
PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE

WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2016

Hon Maggie Barry
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 2016.

Yours faithfully



Strato Cotsilinis
CHAIRMAN
WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

29 November 2016

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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 plus one co-opted Councillor, 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, 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 staff: a Regional Manager, one Senior Field Officer, one Environmental Officer, three Assistant Environmental Officers, on a part time basis, an Administration Officer, and Administration Assistant, on a part time basis, in Palmerston North, and a Field Officer/Communications Officer, based in Wairarapa. The Taranaki Fish and Game Council in Wanganui, provides its Secretary's services on a part time basis for Wellington Fish & Game Council's financial administration.

DIRECTORY COUNCILLORS

Name	Locality
Jim Cook	Rongotea
Marc Flaws	Porirua
Brad Johnson	Upper Hutt
Strato Cotsilinis (Chairman from 17/4/2015)	Wellington
Malcolm Francis	Te Horo
Andrew Morris (NZ Fish & Game Council Appointee)	Masterton
Don Scott	Palmerston North
Andy Tannock	Palmerston North
Chris O'Meara	Lower Hutt
Paul Shortis	Masterton
Simon Muckley	Porirua
Dan Waechter	Upper Hutt
Eric Neumann (Co-opted)	Palmerston North

STAFF

Phil Teal	Regional Manager, Palmerston North
Steve Pilkington	Senior Fish and Game Officer, Palmerston North
Corina Jordan	Environmental Officer (Case Manager & Technical Advisor), Palmerston North (Resigned 7 August 2016)
Hamish Carnachan	Fish and Game/Communications Officer, Wairarapa
Jilli Steedman	Financial Administrator (Part -Time), Palmerston North
Susan Wray	Office Manager, (Part Time) Palmerston North
Adam Canning	RMA Officer (Part Time)
Corinne Deans	Office Assistant (Part-Time), Palmerston North (from 16 February 2015)
Stacy Tahere	Environmental Officer (Part-Time), Palmerston North (from 10 December 2013 – 11 December 2015)
Renaë Pratt	RMA Officer (Part Time) from 12 July 2016

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Chairman's Report for the 2015/16 Financial Year

I am pleased to present this 2015/16 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 outcomes that have a strategic and long term benefit in terms of the resource itself and access to it by licence holders.

Resource Management Function – *key regional priority*

Water quality and quantity continues to be a top priority for Wellington Fish and Game Council. Fish & Game's involvement in the regional resource management planning processes continues to be essential to achieve habitat maintenance and enhancement, along with promoting public awareness of the issues in order to retain public support.

There are a number of regional planning processes that continue to have high priority in the Wellington Fish & Game region:

Proposed Regional Plan – Greater Wellington Region:

The Proposed Regional Plan for Greater Wellington region, which provides direction for water management in the region, has been progressed through to the formal submission phase of the Schedule One process - with the planned commencement of formal hearings being pushed out beyond 2016 until March 2017 running for an anticipated six months. The key outcomes sought by Fish & Game in submissions have been inclusion of a nutrient allocation framework (especially for nitrogen), ensuring all wetlands are considered significant to be consistent with the Regional Policy Statement, and ensuring trout habitat has the appropriate protections in policies, objectives, and rules contained in the regional plan. These regional planning processes require a high quality and up-to-date trout spawning habitat inventory as this information comes under increasing scrutiny - summarising baseline investigations, visual spawning monitoring programmes, and electrofishing sampling.

Implementation of the Horizons Regional Council Regional Plan – One Plan

There is a clear expectation that provisions in regional plans will be implemented as intended to maintain the integrity of the operative plan once they have been finalised through the various formal and legal processes. Over the last twelve months the Environmental Defence Society (EDS) and Fish & Game have been investigating how Horizons Regional Council has been implementing the rules in their regional plan relating to nutrient leaching. Legal, technical and planning experts had given their assessment of a number of consents that had been granted and it became evident that the way the consenting process was not being implemented as intended. There was enough cause for concern to seek a Declaratory Judgment from the Environment Court to get clarification. If this is not defended it may also send a signal to other regional councils that they can ignore their farm runoff provisions with impunity.

Proposed Wairarapa Irrigation Project:

The Greater Wellington Regional Council continues to investigate the technical and economic feasibility of creating a large scale dam for water storage in the Wairarapa valley. Wellington Fish & Game have been consistent with its position since the project's inception: that principal spawning streams such as the Mangaterere River should not be considered for damming, the potential effects of the "footprint" of the other preferred sites under deliberation need to be adequately considered, and importantly consideration of effects of nutrient losses to water quality and waterways that might result from land use intensification.

Wellington Fish & Game Council decided to withdraw from the Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) set up by the regional council and engage directly with them as a statutory body – with the SAG process not providing a completely objective and transparent assessment of the irrigation proposals. The planned project work programme being undertaken by project directors of the Wairarapa Water project indicates that there has been no abatement in managing the project to 'investment ready' which goes beyond an objective feasibility study. The risk is that the project will get so far advanced that it becomes a fait accompli and that environmental effects from land use change, or changes in 'run of river' flows, may not be adequately assessed during any feasibility study or consenting processes.

The land-use change will have an inevitable effect on water quality and Fish & Game needs to be in a position to measure the extent of change and the effect on life-supporting capacity in the river, including trout fisheries. Wellington Fish & Game recently commissioned an independent economic assessment report to provide more surety on the likely land-use changes that would result from such a large-scale irrigation project, and their likely environmental impact. This review concluded that Wairarapa Water project's own application for funding to Ministry for Primary Industries Accelerated Irrigation Fund used an outdated (and higher than current) milk solid payout price for dairy land use (55%) making it a cornerstone user of water – but would be economically challenged at current payout prices. The alternative land uses postulated as feasible such as sheep milking and cropping having substantially lower water demand requirements and use for such a large water storage project. It is hoped that economic and environmental due diligence is being carried out on this project to provide transparency and potential 'off ramps' if continuance is shown to be risky or marginal at best.

Ruamahanga Catchment – Whaitua Committee Consideration

The Ruamahanga Zone (Whaitua) Committee process, which is being conducted concurrently to the Proposed Regional Plan process, uses a 'community based' committee appointed by the Regional Council to provide recommendations on how to manage and allocate land and water resources – including setting nutrient limits for water quality. Fish & Game is still apprehensive about this approach in that decisions of the appointed group may result in compromising environmental bottom lines that protect ecosystem health (including the fish and game resource) by using decision weightings that favour 'community values' and economic priorities. The issues are complex at a sub-catchment level with decisions having a strong reliance on mathematical modeling being undertaken externally.

Resource Management Strategy

Wellington Fish & Game Council continues to seek and promote efficiencies in delivering resource management advocacy to the collective of twelve regional Fish and Game Councils to make best use of our limited resources. To this end, Wellington Fish & Game Council supported the development of a resource management strategy that provides direction on how Fish & Game as an organisation deals with key advocacy roles in protecting the fish and game resource. The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment¹ has clearly concluded in 2013 that the current practices and those promoted by industry to reduce nutrient losses will inevitably still lead to damage of fresh water ecosystems. The second generation of regional plans has been the opportunity to consider issues of nutrient allocation and discharge from non-point source and provide a basis for wider consideration of sustainable agriculture and implications for life-supporting capacity in New Zealand's waterways.

Regional Consent Processing:

The regional resource management function has continued to be a demanding exercise for staff, but dependable advocacy effort has been maintained to represent the interests of hunters and anglers. Staff continue to provide relevant and credible technical advice that

¹ Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. 2013. *Water Quality in New Zealand: Land Use and Nutrient Pollution*

can be incorporated into design and construction of projects that are beneficial for the trout resource.

In addition to the formal representation at resource consenting processes, there is a role for all regions to have a public awareness capacity to ensure the public have an understanding of the issues from Fish & Game's perspectives. This is a concept promoted by NZ Fish & Game Council as an alternative to litigation, but it is also a complementary approach in advocating for resource management issues. Hamish Carnachan has provided considerable expertise in communication to provide effective public awareness on issues that has not been possible in the past.

Regional Technical and Planning Advice:

Until August this year, Corina Jordan (Environmental Manager) had been extremely successful in case managing leading technical, legal, and planning experts providing a consistent approach to regional planning functions around the country. This provided a basis for effective advocacy and technical case presentation in regions that either did not have that capability or required experienced advice to take advantage of the economies of learning. She was invited to continue to provide independent expert advice to the Land and Water Forum even though NZ Fish & Game Council had formally withdrawn from the Forum.

