



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

6 April 2023

AGENDA

The 201st Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

Date: Thursday, 6 April 2023

Commences: 11.30 PM

			<u>Page Number</u>
1	Welcome (11.30 AM)		
2	Apologies	(R)	
3	Minutes of the Previous Meeting (9 February 2023)(11.40 AM)	(R)	1
4	Identification of Items for Council Policy		
5	Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting		
6	Notification of Items for General Business		
7	Conflict of Interest Register		8
8	Operational Reports (11.45AM, 25 min)		
	8.1 Health and Safety Report	(R)	10
	8.2 Finance Report	(R)	12
	8.3 Management Report	(I/D)	22
	8.4 Licence Sales Report	(I/D)	34
9	2023-24 Operational Work Plan (12.10 PM 20 min)	(R)	35
10	Anglers Notice Review (12.30 PM, 5 min)	(R)	40
11	Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Fund (12.35 PM, 5 min)	(R)	45
12	Species Monitoring Reports (12.40 PM, 5 min)	(I/D)	47
13	Draft Future Eastern Fish & Game (12.45 PM, 20 min)	(I/D)	50
14	Fish & Game Licence Holder Disconnect (1.05 PM, 20 min)	(I/D)	55
15	Liaison Officers Reports (1.35 PM, 10 min)	(I)	57
16	General Business (1.45 PM, 30 min)		
17	Public Excluded Session (2.15 PM, 30 mins)	(R)	58
18	Meeting Closes (2.45 PM)		

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

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 200th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2023 AT 11.30AM

Present

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

In attendance

Arash Alaeinia, Kate Thompson, Matt Osborne (12.24pm), Mark Sherburn (12.35pm), Eben Herbert (12.47pm) (Eastern Fish & Game); John Waaka (TALT), and Barry Roderick.

1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA

1.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois (Chairman) opened the meeting at 11.30am with a karakia and welcomed John Waaka (Te Arawa Lakes Trust) to the meeting.

1.2 Cr Ngahi Bidois (Chairman) informed Council that he wished to add a Public Excluded Session to the end of today's meeting to update Council on items from the Public Excluded session held at the December meeting.

APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Crs. Geoff Thomas and Ken Coombes.

2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mark Sceats) that the apologies for the 200th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [23/02/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (8 DECEMBER 2022)

3.1 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Mike Jarvie) that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct subject to the following amendment.*

14.1 - 1 October Opening

Amend all references pertaining to "Julian Danby" to "Julian Hughes". [23/02/3.1]

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 There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 8 December 2022.

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Kevin Coutts – Councillor numbers for next election

Mike Jarvie – Building and site maintenance

Alan Simmonds – Pine tree situation across NZ

7.0 Conflict of Interest Register

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

8.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

8.1 *Health and Safety Report* – Arash Alaeinia informed Council that a staff member had recently suffered a sprained ankle and with this being so recent this was not included in the Health & Safety report. Barry Roderick expressed concern about the health and safety of volunteers assisting with duck banding and Arash Alaeinia advised he would liaise with staff about this. Cr Lindsay Lyons enquired as to whether a flotation device should be available for the children's fish out pond in case a child falls. Arash advised that he would look into this but, as the property is a working site with multiple water hazards questioned, where do we draw the line. There was signage on the property informing visitors that children must be supervised at all times and expected that an adult would be nearby should such an incident occur. Cr Debbie Oakley suggested that it is management's role to identify hazards and eliminate or minimise with appropriate records kept.

8.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Scott Nicol) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [23/02/8.2]*

8.3 *Finance Report* – Cr Debbie Oakley enquired whether the credit card in the name of Andy Garrick had now been closed, Kate Thompson confirmed it had. Debbie had also noted increased Council meeting expenses resulting from Councillor travel allowances and suggested that a higher budget be sought through contestable funding for the 2023-24 budget round. Cr Lindsay Lyons noted the spending on the lapsed

participant email campaign and questioned the number sent and whether we can determine how effective this was. Kate Thompson confirmed that it was possible to see those who have since repurchased but difficult to ascertain whether they had repurchased because of the email campaign versus those who would have repurchased anyway. Further discussion occurred around retention, R3 objectives, and distribution of licence proceeds between Fish & Game regions.

8.4 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Kevin Coutts) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for November and December 2022 totalling \$353,148.35. [23/02/8.4]*

8.5 *Management Report* – Management report was taken as read.

8.6 *Licence Sales Report* – Kate Thompson provided a more recent update on licence sales Key points noted were:

- The current variance is down on last season but with continued return of non-resident anglers throughout the season we expect to see year end results on a par with last season.
- It was concerning to see the numbers falling in the family and season categories. These being made up by Auckland Waikato based anglers followed by Rotorua and Tauranga and a smaller decline in Taupo.
- Gisborne and Wairoa numbers have increased this season, and this is likely contributed to by Lake Waikaremoana now able to be fished without too many restrictions.
- Four weeks of Eastern's peak sales period had seen very poor weather.

Cr Lindsay Lyons expressed concern about the effects of climate change on New Zealand fisheries and how this will impact non-resident visiting anglers. Arash Alaeinia agreed that we have had some concerning weather events but highlighted that we are seeing good numbers of international anglers returning, and the lakes are fishing well albeit some of the streams have been impacted by these weather events. Cr Debbie Oakley agreed advising that NZ is certainly a destination of choice with international anglers currently. Barry Roderick asked whether we were looking to run the "Fish for Gold" event once again this season? Arash Alaeinia said he would liaise with staff but understood that prior Fish for Gold promotions had not materially increased angler numbers as hoped. He advised that staff are involved with supporting organisations and clubs who run these competitions as opposed to running the promotions ourselves.

9.0 GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE 2023-24 OWP

9.1 Arash Alaeinia overviewed the purpose of the item and called for Council discussion around whether the current priorities should be carried through to the 2023-24 operational year or whether there were changes that Council wished to consider or have staff look in to. He advised he had commenced discussions with staff and that following this meeting he would look to formulate a draft OWP for the April meeting of Council. He reminded Council that with such limited resources any reasonable additions to work programmes would need to be offset by a reduction in effort elsewhere.

9.2 After some discussion Council concluded that the current priorities were still relevant and should be carried through to the 2023-24 work programme.

Council discussion included.

- Climate change
- Economic recession
- Banding project costs and F & G role in monitoring populations
- Trend counts
- Access to Kaingaroa forest
- Ruahihi canal/Lake McLaren fishery
- Utilisation of a drone to assist with some monitoring
- MPI contribution to the banding programme
- Operational relationship with Hawke's Bay F & G Council
- Wetlands – new requirements for farms
- Water quality – Rangitaiki river
- MPS Freshwater – consents required to enhance or maintain wetland habitats
- Fuseworks – access for Councillors

9.3 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Lindsay Lyons) that Council agreed that the current Council Priorities as detailed would be carried through to 2023-2024 Operational Work Programme. [23/02/9.3]*

10.0 ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

- 10.1 Matt Osborne highlighted the need to amend note 5.2 of the Anglers Notice following the December meeting resolution in which Council supported reverting the opening of lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti, and Okataina back to the 1st of October. Note 5.2 related to anglers fishing from boats in winter shoreline areas “from 1 July until the 1st Saturday in October”, Matt Osborne advised that this needed to be amended to “from 1 July until 1 October”.
- 10.2 Matt Osborne also highlighted an issue that had been raised by Compliance staff relating to the landmark pole at the Lake Rotorua end of the Ohau Channel. It is currently situated approximately 10 meters above the weir on the Ramada Resort side of the Channel and is often obscured by trees. There is no landmark pole on the Takinga Street side. To make the limits clearer for anglers’ staff proposed that the fly fishing only upstream limit be moved back to the Lake Rotorua outlet weir. Council supported this proposal and confirmed that no further consultation was required for this minor change.
- 10.3 Barry Roderick relayed a story to Council regarding Czech Nymphing where he understood that large numbers of trout had been caught using this method. Barry highlighted the argument put to Council previously that spin fishing was considered detrimental to a particular “fly fishing only” river and questioned whether Czech Nymphing should not also be considered in this light as this method seemed far more detrimental than spin fishing. Barry suggested that Council may wish to review what is happening in Europe as Czech Nymphing had been banned in several countries.
- 10.4 ***Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that Council agrees with the consultation process and time frame for considering changes to the 2023-2024 Anglers Notice [23/02/10.4]***
- 10.5 ***Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that Council did not identify any issues for further discussion for the 2023-24 Anglers Notice but suggested that Czech Nymphing be incorporated for further discussion next year when a full review of the Anglers Notice will be undertaken. [23/02/10.5]***
- 10.6 ***Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that Council approves the amendment to Note 5.2 of the Anglers Notice to read “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”. [23/02/10.6]***
- 10.7 ***Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that Council approves the amendment to the fly fishing only area of the Ohau Channel to read “between the lake Rotorua Outlet weir and landmark approximately 200m downstream of the weir”. [23/02/10.7]***

11.0 Liaison Officer Reports

11.1 ***Report from the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board.***

No Report

11.2 ***Report from the Department of Conservation***

No Report

11.3 ***Report from the New Zealand Council***

The New Zealand Council was due to meet in the coming days and Cr Debbie Oakley asked for Council feedback on a proposal to remove the current exemption on use of lead shot in 410 shot guns within 200m of water. There were mixed opinions from Council and pros and cons identified included.

- the 410 was not originally designed to shoot ducks
- low use, predominantly by kids, small impact on environment
- used by some older hunters also
- same range, not as much shot
- wounding, happens with 12g too
- social licence
- best option for juniors to learn with
- Canada geese can be shot with lead over water at any time
- Police phasing out lead in firearms due to lead residue
- nontoxic shot was not available for 410’s when steel shot introduced for sub gauges, there is now a reasonable number of non-toxic options available overseas

12.0 GAME BIRD HABITAT TRUST NOMINEE

- 12.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois called for nominations for the Game Bird Habitat Trust. Barry Roderick was nominated but declined as he was not available. Arash Alaeinia suggested Andy Garrick as a possible nominee and a staff member had also mentioned Erin Garrick who also comes from an environmental background. Cr Mike Jarvie asked whether Andy had been contacted. Arash confirmed that he had, and Andy was happy to be considered but Erin had not been contacted as her name had only been mentioned recently.

12.2 ***Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Murray Ferris) that council supports the nomination of Andy Garrick for the Game Bird Habitat Trust Board. [23/02/12.2]***

13.0 DRAFT FUTURE EASTERN FISH & GAME

13.1 Arash advised that this was an opportunity for some robust discussion by Council on the “Future Eastern Fish & Game” and said the paper touches on the point Cr Sceats raised at the last meeting about what can be implemented now that does not require legislative change. Arash advised that he had since received some fantastic and constructive feedback from the staff team on the paper and invited Council to do the same.

13.2 Cr Murray Ferris expressed concern about the proposed “Professional development for elected members”. Murray had been to several of these courses in the past and found them to be expensive and somewhat ineffective. Cr Ngahi Bidois understood that the NZ Fish & Game Council had been working with the Institute of Directors to develop suitable programmes. He described the programmes provided by the Institute of Directors and informed Council that he had completed several of their courses and he had found them to be outstanding. Cr Kevin Coutts was concerned about cost of such courses and felt that the qualifications Councillors come with are sufficient to do the role for which they were elected. Kevin was primarily concerned about whether licence holders would see this as necessary spending of licence holder funds. Cr Debbie Oakley informed Council that a budget had been allocated at a National level for Governance training. She advised that the New Zealand Fish & Game Council had already undertaken some governance training and Council Chairs would follow, it was then expected to be rolled out to Councils. She said it may be that Council’s join with others for this purpose, but details were yet to be confirmed. Debbie reiterated that the Ministerial Review highlighted that Fish & Game needs to improve its governance. Debbie acknowledged that many within the Council will have undertaken governance training previously but felt that it was worthwhile for those who are experienced to sit in on the same training with those who are not or are new to Councils. Arash Alaeinia believed there was two aspects to professional development firstly, even in you have had some form of training there is always new information, new processes, and a refresher reminds you of the things you already know but that are not at the forefront of your mind. Secondly, for those who are new to taking a position on boards it creates an attraction to come and join Fish & Game Council that invests in their Councillors to help them grow and benefit them for opportunities in their future. He said the review had highlighted that our governors need governance training.

13.3 Council were asked for their final comments.

- Cr Scott Nicol felt it was worthwhile to obtain extra knowledge and learn something new and with fewer councillor numbers expected that cost would be reduced.
- Cr Murray Ferris wanted to ensure that the training was professional and relevant.
- Cr Lindsay Lyons highlighted issues with Governance in some regions over the past few years which had ultimately led to the Governance Review.
- Cr Alan Simmonds believed the issues were with one or two regions and did not think anyone on this Council needed governance training, he believed this Council was doing a fine job and acting responsibly and appropriately.
- Cr Kevin Coutts felt it would be more worthwhile to spend the funds on staff development.

13.4 In closing the discussion Cr Ngahi Bidois asked Council to provide feedback on the discussion document directly to Arash once they have had the opportunity to give it some good thought. Arash reiterated that this is the opportunity for us to look at the future Fish & Game we want for Eastern. This is your opportunity, in less than a year there will be a general election and a future Government is more likely to support an organisation that has a plan, a vision, and has unified agreement. He said if we do not act, decisions will be made for us, so asked Council to share with him their views of what they want.

