
PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE

WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2020

Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister of Conservation
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister

I have the honour to submit, pursuant to Section 26X of the Conservation Act 1987 and Section 44A of the Public Finance Act 1989, the Performance Report and Financial Statements of the Wellington Fish and Game Council for the year ended 31 August 2020.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Strato Cotsilinis', written in a cursive style.

Strato Cotsilinis
CHAIRMAN
WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

1 December 2020

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PURPOSE OF WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

The Council is a Reporting Entity, created by Statute (The Conservation Act 1987) to manage, maintain and enhance the sports fish and game bird resources of its region, in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters. Wellington Fish and Game derives its revenue from the sale of fish and game licences, interest, contracts, grants and miscellaneous sales.

OPERATION OF WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

At balance date the Council had twelve Councillors, who are elected three yearly by the people who purchase fishing or hunting licences within the Council's region. The Council meets at least six times per year, spread around three main towns and cities within the Wellington region, to direct the Council's management and to make its policy decisions.

The Council's office is based in Palmerston North. The Council employs four full-time and six part time/casual staff: a Regional Manager/Chief Executive, five Field/Technical Officers, an Environmental Planning advisor, an Administration Manager and an Administration Assistant. The Taranaki Fish and Game Council in Whanganui, provides services on a part time basis for Wellington Fish and Game Council's financial administration.

DIRECTORY COUNCILLORS

Name	Locality
Jim Cook	Rongotea
Strato Cotsilinis (Chairman)	Wellington
Malcolm Francis	Te Horo
John Hancock	Martinborough
Andrew McGregor	Palmerston North
Richard McIntyre	Levin
Chris O'Meara	Lower Hutt
Aaron Passey	Dannevirke
Don Scott	Palmerston North
Colin Shore	Masterton
Paul Shortis (NZ Fish & Game Council Appointee) (National Council Chairman, resigned 22 November 2020)	Masterton
Andy Tannock	Palmerston North

STAFF

Phil Teal	Regional Manager/Chief Executive
Dr Matt Kavermann	Senior Fish and Game Officer
Hamish Carnachan	Fish and Game/Senior Communications Officer (Wairarapa based)
Corinne Deans	Administration Manager
Jilli Steedman	Financial Administrator (Part Time)
Peter Wilson	Senior Environmental Planning Advisor
Ami Coughlan	RMA Technical Officer (Part Time)
Nathan Field	Fish and Game Officer (Part Time)
Colin Shore	Logistical Field Support (Part Time/Casual 2020)
Dr David Pontin	Research Fellow (NZ Royal Society - 6-month secondment 2020)
Dr Adam Canning	Research Scientist/RMA Technical Officer (until 2 February 2020)
Susan Wray	Retired December 2018 / Casual 2020

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Chairman's Report for the 2019/20 Financial Year

I am pleased to present this 2019/20 Annual report on the operations of Wellington Fish and Game Council.

The Wellington Fish and Game Council continues to manage the fish and game resource in a sustainable way to achieve strategic and long-term outcomes that have a benefit in terms of the resource itself and access to it by licence holders.

Response to COVID-19 Restrictions

The second half of the 2019/2020 Financial Year was dominated by the social and financial uncertainty that resulted from the COVID-19 global pandemic. The NZ Government response to suppress the disease transmission saw a strict lockdown of public movements within New Zealand and strict border controls which limited access to NZ citizens only. The effects of this approach for Fish and Game on reduced revenue derived from licence sales were immediate, potentially severe, and expected to be long lasting. Fish and Game's initial response was to focus on the financial sustainability of the organisation, given that we were facing the possibility of no game season for 2020, continued restrictions on border movements of tourist (non-resident) anglers, and a predicted severe economic downturn. The urgent and rational response from the Fish and Game organisation was to re-forecast initial budgets to maintain adequate cash flow by make savings on expenditure and anticipating using cash reserves.

The timing of the initial strict lockdowns extended from late March 2020 through to mid-May necessitated a delay in having an open game season – and in early April there was a very real prospect of not having an open season at all (with gamebird hunting not possible under Level 4 restrictions). Fish and Game strongly advocated to Government for confirmation of an open game bird hunting season for 2020 - which ended up having the game season start delayed by three weeks but extending the season into the first two weeks of July.

The economic shock and public movement restrictions that occurred in response to COVID-19 pandemic had the real prospect of causing severe financial and cash flow pressure for Wellington Fish and Game Council. Council's initial response of taking a relatively aggressive stance to saving and/or deferring operational and capital expenditure to maintain cashflow proved to be judicious. The Government wage subsidy also greatly assisted with cash flow management, particularly during a period of nil income in March and April. While there are still significant financial challenges ahead, these actions have resulted in a satisfactory financial result for this year, and given Council time to adapt and react to changes in licence holder needs in the immediate future. I acknowledge the contributions of staff in adapting to this conservative financial approach and, by acting prudently in all aspects of operational management, they have helped Council weather the financial storm in the short term.

Fish and Game Organisational Governance Review

Three major reviews were initiated during the year: an organisation-wide governance review, a review of (cash) reserves management, and a review of resource allocations within the organisation.

Governance Review: In June 2020, the Minister of Conservation initiated a review of Fish and Game's governance to undertake *"an organisational health check ... to make sure Fish and Game's governance and organisational arrangements are fit for purpose today."* This was prompted by talk of a strategic review discussed at a Fish and Game governors meeting held in November 2019 – loosely linked to recent governance audits of North Canterbury, Central South Island and Hawke's Bay regions. The potential ramifications for each of the regional entities could be large in terms of

resource allocation, governance structure, and even potentially continued existence through amalgamations. There was even speculation that this review would be used in a bid to centralise control of the organisation with NZ Council oversight, so it was imperative the review was undertaken in a transparent manner to avoid the perception of pre-conceived outcomes. It has been encouraging that the independent panel tasked with undertaking the review have sensibly cast their net wide for opinions and suggestions. The outcomes of the review should be known in the first quarter of 2021 calendar year.

Resource Allocation Project: An independent review to consider the changes in resourcing requirements for each region was initiated in August 2020. This acknowledged that the budget setting process used by Fish and Game had its origins over 30 years ago and material changes had occurred in the resource usage patterns requirements. The resource allocation model may include parameters such as hunter and angler effort, LEQs for angling and hunting, and other resourcing issues particular for each region (and also assessing resourcing needs of NZ Council). This work stream will occur in parallel with the work being undertaken by the Ministerial review panel but should provide an objective update of each region's minimum resourcing requirements.

Development of a National Reserves Policy: Wellington Council provided comments from a governance and an operational perspective on a discussion document regarding the principles of reserve management for the organisation with a view to develop a national reserve policy. This included making provisions for cash flow purposes, managing risk, and managing liquidity of assets.

Resource Management Advocacy Function – Freshwater Management

The Political Landscape for Freshwater Management

Over the last decade there had been increasing public awareness and concern regarding water management of New Zealand's rivers and lakes which culminated in the 2017 General Election with it being elevated to a key political issue. Numerous technical reports highlighted the challenges in managing New Zealand's water resources for water quality and water quantity and these were reflected in an influential technical assessment¹ by the Chief Science Advisor for the Prime Minister in 2017. This report acknowledged that declines in lowland trout fisheries were associated with land use intensification and water loss.

A number of subsequent political survey polls reaffirmed the Government's mandate for improving the current management of freshwater with over 80 per cent of people surveyed confirming that freshwater pollution was the top concern by New Zealanders - indicating that they were extremely concerned or very concerned about the issue².

In 2018, the Labour/NZ First Coalition Government embarked on some key changes in policy direction at central Government level by establishing a new National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management and a new National Environmental Standard to improve the state of waterways. A substantial public consultation entitled "*Our Action Plan for Healthy Waterways*"³ conducted in 2019, and I acknowledged the excellent work of staff (Dr Canning in particular) for preparing a comprehensive submission and for engaging hunters and anglers in the consultation process.

¹ Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor (OPMCSA). 2017. *New Zealand's fresh waters: Values, state, trends and human impacts* (12 April 2017).

² Colmar Brunton Poll – December 2018 – Top Concerns in NZ – Freshwater pollution (82%), Living costs (78%), Health System (72%)

³ Ministry for the Environment. 2019. *Action for healthy waterways – A discussion document on national direction for our essential freshwater*. Wellington: Ministry for the Environment. Publication reference number: ME 1427

The Minister for the Environment and Minister for Primary Industry released the final versions of the NPSFM 2020 and the NES 2020 in June 2020. They were intended to achieve improved outcomes aimed at stopping the degradation of rivers and lakes, with a goal of achieving a noticeable improvement in five years and restoring the waterways within a generation by:

- strengthening Te Mana o Te Wai as the framework for freshwater management (*a hierarchy of needs that puts environmental requirements first, followed by human requirements, followed by economic needs*)
- better provision for ecosystem health (*water, fish and plant life*)
- better protecting wetlands and estuaries
- better managing stormwater and wastewater, and protect sources of drinking water
- controlling high-risk farming activities and limit agricultural intensification
- improving farm management practices and farm planning.

The final outcome of the NPSFM 2020⁴ and NES 2020 have some good initiatives but it delayed confirming nitrogen limits in managing nitrogen (DIN)⁵ – with it being publicly noted as being influenced by agricultural advocates and/or scientists involved in the advisory group could not reach total consensus on numbers for N limits⁶.

There is still the prospect that central Government will provide leadership and guidance for regional freshwater management that will provide consistency and lessen the tensions between regional stakeholders during regional plan determinations.

In the interim, Fish & Game needs to remain vigilant in their advocacy role to protect the fish and game resource and ensure the next generation of regional plans implement rules and methods that promote practices that are sustainable.

Regional Planning Advocacy

Wellington Fish & Game Council has continued its involvement in the regional resource management planning processes which is essential to achieve habitat maintenance and enhancement, along with promoting public awareness of the issues in order to retain public support.

There are several regional planning processes that are continuing to have high priority in the Wellington Fish & Game region:

Horizons Regional Council – Plan Change 2 - One Plan

In 2017, the Environmental Defence Society (EDS) and Fish and Game sought and won their declaration⁷ clarifying how Horizons Regional Council were implementing provisions of the One Plan – which concluded that resource consents were being issued unlawfully. The judgment clearly articulated that the Regional Plan should be implemented as the Plan states and that Horizons Regional Council cannot choose to implement or not to implement certain aspects.

Horizons Regional Council response to that judgement was to formally seek a plan change (Plan Change 2) to: firstly recalibrate Table 14.2 which is derived from OVERSEER© used to calculate the nitrogen leaching limits (seen as a necessary step forward in the process) and secondly to define changes in policies and objectives to provide a viable pathway for intensive land users to apply for consent including a discretionary consent if they cannot meet the table values. If the concept of using a discretionary consent is introduced (rather than a controlled activity consent) then there

⁴ Essential Freshwater Factsheet - Published in September 2020 by the Ministry for the Environment and Ministry for Primary Industries Publication number: INFO 969

⁵ DIN – Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen - the sum of nitrite (NO₂), nitrate (NO₃) and ammonia (NH₃).

⁶ *Politik*. Swimming together; the coalition agrees on freshwater reforms By Richard Harman -May 29, 2020

⁷ Environment Court Decision [2017] NZEnvC 37 ENV-2016-WLG-000038

needs to be high transparency as to how the consents are granted to ensure fair and lawful granting of consents. The culture that existed at the Regional Council at a governance level in 2013 through formal Council resolutions⁸ and at operational level at a similar time period⁷ did not provide the confidence that the Regional Council would implement the plan provisions as intended. There is still a clear expectation that provisions in regional plans will be implemented to maintain the integrity of the operative plan once they have been finalised through the various formal and legal processes. The formal hearing process was completed in October 2020 with the pending decision expected by the end of 2020 calendar year.

Horizons Regional Council has been concurrently slowly progressing their preference for a broader catchment review using sub-catchment 'units' and conducting a series of 'collaborative processes'. Fish & Game's goal will be to advocate for environmental limits for water quality and quantity and then allow for discussion on allocation of the remainder for sustainable land use.

Proposed GWRC Natural Resources Plan (Regional Plan) – Greater Wellington Region:

The process to define the regional plan for Greater Wellington Region has been long and resource intensive: the formal process started with original submissions in November 2015, with hearings relating to water quantity, water quality, and wetland management stretching from May 2018 to November 2018, and the Hearing Commissioners' decisions released in July 2019. Wellington Fish and Game Council still needs to be actively involved in the Appeals process to ensure policy linkages to rules are maintained or strengthened – with the mediation process commencing in March 2020 and still ongoing.

