



**EASTERN
FISH AND GAME COUNCIL**

***MEETING
AGENDA***

5 December 2019

AGENDA

For the 179th Meeting of the Eastern Fish and Game Council

Venue: Eastern Fish & Game Office
Paradise Valley Road
ROTORUA

Date: Thursday 5 December 2019

Commences: 12.00 PM

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| 8 | 2018-2019 Performance Report (12.15 PM, 15 mins) | (R) | 11 |
| 9 | Presentation: "Financial Processes" (12.30 PM, 20 mins) | (I) | |
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| 15 | General Business (2.30 PM, 30 mins) | | |
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(R) = resolution required, **(D)** = for discussion/advice, **(I)** = for information only

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE 178th MEETING OF THE EASTERN FISH
AND GAME COUNCIL, HELD AT THE ROTORUA OFFICES OF FISH & GAME
NEW ZEALAND ON THURSDAY 17th OCTOBER 2019 AT 12.00PM**

Present

Crs Murray Ferris, Barry Roderick, Lindsay Lyons, David Woolner, Adam Rayner, and Alan Baird.

IN ATTENDANCE

Andy Garrick, Kate Thompson, Matt McDougall, Anthony van Dorp, Lynne Sands, Mark Sherburn, Matt Osborne, and Lloyd Gledhill (Eastern Fish & Game); Debbie Oakley.

1.0 WELCOME AND KARAKIA

1.1 Cr Murray Ferris (Chairman) opened the meeting at 12.20pm, and welcomed all present introducing Debbie Oakley from Te Puke who he said had expressed an interest in joining the Council, and had come to sit in on today's meeting.

2.0 APOLOGIES

2.1 Apologies were received from Crs Laurance Tamati, Ngahi Bidois, Geoff Thomas, and Ken Coombes; John Meikle, Eben Herbert, Nigel Simpson, and Carmel Veitch (Eastern Fish & Game).

2.2 *Agreed (Adam Rayner/Alan Baird) that the apologies for the 178th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [19/10/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (15 AUGUST 2019)

3.1 *Agreed (David Woolner/Alan Baird) that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 August 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [19/10/3.1]*

4.0 IDENTIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN COUNCIL POLICY

4.1 No items were identified for inclusion in Council policy.

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Cr David Woolner noted that the presentation from Carmel Veitch that was to have occurred at the previous meeting had been deferred until this meeting but it was not on today's agenda. Andy Garrick advised that due to Carmel's commitments with the New Zealand Council office in Wellington she was unavailable for this meeting, but her presentation would be included in a later agenda.

5.2 Cr Barry Roderick advised that one of the private sponsors for the Fish for Gold promotion wished to continue his sponsorship. Andy Garrick acknowledged this kind offer and advised that he would formalise this with the sponsor.

5.3 Barry asked if staff could provide an update on the recent aquatic biosecurity meeting convened by the Lakes Water Quality Society to discuss the merits of its "Clean Boat Self Certification" proposal and other means of reducing the risk of catfish and other aquatic pests being transferred to other lakes. Anthony van Dorp advised that the meeting had been well attended by other agencies, and it had been a constructive meeting. The downsides to the proposal (e.g. legal issues, ability to enforce, practicalities and effectiveness) were discussed at some length, and it was noted that Regional Council already had rules in place and more effort could be put into enforcing those. A self-certification process might however, be a useful advocacy tool. The topic

would be further discussed at the Lakes Water Quality Symposium to be held on 7-8 November which Fish & Game would also be attending.

- 5.4 Barry suggested that perhaps boats should be encouraged or restricted to visiting only one lake per day to make it more likely that they were thoroughly inspected and cleaned before being launched in another waterbody. Andy Garrick noted that Eastern Fish & Game had developed its own protocols in relation to minimising risk of catfish being transferred, and one of these was if a visit was intended to Rotoiti or Rotorua these locations would be the last to be visited on any given day if the intention was to get out onto other lakes on the same day.

6.0 NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR GENERAL BUSINESS

There were no items of general business.

7.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

- 7.1 No conflicts of interest were identified.

8.0 2020 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

- 8.1 Andy Garrick advised that the purpose of this agenda item was to provide an opportunity to discuss or seek clarification around any of the information that had been provided with it, and to identify any other items or issues Council might wish to receive information on for consideration at its December meeting.

- 8.2 Andy brought to the attention of Council that there were items in the gazetted First and Second Schedules of the 2019 Game Season provided in Appendix 1 that had not been clearly portrayed or had been omitted in error. The first of these related to text included in Condition 6 of the First Schedule on page 22 which should have read that hunters were encouraged not to use lead shot in shotguns with a bore smaller than 12g in the first part of the 2019 game season up to and including 31 August 2019, but thereafter from 1 September 2019 through to 31 August 2020 it would be mandatory in all Department of Conservation and Fish & Game administered wetlands; and from 1 September 2020 onwards it could not be used within 200m of any waterways or wetlands whether these be public or private. The gazetted condition also failed to note that .410 gauge shotguns were excluded from these restrictions.

Under Second Schedule Special Conditions on page 25 Andy advised that an additional condition, 5(5), had been overlooked in the initial gazettal process but had subsequently been formalised via an amendment to the 2019 game season conditions as reproduced over the page (refer p26). Similarly, Condition 6 "Upland Game Properties with Special Conditions" listing the Pirini Family Trust had been omitted from the gazette notice.

- 8.3 Matt McDougall expanded on item 6 on page 18 relating to brown quail and noted that this is something he would draw to the attention of clubs for comment.

- 8.4 Debbie Oakley advised she had been asked to query the low bag limit for mallards in the Reporoa area, and the reliability of the methods used to determine that the duck population is struggling in that area. Matt McDougall provided a brief run down on the monitoring programmes undertaken and the methods used to estimate game bird populations. He said that aerial transect counts had been undertaken for four years within the Reporoa area, and what was consistently obvious each time a count was taken, was how few ponds there are in that area and how very few of those were holding ducks. There were small pockets that held good numbers, but there were much larger areas that didn't. In response to a suggestion that maybe the bag limit within that area

could be increased for opening weekend only to make it more worthwhile for hunters to get out hunting there, Andy advised that Council had considered a similar proposal last year to do the same more widely, but Council had rejected that for a number of reasons. Andy was happy to supply the minutes and background to that discussion for further information if anyone wished to know more.

9.0 2019 UPLAND GAME PROPERTIES REPORT

9.1 Council received the 2019 Upland Game Properties Report and acknowledged the lower number of returns currently required to be submitted following the reclassification of pheasants and red legged partridges from Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Act 1953 to Schedule 3 within the boundaries of four of the five previously gazetted upland game properties.

10.0 DRAFT 2018-2019 PERFORMANCE REPORT

10.1 Council had received a copy of the draft performance report prior to the meeting. Andy Garrick advised that the report was currently being audited and the final copy would be presented to the next meeting of Council along with an overview of variances against the Operational Work Plan and budget. Andy informed Council that since printing of the draft, a reserve had been created for the Fish for Gold Promotion, the intention being to transfer what had been allocated within the Operational Work Plan for insuring the promotion (if an underwriter had been found) to a reserve in which a pool of funds could be accumulated to support the major prize in the event that a suitable sponsor was not available. Andy wanted Council to be aware of this, and was keen for feedback from Council if they felt that this was inappropriate. No concerns were raised by Council.

10.2 Cr Barry Roderick questioned an item in Table 11 on page 19 of the performance report, regarding our involvement with the Waipaoa Catchment Plan as it was his impression that this catchment held no sports fisheries values. Andy Garrick advised that with the Gisborne District Council now turning its attention to individual catchments, it was important to have an oversight into all catchment plans as planning provisions made in one or more of these could have precedent setting consequences for other areas/waters that are of interest to us.

11.0 WAIKAREMOANA SPORTS FISH HABITAT ENHANCEMENT FUND

11.1 Andy Garrick provided an overview of how funds that had been approved from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Fund, had been utilised during the year. He also informed Council of contributions received from Genesis Energy and the Hawke's Bay Regional Council towards the repairs to the water quality monitoring buoy.

11.2 Cr Murray Ferris queried how long Council should carry over the \$12k it had set aside for the installation of navigation markers which had been requested by the Waikaremoana Boating and Fishing Association? Murray advised that he had recently been in contact with them and had been informed that they were no closer to gaining approval from iwi than they had been three years ago. Andy Garrick advised he would write to the Association for an update.

11.3 Cr Barry Roderick noted the low interest returns currently available on term deposits and questioned whether it would be worth looking at investment options such as bonds? Debbie Oakley, having had experience with unit trust type investments, informed Council that there were low risk unit trusts available that were similar in risk to term investments but these were subject to fees. Lynne Sands who looks after the re-

investment of funds for the Council advised that we always seek the best rate available at the time, and usually the longer terms provided a better return. Council supported leaving the Waikaremoana Sport Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund funds in low risk term investments for the meantime and confirmed the update as having been received.

12.0 LICENCE FEES AND BUDGETS

12.1 Andy Garrick provided some background to Southland Fish and Game Council's proposal to reduce licence fee increases by encouraging regions to reduce their Operational Work Plan budgets for 2020-2021 by 1%, and how this might affect Eastern Region's already tight budget and the minimal savings to be gained should that occur. Andy provided an overview of the current costs and revenue generated by this region from other sources, and asked Council if they felt there was merit in what the Southland Council was proposing, and if so in what area of the Operational Work Plan it considered a reduction could be accommodated.

12.2 Discussion on the proposal included:

- if a cut in budget was made and there was no increase to fees or these did not keep pace with inflation, there may be a need to catch up at some point as had occurred when the Minister of Conservation declined a proposed increase in licence fees for the 2009/10 Fish Season;
- this region does not waste licence holder funds and runs a pretty tight and well monitored budget, so something substantial would probably need to be foregone should a reduction to the budget be imposed;
- R3 programmes are getting underway with the primary goal of increasing participation which will in turn take the pressure off increasing licence fees, as will changes to the licence administration system, the proposal for a digital licence in place of a plastic card, savings made on the cost of producing magazines, and the development of additional sources of income with the recent appointment of a national Business Development Manager.

12.3 Council requested Andy respond to the Southland Council's request congratulating them on their initiative and informing them that while Council acknowledges there is an issue with unjustified and unreasonable increases in licence fees, it considered a 1% reduction in the total Fish & Game budget would have a minimal impact on licence fees but would negatively impact on an already tight budget in this region. Councillors felt that R3 and business development initiatives along with savings made in licencing costs and elsewhere should take the pressure off licence fees.

13.0 ARMS LEGISLATION BILL

13.1 Prior to considering the prepared agenda item and the NZC draft submission to the Select Committee more recently circulated, Councillors and staff spent some time frankly discussing concerns they had in relation to some of the actions that had been taken by the NZC in regards to the Bill and publicity around it over the past couple of weeks. This had come to a head two days earlier when NZC staff had released a media statement responding to a claim in an email from the Council of Licenced Firearms Owners to its supporters, that steel shot cartridges may have become a prohibited item under the Arms (Prohibited Ammunition) Order that had come into effect on 1 October. The email contained a substantive legal opinion indicating poorly worded provisions and lack of clarity in the Order which needed to be fixed. The NZC media response was totally dismissive and took an unnecessary swipe at COLFO which generated an immediate backlash from members of the firearms community including Fish & Game

- licence holders. Concerns were expressed about other statements made and positions taken with little consultation with regional Fish & Game Councils or specialist staff within the wider organisation, not only in relation to Arms reform but in regard to other matters also. The Arms Legislation is incredibly complex, and comment was made that the recent survey of licence holders did not provide, nor could it, sufficient information to licence holders for the majority of them to make informed decisions. and concern was raised as to how the results would be interpreted and used.
- 13.2 Cr Lindsay Lyons commented that everything happens at great speed within the New Zealand Council and it was not always feasible to work through the usual channels. He agreed however, that there are some well qualified staff within the organisation that should be involved in matters such as these. In the case of the Arms Bill the primary aim in the first instance was to look after the interests of duck hunters. Since then other issues had come into play also. Lindsay suggested that Council should relay its concerns about communications and media statements to the New Zealand Council.
- 13.3 Cr Barry Roderick felt that Lindsay had handled the situation very well from the outset and thanked him for his efforts in getting licence holders through the duck shooting season during this tumultuous time. He suggested that this Council should write to the NZC requesting that staff with appropriate expertise are consulted on matters such as these in the future.
- 13.4 Returning to the main agenda item, Andy Garrick advised that staff were given the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft submission and had done so. Many of the concerns staff had raised had been recognised and incorporated into the final draft of the NZC submission, and he wished to acknowledge this. He noted that some of the points raised in the NZC submission could have, in Eastern Region staff's opinion, been more forcefully presented, while an effectively neutral stance was taken on others. Andy advised that the NZC was holding off from finalising its submission until tomorrow morning to enable the Eastern Fish and Game Council to provide its feedback on it, and added that in addition to providing the NZC draft to Council to review, Councillors might wish to consider edits Eastern staff had proposed which were incorporated into the other document they'd been provided with. Andy added that two of the Councillors not present today, Crs Geoff Thomas and Ken Coombes, had emailed him confirming their support for the submission with edits proposed.
- 13.5 Cr Barry Roderick suggested that the word "generally" be incorporated into point 34 to read "Fish & Game generally supports...".
- 13.6 Anthony van Dorp highlighted some of the areas which needed to be discussed:
- does the proposed legislation improve public safety?
 - determination of who is fit and proper
 - notification to registry when firearm is moved from home
 - reduction of licence period to 5 years
 - police inspection at any time for law abiding firearms owners
 - costs to cover additional requirements may hinder safe practice
- 13.7 ***Agreed (Barry Roderick/Murray Ferris) that Council supports the NZC draft submission with Eastern Fish and Game Council edits, and requests the manager to forward the proposed amendments to the New Zealand Council. [19/10/13.7]***
- 13.8 ***Agreed (Murray Ferris/Lindsay Lyons) that Council requests the manager prepare and forward a submission to the Select Committee on behalf of the Eastern Fish & Game Council expressing similar sentiments. [19/10/13.8]***

14.0 *Agreed (Alan Baird/Adam Rayner) that this meeting be extended for one hour to cover outstanding business. [19/10/14.0]*

15.0 NOMINATIONS FOR NZ GAME BIRD HABITAT TRUST

15.1 Council briefly discussed and supported the nomination of ex-Eastern Fish & Game Councillor Steve Scragg for appointment to the NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust Board. Cr Lindsay Lyons asked Andy to request that he include a resume with his application.

15.2 *Agreed (Lindsay Lyons/David Woolner) that Council supports the nomination of past Councillor Steve Scragg to the NZ Game Bird Habitat Trust. [19/10/15.2]*

16.0 DATES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2020

16.1 Andy Garrick pointed out issues with the proposed NZC meeting dates and the implications for this region's deadlines and meeting schedules in 2020. Andy had identified some minor amendments to the NZC schedule which he believed would remedy this and work for all parties concerned. Cr Lindsay Lyons suggested that Andy write to the New Zealand Council to highlight the issues this Council has with the NZC's dates and provide his proposed resolution.

16.2 *Agreed (David Woolner/Adam Rayner) that the manager write to the New Zealand Council highlighting issues arising from some of the dates contained within the New Zealand Council's proposed budget and meeting schedule for 2020, and include with this, his suggested resolution. [19/10/16.2]*

17.0 SPECIES MONITORING REPORTS

17.1 Council received the species monitoring summaries for the 2018-19 Summer Creel Survey and the 2019 National Shoveler Count.

18.0 LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

17.1 *Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board*

No report.

17.2 *Bay of Plenty Conservation Board*

No report.

17.3 *Department of Conservation*

No report.

17.4 *New Zealand Fish and Game Council*

Cr Lindsay Lyons informed Council of the appointment of Business Development Manager, Steve Doughty, who had been employed to roll out the R3 programme and look at opportunities for increasing income revenue from sources other than licence sales. The Hawke's Bay audit and issues arising from this had been taking up a lot of time and is currently ongoing. Lindsay felt that the NZ Council was working cohesively and commented on the three sub-committees set up to review Licence Administration System, Remuneration, and Financial Strategy which also involved input from several staff. Andy Garrick queried what progress had been made with developing a draft national communications strategy, and Lindsay advised that this was still in the hands of an external provider but will be put out for consultation with regions as soon as is possible.

18.0 OPERATIONAL REPORTS

18.1 Andy Garrick provided a brief overview on the Fish for Gold Promotion which was held for the first two weeks of the new season, and informed Council that two of the 30

fish with promotional tags had been caught during the promotional period. Mark Sherburn provided some background on the two successful anglers and the results following the opening of the promotion's prize envelopes. He said that while the tags caught were not the big prize-winning tags, both participants received prizes valued at \$200 each.

18.2 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Adam Rayner) that Council receives the Health and Safety Report, Management Report and Licence Sales Report. [19/08/18.2]*

18.3 *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Adam Rayner) that Council receives the Finance Report and approves payments for July and August totalling \$295,811.50. [19/10/18.3]*

19.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

19.1 Cr Murray Ferris invited Debbie Oakley to speak to Council, advising that her CV had been included within the Papers for Information accompanying the agenda for this meeting.

19.2 Debbie gave Council a brief overview of her background and experience, and what she believed she could contribute to this Council. Given her background in banking, and the governance roles she held within the horticulture industry, coupled with her passion for angling and hunting she felt that she would be a good candidate to be a member of Council. She noted that shortly after Fish & Game had been established, she had assisted Dave Stack, Eastern Region's first manager, to put staff in place.

20.0 PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION

20.1 *Agreed (Murray Ferris/David Woolner) that pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the public be excluded at 2.55pm from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:*

- *Confirmation of public excluded minutes from the meeting on 1 November 2018;*
- *Licence Administration Sub Committee Report;*
- *Manager's annual performance review;*
- *Council's self-appraisal review;*
- *Vacancies on Eastern Fish and Game Council. [19/10/17.1]*

20.2 *Agreed (BR/DW) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 3.55pm. [19/10/20.2]*

21.0 MEETING CLOSED

21.1 The meeting closed at 3.56pm.

.....
Murray Ferris
Chairman

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

2.0 APOLOGIES

- 2.2 *Agreed (Adam Rayner/Alan Baird) that the apologies for the 178th meeting of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council be sustained. [19/10/2.2]*

3.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (15 AUGUST 2019)

- 3.1 *Agreed (David Woolner/Alan Baird) that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 August 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record. [19/10/3.1]*

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- 16.2 *Agreed (David Woolner/Adam Rayner) that the manager write to the New Zealand Council highlighting issues arising from some of the dates contained within the New Zealand Council's proposed budget and meeting schedule for 2020, and include with this, his suggested resolution. [19/10/16.2]*

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- *Vacancies on Eastern Fish and Game Council. [19/10/17.1]*

- 20.2 *Agreed (BR/DW) that the public be re-admitted to the meeting at 3.55pm. [19/10/20.2]*

7. CONFLICT OF INTEREST REGISTER

Ref: 7.02.01

19 November 2019

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;
- (ii) The member’s other interest could specifically affect, or be affected by, the actions of the Council in relation to a matter;

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.

