

**TARANAKI  
FISH & GAME  
COUNCIL**

**AGENDA PAPERS  
COUNCIL MEETING**

**SATURDAY  
14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023**



# TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL

## AGENDA

SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023

To be held at

Sinclair Electrical & Refrigeration Events Centre  
156 Tasman Street, Opunake

COMMENCING AT 10:00AM

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<sup>1</sup> Formal consultation and feedback sought by NZ Fish and Game Council

<sup>2</sup> Formal consultation and feedback sought by NZ Fish and Game Council

<sup>3</sup> Formal consultation and feedback sought by NZ Fish and Game Council

<sup>4</sup> Formal consultation and feedback sought by NZ Fish and Game Council

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## **1. Karakia and Welcome**

### **Karakia**

Led by Councillor Blewman

### **Welcome to the Public**

Provide for a public forum of five minutes and/or comments invited at specific agenda item

## **2. Present And In Attendance**

All present noted

## **3. Apologies**

All apologies noted

**Action: resolve those apologies be received**



#### **4. Conflict Of Interest**

- A. All councillors and staff requested to update the Conflicts of Interest Register with actual or perceived conflicts of interest
- B. All councillors and staff requested to indicate if there are any specific items on the agenda that involve an actual or perceived conflict of interest
- C. A list of the Conflicts of Interest are presented for perusal for councillors and public to view





## **5. Minutes Of the Previous Meeting - 19 August 2023**

Consider the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 August 2023.

Seek clarification of record and/or request amendment.

**Action:**

**Review and make any amendments**

**Resolved that the record is a true and correct record of meeting  
(moved by councillors that were present)**

## **TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL**

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL,  
HELD AT TARAPURUHI BUSHY PARK, 791 RANGITAUTAU EAST ROAD,  
WHANGANUI  
19 AUGUST 2023 COMMENCING AT 10:00AM

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1. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:00Am and invited a Karakia from Paul Blewman

2. **PRESENT**

Chairman, Chris Donald, and Councillors, Romon Sargeson, John Nancarrow, David Potroz, Paul Blewman, Craig McEwen, and Alan Flynn.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Acting Manager Allen Stancliff, Secretary Jilli Steedman and Field Officer Jacob Morison. Phil Teal – Manager Wellington Fish & Game and Kahureremoa Aki from Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui Trust

3. **APOLOGIES**

Gerrard Karalus, and Gerrard Albert and Hera Smith from Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui Trust

4. The Chairman welcomed Councillors, staff and visitors to the meeting

The Chairman welcomed Kahureremoa Aki from Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui Trust to the meeting and introduced her to Councillors and staff. The Chairman talked about Taranaki Fish & Game and their intention to amalgamate with the Wellington Fish & Game region. Kahureremoa then talked to Councillors about her role as Project Director of Te Kōpuka na Te Awa Tupua and the development of the Te Heke Ngahuru Strategy. Kahureremoa noted that the members of Te Kōpuka were representatives from all the iwi in the Whanganui River catchment and included representatives from regional and district councils and interest groups all working collaboratively together to get the Te Heke Ngahuru Strategy ready for public feedback.

5. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were none.

6. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 12 JUNE 2023**

MOVED BLEWMAN / NANCARROW

THAT THE TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 JUNE 2023, HELD ONLINE, AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD, INCLUDING THE RATIFICATION OF ALL RESOLUTIONS MADE AT THIS MEETING.

CARRIED.

7. **MATTERS ARISING**

Allen Stancliff gave Councillors an update on Lake Kohata.

8. **AGENDA MANAGEMENT & 5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN**

There were no new items for the action list.

**9. RISK REGISTER**

MOVED BLEWMAN / SARGESON

THAT TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL RECEIVE THE AUGUST 2023 RISK REGISTER.

CARRIED

**10. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT**

A near miss was reported and Councillors noted the diligence by staff in reporting near misses.

Fire extinguishers have been replaced in both vehicles and in the loading bay at the New Plymouth office.

MOVED NANCARROW / SARGESON

THAT THE ACTING MANAGER'S HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT, BE RECEIVED  
CARRIED

**11. 2023/2024 DRAFT ANNUAL OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGET**

The AOWP and budget presented to Council at this meeting included updated financial statements which reflect the approved licence fees of \$153 for fish licence's and \$113 for game licences.

MOVED BLEWMAN / NANCARROW

THAT THE UPDATED 2023/2024 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGET, BE ADOPTED.

CARRIED

**12. WAINGONGORO RIVER FISHERY INVESTIGATION REPORT**

Jacob Morison spoke to this report. He noted that brown trout recruitment was impacted by a large flood in mid-August 2022 and the survey should be repeated in a year with a more stable flow regime. Councillors commended Jacob and Allen for their excellent report.

MOVED POTROZ / SARGESON

THAT TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL RECEIVES THE WAINGONGORO RIVER FISHERY INVESTIGATION REPORT 2022.

CARRIED

**13. 2022/23 FISH MONITORING REPORT**

The Normanby weir was noted as being a barrier to the upstream migration of redfin bullies and Greenfern Industries, who own the weir, are planning on rectifying this problem with a vertical-slot fish pass. The removal of the Timaru Stream weir at Tataraimaka has been delayed until after October 2023 and it is expected that a weir on Mangorei Stream at Scout Road and the low head dam on Mangamahoe Stream downstream of Lake Mangamahoe would also be removed in the coming summer. It was noted that Regional Council funding for the removal of the Timaru weir likely came from its Environmental Enhancement fund so that unspent funds would be carried forward to the next financial year. Councillors commended Jacob and Allen for their excellent report.

MOVED POTROZ / NANCARROW

THAT THE 2022/23 FISHERY MONITORING REPORT, BE RECEIVED.

CARRIED

**14. LOWER PATEA RIVER TROUT STOCKING REVIEW**

The Acting Manager spoke to this report which had been prepared for Manawa Energy and had yet to be sent to iwi and stakeholders for comment before being sent to the Expert Panel for review.

MOVED POTROZ / NANCARROW

THAT THE 2022/23 LOWER PATEA TROUT STOCKING REVIEW, BE RECEIVED.  
CARRIED

**15. TARANAKI ANGLER SATISFACTION SURVEY**

Allen Stancliff noted that this was the fourth year running this survey and to prevent survey fatigue the survey would be paused in 2024 and gamebird hunters would be surveyed instead. The angler diary scheme was discussed, and it was thought worthwhile to keep this going even though participation had been declining.

MOVED POTROZ / SARGESON

THAT TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL RECEIVE THIS REPORT ON TARANAKI ANGLER SATISFACTION FOR THE 2022/23 SEASON AND THAT THE TARANAKI ANGLER SURVEY IS NOT CONDUCTED IN 2023/24  
CARRIED

**16. NZC CONSULTATION – DRAFT PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Phil Teal spoke to this paper and explained his role in the Remuneration Review. Taranaki staff have completed performance reviews through Employment Hero.

MOVED BLEWMAN / POTROZ

THAT TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE DRAFT PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT POLICY AS PROPOSED.  
CARRIED

**17. 2022/2023 LICENCE SALES REPORT**

MOVED POTROZ / SARGESON

THAT THE TARANAKI FISH AND GAME LICENCE SALES REPORT, BE RECEIVED  
CARRIED

**18. CHAIRMANS REPORT**

The Chairman noted his communications with other Regional Chairman and in particular his regular contact with Paul Dewar (Wellington Fish & Game Chairman). He noted proposed online Governance training for Chairmen.

Councillors discussed the Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for future amalgamation with Wellington Fish and Game Council, with Wellington Fish & Game Manager, Phil Teal assuming management responsibility for the Taranaki Region from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023. It was agreed that meetings of the working group can be attended by the respective regional appointees to NZC as observers to provide a link and feedback to NZC on progress and any necessary assistance required. Phil Teal noted that the TOR is living document and can be adapted as appropriate.

MOVED DONALD / BLEWMAN

THAT THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AMALGAMATION PAPER, BE ADOPTED, AND ANY AMENDMENTS TO IT WILL BE ADOPTED BY BOTH TARANAKI AND WELLINGTON FISH & GAME COUNCILS  
CARRIED

MOVED DONALD / NANCARROW

THAT THE CHAIRMAN'S VERBAL REPORT, BE RECEIVED  
CARRIED

**19. NATIONAL COUNCILLORS REPORT**

In the absence of Councillor Karalus no report was received.

**20. WORK PLAN TO 31 JULY 2023 & BUDGET PROGRESS REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2023**

The possibility of becoming a sponsor of a TRC environmental award was discussed. Staff have received notification from Ernslaw One Ltd that the road to Lake Namunamu is being upgraded for upcoming logging operations and this will mean there will be no access to Lake Namunamu from late November 2023.

MOVED POTROZ / SARGESON

THAT THE BUDGET REPORT TO 30 JUNE 2023 AND THE PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT TO 31 JULY 2023, BE RECEIVED  
CARRIED

**21. PROFIT & LOSS AND BALANCE SHEET**

MOVED MCEWEN / POTROZ

THAT THE PROFIT & LOSS AND BALANCE SHEET TO 30 JUNE 2023, BE RECEIVED  
CARRIED

**22. CORRESPONDENCE**

MOVED POTROZ / BLEWMAN

THAT INWARDS AND OUTWARDS CORRESPONDENCE SCHEDULES TO 9 AUGUST 2023, BE RECEIVED  
CARRIED

**23. GENERAL BUSINESS**

Allen Stancliff noted an invitation to attend the signing of the Taranaki Maunga Deed of Settlement between Nga Iwi o Taranaki and the Crown has been received. The signing will take place at Owae Marae in Waitara on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 at 10am. Council agreed that Phil Teal and Allen Stancliff would attend on behalf of the Council. Jacob Morison advised Council that his last day will be 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 and Councillors wish him well in his OE.

David Potroz noted that the Inglewood Rod, Gun, and Recreation Club will be holding their Pukeko drive on the last weekend of the season. The Club has been discussing Lake Mangamahoe and its status as a fly fishing only water.

Craig McEwen has been tasked with designing a fish passage structure for the Lake Rotomanu outlet structure.

**24. NEXT MEETING**

The next ordinary meeting will be held in Opunake on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

**25. CLOSURE**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 3:00pm.

**APPROVED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD**

**CHAIRMAN** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**Actions from 19 August 2023 Meeting**

Action	Responsibility	Status
Attend signing of Taranaki Maunga Deed of Settlement between Nga Iwi o Taranaki and the Crown at Owae Marae in Waitara	Phil Teal Allen Stancliff	Completed
Inform Wellington F&G Council that Taranaki have adopted Draft Terms of Reference for future amalgamation	Phil Teal Chris Donald	Completed

**Actions from previous Meetings**

Action		Responsibility	Status
Spray raupo at Hawkens Lagoon			Due October 2023

## **6. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

### **a. Review Action List**

- Confirm which actions have been completed and those in progress
- Review actions which have become aged and no longer relevant – remove

### **b. Discuss any other items for clarification not listed as an agenda item**





## **7. Strategic Review**

### **a. Draft Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan**

- Discuss process to develop an updated Sports Fish and Game Management Plan (SFGMPs)
- Refer to proposal of NZ Council to assist in the guidance document for consultation of SFGMPs
- Refer to proposal of NZ Council to co-ordinate a template for SFGMPs

### **b. 5 Year Strategic Plan**

- Refer to the 5 Year Strategic Plan to align progress of outcomes with resources.

**Action: No specific action required**



## F&G Managers Fortnightly Informal Meeting Notes

**Date:** 21/09/2023 9:00am – 10.20am

**Location:** Teams

**Attendees:** Corina (until 10.20 am), Arash, Phil, Craig, Ben, Dean, Steve, Zane, David Priest (Otago/behalf of Ian) and Maryse.

**Apologies:** Rasmus, Ian and Rhys (for lateness).

**Guest:** Teall Crossen, Environmental Legal & Policy Consultant (until 9.50 am)

### Subject/Deep Dive Topic

#### NZC Office Update:

- Corina advised Managers that the NZC Office Administrator, Sophie, resigned at the beginning of the week, providing two weeks' notice, resulting in the office currently being short-staffed. She noted that it could take some time to find the right candidate and that Managers understanding during this time was appreciated.

#### SFGMP & Mapping Habitat

- Corina noted that Helen had been collaborating with DoC on this project and that one of the Ministerial review recommendations was that NZC provide guidelines in relation to this.
- Helen would present the work progress to date and discuss with Managers the project status and proposed processes/template for consideration.
- Helen introduced Teall Crossen, Environmental Legal and Policy Consultant NZ & International, assisting with the project and developing the SFGMP template.
- Teall introduced herself and her background as an Environmental Lawyer, including 8 years of experience with Forest & Bird and working for DoC as a senior solicitor. She explained her interaction with Fish & Game in various capacities, including advocacy and was eager to contribute skills gained at DoC to advance Fish and Game's objectives. She was joining for part of today's meeting to listen and gain insight into Fish & Game's current thoughts and direction.
- Helen presented her PowerPoint, noting that the focus was on SFGMPs and mapping habitat as this was an important component moving forward on these management plans.

#### Key Points from Presentation:

- 8 SFGMPs expired (Northland, Hawke's Bay, Taranaki, Wellington, Nelson/Marlborough, West Coast (*underway now*), North Canterbury & Southland); 4 current (Auckland, Eastern (*expires 2024*), CSI, Otago (*expires 2025*)).
- F&G required to have management plan for any species of sports fish & game approved by the Minister under the Conservation Act. (**NB: Ministerial Review Recommendations: (1) & (2) the Minister has the power to require adherence to an approved management plan, including expanding a mandatory power of direction for an addition or amendment to a draft management plan.**)
- Lack of habitat maps in current approach (Historically based on value surveys from anglers) and uncertainty regarding compliance.
- Considering the influence of the RMA and Conservation Act requirements, noting upcoming discussion with incoming Minister regarding F&G performance under the Conservation Act.
- Resource allocation, ensure sufficient resources for species monitoring as critical aspect of SFGMPs.
- *Current Focus:* Revisiting plan contents, determining what should be retained or removed. Aiming for shorter and more relevant plans.
- *Plan Structure:* Suggesting a structured format: Objective, Relevant Policy, and Outcome for each issue and objective.

- **Habitat Mapping:** Recognising the complexity of mapping habitat. Hoped to begin with modelling before Christmas.
- Emphasising the importance of partnerships, stakeholders, and alignment with other plans and policies.
- **Flow through from Issues to Monitoring:** Issues need to relate to objectives and policies, outcomes and monitoring. Identify issues that iwi have with sports fish and game bird management and decision making in the region. Identify monitoring that would be of mutual benefit to hapu.
- **Monitoring Work:** Need a nationally consistent way of measuring what species monitoring F&G do. Number of spawning sites monitored, number of resource consents received for comment, number of resource consents commented upon, bird count monitoring work on each species at each site we manage. Wetland restoration work by \$ and by Ha restored.

**Status of Existing Plans, Mapping Habitats, Monitoring & Modelling Discussion:**

- Existing plans under review, some in consultation phase. Delayed by ministerial review and potential amalgamation as well as COVID-related uncertainty.
- Engagement with Iwi, some regions have ongoing engagement with iwi for feedback, however, limited input/interest expected.
- DoC's position affected by the number of overdue plans and their review/turnaround delays.
- Need to develop a species monitoring framework to make the SFGMP relevant to the operational work of F&G as this is reported against in Annual Report to Minister.
- Concerns about mapping habitats, especially for larger regions with over 5,000 kms of water courses.
- Emphasis on trout habitats and spawning, considering changes in conservation regulations.
- Suggestion to revisit plans every 3-5 years for relevance and adaptability.
- Lack of public interest in SFGMPs, however on the flipside, the importance of reflecting management plans in budgets and organisational approaches noted, as well as the significance of mapping habitats for allocation limits.  
Need to update and modernise SFGMPs/Potential for a standardised model for nationwide use and importance of having a robust plan.
- Importance of justifying decisions for regional plans and their impact on farmers.
- **Need for Consistency in Monitoring:** Different regions measure differently e.g. Wetland restoration measured in various ways. Suggest establishing a minimum reporting matrix.
- Consistency important for 10-year plans, SSPs, and annual report.
- **Challenges in Monitoring:** Every region is unique. Justification for monitoring varies. Suggestion, not all fisheries need extensive monitoring. Value of monitoring questioned compared to resource allocation.
- **Importance of Modelling:** Modelling provides a verified way to identify data. Suggest using modelling to identify spawning sites instead of ground-truthing. Regional plans can benefit from modelling.
- **Data Management and Sharing:** Data ownership and sharing issues. Suggest exploring agreements with organizations like NIWA. Efforts to consolidate and store data efficiently.
- **Mapping Habitat:** Mapping needed for conservation and compliance with NPS freshwater management. Consider mapping owned wetlands and funded wetland projects. Query about whether DoC should handle mapping.
- **Mapping Criteria/Leveraging Existing Mapping Efforts:** Discussion about mapping criteria for bike tracks. Importance of considering existing recreational values. Collaboration with experts and photo documentation.  
Awareness of ongoing mapping efforts. Suggestion to align mapping with access points for anglers.
- **Model-based mapping approach/Stage One and Stage Two Mapping:** Proposed approach: Stage one is model-based mapping. Stage two involves adding monitoring data. Emphasis on not requiring extensive resources for mapping.
- **Importance of Evolving Planning:** Highlight the need to adapt and not stagnate. Emphasise the importance of staying current with planning practices.

- **Modelling:** Establishing a verified model for fisheries representation across the country (Updating models based on Wellington region's experience). Adding layers of information to improve model validity.
- Need for consistency and agreement on the gold standard database for fisheries.
- Indigenous first, regional councils use modeled information, followed by data checking. Proposed model approach for identifying values, mapping, and data checking.
- Need to protect areas with no current pressure on them, uncertain about future pressures.
- Subtle differences in adjoining catchments based on topography and gravel. Importance of habitat types in modeling, river flows, gravel size, and more.
- Combining river environment classification data with freshwater fisheries database.
- Potential pooling of resources in regions to identify sites not covered by the model.
- Proposal for Adam Canning to lead stage one modeling and train a team from 2-3 different regions. Monitoring to verify and add missing habitat information.
- Question about the ownership and management of the database and GIS layer. Suggestion to provide the layer to NIWA but also hold a copy. Inquiry about the technology and access to the layer within Fishing Game.
- Consideration of subscriptions for access to the data. Desire for publicly available data to be referenced in plans by councils and authorities. Need for a standard or central repository for the information. Noted free access to FENZ database <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/freshwater-ecosystems-of-new-zealand/#:~:text=What%20is%20FENZ%3F,a%20wide%20variety%20of%20sources>
- Interest indicated from following regions in modelling fish habitat mapping & spawning sites Taranaki/Wellington, West Coast, CSI, Eastern, Otago, Nelson/Marlborough and potentially Hawke's Bay. Auckland/Waikato to check with relevant staff undertaking modelling/mapping work in region first before making a commitment.

(Corina left the meeting 10.20 am)

- **Gamebird Habitat Mapping:** Regional Council tasked with mapping natural inland wetlands. Proposal to meet the habitat for private ones with negotiated access. Not part of the current project or funding, but a future consideration.
- **Waterfowl Habitat Mapping:** Over 7,000 open water wetlands for waterfowl hunting identified in Southland. Mapping all waterfowl habitat may not be practical. Concern for protecting all habitat, not just those supported by F&G.
- **Mountain Bike Track Considerations:** Challenge in informing track builders about existing gamebird habitat. Need for accessible maps or contacts with F&G.
- **Trout Habitat Concerns:** Worries about trout spawning habitat protection. Need to emphasise the importance of SFGMPs.
- **Consultation Policy for Management Plans:** Ministerial review recommends: **(34) that the NZC develop guidelines to guide a process for community input for F&G Regional Councils to follow in developing management plans, including a requirement to demonstrate that the provisions of section 17(L)(4)(b) have been complied with i.e. That the impact on other natural resources and/or other users has been considered.** Steps include initial discussions, NZC engagement, and formal support. Early and informal engagement with NZC recommended. Balancing between good practice and legislative requirements.
- **Engagement vs. Approval:** Clarification of engagement versus approval processes. Careful consideration is needed regarding engagement with iwi. Challenges in achieving extensive engagement with external stakeholders. Emphasis on the ground-up approach for document development. Challenges in meeting Section 4 expectations. Need for a collaborative approach with external stakeholders.

**SFGMP Consultation Policy:**

Draft Policy planned to go to 2/11/23 Formal Managers meeting (then NZC November meeting).

Key components include:

- *Initial Consultation (Step 1)*: Discussions with key stakeholders (DoC, mana whenua & herengaanuku). Consultation process should align with the manawhenua engagement and legal advice received re. 'Giving Effect to Treaty Principles'
- *NZC Engagement (Step 2)*: Engagement with the NZC recommended, either formally or informally, with an emphasis on early and frequent communication.
- *Document Building (Step 3)*: Policy collaboratively drafted where possible.
- *Consultation (Step 4)*: While not legally required, best practice suggests seeking input from DoC, all licence holders, other F&G regional councils, and NZC for their comments on the draft policy.
- *Legal Requirements (Step 5)*: Consultation is mandated by the Conservation Act and should involve territorial authority & regional councils, iwi, and Director-General within a 40-day timeframe.

**(NB: Clarification on NZC engagement, particularly regarding approval. The policy should distinguish between legal requirements and best practices, especially concerning the level of engagement that iwi are interested in.)**

**Ministerial Review Recommendation (36) states "The NZFGC as part of its co-ordination role should assure itself that the duty set out in section 17M2(ii) which requires the FGC to 'give notice of the draft plan ... so far as is practicable, to representatives of the appropriate iwi authorities and to the appropriate regional councils and territorial authorities' has been adequately discharged."**

- *Policy Development (Step 6)*: The policy will go through hearings and deliberations, with an expectation of changes that may necessitate a second round of consultation.
- *Regional Approval (Step 7)*: The final draft of the SFGMPs will be ratified by F&G regional councils.
- *NZC Approval (Step 8)*: The ratified draft will be sent to NZC, which has the function of advising the Minister on Sports Fish and Game matters.
- *Ministerial Review (Step 9)*: A draft of the policy, reflecting the outcomes of the consultation, will be submitted to NZC for forwarding to the Minister.
- *Ministerial Decision (Step 10)*: The Minister will either comment on or approve the policy.

#### **Decisions Sought:**

- 1. Wellington Fish and game (via Adam Canning) to deliver modelled fish habitat mapping and spawning sites. Cost to be invoiced to each region estimated at up to \$2,000 per region.**
- 2. NZC to develop a consultation policy for the SFGMP as identified in the Ministerial Review Recommendations.**
- 3. NZC to work to provide a new look template for drafting SFGMP.**

#### **Summary of Successive Measures to Consider:**

- Address the issue of habitat mapping and alignment with national, regional, or local significance.
- Potential to use Operational Work Plans for expired SFGMPs. Consider revisiting plans every 3-5 years for adaptability.
- Prioritise the update and modernisation of SFGMPs. Focus on making plans shorter and more relevant. Revise plan structure to include objectives, relevant policies, and outcomes.
- Discuss performance/reporting requirements under the Conservation Act with the incoming Minister.
- Ensure adequate resources for species monitoring.
- Check legal requirements for consultation under the Conservation Act, including engagement with Iwi for feedback. Collaborate with partners, stakeholders, and consider other relevant plans and policies.
- Start the habitat mapping project, beginning with modelling habitat before Christmas.
- Address concerns related to mapping habitats, especially for larger regional areas with over 5,000 kms of modified water courses.
- Focus efforts on protecting trout habitats and spawning grounds.

- Seek information and insights from regions regarding mapping initiatives/Explore technology or databases for habitat modelling. Develop standardised models for mapping habitats and allocation limits.
- Ensure organisational preparedness for future policy changes and compliance with regulations.
- Establish a verified model for fisheries representation. Seek consistency and agreement on the gold standard database. Continue using a model approach for identifying values.
- Combine river environment classification data with freshwater fisheries data. Explore pooling resources in regions to identify sites.
- Confirm region agreement/interest to task Adam Canning with leading stage one modelling and training a team from 2-3 different regions for additional monitoring.
- Determine ownership and management of the database and GIS layer. Provide the layer to NIWA and maintain a copy.
- Investigate technology and access options for F&G. Ensure publicly available data can be referenced in plans.
- Explore the possibility of a central repository for information.
- Considerations for mapping gamebird and waterfowl habitats.

**Next Meeting: Thursday 5 October, 9 – 10.30 am, Teams**

## Actions Tracking

Date	Action	Responsible	Due
21/9/23	<p>Managers to clarify their decisions/feedback (via e-ballot following the meeting) on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivering modelled fish habitat mapping &amp; spawning sites, including the invoicing process as outlined in Decision 1.</li> <li>• Confirm amended Decision 2. <b>For NZC to develop consultation guidelines for SFGMPs as identified in the Ministerial Review Recommendations, with amended guidelines to be developed and come back to a future Managers meeting; &amp;</b></li> <li>• To note, as NZC is undergoing work to develop a template for SFGMPs, this is for information only with Decision 3. removed accordingly.</li> </ul>	Maryse/Helen	29/9/23





AGENDA ITEM 7. STRATEGIC REVIEW (7.B)

2022/23 – 2026/27 Strategic Plan  
Approved: 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Work Area (why are we undertaking this objective?)	Key Result (what are we actually doing and how this contributes to objective?)	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
<p><b>Participation</b></p> <p><i>Add value to our licence holders to increase their success and satisfaction so they remain in the sport</i></p> <p><i>Recruit (and re-activate) new licence holders to protect revenue</i></p>	<p><b>Signage</b></p> <p><i>Provide anglers with helpful on-site information re access, regulations and techniques to make it easier to go fishing</i></p>	<p>Replace or erect new signs on rivers and lakes around the region consistent with the priorities identified.</p> <p><i>2 -3 signs replaced per year</i></p>				
		<p>Regulation information signs on Retaruke and Whanganui Rivers (Te Araroa trail users)</p>				
		<p>Review Ruatiti information sign and update as necessary.</p> <p><i>By Aug 2023 identify any changes and agree process to upgrade with other parties</i></p>				
	<p><b>Licence holder contact</b></p>	<p>Produce Taranaki fishing newsletter sent to licence holders shortly after the start of each season</p>				

<p><i>required for effective management and to maintain support for and recognition of the importance of fish &amp; game resources and their use</i></p>	<p><i>Contact licence holders (mail, email, social media and individually by phone or face to face) to share information that encourages and assists users to make best use of the F&amp;G resource</i></p>	<p>Produce Taranaki hunting newsletter sent to licence holders and RD box holders prior to each season</p>			
		<p>Produce 1-page magazine supplement for each issue of F&amp;G Magazine</p>			
		<p>Implement and utilise social media including Facebook consistent with National Office policy</p>			
		<p>Develop and utilise licence holder email list to highlight information of specific value such as upcoming children’s fishing days.</p> <p><i>Information on 2023 fishing days emailed to licence holders</i></p>			
<p><b>Angling and hunting web pages</b></p> <p><i>How to and where to go information is readily available, easily understood and up to date to assist &amp; guide licence holders and prospective participants</i></p>	<p>Work with National Office to add information to the new F&amp;G website.</p>				
	<p>Review information and effectiveness of web links annually or when issue identified.</p> <p><i>Information is current and easily found</i></p>				
	<p>Introduction to duck hunting opportunities in the Taranaki Region</p> <p><i>Draft text and video links prepared by Aug 2023 for incorporation into new F&amp;G website</i></p>				

	<b>Children and family fishing days and opportunities</b> <i>Provide opportunities for children and families to go fishing easily and on an ongoing basis, so they potentially become lifelong anglers. To engender support for fishing and the activities of Fish &amp; Game among the general public</i>	Explore options for ongoing fishing opportunities for kids and families based on local ponds and threshold experiences.	Implement preferred options		
		Identify and explore future options for Stratford by Aug 2023	Implement preferred option for Stratford kids fishing programme		
		Liaise annually with the Department of Conservation (Tongariro National Trout Centre Turangi) regarding the availability of rainbow trout for autumn release into Sattler's Dam. Explore options to enhance the habitat at Sattler's Dam.			
		Incorporate national branding and approaches as per R3 strategy in Children's Fishing Programme			
		Undertake review of fishing opportunities provided at Lake Mangamahoe			

	<p><b>Increase participation</b>  <i>Encourage past and prospective hunters and anglers into the sport through initiatives which make it easy to have a go and/ or provide support.</i></p>	<p>Explore and develop mentoring schemes for hunters including public instruction/ information days.</p> <p><i>Identify possible option(s) by Aug 2023</i>  <i>Implement most promising option identified by May 2024</i></p>		<p>Review and refine mentoring programmes</p>	
		<p>Develop web based introductory package for anglers and hunters utilising information on the new F&amp;G website and highlighting easy opportunities including access and methods to get started.</p>	<p>Review and refine anglers' package in response to feedback</p>	<p>Review and refine hunters' package</p>	
	<p><b>Angler &amp; hunter aspirations</b>  <i>In order to best manage the resource and opportunities in the best interests of anglers &amp; hunters it is essential to understand the aspirations of Taranaki licence holders and what they seek from their fishing &amp; hunting experience.</i></p>	<p>Survey of aspirations of trout anglers</p>	<p>Survey of aspirations of duck hunters</p>	<p>Re-survey of aspirations of upland game hunters</p>	<p>Re-survey of aspirations of duck hunters</p>

	<p><b>Improve angler/ hunter access</b>  <i>Fundamental to participation is that licence holders need to be able to readily access and utilise the available fish &amp; game populations.</i></p>	<p>Continue to explore opportunities for increased angling access around Lake Mangamahoe through provision of third angling platform.</p> <p><i>Agreements and funding in place by Aug 2024</i></p>				
		<p>Review and refine permit process and conditions for gamebird hunting</p>			<p>Review how new permit system is working</p>	
		<p>Review access information and where appropriate identify contact details/ negotiate access.</p> <p><i>Complete Waingongoro review Aug 2024</i>  <i>Review Kaupokonui River access (including Mangawhero Stream) by Aug 2023</i></p>				
	<p><b>Manage hunter behaviour</b>  <i>Maximise hunter enjoyment and participation and also general public support so as to minimise the threat to the sport from anti-hunting groups</i></p>	<p>Implement strategy to achieve appropriate hunter behaviour.  <i>Initial actions in place by May 2023</i></p>			<p>Review effectiveness of strategy and implementation</p>	
<p><b>Promote table qualities of the resource.</b>  <i>An important part of the sport is the</i></p>	<p>Locate and publicise quality trout and perch recipes, including those in the Fish &amp; Game cookbook</p>		<p>Review and collate suitable game bird recipes online</p>			

	<p><i>taking of prime food for the table, and which adds additional value to their sport. Making use of shot game as a natural, healthy food also makes hunting more acceptable to the general public</i></p>				
	<p><b>Minimise barriers</b>  <i>An effective network of licence administration minimises the barriers to purchasing a licence, and in turn can add significant value for the purchaser in terms of providing information and equipment.</i></p>	<p>Provide support, service and upskilling of licence agents to operate as effective licence outlets and sources of valued information on opportunities and techniques.</p>			
	<p><i>Utilise simple, consistent and easy to understand regulations that are both effective and that minimise</i></p>	<p>Review regulations annually with an objective to achieve simplicity and consistency across the region and between regions as opportunities allow. Ensure information is easy to find and follow.</p>			

	<i>uncertainty and reluctance to have a go</i>	
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<b>Work Area</b> <i>(why are we undertaking this objective?)</i>	<b>Key Result</b> <i>(what are we actually doing and how this contributes to objective?)</i>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>
<b>Sports fish monitoring and management</b>  <i>To obtain necessary information and undertake effective management actions to sustainably manage sports fish populations across the region so as to foster angler success and satisfaction such that</i>	<b>Obtain baseline information for key streams</b> <i>To better understand key fisheries and identify threats and opportunities to the maintenance of important angling resources</i>	Investigate Waingongoro River fishery to determine current status and identify threats and opportunities (yr 1 of 2).	Assess juvenile recruitment in the Waiongana/Mangaoraka Stream catchment to compare with baseline information from other catchment surveys.  Complete review of Waingongoro River fishery (yr 2 of 2).	Assess and report on the fishery in the Manganui River and tributaries		Assess and report on the fishery in the Tokiahuru/Waitaiki Stream.  Otakeho Stream. Taungatara Stream
	<b>Investigate value of stocking specific streams and lakes</b> <i>To ensure any stocking programme is effective in terms of an increased return to the angler, is socially appropriate and</i>	Prepare and undertake annual stocking plan <i>Achieve proposed stocking programme each year</i>				Review stocking plan
	Undertake further trial releases of 2yr old trout into lower Patea River	Review results and develop position on release of trout into lower Patea River				
Monitor success of 2017-2021 trout releases into the lower Patea River.						

<p><i>they remain in the sport.</i></p>	<p><i>a sound use of what are limited resources</i></p>					
	<p><b>Investigate opportunities to restore fisheries</b>  <i>Some previously important fisheries have declined over time and there maybe opportunities to restore some of these to the benefit of local anglers</i></p>			<p>Assess juvenile recruitment along the Timaru Stream following removal of the Tataraimaka weir to document effects on fish passage.</p>		
	<p><b>Angler surveys &amp; diaries</b>  <i>These provide a mechanism to effectively monitor many of the regions fisheries which otherwise would</i></p>	<p>Undertake angler diary scheme programme annually.  <i>Each year promote the scheme and produce an annual report of results</i></p>				

	<p><i>be outside the resources available to F&amp;G. This information is important for assessing angler satisfaction, making management responses including regulation setting and also in promoting the importance of the fishery in resource consent and community processes</i></p>		<p>Review diary system and effectiveness</p>			
	<p><b>Hatchery</b>  <i>Stocking appropriate waterways with trout is an effective way to increase angling opportunity. In particular stocking man-made lakes and impoundments close to urban centres can be highly valued by family and other</i></p>	<p>Maintain effective hatchery operations utilising volunteer support</p>		<p>Review options for the hatchery to ensure that hatchery operation is efficient, effective and sustainable re meeting future stocking requirements.</p>	<p>Implement decisions</p>	

	<p><i>groups contributing to a healthier lifestyle and enhancing support for fishing and F&amp;G whilst not impacting unreasonably on indigenous fish species. It is also an important tool to introduce budding anglers to fishing and protecting the licence base</i></p>		<p>Will be influenced by the National Council stocking review, R3 needs also community/iwi aspirations.</p>	
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Work Area (why are we undertaking this objective?)	Key Result (what are we actually doing and how this contributes to objective?)	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	
<b>Gamebird monitoring and investigations</b>  <i>To obtain necessary information and undertake effective management actions to sustainably manage gamebird populations across the region to maximise hunter satisfaction so they remain in the sport.</i>	<b>Mallard Duck monitoring</b> <i>Obtaining an accurate estimate of the duck population annually to set season regulations is fraught with difficulties and is resource intensive. Furthermore the regulation setting timetable means substantial population changes may occur between any monitoring and regulation setting and the new hunting season. However</i>	Implement banding protocol for Whanganui area.  <i>Review site selection and undertake full banding 2022 – 2024 including recovery of bands. Complete report of banding results August 2024</i>		Review monitoring programme for the region taking into account banding results and including regulation setting requirements			
		Undertake annual aerial counts of dabbling duck transects across the Taranaki ringplain  <i>Count data is summarised in annual discussion paper re recommended Game Gazette conditions.</i>			Review effectiveness and value of the monitoring programme.		
		Participate in and meet data entry requirements for the National Hunter Survey  <i>Target for number of interviews is achieved and data summarised in annual discussion paper re recommended Game Gazette conditions</i>					

	<p><i>potentially hunting mortality may either be negligible, compensatory and/ or naturally reduce when populations are low anyway. The alternative approach if the population is robust &amp; hunting mortality is relatively minor is to focus on maintaining consistent regulations which allow for a reasonable bag and season length at minimal risk to the population. This manages hunter expectations and allows them to invest with some certainty to the future while freeing up</i></p>	
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	<i>management resources</i>					
	<b>Paradise shelduck monitoring</b>	Undertake paradise shelduck moult counts across the region in January each year. <i>Produce an annual report detailing trends in numbers</i>				
	Paradise shelduck are an important resource for Taranaki hunters. However in large numbers they can impact on farming operations. Numbers can be effectively monitored by undertaking moult counts across the region and the information used to manage numbers sufficient to provide valued hunting opportunities without unreasonably	Implement recommendations from review of moult sites monitored and how the data is reported.	Review count methods, including efficiency, effectiveness and cost of returning to aerial counts in hill country and coastal areas			
		Review hunting regulations for paradise shelduck and including possible Area boundaries				

	impacting on landowners					
	<b>Pukeko monitoring</b> <i>Large aggregations of pukeko create problems for landowners and create a hunting opportunity for licence holders. However over much of the region numbers are very low so it is essential to have sound monitoring information so as to set effective regulations which maximise opportunity while ensuring the sustainability of the regional populations.</i>		Investigate re-starting April pukeko monitoring in the Whanganui area (last carried out in 2016 & 2017)	Implement pukeko monitoring in the Whanganui area if practical and effective.		Review monitoring methodology and implement recommendations.
		Undertake monitoring of Taranaki ring plain pukeko populations.  <i>Count data is summarised in annual discussion paper re recommended Game Gazette conditions.</i>				Review monitoring methodology and implement recommendations.
	<b>New opportunities</b> <i>There are potentially</i>	Review and develop position on release of	Review criteria/ policy to rear and release			



	<p><i>several ways the resource may be supplemented and hunting undertaken. So long as any new approach does not unreasonably impact on other hunters or indigenous biodiversity then this is an opportunity that may be valued by a segment of licence holders.</i></p>	<p>upland game birds.</p>	<p>upland game birds.</p>			
	<p><b>Dispersal</b> Manage problem aggregations of gamebirds to minimise their impacts on landowners and protect/ create hunting opportunities for licence holders</p>	<p>Quickly and efficiently respond to landowner concerns as required. Implement Special Season for paradise shelduck as and where appropriate.</p>				

<b>Work Area</b> <i>(why are we undertaking this objective?)</i>	<b>Key Result</b> <i>(what are we actually doing and how this contributes to objective?)</i>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>
<b>Compliance</b> <i>Protect resource sustainability and user experience to maintain licence holder satisfaction</i>	<b>Compliance</b> <i>Make best use of available resources to implement the objectives of the Compliance Policy so as to best protect the sports fish &amp; game resource and its use</i>	Review Compliance Strategy		Consider other options to undertake compliance if and when these become available		
		Undertake effective opening day ranging across the region and at other key times or in response to identified issues.  <i>Annual compliance report presented to Council</i>				
	<b>Honorary Rangers</b> <i>Safe use of honorary rangers to provide effective and valued compliance coverage across the Taranaki region</i>	Ranger training in implementing R3 principles  <i>All rangers receive introduction to R3</i>			Review use and effectiveness of honorary ranger system	
		Recruit and train new Rangers as required.	Ranger warrant renewals <i>Paperwork submitted by Aug 2024</i>	Ensure all Rangers are up to date with training (CERT 1-day refresher).		Ranger warrant renewals <i>Paperwork submitted by Aug 2027</i>

<b>Work Area</b> <i>(why are we undertaking this objective?)</i>	<b>Key Result</b> <i>(what are we actually doing and how this contributes to objective?)</i>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>
<b>Iwi and public interaction</b> <i>Implementing the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (partnership, protection and participation) requires Council work proactively and collaboratively with iwi regarding the management of natural resources and their use and protection. It is recognised that there may be a</i>	<b>Iwi Liaison</b> <i>Proactively foster close and productive working relationships with iwi at all levels and collectively share expertise and knowledge to achieve greater protection of freshwater and wetland habitats and species. To also enable robust and helpful discussion and decision making on issues affecting licence holders and iwi including use of shared</i>	<p>Take opportunities to involve and work with iwi at all levels on shared matters affecting natural resources and their use, including welcoming iwi participation in Council.</p> <p><i>Represent F&amp;G and provide valued input to Te Awa Tupua process</i></p> <p><i>Identify opportunities and actively work with individual iwi and hapu on local shared issues</i></p> <p><i>Identify possible options to increase iwi involvement in Council</i></p> <p><i>Take opportunities to work on joint habitat improvement and river restoration projects</i></p>				
			Actively involve iwi at all levels in the development of the Sports Fish and Game Management Plan (dependant on completion of regional amalgamations).			

