



**EASTERN  
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING  
AGENDA***

**10 August 2023**

## AGENDA

### The 203<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

**Date:** Thursday, 10 August 2023

**Commences:** 11.00 AM

	<u>Page Number</u>
1 Welcome (11.00 AM)	
2 Apologies	<b>(R)</b>
3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting ( <b>8 June 2023</b> ) (11.10AM 10min)	<b>(R)</b> 5
3.1 Identification of Items for Council Policy	
3.2 Matters arising from the meeting of 8 June 2023	
4 Notification of Items for General Business (11.20AM)	
5 Conflict of Interest Register	16
6 Presentation by Hon MP Todd McClay (11.30AM 30min) Working Lunch (12.10PM 20min)	
7 Operational Reports (12.20PM, 20 min)	
7.1 Health and Safety Report	<b>(R)</b> 18
7.2 Finance Report	<b>(R)</b> 20
7.3 Management Report	<b>(I/D)</b> 32
7.4 Licence Sales Report	<b>(I/D)</b> 46
8 2023-24 Operational Work Plan (12.40PM 10min)	<b>(R)</b> 48
9 Species Monitoring Report (12.50PM 5min)	<b>(R)</b> 49
10 Performance Management Policy (12.55PM 10min)	<b>(I/D)</b> 51
11 Liaison Officers Reports (1.05PM, 10 min)	<b>(I)</b> 56
12 General Business (1.15PM, 30min)	
• National REM Policy	
13 Public Excluded Session (1.45PM, 50min)	<b>(R)</b> 57
14 Meeting Closes (2.35PM)	

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

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 202<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH AND  
GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME NEW  
ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023 AT 11.00 AM**

**PRESENT**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Arash Alaeinia, Kate Thompson, Matt McDougall, Eben Herbert, Eden Mutton, Mark Sherburn, Anthony van Dorp and Matt Osborne (departed 11.25am) (Eastern Fish & Game).

**1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA**

- 1.1 Cr Ngahi Bidois opened the meeting with a karakia at 11:00am, and welcomed all present.
- 1.2 Ngahi thanked Council for their kind words over his father's recent passing and spoke of his dad's history and love of the Awahou river.

**2.0 APOLOGIES AND ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION**

- 2.1 Apologies were received from Crs. Jay Tapsell, and Alan Simmons; Sara Carley (Bay of Plenty Conservation Board); James Barnett (Department of Conservation Taupo); Ken Raureti and Arapeta Tahana (Te Arawa Lakes Trust).
- 2.2 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Lindsay Lyons) that the apologies for the 202nd meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [23/06/2.2]*
- 2.3 Council acknowledged Geoff Thomas' resignation from Council. Some discussion occurred regarding whether the Minister of Conservation needed to formally accept this resignation, the outcome being that advice to the Minister was deemed sufficient.

**3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (6 APRIL 2023)**

- 3.1 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Lindsay Lyons) that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [23/06/3.1]*

**3.2 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY**

No items were identified for inclusion in Council policy from the minutes of the meeting held 6 April 2023.

**3.3 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held 6 April 2023.

**4.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING (9 FEBRUARY 2023)**

- 4.1 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [23/06/4.1]*

**4.2 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY**

No items were identified for inclusion in Council policy from the minutes of the meeting held 9 February 2023.

**4.3 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held 9 February 2023.

## **5.0 RECONFIRMATION OF RESOLUTIONS MEETING OF 6 APRIL**

5.1 Council reviewed the resolutions that were made at the 6 April 2023 Council meeting where a quorum was not present and proceeded to reconfirm all of those resolutions including the two resolutions which were carried as a result of Cr Alan Simmons connecting via a device in order to vote on the matter. Reconfirmed resolutions follow:

### **APOLOGIES**

5.2 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Lindsay Lyons) that the apologies for the 201st meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. Reconfirmed meeting 8 June 2023 (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie). [23/06/5.2]*

### **OPERATIONAL REPORTS**

5.3 *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Ken Coombes) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. Reconfirmed meeting 8 June 2023 (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie). [23/06/5.3]*

5.4 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Mark Sceats) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for January and February 2023 totalling \$429,476.19. Reconfirmed meeting 8 June 2023 (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie). [23/06/5.4]*

### **2023-2024 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN**

5.5 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Mike Jarvie) that Council approves the six contestable fund applications as detailed on pages 1-12 of the Papers for Information. [23/04/9.11] Reconfirmed meeting 8 June 2023 (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie). [23/06/5.5]*

5.6 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Lindsay Lyons) that Council approves the draft Operational Work Plan for the 2022-2023 year. [23/04/9.14] Reconfirmed meeting 8 June 2023 (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie). [23/06/5.6]*

### **WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND**

5.7 *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Mike Jarvie) that Council approves funding of up to \$6,500 from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund as submitted. Reconfirmed meeting 8 June 2023 (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie). [23/06/5.7]*

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

- Cr Murray Ferris – Working bee at Waikaremoana
- Cr Debbie Oakley – Feedback REM Policy
- Cr Scott Nicol – Fresh water clams
- Arash Alaeinia – Future of Fish & Game
- Arash Alaeinia – Governance training
- Arash Alaeinia – Council and chair review process

## **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* – Report taken as read. Arash Alaeinia highlighted an incident occurring after writing of the report which related to a repetitive strain injury resulting from a solid period of mowing due to weather conditions leading up to the Game Season

opening. He said a full report was yet to be written and options to mitigate this from occurring in the future needed to be considered.

**8.2 *Agreed (Scott Nicol/Ken Coombes) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [23/06/8.2]***

**8.3 *Finance Report*** – Cr Debbie Oakley asked that items noted on the Councils bank transaction lists as “Staff expense – reimbursed” be itemised as to what they related to referring to requirements set out in the Council’s sensitive expenditure policy. Kate Thompson acknowledged there was provision for staff purchasing within the Sensitive Expenditure Policy but was not aware that it stipulated that staff spending must be itemised. Arash Alaeinia advised that he would review the Policy and report back to Council.

**8.4** Cr Lindsay Lyons queried the significant spend in the Awaiti WMR and whether other parties had contributed to this. Kate Thompson advised that \$4,000 had been funded by the Department of Conservation and a portion of the spending was to also come from the Ballot Holder Habitat Maintenance reserve. In John Meikles absence Eben Herbert provided a brief overview of the works which were required.

**8.5** Cr Ken Coombes wished to express his disappointment that Council would consider removing any benefits staff might gain through their employment with Fish & Game. In his experience he felt it was common for employees to benefit from their employers’ relationships and believed that the current level of detail was sufficient. Arash Alaeinia reiterated that he would review the Sensitive Expenditure Policy and update Council at its next meeting.

**8.6 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Scott Nicol) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for March and April 2023 totalling \$255,195.30. [23/06/8.6]***

**8.7 *Management Report*** – Items discussed included.

- Sharing of our Instagram page by our contacts for increased exposure.
- Query Wildlife Act review on hold?
- Efforts made to consult with Timberlands.
- More forests are being closed to public for security and health & safety reasons.
- Insurance for anglers using forests and acting as eyes and ears for increased security.
- Nationally access is a concern with more forests being purchased for carbon credits.

**8.8 *Licence Sales Report*** – Cr Lindsay Lyons expressed concern about the current variance to budget for licence revenue and particularly that the non-resident revenue appeared to be propping up the loss of resident licence sales. Arash Alaeinia advised the latest variance for fish licence sales was currently 3.9% below last season, adding that nationally fish licence sales are up 1.9%. He said this result was disappointing but considering the terrible weather over summer we had this season and the global and national economic climate he felt this was not as bad as it could have been. Improved weather would see a more positive impact on licence sales in the new season. Cr Murray

Ferris commented that he was surprised that there was no non-resident licence for Game Bird Hunting.

## **9.0 2023-2024 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN**

9.1 Arash Alaeinia informed Council that this 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the 2023-24 Operational Work Plan once accepted at today's meeting would be shared with other stakeholders for comment before final consideration and approval was needed at the August meeting of Council.

9.2 *Agreed (Scott Nicol/Ken Coombes) that Council approves the second draft of the 2023-24 Operational Work Plan and approves its circulation to other parties for comment. [23/06/9.2]*

## **10.0 2023-2024 ANGLER'S NOTICE**

10.1 Arash Alaeinia summarised the final minor change to the anglers notice which would conclude the Anglers Notice Process for the 2023-2024 Season.

10.2 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports the recommendation to change Note 5.5 (2) wording to 'No boats are permitted under the Bay of Plenty Regional Navigational Safety Bylaws to anchor in the Ohau Channel'. [23/06/10.2]*

10.3 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Lindsay Lyons) that Council concludes the Anglers Notice Process for the upcoming 2023-24 Season. [23/06/10.3]*

## **11.0 2023-2024 LICENCE FEES**

11.1 The increase in the Game Bird licence price was of concern to some Councillors as they felt the perception from hunters in this region was that it is not good value for such a restrictive season particularly in relation to the daily bag limit for mallard/grey duck. Cr Kevin Coutts queried Matt McDougall of the likelihood of a more relaxed season in the next year or two. Matt McDougall advised that from hunter surveys the average bag for around 75% of hunters was approximately 2.5 or less ducks per day. He said that surveys had shown that less than 10% of hunters were responsible for harvesting a very high percentage of the ducks and the limits controlled the harvest for that group but were adequate for the harvest of over 75% of Game Bird hunters. It was acknowledged that its more the perception that it is not good value because many hunters did not reach their limits during the season. Some additional discussion included:

- Family licence option for Game Bird hunting.
- The licence constitutes a small component of the total hunting cost of opening weekend.
- It's about the experience for many not the number of birds taken.
- \$22.60 per weekend for the 5 weekends mallard/grey duck hunting available compared with the low cost of fishing.
- The increase is less than inflation, prices of all things are rising.
- Query a higher opening day limit.
- F & G advocates for game bird hunters e.g. Gun law reforms
- Gisborne hunters don't see value as they don't actively see F & G.
- Social challenges facing Game Bird Hunting in NZ.
- Fish & Game is the voice for Hunters & Anglers in statutory planning processes.
- Wildlife Act review and potential impacts for Game Bird hunting.
- Misconception of licence holders that F & G is Government funded.

- New gun law requirements, \$600-\$700 (unconfirmed) for firearms licence may impact Game Bird hunting licence sales further.
  - Eastern F&G, fisheries team substitute man hours/costs in supporting statutory needs for Game bird management in Eastern region due to the higher labour needed for less than a quarter of angler licence holder numbers against Game bird licence holders.
- 11.2 Cr Debbie Oakley pointed out that the increase in the licence fee covers the increased costs of Fish & Game and if Council does not support the fee increase it needs to consider what it will not undertake to offset that cost. Staff highlighted that there was significant work undertaken for Game Bird Hunting throughout the region that is not necessarily in the public arena through planning and consenting processes which protect habitat and advocates for the species on behalf of licence holders. Fish & Game operates on a minimal budget and does a lot with the resources from licence revenue but in fact is unable to fulfill all its mandated responsibilities in terms of Game Birds due to not having the resources to do so. The cost ratio for managing Game Bird hunting in this region is a lot more than for managing the fisheries. Council agreed that F & G could improve licence holder perception by keeping people informed of the work we are doing for our licence holders.
- 11.3 ***Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Ken Coombes) that Council supports the proposed licence fees for 2023-2024 of \$153 (GST inclusive) for the Adult Whole Season Fishing licence, and \$113 (GST inclusive) for the Adult Whole Season Game licence (which includes \$5 for the Game Bird Habitat Trust). Motion was passed 4 in favour, 3 against, 2 abstained. Crs. Lindsay Lyons and Mark Sceats requested their vote against this motion be recorded. [23/06/11.3]***
- 11.4 Cr Lindsay Lyons expressed concern over the significant increase in licence fees for non-resident anglers pointing out the cost of five days for a non-resident to fish designated water was \$505 - a significant discrepancy compared with resident licence prices. He added that he had been communicating with Australian contacts who were not happy and felt that this will impact sales to non-residents. Cr Debbie Oakley provided some background information about why this category was being introduced noting the displacement of resident anglers in sensitive fisheries due to non-resident angling pressure in South Island fisheries particularly.
- 11.5 Cr Debbie Oakley also informed Council that all regions were contributing to the cost of the new system requirements for the Designated Waters licence even though not all regions had allocated designated waters.
- 11.6 ***Agreed (Murray Ferris/Ken Coombes) that Council supports the introduction of the new Designated Waters Licence, available as a \$5 annual licence per Fish & Game region for resident anglers and as a day licence to non-resident anglers at a fee of \$40. Motion was passed 5 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstained. Crs. Lindsay Lyons and Mark Sceats requested their vote against this motion be recorded. [23/06/11.6]***

***Council broke for lunch at 12.30pm, resuming at 1.00pm.***

## **12.0 RESIDENT/NON-RESIDENT DEFINITION**

- 12.1 The proposed change to the Non-Resident definition to align with that of DoC Taupo and the Immigration Act was discussed. Council's rationale not to support this proposal was primarily due to the high cost of a non-resident licence being placed on international students and those on work visas, excluding an estimated 200,000 people p.a. Eben Herbert said he understood that one of the reasons for the introduction of the higher priced non-resident licence was because international tourists did not contribute as much for access to angling as the New Zealand taxpayer and obviously those on work

visas and students supporting NZ's tertiary institutions did so through taxes and fees. Compliance was also raised as a potential issue.