- (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. 2018-2019 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Ref: 8.03.04

19 November 2019

1. Purpose

To adopt the Performance Report for the 2018-2019 year.

2. Background

The Performance Report for the 2018-2019 year has been completed and audited by Owen McLeod. The draft Performance Report was provided for consideration at Council's 17 October meeting, and a final copy which includes the Independent Auditor's Report will be tabled at this meeting.

3. Reporting Standards

The Performance Report has been prepared under a Public Benefit Entity Simple Format reporting - Accrual (Public Sector) (PBE SFR A (PS)).

4.0 Variance against Budget

There was a surplus for the year of \$26,674 against a budgeted deficit of (\$29,356). This final result is \$5,257 more than what was presented in the draft performance report provided at the October meeting, and is due to the capitalisation of portions of the refurbishment of the timber house (\$10,257) and an accrual processed for a donation received in the 2018-19 financial year into "income received in advance" (\$5,000) and therefore, transfer into the 2019-20 financial year where it will be utilised.

The variance between the surplus for the year and the budgeted deficit totalled \$56,030 and this is the accumulated variances associated with throughout the Operational Work Plan. The most significant variances to expense budgets were due to funds which were allocated from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund and the Non-resident Reserve not being utilised in full (\$39,615). Reduced licence revenue (\$53,462) is offset by in large by increases in the value of non-cash items such as the trout inventory at year end, the Forestry revaluation and gains made on the sale of vehicles (\$30,671). Additional income and reduced expenditure within other areas of the plan make up the difference and are described later in this report.

4.1 Income

Total revenue for the 2018-2019 year was \$3,575 under budget. This made up from the following:

| Amount | Note |
|---------------|--|
| +\$23,559 | Revaluation of trout at year end |
| +\$9,076 | NZ Council Legal funding - Gisborne Regional Fresh Water Plan Appeal |
| +\$6,065 | NZ Council Research funding – Lake Tarawera research project |
| +\$5,512 | Gain on sale of Fixed Assets |
| +\$4,500 | Increased Interest income from Waikaremoana Fund |
| +\$4,341 | External Contract revenue |
| +\$4,219 | Increased Rental income |
| +\$3,391 | Increased Hatchery revenue |

| | |
|----------------|--|
| + \$3,150 | Diversions for Junior Angler/Hunter Education |
| + \$2,134 | Increased Interest income from General Reserves |
| + \$1,600 | Revaluation of Forestry asset |
| + \$1,745 | Donations, Huts, DVD's, Fish food, Children's fishing, Tours |
| - \$53,462 | Reduced licence revenue |
| - \$8,500 | Transfer from Waikaremoana SFEEF – expense also reduced |
| - \$4,308 | Reduced income Non-Resident levies |
| - \$3,150 | Reduced Fish & Game Contract revenue |
| - \$2,728 | Reduced income from Prosecutions and Legal expense recovery |
| - \$445 | Ballot habitat maintenance fees |
| - 274 | General income |
| <u>\$3,575</u> | |

4.2 Expenditure (Direct)

4.2.1 Species Management

The total direct expenditure relating to species projects was \$9,921 under budget. Population monitoring direct expenditure budgets were not fully utilised due primarily to funding which was approved from the Non-resident Reserve for the Lake Tarawera research projects not yet needing to be drawn on (\$20,000) in this financial year. The expenses incurred in the 2018/19 financial year related to the Tarawera work (\$6,065), were funded by the New Zealand Council's research fund and this is reported within income. The Harvest Assessment budget provided for a contractor to be utilised for local survey work but this was unspent as a result staff carrying out the local work with reduced survey work occurring at Waikaremoana (\$5,200). Direct expenditure related to hatchery operations was over budget (\$16,493) due primarily to high fish food prices.

4.2.2 Habitat Protection & Management

Habitat related direct expenditure ended the year \$22,208 less than budget due primarily to under expenditure of funds budgeted from the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Fund (\$19,615). Pledged funding for navigation marker poles was still to be drawn down (\$12,000), and reduced costs associated with the water quality monitoring buoy repairs and survey work also contribute to this variance.

Resource management expenditure was increased as a result of legal costs associated with the appeal of the Gisborne District Fresh Water Plan (\$9,076), these costs were recovered from The New Zealand Fish and Game Council's legal fund.

Habitat Creation expenditure was underbudget by \$5,269 due to demands on staff time associated with other habitat related projects, and a recognition that licence revenue was tracking significantly downwards and the budget was facing cost overruns within other outputs, and hatchery operations in particular.

4.2.3 Angler & Hunter Participation

The total direct expenditure related to client service projects was \$4,220 under budget and is due to reduced costs associated with angler access with staff undertaking proposed access work for which contractors had been planned (\$2,064). The Fish & Game magazine special Game Bird Season issue was funded by the New Zealand Council and as a result of increases in

numbers of pages available for regions the planned 2019 Game Bird pre-season newsletter was not produced (\$2,834). Huts spending was increased as a result of replacement of the Wairua hut mattresses with fire resistant versions (\$1,055).

4.2.4 Public Interface

Public Interface direct expenditure ended the year \$5,163 under budget. The Public Promotions budget was not fully utilised as a result of obtaining external sponsorship for the opening week's Fish for Gold promotion in lieu of paying for insurance cover. In its first year of operation the promotion was underwritten by an insurer, and funds have been put aside in our budget each year since to do the same (\$3,500 in the 2018-19 financial year). Despite concerted and ongoing effort nationally and internationally we have been unable to obtain insurance cover for the promotion, and as a result all prizes this year again were again dependent on sponsorship by individual donors and businesses. The \$3,500 allocated this year for the promotion has been set aside in a dedicated reserve that could accumulate each year for this, or a similar promotion if Council so wishes to do so.

Communications and Grounds maintenance budget were also not fully utilised.

4.2.5 Compliance

The overall direct expense in the Compliance Output was under budget by \$2,896. This results from reduced legal costs with fewer prosecutions going through the courts and more going through the diversion process.

4.2.6 Licensing

Licensing costs were lower than budgeted (\$7,316). This is due to lower than budgeted licence sales commissions and public online fees.

4.2.7 Council

Council related expenditure was \$5,086 under budget. A reduction in Councillor travel expenditure resulting from a change in the make up of Council following the 2018 Election and fewer representatives from the Gisborne and Wairoa sub regions.

4.2.8 Planning & Reporting

Planning and reporting expenditure is \$691 under budget due to reduced costs associated with the prior year's Annual Public Meeting.

4.2.9 Overhead

The overhead expenses have been split into Employee related costs, Other expenses and Depreciation, and the combined end of year variance was \$2,104 (0.2%) under budget.

Employee related expenses were \$11,882 under budget resulting primarily from a reduced salaries expense (\$8,891) which was made up of a number of variables including reduced contract work which was budgeted in lieu of staff working on Waikaremoana surveys, changes to annual leave accruals, and the payment for contract work to be undertaken by Hawke's Bay Council's staff was not made as not work was not undertaken. FBT and ACC costs were reduced (\$818), and staff training and staff expenses were also reduced (\$2,273).

Other expenses were over budget by \$7,910. The Staff houses expenses were higher than budgeted (\$8,011) following the long overdue refurbishment of the timber house on site. Office premises expenses ended the year (\$1,249) over budget as a result of the unbudgeted

replacement of a faulty sub meter used to on charge electricity and the replacement of lighting in the boat shed after becoming aware that the old style fluorescent fittings had been classified as a fire risk. Office equipment expenses were (\$220) over budget for the year resulting from the replacement of the staff room hot water heater. Communications expenditure was (\$82) over budget and General expenses were over budget (\$1,102) as a result of the reallocation of charges related to the use of the eftpos facility and the use of a new valuer which was required for the revaluation of the Forestry on site. Equipment expenditure ended the year under budget (\$167) and Vehicle expenses were less than budget (\$2,587) resulting from savings on insurance, maintenance, and registration.

Depreciation was \$1,868 over budget.

4.2.10 NZ Fish & Game Levies

The levy of \$244,143 was in line with budget.

5.0 Financial Position

5.1 Liquidity

The Council's financial position remains secure with current liquidity ratios, which indicate the amount of working capital or quick assets available, of \$3.46 of current assets to every \$1 of current liabilities (\$3.54 in 2017-18). Note current assets figure for this calculation has been adjusted to exclude fish stock on hand at year end (ratio including fish stock \$3.89 cf \$3.94 in 2017-18).

The Statement of Cash Flows highlights that net cash received from operating activities for the year was \$48,335 compared to \$83,500 last year. The net increase in cash on hand at year-end of \$2,582 is a makeup of the inflow from operating (\$48,335) and the outflow transfer of cash to investments and fixed assets (\$45,753).

5.2 Debtors

The figure of \$141,903 is made up of current debtors, prepaid expenses, and accrued income (2017-18 figure, \$96,820).

5.3 Fish & Game General Reserves

The National Financial Reserves Policy requires that a region's net current assets (excluding Restricted Reserves) shall be managed at between 30 - 50% of licence revenue in Councils which have income greater than their bulk fund. This policy is under review, and Councils have been instructed to calculate reserve levels against their preceding year's bulk fund irrespective of licence revenue for the year ending 31 August 2019.

The Eastern Council's General Reserves (excluding Restricted Reserves) to 31 August 2019 totalled \$534,130. The Council's General Reserve sits at 48% of the 2018-19 bulk fund (\$1,110,924).

5.4 Restricted and Dedicated Reserves

Note 5 (page 54) in the Accounts gives a summary of the Dedicated and Restricted Reserves. These include the Waikaremoana Sports Fish Habitat Enhancement Fund, the Asset Replacement Reserve, the Non-Resident Levy Reserve, and two new reserves which have been created, one for the Fish for Gold Promotion, the other for the Hatchery Breeding Programme. The latter has been set up to hold a recent donation of \$5,000 earmarked for a specific purpose in accordance with the wishes of the benefactor.

6.0 Statement of Service Performance

The Statement of Service Performance commencing on page 5 of the Performance Report provides information on each output area including Projects & Objectives, Performance Measures, and Actual Results. The Summary Budget and Actual Expenditure table shown on page 5, and the more detailed Summary of Resources tables shown at the commencement of each output area, provide a summary of total expenses less income for each output area. The total expense figures reported within the Summary of Resource tables not only include direct costs, but also an allocation of the overhead costs based on the actual hours worked in each output area.

Note 11 on page 57 provides a summary of the total expense for each output area detailing the overhead component and hours that contribute to this.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 That Council adopts the Performance Report for the 2018-2019 year.

**9. PRESENTATION BY CARMEL VEITCH:
“FISH AND GAME FINANCIAL PROCESSES”**

10. 2020 GAME SEASON CONDITIONS

Ref: 1.07.03

20 November 2019

1. Purpose

To determine game season conditions for the 2020 hunting season.

2. Background

Council has established policies and criteria for determining game season regulations based on monitoring programmes undertaken in the January preceding the game season concerned. These are set out in Appendix 1 to this Agenda Item.

In November 2018 [18/11/10.16], as was the case for the four years preceding, Council re-affirmed its support for continuing to utilise the threshold management approach for setting greylard harvest regulations (see October 2019 Council Agenda for an explanation of the threshold approach). Historically this involved using juvenile:adult ratios obtained from trapping and banding operations in January each year to determine the mallard and grey duck regulations that will apply for the coming game bird season. There are however, real issues with using the proportion of juveniles in the trap sample to estimate annual recruitment, so last year we trialled a different approach to how we predict the population ahead of the season.

What we did at the end of spring last year was to predict the population using models we developed from 20 odd years of Eastern Region banding data (see December 2018 PFI). This produced a result of 300,783 birds. At the end of the season each year we are able to retrospectively estimate what the mallard and grey duck population² was using a formula known as the Lincoln Petersen index³, and this produced a remarkably similar number for the season just gone (300,900; BCI 219,300–385,500 birds). The models will be updated at the end of spring this year and run again to produce a prediction of mallard and grey duck numbers for the 2020 year. This predicted population size will then be used to determine which set of regulations will apply for the 2020 mallard and grey duck season based on the population thresholds policy criteria Council has in place.

Black swan regulations are based on population size estimates and trends over the past seventeen years, and paradise shelduck regulations on population trends alone. Aerial counts of swans and parries are undertaken in mid-January. Analysis of this data is usually completed by Waitangi Weekend. Shoveler duck populations are assessed from ground based counts undertaken throughout New Zealand in August each year, but unlike other waterfowl species there are no established criteria for setting season regulations other than applying a conservative approach to the trend counts obtained. As a result regulations have tended to remain the same each year.

² Mallard and grey duck are combined, as genetic hybridization between the species means they cannot be easily differentiated in the field based on feather characteristics alone.

³ The Lincoln Petersen estimator of the mallard population relies on harvest estimates, band returns, and reporting rate estimates. A commonly used example of the estimator is explained using marbles in a jar. If a jar is full of a plain coloured marbles and you want to know how many marbles are in the jar you can add a known number of coloured marbles (e.g. 20 red) give the jar a good shake then take out a handful and see how many red and how many plain ones there are in your handful. For example if you extract 10 marbles and 2 out of the 10 are red then you could reasonable say that 2/10 of the marbles in the jar are red and since you know that 20 red ones went into the jar, the plain marbles should number about 100 ($\frac{2}{10} = \frac{20}{x}; x = \frac{20 \times 10}{2}$).

Upland game regulations also tend to remain the same from year to year. Staff undertake some monitoring of pheasant populations by conducting crow counts in November, but this provides only limited insight into numbers as it is undertaken prior to the breeding season. At this stage we do not have a robust means of quantifying upland game populations to inform the setting of bag limits and duration of season. Quail are also recorded during the November survey, but the data collected is insufficient to enable a meaningful analysis. Staff have not seen brown quail in the Eastern Region in recent years, and for some years prior to that they were only ever observed in small isolated coveys. This was recorded in Council's October 2019 agenda, along with the note that the annual Game Bird Hunter Survey has not recorded a brown quail having been shot since 2007, which suggests that they are an inconsequential harvest, and/or that the population is too low to support a harvest.

Staff undertook to provide further information to this meeting in relation to:

- The restricted season in the Reporoa-Broadlands area.
- A special black swan season for Management Area A1 in February 2021.
- A special pukeko season on the same weekend as the special swan season but within the whole of the Eastern Region.
- Definition of the game management areas.
- Upland game season length.
- Brown quail harvest.
- Game bird carcasses.

Appendix 2 provides the proposed schedule and regulations for the 2020 game season. The content of the highlighted cells in the schedule is subject to the outcomes of summer monitoring in January 2020 and will be finalised as per the policy direction indicated in Appendix 1. Council will be advised in early February of the results of the summer monitoring programmes (trend counts), and the consequent regulations that will apply.

3. Resolutions from the November 2018 Meeting

Council agreed:

1. *(Alan Baird/Ken Coombes) that Council supports the continuation of the restricted (one month season including Queens Birthday, 4 bird daily limit) for greylard (mallard and grey duck) in the "Reporoa Area" (as defined in the 2018 Gazette notice. [18/11/10.12]*
2. *(Barry Roderick/Adam Rayner) that Council supports the continuation of a two day no limit special black swan season in Management Area A1 in February 2020. [18/11/10.13]*
3. *(Barry Roderick/Adam Rayner) that Council supports having an Eastern Region special pukeko season that coincides with the special black swan season in February 2020. [18/11/10.14]*
4. *(Alan Baird/Adam Rayner) that Council supports changing the "Intermediate" regulations for black swan from a daily bag limit of 2 to 5 birds (i.e, when the population is assessed at 1,000-3,000 birds) to provide more incentive to hunt swan once the mallard season finishes. [18/11/10.15]*
5. *(Barry Roderick/Ngahi Bidois) that Council re-affirms the current threshold levels, criteria, and conditions for regulation setting for grey duck/mallard, paradise shelduck and black swan. [18/11/10.16]*

4. Information for Further Discussion and/or Making of Resolutions

4.1 Restricted season in the Reporoa/Broadlands area (resolution required)

In 2015 Council agreed to examine the paucity of mallard and grey duck in the Reporoa/Broadlands area. This resulted in a restrictive bag limit and season length (4 weeks, 4 mallard & grey duck daily limit) being introduced for the 2017 game bird season. Aerial counts prior to the game bird season have been conducted within the Reporoa and Bay of Plenty areas for the past four years as shown in Figure 1 below, and as evident from the counts to date, the restrictive conditions that have applied since 2017 appeared to have made little difference to the greylard population in this area. Council needs to decide if it wishes to continue with these restrictions.