Proposed Wairarapa Water Irrigation Project:

Wairarapa Water Ltd (formed in 2019) continued to advance the modified dam proposal with an injection \$7 million from the Provincial Growth Fund for preparation work. The Wairarapa Regional Development Group concurrently worked on a Water Resilience Council Strategy to support the dam concept which would be used to garner full support by the district councils. As yet no ecological assessment reports distributed to the wider public - with project focus still on economic benefits, potential water resilience, and seismic site analyses, but it is expected that resource consents will be lodged by the end of the 2020 calendar year.

Greater Wellington Regional Council Whaitua Committees:

Two of the Whaitua (Zone) Committees (Ruamahanga and Porirua catchments) completed their reports after a four-year process using a 'community based' committee appointed by the Regional Council to provide recommendations on how to manage and allocate land and water resources. There remains considerable uncertainty in how any of the Committees' recommendations will be implemented given the Regional Plan Appeals are still being addressed and there are discussions on restructuring the operational aspects of the Regional Council into five units each to focus on managing the broad catchment units.

⁸ Horizons Regional Council resolution 13-500 b. iii of 25 June 2013.

where an activity is considered as a restricted discretionary activity and the numbers in table 13.2 are no longer applicable then:

- An existing intensive farming activity that provides a trajectory of N reduction that is achievable on the farm or has low N loss or the farm operating system is economically and environmentally efficient (no low cost options are available) will be given a consent term of 15 to 20 years.
- **An existing intensive farming activity where there is no willingness to reduce N loss but mitigation is both possible and efficient will be given a consent term of 3 to 5 years.** Guidance will be provided by HRC to industry who will work with the farmer to assess mitigation options through the term of the consent, with a view to incorporating mitigation options at re-consenting time.

Regional Consent Processing:

The regional resource management function has continued to be a demanding exercise, but advocacy effort using relevant and credible technical advice has maintained strong representation of the interests of hunters and anglers.

Similarly to the regional planning processes, consenting processes for large scale applications can stretch over multiple years – with several examples of such consent proposals, including: several wastewater treatment plants in both the Horizons and Wellington regions, flood protection and river management consents for the western rivers in the Greater Wellington region (Hutt, Otaki, Wainuiomata, and Waikanae rivers), and Floodplain Management Plans for some of the eastern rivers of the Greater Wellington region. This is the process whereby the interests of anglers and hunters are considered, and strong representation is still required.

Regional Technical and Planning Advice:

Wellington Fish & Game Council continues to promote organisational efficiencies in delivering a shared resource management advocacy resource across the collective of twelve regional Fish and Game Councils to make best use of our limited resources. Wellington Council notes that the senior planning role was still an important core role for regional advocacy representation by giving advice and active advocacy for other Fish & Game regions that either do not have that capability or require experienced personnel to take advantage of the economies of learning.

Regional Councils' Planning Consultation

Wellington Fish & Game Council continues to submit to regional councils' planning processes such as Annual Plans – to provide advocacy for different approaches or focus: freshwater quality management, flood control operations activities, incorporating wetlands into a rural landscape, and increasing a focus on fish habitat management.

Wellington Council met with a delegation from Horizons Regional Council to re-establish links with a view to improving the working relationship – on a governance and staff level. I acknowledge Councillor McIntyre's role in seeking interest from Horizons Regional Council to engage in such a meeting as it was useful in observing a change in governance culture and approach.

Strategic Overview - Strategic Planning and Policy

Wellington Fish & Game Council regularly reassesses strategic direction to ensure our long-term priorities align with annual staff and financial resources to be able to achieve expected outcomes. We remain committed to our responsibilities to maintain an effective core monitoring programme to maintain relevance in advocacy forums but also want to focus on opportunities that promote recruitment and education, and contribute to a wider marketing programme. The projects which have taken priority include involvement in the R3 marketing programme, establishing safe urban reservoir fisheries, maintaining an involvement in the Fish in Schools programme, maintaining access for hunters and anglers, bridging the urban/rural disconnect, and undertaking effective monitoring using technological advances.

Wellington Fish & Game Council has progressed a review of its strategic planning document - Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan - and is planning to start the wider public consultation process in late 2020.

Firearms Legislation Changes

The events of the Christchurch Mosque Attack on 15 March 2019 left a lasting effect on New Zealand's socio-political landscape, especially the public perception and tolerance for firearms use. The initial firearms legislation (the Arms (Prohibited Firearms, Magazines and Parts) Amendment Act

2019) focused on banning military style semi-automatic firearms and accessories – which saw the banning of certain configurations of firearms and a buy-back scheme established – but most semi-automatic shotguns used by game bird hunters for field hunting with a magazine capacity of five or less were exempted.

Wellington Fish and Game Council made a submission to the Select Committee on the second tranche of firearms legislation reform (Supplementary Order Paper (SOP) 408 proposed changes to the Arms Legislation Bill) which included the concept of establishing a gun registry, changing the police vetting process, and the potential sharing of information between health workers and the NZ Police. Wellington Fish and Game Council supported the intent of the legislation to improve public safety but expressed significant concerns that some of the proposed amendments won't achieve their intended public safety outcome and inevitably will increase costs for law abiding firearms owners.

Species Management

Dr Kavermann provided leadership in managing and refining the species monitoring programmes to ensure that data is up-to-date, relevant, and robust. The data collected and inferences from analyses of this data are important in maintaining credibility as a science-based management agency, including: the core drift dive programme, specific intensive drift dives sites, spawning surveys, electro-fishing surveys, and specific research projects.

Dr Kavermann and Dr Canning established protocols for a field technique to confirm spawning in a river using environmental DNA (eDNA) primers and assessing DNA_{mitochondrial}:DNA_{nuclear} ratios. This type of technique might become an essential tool in assisting regional councils define trout spawning waters. They may require relatively recent confirmation of trout spawning in streams as a prerequisite to applying restricted rules in regional plans for that stream. The project focused on field trials of sites on the Kahuterawa Stream near Palmerston North (in collaboration with Massey University research scientists). The research had also looked at presence of spawning trout below Birchville dam – with an eDNA sample confirming presence of trout and evidence of trout spawning.

Dr Kavermann continues to lead the project relating to using the sophisticated technique of otolith microchemistry analysis that enables determination of the contribution of spawning to trout populations from tributaries within a catchment – which is actively being applied to Ruamahanga, Rangitikei, and Hutt catchments.

Under Dr Canning's supervision, Ami Coughlan has been processing samples and establishing an inventory for oxygen isotope analysis for the native fish – trout interaction project. This allows analysis of predator prey interactions and help define logical food webs. As part of a larger MBIE grant application the Cawthron Institute are co-ordinating a project that is assessing the financial and social values of trout fisheries in NZ.

Trout Population Change Monitoring

The core summer drift diving monitoring programme was again completed by a committed team of divers lead by Dr Kavermann and Hamish Carnachan. They found that the trout population overall in the region is relatively stable, but confirmed numbers in the Western Wellington rivers were on the ebb of a likely seven-year cycle.

Mallard Monitoring

The aerial transects of mallard population monitoring were delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions but the analysis revealed a relatively stable population on both the Manawatu/Rangitikei side and Wairarapa side of the mountain ranges. The initial recommendation was for an eight-week, ten bird

bag limit season harvest conditions for mallard but was altered due to the delayed start of the open season due to COVID-19 and extended out into July but for only seven weeks.

Wellington Council continues to use email surveys to seek feedback from hunters and get their opinions on potential restrictive approaches and how these might affect hunting opportunity. The survey continues to be well received by hunters and provides a platform to allow them to express their views and preferences as licence holders and be involved in the decision-making process.

Mallard Research:

Wellington region has continued to contribute to the mallard banding programme that will ultimately confirm survival statistics and allow comparison with other sites within a proposed environmental management unit. Thanks go to the assistance from volunteers which is very much appreciated.

Upland Game Properties with Special Conditions

In 2018, an issue arose principally from some Game Preserve Operators who were wishing to augment mallard populations by releasing of captive reared mallard (CRM) as a tool.

At the time, Wellington Fish & Game Council concluded that it did not support the wish to augment wild populations given the principle of adding to an existing population that is limited by habitat and its potential ineffectiveness long term. Wellington Council also considered that, when operated at the existing levels, game preserves provided a good resource for a niche market of hunters by providing a level of guarantee in hunting upland game birds, and there is a certain amount of 'leakage' of pheasants into habitat on public land offering additional hunting opportunity.

A subsequent legal interpretation of these releases, as well as pheasant releases, where commercial operations existed, was sought by NZ Fish and Game Council and it concluded that there was not a legal basis to allow them to continue under Schedule One of the Wildlife Act. The existing 'upland game properties with special conditions' were allowed to continue operation if they were considered under a special Ministerial dispensation under Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Act for a further three-year timeframe which expired in 2020. Recent discussions at NZ Council resolved that there be a sunset clause for the continued operations of Game Preserves up until 2025.

Licence Sales & Licencing

Licence Sales:

Game licence sales were significantly down on the previous year's sales (90% of 2018/19 sales – based on LEQs) and considerable down on budget (91% budget LEQs). Given the uncertainty created by COVID-19 restrictions the decrease in game licence sales on previous year's sales was expected – but also without the clear and timely communication with licence holders it had the potential to be much lower sales.

Fish licence sales were similar to previous year's sales (~100% of 2018/19 sales – based on LEQs) and slightly exceeded budget (101% budget LEQs). The licence holder purchasing patterns for fishing licences was also of interest with early season purchasing being well above budget but once inclement weather conditions prevailed after early January the total sales ended up being on par with the previous year's totals. There was a period of no sales during the COVID-19 restrictions for two months.

Licence fee recommendation

Wellington Fish & Game Council considered that given the potential for an immediate and severe economic downturn that there be no change in the proposed licence fee this year and that there should be a consistent approach to apply budgeting principles and allocations for all regions.

Effectiveness of New Categories of Fish Licences

Wellington Fish and Game Council still considers it important that NZ Fish & Game Council commission a formal and comprehensive review of the pricing structure and appropriateness of short-term licence categories for fishing licences as was intended at the end of three years since their introduction. This should include looking at the effectiveness of retaining licence holders (reducing 'churn'), assessing price sensitivities, and looking at licence holder switching behaviours.

Licence Management System

The robustness of the software platforms for licence management has resulted in core licence sales channels now being entirely processed electronically by agents or by public online. The contract for running the Licence Management System was formally reviewed this year via a tender process at the end of the existing contract period. While there were other potential providers, it was agreed to renew a contract (albeit at a lesser rate) with the existing provider and it was acknowledged that the performance of the existing provider in terms of the system robustness and business support services had been excellent.

In addition to all the regions and NZ Council being signatories to the Licence Management Agreement contract with Eyede Ltd, there were several items identified that were agreed to be included in an internal policy that ensured clarity and transparency of contract management.

Marketing – R3 – Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation

Wellington Fish and Game Council has committed to being involved and actively participating in a more structured marketing programme called R3 (recruitment, retention, reactivation). Staff have undertaken some excellent initiatives, but this hasn't been under an umbrella of a structured national marketing plan nor with support from NZ Council. There should be an overview of regional initiatives such as those undertaken in Wellington region to ensure good practice is widely replicated – an example this may be emailing all licence holders in late December including those that had not yet purchased a licence with information (reactivation), and those that had already purchased a licence with information links on access and 'how to tutorials' etc. (retention). There also appears to be wide scope for recruitment of potential anglers who are new to the sport and not already contained in our database system.

Wellington Council has expressed to NZ Council that it needed to be more focused and allocate more resources to the marketing function and licence sales in order to maintain the organisation's financial sustainability. It has been known for several months that there is a projected downturn in licence revenue for the 2020/2021 Fish Season of nearly 15,000 LEQs from non-resident international licence sales due to COVID-19 border restrictions, yet the marketing efforts and initiatives from NZ Council does not seem commensurate with the threat that is posed to Fish and Game's revenue and the urgency required to increase sales.

Wellington Council acknowledges that some marketing efforts have recently been put together focused on the domestic angling tourism market, but consider there needs to be more urgency and resources redirected to regional marketing activities and other initiatives that are nationally coordinated.

Opportunities for Junior and Novice Anglers

The key components of the junior and novice recruitment programme, the *Fish In Schools* education programme and fishing 'success' opportunities from 'fish-out' days for junior anglers were both affected by issues beyond our control. The former initiative was affected by the COVID-19 restrictions at about the time of transferring ova, and the availability of two-year old trout are restricted from Ngongotaha Htchery following a catastrophic slip affecting fish survival.

