



AGENDA

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

26th September 2026

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

**A Meeting of Council will be held at the Waikato Deer Stalkers Hall, Wairere Drive,
on Saturday 26th September 2026 commencing at 11.00am.**

AGENDA

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* Denotes attachments

** For decision.

N. Juby,
Chairman
11/09/2026

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME



Minutes of a Meeting of Council
held at the Deerstalkers Hall Wairere Drive
Saturday the 25th of July 2026 commencing at 11.09am

PRESENT:

Chairman: N. Juby
Councillor's: S. Smith, G. Annan E. Williamson, O. Kent, A. Brown, P. Dell, A Sapich,
D. Cocks, M. Barker.
Staff: D. Klee, M. Osborne, C. Robertson

APOLOGIES:

G. Dickey, B David

ABSENT: T Clarke_

that apologies be accepted.

Annan/Smith– CARRIED

1. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

None

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE 21st OF MAY 2026:

that the minutes of the meeting of the 21st May 2026 be accepted as true and correct record.

Annan /Brown – CARRIED

3. MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE 28th OF MAY 2026:

that the minutes of the meeting of the 28th May 2026 be accepted as true and correct record.

Dell /Williamson – CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Access and Controlled Fishery: The Chair and Chief Executive updated Council on the official opening of the Stone Jug Road property, noting that the event had been a significant success. The Minister was highly complementary of the initiative during his speech and

acknowledged the innovative work being undertaken by the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council to secure long term public access to freshwater fisheries.

The Chair and Chief Executive also advised that constructive discussions had been held with DOC, mana whenua, adjoining landowners and other stakeholders regarding opportunities to improve public access to additional sections of the Whakapapa River. The concept of establishing a controlled fishery had been socialised with key parties, although no further feedback had been received at this stage.

The Chair further reported that discussions with DOC regarding restoration of public access via Intake Road had progressed, with a decision expected in the near future.

Publicity: Councillor Brown advised that he had received positive feedback regarding the recent social media post highlighting compliance activities undertaken by staff. Council noted that the post had been well received and provided a positive opportunity to showcase the important work undertaken by Fish and Game officers across the region.

5. INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE

Letter From NZC Chair: Council noted that it disagreed with a number of the assertions made in the NZC Chair's letter and considered its circulation to be unhelpful at a time when considerable uncertainty already existed due to the ongoing organisational reform process. Council was concerned that the letter had the potential to create additional anxiety and uncertainty amongst regional staff.

Council also noted the apparent inconsistency of regions being asked to make significant budget reductions and consider staff cuts, while New Zealand Council Office had continued to expand its staffing levels and engage a substantial number of consultants and contractors.

Letter from Sia Aston (DOC): The CE highlighted the needs for Councillors to remain politically neutral in election year.

6. OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE

Chairs letter to the Minister: The Chair updated council on the meeting he and the CE had with the minister and subsequent positive engagement.

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BI-MONTHLY REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

7.1 Bi-monthly Chief Executives Report

Hampton Downs Landfill: Hampton Downs Landfill: Councillor Williamson noted that odour issues associated with the Hampton Downs Landfill had, on occasions, affected nearby Fish and Game wetlands and queried whether the current resource consent application adequately addressed those effects.

Ms Robertson advised that Fish and Game had reached a settlement with the applicant prior to the hearing. While odour effects had not formed part of Fish and Game's submission, she undertook to confirm the extent to which odour management had been addressed through the consent conditions and report back to Council.

Lake Karapiro Fishing Competition: The Chair and Mr Osborne updated Council on the recent children's fishing competition held at Lake Rotoroa, Hamilton. The event attracted 180 registered participants, demonstrating the strong public interest in family fishing events. However, catch rates were low, with only seven fish landed during the competition.

The Chair noted that the level of public participation highlighted an opportunity to hold a similar event at Lake Karapiro, particularly in light of the recent establishment of perch in the lake. While the introduction of perch was unfortunate, Council noted that, now the species was present, there was merit in actively managing the fishery. Perch are relatively easy for children to catch, are regarded as good table fare, and encouraging recreational harvest may assist in reducing population growth and the risk of stunting.

Council discussed working with the Hamilton Anglers Club and the Te Awamutu Fish and Game Club to undertake some preliminary scouting to identify locations where catch rates were likely to be high, thereby maximising the success of any future community fishing event.

Financial Report: The Chair and Chief Executive presented the financial report, noting that licence sales continued to track strongly within the Auckland/Waikato region despite national sales remaining below the previous year. Based on current trends, Auckland/Waikato was expected to be the only region to record year on year growth in both fish and game bird licence sales.

The Chief Executive also presented a new customised balance sheet developed to provide Council with a clearer picture of its financial position throughout the year. The report separately identifies the balances held within each reserve category, enabling Council to more accurately monitor unrestricted General Reserves, restricted reserves, the Asset Replacement Fund, and dedicated reserves.

The Chief Executive highlighted that, during the previous financial year, Council's unrestricted General Reserves, excluding restricted reserves, the Asset Replacement Fund and dedicated reserves, were below the 30% policy threshold for all but one month of the year. The new reporting format would provide improved transparency and enable Council to better monitor reserve levels and inform future financial decision making.

It was moved;

That the bimonthly Chief Executive and financial reports be accepted.

Williamson/Smith – CARRIED

- Council rose for lunch at 1.10pm
- Clare Robertson left the meeting.
- Council reconvened at 1.45pm

8. AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH AND GAME COUNCIL FINANCIAL RESERVE POLICY

The Chair and Chief Executive presented the proposed Financial Reserves Policy. It was noted that, despite the region consistently achieving its licence revenue budgets and operating within approved expenditure, Council's unrestricted General Reserve position has continued to become more constrained despite the region meeting revenue targets (licence sales) and remaining within budget.

The Chief Executive advised that the proposed policy was based on the current National Budget Policy circulated by NZC Chief Executive Corina Jordan last year as the operative national budget policy. That policy establishes General Reserve targets of between 30% and 50% and recognises separate reserve categories, including Historical Reserves, General Reserves and Asset Replacement Reserves. Historical Reserves are defined as funds generated from the sale of an asset or accumulated for, or dedicated to, a specific purpose over time.

It was noted that, while NZC's current budget methodology includes Asset Replacement Funds and funds dedicated for specific purposes when assessing a region's reserve position, the adopted National Budget Policy identifies these as separate reserve categories. Council considered that the proposed Auckland/Waikato policy better reflected the intent of the National Budget Policy by separately identifying unrestricted General Reserves from funds that have been dedicated for specific purposes or set aside for asset replacement.

Council noted that the proposed Auckland/Waikato policy builds upon that framework by providing a more contemporary methodology that better reflects the region's financial risks and seasonal cashflow profile.

Councillor Barker noted that, given the significant seasonal fluctuations in Council's cashflow and reserve balances, a General Reserve equivalent to 30% of annual operating expenditure at the start of the financial year would not necessarily be sufficient to keep the region in a positive cash position throughout the year. The Chief Executive clarified that the policy intends to maintain General Reserve above the 30% minimum threshold throughout the financial year. In practice, this would require reserve levels to be closer to 50% at the beginning of the financial year to accommodate the seasonal drawdown that occurs before the majority of licence revenue is received.

The Chief Executive further advised that Council had been raising concerns regarding the increasingly compromised nature of its General Reserve position for a number of years, including seeking formal arbitration with NZC during the 2023/24 financial year. That request was declined, and levies were further increased meaning council has not had the ability to restore its reserves position. Given Council's current financial position, restoring the General Reserve to the proposed minimum threshold may take several years. The policy therefore recognises that temporary reductions below the minimum threshold may occur during the financial year due to the timing of licence revenue and NZC levy payments, provided appropriate governance oversight is maintained, and reserves are forecast to recover.

Councillor Barker noted that maintaining unrestricted General Reserves equivalent to approximately six months of operating expenditure was common financial practice in organisations he had been involved with. By comparison, the proposed policy provides for approximately four months of operating liquidity and should therefore be regarded as a conservative minimum rather than an excessive reserve target.

Council further noted that its current financial position, whereby it is required to rely on the Overseas Angler Fund and Asset Replacement Fund to manage operational cashflow and maintain day to day operations, was neither sustainable nor consistent with sound financial

management. Council considered that funds dedicated for specific purposes or future asset replacement should not be relied upon to finance normal operating activities or seasonal cashflow requirements.

Council considered that the policy would provide a clearer and more transparent framework for monitoring Council's financial resilience, improve governance oversight of reserve management, and better distinguish unrestricted operating funds from reserves that have been dedicated or restricted for specific purposes.

It was moved;

That Council Adopts the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Financial reserves policy.

Barker/Cocks – CARRIED

9. NZC BUDGET PROCESS LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND AUCKLAND/WAIKATO 2026/27 BUDGET

The Chair updated Council on the recent NZC meeting he attended, advising that his presentation appeared to be well received. It was particularly pleasing to note that advisors to the Minister were in attendance.

Council discussed the report, and the Chief Executive advised that, since it had been prepared, the Minister had approved a \$2 increase in the adult licence fee.

The Chief Executive confirmed that, aside from the proposed budgets, no additional information had been provided by NZC to address the matters previously raised by Auckland/Waikato. In particular, the email sent to NZC Chief Executive Corina Jordan on 23 June 2026, which reiterated a number of questions raised through the formal budget consultation process, remained unanswered. No further responses had been received regarding Council's previous budget consultation feedback.

The Chief Executive advised that staff had undertaken a further review of the draft budget to identify additional cost savings where possible. While a small number of further efficiencies had been identified, Council noted that some expenditure, including essential office maintenance to address ongoing building leaks, may need to be deferred in order to maintain a balanced budget. Council expressed concern that continued deferral of essential maintenance and investment was not sustainable and reflected the increasing financial constraints facing the region.

It was moved;

That Council

- 1. Notes the contents of this report.***
- 2. Notes that preliminary feedback has already been provided to NZC by the Chair under delegated authority previously granted by Council.***
- 3. Endorses Auckland/Waikato's preliminary feedback and strengthens that feedback consistent with the matters outlined within this report and previous feedback.***

4. *Reaffirms that Auckland/Waikato supports a financially sustainable Fish and Game and acknowledges that a licence fee increase may be necessary where supported by transparent financial information, equitable funding arrangements and sound governance.*
5. *Reaffirms that Auckland/Waikato does not support the proposed budget on the basis that NZC has not adequately explained:*
 - *the methodology used to determine Auckland/Waikato's levy;*
 - *the basis for the proposed increase;*
 - *how levy revenue will be redistributed;*
 - *how Auckland/Waikato's reserve position has been considered; or*
 - *how the proposal aligns with NZC's financial policies.*
6. *Notes that the adopted Auckland/Waikato Financial Reserves Policy establishes the framework within which future levy obligations should be considered.*
7. *Delegates authority to the Chair and Chief Executive to determine the Councils budget, levy quantum and timing to ensure consistency with Council's adopted Financial Reserves Policy and communicate this as required to NZC and external parties.*
8. *Delegates authority to the Chair and Chief Executive to finalise Auckland/Waikato's 2026/27 Budget and Operational Work Programme following confirmation of national funding allocations, licence fee outcomes and levy obligations.*
9. *Notes that the completed Budget and Operational Work Programme will be presented to Council for formal adoption at the September 2026 Council meeting.*

Williamson/Smith – CARRIED

10. LAKE ARAPUNI TRIPLOID TROUT

Mr Osborne presented a high-level summary of the report. The Chief Executive thanked Mr Osborne for the considerable time and effort he had invested in compiling, validating and cleaning the underlying data, noting that this had significantly improved the quality and reliability of the information presented to Council.

Council noted that tag return data demonstrated sterile trout had significantly lower catch rates than diploid trout, with no measurable growth advantage. The report concluded that the results did not support any future stocking of sterile trout into Lake Arapuni.

Staff advised that the annual spawning survey was scheduled to be undertaken the following week. Previous surveys had identified significant flood damage to spawning habitat, with only a single spawning trout observed. Council noted that, given the current moratorium on stocking, continued monitoring of natural recruitment would be important, as any sustained reduction in spawning success could lead to declining populations and catch rates over time.

Mr Osborne further advised that relying solely on data from a single annual fishing competition was unlikely to provide sufficiently robust information to assess overall fishery performance. Staff would investigate establishing an angler diary programme to supplement existing monitoring and provide more comprehensive long term data on the fishery.

11. MOU WITH EASTERN F&G COUNCIL

Council discussed the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the Eastern Fish and Game Council and expressed its support for the initiative. The Chair and Chief Executive advised that the MOU would formalise the collaborative relationship that already exists between the two regions, providing a structured framework for cooperation. Council noted that the arrangement would enable both regions to better leverage the specialist skills and expertise of staff, improving organisational capability and efficiency while delivering benefits to licence holders.

It was moved;

that the MOU between the Eastern Fish and Game Council and Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council be adopted

Smith/Brown– CARRIED

12. HEALTH AND SAFETY AND WELLBEING REPORT

It was moved;

that the H&S&W report for June 2026 is accepted.

Sapich/Smith– CARRIED

13. GENERAL BUSINESS

Merit Certificates: Councillor Annan noted that a number of longstanding Fish and Game Honorary Rangers were due to retire and suggested that Council consider recognising their contribution through the presentation of Merit Certificates. Councillor Cocks further noted that several longstanding members of the Dean Wetland Committee were also retiring and considered that their significant service to the region should likewise be formally acknowledged.

It was moved;

That Merit Certificates be presented to longstanding Honorary Rangers and other volunteer contributors upon their retirement or conclusion of service, in recognition of their significant contribution to Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game and the management

of the region's fisheries, game bird resources and public access opportunities.

Annan/Cocks– CARRIED

Whakapapa Fishing Regulations.

The Chief Executive and Chair updated Council on a discrepancy that had recently been identified between the Auckland/Waikato Sports Fishing Regulations booklet and the New Zealand Gazette in relation to the downstream Whakapapa River sports fishing season. The Chief Executive advised that the issue came to light after staff became aware of an angler fishing the river during what the regional regulations booklet identified as the closed season. Subsequent enquiries established that while the Auckland/Waikato regulations booklet records the downstream Whakapapa River season as 1 October to 30 June, the New Zealand Gazette records the same reach as being open all year.

Council was taken through the chronology of events leading to the discrepancy. It was noted that Council had completed its statutory three yearly review of the Sports Fishing Regulations during 2025, including public consultation, consideration of submissions, and a formal Council resolution adopting the regulations for the 2025 to 2028 period. As part of that process, Council resolved to maintain the downstream Whakapapa River season as 1 October to 30 June.

Following Council's resolution, Auckland/Waikato identified that the draft Anglers' Notice and proposed Gazette did not accurately reflect Council's decision and requested that NZC amend the Whakapapa River season before publication, along with two other corrections. Although it was initially understood that the Minister had already signed the Notice, Council was advised that NZC subsequently worked with the Minister's Office to have the requested amendments approved. Two of the three requested amendments were subsequently incorporated into both the Gazette and the Auckland/Waikato regulations booklet. However, while the Whakapapa River amendment was correctly reflected in the Auckland/Waikato regulations booklet, it does not appear to have been incorporated into the Gazette.

Council noted that the result is that the Gazette and the Auckland/Waikato regulations booklet now contain different season dates for the same reach of river.

Staff contacted New Zealand Fish and Game Council immediately after the discrepancy was identified. The Chief Operating Officer advised that, as the Minister had already approved the 2026/27 Anglers' Notice, Auckland/Waikato would need to request a formal amendment to the Anglers' Notice. He advised that this would require Auckland/Waikato Council to pass a resolution at a publicly notified Council meeting where the item was put on the agenda, requesting the amendment, following which the request would be considered by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council at its August meeting. If approved by NZC, the amendment would then be submitted to the Minister's Office, referred to the Department of Conservation for advice, and, if approved, published by way of an amendment to the New Zealand Gazette. The Chief Operating Officer also advised that the associated gazetting costs would be charged to Auckland/Waikato.

The Chief Executive advised Council that he had responded to NZC noting that Auckland/Waikato had already completed the full statutory process during the 2025 three yearly review, including public consultation and a formal Council resolution, and that the issue did not appear to be the absence of a Council decision, but rather that Council's approved regulation had not been accurately reflected in the Gazette despite the error being identified during the review process. This error had then translated through the

current year where council and staff had sought no change from existing regulations, under the assumption that these were correct.

It was moved;

Council reaffirm its previous resolution setting the downstream Whakapapa River season from 1 October to 30 June, noting that this decision had already been made through the statutory regulation review process in 2025 and subsequently approved by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council. Council considered the current situation to be the result of a clerical or administrative error during publication rather than a new policy decision which unfortunately transferred through to this year's gazette.

Council resolved that the Chair and Chief Executive write to the Minister's Office seeking that the discrepancy be rectified and advising that all statutory requirements, including public consultation and Council resolution, had already been completed. The letter would request that the Gazette for the 2027 season be amended to accurately reflect Council's existing resolution and clarify that the downstream Whakapapa River was only gazetted as being open during the current season as a result of the apparent publication error.

Smith/Cocks– CARRIED

Access Fund.

Council noted that the rural property upstream of Toa Bridge, providing access to one of the premier trout fisheries within the Auckland/Waikato region, is currently on the market. Discussion was held regarding the potential use of the dedicated non-resident reserve to support the acquisition of this property, or other strategically important properties that secure permanent public access to premier trout fisheries.

Council noted that when the licence was introduced, one of its key purposes was to generate additional funding for the improvement, protection and management of New Zealand's internationally significant backcountry fisheries, recognising that overseas anglers derive significant benefit from these fisheries and should contribute to their long-term management.

It was moved;

That Council notify the New Zealand Fish and Game Council of its intention to utilise the Auckland/Waikato Non Resident Angler Dedicated Reserve to acquire strategically important properties that secure permanent public access to premier trout fisheries within the region, and that the Non-Resident Angler Dedicated Reserve be transferred into Council's Angler Access Fund to facilitate those acquisitions and associated access initiatives.

Williamson/Smith-CARRIED

Council moved into publicly excluded at 3.11pm

It was moved;

That the public be excluded from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting pursuant to section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, on the grounds that the public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7 of the Act.

The subject matter to be considered was:

- ***Confidential financial and organisational matters relating to regional budgeting and staff remuneration.***

The general nature of the information to be considered was:

- ***Information subject to legal professional privilege***
-

The reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter is:

- ***To maintain legal professional privilege pursuant to section 7(2)(g) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987; and***
- ***To protect the privacy of natural persons pursuant to section 7(2)(a)***

Dell/Smith – CARRIED

It was moved;

That Council move out of publicly excluded session.

Smith/Annan – CARRIED

Council moved out of publicly excluded session at 3.43 pm.

The following resolutions were brought out of publicly excluded session:

It was moved;

That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair, be delegated authority to utilise up to \$20,000 of the salary savings realised during the current financial year as a discretionary fund to recognise and reward staff for their outstanding performance and their willingness to undertake additional responsibilities and workload during the period of maternity leave cover.

Dell/Brown – CARRIED

The meeting closed at 3.45pm

**Bi-Monthly Chief Executive's Report
September 2026**

OUTPUT 1: SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Project 1111: Drift Diving

***Combined 2026 Drift Diving Report
Executive summary***

Drift dive surveys are conducted annually to ensure fish populations can sustain the current bag limits and to detect catastrophic collapses of the fish population requiring emergency closures. Events like chemical spills, large storms, slips, volcanic eruptions, droughts and heatwaves can cause trout populations to collapse. Long term monitoring also allows Fish & Game to improve the management of streams by looking at increases or declines in trout populations corresponding with land use change or management actions such as fencing and riparian planting.

Drift dive surveys were successfully conducted on the Awakino and Waihou Rivers and also undertaken on the Mangatutu Stream, but with water clarity below the recommended 3.5m the data has not been written into the report. (Table 1.1). Fewer monitoring dives were conducted during the 2026 summer due to regional staffing changes. Drift dives were conducted from mid-December 2025 to mid-February 2026. Drift dives were able to be undertaken in low flow conditions. There were no significant recruitment failures or population failures observed amongst the Auckland/Waikato Streams monitored during the 2026 drift dives. However, the flood that occurred in the Awakino River on 15 October 2025, was one of the largest ever recorded and had the potential to catastrophically affect the trout population given historical monitoring post floods of this magnitude within the Awakino catchment.

Table 1.1. Drift dive study reach elevation, trout >30cm (previous legal size) counted per kilometre, mean number of fish counted per kilometre during the previous three surveys, water temperature and water clarity during the last dive. Figures for rivers not monitored during 2026 shaded grey.

	Whakapapa	Awakino	Mangatutu	Waihou	Waitawheta	Kauaeranga
Elevation (m)	580	150	100	100	180	150
Fish km ⁻¹	37	29	31	18	8	3
Mean fish km ⁻¹	29	59	19	33	7	5
Dive Temp (°C)	8	15	16	14	16	19.8
Water clarity (m)	6	4.1	3.7	5.4	4	8

Project 1112: Banding/Shoveler Study

At the start of August, David, Dani and Beau conducted the annual Shoveler survey. Matt McDougall, who runs the national project, has been quick to supply a draft of the national report, which suggests that the population is stable.

Grey Teal Paper to NZC

A paper presented to NZC on grey teal contained serious factual inaccuracies and gave Council members a misleading account of the monitoring and research undertaken by regional councils. Most concerning was the claim that game bird harvest levels are not calculated for the North Island and that requests for North Island regions to provide information for national reporting had not been met, leaving NZC unable to provide information reportedly requested by the Minister.

This is demonstrably incorrect. All regions collect harvest information through the national system, and Auckland/Waikato calculates annual harvest estimates to inform its regulation recommendations. Auckland/Waikato staff have also committed considerable time and expertise to cleaning and consolidating historic North Island harvest data and working collaboratively with other regional staff to improve the national dataset. A national harvest report containing national estimates was prepared and circulated in April 2026.

At no point did NZC write to the regions seeking the information reportedly required by the Minister or coordinate a process to produce it. It is therefore unacceptable for the paper to attribute the perceived lack of national reporting to regions failing to provide information. This unfairly reflects on staff who have made a substantial effort to assist NZC, and improve national reporting.

The paper also made sweeping and unsupported criticisms of regional game bird monitoring that were largely unrelated to the grey, teal proposal itself. It suggested that species were not being adequately monitored and that differences between regional methodologies represented deficiencies. This reflected limited subject matter understanding and failed to recognise basic but important distinctions between absolute population estimates, indices of relative abundance and population trends. Each provides different information and should be assessed against the management question it is intended to answer. The absence of an absolute national population estimate does not mean a species is not being monitored effectively.

I asked the author to formally retract and correct the inaccurate statements before the paper was relied upon further. I understand that this request was declined, leaving serious factual and technical concerns unresolved and an inaccurate account of regional performance before NZC.

The matter also reflects a broader organisational culture in which regional expertise and contributions are too often undervalued. Staff have contributed substantial time and expertise in good faith to improve national data and reporting. Responding by disregarding that work and attributing the remaining challenges to regional failure damages trust and risks undermining the cooperation needed to achieve meaningful national improvements.

Project 1121: Fish Harvest Survey

Lake Arapuni Spawning tributary monitoring

Matt, Beau and Bruno undertook a second scouting inspection of several Lake Arapuni Spawning tributaries on the 27th of July. This monitoring event was immediately following rain that could have provided the impetus for trout to enter the tributaries.

The Makomako Stream reconnaissance as with the earlier June monitoring resulted in no fish being sighted within the stretch of stream that is passable to trout up to the falls. The bed material is still moving and reshaping within the stream.

Within the other documented spawning area 'Tributary C', approximately 1km of the stream was traversed prior to reaching the end of useful passage (stream became steeper than trout could bypass).

One large recently dead brown trout was encountered in the lower 50m of Trib C. A total of 33 rainbows were sighted within Trib C on the 27th of July. No tagged trout (either diploid or triploid from the sterile trout liberation period) were sighted during the survey. Paired up trout were encountered regularly up to the farm bridge crossing. Many of these looked like they had been in the stream for some time and appeared to have already undertaken spawning. Beyond the crossing bridge, only 3 more trout were sighted including 2 right up at the top of the counting stretch – proving that trout can get passage beyond potential restrictions up to the top of the stretch.

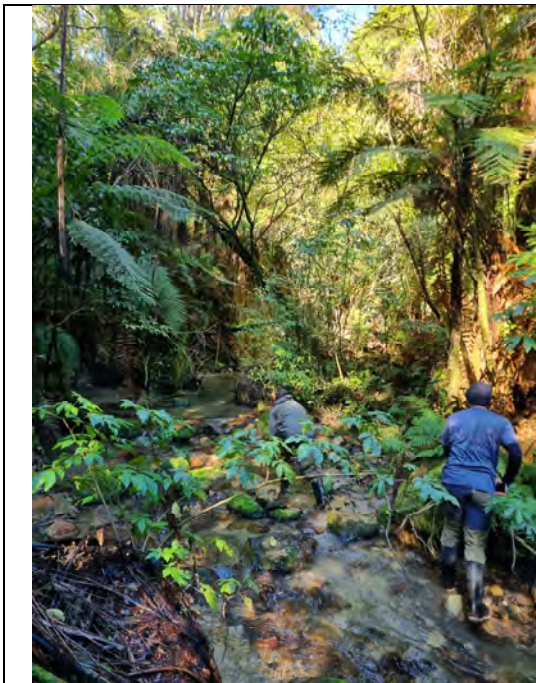


Image 1. Spotting fish in Trib C



Image 2. Paired up spawning trout in Trib C.

Angler Satisfaction Survey

On 21 July, an email was sent to all Auckland/Waikato full season sportfish licence holders. The survey was designed to gather information and feedback on five key areas.

- 1) Angler satisfaction regarding the current season
- 2) Angler feedback on the recent regulation changes
- 3) Angler feedback on access issues
- 4) Angler feedback on the Fishing Access Map
- 5) Angler experiences fishing the stocked Auckland lakes

After one month, we received 217 responses. Beau and Matt have analysed this data for a report to council. We intend to use the information collected to inform staff workstreams, e.g., priority access issues.

Project 1122: Game Harvest Survey

Dani and Beau have continued to work on the gamebird harvest surveys with the help of Dani's sister. As of now, we are up to survey period six of seven. As is standard for the latter surveys, we have been asking about band returns.

Project 1161: Fish Releases

There is one remaining trout release due to occur within 2026 for Quarry Lake and this will be undertaken during September. This will be scheduled just prior to, or at the start of the school holiday period so that it may be advertised on social media and provide interest and involvement for the local community.

Project 1181: Game Bird Control

Dani and Beau have continued to issue a number of exemptions/permits to not use shotguns and shoot the birds on the ground (but which require people to have a gamebird licence or be an owner-occupier and follow all other gamebird regulations) for nuisance non-huntable gamebirds during the season.

Auckland Airport Visit: Auckland Airport Black Swan Management

Danielle and I met with Auckland Airport's Airfield Operations team to discuss black swan management and gain a better understanding of the operational challenges associated with managing bird strike risk. The visit included a tour of the airfield and provided valuable insight into the scale and complexity of wildlife management within an active international airport.

It was encouraging to see the significant progress that has been made on the Airport's Black Swan Management Plan. The draft framework includes management thresholds, escalation triggers and agreed management responses, which should provide greater clarity, consistency and transparency for all parties involved. Council staff expressed their support for the approach and offered to assist with the plan's finalisation where appropriate.

Auckland Airport intends to update the plan to include a dedicated stakeholder communications framework and has indicated it will re-engage with Fish and Game in late August or early September to discuss the proposed approach ahead of the higher risk spring and summer period. While recognising that some operational aspects of the plan will remain confidential, the Airport has acknowledged the value of providing Fish and Game with visibility of the overall management framework to support Council governance and maintain a collaborative working relationship.

Following the meeting, Council provided Auckland Airport with the contact details of contractors that have previously undertaken smaller scale swan culls and botulism recovery operations. The Airport is considering trialling this approach during spring and early summer as an additional management tool before determining whether larger scale control operations will be required later in the season.

Natural Resource Permitting Reforms

At very short notice, I was asked by NZ Fish and Game Council to review proposed provisions in the draft Natural Environment legislation relating to wildlife approvals.

The review identified that the proposed legislation would enable regional councils to issue wildlife approvals authorising activities affecting game birds where associated with a natural resource permit. While these powers are currently exercised by the Director General and we issue them under delegated authority, the draft legislation contains no requirement for regional councils to consult the relevant Fish and Game Council before issuing approvals affecting game birds. Nor does it require councils to have regard to Fish and Game's statutory management responsibilities, policies or technical advice.

I recommended that, if Parliament intends regional councils to exercise these powers, the legislation should include appropriate safeguards. These include mandatory consultation with the relevant Fish and Game Council, a requirement to have regard to Fish and Game's statutory functions, management policies and technical advice, prioritisation of non-lethal management measures before lethal control is authorised, limits on approval duration, restrictions to prevent approvals being used as de facto out of season hunting permits, and mandatory notification and reporting requirements to support effective compliance and game bird management. These recommendations were provided to NZ Fish and Game Council for consideration and inclusion in its submission to the Parliamentary select committee.

[Project 1116: Botulism/HPAI](#)

David and Beau have been working on a regional HPAI preparedness plan, which will complement the national HPAI preparedness plan.

OUTPUT 2: HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT

[Project 1211: RMA](#)

Matarangi Wastewater Treatment Plant – Consent Decision

Clare submitted on the Matarangi Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge consent in The Matarangi Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge consent has been granted following the reconvened hearing process. The decision confirms that the principal environmental concerns related to water quality, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus inputs and the potential for nuisance macroalgal growth in the Mapauriki Stream and Whangapoua Harbour. The Commissioners accepted the revised Environmental Management Plan and adaptive management framework, which provides for environmental monitoring, trigger values, response plans and staged increases in discharge volume.

Of particular importance to Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game, the decision specifically addresses the potential effects of the wastewater treatment plant on waterfowl and the associated risk of avian botulism. Fish & Game had withdrawn its right to be heard subject to an Avian Botulism Management Plan being incorporated into the consent conditions. The Commissioners confirmed that the proposed Botulism Management Plan adequately manages this potential effect.

The final consent includes a specific requirement under Condition 31 for an Operations and Management Plan to be prepared within six months of successful commissioning of the new wastewater treatment plant. The OMP must include an Avian Botulism Management Plan that takes into account feedback from Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game. The AMP must provide a framework for remedying or mitigating adverse effects associated with an avian botulism outbreak at the treatment plant and must include, as a minimum, monitoring methods and response actions to be implemented in the event of an outbreak.

Consent and Planning Advice – Constructed Ponds

Clare has been working with a keen hunter who contacted Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game regarding a consenting issue associated with two constructed ponds on his property which is a small airfield for vintage aeroplane enthusiast and has undergone a consented subdivision.

The matter relates to an existing resource consent and a subsequent Council abatement notice requiring the reinstatement of areas of earthworks and removal of the ponds. A review of the relevant consent, variation decision and abatement notice identified that the key issue is not that ponds are inherently prohibited on the property, but whether the earthworks undertaken to create the ponds complied with the existing consent and whether retaining the ponds creates additional environmental effects.

From a Fish & Game perspective, particular consideration has been given to the potential freshwater, wetland and habitat values provided by the ponds. The ponds may provide benefits including waterfowl habitat, aquatic habitat, flood storage and water-quality functions. Consequently, there is a question as to whether compulsory removal and reinstatement of the site would necessarily result in a better environmental outcome.

Clare has advised that there may be a potential pathway to retain the ponds, subject to appropriate engineering, flood-risk and ecological assessment. Rather than relying on an argument that the ponds were already authorised, the preferred approach is to establish whether the existing landform can be appropriately managed and authorised through a resource consent process.

Engagement with the landowner has also focused on clarifying the specific planning and consent provisions relied upon by Council, including the extent of the approved earthworks and the basis for requiring reinstatement. The potential flood and overland-flow effects associated with retaining the ponds are also being considered, particularly given the property's proximity to the Kourawhero Stream.

Project 1221: Council Land

Dani asked me to report that there have been some earthworks on Cocks Wetland.

Project 1235: Trees

Beau dropped off some of the remaining trees to a landowner in Matamata.

OUTPUT 3: PARTICIPATION

Project 1361: User group

Matt, Bruno and Beau helped contribute to a perch “hunt” in collaboration with the Hamilton Anglers Club. We developed an info and data collection sheet for the event that will allow anglers to report areas where they are catching (or not catching) fish, their length/weight, etc. Unfortunately, this hunt was postponed due to weather, but we will look to go ahead before the “Perch Pro”, which is expected to take place in late November / early December.

OUTPUT 4: PUBLIC RELATIONS

Project 1431: Liaison Advocacy

Beau attended a HPAI workshop for the Waikato. This was a useful opportunity to meet other people working in HPAI preparedness in our region and at a national level, and to learn about what they are doing in their own areas to be prepared for and to respond to outbreaks.

Project 1442: Public Awareness/Advocacy

Hunting and Fishing NZ, Cambridge Branch are holding a local area trout fishing promotion for families and information evening on the 27th of September. Staff are liaising with the store to provide information and ensure that public/ licence holders/ potential licence holders are able to better understand and access the sport fisheries.

Beau also supported Eastern for a day at the 4x4 Hunting/Fishing Expo in Rotorua, where he helped with weighing fish for the “Big Four” competition they run.

OUTPUT 5: LAW ENFORCEMENT

Project 1511: Ranging

Three Auckland/ Waikato Fish and Game Rangers undertook their CERT Course refresher training in Rotorua on the 8th of August. Two honorary rangers were unable to make this date and will need to be fitted into another course at an appropriate time before they are able to undertake ranging activities, they may however accompany warranted staff in a support capacity.

Project 1531: Prosecutions

Clare has continued progressing prosecution matters arising from the 2026 opening weekend. The prosecution process has been running smoothly, with matters being progressed in accordance with Fish & Game's enforcement and prosecution procedures.

Where diversion has been considered appropriate, offenders have generally complied with the requirements of their diversion agreements. Payments and other agreed outcomes have been completed, allowing the associated charges to be withdrawn. This approach continues to provide an opportunity for offenders to take responsibility for their actions while achieving an appropriate and timely enforcement outcome.

Three prosecution matters are currently progressing through the Court process, with the first appearances for both offenders scheduled for September. Preparation of the relevant prosecution documentation and supporting evidence is underway ahead of these appearances.

The continued management of these matters is contributing to a consistent and effective approach to enforcement, with diversion being utilised where appropriate and prosecution pursued for matters where a formal Court response is warranted.

OUTPUT 9: ADMINISTRATION

Project 1979: OSH

Staff Training

Clare, Bruno and Roslyn attended a one-day outdoor first aid training course held at the Hamilton gardens.

MOU signing

On the 25th of August the Auckland Waikato team travelled to Rotorua to visit the Eastern Region office for an important and positive day of collaboration. The visit included the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two regions, formalising our commitment to working together and strengthening the relationship between the teams. It was a great opportunity to come together, share ideas, and build on the strong connections between the regions.

Following the signing, each team member spent time meeting with staff from the Eastern team. These meetings provided an opportunity to discuss current work, share knowledge and experiences, and strengthen communication and relationships across the teams. Overall, it was a very successful and

productive day, with everyone coming away with a greater understanding of each other's roles and a strong sense of collaboration moving forward.



D. Klee
Chief Executive

Financial Report for September 2026 Meeting

Reporting period: 1 July to 31 August 2026

Licence Sales

Fish: While it is still early in the new fishing licence season, Auckland/Waikato fish licence sales as at 31 August were 2.8% ahead of the same time last year. This is an encouraging early result, although sales remain at a relatively early stage and will continue to be monitored as the season progresses.

Game: Auckland/Waikato game licence sales finished the 2025/26 season 2.8% ahead of the previous year. Licence equivalent sales increased from 6,206 to 6,378, while revenue increased by \$16,647 to \$615,659.

Auckland/Waikato was one of only two regions nationally to record positive growth in game licence sales. National game licence equivalent sales decreased by 3.5% from 30,580 to 29,525 and finished 3.5% below budget. National game licence revenue was \$2,849,793, which was \$103,869 below budget.

Revenue

Access negotiation income: Income of \$217.40 was received from the issue of forest access permits during July and August. These permits continue to provide controlled public access to Council forestry properties while recovering a portion of administration costs.

Mitigation income: Income of \$7,419.39 was received from Winstone Aggregates. This income relates to agreed mitigation arrangements and is offset against the associated programme expenditure.

Interest income: Interest income of \$5,049.42 was received from Westpac investments and operating accounts during the reporting period. Interest continues to provide a useful supplementary revenue stream from Council cash holdings.

Prosecution fines: A total of \$703.20 was received through the Ministry of Justice from fines arising from successful Fish and Game prosecutions.

Expenditure

Population monitoring: Expenditure of \$3,633.57 was incurred on traps, lures, batteries and cage repairs supporting the banding and shoveler research programme.

Fish releases and surveys: Fish release expenditure totalled \$2,301.76 for 250 rainbow trout purchased from Eastern Fish and Game and associated oxygen supplies. A further \$1,796.25 was spent on waders required for fish survey work.

Game bird harvest surveys: Expenditure of \$560.00 was incurred completing the fifth and sixth game bird harvest surveys for the season.

RMA: RMA expenditure totalled \$7,830.00. This comprised \$6,210.00 of planning support for the Whangamarino Weir consenting process and \$1,620.00 associated with Healthy Rivers work.

NZ Fish and Game levy: The final levy instalment for the 2025/26 financial year of \$55,298.28 was recorded in August in accordance with the agreed levy schedule.

Office maintenance: Office maintenance expenditure totalled \$6,680.81. The principal item was \$6,073.91 for a compliant 450 litre outdoor flammable substances cabinet. The balance related to lawn mowing, alarm monitoring and a dehumidifier.

Office and communications: General office expenditure totalled \$738.67 and covered routine subscriptions, memberships and consumables. Telephone and internet expenditure totalled \$3,609.15, including replacement mobile phones and field communications equipment.

Field and office equipment: Field equipment maintenance totalled \$448.66. Equipment purchases totalled \$2,579.28, primarily for staff mobile, hearing protection and binocular equipment. Minor office purchases totalled \$319.13 for monitors and a docking station.

Vehicle costs: Vehicle fuel and road user charges totalled \$8,020.28, including \$5,980.28 for road user charges across three vehicles. Vehicle maintenance totalled \$1,895.38 and vehicle registration expenditure was \$248.44.

Balance Sheet and Reserve Position

As at 31 August 2026, Council held \$427,423.45 in bank accounts and \$1,300,000 in term investments. Accounts receivable were \$2,484.30, comprising current amounts due from Eyede Solutions and New Zealand Fish and Game Council. There were no overdue receivables.

Operational General Reserves were \$145,872.80 at year end. The balance sheet also records approximately \$102,000 in unpaid liabilities, largely comprising the Game Bird Habitat Trust levy and NZC levy. Once these liabilities are taken into account, Council's effective Operational General Reserve balance is approximately \$43,000.

Following further correspondence and a meeting with Corina Jordan, Chief Executive of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, she acknowledged the need to restore Auckland/Waikato's reserves. This is encouraging following three years of correspondence from Auckland/Waikato highlighting its declining reserve position and the associated financial and operational risks.

NZC's initial estimate is that Auckland/Waikato's reserves should be restored to between approximately \$180,774 and \$271,161, representing 20% to 30% of the Council's approved bulk funding allocation of \$903,870. Based on Auckland/Waikato's effective reserve position, NZC has provisionally estimated that a top up of between approximately \$137,774 and \$228,161 may be required.

NZC has indicated that it is leaning toward the upper end of this range given Council's seasonal cashflow requirements and the need to maintain sufficient reserves to support operational delivery and manage unforeseen financial risks.

However, NZC's preliminary calculation does not fully align with Auckland/Waikato's adopted Financial Reserves Policy. Council's policy requires Operational General Reserves to be maintained at a minimum of 30% of total approved operating expenditure, including the NZC levy. On this basis, Council's current minimum reserve threshold is approximately \$342,146.

In discussions with NZC, I suggested that, because of Auckland/Waikato's strongly seasonal revenue profile, an appropriate reserve level may need to sit closer to 50% of annual operating expenditure. Corina acknowledged the importance of maintaining sufficient reserves to manage seasonal operational delivery and unforeseen financial risks. She also noted that she retains reserves equivalent to 50% of the Game Animal Council's budget for these reasons.

While this does not represent agreement that Auckland/Waikato's reserves should be set at 50%, it supports the need for further discussion about an appropriate long term reserve level. The proposed top up should therefore be regarded as an important initial step toward restoring Council's financial resilience rather than a complete or final solution.

NZC has also acknowledged that Auckland/Waikato's reserve position could be supported through an agreement on the timing of levy payments. Aligning significant levy payments more closely with the receipt of game bird licence revenue would assist with seasonal cashflow and reduce the risk of reserves falling below minimum thresholds during the year.

Further discussions with NZC are required to agree the amount and timing of the initial reserve top up, establish an ongoing reserve restoration plan and determine an appropriate long term reserve level that supports Council's seasonal work programme and provides sufficient protection against unforeseen financial risks.

Consistent with Council's Financial Reserves Policy, Dedicated and Restricted Reserves are reported separately and should not be treated as available for ordinary operating expenditure or short term cashflow.

Budget Performance

Total expenditure was \$1,044,950 against a budget of \$1,122,783, representing an expenditure underspend of \$77,833. Total income included within the budget comparison was \$177,460 against a budget of \$243,800, which was \$66,340 below budget.

This resulted in a net cost of \$867,490 compared with the budgeted net cost of \$878,983, representing a provisional net surplus against budget of \$11,493. Further year end reconciliations and accounting adjustments are required.

Overall Position

The provisional year end financial result is positive, with Council currently reporting a net budget surplus of \$11,493. While further reconciliation is required, this indicates that expenditure was effectively managed within the overall approved net budget.

However, Council's effective Operational General Reserve balance remains at approximately \$43,000 once unpaid liabilities are taken into account. This is materially below both Council's reserve requirements and the preliminary range identified by NZC as necessary to support operational delivery and manage financial risk.

NZC has acknowledged the need for a reserve restoration plan and has provided an initial estimate that Auckland/Waikato may require a reserve top up of between approximately \$137,774 and \$228,161. Given the Council's strongly seasonal revenue profile, NZC has indicated that a top up toward the upper end of this range may be appropriate.

Discussions with NZC will continue to determine the appropriate reserve top up and agree the timing of future levy payments. Any arrangement should ensure that Council maintains adequate liquidity throughout the year, including during the period when reserves are most constrained, rather than assessing reserve adequacy only immediately after licence revenue has been received.

BUDGET 2025/26				ACTUAL 2025/26 (as of 31/08/2026)				
Project	Expenditure	Income	Net Cost		Expenditure	Income	Net Cost	Variance
SPECIES MANAGEMENT								
POPULATION MONITORING								
Drift diving	3,520	1,500	2,020		1,986	-	1,986	(34)
Banding/shoveler study/wetlands study	16,500	1,000	15,500		19,659	4,362	15,297	(203)
Aerial transects	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
Trend counts	7,500	-	7,500		5,946	-	5,946	(1,554)
Fish surveys	2,000	2,000	-		1,883	-	1,883	1,883
Gamebird Research	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
HARVEST ASSESSMENT								
Gamebirds	2,000	-	2,000		1,980	-	1,980	(20)
RELEASES								
Fish	16,000	7,300	8,700		14,701	-	14,701	6,001
CONTROL								
Gamebirds (zon guns)	1,000	1,500	(500)		2,143	3,068	(925)	(425)
HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT								
RESOURCE MAN. ACT								
R.M.A	5,000	-	5,000		46,066	40,970	5,096	96
FISH & GAME PROPERTIES								
Council Land-maint,grass,fence,spray,	26,500	21,000	5,500		41,245	13,854	27,391	21,891
Rates	1,000	-	1,000		351	-	351	(649)
NON COUNCIL LAND								
Non Council Land	100,000	100,000	-		306	-	306	306
MRP & Genesis mitigation monies	75,000	75,000	-		77,667	77,667	-	-
Trees	10,000	8,000	2,000		8,955	-	8,955	6,955
ASSESSING & MONITORING								
Assessment & Monitoring	1,000	-	1,000		-	-	-	(1,000)
PARTICIPATION								
ACCESS								
Access negotiation	20,000	20,000	-		11,365	11,365	-	-
Signs/tracks etc	2,500	-	2,500		1,773	-	1,773	(727)
NEWSLETTERS								
Magazine/Newsletters	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
OTHER PUBLICATIONS								
Pamphlets	200	-	200		-	-	-	(200)
PUBLIC PROMOTIONS								
Displays/promotions/PR	500	-	500		442	-	442	(58)
BUDGET 2025/26				ACTUAL 2025/26 (as of 31/08/2026)				
Project	Expenditure	Income	Net Cost		Expenditure	Income	Net Cost	Variance
COMPLIANCE								
RANGING								
Ranging	500	-	500		175	-	175	(325)
RANGER TRAINING								
Training	500	500	-		130	-	130	130
COMPLIANCE								
Legal	20,000	6,000	14,000		39,162	13,411	25,751	11,751
COUNCILS								
COUNCIL MEETINGS								
Meeting costs	3,000	-	3,000		3,583	-	3,583	583

PLANNING/REPORTING								
REPORTING/AUDIT								
Annual Report/Audit	14,000	-	14,000		14,546	-	14,546	546
NATIONAL LIAISON								
National Liason	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
ADMINISTRATION								
SALARIES								
Salaries	577,843	-	577,843		559,116	12,318	546,798	(31,045)
STAFF EXPENSES								
ACC Levy	2,300	-	2,300		1,302	-	1,302	(998)
Super/KS	36,000	-	36,000		33,547	-	33,547	(2,453)
Fringe Benefit Tax	7,000	-	7,000		6,902	-	6,902	(98)
Staff Training	4,950	-	4,950		2,305	-	2,305	(2,645)
Clothing	500	-	500		553	-	553	53
Reimb allowances	10,000	-	10,000		11,000	-	11,000	1,000
OFFICE PREMISES								
Rent	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
Rates	1,420	-	1,420		1,419	-	1,419	(1)
Maintenance	25,000	-	25,000		21,467	-	21,467	(3,533)
Insurance (includes off equipment)	7,000	-	7,000		7,238	-	7,238	238
Power	2,000	-	2,000		1,957	-	1,957	(43)
OFFICE EQUIPMENT								
Purchases (Under \$2,000)	2,500	-	2,500		2,768	-	2,768	268
Asset Replacement Funding	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
Eqpmt Maintenance	1,500	-	1,500		860	-	860	(640)
COMMUNICATIONS/CONSUMABLES								
Telephone/fax	15,000	-	15,000		13,380	-	13,380	(1,620)
Postage	200	-	200		208	-	208	8
Courier	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
Stationery	5,000	-	5,000		5,248	-	5,248	248
Photocopying	1,000	-	1,000		1,602	-	1,602	602
BUDGET 2025/26								
ACTUAL 2025/26 (as of 31/08/2026)								
Project	Expenditure	Income	Net Cost		Expenditure	Income	Net Cost	Variance
GENERAL								
Donations	-	-	-		-	445	(445)	(445)
Bank Charges (Interest calc by NZC)	-	-	-		74	-	74	74
General Office expenses	5,500	-	5,500		5,663	-	5,663	163
Insurance - General	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
Legal - General	1,350	-	1,350		4,203	-	4,203	2,853
Public Liability insurance	3,000	-	3,000		2,365	-	2,365	(635)
OSH	5,000	-	5,000		4,141	-	4,141	(859)
GENERAL EQUIPMENT								
Purchases (Under \$2,000)	5,000	-	5,000		3,853	-	3,853	(1,147)
Asset Replacement Funding	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
Equipment Maintenance	1,500	-	1,500		1,262	-	1,262	(238)
Equipment Insurance	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
Equipment Hire/rental/running expenses	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
VEHICLES								
Vehicle Maintenance	20,000	-	20,000		16,290	-	16,290	(3,710)
Vehicle Insurance	17,000	-	17,000		11,747	-	11,747	(5,253)
Vehicle Registration	1,000	-	1,000		911	-	911	(89)
Vehicle Fuel & RUC	36,000	-	36,000		31,176	-	31,176	(4,824)
	1,122,783	243,800	878,983		1,046,621	177,460	869,161	(9,822)

