



**EASTERN  
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING  
AGENDA***

**9 February 2023**

## AGENDA

### The 200th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

**Date:** Thursday, 9 February 2023

**Commences:** 11.30 PM

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3	Minutes of the Previous Meeting (8 December 2022)(11.40 AM)	(R)	1
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	8.1 Health and Safety Report	(R)	13
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9	Goals and Priorities for the 2023-24 OWP (12.05 PM 35min)	(R)	42
10	Anglers Notice Review (12.40 PM, 15 min)	(R)	55
11	Liaison Officers Reports (12.55 PM, 10 min)	(I)	60
12	Game Bird Habitat Trust Nominee (1.05 PM, 15 min)	(D)	61
13	Draft Future Eastern Fish & Game (1.20 PM, 15 min)	(I/D)	62
14	General Business (1.35 PM, 20 min)		
16	Meeting Closes (1.55 PM)		

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

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 199<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2022 AT 11.30AM**

**Present**

Crs Ngahi Bidois, Murray Ferris, Kevin Coutts, Debbie Oakley, Lindsay Lyons, Mike Jarvie, Mark Sceats, Alan Simmonds, Jay Tapsell, and Ken Combes.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Arash Alaeinia, Kate Thompson, Anthony Van Dorp, Matt McDougall, Eben Herbert, Mark Sherburn (Eastern Fish & Game); Corina Jordan, Carmel Veitch (New Zealand Fish and Game Council); Pat Swift, Julian Danby, and Barry Roderick.

**1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA**

- 1.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois (Chairman) opened the meeting at 11.35am and welcomed Corina Jordan (New Zealand Fish & Game CE), Barry Roderick, Councillors, and staff and invited Cr Jay Tapsell open with a karakia.
- 1.2 Arash Alaeinia acknowledged the Councillors service and contribution to Eastern Fish & Game over the past year and presented each with a small gift from the staff team.

**APOLOGIES**

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Crs. Geoff Thomas and Scott Nicol.
- 2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Ken Coombes) that the apologies for the 199<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [22/12/2.2]*

**3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (6 OCTOBER 2022)**

- 3.1 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Debbie Oakley) that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct subject to the following amendment.*
  - 18.1 *Regional Amalgamation*  
*Remove date "19<sup>th</sup> of October 2022". [22/12/3.1]*

**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 *18.3 Staff agreed to prepare a discussion paper on 'Reserves Access'.*

Cr Debbie Oakley queried today's agenda item which had been noted as 'for information only', yet a discussion paper was to be prepared? Cr Ngahi Bidois agreed that today's agenda item on 'Reserves Access' would be for information and discussion.
- 5.2 *10.9 Arash to provide details gleaned from previous licence holder surveys.*

Cr Lindsay Lyons queried the outcome of Arash's investigations. Arash responded advising that there had been very few surveys completed recently and the New Zealand Council were also interested in looking into the shifts in participation in more depth. He said that the information we have currently is that supplied by the licence working group.
- 5.3 *10.9 Why people had stopped buying a licence.*

Matt McDougall informed Council that a report had been completed a few years ago which had concluded across the board that competing hobbies and activities had impacted fishing and hunting participation. Arash had recently spoken with other local business owners who also acknowledged the competition for time and money for other activities, and he expected that this would certainly be having an impact on fishing also.

## **6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS**

6.1 Jay Tapsell – Little Waihi Estuary

## **7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER**

7.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois reminded Council of the need to disclose conflicts or potential conflicts of interest and advised that during discussions he as chair reserved the right to ask if a Councillor might be conflicted on a particular matter. Cr Lindsay Lyons said that the Auditor General's office had produced an excellent document which outlined exactly what a conflict of interest is, how to manage conflicts of interest, and the varying degrees of conflict. Carmel Veitch advised that the document Lindsay refers to forms the basis of our own "Conflict of Interest Policy".

7.2 No conflicts of interest were recorded.

## **8.0 UPDATE BY CORINA JORDAN (CEO OF NZFG)**

8.1 Corina Jordan provided an update from her position as CEO of New Zealand Fish and Game which included the following:

- Introduction, including her career background, and passion for Fish & Game
- The future of Fish & Game and the challenges ahead of us as an organisation
- Preparation of a draft operational strategy and three-year plan
- Update on the review - no legislative changes would occur during this term of Government but many parts of the ISG report could be progressed

8.2 Cr Mark Sceats asked what was happening regarding the amalgamations and expressed concern over the lack of communications about this from the NZ Council? Corina Jordan responded advising that this Region's future is in its own hands, regions will not be forced to amalgamate, there is no legislative changes coming through in this term of government. Corina provided an overview of the process to date which concluded with the Implementation Steering Group Report which is now with DOC. She confirmed that the Minister of Conservation had advised that they will not be progressing anything through legislative change and encourages the organisation to move on with implementing what it can do without legislative changes.

8.3 Cr Kevin Coutts also was concerned over lack of robust discussion about the proposed amalgamation options and Cr Murray Ferris advised that this Council was awaiting some further information from NZ Council on the amalgamation outcomes.

8.4 Arash Alaeinia agreed that there had been little information returned to regions to date but it was now clear that the work undertaken over the past 18-24 months has provided us with recommendations of which half involve legislative changes that will not occur during this term of government. There are however points raised through the review and various reports that are valid and we do need to consider these. From the 36 recommendations half of them do not require any change to legislation to implement, and of those, half are needed at a national level which all regions will feed into national policy and the remainder are purely for each region. He said his kaupapa will be to put all of this into a format to share with our Council with some more feedback from his own team with regards to what the future Eastern Fish & Game will look like. He will then invite Council responses and feedback. He said this is an exciting time, we are now in charge of being able to shape the Eastern Fish & Game we want for future generations.

Discussion on regional amalgamation is up to us to have those discussions if that is what we want. He acknowledged that this Council did not have as robust consultation periods as it could have had but it was consulted, it did receive the reports and it did make resolutions over preferred options.

- 8.5 To close the discussion Corina Jordan informed Council of the intention of the Wellington and Taranaki Fish & Game Councils decision to undertake an operational amalgamation. The New Zealand Council team will provide support to help them with this and will document it as test case for other regions should they be interested.

## 9.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

- 9.1 *Health and Safety Report* – Arash Alaeinia was happy to report no Health & Safety issues and the team continue to adhere to health & safety policies and appropriate communication is maintained.
- 9.2 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Kevin Coutts) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [22/12/9.2]*
- 9.3 *Finance Report* – Finance report was taken as read.
- 9.4 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Mike Jarvie) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for September and October 2022 totalling \$277,289.18. [22/12/9.4]*
- 9.5 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Murray Ferris) that Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance and Cashflow for the 2022-2023 financial year. [22/12/9.5]*
- 9.6 *Management Report* – Cr Mark Sceats queried the “Error” references in item 1123 - Gamebird Hunter Survey. Matt McDougall explained that these were hyperlinks which were included in the full report but for this extract he had omitted to remove them and suggested to refer to the main document included within the papers for information. Other matters raised and discussed included:  
D Oakley - Licence holder query re liberations to the crater lake at Rerewhakaaitu  
L Lyons - Reduction in the number of ballots this year  
K Coutts - Staff safety when attending ranging call outs  
A Simmonds - Loss of access to fisheries and impact on licence sales eg Kaingaroa
- 9.7 *Licence Sales Report* – Kate Thompson provided a more recent update on licence sales and handed out some charts she had prepared prior to the meeting. Key points noted were:
- The variance to last season increased around opening of the Fishing season and is likely due to the poor weather at that time, however we are still tracking below last season YTD.
  - 2022-23 LEQ’s for resident anglers have declined by some 500 YTD when compared with the pre-covid season of 2018-19. For non-residents that figure was 126 YTD.
  - Interestingly for the 2020-21 Season where we had next to no non-residents the resident LEQ’s increased by 250 odd YTD compared with the 2018-19 season.
  - Are we heading into a recession, people aren’t spending the same, boat fishery regions have tended to be impacted more significantly than river fisheries.

Cr Lindsay Lyons was concerned with the decline in resident anglers and felt we need to do a better job of marketing to our local market prior to them arriving in the city for their holidays. Arash Alaeinia agreed with Lindsay’s comments and spoke of projects to be undertaken with RotoruaNZ but acknowledged that these will take time and results will

not be seen straight away. He also reminded Council that we are still feeling the effects from the Covid era, we are also now going into a recession, and we are competing with lots of activities that are out there. There is also a plan from National to support a national campaign to promote fishing and hunting. Arash was more than happy to receive ideas from Councillors.

9.8 *Chief Executive Review & Update*

Arash Alaeinia updated Council further on more recent meetings he had undertaken with various parties in the Gisborne area and with staff of the Department of Conservation.

**10.0 2021-22 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

10.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois informed Council that he had been contacted by the auditor and commented that the audit report was excellent. He asked for questions from the floor. Barry Roderick asked whether any issues had been identified, Arash Alaeinia confirmed that there were none.

10.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Jay Tapsell) that Council adopts the Performance Report of the Eastern Fish and Game Council for the 2021-2022 year. [22/12/10.2]*

**11.0 2023 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS**

11.1 Matt McDougall informed Council that many of the 2023 Game Season Conditions were business as usual. He provided his reasoning behind the dates selected for the special black swan and pukeko seasons and additional information for consideration of the proposal to allow a one hen pheasant harvest. Since writing the item on the hen pheasant harvest, he had the opportunity to discuss with Nigel Simpson who had made some additional points to consider:

- by targeting hens, it is possible to take out a local population
- pheasant populations in many locations in NZ were not great
- consider a limited harvest in some areas where we know more about the populations
- introduce a permit system to limit the number of hens taken

Matt also informed Council that we have had a great mallard breeding season this year but unfortunately the hen population is still low. Over the last 4 years the mallard population has been quite depressed, so we are hoping, that with this year's positive breeding season, to see that turn around.

11.2 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Mike Jarvie) that there is a special black swan season in Management Area A1 coinciding with the same period for a proposed special pukeko season 17 February - 25 February 2024 (i.e. one week and two weekends). [22/12/11.2]*

11.3 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Kevin Coutts) that there is a special pukeko season 17 February - 25 February 2024 (i.e. one week and two weekends) for the Eastern Region. [22/12/11.3]*

11.4 *Agreed (Kevin Coutts/Lindsay Lyons) that the season for brown quail in the Eastern Region remains closed for the 2023-24 season. [22/12/11.4]*

11.5 Cr Ken Coombes had been in touch with the Wildfowlers Association who had been strongly opposed harvesting of hen pheasants the last time it was raised, and they remain strongly opposed. He believed a permit system would create a lot of work for our staff for no real benefit and did not see a strong demand from our licence holders for this. Cr

Kevin Coutts supported the status quo as he believed enough hens were taken accidentally.

**11.6 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Jay Tapsell) that Council does not support a one hen pheasant harvest for the 2023-24 Game Bird Season. [22/12/11.6]***

11.7 Crs Debbie Oakley and Mark Sceats were concerned about the remaining gaps in the Game Bird Schedule where dates and limits were yet to be completed.

11.8 Matt McDougall explained that we have a set policy (page 52/53 of agenda) that will determine the remaining season lengths and limits for species for which monitoring continues over the summer period. The policy is needed as the Game Season Conditions are required to be confirmed to the NZ Council in January before the Council meets again in February.

**12.0 KAITUNA WETLAND BALLOT HOLDER ACCESS**

12.1 In view of limited time for discussion Crs Kevin Coutts and Lindsay Lyons suggested holding over this item until the next meeting. Matt McDougall advised that he needed to know the outcome of this discussion as he was due to send out ballot holder permits which detailed access times. Cr Coutts was concerned that this was seen as an operational matter whereas he felt 'Access' is most certainly a governance issue.

12.2 Arash Alaeinia agreed that Governance does cover 'Access' but in the umbrella form and not in the nuances of each aspect. If we want to put it into policy form, then we should consider a policy for "Wetland Access" which would cover all wetlands. In relation to this incident, he believes the staff have come up with a viable access that deals with the issues that were raised. He also highlighted that only 3 of 75 people had commented as others have appreciated lack of vehicles because it means they have a better environment without vehicles scaring birds and causing reflections. We have suggested that we will issue a key (subject to \$50 bond) to those that have difficulty accessing their maimais due to a disability. He felt from an operational point of view we have dealt with the issue that was brought up, however if Council wished to create a policy, then he believed this should be for all wetland access.

12.3 Cr Debbie Oakley agreed that the proposal put forward by staff and management provided for the issues raised and Cr Ken Coombes suggested that in the future we could potentially allocate maimais which were closer to the gate for people who had difficulty walking into the reserve.

**13.0 FUTURE TREATMENT OF NON-RESIDENT LEVY**

13.1 Carmel Veitch provided some background to the introduction of the Non-Resident Licence and how the difference in price between the resident season category and the non-resident licence was to be classified as a levy. This Minister of Conservation had approved the Non-Resident licence on the basis that the additional 'levy' component would be set aside for improvement of back country fisheries management and the NZ Council resolved that each region would retain these funds as a dedicated fund in their region. In 2019/20 the Minister confirmed that the levy could be utilised for any fisheries management.

13.2 Cr Lindsay Lyons & Debbie Oakley both supported a National Pool for the additional funds as some Regions saw many non-resident anglers, but their licences were purchased in other larger regions. Kate Thompson wished to point out that due to this non-resident levy not being included in the calculations for budgets and licence fees previously it meant that we were in a stronger position when Covid saw non-resident licence sales plummet than we would have been if we were relying on that revenue to support our operational budgets.