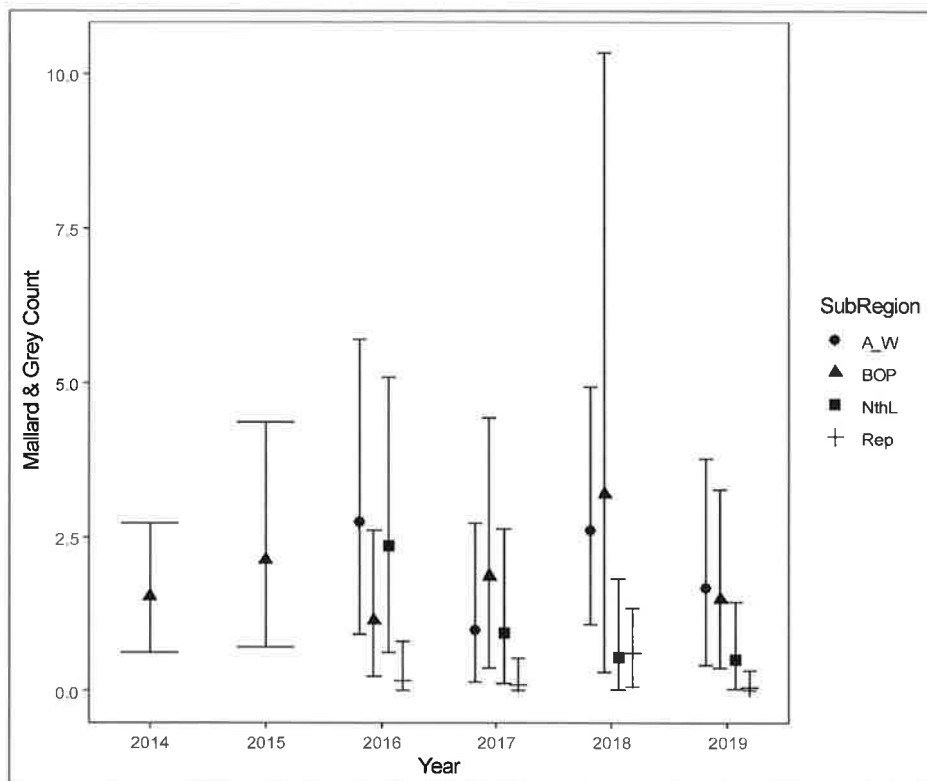


Figure 1. Transect counts of mallard per kilometre (median \pm 95% credible limit) for the Waikato (A_W), Bay of Plenty (BOP), Reporoa (Rep) and Northland (NthL) 2014-2019. The majority of counts were from 10km transects however some transects had to be shortened due to difficult terrain and the counts adjusted accordingly.

Recommendation

4.1 *That the restrictive season regulations (4 week, 4 mallard & grey duck daily limit) for the Reporoa/Broadlands area apply for the 2020 season but if the pre-season monitoring does not indicate an increase then the season regulations are to come into alignment with the rest of the region for the 2021 season.*

4.2 Special swan season (resolution required)

In January 2019 a special swan shoot was held in management Area A1 in response to a growing population in this subregion (Figure 2). The summer population of black swan in Management Area A1 has increased in the last few years, particularly on Tauranga Harbour

(>6,000), as a consequence largely, staff believe, of the collapse of the macrophyte beds in many of the Waikato lakes (e.g. there is a strong correlation between the decrease in swan on Lake Whangape and the increase on Tauranga Harbour; $r=0.58$ $p= 0.0012$).

Some locals, along with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, have expressed concerns at the impact they perceive swan to be having on the sea grass beds (*Zostera sp.*)⁴. Similar concerns have been expressed for Ohiwa Harbour. Fish & Game notes that other factors, catchment derived sedimentation in particular, has played a major part in the demise of *Zostera*, but recognises too that grazing by black swan may be retarding the recovery of these beds given the numbers of birds present at times during the year.

Counts (in April and August this year) following the 2019 special swan season don't indicate a substantial change in swan numbers at corresponding times of the year since 2014 (see Figure 2). The Western Bay of Plenty Fish and Game club held an organised hunt on the Tauranga harbour during the 2019 special season but the weather conditions were not conducive to a very successful hunt and only about 150 were shot. Another special season is gazetted for 29 February – 1 March 2020. The swan harvest during the normal season (2,176; 95% CI 881–5,376) was similar to previous years.

Given that there has been no substantive change in the swan population within Management Area A1 since the Council first agreed to a special season in 2018 (Figure 3), and that the April and August 2019 counts don't indicate a significant change or collapse in numbers, the rationale to hold another special season in February/March 2021 is consistent with previous Council decisions.

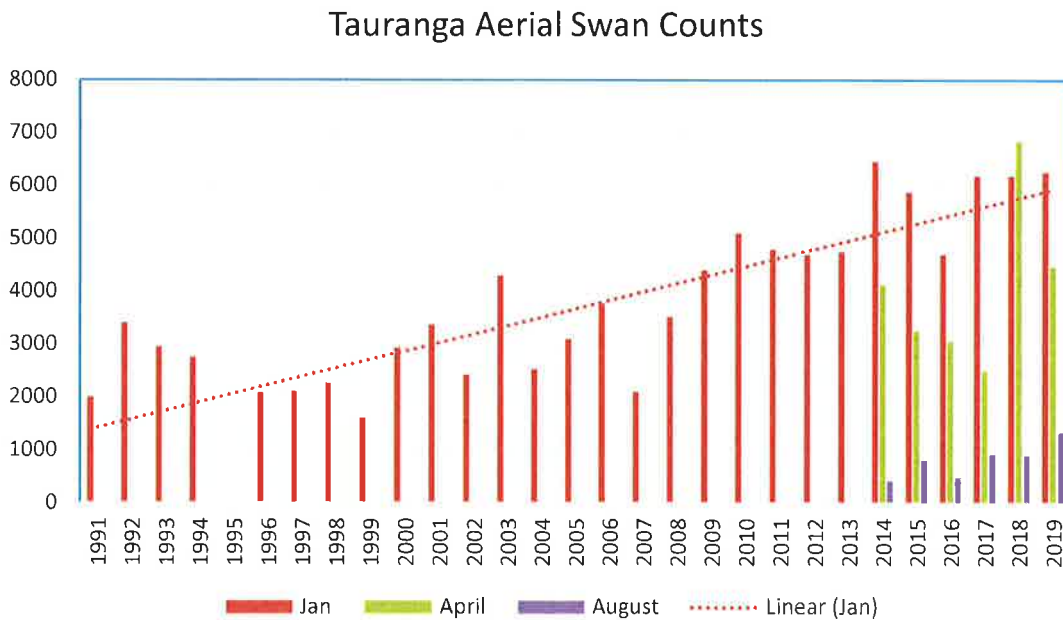


Figure 2. Black swan summer counts 1991 – 2019.

⁴ *Zostera* beds provide habitat for a large variety of marine life and are particularly important rearing habitat for commercial and recreational species such as snapper.

A1 Black Swan

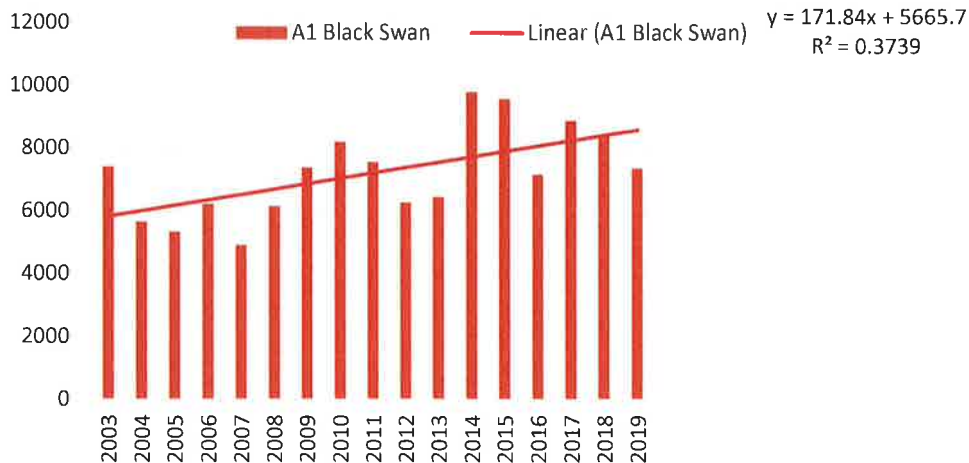


Figure 3. January counts of black swan in Management Area A1.

Recommendation

4.2 *That a special swan season be scheduled for the weekend of 27–28 February 2021 in Management Area A1.*

4.3 Pukeko special season (resolution required)

As with the swan in Management Area A1 there was a special season in January 2019 for pukeko over the same weekend, the difference being that it applied to the whole region. The season provides an opportunity for landowners who have issues with crop damage caused from pukekos, hunters who want additional hunt time, and for young hunters to get their eye in. We do not monitor this harvest, so it is not clear how popular it was, but we haven't heard from any hunters who participated.

Since September 2004, two hundred and six permits to disturb pukeko have been issued, seven of these being since 1 September 2019. Over that time there has been a gradual but small increase in the number of pukeko shot under these permits (see Figure 4). This small increase is not necessarily a reflection of more pukeko being shot, but may reflect better reporting of numbers of pukeko killed. Further to this, annual harvest has been fairly consistent (Figure 5).

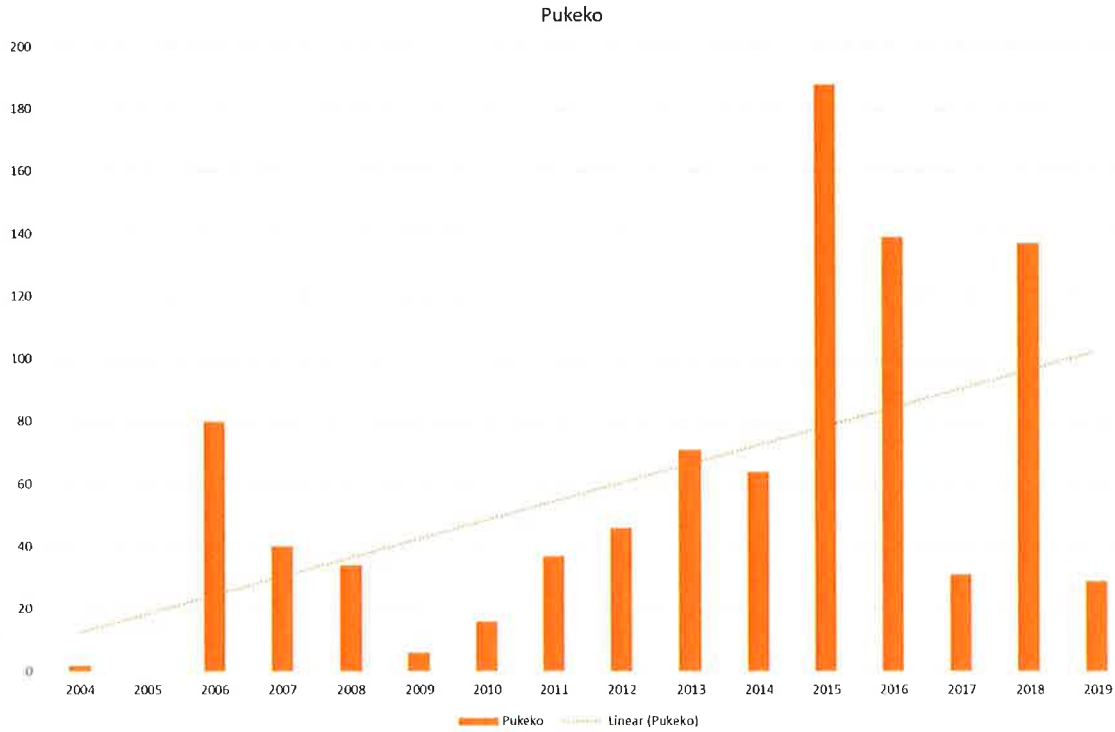


Figure 4. Pukeko reported shot September 2004 – November 2019 under Authorities to Disturb.

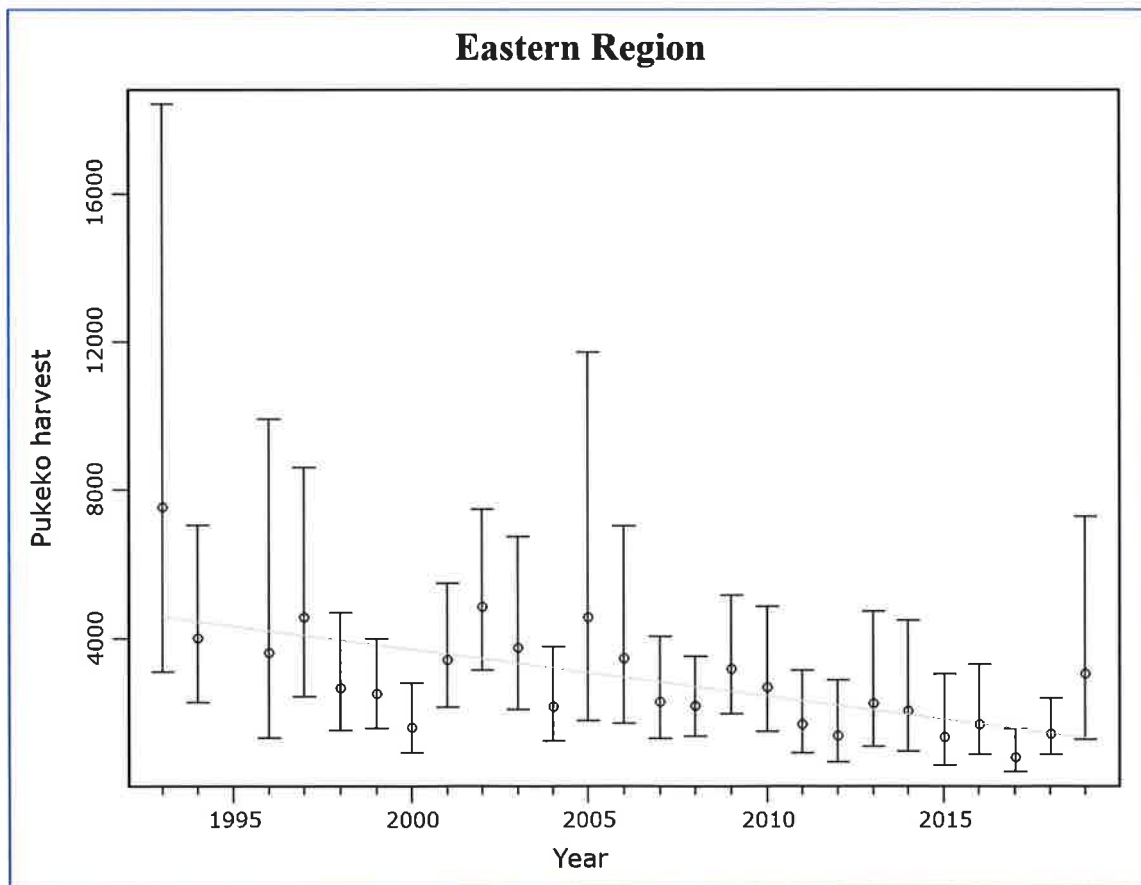


Figure 5. Annual pukeko harvest (mean \pm 95% CI) in the Eastern Region 1993–2019.

Another season is gazetted for January 2020. Given that it is unlikely that a lot of hunters will participate in the special pukeko season and that it offers land owners an opportunity to control birds causing damage to their operations, there is probably no reason not to have another special season in 2021 for the whole of the region at the same time as the swan season.

Recommendation

4.3. That a special pukeko season be scheduled for the weekend of 27–28 February 2021 for the Eastern Region.

4.4 Definition of game bird management areas (resolution required)

Currently the definition of the game management units (e.g. management units A1, A2, B1 and B2) use District Council boundaries. District Councils however, do not appear to encompass harbours and estuaries as the Eastern Region does. Either that or the definition around river mouths and estuaries is not consistent with Eastern Region boundaries. The Eastern Region is described in plan number SO 58495 (Figure 6). The plan includes a note that states the boundary is the mean high water mark except it shall include any mouth of every river or stream, and the mouth of any river or stream shall be deemed to include every outlet thereof and the seashore between those outlets and the water of the sea or any harbour lying within a distance of 500m from any place where at low tide the water of a river or stream meet waters of the sea or any harbour.

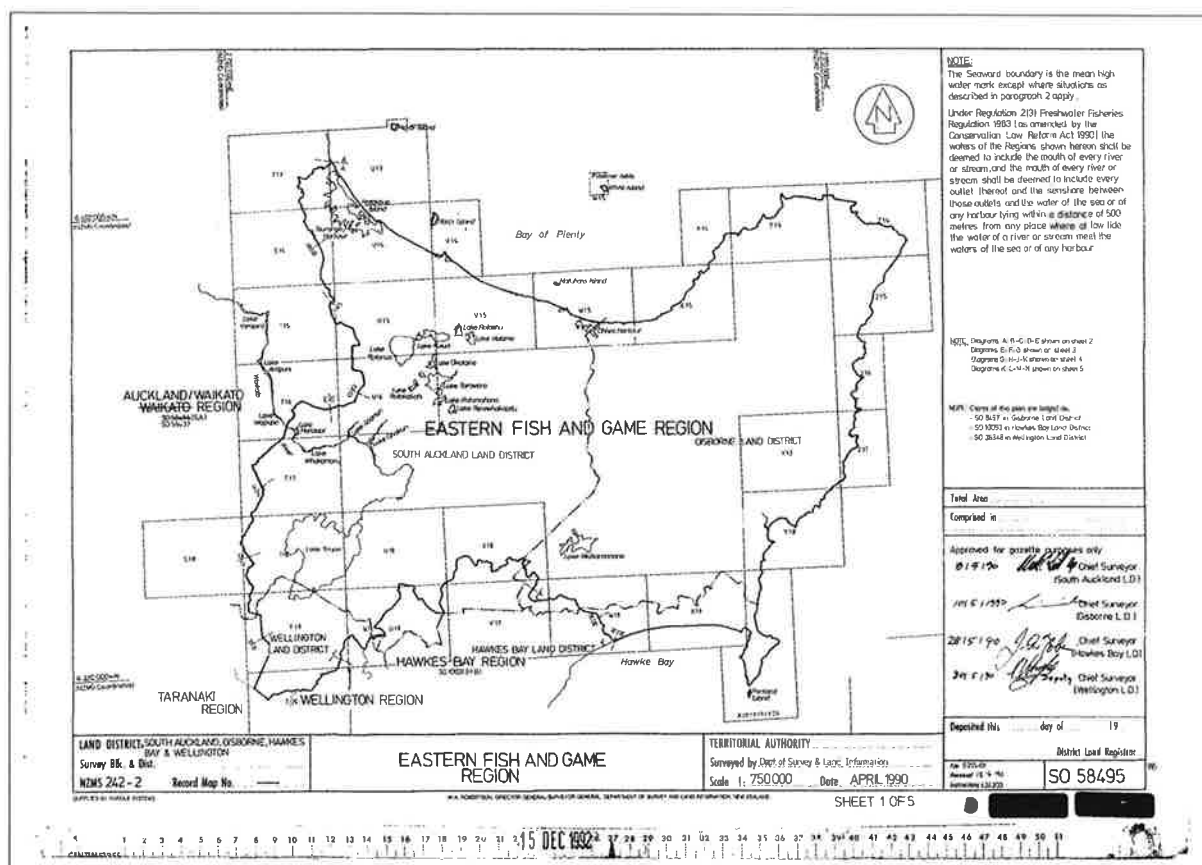


Figure 6. Infomap NZMS 242-2 Gazetted Plan (SO 58495) of Eastern Region.

