\$ 1,097,503	\$ 63,200	\$ 98,045	\$ 1,017,186	\$ 999,458	\$ 17,728	98.3
	Total Overhead Net Cost					\$ 1,017,186	\$ 999,458		
	Total Outputs Staff Hours					15,980	14,867		
	Internal Cost Per Hour					63.65	67.23		

Table 1 2021/2022 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

Schedule C	Output	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	%
Code		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	
1	Species Management	\$ 117,870	\$ 134,300	6,910	7,539	\$ 439,847	\$ 506,822	\$ 64,500	\$ 84,464	\$ 493,217	\$ 556,658	\$ (63,441)	112.9
2	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 20,900	\$ 12,364	3,188	2,953	\$ 202,928	\$ 198,520	\$ 12,150	\$ 12,081	\$ 211,678	\$ 198,803	\$ 12,875	93.9
3	Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 14,950	\$ 11,857	1,968	1,507	\$ 125,270	\$ 101,311	\$ 7,400	\$ 6,266	\$ 132,820	\$ 106,902	\$ 25,919	80.5
4	Public Interface	\$ 5,500	\$ 1,989	764	405	\$ 48,631	\$ 27,227	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,131	\$ 29,216	\$ 24,916	54.0
5	Compliance	\$ 7,000	\$ 4,174	1,400	1,301	\$ 89,115	\$ 87,462	\$ 6,000	\$ 3,957	\$ 90,115	\$ 87,679	\$ 2,436	97.3
6	Licensing	\$ 600	\$ 691	292	230	\$ 18,587	\$ 15,462	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,187	\$ 16,153	\$ 3,034	84.2
7	Councils	\$ 6,000	\$ 7,871	481	348	\$ 30,617	\$ 23,395	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,617	\$ 31,266	\$ 5,352	85.4
8	Planning, Reporting	\$ 18,350	\$ 9,925	977	584	\$ 62,190	\$ 39,260	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,540	\$ 49,185	\$ 31,354	61.1
9	Administration												
	Total Overhead Staff Hours			7,156	7,115								
	TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 191,170	\$ 183,171	23,136	21,982	\$ 1,017,186	\$ 999,458	\$ 90,050	\$ 106,768	\$ 1,118,306	\$ 1,075,861	\$ 42,445	

Licence Income 2021-2022		Budget	Actual	% year complete	% of OWP budget spent
2021-22 Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,019,001	\$ 1,029,292		100%	96%
Less Commission	-\$ 45,855	\$ -			
Net Fish Licence Income	\$ 973,146	\$ 1,029,292			
2022 Game Licence Income	\$ 229,867	\$ 251,610			
Less Commission	-\$ 10,344	\$ -			
Net Game Licence Income	\$ 219,523	\$ 251,610			
Total Licence Income	\$ 1,248,868	\$ 1,280,902			
Total Commission	-\$ 56,199	-\$ 49,555			
Total Net 2021-22 Licence Revenue	\$ 1,192,669	\$ 1,231,347			
				OWP Bulk Fund	Actual Net Cost YTD
					\$ 1,118,306
				Adjustment to OWP budgets - National Approved Budget	
				less Interest	\$ (2,797) \$ (11,885)
				Plus NZ Fish & Game Levies	\$ 134,951 \$ 134,951
				Less Licence Revenue	\$ (1,248,868) \$ (1,280,902)
				Plus Commission Expense	\$ 56,199 \$ 49,555
				Plus Gain Loss on Sale/revaluation	\$ (8,154) \$ 2,068
				Depreciation	\$ 70,861 \$ 73,263
				Subtotal	\$ 120,498
				Adj to OWP budgets - Waikaremoana Fund	
				Less Waikaremoana Fund Interest	\$ (4,174) \$ (6,522)
				Plus Waikaremoana Fund Expenses	\$ 8,000 \$ 1,038
				Adj to OWP budgets - Non Res Reserve - Lake Tarawera project	
				Adjusted Budget	Actual(surplus)/deficit YTD
				Total	\$ 124,324
					\$ 37,427

9.3 MANAGEMENT REPORT

28 September 2022

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

1112 Datawatch

During the 2021-22 trout fishing season, a total of 742 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database since 1 October 2021. The distribution is as follows:

Lake McLaren	3
Lake Okareka	22
Lake Okataina	138
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	25
Lake Rotoehu	11
Lake Rotoiti	83
Lake Rotoma	33
Lake Rotorua	25
Lake Tarawera	399
Lake Tutira (HB)	3
Hawkston (HB)	0

data entered to 16 September 2022

The datawatch programme was highlighted in the latest Fish & Game magazine and on the Fish & Game website to encourage anglers to keep sending in tag returns.

Tag returns for the 2021-22 season, entered into the datawatch database between 1 October 2021 - 16 September 2022 were down 130 tags compared to the 2020-21 season for the similar period. The lake with the largest drop in tag returns was Lake Tarawera (down by 63 tags). Tarawera's returns are bolstered by the running of the Te Wairoa trap which provides a large proportion of 3-4-year-old tagged fish. The number of tags reported from Lake Rotoiti was down by 36 tags compared to the 2020-21 season and Rotoehu by 18 tags. Lake Tutira (HB region) had 21 less tags returned, and this is directly related to halting liberations to that fishery. The other lakes provided returns that were close to totals that had been reported from the previous season.

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Waikaremoana Water Quality Monitoring Buoy

The lake Waikaremoana water quality monitoring buoy has been transmitting data well since reinstallation. There has been one occasion when the unit went into low battery shut down (<11.5V) at a time of winter low sunshine hours and then rebooted when the battery power was restored via the solar panels. On a recent visit to the lake (8th September) staff noted that the western solar panel on top of the buoy had suffered an impact which has caused damaged that will require replacement of that panel when the top hat is brought back for other maintenance purposes.

Waikaremoana Winter Survey and Spawning Monitoring

Staff visited lake Waikaremoana between 6th and 8th September and undertook walk up spawning (escapement) counts in the Hopuruahine, Waiotukupuna, Mokau, and Marauiti streams. Visual assessments have shown that peak fish spawning activity in the big three tributaries (Hopuruahine, Mokau, and Waiotukupuna) took place in August. The biggest aggregations in the Marauiti (predominantly brown trout present) occurred in June. The fishery has been performing extremely well with brown trout weighed in averaging 521mm, 1.91kg, and 48.56 CF. Rainbows have averaged 489mm, 1.55kg, and 46.98CF. The largest rainbow weighed for the winter to date being 590mm and 2.9kg.

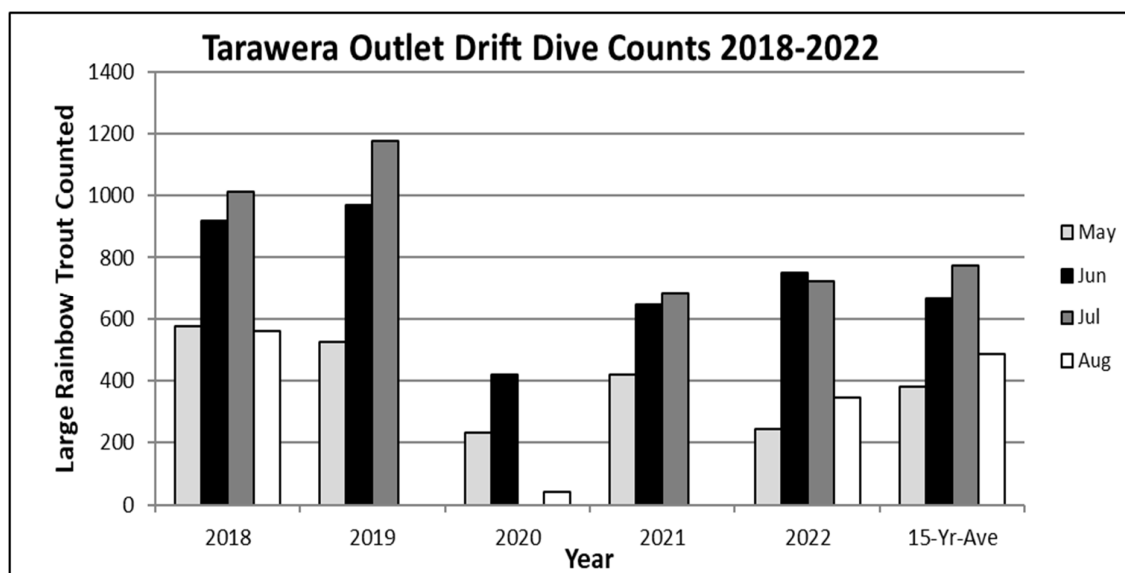
1114 Lake Tarawera

Tarawera Outlet Drift Dives

Fish & Game staff undertook the final winter drift dive count of the Tarawera Outlet on 1 September 2022.

	Size range			2022	2021	2020
	Small	Medium	Large	Total	Total	Total
May	1	0	244	245	444	238
June	0	7	750	757	646	420
July	0	0	723	723	683	-
August	5	4	346	355	-	41

Trout counts in the Tarawera Outlet during the 2022 winter were below the past 15-year average for the months of May, July and August. The June 2022 count was higher than the past 15-yr average. The 2022 winter also saw another high run of spawning fish through the Te Wairoa Stream trap.



1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

Ngongotaha Trap-run

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (August 2022)

The Ngongotaha fish trap was operated for 6 nights during August 2022. The largest fish running the trap was a brown female measuring 635mm and weighing 3.75kg. Brown trout made up 11% of the run.

	<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>	497	1.62	25	4		
<i>Brown</i>	598	3.12	3	1		11%

1116 Waterfowl Monitoring

National Swan Report

Black swan are increasingly under attack by members of our community. Trend counts in this region indicate the population residing on Tauranga harbour have increased in recent years. It is not clear if this is a result of an increasing population or the birds just moving around. To understand what is going on Matt McDougall has initiated a national report of black swan numbers. This report will be co-authored by David Klee and possibly others.

A cursory examination of the data suggests the national population is relatively high at the moment but not as high as it has been in the past.

1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys

Ohau Creel Survey

Analysis of the 2021-22 Ohau Creel has been completed and the report is being written. The Expert Fisheries Panel is expected to meet in November 2022.

Over the coming 2022-23 season, the Ohau Creel surveys are expected to go ahead once again and be contracted to Te Arawa Lakes Trust (as was the 2021-22 survey schedule) and funded by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

Opening Day 2022 Creel Surveys

The Opening Day creel surveys 2022-23 have been organised for Lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina. Fish & Game staff will be joined by volunteers, honorary rangers, councillors, and University of Waikato students. This year the opening date for these lakes falls on the 1st of October in line with the licence period.

Summer Creel Surveys

The 2022-23 summer creel survey schedule has been established. The strategy for the 2022-23 summer (as per recent summer creels) is to retain coverage of the four large high use lakes, and if possible, provide some level of presence/monitoring across the lesser utilised lakes. An angler diary scheme is running with the expectation of gaining additional reports from those other waters.

1123 Game Bird Hunter Survey

All the game bird hunter surveys (840 calls) have been completed and entered into the online database. We are unable to report the results at this time as we are waiting on one region to finish their surveys (surveys by other regions contribute to Eastern harvest estimates if their licence holders report hunting in the Eastern Region).

Matt McDougall has also coordinated the hunter survey at a National level.

1141 Hatchery Operations

The final crosses for the 2022 winter period have been taken from quality brood sourced from the Te Wairoa trap. In total 83 crosses were taken between April 12th and August 18th producing approximately 400k green ova. The Te Wairoa trap was removed at the end of August. The old trap componentry is to be re-built over summer.