- 13.3 Council voted on the proposal to include the non-resident levy as general licence income from the 2023/24 financial year onward. Council agreed with this proposal nine in favour, one abstained.
- 13.4 ***Agreed (Murray Ferris/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supported Option C regarding the use of existing non-resident levy reserves which outlines that these reserves should be maintained in the Regions for use until 2024/25 after which any balance will be merged into a National Pool. [22/12/13.4]***

#### **14.0 1 OCTOBER OPENING**

- 14.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois summarised the background to the Council's decision to change opening of lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti, and Okataina to the first Saturday in October and thanked Council for having the courage try something different. One of the key reasons for the change was to increase licence sales however he acknowledged licence sales have continued to decline. He said if we keep doing the same thing, we will continue to get the same result, so we must look at opportunities to increase participation. We have since had more feedback from our licence holders, our staff, and following further discussion at the October meeting it was clear to Council that our licence holders prefer the 1<sup>st</sup> of October opening.
- 14.2 Arash Alaeinia wish to acknowledge the work of Julian Danby & Pat Swift who have campaigned hard on behalf of other anglers to have opening of the fishing season return to 1 October.
- 14.3 Pat Swift and Julian Danby spoke to Council in support of changing the opening of these lakes back to 1 October. Pat believed that the main predictor of licence sales around opening was the weather, this year the weather was poor, and participation was down. Pat highlighted that next season the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday opening would fall on the last weekend of the school holidays meaning two weeks of licence sales to those holidaying here would be lost. He also believed that with Taupo fishing so well recently many Taupo anglers were no longer buying the Fish & Game licence.
- 14.4 Cr Lindsay Lyons remained supportive of the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday opening as his responsibility as a Councillor is to look at opportunities to increase participation and licence sales. He believed there was huge opportunity lost to those who were unable to take time of work during the week for the 1 October opening.
- 14.5 ***Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Kevin Coutts) that Council withdraws the current state of Opening the 3 lakes (Tarawera, Rotoiti, Okataina) from 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in October to the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. 9 in favour, 1 against (Cr Lindsay Lyons) [22/12/14.5]***

#### **15.0 LIAISON OFFICER REPORTS**

- 15.1 ***Report from the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board.***  
Arash Alaeinia advised that this report was included within the papers for information and Sara Carley had sent her apologies.
- 15.2 ***Report from the Department of Conservation***  
Arash advised that Zane Jensen had also sent his apologies.
- 15.3 ***Report from the New Zealand Council***  
Debbie Oakley's update had been circulated by email. Debbie had attended the recent Chairs meeting in Christchurch and wanted to point out that some of the legislative changes which were now not proceeding included amalgamations of regions, councillor numbers, and governance changes such as paid appointments. Barry Roderick wanted to acknowledge the huge stresses placed on the Chairs of the New Zealand Fish & Game Council and believed that the sooner an independent chair is appointed on a paid basis the better. Debbie Oakley advised that unfortunately this is one matter that also required legislative change.



## 16.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

### 16.1 *Little Waihi Estuary*

Cr Jay Tapsell read his email that he had forwarded to the Chair and Manager regarding the degradation and pollution of the Little Waihi Estuary. As the estuary sits within the Eastern Fish & Game Region Jay was keen to hear the thoughts of the CE and staff about the negative impacts the poor water quality might have on our Fish & Game species and specifically our waterfowl. Key comments from the discussion follow:

- a small number of farmers have been wintering stock on the stop banks of the Pongakawa and Kaikokopu rivers feeding into the estuary.
- some farmers are doing great environmental work and are calling on Fish & Game to help but Fish & Game seems to have been muffled on matters relating to poor farming practices.
- ducks who locate themselves on effluent ponds seem to have a high resistance to E. coli, the main issue in our area is botulism which can get out of control very quickly if the conditions are right.
- environmental grievances are always very distressing for all of us, but we are however limited to battles that we can fight especially where it doesn't directly impact the species we manage.
- Fish & Game are incredibly supportive of any initiative to improve water quality, but in this case, we are torn as to whether Fish and Game should be the lead agency.
- given farmers have approached Fish & Game on this particular issue we should take interest in it.
- in prior years the Dirty Dairying campaign was very aggressive, and this Council was concerned over relationships with our farmers, but now Fish & Game seems to be standing back a bit too much.

## 17.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

### 17.1 *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 2.34pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, a discussion on sensitive matters pertaining to natural people. [22/12/17.1]*

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

<b>GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED</b>	<b>REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER</b>	<b>GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION</b>
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):

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

**17.2** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that Council moves out of public excluded at 3.20 pm. [22/12/17.2]*

**17.3** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 3.20pm. [22/12/17.3]*

**18.0 MEETING CLOSED**

The meeting closed at 3.21pm.

.....  
**Ngahi Bidois**  
**Chairman**

## SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

### APOLOGIES

**2.2** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Ken Coombes) that the apologies for the 199th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [22/12/2.2]*

### 3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (6 OCTOBER 2022)

**3.1** *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Debbie Oakley) that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct subject to the following amendment.*

#### **18.1 Regional Amalgamation**

*Remove date "19<sup>th</sup> of October 2022". [22/12/3.1]*

### 9.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

**9.2** *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Kevin Coutts) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [22/12/9.2]*

**9.4** *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Mike Jarvie) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for September and October 2022 totalling \$277,289.18. [22/12/9.4]*

**9.5** *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Murray Ferris) that Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance and Cashflow for the 2022-2023 financial year. [22/12/9.5]*

### 10.0 2021-22 PERFORMANCE REPORT

**10.2** *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Jay Tapsell) that Council adopts the Performance Report of the Eastern Fish and Game Council for the 2021-2022 year. [22/12/10.2]*

### 11.0 2023 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

**11.2** *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Mike Jarvie) that there is a special black swan season in Management Area A1 coinciding with the same period for a proposed special pukeko season 17 February - 25 February 2024 (i.e. one week and two weekends). [22/12/11.2]*

**11.3** *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/Kevin Coutts) that there is a special pukeko season 17 February - 25 February 2024 (i.e. one week and two weekends) for the Eastern Region. [22/12/11.3]*

**11.4** *Agreed (Kevin Coutts/Lindsay Lyons) that the season for brown quail in the Eastern Region remains closed for the 2023-24 season. [22/12/11.4]*

**11.6** *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Jay Tapsell) that Council does not support a one hen pheasant harvest for the 2023-24 Game Bird Season. [22/12/11.6]*

### 13.0 FUTURE TREATMENT OF NON-RESIDENT LEVY

**13.4** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supported Option C regarding the use of existing non-resident levy reserves which outlines that these reserves should be maintained in the Regions for use until 2024/25 after which any balance will be merged into a National Pool. [22/12/13.4]*

### 14.0 1 OCTOBER OPENING

**14.5** *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Kevin Coutts) that Council withdraws the current state of Opening the 3 lakes (Tarawera, Rotoiti, Okataina) from 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in October to the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. 9 in favour, 1 against (Cr Lindsay Lyons) [22/12/14.5]*

### 17.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

**17.1** *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 2.34pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, a discussion on sensitive matters pertaining to natural people. [22/12/17.1]*

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

GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED	REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION

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)
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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):

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

**17.2** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that Council moves out of public excluded at 3.20 pm. [22/12/17.2]*

**17.3** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 3.20pm. [22/12/17.3]*

## 7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

27 January 2022

### 1. Purpose

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

### 2. Background

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 matter<sup>1</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> “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.***

## 8. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

### 8.1 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

27 January 2023

#### Background

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

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

November – January 2023

<b>1. Implementation and Adherence to the Health and Safety Plan</b>	
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.	
<b>Tail Gate forms completed for:</b>	
Dec 2022	Streams opening ranging
Dec 2022	Stand inspections
<b>2022-2023 Budget for Health &amp; Safety \$2,000</b>	

<b>2. Monitoring and Reporting</b>	
<b>Work Place Accident Register</b>	<b>27/01/2023</b>
Number of Workplace injuries in 2021-2022 year	<b>1</b>
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
<b>Total number of lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total number of days since last lost work injury</b>	<b>679</b>
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 room.

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

- 28 Nov 2022 Nothing new reported
- 5 Dec 2022 Care driving – fatigue, Field work – sunscreen, insect repellent, antihistamines
- 12 Dec 2022 Nothing new reported
- 19 Dec 2022 Changeable weather – ensure right gear and vehicles safety checked, Wasps are out – antihistamines, Silly season – mindful of others on the road
- 26 Dec 2022 Public Holiday
- 2 Jan 2023 Public Holiday
- 9 Jan 2023 More poor weather is forecast – take care
- 16 Jan 2023 Allow addl time – Hamurana Rd closure 16-24 Jan, Roads very busy, Sunstrike, Field work – water, hats, sunscreen
- 23 Jan 2023 No meeting – staff offsite

### **4. Training Programme**

Nil

### **5. H&S Incidents**

Nil

### **6. Recommendation**

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.



## **8.2 FINANCE REPORT**

**Ref: 8.03.01**

**26 January 2023**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Council of the year-to-date financial position and approve payments for the months of November and December 2022.

Tables within this report:

Table 1	Variance Report to 31 December 2022
Table 2	Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022
Table 3	Profit and Loss to 31 December 2022
Tables 4 & 5	Bank Transactions November and December 2022
Tables 6, 7 & 8	Credit Card Transactions November and December 2022

### **2. YTD Profit and Loss**

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

#### ***Income***

Fish and Game licence revenues are reporting to be ahead of budget YTD. Revenue has been collected from ballot holders for game bird licences pending these being issued March 2023. A more up to date and detailed picture of fish licence sales performance can be found within the licence sales report.

Revenue from other sources over the two months totalled \$64,885 and was made up of the following: hatchery income (\$23,186), fishing competitions (\$216), rentals (\$8,496), fish food sales (\$11), reserves mowing (\$1,013) and fines from prosecutions collected through the courts (\$336). Ballot habitat maintenance fees were collected with the continued return of the hunter ballots (\$2,367) and contract services were invoiced to Hawke's Bay and the New Zealand Fish & Game Councils (\$5,058). The Department of Conservation was invoiced for their contribution to repairs to the inlet culvert at the Awaitei WMR (\$4,000). Funds were kindly donated by one of our long-standing anglers for fabricating a custom net for the trapping programme (\$1,000). Interest income was received on Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Funds (\$659), and on general reserves (\$739). A credit is also reported for a Gain on Sale of two vehicles (\$17,806)

#### **Species Management**

The sole expense within the Population Monitoring budgets related to Isotope analyses – Tarawera Food Web study (\$7,396). Over budget \$3276!

The more significant expenditure within the Hatchery budgets related to fish food (\$17,839). Expenses were also incurred relating to vehicle servicing, registrations, and fuel, electricity and oxygen. Various materials and equipment were also purchased for hatchery maintenance. The Hatchery area is over budget YTD \$4,941 and relates to timing of purchases and is expected to reduce over the coming months.

#### ***Habitat***

Within the Habitat output expenses are reported in the reserves budget for floodgate bolts, culvert repairs, and weed spray. An expense is also reported to tow the tractor after being bogged down

in the Awaiti WMR. Weed spray was also purchased for ballot holder habitat maintenance. The overspend YTD is timing related and will clear as the year progresses.

***Participation***

Access spending for the period related to pest weed spray and nails. An unbudgeted expense is also reported for purchase of access mapping software for the F & G website, Eastern’s contribution to this was \$850. Other expenses reported within the period related to post-paid envelopes for the hunter ballot mailouts, gas bottles for the Octagon BBQ, and hut electricity. Within budget YTD.

***Public Interface***

Public Promotions spending related to bulk email campaigns to lapsed licence holders pre-Christmas, and for the Boat Fishing How To talk which was held in January. Expenses are also reported for a spot prize of a Fish Smoker for the boat fishing talk.. Within the Grounds Maintenance budget materials were purchased for the installation of the new shade sail. Over budget YTD (\$901) due to timing of expenses and increased grounds maintenance expenditure.

***Compliance***

Compliance expenses are reported relating the 0800 Poaching service and cell phone. Travel and catering expenses are also reported for ranger training which occurred in November. Within budget YTD.

***Licensing***

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

***Council***

Expenses are reported within the Council budgets relating to catering and travel reimbursement for the October and December meetings of Council. An additional expense is reported for Christmas gifts acknowledging Council’s contribution and support over the year. Over budget YTD \$1,346 due to higher than anticipated travel costs.

***Planning***

The Audit fee was paid in December and expenses are also reported for CE meetings with various stakeholders. Planning expenses are over budget \$326 YTD due to unbudgeted liaison expenses.

***Administration***

Salaries	A small variance is reported YTD (\$348)
Staff Expenses	Expenses are reported relating to, staff clothing, end of year staff BBQ, and food expenses for staff working off site. Within budget YTD.
Staff Houses	Maintenance costs were incurred relating water filters and a chimney sweep for the timber house, and curtains, and maintenance materials for the brick house. A new unbudgeted expense is reported within the period relating to agent commissions for management of the tenanted properties and this cost is offset by increased rents. Over budget YTD \$3,707 due primarily to timing of maintenance and agent commission.
Office Premises	The usual expenses relating to electricity, cleaning, rubbish removal, and alarm monitoring were incurred. Over budget YTD

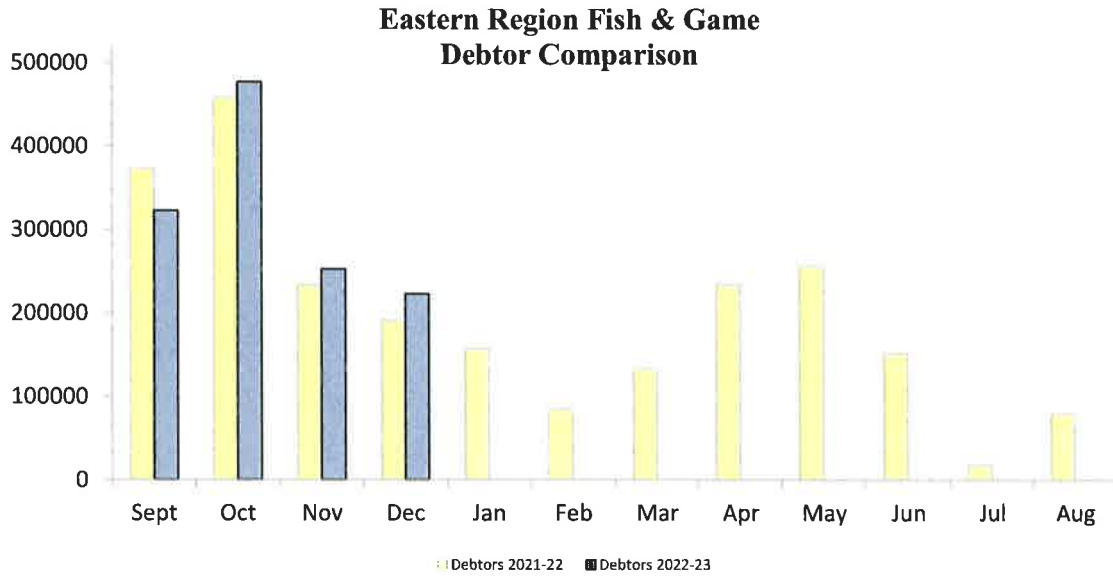
	\$2,235 and this is due primarily to an increase in property rates and insurance.
Office Equipment	Office Equipment expenses include the phone system and eftpos lease costs, a door mat, and footrests for new staff. Over budget YTD \$691 due to additional equipment requirements.
Communications/ Consumables	Standard communications expenses are reported for the period including phones, broadband, stationery, and photocopying. Computer expenses were incurred for a new back up HDD and its installation and setup. Over budget YTD \$584 and this is due to increase telephone costs which are currently being queried with Vodafone.
General	Expenses are reported for the Survey Monkey subscription, morning teas, and bank charges. Overbudget YTD \$1,633 and this is due to increased general insurance costs.
General Equipment	A second-hand kayak was purchased for the reserves, and minor equipment expenses incurred. Maintenance expenses included a trailer WoF, annual service of inflatable life jacket, and maintenance materials for the tractor. Within budget YTD.
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the period included scheduled servicing of four vehicles, WoF's for five vehicles including a taillight replacement, registration for six vehicles, and fuel/RUCs. Over budget YTD \$2,375 due to timing of expenses.