14.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

14.1 *Cr Kevin Coutts – Councillor numbers for the next election*

Councillor numbers was also an item within the Future Eastern Fish & Game paper and Arash explained why he had proposed 10 seats for this Council in the upcoming election. Cr Kevin Coutts felt that there was little difference in having 10 or 12 Councillors and with the review no longer being enforced there was no real need to change. Cr Debbie Oakley provided background to why the number of 8 had been recommended advising that this provided the opportunity to co-opt or appoint experience that you need. Cr Alan Simmonds suggested that a council of 8 might also increase competition for the people standing. Cr Ngahi Bidois asked that Council also forward their thoughts on Councillor numbers to Arash to incorporate into the next discussion paper.

14.2 Cr Lindsay Lyons spoke of the National party’s mandate prior the last election to bring Fish & Game into a sports club of NZ combining with the likes of the Big Game Animal Council and the Canoe Assn. With

these ideas about Lindsay reiterated the importance of Fish & Game carrying out the recommendations that had been identified through the review process. Cr Kevin Coutts noted that local MP Todd McClay had been assigned to a Hunting & Fishing portfolio and suggested Council meet with him to understand what his role and ideas would be, should the National party be successful in the upcoming election. Arash Alaeinia advised that following the cancellation of a meeting with Corina Jordan (NZFG CEO) he took the opportunity to invite Todd McClay to informally meet with staff and provide his visions for the role and this also provided an opportunity for staff to highlight some of their concerns regarding sport fish angling and game bird hunting. He said that Todd was still in the process of meeting various groups within the fishing and hunting community and was working on formulating his vision for this role. Council agreed that it would be great to have Todd McClay attend a council meeting to provide Councillors the opportunity to understand his role and ask their own questions which may be quite different to the staff operational perspective. Arash Alaeinia confirmed that he would extend an invitation to Todd McClay for the next meeting of Council.

14.2 *Cr Mike Jarvie – Building and site maintenance*

Cr Mike Jarvie asked whether there is a maintenance programme for the site as he had noted that some of the buildings on the property that appeared to need a tidy up, and as we are open to the public, he felt that presentation of the site was important. Arash confirmed that there is a maintenance plan and maintenance is carried out by the team when they are not undertaking our primary operations and when the weather permits.

14.3 *Cr Alan Simmonds – Pine tree situation across NZ*

Cr Alan Simmonds raised concerns about the Pine Forest issue that has been resonating with people he had met across the country. Alan highlighted concerns regarding significant areas of productive farmland being converted to pine for overseas corporations to claim carbon credits and how this would not only impact rural communities but also access for freshwater angling and game bird hunting. Alan highlighted a few areas of concern and advised he would provide some figures at the next meeting. Cr Debbie Oakley confirmed that this was on the agenda at a national level and suggested articles of interest could be viewed in the Fuseworks mediamine. Eben Herbert reminded Council of the uproar when forest was being converted to pasture some 15 years ago and believed the conversion to forestry was not the big issue and focus should not be on conversions as such but on conditions put on these conversions such as species being planted and what types of access arrangements are being agree upon. Cr Lindsay Lyons also raised the issue now being seen on the East Coast from forestry slash and the degradation to fisheries resulting from this.

14.4 *Closing comments –*

With the King’s Coronation taking place 6th May Opening of Game Bird Season Cr Mark Sceats asked whether any consideration had been made for this on the GB licence as this might be attractive for some hunters.

Barry Roderick asked the manager whether regions such as Otago or Auckland Waikato’s OWP’s could be provided alongside Eastern’s in the PIF’s. Arash said it would be useful to compare with regions that have geographical and resource similarities.

15.0 **PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION**

15.1 ***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 2.21pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, to update Council on items from the Public Excluded session held at the December meeting. [23/02/15.1]***

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 and update Council on items from the Public Excluded session held at the December 2022 meeting.	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.”

- 15.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that Council moves out of public excluded at 2.40 pm. [23/02/15.2]*
- 15.3 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 2.40pm. [23/02/15.3]*

16.0 MEETING CLOSED

The meeting closed at 2.40pm.

.....
 Ngahi Bidois
 Chairman

Summary of Resolutions

APOLOGIES

- 2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mark Sceats) that the apologies for the 200th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [23/02/2.2]*
- 3.0 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (8 DECEMBER 2022)**
- 3.1 *Agreed (Ngahi Bidois/Mike Jarvie) that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct subject to the following amendment.*
14.1 - 1 October Opening
Amend all references pertaining to “Julian Danby” to “Julian Hughes”. [23/02/3.1]
- 8.0 **OPERATIONAL REPORTS**
- 8.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Scott Nicol) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [23/02/8.2]*
- 8.4 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Kevin Coutts) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for November and December 2022 totalling \$353,148.35. [23/02/8.4]*
- 9.0 **GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE 2023-24 OWP**
- 9.3 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Lindsay Lyons) that Council agreed that the current Council Priorities as detailed would be carried through to 2023-2024 Operational Work Programme. [23/02/9.3]*
- 10.0 **ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW**
- 10.4 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that Council agrees with the consultation process and time frame for considering changes to the 2023-2024 Anglers Notice [23/02/10.4]*
- 10.5 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that Council did not identify any issues for further discussion for the 2023-24 Anglers Notice but suggested that Czech Nymphing be incorporated for further discussion next year when a full review of the Anglers Notice will be undertaken. [23/02/10.5]*
- 10.6 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that Council approves the amendment to Note 5.2 of the Anglers Notice to read “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 to 1 October”. [23/02/10.6]*
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- 12.0 **GAME BIRD HABITAT TRUST NOMINEE**
- 12.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Murray Ferris) that council supports the nomination of Andy Garrick for the Game Bird Habitat Trust Board. [23/02/12.2]*
- 15.0 **PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION**
- 15.1 *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 2.21pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, to update Council on items from the Public Excluded session held at the December meeting. [23/02/15.1]*
- 15.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that Council moves out of public excluded at 2.40 pm. [23/02/15.2]*
- 15.3 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 2.40pm. [23/02/15.3]*

7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

20 March 2023

1. Purpose

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

2. Background

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

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

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

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

- (i) There is a realistic connection between the member’s private interest(s) and the interest(s) of the Council;
- (ii) The member’s other interest could specifically affect, or be affected by, the actions of the Council in relation to a matter;
- (iii) A fair-minded lay observer might reasonably consider that the member’s private interest or duty may influence or motivate the actions of the member in relation to a matter; and

¹ “Matter” means:

(i) The Council’s performance of its functions or exercise of its powers as set out in Part 5A of the Conservation Act 1987, subject to the Council’s statutory purpose set out in section 26P(1) of the Conservation Act; or

(ii) An arrangement, agreement, or contract made or entered into, or proposed to be entered into, by the Council.

- (iv) There is a risk that the situation could undermine public trust and confidence in the member or the Council.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Recommendation

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

8. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

8.1 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

20 March 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.

January – March 2023

1. Implementation and Adherence to the Health and Safety Plan
Regular (weekly) staff meetings. Minutes from the Health and Safety portion of the meeting are emailed to all staff. Visitors to the office and contractors are required to sign our desk register, and our hazard register is updated as required.
Tail Gate forms completed for:
Feb 2023 Clearing fallen tree debris – Hatchery track
Mar 2023 Clear & install Ngongotaha fish trap
2022-2023 Budget for Health & Safety \$2,000

2. Monitoring and Reporting	
Work Place Accident Register	20/03/2023
Number of Workplace injuries in 2022-2023 year	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2021-2022 year	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2020-2021 year	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2019-2020 year	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2018-2019 year	1
Number of Workplace injuries in 2017-2018 year	1
Total Number of Workplace injuries since 1 Sept 1995	52
Total number of lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995	4
Total number of days since last lost work injury	729
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
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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:

- 30 Jan 2023 Watch for slips & flooding, trees down on property, ensure you let other staff know where you are going – take satellite phone as necessary
- 6 Feb 2023 Check vehicle first aid kits, fire extinguishers, spare tyre and jack. Watch for slips & flooding
- 13 Feb 2023 Watch for slips & flooding, high winds, ensure you let other staff know where you are going – take satellite phone as necessary
- 20 Feb 2023 Nothing new
- 27 Feb 2023 Prepare for power outage on Tuesday
- 6 Mar 2023 Watch for changeable weather
- 13 Mar 2023 Physical & mental wellbeing – look out for your colleagues
- 20 Mar 2023 Be prepared – sunscreen, sunhats, wet weather gear

4. Training Programme

Nil

5. H&S Incidents

Light twist/sprain to ankle after catching small stone on path. Accident investigated no actions required.

6. Recommendation

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

8.2 FINANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.01

21 March 2023

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the year-to-date financial position and approve payments for the months of January and February 2023.

Tables within this report:

Table 1	Variance Report to 28 February 2023
Table 2	Balance Sheet as at 28 February 2023
Table 3	Profit and Loss to 28 February 2023
Tables 4 & 5	Bank Transactions January and February 2023
Tables 6 & 7	Credit Card Transactions January and February 2023

2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the period ending 28 February is provided in Table 3.

Income

Fish and Game licence revenues are reporting to be ahead of budget YTD. 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 \$14,197 and was made up of the following: fishing competitions (\$148), rentals (\$8,827), fish food sales (\$50), habitat maintenance fees (\$129), and fines from prosecutions collected through the courts (\$457). Donations were received from; two visiting special needs groups, the Thursday Strollers, Arohanui Art & Education, and G Brocklehurst (\$182). A contribution to the banding project was received from the Ministry for Primary Industries (\$1,718). Interest income on general reserves totalled \$4,404, and on the Waikaremoana Fund \$663.

Species Management

Species expenditure was significant over the two months reported and includes expenses associated with the trapping and banding project (\$11,323), and aerial trend counts (\$4,919). The datawatch fish tags were also purchased in January (\$6,312).

The more significant expenditure within the Hatchery budgets related to fish food (\$11,310). Expenses were also incurred relating to rates, fuel, electricity, and oxygen. Various materials and equipment were also purchased for hatchery and grounds maintenance. The Hatchery area is over budget YTD \$3,245 and this is related primarily to increases to the price and freight on fish food.

Habitat

A minor expense is reported within the reserves budget relating to wasp insecticide and a thank you cake for a culvert delivery. Within budget YTD.

Participation

Access spending for the period related to bobcat work to level the car park at the Awahou Stream mouth, and access track maintenance on the Whirinaki, Whaeo, and Rangitaiki rivers. An unbudgeted expense is also reported for access mapping development (\$1,750) and is to be offset

by reduced R3 expenditure within the Planning output. Other minor expenses reported within the period related to an anglers' club meeting, and hut maintenance and electricity. Within budget YTD.

Public Interface

Public Promotions spending related to chair hire and afternoon tea for the Boat Fishing How To talk which was held in January. Over budget YTD (\$1,027) due to timing of expenses and increased grounds maintenance expenditure.

Compliance

Compliance expenses are reported relating the 0800 Poaching service and cell phone. Minor catering expenses are also reported for ranger training. 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 December and February meetings of Council. Over budget YTD \$1,490 due to higher than anticipated travel costs.

Planning

NZFG levies were paid as budgeted in January expenses are also reported for CE meetings with various stakeholders. Planning expenses are over budget \$372 YTD due to unbudgeted liaison expenses.

