



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

15 February 2018

AGENDA

The 168th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

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

Date: **Thursday, 15 February 2018**

Commences: **12.00 PM**

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

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 167th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH
AND GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME
NEW ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2017 AT 12.00PM**

Present

Lindsay Lyons, Alan Baird, Barry Roderick, Neal Hawes, Ken Coombes, Peter Storey, Sandy Bull, and Annaka Davis (arrived 12.40pm).

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick, Matt McDougall, Kate Thompson, Lynne Sands, Nigel Simpson, Eben Herbert, John Meikle, Lloyd Gledhill, Anthony van Dorp, Carmel Veitch, Matt Osborne, and Mark Sherburn (Eastern Fish & Game); David Conley (Department of Conservation), and Ken Raureti (Bay of Plenty Conservation Board; arrived 2.06pm).

1.0 WELCOME

Cr Lindsay Lyons (Deputy Chairman) opened the meeting at 12.09pm and welcomed Councillors, staff, and Dave Conley (Taupo Fisheries Manager).

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Crs Murray Ferris, Steve Scragg, Laurance Tamati, and David Woolner, and it was noted that Annaka Davis had advised that she would be delayed. Apologies were also received from Helen Neale (Department of Conservation).

2.2 Andy Garrick took this opportunity to inform the Council of Cr David Woolner's recent health concerns, and passed on David's advice that he would be unavailable to attend meetings in the foreseeable future and possibly well into 2018. Andy noted that David would continue to receive Council information and that he had indicated he was keen to contribute by providing comment where he could.

2.3 *Agreed (Alan Baird/ Neal Hawes) that the apologies for the 167th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [17/11/2.3]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (19 OCTOBER 2017)

3.1 *Agreed (Sandy Bull/Alan Baird) that the minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [17/11/3.1]*

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

4.1 There were no items for inclusion in Council policy.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Cr Barry Roderick queried Dave Conley about whether the Department of Conservation was aware of concerns over Himalayan balsam weed which had been raised as an issue by members of the public at the recent meeting of Council in Tauranga. Dave Conley advised that he was unaware of such concerns. Andy Garrick informed Council that this weed had been around for quite some time, and was listed as an "advisory plant" in the Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan and a "restricted pest plant species" in the operative Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan. The botanist at the Department of Conservation in Rotorua was aware of its presence within the region and did not perceive it to be an issue, but

- would remain alert to the concerns raised by Owen Poad at Council's last meeting. Andy advised he would get staff to have a look at the Tahunaatra situation, and noted that while both plant and animal species can be an issue in some parts of the world, they are not necessarily a problem wherever they occur as ecological factors and environmental conditions vary widely and greatly influence how a species behaves.
- 5.2 Cr Sandy Bull informed Council that Item 18.1 from the minutes of the previous meeting relating to stranded fingerlings had been resolved, and that Item 18.2 regarding Fish & Game's involvement with the Gisborne Regional Fresh Water Plan had been clarified by the Regional Manager when he spoke at the Gisborne Anglers' AGM.
- 6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS**
- Barry Roderick - Lake Tarawera and Waikaremoana updates
 - Ken Coombes - perch, Papamoa
 - Neal Hawes - catfish, Rotoiti
 - Barry Roderick – boat licence
- 7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER**
- 7.1 No conflicts of interest were identified.
- 7.2 Cr Lindsay Lyons reminded Council that any perceived conflicts also needed to be declared, and explained what a perceived conflict of interest could be considered to be.
- 8.0 2016-2017 PERFORMANCE REPORT**
- 8.1 The audited copy of the 2016-2017 Performance Report for the Eastern Fish & Game Region had been circulated to Council prior to the meeting via email and a further hard copy was tabled at the meeting. Andy Garrick advised that the agenda item provided a detailed summary of variances and asked if there were any further questions that Council might have.
- 8.2 Cr Barry Roderick asked whether the auditor was happy with the outcomes of the audit and that there were no qualifications to this? Andy Garrick confirmed that the auditor was once again happy with the audit process and its outcomes and that no issues had been identified. Andy referred Councillors to the Audit Management Letter a copy of which had been emailed to them with the Audited Performance Report.
- 8.3 *Agreed (Peter Storey/Ken Coombes) that Council adopts the Performance Report for the 2016-2017 year. [17/11/8.3]*
- 8.4 Cr Barry Roderick congratulated staff on their performance.
- 9.0 UPLAND GAME PROPERTIES REPORT**
- 9.1 Matt McDougall identified an error within Item 3.1 on page 17 of the report, this being that the year "2006" should have read "2016".
- 9.2 Cr Sandy Bull queried whether there was any information on nesting success on Upland Game Properties or land bordering these properties, and whether the liberated birds were marked in any way? Cr Alan Baird had the impression that numbers appeared to be increasing in some areas as a result of the liberations and said that he had seen good numbers on his properties. Nigel Simpson advised that little or no marking had been undertaken to date but as permits were renewed the Department of Conservation had been incorporating a condition that required this despite Eastern Fish & Game submitting that this was inappropriate and unnecessary. He said that it

was difficult to band them as they were released at only six weeks of age and were too small to accommodate an adult sized band. Matt McDougall noted that some birds had been wing tagged. In response to Sandy's question as to whether property owners monitor nests, Nigel Simpson said no, not in his experience, and commented that if you could see the nests to count them it was unlikely they would be viable as they would be conspicuous to predators too.

9.3 *Agreed (Alan Baird/Ken Coombes) that Council receives the summary of hunter effort and harvest on Upland Game Properties in 2017. [17/11/9.3]*

10.0 2018 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

10.1 Council considered further Game Season Conditions requiring discussion and/or resolutions at this meeting. Andy Garrick pointed out that Recommendation 4.5 relating to the Waewaetutuki wetland had been resolved at the October meeting of Council and did not require further discussion.

10.2 Cr Barry Roderick suggested that Council confirms Items 4.3 and 4.4 as recommended before further discussion on items 4.1, 4.2, 4.6 and 4.7.

10.3 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Ken Coombes) that the 2018 season conditions for shoveler duck be a two bird bag limit for four weeks. [17/11/10.3]*

10.4 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Ken Coombes) that the remaining conditions for the 2018 season are as proposed in Appendix 2. [17/11/10.4]*

10.5 Referring to Items 4.6 and 4.7 Cr Lindsay Lyons queried the bag limit of 10 per person and whether this shouldn't be unlimited? Matt McDougall confirmed that Recommendations 4.6 and 4.7 regarding the special seasons should have been written as "unlimited bag limits" and that the limit of 10? per person was presented in error.

10.6 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Alan Baird) that a special black swan season be held on one weekend (two days) in February 2019 in Management Area A1 with an unlimited daily bag limit. [17/11/10.6]*

10.7 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Alan Baird) that a special pukeko season be held on the same weekend in February for all of the Eastern Region with an unlimited daily bag limit. [17/11/10.7]*

10.8 Council discussed Recommendation 4.1 relating to the restricted season proposed for the Reporoa/Broadlands/upper Waikato River areas. Cr Ken Coombes queried whether the population might have increased as he had seen some good numbers of mallards in places this spring and what appeared to be a lot of breeding occurring? Nigel Simpson confirmed that the area on the corner of Ohaaki Road was a stand out spot but questioned whether this was an isolated example, as the Reporoa area more generally was still showing low numbers. He felt that birds were in prime spots but they were not there in high enough numbers to spread out to secondary locations as had been seen elsewhere. Council supported Nigel's recommendation to extend the restriction for a further year and acknowledged that the change implemented last season was not considered to have been sufficient to make a real difference yet.

10.9 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Peter Storey) that Council reaffirms the restricted season for mallard and grey duck in the Reporoa/Broadlands/upper Waikato River area of 4 weeks/5 weekends with a bag limit of 4. [17/11/10.9]*

10.10 Council discussed Recommendation 4.2 relating to the boundaries of the Reporoa area in which restricted conditions will apply, and whether it should also include the Reporoa basin which was omitted from it during the 2017 game season. Matt McDougall provided his reasoning behind the area gazetted for the 2017 season which was that it was easy to describe and captured most sites hunted within the wider area

of concern, while Nigel Simpson provided an alternative perspective which included the confusion likely to arise for some hunters in naming the restricted area as the Reporoa Area when it did not actually include Reporoa. Cr Ken Coombes felt that it would be a mistake to alter the boundaries of the area now as most people had adapted to it last season, and Matt McDougall agreed that it might cause additional confusion if it was to be altered for the coming season.

10.11 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Alan Baird) that Council retains the status quo for the description accompanying the gazettal of the Reporoa Area for the 2018 Game Bird Season. [17/11/10.11]*

11.0 DATE FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS 2018

11.1 Andy Garrick advised that the proposed schedule for the Council's 2018 meeting dates was based on corresponding Thursdays from the current year while ensuring that the timing of meetings also met with operational deadlines set by the New Zealand Council. With Andy no longer being required to attend Hawke's Bay Council meetings he advised Council that there was opportunity to revert back to a Wednesday meeting if they chose to. Council agreed to leave the meeting day as a Thursday as this suited most Councillors.

11.2 Cr Ken Coombes queried attendance at the October Council meeting held in Tauranga, and whether there was a need to meet outside of Rotorua, noting the significant effort required by all to attend? Andy Garrick confirmed that only two members of the public had attended the Tauranga meeting. Points raised during the discussion following included;

- reasonable attendance at meetings held in Wairoa compared to other locations;
- meetings are held during week days when most people are at work so perhaps away meetings should be held on a weekend day;
- earlier start times are required to accommodate Councillors travelling to and from other locations;
- may not be justifiable or necessary to have meetings out of Rotorua every year, once during the 3 year term may be sufficient;
- costs associated with staff and Councillor attendance at other locations can be considerable;
- meeting at a local Marae may be a useful way of engaging with iwi though the agenda would need to be focussed on topical matters relevant to the iwi group concerned, and this might compromise the ability of the Council to attend to core business.

11.3 *The motion was put (Neal Hawes/Ken Coombes) that Council confirms the proposed meeting dates and defers consideration of options for an away meeting and/or meetings at other venues until a later point in time. [Not carried]*

11.4 Cr Sandy Bull was very keen to see an away meeting take place in Wairoa if not Gisborne and advised that he would contact clubs and other groups in the area to confirm their interest.

11.5 Andy Garrick suggested that Council revisit this at its next meeting in February and he would present some additional thoughts to facilitate the discussion.

11.6 *Agreed (Sandy Bull/Annaka Davis) that Council confirms all proposed meeting dates other than that suggested for the August 2018 meeting, the latter to be given further consideration at Council's next meeting in February. [17/11/11.6]*

12.0 GUIDES LICENCE

- 12.1 Cr Lindsay Lyons updated Council with an overview of work completed to date on the proposal for a Guides Licence. He said that the New Zealand Council was looking to re-submit the proposal to the new Minister of Conservation Hon. Eugenie Sage in February 2018. This being subsequent to the then Minister of Conservation Hon. Maggie Barry requiring further information on the prior submission. Three guides had since presented to the New Zealand Council and Lindsay commented on their reliance on Fish & Game to get this through suggesting that they should also be lobbying their MPs. Lindsay confirmed that any submission made by the New Zealand Council is made from a Fish & Game perspective.
- 12.2 Andy Garrick questioned the implications for Fish & Game of a guides licence, and noted an obvious one being greater CLE demands. Andy questioned whether Fish & Game would also be responsible for setting criteria for being a guide and screening applicants? Lindsay advised that criteria and qualifications would be set by the guides, and Fish & Game would be provided with the details of these.
- 12.3 Ken Raureti questioned what the main driver was behind the proposed guides licence? Lindsay advised that existing NZ based guides are the main proponents. They want operators to be licenced because:
- there is increasing pressure by international 'guides' on NZ's waterways;
 - some South Island rivers are being overrun by guides;
 - revenue paid to international guides bypasses the NZ tax system as more often than not groups are booked and paid for outside of the country;
 - overseas anglers who have visited NZ come back again to guide others;
 - there are Health & Safety and other compliance issues involved, e.g. MSA requirements for boats.
- Lindsay spoke of the value to Fish & Game of knowing who is guiding and where, and being better able to monitor the pressures placed on back country rivers and waterways. He also commented on issues of exclusive capture.
- 12.4 Cr Barry Roderick felt that guides needed to provide a quality service to ensure the international visitor has a memorable experience. Andy had heard of issues over etiquette and behaviour of some groups and suggested that a guides licence may be a way of reducing some of these issues. Dave Conley from the Department of Conservation advised that a guides licence was also something they were looking into for the Taupo Fishery. He talked about the concession system for operators using DOC conservation land and the huge effort that is required to manage this, particularly in relation to compliance, and suggested that there would be a need to ensure that the process behind endorsement of licence applicants is robust. He said a licence system may improve behaviours but from experience with concessions often the opposite had occurred.
- 12.5 Cr Annaka Davis queried whether our Sports Fish and Game Management Plan provides for Fish & Game to do this? Eben Herbert advised that the plan was a high level policy document that recognises there is a role for guides, rather than a document addressing whether or not Fish & Game can issue licences as legislative provision is already available for licensing guides.
- 12.6 Cr Peter Storey asked if there was any point in pushing for a 'beat' system? Andy Garrick noted that a provision of this nature, "controlled fisheries" was already available and applied in some South Island rivers, but was not something that had been identified as being needed in the Eastern Region at this point in time.

- 12.7 Mark Sherburn suggested that consideration should be given to compliance issues in the field e.g. how do you confirm if someone is guiding or not? His discussions with other field staff had suggested there were a lot of grey areas. Lindsay Lyons agreed as often visitors pay for accommodation and so forth and get the guiding for free.

13.0 LIAISON OFFICERS' REPORTS CONTINUED

13.1 Reports from other agencies

Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

Ken Raureti informed Council that he was looking forward to the opening of the streams tomorrow and spoke on a number of matters including:

- favourable consideration by the Board of Eastern Fish & Game's concession application for the Wairua Hut;
- favourable signals coming from the new Government with regard to getting more resources into conservation land;
- MPI shortly? to notify new fisheries regulations for Te Arawa Lakes taonga species;
- concerns over broom spreading to the conservation estate and proposals to control broom by releasing a "musk weevil";
- serious concerns over catfish in Lake Rotoiti.

Ken acknowledged and thanked Andy Garrick for the good working relationship in place between the Conservation Board and the Eastern Fish and Game Council. Cr Barry Roderick commented on the great work DOC does for conservation of species such as kiwi and kokako but asked that concerns he and others have over Australasian bittern numbers be raised with the Department. Ken was happy to do this and advised that a key focus presently was on kea. Andy Garrick added that there needed to be more of a focus placed on habitat, and voiced his concerns over wetlands within the Bay of Plenty not measuring up to the Department's national habitat ranking systems and therefore being ineligible for DOC funding. He hoped that the Department's new "Local Treasures" initiative might pick up on these wetlands. Dave Conley advised that fauna was very much a part of DOC's recently developed landscape assessment system and that he hoped a more collaborative approach could be developed between ourselves. Andy Garrick felt that resourcing was a big issue and hoped that the new government will turn the tide and increase its focus on biodiversity. Ken thanked Fish & Game staff for all their work within the region, and concluded by acknowledging that while Lake Tarawera was on the Council's radar, he was saddened by the current condition of the trout in the lake.

13.2 *Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board*

Cr Annaka Davis advised that the Board had met two weeks ago and while there was a lot to discuss she had little to report that was relevant to Fish & Game.

13.3 *Department of Conservation*

Dave Conley provided an update from the Taupo fishery as follows:

- Waipa trap to be removed next week and work to be commenced on data analysis noting that this season had been the best in some time. Brown trout were on average 600 grams heavier than last year and rainbows 500 grams heavier.
- The lake is in a good state in terms of its mixing cycle and productivity, and acoustic monitoring of smelt is underway and looking positive for this time of year. Fish condition was exceptional.

- Licence sales are showing good results following category changes, and are tracking close to modelled outcomes. Thanks to Andy Garrick and Kate Thompson for sharing information and advice.
- Introduction of the Anglers Notice and the measures introduced to maintain harvest pressure on the trout population. The new regulations will need to be in place for a number of years to achieve the results sought.
- They are experiencing issues with a variant of Czech nymphing involving heavy sinkers being used.
- Progress is being made with access issues to the Blue Pool following the sale of the prison, and verbal reassurance has been received that access will be reinstated once forest harvesting operations have been completed.
- DOC is working through similar issues with gating at Lake Rotoaira forest, but angling opportunities are still available there.
- Commercial activities on Lake Taupo will not affect angling.

Cr Annaka Davis commented on the good quality of the trout and had seen a post on Facebook regarding access issues and gate closures. She asked if DOC had looked at securing future access to other vulnerable areas? Dave confirmed that this had been considered but they didn't think that there were any other potential issues. Annaka also asked if there was any education happening to educate anglers on the new rules? Dave advised that there is an advocacy ranger out there doing just that. He said that summer compliance will continue as a core part of their business with targets of over 1,000 contacts. Cr Barry Roderick also commented on the fantastic quality of the fish.

13.4 The meeting broke for a short time at 2.06pm, and recommenced at 2.16pm.

13.5 *New Zealand Council*

Lindsay Lyons spoke of the recent meeting of the New Zealand Council where the new CE Martin Taylor was present for the first time since taking up his new role. He advised that Martin had visited several regions over the past couple of weeks to meet with staff and managers. The new Minister of Conservation Eugenie Sage had attended the NZC meeting for half an hour and acknowledged the advocacy and litigation work being done by Fish & Game. She indicated David Parker and the government wanted to refocus on the National Policy Statement for Fresh Water, and briefly talked about the Land and Water forum. Lindsay was impressed with what she had to say, and felt we would get better traction over the next three years with this government than had been the case with the last one, and now was the time to be advancing the things we want to see happen.

Lindsay also spoke briefly on the following matters:

- the submission he had made to the NZC to have job sizing undertaken for regional manager/CE roles and more transparency in this area across the country;
- outcomes of the Salmon Symposium and issues to be followed up on;
- the need to develop a strategic plan for the NZC for the next three years.

14.0 **OPERATIONAL REPORTS**

14.1 Andy Garrick introduced a new section to the meeting that the executive committee felt would be useful, a 'manager's overview' of some of the key work that had been undertaken, or more specifically that he had been involved with since the previous meeting. Andy noted that only six weeks had passed since the last meeting and commented on the following:

- Planning underway for summer drift dives;
- Summer creel surveys had commenced;
- Matt Osborne currently writing up winter creel surveys;
- Opening day surveys presented to expert fisheries panel for Ohau channel;
- Planning for stream opening 1 December including media and compliance undertaken and implemented;
- Ngongotaha trap operations;
- Spring fish liberations to Eastern Region waters all but completed;
- Fish also taken to Taranaki, Wellington, Taupo, and the Waikato;
- Mallard brood and pheasant call counts completed;
- Work being undertaken on developing a more robust system for predicting Eastern Region mallard populations;
- Input to the mallard research committee including setting up more appropriate and secure facilities for storing and analysing Game Hunter Survey data;
- Input to RMA planning processes for Gisborne Freshwater Plan and Bay of Plenty Plan Change 5;
- Discussions with Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council re the proposed Te Tumu subdivision across the river from the Lower Kaituna wetland reserve and implications for habitat and hunting;
- Staff participation in a bittern survey conducted with a consultant contracted to DOC, and Bay of Plenty Regional Council staff and other volunteers;
- Maimai inspections completed;
- Ballot draw completed, confirmation letters about to be despatched;
- Access work undertaken in Ngongotaha, Kaituna, Waioeka, Kaingaroa (Ngahuinga Road area);
- Liaising with DOC and seeking action to rectify malicious blocking of angler access in Waioeka Gorge;
- Andy's attendance at the Gisborne Anglers Club AGM, and meetings with DOC staff in Gisborne, Hawke's Bay Regional Council staff in Wairoa re restoration of Whakaki Lagoon, and the new Waikaremoana Tribal Authority manager based at Aniwaniwa. Andy advised that he had also met with the consultant who had undertaken the 1996 evaluation of the contribution the Rotorua Lakes fishery makes to the local economy, and more recently an evaluation of the Taupo fishery, the intention being to obtain a costed proposal(s) for repeating the exercise for the lakes fishery and undertaking similar assessments for other Fish & Game regions;
- Andy had also spoken with OSPRI's operations manager in relation to 1080 notifications and research funding, and was due to meet with regional DOC operation managers in the coming week. He had drafted a comprehensive agenda item on captive reared mallard releases for the New Zealand Council meeting in November in conjunction with Robert Sowman, and had critically reviewed a chapter of Katie Gibbs' (Massey University) draft Masters thesis on heavy metal contaminants in mallards.
- The Eastern team had also received a visit from Lindsay Lyons and the new National Office CE Martin Taylor.

14.2 Cr Barry Roderick queried why there were no near misses recorded in the Health & Safety report. Some discussion occurred over what constituted a near miss and Andy

Garrick queried where do we draw the line with what constitutes an incident or event that could lead to an injury, harm or loss? Andy undertook to investigate this further. Cr Barry Roderick was pleased with the Health & Safety processes undertaken for the recent bittern survey.