The challenge is to transfer that description to the “Definition of Areas” in the Game Gazette Notice and the regulation guide. Currently the “Definition of Areas” refers to Infomap 242-2 so it may be that we just need to include a statement that the seaward boundaries of all management units are defined in Infomap 242-2.

Recommendation

4.4. *That the Definition of Areas in the Game Gazette Notice includes the statement in the introduction that “The coastal boundaries of management units A1, B1 and, B2 are defined in Infomap 242-2”.*

4.5 Upland game season length (resolution required)

As detailed in the October 2019 Agenda papers, the upland game season (and the pukeko and relaxed swan seasons) have for many years finished on the last full weekend in August. The consequence of this is that in some years it will be of 17 weeks duration while in others it's a week shorter. This was the case this year (2019) with the season finishing on 25 August, six days shy of the end of August. We have had a request to extend the upland game season when it falls short of the end of the month so that it is closer to being a fixed length each year (i.e. 17 weeks). The 2020 season opens on 2 May and provisionally ends on 30 August, and will therefore be of 17 weeks duration.

Currently our criterion for a relaxed season for black swan is 16 weeks. Generally though, Council simply aligns it with the last full week in August so in some years it is also of 16 weeks duration and in others it is 17 weeks (so it is consistent with the upland game season). Taking the season to the last full week in August (like the first full weekend in May for the opening) is well understood by hunters. Hunters do not adopt well to changing regulations so to change will inevitably result in hunters not complying in some years. We also want however, to be able to offer as much opportunity as possible. It is also appropriate, where possible, to align Eastern's regulations with adjoining regions. Currently Hawke's Bay, Taranaki, and Auckland/Waikato appear to use the last full week in August. If the Eastern Council wishes to extend the season to 17 weeks staff should see if the adjoining regions are happy to adopt an extension. Note that the next 16 week season is not until 2022, so Council may also wish to ignore the issue until then.

Recommendation

4.5. *To keep the status quo in relation to the cut off for upland game, swan (relaxed season) and pukeko seasons (i.e. the last full week in August).*

4.6 Brown quail season (resolution required)

Brown quail populations in the Eastern Region may have decreased in recent years. Hunter harvest appears to be minimal, but may be an important factor in the apparent decrease. Given that we have concerns of any harvest being unsustainable, and that we have no way of determining the current status of brown populations, the prudent course of action is to not have a season until we can establish whether the population can withstand hunting.

Recommendation

4.6. *To not have an open season for brown quail in the 2020 season.*

4.7 Dumping of game bird carcasses

Dumping game bird carcasses in public areas has at times drawn the public ire. Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game has a special condition in its Second Schedule relating to the wilful dumping of game birds or their carcasses⁵. The Litter Act 1979 deems dumping litter (which includes animal remains), in any public place (which includes reserves, public recreation areas,

⁵ No person may willfully leave on the hunting ground any game bird(s) shot or parts of any game birds shot.

beaches, bank of any river etc.) to be an offence, and a Litter Control Office includes a person appointed as a Ranger (any ranger appointed pursuant to section 38 of the Wildlife Act 1953 [38(c) any servant of a Fish and Game Council to be a ranger for the purposes of this Act]).

It is not clear then what added advantage there might be in gazetting an additional regulation relating to the dumping of game bird carcasses when the offence is already covered by an Act. It is very seldom that an offender is observed in the act of dumping carcasses.

Recommendation

4.7. That unless it is shown that there are additional benefits over and above what can be accomplished under the Litter Act 1979 then the status quo remain in relation to dumping of game bird carcasses.

4.8 Transition to non-toxic shot in sub-gauges (Information only)

Restrictions on the use of lead shot in sub gauges were signalled ahead of the 2018 season, and during the main part of the 2019 season (i.e. up until 31 August 2019), the position is that compliance with these will be encouraged but not enforced. From 1 September 2019 through to 31 August 2020 however, the restrictions will apply on all open water managed by DOC or Fish & Game and will be mandatory for all waterfowl hunting over open water from 1 September 2020 onwards. This means that the use of non-toxic shot will be mandatory in DOC/Fish & Game managed lands for the proposed special swan and pukeko seasons in February 2020 and the 2020 game bird season.

APPENDIX 1: CURRENT POLICY AND CRITERIA

1. GREYLARD (Mallard and Grey Duck) POLICY

- (i) *Agreed (Barry Roderick/Ngahi Bidois) that Council re-affirms the current threshold levels, criteria, and conditions for regulation setting for grey duck/mallard, paradise shelduck and black swan. [18/11/10.16]*
- (ii) *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that the threshold levels are set at 350,000 and 450,000 such that at or below 350,000 a set of restricted conditions apply; above 350,000 and, at or below 450,000 a set of intermediate harvest regulations apply; and above 450,000 a relaxed set of conditions apply. [16/12/10.3]*
- (iii) *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that restricted conditions shall comprise a 4-week season (including Queens Birthday when appropriate) with a bag limit of 6 mallard and grey duck; intermediate conditions shall comprise a 6-week season with a bag limit of 8 mallard and grey duck; and relaxed conditions shall comprise an 8-week season with a bag limit of 10 mallard and grey duck. [16/12/10.4]*
- (iv) *Agreed (Ian Pirani/Lindsay Lyons) that Council authorises staff to make a decision on Game Season Regulations outside of policy when an issue has been flagged. [12/10/8.2]*

2. Paradise Shelduck

- (i) *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that paradise shelduck and black swan thresholds and regulations remain the status quo and are subject to January monitoring results. [16/12/10.5]*
- (ii) *Agreed (Alan Baird/Adam Rayner) that Council supports changing the “Intermediate” regulations for black swan from a daily bag limit of 2 to 5 birds (i.e, when the population is assessed at 1,000-3,000 birds) to provide more incentive to hunt swan once the mallard season finishes. [18/11/10.15]*

Threshold Criteria

Table 1: Eastern Paradise Shelduck threshold levels

| LONG TERM POPULATION TREND | SEASON |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Negative ie. population declining | Restricted |
| Zero ie. population stable | Intermediate |
| Positive ie. population growing. | Relaxed |

Table 2: Eastern Paradise Shelduck season conditions

| SEASON | Area | Specific Conditions | |
|---------------|---|----------------------------|------------------|
| | | Length (weeks) | Bag Limit |
| Restricted | A1 & A2 | 4 | 4 |
| | B2 & B1 South of true right bank Uawa River | 4 | 4 |
| Intermediate | A1, A2 | 8 | 6 |
| | B2 & B1 South of the true right bank Uawa River | 8 | 10 |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|----|----|
| Relaxed | A1, A2, B2 & B1 South of the true right bank Uawa River Mouth | 10 | 10 |
| Fixed Season condition | B1 North of the true right bank Uawa River Mouth | 10 | 20 |

3. Black Swan

Agreed (Steve Scragg/Alan Baird) that paradise shelduck and black swan thresholds and regulations remain the status quo and are subject to January monitoring results. [16/12/10.5]

Threshold Criteria

Table 3: Eastern Black Swan threshold levels

| POPULATION SIZE | TREND | SEASON |
|------------------------------------|----------|--------------|
| Low (below 1,000) | Negative | Restricted |
| Low (below 1,000) | Zero | Restricted |
| Low (below 1,000) | Positive | Restricted |
| Moderate (between 1,000 and 3,000) | Negative | Intermediate |
| Moderate (between 1,000 and 3,000) | Zero | Intermediate |
| Moderate (between 1,000 and 3,000) | Positive | Relaxed |
| Greater than 3,000 | Negative | Relaxed |
| Greater than 3,000 | Zero | Relaxed |
| Greater than 3,000 | Positive | Relaxed |

Table 4: Eastern Black Swan season conditions

| SEASON | SPECIFIC CONDITIONS (LENGTH AND DAILY BAG) |
|--------------|--|
| Restricted | No season |
| Intermediate | 8-week season with a 5-bird limit for Management Units A1, A2 and B1. 6-week season with a 4-bird limit for Management Unit B2. |
| Relaxed | 16-week season with a no-bird limit |

4. Hunting with Australasian Harriers Policy

(i) *Agreed (Mike Little/Murray Ferris) that Council approves the application submitted by the NZ Falconers Association and Wingspan to hunt Pukeko with Australasian Harriers in the Eastern Region subject to the game bird season conditions and bag limits. [13/10/8.2]*

(ii) *Agreed (Steve Scragg/Lindsay Lyons) that Council supports the proposal to allow registered falconers, who hold a game bird licence and an Authority to Handle birds from the Department of Conservation, to hunt other game bird species as listed within the Game Bird hunting regulations. [16/10/9.11] Cr Alan Baird opposed the motion.*

APPENDIX 2: PROPOSED 2020 GAME SEASON

The First Schedule below is an extract from the 2019 game season and has been included for information only. The Second Schedule has been updated to reflect the 2020 season, however some daily bag limits and season lengths are subject to monitoring.

FIRST SCHEDULE

Hunting conditions generally common to all fish and game regions

1 Bag limits

- (1) No person shall possess on any one day, more than the number of game birds specified as the daily bag limit for the Fish and Game Region in which the game is taken, except on Sunday 6 May 2018, when that person may have in his or her possession twice the number of game birds specified as the daily bag limit for Saturday 4 May 2019.
- (2) A person may possess more game than specified in sub-clause (1) of this Schedule, if all such game is labelled with the following details:
 - (a) The name and address of the person by whom the game was taken;
 - (b) The number of the licence to hunt or kill game held by the person by whom the game was taken;
 - (c) The name of the Fish and Game Region by which that licence was issued;
 - (d) The name of the Fish and Game Region in which the game was taken; and
 - (e) The date on which the game was taken.

2 Waiver of Restrictions on Baiting for Waterfowl

A person⁶ may hunt or kill game of the family Anatidae (waterfowl) during the open season for game in all Fish and Game Regions, except Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region, where food has been cast, thrown, placed or planted any time during the year. In the Second Schedule, Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region, Special Condition 4(9), applies to restrictions on baiting.

3 Magazine Shotguns

A person may hunt or kill game birds, as specified, in any Fish and Game Regions with any magazine shotgun of a calibre 10 gauge or less, which includes magazine extensions⁷, other than in the:

- (a) Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region;
- (b) Eastern Fish and Game Region;
- (c) Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Region;
- (d) Wellington Fish and Game Region;
- (e) Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Region;
- (f) West Coast Fish and Game Region.

⁶Section 17 of the Wildlife Act 1953

⁷Amended notification to section 18(1)(c) (iii) and (v) of the Wildlife Act 1953 as authorised by the Minister of Conservation under section 18(1) of that Act

For these six Regions special conditions in the Second Schedule apply.

4 Shot Size

No person shall use, in any shotgun used for the purposes of hunting and killing game, any cartridge containing any shot size having a larger retained, per-pellet energy at 90 metres than lead BB.

5 Use of Lead Shot Prohibited

(1) No person may possess lead shot, or use lead shot, while hunting or killing waterfowl within 200 metres of open water, with any gun using a 10 or 12 gauge cartridge. Non-toxic alternative shot may be used, including steel.

(2) For the purposes of this requirement, “waterfowl” means any of the following game species:

Black swan (*Cygnus atratus*);

Grey duck (*Anas superciliosa*) and any cross of that species with any other species, variety, or kind of duck;

Mallard duck (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and any cross of that species with any other species, variety, or kind of duck;

Paradise shelduck (*Tadorna variegata*) also known as Paradise duck;

Spoonbill duck (New Zealand shoveler) (*Anas rhynchotis*);

Pukeko (*Porphyrio porphyrio melanotus*).

(3) For the purposes of this requirement, “open water” means either:

(a) any area of land or seabed covered permanently or seasonally by water wider than 3 metres; or

(b) any area which is temporarily covered by water wider than 3 metres at the time of such possession or use, and that is contiguous to an area referred to in paragraph (3)(a).

6 Shotguns of a Bore Smaller Than 12 Gauge and Muzzle Loaders Exempt in Relation to Use of Lead Shot

Hunters are encouraged not to use lead shot in shotguns of a bore smaller than 12 gauge (including 16, 20, 28 gauge) or muzzle loaders within 200 metres of all waterways and wetlands for the 2019 season.

This remains voluntary in 2019 for smaller-gauge users but will become mandatory (lead shot prohibited) for the 2020 season across all Department of Conservation and Fish and Game administered lands. In 2021 lead shot will be prohibited for all licence holders (irrespective of gauge used) across all lands (public and private) hunting gamebirds within 200 metres of all waterways and wetlands.

7 Camouflaged Rowboats

A person⁸ may hunt or kill game within the following Fish and Game Regions, from unmoored camouflaged rowboats, subject to the excluded periods for the regions specified below:

Northland – no excluded period

Auckland/Waikato – excluding 4 and 5 May 2019

Eastern – excluding 4 and 5 May 2019

Hawke's Bay – excluding 4 and 5 May 2019

Taranaki – no excluded period

Wellington – excluding 4 and 5 May 2019

Nelson/Marlborough – no excluded period

West Coast – no excluded period

North Canterbury – excluding 4 and 5 May 2019

Central South Island – excluding 4 and 5 May 2019

Otago – excluding Clutha River 4 to 12 May 2019 inclusive

Southland – excluding the Matarua, Aparima, Oreti, Waiau and Waimatuku rivers and their tributaries 5 to 31 May 2018 inclusive.

8 Restriction on Taking of Game

No person shall use any vehicle propelled by mechanical power (including motorised watercraft)⁹ to chase or kill game, except in such circumstances and at such times as authorised by the Conservation Act 1987 and Wildlife Act 1953.

9 Pegging Day

- (1) Stand claimants who claimed and occupied a stand during the 2018 Game Season may claim that stand at any time prior to pegging day (up to 10.00 a.m. on 7 April 2019) following the purchase of the 2019 game licence. If you are in the Auckland/Waikato Region, then the above mentioned applies **only to Adult Whole Season Licence Holders** and does not apply to Junior Licence Holders as it does in all other Fish and Game Regions.
- (2) Otherwise, unclaimed stands can only be claimed any time after 10.00am on 7 April 2019 in all Fish and Game Regions.
- (3) A stand may be claimed by planting on it a stake having either a board or identifying label attached, plainly identifying the name of the claimant and the number of his/her licence. The hunting stand claim tag provided with the licence must be completed with the name of the claimant and affixed to the board or identifying label.
- (4) The licence holder claiming a stand must be present in person at the stand when marking it up.
- (5) No one can claim more than one stand.
- (6) A stand cannot be claimed closer than 90 metres to a stand already claimed by another person without that person's consent.

⁸Section 18(1)(f)(vi) of the Wildlife Act 1953

⁹Section 18(1)(f)(v) of the Wildlife Act 1953

- (7) Any stand not occupied by the claimant within one hour after the opening hour of hunting, on any day, can be occupied by another licence holder for the remainder of the day.

10 Conditions

These conditions will expire at the end of the open season for game specified under the Second Schedule for each Fish and Game Region.

SECOND SCHEDULE

EASTERN FISH AND GAME REGION¹⁰

1 Game That May be Hunted or Killed—Duration of 2020/2021 Season

| Species | Season Duration (dates inclusive) | Daily Bag Limit | Hunting Area |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Grey/mallard duck | 2 May to ? Jun 2020 | 8 | All areas except the Reporoa Area |
| | 2 May to 1 Jun 2020 | 4 | The Reporoa Area |
| NZ shoveler duck | 2 May to 1 Jun 2020 | 2 | All areas |
| Paradise shelduck | 2 May to ? 2020 | 6 | Area A1, A2 |
| | 2 May to ? 2020 | 10 | Area B2 and that part of B1, which lies south of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay |
| | 2 May to 12 Jul 2020 | 20 | That part of B1, which lies north of the true right bank of the Uawa River Mouth, Tolaga Bay |
| Pukeko | 2 May to 30 Aug 2020 | 10 | All areas |
| | 27 Feb and 28 Feb 2021 | No limit | All areas |
| Black swan | 2 May to 30 Aug 2020 | No limit | Area A1 |
| | 27 Feb and 28 Feb 2021 | No limit | Area A1 |
| | 2 May to 1 July 2020 | 2 | Area A2 |
| | Closed season | 0 | Area B1 & B2 |
| Bobwhite (Virginian) quail | 2 May to 30 Aug 2020 | No limit | All areas |
| Brown quail | 2 May to 30 Aug 2020 | 5 | All areas |
| California quail | 2 May to 30 Aug 2020 | No limit | Area A1 & A2 |
| | 2 May to 30 Aug 2020 | 5 | Area B1 & B2 |
| Cock pheasant | 2 May to 30 Aug 2020 | 5 | All areas excluding upland game properties with special conditions specified in clause 6 for this Region |
| Pheasant, both sexes | 2 May to 30 Aug 2020 | No limit | Upland game properties with special conditions specified in clause 6 for this Region |
| Cock pheasant | 31 Aug to 14 Sep 2020 | No limit | Upland game properties with special conditions specified in clause 6 for this Region (junior hunters only) |
| Red legged partridge | 2 May to 30 Aug 2020 | No limit | Upland game properties with special conditions specified in clause 6 for this Region |

¹⁰Reference to Description: *Gazette*, No. 83, of 22 May 1990, at page 1861

2 Definition of Areas

The following descriptions refer to Management Units within the Eastern Region (described on Infomap 242B-2 Land Information New Zealand). The Management Units are defined using both District Council and Eastern Region Fish & Game boundaries. The coastal boundaries of Management Units A1, B1 and, B2 follow the coastline as per Infomap 242-2.

- (1) **Area A1:** Tauranga District, Western Bay of Plenty District, that part of the South Waikato District within the Eastern Fish and Game region and east of State Highway 1, Rotorua District, Kawerau District, Whakatane District and Opotiki District.
- (2) **Area A2:** Those parts of the South Waikato District west of State Highway 1 within the Eastern Fish and Game region, Taupo District and Ruapehu District, which lie within the Eastern Fish and Game region.
- (3) **Area B1:** Gisborne District.
- (4) **Area B2:** That part of Wairoa District within the Eastern Fish and Game region.
- (5) **Reporoa Area:** That area bounded by Waikite Valley Road (Waiotapu) to SH 5 to Settlers Road which becomes Broadlands Roads to SH 1 (Taupo Bypass) to SH 30 to Whirinaki Valley Road (Ngakuru) to Waikite Valley Road.