Several rearing tanks have been populated with fry. These will be grown on until summer before being moved outdoors to the rearing ponds.

Fish have been delivered to Hawke's Bay and Wellington regions, tourist facilities and collected by Auckland Waikato Fish & Game staff.

Spring liberations to the Rotorua lakes commenced early in September as outlined in the table below.

Fish locations at 14th Sept 2022:

Location	Type	Age	Qty (approx)	Comment
Hatchery	Rt	Ova	50K	2023 season liberations
Hatchery	Rt	Fry	150K	2023 season liberations
Tank C, D	Rt	0+	1,000	AWFG 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 2	Rt	0+	11,000	0+ for 2022 spring liberation
Pond 4	Rt	1+	1,000	2022 spring liberation, Akl/Wai
Pond 5	Rt	1+	8,000	2022 spring liberation
Pond 6	Rt	1+	8,000	2022 spring liberation
Pond 7	Rt	1+	8,000	2022 spring liberation
Pond 9	Rt	1+	6,500	2023 2 year olds
RW1	Rt	1+	800	Rising 1+ for Akl/Wai
RW2	Rt	1+	5,000	Rising 1+ for KF programmes
Kids	Rt		1,600	2+ for EFGC KF programme 2022

1143 Te Wairoa Trap

The Te Wairoa fish trap (Lake Tarawera) was removed on the 29th of August. The total run recorded running upstream this winter was 2,651 fish. This was higher than the 2021 winter (2,312) and sits behind the 2019 winter (2,757) which was recorded as one of the largest runs measured in the Te Wairoa Stream. The 2022 Te Wairoa trap run also eclipsed the past 15-year average of 1,387. The heaviest fish through the trap was a 630mm, 3.7kg, Lp female (3-year-old). The average size of the fish trapped this winter (553mm and 2.09kg) was significantly longer (16mm, $P<0.001$), significantly heavier (140g per fish, $P<0.001$), but in significantly poorer condition ($P=0.002$) than the average size of fish trapped during the 2021 winter. Hatchery released fish trapped over the 2022 winter measured 565mm and 2.21kg compared to 551mm and 2.07kg during the 2021 winter. These were significantly longer and heavier ($P<0.001$ for both variables) and in significantly poorer condition ($P<0.001$). The average size of the wild fish trapped over the 2022 winter measured 519mm and 1.77kg compared to 501mm and 1.60kg during 2021. As with the hatchery fish, wild fish were both significantly longer and heavier on average ($P<0.001$ for both variables).

Year	Total run	Wild run	Wild %	Ave length	Ave weight
2018	2,122	626	29.5	532	1.86
2019	2,757	740	26.8	550	2.09
2020	1,245	286	23.0	549	1.89
2021	2,312	636	38.0	537	1.95
2022	2,651	715	26.9	553	2.09

The 2020 season run was impacted by the covid lockdown with trap installation occurring 28th April effectively missing the April run. It was however even with this considered still a smaller run as the April run constitutes around 100-150 fish in most years.

1161 Sports Fish Liberations

Liberations, Eastern Region 21 July – 14 Sept 2022

Water	Date	Mark	Tag	Species	Age	Number
Okataina	14/09/2022	Rp		RT	1+	750
Okataina	14/09/2022	Rp	E22	RT	1+	500
Rotoiti	9/09/2022	Rp		RT	1+	6500
Rotoiti	9/09/2022	Rp	B22	RT	1+	500
Tarawera	7/09/2022	Rp		RT	1+	3000
Tarawera	7/09/2022	Rp	H22	RT	1+	500
Tikitapu	11/08/2022	Ad		RT	1+	300
Tikitapu	11/08/2022	Ad		Brook	1+	510

Fish were also collected by Auckland Waikato Fish & Game and delivered to Wellington and Hawke's Bay Fish & Game regions and two tourist attractions.

1173 Game Bird Authorities

Department of Conservation have received an application to release 130 pheasant and quail per annum near Te Karaka, Gisborne. Fish & Game were given the opportunity to comment on the permit but there is no obligation for DoC to incorporate our recommendations into the permit. We hope that we will get sent a copy of the final document, but this is not guaranteed. In previous years we have needed to request permits under an OIA.

HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Fish and Game is continuing to liaise with BoPRC on the review of the Schedule of Important Trout Habitats in the region. Consultation via the RESOF group is continuing. Regional Council's work to implement the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPSFM) is underway and they are now inviting early, confidential and without prejudice feedback from some specific stakeholders, on some very early working draft Issues and Options papers resulting from review of chapters of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and the Regional Natural Resources Plan (RNRP).

Waikato Regional Council

In March 2018 Auckland/Waikato and Eastern Fish and Game Council's lodged a joint submission on Waikato Regional Council's Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora: Proposed Waikato

Regional Plan Change 1. Council hearings were held mid-2019. Decisions were released in May. A/W Fish and Game Council, with support from Eastern, have appealed a number of matters. Waikato Healthy Rivers plan has since stalled due to the recent and upcoming national legislation. There is some concern over the legitimacy of OVERSEER for nitrogen modelling which has been raised through the healthy rivers process. Discussion among the Fish and Game RMA group on this topic is starting.

Gisborne District Council

Following the conclusion of the Gisborne Freshwater Plan, the Motu Catchment Plan process is now underway. Fish and Game has so far had some input in identifying values, and we expect to have a greater involvement in its development during the year. Additionally, stakeholder consultation is scheduled to begin shortly on the Regional Policy Statement, Freshwater Plan amendments, and the Waiapu, Waimata, Uawa, Waipaoa, Wharehika and Hangaroa catchments.

Fish and Game were 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. However, an appeal against the withdrawal remains outstanding. Council has now established a new group to provide advice in relation to policy development for NPSFM implementation. Fish and Game is part of this Rural and Environmental Sector Organisation Forum.

The public notification of the draft Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy has been revoked. The purpose of the revocation is to ensure further engagement opportunities are provided. The Department intended to re-notify the draft in 2021. No new developments

Various Fish and Game regions have been collaborating on a submission to amend some parts of the NES-Freshwater 2020 that are viewed as unacceptable to us. 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, and the exclusion of natural coastal wetlands from the NES-FW.

The Government plans to repeal the RMA and replace it with three new pieces of legislation. RMA staff throughout the country are currently collaborating with a view to providing some formal input in this process.

RMA staff have been involved in putting together a paper on keeping Fish and Game relevant in legislation. This is in response to the suite of resource management, conservation, and wildlife management legislation which is currently under review. This document has now been completed and submitted to NZ Council/Regional Managers.

Following on from Fish and Games involvement in the Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy, NZ Council have recently made a submission on the exposure draft of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity. No new developments

In 2021 Fish and Game submitted on 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 and 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 and Game to discuss our concerns. No new developments.

The Department is currently in the early stages of a Wildlife Act review process. Fish and Game staff have been collaborating at a national level to have input into the process.

1212 Consent Applications

Date	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
25 Aug	BOPRC	BOPRC	LUC – high flow by passes constructed	Ngongotaha St.	Approved
26 Aug	GDC	Aratu Forest Ltd	LUC- culvert crossings	Trib of Nuhaka River	No concerns email
12 Sept	BOPRC	Fonterra	WP- Edgecumbe factory operations water demand	Rangitaiki River	No concerns email

Consents of Note:

BOPRC Diquat consent variation application

This has been settled with all parties agreeing on the final consent wording. Reliance is being placed on environmental monitoring to tease out potential issues which can be managed by consultative group prior to each spray season.

Catfish Incursion Lakes Rotoiti and Rotorua

The Te Arawa Lakes Trust led community catfish programme continues with school groups and volunteers checking fyke nets around lakes Rotorua and Rotoiti. This time of year (spring) sees water temperatures increasing and as such, catfish begin to seek out new habitat and the use of nets becomes effective. Comparing this winter to last catch per unit effort increased slightly, this can be attributed to many likely factors; maybe warmer lake temperatures, no lockdown restricting work, volunteers regularly recording more data etc.

This time of year larger catfish (>200mm) tend to be caught compared to large groups of baby catfish that are encountered in summer. More nets are being added at Te Weta Bay in preparation for spawning season and TALT are looking at adding some more at the Rotorua lake front as there are signs of a population around the rocks at that locality.

1221 Reserves Management

The summer maintenance programme has commenced with mowing of access tracks within reserves scheduled for early October, replacement “balancing culvert and weir” works in the Kaituna scheduled for mid-November, replacement water supply structures at Awaiti scheduled for February 2023, and Awaiti, Orini and Kaituna water reticulations works scheduled for February 2023. Water inlet and outlet structure plant sprays will occur November 2022, with full access tracks and wetland reticulation sprays scheduled for Feb/Mar 2023. No budgeted tracks maintenance works are planned (subject to NES-W rules enabling such activities).

Meetings continue with BOPRC and DOC to consider “global” resource consents to undertake enhancement and maintenance activities within wetland reserves that are no longer permitted under the new rules of the NES. This remains complicated currently as NES-W rules remain under appeal with final wording predicted November 2022.

1231 Respond to Landowner Requests for Assistance

Two new landowner requests have been received since the last Council meeting. One requires a site visit mid-October with the other just awaiting confirmation from the landowner of their requirements prior to an arranged site visit.

The two landowners requiring site visits in the Gisborne district have not occurred due to insufficient time and staff plan to visit these in October.

Please note – the vast majority of landowner visits require works in what is now deemed “natural wetlands” under the NES-W rules. As stated previously, these rules are under appeal with final wording predicted November 2022. Until the final wording is obtained, trying to progress wetland works currently is considerably more time consuming and costly as works are very restrictive unless resource consents are obtained. Once final NES-W rules are established it should provide a clearer pathway to do, or not to do, wetland enhancement works.

The Burt Wetland project in Te Puke remains on hold as we await BOPRC’s staff assessment of the site (site visit undertaken 16 Sept) as to requirements for an AEE, and the current NES-W rules. We also await decision on the funding application put to the NZGBHT.

1232 Habitat Projects

Whakaki wetland

Matt McDougall attended two meetings in the capacity of a Governor to implement a grant under the Freshwater Improvement Fund to clean up Whakaki Lagoon. Matt has recently taken over from Andy Garrick as a Governor. This project has not progressed as first envisaged due primarily to local politics. Nevertheless, it appears that planting and fencing of waterways in the catchment is progressing as is a water control weir. The original proposal to pump the lagoon water through a cleaning wetland will unlikely occur.

1241 Monitor Waterfowl Habitats

A forum meeting is scheduled for October 4th with the key discussion point being how all parties can undertake maintenance works within managed wetlands over the coming summer. All parties are awaiting results from submissions, in reference to NES -W, to MfE regarding permitted maintenance activities within wetlands. We hope BOPRC may enable some works, so planning can occur while awaiting final wordings to the NES-W.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

The recreational access season into Timberlands forests is to conclude at the last weekend of September, although that may be extended into October by the forest managers at their discretion if fire risk remains low, which at this stage is likely.

Annual access maintenance work on access track and points is commencing.

Liaison with landowners and managers is ongoing, regarding maintaining and enhancing access for anglers in particular.

1312 Signage

Sign maintenance and enhancement is ongoing with replacements as required.

1313 Hunter Ballots

Hunter ballot forms will be mailed out during October to previous ballot holders. We have also advertised availability in the Fish & Game magazine and will post information on social media.

1331 Electronic Newsletters

Reel Life E-zine is not published during winter. Both Barrels was produced for May, June and July.

