



PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 AUGUST 2018

NEW ZEALND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

<i>Northland Fish and Game region</i>	Noel Birchall
<i>Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game region</i>	Colin Sherrard
<i>Eastern Fish and Game region</i>	Lindsay Lyons Chairman
<i>Hawke's Bay Fish and Game region</i>	Kevin Williams
<i>Taranaki Fish and Game region</i>	Alan Flynn
<i>Wellington Fish and Game region</i>	Andrew Morris
<i>Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game region</i>	Paul Dixon- Didier
<i>North Canterbury Fish and Game region</i>	John Cumberpatch (resigned May 2018) Ron Stuart (from 20 June 2018)
<i>West Coast Fish and Game region</i>	Andy Harris
<i>Central South Island Fish and Game region</i>	Matthew Hall
<i>Otago Fish and Game region</i>	John Jillet
<i>Southland Fish and Game region</i>	Paul Stenning (resigned March 2018) Chris Owen (from 27 April 2018)

ENDS STATEMENT

“Fishers and Hunters have access to sustainable sports fish and game resources in New Zealand”

COUNCIL STAFF

Chief Executive

Martin Taylor (as from 30 October 2017)

Bryce Johnson (retired 3 November 2017)

Policy & Planning Manager

Robert Sowman

Finance & Administration Manager

Alison Lyall (to 19 January 2018)

Communications Manager

Don Rood

Communications Advisor (South Island)

Richard Cosgrove

Business Support Manager

Kym Nairne (as from 29 January 2018)

Receptionist/Administrator

Sue MacLeod (retired 12 October 2017)

Accounts Assistant (part time)

Jordyn Mclean

COUNCIL OFFICE

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19 November 2018

Minister of Conservation
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister

I have the honour to submit, pursuant to x.26X of the Conservation Act 1987 and x.16 of the Public Finance Amendment Act 2004, the performance report and financial statements of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, for the period ended 31 August 2018.

Yours faithfully



Lindsay Lyons
Chairman

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

For the year ended 31 August 2018

The financial year for the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) runs from 1 September to 31 August. This 2017/2018 financial year represents the third year of the current Fish and Game Council election triennium with new council elections held in October 2018.

The NZ Council, established in 1990, is made up of one appointee from each of the twelve regional councils. It is charged with representing nationally the interests of anglers and hunters, and with providing leadership across the organisation. I became the sixth chairman of the NZ Council in May 2014, so this is my fourth annual report.

Environment and Habitat Protection

Fish and Game continues to devote considerable time and resources to arguing for sustainable habitats and better freshwater quality and quantity. Our thanks go to the efforts of our recently retired CEO, Bryce Johnson, who was a ceaseless champion for the environment. Our new CEO, Martin Taylor, along with other Fish & Game staff, is continuing this legacy. As an organisation we are committed to keeping the fresh water and environment debate in front of the public. It has become increasingly evident that New Zealand needs to urgently move to a more certain system of 'environmental responsibility'.

Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation

The NZ Council, for the first time this year, has supported a workstream that will ensure we are a robust organisation going forward. That workstream, called the 'R3 Strategy', aims to maintain and grow our licence holder base by focusing on recruitment (attracting new people), retention (keeping the people we already have) and reactivation (bringing back people we have lost). If Fish and Game is to grow into the future, we need to embed the 'R3 Strategy' across regions. This year we have begun to explore ways to achieve this.

Public awareness remains key to our future

Creating public awareness and support for the environment, angling and game bird hunting remains a key initiative for the NZ Council. Raising awareness is necessary to ensure we have public and political support and to ensure we recruit tomorrow's anglers and hunters. It is important that there is an understanding at all levels about what Fish and Game does and why it is important to continue those activities which are part of our cultural heritage.

NZ Fish & Game Magazine

The two, free to licence holder, issues of the Fish & Game Magazine will continue into the future as they are an important and effective platform for communication with our licence holders. However, the four commercial editions were dropped earlier this year as they were not economically viable without a significant subsidy from licence holder revenue. This was a hard call to make but reflects how the NZ Council is reviewing all aspects of our operations to ensure that we are an efficient organisation that uses licence holder funds wisely.

Relationship with the Minister of Conservation and the Director General of Conservation

We were fortunate to have Minister Sage speak at the Salmon Symposium in November 2017 soon after she and her Coalition Colleagues took office. I have had two meetings with her at

her office this year along with our CEO, Martin Taylor. Other senior staff maintain a regular contact with the Minister's Conservation Private Secretaries as it is important to build and maintain healthy and open relationships at this level.

Game Bird Habitat Stamp Programme

The 2018 New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Collection pays tribute to the mallard duck (*anas platyrhynchos*); the artwork for this year's stamp being done by New Zealand artist Karen Baddock. The purpose of the Game Bird Habitat Stamp Programme is to raise funds for habitat enhancement. Three dollars of each game licence fee is assigned to the stamp as income to the programme. Revenue is also gained by the sale of the stamp programme through NZ Post to collectors. This year's Habitat Stamp programme raised \$96,393 for transfer to the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board to be used in its programme for supporting wildlife habitat enhancement.

The Council

My aim as chairman is to provide an environment where our 12 New Zealand councillors can work together to make the robust decisions needed to provide leadership and coordination across our organisation. We are pleased to have our new CEO who looks at our organisation with fresh eyes. This will enable us to become an even more effective and efficient organisation going into the future.

I am heartened and inspired by the voluntary efforts and time commitments given so freely by Fish and Game councillors and other Fish & Game volunteers to our organisation. Their commitment enables us to continue to uphold the interests of anglers and hunters nationwide.