3 Shooting Hours

6.15am to 6.15pm in all areas for all species during their respective seasons.

4 Decoy Limit

No limit.

5 Special Conditions

- (1) No person may hunt or kill game birds, as specified, within the Eastern region with any magazine shotgun unless the shotgun:
 - (a) has a magazine of any type adjusted with a one piece filler which is incapable of removal without disassembling the gun; or
 - (b) the magazine is pinned in accordance with Regulations made under this Act; so that the magazine shotgun is incapable of holding more than 2 shells in the magazine, with no more than 3 shells in the magazine and chamber combined, at any one time.
- (2) No maimai shall impede the use of navigable channels in the Tauranga Harbour, Ohiwa Harbour, Little Waihi Estuary, Lake Aniwhenua and Lake Taupo.
- (3) Maimais erected in the Little Waihi Estuary, Lake Aniwhenua, Ohiwa Harbour, Stump and Waihi bays of Lake Taupo must be dismantled and removed within 2 weeks of the close of the season (ie by 8 September 2020).
- (4) Any licensed game bird hunter who has a Department of Conservation permit to take or kill wildlife for the purpose of hawking may hunt with an Australasian Harrier (*Circus approximans*) to take game birds. This is subject to the season length and bag limit for game birds specified in clause 1 of this notice for this Region and subject to any condition imposed by the Director-General of Conservation under such a permit.

(5) Hunting From a Boat Under Power

No person may possess a firearm that can be rapidly deployed in or on any unmoored vessel, except (1) where the unmoored vessel is not being propelled at the time by a motorised device, or (2) the firearm is needed to retrieve wounded game. For the purpose of this rule a firearm is considered unable to be rapidly deployed if it has been dismantled or secured in a case, gunslip or other secure compartment

6 Upland Game Properties with Special Conditions

- (1) Pirini Family Trust:** The property is located 8 kilometres up the Bush Road from Pongokawa. It is bounded by Pongakawa River, Rotoehu Forest and Bush Road, Sections 4, 5 and 7 SO 7437 Block IX Waihi South Survey District. The property is leased by N. Raven.

11. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS AND OTHER POSITIONS FOR 2020

Ref: 7.02.01

19 November 2019

1. Purpose

To elect a new Chair for the Eastern Fish and Game Council, and elect or reconfirm the Council's appointee to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council along with other Eastern Fish and Game Council officers and appointments for the coming year.

2. Background

As of 31 October 2018, a new Eastern Fish and Game Council comprising 10 members took office, and on 1 November it elected a member to be its appointee to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in accordance with the Fish and Game Council Elections Regulations 1990 which state the following:

26 Appointment of members of New Zealand Fish and Game Council

- (1) The first meeting of each newly elected Fish and Game Council shall be held not later than 3 weeks after the date the members came into office.*
- (2) At the first meeting of the Council members shall appoint one of their number to be a member of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.*
- (3) The appointment shall be by majority vote of the Council.*
- (4) Members of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council shall remain in office as long as they remain members of the appointing Fish and Game Council, except that where a majority of the members of the appointing Fish and Game Council pass a resolution that a vote be taken on a new appointment prior to expiry of the term, then a vote shall be taken and the successor shall serve out the remaining period of the term.*

The member elected was Cr Lindsay Lyons who was subsequently re-appointed as Chair of the NZC by that Council.

On 1 November the Eastern Fish and Game Council also appointed its other officers for the next twelve months, a process which is undertaken annually, and confirmed the ongoing appointment of a staff member as a trustee representing Council's interests on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement (WCEET). These roles and those who were appointed then are as follows:

- Chair – Cr Murray Ferris.
- Deputy Chair – Cr David Woolner.
- Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement (WCEET) trustee – Matthew McDougall.

Murray indicated at the time that he would most likely take on and be available for the role of Chair for one year only to provide continuity while the new Council was settling in. Murray has recently confirmed that he will be relinquishing this role as of now.

The Eastern Fish and Game Council also appoints an Executive/Managers Performance and Remuneration Committee. This has specific Terms of Reference dealing with the compilation of information for the annual Manager's performance review, and also serves as an initial point of contact for the Manager in the event of issues arising that need to be addressed urgently or in between scheduled meetings of Council. The term of appointment for this Committee is three years commencing at the beginning of each Council term, in this case November 2018 to November 2021. The incumbent Councillors are Murray Ferris, Lindsay Lyons, Barry Roderick and David Woolner.

The objectives of the Waikato (WCEET) trust are detailed in an attachment to this item. Matt's role on the WCEET remains largely technical and involved with the evaluation of funding applications and acting as project manager and advisor for a number of projects. The members of the WCEET are mostly staff from agencies including Fish & Game, DOC, territorial authorities, and Mercury Energy.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Council elects or re-affirms its New Zealand Council appointee along with members of Council to fill the roles described above, and confirms the ongoing appointment of Matthew McDougall as its representative on the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust.

Trust Purpose

The Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust was established for the following charitable purposes:

- To foster and enhance the sustainable management of the ecological resources in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments;
- To mitigate adverse effects of the operation of the Hydro Scheme on the ecological environments in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments;
- To maintain and enhance indigenous biodiversity, the sports fishery and game bird populations in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments through appropriate and sustainable species and habitat management by:
 1. identifying important habitats and/or species;
 2. identifying risks and threats to those identified habitats and/or species;
 3. identifying most practicable means to ameliorate or resolve risks and threats to habitats and species in the catchment;
 4. identifying practical means to enhance important habitats and/or species;
 5. establishing an enduring and beneficial working partnership between Mighty River Power and the Trust.

Trust Objectives

Objectives of the trust are:

1. Enhancement of wetland values in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments.
2. Enhancement of indigenous biodiversity in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments.
3. Enhancement of the sports fishery and game bird population in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments.
4. Mitigation of any adverse effects of the operation of the Waikato Hydro System on the ecological environments in the Lake Taupo and Waikato River catchments.

12. DATES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 2020

Ref: 7.02.01

26 November 2019

1. Purpose

To set Council's 2020 meeting dates.

2. Background

The Council is required to meet on at least six occasions between 1 February and 31 December each year. Due to a need to supply regional feedback to the New Zealand Council on important matters such as regulation and licence fee setting, the timing of these meetings needs to fit within a national schedule. Meetings are generally held at bi-monthly intervals in February, April, June, August, October and November/December to consider, amongst other items, the topics listed in the table below. Meetings have for some time been scheduled to take place on Thursday afternoons from 12 to 3pm.

At its last meeting in October, Council discussed the NZC's proposed meeting schedule for 2020 which had been circulated to regional councils for feedback prior to being finalised on 22-24 November 2019. Council noted the impact some of the proposed dates and deadlines would have on Eastern Region's programmes, and agreed that the manager should write to the NZC highlighting issues arising from some of the NZC's dates together with the manager's proposed resolution that should work for all parties (see Papers for Information accompanying this agenda). It is understood at the time of writing that the NZC adopted the proposed amendments, and this will enable this and other regional councils to continue to operate as they have done which generally works well for all concerned.

Proposed meeting dates if Council continues to meet on a Thursday, proposed venue, and key issues for discussion. Subject to confirmation of NZC meeting dates and deadlines which have yet to be formally.

| | Date | Venue | Key Topics |
|------------|----------------------------|--------------|---|
| 1 | <i>13 February 2020</i> | Rotorua | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council Priorities• Initiate biennial review of Anglers Notice |
| 2 | <i>9 or 16 April 2020</i> | Rotorua | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• OWP – first draft plus proposed bids for contestable funds• Consider submissions on Anglers Notice |
| 3 | <i>11 or 18 June 2020</i> | Rotorua | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Licence Fees• OWP – second draft• Finalise recommendations on Anglers Notice |
| 4 | <i>6 or 13 August 2020</i> | Rotorua | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalise OWP |
| 5 | <i>15 October 2020</i> | Rotorua | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions – initial consideration• Annual Performance Report - draft |
| 6 | <i>3 December 2020</i> | Rotorua | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game Conditions – finalise recommendations |
| AGM | <i>3 December 2020</i> | Rotorua | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present Annual Performance Report |

3. Recommendation

3.1 That Council decides on the time, dates and locations at which it meets in 2020.

13. LIAISON OFFICERS REPORTS

13.1 Conservation Boards

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

13.2 Reports from Other Agencies

- Department of Conservation

13.3 Report from New Zealand Council

14. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

14.1 MANAGEMENT REPORT

26 November 2019

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

1111 River Fisheries Investigations

Upper Streams Opening – Check, Clean, Dry Promotion

The upper sections of Lake Rotorua's tributaries open to angling on 1 December. Staff will be checking angler compliance and providing advocacy messages.

Drift Dive Investigations 2019-20

This summer's drift dive programme has yet to be confirmed, but regional rivers likely to be investigated include the Ngamuwahine (Wairoa River, western BOP), a repeat of the Whirinaki, a tributary of the Wairoa (East Coast) possibly, and the upper Rangitaiki River in late February/early March 2020.

1112 Datawatch

During the first seven weeks following the season opening, a total of 95 datawatch tags have been returned and entered into the database. The sources of these tags are as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|----|
| Lake Okareka | 1 |
| Lake Okataina | 32 |
| Lake Rerewhakaaitu | 2 |
| Lake Rotoehu | 0 |
| Lake Rotoiti | 23 |
| Lake Rotoma | 5 |
| Lake Rotorua | 4 |
| Lake Tarawera | 26 |
| Lake Tutira | 2 |
| Lake Waikaremoana | |

**Datawatch returns (entered to 18/11/2019)*

With the exception of Tarawera which is 50% down on returns compared to the same approximate point in time during the 2018-19 season, returns for the other lakes over this period are similar to last year's. The nil return from Lake Rotoehu may be a reflection of the algal blooms that have been affecting the lake and discouraging recreational activity.

1113 Lake Waikaremoana

Waikaremoana Water Quality Monitoring Buoy

The Lake Waikaremoana monitoring buoy sensor chains were removed on 9 August following a period of non-transmission. These were returned to the University of Waikato for diagnosis and repair of the issue(s). It has been established that there is a broken wiper arm on one of the sensor clusters that cleans the turbidity and algal fluorometer lenses, and the controller for the temperature string appears to be unresponsive also.

1114 Lake Tarawera

Lake Tarawera Fishery Monitoring Project Update

The fourth and final collection round of benthic and pelagic samples for the Lake Tarawera food web study in association with Cawthron Institute and University of Waikato was undertaken in mid October and early November.

Acoustic Smelt Monitoring

The post-turnover acoustic transects were undertaken on 25/26 November. Windy weather delayed DOC running its monitoring programme on Lake Taupo and we had to defer our survey until this was completed before we could borrow their transceiver and transducer.

1115 Other Lake Fisheries Investigations

October 2019

The Ngongotaha trap was not operated during October 2019.

November 2019

The Ngongotaha trap was installed on 25 November.

Angler Diaries

Entries continue to slowly come in from the online angler diary scheme. The diary scheme was advertised in the 2019-20 Season newsletter along with the winner of the 2018-19 angler diary draw. To date the majority of returns are from the main lake areas that are also covered by creel surveys, although there have been some diary entries for rivers and the Waikato hydro lakes.

Lake Rotoiti Catfish Update

Bay of Plenty Regional Council's fyke netting programme using a contracted operator to fish down biomass restarted at the end of September 2019.

Shane Grayling's MSc thesis tracking movement of spawning catfish to identify spawning zones is ongoing through the 2019-20 spring- summer. It is hoped this work will allow better targeting of catfish aggregations in future.

Te Arawa Lakes Trust (TALT) head and promote a community led fyke netting programme (the Te Arawa Catfish Killas) in attempts to keep catfish biomass at a lower level in Rotoiti and Rotorua. They were recently crowned supreme champion at the NZ Biosecurity awards for their efforts.

1116 Waterfowl Monitoring

Brood Counts

Annual duck brood counts were undertaken on the coastal Bay of Plenty drainage network during October and November. Results will be reported at the next Council meeting.

1119 Upland Game Assessments

Annual pheasant call counts were conducted in Kaingaroa Forest during the first week of November. Results will be reported at the next Council meeting.

1121 Lake Fisheries Creel Surveys

Ohau Creel Survey

The Ohau Channel Fishery Panel meeting was held on 5 November. Fish & Game staff presented information from the 2018-19 Ohau Angler Creel Survey conducted by Aquatek consultants. NIWA presented smelt monitoring information, Ian Kusabs koura and kakahi monitoring, and the University of Waikato presented its boat electro-fishing survey information. It is likely only one further year of monitoring will be undertaken, as no changes to the fishery that can be directly attributable to the diversion wall have been picked up in the 13 years of data collected to date.

Winter Creel Survey 2018-19

The 2018-19 Winter Creel Survey data has been entered into a database and analysed. Report writing is underway.

Opening Day Creel Survey 2019-20

The 2019-20 Opening Day Survey information from 1 October 2019 has been entered into the opening database and analysed. Report writing will now be undertaken.

Summer Creel Survey 2019-20

A plan for the 2018-19 summer creel surveys has been put together. Surveys will be focussed on lakes Rotorua, Rotoiti, Tarawera and Okataina. and will if practicable, include visits to several other lakes. Surveys began in early October 2019 and will go through to the end of April 2020. Angling has generally been tough since the opening period with low catch rates across most lakes except Rotorua.

1123 Game Bird Hunter Survey

The game bird hunter survey was completed (see PFI). The key results were:

1. The average hours hunting¹ in the Eastern Region for the 2019 season (mean=13.4 SD=0.89; **Error! Reference source not found.**) was significantly lower than the 2018 season (mean=18.6 hours, SD=1.25; $t=98.333$, $P<0.001$).
2. Over time (1993–2019) the average hours hunting waterfowl per hunter in the Eastern Region has decreased (standardised data, $\beta_{Yr} = -0.87668$, $t=-8.222$, $P<0.0001$).
3. Average mallard harvest in 2019 (mean=6.43, SD= 0.882) was also significantly lower than the 2018 season (mean=9.09, SD=0.883; $t=61.8$, $P<0.001$). Despite this, ducks per hour hunted waterfowl was similar in both seasons (0.525 and 0.517 respectively).
4. Mallard harvest has declined over time (1993–2019). The decline in mallard harvest can be explained by fewer hours hunted rather than a year effect (standardised data; $\beta_{Hours} = 0.8201$, $P = 0.0002$; $\beta_{year} = -0.077$, $P = 0.691$).
5. Paradise shelduck harvest (**Error! Reference source not found.**) has fluctuated over time but the overall trend shows no increase or decrease ($\beta_{year} = -0.128$, $t = -0.617$, $P = 0.543$).

¹ Total hours = average hours × licence sales

6. Total harvest is a function of game bird licence sales. There is no evidence of a decrease in licence sales over time (standardised data; $\beta_{year} = -0.3, t = -0.19, P = 0.121$). However, the last two years are relatively low cf. previous years.
7. The hypothesis that when mallard populations are considered to be high licence sales would increase was tested using average mallard harvest as an index of a large mallard population. There was however no support for this hypothesis (Delta AICc for the models LS~Mallard and LS~Mallard+Year were similar to the Null model **Error! Reference source not found.**; standardised data; LS~Mallard+Year, $\beta_{Mallard} = -0.41, t = -1.417, P = 0.17, \beta_{year} = -0.69, t = -2.213, P = 0.037$).
8. Hours spent hunting upland game was similar to 2018.

1141 Hatchery Operations

Rearing ponds have been prepared for stocking during early summer 2019.

Fish locations at 18 November 2019:

| Location | Type | Qty (approx) | Comment |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Tank A | 1+Rt | 15 | Best of selection |
| Tank C | 1+ Bt | 1,650 | Liberations, various 2019 |
| Tank D | 0+ Bt | 3,000 | Liberations |
| Tank E | 0+ Rt | 1,100 | Auckland/Waikato liberation 2020 |
| Tank F | 1+ Brook, tiger | 100 | Display/sales |
| Pond 2 | 1+ Rt | 600 | Spring liberations 2019 |
| Pond 3 | 1+ Rt | 1,700 | Spring liberations 2019 |
| Pond 9/RW | 1+ Rt | 5,500 | Sales and children's fishing 2020 |

1161 Sports Fish Liberations

Spring liberations during September were as below:

Liberations, Eastern Region 27 September – 18 November 2019

| Water | Date | Mark | Tag | Species | Age Class | Number |
|------------|------------|------|-----|---------|-----------|--------|
| Rotoiti | 8/10/2019 | Lp | - | RT | 1+ | 6,500 |
| Okataina | 9/10/2019 | Lp | - | RT | 1+ | 1,000 |
| Tarawera | 16/10/2019 | Lp | - | RT | 1+ | 2,500 |
| Rotonuiaha | 30/10/2019 | Lp | - | RT | 1+ | 400 |
| Ngahewa | 12/11/2019 | Lp | - | RT | 1+ | 200 |
| Okaro | 12/11/2019 | Lp | - | RT | 1+ | 500 |
| Ngapouri | 14/11/2019 | Lp | - | RT | 1+ | 500 |

Fish were also despatched or delivered to Auckland Waikato Fish & Game, Wellington Fish & Game, Taranaki Fish & Game, NIWA, DOC Turangi, and Rainbow Springs.

HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

1211 RMA Planning

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Proposed Plan Change 9 (Water Quantity) submissions were lodged in December 2017. The Hearing was attended in March, and recommendations from the Panel were released in October 2018. An appeal was lodged in November relating to the allocation of surface water after minimum flows are reached. Following positive pre-mediation discussions, Council have proposed some amendments to address our concerns. We have good agreement in principle to resolve our appeal and are currently working through wording. The first round of mediation is scheduled in early December.

Waikato Regional Council

In March 2018 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. Council hearings begin in March 2020 and are expected to continue for several months.

Gisborne District Council

Following the conclusion of the Gisborne Freshwater Plan, it is expected that the catchment planning processes should be getting underway in the near future. Enquiries have been made to get some timeframes around dates for these processes.