14.3 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Neal Hawes) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [17/11/14.3]*

14.4 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Ken Coombes) that Council receives the Management, Finance, and Licence Sales reports, and approves payments for October 2017 totalling \$132,759.98. [17/11/14.4]*

14.5 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Ken Coombes) that Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Performance & Cash flow for the 2017-2018 financial year. [17/11/14.5]*

14.6 Kate Thompson provided an update on licences sales which had shown some improvement since the report supplied within the agenda. Cr Lindsay Lyons commented on charts that had been presented at an earlier Council meeting which had shown the average age of season licence holders progressively increasing, and highlighted the need to get more kids involved. Cr Neal Hawes added that this trend was also seen at club level and Dave Conley said the Taupo Fishery was seeing this too and they had done some work on it with results identifying barriers such as increased urbanisation, and the number of other opportunities now available to kids. Andy Garrick suggested a dedicated session was needed on recruitment of this group and informed Council of Otago staff member Ian Hadland's scholarship to the US where there was a significant focus on the 3R's (Recruitment, Retention, Reactivation). Andy had also recently met with marketing consultant Steve Doughty who has been contracted by the National Office to review issues and opportunities for increasing licence revenue and other potential sources of income, and both his and Ian's findings and recommendations, when available, will be informative. Lindsay Lyons agreed there were other avenues for increasing revenue such as merchandise and bequests, and felt that a good business development manager and strategic plan was required.

15.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

15.1 Cr Barry Roderick asked if staff had seen any changes in the condition of trout being taken from Lake Tarawera. Matt Osborne advised that recent competition data had shown no real change. He said the average condition factor was below 40 whereas Rotoiti and Okataina were above 45. Cr Lindsay Lyons had caught 50 odd fish since opening on Tarawera, and there appeared to be no smelt and only bullies in fish caught in shallower water. Matt commented that this would be his expectation i.e. fish caught in the shallows would generally be in poorer condition. Barry also queried what was happening in lakes Rotorua and Waikaremoana. Matt said that Rotorua was going well with some nice fish being caught, but Waikaremoana had recently experienced some weather events that had resulted in increased silt in suspension which was a concern as previous experience shows this can persist for a very long period of time.

15..2 Cr Lindsay Lyons requested an update on the discovery of perch at Papamoa. Matt Osborne advised we had received no further information and that delimiting surveys had yet to be undertaken. He advised that permits from Fish & Game were required to net the areas concerned and that we are very keen to support these but action had been slow to date as they were waiting for temperatures to warm up.

- 15.3 Cr Lindsay Lyons questioned why the cordon for Rotoiti catfish was set well below the surface? Matt Osborne advised that this was due to concerns from residents within the bay who were wanting to access the rest of the lake via boat. The comment was made surely this is a biosecurity issue that should override concerns of this nature?
- 15.4 Cr Barry Roderick had been approached by a boat operator querying whether Fish & Game had considered a boat licence for taking visitors out. Cr Lindsay Lyons recalls this scenario going to the New Zealand Council previously but not being taken further. Dave Conley said that the Department of Conservation had also been approached by a commercial operator proposing the same thing, but while staff were not adverse to it discussions had stalled.
- 16.0 MEETING CLOSED**
- 16.1 In closing Cr Lindsay Lyons invited all in attendance to the Annual Public Meeting which was due to commence at 4.00pm followed by a BBQ. He said it was great to see Mark Sherburn present at the meeting today, and wished him all the best. He thanked staff and Council on behalf of our stakeholders, and wished all in attendance a safe and merry Christmas.
- 16.2 The meeting was closed at 3.07 pm.

.....
Lindsay Lyons
Acting Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.3 *Agreed (Alan Baird/ Neal Hawes) that the apologies for the 16th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [17/11/2.3]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (19 OCTOBER 2017)

- 3.1 *Agreed (Sandy Bull/Alan Baird) that the minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2017 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [17/11/3.1]*

8.0 2016-2017 PERFORMANCE REPORT

- 8.3 *Agreed (Peter Storey/Ken Coombes) that Council adopts the Performance Report for the 2016-2017 year. [17/11/8.3]*

9.0 UPLAND GAME PROPERTIES REPORT

- 9.3 *Agreed (Alan Baird/Ken Coombes) that Council receives the summary of hunter effort and harvest on Upland Game Properties in 2017. [17/11/9.3]*

10.0 2018 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

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- 10.4 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Ken Coombes) that the remaining conditions for the 2018 season are as proposed in Appendix 2. [17/11/10.4]*
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- 10.11 *Agreed (Ken Coombes/Alan Baird) that Council retains the status quo for the description accompanying the gazettal of the Reporoa Area for the 2018 Game Bird Season. [17/11/10.11]*

11.0 DATE FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS 2018

- 11.3 *The motion was put (Neal Hawes/Ken Coombes) that Council confirms the proposed meeting dates and defers consideration of options for an away meeting and/or meetings at other venues until a later point in time. [Not carried]*
- 11.6 *Agreed (Sandy Bull/Annaka Davis) that Council confirms all proposed meeting dates other than that suggested for the August 2018 meeting, the latter to be given further consideration at Council's next meeting in February. [17/11/11.6]*

14.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

- 14.3 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Neal Hawes) that Council receives the Health and Safety report. [17/11/14.3]*
- 14.4 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Ken Coombes) that Council receives the Management, Finance, and Licence Sales reports, and approves payments for October 2017 totalling \$132,759.98. [17/11/14.4]*
- 14.5 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Ken Coombes) that Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Performance & Cash flow for the 2017-2018 financial year. [17/11/14.5]*

7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

22 January 2018

1. Purpose

A standing agenda item to disclose any Councillor (“Member”) Conflict of Interest or potential Conflict of Interest, and record this in the Councillor Conflict of Interest Register.

2. Background

The Eastern Fish and Game Council at its October 2016 meeting adopted a policy and rules for dealing with Conflicts of Interest and must provide a standing agenda item to allow Councillors to disclose any Conflict or highlight any potential conflict. The “Interest Register” ring binder will be circulated in the first part of each meeting for Councillors to record any interests. The Council should then discuss how it wants to deal with any interest or perceived interest identified.

Conflict of Interest (refer s2.7 Governance Policies) means when the member can be shown to have actual bias or apparent bias in respect of a matter¹ i.e:

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

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

- (i) There is a realistic connection between the member’s private interest(s) and the interest(s) of the Council;

¹ “Matter” means:

- (i) The Council’s performance of its functions or exercise of its powers as set out in Part 5A of the Conservation Act 1987, subject to the Council’s statutory purpose set out in section 26P(1) of the Conservation Act; or
- (ii) An arrangement, agreement, or contract made or entered into, or proposed to be entered into, by the Council.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Recommendation

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

8. DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2018-2019 OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

Ref: 8.02.01

25 January 2018

1. Purpose

To review Council's priorities for the 2017-2018 year, and identify changes in priorities or work areas and projects that Council would like to see incorporated into the 2018-2019 Operational Work Plan.

2. Background

Operational Work Plans (which come into force on 1 September each year) are developed over several months from February onwards, and involve a review by Council of strategic priorities, core functions, project objectives, allocation of resources, and performance measures. The process may include seeking Council's approval for the submission of applications to the national Contestable Fund to increase bulk funding for specific purposes.

The steps involved in developing the OWP for the 2018-2019 year are as follows:

- Council reviews priorities and project themes/areas it wishes to focus on over and above core functions (this meeting).
- Council reviews draft projects and budgets excluding internal costs at 5 April meeting.
- Contestable funding bids and draft regional budgets (revised if necessary post 5 April meeting) are submitted to the NZ Council prior to 9 April for consideration at the Managers Meeting on 26-27 April.
- Staff revise projects and resourcing including hours and internal costs to take into account outcomes of the contestable fund bids, and circulate the second draft of the OWP to Council ahead of its 14 June meeting.
- The second draft of the OWP is considered at the June meeting and projects, budgets and targets reviewed and refined as necessary.
- This draft is then circulated to clubs for comment if they wish to.
- Club comments are considered and incorporated if appropriate into the final OWP presented for approval at Council's meeting on 9 August (date to be confirmed at today's meeting).

As indicated above the operational planning cycle commences as of now, with a review and discussion of Council's current priorities, and whether changes to these are required within the next OWP year. This will ensure staff have time to undertake initial planning and costing of projects prior to Council's next meeting.

The Council's key regional priorities for the current (2017-2018) OWP year are:

- Enhancing habitat for greylard production – in particular activities that increase duck numbers and as a result, hunter opportunities;
- Water quality and quantity – addressing in particular, the pressures on our free-flowing water resources and the water quality of the Rotorua lakes;
- Access – making it easier for anglers and hunters to use the resource;
- Maximising fishery opportunities;
- Increasing licence revenue.

The Council has also agreed to support long term aspirational outcomes for Fish & Game identified by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, and these need to be provided for where possible in the OWP. The New Zealand Council's current aspirations are:

- Fish & Game NZ is well recognised and well regarded as a manager of fish and game resources based on a user says/user pays system.
- Fish & Game's values and aspirations continue to be reflected in statute.
- Sports fish and game birds are recognised as valued public resources and access to such cannot be charged for.
- There is general recognition that wildlife habitat is a finite resource that must be protected.
- Water Conservation Orders are finalised and defended.
- The New Zealand public is sympathetic to Fish & Game NZ's goals.

As noted last year, the 2017-18 regional priorities, with the exception of the fifth (increasing licence revenue) which was introduced this year, have been a focus more or less of the Eastern Council for over a decade. Over this time we have gained a much greater understanding of what can and can't be influenced in terms of achieving the outcomes we are seeking. With this understanding we have adaptively managed our approach and refined projects or changed our focus more towards what we can do to meet the priorities of Council. An overview of achievements and significant issues identified for each of the key priority areas are provided below. It would be helpful for Council to consider the issues facing each priority, and identify or suggest project areas where continued resourcing or changes in resourcing should be considered during the preparation of the 2018-2019 OWP. Project areas and associated tasks for the current (2017-2018) OWP year are presented in the tables appended to each of the overviews given below.

3. Enhancement of habitat for greylard production

- Over the past decade we have developed, or facilitated the development of significant areas of wetland within the region using both licence holders' income and external funding from trusts, regional councils and other funding agencies. Projects have been implemented on both private and public lands. Additional hunting opportunities have almost always been created, but some projects, particularly smaller private land initiatives, have not always resulted in habitat as productive as we'd have liked in terms of greylard productivity. There have been a number of reasons for this and we have, and will continue to learn from these. Given the positive track record we have with funding agencies there are ongoing opportunities for projects of this nature, particularly where collaboration with other parties or individuals is involved. One of the issues that is imperative we keep in mind and provide for in doing this though, is ensuring we don't overburden ourselves with ongoing management requirements and ever increasing commitments. We already have a large number of habitats we need to maintain (e.g. our existing Wildlife Management Reserves), and we need to be confident we have, or can find the means and resources needed to prevent these areas from going backwards as we add new habitat to our management register, and/or other agencies such as DOC withdraw funding from. Over the past year or so we have become involved in managing a number of projects on behalf of other organisations e.g. for Bay of Plenty Regional Council within the Lower Kaituna wetland, and a collective of DOC, Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaeo, Te Arawa Lakes Trust and Waikato Regional Council at Lakes Ngapouri and Tutaeinanga, and we need to continue looking at ways to leverage inputs and outcomes.

- We have increased our expectations and requirements of ballot holders in Fish & Game managed reserves in relation to maintaining habitat and hunting opportunities, and late last year Council agreed to the concept of levying an annual Habitat Maintenance Fee on ballot holders to contribute to the costs of essential maintenance works (weed control and water reticulation) in these wetlands. While adequate resourcing is critical to maintaining this habitat and maximising its potential for producing more ducks, it appears there may be another, or other limiting factors to productivity coming into play in some of the wetlands that are not being addressed. Much of the open water habitat that has been developed in areas such as the Lower Kaituna WMR has been created in peaty soils and/or into inorganic sandy substrates which typically support quite different invertebrate communities than ‘mineralised’ wetlands like the old river loops. Aquatic invertebrates are a critical source of protein for ducklings and its possible some of these excavated wetlands are deficient in this regard. We need to establish whether this is the case, and what options we might have to improve the situation.
- We have concluded that a stronger focus on habitat quality rather than quantity (the latter being the case in the past) is a better option for increasing duck numbers, and there is much more to be done in this area including leveraging the assistance of other parties and encouraging greater input from volunteers and interest groups as indicated above.
- Intensive regional research and monitoring has provided us with a good insight into the effects of harvest and game season conditions on greylard populations and productivity in ensuing seasons. We also know that trying to manage harvest through our current regulation options is very difficult due to changes in hunter behaviour resulting from regulation manipulation, and licence holders’ expectations in relation to season length and bag limits. If regulations are to make a difference when mallard populations are depressed, it’s apparent that very restrictive harvest conditions need to apply and there are political implications/difficulties in the use of these tools. Having said that, our research shows that extended game seasons impact on the survival of hens, and therefore, may negatively affect next season’s productivity. This should be taken into account during the annual regulation setting process.
- The national mallard research programme has demonstrated that duckling survival rates, and to a lesser extent survival rates of nesting hens can have a profound effect on juvenile recruitment and hence population size going into the game season. Facilitating a relatively small increase in the numbers of ducklings that fledge from each clutch laid has the potential to significantly lift productivity. Other outcomes of the research projects in the Waikato and Southland indicate the extent to which predators prey on ducklings and nesting females, and the information derived from these studies will be useful for guiding when, where and how to target predators to get maximum bang for bucks. This is critical, as predator programmes are really only effective if they’re well targeted, sufficiently intensive to reduce predator numbers to predetermined levels, and well executed. Programmes such as these are also, very resource demanding particularly on a larger landscape scale.
- Productivity is a key driver for “more ducks”, and as stated above, quality rather than quantity is a more effective area in which to place our efforts than simply creating more habitat of the type we have focussed on in the past. We do not have the resources to put significantly more effort into enhancing productivity ourselves without impacting on resources that are currently being utilised elsewhere, or finding external resources to cover what is needed. Expanding habitat programmes requires additional and/or novel approaches to resourcing. Providing advice and technical support to landowners, or

helping them to access funding rather than directing our own funds towards these projects as tended to be the case in previous years, is an area in which we need to be more proactive and put greater effort into. To this end, over the past eighteen months we have undertaken aerial surveys of parts of coastal Bay of Plenty and the Waikite area to identify existing wetlands and or bodies of open water that could be readily enhanced if landowners could be encouraged or enticed into doing so. Many such areas are also present on the East Coast.

- Each year we gain a crude insight into duckling production on lowland Bay of Plenty drains, and in 2016-17 we implemented a field programme to identify the physical characteristics of drains utilised by mallards more than others during brood rearing. This information has been analysed and has been partially written up. While it is not as informative as we had originally hoped, it does provide a little more guidance on what can be done to enhance the duck rearing habitat values within these networks of waterways.
- Drafting of a 3-5 year strategic plan for greylard habitat enhancement is programmed for the current year.
- Eastern Region has had an ongoing input to National research projects on mallards and factor affecting productivity and it is appropriate that it continues to do so by contributing to the identification and delivery of research priorities

2017-18 programme

<i>Project Area</i>	<i>Projects/Objectives</i>
Species Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboratively monitor greylard populations within proposed Duck Management Units with adjoining Fish & Game regions via a combination of trapping/banding, aerial surveys, and brood counts to investigate productivity, survival, harvest and movements. • Investigate the status of greylard populations in the Reporoa/ Broadlands area. • Investigate further, the merits of releasing captive reared mallards into areas in which mallard populations are depressed. • Undertake game bird hunter survey. • Review game season conditions and make changes where needed to address issues impacting on greylard populations and productivity. • Contribute to national research programmes on mallards. • Prepare a five year strategic research and management work plan for greylards.
Wildlife Management Reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the balloting process with a view to incentivising greater maintenance input from stand holders, and interact more closely with stand holders to ensure habitat quality is maintained if not enhanced. • Review rotational maintenance programmes undertaken by staff in Fish & Game managed wetlands and re-assess/confirm existing priorities.

Assisted Habitat on Non Public Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in statutory planning processes and make submissions to regional and district plans to amend rules that are barriers to habitat enhancement or hunter opportunities, and support or oppose consent applications that impact on game bird habitat values or hunter access. Develop positive working relationships with landowners and other parties with an interest or involvement in rural land management including local and regional authorities, DOC, Federated Farmers, Fonterra and Dairy NZ.
Habitat Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide advice to enable and encourage hunters/landowners to develop quality, productive wetland habitat. Advocate for better drain management and enhance habitat in drainage canals. Provide advice on enhancement of stock ponds and implement enhancement projects. Make at least one external funding application for wetland habitat development. Participate on Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust and oversee appropriate projects.
Social and rural media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use media to encourage the creation and enhancement of wetland habitats.

4. Water Quality and Quantity

- We have had a very active role in the Rotorua Lakes Action Planning processes to improve water quality in the Rotorua Lakes. Many of the lakes have shown marked improvements with the interventions the Bay of Plenty Regional Council has put in place. Lake Tarawera's water quality however, has continued to deteriorate and we suspect this is a primary factor for the ongoing decline in the size and condition of trout we have been observing there since 2012. Some of Regional Council's interventions may have had negative impacts on some fisheries (e.g. Ohau Channel Diversion Wall), but improved water quality is benefitting or will benefit other fisheries. In the case of the Ohau Channel wall there is an ongoing requirement to monitor fisheries to ensure that any impacts as a result of interventions are detected and if necessary mitigated for. Fish passes have recently been installed into the wall and a new panel of Fisheries Experts has been appointed to monitor effects.
- The BOPRC's Regional Policy Statement has outlined plans for land use change in sensitive lake catchments to ensure nutrient inputs from agriculture decrease, and processes associated with this are ongoing and likely to be for some time. We retain a strong presence in regional water quality planning and collaborative processes advocating for sustainable land use and a reduction in nutrient and sediment leaching, and over the past eighteen months or so have been heavily engaged with Gisborne District Council planning processes and the Gisborne Freshwater Plan.
- We have highlighted Rangitaiki River water quality issues to the BOPRC and the Rangitaiki River Forum. Water quality issues have been 'acknowledged' and provisions made in the RPS to use the Forum to create a catchment management plan for the river but there appears to have been little action yet to identify and address the causes. Efforts need to be ramped up in this area as water quality this year is no better than it has been

over the past two years to the extent its highly unlikely we'll be able to conduct drift dives in it for the third year running. We have also become involved with other "Freshwater Futures Community Groups in the Kaituna and Pongakawa catchments.

- There are other catchments within the region, e.g. the upper Motu, where intensification of land use and conversion from lesser nutrient leaching dry stock farming to higher nutrient leaching dairy farming has been mooted or is well underway. In some areas we have limited ability under current plans to influence these activities and their subsequent impacts on water quality, but need to continue to advocate effectively for such during plan change processes. We need to have robust evidence and be able to present strong cases to support our position and secure the outcomes we seek, and to this end are attempting to conduct annual drift dives to back up our concerns for the Motu. Elsewhere we have to prioritise what we can and can't get involved with.
- Overlying regional water quality issues in recent years have been National Government initiatives to increase primary production via more intensive land use and increased irrigation. With a recent change in government the National Policy Statement for Fresh Water put in place by the National Government is now under review, and the National Office of Fish & Game will be co-ordinating a submission identifying amendments we wish to see incorporated into it e.g. the inclusion of the MCI (Macroinvertebrate Community Index), revision of the standard concerned with nitrate toxicity along with a considerable number of other changes.
- There is a far greater awareness and concern within the wider community now in relation to water issues, and we have a government that is far more sympathetic to environmental issues than has been the case for the previous nine years. As an organisation we have an opportunity to harness and encourage public support more widely to effect change for the better i.e. by using political pressure and the 'court of public opinion' in addition to engaging in RMA processes. To effectively advocate for the protection of freshwater habitats both approaches are going to be required because we simply don't have the resources or capacity to engage in statutory advocacy alone.

2017-18 programme

<i>Project Area</i>	<i>Projects/Objectives</i>
Rivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to assess trout numbers in the Rangitaiki River fishery and communicate water quality issues to Regional Council and the Rangitaiki River Forum. • Monitor trout numbers in the Motu River fishery and communicate water quality related issues to the Gisborne District Council. • Maintain input to the didymo awareness and surveillance programme. • Participate in collaborative processes and submit on water allocation processes in planning and consenting matters on sensitive waters. • Maintain water quality register of Regional Councils' performance.
Lakes Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Rotorua lakes fisheries monitoring programmes and participate in fisheries research projects.

Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and support the Waikaremoana water quality buoy programme. • Participate in Rotorua lakes' collaborative processes and use creel survey and NAS results to advocate for improved water quality.
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5. Angler and hunter access

- We have maintained extensive physical access tracks and signage for angling to priority waters for over a decade. The current programme is only just manageable however, and is subject to unforeseeable demands in other areas (e.g. CLE) that need to be addressed then and there on occasions. Maintaining hunter access to our reserves is undertaken in conjunction with other habitat management activities and is currently achievable with the resources that are being directed into this area.
- Forest access for both angling and hunting has been affected by Treaty of Waitangi Settlements, and forest managers, e.g. Timberlands. Many of our access problems arise due to land ownership issues and the rights of landowners (or occupiers/managers in the case of Timberlands) to control access across their land. Restoring access to these areas depends on relationship building with land owners and is time consuming and frustratingly slow at times.
- We maintain comprehensive printed access information and continue to expand our inventory of information that is available digitally. We produced a pamphlet for fisheries within the Wairoa catchment last year and have made provisions for extending access investigations to other East Coast fisheries i.e. within the eastern Bay of Plenty and north of Gisborne. We are also investigating opportunities for enhancing access to parts of the Rangitaiki River below Murupara to offset loss of summer opportunity further upriver.
- Opportunities to develop joint initiatives and work more collaboratively with the Walking Access Commission are worthy of ongoing investigation.