Balance Sheet

Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council

As at 31 August 2026

	31 AUG 2026	31 JUL 2026	30 JUN 2026	31 MAY 2026	30 APR 2026	31 MAR 2026	28 FEB 2026	31 JAN 2026	31 DEC 2025	30 NOV 2025	31 OCT 2025	30 SEPT 2025	31 AUG 2025
Assets													
Bank													
Business On Line Saver	32,854.58	62,845.88	62,838.31	62,835.73	62,833.06	62,830.48	62,827.81	262,824.58	262,813.42	262,802.26	262,791.46	262,758.70	262,693.93
Cheque Account	358,396.25	553,581.14	1,009,579.48	764,809.18	773,775.94	810,371.00	585,017.73	380,935.08	447,932.46	482,041.82	695,744.52	459,364.56	582,492.72
Mastercard	-	-	1,829.59	4,293.94	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salaries Account	36,172.62	17,367.23	31,567.67	20,027.32	41,333.52	9,822.74	25,596.77	36,796.54	40,275.83	6,369.98	17,392.00	7,796.46	10,798.91
Total Bank	427,423.45	633,794.25	1,105,815.05	851,966.17	877,942.52	883,024.22	673,442.31	680,556.20	751,021.71	751,214.06	975,927.98	729,919.72	855,985.56
Current Assets													
Term Investments													
Westpac Term Deposit - 0097	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00
Westpac Term Deposit - 0098	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200,000.00	200,000.00
Westpac Term Deposit - 0099	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300,000.00	300,000.00	300,000.00
Westpac Term Deposit - 0100	-	-	-	-	-	-	200,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	-	-	-
Westpac Term Deposit - 0101	-	-	-	-	400,000.00	400,000.00	400,000.00	400,000.00	400,000.00	400,000.00	-	-	-
Westpac Term Deposit - 0102	-	200,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Westpac Term Deposit - 0103	400,000.00	400,000.00	400,000.00	400,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Westpac Term Deposit - 0104	-	200,000.00	200,000.00	200,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Westpac Term Deposit - 0105	400,000.00	400,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Westpac Term Deposit - 0107	200,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Westpac Term Deposit - 0106	300,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Term Investments	1,300,000.00	1,200,000.00	800,000.00	800,000.00	600,000.00	600,000.00	800,000.00	800,000.00	800,000.00	800,000.00	500,000.00	700,000.00	700,000.00
Accounts Receivable													
Accounts Receivable	2,484.30	10,730.49	66,573.91	392,822.51	598,862.08	332,887.93	62,313.28	100,879.14	113,266.91	133,221.84	187,381.75	182,596.11	10,595.98
Interest Accrued & Prepayments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,183.84
Total Accounts Receivable	2,484.30	10,730.49	66,573.91	392,822.51	598,862.08	332,887.93	62,313.28	100,879.14	113,266.91	133,221.84	187,381.75	182,596.11	16,779.82
Total Current Assets	1,302,484.30	1,210,730.49	866,573.91	1,192,822.51	1,198,862.08	932,887.93	862,313.28	900,879.14	913,266.91	933,221.84	687,381.75	882,596.11	716,779.82
Fixed Assets													
Land	937,902.41	937,902.41	937,902.41	937,902.41	937,902.41	937,902.41	937,902.41	937,902.41	937,902.41	937,902.41	937,902.41	937,902.41	937,902.41
Buildings	258,711.04	258,711.04	258,711.04	258,711.04	258,711.04	258,711.04	258,711.04	258,711.04	258,711.04	258,711.04	258,711.04	258,711.04	258,711.04
Accum Dep Buildings	(119,786.68)	(119,247.70)	(118,708.71)	(118,169.74)	(117,630.75)	(117,091.77)	(116,552.79)	(116,013.81)	(115,474.83)	(114,935.85)	(114,396.86)	(113,857.89)	(113,318.90)
Office Equipment	52,318.94	54,498.12	52,100.12	52,100.12	50,929.96	50,929.96	50,929.96	50,929.96	50,929.96	50,929.96	50,929.96	50,929.96	50,929.96
Accum Dep Office Equipment	(40,073.99)	(41,117.40)	(40,569.99)	(40,088.52)	(39,607.06)	(39,157.75)	(38,708.47)	(38,259.21)	(37,809.90)	(37,360.62)	(36,911.34)	(36,462.05)	(36,012.76)
Plant & Equipment	130,448.35	122,933.01	131,363.44	123,498.22	123,498.22	123,498.22	123,498.22	123,498.22	123,498.22	123,498.22	123,498.22	123,498.22	123,498.22
Accum Dep Plant & Equipment	(49,352.26)	(72,443.80)	(80,938.51)	(80,433.22)	(79,998.22)	(79,563.22)	(79,128.22)	(78,693.22)	(78,223.22)	(77,751.99)	(77,280.75)	(76,809.52)	(76,338.29)
Vehicles	205,647.12	205,647.12	205,647.12	205,647.12	205,647.12	205,647.12	247,449.12	247,449.12	247,449.12	194,756.79	194,756.79	194,756.79	194,756.79
Accum Dep Vehicles Vehicles	(82,219.04)	(78,791.59)	(75,364.14)	(71,936.68)	(68,509.23)	(65,081.79)	(94,399.25)	(90,971.79)	(87,544.34)	(84,116.88)	(81,567.64)	(79,018.39)	(76,469.14)
Total Fixed Assets	1,293,595.89	1,268,091.21	1,270,142.78	1,267,230.75	1,270,943.49	1,275,794.22	1,289,702.02	1,294,552.72	1,299,438.46	1,251,633.08	1,255,641.83	1,259,650.57	1,263,659.33
Total Assets	3,023,503.64	3,112,615.95	3,242,531.74	3,312,019.43	3,347,748.09	3,091,706.37	2,825,457.61	2,875,988.06	2,963,727.08	2,936,068.98	2,918,951.56	2,872,166.40	2,836,424.71
Liabilities													

	31 AUG 2026	31 JUL 2026	30 JUN 2026	31 MAY 2026	30 APR 2026	31 MAR 2026	28 FEB 2026	31 JAN 2026	31 DEC 2025	30 NOV 2025	31 OCT 2025	30 SEPT 2025	31 AUG 2025
Current Liabilities													
Accounts Payable	70,448.75	15,642.87	9,499.02	13,907.65	15,690.87	79,117.93	7,108.98	14,690.99	87,233.96	70,043.09	26,344.45	21,725.78	70,712.63
Income in Advance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38,309.00
GST	(4,597.41)	11,570.99	85,674.93	81,122.20	86,479.72	40,939.53	11,355.51	10,199.09	24,235.45	24,222.89	23,682.78	11,175.41	(2,814.69)
Game Bird Habitat Stamp	32,204.37	32,204.37	32,147.84	31,726.10	26,617.41	11,960.88	121.75	78.27	34.79	34.79	26.09	4.35	-
Salmon/Designated Waters Endorsement	-	174.57	174.57	174.57	174.57	166.26	166.26	166.26	166.26	133.01	120.54	112.23	-
Mastercard	4,806.52	4,175.00	-	-	4,688.30	2,015.96	3,466.96	3,400.91	1,626.97	2,758.41	769.72	1,115.96	3,357.92
Total Current Liabilities	102,862.23	63,767.80	127,496.36	126,930.52	133,650.87	134,200.56	22,219.46	28,535.52	113,297.43	97,192.19	50,943.58	34,133.73	109,564.86
Employee Entitlements													
Accrued salaries and wages	10,878.29	10,878.29	10,878.29	10,878.29	10,878.29	10,878.29	10,878.29	10,878.29	10,878.29	10,878.29	10,878.29	10,878.29	10,878.29
Annual Leave & Time in lieu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	74,684.38
PAYE Clearing	11,901.03	(5,270.06)	1,840.81	8,731.08	5,642.79	(12.22)	7,147.18	14,833.79	14,765.98	7,380.84	14,889.68	-	-
Wages Payable - Payroll	(50.91)	(50.91)	(127.03)	(127.04)	(121.09)	(106.18)	(80.25)	(80.28)	(129.97)	(80.30)	(80.32)	(55.95)	(566.65)
Total Employee Entitlements	22,728.41	5,557.32	12,592.07	19,482.33	16,399.99	10,759.89	17,945.22	25,631.80	25,514.30	18,178.83	25,687.65	10,822.34	84,996.02
Total Liabilities	125,590.64	69,325.12	140,088.43	146,412.85	150,050.86	144,960.45	40,164.68	54,167.32	138,811.73	115,371.02	76,631.23	44,956.07	194,560.88
Net Assets													
	2,897,913.00	3,043,290.83	3,102,443.31	3,165,606.58	3,197,697.23	2,946,745.92	2,785,292.93	2,821,820.74	2,824,915.35	2,820,697.96	2,842,320.33	2,827,210.33	2,641,863.83
Equity													
Accumulated Funds	1,060,313.18	1,060,313.18	1,060,313.18	1,060,313.18	1,130,560.96	1,130,560.96	1,130,560.96	1,130,560.96	1,130,560.96	1,130,560.96	1,130,560.96	1,130,560.96	1,013,504.63
Current Year Earnings	256,049.17	401,427.00	460,579.48	523,742.75	555,833.40	304,882.09	143,429.10	179,956.91	183,051.52	178,834.13	200,456.50	185,346.50	117,056.33
Reserves													
Dedicated Reserves													
Asset Replacement Reserve	117,442.00	117,442.00	117,442.00	117,442.00	117,442.00	117,442.00	117,442.00	117,442.00	117,442.00	117,442.00	117,442.00	117,442.00	117,442.00
Non Resident Levy Reserve	108,470.43	108,470.43	108,470.43	108,470.43	108,470.43	108,470.43	108,470.43	108,470.43	108,470.43	108,470.43	108,470.43	108,470.43	108,470.43
Total Dedicated Reserves	225,912.43	225,912.43	225,912.43	225,912.43	225,912.43	225,912.43	225,912.43	225,912.43	225,912.43	225,912.43	225,912.43	225,912.43	225,912.43
Restricted Reserves													
Restricted Reserve - Access Funds	74,128.95	74,128.95	74,128.95	74,128.95	74,128.95	74,128.95	74,128.95	74,128.95	74,128.95	74,128.95	74,128.95	74,128.95	74,128.95
Restricted Reserve - Huntly Wetland Fund	430,580.56	430,580.56	430,580.56	430,580.56	430,580.56	430,580.56	430,580.56	430,580.56	430,580.56	430,580.56	430,580.56	430,580.56	430,580.56
Restricted Reserve - Ingham Wetland Fund	2,414.70	2,414.70	2,414.70	2,414.70	2,414.70	2,414.70	2,414.70	2,414.70	2,414.70	2,414.70	2,414.70	2,414.70	2,414.70
Restricted Reserve - Lake Are Are Fund	40,159.39	40,159.39	40,159.39	40,159.39	40,159.39	40,159.39	40,159.39	40,159.39	40,159.39	40,159.39	40,159.39	40,159.39	40,159.39
Restricted Reserve - Lower Waikato Wetland	141,604.95	141,604.95	141,604.95	141,604.95	135,889.95	135,889.95	135,889.95	135,889.95	135,889.95	135,889.95	135,889.95	135,889.95	135,889.95
Restricted Reserve - Murray Young Wetland Fund	190,354.91	190,354.91	190,354.91	190,354.91	190,354.91	190,354.91	190,354.91	190,354.91	190,354.91	190,354.91	190,354.91	190,354.91	190,354.91
Restricted Reserve - Opuatia Wetland Fund	13,470.97	13,470.97	13,470.97	13,470.97	13,470.97	13,470.97	13,470.97	13,470.97	13,470.97	13,470.97	13,470.97	13,470.97	13,470.97
Restricted Reserve - Waikato River Fund	85,027.75	85,027.75	85,027.75	85,027.75	67,666.28	67,666.28	67,666.28	67,666.28	67,666.28	67,666.28	67,666.28	67,666.28	67,666.28
Restricted Reserve - Whanganui River Fund	311,689.27	311,689.27	311,689.27	311,689.27	264,517.96	264,517.96	264,517.96	264,517.96	264,517.96	264,517.96	264,517.96	264,517.96	264,517.96
Restricted Reserve - Williamson Wetland	66,206.77	66,206.77	66,206.77	66,206.77	66,206.77	66,206.77	66,206.77	66,206.77	66,206.77	66,206.77	66,206.77	66,206.77	66,206.77
Total Restricted Reserves	1,355,638.22	1,355,638.22	1,355,638.22	1,355,638.22	1,285,390.44	1,285,390.44	1,285,390.44	1,285,390.44	1,285,390.44	1,285,390.44	1,285,390.44	1,285,390.44	1,285,390.44
Total Reserves	1,581,550.65	1,581,550.65	1,581,550.65	1,581,550.65	1,511,302.87	1,511,302.87	1,511,302.87	1,511,302.87	1,511,302.87	1,511,302.87	1,511,302.87	1,511,302.87	1,511,302.87
Total Equity	2,897,913.00	3,043,290.83	3,102,443.31	3,165,606.58	3,197,697.23	2,946,745.92	2,785,292.93	2,821,820.74	2,824,915.35	2,820,697.96	2,842,320.33	2,827,210.33	2,641,863.83

	31 AUG 2026	31 JUL 2026	30 JUN 2026	31 MAY 2026	30 APR 2026	31 MAR 2026	28 FEB 2026	31 JAN 2026	31 DEC 2025	30 NOV 2025	31 OCT 2025	30 SEPT 2025	31 AUG 2025
Dedicated and General Reserves	371,785.23	478,156.03	550,176.83	296,327.95	192,552.08	197,633.78	188,051.87	195,165.76	265,631.27	265,823.62	190,537.54	144,529.28	270,595.12
Operational General Reserves	145,872.80	252,243.60	324,264.40	70,415.52	(33,360.35)	(28,278.65)	(37,860.56)	(30,746.67)	39,718.84	39,911.19	(35,374.89)	(81,383.15)	44,682.69
ORG Reserves above 30%	(196,273.20)	(89,902.40)	(17,881.60)	(271,730.48)	(375,506.35)	(370,424.65)	(380,006.56)	(372,892.67)	(302,427.16)	(302,234.81)	(377,520.89)	(423,529.15)	(297,463.31)
ORG Reserves above 20%	(82,224.20)	24,146.60	96,167.40	(157,681.48)	(261,457.35)	(256,375.65)	(265,957.56)	(258,843.67)	(188,378.16)	(188,185.81)	(263,471.89)	(309,480.15)	(183,414.31)

Notes:

Dedicated and General Reserves = Total Cash + Term Deposits - Restricted Reserves Balance

Operational General Reserves = Total Cash + Term Deposits - Restricted Reserves Balance - Total Dedicated Reserves Balance

National Fish Licence Sales YTD to 31 August																											
	Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSBA	FDA	FDNA	FWJ	FWNJ	FDJ	FDNJ	FWC	FWNC	FDNC	SRSE	DWLR	DWLN	Total Fish	Fish LEQ	Fish Var	Fish \$	Inc/Dec	
Northland	Public Online	49	117	122	12	10	22	4	29	153	200	36	7	43	10	132	9	3	0	0	0	958	599		\$81,204		
	Agency Online	8	35	6	8	3	6	0	0	10	4	6	0	2	0	5	1	0	3	5	0	102					
	Total	57	152	128	20	13	28	4	29	163	204	42	7	45	10	137	10	3	3	5	0	1,060					
	Public Online	34	137	135	10	8	14	6	32	149	182	53	10	51	6	101	6	3	0	0	0	937					
2024-2025	Agency Online	6	43	7	8	3	6	0	1	1	2	0	0	2	0	6	0	0	5	2	0	92					
	Total	40	180	142	18	11	20	6	33	150	184	53	10	53	6	107	6	3	5	2	0	1,029	618	3.2%	\$83,841	\$2,637	
	Auckland Waikato	Public Online	437	1,039	203	187	143	141	14	186	1,271	720	365	17	271	9	1,067	10	5	0	0	6,085	3,819		\$518,105		
	Agency Online	148	475	41	101	41	27	6	65	164	36	70	1	22	0	91	1	1	24	24	0	1,338					
Total	585	1514	244	288	184	168	20	251	1435	756	435	18	293	9	1158	11	6	24	24	0	7,423						
Public Online	340	1,054	245	170	114	155	19	194	1,399	731	395	20	311	18	1,124	17	8	0	0	0	6,314						
2024-2025	Agency Online	152	542	63	105	57	41	2	54	126	46	108	3	18	2	115	0	0	14	28	0	1,476					
	Total	492	1596	308	275	171	196	21	248	1525	777	503	23	329	20	1239	17	8	14	28	0	7,790	3,926	2.8%	\$532,578	\$14,473	
	Eastern	Public Online	1,356	1,172	215	300	688	301	34	812	3,285	1,037	381	25	455	49	1,682	15	17	0	0	0	11,824	8,929		\$1,211,280	
	Agency Online	867	774	98	243	858	178	19	221	645	405	211	6	138	18	92	2	7	33	21	27	4,863					
Total	2223	1946	313	543	1546	479	53	1033	3930	1442	592	31	593	67	1774	17	24	33	21	27	16,687						
Public Online	1,026	1,302	299	303	773	318	42	887	3,056	1,219	481	27	527	44	1,850	19	33	0	0	0	12,206						
2024-2025	Agency Online	776	792	87	231	926	113	18	168	497	308	209	7	109	13	80	2	24	27	27	35	4,449					
	Total	1802	2094	386	534	1699	431	60	1055	3553	1527	690	34	636	57	1930	21	57	27	27	35	16,655	8,742	-2.1%	\$1,185,830	-\$25,450	
	Hawke's Bay	Public Online	227	626	189	111	118	78	16	202	587	395	293	10	164	8	667	4	6	0	0	0	3,701	2,912		\$394,956	
	Agency Online	114	372	116	134	79	44	6	37	139	374	115	3	36	1	97	0	2	7	15	73	1,764					
Total	341	998	305	245	197	122	22	239	726	769	408	13	200	9	764	4	8	7	15	73	5,465						
Public Online	196	623	182	111	132	80	12	200	634	510	300	11	189	16	651	9	3	0	0	0	3,859						
2024-2025	Agency Online	95	433	106	134	57	43	3	37	91	301	127	1	27	3	56	1	3	9	13	84	1,624					
	Total	291	1056	288	245	189	123	15	237	725	811	427	12	216	19	707	10	6	9	13	84	5,483	2,881	-1.1%	\$390,801	-\$4,155	
	Taranaki	Public Online	90	280	145	44	21	32	1	62	215	358	100	10	77	14	469	2	2	0	0	0	1,922	1,212		\$164,457	
	Agency Online	37	157	11	51	17	14	3	14	32	12	57	0	14	0	87	0	1	6	7	0	520					
Total	127	437	156	95	38	46	4	76	247	370	157	10	91	14	556	2	3	6	7	0	2,442						
Public Online	76	290	188	45	33	23	1	42	221	459	100	26	62	11	516	12	5	0	0	0	2,110						
2024-2025	Agency Online	35	159	8	50	22	10	1	19	43	6	70	1	8	1	71	0	0	12	5	0	521					
	Total	111	449	196	95	55	33	2	61	264	465	170	27	70	12	587	12	5	12	5	0	2,631	1,308	7.9%	\$177,463	\$13,007	
	Wellington	Public Online	252	807	63	174	175	84	4	65	514	173	332	4	138	5	888	3	0	0	244	62	3,987	2,905		\$394,052	
	Agency Online	130	561	16	158	119	44	3	20	131	15	228	2	64	0	235	0	0	31	58	1	1,816					
Total	382	1368	79	332	294	128	7	85	645	188	560	6	202	5	1123	3	0	31	302	63	5,803						
Public Online	177	841	74	175	131	93	5	78	517	163	357	7	178	7	833	1	4	0	246	55	3,942						
2024-2025	Agency Online	117	570	10	147	97	41	2	18	64	34	172	0	74	1	186	0	0	22	39	0	1,594					
	Total	294	1411	84	322	228	134	7	96	581	197	529	7	252	8	1019	1	4	22	285	55	5,536	2,777	-4.4%	\$376,648	-\$17,404	
	Nelson/Marl	Public Online	366	652	234	145	125	68	8	97	570	495	278	10	177	7	815	9	2	0	869	247	5,174	4,170		\$565,709	
	Agency Online	318	758	256	216	105	50	5	46	107	285	129	9	26	1	166	0	5	200	836	415	3,933					
Total	684	1410	490	361	230	118	13	143	677	780	407	19	203	8	981	9	7	200	1705	662	9,107						
Public Online	281	643	313	158	130	68	12	101	671	475	258	10	194	8	938	5	2	0	836	282	5,385						
2024-2025	Agency Online	284	664	221	229	74	49	6	26	90	292	133	4	20	4	127	0	1	160	782	386	3,552					
	Total	565	1307	534	387	204	117	18	127	761	767	391	14	214	12	1065	5	3	160	1618	668	8,937	3,992	-4.3%	\$541,478	-\$24,230	
	North Canterbury	Public Online	1,050	1,875	221	343	125	130	16	287	1,685	681	538	17	388	13	2,300	5	8	2,315	1,496	599	14,092	10,413		\$1,412,576	
	Agency Online	1,384	2,439	190	824	71	122	17	164	391	140	305	4	60	3	189	7	0	2,907	1,555	16	10,788					
Total	2434	4314	411	1167	196	252	33	451	2076	821	843	21	448	16	2489	12	8	5222	3051	615	24,880						
Public Online	781	1,869	230	325	134	170	16	311	1,778	843	590	17	346	18	2,190	13	7	1,803	1,421	532	13,394						
2024-2025	Agency Online	1,017	2,679	183	887	53	86	11	109	280	106	346	9	36	2	141	8	1	2,345	1,484	11	9,794					
	Total	1798	4548	413	1212	187	256	27	420	2058	949	936	26	382	20	2331	21										

National Game Licence Sales YTD to 31 August											
	Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ	Game Var	Game \$	Inc/Dec
Northland	Agency Online	1,255	117	57	10	0	1,439				
	Public Online	255	46	30	38	1	370				
	Total	1,510	163	87	48	1	1,809	1,552		\$149,789	
2024-2025	Agency Online	1,088	90	54	12	1	1,245				
	Public Online	290	40	31	52	2	415				
	Total	1,378	130	85	64	3	1,660	1,417	-8.7%	\$136,731	-\$13,057
Auckland Waikato	Agency Online	4,866	441	194	39	1	5,541				
	Public Online	1,161	184	109	237	8	1,699				
	Total	6,027	625	303	276	9	7,240	6,206		\$599,012	
2024-2025	Agency Online	4,855	408	196	48	5	5,512				
	Public Online	1,356	197	130	188	12	1,883				
	Total	6,211	605	326	236	17	7,395	6,378	2.8%	\$615,659	\$16,647
Eastern	Agency Online	2,335	210	125	18	4	2,692				
	Public Online	416	69	31	117	7	640				
	Total	2,751	279	156	135	11	3,332	2,834		\$273,499	
2024-2025	Agency Online	1,865	183	110	14	3	2,175				
	Public Online	482	77	49	74	2	684				
	Total	2,347	260	159	88	5	2,859	2,416	-14.7%	\$233,216	-\$40,283
Hawke's Bay	Agency Online	1,228	113	45	30	3	1,419				
	Public Online	480	86	30	86	7	689				
	Total	1,708	199	75	116	10	2,108	1,771		\$170,929	
2024-2025	Agency Online	1,198	121	49	26	2	1,396				
	Public Online	490	89	41	99	14	733				
	Total	1,688	210	90	125	16	2,129	1,755	-0.9%	\$169,407	-\$1,522
Taranaki	Agency Online	804	66	35	16	0	921				
	Public Online	230	26	16	45	0	317				
	Total	1,034	92	51	61	0	1,238	1,064		\$102,730	
2024-2025	Agency Online	692	54	35	25	0	806				
	Public Online	251	31	18	39	0	339				
	Total	943	85	53	64	0	1,145	973	-8.6%	\$93,870	-\$8,860
Wellington	Agency Online	2,523	242	113	41	6	2,925				
	Public Online	596	93	47	88	4	828				
	Total	3,119	335	160	129	10	3,753	3,211		\$309,971	
2024-2025	Agency Online	2,322	207	119	43	5	2,696				
	Public Online	637	88	55	100	4	884				
	Total	2,959	295	174	143	9	3,580	3,046	-5.1%	\$294,026	-\$15,945
Nelson/Marl	Agency Online	706	59	28	12	0	805				
	Public Online	161	23	16	34	1	235				
	Total	867	82	44	46	1	1,040	892		\$86,137	
2024-2025	Agency Online	605	39	18	15	0	677				
	Public Online	133	23	26	33	3	218				
	Total	738	62	44	48	3	895	760	-14.8%	\$73,350	-\$12,787
North Canterbury	Agency Online	1,994	151	61	30	2	2,238				
	Public Online	418	44	28	92	6	588				
	Total	2,412	195	89	122	8	2,826	2,475		\$238,910	
2024-2025	Agency Online	1,812	141	56	21	0	2,030				
	Public Online	458	57	29	103	1	648				
	Total	2,270	198	85	124	1	2,678	2,334	-5.7%	\$225,269	-\$13,641
West Coast	Agency Online	141	13	2	4	0	160				
	Public Online	194	28	22	26	0	270				
	Total	335	41	24	30	0	430	349		\$33,693	
2024-2025	Agency Online	130	15	6	0	0	151				
	Public Online	200	27	18	17	0	262				
	Total	330	42	24	17	0	413	342	-2.1%	\$32,981	-\$712
Central South Is	Agency Online	1,619	131	46	11	0	1,807				
	Public Online	550	66	29	151	3	799				
	Total	2,169	197	75	162	3	2,606	2,240		\$216,237	
2024-2025	Agency Online	1,401	116	46	8	0	1,571				
	Public Online	645	65	50	107	9	876				
	Total	2,046	181	96	115	9	2,447	2,105	-6.0%	\$203,185	-\$13,051
Otago	Agency Online	3,148	244	94	25	1	3,512				
	Public Online	1,042	166	76	61	2	1,347				
	Total	4,190	410	170	86	3	4,859	4,288		\$413,928	
2024-2025	Agency Online	2,690	197	67	23	0	2,977				
	Public Online	985	143	64	65	1	1,258				
	Total	3,675	340	131	88	1	4,235	3,760	-12.3%	\$362,910	-\$51,018
	Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ	Game Var	Game \$	Inc/Dec
Southland	Agency Online	3,040	321	115	18	0	3,494				
	Public Online	561	109	32	34	4	740				
	Total	3,601	430	147	52	4	4,234	3,697		\$356,813	
2024-2025	Agency Online	3,322	341	123	17	0	3,803				
	Public Online	808	140	50	53	3	1,054				
	Total	4,130	481	173	70	3	4,857	4,239	14.7%	\$409,189	\$52,376
TOTAL	Agency Online	23,659	2,108	915	254	17	26,953	24,128		\$2,328,868	
	Public Online	6,064	940	466	1,009	43	8,522	6,452		\$622,780	
	Total	29,723	3,048	1,381	1,263	60	35,475	30,580		\$2,951,648	
2024-2025	Agency Online	21,980	1,912	879	252	16	25,039	22,410		\$2,163,016	
	Public Online	6,735	977	561	930	51	9,254	7,115		\$686,777	
	Total	28,715	2,889	1,440	1,182	67	34,293	29,525		\$2,849,793	
National Variance against 2025 YTD								-1,055	-3.5%	-\$101,855	-\$101,855
2025-26 Summary YTD Actual vs Total Budget											
2025-26 Annual Budget								30,601	100.0%	\$2,953,662	
2025-26 YTD Actual								29,525	96.5%	\$2,849,793	
Remaining to meet budget								-1,076	-3.5%	-\$103,869	

Aged Receivables Summary

Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council

As at 31 August 2026

Ageing by due date

CONTACT	CURRENT	< 1 MONTH	1 MONTH	2 MONTHS	3 MONTHS	OLDER	TOTAL
Eyede Solutions	621.30	-	-	-	-	-	621.30
New Zealand Fish & Game Council	1,863.00	-	-	-	-	-	1,863.00
Total	2,484.30	-	-	-	-	-	2,484.30
Percentage of total	100.00%	-	-	-	-	-	100.00%

Transactions Report for Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council

Printed By Roslyn Simmonds

Report Date 11/09/2026

Report Time 12:04:09 PM

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Card Number ***** 5520 Account Balance as at 12:04:09 PM 11/09/2026 **-\$ 5,181.60**

Account Name David Klee

Transaction date	Processed date	Description	Type	Debit	Credit
31/08/2026	31/08/2026	WOOLWORTHS NZ 9282	PURCHASES	\$ 35.42	
28/08/2026	30/08/2026	Adobe	PURCHASES	\$ 21.90	
28/08/2026	30/08/2026	Adobe	PURCHASES	\$ 33.70	
27/08/2026	29/08/2026	VERTICAL HORIZONZ NZ L	PURCHASES	\$ 787.75	
27/08/2026	28/08/2026	NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY-EC	PURCHASES	\$ 6,877.32	
27/08/2026	28/08/2026	PB TECH ONLINE 09 5269	PURCHASES	\$ 2,044.24	
27/08/2026	27/08/2026	PAYMENT RECEIVED THANK YOU NZL			\$ 6,877.32
24/08/2026	25/08/2026	Nawton Stationery	PURCHASES	\$ 12.30	
24/08/2026	25/08/2026	PB TECHNOLOGIES HAMILT	PURCHASES	\$ 143.39	
20/08/2026	21/08/2026	Waikato Hunting & Fish	PURCHASES	\$ 454.80	
18/08/2026	19/08/2026	NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY-EC	PURCHASES	\$ 285.71	
19/08/2026	19/08/2026	DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENT			\$ 3,718.43
15/08/2026	16/08/2026	Garmin	PURCHASES	\$ 20.00	
15/08/2026	16/08/2026	Garmin	PURCHASES	\$ 20.00	
13/08/2026	15/08/2026	NZ SAFETY BLACKWOODS	PURCHASES	\$ 86.70	
10/08/2026	11/08/2026	NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY-TO	PURCHASES	\$ 2.60	
10/08/2026	10/08/2026	XERO NZ INV-11701986	PURCHASES	\$ 123.05	
08/08/2026	09/08/2026	Caltex Tirau	PURCHASES	\$ 150.00	
06/08/2026	07/08/2026	ARLO.COM	PURCHASES	\$ 14.99	
03/08/2026	04/08/2026	OPENAI	PURCHASES	\$ 40.23	
01/08/2026	02/08/2026	SURVEYMONK* T 47683077	PURCHASES	\$ 49.00	
31/07/2026	01/08/2026	DIGITALOCEAN.COM	PURCHASES	\$ 24.17	
29/07/2026	30/07/2026	SUPERCHEAP AUTO	PURCHASES	\$ 400.97	
28/07/2026	30/07/2026	Adobe	PURCHASES	\$ 21.90	
28/07/2026	29/07/2026	Adobe	PURCHASES	\$ 33.70	
25/07/2026	26/07/2026	Challenge Naylor St	PURCHASES	\$ 4.80	

Transactions Report for Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council

Printed By Roslyn Simmonds

Report Date 11/09/2026

Report Time 12:04:09 PM

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Card Number ***** 5520 Account Balance as at 12:04:09 PM 11/09/2026 **-\$ 5,181.60**

Account Name David Klee

Transaction date	Processed date	Description	Type	Debit	Credit
22/07/2026	23/07/2026	GET WET WAIKATO	PURCHASES	\$ 1,486.40	
20/07/2026	21/07/2026	NAME-CHEAP.COM* QAYGQG	PURCHASES	\$ 51.33	
15/07/2026	16/07/2026	Garmin	PURCHASES	\$ 20.00	
15/07/2026	16/07/2026	Garmin	PURCHASES	\$ 20.00	
14/07/2026	15/07/2026	Farm Source Hamilton	PURCHASES	\$ 525.15	
14/07/2026	15/07/2026	New World Taumarunui	PURCHASES	\$ 99.66	
14/07/2026	15/07/2026	BP 2GO TE KUITI	PURCHASES	\$ 20.00	
13/07/2026	14/07/2026	GILMOURS HAMILTON	PURCHASES	\$ 425.59	
10/07/2026	10/07/2026	XERO NZ INV-11576951	PURCHASES	\$ 123.05	
08/07/2026	09/07/2026	The Warehouse Statione	PURCHASES	\$ 16.50	
07/07/2026	08/07/2026	SP NZ AUTOTRAPS	PURCHASES	\$ 2,453.60	
06/07/2026	07/07/2026	ARLO.COM	PURCHASES	\$ 14.99	
03/07/2026	06/07/2026	OPENAI	PURCHASES	\$ 41.44	
03/07/2026	04/07/2026	3A.CO.NZ	PURCHASES	\$ 92.00	
03/07/2026	04/07/2026	Whatawhata Bakery	PURCHASES	\$ 23.78	
01/07/2026	02/07/2026	SURVEYMONK* T 47641936	PURCHASES	\$ 49.00	
30/06/2026	01/07/2026	DIGITALOCEAN.COM	PURCHASES	\$ 25.06	
29/06/2026	01/07/2026	Farmlands Co-operati	PURCHASES	\$ 55.67	
29/06/2026	30/06/2026	New World Taumarunui	PURCHASES	\$ 50.78	
28/06/2026	30/06/2026	Adobe	PURCHASES	\$ 21.90	
28/06/2026	30/06/2026	Adobe	PURCHASES	\$ 33.70	
Totals				\$ 17,338.24	\$ 10,595.75

Account Transactions

Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council

For the period 18 July 2026 to 31 August 2026

DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
ACC Levy			
18 Jul 2026	ACC - Acc Levy	1,301.52	-
Total ACC Levy		1,301.52	-
Commission on Sales Fish			
31 Jul 2026	Eyede Solutions - Commission - Fish	26.09	-
Total Commission on Sales Fish		26.09	-
Commission on Sales Game			
31 Jul 2026	Eyede Solutions - Commission - Game	2.35	-
Total Commission on Sales Game		2.35	-
Equipment Purchases (Under 2000)			
23 Jul 2026	Danielle Lelievre - Mobile phone - Danielle Le Lievre	859.70	-
24 Aug 2026	Waikato Hunting & Fishing - Earmuffs/Binoculars	1,138.24	-
24 Aug 2026	PB Tech Hamilton - Ear/head sets	124.69	-
Total Equipment Purchases (Under 2000)		2,122.63	-
Expense - Banding/Shovler Study			
27 Aug 2026	Peter Shaw - Cage repairs	1,500.00	-
Total Expense - Banding/Shovler Study		1,500.00	-
Expense - Council Meeting			
21 Jul 2026	Great River Catering Ltd - Catering for council meeting	335.00	-
26 Jul 2026	Challenge - Milk	4.17	-
Total Expense - Council Meeting		339.17	-
Expense - Fish Releases			
31 Jul 2026	Eastern Fish and Game Council - Rainbow trout - 250	2,152.50	-
31 Jul 2026	BOC Limited - Oxygen	149.26	-
Total Expense - Fish Releases		2,301.76	-
Expense - Fish Surveys			
29 Jul 2026	Waikato Hunting & Fishing - Waders	486.25	-
6 Aug 2026	Magnum Limited - Waders	1,310.00	-
Total Expense - Fish Surveys		1,796.25	-
Expense - Game Bird Harvest Surveys			
5 Aug 2026	Alyssa Le Lievre - Alyssa Le Lievre Gamebird surveys 6th harvest survey	120.00	-
5 Aug 2026	Kymberly Le Lievre - Kymberly Le Lievre Gamebird surveys 6th harvest survey	120.00	-
Total Expense - Game Bird Harvest Surveys		240.00	-
Expense - Habitat Works F & G Land			
1 Aug 2026	Cartrack NZ - Subscriptoin	15.00	-
Total Expense - Habitat Works F & G Land		15.00	-
Expense - Legal/Court Prosecutions			

DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
24 Aug 2026	Nawton Stationery - Courier for prosecution	10.70	-
Total Expense - Legal/Court Prosecutions		10.70	-
Expense - RMA			
31 Jul 2026	Resourced AF Limited - Reconsenting - Whangamarino weir	3,510.00	-
26 Aug 2026	Resourced AF Limited - Whangamarino	2,700.00	-
31 Aug 2026	S J Ongley - Healthy Rivers	1,620.00	-
Total Expense - RMA		7,830.00	-
Field Equipment Maintenance			
21 Jul 2026	Matt Osborne - Stihl Shop - Cap - 21/7/26	30.43	-
29 Jul 2026	Supercheap - Jumpstart/tool kit/Hose	348.67	-
14 Aug 2026	Garmin - David Klee - Subscription	17.39	-
14 Aug 2026	Garmin - AWFG - Subscription	17.39	-
Total Field Equipment Maintenance		413.88	-
Income - Access Negotiation			
22 Jul 2026	Bruce Lang - Forest Permit	-	43.48
21 Aug 2026	Joshua Adams - Forest Permit	-	43.48
27 Aug 2026	Stu Miller - Forest permit	-	43.48
Total Income - Access Negotiation		-	130.44
Income - Mitigation Income MRP Genisis, Winstones			
31 Jul 2026	Winstone Aggregate - Mitigation Income	-	7,419.39
Total Income - Mitigation Income MRP Genisis, Winstones		-	7,419.39
Income - Prosecutions Fines			
23 Jul 2026	Ministry of Justice - Ridgeway/Kevin/Philip	-	120.00
23 Jul 2026	Ministry of Justice - Shelley/Joshua	-	141.60
23 Jul 2026	Ministry of Justice - Murphy/Ross/Francis	-	72.00
23 Jul 2026	Ministry of Justice - Brouwer/Ronald/George	-	18.00
20 Aug 2026	Ministry of Justice - Ridgeway/Kevin/Philip	-	120.00
20 Aug 2026	Ministry of Justice - Shelley/Joshua	-	141.60
20 Aug 2026	Ministry of Justice - Murphy/Ross/Francis	-	72.00
20 Aug 2026	Ministry of Justice - Brouwer/Ronald/George	-	18.00
Total Income - Prosecutions Fines		-	703.20
Interest Income			
31 Jul 2026	Westpac - Interest	-	7.57
4 Aug 2026	Westpac - Interest - 0102	-	3,520.82
8 Aug 2026	Westpac - Interest - 0104	-	1,512.33
31 Aug 2026	Westpac - Interest	-	8.70
Total Interest Income		-	5,049.42
NZ F&G Levy			
28 Aug 2026	New Zealand Fish & Game Council - Levy 4 of 4	55,298.28	-
Total NZ F&G Levy		55,298.28	-
Office Equipment Maintenance			

DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
22 Jul 2026	Mitre 10 Mega - Maintenance items for office	169.52	-
17 Aug 2026	Mitre 10 Mega - Batteries	60.37	-
Total Office Equipment Maintenance		229.89	-
Office General			
27 Jul 2026	Roslyn Simmonds - Kitchen items	60.43	-
28 Jul 2026	Adobe Systems Software - Acrobat subscription	33.70	-
28 Jul 2026	Adobe Systems Software - Acrobat subscription	21.90	-
2 Aug 2026	Survey Monkey - Subscription	42.61	-
4 Aug 2026	OpenAI - Subscription	34.98	-
7 Aug 2026	Arlo - Camera subscription	13.03	-
10 Aug 2026	Xero (NZ) Limited - Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council. 6 Additional Employee Charges, 10 Jul 2026 to 09 Aug 2026.	24.00	-
10 Aug 2026	Xero (NZ) Limited - Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council. Monthly Subscription, Grow, 10 Aug 2026 to 09 Sep 2026.	83.00	-
17 Aug 2026	Roslyn Simmonds - Kitchen Items - Minus one item	41.12	-
28 Aug 2026	Adobe Systems Software - Acrobat Standard	21.90	-
28 Aug 2026	Adobe Systems Software - Acrobat Pro	33.70	-
31 Aug 2026	Woolworths - Kitchen Supplies	30.80	-
Total Office General		441.17	-
Office Maintenance			
31 Jul 2026	Allied Security - Alarm monitoring	46.68	-
4 Aug 2026	Gold Lawn Mowing - Lawn mowing	78.26	-
14 Aug 2026	Mitre 10 Mega - Dehumidifier	325.44	-
25 Aug 2026	DG Safety Ltd - Outdoor flammable Cabinet 450L	6,073.91	-
25 Aug 2026	Gold Lawn Mowing - Lawnmowing	78.26	-
31 Aug 2026	Allied Security - Alarm monitoring	46.68	-
Total Office Maintenance		6,649.23	-
Office Power			
6 Aug 2026	Meridian - Power	230.95	-
Total Office Power		230.95	-
Office Premises Rates (inc Water)			
19 Aug 2026	Hamilton City Council - Rates	62.39	-
Total Office Premises Rates (inc Water)		62.39	-
Photocopier			
19 Jul 2026	Canon - Photocopier	168.17	-
19 Aug 2026	Canon - Photocopier	44.68	-
Total Photocopier		212.85	-
Public Liability Insurance			
25 Aug 2026	Aon New Zealand - Liability Insurance	1,195.00	-
Total Public Liability Insurance		1,195.00	-
Public Online Sales Fees Excl GST			
31 Jul 2026	Eyede Solutions - Licence Bank Fees	137.05	-
Total Public Online Sales Fees Excl GST		137.05	-

DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
Public Online Sales Fees Incl GST			
31 Jul 2026	Eyede Solutions - Licence DPS Fee	100.57	-
Total Public Online Sales Fees Incl GST		100.57	-
Retained Earnings			
Opening Balance		-	174,091.45
31 Aug 2026	Transfer retained earnings to accumulated funds at year end - Transfer retained earnings to accumulated funds at year end	174,091.45	-
Total Retained Earnings		174,091.45	-
Closing Balance		-	-
Telephone/fax/internet			
19 Jul 2026	David Klee - INV-DF-NZL-3067195-48639-36 - Starlink - Broadband	147.83	-
20 Jul 2026	Spark - 0800 - 0800	20.00	-
22 Jul 2026	Clare Robertson - Inv:195152564 - Broadband - Clare Robertson	47.83	-
23 Jul 2026	one.nz - Mobiles - Mobiles	334.34	-
1 Aug 2026	Bruno David - PureLink - INV-1063128 - Broadband	84.35	-
1 Aug 2026	PureLink - Voice service	69.00	-
7 Aug 2026	one.nz - Broadband - Broadband	122.00	-
10 Aug 2026	One.nz - Beau Jarvis-Child - Broadband - Beau Jarvis-Child	87.83	-
13 Aug 2026	Spark - 0800 - 0800	20.00	-
19 Aug 2026	David Klee - INV-DF-NZL-3193179-33416-25 Broadbnd	147.83	-
23 Aug 2026	one.nz - Mobiles - Mobiles	327.36	-
27 Aug 2026	PB Tech Hamilton - Mobile Phone - Beau Jarvis-Child	1,777.60	-
31 Aug 2026	Bruno David - PB Tech Hamilton Phone battery 31/8/26	60.00	-
Total Telephone/fax/internet		3,245.97	-
Vehicle Fuel & RUC			
31 Jul 2026	BP Oil New Zealand Limited - David Klee - Diesel	465.96	-
31 Jul 2026	BP Oil New Zealand Limited - Beau Jarvis-Child - Diesel	521.61	-
31 Jul 2026	BP Oil New Zealand Limited - Danielle Le Lievre	270.30	-
31 Jul 2026	BP Oil New Zealand Limited - Matt Osborne	610.64	-
31 Jul 2026	Z Energy Limited - Beau Jarvis-Child - Diesel	169.23	-
10 Aug 2026	NZ Transport Agency - Road toll - QKG972 - Northern gateway	2.26	-
27 Aug 2026	NZ Transport Agency - RUC for 3 vehicles	5,980.28	-
31 Aug 2026	BP Oil New Zealand Limited - David Klee	677.42	-
31 Aug 2026	BP Oil New Zealand Limited - Beau Jarvis-Child	401.07	-
31 Aug 2026	BP Oil New Zealand Limited - Danielle Le Lievre	406.74	-
31 Aug 2026	BP Oil New Zealand Limited - Matt Osborne	139.80	-
Total Vehicle Fuel & RUC		9,645.31	-
Vehicle Maintenance			
28 Jul 2026	B Select Te Rapa - Service - QDK979	785.36	-
31 Jul 2026	New Zealand Fish & Game Council - Seaflux - Gracillis	60.00	-
10 Aug 2026	Fairview Motors Limited - Service - RNA938	552.39	-
31 Aug 2026	B Select Te Rapa - Service - QKG972	497.63	-
31 Aug 2026	New Zealand Fish & Game Council - Seaflux	60.00	-
Total Vehicle Maintenance		1,955.38	-

DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
Vehicle Registration			
18 Aug 2026	NZ Transport Agency - Rego - QDK979	248.44	-
Total Vehicle Registration		248.44	-
Total		271,643.28	13,302.45



Kia ora tatou Fish & Game Regional Councillors,

09SEP26

Meeting 184 of the New Zealand Council got underway on Friday, August 28, at the Rydges Hotel, Wellington Airport, despite the high winds forecast for Friday; 11 councillors were able to attend.

Budgets and the organisation's future finances were a key focus of this meeting. The F&G NZC received three presentations from Dave Harris, Euan Williamson and Alan Strong on future budgeting methodologies. This followed on from Auckland Waikato Chair Nigel Juby's presentation at Meeting 182.

Considering the Minister's update on 22 August and that the reforms will still progress, the Council would like to ask each regional council to consider what the future funding model for Fish and Game could be and what it could look like, identify which aspects are important to them, and provide those options and ideas to F&G NZC.

Following those presentations (and the F&G NZC would like it known that any council can make such a presentation), CEO Corina Jordan presented the F&G NZC budget, revised to include cuts totalling 13.96% from last year's budget. The council endorsed several cuts to project lines proposed by the CEO to achieve this reduction. Following this, the F&G NZC Annual Work Plan was then approved for the coming financial year.

The next item for council decision was confirmation of the organisational budgets. These, of course, had been approved by the Minister for Hunting and Fishing when he approved the Sports Fish Licence Fees and Forms notice on 14 July. In doing so, he supports the F&G NZC decision and our course of action to revert to the 2025/26 budgets, with a 2.3% reduction and a \$2 licence fee increase.

The F&G NZC team will dispatch the formal budget letters to the regions shortly, as per the normal process.

In non-budget-related matters, the F&G NZC discussed a proposal from Nelson Marlborough appointee Guy Gardiner, supported by Taranaki Councillor Romon Sargeson, on pathways to investigate whether grey teal could be hunted. We plan to raise this with the Minister for Hunting and Fishing at our next meeting and aim to have an update for the next F&G NZC meeting.



The Draft HPAI policy was also adopted by F&G NZC and approved for sharing with regions for their feedback for consideration as National Policy. Feedback for this is required to be received by the F&G NZC team on 9 November. With H5N1 being recorded in NZ now, this is a prime concern for the coming game bird hunting season.

Another policy which F&G NZC requires feedback on is the updated Game Bird Nuisance policy, this policy has been rewritten following feedback from operational staff in the regions and now needs to go to governors for their input and feedback. Feedback for this is required to be received by the F&G NZC team on 9 November 2026.

Also included is the letter from the Game Bird Habitat Trust advising Fish & Game that nominations for the trust close on 9 November 2026. If you know of a suitable applicant or wish to apply to be a trustee, please see the attached letter and make your nomination in time for the next F&G NZC meeting in November.

To assist with planning and preparation for next year, attached is the budget and meeting timeline is attached. We have moved up some dates to enable our finance support providers, Leech & Co, time to undertake the consolidation of the ZBB templates.

Work is also progressing with the request for information for the replacement of the licencing system. This is vital work, as most of our income comes from licence fees, so it must be as seamless as possible.

In general business, among other items, the council received a request from Southland Fish & Game for an independent audit of their finances, management, and council operations. The F&G NZC office will progress this request.

The next in-person meeting date for F&G NZC is 27 & 28 November in Wellington.

Ngā mihi
Barrie

Barrie Barnes | Chair
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
Mobile 021 925 006
E BBarnes@fishandgame.org.nz W www.fishandgame.org.nz

2026-27 Annual Budget & Meeting Schedule

Month	Date		Meeting/Activity	General Topic/Meeting	Location
Dec-2026		Friday 5 & Sunday 6 Dec	NZ Council Meeting (Held over 2 days) <i>(2025/26 Strategy)</i>		Wellington
		Friday 25 Dec	Christmas Day		
		Saturday 26 Dec	Boxing Day		
Jan-2027	Second week in Jan	Friday 1 Jan	New Year's Day		
		Saturday 2 Jan	New Year's Day Observed		
	Third week Last week of Jan		Variance Reports & Reserves Schedules sent to CFO ZBB to be into Leech and Co Draft Hunters notice to be sent to Regions Info to ABCorp and Quantity of cards approved Game Bird licence		online
		Tuesday 19 Jan	Webinar - Topic TBC		
		Saturday 23 Jan	Variance Reports & Reserves Updates Distrubuted		
		Saturday 30 Jan	Licence Working Party Licence Sales Forecast		online
Feb-2027	Always First Week of Feb				
		Tuesday 2 Feb	World Wetland Day/Release Game Bird Habitat Stamp Annotate changes to previous Game licence fees and form notice (DOC task)		
		Wednesday 3 Feb	Draft Hunters Notice Submission to DOC for comment		
	Second week in Feb	Friday 5 Feb	Variance reports Final Circulation back from Managers		
		Saturday 6 Feb	Waitangi Day		
		Tuesday 9 Feb	Online meeting to approve Game bird Regulations		Online 7pm-8:30pm
		Tuesday 9 Feb	Hunters Regulation Guide Content Due to NZC Office from Regions Consolidated regional budgets BACK to Regions		
	Third Week Third Tuesday	Wednesday 17 Feb	Hunters Notice & Submission to MOC (MFHF) & Gazette Office Hunters Notice sent to Graphic Press for Layout Check Webinar - Topic TBC		Online 12pm
		Friday 19 Feb/or the following week	Publish Hunters Notice in NZ Gazette		
Mar-2027	First week				
		Friday 5 Mar	NZ Council Meeting (Day 1 of 2)		Wellington
		Friday 5 Mar	Governors Forum - Regional Chairs		
	Second Wednesday Second Thursday in Mar Second Friday	Saturday 6 Mar	Governors Forum - Regional Chairs & NZC (Day 2 of 2)		
			Regional Budgets confirmed to Leech and Co Game Magazine Released		
		Thursday 11 Mar	Game Bird Hunting Licences on Sale (2nd Thursday)		
		Friday 12 Mar	Staff Development Grant Applications Close		
		Friday 26 Mar	Good Friday		
Apr-27	Always a Sunday	Monday 29 Mar	Easter Monday		
		Sunday 4 Apr	Mark-up/Pegging Day		
		Friday 9 Apr	NZ Council Budget meeting	Budget and Consultation meeting	Wellington
		Friday 16 April	Licence Fee Consultation doc distributed to Regions		
May-2027	First Saturday	Monday 26 Apr	Anzac Day		
	Second Week Last Friday	Saturday 1 May	Game Bird Season Opening Draft Anglers Notice circulated to Regions Licence Working Party Meeting Regional responses to Licence Fee proposals, Anglers Notice & SFLFFN DW/sea run salmon Due to NZC Office	Licence Sales reforecast - Main fishing season has ended in April . Distribute LEQ targets to Regions so Feedback can be included in June NZC Meeting	
Jun-2027	First week	Tuesday 1 June	King's Birthday		
			Angler regulation guides to be updated by Regions		
		Friday 18 June	NZ Council Meeting <i>(Consider Licence Fee and Budget feedback, Anglers Notice & SFLFFN)</i>		Wellington
		Saturday 19 June			
Jul-2027	Second Friday	Thursday 24 June	Licence fee, SFLFFN submission to MOC		
		Friday 25 June	Matariki		
		Saturday 26 June	GBHT Grant Applications Close		
	First Week		Anglers Notice submission to MOC (MFHF) Confirm Licence production numbers to ABCorp Send Angler Reg Guide to Graphic press for layout		
Aug-2027	Third Wednesday	Friday 9 July	GBHT Grant Applications Distributed to Board		
		Saturday 17 July	Anglers Notice Published in NZ Gazette		
		Wednesday 28 July	GBHT Board Meeting (11am)		Online
Aug-2027	First week		Election Public Notice Nominations Open Nominations Close		
		Sunday 22 Aug	GBHT Field Trip		Hamilton
		Monday 23 Aug	GBHT Board Meeting		Hamilton
		Wednesday 25 Aug	Fishing Magazine Released		
		Friday 27 Aug	NZ Council Meeting	Final budgets for Approval	Wellington

Month	Date		Meeting/Activity	General Topic/Meeting	Location
Sept-2027	Always 1st Sept Wednesday	Saturday 28 Aug		Last Meeting with current NZC	
		Tuesday 31 Aug	Fish & Game End of Financial Year		
		Wednesday 1 Sept	Fishing licences go on Sale Start of new financial year Electoral Roll Closes		
Oct-2027	Second Friday Third Saturday Last Saturday	Thursday 1 Oct	Sports Fishing Opening Election Day Official Declaration on election result	Results declared following Saturday.	
		Monday 25 Oct	Labour Day		
		Saturday 30 Oct	Ministerial Post Election Governance Hui	All regional councillors to attend	Wellington
Nov-2027	first week		High Country Sports Fishing Opening (CSI & NC 1st Sat Nov)	Otago and Southland 1st Nov NC and CSI 1st Saturday	
			All Regional council must have held their first meeting	Within 3 weeks of Election results confirmed	
Dec-2027		Friday 3 Dec	NZ Council Meeting	First Meeting with new NZC	Wellington
		Saturday 4 Dec	(2027/28 Strategy)		Wellington

KEY

	Public Holiday
	NZ Council Meeting
	GBHT Board Meeting
	Governors Forum (Regional Chairs & NZC)

2027 NZC DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGET AND MEETING SCHEDULE

Auckland Waikato Fish and Game Council

Purpose: Decision

Prepared by: Chief Executive

Background

Auckland Waikato Council meetings are generally aligned with NZC decision-making timelines to ensure the Council can provide timely input on matters such as licence fees, regulations and other national initiatives.