<p><i>natural tension around the possible impact of sports fish in particular on indigenous taonga like inanga and tuna, however collectively we also share a concern and determination to look after and improve freshwater and wetlands so as to protect the wairua and for the benefit of all species.</i></p>	<p><i>resources, protection of indigenous taonga and access</i></p>					
<p><i>There are many groups whose decisions and actions impact on the fish &amp; game resource. By working closely and constructively</i></p>	<p><b>Effective Liaison with Statutory Managers</b> <i>Develop and maintain strong working relationships and involvement with DOC and local and regional councils to</i></p>	<p>Proactively work with Taranaki and Horizons Regional Council staff</p> <p><i>Involve regional council staff in GBHT and H&amp;H applications as appropriate</i></p> <hr/> <p>Develop and maintain constructive relationships with DOC staff as opportunities arise</p>				

<p><i>with these groups more can be achieved to protect and enhance resource sustainability and user experience</i></p> <p><i>In the face of an increasing urban population and support for indigenous biodiversity to ensure hunting &amp; fishing is valued by the general public who recognise that these activities contribute to wider good such as a better environment and healthy lifestyle/ kai and in turn support protecting these resources and</i></p>	<p><i>effectively represent the interests of hunters and anglers in formal decision-making processes</i></p>					
	<p><b>Community Involvement &amp; Advocacy</b>  <i>Actively seek to contribute to the wider community as part of undertaking F&amp;G activities and highlight these broader benefits to engender wider support for F&amp;G, angling and hunting.</i></p>	<p>Recognise and pursue opportunities to contribute to the wider community as part of undertaking core F&amp;G activities.</p> <p><i>Participate in Wild for Taranaki</i>  <i>Contribute to and support the activities of Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust</i></p>				
		<p>Take opportunities to work with community and industry groups on habitat improvement and river restoration projects and initiatives</p>				
	<p><b>Effective use of the Media</b>  <i>Maintain positive profile which encourages prospective participants and</i></p>	<p>Review media strategy</p>	<p>Implement revised strategy</p>			
<p>Post regularly on the Council's Facebook page on F&amp;G activity and up-and-coming events.</p>						

<i>the opportunity to participate.</i>	<i>fosters support and understanding among the general public.</i>				
		Review and regularly update information on the F&G website.			

Work Area <i>(why are we undertaking this objective?)</i>	<b>Key Result</b> <i>(what are we actually doing and how this contributes to objective?)</i>	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
<b>Habitat management</b>  <i>Protecting / improving habitat for sports fish &amp; game is a fundamental and effective means to sustaining the fish &amp; game resource in the interests of licence holders</i>	<b>Taranaki Natural Resources Plan</b> <i>Sports fish and game habitat will be better protected by effective provisions in this Plan. This will also limit the resources F&amp;G expends on addressing individual consent applications freeing these resources up to be used elsewhere</i>	Actively engage in the process to protect and enhance the interests of Taranaki hunters and anglers.  <i>Process deadlines to contribute and submit are met.</i>				
	<b>Effectively engage in RMA consent processes.</b> <i>In the absence of greater direction in regional plans it is necessary to engage in</i>	Engage in relevant specific consent applications to protect F&G interests Seek favourable environmental outcomes as part of Manawa Energy's (formerly Trustpower) reconsenting of the Mangorei and Motukawa hydro schemes.				
				Review strategic approach re:		

	<i>individual consent applications to ensure protection of Fish and Game resources and access to these</i>			engagement in individual consent processes.  <i>(Dependent on progress with Taranaki Natural Resources Plan)</i>			
	<b>Habitat enhancement</b> <i>Take opportunities by working co-operatively to share knowledge, promote, fund and encourage landowners and community groups to improve habitat for the benefit of sports fish, gamebird species and indigenous biodiversity and fishing and hunting opportunity</i>		Establish environmental award				
		Work with other parties to remove the Timaru Stream Weir					
		Explore options to remove the “Riverlands Eltham” weir on the Waingongoro River and improve fish passage at the Normanby weir.					
		Promote and explore opportunities to improve water quality in Lake Rotomanu					
		Promote and develop quality wetland and upland game habitats in association with private landowners and other agencies and including by promoting the GBHT and H&H funds.  <i>At least 3 applications to GBHT &amp; H&amp;H fund per year</i>					
		Keep up to date with current predator control techniques and operations and actively seek to promote effective programmes as opportunities arise.					



		<p>Orautoha/Manganuioteao riparian protection works.</p> <p><i>Complete annual work programme as per funding application. Apply for new funding if there is sufficient interest from landowners.</i></p>	
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<b>Work Area</b> <i>(why are we undertaking this objective?)</i>	<b>Key Result</b> <i>(what are we actually doing and how this contributes to objective?)</i>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>
<b>Planning &amp; Administration</b>  <i>The Taranaki Sports Fish &amp; Game Management Plan is a statutory requirement and formally reflects the aspirations of hunters and anglers. The Plan provides high level direction and guidance for management activities and also other</i>	<b>Review Management Plan</b> <i>The Plan is required to be reviewed in whole no later than 10 years after it was approved. Any review will include the opportunity for submissions by hunters and anglers and F&amp;G will also consult with other parties, iwi and agencies as appropriate and consistent with Treaty of Waitangi</i>	Seek 3-year extension to the Plan review to allow review to occur following regional amalgamations			Undertake plan review to incorporate any changes in F&G organisation from ministerial and internal reviews and amalgamations. Actively involve iwi and community in this plan as well as hunters and anglers	

<p><i>statutory plans in the interests of the resource and users</i></p>	<p><i>obligations to ensure the plan is comprehensive, effective and of value.</i></p>					
<p><i>Strong and effective governance to ensure that the activities of Council are appropriate, well run and reflect the aspirations of all licence holders</i></p>	<p><b>Strategic planning</b>  <i>Implement Management Plan through ongoing review and refinement of 5-year Strategic Plan to provide clear and agreed direction regarding future work programmes and resource allocation and requirements. This strategic plan to guide development of a timely, planned and effective Annual Operational</i></p>	<p>Review 5-Year Strategic Plan annually and as required</p>				

<p><i>Effective and concise administration with accurate reporting to support sound financial management and efficient use of resources in the best interests of the licence holder and fish &amp; game resource</i></p>	<p><i>Workplan that reflects the aspirations of hunters and anglers</i></p>					
	<p><b>Focus on governance</b>  Achieve appropriate diversity across the Council and provide Councillors with professional governance support to best represent the interests of all licence holders</p>	Identify possible options and strategies to increase the diversity of Council		Implement key options identified		
		Review and update governance policy		Co-ordinate Council Election		
			Undertake governance training provided nationally	Undertake governance training		
<p><b>Simplify operational outputs and coding</b>  <i>Provide effective and helpful reporting while minimising unnecessary detail and the time and resources this</i></p>		Implement any outcomes of National Council financial review				

	<i>involves which can be used elsewhere</i>					
	<b>New Plymouth and Whanganui offices</b> <i>Provide effective and healthy office space including storage which is also obvious and accessible to our users and the general public</i>					
	<b>Administrative improvements</b> <i>Make best use of new systems and technology to maximise administrative efficiencies and minimise costs so resources are available for use elsewhere</i>	Incorporate any changes as part of Ministerial and internal F&G reviews and amalgamations.				
	<b>Support for Council</b>	Recommend changes to 5-Year Strategic Plan, prepare draft Annual Operational Plan and draft Performance Report				

	<p><i>Provide valued support to Council which facilitates effective Council governance and operation</i></p>	<p>Prepare concise and complete agenda papers including with a recommended course of action</p>
	<p><b>Health &amp; Safety</b>  <i>Maintain effective systems to ensure a safe and healthy working environment and the safety of staff and visitors</i></p>	<p>Implement and review Health &amp; Safety Policy, Manual and systems and processes as per identified timetable.</p> <p><i>Annual audit and other identified requirements are reported to Council</i></p>

Review: February 2024 Council Meeting



## 8. Risk Register

Consider any new items relating to risk to Taranaki Fish and Game Council operations:

### October 2023

The attached register identifies and records potential significant risks to the effective operation of Taranaki Fish & Game Council. This register is updated for each meeting.

#### **a. COVID19 Government Restrictions Lifted on**

Taranaki Fish and Game Council follows Government advice on managing COVID 19 spread. As of 15 August 2023, Government lifted all restrictions for managing COVID 19 – including mandatory use of facemasks, isolation, and restrictions on gatherings. Therefore, the risk should be managed like other illnesses such as influenza – where good hygiene practices are maintained as a matter of course, and if sick stay at home until well. There is an added tool available that you can identify COVID19 relatively quickly with testing kits – and these should be used if available.

#### **b. NBEA passed with protection of trout and salmon habitat clauses retained.**

The Natural and Built Environment Act (NBEA) and the Spatial Planning Act (SPA) were given Royal Assent on 23 August 2023. The former still provides for the protection of the habitat of trout and salmon alongside the protection of indigenous species, recognition of the values Kiwis place on public access to lakes and rivers and recognition of the recreational use and enjoyment of the natural environment – and for these values to be maintained and enhanced. This should mean that Fish & Game will retain leverage from these clauses to keep its statutory mandate to advocate for the protection of the habitat of trout and salmon.

#### **c. Wildlife Act Review announced by Government**

On 9 September 2023 the Government (Minister of Conservation) announced a formal review of the Wildlife Act and replacement with a “*fit-for-purpose legislation to better protect native species and improve biodiversity*”. The announcement follows a Department of Conservation review which determined that the current Act lacked a clear purpose and didn’t effectively protect at-risk or threatened species. Repealing and replacing the existing Act will follow a standard legislative process during the next parliamentary term. This could materially affect Fish and Game’s interests and responsibilities under legislation – including a possible review of governance roles (either separate or shared with Māori).

#### **d. Biodiversity Risk – Golden Clams Present in Waikato River system but Lake Okataina closed with rahui set by local mana whenua**

There is little evidence that the golden clams have spread from the Waikato – but there is also a lack of actions undertaken by MPI to give assurance to local iwi that have kaitiaki for Lake Okataina that they will not enter the lake system there. Transfer of the clams appears to be limited to wake boats – but to avoid all risk the iwi have placed a rahui on the lake meaning no boat use on the lake. The Te Arawa Trust Board have given support for this action and also provided a wider encouragement to other iwi groups that if they wished to restrict boats on other lakes then the Trust Board would lend their (political) support to do so.

**Action: Receive advice on risks identified and update the Risk Register**



**RISK REGISTER & RISK TREATMENT ACTION PLAN - TARANAKI FISH & GAME - AUGUST 2023**

	Risk Type	Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Actions already in place	Person Responsible	Further Actions Required (if any)
1	Operational	Data loss from computer virus, data corruption	Possible - 3	Moderate - 3	New computers with up to date anti-virus protection. Have moved to cloud based software and document storage. Regular backup of cloud data is being actioned nationally, as well as cyber-insurance in case systems	Office administrator	
2	Operational	Lack of capacity to undertake core roles effectively	Possible - 3	Major - 4	<b>New field officer based in New Plymouth appointed on 2-year fixed term contract. Skilled &amp; experienced staff in place and available to work together where necessary. Staff can work from home if necessary because of Covid-19. Use of volunteer rangers and hatchery workers</b>	Chairperson/ Council	Consider other options to complete work plan. Keep volunteers in the loop to retain their support
3	Operational	Review of Sports Fish & Game Management Plan is not completed by expiry date of current plan (8 Aug 2021)	Likely - 4	Moderate - 3	A 3-year extension to the Review is being sought from the Minister of Conservation. It is difficult to engage meaningfully with licence holders, iwi and other agencies until regional amalgamation is complete.	Manager	Await final decision on regional amalgamation. OWP's will need approval by Minister of Conservation if no Mgt Plan in place
4	<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>	Health and Safety related event resulting in significant harm or injury to staff, contractors or volunteers	Possible - 3	Major - 4	Ensure staff and volunteers comply with Health and Safety Policy and processes. Ensure H&S manual is current and regular reviews, staff meetings and auditing occurs as scheduled. Report on H&S as regular agenda item.	Manager	Ongoing identification of new hazards.
5	<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>	Under Covid-19 staff are put in situations that could jeopardise their health or others around them	Likely - 4	Major - 4	Respond and adhere to conditions or directives imposed by Government that include work place conditions and safety, personal protective gear, etc. Follow recommended best practice.	Manager	Implement further work place and personal protective measures as identified and/ or required. Require staff to work from home.
6	Species Management	Fish - severe weather or geomorphological events impacting on fish population at a local or regional scale	Almost certain - 5	Moderate - 3	Unable to mitigate. Recognise that wild populations will rebound and carry out regular monitoring of key populations to identify changes.	Manager	
7	Species Management	Fish - incursions of invasive species such as hornwort compromise angling amenity in lakes	Likely - 4	Moderate - 3	Difficult and expensive to mitigate once established. Support and amplify the Check/Clean/Dry message to reduce the risk of invasive species spread.	Manager	Work with partner organisations, such as the TRC, DOC, JBNZ and Iwi to spread the biosecurity message.
8	Species Management	Game and Fish - climate induced events i.e., drought impacting on gamebird population	Almost certain - 5	Moderate - 3	Unable to mitigate. Carry out regular monitoring of key populations to identify changes. Recognise that some events may be positive for some species	Manager	
9	Species Management	Decline of Taranaki ring-plain fishery due to reductions in water quality and quantity	Likely - 4	Major - 4	Take planning and individual consent opportunities under the RMA to promote maintenance of suitable water flows and water quality to sustain viable trout fisheries around the ring-plain	Manager/ Field Officer - Taranaki	Engage in the Taranaki Natural Resources Plan process and resource consents. Continue to monitor ring-plain fisheries
10	Species Management	Culling/ poisoning of paradise shelduck populations	Possible - 3	Major - 4	Work closely and proactively with landowners and farmers to manage problem aggregations of paradise shelduck. Hold Special Season where appropriate. Monitor population trends.	Manager/Field Officer	
11	Species Management	Political - Status of indigenous biodiversity is promoted over that of sports fish by statutory agencies and legislation	Likely - 4	Major - 4	Promote freshwater fishing as a valid recreational pursuit with significant financial, recreational & health benefits and as kai for resident and non-resident anglers. Portray F&G in positive light as an environmental organisation. Promote strong ethics amongst anglers. Clarify interaction of native fish and sports fish based on science. Maintain close working relationships with iwi and other agencies to achieve the best outcomes for all freshwater species.	Manager	Proactively engage with iwi, MP's and other groups as opportunities arise. Undertake a public awareness campaign to mobilise support for Fish & Game to retain its statutory mandate.
12	Financial	Ongoing decline in licence revenues	Likely - 4	Major - 4	Regular contact with licence holders/ updated web pages to provide information which assists their experience. Kids fishing days.	Manager	Implement the R3 programme (Recruitment, Retention & Reactivation) including review of Kids fishing days.
13	Financial	Decline in fish and game licence sales due to Covid-19 outbreak	Possible - 3	Major - 4	Cut any unnecessary spending - adopt a prudent approach	Manager/ Council	Work with F&G National Council and implement agreed actions to ensure financial viability
14	Financial	No grant available from National Council	Possible - 3	Severe - 5	Manage region effectively, in a financially prudent manner and on budget to achieve core functions and licence holder satisfaction. Maintain short-term capacity to address short fall through reserves	Manager/ Council	Work with F&G National Council and other regions to best achieve statutory obligations
15	Council	Reputation - Lack of support from licence holders and other agencies arising from criticism and aspersions regarding F&G performance	Possible - 3	Major - 4	Maintain awareness of the need to operate in a transparent, efficient and effective way to best serve licence holders. Ensure actions and comments are professional and reflect well on F&G	Manager/ Council	Make constructive and effective input into the regional amalgamation process in the best interests of hunters and anglers both within the existing Taranaki Region and nationally
16	Council	Reputation - Perceived conflict of interest among decision makers (Councillors)	Possible - 3	Major - 4	Maintain awareness of the need to manage perceived conflicts of interest appropriately and transparently. Follow Standing Orders and including the use of a Conflict of Interest register	Chairperson/ Council	
17	Council	Changes in F&G structure (regional amalgamations) arising from national review/s	Likely - 4	Major - 4	Operate in an efficient and effective way to best serve local and national licence holders	Council	Engage in the process with the best interests of the F&G resource and licence holders both locally and nationally at the forefront of our responses. Support fellow councillors and staff through this process.

TARANAKI Risk Matrix						
Impact	5			Reduced Grant		
				4		
Decline in water quantity/ quality						
Loss of reputation	Change in structure					
Conflict of Interest						
H&S	H&S - Covid-19					
Financial (Covid-19)						
Illegal culls	Decline in licence revenue					
3				Data Loss		
						Severe weather / climate
2						Management Plan review delayed
1						
		1	2	3	4	5
		Likelihood				

## **New controls to protect Lake Ōkataina from clams**

Date: 28 September 2023

Temporary biosecurity rules are being introduced for Lake Ōkataina in the Bay of Plenty as part of a precautionary and balanced approach to reducing risk of spread from the freshwater gold clam.

The lake is being closed for a month, from 1 to 31 October to boating and fishing, through a mechanism called a Controlled Area Notice (CAN) under the Biosecurity Act.

"While the clam has not been found outside of a 99km stretch of the Waikato River, the temporary CAN is in response to a request from Ngāti Tarāwhai, while other options, including boat cleaning stations, are put in place," says Biosecurity New Zealand deputy director-general Stuart Anderson.

The Bay of Plenty Regional Council supports the decision to put a CAN in place to reduce the risk of a biosecurity incursion in the region.

"Lake Ōkataina holds special cultural significance to Ngāti Tarāwhai because it contains a drowned pa site and other submerged Māori archaeological features. It is also a popular trout fishing lake and its popularity with fishers, many who travel from Waikato, makes it vulnerable. It is also a lake of high ecological value, and these features are recognised by certain restrictions already placed on some lake uses," says Mr Anderson.

"Biosecurity New Zealand is taking a cautious and balanced approach to managing this clam that allows people to enjoy our lakes and rivers while protecting them from this invasive shellfish."

Over the temporary closure period, boat cleaning facilities will be installed to provide assurance that boats entering the lake are free of freshwater gold clams.

Cleaning stations will also be installed in the Waikato to help river and lake users meet Check Clean Dry requirements. The first station should be in place in about 3 weeks at Lake Karāpiro and options are being worked through to put cleaning stations at all major boat ramps.

"We appreciate people want to get on Lake Ōkataina at the start of the trout fishing season, but a small sacrifice this month goes a long way towards preserving it for generations to come," says Mr Anderson.

"Once we have the facilities to ensure all boats coming into the lake are clam-free, the lake will be open to enjoy for the remainder of the season."

The CAN prohibits the movement of boats and other watercraft and fishing equipment - including rods, waders and nets – into the lake. The lake can still be enjoyed for other activities such as walking on the shore, picnics and swimming.

People who have a need to continue using boats in the lake during the period can apply for a special permit.

"We continue to work with all parties to protect our freshwater environment from this clam," said Mr Anderson.

"We have completed extensive surveillance of the Waikato River and its wider catchment we have also undertaken surveillance at six national sites so far, with no positive results. We are planning, with regional councils, to carry out surveillance at approximately 80 further sites.

"Surveillance of a number of waterways around Rotorua undertaken by Te Arawa Lakes Trust and Bay of Plenty Regional Council has also found no evidence of the clam.

"We are also planning to run trials to determine the feasibility of suppressing the clam population in the Waikato River and these should be underway by November.

# Gold clam fears: Te Arawa Lakes Trust considers rāhui on Rotorua lakes as biosecurity measure

By [Cira Olivier](#)

2 Oct, 2023 06:02 PM ⌚ 6 mins to read

Te Arawa Lakes Trust is considering a rāhui on Rotorua's lakes to help safeguard them from destructive gold clams.

It comes after Biosecurity New Zealand closed Rotorua's Lake Ōkātina to boating and fishing throughout October to install protections against the invasive freshwater pests.

The agency says it has no plans to close other lakes but would consider requests, as it did the Lake Ōkātina application from Ngāti Tarāwhai Iwi Trust, which feared the clams could "obliterate" the lake's "delicate ecosystem" if they reached its waters.

Gold clams, also known as Asian clams, were believed to have been in the Waikato River for at least two or three years but were discovered in May. Fast reproducers, they have multiplied to be found in a 99km stretch, but have not been found elsewhere in New Zealand.

The clams feed on plankton most native species survive on, and can clog infrastructure in the water. Eradication overseas has never been achieved.

Te Arawa Lakes Trust chairman Geoff Rolleston said the trust was considering implementing a rāhui as an "interim measure," to raise awareness and uphold kaitiakitanga (guardianship) responsibilities.

A rāhui is a customary and temporary prohibition, and not legally enforced. Its details would depend on "the evidence being built to encompass a rāhui whakarauora taiao, to allow for conservation, and a rāhui aukati mōreareatanga, to address the biosecurity risk".

Rolleston said the need for more wash stations for vessels around the lakes was "of paramount importance" to preserve the Rotomoana environment.

There was also a "pressing" need for stations along the Waikato and a comprehensive education and awareness campaign.

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/rotorua-daily-post/news/gold-clam-fears-te-arawa-lakes-trust-considers-rahui-on-rotorua-lakes-as-biosecurity-measur...> 1/4

He said the “Check, Clean, Dry” biosecurity measures — instructions for cleaning vessels and gear of pests before moving between waterways — were well-recognised by locals and visitors also needed to adhere to them.

“To safeguard our Rotomoana, a comprehensive plan must be developed.”

He said preparations should also account for other potential future freshwater biosecurity risks.

“It is our shared responsibility to collaborate in the best interest of all our lakes and their enduring health.”

He said it was “distressing” to hear there had been online threats to dump clams into Lake Ōkātina and urged the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour.

“The discovery of these clams may necessitate further closures to our Rotomoana.”

The trust was exploring ways to bolster the presence of biosecurity officers on the lakes.

It was also calling for increased resource investment towards clam eradication and believed containing the clams to the Waikato was “an obligation”.

“We emphasise that this threat should be addressed with the same gravity as other biosecurity threats, akin to agricultural and horticultural concerns.”

He said the trust continued to “charter a collective path forward to strengthen our communities to activate further our kaitiakitanga principles for the protection of our cherished Te Arawa Rotomoana”.

Biosecurity New Zealand director of readiness and response John Walsh said it had “no plans to close other lakes”, but would work collaboratively and consider any requests, as it did for Lake Ōkātina.

He said measures taken to keep the clams out of Rotorua included a national surveillance plan, a public awareness campaign promoting Check, Clean, Dry including a Waikato-based version, and making the clam an unwanted organism under the Biosecurity Act.

He said the best tool to prevent the spread, without closing lakes and rivers, was ensuring river users followed Check, Clean, Dry guidelines before moving to another part of the river or a different waterway.

A Waikato coordinator had been contracted to educate users on preventing the spread, and ambassadors were present at events, such as rowing regattas.

He said it had worked with Fish & Game NZ, with “excellent reach”, to make sure fishers knew about the clam situation and the new guidelines, including cleaning with very hot water rather than just detergent.

The agency believed water users were taking all precautions and adhering to the guidelines.

Walsh said Fish & Game Eastern Region staff were at main boat ramps this weekend for enforcement and education purposes, and looking out for Waikato anglers.

Boat cleaning facilities will be installed at Lake Ōkātina while it is closed.

They will also be installed in the Waikato, the first at Lake Karāpiro in about three weeks, and options to have them at all major boat ramps are being explored.

It planned to expand its national surveillance programme to 80 sites and to start trials in November testing the feasibility of suppressing the clams to the Waikato River.

He said its response to the clams was informed by expert advice that found eradication “extremely unlikely” but containment and suppression feasible.

He said Biosecurity NZ was taking “a cautious and balanced approach” so people could enjoy the waters while protecting them.

Fish & Game chief executive Corina Jordan said it had staff at Lake Rotoiti and Lake Tarawera over the weekend, as usual for the trout fishing season opening day.

She said it did not have staff at Lake Ōkātina as it was closed but understood it was quiet. She said Eastern region chairman Ngahi Bidois stopped by and was pleased to see anglers were respecting “the wishes of the local community” and fishing elsewhere.

“We share iwi concerns that this clam will spread across the country and understand why they sought the closure,” Jordan said.

## Check, clean and dry

Before moving between waterways you must do the following for all gear that comes into contact with water:

### Check

Remove any plant matter and leave it at the site (the river or lake bank), or put it in the rubbish. Don't wash it down any drain.

### Clean

Dishwashing detergent is not effective against gold clams, but hot water is.

For absorbent material, such as lifejackets or clothing, wash with hot water above 60C for at least 1 minute; between 50-54C (hot household tap water) for at least 5 minutes; or above 45C for at least 20 minutes. Alternatively, soak items in a 10 per cent bleach solution.

## Dry

Ensure gear is completely dry to touch, inside and out, then leave to dry for at least another 48 hours before using it.

Source: [mpi.govt.nz](https://mpi.govt.nz)

**Cira Olivier is a social issues and breaking news reporter for NZME Bay of Plenty. She has been a journalist since 2019.**





## 9. Chairmans Report

Chairman to provide report on specific items since the last meeting

**Action: No specific action required.**



## 10. NZ Council Business

### a. NZ Councillor's Report (NZ Council Meeting 18-19 August 2023)

- A summary of the meeting of NZ Council meeting on 18-19 August is provided.
- NZ Council appointee to provide report, and give emphasis and insight into decisions made.
- NZ Council appointee to provide commentary on any issues since the NZ Council meeting.

### b. Engaging With Mana Whenua \*attached

- Advice from Kahu Environmental provided to NZ Council on principles and approaches to take when engaging effectively with iwi.
- This is to be read in conjunction with legal advice on the responsibilities under the Conservation Act to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

### c. Draft NZ Fish and Game Strategy \*attached

- This strategy document has been developed by NZ Fish and Game Council and other internal groupings such as Managers/CEs, and some regional Fish and Game Councils
- This is nearing the final form, and will be used to direct and prioritise funding and resourcing for both NZ Council and ultimately regional Fish and Game Councils.

### d. Research: Economic Assessment of The Mackenzie Hydro Canal Fishery

- This is an advisory only – that the entire email database for anglers will be used by CSI Fish and Game Council to assess the economic value of the South Island canal fisheries. The project is being conducted by Otago University.

### e. NZ Council Cost Optimisation Project – Financial Review

- This is a NZ Council sponsored project that will generate various debates around regional Fish and Game Councils. The request has been made for an independent consultant to have access to all records in Xero to undertake a cost efficiency and cost saving exercise. The goals and scope of the project are listed, and is noted as a very wide brief. To be of real benefit to the organisation then it would be best undertaken by all component entities.

## AGENDA ITEM 10A

6 September 2023

### **NZC CEO Update to Regional Managers**

#### **Summary of Fish & Game National Council Meeting #165 (18 & 19 August 2023)**

Tēnā koutou,

I hope this latest NZC Meeting update finds you all in good health and you are all looking forward to the upcoming Staff Conference in Rotorua from 12 to 15 September 2023. It will be a great opportunity for us all to get together and reflect on a number of achievements across the organisation as we navigate our way towards shaping the future of Fish and Game New Zealand.

Please find below a summary of the key topics and decisions that emerged from the latest NZC meeting held in Wellington on 18 & 19 August 2023.

#### **Executive Overview:**

**Guide Licence Update:** Regional Fish & Game Council concerns in relation to delays on the completion of the Guide Licence were acknowledged by the New Zealand Fish & Game Council. The Guide Licence document is subject to ongoing negotiation with the Guides and refinement such that it would be acceptable to the Minister of Conservation. It is scheduled for the Guides Licence to come to the next NZC meeting in November 2023 for consideration and finalisation.

**Insurance and Indemnity:** NZC received a presentation on insurance and indemnity from John Bell and Katishce Remnant from Aon Insurance. Discussion revolved around policy coverage and limits, including claims that were subject to a maximum payout per annum, and the concept of aggregated limits as well as the need to address risks and potential issues. Attention was also given to the coverage for PCBU situations and health and safety regulations and impacts on insurance coverage with some ambiguities clarified. Insurance does not cover, for example, fines against a PCBU (CEO/Manager/ and Council) for breaches against the Health and Safety or Maritime Acts. Future insurance considerations were also discussed, including exploring different options to better cover various levels of risk, sharing premiums based on licence holders rather than regional allocation with a goal to reduce duplication of costs. The PowerPoint presentation is attached for your information and contemplation of future insurance options.

**2023-24 Annual Budget & Meeting Schedule:** The proposed 2023/24 Annual Budget & Meeting Schedule for upcoming NZC meetings were agreed for Regional consultation, subject to:

- A change to the Licence fee meeting in June, which is to be held over two half days in order to consider both the Licence fee recommendation to the Minister of Conservation, and also NZC advice to the Minister on the Sports fish Forms and Fees, Regulations and Anglers Notice; and
- The August NZC meeting is to be held over two days.

The Annual Budget & Meeting Schedule is now out to regions for consultation, please see attached updated Annual Budget & Meeting Schedule with feedback due 20 October. Please note the NZC Policy for changing Policy document discussed below which is also out for consultation. It will be important for Regional Fish & Game Council meetings to be scheduled ideally on the off month of a NZC meeting, or at least 3 weeks after a NZC Meeting and at least 3 weeks prior to the next NZC meeting to enable effective communication and decision making across Councils.

**Research and Monitoring Programme:** Updates were provided on ongoing studies funded by the Research Fund, along with the presentation of the draft Research Strategy. Feedback on the strategy was requested, with plans to engage with the Research Subcommittee to finalise in time for the next NZC meeting in November. The role of Research Subcommittee and delineation of roles between operational and governance was discussed with the Research Subcommittee's Terms of Reference to be finalised to clearly define responsibilities in line with organisational objectives and would be presented at the next NZC meeting for ratification. The significance of research sharing, peer reviewing, and publishing was highlighted and the importance of research in maintaining a strong social license and addressing access issues was also discussed.

**Draft Resource Management Strategy & Practice Notes Update:** The Draft RM strategy serves as a foundation for understanding the Resource Management issues over the next few years and workload. The RM Strategy and Practice Notes provide a platform for setting out Fish & Games values that we want to see reflected in regional and national policy, and management responses. It also introduces a project priority matrix for RMA fund applications, which outlines essential criteria that projects must meet to be eligible for NZC funding. A landing page has also been developed to serve as a resource for stakeholders, primarily planning/policy experts, and organisations seeking similar outcomes to Fish & Game in the policy space. The landing page features our Practice Notes which sheds light on our approach and initiatives while offering comprehensive insights into our contributions to environmental policies and strategies.

#### **Detailed Information and Decisions:**

**Research Fund Application:** NZC received a significant research application 'Economic Survey of Trout and Salmon Angling in Aotearoa New Zealand' focused on trout and salmon angling with a budget of \$160,000.

**Approved in Principle:** *The application's intent was approved in principle. NZC emphasised that the research should encompass a national assessment, including Taupo with this project being extremely high priority for NZC.*

Staff were to refine the application, exploring costs and potential funding sources in collaboration with the Research Subcommittee and present a revised version to NZC for review and ratification at its 24 & 25 November 2023 meeting. The findings of recent national surveys and the CSI canal survey were to be integrated into this comprehensive national survey with this being central in delivering a unified perspective on the direct and indirect value of New Zealand trout fisheries to New Zealand.

**RMA/Legal Fund Applications:** NZC received two applications from the Wellington Fish and Game Council:

- Greater Wellington Regional Council plan change hearing process requesting \$50k towards legal costs and \$30k for Planner costs totalling \$80k; and
- \$120k for Horizons Regional Council plan changes.

**Both cases were supported:** *as they would have significant consequences for the organisation at a national level and were considered precedent setting. However, due to concerns around budget constraints, the workload identified through the RM strategy, including potential requirements of additional staff, and the conservation law reform, NZC approved funding of the Greater Wellington Case out of the RM Legal Budget and seek that WFGC fund the Horizons case from their reserves at this time. The NZC CEO was to discuss this with the Wellington Regional Manager.*

A summary of pre consultation processes that are underway under the NPS-FM was provided at the meeting. With the volume of additional work, in principle approval was sought from NZC to look at options for additional staffing, including an inhouse lawyer and 1-2 additional RMA planners.

**Approved in Principle:** *To explore the possibility of hiring additional staff, with an in-house lawyer and 1-2 RMA planners identified as key roles needed to manage the workload effectively.*

At present, the process for RM legal fund approval is subject to an independent legal for applications exceeding \$50,000, including the two applications received above. However, this policy will be revisited due to the growing capacity of our in-house staff to conduct assessments before NZC reviews.

**Budget and Financial Decisions:** Discussion revolved around the operational work plan budget, cost of compliance in the maritime program, and fiscal impact of the Ministerial Review. Budgets not utilised were considered for carryover into the new fiscal year, including the unused funds from the Ministerial Review Budget for 2022-23 to be carried over to 2023-24 to fund the Organisational Finance Optimisation proposal and implementation of non-legislative review recommendations. A list of priority projects for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 periods was also approved.

**Approved: The budget for 2023-24 was approved with a projected deficit of \$343,074 and delegated authority to the NZC CEO to manage spending within the approved 2023-24 budget.** Consideration was given to the Hunting & Fishing magazine and the assessment of Fish and Game magazines' future viability with further review and deliberations to be carried out in November. The NZC allocated funding towards Fish & Game's social license campaign.

**Policy and Governance:**

- **Policy Modernisation:** The Policy Modernisation Subcommittee, comprising the Executive Committee, will review and distribute policies to regions for consultation as required in order to streamline the process of giving effect to the Ministerial Review, with final decisions resting with NZC. The focus will be on implementing the Ministerial Review, ensuring H&S and HR policies meet legislative requirements, and avoiding undue length and complexity. The importance of effectively communicating policies to regions was emphasised, along with encouraging their adoption to ensure consistent standards across all areas.
- **National Policy Implementation:** A Policy on Setting National Policy was discussed at the NZC meeting for consideration by the Regions. Track-changed copy attached. A streamlined consultation process is recommended in order to accommodate urgent statutory requirements and to implement the non-legislative parts of the Ministerial Review.

**Key amendments include:**

- Streamlined process:
- Draft policies can go to a NZC committee/or its delegate, such as the Executive (as mentioned above) which has the delegation from NZC to review the policies and approve them for consultation with the regions.
- Policies must be consulted within one NZC Council meeting cycle (8 weeks).
- NZC staff collect and present feedback from Fish & Game regions to the NZC, which is to be received at least 15 working days prior to the NZC meeting.
- Amendment to Clause e: to allow '*reasonable time*' for Fish and Game Councils to provide feedback so the NZC can consider and amend the draft national policy before adopting it (Also allows for situations where a longer consultation period is required based on the complexity of the issue).
- Removal of '*majority decision*' as there is no legal requirement for complete agreement by all, or a majority of Fish and Game Councils in arriving at that policy.
- This would review/set F&G National Policy and these elements would also apply in any other circumstances where the NZC is required to consult with Regional Councils.

The policy is circulated to regions for feedback and is due by 20 October 2023 ideally. It is noted that the current NZC Policy for setting policy could be interpreted as providing two meeting cycles therefore, would not be concluded before the end of the year. We are seeking that Regions agree to a shortened timeframe for providing feedback on the policy for Setting National Policy, in order to enable the ongoing work required to implement the Ministerial Review and ensure that Fish & Game is meeting its legislative requirements.

- **Conflict of Interest Policy:** The Conflicts of Interest Policy was considered, and a draft was discussed for final approval in the upcoming November meeting. Detailed editing is to be carried out, ensuring clarity and compliance. Regions will be encouraged to review their existing policy in light of the revised NZC policy to ensure consistency. The policy is circulated to regions with feedback due by 20 October 2023

- **Staff Code of Conduct:** The draft Staff Code of Conduct was to be amended to include the values framework from the organisational strategy, and consideration be given to include the definition of “due process” under misconduct and inclusion of a dispute resolution provision, with the updated version to be circulated to regions for feedback as requested by the Chairs Forum and as part of the Ministerial Review Recommendation 17. The Staff Code of Conduct Policy is attached and circulated to regions for feedback due by 20 October 2023.

**Please note, it is important that staff are consulted on this policy as well as your councils.**

- **Remuneration Policy:** NZC approved the draft Remuneration Policy taking into consideration regions feedback. Please find attached the final policy and accompanying paper which sets out staff recommendations and reasoning, and key sections of the discussion outlining why the NZC adopted the policy as national policy binding on the regions.

- **Working Groups ToR:** The draft Future Finance Working Group and Future Structure Working Group Terms of Reference were approved by NZC. Attached for your information.