2017-18 programme

<i>Project Area</i>	<i>Projects/Objectives</i>
Rivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to assess trout numbers in the Rangitaiki River fishery and communicate water quality issues to Regional Council and the Rangitaiki River Forum. • Monitor trout numbers in the Motu River fishery and communicate water quality related issues to the Gisborne District Council. • Maintain input to the didymo awareness and surveillance programme. • Participate in collaborative processes and submit on water allocation processes in planning and consenting matters on sensitive waters. • Maintain water quality register of Regional Councils' performance.
Lakes Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue Rotorua lakes fisheries monitoring programmes and participate in fisheries research projects. • Monitor and support the Waikaremoana water quality buoy

	<p>programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in Rotorua lakes' collaborative processes and use creel survey and NAS results to advocate for improved water quality.
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6. Maximising fishery opportunities

- We have a successful supplementary stocking programme on the Rotorua lakes based on maximising returns to anglers. We undertake intensive monitoring of these fisheries and regularly review stocking rates. We have recent research findings that have modified our liberation strategies and we adaptively manage liberations to maximise returns and effectiveness to the extent it is possible to within various constraints imposed by environmental conditions.
- In 2015 we instigated a more intensive fisheries monitoring programme at Waikaremoana to fill some gaps, and assess concerns raised in an earlier petition and submission to Council for regulation changes. This work has produced some very useful information and although there is a need to scale it back to enable other programmes to proceed elsewhere, needs to be ongoing.
- Most monitoring and angler survey effort within the Rotorua lakes is directed towards lakes Tarawera, Rotoiti, Okataina and Rotorua. It's appropriate that these lakes continue to be the primary focus for this effort but there is a need, periodically at least, to monitor some of the 'lesser' lake fisheries i.e. Rotoma, Rotoehu, Okareka, Rerewhakaaitu and the Waikato River lakes, and this has been programmed into the current OWP.
- We have developed a research programme in conjunction with a post doctorate student to better understand the impacts of water quality on Lake Tarawera's trout fishery, and other valued species, and the mechanisms underlying these. Our aim is to be in a better position to predict downturns ahead of time, and offset these if its possible to do so, by implementing a management response such as modifying our liberation strategy or introducing a change to fishing regulations. The programme includes an acoustic monitoring trial of smelt in conjunction with DOC and NIWA, which is tentatively programmed to be undertaken in April 2018. The overall programme as it stands has been costed at \$130k towards which we have secured \$50k to date.
- Non-resident licence income is being held in a dedicated fund and currently amounts to approximately \$53k. Council has recently developed criteria for identifying and prioritising fisheries eligible for funding from the "Non-Resident Levy Reserve", and there may be projects worthy of funding from this source during the 2018-2019 OWP year.
- We have increased information distribution on fishing opportunities available to our angling licence holders through printed and electronic channels. We need to maintain if not step up our social media presence to keep up with informing our licence holders on the opportunities available to them. We have also increased angler training efforts to improve angler success, and there is additional potential to increase participation in angling with assistance from angling clubs and other partners across the region.

Project Area	Projects/Objectives
Species Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor growth and performance of liberations into lake fisheries via the Datawatch programme. Tag and release 8,500 trout. • Monitor Lake Tarawera wild spawning runs. • Complete the monitoring programme of the Waikaremoana fishery and its key spawning tributaries commenced in 2015. • Monitor the Lake Rotorua and Ngongotaha fisheries. • Monitor the Ohau Channel fishery. • Investigate/deploy recently developed sounding technique for monitoring smelt abundance in lake fisheries. • Provide support to external research projects aimed at better understanding lake fisheries.
Harvest Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake lake fisheries creel surveys to monitor angler catch and satisfaction, and Opening Day surveys to evaluate stocking programmes. Extend current programme on Tarawera, Rotoiti and Okataina to some of the smaller fisheries (Rotoma, Rotoehu, Okareka, Rerewhakaaitu).
Hatchery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the current approach to selecting brood stock for the hatchery programme. • Produce c.80,000 quality fish to maintain trout fisheries within the region.
Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain/enhance sports fish resources through refinement if necessary, of the anglers notice using a policy driven review process. • Look for opportunities to increase participation and remove barriers to fishing including simplifying regulations in some fisheries.
RMA planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent anglers in water quality and quantity planning and consenting processes and advocate for improved habitat, angling experience and access opportunities.
Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance access. • Increase angler communication and information using social media and identify options for increasing participation. • Support childrens' fishing programmes, angler training and angling competitions, and maintain club relations.
Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a high level of participant contact and protect fishery sustainability.
Licensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make fishing licences readily available and continue to market and assess recently introduced licence categories to existing and potential licence holders.

7. Increasing licence revenue

- This time last year Council identified declining licence revenue, if ongoing, as being a significant risk confronting Fish & Game's operations. To that end a number of projects were identified in this year's OWP as initiatives worthy of further development. Some of these such as licence analyses and participation in the Licence Working Party are

ongoing, while other activities such as a tagged fish event, kids fishing days, ‘how to be successful’ events, and a novice hunting programme have been implemented over the past year and are likely to be pursued again this year. Some projects which we’re keen to get underway have been on hold due to staff resourcing constraints we’ve had over past months, but we’re hopeful we’ll be able to make progress in some of these areas later in the year.

- The National Office commissioned a marketing expert (Steve Doughty) to review issues and options for Fish & Game as a whole, and Ian Hadland from Otago Fish & Game recently spent time in the United States under a staff development grant looking at the 3Rs programme (Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation), that has been successfully employed there to boost participation in sport fisheries. Steve Doughty spent half a day in the Eastern Region discussing issues and opportunities and we look forward to reviewing the report he produces in due course, along with Ian Hadland’s.
- Some preliminary discussions have been conducted on the concept of developing a fish out facility of some sort capitalising on potential markets in Tauranga, and further work scoping issues and options relating to an undertaking of this nature is warranted.

2017-18 programme

<i>Project Area</i>	<i>Projects/Objectives</i>
Niche Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct further research into ‘licence churn’, establish reasons why particular demographics drop out (e.g. first time licence holders and young adults), and devise strategies to reduce this. • Investigate ways of increasing sales of licences to non-resident anglers.
Promotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate and develop strategies with Destination Rotorua and other marketing agencies. • Investigate opportunities for promoting hunting and fishing in partnership with organisations such as travel agencies, accommodation providers, real estate agencies, and hunting and fishing outlets. • Investigate means of, or incentives for agents to up sell licence types. • Run another tagged fish event and consider attending a fishing and/or boat show. • Run ‘how to be successful’ events.
Opportunity Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise the profile of under-utilised or recognised fisheries e.g. Waikato River, and develop and market ‘new’ opportunities e.g. summer river fisheries.
Licencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to contribute to national Licence Working Party and explore opportunities for increasing revenue via fine tuning licence categories and/or pricing of such.

8. New Zealand Council Aspirational Outcomes

The New Zealand Council has a focus on increasing public awareness and support of Fish & Game as managers of sports fish and game bird resources, and as advocates for the interests of anglers and hunters, and often in doing so, for those of the wider public. Protecting and enhancing habitats and access to wild areas and resources is important to all New Zealanders,

and a fundamental role of the Eastern Council. The Eastern Council contributes significant regional resources to supporting national projects associated with species monitoring and management, public awareness, compliance, licensing and administrative (e.g. financial management) outputs.

2017-18 programme

<i>Project Area</i>	<i>Projects/Objectives</i>
Public Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the national public awareness network and support national public awareness events. • Manage our website and use social media to increase awareness of Fish & Game activities. • Produce regular media releases and support the NZ Council North Island PA Adviser. • Engage and communicate with the rural community and landowners. • Promote Fish & Game at appropriate events and in the rural media. • Give presentations to schools and outside organisations and use the Ngongotaha hatchery and grounds to promote Fish & Game to the wider public.
Statutory Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Manager to periodically meet with senior local and regional authority managers, senior DOC staff, Conservation Boards, and MPs where appropriate. • Continue to meet with Te Urewera iwi entities towards the development of a MOU with Eastern Region Fish & Game. • Develop a closer/more formal working relationship with Te Arawa iwi. • Regional Manager to attend meetings of the Taupo Fisheries Advisory Committee as the NZ Fish & Game Council representative.
Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the improvement of water quality in the Rotorua lakes via Regional Council planning and collaborative processes. • Utilise river investigation projects to advocate for improved water quality in key regional rivers. • Review and support/oppose plans and consents that impact significantly upon sports fish/game bird habitat values, or angler and hunter access. • Maintain inventory of wetlands, assess their vulnerability and identify wetland deficient areas and opportunities for enhancement through stakeholder collaborative processes.
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for improved access and submit to the Walking Access Commission on key issues, and ensure provision for public access is made in relevant Treaty of Waitangi settlements.

9. Developing the 2018-2019 Operational Work Plan

Staff are seeking a clear direction from this meeting of Council on the priorities, programmes and key objectives associated with these to incorporate into the OWP for the coming year. Emerging issues and/or opportunities need to be identified to guide the development of any alterations to current work programmes so a draft budget can be prepared for the April Council meeting. If changes are sought a key point for discussion will be the balancing of resources both within and across priorities. If more work needs to be done in a particular area Council will need to identify where the resources to do so might come from. If internally resourced, lesser effort will need to be put into another area and this needs to be considered earlier rather than later.

10. Recommendations

10.1 That Council reviews its priorities and programmes for the 2017-2018 year, and identifies any changes it wishes to see incorporated into the draft operational work plan for the 2018-2019 year.

9. ANGLERS NOTICE REVIEW

Ref: 8.02.01

29 January 2018

1. Purpose

To review the 2017-2018 Anglers Notice and identify any changes to the current regulations that might be warranted in the 2018-2019 season.

2. Background

The Anglers Notice review provides an opportunity to amend regional sport fishing regulations. Licence holders and the public are able to submit on issues they may have identified with the current regulations for consideration by Council.

In 2003 Council developed a comprehensive approach and policy for dealing with the Anglers Notice (see Appendix 1 to this agenda item). The policy splits regulations into those that serve a social function and those that serve a biological function. Social regulations are those that affect the angler and principally relate to angling methods. Waters are categorised based on trout densities, and levels of angler use. These categories are used to determine how social based regulations should be applied. Biological regulations are those that affect trout populations and include bag and size limits. A matrix was developed that takes into account biological objectives associated with sustainability, harvest allocation, and specific population manipulations.

This approach has greatly simplified the task of reviewing the Anglers Notice and enables regulations to be confirmed or amended quickly and efficiently.

Any changes to the Anglers Notice that depart from the Anglers Notice policy will require a change(s) to the policy. This will apply to the review currently underway if Council decides to proceed with changes it discussed over the course of two meetings in 2017 concerned with simplifying social rules and more particularly those relating to fishing methods.

A full review of the regional (Schedule 2) sports fishing regulations is undertaken every second year. A less comprehensive process is conducted in the year between. This year, a full review is required which will involve:

1. At this (February) Council meeting, a number of previously discussed and identified items as well as 'carry over' proposals to the Anglers Notice will be presented to the Council for discussion. The Council will consider which submissions have merit and warrant further investigation. Staff will produce an 'Issues and Options' paper for distribution to clubs and public.
2. Prior to the April meeting, Councillors will receive feedback from staff and submitters via the pre-circulated Agenda. At the April meeting, all submissions received will be debated, and Council will resolve either to adopt some or all of these at that meeting, or defer some or all until the next meeting for further discussion.

3. At its June 2018 meeting, Council will receive any additional information it might have required and finalise the recommendations it wishes to submit to the Minister of Conservation for the 2018-19 Anglers Notice.

4. Initial suggestions for consideration

There are a number of proposals identified by Council and submitters during and subsequent to last year's review and the 2015-16 review to be considered. These are as follows:

B1: Remove the 'Fly Fishing Only' designation from Rotorua lakes shoreline areas.

There are a number of fly fishing only areas around the shorelines of Lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti and Tarawera. These fly fishing only areas can create confusion and reduce opportunity for licence holders who would prefer to spin fish. On Lake Rotorua, the Awahou, and the area within 200m of the Ohau Channel, are designated fly fishing all year. On lakes Rotoiti and Tarawera, high use areas such as Ruato Bay Stream mouth (Rotoiti) and The Landing (Tarawera) are fly and spin from 1 October to 31 March, becoming fly only from 1 April to 30 September when higher intensity use kicks in. This adds confusion and complexity to the regulations.

The 'fly only' designation is a historic practice which converted to a social rule under the Anglers Notice Policy 2003. The angling pressure at a site reaches a threshold level of use, above which the fly only designation kicks in to, theoretically, reduce conflict between angler groups. Council may wish to review the Anglers Notice Policy to maintain biological sustainability rather than social regulations.

At sites where fly fishing and spin fishing co-exist e.g. Hamurana, Ngongotaha and Waiteti on Lake Rotorua, and the 'Transformer' at Lake Rotoiti, few issues arise between fishing method groups. The majority of spin angling occurs within daylight hours, whereas a large proportion of fly angling occurs after dark – at least at winter shoreline destinations.

Removal of fly only status around the Rotorua lakes shoreline would increase participation and alleviate some complexity in the rules, both which are goals of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council.

At Council's June 2017 meeting, 11 of the 12 Councillors supported taking the proposal to remove fly fishing only areas forward for further discussion and wider consultation, whilst one Councillor abstained (see Item 11.6 of confirmed minutes).

B2 (a): Allow artificial fly/spinner in the lower Ohau Channel (River) downstream of the SH33 bridge.

The Ohau Channel (River) is currently fly fishing only between the landmarks at the Lake Rotorua end and the delta landmark where the water quality diversion wall begins at Lake Rotoiti. Since the diversion wall was built in 2008, the majority of angling occurs within the top 500m of the river where it exits Rotorua. This is due to the loss of the drop off into Rotoiti and the silting up of the lower river. High intensity angling occurs at the top end during October, November and at the end of the season (April, May and June). Given the lesser amount of angling within the lower channel there appears to be no reason why some or all of that area should not become fly and spin.

This would create greater opportunity for anglers, especially junior anglers, to utilise the fishery.

B2(b): The Ngati Pikiiao Fishing Club has entered a submission to the anglers notice to open Ohau Channel in its entirety to spin fishing.

The purpose of the submission is to get more kids into trout angling as spin fishing is their preferred method. Opening the channel to spin fishing would provide opportunities for other anglers who don't fly fish also.

B3: Amend the wording under 7.2 use of boats;

7.2 (a) No licence holder shall fish from an unanchored boat within 200m of a landmark pole

Currently regulation 7.2 (a) states: “No licence holder shall fish from an unanchored boat in waters that, at any time of year are reserved for artificial fly fishing only except in lake Whakamarino (Tuai)”.

This is a very complex statement and assumes that licence holders not only have a solid understanding of regulations but are able to recognise geographical areas from the water.

The purpose of the ‘No fishing from unanchored boats’ rule is to prevent boat fishers trolling or drifting over the top of shoreline anglers. Most, if not all of the high intensity shoreline areas have land mark poles covering them. Therefore, if rule 7.2 (a) was changed to: “No licence holder shall fish from an unanchored boat within 200m of a landmark pole” all the boat fisher would require knowing is that a black/yellow/white pole is present and that this means no unanchored fishing within 200m of it

This would bring Fish & Game’s regulation into line with the DOC Taupo fishery rule.

B4: Amend the wording under 7.2 use of boats;

Currently regulation 7.2 (c) states “in waters that are within the section of Rangiuuru Bay defined by landmarks at Stoney Point and Kariri Point and extending 200m offshore in Lake Tarawera.”

The area of Lake Tarawera between the Stoney Point and Kariri Point landmark poles extending 200m offshore, is an area where fishing from an unanchored boat is prohibited. Within this zone is a boat ramp at Stoney Point, a ‘swimming only/no boating zone’ near the ramp, a number of jetties, and a very shallow shelf at the Kariri Point end where shoreline anglers wade a distance offshore.

This regulation is poorly understood and many anglers are unaware of it. The proposal is that regulation 7.2 (c) be deleted. If the rule was deleted from the regulations, a landmark pole could remain in place at Kariri Point to protect the shoreline based anglers at the shelf from having boats troll through them. There is enough buoyage and jetties to keep boats fishing under power out from shore and clear of the boat ramp.

B5: Remove the maximum wild size limit for wild trout on Lake Tarawera (Rule 9.4).

There is a maximum size limit for wild trout on Lake Tarawera and within the upper section of the Tarawera River of 620mm. The intent of this rule was to preserve large wild rainbows so that they may survive to spawn either naturally or to be available for selection into the hatchery breeding programme. These fish have a higher genetic fitness than hatchery liberated stock as they have already survived and passed a rigorous selection process. The maximum size limit was 650mm up until a few years ago when the limit was lowered due to the reducing size of Tarawera's trout stocks. There are two issues with this rule. Firstly, given growing conditions presently within Tarawera, wild trout will struggle to reach this size. Secondly, most anglers are unable to distinguish a wild trout from a hatchery liberated trout. Therefore, the maximum wild size rule at Tarawera is creating a confusing and superfluous rule that should be removed from the regulations.

B6: Move the Ohau Channel landmark (Lake Rotorua) on the Takinga St side closer to the channel entrance to make it more visible and open more of the lake to fishing.

A suggestion has been made that the landmark pole on the Takinga Street side of the Ohau Channel (River) at the Lake Rotorua end be moved closer to the entrance and directly opposite the Ramada Resort side landmark. The rationale being that even though 'everybody knows' where the markers are, it is impossible to keep your flies absolutely outside of the restricted zone during the 1 July to 30 September closure. Moving the landmark pole may be problematic as there is a large accumulation of rock to reduce erosion, variable water levels, and machinery requiring access from time to time to install and remove the water level control gates. Staff believe there is no need to reposition the poles. The current positioning is clear and out of the way of other activities going on.

B7: Define the downstream extent of the Mangakino River where it enters Lake Maraetai.

The Mangakino River is not listed within the Eastern Region Anglers Notice. Instead it comes under the category of "All other waters" and has an open season from 1 October to 30 June. A suggestion has been put forward that the river requires demarcation from the hydro-lake (Maraetai) as people can fish close to 3km up the river by boat in the winter period if the downstream limit is not defined. A concern that has been raised at lake fishing competitions in previous years is that fish may have been caught from the river rather than from the lake itself. Staff have suggested competition rules could denote fishing boundaries and the SH30 bridge may be a suitable demarcation point. Otherwise the waterfall 3km from the hydro lake may also suit, although whether spawning occurs below that point is unknown.

Eastern staff believe there is little to be gained from altering the current definition within the regulations as relatively few anglers utilise this area. Staff have suggested to anglers in the past that if water is flowing toward the hydro lake from the river, then the angler is in the stream not the hydro lake. Signage could be placed on the SH33 bridge supports to remind anglers that the river is open from 1 October to 30 June.

B8: Open Lakes Tuai (Whakamarino) to fly and spin fishing.

It has been suggested that lakes Tuai and Kaitawa be opened to spin fishing as Lake Waikaremoana is often too rough to fish leaving the hydro-lakes the only viable option.

Staff note that Kaitawa is already open to fly and spin fishing, as is the lower Aniwanuiwa Stream and the Waikaretaheke River. Opening Lake Tuai to spin fishing has been discussed in previous Anglers Notice reviews and vehemently opposed by the Wairoa and Gisborne Anglers clubs. It has also been suggested the First Schedule definition of fly fishing be changed to enable the use of a spinning rod casting a fly underneath a bubble float.

B9: Allow GPS steered electric outboards to be considered as a means of anchoring for the purpose of regulations 7.2-7.4 i.e. as a physical anchoring system.

The question has been raised whether electric outboards that operate off a Global Positioning System (GPS) allowing a vessel to remain stationary relative to a latitude/longitude co-ordinate can be included in the definition of being “anchored”.

With a physical anchoring system, a rope can be seen from a distance and the anchor cannot readily be deployed or retrieved quickly enough to be undetected by an approaching ranger. A GPS based electric outboard allows easy and quick holding over a spot, but can also be used to drift in a controlled manner, and this cannot be easily detected from a distance.

B10: David Dods’ submission regarding the perceived demise of early spawning rainbow trout at Lake Waikaremoana.

Several questions were raised by David Dods in his submission signed by a large number of anglers and others concerned with Lake Waikaremoana spawning runs and the sustainability of the Waikaremoana fishery. This petition was presented to Council at its April 2014 meeting and considered during the 2015-16 anglers Notice review.

Mr Dods suggested the following changes as a means of addressing his concerns:

1. Reduce the bag limits at Lake Waikaremoana from 8 rainbow trout to 4 rainbow trout, and 2 brown trout to 1 brown trout (within the current 8 fish aggregate bag) per day;
2. Close spawning rivers from 1st May instead of 1st July;
3. Open rivers from 1st November to harvest late spawning rainbow trout which are protected at present time.

Eastern Region staff monitored key spawning tributaries and undertook creel surveys at Waikaremoana over the period 2015-2017 inclusive. Monitoring has shown that rainbows were present in the spawning streams and involved in spawning activity from early May, and that angler pressure on the streams and trout harvest during the winter months was extremely low. Due to year to year seasonal variability and low angling pressure, staff consider there is no reason to alter the regulations pertaining to the Lake Waikaremoana spawning tributaries.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 That Council agrees to the consultation process and time frame for considering changes to the 2018 -2019 Anglers Notice.***
- 5.2 That Council identifies any issues for further discussion it wants incorporated into an ‘Issues and Options’ paper to be prepared and circulated for comment following this meeting.***

APPENDIX 1. Anglers Notice Policy

Ref: 1.07.01

21 May 2003

1. Background

Fish and Game New Zealand spends a significant amount of time each year considering changes to the Anglers Notice. Changes to the regulations have, in the past, generally occurred in an ad hoc fashion, often in response to specific requests from anglers. Council has recognised that this has resulted in the inconsistent application of regulations across the region. To resolve this situation Council has developed policy which determines how and when regulations apply. The underlying approach taken to developing the policy has been to clearly identify the need for regulations or the issues, which may prompt specific regulations to be considered. The purpose of this policy is to remove inconsistencies and simplify the regulations and reduce the amount of time that council are required to devote to the process.