With the allocation we did get we were able to support the 'junior' or 'family' fishing 'fish out day' programmes and they remain an important component of introducing children to angling. Many thanks to the efforts of fish and game club volunteers that have enabled junior and novice anglers and hunters to become involved in these pursuits. These include:

- Manawatu Freshwater Angling Club continues to support for the family (children's) fishing day at Hokowhitu Lagoon in Palmerston North.
- Wellington Flyfishers Club providing opportunities for hundreds of young anglers from Wellington City catchment at the Capital Trout Centre, Wellington.
- Other initiatives by clubs to recruit more mature novice anglers which is cumulatively very important.
- We are still looking actively to develop new sites or modify existing sites such as Otaki lake

There is a possibility for a co-ordinated publicity response by NZ Council for all junior/novice angling events with the *Take Me Fishing* branding being actively investigated.

Compliance

I thank the efforts of our warranted officers who have again done a great job in ensuring licence holders and public adhere to the relevant regulations. This contribution is highly appreciated by Council. Our honorary rangers undertake their role in a voluntary capacity and have made considerable efforts to undertake training to maintain a safe conduct. They continue to provide Fish & Game with a professional image and to be an important part of our organisation.

Communication

Communication with Licence Holders

Staff continue to put considerable effort into implementing the communication plan that focuses on highlighting the perceived 'value' of the licence to anglers and hunters. The intent is to use several communications channels (including Pre-season Fish & Game NZ Magazine Special Issues, fishing and hunting newsletters, weekly fishing and hunting reports, and modest contributions to the regular e-zines such as Reel Life and Both Barrels;) to regularly contact existing licence holders with relevant and targeted information. Hamish Carnachan has provided a professional approach to all communications over the year that is well received by licence holders. An excellent example of this was providing quality up-to-date information to hunters during COVID -19 restrictions and maintaining positive messaging to the licence holders when a communications vacuum from NZC staff was generating angst amongst our primary stakeholders. The outreach initiatives developed by Wellington Fish & Game were widely taken up by other Fish & Game regions throughout the country illustrating the benefit of having expert staff who can perform a coordination function when required.

Communications – Refining the Message

Council received submissions from several licence holders concerned that there was a degradation of the goodwill for Fish and Game from within the rural community for what appeared to be sustained anti-farming rhetoric. While these national public awareness tactics might have the intent to retain high public awareness of water quality issues or ensuring commitment of government to deliver improvements to water quality, there are tensions created with the rural regional community who feel their licence to operate is under attack.

Council firmly believes that any advocacy position should be internally consistent and then communicated by the wider organisation in clear and easily understandable way to licence holders and public at a regional level.

Council recognises that the water management issues had garnered unprecedented levels of public awareness and public support for improvement, but this peaked a couple of years ago. There are other risks to Fish and Game such as perceptions of trout and native fish interactions that NZ Council had failed to co-ordinate policy on. The recent Lindis Water Allocation Case decision which mentioned perceptions of valuing native fish over trout habitat is a case in point – when the decision described trout as an "introduced pest" which "degrades indigenous ecosystems".

Communication - Protecting the Brand

The three governance audits undertaken for Fish and Game regions: North Canterbury (governance procedures and use of a bequest), Central South Island (managing conflicts of interests), and Hawke's Bay (treatment of conflicts of interest and perceived high staff turnover). There were no findings of gross negligence or misappropriation. This should have been a high priority of the NZ Council to reassure licence holders that governance procedures are adequate, but efforts would be taken for continual improvement. Failing to do this retains a spotlight on the organisation and does not alleviate speculation and inferences of nefarious intent.

Communication Strategy

Wellington Council has long been advocating for the development of a communications strategy that provides for organisational co-ordination of potentially conflicting communications messaging: for advocacy (highlighting poor water quality) and licence sales (promoting quality angling experiences). We proactively developed a positive alternative draft communications strategy to NZ Council that focused on the co-ordination function and ensuring licence holders were seen as a principal stakeholder. Council considered that experts in their fields should be able to make media statements and commentary. The absence of internal communications to governors and staff was a major failing of the original NZ Council-produced draft strategy as this has been identified as an organisational weakness for transparency and co-operation.

Angler and Hunter Access

Maintaining Hunter and Angler Access

Wellington Fish & Game Council acknowledges the importance of maintaining access to the resource for hunters and anglers. We remain vigilant in ensuring recreational planners of district and regional councils take into account hunter and angling access opportunities, especially in traditional sites.

There are increasing pressures on access to several sites due to changes in recreational use focus (for cycling and walking tracks near urban centres), increased sensitivity of the public to hunting on public land, increased sensitivity of the public to general firearms use, and transfer of title of land to iwi following completion of Treaty settlements – which had previously afforded unencumbered public access.

Wellington Council acknowledges the value of access to the resource across private land and while access across private land to public waterways remains an important tradition in New Zealand, it cannot be taken for granted. Worksafe NZ has provided clarifications that deal with overly precautionary approaches by some landowners - confirming that landowners are not responsible for the risks associated with those who are undertaking recreational activities. Fish and Game must continue to work with the rural community to ensure goodwill is enhanced and that public access is granted as a matter of course.

Staff continue to actively manage hunter access to several sites by permit system to: Pencarrow Lakes, Baring Heads, Marton Reservoir, Otaki River, Waiterere forests, and Pukepuke Lagoon. The formation of a Statutory Reserve Board (post Treaty settlement) for Lake Wairarapa will no doubt lead to increased resources required to actively manage maimai allocation and structure authorisation.

Even when these sites that are managed with a highly regulatory approach for hunter access and there are no safety issues, the administering body repeatedly review the continued access. Often the reasons used to restrict access, which have been previously addressed, gain renewed traction in organisations often with changes in their internal culture. Wellington Council was disappointed with GWRC's lack of communication to restrict access to hunters for this season based on presence of *Egeria densa* (an aquatic oxygen weed) in Pencarrow Lakes. There is an expectation of better treatment and respect shown to the hunters who have been extremely vigilant in their practices over the last decade,

Walking Access Commission

A range of specific access issues continue to be directed onto the Commission staff to consider including sites that require clarification of public access rights and seeking advice for the Overseas Investment Office during potential land procurement by overseas based buyers.

Access for gamebird hunting is increasingly under pressure as urban sprawl and changes in ownership and use of public land occur. In contrast, by using the advocacy result above has opened up some upland game hunting opportunities to three sites in eastern Wairarapa that have become available on a limited basis to hunters. While there is some input required to establish a more sustainable pheasant population at these sites, it is encouraging that at least some additional access for hunters is being developed.

Rangitikei River Fisheries Management

In recent years Wellington Council had secured improved access on NZ Defence Force land boundaries including helicopter landing sites, to remove the actual or perceived restrictions in the Upper Rangitikei River. This included procuring public liability insurance as part of the backcountry licence endorsement.

However this agreement was suspended in 2020 - due in part to an internal inquiry and review of all operational activities at Waiouru Base, and more fundamentally NZ Defence Forces response to a Waitangi Tribunal process addressing claims resulting from NZ Defence Force procurement of land from 1939 through to 1973. Wellington Fish & Game Council will continue to renegotiate to the position we had got to in the last decade.

Biosecurity Threats

Wellington Council remains vigilant on the promotion of biosecurity protection measures to stop the spread of Didymo to the North Island – including interisland ferry checks and urging water users to undertake “check, clean, dry” procedures. Wellington Fish & Game Council remains concerned at the performance by the Ministry of Primary Industries regarding biosecurity checks of passengers on the interisland ferries to stop the spread of didymo between islands.

Biodiversity Management

Wellington Council remains apprehensive about strategic direction of the Department of Conservation and Greater Wellington Regional Council to develop proposals to remove exotic fish (including sports fish) that lack scientific rigour in not being outcome based, and the likelihood of

'success' of any management action is not compelling. The Department of Conservation and regional councils should be considering the ethical principles of killing fish for perception value only.

Wellington Fish & Game Council considers there is need for a wider discussion within the Fish & Game organisation on how to process requests for sports fish research, removal, or control - with a view to NZ Fish & Game Council developing national policy on this issue. We requested this be considered in September 2017 but there has been inadequate progression of this policy discussion internally.

As a consequence Wellington Council is forced to consider any applications for removal and research on their merits, and while the staff have developed an excellent decision making process for individual applications, the wider organisation should be considering the strategic direction forward on how we should deal with applications. Wellington Council has had to deal with three applications in recent years:

- Removal of perch from the lower reservoir at Karori Wildlife Sanctuary (*Zealandia*);
- Removal of perch and trout from sites around Lake Wairarapa;
- Research - the effects and interactions of exotic fish on native fish populations.

In dealing with the *Zealandia* application a pragmatic consideration was provided on how to progress the application noting it was on the basis that it was not a precedent, it was a unique area, and it was not conceding a recreational fishery per se. An additional concern was the consenting process run by Greater Wellington Regional Council initially did not consider Fish and Game to be an affected party – even though the statutory responsibility for sports fish management lies with Fish and Game. Wellington Council were able to make comments on the application and subsequently we approved the amended application.

Lake Wairarapa Management

The treaty settlement negotiations between the Crown and iwi negotiators (Kahungunu Wairarapa) continue to be delayed as the iwi seek clarification on completing a mandating exercise for iwi representation. The Wairarapa Moana Governance collective have been spending considerable efforts in developing transition advisory documentation to the proposed Statutory Reserve Board – to ensure consistency of approach.

Issues around privileges of some hunting structures on and around the lake will provide a challenge to hunters in the final legislative settlement process. It was noted in the Agreement in Principle for the Treaty Settlement released in 2017 – that while existing rights would continue (in the foreseeable future) structures were specifically noted as requiring further management consideration. Wellington Council has been proactive in informing hunters that structures on the lakebed and wetlands will come under increased scrutiny and that improvements need to be made urgently to avoid major disruption in the future. Wellington Council has been scrutinising tenure of maimai sites including entitlement to continue tenure (buying a licence) and has established an inventory of hunting sites with GPS co-ordinates and photos of current status.

Council confirmed policy which allows transfer of maimai from primary standholder to secondary standholder for succession - if certain conditions are met. This recognises the provenance of a site and retention of keen hunters to manage sites, but also should free up sites that are not physically used and provide additional hunter opportunity.

Recently the Lake and surrounding area was confirmed as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention⁹ - one of seven sites in New Zealand. While it does not afford any

⁹ Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty for the conservation and wise use of wetlands

additional protections provided by the Water Conservation Order established in 1989, it may be used as a political tool to provide an overly indigenous species management focus.

Habitat Management - Gamebird Habitat Stamp Applications

Staff continue to meet high demand for habitat assistance by providing advice on several wetland projects – with a further three projects in the Wellington region gaining assistance for grants from the Gamebird Habitat Trust Board.

Dr Kavermann also liaised with Te Uru Rākau (Forestry New Zealand) managing the One Billion Trees Programme to secure up to \$360,000 (\$120,000 a year for three years) for the Trust to distribute for planting tree habitat around wetlands.

Commitment to Health and Safety Culture

I reiterate Council's commitment to supporting and resourcing health and safety adequately and ensuring that operational actions are actively practiced. The role of governors is to ensure a positive culture to health and safety issues exists and planned actions from a robust Health and Safety Plan are carried out accordingly.

With COVID-19 there were a whole suite of safety considerations not previously contemplated: where video conferencing meetings became the norm, staff were based from home bases, field operations modified or limited, and interactions with our customers limited.

General - Staffing

On behalf of Council I extend a genuine thanks to our staff, who have continued to contribute to providing the means and actions to achieve gains for the fish and game resource in the Wellington region, and also their wider contributions to national projects. We are extremely fortunate to have staff that are highly competent but always undertake their duties with passion, dedication, and commitment. This year's project reports provide the record of the high level of output and outcomes.