Licence Sales & Licencing

Licence Sales:

Game licence sales were similar to the previous year's sales almost meeting budget (LEQs 98%). Fish licence sales were just below budget LEQs (99%) but were down 4% on 2015 - a similar pattern with several other North Island regions which may reflect changes in the licence categories now available.

Licence Management

EyeDe Ltd has performed well as the provider for licence sales management and maintains our confidence that our principal income sources are managed professionally and robustly. They have provided continual improvement of software platforms to ensure robustness of the system with the core licence sales channels now almost exclusively electronically processed by agents or by public online. EyeDe Ltd have sought to extend their current three year contract with a two year right of renewal which is supported by Wellington Fish & Game Council.

Effectiveness of New Category Fish Licence

There is further analysis required by Fish & Game to enable fine tuning of the new category licence pricing after the initial three years since introduction regarding: the effectiveness of retaining licenceholders (reducing 'churn'), assessing price sensitivities, and looking at licenceholder switching behaviours. The original objective which was to increase licenceholder's perceptions of value and potentially reduce 'churn' in licence sales but there still exists some apprehension that the discounting of new licence categories will negatively affect overall licence income or devalue the perception of the principal Adult Wholeseason licence category.

I would like to thank Phil Teal, our Manager, for the continued work he undertook on the NZ Fish and Game Council liaison committee (Licence Working Party) to help oversee the implementation of the updated licencing management system, introduction of additional licence categories, and advocating for an improved marketing function for licence sales.

Non-resident Licence Reserve;

One of the principal purposes of the Non-Resident licences was to generate additional income that could be directed at iconic sensitive backcountry fisheries. Council subsequently established a dedicated reserve derived from these licence sales to target projects in backcountry fisheries. More recent research by Otago University concluded that

Wellington Fish & Game Council Performance Report For The Year Ended 31 August 2016
non-resident licenceholders don't necessarily target backcountry fisheries and often use lowland fisheries in that region, so this may necessitate a review of policy as to how these funds could be used.

Draft Guides Licence:

A long awaited draft Memorandum of Understanding has been developed by NZ Fish & Game Council and Guides representatives for establishing a guide's licence to deal with issues of ethics, safety, and operational consistencies.

Communication with Licenceholders

Staff put considerable effort into following a communication plan trying to enhance the perceived 'value' of the licence to anglers and hunters, and also provide them with timely and relevant information to increase their fishing and hunting success.

A strategic approach has been undertaken to link the communication channels to provide regular contact, and consistent messaging; Pre season Fish & Game NZ Magazine Special Issues, fishing and hunting Newsletters, regular e-zines such as Reel Life and Both Barrels; and weekly fishing and hunting reports. Hamish Carnachan has been providing relevant and well considered communications over the year, particularly with relevant weekly fishing reports that are well received by anglers.

Strategic Overview - Strategic Planning and Policy

During discussions on strategic direction, Council recognised that there is always a tension between what governors would like to achieve and the resources available (including staff time) to achieve the outcomes. This will involve a critical review of our core monitoring programme but still ensuring relevant strategic monitoring is undertaken to maintain relevance in advocacy forums. It was agreed that we also needed to look at the prudent use of volunteers and clubs for some activities but also how clubs could interact in public interface where they are active.

Wellington Fish & Game Council has initiated a review of its Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan based on plans that have recently been approved by the Minister. The wider consultation process will begin in late 2016, and after consideration of submissions will be submitted for approval to the Minister in 2017.

Species Management

Trout Population Change Monitoring

The drift diving programme was diligently completed by Steve Pilkington and his team of divers. With the trout population being relatively stable only one main change in the Anglers Notice was recommended to the Minister this year in response to monitoring data, namely:

- Otaki River– bag limit of one imposed and an upper size limit to protect larger fish that would favour productive spawning fish.

As noted above it is important that we critically review the monitoring programme on a regular basis to ensure we get efficient and relevant data collection. This may include data derived from the core drift dive programme (established over a decade ago), intensive drift dives, spawning surveys, electro-fishing, and other sophisticated techniques such as otolith microchemistry analysis and DNA^{mitochondrial}:DNA^{nuclear} ratios.

The Hutt and Rangitikei river catchment sites have been added to the Ruamahanga River for otolith and water samples to enable water chemistry and otolith microchemistry investigations to be undertaken. It is intended that following review of the preliminary data that direction will be given for a more intensive monitoring programme in the up coming

Wellington Fish & Game Council Performance Report For The Year Ended 31 August 2016
years to determine the contribution of spawning streams to trout populations based on this technique.

Mallard Monitoring

The monitoring of mallard populations using aerial transects in 2015 and 2016 provided indication of a need for a continued conservative approach – with Council recommending an eight week, eight bag limit season harvest conditions for mallard. Wellington Council also undertook an email survey to get hunter opinion on potential restrictive approaches and how these might affect hunting opportunity, the level of acceptability to hunters of different restrictions and the consequential compliance issues that might result. The survey was well received by hunters but an overall preference from licence holders was evenly split.

Mallard Research:

The fieldwork component to the nationally co-ordinated mallard research mallard productivity study was completed in Southland and Auckland/Waikato regions using telemetry tracking of mallard hens. Initial results have indicated that the extent of predation of hens and their progeny by a range of predators exceeded expectations of incidence which is of obvious concern for nest disturbance and duckling survival. While there keenness to maintain momentum with mallard research, only a small amount of complementary research is being conducted until this piece of work is fully written up before defining further information needs.

Wellington region has continued to contribute to the mallard banding programme that may confirm survival statistics and allow comparison with other sites within a proposed environmental management unit. There will be a further three years of banding with similar effort required – and assistance from volunteers is very much appreciated.

Support for Predator Control Initiatives

Wellington Fish & Game Council acknowledge the preliminary findings from the mallard research programme that confirms the potential effects of mustelids and rats on waterfowl mortality in terms of hen and chick mortality in an open farmland pasture/pond environment. Council therefore supported the announcement by Government for the goal for New Zealand to be predator free by 2050 – even though it could be considered very ambitious. Council has already indicated a willingness to work collaboratively with other interested stakeholders to provide a scientifically robust approach to participating in a larger district/regional scale predator control programme. This has involved linking up with research providers to provide up-to-date advice on designing trapping programmes, and providing practical education measures via expo/field days. Wellington Fish & Game Council wish to make an active contribution and believe we can engage an active community of hunters to make a difference to the number of predators associated with wetland environments.

Release of Captive Reared Mallard

Council consented to a request for the release of reared mallard ducks in small numbers but this was on the provision that there was a strict adherence to the legal requirement of not selling of waterfowl game birds.

Opportunities for Junior and Novice Anglers

One of Council's continued priorities has to been to support junior and novice recruitment and participation – and projects that provide educational, recreational, and fishing 'success' opportunities from 'fish-out' days for junior anglers. The Fish in Schools project has received a universally positive response by participants and has been particularly successful in providing a platform for introducing junior school students to trout habitat requirements as part of a wider environmental curriculum. This year we have increased the number of schools involved in the Fish in Schools project, and there has been an initiative driven by Wellington Fish & Game region to develop a web-based curriculum resource that can be used throughout New Zealand. We have formed a working group of Councillors to look at opportunities to refine and potentially sustainably grow the Fish in Schools programme.

The junior fishing 'fish out day' programmes continue to be greeted with great enthusiasm by junior participants and remain an important component in introducing juniors to angling. Wellington Fish and Game Council acknowledge 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 and local businesses support the children's fishing day at Duddings Lake, near Marton, and Hokowhitu Lagoon in Palmerston North;
- Wellington Flyfishers Club providing opportunities for hundreds of young anglers from Wellington City and surrounding catchment at the Capital Trout Centre, Wellington;
- The Foxton Waterfowlers Club continue their Lake Omanu training programme and this receives regular plaudits and accolades from participants and peers.

It is recognised that Fish and Game need to leverage off these efforts to ensure recruitment initiatives are effective and enduring.

Staff are reviewing five potential fishing reservoir sites that might be pursued as junior fishing sites in coming years: with the Otaki reservoir site holding the most potential as a potential lake fisheries to complement the riverine resource adjacent.

Compliance

I once again 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. Our honorary rangers undertake their role in a voluntary capacity and are truly contributing something back into the pursuits. They provide Fish & Game with a professional image and continue to be an important part of our organisation.