1332 Fish & Game Publications

The 2022-2023 Fish and Game New Zealand magazine was distributed to 2021-2022 whole season fish licence holders in mid-August 2022.

1333 Fish & Game Website

Updates or changes to the Eastern Web site included Council agendas and minutes, changes to the children's fishing page and news of the opening day.

1334 Social Media

Facebook continues to attract good traffic with over 1,700 organic followers. Our Instagram page is increasing in popularity with over 300 followers.

1341 Information Pamphlets

The new Waiau, Ruakituri/Hangaroa brochure has been received and distributed to agents. A re-print of the Boat Fishing how-to has been received.

1351 Junior Angler/Hunter Programmes

Two children's fishing events were successfully held for the reporting period. Two events are remaining for 2022.

1352 Angler/Hunter Training

No angler/hunter training was held for the reporting period.

1354 Fishing Competitions

Eight fishing competition permits were processed for the period.

1361 Fish & Game Club Communications

Two club visits were conducted for the reported period.

1371 Fish & Game Huts

Routine maintenance as required at Wairua and Waikaremoana. No issues to report at present. There was a good level of angler use at Wairua Hut over the last season.

PUBLIC INTERFACE

1411 Statutory Liaison and Political Awareness

Verbal report to be supplied if any.

1421 Public Communications

Verbal report to be supplied if any.

COMPLIANCE

1511 Ranging

Spawning fish remain in many areas, especially in streams around the Rotorua Lakes, and monitoring of these areas continues. An offender who staff dealt with in July at Lake Rotoiti, who was fishing without a licence, and who refused to give his details and refused to surrender gear for seizure has been charged with offences in relation to this incident following investigation which confirmed his identity.

Compliance work continues around the region including at Waikaremoana, in conjunction with Genesis Energy contract work (spawning monitoring and angler surveys).

Contacts Year to Date 2021-2022.

2,273 anglers and hunters have been checked for compliance YTD. Overall compliance is 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	352	328
February	137	307	265	155	140	201
March	199	180	23	164	93	132
April	178	124	7	153	238	140
May	226	252	143	297	203	224
June	172	168	162	124	141	153
July	80	63	75	45	57	64
August	33	54	20	22	32	32
Total	2536	2833	2076	2407	2273	2424

National CLE Liaison Role

Eastern staff continue to provide CLE and prosecution advice to various regions on request, and to coordinate ranger safety and communications (CERT) training.

1521 Ranger Training

Ongoing staff compliance refresher training sessions carried out. A regional ranger's training day is scheduled for September, having been postponed from August, and we will host a CERT training day here in November, with several regions planning to send staff and honorary rangers to attend at that day.

Rangers

Honorary Rangers continue to contribute around the region as they are able to.

1531 Prosecutions

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

Offences 2021-2022 Year:

25 persons dealt with for 32 offences as tabled below.

Offence table 2021-2022 year

Offence name	Number of offences
Fishing without licence	12
Fishing in closed waters	6
Fishing with more than 1 rod	2
Gives false details	1
Fails to give details	1
Obstruction of ranger	1
Possession of spear	7
Possession of lead shot ammunition while hunting waterfowl	2
Total number of offences	32

Offences Pending Resolution

14 separate offences are pending resolution, by 6 offenders details as per the table below. All these but 1 of these persons have warrants for arrest either in lieu of summons or for failing to appear in Court and are for matters which took place from 2016 to 2019. The other matter is currently pending court outcomes.

The table below shows offences currently pending resolution:

Offence name	Numbers
Fish without licence	7
Illegal tackle	1
Possess net-spear-gaff	1
Fish closed waters	1
False details	2
Fails to give details	1
Obstruction of ranger	1
Total number of offences	14

LICENSING

1621 Licence Agent Support

Agent requests for licence corrections, brochures, and information was attended to as and when required. Staff visited or communicated with all agents in the lead up to the new season distributing new season information and regulation guides.

Agents were sent several email communications advising them of the scheduled system upgrade to the new platform which occurred on 25 July 2022. The “go live” for the new system was timed to occur prior to the new seasons sales going online which meant that any teething issues could be resolved. Over \$1.5m in sales nationally have occurred since the new season licences went on sale on 18 August 2022. Most of Eastern’s agents have encountered very few issues with the new licence system and those who have, the issues are primarily related to a change in functionality rather than system failures. Kate Thompson has been providing training and assistance as required.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1812 R3 Programme

Kate Thompson has set up and provided training for both of the Rotorua I-sites to sell licences. Further engagement with the I-sites will occur on return of the CE from overseas.

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. She has also provided ongoing input to discussions regarding the licence system upgrade, and provided assistance with User Acceptance Testing (UAT).

1923 Employment

Interviews were conducted in August to replace our 0.4 FTE Office Administration role following the resignation of Nerida Evans. Nerida kindly helped with lesser hours until the position could be filled. We are pleased to welcome Janet Evans to the office role. Janet started with us mid-September and it's great to have her on board.

The 12-month contract for a full time Hatchery Assistant expired and Eden Mutton has accepted a position as permanent full-time Field Officer with focus on the Hatchery programmes.

Lloyd Gledhill continues his weekend shift cutting back to two days per week and is also available for a number of additional days throughout the year for liberations and projects requiring extra hands.

9.4 LICENCE SALES REPORT

26 September 2022

1. 2021-2022 Fish Licence Sales

1.1 Fish licence sales for the 2021-22 season compared with the 2020-21 season for the financial year ending 31 August 2022 are summarised in Table One. Fish licence sales are reporting to be 6.4% below 2020-21 season results.

1.2 The fish licence sales target for the Season has been exceeding by 0.6% (47 LEQ's).

Table One: Fish Licence Sales 2021-22 vs 2020-21 YTD results to 31 August 2022

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	1,220	1,423	2,643	1,111	1,433	2,544	-99
Season	1,053	1,239	2,292	980	1,166	2,146	-146
Season Non-Resident	24	38	62	16	38	54	-8
Loyal Senior	273	250	523	269	267	536	13
Local Area Adult	983	682	1,665	894	626	1,520	-145
Winter Adult	239	323	562	183	331	514	-48
Long Break Adult	24	35	59	12	25	37	-22
Short Break Adult	430	842	1,272	281	734	1,015	-257
Day	1,476	2,658	4,134	1,091	2,636	3,727	-407
Day Non-Resident	20	129	149	32	133	165	16
Total Adult	5,742	7,619	13,361	4,869	7,389	12,258	-1103
Fish Junior							
Season	218	227	445	190	238	428	-17
Season Non-Resident	2	2	4	0	5	5	1
Day	150	254	404	118	230	348	-56
Day Non-Resident	3	5	8	2	8	10	2
Total Junior	373	488	861	310	481	791	-70
Fish Child							
Season Non-Resident	0	0	0	0	2	2	2
Day Non-Resident	0	3	3	0	4	4	1
Total Child	0	3	3	0	6	6	3
Total Fish	6,115	8,110	14,225	5,179	7,876	13,055	-1170
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			9,186			8,601	-585
Variance between Seasons							-6.4%
\$ (excl GST)			\$1,062,407			\$1,024,676	-\$37,730

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	8,601	100.6%	\$1,024,676
Variance to budget	47	0.6%	\$5,675

- 1.3 Early season sales of 2022-23 fish licences compared with the 2021-22 season to 26 September 2022 are summarised in Table Two. Sales YTD are reporting to be 17.5% down on 2021-22 season results for the same period. It is too early to draw any conclusions from these initial results.

Table Two: Fish Licence Sales 2022-23 vs 2021-22 YTD results to 26 September 2022

Licence Category	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2021-22	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2022-23	Inc/Dec on prior Season
Fish Adult							
Family Season	353	397	750	280	324	604	-146
Season Non-Resident	276	278	554	252	206	458	-96
Loyal Senior	0	5	5	1	14	15	10
Local Area Adult	117	158	275	90	152	242	-33
Winter Adult	251	129	380	184	123	307	-73
Long Break Adult	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short Break Adult	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day	2	5	7	1	6	7	0
Day Non-Resident	2	3	5	4	2	6	1
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Adult	1,001	975	1,976	812	827	1,639	-337
Fish Junior							
Season	27	23	50	24	17	41	-9
Season Non-Resident	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day Non-Resident	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Junior	27	23	50	24	17	41	-9
Fish Child							
Season Non-Resident	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day Non-Resident	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Child	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Fish	1,028	998	2,026	836	844	1,680	-346
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			2,085			1,719	-366
Variance between Seasons							-17.5%
\$ (excl GST)			\$248,345			\$216,743	-\$31,602

2. 2022 Game Licence Sales

- 2.1 Game licence sales for the 2022 Game Bird Hunting season compared with the 2021 season to 31 August are summarised in Table Three.
- 2.2 Game licence sales ended the season just 0.6% behind the 2021 season results.
- 2.3 Game licence sales targets were also set conservatively and as a result the Game licence sales to 31 August 2022 have exceeded the annual budget by 9.7% (268 LEQs).

Table Three: Game Licence Sales 2021-22 vs 2020-21 YTD results to 31 August 2022

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
Game							
Adult Season	2,481	470	2,951	2,480	460	2,940	-11
Adult Day	67	87	154	35	86	121	-33
Junior Season	229	64	293	243	49	292	-1
Junior Day	1	3	4	2	4	6	2
Child Season	107	19	126	111	13	124	-2
Total Game	2,885	643	3,528	2,871	612	3,483	-45
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			3,042			3,022	-20
Variance between Seasons							-0.6%
\$ (excl GST)			\$248,611			\$252,270	\$3,659

Summary 2021-2022 Season YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2021-22 Annual Budgeted Game LEQs	2,754	100.0%	\$229,867
2021-22 Actual	3,022	109.7%	\$252,270
Variance to budget	268	9.7%	\$22,403

10. 2023 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

Ref: 1.07.03

16 September 2022

1. Purpose

To review the 2022 Eastern Game Season Conditions (see Appendix 1) and highlight the 2023 game season issues needing further consideration at Council's December meeting.

2. Introduction

Issues relating to game season regulations for the upcoming season need to be identified at this meeting of Council. From time to time Council reviews its policies and criteria for setting regulations (see resolutions Appendix 2). Council has previously determined that where it could, it would set mallard and grey duck (grey/mallard) regulations based on predicted population sizes of game bird populations ("threshold management"), with three sets of regulatory constraints, these being restricted, intermediate, and relaxed game season conditions. If for example, the Eastern mallard population was predicted to be equal to, or below 350,000 birds then a restricted set of conditions would apply. If it was projected it will be above 350,000 and below 450,000 birds an intermediate set would apply, and if it was predicted to be greater than 450,000 birds this would trigger a relaxed set of conditions (see Figure 1).

Paradise shelduck and black swan regulations are also based on their respective population status. Criteria for setting regulations for these species are given in Appendix 2.

National monitoring of shoveler populations indicates the population may be decreasing. This is discussed further below.

Annual game season conditions for the following season are generally proposed at Council's meeting in December and confirmed or refined by staff for recommendation to the Minister of Conservation at the end of January once additional population information is available from summer monitoring programmes.

3. Issues

In addition to any other issues Council might wish to discuss, there are 3 topics that require Council's consideration and input for next season as follows:

3.1 Special black swan season

Two special black swan seasons have been gazetted; (1) for 25 February – 5 March 2023 Area A1 and, (2) for Tauranga Harbour only on 25–26 March 2023 with an unlimited daily bag in both seasons. The special season was proposed in 2018 following rapidly increasing numbers on Tauranga Harbour (Figure 1). This will be the first time a Tauranga Harbour only season will be held. It is also the first time that the special season has been longer than two days.