Each has made a significant contribution:

- **Phil Teal** leads the team and provided prudent management in an uncertainty financial time. Phil supports the Council to set strategic direction by providing well researched and relevant considerations and advisory papers. He has fostered a culture that demonstrates respect and encourages staff to use their initiative to fulfil their potential. He has also provided leadership in the wider Fish and Game organisation using over thirty years of experience within the system. His expertise is across a wide variety of functional areas including: developing a strategic approach to research opportunities, maintaining capacity for more efficient and effective regional resource management advocacy, contributing to the review of the licence management system, and contributing to defining focus for a marketing function and R3 programme;
- **Hamish Carnachan** has provided expert communications to media and to maintain public awareness of issues relevant to anglers and hunter in the Wellington region, as well as providing support to other regions. This was particularly evident during the uncertain periods of the early lockdown periods in April this year – where reassurance of our hunting community with timely and accurate communications was required;
- **Dr Matt Kavermann** provides outstanding advice and contribution to our organisation where he principally oversees the technical monitoring of projects and manages the compliance function. Matt has a customer focused approach and deals with licence holders

with great empathy, and is equally comfortable in dealing with regional agencies using robust scientific reasoning;

- **Peter Wilson**, as Senior Environmental Planner, continues to assist many other regions (on a request basis) to represent them in significant regional resource management forums. For Wellington region this has meant being involved in several regional planning projects such as the Greater Wellington Regional Council's plan Environment Court mediation, Horizons Regional Council's One Plan (Plan Change 2), and other significant resource consent processes.
- **Dr Adam Canning** provided outstanding input into developing a research programme using innovative approaches into resource monitoring. He made a major contribution to the Science and Technical Advisory Group in advising the Minister about the future of freshwater management through the development of a new National Policy Statement for freshwater management. In February, this year Adam took up an exciting opportunity as Research Scientist in Townsville, Australia but he has continued to contribute (pro bono) technical advice which is widely respected.
- **Nathan Field, Colin Shore, and Ami Coughlan** have provided much needed impetus, enthusiasm, and high competence, using complementary skill sets, to make a valued contribution to the team in aspects relating to technical projects, resource management advocacy, and logistical project management.
- **Corinne Deans, Jilli Steadman, and Sue Wray** provided consistently professional and accurate administrative and financial management input. Their diligence and contribution are widely appreciated. I acknowledge Sue's semi-retirement after many loyal years of service.
- **Dr David Pontin** undertook a sabbatical programme offered to secondary school science teachers by the Royal Society, whereby he had a six-month placement with an organisation (Wellington Fish and Game Council) to look at application of science in practical situations.

Recognition of Outstanding Contribution to Fish & Game

Wellington Fish & Game Council have developed a programme to recognise contributions of individuals both internally and externally who have made a significant contribution to management of the fish and game resource in Wellington region including angler and hunter recruitment.

This year we have recognised the following:

- **Gordon Barker** - For outstanding contributions to Manawatu Anglers' Club Family Fishing Days recruitment programme.
- **Dan Brizzle** - For outstanding contributions to Horowhenua Freshwater Anglers Club including their associated activities of Fish in Schools programme and Otaki lake children's fishing day.
- **Wayne Cameron** – For outstanding contribution to representing angling interests in the Kapiti Coast freshwater resources.
- **Hugh Driver** – For outstanding contribution to representing angling interests in the Kapiti Coast freshwater resources.
- **Marc Flaws** – Outstanding contribution to Fish and Game governance on the Wellington Fish & Game Council.
- **Daniel Merritt** – Significant voluntary contributions to the mallard banding programme over the five years.

There are a number of other worthy recipients that will be presented with their recognition awards in due course.

This year we also marked the passing of two Fish and Game stalwarts – Don McCulloch and Reg Cull - who have left a legacy for future generations through their leadership and passion for the fish and game resource.

Governance – Licence Holder Engagement

The Fish and Game system in New Zealand is unique in the world - it provides direct input from recreational users as to how the fish and game resource can be managed in their recreational interests. We need to protect and foster the principles that the legislation was developed. Fish & Game needs to ensure we do not disconnect with our licence holders, in fact we need to actively engage with them to retain an understanding hunter and angler of their needs and motivations to ensure decision making reflects their interests.

Part of that is retaining the confidence and respect of the licence holders in terms of ensuring our governance practices are modern, appropriate, and fit for purpose. The three recent audits of regional governance, managing conflicts of interest appropriately, and ensuring governance is undertaken with the best interests of hunters and anglers puts the spotlight on Fish and Game. Wellington Fish and Game Council undertook specialist governance training at the start of this three year period of representation, and remain acutely aware of our responsibilities as governors.

The governance board for Wellington Council have all contributed to bring to the attention of the wider Council issues that are important to licence holders and shape our strategic direction. I acknowledge the contributions that all councillors are making in terms of their time and energy on a voluntary basis, and importantly their perspectives to promote our licence holders' rights and interests.

In particular, I acknowledge the personal commitment of Paul Shortis who has fulfilled his role as appointee to NZ Council with distinction. Paul was elected as NZ Council chairman in May 2020 and under his leadership, derived from his extensive skills gained in the corporate sector and life experiences, provided the organisation with an improved culture of transparency and co-operation. It was critical that any review of the wider organisation's governance arrangements and resource allocation were undertaken with integrity and inclusiveness.

It has been a challenging year, and it will be continuing to be challenging in the foreseeable future. It is reassuring to see the commitment by all in contributing your time, passion, experience, and skills to retain the culture and tradition of these pursuits.

Thank you for your efforts.

Strato Cotsilinis
Chairman
Wellington Fish and Game Council

1 December 2020

**STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

The Council and management of Wellington Fish and Game Council accepts responsibility for the preparation of the Annual Financial Statements and the judgements used in them.

The Council and management of Wellington Fish and Game Council accepts responsibility for establishing and maintaining a system of internal control designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the integrity and reliability of financial reporting.

In the Opinion of the Council and management of the Wellington Fish and Game Council, the Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2020, fairly reflect the financial position and operations of Wellington Fish and Game Council



Chairman
Strato Cotsilinis
1 December 2020



Manager
Phil Teal
1 December 2020

Statement of Financial Performance
For the Year Ended 31 August 2020

	Note	Actual 2020 \$	Unaudited Budget 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
REVENUE				
Fish and Game licence sales	1	610,599	626,553	627,198
Grants and Donations	1	276,702	220,275	166,887
Interest	1	9,306	11,644	11,031
Funding from central or local government	1	4,000	4,000	4,000
Other Revenue	1	51,925	11,400	97,655
Total Revenue		952,533	873,872	906,771
EXPENSES				
Outputs				
Species Management	2	57,741	44,300	71,723
Habitat Protection & Management	2	66,298	13,450	12,338
Angler & Hunter Participation	2	34,198	32,805	36,942
Public Interface	2	1,028	2,500	748
Compliance	2	1,018	7,000	6,712
Licencing	2	25,191	28,195	25,939
Council	2	3,763	6,000	6,225
Planning & Reporting	2	15,334	9,000	43,271
Overheads				
Employee Related Costs	2	483,257	598,799	586,768
Depreciation	4	25,214	24,229	30,939
Other Expenses	2	116,899	133,823	127,806
Total Expenses		829,940	900,101	949,411
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		122,593	(26,229)	(42,640)

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form an integral part of this performance report. This performance report should be read in conjunction with the audit report.

Statement of Financial Position
For the year ended 31 August 2020

	Notes	Actual 2020 \$	Unaudited Budget 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Bank accounts and cash	3	329,474	252,283	190,983
Debtors and prepayments	3	47,427	90,000	34,385
Total Current Assets		376,901	342,283	225,368
Non Current Assets				
Property plant and equipment	4	239,655	236,089	264,868
Investments	3	335,727	360,000	326,425
Total Non-Current Assets		575,382	596,089	591,293
TOTAL ASSETS		952,283	938,372	816,661
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Creditors and accrued expenses	3	89,165	160,000	64,267
Income in advance	3	51,720	-	47,117
Employee costs payable	3	107,600	85,000	124,071
Total Current Liabilities		248,485	245,000	235,455
TOTAL LIABILITIES		248,485	245,000	235,455
NET ASSETS / (LIABILITIES)		703,798	693,372	581,206
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		703,798	693,372	581,206

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form an integral part of this performance report. This performance report should be read in conjunction with the audit report.

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 31 August 2020

	Note	Actual 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash was received from:			
Licence Sales		612,350	628,359
Grants, donations and fundraising		276,702	187,603
Interest		9,379	11,050
Funding from central or local government		6,000	6,000
Other Revenue		48,896	99,280
Cash was applied to:			
Payments to Suppliers		314,575	334,506
Payments to Employees		499,728	569,218
GST (net)		(8,768)	(3,046)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities		147,793	31,614
CASHFLOWS FROM INVESTING & FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash from received from:			
Sale of property, plant and equipment		-	-
Sale of investments/deposits		-	-
Cash was applied to:			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		-	46,840
Purchase of investments/deposits		9,302	10,859
Net Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities		(9,302)	(57,698)
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash		138,491	(26,084)
Opening Cash		190,983	217,067
Closing Cash		329,474	190,983
This is Represented by:			
Bank accounts and cash		329,474	190,983

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form an integral part of this performance report. This performance report should be read in conjunction with the audit report.

Statement of Accounting Policies
For the Year Ended 31 August 2020

ACCOUNTING POLICIES APPLIED

Reporting Entity

Wellington Fish and Game Council is a Public Entity under the Public Finance Act 1989 (Schedule 4). The Council was established on 4 May 1991 with the passing of the Conservation Law Reform Act 1990. This performance report has been prepared in accordance with Section 153-6 of the Crown Entities Act 2004.

Basis of Preparation

Wellington Fish and Game Council has elected to apply Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting – Accrual (Public Sector) PBE SFR-A (PS) on the basis that it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses of equal to or less than \$2,000,000. All transactions in the Performance Report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. The Performance Report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

Goods & Services Tax (GST)

The Council is registered for GST. All amounts are recorded exclusive of GST, except for Debtors and Creditors which are stated inclusive of GST.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Revenue Recognition

Wellington Fish and Game Council derives revenue through the sale of fish and game licences, interest, sale of fish product, contracts, rentals, grants and miscellaneous sales. All are recorded as revenue in the period they are earned. However, for any grants, where there are unfulfilled conditions attaching to the grants, the unfulfilled amount is recognised as a liability and released to income as the conditions are fulfilled.

Licence Revenue

Licence revenue is recognised in relation to the period covered by the Game Bird or Fish Licence. Any licence money received for a licence in advance will be treated as a liability.

Grants Received

Grants are recognised as revenue when they become receivable unless there is an obligation in substance to return the funds if conditions of the grant are not met. If there is such an obligation, the grants are initially recorded as grants received in advance and recognised as revenue when the conditions of the grant is satisfied.

Grant from NZFGC

An annual grant was provided from the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, which is recognised as revenue when it is received.

Interest

Interest revenue is recorded as it is earned during the year.

Outputs

The Council has allocated expenditure based on the 8 output codes – Species management, Habitat Protection & management, Angler & Hunter participation, Public interface, Compliance, Licencing, Council and Planning & reporting. These are expensed when the related service has been received.

Employee related costs

Wages, salaries and annual leave are recorded as an expense as staff provide services and became entitled to wages, salaries.

Performance payments are recorded when the employee is notified.

Superannuation contributions are recorded as an expense as staff provide services.

Bank accounts and cash

Bank Accounts and cash comprise cash on hand, cheque or savings accounts, and deposits held at call with banks.

Debtors and Prepayments

Debtors are initially recorded at the amount owed. When it is likely the amount owed (or some portion) will not be collected, a provision for impairment is recognised and the loss is recorded as a bad debt expense.

Investments

Investments comprise investments in term deposits with banks.

Deposits with banks are initially recorded at the amount paid. If it appears that the carrying amount of the investment will not be recovered, it will be written down to the expected recoverable amount.

Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment is recorded at cost, less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Donated assets are recognised upon receipt of the asset if the asset has a useful life of 12 months or more, and the current value of the asset is readily obtainable and significant. Significant donated assets for which current values are not readily obtainable are not recognised. For an asset to be sold, the asset is impaired if the market price for the equivalent asset falls below its carrying amount. For an asset to be used by the Council, the asset is impaired if the value to the Council in using the assets falls below the carrying amount of the assets.

Depreciation is provided on a diminishing value basis at rates that will write off the cost of the assets over their useful lives. The useful lives and associated depreciation rates of the

Buildings	40 years (2.5%)
Plant & Equipment	2 – 20 years (11.4% to 50%)
Motor Vehicles	10 Years (20 - 24%)
Office Equipment	3 – 10 years (11.4% to 50%)

Creditors and accrued expenses

Creditors and accrued expenses are measured at the amount owed.

Game Bird Habitat Stamp levy

Levies of \$12,612.17 have been collected and are paid to New Zealand Fish and Game Council per the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Stamp Regulations 1993.

Employee costs payable

A liability for employee costs payable is recognised when an employee has earned an entitlement. These include salaries and wages accrued up to balance date and annual leave earned but not yet taken at balance date. A liability and expense for long service leave and retirement gratuities is recognised when the entitlement becomes available to the employee.

Restricted Reserves

Restricted reserves are those reserves subject to specific conditions accepted as binding by the Council and which may not be advised by the Council without specific purpose or when certain conditions are met.

Non-Resident Licence Income

The back country fisheries reserve is for the purpose of management of “back country fisheries”. The reserve was established with the introduction of the Non-Resident Licence Fee in 2014. A portion of this licence fee is transferred to this reserve based on the number of non-resident licence sales in the financial year.

Rangitikei Fish Monitoring Reserve

This reserve is used for the monitoring of the upper reaches of the Rangitikei River.