Bay of Plenty Water Advisory Panel

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

Bay of Plenty Draft Regional Pest Management Plan

Bay of Plenty Regional Council's existing Pest Management Plan has recently expired and a new Proposed Regional Pest Management Plan released. Submissions on the proposed plan were lodged in November 2018 opposing the inclusion of sports fish (perch and tench) in the document. Discussions are ongoing with other parties in relation to improving the management of the accidental transfer of aquatic pests on boats and trailers in the Rotorua Lakes area.

Lakes Water Quality Society Symposium

Matt Osborne attended a symposium run by the Lakes Water Quality Society focussed on promoting and gaining support for a voluntary boat certification programme within the Rotorua lakes similar to the Lake Tahoe certification model. The Tahoe model requires boats and trailers to visit a check station to be examined for pests (weed/eggs etc) before gaining clearance to launch. Legislation currently available within NZ does not provide for these activities but a review of the Biosecurity Act will be getting underway in the New Year. Fish & Game is supportive of reducing the spread of pests into and between waterways, but believes greater effort should be put into education coupled with more targeted compliance and enforcement effort being undertaken by BOPRC and DOC Biosecurity Teams using legislation already in place. Anthony van Dorp and other staff provided input into the clean boat certification proposal at workshops and meetings prior to the symposium. Work has also been done on a standard operating procedure for Fish & Game boat use focussed on biosecurity and preventing pest transfer between lakes when operating vessels.

We will also actively be promoting boat check/clean/dry and other biosecurity messages while carrying out work on the lakes this summer.

1212 Consent Applications

| Date | Authority | Applicant | Type | Resource Involved | Action |
|---------|-----------|------------------------|---|---|---------------------|
| 25 Sept | BOPRC | TBP Investments | LUC- box culvert install in industrial site | Waitawa Stream, Lynmore, Rotorua | No concerns email |
| 26 Sept | BOPRC | B Cawte | DP- effluent irrigation renewal | Wharere Stream, Pongakawa | No action required |
| 28 Sept | BOPRC | BOPRC | LUC- rock protection wall | Ohinemutu Point, Lake Rotorua | No concerns email |
| 14 Oct | RLC | First Gas Ltd | LUC- erosion protection for gas line | Kapekape Stream, Ngapouri | No concerns email |
| 15 Oct | BOPRC | Scott Farms | DP – effluent irrigation renewal | Pongakawa Stream, Pongakaw | Ongoing discussions |
| 15 Oct | BOPRC | Rotorua Ski Club | LUC- floating wetland and slalom course | Lake Tikitapu | Approved S95E3a |
| 17 Oct | WRC | RLC | WP- urban water take | Wharepapa Stream, Reporoa | No concerns email |
| 22 Oct | GDC | Gemmells farms | LUC- temporary stream crossings for forest harvesting | Wharekopae Stream, Gisborne | Conditions imposed |
| 22 Oct | GDC | Wang Lai Forest | LUC- Forest harvest and road construction | Tologa Bay, east Coast | No concerns email |
| 29 Oct | BOPRC | WDC | DP- Whakatane urban stormwater renewal | Whakatane River - lower | No concerns email |
| 29 Oct | GDC | Dome Forest | Forest harvest and stream crossings installs | Whatatutu catchment, Gisborn | No concerns email |
| 11 Nov | BOPRC | J Swaps | Quarry operations | Tauranga quarry | No concerns email |
| 11 Nov | GDC | Trelock Forest | Forest harvest and stream crossings | Whakaauranga Stream into Pokere River, east Coast | No concerns email |
| 13 Nov | GDC | Te Karaka North Forest | Forest harvest and stream crossings | Waipoa River catchment | No concerns email |

1221 Reserves Management

Lower Kaituna WMR

Regular meetings between BOPRC, DOC and Fish & Game staff have been taking place regarding commencement of the proposed wetland expansion area in mid-January 2020. A contractor has been selected who has good wetland construction experience and has worked within the Lower Kaituna wetland previously.

Vehicle access tracks which were loaded with oxbow sediment during cleaning are now dry and maintenance/upgrade of them is currently occurring. Some upgrade to fencing and access gates in the western oxbow is also underway. Water reticulation works and pest plant spraying is programmed for February 2020.

Awakaponga WMR

Work to get the Awakaponga solar water supply system replaced, secured and running has ongoing and a new security door has been designed.

Other Reserves

Regular reserve inspections have been ongoing, and contractors have been employed to undertake water reticulation works this summer in Waewaetutuki and Awaiti. Vehicle access works have been planned for Awaiti and Bregman's, and mowing and pest plant spraying scheduled for all of the other reserves over the summer period.

Ngapouri and Tutaeinanga

Programmed release spraying of the 17,000 native plants is planned for late November, and the restoration project is progressing well, and within budget and timeframes.

1231 Respond to Landowner Requests for Assistance

One landowner site visit has been undertaken since the last Council meeting in the Reporoa area, which resulted in a significantly smaller wetland opportunity than first envisaged by owners due to Waikato Regional Council encumbrances on the title relating to "soil protection". The landowners are having further discussions with the Council to explore options and will contact us again should circumstances change.

The three wetland opportunities previously reported within the Gisborne District are ongoing and have involved landowner meetings with the GDC to clarify what works are permitted, Fish & Game's involvement being to advise on appropriate construction options for waterfowl habitat.

1232 Habitat Creation and Enhancement Projects

As a result of a keen angler contacting Fish & Game coupled with a supporting letter from the Whakatane Trout Fishing Club, investigations are underway into current maintenance activities and flood prevention works being undertaken by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Rivers and Drainage division in the Otara, Waioeka, Whakatane and Waimana rivers. All parties recognise that maintenance and flood works need to occur, but it appears that neither trout nor native fisheries habitat is being re-instated or re-created when the in-river works are being undertaken and what is being left are long sections of constructed channel with no pools/ riffle sequences or instream habitat such as rocks or logs to provide flow relief etc.

Staff are investigating resource consent and regional plan conditions, and a field inspection is planned for sites exhibiting poor practices. Preliminary discussions have been undertaken with Rivers and Drainage engineers in relation to these concerns and their "environmental code of practice" and these have been positive to date.

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION

1311 Maintain & Enhance Access

Timberland Forests' recreational access is closed for the summer fire season. Access through Hancock managed Tarawera Forest to Lake Tarawera outlet remains open by permit only issued by the Kawerau Information Centre.

Signs updates and maintenance work is under way around the region, and the main information sign for the Ngongotaha Stream in Paradise Valley has been replaced as it needed updating and a tidy up.

Annual angler access track maintenance work has been carried out in the Waioeka River system, and in the Ngongotaha Stream, Waiteti Stream, and Kaituna River in the Rotorua area.

The Putere Lakes access matter is coming to a satisfactory conclusion, with angler access and information signage due to be erected soon at Lake Rotorua. Access across private land to Lake Rotonuiaha has also been arranged on the basis of contact being made with the landowner first. Both landowners are amenable to angler access and are keen to see the lakes and fisheries used.

1313 Hunter Ballots

Applications for a hunting stand as part of the ballot are way down this year. Last year 162 hunters applied for a ballot (166 in 2017) compared to only 63 this year. The number reconfirming their stand is similar to that last year (122 cf. 119). There are a number of possible explanations for the drop off including:

- Having to hand in their shotgun as part of the firearms amnesty;
- The additional cost of partaking in the ballot due to the habitat fee;
- National Office having generated a lot of negative feedback from hunters in relation to changes to the firearms legislation and landowners having had enough of comments in relation to water quality.

We need to follow up with hunters to establish the reason they did not participate this year because if it is due to the habitat fee then we need to re-think this approach. Nevertheless, an examination of last year's ballot found no discernible churn that might be explained by the habitat fee. If it is in relation to National Office performance in the media, then this needs to be conveyed to the NZC.

1331 Electronic Newsletters

Reel Life was produced in October covering local fishing report.

1333 Fish & Game Website

Updates or changes to the Eastern Web site included Council agendas and minutes, and the upcoming kayak fishing tuition event.

1334 Social Media

13 Tweets and 16 Facebook posts were sent for the period.

1352 Angler Hunter Training

Preparation is underway for the kayak fishing event on 30 November.

1354 Fishing Competitions

Two fishing competition permits were processed.

1361 Fish & Game Club Communications

Three club visits were undertaken during the period.

1371 Fish & Game Huts

Wairua

No issues to report since last meeting. Routine maintenance was carried out at each staff visit.

PUBLIC INTERFACE

1411 Statutory Liaison and Political Awareness

The Manager met with DOC and the Kapenga M Trust Board to discuss Fish & Game and DOC's future involvement with Kapenga with the expiry of DOC's lease. Both meetings were productive, and another meeting is scheduled with the Board prior to the end of this year.

421 Public Communications

Lake Waikaremoana Genesis Consultative Meeting

The next annual Genesis Consultative meeting will be held at Tuai on Wednesday 4 December. Fish & Game staff will attend and present information from the Waikaremoana monitoring programmes underway and those proposed for the coming season. East Coast access works and Tuai lakes trout liberations will be undertaken during the same site visit.

1441 Public Promotions

Special Opening Promotion

Two trout carrying 2019 'Fish for Gold' promotional tags were caught by registered anglers within the promotional period. The fish were caught in lakes Rotoiti and Tarawera. The envelope reveal was undertaken at the Eastern Fish & Game Office on 14 October at 1pm. Neither of the envelopes matching the presented tags contained the major prizes (\$10k from sponsors and an outboard motor worth \$950 from Telfer Marine) but both anglers walked away with \$200 tackle prizes, one from Kilwell Sports and another from Outdoorsman Headquarters.

1451 Education

Two school tours were undertaken in October.

COMPLIANCE

1511 Ranging

Monitoring of late spawning areas particularly around the Lake Rotorua catchment has been ongoing and has included use of covert surveillance cameras as appropriate. This has shown some generally low scale poaching activity largely being carried out by youths. To date we have been unable to identify any of the persons involved.

The new fishing season opened without any compliance issues, and to date there has been a high level of compliance overall. Offence notices have been issued to four persons year to dates, all of whom were fishing without licence, and one for fishing in closed waters also.

Ranging has been carried out elsewhere in the region with honorary rangers making a valuable contribution to this.

Contacts: Year 2018-2019

| Month | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | Last 5 yr average |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Sept | 59 | 29 | 21 | 21 | 46 | 38 |
| Oct | 1223 | 903 | 836 | 893 | 726 | 924 |
| Nov | 20 | 62 | 69 | 20 | | 57 |
| Dec | 293 | 310 | 390 | 309 | | 339 |
| Jan | 335 | 217 | 195 | 442 | | 314 |
| Feb | 418 | 293 | 137 | 307 | | 310 |
| Mar | 253 | 191 | 199 | 180 | | 220 |
| Apl | 53 | 214 | 178 | 124 | | 167 |
| May | 272 | 292 | 226 | 252 | | 308 |
| Jun | 277 | 171 | 172 | 168 | | 198 |
| Jul | 107 | 94 | 80 | 63 | | 93 |
| Aug | 42 | 27 | 33 | 54 | | 46 |
| Totals | 3,352 | 2,803 | 2,536 | 2,833 | 772 | 2,670 |

Contacts Year to Date 2019-2020

Year to date, 772 persons have been checked for compliance, and overall compliance rate is in excess of 98%. This year, opening day surveys and contacts were down on previous years, meaning October contacts were down overall. This is likely to be largely due to poor weather conditions around opening of the season and through much of October, with windy conditions prevailing for much of the time.

North Island/National CLE liaison role

Eastern continues to have an input into a number of areas. Revision and updating of the Rangers Manual is in progress, and awaiting some pending law changes before finalisation. Eastern has provided input into the processes of, and submissions to the Arms Legislation Bill. This has included Anthony van Dorp giving an oral presentation to the Select Committee in conjunction with Wellington Fish & Game on 12 November.

1521 Ranger Training

Rangers

Honorary Rangers have been active in various parts of the region, and their contribution is especially valuable in areas such as our more remote river fisheries which staff are unable to visit as often as it would be useful to.

On a sad note, long serving ranger Brett Bosley is ill with cancer and is most unlikely to return to ranging. Brett (Bos) has given long and continuous service since 1996 as a ranger, and as well as involvement with Fish & Game has been involved with numerous other community service organisations. Staff have organised a Certificate of Appreciation to present to him in the near future.

1531 Prosecutions

Currently nine offenders have offences pending resolution, details as per the table below. Most prosecutions are being resolved via diversion processes.

Offences 2019-2020 Year:

Four persons committed five offences as tabled below.

Offence table 2019-2020 year (to 18/11/2019)

| Offence name | Number of offences |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Fishing closed waters | 1 |
| Fishing without a licence | 4 |
| Total number of offences | 5 |

Resolution of Offences 2019-2020 year

To date (18/11/2019) 15 separate offences by nine offenders are pending resolution. This includes warrants to arrest and other active matters.

The table below shows offences currently pending resolution

| Offence name | Numbers |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Fish without licence | 10 |
| Illegal tackle | 1 |
| Possess spear-gaff | 1 |
| Fish closed waters | 2 |
| False details | 1 |
| Total | 15 |

LICENSING

1612 Analysis of Licence Information

Kate Thompson continues to provide regular updates of licence sales for all regions. Additional reports have also been supplied to Robert Sowman for reporting to the New Zealand Council. She has continued to assist Steve Doughty with data extracts and information as and when required.

1621 Licence Agent Support

Administration staff continue to liaise with licence agents as required.

PLANNING AND REPORTING

1831 & 1832 Performance Report and Audit

The auditor made two visits to the office during the period and the final performance report for the 2018-2019 year was completed, signed off and despatched to Owen McLeod & Co on 20 November.

14.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Ref: 9.01.07

20 November 2019

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 plan – 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.

October/November 2019

1. Implementation and Adherence to the Health and Safety Plan

Regular (weekly) staff meetings.

Minutes from the Health and Safety portion of meeting are emailed to all staff.

Visitors required to sign register; site hazard register updated as required.

Tail gate forms were prepared for:

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1/10/19 | Ranging Opening Day – various staff |
| 8/10/19 to 8/11/19 | Brood Counts various days and various staff |
| 21/10/19 | Scuba Dive Lake Tarawera |
| 5/6/7/11/19 | Pheasant Call Survey – various days and various staff |

All Staff that attend call outs have been issued with their own Stab resistant vests. An email reminding staff regarding location of radios and to show caution at call outs.

2. Monitoring and Reporting

Work Place Accident Register

| | 20/11/2019 | 30/09/2019 |
|---|------------|------------|
| Number of Workplace injuries in 2019-2020 year | 0 | 0 |
| Number of Workplace injuries in 2018-2019 year | 1 | 1 |
| Number of Workplace injuries in 2017-2018 year | 1 | 1 |
| Number of Workplace injuries in 2016-2017 year | 2 | 2 |
| Number of Workplace injuries in 2015-2016 year | 1 | 1 |
| Number of Workplace injuries in 2014-2015 year | 1 | 1 |
| Number of Workplace injuries in 2013-2014 year | 3 | 3 |
| Total Number of Workplace injuries since 1 Sept 1995 | 35 | 35 |
| Total number of days since last lost work injury 31/8/17 | 811 | 760 |
| Total number of days prior to last lost work injury since 1 Sept 1995 | 8035 | 8035 |

Budget for 2019/20 for Health & Safety is \$2,000

3. Risk Management (identification and treatment)

Notes taken for the H&S minutes at the weekly staff meeting:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 7/10/2019 | Nil to report |
| 14/10/19 | Rotten tree by Pond 2 |
| 21/10/19 | Mark to follow up with BOC re safe use of Oxygen bottles |
| 29/10/19 | Ditto previous week |
| 4/11/19 | Take care in forest for call counts |
| 11/11/19 | Nil to report |
| 20/11/19 | Take care on roads with rain |
| | |
| | |

4. Training Programme

Boat CLE refresher 23rd September
Opening Day briefing 30th September

5. H&S Incidents

None to report.

6. Recommendation

That Council acknowledges it has received this report.

18.3 Finance Report

Ref: 8.03.01

20 November 2019

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the current financial position and approve payments for the months of September and October 2019.

2. YTD Profit and Loss

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

Income

Licence revenue is reporting to be below budget YTD (\$26,861). A more detailed record of licence sales by category and LEQs can be found within the licence sales report included within this agenda.

Revenue from other sources over the period was made up of the following; hatchery (\$35,088), fishing competitions (\$1,650), rentals (\$8,931), grazing (\$947), boat shed lease (\$478), and donations for children's fishing (\$660). Fines from prosecutions collected through the courts totalled \$918 and funds were also received from diversion processes for expense recovery and junior education programmes (\$200 and \$700 respectively). Funds have been collected for the reserve ballot habitat fee (\$1,338) and a donation which was received in the previous financial year has been accrued forward and will be utilised within this current year (\$5,000). Interest income for the Waikaremoana term investments is currently reporting as a negative (-\$2,339) as result of end of year accruals and will return to black as term investments mature.

Species Management

Population monitoring expenditure for the period related to travel expenses for the Tarawera sampling work. Within the Harvest assessment budgets batteries were purchased for fish scales and food and refreshments provided to volunteers assisting staff on the opening of the new fishing season.

Hatchery expenses for September were significant and included a bulk order of fish food from overseas supplier, (Biomar Chile) and a smaller amount from existing NZ supplier with a combined value of \$33,087. Insurance was paid in September (\$5,920), electric fence tape and standards were purchased to restrict public access to empty rearing ponds, and materials purchased for repairs to raceway screens. Coach screws and fence posts were purchased for the Te Wairoa trap and a minor expense is reported relating to electrical repairs. The usual expenses relating to rates, electricity, fuel, and oxygen are also reported. The hatchery budget is overspent \$136 YTD.

Habitat

Works and Management spending for the period relates to the Awaiti Reserve water right, pins for floodgates in the reserves, and various minor purchases of maintenance materials.

Within the Assisted Habitat output, predator traps and bait were purchased to assist a private landowner with wetland development. The Habitat output is overspent \$32 YTD.

Participation

Access spending for the period related to the purchase of a heat gun for signage, and postage for the reserve ballot mail outs. The expenses associated with the 2019-20 Fish season newsletter are reported in September (\$5,674), and minor expenses are also reported relating to the children's fishing programme, Gisborne Fly fishing tuition, and hut electricity. Within budget YTD.