The Western Bay of Plenty Fish and Game Club usually organises a shoot over the special season in February with the aim of reducing numbers on the harbour, but have not had much luck with the weather in recent years.

Council needs to consider whether it wishes to hold another special season in February 2024 and if so, should it extend for a longer period than just one weekend.

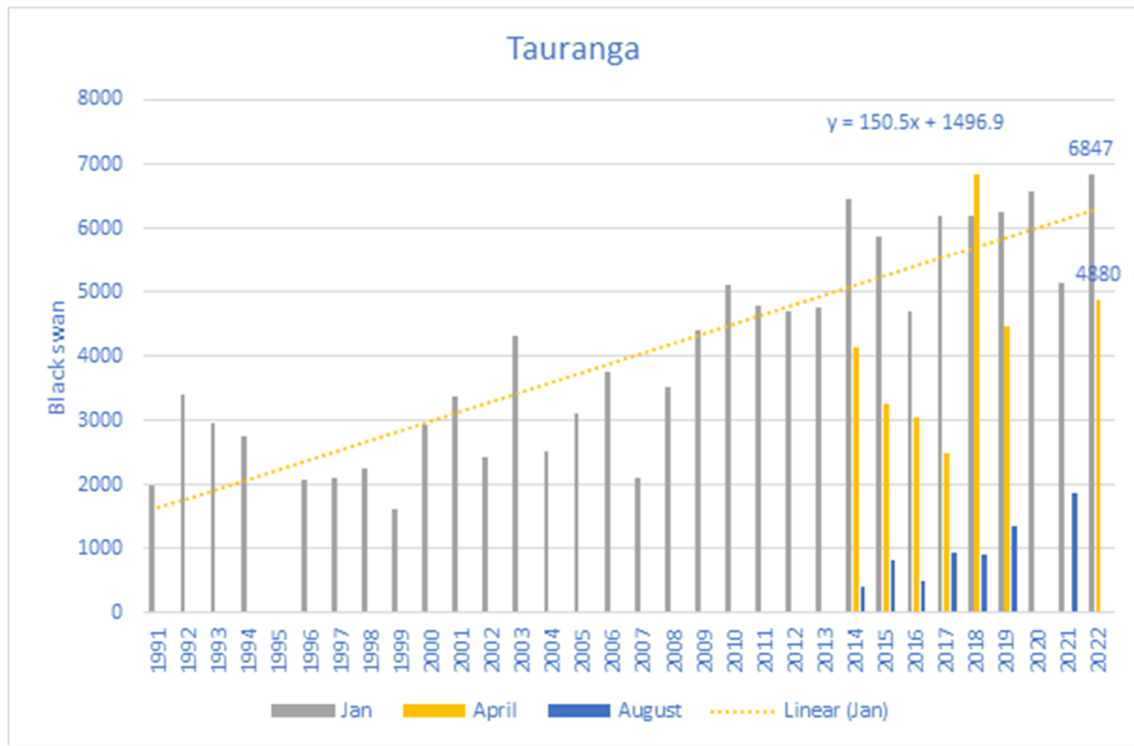


Figure 1. Black swan counts on Tauranga harbour 1991–2022 (grey columns). April and August counts are shown in yellow and blue respectively. Counts are made from a Cessna 172 aircraft flying at 300’ using two observers. The 2021 count was delayed because of Covid-19 lockdown and did not occur until 13 September.

3.2 Special pukeko season

A special season for pukeko was held on the weekend of 26–27 February 2022 with a daily bag limit of 10 across the entire region. Another special season for pukeko has been gazetted for the weekend of 25 February – 5 March 2023 in all areas with, a daily bag limit of 10 birds. The special season was initially proposed to alleviate crop damage, reduce mallard and grey duckling predation, and was based on the limited harvest recorded during the game bird season (2021 season: 1,235; 95% CI 574–2,659). It is unclear if hunters chose to participate in the special season.

In recent years (2015–2021) the number of permits issued to disturb pukeko has been fairly stable (Figure 2). Council needs to decide if it wishes to hold another special season in 2024 and if so, should it be extended for an extended period (9 days) similar to the 2023 special season.

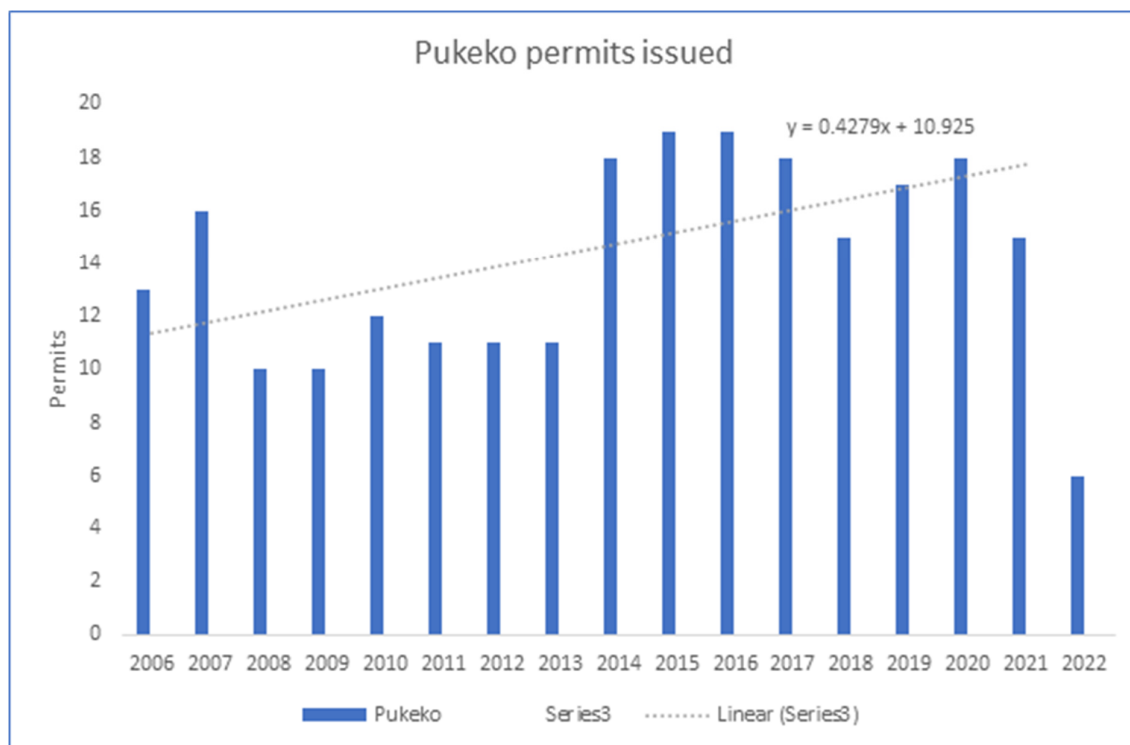


Figure 2. Number of pukeko permits to disturb issued by year. The trend line does not include 2022 (which is not finished).

3.3 *Brown quail*

In 2020 – 2022 there was no open season for brown quail in the Eastern Region. This came about because of a perceived decline in the population. There has been no reported harvest (hunter survey) for many years and they have disappeared from the few pockets staff know of. Council needs to consider if a closed season should continue for the 2023 season. We have had no comment from hunters regarding closure of the season over the past three years.

3.4 *Shoveler duck*

Fish & Game have conducted a national count of shoveler duck annually since 2000. The population appears to be decreasing (see the summary report provided within the management report in this agenda). All Fish and Game regions have a 2-bird daily limit excluding Northland which have a 3-bird daily limit. The shoveler season length in the Eastern Region is four weeks.

Despite the low daily bag limit hunters on average shoot less than 1 (0.133; 2021 season) shoveler during the entire season. Council need to consider what might trigger a review of the current conditions policy. An options paper could be prepared for the December meeting.

After today’s meeting, clubs will be invited to comment on any issues they wish to raise for consideration at Council’s next meeting on 8 December 2022.

4. Additional Information

4.1 **Threshold Approach and Mallard and Grey Duck Population Estimates**

Mallard and grey duck regulations are determined from estimated population size (see Introduction above). Population size appears to be influenced by several factors including climate variables (rainfall and temperature), and the preceding year's harvest and population size. A number of models are run to predict the population size and a weighted estimate of the best fitting models is used to predict the up-and-coming population size (Figure 1). This will be the fourth year this method has been used to predict population size and has proven to be very good at determining the appropriate threshold zone the population will be in. Further detail on the 2022 season will be provided in the 8 December 2022 agenda.

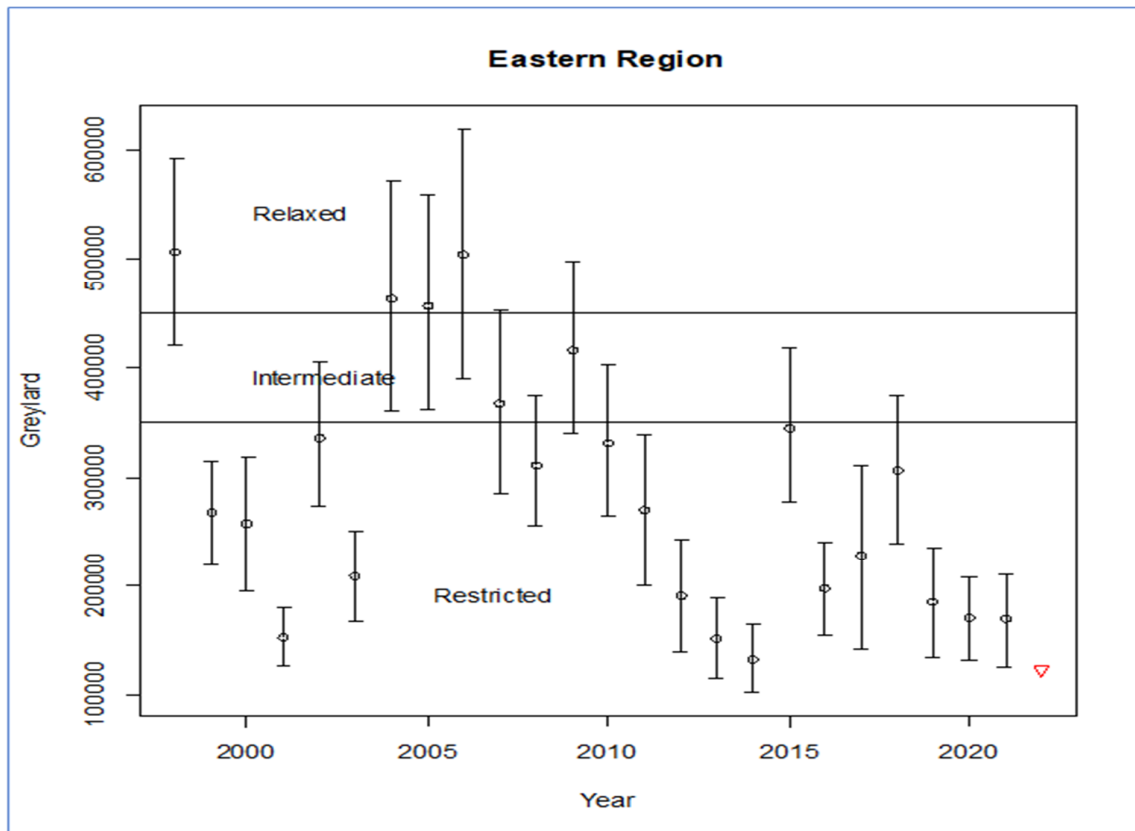


Figure 3. Estimated greylard population size (mean \pm 95% Bayesian Confidence Interval) in the Eastern Region 1997–2022. The red inverted triangle shows the predicted population size prior to the 2022 season. The solid horizontal lines show the threshold limits demarking the three different levels of regulation constraint (restricted, intermediate, and relaxed).