**Cash Position: As at 31 December 2022**

\$1,018,416	(includes \$78,584 Asset Replacement Reserve)
<u>\$ 471,154</u>	(Waikaremoana SFHEF – Restricted Reserve)
<b>\$1,489,570</b>	<b>Total</b>

**Debtors:** Outstanding Debtors \$223,030 as at 31 December 2022 (\$190,711 as at 31 December 2021).

*Eastern Region Fish and Game - Debtors Balance Comparison 2021/22-2022/23*



Debtors outstanding as at 31 December are primarily related to licence sales \$186,301 and invoices for hatchery sales for other Fish & Game regions. One small agent debt is overdue and is 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.

**2022/2023 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME**

**as at 31 December 2022**

Schedule B Code	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance	
1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 40,700	\$ 16,698	2,124	713	\$ 142,317	\$ 51,014	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 183,017	\$ 67,712	\$ 115,305	\$ 37.0	
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,900	\$ 402	681	279	\$ 45,630	\$ 19,962	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,530	\$ 20,364	\$ 28,166	\$ 42.0	
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 83,350	\$ 46,491	2,982	1,182	\$ 199,807	\$ 84,570	\$ 58,000	\$ 30,430	\$ 225,157	\$ 100,631	\$ 124,526	\$ 44.7	
1160	Releases	\$ -	\$ -	134	92	\$ 8,979	\$ 6,582	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,979	\$ 6,582	\$ 2,396	\$ 73.3	
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	50	14	\$ 3,350	\$ 1,002	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,350	\$ 1,002	\$ 2,349	\$ 29.9	
1180	Control	\$ 500	\$ -	36	9	\$ 2,412	\$ 644	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,912	\$ 644	\$ 2,268	\$ 22.1	
	<b>TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>\$ 127,450</b>	<b>\$ 63,591</b>	<b>6,007</b>	<b>2,289</b>	<b>\$ 402,495</b>	<b>\$ 163,773</b>	<b>\$ 58,000</b>	<b>\$ 30,430</b>	<b>\$ 471,945</b>	<b>\$ 196,934</b>	<b>\$ 275,011</b>	<b>\$ 41.7</b>	
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ -	\$ -	1,412	594	\$ 94,610	\$ 42,499	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 94,610	\$ 42,499	\$ 52,111	\$ 44.9	
1220	Works & Management	\$ 17,500	\$ 2,967	934	382	\$ 62,562	\$ 27,331	\$ 11,650	\$ 10,665	\$ 68,432	\$ 19,633	\$ 48,799	\$ 28.7	
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 2,700	\$ -	770	164	\$ 51,593	\$ 11,734	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,293	\$ 11,734	\$ 42,559	\$ 21.6	
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	72	0	\$ 4,824	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,824	\$ -	\$ 4,824	\$ 0.0	
1250	Lake Waikaremoana	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.0	
	<b>TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION &amp; M</b>	<b>\$ 20,200</b>	<b>\$ 2,967</b>	<b>3,188</b>	<b>1,140</b>	<b>\$ 213,610</b>	<b>\$ 81,565</b>	<b>\$ 11,650</b>	<b>\$ 10,665</b>	<b>\$ 222,160</b>	<b>\$ 73,867</b>	<b>\$ 148,293</b>	<b>\$ 33.2</b>	
1310	Access	\$ 5,500	\$ 2,118	692	340	\$ 46,367	\$ 24,326	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,867	\$ 26,444	\$ 25,423	\$ 51.0	
1330	Newsletters/Information	\$ -	\$ -	318	65	\$ 21,307	\$ 4,651	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,307	\$ 4,651	\$ 16,657	\$ 21.8	
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ 711	36	1	\$ 2,412	\$ 72	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,412	\$ 782	\$ 3,630	\$ 17.7	
1350	Training	\$ 850	\$ 108	812	182	\$ 54,407	\$ 13,022	\$ 7,000	\$ 636	\$ 48,257	\$ 12,493	\$ 35,764	\$ 25.9	
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	32	15	\$ 2,144	\$ 1,055	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,144	\$ 1,055	\$ 1,089	\$ 49.2	
1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 324	46	1	\$ 3,082	\$ 72	\$ 400	\$ 174	\$ 4,132	\$ 221	\$ 3,911	\$ 5.4	
	<b>TOTAL - ANGLER &amp; HUNTER PARTIC</b>	<b>\$ 9,800</b>	<b>\$ 3,259</b>	<b>1,936</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>\$ 129,720</b>	<b>\$ 43,197</b>	<b>\$ 7,400</b>	<b>\$ 810</b>	<b>\$ 132,120</b>	<b>\$ 45,646</b>	<b>\$ 86,474</b>	<b>\$ 34.5</b>	
1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	72	23	\$ 4,824	\$ 1,646	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,824	\$ 1,646	\$ 3,179	\$ 34.1	
1420	Communication	\$ -	\$ -	116	34	\$ 7,772	\$ 2,433	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,772	\$ 2,433	\$ 5,340	\$ 31.3	
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 1,000	\$ 487	114	10	\$ 7,638	\$ 715	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,638	\$ 1,202	\$ 7,436	\$ 13.9	
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 500	\$ 914	668	105	\$ 44,759	\$ 7,513	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,259	\$ 8,427	\$ 36,832	\$ 18.6	
	<b>TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>	<b>\$ 1,500</b>	<b>\$ 1,401</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>\$ 64,994</b>	<b>\$ 12,306</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 66,494</b>	<b>\$ 13,707</b>	<b>\$ 52,787</b>	<b>\$ 20.6</b>	
1510	Ranging	\$ 1,000	\$ 221	930	229	\$ 62,314	\$ 16,384	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 63,314	\$ 16,605	\$ 46,709	\$ 26.2	
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,159	104	92	\$ 6,968	\$ 6,582	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,968	\$ 7,741	\$ 227	\$ 97.2	
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 5,000	\$ 466	336	47	\$ 22,513	\$ 3,363	\$ 6,000	\$ 734	\$ 21,513	\$ 3,095	\$ 18,419	\$ 14.4	
	<b>TOTAL - COMPLIANCE</b>	<b>\$ 7,000</b>	<b>\$ 1,846</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>\$ 91,796</b>	<b>\$ 26,330</b>	<b>\$ 6,000</b>	<b>\$ 734</b>	<b>\$ 92,796</b>	<b>\$ 27,442</b>	<b>\$ 65,354</b>	<b>\$ 29.6</b>	
1610	Licensing	\$ 600	\$ -	124	46	\$ 8,309	\$ 3,291	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,909	\$ 3,291	\$ 5,617	\$ 36.9	
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	158	17	\$ 10,587	\$ 1,216	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,587	\$ 1,216	\$ 9,370	\$ 11.5	
	<b>TOTAL - LICENSING</b>	<b>\$ 600</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>\$ 18,895</b>	<b>\$ 4,508</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 19,495</b>	<b>\$ 4,508</b>	<b>\$ 14,988</b>	<b>\$ 23.1</b>	
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0.0	
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,146	457	127	\$ 30,621	\$ 9,087	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,621	\$ 12,233	\$ 23,388	\$ 34.3	
	<b>TOTAL - COUNCILS</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,146</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>\$ 30,621</b>	<b>\$ 9,087</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 35,621</b>	<b>\$ 12,233</b>	<b>\$ 23,388</b>	<b>\$ 34.3</b>	
1810	Management Planning	\$ 8,500	\$ 21	281	2	\$ 18,828	\$ 143	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,328	\$ 164	\$ 27,164	\$ 0.6	
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	64	0	\$ 4,288	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,288	\$ -	\$ 4,288	\$ 0.0	
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 9,950	\$ -	391	170	\$ 26,199	\$ 12,163	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,149	\$ 12,163	\$ 23,986	\$ 33.6	
1840	National Liaison	\$ 50	\$ 655	258	46	\$ 17,287	\$ 3,291	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,337	\$ 3,946	\$ 13,391	\$ 22.8	
	<b>TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING</b>	<b>\$ 18,500</b>	<b>\$ 676</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>\$ 66,602</b>	<b>\$ 15,597</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 85,102</b>	<b>\$ 16,273</b>	<b>\$ 68,829</b>	<b>\$ 19.1</b>	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 190,050</b>	<b>\$ 76,886</b>	<b>15,204</b>	<b>4,981</b>	<b>\$ 1,018,733</b>	<b>\$ 356,362</b>	<b>\$ 83,050</b>	<b>\$ 42,639</b>	<b>\$ 1,125,733</b>	<b>\$ 390,610</b>	<b>\$ 735,123</b>	<b>\$ 34.7</b>	

	EXTERNAL COSTS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		Variance	%	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual			
1910 Salaries	\$ 929,707	\$ 321,348	\$ 2,289	\$ 402,485	\$ 163,773	\$ 58,000	\$ 30,430	\$ 471,945	\$ 196,934	\$ 275,011	41.7
1920 Staff Expenses	\$ 24,000	\$ 2,362	3,188	\$ 213,610	\$ 81,565	\$ 11,650	\$ 10,665	\$ 222,160	\$ 73,867	\$ 148,293	33.2
1930 Staff Houses	\$ 10,306	\$ 8,227	1,936	\$ 129,720	\$ 43,197	\$ 7,400	\$ 810	\$ 132,120	\$ 45,646	\$ 86,474	34.5
1940 Office Premises	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,840	172	\$ 64,994	\$ 12,306	-	-	\$ 66,494	\$ 13,707	\$ 52,787	20.6
1950 Office Equipment	\$ 2,600	\$ 1,459	1,370	\$ 91,796	\$ 26,330	\$ 6,000	\$ 734	\$ 92,796	\$ 27,442	\$ 65,354	29.6
1960 Communications/Consumables	\$ 17,200	\$ 6,504	63	\$ 18,895	\$ 4,508	-	-	\$ 19,495	\$ 4,508	\$ 14,988	23.1
1970 General	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,344	457	\$ 30,621	\$ 9,087	-	-	\$ 35,621	\$ 12,233	\$ 23,388	34.3
1980 General Equipment	\$ 16,600	\$ 5,700	218	\$ 66,602	\$ 15,597	-	-	\$ 85,102	\$ 16,273	\$ 68,829	19.1
1990 Vehicles	\$ 55,500	\$ 24,575	6,950	\$ 1,018,733	\$ 356,362	\$ 83,050	\$ 42,639	\$ 1,125,733	\$ 390,610	\$ 735,123	
Administration	\$ 1,086,913	\$ 392,359	1,974								
Total Overhead Net Cost			6,955	\$ 1,018,733	\$ 356,362	\$ 83,050	\$ 42,639	\$ 1,125,733	\$ 390,610	\$ 735,123	
Total Outputs Staff Hours									15,204	4,981	
Internal Cost Per Hour									67.00	71.55	

**2022/2023 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME**

Schedule C Code	EXTERNAL COSTS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		Variance	%	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual			
1 Species Management	\$ 127,450	\$ 63,591	2,289	\$ 402,485	\$ 163,773	\$ 58,000	\$ 30,430	\$ 471,945	\$ 196,934	\$ 275,011	41.7
2 Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 20,200	\$ 2,967	3,188	\$ 213,610	\$ 81,565	\$ 11,650	\$ 10,665	\$ 222,160	\$ 73,867	\$ 148,293	33.2
3 Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 9,800	\$ 3,259	1,936	\$ 129,720	\$ 43,197	\$ 7,400	\$ 810	\$ 132,120	\$ 45,646	\$ 86,474	34.5
4 Public Interface	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,401	172	\$ 64,994	\$ 12,306	-	-	\$ 66,494	\$ 13,707	\$ 52,787	20.6
5 Compliance	\$ 7,000	\$ 1,846	1,370	\$ 91,796	\$ 26,330	\$ 6,000	\$ 734	\$ 92,796	\$ 27,442	\$ 65,354	29.6
6 Licensing	\$ 600	\$ -	282	\$ 18,895	\$ 4,508	-	-	\$ 19,495	\$ 4,508	\$ 14,988	23.1
7 Councils	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,146	457	\$ 30,621	\$ 9,087	-	-	\$ 35,621	\$ 12,233	\$ 23,388	34.3
8 Planning, Reporting	\$ 18,500	\$ 676	994	\$ 66,602	\$ 15,597	-	-	\$ 85,102	\$ 16,273	\$ 68,829	19.1
9 Administration											
Total Overhead Staff Hours			6,950								
TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 190,050	\$ 76,886	22,154	\$ 1,018,733	\$ 356,362	\$ 83,050	\$ 42,639	\$ 1,125,733	\$ 390,610	\$ 735,123	
Licence Income 2022-2023											
2022-23 Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,079,901	\$ 794,283						\$ 1,125,733	\$ 390,610	\$ 735,123	35%
Less Commission	\$ -	\$ -						\$ (9,505)	\$ (113)	\$ (8,392)	
Net Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,031,305	\$ 794,283						\$ 158,586	\$ 39,646	\$ 118,940	
2023 Game Licence Income	\$ 269,723	\$ 17,156						\$ (1,349,624)	\$ (811,441)	\$ (541,921)	
Less Commission	\$ -	\$ -						\$ 60,733	\$ 27,819	\$ 32,914	
Net Game Licence Income	\$ 257,586	\$ 17,156						\$ (28,157)	\$ (17,806)	\$ (10,650)	
Total Licence Income	\$ 1,349,624	\$ 811,441						\$ 74,244	\$ 24,199	\$ 50,045	
Total Commission	\$ -	\$ -						\$ 32,010	\$ (347,086)	\$ (315,076)	
Total Net 2022-23 Licence Revenue	\$ 1,288,891	\$ 783,622						\$ (7,937)	\$ (781)	\$ (8,718)	

Adj to OWP budgets - Waikaremoana Fund		Subtotal	
Less Waikaremoana Fund Interest	\$ (7,937)	\$ (781)	
Plus Waikaremoana Fund Expenses	\$ 8,000	\$ 1,509	
Adj to OWP budgets - Non Res Reserve - Lake Tarawera project			
Adjusted Budget	Actual(surplus)/deficit YTD	Total	\$ (346,358)