Angler and Hunter Access

Conflicting Public Access Priorities

A recent recreational survey carried out on the Hutt River catchment highlights the potential for change in focus of public use of recreational resources which could affect an angler's experience. It also indicates how important the influence of study design, interpretation of findings, and how these findings are ultimately used in influencing future management decisions and direction. The recent proposal for a cycle-way development adjacent to the Oreti River in Southland (successfully opposed at the Environment Court by Southland Fish & Game Council) provides a good example where an area of outstanding wilderness value for anglers was prepared to be compromised by territorial authorities.

Active Access Management

Wellington Fish & Game have been active in managing hunter access to several sites, including: Pencarrow Lakes, Baring Heads, Marton Reservoir, Otaki River, and Waiterere Forest. Hunter access to the Pencarrow (Parangarau) lakes has been maintained following a negotiated outcome between Fish & Game, the Regional Council, and Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust. There have been increased involvement and resources required of our staff to undertake education seminars to ensure consistent messaging about protecting key values and access requirements is clearly provided to the hunters. Fish & Game staff have continued to successfully operate a permit system with Greater Wellington Regional Council for gamebird hunting opportunities to the lower Wainuiomata area (Baring Head) without incident. There is also increased sensitivity of the public to hunting occurring at traditional sites such as Otaki River mouth.

Rangitikei River Fisheries Management

Staff continue to work collaboratively with NZ Defence Force to negotiate improved access including helicopter landing sites to remove the actual or perceived restrictions in the Upper Rangitikei River.

Walking Access Commission

A range of specific access issues continue to be directed onto the Commission staff to consider including applications to stop paper roads, and sites that require clarification of public access rights. One such example of where progress to resolve had been slow was dealing with a LINZ grazing lease agreement on Bluff Road near Woodville, where angler access had been affected by some poor stock management practices.

Following the implementation of new Health and Safety Legislation a collaborative approach by Fish & Game NZ and Federated farmers resulted in consistent messaging that resulted in recreational users not being caught up in impractical requirements that would have acted as an impediment to reasonable access to the resource.

Lake Wairarapa Management

The treaty settlement negotiations are currently underway between the Crown and iwi negotiators (Kahungunu Wairarapa and Rangitaane Wairarapa) which will most likely see the establishment of a statutory reserve board to manage Lake Wairarapa and wetlands – this will mirror the existing Wairarapa Moana Governance Group. The Agreement in Principles established noted that those with existing rights would continue (in foreseeable future) with those rights but the issues around privileges of some hunting structures will provide a challenge in final settlement.

Consents for the continued operation of the weir in the Otakura Stream were renewed to enable water management regime to the JK Donald Wetland to continue, but there is increasing urgency to replace the structure with an alternative. Spraying of willows and alders undertaken by the Department of Conservation and Regional Council adjacent to the watercourses and margins of the open water areas was completed under the final residual of the Ministry for the Environment Clean Up Fund.

Wellington Fish & Game Council has been working proactively to assist in research of fish removal at selected sites around the edge of Lake Wairarapa. We consider it would be beneficial to define overall objectives and specific outcomes of these research projects to avoid proposals being adhoc and inefficient in outcome.

Biodiversity Threats

Wellington Fish & Game continues to provide assistance to regional councils in their monitoring for didymo *Didymosphenia geminata* – confirming that no positive cell occurrence has been noted. The Ministry for Primary Industries has implemented a wider public awareness programme on a number of potential aquatic plant pests that linked in with the existing didymo awareness programme.

Recent research by NIWA and University of Canterbury confirmed the potential impacts of Didymo on higher trophic levels. They concluded that brown trout were negatively affected by a reduction of up to 70% of fish biomass caused directly by habitat changes and indirectly by changes in food assemblages. This further emphasises the need to limit the spread of Didymo to other rivers and for water users to adhere to the “check, clean, dry” procedures.

Wellington Fish & Game Council reaffirmed its continued support for restriction of use of felt soled boots, acknowledging that it was discriminatory against some anglers but a precautionary approach was preferred.

Other Habitat - Gamebird Habitat Stamp Applications

There is still considerable demand for assistance for grants from the Gamebird Habitat Trust Board with a further successful grant being from within the Wellington region. Staff have provided advice on several other wetland projects and have also been requested to re-assess the projects from previous years that received assistance from the Trust.

Licence Holder Participation at Council Meetings

Council has continued to have a rotation of meeting venues alternating between the three main urban centres of Wellington, Palmerston North, and Masterton with attendance and identification of local issues enough to continue with this arrangement.

A suite of recommendations made by the Fish & Game election Returning Officer were largely supported to amend technical anomalies and how to engage with licenceholders in the election process. Various initiatives have been discussed to engage licenceholders – and it was acknowledged that Fish & Game needed to continue with efforts to publicise the democratic options to licenceholders with regular newsletters and promote further and regularly.

Liaison with NZ Fish & Game Council

Development of Standard Operating Procedures

In November 2014 there was a Fish & Game governors' workshop focused on external opportunities and threats, and internally on co-ordination role for NZ Fish & Game Council with the risks of a fragmented approach highlighted. Further feedback was sought from NZ Fish & Game Council from Wellington Fish & Game Council on what priorities should be considered when developing Standard Operating Procedures for Fish & Game functions.

Landholder Privilege and Recognising Contribution

Consideration of the merits of a landholder licence to confirm their current privilege was again discussed within the organisation but it was Wellington Fish & Game Council's view that a licence – whether it was free or not – was not a preferred approach from a public relations perspective. It was acknowledged that there were significant merits in interacting with landholders to get more information on participation and harvest, public awareness of regulations, and safety promotion to landholders but it was thought other means were available to get satisfactory results.

Wellington Fish & Game Council acknowledges the contribution made by the majority of landowners in terms of good farming practices and maintaining good public access. There needs to be a mechanism by which Fish & Game can recognise and positively reinforce the contribution of good landowners whose principles and attitude are aligned to what Fish & Game wants to achieve.

Inter-Regional Consultation

Wellington Fish & Game Council were concerned at the processes by which rearing and transfer of grass carp and silver carp from Taupo to Auckland markets were initially authorised by other Fish & Game regions without wider consultation. This sparked an internal discussion within the Fish & Game organisation as to how regions should consult internally when issues may affect other regions beyond their boundaries. Wellington Fish &

Game Council considered that there should be a process to encourage regions to consider effects of their decisions or positions on other fish and game regions.

Review of Lead Shot Sub-12gauge Exemption

The current review of sub-gauge (focused on 20 gauge shotguns) exemptions for the use of lead shot became increasingly politicised this year – but it is Wellington Fish & Game Council's preference that the existing process to consider the issue be completed before any action taken.

National Policy Development on Hunting Ethics

Wellington Fish & Game Council agreed that a national policy on hunting ethics may be appropriate with issues considered on a national basis but there was still a requirement for a significant consultation process to occur with regions prior to confirmation of any policy.

Commitment to Health and Safety Culture

Fish & Game set up an inter-regional working party to undertake work on updating the Health & Safety Manual since the new legislation came into effect in April of this year. A template was developed for all regions to base their implementation options and is being refined by each region to reflect the individual operations. It is recognised by Council to be an important responsibility for both governors and staff, and increased resources may need to be allocated to ensure changes to practices and culture are implemented to ensure a safe workplace.

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, and wider environment. We are fortunate to have staff that show strong commitment, dedication, enthusiasm, and skills in undertaking their duties. Each has made a significant contribution:

- Phil Teal leads the team and provides timely support to Council, and communication to licenceholders, and has been also been instrumental in maintaining capacity to make resource management advocacy across the organisation more efficient and effective;
- Corina Jordan resigned as Environmental Manager in August to pursue a career opportunity in resource management policy. During her eight years with Fish & Game she exhibited professionalism and outstanding dedication resulting in significant gains in the RMA area for Fish & Game and the wider environment. We wish her the best of luck in her future endeavours.
- Peter Wilson has recently been appointed as Senior Environmental Planner to undertake a similar role and has already exhibited the confidence and understanding to contribute to the RMA function at a high level;
- Steve Pilkington has diligently conducted the monitoring programmes for sportsfish and waterfowl, co-ordinated the ranger and compliance function, and contributed to novice recruitment opportunities;
- Hamish Carnachan has contributed significantly with public awareness of resource management issues in the Wellington region and effective communications to media and clients;
- Sue Wray, Corinne Deans, and Jillie Steadman provide consistently accurate administrative and financial management input.
- Post-Graduate students Renae Platt and Adam Canning have provided highly valued input while undertaking the resource management function (on a part time basis) throughout the year.