The policy has been established around two key groups of regulations within the Angler's Notice. The first group of regulations are those that serve a social function and relate to the way anglers interact with each other. The second group of regulations are those that have a biological effect on the fisheries and have more direct effects on trout populations.

2. Social Regulations

The Anglers Notice contains a number of regulations that affect anglers rather than the fish they are targeting. These regulations can be considered social in nature, and are set to control the impacts that anglers have upon each other. These regulations are imposed to maximise the opportunities available and the quality of the angling experience. Social regulations generally relate to how anglers are allowed to fish (permitted methods).

The Council has developed policy for determining social based regulations based on the intensity of the angling that occurs, and therefore the potential for anglers to impact upon each other. Angling intensity has been established using known information from levels of angler use and the amount of water available for fishing.

Fishing methods

Policy 2.1 Setting of method restrictions for waters shall be based upon the following framework.

Water Category	Level of use of water (<i>threshold</i>)	Methods Available
• Lake edge fisheries and associated migratory spawning waters	Low Intensity Use (<i>< 10 anglers/100m/season</i>)	• All methods, Bait*,
	Moderate Intensity Use (<i>10-200 anglers/100m/season</i>)	• Fly, Bait*, Spin • No unanchored boats
	High Intensity Use (<i>>200 anglers/100m/season</i>)	• Fly only, Bait* • No spin fishing • No unanchored Boats

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower density river fisheries based on resident trout populations 	Low Intensity Use (<i><24 anglers/100m/season</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All methods, Bait*
	High Intensity Use (<i>>=24 anglers/100m/season</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fly only, Bait*

*Bait fishing has a biological effect on trout populations and because of the high hooking mortality shall not be applied where fish may be legally required to be released due to size limits or restrictive bag limits. Bait fishing would only therefore apply in waters where there were no bag or size limits.

Bait

Policy 2.2 (i) Bait fishing will only be permitted in waters that have no bag limits or no size limits.

- (ii)** Bait in the Eastern Region shall only include;
- Natural fly.
 - Natural insect.
 - Natural spider.
 - Natural worm or worms.
 - Natural crustacean.
 - Natural fish (excluding fish ova, or any portion of a fish, or shellfish (mollusc), and fish can only be sourced from the water where the fishing is to occur).
 - Uncoloured bread dough.

Boats in winter shoreline areas

Policy 2.3 Fishing from a boat shall not be permitted in designated winter shoreline fishing areas.

3. Biological Regulations

Biological regulations are required to ensure the sustainability of the trout populations or fishing opportunities, or to provide for specific management objectives. Criteria for biological based regulations will generally be qualitative in nature and based upon dive counts, trap runs, angler surveys etc.

Policy 3.1 The biological regulations applied to waters shall be based upon the following table.

Category	Description	Regulation Applied
<p><i>Sustainability I</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure adequate recruitment of juveniles to provide later harvest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect spawning rearing waters. Closure of waters and season length most effective tool. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close waters to fishing if they provide significant proportion of recruitment. Length of closure related to importance of contribution, availability of other spawning, fishing opportunity potentially provided and duration of spawning.
<p><i>Sustainability II</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure adequate survival of adults to spawn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect sufficient fish through to maturity to enable them to spawn. Size limits most effective tool for protecting fish. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Size limits guarantee protection of fish to maturity. Size limits can be adjusted based upon knowledge of harvest rates.
<p><i>Harvest Allocation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To share available harvest Bag limit most effective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate or high demand & limited fish availability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River fisheries that attract moderate to high use and/or contain limited numbers of fish (currently 2 fish bag limit)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High demand & high fish availability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restrict excessive fish harvest to enable equitable allocation (currently 8 fish)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low demand & high fish availability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No bag limit.
<p><i>Management Objective</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance specific component 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance specific component of fishery for deliberate management objective, e.g. Okataina size limit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combinations of size limits, season length and bag limits. Requires specific project proposal and justification.

4. Review Process

Following the formal adoption of this policy, the first step is to review the existing regulations and identify any changes that will be necessary to ensure that they comply.

In future, changes to regulations will be based upon this policy framework. Future reviews of the Anglers Notice will be guided by the policies adopted. Changes will occur if there are either changes in intensity of angler use or changes in biological factors influencing a fishery. The other mechanism to cause change would be through the review of the threshold criteria that differentiate the various categories of regulation.

An example of how changes might occur in future is given below.

- The current level of angling intensity on River X has been calculated to be 135 visits per 100m per season. This is derived from a National Angler Survey estimate of 2030 angler visits and a 1500m fishable length (Angler Access Database Information) and therefore fits the stream into the Lake based fisheries moderate intensity category.
- New Angler Survey figures are obtained that shows angler use has increased to 4500 visits per season. An additional 300m of fishable water has been opened due to a new esplanade reserve being created as a result of subdivision. When both these factors are taken into account the angling intensity has now increased to 250 visits per 100m per season.
- Angling Intensity on River X has gone from the Lake Fisheries moderate category (10-200 visits per 100m per season) to the high category (>200). As a result the River X would become a water which was designated fly fishing only.

10. DATES AND VENUES FOR AUGUST AND OCTOBER 2018 MEETINGS

Ref: 7.02.01

29 January 2018

1. Purpose

To confirm the dates and venues for the August and October meetings of Council this year or agrees on a process for doing so.

2. Background

At its last meeting on 30 November 2018, Council agreed to the following dates for six of its 2018 meetings but deferred a decision on the date for the August meeting and where to conduct that and the October meeting:

	Date	Venue	Key Issues
1	<i>15 February 2018</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Priorities
2	<i>5 April, 2018</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OWP – initial draft• Anglers Notice – initial consideration
3	<i>14 June 2018</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Licence Fee• OWP – 2nd draft• Anglers Notice – finalise recommendations
4	<i>? August 2018</i>	Alternate venue?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalise OWP
5	<i>18 October 2018</i>	Alternate venue?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions – initial consideration• Annual Performance Report - draft
6	<i>29 November 2018</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions – finalise recommendations
APM	<i>29 November 2018</i>	Rotorua	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present Annual Performance Report

Each year one of Council's six meetings has generally been held outside Rotorua. Last year, October's meeting was held in Tauranga, and this was attended by two members of the Tauranga Anglers Club but no other members of the public. In October 2016 the meeting was held in Taupo and attracted eight members of the public who don't otherwise attend meetings in Rotorua. In August 2015 a meeting was held at the Vista Motor Lodge in Wairoa and 10 members of the public attended. None of the meetings in 2014 were located outside Rotorua but the October 2013 meeting was held in Gisborne and that was attended by eight councillors and four members of the public.

Given the usual low levels of attendance, and the not inconsiderable costs associated with 'away' meetings, a number of Councillors have questioned the need to meet outside of Rotorua every year, a suggestion being that once during the three year term may be sufficient. If the intention of meeting at other venues is to make it more feasible for licence holders to attend a meeting and meet incumbent Councillors, it could be argued that a meeting is probably required on the East Coast (Gisborne or Wairoa) at the very least for geographical reasons, and in Tauranga for demographic reasons (because that's where many of our licence holders come from). Taupo might also stack up for geographical reasons given our southern boundary extends somewhat south of Turangi. If this was the case and we only met once

every three years it would be a long return time (nine years or longer) to each of these locations.

Another reason for meeting elsewhere might be to consider a topical issue of particular interest or relevance to 'the locals'. If this was the case the location would select itself.

Another suggestion raised at Council's last meeting was that rather than meet on a weekday when a lot of people are likely to be at work, Council may get a better response if it was to meet instead on a weekend day. This could be trialled.

Prior to determining a venue it might be useful to make enquiries with clubs or others to gauge level of interest and/or if there are topical issues members of the public might wish to discuss with Council. Although it might not be realistic or practical to do so, it would be useful to get an indicative commitment from a club(s) of how many members would be likely to attend on a particular weekday or weekend day in a particular month.

Determining the venue may best be done before date and time is finalised.

It's not imperative that Council finalises arrangements for the August and October meetings this meeting if it would like staff to invite feedback from clubs first, but it would be useful to confirm dates and locations at Council's April 2018 meeting to ensure staff can secure a venue well ahead of time.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Council discusses the merits of away meetings, how frequent these should be, and agrees on a process for determining dates and venues for its August and/or October meetings.

11. RELEASE OF CAPTIVE REARED MALLARDS

Ref: 1.07.04

23 January 2018

1. Purpose

To provide feedback to the New Zealand Council on a series of questions it has raised in relation to the rearing, releasing, and hunting of captive reared mallards.

2. Background

At its November 2017 meeting, the NZ Council considered an agenda item on the release of captive reared mallards. The minutes of that meeting record:

“The subject of captive reared mallard is a growing practice in parts of the North Island and has generated diverse opinion on its legal and ethical position. There is a wish to develop policy that can be followed in a consistent way across all of Fish and Game, hence a paper for discussion to be shared with regional Fish and Game councils with the feedback available for further discussion by NZ Council in the New Year.

Resolved (Andrew Morris/Andy Harris):

That the NZ Fish and Game Council:

- (i) Receives Dr Williams’ report and notes his key findings;*
- (ii) Agrees to make it available to interested parties on request with an invitation to provide comment on it back to the NZ Council by 1 March 2018;*
- (iii) Agrees to send Dr Williams’ report and this memorandum to Fish and Game Councils asking them to respond by 1 March 2018 to each of the questions raised in the memorandum under Section 3. Fish & Game’s Position.”*

The NZ Council agenda paper is reprinted in the pages following, and Dr Williams’ report was emailed to Councillors on 29 January 2018 and is reprinted in the February Papers for Information.

Also provided in the Papers for Information is a submission on captive reared mallards from Jeff Niblett who is a director of New Zealand Gamebirds Ltd and the primary supplier of captive reared mallards in the North Island.

RELEASE OF CAPTIVE REARED MALLARDS

Meeting of NZ Fish and Game Council November 2017

Prepared by: Robert Sowman, Policy & Planning Manager, NZ Council Office &
Andy Garrick, Regional Manager, Eastern Fish & Game

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to invite discussion on the release into the wild of captive reared mallards (CRMs) with a view to developing national policy for the guidance of regional Fish and Game Councils, the Department of Conservation (DOC), and people applying to DOC for authorisation to undertake this and related activities.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

The rearing, supply and release of mallards into the wild is a growing enterprise in parts of the North Island, with the practice being promoted as a means of augmenting wild populations. Over the past 3 or 4 years we are aware of up to 6,500 birds per annum being released into sites in the Eastern, Hawke's Bay, and Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game regions. We understand that mallards have also been released into the Wellington region. Typically, groups of hunters purchase in the order of 100 up to 1,200 juvenile CRMs each year and release these onto private land prior to the game season, where they are encouraged to remain or return, by ad lib feeding and a constant supply of food. Suppliers of the mallards maintain the position that they are not selling the birds but are solely seeking recovery for the costs of producing them.

Unlike pheasants on gazetted upland game properties with special conditions, bag limits and all other game season regulations for hunting wild mallards apply to the hunting of these released birds. However, interest has been expressed, in the Eastern Region if not others, in obtaining dispensation for less restrictive bag limits at specific locations/properties where CRMs have been released. There have been indications from some quarters too, of a desire to establish commercial operations along the lines of those run by a number of upland game properties.

There are a variety of potential issues and downsides associated with the release of CRMs. Some of these could be significant if not appropriately recognised and provided for via conditions attached to the permits provided by DOC. These are issued to individuals or collectives to undertake these activities (e.g. to capture, rear, hold, transfer and/or release birds). Some issues, however, may not be able to be addressed via such conditions. Potential issues relate to genetic introgression and behavioural and morphological maladaptation in captivity, disease, compliance and law enforcement, impacts on wild

mallard monitoring programmes, negative impacts on hunting opportunities in neighbouring areas, public perception, legislation (buying and selling of birds and hunting opportunity), and additional workloads for Fish & Game staff.

On the other hand, the concept theoretically has potential upsides, including augmentation or re-establishment of depleted wild populations, and additional or alternative opportunities for hunters.

There is therefore a need to develop national policy and/or guidelines to determine whether Fish & Game NZ is supportive of, or wishes to promote the release of CRMs and if so, what conditions or controls should apply to the practice.

2.2 Legal Position

The Wildlife Act 1953 is the key legislation governing the catching, holding, rearing, transfer and release of game birds, and the sale of game and shooting rights. The following provides an overview and brief commentary of the provisions of the Act relevant to this agenda item.

2.2.1 First Schedule - Wildlife Declared to be Game

The First Schedule specifically provides that the mallard or associated mallard hybrid is wildlife that is declared to be game for the purposes of the Wildlife Act. The declaration in the First Schedule is not restricted by any reference to “not being a domestic bird” or similar caveats/delineation.

However, the Schedule creates a distinction between pheasants that are deemed to be game versus pheasants that are deemed to be domestic birds – a distinction that does not apply to mallards or other gamebirds. That distinction is elaborated on in the definition of a “domestic bird” in s2, which provides that the restriction in relation to pheasants being defined as domestic birds is limited to pheasants bred/raised for the predominant purpose of sale of pheasant meat or live pheasants for human consumption, excluding:

1. Any pheasant living in a wild state; or
2. Any pheasants held pursuant to a permit under sections 23, 53 and 56 for the purposes of liberation at large as game “shall not be deemed to be a domestic bird”.

The effect of this is that a pheasant that is bred/held in captivity for subsequent liberation to be hunted/killed as game is similarly defined as “game”.

2.2.2 Section 2 - Interpretation

Game is defined as “all animals and game birds for the time being specified in the First Schedule”. The First Schedule specifically provides that grey and mallard duck and any associated hybrid, are wildlife declared to be “game”. In order for a captive mallard to be defined as a “domestic bird”, it would have to be accepted that a general reference to any domestic duck overrides specific mention of the mallard duck as “game”.

Wildlife means any animal living in a wild state, and includes any such animal, egg or offspring of any such animal held, hatched or born in captivity. In turn, the definition of animal includes any bird not considered a domestic bird.

The discretion to grant/decline permits under sections 23, 53 and 56 in relation to wildlife, (including game) for these activities rests with the Director-General of Conservation as opposed to Fish & Game, notwithstanding Fish & Game's statutory role in the management of game populations and setting of associated hunting regulations.

2.2.3 Sale of Game and Sale of Shooting Rights Prohibited

Section 23(1) of the Wildlife Act provides that, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the Director-General of Conservation, it is lawful for a person to buy or sell game or game eggs. Such consent can be provided on a conditional basis.

It is noted that s26Q(b)(ii) of the Conservation Act contemplates Fish & Game Councils maintaining and improving the game resource by maintaining hatchery and breeding programmes where required for the stocking or restocking of game habitat. Hence, game breeding/stocking is an anticipated Fish & Game Council function. Further, it is legally permissible under the Wildlife Act for individuals to undertake this activity, subject to their holding the necessary permits under sections 23, 53 and 56 of the Act.

However, people undertaking these activities cannot legally sell or let the right to hunt or kill liberated mallards, including those bred/raised in captivity, because of the restriction in s23(2) of the Wildlife Act.

The real issue from Fish & Game's perspective is whether the Director-General of Conservation is required to consult with Fish & Game in exercising that discretion to provide consent to buy or sell game or game eggs and, if so, the extent to which they are required to take into account Fish & Game's view(s).

It seems somewhat inappropriate that consent is to be obtained from the Director-General of Conservation, rather than Fish & Game, given that Fish & Game Councils are specifically tasked with management of game populations, with issuing licences to hunt or kill game (see s26Q of the Conservation Act), and with setting regulations in relation to the harvest of game by way of Game Notices promulgated under the Wildlife Act.

As a minimum requirement, the Director-General of Conservation and delegated staff should consult with the relevant Fish & Game region in light of Fish & Game's specific statutory functions in relation to game.

Furthermore, any decision making by the Director-General of Conservation and delegated staff should take account of the relevant sports fish and game management plan for the relevant Fish & Game region.

Notwithstanding that someone may be able to legally buy or sell game or game eggs, including mallards and their eggs, it remains unlawful under s23(2) to sell/let for reward the right to hunt or kill game on any land or on any water-adjointing land. This means that if someone legally purchased mallards for liberation, they cannot subsequently legally sell the right to hunt them.

2.2.4 Director-General may Authorise Taking or Killing of Wildlife for Certain Purposes

Section 53(1) provides that the Director-General of Conservation may authorise a specified person to catch or kill game for an approved purpose if such hunting or killing is not permitted at the time.

2.2.5 Restrictions on Liberation or Export of Animals, Birds, etc

Section 56(1) provides that, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the Director-General of Conservation, it is lawful to liberate wildlife, which - as explained above - includes game birds such as mallards. Under s56(2) this approval can be granted on either a conditional or an unconditional basis. The Director-General or delegated staff should consult with Fish & Game in making any such decision regarding liberation.

2.3 Biological, Behavioural, Ecological, and Operational Considerations

2.3.1 Overview

As indicated earlier, there are potential concerns of a biological, behavioural and ecological nature, e.g. genetics/development of maladaptive traits; disease transmission; negative interaction with wild mallards; and interspecific hybridisation. There are also matters of an operational nature that need to be evaluated in relation to monitoring and management of wild populations (e.g. impacts on aerial transects/counts, banding studies, harvest surveys, population estimates, and regulation setting); reduced hunting opportunity in neighbouring areas (decoy effect of large numbers of released birds in an area and/or as a complementary effect of cafeteria feeding); and issues relating to compliance and law enforcement (arising from the concept of 'property rights', and/or where more liberal hunting regulations have been approved for properties on which CRMs have been released than is the case elsewhere).

There are however, potential benefits that could arise from releasing mallards, e.g. as a tool to hasten the recovery of wild populations that are at low levels as a consequence, for example, of a series of poor breeding seasons or serious botulism outbreaks, or over harvesting (as opposed to a lack of quality habitat); providing 'put and take' hunting for groups of hunters at specific locations akin to that provided by upland game properties; and providing additional hunting opportunity for game bird hunters more generally and/or further afield.

Earlier this year Fish & Game commissioned an independent review by Dr Murray Williams of the potential pros and cons of releasing CRMs into the wild in New Zealand. His key findings are outlined below. His full report was considered by Fish & Game managers in August 2017, who agreed it should be forwarded to the NZ Council accompanied by

commentary on legal and ethical considerations with a recommendation that it be circulated for consultation to regions.

Managers agreed Dr Williams' full report needs to be read in its entirety prior to determining whether or not, and under what circumstances, the release of CRMs is something that Fish & Game should support or enable.

2.3.2 Synopsis Extracted from Dr Williams' Report (note that where provided, *italicised* page references relate to discussions on the topic concerned in the main body of the report)

- This report provides a review of literature detailing the nature and scale of releases of captive-reared mallards (CRMs) internationally, and the efficacy and biological consequences for wild mallards of these release programmes. Drawing upon those findings, it outlines the potential consequences (positive and negative) of more extensive mallard releases in New Zealand.
- A distinction is made between "put-and-take" releases, which are intended to improve hunter opportunity and satisfaction, and releases designed to supplement the wild mallard population.
- Large-scale releases of CRMs dominate in Western Europe and United Kingdom; 3-5 million are released annually and the bulk of mallards shot by hunters are released birds. Numbers released considerably exceed the wild mallard population resident or wintering in many European countries.
- Prolonged captive-rearing of mallards in Western Europe has resulted in birds being released having larger bodies, reduced flight capability, greater human tolerance and reduced anti-predator responses relative to wild mallards - all a consequence of captive mallards being selected for captive rather than wild traits. None of these changes have yet become manifest in the wild population.
- Despite captive-rearing facilities having been identified as potential concentrations of disease, transfer of diseases from captive to wild birds has not yet been detected in either Western Europe or USA. The reverse has, however, been detected (*e.g. transfer of influenza virus from wild birds to captive birds*), and throughout Western Europe, captive flocks and wild birds are kept separate during winter months. Newly-released captive birds lack immunity to wild pathogens and have been found to act as amplifiers of avian flu viruses already circulating in the wild.
- In the USA, there is a century-long tradition of releasing CRMs onto commercial hunting preserves. There is an equally long record of State and Federal wildlife management agencies releasing CRMs to augment wild mallard populations, especially in response to major declines in wild mallard populations.
- In the USA, large-scale releases of CRMs to supplement the wild population have conflicted with State and Federal waterfowl management activities, including population

monitoring, band reporting rates, and annual harvest surveys. Similar conflicts have arisen in Nordic countries.

- In the USA, such has been the lamentable ineffectiveness of all releases intended to supplement wild mallard populations that Federal and most State agencies no longer do so, and instead focus on habitat creation and enhancement under the North American Waterfowl Management Programme. A plethora of published research has failed to demonstrate anywhere that population supplementation has worked without complementary habitat-focused initiatives.
- Private releases of CRMs in New Zealand, conducted under permits (*Wildlife Act 1953*) issued by the Department of Conservation, are (knowingly) of 5-year duration and, most recently (2017), resulted in 6,000 mallards being released within 4 North Island Fish & Game regions. Since 2012, the DOC has issued 36 permits to individuals or corporate bodies to release mallards, and for periods of 3-11 (mostly 5-7) years (*refer pp 8, 9*).
- All CRMs released are required to be banded, and banding details supplied to the DOC Banding Office. There is already strong evidence for bands retrieved from released CRMs being hoarded and not reported to the Banding Office, or not being reported in the year(s) in which the birds were shot. Thus, determining what proportion of the released birds are shot is problematic. Inevitably, bands from wild birds will be caught up in any reluctance to report a band (*refer pp 10, 11, 12, 15*).
- In New Zealand, CRM releases should be viewed as intended solely to improve hunter opportunity and satisfaction. The wild mallard population is constrained by habitat availability and quality, and habitat expansion and management is the key to its expansion. Releasing CRMs as a stand-alone response to its modern decline will prove entirely ineffective (*refer pp 13, 18*).
- CRM releases are regulated by permits issued by the Department of Conservation. Fish & Game Councils, having statutory responsibilities to manage the gamebird resource, are not formally involved in approving permits and/or setting permit conditions. They should be (*refer p 14*).
- CRM releases have the potential to compromise some of Fish & Game's waterfowl monitoring and assessment activities (*refer pp 14, 15*).
- The requirement to band all CRMs released is challenged because it is without obvious purpose, may compromise band returns from wild mallards, and imposes an unnecessary burden on the DOC Banding Office and Fish & Game administrations (*refer p 15*).
- CRM releases pose no identifiable disease risk to the wild mallard population, nor to its size or genetic integrity (*refer pp 16, 17*).
- The potential for present-scale private CRM releases to expand into commercial-scale waterfowl hunting preserves is foreshadowed (*refer p 14 and Appendix 4*).