JK Donald Block Track

This reserve is to fund the maintenance and upkeep of the JK Donald Block track at Lake Wairarapa. Income for this fund is derived from the sale of vehicle access stickers.

Kilmore Lodge

This fund is for the maintenance and upkeep of Kilmore Lodge at Lake Wairarapa. Income for this reserve is derived from hunters paying for accommodation costs.

Reparation

This reserve is for works and projects that contribute to the Fish and Game resource such as habitat maintenance and compliance management.

Asset Replacement Funding

For the maintenance and upkeep of the Fixed Assets

Enhancement & Education Programme

This reserve is for works and projects that contribute to the Fish and Game resource such as enhancement of the Fish and Game resource and education opportunities. Income for this reserve is derived from compliance actions.

Income Tax

The Council is a Public Benefit Entity and is exempt from the payment of Income Tax in terms of the Income Tax Act 2007.

Budget Figures

The Budget figures are derived from the Council budget that was approved at the Council meeting in 20 August 2019.

Tier 2 PBE Accounting Standards applied

The Council has not applied any Tier 2 Accounting Standards in preparing its financial statements.

Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no specific changes in accounting policies and they have been applied on a consistent basis with those of the previous period.

Notes to the Performance Report
For the Year Ended 31 August 2020

NOTE 1: ANALYSIS OF REVENUE	Actual 2020 \$	Unaudited Budget 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
Licence sales			
Fish Licence	347,313	346,147	337,803
Non-Resident Licence Levy	7,808	-	6,905
Game licence	255,478	280,406	282,490
Total	610,599	626,553	627,198
Grants and donations			
Grant from Genesis	21,840	16,000	21,083
National Fish and Game Grant	204,275	204,275	145,789
COVID-19 Wage Subsidy	50,578	-	-
Donations / Koha from the Public	10	-	15
Total	276,702	220,275	166,887
Interest			
Other interest	9,306	11,644	11,031
Total	9,306	11,644	11,031
Funding from central or local Government			
General funding from central or local government	4,000	4,000	4,000
Total	4,000	4,000	4,000
Other revenue			
Fines / Prosecutions	-	5,000	3,151
Trout liberations	4,000	2,000	5,032
Junior/Novice Training	8,438	-	7,513
Lake Wairarapa Hunter Access	1,174	1,000	1,304
Hunter Access	2,247	3,000	2,517
Back Country Licence	2,000	-	3,978
Kilmore Lodge	1,252	-	900
Public Awareness	2,380	-	4
Hunter Training	348	400	348
Other RMA Income	21,328	-	28,331
Gamebird Population Assessment	-	-	9
National Projects	8,759	-	44,568
Total	51,925	11,400	97,655

NOTE 2: ANALYSIS OF EXPENSE	Actual 2020 \$	Unaudited Budget 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
Species management			
Population monitoring	41,762	28,500	52,251
Harvest assessment	3,792	3,300	4,845
Liberations	12,176	11,500	14,552
Regulations	11	-	-
Control	-	1,000	75
Total	57,741	44,300	71,723
Habitat protection & management			
Resource management	61,654	1,200	7,687
Works & management	2,522	8,000	4,651
Assisted habitat	2,122	4,250	-
Total	66,298	13,450	12,338
Angler & Hunter participation			
Access	3,536	10,800	5,717
Newsletters	11,403	13,000	12,470
Information to Clients	10,072	4,000	5,710
Training	9,036	5,005	13,047
Club relations	151	-	-
Total	34,198	32,805	36,942
Public interface			
Advocacy	237	500	45
Public promotions	791	2,000	703
Total	1,028	2,500	748
Compliance			
Ranging	203	1,000	1,363
Ranger training	417	1,000	1,087
Compliance	398	5,000	4,262
Total	1,018	7,000	6,712
Licencing			
Licence production & distribution	140	-	125
Commission	25,051	28,195	25,814
Total	25,191	28,195	25,939
Council			
Council meetings	3,763	6,000	6,225
Total	3,763	6,000	6,225
Planning & reporting			
Reporting	5,700	9,000	5,700
National liaison	9,634	-	37,571
Total	15,334	9,000	43,271
Employee related costs			
Salaries and wages	475,712	584,109	573,820
FBT	-	2,090	-
Staff related costs	7,545	9,000	11,409
ACC Levies	-	3,600	1,539
Total	483,257	598,799	586,768

NOTE 2: ANALYSIS OF EXPENSE	Actual 2020 \$	Unaudited Budget 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
Other expenses			
Office premises	38,059	43,050	36,246
Office equipment	2,933	2,500	5,455
Communications	19,797	17,479	20,124
General	10,486	10,650	10,801
Field equipment	1,135	500	1,990
Vehicles	44,490	48,000	52,848
Loss on sale of assets	-	-	342
Asset Replacement Funding	-	11,644	-
Total	116,899	133,823	127,806

NOTE 3: ANALYSIS ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	Actual 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
Bank accounts and cash		
ANZ Select	319,579	180,992
ANZ Cheque Account	127	227
Enhancement Program	9,769	9,764
Total	329,474	190,983
Debtors and other receivables		
Accounts receivable	35,971	31,765
Accrued Interest	91	164
Prepayments	11,365	2,456
Total	47,427	34,385
Investments		
Term Deposits	335,727	326,425
Total	335,727	326,425
Creditors and accrued expenses		
Trade and other payables	48,376	32,186
GST Payable	33,040	24,272
Accrued Expenses	7,749	7,809
Total	89,165	64,267
Income in advance		
Income in advance	51,720	47,117
Total	51,720	47,117
Employee costs payable		
Accrued salaries and wages	15,066	25,482
Annual leave	83,087	85,888
PAYE owing	9,447	12,701
Total	107,600	124,071

NOTE 4: PROPERTY PLANT & EQUIPMENT

2020					
	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Sales / Disposals	Current year Depreciation and Impairment	Closing Carrying Amount
Asset Class					
Land	126,552	-	-	-	126,552
Buildings	3,293	-	-	182	3,111
Plant & Equipment	10,994	-	-	2,017	8,977
Vehicles	116,905	-	-	20,685	96,220
Office Equipment	7,125	-	-	2,330	4,795
Total	264,868	-	-	25,214	239,655
2019					
	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Sales / Disposals	Current year Depreciation and Impairment	Closing Carrying Amount
Asset Class					
Land	126,552	-	-	-	126,552
Buildings	3,475	-	-	182	3,293
Plant & Equipment	8,058	5,110	204	1,970	10,994
Vehicles	99,795	41,730	-	24,620	116,905
Office Equipment	11,430	-	138	4,167	7,125
Total	249,310	46,840	342	30,939	264,868

The combined value of the Council's land at Simmonds Lagoon and at Lake Omanu is disclosed in the Schedule of Fixed Assets at a total value of \$126,552. The Council considers that the fair values of these lands are respectively \$330,000, as determined at 1 September 2017 for South Wairarapa District Council, and \$600,000, as determined at 1 August 2019 for Horowhenua District Council, by Quotable Value New Zealand Ltd. The Council does not consider the cost of formal revaluation that would be required to substantiate any write up of the land values to be warranted at this time.

NOTE 5: ACCUMULATED FUNDS	Actual 2020 \$	Actual 2019 \$
Accumulated Surplus / (Deficit)		
Balance as at 1 September	374,178	388,704
Surplus / (Deficit)	122,593	(42,640)
Transfer to Restricted Reserves	(43,718)	(45,136)
Transfer from Restricted Reserves	25,266	73,251
Balance at 31 August	478,319	374,178
Restricted Reserves		
Asset Replacement Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	64,437	94,375
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	11,644	11,793
Transfer to Accumulated Funds	-	(41,731)
Balance at 31 August	76,081	64,437
Non-Resident Licence Levy		
Balance as at 1 September	23,211	16,306
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	7,808	6,905
Transfer to Accumulated Funds	-	-
Balance at 31 August	31,019	23,211
Rangitikei River Fish Monitoring Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	70,455	80,340
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	21,840	21,083
Transfer to Accumulated Funds	(24,543)	(30,968)
Balance at 31 August	67,752	70,455
Reparation Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	35,361	35,361
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	-	-
Transfer to Accumulated Funds	-	-
Balance at 31 August	35,361	35,361
Kilmore Lodge		
Balance as at 1 September	1,619	984
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	1,252	900
Transfer to Accumulated Funds	(436)	(265)
Balance at 31 August	2,435	1,619
JK Donald Track		
Balance as at 1 September	2,452	1,435
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	1,174	1,304
Transfer to Accumulated Funds	(287)	(287)
Balance at 31 August	3,339	2,452
Enhancement & Education Programme		
Balance as at 1 September	9,493	6,342
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	-	3,151
Transfer to Accumulated Funds	-	-
Balance at 31 August	9,493	9,493
Dedicated Reserves as at 31 August	225,480	207,028
Total Equity as at 31 August	703,798	581,206

NOTE 6: COMMITMENTS & CONTINGENCIES

Commitment to:	Explanation and Timing
Office Lease	Lease expiring 28 February 2025
Operating leases means payments for the Wellington Fish and Game Council premises. Wellington Fish and Game Council has a lease in place for the Council premises, expiring in February 2025 costing \$26,000 per annum. There is one right of renewal in 2022.	

Commitments

Jeremy McGuire, Lawyer was involved in one prosecution for Wellington Fish & Game. The prosecution is yet to be finalised. There are no funds held by Jeremy McGuire, Lawyer that are due to Wellington Fish and Game Council.

NOTE 7: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Related Party	Description of the Transaction	2019/20 Value	2018/19 Value	2019/20 Amount Outstanding	2018/19 Amount Outstanding
NZ Fish and Game Council	Grants received	204,275	145,789	-	-
	Reimbursement from NZ Fish and Game Council Legal fund of costs incurred	15,180	5,039		
	Reimbursement from NZ Fish and Game Council for research (eDNA Project and Native / Trout interactions Research)	6,635	41,453	-	-
Strato Cotsilinis	Trout partly paid for by Wellington Fish and Game Council in respect of children's fishing days	4,000	5,032	-	-
Lee Cook	Councillors son assisted with field work	1,038	1,678	-	-
Colin Shore	Councillor, assisted with banding	9,140	8,926		

Paul Shortis held the position of Chairman of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council. He resigned as Chairman on 22 November 2020.

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council is by statute a related party, with a financial redistribution for regional Fish and Game Councils. In the reporting year, Wellington Fish and Game Council received a grant totaling \$204,279 to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (2018/19 received grant; \$145,789). There are nil outstanding balances at year end (2019; nil).

Strato Cotsilinis is a Councillor, and a member of the Executive Committee of Wellington Flyfishers Club. The Wellington Flyfishers Club organizes children's fishing days with trout partly paid for by Wellington Fish and Game Council. The total external cost of trout was \$12,176 excl GST (2019;

\$21,600). A contribution of \$4,000 (2019; \$5,032) was invoiced to Wellington Flyfishers Club. The outstanding balance at year end is \$3,000 (2019; \$4,260). The net cost to Wellington Fish and Game Council was \$8,176.

Jim Cook is a Councillor, and Lee Cook is his son. Lee Cook worked for Wellington Fish and Game Council for 45.5 hours assisting with field work and was paid \$1,037.

Colin Shore is councillor, who was employed to assist with banding and various other field work 353 hours \$9,140.

There were no other related party transactions. There are nil provisions for doubtful debts or expenses for bad debts, and no guarantees given or received for all related parties.

NOTE 8: EVENTS AFTER BALANCE DATE

There were no events that have occurred after the balance date that would have a material impact on the Performance Report.

NOTE 9: ALLOCATION OF OVERHEADS TO OUTPUT AREAS FOR 2020

In the Statement of performance, overheads are allocated across the 8 output areas based on the hours worked within those Outputs over the year. Below is the calculation for distributing the overheads across the output area.