Wellington Fish & Game Council Performance Report For The Year Ended 31 August 2016

Wellington Fish & Game Council has recognised that it could better recognise the outstanding service of volunteers and contributors to wider Fish & Game and this will be an action that we will be looking to progress next year.

Finally but not least I acknowledge the contributions of the other twelve councillors. There have been some excellent debates that contributed to development of innovative ideas, relevant focus on strategic direction, and an added enthusiasm to contribute. I would like to thank councillors that continue to contribute their time and energy on a voluntary basis ensuring all of our licence holders rights and interests are promoted.

Thank you for your efforts.



Strato Cotsilinis

Chairman

Wellington Fish and Game Council

29 November 2016

**STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016**

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

The Council 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 of the Wellington Fish and Game Council, the Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2016, fairly reflect the financial position and operations of Wellington Fish & Game Council



Chairperson
Strato Cotsilinis
29 November 2016



Manager
Phil Teal
29 November 2016

Statement of Financial Performance
For the Year Ended 31 August 2016

	Note	Actual 2016 \$	Budget 2016 \$	Actual 2015 \$
REVENUE				
Fish and Game licence sales	1	650,078	646,770	639,026
Grants and Donations	1	133,297	129,214	114,596
Interest	1	14,672	12,393	18,255
Funding from central or local government	1	4,000	4,000	4,000
Other Revenue	1	81,333	11,400	28,601
Total Revenue		883,380	803,777	804,478
EXPENSES				
Outputs				
Species Management	2	77,689	67,300	53,511
Habitat Protection & Management	2	57,662	13,450	11,131
Angler & Hunter Participation	2	42,907	32,805	39,903
Public Interface	2	1,076	2,500	462
Compliance	2	5,005	7,000	6,267
Licencing	2	27,893	32,338	33,565
Council	2	4,408	6,000	4,414
Planning & Reporting	2	9,253	9,000	9,302
Overheads				
Employee Related Costs	2	477,457	501,812	473,867
Depreciation	4	29,877	12,393	34,314
Loss on Sale of Fixed Assets		10,478	-	-
Other Expenses	2	132,028	119,179	126,735
Total Expenses		875,733	803,777	793,471
NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)		7,647	-	11,007

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



Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 August 2016

	Notes	Actual 2016 \$	Budget 2016 \$	Actual 2015 \$
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Bank accounts and cash	3	172,363	159,221	220,017
Debtors and prepayments	3	95,794	70,000	42,427
Investments	3	348,935	180,000	336,312
Total Current Assets		617,092	409,221	598,756
Non Current Assets				
Property plant and equipment	4	266,403	234,570	261,661
Total Non-Current Assets		266,403	234,570	261,661
TOTAL ASSETS		883,495	643,791	860,417
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Creditors and accrued expenses	3	122,646	90,000	105,895
Employee costs payable	3	111,644	50,000	112,165
Other current liabilities	3	-	-	800
Total Current Liabilities		234,290	140,000	218,860
TOTAL LIABILITIES		234,290	140,000	218,860
NET ASSETS / (LIABILITIES)		649,205	503,791	641,557
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		649,205	503,791	641,557

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



Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 31 August 2016

	Note	Actual 2016 \$	Actual 2015 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash was received from:			
Licence Sales		650,697	685,558
Grants, donations and fundraising		135,075	134,410
Interest		14,705	18,308
Funding from central or local government		8,000	-
Other Revenue		-	6,473
GST (net)		-	2,769
Cash was applied to:			
Payments to Suppliers		330,331	285,440
Payments to Employees		467,327	450,180
GST (net)		13,377	-
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities		(2,558)	111,898
CASHFLOWS FROM INVESTING & FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Cash from received from:			
Sale of property, plant and equipment		4,313	13,043
Sale of investments/deposits		-	35,896
Cash was applied to:			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		49,409	91,070
Purchase of investments/deposits		-	-
Net Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities		(45,096)	(42,131)
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash		(47,654)	69,767
Opening Cash		220,017	150,250
Closing Cash		172,363	220,017
This is Represented by:			
Bank accounts and cash		172,363	220,017

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

Statement of Accounting Policies
For the Year Ended 31 August 2016

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.

Levies to NZFGC

A levy is paid each year to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council for the administration of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, or redistribution to other Council and for advocacy and research.

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 40%)
Motor Vehicles	10 Years (20 - 24%)
Office Equipment	3 – 10 years (11.4% to 80.4%)

Creditors and accrued expenses

Creditors and accrued expenses are measured at the amount owed.

Game Bird Habitat Stamp levy

Levies of \$7,102 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 and Discretionary 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 & game resource such as habitat maintenance and compliance management.

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 August 2015.

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 2016

NOTE 1: ANALYSIS OF REVENUE	Actual 2016 \$	Budget 2016 \$	Actual 2015 \$
Licence sales			
Fish Licence	378,762	360,570	372,961
Game licence	271,316	286,200	266,065
Total	650,078	646,770	639,026
Grants and donations			
Grant from Genesis	20,083	16,000	19,967
National Fish & Game Grant	113,214	113,214	94,604
Donations / Koha from the Public	-	-	25
Total	133,297	129,214	114,596
Interest			
Other interest	14,672	12,393	18,255
Total	14,672	12,393	18,255
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			
Reparation	9,438	5,000	3,188
Fines / Prosecutions	596	-	1,739
Trout liberations	8,637	2,000	8,756
Lake Wairarapa Hunter Access	1,391	1,000	1,239
Hunter Access	3,040	3,000	2,635
Kilmore Lodge	1,052	-	1,122
Public Awareness	13	-	13
Hunter Training	348	400	348
Other RMA Income	48,015	-	541
Gamebird Population Assessment	275	-	1,740
Duddings Lake Junior Anglers	8,528	-	6,087
Gain on sale / disposal of assets	-	-	1,193
Total	81,333	11,400	28,601

NOTE 2: ANALYSIS OF EXPENSE	Actual 2016 \$	Budget 2016 \$	Actual 2015 \$
Species management			
Population monitoring	54,710	40,000	34,422
Harvest assessment	3,333	14,800	3,943
Liberations	19,637	11,500	15,016
Control	9	1,000	130
Total	77,689	67,300	53,511
Habitat protection & management			
Resource management	50,001	1,200	1,499
Works & management	6,011	8,000	8,953
Assisted habitat	1,650	4,250	679
Total	57,662	13,450	11,131
Angler & Hunter participation			
Access	7,940	10,800	8,500
Newsletters	14,157	13,000	15,518
Information to Clients	5,872	4,000	5,114
Training	14,631	5,005	10,344
Huts	266	-	427
Club relations	41	-	-
Total	42,907	32,805	39,903
Public interface			
Advocacy	932	500	60
Public promotions	144	2,000	402
Total	1,076	2,500	462
Compliance			
Ranging	1,028	1,000	2,380
Ranger training	3,500	1,000	682
Compliance	477	5,000	3,205
Total	5,005	7,000	6,267
Licencing			
Licence production & distribution	403	-	-
Agent Service	4,633	-	341
Commission	22,857	32,338	33,224
Total	27,893	32,338	33,565
Council			
Council meetings	4,408	6,000	4,414
Total	4,408	6,000	4,414
Planning & reporting			
Reporting	9,253	9,000	9,244
National liaison	-	-	32
National projects	-	-	26
Total	9,253	9,000	9,302
Employee related costs			
Salaries and wages	466,807	487,122	471,673
Staff related costs	9,691	11,090	-
ACC Levies	959	3,600	2,194
Total	477,457	501,812	473,867
Other expenses			
Office premises	34,520	43,050	38,697
Office equipment	9,961	3,000	12,596
Communications	25,360	17,479	23,730
General	8,122	10,650	8,201
Field equipment	3,933	2,500	1,663
Vehicles	50,132	42,500	41,848
Total	132,028	119,179	126,735

NOTE 3: ANALYSIS ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	Actual 2016 \$	Actual 2015 \$
Bank accounts and cash		
Current account balance	172,363	220,017
Total	172,363	220,017
Debtors and other receivables		
Accounts receivable	85,787	40,871
Prepayments	10,007	1,556
Total	95,794	42,427
Investments		
Term Deposits	348,935	336,312
Total	348,935	336,312
Creditors and accrued expenses		
Trade and other payables	45,392	21,622
GST Payable	33,296	43,476
Income in advance	34,025	31,008
Audit fees accrual	6,483	6,339
Accounting fees accrual	3,450	3,450
Total	122,646	105,895
Employee costs payable		
Accrued salaries and wages	9,322	11,777
Annual leave	77,231	90,234
PAYE owing	25,091	10,154
Total	111,644	112,165
Other current liabilities		
ANZ Advantage Account	-	800
Total	-	800

