

# **AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME NEWSBRIEF**

If you require further elaboration or clarification of items contained herein, or any other matters relating to F&G business, please don't hesitate to contact your local ward councillor or the office.

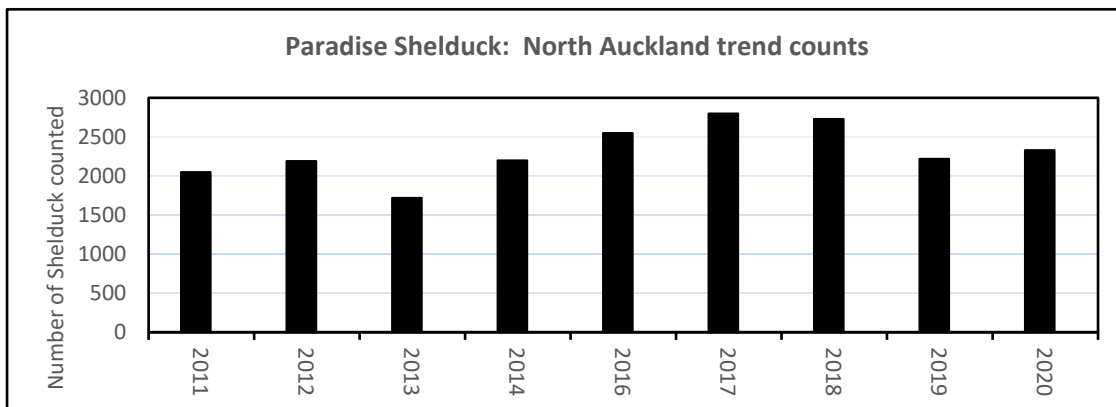
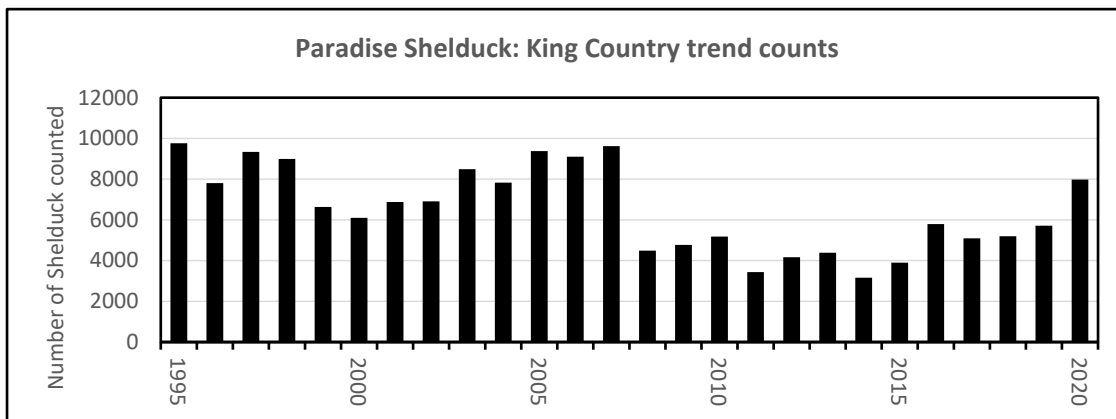
## **Matters arising from Council Meeting of 21 March 2020**

1. Mr Klee updated councillors on the botulism outbreak on the Hauraki Plains/Firth of Thames. He stressed that fish kills were still occurring with both botulism and toxic algal blooms occurring. Waterfowl carcasses were still being removed and buried by volunteers.
2. A letter was tabled from the President of the North Shore Fly Fishers Club Inc, David Symes, stating that the club no longer supports the release of trout into Lake Pupuke. After discussion it was agreed that Dr Daniel be requested to prepare a report on the Lake Pupuke trout fishery.
3. An email was tabled from the Chairman of the Hamilton Fish and Game Association, Dave Malcolm, requesting that a special weekend pukeko season be established for all of the Auckland/Waikato Region to align with the special paradise shelduck and pukeko season north of the Harbour Bridge. Councillors agreed that the concept of a special pukeko season was worth considering but agreed that Council's policy was to assess major changes to the game regulations at three yearly intervals. Therefore, it was agreed that any decision on the Hamilton Fish & Game Association request should be delayed until the next major review of the game regulations.
4. Mr Wilson reported that the commissioners for the Healthy Rivers Plan Change for the Waikato catchment had produced their report. He had requested an assessment of the report by Council's external experts Helen Marr (Planning) and Sarah Ongley (legal).
5. Mr Wilson introduced the financial report emphasising that the coronavirus would have a significant impact on revenue but the magnitude of the decline could not yet be accurately forecast.
6. The annual report for 2018/19 of the Land and Water Habitat Trust was tabled.
7. The draft 10 year management plan and review process were tabled. Mr Wilson asked Councillors to provide any feedback by email noting that a final draft plan would be produced for the June Council meeting.
8. Mr Wilson emphasised that due to the exceptional unpredictability of the revenue forecast it was likely that there would have to be ongoing changes to the operational work and budget for 2020/21. Councillors agreed that there would be no request for increased funding other than from the non-resident reserve.
9. The Chairman informed the meeting of the recent vandalism of the Whangamarino weir. Mr Wilson reported that a DOC engineer would soon be visiting the site to assess the damage and the cost of repairs.
10. Councillor Juby suggested that Council should consider requesting district councils to put in place provisions allowing landowners that provide enduring access to public amenities, such as a wetland or river, the right to subdivide off a title. Staff were requested to produce a report on Councillor Juby's recommendation.

## Matters Arising From Chief Executive's Report

**Banding:** A juvenile female mallard banded at Pipiroa on 13<sup>th</sup> January this year was recovered 1,970km away, exhausted but otherwise healthy just over 3 weeks later in Lifou Island (New Caledonia). Shortly after this, we learnt of another banded drake mallard being recovered on the same island, which was banded at Pipiroa the day after the female one. And it seems there was a third mallard present, though it did not have a band.

**Trend Counts:** The Northern shelduck trend count was well up; 4,846 this year compares with 3,370 last year. The paradise shelduck trend count this year in the King Country comfortably exceeded the threshold for a Special Season for a weekend and nudged the next threshold for a 1 week, 2 weekend season. Swan numbers also seem to be up somewhat this year in the Western Harbours / Waikato Lakes trend count compared with 2019.



**RMA:** Staff have been dealing with a wide range of RMA issues including the Waitomo Wastewater Treatment Plant consents, Ohinewai/ Ambury Development, Puke Coal, Fonterra Waitoa, "Healthy Environments", Open Country Dairy at Waharoa, Thames Waste Water Treatment Plant, Cambridge Waste Water Treatment Plant, and the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.

**Wetland Projects.** David Klee has managed the earthworks component for 3 projects which have created 7 Ha of new wetland and riparian habitat.

**Access negotiation:** Adam Daniel met with DOC regarding access to the Whakapapa Intake Road. DOC staff indicated that the road should be open for driving access and that they would meet with the new owners to discuss mediation. In addition, Adam, Jack Kos, Brian Anderton and Martin Taylor met with the CEO of the Walking Access Commission on the same issue. Both parties agreed to push the issue as far as it needs to go including potential court action.

**Media Release:** David and DOC staff put together a joint media release highlighting the issues in the lower Piako catchment this summer.