Staff have reviewed the proposed NZC Annual Budget and Meeting Schedule for 2027 and have significant concerns regarding the requirement for regional Zero Based Budget information to be submitted to Leech and Co early January. The proposed timetable would require regions to undertake substantial budget development work before sufficient current year financial information is available and before regional councils have had an opportunity to consider their budgets and operational work plans.

For Auckland Waikato, the established process is for staff to prepare the draft Budget and Operational Work Plan during February. This allows five to six months of actual expenditure to be taken into account when forecasting and setting priorities for the following financial year. The draft Budget and Operational Work Plan is then considered by Council in March before being submitted to NZC. This process has worked effectively for many years and provides councillors with the information required to make informed governance decisions.

Staff do not support the proposed January deadline for regional ZBB submissions. In addition to being premature, the deadline appears to assume a level of national oversight of regional budgeting that does not reflect the role of regional councils. Regional councils are responsible for approving their own budgets and operational work plans within the funding available to them. Regional budget development is therefore undertaken to support regional governance and planning rather than to seek approval of regional expenditure decisions from NZC.

Staff also question the governance value of requiring detailed ZBB information to be prepared and submitted in January. Regional councils are not seeking approval from NZC for individual expenditure decisions and, under the current funding model, regions receive bulk funding allocations and remain responsible for determining how those funds are applied through their own budgeting and planning processes.

Staff consider that requiring detailed ZBB information to be submitted in January creates a significant administrative burden while providing limited practical value. More importantly, it risks producing less reliable budgets by forcing regions to undertake detailed forecasting before sufficient financial information is available. The proposed timeline is therefore inconsistent with sound budget development practice and with the established regional planning process.

Accordingly, staff recommend that Auckland Waikato advise NZC that it does not support the proposed January ZBB deadline and that Auckland Waikato will continue to develop its draft Budget and Operational Work Plan during February, with Council consideration and approval occurring in March.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the proposed NZC Annual Budget and Meeting Schedule for 2027.
2. Does not support the requirement for regional Zero Based Budget information to be submitted to Leech and Co in January 2027.
3. Agrees that the proposed deadline is inconsistent with sound regional budget development and provides limited governance value, given that regional councils are responsible for approving their own budgets and operational work plans.
4. Confirms that Auckland Waikato staff will prepare the draft 2027/28 Budget and Operational Work Plan during February, with Council consideration and approval in March 2027.
5. Requests that NZC revise the proposed timetable to better align with established regional budgeting processes.

National Policy – Game Birds Causing Damage or Nuisance

Purpose

This policy establishes a consistent, lawful, and proportionate framework for responding to damage or nuisance caused by game birds while supporting sustainable game bird populations and public hunting opportunities.

Scope

This policy applies to all Fish & Game regions, all game bird species managed under the Wildlife Act 1953, and all settings (farms, airports, wastewater facilities, public areas, and private land).

Statutory Authority

All authorities and decisions must comply with the Wildlife Act 1953, associated delegations, and other relevant legislation. The authorization is the broad legal approval for an activity that would otherwise be prohibited under the Wildlife Act and a permit is the specific instrument or document that grants that authorization and usually contains conditions.

Policy Principles

- Early and timely intervention
- Proportionality and minimal harm
- Non-lethal methods as the default where practicable
- Regional discretion and flexibility
- Clear separation between governance policy and operational practice
- Advisory/authorising role for Fish & Game
- Transparent reporting and accountability

Permit Framework

Step 1 – Non-lethal disturbance (default) where practicable.

Step 2 – Lethal control at discretion of the Region and proportionate to the issue at hand.

or take eggs of or destroy eggs of

Mandatory Requirements

- All disturbance or lethal actions require an authorisation, and the permit issued conveys the conditions of that authorisation.
- Time-bound, purpose-specific conditions must be included.
- Regions are not required to own or maintain equipment.
- Standard reporting is required.

Standard Operating Procedure

Standard Operating Procedures - Game Bird Nuisance Procedure provides guidance to staff for consistency in approach, operational efficiency, improved employee onboarding, and ensuring compliance with safety and legal regulations.

Regional Flexibility

Site visits are discretionary and based on risk. Trusted operators may be streamlined.

Compliance and Review

Regions will retain records and the NZC will periodically review this policy. Reporting will continue to occur in annual reports which involves no change to current practice.

Standard Operating Procedure – Game Bird Nuisance Procedure

Roles

Regional Managers approve permits; staff provide advice and draft authorities/permits ; landholders receive permits but can delegate permitted actions.

Service Levels

Enquiries acknowledged within two working days with follow-up as soon as possible afterwards.

Intake and Assessment

Collect information about species, numbers, nature of nuisance, location, history, methods tried, and safety considerations. Photos of what is happening can also be useful.

Risk Assessment

Use regional risk categories (low to critical). Site visits are discretionary.

Consider Options and recommend response from non-lethal disturbance and/or lethal control

Non-Lethal Response Where Practicable

Issue a Permit to Disturb with conditions. Rotate scare devices and ensure safe use.

Escalation to Lethal Control

Used only at Regional discretion. Must specify persons authorised to undertake disturbance, maximum numbers, species, method, duration and reporting and ideally not occur in April or during the season unless all persons have a game bird hunting license.

Or take eggs or destroy eggs

Trusted Operator Pathway

Streamlined where compliance history supports it.

Equipment and Assistance

Councils are not required to provide equipment. Any field support may be contracted separately depending on staffing resources in the region.

Site Visits

Site visits are at the discretion of the region.

Record Keeping and Reporting

Use standard templates and ensure timely returns. Continue to report annually on total permits issued in your annual report.

Compliance Monitoring

Risk-based checks; non-compliance may affect future permits.

Review and Ongoing Work

Annual review of SOP for improvements. Regions to collaboratively put together a handbook of response options by game bird species for future use.

The current authority requires Fish and Game to indemnify DoC

AGENDA ITEM:



NEW ZEALAND GAME BIRD HABITAT TRUST BOARD

Prepared by: Robert Sowman, Habitat Trust Board Administrator

The New Zealand Game Bird Trust Board is appointed on a three-year term by the Minister of Hunting & Fishing (or Conservation). The current Board's appointments expire in April 2027.

The purpose of this memo is to commence the process for appointing a new Board.

Therefore, it is recommended that the New Zealand Fish and Game Council invite Fish and Game Councils in November 2026 to nominate suitable candidates to be considered by the NZ Council at its meeting in March 2027.

A six-person membership of the Habitat Trust Board is set out in *section 44F of the Wildlife Act 1953*. It provides for appointments by the Minister of Conservation (*current appointments shown in italics*):

- a) a chairperson (*Andy Tannock*)
- b) 3 persons appointed after consultation with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (*Andy Garrick, Chantal Whitby, Mark Sutton*)
- c) 1 person appointed after consultation with the Director-General (*Erin Garrick*)
- d) 1 person appointed after consultation with the Board of Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Incorporated (*Neil Candy*).

In proposing nominations, a Fish and Game Council can submit names from within or outside its region – either previous or new nominees. Without ruling out Fish & Game staff, it is noted that these people already play an important role within the Habitat Trust grant allocation process as initiators, referees and advisers to projects.

On receiving names of suitable candidates, the New Zealand Council needs then to consider this feedback and make its selection of three people to best reflect a diverse set of nominees with some continuity to the Board's current structure and processes. It may also endorse a name for Chairperson.

Recommendations

It is recommended Fish & Game Councils be invited to:

- a) **include names of eligible candidates by 28 February 2027 for selection by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, and**
- b) **to provide the names of three nominees to recommend to the Minister of Conservation by April 2027.**

Section	Operational
Contact/Owner	NZC HR
Last Review	New Policy
Next Review	Before each game bird season [DATE] and/or after any material change in official guidance
Approval	NZC
Effective Date	Aug 2026

PURPOSE

1. This policy sets out the governance framework and Fish & Game New Zealand's accountabilities and minimum requirements for preparing for and responding to high pathogenicity avian influenza H5N1 ("HPAI H5N1" or "bird flu").
2. The policy recognises Fish & Game NZ's statutory role in managing game bird hunting, its direct relationship with licence holders, and its duty to protect employees, volunteers, game bird hunters, as well as maintaining organisational credibility.

Support our values:

 - Trust
 - Inclusion
 - Connection
 - Service
3. This policy applies to all Fish & Game NZ governance bodies, employees, contractors and volunteers when undertaking Fish & Game NZ functions or representing Fish & Game NZ in relation to HPAI H5N1.

POLICY

Policy statement

4. Fish & Game NZ will take a science-based, precautionary approach to HPAI H5N1. The organisation will support the national biosecurity response, follow official advice, maintain communications with staff and licence holders, and continue its core functions where it is safe to do so.

5. Fish & Game NZ's role is to support, amplify and align with official advice while managing the impacts for game bird hunting, staff safety, regional operations & continuity, and licence holder communications.
6. Every Fish & Game Regional Council is responsible for translating national guidance into local arrangements and actions. Where this policy, a regional plan, or any subordinate document conflict, MPI guidance takes precedence, followed by this policy. Regions should not adopt local positions that depart from MPI or national Fish & Game policy or guidance.

Scope

7. This policy covers preparedness, response, communications, health and safety, stakeholder engagement, regional operations and post-event review. It does not replace legal requirements, including employment obligations, especially around Health and Safety. Fish & Game NZ does not lead national disease control, biosecurity, or public health advice — those responsibilities sit with the relevant statutory agencies.

Guiding principles

8. **Lead agency alignment:** Fish & Game NZ will align with Biosecurity NZ / MPI as the national biosecurity lead, DOC on threatened species and public conservation land, and health agencies on human health advice.
Safety first: Staff, volunteers, licence holders, contractors and the public are not to be placed at unnecessary risk.
Science-led decisions: Organisational positions are to be based on evidence, official advice and documented risk assessments — not speculation or public pressure.
Calm and consistent communication: Messages will be factual, measured, practical and coordinated, avoiding unnecessary alarm.
Regional readiness: Regions are encouraged to prepare for HPAI H5N1 scenarios, including local detections, reporting surges, requests for assistance and possible changes to game bird hunting regulations.
One organisation, one voice: Public statements and media responses are to be coordinated through the Fish and Game NZ CEO.

Risk Phases

9. Both national and regional preparedness activity is scaled to the risk phase in effect (as directed by MPI). Fish & Game NZ can apply a risk phase regionally, i.e. Phase 3 will apply to the region where H5N1 is present, rather than a blanket application across all Fish & Game NZ regions. The Phases, including regional detections, will be based on MPI advice. NZ CEO/COO will advise the region if their phase changes.
 - **Phase 1 — Alert and watch:** H5N1 is overseas. Focus is quiet, steady preparedness.
 - **Phase 2 — Heightened risk:** H5N1 is closer to New Zealand (e.g. Ross Sea/Antarctica or Australia). Focus is raising readiness without raising alarm.
 - **Phase 3 — Confirmed incursion:** H5N1 is present in New Zealand. Focus is a fast, calm, coordinated response.
 - **Phase 4 — Established:** H5N1 is established in the wild bird population. Focus is sustained, business-as-usual management.

MINIMUM ORGANISATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Preparedness

10. Fish & Game NZ must maintain a current national HPAI H5N1 Preparation and Response Plan, communications toolkit, crisis response structure, regional contact list and staff guidance. Each region should understand its local role in relation to regional council preparedness, potential disposal arrangements, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supply and use, staff training, licence holder messaging, public enquiries and requests for operational assistance.

Reporting and surveillance support

11. Fish & Game NZ will encourage all licence holders, staff and the public to report three or more sick or dead wild birds in a group to the Biosecurity New Zealand exotic pest and disease hotline on **0800 80 99 66**, or any updated official reporting channel. Staff must not handle or move suspected HPAI birds unless directed through official arrangements and supported by appropriate PPE, training and approvals.

Health, safety and biosecurity

12. Fish & Game NZ will apply a precautionary approach to staff safety. PPE requirements, hygiene practices, cleaning and disinfection, bird handling, dog-related precautions and fieldwork decisions should follow the current response plan and official health and safety guidance. Where official risk information is unavailable or unclear, managers should escalate for advice and adopt the lower risk option until clarification is received. NZC will assist regions to source PPE and organise training through the Health & Safety Representative Committee.

Communications

13. All HPAI H5N1 communications must be coordinated through NZC, factual and consistent with the Crisis Communications Plan and Toolkit. Fish & Game NZ will amplify official advice, explain what it means for game bird hunters and staff, and avoid creating competing technical information. Human health content must be checked against health agency guidance before release. Media enquiries should be referred through the NZC CEO.

Game bird hunting, access and regulatory decisions

14. Fish & Game NZ will maintain lawful and sustainable game bird hunting where it is safe and responsible to do so. Any proposed change to game bird hunting access, local restrictions, bag limits, season length or broader regulatory settings must be based on official advice, documented risk considerations, regional input and following the required statutory process.

Dead bird collection and disposal

15. Fish & Game NZ will not undertake dead bird collection, transport or disposal unless the activity is authorised, risk-assessed, resourced and aligned with MPI, regional council and landowner requirements. Any such activity must have clear approval, trained personnel, appropriate PPE, safe decontamination arrangements, a lawful disposal pathway and a documented record of the event.

Regional preparedness plans

16. At a minimum, every regional preparedness plan should include:
 - A copy of, and alignment with, the Fish & Game HPAI H5N1 Preparation and Response

Plan including the HPAI H5N1 Crisis Communications Plan and the HPAI H5N1 Communications Toolkit.

- A documented strategy for acquiring the PPE recommended in the NZAIHSGW¹, noting where the regional/unitary council will provide PPE or staff training.
- Evidence that staff have been trained in the use of the recommended PPE, including fit testing of masks.
- Current contacts for the region's Regional/unitary Council, DOC and mana whenua/iwi partners, and an understanding of the council's own preparedness and clean-up plan, including Fish & Game NZ's role.
- Scenario planning for foreseeable local situations, such as members of the public bringing sick or dead birds to a Fish & Game office, or requests from the public to collect dead birds.
- A record of current MPI guidance on culling or disturbing wild birds in response to H5N1.
- A ready-to-use plan for altering game regulations or closing areas if necessary, using the Regulation Amendment Cover Template.

PPE requirements and operational procedures

17. PPE levels are based on MPI's assessment of the likelihood of H5N1 being present around an operation. Where MPI is unable to provide an assessment, staff should assume the likelihood is high and use the higher PPE level.

- **Level 1 PPE (gloves and footwear):** Handling apparently healthy, sick or dying birds where H5N1 has not been detected in the area, and MPI assesses the likelihood as low.
- **Level 2 PPE (Level 1 plus disposable fit-tested P2/N95 respirator, eyewear and fluid-resistant coveralls):** Handling apparently healthy birds where H5N1 has not been detected in the area but MPI assesses the likelihood as high.
- **Level 3 PPE (full hazmat):** contact with dead birds where H5N1 has not been detected but the likelihood is high, or where H5N1 has been detected.

18. In addition to PPE levels, staff should:

- Maintain heightened awareness of disease risk when working with wildlife.
- Maintain good biosecurity and hygiene practice, including scrubbing and disinfecting equipment, boots and clothing between sites, and cleaning hands and equipment between handling each bird.
- Not handle sick birds while unwell or immunocompromised.

Banding

19. Banding will be paused in regions experiencing Phase 3, until MPI advises Fish & Game it is safe to resume, because aggregating birds for banding can spread H5N1. Once H5N1 is established in New Zealand and MPI advises it is safe to do so, duck banding will resume with a heightened level of biosecurity and hygiene.

Botulism response

20. Standard botulism collection operations may continue during Phase 3, provided the PPE prescribed in the NZAIHSGW is followed based on the likelihood of H5N1 being in the area (Level 2 if likelihood is low and H5N1 is not detected locally; Level 3 if likelihood is high or

¹ New Zealand Avian Influenza Health and Safety Guidance for Workers

unknown).

21. When conducting botulism clean ups during Phase 3 regions must:

- Inform the relevant Regional or District Council.
- Inform MPI via the hotline (0800 80 99 66).
- Follow MPI's advice on whether birds should be tested for H5N1.
- Record the event, location, number of deaths and response.
- Update the national Fish & Game NZ database.

Culling and dispersing wild birds

22. Fish & Game Regions are encouraged to assist poultry farmers to minimise contact between wild birds and farmed birds. Permits to cull or disturb should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Any report of unauthorised disturbance or culling of birds must be investigated through the usual process.

Dead bird clean-up

23. Disposal of H5N1-affected birds may occur only via an MPI-approved method or facility, or a legally declared disposal site; currently, MPI must approve all dead bird collections. Regional/unitary councils are responsible for organising local clean-up; however, Fish & Game regions should prepare for the possibility of being asked to assist in a local clean-up by securing PPE and arranging for training staff in advance. Any removal of H5N1-killed animals requires MPI approval, Regional Council approval, a legal disposal site and Level 3 PPE.

Reporting

24. Where three or more sick or dead wild birds in a group are observed, it should be reported to the Biosecurity New Zealand exotic pest and disease hotline on **0800 80 99 66** (without touching or moving the birds). Staff should redirect members of the public to the hotline rather than accepting birds in person.

Crisis Response Team

25. The Chief Executive, or delegate, may activate the HPAI H5N1 crisis response team when a detection has operational implications for Fish & Game NZ, when official advice materially changes, when media or public interest escalates, or when regional managers require national coordination. Activation may be national or regional, depending on the event.

DISCUSSION

Regulatory change process

26. Where a region considers a change to the game bird Hunters Notice is required (for example, to bag limits, season length, or area closures), the Fish & Game Regional Council must pass a resolution and submit it to the Minister through the NZC (using the Regulation Amendment Cover Template). NZC cannot itself propose amendments — they must originate from a region with a supporting council decision. Regions are encouraged to draft potential amendments in advance, so they are ready if an urgent council meeting is required.

Communications

27. All external communications relating to H5N1 must follow the Fish & Game NZ HPAI H5N1

Crisis Communications Plan and draw on the pre-approved scenarios in the Communications Toolkit. Any local media enquiry referring specifically to a Fish & Game region should be notified to the Fish & Game Principal Communications Advisor, consistent with the no-surprises principle.

ACCOUNTABILITIES

Roles and accountabilities

28. The NZC is accountable for this policy and for ensuring national consistency across HPAI H5N1 preparedness and response. The Chief Executive is accountable for activation of national response arrangements, liaison with lead agencies and escalation to governance where required.
29. Regional Fish & Game councils are accountable for local preparedness and for maintaining relationships with regional and unitary authorities, mana whenua, regional DOC offices and other local stakeholders. Regional managers should ensure staff are aware of reporting pathways, PPE expectations, local response arrangements, communications escalation and the limits of Fish & Game NZ's functional role. Changes to the game bird Hunters Notice must follow the legislative process set out above.

Table 1: Roles and Responsibilities Table 2 under this policy

Role	Responsibility under this policy
NZC Chief Executive	Primary point of contact for MPI and DOC. Activates national response arrangements and alerts the Crisis Response Team, Regional Managers, NZC Chair and Regional Chairs on confirmation of an outbreak. Accountable to governance for the overall response.
Crisis Response Team	Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer, Principal Communications Advisor, Science Advisor and representatives from any impacted regions. Owns emergency communications and situational decisions during activation.
Regional Managers / Councils	Hold and maintain a current regional preparedness plan (Section 16). Lead local intelligence gathering, staff and stakeholder liaison, and regionally targeted communications. Nominate a delegate if multiple regions are impacted at once.
Regional Health & Safety Representatives	Confirm PPE ⁴ stock and staff training are current for the region. Escalate gaps to NZC.
All staff, contractors, volunteers	Follow current PPE levels and biosecurity procedures. Report sick or dead birds through the correct channel (Section 24). No person is to independently issue public advice, interpret human health risk, collect suspected HPAI carcasses, or approve disposal activity.

RECORDS, REVIEW AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

30. The Fish & Game HPAI H5N1 Plan is intended to be a living document that will be updated in consultation with regions. As H5N1 spreads and becomes endemic, the Fish & Game HPAI H5N1 Plan will evolve; approval of this policy endorses the plan and the process in place to improve the document as needed.
31. Fish & Game NZ will keep records of HPAI-related decisions, official advice relied on, communications issued, operational assistance provided, PPE or training decisions, regional incidents and any changes to game bird hunting arrangements. Records must be

sufficient to support accountability, organisational learning and future review. This policy must be reviewed before each game bird season and/or after any material change in official guidance.

DRAFT

DRAFT NATIONAL HPAI POLICY 2026

Auckland Waikato Fish and Game Council feedback

Purpose: Decision

Prepared by: Chief Executive

Purpose

To seek Council direction on Auckland Waikato Fish and Game Council's response to the draft National HPAI Policy.

Background

NZC has circulated a draft National HPAI Policy for regional feedback. The policy is intended to apply across Fish and Game governance bodies, staff, contractors and volunteers.

Fish and Game also has an HPAI H5N1 Preparation and Response Plan. The plan is an adaptive operational document intended to be updated as official advice, disease distribution, assessed risks and operational experience change.

The draft policy contains a substantial amount of operational detail that is already addressed in the plan. This includes risk phases, PPE requirements, staff training, bird handling, banding, botulism response, carcass disposal, culling and dispersal, regional preparedness, reporting, communications and game bird management.

Assessment

Council supports Fish and Game having a clear national policy position on HPAI and supports coordination with MPI, Biosecurity New Zealand, DOC, Health New Zealand and other relevant agencies.

The issue is not whether Fish and Game should have an HPAI policy. It should.

The issue is whether a national policy is the appropriate place for detailed operational requirements in a rapidly changing biosecurity environment.

The HPAI plan is intended to be adaptive. It can be amended as scientific understanding develops, official advice changes, disease distribution changes, and Fish and Game gains practical experience responding to HPAI.

Transferring detailed operational content from the plan into national policy is inappropriate. It risks creating duplication, inconsistency and delay. It also means that routine operational changes may require policy amendment and governance approval, rather than being updated promptly through the plan and supporting procedures.

There are already areas where the policy and plan do not align clearly. The policy includes a staged phase framework that assumes HPAI is overseas or approaching New Zealand, while the plan records H5N1 as already confirmed in New Zealand. The policy also includes detailed requirements relating to PPE, banding and operational responses that need to remain subject to current health and safety requirements, local risk assessments and official agency advice.

The draft policy assumes a progression from HPAI being overseas, to approaching New Zealand, to a confirmed New Zealand incursion. However, HPAI is already present in New Zealand. This illustrates why detailed operational settings should not be embedded in national policy, as they can be overtaken before the policy is formally adopted.

Fish and Game is not the lead agency for disease control, biosecurity or public health. Its role is to support the official response, protect its people, communicate clearly with licence holders and continue its statutory functions where safe, lawful and practicable.

Fish and Game's role should be to support and implement official advice while meeting its own health and safety obligations and continuing its statutory functions where practical.

The national policy should therefore state enduring governance principles, responsibilities and accountability requirements only. Detailed operational requirements should remain in the adaptive HPAI H5N1 Preparation and Response Plan, regional plans, health and safety systems, standard operating procedures and current official guidance.

The draft policy establishes expectations for regional councils. Regional views should therefore be carefully considered before the policy is finalised, particularly where the policy would prescribe operational requirements to be applied by regional staff and councils.

Proposed policy approach

1. Follow and support the advice and lawful directions of MPI, Biosecurity New Zealand, public health agencies and other relevant statutory authorities.
2. Take all reasonably practicable steps to protect staff, volunteers, contractors, licence holders, stakeholders and the public.
3. Continue its statutory functions where safe, lawful and practicable.
4. Provide clear and accurate information consistent with current official advice.

5. Work with relevant authorities and stakeholders to support a coordinated response.
6. Maintain an adaptive HPAI Preparation and Response Plan that may be updated in response to official advice, disease distribution, assessed risks and operational experience without requiring amendment to this policy.
7. Apply detailed operational requirements in accordance with the current HPAI Preparation and Response Plan, regional health and safety requirements, local risk assessments and current official agency guidance.

Recommendation

That Council:

1. Notes the draft National HPAI Policy.
2. Supports a national HPAI policy that establishes enduring governance principles.
3. Requests that detailed operational requirements be removed from the policy and retained within the adaptive HPAI H5N1 Preparation and Response Plan and supporting procedures.
4. Supports the proposed policy approach set out in this paper.
5. Authorises the Chief Executive to submit Council's feedback to NZC.

2026/27 Revised Budget and Operational Work Plan

Purpose

To present the finalised 2026/27 Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council bulk fund budget and accompanying Operational Work Plan for Council ratification following their revision by the Chair and Chief Executive under delegated authority.

Background

Council considered and set its draft 2026/27 bulk fund budget and Operational Work Plan at its March 2026 meeting. The draft bulk fund budget was \$943,679.

At its July 2026 meeting, Council delegated authority to the Chair and Chief Executive to finalise the 2026/27 Budget and Operational Work Plan following confirmation of national funding allocations, licence fee outcomes and levy obligations, with the final documents to be brought back to Council for ratification.

On 17 July 2026, New Zealand Fish and Game Council advised regions that the Minister had approved the 2026/27 sports fish and game bird licence fees. This provides for a \$2 increase based on licence equivalency across licence categories, with a \$3 increase applying to non resident angler licences.

NZC subsequently advised regions of their approved bulk funding allocations. These allocations incorporate a proposed 2.3% reduction from the 2025/26 baseline budgets funded from licence income.

Within Fish & Game's budgeting framework, the bulk fund represents funding derived from licence income. Council's work programme is also supported by other budgeted income and associated expenditure, including anticipated grants, contract and other external income, and planned expenditure from dedicated and restricted reserves.

Council has previously advised NZC that Auckland/Waikato is not in a position to draw further on its depleted General Reserve. The depletion of Council's reserves has been driven in significant part by increasing levy requirements used to fund organisational expenditure and budget deficits approved by NZC. Council now needs to restore its General Reserve rather than continue drawing on it to support this funding model.

Following confirmation of the funding position, the Chair and Chief Executive have exercised the authority delegated by Council and revised the draft bulk fund budget and OWP. The finalised documents are presented with this paper for Council ratification.

Finalised 2026/27 bulk fund budget

The finalised 2026/27 bulk fund budget is \$903,870, a reduction of \$39,809, or 4.2%, from the \$943,679 draft bulk fund budget set by Council in March.

This brings Council's call on licence derived bulk funding back to the same nominal level as the approved 2025/26 budget.

	March draft	Finalised	Change
Bulk fund budget	\$943,679	\$903,870	\$(39,809)
Percentage reduction			4.2%

Total approved budget

Separate from the \$903,870 bulk fund budget, Council's total approved 2026/27 budget also provides for \$359,000 of budgeted income and associated expenditure.

The \$359,000 comprises a combination of anticipated grants, contract and other external income, together with planned expenditure from dedicated and restricted reserves. It forms part of Council's total approved budget but is separate from the licence derived bulk fund budget.

For budgeted external income, the associated expenditure is contingent on that income being secured. For example, if Council budgets for \$100,000 of grant funded activity but the grant applications are unsuccessful, the associated expenditure would not proceed. The \$359,000 should therefore be understood as budgeted income and matching expenditure rather than a guaranteed level of additional expenditure.

The total approved 2026/27 budget is therefore \$1,262,870, comprising the \$903,870 bulk fund budget and \$359,000 of budgeted income and associated expenditure. Actual expenditure against the latter will depend on the relevant income being realised or the dedicated or restricted reserve funding being available for its approved purpose.

2026/27 budget structure	Amount
Licence derived bulk fund budget	\$903,870
Separate budgeted income and associated expenditure	\$359,000
Total approved budget	\$1,262,870

Basis of the revisions

In finalising the bulk fund budget, the Chair and Chief Executive have sought to identify savings without materially reducing Council's core operational programme.

The majority of the savings have been identified within overhead and administrative expenditure rather than through reductions in operational staff capacity. Individual expenditure lines have been reassessed based on expected requirements, recent expenditure and the ability to defer expenditure where appropriate.

The more significant changes are:

Expenditure item	March draft	Finalised	Change
Salaries	\$611,538	\$606,623	\$(4,915)
Staff training	\$4,950	\$2,000	\$(2,950)
Office maintenance	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$(15,000)
Office equipment maintenance	\$1,500	\$500	\$(1,000)
Telephone	\$15,000	\$13,000	\$(2,000)
Stationery	\$5,000	\$3,000	\$(2,000)
Vehicle maintenance	\$20,000	\$18,000	\$(2,000)
Vehicle insurance	\$17,000	\$13,000	\$(4,000)
Vehicle fuel	\$36,000	\$30,500	\$(5,500)

These reductions are partially offset by increases in some expenditure lines where the original provision was considered insufficient or where expenditure remains a priority.

The review has not involved an across the board reduction. Expenditure has been reassessed on a line by line basis, with the objective of retaining expenditure that directly contributes to Council's operational priorities while reducing or deferring expenditure where this can reasonably be achieved.

Deferred expenditure and interim savings

Not all of the reductions identified through the budget review represent permanent savings.

The most significant example is office maintenance, where the provision has been reduced from \$25,000 to \$10,000. This represents the deferral of some planned maintenance rather than removal of the underlying requirement. This work will still need to be completed and provided for in future budgets.

Similar restraint has been applied across a number of other overhead areas. These measures are considered achievable for 2026/27 but should be regarded as an interim response to the current funding position rather than establishing a permanently lower operating cost base.

Vehicle expenditure has also been reviewed closely. The fuel budget has been reduced as staff have been actively seeking to reduce fuel expenditure, including carpooling where operationally practical, and the finalised budget assumes these practices will continue throughout 2026/27.

Expenditure against these reduced provisions will need to be closely monitored during the year.

Operational programme and revised OWP

A key objective of the review has been to protect Council's operational delivery. The 8,286 staff hours allocated to operational outputs in the March draft have been retained.

There has been some reprioritisation of external operational expenditure between individual activities, including increased provision for fish releases offset by reductions in a small number of other operational expenditure lines. Overall, external expenditure associated with the operational programme has changed only marginally.

The majority of the required savings have instead been achieved through reduced overhead expenditure. This also reduces the internal hourly cost applied to staff time. Consequently, the calculated internal cost of individual operational outputs reduces without a corresponding reduction in the staff hours allocated to those activities.

The Operational Work Plan presented alongside this paper has been updated to reflect the finalised bulk fund budget and the resulting financial allocations across individual activities.

Reserves, levy obligations and future financial position

Reducing the bulk fund budget to \$903,870 does not resolve Council's underlying General Reserve position.

Council has already advised NZC that its General Reserve is depleted and that further General Reserve drawdown is not sustainable. This depletion has been driven in significant part by increasing levy requirements used to fund organisational expenditure and budget deficits approved by NZC.

Council therefore needs to move from General Reserve depletion to reserve restoration. Having constrained its call on licence derived bulk funding to the same nominal level as 2025/26, Council is not in a position to meet an ongoing bulk fund shortfall through further depletion of its General Reserve.

Based on Council's current reserve position and budgeted expenditure, it is also unlikely that Council will be able to meet its 2026/27 NZC levy obligations in full while maintaining the minimum reserve position required under Council's own Reserves Policy and the applicable NZC budget and reserves policy requirements.

Council's position remains that payment of the levy should not require a regional council to knowingly place itself in a position that is inconsistent with the financial and reserve policies applying to it.

This position is distinct from planned expenditure from dedicated and restricted reserves. Those reserves are held for specific purposes and may be used for those purposes as provided for in the work programme. They should not, however, be treated as available to meet general bulk fund operating costs or levy obligations.

Future licence revenue, levy settings and funding arrangements will need to provide sufficient funding to meet Council's reasonable operating requirements, enable Council to meet legitimate levy obligations and provide a realistic pathway to progressively restore the General Reserve in accordance with the applicable reserves policies.

Advice to New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Following ratification, the finalised bulk fund budget and OWP will be provided to NZC as Auckland/Waikato's 2026/27 bulk fund position.

Council should specifically advise NZC that it has reduced its call on the licence derived bulk fund by \$39,809 from the draft set in March, bringing the bulk fund budget to \$903,870, the same nominal level as the approved 2025/26 budget.

The reduction in the bulk fund budget represents considerable expenditure restraint by Auckland/Waikato. It does not create capacity for further General Reserve drawdown. Council's financial priority must now be to restore its General Reserve in accordance with its reserves policy.

Council should therefore reiterate to NZC that the \$903,870 bulk fund requirement needs to be met from licence derived funding. Based on Council's current General Reserve position and budgeted expenditure, there is also a significant risk that Council will be unable to meet the 2026/27 levy in full while complying with the applicable reserve requirements. This position will need to be addressed with NZC.

Chair and Chief Executive comment

The Chair and Chief Executive consider the finalised bulk fund budget and OWP to provide a workable programme for 2026/27 and recommend their ratification by Council.

The revised position reflects a conscious decision to constrain Council's call on licence derived funding while protecting operational capability.

The approach does, however, rely on considerable restraint and the deferral of some expenditure that will ultimately still need to be incurred. It also cannot provide a sustainable solution if Council is required to continue depleting its General Reserve to meet increasing organisational levy requirements. The priority now needs to be restoring Council's General Reserve and ensuring future funding and levy arrangements are sustainable.

Recommendations

The Chair and Chief Executive recommend that Council:

1. receives this report;
2. notes that Council set its draft 2026/27 bulk fund budget and Operational Work Plan at its March 2026 meeting;
3. notes that Council subsequently delegated authority to the Chair and Chief Executive to finalise the Budget and Operational Work Plan following confirmation of national funding allocations, licence fee outcomes and levy obligations;
4. notes that the finalised bulk fund budget is \$903,870, a reduction of \$39,809, or 4.2%, from the March draft and the same nominal level as Council's approved 2025/26 budget;
5. notes that, separate from the bulk fund budget and OWP, Council's total approved 2026/27 budget includes a further \$359,000 of budgeted income and associated expenditure from anticipated grants, contracts and other external income, and planned expenditure from dedicated and restricted reserves;
6. notes that expenditure dependent on anticipated external income will only proceed to the extent that the associated income is realised;
7. notes that some reductions within the bulk fund budget represent the deferral of necessary expenditure and should not be regarded as permanent reductions in Council's underlying operating costs;
8. notes that Council's General Reserve has been depleted, in significant part as a consequence of increasing levy requirements used to fund organisational expenditure and budget deficits approved by NZC, and reaffirms that Council now needs to move from General Reserve depletion to reserve restoration;
9. notes that, based on Council's current reserve position and budgeted expenditure, Council is unlikely to be able to meet its 2026/27 NZC levy obligations in full while maintaining compliance with Council's Reserves Policy and applicable NZC budget and reserves policy requirements;
10. ratifies the finalised Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council 2026/27 bulk fund budget of \$903,870;
11. ratifies the accompanying 2026/27 Operational Work Plan;

12. notes that Council's total approved 2026/27 budget is \$1,262,870, comprising the \$903,870 bulk fund budget and \$359,000 of separate budgeted income and associated expenditure; and
13. directs the Chair and Chief Executive to advise NZC of Council's finalised 2026/27 bulk fund budget and OWP, including the \$39,809 reduction in Council's bulk fund requirement, Council's requirement to restore its General Reserve, and the potential implications of its current reserve position for payment of the 2026/27 NZC levy.



AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

2026/2027

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APPENDIX

- I Budget/Project Summary**

1. INTRODUCTION

This Annual Operational Work Plan connects with Council's 2021 Sports Fish and Game Management Plan which is recommended to the reader who wishes to obtain an overview of issues within the region and the general priorities of Council.

The Management Plan backgrounds Council's evolution, its interaction with the wider community, the sustainable management of fish and game, the importance of habitat, issues, areas of conflict, future possible threats and conflict/threat/mitigation strategies.

The Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council region is unique in that the population it services is much larger than that of other Fish & Game Councils. The bulk of the population is centred north of the Bombay Hills with the major resource located southwards necessitating considerable travel and associated expense for the majority of gamebird hunters and freshwater anglers in the region. The composition of the population is also unique in that the bulk of such is urban, which has not had a close association with either the land or traditional field sports.

Auckland/Waikato sell 25% more game licences than any other Council which coupled with the essentially urban population, places additional pressures not experienced by other Councils on Auckland/Waikato's major income base. Moreover Auckland/Waikato is the only Council that owns a substantial area of wetland with over 1,700 hectares of endangered wetlands comprising some 15 properties.

Under its validating legislation, the Conservation Law Reform Act 1990, the Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council is required to:

- i. Formulate and adopt an Operational Work Plan (Section 26Q (3)).
- ii. Provide a report of its operations and financial statements audited by the Government Audit Office (Section 41 Public Finance Act 1989).
- iii. Produce a Statement of Objectives specifying the output to be produced by the Council which at the end of the financial year will be reported on via a Statement of Service Performance (Section 41 Public Finance Act 1989).

2. REPORT FORMAT

The following plan presents a series of goals grouped under nine functional areas, with each goal addressed through a series of objectives with costings attributed to them. Each costing is an imputed net cost made up of projected direct and overhead costs less income. Costs other than those specific to the functional area are indirect items of budgeted expenditure divided by the hours available in order to produce the estimated cost relative to time expended on each objective - consequently those costs are indicative only.

Appendix (I) shows Council's budget for 2026/27

Unless otherwise stated objectives are to be completed by the end of Council's financial year.

The attached Work Plan is based on Council employing a full-time Chief Executive, two field officers, two senior field officers, two Environmental Officers (2 part-time positions, one being shared with Northland Fish and Game) and a part-time Office Manager (0.75 FTE). Provision has not been made for the hundreds of hours and dollars donated to Council's operations by the twelve elected Councillors, 8 honorary rangers, Fish and Game Associations and other user groups who seek to put something back into their sport - all on an unpaid basis and without which the organisation would not survive. The Council is also increasingly dependent on the considerable efforts and long hours spent by researchers, often highly qualified biologists from North America, who are assisting on a voluntary basis with the council's research programme.

In preparing the plan three key aims are met namely

- (a) The need to provide useful means of predicting and reviewing activities within an operational year within the context of longer-term objectives contained in a Management Plan.
- (b) The need to minimise the number of reports produced by Fish & Game Councils in meeting external and internal planning and reporting requirements.
- (c) To ensure that the Operational Work Plan and Annual Report are complimentary to extent that the latter reports clearly against the objectives established in the Operational Work Plan.

To this end the Operational Work Plan has been set out in a form that is modular and will in turn constitute a large part of the Annual Report simply by adding relevant information at year's end.

It must be pointed out that the attached work plan is in no way finite or exact. With only eight paid employees and as so much of Council's work is reactive and dependant on voluntary assistance and alternative funding, flexibility is essential to meet Council's obligations to its licence purchasers.

3. MISSION STATEMENT

“To manage and enhance sports fish and game resources on a sustainable basis in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters” (26Q (1)).

4. DETERMINING AUCKLAND/WAIKATO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES.

In February 2025, the Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council reviewed its OWP Strategic priorities for the following 3 years., Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council aims to align its strategic priorities with the recently created New Zealand Fish & Game Council's strategic plan.

On top of fulfilling its statutory obligations, Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game's priority for 2026-2027 is to assign staff time and financial resources towards projects that improve or increase;

- Access making it easier for anglers and hunters to locate and utilise resources.
- Revenue through increasing participation and developing alternative sources of income.
- Water quality and quantity addressing, the pressures on our free-flowing water resources and the water quality of the Waikato Lakes and Wetlands.
- Greyland populations and as a result, hunter opportunities.
- Communication with licence holders.

New Zealand Council's priorities are:

- **Unified and Enduring Organisation**, a national and regionally cohesive organisation built on a culture of shared values, trust and engagement. Delivering on a vision and purpose for stakeholders and Mana Whenua. Maintaining the statutory mandates that enable effective service delivery.
- **Attract and Retain Licence Holders**, deliver well-valued and cost-effective experience for licence holders by understanding their needs, providing simple and effective communication, making fishing and game bird hunting more attractive to a wider group of future participants.
- **Mana Whenua Connected**, Māori values are understood and reflected within Fish and Game with aligned advocacy and a positive collaborative approach that builds upon Te Tiriti obligations defined in Conservation Act.
- **Public Perception and Legitimacy**, understanding and reshaping public perception of Fish & Game NZ, angling and game bird hunting through positive messaging of natural environment protection, wild food harvesting and well-being through outdoor recreation.
- **Healthy Species, Habitats, and Ecosystems**, Sports fish and game bird species are monitored, and sustainably managed, freshwater habitats are protected, and access to sustainable wild harvest opportunities are secured for future generations.

5. FUNCTIONAL AREA 1:

SPORTS FISH AND GAMEBIRD MANAGEMENT

Goal:

To maintain sustainable populations of harvestable species at levels to provide for angler and hunter satisfaction while mitigating adverse impacts of the species.

1.1 Sports Fish Management:

Council stocks lakes Pupuke, Parkinson's and Whatihua with trout as these waters have no natural recruitment and thus stocking is required to maintain productive trout fisheries. Trout liberations are also carried out in lake Moana-nui to supplement natural recruitment which is considered to be low in both waters. Trout releases are monitored by marked or tagged fish, and assessing data from angling competitions and returns from individual anglers.

The bulk of the region's fisheries contain resident populations with abundant natural recruitment giving rise to angling opportunities not enjoyed in the more heavily fished regions. Angler surveys show the major attraction of the region's fisheries to be their un-commercialised wilderness qualities. Careful management is required to ensure that these important aspects are not over-exploited thus destroying the fisheries attributes.

Rainbow trout are abundant throughout the region in a wide variety of habitats that provide many different opportunities for trout anglers. Brown trout are typically limited in distribution to the large river systems and hydro-lakes, albeit in recent years they have colonised many rivers in the Coromandel Peninsula where they were previously absent.

Major river fisheries in the region are monitored by the wild trout tagging programme, drift dive surveys, and annual fishing competitions.

Coarse fish (rudd, perch and tench) are widespread throughout Council's region and attract a small but dedicated following of anglers.

SPORTS FISH MANAGEMENT

Project 1.1.1 Drift Diving

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
To monitor the trout population in the major clear rivers and impact of management decisions.	Drift dive representative river sites. Report and recommendations to Council detailing population status and management implications.	

Project 1.1.2 Fish Surveys

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Sports fisheries monitored using techniques that may include netting, electric fishing, spawning, fin clipped and tagging surveys.	Report and recommendations to Council detailing population status and management implications.	

Project 1.1.3 Fish Harvest Assessment

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Fish harvest assessments estimated in major fisheries.	Results analysed from fishing competitions to monitor both hatchery and wild fish catch rates and condition. Progress report to Council.	

Project 1.1.4 Fish Releases

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Fish liberations undertaken where required to maintain productive trout fisheries in lakes where natural recruitment is inadequate.	Review Fish releases annually and report recommendations to council.	

Project 1.1.5 District Anglers Notice

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
District Anglers Notice reviewed triennially considering best available science and angler aspirations.	Monitor angler satisfaction and seek feedback prior to approving District Anglers Notice.	

Budget \$ 77,821	Actual:
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1.2 Gamebird Management

Council sells 25% more gamebird licences than any other Fish & Game Council.

Grey and Mallard populations in 2025 were estimated to be between 430,000 and 610,000 (point estimate at just over 500,000). This is similar to the previous year but considerably up from 2021 and 2020. However, estimates are still down from the late 2000s, when estimates reached as high as 900k. Similar population trends have been observed in the Eastern Region, which lends itself to the idea that the mallard population is primarily driven by environmental factors. However, we have yet to identify links between environmental factors (e.g., drought) and population size. In addition, an SMS survey was piloted with the aim of improving our estimates of band non-reporting. These estimates contributed to improving our population estimates (i.e., less uncertainty).

Paradise shelduck are present in good numbers throughout the region. The grazing by shelduck on emerging grass may require the holding of special seasons in February and March in specific areas within the region where shelduck numbers are considered to be too high. In February 2024 Special Shelduck Seasons were held in north Auckland (north of the harbour bridge) but numbers did not reach thresholds stipulated in council's policies to hold a special season in the King Country.

Prior to the commencement of the 2012 season considerable numbers of gamebirds were lost to botulism to the extent that such may have had a marked influence upon the population. Fish & Game staff have been successful in getting avian botulism plans inserted into conditions of consent for wastewater treatment plant applications, but compliance by plant operators is inconsistent. Mortality due to botulism can occasionally be high in some years, especially on the Hauraki Plains and the lower Waikato. The potential risk of High Pathogenic Avian Influenza reaching NZ is escalating. Mortalities associated with such an event are unpredictable but could be high. There is a risk that an uncontained outbreak could lead to a population crash in several game bird species, necessitating highly restrictive season conditions.

Swan numbers remain stable in most of the region, with a proportionally high percentage of the total Waikato population found on the Taharoa Lakes, Aotea and Kawhia Harbours. It's possible that these birds have shifted due to changes in eel grass abundance, their primary food source in estuarine environments. Swan in the Nth Auckland counts have fluctuated markedly in recent years. Swan numbers in the Manukau Harbour occasionally reach numbers where culls are carried out by the Auckland Airport Authority.

Californian quail a popular gamebird to a number of hunters thrive in pine forests, however with changing forestry practices, the planned biological control of broom, along with the same threats posed to pheasant suggest an overall decline in the population.

GAMEBIRD MANAGEMENT

Project 1.2.1 Banding

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
To estimate the mallard and grey duck population by banding and other appropriate techniques.	Population estimate derived from mallard & grey duck banded at five sites. Report to Council.	

Project 1.2.2 Trend Counts

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
To monitor the swan, shoveler and paradise shelduck populations.	Monitor black swan, shoveler and paradise shelduck populations within the Auckland/Waikato Region using aerial trend counts. Participate in the national shoveler survey.	

Project 1.2.3 Gamebird Research

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
To monitor non-reporting rates of bands to improve population estimates.	Survey licence holders via SMS. Estimate verified and non-verified rates. Report to Council.	

Project 1.2.4 Gamebird Harvest Assessment

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Monitor the harvest of mallard/grey ducks to produce a measure of hunter success and contribute to population estimates.	Estimate harvest of mallards/greys derived by implementation of the 2027 hunter survey.	

Project 1.2.5 Gamebird releases

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Gamebird releases by private individuals are encouraged and subject to appropriate statutory approvals.	New applications for properties with special conditions are vetted. Annual reports received from existing properties.	

Project 1.2.6 Game Gazette

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Game regulations gazetted based on best available science & hunter aspirations with the objective of maximising substantial yield to hunters while maintaining gamebird population.	Game Gazette approved	

Project 1.2.7 Gamebird Control

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
The dispersal of congregations of gamebirds where they are causing unacceptable damage to farm crops.	Respond to crop and pasture predation reports within two working days.	

Project 1.2.8 Botulism and HPAI

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Control of Botulism outbreaks	Respond to botulism outbreaks to minimise impacts on gamebird populations. Help prepare final HPAI response plan. Submit to council.	

Budget: \$ 168,327	Actual:
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FUNCTIONAL AREA 2:

SPORTS FISH AND GAMEBIRD HABITAT PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE

Goal:

To protect and increase suitable habitat for sports fish and gamebirds to the extent necessary to provide for the recreational interests of hunters and anglers.

2.1 Habitat Works

2.1.1 Council lands

Council owns some 1,700 hectares of endangered wetlands comprising some 39 properties which are managed for waterfowl production and hunter opportunity. Responsibility for day to day property management has been vested in the local Fish and Game Associations and wetland user groups, with Council budgeting funds to maintain and enhance these properties. Council properties have some 125 constructed ponds on them providing hunting for approximately 500 hunters on any one day. Access for itinerant hunters is an important issue in the region. Each year additional to those hunters who drew a ballot on the ponds some 400 permits are issued to hunt on Council land. The bulk of permits are taken up by hunters from urban areas. Council lands provide an excellent opportunity to get started in waterfowl hunting. Council has recently acquired several additional comprehensive consents that facilitate the maintenance of council owned wetland habitat. These consents have timing restrictions, planning and reporting requirements.

Project 2.1.1 Council Lands

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Overview and report to Council on property maintenance. Undertake works necessary to maintain and enhance Council's properties. Continue to oversee restoration projects on Council's properties.	Council properties maintained to an appropriate standard and compliant with Resource consent requirements.	

Budget: \$64,584	Actual:
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2.1.2 Other lands

Habitat work that enhances waterfowl productivity, and in particular greylands, is an ongoing focus for the Council, and involves a combination of directly enhancing wetland habitats including farm ponds and supplying information and support to landowners and other groups.

Council provides direct assistance to landowners by way of advice on wetland development and riparian plantings and through securing contestable funds. Increasingly more time is spent on helping with a more complex consenting processes. In many instances the councils staff actively manage and implement projects on private land to maximise outcomes. Council also distributes some 5,000 trees per annum for habitat protection and enhancement, however national budgetary restraints have significantly reduced the number of trees distributed in recent years.

Council works closely with other agencies, including the Waikato Regional Council, DOC and Waikato RiverCare to create and maintain substantial areas of wetland habitat and to restore riparian margins on both public and private land.

Fish & Game clubs/associations throughout the region have habitat projects on non-council land and require advice/assistance from Fish & Game.