4. Recommendation:

- 4.1 *That Council considers the proposed threshold levels and criteria for regulation setting and identifies any variants for ratification at its December 2022 meeting.*
- 4.2 *That Council identifies any other game season condition matters it would like further information on, or consultation with hunters about, before its December 2022 meeting.*

Appendix 1

FIRST SCHEDULE 2022 GAME SEASON

Hunting conditions generally common to all fish and game regions

1. Bag Limits

- (1) No person shall possess on any one day, more than the number of game birds specified as the daily bag limit for the Fish and Game Region in which the game is taken, except on Sunday 8 May 2022, when that person may have in his or her possession twice the number of game birds specified as the daily bag limit for Saturday 7 May 2022.
- (2) A person may possess more game than specified in clause 1(1) of this Schedule, if all such game is labelled with the following details:
 - (a) The name and address of the person by whom the game was taken;
 - (b) The number of the licence to hunt or kill game held by the person by whom the game was taken;
 - (c) The name of the Fish and Game Region by which that licence was issued;
 - (d) The name of the Fish and Game Region in which the game was taken; and
 - (e) The date on which the game was taken.

2. Waiver of Restrictions on Baiting for Waterfowl

A person may hunt or kill game of the family *Anatidae* (waterfowl) during the open season for game in all Fish and Game Regions, except Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region, where food has been cast, thrown, placed or planted any time during the year.⁴ In the Second Schedule, Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region, Special Condition 4(9), applies to restrictions on baiting.

3. Magazine Shotguns

A person may hunt or kill game birds, as specified, in any Fish and Game Regions with any magazine shotgun of a calibre 10 gauge or less, which includes magazine extensions that comply with the Arms Act 1983,⁵ other than in the:

- (a) Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region;
- (b) Eastern Fish and Game Region;
- (c) Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Region;
- (d) Wellington Fish and Game Region;
- (e) Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Region;
- (f) West Coast Fish and Game Region.

For these six Regions special conditions in the Second Schedule apply.

4. Shot Size

No person shall use, in any shotgun used for the purposes of hunting and killing game, any cartridge containing any shot size having a larger retained, per-pellet energy at 90 metres than lead BB.

5. Use of Lead Shot Prohibited

- (1) No person may possess lead shot, or use lead shot, while hunting or killing waterfowl within 200 metres of open water with any gun, except those using a .410 cartridge. Non-toxic alternative shot must be used, including steel.
- (2) For the purposes of this requirement, "waterfowl" means any of the following game species:

Black swan (*Cygnus atratus*);
Grey duck (*Anas superciliosa*) and any cross of that species with any other species, variety, or kind of duck;
Mallard duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and any cross of that species with any other species, variety, or kind of duck;
Paradise shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*) also known as Paradise duck;
Australasian shoveler duck (New Zealand shoveler) (*Anas rhynchotis*);
Pukeko (*Porphyrio porphyrio melanotus*).

- (3) For the purposes of this requirement, “open water” means either:
- (a) any area of land or seabed covered permanently or seasonally by water wider than 3 metres; or
 - (b) any area which is temporarily covered by water wider than 3 metres at the time of such possession or use, and that is contiguous to an area referred to in paragraph (3)(a).

6. Camouflaged Rowboats

A person may hunt or kill game within the following Fish and Game Regions, from unmoored camouflaged rowboats, subject to the excluded periods for the regions specified below:⁶

Northland – no excluded period
Auckland/Waikato – excluding 7 and 8 May 2022
Eastern – excluding 7 and 8 May 2022
Hawke’s Bay – excluding 7 and 8 May 2022
Taranaki – no excluded period
Wellington – excluding 7 and 8 May 2022
Nelson/Marlborough – no excluded period
West Coast – no excluded period
North Canterbury – excluding 7 and 8 May 2022
Central South Island – excluding 7 and 8 May 2022
Otago – excluding Clutha River 7 to 15 May 2022 inclusive
Southland – excluding the Mataura, Aparima, Oreti, Waiau and Waimatuku rivers and their tributaries 7 to 31 May 2022 inclusive and excluding that part of the Oreti River below the Dunn’s Road bridge for the whole season.

7. Restriction on Taking of Game

No person shall use any vehicle propelled by mechanical power (including motorised watercraft) to chase or kill game, except in such circumstances and at such times as authorised by the Conservation Act 1987 and Wildlife Act 1953.⁷

8. Pegging Day

- (1) Stand claimants who claimed and occupied a stand during the 2021 Game Season may claim that stand at any time prior to pegging day (up to 10.00 a.m. on 10 April 2022) following the purchase of the 2022 game licence. If you are in the Auckland/Waikato Region, then the above mentioned applies **only to Adult Whole Season Licence Holders** and does not apply to Junior Licence Holders as it does in all other Fish and Game Regions.
- (2) Otherwise, unclaimed stands can only be claimed any time after 10.00am on 10 April 2022 in all Fish and Game Regions.
- (3) A stand may be claimed by planting on it a stake having either a board or identifying label attached, plainly identifying the name of the claimant and the number of his/her licence.

The hunting stand claim tag provided with the licence must be completed with the name of the claimant and affixed to the board or identifying label.

- (4) The licence holder claiming a stand must be present in person at the stand when marking it up.
- (5) No one can claim more than one stand.
- (6) A stand cannot be claimed closer than 90 metres to a stand already claimed by another person without that person's consent.
- (7) Any stand not occupied by the claimant within one hour after the opening hour of hunting, on any day, can be occupied by another licence holder for the remainder of the day.

SECOND SCHEDULE 2022 GAME SEASON

Eastern Fish and Game Region¹¹

1. Game That May be Hunted or Killed—Duration of 2022/2023 Season

Species	Season Duration (dates inclusive)	Daily Bag Limit	Hunting Area
Grey/mallard duck	7 May to 6 June 2022	6	All areas
NZ shoveler duck	7 May to 6 June 2022	2	All areas
Paradise shelduck	7 May to 3 July 2022	6	Area A1, A2
	7 May to 3 July 2022	10	Area B2 and that part of B1, which lies south of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay
	7 May to 17 July 2022	20	That part of B1, which lies north of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay
Pukeko	7 May to 28 August 2022	10	All areas
	25 February to 5 March 2023	10	All areas
Black swan	7 May to 28 August 2022	No limit	Area A1
	25 February to 5 March 2023	No limit	Area A1
	25 March to 26 March 2023	No limit	Tauranga Harbour only
	7 May to 3 July 2022	5	Area A2
	Closed season	0	Area B1 & B2
Bobwhite (Virginian) quail	Closed Season	0	All areas
Brown quail	Closed season	0	All areas
California quail	7 May to 28 August 2022	No limit	Area A1 & A2
	7 May to 28 August 2022	5	Area B1 & B2
Cock pheasant	7 May to 28 August 2022	5	All areas

2. Definition of Areas

The following descriptions refer to Management Units within the Eastern Region (described on Infomap 242B-2 Land Information New Zealand). The Management Units are defined using both District Council and Eastern Region Fish and Game boundaries. The coastal boundaries of Management Units A1, B1 and, B2 follow the coastline as per Infomap 242-2.

- (1) **Area A1:** Tauranga District, Western Bay of Plenty District, that part of the South Waikato District within the Eastern Fish and Game region and east of State Highway 1, Rotorua District, Kawerau District, Whakatane District and Opotiki District.
- (2) **Area A2:** Those parts of the South Waikato District west of State Highway 1 within the Eastern Fish and Game region, Taupo District and Ruapehu District, which lie within the Eastern Fish and Game region.

- (3) **Area B1:** Gisborne District.
- (4) **Area B2:** That part of Wairoa District within the Eastern Fish and Game region.

3. Shooting Hours

6.15am to 6.15pm in all areas for all species during their respective seasons.

4. Decoy Limit

No Limit

5. Special Conditions

- (1) No person may hunt or kill game birds, as specified, within the Eastern region with any magazine shotgun unless the shotgun:
 - a. has a magazine of any type adjusted with a one-piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun; or
 - b. the magazine is pinned in accordance with Regulations made under this Act; so that the magazine shotgun is incapable of holding more than 2 shells in the magazine, with no more than 3 shells in the magazine and chamber combined, at any one time.
- (2) No maimai shall impede the use of navigable channels in the Tauranga Harbour, Ohiwa Harbour, Little Waihi Estuary, Lake Aniwhenua and Lake Taupo.
- (3) A person who erects a maimai in the Little Waihi Estuary, Lake Aniwhenua, Ohiwa Harbour, Stump and Waihi Bays of Lake Taupo must dismantle and remove it within 2 weeks of the close of the season (ie by 12 September 2022).
- (4) A licensed game bird hunter who has a Department of Conservation permit to take or kill wildlife for the purpose of hawking may hunt with an Australasian Harrier (*Circus approximans*) to take game birds. This is subject to the season length and bag limit for game birds specified in clause 1 of this notice for this Region and subject to any condition imposed by the Director-General of Conservation under such a permit.
- (5) No person shall wilfully within the Eastern Fish & Game Region, in or on any public place, or in or on any private land without consent of the land occupier:
 - a. deposit any type of litter, including any carcass or part of it, of any shot game.
 - b. having deposited any type of litter, including carcasses or parts thereof, of any shot game, leaves it after having been deposited.
 - c. for the purposes of this regulation litter includes any refuse, animal or game remains, or waste matter or items of any type used in the course of hunting, which is abandoned or intended to be abandoned.
- (6) A person must not use a drone to disturb game birds.

6. Hunting From a Boat Under Power

No person may possess a firearm that can be rapidly deployed in or on any unmoored vessel, except (1) where the unmoored vessel is not being propelled at the time by a motorised device, or (2) the firearm is needed to retrieve wounded game. For the purpose of this subclause a firearm is considered unable to be rapidly deployed if it has been dismantled or secured in a case, gunslip or other secure compartment.