ACTUAL 2020

Output Area	Actual Direct \$	Actual Hours	Allocation of Overheads	Total Costs per Output
Species management	57,741	1,582	130,471	188,212
Habitat protection & management	66,298	2,260	186,378	252,676
Angler & hunter participation	34,198	1,368	112,763	146,961
Public interface	1,028	724	59,700	60,728
Compliance	1,018	275	22,635	23,653
Licencing	25,191	10	825	26,015
Council	3,763	444	36,612	40,375
Planning & reporting	15,334	922	75,986	91,321
Totals	204,570	7,584	625,370	829,941

Actual Overheads

Employee related costs	483,257
Depreciation	25,214
Other expenses	116,899
Total Overheads to allocate	625,370

BUDGET 2020

Output Area	Budget Direct \$	Budget Hours	Allocation of Overheads	Total Costs per Output
Species management	44,300	1,926	156,104	200,404
Habitat protection & management	13,450	4,360	353,381	366,831
Angler & hunter participation	32,805	1,474	119,469	152,274
Public interface	2,500	252	20,425	22,925
Compliance	7,000	266	21,559	28,559
Licencing	28,195	124	10,050	38,245
Council	6,000	316	25,612	31,612
Planning & reporting	9,000	620	50,251	59,251
Totals	143,250	9,338	756,851	900,101

Budget Overheads

Employee related costs	598,799
Depreciation	24,229
Other expenses	133,823
Total Overheads to allocate	756,851

NOTE 10: COVID RESPONSE

Covid-19 has had a financial impact on Wellington Fish and Game Council. Licence revenue was reduced due to the lock down and the closure of the New Zealand borders. At the beginning of the lockdown there was uncertainty as to whether there would be a game season, however, positive lobbying from Fish and Game ensured that there was a Game season, all be it, delayed and shortened. This softened the financial impact of reduced income. The Wellington Fish and Game Council opted

to apply for the Wage subsidy, as it met the criteria and wanted to ensure all our staff were fully employed. The 2019/20 budget was scrutinised and only essential work and spending was undertaken in order to reduce the impact of reduced licence income.

There has been a national response to the next financial year (2020/21) and the Wellington Fish and Game Council has reduced the budget for the 2020/21 year along with a reduced projection of licence income. The Wellington Fish and Game Council has accepted that in the 2020/21 year it will use reserves to cover any shortfalls.

The NZFGC has established a policy to support any Fish and Game region to ensure liquidity and to ensure that all Fish and Game Councils remain a going concern.

STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE
For the Year Ended 31 August 2020

Introduction

This section of the Annual Report sets out what was planned to be achieved in each of the projects undertaken, as stated in the Council's Annual Plan, and against this, reports what was actually achieved.

PROJECT 1111 SPORTS FISH POPULATION MONITORING

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>Trout populations in all fisheries in the Wellington Fish and Game Region, that are valued by licence holders, will remain stable over time.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref A9.1.1)</p>	<p>Information gained by drift diving and spawning surveys, as planned in Council's adopted Sports Fish Monitoring Strategy, will result in identifying implications for sports fish management. A report by professional staff on the results of the year's fieldwork will be presented to the Council to 31 August 2020.</p>	<p>Drift dive surveys were undertaken in 46 transects of 13 rivers, and a report on the results of this, by professional staff, was presented to the Council on 13 October 2020.</p> <p>Trout spawning visual surveys were conducted on 2 rivers and streams and eDNA samples were collected from 1 stream, electric fishing machine surveys were completed on 12 streams.</p>

PROJECT 1112 RANGITIKEI TROUT FISHERY MANAGEMENT

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>Sports fisheries that exhibit characteristics that are valued by anglers will be identified and safeguarded.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref A9.3.5)</p>	<p>The implementation of a programme of research, monitoring and compliance work, with financial support from, and a report to, Genesis Power Limited, by 31 August 2020.</p> <p>Operate a backcountry licence for the Upper Rangitikei fisheries.</p> <p>Budgeted income of \$16,000</p>	<p>Obtained information on trout abundance, spawning and recruitment.</p> <p>Seven drift dives totalling 19km were completed for the Upper Rangitikei in 2020.</p> <p>The water sampling for a study using water chemistry and otolith micro chemistry analysis was undertaken for a third year within the upper Rangitikei catchment. 7 sites had water samples taken for microchemical analysis.</p> <p>A backcountry licence has continued to be issued.</p> <p>A report to Genesis Power Ltd was completed in July 2020 and presented to Council 11 August 2020.</p> <p>Receipt of \$21,839 was received from Genesis Power Ltd. Some of these funds have been carried forward to 2020/2021.</p>

PROJECT 1113 RIVER CONTROL FISHERY ASSESSMENT

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>The quality and quantity of trout habitat in the Wellington Fish and Game region will remain stable over time.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref A9.1.3).</p>	<p>Information gained by drift diving will result in assessment of the impacts of river control works on trout habitats and populations in the Hutt and Waikanae Rivers.</p> <p>A progress report by professional staff on the results of the fieldwork will be presented to Greater Wellington Regional Council by 31 August 2020.</p> <p>Income of \$4,000 was budgeted from Greater Wellington Regional Council.</p>	<p>Drift diving in the Hutt, Otaki and Waikanae rivers was undertaken as part of an ongoing programme.</p> <p>A report by professional staff, summarising the results of the field work was presented to Greater Wellington Regional Council in July 2020, and the report was presented to Wellington Fish and Game Council on 9 June 2020.</p> <p>Receipt of \$4,000 from Greater Wellington Regional Council.</p>

PROJECT 1114 GAMEBIRD POPULATION ASSESSMENTS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>The Wellington regional populations of gamebirds are managed to remain relatively stable over time.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref C9.1.1, D9.1.1, E9.1.1, F9.1.1, G9.1.1, H9.1.1).</p>	<p>Information gained by autumn counts of the regional populations of mallard/grey ducks and pukeko; summer trend counts of paradise shelduck and black swan; and late winter counts of shoveler ducks, will result in identifying implications for game bird management.</p> <p>A report by professional staff on the results of the fieldwork will be presented to the Council to 31 August 2020.</p>	<p>A report by professional staff, detailing autumn population assessments and trends for mallard/grey duck hybrids, paradise shelduck, shoveler, black swan and pukeko, with management implications, was received by the Council on 13 October 2020</p>



PROJECT 1121 NATIONAL HUNTER SURVEY

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>Hunter harvest of gamebirds will be controlled so it is not the cause of any population's demise.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref C9.1.2, D9.1.2, E9.1.2, F9.3.1, G9.1.2, H9.1.2, I9.1.1).</p>	<p>Information gained from game licence holders during the 2020 game season, collected by participation in this externally analysed and nationally coordinated annual survey, will result in identifying implications for game bird management.</p> <p>A report by professional staff on the results of the 2020 survey will be presented to the Council to 31 August 2020.</p>	<p>The 2020 national hunter survey was undertaken during the 2020 game season, and a report by professional staff detailing game bird harvest levels for the 2020 game seasons, comparing these with 28 previous years' harvest assessments and detailing management implications, was received by the Council on 13 October 2020.</p>

PROJECT 1123 REGIONAL ANGLER SURVEY

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>85% of licensed anglers have a satisfactory angling experience, and will be satisfied with the availability, quality and extent of information available.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref A9.3.2, A9.3.6.)</p>	<p>Information gained by surveying fish licence holders during the 2019/20 financial year will result in identifying implications for fisheries management.</p> <p>A report by professional staff on the results of the survey will be presented to the Council to 31 August 2020.</p>	<p>Undertook survey of anglers to assess opinion on changing format of regulations to electronic form including APP.</p> <p>A report by professional on the results of the survey was presented to Wellington Fish and Game Council on 13th October 2020.</p>

PROJECT 1124 REGIONAL HUNTER SURVEY

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>90% of dabbling duck hunters have a satisfactory hunting experience, and will be satisfied with the availability, quality and extent of information available.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref C9.3.1 C9.3.6).</p>	<p>Information gained by surveying game licence holders during the 2019/20 financial year will result in identifying implications for game management.</p> <p>A report by professional staff on the results of the survey will be presented to the Council to 31 August 2020.</p>	<p>As part of the National Gamebird Harvest Survey a series of questions relating to Wellington region hunters' satisfaction and participation were undertaken.</p> <p>Analysis of the results was completed and a report was presented to Wellington Fish and Game Council on 13 October 2020.</p>

PROJECT 1161 TROUT LIBERATIONS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>The maintenance and improvement of trout fisheries by stocking with hatchery-reared fish where this is necessary, achievable and cost effective.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref A9.1.5).</p>	<p>The provision of 2,000 healthy two-year-old rainbow trout at Capital Trout Centre, Wellington, by 31 August 2020.</p> <p>Income of \$2,000 was budgeted.</p> <p>The provision of at least 500 healthy two-year old rainbow trout at Hokowhitu Lagoon with view to supporting a junior novice fishing day promotion.</p> <p>The provision of at least 200 healthy two-year old rainbow trout at Otaki with view to supporting a junior novice fishing day promotion.</p>	<p>1000 rainbow trout from Ngongotaha Hatchery, Rotorua were delivered to Capital Trout Centre (1000 rainbow trout on 20 August 2020 and 330 on 9 November 2019. Eastern Region Fish & Game Council provided transport.</p> <p>Total costs for the Capital Trout Centre were \$12,175.87 offset by the receipt of \$3,500.00 from Wellington Flyfishers Club.</p> <p>750 rainbow trout liberated into Hokowhitu Lagoon, Palmerston North for event on 9 November 2019.</p> <p>Total costs for the Hokowhitu Lagoon, Palmerston North were \$8740 offset by the receipt of \$8438 from sponsors. (see project 1354)</p> <p>No rainbow trout liberated into Otaki Gravel Lake, Otaki in 2020.</p> <p>There were no costs for the Otaki event.</p>

PROJECT 1171 SEASON REGULATIONS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>The maintenance and improvement of the region's sportsfish and gamebird resources, by the formulation and recommendation to the NZ Fish and Game Council of season conditions for fishing and game hunting seasons, that can be demonstrated to be sustainable.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref A9.1.2)</p>	<p>The dispatch of the Council's draft recommendations for 2020 game hunting season conditions to New Zealand Fish and Game Council by 6 February 2020.</p> <p>The dispatch of the Council's draft recommendations for the 2020/2021 fishing season conditions to New Zealand Fish and Game Council by 30 June 2020.</p>	<p>Council's draft recommendations for the 2020 game hunting season conditions were sent to New Zealand Fish and Game Council on 4 February 2020</p> <p>Council's draft recommendations for 2020/2021 fishing season conditions were sent to New Zealand Fish and Game Council on 21 July 2020.</p>



PROJECT 1172 KEEP AND RELEASE APPROVALS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>The protection of Wellington Fish and Game region's indigenous biodiversity and trout habitat.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref A9.1.3, A9.2.2, I9.2.2)</p>	<p>All keepings of gamebirds, and all releases of sportsfish, other fish, and gamebirds will be subject to appropriate statutory approvals.</p>	<p>There were no gazetted Game preserves operating under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Act 1953.</p> <p>There were two game preserves operating under Schedule 3 of the Wildlife Act 1953 (ministerial approval) in the Wellington region in 2020.</p>

PROJECT 1181 GAMEBIRD DISPERSAL

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>The dispersal or control of congregations of gamebird, where they cause unacceptable damage to farmers' crops, is undertaken in a timely and cost effective manner.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref C9.2.1, E9.2.1, F9.2.1, F9.2.2, G9.2.1, H9.2.1)</p>	<p>The dispersal or control of gamebirds where they cause unacceptable damage to farmers' crops is undertaken in a timely and cost effective manner.</p> <p>A report by professional staff on the performance of game bird dispersal throughout Wellington Fish and Game region for the reporting year will be presented to the Council to 31 August 2020.</p>	<p>Fish and Game issue permits to disturb game birds in specified areas and in specific circumstances.</p> <p>70 permits were issued, compared to 64 the previous year, with details reported to Council on 13 October 2020.</p>

PROJECT 1211 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>The quality and quantity of trout habitat in the Wellington Fish and Game region will remain stable over time.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref A9.1.3)</p>	<p>Submissions on resource consent applications and plan proposals will be made as appropriate, seeking to achieve trout habitat protection and wetland conservation.</p>	<p>Council staff responded to resource management issues throughout the year as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Pre applications liaisons and site visits 2 Section 95 approvals (non-notified) 7 Approvals for consent variance 2 Section 96 submissions in opposition 10 Consents on Hold 2 Pre-hearing meetings 5 Post Hearing Follow up (appeal prospects to join other parties) 6 Review or monitor consent compliance or implementation 1 Liaison meetings with Regional Council staff/stakeholder meetings on planning issues <p>The Senior Environmental Planner undertakes work with other Fish and Game regions undertaking nationally significant resource management and regional planning projects.</p>

PROJECT 1212 HABITAT ADVOCACY

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
The quality and quantity of trout habitat in the Wellington Fish and Game region will remain stable over time. (Mgt Plan ref A9.1.3)	The promotion of habitat protection and enhancement, outside the Resource Management Act procedures, as opportunities allow.	Fish and Game staff met local government and other officials and undertook investigations to advocate for habitat protection and enhancement on 1 occasion for all Wairarapa Catchment Management Committees

PROJECT 1213 TROUT HABITAT INVENTORY

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
The quality and quantity of trout habitat in the Wellington Fish and Game region will remain stable over time. (Mgt Plan ref A9.1.3)	A report by professional staff on current trout habitat and spawning inventory, will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2020.	Concurrent report on Trout spawning surveys (1111A) submitted to Council on 13 th October 2020.