**Table 2**

**Balance Sheet**  
**Eastern Fish and Game Council**  
As at 31 December 2022

<b>Assets</b>	<b>31 Dec 2022</b>	<b>31 Aug 2022</b>
<b>Bank</b>		
Investments	\$705,790.56	\$511,038.52
Petty Cash	\$221.20	\$221.20
Waikaremoana Fund Investments	\$471,153.57	\$470,049.72
Westpac Call Account	\$295,922.52	\$235,120.80
Westpac Current Account	\$13,798.96	\$5,995.12
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>\$1,486,886.81</b>	<b>\$1,222,425.36</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Accounts Receivable	\$223,029.84	\$80,402.35
Accounts Receivable - Hawkes bay & External parties	\$370.45	\$0.00
Accounts Receivable - Staff Recovery	\$273.53	\$0.00
Inventory - Fish Stock	\$168,939.00	\$168,939.00
Prepayments and Accrued Income	\$0.00	\$10,176.06
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$392,612.82</b>	<b>\$259,517.41</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Accum Dep Land & Buildings	-\$738,670.13	-\$729,394.41
Accum Dep Motor Vehicles	-\$140,679.87	-\$159,830.31
Accum Dep Office Equipment	-\$54,317.50	-\$53,118.85
Accum Dep Plant & Equipment	-\$162,672.43	-\$160,203.86
Buildings	\$1,043,849.38	\$1,043,849.38
Land	\$102,000.00	\$102,000.00
Motor Vehicles	\$403,769.71	\$425,024.50
Office Equipment	\$61,185.20	\$61,185.20
Plant & Equipment	\$198,898.90	\$198,898.90
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$713,363.26</b>	<b>\$728,410.55</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$2,592,862.89</b>	<b>\$2,210,353.32</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$99,775.94	\$36,799.19
Accruals and Prepaid Licences	\$78,422.00	\$135,452.97
Business Credit Card	-\$2,068.83	\$1,273.43
Employee Entitlements	\$78,415.53	\$87,769.49
Game Bird Habitat Stamp Levy Clearing	\$3.48	\$0.00
GST	\$30,842.65	-\$8,953.93
PAYE Clearing	\$35,140.57	\$31,605.92
Salmon Endorsement Clearing	\$249.60	\$0.00
Staff Social Club	\$2,601.93	\$2,671.00
Westpac Business Credit Card - A Alaeinia	\$266.86	\$0.00
Westpac Business Credit Card - K Thompson	-\$881.09	\$0.00
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$322,768.64</b>	<b>\$286,618.07</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$322,768.64</b>	<b>\$286,618.07</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$2,270,094.25</b>	<b>\$1,923,735.25</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Accumulated Funds	\$1,235,838.33	\$1,280,725.06
Asset Replacement Reserve	\$49,427.00	\$49,427.00
Back Country Fisheries Reserve	\$136,768.65	\$130,710.65
Breeding Programme Reserve	\$1,018.00	\$1,018.00
Current Year Earnings	\$346,359.00	-\$38,828.73
Fish for Gold Reserve	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00
Hatchery Water Reticulation Reserve	\$16,571.00	\$16,571.00
Hunter Ballot Reserve	\$5,934.00	\$5,934.00
Waikaremoana Sportsfish Habitat Enhancement Fund Reserve	\$464,178.27	\$464,178.27
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$2,270,094.25</b>	<b>\$1,923,735.25</b>

**Table 3 Profit and Loss - Council****Eastern Fish and Game Council**

For the 2 months ended 31 December 2022

<b>Income</b>	<b>Nov 2022</b>	<b>Dec 2022</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>Var YTD</b>	<b>Var YTD %</b>
Licence Income	101,979	122,048	795,285	789,000	1,349,624	6,285	1%
Non-Resident Licence Levy Revenue	4,783	6,058	16,156	0	0	16,156	0%
Other Income	28,326	36,559	97,336	79,779	196,829	17,557	22%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>135,088</b>	<b>164,665</b>	<b>908,776</b>	<b>868,779</b>	<b>1,546,453</b>	<b>39,997</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>							
Depreciation	5,851	5,934	24,199	24,748	74,244	-549	-2%
<b>1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>							
1110 Population Monitoring	7,396	0	16,766	14,500	43,200	2,266	16%
1120 Harvest Assessment	0	0	402	900	2,900	-498	-55%
1140 Hatchery Operations	9,701	12,289	46,491	41,550	83,350	4,941	12%
1180 Game Bird Control	0	0	0	500	500	-500	-100%
<b>Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>17,097</b>	<b>12,289</b>	<b>63,659</b>	<b>57,450</b>	<b>129,950</b>	<b>6,209</b>	<b>11%</b>
<b>1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT</b>							
1220 Works & Management	0	2,711	2,967	2,000	17,500	967	48%
1230 Assisted Habitat	0	0	1,441	350	2,700	1,091	312%
<b>Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,711</b>	<b>4,407</b>	<b>2,350</b>	<b>20,200</b>	<b>2,057</b>	<b>88%</b>
<b>1300 PARTICIPATION</b>							
1310 Access	23	1,752	2,118	2,500	5,500	-382	-15%
1340 Other Publications	0	0	711	700	2,000	11	1%
1350 Training	0	66	108	250	850	-142	-57%
1370 Huts	89	96	324	500	1,450	-176	-35%
<b>Total 1300 PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>1,915</b>	<b>3,259</b>	<b>3,950</b>	<b>9,800</b>	<b>-691</b>	<b>-17%</b>
<b>1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>							
1440 Public Promotions	156	298	487	0	1,000	487	0%
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education/Interpretation	0	35	914	500	500	414	83%
<b>Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>1,401</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>180%</b>
<b>1500 COMPLIANCE</b>							
1510 Ranging	68	68	221	350	1,000	-129	-37%
1520 Ranger Training	514	0	1,159	1,000	1,000	159	16%
1530 Compliance	0	0	466	1,665	5,000	-1,199	-72%
<b>Total 1500 COMPLIANCE</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>1,846</b>	<b>3,015</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>-1,169</b>	<b>-39%</b>
<b>1600 LICENSING</b>							
1610 Licence Prod/Distrib	0	0	0	0	600	0	0%
1630 Commission	3,454	3,872	27,819	35,505	60,733	-7,686	-22%
<b>Total 1600 LICENSING</b>	<b>3,454</b>	<b>3,872</b>	<b>27,819</b>	<b>35,505</b>	<b>61,333</b>	<b>-7,686</b>	<b>-22%</b>
<b>1700 COUNCIL</b>							
1720 Council Meetings	625	1,410	3,146	1,800	5,000	1,346	75%
<b>Total 1700 COUNCIL</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>1,410</b>	<b>3,146</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>1,346</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>1800 PLANNING/REPORTING</b>							
1810 Management & Strategic Planning	0	0	21	0	8,500	21	0%
1830 Reporting/Audit	0	9,650	0	300	9,950	-300	-100%
1840 National Liaison	201	251	40,301	39,696	158,636	605	2%
<b>Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>9,901</b>	<b>40,322</b>	<b>39,996</b>	<b>177,086</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>1900 ADMINISTRATION</b>							
1910 Salaries	72,596	113,830	321,348	321,000	935,207	348	0%
1920 Staff Expenses	157	636	2,362	3,800	24,000	-1,438	-38%
1930 Staff Houses	1,036	1,689	8,227	4,520	10,306	3,707	82%
1940 Office Premises	570	2,079	10,840	8,605	20,000	2,235	26%
1950 Office Equipment	295	186	1,459	768	2,600	691	90%
1960 Communications/Consumables	2,129	1,228	6,504	5,920	17,200	584	10%
1970 General	175	150	11,344	9,367	11,000	1,977	21%
1980 General Equipment	522	1,100	5,700	7,300	16,600	-1,600	-22%
1990 Vehicles	7,459	5,161	24,575	22,200	55,500	2,375	11%
<b>Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>84,940</b>	<b>126,060</b>	<b>392,358</b>	<b>383,480</b>	<b>1,092,413</b>	<b>8,878</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>113,017</b>	<b>164,495</b>	<b>562,417</b>	<b>552,794</b>	<b>1,578,526</b>	<b>9,623</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>22,071</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>346,359</b>	<b>315,985</b>	<b>-32,073</b>	<b>30,374</b>	<b>10%</b>



## 8.3 MANAGEMENT REPORT

25 January 2023

### SPECIES MANAGEMENT

#### 1111 River Fisheries Investigations

##### Rangitaiki River Water Quality Monitoring

Fish & Game staff are scheduled to drift dive the Rangitaiki River within Kaingaroa Forest during February.

Fish & Game started drift dive monitoring in the Rangitaiki River during the 1997-98 to 1999-2000 period and were continued from the 2007-08 season. If river conditions are unsuitable for drift diving due to poor visibility as was evident in the pre-Christmas period, then water quality parameters (temp, oxygen and secchi disc) will be collected at long term drift dive sites along with other sites sampled since March 2017. In the four-year period spanning 2016-2019, staff were unable to undertake drift dive trout counts due to extremely low visibility through the Rangitaiki River water column. In the three years 2017-2019 water parameters were taken at a range of sites to continue water quality monitoring. During the 2020 summer, river clarity improved to where drift dive trout counts were once again possible. Then in 2021 dives were not undertaken and in 2022 an investigation was again substituted in place of drift dive counts as the river had deteriorated.

Staff are also planning to undertake a drift dive at several sites along the Waioeka River and Otago rivers during February or March. The Waioeka has not been sampled for 4 years and has experienced regular flooding (as have other East Coast waters) but also receives high angler pressure in the mid reaches around Wairata. The Otago fishery is one we are monitoring closely around flood events, river scheme realignment (BOPRC) and local angling club concerns around the trout numbers and low catches.

There is a drift dive operation consisting of 3 reaches planned to be completed in the Wheao River (Rangitaiki System) in April as part of the upcoming Wheao Hydropower Scheme consenting Process.

#### 1112 Datawatch

During the four and a half months following the season opening, a total of 179 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database. The distribution is as follows:

Lake McLaren	1
Lake Okareka	3
Lake Okataina	32
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	8
Lake Rotoehu	1
Lake Rotoiti	45
Lake Rotoma	5
Lake Rotorua	2
Lake Tarawera	82

*\*Datawatch returns (entered to 24/01/2023)*

This total is 25 tags returned up on the same approximate period during 2022. Lake Okataina is 22 tag returns down, possibly because of the cessation to the opening day competition run out of Lake Okataina lodge and the poor weather accompanying the season to date. Lake Rotoiti tag returns have increased by 24 returns and Lake Tarawera returns are up by 33 to the same approximate time in the season. All other lakes are very close to the previous return tallies.

### **1113 Lake Waikaremoana**

#### **Waikaremoana Water Quality Monitoring Buoy**

The Lake Water Quality Monitoring buoy has been regularly sending through data over the past few months. When staff attended the Lake Waikaremoana Boating and Fishing Associations Family Fishing Day on January 21<sup>st</sup>, the sensor chains were cleaned.

### **1114 Lake Tarawera**

A food web project was started in 2019 at lake Tarawera through collection and analysis of key basal resources and consumers from replicated sites during four sampling events over an annual mixing/stratification cycle. The aim of this study was to quantify trophic interactions and the relative contributions from littoral and pelagic derived energy pathways over a year. The goal being that this data would be used to inform relationships between environmental drivers (i.e., annual stratification cycle and eutrophication) on food web dynamics and trout diet, ultimately informing parameterization of food web models targeted at fisheries management.

#### **i: Lake Tarawera Limnological project**

Dr Simon Stewart (Cawthron) has produced a draft Lake Tarawera Food web report. Staff are working through the draft copy and aim to provide feedback on the report to head toward completion of the project.

#### **ii: Tarawera Acoustic Sampling**

Acoustic monitoring is undertaken across 14 parallel transects of the Lake Tarawera. All matter containing an air pocket or swim bladder is seen and recorded. Data analysis is able to discern prey items from trout signatures and estimate the amount of prey resource and position within the lake between transect seasons and years. This will ultimately give some forecasting ability to upcoming trout condition downturns and/ or improvements. Staff undertook acoustic transects across Lake Tarawera on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

### **1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations**

#### **Ngongotaha Fish Trap**

##### *Ngongotaha Stream trap run (December 2022)*

The Ngongotaha fish trap was not operated during December 2022 due to the high number of storm events leading to flooded stream.

##### *Ngongotaha Stream trap run (January 2023)*

The fish trap had not been operated at the time of this report.

## **1116 Waterfowl Monitoring**

### **Trend Counts - Black Swan and Paradise Shelduck**

Due to bad weather in January we ran out of time to fly the East Coast to count paradise shelduck and black swan. Therefore, the regulations for these species and management areas were recommended to stay the same as last year. Management Areas A1 and A2 were counted and also remain the status quo. A full report will be provided to Council at a later date.

### **Trapping Programmes - Mallard**

Trapping is still under way at the time of writing this which has also been delayed and severely affected by the weather particularly on the East Coast. Two of the key band sites on the East Coast have remained inaccessible and under water. So far we have banded a total of 970 mallard and grey duck in the Bay of Plenty. Fish and Game have also assisted MPI collect samples for bird flu monitoring. The current outbreak of bird flu is particularly virulent and in the US has killed over 50 million birds so far and also had a devastating impact on birds in Europe. We are hoping that it does not make it to New Zealand. MPI have also agreed to assist with the cost of grain (maize) this year as it is so expensive and a critical component of the monitoring.

### **Brood Counts**

Annual duck brood counts were undertaken on the coastal Bay of Plenty drainage network during October and November. Results will be available before the Council Meeting.

## **1119 Upland Game Assessments**

Annual pheasant call counts were conducted in Kaingaroa Forest in early November. Results will be reported at the next Council Meeting.

## **1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys**

### **Opening Day Creel Survey 2022-23**

The 2022-23 Opening Day Survey report has been completed.

### **Summer Creel Survey 2022-23**

The Summer Angler Creel Surveys started in late October and will continue until April. Since the season opening through to mid-January 2023, conditions across the Rotorua lakes have been largely windy with above average rainfall. Apart from a week post-Christmas and the period after 15<sup>th</sup> January, conditions could be described as unstable. The majority of anglers have been forced to find sheltered areas to fish and choose their fishing times carefully around weather. Angler creel surveys are down in number and behind recent summer tallies.

## **1141 Hatchery Operations**

Rearing ponds 4-7 have been populated with rainbow trout fingerlings for on growing before liberation in Autumn 2023.

Routine summer maintenance projects are underway around the hatchery and property.