This year saw our recently retired CEO, Bryce Johnson and long serving Central South Island councillor, Matthew Hall receive well deserved recognition in the 2018 Queens Birthday Honours. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them both and to recognise their contribution to our organisation and the environment.

I would also like to recognise the contribution of staff in their supportive and management capacity and want to record my thanks for their efforts in helping sustain the organisation as a credible and respected contributor to New Zealand's environmental wellbeing.



Lindsay Lyons
Chairman

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended

31 August 2018

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New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group

Statement of Responsibility

For the year ended
31 August 2018

The Council and Management of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council accept responsibility for the accuracy of any judgements used in the preparation of the following financial statements and statements of performance.

We are responsible for the end-of year performance information provided by New Zealand Fish and Game Council under section 19A of the Public Finance Act 1989.

We have the responsibility for establishing and maintaining a system of internal control designed to provide reasonable assurances as to the integrity and reliability of financial reporting.

In our opinion, these financial statements and statements of performance fairly reflects the financial position and operations of New Zealand Fish and Game Council for the year ended 31 August 2018.

Signed on behalf of the Council



Council Chairman



Chief Executive

19 November 2018
Date

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group
Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense
For the year ended
31 August 2018

	Note	Actual 2018 Group \$	Budget 2018 Group \$	Actual 2017 Group \$
REVENUE FROM NON-EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS				
Levies		3,668,448	3,668,430	3,514,342
Research Income		-	-	134,000
Other Revenue		-	-	500
		3,668,448	3,668,430	3,648,842
REVENUE FROM EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS				
Interest		38,801	52,340	49,065
Magazine Contributions		36,000	36,000	36,206
Regulations Revenue		13,386	10,500	6,677
RMA Legal Revenue		7,735	-	130,959
Sundry Income		18,509	-	-
		114,431	98,840	222,907
Total Revenue		3,782,879	3,767,270	3,871,749
EXPENSES				
Species Management	2	110,968	88,000	75,448
Habitat Protection & Management	2	745,431	941,682	693,041
Angler & Hunter Participation	2	250,473	261,500	251,854
Public Interface	2	190,692	196,640	240,712
Compliance	2	21,810	30,500	29,700
Licensing	2	659,331	727,460	639,917
Council	2	68,318	87,000	82,483
Planning & Reporting	2	307,330	249,508	153,456
Research		88,454	134,000	84,042
Distribution to Regional Budgets		690,516	677,014	516,874
Personnel Costs	3	721,561	655,700	687,767
Depreciation	8	18,913	-	10,484
Other Expenses	4	119,092	93,000	111,454
Total Expenditure		3,992,889	4,142,004	3,577,232
Net Surplus/(deficit)		(210,010)	(374,734)	294,517
Total comprehensive revenue and expense		(210,010)	(374,734)	294,517

The accompanying notes form part of and should be read in conjunction with these financial statements.



New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
As at
31 August 2018

	Note	2018 Group \$	2017 Group \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	5	1,236,099	1,396,725
Receivables - Exchange	6	49,726	17,810
Receivables - Non Exchange	6	98,478	115,489
Other Financial Assets	7	948,918	1,045,026
Prepaid Expenses		85,745	62,657
Total Current Assets		2,418,966	2,637,707
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant & Equipment	8	48,472	19,492
Total Non-Current Assets		48,472	19,492
TOTAL ASSETS		2,467,438	2,657,199
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	9	464,573	295,132
Employee Entitlements	10	58,763	211,324
NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust	11	110,852	107,482
Total Current Liabilities		634,188	613,938
TOTAL LIABILITES		634,188	613,938
NET ASSETS		1,833,251	2,043,261
Accumulated Funds	12	913,203	1,386,475
Restricted Reserves	12	920,048	656,786
EQUITY		1,833,251	2,043,261

The accompanying notes form part of and should be read in conjunction with these financial statements.



New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group
Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended
31 August 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
Equity			
Balance as at 1 September		2,043,261	1,748,744
Comprehensive Revenue and expense for the year			
Net Surplus		(210,010)	294,517
Total comprehensive revenue and expense for the year		(210,010)	294,517
	12	1,833,251	2,043,261

The accompanying notes form part of and should be read in conjunction with these financial statements.



New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group
Consolidated Cash Flows Statement
For the year ended
31 August 2018

	Note	2018 \$	2017 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash was received from:			
Levies		3,668,448	3,648,342
Other revenue		61,007	135,338
Interest received		38,518	54,337
GST (Net)		9,948	-
Cash was applied to:			
Payments to suppliers		3,112,089	2,744,373
Payments to employees		874,122	648,991
GST (Net)			32,986
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities		(208,290)	411,667
CASHFLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Cash was received from:			
Net amount received from investments		96,108	-
Cash was applied to:			
Net amount paid to investments		-	303,547
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		48,444	12,326
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities		47,664	(315,873)
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
		-	-
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash		(160,626)	95,784
Opening Cash		1,396,725	1,300,941
Closing Cash		1,236,099	1,396,725
This is represented by:			
Cash & cash equivalents	5	1,236,099	1,396,725

The accompanying notes form part of and should be read in conjunction with these financial statements.



New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended

31 August 2018

Note 1 : STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

REPORTING ENTITY

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group 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. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Section 153-6 of the Crown Entities Act 2004. The Council has wholly owned subsidiary, Fish and Game Publishing Limited, with the same balance date, which holds the Fish and Game magazine intellectual property. This entity has been consolidated in these financial Statements.

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group is a public benefit entity (PBE) for financial reporting purposes, These financial statements were authorised for issue on the 23rd November 2018 by the Council. No other party has the power to amend these financial statements.