#### **Operational Updates:**

- **NZC CEO Report: NBE Update:** Fish & Game has secured changes to “protect the habitat of trout and salmon” with the areas that Fish & Game remain concerned about noted. The financial implications of the National Angler Survey were discussed. NZC received the Engaging with Mana Whenua: A discussion document exploring best practice for Fish & Game, which highlighted the importance of specific survey responses from iwi and tribes, including details such as gender, age, and iwi affiliations with this to be circulated to Regional Councils and relevant stakeholders. As part of the program to implement Fish & Games Section 4 responsibilities & Ministerial Review Recommendations in relation to Iwi, and in building a stronger connection with Mana Whenua the following was acknowledged: ***the urgency of incorporating Te Ao Māori perspectives within the NZC staff policies, and the allocation of funds approved for a part-time advisor contract to facilitate this integration.***

#### **Decisions from Part II (Public Excluded) moved to Part I:**

- **Compliance Policy Review:** NZC received the draft gun unloading and unattended firearms standard operating procedures and Ranger Compliance Report with it agreed that: ***the NZC CEO is to review the existing national policy on compliance and propose a nationally coordinated approach under a revised national compliance framework including development of SOP's.***
- **Maritime Function:** NZC agreed to fund: ***The development of overarching policies and systems that support the organisation's Maritime functions including agency wide health and safety policy; the Sea Flux App to have better oversight of marine health and safety documentation; and increase the annual funding for the Maritime Officer position and support systems and functions to reflect the Maritime New Zealand recommendations with funding to come from regions reserves (pro rata on boats) for the 23/24 year.***

If you have further queries or need more details on any of these points, please feel free to contact me directly.

We value your ongoing commitment and look forward to your continued participation in achieving our common objectives.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Corina Jordan

**Chief Executive Officer**

**New Zealand Fish and Game Council**





## Engaging with Mana Whenua

A DISCUSSION DOCUMENT EXPLORING BEST PRACTICE FOR FISH & GAME

FOR FISH & GAME NEW ZEALAND

3 AUGUST 2023



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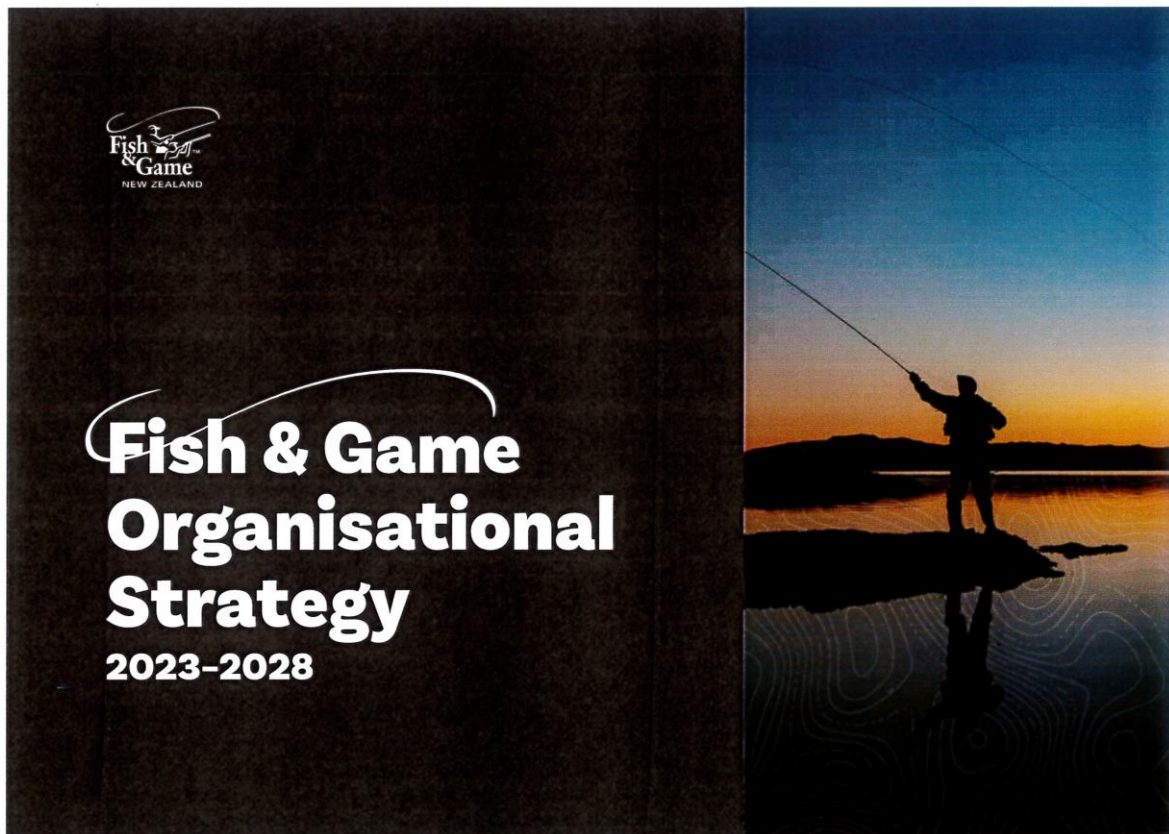
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Engaging with

AGENDA ITEM 10.C (INCLUDED WITH AGENDA)



## AGENDA ITEM 10.D

20/09/2023

### **CSIFG Economic Impact Assessment of the Mackenzie Hydro Canal Fishery.**

(by Rhys Adams)

Central South Island Fish and Game Council (CSIFG) acknowledge support by Fish & Game's regional councils in supplying their licence holder databases to CSIFG for an Economic Impact Assessment (EIA) research of the nationally significant canal fishery. The Canal fishery is a nationally significant fishery, used by anglers of all regions of New Zealand and internationally. The draft 2021/22 NAS estimates 117,824 angler days for the canal fishery, for comparison, this is more than the total angler days for several regions across New Zealand.

The Mackenzie hydro canals are still growing in their patronage (NAS 21/22). This is providing an economic driver for Fish & Game nationally. Investment in managing and maintaining the canal fishery must be priority for Fish & Game nationally. Having the level of detail enabled by this EIA will offer us a compelling argument for local entities to support the canal fishery knowing that there is a direct return to them.

Central South Island Fish & Game has contracted/partnered with the economics department of Otago University to research the economic impacts of canal anglers to the local Mackenzie Basin community. The project is part funded by Meridian Energy as mitigation for operating the hydro power scheme.

The research will take the form of an online **email** survey to all appropriate anglers holding a 2022/23 sports fishing licence. The survey will take place from late September to mid-October 2023. Survey questions will target canal angling activity and associated spending across the 2022/23 sports fishing season.

Intended outcomes.

1. The research outcomes will be used to facilitate further engagement with local community members, business owners and agencies intended to support/fund canal fishery management. Particularly, engagement seeks to support the retention of existing high angler use and associated licence sales. To achieve this, an improved catch rate will be made possible if we can establish a 'put and take' salmon release programme supported/funded by local businesses that benefit from the patronage of canal anglers.
2. The research can be used by NZC and Fish & Game regions to build on our social licence by demonstrating the value of introduced species to the economy and communities.
3. The research will also dovetail into the proposed nationwide economic assessment of the impact of trout and salmon fishing and be applicable to regional fisheries of interest such as the Maitai, Rotorua lakes.

### Fish & Game Cost Optimisation

#### Objectives

- Evaluate and identify best practice.
- Identify opportunities for cost savings, quantify and determine the plan to realise the opportunities, including but not limited to:
  - Regional benchmarking;
  - Purchasing.
- Review the financial ability to implement the Organisational Strategy, including project management advice and assistance.
- Identify further sources of revenue.
- Assist with the development of a template for the New standards for Tier 2 Statement of Service Performance (SSP) for NZC and Otago.
- Support development of consolidated annual reporting.
- Provide expert assistance to the Future Finance Working Group (FFWG), including recommendations on organisational cost and revenue optimisation and budgeting.
- Identify if regions have adequate funding for capital expenditure (Asset Replacement Fund).

#### Approach

- Review for each region; the financial statements for the last two years, the detailed management accounts supporting these financial statements, the 2023 budgets and actuals for the year to date, work done to date on the 2024 budgets, and any other information relevant to the cost optimisation exercise.
- Meet with each regional manager (*Councillors*) and, where considered beneficial, regional accountants to discuss:
  - Each region's financial position.
  - Observations from the review of the above material.
  - What work the region has done on revenue and cost optimisation opportunities.
  - How they see the recently agreed remuneration increases being funded.
  - Their thoughts on the regions' financial position going forward.
  - Where they see opportunities for efficiencies, cost savings and revenue increases at a regional level.
  - Where they see opportunities for efficiencies, cost savings and revenue increases at a national level.
  - How these opportunities might be realised and the barriers to this.
  - Any other relevant matters.
- Undertake the same for NZC.
- Document these discussions.
- In tandem with the above, undertake a separate piece of analytical work which would involve (but not limited to):
  - Benchmarking.
  - Identifying who the top 10-15 suppliers are, the spend across the regions on each, where there might be opportunities to leverage economies of scale.
  - The current cost of finance and other support functions and what this cost might be if the function was centralised.
- Hold workshops with a smaller group of the managers/Councillors, Corina and Carmel to discuss the findings and observations from the above work, common themes, the F&G "best practice" identified and how this might be adopted by other regions, what opportunities to pursue, how and when, etc.
- Provide regular reporting to the FFWG and expert assistance.

- Provide a paper to the NZC Chief Executive for consideration by the NZC.
- Provide input from a financial perspective into the common policies and procedures work NZC is undertaking. This would include identifying and considering an optimal operating model or aspects of an optimal operating model which could be considered by the FFWG and NZC.

#### **Requirements**

- Provision of all relevant financial and other information.
- Ideally, a resource to assist with the financial and other analysis work, modelling, etc.
- Admin assistance – collating material, arranging meetings, etc.



31 August 2023

Fish & Game Regional Chairs & Regional Managers  
[regionalchairs@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:regionalchairs@fishandgame.org.nz)  
[regionalmanagers@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:regionalmanagers@fishandgame.org.nz)

### Upcoming Cost Optimisation and Resource Allocation Project

Dear Regional Chairs and Regional Managers,

I hope this message finds you well. Following the Regional Managers meeting in Christchurch on 11 July and the New Zealand Council meeting held on 18 and 19 August, we are pleased to inform you that NZC has contracted Gary Crawford to undertake an organisation-wide Cost Optimisation and Resource Allocation project. For a comprehensive understanding, please find attached the project brief for your perusal.

We recognise the ongoing complexities associated with our current budget allocation methods, especially within Fish & Game given our contestable funding application approach. These challenges are affecting the sustainability and efficiency of our financial management and inhibiting our ability to fully achieve our Strategic Objectives. This is particularly concerning in light of rising operational costs and a stable, yet unchanging, revenue stream, despite New Zealand's growing population.

Gary Crawford will focus on several key aspects, including:

- Uncovering avenues for cost reduction and devising actionable plans, with specific attention to regional benchmarking and purchasing practices.
- Assessing the sufficiency of capital expenditure funds across regions (Asset Replacement Fund).
- Evaluating the organisation's financial capacity to execute its Strategic Objectives.
- Identifying further/new revenue streams.
- Offering specialised insights to the Future Finance Working Group (FFWG), including recommendations on resource reallocation and optimisation.

To facilitate this comprehensive review, Gary will need access to view in confidence your financial accounts, including Xero. Kindly instruct your administrative teams to grant him the necessary permissions at [garycrawford99@gmail.com](mailto:garycrawford99@gmail.com). Moreover, Gary may need to consult with your accounts administrators for any additional information or clarification. He intends to meet with representatives from each region in November and will reach out to arrange specific dates and times.

Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Barrie Barnes', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Barrie Barnes  
**New Zealand Fish and Game Council Chair**  
*Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats*

### New Zealand Council

Level 2, The Dominion Building, 78 Victoria Street, Wellington 6011. P.O. Box 25-055, Wellington 6146, New Zealand.  
Telephone (04) 499 4767 Email [nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz) [www.fishandgame.org.nz](http://www.fishandgame.org.nz)

## 11. Health And Safety Report

Review the Health and Safety Report

**Action : Receive the Health and Safety Report for the months of August and September 2023**



# HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

## Taranaki Fish and Game Council

As part of the commitment to Health and Safety and providing a safe workplace the Taranaki Fish & Game Council requires at each meeting describing:

1. Implementation and adherence with the Health and Safety manual/policy.
2. Risk Management (identification and treatment) – new issues or hazards that have arisen and addressed, emergency procedures, dealing with on-site contractors and members of public,
3. Risk Management – On-going issues or hazards
4. Training, and awareness raising programme – information sharing and training of staff and volunteers,
5. Audits, reviews, and meetings – making sure the planning is implemented
6. H&S incidents – near misses or injuries sustained, plus updates on past events,
7. Follow up from Council Meeting - Subjects raised under H&S agenda item for staff and ranger meetings
8. Recommendations

### Bi- Monthly Update – August 2023 and September 2023

<b>1. Implementation and adherence with the Health and Safety manual/policy.</b>	
<i>Status</i>	
Development of Health and Safety Manual/Policy	Manual developed and in use.

<b>2. Risk Management - New Issues or Hazards</b>	
<i>Status</i>	
COVID19 Coronavirus Transmission	All restrictions recommended by Government were lifted on 15 August 2023
Fire Extinguishers for Office and Vehicles checked	Regular maintenance schedule.  Inventory established

<b>3. Risk Management - On going Issues</b>	
<i>Status</i>	
Drift Dive/Electric Fishing/Spawning Survey Field Intention Sheets developed for each site	Entry/exit points to be identified – completed
Safe vehicle use	All personnel reminded of safe use practices compliant with road code.
Safe vehicle	All personnel undertake vehicle check on monthly basis.  First Aid kits for vehicles checked – update as required.

<b>4. Training, and awareness programme</b>	
<i>Status</i>	
First aid certificates for field staff	Valid for field and technical staff.

<b>5. Audits, reviews, and meetings</b>	
<i>Status</i>	
Health & Safety Staff Meeting – September 2023	Weekly meetings with feedback sought and required actions noted.
Reviewed Vehicle Inspection Forms for September 2023	Regular checks for updates encouraged. Any work on vehicle is also encouraged to be completed and up to safe requirements. Tyres replaced on one vehicle.
Review Health & Safety Manual for Council information	Seeking advice from provider for review.
Review first aid kits to ensure practical items included in kits	Reviewed and options considered to make up bespoke first aid kits.

<b>6. H&amp;S incidents - Near misses or injuries</b>	
<i>Status</i>	
None reported	Consider proactive actions as arise in response to near misses.

<b>7. Follow Up from Council Meeting</b>	
<i>Status</i>	
No follow up required	Consider list as required and updated

**Action:**

**Receive Health and Safety Summary Report for August and September 2023**



## 12. Legislative and Policy Review

There are several corporate policies that NZ Council is currently consulting with regions:

**a. Draft Setting National Policy<sup>5</sup>**

- This is a review and update on the consultation requirements to set National Policy. This has connotations beyond having 'common' policy internally for all entities, as it becomes a requirement to follow National Policy once it is confirmed.

**ACTION: provide feedback to NZ Council**

**b. Draft Conflicts of Interest Policy<sup>6</sup>**

- This should be well documented to have a robust Conflicts of Interest Policy that is adhered to – or at least have good practices that can be defended if questioned.

**ACTION: provide feedback to NZ Council**

**c. Draft Staff Code of Conduct<sup>7</sup>**

- This is a NZ Council priority to develop this policy – which is good standard HR policy

**ACTION: provide feedback to NZ Council**

**d. Government Confirmation of Review of Wildlife Act**

- No action required but an awareness that this review might be undertaken with urgency culminating in introduction to parliamentary processes in March 2024.

**e. Final Approved Remuneration Policy**

- This is FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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<sup>5</sup> Formal consultation and feedback sought by NZ Fish and Game Council

<sup>6</sup> Formal consultation and feedback sought by NZ Fish and Game Council

<sup>7</sup> Formal consultation and feedback sought by NZ Fish and Game Council

# DRAFT POLICY ON SETTING NATIONAL POLICY

<b>Section</b>	National
<b>Contact/Owner</b>	NZC CEO/NZC
<b>Last Review</b>	2018/19
<b>Next Review</b>	November 2028 (5 years or as appropriate)
<b>Approval</b>	NZC November 2023
<b>Effective Date</b>	[INSERT DATE]

## 1. PURPOSE

1.1 National policy provides guidance, cohesion, coordination and direction to be consistently applied across the organisation. This sets out the process for setting national policy.

## 2. PRINCIPLES

2.1 In setting these functions, Parliament has given the NZ Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) a leadership and coordination role at the centre of the sports fish and game system to ensure that all parts of the system work together as a coherent whole.

### 2.2 Statutory relevance for FG NZ:

As noted, a central aspect of the NZ Council's co-ordination purpose is its function to "develop, in consultation with Fish and Game Councils, national policies for the carrying out of its functions for sports fish and game" (section 26C(1)(a)).1

2.3 This function is accompanied by the requirement that Fish and Game Councils "implement national policy determined by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council" (section 26Q(IXe)(v)).

## 3. PROCESS

3.1. The following provisions shall apply in the preparation and approval of such policy:

- a. Proposed policy initiatives can be put forward by the NZ Council or any Fish and Game Council for consideration by the NZ Council, or its delegate (which has the delegation from NZ Council to review policies and approve them for consultation with the regions).
- b. The initiative will be drafted as policy and submitted to the NZ Council, or its delegate, for its consideration.
- c. In determining that the policy warrants becoming national policy, the NZ Council, or its delegate, must agree to it as draft national policy and consult with Fish and Game Councils.
- d. Fish and Game Councils are to include rationale for any change/amendment in a letter from the regional chairperson that can be attached to a report to the NZ Council on consultation and feedback.
- e. Following a period (~~one of at least two meeting cycles~~) that allows Fish and Game Councils reasonable time to consider and provide feedback on the draft national policy, the NZ Council can consider and where necessary amend that policy before resolving to adopt it as national Policy

f. Once adopted, the NZ Council must circulate the document to all Fish and Game Councils, recording the date it was approved as National Policy.

3.2 In doing so, there is an expectation that the NZ Council will approach the development of national policies with an open mind to the views of Fish and Game Councils. That said, it does not require that there be complete agreement ~~but a majority decision~~ by all Fish and Game Councils in arriving at that policy. Section 26C(1)(a) Conservation Act 1987 provides that the NZ Council can adopt national policies “in consultation with Fish and Game Councils”.

3.3 The NZ Council may at any time prepare an amendment to any National Policy. In doing so it is required to follow the same consultation process of notifying Fish and Game Councils and allowing for feedback on what is proposed and whether the policy is amended.

3.4 All new policies are to be reviewed ~~after a two-year period~~ no longer than 5 years or as appropriate

#### 4. DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT CONTROL

<b>Prepared by:</b> Corina Jordan, NZC CEO
<b>Owned by:</b> NZC/NZC CEO
<b>Authorised by:</b> Fish and Game New Zealand National Council
<b>Date Issued (for Consultation):</b> 6/09/2023
<b>Next Review:</b> November 2028 (5 years or as appropriate)



**DRAFT CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

<b>Section</b>	NZC Governance
<b>Contact/Owner</b>	NZC CEO/NZC
<b>Last Review</b>	December 2015 (In Governance Policies)
<b>Next Review</b>	August 2026
<b>Approval</b>	NZC November 2023
<b>Effective Date</b>	[INSERT DATE]

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to protect the integrity and the reputation of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and its members.
- 1.2 Council is responsible for ensuring that all actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest are handled appropriately, and this Policy sets out the procedures for the management of this.
- 1.3 This Policy is binding on all Members of the Council.

**2. POLICY**

- a. A Conflict of Interest arises in respect of a Matter when the Member can be shown to have actual bias or apparent bias.

For the purposes of this policy, “Matter” means:

- 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 26B(1) of the Conservation Act; or
  - An arrangement, agreement, or contract made or entered into, or proposed to be entered into, by the Council.
- b. 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), debtor(s) or creditor(s)).
  - c. 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.
  - d. 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.

- e. 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.
- f. Members of the Council are expected to have read and be familiar with the Office of the Auditor General's publication Managing Conflicts of Interest: Guidance for Public Entities (2007).
- g. Each Member of the Council, as soon as practicable after election to the Council, must be provided with a copy of this Policy and must confirm in writing that they have read and understood it and they will comply with its requirements.
- h. Conflicts of Interest will be a standing item on the Council agenda.
- i. Aspiring office holders will be required to declare any Conflicts of Interest before appointment.

### 3. POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- a. For the purposes of this Governance Policy, a Potential Conflict of Interest arises when:
  - There is a realistic connection between the Member's private interest(s) and the interest(s) of the Council;
  - The Member's other interest could specifically affect, or be affected by, the actions of the Council in relation to a Matter;
  - 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
  - There is a risk that the situation could undermine public trust and confidence in the Member or the Council.

### 4. DISCLOSURE PROCESS

- a. A Member with a Conflict of Interest or a Potential Conflict of Interest must identify the conflict and disclose it to the Council in a timely and effective manner. The Member must disclose:
  - The nature of the interest and the monetary value of the interest (if the monetary value can be quantified); and/or
  - The nature and extent of the interest (if a monetary value cannot be quantified).
- b. If a Member is uncertain of whether there is any Conflict of Interest or Potential Conflict of Interest, the Member should disclose it to the Council as a Potential Conflict of Interest for consideration by the Council.
- c. The disclosure of any conflict must be recorded in the minutes and entered in a separate Interests Register.
- d. When the conflict has been identified, the Council must determine how that conflict is to be dealt with.

### 5. DEALING WITH THE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- a. When a Conflict of Interest arises in respect of a Matter, the affected Member:
  - Must promptly declare a direct or indirect conflict at the Council meeting, other than any interest that they hold in common with the public
  - Will be excluded from discussions regarding the Matter (including not being in the same



room when the Matter is discussed);

- Will not vote on issues related to the Matter;
  - Will not receive papers or any other information on the Matter; and
  - Will not discuss the Matter with other Members.
- b. Members may be asked at any time to complete and sign a Material Interest Declaration (attached)

## 6. DEALING WITH A POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- a. Where there is a Potential Conflict of Interest, the Council (excluding the affected Member) will determine an appropriate course of action, which may include the following:
- Applying some or all of the Actions applied to a Member with a Conflict of Interest (set out at 4);
  - Sending a written explanation to stakeholders, members and licence holders outlining why there is no legal conflict of interest; and/or
  - Monitoring the Matter to determine whether at any point the Matter changes such that there is a Conflict of Interest.
- b. In determining the appropriate course of action, the Council will have regard to:
- The type or size of the Member's other interest;
  - The nature or significance of the relevant Matter; and
  - The extent to which the situation could undermine public trust and confidence in the Member or the Council.
- c. The Member will be given the opportunity to be heard by the Council on the points in 5.a and 5.b and the Member's submissions will be taken into consideration by the Council.
- d. If a Member is concerned that another Member has an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest:
- the concerned Member must inform the Chair of all material facts at the earliest reasonable opportunity;
  - the Chair will report that concern to the next meeting of the Council;
  - the concern will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting;
  - the Council will determine the appropriate further steps to be taken.

(Members are reminded that invoking this Policy for their own strategic or political purposes, rather than to uphold the integrity of the NZC, would be contrary to the Governance Policies and their duties as Members)

## 7. PREDETERMINATION

A conflict of interest may arise when a Member has strong views about a matter that create a risk of bias, prejudice, or predetermination that is inconsistent with performing his or her duties to the NZ Council in an impartial, objective and independent manner. Members must not approach NZ Council decisions with a closed mind but rather be willing to consider fairly all relevant information and

arguments.

If the Member’s approach to a Matter is likely to be predetermined, they will be excluded from participating in the Matter in the manner set out in 4.

### 8. REGISTER OF INTERESTS

The Chief Executive is responsible for maintaining a Register of Interests. This must record:

- The date on which the interest is declared or identified;
- The name of the Member of the Council having the relevant interest;
- The relationship between the Member of Council and the person holding the relevant interest (if relevant); and
- A reference to action taken

### 9. 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> N/A
<b>Next Review:</b> August 2026



Schedule to Conflicts of Interests Policy  
**Material Interests Declaration**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- Member of Council       Staff Member

My current occupation (other than with NZ Council):

Directorships and trusteeships held by me (or my immediate family) which could be considered relevant to NZ Council activities:

Shareholdings in publicly listed companies held by me (or my immediate family) which council be considered relevant to NZ Council activities:

Shareholdings in private companies (if greater than 5% of issued shares) held by me (or my immediate family) which could be considered relevant to NZ Council activities:

My property interests which could be considered relevant to NZ Council activities:

My involvement in community organisations which could be relevant to NZ Council activities:

My other interests (or other interests of my immediate family) that I consider relevant to declare:

I declare that the above disclosures are a true and complete record of my interests and the interests of my immediate family in accordance with the NZ Council Conflicts of Interests Policy.

.....

(Signature)

.....

(Date)



# DRAFT STAFF CODE OF CONDUCT

<b>Section</b>	Operational
<b>Contact/Owner</b>	NZC HR
<b>Last Review</b>	New Policy
<b>Next Review</b>	
<b>Approval</b>	NZC November 2023
<b>Effective Date</b>	

## 1. PURPOSE

This policy sets out the minimum standards of conduct for all staff, and supports the values of Fish and Game NZ. Reflected in this *Code of Conduct* is the importance of trust and confidence in the relationship between Fish and Game Councils and their employees. The *Code of Conduct* covers all employees of Fish and Game Councils, and, contractors covering employment positions.

## 2. POLICY

Employees are expected to act reasonably at all times in compliance with their individual conditions of employment and taking into account the interests and welfare of Fish and Game Councils and their colleagues. As an employee, you are expected to maintain the highest integrity, discretion and ethical conduct when performing your duties or representing your Fish and Game Council. All employees are expected to exercise good judgement to determine what action should be taken in any given situation and be able to withstand scrutiny from internal and external parties.

## 3. EXPECTED BEHAVIOURS

### 1. Personal Responsibilities:

- act honestly and with integrity in all aspects of your employment;
- respect the rights of others and treat others courteously and without discrimination or harassment;
- be respectful of, and responsive to all cultures, values and beliefs;
- perform and organise your work to the best of your ability and according to specified duties by showing commitment to high quality work, policies, and standards and taking a strategic approach by thinking ahead about ramifications of actions you take;
- carry out any lawful and reasonable instruction from your manager;
- be supportive of your colleagues and accept your responsibilities as part of the team;
- comply with all Fish and Game policies, processes, standards, vision, mission, values, and SOPs
- act in a safe manner to protect your health and safety and that of your colleagues. Follow your Fish and Game Council’s Health and Safety policies and procedures and comply with all reasonable and relevant directions.

## VALUES

### TRUST

We are trusted as consistent and capable providers

### INCLUSION

We recognise and respect diverse perspectives and cultural interests

### CONNECTION

We are deeply connected with anglers, hunters, regulators and the public

### SERVICE

We are enthusiastic, professional, kind and accountable

- do not consume alcohol at work or during work time (including lunch breaks) unless by prior approval from the Chief Executive/Regional Manager
- 2. External Relationships:**
- be courteous, helpful and responsive;
  - respond promptly to requests;
  - act reasonably, honourably and in good faith when working with the fishing and hunting communities
  - create and maintain positive relationships and networks with others.
- 3. Customer Service and Responsiveness:**
- recognise everyone you deal with is a customer;
  - strive to get things done to agreed standards and timeframes;
  - keep others informed of progress or delays; and
  - be responsive and react to situations in a timely manner.
- 4. Confidential Information:**
- be responsible for the security and confidentiality of any personal information that you have acquired;
  - ensure that any information you have acquired through your work is not used for personal advantage; and
  - ensure that financial and non-financial information gathered by Fish and Game and your knowledge of its systems and processes is used solely to perform Fish and Game business.
- 5. Conflict of Interest:**
- obtain your manager's approval before commencing any activity, business interest or employment that has the potential to conflict with Fish and Game business (refer to *Conflicts of Interest Policy*);
  - avoid any financial interest in any undertaking that could be seen to compromise your responsibilities to Fish and Game,
  - do not allow personal relationships with staff or customers to affect or appear to affect the professional relationship with them;
  - ensure that your behaviour in relation to gifts and gratuities and managing contracts and purchasing does not compromise your personal integrity or that of Fish and Game; and
  - when your personal views differ from those of Fish and Game, you must ensure that both your personal integrity and the integrity of Fish and Game are not compromised. If you are likely to find yourself in this situation, then you should discuss the matter with your manager first.
- 6. Uphold the Reputation of Fish and Game:**
- act with integrity at all times;
  - ensure your participation in political matters does not conflict with your duty to your Fish and Game Council and any partnerships with government agencies; and
  - ensure your private activities do not reflect adversely on Fish and Game or key stakeholders.
- 7. Additional Expectations for Managers:**
- guide and motivate employees in accordance with Fish and Game policies, processes, standards and systems that are in place to support you in your role as a manager;
  - lead by example and model the standards of behaviour expected of all employees; and
  - take responsibility for the quality of work performed, the actions and decisions of employees in your team.

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**8. Misconduct:**

- any form of misconduct will constitute a breach of the Fish and Game Code of Conduct and may lead to disciplinary action;
- it is Fish and Game’s intention that all matters relating to unsatisfactory conduct will be dealt with properly, fairly and consistently.
- following a fair process, as set out in MBIE’s employment website [Fair process » Employment New Zealand](#) if the essential elements of trust and confidence are found to have been breached by employees, Fish and Game may terminate the employment relationship.

**4. 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> 6/9/23
<b>Next Review:</b>

DRAFT

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**VALUES**

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# Uncertain future for fishing and hunting under Labour Party's Wildlife Act review



The proposed scrapping and replacement of the Wildlife Act signals an uncertain future for Fish & Game New Zealand and freshwater fishing and game bird hunting.

The Labour Party has announced that if it is re-elected, it will repeal and replace New Zealand's Wildlife Act, which protects native wildlife and recognises valued introduced species such as game birds for hunting.

Along with the Conservation Act, the Wildlife Act is Fish & Game's primary governing statute, setting out the sustainable management of valued introduced species as a food source and their place in New Zealand.

"We are alarmed at what this means for Fish & Game, thousands of anglers and hunters, freshwater species, game birds and their habitats," says Corina Jordan, chief executive of Fish & Game New Zealand.

"What is particularly disappointing is we have not been given the opportunity to fully participate in this process to date and the Labour Party has set a very ambitious timeline for what is an incredibly complex piece of legislation. After all, Fish & Game is a statutory organisation with proven expertise in crafting policy and sustainably managing species and their habitats.



“Fish & Game supports the protection of endangered or threatened species and agrees that legislative frameworks need to provide the tools to ensure these species exist now and into the future. Any reform also needs to ensure mana whenua rights and aspirations are recognised and gives full effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

“What we need is workable legislation which protects indigenous species and ensures the sustainable management of valued introduced species for the benefit of all New Zealanders and recognises and empowers people, communities and Fish & Game’s conservation efforts.

“Sports fish and game birds have an indispensable place in New Zealand's cultural heritage and ecosystems, existing in tandem with indigenous species. Sports fish and game are also a valued food resource for families and communities across New Zealand.”

In crafting a new wildlife framework, it will be important to preserve Fish & Game’s statutory mandate, which has been pivotal in managing sports fish and game populations and protecting and enhancing New Zealand’s environment, says Jordan.

“Fish & Game is New Zealand’s leading freshwater champion. Without Fish & Game, this country will lose a key advocate for the health of our rivers and lakes.

Environment Minister David Parker recently applauded the work of Fish & Game following changes to the Natural and Built Environment Bill (NBE).

“Minister Parker told Parliament that New Zealand needs to protect the habitat of trout and salmon and that a lot of the environmental advocacy is done by what he labelled the ‘fantastic membership-based organisation Fish & Game’,” says Jordan.

“He stated our licence holders are passionately interested in protecting their access to trout and salmon, and they're a force for good.

“Fish & Game urges all political parties to maintain a consistent approach to wildlife management for valued introduced species and ensure the statutory organisations that manage these populations have a seat at the table.”

9 SEPTEMBER 2023

# New Wildlife Act to better protect native species

HON WILLOW-JEAN PRIME

## Conservation

The 70-year-old Wildlife Act will be replaced with modern, fit-for-purpose legislation to better protect native species and improve biodiversity, Minister of Conservation Willow-Jean Prime has announced.

“New species legislation is urgently needed to address New Zealand’s biodiversity crisis,” Willow-Jean Prime said.

“More than 4,000 of our native species are currently threatened, with some at risk of extinction. A new Act will help to address threats they face, including impacts from climate change, invasive species and habitat loss.”

Today’s announcement follows a Department of Conservation review which determined that the current Act lacked a clear purpose and didn’t effectively protect at-risk or threatened species. As one example, not all native species are currently covered by the Act.

Repealing and replacing the existing Act will follow a standard legislative process during the next parliamentary term.

“The DOC review reinforced strong support for reforming the Wildlife Act and a shared vision for native species and their habitats,” Willow-Jean Prime said.

“This is something the community has been calling for, and we are committed to ensuring taonga are taken care of for future generations.”

An independent Strategic Oversight Group also provided advice and valuable input into the DOC review. Group members have diverse skills and expertise in te ao Māori, conservation, law, environmental policy, tourism, science, game animal management and governance.

“Their expert advice and DOC’s analysis of the Wildlife Act identified that replacement of the Act would achieve greater protection of species and improved biodiversity outcomes.

“I thank all those who have participated so far and provided perspectives that have informed the review of the Wildlife Act.”

10 DECEMBER 2021

## Launch of the Conservation Law Reform Roadmap

### Conservation

Hon Kiri Allan, Minister of Conservation

Launch of the Conservation Law Reform Roadmap

Friday 10 December 2021

Thank you for joining me today. I'm delighted to be announcing new work to address long-standing problems in conservation law – and a major step towards laying the foundation for fundamental reform: a review of the Wildlife Act 1953.

We are at a defining moment for nature. Our unique species, many of which are found nowhere else in the world, are declining – despite our efforts to look after them. Around 4000 species are threatened or at risk of extinction. While legislation does provide powerful mechanisms to protect areas containing threatened species, these are not working well to address the overall biodiversity decline.

As people who work within the conservation legislation system, I'm sure you will agree that we need better tools to protect and manage our biodiversity. Many of you are leading the way in thinking about the issues with our current system and how we can make improvements.

I want to recognise the members of the New Zealand Conservation Authority here today; the contributions you make in your NZCA roles and in your communities are significant and highly relevant to the delivery of better conservation outcomes in Aotearoa.

EDS have recently released a report on conservation law issues, which provides an extensive overview of the current legislative system. It points out that the conservation planning and management system is not effective, our legislation does not adequately protect species, and that it does not support a true Tiriti partnership.

And many of you are involved in the work on the transformation of tourism – including DOC's own Heritage and Visitor Strategy – and the implementation of the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy – Te Mana o te Taiao.

Today I'm announcing plans to make more immediate improvements to conservation management planning and permissions, and to review the Wildlife Act 1953. DOC is also starting to lay the groundwork for comprehensive law reform, looking at the wide range of conservation legislation. This roadmap shows how we will begin to modernise conservation law.

Why we need to improve conservation legislation

There are 24 Acts in the suite of conservation law, with the main Acts mostly developed in an ad-hoc way over a span of nearly 70 years.

The current legislation is out of date and isn't fit for purpose – we need something better that can endure far into the future and tackle the current and emerging threats to biodiversity.

Recent reviews and reports, court rulings and reviews show that the whole conservation legislation system needs to be updated.

And here I want to acknowledge Haana Murray, Hema Nui a Tawhaki Witana, Te Witi McMath, Tama Poata, Katariana Rimene and John Hippolite – the six original claimants who had the foresight and wisdom to lodge the Wai 262 claim with the Waitangi Tribunal in October 1991. Ko Aotearoa Tēnei, the report on the Wai 262 claim, recommended wide-ranging reforms to law and policy – including in respect of the Wildlife Act and to conservation policy more broadly. In August 2019, the Government announced a whole-of-government response to Wai 262.

There are recent court decisions such as the Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki case which highlight the importance of giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi as required by section 4 of the Conservation Act. Although it dealt specifically with concessions, it has implications for all levels of DOC's work. Partial reviews of Conservation General Policy and General Policy for National Parks are being undertaken to better reflect Treaty responsibilities in conservation.

Te Mana o te Taiao – the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy highlights the need for updated and improved systems and processes to enable better protection and restoration of biodiversity – particularly in terms of legislation.

And as I mentioned earlier, the EDS report frames the need for better conservation legislation as well.

There are three broad areas where conservation legislation needs improvement:

Current conservation legislation needs to better provide for the management of threatened species, and address large-scale pressures on ecosystems and species;

The Māori-Crown partnership in conservation needs to be reset; and

We need better tools that more accurately reflect the role of conservation in society and the economy.

There are many problems with the current legislation that highlight the need for change. They span the Conservation Act, the Wildlife Act, the National Parks Act, the Reserves Act, the Wild Animal Control Act, the Marine Mammals Protection Act, and the Marine Reserves Act.

Some work is already underway to address issues that have arisen over the past few years, as you can see on the roadmap. These work programmes show that there are a wide range of issues with conservation legislation across Acts and domains – and these are just the problems that we've been able to start addressing.

Amendments to the Trade in Endangered Species Act will save time and resources and allow us to better focus on enforcing CITES regulations.

Usually if a specimen is traded in contravention of CITES and the TIES Act, it is seized and disposed of – which often means it is destroyed or occasionally gifted to an institution such as a museum. In very limited circumstances it may be appropriate for a CITES specimen that has a permit but hasn't met all the requirements under the TIES Act to be returned to a trader. This might occur if there is an error on the permit, or something went wrong in the permit process. However, the current TIES Act does not have clear mechanisms to enable decision-makers to consider these cases and decide when a seized specimen should be returned to a trader. This makes consistent decision-making difficult and takes up a lot of time for everyone involved.

The reform of the TIES Act will set out clear and defined circumstances under which it is appropriate for items to be returned to traders – where there were errors or unexpected circumstances arose. The changes will ensure the process is clear, certain and consistent.

When the bill is referred to Select Committee, likely in mid-2022, there will be another opportunity for public input before it becomes law.

DOC has recently released a discussion document outlining proposals for improving the process for reclassifying stewardship land. This work will ensure that land is appropriately managed according to its conservation values.

Consultation is currently underway and will continue through the beginning of 2022.

In the marine space, our Government is working to implement the Revitalising the Gulf strategy to increase marine protection in the Hauraki Gulf.

Public consultation is planned for the latter half of 2022.

Alongside the work that is already underway, the roadmap also shows a couple of new work programmes.

The Conservation Management and Processes amendments will make the tools within the conservation planning framework more user-friendly for everyone involved – whether you're a tourism operator, business owner or researcher. This work is important from a regulatory stewardship perspective; as we work to prepare for fundamental reform, we also need to keep our house in order.

The review of Wildlife Act will be a 'first principles' examination of how Aotearoa New Zealand should protect our species.

DOC will be engaging with you and your organisations on both of these work streams during the first quarter of 2022—retesting the management and process amendments that were first proposed back in 2016, and starting the conversation about species protection reform.