Public Interface

Minimal expenditure is reported within the Public Interface output and this relates to cleaning of the public toilets which is coded to the grounds maintenance budget. Within budget YTD

Compliance

The Compliance expenses for the period related to the 0800 Poaching service and cell phone, legal fees for prosecutions, and two complimentary licences. Within budget YTD.

Licensing

The Commission budget includes agent commissions and the fees associated with the Public Online and 0800 sales. Within budget YTD.

Council

Council expenses for the period related to catering and travel expenses for the October meeting of Council. Within budget YTD.

Planning

A credit is shown within the reporting budget in September due to our year end accrual of the Audit fee. Levies were paid as budgeted in October. Within budget YTD.

Administration

Notes on individual areas:

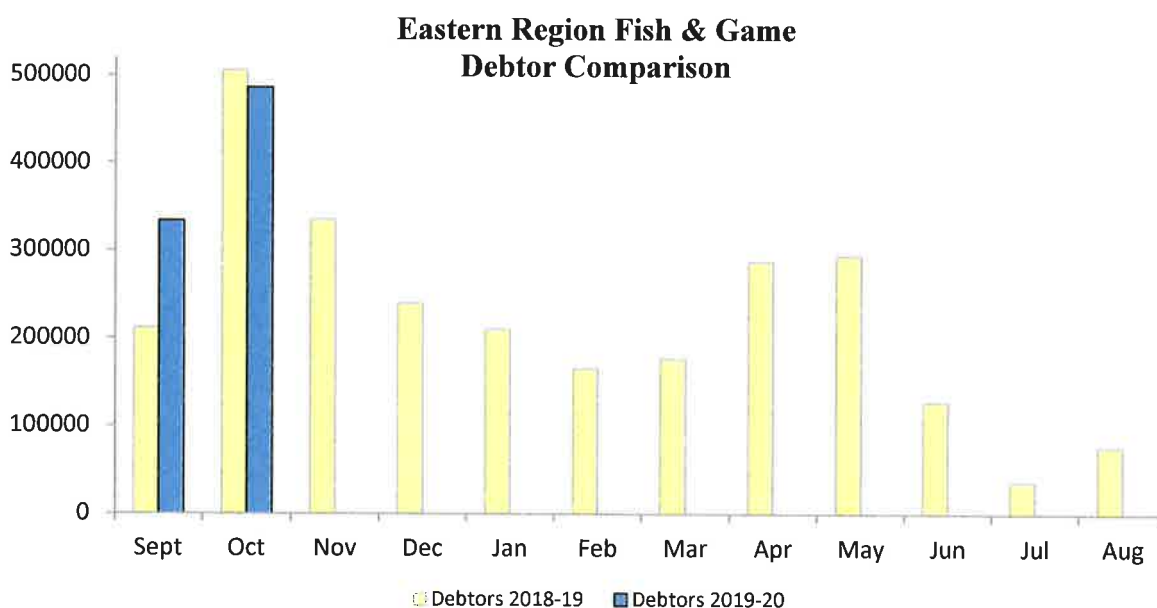
| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Salaries | Overbudget \$42 YTD. |
| Staff Expenses | An accrual for prepaid ACC levies is reported in September (\$863) and expenses are also reported for staff clothing, airfares for travel to Christchurch re hatcheries, a reference book and earmuffs. Overbudget \$44 YTD. |
| Staff Houses | Insurance was paid on the staff houses in September (\$2,533), and rates in October (\$524). A flashing was replaced on the roof of the timber house and minor costs are reported relating to plumbing materials. Within budget YTD. |
| Office Premises | Insurance was paid on the office premises in September (\$3,471) and rates in October (\$938). Electricity, rubbish removal, cleaning, and security expenses are also reported. Within budget YTD. |
| Office Equipment | The usual expenses relating to the phone system and eftpos leases are reported. Within budget YTD. |
| Communications/ Consumables | Standard communications expenses are reported for the period including phones, broadband, stationery, and photocopying. The postage expense was higher than usual at \$1,392 and this relates to an accrual from the previous financial year where prepaid envelopes were purchased ahead of a postage price increase. Computer related expenses included IT services for backup and updates, and the Survey Monkey subscription. Within budget YTD. |

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| General | Insurance was paid in September (\$7,939) covering all buildings and contents on the property not classified elsewhere. Minor expenses are also reported for bank audit confirmation reports, bank fees and morning teas. Within budget YTD. |
| General Equipment | Insurance was paid in September (\$2,676). The Walker mower and water blaster were repaired, cleaning products purchased for the boats, and one WoF and three registrations paid on trailers. Boat and field equipment fuel expenses are also reported. Within budget YTD. |
| Vehicles | Vehicle expenses for the period included insurance (\$3,345), three vehicle services, and a puncture repair, and the usual fuel costs. An accrual is reported in September relating to vehicle RUCs which were purchased in the previous financial year ahead of price increases (\$3,569). Within budget YTD. |

Cash Position: \$973,372 (includes \$80,877 for asset replacement reserve and \$455,699 for Waikaremoana Fund) as at 31 October 2019.

Debtors: Outstanding Debtors \$485,530 as at 31 October 2019 (\$505,525 as at 31 October 2018).

Eastern Region Fish and Game - Debtors Balance Comparison 2018/19-2019/20



Of the total debtors outstanding as at 31 October, \$446,382 related to licence sales of which \$304,566 has been settled to the region with the balance due early December. The remainder of the debtor balance is made up of hatchery revenue \$40,466 and various other smaller accounts. All debtor accounts are current.

Fixed Assets

There were no fixed assets purchased or sold within the period being reported.

3.0 Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance and Statement of Cashflows – Budget 2019-2020

The Public Finance Act 1989 requires that Council approves the Budget Statement of Financial Performance, Budget Statement of Financial Position, and Budget Statement of Cash flows. While this does not change any aspect of the OWP or the way we operate, it is necessary to complete this process.

Proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Performance and Cash flows are set out on the following pages. This information is directly obtained from the expenditure budget approved by Council in August 2019 and the anticipated income as determined by the New Zealand Council. The Budget Statement of Financial Performance and Budget Statement of Financial Position are prepared using PBE-SFR-A (PS) Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting - Accrual (Public Sector).

There are a number of financial adjustments necessary to move from the OWP to the Financial Statements Budget. These adjustments include licence revenue, asset replacement reserves/ depreciation, spending from dedicated reserves, levies and budgeted Capital purchases for the year. These items are not included in the Fish & Game budget (OWP), which is used to calculate licence fees.

The Budget Deficit for 2019-2020 financial year is **\$4,455**.

The following is a reconciliation of the OWP to the Financial Statement Budget:

| Reconciliation of OWP to Tier 3 Reporting | |
|--|-------------|
| Approved Budget - per OWP | (1,127,970) |
| Adjustments to Financial Budget | |
| Plus Licence Revenue | 1,406,676 |
| Plus Non Resident Licence Levy | 44,634 |
| less Commission | (63,300) |
| Less levies | (215,406) |
| Less Depreciation | (74,203) |
| Plus Net Gain on Sale | 6,856 |
| Plus ARF | 35,818 |
| Plus Waikaremoana Interest | 11,790 |
| Less Waikaremoana Spending | (9,350) |
| Less Non Resident Reserve Spending (Lake Tarawera) | (20,000) |
| Net Adjustments | 1,123,515 |
| Net Surplus (Deficit) | (4,455) |

| Asset | Budgeted Asset purchases (excl. GST) | Budgeted Asset sales (excl. GST) |
|--------------|---|---|
| 3 Vehicles | \$105,000 | \$76,000 |
| 3 Computers | \$3,000 | |
| Total | \$105,000 | \$76,000 |

Eastern Fish and Game Council
Statement of Financial Performance - BUDGET
For the year ended
31 August 2020

| | Note | Actual 2020 \$ | Budget 2020 \$ | Actual 2019 \$ |
|------------------------------------|------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| REVENUE | | | | |
| Fish and Game licence sales | 1 | 1,451,310 | 1,451,310 | 1,404,621 |
| Grants and donations | 1 | 4,750 | 4,750 | 20,803 |
| Interest | 1 | 25,388 | 25,388 | 31,450 |
| Other revenue | 1 | 162,566 | 162,566 | 214,277 |
| Total Revenue | | 1,644,014 | 1,644,014 | 1,671,151 |
| EXPENSES | | | | |
| Outputs | | | | |
| Species management | 2 | 137,850 | 137,850 | 120,779 |
| Habitat protection & management | 2 | 34,250 | 34,250 | 38,192 |
| Angler & Hunter participation | 2 | 19,950 | 19,950 | 19,330 |
| Public interface | 2 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 1,837 |
| Compliance | 2 | 7,500 | 7,500 | 7,704 |
| Licensing | 2 | 64,000 | 64,000 | 57,235 |
| Council | 2 | 9,000 | 9,000 | 4,914 |
| Planning & reporting | 2 | 9,285 | 9,285 | 8,594 |
| Overheads | | | | |
| Employee related costs | 2 | 940,632 | 940,632 | 931,343 |
| Depreciation | 4 | 74,203 | 74,203 | 74,246 |
| Other expenses | 2 | 129,393 | 129,393 | 136,160 |
| Total Expenses | | 1,433,063 | 1,433,063 | 1,400,334 |
| Operating Surplus/(Deficit) | | 210,951 | 210,951 | 270,817 |
| Less Other Expenses | | | | |
| Levies to NZFGC | | 215,406 | 215,406 | 244,143 |
| NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) | | (4,455) | (4,455) | 26,674 |

Eastern Fish and Game Council
Statement of Financial Position - BUDGET

As at
31 August 2020

| | Note | Actual 2020 \$ | Budget 2020 \$ | Actual 2019 \$ |
|----------------------------------|------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| ASSETS | | | | |
| Current Assets | | | | |
| Bank accounts and cash | 3 | 120,200 | 120,200 | 127,793 |
| Debtors and prepayments | 3 | 125,445 | 125,445 | 141,903 |
| Investments | 3 | 920,000 | 920,000 | 902,196 |
| Inventory | 3 | 146,920 | 146,920 | 146,920 |
| Total Current Assets | | 1,312,565 | 1,312,565 | 1,318,812 |
| Non-Current Assets | | | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | 4 | 743,454 | 743,454 | 778,801 |
| Investments | 3 | - | - | - |
| Forestry Asset | 3 | 131,600 | 131,600 | 131,600 |
| Total Non-Current Assets | | 875,054 | 875,054 | 910,401 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | 2,187,619 | 2,187,619 | 2,229,213 |
| LIABILITIES | | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | | |
| Creditors and accrued expenses | 3 | 171,000 | 171,000 | 207,137 |
| Employee costs payable | 3 | 131,000 | 131,000 | 132,002 |
| Total Current Liabilities | | 302,000 | 302,000 | 339,139 |
| TOTAL LIABILITES | | 302,000 | 302,000 | 339,139 |
| NET ASSETS | | 1,885,619 | 1,885,619 | 1,890,074 |
| EQUITY | | 1,885,619 | 1,885,619 | 1,890,074 |

Eastern Fish and Game Council
Statement of Cash Flows - BUDGET
For the year ended
31 August 2020

| | Actual | Budget | Actual |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | 2020 | 2020 | 2019 |
| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Cash was received from: | | | |
| Licence Sales | 1,417,148 | 1,417,148 | 1,409,075 |
| Grants, donations and fundraising | 4,750 | 4,750 | 20,803 |
| Interest | 25,722 | 25,722 | 31,574 |
| Other revenue | 156,189 | 156,189 | 229,421 |
| Cash was applied to: | | | |
| Payments to suppliers | 619,153 | 619,153 | 711,598 |
| Payments to employees | 941,634 | 941,634 | 931,768 |
| GST (net) | 811 | 811 | (828) |
| Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities | 42,211 | 42,211 | 48,335 |
| CASHFLOW FROM INVESTING & FINANCING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Cash was received from: | | | |
| Sale of property, plant and equipment | 76,000 | 76,000 | 53,134 |
| Sale of investments/deposits | - | - | - |
| Cash was applied to: | | | |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment | 108,000 | 108,000 | 83,147 |
| Purchase of investments/deposits | 17,804 | 17,804 | 15,740 |
| Net Cash Flows from Investing and Financing | (49,804) | (49,804) | (45,753) |
| Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash | (7,593) | (7,593) | 2,582 |
| Opening Cash | 127,793 | 127,793 | 125,211 |
| Closing Cash | 120,200 | 120,200 | 127,793 |
| This is represented by: | | | |
| Bank accounts and cash | 120,200 | 120,200 | 127,793 |

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 That the payments for September and October 2019 totalling \$278,022.24 be approved.

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| <i>September - Current account</i> | <i>\$143,490.47</i> |
| <i>October - Current account</i> | <i>\$132,912.61</i> |
| <i>September/October - Credit card (AG)</i> | <i>\$145.78</i> |
| <i>September/October - Credit card (LS)</i> | <i>\$1,473.38</i> |
| <i>Total</i> | <i>\$278,022.24</i> |

5.2 That Council approves the proposed budget figures for the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance and Cash flow for the 2019-2020 financial year.

14.4 LICENCE SALES REPORT

Ref: 6.01.05

26 November 2019

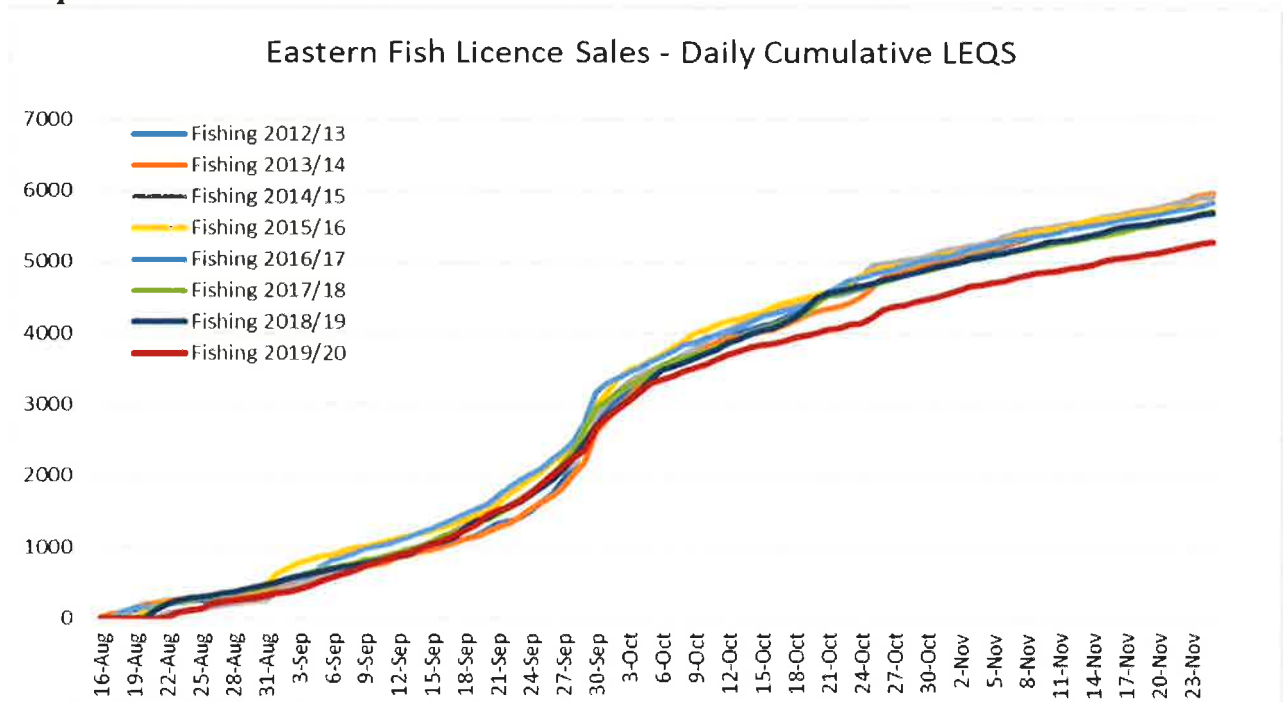
1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of licence sales for the 2019-2020 licensing season YTD to 25 November 2019.

2. 2019-2020 Fish Licence Sales

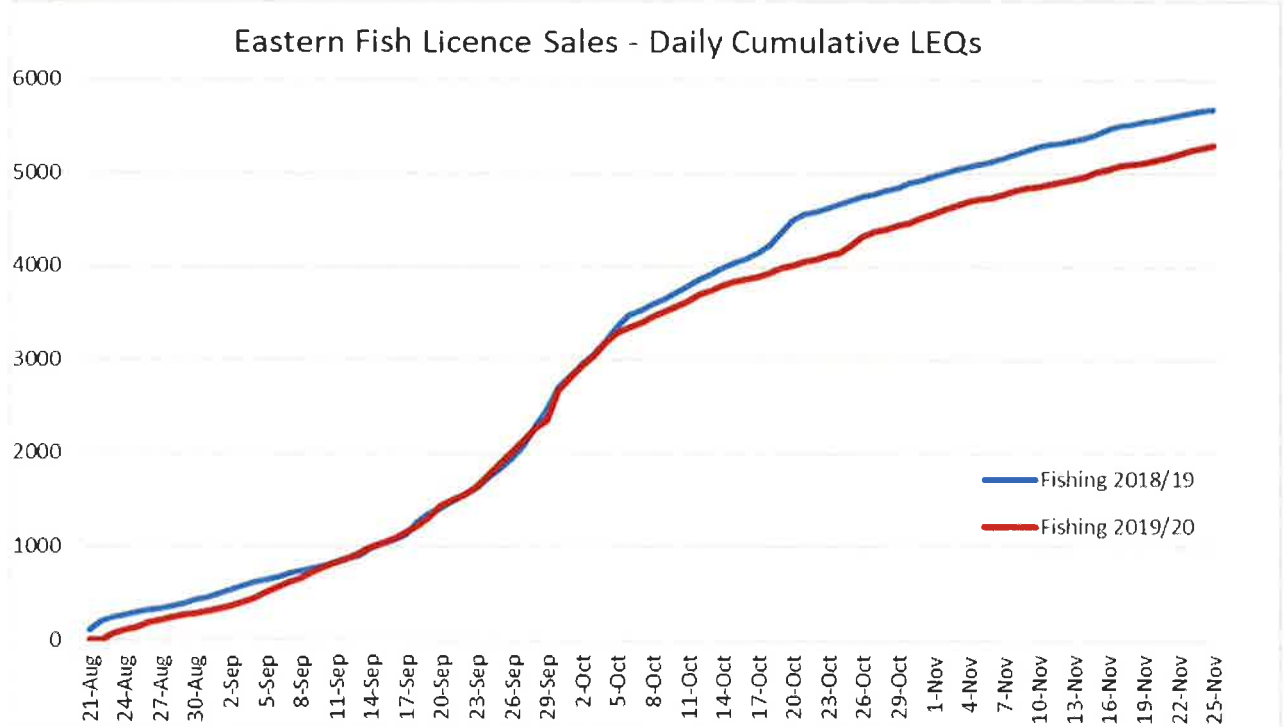
- 2.1 Fish Licence sales for the 2019-20 season comparison against the 2018-19 season are summarised in *Table One* (last page).
- 2.2 The 2019-20 fish licence LEQs YTD are 7.0% behind the 2018-19 season results for the same period. 53.6% of the annual sales target has been achieved for the season to 25 November 19.
- 2.3 Nationally at the same date YTD fish licence sales are reporting to be 2.7% below sales reported for the same period during the 2018-19 season.
- 2.4 Daily cumulative LEQs are shown in *Graph 1*. Total LEQs as at 25 November for the 2019/20 Season were 397 below those recorded for the same period during the 2018/19 Season.