Appendix 2

GAME SEASON CONDITION POLICIES

2.1 Mallard and Grey Duck (greyland)

- i. *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that Council re-affirms the threshold approach to setting mallard and grey duck harvest regulations (where grey duck are treated as mallard due to the difficulty in distinguishing between the species). [15/11/12.2]*
- ii. *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that the threshold levels are set at 350,000 and 450,000 such that at or below 350,000 a set of restricted conditions apply; above 350,000 and, at or below 450,000 a set of intermediate harvest regulations apply; and above 450,000 a relaxed set of conditions apply. [15/11/12.3]*
- iii. *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that restricted conditions shall comprise a 4-week season (including Queens Birthday when appropriate) with a bag limit of 6 mallard and grey duck; intermediate conditions shall comprise a 6-week season with a bag limit of 8 mallard and grey duck; and relaxed conditions shall comprise an 8-week season with a bag limit of 10 mallard and grey duck. [15/11/12.4]*
- iv. *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]*

2.2 Other Species

- i. *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Steve Scragg) that paradise shelduck and black swan thresholds and regulations remain the status quo and subject to January monitoring results. [15/11/12.5]*
- ii. *Agreed (Ian Pirani/Lindsay Lyons) that Council authorises staff to make a decision on Game Season Regulations outside of policy when an issue has been flagged. [12/10/8.2]*
- iii. *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]*
- iv. *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]*
- v. *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]*

vi. *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Jay Tapsell) that reference to bob white quail is removed from the 2022 Game Gazette Notice. [21/12/10.12]*

Rationale for (v) as per October 2012 Council minutes:

“Cr Barry Roderick commented on the greylard population estimates being the lowest in 8 years and the mystery, last summer, with a very high ratio of juveniles in the traps. Matt McDougall said that in the last decade something had occurred in some years that's throwing us off track. Last year he was concerned over the reduced adults in the traps and those concerns were later vindicated by harvest results. Council discussed the policy for setting the season regulations and the short time frame available before these are presented to the Minister for approval. Rob Pitkethley said that in 4 out of 5 years the modelling policy would be used, but in the occasional year staff would like the ability to alter the policy direction if unusual results suggested something else was occurring. Staff were seeking guidance on how this unusual process could work and Cr Steve Scragg said that he would be comfortable with Matt McDougall and Rob Pitkethley making the appropriate call and providing confirmation by email to Council.”

vii. *Agreed (Alan Baird/Adam Rayner) that Council supports changing the “Intermediate” regulations for black swan from a daily bag limit of 2 to 5 birds (i.e, when the population is assessed at 1,000-3,000 birds) to provide more incentive to hunt swan once the mallard season finishes. [18/11/10.15]*

2.3 Threshold Criteria for Paradise shelduck

Table 1: Eastern Paradise Shelduck threshold levels

LONG TERM POPULATION TREND	SEASON
Negative i.e. population declining	Restricted
Zero i.e. population stable	Intermediate
Positive i.e. population growing.	Relaxed

Table 2: Eastern Paradise Shelduck season conditions (Season per Table 1)

SEASON	Area	Specific Conditions	
		Length (weeks)	Bag Limit
Restricted	A1 & A2	4	4
	B2 & B1 South of true right bank Uawa River Mouth	4	4
Intermediate	A1, A2	8	6
	B2 & B1 South of the true right bank Uawa River Mouth	8	10
Relaxed	A1, A2, B2 & B1 South of the true right bank Uawa River Mouth	10	10
Fixed Season condition	B1 North of the true right bank Uawa River Mouth	10	20

2.4 Threshold Criteria for Black Swan

Table 3: Eastern Black Swan threshold levels

POPULATION SIZE	TREND	SEASON
Low (below 1,000)	Negative	Restricted
Low (below 1,000)	Zero	Restricted
Low (below 1,000)	Positive	Restricted
Moderate (between 1,000 and 3,000)	Negative	Intermediate
Moderate (between 1,000 and 3,000)	Zero	Intermediate
Moderate (between 1,000 and 3,000)	Positive	Relaxed
Greater than 3,000	Negative	Relaxed
Greater than 3,000	Zero	Relaxed
Greater than 3,000	Positive	Relaxed

Table 4: Eastern Black Swan season conditions (Season per Table 3)

SEASON	SPECIFIC CONDITIONS (LENGTH AND DAILY BAG).
Restricted	No season.
Intermediate	8-week season with a 5-bird limit for Management Units A1, A2 and B1. 6-week season with a 4 bird limit for Management Unit B2.
Relaxed	16-week season with a no-bird limit.

11. WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Ref: 2.01.07.01

27 September 2022

1. Purpose

To provide an end of year summary of expenditure of funds from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund during the 2021-2022 year.

2. Background

In 1999 ECNZ made a commitment to create a trust known as the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Trust (“Trust”) as part of its consent for the Waikaremoana Power Scheme before its transfer to Genesis. The Trust was set up in response to concerns about the environmental, recreational, social, cultural and economic effects of the Waikaremoana Power Scheme (“WPS”). Due to Inland Revenue issues and the Trust being subject to taxes on interest, the Trust was disbanded soon after its formation, and the settlement was paid to Fish & Game to form the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund (“Waikaremoana Fund”).

The objective of the Trust and now the Waikaremoana Fund is:

"To sustain and enhance habitat for sports fish within the Wairoa River catchment and enhance access of the public to recreational sports fish therein".

In addition to this key objective, there are a number of additional purposes that include:

- *To undertake research that furthers the objectives of the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund;*
- *Identify and evaluate areas in the catchment worth protection, restoration, enhancement, etc.;*
- *Carry out creel surveys;*
- *Carry out trials and monitoring on improving sports fish habitat;*
- *To create, improve, maintain signage and access to sports fisheries.*

The Fund contained an initial investment of \$250,000. When the Fund was established in 2000 the Council agreed that the principal should be protected with an inflation-based adjustment and spending from the Fund should be maintained within the interest generated.

The table below shows expenditure on projects and work areas since 2001. The items highlighted in yellow are projects undertaken/expenses incurred in 2021-2022.

Work Area	Amount funded (\$)
Information & access pamphlets	6,177
Signage & Information panels	7,046
2002 Angler Creel Survey	4,130
Contributions to Access through jetties, gangplanks, carparks etc	13,333
Habitat studies (Lake & River (2) Inventories, Wildlands reports)	9,521
2007 Angler Creel Survey	5,376
Fish research (River fish age/source otolith analysis)	928
Buoy construction share and installation	21,577

Buoy maintenance/servicing expenses	6,752
2012 Angler Creel Survey	5,944
Lagarosiphon Project	1,000
Water Quality Monitoring Report	4,990
Waikaremoana Buoy Maintenance	250
2014-15 Wairoa Catchment Access Investigations	5,204
2015-16 Survey Project	13,521
Waikaremoana Buoy	2,560
2015-16 Wairoa Access work and brochure	2,920
2016-17 Survey, Monitoring and Access	12,010
Waikaremoana Buoy	2,459
Lowrance Transducer/Transceiver - Parera	7,129
2017-18 Survey and Monitoring	5,061
2018-19 Survey, Monitoring, Access and 1/3 rd share of Buoy repairs	10,885
2019-20 Survey, Monitoring and Access	5,208
2020-21 Surveys, Access, Buoy Maintenance & Repairs	6,930
2021-22 Surveys, Access, Buoy Maintenance & Repairs	3,718
OxyGuard meter & 25m cable	2,410
TOTAL	\$167,040

3. Discussion

Overview of 2021-2022 Expenditure

At its meeting in April 2021, Council approved funding of up to \$8,000 for the 2021-2022 OWP year from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund for ongoing survey and monitoring of key spawning tributaries at Waikaremoana, the continuation of access related work within the Wairoa catchment, and buoy maintenance [21/04/5.4].

Of the \$8,000 funding approved for expenditure during the 2021-2022 OWP year \$3,718 was ultimately drawn down from the Fund. The additional c.\$4k funding that had been approved was not utilised due to unprogrammed income having been generated from a contract with Genesis Energy for survey work and closures to the lake due to local Covid restrictions. Reports on other activities undertaken at Waikaremoana during the year were reported in the bi-monthly Operational Reports provided in Council's 2021-22 agendas.

The April 2022 Council meeting saw Council approve further funding of up to \$8,000 for the 2022-23 OWP year for the purposes mentioned above, and an additional \$2,400 to replace the portable handheld oxygen and temperature meter for use in the Waikaremoana and Wairoa catchments, the latter being beneficial for use in other lakes and waterways within the region as well. [22/04/12.2].

The oxygen and temperature meter was purchased in advance of the 2022-23 OWP year from Technolab Marketing Pty Ltd in Australia for \$2,410. Increased survey work in Waikaremoana meant the current meter was offsite regularly which left the hatchery vulnerable if water flow became impeded for any reason.

4. Recommendation

4.1 That Council receives this update.

12. 2021-2022 DRAFT PERFORMANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.04

26 September 2022

1. Purpose

To review the draft Statement of Service Performance report and draft Financial Statements for the 2021-2022 Performance (Annual) Report.

2. Background

- The finalised Performance Report for the 2021-2022 year will be presented to the public annual general meeting to be held on 9 December 2021 as per the requirement of Sections 26W and 26ZD(7) of the Conservation Act 1987.
- The annual Performance Report contains a Statement of Service Performance (SOSP) so that readers can assess the performance of the Council against the targets set out in the 2021-2022 Operational Work Plan (OWP). The Performance Report aligns with the OWP to clearly show actual outcomes against targets identified in the annual work planning process.
- The purpose of this paper is to enable early consideration of the material being developed for inclusion in the Performance Report. A draft of the SOSP has been prepared, along with draft unaudited Financial Statements, and these will have been circulated to Councillors prior to this meeting.

The reports will be revised after Council consideration and feedback from the independent external Auditor then compiled into the final Performance Report. This then needs to be approved at Council's 8 December 2022 meeting held immediately prior to the public annual general meeting where it will be presented to the public.

4. Recommendation:

4.1 That Council receives the draft reports comprising the Statement of Service Performance and Financial Statements for the 2021-2022 year, and provides any feedback it might have on the drafts before the Performance Report for the 2021-2022 year is completed.

13. DATES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2023

Ref: 7.02.01

26 September 2022

1. Purpose

To set Council's 2023 meeting dates and venues, and provide feedback to the NZC on its draft 2022/23 Meeting and Budget Timetable.

2. Background

The Council is required to meet on at least six occasions between 1 February and 31 December each year. Due to a need to supply regional feedback to the New Zealand Council on important matters such as regulation and licence fee setting, the timing of these meetings needs to fit within a national schedule. Meetings are generally held at bi-monthly intervals in February, April, June, August, October and December to consider, amongst other items, the topics listed in the table below. Meetings have for some time been scheduled to take place on Thursday afternoons and more recently changed to commence at 11am ending at 2.00pm with a 15 minute working lunch at Eastern Fish and Game Council's offices in Rotorua.

Council needs to determine what dates it will meet on in 2023 taking into account the provisional 2022/23 Annual Timetable prepared by the NZC which is appended to this agenda item. Council may also wish to review the venue and time at which it meets.

The NZC has requested feedback on its draft schedule by 1 November 2022.

Proposed meeting dates if Council continues to meet on a Thursday; proposed venue; and key issues for discussion. These are compatible with NZC's draft Meeting and Budget Timetable for 2022/23.