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, and the accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the period. The financial statements have been recognised on a historical cost basis.

Statement of Compliance

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Crown Entities Act 2004, which includes the requirement to comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand (NZ GAAP).

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Tier 2 Public Benefit Entity International Public Sector Accounting Standard - RDR (reduced disclosure) as annual expenditure is between \$2,000,000 and \$30,000,000.

Changes in Accounting Policy

There have been no changes in accounting policy in the accounts for 2018.

Presentation Currency

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars, and are rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

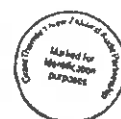
SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Consolidated Accounting Policy

The group financial statements are prepared by combining the financial statements of all the entities that comprise the Group, on a line by line basis. In preparing the Group financial statements, all inter-entity balances and transactions are eliminated in full.

Revenue Recognition

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group derives revenue from regional Fish and Game levies, interest on interest bearing deposits and miscellaneous income. Any amounts collected as an agent or on behalf of the other third parties (for example the Game Bird Habitat Stamp Levy) is not considered an economic benefit and therefore is not revenue.



New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended
31 August 2018

Revenue from Non-exchange Transactions

Levies and Research Income

New Zealand Fish and Game Council is primarily funded from the levies payable by Fish and Game Councils, in accordance with 26C(f) of the Conservation Act 1987. These levies are used for the administration of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council; and for redistribution between Fish and Game Councils; and advocacy and research. Levies are recognised when the invoice is issued.

Revenue from Exchange Transactions

Interest Revenue

Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues, using the effective interest method.

Regional Magazine Contributions

Regional Fish and Game Councils contribute money towards the Fish and Game magazines. This revenue is recognised in the period that the magazine is distributed.

RMA Legal Revenue

RMA Legal revenue is recognised when the invoice is issued following awarding the costs.

Operating Leases

Leases that do not transfer substantially all risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset to the Council are classified as operating leases. Lease payments under an operating lease are recognised as an expense on a straight line basis over the term of the lease in the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense.

Distribution to Fish and Game Councils

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council makes distributions to Fish and Game Councils in the form of levies to support regions and reimbursements for legal funding and research projects.

Financial Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, bank balances, deposits held at call with banks, and other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Receivables

Short term receivables are recorded at their face value, less any provision for impairment.

A receivable is considered impaired when there is evidence that the Council will not be able to collect the amount due. The amount of the impairment is the difference between the carrying amount of the receivable and the present value of the amounts expected to be collected.

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended

31 August 2018

Other Financial Assets

Short term deposits have maturities between three months and one year. Investments in deposits are measured at amortised cost using effective interest method.

At reporting date the Council assesses whether there is any objective evidence that an investment is impaired. Any impairment loss is recorded as an expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense.

Financial Liabilities

Payables

Payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Council prior to the end of the financial year which are unpaid. Payables are recorded at the amount of cash required to settle those liabilities. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

Employee Entitlements

Short-term employee entitlements

Employee benefits that are due to be settled within 12 months after the end of period in which the employee renders the related service are measured based on accrued entitlements at current rates of pay. These include salaries and wages accrued up to balance date and annual leave earned but not yet taken at Sick leave is accumulated by staff but is not likely to be material and has not been accrued. There is a potential liability for sick leave of staff but that has not been possible to quantify for inclusion within the salary accruals at balance date.

Long-term employee entitlements

Employee benefits that are due to be settled beyond 12 months after the end of period in which the employee renders the related service, such as long service leave and retirement gratuities.

The calculations are based on:

- Likely future entitlements accruing to staff, based on years of service, years of entitlement, the likelihood of that staff will reach the point of entitlement, and contractual entitlement information; and
- The present value of the estimated future cash flows.

Superannuation Schemes

Defined Superannuation Schemes

Obligations for the contribution to KiwiSaver are accounted for as defined contribution superannuation schemes and recognised as an expense in the surplus or deficit as incurred.

Equity

Equity is measured as the difference between total assets and total liabilities. Equity is disaggregated and classified into the following components:

- Accumulated surplus/(deficit)
- Dedicated Reserves

Dedicated Reserves are those reserves subject to specific conditions accepted as binding by the Council; and which may not be revised by the Council without reference to specified purposes or when certain specific

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended

31 August 2018

conditions are met.

Research Reserve

A reserve has been maintained to undertake research projects approved by Council.

Asset Replacement Reserve

The asset replacement reserve is a reserve set up to enable the council to replace plant & equipment.

Election Reserve

The election reserve is a reserve set up to enable the council to budget yearly for elections which are required by law to be held every 3 years. Exact election costs are variable dependant on the number of candidate nominations received for each council, and an election will be held in regions which have greater than 12 candidates.

Legal Fund Reserve

The legal fund reserve is a reserve set up to undertake legal cases approved by the Council.

Goods and Services Tax

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of GST, with the exception of receivables and payables which are stated GST inclusive.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the IRD is included as part of receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

The Statement of Cash Flows is presented on a gross basis, and any GST component in the investing or financing activities are incorporated into the operating cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed exclusive of GST.

Income Tax

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Fish and Game Council is a public authority and consequently is exempt from the payment of income tax. No income tax provision has been made.

New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Stamp Fee

New Zealand Fish and Game collects from each Fish and Game Council the Game Bird Habitat stamp fee on behalf of the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust. The fee is (\$3) from the sale of every Game Bird Licence sold from the most recently completed financial year. This fee has no economic benefit to New Zealand Fish and Game Council and is not treated as revenue. Likewise any outgoings on behalf of the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust are not recognised as an expenditure in the New Zealand Fish and Game Council Financial Statements. Refer to Note 11.