NOTE 4: PROPERTY PLANT & EQUIPMENT

2016					
	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Sales / Disposals	Current year Depreciation and Impairment	Closing Carrying Amount
Asset Class					
Land	126,552	-	-	-	126,552
Buildings	4,022	-	-	182	3,840
Plant & Equipment	11,378	-	-	1,514	9,864
Vehicles	114,617	42,376	14,517	24,424	119,977
Office Equipment	5,093	7,033	274	3,757	8,095
Total	261,662	49,409	14,791	29,877	266,403

2015					
	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Sales / Disposals	Current year Depreciation and Impairment	Closing Carrying Amount
Asset Class					
Land	126,552	-	-	-	126,552
Buildings	4,204	-	-	182	4,022
Plant & Equipment	13,155	-	-	1,777	11,378
Vehicles	110,192	41,619	11,850	25,344	114,617
Office Equipment	12,104	-	-	7,011	5,093
Total	266,207	41,619	11,850	34,314	261,661

The combined value of the Council's landholdings 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 land holdings are respectively \$265,000, as determined at 1 September 2014 for South Wairarapa District Council, and \$520,000, as determined at 1 August 2016 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 holdings' values to be warranted at this time

NOTE 5: ACCUMULATED FUNDS

	Actual 2016	Actual 2015
	\$	\$
Accumulated Funds		
Balance as at 1 September	494,633	504,070
Surplus / (Deficit)	7,647	11,007
Transfer to Restricted Reserves	(35,341)	(24,972)
Transfer from Restricted Reserves	16,135	4,528
Balance at 31 August	483,074	494,633
Restricted and Discretionary Reserves		
Balance as at 1 September	146,925	126,481
Transfer to Accumulated Funds	35,341	24,972
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	(16,135)	(4,528)
Balance at 31 August	166,131	146,925
Total Accumulated Funds as at 31 August	649,205	641,557

Breakdown of Restricted and Discretionary Reserves		Actual 2016 \$	Actual 2015 \$
Name	Nature and Purpose		
Rangitikei Fish Monitoring Reserve	To monitor upper reaches of the Rangitikei River	123,387	118,883
Reparation Income	For works and projects that contribute to the fish & game resource.	32,629	23,191
Kilmore Lodge	For the maintenance and upkeep of Kilmore Lodge	2,760	1,974
JK Donald Track	For the maintenance and upkeep of the JK Donald track	1,106	4
Non Resident Licence Income	Back Country Fisheries	6,249	2,873
Total Restricted & Discretionary Reserves		166,131	146,925

NOTE 6: COMMITMENTS & CONTINGENCIES

Commitment to: Explanation and Timing

Office Lease	Lease expiring 28 February 2025
Operating leases means payments for the Wellington Fish & Game Council premises.	
Wellington Fish & Game Council has a lease in place for the Council premises, expiring in February 2025 costing \$25,500 per annum.	

Commitments

There are no capital expenditure commitments as at 31 August 2015. (Last year – nil)

NOTE 7: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Related Party	Description of the Transaction	2016 Value	2015 Value	2016 Amount Outstanding	2015 Amount Outstanding
NZ Fish and Game Council	Grants received	113,214	94,604		
Strato Cotsilinis	Trout partly paid for by Wellington Fish & Game Council in respect of children's fishing days	19,397	6,756		

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 & Game Council received a grant totaling \$113,214 to the New Zealand Fish & Game Council (2015 received grant; \$94,604). There are nil outstanding balances at year end (2015; 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 & Game Council. The total external cost of trout was \$19,397 excl GST (2015; \$6,756). A contribution of \$8,637 (2015; \$4,913) was invoiced to Wellington Flyfishers Club. The outstanding balance at year end is \$3,270 (2015; nil). The net cost to Wellington Fish & Game Council was \$10,760.

Wellington Fish & Game Council Performance Report For The Year Ended 31 August 2016
 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 (Last year nil).

NOTE 9: ALLOCATION OF OVERHEADS TO OUTPUT AREAS FOR 2016

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 2016

Output Area	Actual Direct \$	Actual Hours	Allocation of Overheads	Total Costs per Output
Species management	77,689	1,871	125,066	202,756
Habitat protection & management	57,662	3,598	240,571	298,233
Angler & hunter participation	42,907	1,555	104,005	146,912
Public interface	1,076	470	31,392	32,468
Compliance	5,005	558	37,309	42,314
Licencing	27,893	7	468	28,361
Council	4,408	301	20,092	24,500
Planning & reporting	9,254	757	50,581	59,835
Totals	225,894	9,116	609,485	835,379

Actual Overheads

Employee related costs	477,457
Other expenses	132,028
Total Overheads to allocate	609,485

BUDGET 2016

Output Area	Actual Direct \$	Actual Hours	Allocation of Overheads	Total Costs per Output
Species management	67,300	1,926	128,192	195,492
Habitat protection & management	13,450	4,360	290,195	303,645
Angler & hunter participation	32,805	1,466	97,575	130,380
Public interface	2,500	252	16,773	19,273
Compliance	7,000	266	17,705	24,705
Licencing	32,338	124	8,253	40,591
Council	6,000	356	23,695	29,695
Planning & reporting	9,000	580	38,604	47,604
Totals	170,393	9,330	620,991	791,384

Actual Overheads

Employee related costs	501,812
Other expenses	119,179
Total Overheads to allocate	620,991

STATEMENT OF PERFORMANCE
For the Year Ended 31 August 2016

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
Trout populations in all fisheries in the Wellington Fish & Game Region, that are valued by licence holders, will remain stable over time.	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 2016.	Drift dive surveys were undertaken in 69 transects of 25 rivers, and a report on the results of this, by professional staff, was presented to the Council on 11 October 2016. Trout spawning surveys were conducted on 46 rivers and streams.
(Mgt Plan ref A9.1.1)	Budget Cost \$87,737	Actual Cost \$81,016



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 2016.</p> <p>Operate a backcountry licence for the Upper Rangitikei fisheries.</p> <p>Budgeted income of \$16,000</p> <p>Budget Cost \$19,620</p>	<p>Obtained information on trout abundance, spawning and recruitment. Drift dived three sections of the Moawhanga River, 2.5 km section starting 1.2 km above the main road township bridge, and going downstream of the bridge a further 1.3 km. A new dive site was included situated above the confluence of the Moawhanga and Rangitikei Rivers. This involved an 1100 m section. One section on the Kawhatau River, a 1500 m stretch and one section on the Whakarekau River 7.3 km length down to the confluence with the Rangitikei River. This dive is divided into two sections - an upper section comprises of fast flowing water with pools and runs and bouldery terrain of approximately 4.3 km in length, whilst the lower section is predominantly runs and riffles with less pools and a more uniform substrate and is around 3 km in length. as major tributaries of the Rangitikei River. Two dive sites in the Rangitikei at Springvale were dived a 2.3 km section above the bridge and a 1.6 km section below the bridge.</p> <p>A backcountry licence has continued with results presented to Council 7 June 2016.</p> <p>A report to Genesis Power Ltd was completed in May 2016 and presented to Council 7 June 2016.</p> <p>Receipt of \$20,083 was received from Genesis Power Ltd. Some of these funds have been carried forward to 2016/2017.</p> <p>Actual Cost \$21,397</p>



PROJECT 1113 RIVER CONTROL FISHERY ASSESSMENT

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>The quality and quantity of trout habitat in the Wellington Fish & 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 Wellington Regional Council by 31 August 2016.</p> <p>Income of \$4,000 was budgeted from Wellington Regional Council.</p> <p>Budget Net Cost \$5,058</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 June 2016, and the report was presented to Wellington Fish and Game Council on 7 June 2016.</p> <p>Receipt of \$4,000 from Greater Wellington Regional Council.</p> <p>Actual Cost \$167</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 2016.</p> <p>Budget Cost \$43,581</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 11 October 2016.</p> <p>Actual Cost \$66,473</p>