*Fish locations at 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023:*

Location	Type	Age	Qty (approx)	Comment
Hatchery	Rt	Fry	50K	2023 season liberations
Tank A	Rt	0+	1,050	Auck/Wai Region 2023 Trips
Tank B	Tig	0+	800	2023 autumn liberations
Tank C	Rt	0+	500	2023 Summer liberations (Ad)
Tank D	Bt	0+	1,000	
Tank E	Rt	1+	10	Best of brood, 1+ for 2023
Tank F	Brook	0+	140	Brood for 2023 onward
Pond 4	Rt	0+	7,000	Autumn lib 2023
Pond 5	Rt	0+	7,000	Autumn lib 2023
Pond 6	Rt	0+	7,000	Autumn lib 2023
Pond 7	Rt	0+	7,000	Autumn lib 2023
Pond 9	Rt	1+	6,500	2023 2 year olds
RW1&2	Rt	1+	2,000	3+ for KF 2023

### 1161 Sports Fish Liberations

*Liberations, Eastern Region 22 Nov 2022 – 24 Jan 2023*

Water	Date	Mark	Tag	Species	Age	Number
Tarawera	13/12/2022	Rp	-	Rt	1+	1,000
Tuui/Kaitawa	5/12/2022	Rp	-	Rt	1+	500
Tuui/Kaitawa	5/12/2022	Rp	-	Bt	1+	200

### 1171 Sports Fishing Regulations

The 2022-23 season constitutes an intermediary review cycle of the Anglers Notice process for Eastern Region Fish & Game. A letter will be sent to clubs during February to advise them of this.

The regulations for the 2023-24 angling season will be finalized at the June 2023 Council meeting.

#### Designated Waters Licence

The New Zealand Fish & Game Council (NZC) are proposing to create a new fishing licence category to be named the 'Designated Waters Licence'.

Over the past 10-year period, Fish & Game have become particularly aware of increasing angler pressure on highly desired and fragile fisheries causing displacement of both resident and non-resident anglers.

Previously, the Backcountry Licence Endorsement has been the umbrella document seeking to regulate angler pressure. Many of the waters covered by the 'Backcountry Licence Endorsement' are also pressure sensitive waters and therefore are likely to become 'Designated Waters' Fisheries. Because of this, the Backcountry Licence Endorsement may be discontinued.

The Designated Waters Licence is designed to alleviate pressure related impacts through mechanisms that will spread angler use across regional fisheries rather than concentrate on the renowned waters. The new licence will work differently for resident and non-resident anglers.

NZC will consult with Non-Resident anglers during the 2022-23 Anglers Notice Process. Consultation with Resident anglers is proposed to be led by Regional Fish & Game Offices with a standardised mailout form that will inform anglers of why the Designated Waters Licence is required and how it will operate. Non-Resident and Resident anglers alike will be asked to provide feedback via an online portal. NZC will collate all feedback and then provide a recommendation to the Minister of Conservation.

Eastern Region Fish & Game currently have no fisheries requiring Backcountry Licence Endorsements. Most Non-Resident pressure related issues occur in South Island fisheries.

## 1172 Game Bird Regulations

The recommended regulations for the 2023 game bird season is therefore:

### EASTERN FISH AND GAME REGION<sup>2</sup>

#### 1 Game That May be Hunted or Killed—Duration of 2023/2024 Season

Species	Season (dates inclusive)	Duration	Daily Bag Limit	Hunting Area
Grey/mallard duck	6 May to 5 Jun 2023		6	All areas
NZ shoveler duck	6 May to 5 Jun 2023		2	All areas
Paradise shelduck	6 May to 2 Jul 2023		6	Area A1, A2
	6 May to 2 Jul 2023		10	Area B2 and that part of B1, which lies south of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay
	6 May to 16 Jul 2023		20	That part of B1, which lies north of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay
Pukeko	6 May to 27 Aug 2023		10	All areas
	17 Feb to 25 Feb 2024		10	All areas
Black swan	6 May to 27 Aug 2023		No limit	Area A1
	17 Feb to 25 Feb 2024		No limit	Area A1
	6 May to 2 Jul 2023		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	6 May to 27 Aug 2023		No limit	Area A1 & A2
	6 May to 27 Aug 2023		5	Area B1 & B2
Cock pheasant	6 May to 27 Aug 2023		5	All areas

<sup>2</sup> Reference to description: *Gazette*, No. 83, of 26 May 1990, at page 1861.

## 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 2023).
- (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.

## **HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE**

### **1211 RMA Planning**

#### **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 early discussions are occurring on some very early drafts of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and the Regional Natural Resources Plan (RNRP). No new developments

#### **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. No new developments.

#### **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 recently provided comments on a draft version of the catchment plan. Consultation has recently started on the Waiapu Catchment Plan. Additionally, stakeholder consultation is scheduled to begin shortly on the Regional Policy Statement, Freshwater Plan amendments, and the Waimata, Uawa, Waipaoa, Wharehika and Hangaroa catchments. GDC is also beginning a topic by topic review of the Tairāwhiti Resource Management Plan.

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.

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. Government recently introduced the Spatial Planning Bill and the Natural and Built Environment Bill to Parliament. RMA staff throughout the country will be collaborating with a view to providing formal input into this process.

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

## 1212 Consent Applications

Date	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
12 Jan 23	GDC	Juken NZ Ltd	LUC – forest harvest	Waimata Stream, Gisborne	No concerns email

### Consents of Note:

Although no formal resource consent application has been received, media has reported, and the consultant has informally approached F&G – a 380 house subdivision is proposed on Ngongotaha Road, adjacent to the Waiteti Stream. A previous subdivision proposal was declined due to the flood prone nature of the site but “new” engineering designs have been made. This application will be thoroughly vetted to ensure how interests in the stream habitat and fishery are protected or enhanced. We will advise Council of its progress.

Rotorua Lakes Council have provided preliminary information, plus we have attended a site visit, to ascertain the impacts on the fishery and spawning habitat in the upper Utuhina for the Council to renew its existing municipal water supply to Rotorua. We await hydrological information to fully assess the effects, and await the formal application. We will advise Council of its progress.



## **1221 Reserves Management**

The summer maintenance programme remains behind due to the ongoing rainy weather inhibiting the mowing schedule and early spray works. The Kaituna balancing culvert weir replacement has been installed but not calibrated as yet as we await natural settling prior to any calculation to final weir height. We are in discussions with preferred contractors to undertake water reticulation works in Awaiti, Bregmans and Orini, but need to await water levels to reduce to enable access and a dry period for dry tracks for access. The summer spray programme is scheduled for late February , early March.

With the revised NES-W rules being announced mid December 2022, little has changed regarding easily enabling wetland maintenance. Consequently F&G staff will over the next four odd months, prepare a substantial resource consent application (jointly with DOC) to undertake annual wetland maintenance works into the future.

## **1231 Respond to Landowner Requests for Assistance**

No new landowner requests have been received. One site visit has occurred to advise of wetland maintenance activities best for longevity in a wetland north of Tauranga.

## **1232 Habitat Creation and Enhancement**

## **1241 Monitor Waterfowl Habitats**

A forum meeting was held 4<sup>th</sup> October at DOC Tauranga. Attendees included DOC, F&G, BOPRC, Tauranga City Council, QEII and one Tauranga iwi representative. Generalised discussions occurred regarding day to day works, but what was evident was all parties awaiting on the NES-W rules review to undertake summer maintenance works and enhancements. The next meeting is planned for March 2023 at the F&G office Rotorua. No new developments

## **ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION**

### **1311 Maintain & Enhance Access**

Access maintenance work is continuing. Contractors have carried out work for us at the Whirinaki track, and within Kaingaroa Forest at the Whaeo River track clearing tree fall and grooming the track, and at other locations on the upper Rangitaiki River. We acknowledge the contribution to this work made by Timberlands Ltd who have contributed \$2,500 towards contractor costs.

In January work was carried out at the Awahou Stream mouth carpark, with a bobcat operator smoothing out the carpark surface which had become very uneven due to weather erosion and correcting water runoff. We are grateful for the support of the local landowners for giving permission to carry out this work, and for permitting angler access to the stream mouth via private land.

We are currently in discussions with DOC regarding needed maintenance of access tracks at Lake Rerewhaakaitu which lie within DOC administered reserve land.

Further access work is underway or pending in various locations around the region and signage inspection and maintenance and enhancement is ongoing.

### **1312 Signage**

Sign maintenance and enhancement is ongoing with replacements as required.

### **1331 Electronic Newsletters**

Reel Life E-zine was published for December and January and covered season prospects and reports.

### **1333 Fish & Game Website**

Updates or changes to the Eastern Web site included Council agendas and minutes, notice of Boat-Fishing tuition, weed spraying notification on the Rotorua lakes.

### **1334 Social Media**

Facebook continues to attract good traffic and interaction with users. We have over 1,800 organic followers. Our Instagram page is increasing in popularity with over 380 followers. Regular posts are made to both. Licence holders are using social media mediums to communicate with us.

### **1341 Information Pamphlets**

No activity for the reporting period. Adequate stocks of pamphlets are being held.

### **1352 Angler/Hunter Training**

A Boat Fishing How-To talk and demonstration was successfully held at the Fish & Game offices in January. Over 100 people attended and favourable feedback was received.

### **1354 Fishing Competitions**

Four fishing competition permits were processed for the period.

### **1361 Fish & Game Club Communications**

No club visits were conducted within the reported period.

### **1371 Fish & Game Huts**

Maintenance has been carried out at both the Wairua and Waikaremoana huts as required. The current 10-year term licence to occupy the site of the Waikaremoana Hut expires at the end of this year (23/12/2023). This licence was issued by DOC and subsequently continued in effect under the management of Te Urewera when DOC ceased to manage Te Urewera. The situation is that Fish & Game own the building, which is a Lockwood, and conversations with Te Urewera management are underway in order to seek a renewal of permission to occupy the site where the building is located.

## **PUBLIC INTERFACE**

### **1411 Statutory Liaison and Political Awareness**

Due to summer break liaison activity has been minimal. Before the end of last year the CEO met with Liam Tapsel of Ngati Whakaue iwi who has affiliation with the Kaituna area. He also met with Jade King-Hazel, who is the DOC Regional Director.

The CEO also communicated with Kirsti Luke and her team to inform them that we were attending the Waikaremoana Boat Club fishing competition and if they were in the area, would be great to catch up. There was no reply. He also reached out to Tamati Kruger asking to meet with him and for Ngahi Bidois EF&G Chair to also be at this meeting, no response yet.

### **1421 Public Communications**

#### **Lake Waikaremoana Genesis Consultative Meeting**

The Genesis Consultative meeting was held on 6th October this year. Eastern Fish & Game staff attended and presented an overview of Fish & Game projects in the Wairoa / East Coast Catchment including the Lake Waikaremoana winter fishery surveys. No updates for this period.

#### **Rotorua Lakes Symposium**

The 2022 Rotorua Lakes Symposium organised by the Lakes Water Quality Society was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of November. Matt Osborne attended on behalf of Eastern Fish & Game. No updates for this period.

#### **Taupo Fishery Advisory Committee (TFAC)**

Matt Osborne represented Fish & Game NZ at the TFAC meeting held on 22 November and gave a report detailing the Rotorua lakes opening (1 October), the upcoming summer fisheries surveys program and the licence sales tracking to date. No updates for this period.

### **1451 Education**

No visits were made for the reported period.

## **COMPLIANCE**

### **1511 Ranging**

The main focus of compliance activities has been Rotorua Lakes angler checks and surveys, and shoreline angler checks around Lake Rotorua, at the stream mouths which attract anglers over summer as fish move into cool water inflows. Ranging has also been carried out at other locations around the region, by staff and honorary rangers, including at Waikaremoana, and on river systems. Few compliance issues have been encountered. The weather has continued to be a challenge with significant periods of inclement weather resulting in fewer anglers being encountered while ranging.

#### **Contacts Year to date 2022-2023.**

753 licence check contacts have been made to end of December 2022. Overall compliance is in excess of 98 %.

**Contacts: Year 2022-2023**

Month	2018-19	2019-20	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	Last 5 yr average
September	21	46	16	51	35	31
October	893	726	724	718	520	779
November	20	126	16	66	16	59
December	309	237	287	182	182	281
January	442	246	404	352		328
February	307	265	155	140		201
March	180	23	164	93		93
April	124	7	153	238		140
May	252	143	297	203		224
June	168	162	124	141		153
July	63	75	45	57		64
August	54	20	22	32		32
<b>Total</b>	<b>2833</b>	<b>2076</b>	<b>2407</b>	<b>2273</b>	<b>753</b>	<b>2425</b>

**National CLE Liaison Role**

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

We have coordinated a national submission on the Arms Fees proposal, which relates to proposed fee increases for firearms licencing and associated processes and services. Most of the fee proposals are in our view excessive and will likely have perverse effects if enacted. Our submission is that while there is a case to increase fees which have been at the same level since 1999, increases need to be fair, reasonable and transparent, and encourage compliance. We have suggested CPI linked increases. We find it concerning that Police are proposing to price fees at a level designed to be a disincentive to occasional firearms users obtaining a firearms licence. There are game bird hunters who will fall into this category, and that is a concern. We have submitted against this proposal.

**1521 Ranger Training**

Ranger training is up to date. The next regional ranger training day will be held mid-year.

**Rangers**

Honorary Rangers continue to contribute around the region as and when they can. We are looking to recruit additional honorary rangers at various locations around the region. Like most other regions, honorary ranger recruitment is a challenge in terms of getting the right people for the role, who have time available for training and who can commit to operational objectives.

**1531 Prosecutions**

To date (end January) we have 3 recent matters currently pending resolution via either diversion or court resolution. We are investigating if there are any future options for non-financial diversion resolution for those who do not have the means to pay a financial penalty.

### **Offences 2022-2023 Year:**

As of late January, we have dealt with 8 offenders for 12 offences as tabled below.

#### *Offence table 2022-2023 year*

<b>Offence name</b>	<b>Number of offences</b>
Fishing without licence	5
Fishing in closed waters	5
Fish with more than 1 rod	1
Fish with illegal tackle	1
<b>Total number of offences</b>	<b>12</b>

### **Offences Pending Resolution**

Other than several matters which are pre-2019 which have warrants for arrest either in lieu of summons or for failing to appear in Court, there are 3 defendants pending resolution, for 5 various fishing related offences.

*The table below shows offences currently pending resolution:*

<b>Offence name</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
Fish without licence	3
Fails to give details	1
Obstruction of ranger	1
<b>Total number of offences</b>	<b>5</b>

## **LICENSING**

### **1621 Licence Agent Support**

Agent requests for licence corrections, brochures, and information was attended to as and when required. Staff continue to pop into retail agents when in their area.

## **PLANNING AND REPORTING**

### **1812 R3 Programme**

In January the CEO had a follow up meeting with RotoruaNZ regarding promotional video, Rotorua Education Network compliance and merchandise supply. All are still in progress. He attended a public meeting that was set up in response to the news that a 350 home development had been given the green light on the banks of the Waititei stream

### **1841 NZ Fish & Game Liaison**

Kate Thompson continues to provide regular updates of licence sales and other information requests to the New Zealand Council and regions. Kate is monitoring outstanding licence system upgrade issues and along with the Licence Working Party, Kate has been working to establish sales targets for the 2023-24 Season.