2.4 Public Perception, Animal Welfare, and Philosophical Considerations

In his report, Dr Williams notes on page 3:

“There is considerable variability in the way mallard “put-and-take” operations are conducted in Europe, UK and USA, and much of this is a response to the cost of maintaining birds in confinement, or in the wild, for the protracted interval between fledging and the onset of the hunting season. For example, commercial facilities that breed and hold birds for multiple weeks (or months) are compensated by high prices for the birds they sell or for the right to hunt on their preserve. In Europe, most sales of mallards from duck farms are as downy ducklings and the costs of maintenance are born by the hunters, hunters’ organisations, or estates that undertake the releases. Other approaches include releasing birds onto selected ponds at 6-12 weeks of age and maintaining the birds there by constant provisioning until the commencement of the hunting season”.

And on page 22:

“In most countries where restocking takes place, regulations or guidance that define best practice are limited or non-existent. Furthermore, current practices differ considerably from one country to another. In France, Mallards mostly come from a handful of breeding facilities that sell day-old ducklings. Such birds are then hand-reared in aviaries in the region of release, which generally occurs at the age of 6–9 weeks, about two months before the start of the hunting season. In order to keep hand-reared Mallard on the hunting estate, the provision of corn, wheat or rice is common practice. Hand-reared Mallard are thus likely to be highly faithful to the place where they were released, at least until the hunting season commences”.

On page 13:

“The mallard in New Zealand has lost places in which to live in safety and in which to breed successfully. Unless this loss of space and habitat quality is addressed, releasing CRMs into the wild to increase population size will be without enduring effect. And in the absence of appropriate habitat management there will be some who may consider such releases to be ethically questionable given that most, or all, ducks released will knowingly starve, or be predated”.

In Appendix 2 he describes some of the approaches and manner in which hunting of CRMs takes place overseas:

“Traditionally, shooting preserves released their flighted mallards from towers. This release method consists of holding birds in pens until their release from high towers and their flight directed towards waiting hunters. The hunters are positioned on a flight path towards a pond with which the birds are familiar, and released birds not shot but which land in the pond, are trapped and taken back to pens or, if they are trained to do so, return to the pens by themselves. This method of release is cost-effective, since most birds are either shot immediately upon release or the survivors are later gathered up and contained for a subsequent release. An estimated 70% of the CRMs are shot immediately on their release

(USFWS 2013). This “put-and-take” method prevents the CRMs intermingling freely with wild ducks, and ensures few escape to the wild.

However, a liberal interpretation of USFWS regulations saw shooting preserves adopt another release method whereby greater numbers of free-flying CRMs were released and the birds “trained” to move freely among several impoundments on the preserve that serve as feeding and loafing areas. Once they are released, the birds are not trapped or put back into captivity, but instead visit flooded grain crops and other feeding sites which the preserves provide. In this way the ducks remain on, or near to, the preserve. While hunters derive a more “wild” hunting experience, fewer of the CRMs are shot (approx. 40%; USFWS 2013) and a greater number escape to mingle with the wild population”.

It is unclear the extent to which predator control and supplementary feeding are undertaken at sites into which CRMs are released in New Zealand, and whether these activities continue beyond the end of the game season. The manner in which CRMs are harvested in New Zealand is also unclear, though staff are aware that some of the hunters who release birds hunt them from their maimai as they would wild birds. Anecdotal reports have been received from third parties, however, that driven hunts are also conducted, in which birds are encouraged to fly over hunters from one point to another, e.g. between feeding and roosting areas. Reports have also been received of birds being spotlighted on ponds, and birds that were reluctant to fly being chased into the air.

These are matters that need to be considered from a public perception and/or animal welfare point of view.

There is similarly, a need to consider the philosophical and judicial appropriateness of authorising the captive rearing and release of mallards for ‘put and take’ operations - particularly if these were to be commercialised given the history and intent behind Fish & Game and its predecessors, and the organisation’s ‘reason for being’.

3. FISH & GAME’S POSITION

As a precursor to drafting policy, Fish & Game needs to determine what its position is in relation to the following matters:

- (i) Is Fish & Game supportive of releasing CRMs as a tool to augment wild populations?***
- (ii) Is Fish & Game supportive of releasing CRMs as a tool that could be used to hasten the recovery of wild populations that are at low levels as a consequence for example, of a series of very poor breeding seasons or serious botulism outbreaks arising from climatic conditions, or over harvesting?***
- (iii) Does Fish & Game support the concept of ‘put and take’ operations where CRMs are released for the principal purpose of providing an immediate hunting opportunity?***

- (iv) *If the latter is something Fish & Game wishes to facilitate, support or promote, would we accept the development of commercial enterprises run along the lines of many upland game operations, or would we require ‘put and take’ operations to be of a non-commercial nature only? [An argument to consider is if Fish & Game allows commercial pheasant/quail/partridge hunting, should it not also allow commercial exploitation of mallards or other game birds and change the law to enable this if necessary?].***
- (v) *If Fish & Game allows release of CRMs for ‘put and take’ operations, would we wish to see the birds hunted in a similar way to how wild mallards are hunted now, or would we be accepting of the upland game equivalent of ‘driven hunts’, where birds are encouraged to fly over hunters from point A to point B, or some other approach?***

Once these questions have been answered, and any others that might be raised, policy, criteria, and conditions or controls can be developed.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the New Zealand Council:

- (i) receives Dr Williams’ report and notes his key findings;**
- (ii) agrees to make it available to interested parties with an invitation to provide comment on it back to the NZ Council by 1 March 2018;**
- (iii) agrees to send Dr Williams’ report and this memorandum to Fish and Game Councils asking them to respond by 1 March 2018 to each of the five questions raised under Section 3. Fish & Game’s Position above.**

3. Eastern Region Comments

3.1 CRMs in Eastern Region

We believe that DOC has issued a minimum of nine permits to release CRMs at specific sites within our region and we have obtained copies of some but not all of those. Banding schedules obtained from a supplier of the birds, and band recoveries obtained from the DOC Banding Office, suggest there may be one or two other permits we're otherwise unaware of, and we've been endeavouring to determine whether this is so. We have good reason to believe, from various sources, that CRMs have also been released at a number of locations without an authority to do so, and that this may be becoming more prevalent as a consequence of the time (generally several months) and cost (\$400 plus) of obtaining a permit from the Department, and the lack of any compliance effort or follow up on its part to ensure permit holders are abiding by the conditions attached to those permits. We are aware of one other permit application currently in the pipeline.

Eastern Fish & Game is the holder of one of the permits which we acquired to release 199 CRMs at two sites in Reporoa in February 2016. It's not possible, nor was it intended to be an undertaking enabling productivity of these birds to be measured, but was undertaken for the purpose of gaining some insight into the survival and dispersal of CRMs released at two sites where supplementary feeding and predator control was being undertaken and no hunting allowed. Observations to date are as follows:

Birds released at Nigel Simpson's (n=99):

- five were recovered dead in 2016 the year in which they were released – 3 were shot locally, 1 was found sick, and the other was found dead on the road;
- no dead recoveries were reported in 2017;
- 10 birds were recaptured during banding operations in January 2017 one of which originated from the other site at which birds were released (Johnson's);
- Nigel has maintained an ad lib/supplementary feeding programme along with predator trapping since the birds were released, and there are a substantial number of banded birds present on his ponds though its not possible to say how many are CRMs versus wild birds that have been banded there or elsewhere;
- Nigel's impressions are that there have been more mallards occupying his ponds than was the case prior to releasing the CRMs, and this year there have been in excess of 50 ducklings produced there though again he can't comment on whether brood hens were wild birds or CRMs.

Birds released at Johnson's (n=100):

- one bird was recovered dead (shot) in 2016 but no other dead recoveries have been made since;
- 26 birds were recaptured during banding operations in January 2017;
- supplementary feeding was maintained until the end of banding in January 2017 but was discontinued after that. Like Nigel, the landowner's impression is, or was that there were more mallards consistently present onsite than was the case prior to 2016, but again we have no idea as to what extent these comprised CRMs vs wild birds.

Neither of the sites at which these birds were released is shot.

We have band recovery information from the Banding Office associated with six (possibly seven) other permit holders/sites. With the exception of two permit holders who have supplied us directly with details of all the CRMs they have released and harvested over the past two years, and possibly one other operator, there are no comprehensive records of all CRMs recovered because very few if any bands have been returned or reported from the sites at which they were released and hunted over by the permit holders, or others who shot at those sites. We do have recoveries reported from beyond the boundaries of these properties by presumably, other hunters, but these have yet to be analysed. Generally however, over the past 2-3 years there have typically been fewer than 10 recoveries from beyond the boundaries of each of the sites in any one year, and in most cases fewer than four birds.

The permits issued that we have copies of, provide for 120 mallards to 1,200 to be released per annum for periods of up to ten years. Two of these expire before 2020, two in 2024, and one in 2025.

Within the Eastern Region, authorities have also been issued to two parties to obtain, hold, rear, and transfer mallards. One authority provides for the holder to produce and supply up to 6,000 birds per annum (expires 2021), the other an unspecified number of mallards per annum (expires 2020).

3.2 Additional Observations

Pheasants and other upland game vs mallards

- Upland game species are relatively sedentary and don't fly far and wide or do so in large flocks as do mallards – they tend to walk rather than fly any great distance, while the converse is true of mallards which prospect widely on a daily basis and naturally utilise networks of habitat that are often widely spaced.
- 'Spill over' of upland game beyond the boundaries of the managed habitats in which they are fed and provided for is relatively limited because of the way in which they are typically managed, and birds rarely travel as far afield as flocks of mallards do, or commute to and from these more distant locations as mallards frequently do, or aggregate at sites elsewhere as mallards do.

Mallard releases vs pheasant releases

- The survival and productivity of captive reared mallards is likely to be very poor and without ongoing support many birds will starve or be predated – releasing CRMs is not a viable option for augmenting wild populations and the same is probably true for pheasants – it certainly is not a cost effective means for providing hunting opportunity in the wild as most Acclimatisation Societies discovered years ago.
- 'Spillover'/dispersal from put and take operations may provide some limited opportunity for the everyday hunter of both mallards and pheasants, but there is a greater risk that applies to mallards than pheasants that the 'decoy effect' of large congregations of mallards on a private property, coupled with intensive and ongoing supplementary feeding, will draw wild mallards away from the reach of those hunters in surrounding

areas and reduce opportunity for them (but provide additional opportunity for the private property hunter).

- Flocks of mallards commuting to and from put and take operations on private property and utilising water bodies elsewhere that lie on aerial monitoring transects pose a threat to wild mallard monitoring programmes. The likelihood of this occurring becomes ever more likely with increasing numbers of CRMs released. CRMs that have been banded also have the potential to compromise wild mallard banding programmes by affecting band reporting rates.
- People who purchase birds for put and take operations want a decent return on their investment, and not surprisingly can have the attitude we've paid for the birds and we want to harvest as many as we can – staff have encountered this already within the Eastern Region. This can (and we know) leads to them either wanting more liberal regulations than applies to the everyday hunter to do so, or they take the law into their own hands. Both situations generate CLE nightmares, and CRM put and take operations are likely to be a much greater issue in this regard than pheasant hunting on upland game properties in the sense that wild mallards are much more likely to be in the mix harvested on properties where CRMs have been released than pheasants of wild origin are likely to be amongst the birds shot on upland game properties.

3.3 Submission from NZ Gamebirds Ltd

Jeff Niblett from NZ Gamebirds Ltd has submitted amongst other things (see February Papers for Information), that Fish & Game staff have not provided objective information to accompany this agenda item, and that an impartial and independent assessment of the impacts of captive reared mallards on wild populations needs to be undertaken. Since he lodged his submission he has asked each Fish & Game region to put the following question to its Council:

“Do you think you have been supplied with enough information to make informed decisions on the five questions that the NZ Council has asked surrounding Fish and Game’s position relating to Captive Reared Mallards?”

3. Recommendations:

- 3.1** *That Council provides its responses to the NZ Council on the five questions listed on page 45-46 of this agenda prior to 1 March 2018 and any other relevant comments that it might have including a response to Mr Niblett’s question.*

12. NATIONAL SALMON COMMITTEE

Ref: 8.04.02

1 February 2018

1. Purpose

To review and provide feedback on the memorandum below from the New Zealand Council.

2. Background

See below.

3. Recommendations:

3.1 That Council considers these papers provides staff with any comments it might have so these can be forwarded back to the NZ Council Office prior to 2 March 2018.

NATIONAL SALMON COMMITTEE

New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Prepared by: Robert Sowman, Policy & Planning Manager

The purpose of this memorandum is to invite consultation and feedback from regional Fish and Game Councils on establishing the terms of reference for a Fish & Game NZ National Salmon Committee.

The attached recommendations have been prepared by Matthew Hall, Central South Island Fish and Game Councillor, appointee to the NZ Council and co-convenor of the Salmon Symposium Steering Committee. These recommendations have been circulated to and approved by the Symposium Steering Committee.

Feedback on the attached is required in time for consideration by the NZ Fish and Game Council at its March 2018 meeting. For this to occur, please provide feedback to the NZ Council Office by Friday 2 March 2018.

New Zealand Fish and Game Salmon Committee

This is a brief paper prepared for the purposes of establishing terms of reference for a New Zealand Fish and Game Salmon Committee.

At the New Zealand Council Meeting on Friday 24th November 2017 it was resolved that:

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council scope out the formation of a salmon committee and the terms of reference needed to deal with restoring the Sea Run Salmon Fishery here in New Zealand. In achieving these objectives, the council will

- I. Consult with Fish and Game Councils requesting them to recommend their preferred terms of reference.**
- II. List out and where appropriate speak to, other stake holders who would form part of the committee.**
- III. Give advice on the committee's responsibility to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and or other Councils.**
- IV. In setting up the committee consider the various recommendations that were collated from the workshop at the Salmon Symposium.**
- V. Research and advise how a South Island Salmon Management Plan could be integrated into various Species Management Plans so that the recommendations on salmon had status under the Conservation Act and the Resource Management Act. This forming part of the scoping exercise in considering the functions of a Salmon Committee.**
- VI. Cost out the running of the committee for a year of operation.**
- VII. Report on and make recommendations to the first council meeting in 2018.**

Suggested recommendations that would lead to Terms of Reference for a National Salmon Committee:

- 1. The name of the Committee shall be the National Salmon Committee. (Alternative National Sea Run Salmon Committee?)**
- 2. The Committee shall be a committee of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.**
- 3. The purpose of the committee is to develop a co-ordinated approach within Fish and Game and key stakeholders to ways that will maintain and enhance the sea run salmon fishery in the interest of anglers. (The current crisis facing the salmon fishery drives this purpose.)**
- 4. The New Zealand Council shall approve the terms of reference for the National Salmon Committee after consultation with the regions.**
- 5. To gain the best expertise, advice and advocacy, membership of the committee shall be invited from those organisations that have as part of their objectives the future well-being of the sea run salmon fishery. Individuals dedicated to the salmon fishery or who can provide valuable support may also be invited to join the committee.**
- 6. The committee shall be chaired by a person approved by the New Zealand Council. (An alternative that the chairman shall be a member of the New Zealand Council)**
- 7. The committee shall report to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and shall be bound the Governance Policies established by the Council.**
- 8. The committee shall be funded from the National Budget.**
- 9. Initially the terms of reference for the committee shall be reviewed annually.**

10. The committee shall:

- 1) Meet as required, but at least twice a year.**
- 2) Meet in Christchurch or at such other location that the committee so decides.**
- 3) For membership, draw on the voluntary contribution of governors within Fish and Game who have a special interest in the salmon and staff with expertise in matters relating to the salmon fishery.**
- 4) For membership, the committee can call on representation from the wider community and also from groups with a special interest in the sea run salmon fishery. (The objective is not to limit membership; the objective is to add as much value as possible to Fish and Game's efforts in protecting the fishery)**
- 5) Assist in the review of the South Island Salmon Management Plan with a view of making better use of its strategic base.**
- 6) Advocate the interests of the salmon fishery. (In the widest possible sense)**
- 7) Recognise the autonomy Regional Fish and Game Councils have and their statutory function to manage salmon. The purpose of the National Salmon Committee is, to where possible, support and enhance the work of the regions.**
- 8) Seek the support of government and other statutory entities and the ways they can support the welfare of salmon.**
- 9) Prioritise the recommendations from the Salmon Symposium, work on them and where appropriate include them in the Salmon Management Plan.**
- 10) Look at any gaps in the science relating to salmon and on a needs basis recommend the studies required. (Make the best use of the scientists who can contribute to the fishery)**
- 11) Investigate and promote ways to fund the work on the salmon fishery. Where appropriate this funding to be accounted for through New Zealand Fish and Game)**
- 12) The Committee and indeed Fish and Game accepts that there are other stakeholders who financially and in some cases voluntarily contribute towards the welfare of the sea run salmon fishery. The National Salmon Committee will support the work of these stakeholders. (Other than where this is not deemed to be prudent)**
- 13) Complete a budget for the work of the committee and have this approved by the New Zealand Council. (Note – no expense can be incurred by the committee without the approval of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council unless covered elsewhere within the budgetary processes used by Fish and Game.)**
- 14) Report on activities primarily to the New Zealand Council but also to Regional Councils and those parties who form the membership of the committee.**
- 15) Recommend to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and changes to the terms of reference of the Committee that the committee believes will improve its functioning.**

13. SPECIES MONITORING REPORT

Ref: 1.02.01

1 February 2018

1. Purpose

To receive the Rotorua Lakes 2017 Winter Creel Survey report.

2. Background

The Eastern Council operates a significant species monitoring programme for both sports fisheries and game birds across the region. This monitoring involves investigations on the populations we manage and the characteristics of the harvest on these species. Understanding what we manage, and key characteristics of how our licence holders use these resources is a fundamental aspect to fish and game management.

The winter creel surveys were established in the late 1990's to monitor changes in the highly valued winter shoreline fishery on Lakes Rotoiti, Okataina and Rotoiti. The first survey in 1997 established total effort from this group of anglers and ascertained characteristics of the catch as well as angler perceptions, attractions and detractions. These surveys have continued annually to monitor the catch from this fishery each year. Data collected has been used to adjust seasonal liberations into the lakes to increase opportunities for winter anglers, as well as monitor regulation changes to try and further enhance these fisheries.

The full Rotorua Lakes 2017 Winter Creel Survey Report will be emailed out to Council with February 2018's Papers for Information, and will be posted on the Eastern Region pages of the www.fishandgame.org.nz web site. The Executive Summary is replicated below.

3. Rotorua Lakes 2017

Executive Summary

- The creel survey of winter shoreline anglers on Lakes Rotoiti, Okataina and Tarawera has been undertaken relatively unchanged for the past twenty-one years. A total of 166 angler encounters were recorded. This is less than we would ideally have liked, and attributable in part to staff resourcing for the creel being affected due to staff ill health and other regional operating demands.
- Lake Rotoiti anglers experienced a better average catch rate than was the case in 2016. However, the fish caught by Rotoiti anglers during the 2017 winter were smaller and lighter on average than the fish caught during the 2016 winter and were 22mm smaller than the past 10-year average (594mm). The average angler's perceptions of both catch rate and fish size were significantly poorer ($P < 0.001$), whilst the average satisfaction level remained unchanged from the 2016 winter. A total of 96% of Rotoiti winter anglers said they were satisfied or highly satisfied with their fishing.
- Lake Okataina creel surveys over the 2017 winter encountered a higher number of anglers than observed in recent surveys. Catch rates at Lake Okataina during the 2017 winter were up on the 2016 winter, but still fell short of the past 10-year average (0.18 fish/hr). Fish size was greater compared to the past two winter creel surveys. Anglers fishing

Lake Okataina during the 2017 winter perceived both their catch rate and the size of the fish they caught were improved on what they experienced in the 2016 winter. Anglers rated their level of satisfaction higher than during the 2016 winter. All anglers interviewed stated they were either satisfied or highly satisfied with their 2017 winter's fishing at Okataina, which is a higher level of satisfaction than the previous 10-year average.

- Lake Tarawera anglers experienced a poorer catch rate over the 2017 winter compared to the 2016 winter. Just one fish was measured during Tarawera creel surveys. The winter spawning run recorded through the Te Wairoa fish trap indicated a decline in fish condition illustrating a downturn in lake productivity over the past year. The average angler's perceptions during the 2017 winter were poorer for catch rate, fish size and condition compared with their 2016 ratings. Anglers rated their level of satisfaction as being poorer than that during the 2016 winter. 90% of Tarawera anglers interviewed stated however, that they were satisfied with their winter's fishing.

14. TE ARAWA FRESH WATER FISHERIES BYLAWS

Ref: 4.01.08

1 February 2018

1. Purpose

To receive a presentation from Cr Laurence Tamati on the proposed Te Arawa Lakes Fisheries Bylaws.

2. Background

The proposed Te Arawa Lakes Fisheries Bylaws have recently been formally notified for consultation. Closing date for submissions is 16 March 2018.