PROJECT 1122 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 2016 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 2016 survey will be presented to the Council to 31 August 2016.</p> <p>Budget Cost \$5,628</p>	<p>The 2016 national hunter survey was undertaken during the 2016 game season, and a report by professional staff detailing game bird harvest levels for the 2015 game seasons, comparing these with 24 previous years' harvest assessments and detailing management implications, was received by the Council on 11 October 2016.</p> <p>Actual Cost \$4,236</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 2015/16 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 2016.</p> <p>Budget Cost \$4,893</p>	<p>Contribution made to a nationally co-ordinated research project on angler usage of rivers – the National Angler Survey which is conducted every seven years.</p> <p>Actual Cost \$669</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 2015/16 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 2016.</p> <p>Budget Cost \$4,227</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 completed and report was presented to Wellington Fish and Game Council on 11 October 2016.</p> <p>Actual Cost \$1,797</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 2016.</p> <p>The provision of at least 500 healthy two-year old rainbow trout at Dudding Lake, Bulls with view to supporting a junior novice fishing day promotion.</p> <p>Income of \$2,000 was budgeted.</p> <p>Budget Cost \$12,831</p>	<p>1000 rainbow trout from Ngongotaha Hatchery were delivered to Capital Trout Centre 9 October 2015.</p> <p>1000 rainbow trout liberated into Duddings Lake, Bulls for a junior/novice fishing day promotion on 8 November 2015. Planning and confirmation of event for November 2015.</p> <p>500 Trout from Tongariro Hatchery, Turangi were delivered to Capital Trout Centre 13 February 2016.</p> <p>1000 rainbow trout from Ngongotaha Hatchery were delivered to Capital Trout Centre 26 August 2016.</p> <p>Total costs for the Capital Trout Centre were \$19397 offset by the receipt of \$8,637 from Wellington Flyfishers Club.</p> <p>Total costs for the Duddings Lake, Bulls were \$24,939, offset by the receipt of \$7,503 from sponsors. (see project 1357)</p> <p>Actual Cost \$19,938</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 & 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 2016 game hunting season conditions to New Zealand Fish and Game Council by 31 December 2015.</p> <p>The dispatch of the Council's draft recommendations for the 2016/2017 fishing season conditions to New Zealand Fish and Game Council by 30 June 2016.</p> <p>Budget Cost \$5,058</p>	<p>Council's draft recommendations for the 2015 game hunting season conditions were sent to New Zealand Fish & Game Council on 21 December 2015 and 18 February 2016.</p> <p>Council's draft recommendations for 2016/2017 fishing season conditions were sent to New Zealand Fish & Game Council on 18 June 2016.</p> <p>Actual Cost \$1,538</p>

PROJECT 1172 KEEP AND RELEASE APPROVALS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>The protection of Wellington Fish & 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>Budget Cost \$532</p>	<p>Game preserves have been approved by the Council at: Rathmoy, Hunterville on 29 November 2006 (renewed with amendments October 2012); Te Para Hut, Taihape on 14 April 2010; Waituna West, Feilding on 9 December 2014.</p> <p>Actual Cost \$1,605</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 2016.</p> <p>Budget Cost \$6,325</p>	<p>Fish and Game issue permits to disturb game birds in specified areas and in specific circumstances.</p> <p>65 permits were issued, compared to 59 the previous year, with details reported to Council on 11 October 2016.</p> <p>Actual Cost \$3,920</p>

PROJECT 1211 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>The quality and quantity of trout habitat in the Wellington Fish & 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>Budget Cost \$240,811</p>	<p>Council staff responded to resource management issues throughout the year as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Section 95 approvals (non-notified) 5 Section 96 submissions in opposition 2 Pre-hearing meetings 4 Formal hearings 5 Post Hearing follow-up 2 Regional Plan submission 6 Pre Application Advice <p>The Environment Manager undertakes work with other Fish & Game regions undertaking nationally significant resource management and regional planning projects.</p> <p>Actual Cost \$262,055</p>

PROJECT 1212 HABITAT ADVOCACY

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>The quality and quantity of trout habitat in the Wellington Fish & Game region will remain stable over time.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref A9.1.3)</p>	<p>The promotion of habitat protection and enhancement, outside the Resource Management Act procedures, as opportunities allow.</p> <p>Budget Cost \$14,643</p>	<p>Fish & Game staff met local government and other officials, and undertook investigations to advocate for habitat protection and enhancement on 4 occasions.</p> <p>Actual Cost \$16,515</p>



PROJECT 1222 LAKE WAIRARAPA HABITAT

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
To maintain and enhance the gamebird habitat at the northeast 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 & Game in the Wairarapa Moana management organisation	Water diversion channels at the J.K. Donald Wetland were cleared and reporting on the operation of the diversion was completed, as required by the consent. Met with Greater Wellington Regional Council staff to discuss management issues on Wairarapa Moana project. Assisted in joint project with Department of Conservation and Greater Wellington Regional Council to spray willows on JK Donald Wetland.
	Budget Cost \$27,964	Actual Cost \$7,894

PROJECT 1223 JK DONALD DRAIN CLEAN

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
To maintain and enhance the gamebird habitat at the northeast margin of Lake Wairarapa. (no Mgt Plan ref, Statutory ref sec 26Q(1)(b)(v).)	To clean drain in the JK Donald Reserve wetland to comply with arrangements with adjoining landowners.	Drain status compliant with agreement.
	Budget Cost \$2,000	Actual Cost \$3,900

PROJECT 1231 WETLAND ENHANCEMENT

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
The Wellington regional populations of gamebirds are managed to remain relatively stable over time. (Mgt Plan ref C9.1.1.)	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 2016.	Advice on wetland improvement was provided to land holders on request on six occasions, with assistance with two funding applications for land holders (and other projects) with suitable wetland enhancement projects being provided by Gamebird Habitat Stamp Trust with one project receiving funding.
	Budget Cost \$13,945	Actual Cost \$5,082

PROJECT 1232 HABITAT MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
The Wellington regional populations of gamebirds are managed to remain relatively stable over time. (Mgt Plan ref C9.1.1)	To provide part funding for habitat enhancement projects. Budget Cost \$2,000	Advice provided to four habitat enhancement projects with two project receiving part funding. Actual Cost \$1,650

PROJECT 1233 TROUT RESERVOIR FEASIBILITY & MANAGEMENT

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Not less than 5,000 licenced anglers will undertake not less than 40,000 angling visits per year in the Wellington Fish & Game region. (Mgt Plan ref A 9.3.1) The maintenance and improvement of trout fisheries by stocking with hatchery-reared fish where this is necessary, achievable and cost effective. (Mgt Plan ref A9.1.5)	To investigate the feasibility of potential reservoir fisheries in the Wellington Region, Hutt Valley area and Wainuiomata River systems in particular. A report by professional staff on current state of fisheries in reservoirs will be presented to the Council by 31 August 2016. Budget Cost \$1,750	Preliminary investigations into the feasibility of establishing, and/or maintaining a reservoir fishery at four potential sites. Professional staff reported to the Council on 11 October 2016 identifying potential reservoir sites and management implications, in the concurrent report on Project 1354 Junior Angler Training Actual Cost \$67

PROJECT 1311 ANGLER ACCESS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Not less than 1,000 kilometres of angling water will be accessible to anglers in the Wellington Fish & Game Region. (Mgt Plan ref A9.3.3.)	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 2016. Liaison with the Walking Access Commission to identify potential improvements in public (and specifically angler) access. Budget Cost \$15,105	Angler access programme was maintained and angler access signage erected. Liaisons were held with relevant authorities including Walking Access Commission on particular angler access issues. Collaborative project for developing electronic formats for angler access points, in conjunction with Walking Access Commission. Actual Cost \$10,797

PROJECT 1312 LAKE WAIRARAPA HUNTER ACCESS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
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>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 for 3 club weekends, and on 101 other hunter nights.</p> <p>Liaison meetings held with land owners and land administering authorities with an interest in the management of hunter access to Conservation wetlands at Lake Wairarapa.</p> <p>Kilmore Lodge fees of \$1,052 were received.</p> <p>Donald Reserve track stickers produced income of \$1,391 excl.GST.</p>
(Mgt Plan ref C9.3.3.)	Budget Net Cost \$14,646	Actual Cost \$17,645

PROJECT 1313 HUNTER ACCESS PERMITS AND BALLOTS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
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>The availability of duly negotiated and agreed access permits, with a small administration charge, to licenced hunters, by 31 March 2016 for the 2016 game season, for all areas publicly available to hunters in the Wellington region.</p> <p>The management of the allocation by ballot of available hunting sites at Pukepuke, Koitiata and Lake Wairarapa Wetlands, in time for 2016 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 15 March 2016.</p> <p>A report to Council on the 11 October 2016 showed 726 permits were issued on request to Wellington Fish and Game region licence holders. (747 permits last year).</p> <p>Permit income of \$3,040 excl. gst was received.</p>
(Mgt Plan ref C9.3.3, 19.3.2)	Budget Net Cost \$12,997	Actual Cost \$4,806