## 8.4 LICENCE SALES REPORT

27 January 2023

### 1. 2022-2023 Fish Licence Sales

- 1.1 Fish licence sales for the 2022-23 season compared with the 2021-22 season to 26 January are summarised in Table One. Fish licence sales are reporting to be 3.4% below 2021-22 season results for the same period, an improvement of 1.6% on the December report.
- 1.2 With the return of non-residents for the remainder of the year we expect the variance against last season will continue improve and it is likely that the sales target for the year will be met.
- 1.3 A further verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

**Table One: Fish Licence Sales 2022-23 vs 2021-22 YTD results to 26 January 2023**

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
<b>Fish Adult</b>							
Family	1,037	1,268	2,305	926	1,224	2,150	-155
Season	921	1,047	1,968	833	920	1,753	-215
Season Non-Resident	3	16	19	60	123	183	164
Loyal Senior	260	255	515	233	264	497	-18
Local Area Adult	838	541	1,379	721	597	1,318	-61
Winter Adult	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Long Break Adult	8	9	17	8	24	32	15
Short Break Adult	93	253	346	92	261	353	7
Day	460	1,126	1,586	383	1,071	1,454	-132
Day Non-Resident	9	40	49	181	384	565	516
<b>Total Adult</b>	<b>3,629</b>	<b>4,555</b>	<b>8,184</b>	<b>3,437</b>	<b>4,868</b>	<b>8,305</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>Fish Junior</b>							
Season	147	168	315	149	174	323	8
Season Non-Resident	0	3	3	8	10	18	15
Day	54	100	154	44	160	204	50
Day Non-Resident	2	4	6	9	8	17	11
<b>Total Junior</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Fish Child</b>							
Season Non-Resident	0	2	2	1	7	8	6
Day Non-Resident	0	3	3	8	7	15	12
<b>Total Child</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Total Fish</b>	<b>3,832</b>	<b>4,835</b>	<b>8,667</b>	<b>3,656</b>	<b>5,234</b>	<b>8,890</b>	<b>223</b>
<b>Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)</b>			6,992			6,753	-239
<b>Variance between Seasons</b>							-3.4%
<b>\$ (excl GST)</b>			<b>\$833,011</b>			<b>\$851,467</b>	<b>\$18,456</b>

### Summary 2022-2023 Season YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2022-23 Annual Budgeted FISH LEQs	<b>8,565</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$1,019,001</b>
2022-23 Actual	<b>6,753</b>	<b>78.8%</b>	<b>\$851,467</b>
<b>Variance to budget</b>	<b>-1,812</b>	<b>-21.2%</b>	<b>-\$167,534</b>

## **8.5 CE'S OVERVIEW**

December and January have been busy months for the team, both in fisheries, game bird and access. With poor weather hampering all operational activities, causing delay upon delay and at times difficulties with vehicles and equipment getting stuck numerous times due to excessive water. The team is behind on some schedules, but they have done the best that they can with the environment they have found themselves in.

Over the Christmas/New Year period there were several trips out onto our lakes to network with our license holders and collect data from their activities.

We also had some outstanding summer students who have assisted with the feeding out and the banding process.

I would like to acknowledge the team for their efforts under additional environmental stress which has seen many work weekends or their usual day offs due to the building pressures and breaks in the weather.

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

Ref: 8.02.01

27 January 2023

### 1. Purpose

To review Council's goals and priorities for the 2022-2023 year, and identify changes in priorities or work areas and projects that Council would like to see incorporated into the 2023-2024 Operational Work Plan.

### 2. Background

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

The NZC has short to medium term plans to review Fish & Game's annual budgeting process but is unlikely to be making substantive changes to it this planning round. Based on the steps that customarily involved, the process and schedule for the 2023-2024 Operational Work Plan (OWP) will be as follows:

1. Council reviews priorities and project areas it wishes to focus on over and above core functions (this meeting).
2. Staff compile a draft work plan and budget (excluding internal costs), and identify potential contestable funding bids it believes warrant consideration. The draft budget and bids have to be submitted to the NZ Council by **27 March** for collation and presentation to the Managers Meeting currently scheduled for **20 April** and the combined Managers/NZ Council meeting on **21 April**. Prior to those meetings the draft work plan, budget and bids will have been considered by this, the Eastern Fish and Game Council at its meeting on **6 April** which will enable any changes/additions/deletions it wants to be communicated to the Managers and NZ Council ahead of their late April meetings.
3. Staff revise projects and resourcing including hours and internal costs to take into account outcomes of the combined Managers/NZ Council meeting on **21 April**, and circulate the second draft of the OWP to Council ahead of its 8 June meeting.
4. The second draft of the OWP is considered at the June meeting and projects, budgets and targets are reviewed and refined as necessary.
5. This draft is then circulated to clubs and other interested parties for comment if they wish to.
6. Feedback from this consultation is considered and incorporated, if Council considers appropriate, into the final OWP presented for approval at Council's meeting on **10 August**.

As indicated above, the operational planning cycle commences as of now with a review of current priorities and goals. Council needs to determine whether changes to these are needed within the next OWP year in response to changing circumstances and/or other factors. The current OWP took into account outcomes from the preliminary strategic planning workshop Council had in late 2018, and incorporated several R3 initiatives into the programme arising from discussions staff had with the Business Development Manager for the NZ Council. Since then COVID has had a significant impact on budgets and operational activities, and with the



effects of the COVID era creating an economic down turn both nationally and internationally these effects will undoubtedly continue for some time to come. So too will changes Fish & Game is likely to implement in response to the Ministerial Review and the reviews of the Wildlife Act and Conservation Act as well as the review on the RMA process now being split into 3 categories. Timing is up in the air, and at this early stage in the 2023-2024 planning round it makes sense for Council to proceed on the basis that substantive changes are unlikely to be introduced within the next year, and to discuss changes if any it might wish to make to current goals and priorities. **Decisions on this are needed now so that staff can undertake initial planning and costing of projects ahead of 27 March.**

### **3. Current (2022-2023) Priorities**

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

At Council's February meeting 12 months ago Council concluded that the key regional priorities for 2022-2023 should remain the same as those that applied during the two years prior to that. It was acknowledged that some of Council's priorities continue to be of greater importance than others, for example, those that are critical to maintaining the viability and operational sustainability of Fish & Game. Higher priorities are considered to be Access, Maximising Fishery Opportunities, and Increasing Revenue, the arguments being that without access to sports fish and game bird resources the opportunities available to many licence holders are limited, and without adequate revenue we are unable to perform many of the operational undertakings needed to provide sustainable populations of sports fish and game birds for licence holders to harvest. Maximising fishery opportunities was seen as a means of increasing participation, and revenue.

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

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

It is presumed these aspirations still hold.

Over the years we have gained a much greater understanding of what can and can't be influenced in terms of achieving the outcomes Council is seeking, and with this understanding

we have adaptively managed our approach and refined projects or changed our focus more towards what can be done to do so. Overviews of what we have achieved more recently and issues associated with each of the key priority areas are provided below. Project areas and associated tasks for the current OWP year are presented in the tables appended to each of the overviews provided below.

#### **A. Regional Priority: Access**

- We have maintained extensive physical access tracks and signage for angling to priority waters for over a decade. The current programme is only just manageable however, and is subject to unforeseeable demands in other areas (e.g. CLE) that need to be addressed then and there on occasions. Maintaining hunter access to our reserves is undertaken in conjunction with other habitat management activities and is currently achievable with the resources that are being directed into this area.
- Forest access for both angling and hunting has been affected by Treaty of Waitangi Settlements, and forest managers, e.g. Timberlands. Many of our access problems arise due to land ownership issues and the rights of landowners (or occupiers/managers in the case of Timberlands) to control access across their land. Restoring access to these areas depends on relationship building with landowners and is time consuming and frustratingly slow at times. On a positive note we have over the past 2-3 years secured angler access across private land to one of the Putere lakes in the Wairoa district, and worked with DOC to re-establish and erect signage advising access over public land to another of the Putere lakes that had been obstructed by the adjoining landowner. We have gained access for upland game hunters to Oji Fibre Solution forest holdings in Kinleith Forest and eastern Bay of Plenty, and have negotiated draft access provisions to a section of the Waioeka River with the OTS for a Crown/Whakatohea treaty settlement process that's currently underway. Last year we were very pleased to be advised by Te Runanga o Ngati Whare that we had their support for a proposal we had put forward to upgrade access to a section of the Whirinaki River. This will be welcomed by anglers.
- We maintain comprehensive printed access information and continue to expand our inventory of information that is available digitally. We update access information as required, and we have an ongoing desire to undertake more extensive access investigations in relation to East Coast fisheries i.e. within the eastern Bay of Plenty and north of Gisborne. We have also been investigating opportunities for enhancing access to parts of the Rangitaiki River below Murupara to offset loss of summer opportunity further upriver. We also revised the Waikato River and Hydro Lakes brochure and promoted the fishery via social media which generated an enormous amount of interest.
- We continue to work collaboratively with the Walking Access Commission developing and exploring opportunities for access to sport fisheries in particular.

**Current (2022-23) OWP**

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

**B. Regional Priority: Increasing revenue**

- Based on the ongoing decline in licence revenue that this region has experienced for many years now and the potential for it to continue, Council sees this issue as being a significant risk to Eastern Fish & Game’s ongoing operations. A variety of projects have been incorporated into more recent OWPs as initiatives worthy of trialling and putting effort into in an endeavour to reverse the decline. The national Licence Working Party originally set up to investigate ways of increasing licence revenue via a wider range of licence categories and pricings that we were previously involved with has been re-activated to some degree, and we continue to undertake licence sales analyses not only for this region but for the country as a whole. We have implemented activities such as a tagged fish event, kids fishing days, ‘how to be successful’ and ‘how to fish from a boat’ events, and a novice hunting programme, and we’ve released and publicised the release of XL sized fish in several areas to add value to existing licence holders and recruit/re-activate participants. Some activities, such as the tagged fish event we’ve been running for several years now, may offer more than we’ve been able to realise so far, but are dependent on staff’s opinion, on locating a sponsor prepared to put up a substantially more attractive major prize(s) than we’ve been able to offer. Timing and duration of the event also warrants review. We’ve emailed lapsed licence holders and promoted opportunities as they arise via various media, and three years ago instigated an annual release of ‘trophy’ sized fish into the lake which generated a great deal of interest on both occasions. That programme too has potential for being refined and targeted more directly and effectively at yet to be anglers. We’ve engaged with RotoruaNZ to explore marketing opportunities and have partnered with them to becoming an agent and having a display to promote fishing with Hamills.

- We have an R3 roadmap for Fish & Game and have had a commitment for some time from the NZC Office Business Development Manager to work alongside Eastern Fish & Game on developing and implementing new and targeted initiatives tailored to untapped markets and promoting what this region has on offer. COVID and other issues in the NZC office last year effectively put that programme on hold. However we have persevered and RotoruaNZ are creating a fishing promotional video that will add support to our marketing.
- As an organisation there is now recognition and widespread agreement on the need to establish alternative and additional sources of income. We have over the past few years made a start down this track with the renovation of former staff houses and letting these out at market rentals. We negotiated and formalised a lease with FENZ to occupy the former DOC Fire Depot on-site, and we were in the process of investigating revenue generating options for the Ngongotaha trap cottage and its associated paddocks. There are also, other options based around our Paradise Valley assets that we could potentially generate income from, leasing of land for tiny homes, creating fishing cabins etc. However initial safety costs are prohibitable currently. As a matter of course we derive income from quite a number of other sources which are set out on page 44 of our annual Performance Report for the year ended 31 August 2022.

**Current (2022-23) OWP**

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

### **C. Regional Priority: Maximising fishery opportunities**

- We have a successful supplementary stocking programme on the Rotorua lakes aimed at maintaining sustainable harvests and optimising returns to anglers. The productivity, value and appeal of these “put and take” fisheries is entirely dependent on this stocking programme. We undertake intensive monitoring of these fisheries and regularly review stocking rates. We have modified our liberation strategies based on the results of this research, and we adaptively manage liberations to strike a balance between maximising catch rates and maximising growth rates and survival to the extent it is possible to within the various constraints imposed by environmental conditions.
- Several years ago we instigated a more intensive fisheries monitoring programme at Waikaremoana, and this work has produced some very useful information. While we have scaled it back somewhat to enable other programmes to proceed elsewhere, it is important that it be ongoing. Over the past two years a by-product of the programme has been the generation of additional income for Eastern Fish & Game via contracts we’ve undertaken for Genesis Energy.
- Most monitoring and angler survey effort within the Rotorua lakes is directed towards lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti, Okataina and Rotorua. It’s appropriate that these lakes continue to be the primary focus for this effort but if resourcing enabled it, it would be useful to periodically monitor some of the ‘lesser’ lake fisheries, i.e. Rotoma, Rotoehu, Okareka, Rerewhakaaitu and the Waikato River lakes.
- Four years ago we instigated a research programme developed in conjunction with Waikato University and a post doctorate student now employed by Cawthron Institute, to better understand the impacts of water quality on Lake Tarawera’s trout fishery, and other valued species, and the mechanisms underlying these. Our aim was, and remains, to be in a better position to predict downturns ahead of time, and offset these if it’s possible to do so, by implementing a management response such as modifying our liberation strategy or introducing a change to fishing regulations. The programme includes twice yearly acoustic monitoring of smelt which got underway in November 2018 in conjunction with DOC and NIWA and this needs to be maintained. Sampling for the first/pilot year of the larger programme commenced in January 2019 and was completed towards the end of 2019. Analysis of samples and data, and a report on the project was scheduled to be completed in mid 2021 but this was put out to late 2022. We are currently reviewing the work that was submitted. Costs for this component of the programme (c. \$40k) are being met by Fish & Game. Three years ago we were optimistic that the programme would be extended with funding provided through an MBIE grant to the University of Waikato’s Rotorua Lakes initiatives but this fell by the wayside. Cawthron Institute has however secured five year funding from MBIE’s Endeavour Fund for a programme investigating interactions between native fish and introduced species, and an element of this programme they have advised will involve further research into food webs and environmental factors affecting growth and condition of trout in Lake Tarawera.
- Non-resident Eastern Region licence income is being held in a dedicated reserve and as at 31 August 2022 amounted to approximately \$130k. Council has a framework and criteria it developed which it uses for identifying and prioritising fisheries projects eligible for funding from the “Non-Resident Levy Reserve”, and has previously allocated up to \$20k to be drawn down to go towards the Lake Tarawera programme. A further \$48k has been

committed to fisheries related projects in this year's OWP, and it may be possible to access funding from this source for additional fisheries work in 2023-2024 (subject to NZC approval in addition to this Council's). Our Council has supported to that from 2024 this fund is placed in a National pool.