Accounting Estimates and Assumptions

In preparing these financial statements the Council has made estimates and assumptions concerning the future in regard to asset lives and impairment of assets. None of these estimates and assumptions are considered material by the Council.

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended

31 August 2018

Note 2 : ANALYSIS OF EXPENSES	Actual 2018 \$	Budget 2018 \$	Actual 2017 \$
Species Management			
Monitoring Methology	-	3,000	-
Regulations	69,559	65,000	75,448
Salmon Symposium	36,602	20,000	-
Sea Run Salmon Committee	4,807	-	-
Total	110,968	88,000	75,448
Habitat Protection/Management			
Resource Management	386,797	675,682	586,251
Advocacy	79,096	86,000	74,008
Water Conservation Orders	279,538	180,000	32,782
	745,431	941,682	693,041
Angler & Hunter Participation			
Access	14	1,000	1,108
Other publications	237,852	235,500	243,662
General	12,607	25,000	7,084
Total	250,473	261,500	251,854
Public Interface			
Advocacy	4,862	7,500	9,907
Communication	38,914	35,640	104,429
Education	7,496	12,000	9,207
Public Promotions	139,420	141,500	117,169
Total	190,692	196,640	240,712
Compliance			
Ranger Co-Ordination	21,270	27,500	29,188
Compliance	540	3,000	512
Total	21,810	30,500	29,700
Licensing			
License Production and Distribution	170,489	276,460	190,042
Licence Projects	38,220	-	-
License Audit	6,000	6,000	5,275
License Contract	444,622	445,000	444,600
Total	659,331	727,460	639,917



New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended

31 August 2018

Note 2 : ANALYSIS OF EXPENSES	Actual 2018 \$	Budget 2018 \$	Actual 2017 \$
Council			
Council Meetings	68,318	82,000	77,753
Governance and Performance Review	-	5,000	4,730
Total	68,318	87,000	82,483
Planning & Reporting			
Management/Strategic Planning	28,492	30,000	25,306
Annual Planning	95,759	97,500	96,932
Assurance Services	61,009	62,508	10,426
Elections	37,881	30,000	-
Financial Audit Fee	13,950	14,500	14,500
Regional Audit	58,277	5,000	-
Staff Scholarship	11,962	10,000	6,292
Total	307,330	249,508	153,456



New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended

31 August 2018

Note 3 : PERSONNEL COSTS	Actual 2018 \$	Budget 2018 \$	Actual 2017 \$
Salaries and Wages	681,983	630,000	645,703
Recruitment and Welfare	21,833	4,300	28,546
KiwiSaver contributions	16,397	20,000	12,163
ACC levies	1,348	1,400	1,355
Total	721,561	655,700	687,767

Note 4: OTHER EXPENSES	Actual 2018 \$	Budget 2018 \$	Actual 2017 \$
Communications	8,593	7,000	7,984
Equipment Maintenance	-	3,000	3,223
Loss on Purchase of Magazine	-	-	20,374
Loss On Sale of Disposal of Assets	551	-	-
Occupancy Expenses	64,805	58,496	57,295
Purchases Under \$2,000	11,990	11,000	5,231
Relocation Costs	10,792	-	-
Stationery, Postage and Couriers	15,529	11,500	13,585
Storage & Insurance of Art	1,471	-	-
Subscriptions	2,054	-	-
Sundry Expenses	3,307	2,004	3,762
Total	119,092	93,000	111,454



New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended

31 August 2018

Note 5 : CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Cash at bank and on hand	935,792	696,725
Term Deposits with maturities less than 3 months	300,307	700,000
Total	1,236,099	1,396,725

The Council has a Credit Facility with ANZ of \$18,000. At reporting date \$18,000 was issued to card holders. The amount payable at reporting date is \$8,177 (2017 \$3,888)

Note 6: RECEIVABLES

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Receivables (gross)	142,324	127,701
Interest Receivable	5,880	5,598
Total Receivables	148,204	133,299

Total Receivables comprises:

Receivables from exchange revenue	49,726	17,810
Recoverables from non-exchange revenue	98,478	115,489
Total	148,204	133,299

Note 7: OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Current portion		
Term Deposits	948,918	1,045,026
Total Other Financial Assets	948,918	1,045,026

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended

31 August 2018

Note 8: PROPERTY PLANT & EQUIPMENT

Movement for each class of property, plant and equipment as follows:

	Motor Vehicle	Office Equipment	Office Furniture	Total
Cost or Valuation				
Balance At 1 Sept 2016	-	76,830	14,965	91,795
Additions	-	12,877	-	12,877
Disposals	-	(14,525)	-	(14,525)
Balance At 31 Aug 2017	-	75,182	14,965	90,147
Balance At 1 Sept 2017	-	75,182	14,965	90,147
Additions	37,594	9,095	1,755	48,444
Disposals	-	(161)	(390)	(551)
Balance At 31 Aug 2018	37,594	84,116	16,330	138,040

Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment losses

Balance at 1 Sept 2016	-	60,307	14,389	74,696
Depreciation Expense	-	10,406	78	10,484
Eliminate on Disposal	-	(14,525)	-	(14,525)
Balance At 31 Aug 2017	-	56,188	14,467	70,655
Balance at 1 Sept 2017	-	56,188	14,467	70,655
Depreciation Expense	2,820	16,004	89	18,913
Eliminate on Disposal	-	-	-	-
Balance At 31 Aug 2018	2,820	72,192	14,556	89,568