PROJECT 1331 MAGAZINE & NEWSLETTERS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Not less than 85% of licenced anglers and hunters will be satisfied with the availability, quality, and extent of information available. (Mgt Plan ref A9.3.6.)	<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 pages were provided in Special Editions 41 and 42 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 spring 2015 (pre Fish #15) and autumn (pre-Game #16) 2016.</p>
	Budget Cost \$22,851	Actual Cost \$33,146

PROJECT 1341 INFORMATION TO LICENCE HOLDERS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Not less than 85% of licenced anglers and hunters will be satisfied with the availability, quality and extent of information available. (Mgt Plan ref A9.3.6, C9.3.6.)	<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 NZF&G website will be maintained as an important communication means with licence holders by 31 August 2016.</p>	<p>Report on communications prepared for Wellington Fish & Game Council on 11 October 2016.</p> <p>Council staff provided responses to requests for information as required.</p> <p>A monthly e-newsletter Reellife was regularly distributed electronically to anglers.</p> <p>Both Barrels e-newsletter was distributed to hunters electronically on 6 occasions throughout the game season.</p> <p>Weekly Fishing Reports (28) sent out from September 2015 – March 2016.</p> <p>Weekly Game Season Reports (10) sent out from April - June 2016.</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>
	Budget Cost \$19,974	Actual Cost \$17,439

PROJECT 1342 LAPSED PARTICIPANT SURVEY AND PARAMETER ANALYSIS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
The participation of hunters and anglers are to be at levels that will sustain effective management of the sport. (Mgt Plan ref A9.3.1, B9.3.1, C9.3.4)	Assist NZ Fish & Game Council undertake testing of marketing opportunities to lapsed participants and existing participants. Budget Cost \$666	NZ Council are currently reviewing newly introduced licence categories to assist in retaining and recruiting licence holders; including an analysis of licenceholder switching behaviour. Actual Cost \$0

PROJECT 1351 HUNTER TRAINING – LAKE OMANU

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Game licence sales are at a level that will sustain effective management of the sport. (Mgt Plan ref C9.3.4.)	The Foxton Waterfowl and Wetlands Club will be assisted to run a hunter training programme at Lake Omanu. Income of \$400 was budgeted from a grazing lease. Budget Net Cost \$505	The Junior Hunter Trainee Programme was run with existing trainees. The training programme, and this year's opening weekend shooting were reported to Council on 11 October 2016. Grazing lease income of \$348 was received. Actual Cost \$374

PROJECT 1354 JUNIOR ANGLER PROGRAMME

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Not less than 5,000 licenced anglers will undertake not less than 40,000 angling visits per year in the Wellington Fish & Game region. (Mgt Plan ref C9.3.1)	Establish an inventory of equipment that can be used in junior angler promotions. Develop a "Fish in Schools" education and recreation module for introduction into schools. Support two "getting started in fishing" promotions. Budget Cost \$36,812	Inventory of equipment for junior angler promotions maintained. Seven schools received support for the Fish in Schools module. Activities related to junior angler training undertaken as part of Duddings Lake public promotion, and Capital Trout Centre youth fishing open days. Actual Cost \$50,947

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. Budget Cost \$5,325	Maintain open communication with 13 active Fish and Game Clubs. 8 club meetings were attended. Actual Cost \$9,535

PROJECT 1411 ADVOCACY AND LIAISON

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>Liaison with Conservation Boards and Regional Councils at a governor level as opportunities permit by 31 August 2016.</p> <p>Budget Cost \$3,461</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>One Conservation Board meeting was attended, and two Conservation Board members attended 3 meetings of the Council during this year.</p> <p>Attended 3 Wairarapa Moana meetings dealing with management of Lake Wairarapa and surrounding wetlands.</p> <p>No Department of Conservation staff attended Council meetings during this reporting year.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Actual Cost \$17,953</p>

PROJECT 1412 IWI LIAISON

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>A positive relationship with the Wellington Fish & Game region's Iwi will be sought in respect of the management of trout.</p> <p>(Mgt Plan ref A9.2.5.)</p>	<p>The establishment of a positive working relationship with Iwi Authorities with a view to defining appropriate contacts by 31 August 2016.</p> <p>Budget Cost \$3,162</p>	<p>Maintained contacts with Iwi representatives from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ngati Raukawa ki te Tonga • Ngati Kahungunu • Rangitaane o Wairarapa • Te Mauri o Rangitaane o Manawatu. <p>Actual Cost \$468</p>

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 & Game New Zealand is provided, with the coverage reported to Council to 31 August 2016.</p> <p>Budget Cost \$11,649</p>	<p>3 Press releases to newspapers and magazines.</p> <p>5 Advertising – Radio Campaign and Newspapers.</p> <p>Regular updates to website / Facebook.</p> <p>Actual Cost \$12,232</p>

PROJECT 1443 PROMOTIONS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
The provision of news releases, displays and other forms of public communication as appropriate (Mgt Plan ref A10.2.10, A9.2.4, A9.3.6.)	To be involved in public promotions which advocate for Fish & Game interests and values. Budget Cost \$1,000	Attended 1 Children's Hunting and Fishing days with displays as appropriate. Actual Cost \$1,816

PROJECT 1511 RANGER MANAGEMENT

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Sufficient ranging resources to enforce fishing and hunting season conditions. (Stat. ref Sec 26Q (1)(b)(iv.) Conservation Act.)	The recruitment, of Council's ranger team meets adopted policy, and is reported to Council to 31 August 2016. Budget Cost \$9,386	At 31 August 2016, Council had 22 warranted honorary rangers, and 4 staff rangers. Council received a report on the year's performance against its adopted Rangers Policy on 11 October 2016. Actual Cost \$9,118

PROJECT 1521 RANGER TRAINING

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
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. (Mgt Plan ref A10.2.7)	Provide safety and compliance training and skill maintenance and is reported to Council to 31 August 2016. Budget Cost \$2,331	At 31 August 2016, Council had 22 warranted honorary rangers received formal training, and all 4 field staff rangers had received training. A pre-gamebird season ranger training day was held in Palmerston North. A pre-fishing season ranger training day was held in Palmerston North. 1 Ranger Newsletters were sent to all Rangers. Council received a report on the year's performance against its adopted Policy on 11 October 2016. Actual Cost \$9,786

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 750 anglers and hunters throughout the region, throughout the year, in line with adopted policy.</p> <p>The prosecution 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>Budget Cost \$12,987</p>	<p>The Council's 22 active Rangers and 4 Fish & Game staff checked 228 anglers and 122 hunters for compliance during 85 ranger day-equivalents.</p> <p>A report to Council on 11 October 2016 noted 35 offences were detected. 1 offender prosecuted for two offences, 29 alleged offenders opted for the reparation policy, 27 paid in full, 1 left the country, 1 has part paid. 6 were to produce, 0 pending, 2 unable to serve, 2 children warned, 2 tourists warned.</p> <p>Fines/reparation income of \$10,034 was received.</p> <p>Actual Cost \$23,410</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>2015 Game licences will be available to licence agents and participants throughout the region by 31 March 2016.</p> <p>2016/2017 fishing licences will be available to licence agents and participants throughout the region by 31 August 2016.</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>Budget Cost \$3,461</p>	<p>2016 emergency game licences were delivered to all licence agents by 22 March 2016.</p> <p>2015/16 emergency fishing licences were delivered to all licence agents by 5 September 2015. Due to the implementation of the online licence system, agents were allocated emergency licence books, a small minority of agents not using the online system were allocated licence books to cover initial sales.</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 all Council agenda's throughout the year.</p> <p>Actual Cost \$537</p>

PROJECT 1621 LICENCE AGENTS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
An effective and efficient network of licence resellers. (No Stat. or Mgt Plan ref.)	Council's Licence Agent Network is managed in line with adopted Council policy. Budget Cost \$37,130	At balance date, Council has a network of 33 licence agents. Council's licence agent network was managed in line with adopted Council policy, as reported to Council on 11 October 2016. A licence management agreement with Eyede Ltd to manage licence sales production, distribution, and invoicing was signed by Council as part of the NZ F&G collective. Actual Cost \$27,824

PROJECT 1721 COUNCIL

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
The effective direction of the management of the Council's business. (Stat. ref. Sec 26ZD, Conservation Act.)	Not less than six meetings of the Council, that comply with all legal and policy requirements to be held before 31 August 2016. Budget Cost \$29,695	Wellington Fish and Game Council held 6 meetings during the year; with at least a quorum present at all times. Meeting attendance is tabulated in Appendix 2. Actual Cost \$24,500