- We distribute information and advice on fishing opportunities available to our angling licence holders through both printed and digital channels. We have stepped up our social media presence to ensure licence holders are aware of the opportunities available to them, but need to put increasing effort into this area as users of traditional forms of communications become an ever decreasing proportion of the communities we most need to connect with. A year ago we expressed hope that we would see long awaited improvements made to our website prior to now so that this medium is more user friendly and accessible to anglers wanting insight into where to go and what's available to them – unfortunately this is only now being acted upon. Council has made good progress over the past few years simplifying some of its regulations to reduce barriers to participation, and there may be more that can be done in this area. We have increased angler training efforts to enhance success, and there is potential to increase participation and open up opportunities for new and novice anglers by encouraging a greater involvement by clubs and/or by partnering with other groups within the region. However data shows that participation is driven by the weather at the time.

**Current (2022-23) OWP**

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Projects/Programmes</i>
Species Monitoring and Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor growth and performance of liberations into lake fisheries via the Datawatch programme.</li> <li>• Monitor the Lake Rotorua, Ngongotaha, and Ohau Channel fisheries.</li> <li>• Monitor the Lake Waikaremoana fishery.</li> <li>• Monitor Lake Tarawera wild spawning runs.</li> <li>• Assess smelt abundance in Lake Tarawera.</li> <li>• Promote extension of Lake Tarawera food web investigations and factors affecting trout growth and survival.</li> <li>• Provide support to external research projects aimed at better understanding lake fisheries.</li> </ul>
Harvest Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake lake fisheries creel surveys to monitor angler catch and satisfaction, and Opening Day surveys to evaluate stocking programmes. Extend current programme on Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina to some of the smaller fisheries (Rotoma, Rotochu, Okareka, Rerewhakaaitu) resources permitting.</li> </ul>
Hatchery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce c70,000 quality fish to maintain trout fisheries within the region.</li> </ul>
Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain/enhance sports fish resources by reviewing and refining if necessary, the Anglers Notice using a policy driven review process.</li> <li>• Look for opportunities to increase participation and remove barriers to fishing by for example, simplifying regulations in some fisheries.</li> </ul>
RMA planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Represent anglers in water quality and quantity planning and consenting processes and advocate for improved habitat, angling experience and access opportunities.</li> </ul>
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and enhance access, and publicise more widely.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Increase angler communication and information using social media and identify options for increasing participation.</li> <li>•Support children’s and adult fishing programmes, angler training and angling competitions, and maintain club relations.</li> <li>•Continue to promote Lake McLaren fishery.</li> </ul>
Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Maintain a sufficient level of participant contact to ensure the protection and sustainability of fisheries.</li> </ul>
Licensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Make fishing licences readily available and continue to investigate licence holder behaviour and licence holders’ needs.</li> </ul>

**D. Regional Priority: Enhancement of habitat for greylard production**

- Over the past decade we have developed, or facilitated the development of significant areas of wetland within the region using both licence holders’ income and external funding from trusts, regional councils and other funding agencies. Projects have been implemented on both private and public lands. Additional hunting opportunities have almost always been created, but some projects, particularly smaller private land initiatives, have not always resulted in habitat as productive as we’d have liked in terms of greylard productivity. There have been a number of reasons for this and we have, and will continue to learn from these. Given the positive track record we have with funding agencies there are ongoing opportunities for projects of this nature, particularly where collaboration with other parties or individuals is involved. One of the issues that it’s imperative we keep in mind and provide for in doing this though, is ensuring we don’t overburden ourselves with ongoing management requirements and ever-increasing commitments. We already have a large number of habitats we need to maintain (e.g. our existing Wildlife Management Reserves), and we need to be confident we have, or can find the means and resources needed to prevent these areas from going backwards as we add new habitat to our management register, and/or other agencies such as DOC withdraw funding from these. Over the few years we have become involved in managing a number of projects with, or on behalf of other organisations e.g. for Bay of Plenty Regional Council within the Lower Kaituna wetland, another being for a collective comprising DOC, Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaeo, Te Arawa Lakes Trust and Waikato Regional Council at Lakes Ngapouri and Tutaeinanga. We need to continue looking at ways such as these as a means of leveraging resourcing and the outcomes we’re seeking.
- We have increased our expectations and requirements of ballot holders in Fish & Game managed reserves in relation to maintaining habitat and hunting opportunities, and in late 2018 Council agreed to the concept of levying an annual Habitat Maintenance Fee on ballot holders to contribute to the costs of essential maintenance works (weed control and water reticulation) in these wetlands. While adequate resourcing is critical to maintaining these wetland habitats and maximising their potential for producing more ducks, it appears there may be another, or other limiting factors to productivity coming into play in some of the wetlands that are not being addressed. Much of the open water habitat that has been developed in areas such as the Lower Kaituna WMR has been created in peaty soils and/or into inorganic sandy substrates which typically support quite different invertebrate communities than ‘mineralised’ wetlands like the old river loops. Aquatic invertebrates are a critical source of protein for ducklings and its possible some of these excavated wetlands are deficient in this regard. We need to establish whether this is the case, and what options we might have to improve the situation.

- We have concluded that a stronger focus on habitat quality rather than quantity (the latter being the case in the past) is a better option for increasing duck numbers, and there is much more to be done in this area including leveraging the assistance of other parties and encouraging greater input from volunteers and interest groups as indicated above.
- Intensive regional research and monitoring has provided us with a good insight into the effects of harvest and game season conditions on greylard populations and productivity in ensuing seasons. We also know that trying to manage harvest through our current regulation options is very difficult due to changes in hunter behaviour resulting from regulation manipulation, and licence holders' expectations in relation to season length and bag limits. If regulations are to make a difference when mallard populations are depressed, it's apparent that very restrictive harvest conditions need to apply and there are political implications/difficulties in the use of these tools. Having said that, our research shows that extended game seasons impact on the survival of hens, and therefore, may negatively affect next season's productivity. This needs to continue being taken into account during the annual regulation setting process.
- The national mallard research programme has demonstrated that duckling survival rates, and to a lesser extent survival rates of nesting hens can have a profound effect on juvenile recruitment and hence population size going into the game season. Facilitating a relatively small increase in the numbers of ducklings that fledge from each clutch laid has the potential to significantly lift productivity. Other outcomes of the research projects in the Waikato and Southland indicate the extent to which predators prey on ducklings and nesting females, and the information derived from these studies is useful for guiding when, where and how to target predators to get maximum bang for bucks. This is critical, as predator programmes are really only effective if they're well targeted, sufficiently intensive to reduce predator numbers to predetermined levels, and well executed. Programmes such as these are also, very resource demanding particularly on a larger landscape scale.
- Bay of Plenty Regional Council has funded the development of a predator control plan for the wider Kaituna wetland complex, and we have undertaken to manage implementation of the plan subject to being able to source external and ongoing funding for it. We weren't successful in doing this last year, but are hopeful funding opportunities for programmes such as this will become more available.
- Productivity is a key driver for "more ducks", and as stated above, quality rather than quantity is a more effective area in which to place our efforts than simply creating more habitat of the type we have focussed on in the past. We do not have the resources to put significantly more effort into enhancing productivity ourselves without impacting on resources that are currently being utilised elsewhere, or finding external resources to cover what is needed. Expanding habitat programmes requires additional and/or novel approaches to resourcing. Providing advice and technical support to landowners, or helping them to access funding rather than directing our own funds towards these projects as tended to be the case in previous years, is an area in which we need to be more proactive, but again subject to staff resourcing. As a starting point we have over recent years undertaken aerial surveys of parts of coastal Bay of Plenty and the Waikite area to identify existing wetlands and/or bodies of open water that could be readily enhanced if landowners could be encouraged or enticed into doing so. Many such areas are also present on the East Coast.



- A major impediment not only to the creation or enhancement of wetlands on private property, but the maintenance and enhancement of wetlands anywhere was passed into law when the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater were introduced in 2020. While the intention of these regulations was to afford wetlands greater recognition and protection - which has been long awaited, a perverse and unintended outcome was to not only provide a disincentive to creating and enhancing wetlands, but to put many freshwater ecosystems such as those we manage in the Bay of Plenty wetland reserves at serious risk of being detrimentally impacted as a result of management activities no longer being permitted or enabled via wetland management agreements with the BOPRC, or otherwise constrained in space and time. In response to loud and widespread lobbying, in September 2021 the Ministry for the Environment called for submissions on proposed amendments to wetland provisions to correct these anomalies in the legislation. Fish & Game regions prepared a collective submission addressing issues such as amending the definition of ‘natural wetland’ to make it clearer and easier for councils and resource users to interpret and implement, and amending the regulations for the ‘restoration’ of wetlands, to make restoration activities easier and provide for maintenance and biosecurity activities. We also lodged a joint supplementary submission with Dairy NZ focussing on the need for the regulations to provide for latter without onerous consenting barriers for farmers and other landowners more generally. We await the outcomes of this and in the meantime have largely had to put proactive approaches to landowners on hold. However we do have a positive working relationship with BOPRC, who value and promote wetlands to catchment land owners.
- Each year we gain a rudimentary insight into duckling production on lowland Bay of Plenty drains, and several years ago we implemented a field programme to identify the physical characteristics of drains utilised by mallards more than others during brood rearing. We found that drain width explained the presence of ducks and broods better than any other factor, while presence of floating vegetation in the drain, extent of grass cover on the banks, the presence of a small number of overhanging trees and shrubs, and no recent drain maintenance activity having been undertaken were all important in explaining the number of mallards and broods observed in the drains.
- Eastern Region has had an ongoing input to National research projects on mallards and factors affecting productivity, and it is appropriate that it continues to do so by contributing to the identification and delivery of research priorities. We have also made promising progress over the past two years in identifying some of the critical factors influencing population size within the Eastern Region, these being winter temperature and summer rainfall.

***Current (2022-23) OWP***

<b><i>Activity</i></b>	<b><i>Projects/Programmes</i></b>
Species Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor greylard populations via trapping/banding, brood counts and game bird hunter surveys to investigate productivity, survival, harvest and movements.</li> <li>• Review game season conditions and make changes where needed to address issues impacting on greylard populations and productivity.</li> <li>• Contribute to national research programmes on mallards.</li> </ul>

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

#### **E. Regional Priority: Water quality and quantity**

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

processes and the Gisborne Freshwater Plan. Many of these processes have been put on hold or have been on a go-slow since the new National Policy Statement and National Environmental Standards for Fresh Water were introduced, but will undoubtedly demand considerable staff time once regional authorities progress planning for implementation of the new requirements.

- We have highlighted Rangitaiki River water quality issues to the BOPRC and the Rangitaiki River Forum. Water quality issues have been acknowledged and provisions made in the RPS to use the Forum to create a catchment management plan for the river. Ongoing effort is required because although it appears water quality in terms of visibility is currently better than it generally has been for several years, it may not remain so. We have also been involved with other “Freshwater Futures Community Groups in the Kaituna, Pongakawa, Tauranga, Whakatane, Ohiwa Harbour/Waiotaha and Tarawera catchments, though again these have stalled more recently pending interpretation of the new freshwater standards.
- There are other catchments within the region, e.g. the upper Motu, where intensification of land use and conversion from lesser nutrient leaching dry stock farming to higher nutrient leaching dairy farming has been mooted or is well underway. In some areas we have limited ability under current plans to influence these activities and their subsequent impacts on water quality, but we need to continue to advocate effectively for such during plan change processes. We need to have robust evidence and be able to present strong cases to support our position and secure the outcomes we seek, and as an example, to obtain this we conducted drift dives in the Motu for several years as we have also done, and continue to in the upper Rangitaiki. The Motu Catchment Plan process is underway and Fish & Game will have an involvement in its drafting.

***Current (2022-23) OWP***

<b><i>Activity</i></b>	<b><i>Projects/Programmes</i></b>
Rivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Continue to monitor trout populations, water clarity and other measures of water quality in regional river fisheries including the Rangitaiki River, and communicate water quality issues to Regional Council and freshwater futures groups established to consult with communities.</li> <li>•Participate in collaborative processes and submit on water allocation processes in planning and consenting matters on sensitive waters.</li> </ul>
Lakes Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Continue Rotorua lakes fisheries monitoring programmes and participate in fisheries research projects.</li> <li>•Monitor and support the Waikaremoana water quality buoy programme.</li> <li>•Participate in Rotorua lakes’ collaborative processes and use creel survey and NAS results to advocate for improved water quality.</li> </ul>

**Regional support for New Zealand Council aspirational outcomes**

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

**Current (2022-23) OWP**

<b>Project Area</b>	<b>Projects/Objectives</b>
Public Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Contribute to the national public awareness network and support national public awareness events.</li> <li>•Manage our website and use social media to increase awareness of Fish &amp; Game activities.</li> <li>•Produce regular media releases and support the NZ Council Communication Advisers.</li> <li>•Engage and communicate with the rural community and landowners.</li> <li>•Promote Fish &amp; Game at appropriate events and in the rural media.</li> <li>•Give presentations to schools and outside organisations and use the Ngongotaha hatchery and grounds to promote Fish &amp; Game to the wider public.</li> </ul>
Statutory Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Manager to periodically meet with senior local and regional authority managers, senior DOC staff, Conservation Boards, and MPs where appropriate.</li> <li>•Meet periodically with Te Urewera iwi entities towards the development of a MOU with Eastern Region Fish &amp; Game.</li> <li>•Develop a closer/more formal working relationship with Te Arawa.</li> <li>•Attend meetings of the Taupo Fisheries Advisory Committee as the NZ Fish and Game Council representative.</li> </ul>
Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Contribute to the improvement of water quality in the Rotorua lakes via Regional Council planning and collaborative processes.</li> <li>•Utilise river investigation projects to advocate for improved water quality in key regional rivers.</li> <li>•Review and support/oppose plans and consents that impact significantly upon sports fish/game bird habitat values, or angler and hunter access.</li> <li>•Maintain inventory of wetlands, assess their vulnerability and identify wetland deficient areas and opportunities for enhancement through stakeholder collaborative processes.</li> </ul>
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Advocate for improved access and submit to the Walking Access Commission on key issues, and ensure provision for public access is made in relevant Treaty of Waitangi settlements.</li> </ul>

**4. Concluding Remark**

As previous Councils have noted, one of the most challenging elements of the business planning process for Council is not so much concerned with identifying new projects, programmes or priorities it wants to introduce to next or future years' operational work plans, but to identifying what programmes it would drop or scale back in order to accommodate the proposed changes.

**5. Recommendation**

**5.1 That Council reviews its priorities and programmes for the 2022-2023 year, and identifies any changes it wishes to see incorporated into its draft operational work plan for the 2023-2024 year.**

## **10. ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW**

File: 1.07.01

26 January 2023

### **1. Purpose**

To review the 2022-2023 Anglers Notice and identify any urgent changes to the current regulations that might be required in the 2023-2024 season.