Further information can be found at:

www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/27240-te-arawa-lakes-proposed-fisheries-bylaws

15. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

15.1 Conservation Boards

- *Bay of Plenty Conservation Board*
- *Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board*
- *East Coast/Hawkes Bay Conservation Board*

15.2 Reports from Other Agencies

- Department of Conservation

15.3 Report from New Zealand Council

16. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

16.2 MANAGEMENT REPORT

26 January 2018

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

1111 River Fisheries Investigations

Drift Dive Investigations 2017-18

The Motu River was scheduled to be investigated (drift dived) in early January, but this did not proceed as a result of the storm that hit immediately prior to it which made river conditions totally unsuitable. A second attempt at drift diving/monitoring the Motu, along with the Ruakituri and Ngaruroro (latter to be organised by Hawkes Bay Fish & Game) is scheduled for February.

Rangitaiki River Water Quality Monitoring

Fish & Game staff are planning an investigation collecting water quality parameters at sites within the upper Rangitaiki River within Kaingaroa Forest in late February. Over the past two seasons, staff have been unable to undertake drift dive trout counts due to the poor condition (visibility) of the Rangitaiki River. Recent visits (January) have shown no improvement in water quality.

1112 Datawatch

During the four and a half months following the season opening, a total of 158 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database. The distribution is as follows:

Lake Okareka	4
Lake Okataina	48
Lake Rerewhakaaitu	8
Lake Rotoehu	5
Lake Rotoiti	34
Lake Rotoma	4
Lake Rotorua	4
Lake Tarawera	48
Lake Tutira	0
Lake Waikaremoana	3

**Datawatch returns (entered to 10/01/2018)*

This total is 17 tags behind the same approximate period in 2017. Lakes Tarawera and Rotoehu are behind by 6 returns, Rotoiti 5 returns. All other lakes are within 1 or 2 tags of last season's totals.

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Lake Waikaremoana Monitoring Buoy Update

The Lake Water Quality Monitoring buoy sensor strings are scheduled to be repaired and ready for re-installation in late February.

Lake Waikaremoana Fishery Investigation/Summer Creel

Staff have concluded the three-year more intensive monitoring programme commenced in 2015 at Waikaremoana. A revised work programme is being prepared to ensure Fish & Game maintains a regular presence at the lake and keeps its finger on the pulse.

1114 Lake Tarawera

Members of the Tarawera anglers club have been sending through reports of trout caught over the summer and gut contents, size of smelt that the trout are feeding upon.

1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

Ngongotaha Stream Trap

The Ngongotaha Fish trap was operated for 9 nights during November. The November trapping period saw a steady number of both rainbow and brown trout entering the stream. The largest fish was a 680mm, 4kg brown female. The largest rainbow was a 570mm, 2kg female. Size of the rainbow trout was down compared to those recorded in November 2016 (20mm, 370g smaller), as was the average brown trout size (2mm, 460g smaller).

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (November 2017)

	<i>Av. Length</i>	<i>Av. Weight</i>	<i>Trap Run</i>	<i>Fish/night</i>	<i>10 pound+</i>	<i>% Brown</i>
<i>Rainbow</i>	490	1.44	54	6	0	
<i>Brown</i>	591	2.56	73	8	0	57%

The Ngongotaha fish trap was operated for 8 nights during December. A large run of brown trout was recorded moving upstream as Lake Rotorua water temperatures increased above 19 degrees Celsius early in the month. The largest movement recorded occurred on 18 December when 98 brown trout were trapped. None measured exceeded the 10-pound mark. The largest fish was a 680mm, 4.3kg brown female. Brown trout average size was 300g less than that measured in December 2016.

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (December 2017)

	<i>Av. Length</i>	<i>Av. Weight</i>	<i>Trap Run</i>	<i>Fish/night</i>	<i>10 pound+</i>	<i>% Brown</i>
<i>Rainbow</i>	492	1.36	21	3	0	
<i>Brown</i>	584	2.64	576	72	0	96%

Ngongotaha Stream trap run (January 2017)

The fish trap was yet to be operated at the time of this report.

Ohau Channel

Fish heads are being collected from the Ohau Channel to add to the data collected in association with the Ohau Channel wall monitoring programme. The otoliths will be taken from the heads and used to determine the natal stream the trout originated from, and identify inter lake movements between Rotorua and Rotoiti.

1116 Waterfowl Monitoring

Trend Counts

Trend counts of paradise shelduck and black swan have been completed for the Bay of Plenty and Taupo areas, but at time of writing have yet to be undertaken in Gisborne and Hawke's Bay due to weather conditions. There have been also, issues with the availability of the plane and pilot, and staff are contemplating bringing the trend counts forward to immediately prior to Christmas in future to avoid these and other issues including reducing workloads in January. This will be subject to a feasibility trial to determine whether paradise shelduck are on-site at their tradition moulting areas or whether they have yet to arrive.

Swan numbers on Tauranga Harbour are comparable to those at the same time last year. Swan numbers at other locations and paradise shelduck numbers have yet to be analysed, but staff gained the impression that parrie numbers in the Bay of Plenty may be down a bit.

Duck Trapping

Staff have built five new duck traps to increase flexibility around trap timing and the number of sites we can use. At the time of writing feeding out is well underway in both the Bay of Plenty and Gisborne areas, and Reporoa will be commenced shortly. Given the amount of feed being consumed each night we are hopeful of another good trapping year.

1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys

Winter Creel Survey 2016-17

Write up of last year's winter creel survey was completed and is discussed in Agenda Item 3.

Summer Creel Survey 2017-18

The summer angler creel surveys started during November and will continue until April. To mid-January 2018, 175 angler interviews were undertaken on 16 occasions across the four surveyed lakes. A total of 82 fish were presented for measuring. This number of contacts was down compared to the same period during the 2016-2017 summer surveys (351 contacts from 17 surveys). Early summer through to the Christmas period, angling proved challenging on many of the lakes due to a shallow thermocline being formed (8-13m deep). Jigging wasn't overly productive for most as trout were appearing at all depths. There were few anglers present in the lead up to Christmas.

From the Christmas break through the New Year period, windy conditions were the norm. Some very good days were experienced on Rotoiti, but catch rates have been inconsistent. Anglers have been locating fish, but enticing them to strike has been challenging.

Okataina has produced solid fish for anglers that have made the effort. The lake level has made it difficult to launch from the ramp.

At Lake Tarawera, most of the people fishing that have been talked to have been enjoying the experience and are not finding the fish as bad as some reports. The older fish (3+) post spawners are in poorer condition and have clearly not recovered from the winter.

Lake Rotorua reached high temperatures in early December, but has dropped back a bit with cloudy days and storms since then. The surface water is currently sitting around 22 degrees.

Angling has been going steadily at the stream mouths with plenty of participation from licence holders. There are reasonably high numbers of brown trout patrolling off the inflows.

Opening Day Creel Survey 2017-18

The 2017-18 Opening Day Survey information has been analysed and preparation of the report is underway.

1141 Hatchery Operations

Most of the rainbow trout fry from the 2017 brood have been counted and moved into the outside rearing ponds in preparation for release.

Netting to minimise shag predation has been erected around most of the outside rearing ponds and this seems to have had an immediate effect. New screens have been installed at two rearing ponds and the base of pond 6 has been re-sealed as part of routine and ongoing maintenance.

Fish locations at 24 January 2018:

Location	Type	Qty (approx)	Comment
Tank A	1+ Brook	20	Brood
Tank B	0+ Tig	500	Eastern liberations 2018
Tank C	1+ Bt	200	Orders 2018
Tank D	2+ Rt	10	Brood
Tank E	0+ Bt	1,000	Eastern liberations and orders 2018
Tank F	0+ Bt	1,000	Eastern liberations 2018
Pond 2	0+ Rt	22,000	Spring liberations and orders 2018
Pond 3	0+ Rt	22,000	Spring liberations and orders 2018
Pond 4	0+ Rt	9,000	Autumn liberations and orders 2018
Pond 5	0+ Rt	10,000	Autumn liberations 2018
Pond 6	0+ Rt	10,000	Autumn liberations 2018
Pond 7	1+ Rt	4,000	Autumn liberations 2018
Pond 9	1+ Rt	5,000	Various for 2+ in 2019

1161 Sports Fish Liberations

Fish releases were completed to Hawke's Bay Fish & Game Region and the Tuai area as outlined in the table below.

Liberations, Eastern Region 27 November – 24 January 2018

Water	Date Liberated	Mark	Tag	Species	Age	Number
Tiau/Kaitawa	5/12/17	Lp	-	Bt	1+	50
Tiau/Kaitawa	5/12/17	Lp	-	Rt	1+	500

1171 Sports Fish Regulations

The Anglers Notice review process for the 2018-19 season regulations will get underway at this February meeting of Council and recommendations will be finalized at the June 2018 meeting.

1172 Game Bird Regulations

The draft 2018 Game Gazette and Regulation guide has been sent to Robert Sowman. Final adjustments will be made once monitoring has been completed.

1173 Game Bird Authorities

Approval was given to DOC to authorise the release of a relatively small number of pheasants and mallards (~100) annually over a 3-5 year term in the Gisborne area. They are for private hunting, not a preserve.

HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

1211 RMA Planning

Gisborne District Council - Freshwater Advisory Group and Freshwater Plan

Hearings decisions were released in August 2017. An appeal on parts of these decisions was lodged in September 2017. The appeal points relate to some fish passage provisions, the activity status for new maimai, crop survival water allocation provisions, and activities in riparian margins. Mediation has been set down for May 2018.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Proposed Plan Change 9 (Water Quantity) submissions were lodged in mid December 2016. Hearings are scheduled to commence in November 2018.

Waikato Regional Council

In March 2017 the Auckland/Waikato and Eastern Fish and Game Councils lodged a joint submission on Waikato Regional Council's Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora: Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1. Staff will be meeting with Auckland/Waikato staff in mid February to discuss proceedings.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Fish and Game remains involved in the Bay of Plenty Regional Water Advisory Panel, and community catchment groups.

Te Maru o Kaituna

A hearing on the Proposed Kaituna River Document was attended in August. Nothing new to report.

Tauranga City Council

Fish & Game are now part of a stakeholders group related to the Tauranga City Council urban development planning stages of the Te Tumu block on land adjacent to the Kaituna River, and opposite the Lower Kaituna WMR. This group will principally be discussing environmental issues. Nothing new to report.

1212 Consent Applications

Date In	Authority	Applicant	Type	Resource Involved	Action
23-Nov-17	GDC	Gaddam WJ	LUC- stream diversion/ forestry harvesting	Tributory of Motu River, Matawai	APPROVED S95E3A
1-Dec-17	BOPRC	Rotorua Lakes Council	LUC- erosion protection and wall repair	Lake Rotoiti SH30 (Transformer / pipe areas)	APPROVED S95E3A
4-Dec-17	BOPRC	Te Tumuo Tawakeheimoa Trust	WP- water for bottling plant	Hamurana Springs, Rotorua	APPROVED S95E3A
12-Dec-17	BOPRC	Coupe RA	LUC- jetty & retaining wall	Gisborne Point, Lake Rotoiti	APPROVED S95E3A

1221 Reserves Management

Maintenance works within the reserves during the period largely involved mowing. Comprehensive spraying of key water reticulation points and access tracks within the coastal reserves will be undertaken by a contractor in early February. Excavator cleaning of water reticulation channels within Bregmans and Orini will be completed in January, and in mid February in the Kaituna WMR.

Reserve gates will be opened in early February to enable ballot holder access for stand maintenance, and closed in early April.

Lower Kaituna WMR mitigation contouring of the sand borrow pit and adjacent wetland development works are scheduled to be commenced on 18 February. Fencing will occur immediately after the earthworks have been completed, and native plantings will take place in August 2018. Fish & Game staff will continue to manage the wetland mitigation and creation works as our contribution to the project. Direct funding of this project has been from the BOPRC.

The Ngapouri and Tutaeinanga lakes restoration project continues with pest plant spraying on boundaries in late January. Fencing is still planned for March 2018, and plantings will be undertaken in September 2018. Fish & Game staff continue to manage day to day operations of the project.

Discussions are being undertaken with the BOPRC and water take resource consent holders in the Awaiti Canal, as takes may be affecting water supplies to the Awaiti WMR wetland. A meeting is to be held in late January to assess canal levels and what can be done to ensure water supply to the wetland is sufficient and sustainable, while enabling ongoing water takes for pasture irrigation.

We are also meeting in mid-February with the BOPRC and DOC in relation to the newly installed fish passage culverts in Thornton Lagoon WMR. Staff have concerns about water quality within the wetland since this installation and wish to review the current monitoring regime with the possibility that we might recommend additional monitoring, particularly of

salinity. All parties agreed at the outset that installation of fish passage would not be at the expense of waterfowl habitat values.

1231 Maintain and Enhance Game Bird Habitat

Landowner Information

No new wetland developments or enhancement requests have been received since the last Council meeting, but we are continuing to provide assistance to a Waikite Valley resident in relation to an adjoining landowner and resource consent issues. On-site hydrological advice relating to two wetland development/restoration projects was provided to BOPRC Land Management staff.

Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust (WCEET)

Two years ago, funding was obtained from WCEET for lily control on Hardcastles Lagoon and the Mihi Bridge wetland. Spraying has not proceeded due to elevated river water levels and poor lily growth. An inspection was undertaken in December 2017 and lily growth was again found to be insufficient to support a spraying programme. Another inspection will occur in early February to determine if the lily spray programme will proceed this summer/autumn or not.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

Annual access track and access point maintenance has been carried out with further work in the Rangitaiki River system within Kaingaroa Forest. Other access matters have been dealt with as they have arisen.

Other access work is pending.

1312 Signage

Annual Gisborne and East Coast signs maintenance was completed in November.

1331 Electronic Newsletters

Reel Life was produced for December covering fishing news and prospects, Tarawera boat fishing tuition, access news, weed spraying notice for the Rotorua lakes, and a safety notice around hydro areas provided by Mercury Energy.

1332 Fish & Game Magazine

Articles and photos were drafted and submitted to the NZ Fish and Game Magazine for inclusion in the supplement. The Newsletter will be prepared following the completion of all the monitoring.

1333 Fish & Game Website

Updates or changes to the Eastern Web site included council agendas and minutes, fishing reports and tips for the holiday period, news of our boat fishing talk at Tarawera, a weed

spraying notice, and notification of a rahui at Awahou Stream mouth. Fishing prospects were also added to the website during the period.

1334 Social Media

Numerous reports featured on Twitter. The Eastern Twitter account has 461 followers and received approximately 11,600 impressions for the period.

1341 Information Pamphlets

A re-print of the Lake Rotorua and tributaries brochure has been ordered. Work has commenced on the Waioeka and tributaries brochure re-print.

1351 Children's Fishing Programme

One children's fishing event was held for the period.

1352 Angler Hunter Training

A how-to boat fishing talk and demonstration was held at Lake Tarawera on 7 January 2018. It was attended by approximately 60 persons and positive feedback was received.

1354 Fishing Competitions

Five fishing competition permits were processed for the period. Staff attended two fishing competition weigh-ins.

1361 Fish & Game Club Communications

Two club visits were attended for the period.

1371 Fish & Game Huts

Wairua Hut

The concession process for the site the hut occupies is continuing and is expected to be concluded around March 2018. No maintenance issues recently.

Waikaremoana Hut

Unauthorised use of the hut was detected in December; it appears this may have happened on a number of occasions with entry by use of a key. As a result, we have tightened up a number of areas around use of this facility and a change of locks is scheduled.

PUBLIC INTERFACE

1411 Statutory Liaison and Political Awareness

The Regional Manager met with senior BOPRC and DOC managers in early December to discuss mutual interests and encourage greater collaboration.

1421 Public Communications

Media Releases

While only three 'formal' media releases were issued over this period, the work of Eastern staff received some strong nationwide coverage via other channels.

In November, Communications advisor Grant Dyson completed and distributed a national release on 'looking after trout' which featured Mark Sherburn in a video shot at the Ngongotaha hatchery. This video on Fish & Game's YouTube site has already attracted well over 400 views.

Grant assisted Andy Garrick with the re-write of a draft regional council release covering the discovery of perch in Papamoa. The BOPRC release was extensively re-written to provide more accurate background facts and comment from Fish & Game.

In mid-November Grant provided photos and background to a Dominion newspaper reporter for a story on the work of our 'live trout truck' and the re-stocking of North Island lakes. This resulted in a feature article carried right across Fairfax media including the Stuff website.

Around the same time, a release was sent out to publicise the re-stocking of Lake McLaren and the Ruahihi Canal. A video of the activity was also filmed for Fish & Game's YouTube pages.

On November 24, a media release was sent out on the opening of 'top trout streams,' the Lake Rotorua tributaries which open from December 1. A video titled 'Out ranging with Fish & Game' showcased the ranging operation carried out on that day. The video has attracted nearly 200 views.

In early December, East Coast media picked up our release 'trout boost for hydro lakes' which focused on the liberation of trout in lakes Tuai and Kaitawa.

Grant also worked with Eastern staff to edit a large amount of material for Eastern's fishing newsletter and supplement in the magazine fishing special edition.

1451 Education

Tours of the hatchery facility were provided to two groups during the period 27 November to 24 January.

1452 Maintenance and Enhancement of Grounds

As a result of the havoc created by the strong storm that struck Rotorua in early January and Health and Safety concerns we had relating to the health of a number of trees within the redwood grove and elsewhere in the grounds, an arborist was called in to assess risks and identify trees needing to be felled. Four large eucalypts were subsequently dismantled and large broken branches were removed from other trees. Further work will be required in this area and will need and a budget will need to be established for this in subsequent OWPs.

COMPLIANCE

1511 Ranging

Monitoring of spawning locations and closed waters was ongoing. The December into January period saw an increase in compliance matters and offences detected, mostly fishing without licence, illegal tackle, and we also had a case of obstruction of a ranger. In the obstruction matter, in late December, two offenders were found without licences. They were both arrested by Police in relation to the obstruction and an unrelated matter, and it was subsequently found that the vehicle they were using contained a quantity of property stolen from a burglary.

At the end of December an incident of gill netting at the Hopuruahine River mouth at Waikaremoana took place. This was attended by the local Tuai Police Constable along with a Te Urewera Officer, but the offenders by then had left the area. Fish & Game has carried out subsequent enquiries, and as a result an offender has been interviewed in Auckland in relation to this. The matter is ongoing with a decision as to outcome pending, however is likely to be a prosecution based on the evidence available at this time.

Another matter of interest includes a group of offenders who, over a period of time, in January made multiple visits to the Fish & Game grounds and were detected taking fish from ponds on the premises. These offenders are being located and interviewed in relation to this. Further action is pending at this point. Offences in relation to this are not yet included in the tables further in this report as the matters are not yet at the point of determining all liability and outcomes.

Over the Christmas-New Year period summer angler surveys continued on the Rotorua lakes and rangers visited many other areas within the region.

Liaison and cooperation with Police is ongoing and overall compliance rate continues to be in excess of 98 %.

Contacts Year to Date

Contacts year to date are at 1,316 angler contacts, to end December 2017 (January figures are not yet available).

Contacts: Year 2017-2018 to 31/2/2017.

Month	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Last 5 yr average
September	66	50	59	29	21	57
October	984	960	1223	903	836	1,013
November	175	112	20	62	69	100
December	387	392	293	310	390	396
January	355	381	335	217		357
February	151	395	418	293		298
March	279	275	253	191		260
April	299	264	53	214		205
May	446	498	272	292		405
June	325	203	277	171		237

July	79	120	107	94		104
August	77	76	42	27		71
Total	3,623	3,726	3,352	2,803	1,316	3,502

1521 Ranger Training

North Island/National CLE role

This role involved0 input to CLE/training/prosecutions and legal matters. Updated and reprinted ranger guides and H&S manuals were distributed to staff and honorary rangers. Ranger safety training, both an initial two-day course, and a follow up one-day refresher course, is planned for early March at the Fish & Game premises. These courses cater to other regions as well as Eastern.

Rangers

The ranger team continues to contribute to overall ranging effort.

1531 Prosecutions

For the year 2017- 2018 YTD we have dealt with 12 persons for 22 offences as tabled below.

Offence table 2017-2018 year

Offence name	Number of offences
Fish without licence	11
Fish closed waters	5
False details	1
Disturb spawning gravels	1
Take sports fish with net, spear, gaff or device.	1
Possession of net/spear	1
Illegal tackle	1
Obstruction	1
Total	22

Offences Pending Resolution

Currently 14 offenders have offences pending resolution, details as per the table below. Some of these offenders have warrants to arrest either in lieu of summons or for failing to appear in court. Others are pending resolution either informally or in the courts.

To date (26/01/2018) 25 separate offences are pending resolution, by 14 offenders.

The table below shows offences currently pending resolution, as at 26/01/2018:

Offence name	Numbers
Fish without licence	14
Illegal tackle	3
Possess spear-net- gaff	1
Fish closed waters	4
False details	2
Obstruction	1
Total	25

LICENSING

1612 Analysis of Licence Information

Kate Thompson continues to provide regular updates of licence sales for all regions. Additional reports are also supplied to the Licence Working Party.

1621 Licence Agent Support

Administration staff continued to liaise with licence agents as required and field staff drop in to various retail agents when in the area.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1841 National Liaison

In addition to staff's ongoing contribution to a wide range of national projects and work areas, Andy Garrick provided ongoing input to enquiries and discussions concerned with the release of captive reared mallards, and applications for emergency funding from other regions for legal undertakings. Kate supplied further information requested by Steve Doughty.