PROJECT 1811 MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Policies reflect national policies and good governance. (Mgt Plan refs A9.2.4, C9.3.5, C9.3.4, A9.3.1, A9.3.5)	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 2016. Council will undertake a review of its approved Management Plan by 31 August 2016. Budget Cost \$16,640	Policy reviews were undertaken as required. The Health and Safety Plan was reviewed and adopted. 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. Actual Cost \$735

PROJECT 1821 ANNUAL PLAN

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
To formulate and adopt an annual operational work plan. (Stat. ref. Sec 26Q(3), Conservation Act)	Adoption of a Proposed Annual Plan for 2016/17 that meets National Council requirements by the Council by 31 August 2016. Budget Cost \$3,328	Council's Annual Plan for 2016/17 was adopted on 23 August 2016. Actual Cost \$2,641

PROJECT 1831 ANNUAL REPORTING

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
To furnish the Minister of Conservation with an Annual Report on the operations of the Council for the year. (Stat. ref. Secs 26X, and 26ZD (7), Conservation Act.)	The adoption and presentation by the Council at a public Annual General Meeting of its audited Annual Report for 2014/15 not later than 30 November 2015, and its dispatch to the Minister directly thereafter. Budget Cost \$14,990	Council's audited Annual Performance Report for 2015 was adopted and presented at a public Annual General Meeting on 8 December 2015, and was delivered to the Minister and Parliament on 9 December 2015. Actual Cost \$24,264

PROJECT 1841 NATIONAL LIAISON

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Effective liaison with New Zealand Fish & 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 2016 with respect to coordination, of the Council's recommendations for licence fees, fund redistribution, research requirements, and national policy development. Budget Cost \$7,987	The Council Manager attended 3 national Fish and Game Managers' meetings. The Council's recommendations for licence fees were decided on 7 June 2016, and conveyed to New Zealand Fish & Game Council. Actual Cost \$20,727



PROJECT 1842 NATIONAL PROJECTS

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
<p>Wellington Fish & Game region remains free of <i>Didymo</i>.</p>	<p>Staff assistance with <i>Didymo</i> surveys will be provided at cost to Biosecurity NZ as required.</p> <p>Budget Cost \$4,659</p>	<p>Staff liaised on measures to prevent the incursion of <i>Didymo</i> into the North Island.</p> <p>Specific assistance was sought from Horizons Regional Council for <i>Didymo</i> monitoring and this was provided at no cost.</p> <p>Staff co-ordinated work on reaffirming the Standard Operating Procedures for species monitoring.</p> <p>Staff co-ordinated defining research requirements for mallard in NZ.</p> <p>Manager attended two meetings of the Licence Working Party as part of the regular annual pre-season licence management approvals.</p> <p>The Licence Working Party was involved in managing a review of additional licence categories including introduction of non-resident licence.</p> <p>Actual Cost \$11,467</p>



Appendix 1

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

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16
Family	470	493	523	588	585	580	523	593	605	602	539
Whole Season (Adult)	2,151	2,291	2,504	2,310	2,252	2,190	2,095	2,214	2,219	2,288	1,798
Whole Season (Junior)	293	258	266	206	196	220	211	217	229	202	188
Winter Season (Adult)	208	291	216	251	253	195	233	225	217	201	135
Winter Season (Junior)	40	30	33	22	21	21	34	23	14	22	0
24 Hour (Adult)	699	767	825	763	662	662	677	679	809	718	914
24 Hour (Junior)	90	76	71	101	84	44	60	59	49	64	71
Non Resident Adult										94	127
Non Resident Junior											3
Short Break											115
Long Break											13
Loyal Senior											162
Local Area											238
LEQ Total	3,094	3,313	3,538	3,428	3,330	3,242	3,094	3,293	3,338	3,472	3,272
Actual Total	3,951	4,206	4,438	4,241	4,053	3,912	3,833	4,010	4,142	4,191	4,303

GAME LICENCES

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16
Adult Whole Season	3,388	3,422	3,448	3,578	3,572	3,582	3,595	3,503	3,555	3,474	3,470
Adult Day	88	143	158	164	186	184	174	144	186	172	170
Junior Whole Season	416	370	386	374	344	298	291	320	297	290	296
Junior Day	10	10	16	7	15	12	16	8	3	10	5
Child	126	140	159	127	137	126	100	117	141	148	133
LEQ Total	3,487	3,542	3,580	3,702	3,693	3,693	3,699	3,610	3,664	3,568	3,564
Actual Total	4,028	4,085	4,167	4,250	4,254	4,202	4,176	4,092	4,182	4,094	4,074

Appendix 2

WELLINGTON FISH AND GAME COUNCIL
MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016

Meeting Date	Locality	Meeting	Councillors Present
8 December 2015	Palmerston North	Ordinary, AGM	12
16 February 2016	Upper Hutt	Ordinary	12
5 April 2016	Masterton	Ordinary	10
7 June 2016	Palmerston North	Ordinary	7
23 August 2016	Upper Hutt	Ordinary	11
11 October 2016	Palmerston North	Ordinary	12

Councillor attendances at these meetings were as follows:

Councillor	Meetings Attended	Apologies
Jim Cook	5	1
Marc Flaws	6	-
Brad Johnson	5	1
Strato Cotsilinis (Chairman from 17/4/2015)	6	-
Malcolm Francis	6	-
Andrew Morris (NZ Fish & Game Council Appointee)	6	-
Don Scott	5	1
Andy Tannock	3	3
Chris O'Meara	5	1
Paul Shortis	6	-
Simon Muckley	5	1
Dan Waechter	5	1
Eric Neumann (Co-opted 16/02/2016)	1	3



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 2016

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, to carry out the audit of the financial statements and statement of performance of the Fish and Game Council on her 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 14 to 25, that comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 August 2016, the statement of financial performance and the 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 26 to 45.

In our opinion:

- the financial statements of the Fish and Game Council:
 - present fairly, in all material respects:
 - its financial position as at 31 August 2016; and
 - its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
 - comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand and have been prepared in accordance with the Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting – Accrual (Public Sector) PBE SFR-A (PS) framework.
- the statement of performance of the Fish and Game Council:
 - presents fairly, in all material respects, the Fish and Game Council's performance for the year ended 31 August 2016, including for each class of reportable outputs:
 - its standards of performance achieved compared with the forecast included in the Annual Plan for the financial year;
 - its actual revenue and output expenses compared with the forecasts included in the Annual Plan for the financial year; and
 - complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

Our audit was completed on 2 December 2016. This is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis of our opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Council and our responsibilities, and explain our independence.

Basis of opinion

We carried out our audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand). Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and carry out our audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and the statement of performance are free from material misstatement.

Material misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts and disclosures that, in our judgement, are likely to influence readers' overall understanding of the financial statements and the statement of performance. If we had found material misstatements that were not corrected, we would have referred to them in our opinion.

An audit involves carrying out procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements and in the statement of performance. The procedures selected depend on our judgement, including our assessment of risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and the statement of performance, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the preparation of the Fish and Game Council's financial statements and statement of performance 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.

An audit also involves evaluating:

- the appropriateness of accounting policies used and whether they have been consistently applied;
- the reasonableness of the significant accounting estimates and judgements made by the Council;
- the appropriateness of the reported performance information within the Fish and Game Council's framework for reporting performance;
- the adequacy of the disclosures in the financial statements and in the statement of performance; and
- the overall presentation of the financial statements and the statement of performance.

We did not examine every transaction, nor do we guarantee complete accuracy of the financial statements and the statement of performance.

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

Responsibilities of the Council

The Council is responsible for preparing financial statements and a statement of performance for the Fish and Game Council that:

- comply with general accepted accounting practice in New Zealand;
- present fairly the Fish and Game Council's financial position, financial performance and cash flows; and
- present fairly the Fish and Game Council's performance and outcomes.

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

The Council is responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements and a statement of performance that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The Council is also responsible for the publication of the financial statements and statement of performance, whether in printed or electronic form.

Responsibilities of the Auditor

We are responsible for expressing an independent opinion on the financial statements and statement of performance and reporting that opinion to you based on our audit. Our responsibility arises from the Public Audit Act 2001.

Independence

When carrying out the audit, we followed the independence requirements of the Auditor-General, which incorporate the independence requirements of the External Reporting Board.

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



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