	Plant & Equip	Plant & Equip	Furniture	Total
Carrying Amounts				
At 31 Aug and 1 Sept 2017	-	18,994	498	19,492
At 31 Aug 2018	34,774	11,924	1,774	48,472



New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended

31 August 2018

Note 9: PAYABLES

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
<i>Payables under exchange transactions</i>		
Creditors	369,788	185,259
Income In Advance	17,916	21,251
Accrued Expenses	19,280	40,981
	406,984	247,491
Taxes payable (GST,PAYE,and rates)	57,589	47,641
	57,589	47,641
Total	464,573	295,132

Note 10: EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
Annual Leave	58,763	90,759
Retirement and long service leave	-	120,565
Total	58,763	211,324

Note 11: NZ GAME BIRD HABITAT TRUST

Game Bird Habitat Stamp Programme

For the year ended 31 August 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
<i>Income</i>		
Game Bird Habitat Stamps sold with licences	99,991	100,425
General sales	19,596	21,588
Total Income	119,587	122,013
<i>Less Expenses</i>		
Product Production	23,194	12,820
Programme Administration	-	15,730
Total Expenses	23,194	28,550
Net Transfer to NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Board	96,393	93,463
GST Applied	14,459	14,019
Gross payable at Reporting date	110,852	107,482



New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended

31 August 2018

Note 12: EQUITY	2018 Group \$	2017 Group \$
<i>Accumulated Funds</i>		
Balance as at 1 September	1,386,475	1,272,961
Surplus/(Deficit)	(210,010)	294,517
Transfer to Reserves	(263,262)	(131,044)
Transfer from Reserves	-	(49,959)
Total Accumulated Funds	913,203	1,386,475
<i>Dedicated Reserves</i>		
Asset Replacement Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	29,085	29,085
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	-	-
Transfer to Accumulated Funds	-	-
Balance at 31 August	29,085	29,085
Research Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	119,535	69,576
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	85,346	-
Transfer to Accumulated Funds (Expenses)	-	49,959
Balance at 31 August	204,881	119,535
Election Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	35,000	-
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	35,000	35,000
Transfer to Accumulated Funds	-	-
Balance at 31 August	70,000	35,000
Legal Fund Reserve		
Balance as at 1 September	473,166	377,122
Transfer from Accumulated Funds	142,916	96,044
Transfer to Accumulated Funds	-	-
Balance at 31 August	616,082	473,166
Total Dedicated Reserves	920,048	656,786
Total Equity	1,833,251	2,043,261



New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended

31 August 2018

Note 13: COMMITMENTS	Actual 2018 \$	Actual 2017 \$
Commitment to:		
Eyede Ltd	889,200	592,800
Staff Overseas Travel Scholarship	10,000	10,000
WCO	137,000	-
Grey Teal Monitoring	4,400	4,400
Lindis River Trout	-	548
National Mallard Research	54,244	87,616
Game Harvest Survey Analysis	632	562
Integrated Catchment Management	-	60,000
National Anglers Survey	51,928	3,222
Fisheries SOP	12,958	16,000
Public opinion survey on water quality	14,100	20,000
Trophic Interactions	-	5,000
Validation of DMU'S	2,346	2,346
Public Good Research	27,152	3,152
Environmental DNA	26,121	50,000
NIWA Didymo study	20,000	20,000
Liminological variable on food web dynamics	15,000	15,000
Genetic variation in Sth Island salmon	10,000	10,000
Cost Benefit Analysis - Fish Hatchery	30,000	-
Native/Sports Fish Interactions	50,000	-
Total	1,355,081	900,646

The above contracts have been approved by the Council and will be recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense when the contract service conditions have been met by the third party or when a constructive obligation exists.



Lease Commitments:

	Actual 2018 \$	Actual 2017 \$
Photocopier Rental		
Within 1 year	-	3,352
1-2 years	-	3,352
3-5 years	-	-
Total Copier	\$ -	\$ 6,704
Premises Rental		
Within 1 year	\$ 55,770	\$ 45,087
1-2 years	\$ 55,770	\$ 45,087
3-5 years	\$ 46,475	\$ 45,087
Total Premises	\$ 158,015	\$ 135,261
Total Operating Leases		
Within 1 year	\$ 55,770	\$ 48,439
1-2 years	\$ 55,770	\$ 48,439
3-5 years	\$ 46,475	\$ 101,218
Total Operating Leases	\$ 158,015	\$ 198,096

Note 14: CONTINGENCIES

During the financial year, the New Zealand Fish and Game Council moved premises from the Jarden Mile, as an Initial Earthquake Assessment concluded the building was a substantial risk to staff.

The lease agreement for that property was exited before the final expiry of the lease and has given rise to a potential liability equal to the remaining lease period's instalments. Consequently, a contingent liability of \$54,370 (2017: \$Nil) exists at balance date.

New Zealand Fish and Game Council Group

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended
31 August 2018

Note 15: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Related Entities

New Zealand Fish and Game Council manage the stamp program activities on behalf of the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board. Income is collected from regions and New Zealand Post. The net income after associated expenditure is transferred to the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board. Refer to note 11.

Related Party Transactions

New Zealand Fish and Game Council receive levies from the regional Fish and Game Councils. Levies from regional Fish and Game Councils are legislated by the Conservation Law Reform Act 1990. Transactions with other regional Fish and Game Councils are not disclosed as related party transaction when they are consistent with the normal operating arrangements between the Councils and undertaken on the normal terms and conditions for such transactions.