Project 2.1.2 Other Lands

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Provide habitat assistance to land owners and assess habitat grant applications for presentation to Council and external habitat trusts. Utilise opportunities as they arise for habitat enhancement, creation and restoration in conjunction with Fish & Game Assoc's and other agencies.	Report to Council on opportunities for habitat enhancement, creation and restoration in conjunction with Fish & Game Assoc's and other agencies.	

Project 2.1.3 Trees

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Annual tree order made up, received and delivered.	Trees delivered to Clubs and Projects.	

Budget: \$33,067	Actual:
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Project 2.1.4 Assessing & Monitoring

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
To assess and monitor habitat and environmental issues affecting sports fish and gamebird habitat, and to provide information to support Council's habitat management and protection activities.	Assess and monitor identified issues as required. Provide rel to Council to support habitat pr management decisions.	

Budget: \$6,241	Actual:
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2.2 Resource Management Act

Advocacy for habitat using the provisions of the Resource Management Act is a significant aspect of Council's operations. Today development activities continue to reduce the quality and quantity of available habitat. Council vets several hundred resource consent applications per year making appropriate submissions/objections as required. Council is also actively involved in the planning process with the preparation of submissions on many of the plans produced by district and regional councils where they affect freshwater habitats, water quality and quantity, and ecosystem health.

Botulism outbreaks are becoming more prevalent with longer drier summers and can severely impact local game bird population levels. Council will advocate that all wastewater treatment plants that have oxidation ponds and come up for reconsenting have botulism management plans in place.

Land development primarily in the form of agricultural intensification and urban expansion continues to have an impact on the loss of wetlands and game bird and hunting opportunities and is a serious issue affecting water and habitat quality in the region.

Project: 2.2.1 Resource Management Act

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
• To advocate for the interest of Fish & Game in response to resource consent applications & planning processes. • To advocate for the protection and increase of sports fish and game habitats through statutory and non-statutory processes. • To advocate that all wastewater treatment plants that have oxidation ponds and come up for reconsenting have botulism management plans in place.	Fish & Game interests are protected using the RMA. Report to Council on issues and Fish & Game response. Habitat for sports fish and game bird species is protected and increased.	

Budget: \$187,778	Actual:
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FUNCTIONAL AREA 3:

ANGLER AND HUNTER PARTICIPATION AND SATISFACTION

Goal:

To encourage maximum angler and hunter participation while maintaining quality of angler/hunter experience and satisfaction with Fish and Game management.

3.1 Access issues

Council administers balloted hunting on its own wetlands and via its association with Fish & Game Clubs and the Kopuatai and Whangamarino Wetland Associations is involved in management control of Lakes Okowhao, D, Cameron, Rotokauri, Kainui, Rangiriri Islands, Rayonier and Hancock forests, and the Kopuatai and Whangamarino Wetlands.

Council maintains a close liaison with local authorities and DoC to establish management plans and committees for crown lands to protect fish and game interests.

Council continues to monitor the situation regarding public land (reserve strips etc) over which hunters and anglers have legal access and as and where appropriate advocates on their behalf, now liaising with the newly established Walking Access Commission.

Habitat and Access are acknowledged as National Priorities that all Fish & Game Councils should be addressing. Auckland/Waikato having long been to the forefront of habitat issues.

Project 3.1.1 Access Negotiations

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Angler and hunter access to the sport fish & gamebird resource is maintained and enhanced.	1 Permits are issued for balloted ponds before commencement of season. 2 As-of-Right access for licence holders & negotiated access where As-of-Right access not present. 3 Maintain Fish & Game presence on Wetland Management Associations. 4 Reported angler/hunter access problems reported to Walking Access Commission 5 One new permanent access point is established annually.	
Access Fund	Maintain Access Fund as a	

	restricted reserve for the purchase of land or easements to secure access in perpetuity for licence holders.	
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Project 3.1.2 Signs/tracks

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Brand standard access signage progressively provided at appropriate hunter & anglers access points subject to landowner approval where required.	Brand standard access signage replaced where required and new signage installed where appropriate.	
Conduct stocktake of current signage at access points and determine need for updates. Use updated access maps and ground truth.	Database created indicating where new signage is required and old signage needs to be replaced.	

Budget: \$38,475	Actual:
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3.2 Promotion

Regular contact with hunters and anglers plays an important part in retaining their interest. Councillors and staff regularly attend and address ward association and allied recreation group meetings. Production of Fish & Game magazines sent direct to all Auckland/Waikato licence holders prior to the game and fish seasons are considered an essential activity which is very well received by licence holders. Council also produces a monthly internet newsletter for anglers (*Reel Life*) and during the game season a monthly internet newsletter for hunters (*Both Barrels*). A 2023 survey of A/W licence holders indicated a rapid transition away from print media in favour of digital content.

Project 3.2.1 Magazine & Newsletters

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
The production and distribution of game and fishing magazine supplements to previous years licence purchasers before commencement of season.	Preseason magazine supplements produced and distributed.	

Project 3.2.2 Digital Media

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
The production of online content including videos to better reach new and existing customers.	1. Film content, edit and post online. 2. invest staff time to establish and online audience and promote content across online platforms	

Project 3.2.3 Other Publications

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
1 To Contribute to “ <i>Reel Life</i> ” & “ <i>Both Barrels</i> ” e-zines & hunting/fishing magazines.	1 Contributions made to “ <i>Reel Life</i> ” & “ <i>Both Barrels</i> ” & hunting/fishing magazines.	
2 Undertake pre-season publicity for hunting and fishing.	2 Pre-season publicity undertaken.	

Project 3.2.4 User Groups

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Represent Council interests at fish and game associations/clubs in the Auckland/Waikato Region	Council represented at local fish and game associations/clubs.	

Budget: \$43,369	Actual:
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FUNCTIONAL AREA 4:

PUBLIC INTERFACE

Goal:

Acceptance of the recreation of sports fishing and gamebird hunting and community support for Fish & Game Council management.

Given that within its region approximately 40% of New Zealand's population is encompassed, which comprises the largest urban population in the country, Council well recognises the importance in its region of community support for its activities.

The importance of Auckland to Fish & Game interests has been identified by NZF&GC, who deem the raising of Public Awareness in Auckland an issue of national significance.

Council and staff are founding Trustees in the National Wetland Habitat Trust, Waikato RiverCare, Waikato Ecological Enhancement Trust, Waipa Peat Lakes and Wetlands Accord, Waikato District Lakes and Freshwater Wetlands Accord, South Waikato Rural Access Committee, Lower Waikato Enhancement Society, South Waikato Environmental Initiative Group, Lakes Rotokauri, D & Cameron Management Groups, and regularly attend Wetland Forums, Biodiversity Forums, Landcare and Rivercare meetings, Regional and local council sector liaison meetings and other like group meetings; organisations that not only provide benefits for fish and game habitat but also an important link in promoting acceptability of hunting and fishing.

Project 4.1.1 Liaison & Advocacy

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Promotion of the interests of hunters and anglers with the public through the media. Liaison with appropriate organisations/ agencies in the interests of hunters and anglers.	1 Respond to inquiries for information and to issues affecting interests of anglers and hunters through provision of suitable information to public media and sector interest groups. 2 Maintain liaison as required with appropriate organisations/agencies.	
Engage with iwi and Mana Whenua. Develop/maintain formal relationships with key iwi groups within the region and participate in Treaty Settlement processes that affect anglers and hunters. Continue to explore possibilities for collaborative	Submit on Treaty Settlements affecting angler/hunter access and develop relationships with key iwi groups and report to Council.	

projects, e.g. kids fishing and access projects		
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Project 4.1.2 Displays/promotions

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Promotion of the interests of hunters and anglers by displays and promotions.	Assist local fish & game associations with displays and promotions and attend national coordinated promotional events where applicable.	
Support Clubs and organisations in promoting kids fishing events.	Staff attend and seek sponsorship for kids fishing events. Establish kids fishing area local lake or reservoir with interpretive signs and methodologies to catch fish working with Hamilton Anglers Club.	

Budget: \$36,903	Actual:
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FUNCTIONAL AREA 5:

COMPLIANCE

Goal:

To ensure compliance with hunting and fishing regulations, to protect the resource and Council's financial base.

Council administers some 15 warranted officers. Planned and coordinated law enforcement work is carried out by as many rangers as can be mustered at the time.

Active gamebird ranging on opening day is limited to staff and a small number of honorary rangers. Given the longer period that fishing activities are undertaken a better coverage of fishing activities is achieved.

New national policy documents are being developed including H&S requirements which will significantly impact the role of honorary rangers in our region. Council is continuing to provide feedback to National office to ensure practical options are identified and implemented.

Project 5.1.1 Ranging

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
The protection and enhancement of the region's fish and game resource through an effective enforcement programme.	Liaise with honorary rangers to undertake ranging coverage as required. Compliance checks by rangers throughout the year.	

Project 5.1.2 Ranger training

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Rangers are properly trained including OSH requirements.	Organise professionally run training sessions so OSH requirements are met for all rangers.	

Project 5.1.3 Compliance legal

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Offenders for fish and game offences are successfully prosecuted or go through formal diversion process.	Arrange prosecutions, present evidence and follow-up fine monies outstanding as necessary.	

Budget: \$107,342	Actual:
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FUNCTIONAL AREA 6:

LICENSING

Goal:

To produce and distribute legally correct licence forms by due date.

The sale of licences is Council's primary source of income. The administrative function of licensing has been contracted out however Council still maintains control over licences distributed and debt collection

Project 6.1.1 Licence Distribution

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
To issue fishing and hunting licences	1 Game and fish licences and supporting material prepared and dispatched one month prior to opening of seasons. 2 Legally binding contracts with personal guarantees maintained with all agents. 3 Database of licences sold maintained and reconciled against income received. Game and fish licences and supporting material prepared and dispatched one month prior to opening of seasons.	
Budget: \$4,670		Actual:

FUNCTIONAL AREA 7:

COUNCIL/COMMITTEE/CLUB SERVICING

Goal:

To service Council, committees and clubs, to provide for the democratic management of the Fish & Game system.

Given the informal and personal level upon which Council functions Council is able to maintain good levels of communication within the organisation. Council has always maintained an efficient monitoring administrative system via its detailed budgeting and accounting system along with its Chief Executive's Report .

Project 7.1.1 Council Meetings

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
To provide effective management and operation of the Council.	1 Conduct at least six meetings of the Council that comply with all legal requirements. 2 Compile and distribute agendas and supporting papers at least seven days prior to meetings. 3 Distribute minutes and Newsbrief within ten days after Council meetings.	

Budget: \$41,543	Actual:
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FUNCTIONAL AREA 8:

PLANNING/REPORTING

Goal:

To ensure cost efficient and appropriate management of fish and game resources.

Council's Sports Fish and Game Management Plan was approved by the Minister of Conservation on 21 December 2021 and will be subject to review in 2031.

Project 8.1.1 Management Plan/OWP/Budget fee setting

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Produce Annual Operational Work Plan in approved format to NZF&GC deadlines.	Adoption of a proposed Operational Work Plan for 2026/27 by August 2026.	

Project 8.1.2 Annual report/Audit

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Produce Annual Report for the 2026/27 year and obtain Annual Audit within statutory time frame & present to Annual Public Meeting within required timeframe.	Annual Report produced and Annual Audit obtained within statutory time frame & present to Annual Public Meeting.	

Project 8.1.3 National Liaison

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Maintenance of effective liaison with NZF&GC. Contribute to national programmes.	1 Process submissions and information to NZF&GC within requested deadlines. 2 Undertake national & inter- regional liaison as required.	

Budget: \$63,649	Actual:
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FUNCTIONAL AREA 9:**ADMINISTRATION/OVERHEADS****Goal:**

Manage the business of Fish and Game in a cost effective and efficient manner.

Project 9.1.1 Administration/Overheads

Objective	Planned Result	Actual Result
Manage the business of Fish and Game in a cost effective and efficient manner.	Completion of all administration tasks as and when required.	

BUDGET: \$789,624	ACTUAL Reallocated to Outputs 1-8
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TOTAL NET COST **\$873,768**
As per attached budget

Plus ARF **\$30,102**

TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET: **\$903,870**

REGION: AUCKLAND /WAIKATO SCHEDULE A : BUDGET 2026-2027								Current Year's Approved Budget (2025-2026)						Last Year's Actual (Annual Report 2024-2025)					
Code	Project/Category Item	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%
1100 SPECIES MANAGEMENT																			
1110 SPECIES MONITORING																			
1111	Drift diving	\$ 3,520	226.0	\$ 21,537	\$ 1,500	\$ 23,557	15.3	\$ 3,520	100.0	\$ 9,110	\$ 1,500	\$ 11,130	11.1	\$ 2,476	194	\$ 16,540	\$ 822	\$ 18,194	12.5
1112	Banding/shoveler study	\$ 16,500	670.0	\$ 63,848	\$ 3,000	\$ 77,348	50.4	\$ 16,500	480.0	\$ 43,727	\$ 1,000	\$ 59,227	59.1	\$ 15,159	646	\$ 55,057	\$ 3,513	\$ 66,703	45.9
1113	Aerial transects	\$ -	9.0	\$ 858		\$ 858	0.6	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	6	\$ 512		\$ 512	0.4
1114	Trend counts	\$ 7,500	109.0	\$ 10,387		\$ 17,887	11.6	\$ 7,500	30.0	\$ 2,733		\$ 10,233	10.2	\$ 6,654	5	\$ 426		\$ 7,080	4.9
1115	Fish surveys	\$ 2,000	126.0	\$ 12,007	\$ 2,000	\$ 12,007	7.8	\$ 2,000	125.0	\$ 11,387	\$ 2,000	\$ 11,387	11.4	\$ 1,251	123	\$ 10,466	\$ -	\$ 11,717	8.1
1116	Botulism	\$ -	5.0	\$ 476		\$ 476	0.3	\$ -	40.0	\$ 3,644		\$ 3,644	3.6	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1117	Gamebird Research	\$ -	150.0	\$ 14,294		\$ 14,294	9.3	\$ -	50.0	\$ 4,555		\$ 4,555	4.5	\$ -	483	\$ 41,181		\$ 41,181	28.3
1118	Pukeko Surveys	\$ -	75.0	\$ 7,147		\$ 7,147	4.7	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1119		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
		\$ 29,520	1370	\$ 130,556	\$ 6,500	\$ 153,576		\$ 29,520	825	\$ 75,156	\$ 4,500	\$ 100,176		\$ 25,540	1457	\$ 124,181	\$ 4,335	\$ 145,386	
1120 HARVEST ASSESSMENT																			
1121	Fish	\$ -	60.0	\$ 5,718		\$ 5,718	16.6	\$ -	50.0	\$ 4,555		\$ 4,555	29.1	\$ -	53.0	\$ 4,519	\$ -	\$ 4,519	26.7
1122	Gamebirds	\$ 2,000	280.0	\$ 26,683		\$ 28,683	83.4	\$ 2,000	100.0	\$ 9,110		\$ 11,110	70.9	\$ 1,380	129.0	\$ 10,999	\$ -	\$ 12,379	73.3
1123		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1124		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
		\$ 2,000	340	\$ 32,401	\$ -	\$ 34,401		\$ 2,000	150	\$ 13,665	\$ -	\$ 15,665		\$ 1,380	182	\$ 15,517	\$ -	\$ 16,897	
1130 FISH SALVAGE																			
1131		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	
1132		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	
		\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
1140 HATCHERY OPERATIONS																			
1150 GAME FARM																			
1151		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	
		\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
1160 RELEASES																			
1161	Fish	\$ 11,000	88.0	\$ 8,386		\$ 19,386	100.0	\$ 16,000	35.0	\$ 3,188	\$ 7,300	\$ 11,888	86.7	\$ 18,072	88.0	\$ 7,503	\$ 7,680	\$ 17,895	
1162	Pheasants	\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	20.0	\$ 1,822		\$ 1,822	13.3	\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
		\$ 11,000	88	\$ 8,386	\$ -	\$ 19,386		\$ 16,000	55	\$ 5,010	\$ 7,300	\$ 13,710		\$ 18,072	88	\$ 7,503	\$ 7,680	\$ 17,895	
1170 REGULATIONS																			
1171		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1172	Game Gazette (paid by NZF&G)	\$ -	15.0	\$ 1,429		\$ 1,429	7.7	\$ -	60.0	\$ 5,466		\$ 5,466	63.8	\$ -	16.0	\$ 1,364		\$ 1,364	8.6
1173	D.A.N Paid by NZF&G)	\$ -	180.0	\$ 17,153		\$ 17,153	92.3	\$ -	34.0	\$ 3,097		\$ 3,097	36.2	\$ -	169.0	\$ 14,409		\$ 14,409	91.4
1174	Designated waters	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
		\$ -	195	\$ 18,583	\$ -	\$ 18,583		\$ -	94	\$ 8,563	\$ -	\$ 8,563		\$ -	185	\$ 15,773	\$ -	\$ 15,773	
1180 GAME BIRD CONTROL																			
1181	Gamebirds (zon guns)	\$ 2,500	212.0	\$ 20,203	\$ 2,500	\$ 20,203	100.0	\$ 1,000	235.0	\$ 21,408	\$ 1,500	\$ 20,908	100.0	\$ 755	118.0	\$ 10,061	\$ 2,655	\$ 8,161	100.0
1183		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1184		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1185		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
		\$ 2,500	212	\$ 20,203	\$ 2,500	\$ 20,203		\$ 1,000	235	\$ 21,408	\$ 1,500	\$ 20,908		\$ 755	118	\$ 10,061	\$ 2,655	\$ 8,161	
Code	Project/Category Item	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%
1200 SPORTS FISH AND GAME HABITAT																			
1210 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT																			
Water take consents etc								Water take consents etc											
1211	R.M.A	\$ 95,000	1918.0	\$ 182,778	\$ 90,000	\$ 187,778	100.0	\$ 5,000	2468.0	\$ 224,832	\$ -	\$ 229,832	100.0	\$ 29,070	1598.0	\$ 136,245	\$ 21,427	\$ 143,888	100.0
1212		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1213		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1214		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1215		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
		\$ 95,000	1918	\$ 182,778	\$ 90,000	\$ 187,778		\$ 5,000	2468	\$ 224,832	\$ -	\$ 229,832		\$ 29,070	1598	\$ 136,245	\$ 21,427	\$ 143,888	
1220 WORKS & MANAGEMENT																			
Council controlled land								Council controlled land						Council controlled land					
1221	Council Land.	\$ 56,500	620.0	\$ 59,084	\$ 51,000	\$ 64,584	100.0	\$ 26,500	790.0	\$ 71,968	\$ 21,000	\$ 77,468	98.7	\$ 39,595	620.0	\$ 52,861	\$ 9,862	\$ 82,594	99.2
1222	Rates	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ 1,000	0.0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	1.3	\$ 661	0.0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 661	0.8
1223		\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0
1224		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
		\$ 56,500	620	\$ 59,084	\$ 51,000	\$ 64,584		\$ 27,500	790	\$ 71,968	\$ 21,000	\$ 78,468		\$ 40,256	620	\$ 52,861	\$ 9,862	\$ 83,255	
1230 ASSISTED HABITAT																			
Works and Management on land not owned/controlled by Council								Works and Management on land not owned/controlled by Council						Works and Management on land not owned/controlled by Council					

1231	Non Council Land	\$	100,000	270.0	\$	25,730	\$	100,000	\$	25,730	77.8	\$	100,000	741.0	\$	67,504	\$	100,000	\$	67,504	91.7	\$	24,136	264.0	\$	22,509	\$	24,136	\$	22,509	-49.8
1232	MRP, Genesis,Winstones	\$	75,000		\$	-	\$	75,000	\$	-	0.0	\$	75,000		\$	-	\$	75,000	\$	-	0.0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	74,172	\$	(74,172)	164.0
1233	mitigation monies	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	0.0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	0.0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	0.0
1234		\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	
1235	Trees	\$	10,000	56.0	\$	5,337	\$	8,000	\$	7,337	22.2	\$	10,000	45.0	\$	4,099	\$	8,000	\$	6,099	8.3	\$	10,059	57.0	\$	4,860	\$	8,479	\$	6,440	-14.2
		\$	185,000	326	\$	31,067	\$	183,000	\$	33,067		\$	185,000	786	\$	71,604	\$	183,000	\$	73,604		\$	34,195	321	\$	27,368	\$	106,787	\$	(45,224)	
1240 ASSESSING & MONITORING																															
1241	Assessment & Monitoring	\$	1,000	55.0	\$	5,241		\$	6,241	100.0	\$	1,000	140.0	\$	12,754		\$	13,754	100.0	\$	25	42.0	\$	3,581	\$	-	\$	3,606	100.0		
1242		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	0.0	
		\$	1,000	55	\$	5,241	\$	-	\$	6,241		\$	1,000	140	\$	12,754	\$	-	\$	13,754		\$	25	42	\$	3,581	\$	-	\$	3,606	
1300 PARTICIPATION																															
1310 ACCESS																															
1311	Access negotiation	\$	20,000	334.0	\$	31,829	\$	20,000	\$	31,829	82.7	\$	20,000	235.0	\$	21,408	\$	20,000	\$	21,408	77.7	\$	11,333	635.0	\$	54,140	\$	3,087	\$	62,386	96.2
1312	Signs/tracks etc	\$	1,500	54.0	\$	5,146		\$	6,646	17.3	\$	2,500	40.0	\$	3,644		\$	6,144	22.3	\$	218	26.0	\$	2,217		\$	2,435	\$		3.8	
1313		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	0.0	
1314		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	0.0	
1315		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	0.0	
		\$	21,500	388	\$	36,975	\$	20,000	\$	38,475		\$	22,500	275	\$	25,052	\$	20,000	\$	27,552		\$	11,551	661	\$	56,357	\$	3,087	\$	64,821	
1320 SATISFACTION SURVEY																															
1321		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-		
		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	
1330 NEWSLETTERS																															
1331	Magazine	\$	-	170.0	\$	16,200		\$	16,200	100.0	\$	-	100.0	\$	9,110		\$	9,110	100.0	\$	-	158.0	\$	13,471		\$	13,471	\$		100.0	
1332		\$	-					\$	-	0.0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	0.0	
1333		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	0.0	
1334		\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	0.0	
1335		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	0.0	
		\$	-	170	\$	16,200	\$	-	\$	16,200		\$	-	100	\$	9,110	\$	-	\$	9,110		\$	-	158	\$	13,471	\$	-	\$	13,471	
1340 OTHER PUBLICATIONS																															
1341	Digital Media	\$	200	200.0	\$	19,059		\$	19,259	100.0	\$	200	45.0	\$	4,099		\$	4,299	15.9	\$	-	26.0	\$	2,217		\$	2,217	\$		100.0	
1342		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	250	\$	22,775		\$	22,775	84.1	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	0.0	
		\$	200	200	\$	19,059	\$	-	\$	19,259		\$	200	295	\$	26,874	\$	-	\$	27,074		\$	-	26	\$	2,217	\$	-	\$	2,217	
Code	Project/Category Item	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%
1350 TRAINING																															
1351		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	
1352		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	
1353		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	
1354		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	
1355		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	
		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	
		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	
1360 CLUB RELATIONS																															
1361	User groups	\$	-	83.0	\$	7,910		\$	7,910	100.0	\$	-	136.0	\$	12,389		\$	12,389	100.0	\$	-	83	\$	7,077		\$	7,077	\$		100.0	
1362		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	0.0	
1363		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	0.0	
1364		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	0.0	
1365		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	0.0	
		\$	-	83	\$	7,910	\$	-	\$	7,910		\$	-	136	\$	12,389	\$	-	\$	12,389		\$	-	83	\$	7,077	\$	-	\$	7,077	
1370 HUTS																															
1371		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	
1372		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-		
1373		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-		
1374		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-		
1375		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-		
		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	
1400 PUBLIC INTERFACE																															
1410 LIAISON																															
Conservation Boards, DoC							Conservation Boards, DoC							Conservation Boards, DoC																	
1411		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-		
1412		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-		
1413		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-		
1414		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-		
1415		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0</																		

1422		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	
1423		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	
1424		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	
1425		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	
		\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
1430 ADVOCACY		Angler/hunter interests						Angler/hunter interests						Angler/hunter interests					
1431	Liaison advocacy	\$ -	266.0	\$ 25,349		\$ 25,349	100.0	\$ -	300.0	\$ 27,330		\$ 27,330	100.0	\$ 90	252	\$ 21,486		\$ 21,576	100.0
1432		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1433		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1434		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1435		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
		\$ -	266	\$ 25,349	\$ -	\$ 25,349		\$ -	300	\$ 27,330	\$ -	\$ 27,330		\$ 90	252	\$ 21,486	\$ -	\$ 21,576	
1440 PUBLIC PROMOTIONS																			
1441	Displays/promotions/PR	\$ 500	116.0	\$ 11,054	\$ -	\$ 11,554	100.0	\$ 500	60.0	\$ 5,466	\$ -	\$ 5,966	100.0	\$ 507	85	\$ 7,247		\$ 7,754	81.2
1442	Public Awareness Auckland	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	21	\$ 1,790		\$ 1,790	18.8
1443		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1444		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1445		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
		\$ 500	116	\$ 11,054	\$ -	\$ 11,554		\$ 500	60	\$ 5,466	\$ -	\$ 5,966		\$ 507	106	\$ 9,038	\$ -	\$ 9,545	
1450 VISITOR FACILITIES/EDUCATION/INTERPRETATION																			
1451		\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
1452		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	
1453		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	
1454		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	
1455		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	
		\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Code	Project/Category Item							External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%
1500 COMPLIANCE																			
1510 RANGING																			
1511	Ranging	\$ 500	405.0	\$ 38,595		\$ 39,095	100.0	\$ 500	529.0	\$ 48,191		\$ 48,691	100.0	\$ 717	371	\$ 31,631		\$ 32,348	100.0
1512		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1513		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1514		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1515		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
		\$ 500	405	\$ 38,595	\$ -	\$ 39,095		\$ 500	529	\$ 48,191	\$ -	\$ 48,691		\$ 717	371	\$ 31,631	\$ -	\$ 32,348	
1520 RANGER TRAINING																			
1521	Training	\$ 500	36.0	\$ 3,431		\$ 3,931	100.0	\$ 500	40.0	\$ 3,644	\$ 500	\$ 3,644	100.0	\$ 152	31	\$ 2,643		\$ 2,795	100.0
1522		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1523		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1524		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1525		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
		\$ 500	36	\$ 3,431	\$ -	\$ 3,931		\$ 500	40	\$ 3,644	\$ 500	\$ 3,644		\$ 152	31	\$ 2,643	\$ -	\$ 2,795	
1530 COMPLIANCE																			
1531	Legal	\$ 20,000	528.0	\$ 50,316	\$ 6,000	\$ 64,316	100.0	\$ 20,000	250.0	\$ 22,775	\$ 6,000	\$ 36,775	100.0	\$ 39,620	536.0	\$ 45,699	\$ 7,886	\$ 77,433	100.0
1532		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1533		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1534		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1535		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
		\$ 20,000	528	\$ 50,316	\$ 6,000	\$ 64,316		\$ 20,000	250	\$ 22,775	\$ 6,000	\$ 36,775		\$ 39,620	536	\$ 45,699	\$ 7,886	\$ 77,433	
1600 LICENCING																			
1610 LICENCE PROD./DISTRIB.																			
1611	Licence production/distribution	\$ -	49.0	\$ 4,670		\$ 4,670	100.0	\$ -	90.0	\$ 8,199		\$ 8,199	100.0	\$ 379	48.0	\$ 4,092	\$ -	\$ 4,471	100.0
1612		\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1613	Eyede costs	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1614	Eyede creditcard fees	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1615		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1616		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1617		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0
		\$ -	49	\$ 4,670	\$ -	\$ 4,670		\$ -	90	\$ 8,199	\$ -	\$ 8,199		\$ 379	48	\$ 4,092	\$ -	\$ 4,471	
1620 AGENT SERVICING																			
1621		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	
1622		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	
1623		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	
1624		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	
1625		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	0	\$ -		\$ -	

		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-					
1630 COMMISSION																														
1631	Commission	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-						
1632		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-						
1633		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-						
1634		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-						
		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-						
		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-						
1700 COUNCILS																														
1710 COUNCIL ELECTIONS																														
1711	Election	\$	-	18	\$	1,640		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	25	\$	2,131		\$	2,131	100.0					
1712		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0					
1713		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0					
1714		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0					
1715		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0					
		\$	-	18	\$	1,640	\$	-	\$	1,640		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	25	\$	2,131	\$	-	\$	2,131					
1720 COUNCIL MEETINGS																														
1721	Meeting costs	\$	3,500	382.0	\$	36,403		\$	3,000	650.0	\$	59,214		\$	62,214	100.0	\$	2,353	571.0	\$	48,683		\$	51,036	100.0					
1722		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0					
1723		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0					
1724		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0					
		\$	3,500	382	\$	36,403	\$	-	\$	39,903		\$	3,000	650	\$	59,214	\$	-	\$	62,214		\$	2,353	571	\$	48,683	\$	-	\$	51,036
Code	Project/Category Item	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%											
1800 PLANNING/REPORTING																														
1810 MANAGEMENT/STRATEGIC PLANNING																														
1811		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-						
1812		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-						
1813		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-						
1814		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-						
1815		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-						
		\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-					
1820 ANNUAL OPERATIONAL WORKPLAN																														
1821	O.W.P/Man Plan	\$	-	46.0	\$	4,384		\$	-	40.0	\$	3,644		\$	3,644	100.0	\$	-	48	\$	4,092		\$	4,092	100.0					
1822		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0					
1823		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0					
1824		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0					
1825		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0					
		\$	-	46	\$	4,384	\$	-	\$	4,384		\$	-	40	\$	3,644	\$	-	\$	3,644		\$	-	48	\$	4,092	\$	-	\$	4,092
1830 REPORTING/AUDIT																														
1831	Annual Report/Audit	\$	14,000	125.0	\$	11,912		\$	14,000	45.0	\$	4,099		\$	18,099	100.0	\$	11,613	231.0	\$	19,695		\$	31,308	100.0					
1832		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0					
1833		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0					
1834		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0					
1835		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0					
		\$	14,000	125	\$	11,912	\$	-	\$	25,912		\$	14,000	45	\$	4,099	\$	-	\$	18,099		\$	11,613	231	\$	19,695	\$	-	\$	31,308
1840 NATIONAL LIAISON																														
1841	National Liaison	\$	-	350.0	\$	33,354		\$	-	369.0	\$	33,615		\$	33,615	100.0	\$	321	339.0	\$	28,903		\$	29,224	100.0					
1842		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0					
1843		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0					
1844		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0					
1845		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0					
		\$	-	350	\$	33,354	\$	-	\$	33,354		\$	-	369	\$	33,615	\$	-	\$	33,615		\$	321	339	\$	28,903	\$	-	\$	29,224
TOTAL OUTPUTS COST		\$	443,220	8286	\$	789,548	\$	359,000	\$	873,768		\$	328,220	8722	\$	794,563	\$	243,800	\$	878,983		\$	216,596	8097	\$	690,307	\$	163,719	\$	743,184
OVERHEAD COSTS																														
Code	Project/Category Item	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%											
ADMINISTRATION																Last Year's Actual (Annual Report 2024-2025)														
1910 SALARIES																														
1911	Salaries	\$	606,623			\$	606,623	100.0	\$	577,843			\$	577,843	100.0	\$	552,189			\$	13,173	\$	539,016	100.0						
1912	Administration	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0.0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	0.0						
1913	Hatchery	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0.0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	0.0						
1914	Kiwisaver	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0.0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	0.0						
1915		\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-		\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0.0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	0.0						

1916		\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0						
1917		\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0						
		\$ 606,623		\$ -	\$ 606,623		\$ 577,843		\$ -	\$ 577,843		\$ 552,189	\$ 13,173	\$ 539,016					
1920 STAFF EXPENSES																			
1921	ACC Levy	\$ 2,300		\$ 2,300	3.9	\$ 2,300		\$ 2,300	3.8	\$ 2,401		\$ 2,401	4.4						
1922	Super/KS	\$ 36,731		\$ 36,731	61.7	\$ 36,000		\$ 36,000	59.3	\$ 32,701		\$ 32,701	60.3						
1923	FBT/ESCT	\$ 7,000		\$ 7,000	11.8	\$ 7,000		\$ 7,000	11.5	\$ 6,814		\$ 6,814	12.6						
1924	Staff Training	\$ 2,000		\$ 2,000	3.4	\$ 4,950		\$ 4,950	8.1	\$ 1,199		\$ 1,199	2.2						
1925	Clothing	\$ 500		\$ 500	0.8	\$ 500		\$ 500	0.8	\$ 140		\$ 140	0.3						
1926	Reimb allowances	\$ 11,000		\$ 11,000	18.5	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	16.5	\$ 11,000		\$ 11,000	20.3						
		\$ 59,531		\$ -	\$ 59,531		\$ 60,750		\$ -	\$ 60,750		\$ 54,255	\$ -	\$ 54,255					
1930 STAFF HOUSES																			
1931	Rates	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -						
1932	Maintenance	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -						
1933	Insurance	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -						
1934	Staff Quarters Electricity	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -						
1935	Staff Quarters Maintenance	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -						
		\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -						
1940 OFFICE PREMISES																			
1941	Rent			\$ -	0.0			\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0.0					
1942	Rates	\$ 1,420		\$ 1,420	7.0	\$ 1,420		\$ 1,420	4.0	\$ 1,391		\$ 1,391	4.7						
1943	Maintenance	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	49.0	\$ 25,000		\$ 25,000	70.6	\$ 20,068		\$ 20,068	67.1						
1944	Insurance (includes office equip)	\$ 7,000		\$ 7,000	34.3	\$ 7,000		\$ 7,000	19.8	\$ 6,533		\$ 6,533	21.9						
1945	Power	\$ 2,000		\$ 2,000	9.8	\$ 2,000		\$ 2,000	5.6	\$ 1,899		\$ 1,899	6.4						
1946	Asset Replacement Funding (NB no provision)			\$ -	0.0			\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0.0					
1947	Mortgage Repayment			\$ -	0.0			\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0.0					
		\$ 20,420		\$ -	\$ 20,420		\$ 35,420		\$ -	\$ 35,420		\$ 29,891	\$ -	\$ 29,891					
1950 OFFICE EQUIPMENT																			
1951	Purchases (Under \$2,000)	\$ 2,500		\$ 2,500	83.3	\$ 2,500		\$ 2,500	62.5	\$ 2,891		\$ 2,891	100.0						
1952	Asset Replacement Reserve			\$ -	0.0			\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0.0					
1953	Eqpmt Maintenance	\$ 500		\$ 500	16.7	\$ 1,500		\$ 1,500	37.5	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0.0					
1954	Eqpmt Insurance (cov in Bldgs)			\$ -	0.0			\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0.0					
1955	Eqpmt Rental/lease			\$ -	0.0			\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0.0					
1956		\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0.0					
1957		\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0.0					
		\$ 3,000		\$ -	\$ 3,000		\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ 4,000		\$ 2,891	\$ -	\$ 2,891						
1960 COMMUNICATIONS/CONSUMABLES																			
1961	Telephone/fax	\$ 13,000		\$ 13,000	75.6	\$ 15,000		\$ 15,000	70.8	\$ 12,315		\$ 12,315	73.2						
1962	Postage	\$ 200		\$ 200	1.2	\$ 200		\$ 200	0.9	\$ 473		\$ 473	2.8						
1963	Courier			\$ -	0.0			\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0.0					
1964	Stationery	\$ 3,000		\$ 3,000	17.4	\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000	23.6	\$ 2,646		\$ 2,646	15.7						
1965	Photocopying	\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000	5.8	\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000	4.7	\$ 1,393		\$ 1,393	8.3						
1966		\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0.0					
1967		\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	0.0					
		\$ 17,200		\$ -	\$ 17,200		\$ 21,200	\$ -	\$ 21,200		\$ 16,827	\$ -	\$ 16,827						
Code	Project/Category Item	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%
1970 GENERAL																			
1971	Advertising			\$ -	0.0			\$ -	0.0			\$ -	0.0			\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1972	Subscriptions			\$ -	0.0			\$ -	0.0			\$ -	0.0			\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1973	Donations			\$ -	0.0			\$ -	0.0		\$ 24,589	\$ (24,589)	142.2						
1974	Bank Charges			\$ -	0.0			\$ -	0.0		\$ 75	\$ -	75	-0.4					
1975	General Office Expenses	\$ 6,000		\$ -	43.3	\$ 6,000		\$ 5,500	37.0	\$ 4,710		\$ 4,710	-27.2						
1976	Insurance - General			\$ -	0.0			\$ -	0.0			\$ -	0.0			\$ -		\$ -	0.0
1977	Legal - General	\$ 1,350		\$ 1,350	9.7	\$ 1,350		\$ 1,350	9.1	\$ 480		\$ 480	-2.8						
1978	Public Liability Ins	\$ 2,500		\$ 2,500	18.1	\$ 3,000		\$ 3,000	20.2	\$ 1,828		\$ 1,828	-10.6						
1979	OSH	\$ 4,000		\$ 4,000	28.9	\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000	33.7	\$ 201		\$ 201	-1.2						
		\$ 13,850		\$ -	\$ 13,850		\$ 14,850	\$ -	\$ 14,850		\$ 7,294	\$ 24,589	\$ (17,295)						
1980 GENERAL EQUIPMENT																			
1981	Purchases (Under \$2,000)	\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000	76.9	\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000	76.9	\$ 1,242		\$ 1,242	41.5						
1982	Gen Equipmt Replacement Fund			\$ -	0.0			\$ -	0.0			\$ -	0.0					\$ -	0.0
1983	Equipment Maintenance	\$ 1,500		\$ 1,500	23.1	\$ 1,500		\$ 1,500	23.1	\$ 1,750		\$ 1,750	58.5						
1984	Equipment Insurance	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0					\$ -	0.0
1985	Equipment Hire/rental			\$ -	0.0			\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0					\$ -	0.0
1986	Equipment Fuel			\$ -	0.0			\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0					\$ -	0.0
1987				\$ -	0.0			\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0					\$ -	0.0
1988				\$ -	0.0			\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0					\$ -	0.0
1989		\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0	\$ -		\$ -	0.0					\$ -	0.0

		\$	6,500		\$	-	\$	6,500		\$	6,500		\$	-	\$	6,500		\$	2,992		\$	-	\$	2,992											
1990 VEHICLES																																			
1991	Purchases (Under \$2,000)					\$	-	0.0					\$	-	0.0							\$	-	0.0											
1992	Vehicle Replacement Fund	\$	-			\$	-	0.0	\$	-			\$	-	0.0	\$	-					\$	-	0.0											
1993	Vehicle Maintenance	\$	18,000			\$	18,000	28.8	\$	20,000			\$	20,000	27.0	\$	14,142					\$	14,142	22.9											
1994	Vehicle Insurance	\$	13,000			\$	13,000	20.8	\$	17,000			\$	17,000	23.0	\$	12,529					\$	12,529	20.3											
1995	Vehicle Registration	\$	1,000			\$	1,000	1.6	\$	1,000			\$	1,000	1.4	\$	840					\$	840	1.4											
1996	Vehicle Fuel	\$	30,500			\$	30,500	48.8	\$	36,000			\$	36,000	48.6	\$	34,219					\$	34,219	55.4											
1997		\$	-			\$	-	0.0	\$	-			\$	-	0.0	\$	-					\$	-	0.0											
1998		\$	-			\$	-	0.0	\$	-			\$	-	0.0	\$	-					\$	-	0.0											
1999		\$	-			\$	-	0.0	\$	-			\$	-	0.0	\$	-					\$	-	0.0											
		\$	62,500			\$	-	\$	62,500			\$	74,000		\$	-	\$	74,000			\$	61,730		\$	-	\$	61,730								
TOTAL OVERHEADS COST		\$	789,624			\$	-	\$	789,624			\$	794,563		\$	-	\$	794,563			\$	728,069		\$	37,762	\$	690,307								
TOTAL OVERHEADS NET COST													\$				794,563					\$				690,307									
TOTAL OUTPUTS STAFF HOURS																	8722								8097										
INTERNAL COST PER HOUR																	\$				91.10									\$				85.26	
OVERHEAD STAFF HOURS			Hours							Hours							Hours																		
Administration			1783.00							1783.00							2240																		
Leave			1488.00							1488.00							1488																		
Training/Staff Liaison			149.00							149.00							150																		
TOTAL OVERHEAD STAFF HOURS			3420							3420							3878																		
SCHEDULE B : PROJECT SUMMARY : BUDGET																Last Year's Actual (Annual Report 2024-2025)																			
Current Year's Approved Budget (2025-2026)																																			
Code	Project/Category Item	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%																
1110	Population Monitoring	\$ 29,520	1370	\$ 130,556	\$ 6,500	\$ 153,576	62.4	\$ 29,520	825	\$ 75,156	\$ 4,500	\$ 100,176	63.0	\$ 25,540	1457	\$ 124,181	\$ 4,335	\$ 145,386	71.2																
1120	Harvest Assessment	\$ 2,000	340	\$ 32,401	\$ -	\$ 34,401	14.0	\$ 2,000	150	\$ 13,665	\$ -	\$ 15,665	9.9	\$ 1,380	182	\$ 15,517	\$ -	\$ 16,897	8.3																
1130	Fish Salvage	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0																
1140	Hatchery	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0																
1150	Game Farm	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0																
1160	Releases	\$ 11,000	88	\$ 8,386	\$ -	\$ 19,386	7.9	\$ 16,000	55	\$ 5,010	\$ 7,300	\$ 13,710	8.6	\$ 18,072	88	\$ 7,503	\$ 7,680	\$ 17,895	8.8																
1170	Regulations	\$ -	195	\$ 18,583	\$ -	\$ 18,583	7.5	\$ -	94	\$ 8,563	\$ -	\$ 8,563	5.4	\$ -	185	\$ 15,773	\$ -	\$ 15,773	7.7																
1180	Control	\$ 2,500	212	\$ 20,203	\$ 2,500	\$ 20,203	8.2	\$ 1,000	235	\$ 21,408	\$ 1,500	\$ 20,908	13.1	\$ 755	118	\$ 10,061	\$ 2,655	\$ 8,161	4.0																
	Species Management Expend	\$ 45,020	2205	\$ 210,128	\$ 9,000	\$ 246,148		\$ 48,520	1359	\$ 123,803	\$ 13,300	\$ 159,023		\$ 45,747	2030	\$ 173,035	\$ 14,670	\$ 204,112																	
1210	RMA	\$ 95,000	1918	\$ 182,778	\$ 90,000	\$ 187,778	64.4	\$ 5,000	2468	\$ 224,832	\$ -	\$ 229,832	58.1	\$ 29,070	1598	\$ 136,245	\$ 21,427	\$ 143,888	77.6																
1220	Works/Management	\$ 56,500	620	\$ 59,084	\$ 51,000	\$ 64,584	22.1	\$ 27,500	790	\$ 71,968	\$ 21,000	\$ 78,468	19.8	\$ 40,256	620	\$ 52,861	\$ 9,862	\$ 83,255	44.9																
1230	Assisted Habitat	\$ 185,000	326	\$ 31,067	\$ 183,000	\$ 33,067	11.3	\$ 185,000	786	\$ 71,604	\$ 183,000	\$ 73,604	18.6	\$ 34,195	321	\$ 27,368	\$ 106,787	\$ (45,224)	-24.4																
1240	Assessing/Monitoring	\$ 1,000	55	\$ 5,241	\$ -	\$ 6,241	2.1	\$ 1,000	140	\$ 12,754	\$ -	\$ 13,754	3.5	\$ 25	42	\$ 3,581	\$ -	\$ 3,606	1.9																
	Habitat Protection & Management	\$ 337,500	2919	\$ 278,169	\$ 324,000	\$ 291,669		\$ 218,500	4184	\$ 381,157	\$ 204,000	\$ 395,657		\$ 103,546	2581	\$ 220,056	\$ 138,076	\$ 185,526																	
1310	Access	\$ 21,500	388	\$ 36,975	\$ 20,000	\$ 38,475	47.0	\$ 22,500	275	\$ 25,052	\$ 20,000	\$ 27,552	36.2	\$ 11,551	661	\$ 56,357	\$ 3,087	\$ 64,821	74.0																
1320	Satisfaction Survey	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0																
1330	Newsletters	\$ -	170	\$ 16,200	\$ -	\$ 16,200	19.8	\$ -	100	\$ 9,110	\$ -	\$ 9,110	12.0	\$ -	158	\$ 13,471	\$ -	\$ 13,471	15.4																
1340	Other Publications	\$ 200	200	\$ 19,059	\$ -	\$ 19,259	23.5	\$ 200	295	\$ 26,874	\$ -	\$ 27,074	35.6	\$ -	26	\$ 2,217	\$ -	\$ 2,217	2.5																
1350	Training	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0																
1360	Club Relations	\$ -	83	\$ 7,910	\$ -	\$ 7,910	9.7	\$ -	136	\$ 12,389	\$ -	\$ 12,389	16.3	\$ -	83	\$ 7,077	\$ -	\$ 7,077	8.1																
1370	Huts	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0																
	Angler/Hunter Participation	\$ 21,700	841	\$ 80,144	\$ 20,000	\$ 81,844		\$ 22,700	806	\$ 73,426	\$ 20,000	\$ 76,126		\$ 11,551	928	\$ 79,121	\$ 3,087	\$ 87,585																	
1410	Liaison:Consrv.Bds/DoC	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0																
1420	Communication int. Organisations	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0																
1430	Advocacy	\$ -	266	\$ 25,349	\$ -	\$ 25,349	68.7	\$ -	300	\$ 27,330	\$ -	\$ 27,330	82.1	\$ 90	252	\$ 21,486	\$ -	\$ 21,576	69.3																
1440	Public Promotions	\$ 500	116	\$ 11,054	\$ -	\$ 11,554	31.3	\$ 500	60	\$ 5,466	\$ -	\$ 5,966	17.9	\$ 507	106	\$ 9,038	\$ -	\$ 9,545	30.7																
1450	Visitor Fac/Education/Interpretation	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0																
	Public Interface	\$ 500	382	\$ 36,403	\$ -	\$ 36,903		\$ 500	360	\$ 32,796	\$ -	\$ 33,296		\$ 597	358	\$ 30,523	\$ -	\$ 31,120																	
1510	Ranging	\$ 500	405	\$ 38,595	\$ -	\$ 39,095	36.4	\$ 500	529	\$ 48,191	\$ -	\$ 48,691	54.6	\$ 717	371	\$ 31,631	\$ -	\$ 32,348	28.7																
1520	Ranger Training	\$ 500	36	\$ 3,431	\$ -	\$ 3,931	3.7	\$ 500	40	\$ 3,644	\$ 500	\$ 3,644	4.1	\$ 152	31	\$ 2,643	\$ -	\$ 2,795	2.5																
1530	Compliance	\$ 20,000	528	\$ 50,316	\$ 6,000	\$ 64,316	59.9	\$ 20,000	250	\$ 22,775	\$ 6,000	\$ 36,775	41.3	\$ 39,620	536	\$ 45,699	\$ 7,886	\$ 77,433	68.8																
	Compliance	\$ 21,000	969	\$ 92,342	\$ 6,000	\$ 107,342		\$ 21,000	819	\$ 74,610	\$ 6,500	\$ 89,110		\$ 40,489	938	\$ 79,974	\$ 7,886	\$ 112,577																	
1610	Licence Prod/Distribution	\$ -	49	\$ 4,670	\$ -	\$ 4,670	100.0	\$ -	90	\$ 8,199	\$ -	\$ 8,199	100.0	\$ 379	48	\$ 4,092	\$ -	\$ 4,471	100.0																
1620	Agent Servicing	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0																
1630	Commission	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0																
	Licensing	\$ -	49	\$ 4,670	\$ -	\$ 4,670		\$ -	90	\$ 8,199	\$ -	\$ 8,199		\$ 379	48	\$ 4,092	\$ -	\$ 4,471																	
1710	Cncl Elections	\$ -	18	\$ 1,640	\$ -	\$ 1,640	3.9	\$ -	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0	\$ -	25	\$ 2,131	\$ -	\$ 2,131	4.0																

1720	Cncl Meetings	\$	3,500	382	\$	36,403	\$	-	\$	39,903	96.1	\$	3,000	650	\$	59,214	\$	-	\$	62,214	100.0	\$	2,353	571	\$	48,683	\$	-	\$	51,036	96.0
	Councils	\$	3,500	400	\$	38,043	\$	-	\$	41,543		\$	3,000	650	\$	59,214	\$	-	\$	62,214		\$	2,353	596	\$	50,815	\$	-	\$	53,168	
1810	Management/Strategic Planning	\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	0.0	\$	-	0	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	0.0
1820	OWP/Budget/Lic Fee setting	\$	-	46	\$	4,384	\$	-	\$	4,384	6.9	\$	-	40	\$	3,644	\$	-	\$	3,644	6.6	\$	-	48	\$	4,092	\$	-	\$	4,092	6.3
1830	Annual/Other Reporting	\$	14,000	125	\$	11,912	\$	-	\$	25,912	40.7	\$	14,000	45	\$	4,099	\$	-	\$	18,099	32.7	\$	11,613	231	\$	19,695	\$	-	\$	31,308	48.4
1840	National Liaison	\$	-	350	\$	33,354	\$	-	\$	33,354	52.4	\$	-	369	\$	33,615	\$	-	\$	33,615	60.7	\$	321	339	\$	28,903	\$	-	\$	29,224	45.2
	Planning/Reporting	\$	14,000	521	\$	49,649	\$	-	\$	63,649		\$	14,000	454	\$	41,359	\$	-	\$	55,359		\$	11,934	618	\$	52,691	\$	-	\$	64,625	
	PROJECT BUDGET	\$	443,220	8286	\$	789,548	\$	359,000	\$	873,768		\$	328,220	8722	\$	794,563	\$	243,800	\$	878,983		\$	216,596	8097	\$	690,307	\$	163,719	\$	743,184	
OVERHEADS		External Costs		Income		Net Cost		%		External Costs		Income		Net Cost		%		External Costs		Income		Net Cost		%							
1910	Salaries	\$	606,623		\$	-	\$	606,623	76.8	\$	577,843		\$	-	\$	577,843	72.7	\$	552,189		\$	13,173	\$	539,016	78.1						
1920	Staff Expenses	\$	59,531		\$	-	\$	59,531	7.5	\$	60,750		\$	-	\$	60,750	7.6	\$	54,255		\$	-	\$	54,255	7.9						
1930	Staff Houses	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	0.0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	0.0	\$	-		\$	-	\$	-	0.0						
1940	Office Premises	\$	20,420		\$	-	\$	20,420	2.6	\$	35,420		\$	-	\$	35,420	4.5	\$	29,891		\$	-	\$	29,891	4.3						
1950	Office Equipment	\$	3,000		\$	-	\$	3,000	0.4	\$	4,000		\$	-	\$	4,000	0.5	\$	2,891		\$	-	\$	2,891	0.4						
1960	Communications/Consumables	\$	17,200		\$	-	\$	17,200	2.2	\$	21,200		\$	-	\$	21,200	2.7	\$	16,827		\$	-	\$	16,827	2.4						
1970	General	\$	13,850		\$	-	\$	13,850	1.8	\$	14,850		\$	-	\$	14,850	1.9	\$	7,294		\$	24,589	\$	(17,295)	-2.5						
1980	Gen Equipment	\$	6,500		\$	-	\$	6,500	0.8	\$	6,500		\$	-	\$	6,500	0.8	\$	2,992		\$	-	\$	2,992	0.4						
1990	Vehicles	\$	62,500		\$	-	\$	62,500	7.9	\$	74,000		\$	-	\$	74,000	9.3	\$	61,730		\$	-	\$	61,730	8.9						
	Administration	\$	789,624		\$	-	\$	789,624		\$	794,563		\$	-	\$	794,563		\$	728,069		\$	37,762	\$	690,307							
REGION: AUCKLAND /WAIKATO										0																					
SCHEDULE C : OUTPUTS BUDGET SUMMARY - 2026-2027										Current Year's Approved Budget (2025-2026)										Last Year's Actual (Annual Report 2024-2025)											
Code	Output	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%	External Costs	Hours	Internal Costs	Income	Net Cost	%												
1	Species Management Expend	\$	45,020	2205	\$	210,128	\$	9,000	\$	246,148	28.2	\$	48,520	1359	\$	123,803	\$	13,300	\$	159,023	18.1	\$	45,747	2030	\$	173,035	\$	14,670	\$	204,112	27.5
2	Habitat Protection & Management	\$	337,500	2919	\$	278,169	\$	324,000	\$	291,669	33.4	\$	218,500	4184	\$	381,157	\$	204,000	\$	395,657	45.0	\$	103,546	2581	\$	220,056	\$	138,076	\$	185,526	25.0
3	Angler/Hunter Participation	\$	21,700	841	\$	80,144	\$	20,000	\$	81,844	9.4	\$	22,700	806	\$	73,426	\$	20,000	\$	76,126	8.7	\$	11,551	928	\$	79,121	\$	3,087	\$	87,585	11.8
4	Public Interface	\$	500	382	\$	36,403	\$	-	\$	36,903	4.2	\$	500	360	\$	32,796	\$	-	\$	33,296	3.8	\$	597	358	\$	30,523	\$	-	\$	31,120	4.2
5	Compliance	\$	21,000	969	\$	92,342	\$	6,000	\$	107,342	12.3	\$	21,000	819	\$	74,610	\$	6,500	\$	89,110	10.1	\$	40,489	938	\$	79,974	\$	7,886	\$	112,577	15.1
6	Licensing	\$	-	49	\$	4,670	\$	-	\$	4,670	0.5	\$	-	90	\$	8,199	\$	-	\$	8,199	0.9	\$	379	48	\$	4,092	\$	-	\$	4,471	0.6
7	Councils	\$	3,500	400	\$	38,043	\$	-	\$	41,543	4.8	\$	3,000	650	\$	59,214	\$	-	\$	62,214	7.1	\$	2,353	596	\$	50,815	\$	-	\$	53,168	7.2
8	Planning/Reporting	\$	14,000	521	\$	49,649	\$	-	\$	63,649	7.3	\$	14,000	454	\$	41,359	\$	-	\$	55,359	6.3	\$	11,934	618	\$	52,691	\$	-	\$	64,625	8.7
9	Administration										0.0									0.0										0.0	
	Total Overhead Staff Hours		3420						3420				3878																		
	TOTAL BUDGET	\$	443,220	11706	\$	789,548	\$	359,000	\$	873,768		\$	328,220	12142	\$	794,563	\$	243,800	\$	878,983		\$	216,596	11975	\$	690,307	\$	163,719	\$	743,184	
	Less Interest income						\$	30,102		\$	(5,215)		\$	24,887											Interest				\$	(67,444)	
	Plus ARF						\$	-					\$	-										Depreciation				\$	51,843		
	Plus other Capital items eg principle repayments on Loans						\$	-					\$	-																	
	Plus Reinstatement of Reserves																														
	TOTAL APPROVED BUDGET						\$	903,870					\$	903,870																	
	Made up from:																														
	Bulk Funding						\$	903,870					\$	903,870																	
	Contestable Pool Funding - Ongoing						\$	-					\$	-																	
	Contestable Pool Funding - One off						\$	-					\$	-																	
	Regional Reserve Funding - One off																														
	Plus Reinstatement of Reserves																														
	TOTAL BUDGET	2026-2027					\$	903,870		2025-2026			\$	903,870											Actual as per 2024 2025 Annual Report			\$	727,583		

Auckland Waikato Fish and Game Council**AGENDA ITEM 8**

Council agenda paper

Organizational Staffing**Prepared by**

David Klee, Chief Executive

Purpose

To seek Council direction on clarification to be requested from the New Zealand Fish and Game Council regarding National Office staffing, recruitment and research capability.