**12.2** *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports amending the definition of resident and non-resident to align with the Immigration Act and Doc Taupo. Motion not passed. 2 in favour, 7 against. Cr. Scott Nicol requested his vote against this motion be recorded.*

### **13.0 NATIONAL RESERVES POLICY**

13.1 Council briefly discussed and supported the National Reserves Policy. The rationale for this was primarily that this region is large enough to operate on the lower threshold meaning existing reserves may be drawn down to 20% for future one off project expenditure rather than being added to the licence fee.

**13.2** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that Council supports the Draft National Reserve Policy. [23/06/13.2]*

### **14.0 FISH & GAME, LICENCE HOLDER DISCONNECT**

14.1 Cr Lindsay Lyons spoke to his paper regarding licence holder disconnect. Lindsay's principal concern was that Eastern region was not following up on lapsed licence holders. Lindsay pointed out that he did not purchase a licence this year due to being unable to fish and was concerned that he had not received an email, he understood that other regions had contacted lapsed participants by email and phone. Kate Thompson explained that a pre-Christmas email was sent to lapsed participants but did exclude a relatively small group of anglers aged 72/73 years plus. She and other regional administration staff were weary of sending multiple communications to the older lapsed licence holders as they were more likely to have been unable to participate. Despite this Kate advised that the difference in uptake between the group that were emailed and the group that were not was insignificant which suggested that the email was possibly not as successful as we might like to believe.

14.2 Arash Alaeinia advised that surveys completed in 2012 and 2021 had shown that the highest churn was in the 45-54 age group and the primary reason for lapsing was competition for time. Arash summarised the communications sent to licence holders as follows:

- Pre-Season Fish & Game magazine (Mailed to all Season licence holders)
- Pre-Season email "Licences on sale" (to all prior Season licence holders with email)
- Pre-Christmas email reminder (to lapsed from prior Season)
- Reel Life newsletter distributed to 140,000 past and present anglers
- Both Barrels newsletter distributed to 35,000 past and present hunters

14.3 Arash Alaeinia also commented on the Coastguard's direct debit approach and his recent donation to them following forgetting to cancel his subscription and questioned whether this would be a good approach for our licence holders that just forget to repurchase. Arash thanked Lindsay for taking the time to communicate his thoughts for discussion.

14.4 Cr Debbie Oakley highlighted that as she was required to be named as the primary holder of their family licence to stand on Council and as a result her husband had received several communications regarding his lapsed licence. Eben Herbert highlighted to the meeting that it is a statutory requirement for Fish & Game Councillors to hold a Whole Season



Licence. He said it has occurred in the past where Councillors have unwittingly let their licence lapse.

## **15.0 LIAISON OFFICER REPORTS**

### **15.1 *Report from the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board.***

No Report

### **15.2 *Report from the Department of Conservation***

No Report

### **15.3 *Report from the New Zealand Council***

Cr Debbie Oakley referred to NZC CE's summary contained in the Papers for Information. Debbie advised that the Terms of Reference for the New Zealand Council's Future Structure and Future Finance working groups had been completed. Debbie also commented on a change in the way contestable funding applications were considered/approved and thanked Cr Scott Nicol for attending the New Zealand Council meeting via zoom to support Eastern's bids in the absence of the Chair, Ngahi Bidois.

Debbie highlighted the need for Council to provide feedback on the REM policy contained within the papers for information. Arash Alaeinia advised that the paper was written to the effect that feedback was sought from management, however Debbie pointed out that as Council are the employers of staff it was appropriate for Council to provide feedback also. Discussion ensued as to whether Council are in fact the employers of staff as it was the understanding of some that Council employs the Manager, who is entirely responsible for the employment of staff. The liability of individual members of Council was also questioned, for example in terms of Health and Safety. As Cr Ngahi Bidois' experience as a Governor on other boards was contrary to what had been recently advised to Cr Debbie Oakley through her role as NZC appointee, Ngahi asked that advice be sought regarding the Council's position on employment and member liability. Arash Alaeinia proceeded to summarise the background and basis for the REM policy. Cr Ngahi Bidois suggested that Council could feedback directly to Debbie as our NZC representative.

Cr Mark Sceats queried the research funding granted to Eastern Fish & Game and why Council had not been informed of this application and its intent, which was contained within the Papers for Information for Australasian Shoveler Management project of \$8000. Matt McDougall advised that funding for this project was sought and approved prior to Covid but had been deferred. It was resubmitted and subsequently approved for 2023-24. Matt advised that the purpose of this funding was for GIS expertise to prove the statistical robustness of the national shoveler survey.

## **16.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

16.1 Cr Kevin Coutts requested that Cr Jay Tapsell's suggestion of weekend Council meetings be considered and put up for discussion on the August meeting agenda.

16.2 Cr Scott Nicol queried the recent news of the invasive freshwater clams found in the Waikato and asked if staff had any further updates? Arash Alaeinia confirmed that Council has the latest update and highlighted possible issues for this region. Eben Herbert advised that Eastern's fisheries staff had close ties with AWFG staff, particularly Adam Daniels, who was at the forefront of the issue. Council asked for updates of interest.

16.3 Cr Murray Ferris advised that the Waikaremoana Boating & Fishing Assn (WBFA) were holding a working bee 22-24 June at Waikaremoana, and he would forward email to

Council as open invite to help. Murray added that the WBFA had also gained approval from Tuhoe to install the shallow water markers applied for previously and we can expect that an application for these will be resubmitted to Council in due course.

- 16.4 Arash Alaeinia advised that the Council and Chair review process is due and that he has provided the current questionnaire along with that of the Auckland Waikato Council for information. Arash advised that he aims to complete the review process for the August meeting and asked Council to inform him if they felt additional questions were necessary. Otherwise, the version presented will be sent out and to be returned to the Chair to present a summary at the August meeting.
- 16.5 Cr Kevin Coutts asked for the Council agenda and papers to be couriered due to postal delays. Arash suggested once emailed please contact him if papers have not been received within a few days. It seemed local deliveries were worst affected, therefore Arash suggested that staff could deliver local copies otherwise if we are notified, we can have copies available at the meeting.
- 16.6 Cr Lindsay Lyons requested that a reminder be sent to Councillors a few days out from a meeting to ensure attendance and a quorum is achieved. Arash Alaeinia advised that the meeting calendar was provided to all but was happy to send additional reminders to assist Councillors if needed.
- 16.7 Discussion had occurred earlier in the meeting about the “Future of Eastern Fish & Game” paper. Arash Alaeinia thanked Crs. Lindsay Lyons and Jay Tapsell for their written responses. Cr Murray Ferris and others questioned the relevance of limiting Councillor terms to three consecutive terms, citing the loss of institutional knowledge in doing so. Cr Debbie Oakley advised a change to Councillor terms is not likely to happen soon as this would require a change to the legislation. She believed Council needed to focus on what could be achieved without changes to legislation. Debbie advised that Fish & Game needs to and is taking control of its own destiny. She commented on NZC working groups such as the Future Finance group which was reviewing existing Policies and Guidelines to do better and implement more structure in our processes under the existing legislation. Further, we need to take control to ensure our viability and fairness within regions. Debbie advised that they were aiming for outcomes by the end of this year.
- 16.8 Arash Alaeinia advised that an approved user had been selected for Governance training and options were to undertake this in person or electronically. Arash suggested electronically to make it easier for all to attend.

**17.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION**

**17.1 *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Murray Ferris) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 2.18 pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, to review possibility of amalgamation with Hawke’s Bay Fish & Game Region.***

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	GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR
---	---------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

	<b>RELATION TO EACH MATTER</b>	<b>THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION</b>
Assess operational and governance structure of an amalgamation of Eastern and Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Regions.	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii): That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.

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:

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>REASON UNDER ACT</b>	<b>SECTION</b>	<b>PLAIN ENGLISH REASON</b>
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.

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

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

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

**17.2 That Council moves out of public excluded at 3.15 pm.**

**17.3 That the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 3.15 pm.**

**18.0 MEETING CLOSED**

18.1 The meeting closed at 3.16pm.

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

## Summary of Resolutions

- 2.0 APOLOGIES AND ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION**
- 2.2** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Lindsay Lyons) that the apologies for the 202nd meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [23/06/2.2]*
- 3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (6 APRIL 2023)**
- 3.1** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Lindsay Lyons) that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [23/06/3.1]*
- 4.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING (9 FEBRUARY 2023)**
- 4.1** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Debbie Oakley) that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [23/06/4.1]*
- 5.0 RECONFIRMATION OF RESOLUTIONS MEETING OF 6 APRIL**
- 5.2** *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Lindsay Lyons) that the apologies for the 201st meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. Reconfirmed meeting 8 June 2023 (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie). [23/06/5.2]*
- 5.3** *Agreed (Mike Jarvie/Ken Coombes) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. Reconfirmed meeting 8 June 2023 (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie). [23/06/5.3]*
- 5.4** *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Mark Sceats) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for January and February 2023 totalling \$429,476.19. Reconfirmed meeting 8 June 2023 (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie). [23/06/5.4]*
- 5.5** *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Mike Jarvie) that Council approves the six contestable fund applications as detailed on pages 1-12 of the Papers for Information. [23/04/9.11] Reconfirmed meeting 8 June 2023 (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie). [23/06/5.5]*
- 5.6** *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Lindsay Lyons) that Council approves the draft Operational Work Plan for the 2022-2023 year. [23/04/9.14] Reconfirmed meeting 8 June 2023 (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie). [23/06/5.6]*
- 5.7** *Agreed (Mark Sceats/Mike Jarvie) that Council approves funding of up to \$6,500 from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund as submitted. Reconfirmed meeting 8 June 2023 (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie). [23/06/5.7]*
- 8.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS**
- 8.2** *Agreed (Scott Nicol/Ken Coombes) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [23/06/8.2]*
- 8.6** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Scott Nicol) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for March and April 2023 totalling \$255,195.30. [23/06/8.6]*
- 9.0 2023-2024 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN**
- 9.2** *Agreed (Scott Nicol/Ken Coombes) that Council approves the second draft of the 2023-24 Operational Work Plan and approves its circulation to other parties for comment. [23/06/9.2]*
- 10.0 2023-2024 ANGLER'S NOTICE**
- 10.2** *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports the recommendation to change Note 5.5 (2) wording to 'No boats are permitted under the Bay of Plenty Regional Navigational Safety Bylaws to anchor in the Ohau Channel'. [23/06/10.2]*
- 10.3** *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Lindsay Lyons) that Council concludes the Anglers Notice Process for the upcoming 2023-24 Season. [23/06/10.3]*
- 11.0 2023-2024 LICENCE FEES**
- 11.3** *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Ken Coombes) that Council supports the proposed licence fees for 2023-2024 of \$153 (GST inclusive) for the Adult Whole Season Fishing licence, and \$113 (GST inclusive) for the Adult Whole Season Game licence (which includes \$5 for the Game Bird Habitat Trust). Motion was passed 4 in favour, 3 against, 2 abstained. Crs. Lindsay Lyons and Mark Sceats requested their vote against this motion be recorded. [23/06/11.3]*
- 11.6** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Ken Coombes) that Council supports the introduction of the new Designated Waters Licence, available as a \$5 annual licence per Fish & Game region for resident anglers and as a day licence to non-resident anglers at a fee of \$40. Motion was passed 5 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstained. Crs. Lindsay Lyons and Mark Sceats requested their vote against this motion be recorded. [23/06/11.6]*

- 12.0 RESIDENT/NON-RESIDENT DEFINITION**  
**12.2** *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports amending the definition of resident and non-resident to align with the Immigration Act and Doc Taupo. Motion not passed 2 in favour, 7 against. Cr. Scott Nicol requested his vote against this motion be recorded.*
- 13.0 NATIONAL RESERVES POLICY**  
**13.2** *Agreed (Murray Ferris/Mike Jarvie) that Council supports the Draft National Reserve Policy. [23/06/13.2]*
- 17.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION**  
**17.1** *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Murray Ferris) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 2.18 pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely, to review possibility of amalgamation with Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Region. [23/06/17.1]*  
**17.2** *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Murray Ferris) that Council moves out of public excluded at 3.15 pm. [23/06/17.2]*  
**17.3** *Agreed (Debbie Oakley/Murray Ferris) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 3.15 pm. [23/06/17.3]*

## 5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

24 July 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 matter<sup>1</sup> i.e:

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

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

- (i) There is a realistic connection between the member’s private interest(s) and the interest(s) of the Council;
- (ii) The member’s other interest could specifically affect, or be affected by, the actions of the Council in relation to a matter;

---

<sup>1</sup> “Matter” means:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **3. Recommendation**

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

**6. PRESENTATION**  
Hon MP Todd McClay

**7. OPERATIONAL REPORTS**

**7.1 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT**

**Ref: 9.01.07**

**20 July 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.

**May – July 2023**

<b>1. Implementation and Adherence to the Health and Safety Plan</b>	
Regular (weekly) staff meetings.	
Minutes from the Health and Safety portion of the meeting are emailed to all staff.	
Visitors to the office and contractors are required to sign our desk register, and our hazard register is updated as required.	
<b>Tail Gate forms completed for:</b>	
May 2023	Removal of tree fall – F & G site
May 2023	Waikaremoana/East Coast fisheries visit
June 2023	Drift dive Tarawera outlet
June 2023	Tree removal – aviaries
June 2023	Debris removal – Ngongotaha trap
<b>2022-2023 Budget for Health &amp; Safety \$2,000</b>	

<b>2. Monitoring and Reporting</b>	
<b>Work Place Accident Register</b>	<b>20/07/2023</b>
Number of Workplace injuries in 2022-2023 year	<b>2</b>
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
<b>Total number of lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total number of days since last lost work injury</b>	<b>788</b>
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 21/3/21	245
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 19/7/20	1,053
Days from prior lost work injury to lost work injury on 31/8/17	1,363
Days since formal register commenced 1/09/95 to first lost work injury 7/12/13	6,672

### **3. Risk Management (identification and treatment)**

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

- 22 May 2023 Potholes! Poaching call outs Ruato – double up, police in necessary
- 29 May 2023 Nothing new
- 5 June 2023 Be aware of overuse (machinery such as tractors). RSI computers/driving. Weather.
- 12 June 2023 Nothing new
- 19 June 2023 Mindful heavy rain – high rivers/soggy grounds
- 26 June 2023 Tee Wairoa trap flooding, weather.
- 3 July 2023 Potholes, slippery roads, cold.
- 10 July 2023 Be aware of poachers – spawning streams
- 17 July 2023 Nothing new

### **4. Training Programme**

Nil

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

Since the last report a staff member has reported a repetitive strain injury a result of excessive tractor mowing prior to the Game season opening. An investigation has been completed and measures considered to prevent this type of injury occurring in the future.