There is a total amount of \$120,330 outstanding from the regional Fish and Game Councils at 31 August 2018 (2017 \$116,305)

Key Management Personnel compensation

Key management personnel compensation	Actual 2018	Actual 2017
Remuneration	\$638,809	\$508,198
Full time equivalent	4	4
<i>Note remuneration includes holiday pay and long service leave paid out on Key Personnel during the year.</i>		

Note 16: EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE DATE

There have been no significant events after the balance date. (2017 nil)

NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE

YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

INTRODUCTION

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) was established “to represent nationally the interests of anglers and hunters and provide co-ordination of the management, enhancement and maintenance of sports fish and game” (section 26B (1) of the Conservation Act 1987).

The proposed projects and activities of the NZ Council for the year ended 31 August are set out in its Business Plan. This Statement of Service Performance describes each of the eight output classes, key activities and associated performance measures, results achieved and total output expenses incurred for the year.

OUTPUT CLASS 1: Species Management

Output Class 1 focuses on the NZ Council input into species management of advocating sports fish and game as valued New Zealand wildlife species, promoting consistently applied management practices and co-ordinating the approval and printing of New Zealand wide angling and hunting regulations.

TARGETED OUTCOMES

- a) Sports fish and game birds are maintained as wild non-commercial species and a valued part of New Zealand’s biodiversity
- b) Coordinate the preparation and recommendation to the Minister of Conservation anglers notices and notices for game seasons and publication in the NZ Gazette
- c) Regulations and opportunities for angling and hunting are available to all licence holders.

Activity	Performance Standard	Performance Results
Species advocacy	Contribute to relevant reviews, draft legislation and other reports which could affect the status and/or, the perceived values of sports fish and game bird species within stated timeframes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ General advocacy as need or opportunity arose.▪ Watching brief established on the NPS Biodiversity development process, including the ‘indigenous’ verses ‘introduced’ species arguments.
Regulation approvals	Gain approval for sports fishing and game hunting regulations from the Minister of Conservation and publish them in the NZ Gazette at least 28 days before the start of the fishing and hunting seasons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Regulations for the 2018 game bird hunting and 2018 sports fishing seasons were approved by the Minister of Conservation on 28 February 2018 and 28 July 2018 respectively.



Regulations printed Complete assembly, printing and commencement of distribution of the hunting and fishing regulations guide books.

- *The Open Season for Game in Fish and Game Regions, North Island and South Island was published in the NZ Gazette 2 March 2018.*
- *The Anglers' Notice for Fish and Game Regions was published in the NZ Gazette 26 July 2018.*
- *Gamebird hunting and sports fishing regulations were assembled, printed and distributed by the agreed dates.*

Output Class 1	Budget	Actual
Species Management	\$88,000	\$110,968

OUTPUT CLASS 2: Habitat Protection and Management

Output Class 2 recognises the existence of habitat of adequate quantity, distribution and quality underpins the extent and availability of sport fish and game bird populations. It also recognises that Fish and Game interests operate in a competitive environment for these finite materials which comprise the habitat base of sports fish and game.

TARGETED OUTCOMES

- a) Fish & Game's mandate to manage, maintain and enhance sports fish, game birds and habitats are recognised, advocated for and promoted in planning processes
- b) The Game Bird Habitat Stamp Programme is run effectively to promote habitat protection and reflect the conservation interests of hunters
- c) The New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board is serviced to facilitate the distribution of grants made available through the habitat stamp programme.

Activity	Performance Standard	Performance Results
Habitat advocacy within government	Maintain Fish & Game involvement in relevant government processes relating to fish and game habitat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>NZ Council staff participated in the Land Care Trust and the RMA and NPS for Freshwater Management debates.</i> ▪ <i>On-going general advocacy to state agencies and industry bodies.</i>
Habitat advocacy within the wider community Habitat stamp programme	Advocate angler and hunter interests in key water and other resource management issues Manage the contract with New Zealand Post to develop and market the 2015 Habitat stamp and associated products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Reimbursement of costs to regions where funding criteria has been met on resource management issues.</i> ▪ <i>The habitat stamp and range of related products were produced, based on artwork by Karen Baddock. The artwork features the mallard duck. The stamp with a \$3 fee that goes towards habitat conservation, accompanies all game bird hunting licences sold.</i> ▪ <i>The contract for the stamp programme with New Zealand Post was administered.</i>



New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board

Service the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust Board and administer payment of grants. Agendas and minutes of formal meetings to be prepared and distributed within seven days prior to and following meeting dates.

- *The administration and payment of grants was carried out on behalf of the Trust Board. Agendas and minutes for the formal meeting were prepared and distributed by the agreed times.*

Output Class 2	Budget	Actual
Habitat Protection and Management	\$941,682	\$745,431



OUTPUT CLASS 3: Angler and Hunter Participation

Output Class 3 focuses on the primary clients of Fish and Game, namely present, past and future licence holders. With increasing competition for the recreational dollar, there is a need to set strategies that reduce barriers to participation by anglers and hunters, attract new participants and above all retain existing participants.

TARGETED OUTCOMES

- a) Represent nationally the interests of anglers and hunters
- b) Promote the management of sports fish and game and the work of Fish and Game
- c) All angler and hunter enquiries are responded to in a timely and acceptable manner.