Recommendation

That Council receive this report and determine whether to request the information set out in the Information requested from NZC section.

Background

Council has asked me to assess National Office staffing and recruitment processes, including how new or materially changed positions have been approved, funded and filled. This report draws together the relevant NZC resolutions, Council and NZC papers, board packs and email correspondence. It identifies matters requiring NZC clarification and does not make findings about the competence, contribution or integrity of any employee.

This issue arises in the context of the 11 April 2025 NZC resolution that:

“Excluding the research position proposed in the NZC business case, the Council agrees to place a moratorium on the hiring of additional staff positions, permanent and full time, at both the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and all Fish and Game Regions, until increased organisational financial sustainability is achieved, recognising the validity of staff position business cases received.”

The final motion was moved by Councillor Nigel Juby and seconded by Councillor Dave Harris. It was carried 6 votes to 4. The record notes that the original Juby Harris motion was amended by Councillors Mike Barker and Dave Coll, with that amendment carried 7 votes to 2. Councillor Juby requested that his opposing vote on the final motion be recorded.

The resolution defined additional staff positions as positions above establishment numbers as at April 2025.

Council understands that National Office roles have subsequently been created, materially changed or filled, including roles which do not appear to have been publicly advertised. Council does not question the competence, contribution or integrity of any individual employee. The issue is whether Fish and Game has used a transparent, consistent and defensible process for creating, approving and filling ongoing roles funded from licence revenue.

Councillor Barnes statements on staffing restraint

Council also notes the expectations set by Councillor Barnes during the 2026 to 2027 budget process. In his open letter to councillors, Councillor Barnes described Fish and Game’s financial position as rapidly deteriorating and called for urgent action to reduce costs before asking licence holders for further revenue.

Councillor Barnes stated that salaries for the then aggregate 81 FTE represented approximately \$8.55 million, or 71% of projected licence income. He said that only 29% of projected licence income was then available for all non salary costs, including monitoring, advocacy, research, legal work, vehicles and other operating expenditure.

He proposed:

1. A moratorium on new staff hires.
2. No replacements for staff leaving.
3. A moratorium on salary increases where permitted by employment agreements.
4. Greater sharing of staff across regions.
5. Greater use of specialised National Office expertise.
6. Regional restructures.
7. Reduced reliance on licence fee income for administration.

Councillor Barnes stated that a reduction of seven FTE across Fish and Game could save close to \$750,000 and avoid a licence fee increase for 2026 to 2027. He said that Fish and Game needed to bring its business under prudent financial control rather than impose progressively higher licence fees to meet ever increasing costs.

Relevant timeline

The timeline in relation to one recent permanent National Office appointment illustrates why Council requires clarity.

In January 2026, Mr Cosgrove discussed with an Auckland Waikato employee a possible National Office role. On 13 February 2026, Mr Cosgrove confirmed that NZC was offering a permanent National Office position. The employee was to resign from Auckland Waikato and become an NZC employee.

Mr Cosgrove described the role as an extension of existing maritime and biosecurity work. Its additional functions included research and science support, operational health and safety, development of the MANGO quality management system for all regions and support for proposed legislative change.

The role was directly offered and permanently established after the 11 April 2025 moratorium. It was not presented as an open recruitment process. It was also not presented as the dedicated research position excluded from the moratorium. Science support was one element of a broader multi function role.

Effect on regional staffing

The subsequent staffing movements raise a further issue of consistency. Auckland Waikato recruited Mr Matt Osborne from Eastern for its Senior Fish and Game Officer role, which was publicly advertised in March 2026. Council understands that Eastern then proposed to advertise to replace the resulting fisheries officer vacancy.

On 21 April 2026, in an email addressed to Mr Alaeinia and other regional managers, Mr Cosgrove stated that he would “be seriously reassessing whether to hire replacement staff for any vacancies.” This followed his comments that Fish and Game had been living beyond its means and that regional budgets might require further reassessment if a licence fee increase was not obtained.

The email was expressed as Mr Cosgrove’s personal view rather than a specific direction to Eastern. However, it supports Council’s concern that regional councils were being encouraged to reconsider replacement of vacant positions that they had approved budget for, at the same time National Office had directly offered and filled a permanent role.

National Office salary position

The August 2026 NZC finance report provides further and more direct cause for concern. For the ten months ended 30 June 2026, salaries and contractors expenditure was \$1,213,376 against a year-to-date budget of \$964,622. This was an adverse variance of \$248,754. Expenditure was 126% of the year-to-date budget and already \$73,368 above the full year budget of \$1,140,008, with two months remaining in the financial year.

NZC's report attributes the variance to unbudgeted staff costs. It also identifies salaries and New Zealand Council costs as major exceptions to expenditure otherwise being within budget.

On its face, the available information indicates that NZC and National Office were incurring unbudgeted staffing costs while continuing to create or fill positions, at the same time regional councils were being told to reassess budgets and seriously consider whether vacancies should be replaced. The information raises a legitimate concern that ongoing salary commitments may have been created without confirmed budget provision, approved establishment, business case or disclosed delegated authority.

Research position

NZC Meeting 175 approved \$100,000 from reserves for a research position. Yet, following the permanent transfer, NZC's June 2026 risk material continued to identify "lack of a research position within NZC for the 2026 to 2027 financial year" as a significant organisational risk. The risk paper states that research is a core statutory function of NZC, that the absence of a research position creates a gap in National Office capacity, and that NZC should consider establishing a research position or collaborative arrangements to use regional expertise.

NZC recruitment and employer oversight

Earlier legal advice circulated by NZC records that the New Zealand Fish and Game Council is the employer of National Office staff. National Office appointments therefore engage NZC's own employer responsibilities, including the authority to create, fund and fill permanent positions.

It is Council's understanding that NZC members were not informed that a new position was being created or that an offer of a permanent National Office position was to be made. If that understanding is correct, it raises a governance issue as to how NZC's employer role was exercised, particularly where the appointment appears to have created an ongoing salary commitment after the April 2025 staffing moratorium.

This is not a criticism of the staff member or their suitability for the role. The issue is whether the appointment was made under an existing NZC approved position and delegation, or whether it required prior consideration by NZC because it involved a new or materially changed permanent role, an exception to the moratorium, or expenditure outside the approved staffing budget.

NZC should therefore confirm when its members were first advised of the proposed appointment, whether they were asked to approve it, and the authority relied on if the appointment was made without prior NZC consideration.

Information requested from NZC

Council requests that NZC provide:

1. The National Office permanent staffing structure approved in April 2025, including the number, title and status of each position, together with a schedule of every permanent position created, disestablished, or filled since 11 April 2025.
2. The business case, approval pathway, funding source, salary range, reporting line and intended duration for each role created or materially changed after the moratorium.
3. Confirmation whether each position was approved by the full New Zealand Fish and Game Council. Where this did not occur, NZC should identify the delegated authority relied on, the person who exercised it, and the resolution or instrument establishing that delegation.
4. Confirmation whether any role created or filled after 11 April 2025 was treated as the research position excluded from the moratorium, together with the evidence and authority relied on.

6. A schedule of National Office appointments showing whether each role was publicly advertised. Where a role was not advertised, NZC should provide the documented reason for direct appointment and the approval for that exception.
7. The same information for the Chief Operating Officer role held by Mr Cosgrove, including when it was created or materially changed, whether it was publicly advertised, the authority under which it was filled and the basis for any direct appointment.
8. A reconciliation of National Office salary expenditure against its approved 2025 to 2026 budget, including whether any reported overspend arose in whole or part from unbudgeted role creation, changes to establishment, use of contractors or remuneration decisions.
9. The recruitment, appointment and good employer guidance that Fish and Game applies to National Office and regional appointments. This should identify when public advertising is expected, when direct appointment may be used, the approvals required, how conflicts of interest are managed, and how exceptions are reported to NZC.

Conclusion

The information presently available raises legitimate questions about whether permanent National Office roles were created, materially changed or filled consistently with the 11 April 2025 staffing moratorium, the April 2025 establishment, approved budgets and the relevant delegated authorities.

It also identifies an apparent inconsistency between staffing restraint expected of regional councils and National Office decisions made while National Office salary and contractor expenditure was materially above budget.

Council is not asked to make findings about any employee or appointment. It is asked to determine whether NZC should provide the information necessary to establish the approval, funding, recruitment and authority basis for those decisions.

Sale of Stone Jug Rd and potential purchase of 61 Totika Road

COUNCIL DECISION PAPER | FOR DECISION

Paper status

Public, with a separate public excluded decision

Decision sought

To note progress on the sale of Stone Jug Road and decide whether Council wishes to pursue the 61 Totika Road access opportunity

Update on the sale of Stone Jug Rd

With the easements and esplanade strips at Stone Jug Road now in place, staff are preparing to sell the property and return the proceeds to the Angler Access Fund. This completes the revolving access model by protecting public access in perpetuity and recycling the capital for future access projects.

Staff are assessing the most effective sale approach, including whether the existing titles can be configured to improve the overall return. The commercially sensitive valuation and sale options are included in the public excluded section of this paper.

Totika Rd Purchase

The owner of 61 Totika Road, a riverfront property downstream of Stone Jug Road on the Whakapapa River, has indicated an intention to sell. The owner may also consider granting registered public access easements and esplanade strips without Council purchasing the entire property.

Purpose

To seek Council direction on whether to pursue the purchase of 61 Totika Road or, alternatively, the direct purchase of enduring public access rights. If Council wishes to proceed, the maximum amounts and negotiation parameters will be determined in public excluded business.

1. receives the Sale of Stone Jug Road and potential purchase of 61 Totika Road decision paper;
2. notes the progress being made to determine the sale approach that will maximise the proceeds returned to the Angler Access Fund;
3. agrees that securing practical and enduring access to the Whakapapa River at Totika Road is strategically aligned with Council's angler access objectives;
4. agrees to pursue the potential acquisition of 61 Totika Road through the tender process, subject to satisfactory due diligence and an acceptable tender limit;
5. agrees that, if acquisition of the property is not preferred or is unsuccessful, staff may pursue the direct purchase of registered public access easements and esplanade strips; and
6. agrees to consider the maximum amount for each option, the negotiation parameters and delegated authority in public excluded business.

Strategic rationale for purchasing 61 Totika Rd.

- There is currently no practical legal access from Totika Road to the Whakapapa River. The unformed legal road reaches the river but is obstructed by a cliff.
- The river has migrated onto 61 Totika Road, so part of the river margin is now on private land.
- The property offers a practical walking and four wheel drive route that could support easements to the river.
- The approach would replicate the successful Stone Jug Road model by securing access, connecting it to surrounding public land and retaining the option to recycle capital later where appropriate.
- The Whakapapa is a premier regional fishery with few practical access points. Regional survey feedback identifies access as a leading opportunity to improve angler satisfaction, and the Whakapapa is among the waterways most frequently identified for improved access.

The opportunity

The owner intends to sell the property by tender, creating a short notice opportunity to secure an access route that cannot practicably be provided by the existing legal road. The property last sold for \$99,000 in August 2017 and has a 2023 rating valuation of \$350,000. These figures provide context but do not establish its current market value. If Council decides to pursue the opportunity, staff would complete the necessary due diligence before committing to the purchase. If acquired, the property would be used to establish enduring public access, with its longer term ownership or sale considered once those arrangements are legally protected.

Key considerations

Consideration	Council level assessment
Access outcome	Practical route to the river, with potential easements and esplanade strips that connect to surrounding public access land.
Funding	Restricted Angler Access Fund and Whanganui River Fund capital may be available, subject to confirmation of permitted use and affordability.
Due diligence	Title, property condition, independent valuation, legal and physical access, proposed easements and esplanade strips, planning constraints, liabilities and funding authority.
Partnerships	Coordinate with Herenga ā Nuku and relevant agencies where this improves the access outcome, while retaining the angler access purpose of Council funds.

Risks and controls

- Commercial risk: manage through an independently informed tender ceiling and clear negotiation delegation.
- Property and legal risk: make any commitment subject to satisfactory due diligence and appropriate contractual conditions.
- Access delivery risk: confirm that the intended route and enduring legal instruments are feasible before unconditional purchase.
- Financial risk: confirm that the proposed funding sources may lawfully be used and that sufficient reserves remain for other commitments.
- Operational risk: defer decisions on property management, accommodation use or disposal until after acquisition and access design work.

Next steps if Council agrees to pursue

1. Council determines the confidential tender ceiling and delegation.
2. Staff complete due diligence and obtain the advice needed to support a tender.
3. The authorised representatives submit and, if necessary, negotiate the tender within the approved parameters.
4. If successful, staff return any material matters outside the delegation to Council and develop the enduring access arrangements.



View from the current legal access toward the Whakapapa River.



61 Totika Rd

Map scale: 1:9,028

Map key

- Access Points
- Fishing Spot
- Road Parcels
- Easements
- Reserve Land
- Public Access Conservation Land
- Primary Parcels

Date: 3/05/2025 1:10 pm

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0 0.1 0.3 km



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61 Totika Road and surrounding public access land. The proposed practical route is shown in orange.

PUBLIC ACCESS STRATEGY

Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council

Adopted: [date] **Review:** Every five years or as required

1. Purpose

Improving access is one of AWFGC's five key strategic goals. The purpose of this strategy is to guide the Council's approach to protecting, restoring and improving long-term access to sports fish and game bird resources within the Auckland/Waikato region.

It establishes the outcomes and principles that will guide Council decisions while allowing staff flexibility to respond to opportunities and select the most appropriate mechanism in each case.

2. Strategic outcome

Licence holders and the wider public have free, certain, enduring and practical access to important sports fish and game bird resources, supported by constructive relationships with landowners, mana whenua and partner organisations.

3. Scope

This strategy applies to:

- the protection and creation of access for licence holders
- the restoration of legal or traditional access that has been lost, obstructed or made impractical
- the management and improvement of access across Council owned or managed land
- the provision of information that enables people to identify and responsibly use available access

Access may be provided for fishing, hunting or compatible public recreation where this supports the Council's statutory functions.

4. Guiding principles

- Enduring benefit. Preference will be given to access that is legally protected and capable of providing lasting licence holder benefit.
- Strategic value. Council effort and funding will be directed toward resources of significant recreational, ecological or public value, or where access is scarce or threatened.
- Practical access. Legal access should, wherever reasonably possible, be safe, identifiable and physically usable.
- Partnership. Access initiatives will respect mana whenua interests and seek constructive relationships with landowners, public agencies, access organisations and user groups.

- Responsible use. Access will be promoted in a manner that supports lawful behaviour, biosecurity, public safety, environmental protection and respect for private property.
- Financial sustainability. Council will seek external funding and recyclable investment approaches.
- Regional initiative. Council will retain the ability to identify and progress opportunities suited to regional priorities while supporting approaches that may be replicated nationally.

5. Strategic approach

Council may use the following levers separately or in combination.

5.1 Secure enduring legal access

Use registered easements, esplanade instruments, covenants, negotiated agreements or other appropriate legal mechanisms to protect access. Permanent mechanisms will be preferred where proportionate and achievable.

5.2 Make strategic property investments

Acquire property where ownership is necessary or provides the most effective means of securing strategically important access. Where appropriate, Council may protect the required access, dispose of surplus land and recycle the proceeds into future access initiatives.

5.3 Build funding

Maintain restricted access funding and seek donations, bequests, grants, partnerships and other external revenue. Funds dedicated to access will be applied consistently with their purpose and protected from ordinary operating expenditure.

5.4 Influence planning and public decisions

Use statutory planning, subdivision incentives, consent processes and engagement with public agencies to protect existing access and create new enduring access, particularly where this can be achieved without land acquisition.

5.5 Restore and improve access

Work with relevant parties to resolve legal, physical, relationship or information barriers affecting important existing access. Council may also improve practical access across land it owns or manages.

5.6 Provide clear access information

Maintain accessible information about fishing and hunting opportunities, access conditions and responsible use. Mapping and other information tools will also support the identification of access gaps and priorities.

5.7 Advocate and collaborate

Work with mana whenua, Herenga a Nuku, DOC, councils, LINZ, landowners, user groups, other Fish & Game councils and funding partners. Council may advocate for regional or national policy and funding mechanisms that enable timely investment in enduring public access.

6. Prioritisation

In determining whether to support an access initiative, Council will have regard to:

- the significance of the fishery, hunting opportunity, habitat or wider public benefit
- the degree to which access is absent, threatened, constrained or capable of meaningful improvement
- the durability, practicality and legal certainty of the proposed outcome
- cost, risk, partnership opportunities and potential to leverage or recycle funding
- consistency with Council's statutory functions, policies and financial capacity

7. Governance and implementation

Council will set strategic direction, approve material financial commitments where required, and consider significant access opportunities in accordance with its delegations and policies.

The Chief Executive will implement this strategy through the Council's normal planning, budgeting and delegation arrangements. Operational priorities and individual projects may change as opportunities, partnerships and funding arise.

Progress will be reported through existing Chief Executive and financial reporting. Separate reporting is required only where a decision, approval or material risk needs to be brought to Council.

8. Review

This strategy will be reviewed as required as it is not restricted by legislation, Council priorities or access funding arrangements.

PROPOSAL FOR A NATIONAL ANGLER ACCESS STAMP

A dedicated national funding mechanism for angler access

Purpose: Decision

Prepared by: Chief Executive

Meeting date: [insert date]

Related paper: Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council Public Access Strategy

Recommendation

Draft cost - \$5 NZ residents / \$30 Non-resident

That the Council:

1. Receives this paper and adopts the Public Access Strategy presented separately on the agenda.
2. Endorses in principle the establishment of a nationally consistent, Angler Access Stamp contribution on sports fishing licences, dedicated solely to restoring, securing and enhancing public access to sports fisheries.
3. Supports the establishment of a national contestable Angler Access Fund, governed and administered through a transparent process modelled on the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust, with a preference for revolving investments that return capital to the fund.
4. Agrees that, based on our experience, commitment and expertise, Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game should lead development of the proposal and requests that the Chair and Chief Executive circulate it to regional Fish & Game chairs and managers, the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and the Minister for Hunting and Fishing seeking endorsement from the wider organization.
5. Agrees to make AWFGC staff time available to facilitate this project at a National scale.
6. Requests that the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, in consultation with regional councils and the Minister, investigate the legislative, requirements for implementation.

Purpose of the proposal

The proposal is to establish an enduring national funding mechanism focused solely on angler access, with the aim of bringing the South Island councils on board. A modest, nationally consistent contribution would be incorporated into sports fishing licences and transferred to a dedicated contestable fund. The fund would support projects that restore lost access, secure new permanent access, or materially improve existing access to sports fisheries. Wherever practicable, it would operate as a revolving capital fund so that money invested in one access opportunity can be recovered and applied to the next.

Background

Maintaining and improving public access to sports fisheries is a core function of Fish & Game councils. Access is nevertheless being lost or constrained through changes in land ownership and use, deteriorating infrastructure, uncertainty over legal routes, and the cost of securing permanent alternatives. Strategic opportunities can arise at short notice, particularly where land or easements become available. Improving access has ranked at the top of the list for improving angler satisfaction in a recent regional angler satisfaction survey, and is reported as the highest ranking Fish & Game service attribute in the last two national licence holder surveys.

The Stone Jug Road project demonstrates what targeted access investment can achieve. Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game pioneered and implemented this approach through its own regional initiative. The Council assembled the funding, acquired strategically located riverfront land, secured enduring public access through registered legal instruments, and is able to sell the balance so capital can be recycled. Delivered without licence revenue or a national access fund, it is a proven model for national application and positions the Council to lead its further development. Additionally, this project has raised awareness and strengthened relationships with anglers, Mana Whenua, the Minister, partner organization and the public at large. It provides a very tangible demonstration of F&G value.

Alignment with the Public Access Strategy

The proposed stamp gives effect to the Council's Public Access Strategy by providing a reliable funding mechanism for its principal strategic levers. In particular, it would support:

- enduring legal access through easements, esplanade instruments and other registered mechanisms
- strategic property investment where acquisition is the most effective means of securing access
- restoration of important access affected by legal, physical or relationship barriers
- practical improvements that make existing access safe, identifiable and usable
- partnerships with mana whenua, landowners, Herenga ā Nuku, DOC, councils and community organisations
- revolving investment where surplus property is sold and proceeds are returned to the fund
- a distribution mechanism that could also tap into other funding sources

Proposed design

Element	Proposed approach
Purpose	Restore, secure and enhance public access to sports fisheries.
Revenue	A modest contribution incorporated into relevant sports fishing licence fees. The amount and licence categories would be determined through modelling and consultation. International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) and other funding sources could be incorporated into the fund.*

Protection	Revenue would be separately accounted for and used only for the stated access purpose.
Allocation	A national, contestable process open to Fish & Game councils and, where appropriate, partner organisations.
Governance	An appropriately constituted panel with regional Fish & Game representation, external appointments and relevant access, legal, property, cultural and financial expertise.
Assessment	Funding decisions based on strategic value, permanence, practicality, partnership support, value for money and the ability to leverage or recycle funding.
Investment approach	A preference for projects that secure enduring access while returning capital to the fund, including property purchase followed by protection of access and sale of surplus land.
Funding tools	Primarily interest free or recoverable advances, or equity stakes, supported by grants or co-funding where a revolving approach is impractical or a one off investment is justified by exceptional enduring access benefits.
Administration	A proportionate system modelled on the Game Bird Habitat Trust, using existing Fish & Game processes where efficient.

* Consideration should be given to requiring a larger contribution from overseas licence holders. Overseas anglers are generally surprised by, and appreciative of our public access.

Relationship with the Game Bird Habitat Stamp

The Game Bird Habitat Stamp provides an established precedent for collecting a dedicated contribution through Fish & Game licences and directing the proceeds to a specific national purpose. The programme is provided for under the Wildlife Act 1953, is administered through the New Zealand Fish and Game Council's accounts, and transfers net programme proceeds to the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust for contestable habitat projects.

An Angler Access Stamp would adopt the core strengths of that model: a visible connection between the licence holder contribution and the outcome, protection of funds for a defined purpose, national pooling of revenue, independent or representative assessment, and transparent contestable allocation. It need not reproduce the artwork or collector product elements of the habitat stamp programme unless these were shown to add value.

Implementation would complement, rather than duplicate, the work of the Outdoor Access Commission. Fish & Game would work with the Commission and support a wider strategic access fund. As the stamp would be funded directly by anglers, its revenue would remain ring fenced for angler access, but could provide seed funding to attract Crown, local government, philanthropic or other agency investment where projects, especially where outcomes deliver benefits for multiple recreational users.

Unlike a conventional grants programme, the Angler Access Fund should seek to preserve and grow its capital over time. Recoverable investments should be preferred where they can achieve the access outcome. For example, the fund could support the purchase of a strategically located property,

permanent legal protection of the required access, subsequent sale of the balance, and repayment of the original capital to the fund. One off grants that provide no return should remain available, but generally be reserved for situations where a revolving approach is not practicable and the enduring access benefit is compelling.

Matters requiring further development

- Legal mechanism. There is no directly equivalent angler stamp provision apparent in the current legislation. Legal advice is required on whether the proposal could be implemented through the existing licence fee framework or would require legislative or regulatory amendment. The current Fish and Game reforms may provide an opportunity to implement such an initiative.
- Contribution and licence classes. Modelling is required to determine an appropriate contribution and whether it should apply to all sports fishing licences or selected classes.
- Governance structure including, representation, decision making criteria, administrative responsibility and accountability arrangements need to be agreed before implementation.
- Revolving fund settings. Appropriate terms are required for recoverable advances, repayment, treatment of transaction costs and any uplift or loss when acquired property is sold.
- Relationship with existing funding. The fund should complement Herenga ā Nuku initiatives, regional access funds, donations, bequests, public funding and partnership contributions, while preserving its ring-fenced angler access purpose.
- Licence holder support. The proposal should be clearly explained and tested with anglers before final decisions are made.

Benefits

- creates a reliable and protected funding stream that allows Fish & Game to respond quickly to time sensitive access opportunities
- shares the cost across the national angling community while allowing investment where benefits are greatest
- leverages government, philanthropic, community and landowner contributions while preserving and growing the fund through repayment and recycled capital
- provides anglers with a clear and tangible connection between part of their licence fee and improved fishing access

Financial implications

Endorsing and circulating the proposal has no material financial implication for Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game beyond existing staff time. Any future contribution, establishment costs or commitment of regional funds would require separate consideration through the normal licence fee, budgeting and approval processes.

Proposed advocacy

Subject to Council endorsement, Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game will circulate the proposal and Public Access Strategy to regional Fish & Game chairs and managers, the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, and Hon James Meager as Minister for Hunting and Fishing. This will seek sector support to scale the proven Auckland/Waikato model and undertake the legal, financial and governance work required for national application.

Relevant current framework

Game Bird Habitat Stamp Programme: Fish & Game New Zealand, current programme information.

Wildlife Act 1953, section 19A: statutory basis for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp.

Conservation Act 1987 and Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983: current sports fishing licensing framework.

NATIONAL STANDARDISATION OF FLY FISHING DEFINITION

Purpose: Decision

Prepared by: The Chair

Background

New Zealand currently has no single national definition of "fly fishing." Fish & Game's Anglers Notice, issued under the Conservation Act 1987, defines fly fishing as fishing with a fly rod, fly reel, fly line, and artificial fly, and this wording is consistent across all twelve F&G regions. DOC's Taupō Fishery Regulations 2004, and the accompanying Taupō Anglers Notice, define fly fishing differently and impose additional restrictions not found in any F&G notice, most notably a maximum leader length and indicator restrictions. The same Minister of Conservation signs off both the regional F&G Anglers Notices and the Taupō Anglers Notice each year, so this is a single Minister administering two different standards for the same activity.

This is important for two reasons.

First, common sense: a method that is legal on fly only water in the Waikato may be illegal on fly only water on the Tongariro, despite both being administered under the same broad statutory framework.

Second, consistency benefits anglers, who should be able to rely on one national understanding of what "fly fishing" means, regardless of region.

I have discussed this with Eastern and Wellington chairs, staff and DOC Turangi. All are receptive to the idea of a single definition. If three F&G regions and DOC can agree, getting NZC and Ministerial support appears inevitable.

Recommendation

That AWFGC direct staff to liaise with Eastern Region, Wellington Region, and DOC Tūrangi to explore whether a common national definition can be developed, for eventual joint presentation, via NZC, to the Minister.

Whakapapa River Fishery and Competition Management

Context

The Whakapapa River is the premier fishery within the Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game region. Public access to approximately the upper 20 km of the fishery is currently limited by the presence of private land parcels and the closure of the Whakapapa Intake Road. Consequently, recreational fishing effort is concentrated around publicly accessible road ends, including Kakahi, Stone Jug Road and Owhango. The river is open from 1 October to 1 June, with the summer months generally representing the most popular period of use.

Sports Fly Fishing New Zealand (SFFNZ) holds competitions across several Auckland/Waikato waterways each year (max =5). Competitions generally occur over two days and involve multiple river beats, which may each be fished up to three times. As a general rule, a competition is permitted only once on each of the Whanganui and Whakapapa rivers in any given year.

During 2025, a competition permit was issued for the Whakapapa River for early December. Following the event, Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game received negative feedback from some licence holders regarding the competition.

SFFNZ had requested another permit for early/ mid-December 2026. This has prompted consideration of the different interests associated with the fishery. In the interim, SFFNZ has accepted the upper Whanganui River as a location to hold the early/mid-December competition while Auckland/Waikato staff consider the differing perspectives.

In Tables 1 and 2, staff have noted the key points raised by either party and provided comments.

Table 1: Perspective of SFFNZ

SFFNZ perspective	Staff Comments
Competition fishing is a legitimate use of the fishery	Competition anglers are licence holders and competition fly fishing represents a legitimate form of participation in the sport. While competition anglers represent a relatively small and highly specialised part of the angling community, Fish & Game should recognise and, where appropriate, support their participation alongside other users of the fishery.
Competitions provide opportunities for data collection	Competitions may provide a valuable opportunity to collect information that contributes to monitoring and management of the Whakapapa fishery. The combination of intensive fishing effort, experienced anglers and detailed catch records could provide information on catch rates, fish size distributions and other aspects of the trout population.

	Competitions could also support targeted monitoring initiatives, such as recording recaptures of tagged fish or collecting standardised length and location information. These opportunities would increase the management value derived from permitting an event on a high-value fishery.
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Table 2: Considerations from anglers/ guides

Angler concerns to assess	Staff Comments
The cumulative fishing pressure created by competitions.	Anecdotal evidence suggests that fishing competitions can affect the subsequent fishing experience, as fish become less catchable. However, evidence is lacking on the extent and duration of this effect, particularly beyond what already occurs from experienced recreational anglers and guides who frequent the Whakapapa. For this reason, having concentrated fishing pressure exerted early in the season may be unadvisable when taking a precautionary approach.
The repeated capture and handling of wild trout.	All angling contributes to this effect, and much of the recreational angling on the Whakapapa is catch and release.
The effect of concentrating large numbers of skilled anglers into a relatively limited river system.	All fishing competitions concentrate skilled anglers onto one waterway. The Whakapapa does currently has limited public road access, so all skilled and less skilled anglers are largely concentrated through those same access points. For weekends in the peak early season, this has the potential to be disruptive to recreational anglers.
The increasing exposure of the Whakapapa through social media.	Fish & Game cannot control what is promoted on social media but supports promoting our fisheries nationally and internationally.
The rapid spread of fishing information through national and international competition networks.	Fish & Game cannot control what is promoted on social media and through private networks but supports promoting our fisheries nationally and internationally.
The likelihood of increased group fishing pressure following competition exposure.	Fish & Game cannot control what is promoted on social media but supports promoting our fisheries nationally and internationally. In turn, there are management tools available if overuse becomes a concern.

The increasing international profile of New Zealand's large wild-trout fisheries.	Fish & Game cannot control what is promoted on social media but supports promoting our fisheries nationally and internationally.
The potential for overseas competition anglers and other visiting anglers to increasingly target the same rivers after exposure through competition networks.	Fish & Game cannot control what is promoted on social media and private networks but supports promoting our fisheries nationally and internationally. In turn, there are management tools available if overuse becomes a concern.
The long-term effects of repeatedly promoting and targeting the same valuable fishery.	Fish & Game cannot control what is promoted on social media but supports promoting our fisheries nationally and internationally.
Whether responsible guided angling tourism could provide greater long-term value to the region than concentrated competition fishing.	Guiding has the potential to draw tourism attention to a fishery in a similar way to competition. Fish & Game supports both.
Whether alternative rivers or venues could provide competition opportunities without placing the same pressure on the Whakapapa.	While there are other venues for a competition within our region and others, there are potential scientific benefits to holding a competition on the Whakapapa (e.g., tagging/mark-recapture, demographics).
Effects of the competition lead to deterioration of the fishery and fish stocks.	While the competition may temporarily impact the fishing experience for recreational anglers, we do not expect it to impact fish stocks. Catch and release can increase mortality when temperatures are above 19 degrees. The Whakapapa is generally cooler (and competitions have temp caps), and much of it is inaccessible and gets little pressure. From drift dive surveys conducted every second year at the Owango site between 2014 and 2024, there were between 11 and 30 large trout (>40cm) counted per km. The OIO farm site (upstream access through private property) also returned a count of 30 large trout (>40cm) in 2025. This demonstrates a fairly stable population of large trout over a 10-year monitoring period.

Discussion

The primary concern raised in the correspondence from anglers (see letters in Appendix) is that the competition promotes the Whakapapa fishery nationally and internationally, increasing its popularity and, in turn, pressure on the fishery.

Fish & Game supports the promotion of our fisheries to both local and international anglers so long as the fishery is managed sustainably. The Whakapapa is a major waterway that sustains a large fish population and can likely handle reasonable fishing pressure. While access is currently limited, concentrating most anglers in specific sections, the fishery's long-term sustainability is not expected to be impacted.

For this reason, focusing on expanding public access to the Whakapapa is important for distributing fishing pressure and upholding the high-quality fishing experience. If, in the future, overpressure becomes an issue, we have tools we can enforce to manage this. In other words, we do not believe impeding the promotion of the fishery is a valid or fair management tool.

However, there are reasonable concerns that a fishing competition on the Whakapapa River in December could disrupt recreational anglers during the competition (when the river is occupied over the weekend) and after the competition (when catchability temporarily declines). This effect may be exacerbated by limited access, which concentrates recreational anglers in similar areas to the competition. Given that the Whakapapa River is a trophy fishery that anglers travel across the country to visit, these concerns are not insignificant.

We do not, however, expect that the competition will impact the sustainability of the fishery through mortality, as the catch-and-release effects from a competition, while concentrated and above and beyond what would normally occur, will be low due to temperature limits, and the experienced handling of the competition fishers.

Conclusion

Staff propose permitting one competition on the Whakapapa River per year, subject to conditions intended to balance competition use with the wider recreational value of the fishery:

1. **Timing:** The competition could be held later in the fishing season after the peak October - summer recreational fishing period. This would reduce the number of recreational anglers potentially affected by competition activity and any short-term effects of concentrated angling pressure. Later in the season, other fisheries (both within and outside the Auckland/ Waikato Fishery) are performing well and drawing anglers' attention and spreading pressure.
2. **Data collection:** As a condition of the permit, SFFNZ supports agreed monitoring initiatives, such as reporting tagged fish and providing standardised competition

catch and effort data. Additional information such as fish length and capture location should continue to be collected. A later season comp may also provide an effective means of recapturing fish which have been tagged leading up to the competition.

In turn, Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game would seek to minimise disruption to other recreational anglers by providing advance notice of competition dates and affected sections through the Fishing Access Map, social media and other appropriate communication channels.

Competition organisers and anglers must recognise that holding a permit to undertake a competition does not give the right to close sections of water or forbid other recreational anglers from fishing the same waters during the period of a competition. All anglers must abide by the angling code of conduct and general rules and conventions of fishing. Therefore, if a non-competition angler is already fishing the river, a competition angler can't discourage them from fishing, ask them to leave or jump into a pool in front of them. This wording will be written into permit documentation.

This approach recognises competition fly fishing as a legitimate use of the Whakapapa while acknowledging that the river is a high-value trophy fishery used by a much wider angling community. The intention is not to prevent competition fishing, but to manage it so it remains compatible with the fishery's broader values and management objectives.

Appendix (4* Letters received in opposition to Competition Fishing on the Whakapapa to 7-9-2026)

To: Fish and Game Auckland /Waikato Region

I am writing to formally express my opposition to the continued holding of fly-fishing competitions on the Whakapapa River. As discussed, I'd be happy to talk face to face over coffee and give you a bit more background to my argument. My objection is **not directed at any particular individual, angler, guide, competitor or club**. I have previously competed myself, so I understand very well the nature of competition fishing, the competitive mindset of anglers, and the desire to find and fish productive water. I therefore believe I am able to look at this issue from **both sides**.

However, having experienced competition fishing myself, I also understand the level of fishing pressure that can be placed on a river when a competition brings a number of highly capable anglers into the same system, Not just for the competition date but the repeated practice before and after.

The Whakapapa River needs protection, not increased pressure

The Whakapapa is a valuable and unique trout fishery. Its importance goes well beyond being simply another river available for competitive fishing.

Our wild trout fisheries are a finite resource. Once a river becomes heavily pressured, repeatedly fished and increasingly publicised, the consequences can be difficult to reverse.

Competition fishing concentrates anglers into a relatively small number of productive sections of river. This means fish can potentially be located, targeted, caught, handled and released repeatedly within a short period. River access and fishable water is very limited considering this. I also see areas where older anglers will struggle to catch fish where they might have in the past due to repeat pressured spots.

Even where fish are released, **catch-and-release does not mean zero impact**.

Repeated capture can result in increased stress, exhaustion, handling damage and behavioural changes, particularly when fish are subjected to significant angling pressure over consecutive days.

I think the average angler is happy for 1-2 good size fish on a trip. This is vastly different from all the fish being caught in every inch of water from a competitors mentality.

The growing exposure of the Whakapapa is a major concern

I am also increasingly concerned about the way the Whakapapa is being exposed through modern competition networks and social media.

Competition anglers are now extremely well connected with top overseas competitors and international fishing networks. This creates a situation where information about productive rivers and fishing opportunities can spread very quickly. What may once have been relatively limited knowledge within a small group of local anglers can now become widely exposed through photographs, videos, social-media posts and international competition connections.

The result is that the Whakapapa risks becoming increasingly **fished heavily by groups of anglers**, rather than being protected as a valuable and sensitive fishery.

This concerns me greatly.

Once a river gains a reputation as a productive competition destination, the pressure does not necessarily end when the competition finishes. Other anglers see the exposure, follow the same information and begin fishing the river more heavily.

The cumulative pressure is the issue.

It is not simply about one competition or one angler. It is about what happens when a valuable river becomes increasingly known, increasingly promoted and increasingly targeted.

New Zealand's international reputation makes protection even more important

New Zealand, and particularly rivers such as the Whakapapa, offer something that is extremely unusual in the international fly-fishing world: the opportunity to pursue **large, wild trout in a beautiful natural environment without the costs associated with many comparable overseas fisheries**.

There are very few places where an angler can potentially come from overseas, stay and fish for weeks, access a quality wild-trout fishery and pursue trout of this size for relatively modest fishing costs.

That is something we should be proud of — **but it is also something we need to protect**.

I am not suggesting that overseas anglers should be prevented from experiencing New Zealand's trout fishing. Quite the opposite. I fully support responsible international anglers coming to New Zealand, employing local guides, staying in local accommodation and contributing to our regional tourism economy.

I also know of **many people in New Zealand and overseas who have a genuine interest in protecting fisheries such as the Whakapapa**. These are anglers who would like to return every few years to experience the fishery responsibly, rather than repeatedly targeting it throughout the season. Many are also more than happy to pay experienced local guides who understand the resource, know the river and, importantly, **share a genuine commitment to protecting the fishery for the future**.

This type of responsible, guided and conservation-minded angling can provide an economic benefit to local communities while also creating an incentive to protect the resource.

The concern is therefore **not international anglers themselves**.

The concern is what happens when a particularly valuable fishery becomes increasingly exposed through competition networks, international fishing circles and social media, and that exposure encourages more anglers to travel specifically to target the same river.

An overseas competition angler may be able to travel to New Zealand, fish multiple rivers and potentially spend weeks pursuing large wild trout at a fraction of the cost of comparable trophy fisheries elsewhere in the world. **We should recognise just how exceptional that opportunity is before allowing increased exposure to undermine the very resource that makes New Zealand so attractive**.

There is a real risk that the Whakapapa could become known internationally as a destination where anglers can come, fish hard for extended periods and pursue exceptional wild trout at relatively little direct fishing cost.

Once that reputation becomes established, it may be extremely difficult to control the resulting increase in pressure.

We need to consider the long-term future

SFFNZ has a responsibility to consider not only the interests of competition anglers, but also the long-term health of the fishery and the wider angling community.

The question should not simply be:

"Can a competition legally or technically be held on the Whakapapa?"

The more important question should be:

"Is holding repeated competitions on this river in the best interests of protecting the fishery for the future?"

I strongly believe the answer is no.

There are many rivers and locations where competitive fishing can take place without placing the same level of pressure on a particularly valuable and sensitive fishery.

The Whakapapa should be treated as a river that deserves **special consideration and protection**, rather than being viewed simply as another competition venue.

Responsible tourism versus concentrated competition pressure

There is also an important distinction between **responsible angling tourism and competition-driven fishing pressure**.

A guided angler or small group returning to New Zealand every few years, paying a knowledgeable local guide and deliberately taking a conservative approach to the fishery can contribute positively to the local economy while having a very different impact from a competition that concentrates a large number of highly skilled anglers into the same river over a short period.

I believe there is an opportunity to promote a model where the value of the Whakapapa is based on **quality, sustainability and conservation**, rather than numbers, exposure and competition.

The long-term economic value of a healthy and respected wild-trout fishery may be considerably greater than the short-term benefit of repeatedly using it as a competition venue.

I speak from experience, not opposition to competition

I want to make it very clear that I am **not anti-competition fishing**.

Having competed myself, I understand the attraction, the skill involved and the camaraderie that comes with competition angling.

I also understand the anglers involved and the competitive mentality that comes with trying to locate and catch fish. That is precisely why I believe my concerns should be taken seriously.

I am effectively wearing **two hats**: that of someone who understands and has participated in competition fishing, and that of someone who is now concerned about the long-term protection of an important wild trout river.

My concern is not about individual people.

It is about the cumulative impact of the activity and the direction in which the Whakapapa fishery is heading.

Please consider conservation before competition

I respectfully ask SFFNZ to reconsider the use of the Whakapapa River for fly-fishing competitions and to seriously assess:

- The cumulative fishing pressure created by competitions.
- The repeated capture and handling of wild trout.
- The effect of concentrating large numbers of skilled anglers into a relatively limited river system.
- The increasing exposure of the Whakapapa through social media.
- The rapid spread of fishing information through national and international competition networks.
- The likelihood of increased group fishing pressure following competition exposure.
- The increasing international profile of New Zealand's large wild-trout fisheries.
- The potential for overseas competition anglers and other visiting anglers to increasingly target the same rivers after exposure through competition networks.
- The long-term effects of repeatedly promoting and targeting the same valuable fishery.
- Whether responsible guided angling tourism could provide greater long-term value to the region than concentrated competition fishing.
- Whether alternative rivers or venues could provide competition opportunities without placing the same pressure on the Whakapapa.

We should be thinking **10, 20 and 30 years ahead**, rather than simply looking at whether the river can sustain another competition this season.

Once a wild trout fishery has been significantly degraded through increasing pressure, exposure and exploitation, it may be extremely difficult to restore it to what it once was.

Final request

I strongly urge SFFNZ to take a precautionary approach and **remove the Whakapapa River from future competition venues**.

Protecting a valuable wild trout fishery should take priority over providing another competition location.

We owe it to the fish, the river, future generations of anglers and the wider community to ensure that some rivers remain places where conservation and sustainable recreational fishing come before competitive exploitation.

This is not about stopping competition fishing. It is about recognising that not every river should be used for competition fishing.

The Whakapapa is too valuable to allow increasing competition pressure, international exposure and social-media promotion to turn it into a heavily targeted competition river.

New Zealand has something genuinely special in its wild trout fisheries. We should not take that resource for granted simply because it is currently accessible.

Once the reputation of a river attracts too much attention and fishing pressure, we may not be able to put that genie back in the bottle.

I ask SFFNZ to please reconsider its position and put the long-term protection of the Whakapapa River and its wild trout population first.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Vaz
Hamilton - Turangi

I am writing to formally express my opposition to the continued holding of fly-fishing competitions on the Whakapapa River.

The Whakapapa River needs protection, not increased pressure

The Whakapapa is a valuable and unique trout fishery. Its importance goes well beyond being simply another river available for competitive fishing.

Our wild trout fisheries are a finite resource. Once a river becomes heavily pressured, repeatedly fished and increasingly publicised, the consequences can be difficult to reverse.

Competition fishing concentrates anglers into a relatively small number of productive sections of river. This means fish can potentially be located, targeted, caught, handled and released repeatedly within a short period.

Even where fish are released, **catch-and-release does not mean zero impact**.

Repeated capture can result in increased stress, exhaustion, handling damage and behavioural changes, particularly when fish are subjected to significant angling pressure over consecutive days.

[This concerns me greatly.](#)

Once a river gains a reputation as a productive competition destination, the pressure does not necessarily end when the competition finishes. Other anglers see the exposure, follow the same information and begin fishing the river more heavily.

The cumulative pressure is the issue.

It is not simply about one competition or one angler. It is about what happens when a valuable river becomes increasingly known, increasingly promoted and increasingly targeted.

[New Zealand's international reputation makes protection even more important](#)

New Zealand, and particularly rivers such as the Whakapapa, offer something that is extremely unusual in the international fly-fishing world: the opportunity to pursue **large, wild trout in a beautiful natural environment without the costs associated with many comparable overseas fisheries**.

There are very few places where an angler can potentially come from overseas, stay and fish for weeks, access a quality wild-trout fishery and pursue trout of this size for relatively modest fishing costs.

That is something we should be proud of — **but it is also something we need to protect**.

There is a real risk that the Whakapapa could become known internationally as a destination where anglers can come, fish hard for extended periods and pursue exceptional wild trout at relatively little direct fishing cost.

Once that reputation becomes established, it may be extremely difficult to control the resulting increase in pressure.

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- The increasing international profile of New Zealand's large wild-trout fisheries.
- The potential for overseas competition anglers and other visiting anglers to increasingly target the same rivers after exposure through competition networks.
- The long-term effects of repeatedly promoting and targeting the same valuable fishery.
- Whether responsible guided angling tourism could provide greater long-term value to the region than concentrated competition fishing.
- Whether alternative rivers or venues could provide competition opportunities without placing the same pressure on the Whakapapa.

We should be thinking **10, 20 and 30 years ahead**, rather than simply looking at whether the river can sustain another competition this season.

Once a wild trout fishery has been significantly degraded through increasing pressure, exposure and exploitation, it may be extremely difficult to restore it to what it once was.

[Final request](#)

I strongly urge SFFNZ to take a precautionary approach and **remove the Whakapapa River from future competition venues**. Protecting a valuable wild trout fishery should take priority over providing another competition location.

We owe it to the fish, the river, future generations of anglers and the wider community to ensure that some rivers remain places where conservation and sustainable recreational fishing come before competitive exploitation.

The Whakapapa is too valuable to allow increasing competition pressure, international exposure and social-media promotion to turn it into a heavily targeted competition river. New Zealand has something genuinely special in its wild trout fisheries. We should not take that resource for granted simply because it is currently accessible.