Today I'm going to outline our next steps for improving the current legislative framework, to ensure that there are benefits on the ground for biodiversity as soon as possible. And I'll outline what we're preparing in terms of laying the foundations for broader reform.

Improving conservation management and planning processes

In the near-term, there are ways we can make the current legislative framework more workable.

There are areas of conservation legislation, particularly in the Conservation Act 1987, the National Parks Act 1980, and Reserves Act 1977 where minor and technical issues are causing unnecessary problems for conservation management and planning. Despite DOC's best efforts to address these issues within the current framework, they often come up against legislative barriers.

Many conservation management strategies and plans are out of date and aren't fit for purpose. Reviewing them is a slow and painful process, and public frustration with management plans is well documented. Management strategies and plans are crucial in guiding what people can and cannot do in our national parks and conservation areas. These frustrations are felt by recreational users, businesses, tangata whenua, and conservationists alike.

For example, cycle trails in Otago couldn't easily be made even though the community supported them. It took over a year and a half for the review process to reach the NZCA for their consideration and approval.

We will be looking at section 17H of the Conservation Act to see how we can make these reviews easier and more efficient, while continuing to ensure conservation values are upheld.

Concession and permit applications affect a range of the population from tourism operators to researchers. The current system for processing concession applications outlined in Part 3B of the Conservation Act is slow and costly.

For example, section 17S doesn't make use of modern technology or provide for responsive timeframes for decision making.

There is a shark researcher in the Bay of Plenty who is still waiting for a research permit to be approved 11 months after submitting his application. A lengthy and expensive process doesn't encourage people to do the right thing and obtain the relevant concession or permit.

There are also barriers to carrying out important restoration work. Take a project where someone is wanting to improve or establish a new native forest by planting seeds from nearby – if the seeds they need are on public conservation land, they're unlikely to be approved for a permit to collect them – because the legislation only allows the gathering of seeds for scientific purposes. Various processes in set forth in a range of sections of the Conservation Act, National Parks Act, and Reserves Act need to be aligned.

There are ways we can improve the process defined in section 17T of the Conservation Act for managing concessions applications by removing duplications in the tender process and setting quicker timeframes.

Enabling "digital-by-default" is one of the first steps we can take to reduce costs and stress for concessionaires and make it easier for the public to engage in management plans (section 17G) and strategies (section 17F).

The way we manage concessions has not kept pace with societal and technological change.

Back when the legislation was created we didn't foresee every visitor holding a high-resolution camera in their pocket, or unmanned aircraft being available at your local electronics store. The current one-size-fits-all approach doesn't work when a hobby photographer is treated the same as a large filming company, and small drones are the same as helicopters.

We can consider amendments to section 17O of the Conservation Act and how new fit-for-purpose processes might be triggered for different complexities of concessions applications.

Taking a more considered approach to how we allocate economic opportunities will deliver improved conservation and wellbeing outcomes. Opening economic opportunities to new ideas and innovative experiences will recognise the contributions many concessionaires make to conservation.

The aim of these changes will be to make the tools within the conservation planning framework more user-friendly for everyone involved – whether you're a tourism operator, business owner or researcher.

We lack the legislation we need to protect and manage our species

This regulatory stewardship work to improve management and planning processes will provide us with some short-term wins for biodiversity. But as I said at the beginning, we also need to start thinking about the big picture – ensuring that conservation legislation is up to date, enduring and reflective of our values.

Despite the huge importance of native species to our environment, society and wellbeing, we do not have dedicated legislation for the conservation and management of threatened species.

The closest piece of legislation we currently have is the Wildlife Act 1953, which has no clear purpose and lacks coherence. It's outdated, does a poor job at protecting many species - especially when they are interacting with people, and it doesn't reflect Treaty principles or support customary use.

The Wildlife Act is now 68 years old. To paint a picture of conservation values at the time, many people viewed kea as a pest because they sometimes attacked sheep. There was even a kea bounty up until 1970. You could earn \$50 in today's money for killing a kea.

In terms of the scientific landscape in 1953, scientists had only just determined the structure of DNA, and climate change was an unknown concept. And while there have been tweaks to the Wildlife Act since then, it mostly remains unchanged.

A key issue with the Wildlife Act is that many threatened animal species are omitted from its protection.

The protection the Wildlife Act provides is not consistent, or proportionate relative to threat. Some 'non-threatened' animals such as grey warblers are absolutely protected, but other species – for example, most freshwater fish and insects – are not

protected although many are threatened. It also doesn't provide a way to protect or restore the habitats that are essential for these vulnerable species or address how these areas are being affected by issues like climate change.

Another significant problem with the Wildlife Act is that section 53 doesn't allow interactions between wildlife and people to be managed in a way that protects wildlife.

You may recall that a few years ago a tourism business wanted to attract Great White sharks to their cage using burley and bait, but commercial paua divers feared for their safety, worried that shark cage diving would attract more sharks and make them more aggressive to people.

This played out in the courts for years – DOC was involved because Great White sharks are absolutely protected by the Wildlife Act. In an attempt to regulate the activity, DOC granted a permit to the tourism company to allow it to interact with the protected sharks, provided it complied with a range of conditions. Eventually the Supreme Court ruled that DOC had no authority to grant a permit in this case.

This decision has had broad implications for DOC's ability to regulate most interactions between people and protected wildlife. We can't do things like play bird sounds to attract gannets to areas that would make good breeding grounds, because this is classed as active disturbance of wildlife – even though it may help to restore the population.

It also means we don't have a mechanism in the Wildlife Act to protect species from works that will disrupt them. For example, DOC recently found itself limited in its ability to require relocation of pekapeka (long-tailed bats) living in trees that are in the route of a new motorway. DOC could only consider an application from a developer or Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to accidentally kill protected wildlife in the construction process. An application to proactively handle and relocate the bats – our Bird of the Year – could not be granted.

Another problem with the Act is that it asserts Crown ownership of wildlife, which undermines Treaty principles. The legislative framework needs to be updated to reflect our evolving understanding of Te Tiriti obligations. There are also issues over the ownership of the remains of species. For example, taonga derived from wildlife – such as whale bone carvings, and korowai made from feathers – technically cannot be owned or sold by anyone.

And lastly, the Wildlife Act doesn't provide for our threatened and taonga plant species, which are poorly protected outside of protected areas.

We are limited in our ability to protect our most endangered plants such as Barletts rātā, a significant taonga with fewer than 13 plants left in the wild. We can increase plant protection through land-management changes like reserve classifications, but these mechanisms are very slow relative to the threats and declining status.

These are just a few examples of problems with the Wildlife Act – the issues are complex and connected, so can't be tweaked or fixed one at a time. That's why I'm starting a full review of the Wildlife Act, to make sure we take a holistic approach towards how we can best protect our species in the future.

Longer term – preparing for broader reform



Reviewing the Wildlife Act will help to establish the foundation for future comprehensive legislation reform. Given the range of reforms this Government is already pursuing, we need to make sure that tangata whenua and stakeholders have the space and capacity to engage, so we won't be starting comprehensive reform now. But the work on this roadmap will help us prepare for when that can happen.

Whatever shape any future reform takes, I think we can agree that it should take place in a way that allows us to look at conservation legislation holistically. This includes considering the range of values people hold, and how conservation intersects with the economy and society. It also needs to strengthen the role for tangata whenua, and ensure a process that enables everyone in the system – all of you in this room – to contribute to the solutions.

#### Concluding remarks

The roadmap signals when there will be upcoming engagement opportunities, and it will be regularly updated as the new projects are developed.

I look forward to DOC working with you to develop a modern legislative system that both protects our environment and sees communities thrive.

Kia ora kōtou katoa.

## Northland conservation spokesperson calls for Treaty-centric Wildlife Act replacement

### By

[Brodie Stone](#)

18 Sep, 2023 05:00 AM 3 mins to read

The Government is planning to scrap the 70-year-old Wildlife Act of 1953 in favour of one that better protects native species. The [announcement](#) last week came after a [review which found the current Act is outdated](#) and no longer fit for purpose.

The hope is that regardless of which party makes it to government, the policy will continue through Cabinet next year and go into the hands of the public for consultation.

Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai O Te Tai Tokerau (Northland Conservation Board) chairwoman Nyze Manuel, of Whangaroa in the Far North, wants to see a new version that is Te Tiriti-centric and takes into account current and future changes to the environment.

“We need to re-align and review it and replace it with something [that reflects] where we’re at today, rather than 70 years ago,” she said.

Manuel said here in Northland, there are “a lot” of endemic species that require more protection.

She said 4,000 species are currently threatened or looking at extinction on an annual basis in New Zealand, and changing the Act is vital to their protection.

We need to “think quick”, she said, to ensure species are protected as climate change occurs - with rising sea levels and coastal erosion already taking hold.

She is calling for a community-driven change and consultation process, with hapū, iwi and whānau involved in an “open platform” where the Department of Conservation (DoC) can “directly talk” about what the changes look like for Northlanders.

“It’s getting our communities involved as to what this review may look like,” she said.

“At the end of the day, it’s our people that apply it. It’s our people that apply conservation to conservation. It has to be community-driven.”

“Hopefully, our taonga species get the much-needed protection they deserve,” she said.

Deputy director-general of strategy and policy for the Department of Conservation, Ruth Isaac, said the DoC held a hui [meeting] with tangata whenua, key stakeholders and statutory bodies to seek their views on problems with the current species management system.

Isaac said there was a “general agreement” that the Act is no longer fit for purpose, due to it not being fit for modern conservation management, lacking the tools needed to protect threatened species and preventing the fulfilment of Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations.

An independent Strategic Oversight Group made up of members with diverse skills in te ao Māori, conservation, tourism, science, game animal management, law and environmental policy and governance provided expertise in the review.

The group strongly support a new species management legislation.

“DoC is currently undertaking policy work on what new legislation could look like, and this will be subject to public consultation and further Cabinet decisions. We know what the issues are with the current Act from the work on the review so far, and the next steps will be looking at how legislation can address these issues,” Isaac said.

She said the Government is working to ensure new legislation provides better protection for indigenous species, better complies with Treaty obligations, ensures cohesion with other natural resource legislation, creates a clear and understandable system, and ensures that DoC has the right tools to protect species.

DoC is expected to carry out public consultation on the proposed approach and framework for the new Act [in mid to late 2024, pending Cabinet decisions](#).

**Brodie Stone**

## AGENDA ITEM 12E.

### REMUNERATION POLICY

NZ Fish and Game Council Meeting 165 – 18 August 2023

Prepared by: Jane Hutchings, HR Business Partner, NZ Fish and Game Council

Kōrero taunaki - Summary of considerations

Purpose

This report seeks final approval from the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZC) for the draft Remuneration Policy.

Financial considerations

Nil                       Budgetary provision                       Unbudgeted

Risk

Low                       Medium                       High                       Extreme

#### **Ngā taunaki - Staff Recommendations**

NZC Staff recommend the following motion:

That the New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. Receive the information; and
2. Approves the draft Remuneration Policy.

#### **Whakarāpopoto - Summary**

1. The NZC viewed and commented on the draft Remuneration Policy at its April 2023 meeting. The draft policy was then sent to Regional Managers in order that they could consult with their staff and Councils. The responses are summarised in the table below.

#### **Takenga mai – Background**

2. Section 26C(1)(a) of the Conservation Act provides that the NZ Council shall:

“Develop, in consultation with Fish and Game Councils, national policies for the carrying out of its functions for sports and game”.

3. While it could be argued that means that this only applied to policies for the NZC and not to Regional Councils, the Minister for Conservation in September 2002 formally advised the NZ Council:

“I require the New Zealand Council to coordinate the management, enhancement and maintenance of sports fish and game by regional Fish and Game Councils, including the development of any relevant national policies to achieve its coordination purpose.”

4. The organisation asked NZC to establish a cohesive remuneration framework. Over the last three years, work has been done to achieve this by several remuneration committees with the final result being the new remuneration framework that was agreed at the April NZC meeting. The attached Remuneration Policy supports that framework, along with the Performance Review Policy, which is currently out for consultation.

#### **Consultation**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Remuneration Policy</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Northland	✓	Northland Fish & Game Council supports the draft remuneration policy.
Auckland/Waikato	✓	Feedback was around definition of roles and salary bands rather than on the Policy itself, except to say that their Policy on Policies from NZC states that policy consideration should go through 2 rounds of regional council meetings. Time has been allowed for this, but no further feedback has been received
Eastern	✓	Supports in principle the intent to create a framework that brings a national policy over the process for all regions but retains room for regional input. The policy should also

		include a broad framework for the CEO/Managers in the Remuneration Policy process.
Hawke's Bay	✓	Supports the policy and that it was a good and straight forward policy that had been well prepared. It was noted that without the numbers it was a bit meaningless and more detail on this was required.
Taranaki	✓	Policy only sent to staff for feedback, general support and no specific comments.
Wellington	✓	Supports policy for internal consistency of remuneration and to ensure that we remain competitive following market assessments. Assessments must be made during the budgeting process to ensure F&G can afford recommendations and are aware of potential budget constraints. However, the view was that the policy purpose should confirm that either this should be a policy to be followed by the regions by agreement or that it is a guideline for regions to follow. A number of changes to the text were recommended. Some of these have been made and highlighted in green. <b>The full response is attached as 2.14 b.</b>
Nelson/Marlborough	✓	The Council unanimously supported the Draft Remuneration Policy.
West Coast	✓	Supported the Policy as circulated.
North Canterbury	✓	North Canterbury Fish & Game Council, and its CEO, support any initiatives or national policy/process work that is beneficial to the organisation as a whole, and helps demonstrate that Fish & Game Councils are following good employer practices and standards. However, the Council feels that the Policy should be renamed Guideline, as Council Governors were ultimately responsible as the employer and not the CEO according to a recent legal interpretation on employment matters from McPhail Gibson and Zwart Ltd.
CSI	✗	Concern Policy has not considered the Commerce Act in its development. Based on F&G structure, national rem policy may be in effect "price fixing" on one of our major inputs. Legal opinion on this is attached 3.5 Legal Opinion PE Appendices.
Otago	✗	Otago expressed their gratitude for the review of the salary bands, but questioned whether it was appropriate for NZC to promote national policy development for matters which are not part of their statutory mandate. However, they suggested a number of amendments to the policy, most of which have been incorporated into the attached policy.
Southland	✓	Council supported the remuneration policy proposed by NZC

## Discussion on feedback

6. The feedback in general has been supportive and only CSI, Otago and North Canterbury have questioned NZC's ability to make national policy.

7. We have sought legal opinion on this and it is the view of Elana Geddis, that:

*"the draft Remuneration Policy complements rather than conflicts with the Regional Fish and Game Council's statutory employment power. It is drafted in terms of guiding principles rather than directives. The Regional Fish and Game Councils' 'good employer' obligations include recognition of the importance of pay equity and of decisions about remuneration being free from bias. The principles of the Remuneration Policy are consistent with, and could assist Regional Councils in discharging those obligation." Letter attached in 3.5 Legal Opinion PE Appendices.*

8. With regards to CSI's view that the policy contravenes the Commerce Act, the legal opinion on this was that it doesn't contravene the Commerce Act, as long as it is just restricted to employees not contractors (letter attached 3.5 Legal Opinion PE Appendices). The policy has been amended to clarify this (blue highlights).

9. With regards to Otago's submission, despite their view that NZC couldn't promote national policy development they have provided suggested amendments, most of which are minor wording changes and they have been incorporated into the attached policy. The changes have been highlighted in green.

10. The only major issue relates to Section 4, which they consider to be out of line with the process for budget setting, as distribution of funds is the responsibility of each Council and therefore Section 4 should be removed. This section is highlighted in yellow.

11. However, Section 4 doesn't say anything about how regional councils distribute their budget, so this section has been left in.

## Ngā mahinga e whai ake nei - Next actions

12. If approved, the policy will be published and circulated to Regional Councils



### 13. Proposed 2023/24 Meeting Dates<sup>8</sup>

Proposed Meeting Dates to be considered

Note that these dates can be changed but reasonable public notification required

**ACTION : provide confirmation of proposed meeting dates to NZ Council**

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<sup>8</sup> Formal consultation and feedback sought by NZ Fish and Game Council



## DRAFT 2023-24 Annual Budget & Meeting Schedule

### Key:

	Public Holiday
	NZ Council Meeting
	Regional Managers/CEs Meeting
	GBHT Board Meeting
	Governors Forum (Regional Chairs & NZC)

Year: 2023			
Month	Date	Meeting/Activity	Location
September	Friday 1 Sep	Fish & Game New Financial Year	
	Friday 22 Sep Saturday 23 Sep	<b>GBHT Board Meeting</b> <i>(Including Saturday field trip)</i>	Hawke's Bay
October	Sunday 1 Oct	Sports Fishing Opening	
	Monday 23 Oct	<b>Labour Day</b>	
November	Wednesday 1 Nov	High Country Sports Fishing Opening	Otago & Southland
	Thursday 2 Nov	<b>Regional Managers/CEs Meeting</b> <i>(Feed into 24 &amp; 25 Nov NZC Meeting)</i>	Online
	Saturday 4 Nov	High Country Sport Fishing Opening	Nth Canterbury & CSI
	Friday 24 Nov Saturday 25 Nov	<b>NZ Council Meeting (Held over 2 days)</b> <i>(Set 2024/25 Strategic Priorities)</i>	Wellington
December	Thursday 14 Dec	<b>Regional Managers/CEs Meeting (TBC)</b>	Online
	Friday 22 Dec	All Variance Reports & Reserves Schedules Submitted to CFO	
	Monday 25 Dec	<b>Christmas Day</b>	
	Tuesday 26 Dec	<b>Boxing Day</b>	
	Friday 29 Dec	All Regional Council 2023 Meetings to be complete/held	
Year: 2024			
January	Monday 1 Jan	<b>New Year's Day</b>	
	Tuesday 2 Jan	<b>New Year's Day Observed</b>	
	Friday 26 Jan	Summary of Variance Reports & Reserves Updates <i>(Returned to Managers with queries)</i>	
	Wednesday 31 Jan	Licence Working Party Licence Sales Forecast <i>(Forecast week before 29th report)</i>	
	Wednesday 31 Jan	Regulation Details Due for Game Notice <i>(From all Regional Councils)</i>	
February	Friday 2 Feb	World Wetland Day/Release of 2024 Habitat Stamp Variance Reports Final Circulation to Managers Draft Game Notice Submission to DOC for comment	
	Tuesday 6 Feb	<b>Waitangi Day</b>	
	Thursday 8 Feb	<b>Regional Managers/CEs Meeting</b>	Online
	Friday 9 Feb	Game Regulation Guide Content Due to NZC Office	
	Monday 19 Feb	Game Notice & Submission to MOC & Gazette Office	
	Friday 16 & Sunday 18 Feb	<b>NZ Council Meeting (Held over 2 days)</b> <i>(Includes Licence Forecast)</i>	Wellington
	Saturday 17 Feb	<b>Governors Forum - Regional Chairs &amp; NZC</b> <i>(Planning &amp; Governance)</i>	Wellington
	Friday 23 Feb/or following week	Publish Game Notice in NZ Gazette	

Year: 2024			
Month	Date	Meeting/Activity	Location
March	Thursday 14 Mar	Game Bird Hunting Licences on Sale (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)	
	Monday 18 Mar	Game Magazine Released	
	Wednesday 20 Mar	Draft Budgets & Contestable Fund Applications Due	
	Thursday 28 Mar	<b>Staff Development Grant Applications Close</b>	
	Friday 29 Mar	<b>Good Friday</b>	
April	Monday 1 Apr	<b>Easter Monday</b>	
	Sunday 7 Apr	Mark-up/Pegging Day (4 weekends before opening)	
	Friday 12 Apr	Budgets, Budget Summaries & Contestable Fund Applications Circulated	
	Thursday 18 Apr	<b>Regional Managers/CEs Meeting</b>	Wellington
	Friday 19 Apr	<b>NZ Council &amp; Regional Managers/CEs Joint Meeting (am)</b>	Wellington
	Saturday 20 Apr	<b>NZ Council Meeting</b>	Wellington
	Thursday 25 Apr	<b>Anzac Day</b>	
May	Saturday 4 May	Game Bird Season Opening	
	Thursday 23 May	<b>Regional Managers/CEs Meeting (Feed into 18 &amp; 19 June NZC Meeting)</b>	Zoom
	Friday 31 May	Regional responses to Licence Fee proposals, Anglers Notice & SFLFFN backcountry/sea run salmon Due to NZC Office	
June	Monday 3 June	<b>King's Birthday</b>	
	Tuesday 18 June Wednesday 19 June	<b>NZ Council Meeting (Held over 2 half days) (Consider Licence Fee, Anglers Notice &amp; SFLFFN)</b>	TBC
	Thursday 20 June	Licence fee, Anglers Notice & SFLFFN submission to MOC	
	Thursday 27 June	<b>GBHT Grant Applications Due</b>	
	Friday 28 June	<b>Matariki</b>	
July	Tuesday 9 July	<b>GBHT Grant Applications Distributed to Board</b>	
	Wednesday 17 July	<b>GBHT Board Meeting (11am)</b>	Zoom
	Thursday 18 July	Anglers Notice Published in NZ Gazette	
August	Thursday 1 Aug	<b>Regional Managers/CEs Meeting</b>	Zoom
	Monday 12 Aug	<b>Fish &amp; Game Election Nominations Open</b>	
	Thursday 8 Aug	Sports Fishing Licences on Sale (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday in August)	
	Thursday 29 Aug	<b>Fish &amp; Game Election Nominations Close</b>	
	Friday 23 Aug Saturday 24 Aug	<b>NZ Council Meeting (Held over 2 days)</b>	Wellington
	Monday 26 Aug	Fishing Magazine Released	
	Saturday 31 Aug	Fish & Game End of Financial Year	
September	Wednesday 11 Sep	Election Roll Closes	
	Friday 6 Sep Saturday 7 Sep	<b>GBHT Board Meeting (Held over 2 days)</b>	TBC
	Thursday 19 Sep	<b>Fish &amp; Game Election Voting Papers Out</b>	
October	Tuesday 1 Oct	Sports Fishing Opening	
	Tuesday 15 Oct	<b>Election Postal Dates Close</b>	
	Wednesday 30 Oct	<b>Elected Members Take Office</b>	
	Monday 28 Oct	<b>Labour Day</b>	

Year: 2024			
Month	Date	Meeting/Activity	Location
November	Friday 1 Nov	High Country Sports Fishing Opening	Otago & Southland
	Saturday 2 Nov	High Country Sport Fishing Opening	Nth Canterbury & CSI
	Thursday 7 Nov	<b>Regional Managers/CEs Meeting</b> <i>(Feed into 13 &amp; 14 Dec NZC Meeting)</i>	Zoom
	Wednesday 20 Nov	New Regional Councils Last Day to hold Inaugural Meeting <i>(3 weeks after taking office)</i>	
December	Friday 13 & Saturday 14 Dec	<b>NZ Council Meeting (Held over 2 days)</b> <i>(2025/26 Strategy)</i>	Wellington
	Friday 20 Dec	All Variance & Reserves Schedules to CFO	
	Tuesday 31 Dec	All Regional Council 2024 Meetings to be complete/held	

DRAFT

## TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

The Chairman  
Taranaki Fish and Game Council

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council needs to decide when and where to hold its 2024 meetings.

Section 26 ZD (1) of the Conservation Act 1987 provides as follows;  
“Meetings of any Fish and Game council shall be held on at least six occasions in the period commencing on the first day of February and ending on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December in each year, at such times and places as the Council or the chairperson from time to time appoints.”

Taranaki Fish and Game Council has scheduled 6 ordinary meetings per year, starting at 10am on a Saturday. These dates are now set to meet National Council deadlines for regulation and fee setting process. However, it is necessary that they also avoid public or school holidays, which in 2024 are;

Public Holiday	Date
Wellington Anniversary	22 January 2024
Waitangi Day	6 February 2024
Taranaki Anniversary	11 March 2024
Good Friday	29 March 2024
Easter Monday	11 April 2024
Anzac Day	25 April 2024
King’s Birthday	3 June 2024
Matariki	28 June 2024
Labour Day	28 October 2024

School Holidays
21 December 2023 – 28 January 2024
15 - 26 April – 2024
8 – 19 July 2024
30 September – 11 October 2024
21 December 2024 – 28 January 2025

Council should discuss their preference for the location of meetings and the AGM. A recommended schedule of meeting dates is as follows, noting the requirement for the new council to meet within 3 weeks of the returning officer declaring the election results on 30 October 2024.

### MEETING DATES AND VENUES FOR 2024

<i>Proposed Taranaki Fish &amp; Game Council Meeting Dates</i>		<i>New Zealand Fish &amp; Game Council meeting dates (draft)</i>
<b>Date</b>	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Location</b>
10 February 2024	5 year plan review	Raetihi
16 March 2024	Agree draft budget	Waitara
25 May 2024	Licence fee Anglers notice	New Plymouth
17 August 2024	Adopt Ann Plan	Whanganui
2 November 2024	First Meeting of New Council End of year Reports	Opunake
7 December 2024	AGM & Game Gazette recommendation	New Plymouth
		<b>Date</b>
		16 & 18 February 2024
		19 & 20 April 2024
		18 & 19 June 2024
		23 & 24 August 2024
		13 & 14 December 2024

**RECOMMENDATION** That the draft schedule of meeting dates and venues be adopted.

Jilli Steedman  
SECRETARY  
2 October 2023



## 14. Preliminary Game Season Regulation Considerations

### a. Application for Upland Game Property with Special Conditions

- There is an application for consideration of gazetting in the Game Notice for an Upland Game Property with Special Conditions.
- There have been no changes to the status of game preserves since the Ministerial intervention in 2018 – all ‘commercial’ game preserves are considered under schedule 3 of the Wildlife Act (Special Ministerial approval is provided to hunt on specified land parcels)
- There are currently 3 sites in Auckland/Waikato region that retain their status as special conditions (i.e. can harvest greater numbers than the normal daily totals) which are still gazette through the Game Notice
- If a proposal is non-commercial – which can include a syndicate arrangement – then they can still apply to a regional Fish and Game Council for inclusion in that region’s Game Notice (if approved). They must still have approval from DOC to release birds into the wild.
- Recommendations to the Minister on the 2024 Game Notice would be considered at the December Council meeting – with final recommendations to the Minister are required by 1 February each year. A reasonable explanatory noted should accompany any recommendations that request material changes to the Game Notice.

**ACTION: Consider application – either approve/decline/or seek further information**

### b. Preliminary recommendations for 2024 Game Season

- An opportunity to summarise the key information available regarding making a recommendations to the 2024 Game Season regulations.
- Consideration of the data available – and identifying any further information requirements (if available) that would be presented at the December Meeting.
- A draft set of regulations to be recommended to the Minister so not need to be presented until December Council meeting.
- Consideration of cross region variances might be appropriate – but management objectives for waterfowl should be similar if environmental drivers in areas are similar (e.g. Whanganui/Manawatu climatic zones).

**ACTION ; No action required but consider if additional information is needed for December Council meeting.**

## AGENDA ITEM 14A

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Browning <[robbrowning@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:robbrowning@hotmail.co.nz)>

Sent: Thursday, July 6, 2023 3:22 PM

To: Jilli Steedman <[taranaki@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:taranaki@fishandgame.org.nz)>

Subject: Pheasant preserve application

TO, FISH AND GAME WANGANUI TARANAKI COUNCIL., I am seeking to gain a preserve status for shooting Pheasants on a property in the Wanganui area which is located at 336A Kauarapaoa Road to shoot pheasants in unlimited numbers and both cocks and hens for the next season 2024 and for the next 3 years after that, This will be a syndicate shoot only., The syndicate will be made up of 6 to 8 fellow shooters who are willing to put money into a combined fund to buy young birds, feed them and build release pens. This will give the syndicate members 5 to 6 days of shooting in one season. The prospective syndicate members have made it clear that they will not invest unless the preserve status is given. I am thinking of around \$2000 per syndicate member as an investment by in., I have already passed on the paperwork from the Department of Conservation to Allan Stancliff which has granted me a release permit to let go 500 pheasants per year for shooting the next 4 years as the first year has already passed, The property is located along the 336a Kauarapaoa Rd and across a bridge on to McNab's access. This property is Māori land, which is about 4000 acres, which is administrated by HIENNI Investment LTD GPS 39.782807, 175.101726, which I have permission to use for the next five years. This has all been cleared by the Department of Conservation, The birds will be bought from NZ game birds [INFO@NZGAMEBIRDS.CO.NZ](mailto:INFO@NZGAMEBIRDS.CO.NZ)) which cost \$17.50 per bird inc of Gst at seven weeks old. The young pheasants are then held in release pen and feed pheasant's grower for the next few weeks then moved on to a mixture of wheat, then kibbled maize then whole maize in spring feeders that are attached to buckets. These buckets are slowly moved out from the release pens over the next few months towards the game bird season. The feeders and traps get checked twice a week with ample water in the creeks that are on the property for the birds., Predator control had been going on for the last 18 months already with DOC type traps 150 .200 box traps and conibear traps for the control of stoats, rats, cats, ferrets and hedgehogs. With good results so far. We have had not had a problem with Hawks due to the amount of cover that the property has on it., My son and I have released 50 pheasants from NZ game birds this year in February, on this property, to see how hold and to try to get them to fly for driven shooting and for walked up shooting. There have been good outcomes so far this season with good numbers still holding in the two release sites that we preselect. Doing this has given as a good idea of what it takes to fund and how much work goes into these syndicate shoots with grain and bird prices and the time it takes. this will be cheaper the more birds we let go. As do not have to perching's traps feeders etc. This has worked out at \$40 per bird this year so on that price 500 birds would \$20, 000 to release and feed for the 9 months of having them so why the preserve status for this shoot is being sought, FISH & GAME wants to promote the sport this is what is needed to keep people in the sport this get them involved in my option., For any more information please do not hesitate to contact me., Robert Browning, 0274501944, 388 Somme Parade Wanganui

Sent from my iPhone

# Robert



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

## Wildlife Act Authority for wildlife on non-public conservation land

Authorisation Number: 97702-FAU

**THIS AUTHORITY** is made this 25<sup>th</sup> Day of March 2022

### **PARTIES:**

**The Director-General of Conservation** and where required the **Minister of Conservation** (the Grantor)

**AND**

**Browning, Robert James** (the Authority Holder)

### **BACKGROUND**

- A. The Director-General of Conservation is empowered to issue authorisations under the Wildlife Act 1953.
- B. The Authority Holder wishes to exercise the authorisation issued under the Wildlife Act 1953 subject to the terms and conditions of this Authority.

### **OPERATIVE PARTS**

In exercise of the Grantor's powers the Grantor **AUTHORISES** the Authority Holder under Section 53 of the Wildlife Act 1953, Section 39 of the Wildlife Regulations 1955 subject to the terms and conditions contained in this Authority and its Schedules.

SIGNED on behalf of the Grantor by Connie Norgate, Operations Manager Whanganui acting under delegated authority

in the presence of:

Witness Signature

Witness Name: Kohatu Leach-Wahanui

A copy of the Instrument of Delegation may be inspected at the Director-General's office at 18-32 Manners Street, Wellington.



**SCHEDULE 1**

1.	<b>Authorised activity (including the species, any approved quantities and collection methods).</b> (Schedule 2, clause 2)	<p>a) Activity – To obtain and release captive reared gamebirds for recreational shooting purposes</p> <p>b) Species: Ring necked pheasant (<i>Pheasianus colchius</i>)</p> <p>c) Quantity – release of up to 1000 Pheasants per year for 5 years</p> <p>d) Method – to obtain and release listed gamebirds from an existing holder who is authorised to transfer gamebirds. (New Zealand Game Birds Ltd)</p>
2.	<b>The Land</b> (Schedule 2, clause 2)	336 Kaurapaoa Road, Whanganui Brunswick 4584
3.	<b>Personnel authorised to undertake the Authorised Activity</b> (Schedule 2, clause 3)	<p>a) Robert Browning</p> <p>Any other suitably experienced or trained individual under direct supervision of the authority holder</p>
4.	<b>Term</b> (Schedule 2, clause 4)	Commencing on and including 25 March 2022 and ending on and including 24 March 2027
5.	<b>Authority Holder's address for notices</b> (Schedule 2, clause 8)	<p>The Authority Holders address in New Zealand is:</p> <p>388 Somme Parade Aramoho Whanganui 4500 New Zealand</p> <p>Phone: 06 343 6109 Email: robbrowning@hotmail.co.nz</p>
6.	<b>Grantor's address for notices</b>	<p>The Grantor's address for all correspondence is:</p> <p>Permissions Team Level 4 73 Rostrevor Street Hamilton, 3204</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:permissionshamilton@doc.govt.nz">permissionshamilton@doc.govt.nz</a></p>

**5.2** The Authority Holder must indemnify the Grantor against all claims, actions, losses and expenses of any nature which the Grantor may suffer or incur or for which the Grantor may become liable arising from the Authority Holder's exercise of the Authorised Activity.

5.3 This indemnity is to continue after the expiry or termination of this Authority in respect of any acts or omissions occurring or arising before its expiry or termination.

**6. What about compliance with legislation and Grantor's notices and directions?**

6.1 The Authority Holder must comply with all statutes, bylaws and regulations, and all notices, directions and requisitions of the Grantor and any competent Authority relating to the conduct of the Authorised Activity. Without limitation, this includes the Conservation Act 1987 and the Acts listed in the First Schedule of that Act and all applicable health and safety legislation and regulation.

**7. When can the Authority be terminated?**

7.1 The Grantor may terminate this Authority at any time in respect of the whole or any part of Authorised Activity if:

- (a) the Authority Holder breaches any of the conditions of this Authority; or
- (b) in the Grantor's opinion, the carrying out of the Authorised Activity causes or is likely to cause any unforeseen or unacceptable effects.

7.2 If the Grantor intends to terminate this Authority in whole or in part, the Grantor must give the Authority Holder such prior notice as, in the sole opinion of the Grantor, appears reasonable and necessary in the circumstances.

**8. How are notices sent and when are they received?**

8.1 Any notice to be given under this Authority by the Grantor is to be in writing and made by personal delivery, by pre-paid post or email to the Authority Holder at the address, fax number or email address specified in Schedule 1, Item 5. Any such notice is to be deemed to have been received:

- (a) in the case of personal delivery, on the date of delivery;
- (b) in the case of post, on the 3rd working day after posting;
- (c) in the case of email, on the date receipt of the email is acknowledged by the addressee by return email or otherwise in writing.

**8.2** If the Authority Holder's details specified in Schedule 1, Item 5 change then the Authority Holder must notify the Grantor within 5 working days of such change.

**9. What about the payment of costs?**

9.1 The Authority Holder must pay the standard Department of Conservation charge-out rates for any staff time and mileage required to monitor compliance with this Authority and to investigate any alleged breaches of the terms and conditions of it.

**10. Are there any Special Conditions?**

- 10.1 Special conditions are specified in Schedule 3. If there is a conflict between this Schedule 2 and the Special Conditions in Schedule 3, the Special Conditions will prevail.
- 11. **Can the Authority be varied?**
  - 11.1 The Authority Holder may apply to the Grantor for variations to this Authority.

## SCHEDULE 3

### SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. This Authority does not authorise the holder to develop or assist the establishment of similar facilities on adjoining properties.
2. The birds are to only be held in captivity when being transferred to the holding and release sites.
3. The birds are to be released only on the property listed as per Schedule 1(2).
4. All birds shall be released with unclipped wings.
5. Any injuries or deaths of birds resulting from implementation of the Authorised Activity must be reported to the Grantor as soon as possible after the incident but at least within one week.
6. All birds shall be released into open-topped pens, or into the wild no later than one month prior to the opening of the official game bird hunting season and no birds shall be caught up for re-release during the game bird hunting season or held for breeding purposes.
7. If birds are released from an enclosed pen, that pen shall be sealed off or removed, after their release.
8. The Authority Holder shall provide an annual report to the Grantor and the NZ Game Birds Ltd. The report shall be sent electronically to the NZ Game Birds Ltd at [info@nzgamebirds.co.nz](mailto:info@nzgamebirds.co.nz) & to the Grantor at [permissionshamilton@doc.govt.nz](mailto:permissionshamilton@doc.govt.nz) citing in all cases the Authority number 97702-FAU. This report shall be submitted each year by 31st July detailing the period ending 30 June; during the term of this authority and must provide the following:
  - a. The number of birds obtained in total
  - b. The number of birds reared in total
  - c. The number of birds released in total
9. The Authority Holder is required to comply with the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and all other relevant legislation.
10. The Authority Holder shall ensure that all birds are free of avian disease prior to the birds being released.
11. No birds shall be released as a means to develop or support commercial activities or for any pecuniary gain.
12. The genetic profile of the birds to be released shall not compromise the genetic integrity of the wild population within the area.
13. The birds and all environments in which they are held shall be made available for inspection at all reasonable times by officers of the Department of Conservation and/or staff employed by the NZ Game birds Ltd located at 12 Lower Flag Range Road, RD9, Hastings 4179.

14. If required by the Grantor, the Authority Holder shall make such improvement to the enclosure referred to in Schedule 3(13) as the Grantor deems necessary and take such steps as may be directed to ensure the welfare of the birds.
15. The Authority Holder must ensure the birds are housed in appropriate, humane, and hygienic conditions catering for their full dietary and space requirements over the period they are held, prior to their release. This includes ensuring they have protection from the sun and wet weather.

### **Banding**

16. All birds must be banded, Banding of captive-reared gamebirds released into the wild must be according to these conditions:
  - a. The Authority Holder must undertake the Authorised Activity in accordance with the application received and the most recent edition of the New Zealand National Bird Banding Scheme Bird Bander's Manual.
  - b. Only metal bird bands supplied by the Department of Conservation, New Zealand are to be used, except where other marking techniques are authorised.
  - c. Any injuries or deaths of birds resulting from implementation of the Authorised Activity must be reported to the Grantor (and copied to [bandingoffice@doc.govt.nz](mailto:bandingoffice@doc.govt.nz)) as soon as possible after the incident but at least within one week.
  - d. The Authority Holder must have approval of the Banding Office to trial new band sizes. Any changes to recommended band sizes must be notified in writing to the Banding Office as soon as practicable.
  - e. If a band is taken off a bird for any reason, it must NOT be used on another bird.
  - f. The Authority Holder must supply the Banding Office with electronic copies of all banding schedules used to record newly banded or re-banded birds, plus a band stock-take by 1 April each year. Standard electronic templates will be supplied by the Banding Office (refer to <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/bird-banding/how-to-submit-banding-data/>)
  - g. Band recoveries for dead birds and any birds re-banded are mandatory. Band recoveries must be submitted on the standard template in electronic form. Other recapture and ancillary data can be submitted on the same template (refer to <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/our-work/bird-banding/nznbbs-data-spreadsheet.xlsx>)
  - h. A designated Level 3 Certified bander, certified under the New Zealand National Bird Banding Scheme (NZNBBS) for the species and capture methods in question, must oversee and be accountable for the Authorised Activity. Level 2 banders may operate without direct supervision but must operate under the general direction of a Level 3 Certified bander. Level 1 banders must be directly supervised by a Level 3 Certified bander. All operators capturing or marking birds must be registered with the NZNBBS.

**TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

The Chairman

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

**DRAFT 2024/25 GAME SEASON GAZETTE NOTICE**

**Background**

Since 2016 Council has had a policy of retaining consistent game regulations from year to year unless new information supports a need to make significant changes to protect the resource.

This reflects that detailed analysis of long-term harvest data from the Eastern Region indicates that large changes in bag or season length would be required to make any meaningful difference to the duck harvest.

There is also increasing evidence that maximising bag limits does not necessarily maximise hunter satisfaction. To maximise harvest also requires precise and accurate monitoring. However, with such patchily distributed and highly mobile species like ducks, it is both exceptionally difficult and very resource intensive to achieve robust estimates. This is further complicated by the timing of the gazettal process which requires that Council agree next season's recommendations in December before we can measure this spring's production. On top of this, total harvest is directly related to the total effort and analysis by Eastern Fish and Game found annual changes in effort were best explained by changes in the duck population size. In other words, in years of low duck numbers, hunters spend less time in the field and the total harvest is inherently smaller irrespective of any regulation changes. Collectively, all of these factors suggest that rather than trying to maximise bag limits every year Council is better to set consistent season conditions which they can be confident do not impact on resource sustainability while providing sufficient opportunity and setting realistic expectations which ultimately result in greater overall hunter satisfaction.

This consistency from year to year also provides hunters with confidence to invest in equipment and/ or habitat development and predator control programmes.

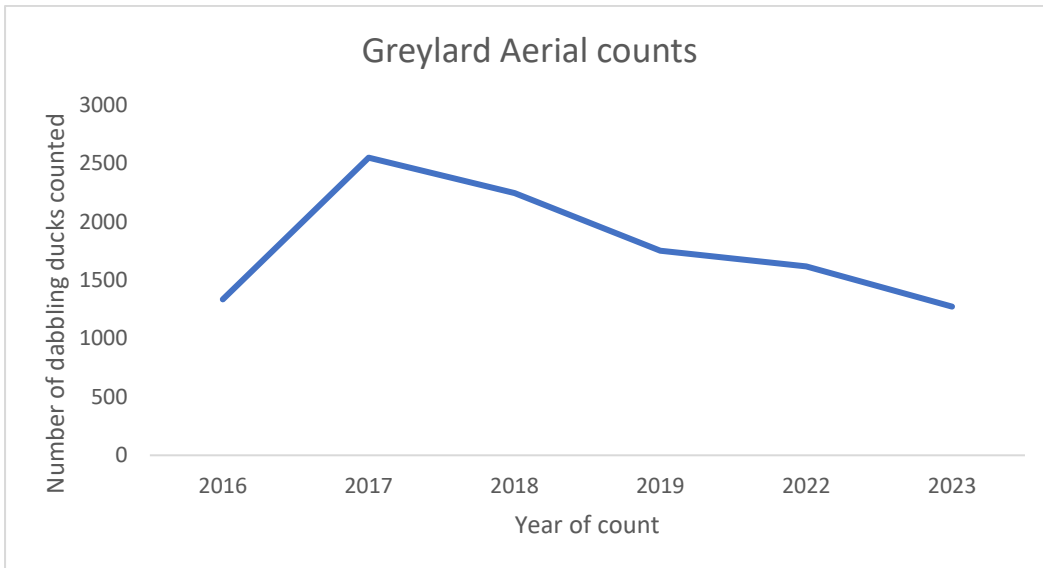
Therefore, this paper is presented from the perspective of whether there is any good reason to depart from the status quo for each gamebird species.

**Current Population Status**

**Grey and Mallard Duck (Greylard)**

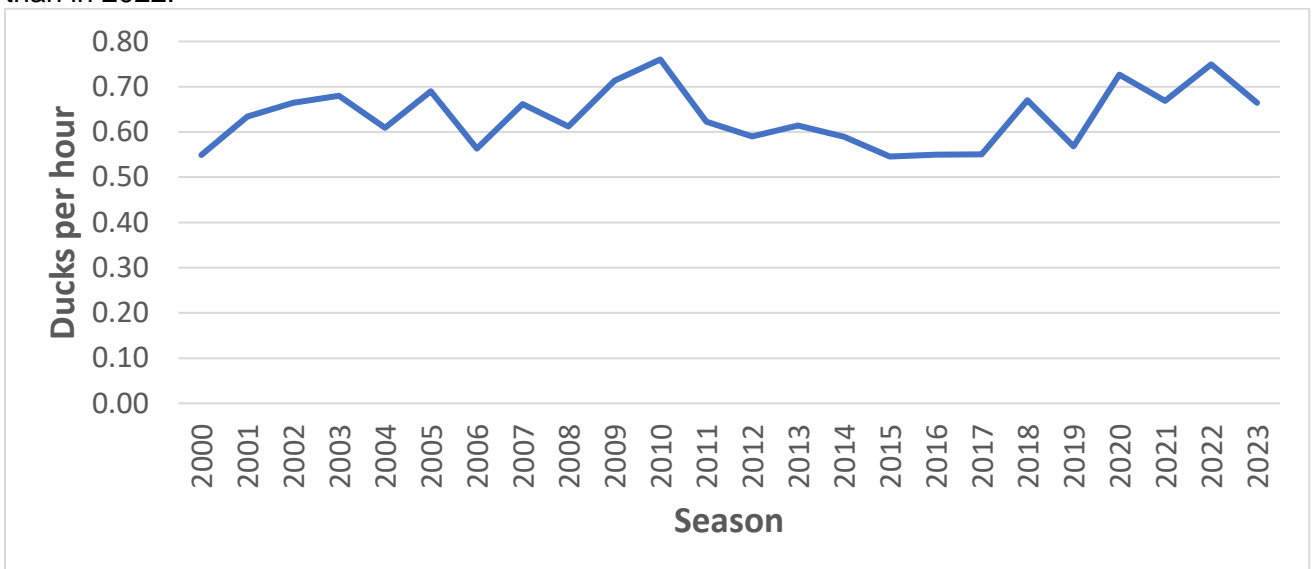
Given the degree of interbreeding and hybridisation these species are treated as a single population for this discussion.

From 2016 - 2019 annual counts were undertaken around the Taranaki ring-plain in early April using a helicopter. After missing two years of flights (2020 and 2021) due to Covid-19 lockdowns and covid-related budget cuts, aerial helicopter transect flights were resumed in April 2022. The 2023 count was the lowest tally so far with 1,273 greylards counted (Figure 1), 344 less than the 2022 count. There were two limitations to the accuracy of the counts this year in regard to the conditions; the angle of the sun on the ponds made it difficult for staff to see all the birds present on the water and may have decreased the count. Another limitation was the height of the helicopter during the survey, at the beginning the height was around 500ft which made for easy counting however over time the height increased to over 1000ft which made counting more difficult and likely reduced the overall count.

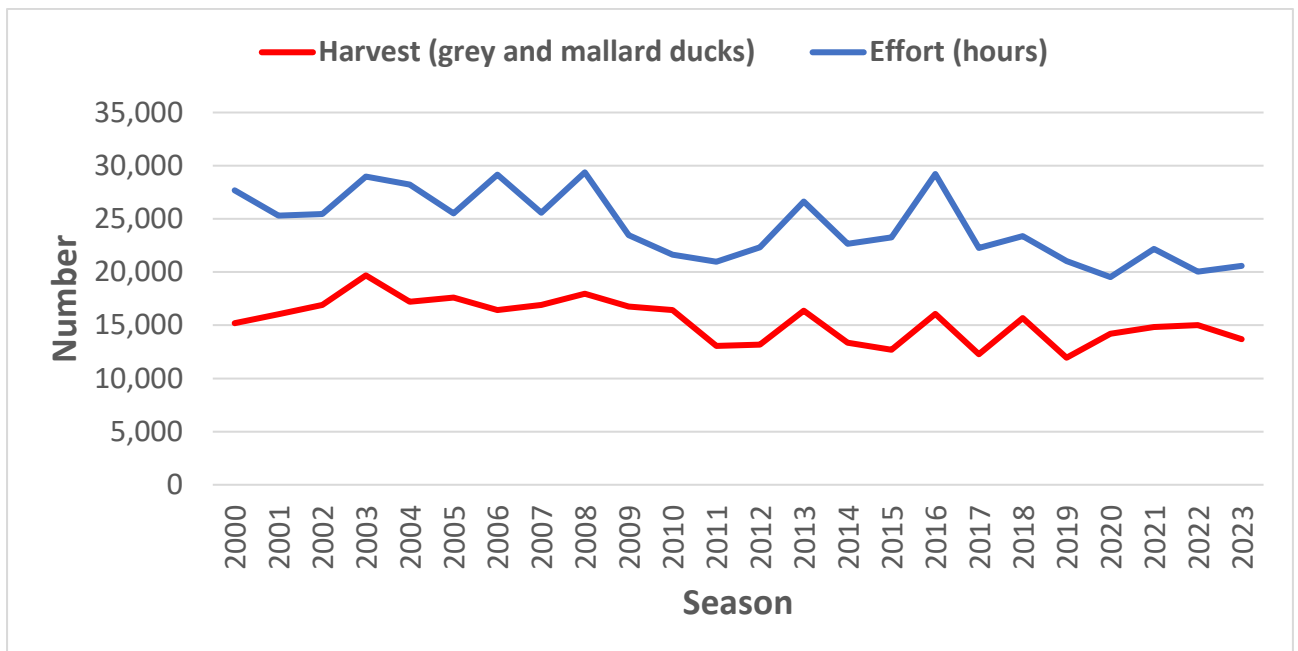


**Figure 1.** Total Greylards counted during helicopter aerial transects.

The hunter survey results for last season (2023) indicate that there was a decrease in hunter success rate from the previous season (Figure 2), although it was still above average. There was a slight increase in hunting hours (Figure 3). Although there was a 15-bird bag limit for opening weekend in 2023 this did not seem to affect hunter harvest, which was slightly lower than in 2022.



**Figure 2.** Average hunter harvest rate of greylards (ducks per hour) from the National Hunter Survey 2000 to 2023 seasons.



**Figure 3.** Total hunting effort (hours) and harvest of greylards in the Taranaki region 2000 to 2023.

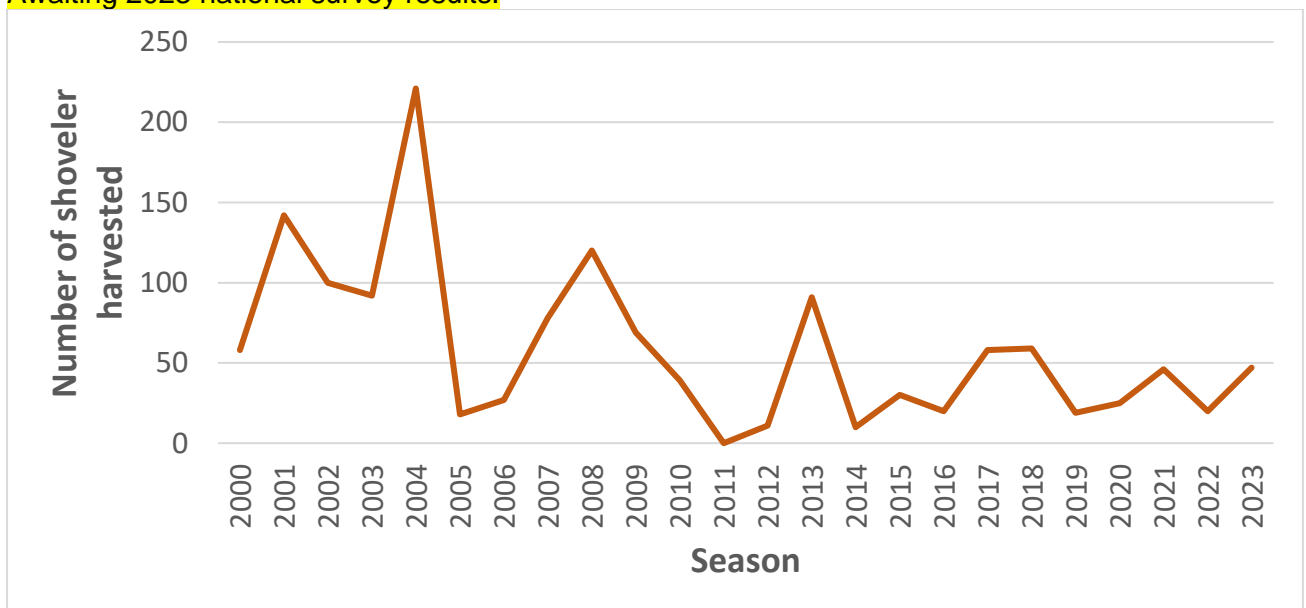
**Shoveler Duck**

Monitoring of known aggregations of Australasian Shoveler Duck occur in early August each year. At this time birds congregate to select mates before dispersing to secluded breeding sites. Monitoring occurs across NZ at the same time to reflect the view that the population is a single national population with birds moving throughout NZ.

Across the Taranaki region 422 shoveler duck were counted on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023, which is 18% higher than the long-term average (359 ducks) and up on last year’s count of 322.

The level of harvest during the 2023 game season was consistent with recent seasons (Figure 4) and the low number suggests shoveler are not generally targeted by Taranaki hunters and/or are not particularly prevalent in Taranaki during the game season. Given the low level of harvest, it is recommended that the status quo of a 2–bird bag limit and 8-week season be retained for 2024.

Awaiting 2023 national survey results.



**Figure 4.** Estimated Shoveler duck harvest in the Taranaki Region 2000 to 2023 seasons (National Hunter Survey).

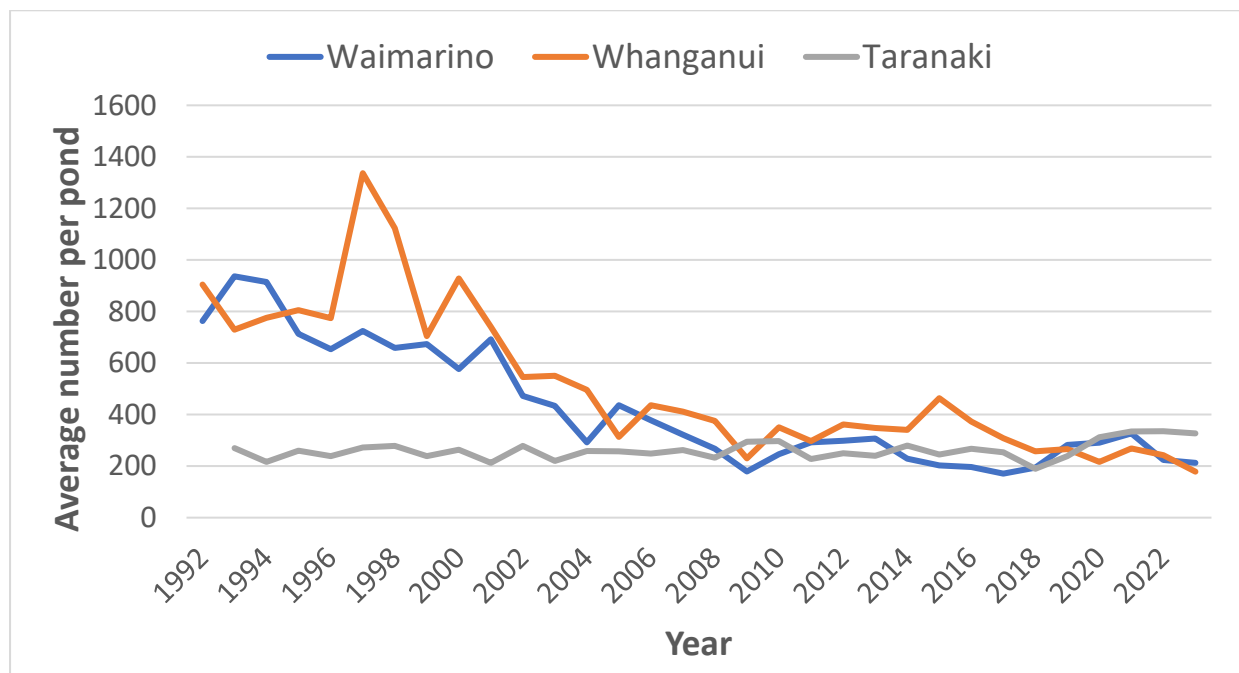


### **Paradise Shelduck**

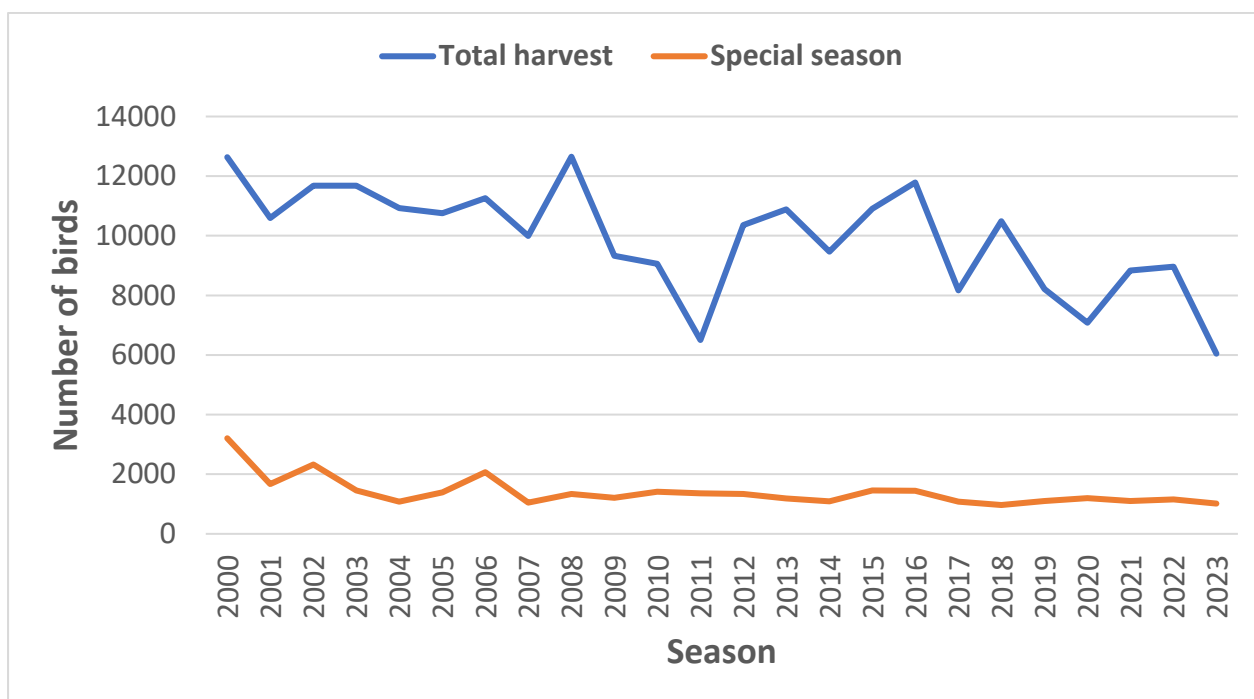
The moult count in January 2023 in the Waimarino region (3,409 paradise shelduck) represents 213 birds per moult site which is lower than recent years (Figure 5). However, the reintroduction of two historic sites will have had an impact on this figure. Counts around the Taranaki ringplain showed a slight increase in total birds but a slight decrease in birds per site (327 per moult site and 14,063 in total). The Whanganui count remains at relatively low levels, with this year being the lowest recorded count of 1,784 birds, or 178 birds per moult site. The counts suggest that the population is stable but at the 'low end' of the historical range of abundance in the Waimarino. The continued downward trend in the Whanganui count is of concern and suggests possible overharvest.

The operational amalgamation between Taranaki and Wellington will allow monitoring of the Waimarino and Whanganui paradise shelduck populations to be added into the Wellington aerial counts in January 2024. Aerial counts of existing and potential moult sites should help to answer the question about whether there are moult sites that are not being counted, or whether the current count accurately reflects what is happening in the population. If counts in Whanganui continue to decrease, then a review of season length and bag limits will need to be undertaken.

For comparison the estimated total harvest of 6,044 paradise in 2023 (Figure 6) was lower than in 2022 (8,964 birds) and well below the long-term average of 9,927 birds. Reasons for the reduction in harvest are not readily apparent, but could be related to declining numbers in the Whanganui/Waverley area.



**Figure 5.** Average number of Paradise shelduck per moult site counted across the Waimarino, Whanganui and Taranaki areas from 1992 to 2023 moult counts.



**Figure 6.** Estimated special season harvest and total annual Paradise shelduck harvest across the Taranaki region 2000 to 2023.

The special summer season for paradise shelduck in Area C plays an important role in the dispersal of post-moult birds that cause a nuisance to farmers by grazing and fouling areas of new grass, recovering hay paddocks and fodder crops like chicory. It also provides an additional hunting opportunity for licence holders and land occupiers. As Figure 6 shows the harvest from the special summer season is consistently around 1,000 birds per year and remains a small but significant proportion of the total annual harvest.

Manipulating the harvest is further complicated by the need to set the special season regulations more than a year in advance. For this reason, it is recommended the Council retain the current special season conditions. With population numbers in Areas A and B at the lower end, any additional harvest from a special season is not supported in those areas. Any impacts from aggregations of birds are best managed by working directly with the impacted landowner/s.

In respect of the Special Season in Area C, the Council resolved to extend the 2023 season to 3 weekends including Taranaki anniversary day (total 7 days). The Special Season is held on the last weekend of February and first two weekends in March. The 2024 dates are already set in the 2023 Gazette Notice and are 24/25 February, 2/3 March and 9/10/11 March). In 2025, Taranaki Anniversary Day falls on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March, so the Special Season dates can remain similar to the 2023 and 2024 dates if Council decides to continue with a 3 weekend Special Season. Including an extra weekend allows for greater dispersal of paradise shelduck from moult sites and more hunter opportunity. Disturbance of mallards will occur a little bit closer to the main game season, but the overall impact may not be significant.

On the basis that paradise shelduck populations generally appear stable along with a moderate existing harvest, it is recommended that Council retain the status quo with an extension to the Special Season to include Taranaki Anniversary Day. That is:

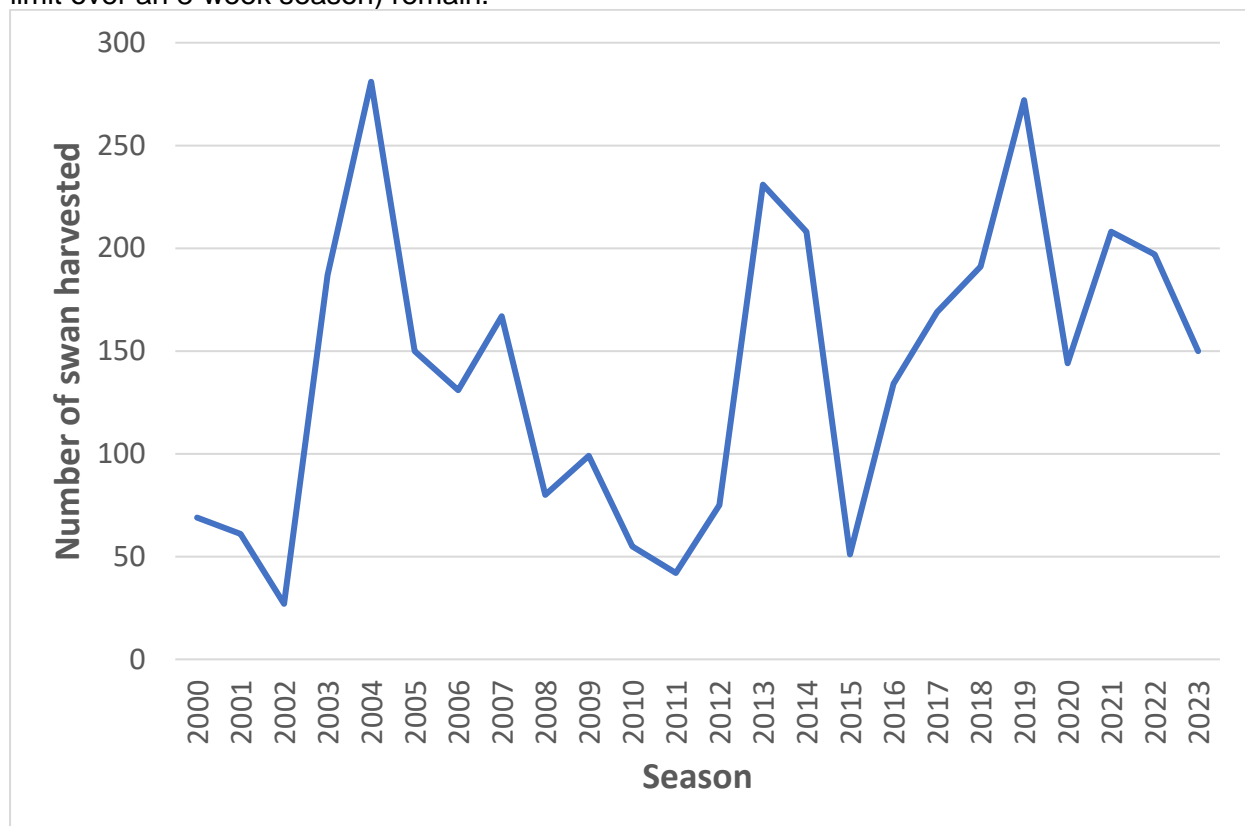
- A 10-bird daily limit for Areas A, B & C for an 8-week main season;
- A 3-weekend special season in Area C for 2025 including the last weekend in February and the first two weekends in March 2025, including Taranaki Anniversary Day.

### **Black Swan**

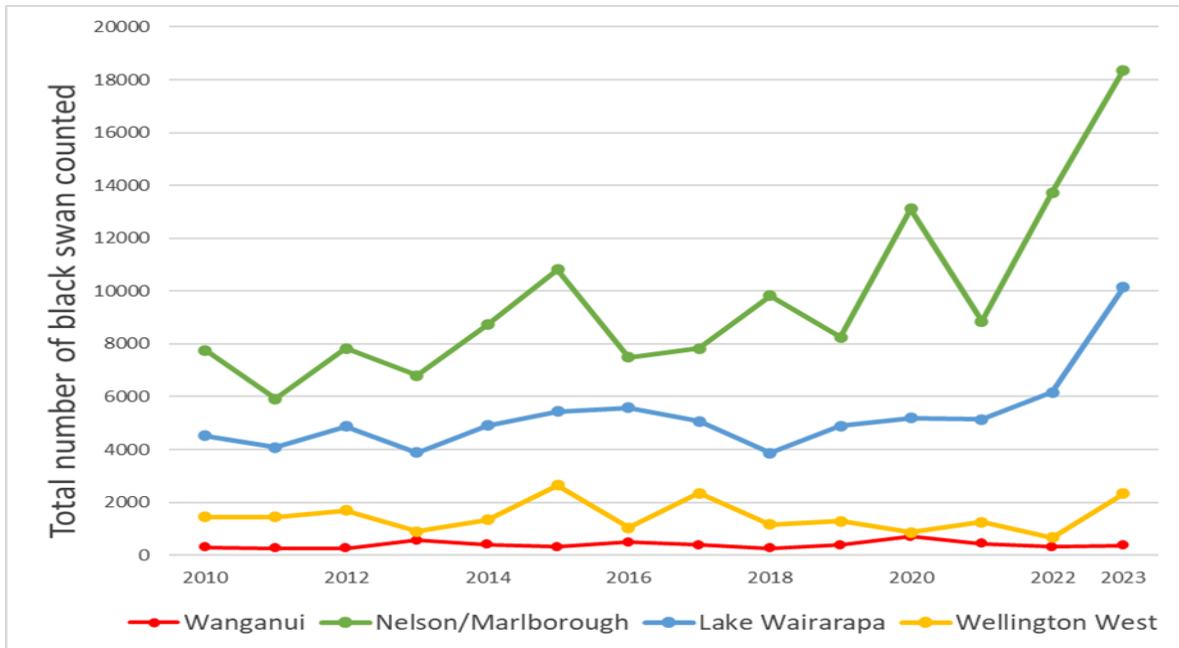
In 2016 the daily bag limit for swan was increased from 1 bird to 2 birds. Most Taranaki hunters choose not to harvest swan and the increase allowed the few who do to take an extra bird for the table. The harvest since 2000 has fluctuated between an estimated 27 and 281 birds, with 150 harvested in 2023 (Figure 7). The 2016 increase in the daily bag limit doesn't appear to have influenced the level of harvest, which remains small overall.

Counts of black swan undertaken in January 2023 were above the long-term average across Whanganui (377 vs an average of 338 swan), Waimarino (44 vs an average of 32 swan) and Taranaki (424 vs an average of 367 swan).

Black swan are relatively mobile and it is thought that a single population extends over central New Zealand, if not further afield. The January 2023 trend counts in Wellington, Nelson/Marlborough (including Farewell Spit) and Whanganui have all shown increases, especially Lake Wairarapa where there was an 83% increase on the 2022 counts (Figure 8). On the basis that the Taranaki harvest is small, it is recommended that the status quo (2 bird daily limit over an 8-week season) remain.



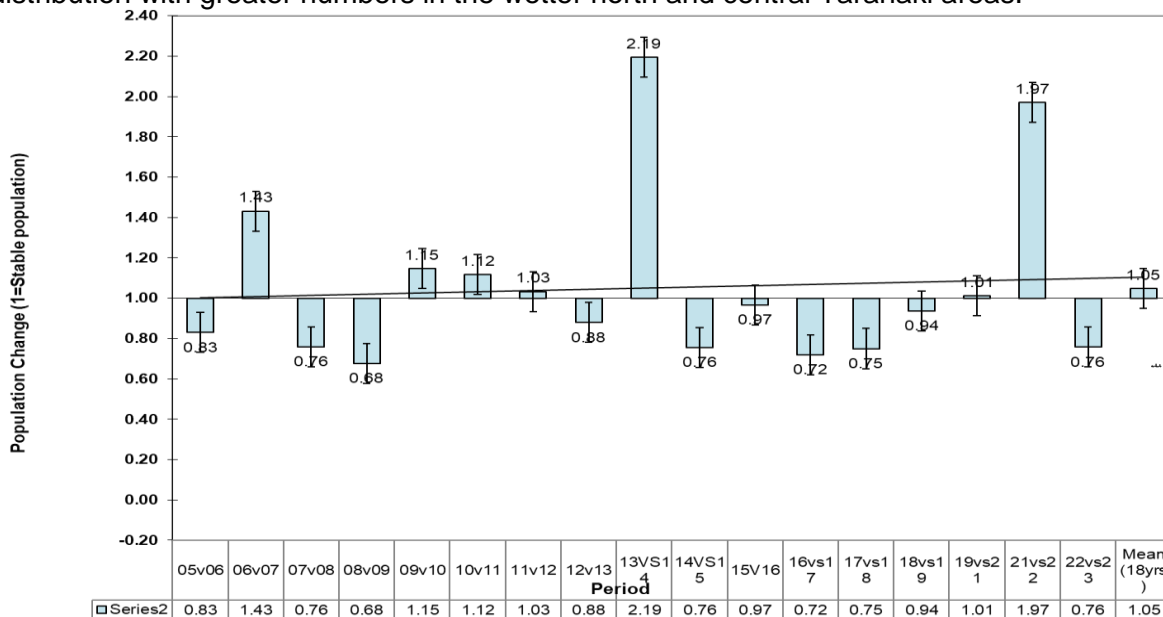
**Figure 7.** Estimated black swan harvest in the Taranaki Fish and Game region 2000 to 2023.



**Figure 8.** January black swan trend counts for the Taranaki, Wellington and Nelson/Marlborough regions 2010 to 2023.

**Pukeko**

Early April counts of pukeko have been made along a series of randomly selected transects around the Taranaki ringplain since 2005, although no counts were undertaken in 2020 owing to the covid-19 lockdown. Total counts have varied between 91 and 336 birds, with an average of 178. The April 2023 count was 252 pukeko. The 18-year trend analysis (Figure 9) indicates that the population remains stable or slightly increasing, although birds are patchy in distribution with greater numbers in the wetter north and central Taranaki areas.

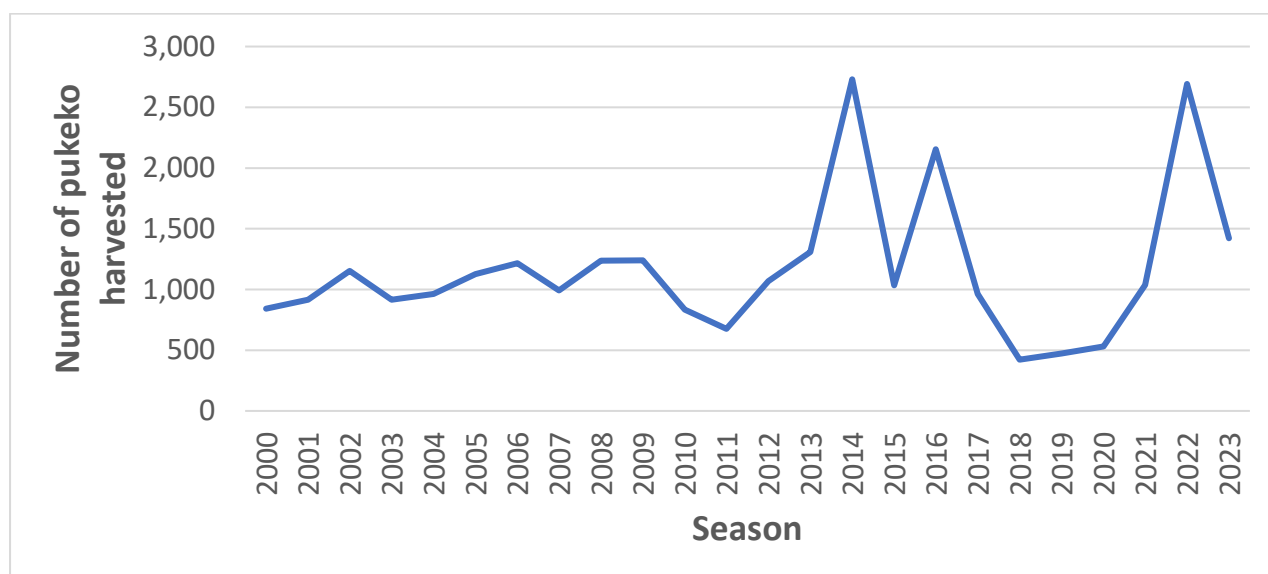


**Figure 9.** Estimated annual pukeko harvest in the Taranaki region 2000 to 2023.

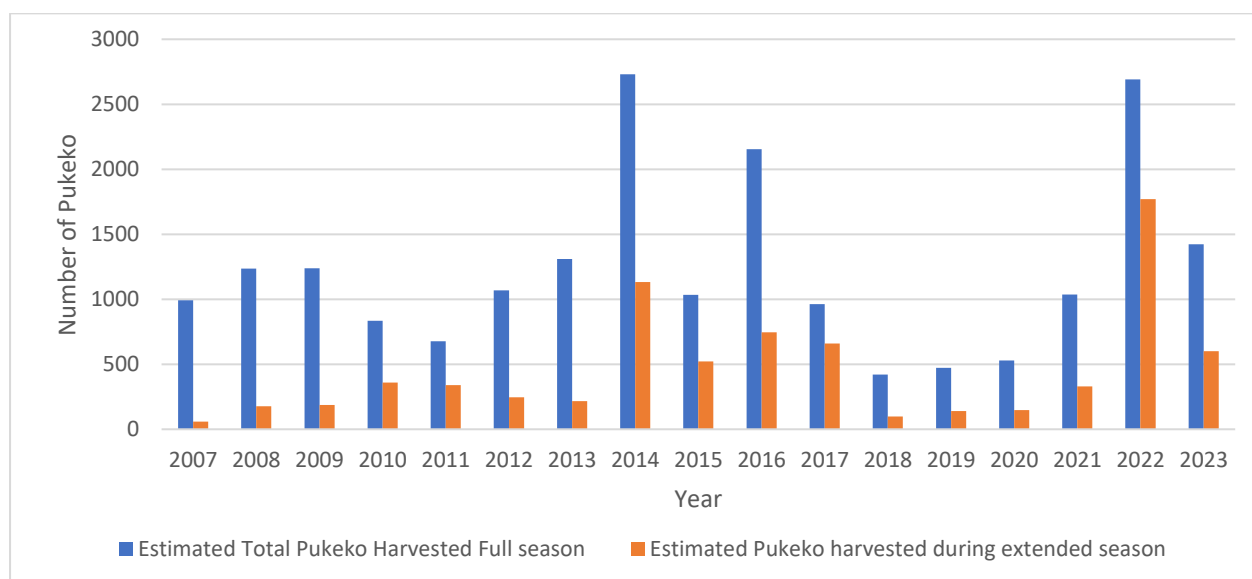
Counts in Whanganui were restarted in 2023 for the first time since 2017 (counts had only been running from 2015 to 2017). These were also done in April and consisted of 10 random road transects between Waverley and Turakina. The total count in Whanganui was 122 which was the highest count recorded so far. There is not yet enough data in the Whanganui region to conduct trend analysis.

During the 2022/23 year there were 41 permits issued to disturb pukeko with 31 in urban areas and 10 in rural areas. The majority of these urban permits were issued for New Plymouth.

Harvest during the 2023 gamebird season had a substantial decrease from last year with an estimated 1,422 pukeko harvested (Figure 10.) This is still above the long-term average harvest of 1,164 birds. Of the total number of birds shot, 42% of birds were harvested during the 2-month extended season (Figure 11).