### **6. Recommendation**

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

## 7.2 FINANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.01

20 July 2023

### 1. Purpose

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

Tables within this report:

Table 1	Variance Report to 30 June 2023
Table 2	Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2023
Table 3	Profit and Loss to 30 June 2023
Tables 4 & 5	Bank Transactions May and June 2023
Tables 6 & 7	Credit Card Transactions May and June 2023

### 2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the period ending 30 June is provided in Table 3.

#### *Income*

2023 Game licence revenue is reporting to be \$14,519 below budget YTD and this is not far off the final result for the season. Fish licence revenue is also reporting to be under budget YTD (\$35,566) on the back of a very poor summer period. Non-resident licence revenue is \$40,565 and no budget was set for this due to uncertainties surrounding the level of return of non-residents. 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 \$28,325 and was made up of the following: hatchery income (\$7,230), fishing competitions (\$434), and rentals (\$9,459). Fines from prosecutions collected through the courts totalled \$329 and funds were also received from diversion processes for expense recovery and junior education programmes (\$200 and \$700 respectively). Other revenue was received from the NZ Fish & Game Council for contract services (\$3,555), from the Department of Conservation for weed control in the Awaiti WMR (\$1,000), and for the lease of the boat shed on Tarawera (\$867). Interest was received on general reserves (\$3,316), and on the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Fund (\$1,222).

#### **Species Management**

Harvest assessment expenditure over the two months related to the Game Bird Hunter surveys.

The main expense within the Hatchery budgets related to fish food (\$7,772). Expenses were also incurred for hatchery maintenance, fuel, electricity, and oxygen. The Hatchery area is over budget YTD \$5,960 and this is related primarily to increases to the price and freight on fish food and increased vehicle maintenance costs.

#### *Habitat*

A minor expense is reported within the Habitat output related to a GST correction. The overspend within the Habitat output is offset by a contribution from DOC for the Awaiti floodgate repairs (\$4,000), and the drawing of funds from the Ballot Holder Habitat Maintenance reserve.

### ***Participation***

Access spending for the period related track maintenance on the Whaeo access tracks (\$676). Other minor expense reported within the period related to electricity for the Waikaremoana hut. Within budget YTD.

### ***Public Interface***

A small expense is reported for the Wetland forum within the Public Promotions budget and rubber bunds were purchased for the boat sheds on site to prevent flooding. Over budget YTD (\$1,787) due to timing of expenses and increased grounds maintenance expenditure.

### ***Compliance***

Compliance expenses are reported relating to the purchase of trail cams, and the 0800 Poaching service and cell phone. Legal fees were also incurred for prosecutions. The Compliance output is within budget YTD.

### ***Licensing***

Within the licensing output an expense is reported relating to the development of the new Designated Waters component of the licence purchasing system (\$4,312). The total cost of this work has been split between the twelve Fish & Game regions on a pro-rata basis dependant on the level of their non-resident licence sales since that levy was introduced. This payment represents half of Eastern's total contribution which is to be drawn from the Region's non-resident reserve at year-end. Licensing costs also include the printing of Eastern's A4 regulation pads for short term licences, and agent commissions and the fees associated with the Public Online sales. Reduced agent commissions and fees this season have offset the cost of the Designated Waters project despite being provided for by reserves, which means the Licencing output is currently reporting to be within budget YTD.

### ***Council***

Expenses are reported within the Council budgets relating to catering and travel reimbursement for the June meeting of Council. Over budget YTD \$2,919 due to higher than anticipated travel expenses.

### ***Planning***

Planning expenses for the period relate to various meetings for the R3 Programme, and Liaison with various parties. Planning expenses are over budget \$855 YTD due to unbudgeted meeting expenses which will be offset by the R3 budget which remains largely unspent (\$8,500).

### ***Administration***

Salaries	Over budget YTD (\$3,380)
Staff Expenses	FBT was paid in May (\$9,208) and other staff expenses for the period included staff clothing, morning tea expenses, meal expenses, and flu vaccines. The hatchery assistant role was advertised on Seek, and a registration fee for the OSNZ conference was paid. Within budget YTD.
Staff Houses	Spending on the staff houses was significant this period due to a change in tenants providing the opportunity to undertake some outstanding maintenance and improvements whilst one house was vacant. A window was also replaced in the staff quarters and the hot water Cali font serviced as contractors available and on site undertaking the house maintenance. The staff houses budgets are overspent \$5,595 YTD a result of the increased maintenance required this year. This variance will remain at year-end; however, we

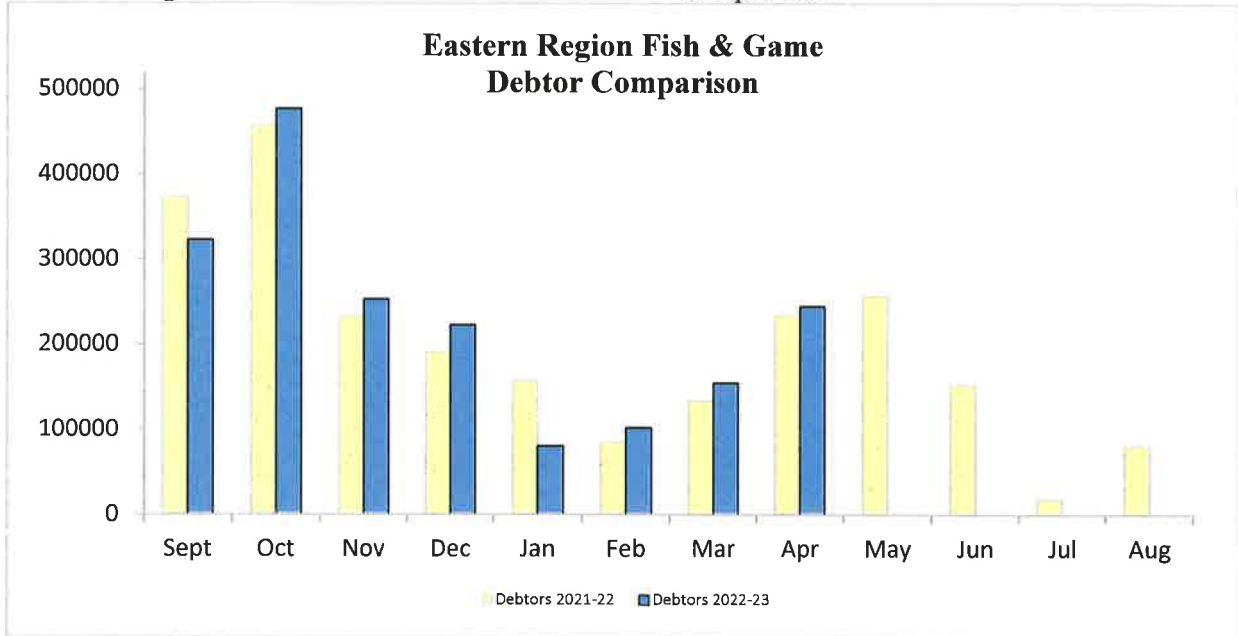
	anticipate increased rentals in the new year upon re-leasing of the fire depot on site which was recently vacated by FENZ.
Office Premises	Office premises expenses related to a leaky toilet, electricity, cleaning, rubbish removal, and alarm monitoring. Over budget YTD (\$2,179). The overspend is a combination of increased rates (\$354) and insurance (\$1,083) both of which budgets have been adjusted in the new year but also increase cleaning costs. This year with more public on the site it was necessary to introduce a regular cleaning regime for the public toilet facility to occur in conjunction with the administration building cleaning, this was not budgeted.
Office Equipment	Office Equipment expenses include a monitor stand, replacement of the hot water zip tap, and the phone system and eftpos lease costs. Over budget YTD (\$489) due to additional equipment requirements for new staff.
Communications/ Consumables	Standard communications expenses are reported for the period including phones, broadband, stationery, and photocopying. A MESH wifi system was installed to alleviate coverage issues around the office and to support a new VOIP telephone system which was supplied and installed by local company Phocal Communications. With the copper network being removed in August this year we needed to review options for VOIP services utilising the Starlink internet service. The new system is at a similar lease cost to our previous outdated system, but savings will be made in the removal of the copper lines to an internet-based service 2TALK. IT service costs were also incurred to set up workstations to sync with new NAS storage device which has replaced the server. Within budget YTD.
General	Expenses are reported for the Survey Monkey subscription, morning teas, and bank charges. Overbudget YTD (\$2,456) and this is due to increased general insurance costs.
General Equipment	Equipment expenses for the period included Maritime surveys for the three boats, maintenance to ride on mower and chainsaw, and equipment and boat fuel. Over budget YTD (\$2,509) due to unanticipated repairs to the tractor and timing of the Maritime surveys which now occur 3 yearly.
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the period included scheduled servicing of four vehicles, a replacement fog lamp, insurance and registration of a new vehicle, and fuel/RUCs. The Vehicles budgets are overspent YTD (\$4,176) and this is due to increased fuel and maintenance expenses. Although this variance will likely reduce over the next period, FBT (within the Staff Expenses area) was underbudget \$3,291 this year due to an increase personal use and therefore contributions by some staff. Although in a different budget group this will contribute to offset these increased vehicle expenses.

**Cash Position: As at 30 June 2023**

\$ 841,804 (includes \$78,584 Asset Replacement Reserve)  
\$ 460,579 (Waikaremoana SFHEF – Restricted Reserve)  
**\$1,302,383 Total**

**Debtors:** Outstanding Debtors \$117,212 as at 30 June 2023 (\$151,987 as at 30 June 2022).

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



Debtors outstanding as at 30 June are primarily related to licence sales \$112,159. All debtors are current.