16.3 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

26 January 2018

1. Background

As part of its commitment to Health and Safety and providing a safe workplace, the Eastern Fish and Game Council is provided with a report at each meeting describing:

1. Implementation and adherence to the Health and Safety policy/manual – including Health and Safety as an agenda item for staff & ranger meetings;
2. Monitoring and Reporting – in accordance with the Health and Safety plan;
3. Risk Management (identification and treatment) – any new issues or hazards that have arisen and how these have been addressed;
4. Training programme – information sharing and training of staff and volunteers;
5. Health and Safety incidents – near misses or injuries sustained, plus updates on past events;
6. Recommendations.

2. November/December 2017 Update

1. Implementation and Adherence to the Health and Safety Plan

Tail Gate Forms used by Staff out on site for mallard brood counts, pheasant call counts, bittern survey, trapping and banding, working bee on-site, and wetland work.

Regular (weekly) staff meetings.

Contractors issued with H & S agreement and inductions.

A new whiteboard has been placed in the Admin office for staff to report their whereabouts and expected return. This has improved communication between staff and makes it easier to know where staff are.

2. Monitoring and Reporting

Work Place Accident Register

As at 31 December 2017

Number of workplace injuries in 2017-2018 year	0
Number of workplace injuries in 2016-2017 year	2
Number of workplace injuries in 2015-2016 year	1
Number of workplace injuries in 2014-2015 year	1
Number of workplace injuries in 2013-2014 year	3
Total number of workplace injuries since 1 Sept 1995	34
Total number of days lost work injuries since 1 Sept 1995	9
Total number of days since last lost work injury (31/8/2017). <i>Note the lost work days were in Dec/Jan 17/18 after remedial surgery, not immediately after the injury.</i>	122
Total number of days prior to last lost work injury since 1 Sept 1995	8,035

3. Risk Management (identification and treatment)

Track around Top Ponds Taped off for Hi Flo Contractors.

Inspection of trees and site after big storm (5 Jan 2017). Treescape called into cut down trees and area taped off to discourage staff, tenants, and visitors from entering the area. More trees to be cut down shortly. Visitors verbally warned not to go into taped off areas.

Staff and tenants made aware of the slips and debris after the storm.

Contractors came into undertake pond work - diggers, utes and trailers were operating in the area. All staff were advised and area taped off to ensure unauthorised personnel do not enter the site.

4. Training Programme

Nothing to report.

5. H&S Incidents

7.30pm 21 December 2017, BR reported stepping into a hole on a vehicle/walking track within the Kaituna Wetland. Outcome was a knee strain but otherwise no serious injury. JM investigated the hole (which was about 300mm wide and 150mm in depth) and as a temporary measure placed a post with a high vis flag on it into the hole. This can be removed for vehicles to drive through. DOC has been advised and in February 2018 when a digger is on-site the hole will be fixed.

On 7 December 2017 an elderly visitor to the site tripped on a 2cm high step by the Octagon and fractured her hip. Fish & Game staff called an ambulance and administered first aid. AG investigated the incident, contacted and briefed WorkSafe and was advised that we had followed appropriate procedures both before and after, and they had no need to investigate it further.

6. Recommendation

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

16.4 FINANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.01

30 January 2018

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of its current financial position, and approve payments for the months of October, November and December 2017.

2. YTD Profit and Loss

The Profit & Loss statement for the period ending 31 December 2017 is attached. This report documents the income and expenditure for the period.

Income

Licence revenue is reporting at \$4,836 below budget although slightly ahead of sales reported for the same period last season (\$1,615) and likely a result of the increase in the licence fee. Licence sales by category and LEQ are reported in detail within the licence sales report which provides a more up to date picture of licence sales YTD.

Revenue from other sources over the period was made up of the following; hatchery (\$30,487), fishing competitions (\$1,874), rentals (\$9,511), children's fishing (\$419), sale of DVDs and patterning sheets (\$36), fines (\$699), donations (\$55), and the sale of a tandem trailer (\$1,356). Hawke's Bay and the New Zealand Fish and Game Councils were invoiced for contract work (\$9,492), and interest received on maturing term deposits totalled \$5,029.

Species Management

Within the Population Monitoring output the banding project is underway with the purchase of maize, bands, cable ties, herbicide, the galvanising of rod frames, and payment of volunteer expenses. Minor staff expenses are also reported relating to Waikaremoana survey work. Within budget YTD.

Within the Harvest Assessment budget a small expense is reported relating to Game Hunter Surveys.

Hatchery expenses for the period related to fish food (\$3,636), repairs to the settling pond (\$526), pond outlet screens (\$1,388), mesh for raceway screens (\$225), concreting of one rearing pond (\$1,200), and alterations to the tanker (\$720). Various materials were purchased for hatchery maintenance including salt for treatment of white spot disease. Expenses are also reported relating to rates, the water take consent, vehicle registration, and the regular expenses for rubbish removal, electricity, fuel, and oxygen.

The Species Management area is within budget YTD.

Habitat

The costs associated with lodging an appeal to the Gisborne District Council Freshwater Plan are reported within the RMA budget in October (\$444).

Reserves spending for the period related to:

- Velpar spray (\$577)
- Repairs to the solar power system - Awakaponga WMR (\$1,741)

- Willow and blackberry control - Awakaponga WMR (\$962)
- Culvert pipe for borrow pit expansion - Kaituna WMR (\$1,095)
- Maintenance materials \$42

Assisted Habitat spending related to aerial photos of Kaharoa to Welcome Bay (\$276). The Habitat area is reporting to be \$175 over budget YTD due to the unplanned RMA expenditure.

Participation

Access spending across the period related to equipment, spray, and casual wages for works on the Ngongotaha Stream and Waioeka River access. Contracted works were also undertaken on the Rangitaiki River and Kaingaroa access tracks. Materials were purchased for signs maintenance and accommodation paid for the Gisborne/East Coast signs run. Expenses were incurred relating to envelopes and advertising for the hunter ballot, equipment for the children’s fishing programme, and hut maintenance and electricity. While the access and publications area are reporting to be over budget YTD, the area as a whole is close to budget and the overspends will reduce as the year progresses.

Public Interface

Public promotions expenditure related to the purchase of “Getting Started” DVDs from the NZ Council. Grounds expenditure is also reported here under Visitor Facilities and includes cleaning of the public toilets and the purchase of various materials, and equipment related to property maintenance. Within budget YTD.

Compliance

The Compliance expenses across the period related to the 0800 Poaching service and cell phone. Legal fees were also paid in December for a prosecution. Within budget YTD.

Licensing

Licence commission is reported across the three months and includes the fees associated with the Public Online and 0800 sales. The total for commission and fees paid YTD is under budget due primarily to the increased use of Public Online and reduced costs associated with these sales. Annually the budget is set based on a flat rate of 5% of the annual licence sales target and includes all sales channels. In due course we expect this will be taken into consideration during future budgeting processes.

Council

Costs are reported for the October and November meetings of Council relating to catering, and Councillor travel reimbursement. Within budget YTD.

Planning

The expense shown within the Reporting budget in November relates to the advertising and catering of the BBQ for the Annual Public Meeting. The New Zealand Council levies were paid as budgeted in October and a small expense was incurred for parking and taxis for a Mallard Research Committee meeting in November.

Administration

Notes on individual areas:

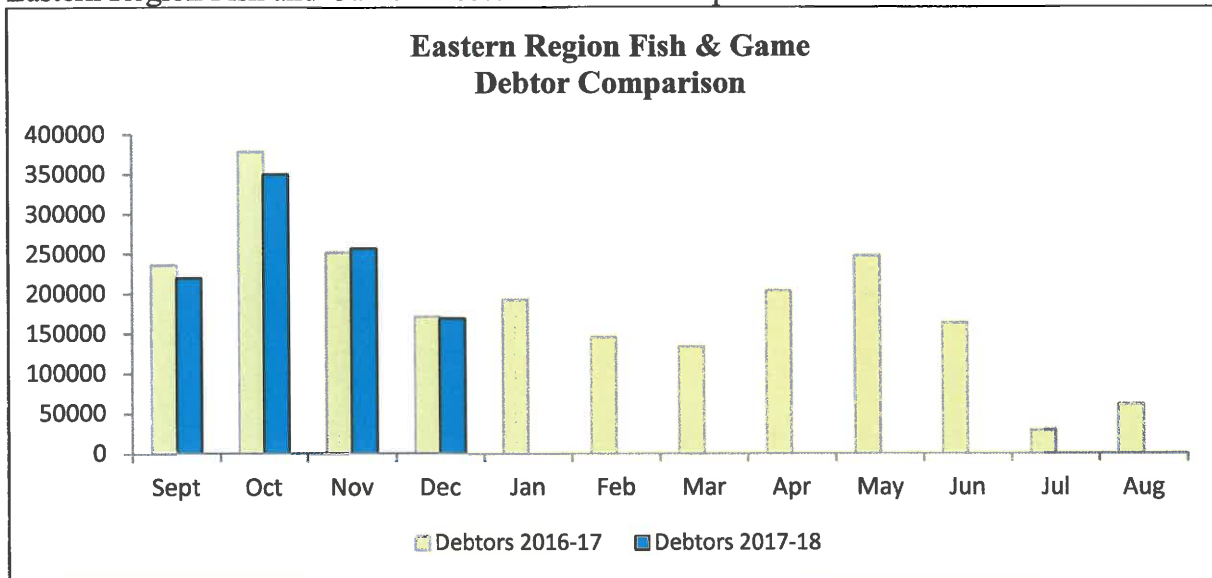
Salaries	Within budget.
Staff Expenses	Food/meal expenses are reported relating to time working away from the office for meetings and fish transportation as well as for a staff working bee and Christmas BBQ. Other staff expenses related to staff clothing and flowers for retiring Sue McLeod, NZ

	Council. Within budget.
Staff Houses	Staff houses' maintenance included electrical repairs (\$435), plumbing issues and leaks (\$1,144), and reglazing of the staff quarters bathroom window (\$279). Rates were paid in October and a small expense is reported relating to staff quarters electricity. Although within budget YTD, these repairs were unbudgeted and may result in deferring some other planned maintenance.
Office Premises	Rates were paid in October and the usual electricity, cleaning, and security expenses are reported across the period. A replacement battery was also purchased for the alarm system. Office premises expenses are over budget YTD and this is due to timing of electricity readings Actual vs Assessed.
Office Equipment	Office equipment purchases included a replacement cell phone and a white board for the administration office. The usual expenses relating to the phone and eftpos lease are also reported. Within budget YTD.
Communications/ Consumables	Standard communications expenses are reported across the period including phones, broadband, stationery, postage and photocopying. The IMS payroll support fee was paid in November. Within budget YTD.
General	Minor expenses are reported for morning teas and bank fees which included the annual credit card fee of \$50. The General expenses area is \$804 over budget due to increased insurance costs which are offset by reductions elsewhere e.g. in Vehicles.
General Equipment	Equipment purchases included two kayak paddles, a tow ball weigh scale, tie downs, padlock, grease gun, flares, and a trailer light plug. Equipment maintenance expenses related to the servicing/repairs to the Walker mower (\$1,164), a solar charger for Parera, a tyre inflator, two trailer registrations and WoFs, Coastguard membership, and a gift valued at \$17 relating to complimentary work undertaken on Parera. Field equipment fuel expenses are also reported (\$885). Within budget YTD.
Vehicles	Vehicle expenses for the month included the servicing of four vehicles, WoF for one and registration for six vehicles. Insurance was paid for the new vehicle purchased in December and the standard fuel expenses are reported which includes RUC's (65,000kms) on eight vehicles. Within budget YTD.

Cash Position: \$1,184,493 (includes \$117,011 for asset replacement reserve and \$439,802 for Waikaremoana Fund) as at 31 December 2017.

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$168,507 as at 31 December 2017 (\$170,487 as at 31 December 2016).

Eastern Region Fish and Game - Debtors Balance Comparison 2016/17 – 2017/18



December debtors are made up primarily of licence sales. Two debtors are overdue with their payments, one being an agent (\$84), the other relating to use of the staff quarters (\$421). Both of these are being followed up by administration staff.

Fixed Assets

The following assets were purchased/sold within the period:

Asset	Asset purchases (excl. GST)	Asset sales (excl. GST)
2017 Mazda BT 50 LBY26	\$33,826	HRQ307 awaiting sale
2 x Computer workstations	\$3,639	
2017 Titan 8x5 Trailer	\$2,343	
Total	\$39,808	\$0

An old tandem trailer was sold within the period for \$1,356, this was not recorded as a Fixed Asset due to its value being less than \$2,000 at the time of transfer to Fish & Game in 1991.

3. Variance Report

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

2017/2018 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

As at 31 December 2017

Schedule # Code	Project	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST Variance	%
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual		
1110	Species Monitoring	\$ 34,000	\$ 3,075	2,369	550	\$ 136,761	\$ 29,735	\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ 158,761	\$ 32,810	\$ 125,951	20.7
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,150	\$ 290	850	408	\$ 49,070	\$ 22,051	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 51,220	\$ 22,341	\$ 28,879	43.6
1140	Hatchery Operations	\$ 69,850	\$ 43,386	2,925	1,182	\$ 168,859	\$ 63,962	\$ 78,500	\$ 31,567	\$ 160,009	\$ 75,781	\$ 84,228	47.4
1150	Game Farm	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
1160	Releases	\$ 500	\$ -	220	99	\$ 12,700	\$ 5,330	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,200	\$ 5,330	\$ 7,870	40.4
1170	Regulations	\$ -	\$ -	156	27	\$ 9,006	\$ 1,461	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,006	\$ 1,461	\$ 7,545	16.2
1180	Control	\$ 200	\$ -	52	6	\$ 3,002	\$ 298	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,202	\$ 298	\$ 2,904	9.3
	TOTAL - SPECIES MANAGEMENT	\$ 106,500	\$ 46,751	6,572	2,270	\$ 379,398	\$ 122,838	\$ 90,500	\$ 31,567	\$ 395,398	\$ 138,022	\$ 257,377	34.9
1210	Resource Management Act	\$ 200	\$ 444	1,154	591	\$ 66,820	\$ 31,995	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66,820	\$ 32,439	\$ 34,381	48.5
1220	Works & Management	\$ 31,580	\$ 4,484	1,048	375	\$ 60,501	\$ 20,279	\$ 23,080	\$ 18,527	\$ 69,001	\$ 6,247	\$ 62,754	9.1
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 9,400	\$ 276	1,004	241	\$ 57,960	\$ 13,014	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 67,360	\$ 13,291	\$ 54,070	19.7
1240	Assess & Monitor	\$ -	\$ -	120	5	\$ 6,928	\$ 271	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,928	\$ 271	\$ 6,657	3.9
	TOTAL - HABITAT PROTECTION & MAN	\$ 41,180	\$ 5,215	3,326	1,212	\$ 192,008	\$ 65,569	\$ 23,080	\$ 18,527	\$ 210,108	\$ 52,247	\$ 157,862	24.9
1310	Access	\$ 7,500	\$ 4,908	648	363	\$ 37,409	\$ 19,657	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,909	\$ 24,565	\$ 20,344	54.7
1330	Newsletters	\$ 13,000	\$ 7,664	411	35	\$ 23,727	\$ 1,894	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,727	\$ 9,558	\$ 27,169	26.0
1340	Other Publications	\$ 2,000	\$ 310	116	9	\$ 6,697	\$ 487	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,697	\$ 797	\$ 7,900	9.2
1350	Training	\$ 1,850	\$ 44	978	271	\$ 56,459	\$ 14,678	\$ 13,500	\$ 2,628	\$ 44,809	\$ 12,095	\$ 32,715	27.0
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	\$ -	95	22	\$ 5,484	\$ 1,190	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,484	\$ 1,190	\$ 4,294	21.7
1370	Huts	\$ 1,450	\$ 498	36	25	\$ 2,078	\$ 1,339	\$ 400	\$ 82	\$ 3,128	\$ 1,756	\$ 1,373	56.1
	TOTAL - ANGLER & HUNTER PARTICIP	\$ 25,800	\$ 13,425	2,284	725	\$ 131,854	\$ 39,246	\$ 13,900	\$ 2,710	\$ 143,754	\$ 49,961	\$ 93,794	34.8
1410	Liaison	\$ -	\$ -	216	85	\$ 12,470	\$ 4,586	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,470	\$ 4,586	\$ 7,883	36.8
1420	Communication	\$ 500	\$ -	249	62	\$ 14,375	\$ 3,369	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,875	\$ 3,369	\$ 11,506	22.6
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 3,500	\$ 400	176	75	\$ 10,160	\$ 4,059	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,660	\$ 4,459	\$ 9,202	32.6
1450	Visitor Facilities/Education	\$ 1,000	\$ 608	568	168	\$ 32,790	\$ 9,078	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,790	\$ 9,686	\$ 24,105	28.7
	TOTAL - PUBLIC INTERFACE	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,008	1,209	390	\$ 69,795	\$ 21,091	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 74,795	\$ 22,099	\$ 52,696	29.5
1510	Ranging	\$ 2,100	\$ 250	956	291	\$ 55,189	\$ 15,734	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 57,289	\$ 15,984	\$ 41,306	27.9
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 1,000	\$ -	108	29	\$ 6,235	\$ 1,569	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,235	\$ 1,569	\$ 5,665	21.7
1530	Compliance Prosecutions	\$ 4,500	\$ 310	344	44	\$ 19,659	\$ 2,381	\$ 6,000	\$ 955	\$ 18,359	\$ 1,736	\$ 16,623	9.5
	TOTAL - COMPLIANCE	\$ 7,600	\$ 560	1,408	364	\$ 81,283	\$ 19,684	\$ 6,000	\$ 955	\$ 82,863	\$ 19,289	\$ 63,574	23.3
1610	Licensing	\$ 800	\$ -	322	90	\$ 18,589	\$ 4,857	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,389	\$ 4,857	\$ 14,532	25.0
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	\$ -	200	44	\$ 11,546	\$ 2,354	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,546	\$ 2,354	\$ 9,192	20.4
	TOTAL - LICENSING	\$ 800	\$ -	522	133	\$ 30,135	\$ 7,211	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,935	\$ 7,211	\$ 23,724	23.3
1710	Council Elections	\$ -	\$ -	4	0	\$ 231	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 231	0.0
1720	Council Meetings	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,948	880	283	\$ 50,802	\$ 15,314	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,802	\$ 17,262	\$ 43,540	28.4
	TOTAL - COUNCILS	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,948	884	283	\$ 51,033	\$ 15,314	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,033	\$ 17,262	\$ 43,771	28.3
1810	Management Planning	\$ -	\$ -	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
1820	Annual Planning	\$ -	\$ -	125	4	\$ 7,216	\$ 216	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,216	\$ 216	\$ 7,000	3.0
1830	Reporting/Audit	\$ 9,200	\$ (1,483)	528	179	\$ 30,481	\$ 9,686	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39,681	\$ 8,203	\$ 31,478	20.7
1840	National Liaison	\$ 100	\$ -	422	100	\$ 24,362	\$ 5,384	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24,462	\$ 5,384	\$ 19,078	22.0
	TOTAL - PLANNING/REPORTING	\$ 9,300	\$ (1,483)	1,075	283	\$ 62,059	\$ 15,287	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71,359	\$ 13,804	\$ 57,555	19.3
		\$ 206,180	\$ 67,424	17,280	5,659	\$ 997,566	\$ 306,228	\$ 133,480	\$ 53,759	\$ 1,070,266	\$ 319,893	\$ 750,373	29.9

OVERHEADS		EXTERNAL COSTS		NETTABLE INCOME		NET COST		NET COST	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
1910	Salaries	\$ 912,561	\$ 279,490	\$ 42,685	\$ 9,492	\$ 869,876	\$ 269,998	\$ 599,878	\$ 599,878
1920	Staff Expenses	\$ 23,900	\$ 1,761	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23,900	\$ 1,761	\$ 22,139	\$ 22,139
1930	Staff Houses	\$ 12,600	\$ 4,701	\$ 21,020	\$ 12,735	\$ (8,420)	\$ (8,034)	\$ (366)	\$ (366)
1940	Office Premises	\$ 17,500	\$ 7,740	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,500	\$ 7,740	\$ 9,760	\$ 9,760
1950	Office Equipment	\$ 3,900	\$ 1,295	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,900	\$ 1,295	\$ 2,605	\$ 2,605
1960	Communications/Consumables	\$ 17,910	\$ 6,164	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,910	\$ 6,164	\$ 11,746	\$ 11,746
1970	General	\$ 8,450	\$ 7,584	\$ 750	\$ 1,927	\$ 7,700	\$ 5,667	\$ 2,033	\$ 2,033
1980	General Equipment	\$ 16,500	\$ 6,866	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16,500	\$ 6,866	\$ 9,634	\$ 9,634
1990	Vehicles	\$ 48,700	\$ 14,773	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 48,700	\$ 14,773	\$ 33,927	\$ 33,927
	Administration	\$ 1,062,021	\$ 330,383	\$ 64,455	\$ 24,155	\$ 997,566	\$ 306,228	\$ 691,338	\$ 691,338
	Total Overhead Net Cost					\$ 997,566	\$ 306,228		
	Total Outputs Staff Hours					17,280	5,659		
	Internal Cost Per Hour					57.73	54.11		