**Figure 10.** Estimated annual pukeko harvest in the Taranaki region 2000 to 2023.

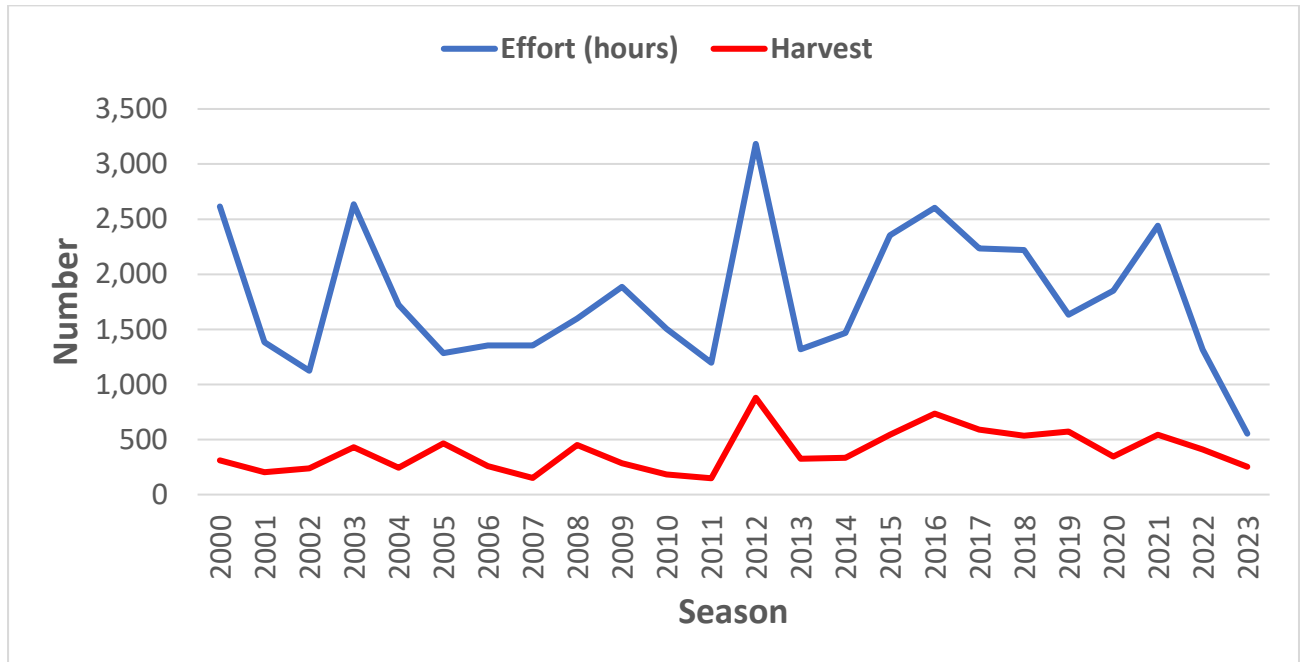


**Figure 11.** Estimated pukeko harvest during the Taranaki full season and the proportion taken during the extended season using gamebird hunter survey results.

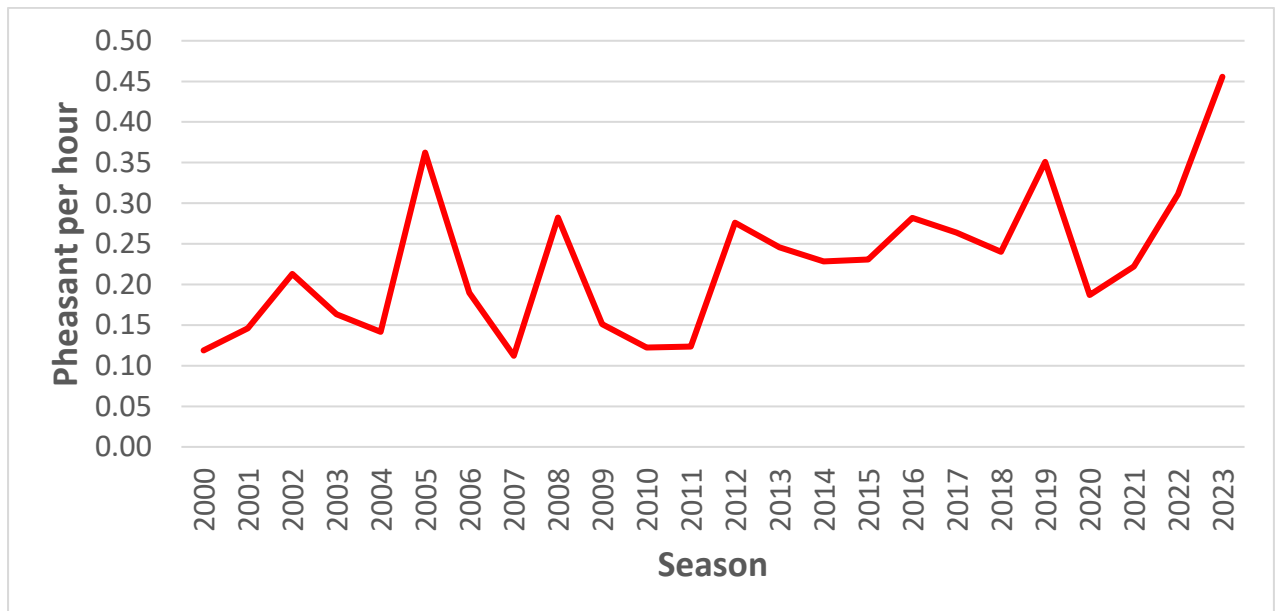
Area C currently has a 10-bird daily bag limit along with a 4-month season through to the last Sunday in August. The extended season enables hunters to target localised aggregations of pukeko scattered over the ringplain and in problem areas around New Plymouth to address their impacts on agriculture and horticulture as well as to create additional hunting opportunity after the main duck season has ended. Past monitoring suggests that the Whanganui and Waimarino populations might struggle under this level of harvest if it was mis-directed, but in the case of the Taranaki ringplain population it appears that the harvest may be self-limiting. In other words, as the larger mobs are controlled, hunters may be less inclined to target pukeko. Given that monitoring indicates that pukeko populations in Area C remain stable, it is recommended that Council continues with a 10-bird limit in Area C and a 5-bird limit in Areas A and B.

**Pheasant**

The harvest of pheasant over the 2023 season was estimated at 252 birds (Figure 12), which was down on last year and also below the long-term average of 393 birds. Although hunting hours were significantly lower than average in 2023 (553 hours and 1,784 average), the harvest rate of 0.46 pheasant/hour is double the average HPUE of 0.23



**Figure 12.** Estimated annual pheasant harvest and total effort in the Taranaki Region 2000 to 2023.



**Figure 12.** Harvest rate (birds shot per hour) of pheasant in the Taranaki Region 2000 to 2023.

While we do not have an estimate for the current size of the pheasant population, they have been very visible around much of the region in recent years. This may well reflect that large-scale predator control programmes and the planting of manuka, woodlots and riparian areas are potentially having a positive impact. As it is apparent many populations still go largely un-hunted, the current level of effort and harvest suggests there is no need to further restrict the harvest, nor does there appear any justification to liberalise the regulations. Results of the

gamebird hunter survey reported to Council in December 2018 indicate very strong support for the status quo of a 2-bird daily limit and four-month season. It is therefore recommended that these conditions be retained.

### **California Quail**

California quail are restricted in distribution with few substantial coveys remaining, though there has been a bit of comment that they are being seen more frequently, similar to the apparent increase in pheasant numbers. With such low numbers, hunters generally perceive hunting them as difficult and/or inappropriate. Harvest totals are small (an estimated 0 birds in 2023) and variable, which in part is an artefact of the hunter survey design and the fact that just a few hunters shoot quail.

Such low levels of harvest indicate that the daily bag limit of 5 is for the most part irrelevant, however it does allow hunters to make use of the opportunity provided by large coveys where these still exist. As such, it is recommended that the status quo remain.

## TARANAKI FISH AND GAME REGION<sup>9</sup>

### 1 Game That May be Hunted or Killed—Duration of 2024/2025 Season

Species	Season Duration (dates inclusive)	Daily Bag Limit	Hunting area
Grey/mallard duck	4 May to 30 June 2024	10	All areas
NZ shoveler duck	4 May to 30 June 2024	2	All areas
Paradise shelduck	4 May to 30 June 2024	10	All areas
	22 and 23 Feb 2025	10	Area C
	1 and 2 March 2025	10	Area C
	8 to 10 March 2025	10	Area C
Black swan	4 May to 30 June 2024	2	All areas
Pukeko	4 May to 25 August 2024	5	Area A&B
	4 May to 25 August 2024	10	Area C
California quail	4 May to 25 August 2024	5	All areas
Cock pheasant	4 May to 25 August 2024	2	All areas

### 2 Definition of Areas

**2.1 Area A:** That area within the following boundary commencing at Waiaruhe Road; then by that road, Owhakura Road, Whangaehu Valley Road and Fields Track to Kakatahi; then by straight lines to Pipiriki and Tawhata; then by Tawhata Road to the boundary; then by the generally eastern boundary of the region to Waiaruhe Road.

**2.2 Area B:** That area within the following boundary commencing at Waiaruhe Road; then by that road, Owhakura Road, Whangaehu Valley Road and Fields Track to Kakatahi; then by straight lines to Pipiriki and Makakaho Junction down the eastern bank of the Waitotara River to the sea; then by the sea coast and generally eastern boundary of the region to Waiaruhe Road.

**2.3 Area C:** The balance of the region contained by the westerly boundaries of Area A and B and the sea coast between the Mokau River and Waitotara River mouths.

### 3 Shooting Hours

6.30am to 6.15pm.

### 4 Decoy Limit

No limit.

### 5 Special Conditions

#### 5.1 Special Paradise Shelduck Season

**Area C only:** For the Special Paradise Shelduck Season on 22 February, 23 February, 1 March, 2 March, 8 March, 9 March and 10 March 2025, the hours of hunting are extended 6.30am to 8.00pm. In addition, all hunters, including land occupiers, must hold a 2025

<sup>9</sup>Reference to Description: *Gazette*, No. 83, of 27 May 1990, at page 1861



Taranaki Special Paradise Shelduck Season Hunting Permit that has been issued by the Taranaki Fish and Game Council (or authorised agent) to that named person.

**5.2** No person shall hunt, as specified, within 100m of any urban sewage oxidation pond.

**5.3** No person may wilfully leave on the hunting ground any game bird(s) shot or parts of any game birds shot.

**5.4** No person may shoot game from a boat on the Whanganui River downstream of Kemps Pole (Kauarapaoa Stream confluence).

**5.5** Any licensed game bird hunter who has a Department of Conservation permit to take or kill wildlife for the purpose of hawking may hunt with an Australasian Harrier (*Circus approximans*) to take gamebirds. This is subject to the season length and bag limit for each gamebird species in clause 1 of this notice for this region and subject to any conditions imposed by the Director-General of Conservation under such a permit.

## **15. Licence Management System – Update**

### **A. Update on Licence Management System**

The system has been operating with no significant failures or significant faults. The contract for service provision with ESL is transitioning from 'development' phase to 'operational' phase. A list of bugs and other contractual requirements such as development of booking systems will be required before Fish and Game signs of the 'development' aspect of the contract.

There are two other functionalities – Designated Water function and Salmon Fishing Endorsement Licence - that have been developed and are in operation.

### **B. Research Project on Licence Category Pricing Review**

This research project was scheduled to start by the end of 2022 – to investigate and provide objective advice on the licence categories introduced from 2015 and ensure they are still fit for purpose.

The research project will now be undertaken in two stages - data cleansing and partial analysis. A further research brief was expected to be developed so that research providers could indicate interest in the project and provide a formal project proposal.



## **16. Regional Plan Reviews – Update**

An update will be provided on progress by Regional Councils to give effect to the NPSFM2020 in their Regional Plans

### **a. Horizons Regional Council**

- Progress has been made on identifying community values (2022)
- Identification of locations of River Users for a summer period (Feb 2023)
- Engagement with Iwi Groupings to Define Implementation and Interpretation of Te Mana o te Wai (2022 – 2023)
- Engagement with Stakeholders on defining Outstanding Waterbodies (2023)
- Engagement with Stakeholders on Water Quantity Limits (Sept 2023)
- Engagement with Stakeholders on Water Quality Limits (Nov 2023)

### **b. Taranaki Regional Council**

- Release of technical reports to support establishment of water quality and quantity limits (Oct 2023)

### **c. Fish and Game’s strategic approach to 16 Regional Councils/Unitary Authorities for Plan Changes Required by December 2024**

**ACTION: no action required – awareness of workload with all regional entities recommending plan changes by December 2024**



## 17. Licence Holder Engagement

### a. Licence Holder Communications

- Weekly email update now being sent to all Taranaki anglers as **Lower NI Lowdown** – sent on a Thursday with relevant weather forecasts and information on fishing and access
- Hardcopy newsletter being prepared for end of November send out for Wellington and Taranaki anglers (and lapsed)

### b. Novice Recruitment Initiatives

- A report on recruitment of female anglers – highlighting perceived barriers and ways to keep female anglers retained in the pursuit.

**ACTION: No action required – awareness of increasing female engagement in the pursuit**

## AGENDA ITEM 17A

Mixed Bag For Opening But Still Plenty of Options

No images? [Click here](#)



28 SEPTEMBER 2023



The new season opens the door on a whole raft of angling opportunities. Credit: Nick King.

AGENDA ITEM 17B

Women Anglers in Aotearoa  
New Zealand:  
Understanding women's  
participation in, and  
perspectives of, freshwater  
fishing



Stu Hayes  
Brent Lovelock  
Mahdis Madani

Centre for Recreation Research  
Business School  
University of Otago  
PO Box 56  
Dunedin 9054  
New Zealand



BUSINESS SCHOOL  
CENTRE FOR RECREATION RESEARCH



## 1 Executive summary

This report presents the findings from a mixed-method research project initiated by Fish and Game New Zealand (FGNZ), and conducted by staff at the University of Otago, with the aim of better understanding women's participation in, and perspectives of, freshwater fishing in Aotearoa New Zealand. The findings in this report are based on an email survey of 2,456 women anglers, coupled with 30 semi-structured interviews. Data was collected between November 2022 and August 2023. The specific aims of the study were to:

- Characterise the demographics of existing women licence holders and investigate current and past levels of participation, interest, and specialisation in freshwater fishing.
- Understand women anglers' current and past motivations for freshwater fishing.
- Explore the relationship between freshwater fishing and identity.
- Investigate socialisation factors to do with women anglers' participation in freshwater fishing.
- Identify factors that constrain and/or facilitate women anglers' participation in freshwater fishing.
- Evaluate the values and ethics of women anglers.
- Explore women anglers' views in relation to representations of women in FGNZ material, and the willingness of women anglers to be involved with freshwater fisheries governance.

An email survey of 672 men anglers was also conducted with aim of exploring comparisons between women and men in terms of participation/behaviours, motivations, socialisation, constraints/facilitators, ethics, and governance.

In addition to providing baseline data on women's participation in freshwater fishing, some important findings of the study are:

- Around a quarter of women anglers have had to contend with gender stereotypes whilst fishing.
- Well over a third of women anglers believe that fishing continues to be moulded after men and, relatedly, many call for better representation in marketing material and within FGNZ governance structures.
- Almost all women anglers wish they could fish more often, but are constrained by a host of factors, most notably a lack of time and family/work commitments. Some constraints, such as a lack of confidence, are more gender specific. Certain constraints, such as the cost of fishing or a perceived lack of skill, can be partially addressed with the support of FGNZ.
- Around one-third of women anglers feel that there are inadequate FGNZ initiatives aimed at fostering women's involvement in freshwater fishing.
- Despite wishing to see better representation of women within FGNZ, half of all women anglers feel that standing for a FG council is currently a daunting prospect, and one-third of women anglers feel that their opinions and ideas would currently not be heard.

"Have more stories on women/girl anglers, I open a magazine, or Facebook, and only find males looking back at me ... I guess it's what makes me hide away from seeing how male dominated the sport really is, even though I'd love to be out there on my days off fishing! I'd really like to see a group made / put together of women anglers, I'd be more inclined to reach out ask for advice / help; I feel that would boost my confidence and [allow me to] be able to make more friends within fishing" (Survey participant)

1

Six key recommendations emerging from the research are:

- Develop workshops, educational materials, and events tailored to the needs of women anglers.
- Provide support for the development and strengthening of new and existing networks of women anglers.
- Work to increase the visibility of women anglers within FGZ promotional materials and publications.
- Work to increase representation of women within Fish and Game councils.
- Work to improve feedback mechanisms for existing women anglers to communicate with FGZ management.
- Evaluate the family licence with a view to loosening existing restrictions.

The above recommendations should be seen as practical measures designed to help close some of the gaps in services and outreach that women anglers, in general, currently perceive to exist. In so doing, these recommendations, if implemented, may contribute significantly to breaking down barriers, fostering a more inclusive angling community, and increasing the recruitment, retention, and reactivation of women anglers in Aotearoa New Zealand.



## **18. Licence Sales Reports for 2022/2023 Seasons & 2023/2024 Season YTD**

### **a. Fish Licence Sales 2022 – 2023 until 30 September 2023**

Number 1701

Number last year 1298

UP ↑ 403

UP 31%

### **b. Game Licence Sales 2023 until September 2023**

Number 1233

Number last year 1244

DOWN ↓11

DOWN 0.9%

### **c. Fish Licence Sales 2023 – 2024 until 30 September 2023**

Number 283

Number last year 299

DOWN NUMBER ↓16

DOWN 6%

**Action: Receive The Sales Reports Until 30 September 2023**

2022/2023 Fish Licence Sales to 30 September 2023  
 With comparison to 2021/2022 Fish Licence Sales to 30 September 2022

Taranaki Fishing 2022/23	Sales Channel	FWFA	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWC	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	Total	Fish LEQ	Total Value
	Public	87	233	96	31	25	22	1	45	135	235	44	3	37	7	187	4	5	0	1197	587.74	\$98,581.00
	Agency	37	198	10	52	18	13	2	17	30	10	48	2	5	0	47	0	0	15	504	346.29	\$51,493.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1701</b>	<b>934.03</b>	<b>\$150,074.00</b>
Taranaki Fishing 2021/22	Sales Channel	FWFA	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWC	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	Total	Fish LEQ	Total Value
	Public	86	234	7	28	27	19	3	39	129	26	43	3	35	0	113	0	0	0	792	460.78	\$63,825.00
	Agency	49	248	2	51	12	12	0	17	27	4	45	0	11	0	28	0	0	0	506	393.99	\$54,125.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1298</b>	<b>854.77</b>	<b>\$117,950.00</b>

2023 Game Bird Licence Sales (complete season)  
 With comparison to 2022 Game Bird Licence Sales (complete season)

Taranaki Game Bird 2023	Sales Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	fishTotal	Total	Game LEQ	Total Value
	Public	215	25	18	29	0	0	287	225.59	\$24,445.00
	Agency	841	63	28	14	0	0	946	856.1	\$92,052.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1056</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1233</b>	<b>1,081.69</b>	<b>\$116,497.00</b>
Taranaki Game Bird 2022	Sales Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	fishTotal	Total	Game LEQ	Total Value
	Public	192	16	9	24	3	0	244	200.04	\$20,180.00
	Agency	899	64	30	7	0	0	1000	913.05	\$91,653.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1091</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1244</b>	<b>1,113.09</b>	<b>\$111,833.00</b>

2023/2024 Fish Licence Sales to 30 September 2023  
 With Comparison to 2022/2023 Fish Licence Sales to 30 September 2022

Taranaki Fishing 2023/24	Sales Channel	FWFA	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWC	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	DWLR	Total	Fish LEQ	Total Value
	Public	13	51	7	12	6	0	0	0	1	3	7	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	111	97.18	\$14,869.00
	Agency	19	79	1	36	4	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	5	0	0	5	14	172	140.92	\$21,655.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>238.1</b>	<b>\$36,524.00</b>
Taranaki Fishing 2022/23	Sales Channel	FWFA	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWC	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	DWLR	Total	Fish LEQ	Total Value
	Public	27	70	9	17	6	0	0	0	3	1	3	0	0	0	17	0	1	0	0	154	134.46	\$20,475.00
	Agency	14	79	0	32	5	0	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	145	130.19	\$18,898.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>264.66</b>	<b>\$39,373.00</b>

**19. Work Plan To 31 August 2023 & Budget Progress Report To 31 August 2023**

**ACTION: Receive the reports on Work Plan to 31 August 2023 and Budget Progress Report to 31 August 2023**

Taranaki Fish & Game Council  
Budget Report to 31 August 2023  
And  
Project Progress to 31 August 2023

OUTPUT	Budget external costs	YTD external costs (31/8/23)	Comments on significant variations	Budget Hours	YTD hours (31/8/23)
Population Monitoring	10,100	13,227		470	727.5
Harvest Assessment				50	106
Hatchery	8,500	11,881		85	62.25
Liberations	6,000	6,122		110	138.25
Season Regulations				30	29.75
Gamebird Dispersal	2,500	2,462		120	136.25
RMA		2		500	208.25
Habitat Management & Enhancement	20,000			400	180.75
Assessing & Monitoring				100	107.75
Hunter / Angler Access	1,000	464		100	47.75
Satisfaction Survey				10	19.25
Magazine / Newsletter / Ezine	9,500	11,670		140	217.5
Hunter / Angler support	2,000				3
Clubs	300	300		10	18
Statutory Liaison				30	41.25
Iwi Liaison	100	1,106		40	69.25
Information to Clients				70	90.25
General Advocacy	1,100	174		250	96.25
Hunting & Angling Promotions	3,300	3,372		30	107.25
Ranger Management	1,000	2,271		112	74
Compliance	2,100	125		170	97
Licencing & Commission	10,281	9,708		50	17.25
Council Meetings & Administration	9,500	7,743		280	301
Management, Strategic & Policy	1,000			40	104.25
Business Planning				40	26.75
OSH & Other Reporting	6,340	557		55	153.25
National Liaison	100	160		160	137
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>94,721</b>	<b>71,344</b>		<b>3452</b>	<b>3317</b>

Project Income	Budget Income	YTD Income
Fish Population Assessment	200	4,404
Harvest Assessment – Summer Season	500	370
Liberations		1,825
Gamebird Dispersal	750	680
Taranaki Hunting & Habitat Scheme	15,000	
Compliance	1,000	748
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>17,450</b>	<b>8,026</b>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>77,271</b>	<b>63,318</b>

Overheads	Budget	YTD
1910 Salaries & Management Contract	232,957	192,992
1920 Staff Expenses	3,900	5,575
1940 Office Premises	22,200	22,161
1950 Office Equipment	500	2,350
1960 Communications / Consumables	7,750	5,888
1970 General	2,750	2,846
1980 General Equipment	6,494	202
1990 Vehicles	15,100	16,110
<b>Total Overheads</b>	<b>291,651</b>	<b>248,124</b>

Other Income & Expenses	Budget	YTD
Interest	1,477	15,313
Wellington Fish & Game Admin	4,000	3,748
Donations & Other Income		50
<b>Total Other Income &amp; Expenses</b>	<b>5,477</b>	<b>19,111</b>

Nett Project, Overhead and Other Expenditure/Income	Budget	YTD
	363,445	235,351 (75%)



**MOVEMENTS IN RESERVES**

<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Date Paid</b>
Hunting & Habitat Scheme	Paul Mander	Te Pekatu Wetland Project	5,000	21.12.22
Manganui o te ao River Riparian Project	Horizons Regional Council	50% of Freshwater Improvement in Orautoha / Manganui o te au Catchment	2,657	20.6.23

## SPECIES MANAGEMENT

2022/2023 Annual Plan – Planned Result	Progress to date
<p><b>Objective:</b>  <b>Obtain accurate and pertinent information to guide and enable effective management decisions to maximise user success and satisfaction while ensuring the sustainability of sports fish and gamebird populations across the region</b></p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess juvenile trout recruitment in Waiongana / Mangaoraka Stream to identify threats for the maintenance and enhancement of the fishery (yr 2 of 2).</li> <li>2. Investigate Waingongoro fishery to determine current status and identify threats and opportunities (yr 1 of 2)</li> <li>3. Monitor and report information on the status of the region's trout fisheries sufficient to measure overall angler success (through a diary scheme), set effective regulations and inform management directions.</li> <li>4. Implement an effective grey and mallard duck banding programme in the Whanganui area as the first step to obtain an estimate of the population size and level of hunting harvest which will guide future</li> </ol>	<p><i>Electric fishing survey to be conducted in early December 2023.</i></p> <p><i>An electro fishing survey of the Waingongoro River catchment was conducted on 5-8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to assess juvenile recruitment. 13 sites were surveyed in the Waingongoro mainstem and larger tributaries. A report was prepared for Council's 19 August 2023 meeting. A Waingongoro catchment habitat inventory report is currently being prepared.</i></p> <p><i>Angler diaries sent to 30 anglers prior to the start of the 2022/23 season. Diary information was analysed and included in the 2022/23 Fishery Monitoring Report prepared for Council's 19<sup>th</sup> August 2023 meeting. Field Officer, Jacob Morison helped Riverwise Consulting conduct two electric fish surveys in Kapuni Stream; 10 sites (25/10/2022) and 7 sites (15/5/2023). A 2021/22 Annual Fish Monitoring Report was prepared for Council's 15 October 2022 meeting. Field Officer Jacob Morison helped Wellington Fish and Game with their drift dive surveys of the Ruamahunga River (1/3/2023), Hutt River (2/3/2023 – 3/3/2023) and upper Rangitikei River (13/3/2023 – 16/3/2023). Trout spawning surveys conducted in Mangamahoe Stream including the lake inlet (9/06/2023 &amp; 19/07/2023) and Mangorei Stream (13/06/2023 &amp; 24/07/2023). Staff held three zoom meetings with F&amp;G fisheries staff (1/06/2023, 13/07/2023 &amp; 24/8/2023) to share knowledge.</i></p>

<p>monitoring requirements and regulation setting (yr 4 of 5).</p> <p>5. Monitor and report information on the status of the region's mallard and grey duck, paradise shelduck, shoveler, swan and pukeko populations sufficient to assess harvest, identify and manage any population impacts, set effective regulations and inform management directions.</p> <p>6. Participate in National Hunter Survey to derive a robust estimate of annual game bird harvest and hunter success.</p> <p>7. Recommend effective regulations that are timely, easily understood and which maximise licence holder opportunity while ensuring resource sustainability and public support. As part of this complete review and implement recommendations for Paradise shelduck hunting conditions including area boundaries</p>	<p><i>Approval given for researcher, Murray Williams, to have access to historical banding data held by DOC (14/11/2022). Field Officer Jacob Morison helped Wellington Fish &amp; Game with their mallard banding on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 at Tara Station, Dannevirke. Mallard and Grey duck banding was conducted at Lake Rotokauwau on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February with the help of Wellington and Eastern F&amp;G staff. A total of 567 birds were banded (387 mallard/13 grey on day 1, 166 mallard/1 grey day 2). There were 61 recaptures over both days. As of August 4<sup>th</sup> 2023 there have been 49 bands returned, with 26 of these from the 2023 banding year. Attended a NZ Bird Banding seminar on 17/8/2023.</i></p> <p><i>Report on the August 2022 national shoveler survey received 4/10/2022. January 2023 trend counts completed for paradise shelduck and black swan and a report prepared for Council's 18/02/2023 meeting. A flight to monitor dabbling duck along 20 randomly selected transects around the Taranaki ringplain was undertaken on 4/04/2023.</i></p> <p><i>Pukeko monitoring along 17 randomly selected road transects around the ringplain was conducted on 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> &amp; 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023.</i></p> <p><i>Whanganui pukeko monitoring was conducted along 10 randomly selected transects on 20<sup>th</sup> April. The was liaison with Wellington F&amp;G staff re: gamebird monitoring and the 2024 summer programme, including a zoom meeting on 10/07/2023. Taranaki sites for the National Shoveler survey were visited on 7/8/23.</i></p> <p><i>2022 season results included in Game Gazette Notice report. Surveys for the 2023 game season were carried out.</i></p>
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<p>8. Review and develop a position on the release of upland game birds.</p> <p>9. Provide advice and support practical and effective predator control opportunities that assist game bird populations.</p> <p>10. Undertake annual trout stocking programme which concentrates on creating and maintaining valued lake fisheries.</p>	<p><i>Game Gazette Notice report prepared for Council's 10 December 2022 meeting. Council's recommendations entered into the national document on 12/12/2023, with final check on 31/01/2023.</i></p> <p><i>Angler's Notice report prepared for Council's 12 June 2023 meeting with Notice amendments sent to NZC on 13/06/2023 and proofed on 29/06/2023 &amp; 24/07/2023.</i></p> <p><i>Permits to undertake fish surveys in the region were issued to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Horizons Regional Council (11/01/2023);</i></li> <li><i>• 4Sight Consulting on behalf of Manawa Energy (18/01/2023).</i></li> </ul> <p><i>A permit was issued (20/02/2023) for a Reel Recovery retreat to allow 8 men living with cancer to fish waters in the Waimarino District</i></p> <p><i>Rob Browning provided Council with a copy of his DOC pheasant release authority and confirmed he will apply to have a non-commercial pheasant preserve (upland game property with special conditions) listed in the 2024 Taranaki Game Gazette Notice.</i></p> <p><i>TRC predator control seminar attended (8/09/2022) to upskill staff.</i></p> <p><i>150 Hawera hatchery rainbow trout released into Lake Rotomanu (13/09/2022) followed by 503 Ngongotaha rainbows on 19/10/2022. 100 Hawera hatchery rainbows and 1,000 rainbow fry were released into the upper Waiaua River &amp; tributaries on 15/11/2022. A hatchery &amp; trout liberation Annual Report was prepared for Council's 15 October 2022 meeting. Further releases of Hawera hatchery rainbows were made into the upper Patea River at Stratford (300) on 2/12/2022; the lower Patea River (100) on 14/12/2022; the Stony River (100 + 101) on 19/12/2022 &amp;</i></p>
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	<p>24/01/2022; and Lake Mangamahoe (121) on 24/01/2022. A 2023 trout release schedule was prepared for Council 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023 meeting. Confirmed with the Tongariro National Trout Centre that rainbow trout will be available for Sattler's Dam in autumn 2023 and a release of 101 fish was undertaken on 13/04/2023. A release of 250 rainbow trout fingerlings to Lake Namunamu from the Hawera hatchery was undertaken on 12/04/2023. Further releases of Hawera hatchery rainbows were made to Lake Rataipiko (125) and Lake Mangamahoe (125) on 2/08/2023.</p>
<p>11. Undertake trial release of 2-year-old rainbow trout into the lower Patea River to assess the potential for a long-term programme (yr 4).</p> <p>12. Undertake monitoring of angler returns from the 2017-2021 releases of tagged brown and rainbow trout into the lower Patea River.</p> <p>13. Operate Hawera hatchery in an effective, cost efficient and sustainable manner utilising volunteer support to meet the identified stocking objectives.</p>	<p>100 large rainbows were released on 14/12/2022.</p> <p>Draft report prepared for Manawa Energy (16/02/2023) and included in Council's 19<sup>th</sup> August 2023 meeting agenda.</p> <p>Approx. 3,400 rainbow fry from the 2022 year-class transferred to the larger inside troughs (30/09/2022) – 1,000 surplus to requirements since released. 240kg feed ordered 26/10/2022; 400kg on 14/04/2023 &amp; 420kg on 28/06/2023. Lunch held for volunteers on 28/10/2022 at the South Taranaki Club.</p> <p>Council has been approached by Lowe Corp. (Derek Bowman) with a proposal to put in a larger water supply pipe from Silver Fern Farm's weir to allow Lowe Corp. to renew their consent to take water from Tawhiti Stream and also potentially supply water to the hatchery. An on-site meeting was held on 29/05/2023.</p> <p>Hawera hatchery rainbows were adipose fin-clipped on 29/05/2023, at which time the count was 1,415 fish.</p> <p>A total of 2,000 rainbow ova and 1,000 brown ova from Eastern F&amp;G were received on 22/06/2023 and hatching has gone well.</p>

<p><b>Objective: Provide effective compliance to protect resource sustainability (including revenue base) and user experience to maintain licence holder satisfaction.</b></p>	
<p>14. Maintain a skilled honorary ranger team of at least 12 rangers consistent with requirements and objectives of the Compliance Policy and Strategy and also R3 principles.</p>	<p><i>CERT 1-day refresher held in New Plymouth on 24/09/2022 attended by 9 Taranaki Rangers and 2 staff (+1 H/B staff). Compliance Annual Report prepared for Council's 15 October 2022 meeting. Ranger warrant obtained for new trainee. A game season Ranger training day was held in New Plymouth on 16/04/2023 attended by 5 Rangers and 2 staff.</i></p>
<p>15. Undertake safe and effective compliance coverage across the Taranaki Region, including at least 100 licence checks of anglers and also of hunters.</p>	<p><i>Angler checks undertaken during the rain-interrupted opening of the 2022/23 angling season. Rangers were canvassed (13/02/2023) about their availability for ranging during the summer season for paradise shelduck and ranging was carried out on 2 of the 3 weekends. 2023 game season compliance preparation was carried out and 3 teams of Rangers operated in the Waverley, Patea &amp; Waitara/Tikorangi areas on opening weekend. A total of 115 hunters were checked, with 100% compliance. A teams catchup with F&amp;G compliance staff was attended on 11/05/2023 and a Compliance Coordinators meeting on 18/05/2023.</i></p>
<p>16. Process detected offences in a fair and timely way consistent with national prosecution guidelines.</p>	<p><i>Two anglers were issued with offence notices for fishing at Sattler's Dam without a licence on 16/04/2023. Prosecutions have been initiated, with both anglers accepting diversion.</i></p>
<p><b>Objective: Proactively manage problem aggregations of gamebirds in the interests of both hunters and property owners and managers.</b></p>	
<p>17. Manage problem aggregations of gamebirds through implementation of a special Paradise Shelduck season in Area C and proactively responding to and assisting landholders.</p>	<p><i>71 permits to disturb gamebirds were issued during the reporting period. These include 22 permits for Paradise Shelduck (6 including Mallard duck), 5 for Mallard duck, 2 for Black Swan and 41 for Pukeko (31 urban and 10 rural). An annual bird disturbance report was prepared for Council's 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023 meeting. Special season permits produced &amp; advert placed in the Taranaki Daily</i></p>

	News on 4/02/2023. A report on the 2023 special season was prepared for Council's 12 June 2023 meeting.
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**HABITAT PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT**

2022/2023 Annual Plan – Planned Result	Progress to date
<b>Objective: Protect/improve habitat for sports fish &amp; game as a fundamental and effective means to sustain the fish &amp; game resource in the interests of licence holders and with biodiversity benefits for the wider community.</b>	
<p>1. <i>Provide valued advice and support to licence holders, landowners and the wider community regarding the importance of and how to protect and enhance habitat and also undertake predator control/management to benefit both fish &amp; game and wider indigenous biodiversity resources.</i></p> <p>2. <i>Promote, encourage and support landowners to create, enhance and protect wetlands by providing sound technical advice and assistance to make successful applications to the GBHT and Hunting &amp; Habitat Funds including billion tree (1BT) programme.</i></p>	<p>There was liaison with Horizons RC staff regarding protection of a Harrison Road Fordell wetland (01/09/2022). There was liaison with an architect regarding removal of a building line restriction on a property bordering the Lake Kohata Wildlife Management Reserve. A late agenda item was prepared for Council's 15 October 2022 meeting and Council's approval was provided on 20/03/2023. A Lake Kohata access sign was erected at the start of the paper road 7/7/2023 as per agreement with WDC and DOC. A TRC/NIWA aquatic weed identification seminar was attended (22/09/2022) to upskill staff. There was liaison with TRC biosecurity staff regarding the golden clam incursion (25/05/2023) and a TRC CCD Champions lunch was attended (3/08/2023). There was also liaison with Wild for Taranaki &amp; TRC staff regarding bird banding.</p> <p>Four of five 2022 applications to the GBHT were successful, being allocated a total of \$12K in grants. 5-year review reports on the Ahuroa &amp; Mangatotara wetlands at Toko were prepared for the GBHT.</p> <p>Two landowners prepared 1BT applications for the GBHT and a progress report on Taranaki 1BT projects was provided to the GBHT on 9/01/2023. Unfortunately, one landowner sold his farm and the new owner declined to proceed with the 1BT project. However, another landowner with a QEII protected</p>

<p>3. <i>Proactively take opportunities to make effective representation in statutory and other community processes to best achieve sports fish and game bird habitat protection and enhancement.</i></p>	<p>wetland was keen to take the 2,000 trees and the GBHT authorised the transfer on 12/05/2023.</p> <p>Following a site visit it was recommended that the GBHT pay out its grant for the Howatson Twins Dam project (23/11/2022).</p> <p>A report on 3 applications to the Council's Hunting &amp; Habitat scheme was prepared for Council's 10 December 2022 meeting, at which Council approved grants totalling \$10,237 for the 3 projects. A site visit was made (16/12/2022) to the Clarke Road Te Pekatu wetland to sign off a H&amp;H fund grant of \$5,750 gst incl. The nomination of Councillor Sargeson to sit on the NZGBHT was forwarded to National Office on 11/01/2023, but unfortunately was unsuccessful.</p> <p>There was liaison with a landowner and TRC ecologists regarding the Mill Valley wetland project near Whangamomona that had grant funding approved from the GBHT &amp; Taranaki H&amp;H fund in 2022. Owing to there being a protected wetland downstream, consenting requirements were too difficult and this project will not now proceed. Following this, F&amp;G staff met with TRC ecologists on 16/05/2023 to discuss consenting requirements for 6 potential wetland projects.</p> <p>Site visits were made to view three wetland projects (one with TRC ecologists) and staff acted as referees for two of them for the 2023 GBHT funding round.</p> <p>Staff provided the GBHT with updates on 4 Taranaki region wetlands for its 5-year rolling review (14/08/2023). Staff responded to a request for information regarding potential wetland projects on a property in the Ototoka Stream catchment near Kai iwi (10/08/2023).</p> <p>Staff prepared an inventory of all Taranaki wetland projects that</p>
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received GBHT and/or Hunting & Habitat funding back to 1996.

There was liaison with NPDC (Maria Buzella) regarding extension of the timeframe for fish screening the Lake Mangamahoe water supply river intake (3/10/2022). A meeting with NPDC staff & consultants was attended (24/05/2023) to discuss screening options for the two lake-based intakes. There is potential for one of the intakes to be relocated near the newest fishing platform and NPDC was informed (30/06/2023) that there should be a 30m infrastructure exclusion zone surrounding the platform.

A consent for NPDC's Mangorei Stream weir has been granted (14/11/2022) which requires the weir to be removed by 31/03/2024. Removal was scheduled for February 2023, along with the NPDC's low-head dam on Mangamahoe Stream downstream of Lake Mangamahoe, however work has now been delayed until summer 2023/24.

An options report for upgrading the STDC's Patea wastewater treatment system was received and a Teams meeting attended on 13/10/2022. A BPO (best practical option) report was received on 13/01/2023.

There was liaison with Fonterra Whareroa regarding extending the date for fitting fish screens to its Tawhiti Stream water intake (7/10/2022). A site visit to view the new screens was attended on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2023. Planting and BBQ day around the new intake structure was attended on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023.