Activity	Performance Standard	Performance Results
Advocate for public access to the resource Coordinate communication material	Advocate the ability for anglers and hunters to gain free foot access to the fish and game resource Inform licence holders about the work of Fish & Game New Zealand through special fishing and hunting editions of the national Fish and Game magazine, the web site and electronic newsletters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>On-going general advocacy, including in media & at meetings with MPs & officials.</i> ▪ <i>The game hunting edition was published in March as Special Edition 46.</i> ▪ <i>The fishing edition was published in August as Special Edition 47.</i> ▪ <i>Web, Face Book and You Tube sites maintained</i> ▪ <i>Monthly Reel Life and four issues of Both Barrel electronic newsletters produced.</i>
Correspondence	Respond to angler and hunter correspondence and other requests in a timely manner acceptable to them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Angler and hunter correspondence received, as emails, land mail and via the Fish & Game web site, replied to directly from the NZ Council Office or, where necessary, sent to a regional office for specific comment.</i>

Output Class 3	Budget	Actual
Angler and Hunter Participation	\$261,500	\$250,473



OUTPUT CLASS 4: Public Awareness

Output Class 4 focuses on creating support for Fish and Game activities and interests and the value of these to the wider community. It recognises the importance of public opinion and strategic allies in achieving that support.

TARGETED OUTCOMES

- a) The management model by licenced anglers and hunters is maintained and promoted
- b) Sports fishing and gamebird hunting remain socially and politically acceptable
- c) The importance of sports fish and game habitats and participation in fishing and hunting is encouraged.

Activity	Performance Standard	Performance Results
Advocacy for the fish and game system	Promote the Fish and Game, angler and hunter user pays and says, model to Ministers, Members of Parliament and other organisations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Fish and Game model promoted at speaking engagements and media opportunities.</i>
Public awareness and support	Increase the recognition of Fish and Game New Zealand in the wider community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Assistance, support and sponsorship provided to regions through media engagement and advertising.</i> ▪ <i>Advertising incorporated into key dates and campaigns such as the Water Conservation Order public awareness activity.</i>
Youth programme	Maintain a school curriculum programme promoting the importance of sports fish and gamebird habitat and the sport of fishing and hunting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Fish & Game sponsored the Regional and National Secondary School Clay Bird Championships and used it as a promotional opportunity.</i> ▪ <i>The youth educational programme was supported with the production of supplies and further promotion.</i>
National support for public awareness programmes	Promote Fish & Game NZ and its issues to regional audiences. Assist Fish & Game regions to promote their work and issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>One full-time and one part-time public awareness officer supported to provide media engagement and marketing activity.</i> ▪ <i>Assistance also provided to other F&G regions.</i> ▪ <i>Game Bird Food Festival promoted.</i>

Output Class 4	Budget	Actual
Public Awareness	\$196,640	\$190,692

OUTPUT CLASS 5: Compliance

Output Class 5 deals with compliance with the Conservation, Wildlife Acts and Freshwater Fishing and Game Regulations and reflects a key activity of the regions. The NZ Council role is through the Chief Executive to appoint rangers and more generally to provide the overall coordination of compliance requirements and liaison with the Department of Conservation and other government agencies on law enforcement and compliance issues.

TARGETED OUTCOMES

- a) Resources to enforce fish and hunting season conditions are coordinated nationwide
- b) Warrants of appointment of fish and game rangers are maintained
- c) Ranging and compliance policy and programmes are coordinated.

Activity	Performance Standard	Performance Results
Ranger and compliance coordination	Maintain an effective national Fish & Game compliance network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New honorary rangers appointed during the year as requested by regions. ▪ Administration and payment of ongoing ranger health and safety courses in regions. ▪ Support provided to regions via email with aid of Fish & Game's Compliance & Enforcement representatives. ▪ Fish & Game national compliance database maintained.

Output Class 5	Budget	Actual
Compliance	\$30,500	\$21,810

OUTPUT CLASS 6: Licencing

Output Class 6 is primarily focused on the administration of the licencing system, including maintaining the database, licence categories, printing and distribution of licences and financial reconciliation.

TARGETED OUTCOMES

- d) Licences to take sports fish or hunt and kill game are issued nationwide through an authorised issuing agent
- e) Cost-effective issue and sale of sports fishing and game bird hunting licences is achieved.

Activity	Performance Standard	Performance Results
Licence service management	Manage relationship with licence administering agency on behalf of regions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated outsourcing of the administration of licence sales by Eyede for both fish and game seasons. Meetings of Licence Working Party held prior to sign-off for each licence round (February & July) to oversee licence outsourcing project. Outsourced licence agreement monitored and maintained.
Licence production	Sign off licence formats and provide support material by dates of meetings of the Licence Working Party.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Licence proofs distributed for comment and amended where required. Electronic online licensing printed as plastic licences and operated nationally by Eyede according to licence administration agreement.
Licence income not allocated to particular regions	Collect & distribute to regions 'other' licence revenue ('other' being licence sales where no region is specified on licence details).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 'other' licence income distributed to regions on a pro rata basis.

Output Class 6	Budget	Actual
Licencing	\$727,460	\$659,331

OUTPUT CLASS 7: New Zealand Council

Output Class 7 covers the activities and associated expenditures of NZ Councillors and general governance matters.

TARGETED OUTCOMES

a) The New Zealand Fish & Game Council is serviced to provide for its efficient operation.

Activity	Performance Standard	Performance Results
NZ Council meetings	Enable the New Zealand Council to meet its statutory obligations for governance of Fish & Game New Zealand. Agendas and minutes of formal meetings to be prepared and distributed within ten days prior to and following meeting dates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two meetings held away (Wellington & West Coast regions) and three meetings held in Wellington. Agendas and draft minutes were despatched within the deadlines.

Output Class 7	Budget	Actual
New Zealand Council	\$87,000	\$68,316



OUTPUT CLASS 8: Organisational Co-ordination, Planning and Reporting

Output Class 8 focuses on the coordination role of the New Zealand Council to enable the organisation (the 13 Councils) to achieve its combined primary purpose and functions.