**3. Variance Report (Table 1)**

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

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

as at 30 June 2023

Schedule B Code	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Variance		
1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 40,700	\$ 40,796	2,124	2,004	\$ 142,317	\$ 136,672	\$ -	\$ 1,718	\$ 183,017	\$ 175,750	\$ 7,267	96.0	
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,900	\$ 1,866	681	590	\$ 45,630	\$ 40,238	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,530	\$ 42,104	\$ 6,426	86.8	
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 83,350	\$ 86,660	2,962	2,992	\$ 199,807	\$ 204,054	\$ 58,000	\$ 37,636	\$ 225,157	\$ 253,078	\$ (27,921)	112.4	
1160	Releases	\$ -	\$ -	134	136	\$ 8,979	\$ 9,275	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,979	\$ 9,275	\$ (297)	103.3	
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	50	60	\$ 3,350	\$ 4,092	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,350	\$ 4,092	\$ (742)	122.1	
1180	Control	\$ 500	\$ -	36	18	\$ 2,412	\$ 1,228	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,912	\$ 1,228	\$ 1,685	42.2	
	<b>TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>\$ 127,450</b>	<b>\$ 129,322</b>	<b>6,007</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>\$ 402,495</b>	<b>\$ 395,559</b>	<b>\$ 58,000</b>	<b>\$ 39,354</b>	<b>\$ 471,945</b>	<b>\$ 485,527</b>	<b>\$ (13,582)</b>	<b>102.9</b>	
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ -	\$ -	1,412	1,387	\$ 94,610	\$ 94,593	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 94,610	\$ 94,593	\$ 17	100.0	
1220	Works & Management	\$ 17,500	\$ 23,544	934	971	\$ 62,582	\$ 66,222	\$ 11,650	\$ 11,807	\$ 68,432	\$ 77,959	\$ (9,527)	113.9	
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 2,700	\$ -	770	310	\$ 51,593	\$ 21,142	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,293	\$ 21,142	\$ 33,151	38.9	
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	72	72	\$ 4,824	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,824	\$ -	\$ 4,824	0.0	
1250	Lake Waikaremoana	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	
	<b>TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION &amp; M</b>	<b>\$ 20,200</b>	<b>\$ 23,544</b>	<b>3,188</b>	<b>2,668</b>	<b>\$ 213,610</b>	<b>\$ 181,957</b>	<b>\$ 11,650</b>	<b>\$ 11,807</b>	<b>\$ 222,160</b>	<b>\$ 193,694</b>	<b>\$ 28,466</b>	<b>87.2</b>	
1310	Access	\$ 5,500	\$ 6,232	692	576	\$ 46,367	\$ 39,283	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,867	\$ 45,515	\$ 6,352	87.8	
1330	Newsletters/Information	\$ -	\$ -	318	167	\$ 21,307	\$ 11,389	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,307	\$ 11,389	\$ 9,918	53.5	
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,410	36	1	\$ 2,412	\$ 68	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,412	\$ 1,478	\$ 2,934	33.5	
1350	Training	\$ 650	\$ 133	812	444	\$ 54,407	\$ 30,281	\$ 7,000	\$ 3,768	\$ 48,257	\$ 26,646	\$ 21,612	55.2	
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	32	27	\$ 2,144	\$ 1,841	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,144	\$ 1,841	\$ 303	85.9	
1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 1,094	46	18	\$ 3,082	\$ 1,228	\$ 400	\$ 722	\$ 4,132	\$ 1,600	\$ 2,533	38.7	
	<b>TOTAL - ANGLER &amp; HUNTER PARTICI</b>	<b>\$ 9,800</b>	<b>\$ 8,869</b>	<b>1,936</b>	<b>1,233</b>	<b>\$ 129,720</b>	<b>\$ 84,090</b>	<b>\$ 7,400</b>	<b>\$ 4,490</b>	<b>\$ 132,120</b>	<b>\$ 88,469</b>	<b>\$ 43,651</b>	<b>67.0</b>	
1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	72	106	\$ 4,824	\$ 7,229	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,824	\$ 7,229	\$ (2,405)	149.8	
1420	Communication	\$ -	\$ -	116	48	\$ 7,772	\$ 3,274	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,772	\$ 3,274	\$ 4,498	42.1	
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 1,000	\$ 698	114	47	\$ 7,638	\$ 3,205	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,638	\$ 3,903	\$ 4,735	45.2	
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 500	\$ 1,589	668	213	\$ 44,759	\$ 14,527	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,259	\$ 16,116	\$ 29,143	35.6	
	<b>TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>	<b>\$ 1,500</b>	<b>\$ 2,287</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>\$ 64,994</b>	<b>\$ 28,235</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 66,494</b>	<b>\$ 30,522</b>	<b>\$ 35,972</b>	<b>45.9</b>	
1510	Ranging	\$ 1,000	\$ 975	930	687	\$ 62,314	\$ 46,853	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 63,314	\$ 47,828	\$ 15,486	75.5	
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,181	104	115	\$ 6,968	\$ 7,843	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,968	\$ 9,024	\$ (1,056)	113.2	
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 5,000	\$ 916	336	141	\$ 22,513	\$ 9,616	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,016	\$ 21,513	\$ 8,516	\$ 12,997	39.6	
	<b>TOTAL - COMPLIANCE</b>	<b>\$ 7,000</b>	<b>\$ 3,072</b>	<b>1,370</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>\$ 91,796</b>	<b>\$ 64,312</b>	<b>\$ 6,000</b>	<b>\$ 2,016</b>	<b>\$ 92,796</b>	<b>\$ 65,368</b>	<b>\$ 27,427</b>	<b>70.4</b>	
1610	Licensing	\$ 600	\$ 4,859	124	169	\$ 8,309	\$ 11,526	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,909	\$ 16,385	\$ (7,476)	183.9	
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	158	48	\$ 10,587	\$ 3,274	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,587	\$ 3,274	\$ 7,313	30.9	
	<b>TOTAL - LICENSING</b>	<b>\$ 600</b>	<b>\$ 4,859</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>\$ 18,895</b>	<b>\$ 14,799</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 19,495</b>	<b>\$ 19,658</b>	<b>\$ (163)</b>	<b>100.8</b>	
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,119	457	313	\$ 30,621	\$ 21,347	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,621	\$ 28,466	\$ 7,155	79.9	
	<b>TOTAL - COUNCILS</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,119</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>\$ 30,621</b>	<b>\$ 21,347</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 35,621</b>	<b>\$ 28,466</b>	<b>\$ 7,155</b>	<b>79.9</b>	
1810	Management Planning	\$ 8,500	\$ 273	281	53	\$ 18,628	\$ 3,615	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,328	\$ 3,888	\$ 23,441	14.2	
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	64	55	\$ 4,288	\$ 3,751	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,288	\$ 3,751	\$ 537	87.5	
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 9,950	\$ -	391	271	\$ 26,199	\$ 18,482	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,149	\$ 18,482	\$ 17,667	51.1	
1840	National Liaison	\$ 50	\$ 903	256	171	\$ 17,287	\$ 11,662	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,337	\$ 12,565	\$ 4,772	72.5	
	<b>TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING</b>	<b>\$ 18,500</b>	<b>\$ 1,176</b>	<b>994</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>\$ 66,602</b>	<b>\$ 37,510</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 85,102</b>	<b>\$ 38,686</b>	<b>\$ 46,416</b>	<b>45.5</b>	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 190,050</b>	<b>\$ 180,248</b>	<b>15,204</b>	<b>12,138</b>	<b>\$ 1,018,733</b>	<b>\$ 827,809</b>	<b>\$ 83,050</b>	<b>\$ 57,667</b>	<b>\$ 1,125,733</b>	<b>\$ 950,390</b>	<b>\$ 175,343</b>	<b>84.4</b>	

OVERHEADS		EXTERNAL COSTS		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST		%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance	Budget	Variance	
1910	Salaries	\$ 929,707	\$ 753,380	\$ 11,680	\$ 19,599	\$ 918,027	\$ 733,781	\$ 184,246		79.9
1920	Staff Expenses	\$ 24,000	\$ 14,091	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,000	\$ 14,091	\$ 9,909		58.7
1930	Staff Houses	\$ 10,306	\$ 15,166	\$ 55,000	\$ 45,863	\$ (44,694)	\$ (30,697)	\$ (13,997)		68.7
1940	Office Premises	\$ 20,000	\$ 19,174	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 19,174	\$ 826		95.9
1950	Office Equipment	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,659	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,659	\$ (59)		102.3
1960	Communications/Consumables	\$ 17,200	\$ 14,489	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,200	\$ 14,489	\$ 2,711		84.2
1970	General	\$ 11,000	\$ 12,676	\$ 1,500	\$ 6,649	\$ 9,500	\$ 6,227	\$ 3,273		65.6
1980	General Equipment	\$ 16,600	\$ 16,909	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,600	\$ 16,909	\$ (309)		101.9
1990	Vehicles	\$ 55,500	\$ 51,176	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 55,500	\$ 51,176	\$ 4,324		92.2
	Administration	\$ 1,086,913	\$ 899,920	\$ 68,180	\$ 72,111	\$ 1,018,733	\$ 827,809	\$ 190,924		81.3
	Total Overhead Net Cost			\$ 1,018,733	\$ 827,809					
	Total Outputs Staff Hours			15,204	12,138					
	Internal Cost Per Hour			67.00	68.20					

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

Schedule C	Code	Output	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	Variance	%
			Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual			
	1	Species Management	\$ 127,450	\$ 129,322	6,007	5,800	\$ 402,495	\$ 395,559	\$ 58,000	\$ 39,354	\$ 471,945	\$ 485,527	\$ (13,582)	102.9	
	2	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 20,200	\$ 23,544	3,188	2,668	\$ 213,610	\$ 191,957	\$ 11,650	\$ 11,807	\$ 222,160	\$ 193,694	\$ 28,466	87.2	
	3	Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 9,800	\$ 8,869	1,936	1,233	\$ 129,720	\$ 84,090	\$ 7,400	\$ 4,490	\$ 132,120	\$ 88,469	\$ 43,651	67.0	
	4	Public Interface	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,287	970	414	\$ 64,994	\$ 28,235	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66,494	\$ 30,522	\$ 35,972	45.9	
	5	Compliance	\$ 7,000	\$ 3,072	1,370	943	\$ 91,796	\$ 64,312	\$ 6,000	\$ 2,016	\$ 92,796	\$ 65,368	\$ 27,427	70.4	
	6	Licensing	\$ 600	\$ 4,859	282	217	\$ 18,895	\$ 14,799	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,495	\$ 19,658	\$ (163)	100.8	
	7	Councils	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,119	457	313	\$ 30,621	\$ 21,347	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,621	\$ 28,466	\$ 7,155	79.9	
	8	Planning, Reporting	\$ 18,500	\$ 1,176	994	550	\$ 66,602	\$ 37,510	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 85,102	\$ 38,686	\$ 46,416	45.5	
	9	Administration			6,950	6,013									
		Total Overhead Staff Hours	\$ 190,050	\$ 180,248	22,154	18,151	\$ 1,018,733	\$ 827,809	\$ 83,050	\$ 57,667	\$ 1,125,733	\$ 950,390	\$ 175,343		
		TOTAL BUDGET													

Licence Income 2022-2023		Budget	Actual
2022-23 Fish Licence Income		\$ 1,079,901	\$ 1,072,003
	Less Commission	\$ -	\$ -
Net Fish Licence Income		\$ 1,079,901	\$ 1,072,003
2023 Game Licence Income		\$ 269,723	\$ 254,981
	Less Commission	\$ -	\$ -
Net Game Licence Income		\$ 269,723	\$ 254,981
Total Licence Income		\$ 1,349,624	\$ 1,326,984
Total Commission		\$ -	\$ -
Total Net 2022-23 Licence Revenue		\$ 1,288,891	\$ 1,279,020

% year complete		83%	84%
OMP Bulk Fund	Actual Net Cost YTD	\$ 1,125,733	\$ 950,390
Adjustment to OWP budgets - National Approved Budget			
	less Interest	\$ (9,505)	\$ (11,083)
	Plus NZ Fish & Game Levies	\$ 158,586	\$ 118,939
	Less Licence Revenue	\$ (1,349,624)	\$ (1,326,984)
	Plus Commission Expense	\$ 60,733	\$ 47,964
	Plus Gain Loss on Sale/Revaluation	\$ (28,157)	\$ (24,794)
	Depreciation	\$ 74,244	\$ 62,550
	Subtotal	\$ 32,010	\$ (183,017)
Adj to OWP budgets - Waikaremoana Fund			
	Less Waikaremoana Fund Interest	\$ (7,937)	\$ (2,666)
	Plus Waikaremoana Fund Expenses	\$ 8,000	\$ 1,509
Adj to OWP budgets - Non Res Reserve - Lake Taupo Project			
Adjusted Budget	Actual(surplus)/deficitYTD	\$ 32,073	\$ (184,174)



**Table 2**

**Balance Sheet**  
**Eastern Fish and Game Council**

As at 30 June 2023

<b>Assets</b>	<b>30 Jun 2023</b>	<b>31-Aug-22</b>
<b>Bank</b>		
Westpac Current Account	112,075	5,995
Westpac Call Account	7,601	235,121
Petty Cash	727	221
Investments	721,402	511,039
Waikaremoana Fund Investments	460,579	470,050
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>1,302,383</b>	<b>1,222,425</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Accounts Receivable	118,071	80,402
Accounts Receivable - Hawke's Bay & External parties	(859)	0
Inventory - Fish Stock	168,939	168,939
Prepayments and Accrued Income	0	10,176
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>286,152</b>	<b>259,517</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Buildings	1,043,849	1,043,849
Land	102,000	102,000
Motor Vehicles	453,795	425,025
Office Equipment	58,607	61,185
Plant & Equipment	198,899	198,899
Accum Dep Land & Buildings	(752,584)	(729,394)
Accum Dep Motor Vehicles	(147,928)	(159,830)
Accum Dep Office Equipment	(44,283)	(53,119)
Accum Dep Plant & Equipment	(166,375)	(160,204)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>745,980</b>	<b>728,411</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>2,334,515</b>	<b>2,210,353</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	21,812	36,799
Accruals and Prepaid Licences	78,422	135,453
Employee Entitlements	78,416	87,769
Game Bird Habitat Stamp Levy Clearing	11,562	0
GST	10,669	(8,954)
PAYE Clearing	22,401	31,606
Salmon Endorsement Clearing	287	0
Staff Social Club	2,984	2,671
Business Credit Card - Closed	0	1,273
Westpac Business Credit Card - A Alaeinia	213	0
Westpac Business Credit Card - K Thompson	(160)	0
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>226,606</b>	<b>286,618</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>226,606</b>	<b>286,618</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>2,107,909</b>	<b>1,923,735</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Accumulated Funds	1,201,331	1,280,725
Asset Replacement Reserve	49,427	49,427
Back Country Fisheries Reserve	171,276	130,711
Breeding Programme Reserve	1,018	1,018
Fish for Gold Reserve	14,000	14,000
Hatchery Water Reticulation Reserve	16,571	16,571
Hunter Ballot Reserve	5,934	5,934
Waikaremoana Sportsfish Habitat Enhancement Fund Reserve	464,178	464,178
Current Year Earnings	184,174	(38,829)
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>2,107,909</b>	<b>1,923,735</b>