	Date	Venue	Key Topics
1	<i>9 February 2023</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Priorities,• Anglers Notice – initial consideration
2	<i>6 April 2023</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OWP - first draft plus bids proposed for contestable funds
3	<i>8 June 2023</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Licence Fees• OWP - second draft• Anglers Notice – finalise recommendations
4	<i>10 August 2023</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalise OWP
5	<i>12 October 2023</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions - initial consideration• Annual Performance Report - draft
6	<i>7 December 2023</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions - finalise recommendations
AGM	<i>7 December 2023</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present Annual Performance Report

3. Recommendation

3.1 *That Council decides on the time, dates and locations at which it meets in 2023.*

3.2 *That Council advises any feedback it wants communicated to the NZC on its draft meeting and budget timetable for 2022/23.*

2022-23 Annual Budget & Meeting Timetable For Consultation with Regional Councils

Colour Key:

	Public Holidays
	NZ Council Meetings
	Meetings of Managers
	NZGBHT Board
	Governors Meetings

Month	Date & Day	Subject
September 2022	1st Thursday	New Financial Year for Fish & Game
	8th Thursday	Managers meeting 10-12.30pm by ZOOM
	16th Friday & 17th Saturday	NZC Strategic Planning workshop
	23rd Friday & 24th Saturday	GBHT Board Meeting in Christchurch – including field trip on Friday
October 2022	1st Saturday	Sport Fishing Opening
	21st Friday	Applications Close for Staff Development Grant
	24th Monday	Labour Day
November 2022	1st Monday	High country sports fishing opening (Otago & Southland)
	2nd Tuesday	Licence Working Party to meet re 2023/24 Forecasts
	4th Thursday	Managers meeting by zoom to feed into the NZC meeting 25 th
	5th Saturday	High country sports fishing opening (North Canterbury and CSI)
	25th & 26th Friday - Saturday	NZ Council Meeting – Wellington
December 2022	17th Thursday	Managers meeting 10-12.30 by Zoom
	25th Sunday	Christmas Day
	26th Monday	Boxing Day
	27th Tuesday	Christmas Day observed
	30th Friday	All Annual meetings must be completed
	30th Friday	All Variance report and Reserves Schedules to CV - Finance
January 2023	1st Sunday	New Year's Day
	2nd Monday	New Year's Day observed
	3rd Tuesday	Day after New Year's Day
	20 th Friday	CV to return summary of Variance Reports to Managers with queries
	19 th Thursday	Managers Meeting -zoom to feed into NZC 10 th Feb meeting
	27 th Friday	Final Day for regulation details from Fish & Game Councils for Game Notice
February 2023	2 nd Thursday	World Wetland Day, release of 2023 Habitat Stamp
	3 rd Friday	Final circulation of Variance Reports to Managers
	6th Monday	Waitangi Day – observed
	10 th Friday	Final day for game regulation guide content to be sent to NZC
	10th to 12th Friday to Sunday	NZ Council meeting in Wellington
	11th Saturday	Governors – NZC and Chairs. Planning and Governance
	24 th Friday OR following week	Publish Game Notice in NZ Gazette
March 2023	9 th Thursday	Game Bird hunting licences go on sale
	20 th Monday	Magazine Out (Game)

Month	Date & Day	Subject
	22 nd Wednesday	Final date for receipt of draft budgets and contestable fund applications
	31 st Friday	Applications Close for Staff Development Grant
April 2023	2 nd Sunday	Mark-up or Pegging Day
	6 th Thursday	Circulation of budgets, contestable funding applications and budget summaries
	7 th Friday	Good Friday
	8 th Sunday	Easter Day
	9 th Monday	Easter Monday
	20 th Thursday	Meeting of Managers in Wellington
	21 st Friday	Joint NZ Council & Managers Meeting in Wellington in am
	22 nd Saturday	NZ Council Meeting in Wellington
May 2023	6 th Saturday	Game Bird Season Opening
	25 th Thursday	Managers meeting zoom to feed into NZC June 15 th meeting
June 2023	5 th Monday	Queen's Birthday
	12 th Wednesday	Final date for receipt of Fish & Game regional responses to licence fee proposals
	15 th Thursday	NZ Council Meeting – ZOOM 7pm to 9pm
	19 th Monday	Licence fee submission to MOC
	23 rd Friday	Final Day for Anglers Notice & SFLFFN backcountry/sea run salmon content to be sent to NZC
	30 th Friday	Final day for sports fishing regulation guide content to be sent to NZC
	30 th Friday	Final Day for submissions for NZGBHT Grant applications
	7 th Thursday	Managers meeting 10-12.30pm by ZOOM
	11 th Tuesday	Send out grant submissions to GBHT Board members
	14 th Friday	Matariki
	19 th Wednesday	GBHT Board Zoom 11 am
	25 th Tuesday	Publish Anglers Notice in NZ Gazette
	27 th Thursday	Managers meeting 10-12.30pm ZOOM – to feed into NZC 15 th August
	August 2023	17 th Thursday
28 th Monday		Magazine out (Fish)
15 th & 17 th Tuesday & Thursday		NZ Council Meeting by Zoom 7pm to 9pm
25 rd & 26 th Friday & Saturday		GBHT Board Meeting in ?? First meeting of new Trustees
31 st Thursday		End of Financial Year Fish & Game
September 2023		
October 2023	1 st Sunday	Sport Fishing Opening (Eastern Lakes 7 th)
	23 rd Monday	Labour Day
November 2023	1 st Wednesday	Back country sports fishing opening (Otago and Southland)
	2 nd Thursday	Managers meeting by zoom -10-12.30 to feed into the NZC meeting 24 th
	4 th Saturday	Back country sports fishing opening (North Canterbury and CSI)
	24 th & 25 th Friday - Saturday	NZ Council Meeting – Wellington

14. FEASIBILITY OF YEAR-ROUND FISHING SEASON

21 September 2022

1. Purpose

To discuss value and effects of having year-round fishing in the Rotorua lakes and thus not having an opening/closing season except for designated spawning areas.

- (a) What are the positives and negatives, both in added value and potential increase of licence sales?
- (b) Any scientific and/ or cultural need to have the lakes closed between July and September?

2. Recommendations

The Council is to discuss the marketing effect, possible increase or decrease in licence sales- and any cultural and scientific values the impact of year-round fishing against closing and opening on the 1st of the month or the 1st Saturday of the month (October) would have.

3 Executive Summary

Currently 3 of our lakes close to trout fishing (except for designated shoreline fishing areas) from 1 July and reopen on the 1st Saturday in October (previously the 1 October).

In the past other lakes were also closed, however over time successive Council's have made the decision to open the less popular lakes over the traditional closed period. This decision has not had any negative or seemingly positive effect on the fish, their quality, or the licence holders perceived value for purchasing a fishing licence. Although some licence holders will feel better value for their licence is provided if the lakes are all open year round.

Scientifically, there is no evidence that closing the lakes for this period has any beneficial effect on the health and wellbeing of the fish. However seasonally the fish are at their best from February onwards compared to the mature post spawning fish being slabby in the late winter and spring – early summer period. These are hatchery stocked lakes to provide enough trout to boost catch rates and spawning waters are protected by winter closure.

From a marketing point of view, there is a definite value to having a closing and an opening as this adds an urgency to purchase a licence and undertake angling during the open period. Also, psychologically this method is used in most promotional marketing to create a 'hype' or 'fear of missing out'. It also creates a 'date' in the calendar to perform a certain task (e.g. purchasing a licence) that may otherwise not be actioned if procrastination sets in and the task is not completed due to there being no perceived consequence if not done. So, by having an opening of a season, an event is created to action the licence purchase, that may realistically result in the licence being used a handful of times. However, if that date (event) to is not set, the customer might realise that if they have not purchased their licence within the first month of the season and the fact being last year, they may only have gone out fishing a few times may make it not worth buying a licence now/ this season?

The process of having an opening (after an enforced closure) also adds a practical layer to the work that the Fish & Game staff (and honorary rangers) carry out, which is having a set date to carry out data collection and a known period where a forecasted block of income is collected. Fish & Game have more than 40 years of angling information and fish metrics collected from opening day across the 3 lakes which is an enviable dataset. By opening the lakes year-round, the new licence period at 1 October would merely become a rollover and it would not be possible to gather anywhere near comparative angler contacts nor information.

If the expected revenue does not arrive (e.g. licence sales are down) in the lead up to the opening or the following month of the season, as all income is gathered via licence revenue - future Fish & Game budgeting will be strained.

The closing also has a practical application, whereby our staff use this 'down time' to carry out other work streams, monitoring of and data collection of vulnerable areas and engagement opportunities with landowners and stakeholders. By having the lakes open, there will be a need to undertake greater compliance and survey activity which will mean other tasks within the Operational Work Plan will need to be reduced.

We should also take into consideration other knock-on effects that by having the lakes open year-round might have on other statutory authorities with regard to on lake traffic, maintenance work carried out on the boat ramps, jetties and biosecurity requirements.

There has also been a comment made from a local kaumatua regarding not being in favour of the lakes being open year-round and it is possible we can risk creating tensions for future relationships and support by not engaging with and taking regard of the wishes of local iwi, even though there may be no scientific evidence to support their claims.

Altering an all year opening regime for these 3 lakes is not the sort of regulation change you could easily go back on if it didn't work out – so if licence sales suffered it would be difficult to reverse because the perception of 'giving' more fishing opportunity would be more acceptable than taking it away at a later date. With past alterations to the Gazette Notice there has been the opinion "It's not set in stone, we can change it if it doesn't work", however in this case, these 3 lakes provide for up to 80,000 angler days per annum and there could be resistance to give up newly provided opportunity.

The Eastern staff do not support year-round opening of the 3 lakes for the reasons highlighted above and RotoruaNZ are also in favour of the current closing and opening period due to the opening hype and 'fear of missing out' it creates. Even if this is replaced by an 'opening carnival' it will not have the same psychological effect. However, RotoruaNZ does support the idea to introduce a carnival event on the 1st weekend in October and to reintroduce the opening to the 1st of that month, as this date resonates more to the passionate and long-standing fisherman and is not seen as a lost opportunity for engaging new anglers. However, the stories of the 'great times' experienced and the social comradery of the day will be a marketing tool to help sell more licences to those who have disengaged or those who are considering giving it a go!

Action

A possible next step, would be to ask our licence holders over the coming period their views on having a year-round season and if they see added value and what their usage would be?

15. SPECIES MONITORING REPORT

Ref: 1.01.06, 1.01.08

28 September 2022

1. Purpose

To receive the report summary for the 2022 National Shoveler Count.

2. Background

The Council annually resources a number of key species management programmes to assess and monitor sports fish and game populations and the success rate and degree of satisfaction of users of the sports fish and game resource. The information collected from these programmes enables the Council to make informed decisions on species management to ensure sustainable populations are maintained for recreational harvest, for staff to use to advocate for habitat protection, and for other agencies such as Regional Councils to assess the effects of environmental changes on biological systems. A copy of the full report for the 2022 National Shoveler Count (less some of the appendices) is available in this meeting's Papers for Information.

3. Report Summary

3.1 Summary for the 2022 National Shoveler Count

Fish and Game New Zealand conducted a national count of kuruwhengi, shoveler duck (*Anas rhynchosotis*) on 8 August 2022. This is the 23rd annual count (2000 – 2022) to monitor change in the New Zealand population.

Four indices were examined, total count ($n=250$), the sum of counts from sites that have been counted every year ($n=75$), a two (2021–2022) and a 23-year trend (2000–2022). All indices point to a decreasing population. The 2022 total count (9,136) was down 11.6% on the 2021 count. The long-term trend count indicates a small (2.9%) annual decrease. Counts at sites that have been counted every year was the second lowest since the year 2000. National shoveler harvest data also indicates the population may be decreasing.

Sex ratios were examined using a chi-squared test. Males were significantly more numerous ($P<0.0001$) with a ratio of 1.79 males to female. This sex imbalance is consistent with counts in previous years (1.59 males to females).

The survey is an index of population change. Count sites were not randomly selected so inference about national shoveler populations is left to the reader. However, Fish and Game regions may wish to take into consideration an apparent decrease in the population when recommending their 2023 shoveler duck regulations.