I ask SFFNZ to please reconsider its position and put the long-term protection of the Whakapapa River and its wild trout population first.

Yours sincerely,

Flick Mueller
Andrew Mueller

A good mate of mine Rob Vaz has mentioned that SFFNZ are looking at running a competition on the Whakapapa River in December and I wish to express my concern regarding the continued use of the Whakapapa River for fly-fishing competitions.

I have been fishing the Whakapapa, particularly the Kakahi and Owango reaches, since 2007. Over that period, I have observed a steady increase in angling pressure and in my experience, the overall quality of the fishery and fishing experience has declined, with noticeably fewer fish encountered compared with earlier years.

I don't need to go into all the background of how good a fishery the papa is as I am sure you are aware, but I would strongly urge that the papa is not used for competition fly fishing going forward. I believe the lower river is again the area that would be used but the pressure has no doubt spread from this area through to other sections. My concern is not focused on individual anglers, but rather on the cumulative effects of increasing fishing pressure, repeated targeting of productive water, and the growing exposure of the river through competition networks and social media. Once a fishery gains a reputation as a premier destination, the resulting increase in angling activity can persist well beyond any single event. This places additional pressure on a finite resource and may affect the long-term sustainability and quality of the fishery.

I encourage Fish & Game to take a precautionary approach and consider whether the Whakapapa is an appropriate venue for future competitions, particularly when alternative locations may be available. Protecting the long-term health of the fishery and preserving the quality of the angling experience should be given significant weight in any decision-making process.
Cheers

Karl Sawyer

Executive Summary

I am writing as a recreational fly fisherman to express my concern regarding the continued use of the Whakapapa River as a venue for fly-fishing competitions.

My position is not anti-competition fishing. I recognise the skill, enjoyment, and camaraderie that competitive angling provides. However, I believe the Whakapapa River is a unique and increasingly vulnerable wild trout fishery that warrants a higher level of protection than many other rivers.

My concern is not with any individual angler, club, organiser, guide, or overseas visitor. Rather, it is with the cumulative effect of concentrated fishing pressure, repeated fish handling, increased exposure through competition networks and social media, and the long-term consequences these factors may have on the fishery.

I respectfully request that Fish & Game adopt a precautionary approach and reconsider the suitability of the Whakapapa River as a future competition venue.

Key Concerns

1. Concentrated Fishing Pressure on a Sensitive Fishery Fly-fishing competitions place large numbers of highly skilled anglers into a relatively small river system, often targeting the same productive water. This concentrated pressure can significantly increase fishing intensity compared with normal recreational use.

2. Repeated Capture and Handling of Wild Trout While catch-and-release is an important conservation tool, it does not eliminate impacts on fish. Repeated capture, handling, and release of the same fish can increase stress, affect behaviour, and potentially reduce the quality of the fishery over time.

3. Increased Exposure Through Social Media and Competition Networks Modern competition fishing is highly connected through national and international networks. Once a river gains a reputation as a productive competition destination, information spreads rapidly and can lead to a sustained increase in angling pressure long after an event has concluded.

4. Protecting a Fishery of National and International Significance The Whakapapa River is part of what makes New Zealand's trout fishing world-renowned. Rivers capable of producing large, wild trout in a spectacular natural environment are increasingly rare worldwide and should be managed with long-term protection in mind.

5. Long-Term Sustainability Should Take Priority The key question is not whether the river can accommodate another competition this season, but whether repeated competitions are in the best interests of the fishery over the next 10, 20, and 30 years. Once a river's character and quality are diminished through growing pressure and exposure, restoration can be difficult or impossible.

Detailed Statement As a recreational angler who greatly values the Whakapapa River, I believe its significance extends far beyond being simply another venue available for organised events.

The river represents one of New Zealand's special wild trout fisheries. For many anglers, its appeal lies not only in the quality of the fishing but also in the opportunity to experience a relatively unpressured natural environment. Maintaining that character should be a primary management objective.

Of particular concern is the cumulative effect of competition-related activity. The impact is not limited to the competition days themselves. Competitors naturally spend time scouting and practising before events, and successful locations often receive additional attention afterwards. The result can be a prolonged period of elevated fishing pressure concentrated within a relatively small river system.

I am also concerned about the increasing exposure the river receives through competition reporting, photography, videos, social media platforms, and international fishing networks. Once a river develops a reputation as a destination fishery within competitive circles, that exposure can generate ongoing visitation and pressure that extends well beyond the original event.

New Zealand's wild trout fisheries are recognised internationally. While I fully support responsible tourism, local guiding businesses, and overseas anglers experiencing our rivers, I believe there is an important distinction between sustainable recreational use and activities that encourage concentrated fishing pressure on a highly valued fishery.

In my view, the long-term value of the Whakapapa River lies in its quality, reputation, and sustainability rather than its use as a competition venue. A carefully managed fishery can continue to provide outstanding recreational opportunities, support local tourism, and benefit future generations of anglers. Those benefits should not be jeopardised by decisions that may increase long-term pressure on the resource.

Request

I respectfully ask Fish & Game to reconsider the appropriateness of using the Whakapapa River for future fly-fishing competitions and to carefully assess:

1. The cumulative fishing pressure associated with competition events.
2. The repeated capture and handling of wild trout.
3. The effects of concentrating large numbers of anglers in a limited river system.
4. The long-term consequences of increased exposure through social media and competition networks.
5. Alternative venues that could host competitions with less risk to a sensitive fishery.

6. Management approaches that prioritise conservation and long-term sustainability.

The Whakapapa River is a valuable public resource and, in my view, deserves special consideration and protection.

I believe a precautionary approach is justified. Protecting the long-term health of the river and its wild trout population should take precedence over its use as a competition venue.

Thank you for considering my views.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart George Kennedy

Cambridge, Waikato

Recreational Fly Fisherman

Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council Annual Drift Dive Monitoring Program Report 2026



Author: Matt Osborne
Publication date: 24 August 2026
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Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council
Hamilton New Zealand

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1. Executive summary

Drift dive surveys are conducted annually to ensure fish populations can sustain the current bag limits and to detect catastrophic collapses of the fish population requiring emergency closures. Events like chemical spills, large storms, slips, volcanic eruptions, droughts and heatwaves can cause trout populations to collapse. Long term monitoring also allows Fish & Game to improve the management of streams by looking at increases or declines in trout populations corresponding with land use change or management actions such as fencing and riparian planting.

Drift dive surveys were successfully conducted on the Awakino and Waihou Rivers and also undertaken on the Mangatutu Stream, but with water clarity below the recommended 3.5m the data has not been written into the report. (Table 1.1). Fewer monitoring dives were conducted during the 2026 summer due to regional staffing changes. Drift dives were conducted from mid-December 2025 to mid-February 2026. Drift dives were able to be undertaken in low flow conditions. There were no significant recruitment failures or population failures observed amongst the Auckland/Waikato Streams monitored during the 2026 drift dives. However, the flood that occurred in the Awakino River on 15 October 2025, was one of the largest ever recorded and had the potential to catastrophically affect the trout population given historical monitoring post floods of this magnitude within the Awakino catchment.

Table 1.1. Drift dive study reach elevation, trout >30cm (previous legal size) counted per kilometre, mean number of fish counted per kilometre during the previous three surveys, water temperature and water clarity during the last dive. Figures for rivers not monitored during 2026 shaded grey.

	Whakapapa	Awakino	Mangatutu	Waihou	Waitawheta	Kauaeranga
Elevation (m)	580	150	100	100	180	150
Fish km ⁻¹	37	29	31	18	8	3
Mean fish km ⁻¹	29	59	19	33	7	5
Dive Temp (°C)	8	15	16	14	16	19.8
Water clarity (m)	6	4.1	3.7	5.4	4	8

2. Introduction

Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game is tasked with managing the region's freshwater sports fisheries for present and future generations with the goal of maintaining and improving wild, self-sustaining populations (Ben Wilson 2021a). To successfully manage the region's wild trout population staff are required to monitor populations and their trends over time (Ben Wilson 2021a). Detecting significant changes in trout populations is important for setting bag limits and emergency closures if trout populations are significantly impacted. Drift diving is the primary tool used to monitor the Auckland/Waikato region's trout populations.

It is impractical to monitor all the region's streams, so a diverse set of representative streams that meet the criteria for drift dive monitoring are selected annually and surveys are conducted mid-summer. Drift dives also allow staff to monitor water quality, check on access, discuss issues with landowners and undertake compliance activities.

Drift diving is not the most precise means of monitoring fish with fish count accuracies of 21-90% (Hagen and Baxter 2005; Young and Hayes 2001). Inexperienced divers often count 50% fewer trout compared to seasoned divers, introducing significant error into counts. Water clarity is the primary factor affecting accuracy of drift dive counts. Low water clarity, similar to that found in the upper North Island (4m), can result in fish counts that represent only 20% of the actual population; water clarity approaching 16m can increase accuracy to nearly 90% (Hagen and Baxter 2005). However, most drift dive accuracy assessment work has been done on larger rivers where divers cover 5m lanes (Hagen and Baxter 2005) with flows of at least 2m³ per diver. In contrast Auckland/Waikato divers cover about 2.5m lanes with flows of about 0.7-1.6m³ per diver.

Despite not being a total count of a river's trout population, drift dive data is very useful for monitoring long term trends within the same river. Variables including instream habitat, depth, flow, and water clarity make comparisons between rivers dubious. But comparing these variables within the same reaches under similar conditions in consecutive years provides a good low-cost monitoring tool. The standard error of drift diving data in water clarity below 10m is likely to be very high ($\pm 30\%$) and thus data should only be used to make management decisions when large shifts (40%+) in trout populations are indicated.

The size and number of fish counted in a stream can be driven by habitat quality or fishing pressure but in the Auckland/Waikato Region water temperature (influenced by elevation and latitude) is likely to be a key driver. The southernmost waters in the Auckland/Waikato Region consistently have high numbers of large trout, likely due to cooler summer temperatures and higher elevation (Tables 2.1 and 2.2). Air and water temperatures in small streams are highly correlated. The median air temperature is three degrees colder within the southern portion of the region intimating that the southern portion of the Auckland/ Waikato Region provides more suitable water temperatures for trout (Figure 2.3). Inversely streams like the Waitawheta and Kauaeranga have excellent water quality and habitat but are far too warm to support populations of large trout.

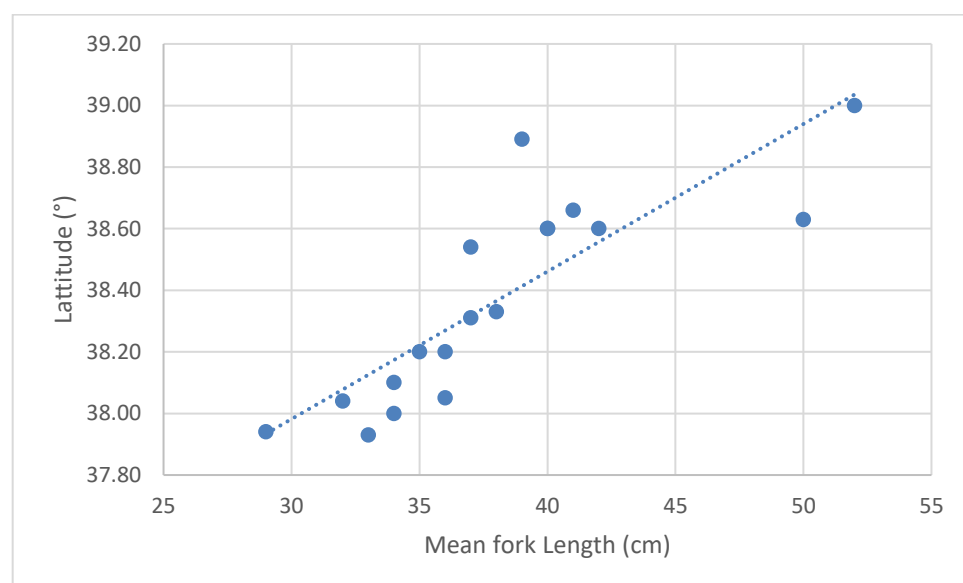


Figure 2.1. Mean fork length (cm), plotted against the latitude of streams in the Auckland/Waikato region based on unpublished wild trout tagging data.

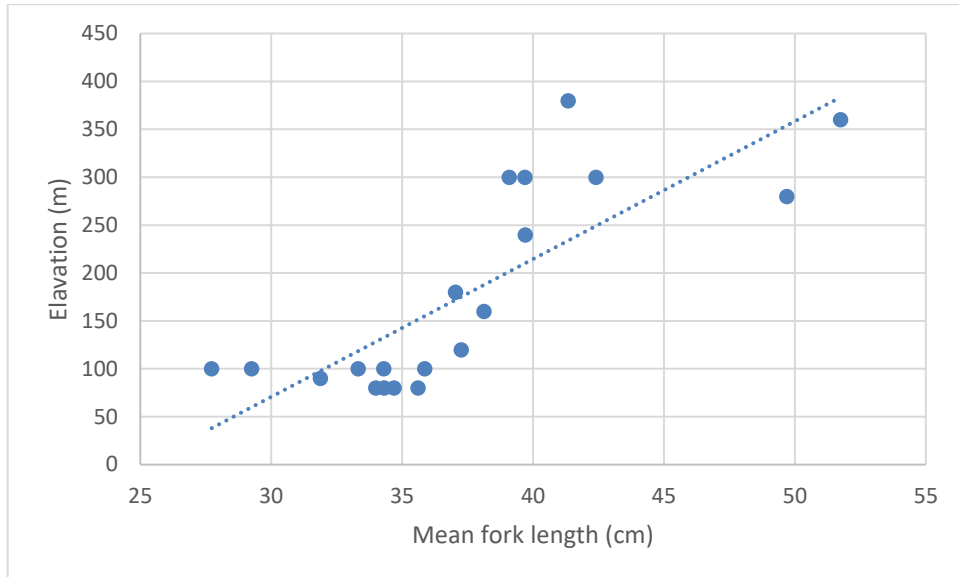


Figure 2.2 Mean fork length (cm), plotted against elevation of streams in the Auckland/Waikato region based on unpublished wild trout tagging data.

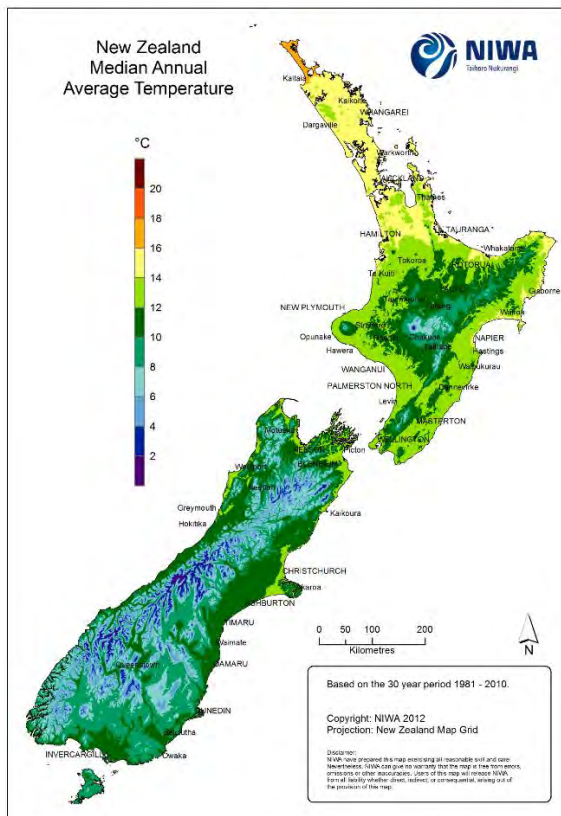


Table 2.3. The long-term median air temperature of New Zealand provided by NIWA.

3. Methods

Drift dives in the Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Region are conducted in streams with at least 3.5 m of visual clarity and depth of at least 300mm. Poor water clarity excludes most streams in the region from being monitored. Dive reaches are between 0.9 and 2km long and are surveyed for obstructions and dangerous rapids prior to each dive. Although it is preferable to survey multiple reaches of a river, poor visual clarity, high water temperatures, low water or limited access restrict most river surveys to one or two reaches.

Drift dives are conducted with two to four divers drifting in a parallel line downstream equipped with wetsuit, mask, snorkel, and wrist-mounted recording slates. Divers maintain a parallel line perpendicular to the bank, spaced so they can see the banks and their adjacent diver or divers. The number of divers needed to survey a river is dependent on their ability to see the bottom of the river and their corresponding diver. To avoid double counting fish, as divers drift downstream they only count fish passing in the upstream direction. Dive teams stop at the end of each pool or reach to tally fish numbers and compare notes. Fish are sorted into species and size classes (<10 cm, 10-20 cm, 20-30 cm, 30-40 cm and 40+ cm) by each team member during each stop. Data is recorded by each individual diver on slates attached to their arm and then combined on a data sheet by the team leader at the end of each dive.

Prior to diving, water clarity is measured using a 20 cm black disc. The disk is walked backwards as it is observed using an underwater viewer. When the black disk just disappears, the distance to the viewer is recorded. Water temperature is recorded, and dive surveys only preceded in reaches with water temperatures of <19°C as fish commonly migrate out of warmer areas.

4. Awakino River

4.1. Awakino River introduction

The Awakino has had consistent recruitment failures recorded when base flows exceed 200m³ during the winter spawning and rearing season (July-September);(Wilson 2009). The winter of 2025 was mild and except for an early spawning period fresh (<120m³), flows generally remained below 50m³ to 80m³ during the critical winter period (Figure 4.1). In addition to high flow related reductions in recruitment, the Awakino River has also recorded a reduction in adult fish numbers during low flow years as observed in 2013-2014. Between 2015 and September 2025 no major floods had been recorded in the Awakino River, and summer temperatures were not excessive over the past four years. Although the Awakino does not have a water temperature monitoring station, the Waipa and Mangatutu Rivers had relatively mild peak summer temperatures making it unlikely trout were impacted by high water temperature in the Awakino River.

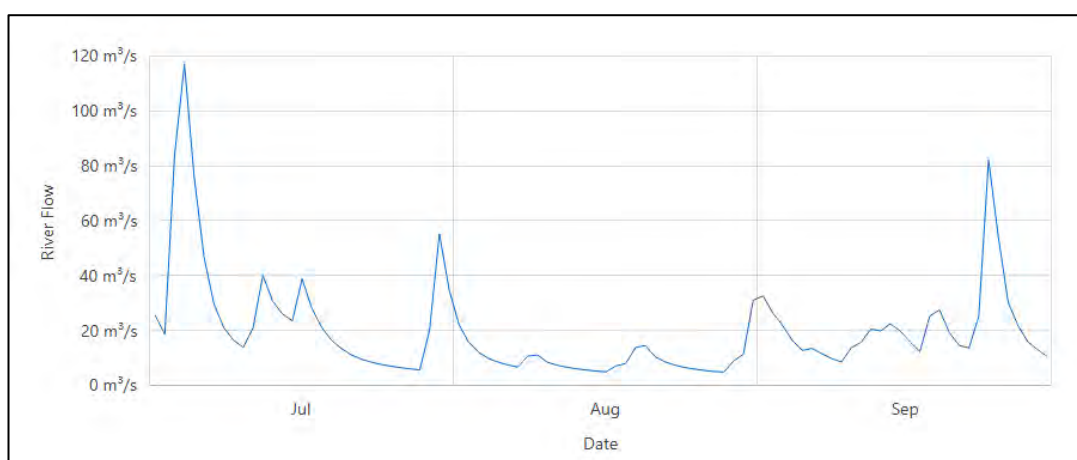


Figure 4.1. The flow of the Awakino River from July to September 2025 ([Waikato Regional Council Monitoring Data](#)).

Water quality in the upper reaches of the Awakino River is generally high but gradually deteriorates downstream as the river flows through pastoral land. There is a noticeable decline in water quality immediately downstream of the confluence with the Mangaorongo Stream. The Awakino catchment is one of many hill country areas that would benefit from mandatory fencing rules. The dissolved reactive phosphorous in the Awakino River is in the C band and E. Coli in the D band despite much of the catchment being in bush.

Rainbow and brown trout reproduce naturally in the Awakino River, so there is no artificial supplementation of the trout population even in years of recruitment failure. Brown trout contribute to less than 2% of the historic angler catch and drift dive counts (B Wilson 2004).

4.2. *Awakino River study area*

The Awakino River has a catchment area of 226 km² in the steep rolling hill country of the Herangi Ranges on the west coast of the North Island. In the upper reaches, upstream from the village of Mahoenui, the Awakino River meanders through mixed podocarp hardwood forest and pastoral land, providing a procession of runs and pools over a riverbed of gravel, cobble, and small boulders. River flow is measured by the Waikato Regional Council at Rauroa Farm Bridge (NZTM:1754098, - 5725781). Minimum flows are about 2.5 m³/s, mean flows about 13 m³/s, and maximum flows can be over 300 m³/s.

4.3. Awakino River methods

The upper Gribbon Road drift dive (Figure 4.2; Appendix A) was conducted in February 2026. GPS positions for the start and end points of the monitoring site are listed in Appendix A. Results of the dive were adjusted to fish per kilometre for comparison to previous surveys and other catchments. The drift dive survey was conducted with two experienced divers.

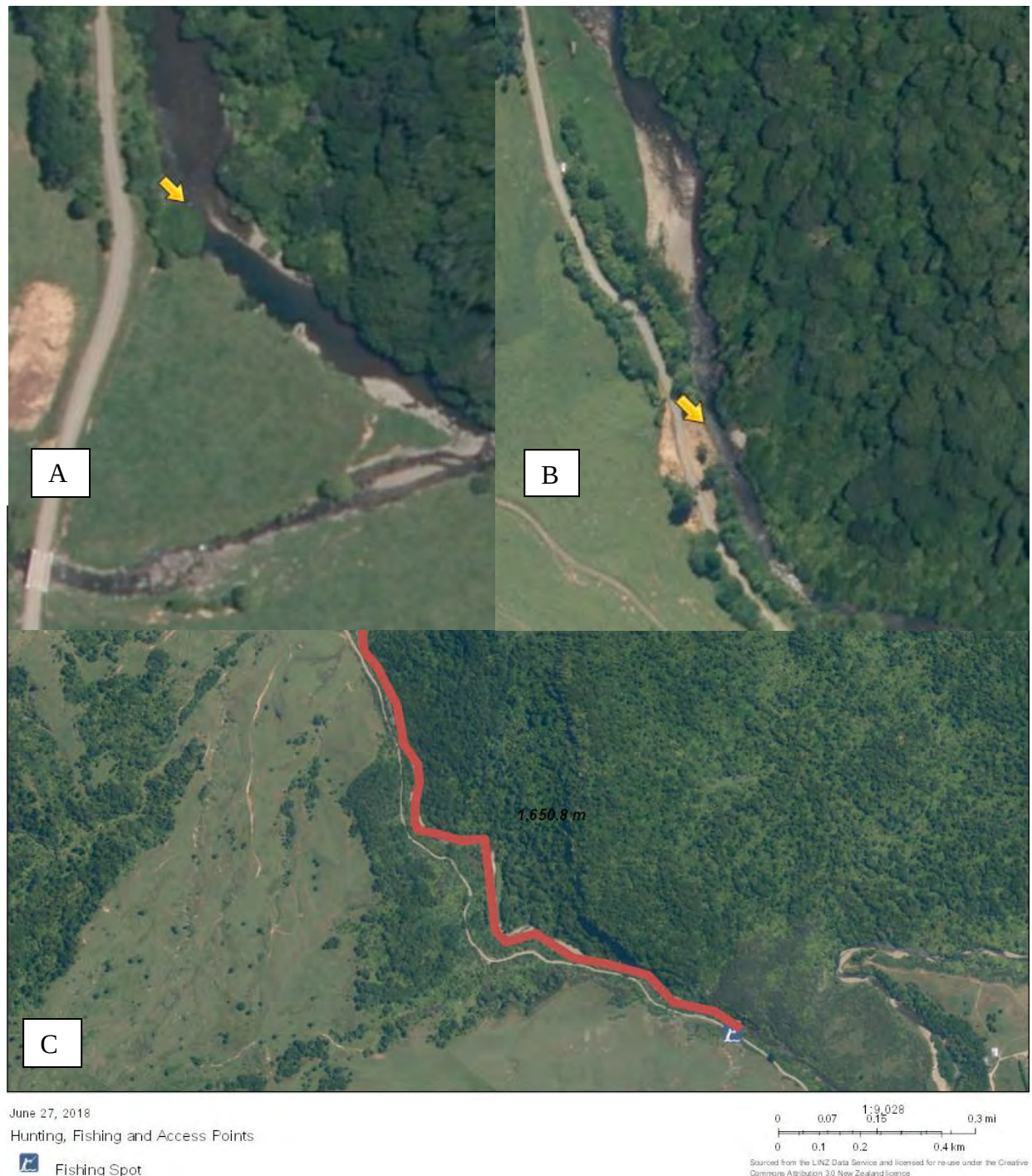


Figure 4.2. Map of the 2025 upper Awakino drift dive start “A”, finish “B” and total monitoring reach “C”.

4.4. Awakino River results

A very large flood occurred on the 15th of October 2025 within the Awakino Catchment. This event, in excess of 360m³/s, was one of the largest that has been recorded for the

river (Figure 4.3). A follow up monitoring drift dive was undertaken on 15 December 2025 (2025B).

The 2026 Awakino River drift dive survey occurred on the 10th of February 2026. Water clarity and flow were very low for the Awakino River at 3.3m and 1.2m³/s.

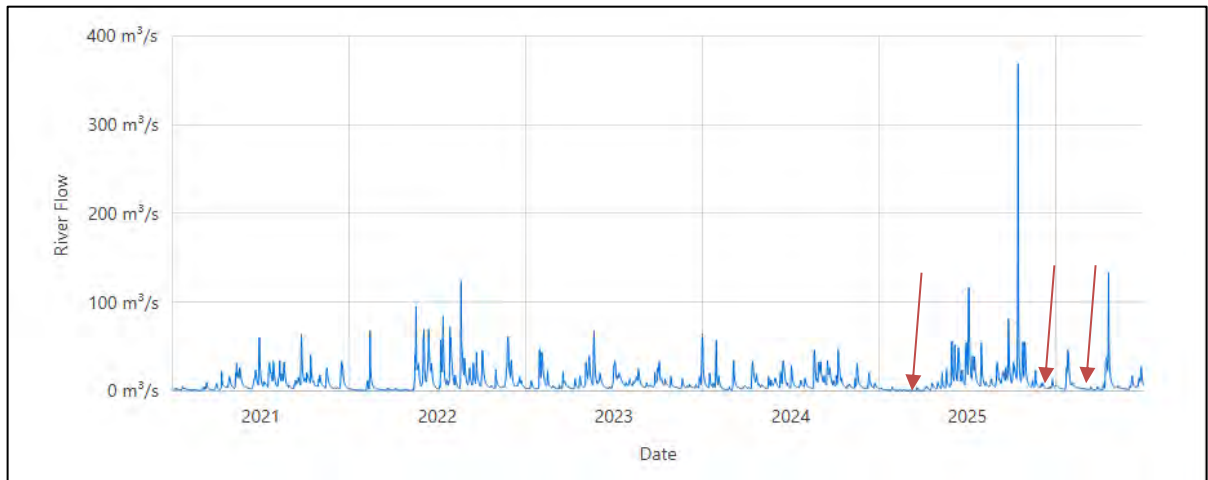


Figure 4.3. Awakino River hydro graph from the Waikato Regional Council website 1 Jan 21 – 1 Jul 2026 (big flood recorded 12 Oct 2025). Drift dive timing indicated with red arrows.

A healthy number of <20cm, 20-40cm and 40+cm (adult) rainbow trout were observed in the December 2025 (post flood) assessment (Table 4.1 and Figure 4.4). The scheduled February 2026 monitoring drift dive once more recorded typical numbers of younger age class rainbows (<20cm and 20-40cm) and a lesser number of the large size class (40cm+) rainbows.

Table 4.1. The size, frequency and species of trout seen in the upper Awakino River on the 2024-2026 drift dive surveys. Trout <20 cm in length were not identified to the species level. Trout identified as rainbow trout (R), or brown trout (B) are labelled as such.

Year	<20 cm	20-40 cm	40+ cm
2024	157	44R	19R 4B
2025	53	53R	86R 3B
2025B	17	34R	31R 0B
2026	34	41R	6R 0B

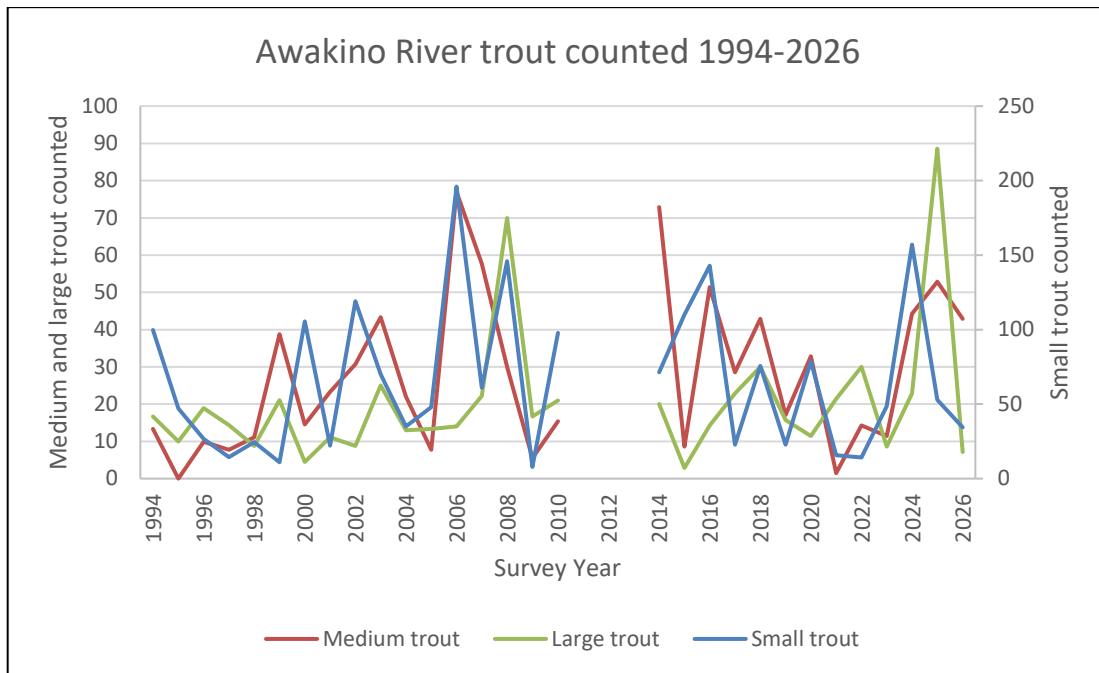


FIGURE 4.4. Large, medium, and small rainbow trout per km counted from 1994 to 2025 during the Awakino River drift dives.

4.5. *Awakino River discussion*

The 2023 and 2024 seasons were extremely mild with very little in the way of flooding to affect the Awakino River population. The February 2025 count displayed an extremely healthy fishery. Despite the large flood that occurred on the 15th October 2025 (one of the largest ever recorded), the Awakino River trout population was found to have come through in good shape during the follow up drift dive on 15th December 2025 and in the scheduled February 2026 monitoring event. This demonstrated that the younger and medium size-class cohorts survived the flooding in healthy numbers and form a healthy population structure of mixed age cohorts within the Awakino River. Fewer large size-class (40+cm fish) were encountered, and it is unknown as to whether these fish have succumbed to flooding or other pressures or perhaps moved to areas of the river where there may be a better food source following the floods. It is possible that the river came up so quickly that the slower laminar flow at the bed of the stream provided cover and survivable conditions whereas the surface waters would have been extremely damaging to the trout.

5. *Whakapapa River (Not sampled 2026)*

5.1. *Whakapapa River introduction*

The Whakapapa River is the only major fishery in the region that has had a steady increase in angler use over time (Figure 5.1), as it has recovered from the devastating Mount Ruapehu eruption in 1995. In 2021 Whakapapa River angler use was 3772 angler days (Stoffels and Unwin 2023). It is likely that angler use has increased, and staff expect the angler use of the Whakapapa to surpass the angler use of Lake Arapuni to become the region's most popular fishery. Auckland Waikato Fish & Game's aspirations under an recreation opportunity spectrum (AW SFGMP) for the upper Whakapapa River (Back Country to Remote angler experience) is to have clear water where the size of fish is larger than average. Increasing access to the Whakapapa has also been identified as important

to maintaining quality fishing as angler use grows. Since 2011, trophy trout numbers have leveled off at what may be the carrying capacity for the Whakapapa River under the current flow regime, but angler use is still climbing. New fees imposed by iwi in the Taupō fishery have increased use by guides and YouTube influencers, boosting publicity and use of the Whakapapa fishery.

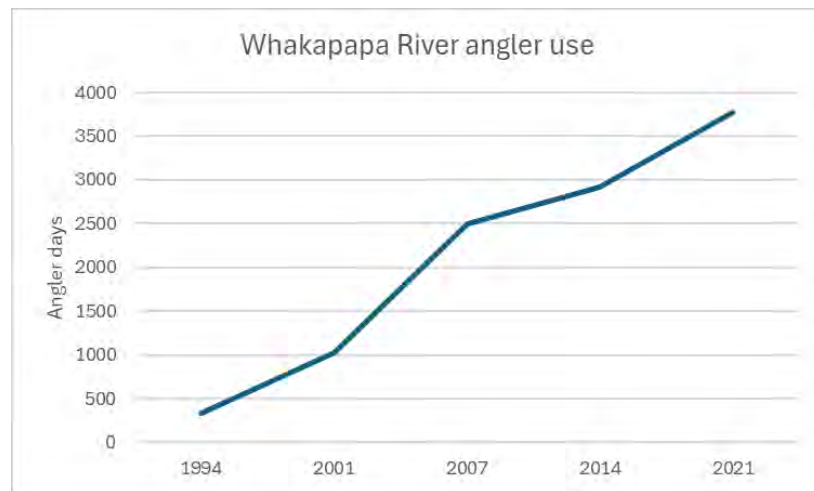


Figure 5.1. Angler use (angler days) 1994 -2021 derived from Stoffels and Unwin (2023).

The Whakapapa & Whanganui River Angler Use Monitoring Study completed in 2016 (Daniel 2017) confirmed that limited access above Owango has led to lowered angler use and improvements to angler access in the upper river are still required. The closure of the Whakapapa Intake Road has exacerbated the issue and reopening the road is a high priority for staff. The overall angler use (>0.5km from parking areas) of the upper Whakapapa in 2014 and 2015 was very low at only 2 anglers per month on average (Daniel 2017) due to the lack of public access. The successful purchase of 1.2km of the lower river just upstream from the Kakahi landing in 2019 helped spread out anglers but the limited access available is becoming overcrowded. The Angler Access Fund, established in 2024, is intended to address significant access issues like the upper Whakapapa with the intent of purchasing property that provides access to the upper Whakapapa River.

5.2. Whakapapa River study area

The Whakapapa River is formed by the joining of the Whakapapa-nui and Whakapapa-iti Streams. Both streams drain small glaciers and snowfields on the western slopes of Mt. Ruapehu and are cold, swift and clear. The only major nutrient or sediment inputs in the upper Whakapapa River are runoff and wastewater discharge from the Whakapapa Village. DOC has proposed upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant that should increase consistency of the discharge and reduce the overall impact to the Whakapapa River but have been held up in the RMA process for nearly a decade. In addition, there is also seasonal disturbance from the Whakapapa Ski fields and corresponding access roads.

The Whakapapa Intake of the Tongariro Power Scheme is located about two kilometers downstream from the confluence of the Whakapapanui and Whakapapaiti streams. The Whakapapa Intake structure is a major impediment to the river's trout population as it blocks significant spawning and critical summer habitat for fish that move upstream to avoid the extreme summer heat in the Whanganui River below Taumarunui. Although there is good access to the Whakapapanui and Whakapapaiti, the Whakapapa intake structure isolates this population limiting fish density.

Below the intake, the Whakapapa is a turbulent river alternating between steep rapids and short deep pools. Here the river is quite narrow, generally about 10 to 20m wide. Access to the intake is via the Whakapapa Intake Road through the Taurewa Station and was closed to the public in 2019. The gauging foot bridge is the starting point for the traditional upper river drift dive, and it is located about 1 km below the Whakapapa Intake structure. Unfortunately, legal access to the upriver site is no longer accessible to staff.

5.3. *Whakapapa River methods*

There are currently two monitoring sites on the Whakapapa River including the new upriver site at Oio Farms and the traditional Owhango Bridge site. Due to poor water clarity only the upper Oio Farm site was surveyed in 2025. The Oio Farm monitoring reach begins 5km downstream from the Whakapapa Foot Bridge (old Whakapapa Intake Road Site; Figure 5.2). GPS positions for the start and end points of the monitoring site are listed in Appendix A. The Whakapapa is a large swift river, and the rapids are a safety risk to divers so only pools and rifles are surveyed. As a result, only a proportion of the available habitat is surveyed.



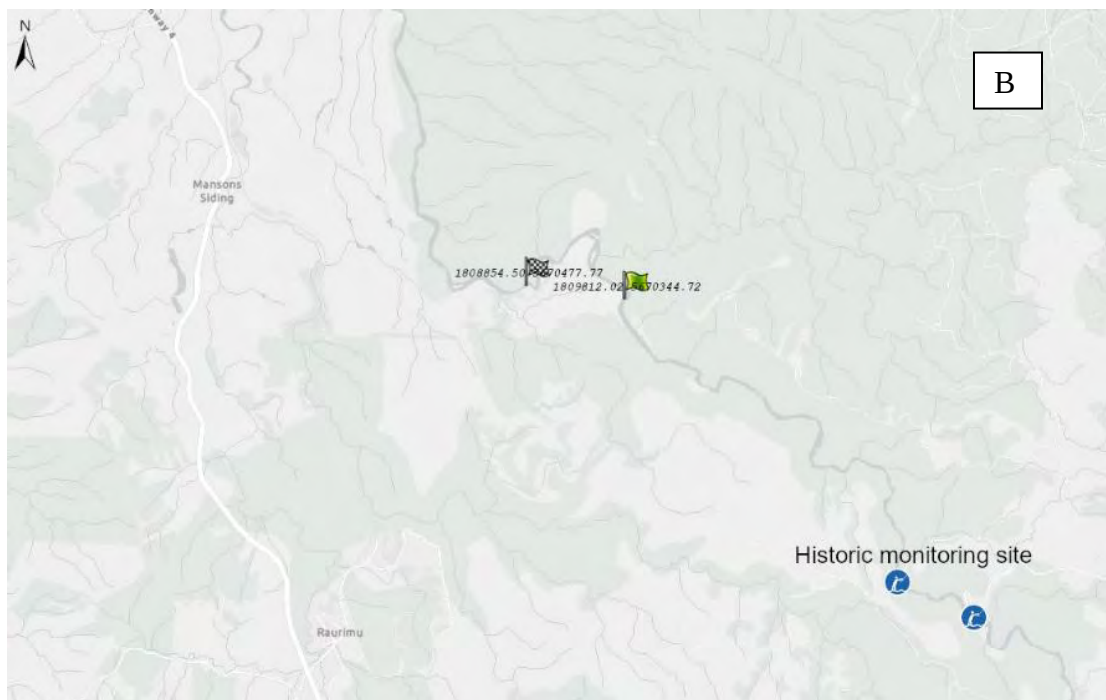


Figure 5.2. Oio Farm drift dive monitoring area (A). The put in site is marked with a green flag and the takeout site is marked with the checkered flag. The Oio Farm site is shown (B) in relation to the historic Gauging Bridge monitoring site (historic monitoring site).

5.4. *Whakapapa River results*

The Oio Fram dive survey started at 12:00 pm on the 11th of March 2025. Water clarity was 8.0 m with a temperature of 8.0°C. The Oio Farm reach had one of the highest counts of large fish (40+cm) on record (Figure 5.3; Table 5.1) for the Whakapapa River. Brown trout were seen in low numbers similar to previous counts (Figure 5.3; Table 5.1). Small fish (age <1 year) were spotted in low numbers, but the habitat surveyed was not ideal for small fish.

Table 5.1. Number of fish counted during each of the last three Whakapapa River drift dives 2021 (Owhango site), 2024 (Owhango site) and 2025 (Oio Farm site). Trout that were identified are labeled by species including rainbow trout (R) and brown trout (B).

Year	<10cm	10-20cm	20-30cm	30-40cm	40+cm
2021	0	2	0R	0R	11R
			0 B	0 B	2B
2024	14	41	15R	6R	27R
			0 B	0 B	4B
2025	0	0	1R	1R	30R
			0 B	0 B	5B

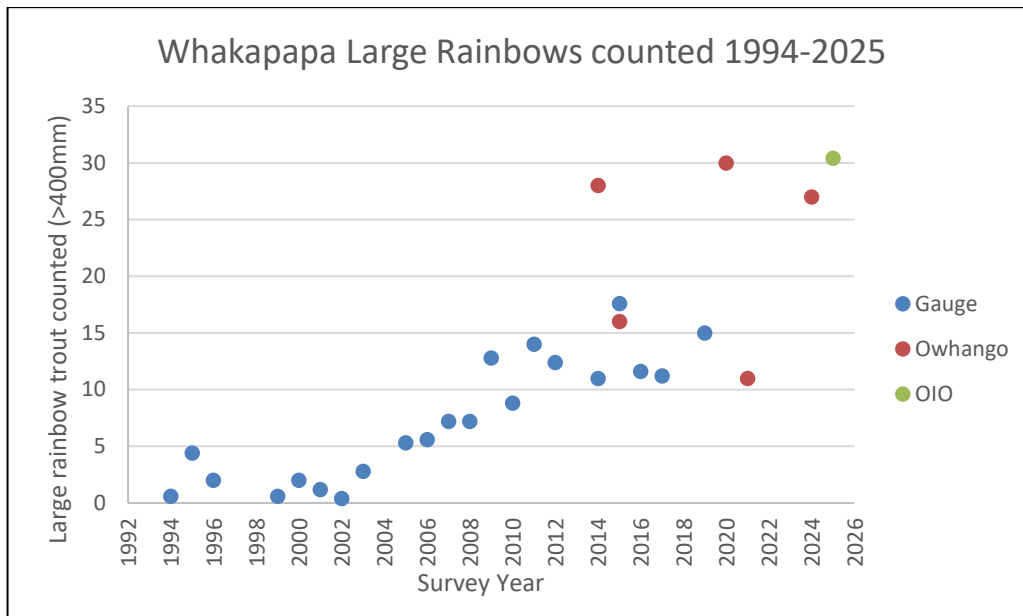


Figure 5.3. Number of large size class ($\geq 40\text{cm}$) rainbow trout per km of the upper Whakapapa River at the gauging station bridge (gauge) (1994-2019), above the Owghango Bush Road (Owghango) (2014-2024) and the Oio Farm site (Oio) 2025.

5.5. *Whakapapa River discussion*

The Oio Farm site has similar habitat and comparable fish number to the Owghango monitoring site. Overall, the Whakapapa fishery has moderate to high numbers of large ($40+\text{cm}$) rainbows and moderate to low numbers of brown trout. Water clarity during the 2025 survey at the Oio Farm site was good at 8m. The rainbow trout population was healthy, and this section of the Whakapapa is virtually untouched due to the low angling pressure. The Oio Farm reach will be a good control site for the Owghango monitoring reach that has high angling pressure. Due to the changes in monitoring sites long-term trends are not possible currently.

In terms of long-term management, the Whakapapa and Whanganui Rivers provide a key focus area for Auckland Waikato Fish & Game due to the high quality of the fisheries. Angling pressure is currently low to moderate on the upper Whanganui River due largely to accessing the river within the Tongariro Conservation Area. Improving access to the Whakapapa River is a priority including creation of public easements to the upper 20km of landlocked river through use of the Angler Access Fund.

6. *Waihou River*

6.1. *Waihou River introduction*

The upper Waihou has easy access and abundant small fish making it a great location for beginners and experienced anglers. The Whites Road section of the Waihou River is well developed with walking paths in the riparian zone that extend for over four kilometers upriver of the car park and include a composting toilet. The location, water clarity, fish numbers and ease of access make the Waihou River a priority asset in terms of the Auckland/Waikato Region's current fisheries.

The Waihou is a large spring-fed river near Putāruru and is one of the most popular fishing waters in the Auckland/Waikato region, with angler usage in the 2021-22 season estimated at 1018 angler days, a significant drop from 1930 angler days during the 2013-14 season (Unwin and Rouse 2016). (Stoffels and Unwin 2023b). Most of the angling pressure occurs immediately above the Whites Road bridge near the Blue Spring where the water is clear. Water quality rapidly declines as the river flows through several intensive dairy farms.

6.2. *Waihou River study area*

The Waihou River starts as small streams that wind through scrub and plantation pine forest on the Mamaku Plateau. Near Putāruru, land use transitions to dairy and flow is increased by a series of large springs.

Immediately downstream from the Blue Springs, water clarity is high with visibility exceeding 10m. Most of New Zealand's bottled water is sourced from the Waihou River near the study site. However, water quality quickly deteriorates and 2km downstream from the springs at the end of the drift dive survey reach, water clarity is typically less than 6m. Water quality continues to deteriorate and was measured at less than 3.5m at the confluence of the Waimakariri Stream just 3.8km downstream from the walkway.

A 4.7km walkway extends from Whites Road to the Blue Springs upper parking lot. During the past decade most of the upper Waihou has been fenced. However, buffer widths are far too narrow and critical source areas on neighboring farms still deposit fine sediment into the stream at an alarming rate. Despite much of the river being fenced and planted, water quality still deteriorates quickly, likely due to the intensive agriculture throughout the catchment. The lower Waihou is among the dirtiest rivers in the North Island with significantly elevated nutrient levels and heavy sediment loads.

6.3. *Waihou River methods*

The drift dive was 1.7km and the GPS positions for the start and end points are listed in Appendix A and shown in Figure 6.1.





Figure 6.1. Maps of the reaches covered in the 2025 drift dive surveys of the upper Waihou River including: “A” Waihou survey reach, “B” end point, “C” start point.

6.4. Waihou River results

The 2026 Waihou drift dive was conducted on the 5th of February at 12:00 am. Water clarity on the Waihou was similar to previous dives at 5.4m. As in previous years only rainbow trout were observed on the dive. The size and frequency of rainbow trout observed on the last three drift dives (2024-2026) are summarized in Table 6.1. The Waihou River had high numbers of medium size class (<18-month-old) rainbow trout compared to previous years (Table 6.1 & Figure 6.2).

Table 6.1. The size and frequency of rainbow trout seen per kilometre in the Waihou River during the 2024-2026 drift dive surveys.

Size and frequency of rainbow trout per kilometre of river				
Year	<20 cm	20-30 cm	30-40 cm	>40+ cm
2024	7	44	23	6
2025	194	71	41	12
2026	204	215	28	2

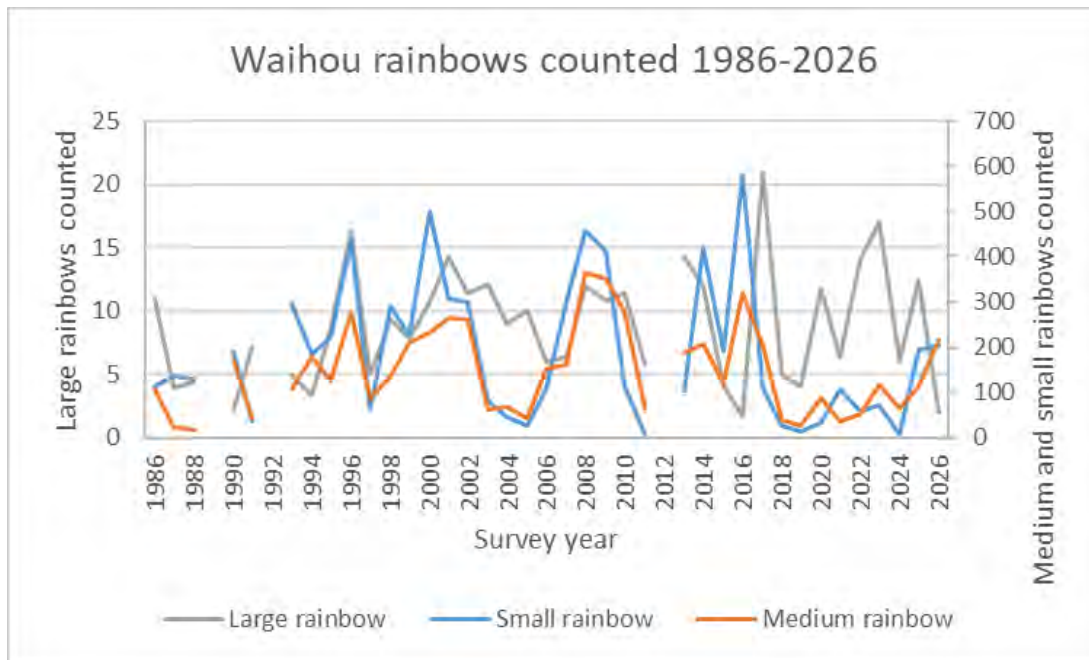


Figure 6.2. Number of rainbow trout per kilometre of the Waihou River above Whites Road as observed on drift dive surveys undertaken since 1986. Fish are grouped into small (<20; A), medium (20-40 cm; B) and large (>40 cm; B) categories.

6.5. *Waihou River discussion*

The Waihou fish count undertaken in February 2026 indicated a healthy fishery with high numbers of fish in the younger to mid-size class (Figure 6.2). Fewer larger (>40cm) sized fish were counted during the 2026 sampling compared to 2024 and 2025 counts. The Waihou River rainbow trout population appears stable with hundreds of rainbow trout present per kilometre of river.

7. *Waitawheta River (Not sampled 2026)*

7.1. *Waitawheta River introduction*

The Waitawheta River rises on the eastern slopes of Mt Aroha in the Kaimai-Mamaku State Forest and then flows for about 20km northward before entering the Ohinemuri River opposite the township of Karangahake. The Waitawheta is a critical spawning tributary and thermal refuge for the once productive Ohinemuri River. The historic Masonry Dam near the town of Waihi prevents fish passage to the upper reaches of the Ohinemuri River that would provide both thermal refuge and spawning habitat making the Waitawheta a critical spawning tributary and thermal refuge. Although high summer water temperature and fish passage limits trout production during most summers, the catchment is still a popular destination due to the proximity to Auckland. Extensive fencing and planting upstream could improve conditions for trout in the Ohinemuri but ultimately climate change is working against restoration efforts in this catchment. The Ohinemuri and Waitawheta trout populations do bounce back after cool summers like the conditions observed in late 2022 and early 2023 Figure (7.1).