<b>Table 3 Profit and Loss - Council</b>							
<b>Eastern Fish and Game Council</b> For the 2 months ended 30 June 2023							
<b>Income</b>	<b>May 2023</b>	<b>Jun 2023</b>	<b>YTD Actual</b>	<b>YTD Budget</b>	<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>Var YTD</b>	<b>Var YTD %</b>
Licence Income	114,364	20,440	1,286,415	1,336,500	1,349,624	(50,085)	-4%
Non-Resident Licence Levy Revenue	1,316	772	40,565	0	0	40,565	0%
Other Income	11,569	16,756	168,324	154,667	196,829	13,657	9%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>127,249</b>	<b>37,968</b>	<b>1,495,304</b>	<b>1,491,167</b>	<b>1,546,453</b>	<b>4,137</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>							
Depreciation	6,572	6,572	62,550	61,870	74,244	680	1%
<b>1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>							
1110 Population Monitoring	0	0	40,864	40,700	43,200	164	0%
1120 Harvest Assessment	720	690	1,866	2,400	2,900	(534)	-22%
1140 Hatchery Operations	1,732	8,706	86,660	80,700	83,350	5,960	7%
1180 Game Bird Control	0	0	0	500	500	(500)	-100%
<b>Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>2,452</b>	<b>9,396</b>	<b>129,390</b>	<b>124,300</b>	<b>129,950</b>	<b>5,090</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT</b>							
1220 Works & Management	53	0	23,544	16,500	17,500	7,044	43%
1230 Assisted Habitat	0	0	1,441	1,700	2,700	(259)	-15%
<b>Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24,984</b>	<b>18,200</b>	<b>20,200</b>	<b>6,784</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>1300 PARTICIPATION</b>							
1310 Access	0	676	6,232	5,250	5,500	982	19%
1340 Other Publications	0	0	1,410	2,000	2,000	(591)	-30%
1350 Training	0	0	133	750	850	(617)	-82%
1370 Huts	81	106	1,094	1,250	1,450	(156)	-12%
<b>Total 1300 PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>782</b>	<b>8,869</b>	<b>9,250</b>	<b>9,800</b>	<b>(381)</b>	<b>-4%</b>
<b>1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>							
1440 Public Promotions	37	0	698	0	1,000	698	0%
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education	674	0	1,589	500	500	1,089	218%
<b>Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,287</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,787</b>	<b>357%</b>
<b>1500 COMPLIANCE</b>							
1510 Ranging	261	68	975	850	1,000	125	15%
1520 Ranger Training	0	0	1,181	1,000	1,000	181	18%
1530 Compliance	150	100	916	4,170	5,000	(3,254)	-78%
<b>Total 1500 COMPLIANCE</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>3,071</b>	<b>6,020</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>(2,949)</b>	<b>-49%</b>
<b>1600 LICENSING</b>							
1610 Licence Prod/Distribution	0	4,859	4,859	600	600	4,259	710%
1630 Commission	4,960	804	47,964	60,142	60,733	(12,178)	-20%
<b>Total 1600 LICENSING</b>	<b>4,960</b>	<b>5,663</b>	<b>52,824</b>	<b>60,742</b>	<b>61,333</b>	<b>(7,918)</b>	<b>-13%</b>
<b>1700 COUNCIL</b>							
1720 Council Meetings	558	1,185	7,119	4,200	5,000	2,919	70%
<b>Total 1700 COUNCIL</b>	<b>558</b>	<b>1,185</b>	<b>7,119</b>	<b>4,200</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>2,919</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>1800 PLANNING/REPORTING</b>							
1810 Management & Strategic Planning	202	50	273	0	8,500	273	0%
1830 Reporting/Audit	0	0	(0)	300	9,950	(300)	-100%
1840 National Liaison	66	17	119,843	118,988	158,636	855	1%
<b>Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>120,115</b>	<b>119,288</b>	<b>177,086</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>1900 ADMINISTRATION</b>							
1910 Salaries	72,185	71,032	753,380	750,000	935,207	3,380	0%
1920 Staff Expenses	9,584	725	14,091	21,700	24,000	(7,609)	-35%
1930 Staff Houses	3,448	877	15,166	9,571	10,306	5,595	58%
1940 Office Premises	1,466	1,574	19,174	16,995	20,000	2,179	13%
1950 Office Equipment	163	364	2,659	2,170	2,600	489	23%
1960 Communications	1,024	1,382	14,489	14,920	17,200	(431)	-3%
1970 General	242	158	12,876	10,420	11,000	2,456	24%
1980 General Equipment	2,608	334	16,909	14,400	16,600	2,509	17%
1990 Vehicles	4,547	5,514	51,176	47,000	55,500	4,176	9%
<b>Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>95,267</b>	<b>81,960</b>	<b>899,920</b>	<b>887,176</b>	<b>1,092,413</b>	<b>12,744</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>111,333</b>	<b>105,794</b>	<b>1,311,129</b>	<b>1,291,546</b>	<b>1,578,526</b>	<b>19,583</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>15,916</b>	<b>(67,827)</b>	<b>184,174</b>	<b>199,621</b>	<b>(32,073)</b>	<b>(15,447)</b>	<b>-8%</b>

#### **4.0 Fixed Assets**

<b>Purchases</b>	<b>Sales</b>
2023 Mitsubishi Triton	Nil

#### **5.0 Recommendations**

***5.1 That the payments for May and June 2023 totalling \$335,491.44 be approved.***

<i>May - Current account</i>	<i>\$230,973.04</i>
<i>June - Current account</i>	<i>\$98,750.14</i>
<i>May/June - Credit Card - AA</i>	<i>\$806.62</i>
<i>May/June - Credit Card - KT</i>	<i>\$4,961.64</i>
<i><b>Total</b></i>	<i><b>\$335,491.44</b></i>

## 7.3 MANAGEMENT REPORT

21 July 2023

### SPECIES MANAGEMENT

#### 1112 Datawatch

During the ten months following the season opening on 1 October, a total of 642 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database. The distribution is as follows:

Lake McLaren	1
Lake Okareka	13
Lake Okataina	142
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	19
Lake Rotoehu	4
Lake Rotoiti	135
Lake Rotoma	14
Lake Rotorua	8
Lake Tarawera	306

*data entered to 30 June 2023*

The total number of tags returned and entered in the database is 56 returns behind the same approximate date (entered 13 July 2022) during the 2021-22 season. Lake Rotoiti has had 55 more tags reported, Lake Okataina is also slightly ahead compared to the 2021-22 season to date. Lake Tarawera is down by 68 returns, and this is possibly due to reporting from the Te Wairoa trap run being interrupted due the high stream/lake level allowing fish to get around the trap for a period of the run. Lake Rerewhakaaitu is just behind last year's returns. All the other lakes are behind on tags returned. This could be due to a combination of poor angling weather conditions over the summer, high water restricting access and in the case of Lake Rotorua, cessation several years ago of releasing tagged fish.

#### Datawatch draw

The Datawatch licence draw to entice, and reward returns of datawatch tags and information was undertaken on 26 June 2023. This was to facilitate the winners being advertised in the Fish & Game magazine supplement which has a deadline of end June. This year we were able to reward 10 winners who have been offered a whole season adult licence for the upcoming 2023-24 angling season.

The winners of 2023-24 Whole Season licences are:

Michael Berry	<b>Hamilton</b>	Carl Jacobsen	<b>Rotorua</b>
Chris Taylor	<b>Rotorua</b>	Lorraine Cate	<b>Auckland</b>
Colin Greenslade	<b>Rotorua</b>	Hyeshin Park	<b>Auckland</b>
Mark Greaves	<b>Auckland</b>	Brian Potiki	<b>Rotorua</b>
Brian Pethybridge	<b>Rotorua</b>	Gary Breingan	<b>Tauranga</b>

## **1113 Lake Waikaremoana**

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

The monitoring buoy is continuing to send through data despite it occasionally going through low battery voltage shutdown. The replacement top case has just 2 solar panels compared to the 4 that were on the original setup (prior to vandalism) and the short days (low sunshine hours) around the winter equinox are not sufficient always to keep the buoy operational above its 11.5V cutoff. This just means that when it gets below 11.5V, the buoy goes into hibernation until the battery is recharged enough to auto-switch back on. As the days get longer heading towards summer, this won't be an issue. Staff will undertake a clean of the sensor lines when next at the lake with the boat.

### **Lake Waikaremoana 2022 Winter Trout Fishery Monitoring Report**

#### **Executive Summary**

The Lake Waikaremoana trout fishery was monitored over the 2022 winter (June – September inclusive) through 'walk-up' fish escapement counts, angler creel surveys supplemented through angler diary returns.

'Walk-up' escapement counts were conducted in the Hopuruahine, Waiotukupuna, Mokau and Marauti streams during the 2022 winter months of June, July, August and September. Consistent, if not heavy falls of rain were regularly received during the May to September period. Both rainbow and brown trout were sighted in only low numbers across all tributaries surveyed during June and July. During August, rainbow trout were shown to peak in numbers within the Hopuruahine and Mokau streams and the largest tally of brown trout was also recorded in the Waiotukupuna Stream. The Marauti Stream walk-up counts indicated a steady presence of brown trout throughout the winter months surveyed.

Catch rates for tributary-based anglers averaged 1 fish per 49 minutes angling effort, and 119.75 hours fishing was recorded. Boat-based fishers accounted for 308.7 hours angling, averaging 1 fish per just over every 1 hour and 40 minutes effort. All anglers surveyed stated that they were satisfied with their 2022 winter's angling at Lake Waikaremoana.

176 Rainbow trout were caught and recorded during the 2022 winter. They were on average significantly larger (15mm,  $P=0.004$ ) and significantly heavier (250g,  $P=0.034$ ) than the rainbow trout catch measured during the 2021 winter. A total of 14 brown trout were measured during the 2022 winter. The overall length was larger than the 2021 brown trout, however data should be treated with caution when making comparisons as low sample sizes were taken. Means of the lengths from 2020-2022 were all within confidence limits.

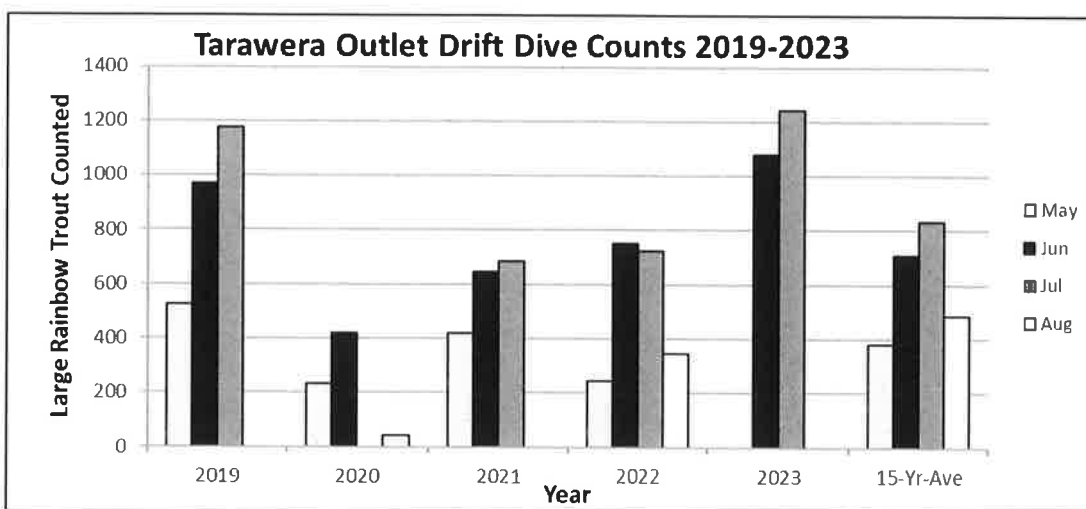
The initial period of monitoring to set a baseline data set under the new regime has been completed. Future winter monitoring is to be undertaken on a 3-yearly cycle. The next winter survey is scheduled for 2025. Undertaking monitoring in this manner and integrating lake level changes and/or environmental data provided by the lake water quality monitoring buoy will allow significant changes in the fishery to be detected. This provides a more appropriate monitoring system than the 5-yearly snapshots that were previously undertaken.

## 1114 Lake Tarawera

### Tarawera Outlet Drift Dive Survey

The uppermost portion (1km) of the Tarawera River including the spawning sanctuary was initially drift dived by Fish & Game staff on 12 June when a total of 1,079 large size class trout were counted. This is the highest June count achieved since 2019 when 968 large fish were counted. The 15-year June average is 707 large trout.

The July 2023 drift dive occurred on 11 July 2023. A total of 1,268 large size class trout were counted. The 15-year average for July drift dive counts is 833 large trout.



The final Tarawera Outlet drift dive for the 2023 winter will be undertaken during August.

### Lake Tarawera escapement monitoring

Staff undertook a walk-up spawning trout count within the Wairua Stream on 18 July. This involved polaroiding for trout between the lake and the Wairua waterfall which prevents further upstream travel and is approximately 2.5km from the lake. Trout were classified within large (>450mm), medium (180-450mm) and small (<180mm) size ranges.

Date	Large Trout Counted
09-07-19	3033
20-05-20	3156
02-06-21	4034
05-08-22	1185
18-07-23	1430

This winter's count observed lower numbers than seen during visits over the 2019 to 2021 period but produced similar numbers of trout sighted as in 2022. Timing of the visits can affect the counts, but this year's mid-July count is closely aligned with the 2019 and 2022 work. There was evidence of major flood flows causing erosion to the stream banks and realignment of the channel in places.

### Wairua Hut angling data

The Wairua hut has been open for bookings between 1 October and 30 June with the aim of letting being to collect data on the trout fishery. Over the 2022-23 season there was relatively low occupancy up until the latter part of the season where weather conditions were improved.

A total of 72.5hrs angling was recorded in angler diary sheets returned from hut occupants. This came from 17 diaries of which only 2 recorded angling from the Wairua stream mouth. All other angling was boat-based and occurred at other locations around the lake. Average catch rate recorded overall was 0.51 fish per hour. From the Wairua stream mouth catch rate was recorded as 0.25 fish per hour but consisted of just 3.5hrs total effort. Of 40 legal sized fish landed, 8 fish were recorded as harvested and there were 2 undersized fish released. A harvest rate is calculated out at 20% legal sized fish. 10 fish lengths were recorded with an average of 503mm.