Administration

Salaries	Over budget YTD (\$1,495)
Staff Expenses	Expenses are reported relating to, staff clothing, and food expenses for staff working off site. Within budget YTD.
Staff Houses	Rates were paid as budgeted and minor maintenance costs incurred. Over budget YTD (\$2,927) due primarily to timing of maintenance and agent commission, the latter being offset by increased rental income.
Office Premises	Office premises expenses related to rates, electricity, cleaning, rubbish removal, document destruction, and alarm monitoring. Over budget YTD (\$2,050) 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. Over budget YTD (\$584) due to additional equipment requirements for new staff.
Communications/ Consumables	Standard communications expenses are reported for the period including phones, broadband, stationery, and photocopying. Over budget YTD (\$90).
General	Expenses are reported for the Survey Monkey subscription, morning teas, and bank charges. Overbudget YTD \$2,419 and this is due to increased general insurance costs.
General Equipment	Maintenance expenses included a trailer tyre, replacement of the transducer on Kotare, repairs to Parera's bowsprit, and minor miscellaneous maintenance materials. Equipment purchases

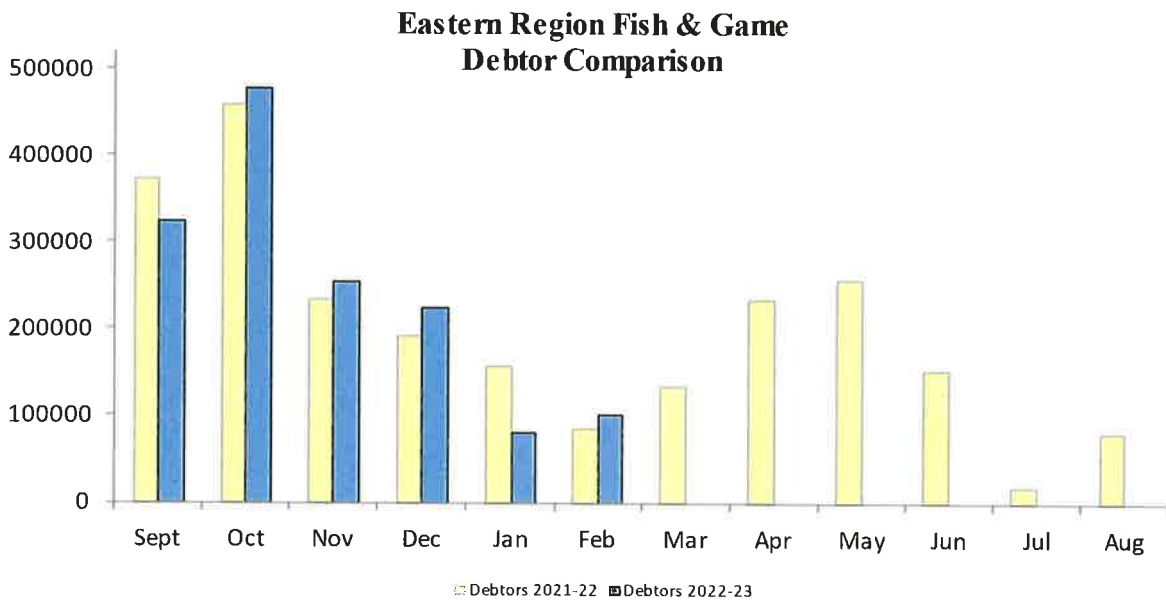
	included the fabrication of a post rammer, and loppers. Field equipment and boat fuel is also reported. Undert budget YTD (2,784).
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the period included scheduled servicing of three vehicles, tyres for one vehicle, a taillight replacement, registration for two vehicles, and fuel/RUCs. Insurance was also paid on a new vehicle and an insurance credit received on a vehicle sale. Over budget YTD (\$3,622) and this is due to increased fuel and RUC's expenses and is likely to reduce as the year progresses.

Cash Position: As at 28 February 2023

\$ 903,715 (includes \$78,584 Asset Replacement Reserve)
\$ 464,178 (Waikaremoana SFHEF – Restricted Reserve)
\$1,367,893 Total

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$101,887 as at 28 February 2023 (\$85,029 as at 28 February 2022).

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



Debtors outstanding as at 28 February primarily related to licence sales \$91,323, all agent debtors are current.

3. Variance Report (Table 1)

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

Table 1 2022/2023 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

as at 28 February 2023

Schedule B	Code	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	Variance	%
			Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual			
	1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 40,700	\$ 39,252	2,124	1,381	\$ 142,317	\$ 96,549	\$ -	\$ 1,718	\$ 183,017	\$ 134,083	\$ 48,934	73.3	
	1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,900	\$ 402	681	432	\$ 45,630	\$ 30,202	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,530	\$ 30,604	\$ 17,925	63.1	
	1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 83,350	\$ 62,295	2,982	1,636	\$ 199,807	\$ 114,376	\$ 58,000	\$ 30,430	\$ 225,157	\$ 146,242	\$ 78,915	65.0	
	1160	Releases	\$ -	\$ -	134	101	\$ 8,979	\$ 7,061	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,979	\$ 7,061	\$ 1,917	78.6	
	1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	50	37	\$ 3,350	\$ 2,587	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,350	\$ 2,587	\$ 763	77.2	
	1180	Control	\$ 500	\$ -	36	12	\$ 2,412	\$ 839	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,912	\$ 839	\$ 2,073	28.8	
		TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT	\$ 127,450	\$ 101,950	6,007	3,599	\$ 402,495	\$ 251,614	\$ 58,000	\$ 32,148	\$ 471,945	\$ 321,416	\$ 150,529	68.1	
	1210	Resource Management Act	\$ -	\$ -	1,412	819	\$ 94,610	\$ 57,258	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 94,610	\$ 57,258	\$ 37,352	60.5	
	1220	Works & Management	\$ 17,500	\$ 3,050	934	502	\$ 62,582	\$ 35,096	\$ 11,650	\$ 10,794	\$ 68,432	\$ 27,352	\$ 41,080	40.0	
	1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 2,700	\$ -	770	199	\$ 51,593	\$ 13,913	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,293	\$ 13,913	\$ 40,381	25.6	
	1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	72	72	\$ 4,824	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,824	\$ -	\$ 4,824	0.0	
	1250	Lake Waikaremoana	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	
		TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION & M	\$ 20,200	\$ 3,050	3,188	1,520	\$ 213,610	\$ 106,267	\$ 11,650	\$ 10,794	\$ 222,160	\$ 98,523	\$ 123,637	44.3	
	1310	Access	\$ 5,500	\$ 4,452	692	453	\$ 46,367	\$ 31,670	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,867	\$ 36,122	\$ 15,745	69.6	
	1330	Newsletters/Information	\$ -	\$ -	318	112	\$ 21,307	\$ 7,830	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,307	\$ 7,830	\$ 13,477	36.7	
	1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ 711	36	1	\$ 2,412	\$ 70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,412	\$ 781	\$ 3,631	17.7	
	1350	Training	\$ 850	\$ 133	812	275	\$ 54,407	\$ 19,226	\$ 7,000	\$ 834	\$ 48,257	\$ 18,525	\$ 29,733	38.4	
	1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	32	16	\$ 2,144	\$ 1,119	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,144	\$ 1,119	\$ 1,026	52.2	
	1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 627	46	3	\$ 3,082	\$ 210	\$ 400	\$ 304	\$ 4,132	\$ 533	\$ 3,599	12.9	
		TOTAL - ANGLER & HUNTER PART	\$ 9,800	\$ 5,923	1,936	860	\$ 129,720	\$ 60,125	\$ 7,400	\$ 1,138	\$ 132,120	\$ 64,910	\$ 67,211	49.1	
	1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	72	35	\$ 4,824	\$ 2,447	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,824	\$ 2,447	\$ 2,377	50.7	
	1420	Communication	\$ -	\$ -	116	38	\$ 7,772	\$ 2,657	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,772	\$ 2,657	\$ 5,116	34.2	
	1440	Public Promotions	\$ 1,000	\$ 613	114	23	\$ 7,638	\$ 1,573	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,638	\$ 2,186	\$ 6,452	25.3	
	1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 500	\$ 914	668	146	\$ 44,759	\$ 10,207	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,259	\$ 11,121	\$ 34,138	24.6	
		TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,527	970	242	\$ 64,994	\$ 16,884	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66,494	\$ 18,411	\$ 48,083	27.7	
	1510	Ranging	\$ 1,000	\$ 357	930	333	\$ 62,314	\$ 23,281	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 63,314	\$ 23,638	\$ 39,676	37.3	
	1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,181	104	94	\$ 6,988	\$ 6,572	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,968	\$ 7,752	\$ 216	97.3	
	1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 5,000	\$ 466	336	62	\$ 22,513	\$ 4,335	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,191	\$ 21,513	\$ 3,609	\$ 17,904	16.8	
		TOTAL - COMPLIANCE	\$ 7,000	\$ 2,003	1,370	489	\$ 91,796	\$ 34,187	\$ 6,000	\$ 1,191	\$ 92,796	\$ 34,999	\$ 57,797	37.7	
	1610	Licensing	\$ 600	\$ -	124	67	\$ 8,309	\$ 4,684	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,909	\$ 4,684	\$ 4,224	52.6	
	1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	158	33	\$ 10,587	\$ 2,307	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,587	\$ 2,307	\$ 8,280	21.8	
		TOTAL - LICENSING	\$ 600	\$ -	282	100	\$ 18,895	\$ 6,991	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,495	\$ 6,991	\$ 12,504	35.9	
	1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	
	1720	Council Meetings	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,090	457	195	\$ 30,621	\$ 13,633	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,621	\$ 17,723	\$ 17,898	49.8	
		TOTAL - COUNCILS	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,090	457	195	\$ 30,621	\$ 13,633	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,621	\$ 17,723	\$ 17,898	49.8	
	1810	Management Planning	\$ 8,500	\$ 21	281	2	\$ 18,828	\$ 140	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,328	\$ 161	\$ 27,167	0.6	
	1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	64	23	\$ 4,288	\$ 1,608	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,288	\$ 1,608	\$ 2,680	37.5	
	1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 9,950	\$ -	391	191	\$ 26,199	\$ 13,353	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,149	\$ 13,353	\$ 22,795	36.9	
	1840	National Liaison	\$ 50	\$ 700	258	90	\$ 17,287	\$ 6,292	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,337	\$ 6,992	\$ 10,345	40.3	
		TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING	\$ 18,500	\$ 721	994	306	\$ 66,602	\$ 21,393	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,102	\$ 22,114	\$ 62,988	26.0	
			\$ 190,050	\$ 119,264	15,204	7,311	\$ 1,018,733	\$ 511,093	\$ 83,050	\$ 45,271	\$ 1,125,733	\$ 585,086	\$ 540,647	52.0	

		EXTERNAL COSTS		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		%	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		
OVERHEADS											
1910	Salaries	\$ 929,707	\$ 465,495	\$ 11,680	\$ 14,041	\$ 918,027	\$ 451,454	\$ 486,573		48.2	
1920	Staff Expenses	\$ 24,000	\$ 2,998	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,000	\$ 2,998	\$ 21,002		12.5	
1930	Staff Houses	\$ 10,306	\$ 9,433	\$ 55,000	\$ 26,167	\$ (44,694)	\$ (16,734)	\$ (27,960)		37.4	
1940	Office Premises	\$ 20,000	\$ 13,710	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 13,710	\$ 6,290		68.6	
1950	Office Equipment	\$ 2,600	\$ 1,786	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,600	\$ 1,786	\$ 814		68.7	
1960	Communications/Consumables	\$ 17,200	\$ 9,270	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,200	\$ 9,270	\$ 7,930		53.9	
1970	General	\$ 11,000	\$ 12,177	\$ 1,500	\$ 4,705	\$ 9,500	\$ 7,472	\$ 2,028		78.7	
1980	General Equipment	\$ 16,600	\$ 6,816	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,600	\$ 6,816	\$ 9,784		41.1	
1990	Vehicles	\$ 55,500	\$ 34,322	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,500	\$ 34,322	\$ 21,178		61.8	
	Administration	\$ 1,086,913	\$ 556,006	\$ 68,180	\$ 44,913	\$ 1,018,733	\$ 511,093	\$ 507,640		50.2	
	Total Overhead Net Cost					\$ 1,018,733	\$ 511,093				
	Total Outputs Staff Hours					15,204	7,311				
	Internal Cost Per Hour					67.00	69.91				
Schedule C											
Code	Output	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance	%
1	Species Management	\$ 127,450	\$ 101,950	\$ 3,599	\$ 402,495	\$ 251,614	\$ 32,148	\$ 471,945	\$ 321,416	\$ 150,529	68.1
2	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 20,200	\$ 3,050	3,188	\$ 213,610	\$ 106,267	\$ 11,650	\$ 222,160	\$ 98,523	\$ 123,637	44.3
3	Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 9,800	\$ 5,923	1,936	\$ 129,720	\$ 60,125	\$ 7,400	\$ 132,120	\$ 64,910	\$ 67,211	49.1
4	Public Interface	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,527	970	\$ 64,994	\$ 16,884	\$ -	\$ 66,494	\$ 18,411	\$ 48,083	27.7
5	Compliance	\$ 7,000	\$ 2,003	1,370	\$ 91,796	\$ 34,187	\$ 6,000	\$ 92,796	\$ 34,999	\$ 57,797	37.7
6	Licensing	\$ 600	\$ -	282	\$ 18,895	\$ 6,991	\$ -	\$ 19,495	\$ 6,991	\$ 12,504	35.9
7	Councils	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,090	457	\$ 30,621	\$ 13,633	\$ -	\$ 35,621	\$ 17,723	\$ 17,898	49.8
8	Planning, Reporting	\$ 18,500	\$ 721	994	\$ 66,602	\$ 21,393	\$ -	\$ 85,102	\$ 22,114	\$ 62,988	26.0
9	Administration			6,950	4,088						
	Total Overhead Staff Hours			22,154							
	TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 190,050	\$ 119,264	11,399	\$ 1,018,733	\$ 511,093	\$ 45,271	\$ 1,125,733	\$ 585,086	\$ 540,647	
	Licence Income 2022-2023	Budget	Actual	% year complete % of OWP budget spent							
	2022-23 Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,079,901	\$ 940,367					50%	52%		
	Less Commission	\$ -	\$ -					\$ 1,125,733	\$ 585,086		
	Net Fish Licence Income	\$ 1,031,305	\$ 940,367					\$ (9,505)	\$ (5,369)		
	2023 Game Licence Income	\$ 269,723	\$ 17,568					\$ 158,586	\$ 79,293		
	Less Commission	\$ -	\$ -					\$ (1,349,624)	\$ (957,935)		
	Net Game Licence Income	\$ 257,586	\$ 17,568					\$ 60,733	\$ 32,567		
	Total Licence Income	\$ 1,349,624	\$ 957,935					\$ (28,157)	\$ (17,806)		
	Total Commission	\$ -	\$ -					\$ 74,244	\$ 36,771		
	Total Net 2022-23 Licence Revenue	\$ 1,288,891	\$ 925,368					\$ 32,010	\$ (247,394)		
								\$ (7,937)	\$ (1,444)		
								\$ 8,000	\$ 1,509		
								Actual (surplus)/deficit YTD	Total		
								\$ 32,073	\$ (247,330)		