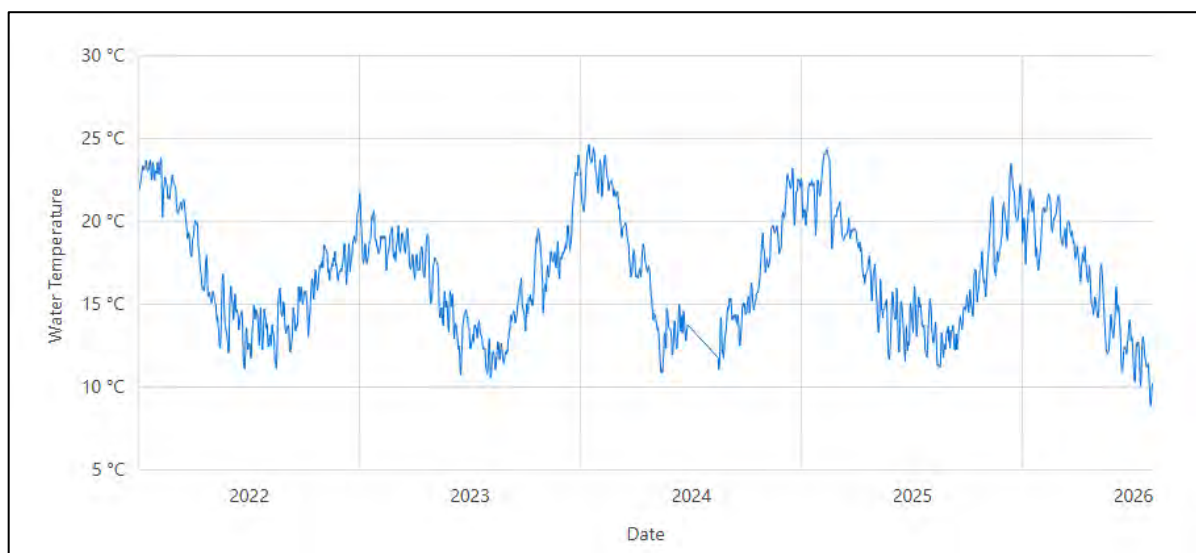


Figure 7.2. Water temperature in the Ohinemuri River from 2022-2026. Data from the [Waikato Regional Council](#).

7.2. Waitawheta River study area

The drift dive survey occurs in the upper reaches of the Waitawheta River on the boundary of the State Forest at the end of Franklin Road. Here the river consists of a series of long deep pools separated by short turbulent runs/rapids. Although the river was modified for logging and mining the upper catchment is nearly pristine aside from the DOC tracks.

7.3. Waitawheta River methods

The drift dive stretch is 1.2km and the dive reach and GPS positions for the start and end points are displayed in Figure 7.1 A and B in addition to Appendix A. Unlike the Whakapapa most runs and rapids are safe to survey allowing for the opportunity to count <1yr cohort if present.

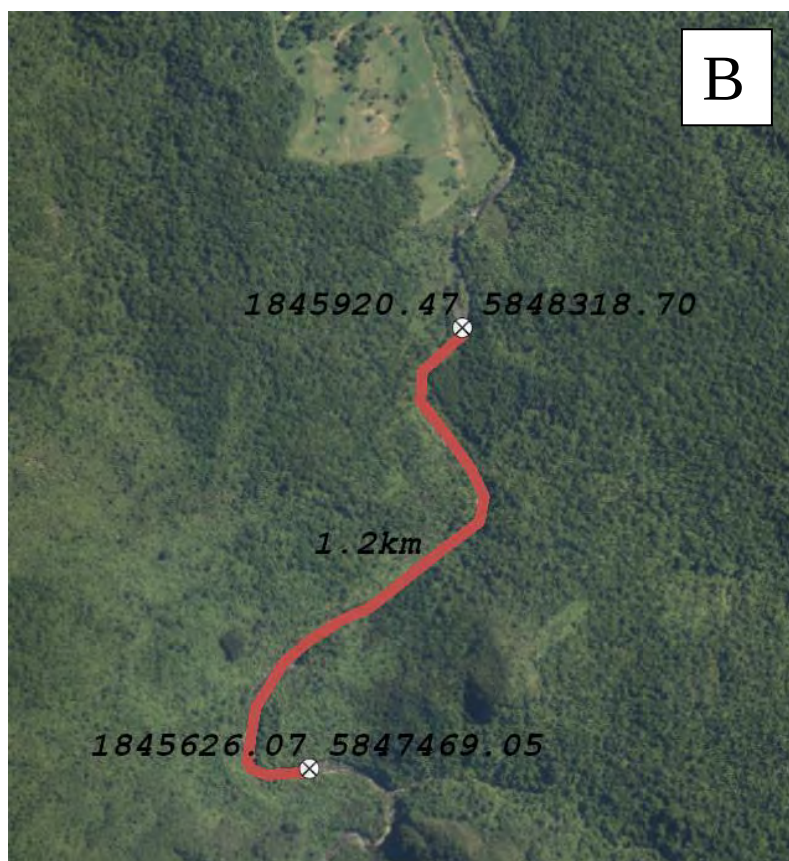
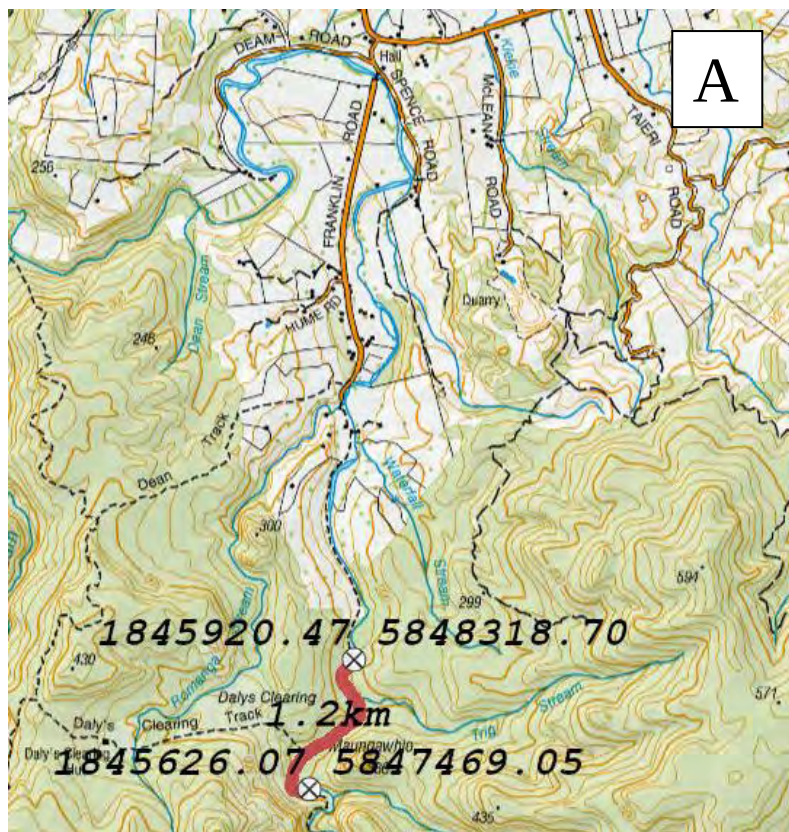


Figure 7.2. (A) 7.3. Waitawheta River drift dive location showing Franklin Road (B) photo of the drift dive area with GPS points for the start and stop locaions.

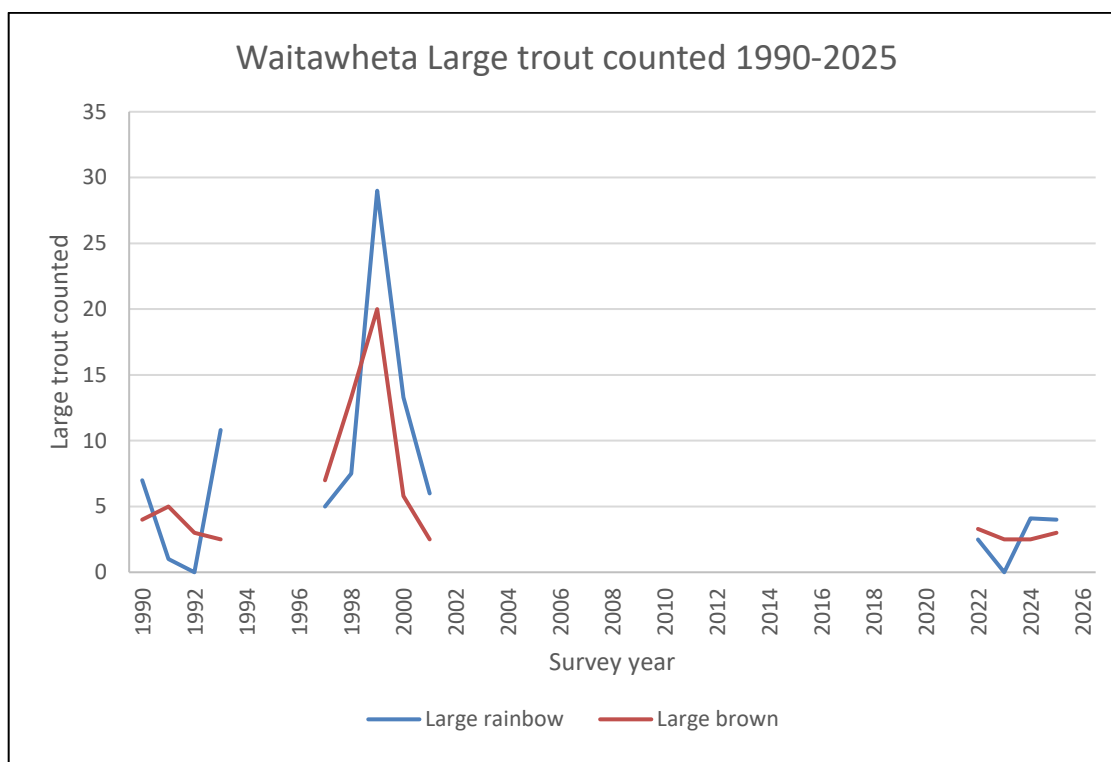
7.4. Waitawheta River results

The Waitawheta River was not sampled during the 2026 season.

The last Waitawheta drift dive was conducted 3 January 2025 at 10:00am. The Waitawheta River does not have a river gauge, but the river was at base flow during the dive. Water temperature was 15.2°C with water clarity at 4.0m due to heavy periphyton and low water. Two divers conducted the dive searching all accessible water. Several shallow runs were skipped due to low water and the heavy algal growth. The largest number of small size class <20cm (≈12cm) fish ever recorded were seen on the dive indicating successful recruitment during the winter of 2025 (Table 7.1 & Figure 7.2). However, low numbers of adult trout were detected (Table 7.1 & Figure 7.2).

Table 7.1. Trout per kilometre for drift dives in the Waitawheta River (2023- 2025).

Year	<10cm	10-20cm	20-30cm	30-40cm	40+cm
2023	8	12	5	0	0
					3B
2024	36	118	7	4	4
					3B
2025	13	148	4	3	4
					3B



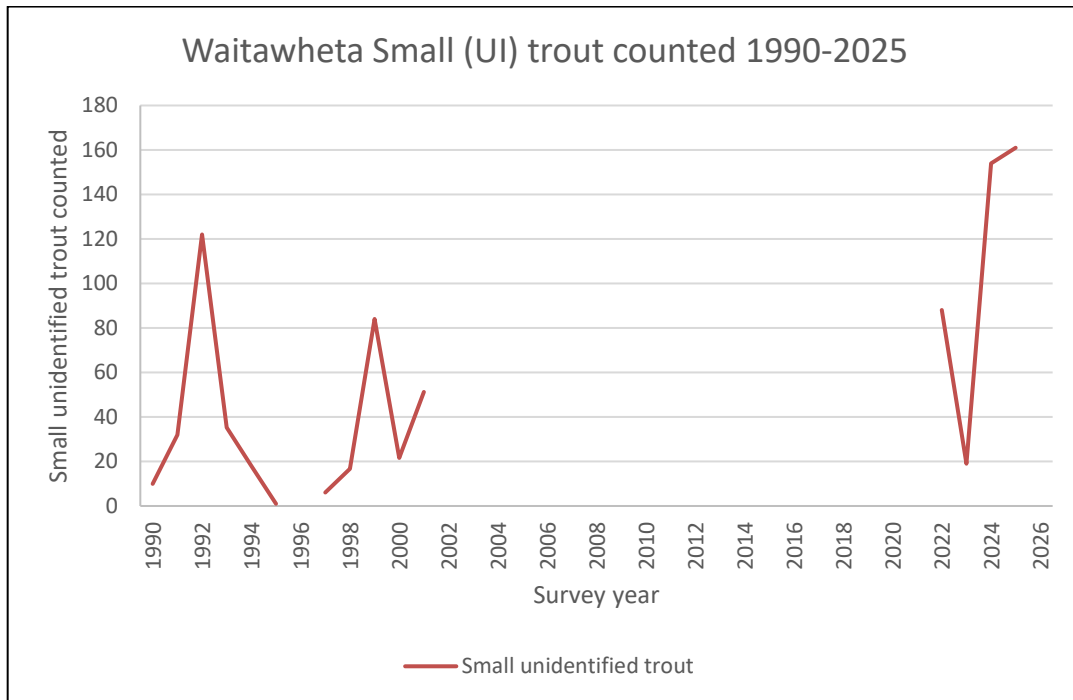
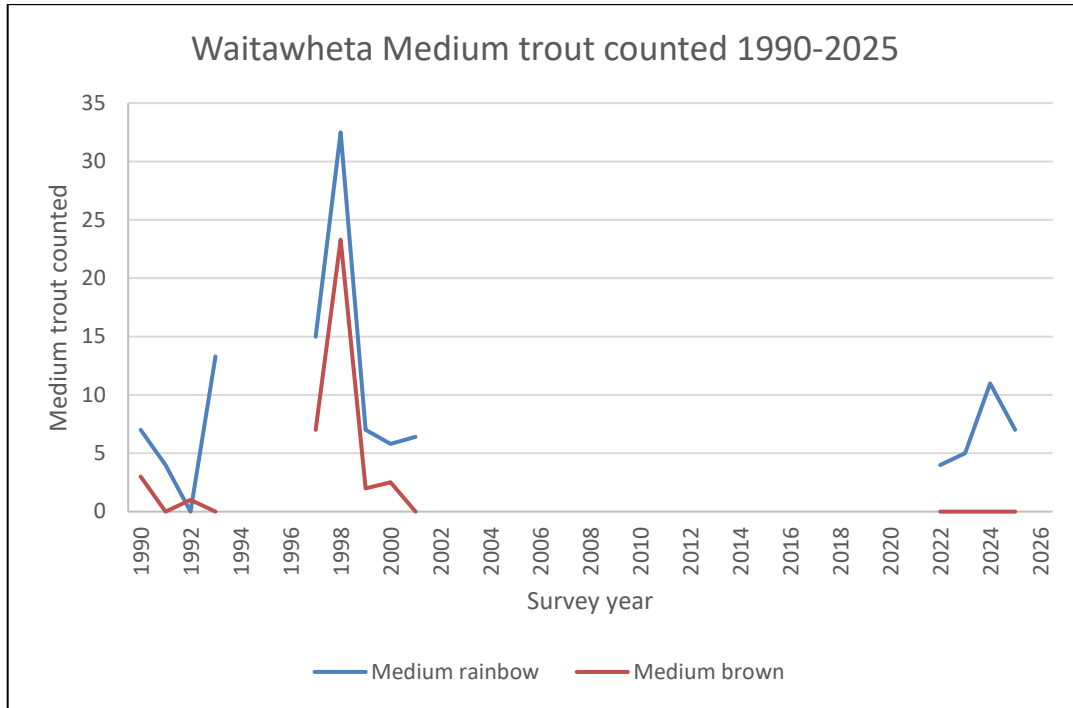


Figure 7.2. Number of large ($\geq 40\text{cm}$), medium ($20\text{--}40\text{cm}$) and small unidentified ($<20\text{cm}$) trout per kilometre of the Waitawheta River 1990-2025.

7.5. Waitawheta River discussion

A summary of drift diving results for the Waitawheta River since 1990 (Figure 7.2 A-C) indicates the reach monitored only occasionally holds high numbers of large trout. The Ohinemuri River exceeded 20°C from mid-December to early March so it is likely that fish were also stressed in the Waitawheta River. Fishing reports from the Waitawheta River in late 2025 were positive, indicating that even with low numbers of fish the fishery is still valued by anglers.

8. Kauaeranga River (Not sampled 2026)

8.1. Kauaeranga River introduction

Fish & Game management objective for the Kauaeranga River is to maintain a wild trout population intended as a secondary activity that is done in conjunction with camping at the multiple DOC sites along the river (Ben Wilson 2021b). The Kauaeranga is a stream where campers in the area can catch fish rather than a location where anglers travel to go fishing. Large storms have removed the tree canopy from the riparian zone in much of the upper catchment further exacerbating the impact of warm dry summers. The remnant trout population survives in thermal refuges created by groundwater inflows and small shaded tributaries.

8.2. Kauaeranga River study area

The Kauaeranga River rises in the Coromandel Range and flows in a southwesterly direction for about 32km before entering the Thames estuary at Thames. The catchment area of about 121km² is generally steep with regenerating native bush and scrub in the upper reaches, and exotic pine plantation, native scrub and pastoral land in the middle and lower reaches.

For much of the year, the Kauaeranga River can be described as a stream flowing over the bed of a large river. The wide riverbed does not allow for shading, increasing the daily peak water temperature. Although base flows in the Kauaeranga are low (mean annual 7-day low flow of 0.62m³/s), massive floods are not uncommon as the Coromandel Range is subjected to torrential rain from northerly storms and the remnants of tropical cyclones. These massive floods have gorged out long deep pools and created broad shallow runs. Bed materials in the upper/middle reaches consist of boulders, cobbles, and hard gravel. Further downstream below the Coromandel Forest Park there are increasing quantities of mud and silt.

A large part of the Kauaeranga catchment is in the Coromandel Forest Park, and here the river is visited by many people, especially in the summer. A metal road with numerous DOC camping areas follows the river valley for some 25km.

8.3. Kauaeranga River methods

Two divers surveyed 1.2 km of the upper Kauaeranga near Booms Flat Camp. The dive reach and GPS positions for the start and end points are displayed in Figure 8.1 A and B in addition to Appendix A. The drift dive involved two divers floating downstream using snorkeling equipment and counting trout as they became visible. The wide riverbed and low water created thousands of pools making it very difficult to cover all of the available water. If there was an impact on data collection it would likely result in the undercounting of fish making the estimate a minimum.



Figure 8.1. (A) Drift dive location showing the put in (green flag) and take out (checkered flag). (B) Photo of the drift dive area with GPS points in NZTM for the start (green flag) and stop location (checkered flag).

8.4. Kauaeranga River results

The Kauaeranga River was not surveyed during the 2026 summer. The last completed Kauaeranga River drift dive started at the top end of the Boom Flat Island at 11:00pm on February 5th, 2025, with 8.0 m visibility and water temperature of 19.8C°. Although the water temperature was high there was a noticeable influence of groundwater in many pools creating thermal refuges far below the surface temperature. Although trout numbers were low there were positive signs for the population with relatively high numbers of small fish (Table 8.1; Figure 8.2).

Table 8.1. The size and frequency of rainbow trout seen in the Kauaeranga River 2024-2026.

Year		< 10cm	10-20cm	20-30cm	30-40cm	40+cm
2024		9	31	8	3	0
2025		31	24	6	3	0
2026		N/A				

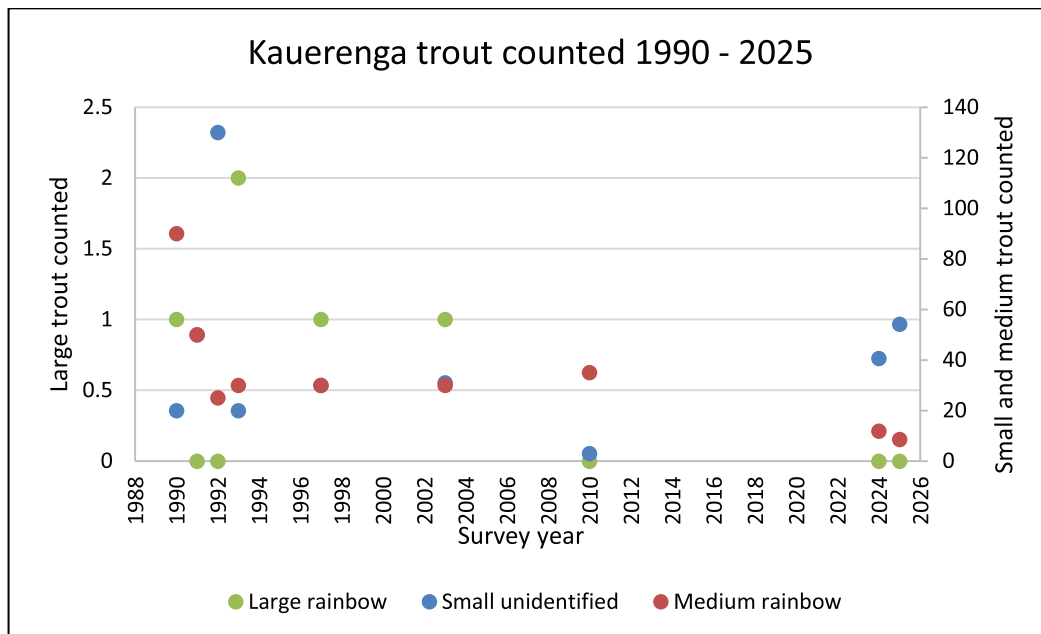


Figure 8.2. Number of large (>40cm), medium (20-40cm) and small (<20cm) rainbow trout per km of the Kauaeranga River (1990-2025).

Kauaeranga River discussion

Although the Kauaeranga River has low trout numbers it is an exceptionally scenic location with popular DOC campgrounds. The river has a wide stream bed with limited shading in the main channel due to frequent high intensity floods. High summer temperatures limit recruitment during hot summers making the Kauaeranga River an intermittent fishery. There are no practical management interventions that could improve conditions as the upper catchment is already a forest park. However, the river is worth monitoring to inform anglers when fish are present and to document the impact of heat related stressors on trout.

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10. Appendix A Dive locations

River	Reach	X NZTM	Y NZTM	X NZTM	Y NZTM	Distance (km)
Waihou	Blue springs	1847743.05	5787062.24	1847056.91	5787904.84	1.7
Waitawheta	Park boundary	1845627.86	5847471.51	1845904.95	5848404.28	1.2
Mangatutu	Gravel pit	1816389.34	5768493.01	1815645.77	5769408.62	2
Awakino	Upper Gribbon	1757293.16	5734676.96	1757491.12	5734050.83	0.75
Kauaeranga	booms flat camp	1835891.64	5893007.77	1835163.54	5892258.55	1.18
Awakino	lower	1759111.69	5731201.71	1760056.4	5730186.53	1.6
Whakapapa	Owhango	1807547.03	5680065.1	1807721.4	5680880.23	1
Whakapapa	Oio Farm	1808861.12	5670461.79	1808861.12	5670461.79	1.94

Acknowledgements

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Auckland / Waikato Angler Satisfaction, Access, and Regulation Survey

Beau Jarvis-Child & Matt Osborne 2026

1 INTRODUCTION

Understanding the experiences and views of anglers is an important part of managing sports fisheries and ensuring that Fish & Game's activities remain responsive to licence holders. Angler satisfaction is influenced not only by the quality of the fishing itself, but also by factors such as access, regulations, environmental conditions, the availability of information, and opportunities to participate in the sport. Regular feedback from anglers can therefore help identify emerging issues and inform where management effort and resources are best directed.

The 2025/26 fishing season included several changes relevant to anglers in the Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game region. These included changes to regional fishing regulations and continued work to improve angler access e.g., the Fishing Access Map. At the end of the 2025/26 season, Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game surveyed full-season licence holders to better understand their fishing experiences and priorities. The survey focused on overall angler satisfaction, perceptions of recent regulation changes, lost and desired fishing access, awareness and use of the Fishing Access Map, and experiences fishing stocked Auckland lakes. Angler Survey Report 2026 The results are intended to provide a snapshot of the views of responding licence holders and to help inform future management, access, communication and regulatory priorities within the region.

2 METHODS

2.1 SURVEY DESIGN

Survey recipients were identified from the Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game licence database. The dataset was restricted to licence holders with a valid email address and a full-season fishing licence. Full-season licences included resident and non-resident adult and junior whole-season licences, family licences, loyal senior licences, and the Auckland/Waikato Local Area Fishing Licence. Where multiple records shared the same email address, only one record was retained to avoid sending duplicate survey invitations. Records were ordered by age before removing duplicate email addresses, meaning the oldest licence holder associated with a shared email address was retained. The resulting list contained 3025 individuals, of which an email was sent with a link to the survey to complete. Some of the emails bounced, so the number of surveys received will be slightly lower.

The survey was designed to gather information and feedback on five key areas.

- 1) Angler satisfaction regarding the current season
- 2) Angler feedback on the recent regulation changes
- 3) Angler feedback on access issues
- 4) Angler feedback on the Fishing Access Map
- 5) Angler experiences fishing the stocked Auckland lakes

2.2 SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

In total, 217 responses had been received, resulting in a response rate of just over 7%. This is reasonably typical for an email-based survey. As with most voluntary surveys, some self-selection bias is expected, as licence holders who are more engaged with the fishery or have particularly positive or negative experiences may be more likely to respond. Consequently, the results should not be interpreted as representative of all Auckland/Waikato full-season licence

holders. Rather, this survey provides a valuable opportunity to understand the experiences, views and concerns of licence holders who chose to provide feedback.

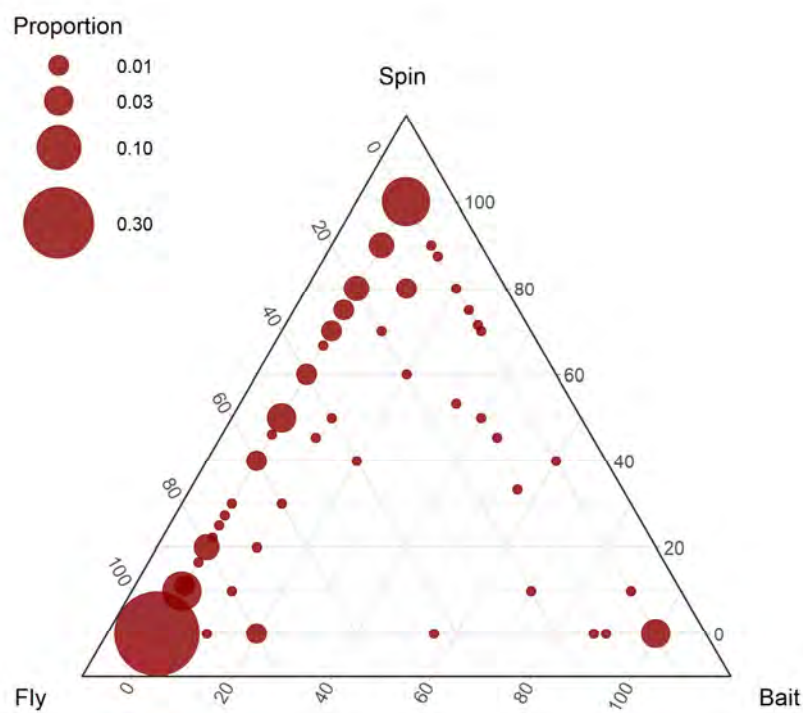


Figure 1: The distribution of preferences in fishing methods of the survey respondents. The position of the points indicates how much time individuals spend either fly, spin or bait fishing, while the size of the points indicates the proportion of the sample this was associated with.

2.2.1 Days spent fishing and target species

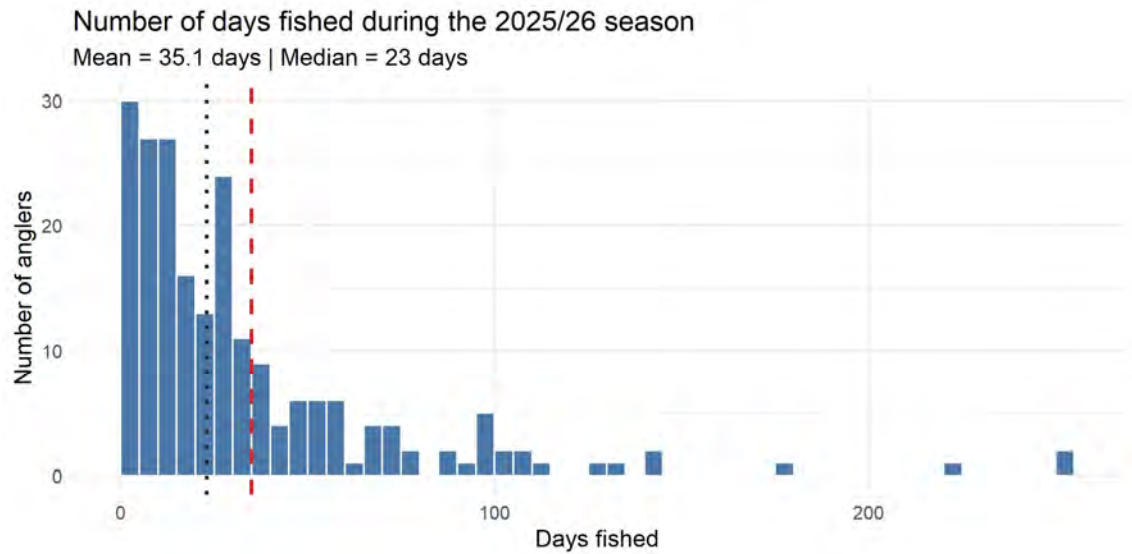


Figure 2: Distribution of days spent fishing during the 2025/26 season as reported by anglers.

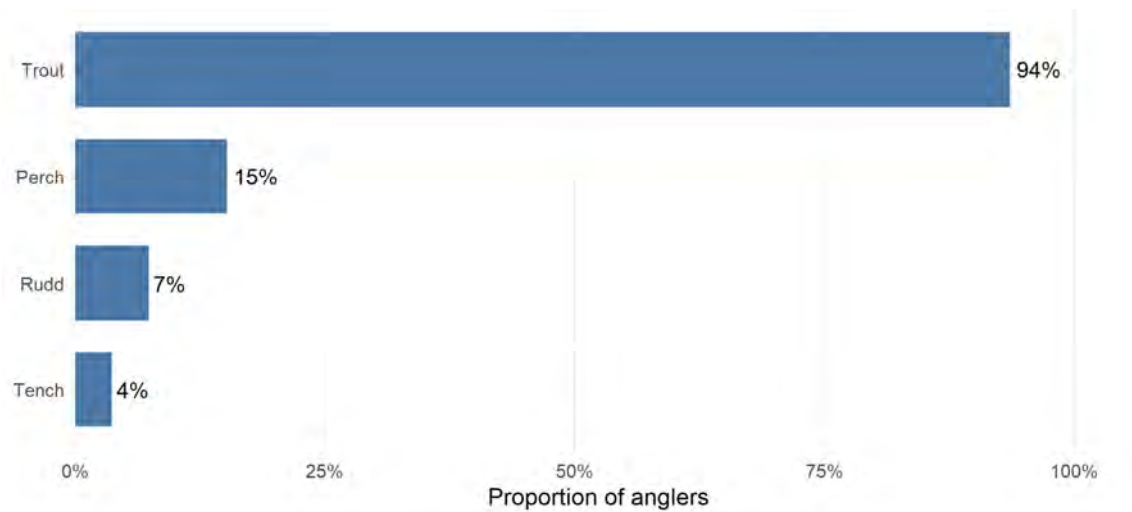


Figure 3: Distribution of sportfish species targeted during the 2025/26 season as reported by anglers.

3 RESULTS

3.1 ANGLER SATISFACTION

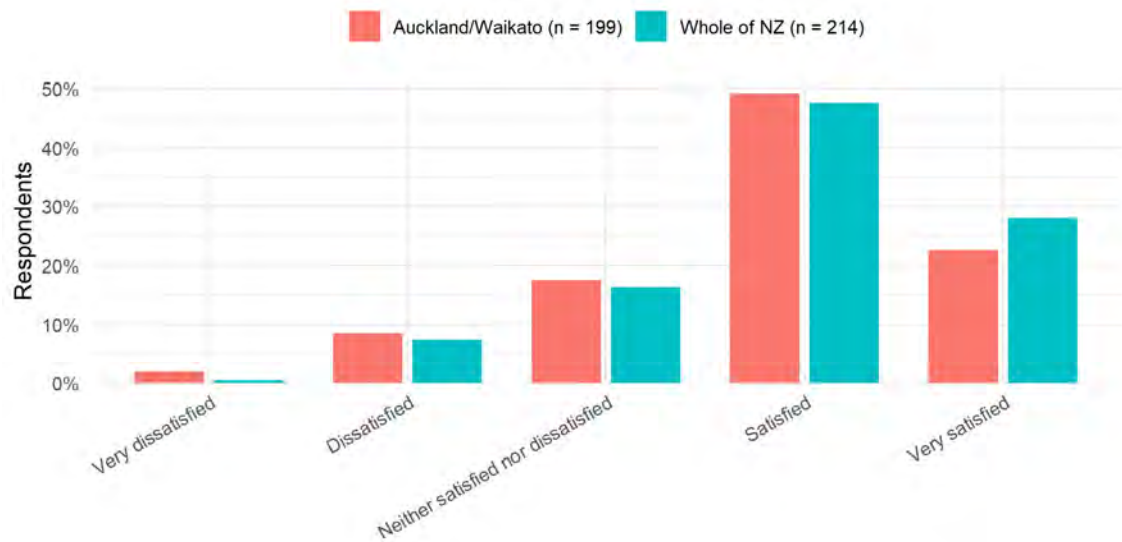


Figure 4: Distribution of angler satisfaction with their 2025/26 season in general (whole of NZ) and for the Auckland / Waikato Fish & Game region.

3.1.1 Factors influencing anglers' satisfaction

Table 1: Coded themes of factors influencing anglers' satisfaction in the 2025/26 season grouped by sentiment.

Sentiment	Theme	Count
Positive	Catching fish / general enjoyment/success	17
	Scenery/environment/solitude	15
	Access - good/improved	13
	Fish numbers/abundance	12
	Social/family fishing experience	10
	Fish quality/size/condition	7
	Fish & Game service/support	3
	Weather	3
	Licence, cost & regulations	2
	Water levels/flow (incl. floods)	2
	Personal circumstances (health, family, time, work, equipment)	1
Negative	Access - problems (physical, landowner, vegetation, distance)	21
	Weather	15
	Fish numbers/abundance	15
	Personal circumstances (health, family, time, work, equipment)	14
	Water quality (weed, algae, pollution, spraying)	13
	Water levels/flow (incl. floods)	11
	Licence, cost & regulations	10
	Poaching / poor angler etiquette / enforcement concerns	6

Sentiment	Theme	Count
	Crowding / angler pressure	6
	Fish quality/size/condition	4
	Predation & pest species	3
	Catching fish / general enjoyment/success	2
	Litter/environmental care at sites	2
Neutral / uninformative	Weather	12
	Access - problems (physical, landowner, vegetation, distance)	5
	Water levels/flow (incl. floods)	3
	Fish numbers/abundance	3
	Catching fish / general enjoyment/success	2
	Personal circumstances (health, family, time, work, equipment)	2
	Predation & pest species	1
	Fish quality/size/condition	1
	Scenery/environment/solitude	1
	Licence, cost & regulations	1
	(vague or off-topic responses, e.g. "positive", "all good", single words, technique notes)	9

3.1.2 Suggestions for Fish & Game to improve angler satisfaction

Table 2: Coded responses in relation to the question "What is one thing Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game could do to improve this score?"

Theme	Count
Access: create/improve access points	29
Satisfied: keep doing what you're doing (praise)	22
Satisfied: nothing needed/no suggestion	19
Stocking: increase trout/fish releases	18
Communication: info, maps, reports, website	13
Access: signage & information at sites	12
Water quality: reduce pollution/farm run-off	10
Access: negotiate/reduce private-land barriers	9
Regulations: licence pricing & structure	8
Not relevant to question	8
Species management: pest/coarse fish (carp, perch)	6
Enforcement: poaching, compliance & ranger presence	6
Access: clear vegetation/obstacles & maintenance	5
Water quality: weed/algae control (incl. stop spraying)	4
Angler education: etiquette	4
Regulations: season dates & closures	4
Weather (uncontrollable/joke)	4
Youth/junior engagement	4
Regulations: bag limits	4

Access: manage crowding (booking/zoning)	3
Self-attributed (own issue, not F&G's)	3
River flow & dam management	3
Regulations: gear/tackle rules	2
Regulations: consistency/simplicity across regions	2
Facilities/infrastructure (jetties, walkways, new waters)	2
Regulations: carp/coarse-fish handling rules	1
Promotion/marketing of the sport	1
Research/monitoring	1
Predator control (e.g. cormorants)	1

3.2 AUCKLAND STOCKED FISHERIES

Table 3: Summary of responses from anglers who fished the stocked lakes around Auckland during the 2025/26 season.

Fished Stocked Auckland Lakes?	Lake	Experience	Count
No			187
Yes	Lake Parkinson	No specific detail given	5
		Declining/poor catch compared with past seasons	4
		Water level/infrastructure concerns (low levels, pump cables, safety)	2
		Positive fishing experience	1
		Neutral / "OK"	1
	Lake Pupuke / Quarry	No specific detail given	8
		Poor/inconsistent catch rate	5
		Positive fishing experience	3
		Crowding / competing recreational use (RC boats, canoes, watercraft)	2
		Water quality decline (weed encroachment)	1
		Access difficulty / pest-fish overpopulation (perch, needs kayak)	1
	Lake Whatihua	Positive fishing experience (incl. good catch after restock)	3
		No specific detail given (lake named only)	3
		Access limited by bank vegetation (reeds/plants)	1
	Mangatawhiri Reservoir	Positive fishing experience	1
	No lake specified	No detail provided (blank response)	2

3.3 FEEDBACK ON REGULATION CHANGES

Awareness of 2025/26 regulation changes



Views among anglers aware of the changes

Based on respondents who were aware and provided a view



Figure 5: Proportion of respondents aware of the A/W 2025/26 rule changes (top), and for those who were aware, their perspective on the changes (bottom).

3.3.1 Perspectives on regulation changes

Table 4: Coded themes from responses explaining respondents' overall views of the 2025/26 Auckland/Waikato fishing regulation changes.

Theme	Count
Simplification & clarity of rules (positive)	22
More fishing opportunity/access (rivers open longer, more waters) (positive)	12
Fish stock protection & sustainability (positive)	10
Bag limit levels a stated factor (mixed - some want higher, some satisfied with lower)	10
No/limited personal impact (neutral)	9
Lack of awareness/understanding of the changes (neutral)	5
Support for fly-only/method restrictions to protect fisheries (positive)	4
Not relevant / no comment	3
Concern that liberalising methods/opening waters risks fish stocks (negative)	3
Concern changes weaken spawning-season protections (negative)	3
Specific technical/administrative feedback (e.g. family licence age, high-grading, access signage)	3
Support for spawning-season/closed-water protections (positive)	2
Trust/deference to Fish & Game's expertise (neutral)	2
Concern about rising fishing pressure/overharvesting (negative)	2
Consultation/process frustration (negative)	2
Fairness / licence compliance & enforcement benefit (positive)	1
Too much water restricted to fly-only / wants more open methods (negative)	1

Value for money / licence cost concerns (negative)	1
Concern rules too uniform, ignoring local variation (negative)	1
Disappointment newly opened waters limited in scope (negative)	1
Rules still seen as complex/unclear (negative)	1

3.3.2 Proposed amendments

Table 5: Coded themes in responses to the question “Are there any changes to the 2025/26 Auckland/Waikato fishing regulations you would like to see considered in the next review?” Themes unrelated to regulations are italicised.

Theme	Count
No changes wanted / satisfied as-is	21
Spawning-season / closed-season protections requested	9
Bag limit increase requested (esp. lakes / Waikato River)	8
Method restrictions requested (single hooks not trebles, ban spin/bait in specific waters)	7
<i>Not thought about it / no strong opinion</i>	7
<i>Not relevant / off-topic</i>	5
Junior/family angler provisions requested	4
More waters/rivers opened, incl. all-year access	4
Species-specific/local rule requests (e.g. perch, Rudd, Little Waipa)	3
Fly-only water protections requested/expanded	3
<i>Licence structure/cost changes requested</i>	3
Rod/gear rule clarification (e.g. one-rod rule, roach poles)	2
<i>Better communication/consultation & public data transparency</i>	2
<i>Region/licence portability (one licence for NZ, easier cross-region rules)</i>	2
<i>More enforcement/ranger presence against poaching</i>	1
Sport-fishing competition restriction requested (protect wild fish)	1
<i>Taupo/DOC fishery management change requested</i>	1
Concern rules too uniform, wants local tailoring	1
<i>Access-related requests (landowner signage, property access)</i>	1

3.4 ACCESS

3.4.1 Lost Access

Table 6: Anglers who experienced lost access to a fishable water in the Auckland/Waikato region in the past 10 years, and provided relevant information about the loss of access.

Experienced a loss of access	Details relevant to region	Count
No	-	125
Not applicable	-	36
Yes		51
	<i>No</i>	14
	<i>Other region</i>	5
	<i>Yes</i>	32
	Total	263

Table 7: Summary of the details provided by anglers in relation to loss of access to fishable water in the Auckland/Waikato region.

Waterway / Location	Times mentioned	Details on Access Lost
Whakapapa River – multiple points (Intake Rd, Owhango, Kakahi)	12	Access lost/restricted at the Whakapapa Intake Road, farmland south of Owhango, above Kakahi, and the headwaters e.g., Oio.
Waipa River – Toa Bridge / upper reaches	7	Long-running dispute at Toa Bridge; landowner has repeatedly denied anglers permission (one respondent calls it the worst landowner interaction they've had). Several are unsure whether any access still exists there.
Mangatutu Stream (Waipa system, Lethbridge Rd area)	3	Access above Lethbridge Road affected by an uncooperative landowner; riparian planting has funnelled anglers into fewer entry points.
Puniu River	1	Riparian planting has blocked stream-bed access in places, including where roads run close to the stream with no run-off risk, per respondent.
Waipari Stream (upper Puniu tributary, rock-climbing carpark)	1	Fished for years via the Waipari rock-climbing carpark without issue; challenged twice by the landowner (most recently Nov 2025) despite no livestock on the land and native planting done by the Puniu Landcare Trust. Respondent suspects the landowner may be paid to allow climbers but not anglers.
Lake Karāpiro (near power station/dam)	1	A popular fishing spot near the power station/dam was lost after a landslide a few years ago.
Chelsea Sugar Works & Western Springs Lake (Auckland)	1	Council has tried to stop fishing at Chelsea Sugar Works and removed much of the koi population (respondent felt effort better spent elsewhere); Western Springs Lake also electro-fished by council to remove large koi.
Lake near Muriwai	1	Access lost in the last ~6 years after the Houghtons' farm was sold and is being developed into a golf course.
South Waikato spring creeks (general)	1	Increasingly fenced off with vegetation growth making access harder, though respondent understands the likely riparian-protection rationale.
Upper Moakurua River	1	Closed to anglers by landowners 'a long time ago.'
Pirongia areas	1	Cited with no further detail given.
General — farmers withdrawing access (maintenance burden / H&S regs)	1	Respondent attributes access loss to farmers being reluctant to maintain waterways (clearing willows/branches/blockages) and to health & safety regulations, though notes those regs have since been amended for the better.
Karangahake Gorge	1	Access lost due to flooding.
Waihou River – State Highway 5 crossing	1	New traffic-safety measures on SH5 have made the crossing feel unsafe to access.
Piopiotea Stream	1	Noted alongside Whakapapa River access loss (upper/middle reaches).

3.4.2 Impractical Access

Table 8: Anglers who are aware of legal but impractical or unclear access in the Auckland/Waikato region, and provided relevant information about this access.

Experienced impractical access	Details relevant to region	Count
No	-	122
Not applicable	-	31
Yes		57
	No	6
	Other region	4
	Yes	47
	Total	267

Table 9: Summary of the details provided by anglers in relation to impractical or unclear access in the Auckland/Waikato region.

Waterway / Location	Times mentioned	Details on Impractical Access
Waihou River (SH5 crossing, Blue Springs, Te Aroha banks, Hamilton–Rotorua Rd)	8	Widely reported as overgrown, especially with blackberry. SH5 access point very hard to find, hidden behind overgrown trees. Blue Springs stretch needs signage confirming fishing is allowed and clarifying wading rules. Banks near Te Aroha and the Hamilton–Rotorua road crossing also flagged as overgrown.
Whakapapa River area (Intake, Stone Jug Rd, below Kakahi, true right below confluence)	6	Old paths on the true right below the Whakapapa/Whanganui confluence are overgrown with willow/blackberry and considered dangerous due to deep water; access below Kakahi and in upper reaches also raised.
Mangatutu & Puniu Rivers (Waipa system)	3	Blackberry and crack willow make crossing/walking difficult; landowner near the last bridge on the Mangatutu is uneasy about anglers crossing a small section of land. Recent floods may have partly cleared the problem. One respondent requests formal river-access signposting for both rivers plus the Waipa below the Otewa Bridge.
Kaniwhaniwha River	3	General overgrowth (gorse/storm debris) reported north of Hamilton, including here; requests for access signage including clear method rules (fly-only / spin-fly) as some anglers may not be following them; limeworks loop road access behind the limeworks also flagged as needing improvement.
Oraka River (near Tirau)	3	Overgrown, limiting where people can fish; more/clearer access wanted near the reserve above Tirau.
Little Waipa Stream	2	Suggested as a candidate for farmer-negotiated margin planting and access; also flagged simply as overgrown/needing work.
Ohinemuri River (Karangahake Gorge area)	2	Access point opposite Rahu Road to the lower reach flagged; a damaged F&G access sign on a gate in Karangahake Gorge

Waterway / Location	Times mentioned	Details on Impractical Access
		(reachable via the bike trail, not the road side) was never replaced.
Hydro dam tailraces (Waipapa, Karapiro)	2	Below Waipapa Dam and true-right below Karapiro Dam specifically flagged; one respondent says the issue applies to hydro dam tailraces generally.
Mangaotaki River (west of Piopio)	2	Overgrown in places, access unsigned, and no clarity on how to arrange farmer permission.
Ongarue River / Okauaka catchment	2	Requests signage similar to that used on the Awakino River; general access improvement sought for this catchment.
Waimiha River	1	Inaccessible in places due to thick blackberry along the fence line and pussy willow blocking the river itself, with no clear route around. Also affects access to the Whanganui downstream of the Whakapapa confluence.
Marakopa River	1	Access-point signage requested at each entry point, similar to the Awakino River.
Waiomou Stream (south of Matamata)	1	Respondent spent hours searching without finding a fly-fishable section.
Pokiwhenua River (Arapuni Rd)	1	Parking area off Arapuni Road leads to an overgrown, unclear track down to the river.
Lake Whatihu (Whatihua)	1	Unclear and difficult to park at; respondent wants more perch/tench-fishable lakes listed on F&G maps.
Wairoa River Gorge (near Clevedon)	1	Difficult access, partly due to past flood damage; some council tree-clearance has occurred; litter/rubbish dumping near swimming holes has led to boulders being placed that further restrict access.
Tokoroa-area trails (general)	1	Existing signs present but overgrown/hard to reach.
Mangakino access road (below the dam)	1	Access road south of Mangakino, following the river downstream, is overgrown.
Tapuarea Rd (Honekiwi), Moakurarua headwaters	1	Respondent wants a deal negotiated with the farmer at the end of Tapuarea Road to use the paper road to reach DoC land and the Moakurarua headwaters.

3.4.3 Desired Access

Table 10: Anglers who are aware of high-value trout fishing waters with no public access that should have access created, and who provided relevant information.

Desired access identified	Details relevant to region	Count
No	-	128
Not applicable	-	25
Yes		57
	No	1
	Other region	6

	Yes	50
	Total	267

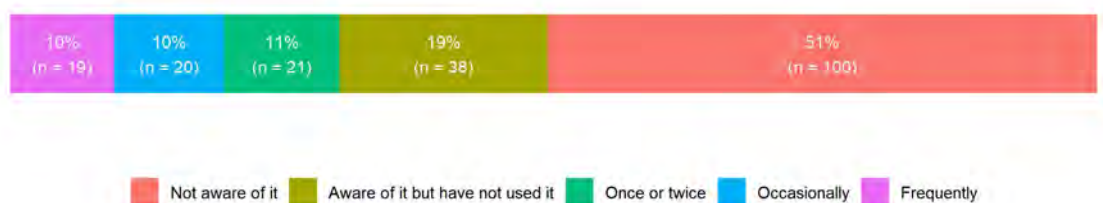
Table 11: Summary of details provided by anglers regarding high-value trout fishing waters with no public access that should have access created.

Waterway / Location	Times mentioned	Details on Desirable Access
Waipa River – upper reaches / above Toa Bridge / Otewa	13	Requests span the whole upper river: above Toa Bridge (renegotiate with the local farmer), along Otewa Road ('asking for permission seemed difficult') and general tributaries needing walking easements and signage.
Whakapapa River (Intake, Stone Jug Rd, above Kakahi, above Owango, upper river/paper road)	11	Broad, repeated demand for restored/new access: the Intake Road (locked gate), Stone Jug Road/Hohotaka Road side above it, above Kakahi, above Owango, and a strip on true-left through Oio farms. Multiple respondents want access at the end of Whakapapa Intake Road reinstated specifically.
Whanganui River (below railway bridge, above confluence, headwaters)	5	Requests for access below the railway bridge (overgrown southern bank strips), above the Whakapapa confluence, the upper river generally, and the headwaters.
Waihou River (Okoroire–Te Aroha stretch, upper river, near track)	4	Detailed submission names the Okoroire–Te Aroha stretch as 'one of the premier brown trout fisheries in the North Island' with excellent sight-fishing, currently limited by private farmland; wants walking easements, signage, and small parking areas. Others want clearer access above SH5 (currently a fishing reserve but blocked by a fence onto farmland) and note several km of good water beyond the existing track access is hard to reach.
Mangatutu Stream (Waipa system)	3	Requests to extend access below the top access point down to Lethbridge Road (reachable via Wharepuhunga Road), and along the stretch beside the road above Lethbridge Road.
Puniu River	3	Requests include access from Newman Road, large tracts below Seafund Road, and the upper river above Ngaroma Road/along Duncan Road (where a farmer reportedly reserves the river 'for family').
Waikato River (hydro section, dams, Hamilton Gardens)	3	Requests for better access 'near the dams' generally, plus the Hamilton Gardens stretch. Detailed submission specifically nominates the Arapuni–Karapiro hydro section, especially below dam tailraces, wanting walking tracks through willow margins and better-maintained access points.
South Waikato spring creeks (incl. Waipari & tributaries, Putāruru/Tokoroa area)	2	Detailed submission describes this as an exceptional, crystal-clear spring-creek fishery with high-quality brown trout, currently fragmented by private land; wants permanent access corridors, stiles, and marked entry points.