2017/2018 REPORT OF VARIANCES BETWEEN TOTAL BUDGET AND YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

Schedule C Code	Output	EXTERNAL COSTS		HOURS		INTERNAL COST		NETTABLE INCOME		NET COST	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
1	Species Management	\$ 106,500	\$ 46,751	6,572	2,270	\$ 379,398	\$ 122,838	\$ 90,500	\$ 31,567	\$ 395,398	\$ 138,022
2	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 41,180	\$ 5,215	3,326	1,212	\$ 192,008	\$ 65,559	\$ 23,080	\$ 18,527	\$ 210,108	\$ 52,247
3	Angler & Hunter Participation	\$ 25,800	\$ 13,425	2,284	725	\$ 131,854	\$ 39,246	\$ 13,900	\$ 2,710	\$ 143,754	\$ 49,961
4	Public Interface	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,008	1,209	380	\$ 69,795	\$ 21,091	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 74,795	\$ 22,099
5	Compliance	\$ 7,600	\$ 560	1,408	364	\$ 81,283	\$ 19,684	\$ 6,000	\$ 955	\$ 82,883	\$ 19,289
6	Licensing	\$ 800	\$ -	522	133	\$ 30,135	\$ 7,211	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,935	\$ 7,211
7	Councils	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,948	884	283	\$ 51,033	\$ 15,314	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61,033	\$ 17,262
8	Planning, Reporting	\$ 9,300	\$ (1,483)	1,075	283	\$ 62,059	\$ 15,287	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 71,359	\$ 13,804
9	Administration										
	Total Overhead Staff Hours			6,220	1,338						
	TOTAL BUDGET	\$ 206,180	\$ 67,424	23,500	6,997	\$ 997,566	\$ 306,228	\$ 133,480	\$ 53,759	\$ 1,070,266	\$ 319,893

Licence Income 2017-18		Budget	Actual
2017/18 Fish Licence Income		\$ 1,149,957	\$ 748,158
Less Commission		\$ 57,498.00	\$ -
Net Fish Licence Income		\$ 1,082,459	\$ 748,158
2018 Game Licence Income		\$ 282,397	\$ 13,506
Less Commission		\$ 13,120	\$ -
Net Game Licence Income		\$ 249,277	\$ 13,506
Total Licence Income		\$ 1,412,354	\$ 761,665
Total Commission		\$ 70,618	\$ 30,972
Total Net 2017/18 Licence Revenue		\$ 1,341,736	\$ 730,693

Adjustments to OWP budgets - Waikareroana Fund		Budget	Actual
% year complete	% of OWP budget spent		33%
OWP Bulk Fund	Actual Net Cost YTD	\$ 1,070,266	\$ 319,893
Adjustment to OWP budgets - National Approved Budget		\$ (12,646)	\$ 1,194
less Interest		\$ 243,158	\$ 60,820
Plus NZ Fish & Game Levies		\$ (1,412,354)	\$ (761,665)
Less Licence Revenue		\$ 70,618	\$ 30,972
Plus Commission Expense		\$ -	\$ -
Plus Gain Loss on Sale/revaluation		\$ 33	\$ -
Depreciation		\$ 71,662	\$ 23,170
Subtotal		\$ 30,671	\$ (325,617)
Adjustments to OWP budgets - Waikareroana Fund		\$ (9,962)	\$ 2,173
Less Waikareroana Fund Interest		\$ 73,000	\$ -
Plus Waikareroana Fund Expenses		\$ 93,709	\$ (323,444)
Adjusted Budget	Actual (surplus)/deficit YTD	Total	Total

Profit and Loss
Eastern Fish and Game Council
For the 3 months ended 31 December 2017

Income	Oct 2017	Nov 2017	Dec 2017	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Total Budget	Var YTD	Var YTD %
Licence Income	240,927	155,770	137,590	761,664	766,500	1,412,354	(4,836)	(1)
Other Income	10,661	42,057	6,239	74,547	74,718	221,246	(171)	(0)
Total Income	251,588	197,827	143,828	836,211	841,218	1,633,600	(5,007)	(1)
Operating Expenses								
Depreciation	5,807	5,807	5,807	23,170	23,888	71,662	(718)	(3)
Loss on Disposal	0	0	0	0	0	670	0	0
1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT								
1110 Population Monitoring	124	1,439	1,511	3,075	3,000	34,000	75	2
1120 Harvest Assessment	240	0	0	290	300	2,150	(10)	(3)
1140 Hatchery Operations	3,416	5,591	4,146	43,386	44,242	69,650	(856)	(2)
1160 Releases	0	0	0	0	400	500	(400)	(100)
1180 Game Bird Control	0	0	0	0	75	200	(75)	(100)
Total 1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT	3,780	7,030	5,658	46,751	48,017	106,500	(1,266)	(3)
1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT								
1210 Resource Management Act	444	0	0	444	100	200	344	344
1220 Works & Management	577	1,095	2,745	4,494	4,500	31,580	(6)	(0)
1230 Assisted Habitat	276	0	0	276	440	82,400	(164)	(37)
Total 1200 HABITAT PROTECTION/MNGT	1,298	1,095	2,745	5,215	5,040	114,180	175	3
1300 PARTICIPATION								
1310 Access	1,770	1,567	1,351	4,908	4,250	7,500	658	15
1330 Newsletters	0	0	0	7,664	8,000	13,000	(336)	(4)
1340 Other Publications	0	0	0	310	0	2,000	310	0
1350 Training	33	0	0	44	700	1,850	(656)	(94)
1370 Huts	242	106	107	498	468	1,450	30	6
Total 1300 PARTICIPATION	2,044	1,674	1,458	13,425	13,418	25,800	7	0
1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE								
1420 Communication	0	0	0	0	300	500	(300)	(100)
1440 Public Promotions	60	0	0	400	1,164	3,500	(764)	(66)
1450 Visitor Facilities/Education	30	30	392	608	332	1,000	276	83
Total 1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE	90	30	392	1,008	1,796	5,000	(788)	(44)
1500 COMPLIANCE								
1510 Ranging	58	58	58	250	700	2,100	(450)	(64)
1520 Ranger Training	0	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	0
1530 Compliance	0	0	200	310	1,500	4,500	(1,190)	(79)
Total 1500 COMPLIANCE	58	58	258	560	2,200	7,600	(1,640)	(75)
1600 LICENSING								
1610 Licence Prod/Distribution	0	0	0	0	0	800	0	0
1630 Commission	9,031	5,784	5,772	30,972	38,325	70,618	(7,353)	(19)
Total 1600 LICENSING	9,031	5,784	5,772	30,972	38,325	71,418	(7,353)	(19)
1700 COUNCIL								
1720 Council Meetings	1,251	318	380	1,948	3,332	10,000	(1,384)	(42)
Total 1700 COUNCIL	1,251	318	380	1,948	3,332	10,000	(1,384)	(42)
1800 PLANNING/REPORTING								
1830 Reporting/Audit	0	662	0	(1,483)	(860)	9,200	(623)	72
1840 National Liaison	60,790	31	0	60,820	60,826	243,258	(6)	(0)
Total 1800 PLANNING/REPORTING	60,790	693	0	59,337	59,966	252,458	(629)	(1)

Income	Oct 2017	Nov 2017	Dec 2017	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Total Budget	Var YTD	Var YTD %
1900 ADMINISTRATION								
1910 Salaries	102,468	69,469	69,777	279,490	280,700	912,561	(1,210)	(0)
1920 Staff Expenses	98	256	473	1,761	1,932	23,900	(171)	(9)
1930 Staff Houses	1,138	559	616	4,701	4,941	12,600	(240)	(5)
1940 Office Premises	2,003	968	506	7,740	7,375	17,500	365	5
1950 Office Equipment	223	316	541	1,295	1,600	3,900	(305)	(19)
1960 Communications/Consumables	887	1,725	1,366	6,164	6,232	17,910	(68)	(1)
1970 General	121	179	130	7,594	6,600	8,450	994	15
1980 General Equipment	823	1,502	626	6,866	7,670	16,500	(804)	(10)
1990 Vehicles	2,932	2,743	4,114	14,773	19,032	48,700	(4,259)	(22)
Total 1900 ADMINISTRATION	110,694	77,718	78,150	330,383	336,082	1,062,021	(5,699)	(2)
Total Operating Expenses	194,842	100,206	100,620	512,768	532,064	1,727,309	(19,296)	(4)
Net Profit	56,745	97,621	43,209	323,444	309,154	(93,709)	14,290	3

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 *That the payments for October, November and December 2017 totalling \$486,260.78 be approved.*

<i>October</i>	<i>\$172,253.14</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>\$221,716.03</i>
<i>December</i>	<i>\$92,291.61</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$486,260.78</i>

16.5 LICENCE SALES REPORT

Ref: 6.01.05

17 January 2018

1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of licence sales for the 2017-2018 season YTD. The following tables and charts show a comparison of sales between the 2017-2018 season and the 2016-2017 season as at 16 January 2018.

2. 2017-2018 Fish Licence Sales (Table One)

- 2.1 Fish Licence sales for the 2017-2018 season YTD are summarised in Table One and are currently reporting to be down on the 2016-17 season YTD results by 2.6% (209 LEQ's).
- 2.2 A total of 75.7% of the annual sales target has been achieved. The LEQ target for licence sales for the 2017-18 licensing year is 10,413 LEQ's (down 244 LEQ's on 2016-17).
- 2.3 Licence sales across most categories improved during the month of December 2017 bringing the total LEQs to within 100 of those reported for the same period during the 2016-17 Season. However, sales recorded to 16 January trended downward and this has resulted in all categories excluding Loyal Senior to fall below the 2016-17 YTD totals.
- 2.4 There were 298 fewer licences (111 LEQ's) purchased during the holiday week following New Year in 2018 (1-7 January) when compared with the same week in 2017 (2-8 January). Information gathered from the Met Service website shows that the total rainfall recorded at Rotorua Airport during the first week of January 2018, was 162.2mm with high winds also recorded. Historical records shows a total of 44mm of rain was recorded for the entire month of January 2017.

Adult Day	-170	Adult Season	-23
Junior Day	-8	Junior Season	-16
Local Area	-37	Family	-3
Short Break	-29	Adult Non Res	-10
Loyal Senior	-3	Junior Non Res	1
		Total	-298

- 2.5 Nationally Fish Licence sales to the 16 January are reporting to be 0.8% up on the previous season. North Island regions combined are down 1.5% for the same period and South Island regions are 1.7% higher than the 2016-17 YTD results.

Table One

Comparison of Fish Licence LEQs to 16 January 2017

	Family Season	Adult Season	Adult NonRes	Adult Loyol Senior	Adult Local Area	Adult Junior Season	Adult Winter	Adult Long Break	Adult Short Break	Adult Day	Junior Day	Whole Season Equiv.	% Increase/Decrease on 2016-17
SALES CHANNEL													
Agent Online Sales	1468	1131	158	237	1024	201		40	286	1456	171	4627	-3.8%
Agent Book Sales								24	202	1257	82	0	-100.0%
Direct Sales*	1160	840	116	164	413	125		64	488	2713	253	3250	0.0%
Total Fish 2017-2018	2628	1971	274	401	1437	326	0	64	488	2713	253	7877	-2.6%
Agent Online Sales	1570	1091	184	202	1093	235		40	352	1472	169	4812	
Agent Book Sales		13				3				64	7	24	
Direct Sales*	1143	867	116	147	418	107		23	247	1169	100	3250	
Total Fish 2016-2017	2713	1971	300	349	1511	345	0	63	599	2705	276	8086	

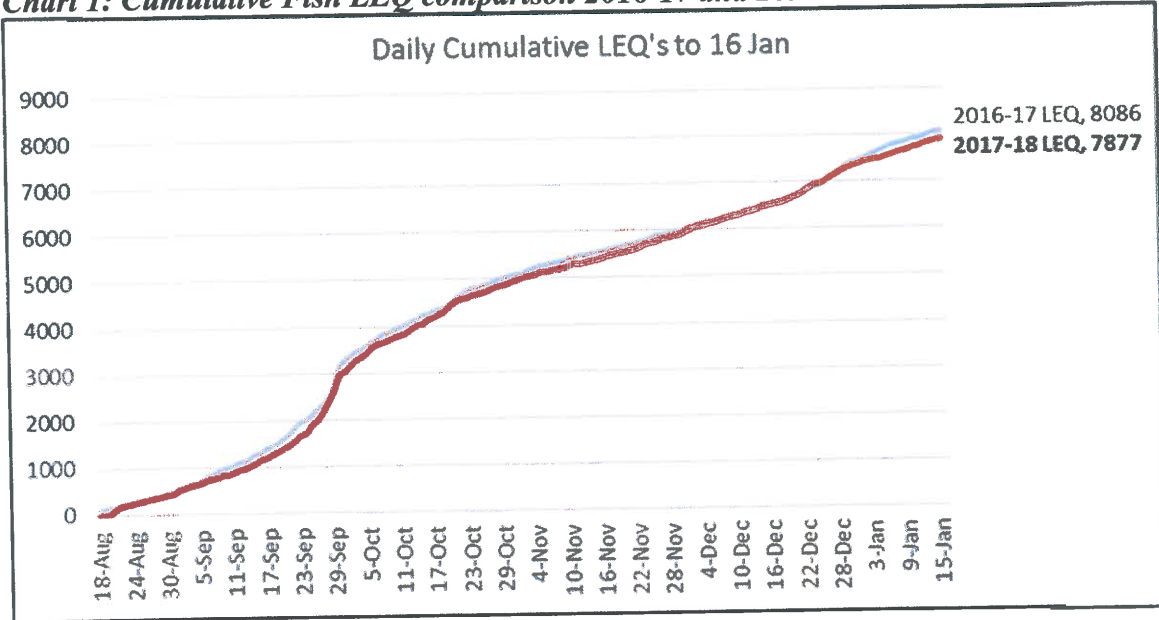
	Family Season	Adult Season	Adult NonRes	Adult Loyol Senior	Adult Local Area	Adult Junior Season	Adult Winter	Adult Long Break	Adult Short Break	Adult Day	Junior Day	Whole Season Equiv.	Actual to date % of Target
TARGETS													
2017-2018 Total Budget	2980	2248	500	400	1700	500	550	150	1500	6300	500	10413	75.7%
2016-2017 Total Sales	2982	2196	553	354	1681	481	568	111	1368	6416	548	10339	76.2%
2017-2018 Estimated year end												10072	96.7%

* Direct Sales - Internet, 0800 Licence

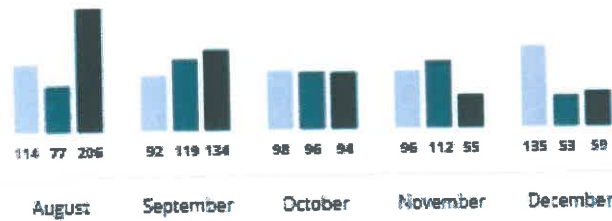
3. 2017-18 Fish Licence Sales Daily Cumulative Comparisons

3.1 The following charts provide a visual comparison of daily sales by LEQ and category, compared to the 2016-17 season YTD.

Chart 1: Cumulative Fish LEQ comparison 2016-17 and 2017-18 YTD

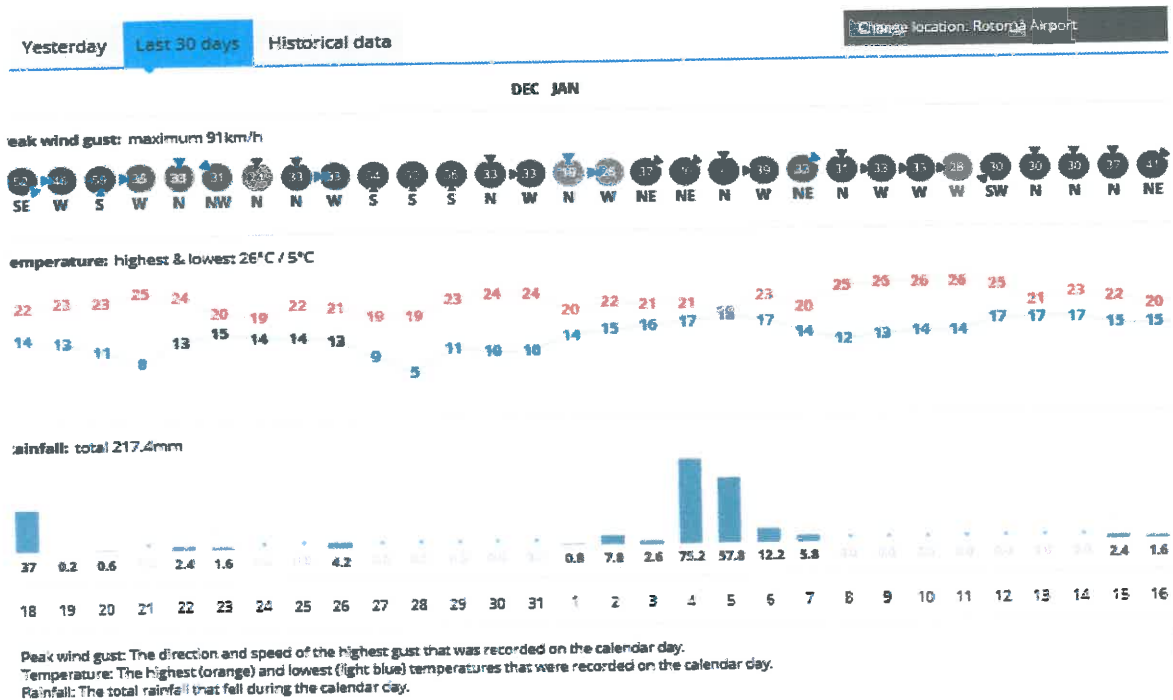


Met Service Rain Fall data August – December 2017



Legend: Light Historical Avg, Mid - 2016, Dark - 2017

Met Service Daily Rainfall 18 December 2017 to 16 January 2018
Past weather



<http://www.metservice.com/towns-cities/rotorua>

Chart 2: Cumulative Adult Season Fish Licence comparison 2016-17 & 2017-18 YTD

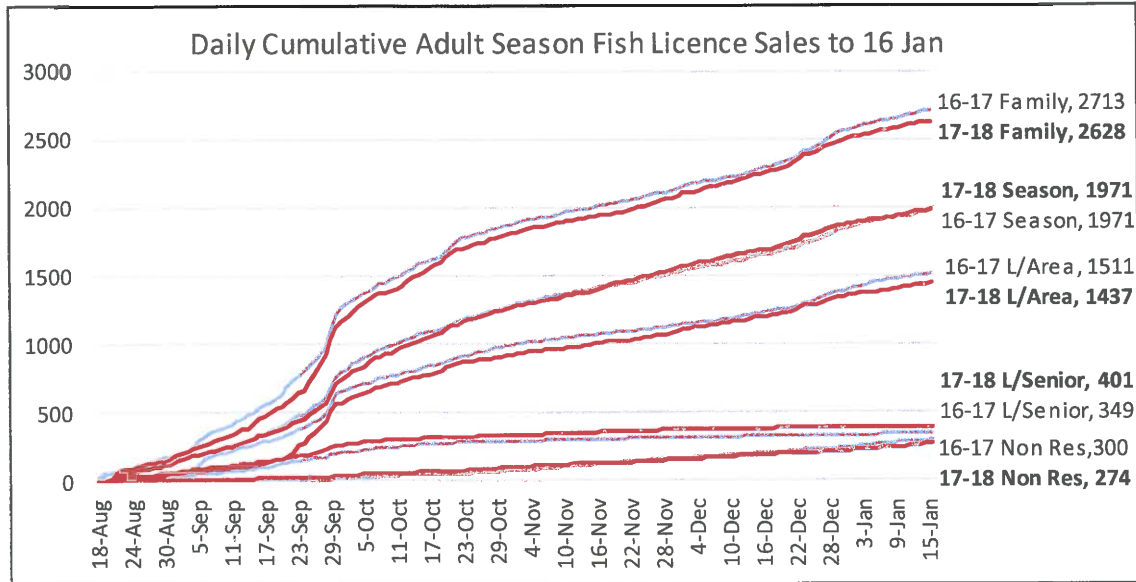


Chart 3: Cumulative Adult Short Term Fish Licence comparison 2016-17 & 2017-18 YTD

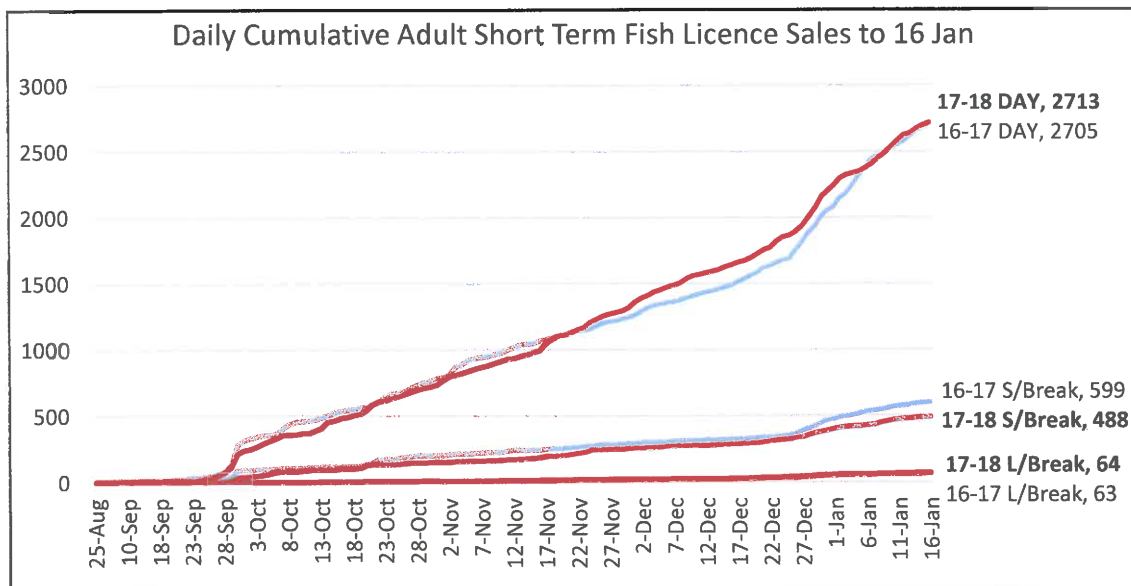


Chart 4: Cumulative Junior Fish Licence comparison 2016-17 & 2017-18 YTD