PROJECT 1222 LAKE WAIRARAPA HABITAT

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
To maintain and enhance the gamebird habitat at the north east margin of Lake Wairarapa. (no Mgt Plan ref, Statutory ref sec 26Q(1)(b)(v).)	The payment of rates on the Council's "Simmonds Lagoon" property. The management of water levels within the wetlands of the "J K Donald Reserve" at Lake Wairarapa as authorised by Greater Wellington Regional Council. The management of open water at Boggy Pond and Matthews Lagoon as authorised by the Department of Conservation. Involvement of Fish and Game in the Wairarapa Moana management organisation.	Met with Wairarapa Moana governance group and Department of Conservation staff to discuss management issues on Wairarapa Moana project.

PROJECT 1223 JK DONALD DRAIN CLEAN

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>To maintain and enhance the gamebird habitat at the north east margin of Lake Wairarapa.</p> <p>(no Mgt Plan ref, Statutory ref sec 26Q(1)(b)(v).)</p>	<p>To clean drain in the JK Donald Reserve wetland to comply with arrangements with adjoining landowners.</p>	<p>Drain status compliant with agreement.</p>

PROJECT 1231 WETLAND ENHANCEMENT

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>The Wellington regional populations of gamebirds are managed to remain relatively stable over time.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref C9.1.1.)</p>	<p>The provision of advice on request, and the promotion of sources of funding, for the construction and enhancement of waterfowl habitat by landholders within the Council's region by 31 August 2020.</p>	<p>Advice on wetland improvement was provided to land holders on request on four occasions, with assistance with four funding applications for land holders (and other projects) with suitable wetland enhancement projects being provided by Gamebird Habitat Stamp Trust with four projects receiving funding.</p>

PROJECT 1232 HABITAT MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>The Wellington regional populations of gamebirds are managed to remain relatively stable over time.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref C9.1.1)</p>	<p>To provide part funding for habitat enhancement projects.</p>	<p>Advice provided to five habitat enhancement projects.</p>

PROJECT 1233 TROUT RESERVOIR FEASIBILITY & MANAGEMENT

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>Not less than 5,000 licenced anglers will undertake not less than 40,000 angling visits per year in the Wellington Fish and Game region.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref A 9.3.1)</p> <p>The maintenance and improvement of trout fisheries by stocking with hatchery-reared fish where this is necessary, achievable and cost effective.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref A9.1.5)</p>	<p>To investigate the feasibility of potential reservoir fisheries in the Wellington Region.</p> <p>A report by professional staff on current state of fisheries in reservoirs will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2020.</p>	<p>Preliminary investigations into the feasibility of establishing, and/or maintaining a reservoir fishery at two potential sites.</p> <p>Professional staff periodically to Council reported on two potential reservoir sites on Kapiti Coast, and in the concurrent report on Project 1354 Junior Angler Training presented to Council on 13 October 2020.</p>

PROJECT 1311 ANGLER ACCESS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>Not less than 1,000 kilometres of angling water will be accessible to anglers in the Wellington Fish and Game Region.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref A9.3.3.)</p>	<p>The identification and negotiation of angler access as part of an access programme, with access signage and angler access brochures made available to licence holders by 31 August 2020.</p> <p>Liaison with the Walking Access Commission to identify potential improvements in public (and specifically angler) access.</p>	<p>Angler access programme was maintained and angler access signage erected.</p> <p>Liaisons were held with relevant authorities including Greater Wellington Regional Council on particular angler access issues.</p> <p>Collaborative Fish and Game project for developing electronic formats for angler access points: Park and Cast project, and provided information to be incorporated into the <i>Campermate</i> APP project.</p>

PROJECT 1312 LAKE WAIRARAPA HUNTER ACCESS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>The management of hunter access and the allocation of maimai sites shall be undertaken by Council, where a mutually acceptable written agreement to this effect between the council and the landholder or land administering authority can be negotiated.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref C9.3.3.)</p>	<p>Maintenance of Eric Kilmore Lodge, with costs recovered from users.</p> <p>The implementation of Council policy for the management of gamebird hunter access at Lake Wairarapa, in accord with agreements with the Department of Conservation and farmers to this end, with some costs recovered from users.</p> <p>Income of \$1,000 was budgeted.</p>	<p>Eric Kilmore Lodge was used 76 hunting nights including 3 club weekends</p> <p>Kilmore Lodge fees of \$1252.00 exl GST were received.</p> <p>JK Donald Reserve track stickers produced income of \$1173.96 exl.GST.</p>

PROJECT 1313 HUNTER ACCESS PERMITS AND BALLOTS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>The management of hunter access and the allocation of maimai sites shall be undertaken by Council, where a mutually acceptable written agreement to this effect between the Council and the landholder or land administering authority can be negotiated.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref C9.3.3, I9.3.2)</p>	<p>The availability of duly negotiated and agreed access permits, with a small administration charge, to licenced hunters, by 31 March 2020 for the 2020 game season, for all areas publicly available to hunters in the Wellington region.</p> <p>The management of hunter access (including allocation) of available hunting sites in forests and public access wetlands, in time for 2020 game season.</p> <p>Income of \$3,000 was budgeted.</p>	<p>Access for game bird hunters was negotiated and agreed on all "public" areas available last year, and permit booklets for game bird hunter access onto nominated areas were available from 17 March 2020.</p> <p>A report to Council on the 13 October 2020 showed 584 permits were issued on request to Wellington Fish and Game region licence holders. (647) permits last year).</p> <p>Permit income of \$2246.62 exl.gst was received.</p>

PROJECT 1331 MAGAZINE & NEWSLETTERS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>Not less than 85% of licenced anglers and hunters will be satisfied with the availability, quality, and extent of information available.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref A9.3.6.)</p>	<p>The provision of a two-page regional supplement in each of the two Special Editions of Fish & Game magazine to be published during the reporting year.</p> <p>The preparation and publication of two regional newsletters to licence holders during the reporting year.</p>	<p>Wellington regional supplements of two-four pages were provided in Special Editions 49 and 50 of <i>Fish & Game NZ Magazine</i>.</p> <p>Two regional newsletters for the Wellington region were made available both through licence agents and posted in summer 2019 (pre Fish #18) and autumn (pre-Game #20) 2020.</p>

PROJECT 1341 INFORMATION TO LICENCE HOLDERS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>Not less than 85% of licenced anglers and hunters will be satisfied with the availability, quality and extent of information available.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref A9.3.6, C9.3.6.)</p>	<p>Responses to requests for information will be provided as required.</p> <p>Weekly email reports from October to end of March that provide anglers with information on river levels and angling potential.</p> <p>Weekly email reports from May to June that provide hunters with information on weather and hunting potential.</p> <p>Council's portion of the New Zealand Fish and Games website will be maintained as an important communication means with licence holders by 31 August 2020.</p>	<p>Report on communications prepared for Wellington Fish and Game Council on 13 October 2020.</p> <p>Council staff provided responses to requests for information as required.</p> <p>A monthly e-newsletter (9) <i>Reel life</i> was regularly distributed electronically to anglers.</p> <p><i>Both Barrels</i> e-newsletter was distributed to hunters electronically on (4) occasions throughout the game season.</p> <p>Weekly Fishing Reports (29) sent out from September 2019 – March 2020.</p> <p>Weekly Game Season Reports (12) sent out from March - July 2020.</p> <p>The website has downloads of access pamphlets and also river level information. Other information on Council meetings, organised hunts, and e-newsletters are also available on the website.</p>



PROJECT 1342 LAPSED PARTICIPANT SURVEY AND PARAMETER ANALYSIS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>The participation of hunters and anglers are to be at levels that will sustain effective management of the sport</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref A9.3.1, B9.3.1, C9.3.4)</p>	<p>Assist NZ Fish & Game Council undertake testing of marketing opportunities to lapsed participants and existing participants</p>	<p>Preliminary National R3 (Recruitment, retention and reactivation) strategy adopted by Council</p>

PROJECT 1351 HUNTER TRAINING – LAKE OMANU

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>Game licence sales are at a level that will sustain effective management of the sport.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref C9.3.4.)</p>	<p>The Foxton Waterfowl and Wetlands Club will be assisted to run a hunter training programme at Lake Omanu.</p> <p>Income of \$400 was budgeted from a grazing lease.</p>	<p>The Junior Hunter Trainee Programme was not run in 2020 due to COVID 19 restrictions.</p> <p>This year's opening weekend shooting at Omanu along with management actions completed by staff was reported to Council on 13 October 2020.</p> <p>Grazing lease income of \$348 was received.</p>

PROJECT 1354 JUNIOR ANGLER PROGRAMME

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>Not less than 5,000 licenced anglers will undertake not less than 40,000 angling visits per year in the Wellington Fish and Game region.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref C9.3.1)</p>	<p>Establish an inventory of equipment that can be used in junior angler promotions.</p> <p>Develop a "Fish in Schools" education and recreation module for introduction into schools.</p> <p>Assist clubs undertake junior angling training in public fishing open promotions.</p>	<p>Inventory of equipment for junior angler promotions maintained.</p> <p>No schools received support for the Fish in Schools module in 2020 due to COVID 19 restrictions.</p> <p>Activities related to junior angler training undertaken as part of Hokowhitu Lagoon public promotion and Capital Trout Centre youth fishing open days.</p>

PROJECT 1355 JUNIOR HUNTER PROGRAMME

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>The participation of hunters and anglers are to be at levels that will sustain effective management of the sport.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref A9.3.1, B9.3.1, C9.3.4)</p>	<p>Establish an inventory of equipment that can be used in junior hunter promotions and programmes.</p>	<p>Reported in concurrent project 1351 Hunter Training Lake Omanu.</p>

PROJECT 1361 CLUB LIAISON

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
The maintenance of a positive working relationship with clubs.	Attend meetings on regular basis or as required.	Maintain open communication with 10 active Fish and Game Clubs. 8 club meetings were attended.

PROJECT 1411 ADVOCACY AND LIAISON

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Not less than 80% of the Wellington regional general public knows and accepts the activities and interests of anglers and hunters. (Mgt Plan ref A9.2.4, C9.3.5.)	Liaison with Conservation Boards and Regional Councils at a governor level as opportunities permit by 31 August 2020.	Signatory of the Manawatu River Accord which involved intent and commitment from iwi, environmental groups, industry and Territorial Local Authorities to clean up the Manawatu River. No Conservation Board meeting was attended, and no Conservation Board member attended meetings of the Council during this year. Attended 2 Wairarapa Moana meetings dealing with management of Lake Wairarapa and surrounding wetlands. No Department of Conservation staff attended Council meetings during this reporting year. The regular receipt by the Council of agendas of the Conservation Boards in the region, and by the regular provision of Council meeting agendas to one Conservation Board, maintained mutual liaison.