Table 2

Balance Sheet
Eastern Fish and Game Council
As at 28 February 2023

Assets	28 Feb 2023	31 Aug 2022
Bank		
Investments	\$716,806.24	\$511,038.52
Petty Cash	\$443.50	\$221.20
Waikaremoana Fund Investments	\$459,356.86	\$470,049.72
Westpac Call Account	\$191,829.97	\$235,120.80
Westpac Current Account	\$2,552.52	\$5,995.12
Total Bank	\$1,370,989.09	\$1,222,425.36
Current Assets		
Accounts Receivable	\$100,642.42	\$80,402.35
Accounts Receivable - Hawkes bay & External parties	-\$1,244.89	\$0.00
Inventory - Fish Stock	\$168,939.00	\$168,939.00
Prepayments and Accrued Income	\$0.00	\$10,176.06
Total Current Assets	\$268,336.53	\$259,517.41
Fixed Assets		
Accum Dep Land & Buildings	-\$743,308.02	-\$729,394.41
Accum Dep Motor Vehicles	-\$146,886.93	-\$159,830.31
Accum Dep Office Equipment	-\$54,810.32	-\$53,118.85
Accum Dep Plant & Equipment	-\$163,906.73	-\$160,203.86
Buildings	\$1,043,849.38	\$1,043,849.38
Land	\$102,000.00	\$102,000.00
Motor Vehicles	\$446,400.74	\$425,024.50
Office Equipment	\$61,185.20	\$61,185.20
Plant & Equipment	\$198,898.90	\$198,898.90
Total Fixed Assets	\$743,422.22	\$728,410.55
Total Assets	\$2,382,747.84	\$2,210,353.32
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$26,404.67	\$36,799.19
Accruals and Prepaid Licences	\$78,422.00	\$135,452.97
Business Credit Card	\$0.00	\$1,273.43
Employee Entitlements	\$78,415.53	\$87,769.49
Game Bird Habitat Stamp Levy Clearing	\$6.96	\$0.00
GST	\$2,269.23	-\$8,953.93
PAYE Clearing	\$22,789.76	\$31,605.92
Rounding	\$0.05	\$0.00
Salmon Endorsement Clearing	\$278.72	\$0.00
Staff Social Club	\$2,801.93	\$2,671.00
Westpac Business Credit Card - A Alaeinia	\$52.35	\$0.00
Westpac Business Credit Card - K Thompson	241.00	\$0.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$211,682.20	\$286,618.07
Total Liabilities	\$211,682.20	\$286,618.07
Net Assets	\$2,182,974.56	\$1,923,735.25
Equity		
Accumulated Funds	\$1,210,995.33	\$1,280,725.06
Asset Replacement Reserve	\$49,427.00	\$49,427.00
Back Country Fisheries Reserve	\$161,611.65	\$130,710.65
Breeding Programme Reserve	\$1,018.00	\$1,018.00
Current Year Earnings	\$247,330.39	-\$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
Total Equity	\$2,171,065.64	\$1,923,735.25

Table 3

Profit and Loss
Eastern Fish and Game Council

For the 2 months ended 28 February 2023

Income	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Total Budget	Var YTD	Var YTD %
Licence Income	84,619	47,131	927,034	944,000	1,349,624	(16,966)	-2%
Non-Resident Licence Levy Revenue	8,270	6,476	30,901	0	0	30,901	0%
Other Income	5,001	11,577	114,805	97,549	196,829	17,256	18%
Total Income	97,890	65,184	1,072,740	1,041,549	1,546,453	31,191	3%
Operating Expenses							
Depreciation	6,286	6,286	36,771	37,122	74,244	(351)	-1%
1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT							
1110 Population Monitoring	21,105	1,539	39,320	38,100	43,200	1,220	3%
1120 Harvest Assessment	0	0	402	900	2,900	(498)	-55%
1140 Hatchery Operations	2,447	13,007	62,295	59,050	83,350	3,245	5%
1180 Game Bird Control	0	0	0	500	500	(500)	-100%
Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT	23,461	14,546	102,018	98,550	129,950	3,468	4%
1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT							
1220 Works & Management	83	0	3,050	4,500	17,500	(1,450)	-32%
1230 Assisted Habitat	0	0	1,441	1,600	2,700	(159)	-10%
Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MNGT	83	0	4,491	6,100	20,200	(1,609)	-26%
1300 PARTICIPATION							
1310 Access	1,245	1,090	4,452	3,750	5,500	702	19%
1340 Other Publications	0	0	711	700	2,000	11	1%
1350 Training	26	0	133	400	850	(267)	-67%
1370 Huts	121	182	627	800	1,450	(173)	-22%
Total 1300 PARTICIPATION	1,391	1,272	5,923	5,650	9,800	273	5%
1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE							
1440 Public Promotions	126	0	613	0	1,000	613	0%
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education/Interpretation	0	0	914	500	500	414	83%
Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE	126	0	1,527	500	1,500	1,027	205%
1500 COMPLIANCE							
1510 Ranging	68	68	357	525	1,000	(168)	-32%
1520 Ranger Training	21	0	1,181	1,000	1,000	181	18%
1530 Compliance	0	0	466	2,500	5,000	(2,034)	-81%
Total 1500 COMPLIANCE	89	68	2,003	4,025	7,000	(2,022)	-50%
1600 LICENSING							
1610 Licence Prod/Distrib	0	0	0	0	600	0	0%
1630 Commission	3,038	1,709	32,567	42,480	60,733	(9,913)	-23%
Total 1600 LICENSING	3,038	1,709	32,567	42,480	61,333	(9,913)	-23%
1700 COUNCIL							
1720 Council Meetings	200	744	4,090	2,600	5,000	1,490	57%
Total 1700 COUNCIL	200	744	4,090	2,600	5,000	1,490	57%
1800 PLANNING/REPORTING							
1810 Management & Strategic Planning	0	0	21	0	8,500	21	0%
1830 Reporting/Audit	0	0	(0)	300	9,950	(300)	-100%
1840 National Liaison	39,646	46	79,993	79,342	158,636	651	1%
Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING	39,646	46	80,014	79,642	177,086	372	0%
1900 ADMINISTRATION							
1910 Salaries	71,634	72,514	465,495	464,000	935,207	1,495	0%
1920 Staff Expenses	335	257	2,998	4,650	24,000	(1,652)	-36%
1930 Staff Houses	582	625	9,433	6,506	10,306	2,927	45%
1940 Office Premises	1,563	1,308	13,710	11,660	20,000	2,050	18%
1950 Office Equipment	164	164	1,786	1,202	2,600	584	49%
1960 Communications/Consumables	1,561	1,205	9,270	9,180	17,200	90	1%
1970 General	257	152	12,177	9,758	11,000	2,419	25%
1980 General Equipment	589	527	6,816	9,600	16,600	(2,784)	-29%
1990 Vehicles	6,276	3,470	34,322	30,700	55,500	3,622	12%
Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION	82,959	80,221	556,006	547,256	1,092,413	8,750	2%
Total Operating Expenses	157,281	104,891	825,410	823,925	1,578,526	1,485	0%
Net Profit	(59,391)	(39,708)	247,330	217,624	(32,073)	29,706	14%

8.3 MANAGEMENT REPORT

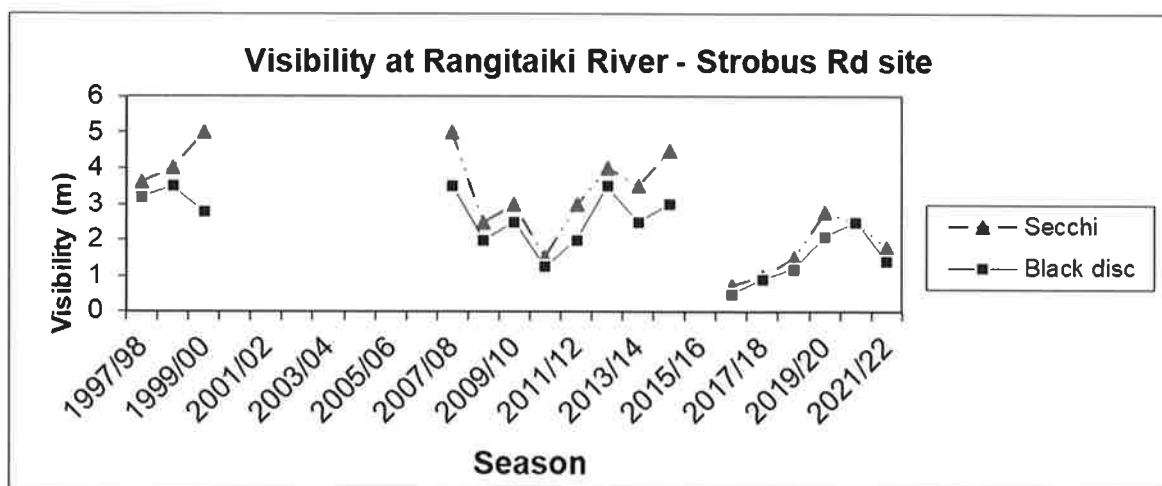
20 March 2023

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

1111 River Fisheries Investigations

Rangitaiki River Water Quality monitoring

Drift dive trout counts have not been completed in the Rangitaiki River during the 2022-23 summer due to poor water clarity. On the 9th of March, staff visited Wheao and Rangitaiki rivers within Kaingaroa forest and took temperature, and dissolved oxygen parameters. Visibility within the Rangitaiki River was estimated at <1m.



In the period spanning 2017 to 2020, the Rangitaiki was monitored in this way before it was deemed passable to drift dive during the 2020-21 summer. The 2021-22 summer saw a distinct deterioration once more and the measurement as at 9-March 2023 was <1m secchi. The drift dive assessment method recommends a through-water visibility (secchi disc) of no less than 3m. Secchi/black disc readings undertaken by Fish & Game staff between 1997/98 and 2021/22 presented as a record of water clarity.

East Coast River Fishery Investigations

Following extensive damage to the East Coast region from cyclones Hale and Gabrielle, there is a need to undertake some investigations into the river fisheries affected by these weather events. This will be incorporated into the 2023-24 OWP as the earliest time to assess these rivers will be early summer 2024. This is due to:

- Rivers are still running high (into autumn/ winter) and are going to be dumping silt downstream for an extended period.
- Infrastructure is being repaired and many roads and bridges are closed to access.
- Invertebrate stocks will take some months to repopulate, and habitat will be highly altered.

Trout populations will have been affected but enough should have survived to head into the spawning period that is just around the corner. Trout have evolved to cope with heavy floods, but populations will take time to rebuild.

We will be reaching out to anglers for reports/ photos of fisheries/ habitat if they make forays into the rivers. We must thoroughly investigate the effects of these rivers and their resilience prior to any management interventions being considered.

1112 Datawatch

During the six months following the season opening, a total of 300 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database. The distribution is as follows:

Lake McLaren	1
Lake Okareka	5
Lake Okataina	67
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	17
Lake Rotoehu	1
Lake Rotoiti	84
Lake Rotoma	11
Lake Rotorua	4
Lake Tarawera	110
Lake Tutira (HB)	0

*tags entered in datawatch database to 17/3/2023

Compared with returns received at this time last year (mid-March 2022), the total number of tags returned is increased by 40 (15.4%). Lakes Rotoiti and Tarawera are the most improved on the 2022 totals to date (up by 40 and 26 returns respectively). Lake Okataina is down by 13 returns compared to the 2022 season.

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Waikaremoana Water Quality Monitoring Buoy

The Lake Waikaremoana Water Quality Monitoring Buoy has been operating well and transmitting regularly via the Vodafone cell network over the past 2 months. During cyclone Gabrielle there was an outage owing to the network being down for several days.

1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

Ngongotaha Fish Trap

The Ngongotaha fish trap was not operated during February or March 2023. Following repeated flooding events, large amounts of timber were deposited in amongst the trap structure. BOPRC Rivers and Drainage have expressed a desire that all timber that is captured by the trap structure is removed from the confines of the stream. They are very happy to assist removal of logs and stumps that are too large to manhandle but it can take time before a digger is present within the local area.

1116 Waterfowl Monitoring

Banding

Mallard and grey duck banding proved to have a few additional challenges this year with cyclone Hale taking out two of our East Coast band sites and causing access challenges to one other site. It also delayed trapping at all other sites. Despite this we managed to band 1,652 new birds. The number of juveniles in the trap sample was above normal indicating a good

breeding season. Over the last 26 years the trap sample has had a ratio of 2.01 juveniles/adults. This year it was 3.6 juveniles to adults. From the drain brood counts we determined that it was an early breeding season with many broods already at class VI on our first count. Furthermore, brood size was good. Research shows that early breeders tend to be more successful, and this appears to be born out this breeding season.

The predictive mallard population modeling (Figure 1) used to set mallard and grey duck season regulations has performed exceptionally well for the previous two years and appears to have got it right again this year.