Waterway / Location	Times mentioned	Details on Desirable Access
		Another respondent wants safe parking, signage, and support for farmers to install larger planted setbacks.
Pokaiwhenua Stream	2	One respondent values it for fishing during Karapiro spawning runs (close to Hamilton); another wants access above the bridge but is unsure who to ask for permission.
Honokiwi area streams	1	Limited access across farmland in this area.
Ngakoaohia Stream	1	Named alongside Mangatutu and upper Waipa as a target for new access.
Waione Stream	1	Named with no further detail given.
Waimakariri Stream	1	Described as having only one steep, dangerous access spot.

3.5 FISHING ACCESS MAP

Awareness and use of the fishing access map



Usefulness among map users

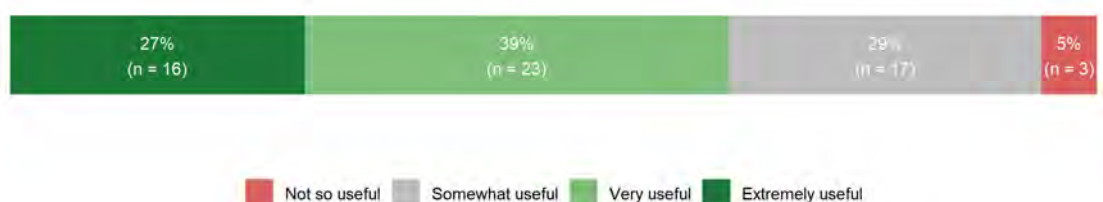


Figure 6: Distribution of anglers who were aware of the Fishing Access Map (top), and of those who were aware of it, how useful they found it (bottom).

Table 12: Summary of suggestions to improve the Fishing Access Map.

Theme	Count
Satisfied — no changes needed / already good	9
More detail on access points (exact entry points, linking to real-world features)	3
Add fishing-specific info (species, methods, best times/seasons)	3
Expand geographic coverage (more locations/areas mapped)	2
Add landowner/farmer contact details	2
Sceptical of the map's necessity/value	1

Personalisation feature (save/plot own points)	1
Add legend/key explaining colours & symbols	1
Add photos of access points	1
Add GPS coordinates	1
Concern that greater visibility increases crowding pressure	1
Usability/readability concern (topo maps hard to read on phone)	1
Develop as a dedicated mobile app	1
Add navigation/way-finding/marker feature	1

4 DISCUSSION

The survey provides useful insight into the experiences and priorities of the licence holders who responded. However, the relatively low response rate and voluntary nature of the survey mean the results should not be treated as representative of all Auckland/Waikato anglers. Based on their demographics, respondents were primarily highly active (median of 23 days of fishing for the season) fly and spin fishers who mostly target trout.

4.1 ANGLER SATISFACTION

Overall satisfaction with fishing in the Auckland/Waikato region was broadly similar to satisfaction with fishing elsewhere in New Zealand, with most people satisfied or very satisfied.

The most commonly reported factors influencing satisfaction positively included general enjoyment and success catching fish, enjoyment of the environment/solitude, improved access, and social elements. For some, access issues, environmental factors (weather, water quality/weeds, water levels/floods), and personal circumstances negatively affected satisfaction with the fishing season.

When asked what Fish & Game could do to improve their satisfaction, the top responses included improving access, increasing trout liberations, and improving information (e.g., website/maps).

Requests for additional stocking include waters such as Ohinemuri River and Lake Karapiro where this is not a recommended action. However, there is still a desire for more (stocked) fisheries within 2h of Auckland, which we are actively looking into.

This information helps reinforce that our regional priorities around access, and information (e.g., mapping), and opportunities around Auckland are worthwhile.

4.2 AUCKLAND STOCKED FISHERIES

While a reasonably small proportion of anglers who responded to the survey had fished the stocked Auckland fisheries, their experiences were useful to understand. For Parkinsons Lake and Quarry Lake, negative experiences seemed to outweigh positive experiences and were mainly related to poor catch rates. Those who had fished Lake Whatihua mostly had positive experiences, although access was deemed limited/difficult.

4.3 FEEDBACK ON REGULATION CHANGES

Although just under one third of respondents reported they were not aware of the regulation changes, the vast majority of feedback from those who were aware was generally positive or neutral.

The regulation change was viewed positively for both simplifying the rules, increasing fishing opportunity and ensuring sustainable management.

While most were happy with the regulations as they sit now, the top suggestions were around greater restrictions on open waters during the spawning season, as well as higher bag limits on the Waikato River and its hydro lakes.

4.4 ACCESS

Access is one of the key issues for anglers in our region and nationally. Feedback on lost or impractical angler access helps staff recognise issues and direct and prioritise efforts.

Lost access was commonly echoed around areas like Intake Road (upper Whakapapa) and Toa Bridge (upper Waipa), which are well known to staff.

Vegetation growth, including blackberry, gorse, broom and willow, is reducing access and fishability at several locations. New riparian planting and reserve development may improve water quality but can also restrict access if angler needs are not considered at the design stage. Council should advocate for fishing access to be incorporated into planting and reserve plans. Because vegetation clearance requires ongoing maintenance, work should only be undertaken where a sustainable maintenance arrangement can be established with landowners, community groups or partner agencies.

Desired access locations are also useful for staff when prioritising effort such as the Angler Access fund. The Waipa was most commonly referenced, followed by the Whakapapa.

4.5 FISHING ACCESS MAP

Fifty percent of respondents were not aware of the fishing access map, and a further 21 percent were aware of it but had not used it. Among those who had used the map, the vast majority found it useful to varying degrees.

Given the level of promotion the map has received, the high proportion of respondents who were unaware of it is surprising and may indicate a need to reconsider how information is communicated to licence holders. However, the survey sample may not be representative of the map's primary target audience. Respondents may be disproportionately experienced and already familiar with the region, and therefore have less need for an access map.

To improve the fishing access maps, respondents suggested adding details on access points (descriptions, photos and landowner contact details) and expanding the access data in other regions. As well as including information on species and recommended methods/techniques for waterways. Some also mentioned a dedicated app, or app-like functionality such as adding custom waypoints.

This information reinforces the ongoing work to improve digital access point information, work with other regions to expand their access/waterway data, and the value of an access map as part of a Fish & Game app.

HEALTH SAFETY and WELLBEING PLAN



AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

September 2026

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH AND GAME COUNCIL HEALTH, Safety and Wellbeing POLICY

Council Commitment

The Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council is committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy workplace for employees, volunteers, contractors and the public by complying with Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA) and associated regulations, and various New Zealand standards and approved codes of practice.

Scope

This policy applies to all Council workplaces and work activities, and to all workers, councillors, volunteers, contractors and other people who may be affected by Council activities.

Key Elements of the Policy

The Council will, comply with its duties under HSWA and ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of workers and other people affected by its work:

- Acquire (and keep up to date) knowledge of work health and safety matters.
- Understand the nature of Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game's operations and the general hazards and risks associated with them.
- Ensure there is an appropriate process for receiving information on hazards, risks, and incidents, evaluate that information, and respond in a timely way.
- Ensure there are processes in place so that Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game complies with its legal obligations.
- Verify that appropriate resources and process have been provided and are being used.

Councillors are volunteer officers of the Council and have a due diligence duty to ensure that the Council complies with its duties and obligations under HSWA. Volunteer officers cannot be prosecuted for failing to meet their due diligence duty. However, they may be prosecuted as other persons at the workplace if they fail to take reasonable care of their own or another person's health and safety, or fail to comply with a reasonable health and safety instruction.

The Chief Executive as an Officer, is also responsible for implementing this policy and therefore must:

- exercise due diligence in accordance with the provisions of HSWA;
- ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that workers and other persons are not exposed to health and safety risks arising from Council activities. Ensure there are effective processes to deal with unacceptable behaviour, such as non-compliance;
- provide information and training opportunities to employees;
- keep Council fully informed;
- advise the Council Chair of any emergency situations as soon as possible
- Ensure WorkSafe New Zealand is notified of any notifiable event in a timely manner

The Chief Executive as an officer may be personally liable if they fail to meet or comply with HSWA

All Workers are expected to play a vital and responsible role in maintaining a safe and healthy workplace through:

- being involved in improving HS&W systems at work;
- following instructions, rules, procedures and safe ways of working;
- reporting all injuries, incidents and near misses;
- helping new staff members, trainees, volunteers and visitors to the workplace understand the risks and hazards and why they exist;
- reporting any HS&W concerns or issues through the reporting system;
- using protective equipment as and when required by workplace hazards assessments;
- take reasonable care for the HS&W of themselves and of others in the workplace.

For this policy, workers include employees, contractors, subcontractors and volunteer workers. Workers may be personally liable if they fail to meet or comply with their HSWA obligations.

All others (e.g., visitors) in the workplace must:

- Take reasonable care of their own health and safety.
- Take reasonable care that their actions or omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of others.
- Comply with reasonable health and safety instructions.
- Report injuries, incidents, hazards and concerns to a Council worker.
- Use required personal protective equipment. follow all instructions, rules and procedures while in the workplace:

Signed: _____ (Chief Executive

Date:

Signed: _____ (Chair)

Date:

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council is committed to providing and maintaining a healthy and safe working environment for its workers, volunteers, contractors, visitors and other people who may be affected by its activities.

Health, safety and wellbeing are shared responsibilities. Everyone involved in Council activities is expected to contribute to identifying risks, maintaining effective controls and supporting safe and healthy ways of working.

The purpose of this manual is to:

1. Explain the Council's health, safety and wellbeing responsibilities.
2. Explain the responsibilities of councillors, the Chief Executive, workers, contractors, volunteers and other persons.
3. Establish the processes used to identify hazards, assess risks and implement effective controls.
4. Provide a framework for worker engagement, training, incident reporting, emergency management and continuous improvement.
5. Direct workers to the operational procedures, risk registers, field safety plans and other documents that apply to particular activities.

All workers must familiarise themselves with the parts of this manual relevant to their work. Questions, concerns and suggestions for improvement should be raised with the Chief Executive, a manager, work leader or the Health and Safety Coordinator.

1.1 POLICY

The Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy records the Council's commitment to protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of workers and other people affected by its work.

The policy describes:

1. The Council's commitment to health, safety and wellbeing.
2. The Council's primary duty of care as a person conducting a business or undertaking.
3. The due diligence responsibilities of councillors and the Chief Executive as officers.
4. The responsibilities of workers and other persons at Council workplaces.
5. The Council's commitment to worker engagement, risk management, training, incident reporting and continuous improvement.

The policy will be approved by the Council and signed by the Chair and Chief Executive. It will be made readily available to workers and displayed or otherwise accessible at the Council office.

The policy will be reviewed:

1. Following a significant legislative or organisational change.
2. Following a notifiable event or other significant incident.

3. Where monitoring, an audit or a review identifies that the policy is no longer effective or appropriate.

1.2 HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK ACT 2015 (HSWA)

The Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 is New Zealand's principal workplace health and safety legislation.

The Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council is a person conducting a business or undertaking under HSWA. It must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable:

- The health and safety of workers employed or engaged by the Council.
- The health and safety of workers whose activities are influenced or directed by the Council.
- That the health and safety of other persons is not put at risk by work carried out by or on behalf of the Council.

The Council must eliminate risks to health and safety so far as is reasonably practicable. Where elimination is not reasonably practicable, risks must be minimised so far as is reasonably practicable using the most effective controls available.

HSWA also requires the Council to:

- Engage with workers on matters that may directly affect their health and safety.
- Provide workers with reasonable opportunities to participate in improving health and safety.
- Consult, cooperate and coordinate activities with other persons conducting a business or undertaking where duties overlap.
- Provide and maintain safe systems of work, plant, structures and workplace facilities.
- Provide the information, training, instruction and supervision necessary to protect people from work related risks.
- Monitor worker health and workplace conditions where necessary to prevent work related injury or illness.

Other Legislation/Regulations that needs to be adhered to:

The regulations and information from WorkSafe are intended to support businesses to comply with the general duties of HSWA:

Regulations Applicable to Fish and Game:

1. Health and Safety at Work (Worker Engagement, Participation and Representation) Regulations 2016.
2. Worker Engagement, Participation and Representation Regulations 2016.
3. Health and Safety at Work (General Risk and Workplace Management) Regulations 2016.
4. General Risk and Workplace Management Regulations 2016.
5. Employment Relations Act 2000
6. Accident Compensation Act 2001

7. Land Transport Act 1998
8. Electricity Act 1992
9. Transport Accident Investigation Commission Act 1990
10. Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO)
11. Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990
12. Environmental Protection Authority www.epa.govt.nz
13. Arms Act 1983
14. Maritime Transport Act 1994
15. And all common NZ law.
16. Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017
17. Applicable Land Transport Rules
18. Arms Regulations 1992
19. Applicable Maritime Rules
20. Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010
21. Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017
22. Fire and Emergency New Zealand (Fire Safety, Evacuation Procedures, and Evacuation Schemes) Regulations 2018
23. Privacy Act 2020
24. Biosecurity Act 1993

Approved Codes of Practice

The list below outlines Approved Codes of Practice that are applicable for Fish and Game.

They can be downloaded from: <https://www.WorkSafe.govt.nz/>

Hazardous Substances: Management of in the workplace.

Noise: in the workplace

General Safety Guidelines

The following guidelines can be downloaded from:

<https://www.WorkSafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/>

Robbery: Guidelines for the Safety of Staff from the Threat of Armed Robbery or Violent Offenders

Computers: Guidelines for Using Computers

Chainsaws: A Guide to Safety with chainsaws

Machinery: Guidelines for the Provision of Facilities and General Safety in Machinery Vehicle or Vessel Operation

Shift work: Advice for Employers and Employees

Stress: and Fatigue

Legal and organisational documentation

The Council will maintain appropriate health and safety records to demonstrate that risks are being effectively managed and that the Council is meeting its duties under HSWA and associated regulations. These records include:

- The Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy and Plan
- Risk and hazard registers
- Emergency plans and procedures
- Event, injury and near miss records
- Records of notifiable events
- Worker engagement records
- Training, competency and induction records
- Plant, equipment and maintenance records

- Personal protective equipment records
- An inventory of hazardous substances and current safety data sheets

Records of notifiable events must be retained for at least five years from the date the relevant regulator is notified.

The nature and extent of the records maintained will reflect the Council's activities, risks and applicable legal requirements.

If a notifiable event, illness or injury occurs, then the PCBU will be required to keep a record of the event for five years

A notifiable event is a work-related death, notifiable injury or illness, or notifiable incident. A notifiable injury or illness includes an injury or illness that requires, or would usually require, a person to be admitted to hospital for immediate treatment, as well as the other injuries and illnesses specified in HSWA.

A notifiable incident is an unplanned or uncontrolled event in relation to a workplace that exposes the HS&W of workers or others to a serious risk arising from immediate or imminent exposure to:

- a substance escaping, spilling, or leaking
- an implosion, explosion or fire
- gas or steam escaping
- a pressurised substance escaping
- electric shock (from anything that could cause a lethal shock, for example it would not include shocks due to static electricity, from extra low voltage equipment or from defibrillators used for medical reasons)
- the fall or release from height of any plant, substance, or thing
- damage to or collapse, overturning, failing or malfunctioning of any plant that is required to be authorised for use under regulations
- the collapse or partial collapse of a structure
- the collapse or failure of an excavation or any shoring supporting an excavation
- the inrush of water, mud, or gas in workings in an underground excavation or tunnel
- the interruption of the main system of ventilation in an underground excavation or tunnel
- a collision between two vessels, a vessel capsizing, or the inrush of water into a vessel

Best practice is to maintain all hazard registers; document HS&W process's associated with field work (via tailgate forms) and all employee engagement meetings.

Further Information on the HSWA

For further information see "The Introduction to the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (March 2016) - By visiting:

<https://www.WorkSafe.govt.nz/managing-health-and-safety/getting-started/introduction-hswa-special-guide/>

1.3 SUMMARY OF TERMS IN THE HSWA

Duty Holders

There are four types of duty holders that have work health and safety duties:

- Persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU)
- Officers
- Workers
- Other persons at the workplace (e.g. visitors)

Meaning of PCBU

The PCBU is a 'person conducting a business or undertaking'. AWFGC as an Entity is a PCBU.

Primary Duty of Care

The PCBU (Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking) must ensure, so far as reasonably practical, the HS&W of workers, and that other people are not put at risk by its work. This is called the "Primary Duty of Care".

The Primary duty of care is a broad and overarching duty. It includes, but is not limited to, so far as reasonably practicable:

- providing and maintaining a work environment that is without risks to HS&W.
- providing and maintaining safe plant and structures.
- providing and maintaining safe systems of work.
- ensuring the safe use, handling and storage of plant, structures and substances.
- providing adequate facilities for the welfare at work for workers.
- providing any information, training, instruction, or supervision that is necessary to protect all persons from risks to their health and safety arising from work carried out as part of the conduct for the business or undertaking.
- monitoring the health of employees and the conditions at the workplace for the purposes of preventing injury or illness of employees arising from the conduct of the business or undertaking.
- provide healthy and safe employee accommodation.

PCBU has two duties:

- to **engage** with employees who carry out work for them on HS&W matters that may directly affect them.
- to have practices that give employees reasonable opportunities to participate effectively in improving HS&W in the business or undertaking on an ongoing basis. (**employee participation practices**)

Officer

An officer includes Councillors, the Chief Executive for the Fish & Game entity.

Officers need to exercise due diligence to make sure that the PCBU complies with its health and safety duties.

Persons that have 'Officer' in their job title such as Fish and Game Officer, are NOT deemed an Officer within the definition of the HSWA Act 2015.

Workers

A worker is a person who carries out work in any capacity for the Council. Workers may include:

- Employees
- Contractors and subcontractors
- Employees of contractors and subcontractors

- Labour hire workers
- Apprentices, trainees and people gaining work experience
- Volunteer workers who meet the definition in HSWA

Workers must:

- Take reasonable care of their own health and safety
- Take reasonable care that their actions or omissions do not adversely affect the health and safety of others
- Comply, so far as they are reasonably able, with reasonable health and safety instructions
- Cooperate with reasonable health and safety policies and procedures that have been communicated to them

Other Persons at Workplaces

Other persons at workplaces include workplace visitors, public, school groups. Other persons need to:

- take reasonable care for their own health and safety
- take reasonable care that others are not harmed by something they do, or do not do
- comply, as far as they are reasonably able, with the PCBU's reasonable HS&W instructions that are given so that the PCBU can comply with HSWA or regulations

So far as is Reasonably Practicable

The primary duty of care requires the PCBU to ensure the HS&W 'so far as is reasonably practicable'. In this context, something is reasonably practicable if it is reasonably able to be done to ensure health and safety, having weighed up and considered all the relevant matters, including:

- How likely are any hazards or events to occur?
- How severe could the harm that might result from the hazard or event be?
- What does a person know or ought to reasonably know about the hazard and ways of eliminating or minimising it?
- What measures exist to eliminate or minimise the hazard?
- How available and suitable is the control measure?

Definition of a Hazard

HSWA clarifies that "hazard" includes behaviour that has the potential to cause death, injury or illness (physical or mental).

Definition of Risk

Risk is the possibility that a person could be harmed by a hazard, taking into account:

- The likelihood of harm occurring
- The seriousness of the possible harm

Overlapping duties

More than one person or organisation may have health and safety duties in relation to the same work. Where duties overlap, the Council must consult, cooperate and coordinate activities with the other duty holders so far as is reasonably practicable.

Notifiable event

A notifiable event is a work related:

- Death
- Notifiable injury or illness
- Notifiable incident involved serious risk arising from immediate or imminent exposure.

Notifiable events must be reported to WorkSafe New Zealand as soon as possible in accordance with the Council's event reporting procedure.

Offences & Penalties

Prosecutions and penalties may be applied not only to a PCBU but also to an Officer and an individual employee.

1.4 HEALTH AND SAFETY ANNUAL TIMETABLE

Staff meetings

Formal staff meetings are to be held regularly (approx. monthly), and all staff are expected to be present unless excused by the CE.

HS&W will be a permanent agenda item at these meetings.

The staff meeting is integral for staff engagement and becomes the vehicle for staff to discuss, identify and review hazards as well as a place to formulate controls and implement actions for improvement.

Staff meetings will provide workers with opportunities to:

- Raise health, safety and wellbeing concerns
- Discuss new or changing hazards and risks
- Review incidents, injuries, illnesses and near misses
- Review whether existing controls remain effective
- Identify required corrective actions
- Monitor the completion of previously agreed actions
- Discuss upcoming work that may require additional planning, equipment, training or supervision.

Health and Safety Calendar

The Council maintains a Health and Safety Calendar to schedule and monitor health and safety activities with specified completion or renewal dates. This includes training and certification renewals, vehicle registration and servicing, equipment inspections and maintenance, emergency drills, first aid kit checks, workplace inspections and planned reviews.

The Health and Safety Officer will maintain the calendar in consultation with the Chief Executive and relevant workers. Completed activities and any revised due dates must be entered promptly. Upcoming requirements and overdue actions will be reviewed regularly and raised at staff meetings where appropriate.

Health and Safety Policy Review

To be regularly reviewed by Council.

Budget

AWFGC Operational Work Plan (OWP) and Budget are reviewed annually. Direct costs, hours and training requirements are reviewed and provided for, with HS&W training included.

Health and Safety Plan Review (this document)

AWFGC HS&W Plan will be reviewed regularly, and when required.

Hazard Review

A review of hazards within the hazard register will be undertaken on a rotational basis. Refer Annual Hazard and Audit Timetable. In addition, any new hazards identified through a staff meeting, tail gate meeting or event, will be added to the hazard register. Likewise, a new process or piece of machinery will go through the hazard identification process and be added to the hazard register.

Risk Assessments

A risk assessment will be completed before undertaking field activities such as wetland projects, ranging operations and boating activities. The assessment will identify site specific hazards, evaluate the associated risks and record the controls required to eliminate or minimise those risks. Any new hazards identified during the activity will be added to the assessment and, where appropriate, the Council's risk register.

Staff are transitioning from paper-based tailgate forms to digital risk assessments integrated with Get Home Safe and linked applications such as Sea Flux for boating activities. Assessments are stored electronically, and a summary of completed assessments is reported to the Council through meeting agendas.

Training

Training will be undertaken when needed or where legislation requires. The nature of the tasks to be undertaken will determine the training and the timing of training and refresher courses.

Audits

A regular timetable of Audits needs to be established.

The timing of scheduled health and safety checks, reviews and audits is recorded in H&S 01, Checks and Audit Timetable V1.0.

1.5 AUDITS AND PLANNED INSPECTIONS

Audits will be undertaken by Employees and Managers.

1. Workplaces / Tasks will be inspected on a rotating basis.
2. An inspection checklist will include general housekeeping matters in addition to all hazards.
3. Any new hazards identified will be incorporated into the Hazard Register and assessed.
4. A risk assessment will be completed before new plant, equipment, substances or work methods are introduced. Equipment must not be placed into service until required controls, training, maintenance and inspection arrangements are in place.

Completed audit and inspection records will be stored in the Council's health and safety record system. Significant findings, outstanding actions and emerging trends will be reported to the Chief Executive and Council.

Managers must document completed health and safety audits using H&S 02, Manager Audit Checklist V1.0.

Planned workplace inspections must be completed and documented using H&S 20, Workplace Safety Checklist.

1.6 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Legal Documentation

HSWA and associated regulations impose specific record keeping requirements. In particular, the Council must:

1. Keep a record of each notifiable event for at least five years from the date the appropriate regulator is notified.
2. Maintain an inventory of hazardous substances at each workplace where required by the Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017.

Other Reports/Documentation

1. Minutes of the HS&W section of staff meetings.
2. Hazard Registers.
3. Risk assessments
4. Audits completed.
- 5.

These records are maintained as part of the Council's health and safety management system and to provide evidence that risks and health and safety duties are being effectively managed.

1.7 WORKER ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION

The Council must, so far as is reasonably practicable, engage with workers who are directly affected by a health and safety matter and provide reasonable opportunities for them to participate.

Health and safety is a standing item at staff meetings. Workers may also raise concerns directly with the Chief Executive or the Council's Health and Safety Officer.

Danielle Lelievre has been appointed as the Council's Health and Safety Officer and attends national Fish and Game health and safety meetings. She is available as an alternative contact for staff who wish to discuss a health and safety concern independently of their immediate reporting line. This is an internal coordination role and does not make her an officer under HSWA.

The Council must consider workers' views and advise them of the outcome in a timely manner.

1.8 INFORMATION, TRAINING AND SUPERVISION

Employer Responsibilities

The Council must provide workers with the information, training, instruction and supervision necessary to protect them and others from health and safety risks.

Information and training must be suitable and adequate for the work being undertaken and provided in a form workers can reasonably understand.

Workers must follow reasonable instructions and use required protective equipment. If a worker is uncertain whether a task can be completed safely, they must stop and seek advice before continuing.

New workers must be introduced to this Health and Safety Plan and the risks relevant to their work.

The health and safety induction of new workers must be completed and recorded using H&S 03, Staff Health and Safety Induction V1.0.

Each employee must complete H&S 04, Employee Health and Safety Agreement V1.0, following their induction and whenever the agreement is materially updated.

Required qualifications, certifications and renewal dates must be recorded in H&S 16, Staff Certification and Renewals. Relevant expiry and refresher dates must also be entered in the Health and Safety Calendar.

1.9 RISK IDENTIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Council must identify hazards that could give rise to reasonably foreseeable risks to health and safety.

Before introducing a new task, item of equipment, substance or work method, the responsible worker must complete H&S 05, New Task Equipment Risk Assessment V1.0

Organisational hazards, risks and controls must be recorded and reviewed in H&S 06, Hazard Risk Register V2.5.

Risks must be managed by:

- Eliminating the risk so far as is reasonably practicable
- Where elimination is not reasonably practicable, minimising the risk using appropriate controls

When minimising risk, the Council must first consider substitution, isolation and engineering controls. Administrative controls and personal protective equipment must be used where risk remains.

Controls must be maintained and reviewed when they are not effective, workplace activities change or a new hazard or risk is identified. Workers must be engaged when risks and controls affecting them are considered.

1.10 CONTROLLING HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

Hazardous substances used, stored or handled by the Council must be managed in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017.

The Council will ensure, where applicable, that:

- Hazardous substances are correctly labelled and stored in suitable containers
- A current inventory of hazardous substances is maintained
- Current safety data sheets are readily accessible to workers and emergency services

- Required signage and emergency information are displayed
- Incompatible substances are appropriately separated
- Appropriate secondary containment and spill response equipment are provided
- Workers receive the information, training and supervision required to use and handle substances safely
- Any required certified handlers, location compliance certificates or other regulatory controls are in place
- Appropriate personal protective equipment is provided and used

The hazardous substances inventory and relevant safety data sheets will be maintained for each workplace where hazardous substances are stored.

Workers must follow the controls specified in the safety data sheet, product label, hazardous substances inventory and relevant Council procedures.

Hazardous substance spills must be managed in accordance with H&S 18, Spill Response Plan V1.0.

Hazardous substances held at Council workplaces must be recorded in H&S 25, Chemical Inventory and SDS's, with current safety data sheets readily accessible.

1.11 EVENT REPORTING

It is important that all Events, (accidents, incidents and near misses) are reported to enable AWFGC to meet its legal responsibilities, to inform others and to identify further controls to minimise or prevent accidents from occurring in the future.

AWFGC and HSWA require:

- All accidents and near misses to be reported as soon as practical, within 24 hours.
- Notifiable events must be reported immediately and as a result WorkSafe must be notified.
- An Accident register to be maintained.

A notifiable event is when the following results because of work:

- Death.
- Notifiable illness or injury; or
- Notifiable incident.

If an event may be notifiable, the Chief Executive or delegated manager must follow H&S 07, Notifiable Event V1.0.

All work related injuries, illnesses, incidents and near misses must be recorded in H&S 08, Near Miss Incident and Accident Register.

Event investigation

Where appropriate and unless directly involved, key employees will investigate events as soon as possible in conjunction with the injured party, witnesses and other appropriate personnel. (Refer reporting/recording/investigation flow chart in this section)

The Chief Executive or appointed investigator will complete an investigation within 4 weeks of the event occurring. If deemed necessary (Notifiable events only), external assistance with the investigation may be sought.

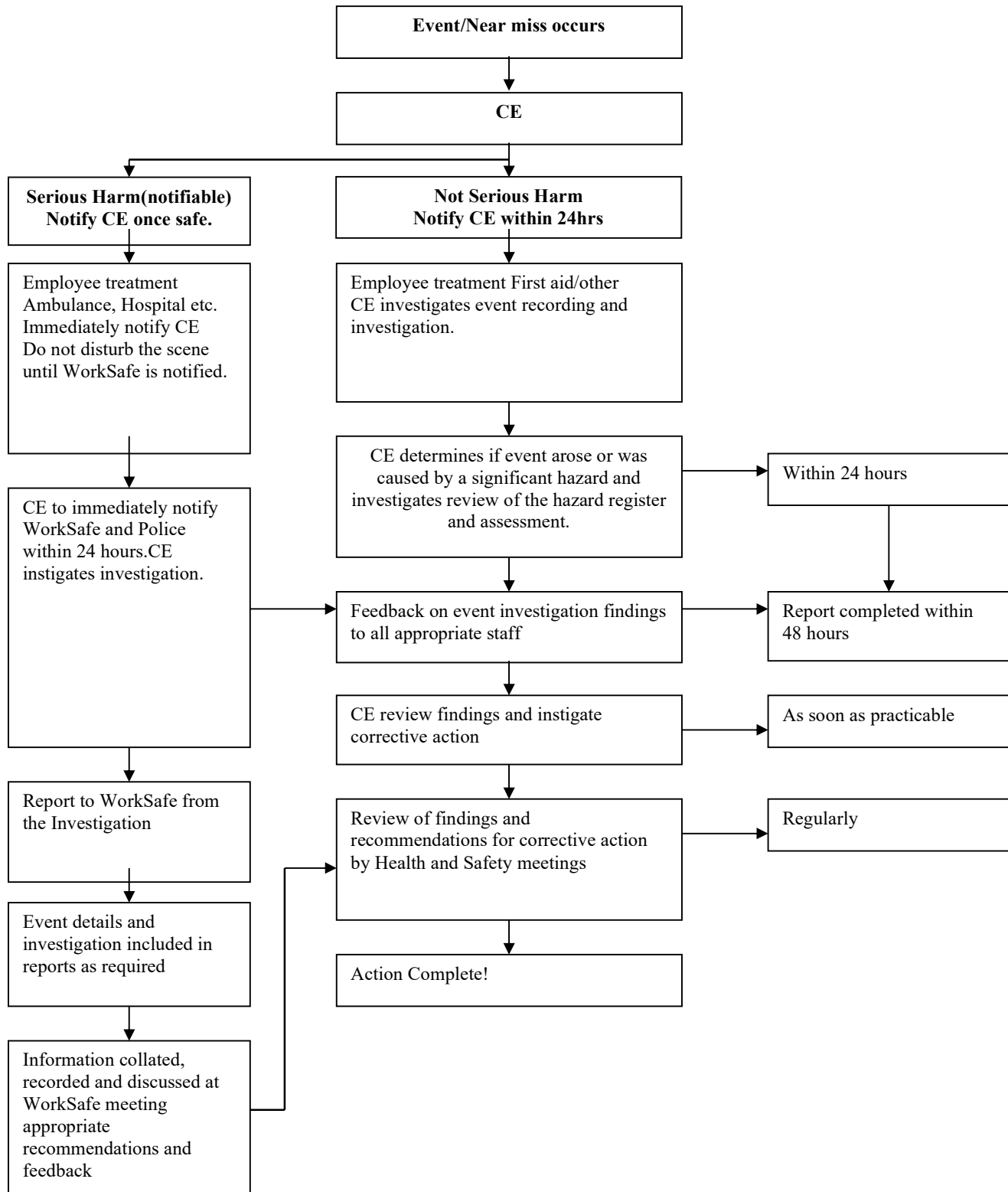
When an investigation is required, the following points must be observed:

- Complete the Investigation as soon as possible.
- Be non-judgmental and without blame as this will assist on gaining the correct facts.
- Identify and implement corrective actions to prevent the event or similar harm from recurring.
- Ask questions of the injured party and other witnesses ensure that you understand exactly what happened.
- Ensure you record what people have said and the effect on equipment, productivity etc.
- Once a problem is identified, use the follow process to get all the facts and get to the root cause:
 1. What controls are in place?
 2. Why didn't they work?
 3. What is now needed for prevention?
 4. Establish underlying causes.
 5. Is there a need to inform, train/retrain employees?
 6. Determine the immediate, underlying and organisational causes of the event and whether existing risk controls were absent or ineffective.?
 7. Review hazard management plans.
 8. Gather information from the employee maintaining confidentiality.
 9. Feedback on event investigation findings to all appropriate staff.

Where new hazards are identified as part of the investigation, they must be entered into the Hazard Register. If the cause is from an existing hazard, review the controls within the Hazard Register and update as required.

Event investigations must be documented using H&S 09, Incident and Accident Report Form.

Event Reporting/Recording/Investigating Flow Chart



Event in the Field/Office

In the event of an emergency dial 111 and if there is no coverage get a team member to travel to coverage, if practical. In circumstances when there is no coverage, make use of the InReach™ device or activate the PLB.

Motor Vehicle Accident

Refer H&S 10 - Procedures in the Event of a Motor Vehicle Accident.

What Information do I have to give?

Refer H&S 11 - Information required in the Event of a Motor Vehicle Accident.

1.12 SAFETY TO OTHER PERSONS AT AWFGC

"Other Persons" include people who are visitors to AWFGC for meetings or appointments.

Other persons at a Council workplace must:

- Take reasonable care of their own health and safety
- Ensure their actions or omissions do not adversely affect others
- Follow reasonable health and safety instructions

Workers must advise other persons of any relevant risks and required controls.

1.13 CONTRACTORS AND SUBCONTRACTORS (OTHER PCBU's)

AWFGC are required to manage contractors, sub-contractors and visitors to ensure they are not harmed or cause harm to others while undertaking and performing their work. In effect this means that AWFGC have a duty of care and must take reasonable steps to ensure the contractors, and their employees are not harmed and do not harm anyone while carrying out their work.

AWFGC will engage contractors that are able to demonstrate a good HS&W record and evidence that they are complying with HSWA.

As Contractors are considered Workers, they also have responsibilities to adhere to the HS&W procedures while on site. The principle will be responsible to ensure that a HS&W induction for contractors is undertaken at any site.

Contractors must complete H&S 14, Contractor Health and Safety Agreement before commencing work, unless equivalent arrangements are recorded in another approved contract or site safety document.

Approved Contractors

AWFGC will ensure contractors meet the following requirements:

- The necessary technical skills.
- A Health and Safety compliance programme already in place that is compatible with AWFGC.
- Can provide AWFGC with Health and Safety policies and procedures.
- Exchange relevant information about the work, hazards and controls
- Agree who is responsible for managing shared risks

Contractors must comply with reasonable Council instructions and report any hazards, incidents or changes affecting the safety of the work. Each party remains responsible for meeting its own legal duties.

1.14 VOLUNTEERS

Certain volunteers are classified as Workers

Honorary Rangers are considered a Worker because:

- AWFGC knows they are doing the work and have given consent for it to be done.
- the volunteer does the work on an ongoing and regular basis; and
- the work is an integral part of AWFGC business.

AWFGC owe the same duties they owe to employees to volunteers considered Workers (except for employee engagement and participation duties). Volunteers may still raise HS&W concerns with AWFGC.

Volunteers (i.e. Honorary Rangers and in some certain instances Hunting stand ballot holders) have the same duties as other Workers, as described in 1.3 of this plan.

SECTION 2: AUCKLAND/WAIKATO REGION AND ACTIVITIES

2.1 OVERVIEW OF AUCKLAND/WAIKATO REGION

The Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Region extends from the Kaipara Harbour and Te Arai area in the north, south to Waihi Beach, the Kaimai and Hauhungaroa ranges, Tongariro National Park and Mokau.

The region includes major urban areas, farmland, forests, mountain ranges, rivers, lakes, hydro lakes and extensive wetlands. Sports fisheries range from coarse fisheries in the north to rainbow and brown trout fisheries in the Waikato, Waihou and Whanganui river systems.

Council activities include fish and game monitoring, wetland and habitat management, compliance work, advocacy, public engagement and maintaining angling and hunting access. Staff frequently work around water, on rural properties and in remote locations, requiring extensive vehicle travel, boating and working alone.

The Council office is located at 156 Brymer Road, Hamilton.

The make-up and dynamics of our Region have been instrumental in developing a HS&W Plan that ensures our employees remain safe at work.

2.2 FIELD WORK

Field work is a major component of Council activities and includes work around rivers, lakes, wetlands, rural properties and other remote locations.

Before undertaking field work, workers must:

- Complete or review the relevant risk assessment in Get Home Safe
- Consider site conditions, weather and access
- Confirm communication and emergency arrangements
- Carry the required safety and communication equipment
- Use appropriate personal protective equipment

Workers must reassess conditions during the activity and stop work where risks cannot be adequately controlled.

Workers undertaking field work must comply with H&S 15, Field Work and Notification Procedure, including the applicable Get Home Safe requirements.

Don't take risks. If in Doubt don't do it.

2.3 WORKING ALONE

Where a worker undertakes remote or isolated work, the Council must provide an effective means of communication.

Before working alone, the worker must:

- Record their location, activity and expected finish time in Get Home Safe
- Activate an appropriate Get Home Safe monitoring plan
- Carry a mobile phone and, where coverage is limited, an InReach device and/or personal locator beacon
- Complete the relevant risk assessment

The worker must check in as required and close the activity when safely finished. If a check in or finish time is missed, Get Home Safe's built in escalation process will be activated.

2.4 RANGING

Ranging is one of Fish and Game's functions that has potential to cause harm for employees and volunteers. For this reason, there is a complete Fish and Game Ranging Guide - and Health and Safety Manual.

People may Range only if they are warranted and approved to do so and have had the appropriate training (CERT Ranger Safety and Fish and Game ranger training-including field procedures) or are accompanied by a warranted and trained ranger.

No person should knowingly put themselves in a situation where there is the potential for harm - seek assistance as required - call for backup from AWFGC or from the Police.

Where there is known potential for hazardous situations e.g. ranging in known problem areas, ranging in closed water locations and ranging in areas where offences against spawning fish are likely to occur a risk analysis should be undertaken. Minimum measures should involve ranging with at least two staff members and where there is considered a high offender risk – further assistance such as police may be required.

2.5 MOTOR VEHICLES

Vehicle use is required as a part of the roles within AWFGC. Vehicles are to be used by employees with the appropriate licences. Particular care is to be taken when using vehicles:

- Vehicles are not to be driven when drivers are fatigued or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Vehicles are to be used by employees with the appropriate licences.
- 4WD and ATV training is to be completed by those employees using those vehicles off road.
- AWFGC Vehicles will have a first aid kit and fire extinguisher.
- All road vehicles must comply with the NZ Land Transport Act.
-

In the event of an accident refer to H&S 10 - Procedures in the Event of a Motor Vehicle Accident and H&S 11 - Information Required in a motor Vehicle Accident.

Vehicle registration, warrant of fitness, servicing and other key dates must be monitored using H&S 24, Vehicle Register and Key Dates and logged in H&S Calender.

2.6 BOATING

Motorised Vessel:

Only approved and certified skippers may operate motorised vessels or people that are under the supervision of an approved and certified skipper. Vessels must be in survey and Maritime NZ approved. All operations must be in accordance with the F & G NZ Maritime Transport Operator Plan (MTOP) – which includes a Health and Safety manual and operating procedures.

In the situation of a notifiable event caused by a Boat – Maritime NZ is the regulator.

Other Vessels:

- Safe and appropriate craft to be used.
- Lifejackets are to be carried and worn in boats and kayaks.
- Safety communications must be carried.
- Trip details must be recorded.
- Carry a PLB or Inreach™ device if in remote area that has little or no cell phone coverage; and
- Warm and windproof clothing to be carried.

2.7 OFFICE SECURITY

The office and grounds are open to the public between 8.30am and 5pm Monday to Friday excluding public holidays. If a staff member is working alone in the office, they may lock the doors.

Office doors/windows are to be locked upon departure. The alarm is to be turned on when leaving the office.

Visitors attending the office must sign in and out using H&S 12, Visitor Register Template V1.0.

Visitors who enter work areas or participate in Council activities must receive an induction appropriate to the risks using H&S 13, Visitor Induction V1.0.

SECTION 3: OPERATIONAL PLANS AND PROCEDURES

3.1 EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Who	Location	Phone
EMERGENCY		111
Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council	156 Brymer Road, RD9, Hamilton	078491666
David Klee	Chief Executive	021 300 183
Maritime emergency		VHF Channel 16
Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand:		0508 472 269
NZ Poisons Centre	24 hours a day 7 days a week	0800 POISON (0800 764 766)
WorkSafe NZ	24 hours	0800 030 040

3.2 DISPLAY OF SAFETY INFORMATION

AWFGC is to ensure all appropriate HS&W information is displayed. This includes:

- Organisation Health and Safety Policy (per page 2)
- List of People holding First Aid Certificates

This also includes signage relating to:

- Visitors reporting to reception
- Fire extinguishers (type and use)
- Chemical storage (if any)

3.3 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURES

Fire, earthquakes, gas leaks, chemical spills, power failures, bomb threats and armed hold-ups are all risks that AWFGC employees may have to deal with in both the Office and the Field.

In the event of an emergency, the priority is the protection and safety of all people in the workplace.

All buildings must have up to date, approved and working smoke alarms installed if applicable.

As the Auckland/Waikato office provides employment for people it must have an evacuation plan. This is a plan that describes how occupants will escape to a place of safety if there is an emergency (such as a suspected fire).

Emergency Services dial 111.

Workers must follow H&S 17, Evacuation and Emergency Procedures V1.0, whenever an evacuation or other workplace emergency occurs.

Emergency and evacuation drills must be recorded using H&S 19, Emergency Drill Log V1.0

The appointment, training and refresher requirements of wardens must be recorded using H&S 23, Warden Training V1.0.

3.4 FIRST AID

A First Aid Kit must be kept in the Office, if multiple floors or buildings then one for each building/floor. This must always be accessible to all employees.

All vehicles shall carry a First Aid Kit.

Field parties should carry a First Aid Kit, where practical.

Employees are required to attend first aid/CPR training.

First aid kits must be checked and replenished using H&S 21, First Aid Kit Checklist, Contents V1.0.

3.5 COMMUNICATION DEVICES

All Employees are to have an appropriate communication device accessible to them to ensure reliable communication with the office, a responsible person or emergency services.

Cell Phones

All Field Staff are to carry their cell phone with them. If in an area with cell phone coverage this is to be used to communicate.

In the situation where cell phone coverage is limited or non-existent, one of the following devices should be used by the Field Staff.

Inreach™ Explorer

AWFGC has three registered Inreach™ Explorer satellite communicator. This enables two-way communications, with built-in navigation with waypoints and routing.

Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs)

AWFGC has four registered PLB with the National Rescue Coordination Centre (NRCC). If activated, the NRCC will know that is AWFGC PLB and will ring the office and/or registered person to find out who has the device.

If PLB is accidentally activated - contact NRCC - 0508 472 269 (0800 4 RCCNZ)

When working in remote areas with no cell phone coverage the Inreach™ Explorer and or the PLB must be taken as a second source of communication. In the event of an emergency involving danger to life these devices must be activated.

3.6 PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Employees have specific responsibilities to:

1. Take all practicable steps to use protective equipment where required.

When issuing PPE AWFGC must ensure that:

1. It is suitable for the nature of work.
2. It is of suitable size and fit.
3. It is maintained and repaired; and
4. Employees are adequately trained in using the PPE.

At all times PPE will meet industry standards/recognised codes of practice.

3.7 MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT

- All equipment owned and used by Fish and Game employees must be fit for service.
- Equipment should be inspected thoroughly before use.
- Employees should not attempt to undertake maintenance and servicing of equipment without appropriate
- Any faulty, malfunctioning equipment must be reported and not used until fit for service.

Equipment inspections, servicing, maintenance, faults and repairs must be recorded in H&S 22, Maintenance Register and Inventory V1.1. Scheduled equipment inspections, servicing and maintenance dates must also be entered in the Health and Safety Calendar.

OTHER RESOURCES

The procedures, registers, forms and operational plans referenced in this Health and Safety Plan form part of the Council's health and safety management system.

Current versions must be stored in an accessible electronic location and made available to workers who require them. Workers must use the current approved version of each document.

The Chief Executive or delegated Health and Safety Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that these resources are reviewed and updated when legislation, Council activities, equipment, identified risks or operational requirements change.

H&S and Wellbeing Report for September 2026 Council Meeting

Health and Safety Representative and National H&S Forum

Dani attended Health and Safety Representative training and has continued to provide staff with updates from the national Health and Safety Forum. At the August staff meeting, Dani advised that National Office staff had not been able to progress national SOP development while responding to the HPAI event.

In the meantime, Dani has updated Auckland Waikato SOPs for regional equipment and higher risk activities, including drift diving and chainsaw use. These have now been placed in the regional Health and Safety folder for staff reference. National SOP development is not expected to resume for several months.

No national Health and Safety meeting had occurred by the September staff meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for 24 September 2026.

Health and Safety Policy and Plan

I completed a comprehensive update of the Auckland Waikato Health and Safety Policy and supporting Health, Safety and Wellbeing Plan. The updated documents clarify responsibilities and processes for risk management, worker participation, training, incident reporting, emergency management, contractors and volunteers. They also reflect current regional systems, including the Health and Safety calendar, Get Home Safe, field risk assessments, the hazard register and the regional Health and Safety folder.

The updated Health and Safety Policy is included with this agenda item for Council decision. It is recommended that Council approve the Policy and authorise the Chair and Chief Executive to sign it.

The updated Health, Safety and Wellbeing Plan is also included for Council information.

Get Home Safe

Get Home Safe continues to support staff undertaking field work.

During July 2026, nine activities were completed and two activities generated alerts which were immediately resolved and related to time extensions. Activities comprised five driving activities, two site visits, one fisheries enhancement activity and one boating activity.

During August 2026, seven activities were completed and no activities generated alerts. Activities comprised three trend counts, three driving activities and one boating activity.

Minutes of a Staff Meeting
on Tuesday 11th August 2026 commencing at 10.10am.

PRESENT:

Staff: D. Klee, B. Jarvis-Child, D. Lelievre, R. Simmonds, B. David

OSH:

Accidents or near misses

Nil

Accident forms filled in:

Nil

Health & Safety improvement

Nil

Matters arising:

SOP – National office staff have had no time to develop SOPs with the HPAI event. The intention is to create SOPs for activities that all regions use. Dani has updated ones for our region to use for all equipment including high risk e.g. drift diving and chainsaw. It will be a few months before national office will be able to start the SOPs.

Previous Actions:

Item	Date due	Name	Outcome
Defibrillator	Unknown	Dani	Expiry date is 27/2/2027
Chemical storage – to be built	Upcoming	David	Finding supplier

Review of H&S calendar for coming month.

Upcoming Actions:

Item	Date due	Name
Petrol to be moved to office garage	Once have storage	All
Read through the Health and Safety folder	ASAP	All
Electric fishing machine to be certified	Once sorted who can do this.	Bruno

H&S Updates

Dani updated staff on what happened at the H&S meeting. Minutes of the meeting will be sent to manager and staff.

Days missed work due to illness or injury – 4/07/26 to 11/08/2026:

3

Minutes of a Staff Meeting
on Tuesday 08th September 2026 commencing at 11:00am.

PRESENT:

Staff: D. Klee, B. Jarvis-Child, R. Simmonds, B. David, M. Osborne, C. Robertson

OSH:

Accidents or near misses

Nil

Accident forms filled in:

Nil

Health & Safety improvement

Nil

New hazards identified

Nil

Matters arising:

Health and Safety policy and plan have been updated.

To be filled out when needed.

SOPs –No update from National office has not developed SOPs

Auckland Waikato's have been placed in the health and safety folder.

Previous Actions:

Item	Date due	Name	Outcome
Defibrillator	ASAP	Beau	Expiry date added to H7S calendar - 27/2/2027
Chemical storage – to be ordered	Waiting for arrival	Roslyn	Ordered
Petrol to be moved to office garage	Waiting for arrival	Matt	After chemical storage arrives it will be moved
Read through the Health and Safety folder	ASAP	All	Being completed
Electric fishing machine to be re-certified	Nil	Bruno	Bruno checked with supplier. No one gets them re-certified unless there is an error message

Upcoming Actions:

Item	Date due	Name
Petrol to be moved to office garage	Once have storage	All
Read through the Health and Safety folder	ASAP	All
Electric fishing machine to be certified	Once sorted who can do this.	Bruno

Review of H&S calendar previous actions.

Item	Date due	Name	Outcome
Zon guns to be checked	ASAP	Matt/Beau	Overdue

Review of H&S calendar for coming month.

Item	Date due	Name
Zon guns to be checked	ASAP	Matt/Beau
Boat motor service - Completed	8/9/26	Bruno/Beau
Boat trailer – WOF due	ASAP	Matt
Matt's ute – WOF due		Matt
Check first aid kits and extinguishers	Mid Oct	Roslyn
Dani's ute – service due	2 nd Oct	Bruno

H&S Updates

Next health and safety meeting – scheduled on the 24th September.

Days missed work due to illness or injury – 12/08/26 to 08/09/2026:

3

David Klee

Chief Executive

10/09/2016