PROJECT 1412 IWI LIAISON

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
A positive relationship with the Wellington Fish and Game region's Iwi will be sought in respect of the management of trout. (Mgt Plan ref A9.2.5.)	The establishment of a positive working relationship with Iwi Authorities with a view to defining appropriate contacts by 31 August 2020.	Maintained contacts with Iwi representatives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ngati Raukawa ki te Tonga • Ngati Kahungunu • Rangitaane o Wairarapa • Te Mauri o Rangitaane o Manawatu • Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust • Te Runanga o Ngati Apa • Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai

PROJECT 1441 PUBLIC AWARENESS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>Not less than 80% of the Wellington regional general public knows and accepts the activities and interests of anglers and hunters.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref A9.2.4, C9.3.5.)</p>	<p>Publicity on angling, hunting, and the work of Fish and Game New Zealand is provided, with the coverage reported to Council to 31 August 2020.</p>	<p>Press releases to newspapers and magazines.</p> <p>Advertising – Regional newspapers.</p> <p>Regular updates to website.</p>

PROJECT 1443 PROMOTIONS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>The provision of news releases, displays and other forms of public communication as appropriate</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref A10.2.10, A9.2.4, A9.3.6.)</p>	<p>To be involved in public promotions which advocate for Fish and Game interests and values.</p>	<p>Updated promotional gear for public displays.</p> <p>Recognised volunteer contributions.</p>

PROJECT 1511 RANGER MANAGEMENT

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>Sufficient ranging resources to enforce fishing and hunting season conditions.</p> <p>(Stat. ref Sec 26Q (1)(b)(iv.) Conservation Act.)</p>	<p>The recruitment, of Council's ranger team meets adopted policy, and is reported to Council to 31 August 2020.</p>	<p>At 31 August 2020, Council had 18 warranted honorary rangers, and 6 staff rangers.</p> <p>Council received a report on the year's performance against its adopted Rangers Policy on 13 October 2020.</p>

PROJECT 1521 RANGER TRAINING

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>The maintenance of an adequate number of properly trained Rangers, an annual ranging programme to check the compliance of ten percent of the region's anglers.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref A10.2.7)</p>	<p>Provide safety and compliance training and skill maintenance and is reported to Council to 31 August 2020.</p>	<p>At 31 August 2020, Council had 18 warranted honorary rangers received formal training, and all 6 field staff rangers had received training.</p> <p>A pre-fishing season ranger training day was held in Featherston.</p> <p>Council received a report on the year's performance against its adopted Policy on 13 October 2020.</p>

PROJECT 1531 COMPLIANCE

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>The protection and enhancement of the region's sportsfish and game resources by the operation of an enforcement program to deliver not less than 95% compliance of anglers and gamebird hunters with licence and legal requirements and season regulations.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref A9.1.4.)</p>	<p>Ranging to check compliance of not less than 350 anglers and hunters throughout the region, throughout the year, in line with adopted policy.</p> <p>The processing of participants found unlicensed or in substantial non-compliance with legal requirements or season regulations without just cause, in line with adopted policy.</p> <p>Fines income of \$5,000 was budgeted.</p>	<p>The Council's 18 active Rangers and 6 Fish and Game staff checked 183 anglers and 13 hunters for compliance.</p> <p>A report to Council on 13 October 2020 noted 10 offences were detected. 0 alleged offenders opted for the diversion policy, 0 paid in full, 0 were to produce, 5 pending, 0, 0 unable to locate, 0 warnings for children, 4 warnings for adults.</p> <p>Fines/diversion income of \$0 was received.</p>

PROJECT 1611 LICENCING

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>To issue hunting and fishing licences.</p> <p>(Stat. ref Sec 26Q(1)(f), Conservation Act.)</p>	<p>2020 Game licences will be available to licence agents and participants throughout the region by 31 March 2020.</p> <p>2019/2020 fishing licences will be available to licence agents and participants throughout the region by 31 August 2020.</p> <p>An up to date data base of licence holders will be maintained.</p> <p>Progress reporting on licence sales will be provided to the Council throughout the year.</p>	<p>Licence sales are tabulated in Appendix 1.</p> <p>An up to date licence holder database was regularly maintained throughout the year.</p> <p>Sportsfish and Gamebird licence sales reports were included in each Council agenda throughout the year.</p> <p>Council received a report on the year's performance on 13 October 2020.</p>

PROJECT 1621 LICENCE AGENTS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>An effective and efficient network of licence resellers.</p> <p>(No Stat. or Mgt Plan ref.)</p>	<p>Council's Licence Agent Network is managed in line with adopted Council policy.</p>	<p>At balance date, Council has a network of 28 licence agents.</p> <p>Council's licence agent network was managed in line with adopted Council policy, as reported to Council on 13 October 2020.</p> <p>A licence management agreement with Eyede Ltd to manage licence sales production, distribution, and invoicing was signed by Council as part of the New Zealand Fish and Game collective.</p>

PROJECT 1721 COUNCIL

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>The effective direction of the management of the Council's business.</p> <p>(Stat. ref. Sec 26ZD, Conservation Act.)</p>	<p>Not less than six meetings of the Council, that comply with all legal and policy requirements to be held before 31 August 2020.</p>	<p>Wellington Fish and Game Council held six meetings during the year; with at least a quorum present.</p> <p>Meeting attendance is tabulated in Appendix 2.</p>

PROJECT 1811 MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>Policies reflect national policies and good governance.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan refs A9.2.4, C9.3.5, C9.3.4, A9.3.1, A9.3.5)</p>	<p>Policies will be developed and adopted covering a Public Awareness Strategy, a Regional Marketing Strategy, and a Regulation-setting model for the region's sports fisheries and game bird populations, by 31 August 2020.</p> <p>Council will undertake a review of its approved Management Plan by 31 August 2020.</p>	<p>Policy reviews were undertaken as required.</p> <p>A formal review of the Sports Fish & Game Bird Management Plan was initiated with draft being prepared. Formal consultation will occur when Draft Plan is finalised.</p>

PROJECT 1821 ANNUAL PLAN

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>To formulate and adopt an annual operational work plan.</p> <p>(Stat. ref. Sec 26Q(3), Conservation Act)</p>	<p>Adoption of a Proposed Annual Plan for 2020/21 that meets National Council requirements by the Council by 31 August 2020.</p>	<p>Council's Annual Plan for 2019/20 was adopted on 20 August 2019.</p>

PROJECT 1831 ANNUAL REPORTING

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>To furnish the Minister of Conservation with an Annual Report on the operations of the Council for the year.</p> <p>(Stat. ref. Secs 26X, and 26ZD (7), Conservation Act.)</p>	<p>The adoption and presentation by the Council at a public Annual General Meeting of its audited Annual Report for 2018/19 not later than 16 December 2019, and its dispatch to the Minister directly thereafter.</p>	<p>Council's audited Annual Performance Report for 2019 was adopted and presented at a public Annual General Meeting on the 3 December 2019, and was delivered to the Minister and Parliament on 14 December 2019.</p>



PROJECT 1841 NATIONAL LIAISON

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Effective liaison with New Zealand Fish and Game Council to meet all statutory requirements. (Stat. Ref. Sec 26C (1), Conservation Act.)	Representation to New Zealand Fish and Game Council by 31 August 2020 with respect to co-ordination, of the Council's recommendations for licence fees, fund redistribution, research requirements, and national policy development.	The Council Manager attended 1 national Fish and Game Managers' meetings and three Zoom video meetings.

PROJECT 1842 NATIONAL PROJECTS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Wellington Fish and Game region remains free of Didymo.	Staff assistance with Didymo surveys will be provided at cost to Biosecurity NZ as required. Staff assistance or management of research or resource management advice as required	Staff liaised on measures to prevent the incursion of Didymo and Lindavia into the North Island. Specific assistance was sought from Horizons Regional Council for Didymo and Lindavia monitoring and this was provided at no cost. Staff co-ordinated defining research requirements for Fish & Game NZ Staff undertook research programme on two research projects Manager attended one meeting of the Licence Working Party as part of the regular annual pre-season licence management approvals. The Manager attended one meeting of the NZ Council Licence Management sub-committee and two Zoom video meetings as part of a review of the licence management system.



Appendix 1**WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL****LICENCE SALES****FISHING LICENCES**

	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Family	585	580	523	593	605	602	539	478	489	472	464
Whole Season (Adult)	2,252	2,190	2,095	2,214	2,219	2,288	1,798	1,658	1,617	1599	1605
Whole Season (Junior)	196	220	211	217	229	202	188	163	214	231	265
Winter Season (Adult)	253	195	233	225	217	201	135	124	108	142	157
Winter Season (Junior)	21	21	34	23	14	22	0	0	0	0	
24 Hour (Adult)	662	662	677	679	809	718	914	736	512	427	472
24 Hour (Junior)	84	44	60	59	49	64	71	55	74	94	126
Non Resident Adult						94	127	162	158	151	159
Non Resident Junior							3	2	4	5	4
Non Resident Child										8	3
Non Resident Adult Day									338	161	133
Non Resident Junior Day									6	4	1
Non Resident Child Day											1
Short Break							115	100	87	116	89
Long Break							13	22	19	7	17
Loyal Senior							162	153	186	218	237
Local Area							238	203	177	221	206
LEQ Total	3,330	3,242	3,094	3,293	3,338	3,472	3,272	3,062	3,000	3004	3026
Actual Total	4,053	3,912	3,833	4,010	4,142	4,191	4,303	3,856	3,989	3856	3939

GAME LICENCES

	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Adult Whole Season	3,572	3,582	3,595	3,503	3,555	3,474	3,470	3,480	3,391	3418	3047
Adult Day	186	184	174	144	186	172	170	154	148	142	141
Junior Whole Season	344	298	291	320	297	290	296	275	281	278	287
Junior Day	15	12	16	8	3	10	5	6	4	16	9
Child	137	126	100	117	141	148	133	115	130	146	142
LEQ Total	3,693	3,693	3,699	3,610	3,664	3,568	3,575	3,580	3,476	3508	3133
Actual Total	4,254	4,202	4,176	4,092	4,182	4,094	4,074	4,030	3,954	4000	3626

Appendix 2

WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

Meeting Date	Locality	Meeting	Councillors Present
8 October 2019	Wairarapa	Ordinary	10
3 December 2019	Palmerston North	Ordinary & AGM	7
11 February 2020	Palmerston North	Ordinary	9
24 March 2020	Via Zoom	Ordinary	9
9 June 2020	Via Zoom	Ordinary	11
11 August 2020	Palmerston North	Ordinary	12

Councillor attendances at these meetings were as follows:

Councillor	Meetings Attended	Apologies
Strato Cotsilinis Chairman	5	1
Paul Shortis NZ Fish & Game Council Appointee	5	1
Jim Cook	6	0
Malcolm Francis	6	0
Don Scott	5	1
Andy Tannock	4	2
Chris O'Meara	3	3
Richard McIntyre)	4	2
Colin Shore	5	1
Aaron Passey	6	0
Andrew McGregor	3	3
John Hancock	6	0

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE READERS OF WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AND STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

The Auditor-General is the auditor of Wellington Fish and Game Council (the Fish and Game Council). The Auditor-General has appointed me, Vivien Cotton, using the staff and resources of Cotton Kelly Smit Limited (CKS Audit), to carry out the audit of the financial statements and statement of performance of the Fish and Game Council on his behalf.

Opinion on the financial statements and the statement of performance

We have audited:

- the financial statements of the Fish and Game Council on pages 19 to 33, that comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 August 2020, the statement of financial performance, and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date and the notes to the financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- the statement of performance of the Fish and Game Council on pages 34 to 51.

In our opinion:

- the financial statements of the Fish and Game Council: on pages 19 to 33:
 - present fairly, in all material respects:
 - its financial position as at 31 August 2020; and
 - its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
 - comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand in accordance with the Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting – Accrual (Public Sector) framework; and
- the statement of performance of the Fish and Game Council on pages 33 to 51:
 - presents fairly, in all material respects, the Fish and Game Council's performance for the year ended 31 August 2020, including for each class of reportable outputs:
 - its standards of performance achieved as compared with the forecasts included in the annual operational plan for the financial year; and
 - its actual revenue and expenses as compared with the forecasts included in the annual operational plan for the financial year; and
 - complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

Our audit was completed on 1 December 2020. This is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis for our opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Council and our responsibilities relating to the financial statements and the statement of performance, we comment on other information, and we explain our independence.

Emphasis of Matter – COVID-19

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to the disclosures about the impact of Covid-19 on the Council as set out in note 10 on page 33 of the financial statements.

Basis for our opinion

We carried out our audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Responsibilities of the auditor section of our report.

We have fulfilled our responsibilities in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of the Council for the financial statements and the statement of performance

The Council is responsible on behalf of the Fish and Game Council for preparing financial statements and a statement of performance that are fairly presented and comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

The Council is responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable it to prepare financial statements and a statement of performance that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements and the statement of performance, the Council is responsible on behalf of the Fish and Game Council for assessing the Fish and Game Council's ability to continue as a going concern. The Council is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless there is an intention to merge or to terminate the activities of the Fish and Game Council, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Council's responsibilities arise from the Public Finance Act 1989, the Crown Entities Act 2004, and the Conservation Act 1987.

Responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements and the statement of performance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and the statement of performance, as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts or disclosures, and can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of readers taken on the basis of these financial statements and the statement of performance.

For the budget information reported in the financial statements and the statement of performance, our procedures were limited to checking that the information agreed to the Fish and Game Council's annual operational plan.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the electronic publication of the financial statements and the statement of performance.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Also:

- We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and the statement of performance, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- We obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fish and Game Council's internal control.
- We evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Council.
- We evaluate the appropriateness of the reported performance information within the Fish and Game Council's framework for reporting performance.
- We conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the Council and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fish and Game Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements and the statement of performance or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fishing and Game Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- We evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements and the statement of performance, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements and the statement of performance represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Council regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Our responsibilities arise from the Public Audit Act 2001.

Other Information

The Council is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included on pages 1 to 18, but does not include the financial statements and the statement of performance, and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements and the statement of performance does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements and the statement of performance, our responsibility is to read the other information. In doing so, we consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and the statement of performance or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on our work, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independence

We are independent of the Fish and Game Council in accordance with the independence requirements of the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the independence requirements of the Professional and Ethical Standard 1: *International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners* issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Other than the audit, we have no relationship with, or interests in, the Fish and Game Council.



Vivien Cotton
CKS Audit
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Palmerston North, New Zealand