Staff also assisted Taranaki Fish and Game with banding but unfortunately were unable to respond to a request for assistance in the Hawke’s Bay Region due to other commitments.

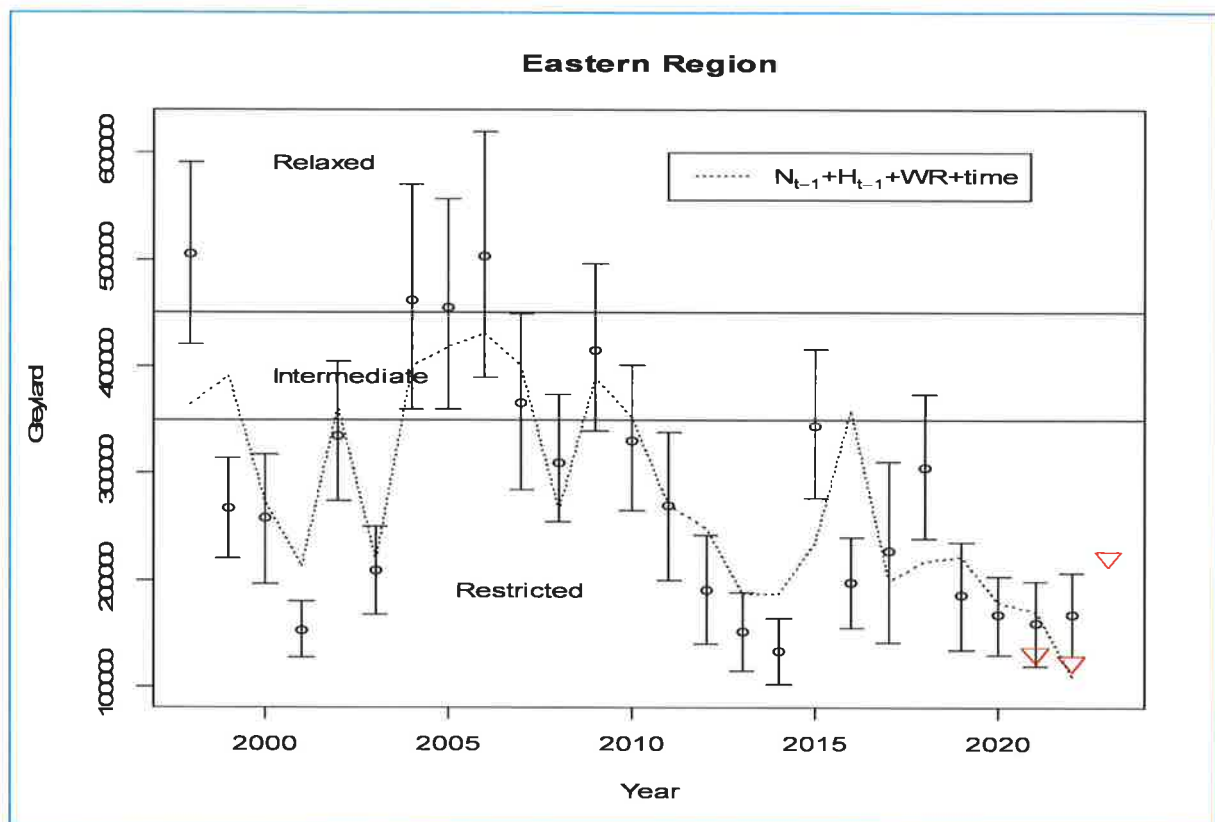


Figure 1. Eastern Region mallard population (open circle; mean ± 95% BCI) 1998–2022, with three zones of regulation constraint, Restricted, Intermediate and Relaxed (demarcated by the horizontal lines). The dashed line shows the model $N(t) = N(t-1) + H + WR + \text{time}$ where $N(t)$ =mallard population in year t, H= greylard harvest in year t-1, WR=total winter rain (recorded at the Whakatane weather station), time = year (t). The upside-down red triangle represents the predicted 2021–2023 greylard population.

An induction paper was prepared for Council explaining how population monitoring such and banding and trend counts steer season regulations (see PFI). Banding has provided huge insights into the mallard population and the effect of climate and regulations. As we improve our understanding, we regularly take the opportunity to review harvest regulations. It is probably timely that we do this again once this hunting season is completed.

1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys

Summer Creel Survey

The summer angler creel surveys for the 2022-23 season began in late October and will conclude in mid-April. Reporting is due end of August 2023.

National Angler Survey

The National Angler Survey is a phone-based survey to quantify angler pressure by waterway. The latest survey was undertaken over the 2021-22 season with anglers randomly chosen and contacted regarding their angling destinations every 2 months throughout the season. The data is currently being processed before a report is provided to regions. Data from the National Angler Survey is used in planning and consenting processes.

1141 Hatchery Operations

A number of fish have been moved about the property including re-stocking the children's fishing pond and moving rising 2-year-olds from pond 9 to the raceways. Ponds have been cleaned and re-stocked with fingerlings for liberation during 2023. Routine summer repairs and maintenance has been carried out as weather permitted.

Fish locations at 17th March 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 D	Bt	0+	1,000	2023 liberations, various.
Tank E	Rt	1+	10	Best of brood, 1+ for 2023
Tank F	Brook	0+	140	Brood for 2023 onward
Pond 4	Rt	0+	1,750	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
RW1&2	Rt	1+	6,000	KF 2023

1161 Sports Fish Liberations

The summer and March portion of the autumn liberation has been completed as per the table below. Preparations are underway to commence the trapping season in April.

Liberations, Eastern Region 24 Jan – 17 March 2023

Water	Date	Mark	Tag used	Species	Age Class	Number
Tarawera	14/03/2023	LpAd		RT	1+	1,000
Okataina	14/03/2023	LpAd		RT	1+	250
Rotoiti	14/03/2023	LpAd		RT	1+	4,000
Rotoiti	23/02/2023	Ad	N23	RT	1+	500

Rotoiti	23/02/2023	Ad		RT	1+	500
Tarawera	22/02/2023	Ad	X23	RT	1+	500
Tarawera	22/02/2023	Ad		RT	1+	1,000
Tarawera	13/12/2022	Rp		RT	1+	1,000
Waiotahi Strm	9/12/2022	Rp		RT	1+	250
Otara/Waipakahi Strm	9/12/2022	Rp		RT	1+	500
Tuai	5/12/2023	Rp		BT	1+	200
Tuai	5/12/2022	Rp		RT	1+	500
McLaren	22/11/2022			RT	3+	20
McLaren	22/11/2022	Rp		BT	1+	500
McLaren	22/11/2022	Rp		RT	1+	1,000

1171 Sports Fishing Regulations

Following the February 2023 Council meeting, letters were sent out to clubs and statutory organisations informing them of the Anglers Notice Process being underway. This occurred on 23 February 2023. No return correspondence has been received from these sources.

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'.

The Designated Waters Licence is designed to alleviate pressure related impacts through mechanisms (price point and maximum days allowable for Non-Residents) 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.

Consultation with Resident anglers and Non-Resident anglers is now underway, and the New Zealand Council will coordinate and collate all feedback and 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 back country fisheries.

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). Currently a draft version of the fish passage provisions for the RNRP is being reviewed.

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. This work is largely on hold in the short term while GDC prioritises the effects from the recent cyclone.

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.

A Forest Industry Discussion Group meeting was attended in February. These meetings are scheduled quarterly.

An Fish and Game RMA staff meeting was attended in Wellington in March.

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 have been collaborating and a formal submission has been lodged in 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
20 Feb	GDC	Craigmore Ltd	LUC – reforestation of harvested forest	Mangapara Str. Tolega Bay	No concerns email
13 Mar	GDC	Waka Kotahi	DP- calcium magnesium acetate for di-ice roads	Matawai district, Motu River	No concerns email

1221 Reserves Management

Due to the significant rain experienced within the Bay of Plenty of the “summer” period, mowing within the reserve wetlands has been difficult. A recent round has just been completed but only the major access tracks, as side tracks are more marginal. Two incidents occurred where the mower got bogged and had to be towed out. Due to very high water levels within Awaiti and the Kaituna, we had to delay the opening of the gates for ballot holders for the maintenance period – but were emailed to explain the circumstances with no issues received.

All access to ballot holders for maintenance ceases Monday 10th April, to enable reserves to minimise disturbance prior to opening weekend. In line with previously agreed conditions, the gates will open Thursday prior to opening for setting up decoys and stands.

Although delayed, the summer maintenance programme has occurred. Spray areas were limited by safe, dry access, but most pest plants and water channels were sprayed, as agreed by contractor. The water reticulation for Awaiti, Bregmans, Kaituna and Orini are to be completed prior to Easter. The await main water inlet pipeline support structure is currently being rebuilt with DOC contributing 50% of total cost. Unfortunately, due to high water levels currently within Awaiti and Orini, broken floodgates and weirs may not be able to be fixed prior to the season, as we cannot afford low waters for hunters, so these scheduled works will occur later post the season.

Initial discussions have occurred with DOC to initiate the substantial resource consent application (jointly with DOC) to undertake annual wetland maintenance works into the future. This is required as a result of the new NES-W rules set by the Government.

Meetings are currently being held with DOC and BOPRC about initiating a predator programme in the Kaituna wetland. No full details are currently known.

1231 Respond to Landowner Requests for Assistance

One new landowner has been visited in the Bay of Plenty to provide both technical and general advice on how to restore a remnant oxbow and expand the adjacent wetland. BOPRC are actively involved also providing resource consent advice and funding. This project is approx. 3.5 hectares and will need to be undertaken in stages and will require ongoing advice over multiple years.

Two landowners remain outstanding for visits within the Gisborne district -which were to be arranged late February, but due to cyclone Gabrielle, landowners have not been approached. Staff will liaise with Councillor Ferris to discuss with landowners to progress these visits.

1241 Monitor Waterfowl Habitats

Wetland Forum

The wetland forum met at the hatchery site for the March 2023 meeting, discussing NES-W rules and how they will apply within the Bay of Plenty. Additional topics included “future threats to wetlands”, Te Arawa lakes wetlands, World Wetlands Day 2024, and a generalised round up of issues and works agencies are undertaking currently.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

Access maintenance work is continuing at various locations. Parts of the Ngongotaha Stream access tracks suffered from erosion during flooding in the last 2 months and sections of track have been re-cut, along with enhanced signage and stiles erected. Pueto Stream access has been cleared and new signage to the stream mouth installed; we are grateful to Wairakei Pastoral and Pamu Farming for providing this access which is across privately owned land. Maintenance work on the Rangitaiki system access points within Kaingaroa Forest are near completion, and we have reduced significantly the amount of time spent on the Rangitaiki River access within the forest, focusing on just the key higher quality areas. This has involved staff and contractors clearing and maintaining tracks at key locations and installing access signage, in preparation for the winter recreational access season within the forest. Work is ongoing liaising with the forest managers regarding attempting to negotiate an some additional summer access within Kaingaroa above that which is already provided by easement and the foot access off SH5. We have no progress to report at this point other than that this is a work in progress. The Timberlands Forests recreational access season is due to commence on the first weekend of May and continue through to the last weekend of September.

We are planning to carry out access improvement work at Lake Rerewhaakaitu to a high value area on the shoreline. High lake levels have impeded progress in carrying out this work with sections of the track flooded, but we will endeavour to get that carried out when it is possible to do so.

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.

1313 Hunter Ballots

Staff met with new and existing ballot holders in the beginning of February to explain the rules of the ballot and what is expected of them. This is the 16th meeting staff have conducted since 2008. Since then, about 500 hunters have attended the meetings. Not all

hunters are required to attend, however at least one hunter in each hunting party is expected to have attended.

1331 Electronic Newsletters

Reel Life E-zine was published for February covering flood damage, Rotorua lakes fishery, small and hydro lake opportunities, Ngongotaha.

1333 Fish & Game Website

Updates or changes to the Eastern Web site included Council agendas and minutes, changes made to wetland access, Aniwhenua water levels.

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

Changes have been made to the e-version of the Waiiau/Ruakituri brochure.

1352 Angler/Hunter Training

No angler/hunter training was conducted for the period.

1354 Fishing Competitions

Three fishing competition permits were processed for the period.

1361 Fish & Game Club Communications

Three club visits were conducted for the reported period.

1371 Fish & Game Huts

Maintenance has been carried out at the Wairua hut in preparation for the increased usage expected in the autumn and winter. The hut is in good condition. Investigation regarding the future of the Waikaremoana Hut is underway, in terms of the licence to occupy the site in Te Urewera which is expiring in December 2023.

PUBLIC INTERFACE

1411 Statutory Liaison and Political Awareness

A meeting with MP Todd McClay was arranged with EF&G staff for him to inform us of his new portfolio for Fishing and Hunting within the National Party. This was well received.

Unfortunately requests for him to meet with the EF&G Council have not been able to be confirmed and are still being perused.

Monthly meetings with DOC Rotortua continue and an opportunity to meet with DOC Deputy DG Operations was taken and good conversation and understanding was facilitated.

We attended the TALT Environmental Komiti and updated the members of our work flows and areas that we could better support each other.