A meeting was attended (1/11/2022) at Fonterra Kapuni to discuss a major upgrade to their wastewater treatment system. F&G was informed (10/07/2023) of the annual sediment clean of Fonterra Kapuni's Kaupokonui water intake (11-

13/07/2023) and plans to remediate damage to the weir (25/07/2023). Comments on the Patea HEPS final DO report were sent to Manawa Energy (11/11/2022) and staff attended a zoom meeting (15/06/2023) to discuss lower Patea River monitoring results. A TRC request for a meeting regarding the future of the Riverlands Eltham weir was responded to (26/10/2022). Cold Creek water supply notified F&G on several occasions that they had to increase their take as a result of high use (1 TRC abatement notice received). There was liaison with Methanex (Gary Reilly; 17/11/2022) regarding renewal of consents to take water from the lower Waitara River. The TRC informed F&G (9/11/2022) of impending remedial works to some lower Waiwhakaiho River flood control structures damaged by the August 2022 flood and also work in the Hangatahua River downstream of SH45 (6/06/2023). Field officer Jacob Morison attended a meeting with KiwiRail, TRC and Riverwise Consulting on 20/10/2022 to look at the KiwiRail Manganui and Waipuku rock ramp fish passes. The Manganui rock ramp received a fair bit of displacement from the 18/19 August 2022 flood event that resulted in a lip below the weir that may still impede fish passage and will need repair work to fix. The Waipuku rock ramp held up better however a steep gradient at the bottom end of the ramp will need repair work as the velocities are too high for fish passage. Instream remediation work on the ramps was scheduled to start in December and be finished before March 2023, but nothing has been done. A report of soil dumping from road works on Ruatiti Road into the Manganuioteao River was passed on to Horizons RC (30/11/2023). After

several follow-up calls it was found (17/02/2023) that no prosecution would be taken and the contractor (via RDC) had been given the message to desist. A report of cattle in the Mangawhero Stream near Pakihi Road was reported to Horizons RC on 9/8/2023 with photos, but Horizons staff said this was legal on low slope land until 1 July 2025.

A report of erosion affecting a Stony River Mangatete Rd Bridge abutment was passed on to the TRC & NPDC (12/12/2022).

A TRC-organised meeting to discuss removal of the Timaru Stream weir was attended (13/12/2022), at which it was agreed to use the concrete to remedy bank erosion just downstream of the weir and bury the rest on adjacent farmland. F&G provided its non-notified approval for weir removal on 22/12/2022. Owing to delays in consenting, removal will now likely be undertaken after October 2023 and F&G approval of the changes was provided on 28/06/2023.

Horizons Freshwater consultation was responded to (16/12/2022) and a post made on the Council's Facebook page encouraging licence holders to respond. There was liaison with WF&GC regarding outstanding waterbodies in the Horizons region (16/02/2023). Comments on Horizons Oranga Wai objectives for the Whanganui FMU were provided on 10/07/2023.

Consultation documents were received from STDC in relation to Waimate West water supply re-consenting (23/01/2023). Draft consent conditions for the STDC Hawera supply take from Kapuni Stream were reviewed (12/05/2023) and comments provided to the TRC on 28/06/2023.

Information on the re-consenting of an irrigation take from a Tokaora quarry pond was received for comment

<p>4. <i>Establish an environmental award to acknowledge and highlight outstanding contributions to the protection of sportfish or gamebird habitat.</i></p> <p>5. <i>Seek effective environmental outcomes as part of the consenting of the Mangorei and Motukawa hydro schemes.</i></p>	<p>(27/01/2023), with comments provided on 3/02/2023.</p> <p>There was liaison with the TRC (8/02/2023) about the sorts of consent applications that Fish &amp; Game would be interested in receiving limited notification of and notice of public notification.</p> <p>An application to create 113 residential lots adjacent to the Waipu Lagoons at Bell Block was reviewed and a submission made on 22/03/2023.</p> <p>A site visit was made to the site of the Kaipokonui Glenn weir (27/02/2023) to discuss options for removing the weir footing which has emerged as a result of bed movement following weir removal.</p> <p>Greenfern Industries (17/04/2023) have sought F&amp;G's approval for an extension of time to 1 November 2025 to complete construction of a vertical slot fish pass on the Waingongoro river Normanby weir. A letter of support was provided on 26/05/2023.</p> <p>Ernslaw-1 (Lynette Baish) sought F&amp;G's approval for a time extension to replace a culvert in a tributary of Tokiahuru Stream in Karioi Forest, which was given on 5/05/2023.</p> <p>A zoom meeting was attended (16/05/2023) to discuss monitoring results for the SDC's Stratford wastewater treatment plant and the discharge to Patea River.</p> <p>An annual stakeholder meeting was attended (25/05/2023) at Ballance Agri nutrients Kapuni plant to discuss their environmental performance. Ballance indicated they were keen to fund environmental enhancement projects in the Waingongoro catchment. Further stakeholder meeting to be arranged to discuss where spending should be directed.</p> <p>A report of potentially unauthorised earthworks adjacent to Otakeho Stream was forwarded to the TRC (12/07/2023).</p>
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	<p><i>Comments were provided to NPDC on their application to renew consents to take water from Ngatoro Stream for Inglewood town supply (25/08/2023).</i></p> <p><i>The TRC Environmental Awards presentation evening was attended on 15/11/2022. An opportunity arose for F&amp;G to sponsor the “water quality improvement” section of the awards, but it was decided not to proceed at this time.</i></p> <p><i>F&amp;G received notification (25/01/2023) that consents for Manawa Energy’s Mangorei power scheme were publicly notified on 4/02/2023. The application and AEE were reviewed, and a F&amp;G submission lodged on 3/03/2023. Consents for Manawa Energy’s Motukawa HEPS were publicly notified on 4/03/2023, with a F&amp;G submission lodged on 27/03/2023.</i></p>
<p><b>Objective: Work collaboratively and proactively with landowners, other groups and iwi recognising the synergistic benefits and wider outcomes that can be achieved by this approach.</b></p>	
<p>6. Promote and explore opportunities to improve water quality in Lake Rotomanu (yr3 of 3)</p>	<p><i>NPDC (Paul Marshall) was contacted (2/02/2023) regarding retro-fitting a fish pass to the lake outlet to allow native fish and shrimp to more easily enter Lake Rotomanu from the Waiwhakaiho River. After further discussion it was agreed (31/07/2023) that Whitaker Civil Engineering would prepare some design options.</i></p> <p><i>The TRC was contacted (2/02/2023) to see if there had been progress with processing NPDC’s application 0298-3 to re-consent the take for Lake Rotomanu from the Waiwhakaiho River of which F&amp;G should be an affected party. No progress had been made.</i></p> <p><i>Edna sampling results provided by DOC (17/07/2023) showed no evidence of rudd or the exotic weeds</i></p>

<p>7. Engage proactively and collaboratively with iwi &amp; community groups to identify and protect/enhance shared resource values including contributing to water related matters through the Taranaki Maunga Settlement process.</p> <p>8. Represent Fish &amp; Game and provide valued input to the Te Awa Tupua process.</p> <p>9. Explore options other parties to remove weirs in Timaru Stream at SH45 and in the Waingongoro River at Eltham.</p>	<p><i>Egeria and Lagarosyphon in Lake Rotomanu.</i></p> <p><i>There was liaison with TKONT regarding STDC water consents and holding joint pre-hearing meetings (30/01/2023) and also about the removal of the Kaupokonui weir footing (3/02/2023). There was liaison with Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa regarding Manawa Energy's Mangorei hydro (21/02/2023) and Motukawa hydro (30/03/2023) re-consenting. Councillor Blewman &amp; the Acting Manager attended a ceremony at Aotearoa Marae Okaiawa on 31/03/2023 to witness initialling of a Collective Redress Deed (Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo) for Taranaki Maunga by Nga Iwi o Taranaki &amp; the Crown. Following successful ratification of the Redress Deed by all 8 Taranaki iwi the signing ceremony was scheduled at Waitara's Owae Marae on 1/09/2023.</i></p> <p><i>Te Kopuka meetings (zoom) were attended on 9/09/2022 &amp; 27/01/2023 and also on 2/06/2023 (face to face) and 21/07/2023. A 1-day Wananga was attended at Te Ao Hou Marae Whanganui on 21/11/2022 to progress the Te Heke Ngahuru strategy, which will be finalised to go out for consultation in September 2023. The Te Kōpuka submission to the NBEA Select Committee was reviewed (01/02/2023). A short article on Te Awa Tupua and Te Heke Ngahuru was prepared for Taranaki's page in the 2023 fishing special issue of F&amp;G magazine.</i></p> <p><i>A TRC consent application to remove the Timaru Stream weir was supported (3/10/2022), a meeting attended and non-notified approval provided on 22/12/2022. The resource consenting process was still underway, and removal will not likely occur until 2024.</i></p>
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<p>10. Provide technical and administrative support and assistance to joint Orautoha Stream Riparian Project to protect water quality in this catchment and the many values it supports.</p>	<p><i>Following liaison with the TRC a meeting of interested and affected parties is being scheduled to discuss the future of the Waingongoro Eltham weir. During another meeting Ngaruahine indicated their support for the removal of the Riverlands Eltham weir.</i></p> <p><i>An on-site meeting was attended with Horizons RC staff (6/09/2022) to look at completed riparian fencing and to discuss proposed works in the 2022/23 year. A final report on the 4-year Orautoha riparian project was sent to WRET and Horizons on 27/07/2023, noting that landowners had completed 8.882km of fencing. Jobs for Nature (Horizons RC) zoom meetings were attended on 25/10/2022 &amp; 3/08/2023.</i></p>
<p><b>Objective: Development of an effective Natural Resources Plan that protects freshwater and wetland habitats and which also minimise Council costs in consent processes and free up resources for other management responses</b></p>	
<p>11. Engage in and actively advocate for provisions which protect and/or enhance sports fish and game bird habitat in the Taranaki Natural Resources Plan development process.</p>	<p><i>There has been liaison with Regan Phipps, TRC Manager - Science and Technology regarding the Plan and a meeting Regan and the TRC's Planning Manager was attended on 29/11/2022. There was discussion with NZC's Senior Policy Advisor, Helen Brosnan (28/07/2023) regarding progress with the NRP. A meeting with the TRC's Science &amp; Planning Managers as scheduled for 7/09/2023.</i></p>

## PARTICIPATION

2022/2023 Annual Plan – Planned Result	Progress to date
<b>Objective: Add value to licence holders by increasing their opportunity, success and satisfaction and so retain them in the sport.</b>	
<p>1. Maintain and improve the Taranaki pages on the Fish &amp; Game website so how to and where to go information is readily available, easily understood and up to date.</p> <p>2. Work with National Office to upgrade website and prepare information re an ‘Introduction to duck hunting in the Taranaki Region’.</p> <p>3. Develop and refine Facebook and Instagram pages in line with any National Policy to regularly inform licence holders using these forums.</p>	<p><i>Pages updated as necessary, including details of the 2023 special paradise season (9/01/2023) and posting of the Taranaki hunting newsletter.</i></p> <p><i>Work on new website is proceeding nationally. Angling and hunting photos for the new website were provided to Roslyn Simmonds (A/W) on 19/07/2023.</i></p> <p><i>Taranaki Fish and Game Facebook page has 96 followers and 50 page likes as at 2/10/2023. 17 posts have been created or shared since September 10<sup>th</sup> 2022. Posts have collectively reached 5261 people and been engaged with/opened by 775 people. Total of 135 likes on posts. Taranaki Fish and Game Instagram page has not been developed.</i></p>
<b>Objective: Encourage past and prospective hunters and anglers into the sport through initiatives which make it easy to have a go and/or provide support.</b>	
<p>4. Develop and utilise licence holder email list to keep hunters and anglers up to date.</p> <p>5. Complete Reel Life and Both Barrels supplements consistent with national R3 recommendations.</p> <p>6. Provide a quality 1-page regional supplement (plus features) in each edition of Fish &amp; Game Magazine.</p>	<p><i>Families registering for the 2021 Lake Rotomanu family trout fishing day were emailed to let them know about the 2022 event. An email was sent to Taranaki lapsed participants (21/12/2022) to encourage them to purchase a fishing licence.</i></p> <p><i>Articles for Reel Life were sent on 19/09/2022, 12/10/2022, 18/11/2022, 19/12/2022, 23/01/2023, 27/02/2023, 20/03/2023 &amp; 17/04/2023. Articles for Both Barrels were sent on 21/03/2023, 17/04/2023, 18/05/2023, 19/06/2023 &amp; 18/07/2023.</i></p> <p><i>A 1-page supplement and season prospects feature for the 2023 Game Season Special Issue was sent to the editor on 19/01/2023 &amp; proofed on</i></p>



<p>7. Publication of valued hunting and fishing newsletters sent to regional licence holders and hunting landowners. Hunting newsletter also distributed to all rural box holders in the region.</p> <p>8. Proactively provide timely and useful information to licence holders when requested.</p> <p>9. Replace / erect 2-3 new signs which provide anglers with helpful on-site information re access and regulations consistent with identified priorities.</p> <p>10. Continue to explore opportunities to install 3<sup>rd</sup> angling platform on Lake Mangamahoe (yr 3 of 3).</p> <p>11. Produce information signs on the Retaruke and Whanganui Rivers to inform walkers on the Te Araroa trail.</p> <p>12. Provide organised fishing opportunities consistent with R3 objectives and branding and in association with volunteer groups for kids and families.</p>	<p>1/02/2023 &amp; 15/02/2023. A 1-page supplement was prepared for the 2023 Fish Season Special Issue (27/06/2023) and proofed on 27/07/2023.</p> <p>A 12-page regional angling newsletter was prepared and sent to the printers on 9/11/2022. An 8-page regional hunting newsletter was prepared (29/03/2023) and posted to game licence holders and rural box holders.</p> <p>Information was provided to anglers and hunters on request. Staff attended the Inglewood Rod, Gun &amp; Recreation Club's fish season opening weekend weigh-in (2/10/2022); their "big-4" weigh-in (24/10/2022) and their opening weekend game season weigh-in (7/05/2023) where the Council Chairman updated the 50 hunters present on regional amalgamations and F&amp;G issues. CCD information and collateral from the TRC was provided to Stratford kids fishing day participants. Information provided to hunters for the 2023 special hunting season for paradise shelduck.</p> <p>The was liaison with the Manawatu Anglers Club (Andrew Watt) regarding access at Lake Namunamu. The club will undertake to maintain the boats at the lake. Attended the Inglewood Rod, Gun and Recreation Club's AGM on 15/8/2023.</p> <p>Walking access sign prepared and installed at the legal access to Lake Kohata on 7/07/2023.</p> <p>Signs produced and waiting to be erected at the sites.</p>
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<p>13. Explore options for ongoing opportunities for kids and families based on trout releases into local waters and threshold experiences (yr 3 of 3)</p> <p>14. Explore future options for Stratford fishing day and identify preferred option (yr 2 of 2)</p> <p>15. Review, negotiate, publicise and issue access permits to publicly available hunting areas and actively seek and develop new opportunities.</p> <p>16. Identify and explore mentoring schemes to support new hunters and implement most promising option (yr 3 of 3).</p> <p>17. Develop web based introductory package for anglers highlighting access opportunities and methods to get started.</p>	<p><i>The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Lake Rotomanu family trout fishing day was held on 29/10/2022 with help from the Inglewood Rod, Gun &amp; Recreation Club, Taranaki Hunting &amp; Fishing and Hynds Pipe Systems. Approx. 150 children plus their parents had a successful day.</i></p> <p><i>Field Officer Jacob Morison went to Lake Rotomanu on the 13/10/22 to hand out under 12 licences for 18 kids after being contacted by Mark from the Edventure kids holiday programme. He stayed for 2 hours to help with rigging rods and to help kids cast.</i></p> <p><i>The Stratford Fishing Club is keen to hold another event on 3/12/2022 and an application to help with funding was submitted to the Taranaki Electricity Trust (7/10/2022) and subsequently approved. The Stratford event went ahead on 3/12/2022 attended by 66 children plus their families.</i></p> <p><i>Lake Rotomanu venue hire agreement signed and returned to NPDC (16/08/2023) for the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2023 family trout fishing day.</i></p> <p><i>Lake Kohata was visited on 21/02/2023. Aquatic weed growth (hornwort) and relatively restricted access make this lake of limited value as a fishery. An agenda item on Lake Kohata was prepared for Council's 12 June 2023 meeting and there have been discussions with DOC (Katy Newton; 19/06/2023) regarding relinquishing management responsibility for the Lake Kohata Wildlife Management Reserve.</i></p> <p><i>Access arrangements were confirmed for the 2023 game season, permits printed and issued to licence holders and weekly ballots held for Harakeke &amp; Tauwhare forests. The Secretary</i></p>
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<p>18. Proactively take opportunities to make effective representation in statutory and other community processes to maintain or enhance hunting or angling access and opportunity.</p> <p>19. Complete review of Kaupokonui River access information and implement identified opportunities to assist angler access.</p> <p>20. Assess satisfaction and success of Taranaki Region anglers using catch rates from a voluntary diary scheme and online satisfaction survey.</p> <p>21. Locate and publicise quality trout and perch recipes that enable anglers to make good use of these species.</p> <p>22. Implement actions to influence hunter behaviour as identified in hunter behaviour strategy to maximise enjoyment and participation and also public support for gamebird hunting.</p> <p>23. Provision of ready and valued support and assistance to licence agents such that they are kept up to date, resourced and operate as effective agents.</p>	<p><i>attended a meeting with Ernslaw-1 (11/05/2023) to discuss forest access.</i></p> <p><i>Introductory package is well underway and will be incorporated into the new Fish &amp; Game website. Diaries sent to 30 anglers for the start of the new season. A spreadsheet of Taranaki public angler access points and information was provided to bdma Revolution (29/03/2023) for inclusion in the new F&amp;G website.</i></p> <p><i>Engaged in Horizons RC's recreational freshwater survey (16/12/2022). Ernslaw-1 have notified F&amp;G (22/06/2023) that angling access to Lake Namunamu will be restricted from early November 2023 while roading is prepared for a logging operation. Once logging begins, angler access may be closed for up to 3 years.</i></p> <p><i>2023 angler diary scheme and online angler satisfaction survey completed and reports prepared for Council's 19 August 2023 meeting.</i></p> <p><i>Licence agents were visited on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and were supplied with game regulations guides. 2023/24 fish season regulation guides were delivered to licence agents on 15/08/2023.</i></p>
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## IWI & PUBLIC INTERACTION

2022/2023 Annual Plan – Planned Result	Progress to date
<p><b>Objective: Work proactively and collaboratively with iwi at all levels consistent with Treaty of Waitangi obligations and responsibilities regarding the protection and use of natural resources.</b></p>	
<p>1. Proactively engage, work and collectively share with iwi and hapu within the region on matters affecting wetland and freshwater resources or their use.</p>	<p><i>There was liaison with the Fonterra Kaitiaki group regarding resolution of fish passage issues in the Tawhiti Stream tributary of the Tangahoe River. Two zoom meeting were attended on 4/08/2023 &amp; 17/08/2023. Ngati Rangi Iwi were invited to Council's 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023 meeting in Raetihi. Te Atiawa were invited to Council's 25<sup>th</sup> March meeting at Waitara.</i></p> <p><i>There is ongoing liaison with Te Kahui o Taranaki and Ngati Tairi hapu regarding pukeko.</i></p>
<p><b>Objective: Strong relationships and involvement with DOC and local and regional councils to effectively represent the interests of hunters and anglers in formal decision-making process.</b></p>	
<p>2. Liaise with Department of Conservation and Conservation Boards and proactively engage and work with Regional and District Councils and community &amp; industry groups.</p>	<p><i>Liaised with Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board member Mat Vujcich, who attended Council's 15 October 2022 meeting. Staff attended a T/W Conservation Board meet and greet at New Plymouth on 16/06/2023. Copies of Council's 2023/24 annual plan &amp; 5-year strategic plan were provided to T/WCB on request (15/08/2023) was they were preparing their 2023/24 business plan.</i></p> <p><i>Liaised with DOC Whanganui office (Katy Newton) re: Lake Kohata (11/11/2022). A teams meeting with DOC Whanganui, WDC &amp; Putiki Marae representatives was attended (4/05/2023) to discuss habitat, public access and the future management of Lake Kohata.</i></p> <p><i>Liaised with DOC Whanganui regarding eel/fish deaths in the Whanganui catchment and attended a zoom meeting (16/11/2022). Field Officer Jacob Morison assisted DOC and Wellington Fish and Game</i></p>

	<p><i>to capture Koi carp in a 0.8ha farm pond in Dannevirke and to identify if they were reproducing.</i></p> <p><i>Liased with DOC (&amp; F&amp;B) regarding Manawa Energy’s Mangorei and Motukawa HEPS re-consenting and with STDC Kapuni water supply re-consenting.</i></p> <p><i>Liased with DOC New Plymouth regarding the issue of game bird hunter access permits to the Sentry Hill Conservation Area and the Looney’s Lake Conservation Covenant.</i></p> <p><i>Liased with DOC New Plymouth regarding fish monitoring and eDNA sampling results for Lake Rotomanu and Taramoukou Stream (6/07/2023).</i></p> <p><i>Liased with DOC New Plymouth (Kelby Clements) regarding potential duck banding at Lake Mangamahoe wildlife refuge (21/08/2023).</i></p>
<p><b>Objective: Engender support for hunting and fishing and the activities of Fish &amp; Game by the general public and others who recognise that these activities contribute to a better environment and healthy lifestyle and in turn who support protecting these resources and the opportunities to participate</b></p>	
<p>3. Recognise and pursue opportunities to contribute to the wider community including “Wild for Taranaki” and “Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust”.</p> <p>4. Take opportunities to promote the value of protecting freshwater, wetland and upland game habitats and the wider benefits from this.</p>	<p><i>Attended a Wild for Taranaki (WfT) quarterly catchup meeting (1/09/2022 &amp; 10/8/2023) and the annual biodiversity forum (27/10/2022).</i></p> <p><i>Attended the TRC’s environmental awards presentation (15/11/2022).</i></p> <p><i>Liased with Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust about signage informing anglers that the eels are protected in Lake Rotokare (1/11/2022).</i></p> <p><i>Collated Eastern &amp; Taranaki F&amp;G’s contributions to the NZ Freshwater Science Society’s 2023 newsletter.</i></p> <p><i>Prepared and gave a talk on Taranaki game bird monitoring to the 2023 Birds NZ Conference held in New Plymouth on 3/4 June 2023.</i></p> <p><i>Met with Forest &amp; Bird Taranaki Rep (1/09/2022). Attended a DOC fish passage seminar (8/09/2022). Met with Paul Turner, Project Lead, Taranaki Catchment Communities (9/12/2022) to discuss ways in which</i></p>

<p>5. Represent the interests of hunters and anglers and promote the validity of fishing and gamebird hunting including as a means of collecting natural organic foods and engaging in a physical healthy lifestyle.</p> <p>6. Maintain a positive and constructive profile in the media which encourages prospective participants and fosters support and understanding among the general public.</p> <p>7. Implement revised media strategy and including incorporating any National Policy.</p>	<p><i>F&amp;G can help farmers with wetlands etc. Gave a talk to New Plymouth Rotary on Taranaki trout fisheries (24/11/2022).</i></p> <p><i>Hunter access facilitated to private farmland at Omata during the 2023 special paradise shelduck season.</i></p> <p><i>2022 fishing season publicity was provided to the Whanganui Chronicle (8/09/2022) Taranaki Daily News and Stratford Press (27/09/2022). A fish season advertorial was organised with the Ruapehu Bulletin (3/10/2022). A neighbourly community post was made to publicise Lake Rotomanu family trout fishing day, along with articles in the Daily News and North Taranaki Midweek (Midweek advert 20/10/2022). A fishing article and advert were sent to the Ruapehu Bulletin (10/11/2022) for their summertime bulletin. An article and advert were sent to the Stratford Press (11/11/2022) and an article to the South Taranaki Star and Daily News (18/11/2022) to publicise the Stratford kids' trout fishing day. Information on the Stratford fishing day was provided to 2 radio stations for their community notices (24/11/2022) and further articles were provided to the Stratford Press on 28/11/2022 &amp; 4/12/2022. An advertorial was prepared for the Stratford Press to publicise the 2023 special paradise hunting season and a press release (19/02/2023) also resulted in articles about the season in the North Taranaki Midweek and South Taranaki Star.</i></p> <p><i>A 2023 game season advertorial was organised in the Whanganui Midweek (6/04/2023). The Whanganui Chronicle ran an article about the 2023 hunting exclusion zone in the lower Whanganui River. Comment on opening weekend of the 2023 game</i></p>
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	<p>season was provided to the Ruapehu Bulletin (8/05/2023).</p> <p>Communication strategy being prepared nationally.</p>
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## COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

2022/2023 Annual Plan – Planned Result	Progress to date
<p><b>Objective: Sound and effective governance which facilitates a co-operative and supportive relationship between Council, staff and licence holders that enables effective management of resources in the best interests of the licence holder and the fish &amp; game resource.</b></p>	
<p>1. Not less than six meetings of Council are held and meetings are conducted consistent with provisions of the Standing Orders.</p> <p>2. Identification and implementation of options and strategies to increase the diversity of Council and iwi involvement.</p> <p>3. The 5-Year Strategic Plan is reviewed and agreed by Council by March 2023.</p> <p>4. Formulation and adoption of an Annual Operational Plan and Budget for 2023/24 consistent with the 5-Year Strategic Plan.</p> <p>5. Presentation by Council of its audited annual report for 2021/2022 not later than 31 December 2022. Report to be consistent with tier 2 Service Performance standards and requirements.</p> <p>6. Effective regional policies are developed, adopted and reviewed as required and are consistent with any National Policy requirements.</p> <p>7. Progress reporting of licence sales, work progress and financial position is timely and accurate and supports sound financial and operations management and oversight.</p> <p>8. Effective administration such that the Council is within annual budget (<math>\pm 5\%</math>), operates consistent with best practice and at least 90% of its annual plan is completed.</p>	<p><i>Council meetings were held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022 (Hawera), 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022 (Whanganui), February 2023 (Raetihi), 25/03/2023 (Waitara), via zoom (12/06/2023) &amp; 19/08/2023 (Bushy Park).</i></p> <p><i>5-Year Strategic Plan reviewed and adopted by Council at its 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023 meeting.</i></p> <p><i>Draft 2023/24 Annual Plan prepared for Council's 25<sup>th</sup> March 2023 meeting. Contestable funding applications sent to National Office on 23/03/2023.</i></p> <p><i>2021/22 Annual Report prepared, audited and adopted by the Council at its 10<sup>th</sup> December 2022 AGM.</i></p> <p><i>Working with National Office to develop suite of corporate policies.</i></p> <p><i>Reported to each 2-monthly meeting.</i></p> <p><i>Field Officer's new vehicle received from Energy City Ford on 28/12/2022. F&amp;G logos attached 17/01/2023. Old vehicle listed on TradeMe on 18/01/2023 and sold on 17/06/2023.</i></p>

<p>9. Effective staff management including performance reviews completed and new objectives agreed for staff, and regular staff meetings such that staff are aware of what is generally occurring and have ready opportunity for input into decisions and management direction.</p>	<p><i>Staff meetings held on 29/11/2022; 7/02/2023; 10/03/2023, 30/05/2023 &amp; 4/08/2023.</i></p> <p><i>There was liaison with Jane Hutchings (NZC’s HR Business Partner) regarding use of the online programme “Employment Hero” for staff performance reviews, which were completed on 14/08/2023.</i></p> <p><i>NZC organised staff resilience training attended by all staff on 24/05/2023, 8/06/2023, 15/06/2023 &amp; 4/8/23. F&amp;G staff conference to be held in Rotorua 12-15 September 2023.</i></p>
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<p><b>Objective: Operate consistent with National Policy and make valued contributions to the management of the resource and Fish &amp; Game nationally in the interests of all licence holders.</b></p>	
<p>10. Implement any outcomes and directions from Fish &amp; Game Ministerial Review and / or National Council reviews.</p> <p>11. Effective communication and liaison with NZ Fish and Game Council and other Fish &amp; Game Regions including valued input and comment on fish &amp; game issues and attendance at Fish &amp; Game Managers meetings.</p>	<p><i>Wellington &amp; Taranaki Fish &amp; Game staff met to liaise re: regional merger (14/09/2022). The Acting Manager met via zoom with the Wellington Manager &amp; Consultant Collier Isaacs to discuss a way forward with amalgamation on 12/12/2022. The Taranaki &amp; Wellington Chairs, Vice-Chairmen and Managers also met via zoom on 17/01/2023. Staff attend weekly Zoom meetings with Wellington Fish and Game staff from 28/8/2023.</i></p> <p><i>Online Managers’ meetings were attended on 9/09/2022, 28/10/2022, 3/11/2022, 18/11/2022, 15/12/2022, 26/01/2022, 9/02/2023, 24/02/2023; 23/03/2023, 5/05/2023, 19/05/2023, 25/05/2023, 16/06/2023/, 23/06/2023, 30/06/2023, 27/07/2023 &amp; 11/08/2023. A 2-day Managers’ strategy meeting was attended in Wellington (19/20 October 2022), a 2-day budget meeting on 19/20 April 2023 and a 1-day meeting in Christchurch on 12/07/2023.</i></p>

<p><b>Objective: Make best use of new systems, processes and technology to maximise administrative efficiencies and minimise costs do resources are available for use elsewhere.</b></p>
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<p>12. Contribute to National Office by providing valued advice, assistance and feedback on national issues and processes as requested.</p>	<p><i>Liaised with the National Office of the NZFGC regarding:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Consultation with mana whenua;</i></li> <li>• <i>F&amp;G vision &amp; strategic plan;</i></li> <li>• <i>F&amp;G Magazine review of costs;</i></li> <li>• <i>Designated waters;</i></li> <li>• <i>Retrieving shot game;</i></li> <li>• <i>Lapsed licence holders;</i></li> <li>• <i>NBEA;</i></li> <li>• <i>.410 lead shot;</i></li> <li>• <i>NZ Firearms Licencing fees;</i></li> <li>• <i>Non-resident licence levy.</i></li> <li>• <i>2021/22 variance report.</i></li> <li>• <i>Non-resident licence criteria</i></li> <li>• <i>Resource Allocation</i></li> <li>• <i>Remuneration review</i></li> <li>• <i>Parliamentary petition to ban hunting of native gamebirds;</i></li> <li>• <i>Trout hatchery establishment dates;</i></li> <li>• <i>Communication strategy;</i></li> <li>• <i>Research proposals;</i></li> <li>• <i>Governance review implementation;</i></li> <li>• <i>F&amp;G Manifesto</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Authorisation was given to contact Taranaki licence holders;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>who hold a sea-run salmon endorsement for survey purposes (13/12/2022);</i></li> <li>• <i>regarding the government's Arms Regulation Fees Review (22/12/2022);</i></li> <li>• <i>To survey male anglers for information to compare with the women anglers study (11/01/2023).</i></li> </ul>
<p>13. Refine financial administration, reporting and analysis working with NZ Fish &amp; Game Council and staff.</p>	<p><i>Passed on comments from Taranaki's Audit regarding the Performance Reporting Framework (20/12/2022). Used new REM spreadsheet to update staff salary calculation.</i></p>

<b>Objective: Demonstrate a commitment to Health &amp; Safety and ensuring the welfare of staff and others through effective policy, systems, resourcing and oversight.</b>	
14. All processes and activities are undertaken consistent with Council Health & Safety Policy and Manual.	<i>Reported to each Council meeting.</i>
15. Staff are actively involved in implementing HSAW policy and ensuring a safe workplace, including by undertaking two monthly staff meetings where HSAW is a specific agenda item.	<i>Reported to each Council meeting.</i>
16. Compliance with HSAW requirements and policy including scheduled reviews and audits along with any issues identified or near misses routinely reported to each meeting of Council.	<i>Reported to each Council meeting.</i>

**Recommendation**

That the Budget Report to 31 August 2023 and Project Progress Report to 31 August 2023 be received.



## **20. Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet**

**ACTION: receive the Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet report to 31 August 2023**

# Profit and Loss For Council

## Taranaki Fish and Game Council For the year ended 31 August 2023

	2023	YTD BUDGET	2023 OVERALL BUDGET	VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
<b>Revenue</b>					
<b>Licence Income</b>					
Fish Licence Income	125,992	107,794	107,794	18,198 ↑	17% ↑
Game Licence Income	95,821	98,452	98,452	(2,631) ↓	-3% ↓
Less Commission and Fees	(8,468)	(9,281)	(9,281)	813 ↑	9% ↑
<b>Total Licence Income</b>	<b>213,345</b>	<b>196,965</b>	<b>196,965</b>	<b>16,380</b>	<b>8%</b>
Grants	171,172	171,172	171,172	0 ↑	0% ↑
Interest Received	15,313	1,477	1,477	13,836 ↑	937% ↑
Other Income	17,766	21,450	21,450	(3,684) ↓	-17% ↓
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>417,596</b>	<b>391,064</b>	<b>391,064</b>	<b>26,532</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>					
<b>SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>					
Population Monitoring	13,227	10,100	10,100	3,127 ↑	31% ↑
Hatchery Operations	13,269	8,500	8,500	4,769 ↑	56% ↑
Releases	6,122	6,000	6,000	122 ↑	2% ↑
Control	2,462	2,500	2,500	(38) ↓	-2% ↓
<b>Total SPECIES MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>35,080</b>	<b>27,100</b>	<b>27,100</b>	<b>7,980</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>HABITAT PROTECTION / MANAGEMENT</b>					
Resource Management Act	2	-	-	2 ↑	-
Assisted Habitat	7,657	20,000	20,000	(12,343) ↓	-62% ↓
<b>Total HABITAT PROTECTION / MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>7,659</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>(12,341)</b>	<b>-62%</b>
<b>PARTICIPATION</b>					
Access	464	1,000	1,000	(536) ↓	-54% ↓
Newsletters Magazine Web pages	11,670	9,500	9,500	2,170 ↑	23% ↑
Training	-	2,000	2,000	(2,000) ↓	-100% ↓
Clubs	300	300	300	-	-
<b>Total PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>12,434</b>	<b>12,800</b>	<b>12,800</b>	<b>(366)</b>	<b>-3%</b>
<b>PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>					
Liaison	1,106	100	100	1,006 ↑	1,006% ↑
Advocacy	3,546	4,400	4,400	(854) ↓	-19% ↓
<b>Total PUBLIC INTERFACE</b>	<b>4,652</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>COMPLIANCE</b>					

Profit and Loss For Council

	2023	YTD BUDGET	2023 OVERALL BUDGET	VARIANCE	VARIANCE %
Ranging	231	500	500	(269) ↓	-54% ↓
Ranger Training	2,040	500	500	1,540 ↑	308% ↑
Compliance	125	2,100	2,100	(1,976) ↓	-94% ↓
<b>Total COMPLIANCE</b>	<b>2,395</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>(705)</b>	<b>-23%</b>
<b>LICENCING</b>					
Licence Agents	633	1,000	1,000	(367) ↓	-37% ↓
<b>Total LICENCING</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>(367)</b>	<b>-37%</b>
<b>COUNCIL</b>					
Council Meeting Expenses	7,743	9,500	9,500	(1,757) ↓	-18% ↓
<b>Total COUNCIL</b>	<b>7,743</b>	<b>9,500</b>	<b>9,500</b>	<b>(1,757)</b>	<b>-18%</b>
<b>PLANNING &amp; REPORTING</b>					
Management / Strategic Planning	-	1,000	1,000	(1,000) ↓	-100% ↓
Reporting Audit	6,833	6,340	6,340	493 ↑	8% ↑
National Liaison	160	100	100	60 ↑	60% ↑
<b>Total PLANNING &amp; REPORTING</b>	<b>6,993</b>	<b>7,440</b>	<b>7,440</b>	<b>(447)</b>	<b>-6%</b>
<b>OVERHEADS</b>					
Salaries	241,103	232,957	232,957	8,146 ↑	3% ↑
Staff Expenses	5,353	3,900	3,900	1,453 ↑	37% ↑
Office Premises	22,161	22,200	22,200	(39) ↓	0% ↓
Office Equipment	2,350	500	500	1,850 ↑	370% ↑
Communications / Consumables	5,888	7,750	7,750	(1,862) ↓	-24% ↓
General	2,846	2,750	2,750	96 ↑	3% ↑
General Equipment	202	6,494	6,494	(6,292) ↓	-97% ↓
Vehicles	16,110	15,100	15,100	1,010 ↑	7% ↑
<b>Total OVERHEADS</b>	<b>296,014</b>	<b>291,651</b>	<b>291,651</b>	<b>4,363</b>	<b>1%</b>
Depreciation	20,379	21,289	21,289	(910) ↓	-4% ↓
Loss on Disposal	3	-	-	3 ↑	-
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>393,988</b>	<b>398,380</b>	<b>398,380</b>	<b>(4,392)</b>	<b>-1%</b>
<b>New Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>23,608</b>	<b>(7,316)</b>	<b>(7,316)</b>	<b>30,924</b>	<b>423%</b>

# Balance Sheet

## Taranaki Fish and Game Council

As at 31 August 2023

	31 AUG 2023	31 AUG 2022
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Bank</b>		
BNZ Current Account	120,245.68	124,642.93
BNZ Term 3031	390,561.77	405,968.20
MRP	1,649.11	4,631.47
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>512,456.56</b>	<b>535,242.60</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Accounts Receivable	62,598.77	6,201.66
Prepayments and Accrued Income	632.51	1,266.86
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>63,231.28</b>	<b>7,468.52</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Accum Dep Vehicles	(53,404.65)	(53,903.52)
Accum Dep Buildings	(16,451.00)	(16,451.00)
Accum Dep Office Equipment	(20,621.12)	(25,656.02)
Accum Dep Plant & Equipment	(18,050.93)	(17,112.09)
Buildings	16,451.00	16,451.00
Office Equipment	25,022.63	31,946.63
Plant & Equipment	26,474.26	26,474.26
Vehicles	114,907.26	106,281.59
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>74,327.45</b>	<b>68,030.85</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>650,015.29</b>	<b>610,741.97</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	11,432.04	13,124.32
Accruals and Prepaid Licences	6,206.00	5,820.00
Employee Entitlements	39,136.79	31,286.52
GST	27,860.08	19,440.10
Income in advance	15,512.77	12,056.69
PAYE Clearing	8,974.72	8,571.42
Rounding	0.03	0.01
BNZ Credit Card - J Morison	72.62	644.33
BNZ Credit Card - Allen	69.99	2,656.78
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>109,265.04</b>	<b>93,600.17</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>109,265.04</b>	<b>93,600.17</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>540,750.25</b>	<b>517,141.80</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Accumulated Funds	141,669.19	141,669.19
Asset Replacement Funding	14,540.00	14,540.00

## **21. 2022/23 Gamebird Dispersal Report**

Presentation of the 2022-2023 Gamebird Dispersal Report

**ACTION: receive the 2022-2023 Gamebird Dispersal Report**



## TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

The Chairman

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

### 2022/2023 Game Bird Dispersal Report

This paper reports on operational activity conducted during the reporting period under project 1181. The objective of this project is to ensure the dispersal or control of congregations of game birds where they cause unacceptable damage.