TARGETED OUTCOMES

- a) Fish & Game New Zealand remains the primary advisor to the Minister of Conservation on sports fish and gamebird matters
- b) Coordinate and support regional Fish and Game Councils on a project and issue basis as requested
- c) The triennial elections of Fish & Game councillors are effectively overseen
- d) Appropriate licence fees are set and approved to recover the costs attributable to the management of sports fish and game
- e) Business planning and reporting is compliant with legislative requirements
- f) A research programme to enhance fish and gamebird management is actively maintained.

Activity	Performance Standard	Performance Results
Coordination general	Provide policy advice and other services to the Minister as requested in a form and to a time specified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requests for advice received from the Minister of Conservation were responded to with draft replies as general Ministerial correspondence within an acceptable timeframe.
Meetings of regional managers	Provide input and support to regions as requested.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Liaison with regions both collectively and individually on project and issue basis throughout the year. ▪ Meetings held February, April and August. ▪ Agendas and minutes prepared and distributed by agreed times. ▪ April meeting included a joint day meeting with NZ Council to determine recommendations on new season licence fees.
Triennial elections	Coordinate and facilitate meeting of managers on a range of issues of significance to the organisation. Agendas and minutes of formal meetings to be prepared and distributed within ten days prior to and following meeting dates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preparation for 12 October 2018 Fish and Game Council Elections commenced.
National budget & licence fee	Maintain triennial elections of Fish & Game councillors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At the May meeting of the NZ Council, recommendations on licence fees and indicative regional budgets were developed in collaboration with regional managers. ▪ The NZ Council, following consultation with regions, ratified its licence fee recommendations to the Minister of Conservation at NZ Council's July meeting. ▪ The Minister of Conservation approved the licence fees and proposed

Business Plan	Complete NZ Council business planning and reporting processes in time for a draft to be considered in July.	<p><i>Fish & Game New Zealand budget for 2018– 2019 on 14 July 2018.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>A draft Business Plan for 2018 – 2019 was considered by the NZ Council and adopted at the September meeting.</i> ▪ <i>Bi-monthly reports on the achievement of the 2017– 2018 Business Plan were submitted to the NZ Council at each meeting.</i> ▪ <i>Reporting on Results across all output classes for 2017/18 submitted to NZ Council at its September 2018 meeting.</i> ▪ <i>The completed Annual Report for year ended 31 August 2017 was submitted to the Minister of Conservation for presentation to Parliament.</i> ▪ <i>NZ Council at its April meeting approved the 2018/19 research programme.</i> ▪ <i>Contracts organised with providers.</i>
Research programme	<p>Preparation of the Annual Report completed in time to be presented to the Minister for tabling in Parliament in the first week of December.</p> <p>Coordinate research activities with approvals received at the May NZ Council meeting.</p>	

Output Class 8	Budget	Actual
Organisational Co-ordination, Planning and Reporting	\$249,508	\$307,330



Independent Auditor's Report

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TO THE READERS OF NEW ZEALAND FISH AND GAME COUNCIL'S GROUP FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

The Auditor-General is the auditor of New Zealand Fish and Game Council group (the "Group"). The Auditor-General has appointed me, Brent Kennerley, using the staff and resources of Grant Thornton, to carry out the audit of the financial statements and the Statement of Service Performance of the Group, on his behalf.

Opinion

We have audited:

- the consolidated financial statements of the Group on pages 2 to 19, that comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 August 2018, the Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense, Statement of Changes in Equity and Cash Flows Statements 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 Service Performance of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, on pages 20 to 28.

In our opinion:

- the consolidated financial statements of the Group, on pages 2 to 19:
 - present fairly, in all material respects:
 - its financial position as at 31 August 2018; and
 - its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
 - comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand in accordance with Public Benefit Entity International Public Sector Accounting Standards with reduced disclosure requirements (RDR) (Public Sector); and
- the Statement of Service Performance of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, on pages 20 to 28:
 - presents fairly, in all material respects, the New Zealand Fish and Game Council's performance for the year ended 31 August 2018, including for each class of reportable outputs:

- its standards of performance achieved as compared with the forecasts included in the budget approved by the Council for the financial year; and
 - its actual revenue and expenses as compared with the forecasts included in the budget approved by the Council for the financial year; and
- o complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

Our audit was completed on 19 November 2018. This is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis for our opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Council and our responsibilities relating to the financial statements and the Statement of Service Performance and we explain our independence.

Basis for our opinion

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

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

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

Responsibilities of the Council for the financial statements and the Statement of Service Performance

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

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

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

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

Responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements and the Statement of Service Performance

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

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

For the budget information reported in the financial statements and the Statement of Service Performance, our procedures were limited to checking that the information agreed to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council's budget approved by the Council.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the electronic publication of the financial statements and the Statement of Service Performance.

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

- We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and the Statement of Service Performance, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- We obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council's internal control.
- We evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Council.
- We evaluate the appropriateness of the reported performance information within the New Zealand Fish and Game Council's framework for reporting performance.
- We conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the Council and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the New Zealand Fish and Game Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements and the Statement of Service Performance or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the New Zealand Fish and Game Council to cease to continue as a going concern.
- We evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements and the Statement of Service Performance, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements and the Statement of Service Performance represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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

Our responsibilities arise from the Public Audit Act 2001.

Independence

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

Grant Thornton also completes an engagement in regards to regional licence revenue received and distributed by a third party, other than this we have no relationship with or interests in the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.



Brent Kennerley
Grant Thornton New Zealand Audit Partnership
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Wellington, New Zealand