After the devastating effects of Cyclone Gabriele, we contacted our stakeholders in TUT, GDC, Gisborne Police, Gisborne Anglers Club and Waikaremoana Boating Association to send our best wishes and know that we were thinking of them and if there was any thing that we could do to assist. Our communication was positively received by all parties.

1421 Public Communications

Taupo Fishery Advisory Committee (TFAC)

Matt Osborne and Debbie Oakley represented Fish & Game NZ at the TFAC meeting held on 23rd February and gave a report detailing the Rotorua lakes opening summer season program and the licence sales tracking to date.

1451 Education

No visits were made for the reported period.

COMPLIANCE

1511 Ranging

There have been few compliance issues around the region recently, angler numbers both on lakes and around shoreline areas such as stream mouths have been much lower this season. That is largely due to the inclement weather patterns through most of the current season. Monitoring continues around the Rotorua stream mouths, but there have been few anglers in comparison to previous summers. Going into April we will begin winter shoreline angler monitoring and checks on spawning areas. Honorary rangers have been limited as to what ranging they could do, again mostly due to poor weather and river conditions around the region in the areas where most are located. No further offences have been dealt with since the last report.

Contacts Year to date 2022-2023.

977 licence check contacts have been made to end of February 2023. Overall compliance is in excess of 98 %. Contacts are down on where they would be in comparison to other years, however weather factors have had a significant effect on number of anglers located, as well as other staff commitments and workloads, and absences.

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	36
October	893	726	724	718	520	834
November	20	126	16	66	16	56

December	309	237	287	182	182	287
January	442	246	404	352	212	309
February	307	265	155	140	12	236
March	180	23	164	93		93
April	124	7	153	238		154
May	252	143	297	203		273
June	168	162	124	141		177
July	63	75	45	57		80
August	54	20	22	32		38
Total	2833	2076	2407	2273	977	2425

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 has been lodged with Police by NZ Council. A national ranger's newsletter has been prepared and distributed to all regions for staff and rangers.

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 however have been significantly impeded in many areas due to weather effects.

1531 Prosecutions

To date (Mid-March) we have 3 matters currently pending resolution via the courts.

Offences 2022-2023 Year:

As of mid-March, we have dealt with 8 offenders for 12 offences as tabled below.

Offence table 2022-2023 year

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

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:

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

LICENSING

1621 Licence Agent Support

Agent requests for licence corrections, brochures, and information was attended to as and when required. Most licence retailers were visited by staff pre game sales going live to distribute regulation guides and answer question for the upcoming Season.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1812 R3 Programme

We continue to pursue RotoruaNZ with collaboration work to develop and promote us in their Rotorua Educational Network as a Segway into the school educational funding. Also, the video has currently been put on hold following a structure review of the organization and a review of their core priorities.

We are following up opportunities to create a sponsorship pack and a user pack to promote our community facilities (Octagon and Board Room).

We have successfully connected with a Events Management organization who is creating a NZ Fishing, Hunting and 4x4 Expo that is to held here in Rotorua on an annual basis with EF&G being one of its core partners and an opportunity to receive revenue and strong presence for our support.

A focus of our work has been to fine tune the 2023-24 OWP with 5 workshops created for the team to consult and discuss. The tangible priorities of our OWP is the basis of our R3 program. By maintaining, creating and enhancing access we create opportunities for anglers and hunters with greater satisfaction that leads to retention, reactivation and recruitment. Also by managing our species and water quality will also lead to the same positive benefits. And these all lead to maintaining and increasing our license revenue stream.

We have also developed a working relationship with Rotorua Rotary Club and the Multicultural Association of Rotorua and are holding an open day for members to come to the hatchery and receive a presentation and tour. This is also being supported by the Rotorua Anglers Association and is due to take place on the 1 April.

With the advent of the extreme weather conditions, it is imperative that we keep our license holders updated with our proposed course of actions. This is currently in production but has also been communicated to specific clubs as natural interactions have occurred.

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 called upon to assist with various data extracts and continues to monitor outstanding licence system upgrade issues and along with the Licence Working Party.

8.4 LICENCE SALES REPORT

22 March 2023

1. 2022-2023 Fish Licence Sales

1.1 Fish licence sales for the 2022-23 season compared with the 2021-22 season to 21 March are summarised in Table One.

1.2 Fish licence sales have continued to improve since the February report 0.5% and are now reporting to be 2.9% below 2021-22 season results for the same period. The continued return of non-residents will have contributed to this result.

1.2 A further verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

Table One: Fish Licence Sales 2022-23 vs 2021-22 YTD results to 21 March 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
Fish Adult							
Family	1,088	1,374	2,462	966	1,299	2,265	-197
Season	963	1,137	2,100	866	999	1,865	-235
Season Non-Resident	3	20	23	104	166	270	247
Loyal Senior	267	265	532	237	269	506	-26
Local Area Adult	885	607	1,492	768	652	1,420	-72
Winter Adult	1	7	8	2	16	18	10
Long Break Adult	11	21	32	22	29	51	19
Short Break Adult	170	388	558	130	375	505	-53
Day	668	1,627	2,295	511	1,508	2,019	-276
Day Non-Resident	12	59	71	329	589	918	847
Total Adult	4,068	5,505	9,573	3,935	5,902	9,837	264
Fish Junior							
Season	157	182	339	165	192	357	18
Season Non-Resident	0	3	3	10	11	21	18
Day	67	134	201	50	202	252	51
Day Non-Resident	2	5	7	11	11	22	15
Total Junior	226	324	550	236	416	652	102
Fish Child							
Season Non-Resident	0	2	2	2	7	9	7
Day Non-Resident	0	3	3	11	14	25	22
Total Child	0	5	5	13	21	34	29
Total Fish	4,294	5,834	10,128	4,184	6,339	10,523	395
Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)			7,653			7,428	-225
Variance between Seasons							-2.9%
\$ (excl GST)			\$911,668			\$936,575	\$24,907

Summary 2022-2023 Season YTD Actual vs Total Budget

2022-23 Annual Budgeted FISH LEQs	8,565	100.0%	\$1,079,901
2022-23 Actual	7,428	86.7%	\$936,575
Variance to budget	-1,137	-13.3%	-\$143,326

9. 2022-2023 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

Ref: 8.02.01

20 March 2023

1. Purpose

To consider proposed projects, budgets and contestable funding bids for the 2022-2023 Operational Work Plan (OWP).

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 in some years include seeking Council's approval for the submission of applications to the NZ Council managed Contestable Fund, or for the utilisation of regional reserves to increase bulk funding for specific purposes.

The steps involved in developing the OWP for the 2023-2024 year and an update of where we're at in relation to these are as follows:

1. Council reviews priorities and project areas it wishes to focus on over and above core functions (*completed at 9 February 2023 meeting*).
2. Staff compile a draft work plan and balanced budget (excluding internal costs and incorporation of any bids or proposals to increase bulk funding) and identify potential contestable funding (CF) bids or proposals to utilise reserves (*done*).
3. CF bids, proposals to utilise reserves, and draft budget submitted to the NZ Council CFO by 22 March (*done*) for consideration at the Managers and combined Managers/NZ Council meeting on 19 and 20 April respectively.
4. This Council reviews draft projects, budget, and contestable funding/proposals to utilise reserves (*this meeting*). If Council chooses to make changes to the draft budget or the proposed CF bids/reserve notifications these will be communicated to the NZC ahead of its meeting with Managers on 19 April.
5. Staff revise projects and resourcing including hours and internal costs to take into account outcomes of the combined Managers/NZ Council meeting on 19 April, and circulate the second draft of the OWP to Council ahead of its 8 June meeting.
6. The second draft of the OWP is considered at the June meeting and projects, budgets and targets are reviewed and refined as necessary.
7. This draft is then circulated to clubs and other parties for comment if they wish to.
8. Any feedback received is considered by Council at its 10 August 2023 meeting and if deemed appropriate, is provided for in the final OWP which it approves at that meeting.

A copy of the draft OWP for 2023-2024, the draft budget, and contestable funding bids and applications to use reserves, are provided in the Papers for Information accompanying this agenda.

3. Outcomes from Council's Meeting in February

Council did not arrive at a consensus for change to its current priorities or programmes for the 2023-2024 OWP, the outcome of its February 2023 meeting being to retain the key regional priorities it has subscribed to for several years now. There appeared to be general agreement

however, that increasing revenue with a focus not only on licence income but the development of other sources of revenue was a top of the list priority. This being so the draft 2023-2024 OWP and budget makes provision for greater effort being put into R3 initiatives concerned with increasing public awareness, encouraging greater participation, and increasing licence income and revenue more generally. Very few changes have been made to direct costs this year.

Staff undertook 5 workshops to refine and review Council priorities and scale them against risk and categorise them out of 1-5 based on importance. The table below highlights the matrix developed and used to then review each output and workflow against.

Risks	Rank 1-5 (1-high)	Access	Habitat Enhancement	Species Management	Water Quality & Quantity	Maximising Fishery	Increasing Revenue
Climate Change	1	X	X	X	X	X	X
Iwi Aspirations	1	X		X		X	X
Declining Revenue	1	X	X	X		X	X
Statutory Changes	2	X		X		X	X
Land Use Changes	2	X	X	X	X	X	X
Forestry	3	X	X	X	X	X	X
Power Companies	4	X	X	X	X		X
Social Licence	4	X		X		?	X
National Cultural Changes	4	X		X		?	X

4. Direct Costs

Points to note in relation to direct/external costs in the draft budget prepared for the 2023-2024 OWP year as compared to the 2022-2023 plan we're currently operating to are as follows:

- The Species Monitoring output expenditure has been reduced by \$10,000 overall which relates to the Lake Tarawera related research programmes. A further contestable fund bid has been submitted for the Tarawera research and this will be applied for from the Non-Resident Levy reserves (\$20,000). A contestable fund bid has also been applied for Waterfowl monitoring for increased costs associated with the various projects captured within this budget (\$3,000). While the primary reason for the increase is costs associated with flights for aerial counts, we have seen increases to the minimum wage, and inflationary increases to fuel, maize etc.
- Harvest Assessment budgets remain unchanged, costs being those associated with angler and game hunter surveys.
- Hatchery costs have been increased by \$13,000 due primarily to the increasing freight/shipping costs on fish food (\$10,000), an allowance made for the gradual replacement of rusting gates on the Te Wairoa Trap (\$1,500), and adjustment to the fuel and oxygen budgets (\$2,000). The electricity and grounds budgets have been reduced by \$500.
- Game bird control budget is unchanged and is for the purpose of zon gun servicing and miscellaneous expenses.
- Habitat expenditure budgets are for the purpose of reserves management, landowner assistance, habitat creation and enhancement. Funds allocated for Habitat Enhancement (\$2,000) have been reallocated as seeding funds is no longer warranted for projects due to external funding opportunities and consent fees for enhancement are often not required.

- Access budgets remain unchanged and with some of this work supported by Timberlands.
- The information pamphlets budget remains unchanged and is utilised for updates/reprints of printed information as required.
- Angler/hunter training, Huts, and Communications budgets are unchanged.
- The Public Promotions and Visitor Facilities remain unchanged.
- The Ranging budgets relate to compliance equipment, training, and legal fees associated with prosecutions. The Prosecutions budget is reduced by \$1,000 and is offset by a corresponding reduction in revenue from prosecutions.
- Licensing budget is unchanged and relates to the printing of the A4 regulation pads.
- Council's Meetings budget is unchanged, however a contestable fund bid has been submitted for increased travel expenses resulting from the make up of the new Council (\$1,500).
- The Management/Strategic Planning budget remains unchanged at \$8,500 (direct costs) and was established in the 2020/21 OWP year for the purpose of developing and implementing R3 initiatives, the latter of which are anticipated to ramp up in 2022-23, and drafting a preliminary Business Development Strategy/Plan.
- Reporting, Audit and National Liaison budgets have seen minor changes relating to the audit fee which not yet confirmed.

Overall operational output expenditure in this preliminary budget has been increased by \$150, with contestable fund bids submitted totalling \$24,500. Overall revenue from sources other than licence sales has increased by \$9,000 and this is due to increased hatchery revenue of \$10,000 from additional liberations for other Fish & Game regions as well as a small increase in the price of all orders. The difference of \$1,000 is the reduction in revenue from prosecutions.

Administration expenses increase by \$3,344 and this relates primarily to the inclusion of real estate agent fees for management of the two rental property (\$4,000). There are other minor adjustments to various overhead budgets. The increase in expense is offset by increased rental income totalling \$4500.

5. Contracting to Hawke's Bay Fish & Game and the New Zealand Council

A small provision has been made to provide ongoing but limited administrative support and technical/operational assistance subject to staff availability to Hawke's Bay Fish & Game. Licence sales analyses and other related services up to the value of \$10,000 are currently provided to the NZC and it is anticipated but yet to be confirmed that this will continue into 2023-2024. It is beneficial for both Eastern & HB Councils to embark in discussion about amalgamation for the future viability of both and to deliver the best outcomes for our licence holders.

6. Resourcing

6.1 Bulk Funding

Eastern Region currently (2022-2023 OWP year) has a bulk funded operational budget of \$1,151,697. Our first draft of the operational budget for the 2023-2024 year remains set at this level in accordance with NZC's recent request for all regions do so, but may increase subject to this Council, and/or the NZC's approval of four proposed CF bids, one proposal to utilise general reserve funds, and one proposal for non-resident reserve funding. Details of these are set out in the section following.