A total of 71 permits to disturb were issued by Taranaki Fish & Game staff within the reporting period (73 permits issued last year). Note that some of these permits cover more than 1 species. The area with the highest number of permits issued was Taranaki (56) then Whanganui (15). No permits were issued in the Waimarino. 47 Permits were issued between the months of November and May (55 last year).

Income of \$680 (\$920 last year) for the hire of gas guns was received during the year,

#### MALLARD

There were 11 permits (11 permits issued 2021/2022) issued for the disturbance of Mallard ducks, causing damage to crops (5 were for only mallards, 6 included Paradise shelduck

#### BLACK SWAN

There were 2 permits issued to disturb Black Swan (0 last year) using a gas gun and non-lethal shotgun disturbance.

#### PUKEKO

41 permits were issued for the disturbance of pukeko (31 permits issued 2021/2022).

Problem	No. permits issued	Disturbance method used
Damage to gardens	32	Trip traps (21) Shot gun / .22rifle (11)
Damage to crops & pasture	6	Shotgun / .22 rifle
Fouling troughs	1	.22 rifle
Breaking duck eggs	2	Trip traps

#### PARADISE SHELDUCK

23 permits were issued for the disturbance of Paradise shelduck (17 were for Paradise shelduck only, 6 including Mallard duck. This compares to 36 permits issued 2021/2022.

Problem	No. permits issued	Disturbance method used
Damage to crops & pasture	23	Gas gun / Shot gun

#### Recommendation

That the Game Bird Dispersal Report – 2022/2023, be received.

Jilli Steedman

SECRETARY

26 September 2023

Valid From Date	City/Town	Reason	Method	Species
7.9.22	Whanganui	Damage to gardens	Trip Trap	Pukeko
7.9.22	New Plymouth	Damage to market gardens	Shotgun/.22 rifle	Pukeko
9.9.22	New Plymouth	Damage to maize crops	.22 rifle	Pukeko
13.9.22	New Plymouth	Fowling troughs	.22 rifle	Pukeko
14.9.22	Whanganui	Damage to gardens	.22 rifle	Pukeko
29.9.22	New Plymouth	Damage to gardens	Trip Traps	Pukeko
4.10.22	New Plymouth	Damage to lawn	Trip Traps	Pukeko
7.10.22	Waitara	Damage to japanese maples	Shotgun/.22 rifle	Pukeko
17.10.22	New Plymouth	Damage to gardens and being a nuisance	Trip Traps	Pukeko
27.10.22	Stratford	Damage to chicory	Gas gun/Shot gun	Paradise Shelduck
31.10.22	Stratford	Damage to chicory	Gas gun/Shot gun	Paradise Shelduck
1.11.2022	New Plymouth	Damage to lawn	Trip traps	Pukeko
8.11.2022	New Plymouth	Damage to gardens	Trip Trap	Pukeko
8.11.2022	Whanganui	Damage to gardens	.22 rifle	Pukeko
8.11.2022	Stratford	Damage to chicory	Gas gun/Shot gun	Paradise Shelduck and Mallards
8.11.2022	Stratford	Damage to chicory	Gas gun/Shot gun	Paradise Shelduck and Mallards
10.11.2022	Stratford	Damage to chicory	Gas gun/Shot gun	Paradise Shelduck and Mallards
17.11.2022	Stratford	Damage to gardens and property	Trip Trap	Pukeko
22.11.2022	Stratford	Damage to turnips	Gas gun/Shot gun	Mallard
23.11.2022	Egmont Vilage	Damage to turnips	Gas gun/Shot gun	Paradise Shelduck
23.11.2022	Tikorangi	Damage to Chicory	Gas gun/Shot gun	Mallard
24.11.2022	New Plymouth	Damage to gardens	Trip trap	Pukeko
25.11.2022	New Plymouth	Damage to maize crops	Gas gun/Shot gun	Mallard
1.12.2022	Pohokura	Damage to chicory	Gas gun/Shot gun	Paradise shelduck
2.12.2022	Hawera	Damage to chicory	Gas gun/Shot gun	Mallard and paradise shelduck
2.12.2022	New Plymouth	Damage to Chicory	Gas gun/Shot gun	Paradise Shelduck
2.12.2022	Lepperton	Damage to Chicory	Gas gun/Shot gun	Paradise Shelduck
6.12.2022	Oaonui	Damage to turnips	Gas gun/Shot gun	Paradise Shelduck and Mallards
7.12.2022	Waitara	Damage to Chicory	Shotgun	Paradise Shelduck
8.12.2022	Tikorangi	Fouling a school pool	Shotgun	Mallard duck
9.12.2022	Inglewood	Damage to pasture	Gas gun/Shot gun	Paradise Shelduck
12.12.2022	Hawera	Damage to chicory	Gas gun/Shot gun	Mallard Duck
12.12.2022	New Plymouth	Damage to gardens	Trip Trap	Pukeko
12.12.2022	New Plymouth	Breaking duck eggs	Trip Trap	Pukeko
16.12.2022	Kaponga	Damage to pasture	Gas gun/Shot gun	Paradise Shelduck
20.12.2022	Egmont Vilage	Damage to turnips	Gas gun/Shot gun	Paradise Shelduck
20.12.2022	Whanganui	Damage to gardens	Trip Trap	Pukeko
9.01.2023	Stratford	Damage to pasture	Gas gun	Paradise Shelduck
25.1.2023	Hawera	Damage to sliage stacks	.22 rifle	Pukeko
26.1.2023	New Plymouth	Damage to gardens	Trip Traps (2)	Pukeko
7.2.2023	New Plymouth	Damage to eggs and gardens	Trip Traps (2)	Pukeko
8.2.2023	Oaonui	Damage to turnips	Gas Gun	Paradise Shelduck
8.2.2023	Hawera	Damage to chicory	Gas gun/Shot gun	Mallard Duck and Paradise shelduck
9.2.2023	Whanganui 4576	Damage to crops and pasture	Summer Season	Paradise Shelduck
1.3.2023	Stratford 4332	Damage to maize crops	Shotgun/.22 rifle	Pukeko
2.3.2023	Omata 4374	Damage to new grass	Shotgun/gas gun	Paradise Shelduck
6.3.2023	Stratford	Damage to pasture	Gas Gun	Paradise Shelduck
8.3.2023	Inglewood	Damage to pasture	Gas gun/Shot gun	Paradise Shelduck
16.3.23	Whanganui	Damage to gardens	.22 rifle	Pukeko
3.4.2023	New Plymouth	Damage to gardens	Trip Traps (2)	Pukeko
4.4.2023	New Plymouth	Damage to gardens	Trip Traps (2)	Pukeko
12.4.23	Hawera	Damage to silage stack	.22/shotgun	Pukeko
14.4.23	Stratford	Damage to Oats/Ryegrass	Gas gun/Shot gun	Paradise Shelduck
21.4.23	Whanganui	Damage to gardens	.22 rifle	Pukeko
2.5.23	New Plymouth	Damage to gardens	Trip Traps (3)	Pukeko
22.5.23	Whanganui	Damage to gardens	.22 rifle	Pukeko
26.5.23	New Plymouth	Damage to gardens	Trip Traps (2)	Pukeko
26.5.23	New Plymouth	Damage to gardens and being a nuisance	Trip Traps	Pukeko
9.6.23	Whanganui	Damage to gardens	Trip Trap	Pukeko
14.6.23	New Plymouth	Damage to gardens	Trip Traps (2)	Pukeko
16.6.23	New Plymouth	Damage to gardens	Trip Traps (2)	Pukeko
19.6.23	Whanganui	Damage to gardens	.22 rifle	Pukeko
26.6.23	New Plymouth	Damage to farmland	.22 or .223 rifle	Pukeko
29.6.23	New Plymouth	Damage to gardens	Trip Traps (2)	Pukeko
30.6.23	New Plymouth	Damage to gardens	Trip Traps (2)	Pukeko
17.7.23	Hawera	Damage to pasture	Gas Gun	Black Swan
18.7.23	Whanganui	Damage to pasture	Shotgun (non-lethal)	Black Swan
19.7.23	Whanganui	Damage to gardens	.22 rifle	Pukeko
19.7.23	Whanganui	Damage to gardens	.22 rifle	Pukeko
17.8.23	Whanganui	Damage to gardens	.22 rifle	Pukeko
17.8.23	Whanganui	Damage to gardens	.22 rifle	Pukeko



## **22. 2022/23 Hatchery & Trout Liberations Report**

Presentation of the 2022-2023 Hatchery and Trout Liberations Report

**ACTION: receive the 2022-2023 Gamebird Dispersal Report**

## TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

The Chairman  
Taranaki Fish and Game Council

### 2022/23 HATCHERY AND TROUT LIBERATIONS REPORT

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Council's 2022/23 Annual Operational Plan has a species management objective to "supplement trout fishing opportunities with appropriate stocking that is valued, cost effective in terms of the return to the angler and which retains community support". The project planned results are:

- Undertake an annual trout stocking programme which concentrates on creating and maintaining valued lake fisheries;
- Undertake a trial release of 2-year-old trout into the lower Patea River to assess the potential for a long-term programme;
- Undertake monitoring of angler returns from the 2017-2021 releases of tagged brown and rainbow trout into the lower Patea River;
- Operate the Hawera hatchery in an effective, cost efficient and sustainable manner utilising volunteer support to meet the identified stocking objectives.

#### 2. HATCHERY

There were 972 adipose-fin clipped rainbow trout yearlings from the 2021 year-class held in the Hawera hatchery at the beginning of the 2022/2023 financial year.

An estimated 2,750 rainbow trout fry from the 2022 year-class were also held at that time. These fish originated from 3,000 eyed rainbow ova received from the Eastern F&G Region's Ngongotaha hatchery on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022 (Figure 1). Trout from the 2022 year-class were adipose fin-clipped on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023, at which time the count was 1,415 fish, which didn't include 1,000 fry released into the Waiau River in November 2022 and 250 un-clipped fish released into Lake Namunamu in April 2023.

A total of 2,000 eyed rainbow trout ova and 1,000 eyed brown trout ova (2023 year-class for 2023/24 release) were received from the Eastern F&G Region's Ngongotaha hatchery on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023. From these ova approximately 2,750 fry were held in the hatchery at year-end (31<sup>st</sup> August 2023).

A team of nine volunteers ran the hatchery on a daily basis on Council's behalf.

#### 3. RELEASES OF FRY, FINGERLING OR YEARLING RAINBOW TROUT

During the 2022/23 financial year, a total of 2,472 fry, fingerling, yearling and up to 18-month rainbow trout from the 2021 and 2022 year-classes were released into four lakes and three rivers in the region (Tables 1 & 2). Releases were made consistent with the release schedules presented to the March 2022 and 2023 Council meetings. In accordance with the Council's Sports Fish & Game Management Plan 2011, and relevant legislation (Conservation Act s26ZM), the Council only releases trout into waters where they already exist.

The total included 1,000 rainbow trout fry from the 2022 year class released into two tributaries of the Waiaua River near Opunake on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022. A major headwater erosion event in the Waiaua mainstem on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021 decimated the trout population and surplus fry were released to bolster recruitment following a substantial recovery in the habitat.

A total of 722 rainbows were raised through to 17/18 months of age for release into the upper Patea River (300 fish) for a kids' trout fishing promotion (Photo 1), into the lower Patea River downstream of Patea Dam (100) and into the Hangatahua (Stony) River (201) and Lake Mangamahoe (121). Many of these fish were over 1kg, with the largest weighing in at 2.6kg. Releases into the Hangatahua River provided good angling opportunity through to mid-May 2023, when a headwater erosion event caused the river to run grey with sand and ash for four weeks. However, fish were seen in the river once it cleared, so the event was not as significant as some previous ones have been.

For the 2021 year-class, the total number of rainbow trout raised through to release was 1,872 fish from the 3,000 ova received in July 2021. This gave a survival to release of 62.4% (Figure 2), which was about average. Survival to release for the 2022 year-class is tracking at 55.5% (500 released to date and 1,165 held over), or 89% if the 1,000 fry are included.

#### **4. RELEASES OF TWO-YEAR-OLD RAINBOW TROUT FROM NGONGOTAHA**

A total of 500 two-year-old rainbows from the Eastern Fish & Game Region's Ngongotaha hatchery were released into Lake Rotomanu on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022 (Table 3). These fish cost \$5,117.30 (GST exclusive) or \$10.23 each once transport was included. No outside funding was sought for this release but could be in the future via an application to the NZCT.

Following the release, a successful family trout fishing promotion was held at New Plymouth's Lake Rotomanu on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2022. The event was held in conjunction with the Inglewood Rod, Gun & Recreation Club and Taranaki Hunting & Fishing and was the third year that trout were released into the lake rather than corralled in a holding net. Hynds Pipe Systems kindly provided their BBQ trailer for the event.

A release of 101 two-year+ rainbow trout was made into Sattler's Dam near Raetihi on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023. These fish were donated by DOC's Tongariro National Trout Centre. There was significant angling activity once word of the release got out. Rangers caught two anglers fishing without licences. It is also thought the dam may have been netted.

#### **5. PLANNED RESULTS FOR HAWERA HATCHERY TROUT RELEASES**

##### **5.1** *Implement an effective trout stocking programme which concentrates on creating and maintaining valued lake fisheries.*

As shown in Tables 2&3, hatchery rainbow trout were liberated into five lakes in the region (including Sattler's Dam) during the year. Lakes Mangamahoe and Rotomanu are well used by anglers with lesser numbers fishing Lakes Ratapiko and Namunamu.

Three rivers were also stocked with hatchery rainbow trout during the year. In the case of the Stony River, the annual release of 200 17-month Hawera hatchery rainbows has proven

successful in sustaining a productive and valued fishery in between headwater erosion events.

The release of 300 Hawera hatchery rainbows into the upper Patea River in the centre of Stratford enabled a kids' trout fishing promotion attended by 66 children to go ahead on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022. The release also provided ongoing opportunities for local anglers. Following 20+ years of releases, a wild rainbow trout population is becoming established in the upper Patea River, which will also provide additional angling opportunity.

The release of fry and yearling rainbow trout into the Waiaua River at Opunake is a temporary measure to promote recovery of the fishery following the July 2021 erosion event. Previously, rainbow trout released into Opunake Lake had been able to access the Waiaua River via the Opunake HEPS inlet race, but with the power scheme shut down since 1 June 2018 this has not been an option.

**5.2** *Undertake a trial release of 2-year-old trout into the lower Patea River to assess the potential for a long-term programme and monitor angler returns from the 2017-2021 releases of tagged brown and rainbow trout into the lower Patea River.*

This year 100 Hawera hatchery rainbow trout weighing up to 1.5kg were released into the lower Patea River below Patea Dam in December 2022 as part of a programme to assess whether releasing trout at a larger size increases the return to anglers. High river flows during spring and summer meant there was little feedback from anglers as to the success of the release.

During the year, a report on trout stocking in the lower Patea River downstream of Patea Dam was prepared for Manawa Energy. The report concludes: "While ongoing monitoring using angler diaries and creel census is still required, results to date indicate that the five annual releases of 1,000 tagged brown trout and 500 tagged rainbow trout from 2017-2021 have not been effective in remedying / mitigating the effects of the Patea HEPS on trout. The releases of larger 1kg+ rainbow trout appear to have been more successful. While only a small amount of angler diary information is available, in 77.3 hours of angling effort, six of 16 trout caught (37.5%) were hatchery fish of which five were the larger Hawera hatchery rainbows. The combined catch rate of 0.21 fish/hour is at the lower end of catch rates recorded for Taranaki trout fisheries but nevertheless acceptable. It is recommended that annual spring releases of up to 1,500 tagged yearling brown and rainbow trout transported from Rotorua be replaced with the release of smaller numbers (200/annum) of larger 1kg+ adipose fin-clipped brown and rainbow trout (potentially raised at Taranaki Fish & Game's Hawera hatchery). This will likely provide a better return to anglers and be a more cost-effective approach to mitigation."

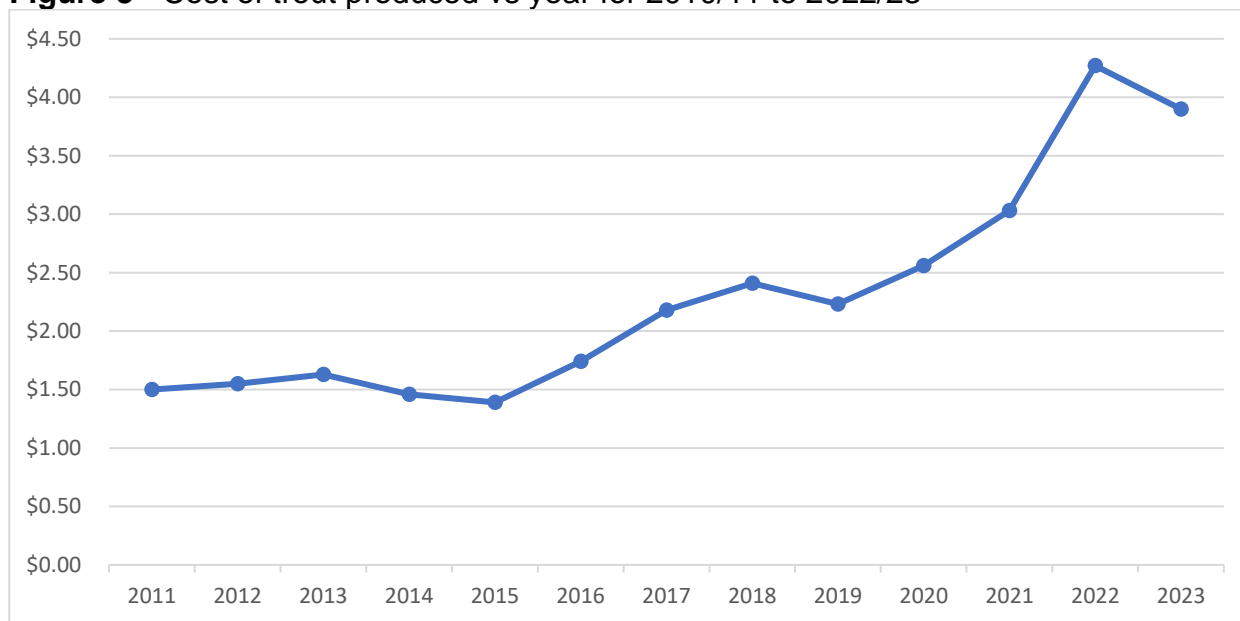
The report has now been finalised and will be circulated to Iwi & DOC for comment before being considered by the Expert Panel set up pursuant to the power scheme resource consents.

**5.3** *Operate the Hawera hatchery in an effective, cost efficient and sustainable manner utilising volunteer support to meet the identified stocking objectives.*

Operating costs for the Hawera hatchery over the period 1 September 2022 - 31 August 2023 came to \$12,119.64 (compared with \$10,680.94 in 2021/22 and \$8,862.29 in 2020/21). This included the cost of trout ova (\$1,380.62), fish food (\$5,852.80), insurance (\$724.98), power (\$762.47), liberation and hatchery expenses (\$1,311.63) and resource consent monitoring fees (\$2,087.14) but excluded staff time. Much of the increase in costs came from the higher price of fish food (an increase of \$1,242), although the cost of all inputs increased. Note that an additional \$2,768.06 was spent on fish food in July 2023, but this was for use in the 2023/24 financial year and so was not included.

With a total of 2,637 trout raised at the hatchery in the 2022/2023 financial year, (1,472 released [excluding fry] and 1,165 held over) this put the average cost of raising trout at the Hawera hatchery at \$4.60 per fish. However, in 2022/23 there was \$1,824.87 of income from a Taranaki Electricity Trust grant to cover the cost of raising trout for the December 2022 Stratford kids' fishing event, which brought the cost per fish down to \$3.90 (Figure 3). This compares to \$4.27 in 2021/22 (no TET grant) and \$3.03 in 2020/21 (TET grant received) (all figures GST exclusive).

**Figure 3 - Cost of trout produced vs year for 2010/11 to 2022/23**



While costs continue to rise, the smaller number of fish raised in recent years and rearing some fish through to at least 17-months of age means that fish are now much larger at release, and they will have better survival and higher angling value as a result.

The figure of \$3.90 per fish compares favourably with the cost of purchasing 2-year rainbow trout directly from the Eastern F&G Region (\$7.06 each, plus transport @ \$2.64/km), particularly given that the Hawera fish are much larger at release (1 – 2kg compared with 0.5 – 0.8kg). Having trout available at Hawera retains the flexibility to release fish when receiving water conditions are suitable. As indicated in Section 4, the large Hawera rainbows raised for the Stratford, Stony River and lower Patea River releases would have cost \$10.23 each to buy and transport from Ngongotaha.



## **6. RECOMMENDATION**

That the 2022/2023 Trout Liberation Report dated 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023, be received.

Allen Stancliff  
Senior Field Officer  
29<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**TABLE 1** - Releases of fry, fingerling or yearling rainbow trout into Taranaki Region rivers and lakes during the 2022/2023 financial year. All fish raised at the Hawera hatchery were produced from Lake Tarawera-strain ova received from the Eastern Fish & Game Region.

<b>Water</b>	<b>Release Date</b>	<b>Hatchery Origin</b>	<b>Fish Year Class</b>	<b>Number Released</b>
Lake Rotomanu	13.09.22	F&G Hawera	2021	150
Waiaua River	15.11.22	F&G Hawera	2021	100
Waiaua River	15.11.22	F&G Hawera	2022	1,000*
Patea River (upper)	02.12.22	F&G Hawera	2021	300
Patea River (lower)	14.12.22	F&G Hawera	2021	100
Stony River	19.12.22	F&G Hawera	2021	100
Lake Mangamahoe	24.01.23	F&G Hawera	2021	121
Stony River	24.01.23	F&G Hawera	2021	101
Lake Namunamu	12.04.23	F&G Hawera	2022	250
Lake Mangamahoe	02.08.23	F&G Hawera	2022	125
Lake Ratapiko	02.08.23	F&G Hawera	2022	125
<b>Total Released</b>				<b>2,472</b>

\* = fry (approximate count)

**TABLE 2** - Total number of fry, fingerling or yearling rainbow trout released into each water during the 2022/2023 financial year

<b>Water</b>	<b>Number Released</b>
Lake Ratapiko	125
Lake Mangamahoe	246
Lake Namunamu	250
Lake Rotomanu	150
Waiaua River	1,100*
Stony River	201
Patea River (upper)	300
Patea River (lower)	100
<b>Total Released</b>	<b>2,472</b>

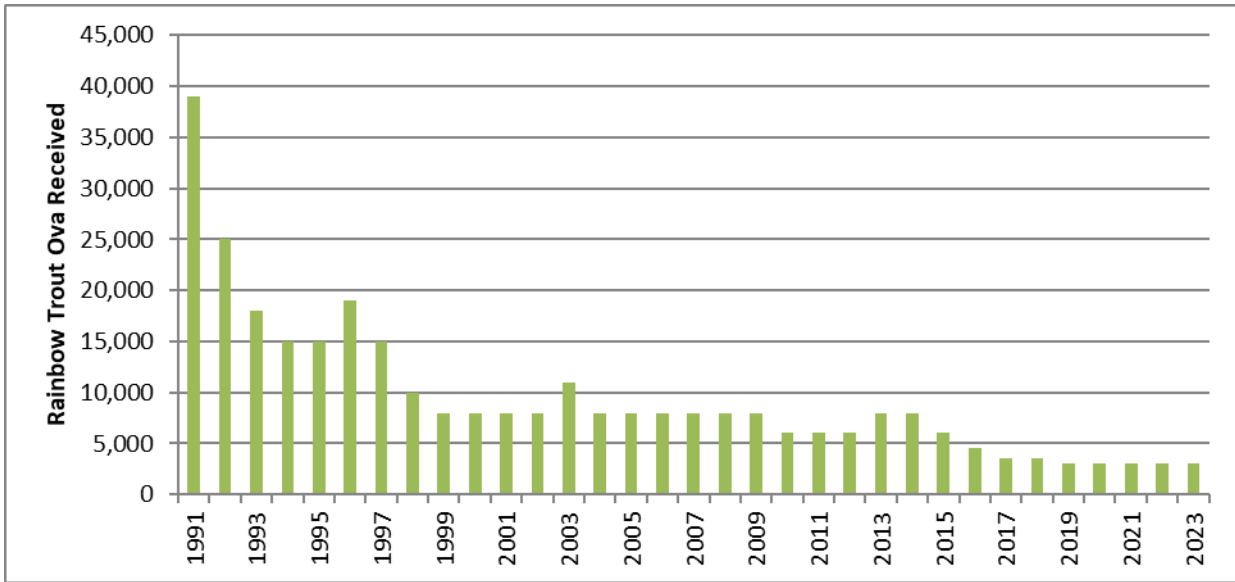
\* includes 1,000 rainbow fry

**TABLE 3.** Releases of 2-year-old hatchery rainbows in the Taranaki Region during the 2022/2023 financial year.

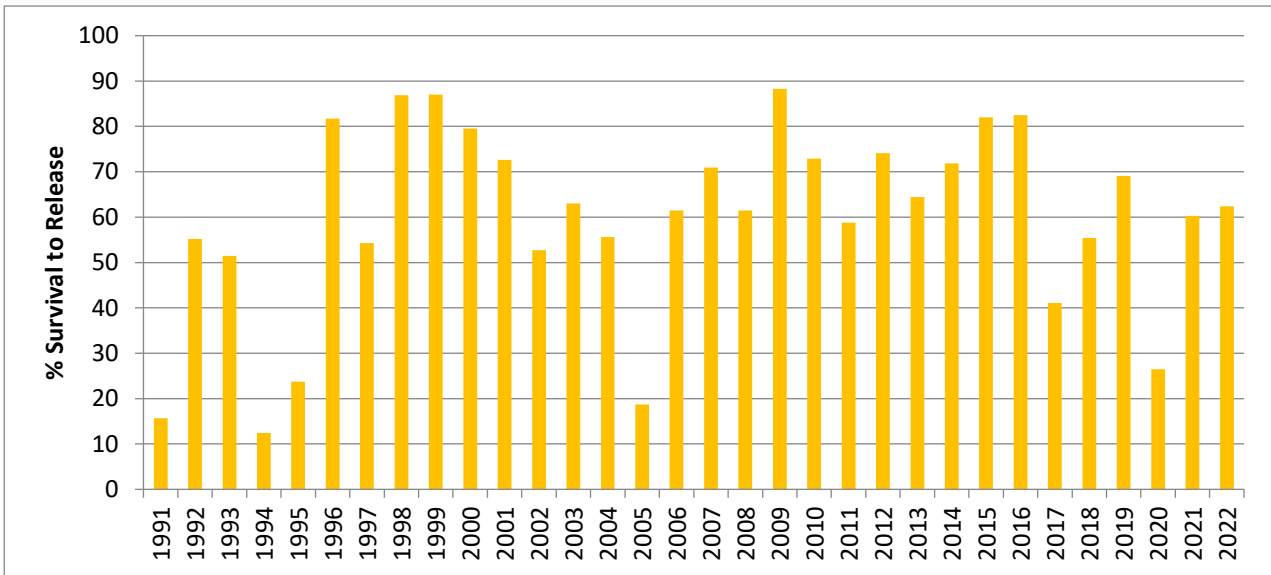
<b>Water</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Hatchery Origin</b>	<b>Number Released</b>
Lake Rotomanu	19.10.22	F&G Ngongataha	500
Sattlers Dam	13.04.23	DOC Turangi	101
<b>Total Released</b>			<b>601</b>



Photo 1. Evan Rawlinson with a Hawera hatchery rainbow trout at the Stratford kids' trout fishing day, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022.



**FIGURE 1.** Trout ova received at the Hawera hatchery, 1991 – 2023.



**FIGURE 2.** Rainbow trout survival to release as a percentage of ova received, 1991 – 2022.



## **23. 2022/23 Compliance Report**

Presentation of the 2022-2023 Compliance Report

**ACTION: receive the 2022-2023 Compliance Report**

## TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

The Chairman  
Taranaki Fish and Game Council

### 2022/23 Compliance Report

The annual plan requires production of a compliance report detailing compliance activities including ranger management and results over the year.

#### Ranger management and training

The Taranaki Region began the 2022/23 year with a full complement of 13 warranted honorary rangers and 2 warranted staff and this was maintained throughout the year.

Nine honorary rangers and two staff attended a CERT 1-day refresher in New Plymouth on 24/09/2022 and one additional ranger attended a CERT 1-day refresher in Rotorua on 19/11/2022. All honorary and staff rangers are up to date with their CERT training prior to warrant renewals in 2024.

A ranger training day attended by 6 rangers and two staff was held in New Plymouth on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023, prior to the start of the 2023 game season. There was a good turnout of rangers on opening weekend, with nine rangers and one experienced volunteer checking compliance.

#### Compliance activities

The numbers of hunters and anglers checked over the year, with two offences detected, is shown below in Table 1.

The number of hunters checked exceeded the target of 100 identified in the Council's Compliance Strategy. The 115 hunters checked included six located during the February/March 2023 Special Paradise Hunting Season. No offences were detected, giving 100% compliance.

Fishing licence checks were harder to come by, owing to a wet spring and summer and high river levels restricting angler activity. A total of 68 anglers were checked, which fell short of the target of 100. Two angling offences detected at Sattler's Dam were dealt with by way of diversion as the offenders were cooperative and had no previous convictions.

The level of detected hunting and fishing offences exceeded the target of 95% compliance (Table 1).

**Table 1 Number of hunters and anglers checked and offences detected over the 2022/23 season**

	Number of checks	% of total licences sold (using provisional 2022/23 figures)	Number of offences detected	User compliance rate (%)
Anglers	68	4.9% of 1,398	2	97.1%
Hunters	115*	9.3% of 1,233	0	100%

\* includes 6 hunters checked over the 2023 Special Paradise Shelduck season.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Taranaki Fish & Game Council receive this compliance report for 2022/23 noting that;

- management of honorary rangers met the planned result in the Operational Plan;
- compliance checks met the target of 100 for hunters, but not for anglers;
- compliance with the regulations was 97.1% for anglers checked and 100% for hunters checked, which exceeded the target of 95% compliance.

Allen Stancliff  
 Senior Field Officer  
 7 September 2023





## **24. Correspondence Schedules**

List of correspondence received and sent over the August and September period

**ACTION: receive the Correspondence Schedules for August and September 2023**



## Inwards Correspondence

Date	Meeting	From	Staff Councillor	Subject
21.5.23	Oct-23	Ernslaw One Ltd	Allen	Harvesting operations – Lake Namunamu
9.8.23	Oct-23	Robert Sowman GBHT	Allen	GBHT update
12.8.23	Oct-23	Robert Sowman GBHT	Allen	Report to GBHT on grants approved in 2017
15.8.23	Oct-23	Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board	Allen	Strategic priorities/goals for Taranaki Whanganui Regions
18.8.23	Oct-23	Jose Reader TRC	Allen	Nominate an environment hero
18.8.23	Oct-23	Corina Jordan	Allen	2023 Election political neutrality
21.8.23	Oct-23	Amy Quattlebaum NPDC	Allen	Mangorei Weir review and Resource Consent renewals
22.8.23	Oct-23	Joanne Weir NPDC	Allen	Permission to operate a drone within New Plymouth District Council parks and reserves
24.8.23	Oct-23	Helen Payne mpi	Allen	Freshwater Biosecurity Partnership Programme monthly teleconference
24.8.23	Oct-23	Abby Lagula TRC	Allen	Freshwater Golden Clam
29.8.23	Oct-23	NZ Fish & Game Council	Crls	Invitation to all F&G Councillors to attend zoom Governance Training
29.8.23	Oct-23	Karen Denyer	Allen	National Wetland Restoration Symposium
4.9.23	Oct-23	Colin Jacobs – Lewis Tucker & Co	Allen	Rimuputa Road access
4.9.23	Oct-23	Gerrard Albert – Te Kōpuka nā Te Awa Tupua	Allen Phil	Invitation to the launch of Te Heke Ngahuru
5.9.23	Oct-23	Taranaki Regional Council	Allen	TRC's environmental monitoring of you consent – Hatchery
11.9.23	Oct-23	Kahureremoa Aki	Allen Phil	Te Kōpuka hui documents
15.9.23	Oct-23	Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust	Allen	Bush Telegraph
15.9.23	Oct-23	Taranaki Regional Council	Allen	Invite to Taranaki Freshwater workshop
20.9.23	Oct-23	Steve McKnight CSI F&G	Allen	Canal EIA for regional F&G Councils
25.9.23	Oct-23	Taranaki Regional Council	Allen Phil	Talking Taranaki September 2023
25.9.23	Oct-23	Leah Miller TRC	Allen Phil	Consent Conditions for Horizon Trust – Whenuku Road Quarry Consent Applications
2.10.23	Oct-23	Rosemary Miller DOC	Allen Phil	Mass tuna deaths in Whanganui
2.10.23	Oct-23	Robert Sowman GBHTB	Allen Phil	Kinatai Wetland 2023 grant application approval
2.10.23	Oct-23	Robert Sowman GBHTB	Allen Phil	Forsyth Wetland 2023 grant application approval

## Outwards Correspondence

Date	Meeting	To	Staff Councillor	Subject
10.8.23	Oct-23	Stephen Blair	Allen	Ototoka Wetlands
14.8.23	Oct-23	Robert Sowman	Jacob	Report to GBHT on grants approved in 2017 - Arranmore
15.8.23	Oct-23	Robert Sowman	Allen	Report to GBHT on grants approved in 2017 – Deadman
15.8.23	Oct-23	Robert Sowman	Allen	Report to GBHT on grants approved in 2017 – Rotokawa Swamp
15.8.23	Oct-23	Robert Sowman	Allen	Report to GBHT on grants approved in 2017 – Tom Ron
21.8.23	Oct-23	Maryse Rohipa NZC	Allen	Consultation – draft Performance Management Policy
25.8.23	Oct-23	Amy Quattlebaum TRC	Allen	Inglewood water supply resource consent renewals
21.9.23	Oct-23	Richie Cosgrove	Allen Phil	Reel Life Taranaki September 2023
25.9.23	Oct-23	David Shaw Whanganui Chronicle	Allen Phil	Advertorial – New Trout Season looks Promising
25.9.23	Oct-23	Matt Rilkoff Taranaki Daily News	Allen Phil	Trout Season article
25.9.23	Oct-23	Alyssa Smith – Stratford Press	Allen Phil	Trout Season article

Items that should be identified at the start of the meeting



## Angler usage of New Zealand lake and river fisheries

Results from the 2021/22 National Angler Survey

*Prepared for Fish and Game New Zealand*

*July 2023*

## Executive summary

Fish and Game New Zealand (FGNZ) management responsibilities create an ongoing need for timely and accurate data on angler use of the freshwater fisheries resource. Since 1994 FGNZ has conducted National Angler Surveys (NASs) to estimate annual waterbody usage by anglers for all significant freshwater sports fisheries within the 12 FGNZ regions. This report presents results of the fifth NAS, conducted during the 2021-22 season. The previous four NASs took place during the 1994-95, 2001-02, 2007-08 and 2014-15 fishing seasons. The objectives of the 2021-22 NAS were:

- to estimate annual usage by anglers, during the 2021-22 fishing season, for all lake and river fisheries managed by FGNZ.
- to tabulate and characterise these results at national, regional, and local scales.

The 2021-22 angling season was affected by COVID-19 restrictions on international and domestic travel. FGNZ regions were unequally affected by COVID-19 restrictions, with North Island regions experiencing stronger restrictions on angling activity during the 2021-22 angling season.

During 2021-22 FGNZ licences were available in 15 categories broadly defined by “duration” (whole-season, winter, daily, short-break (3-day) and long-break (9-day)) and “type” (adult, family, junior, non-resident, local-area adult, senior adult). These categories were grouped into five “strata” for the survey:

- Stratum 1 includes: New Zealand residents only; adult whole-season and winter licences; family licences; local-area and senior adult licences.
- Stratum 2 includes all junior licences, for both New Zealand residents and non-residents.
- Stratum 3 includes all one-day licences, for both New Zealand residents and non-residents.
- Stratum 4 includes all whole-season non-resident licences.
- Stratum 5 includes all short- and long-break licences.

Survey samples (interviews) were further stratified by bimonthly “period” (Oct-Nov; Dec-Jan;...).

A total of 91,121 fishing licences were purchased for fishing during the 2021-22 season. The largest number of licence sales occurred within Stratum 1 (59,393), with almost three times the number of licences sold as the next most popular stratum, Stratum 3. Of all fishing licences sold during the 2021-22 season, 64,836 (71%) were purchased by anglers affiliated with South Island regions and 26,285 (29%) by anglers affiliated with North Island regions.

Total usage for the 2021-22 season was 991,700 angler-days. Nationwide, ca. 38% of total annual usage was allocated to lakes during the 2021-22 season, with the remainder allocated to rivers (including canals). Rivers account for the majority of usage within all regions apart from Eastern/Rotorua Lakes (lakes accounted for 77% of usage) and Otago (lakes accounted for 52% of usage).

Central South Island was the most popular fishing region by far and accounted for 27.4% of the nationwide annual usage for 2021-22. Otago (17.7% of usage), Southland (12.6% of usage), Eastern

(11.9% of usage) and North Canterbury (10.5% of usage) also stand out on account of their popularity during the 2021-22 season.

As observed over previous NASs, Stratum 1 anglers accounted for the majority of fishing effort during 2021-22 (91% of total angler days). Although international (Stratum 4) anglers accounted for 3% of total usage during the 2014-15 fishing season, international anglers only accounted for 0.04% of total usage during the 2021-22 fishing season. This reduction in fishing effort by international anglers—by almost two orders of magnitude—is to be expected given the COVID-19 restrictions on international travel during 2021-22.

For most regions, total angling effort during 2021-22 was very similar to that observed during 2014-15. However, when compared with the previous NAS (2014-15 season) there was significantly less angling effort within North Canterbury and Eastern.

Numerous tables are presented within the body of this report that summarise angler usage of New Zealand's freshwater fisheries at different resolutions of the survey stratification. Appendices A and B, respectively, present estimates of usage of individual waterbodies throughout all 12 regions during the 2021-22 season, and long-term trends in the usage of those waterbodies since 1994.



26. **Confirm Next Meeting and AGM 9th December 2023 – Raetihi**

27. **Closure**