### **Lake Tarawera Food Web Report**

Cawthron Institute have finalised the study commissioned in 2019 to examine the drivers of food web productivity in Lake Tarawera.

#### ***Abridged summary***

Lake Tarawera, an iconic rainbow trout fishery within the volcanic lakes of the North Island of New Zealand has been on a long-term decline in terms of trout size. This has raised questions of why this is occurring and what management actions could be employed within this lake to halt the decline and produce larger fish for anglers.

The study quantified seasonal food web patterns within Lake Tarawera using stable isotope data to identify ecosystem-based management opportunities for the lake's rainbow trout fishery.

Late autumn provided the greatest pelagic open-water-derived-diet in both smelt and trout. The pelagic resource growth was related to the increased abundance of mid-water column diatoms (deep chlorophyll maxima) a strong driver of zooplankton production. Trout weight within a given year was found to correlate more strongly with mid-water chlorophyll concentrations than any other depth/season combination.

Analysis of long-term winter spawning escapement (Te Wairoa trap) showed density dependant population growth oscillated around an indicative carrying capacity of 1,000 fish in an annual run. A density-dependant growth relationship showed population growth in a given year tended to be negative when population size in a preceding year tended to be large. Conversely growth was positive when the preceding years population was small. Population growth was greater than expected for a given year when the mean annual chlorophyll concentration was above average.

A guideline matrix was created that demonstrated how two management actions (fish stocking and harvest regulations) could be used in an adaptive framework in response to trout population cycles and inter-annual variation in primary production.

This study was finalised in April 2023 with presentation of the final report from Cawthron Institute.

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

#### **Online Angler Diary Report**

A total of 51 eligible entries were received for the online (Survey Monkey) Angler Diary scheme prize draw undertaken on 27<sup>th</sup> June. This contained all online entries since the last draw

was conducted on 15-06-22. The winner of the \$100 voucher was Neal Hawes from Turangi for entering a Lake Okataina angling diary from May 2023.

In summary 49 of the 51 entries give information about angling on the Rotorua lakes and tributaries; seven from fishing Lake Rotorua tributaries (Ngongotaha, Waiteti), one from the upper Tarawera River (Lake Tarawera Outlet), and 41 of the entries came from the Rotorua lakes. One report arrived from lake McLaren (Tauranga) and one from Lake Waikaremoana. To summarise, eight entries were from streams/ rivers and 43 from lakes.

### **Ngongotaha Fish Trap**

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

The Ngongotaha fish trap facility was not operated during the month of June due to flooding and debris in the trap.

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

The trap was cleared of debris on 17 July. It is being left without gates for a short period of time to allow sediment buildup upstream of the trap structure to flush through prior to trap assembly. Staff aim to have the trap running over the last week of July.

### **1116 Waterfowl Monitoring**

#### **Band returns**

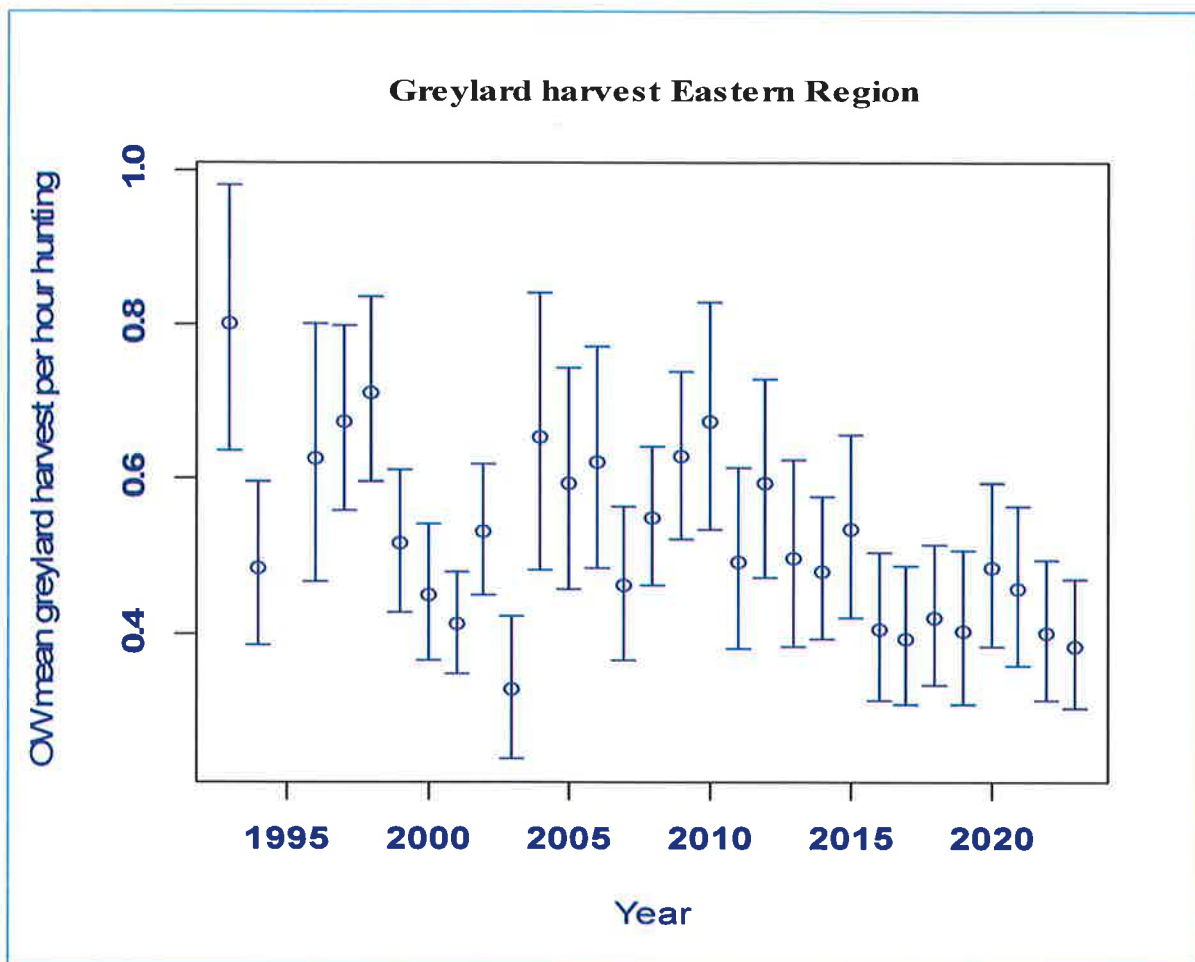
Band returns appear to be down on previous years. They are still dribbling in, but we would have expected more by now. Over 180 bands have been reported this year but only 82 of those are from the 2023 band cohort (i.e. were banded this year). Hunters are incentivised to report bands through draws for a free game bird licence and Hunting & Fishing have put up five sets of decoys as prizes. We survey hunters to estimate reporting rates – it will be interesting to see if it is down this year.

### **1123 Game Bird Hunter Survey**

The national hunter survey is well underway with Eastern surveys completed for the mallard season. We had predicted a good start to the game bird season following a great mallard breeding season but had kept the season short as the number of hens were still low. Total greylard (mallard + grey duck) harvest for the opening was up slightly on last year but hunter numbers were down by about 170. So, although Eastern hunters shot more ducks on average compared with last year they also hunted for more hours. The result of this was that they shot about the same number of ducks per hour as last year (Figure 1).

The total harvest of greylard for the whole season was also up on last year (a full report will be provided to Council once the game season has finished).

The results to date are still tentative. Eastern's estimated harvest is derived from surveys of Eastern licence holders as well as hunters that purchased licences from other regions but hunted in the Eastern Region. Unfortunately, Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Region have not entered their harvest survey data on to the website yet, so we still don't have a complete estimate.



**Figure 1. Mallard and grey duck (greylard) shot per hour hunting waterfowl over opening weekend in the Eastern Region 1993 – 2023.**

### 1141 Hatchery Operations

Rainfall and lake levels have made trapping, and brood fish collection difficult, however, enough crosses have been taken to meet the liberation programme for 2024. Many of the season's crosses have been moved out to troughs and rearing tanks are being populated with fry for the 2024 season. Final Autumn liberations were completed in May and yearling rainbows in the rearing ponds have been spread out prior to spring liberations.

*Fish locations at 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023:*

Location	Type	Age	Qty (approx)	Comment
Hatchery	Rt	0+	100K	2024 season liberations
Tank A	Rt	0+	1,050	Auck/Waik Region 2023 Trips
Tank D	Bt	0+	1,000	2023 liberations, various
Tank F	Brook	0+	140	Brood for 2023 onward
Pond 3	Rt	1+	10,000	Spring liberations 2023
Pond 4	Rt	1+	6,600	Spring liberations 2023
Pond 5	Rt	1+	6,600	Spring liberations 2023
Pond 6	Rt	1+	6,600	Spring liberations 2023
Pond 7	Rt	1+	6,600	Spring liberations 2023
RW1&2	Rt	1+	5,600	KF and sales 2023



### 1143 Te Wairoa Trap

The trapping season at the Fish & Game fish trap (Te Wairoa Stream) at Lake Tarawera started on the 1st of April following trap installation. As at the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2023 we have trapped 1,353 fish. This compares to 2,396 during 2022 and 2,020 fish during the 2021 run to the same date. For a large part of the trapping season (since mid-May) water has been going around the trap due to excess rainfall, high lake level, and high silt loading within the stream.

The average size of the trout running this winter is 561mm and 2.08kg compared with 552mm and 2.07kg to the same period in the 2022 run. Wild origin fish have contributed 32% of the run to the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2023 compared to 38% over the same period in 2022. The wild fish this winter have been on average 530mm long and 1.80kg in weight. They are significantly longer (11mm,  $P<0.001$ ) and slightly heavier (40g) on average than the 2022 wild fish. The hatchery marked fish up to 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2023 have been on average 575mm long and 2.22kg in weight, which is significantly longer (10mm,  $P<0.001$ ) and slightly heavier (20g) than the fish running the Te Wairoa Stream during the 2022 winter for the same period.

### 1161 Sports Fish Liberations

*Liberations, Eastern Region 22 May – 20 July, 2023*

Water	Date	Mark	Tag	Species	Age	Qty
Rotoehu	1/06/2023	LpAd	-	RT	1+	1500
Okareka	30/05/2023	LpAd	-	RT	1+	2000
Rotoma	25/05/2023	LpAd	-	Tiger	1+	760
Rotoma	25/05/2023	LpAd	-	RT	1+	2000

*Three loads of fish were collected by Auckland Waikato Fish & Game and one by Northland Fish & Game.*

## 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 early drafts of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and chapters of the Regional Natural Resources Plan (RNRP). Comments have recently been submitted on a draft version of the fish passage provisions for the RNRP.

#### Waikato Regional Council

In March 2018 Auckland/Waikato and Eastern Fish and Game Council's lodged a joint submission on Waikato Regional Council's Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora: Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1. Council hearings were held mid-2019. Decisions were released in May. A/W Fish and Game Council, with support from Eastern, have appealed a number of matters. Environment Court hearings are currently under way.

### **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.

### **Other**

Bay of Plenty Regional Council has established a group to provide advice in relation to policy development for NPSFM implementation. Fish and Game is part of this Rural and Environmental Sector Organisation Forum.

Various Fish and Game regions have been collaborating on a submission to amend some parts of the NES-Freshwater 2020 that are viewed as unacceptable to us. Of particular interest to Eastern Region are some unreasonably strict regulations around physical works in wetlands, and on the construction of maimai. Some other areas of involvement at a national level include intensive winter grazing provisions, and the Essential Freshwater Work Programme involving Freshwater Farm Plans and Stock Exclusion Regulations, and the exclusion of natural coastal wetlands from the NES-FW.

The Government plans to repeal the RMA and replace it with three new pieces of legislation. Government recently introduced the Spatial Planning Bill and the Natural and Built Environment Bill to Parliament. RMA staff throughout the country have been collaborating and a formal submission has been lodged in this process. The Select Committee has recommended a number of changes in line with Fish & Game's submissions, including the protection of the habitat of trout and salmon. While this is an extremely positive outcome there is still work to be done in other areas.

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.

The NZ RMA team has been very active recently with a number of important workstreams on the go – including development and consultation on Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan, freshwater fish species interaction and passage, water allocation and limit setting, and development of practice notes. In addition to our regular Teams meetings, the group recently met in person in Christchurch.

## 1212 Consent Applications

Date	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
21 Apr	GDC	Kauri Forestry Ltd	LUC -- afforestation of harvested forest	Maungao Bay Station, Whangare	No concerns email
18 May	GDC	Aratu Forest Ltd	LUC- forest harvest	Hokora, Tolaga Bay	No concerns email
22 Jun	BOPRC	BOPRC	LUC- weed removal strandings	Lake Rotorua	Conditions imposed
3 Jul	GDC	Craigmore Sustainables	LUC- forest harvest and earthworks	Pakarae River	No concerns email

## 1221 Reserves Management

All wetland reserves have been closed to any form of hunting at the conclusion of the mallard season (5<sup>th</sup> June 2023) excepting Hardcastles and Rawhiti lagoons at Reporoa.

Due to the ongoing extraordinary weather events, most wetlands water levels remain higher than operational maximum, and we are endeavouring to lower levels within permitted ranges. While the high levels remain, any form of maintenance or vehicle inspections are on hold – due to significant hunting season access damage limiting safe access, and to minimise any further damage.

Planning for pest weed spraying, water reticulation and track repairs, and mowing schedules are currently be planned for spring commencement.