6.2 Contestable Funding Bids and Applications to Use Reserve Funds

To operate beyond our bulk fund of \$1,151,697, Eastern Region must either enter into a contestable funding process for projects that ultimately will, or are likely to require funding from licence fee increases, or draw down funds from its own reserves.

Two CF bids have been submitted for inflationary costs associated with the Waterfowl Monitoring projects (\$3,000), and for Rates & Insurance (\$4,460). One bid has been placed for an increase to Council meeting travel expenses which is required due to the makeup of the current Council. Meeting expenses was an area which was trimmed for budget rounds of 2021-22 as several meetings were required to take place via zoom.

Two other applications to use reserves have also been submitted to National Office, one of these to draw down \$10,155 from our General Reserves to inject into the Asset Replacement Fund resulting from increases costs associated with vehicle replacement and the other to the Non Resident Levy Reserve to provide for the analysis of data gained through the acoustic smelt monitoring programme undertaken in Lake Tarawera.

Finally, one CF bid has been placed for REM. Over 2 years ago the organisation decided to look at the disparity between regions for same positions and the fact that F&G was paying below market rate. Strategic Pay were tasked with reviewing and putting forward appropriate salary bands that meet the current market for the different positions. Eastern has reviewed its salary in line with the guidelines sent to all regions and we have 3 positions that are paid in line with the market, meaning that 9 team members are under paid. The total additional needed is (\$64,572). The market rate does not need additional CPI increase.

The details of these CF bids are provided in the Papers for Information accompanying this agenda.

6.3 Allocation of staff hours

Staff hours will be reviewed and adjusted where necessary in the next draft of the 2023-2024 OWP. Hours will be allocated in accordance with the project areas and priorities Council has determined to the extent this can be accommodated without compromising our ability to deliver on our core activities and statutory functions including monitoring, licensing, compliance, Council support, planning and reporting, and administration of the Council. The Eastern Region will continue to contribute a component of its overall staff hours to assisting with national Fish & Game programmes including waterfowl monitoring and research, compliance, environmental planning, licensing, Health and Safety, and other tasks as may arise. Eastern's contribution to these national projects is justifiable on the basis of its size and the number of staff it employs, which has enabled it to retain specialists in a number of fields. Some of this assistance is cost recoverable but a substantial component is not, and is provided for the benefit of other regions and that of the organisation as a whole.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 That Council considers the draft OWP for the 2023-2024 year and the accompanying contestable funding bids and proposals to draw down some of Eastern Region's reserve funds, and approves these in their present or an amended form.**

10. 2022-2023 ANGLER'S NOTICE

Ref: 1.07.01

11 March 2023

1. Purpose

To consider whether any extraordinary issues outside of the bi-annual comprehensive angling regulation review cycle require changes to the Anglers Notice regulations for the 2023-2024 angling season.

2. Background

Council has developed a comprehensive policy approach to dealing with the Anglers Notice. A full Anglers Notice review is performed every second year to reduce the loading required on staff and Council time.

This year forms an intermediary year in between the full review cycle undertaken every second year. The next full Anglers Notice review will occur in the 2023-24 season in preparation for the 2024-25 trout fishing season.

3. Issues resolved

During this Anglers Notice Process in the lead up to the 2023-24 season, the Eastern Fish and Game Council have already confirmed resolutions to:

From confirmed minutes of the December 2022 meeting, resolved to return the opening date for lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina back to 1 October.

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

And from the unconfirmed minutes of the February 2023 meeting, tidied up the rule around fishing from vessels within 'winter shoreline fishing areas' outside of winter and summer closures to match the return to 1 October opening (above)

- **10.6** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that Council approves the amendment to Note 5.2 of the Anglers Notice to read "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". [23/02/10.6]*

And, to slightly alter the location of the upstream limit of the Ohau Channel flyfishing only area to make it more clearly interpreted by anglers'.

- **10.7** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that Council approves the amendment to the fly fishing only area of the Ohau Channel to read "between the lake Rotorua Outlet weir and landmark approximately 200m downstream of the weir". [23/02/10.7]*

4. New Issues identified

No new issues or submissions regarding the Anglers Notice process have been identified or received. The following resolution has been held over (by Council) for further discussions during the 2023-24 Anglers Notice review.

10.5 Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that Council did not identify any issues for further discussion for the 2023-24 Anglers Notice but suggested that Czech Nymphing be incorporated for further discussion next year when a full review of the Anglers Notice will be undertaken. [23/02/10.5]

5. Recommendation

5.1 That Council holds the conclusion of the Anglers Notice process for the 2022-2023 season until the June 8 Council Meeting.

APPENDIX 1. Anglers Notice Policy

Ref: 1.07.01

Updated 14 June 2018

1. Background

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

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

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

2. Biological Regulations

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

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

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

3. Social Regulations

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

Council has stated a desire to reduce barriers to participation such as overregulating by making rules simpler for anglers to understand. Measures of angler use have been reworked and greater clarity given to where anglers may fish from unanchored boats so

that shore-based anglers are not disproportionately affected by boats drifting or trolling within close proximity.

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

Fishing methods

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

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

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

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

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

Boats in winter shoreline areas

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

11. WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

Ref: 2.01.07.01

20 March 2023

1. Purpose

To consider an application for funding from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund to incorporate into the draft budget for the 2023-24 OWP once it has been approved.

2. Background

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

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

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

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

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

The Fund contained an initial investment of \$250,000. When the Fund was established in 2000 the Council agreed that the principal should be protected with an inflation-based adjustment and spending from the Fund should be maintained within the interest generated. The balance of the Fund stood at \$464,178 as of 31 August 2022.

3. Overview of Approved Offset Funding for 2023-24

Since 2017, Council has approved applications from staff each year for funding from this restricted reserve to incorporate into its OWP budget for the year coming to finance ongoing Waikaremoana survey and monitoring programmes, and to compensate for activities that staff would otherwise be undertaking elsewhere within the region, a principle that Council recommended and endorsed in 2016 [16/4/11.2].

Last year Council approved a draw down from the Fund of up to \$10,400 to support the ongoing monitoring, access and buoy related programme as well as purchase of a new Oxygen meter for use in Wairoa River System studies (incl. Waikaremoana) during the 2022-23 year.

4. Application for Funding towards Eastern Region's 2023-2024 OWP

The draft 2023-24 OWP provides for an ongoing compliance, monitoring, access and buoy related work programme at Waikaremoana, and Eastern Region wishes to apply for \$6,500 from the Fund to incorporate into this budget to offset staff time and expenses associated with the monitoring, access and buoy components of the exercise (compliance activities not eligible for funding from this source).

Additional to the sum of \$6500 above, staff are considering options for carrying out investigations into Wairoa River tributaries in the wake of Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle. Once an indicative programme and costs have been worked out, staff will approach Council with a further bid for draw down from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Fund.

5. Recommendation

5.1 That Council reviews and approves this application for funding of up to \$6,500 from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund.

12. SPECIES MONITORING REPORTS

Refs: 1.02.02, 1.06.01

20 March 2023

1. Purpose

To receive the summaries for the 2022 Rotorua Lakes Opening Day Creel Survey report and the 2023 Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan Trend Counts report.

2. Background

The Council annually resources a number of key species management programmes to assess and monitor sports fish and game populations and the success rate and degree of satisfaction of users of the sports fish and game resource. The information collected from these programmes enables the Council to make informed decisions on species management to ensure sustainable populations are maintained for recreational harvest. These programmes also provide valuable information for other parties such as Regional Councils who can use sports fish and game bird data to assess the effects of habitat changes on biological systems. The programmes provide credible datasets not only to underpin management decisions, but are vital for statutory advocacy and public awareness. This agenda item presents the executive summaries for the 2022 Opening Day Creel Survey and 2023 Trend Counts reports. Copies of the full reports are provided in the Papers for Information for this meeting.

3. Executive Summary for the 2022 Rotorua Lakes Opening Day Creel Survey Report

- Fish & Game staff conducted 470 interviews with anglers who had fished for 2543.3 hours in total and produced 463 fish for measurement during the Opening Day Creel Survey on Saturday, October 1st, 2022.
- Lake Tarawera anglers experienced catch rates that were significantly better than the 2021 ($P=0.001$) opening and well above the past 10-year average with one fish caught for just over every 2 rod hours. The average Tarawera fish caught at the 2022-23 opening was longer (6mm) and significantly heavier (167g, $P<0.001$) and in significantly improved condition compared to the fish weighed in at the 2021 opening ($P<0.001$). Hatchery released fish made up a lesser proportion of the catch (59%) compared with the 2021 opening (63%) and the hatchery contribution was well below the past 10-year average (66%). The two-year-old spring released hatchery fish caught this Opening Day were significantly larger (25mm, $P=0.001$), significantly heavier (190g, $P<0.001$) and in significantly improved condition compared to the 2021 Opening Day 2-year-olds ($P=0.007$). The autumn released 2-yr-olds were smaller (20mm), lighter (115g) but exhibiting improved condition factor compared to the same aged 2021 autumn released cohort.
- Lake Rotoiti anglers had a better Opening Day catch rate compared to the 2021 opening with one fish caught for just under 3 rod-hours fished. This catch rate was ahead of the past 10-year average catch rate (0.23 fish.hr). The average fish caught was smaller (8mm), lighter (151g), and in poorer condition than those caught during the 2021 opening. The two-year-old spring released hatchery fish were on average 2mm longer, but significantly lighter (145g, $P=0.003$) and in significantly poorer condition than the same aged fish caught on the 2021 opening day ($P=0.003$). At 510mm they were 11mm larger than the past 10-

year average length (499mm). The autumn liberated two-year olds were on average longer (12mm), slightly lighter (20g) and in significantly poorer condition than the same aged fish caught on the 2021 opening day ($P=0.03$). Rotoiti produced the largest fish weighed in across the three lakes (4.1kg).

- Lake Okataina anglers experienced an improved catch rate at the 2022 opening compared to the 2021 opening with one legal sized fish caught for every 2.5 hours effort. This catch rate bettered the past 10-year average of one fish per 3.23 hours effort. Hatchery liberated fish contributed the same percentage of the catch (71%) as at the 2021 Opening Day and this figure is almost identical to the past 10-year average (70.7% hatchery fish weighed in). The average fish caught was smaller (5mm) and lighter (130g), and in significantly poorer condition than at the 2021 opening ($P=0.019$). The two-year-old spring-released hatchery fish (Lp clip) were smaller (9mm), and lighter (100g), and these fish were in slightly poorer condition than the 2-year-olds caught during the 2021 Opening. The 2021 autumn released LpAd clipped fish were significantly smaller (22mm, $P=0.025$), significantly lighter (290g, $P=0.02$) and in poorer condition than the same aged fish caught at the October 2021 opening.

4. Summary for the 2022 Paradise Shelduck and Black Swan Trend Counts Report

Trend Counts

Monitoring of paradise shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*) and black swan (*Cygnus atratus*) was conducted in the Eastern Fish and Game Region over the period 14 – 15 January 2023. Inclement weather meant the East Coast (B1 & B2 management areas) could not be counted. Therefore the 2022 count data was used to set the 2023 regulations for these management areas. Paradise shelduck were counted at 28 known moult sites from aerial photos (cf. 64 in 2022), and black swan numbers were recorded at 37 ponds, lakes, and estuaries (cf. 72 in 2022). Results were analysed and presented using three different methodologies, total count with a fitted regression line, total count of sites counted each year since 1991, and, a variant of the route regression method (Geissler and Sauer 1990), referred to as a trend count in this paper. Season regulations are set as a function of the long-term (21 years) trend for paradise shelduck and black swan, while swan harvest regulation criteria also incorporate population size thresholds.

The paradise long-term trend count, reported by management unit in 2023 (A1, A2), were reasonably stable (although this is equivocal, i.e., the confidence intervals span zero). The long-term trend count in management areas B1 and B2 were considered relatively stable in 2022. Nevertheless, there is concern that Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle may have impacted the East Coast paradise shelduck populations, but we will not be able to assess this impact until the 2024 moult.

For the sites that have been counted each year since 1991 ($n=19$), the 2022 paradise shelduck count was the lowest yet recorded (4,758). Three models were fitted to this data set. A cyclical (sine wave), the average summer Southern Oscillation Index, and a linear model. The linear model fitted the data almost 30 times better than the next model (cyclical). The linear model indicates that the population at the sites counted every year has decreased ($\text{Year} = -118$, $P = 0.006$). This decreasing trend warrants careful consideration when setting season regulation policy.

Long-term counts of black swan indicate that the population is stable in all Management Units except A1 which may have decreased. The 2023 black swan regulations for B1 and B2 remained status quo with the 2022 season. Swan populations for 2022 in B1 and B2 were well below the threshold (1,000 birds) to hold a season, while A1 is above the relaxed season threshold of 3,000.

There was no evidence that the sites (n=20) where black swan have been counted each year 1991 – 2022 have undergone any consistent change.

Recommended 2023 game season conditions for paradise shelduck and black swan in the Eastern Region are given in Table 9 (page 13) and Table 12 (page 14) in the full report (see PFI).