The 2021-22 season provided a comprehensive review of the Anglers Notice (Eastern Region angling regulations). The 2022-23 season provides an intermediary year between full reviews excepting any specific emergency issues being identified outside of the two-yearly cycle. This means the next review of the angling regulations will be undertaken during the 2023-24 season for the 2024-25 season.

### **2. Background**

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

Council has developed a comprehensive approach to dealing with the Anglers Notice. The policy approach splits regulations into those that serve a social function and those that serve a biological function. Social regulations are those that affect the angler and principally relate to angling methods. Waters are categorised based on trout densities, and levels of angler use. These categories are used to determine how social based regulations should be applied. Biological regulations are those that affect trout populations and include bag and size limits. A matrix was developed taking into account biological objectives associated with sustainability, harvest allocation, and specific population manipulations. Any changes to the Anglers Notice must not conflict with the Anglers Notice policy which is provided in Appendix 1 to this item.

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

A full review of the regional regulations (Schedule 2) is undertaken every second year. A less comprehensive process is conducted in the year between. This year (2023) represents an intermediary year in the process where extraordinary or urgent matters that have arisen may be addressed.

This process will involve:

1. At the February Council meeting, the Anglers Notice process begins. Council may receive any items that arrived following conclusion of the previous Anglers Notice Process and consider which submissions have merit and warrant further investigation.
2. Prior to the April meeting, Councillors will receive feedback from staff and submitters through an Agenda item. At the April meeting, any submissions received may be debated and the Council will decide if these require further examination are to be accepted following resolution or held over till a full review cycle is underway.

3. At its June 2023 meeting, the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council will receive any additional correspondence from new submitters along with a draft to the Minister of the changes to the 2023-24 Anglers Notice. Council will accept resolutions on any remaining proposals and finalise the 2023-24 Anglers Notice.

### **3. Resolution already adopted**

At the December 2022 Eastern Region Council meeting, it was resolved that the season opening date for lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina would revert from the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in October to the 1<sup>st</sup> of October in line with other lakes.

***14.5 Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Kevin Coutts) that Council withdraws the current state of Opening the 3 lakes (Tarawera, Rotoiti, Okataina) from 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in October to the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. 9 in favour, 1 against (Cr Lindsay Lyons) [22/12/14.5] unconfirmed minutes***

#### **4.1 Initial suggestions for consideration**

Amend Note 5.2 that refers to use of boats in Winter Shoreline Fishing Area's on lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina to bring into line with 3 above.

With the move to a Saturday opening at the 2021 opening day, Council also altered the rule around use of boats within winter shoreline-fishing areas on these lakes to state:

***Note 5.2 No licence holder shall fish for trout from a boat in the designated winter shoreline-fishing areas on lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina from 1 July until the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in October.***

However, now the season opening date for lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina has reverted to 1 October, Note 5.2 should likewise be amended to allow licence holders to fish from boats within these winter shoreline-fishing areas from 1 October.

***Proposed Note 5.2 No licence holder shall fish for trout from a boat in the designated winter shoreline-fishing areas on lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina from 1 July until 1 October.***

#### **4.2 Staff recommendation**

Staff recommend that the allowance of boat fishing in Winter Shoreline Fishing Areas on lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina match the 'open season' for boat fishing across the entirety of those lakes.

### **5. Recommendations**

***5.1 That Council agrees to the consultation process and time frame for considering changes to the 2023 -2024 Anglers Notice.***

***5.2 That Council identifies any issues for further discussion.***

## **APPENDIX 1. Anglers Notice Policy**

Ref: 1.07.01

Updated 14 June 2018

### **1. Background**

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

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

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

### **2. Biological Regulations**

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

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

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

### 3. Social Regulations

The Anglers Notice contains a number of regulations that affect anglers rather than the fish they are targeting. These regulations can be considered social in nature and are set to control the impacts that anglers have upon each other. These regulations are imposed to maximise the opportunities available and the quality of the angling experience. Social regulations generally relate to how anglers are allowed to fish (permitted methods) and are applied based on the intensity of the angling that occurs, and therefore the potential for anglers to impact upon each other.

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



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

**Fishing methods**

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

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

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

**Bait**

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

- (ii) Bait in the Eastern Region shall only include;
  - Natural fly.
  - Natural insect.
  - Natural spider.
  - Natural worm or worms.
  - Natural crustacean.
  - Natural fish (excluding fish ova, or any portion of a fish, or shellfish (mollusc). Fish can only be sourced from the water where the fishing is to occur).
  - Uncoloured bread dough.
  - Scented Soft Baits (Artificial lures that are biodegradable and/or contain chemical attractants).

**Boats in winter shoreline areas**

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

## **11. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS**

### **11.1 Conservation Boards**

- Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

### **11.2 Reports from Other Agencies**

- Department of Conservation

### **11.3 Report from New Zealand Council**

- Cr Debbie Oakley



## NEW ZEALAND GAME BIRD HABITAT TRUST BOARD

**Prepared by:** Robert Sowman, Habitat Trust Board Coordinator

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The New Zealand Game Bird Trust Board is appointed on a three-year term by the Minister of Conservation. The current Board's appointments expire in June 2023.

The purpose of this memo is to commence the process for appointing a new Board.

Therefore, it is recommended that the New Zealand Fish and Game Council invite Fish and Game Councils in November 2022 to nominate suitable candidates to be considered by the NZ Council at its meeting in March 2023.

A six-person membership of the Habitat Trust Board is set out in *section 44F of the Wildlife Act 1953*. It provides for appointments by the Minister of Conservation (*current appointments shown in italics*):

- a) a chairperson (*Andy Tannock*)
- b) 3 persons appointed after consultation with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (*Jan Riddell, Chantal Whitby, Mark Sutton*)
- c) 1 person appointed after consultation with the Director-General (*John Cheyne*)
- d) 1 person appointed after consultation with the Board of Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Incorporated (*Neil Candy*).

At the time, Minister Sage was adamant that Fish & Game nominees reflect a more diverse membership by including eligible female candidates. Regional Fish & Game Councils were therefore asked to identify suitable candidates who are habitat specialists with wetland creation and restoration experience. Current members have worked well together and provided that experience. Sadly, Jan Riddell died in August this year.

In proposing nominations, a Fish and Game Council can submit names from within or outside its region – either previous or new nominees. Without ruling out Fish & Game staff, it is noted that these people already play an important role within the Habitat Trust grant allocation process as initiators, referees and advisers to projects.

On receiving names of suitable candidates, the New Zealand Council needs then to consider this feedback and make its selection of three people to best reflect a diverse set of nominees with some continuity to the Board's current structure and processes. It may also endorse a name for Chairperson.

### Recommendations

**It is recommended Fish & Game Councils be invited to:**

- a) **include names of eligible candidates by 28 February 2023 for selection by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, and**
- b) **to provide the names of three nominees to recommend to the Minister of Conservation by April 2023.**

## 13. FUTURE EF&G PAPER (1st Draft)

27 January 2023

### 1. Purpose

To create a consultation document of operational diversities and aspirations for a fit for purpose future Eastern Fish and Game.

Taking into account the Ministerial and Hunt review as well as recent strategic documents and other relevant reports.

There are two main pillars that support Eastern Fish & Game and its mission statement:

*To maintain and enhance opportunities for sustainable sports fish angling and game bird hunting.*

These are, **Governance and Operations**

This mission statement is fed by 5 principles:

**Access** – making it easier for anglers and hunters to locate and utilise resources

**Increasing revenue** – through increasing participation and developing alternative sources of income.

**Maximising fishery opportunities**

**Enhancement of habitat for greyland production** - in particular, activities that increase duck numbers and as a result, hunter opportunities.

**Water quality and quantity** – addressing in particular, the pressures on free-flowing water resources and the water quality of the Rotorua lakes.

### 2. Background

The Ministerial Review highlighted 36 changes. Of those 36 changes; 21 require legislation change, 1 that requires gazette notice and 14 that can be adopted or implemented by the regions.

These are:

16 Professional development for elected members

17 Adopt governance and corporate policies

18 Robust conflict of interest policy

19 Specific requirements of the conflict-of-interest policy

20 Consolidated annual report of NZFGC and FGC operations

23 Advisory panel on Treaty issues and engagement with Māori

26 Develop policy governing consultation with Māori

27 Hold national hui (to begin work on rec 26 above) in conjunction with DOC

29 Review eligibility for voting based on licence type

32 Don't allow councillors to simultaneously be employees

33 Implement programmes to increase licence holder numbers

34 Develop guidelines for community input into FGC management plans

35 KPI for the CE to develop a community and stakeholder relationship strategy

36 NZFGC assures itself that the duties to give notice to draft management plans have been adequately discharged

The highlighted recommendations are those that we as a region can look at adopting and implementing. The others need to be driven by the National office with input from the regions in developing the national corporate policies. Most of these are at appropriate stages of development and are highlighted in the organisational 5-year strategy plan that was created late last year.

To further strengthen and create a fit for purpose modern and future proof organisation I also recommend the following.

## **Governance**

**Reduce Councillors from 12 to 10** At the next elections replace 10 councillors and not 12. Our mandate allows us to have from 8 to 12 councillors per region. This would add support to the fact that we are governor heavy in an organisation that 74 staff and 124 councillors. Eastern has 13 staff and currently 12 councillors. Quorum would be 6 and currently is 7.

**Requirements for Councillor candidates** A common theme with licence holders who put their name forward to be a councillor is that they want to “put something back” into hunting and fishing. They tend to be older and male, and while keen to be a member of Council, do not always have the skills and experience to make a meaningful contribution. To achieve greater representativeness both demographically and skill wise, some benchmarks or criteria could be established to filter out prospective candidates for Council prior to the call for nominations and/or prior to nominations being accepted if some of those don't measure up to the prerequisite standards.

**Governance training** Governance training can help those who are unfamiliar with, or have never been in this type of role, but some individuals struggle to rise to the occasion and actively participate. Discussions are often dominated by two or three individuals regardless of the topic. So training is for both experienced as a reminder and for inexperienced.

**Councillor duties and expectations** To attend at least 2 stakeholder/club meetings where they are on the agenda and engage in getting feedback from the licence holders. A report to council is also offered.

**Maximum of 3 consecutive terms** Although to have this as part of our legislation it does require legislative change. We can adopt a code of good practice that all councillors adhere too, and new councillors are informed of and accept. Some Councillors have been members for almost the entire lifetime of Fish & Game. While they have made significant contribution during that period, finite tenure and periodic turnover of all members is almost certainly in the best interests of the organisation and its stakeholders.

**Operational engagement** That councillors attend and support at least once a year the operational activities of the staff in certain arenas (duck banding, wetland/access work, fin clipping etc), so that they get a better understanding of the work behind the scenes and establish a stronger relationship with the operational team.

## **Operational**

### **Operations**

**Employment and culture** To be a preferred employer by offering fair pay and benefits, offering self-development opportunities and making sure that staff have all the necessary tools, uniform and equipment to carry out their duties to the highest standards and safely.

**Engage credible science and data research** Utilise 3<sup>rd</sup> parties to do relevant, new or re do outdated research that the organisation can use as refence points in papers and submissions.

**Aspire for our hatchery to be a centre of excellence** By adopting, investigating and implementing new technology and best international practices. By hosting national forums to discuss the challenges and new thoughts in the trout hatchery arena.

**Educational programs** Develop educational programs and encourage local schools to visit our hatchery and teach the children the positives of trout and the work that F&G undertakes.

**Iwi engagement** Continue to reach out, connect and develop strong partnerships with all iwi groups in Eastern region. Use DOC, Regional Councils and Police networks to connect with appropriate representative. Be an active and regular partner attending their environmental hui's. Keep in communication with all levels of iwi contacts and invite to Council meetings or other appropriate hui's. Send minutes and engage when considering creating 10-year plan or other projects.

### **Marketing & Communication**

**Web development** Upgrade our web page to be better user friendly, have easier access to local information have short cuts to our other social media platforms and short cuts to stakeholder and sponsors web/social media sites.

**Social media** Integrated social media presence using Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and You Tube with education videos of 'how to' and operational videos of 'the hatchery' and a 'day in the life of'.

**Licence letters** Better and easier access to using licence holders information to email them 'Thank you for renewing', 'Sorry you have left us' and 'Welcome to fishing' for new licence holders. Using technology to have these as standard and automatically generated and sent.

**National polices** Our web, social media and licence letter's plans to feed into or help create the National Fish & Game Council polices.

### **Site & Grounds Development**

**Create a 'friends of the hatchery'** A volunteer group of people appropriately vetted and H&S inducted support community activities that F&G plan to help build community presence and with social licence.

**Create a business concept for the grounds** Put together a chargeable/donation rate that takes into account the community aspect of our site but will add a revenue stream and other 3<sup>rd</sup> party revenue streams from on-site activities ie. coffee and food cart, learning to fish, corporate fishing activities, merchandise. Also added value, have yearly memberships, half price for locals and free for 'friends of the hatchery'.

**Learn to fish packages** Develop a business concept similar to Turangi National Trout Centre that charges user to experience trout fishing and allows them to learn the principles.

**School groups** In collaboration with RotoruaNZ become a part of their 'Rotorua Education Network' that creates an NCEA relevance for different curriculum that makes it easy for schools to arrange trips and getting funding. In addition, offer accommodation for schools and other suitable organisations using the staff accommodation

**Hiring of the octagon and boardroom** Promote through community networks the availability of these two assets, chargeable at a community rate. Also promote the octagon to corporate business as a venue for off site meeting, team building venues or staff social events. Add value is BBQ and garden games. Added revenue is fishing packages.

**Sponsorship avenues** Contract marketing and sponsorship business to create and connect our worth (our licence holders, equipment suppliers, clothing suppliers etc) to financially donate towards specific projects, national and international forums and or fishing competitions.

### Amalgamations

Amalgamating operationally Hawke's Bay with Eastern, has merit from several perspectives including those of a biological, management, and financial nature.

In the case of Eastern Region, it makes sense from a biogeographic and climatic point of view to combine central and northern Hawke's Bay with the East Coast because biogeography and climate are key drivers of population performance (i.e. productivity, survival etc). From a management and operational perspective, it makes logistical sense to have staff based in that area rather than having to travel from a Bay of Plenty base, and from a species harvest regulation point of view it promotes if not ensures consistency in regulations either side of the current regional boundaries which aids compliance.

Financially, savings from having one manager only could be redirected to having greater staff time put into field and field related activities. There would still be a need for admin/reception duties at the HB offices as this is a customer facing point and would be a sub operational office.

I would also recommend that HB Council considers the same 'best practices' of governance training and a 3-term limit, plus to consider reducing its Council membership from 11 currently to 8 which is the minimum allowed.

Greater consistency, cohesiveness and efficiencies should result from this operational amalgamation.