Wetland Management Agreements; these are required as part of the gazetted management process and have progressed over the past three years. All agreements have now been signed by all parties and are now effectively active.

DOC and F&G are in discussions with BoPRC regarding water supply to managed wetlands in the Bay of Plenty. Some confusion has arisen regarding the legalities of these water supplies as to requiring resource consents or not. This has occurred due to a very old resource consent for water to supply Awaiti expiring which has highlighted the issue. We believe a positive solution can occur. We will keep the Council informed as to progress.

## 1231 Respond to Landowner Requests for Assistance

No new landowner requests for assistance / advice have been received since the May Council report.

## 1232 Habitat Creation and Enhancement Projects

### Habitat Works

We receive weekly works notifications from BOPRC Rivers and Drainage detailing what scheme maintenance is required – often affecting fishery streams. During the spawning period no works are permitted to occur in stream, but we proactively assess each proposal to minimise spawning disturbance balancing the needs of adjoining infrastructure and property loss (i.e., erosion factors being worse than specific site disturbance). Some confusion has arisen recently within the wider BOPRC catchment management team as to what can occur – to which we are

meeting to standardise some format to ensure all parties are fully consulted and approve works within the current legislation.

### **Waikato Catchment Environmental Enhancement Fund (WCEET)**

Sports fish and game bird habitat has again done well in WCEET's latest funding round. At the 63<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Trust, which Eastern Fish & Game is a member of, approximately \$281,000 was allocated to projects that directly benefit fish & game including 53 ha of habitat. All up \$463,411 were granted for habitat enhancement projects that will go towards the purchase and planting of 150,653 plants, creation of 16.2 km of riparian fences and protection and enhancement of 3,336 ha of habitat. Eighteen organisations were successful in their funding bids which totalled almost \$760,000.

## **ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION**

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

The winter recreational access into the Timberlands forests is open for anglers and hunters, weekends only during daylight hours. Access maintenance checks on signs and access points is on-going with maintenance as required. Signage around the Rotorua lakes is being updated to reflect the 1 October opening change on lakes Rotoiti, Okataina and Tarawera.

The access work at Lake Rerewhaakaitu is on hold due to increasingly high lake water levels, and will not be done until such time as the lake level recedes.

High water levels at various Rotorua lakes is also impeding angler access to winter fishing areas, including Lakes Rotoma, Rotoehu, Okataina, Tarawera, along with Rerewhaakaitu, and other lakes to various extents.

### **1312 Signage**

Sign maintenance and enhancement is ongoing with replacements as required.

### **1331 Electronic Newsletters**

Both Barrels E-Zine was produced for May and June. Reel Life is not produced over the winter period.

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

Updates or changes to the Eastern Web site included Council agendas and minutes.

### **1334 Social Media**

Social media posts continue to be made via Facebook and Instagram. Angler/hunter inquiries are being received via social media.

### **1341 Information Pamphlets**

Adequate stocks of brochures are held and distributed as required.

### **1351 Junior Angler/Hunter Programmes**

The first of the Childrens fishing days held in conjunction with the Rotorua Angler's Association is due to kick off on August 6<sup>th</sup> .

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

No angler/hunter training was conducted for the period.

### **1354 Fishing Competitions**

Seven fishing competition permits were processed for the period.

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

No club visits were conducted for the reported period.

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

Wairua Hut was reasonably well used by anglers in the later part of the season up to closing of Lake Tarawera at the end of June. Work is ongoing regarding continuing the licence to occupy the site of the Waikaremoana hut/work base, with little if any progress to date, and options are being explored around this.

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

Continue to have regular meetings with Ngati Whakaue and Te Arawa Kumatua's to strengthen relationships and build better opportunities for collaboration.

### **1421 Public Communications**

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

Matt Osborne attended the TFAC meeting held in Taupo on 15 June and provided a management update on behalf of the Eastern fishery team.

### **1441 Public Promotions**

We are in the process of developing our electronic poster to promote fishing in the Lakes region to go live for 2 weeks in Set & Oct over the school holidays and the opening of the season.

### **1451 Education**

A group of Waikato University students were hosted. And the first step in developing our educational port folio to support appropriate curriculum assessments was completed and we are hopeful that this will be completed before the end of the year and we will be accredited and promoted in REN (Rotorua Education Network).

## **COMPLIANCE**

## 1511 Ranging

Compliance work is focusing on winter shoreline angler checks and surveys and monitoring of spawning areas. The remainder of the game season is progressing with few issues evident, although on the closing weekend of the duck season, 3 hunters were dealt with for offences at Lake Ohakuri, involving hunting from a motorised boat with firearms able to be rapidly deployed, and offences around ammunition and magazine capacities.

### Contacts Year to date 2022-2023.

1,368 licence check contacts have been made to end of June. Overall compliance is in excess of 98%.

Numbers of contacts especially with anglers are down on previous years. There are several factors causing this including poor weather conditions at what has been traditionally the peak angler times of year on the lakes, effects of weather and storms on river fisheries. Along with staff absences due to illness and other workloads, and generally a declining amount of angler effort which is noticeable at key times, not just in the Rotorua Lakes but around the region.

### Contacts: Year 2022-2023

Month	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	Last 5 yr average
September	21	46	16	51	35	31
October	893	726	724	718	520	779
November	20	126	16	66	16	59
December	309	237	287	182	182	281
January	442	246	404	352	212	328
February	307	265	155	140	12	201
March	180	23	164	93	111	132
April	124	7	153	238	25	140
May	252	143	297	203	203	224
June	168	162	124	141	52	153
July	63	75	45	57		64
August	54	20	22	32		32
<b>Total</b>	<b>2833</b>	<b>2076</b>	<b>2407</b>	<b>2273</b>	<b>1368</b>	<b>2425</b>

## 1521 Ranger Training

A regional ranger training day on field practice and procedures is scheduled for 19 August. An invitation has been extended to Hawke's Bay region for their rangers to attend this day. We will also host a CERT Situational Safety and Tactical Communications refresher training day on 11 November, which will include staff and rangers from several regions, including at this stage, rangers from Hawke's Bay.

### Rangers

Honorary Rangers continue to contribute as and when they can. As well as recruiting a new ranger in Tauranga, we will have a second Tauranga based ranger; Eden Mutton, having left

staff, is transferring from a staff ranger to being an honorary ranger. This gives us a ranger team of 8 around the region with rangers based in Gisborne, Opotiki, Rotorua and Tauranga.

### 1531 Prosecutions

To date, end of June, we have two matters pending resolution. One of these is a matter of fishing without licence, obstruction, and failing to provide details which is intimated to go to trial. The other is a matter which is expected to be resolved via diversion. Use of diversion has been proceeding well with most matters resolved in a timely manner by this process.

#### Offences 2022-2023 Year:

As of end of June, we have dealt with 16 offenders for 26 offences as tabled below.

*Offence table 2022-2023 year*

<b>Offence name</b>	<b>Number of offences</b>
Fishing without licence	9
Fishing in closed waters	5
Fish with more than 1 rod	1
Fish with illegal tackle	1
Give false details	1
Fails to give details	2
Possess lead shot	2
Unpinned gun	2
Hunting from boat under power – gun able to be deployed	3
<b>Total number of offences</b>	<b>26</b>

#### Offences Pending Resolution

Other than several matters which are pre-2019 which have warrants for arrest either in lieu of summons or for failing to appear in Court, there are two defendants pending resolution, for five offences. Details of these two offenders charges are:

*The table below shows offences currently pending resolution:*

<b>Offence name</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
Fish without licence	1
Fails to give details	1
Obstruction of ranger	1
Hunting under power	1
Possession of lead shot	1
<b>Total number of offences</b>	<b>5</b>

## LICENSING

### 1621 Licence Agent Support

Agent requests for licence corrections, brochures, and information was attended to as and when required. Agent visits by staff occur when field staff are in the area or passing through.

## **PLANNING AND REPORTING**

### **1812 R3 Programme**

The billboard and Facebook campaign is being developed and time slots have been booked. We are working with Intrinsic in developing the content and promotional support for the campaign.

Our development of the REN (Rotorua Education Network) curriculum finally had some traction and an appropriate schedule is currently being developed.

The Hunting, Fishing and 4x4 Expo in September has had a great response for exhibitors and we are creating our stand and program that we can promote over the weekend of the Expo.

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

#### **Licensing**

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. Over the last month she has been assisting with the User Acceptance Testing for the system changes required as a result of the introduction of the Designated Waters.

#### **National CLE Liaison Role**

This role is continuing to be led from this region. Considerable input was made into matters around the game season compliance work nationally, liaison with the new Firearms Safety Authority on various matters which effect Fish & Game operations and providing advice to other F&G regions, review of the National Prosecutions Policy, training matters including preparation of training material for national use, review of procedures and developing SOP's for various matters and producing a national rangers newsletter.



## 7.4 LICENCE SALES REPORT

21 July 2023

### 1. 2022-2023 Fish Licence Sales

- 1.1 Fish licence sales for the 2022-23 season compared with the 2021-22 season to 20 July are summarised in Table One.
- 1.2 Fish licence sales are reporting to be 3.9% (333 LEQ's) below 2021-22 season results for the same period.
- 1.3 95.8% of the annual sales target has been met YTD. Assuming sales continue to track at the current variance we can expect an end of year result of in the vicinity of 2.9% below budget. Non-resident day sales this may improve this outcome as this category is seeing more of a return this season when compared with the 2021-22 season.

**Table One: Fish Licence Sales 2022-23 vs 2021-22 YTD results to 20 July 2023**

Licence Category	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2021-22	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2022-23	Inc/Dec on prior Season
<b>Fish Adult</b>							
Family	1,111	1,433	2,544	993	1,326	2,319	-225
Season	978	1,164	2,142	879	1,030	1,909	-233
Season Non-Resident	14	38	52	115	197	312	260
Loyal Senior	269	267	536	240	271	511	-25
Local Area Adult	894	626	1,520	774	664	1,438	-82
Winter Adult	178	308	486	162	294	456	-30
Long Break Adult	12	24	36	24	37	61	25
Short Break Adult	274	709	983	205	603	808	-175
Day	1,054	2,517	3,571	699	2,340	3,039	-532
Day Non-Resident	32	120	152	413	750	1,163	1011
<b>Total Adult</b>	<b>4,816</b>	<b>7,206</b>	<b>12,022</b>	<b>4,504</b>	<b>7,512</b>	<b>12,016</b>	<b>-6</b>
<b>Fish Junior</b>							
Season	188	229	417	184	236	420	3
Season Non-Resident	0	5	5	10	12	22	17
Day	115	215	330	71	347	418	88
Day Non-Resident	2	8	10	15	17	32	22
<b>Total Junior</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Fish Child</b>							
Season Non-Resident	0	2	2	2	7	9	7
Day Non-Resident	0	4	4	11	20	31	27
<b>Total Child</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Total Fish</b>	<b>5,121</b>	<b>7,669</b>	<b>12,790</b>	<b>4,797</b>	<b>8,151</b>	<b>12,948</b>	<b>158</b>
<b>Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)</b>			8,536			8,203	-333
<b>Variance between Seasons</b>							-3.9%
<b>\$ (excl GST)</b>			<b>\$1,016,938</b>			<b>\$1,034,291</b>	<b>\$17,352</b>

### 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	8,203	95.8%	\$1,034,291
<b>Variance to budget</b>	<b>-362</b>	<b>-4.2%</b>	<b>-\$45,610</b>

## 2. 2022-2023 Game Licence Sales

- 2.1 Game licence sales for the 2023 season compared with the 2022 season to 20 July are summarised in Table Two.
- 2.2 Game licence sales for 2023 are reporting to be 5.8% (164 LEQ's) below the 2022 season results for the same period.
- 2.3 93.7% of the annual sales target has been met and this is not far from the final result for the 2023 Game Bird season.

**Table Two: Game Licence Sales 2022-23 vs 2021-22 YTD results to 20 July 2023**

Licence Category	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2021-22	Agency Online	Public Online & Call Centre	Total YTD 2022-23	Inc/Dec on prior Season
<b>Game</b>							
Adult Season	2,480	460	2,940	2,327	446	2,773	-167
Adult Day	37	95	132	31	77	108	-24
Junior Season	243	49	292	219	66	285	-7
Junior Day	3	4	7	0	2	2	-5
Child Season	111	13	124	99	38	137	13
<b>Total Game</b>	<b>2,874</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>3,495</b>	<b>2,676</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>3,305</b>	<b>-190</b>
<b>Whole Season Equivalent (LEQ)</b>			3,024			2,850	-174
<b>Variance between Seasons</b>							-5.8%
<b>\$ (excl GST)</b>			\$247,196			\$237,925	-\$9,272

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

2022-23 Annual Budgeted Game LEQs	3,041	100.0%	\$269,723
2022-23 Actual	2,850	93.7%	\$237,925
<b>Variance to budget</b>	<b>-191</b>	<b>-6.3%</b>	<b>-\$31,798</b>

## **8. 2023-2024 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN**

**Ref: 8.02.01**

**25 July 2023**

### **1. Purpose**

To approve the final draft of the Operational Work Plan (OWP) prepared for the 2023-2024 year after addressing any changes that might have been proposed since this draft was approved at Council's June meeting.

### **2. Background**

During Council's February meeting there were no resolutions taken on amending priorities or Council direction for the 2023-2024 operational year. At the April meeting Council supported staff recommendations for five applications for contestable funding and one proposal to use Eastern Region's general reserves be forwarded to the NZ Council. These applications were subsequently submitted to and approved by regional Fish & Game managers and the NZ Council subject to Ministerial approval of Fish & Game's proposed licence fees for 2023-2024 which were considered at the June meeting.