Future EF&G Report (2nd Draft with notes from team discussions)

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.

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

Policies – Distribute list of policies to all and especially new councillors

Reduce Councillors from 12 to 10 (how does this help?) 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.

How does this help? Why 10? Why not 8? Or 9? Should be based on resources not size or staff

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 (this is a representation of our licence holders – majority are white, male and older!), and while keen to be a member of Council, do not always have the skills and experience to make a meaningful contribution (by reducing the numbers of Councillors you will be reducing diversity). To achieve greater representativeness both demographically and skill wise, (some benchmarks or criteria could be established to filter out prospective candidates) legality of this? 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 (Maybe attract the appropriate type. Highlight to prospective candidates what the role entails.

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. **YES!**

Councillor duties and expectations To attend at least **2** Too many – not many clubs! 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.

Concerns of interfering in ops

Milage concerns – additional costs

Maximum of 3 consecutive terms Although to have this as part of our legislation it does require legislative change. (wisdom and knowledge of those who have been part of the organisation for decades) 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.

Concerns of meddling – in past have been given presentations of activities

Can create a grey area of ops and governance

Operational

Operations

Employment and culture To be (a preferred employer) should be as usual 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.

Staff frustrated, not transparent, staff development – what development?

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

research can be opportunity for staff development

we have knowledge to it ourselves – outside parties do not have understanding of our work.

3rd parties use our research for their own aspirations

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.

Good as a mission statement but operations falls well below MPI standard

maybe change to best practice?

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 (maybe privacy issues?) 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.

National to lead

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'.

No expertise in videography

Over 1800 followers on FB

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.

Vital, waiting on EDM

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.

H&S concerns

Previously – volunteer/supporter group has been a one-way relationship

Create a business concept for the grounds Put together a (chargeable/donation)-concern of H&S needs rate that takes into account the community aspect of our site but will add a revenue stream and other 3rd 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'.

Licence holders are free access

Promote to all licence holders – financial support from national

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.

Legality?? Talk to Jack Kos/legal opinion

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) – H&S risk and biosecurity risk & security risk

-used to have 30 visits p year – dropped due to admin required by schools for visits

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) – legality and who would run them?

Potential disruption of work hours

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.

Grant opportunities/funding applications

Amalgamations

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

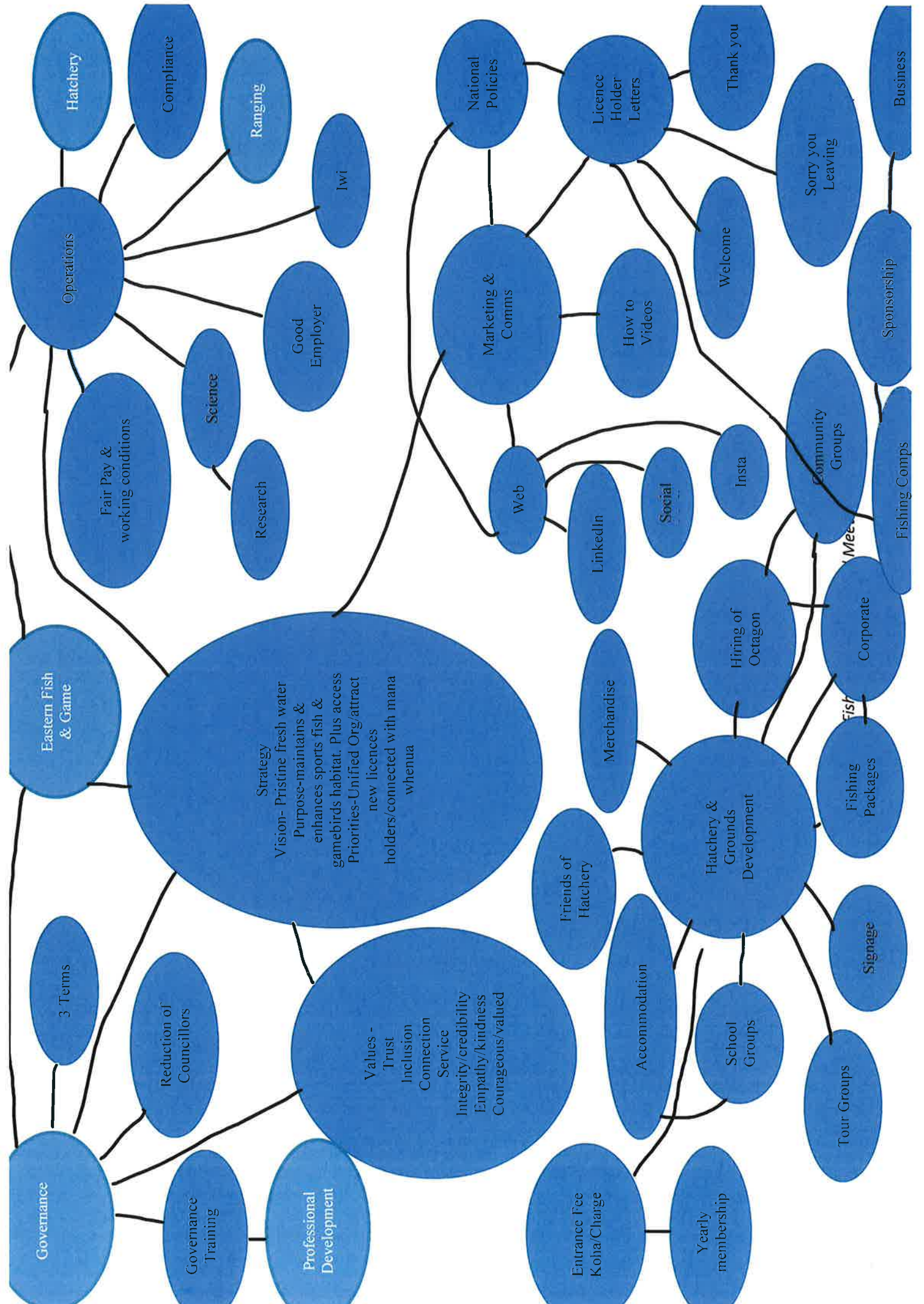
In the case of Eastern Region, it makes sense from a biogeographic and climatic point of view to combine central and northern Hawke's Bay with the East Coast because biogeography and climate are key drivers of population performance (i.e. productivity, survival etc). From a management and operational 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.

HB has challenging Council, will add another layer of reporting!!

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



Operations

- Hatchery
- Compliance
- Ranging
- Iwi
- Good Employer
- Fair Pay & working conditions
- Science
 - Research

Governance

- 3 Terms
- Reduction of Councillors
- Governance Training
 - Professional Development

Strategy
 Vision- Pristine fresh water
 Purpose-maintains &
 enhances sports fish &
 gamebirds habitat. Plus access
 Priorities-Unified Org/attract
 new licences
 holders/connected with mana
 whenua

Values -
 Trust
 Inclusion
 Connection
 Service
 Integrity/credibility
 Empathy/kindness
 Courageous/valued

Marketing & Comms

- National Policies
- Licence Holder Letters
 - Thank you
 - Welcome
 - Sorry you Leaving
- How to Videos
- Web
 - LinkedIn
 - Social
 - Insta
- Community Groups
 - Fishing Comps
 - Sponsorship
 - Business

Hatchery & Grounds Development

- Friends of Hatchery
- Merchandise
- Hiring of Octagon
 - Corporate
 - Fish
- Fishing Packages
- Accommodation
 - School Groups
 - Tour Groups
 - Yearly membership
- Entrance Fee Koha/Charge
- Yearly membership
- Signage
- Meetings
- Community Groups

14 Fish and Game, Licence Holder Disconnect

At the February Eastern Region meeting, I once again raised the issue of our ever-decreasing Fish and Game licence sales, as decreasing licence sales are a huge concern to the future of our organisation

The 2022 Eastern Region OWP acknowledges the importance of the R3 programme as a methodology to increase licence sales. It states that Fish & Game recognises the R3 concepts and actions relating to the **Retention** of existing licence holders, the **Reactivation** of lapsed licence holders, and the **Recruitment** of new licence holders as a model to follow.

It is very apparent from drilling down through this three “**R**” structure that it is much easier and more cost effective to place emphasis on the **Retention** aspect of the R3 programme, because these licence holders are already experiencing the hunting and fishing resource and F&G does not have to “sell” the concept of fishing and hunting to them. Yet despite the relative ease of retaining existing licence holders, F&G does not do it well. As I discuss below, there is a gaping disconnect between F&G and its licence holders.

F&G’s biggest struggle is with the **Recruitment** aspect of the R3 model, targeting those who have never held a licence. To sell the concept of fishing and hunting to these people is much more challenging, more expensive and considerably more time consuming than it is to retain existing licence holders.

It is the **Reactivation** aspect of the R3 model that I believe F&G are failing to recognise the potential of. Persons who have previously been licence holders, have experienced the fishing and hunting resource, and for any number of reasons have failed to renew their licences. Currently, when an ex F&G licence holder drops out of the licence data base as being non active, there is no F&G follow up. Also, even if that person has been a voting licence holder he/she is deleted from receiving the F&G magazine, the voice of F&G. For all intents and purposes, as far as F&G is concerned, these licence holders (many of whom held licences for a great number of years and contributed to F&G in one way or another) are gone. There is no follow up, there are no questions asked as to why they have chosen not to continue purchasing licences.

At the Eastern Region February meeting, I asked the question why this was the case, and received the response; that once a licence holder reaches 65 years of age there is no follow up because of the possibility of distressing families if those licence holders have since passed away.

With this as our current policy it is no wonder F&G are haemorrhaging licence holders in the **Reactivation** phase of the R3 programme. Chronological age does not define an old person nor determine when a person is going to die. Young people die too! Historically, F&G must have had a number of licence holders well under the age of 65yrs who have passed away, but who have continued to receive information from F&G until family have advised F&G of their passing. Have F&G experienced adverse reactions on these occasions? I am at a loss to understand why F&G have determined age 65 to be the cut off point for maintaining contact with previous licence holders, when it is this age group who very often have a disposable income and the time to follow up on their earlier pursuits, hopefully re-igniting their passion for hunting and fishing.

Surely it is obvious that the major thrust of the R3 programme should be directed at these people. Ask the questions to find out why they have left in the first place. Form a database from their answers for future reference. It is these responses that F&G can learn from, and use to determine the direction and changes we must make to address the needs of our clientele base, rather than just let them drift off in pursuit of other activities because they have possibly become dissatisfied or disillusioned with some aspect of our performance.

I mentioned above the F&G disconnect with its existing licence holders and include below an email from F&G National Office as a classic example. In this email, Hamish Carnachan encourages all licence holders to submit on the proposed NBEA bill, and states that an email will be going out from F&G to ALL licence holders. I know for a fact that many licence holders did not receive that email. This is backed up by the fact that when I spoke to my submission in Tauranga on the 2nd March, not one other licence holder was present; something I found unbelievable considering the importance of the impact of this document on the future of our fishing and hunting resource. This may well be a case of apathy, the traditional achilleas heel of F&G, but I suggest it is more the result of a communication disconnect between F&G and our licence holders.

From: Hamish Carnachan <hcarnachan@fishandgame.org.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 31 January 2023 3:30 pm
To: Regional Managers <regionalmanagers@fishandgame.org.nz>
Cc: Jack Kos <jkos@fishandgame.org.nz>; Rebecca Reed <RReed@fishandgame.org.nz>; Richie Cosgrove <rcosgrove@fishandgame.org.nz>; Bruce Quirey <BQuirey@fishandgame.org.nz>
Subject: NBEA campaign live

Hi all.

*With submissions closing Feb 5 (Sunday), we're about to kick off our NBEA campaign. Shortly an email will go out to **all** licence holders today with a call to action - make a submission. Jack has established that an extension is available to Feb 19 for members of the public if an application is made.*

Our campaign website will also soon be live (by end of the day at latest). It can be found [here](#).

We'd encourage you to share the link as far and wide as you can, including via any email newsletters etc your region may send out.

We'll keep you informed of other campaign initiative – media etc – as we get closer to rolling them out.

Cheers, H

I suggest that if F&G are unable to repair this obvious disconnect with licence holders, especially on such important issues as the upcoming NBEA Bill, then at the very least, NZC Comms should send emails directly to all standing Regional Councillors, as it is us councillors who are uniquely placed as persons voted onto the council by our stakeholders, and as persons knowledgeable of Fish and Game, who can then pass this information on.

The Recommendation: that our council discuss these two disconnect issues, and if agreed, send a letter to the NZC outlining the concerns addressed within this paper.

15. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

15.1 Conservation Boards

- Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

15.2 Reports from Other Agencies

- Department of Conservation

15.3 Report from New Zealand Council

- Cr Debbie Oakley

17. PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

Ref: 9.01.01

23 March 2023

1. Purpose

To receive an update on the recruitment process for a successor to replace the incumbent Eastern Fish and Game Council Manager, interim arrangements prior to an appointment being made, and to discuss Council's interview earlier in the day with a short-listed candidate.

2. Resolution

2.1 That pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at ... pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely to update Council with Remuneration process.

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
To receive an update on the organisational Remuneration process and cost Nationally and Regionally.	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.”