National Shoveler Harvest

The shoveler duck does not make up a large component of the national hunter bag (McDougall, 2020). Nevertheless, there has been a decrease in harvest since the hunter survey started in 1993 (Figure 1), which is consistent with other species such as the mallard (McDougall, 2020). It appears that total shoveler harvest has been decreasing. To explain this decrease in harvest, seven models were examined, three of these models received some degree of support ($\Delta AICc < 2$; Table 1). The top model suggests the decrease can be attributed to a combination of decreasing hours hunted ($P < 0.0001$) and licence sales ($P = 0.002$; Table 2) however this later

parameter does not make sense (it is negative; Table 1) and may reflect something else going on. Given this non-sensical parameter (negative licence sales in the top model), the next model suggests the decrease in total harvest can be explained by a year effect ($P < 0.0001$) or the third model suggests decreasing hours hunting waterfowl is important ($P < 0.0001$). Given this slightly confusing result average harvest (Figure 2) and shoveler per hour hunting waterfowl (Figure 3) were also examined. For the average shoveler harvest (i.e., the average number of shoveler shot by each hunter nationally per annum) three models explained the decreasing harvest (Delta AICc < 2; Table 3). The top model (Table 4) indicates hours hunting waterfowl ($P = 0.0577$) and a year effect ($P = 0.11$) explained average shoveler harvest, however the year effect parameter estimates span zero (Table 5) and is uninformative (see Arnold, 2010). The next best model suggests average shoveler harvest increases with increasing hours spent hunting waterfowl ($P < 0.0001$). Irrespective of this it appears the decreasing shoveler harvest may be due to something else as shoveler harvest per hour hunting waterfowl is also decreasing (Figure 3). This is supported by the Year only model (Delta AICc = 1.38 $\beta_{year} = -0.876$; Table 3).

The most probable explanation for the apparent decrease in harvest is a decrease in the shoveler population.

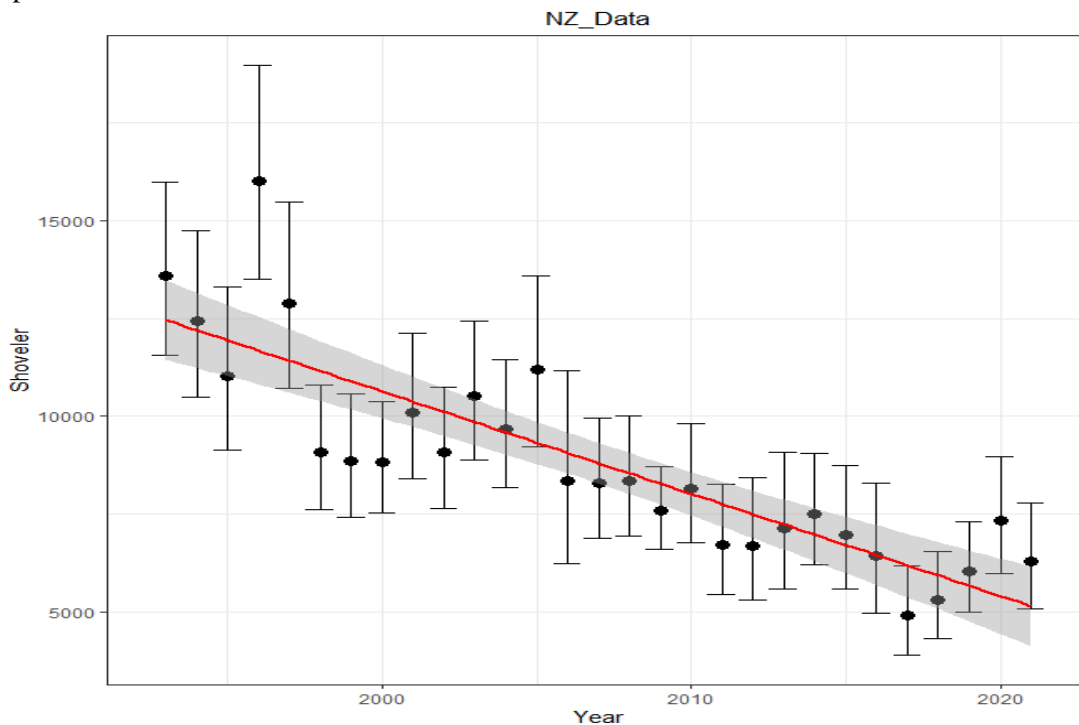


Figure 1. Total national shoveler duck harvest (mean \pm 95% CI) 1993–2021. The least squares estimate is shown as the red solid line.

Table 1. Model selection of total shoveler harvest (standardised data). The lowest AICc has the greatest support. Models within 2 AICc units (delta AICc) of the top model are deemed to have some support. Hours=hours hunting waterfowl, Year = harvest year, Licence sales = sales in harvest year.

(Int)	Hours	Licence sales	Year	df	logLik	AICc	delta	weight
-0.02387	0.855	-0.6191		4	-19.074	47.9	0	0.374
0.0136			-0.876	3	-20.98	49	1.07	0.219
-0.03562	0.3481		-0.6209	4	-19.723	49.2	1.3	0.196
-0.01531	0.6024	-0.4093	-0.2917	5	-18.51	49.7	1.86	0.148
0.01968		-0.04426	-0.8606	4	-20.96	51.7	3.77	0.057
-0.1314	0.9651			3	-24.485	56	8.08	0.007
0.1186		-0.9621		3	-34.587	76.2	28.29	0
-0.03049				2	-39.348	83.2	35.29	0

Table 2. Parameter estimates of top model of New Zealand total (standardised data) shoveler duck harvest 1993 – 2021 (1995 data was removed as several regions did not participate in the survey during this year).

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	-0.02387	0.10136	-0.235	0.81576
Hours	0.85501	0.12007	7.121	1.83E-07
Total_LS	-0.61914	0.18028	-3.434	0.00208

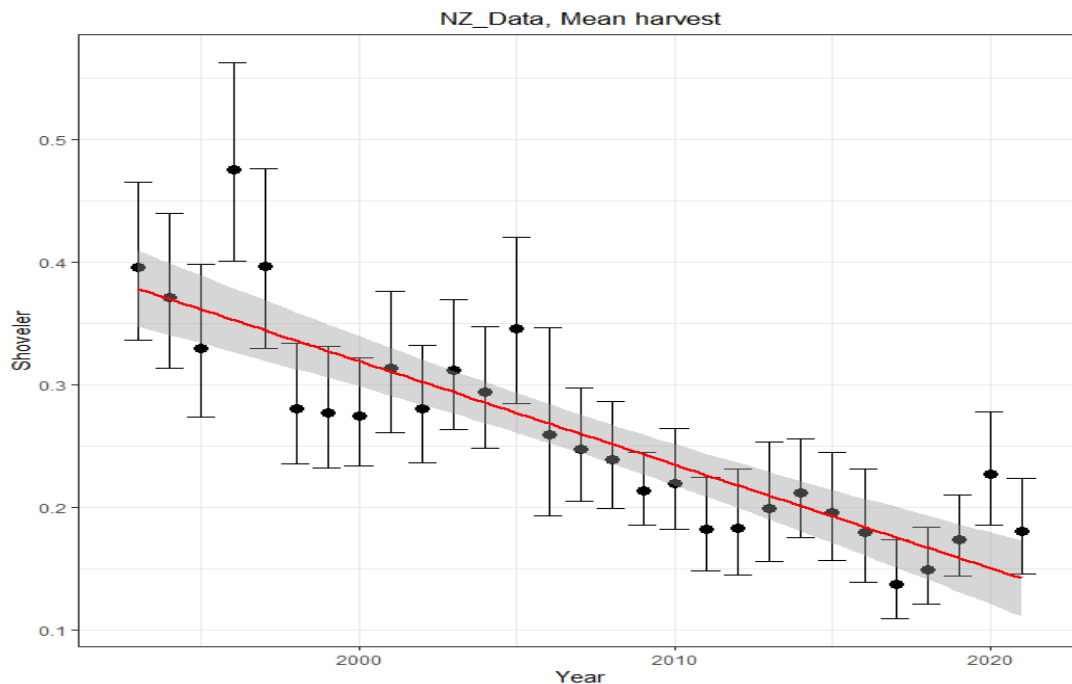


Figure 2. Average per hunter per season national shoveler duck harvest (mean \pm 95% CI) 1993–2021. The least squares estimate is shown as the red solid line.

Table 3. Model selection of average shoveler harvest (standardised data). The lowest AICc has the greatest support. Models within 2 AICc units (delta AICc) of the top model are deemed to have some support. Hours=hours hunting waterfowl, Year = harvest year.

(Intrc)	Hours	Year	df	logLik	AICc	delta	weight
-0.0603	0.563	-0.4165	4	-17.553	44.8	0	0.405
-0.12	0.9903		3	-18.957	44.9	0.07	0.392
0.01466		-0.8912	3	-19.611	46.2	1.38	0.203
-0.0302			2	-39.355	83.2	38.34	0

Table 4. Parameter estimates of top model of New Zealand average (standardised data) shoveler duck harvest 1993 – 2021 (1995 data was removed as a number of regions did not participate in the survey during this year).

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	-0.0603	0.09822	-0.614	0.5448
Hours	0.56295	0.28295	1.99	0.0577
Year	-0.41646	0.25651	-1.624	0.117

Table 5. Parameter confidence intervals for the top model explaining average shoveler harvest. Note the Year parameter is uninformative as it spans zero.

	2.50%	97.50%
(Intercept)	-0.25281	0.132212
Hours	0.008383	1.117525
Year	-0.91921	0.086293

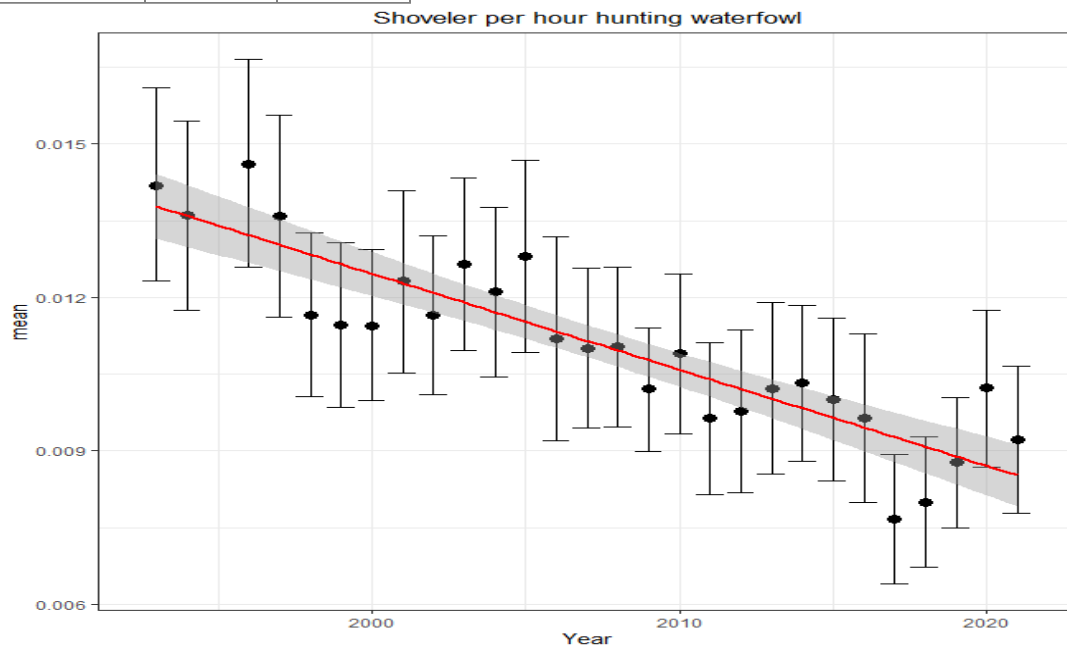


Figure 3. Total annual shoveler harvest per total annual hours hunting waterfowl (mean \pm 95% BCI).

4. Recommendation

4.1 That Council receives the summaries for the 2021-22 Summer Creel Survey and the 2022 National Shoveler Count.

16. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

16.1 Conservation Boards

- Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

16.2 Reports from Other Agencies

- Department of Conservation

16.3 Report from New Zealand Council

- Cr Debbie Oakley