A 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the 2023-24 Operation Work Plan was submitted for approval at the June meeting of Council where resolutions pertaining to the OWP from the April 2023 meeting were reconfirmed. Subsequently copies were sent to clubs and stakeholders after the meeting (clubs for whom we have a current address, Department of Conservation, BoP Regional Council, Gisborne District Council, Ngati Awa, Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa, Ngati Whakaue iwi, Te Uru Taumatua, Te Arawa Lakes Trust, Tapukia iwi) with a request that any comments they might have be returned to us by Monday 24 July. No submissions or feedback has been received to date, nor are staff proposing any additional amendments.

Council's applications for increased funding were approved subject to the Ministers approval of the proposed licence fees for 2023-2024, with adjustments as detailed below:

Application to top up Asset Replacement Funds, was submitted for contestable funding from the licence fee and was subsequently approved to come from the Region's General Reserve, the result of which is a transfer of \$10,155 from F & G General Reserves (held by Eastern F & G) to the Eastern Fish and Game Council's Asset Replacement Reserve.

The contestable fund application for Staff Salaries REM review was submitted for approval at \$64,573. This amount was excluding any adjustment for CPI as if CPI is approved this was usually applied consistently across all regions. The amount which was subsequently approved for the REM review including an adjustment for CPI at 5% totalled \$118,287.

The minister approved the proposed licence fees for the 2023-2024 Season on 3 July 2023.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That Council approves the proposed Operational Work Plan and budget for the 2023-2024 year, and**
- 3.2 Council delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve expenditure during the year as set out in the Council approved Operational Work Plan and budget.**

## **9. SPECIES MONITORING REPORTS**

**21 July 2023**

### **1. Purpose**

To receive the executive summary for the 2022-23 Summer Creel Survey.

### **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. A copy of the full report is available in this meeting's Papers for Information.

### **3. Report Summary**

#### **3.1 Executive Summary for the 2022-23 Summer Creel Survey**

##### **Lake Rotoiti**

Anglers fishing Lake Rotoiti over the 2022-23 summer experienced a marginally improved average catch rate compared to the 2021-22 summer. Catch rates were just above the past ten-year average (0.30 fish/hr). Down rigger trolling (18% use) proved the most successful method followed by jigging (53% use) and softbaits (1% use). Overall, the 2022-23 average sized fish was smaller and significantly lighter than the 2021-22 summer fish. Both the spring and autumn released rising 3-year-olds were larger compared to their same aged counterparts from the 2021-22 summer, whereas the rising 2-year-olds were marginally smaller. Angler satisfaction was improved compared to the 2021-22 summer with 98% of anglers stating they were satisfied with their summers fishing on Lake Rotoiti.

##### **Lake Tarawera**

Lake Tarawera anglers surveyed over the 2022-23 summer experienced catch rates that were poorer compared to the 2021-22 summer. The average fish measured was 14mm longer, and significantly heavier (200g,  $P=0.026$ ) than the 2021-22 summer fish. This increase in size was observed in both the hatchery released fish and the wild catch. The most successful method surveyed was soft baiting (2.5% total effort), followed by L.E.D line trolling (1% recorded effort), downrigger trolling (40% use) then shallow trolling (4% surveyed effort). Angler satisfaction was unchanged compared to the 2021-22 summer with 96% of anglers interviewed stating they were satisfied with their 2022-23 summer's fishing on Lake Tarawera.

##### **Lake Rotorua**

Just one survey was conducted on Lake Rotorua over the 2021-22 summer. This is insufficient to make comparisons to previous summers angling. Shallow trollers experienced higher catch rates than lead line trollers. All anglers stated they were satisfied with their 2022-23 summers fishing on Lake Rotorua ( $P<0.001$ ).

### **Lake Okataina**

Lake Okataina anglers surveyed over the 2022-23 summer experienced slower catch rates compared to the 2021-22 summer. Spin fishing produced the best catch rates while accounting for 30% of surveyed use, followed by jigging (30% use) then lead line trolling (18% use). Just 4 fish were measured during surveys. The average fish caught over the 2022-23 summer was 14mm shorter, 30g heavier and in better condition than those recorded during the 2021-22 summer. Angler satisfaction remained unchanged with all anglers surveyed stating they were satisfied with their angling during the 2022-23 summer on Lake Okataina.

### **3. Recommendation**

**That council receives the summary for the 2022-23 Summer Creel Survey.**

## **10. DRAFT PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

**24 July 2023**

### **1. Purpose**

This policy is designed to meet the requirement within Clause 26G of the Conservation Act 1987 that requires the NZ Fish and Game Council to operate a personnel policy that complies with the principles of being a good employer.

### **2. Background**

The Draft Performance Management Policy is created to support the organisation in retaining, attracting, and motivating its people in achieving its objectives both now and in the future. It provides a framework for fair and consistent performance management practice that encourages and supports personal developments and organisational learning across the all Fish and Game regions.

### **3. Recommendation**

**That Council discuss the Draft Performance Management Policy and passes on its feedback to NZC.**

<b>CONSULTATION:</b>	<b>DRAFT PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT POLICY</b>
<b>TO:</b>	Regional Managers
<b>CC:</b>	Regional Chairs and NZC
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Corina Jordan, CEO NZ Fish and Game Council
<b>DATE:</b>	30/06/2023
<b>FEEDBACK DUE:</b>	<b>20/10/2023</b>
<b>FEEDBACK TO:</b>	<a href="mailto:nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz">nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz</a>
<b>LINK TO REGISTER:</b>	<a href="#">Consultation Register</a>

### **Recommendations** - Ngā taunaki

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZC) seeks feedback from Fish and Game Regional Councils, Regional Managers/Chief Executives and regional staff on the Draft Performance Management Policy.

### **Executive Summary** - Whakarāpopoto

This policy is an accompanying policy to the Remuneration Policy and sets out a process for reviewing performance in order to give feedback and recognition to staff, and to inform the remuneration review process.

### **Discussion** - Kōrerorero

As most regions already undertake regular performance reviews, this policy does not seek to change that, however, best practice indicates that better productivity and culture results from performance reviews that are held more frequently than on an annual basis.

At a recent discussion with managers, it was suggested that six monthly reviews were achievable with an annual review being more formal and the six-monthly review being an opportunity to check in on progress. It was noted that some regions preferred to have more frequent catch ups.

It is recommended that the annual performance review for the year be held in July/August. This is so that final decisions can be made on remuneration of staff while having a basis from which to assess pay movements in the remuneration review.

Employment Hero has the capacity to be used for both the annual formal performance reviews and the six-monthly reviews as well as any shorter, more frequent catchups. Templates can be customised to the regions' requirements for both formal and informal performance reviews with this information only able to be seen by the employee and their manager (and the system administrator if necessary).

### **Next Actions** - Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei

The attached policy has been reviewed in draft by NZC pending consultation with Regional Managers/CEs, Councils and staff. Once feedback has been provided, the policy amended as appropriate will be referred back to NZC for final approval at its November 2023 meeting. Timeframes allow for the required two cycles of regional council meetings as per the Policy-on-Policy Development.

### **Supporting Document**

- Draft Performance Management Policy



Corina Jordan

**Chief Executive Officer**  
**New Zealand Fish and Game Council**

# DRAFT PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT POLICY

<b>Section</b>	Operational
<b>Contact/Owner</b>	NZC Chief Executive Officer
<b>Last Review</b>	N/A New Policy
<b>Next Review</b>	
<b>Approval</b>	NZC
<b>Effective Date</b>	

## Policy

### 1. PURPOSE

Clause 26G of the Conservation Act 1987 requires the NZ Fish and Game Council to operate a personnel policy that complies with the principles of being a good employer. This policy is designed to meet that requirement and to support Fish and Game to attract, retain and motivate people it needs to achieve its objectives, both now and into the future. It provides a framework for fair and consistent performance management practice across Fish and Game and encourages and supports personal development and organisational learning.

### 2. PRINCIPLES

Fish and Game's performance management policy and process will be guided by the following principles:

- Support Fish and Game's strategy and goals, organisational capability, and focus on service delivery.
- Provide clear goals for staff to strive for.
- Provide expectations on the behaviours required to meet our values.
- Provide a process for managers to provide staff with regular, timely and constructive feedback on performance and an avenue for the celebration of success and achievement.
- Be sufficiently flexible to meet the various regional requirements whilst still being applied consistently across Fish and Game; and
- Enable employees at all levels in the organisation to clearly understand how their job activities and the level of their performance directly contribute to the success of Fish and Game and the clear relationship between performance and rewards.

### 3. BENEFITS OF SUCCESSFUL PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

An effective performance management process provides benefits for the individual, the manager and Fish and Game.

3.1 Benefits to the staff member:



Receiving valuable and timely feedback on their performance.  
Opportunity to discuss in depth precisely what is expected of them.  
Ability to gain recognition for his or her efforts and achievements.  
Problems and issues effecting their progress can be discussed and addressed; and  
Opportunity to formally discuss their development and training needs.

### 3.2 Benefits to the manager:

Opportunity for the manager's relationship with the staff member's to be strengthened via increased communication.

Staying connected to the staff member's performance and progress towards team goals can contribute to the overall performance in the manager's area of responsibility.

Ability to monitor individual roles and team functions and consider changes to job scope, design and team priorities; and

Have a basis from which to assess pay movements in the remuneration review.

### 3.3 Benefits to Fish and Game:

Problem areas can be highlighted and dealt with promptly and effectively.

Discussions of staff member's ideas and expectations enhances communication; and

Managers are provided with a forum to communicate Fish and Game's goals and strategic direction as well as their own areas of responsibility.

## Process

### 4. ANNUAL PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT CYCLE

4.1 The following steps broadly outline the key aspects of the performance management cycle:

#### a) **Setting Performance Objectives, Behaviours and Training and Development Goals:- September**

- This is a collaborative discussion between the Manager and staff member to formally establish and agree performance objectives, behaviours and training and development goals for the staff member.
- The **performance objectives** should be based on the staff member's specific role accountabilities and the organisation's strategic objectives and priorities.
- The **training and development goals** should be focused on the improvement of the staff members's skills and knowledge within their current role or to support their overall career goals; and
- The **Team and personal behaviours** should be linked to the organisation's values.

#### b) **Regular Reviews and Feedback:**

- Regular constructive feedback from the manager on progress should be on-going throughout the performance year, at least 6 monthly. Progress can be undermined if reviews are held sporadically or only when there is a problem.
- Progress against objectives, workloads and priorities should be reviewed, adjusting the objectives and/or timelines if necessary and identifying actions needed by the individual and/or manager to ensure the objectives are met.

- Additional coaching, assistance or extra resources required by the staff member should be discussed and agreed and any performance problems should be dealt with as and when they arise, so that they can be resolved quickly and effectively; and
- It is recommended that the manager records progress notes and the staff member enters their comments from these meetings into the on-line performance management system.
- **End of year assessment – July - August**
- This will inform the annual remuneration review. Goals that have not been completed can be rolled into the performance plan for the next year.

**5. DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT CONTROL**

<b>Prepared by:</b> Jane Hutchings, HR Business Partner
<b>Owned by:</b> NZC/NZC CEO
<b>Authorised by:</b> Fish and Game New Zealand National Council
<b>Date Issued (for Consultation):</b> 30/6/23
<b>Next Review</b>

## **11. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS**

### **11.1 Conservation Boards**

- Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

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

- Department of Conservation

### **11.3 Report from New Zealand Council Cr Debbie Oakley**

### 13. PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

Ref: 9.01.01

25 July 2023

#### 1. Purpose

- (i) To discuss Eastern Fish and Game Council's self appraisal of its performance and other confidential matters.
- (ii) To complete the manager's performance review.

#### 2. Background

Annually the Council carries out a self appraisal of its performance over the past twelve months in accordance with its adopted governance policy set out in section 2.6a, namely:

"The Council will, each year, appraise its own performance, and its own processes and procedures to ensure that they are not unduly complex and are designed to assist the Council in effectively fulfilling its role."

Council also carries out a 360 degree appraisal of its Manager's performance with input from staff, Councillors, and the manager. The Council needs to consider the outcomes of the annual review process and discuss their findings with the manager, and it is appropriate that these discussions take place with the public excluded.

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

<b>GENERAL SUBJECT OF EACH MATTER TO BE CONSIDERED</b>	<b>REASON FOR PASSING THIS RESOLUTION IN RELATION TO EACH MATTER</b>	<b>GROUND(S) UNDER SECTION 48(1) FOR THE PASSING OF THIS RESOLUTION</b>
Discussion on the Council's performance review and other related matters, and review of the Manager's performance.	Good reason to withhold exists under section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982	Section 48(1)(a)(ii): That the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.

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:

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>REASON UNDER ACT</b>	<b>SECTION</b>	<b>PLAIN ENGLISH REASON</b>
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 ...	Sec 9(2)(ba)(i)	Disclosing the information would jeopardise the	Not unless there is a public interest in

<p>where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.</p>		<p>relationship with the supplier because the supplier may no longer trust the Council to hold its information in confidence.</p>	<p>disclosure of the specific information.</p>
--	--	---	--

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

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

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

**3. Resolutions**

***3.1 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 discuss Council and the CE’s Performance review.***

***3.2 That Council moves out of public excluded at ... pm.***

***3.3 That the public be re-admitted to the meeting at ... pm.***