Graph 1



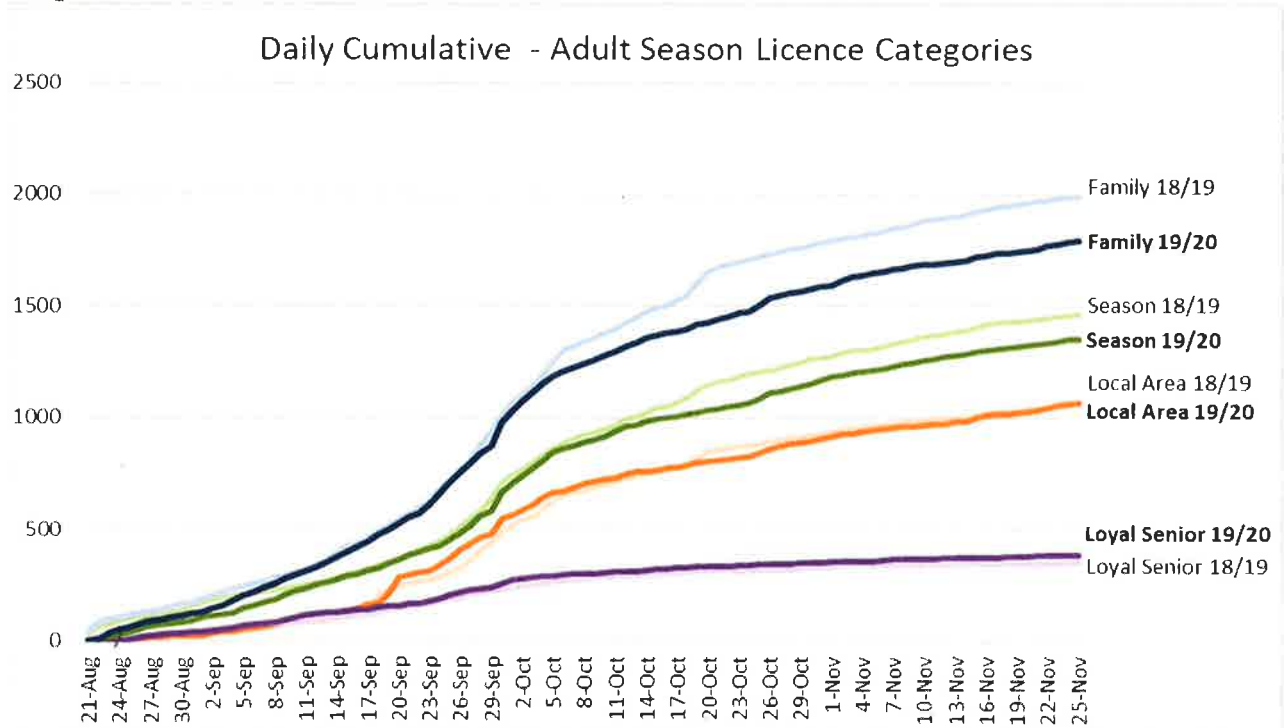
- 2.5 The variance against the 2018-19 Season can be more clearly seen on *Graph 2* which shows the gap between the seasons becoming evident in the week following opening and continuing to grow for the next two weeks. Previous declines in the Region's licence sales have tended to be gradual whereas what is being seen here is a much more significant decline than what has been seen in recent years.

Graph 2



2.6 Family and Adult Season licence sales have been impacted more significantly by this recent decline and account for 92% of the total YTD LEQ variance with Family licence sales falling by 256 licences and Adult Season 109 licences YTD (refer Graph 3).

Graph 3

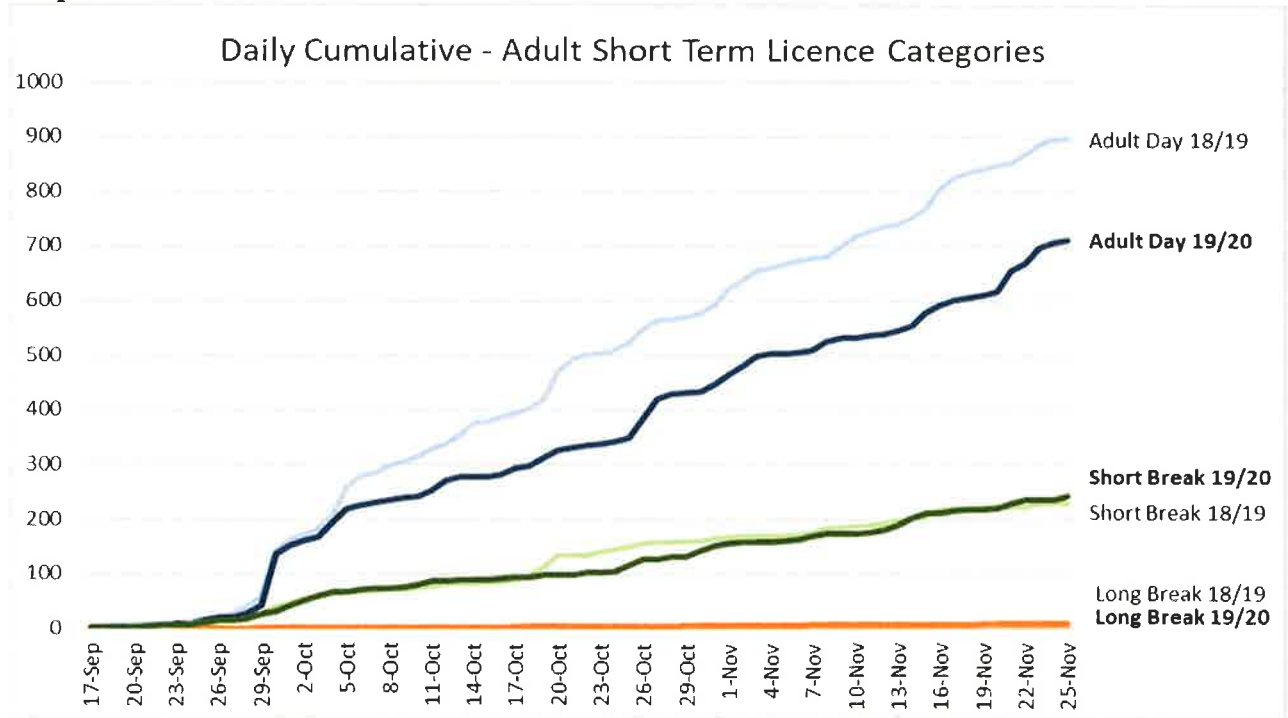


2.7 On a more positive note the Loyalty Senior category continues to remain constant with a small increase seen this season YTD (34). This may be due to more of our loyal customers moving into the eligible age bracket for this licence type or it could be that

we are seeing the effect of retaining customers due to the need to repurchase annually to remain eligible for the **Loyal Senior** category (refer Graph 3).

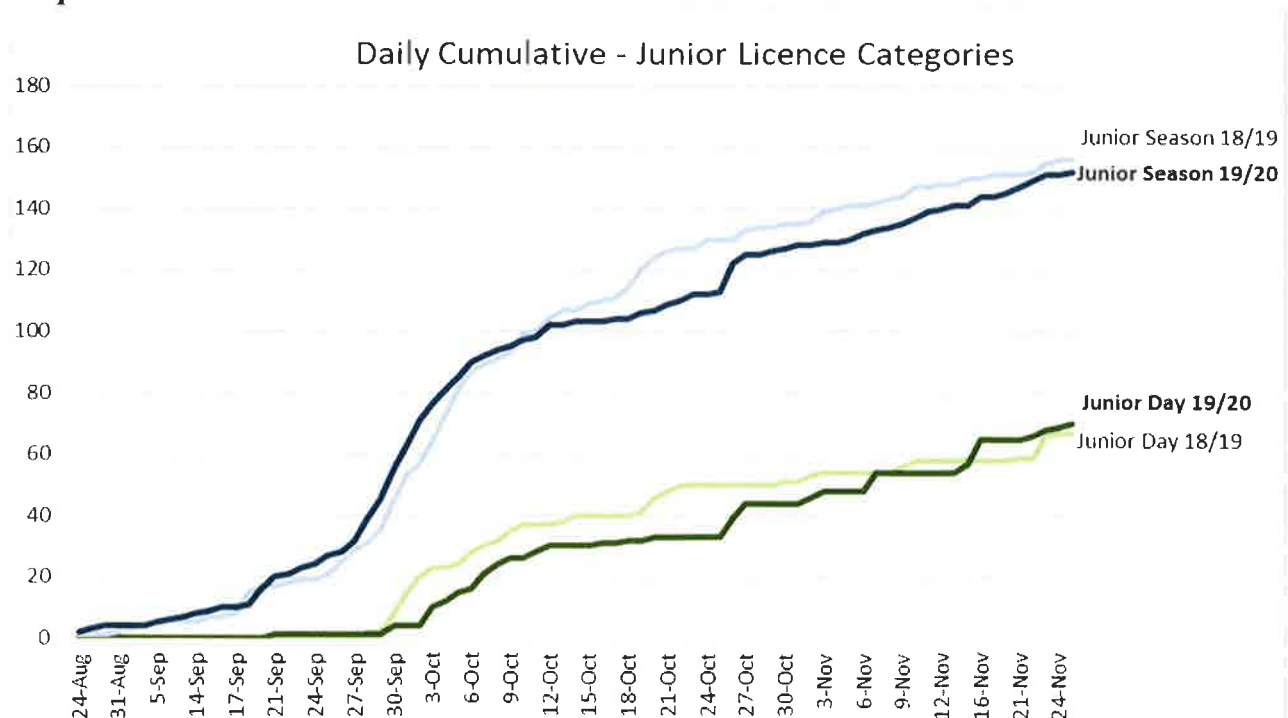
- 2.8 The Short Break and Long Break types are slightly ahead of the 2018/19 YTD results and while the numbers are showing an increase by a mere 17 licences this represents 81 days angling. Day licence sales on the other hand have not fared so well at 185 licences down on last season YTD (refer Graph 4).

Graph 4



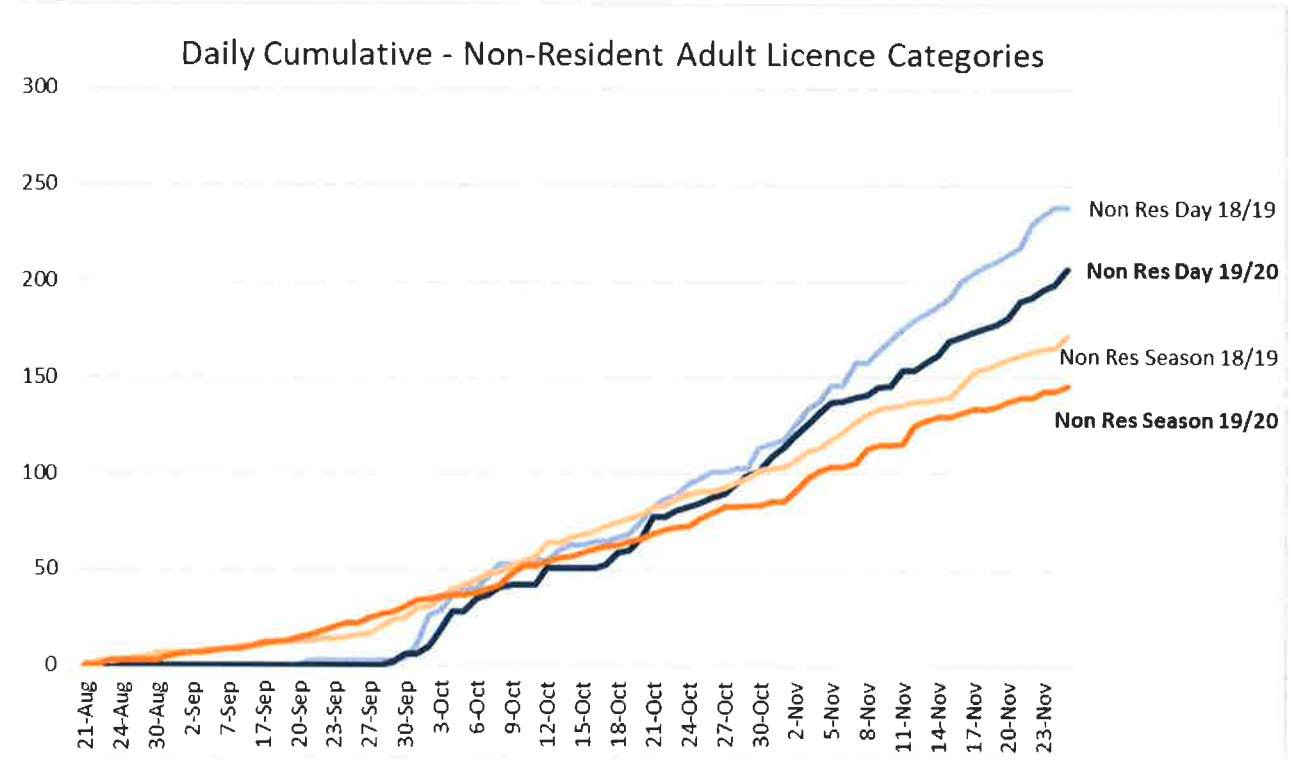
- 2.9 Minimal variance is shown within the Junior categories with Season sales down by just four licences and Day sales up by three (refer Graph 5).

Graph 5



2.10 The Adult Non-Resident Season and Day categories are also down on 2018/19 results YTD (26,32 respectively). Nationally four regions are ahead of last season while the other eight are down with the net result for the country being down by 111 Season and 191 Day licences YTD (*refer Graph 6*).

Graph 6



2.11 Some additional work is required to identify what may be contributing to this result and this will be reported at the meeting.

Table One

Fish Licence Sales 2019/20 vs 2018/19 Seasons YTD to 25 November 2019

| Channel | FWF | FWA | FWNA | FSLA | FLAA | FWIA | FLBA | FSBA | FDA | FDNA | FWJ | FWNJ | FDNJ | FWC | FWNC | FDNC | Total Fish |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|
| Agency Online | 1138 | 810 | 95 | 206 | 760 | 0 | 5 | 126 | 480 | 122 | 102 | 3 | 40 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3,891 |
| Public Online | 846 | 651 | 77 | 136 | 298 | 0 | 1 | 105 | 414 | 117 | 54 | 3 | 27 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 2,734 |
| Eyede Call Centre | 9 | 3 | 0 | 11 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 |
| Total YTD 2018-19 | 1993 | 1464 | 172 | 353 | 1063 | 0 | 6 | 231 | 897 | 239 | 156 | 6 | 67 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 6,656 |
| Agency Online | 1065 | 795 | 64 | 238 | 779 | 0 | 3 | 106 | 294 | 120 | 98 | 10 | 27 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 3,609 |
| Public Online | 718 | 558 | 81 | 143 | 280 | 0 | 8 | 131 | 414 | 87 | 54 | 4 | 43 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 2,526 |
| Eyede Call Centre | 13 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 34 |
| Total YTD 2019-20 | 1796 | 1355 | 146 | 387 | 1061 | 0 | 11 | 243 | 712 | 207 | 152 | 14 | 70 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 6,169 |

Summary LEQs YTD to 25 November 2019 (Whole Season Licence Equivalent)

| Season | Fish LEQ | Fish Var | Fish \$ | Inc/Dec |
|---------------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Total YTD 2018-2019 | 5,689 | | \$643,049 | |
| Total YTD 2019-2020 | 5,292 | -7.0% | \$612,030 | -\$31,020 |

2019-20 Summary YTD Actual vs Total Budget

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|-------------|
| 2019-20 Annual Budgeted FISH LEQs | 9,866 | 100.0% | \$1,141,024 |
| 2019-20 YTD Actual | 5,292 | 53.6% | \$612,030 |
| Remaining to meet budget | -4,574 | -46.4% | -\$528,994 |

Estimate of Complete Season 2019-20 vs Total Budget 2019-20

| | | | |
|--|-------|--------|-------------|
| 2019-20 Budgeted FISH LEQs | 9,866 | 100.0% | \$1,141,024 |
| 2018-19 Complete Season FISH LEQs | 9,894 | | \$1,118,452 |
| 2019-20 Est. year end based on YTD variance | 9,204 | 93.3% | \$1,064,500 |
| Est Shortfall/Surplus 2018-19 Season vs Budget | -662 | -6.7% | -\$76,524 |

Resident Licence Categories

FWF – Family Season, FWA – Adult Season, FLSA – Loyal Senior Season, FLAA – Local Area Season, FWIA – Adult Winter Season, FLBA – Adult Long Break, FSBA – Adult Short Break, FDA – Adult Day, FWJ – Junior Season, FDJ – Junior Day, FWC – Child Season

Non-Resident Licence Categories

FWNA – Adult Season, FDNA – Adult Day, FWNJ – Junior Season, FDNJ – Junior Day, FWNC – Child Season, FDNC – Child Day